

THE DOWDEN PLUM TREE OF PEASON RIDGE

By

Rickey Robertson

On Pearson Ridge there are still many of the old home places that can be identified. The home site of William R. Dowden has been damaged due to a huge dirt pit being dug in the old fields, but there are two historical items that can be associated with this home place. The one item that can be used to properly identify where the home and yard were located is possibly the longest living native plum tree on Pearson Ridge. The plum tree was located near the road that ran right in front of the house. This road ran from the Cold Springs area past this farm, on past the farms of Asa and Foster Dowden, and travelers could then go either toward Kisatchie in Natchitoches Parish and Peason located in Sabine Parish, depending on their destination.

Each year, even though it has been over 70 years since the Dowden Family moved from their beloved farm, this plum tree continues to bear fruit. Each year the tree is full of the delicious fruit, just as in the days when the Dowden Family put up plum preserves. The old road can be distinguished just a few feet from where the plum tree sets, even though young pine saplings and sage brush grow on it. I wonder just how many wagons traveled this road in its many years of use ?

One thing of importance must be accomplished by the US Army concerning the old plum tree and that is to place the fluorescent marker posts around the area in an attempt to preserve this site. Hopefully one of the last vestiges of the Dowden Family can be preserved before it is destroyed.



Photo on left:

The old plum tree still stands at the old Dowden Homeplace located on Peason Ridge, 71 years after the owners moved.



Photo on right:

The old wagon road right in front of the old plum tree and Dowden Homeplace on Peason Ridge.

