

# JORDAN'S CHAPEL CEMETERY

## Summary Report

The cemetery associated with Jordan's Chapel has been "lost" through the years. However, it has been possible through exhaustive research of the old land and probate records of Madison County to determine with a fair degree of accuracy where the Chapel was located. The associated cemetery would no doubt have been close by the Chapel, either on the same grounds (one acre deeded for the church in 1826 by Bartholomew Jordan) or nearby on other lands of the Jordan family.

When the quest to locate this cemetery was begun, it was generally thought by historians and descendants of the Jordan family that the site of Jordan's Chapel was on what is now Redstone Arsenal. This belief was fostered by several influences. Among them were recollections of tales of long ago by old-time residents. Perhaps most importantly, there was a letter from Dr. J. W. Jordan (a direct descendant of Bartholomew Jordan) of Lexington, Mississippi, published in the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* newspaper in 1929. In this letter, information was given that "...Bartholomew Jordan settled in what is now Richmond [County?], NC, about 1777-80". The letter further stated that Bartholomew Jordan was "...married to Charlotte Gregory, and about 1810 he moved to Huntsville, Alabama, and settled on what is now (1929) known as 'Mullen's Flat' a few miles from Huntsville." It should be kept in mind, however, that the letter was written by a descendant seeking information to substantiate family traditions and lore that were perhaps poorly preserved through time. Furthermore, it was written by one who lived in another state and was more than a generation removed from those of the family who lived in Madison County.

Pauline Jones Gandrud in her Volume 131 of **ALABAMA RECORDS** on page 70 stated that "**Batt** [Bartholomew] **Jordan** came from Virginia to North Carolina then to Alabama and **is buried at Jordan's Chapel in Mullins Flat....**" [According to her original notes on file at the Gandrud Reading Room in the Hoole Special Collections Library at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, she was drawing upon material from the same Dr. J.

W. Jordan of Mississippi.] The site of Mullins Flat in Section 31, Township 4S, Range 1W, is known from several living sources and printed materials to have been located on arsenal lands, along the north end of Dodd Road, near its junction with Martin Road. However, there are some who recollect that Mullins Flat was near the junction of Buxton Road with Patton Road – several miles from the Dodd Road location. Accordingly, the initial focus centered on land in both of those areas, where the early Jordan families and their relatives by marriages did indeed have extensive holdings.

Subsequent detailed investigations of land and probate records proved that Mullen’s Flat was in fact at the location along Dodd Road near Martin Road. This was confirmed by several old newspaper clippings as well as by detailed deed descriptions that used the name of the place. Digital photographs of the several hundred pertinent deeds and probate records checked in the effort to locate the site of Jordan’s Chapel (and incidentally Mullin’s Flat) are included in the files supplied to the Army offices on CD-ROM. [For those digital images of deeds incorporated into this particular report, it may be necessary to adjust the “**ZOOM**” feature within the “**VIEW**” menu in order to more easily read the old writing.] Moreover, photographs of various possible site locations for Jordan’s Chapel indicated by the initial investigations are included in a separate subfolder within the Jordan’s Chapel folder. Each site had its apparent basis as the location of the Chapel, as suggested by information uncovered at the time the photographs were made. However, by continuing to examine all pertinent records of land holdings and probate by the Jordan family, it became apparent that **Jordan’s Chapel could NOT have been located in Mullin’s Flat** – confirming that family tales were somewhat fact-based, but also they were somewhat distorted with time.

It is easy to understand how the Mississippi Jordan family stories could confuse the location of Jordan’s Chapel, since the Jordan families in Madison County, Alabama, had land tracts that were widely separated. The largest parcels in term of total acres were perhaps in the Mullin’s Flat area, but other large holdings were around the north end of the arsenal lands, and that is the area where the Chapel was finally proven to have been, just outside the northern perimeter of the arsenal. Unfortunately, in all of the many deeds and probate records that mention or address Jordan’s Chapel, none state the section, township, or range of its location. Apparently it was so well known that the tract of land from which it had been taken was itself a landmark of reference in the early days. Even in the deed from Batt Jordan

to the trustees for the establishment of a Methodist Episcopal Church in 1826, the location was specified in terms of rocks and post oaks, etc., with some references to surrounding landowners' property lines. [A digital photo of the deed for the church is given below. If the reader has difficulty perceiving the images of the words, remember to use the **VIEW** and **ZOOM** buttons to enlarge the display for readability of difficult characters. Keep in mind that the old style of writing and spelling was often quite different from today's practices, but there is nothing in the images inserted into this report that cannot be fully interpreted with accuracy.]

~~State of Alabama, Circuit Court of Madison County do hereby certify that on the first Monday after the fourth Monday in April 1826 a deed of trust on certain personal property executed the tenth day of May 1825 by these Trustees to sustain the loan for the benefit of Anthony B. Kellogg was this day pronounced in open court and the same being read for the purpose therein expressed being only subscribed to by the said Trustees and Anthony B. Kellogg the subscribing parties thereto was caused to be certified for registration. A true copy from the records of the Court is hereunto annexed.~~

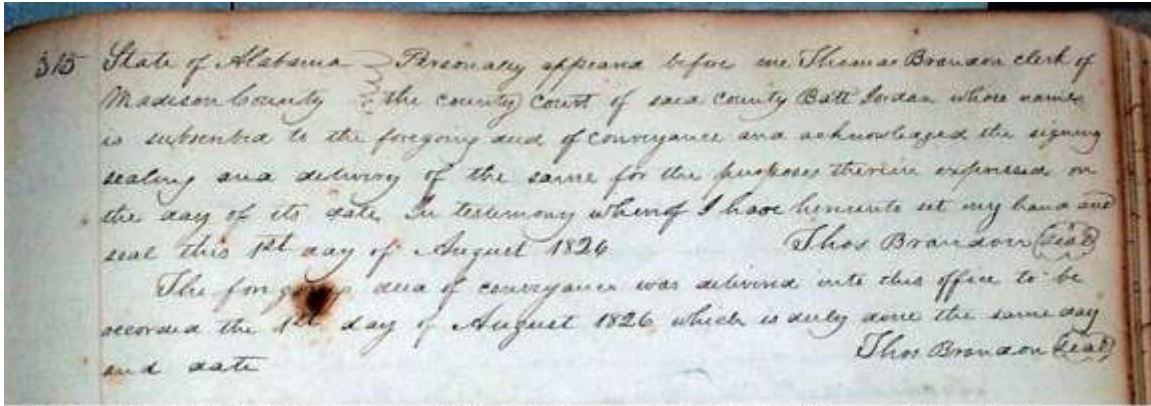
~~The foregoing deed of trust was returned into this office to be recorded the 5th day of July 1826 which is duly done the same day and so forth.~~

~~Thomas B. Jordan~~

**Batt Jordan**

This Indenture made 30th day of May 1826 between  
 The said Batt Jordan of the County of Jackson State of Alabama of the one part, and Nett Sanford W Blake Henry Jordan Nicholas Hobson W Ellison W Bitt and Geo Thompson of the County and State of Georgia of the other part, for the use and purposes hereinafter mentioned. Witnesseth that the said Batt Jordan for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar to him in hand paid, the receipt of which is acknowledged here this day by the said Batt Jordan and also shown and conveyed to by these presents as hereinafter set out and away unto the said Nett Sanford W Blake Henry Jordan Nicholas Hobson W Ellison W Bitt and Geo Thompson and their successors in trust forever a certain lot or parcel of ground lying & being in the County of Jackson as follows to wit a tract of land which the said Batt Jordan now owns and occupies at one corner of the same is bounded as follows to wit beginning at a rock on the line of Ellison Jordan running due south 73 yards by a white oak on point the meeting corner which is made for soft land to a corner rock thence west 73 yards to another corner rock which is made due west to another corner rock thence north 73 yards to another corner stone corner by a red oak which was a side line thence East to the beginning to have and to hold the same certain lot or parcel of land with the tenements and appurtenances thereto belonging to in say use & enjoyment unto the said Nett Sanford W Blake Henry Jordan Geo Jordan Nicholas Hobson W Ellison W Bitt and Geo Thompson and their successors in fee forever in full and they shall with and with respect to be erected and built on the said land a house of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and unto the said and occupation of said Church - and the said Batt Jordan for himself his heirs executors and administrators do warrant and guarantee unto the said Nett Sanford W Blake Henry Jordan Nicholas Hobson W Ellison W Bitt and Geo Thompson and their successors in fee forever the say and date above written Batt Jordan (signed) [Signature] [Signature] [Signature]

Madison Co. AL Deed Book K, page 314: Batt Jordan to Methodist Episcopal Church (Trustees).



Madison Co. AL Deed Book K, page 315: Batt Jordan to Methodist Episcopal Church (Trustees).

Other deeds that address the tract of land at one time owned by Bartholomew Jordan from which the Chapel's one acre was taken call that tract "the Meeting House Tract". They almost all include references to the owners of adjacent properties and name previous owners of the tract itself. Each mention of the location and ownership provided clues to ultimately enable a definite conclusion to be reached regarding the modern equivalents of the old specifications. Most significant among these clues to the location were the mentions of adjacent landowners and the chain of possession of the tracts. These clues will now be presented for the reader to assess and therefore reach his own conclusion as to the validity of the author's summation.

**CLUE 1, Deed Details -- Trustees:** In Madison County Deed Book K, pages 314 and 315, of May 31, 1826, Batt [Bartholomew] Jordan sold for one dollar one acre of land to the trustees of a Methodist Episcopal Church congregation. The deed stipulated that the trustees "... shall erect and build or cause to be erected and built on the said land a house of divine worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church...." Prior to this date, there were Methodist Campground meetings held on the land ("in the neighborhood of Batt Jordan") according to newspaper notices published in the *Huntsville Republican* newspaper on September 1, 1820, and other dates. The trustees of the church were named as **Robert Lanford, William Blake, Henry Jordan** (a son of Batt Jordan), **Jesse Jordan** (another son of Batt Jordan), **Nicholas Hopson, William Ellison** (sometimes "Allison"),

**William Bibb** (not the 1<sup>st</sup> governor of the state, who had already died), and **James Thompson**.

It should be noted that on July 27 of 1820 **Robert Lanford** and his wife Ann C. Lanford had already deeded for one dollar one acre of land for a Methodist Episcopal Church, naming the trustees at that time as **Batt Jordan, William Blake, Robert Lanford** (same as grantor of land), **William Lanier, James Bibb, and William Bibb**. The wording is very similar to that of Deed Book K when Batt Jordan sold an acre to the church. This transaction by Robert Lanford is found in Madison County Deed Book G, pages 221-3. It suggests that the churches are of the same congregation and that the original (nearby but indefinite) location proved unsatisfactory for some reason. There is no other known early Methodist Church in the area at the time and the trustees were nearly the same in each deed. Additionally, these families had land in close proximity to one another in Sections 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 of Township 4S and Range 1W or Sections 32, 33, and 34 of Township 3S and Range 1W. Also, the census records of 1830 and 1840 confirm the community association of the names.

At the time of the 1826 deed to the church, Batt Jordan and his sons did **not** own any land in the area near Mullin's Flat, Section 31, T4S-R1W. All of his land purchases were sections 4, 8, and 9 of T4S-R1W. However, Batt Jordan's son Henry had married Mary D. Lanier on November 8, 1821, in Madison County (MB 3, page 132). Mary was a daughter of William Lanier, another owner of nearby northern pre-arsenal lands, and William was a Methodist Episcopal minister, as was another of his sons-in-law. Moreover, one of the trustees of the congregation when Robert Lanford deeded land for a church, James Bibb, was an early Methodist minister of the area. James was born in 1778 in Virginia and married Sally Alford. James was admitted to the Methodist Conference in 1810 in Nashville. It has been recorded in early papers that he was a preacher of the Methodist Society at Jordan's Camp Ground. James and Sally had ten children, and one of the older sons was named William Livingstone Bibb. Census records and other documents give the name of the William Bibb who lived near Batt Jordan as William L. Bibb, so it is almost certain that he was the son of the Rev. James Bibb, who is buried in the Bibb Cemetery in the town of Madison. Rev. James Bibb served as the Madison County Tax Assessor and Collector from 1824 until he died in February of 1826. James and Sally are buried in Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville. The date of his death explains why James was not among the trustees listed in May of 1826 when

Batt Jordan deeded his land to the church, and why he was listed among the trustees in the 1820 Lanford deed for the church. More about the life of Rev. Bibb can be found on page 96 of the book ***HERITAGE OF MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA*** (1998) in the Heritage Room of the Huntsville – Madison County Public Library on St. Clair Street in Huntsville.

General Index to Real Property— DEEDS, MORTGAGES, JUDGMENTS, LIS PENDENS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS AFFECTING REAL ESTATE. No. 1—REVERSE—1810-1919

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SURNAMES	TO WHOM MADE			MAKER	KIND OF INSTRUMENT	Where and When Recorded				Location of Other Real Encumbrances		
	A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O	P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12			Year	Vol.	Page	Year	Sec.	Tp.	Rg.
Jordan				James Criss	al Deed	D	C	1	1816	8	4	1-W
do				John McClung	al Deed	D	E	236	1819	9	4	1-W
do				Isaac Parker	al Deed	D	E	237	1819	4	4	1-W
do	al Elizabeth		Saml	Geo Jude Est by Hrs	Agmt	D	F	336	1820			
do	Fleming Tr			John Hamner	D of T	D	F	356	1820	Indef		
do	Fleming			Elisha T King	al Deed	D	F	367	1820	19 3 2-E 13 3 1-E 5 4 2-E	4	4 2-E
do	Fleming Tr			John Evans	D of T	D	F	360	1820	36 3 1-E		
do	Batt			Joel Watson	D of T	D	G	201	1821	West of Rvl		
do	Batte			John F Walker	al Deed	D	G	147	1821	9	4	1-W
do	Fleming			James McCartney	al Deed	D	G	243	1821	16	3	2-E
do	Batt			James Dunmore	al Deed	D	H	426	1823	8	4	1-W
do	Benjamin			John M McCartney	Deed	D	K	365	1826	Brownboro		
do	Fleming Admr			John McCartney	al Deed	D	L	341	1826	Brownboro		
do		John		George Dickey	al Deed	D	M	15	1826	32	3	1-W
do	Fleming Jr			Geo T Jones	al Deed	D	N	232	1831	21	3	2-E
do	Fleming Tr			James Davnway	al D of T	D	P	45	1834	24	3	2-E
do	Henry			William Lanier	al Deed	D	P	168	1834	4	5	1-E
do	Henry			Bartholomew Jordan	Deed	D	Q	144	1836	8	4	1-W
do		John G		John R B Eldridge	al Deed	D	Q	120	1836	20	4	1-W
do		John G		Archer B James	al Deed	D	Q	180	1836	19	4	1-W
do		Jesse G		George Mason	al Deed	D	Q	210	1837	32	4	1-W
do		Jesse G		Bartholomew Jordan	Deed	D	Q	243	1837	8	4	1-W
do		Jesse G		do do	Deed	D	Q	243	1837	9	4	1-W
do			Samsel	Hardeman F Jones	Deed	D	Q	192	1837	28 4 2-W 22 4 2-W		
do	Henry C	James B	William H	William Lanier	al Deed	D	Q	416	1837	4	5	1-W
do		Maria B		Thos E Thompson	Agmt	D	R	125	1838			
do		John		Morgan Uta	al Deed	D	S	66	1840	19	4	1-W
do	Fleming			Simon Derrick by Tr	Deed	D	S	360	1841	25 3 2-E 1 3 2-W		
do	Fleming Tr			Gabriel Moore	D of T	D	S	591	1841	6 3 1-W 25 2 2-W	36	2 2-W
do	Fleming Tr			do do	D of T	D	S	591	1841	2 3 2-W		
do		John G		Richard B James	al Deed	D	S	559	1841	19 4 1-W		
do	Fleming Tr			Gabriel Moore	D of T	D	S	608	1841	6 3 1-W 1 3 2-W 25 2 2-W etc		
do	Fleming			Jno Lawler by Shf	Deed	D	T	382	1842	19	3	2-E
do	Fleming			Iry Taylor	Deed	D	U	404	1844	Est of Geo Taylor		
do	Fleming			Owen Taylor	Deed	D	U	405	1844	same		
do	Fleming			Thomas Mahroon by Shf	al Deed	D	V	6	1844	20 3 2-E 15 3 2-E	23	3 2-E
do	Fleming			Jesse Keel	al Deed	D	V	15	1844	21	3	2-E

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



MAD. Co. AL  
Court Tract Book

TOWNSHIP *South* RANGE *West*

DESCRIPTION OF THE TRACT	AREA	UNITED STATES TITLE	Date of Sale, Location or Grant	Number of Acres or Warrant
PART OF SECTION	Acres	TO WHOM SOLD OR GRANTED		
<i>North East 1/4</i>	<i>7</i> 15990	<i>50 East of Indian Boundary line 32 West of do</i> <u>David Maxwell</u>	<i>Sept 11, 1809</i>	<i>99</i>
<i>North West 1/4</i>	<i>15990</i>	<u>William Thompson</u>	<i>Sept 14, 1809</i>	<i>810</i>
<i>South East 1/4</i>	<i>15990</i>	<u>William Gray</u>	<i>Augt. 25, 1809</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>South West 1/4</i>	<i>15990</i>	<u>William Thompson</u>	<i>Sept. 16, 1809</i>	<i>809</i>
<i>East 1/2 West of 24 1/2</i>	<i>32</i>	<u>James Manning</u>	<i>Feb 2, 1810</i>	<i>807</i>
<i>North East 1/4</i>	<i>8</i> 16140	<i>545 80</i> <u>James Coif</u>	<i>Feb. 5, 1811</i>	<i>455</i>
<i>North West 1/4</i>	<i>16140</i>	<u>William Gray</u>	<i>Nov. 18, 1810</i>	<i>137</i>
<i>South East 1/4</i>	<i>16140</i>	<u>Thomas Dunsman</u>	<i>Oct 1, 1810</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>South West 1/4</i>	<i>16140</i>	<u>Wm &amp; Betty Collins</u>	<i>Nov. 11, 1811</i>	<i>540</i>
<i>North East 1/4</i>	<i>9</i> 16030	<i>541 20</i> <u>Anthony Street</u>	<i>Jan. 25, 1811</i>	<i>431</i>
<i>North West 1/4</i>	<i>16030</i>	<u>Burr Jordan</u>	<i>Dec. 10, 1813</i>	<i>821</i>
<i>South East 1/4</i>	<i>16030</i>	<u>Henry Grant &amp; John Wiley</u> <i>Wiley</i>	<i>Dec. 20, 1812</i>	<i>813</i>
<i>South West 1/4</i>	<i>16030</i>	<u>John Wiley</u>	<i>Jan. 7, 1812</i>	<i>537</i>

The land purchases by Batt (Batte, Bate) Jordan [see index above] point to a location for Jordan's Chapel (and cemetery) in the area of Sections 4, 8, or 9 of Township 4S, Range 1W. They specifically **rule out consideration of the Mullin's Flat area or the area around the intersection of Buxton Road and Patton Road in the center or even on the south end of the arsenal, since Batt Jordan never owned land in those areas.** Jordan's Chapel was located in the area of the north end of the arsenal. Bartholomew Jordan could not have deeded land that he did not own, and the land for the church would have to be located around the neighborhood where the trustee families lived. In the days before automobiles, people generally attended church very near where they lived, since commuting by foot, horseback, or wagon made traveling impractical for more than a very few miles. Therefore, the census records which showed trustees of Jordan's Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church in proximity to one another reinforce this preliminary deduction about the location. This is especially true when one considers where the Bibb, Ellison (Allison), Jordan, and Lanford families are known to have owned land and lived, as well as where their neighbors in the census records are known to have lived.

HEADS OF FAMILIES.		under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	100, &c.	under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	100, &c.					
Brnght forward		537	538	259	289	436	342	163	77	36						544	533	284	213	222	196	166											
David - Mason				1					1										1														
George - Mason		1	2	1					1							1				2													
Abraham W. Weaver				1	3	2				1									1	1													
Henry B. Jordan		3	2	2				1																									
William East				1		1				1											2												
John Blum		1				2		1								2				1													
Thomas Marshall		2	1		2				1							1			3														
William Bibb			1		1				1									2	1	1													
William Sandford		1				1															1												
Robert C. Moore		1				1										1					1												
Bartholomew Jordan																																	
Jacob Prince		1				1																											
Spencer Paul		1	1	1						1										2													
William Collins		2	1	2						1						1	2	2															
Thomas Gray		1								1																							
Bonny W. Hale										1																							
Edmund Clapton			1			1			1							2		2	2														
John S. Selig			2			1																											

1830 Madison County AL page 127: Bartholomew Jordan & neighbors.

Name	Age Group												Total				
	under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 55	55 to 60		60 to 65	65 to 70	70 to 75	75 to 80
William B. Purvis										1							1
Samuel Ward		2															2
Charles Gravel																2	
John D. Grant		1															1
Mathias P. Minn																3	
Angus M. Crocker																	1
John Ward																	2
Abraham Bond																	1
Thomas A. Scott																	1
Samuel Grant																	1
John Graham																	2
John Peterson		2															2
John H. Johnson																	3
William Gray																	2
Jesse Jordan																	2
Temperance Fennell																	2
John Skelton																	2
Nancy Parkane																	2
James Yarnack																	1
David M. Beard																	2
Martha Robinson																	1
Carroll J. Ward																	1
<b>Total</b>																	297

1830 Madison County AL page 133: Jesse Jordan, Temperance (Jordan) Fennell, & neighbors.

Head of District	HEADS OF FAMILIES												Total				
	under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 55	55 to 60		60 to 65	65 to 70	70 to 75	75 to 80
Ant. Broughton, Townscl.																	668
David Lane																	223
William Blake																	337
Henry Anderson																	297
James Watson																	582
Laurie Gravel																	662
Francis Glatman																	197
George Dejeu																	110
Richard Martin																	28
Henry Martin																	13
Marcella King																	3
John Johnson																	2
Charlton Cleveland																	642
John G. Jordan																	258
Geat Wilson																	15
Mary Endler																	3
Robert Larkford																	2
Andrew Martin																	2
Abelard Brown																	2
Thomas Conn																	2
<b>Total</b>																	642

1830 Madison County AL page 135: John G. Jordan & neighbors.

NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES	MALES														FEMALES											
	Under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 55	55 to 60	60 to 65	65 to 70	Under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50		
	295	153	115	76	212	169	73	38	15	6	1				193	135	106	119	159	128	73	57	15			
Brought Forward																										
John H. Holt					1																					
Thomas S. Russell	1				1																					
John G. Jordan	1	1				1								1	1											
James H. Dyer					1													1								
John D. Tanner	1	1				1								1	1											
Green Collier	1				1																					
Thomas Graham	1	2					1							1		2										
John Tanner		1	1	1	1					1																
Samuel Ward	1		1	2						1				1		1		2							1	
John Ward		1							1															2		
William Blake										1								2		1					1	
Thomas Phillips	2				1																					
Benjamin Morris		1	2				1							1	1		1	1							1	
Martha Claudiana					2												3	1								
William Mason	3									1						2									1	
John G. Jordan	1	1				1	2											1							1	
Abraham Robinson			1			2												1	1						1	

1840 Madison County AL page 160: Jesse G., John G. Jordan + neighbors.

**CLUE 2, Deed Details – “whereon the said Batt Jordan now resides”:**

The census records above for 1830 indicate that Batt Jordan lived among several people known to have resided in the area along what was then Brown’s Ferry Road, just west of old Huntsville. Today, part of that same stretch of road is called Old Madison Pike, but in the early 1800s the town of Madison was not yet established, so the current name would not have been applicable at that time. The eastern part of the road that was then known as Brown’s Ferry Road is now identified as Bob Wallace Avenue. The road tracks along the section line dividing sections 4 and 9 and dividing sections 5 and 8 in township 4S, range 1W. In fact, the road was maintained according to custom of the time by those who lived along it, which included two sons of Bartholomew Jordan. These sons were Henry and Jesse, who were assigned by the County Commissioner’s Court to oversee maintenance of the road, giving landmarks of the portions for which they were responsible in terms of features of known neighbors’ properties. The designation of the stretches of road for which they were responsible shows

that (Alexander) Jones lived to the east of the Jordan families, whereas (James) Manning lived to the west of them.

21. Ordered that Walter Steinback be appointed Surveyor of the Indian Road, which is first grade from Anderson's bridge to the top of Edgum's Hill.

22. Ordered that Josiah Collier be appointed Surveyor of the Indian Road, which is first grade from the top of Edgum's Hill to the forks of the Road.

23. Ordered that John Hunt be appointed Surveyor of the Road, which is third grade from the Indian Road near St. Paul's to the Old, Lawrence Road.

24. Ordered that John Taylor Junr. be appointed Surveyor of the Brown's Ferry Road, which is first grade from Marionville to John's shop.

COMMISSIONER'S  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
(1 Feb. 1836)

25. Ordered that Henry Graham be appointed Surveyor of the Brown's Ferry Road, which is first grade, from John's shop to Macready's Linn.

26. Ordered that William S. Bell be appointed Surveyor of the Brown's Ferry Road, which is first grade, from Macready's Linn to Monday's old shop.

27. Ordered that Richard L. Johnson be appointed Surveyor of the Brown's Ferry Road, which is first grade, from Monday's old shop to the County Line.

28. Ordered that John Ward be appointed Surveyor of the Athens Road, which is first grade from John's shop to Skitter's gate.

29. Ordered that William S. G. Lee be appointed Surveyor of the Athens Road, which is first grade from Skitter's gate to the north mile post.

30. Ordered that Thomas Love be appointed Surveyor of the Athens Road, which is first grade from the north mile post to the County line.

[Note: Henry Jordan died at age 38 on November 4, 1836, per his obituary in the *Huntsville Democrat* newspaper of November 16, 1836. He had married Mary D. Lanier, a daughter of William Lanier (another resident of the northeastern arsenal lands and a trustee of the church) on November 8, 1821. She passed away 10 January, 1830, per her tombstone inscription {see photo in **Jordan – Lanier** folder}. Henry thereafter married Marie A. Glasgow in Madison County on December 1, 1831. Marie later (December 7, 1838) married Thomas E. Thompson and recorded an agreement {Deed Book R, page 125} with him regarding preservation of the Jordan lands for Jordan heirs.]

(4 Feb. 1839)

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- 11 Ordered that Robert Strong be appointed Overseer of the Road which is second grade from Marsdenville to McBlair's Meeting House.
- 12 Ordered that Robert Clarke be appointed Overseer of the Road which is second grade from McBlair's Meeting House to the Elkton Road.
- 13 Ordered that George Learmichael be appointed Overseer of the Tuama Road, which is first grade from the Getter Landing Road to the third mile post.
- 14 Ordered that Thomas Madkins be appointed Overseer of the Tuama Road, which is first grade from the third mile post to the sixth mile post.
- 15 Ordered that Jason L. Jordan be appointed Overseer of the Tuama Road, which is first grade from the sixth mile post to Indian Creek.
- 16 Ordered that Daniel Thompson be appointed Overseer of the Tuama Road, which is first grade from Indian Creek to the top of Ayres Hill.
- 17 Ordered that Thomas Owen be appointed Overseer of the Tuama Road, which is first grade from the top of Ayres Hill to the forks of the Road.
- 18 Ordered that Martin Sevier be appointed Overseer of the Road <sup>which is third grade</sup> from the Tuama Road near McDonald's to the Getter Landing Road.
- 19 Ordered that Thomas D. Bradford be appointed Overseer of the Browns Ferry Road, which is first grade from Hammill to Jones Shop.
- 20 Ordered that Pepe Jordan be appointed Overseer of the Browns Ferry Road, which is first grade from Jones Shop to Manning's Lane.

County Commissioner's Court Minutes, page 269: JORDAN responsibilities.



[Note: Henry Jordan having died in November of 1836, his brother Jesse was assigned to “oversee” (maintain) the road section for which Henry was previously responsible. That portion of the road ran from {Alexander P.} Jones’ Shop on the east to {James} Manning’s Lane on the west. This indicates that both Jesse and Henry lived along the road, as did their sister Temperance, who had married Isham Fennell in North Carolina before moving to Alabama. [She became a widow in 1819 and never remarried.] Their brothers John and Jason L. Jordan lived on land south of Temperance, Jesse, & Henry (see item 15 above in the 1839 assignments), where Jesse was assigned to maintain a portion of the Triana Road from Huntsville. Jason was born in NC in 1802 and moved to Holmes County, Mississippi in 1844. Dr. J. W. Jordan of Lexington, MS, was his grandson. Jesse Jordan died in Aberdeen, MS, in his 77<sup>th</sup> year in 1877 at the residence of a son. Bartholomew Jordan was still living in Madison County, Alabama, in 1839, but he was too old to maintain roads. {Bartholomew was born about 1759.} He was in the household of his daughter, the widow Temperance Jordan Fennell, during the census of 1840, noted in the 80 – 90 age bracket. (In the census of 1830, he was properly shown in the 70 – 80 age bracket as head of his own household.) Batt Jordan died on March 24, 1842, in the 83<sup>rd</sup> year of his life, according to the obituary in the *Huntsville Democrat* newspaper of April 9 of that year.]

The conclusion of investigation into the wording of the deed for the church relative to the statement that Batt Jordan resided on the land is that Batt lived in the area along Brown’s Ferry Road (now Bob Wallace Avenue) in sections 4, 8, and 9 during the year 1826. Furthermore, at least three of his adult children likewise lived in the area along Brown’s Ferry Road during that time, with sons John and Jason moving southward a few miles during the 1830s. (John purchased land mostly in S19 & S20 of T4-R1W. Jason apparently got his land by marriage. He married Charity W. Hobbs, whose father had lands along the river. They were married on February 18, 1824, per Madison County Marriage Book 3, page 277. Before moving from the state, Jason and his wife sold lands in Sections 2 and 3 of Township 6, Range 2E, and in Section 34 of Township 4S, Range 1W. The latter parcel is the one near Mullin’s Flat on arsenal lands.)

The record of the land sales by Batt to his children and grandchildren (except that he never recorded a sale or gift to his son John or his son Jason; Jason was apparently already “well off” by a good marriage into land holdings) again shows clustering around the Brown’s Ferry Road area:

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**General Index to Real Property** — DEEDS, MORTGAGES, JUDGMENTS, LIS PENDENS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS AFFECTING REAL ESTATE **No. 1—DIRECT—1810-1919**

M A K E R				TO WHOM MADE	TYPE OF INSTRUMENT	Where and When Recorded				Location of other Real Estate	
SURNAME	WIFE OR CO-SURETY	OTHER NAMES	OTHER NAMES			Book	Vol.	Page	Date	Tr.	Pa.
Jordan	al		Samuel Exr	George Jude Jr	Deed	D	E 463	1619	12	3	1-W
do	Fleming			William Derrick	Deed	D	H 277	1821	16	3	2-E Indef
do			Solomon Stearnah	Benjamin Wafford	Deed	D	H 166	1822	6	3	1-E
do	Fleming	Martha		John Lawler Jr	Deed	D	LLJ 173	1824	19	3	2-E
do	Batt			W F Church	Deed	D	K 314	1826			Indef
do	Benjamin by Admr Fleming Admr			William Anderson	Deed	D	M 564	1830			Brownborough
do	Batt			Temperance Fennel	Deed	D	M 630	1830	9	4	1-W
do	Batt			Wesley Fennell	al Deed	D	M 631	1830	9	4	1-W
do	Batt			Temperance Fennel	Deed	D	M 631	1830	16	4	1-W
do	Bartholomew			Nicholas Brewer	Deed	D	O 110	1832			Indef
do	Fleming Admr			Wm Fleming	Deed	D	O 360	1833	11	6	2-E
do	al Fleming Admr			Stephen Chermault	Deed	D	P 130	1834	25	6	2-E
do	Elizabeth N John G			Alexander Erskine	Deed	D	P 87	1834	32	3	1-W
do	Charity W Jason L			Thomas Vann	Deed	D	Q 75	1836	2	6	2-E
do	Charity W Jason L			do do	Deed	D	Q 75	1836	3	6	2-E
do	Bartholomew			Henry Jordan	Deed	D	Q 144	1836	8	4	1-W
do	Bartholomew			Jesse G Jordan	Deed	D	Q 243	1837	8	4	1-W
do	Bartholomew			Jesse G Jordan	Deed	D	Q 243	1837	9	4	1-W
do	Elizabeth N John G			John Allison	Deed	D	Q 365	1837	10	6	2-E
do		Maria E		Thos E Thompson	Agmt	D	R 125	1838			
do	Elizabeth N John G			Thos Vann Sr	Deed	D	R 145	1838	3	6	2-E
do	al Fleming Admr			Green Collier	Deed	D	R 162	1838	27	4	2-E
do	Elizabeth	Matthew		Bartley M Love	al Deed	D	R 383	1840	28	4	2-E
do	Charity W Jason S			Thos Brandon	Deed	D	T 279	1842	34	4	1-W
do	Fleming Tr			Howell Rose	Deed	D	T 481	1843	36	2	2-W
do	Fleming Tr			Benj T Moore	Deed	D	T 547	1843	6	3	1-W
do		Jesse G Mary E		Isham I Fennell	Deed	D	T 547	1843	1	3	2-W
do	al Fleming Admr			Joseph Barclay	Deed	D	U 33	1843	32	4	1-W
do	Henry by Exr Jesse G Exr			Wm H Jordan	Deed	D	U 366	1844	13	5	2-
do	Fleming			John W Weaver	Deed	D	V 52	1845	18	5	3-
do	Fleming			Marrivether Moore Tr	D T	D	V 52	1845	8	5	1-W
do	Henry by Exr			George Herton	D T	D	V 358	1845	4	5	1-W
do		Jesse G Exr Jesse G Margaret		George Herton	Deed	D	W 145	1846			Sundry
do	al Elizabeth N John G by			Benjamin T Moore Tr	Deed	D	W 261	1847			Indef
Jordan			Samuel Kat	James J Donegan	D T	D	W 261	1847			Indef
Jordan		Jesse G Mary M		Eliza Jordan	Deed	D	W 482	1847	8	4	1-W
				Richard Holding	al Decree	D	W 390	1847	15	4	1-W
					D T	D	X 43	1848	22	4	2-W
					D T	D	X 102	1848	28	4	2-W
					D T	D	X 102	1848	2	4	1-W

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

While the index to land transactions above indicates that Deed Book M on page 631-2 transfers land in Section 16, that is an error on the part of the

clerk who interpreted wording of the deed when preparing the index. The deed does indeed mention the “sixteenth section”, but the manner in which it is used and the directions given for laying out the land *relative to the 16<sup>th</sup> section* indicate that **it certainly had to lie north of the 16<sup>th</sup> section**. This puts it in the 9<sup>th</sup> section, which is known to have been owned by Batt Jordan. Conversely, there is no record that Batt Jordan ever acquired or owned land in the 16<sup>th</sup> section to sell to anyone.

The bottom line is that the only possible interpretation of the various land records shows that Bartholomew Jordan never lived in the area of Mullin’s Flat. While living in Madison County, he always owned land in sections 4, 8, and 9 (T4S-R1W) and resided there near his adult children, in close proximity to Brown’s Ferry Road. Therefore, when he deeded to the church some land “... whereon the said Batt Jordan now resides”, he was making deed to land in one of the above sections.

**CLUE 3, Deed Details – “...beginning at a rock on the line of Ellison & Jordan, running due south 73 yards by a white oak in front of the meeting house ... to a corner rock ... thence west 67 yards ... to another corner rock and thence north 73 yards to another corner stone ... thence east to the beginning ...”:**

This layout describes a rectangle of 219 feet by 201 feet. That amounts to 44,019 square feet, or 1.01054 acres. The specifications mention that from the beginning point **the line runs south in front of the meeting house** before turning west. That tells us that the meeting house faced east, probably toward a primitive road or overlooking a valley from a hill. The statement that the beginning point was “on the line of Ellison & Jordan” is a bit ambiguous, since one at this point cannot tell whether that line ran east – west or north – south. Either would suffice. However, it suggests that one could perhaps determine the locations of properties owned by Batt Jordan and compare their locations with properties owned by William Ellison, who was one of the church trustees named in the deed. He was also a close neighbor of Batt Jordan in the 1830 census, enumerated only 3 houses away.

Unfortunately, no record has been found of **William Ellison (or Allison)** buying any property from either the government or from private citizens in the area adjacent to the holdings of Batt Jordan in sections 4, 8, and 9 of

township 4S, range 1W. However, **John Allison** apparently owned land at times in the SE/4 of section 4, township 4S, range 1W. John Allison sold 30.5 acres of **the “northwest corner” of the SE/4, 4-4-1W**, on November 29 of **1817** to William Wilkins, per Deed Book D, page 142-3. Per Deed Book A, page 67, he had purchased 30.5 acres in **“the northeast corner of SE/4, 4-4-1W** from Hugh Rodgers on July 7, **1814**. This same Hugh Rodgers sold 52 acres of the SE corner of the SE/4, 4-4-1W, to John McWilliams in 1814, per Deed Book A, page 68. The deed records found at the time of this writing do not clearly show until well after 1826 who owned the balance of the SE/4 after Hugh Rogers [Rodgers] bought the entire 160.0 acres of the SE/4 from the U.S. government. In other words, the land records examined to date do not account for ownership (other than Hugh Rodgers) of the SW/4 of the SE/4, and 9.5-acre portions of the NW/4 and the NE/4 of the SE/4, 4-4-1W. John Allison did buy an additional 161 acres of government land in 1810, being the NE/4 of S32-~~T3S~~-R1W. However, that land was a half mile north of section 5 in T4S-R1W and about a mile from Batt Jordan’s land in section 4 of T4-R1W. **Keep in mind that the deed from Batt Jordan to the church did not specify a given name for “Ellison”, so it did not have to be his 1830 neighbor William Ellison (per the census) and could have been John Allison, who seems likely to have held the land adjacent to Batt Jordan’s property in Section 4.**

**William Allison** did purchase government land in Section 20 of T4-R1W, and this land was adjoining that of a son of Batt’s, John G. Jordan. He also purchased from private citizens some lands in sections 20 and 17 of T4S-R1W. However, these lands were purchased in the 1830s, **after** Batt had already deeded land to the church in 1826, so they could not have had a bearing upon the wording of the bounds of the church’s tract. There was one record of William Allison buying land in section 17 (same township & range) in 1819, but that was over a mile away from any holding of Batt Jordan.

Apparently, **only the land of John Allison in the SE/4 of S4-T4S-R1W fits the criterion of adjacency to some part of Batt Jordan’s property**, but the deed timings and scopes are such as to leave room for some doubt. This land was on the east side of Batt’s land, with a north – south line running between them. This piece of the puzzle assumes that John Allison retained the balance of about 9.5 acres from the 40 acre quarter section after selling the “northwest” corner of the SE/4, S4-T4-R1W to William Wilkins in 1817.

Furthermore, the primary interpretation of the wording of the church land deed that one should begin at a rock "... on the line ... running due south" (between Ellison & Jordan) certainly fits well. If the line between Ellison and Jordan had run east – west, then one would expect the wording to have been "... beginning at a rock on the line of Ellison & Jordan **thence** running due south ...." Since the normally-employed word "thence" was not used, it affirms the interpretation of the structure of the sentence that **the term "running due south" in the deed referred to the line of Ellison & Jordan** – hence reinforcing the argument that only John Allison's land fits this clue of association with Batt Jordan's property. Additionally, the idea of an east – west line between "Ellison and Jordan" can be ruled out because deeds clearly show that Isaac Parker (and later James Lanford) had the land north of the Jordan property in the SW/4 of Section 4, T4-R1W. Of course, the precise location of the "rock of beginning" on this line cannot be determined by the records. However, the rock would most likely not have been at the exact corner of the tract held by John Allison, or then the routine practice with the wording would have stated that one should begin at the corner of the property. Therefore, it is safe to assume that the rock of beginning would be somewhat south of the northwest corner of John Allison's property.

If this were all that there was to locate the site of Jordan's Chapel, the conclusion would have to be somewhat indeterminate. Fortunately, another set of clues can be derived from the many later references to the particular **tract of land** from which the acre of land for the chapel was taken. Those references in subsequent land transactions referred to the larger, surrounding parcel as "**the meeting house tract**". Numerous documents use this nomenclature, and they provide significant clues to the general area, as summarized in the following pages.

**CLUE 4, Meeting House Tract – "... and being the same [140 acres of land] purchased in part from Isaac Parker ... by Bartholomew Jordan [before 1826]...."** Deed Book W, page 492 - 494, 1847, plus many more of similar wording regarding the meeting house tract.

MAD Co. AL  
DEED BOOK W  
PAGE 492

JESSE G. JORDAN,  
To--Deed of Trust,

BENJAMIN T. MOORE TRUSTEE.

WHEREAS, Jesse G. Jordan of the town of Huntsville, in the County of Madison, and State of Alabama, is justly indebted to Richard Holding of the county and state aforesaid in the sum of eight thousand dollars, as appears by his several five bonds, each for the sum of sixteen hundred dollars, of even date herewith each payable to said Richard Holding or order, the first, twelve months after date, the second two years after date, the third three years after date, and the fourth four years after date, and the fifth five years after date. And whereas the said Jesse G. Jordan is willing and desirous to secure the payment of said bonds. NOW THEREFORE THIS INDENTURE, made and entered into by and between the said Jesse G. Jordan and his wife Margaret, of the first part, Benjamin T. Moore of the second part, and said Richard Holding of the third part, WITNESSETH: THAT the said Jesse G. Jordan and wife for and in consideration of the premises, and for the further consideration of the sum of one dollar, to them in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, have this day given, granted, bargained, sold, delivered, enfeoffed, released, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents do give, grant, bargain, sell, alien, enfeoff, release, convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part, the following described tracts or parcels of land, lying and being and being in said county of Madison, and known and described as follows: The North and South East quarters of section eight, in township four, of range one West of the Basis Meridian, in the district of lands subject to sale at Huntsville aforesaid, also part of section nine in township and range aforesaid, beginning at the South West corner

MAN G. AL  
DEED BOOK W

of said section, thence North along the section line fifty six chains to a stake, thence West seventeen chains and eighty six links to a stake, thence South along the dividing line between said Jordan and Mrs. Temperance Pennell, fifty six chains to a stake, in the Southern boundary line of said section, thence along said line West seventeen chains and eighty six links to the beginning, and containing one hundred acres, and also the tract or parcel of land known and described as the Martin House Tract and bounded by the lands of Samuel Ward and Alexander P. Jones, and being the same purchased in part from Isaac Parker, and in part from Henry Moore by Bartholomew Jordan, late of said County deceased, and excepting of said tract so much thereof as by the last will and testament of Henry Jordan deceased, was bequeathed to his widow, and excepting also the portion thereof conveyed by the said Bartholomew Jordan to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Jordan's Chapel, and containing one hundred and forty acres more or less. And the said Jesse G. Jordan for the consideration aforesaid has this day likewise bargained, sold and delivered, and by these presents does bargain, sell and deliver unto the said party of the second part, the following described negro slaves, whom he warrants to be sound and healthy viz: Jerry, a man aged about seventy years, Howell, a man aged about forty seven years, Ben, a man aged about thirty eight years, Bob a man aged about thirty years, Reuben a man aged about thirty years, Aldennan, a man aged about twenty one years, Julius a man aged about twenty years, Jack a man aged about nineteen years, Jim a boy aged about thirteen, years, Billy a boy aged about thirteen years, Kiniew, a boy aged about eleven years, John a boy aged about twelve years, Old John a man aged about fifty years, Any, a woman, aged about twenty eight years and her two children, Laurie about three years old, and Simeon about one year old, Berilda, a woman aged about twenty years and her three children, Rachel aged about five years, John aged about four years, and Milton aged about one year, Ellen a woman aged about twenty one years, and her three children, Lucy about five years old, Henry about four years old, and Bev about one year old, Ann, a woman aged about twenty three years old, and her three children, Lemael about five years old, Mari about two years old and Abram about two months old, Eliza a woman about thirty years old, and her child Charlott about two years old, Almira, a woman about thirty one year old and her child Tom, about onemonth old, Martha a woman about twenty years old, Kitty a woman about nineteen years old, Mary a girl about twelve years old, Sally a woman about twenty two years old, Harriet a woman about twenty eight years, Rody, a woman about forty five years, Sall, a woman about seventy years old, Kizzy, a woman about forty eight years old, Page a man about twenty years old. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the above described tracts or parcels of land, with the tenements and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns from the said Jesse G. Jordan and his wife for themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators, do hereby and in consideration of the premises, warrant and will forever defend the title to the ~~above~~ aforesaid property unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns from and against the lawful claim, title or demand of all and every person or persons claiming or holding under them, and also against the lawful title, claim or demand of all and every person or persons whomsoever. IN TRUST NEVERTHELESS, that if the said Jesse G. Jordan, shall well and truly pay and satisfy the said bonds as they become due and payable, with the costs hereof, then this indenture shall be null and void, if however the said Jesse G. Jordan

shall make default in the payment of the bonds aforesaid, or either of them, then the said party of the second part, may and it shall be his duty to do so, upon the request of the said Richard Holding, his assigns etc. upon giving thirty days notice of the time and place of sale, by publication in some newspaper, printed and published in the said town of Huntsville, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, in said town of Huntsville, the tracts or parcels of ground aforesaid with the tenements and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining, and the said slaves or so many of the said slaves, or such portion of the property aforesaid, as will be necessary to pay and satisfy each of said bonds as they respectively become due, and payable and all costs incident thereto, and if there should be any excess in the hands of said party of the second part after paying and satisfying the bonds aforesaid, with all interest, costs etc. the sum shall be paid over to the said Jesse G. Jordan. IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the said parties aforesaid hereto subscribe their names and affix their seals, in said town of Huntsville, this the sixth day of December, eighteen hundred and forty seven.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of,  
 Wm. H. T. Browne, as to J. G. Jordan,  
 John W. Otey, Jr.     Richard Holding, & Dev470

Jesse G. Jordan, (Seal)  
 Mary M. Jordan, (Seal)  
 B. T. Moore, (Seal)  
 Richard Holding. (Seal)

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,     BEFORE ME, John W. Otey Clerk of the County Court of Madison  
 MADISON COUNTY, S. S.     County, in the State of Alabama, personally appeared Jesse G.  
 Jordan, Benjamin T. Moore, and Richard Holding. and said Jesse G. Jordan acknowledged  
 that he had signed, sealed and delivered the within deed of trust to Benjamin T. Moore  
 on the day and year therein mentioned, and the said Benjamin T. Moore and Richard Hold  
 ing also acknowledged that they had signed and sealed the said deed on the day and y  
 year therein mentioned. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL, at office in Huntsville, this  
 sixth day of December, eighteen hundred and forty seven.

Jno. W. Otey Clerk C. C. (Seal)

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,     BEFORE ME, John W. Otey Clerk of the County Court of Madison  
 MADISON COUNTY S.S.     County in the State of Alabama, this day personally appeared  
 Mary M. Jordan wife of Jesse G. Jordan, who on a private examination separate and apart  
 from her said husband acknowledged that she had signed, sealed and delivered said  
 deed to Benjamin T. Moore on the day and year therein mentioned, freely, voluntarily  
 and of her own accord, without fear, threats or compulsion from her said husband.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL, this eighth day of December, eighteen hundred and forty  
 seven.

Jno. W. Otey Clerk C. C. (Seal)

The foregoing deed of trust was delivered into the office of the Clerk of the County  
 Court of Madison County, in the State of Alabama, for registration on the eighth Dec  
 ember, eighteen hundred and forty seven, and was duly registered on the twenty eighth  
 day of December, 1847.

Jno. W. Otey Clerk C. C.

On margin of page 493,  
 I acknowledge the receipt of sixteen hundred dollars in full sat  
 isfaction of the first note embraced in this deed, this the eighth day of December,  
 1848,

Richd Holding. I acknowledge the receipt of sixteen hundred dollars in full sat  
 isfaction of the second note embraced in the deed. Dec. 6th. 1849. Richard Holding.

I acknowledge the receipt of sixteen hundred dollars in full satisfaction of the third  
 note embraced in this deed Dec. 9th. 1851. Richard Holding.

The fifth and last bond described in this deed of trust has been paid in full and all  
 the property described herein has been released. Given under my hand and seal this  
 12th. 1855. The bond described in this deed for sixteen hundred dollars, due from years  
 Apr. Dec. has this day been paid in full by Jesse G. Jordan, 12th. July 1852.  
 By, W. M. Holding.

MAD Co. AL  
 DEED BOOK W  
 PAGE 494



**The ONLY land purchased by Batt Jordan from Isaac Parker per the deed index for 1810 – 1919 was 104.25 acres in the SW/4 of Section 4, Township 4, Range 1W in 1817.** Per the wording of Deed Book E, page 237 [see below], this land would have included all 40 acres of the SW/4 of the SW/4 of 4-4-1W, all 40 acres of the SE/4 of the SW/4 of 4-4-1W, and apparently 12.125 acres in the south portions of both the NE/4 and the NW/4 of the SW/4 of 4-4-1W.

acknowledged before me this fifth day of November, 1818.

John Withers J.Q. seal

Madison County

Alabama Territory.

Personally appeared before me, John Withers a Justice of the Quorum of said county, John McClung and acknowledged that he signed sealed and delivered the within deed to the within named Bat Jordan the day and year therein expressed fifth November, eighteen hundred and eighteen-

John Withers J.Q. seal

The foregoing deed was delivered in this office for registration on the 5th day of February 1819, and is duly recorded this 19th day 1819.

Isaac Parker & M<sup>Y</sup>  
To deed

Bate Jordan

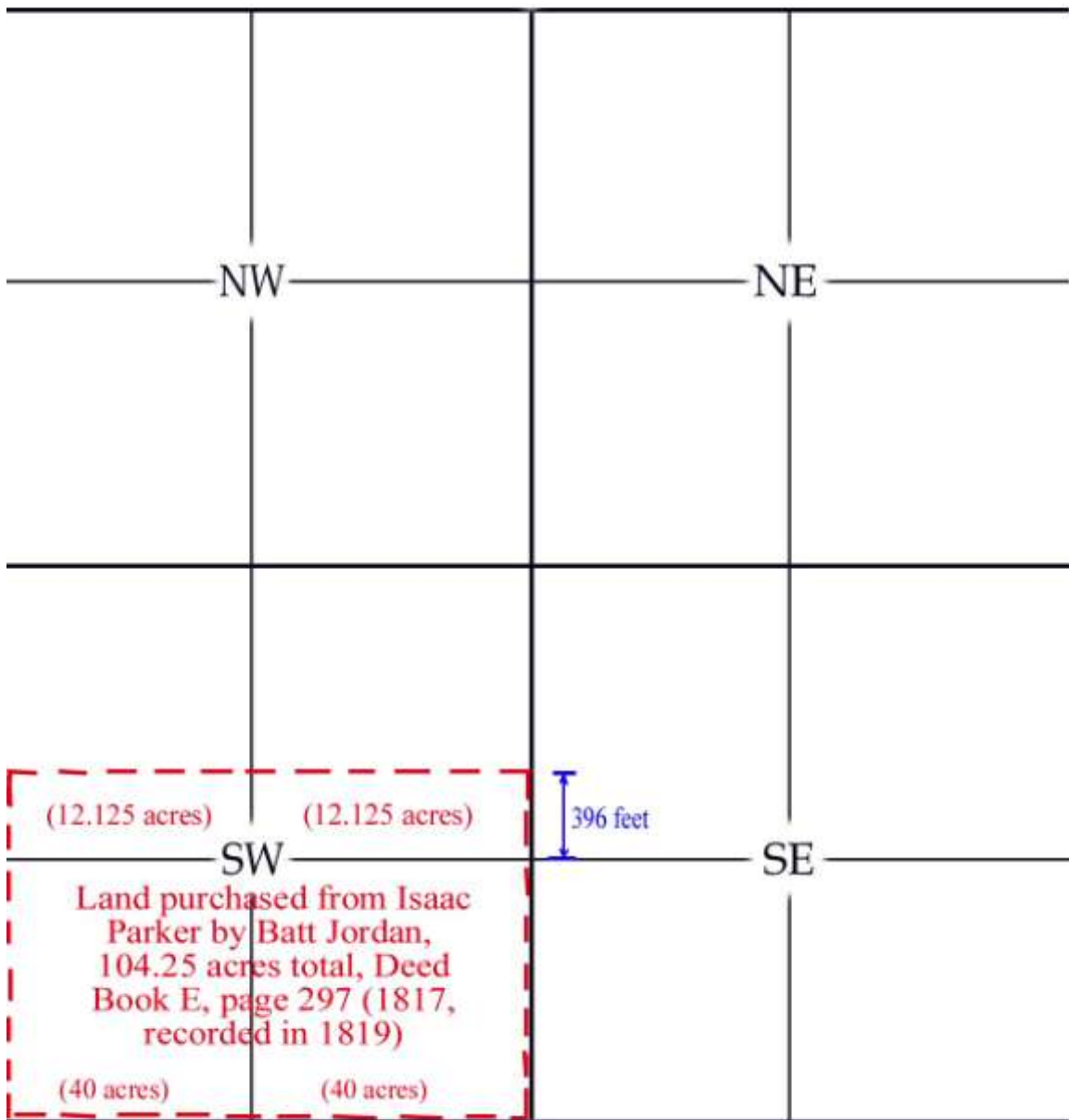
This Indenture made this eleventh day of July one thousand eight hundred and seventeen between Isaac Parker and M. Parker his wife, of the one part, and Bat Jordan of the other part all of the county of Madison in the Mississippi Territory Witnesseth: That the said Isaac Parker and Mary for and in consideration of the sum of one thousand dollars to them in hand paid by the said B. Jordan the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have sold and confirmed and by these presents do bargain sell and confirm unto the said B. Jordan his heirs and assigns,

A Certain tract of land containing one hundred four and fourth acre (viz.) lying in the south side of the south west quarter of section four of township four in range one west of the basis meridian lying in Madison county, Mississippi Territory.

To have and to hold the said tract of land with the tenements and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining unto the said Bate Jordan His heirs and assigns forever and the said Isaac Parker and Mary his wife, for themselves their heirs executors administrators forever warrant and will forever defend the right and title to the said Bat Jordan his heirs and assigns forever, and so from and against the Government of the United States and all and every person or persons holding or claiming under them

A sketch of the section map to indicate the layout and dimensions of this land is given below:

Section   4   Township   4   Range   1W  



**CLUE 5, Meeting House Tract – “... and being the same [140 acres of land] purchased in part from ... Henry Moore by Bartholomew Jordan [before 1826]....”**

There has been no record found of Bartholomew Jordan ever purchasing land from Henry Moore in Madison County. However, that is certainly not unusual for the time. Bartholomew Jordan was in Madison County by about 1810 (but he is not listed in the January 1809 county census), and land records for transactions between private citizens prior to 1810 were not generally kept in the county records. While the county was officially established by proclamation of the governor of the Mississippi Territory in December of 1808, the government land office was not moved from Nashville until 1811. The county government was embryonic in 1809, and land records were obviously somewhat loosely maintained until the county government was fully operational.

However, it is possible to infer from other records that Henry Moore lived near enough to Batt Jordan that they would be acquainted and possibly be involved in land transactions with one another. For example, as published in the June 1972 issue of *Valley Leaves* by the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society, Henry Moore on February 6 of 1809 purchased from the U.S. government 160 acres (a quarter section, unspecified) in Section 10 of Township 4, Range 1W, according to the *1809 Register of Applications & Permissons*. Since Bartholomew Jordan owned land in Section 9 of the same township and range, their lands of these recordings were within a mile of one another.

Batt Jordan lived near David Moore and immediately adjacent to Robert C. Moore when the 1830 census was taken. The census page image showing them has been provided earlier in this report. It has David Moore as the first name on the list of page 127, whereas Bartholomew Jordan is name number 11 from the top of that page. However, Robert C. Moore is name number 10 from the top of the same page, living in the next house “down the road” from Batt Jordan. The relationship of David Moore to Henry is a matter of conjecture, as there is no probate record for Henry Moore. Still, there are later land records and circuit court records that indicate that David Moore had a brother named Henry, who apparently was too young to be the one who sold land to Bartholomew Jordan in the very early 1800s. That suggests that there was a “senior” Henry Moore who sold the land and who had (as a minimum) sons David and Henry “Junior”. David was listed in the

40 to 50 age bracket in 1830. Henry was given as age 37, born in Alabama, in the 1850 census. The 1830 census shows Henry Moore [senior] on page 136 in the 40 – 50 age bracket. The 1840 census gives both Henry Moore Sr. and Jr. on page 184, with Stephen Tribble living between them. [One of Henry’s daughters married a Tribble, and in 1847 Henry and his wife Rebecca sold land to John P. Tribble, per Deed Book W, page 428.] In the 1840 census, Henry Sr. was shown as age 50 – 60, and Henry Jr. was 20 – 30. Henry Moore and his wife Rebecca M. sold land to Henry H. Moore in 1842 per Deed Book T, page 229. The land was in Section 32 of Township 3, Range 2W. Of the 5 parcels of land recorded as sold by Henry Moore and Rebecca, 4 are in Sections 29, 32, and 33 of T3-R2W. Only the parcel sold to John P. Tribble was in Section 4 of Township 4 and Range 2W.

Apparently the Moores lived west of Bartholomew Jordan, in the area where the town of Madison is now located. If Henry Moore Sr. ever owned land in the area of Bartholomew Jordan’s known holdings and sold some of it to Batt, that record is not known to be available in Madison County today. However, it could be in existence at other locations – such as the state archives in Montgomery, the office of the Alabama Secretary of State, the Mississippi state archives, or even the Nashville land office archives in Tennessee. For now, this aspect will be left as an open mystery that should not preclude arriving at a conclusion regarding the location of the site of Jordan’s Chapel. It is very likely that David Moore and Robert C. Moore were living on land that Henry Moore may have bought before the time of the 1830 census, either in Section 9 or Section 10.

**CLUE 6, MEETING HOUSE TRACT – “... bounded by the lands of Samuel Ward....”** [adjacent to lands owned by Batt Jordan in 1826].

Samuel Ward purchased 8 parcels of land, according to the records found in the Madison County courthouse. Of these 8 tracts, only 2 were adjacent to any of the lands known to have been owned by Bartholomew Jordan. **In 1813, Samuel Ward obtained from the U.S. government the SE/4 of Section 5, Township 4, Range 1W. That land is immediately west of the land Bartholomew Jordan owned in the SW/4 of Section 4, same range and township.**

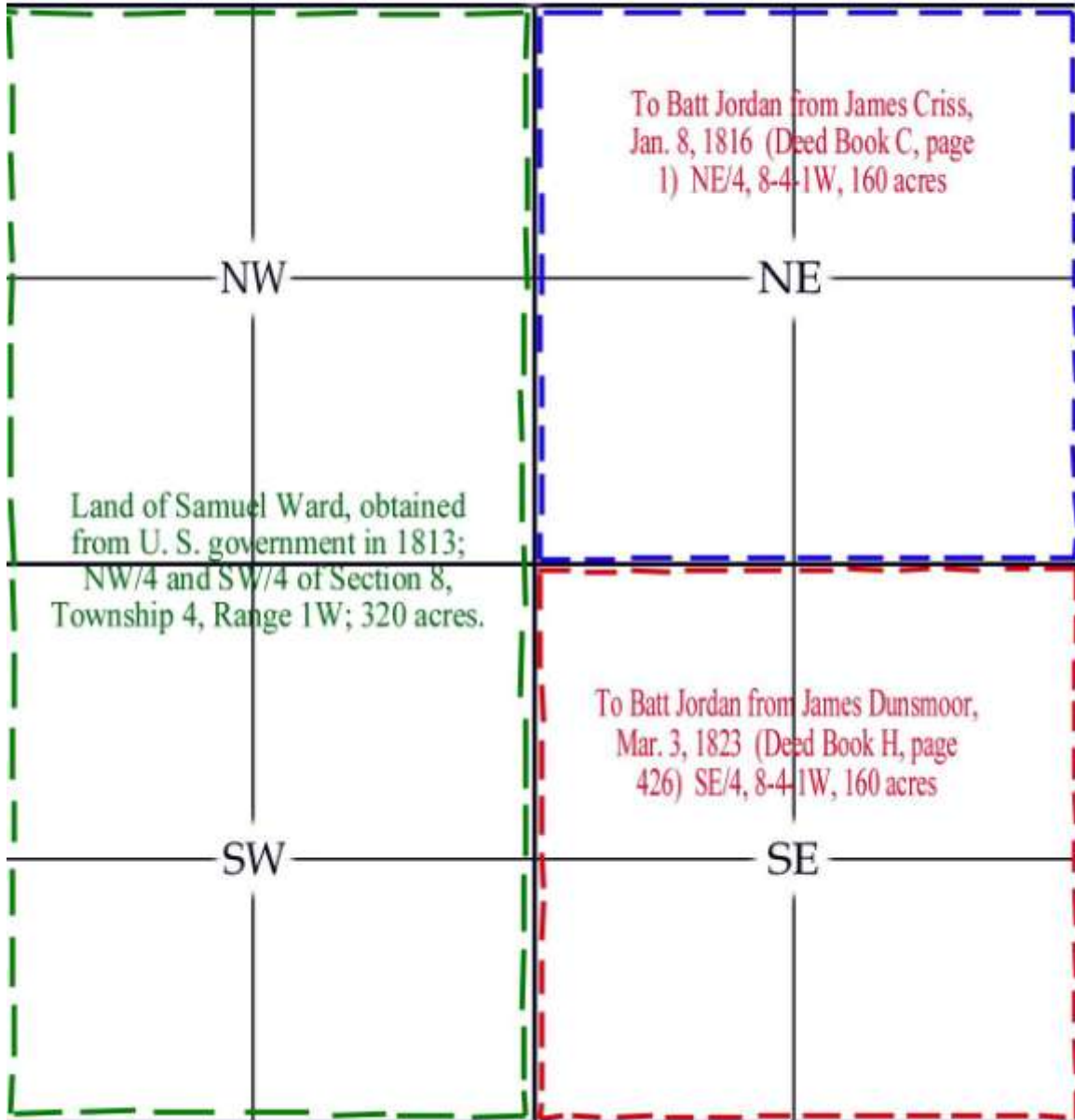
MAD. Co. Ar  
Govt Tract Book

TOWNSHIP 4 South RANGE 1 West

DESCRIPTION OF THE TRACT	AREA			UNITED STATES TITLE TO WHOM SOLD OR GRANTED	Date of Sale, Location or Grant	Number of Acres or Square Feet
	Section	Acres	Perches			
<u>North East 1/4</u>	4	150 00		<u>Seroy Pope</u> <i>apn</i>	Aug 25 1809	551
<u>North West 1/4</u>	"	150 00		<u>Seroy Pope</u> <i>apn</i>	Aug 25 1809	550
<u>South East 1/4</u>	"	150 00		<u>Hugh Rogers</u>	Jan 12, 1811	552
<u>South West 1/4</u>	"	150 00		<u>Mary McCain</u> <i>apn</i>	Jan 8, 1811	442
<u>North East 1/4</u>	5	152 80		<u>Vincent Gape</u> <i>apn</i>	Oct 28, 1811	551
<u>North West 1/4</u>	"	150 70		<u>John Craig</u> <i>pr</i>	Aug 12, 1813	712
<u>South East 1/4</u>	"	150 70		<u>Samuel Ward</u> <i>apn</i>	Feb 15, 1813	1503
<u>South West 1/4</u>	"	150 70		<u>John &amp; Benjamin Jones</u> <i>apn</i>	Nov 18, 1811	552
<u>North East 1/4</u>	6	152 72		<u>David Spife</u>	Dec 12, 1814	459
<u>North West 1/4</u>	"	150 58		<u>Egbert Harris</u> <i>apn</i>	Sept 15, 1809	423
<u>South East 1/4</u>	"	150 58		<u>Henry W. Rhoads</u> <i>apn</i>	July 3, 1811	1111
<u>South West 1/4</u>	"	150 58		<u>Egbert Harris</u> <i>apn</i>	Sept 15, 1809	423

The only other parcel of Samuel Ward's land that adjoined property of Bartholomew Jordan was the west half of Section 8, Township 4, Range 1W. Samuel bought this land in 1844 (Deed Book U, page 362) from Bartley M. Lowe. The land Bartholomew Jordan owned that was adjacent was the east half of the same section – township – range. While Samuel Ward didn't own the land in Section 8 in 1826, when Batt Jordan deeded land for the Methodist Episcopal Church, that of itself does not preclude it from being the parcel later referred to as bounding the Meeting House Tract in 1847. The 1847 reference may have applied to **ownership of the land bounding the Meeting House Tract as of 1847**. Therefore, this particular clue cannot be taken as definitive by itself. However, when placed in conjunction with the next clue, it becomes part of a puzzle whose pieces begin to fit together much better.

Section 8 Township 4 Range 1W



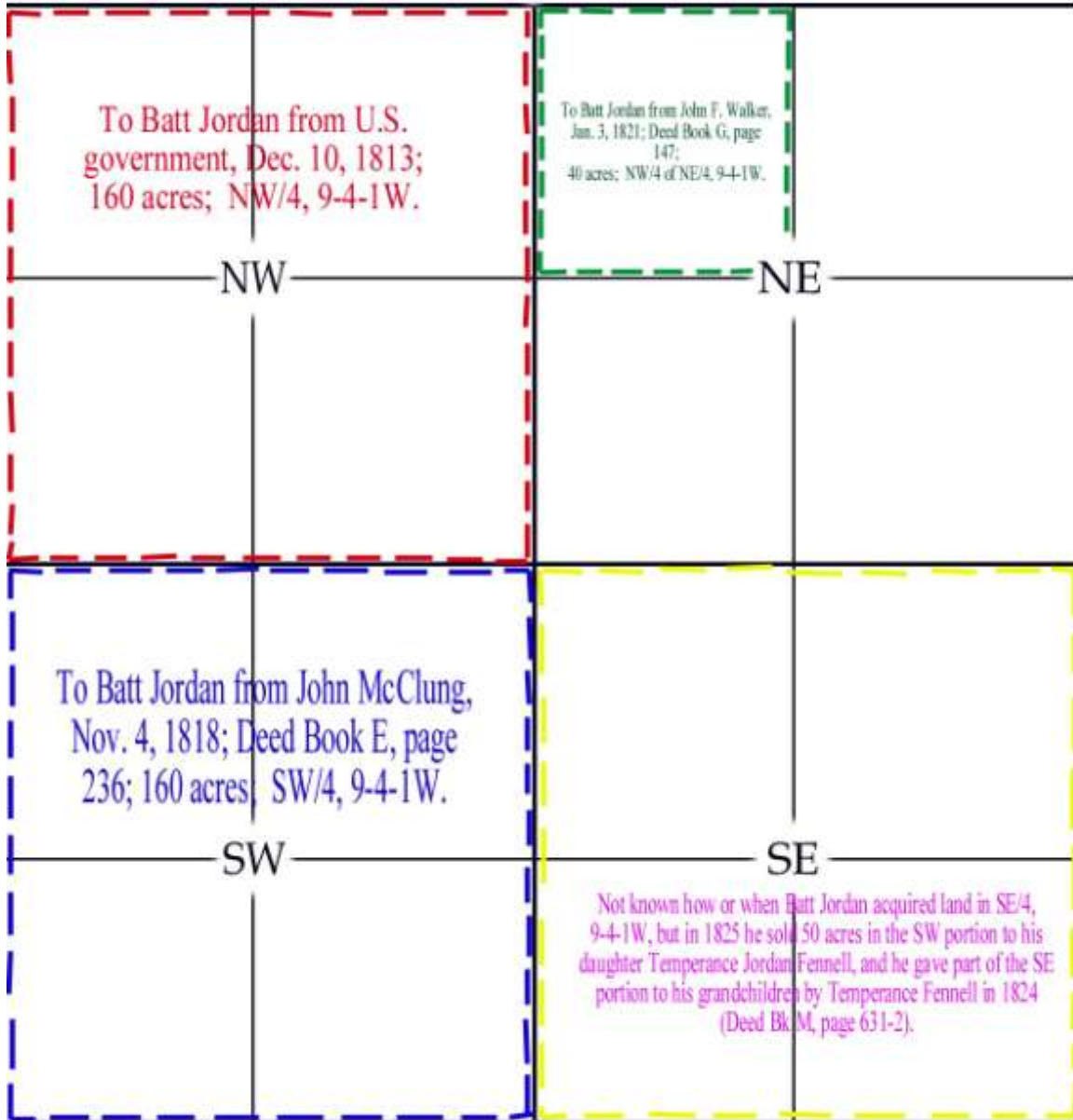


**CLUE 7, Meeting House Tract – “... bounded by the lands of ... Alexander P. Jones....”** [adjacent to land owned by Bartholomew Jordan in 1826].

The land transactions of Alexander P. Jones were quite numerous in Madison County, according to the indexes to real property at the courthouse. It appears that there was most likely a “senior” and a “junior” by the same name, considering the lengthy period of transactions recorded under the name. However, it was obviously the “senior” who had land around the holdings of Bartholomew Jordan. A review of the known holdings of Bartholomew Jordan helps to select those holdings of Alexander P. Jones that would “bound” the Meeting House Tract relative to Jordan holdings and in conjunction with the lands of Samuel Ward per the previous clue.

All of the parcels of land known to have been owned by Bartholomew Jordan were entirely within Sections 4, 8, and 9 of Township 4 South and Range 1 West, as shown in the section maps above for Sections 4 and 8 and below for Section 9:

Section 9 Township 4 Range 1W



With the holdings of Bartholomew Jordan firmly in mind, and recognizing that Samuel Ward had the southeast quarter of Section 5 (adjacent to Batt's land in the SW/4 of Section 4) and the west half of Section 8 (adjacent to Batt's land in the east half of Section 8), then the lands of Alexander P.

Jones that were associated with these lands can be selected from the entire list of known transactions of A. P. Jones.

The problem with this approach is that some of the land records address tracts that are indefinitely described. However, with patience and thoroughness of examination of all linked transactions, even the “indefinite” parcels can be located in terms of adjacent landowners and history of ownerships. Per the Madison County Real Property Index, Book 1 (1810 – 1919), Alexander P. Jones purchased the following tracts in the areas near the holdings of Batt Jordan:

<u>Deed Book</u> <u>/ Page #</u>	<u>Year</u> <u>Recorded</u>	<u>Land Seller</u>	<u>Location of Land</u>
K / 177	1826	Richard Perkins	“indefinite” (73 acres)
N / 492	1831	David Bradford	<b>SE/4 (+ more), 4-4-1W</b>
O / 147	1832	Nicholas Brewer	“indefinite”
O / 619	1833	James Ware	<b>E/2 of NE/4, 9-4-1W</b>
P / 060	1834	Andrew Martin	<b>SE corner of SE/4, 4-4-1W</b>
P / 182	1834	William Allison	<b>S/2 of NW/4, 17-4-1W</b>

*[Each of the above deed records (and others) can be reviewed in detail in the rest of the files stored in the Jordan’s Chapel section of the CD-ROM supplied to the Army offices.]*

The land in Section 17 (P/182) can be dismissed from the possibilities for A. P. Jones’ adjacency because it was separated from Batt Jordan’s nearest holding in the SW/4 of 9-4-1W by a half mile. The N/2 of the NW/4, 17-4-1W, was owned by Samuel Ward, not A. P. Jones – and that is the land that “bounded” Batt Jordan’s property.

Careful examination of the deed description and ownership history for the land that A. P. Jones bought from Richard Perkins (K/177) proves that “indefinite” property to consist of the SE/4 of Section 34 (4-1W) plus the

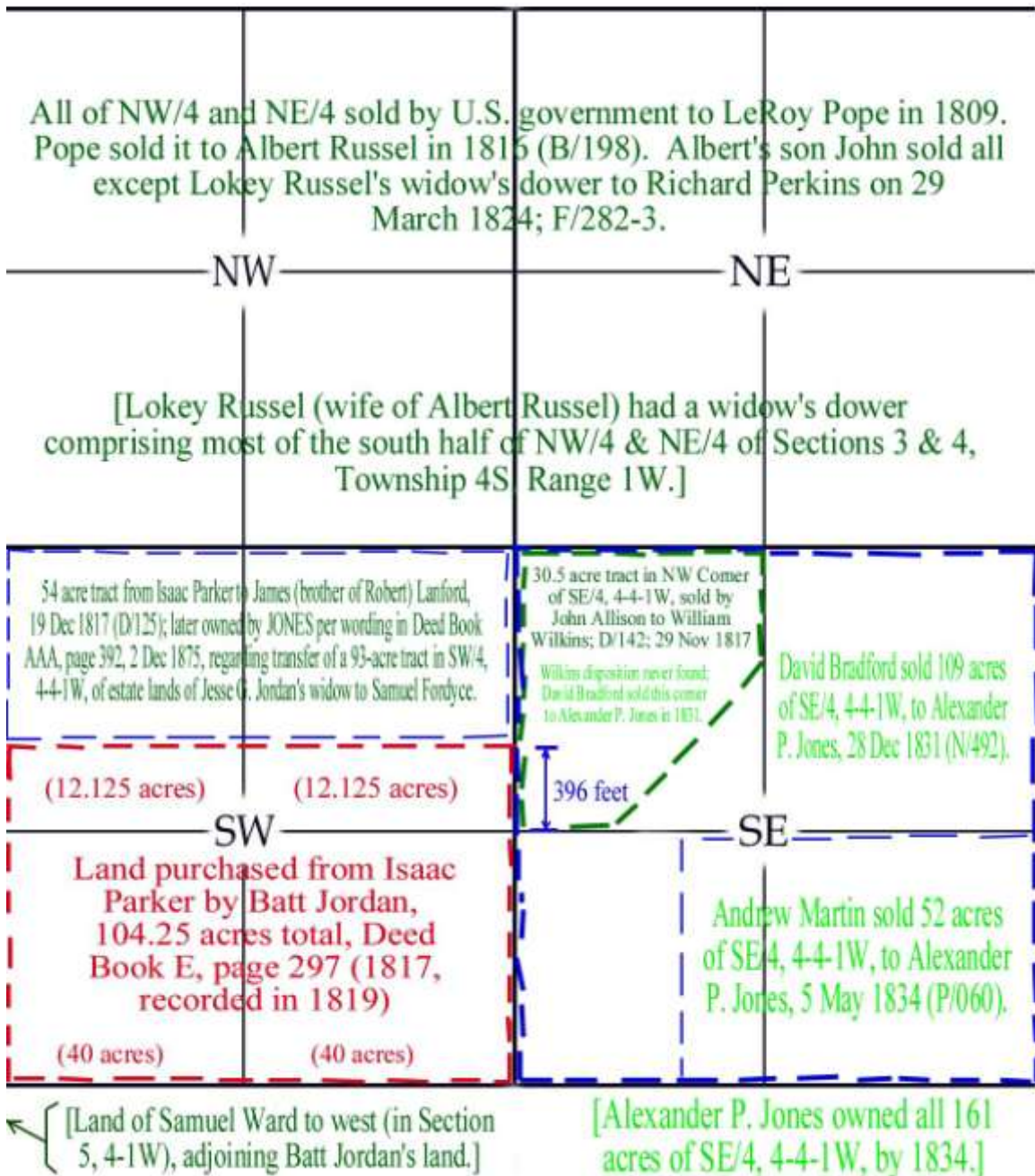
NE/4 & the NW/4 of Section 3 (4-1W) plus **NE/4 & NW/4 of Section 4 (4-1W)**. The parcel specifically excluded the “widow’s dower” of Lokey Russel, widow of Albert Russel. This widow’s dower was located in the northern halves of Sections 3 and 4 of Township 4, Range 1W [Deed Book I&J, page 3, et al.]

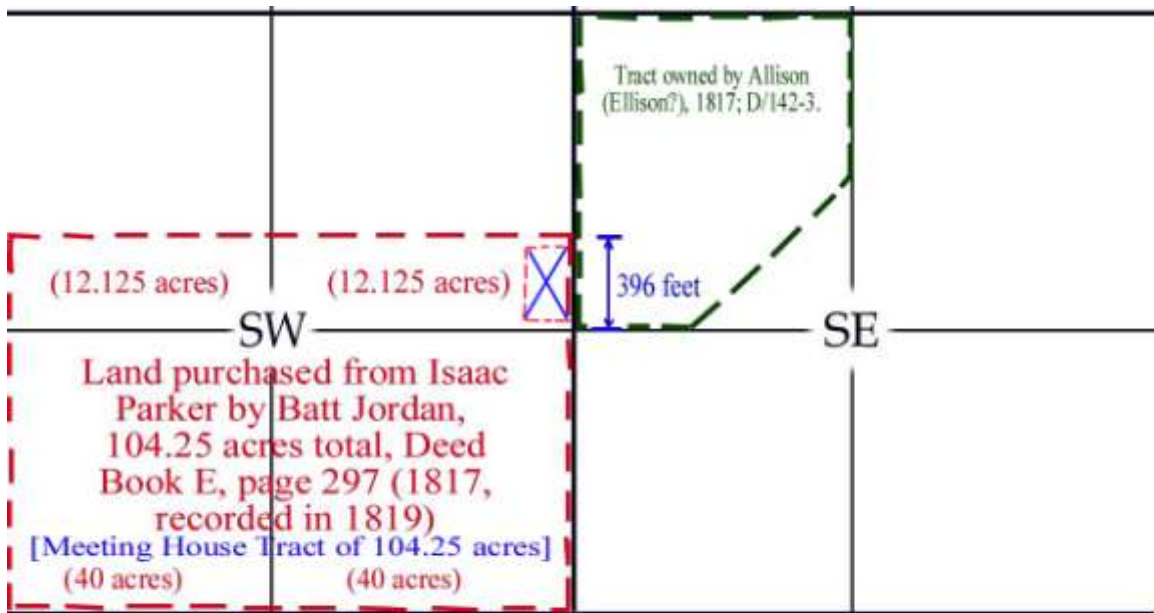
The “indefite” parcel purchased by A. P. Jones from Nicholas Brewer was most probably the same tract of 107 acres that had been purchased by Nicholas Brewer from Batt Jordan in 1825. That transaction was recorded in Deed Book O, page 110, but it never gave the section number, even though it did state that the tract was in Township 4, Range 1W. The deed recording further gave the bounds of the tract in terms of adjacent landowners. It was bounded by the properties of James Thompson, Andrew Martin, David Bradford, Batt Jordan (who was the seller, indicating that he held additional lands tangent to the sold parcel), F. [Francis] Fennell, and J. Wan[n]. Andrew Martin and David Bradford were known to at some time own land in the SE/4 of 4-4-1W. Batt Jordan may well have at some time owned part or all of the land of the SE/4, 4-4-1W as property bought from Henry Moore or someone else, in one of the many apparent transactions that were not recorded or indexed. Francis Fennell and his wife Isabella were listed among the heirs of William Allison, Sr., in Probate Record Book 8, page 538, April, 1839.

At the time of his death, the probate records show that the Alexander P. Jones estate included 52 acres in the SE corner of the SE/4, 4-4-1W (November 1865). The wording of Deed Book N, page 492, indicates that he bought 111 acres in three tracts, all in the SE/4, 4-4-1W, from David Bradford in 1831. Of course, there is an assumption in that statement, concerning the exact quarter section in Section 4, since the quarter was not specifically named in the wording of the deed with respect to the third tract (31 acres) being sold. Either way, **these records prove that Alexander P. Jones held land on the north and on the east adjacent to Bartholomew Jordan’s property in the SW/4, 4-4-1W, during the time periods of concern. Likewise, Samuel Ward held land on the west of Batt Jordan’s property in the SW/4, 4-4-1W.** No other locations of property owned by Batt Jordan, Alexander P. Jones, and Samuel Ward were found to have **adjacencies for all three owners. This fact pinpoints the SW/4 of Section 4, Township 4 South, Range 1 West, as the location of the “Meeting House Tract” of 104 acres owned by Batt Jordan and from which the acre was deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church that**

became known as Jordan's Chapel. [See maps of pertinent lands below.]

Section 4 Township 4 Range 1W

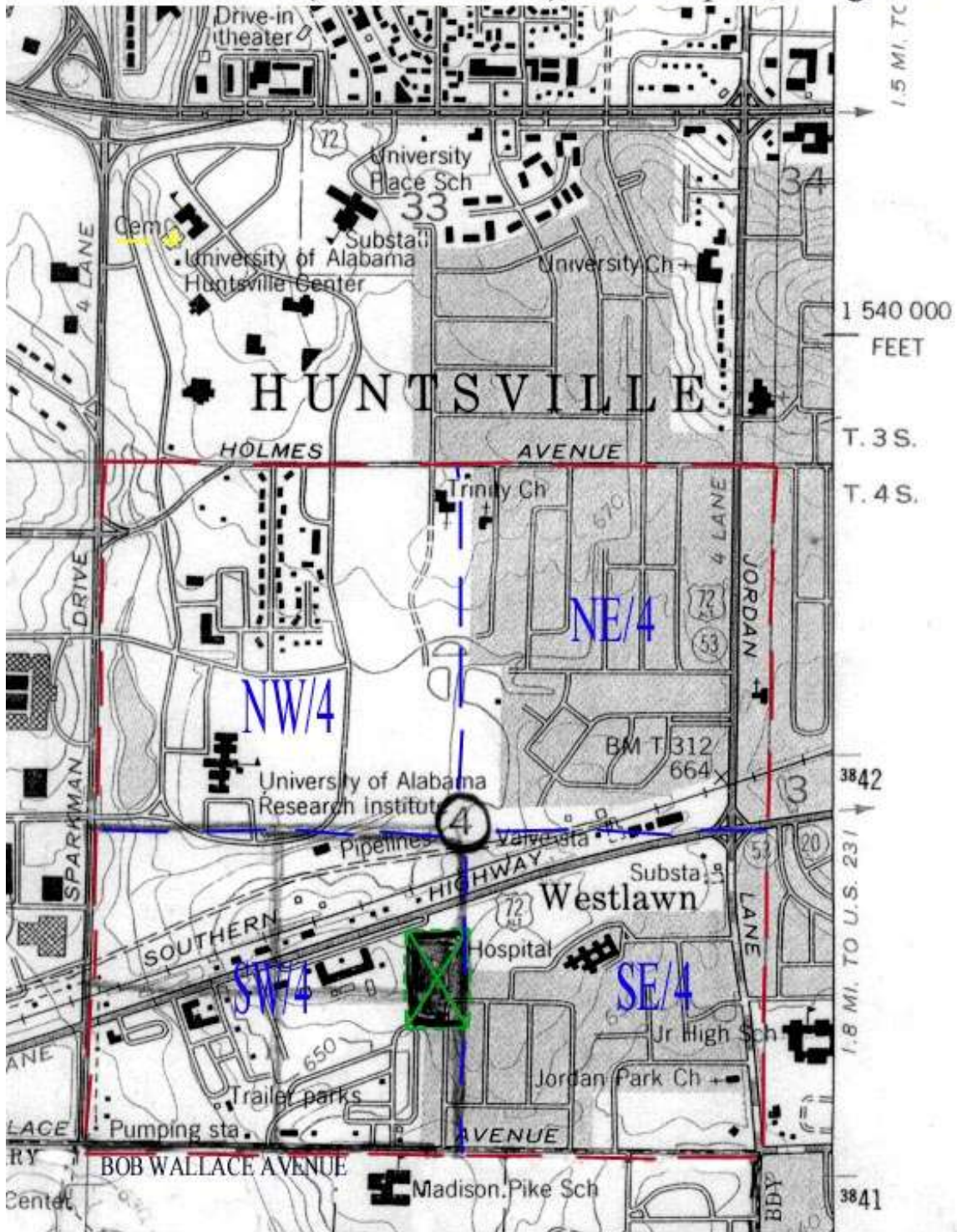




"X" marks the area within which the one acre deeded by Batt Jordan for the Methodist Episcopal Church (Jordan's Chapel) must have been located -- on the line with Ellison, but not including a designated quarter or quarter-of-quarter section corner. Dimensions of the one acre were 219 feet N-S and 201 feet E-W.

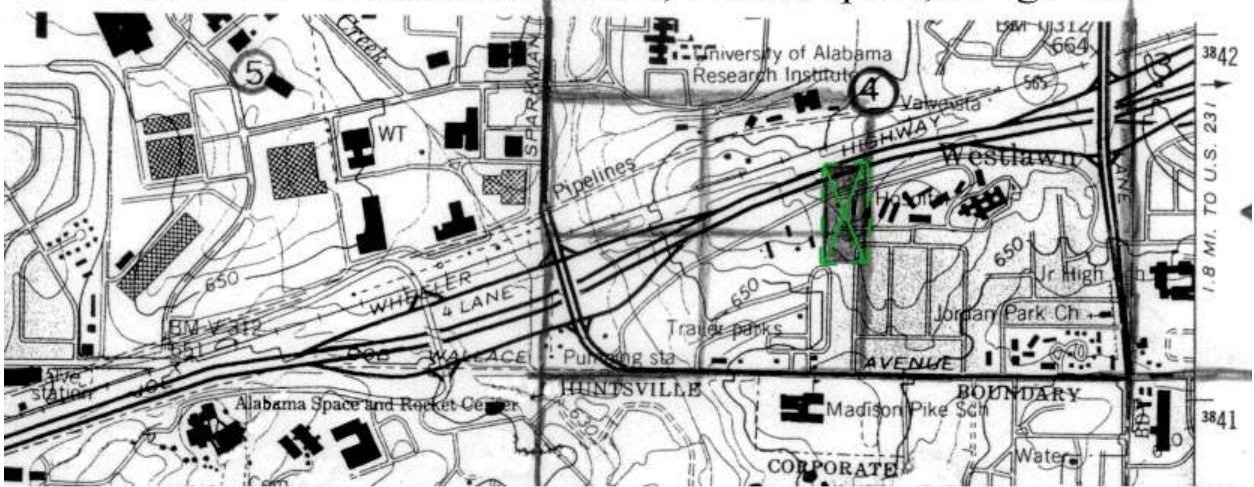
### South Half of Section 4, Township 4 South, Range 1 West.

TVA Topographical Map, Madison Quadrangle, showing detail in Section 4 (dashed red lines), Township 4S, Range 1W.



Jordan's Chapel "one acre" was located within the area enclosed by green dashed lines and marked with green "X", 1826 - circa 1850, per old land record descriptions, taking many together to make deduction.

Topographical Map (TVA, Madison Quadrangle) showing south half of Sections 4 and 5, Township 4S, Range 1W.



Jordan's Chapel was located (1826 - circa 1850) within area bounded by green dashed lines and marked with green "X", per deductions from old land records.

Even with the above conclusions, it may be well to continue to reinforce the deductions by examining additional clues found in the land and probate records relative to the location of the Meeting House Tract and thereby of Jordan's Chapel and its cemetery.

**CLUE 8, Meeting House Tract was transferred to Henry Jordan (son of Batt) since it was mentioned as a part of Henry's estate in probate records leaving a portion of that tract to his widow Maria A. Glasgow Jordan, who later married Thomas E. Thompson.** [Henry's brother Jesse G. Jordan was executor of the estate. As already presented herein, Deed Book W, page 493, contains wording that makes an exception for Henry's widow from within the Meeting House Tract.]

Deed Book Q, page 144, recorded the sale of lands in two tracts from Batt Jordan to his son Henry on October 24, 1836. Henry died on November 4 of 1836, according to his obituary in the *Huntsville Democrat* of November 11 of that year. He made his last will and testament on October 24, 1836, which was the same day as the purchase of land from his father. It is



possible that he was terminally ill on that date, and Batt Jordan was simply providing for Henry's widow and children by selling the land at that time.

It should be noted in examining the deed (below) that the first tract of land was the 160 acres of the NE/4 of Section 8, which lies immediately southwest of the SW/4 of Section 4 in Township 4, Range 1W. The Meeting House Tract was described as consisting of 140 acres purchased by Batt Jordan from Moore and Parker. Its location was not specified, but at least the ownership chain is now known for additional tracking with respect to location clues. As already presented above, we know the location to have been in the SW/4 of 4-4-1W.

Bartholoman Jordan  
To Deed  
Henry Jordan

This Indenture made this 24th day of October one thousand eight hundred and thirty six between Batt Jordan of the county of Madison in the state of Alabama of the one part and Henry Jordan of the county Madison & State aforesaid of the other part. Witnesseth: That the said Batt Jordan for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred dollars to him in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have this day bargained sold aliened enfeoffed and conveyed and by these presents do bargain sell alienenfeoff and convey to the said Henry Jordan two certain tracts of land lying and being in the County of Madison and State as aforesaid and known in the plan of said County as the North east Quarter of Section eight of Township four in Range one west of the Meridian Line and also one hundred and forty acres of land designated by said Jordans as the Meeting house track and bounded by the lands of Sam Ward and Alex P Jones and both track containing three hundred acres be the same more or less. One hundred and sixty acrs of which land was purchased by said Batt Jordan of James Cross assignee of John Russell and one hundred and forty acers of Moore and Parker. To have and to hold the above described track of land with the tenements and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining unto the said Henry Jordan his heirs and assigns forever. And the said Batt Jordan for himself & his executors and administrators do warrant and will forever defend the title to the above described and hereby granted premises unto the said Henry Jordan his heirs and assigns from and against Batt Jordan and all and every person or persons claiming or holding under him the said Batt Jordan and also against the lawfull title claim or demand of all and every person or persons whomsoever claiming or holding by from or under the Government of the United States. In testimony whereof the said Batt Jordan has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year above written.

Signed sealed and delivered in the

Presence of  
Jason L Jordan  
Wm Blake

Batt Jordan (Seal)

Before me Richard B Purdom Clerk of the County Court of Madison County in the State of Alabama this day personally appeared William Blake one of the subscribing witnesses to the within deed who being duly sworn deposes and says that he heard Bartholomen Jordan acknowledge that he had signed sealed and delivered the said Deed to the within named Henry Jordan on the day of its date and that he said deponent and Jason L Jordan the other subscribing witness to said Deed subscribed their names thereto as witnesses in the presence of the said Bartholomen Jordan and in the presence of each other. Given under my hand and seal at office in Huntsville this seventh November eighteen hundred and thirty six.

Rich B Purdom (Seal)

The foregoing deed was delivered into the office of the clerk of the County Court of Madison in the State of Alabama for registration on the seventh day of November eighteen hundred and thirty six and was duly registered on the second day of December eighteen hundred and thirty six.

Rich B Purdom Clerk C C

Henry Jordan's last Will & Testament

In the name of God Amen I Henry Jordan of the County of Madison and State of Alabama being weak in body but sound in mind, do make and appoint this my last Will and Testament - I bequeath my soul to God who redeemed it, and my body to the earth from whence it came to be decently buried agreeably to the ordinance of the Christian Church - It is my Will and desire that all my just debts be paid by my Executors hereinafter to be named, it being my wish that the whole of my Estate, remain together as it now is until my just debts are paid by my Executors and for them to make such distribution as they may think proper at which time I bequeath to my beloved wife Maria S. Jordan the Plantation on which I now live containing one hundred and sixty acres of land, and so much of my other lands as will give her all my out house, barn & including the well, and I wish the line to run as the same now stands also the following negro slaves to wit: Maria, Henry, Charles, Rachel, Mary, and her child, with their increase and all my house hold and kitchen furniture and what stock and farming utensils, she may need, at the discretion of my Executors - and the balance of my Estate to be equally divided among my children as they may become of age to wit William T. Jordan, James S. Jordan, Henry G. Jordan, Andrew V. Jordan, Glasgow W. Jordan, John M. Jordan, and the child my wife is now pregnant with I do hereby constitute and appoint my beloved Brothers John G. Jordan and Jason L. Jordan my Executors not to be bound by any law but by conscience and the law of God - It is my will and desire that my Executors act as Guardians for my children, and to give them a liberal education - This my last Will and Testament

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set subscribed my name and affix my seal this 24th day of October in the year of our Lord Eighteen Hundred and thirty, set signed in the presence of

Wm Blake  
James W. Allen  
Louis W. Byrom  
The State of Alabama

Henry Jordan Seal

Orphan's Court of Madison County this the 4th day of March 1837  
The execution of the last Will and Testament of Henry Jordan, late of said County, being having this day been duly proven by the oaths of William Blake, James W. Allen, and Louis W. Byrom, the subscribing witnesses thereto is ordered to be recorded (in minute Book No. 7 Page 28) Pursuant to said order said last Will & Testament was duly recorded on the 26th day of November 1837  
J. A. Richd. S. Sumner, Clerk C.C.

Madison County AL Orphan's Court Book 7, page 28: Last Will & Testament of HENRY JORDAN proved by oaths of Wm. Blake, James W. Allen, & Louis W. Byrom.

~~Henry now duly sworn well and truly testify whether the said  
 Simon & Williamson be non compos mentis or not and the  
 jurors answering to wit John M. Scroggs, Robert J. Wilson, Jacob  
 J. Sample, James M. Cain, William Harte, Jacob H. Pierce,  
 Robert Edwards, Richard S. James, Elias Smith, Hugh A.  
 Moore, George Harte and George W. Neal after having heard  
 the evidence read and the charge of the Court and having  
 returned to consider of their verdict returned with their verdict  
 which is in the words & figures following to wit We the Jurors  
 find that Amanda & Williamson is insane & incapable of  
 managing her own business We do hereby certify that we the  
 Jurors (said) J. M. Scroggs (said) R. J. Wilson (said) J. Sample (said) J. M. Cain  
 (said) W. Harte (said) J. H. Pierce (said) Robt Edwards (said)  
 R. S. James (said) E. S. Smith (said) Hugh A. Moore (said)  
 Geo. Harte (said) Geo. W. Neal (said)~~

Henry Jordan's Orphans } Petition for sale of real Estate  
 20 } This day the Petition of Leffe G. Jordan  
 Henry Jordan's Orphans } Executor of the last Will and Testament of  
 Henry Jordan late of said County deceased for the sale  
 of the following described tracts or parcels of land belonging to the  
 Estate of said Testator to wit the North half of the North West  
quarter of section nine township five Range one west, the south  
east quarter part of fractional section four, township five of Range  
one west, containing one hundred and two acres and fifty hun-  
dreths of an acre; the south west part of fractional section  
township and Range aforesaid, containing one hundred and two  
acres and fifty hundredths of an acre; part of fractional section  
numbered four, township five, Range one west, of the base mer-  
idian, containing one hundred and one acres and twenty six  
hundredths of an acre bounded on the north by the land of  
Thomas & William Brandon on the East by the tract of land  
in which the late James Trager lived on the south by the  
tract of land in which said Henry Jordan formerly lived, and on  
the West by the tract of land in which William D. Lanier for-  
merly lived, and one other tract or parcel of land containing one  
hundred and forty acres, be the same more or less known as  
The Meeting House tract, and bounded by the lands of  
Samuel Ward and Alexander L. Jones, and being the same  
purchased in part from Isaac Parker and in part from

Wording proves that the Meeting House Tract was different from the more southern tracts where Henry Jordan lived.

more, and excepting of the tract last aforesaid so much  
thereof as by the last Will and Testament of said Henry  
Jordan deceased, was bequeathed to his widow and excep-  
ting also the portion thereof conveyed by Bartholomew Jordan  
to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church at  
Jordan's Chapel all in the County of Madison & State <sup>of</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>approved</sup> ~~of~~  
 coming on for final hearing and it appearing to the satis-  
 faction of the Court that the service of the citation & in-  
 said cause has been duly acknowledged & that  
 the lands aforesaid cannot be equally, fairly and bene-  
 ficially divided amongst the heirs of the said Henry  
 Jordan deceased, without a sale thereof. It is therefore  
 ordered and decreed that the lands aforesaid be sold  
 on a credit of one and two years, the purchaser or purchasers  
 giving bond or bonds and approved securities for the payment  
 thereof and It is further ordered that said Executor sell  
 as aforesaid all the right title claim and interest which  
 said Testator had in and to the aforesaid tracts or parcels of  
 land, and make report thereof to the next Term of this  
 Court thereafter.

Madison Co. AL  
 Orphan's Court  
 Book 10  
 Page 134

And it is further ordered, that said Executor <sup>sell</sup> ~~sell~~  
 able to law the Slaves belonging to the Estate of said Testator  
 viz Thompson, aged about twenty six years; Mellis, aged about  
 twenty years; Julius, aged about eighteen years, and Phil  
 aged about fifteen years, and make report to the next  
 term of this Court thereafter.

The above image of page 134 from Orphan's Court Minute Book 10 clearly states that the Methodist Episcopal Church that was established on land deeded by Batt Jordan became known as Jordan's Chapel. The previous page (133) of this document also listed lands where Henry Jordan apparently lived during his last days. This land that Henry owned was well south of the

Meeting House Tract. The Meeting House Tract in fact was stated separately, as being a distinctly different parcel of land than that specified as being in Township 5.

**CLUE 9, Deposition statements of William Lanford regarding petition by Jesse Jordan to sell the lands of Henry Jordan in order to equitably divide the estate.**

In 1844 Jesse G. Jordan was Administrator of the estate of his brother Henry's estate, and he petitioned the County Court / Orphan's Court to sell Henry's land and slaves in order to enable a more equitable division among the heirs. Henry had died in 1836, so Jesse had probably tried for several years various schemes to get the 5 living sons of Henry to agree upon a division of lands and the four slaves. Finally, he would have realized that only a sale of the lands and slaves and subsequent division of the resulting cash would produce a truly equitable settlement. His petition and bond to sell the land and the remaining slaves is seen in the documents below.

134

Henry Indan's Ex<sup>r</sup>.

$\frac{m}{3}$  Part for sale of land & slaves.

Henry Indan's Legatee

Filed 15<sup>th</sup> August 1844

Teste, Geo. W. Oley, Clk. C. C.

For hearing first time

For hearing 1<sup>st</sup> time in Oct 44

C. M. B. N<sup>o</sup> 10 Page 107 -

27<sup>th</sup> Aug 44

1844 -

October 11<sup>th</sup> C. M. B. N<sup>o</sup> 10 Page

133 - 8 seq

To the Honorable County Court of Madison County, Alabama.  
The petition of John L. Jordan, Executor of the last Will and Testament of  
Henry Jordan, late of said County, deceased, respectfully sheweth:  
That said deceased died seized and possessed of certain tracts or  
parcels of land situated, lying and being in the County aforesaid,  
and known as the north half of the north west quarter of section  
nine, township five range one west; the south east part of frac-  
tional section five, township five of range one west, containing  
one hundred and two acres and fifty hundredths of an acre; the  
south west part of fractional section, township and ranges afo-  
said, containing one hundred and two acres and fifty hundredths  
of an acre; part of fractional section numbered four, township  
five, range one west of the base meridian, containing one hun-  
dred and one acres and seventy six hundredths of an acre, bound-  
ed on the north by the land of Thomas and William Saunders, on  
the east by the tract of land on which the late James Frazier lived,  
on the south by the tract of land on which said Henry Jordan for-  
merly lived, and on the west by the tract of land on which William  
J. Lauer formerly lived; and one other tract or parcel of land con-  
taining one hundred and forty acres, be the same more or less, known  
as the meeting house tract, and bounded by the lands of Samuel Ward  
and Alexander B. Jones, and being the same purchased in part from  
Isaac Parker and in part from Henry Moore, and excepting except out  
of the tract last aforesaid so much thereof as by the last Will and  
Testament of said Henry Jordan, deceased, was bequeathed to his  
widow, and excepting also the portion thereof conveyed by Barthol-  
omew Jordan to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church at  
Jordan's Chapel.

That it is necessary to divide the before mentioned tracts or par-  
cels of land between the heirs of the said Henry Jordan, deceased, and  
that the said lands cannot be equally, fairly and beneficially divided  
among the said heirs.

That the said Henry Jordan, deceased, left has now living  
five sons, to wit: William H. Jordan, who is over the age of twenty  
one years, and James B. Jordan, Henry C. Jordan, Andrew J. Jordan  
and Glasgow H. Jordan, who are infants under the age of twenty one  
years, who are his legatees; that there were no other children except



John M. Sadaw and Henrietta Jordan, who have departed this life in minority, and without other heirs than the legatees aforesaid; all of said legatees reside in the county aforesaid.

Petitioner therefore prays that such proceedings refer to the last will and testament of said Henry Jordan, deceased, which is of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Court of said County, as part of this petition, and prays that such proceedings may be had as the law directs, so that a sale of the before mentioned and described tracts or parcels of land may be ordered, for the purposes aforesaid, pursuant to the statutes in such cases made and provided.

Petitioner also represents that he has made final settlement of his administration on the estate of said decedent, as the records of this Honorable Court will show, <sup>to which reference is made,</sup> and that all the property now belonging to said estate except the tracts or parcels of land aforesaid, consist of four negro slaves, to wit: Thompson, aged about twenty six years; Miller, aged about twenty years; Sulins, aged about eighteen years, and Thel, aged about fifteen years, who cannot be equally fairly and beneficially divided amongst said legatees without a sale thereof; And petitioner also prays that he may be authorized to sell the slaves aforesaid agreeably to law on or about the first day of January next, at which time the term for which the said slaves are now hired out will have expired, so that the proceeds thereof may be divided amongst said legatees.

August 15th. 1844

John M. Sadaw Esq  
of Henry Jordan, ex'or

I agree that the property aforesaid may be ordered to be sold equally to the heirs of the foregoing petition the 15 day 1844  
John M. Sadaw

434

Jesse G. Jordan Exr. of  
Henry Jordan deceased

To  $\frac{3}{3}$  Bond to sell Land

John C. Thompson Judge

2nd December 1844 C. M. B.  
No. 10 Page 170 & seq.

Know all men that we, Jesse G. Jordan Executor of the last Will and Testament of Henry Jordan deceased and George Houston and George W. Jennell of Madison County in the State of Alabama are held and firmly bound unto Isaac C. Thompson, Judge of the County Court of said County and his successors in Office in the penalty of one thousand dollars, for the true payment of which well and truly to be made, we and each of us do bind ourselves, our heirs, Executors and Administrators jointly and severally, firmly by these presents, witness our hands and seals this ~~fourth~~ second day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty four

The condition of the above obligation is such, that whereas the above bound Jesse G. Jordan Executor He has applied to the Judge of the County Court of said County for a sale of the real estate of said Testator, which consists of the North part of the North West 1/4 of section nine Township 5 - of Range 1 West, the South East part of fractional section four, Township 5 - of Range 1 West containing 102 acres & 59/100 of an acre, the South West part of fractional section, Township 7 Range 1 West containing one hundred & two acres & 57/100 of an acre; part of fractional section numbered 4 Township five Range 1 West of the basis meridian containing 101 acres & 8/100 of an acre bounded on the North by the land of Thomas & William Brandon on the East by the tract of land on which the late James Frazer lived on the South by the tract of land on which said Henry Jordan formerly lived, and on the west by the tract of land on which William D. Larkin formerly lived; and one other tract or parcel of land containing ~~the~~ 1100 be the same more or less known as the meeting house tract, and bounded by the lands of James Ward & Henderson P. Jones & being the same purchased in part from Isaac Parker and in part from Henry Moore, and excepting out of the tract last aforesaid so much thereof as by the last Will & Testament of said Henry Jordan deceased was bequeathed to his widow, and excepting also the part thereof conveyed by Bartholomew Jordan to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Jordan's Chapel.

Now if the said Jesse G. Jordan Executor &c. as aforesaid shall well and truly observe the rules and directions of law for the sale of real estate by Administrators &c. and shall well and truly account for the proceeds of said sale and see that the same shall be disposed of agreeably to law, then this obligation shall be

Hearings were held to determine the appropriateness of the proposed sale of the land and slaves of Henry Jordan's estate. Depositions were taken from William Lanford and George Horton regarding their [unbiased but knowledgeable] opinions about the necessity for the sale. Isham J. Fennell, son of Temperance Jordan Fennell (who was Henry's sister), was also summoned for a deposition, but such a document was not found. It may be that the blood relationship to Henry disqualified Isham's participation. The documents below show the statements of William Lanford and George Horton in the deposition.



# The State of Alabama.

MADISON COUNTY.

To John B. Eldridge a commissioner or any Justice of the Peace for the County of  
Madison in the State of Alabama GREETING:

KNOW YE, That we, in confidence of your prudence and fidelity, do hereby commission, authorize and require you to call and cause to come before you, at the ~~your~~  
*Office* ~~house of~~ *in the court house* in the County and State  
aforesaid, on the *14th* day of *October* in the year of our Lord one  
thousand eight hundred and forty-four William Sanford & Isham J. Fennell  
and George Weston

and ~~them~~ after being first duly qualified, diligently examine, touching ~~their~~ <sup>Deposition</sup> knowledge  
respecting the matters in difference between the parties, in a suit now pending in our County Court hold-  
ten for the said County of Madison, wherein *Henry Jordan's Executor*  
is Plaintiff and *Henry Jordan's Heir*

as Defendant in behalf of the Plaintiff - and  
~~their~~ examination so taken from under your hand and seal, send certified to the Judge of the <sup>Deposition</sup> County  
Court for the County of Madison, and State of Alabama, at the Court to be held at the Court-house in  
in the Town of Huntsville, on the <sup>second</sup> ~~third~~ Monday in *October* Instant next-

Witness, RICHARD B. PURDOM, Clerk of our said County Court, at Office, this *twelfth*  
day of *October* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty  
*four* and of American Independence the *sixty ninth* year.

TESTE,

*Geo. M. Otley*

CLERK, C. C.

Issued *twelfth* day of *October* 1844

Let ~~days~~ notice of the time and place of taking said deposition be given.

*Geo. M. Otley*

CLERK, C. C.

*I acknowledge service of the above*  
*We agree that the depositions may be taken as above*

*Geo. M. Otley*

The State of Alabama Pursuant to the resolution Common  
 Madison County by opinion and decree. Issued  
 from the Office of the Clerk of the County Court of said  
 County dated the 1st day of October 1846, I have come  
 to Court before me on this the 10th day of October 1846  
 at my Office, William L. Carford, & Isaac G. Fennell, the latter  
 is named in said Commission and Thence after being  
 duly sworn on to the Oath of Almighty God the truth  
 to speak the whole truth and nothing but the truth in  
 the case now pending in said Court wherein Henry  
 Jordan's Execution is Plaintiff and Henry Lombard  
 heirs are defendants in behalf of the Plaintiffs.  
William L. Carford being first sworn deposes as follows  
 to wit:-

1st question by Plaintiff  
 are you acquainted with the lands of which Henry  
 Jordan died seignior and possessor.

Answer - I am in part.

2nd question are said lands be equally, fairly and  
beneficially divided among the heirs of said  
decedent without a sale thereof -

Answer - I would think not as they are in three  
different parcels, and some of said land  
without a particle of timber or fence and  
a portion of said land being near Jordan's  
Chappel the remainder in the flat about  
seven miles apart - and no houses -  
 further this deponent saith not.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 10th day of Oct 1846.  
 Wm. L. Carford - Clerk }  
 Isaac G. Fennell - Com. }

George Horton

→ George Horton being next sworn deposes as follows  
 to wit:-  
 1st are you acquainted with the lands of which Henry  
 Jordan died seignior and possessor.  
 Answer - I am with that portion that lies in

in Mathews Plat-  
2<sup>d</sup> question. Can said lands be equally fairly and  
beneficially divided among the Heirs of said  
Henry Jordan -  
Answer - I think not without a Sale as  
the land is cut in to two parts and detached  
Given to Subscribed }  
before me this 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 1844 }  
Geo Borton }  
Mo B Eldridge Comr }  
  
State of Alabama } I John B Eldridge Commissioner  
Madison County } do Certify that the foregoing Dep  
osition of William Vaughn and Geo Borton was  
taken by me and that I am not a kin to either  
party. Given under my hand and Seal this 14<sup>th</sup>  
day of October 1844. Mo B Eldridge Comr.  
  
Fees for Deposition \$2.00  
Mo B Eldridge Comr.

The report on the eventual sale of the lands at auction in 1845 is provided in the images below.

Henry Jordan, dec'd.

---

Report of the sale of the  
real estate belonging to the  
Estate of Henry Jordan  
deceased

Ordered to be recorded 20th  
March 1845 O. No. B. No 10  
Page 296 Reg

Recorded and  
In Duplicate Record  
Book No 12

Page 33 Set

7  
" "  
" "  
" "



two years, the purchaser or purchasers giving bond or bonds and approved securities for the payment thereof. And it is further ordered that said Executor sell as aforesaid all the right title claim and interest which said Testator had in and to the aforesaid tracts or parcels of land and make report thereof to the next Term of this Court thereafter -

A true copy

Teste, Geo. W. Clay, Clerk C.C.

In State of Kentucky. By virtue of an order or decree for the sale of real  
estate, described within, belonging to the estate of Henry  
Jordan, late of the County and State aforesaid, in and of which the above and foregoing  
page contain a statement, &c. Signed by Gordon, Decree of the last Will and Testa-  
ment of said Henry Jordan deceased, bear this day, after having previously given due  
and legal notice by publication in the Democrat, a newspaper printed and published  
in the Town of Louisville, in the County and State aforesaid and otherwise, as the  
law of said State requires, proceeded, at the Court Room in said Town of Louisville,  
to sell the highest bidder, at public outcry, on a credit of twelve months for one  
half of the purchase money, and of two years for the other half thereof, all the tracts  
or parcels of land described in said order or decree, of which the said Henry Jordan  
did, devise and bequeath, to-wit: William H. Jordan, of the County and  
State aforesaid, being the highest and last bidder for the first four tracts or parcels  
of land therein described, became the purchaser thereof, at and for the price of  
one dollar and fifty cents per acre, making the aggregate sum of five hundred  
and eighty dollars and fourteen cents and executed two bonds of one each here-  
with, each payable to the undersigned, the one for the sum of two hundred and  
ninety dollars and seven cents, twelve months after the date thereof and the other  
for the same amount, twenty four months after the date thereof with James B. Jor-  
dan  
his executor, and George Hutton, of the  
County and State aforesaid, being the highest and last bidder for the last of the  
tracts or parcels of land therein described, and containing one hundred and forty  
acres be the purchaser or buyer, became the purchaser thereof, at and for the price of  
ninety cents per acre, making for the whole of the purchase money of the  
said last mentioned tract or parcels of land, the sum of one hundred and twenty six  
dollars, and executed two bonds, of one each herewith, each payable to the undersig-  
ed, the one for the sum of sixty three dollars twelve months after  
the date thereof and the other for the same amount, twenty four months after the date  
thereof with James B. Jordan and George H. Cornwell, his executors.

All of which is hereby reported to the Orphans Court of Madison County in the State of Alabama, as aforesaid. Given under my hand and seal in said County, this second day of December, eighteen hundred and forty four.

Joseph G. Jordan   
Ex<sup>r</sup> of Henry Jordan, dec'd

State of Alabama } Before me John W. Oley, Clerk of the County  
Madison County } Court of said County this day personally appeared  
Joseph G. Jordan, Executor of the last Will and Testament of Henry  
Jordan, deceased and made oath that the above and foregoing <sup>report</sup> account  
of the sale of the real Estate &c belonging to his said Testator is true and  
correct to the best of his knowledge & belief

subscribed and sworn before me this  
20th day of March 1845

John W. Oley, Clk C. C.

Joseph G. Jordan ✓

The State of Alabama

Orphans Court of Madison County March 30th 1845  
Joseph G. Jordan Executor of the last will and Testament of Henry  
Jordan late of said County deceased having made his report of the  
sale of the lands belonging to the Estate of said dec'd as appro-  
ved by the Court and ordered to be recorded (in Minute Book No 10  
page 296) Pursuant to said Court said Report was duly recorded  
on the 2nd day of October 1845 in Orphans Records No 17 Page  
83 &c.

John W. Oley C. C.

Note that in the deposition of William Lanford, he stated that the holdings of Henry Jordan included lands "... in three different parcels, and some of said land without a particle of timber or fence and **a portion of said land being near Jordan's Chappel [sic], the remainder in the Flat about seven miles apart** – and no houses." The lands of the estate listed in other documents were:

- Tract 1: N/2 of NW/4, S9-**T5**-R1W (80 acres)
- Tract 2: SE part of fractional S4-**T5**-R1W (102.5 acres)
- Tract 3: SW part of fractional S[blank]-**T5**-R1W (102.5 acres)
- Tract 4: Part of fractional S4-**T5**-R1W (101 acres)
- Tract 5: One other tract, the Meeting House Tract, of 140 acres.

Note that the first four tracts are all located in Township 5, not Township 4. Their location on maps puts them along Dodd Road, from the intersection with Martin Road southward and eastward for a mile or so. This is the location of the old community of Mullins Flats. It was this "Flat" that was the reference given by William Lanford as being 7 miles from the parcel near Jordan's Chapel. On maps of the county that show land sections, it can easily be seen that the southern portions of Henry Jordan's land was in fact 7 miles from the northeastern part of the SW/4 of Section 4, Township 4, Range 1W – where other records have already indicated that Jordan's Chapel was located. **This statement in the deposition of William Lanford is concrete proof that Jordan's Chapel was not located at Mullins Flat, and it in fact affirms the location previously concluded, that being 7 miles to the north of the Flat.**

**CLUE 10, Deposition statements of George Horton regarding lands of estate of Henry Jordan.**

When George Horton was asked if he was "... acquainted with the lands of which Henry Jordan died seized and possessed", Mr. Horton replied that he

was familiar with "... that portion that lies in Mullins Flat." He further, in response to the 2<sup>nd</sup> question put to him, stated that "... the land [of the estate of Henry Jordan] is cut in to two parts and detached." This last statement seems to affirm that there was a separate portion of land not in Mullins Flat. However, it may simply be that Mr. Horton was indicating that even the parcels in the Mullins Flat area were separated into two detached parcels. The latter interpretation is preferred, since a plot of the known descriptions of the locations of the parcels in Mullins Flat does in fact show that three of the tracts were contiguous, while one was separated to the west of the others. In any event, the statements of Mr. Horton do affirm that Henry Jordan owned land with which Mr. Horton was not familiar. George Horton owned land on the southern part of the arsenal, so it is not at all unusual that he would not be familiar with lands on the northern portion of the arsenal area, west of the primary roads to Huntsville from where Mr. Horton lived.

George Horton certainly must have become familiar with the Meeting House Tract during the proceedings of the Jordan estate settlement, because he bought that tract as the "highest and last bidder" for that land during its auction on the courthouse steps in 1845. It is interesting to note that George W. Fennell and James B. Jordan were his sureties for that purchase, since both of them were related to Henry Jordan, whereas George Horton was not. It is further interesting to note that the tract was described as containing 140 acres in the 1845 sale. In earlier references, the tract was described as containing 104.25 acres. Either some land was added from other holdings or the clerk transposed the "0" and the "4", making "104" into "140" in his notes.

### **CLUE 11, Reference to the location of Jordan's Chapel in early documents.**

In the book *A HISTORY OF METHODISM IN ALABAMA* by the Rev. Anson West, D.D., published in Association with the Commission on Archives and History of the Alabama – West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church (reprint of 1983), there is an indirect reference to Jordan's Chapel. On page 115, in the chapter entitled "*First Work of Methodism in Alabama*" the book states "At the very beginning a Society was organized five or six miles west of Hunt's Spring, in the neighborhood where Jordan's Camp Ground was afterward established. ... Hunt's Spring

changed in name to Huntsville. ... in the neighborhood where Jordan's Camp Ground was afterward established were William Lanier, Robert Lanford, James Bibb, William Bibb, Loyd Aday, James Pollard, Batt Jordan, James Sharp, William Blake; ... Judging from the oldest deeds on record, these Societies all worshiped in private houses until 1820 and 1821, as no houses of worship were built previous to said dates."

The reference to Jordan's Camp Ground (which is assumed to be the precursor name for what became Jordan's Chapel) as being "**five or six miles west of Hunt's Spring**" is pretty close to the actual straight line distance from Big Spring to the location concluded as the site of Jordan's Chapel. The actual straight line distance is 3 miles, but the reference to a distance of 5 or 6 miles may have meant by best roads of the day. Those roads certainly would not have been straight along the shortest, most direct routes, so it may well have taken a journey of 5 or 6 miles to reach Jordan's Chapel from the Big Spring. The distance reference could also have meant from the center of the town that became Huntsville (rather than from the Big Spring), which was located primarily on the bluff east of the Big Spring, making it more like 5 miles of straight line distance to the site of Jordan's Chapel.

One thing for sure, if the location of Jordan's Camp Ground had been in the Mullins Flat area, the reference in the book would have said that it was about **7 or 8 miles southwest** of Hunt's Spring. Furthermore, the list of names associated with Batt Jordan's neighborhood contains the trustees of the church and others who are known to have lived in the area along Brown's Ferry Road / Bob Wallace Avenue at the north end of the arsenal area.

## CONCLUSION

In summary of all of the various clues regarding the location of Jordan's Chapel, it is quite apparent that the site was in the northeastern quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 4, Township 4 South, Range 1 West. The acre of land deeded to the church by Batt Jordan most probably was in the area between the railroad bed and the DOT office / yard on Governor's House Drive. In other words, Interstate Highway 565 cuts through the likely site,

which measured 201 feet east – west by 219 feet north – south. This site provided ready access to water for the congregation during the all-day meetings that also ran into the nights. There was water available at the spring and associated headwaters of McDonnell Creek located today on the campus of the University of Alabama in Huntsville just east of Sparkman Drive. There were more springs and increased flow of McDonnell Creek in the area that today is part of the Aviation Challenge pools of the Space and Rocket Center. Both of these “watering holes” were within about a quarter mile of the chapel site, which would have made ideal conditions for early camp meetings. There were additional small springs within less than a half mile on the land to the south of the site -- in the area of the Botanical Gardens and along the west side of Jordan Road today. In fact, there is a small cemetery on the line between the Botanical Gardens and Morris Elementary School, about 40 or 50 yards south of Bob Wallace Avenue (which in Batt Jordan’s day was known as part of Brown’s Ferry Road). This is almost certainly the location of the old Jordan’s Chapel Cemetery.

Just as older published accounts stated erroneously that Jordan’s Chapel was in Mullins Flat, it may be that Batt Jordan was in fact not buried at the site of Jordan’s Chapel. Both claims were based upon information from Jordan descendants who apparently mixed up the facts of their family traditions. Batt Jordan could well be buried in the cemetery on the grounds of the Space and Rocket Center, which is locally said by some to be the Jordan family cemetery. It certainly was on land owned by the Jordans, and it appears to be old enough to fit. However, this study has encountered numerous “red herrings” in the land records and in the old published accounts. Therefore, it cannot be entirely ruled out that family traditions may indeed have some basis in fact. It is easy to see that the Jordan descendants in Mississippi would have heard of Mullins Flats as the ancestral area, since William H. Jordan, a child of Henry Jordan, bought the four tracts of Henry’s land in Mullins Flats when the estate holdings were auctioned. Those descendants would also have heard that Henry owned the land where the chapel stood, so they could have easily assumed that the chapel therefore was also in Mullins Flat. The family would have “forgotten” the lands that were owned by Batt Jordan through time, as these lands entirely passed to others outside the family by the late 1800s.

With regard to the gravesite of Batt Jordan, it is considered very likely that he would have wanted to be buried on the grounds of the chapel that carried his name. If the data found on Ancestry.com’s web pages is true, then Batt

was strong in the Methodist movement back in North Carolina, before he came to Alabama with Isham Fennel, who married Batt's daughter Temperance. However, the only indication the he is buried on the Jordan's Chapel site is from the statement in the 1929 letter published in a Memphis TN newspaper. That letter was written by a Jordan descendant who had never lived in north Alabama, and in fact, he was two generations removed from this area. His letter also stated that Jordan's Chapel was in Mullins Flat, which is definitely proven incorrect herein. The facts of the legal records (in spite of their limitations of unrecorded transactions, incomplete indexes, omitted words, misspelled terms, and possibly transposed numbers in notations) still point to the location of the chapel and its cemetery (if indeed it had one) as being just outside of the arsenal boundaries, on the northeast end. Nevertheless, the lives of Bartholomew Jordan and his children and their "in-laws" certainly figured prominently in the settlement and early history of the land that became Redstone Arsenal. It is hoped that a commemorative plaque will someday be erected near the site of Jordan's Chapel (perhaps at the DOT site or on the shoulder of Governor's House Drive in that area) to denote to the public that one of the earliest Alabama Methodist congregations met in the area and that American Revolutionary War soldier Batt Jordan is buried nearby.

For the more avid researchers, the majority of the records examined during this investigation were photographed and stored digitally on CD-ROMs provided to the Army offices, even when those records may not directly shed light upon the determination of the site of the chapel. Much useful information is contained in these records for genealogical purposes and for association with other landowners of the properties that became Redstone Arsenal. In addition to these digital records, all handwritten notes made during the investigation were kept. It is intended at the time of this writing that the original notes will be given to the Huntsville – Madison County library's Heritage Room archives for JORDAN family files and/or for a JORDAN'S CHAPEL folder, since those subjects are of interest to the general public for history of areas outside of arsenal considerations.

For additional information about the original location of the Methodist Episcopal Church that became known as Jordan's Chapel after it moved a few miles to the northwest, see the **Summary Report for the Williams – Scott Cemetery, 37-1**. This location was on land owned by Robert Lanford, the first donor of land for the church's meeting place. For some reason, the congregation decided to move to a "more suitable place", and Batt Jordan

provided the land in the 1820s, thereby unintentionally getting his name further recorded in the history of north Alabama. The only stone in the little cemetery that is believed to be the Jordan's Chapel Cemetery is quite likely for Bartholomew Jordan. (It could be the "rock of the beginning" for the deed specifications, but since it is not located within the one acre site of the chapel itself, then that possibility is discounted.) The stone has no inscription, but it is shown below:





Morris Elementary School, NE corner, S. of Bob Wallace Avenue, Huntsville, AL  
November 16, 2004



Morris Elementary School, NE corner, S. of Bob Wallace Avenue, Huntsville, AL  
November 16, 2004

Prepared by John P. Rankin ([jprankin@knology.net](mailto:jprankin@knology.net)), 103 Madison Avenue,  
Madison, AL 35758; November 15, 2002; revised October 4, 2005

