

# Written In Stone

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*Evergreen Courant ~ 27 May 2010*

## Family Travel Memories

Looking at family photos this week in anticipation of a family reunion brought to mind some of the journeys made with my parents prior to my dad's death in 2004. We set out to discover his roots in Covington, Crenshaw and Pike counties in AL — each trip bringing us closer — closer to discovering the truths about our ancestors and ourselves.

One ancestor, Henry Sasser, traveled from Columbus Co., NC about 1840 to Pike County AL. It was in Pike County that we concentrated on searching for cemeteries where we would find him, and his descendants. We first visited Pleasant Hill Primitive Baptist Cemetery, once known as Rough Log Church, circa 1842, and discovered Henry J. Sasser, his first and second wives buried between him. It gave us what we called 'God-bumps' to watch as my dad reverently ran his hand over the old stone marking his great grandfather's life & death. We walked among those stones, finding children, grandchildren and other family members, neighbors and friends of theirs that possibly traveled with him from NC to GA to AL. We visited the site where my father was born, near Goshen; found an old school site he recognized from his boyhood days; and traveled along dusty, winding, hilly roads in search of his past. The joys we shared during those sojourns into my father's past will never be forgotten; for in finding the past, we also discovered our future, and realized how precious our present was.

The journey included our foray into Crenshaw County, near Patsburg, where we discovered a common denominator between my parent's maternal families—ownership of land. During our journey together, we discovered that our history isn't fragmented into sections, though it would appear to be sometimes. Like colorful threads in an old quilt, our family: the good, the bad, the pretty, the not-so-pretty; each family makes up the fabric of a beautiful history, one in which we can and should be proud of. Take the time this Memorial Day weekend to enjoy your family, no matter the size; for family is a legacy we all share.