

# LANIER SLAVE CEMETERY, 46 – 2

## Summary Report



**Lanier Cemetery 46-2, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, Jan. 28, 2003**

**Thought to be a slave cemetery, this burial ground is located just a few yards south of the 46-3 Lanier Cemetery. There are no headstones to be found, but there is ample evidence of many graves from the numerous rectangular depressions in the ground.**

This view is from the northeast corner entrance to the cemetery; Gabbie Ehinger visiting the cemetery with John Rankin.



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The cemetery is large, as seen in the above view from the southwest corner, looking toward the northeast, where the old gate was located. The grassy area has few obvious grave depressions, but the southern portion of the cemetery (covered by leaves), has quite a few rectangular depressions.



**Lanier Cemetery 46-2, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, Jan. 28, 2003**

The above view is from the southwestern corner of the cemetery, looking toward the east, across the leaf-covered southern portion of the burial ground.

Since there are no tombstones, land records provide the best way to check on the likely owners of the assumed slave cemetery. Of course, only records up to the time of the Civil War would shed any light upon the slave owners, but the cemetery could well have continued in use by the emancipated former slaves. Many would probably wish to be buried near their parents and grandparents on the “old place”, even after being freed, assuming that they continued to stay in the area. Since most freed blacks lacked the funds to travel and buy land elsewhere, they did in fact stay and enter into sharecropping agreements with the legal landowners until they could afford to purchase their own properties.

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

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South West ½	5	164.55		Clarissa Boddie, Asse					
½ of NE ¼	6	649.90		Nancy Auld, devisee of Isaack Jackson, Asse			2 Feb 1818	75	
W ½ of NE ¼	"	81.24		State			2 Feb 1818	1518	
½ of NW ¼	"	81.24		*River Impts Isaac Jackson			23 May 1828		*Memo
				State			23 Jul 1830		Vol 1, p 40
				*River Impts John Brahan			23 May 1828		
				Same-overwritten Polly Thompson			5 Jun 1830		
				Vol. 3, p 265			29 Sep 1837		
W ½ of NW ¼	"	81.24		State					*Memo
				*River Impts John Brahan			23 May 1828		
				Same-overwritten Polly Thompson			5 Jun 1830		
				Vol 3, p 265			29 Sep 1837		
NE ¼ of SE ¼	"	40.62		Name Unknown			Unknown		*Memo
NW ¼ of SE ¼	"	40.62		Burwell Lanier			2 Feb 1818	154	
SE ¼ of SE ¼	"	40.62		Name Unknown			Unknown		
SW ¼ of SE ¼	"	40.62		Burwell Lanier			2 Feb 1818	154	
				Name Unknown			Unknown		
½ of SW ¼	"	81.24		Burwell Lanier			2 Feb 1818	154	
W ½ of SW ¼	"	81.24		Nancy Auld, devisee of Isaac Jackson, Asse			2 Feb 1818	1519	
Page 51	7	647.24		Edmund Agret			24 Sep 1833	6424	
NE ¼ of NE ¼	"	40.45 ½		Name Unknown			Unknown	Unknown	
				*Following Patent issued on 11-11-42 for NE ¼: Patent No. 1115260 based on GLO 09004 in the name of Philip Hurdick". See Letter Secretary of State dated 12-11-42.					
NW ¼ of NE ¼	"	40.45 ½		Name Unknown			Unknown	Unknown	
SE ¼ of NE ¼	"	40.45 ½		Name Unknown			Unknown	Unknown	
SW ¼ of NE ¼	"	40.45 ½		Name Unknown			Unknown	Unknown	
				ALL NE ¼ to Philip Hurdick			30 Jun 1831	1235	
				*Patent No. 1115260 by US Gov't to Philip Hurdick 11 Nov 1942.					
½ of NW ¼	"	80.90 ½		William D. Lanier			25 Jul 1831	4096	
W ½ of NW ¼	"	80.90 ½		Mary Lanier			6 Feb 1832	4762	
South East ¼	"	161.81		William Weeden, Asse			3 Feb 1832	4753	
South West ¼	"	161.81		Isaac Alexander Lanier, Wm. Henry Lanier & Burwell Clinton Lanier			22 Oct 1850	14920	
NE ¼ of NE ¼	8	627.80		B. C. Lanier			21 Jun 1926	011857	
NW ¼ of NE ¼	"	39.23 ¾		B. C. Lanier			" " "	"	
SE ¼ of NE ¼	"	39.23 ¾		B. C. Lanier			" " "	"	
SW ¼ of NE ¼	"	39.23 ¾		B. C. Lanier			" " "	"	
				ALL NE ¼ to Barnwell C. Lanier 30 Jun 1851					
				*Also to B. C. Lanier 21 Jun 1926 011857					
South West ¼	"	156.95		Clement G. Lanier, Asse			2 Feb 1818	569	
NE ¼ of SE ¼	"	39.23 ¾		Isham J. Fennell			20 Dec 1848	14098	
SE ¼ of SE ¼	"	39.23 ¾		James S. Cartwright			2 Jan 1847	13280	
W ½ of SE ¼	"	78.47 ½		Isham J. Fennell			11 Dec 1848	14084	

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 of Conveyance	WHERE RECORDED		MEMORANDUM
					VOL.	PAGE	

The OLD LAND RECORDS book (above) shows that Nancy Auld was the first purchaser of the land containing the cemetery (East Half of SW/4, S6-T5-R1W), as “devisee” of Isaac Jackson, in 1818.

Section 6		Township 5		South of Range 1 West		Madison County, Alabama	
BOOK	PAGE	DATE	BY WHOM	TO WHOM	DATE OF SETTLEMENT	SECTION	QUARTER
E	847	D	Daloney, Ed D & Margaret	Vincent, Alexander J	1825		
L	29	D of Trs et	Boyster, David	Leake, John M Jr	1827		
K	461	D	Vincent, Alexander J	Boyster, David	1827		
O	665	D	Auld, Ann	Auld, Michael	1834		
F	596	D	Auld, Ann	Lanier, Wm H et al	1836		
V	182	D	Moore, David & Martha L	Harrison, Benjamin	1845		
W	272	D	Lanier, Wm H by Adm	Fennell, John J	1847		
L	12	D	Bransford, A & Elizabeth	Lanier, Alexander et al	1848		
W	437	D	Ayers, Adam by Adm	Bransford, Abram	1857		
OO	160	D	Harrison, Robert	Lanier, Isaac et al	1859		
FF	585	D	Lanier, Isaac A et al	Lanier, William H	1867		
FF	576	D	Lanier, William H	McDonnell, Archibald Jr	1867		
FF	572	D	Lanier, Isaac A	Landrum, Alexander Jr	1867		
FF	566	D	Lanier, William H	Lanier, Isaac A et al	1867		
FF	577	D	Lanier, Burwell C	Landrum, Alexander Jr	1867		
JJ	385	Agmt	Lanier, Isaac (Sept) by Reg	Wilson, Robert H & Assoc	1868		
JJ	302	Agmt	Lanier, Burwell C (Sept)	Wilson, Robert H & Assoc	1868		
JJ	382	Agmt	Lanier, Wm H (Sept) by Reg	Wilson, Robert H & Assoc	1868		
D	390	Mtg	Lanier, W H & Co D	Darwin & Jolley	1879		
OOE	308	D	Lanier, W H by Reg et al	Moore, Samuel B	1882		
TV	27	Mtg	Moore, Samuel B	Richardson, William	1884		
54	76	Mtg	Lanier, Wm H & Marianna	American Freehold L Mtg Co	1886		
54	178	Mtg	Lanier, Wm H & Marian B	Bloss, J H	1886		
221	582	D	Lanier, Wm H by Wm et al	Wheeler, W B	1888		
75	221	D	Wheeler, W B et al D	Graham, Benjamin	1894		
76	49	D	Landrum, Alex Jr	Lanier, Laura J	1896		
505	306	Mtg	Lanier, Laura J A	McBain, Carrie & Kate	1896		
82	260	D	Lanier, Laura J	Madison County of	1898		
94	440	D	Graham, Benjamin	American Freehold L Mtg Co	1899		
94	390	D	American Land Mtg Company	Borton, Tansy	1899		
94	328	D	American Freehold Land Mtg	Love, Celia	1899		
82	573	Mtg	Love, Celia & Adolphus	Wade, Corie J	1899		
82	576	Mtg	Borton, Tansy & Adolphus	Wade, Corie J	1899		
82	580	Mtg	Moore, Samuel B	Priswell, Mary J	1899		

The INDEX TO LANDS shows that Ann Auld in 1836 sold land in the Southwest Quarter of Section 6, Township 5, Range 1 West, to William H. Lanier, et al. The “et al.” portion of that transaction would be for William’s brothers Isaac Alexander and Burwell Clinton Lanier. These three brothers bought many parcels of land that became arsenal property, and they always bought it together, as a family partnership. Their life stories and

photographs of their many land transaction deeds are included in the Summary Report of the Lanier 46-1 Cemetery, along with the accompanying CD-ROM delivered to the Army offices for this effort.

Ann Auld, who sold the land to William H. Lanier, must have been an heir of Nancy Auld, who first obtained the land from the government after the 1816 Chickasaw Indian Cession. The land of that cession was systematically surveyed for two years before being offered for sale by the government to the squatters who had for the most part already been living on or farming the land for several years – usually from the time of 1806 – 7, as part of the area called the “Sims Settlement” of white encroachers on Indian lands. February 2 of 1818 was its first legal date of sale.

The Lanier brothers generally held the title to the land until after the Civil War, with some part of it being sold in 1856 due to a bankruptcy declaration. However, the majority of the Lanier brothers’ lands were retained until they began selling most of it in 1867, after the war. The 1860 census (last one with slaves, before the war) Slave Schedules showed that there were 89 slaves owned by the Lanier brothers. Only 8 of the slaves were attributed to William Lanier in 1860, while another 14 showed ownership by his brother Burwell Clinton Lanier. Isaac Alexander Lanier owned the remaining 67 slaves. It may be that many of them and their ancestors from an earlier generation are buried in this cemetery. As stated before, it may well be that some of their children also returned to this cemetery for their final resting place. Since there are no tombstones, their names are lost in antiquity, unless subsequent land and probate record investigations may reveal some of the names of the slaves and former slaves. At this time, they remain a mystery, lying in a highly protected and undisturbed area of the old Lanier plantation.

Prepared by John P. Rankin, August 28, 2005