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HENRY COUNTY'S ABBEVILLE OLD PIONEER CITY CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Abbeville Old Pioneer City 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 11 cemeteries in Henry County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 329 cemeteries statewide.

Located adjacent to the First Baptist Church of Abbeville, this cemetery contains hundreds of burials. The oldest marked burial is that of Carolyn Bagby Gordon who died February 16, 1844. Local tradition holds that the cemetery was established prior to that date. The cemetery was expanded in 1892 and 1898. Numerous soldiers from the Civil War, World Wars I and II, and the Korean War are buried here along with doctors, teachers, civil servants and other citizens of Abbeville and Henry County.

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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