

# Written In Stone

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## Oak Grove Cemetery ~ Part I

Celebrating the Fourth quietly in Conecuh County found many enjoying cookouts, picnics, fireworks, good fellowship and for me, some new discoveries in cemeteries! On an early Saturday morning, with a soft breeze stirring the leaves on old oak trees, I found myself following some local citizens down a dirt path toward 'their' cemetery. This cemetery is located in Township 6, Range 11 off CR 40 on private property on a road now appropriately named "Oak Grove Cemetery Road".

It is a neatly trimmed, well-cared for family burial plot of about 33 or so graves, many of them unmarked; however, family historians know who is buried where and most importantly, their place on the family tree. The stories the graves tell can be heard if one walks softly among the stones, sharing the remembrances of the past with those in the present steadfastly trying to preserve for the future generations. The families found interred here in this quiet, serene spot of 'holy ground' include those from the Crosby, Evans, Grace, Hassel, Kyser, Maxwell and Purifoy; among others.

Over the next couple of columns, we'll follow the migratory route a boot maker made from his native state of Maryland, a shoe cobbler from his native state of Georgia, and the influences they had along the way, the families they created, and the community they established here in Conecuh County.

Other cemeteries discovered and re-discovered recently include the Ryals Family Cemetery; Brantley Family Cemetery; and possibly, the old Walker Cemetery. None of these had been previously recorded in our Cemetery Headstone Volumes for Conecuh County; now, not only can they be recorded; they can be listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register as well as placed in our Alabama Atlas of Cemeteries by Location; the popular Findagrave.com website as well as the Canebrake Historical Preservation website.