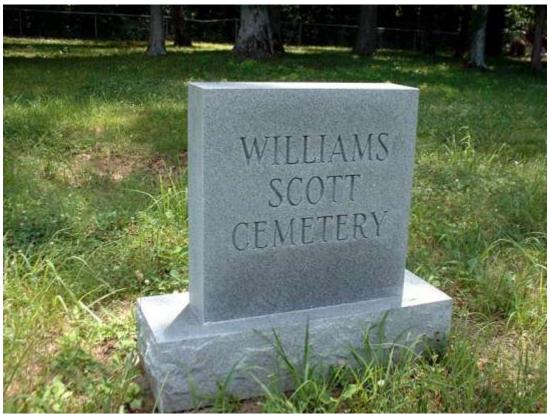
WILLIAMS – SCOTT CEMETERY, 37 – 1

Summary Report



Williams - Scott Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co., AL, June, 2002.

This is another arsenal cemetery with no individual tombstones. The first impression upon a visit is that it must be another slave cemetery. However, a check of historical data indicates otherwise. While older reports do relate burials of non-slaves, that does of itself does not exclude slave burials as well in the cemetery. The problem is the consistent assumption that lack of tombstones indicates a slave cemetery, as opposed to the disappearance of previously known and documented tombstones from various cemeteries. Such is the case here.



Williams - Scott Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co., AL, June, 2002.

This cemetery has no grave markers. The monument in the cemetery is engraved with the name of the cemetery and no individuals. The overall dimensions of the cemetery are about 100 ft X about 80 ft. It has several sunken areas, but they are all rounded, so are likely to be rootball holes of felled trees.

The cemetery is located in the NW/4 of S22-T4S-R1W. It is about 200 yards east of Patton Road, at the east end of Aerobee Road in the SE corner of an athletic field near the Fitness Center.

Dorothy Scott Johnson's book, CEMETERIES OF MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA, VOL. I, 1971, included one grave marker. That marker was for ELIZABETH D. SCOTT,

with an inscription that read: "In memory of Elizabeth D. Scott, consort of Thomas A. Scott, died March 3rd, 1839 in the 54th year of her age." Mrs. Johnson also noted that there were "...numerous unmarked graves in this very old plot."



Williams - Scott Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co., AL, June, 2002.

(View from of the northwest corner of the cemetery perimeter)



Williams - Scott Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co., AL, June, 2002.

(View of the western fence perimeter and entrance gate)

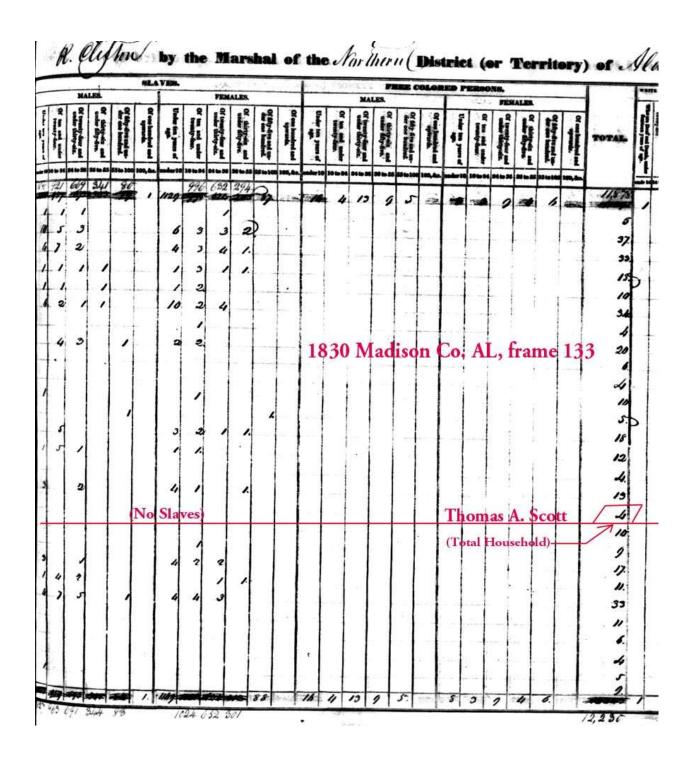
With the only clue to burials being that for Elizabeth Scott, "Consort {wife who died before her husband} of Thomas A. Scott", as reported in Mrs. Johnson's 1971 book, the census record was checked for Thomas A. Scott. The 1840 census was first checked, since it was closest in time to her burial and since only heads of households were listed by name in the 1830 census (as well as all other censuses before 1850). However, Thomas Scott (or any variant of his name) was not found in the 1840 census. Therefore, the 1830 census was checked for his name. The 1830 findings are shown below:

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1830 Madison County AL census pg 133: Winn, Beadle, Scott, Graham, Gray, Jordan, Fennell, Parham

There was only one entry in the 1830 census for a Thomas A. Scott (or any variation thereof). This census, like the 1840 census, shows numbers in "age bracket" columns by gender. The males are listed first, then after the heavier, dark line at the right of the 13^{th} column, the females are listed. Only free, white persons were given in these columns. The census form had more columns (not shown here, to the right) for free, non-white people, meaning Indians, free mulattoes, and free black people. The age bracket columns were listed in the order of Males: 0-5, 5-10, 10-15, 15-20, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, 50-60, etc; Females: 0-5, 5-10, 10-15, 15-20, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, etc. Accordingly, the above data shows that the household of Thomas A. Scott had 1 male aged 20-30, 1 male aged 40-50, 1 female aged 0-5, and 1 female aged 40-50. Since Dot Johnson's notation stated that the tombstone of Elizabeth Scott revealed her death date as 1839, at age 54, Elizabeth would have been born in 1785, making her 45 in 1830 when the census was taken. Therefore, she was the female aged 40-50. It

likewise would seem that Thomas himself would be the male aged 40 - 50, with probably a son aged 20 - 30 and either a daughter or granddaughter aged 0 - 5 still at home. As shown by the extended page below, the family owned no slaves.



The 1820 census for Madison County was lost and is not in existence today, so it cannot be checked. Likewise, there is no 1810 census, as the area was not a state at that time. There was a January 1809 territorial census, but there is no entry in it for a Thomas Scott. As a last resort, the 1850 census was also checked, and there was a Thomas A. Scott listed that seems to approximately "fit":

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The above Thomas A. Scott was listed as age 57 in 1850. That would make him age 37 in the 1830 census, but that record showed Thomas A. Scott as aged 40 - 50. Still, the discrepancy is small, so it is likely that the 1850 and the 1830 listings are for the same man. He must have been missed by the census takers in the 1840 exercise. The Thomas Scott of 1850 is not living in the area near the cemetery, as his is listed among known residents of the area that is now the northern fringe of the town of Madison.

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The above "old land records" show that Richard Elliot (also often found as "Ellett") was the original purchaser in August of 1809 of the NW/4 of S22-T4-R1W. In 1839 he divested his interest in the land which contains the cemetery in favor of Archibald McDaniel. It is almost certain that Archibald McDaniel is in fact Archibald McDonnell, who appears quite often in the historical land transactions of the immediate area around the cemetery. A few of the McDonnell transactions are shown below in the "INDEX TO LANDS":

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The transitions of ownership for the NW/4 of Section 22 show that in 1867 Archibald McDonnell sold the land to Dallas J. Jones (see the Summary Report for the Jones Cemetery, 37-5). Other owners of land in the NW/4 included Robert C. Harrison, Isaac Alexander Lanier, and Isham J. Fennell, for times before the Civil War. However, it should also be noted that **Thomas Allen Scott** purchased 40 acres in October of 1832 as the NE/4 of the SE/4 of Section 20, Township 4, Range 1 West. This land is just over a mile west of the cemetery in the NW/4 of Section 22. It is today found to the west and the south of the western end of Gray Road, very near the Landman Cemeteries.

The Landman Cemeteries were apparently used exclusively for the Landman family, or one would expect that perhaps Thomas Scott would have buried his wife Elizabeth there, in the nearest cemetery, since he did not bury her on his own land. However, there is another likely explanation of the reason that Elizabeth Scott was buried in the Williams – Scott Cemetery over a mile further away. Note that the 2nd line of entries in the **INDEX TO LANDS** above for Section 22 was for Robert and Ann C. Lanford to a Methodist Episcopal Church in the NW/4. How Robert Lanford came to own any land in the NW/4 of Section 22 is not shown, apparently being one of the deeds lost to the poor recording practices of the early days. In any event, research done while investigating the location of the Jordan's Chapel Cemetery (and therefore the associated Jordan's Chapel site) revealed that the original location of the Methodist Episcopal Church that became known as Jordan's Chapel was in fact on land owned by Robert Lanford. This land was in the NW/4 of Section 22, Township 4, Range 1 West. (For exhaustive additional detail about Jordan's Chapel and its cemetery, see the Jordan's Chapel Cemetery files on the CD-ROM supplied to the Army's Environmental Management offices or the copy of same supplied to the Huntsville – Madison County Public Library's Heritage Room.)

Since the **INDEX TO LANDS** showed no entry for a Williams family to have owned land in Section 22, just as there was no ownership by Thomas A. Scott there, it brings into question why families of these names would have used a cemetery other than on their own lands. With the establishment of nearby community cemeteries not yet accomplished in this area in the early 1800s, the only other reason known for "remote" burials off of a landowner's property was to use a church cemetery. There is no known blood or marriage relationship between any Scott or Williams family to the known family names that owned the land of the NW/4 of Section 22, so it

seems pretty safe to conclude that the cemetery known today as the Williams – Scott Cemetery was in fact the first cemetery associated with the Methodist Episcopal Church that later moved and became Jordan's Chapel.

The only marriage records from the on-line index published for the 1800s on the website of the Madison County Records Center that could suggest a possible link of families named Scott or Williams to the early owners of the land around the cemetery are:

Scott, James	Beadle, Nancy	Vol. 2 p. 308	02 Jul 1819

(Abraham Beadle was not one of the owners of the land in Section 22, but he did live nearby, as shown in the 1830 census record given earlier, where Abraham was next door to Thomas A. Scott. It is also known that Abraham Beadle and his kinsmen of that surname lived near the Matkin Cemetery.) The only Williams connection to the surnames of early owners of land around the Williams – Scott Cemetery was for a Williams bride to a Fennell groom in 1839:

Fennell, Wyley	Williams, Mahulda	Vol. 4 p. 507	28 Oct 1839
/ •	/		

In fact, the only association of the William name with the cemetery comes from a notation by Dot Johnson in her book about the cemeteries of Madison County (Volume I), where on page 281 she describes this cemetery. At that point, she explained that a "...TVA map refers to this well cared for, fenced graveyard as the Williams Cemetery, however, the only stone was that of Mrs. Scott. There appeared to be numerous unmarked graves in this very old plot." In other words, there were no stones inscribed for Williams or any surname other than Scott when Dot investigated the cemetery in the late 1960s or early 1970. The TVA map may have noted the name of the cemetery as the "Williams Cemetery" simply due to a current owner's name, perhaps in the early 1900s. Of course, there may well have been tombstones with the Williams name at some time in this cemetery, since apparently stones have disappeared from the site through time.

While the Methodist Episcopal Church was meeting on the Lanford land in Section 22 in the early 1820s, it had no other known name. Therefore, there is nothing other than the "Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery" or the "Lanford – MEC Cemetery" that could be suggested to more properly replace the Williams – Scott name for the cemetery. After meeting for a period of about 6 years on the Lanford land, the church moved to a "more suitable" site on Bartholomew Jordan's land. The parcel that "Batt" Jordan deeded to the church, which thereafter became known as Jordan's Chapel, was located in Sections 4 and 9 of Township 4, Range 1 West. The little cemetery that became the Chapel's burial place and gravesite of Bartholomew Jordan himself, is today believed to be located on the eastern edge of the grounds of Morris Elementary School, just at the fence to the Botanical Gardens property on the south side of Bob Wallace Avenue. The site of the Chapel itself is thought to be on the north side of Bob Wallace Avenue, about 200 to 300 yards north of the cemetery site. However, before the church relocated to this area in the late 1820s, it would have likely established a cemetery for the 6 years at its original location in Section 22, the Robert Lanford site. When the church left the site, the cemetery probably became a "de facto" community cemetery and continued in use. It is considered very likely that what is called the Williams – Scott Cemetery was originally the Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery, and not a single family cemetery at all.

Prepared by John P. Rankin, September 6, 2005

(Digital photos of the deeds for the Lanford and the Jordan lands to the Methodist Episcopal Church are shown below for reference.)

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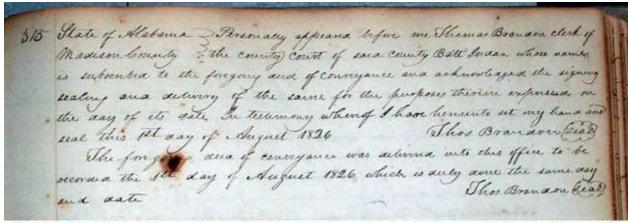
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consideration of the sum of one dollar to them in have pard at and upon the scaling and delivery of these presents the recent when of is hereby acknowledges have given, grantes, bargaines, sold vele ased, confirmed and convoyed and by these presents do give grant bargain. sell velease, confirm and convey unto the saw William Laster Robert Langors, James Bibl. William Bibb, Loyd alday Sames Pollaro, Batt Tordan Sames Strarp and William Blake and their swecessors (Trustees in Frest for the uses and purposes herem after mentiones) all the right title interest claim and dem and whatever, which he the said Robert Lanford and dun le his Wife, have to a certain Sot or prece of ground, situated, lying and being) in the County as afovesaid being front of the Land where on the said Robert Lanford and his Wife now redides and estimate at one deve more or less and is bounded as follows, to wet, be giving at a corner Rock, North theree varning to yards West to a corne Rock thence To yards south to a corner Red Oak there East To y ands to a white Oak Corner thence To y and North the beginning both all and singular the houses, woods, heaters ways priviledges and approximances thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining, to have The hold all and singular the above mentiones and described Got or freeze of ground situates as afores are together with all ans Singular the houses Woods . Waters . Ways and priviledges thereto below ging or in any wise appentaining unto them the sais Trusties and their successors in office forever in brist . They sall event and build or cause to be exected and built shereon a house or place of Worship for the use of the Mombers of the Methodist chiscopal Church a east doing to the Rules and discipline of soil church which from time to time may be agreed whom and adopted by the Mounters and preachers of the said church it their general conferences in The Minter States of america, and in fiture brust and confidence that they shall at all times, forever here after premit first mon bers and fire a chers belonging to the said Chinch as shall from time be duly authorized by the general conferences of the members one preachers of the said Methodist Epishopal Church or by the yearly conferences, authorized by the said general conferences and nous others to preach and exported Gods they word therein one in further Trust and confidence that as often as any one or move of the Trustees herein before montroned, shal die there are in such case it shall be the duty of the stationes Minister or tweather who shall have the partor at charge of the member of the sais church to call a meeting of the vernaming hunter

Land of this deed recorded by G. W. Jones as being in NW/4, S22-T4-R1 and when so met the said Minister or preacher shall proceed to nominate one or more persons to fill the place or places of him or them whose office or offices has (or have) been vacated as afon said. The said Robert Lanford and his Wife Ann & Lanford de by these presents warrant and of overer defens, all are singular the before mentioned and describes Lot or priece of ground with the approterrances thereto belonging to them the sais William Lanus Robert Lanford, James Gill. William Pibb, Loyd Aday Jamy Bolland, Bott Sordan James Sharp and William Blake and their brecepors chosen and appointed as afoveraid from the dain or claims of him the sais Robert Lanford. and colum b, his wife their heirs and afrigny; and from the claim or claims of all person whatever; In Testimony whereof the said Robert Lanford and drive be his whose have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year afovedand Robert Lanfor God ann b Lanford God signo seales and delivered, in presents of us . State of alabama, Personally appeared before me Thomas Brandon abbardison bounty School of the bounty Court for suis County Robert Lanford whose mame is subscribed to the foregoing deed of conveyance une a charonle dge the signing sealing and delivery of the same to the Trustees afoverant for the fun poses therein warnes on the day of Its date; also on the same day I existing boirs due to Ohn & Langord Wife of the bard Robert Lanford whose warme is likewise subscribes theretouts on a provate en amination seperate are apart from her bush sand welkworde ago that she signed scaled and delivered the soul to the sais Transtees for the purposes therew expressed on the in of its date freely voluntarily without fe ar threats or complete non of her said husband; Given under my house and soul at offer in hair bounty the 2 3rd day of March 1821 Thos Brandon (CC) The foregoing dead of conveyance was delivered into this offed done the 28th day of March 1821 Thous Brandon est

314 From of Matama Count court of Taxanion country was can thereof title on the first money ofter the goods money in april 5126 and and of trust on certain ansense property explicite tunth day of May 1825 by there Weeks to why and by the for the hought if Nuthony He Melcalf the this say frame then count and the execution thenof for the purposess there as keep only relientinged by he in the state while one Authory Statute of the enternance partie thanks was no to be certified for regulation and true stay from the new you That de lease chas The forefring seed of livel was delivered wite this office to be new the Set was of Jung 1826 which is only some the same day on Thomas Francisco This Industrie made St the day of May 1826 between State of the Batt Fordan Je Suca Langua rethers Betama of the one part, and helt Langere W Bloke sone Inam Sife Swam Nichola Sinten W Eller W Bett and let Themet - In of the county one thatis reference of the other part, for the uses me perfects heren after countines - Witnessent that the seen test lorden fort on consumman of the some of one social to begin in home fiere, the must a hours extremely again have the say beginne me cake alimen and congress on by three presents so begans sell and severy and the 1st Roll Campon Willed Hung Borson Lope Borson, Micheles Fighton, William, Walt and Lame Illouperon and their encepars in touch forward a certain let or passes of greens bying y being in the country select so efference may last of the land whening the cora Batt Irram and records and estimation it me son more or like and is bounded as follows i will beginning it a rock on the lun of Cluson oberdan sommers are south 43 yards by a alle and empore the medling bouse which is made you right himble a cover reed, them mely your feline a rear post rate which are made less lines to another recover will there worth 73 years to another ermer clone energy by a red out which a new line there cash to the beganning to have and to have the same sen lot or passed of land with the tonoments and short- and themoute belonging or in any case appartameny unto the case toth an aford to Brake thing so Less Engar, Nicholas Wohen, Worldleson Won Bilt and be them from one it about succession in office former in these area they shall not and built respect to be energed and smalle on the said Land a direct of sin - chip for the use of the manufic of the Mills and Charges church and nowing to the rule and manipular of said church - and the said Date bream for himself his head executed and administration of warrant on will form define the with to the some described land, and herry personers sent the sum Nott Langer . It Black. Henry Roam Necholas Hepson, Welleson Wall and The Show leve and there we for our - In testimony whom of the said Bate Second have herewit the hour are sent the day and date above walter Segure seeks and schould in the prince of

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



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