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## **RUSSELL COUNTY'S BATTLE COMMUNITY OLD CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER**

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Battle Community Old Cemetery to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

"The cemetery register is a prestigious listing of historic cemeteries in Alabama," said Lee Anne Wofford, cemetery program coordinator. "The AHC considers the notable historic cemeteries in this register to be particularly worthy of preservation and appreciation, and therefore deserving of this special recognition."

There are now two cemeteries in Russell County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 320 cemeteries statewide.

Battle Community Old Cemetery is a locally significant African American burial ground. It is unknown exactly how many burials are located here due to its overgrown condition. Most of the burials are marked with concrete ledger stones. A local group has been formed to hopefully clean up and preserve the cemetery for future generations.

The Alabama Historical Commission administers the Alabama Historic Cemetery Program that gives aid to the general public, government officials, civic groups, and others in identifying, documenting, registering, and conserving Alabama's historic cemeteries.

The Alabama Historic Cemetery Register officially recognizes and honors family and community cemeteries that were established at least 40 years ago.

Listing in the state cemetery register is an honorary designation imposing no restrictions on property owners. State law protects all cemeteries from willful desecration and destruction.

*To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the Alabama Historical Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office.*

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