

The Ridge Acquires Vintage Photos of Warrior Stand Settlers

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Clarence Ballou, the Ridge Project has added to our collection, eighteen original photo portraits that are estimated to be over one hundred years old. Most of the portraits are believed to be of the members of the Green Middleton and Susan Miers Grover family. The Grovers were Mr. Ballou's grandparents.

Green Middleton Grover was born about 1848 in Georgia. Susan Miers was born about 1843 in Macon County, Alabama. The couple was married in 1875 in Cotton Valley, Macon County, Alabama. Cotton Valley is a community located about 12 miles west of Warrior Stand. Three of the Grover sons died as children and are buried in the Warrior Stand Cemetery. Their names were: Warren Densler Grover, 1878-1883, and Joseph and John G. Grover. Joseph and John, twins, were born about 1883. Joseph died in 1884 and John G. died in 1885.



Mr. Ballou travelled with his friend Linda to The Ridge Interpretive Center on March 14, 2015 to make the donation of the portraits, and to visit the cemetery. He was hosted on a tour of the cemetery by community residents and Shari Williams, Ridge Project Executive Director. Mr. Ballou located the graves of his great-uncles, Warren, Joseph and John, in the cemetery (see photo above left). Sometime after 1880 and by 1900, Green and Susan Grover moved to Crenshaw County, Alabama where they are laid to rest.

The quality of the portrait images ranges from good to very poor. A few cards have legible writing on the back, but on most, there appears to be no written information. One photo with writing identifies the individuals in the portrait as John & Mittie McLeod.

In the weeks following Mr. Ballou's visit, Ms. Williams researched the Susan Miers family at Mr. Ballou's request. He indicated that he did not have much information about Susan Miers, and particularly why she was also known as Susan Perry Miers. He wanted to know more about the possible connection to the Perry family. The Perrys were also Warrior Stand settlers, as were the McLeods. Although Ms. Williams was not able to determine if Mr. Ballou is connected to the Perry family through Susan Miers, her research led to his locating Miers relatives who now live in Oklahoma.

Daniel Neil, Curator, Rosa Parks Museum, Montgomery, volunteered to curate the photos for The Ridge Project. The process will include digitizing and researching the portraits to determine the exact ages, as well as use of a special technique to recover information that may be written on the backs of the photos.. Mr. Neil identified the style of the portraits as "cabinet cards." Future plans for the collection include an exhibition at The Ridge Interpretive Center.

The Ridge Project extends its gratitude to Mr. Ballou for this donation of priceless family portraits. For more information on cabinet cards, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cabinet_card