

18" x 28" Confederate Memorial
Information Marker
Gregg County

WARTIME HOME INDUSTRY*

AT THIS SITE, 1861-65, SETTLER
JOSEPH M. SPARKMAN MANUFACTURED
SHOES FOR THE CONFEDERATE ARMY.
A VICTIM OF ARTHRITIS, HE LAY ON
HIS COT AND RAN THE SHOP, WHILE
"UNCLE BEN", A SKILLED SLAVE
SHOEMAKER WHO HAD COME WITH HIM
FROM GEORGIA, SUPERVISED AND
TAUGHT YOUNG BOYS AND OLD MEN
WHO MADE THE SHOES.

BOTH JOSEPH M. SPARKMAN AND
"UNCLE BEN" ARE BURIED IN THE
FAMILY PLOT ON THE ESTATE, NEAR
HERE. THEIR WORK DURING THE CIVIL
WAR TYPIFIES THE GALLANT SPIRIT
OF VOLUNTEERS WHO MINED SALT,
MADE CLOTH AND CLOTHING, HUNTED
THE WOODS FOR MEDICINAL HERBS. **

(1965)***

*3/4" lettering
**1/2" lettering
***1/4" lettering

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