

# SIMPSON SLAVE CEMETERY, 80 – 2

## Summary Report



Simpson Slave Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, May 2, 2003

This cemetery is found on McKinley Range, northeast of Warehouse 8023 and just south of Test Area 1, where the Simpson Cemetery is located. No grave markers were found in the cemetery.

[Abandoned Army vehicle “standing guard” at the cemetery entrance.]

This cemetery is on the section line between the Southwest Quarter of Section 17 and the Northwest Quarter of Section 20 in Township 5, Range 1 West. It is almost a mile southeast of the Simpson Cemetery (65-3) in Test Area 1, and is shown on Sheet 14 of the October 1986 General Site Map series. It is within about ¼ mile of the Cooper-Penland Cemetery (80-1).

TOWNSHIP		RANGE		HUNTSVILLE MERIDIAN			
5 South		1 West					
DESCRIPTION OF THE TRACT		AREA		UNITED STATES TITLE	Date of Sale	Number of	Date of
PART OF SECTION	Section	Acres	100ths	TO WHOM SOLD OR GRANTED	Location or Grant	Certificate or Warrant	Military Act
Page 54 continued							
NE 1/4 of SW 1/4	16	40.50%		State	2 Mar 1819		
				*School H. H. Lea	20 Oct 1856	Vol. D, p 5	
NW 1/4 of SW 1/4	"	40.50%		State	2 Mar 1819		
				*School H. H. Lea	20 Oct 1856	Vol. D, p 5	
SE 1/4 of SW 1/4	"	40.50%		State	2 Mar 1819		
				*School H. H. Lea	20 Oct 1856	Vol. D, p 5	
SW 1/4 of SW 1/4	"	40.50%		State	2 Mar 1819		
				*School H. H. Lea	20 Oct 1856	Vol. D, p 5	
	17	631.80					
NE 1/4 of NE 1/4	"	39.48%		Nancy (T.) Graham	20 Nov 1854		21178
SE 1/4 of NE 1/4	"	39.48%		Nancy (T.) Graham	20 Nov 1854		21178
W 1/2 of NE 1/4	"	78.97 1/2		George Cook	4 Jul 1831		1461
E 1/2 of NW 1/4	"	78.97 1/2		State	23 May 1828		
				*River Impts J. & W. Points	1 Sep 1837		*Memo
W 1/2 of NW 1/4	"	78.97 1/2		State	23 May 1828		
				*River Impts John Ives	5 Oct 1830		*Memo
				John Ivey	Same	Vol. 1, p 77	
E 1/2 of SE 1/4	"	78.97 1/2		Francis C. Prichard	28 Sep 1854		19131
W 1/2 of SE 1/4	"	78.97 1/2		George Cook, Asse	6 Feb 1819		2853
South West 1/4	"	157.95		Charles G. Bowen	4 Jan 1834		6960
	18	650.50					
E 1/2 of NE 1/4	"	81.31 1/2		John Ives	26 May 1825		1851
W 1/2 of NE 1/4	"	81.31 1/2		John Ives	9 Dec 1825		1974
North West 1/4	"	162.62 1/2		Isaac Alexander Lanier, Wm. Henry Lanier & Burwell Clinton Lanier	22 Oct 1850		14921
South East 1/4	"	162.62 1/2		Donaldson Turner, Asse	1 Jul 1831		1307
E 1/2 of SW 1/4	"	81.31 1/2		William Patton, Asse	3 Feb 1818		3018
W 1/2 of SW 1/4	"	81.31 1/2		William Patton, Asse	28 Jun 1831		964
Page 55	19	586.97		North and East of Tennessee	River		
East Half	"	320.00		Littleberry Robinson & Rodah Horton, Asse	2 Feb 1818		1004 1/2
North West 1/4	"	160.00		Littleberry Robinson & Rodah Horton, Asse	2 Feb 1818		1004 1/2
South West part	"	106.97		Entered Name unknown James Cooper	unknown 31 May 1831		unknown 657
	20	620.62					
N 1/2 of NE 1/4	"	77.57 1/2		Francis C. Prichard	28 Sep 1854		19131
SE 1/4 of NE 1/4	"	38.79		blank John M. Lynch	2 Jul 1855		23123
SW 1/4 of NE 1/4	"	38.79		Benjamin Spence	15 Dec 1832		5838
North West 1/4	"	155.16		James Cooper, Asse	2 Feb 1818		1486
South East 1/4	"	155.16		Lemuel Mead	2 Feb 1818		992
South West 1/4	"	155.16		James Finch, Asse	16 Mar 1818		2988
	21	637.89					
E 1/2 of NE 1/4	"	79.74		Edmond Rives, Asse	2 Feb 1818		863
W 1/2 of NE 1/4	"	79.74		John Timmons, Asse	28 Sep 1821		2964
North West 1/4	"	159.47		Samuel V. D. Stout, Asse	2 Feb 1818		824
South East 1/4	"	159.47		Benjamin S. Jones, Asse	21 Jun 1831		770
South West 1/4	"	159.47		Lemuel Mead	2 Feb 1818		104
Page 56	22	632.82					
E 1/2 of NE 1/4	"	79.10 1/2		State	23 May 1828		
				*River Impts Hugh Smith	27 Mar 1830		*Memo

Information in script appears on the copy from the office of the Secretary of State of Alabama.

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FUND	STATE TITLE	WHEN CONVEYED	WHERE RECORDED		MEMORANDUM
			Number of State Transfer or Conveyance	VOL PAGE	

This data shows that Charles G. Bowen in 1834 purchased the SW/4 of Section 17, and **James Cooper** bought the NW/4 of Section 20 in 1818.

**INDEX TO LANDS**

Section 17 Township 8 South of Range 1 west Madison County, Alabama.  
S. W. JONES & SONS

BOOK	PAGE	Kind of land	SEC No.	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	DATE OF INSTRUMENT	S. 17			
							SE 1/4	SW 1/4	NE 1/4	NW 1/4
0	183	D of Tr		Cook, George	Howell, Alfred Sr	1832				
0	701	D		Cook, George	Walling, William Jr	1834				
6	41	D of Tr		Walling, William	Walls, Wm D Jr	1836	Y			
8	8	D		Cook, George	Frickett, Frances C	1838	Y			
6	851	D		Ives, Lucy	Bundley, John H Jr	1838				Y
6	551	D		Ives, Lucy	Clark, James A	1838			Y	
8	206	D of Tr		Frichard, Frances C	Pins, Fernando Sr	1841			Y	
8	485	D		Bowen, Chas B by Marshall	Clopton, William H	1844				Y
1	894	D		Foote, Jacobs G	Frichard, Frances C et al	1850				Y
1	607	D of Tr		Frichard, J C & Elizabeth	Eraser, Robertson	1850			Y	
44	268	D		Walling, William	Jacobs, Russell	1855				Y
33	347	D		Bundley, Wm H et al	Simpson, John	1870			Y	
300	445	D		Simpson, Marion A	Simpson, Henry C & Arthur	1879			Y	
333	606	D		Dean, Richard J & Mary A	Jones, Louisa C	1882	Y			
18	801	Mtg		Simpson, H C	Pillard & Lyle	1885			Y	
30	44	Mtg		Simpson, H C	Pillard & Lyle	1888			Y	Y
555	243	D		Winfield, F H & Lura D	Simpson, Henry C	1889			Y	Y
444	340	D		Instructor, Albert W & F M	Simpson, Alex H et al	1889			Y	Y
32	94	Mtg		Simpson, H C	Graham, Mary J	1889			Y	Y
500	51	D		Pillard, Jas et al	Newman, Boyd & Crass	1890			Y	Y
48	394	Mtg		Joiner, Scublon & Lizzie	Newman, Boyd & Crass	1893			Y	Y
577	222	D		Newman, Boyd & Crass	Joiner, Scublon	1893			Y	Y
228	155	D		Stubbs, H C	Simpson, H C	1893			Y	Y
74	272	D		Simpson, A H & Helen H	Simpson, H C	1894			Y	Y
53	539	Mtg		Simpson, Henry C	McAnally, J H & Brother	1894			Y	Y
54	881	Mtg		Simpson, Henry C	McAnally, J H & Brother	1899			Y	Y
82	196	D		Joiner, Scublon	Simpson, Henry C	1899			Y	Y
85	92	D		Joiner, Frankie & Alex	Davison, Thomas Jr	1899	Y			Y
88	66	D		Hankin, J C W & Julia	Jordan, Edwin H	1900				Y
86	114	D		Landman, J H	Taylor, Oia L et al	1900				Y
67	200	Mtg		Taylor, Oia L & David H	Essley, James A	1900				Y
74	391	Mtg		Green, C V & Charity	McAnally, J H & Brother	1901				Y
87	452	D		Spocher, Robt M & Arrie C	Landman, John A	1901				Y
69	138	Timber D		Jordan, Edwin H	Hankin, Julia A	1901				Y
89	484	D		Spocher, Avie A et al	Landman, Mattie L et al	1901				Y
69	454	D		Johnson, Mary A & John A	Landman, Maria M	1901				Y

This land record index shows that the SW/4 of the 17<sup>th</sup> Section passed from Charles Bowen to William H. Clopton in 1844. **It was not until 1870 that John Simpson is shown acquiring the land of the adjacent NW/4 of the 17<sup>th</sup> Section.** There is no index record to indicate Simpson ownership of the land at the time when slaves could have been held, at least in the 17<sup>th</sup> Section. However, land in this nearby area did involve the Simpson and related families **after** 1870 until 1918, as indicated by the continuation page of the **INDEX TO LANDS** for this section through the year 1919, as shown below:

**INDEX TO LANDS**

Section 17 Township 5 South of Range 1 west Madison County, Alabama.  
G. W. JONES & SONS

Acres	Pct	Kind of land	Orig. No.	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	DATE OF INSTRUMENT	DATE PAID	N E 1/4				N W 1/4				S W 1/4				S E 1/4			
								32	31	30	29	32	31	30	29	32	31	30	29	32	31	30	29
90	340	D		Green, C C & Charly	Ness, John C	1902																	
89	484	D		Lyle, Rebecca M et al	Taylor, Ola L et al	1902																	
89	485	D		Taylor, Ola L & D M	Green, Christopher C	1902																	
91	236	D		Simpson, A M et al	Froctor, Albert M	1903																	
84	215	Mtg		Ness, John C & Isabell	Lee, Edward	1904																	
92	560	D		Simpson, Arthur M	Simpson, Henry C	1904																	
92	560	D		Simpson, Arthur M	Simpson, Henry C	1904																	
90	564	Mtg		Ness, John C & Isabell	Graham, Christopher	1905																	
94	210	Mtg Sat		Lee, Edward	Ness, John C	1906																	
104	455	D		Simpson, A M	Simpson, Henry C	1911																	
104	451	D		Froctor, A C & E M	Simpson, Henry C	1911																	
114	335	Mtg		Ness, John C & Isabella	Lee, John D	1912																	
107	580	D		Crebs, H H & Ollie K	Manning, W B	1914																	
107	547	D		Ness, John C & Isabell	Crebs, H Holmes	1914																	
123	127	Mtg		Crebs, H Holmes & Ollie	Ness, J C	1914																	
109	330	D		Fuller, J F Jr & Grace	Levy, Salla F	1914																	
144	402	Mtg		Manning, W B & Minnie B	Fulley, Mrs Sallie F	1917																	
149	503	Mtg		Simpson, Arthur M	Steger, J A	1918																	
116	216	D		Simpson, Wm T et al	Murphree, Robert	1918																	
116	218	D		Simpson, Alex E	Murphree, Robert	1918																	
116	212	D		Osie, F C & Mary M et al	Murphree, Robert	1918																	
116	210	D		Steger, J A & Adair	Murphree, Robert	1918																	
116	216	D		Froctor, W M & Albert G	Murphree, Robert	1918																	
116	216	D		Murphree, Robt & Mabel	Sugg, L C et al	1918																	
119	8	D		Moon, B B & Della	Barley, David D	1919																	
121	50	D		Sugg, L C & Henrietta B	Jacobs, Frank et al	1919																	
121	504	D		Davidson, Thos & Margaret	Fuller, J F	1919																	
161	54	Mtg Sat		Jacobs, Jess et al	Sugg, L C et al	1919																	
161	217	Mtg Sat		Fuller, J F & Grace	Davidson, Thos & Margaret	1919																	
171	251	Mtg		Jacobs, Frank & Addie	Horton, Yancey	1 24 20 1 28 20																	
172	497	Mtg		Moon, B B & Della	Betts, Yancey	7 15 20 7 19 20																	
121	590	D		Manning, W B & Minnie B	Moon, Elvcher B	1919																	

This continuation page, along with the previous page, shows that the land of the SW/4 and adjacent quarters was owned or mortgaged at various times Jacobs, Jordan, Sugg(s) / Scrugg(s), and Horton families.

The **INDEX TO LANDS** page shown below reveals the land transactions that involved the **NW/4 of Section 20**:

INDEX TO LANDS																
Section 20		Township 2		South of Range 1 3881		Madison County, Alabama										
BOOK	PAGE	Kind of Sale	SEC. No.	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	DATE OF INSTRUMENT	DATE FILED	N E 1/4		N W 1/4		S E 1/4		S W 1/4		
								NE	NW	SE	SW	NE	NW	SE	SW	
4	530	D		Eyenee, Benjamin & Mary	Timmons, John	1858										
2	173	Agmt		Cooper, Charity	Lee, Houston H	1846										
3	173	Agmt		Lee, Houston H	Cooper, Charity	1846										
4	173	D		Cooper, Charity	Fennell, James & Tr	1846										
7	467	D		Finch, Henry & Sophia	Smith, Hugh et al	1847										
8	484	D		Smith, Hugh et al	Lynch, John H	1847										
1	187	D		Timmons, John by Bar	Bright, William et al	1849										
2	200	D		Dickson, James by adm	McLynch, John	1849										
3	871	D		Griffin, Joseph & C H	Griffin, William S	1854										
77	618	D		Lee, Charity by Sheriff	Fennell, James & Adm	1867										
11	174	Agmt		Lee, Charity by hopt	Bradley, Joseph C et al	1869										
HHH	504	D		Well, G & C & Belle F	Scruggs, George F	1883										
HHH	488	D		Well, G & C & Belle F	Scruggs, George F	1883										
HHH	121	D		Adkins, C & C A	Scruggs, George F	1883										
HHH	183	D		Fennell, A & Elizabeth	Scruggs, George F	1883										
17	9	Mtg		Scruggs, Geo F & Sarah H	Schiffman, William	1886										
HHH	10	D		Well, G & C & Belle F	Scruggs, George F	1886										
HHH	185	D		Fennell, F & by Adm et al	Scruggs, Sarah H	1888										
HHH	208	D		Gunter, W H & S P	Scruggs, George F	1890										
54	136	Mtg		Scruggs, Geo F & Belle H	McDonnell, Archibald, Sr	1890										
HHH	338	D		Scruggs, Geo F & Sarah H	Gunter, William H	1890										
86	408	Mtg		Scruggs, Geo F & S H	McDonnell, A Jr	1891										
UUU	114	D		Scruggs, Geo F & Sarah H	Proctor, Albert G	1891										
53	164	Mtg		Scruggs, Geo F & Sarah H	Springins Robert E	1893										
77	451	D		Proctor, A G & S H	Scruggs, Geo F & Sarah	1894										
68	227	D		Scruggs, Geo F & Sarah H	Kenny, W L et al	1900										
67	300	Mtg		Taylor, David E & Oia L	Palalay, James A	1900										
66	114	D		Lundman, J H	Taylor, Oia L et al	1900										
69	484	D		Johnson, John F & Mary E	Lundman, Maria M	1901										
69	484	D		Becher, Ayle B et al	Lundman, Bettle L et al	1901										
74	291	Mtg		Green, C G & Charity	McDonnell, J H & Brother	1901										
69	488	D		Scruggs, Geo F & S H	Proctor, Albert G	1902										
69	485	D		Taylor, Oia L & S H et al	Green, Christopher C	1902										
69	485	D		Lyle, Rebecca C et al	Taylor, Oia L et al	1902										
69	484	D		Green, C G & Charity	Wen, John C	1902										
90	240	D		Green, C G & Charity	Henderson, William C	1903										
68	473	D		Kenny, W L & Abbie L												

This data shows that Charity Cooper Lee, the widow of James Cooper, lost the land of the NW/4 of Section 20 to James W. Fennell and others by 1867 and 1869, as a result of a Sheriff's sale for her bankruptcy. The bankruptcy was probably a result of the Civil War, but **any slaves buried as such in the cemetery would have been before the Civil War**. Of course, the cemetery would not cease being a cemetery just because the former slaves were emancipated during the war, so it could well have continued in use by black families whose ancestors were there – whether the black families owned the land or not. The **INDEX TO LANDS** reveals that eventually the NW/4 of Section 20 was under the ownership of George F. & Sarah H. Scruggs until at least 1902, when A. G. Proctor (who was married to a Simpson family member) purchased some of the land.

If this had been a slave cemetery, then **the slaves would have been owned** (before the Civil War ended in 1865) by **Charity Cooper Lee, James W. Fennell, Charles G. Bowen, and/or William H. Clopton**, according to the records of land ownership before 1865. The latter two were owners of the land in Section 17, but there was no census record (with slaves or otherwise) found for Charles Bowen in 1830 or 1840 Madison County. He sold the land in 1844 to William H. Clopton, who did have 5 slaves counted in the 1840 census, but there was no listing for Mr. Clopton in the 1850 slave census. Of course, the Clopton name in Huntsville is widely known in association with Ann Bradshaw Clopton, who in the early 1900s grew to worldwide fame for her paintings on spider webs. Ann was the wife of J. Blount Clopton. The 1840 record for William Clopton is shown below:

1840 Madison County, Alabama

(No. 4.)

SCHEDULE of the whole number of persons within the division

NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES	FREE WHITE PERSONS, INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES.																						
	MALES										FEMALES												
	Under 5	5 under 10	10 under 15	15 under 20	20 under 25	25 under 30	30 under 40	40 under 50	50 under 60	60 under 70	70 under 80	80 under 90	90 under 100	100 and up	Under 5	5 under 10	10 under 15	15 under 20	20 under 30	30 under 40	40 under 50	50 under 60	60 under 70
<i>Benjamin Howard</i>	131	99	66	44	33	22	11	10	11	1				130	95	69	55	45	30	24	19	9	6
<i>John Holony</i>		2	1	1	6	2			1								1	1					
<i>John Tovey</i>						1																	
<i>John M. Wilkerson</i>					1														1				
<i>Henry Arant</i>			1	1	2			1										1					
<i>James Smiley</i>					1													1	1				1
<i>Isaac Coatsworth</i>		1				1												1					
<i>Shelby Spotswood</i>	2	1		1	1											1	1	1					
<i>Nashville Malone</i>	1	3	2					1									1	1					
<i>A. B. James</i>		2			1													1					
<i>Samuel Grubbs</i>		1			1									2	1			1					
<i>Bennet Boggs</i>	2		1		1		1							2	2		1	1					1
<i>James W. Wilson</i>					1			1							1			1					
<i>Thomas S. Maxwell</i>	2	1			2													1					
<i>Elizabeth Huddy</i>					2													1					1
<i>Martha Hamilton</i>			2												2	1							
<i>James M. Camp</i>		1	1			1	1											1					
<i>William H. Turner</i>	2	1				1												1					
<i>William Sadler</i>					1													1					
<i>John S. Turner</i>					1													1					
<i>Isaac Millern</i>	2	1		1				1										1					
<i>John W. Watson</i>	1				1													1					
<i>Lewis W. Byram</i>	1				2	1												2					
<i>John Ferrell</i>		1		1				1							1		1	1					
<i>Josiah Springs</i>	2					1									2	1		1					
<i>Alar P. Jones</i>		2						1															
<i>Jay Canterbury</i>		1								1								1					
<i>Doria Bradford</i>	1		2		2			1							1								
<i>E. P. G. Seungo</i>	1				1										1			1					
<i>William Sanford</i>	2				1													1					
<i>William H. Clifton</i>	1				1													1					
<i>Loyd A. Hamblett</i>	1				1													1					
	152	110	77	49	58	27	53	30	13	4	1			141	104	77	95	115	80	60	33	11	6
	21	18	10	5	30	8	5	5	2					13	10	8	10	20	6	6	1	2	

South Hall of Madison County

# 1840 Madison County, Alabama

by the Marshal of the *1st* District

Color	NUMBER OF SLAVES										TOTAL	NUMBER OF PERSONS IN EACH FAMILY EMPLOYED IN						FAMILY OR IN
	MALES					FEMALES						Male	Females	Children	Persons of all ages	Persons of 16 years and over	Persons of 16 years and under	
	Under 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 and over	Under 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 and over								
2	325	227	118	35		305	378	196	170	21	329	119	16	41		4	28	
	2	1		1		1		1		1	22	1		13				
						1		1			5			1				
			1					1			4							
									1		8	4					1	
						1		1			5					1		
5	4	1				2	2	2			36	9						
6	2	2	2	1		4	2	4			34	9		2				
	3	2	1			1		2			13	7						
											6			1				
13	12	13		1		20	18			1	89	40						
1	1					1		1			10	1					1	
3	1			1		1	1				13	5						
1			1	1		2	2		1		17	4						
											6							
23	18	13	15	4		17	11	20	7	3	136	70						
3	4	2	2			5	4	2	1	1	30	10						
											3	1						
1	2	1				1	3	1			11	6						
13	5	2	3	1		13	5	4	2	2	57	16						
							1				4	1						
1				1		1		1			10						1	
											8	2						
		2									9	2						
18	11	5	6	1		12	21	11	8	3	99	32						
											3	1						
3	7	2				1	5	2			28	13						
	1					1	1		1		3	2						
											4	1						
2	1	1				1		1			4	1						
											8							
						1					5	1						
19	412	284	189	50		407	384	247	133	31	3985	1007	17	94		5	24	
22	74	47	21	12		86	78	53	23	10	687	238	1	17		1	3	
											576							

Total Household → 8      William H. Clopton



Charity Allison Cooper, widow of James Cooper, inherited his slaves when James passed away, and later she married Houston H. Lee. Likewise, the Fennell family had numerous slaves prior to the Civil War, so these families would have had the majority representation of any slave burials in the cemetery. The census records below provide some insight into the slave counts held by these families of Cooper / Lee, and Fennell:

(No. 4.) **SCHEDULE of the whole number of persons within the division**

NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES	FREE WHITE PERSONS, INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES																											
	MALES														FEMALES													
	Under 5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	40-45	45-50	50-55	55-60	60-65	65-70	Total	Under 5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	40-45	45-50	50-55	55-60	60-65
<i>George Thomas</i>	27	19	10	9	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	34	17	15	14	10	8	7	5	4	3	2	1	1	77
<i>A. H. Lee</i>					1																							
<i>Samuel P. Jones</i>		1	1							1								1										
<i>William Smith</i>	1				2														1									
<i>John Morris</i>	2		1		1											2												
<i>James B. Jones</i>	1	2				1										1		1										
<i>James W. Fennell</i>	1					1										1				1								
<i>William H. Cook</i>	1					1										1												
<i>Plasraft Austin</i>			1				1									1	2											
<i>Hugh Smith</i>				1	1					1																		1
<i>John Simmons</i>	1										1					1												
<i>Thomas Lipscomb</i>	2	1	1								1															1		
<i>George Lyman</i>			4	2	3	1																				2		
<i>James Dickson</i>													1					1								3		
<i>James Ransom</i>					1	1																						
<i>Rebecca Parry</i>																												
<i>Isaac Williams</i>				2						1						1		1										1
<i>John King</i>		2														2												
<i>Thomas January</i>																	3											
<i>Thomas Walton</i>	3										1					3												
<i>William Cook</i>																2	3											
<i>John D. C. Cuthbert</i>			2	2	1						1														2			
<i>John W. Leary</i>	1					1										1												
<i>John S. M. Cuthbert</i>	1															1												
<i>John January</i>	2															2										2		
<i> Peyton Spence</i>		1	2	1			1									1											1	
<i> Mary Lee</i>	1	1		1												1		2										1
<i> Charity Cooper</i>			1				1									1										1		
<i> James E. Clarke</i>																											1	
<i> William S. Turner</i>	1					2																					1	
<i> William Rice</i>														1														1
	374	243	158	109	264	121	164	89	17	7	1					378	199	155	149	221	124	93	83	78	16			
	18	8	12	10	17	9	4	4	1	1						12	7	8	3	18	16	2	3	1				

1840 Madison County, Alabama

by the Marshal of the *Northem* District

SLAVES.											TOTAL	NUMBER OF PERSONS IN EACH FAMILY EMPLOYED IN							
MALES					FEMALES					Totals		Mills	Agriculture	Carpenters	Manufacturers & Merchants	Profession of all kinds	Profession of all kinds, but not of the law	Landed gentry	Unemployed
Under 10	10 under 24	24 under 36	36 under 55	55 under 100	100 and upwards	Under 10	10 under 24	24 under 36	36 under 55										
625	453	451	227	53		665	597	397	311	63		6470	2290	20	179		11	26	
7	7	6				9		9		1		43	32						
												5	1						
												4	2						
												7	3						
												8	1						
	2	1				1	1	1	1			15	6						
3	3	6	1	1		7	3	4	2	1		34	18						
						1						7							
6	8	4	2			9	6	4	1	1		45	21						
4	7	14	3	1		9	5	2	1	1		51	37						
												6	1						
												13							
6	2	2	1			1	3	2	1			33	11						
	1											4	4						
												3							
												7	1						
												7	2						
												7	1					1	
												6	1						
												7						1	
												11	5						
												5	1						
												3			1				
												5						1	
												7	1						
												7							
2	1	7	2			3	1	4				35	14						
												10	5						
												14	10						
												6	2						
449	687	496	337	86		707	615	431	347	68		6865	2451	20	180		13	28	
34	34	111	10	3		47	25	29	6	5		395	161		1		3		

James W. Fennell

Charity Cooper

In the 1850 census Houston & Charity (Cooper) Lee had 25 slaves, while James W. Fennell was not found with any slaves, but his close relative Isham J. Fennell of the same part of the county had 64 slaves. The 1860 census showed Isham J. Fennell with 74 slaves, some whom may have been occasionally loaned out to work James Fennell's land, and may have been buried with their kinfolk in the "Simpson Slave" Cemetery.

From these records, it would seem that if this is a slave cemetery, then the Clopton slaves may have been the first to be buried there. However, there were few Clopton slaves, compared to the size of this cemetery. The Fennells had the most slaves, but they also had many more parcels of land, so it would be unrealistic to expect that all of their slaves were buried here. The Cooper family lived closest to the Simpson Slave Cemetery, and they had at least 25 slaves, so it is likely that the majority of slaves buried here would have been Cooper slaves, concerning the burials before the Civil War ended. None of these families (not even combined) had enough slaves to fill the cemetery, even through the entire period of 1809 – 1865.

After the Civil War was concluded and the slaves emancipated, the white George Scruggs family from Triana, living among many black families, came into ownership of much of the land around the cemetery by the 1883 – 1902 period. However, even if the cemetery had been included in their holdings of the area, it would still be quite probable that they would have allowed continued burials of black families whose ancestors were in the cemetery.

The only basis for assuming that the cemetery is actually a slave cemetery is the total lack of tombstones. While that is a pretty good basis, it must be remembered that many known tombstones have disappeared from cemeteries on the arsenal lands over the years. Accordingly, it is possible that there may have been tombstones here at some time in the past. However, since none are evident today, all that can be done is to assume that the cemetery was instituted for slaves and contains only black family burials. If that is the case, it still may be more appropriate to call it the **Cooper Slave Cemetery**, since it is so close to the Cooper – Penland Cemetery (80-1), and since the Cooper family owned the most slaves known to be in that immediate area prior to the Civil War. **There remains no evidence that the Simpson family owned the land around the cemetery during the time when they owned slaves in the county.** The only theory developed for "Simpson" to be included in the name of the cemetery is that often people

will refer to a cemetery in terms of the current landowner of record, or at least the one of recent memory. Accordingly, when people living in the 1940s were asked whose cemetery this was, they would have recalled who owned the land at that time (the 1940s) and in the generation immediately preceding. Such “living memories” could well have associated the cemetery with the Simpson family, but any slaves buried here as such would not likely have been owned by the Simpsons.

All that can be done now is to show the remaining area photos of the cemetery:



**Simpson Slave Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, May 2, 2003  
Entrance Gate**



**Simpson Slave Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, May 2, 2003**



**Simpson Slave Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, May 2, 2003**



**Simpson Slave Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, May 2, 2003  
(Interior of cemetery)**



**Simpson Slave Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, May 2, 2003  
(Interior of cemetery)**



**Simpson Slave Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, May 2, 2003  
(Interior of cemetery)**



**Simpson Slave Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, May 2, 2003  
(View to northeast from gate area)**





**Simpson Slave Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, May 2, 2003  
(Grave depression photo #1)**



**Simpson Slave Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, May 2, 2003  
(Grave depression photo #2)**

This is a large cemetery that could hold maybe 500 to 1000 graves, if full. However, there are few obvious grave depressions to be seen under the leaves. Yet, the irregularity of the forest floor seems to indicate that the soil was disturbed throughout the area, as if not all of the dirt was returned to gravesites. The surrounding forest floor outside of the fence does not display the same irregularities. Therefore, it does seem likely that the cemetery is nearly full, and that it was used for many years. Unfortunately, the exact identities of the persons buried therein went to the grave with them and with the passing of the living memories of those who might have recalled the names of the deceased. It is conjectured that the majority of those buried herein would have surnames of Cooper, Fennell, Jacobs, and Jordan, with some distinct possibilities for Scruggs, Clopton, and Bowen, as well as Horton.

Prepared by John P. Rankin, September 4, 2005