

RAWLINS – LANIER CEMETERY, 37 - 4

Summary Report



RAWLINGS-LANIER CEMETERY, 37-4

Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Alabama: SE/4, S22-T4-R1W.

Dorothy Scott Johnson's book "Cemeteries of Madison County, Alabama, Vol. 1" (1971) on page 280 states that information was provided by Mr. Bob Drake in November of 1969 about the grave of William Dickson Lanier in this cemetery. According to his transcription of the long-gone marker, it read: "In the Memory of WILLIAM DICKSON LANIER, born July ...8, 1830, died October ...2, 183.... ...nts do not weep in sorrow ...or your cherished idol slain, ...y resignation borrow, for your loved one lives again. Bow ye to the will of God while the day of time is given, (then?) when life's short path is trod ...e shall meet your children in Heaven."

This cemetery provides the only example of an intact table tomb in the portion of Madison County encompassed by Redstone Arsenal. The table tomb has a tablet inscribed for Mrs. (Mary) Ann Lanier Rawlings, who died January 15, 1823, at the age of 20. She was a daughter of Isaac Lanier (1767 – 1827), who came to Madison County and bought pre-arsenal lands to live among his brothers, Thomas and William Lanier. William Lanier, uncle of Ann L. Rawlins, is buried in the Jordan – Lanier Cemetery (51-1), about a mile southwest of the Rawlins – Lanier Cemetery.

Ann Lanier Rawlins was also a sister of Clarissa Lanier Boddie (later, Dickson), who bought land in Section 5, T5-R1W, which is just over two miles southwest of this cemetery. Among his other holdings, Ann's husband Eldred Rawlins was the first recorded owner of land half a mile south of the present Redstone Arsenal airfield, being the south half of Section 25 in T4-R2W. He purchased this land on February 3, 1818, when it was first made available by the U. S. Government land office. Eldred was involved in numerous land transactions involving pre-arsenal lands, and he also served as cashier of the Planters' and Merchants' Bank in Huntsville.

Apparently, from the old land records, Ann's husband Eldred Rawlins never came into possession of the land around the cemetery where she is buried. There is reference in Madison County's first deed book (A, on page 210) that the original owner of the land, John Couch, sold the north half of Section 22 to Isaac Jackson in 1815. The south half of the section is not addressed in that particular deed, but other references, upon subsequent sales, state that the south half of Section 22 was sold by Couch to Isaac Lanier, who is known to have died in 1827. His widow Mary J. Dickson Lanier is shown in 1832 as selling the land of the south half of Section 22 to William Brandon (Deed Book N, page 554). Apparently, Mary J. Lanier (wife of the senior Isaac – see **Lanier Cemetery, 46-3**) actually owned the land where the Rawlings – Lanier Cemetery is located at the time when Mary Ann Lanier Rawlins was buried there. Since Eldred Rawlins is almost certainly not buried in the cemetery, it perhaps should more properly be known as another Lanier Cemetery – especially since the only other recorded burial in the little cemetery was for a child, William Dickson Lanier, who was born in 1830 and died before reaching his 10th birthday (see caption under photo at top).



RAWLINGS-LANIER CEMETERY, 37-4
Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Alabama: SE/4, S22-T4-R1W.
View from SE corner of Ann Rawlins grave covering in center of cemetery.

(This is the only known table tomb on the arsenal. They are rare in the county, as well.)



**RAWLINGS-LANIER CEMETERY, 37-4
Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Alabama: SE/4, S22-T4-R1W.
Ann Lanier married Eldred Rawlins on August 11, 1821.**

(Top half of the “tablet” of the table tomb.)



**RAWLINGS-LANIER CEMETERY, 37-4
Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Alabama: SE/4, S22-T4-R1W.
Ann Lanier married Eldred Rawlins on August 11, 1821.**

(Complete inscribed portion of the tablet of the table tomb.)

It is likely that Ann Lanier Rawlins died either during childbirth or as a result of complications thereof, since that was a common cause of death for women of her age at the time. Moreover, Ann's husband Eldred had a daughter named Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins who remained under the age of 21 (per probate court records) until after 1840. Such a daughter, born in 1823 at the time of Ann's death, would be 16 or 17 in 1840 and 26 or 27 in 1850. This daughter married William G. Love in Autauga County, Alabama, on July 25, 1843 – when she would have been about 20 years old, if she was

NAMES or HEADS OF FAMILIES.	MALES											FEMALES								
	Under five years of age	Of five and under ten	Of ten and under fifteen	Of fifteen and under twenty	Of twenty and under twenty-five	Of twenty-five and under thirty	Of thirty and under forty	Of forty and under fifty	Of fifty and under sixty	Of sixty and under seventy	Of seventy and over	Of ten and under fifteen	Of fifteen and under twenty	Of twenty and under twenty-five	Of twenty-five and under thirty	Of thirty and under forty	Of forty and under fifty	Of fifty and over		
	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 & over	under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40
Brought forward	563	373	280	237	190	157	167	86	40	10	3	2		343	355	313	232	111	5	
Benjamin Hiller	1	1			1									2					1	
Shumpson Hedged (Stephen Lee)	1				1				1					1	2				1	
Susan Hedged	2															2			1	
John H. Garner	1	1					1							1	2	1	2		2	
Sugars Turner			1	1	1				1					1	1	1	2		1	
George H. Jones	2	2	1			1								1	1					
James Lankford					1				1								1	2		
David Lindsay																			1	
Walter Peck		1	1	1										1	1				1	
John W. Smith	1		1			1								2	1	2			1	
John M. Taylor		1												1					1	
John H. Hays	1				1	1								2	1	1			1	
Abner Wainwright							1												1	
John D. King	1	1	1	2					1								1		1	1
Monie E. Cannon			1																	

1830 Madison County, Alabama, census page 129

The above 1840 census record shows Eldred Rawlins and family in Limestone County. None of the children of this record would be Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins, who married William G. Love in 1843 in Autauga County, AL. She was apparently sent away to live with someone else by her father after her mother's death in 1823. The only census record of 1830 among her relatives in Madison County that has an entry to fit her age (5 – 10 age bracket) and gender was that for Mary (Dickson) Lanier, widow of the senior Isaac Lanier. This would have been her maternal grandmother, and it would be one of the more expected choices for sending a young daughter to live there, if Eldred had indeed remarried as the 1830 record for him suggests.

The female at age 15 – 20 in Eldred's household in 1830 Madison County cannot be a daughter born to Ann Rawlins between their marriage date (1821) and Ann's death in 1823, because the age bracket doesn't fit for 1830. Of course, it would be possible that Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins was born to an earlier wife of Eldred's, before he married Ann. However, that doesn't fit the ages of minority ("infant of Eldred") for Mary Ann Eliza as seen in the various Probate and Orphan's Court records through the 1850s. Therefore, it is pretty well conclusive that Eldred must have taken another very young wife **after** Ann's death in 1823 and before the time of the 1830 census. The age bracket shown for the female in 1830 (15 – 20 yrs.), while Eldred was shown as age 40 – 50 yrs., fits precisely for the oldest female in his household in Limestone County in 1840 (20 – 30 yrs.).

The 1850 federal census of Alabama further confirms that Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins was sent to live with her grandmother Mary Dickson Lanier by showing that Mary Lanier at age 74 was living beside her daughter Clarissa Lanier Boddie Dickson (Dixon), who in turn was living beside Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins Love and her husband William G. Love in Autauga County. Apparently, Mary Lanier and Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins moved to Autauga County to live beside Clarissa between 1840 and 1850, and that is where Mary Ann met William G. Love, who became her husband in that county.

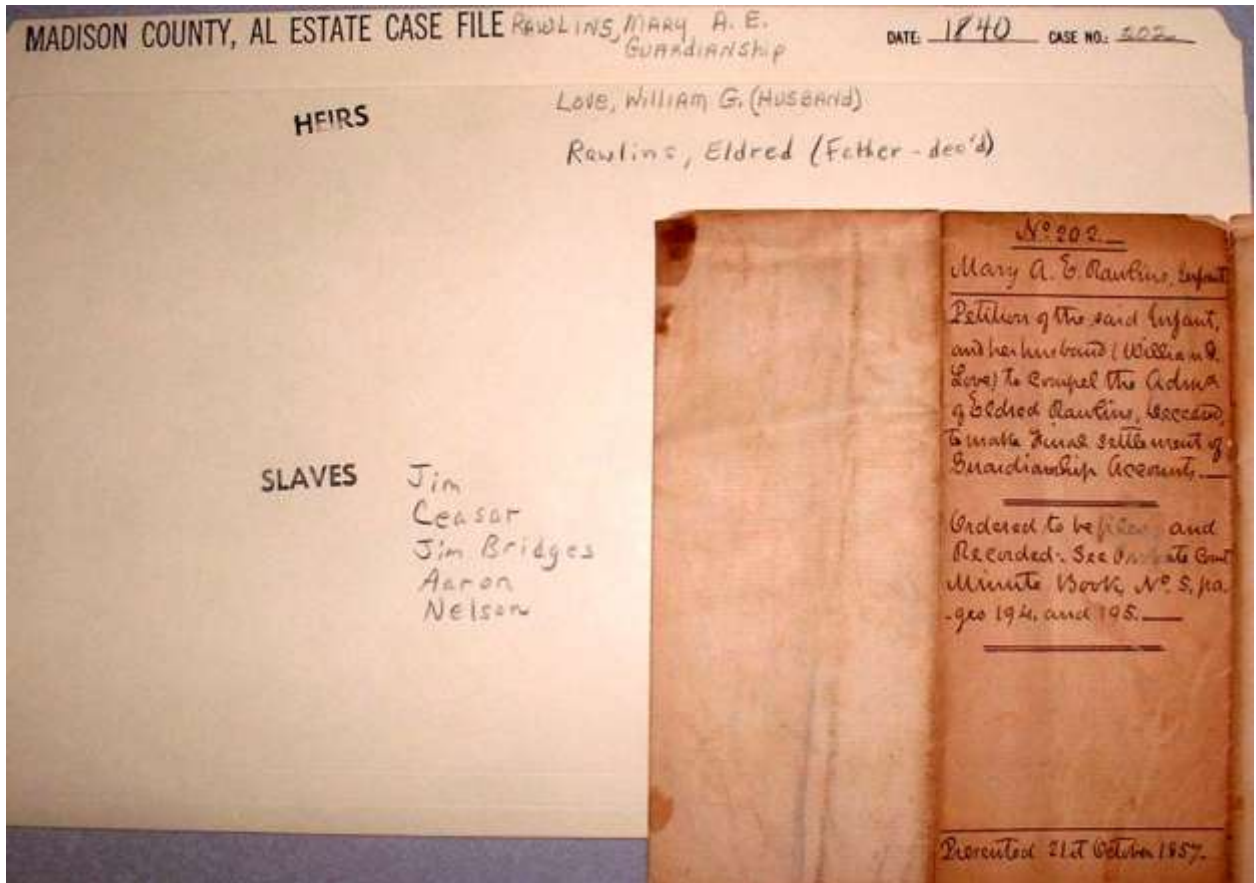
996	John Higgins	63 m	Farmer	200	Ga
	Nancy	57 f			Ga
	William	15 m	1		Ga
	James	50 m	None		Ga
997	Mary Lanier	84 f		300	Ala
998	Clarissa Dixon	62 f		200	Ala
	Clarissa	14 f			Ala
	Kornelia	11 f			Ala
999	William G. Love	29 m	Student		Ala
	Mary A. E.	26 f			Ala
	Clement D.	5 m			Ala
	Peter D.	4 m			Ala
	Ellenor	3 f			Ala
	Mary	4 m			Ala
31000	Oliver Powell	45 m	Farmer	600	Ala

1850 Independence District, Autauga County, Alabama, Census Page 68-B: Mary (Dickson) Lanier with daughter Clarissa Lanier Boddie Dickson (Dixon) and Granddaughter Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins Love

The 1860 census showed that Mary Dickson Lanier was still living (given as age 83) beside her daughter and grandchild at Independence in Autauga County. By that time, all were widows, but it is interesting that Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins Love named a child Eldred (after her father) and another Clement – most likely after her maternal uncle who was the guardian of her estate for a period while her father was still living. Since Mary Lanier and Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins Love remained as residents of Autauga County for an extended period late in life, it is unlikely that they are buried in the family cemeteries on the arsenal in Madison County.

On the other hand, the census record for Eldred Rawlins in 1850 is somewhat confusing, at least with respect to Alabama enumerations. There was found only one possibility for him to be residing in the state in 1850. That was for the household headed by John “Raulings”, age 73, born in Tennessee, and living in Cherokee County, Alabama. His wife is shown as “Joannah”, age 66, born in Maryland. This age difference between John and Joannah is not the same as the difference shown in the 1830 and the 1840 censuses, so it is not at all likely that this is the same family as lived in Madison and Limestone Counties. Furthermore, the Limestone Probate Court case files indicate that Eldred’s wife remained in that county

throughout the 1850s and into the 1860s. Therefore, it is unknown where Eldred may have lived until his death sometime in the 1850s “out of the state of Alabama”, per the court petition below.



(Here Mary, the daughter of Eldred, is called an “Infant” in legal terms of the day, since she must have been under the “age of majority” – 21 at the time. Of course, the “infant” was a married woman at the time. This probate court file is continued below:)

HEIRS

LOVE, WILLIAM G. (HUSBAND)

Rawlins, Eldred (Father - dec'd)

1840

Mary A. E. Rawlins, Infant
 and her heirs (Widow of
 Genl. To Genl. The Admrs
 of State Rawlins, late
 Genl. James, still ward of
 Guardianship, Decent.
 Order to be filed and
 returned. See in the
 Minute Book, No. 5, Jan
 - 1840 and 1841.

1840

In the Honorable J.S. Commission
 Judges of Probate of Madison County
 Alabama

Upon Petition of William G. Love
 and Mary A. E. Rawlins (whose maiden
 name was Mary A. E. Rawlins) deposited
 West on the 15th day of February 1840 that
Eldred Rawlins then said County of
Madison was appointed by the then Or-
 phans Court of said County the guardian
 of the estate of said Mary A. E. Rawlins at
 the time an infant under twenty one
 years of age and the daughter of
said Eldred Rawlins - that said Eldred
 had upon being of the said age pro-
 vided & qualified as such guardian
 as appears of record in your office
 and a true copy of his estate

That said Eldred after words removed
 from this State and departed this
 life intestate, without having previous-
 ly made any settlement of his
 said guardianship - that in the year
 1836 letters of administration upon

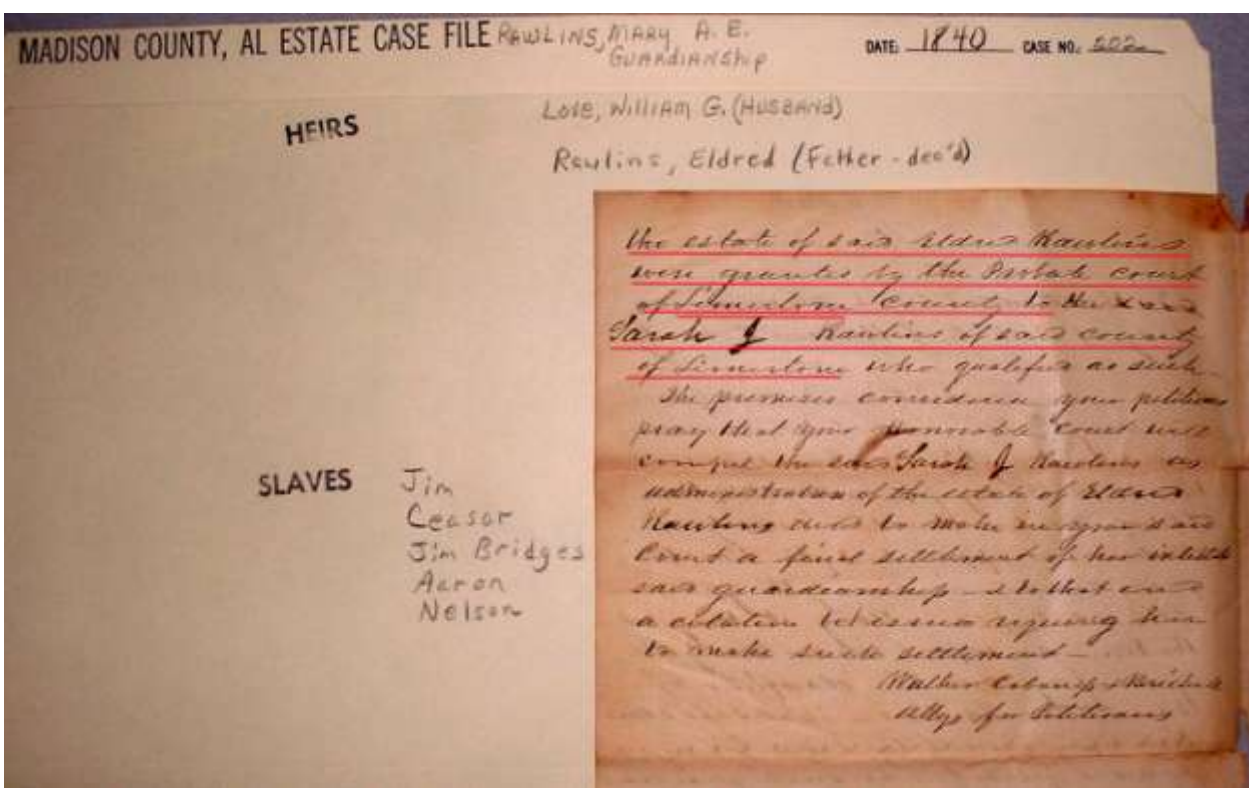
(The image above is trimmed and expanded below for readability.)

10-21-1857

To the Honorable J. S. Neasmond
Judge of Probate of Madison County
Alabama

Your Petitioners William G. Love
and Mary A. E. Love his wife (whose maiden
name was Mary A. E. Rawlins) represent
that on the 15th day of February 1832 some
Eldred Rawlins then said County of
Madison was appointed by the then Or-
phans Court of said County the guardian
of the estate of said Mary she being at
the time an infant under twenty one
years of age and the daughter of
said Eldred Rawlins - That said Eldred
did execute and file the said office you
bond & qualify as such guardian
as appears of Record in your office
and took charge of her estate

That said Eldred after words removed
from this State and departed this
life intestate, without having previous-
ly made any settlement of his
said guardianship - That in the year
1856 letters of administration upon



(The expanded view of the text is below.)

The estate of said Elders Rawlins
were granted by the Probate Court
of Sumner County to the said
Sarah J Rawlins of said County
of Sumner who qualified as such.
The premises commencing your petitioners
pray that your Honorable Court will
compel the said Sarah J Rawlins as
administration of the estate of Elders
Rawlins will to make in your said
Court a final settlement of her intestate
said guardianship - & to that end
a citation be issued requiring her
to make such settlement -
Walker Coburn & Brickell
Atty for Petitioners

The married Mary Rawlins Love did not stay under the authority of her stepmother, with respect to the estate management, as the next record below shows that her maternal uncle Clement G. Lanier became her legal guardian:

The State of Alabama, Special Orphans Court
 Autauga County June 16th 1840

This day came Clement G. Lanier and presented a
 Certificate of Mary A. E. Rawlins daughter of Edred
Rawlins - making choice of said C. G. Lanier as her Guardian
 - Whereupon the Court -
 Ordered - That the said Clement G. Lanier be appointed
 Guardian of said Mary A. E. Rawlins by his giving
 Bond and Security - Whereupon the said Clement
G. Lanier presented his Bond as such Guardian for the sum
 of Twenty Thousand Dollars with William R. Dickert and
Elijah R. Wallaw as securities - and it is by the Court
 Ordered - that the same be received and filed - and further
 Ordered - that the same be recorded
 Ordered - that letters of Guardianship be issue to Clement G.
Lanier in and upon the person goods and Chattels, rights
 and Credits of Mary A. E. Rawlins his Ward -
 Ordered - that said Guardian make a just full and com-
 plete Inventory of all and singular the goods and Chattels
 rights and Credits of his said Ward
 Ordered - that said Guardian make a return of said In-
 ventory to this Court within three Months

The State of Alabama, J. William H. Thompson Clerk
 Autauga County - of the County Court of said
 County - do hereby certify that the foregoing Transcript
 is a true copy from the records in my Office of the appoint-
 ment of the said C. G. Lanier as Guardian of the said Mary A.
E. Rawlins -

In testimony of all of which I have hereunto
 set my hand and affixed the Seal of Office
 this 16th day of June A. D. 1840

William H. Thompson Clerk

One other interesting aspect of the investigation into the history of Eldred Rawlins in Madison County is that he was the defendant in numerous lawsuits – mostly filed over debts that Eldred failed to pay on time. Whether the suits were indeed filed against the same man who was married for a time into the Lanier family or perhaps against a son by an earlier marriage is not yet known. Certainly the nature of the character of the early landowner, bank cashier, friend of William D. Lanier, witness to many deeds, and husband of Ann Lanier Rawlins would not be in keeping with that of a “ne’er-do-well” who reneged upon his debts over a considerable period of time. Still, the census records consistently show only one Eldred Rawlins / Rawlings / Raulins / Rollins / etc. that could fit for Ann Lanier’s husband. Furthermore, some of the Circuit Court records of these lawsuits show that William D. Lanier was in partnership with the Eldred Rawlins who was the defendant, so it is almost certainly the same person who married Mary Ann Lanier (1803 – 1823).

Since Eldred Rawlins moved away from Madison County and died out of the state of Alabama, it is considered very unlikely that he would have been buried in the Rawlins – Lanier Cemetery on the arsenal. This is especially so, since the parcel of land that contains the cemetery was sold by Mary J. Dickson Lanier in 1832 to William Brandon, and since Eldred didn’t die until around 1856, per the Limestone County probate court records.

As a final note, the other known grave (per Dorothy Scott Johnson’s recording of observations of Mr. Bob Drake in 1969 of an old tombstone) in the Rawlings – Lanier Cemetery is for a child, William Dickson Lanier. Mr. Drake’s input said that the inscription on the old stone showed a birth date in July of 1830 and a death date in the same decade. The epitaph is obviously that for a deceased child. Of all the Lanier families living in the area, only that of William Dickson Lanier fits the profile for having a child of that age who died in that period. This child would have been William Dickson Lanier, Jr. He was not mentioned in the Last Will and Testament of his father, dated December 7, 1837, and recorded in Probate Record Book 8, pages 207-8, since he had already passed away when the will was written.

William Dickson Lanier (Sr.) was the first child of Isaac Lanier (1767 – 1827) by his second wife, Mary J. Dickson. William D. Lanier was born in 1798, and he married Lucy Ann Caldwell in Madison County on February 24, 1829. When William Sr. made out his will at the age of 39, apparently

knowing that he was about to die (his death was reported as December 19, 1837), he designated as Executors his “friends Eldred Rawlins and George Mason. Since he is not known to be buried anywhere else and because his mother owned the land around the Rawlings – Lanier Cemetery until 1832, and since his firstborn child (William Dickson Lanier Jr.) was buried in the little cemetery, it is considered likely that William himself is also buried within these walls. It may well be that his wife Lucy Ann Caldwell Lanier (1813 – 1868) is also buried with her husband and child. No markers remain there today to verify the supposed burials, but since there is indeed evidence of other graves within the walled area, it is logical that all three members of this part of the Lanier family were buried in the little plot where Eldred Rawlins left the body of his deceased wife Ann, who was a sister of the senior William D. Lanier.

To review the original documents that support the statements given herein and supply much additional information about the history of the family, see the files of digital photographs of the document pages as provided on CD-ROMs to the Office of the Directorate of Environmental Management at Redstone Arsenal.

Prepared by John P. Rankin, November 6, 2004; revised December 2, 2004.