

Written In Stone

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Evergreen Courant ~ 20 May 2010

Pleasant Hill Cemetery

This morning at work, our staff was chatting about cemeteries, of all things. Two of the staff members realized that their families were buried in the same cemetery; as well as another staff member realized that when her father used to take her to a station here in town, that it was another staff members' father who would give her candy. We started reminiscing about experiences in our childhood, how our lives had crossed unknowingly, and how much these experiences had possibly nurtured us into who we are today.

I took another look at the cemetery we were talking about which is north of us towards McKenzie, Butler County, AL and realized just how many people who have direct or indirect connections to us all are laid to rest there. Pleasant Hill Cemetery was established about 1894, with the first known burial to be that of a Sellers infant that died in 1894. We recently obtained a history of the Sellers Family here in our library, and it is connected to the Sellers families that are known to be buried at Pleasant Hill.

Just the name, "Pleasant Hill" brings to mind a pleasant place to be buried at, and remembered on the anniversary or birthday times, Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, Christmas and Easter. I've been to several funerals there, and remember walking among the paths, reading the gravestones, stopping to reminiscence on the life led by the individual, and the impact that life had on my own. Reading the inscriptions on the headstones makes me wonder what kind of epitaph I'd read on my own—there are so many that are descriptive of the kind of life led by those buried there. We know in our hearts that 'earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal' and our loved ones are 'forever in our hearts' and again, 'gone, but never forgotten'.

It gave us a 'pleasant, feel-good feeling' to realize that in our hearts, together, as co-workers and friends, that "Pleasant Hill Cemetery" had for us, so many wonderful memories. Some folks feel going to a cemetery is morbid or sad and yes, it can be, especially right at the time of your loss. However, it's also a place to celebrate the life of the one who has passed, and know that they are in such a better place. A visit to the cemetery can give you a place to reflect on that life and on your own. We all like to think that one day; we'll be in a more pleasant place.