

MADKIN CEMETERY, 37 - 2

Summary Report



Madkin Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, 37-2.

This cemetery is in the south half of Section 22, Township 4 South, Range 1 West. It is reached by turning onto a dirt road from Hansen Road in the northeastern portion of the arsenal. The dirt road is on the east side of Hansen Road, immediately after crossing the small creek to the north of the intersection of Hansen Road with the eastern end of Corporal Road. After turning onto the dirt road, there will be a fork to the left about 35 yards east of Hansen Road. The left fork to the north will end at the cemetery, a distance of about 0.2 mile.

The cemetery is small, encompassing enough area to hold perhaps 80 close-spaced graves, but there is evidence of only a couple of definite grave depressions. There is a recently-installed marker near the gate to denote the cemetery name. No obvious field stones to mark graves were located. The chain link fence around the cemetery was found to be in good condition as of December 16, 2002. The name “Madkin” is considered to be a variant spelling (from phonetics or possibly from a deliberate separate spelling of the names taken by freed slaves after the Civil War to distinguish them from the spelling of the surname of the white former slave owners) of the more established name “Matkin”. (See the Matkin Cemetery 37-3 report for a history of the white family by that name, who may well have been the owners of slaves buried in the nearby Madkin Cemetery.)

Overviews of the Madkin Cemetery are provided below:



Madkin Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, 37-2.



Madkin Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, 37-2.

(View from the northwest toward the southeast corner of the cemetery area.)

The land ownership records for the 1800s of the SW/4 of Section 22, Township 4 South, and Range 1 West are inserted below:

TOWNSHIP *4 South* RANGE *1 West* HUNTSVILLE

DESCRIPTION OF THE TRACT	AREA			UNITED STATES TITLE TO WHOM SOLD OR GRANTED	Date of Sale, Location or Grant	Number of Crescents or Warrants
	Section	Acres	Perches			
North East 1/4	22	642.50	15070	Archibald McCombs	Apr. 25, 1809	86
North West 1/4	"	15070	Richard Elliott	Apr. 28, 1809	535	
South East 1/4	"	15070	John Couch	Apr. 29, 1809	113	
South West 1/4	"	15070	John Baker	Apr. 19, 1810	958	
North East 1/4	23	642.80	15070	Joseph Acklin	Aug. 29, 1809	595
North West 1/4	"	15070	W. Pope Jr.	Apr. 29, 1809	586	
South East 1/4	"	15070	Samuel Acklin	Aug. 29, 1809	191	
South West 1/4	"	15070	Abner Sattum	Apr. 18, 1809	719	
North East 1/4	24	637.20	15930	Peregrin Falconer	Dec. 13, 1811	329
North West 1/4	"	15930	Joseph Acklin & Abner Sattum	Dec. 7, 1811	1138	
South East 1/4	"	15930	Peregrin Falconer	Apr. 18, 1809	538	
South West 1/4	"	15930	Peregrin Falconer	Apr. 29, 1809	327	

Government Tract Book, recording original land purchasers in Madison County, Alabama

INDEX TO LANDS																
Section 22		Township 4		South of Range 1 West		Madison County, Alabama.										
G. W. JONES & SONS																
BOOK	PAGE	Kind of land	GSA No.	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	DATE of INSTRUMENT	DATE FILED	N E 1/4		N W 1/4		S E 1/4		S W 1/4		
								32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
A	210	D		Couch, John & Nancy	Jackson, Isaac	1815										
B	221	D		Lanford, Robt & son G	E & Church	1821										
K	122	D		Jackson, J	Jones, Albert H & Dallas J	1824										
L	241	D of Tr		Sper, Justin	Reed, Aaron Sr	1827										
M	222	D of Tr Pat		Baker, William et al	Wood, Jones	1829										
N	225	D of Tr Pat		Beadle, Abraham et al	Watkins, Miles & Jr et al	1829										
P	554	D		Lanier, Mary J	Spindon, William	1829										
R	220	D		Sillett, Richard & W	McDaniel, Archibald	1829										
S	173	D		Baker, W & John et al	Watkins, William	1846										
T	405	D		Watkins, W & Margaret A	Davis, George W	1854										
U	699	D		Sannett, J & Deed by Hag	McDonnell, Archib	1856										
V	224	D		Harrison, Robt W	Lanier, Isaac & S & G	1856										
AA	685	D		Davis, Geo W & Mary J	Reising, Richard	1859										
AB	404	D		Davis, George W & Mary J	Tr of Assembly & River	1859										
AC	230	D		Harrison, Robt W	Funrell, John I	1859										
AD	521	D		Jones, Albert H & Rebecca	Jones, Dallas J	1862										
AE	200	D		Amkins, Maria & by Acty	Jones, Dallas W	1867										
AF	566	D		McDonnell, Archib & Mary	Jones, Dallas W	1867										
AG	126	Wig Pat		Frump, Joseph	Jones, Dallas J	1869										
AH	516	D		Jones, D W & Rebecca	Frump, Joseph	1869										
AI	421	Wig Pat		McCloskey, Wm M & Isabella	Hendley, Mary A	1870										
AJ	170	D		Holding, Wm M & et al	McCloskey, Wm M	1870										
AK	875	Wig Pat		Frump, Joseph	McDonnell, Archibald	1873										
AL	92	Wig		McCloskey, Jennie & Isabella	Callery, James & Company	1875										
AM	209	D		McCloskey, Isabella et al	Callery, James	1872										
AN	749	D		Frump, Joseph	Barrie & Lawson	1879										
AO	204	D		Frump, Joseph	Frump, Angers	1880										
AP	432	D		Callery, James & Beas D	McCloskey, Isabella	1881										
AQ	287	D		McDonnell, Henry et al	McDonnell, James W	1882										

The land records reveal that the southwest quarter of S22 was originally owned by John Baker, from 1810. In 1829 William Baker (probably a son of John, who had most likely died) “and others” (other heirs) sold the land to Jones Wood. There is another apparent gap in ownership records (likely in estate probate records) per the INDEX above, because also in 1829 Abraham Beadle (and others) sold land in the SW/4 to Miles **Watkins** and others. However, it is commonly found that the name “Watkins” was often an incorrect interpretation of old handwriting of the name “Matkins”, so this was likely Miles Matkins. Again with a gap in the INDEX ownership trail, there is a William Baker listed as selling land of the SW/4 to William (and Margaret A.) Matkins in 1846. In 1854, the Matkins sold the land to George W. Davis. Mr. Davis sold the land in 1856 to Richard Holding, who died in 1863, during the Civil War, per his grave monument in the Madison City Cemetery.



Holding family markers moved to old section Madison City Cem in 1984



Remains and marker moved from original location at Madison County International Airport to old section Madison City Cemetery in 1984

The 1860 census showed Richard and his family living in Morgan County, at Valhermosa Springs, even though the owned extensive lands and slaves in Madison County.

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in the Eastern District in the County of Madison State of Alabama enumerated by me, on the 20th day of June 1860. H. N. Williams Marshal
 Post Office Wilkesboro

1	2	3	Description			Value of Estate Owned		10	11	12	13	14
			4	5	6	7	8					
Description of the property as the number of children		The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.		Sex	Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Whether deaf and dumb, idiot, insane, blind, pauper, or convict.
28	27		Mr. W. J. Lawrence	55	M							
			J. J. Lewis	41	M	Farmer & Dealer	3500	1500	Prussia			
			M. L. "	31	F				Texas			
			E. G. "	18	F				"			
			Kathie "	8	F				"			
			A. T. "	4	F				"			
			C. G. "	1	F				Ala.			
			Mr. Fortate	17	M				Prussia			
29	28		W. H. Smith	61	M	Farmer	400	425	S. C.			
			Mary "	31	F				Texas			
			J. H. "	16	M				Ala.			
			W. H. Smith	13	F				Ala.			
31	29		W. H. Gray	47	M	Farmer	350	425	Virginia			
			E. "	27	F				Georgia			
			W. H. "	17	F				Ala.			
			E. S. "	11	F				"			
			Phineas "	10	F				"			
			H. R. "	7	M				"			
			M. J. "	6	F				"			
			J. H. "	4	F				"			
			W. H. "	5	M				"			
31	30		J. H. Smith	25	M	Farmer	300	500	Ala.			
			J. H. "	20	F				Texas			
			J. F. "	2	M				Ala.			
			Wm. H. "	16	M				Texas			
33	31		J. H. Grantland	28	M	Farmer	600	450	Ala.			
			M. L. "	25	F				"			
			M. J. "	3	F				"			
			John Rogers	21	M	Farmer			"			
33	32		Lucas Grantland	22	F			100	Virginia			
			Caroline Rogers	16	F				Ala.			
			Annada Grantland	8	F				"			
			Susan Rogers	14	F				Virginia			
34	33		Richard Holding	55	M	Farmer	500	3000	S. C.			
			Martha Sharp	27	F				Ala.			
			Susan Holding	26	F				"			
			William Holding	19	M				"			
35	34		Lucinda Draper	39	F	Farmer	1000	2250	Ala.			
			Wm. G. Draper	20	M	Farmer		1600	"			
			Richard W. Draper	18	M	"		1600	"			

In 1870 Richard's son William Holding (who would have been age 29 in 1870) in turn sold the land to William M. McCloskey, after the conclusion of the Civil War, when the slaves were all freed. Probably a lot of the land owned by old plantation owners had to be sold after the Civil War, when there were no workers available unless they received wages or became sharecroppers. When land couldn't be farmed to be made productive or revenue producing, then it had to be sold before back taxes caused it to be seized and auctioned.

The conclusion of these land transactions is that the Matkin family owned the land where the "Madkin" Cemetery is located for about 8 years, from 1846 to 1854. Of course, if the Miles Watkins was really Miles Matkins, then the family may have owned the land from 1829 to 1854. During the years of the practice of enforced slavery, John Baker owned the land for 19 years, while George Davis owned it for 14 years, of which 9 years were during the time of slavery. Since the Matkin ownership is known to have lasted about 8 years (with the possibility of being 8 plus another 17, if there was a marriage or other probate basis between the Wood, Beadle, Watkins, and/or Baker men to the Matkin women), then it appears that the Matkin name should not be the basis for the name of this cemetery. That concept, of course, assumes that it is indeed a slave cemetery. If so, it may well have slaves that were owned by the Baker or Davis families, more so than the Matkins. The cemetery could also have been used for the slaves used by Richard and William Holding to farm this parcel.

Madison County marriage record indexes were checked to see if a relationship among the families who owned the land could be indicated, as a clue to the likelihood of probate court transitions of ownership. By examining the on-line index provided by the Madison County Records Center, any marriage before the 1870s for surnames of Baker, Beadle, Couch, Davis, Holding, Matkins, Watkins, and/or Wood was noted. (This included variant spellings of the surnames, such as Beedle for Beadle and Holden and Holdin for Holding.) There were only 4 marriages of people with these surnames to anyone with one of the other surnames of the group, which is based upon land ownership records. These were:

- * Milton Davis - Betsy Baker 1819
- * W. H. Davis - M. J. Matkin 1855

- * Darby Beadle - Emma Watkins 1872
- * Andrew Couch - Polly Baker 1819

The last of the above list, for Andrew Couch to Polly Baker in 1819, is likely connected to the John Couch who in 1809 bought the SE/4 of S22-T4-R1W, adjacent to the SW/4 of S22 owned by John Baker in 1810. The Milton Davis marriage to Betsy Baker (possibly a sister of Polly), also in 1819, may well have established a relationship that led to the interest of George W. Davis in purchasing the land around the cemetery in 1854, considering that the same land had just been sold by William Baker to William Matkins in 1846. Likewise, the marriage of W. H. Davis to M. J. Matkin in 1855 could be another connection of the families who owned the land about that time, even if these particular members of the families were not the direct owners. They may well have been descendants or siblings of the owners, with a “vested interest” in the land.

Since nothing conclusive has been found to prove who may be buried in the cemetery, there is no suggestion at this time that the name of the cemetery be changed to another surname. There is already a monument in the cemetery to denote it as the Madkin Cemetery, so unless that is proven to be inappropriate at some later time, it is recommended that the name be left as is.

Prepared by John P. Rankin, September 17, 2005