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## **BIBB COUNTY'S CAHAWBA VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER**

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Cahawba Valley Baptist Church Cemetery near Brierfield 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 Bibb County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 285 cemeteries statewide.

Cahawba Valley Baptist Church Cemetery contains approximately 300 graves. The earliest marked burials date from the 1840s. The church was formed in 1817 and purchased land in 1823 where the present church is located, so there is the possibility of earlier burials here. Several veterans of WWI and II, Korea and Vietnam are buried here.

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.

*The mission of the **Alabama Historical Commission** is to protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places. It is the state's historic preservation agency and serves as the State Historic Preservation Office.*

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