

Churches and taverns both featured on historical markers

By Rebekah Davis

Limestone County Archivist

It's time for more stops on the historical marker tour of Limestone County, hitting 25 markers in all.

I'm spending a few weeks sharing the information about these markers. If you want to go ahead and check them all out, you can get maps and GPS coordinates to each one by searching for Limestone County's historical markers on www.lat34north.com.

Today's markers are:

- **Mooreville Post Office, c. 1840:** The Mooreville Post Office is the oldest operational post office in the state of Alabama and has served the community from the same building since its construction of sawmill lumber in 1840. The mailboxes and office furnishings are even older, having been transferred from the original post office in the Stagecoach Tavern. The mailboxes are numbered 1 - 48, and some families have had the same box numbers for several generations. The building is owned and maintained by the Town of Mooreville.
Marker is in downtown Mooreville.
- **Mooreville Stagecoach Inn and Tavern, c. 1820:** The Stagecoach Inn and Tavern was built c. 1820 and served as the post office before the current post office was constructed around 1840. An Act of Congress on March 13, 1818 authorized mail delivery to and from neighboring Huntsville and necessitated the establishment of a post office in Mooreville. A road was built between the two towns, and horse and rider carried mail. The Stagecoach Inn and Tavern was listed on Tanner's Post Map of 1825 with supper priced at "2 bits." The original post office was located on the right side of the building, and mail may have been deposited and received through the small window. This window also may have been used for the after-hours sale of liquor. The first floor was used as a common room with an outside stairway leading to two sleeping rooms on the second floor. The Stagecoach Tavern is currently used as a museum and the official town hall. Marker is in downtown Mooreville.
- **Nicholas Davis:** Born April 23, 1781 in Hanover Co. Virginia, married there to Martha Hargrave of a wealthy Quaker family. He served as U.S. Marshall and in other positions. Moved to Kentucky in 1808. Was a Captain in the WAR OF 1812 and became a political and personal ally of Henry Clay.
He settled here on several hundred acres and built his large log home "WALNUT GROVE" in 1817. Here he entertained large numbers of guests for days at a time, raced his blooded horses and lived the life of a much admired country gentleman.
He was a framer of Alabama's first constitution, was twice a candidate for Governor on the Whig ticket, and served as President of the Alabama Senate for 5 terms.
He died on September 29, 1856 and is buried here at his beloved "WALNUT GROVE".
Marker is on Nick Davis Road (County Road 44) ½ mile west of Sanderson Road (County Road 127), Capshaw.
- **Oakland United Methodist Church:** Generations of African-American families have worshiped here, beginning with services held under a brush arbor prior to the Civil War. In August of 1879, the land for the Oakland Methodist church was deeded to parishioners. In a wooden one-room building, they worshiped and operated their own private school,

serving the surrounding communities and producing a number of ministers and educators. The Limestone County Board of Education took charge of the school in 1929 until it closed at the end of the 1952 school year. After the original structure was destroyed by a tornado, the Oakland Methodist Episcopal church - which became the Oakland United Methodist Church in 1972 - was rebuilt. Renovations to the structure were completed in 1990.

Marker is at the intersection of Bee Line Highway (U.S. 31) and Thomas L Hammonds Road, Tanner.

About the Archives:

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