

# **UNKNOWN CEMETERY, 88-1**

## **Summary Report**

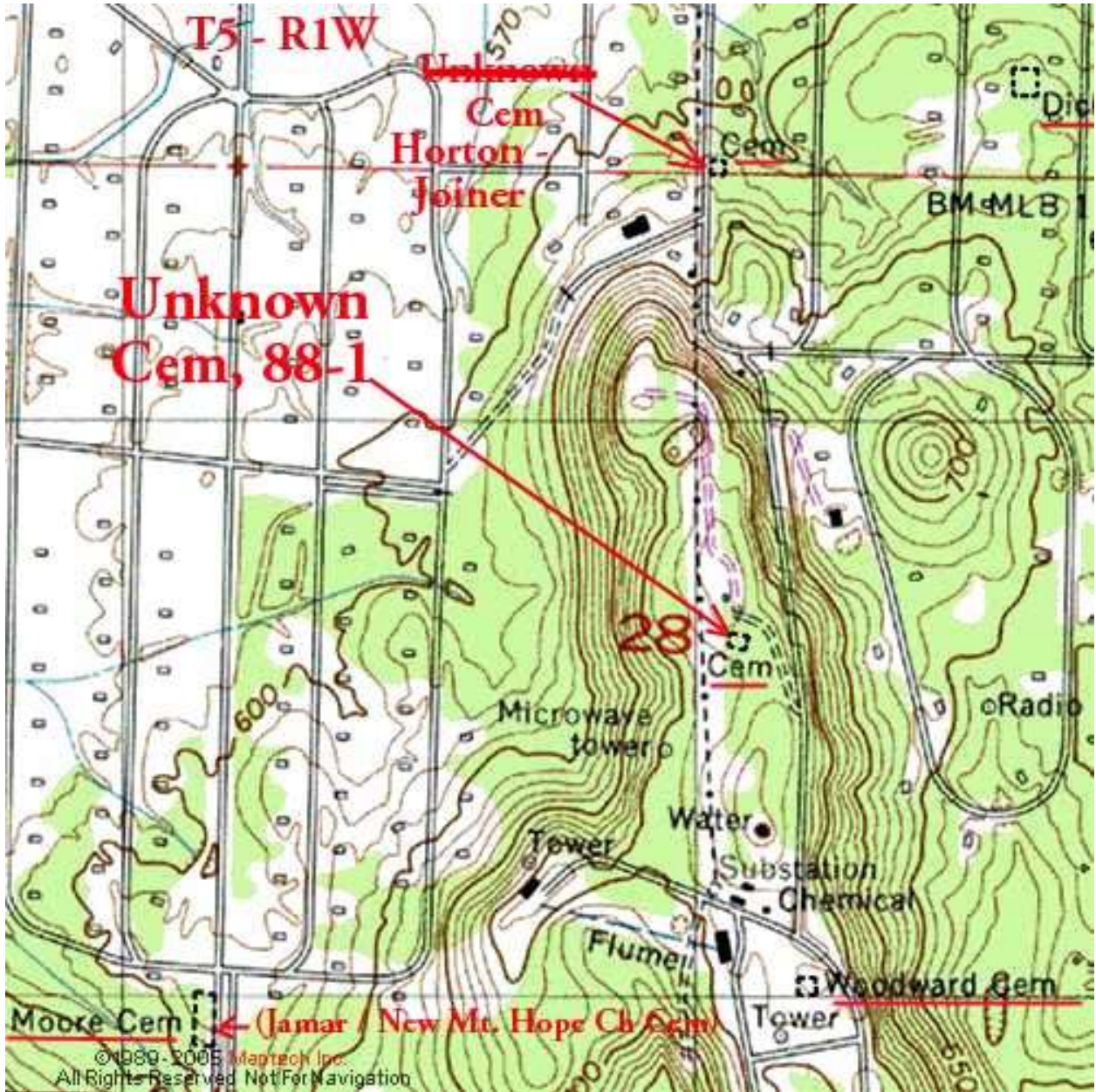


**Unknown Cemetery, 88-1, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 28, 2003**

This view shows the approach to the cemetery, which is just south of a gravel road winding to the north and west from its intersection with Pershing Road, about 250 yards north of Building 8875 and the Woodward Cemetery (88-2). This is in Test Area 5, the south-central part of the arsenal. The legal land location description is Section 28 of Township 5 South, Range 1 West. Maps disagree regarding which quarter contains the cemetery, since it



is very near the center of the section. However, the MapTech version seems to be the more accurate:



This map places the cemetery just slightly in the Southeast Quarter of Section 28, T5-R1W. A broader overview of the area is shown below:





Note that the MapTech versions name the Jamar / New Mount Hope Church Cemetery (82-1) as the “Moore Cemetery”. The basis for that name is currently unknown.

The land records for Section 28 can provide some insights into ownership, and therefore the likely surnames of burials for the 88-1 cemetery:



TOWNSHIP 5 South		RANGE 1 West		HUNTSVILLE MERIDIAN			
DESCRIPTION OF THE TRACT		AREA		UNITED STATES TITLE			
PART OF SECTION	Section	Acres	100ths	TO WHOM SOLD OR GRANTED	Date of Sale Location or Grant	Number of Certificate or Warrant	Date of Military Act

Page 56 continued  
W $\frac{1}{2}$  of NE $\frac{1}{4}$

	22	79.10 $\frac{1}{2}$		State			
				*River Impts J. Scarbrough and John Simmons, Asse	23 May 1828		
				Vol. 2, p 47	30 Mar 1830		
North West $\frac{1}{4}$	"	158.20 $\frac{1}{2}$		John Timmons, Asse	20 Nov 1834	W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	
South East $\frac{1}{4}$	"	158.20 $\frac{1}{2}$		John Timmons, Asse			*Memo
South West $\frac{1}{4}$	"	158.20 $\frac{1}{2}$		John Timmons, Asse	2 Feb 1818		524
	23	560.51		North of Tennessee River	2 Feb 1818		2965
Entire Frac N of R.	23	560.51		John Timmons	2 Feb 1818		525
	24	339.00		East of Old Chickasaw Boundary	2 Feb 1818		2980
Frac E of Bdry	"	186.37		West of Old Chickasaw Boundary			
Frac W of Bdry	"	339.00		Leroy Pope			
Page 57	26	186.37		Richard Burdyne	17 Jun 1812		662
Frac N of R	"	2.64		North of Tennessee River	2 Feb 1818		799
	27	332.25		John Timmons, Asse			
Frac Sec N of R	"	332.25		North and West of Tennessee River	2 Feb 1818		526
	28	650.46		John Timmons, Asse	2 Feb 1818		526
E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	81.31		State			
				*River Impts J(orI?) Leeman	23 May 1828		
W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	81.31		State	26 Jul 1830		*Memo
				*River Impts J(orI?) Leeman	23 May 1828		
North West $\frac{1}{4}$	"	162.62		Lemuel Mead	26 Jul 1830		*Memo
E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	81.31		John M. Taylor	2 Feb 1818		103
W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	81.31		Joshua McCutchen	16 May 1837		11491
E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	"	81.31		State	13 Jun 1834		7224
				*River Impts J(orI?) Leeman	23 May 1828		
				also John S. Napier	21 Feb 1837		*Memo
				Vol. 6, p 447	1 Dec 1846	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW	
W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	"	81.31		State			
				*River Impts Alex. Ross	23 May 1828		
Page 58	29	628.32			16 Aug 1830		*Memo
E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	78.54		State			
				*River Impts J.B. Finley	23 May 1828		
W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	78.54		State	18 Aug 1830		*Memo
				*River Impts John Harden(Hardee?)	23 May 1828		
				Vol. 3, p 422	20 Nov 1832		*Memo
North West $\frac{1}{4}$	"	157.08		Austin L. Sands, Asse	2 Feb 1818		1096
				*The following patent issued for NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 9-25-42.			
				"Patent No. 1114733 based on Huntsville Credit System Certificate No. 1096 in the name of Austin L. Sands". See letter Secretary of State 12-11-42.			
South East $\frac{1}{4}$	"	157.08		Austin L. Sands	2 Feb 1818		1102
				*The following patent issued for SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 9-25-42.			
				"Patent No. 1114734 based on Huntsville Credit System Certificate No. 1102 (Prior) in the name of Austin L. Sands". Letter Secretary of State dated 12-17-42.			
South West $\frac{1}{4}$	"	157.08		Austin L. Sands, Asse	2 Feb 1818		1103
				*On March 23, 1942 Patent No. 1113541, based on Huntsville Credit System Certificate No. 1103 (Prior) issued in the name of Austin L. Sands for			

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

*FACING PAGE	FUND	STATE TITLE	WHEN CONVEYED	Number of State Transfer or Conveyance	WHERE RECORDED	MEMORANDUM
		TO WHOM CONVEYED			VOL.	PAGE

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INDEX TO LANDS															
Section 28		Township 8		South of Range 1 west			Madison County, Alabama.								
G. W. JONES & SONS															
BOOK	PAGE	Kind of Int.	OUR No.	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	DATE OF INSTRUMENT	DATE FILED	N E 1/4		N W 1/4		S W 1/4		S E 1/4	
								NE	NW	SE	SW	NE	NW	SE	SW
0	707	-		Reed, Samuel & Martha	Spence, Benjamin	1834									
4	530	D		Spence, Benjamin & Mary A	Timmons, John	1838									
8	731	D		Forsay, Miss & Richard	Ferry, William S	1839									
8	589	D		McCutchen, Joshua	Kavanaugh, Cortes D	1840									
8	584	D of Tr		Kavanaugh, C D	Otey, John & Tr	1842									
8	430	D		January, Thomas by Wiff	Springer, Josiah	1844									
11	409	D		Robinson, W & Caroline	Downs, Daniel L	1844									
11	407	D		Springer, Josiah by Wiff	Downs, Daniel L	1844									
8	426	D		Forsay, Richard & Susan	Downs, Daniel L	1845									
8	297	D		Timms, John by Wiff	Wright, Wm Adm	1849									
7	113	-		Leaman, Joseph by Wiff	Levy, Theophilus	1850									
8	372	D		Downs, D L & Hannah	Bell, Ewing S	1854									
8	588	D		Downs, D L & Hannah	Bell, Ewing S	1854									
14	533	D		Dickson, James by Adm	Graham, Joseph D et al	1855									
14	540	D		Levy, Theophilus & F M	King, John B	1856									
17	137	D		Bell, Ewing S by Wiff	Worham, James J	1864									
18	555	D		Bell, Ewing, by Wiff	Chapman, Reuben	1864									
17	269	Wid Wid		Chapman, Ruthy	Watts, Milton	1871									
17	266	D		Chapman, Reuben	Chapman, Ruthy	1871									
18	195	D		Chapman, Ruthy et al.	Scholz, William H	1882									
14	181	D		Bell, Sarah A	Woodson, J W & C C	1883									
15	129	Wid		Woodward, J W et al	Bell, Sarah A	1883									
18	182	D		Smith, W C	Wilson, W J	1887									
24	91	Wid		Chapman, James & Son	American Trustee Co & Co	1887									
18	319	D		Wilson, W J & Rebecca	Chapman, James	1887									
24	240	Wid		Chapman, Jas & Ann	Slosser, J H	1887									
30	16	Agent Wid		Slosser, J H	Danton, F F	1888									
53	50	Wid		Horton, Nancy & Sophia	Graham, Joseph D	1890									
77	455	D		Graham, Nancy T by Adm	Graham, J D & Mary J	1890									
77	461	D		Graham, J D & Mary J	Horton, Nancy &	1890									
69	117	D		Horton, Nancy & Sophia	C F Church of Jain De ad	1901									
67	274	D		Woodward, W W et al	Chapman, Ruthy	1901									
30	300	Agent		Chapman, King D Tr	Chapman, Ruth	1903									
30	370	D		Chapman, Ruth	Chapman, King D Tr et al	1903									
30	370	D		Chapman, Ruth	Metzger & Bentley	1904									
30	370	D		Chapman, Jan C et al	Metzger & Bentley	1904									

The original owner of the west half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 28 was Joshua McCutchen, who purchased the land from the government in 1834, according to the **OLD LAND RECORDS** book by Margaret Matthews Cowart. His immediate “neighbor” to the north (in the west half of the NE/4) was Joseph Leaman / Lehman. The **INDEX TO LANDS** prepared by G. W. Jones & Sons, Inc., shows that McCutchen sold his holdings in the SE/4 to Cortes D. Kavanaugh in 1840. Kavanaugh sold to John Otey in 1842. In 1844 William and Caroline OTEY Robinson sold to Daniel L. Downs, who sold to Ewing B. Bell in 1854. Sarah A. Bell sold to John W. & C. C. Woodward in 1883. Over the next dozen years, ownership of land in the area around the cemetery included the surnames of Sloss,

Wilson, Jacobs, and Chapman, among others. In fact, Yancy and Sophia Horton were listed as mortgaging land in the neighboring NW/4 in 1896 to Joseph Dickson Graham, who sold them the land in 1896. In 1901, Yancy Horton deeded land in the NW/4 for the “**Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Palm Beach**”. There is not much doubt that the clerk misunderstood, and the name of the church actually should have been recorded as the “**Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Pond Beat**”.

INDEX TO LANDS																					
Section		Township		South of Range		Madison County, Alabama.															
G. W. JONES & SONS																					
BOOK	PAGE	Kind of Int.	SUB No.	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	DATE OF MORTGAGE	DATE PAID	N E 1/4			N W 1/4			S E 1/4			S W 1/4				
								32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19
82	179	4th		Chapman, J. C.	Meisger & Bunlay	1905															
75	80	2d		Chapman, Ruthy	Wilson, Sara L & Ella J	1905															
74	547	>		Woodward, Chas C et al	Chapman, Ruthy	1905															
80	184	4th		King, Martha	Jenson, W H	1905															
94	500	>		American F L & A Co	Chapman, James C et al	1905															
87	151	4th		Woodward, U H & Pettit	Woodward, Clint O	1905															
82	203	4th		Chapman, Jas G et al	Meisger, A & Company	1907															
82	200	4th		Woodward, Chas C	Woodward, Gurrie	1907															
78	531	4th		Woodward, Chas C	McCally, J E & Frasier	1909															
101	358	3d		Woodward, Chas C & L	Woodward, J W & Willie	1909															
100	523	>		Chapman, James C	King, Martha	1910															
100	196	4th		Chapman, James	Meisger, A & Company	1910															
100	136	4th		Chapman, Scott et al	Meisger, A & Co Asts	1910															
113	587	4th		Chapman, J C & Ann	Meisger, A & Co Agents	1912															
108	145	>		Woodward, J W & Willie	Chapman, James	1912															
103	524	>		King, Martha	Chapman, James C	1912															
109	51	>		Chapman, K D & Ruthy	Chapman, Eliza J et al	1914															
107	225	2d		Feeler, J W et by Mrs	Jacobs, Frank	1914															
112	87	4th		Jacobs, Frank	Rankin, K & et al	1914															
144	714	4th		King, Sarah et al	Davis, S S	1916															
144	571	4th		Lyle, Sam & John	Horton, Yancy	1917															
149	519	4th		Wilson, Georgia & Chas Fleg	Schiffman, J & Company	1918															
141	549	4th		King, Sarah et al	Davis, S S	1919															
121	625	3d		Jacobs, Frank & Willie	Davis, S S	1919															
171	50	4th	1st	Rankin, Jas J & Thos C	Rankin, Mrs Nellie	1919															
168	2	4th		Taney, Oie & John	Davis, S S	10 7 19 & 14 20															

In 1917 Yancy Horton sponsored a mortgage by Emma (CHAPMAN) and her husband John Lyle that included land in the SE/4 of Section 28. The marriage index from the on-line website of the Madison County Records Center shows the marriage of John Lyle (noted as “colored”) and Emma Chapman in 1911:

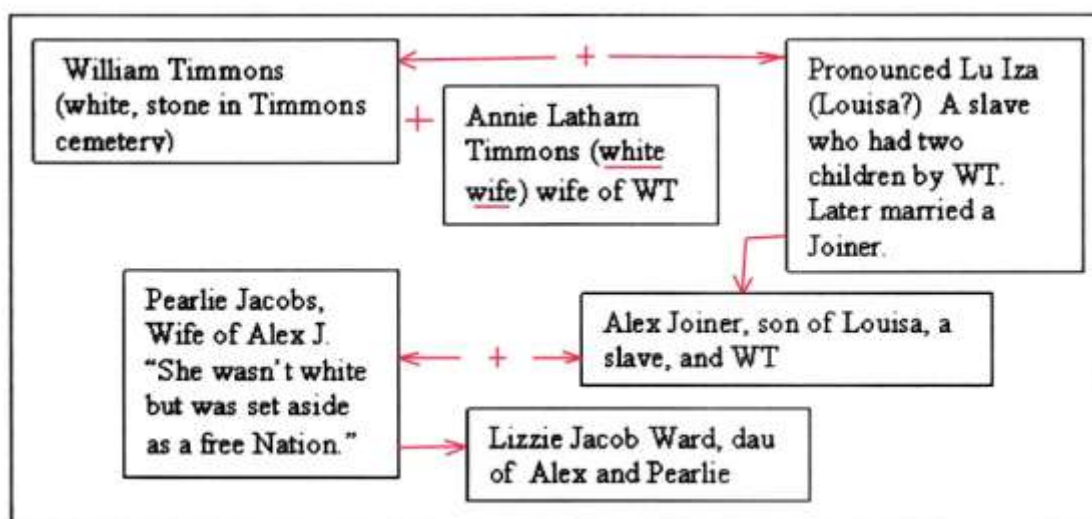
Considering the presence of the Jacobs and Horton families in the list of landowners for tracts around the cemetery, it is almost a certainty that the little cemetery was used by black families of those surnames. That conclusion is supported by notes made by Beverly Curry of an interview with one of the descendants of these families, as given below.

*From the notes made in the year 2001 by Beverly Curry of the Army offices, when she interviewed Lizzie Jacobs Ward and Walter Joiner, from an e-mail sent to John P. Rankin 3 November 2004:*

### Lizzie Jacobs Ward and Walter Joiner

(See John Rankin info on Joiner-Lacy cemetery 89-2)

She was born on arsenal land. So were her parents. Her grandmother Luisa was a slave. Her grandfather was William Timmons (white). "We always stayed on his place. They rang bells when he died.





Brothers and sisters of Lizzie Jacob Ward were:  
JOINER NAME:

Bessie  
Percy  
Louise  
Nina  
Claudie  
Gussie

What Lizzie Ward referred to as the “colored cemetery” is shown as Cemetery 89-2 Joiner-Lacy on our cemetery map.

“The colored cemetery is on down towards Leeman’s ferry in the pine.” Lizzie said the one stone in the cemetery belonged to her brother Claudie Joiner. He was in World War I. Alex Joiner was paid (by?) to go upkeep the cemetery. “The last ones buried in the colored cemetery were Jim Turner, Aaron Tate, and Joe Walker”. Lizzie said her mother was buried there (Pearlie Jacobs). Her mother wanted to be buried at the **Jacobs Cemetery**, but backwater was up [water came up and stood]. It was near the river. The Timmons (white) was higher up.

Lizzie’s mother died when she was two years old. “She died because she had milk leg. She had a baby born. When the baby died, she would milk out milk on a brick.”

[John Rankin’s info: In 1920 Claudie lived in household of Percy, which included his father Alexander Joiner, a widower at the time. Felix Joiner (?) lived a few houses away, as did Melvin.]

After WWI, brothers (Claudie and Percy) bought some of Timmons land. The land was near the big house. Lonnie Wilson, he owned the Timmons house when Lizzie left the arsenal. He was white. He came from across the river on the other side of Leeman’s Ferry.

The house where Lizzie grew up:

“Wasn’t no good house. The land flooded some places. Had to move out of the houses. First time they had school in the schoolhouse (Hardin School), the water swelled up the floors.

The house had two bedrooms and a kitchen. Slab-over houses. Shingle house were good. “Bows” {boughs?} cut from trees on the others (not good). Toted water—sometimes a half mile. Was a well on the Timmons place. Had a bucket on the head and one in the hand. We raised: hogs, cows, chickens, corn, cotton. Cooked in fireplace. “Heap coals on the oven.” Ash cakes. Swept the floor with a sage grass broom. Some folks had dirt floors. Cracks. Get a croaker sack of ashes. Poured them on the floor. Use a sage grass broom. It was smelling good when they did this in the spring.



What are ash cakes? Hot water and corn meal. Milk if you have it. Can pour soda in it (baking powder makes it dry). Sweep the ashes back so no grits be in it. I believe she said she remembered her Grandmother making them .

Lizzie was raised by her brothers and sisters.

The chimney in the house was double backed.

See diagram from notebook. *{Not sent to J. P. Rankin}*

Claudie bought north part of Timmons farm. His mother is Parthenia Wynn Joiner Horton. His father owned land on the east side of Leeman's Bluff.

Walter Joiner was the son of Claudie. Walter's step-father was Connie Horton. Connie Horton and Yancy Horton Jr. were the sons of Yancy Horton, Sr. Yancy was born of a slave housekeeper. The master had three by his housekeeper. Yancy had one sister and 1 brother. He lived in Silverhill. His land and his sister's joined. She married Adolphus Love.

**In the middle of our field was an old graveyard. About ½ acre, that we plowed right up to. My father is buried there (Claudie). No name for the cemetery. *{Claudie Joiner is buried in the Joiner – Lacey Cemetery, 89-2, per Arsenal nomenclature and maps. However, if this note applies to the father of Lizzie, that was not Claudie, it was Alex Joiner. Alex may be buried in another cemetery, different from where Claudie Joiner is buried. Bev's insertion of the name "Claudie" may be in error here, unless the "MY" referred to Walter Joiner, who perhaps was being interviewed at this point. Besides, the Joiner – Lacey Cemetery is significantly larger than half an acre, in my estimation -- JPR}***

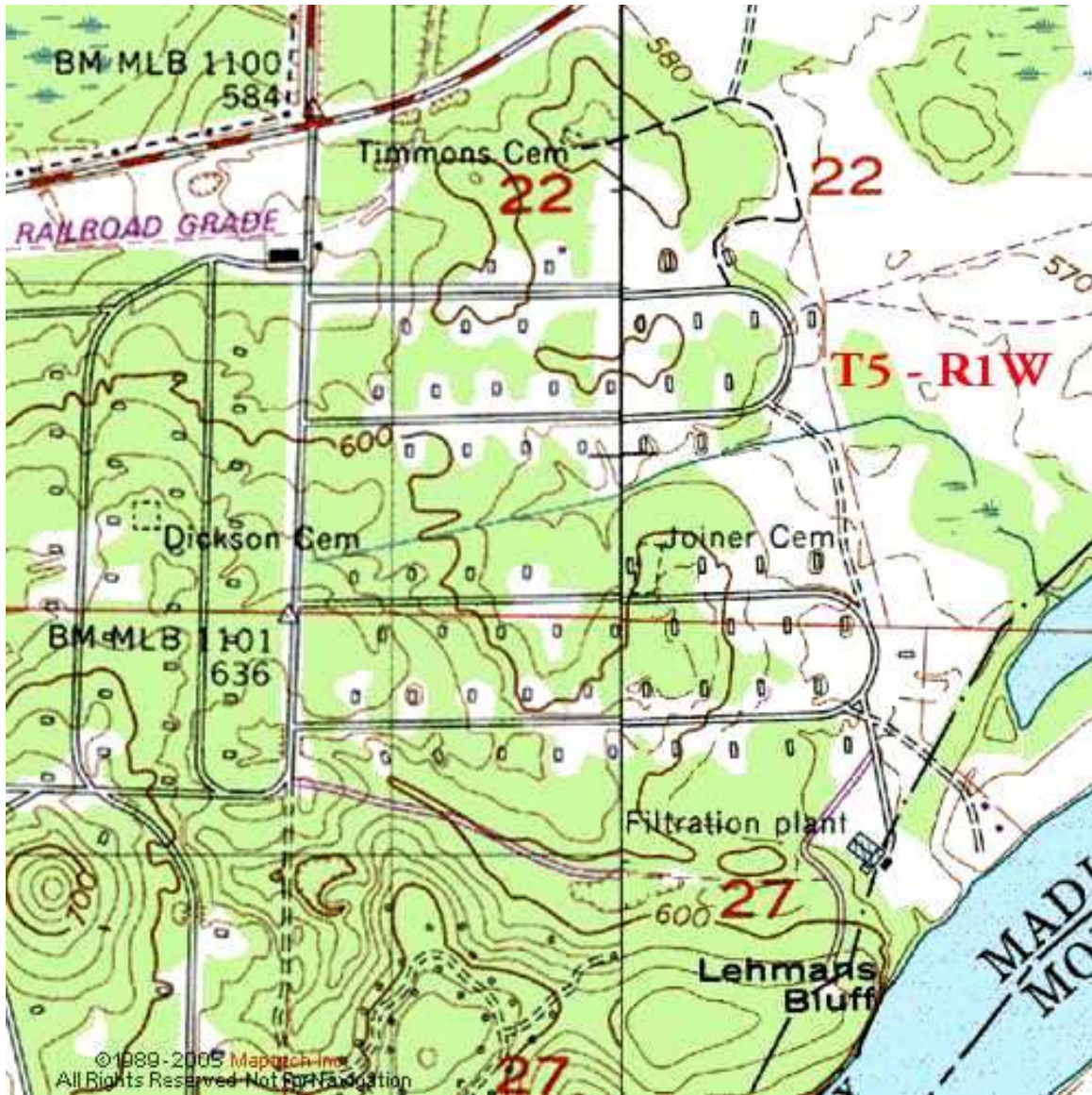
(Ms. Curry's interview notes continued, with data not pertinent to this Summary Report, therefore they were truncated at this point.)

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Considering the observation note and explanation added by JPR (John P. Rankin) to Beverly Curry's notes of the interview, it is necessary to find another cemetery (other than the Horton – Joiner Cemetery, 87-1) that fits as the burial ground of Alex Joiner. It is maintained that the "Unknown Cemetery, 88-1" fits precisely with the interview data and the land record deductions. Accordingly, with no record of other names of people buried here, it would seem appropriate to name this "unknown" cemetery the **ALEX JOINER CEMETERY, 88-1.**

Additional observations and past notes are included below for consideration of the need to find yet another cemetery that was reported in the area:

Leeman's Ferry, as mentioned in the notes above, was at the base of Leeman's Bluff, in Section 27. The map inserted below shows the relative positions:



(The Unknown 88-1 Cemetery is located west of the 700 foot elevation rounded hump at the bottom left side of the above map excerpt.)



An interesting point of conjecture is that several of the census pages for the folks that were located (as mentioned in the 1952 notes) included Woodward / Woodard families as neighbors. It is known that the Woodwards lived near the Woodward Cemetery, 88-2, in a community that was known as Woodwardville and had its own post office in the 1840s. There is another small, unnamed cemetery (88-1) without any tombstones in that area, in Section 28 of Township 5, Range 1 West. The cemetery is along a gravel road on the west side of Pershing Road, about 400 yards north of the Woodward Cemetery. It is about one mile southwest of the Joiner – Lacey Cemetery, 89-2. From the interview comments by Lizzie Jacobs Ward recorded in the notes of the Army’s files, it may well be that this is the cemetery referred to as being the “colored cemetery ... on down towards Leeman’s Ferry in the pine”. [“The colored cemetery is on down towards Leeman’s ferry, in the pine.” – from page 3 above.]

It is known that Leeman’s Ferry was located on the banks of the Tennessee River in Section 27, less than a half mile east from the location of this unnamed cemetery. Of course, it was also about a half mile south from the location of the Joiner – Lacey Cemetery (89-2), so that may not be conclusive. However, it seems that the census trails indicate a southern location for the “colored cemetery”, which was described in different terms than the one now called Joiner – Lacey. For example, being “in the middle of our field” and being able to “plow right up to the edge of the cemetery” fits the one near the Woodward Cemetery, which is in relatively flat land. The Joiner – Lacey Cemetery is on a steeply sloped hillside. It is not at all likely that anyone ever plowed right up to its edges, as stated by Lizzie Jacobs Ward on page 4 above. The statement about being in the middle of a field suggests a relatively flat place, not hillsides. Furthermore, the unknown cemetery (88-1) is definitely “in the pines”, as there are still pine trees in abundance there, and there are large old pine stumps in the cemetery. Finally, the size fits. Lizzie said that the cemetery in the pine was about a half acre. That agrees with current estimates, as opposed to the higher estimated size of the Joiner – Lacey Cemetery, 89-2.

While this could explain the Unknown Cemetery 88-1, it still leaves the question of another cemetery that Lizzie Jacobs Ward called “the Jacobs Cemetery”, where her mother wanted to be buried (but couldn’t, due to high water being “backed up” – implying “backed up” from the Tennessee River at flood stage). That situation most certainly would not fit either the Joiner –

Lacey Cemetery or the Unknown 88-1 Cemetery, as both are in high areas far above the river's flood plain. Lizzie's comment would not fit the other known "Jacobs" cemeteries on the arsenal, either. However, there have been stories told by at least two people of an old tombstone overgrown with Kudzu behind an igloo in the extreme southern end of the arsenal. The igloo in question was thought to be either 8574, 8575, or 8577. Access into this area has not yet been gained, so nothing further is known of the stories of another cemetery to the south of the Woodward Cemetery. Still, it "makes the pieces of the puzzle fit together" if there is indeed another old cemetery in that area, near the river, where floodwaters would back up and delay burials in the Spring of the years. Accordingly, there may be another cemetery as yet unmarked on the base installation maps.

Perhaps time and further research will tell the rest of the story. For now, the other photos made of the little cemetery designated as 88-1 are given below:



**Unknown Cemetery, 88-1, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 28, 2003**





**Unknown Cemetery, 88-1, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 28, 2003**  
(This view is looking south, along the eastern side of the fence.)





**Unknown Cemetery, 88-1, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 28, 2003**

Recent bulldozer tracks were noted in the mud, just inside the gate. Numerous stones were on top of the ground in the area at the north end of the cemetery.





**Unknown Cemetery, 88-1, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 28, 2003**

This view is of one of the many fieldstones or rocks found in the cemetery. However, few of them appeared to be marking a grave, but they may have originally served in that capacity, when grave depressions may have been more evident in the past.





**Unknown Cemetery, 88-1, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 28, 2003**

This small fieldstone at the base of a tree seemed likely to be marking a grave, but no obvious depression was found at this point.





**Unknown Cemetery, 88-1, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 28, 2003  
Deep grave depression with fieldstone near south end of cemetery**

In this case, there is no question of there being a grave depression.





**Unknown Cemetery, 88-1, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 28, 2003  
Deep grave depression with fieldstone near south end of cemetery**

By John P. Rankin, August 25, 2005