

Written In Stone

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Still Cemetery – Part I

Located along a grassy shoulder of US 29 between East Brewton and the Damascus community in Escambia County, AL is a small, private family graveyard known as the Still Cemetery. According to the '*Historical Atlas of Alabama-Cemeteries by Location*' this cemetery is in Section 7 of Township 2 North, Range 12 East on 4 acres of land deeded in 1847 by Jacob Grice. He and wife, Abigail, both natives of Marion District, SC were present on the earlier censuses of Conecuh, and later their children appear on the Escambia census after 1860. Jacob Grice was born 5 August 1771 in SC & died in Conecuh County 29 March 1848. Abigail Grice was born 12 October 1772 & died in Conecuh County 12 November 1855. '*The History of Escambia County, Alabama*' by the late Annie C. Waters suggests that the cemetery grew up around a Methodist Church and later became known as Still Chapel when John Still was caretaker of the property. '*Headstones and Heritages of Escambia County, Alabama*' lists the death date for Jacob Grice as 1818; however, after visiting the grave and reading the census reports for the years of 1830 & 1840 Conecuh, I believe he was about 77 years of age when he died; with the inscription just worn on the headstone reading 1848 instead. In the two censuses mentioned above, both male and female in the household of a Jacob Grice in T2N, R12E of Conecuh County are between the ages of 50 & 60; 60 & 70 respectively, ensuring that both Jacob and Abigail lived to be in their 70's. Their son, Benjamin J. Grice, born 1799 & died 1882, wife Eliza, born 1805 & died 1882 and family have 10 children at home, including a Jacob (named for his grandfather) and a Benjamin, named for the father. An interesting note on the headstones for Benjamin & Eliza is the presence of the signature of the mason who carved the stones, and he was R.F. Nix of Montgomery, Ala. According to the *Montgomery, AL Directories for 1880-1895* there was a R.F. Nix residing at 61 Market or Molton between Bibb & Tallapoosa and Occupation listed was 'Marble Yard'.

Next week, we'll talk about the relationships of the others buried here in this quiet, grassy cemetery, among them, the Boyer; Crawford; McGowin; Sheehan; Stone; Southwell; and Still families of Conecuh & Escambia Counties in Alabama.