

Churches and cemeteries date back to Limestone's beginnings

By Rebekah Davis

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It's time for more stops on the historical marker tour of Limestone County.

I've been spending a few weeks sharing the information about these markers. To see the full list and more information, 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:

- **Old Town Cemetery:** This is the earliest known cemetery in the town of Athens, and the final resting place for many of its first citizens. The earliest burials date from the 1820's and continue through the mid-1800's, with an occasional burial past 1900. Through the markers are now sunken below ground, others have been destroyed or removed. Trustees for the town purchased this entire block in 1827 for ten dollars from Robert Beaty and John Carroll. It was originally designated school property and a school did occupy another part of the property for some years. Marker is on S. Beaty St. just from E. Washington St., Athens.
- **The Cumberland Presbyterian Church:** This faith was organized in Dickson County, Tenn., Feb. 4, 1810, as an outgrowth of the Great Religious Revival of 1800. Its founders were ministers of the Presbyterian Church who rejected the doctrine of election & reprobation. They formulated & published a "Brief Statement" setting forth the points wherein Cumberland Presbyterians dissented from the Westminster Confession of Faith. Robert Donnell, one of the founding fathers of the church, was preaching in this area as early as 1810. About 1834 he moved from Tenn. to Mooresville & was largely responsible for the early growth of the faith locally. Mary Ann Walton, a local benefactor, died in 1899 leaving much of her estate in trust to the Presbytery. Her will was contested & upheld three times by the Ala. Supreme Court in Woodroof vs. Hundley. Marker is in downtown Mooresville.

About the Archives:

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