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TWO CLARKE COUNTY CEMETERIES ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Wiley Estis Cemetery and Willis Estis Cemetery north of Coffeetown 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 2 cemeteries in Clarke County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 329 cemeteries statewide.

Wiley Estis Cemetery and Willis Estis Cemetery were established, respectively, by two brothers, Wiley Estis and Willis Estis, who were prominent in the Bethel community in their time. Both brothers operated separate water mills in the area. Located about 2 miles from each other, both cemeteries contain family members of Wiley and Willis Estis. Wiley Estis was a Confederate soldier and died in 1922. Willis Estis died in 1898.

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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