

From: "Ben Hoksbergen" <benhoksbergen@yahoo.com>

To: "John P Rankin" <jprankin@knology.net>

Date: 4/2/2007 8:50:11 AM

Subject: Re: Fw: Redstone Arsenal cemeteries/questions

John,

I recently relocated and recorded the right bank (RSA side) landing for Lehman's Ferry based on various historic maps. All that is left is a faint road trace leading down to the river bank and a concentration of historic artifacts along the water's edge. There is a turn-of-the-century house site on a terrace right above the ferry landing which might have an earlier component associated with the ferry. The landing is located in Hunting Area 54 (the 8800 area with the old clay tile storage magazines) in the NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Sec. 27.

As for possible candidates for the Lehman family cemetery, the notoriously inaccurate 1941 Army cemetery map does show two cemeteries near the top of a pronounced limestone hill in the NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 28 in the middle of Sweetgum Circle. It's a prominent landform, and would be a nice spot for a cemetery but for the fact that the bedrock is very shallow there. Nonetheless, when I reconnoitered the area, I did find a grave-sized field stone cairn along one side of the hill. It would be anyone's guess if it represents a human grave or historic field clearing or rock caching, but it's suspicious enough that I'd recommend further investigation before any ground disturbance took place there.

The 1941 map also shows a cemetery to the east of these directly under what is now Sweetgum Circle. This spot has the same problem with shallow bedrock, and if there was once a cemetery there, it was obliterated or covered up in the early days of the Arsenal when the road was constructed. Yet another cemetery is plotted on the west side of Patton Road where the road turns west toward TA-5. This would have been right across from the Old Mt Olive Church. The spot is in an igloo area now, and there is no evidence for any graves there.

I'd be happy to show you to any of these spots sometime if you're interested. Lehman's Ferry is pretty rough to get to, but the other spots are easily accessible.

-Ben

John P Rankin <jprankin@knology.net> wrote:

>

Carolene / Ben --

I have replied with a message that I will forward next (w/o attachments), so that you know that I followed up. However, I am intrigued by the "family data" that suggests perhaps a Leeman Cemetery was in Sections 27, 28, or 33 of T5-R1W, where the Leeman's owned land and operated the ferry. I never walked over those sections carefully to see if there is any evidence of an old cemetery there. Of course, it could possibly have been that the Leeman's used what became the Horton - Joiner Cemetery, but that really is not where I would expect them to bury their dead. Anyhow, I just wondered if either of you had ever heard of a Leeman family cemetery in that area or if any old maps may show it. Now it will be next winter before it would make sense to walk over the area to look for signs of grave depressions, etc. Of course, even the daffodils that sometimes are in cemeteries are mostly finished blooming now. Still, it would be important to much of the historical community of today to find a Leeman Cemetery and to

mark the spot where the ferry operated. Could the Alexander Archaeologist researchers perhaps shed any light on this request for information? If so, please keep me informed also....

John (Forwarded message below)

----- Original Message -----

From: [Wood, Valerie](#)

To: jprankin@knology.net

Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2007 1:39 PM

Subject: Redstone Arsenal cemeteries/questions

Dear Mr. Rankin,

I was referred to you after contacting Redstone Arsenal, and hope you might be able to help me out. It is my understanding that the land upon which Redstone Arsenal sits was once owned many years ago (at least partially) by William L. Leeman (died 1836). Our family tradition indicates that there were graves on the land which were either relocated or 'lost' over the years, and I am wondering if you can provide any information on this. I am specifically looking for information on William Leeman, his wife Elizabeth Cook, and sons James M. Leeman and Squire G. Leeman (my great-great grandfather).

Do you have any information that might be of help to me in my research? I have searched various publications and resources, but can find little on this except for a privately printed historical/genealogical reference booklet which purports to have some of the graveyard information. However, it has no information which is helpful to me.

Just as an aside, my father worked at Redstone Arsenal in the early 1960's before moving to Maryland. My mother's line is the Leeman line I am researching. There was no connection between the two families; it was only about 10 years ago I learned about the land there having once belonged to the Leeman family.

Any help or guidance would be most appreciated.

Val

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