

Dickson plantation owner in the early 1800s on what is now the southern portion of Redstone Arsenal, living very near the Lanier holdings in that area. I suspect that there is a relationship, but I have not yet researched it. There are cemeteries on the arsenal for the various Lanier families, including one with tombstones for Isaac and Burwell C. Lanier (two generations of them) per Dot Johnson's book of 1971 about the cemeteries of Madison County. The stones are reported to no longer be there per arsenal records, but I intend to visit the site soon and try to locate any remaining stones. It is reported to be a very bad area of overgrowth, etc., so it may take me a while to get there. When I do reach it, if there are any tombstones to photograph, I will share what I find with you, since it is in the ancestry of your husband and children.

Isaac, the father of Burwell C. Lanier, was in turn a son of a Burwell Lanier whose wife has not yet been identified in the material I have found, but further research may turn it up. This senior Burwell was a son of Sampson Lanier and Elizabeth Chamberlain Lanier of Virginia. The senior Burwell was thought to have been born about 1740. His children included Isaac, Sampson, Clement, William, and Thomas, plus about 6 more. William, Thomas, and Isaac are known to have come to Madison County, AL eventually. Of course, Sampson (the father of the senior Burwell) was the son of the Thomas Lanier who married Elizabeth Washington.

This material came from the family files at the Heritage Room of the Huntsville - Madison County Public Library. I also have digitally photocopied various deeds and probate records of the Lanier family in Madison County, including some for Burwell C. Lanier. I have attached two examples. I'll be happy to share what I have with you if you want more details....

John Rankin

The Lanier families found in the pre-arsenal areas of Madison County in or around Huntsville between 1809 and 1820 were headed by brothers Thomas, Isaac, and William Lanier -- sons of Burwell Lanier. Isaac was reported to have moved to Madison County in 1819 and died here in 1827, whereas William is known to have arrived in the county in 1809. William was not included in the January 1809 Madison County census, but he purchased government land here in August of 1809. Thomas bought government land near William in 1818, as did a daughter of Isaac, Clarissa Lanier Boddie. William was a patriot of the American Revolution and the first Lanier to have recorded a land purchase in the area, per Madison County Deed Book N, page 508.