

Written In Stone

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Cemetery Searching

Locating a cemetery in our piney woods is a difficult job for most of us; however, if you're a native of the area being searched, the odds of finding it are better stacked in your favor than those who aren't.

Leading a descendant to the grave of their ancestor and watching their reaction as they view for the first time that sacred spot, reverently touching the stone, marker or simple mound, brings many emotions to the surface for all of us involved. Elation at finding the grave; tears of joy and even sadness for those we never knew, yet who without, we would have never been. Being able to complete that family circle for folks brings me joy and happiness; though I may not have been related or even know the family. I know how it made me feel the first time I saw my father's hands rub the headstone of his great grandfather, a man he would not know because he was born too late. Yet, it didn't make a difference in wanting to know everything there was to know about the man that he was, the child he had been.

If you've had the chance to view the show, "Who Do You Think You Are" on NBC Friday evenings, you've witnessed celebrities tracing their family tree just like we do in genealogy departments the world over. Sometimes they find surprising clues to their family history; discovering first hand where and how to search; which records are available and which are not; locating the graves of their ancestors much like I do every week for people. Each finds immense satisfaction and a personal joy in 'walking in the steps or shadows' of those who came before them. If you would like to research your family tree, give me a call as well as needing help in locating a cemetery or having a cemetery named to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, give me a call at 251.578.2670 during daytime or email me at canebrakesociety@yahoo.com.