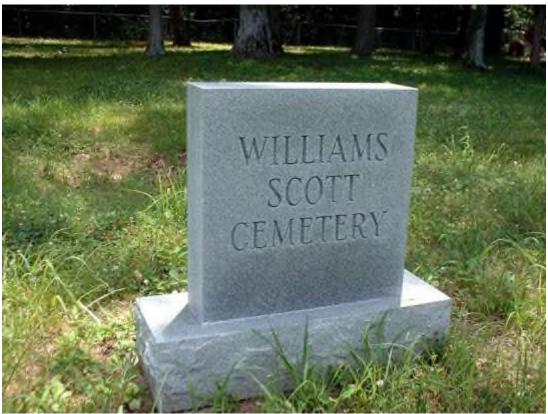
WILLIAMS – SCOTT CEMETERY, 37 – 1

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. 1, 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)

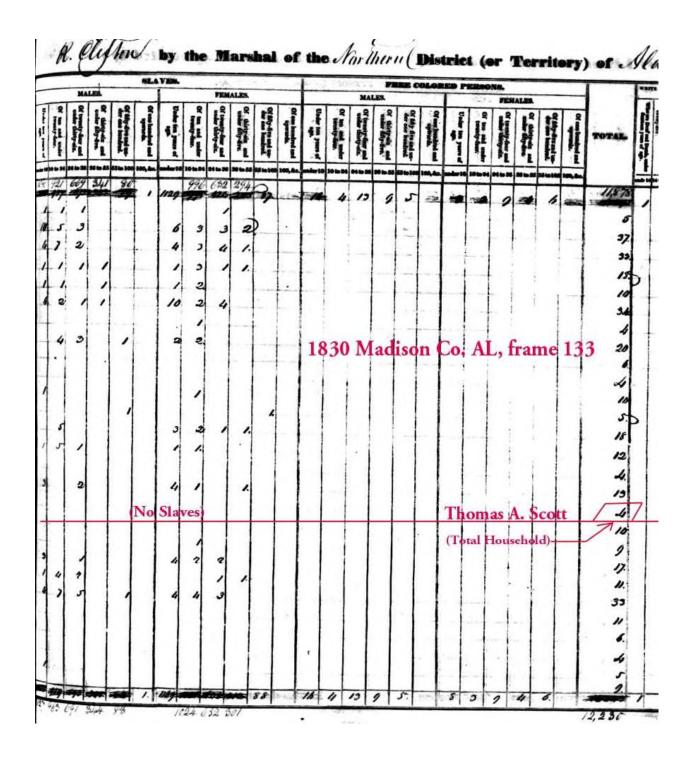
With the only clue to burials being that for Elizabeth Scott, "Consort {wife who died before her husband} of Thomas A. Scott", as reported in Mrs. Johnson's 1971 book, the census record was checked for Thomas A. Scott. The 1840 census was first checked, since it was closest in time to her burial and 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:

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.)

Robert Lawford Willy Tris or district worth this 27 to 50 Gred conveyants of Suly in the year of our Lord bight. Methodist Church I hundres and Twenty Ochwan Robert Lind Water of Moodwan Country our Stake of Alaka of the one front and Waltiam Lames Collect Laufers Tomes & William Site. Loyd Aday, James Sollewe. But bordow In William Site. South Severalis, Waterfield Wat the Saw Robert Lanford area alone b, his Wafe for the
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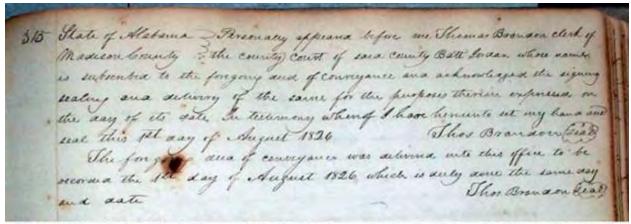
MAD. Co. AL Deed Book G

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, largaines, sold vele ased . confirmed and convoyed and by these presents do que grant bargain. sell velease, confirm and convey unto the surs William Ladrer Robert Lanford, James Fill, William Bibb, Loyd ofday Sames Bollare, Gutt Sordan Sames Strarp and William Glake and their sweetsors (Tourstees in Freist for the uses and purposes herein after mentioned) all the right title interest claim and dem and whatever, which he the said Robert Lanford and drin to his Wife, have to a ordain Sot or piece of ground, saturated, lying and being in the country as aforesaid being front of the Land where on the said Robert Lanfove one his Wafe now resides and estimates at one dove 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 there To yards south to a corner Red Oak there East To y ands to a white Oak corner thence To y ands North the beginning with all and singular the houses, woods, heaters ways priviledges and approximances thereto belonging or in any wise affect aining to have The hold all and Emgular the above mentiones and describes Got or prece of ground situates as afoves are together with all and singular the houses woods, waters, ways are priviledges thereto below give or in any wise appertaining unto them the sais Imstees are their successors in office forever in mist, they sall event and build or cause to be exected and built shereon a house or place of Worshy for the use of the Mombers of the Methodist chiscopal Church a ever dung to the Rules and discipline of sois church which from time to time may be agreed whom one adopted by the Members and freachers of the said church it their general confevences in The United Elates of america, and in future drust and confidence that they shall at all times, forever here after frement first men bers and fire a chevs belonging to the said Chirch as shall from time be duly authorized by the general conferences of the member and preachers of the said Methodist Epistopal Church or by the yearly conferences, authorized by the said general conferences and nous others to prevale one experied Gods thely word therein and in further transt and confidence that as often as any one or move of the Trustees herein before montrones, shal die there are in such case it shall be the duty of the stationes Minister or preacher who shall have the pastoral charge of the member of the said church to call a meeting of the vernaining "hunter

is deed recorded by G. W. Jones as being in NW/4, \$22-T4-1 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 for have been vacates as afor sours: The said Robert Lanford and his Ninge and be Lanford in by these presents warrant and forever defens, all are singular the before mentioned and describes Lot or price of ground with the approximances thereto belonging to them the sais William Lanus Robert Lanford, James Bill, William Pibb, Loyd Aday James Bolland, Batt Sordan James Sharp and William Blake and Their brecepors chosen and appointed as aforesard from the dain or claims of him the sais Robert Lamford. and Ann b, his wife their heirs and affigurs; and from the claim or claims of all person whatever; In Testimony whereof the said Robert Lanford and ann. b. his who have hereunto set their hands and seal the day and year aforesaid signer scales and delivered? Robert Lanford Geal in presents of us · State of alabama & Bersonally appeared before me Thomas Brandon Mardison County School of the County Court for suis County Robert Lanfovo whose mame is subscribed to the foregoing deed of conveyance and a knowledge 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 existe bour due to dun & Llangord Wife of the bas Robert Lanford whose warme is likewise subscribe theretout on a private examination seperate are apart from her hust sand a cknowle ages that she signed scaled and delivered the sand to the sais Trustees for the purposes therein expressed on the in of its date, freely voluntarily without fear threats or complete son of her sais husband; Given under my house and swal at offer in have bounty the 2 3rd day of March 1821 Thos Brandon (CC) The foregoing deed of conveyance was delivered into this offed down the 28th of day of deember 1820 which was duly done the 28th day of March 1821 That Brandon

314 Fith of Malana Count court of Masaica course was con thereof title in the first manage upon the goods warrang in tops 1121 and and first on certain incomes property explicit lunth day of May 1823 by those Week to why arm the land for the hunger of Nuthous Sicherseif the this say binance then court and the evention theney for the purposess there we kny only adjustinged by the int to and Authory it i weef the internating partie thereto to be contigued for registration and love why from the new way That he leave clikas The foreface seed of lively was delivered with this office to be one the set was of Jung 1826 which is wing down the same day Thomas domance Bett Fredam The Industrie made Soth day of May 1826 between Is Dat Indam of the country of Mason state of Alle Sans in atther I lama of the me pert and helt Sangera W Bloke Some Inam Signe Swam Nichola Sinken W Cleson, W Belt and lat Thomas son of the country one thatenaforema of the other part, for the new me perfects here ofto montione - Witnesset that the eva tot locase for on consumpasson of the some of one subset to been in hand force the samples don't extremite yet have the say beginned and cake alimen and compared and by three presents so bergam, est and severy and the 1th Roll Langers, Willed Hong Forson lope down Micheles Hopeon W Bream, Worldt and Some Illoughear and their incepass in lines forons a cedare let or parcel of grown your stems in the country select is expressed they last of the lone wheneve the case Bott bream now verses and whenever it me see more or less and is bounded as follows, I will beginning at a rock on the lun of Cluson storaco commence and ender 43 yards by a white oak import the medling house which is made afour right him he a come rick them will y your feline a marked rate which are made to be lives to another recover me thouse worth 73 years to another owner close morning by a red out which a was live them there to the Agreement to have him to have the store was let or passed of land with the tonomines and short and themone belonging to in any once apportances much the case told in aford with take thought Levelowan Nicholas Moder Wolleson Wo Dilt and he Whom said above currences in office from in Dall over they that met and hall or some so be energy and small on the same hand a direct of - chip for the use of the mundre of the Milland Charges church and coins to the only and surregions of sein course - and the same to lovery for himself his head executers and a aminestration of warrant to will form defina the tell to the same descende land, wa herry parences and the sum Well langer , it seeks . Henry know Nicholas Hepren, HowEllison Word It and The Whom Leve and there to for son - In testimony whome the said the Sonan have become all home was seen the say and water above wallen Segues seeks and schound in the primer of John Brown Bennett

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



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