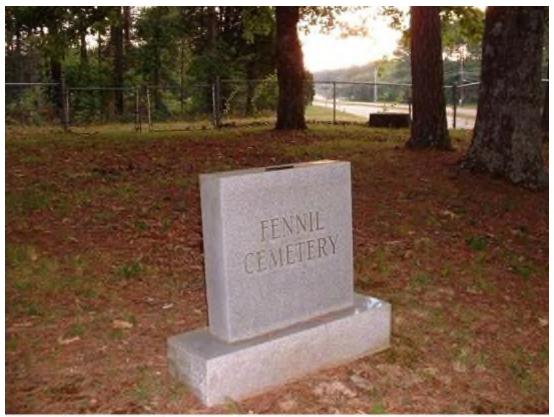
FENNIL / FENNELL CEMETERY

$\underline{56-1}$

Summary Report



Fennil Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co., AL, June, 2002.

This cemetery is located in the Southeast Quarter of Section 32, Township 4 South, Range 1 West. It forms the southwest corner of the intersection of Mills Road with Martin Road on the arsenal today. The name on the cemetery marker is incorrectly spelled, as the true spelling of the name

comes from the famous <u>Fennell</u> family, owners of large plantations who came to Madison County from Virginia by way of North Carolina. The history of the Fennell family is closely linked to that of the Jordan family, also of Virginia, North Carolina, and early Madison County. Bartholomew Jordan was the namesake for Jordan's Chapel, an early Methodist Episcopal Church on arsenal lands. It is believed that Jordan's Chapel was either the 2nd or 3rd Methodist Church in Alabama. The chapel was first established around 1820 on the lands of Robert Langford, near where the Matkin Cemetery (37-3) is located today. After a couple of years, it moved to land donated by Bartholomew Jordan near the northern edge of arsenal lands. To understand the history of the Fennell family, the history of the Jordan family of early Madison County must also be studied. (The reader is referred to the file / report on Jordan's Chapel.) The history of these families was linked before they came to Madison County, as shown in the North Carolina church deed below:

Jordan Data found on Ancestry.com Family Message Boards, 11-2-02:

Submitter: jim dunning

Subject: Concord Church Deed

Managara I I alla Namonatta M/lalla ma

Message: Hello Nannette, While researching my Isham Fennell family in Greensville Co., Va and Northampton Co., NC, I came across the deed for the Concord Methodist Episcopal Church. The Concord Church and Cemetery is located along the Northampton county road which parallels the NC-VA state line. Concord Church is the oldest active church in the county. It served many families in the area of Greensville and Northampton. The Long Family now living in Greensville Co on land originally patented to John Fennell in 1760 are current members of the church. I am sure that you will see some familiar names in the deed.

Deed for the Concord Methodist Episcopalian Church

of Northampton County, North Carolina

SMITH to JORDAN & OTHERS -This indenture made this 6th day of November in the year of our Lord 1794 between Joel Smith of Northampton County in the state of North Carolina of the one part and Jesse Jordan, John Luke, Charles Harrison, Robert Finner, Batt Jordan, ISHAM FENNELL, and Thomas Dupree, part in the said County, part in Greensville in Virginia of the other part witnesseth that in consideration of Five shillings current money of North Carolina by the said Jesse Jordan, John Luke, Charles Harrison, Robert Finner, Batt Jordan, ISHAM FENNELL and Thomas Dupree to the said Joel Smith truly paid be-fore the sealing and delivering hereof the receipt whereof the said

Joel Smith doth hereby acknowledge and for divers other causes and considerations him thereunto moving the said Joel Smith hath granted bargained and sold and by those present doth bargain and sell unto the said Jesse Jordan, John Luke, Charles Harrison, Robert Finner, Batt Jordan, Isham Fennell and Thomas Dupree, their heirs and assigns forever, all that lot or parcell of ground whereon the church erected for publick worship now stands in the County and state aforesaid. Be-ginning at a corner white oak on James Walter Clark's line, thence west to a corner red oak, thence north to a corner Spanish oak, thence east to a corner pine on the said Clark line, thence on the said line to the beginning, containing one acre of land more or less together with all the ways and priviledges to the said premisis apportaining and all the profits thereof with all the right title in trust in Law & Equity to have and to hold the said lot or parcell of ground to the said Jesse Jordan, John Luke, Charles Harrison, Robert Finner, Batt Jordan, Isham Fennell and Thomas Dupree, their heirs and assigns for-ever, nevertheless upon special trust and confidence and to the in-tent that they and the survivors of them and the trustees for the time being do and shall permit Francis Asbury Bishop of the Methodist Epis-copal Church in America and such other persons as he shall from time appoint and at all times while he retains the office of a Bishop in the said Methodist Episcopal Church and no other person to have and enjoy the free use and benefit of the said Premisis the said Francis Asbury and such other persons as he shall appoint may therein preach and espound the Holy Scriptures and after his decease or when he shall cease to exercise the office of Bishop in the said Methodist Episcopal Church upon further trust and confidence and to the intent that the said Jesse Jordan, John Luke, Charles Harrison, Robert Finner, Batt Jordan, ISHAM FENNELL, and Thomas Dupree or the major part of their trustees or of the trustees for the time being shall from time to time and at all times forever permit such persons as shall be appointed at the yearly conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and no others to have and to enjoy the said for the purposes aforesaid and upon further trust and confidence that as often as one of the trustees for the time being shall cease to be members of the said Methodist Episcopal Church or shall remove to so great a distance as to be unable to discharge the duties of a trustee the rest of the said trustees or the trustees for the time being as soon as conveniently may be shall and may choose another trustee or trustees in order to keep up the number ofseven trustees forever. In witness whereof the said Joel Smith hath hereunto set his hand and seal day and year aforesaid. Signed, sealed & delivered in the presents of

William Finner
John Perry Northampton County, Sept1795

This deed was proven by

The oath of John Perry.

Ordered to be registered.

Witness E. Haynes, C.C.

(signed) Joel Smith

James Dancy-Reg. 10 Dec 1795

Book 10, page 172-173 Northampton Deeds Jackson, N.C.

Regards from Jim Dunning

Isham J. Fennell was one of the pioneer landowners of arsenal areas. He married Temperance Jordan, a daughter of Bartholomew Jordan. The land transactions of the Fennell family and the Jordan family are very much interwoven in Madison County history. The Fennell family's wealth is indicated by the monument of the senior Isham Fennell's son (Isham Jordan Fennell), who is buried in Huntsville's Maple Hill Cemetery, as shown below.



Maple Hill Cemetery (Huntsville, AL), September 7, 2004

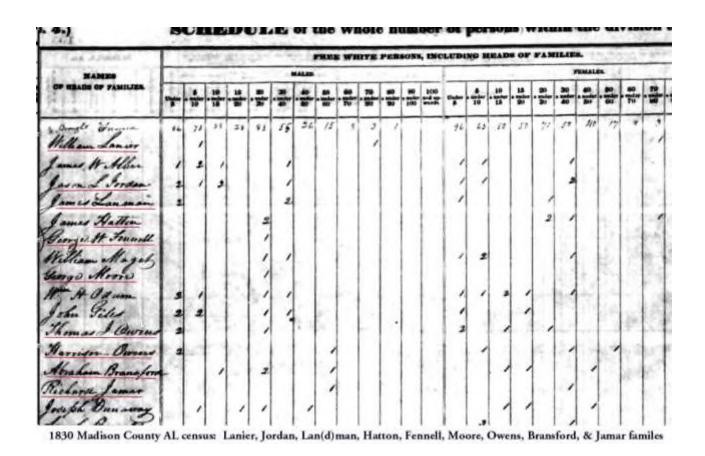


Maple Hill Cemetery (Huntsville, AL), September 7, 2001

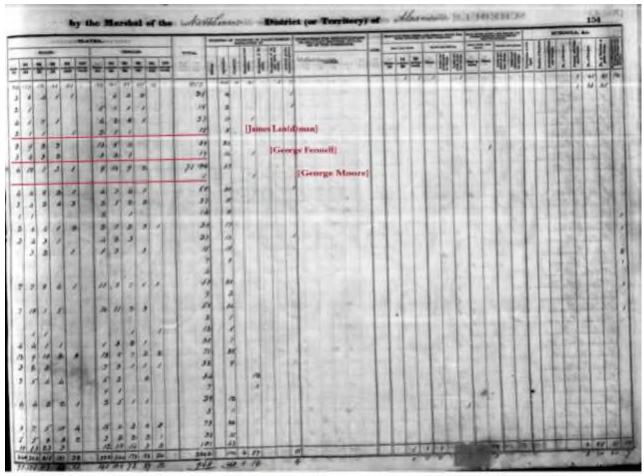


Maple Hill Cemetery (Huntsville, AL), September 7, 2004

The 1830 Madison County census page shown below lists George W. Fennell among the known plantation owners of early arsenal lands.



The slave count for George W. Fennell in the 1830 census is given below:



1830 Madison County AL census Slaves of Lan(d)man, Fennell, Moore

The 1840 census records for James W. Fennell (who lived near Hughy Smith, a known pioneer of arsenal lands) shows that another of the Fennell family operated a plantation in the area.

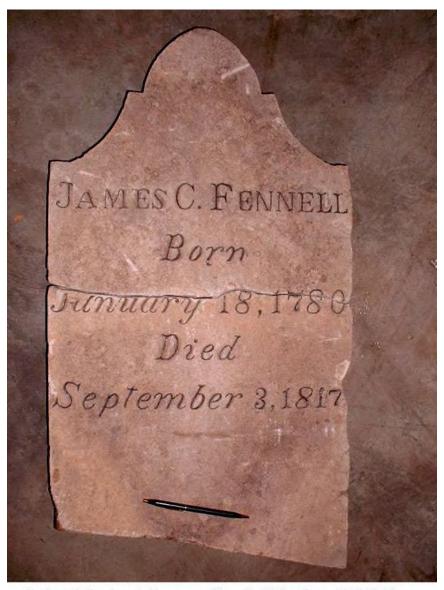
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1840 Madison County AL Federal Census, page 163 excerpt

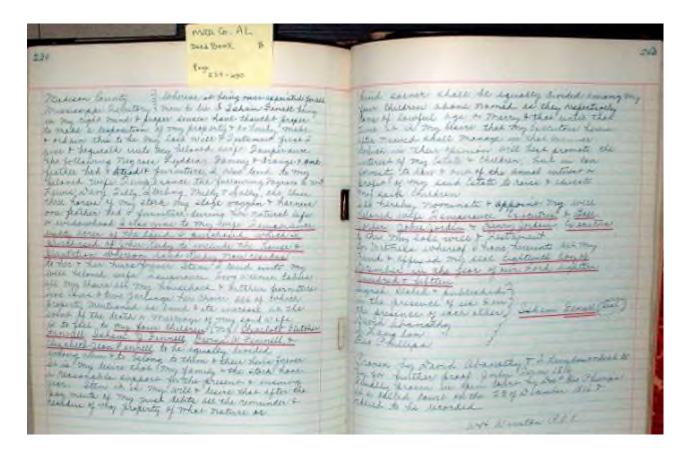
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1840 Federal Census, Madison County, Alabama, page 163, Slaves and Summary Sheet.

The tombstone of an older James C. Fennell is one of the earliest known in the county. He was buried at the foot of the east face of Green Mountain, in what is today the Camelot housing development. His grave was moved in the 1968-9 time of that development to the Hobbs Cemetery, about a mile to the south of its original location. At that time, his tombstone was also moved, but after it was knocked over several times by vandals, it was kept by a descendant for several years. The tombstone was offered for archives storage of the Huntsville Public Library some time ago. It may someday be emplaced at the Hobbs Cemetery, at his new gravesite, since the vandalism there seems to have subsided.



Tombstone in Courthouse Archives storage at Huntsville - Madison County (AL) Public Library. [Thought to be the earliest death date inscribed on any tombstone in Madison County.]



The 1815 will (above) of the senior Isham J. Fennell names George W. and Isham Jordan Fennell (Jr.) as being among his children. He also names several slaves who were bequeathed to his wife Temperance Jordan Fennell, and he appointed "Batt" (Bartholomew) Jordan and his sons John and Henry Jordan as Executors, along with Temperance. The will as shown above is of course a transcription – a handwritten copy entered into Madison County Deed Book B, which was itself copied during the 1930s or 1940s. The actual original will is in the Probate Packet in the courthouse archives repository, but this transcription is easier to read today.

The 1846 estate papers from the death of Temperance J. Fennell list her slaves and their valuation at that time for division among the heirs:

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FENNELL estate sale of slaves, with names, Madison County, AL, Probate Record Book 11, page 502.

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FENNELL estate sale of slaves, with names, Madison County, AL, Probate Record Book 11, page 503.

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FENNELL estate sale of slaves, with names, Madison County, AL, Probate Record Book 11, page 503.

The last page (above) of the record of the slaves of Temperance Fennell in her estate includes the Final Settlement of the estate of a close neighbor, Ann Lanier. (See the Lanier Cemetery reports, especially the Jordan – Lanier Cemetery, 51-1, Summary Report for more details on the Laniers.) Ann Lanier had a daughter who married a son of Bartholomew Jordan. That son would, of course, have been a nephew of Temperance Jordan Fennell.

While Temperance and other early Fennell plantation owners lived on the land that became Redstone Arsenal, it is not believed that they were buried in the cemetery at Mills Road and Martin Road. They are almost certainly buried in the little cemetery that served Jordan's Chapel, which is located today on the east side of the grounds of Morris Elementary School. The cemetery site is at the property line separating Morris Elementary from the Huntsville Botanical Gardens, on the south side of Bob Wallace Avenue. No inscribed markers remain there today. (A complete account of the basis for defining this location for the Jordan's Chapel Cemetery is to be found in that cemetery report. Since the location is no longer within the bounds of Redstone Arsenal, it has no location numeric code to relate to arsenal areas. However, it is included in the Summary Reports delivered to the Army offices, since the people buried there held land that became large portions of Redstone Arsenal, even for its present boundaries.

The cemetery at Mills Road and Martin Road is generally believed to have been used exclusively by black families through the years. However, a check of the old land records for its location (SE/4, S32-T4-R1W) shows the pioneer ownership of the parcel. Any of its owners could have begun the cemetery as such by burying family members there, and then when black families came into possession of the land, they naturally continued to use the cemetery for interments.

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The above page image shows John Brahan as the original owner of the land of the SE/4, S32-T4-R1W, as of 2 Feb. 1818. It also shows that Thomas and William Brandon got the SW/4 of the same section.

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This record shows that Thomas Brandon (possibly an heir of John Brahan, since there is no record of John Brahan selling his land to a Brandon) and others sold land in the SW/4 (perhaps an incomplete recording summary – it may have also included the SE/4) to John Mills in 1834. John Mills then sold land to include the SE/4 in 1843 to Isham J. Fennell. Thus, the Fennell family came to own the land where the cemetery is located. By 1843, the Jordans and the Fennells had already buried several of their patriarchs in the Jordan's Chapel Cemetery, but they may have used this property for slave burials. Still, it is not totally out of the realm of possibility that even Temperance herself could be buried here, rather than beside her husband and her father at Jordan's Chapel Cemetery. There are no known records to state where she was buried. One would almost expect a large monument to remain at her gravesite, but there are none known for her today.

As for the burials evidenced by tombstones in the cemetery at the junction of Martin Road with Mills Road, they include only Corporal Joseph Beasley, Mary Lightford, and Silla Moore. These are names found on the only inscribed tombstones in the cemetery today.



Fennil Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co., AL, June, 2002.

There was only one possible match found for "Silla" Moore in Madison County marriage records per the on-line index of the Madison County Records Center web pages. Joe Moore took out a license to marry "Scilla" Pope (both noted as "Colored") on 16 February 1901, per Marriage Book Volume 26, page 401. With that information, Joe and "Cilla" Moore were found in the 1920 census as shown below:

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The 1920 census recorded both Joe and Cilla as age 46. Cilla should have been shown as age 36, but often specific data (especially for the non-white families) was somewhat haphazardly documented. In any event, there is no doubt that this is the correct family listing for the person buried in the Fennil / Fennell Cemetery. More information was gained by going back through the census years. The 1910 census shows the same family with different details:

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This census page shows Joseph and Priscilla Moore, with children in the household. Joseph is listed as a Mulatto at age 31, in his second marriage for 7 years. Priscilla was listed as Black, age 28, in her first marriage for 7 years, with one child born but not alive at the time of the 1920 census. The 7 years duration of the marriage indicates a marriage date in 1903, rather than the 1901 date of the marriage license listed on the Madison County Records Center web page for them. The children in the household were born to Joseph's first wife, as none of them could be Cilla's.

The 1900 census gives detail that identified Silla's mother as Leanna Pope:

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This census page for "West Park Precinct 1" has several neighbors of the family that are recognizable with common surnames found on arsenal-area lands at the time. Among them are Jacobs, Jordan, and Beadle. The listing for Silla Pope shows her in a household headed by John Kibble. John is not Silla's father, but he is her stepfather. John's wife Leanna is Silla's mother. She was shown as age 39, born in December of 1860 in Alabama of parents

who were both born in Alabama. John was born 10 years earlier than Leanna, in March of 1851. Silla was shown as born in August of 1885, while her sister Ollie was given as age 14 and her brother Bryan was listed as age 12. All three children were born to Leanna and fathered by her first husband, not John Kibble. Leanna and John were shown as married for only 3 years in 1900, but since Leanna was listed as giving birth to 7 children (of whom 7 were still living in 1900), she had apparently not borne any children for John Kibble yet. This is the case because Bryan Pope was age 12, so any children born to John Kibble would have had to be younger than Bryan. As such, they would have to be living at home, and there were none younger in the household than Bryan Pope.

Since there are no 1890 census records available for Madison County, the next oldest census for these people was the 1880 listing. Obviously, Silla Pope would not be found, since she wasn't born before 1884, according to her tombstone. However, Leanna should have been listed with perhaps one or more of her children who were older than Silla. The only possibility found for her under the Pope names was as shown below:

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In 1880 the census showed Leeana Pope as head of her own household (husband deceased, divorced, otherwise away from home, or never married in the first place?) at age 21. This census shows that Leeana was born in Mississippi of parents both born in Mississippi. There is only one child in the household in 1880, Laura Ann, age 2, born in Alabama, with her father given as born also in Alabama. No marriage record was found for a Leeana or Leanna of any surname to any groom surnamed Pope in the 1800s per the index posted on-line by the Madison County Records Center. However, it was interesting to note that in 1873 there was a Burwell Pope who married a Frances Kibble, both indicated as "Colored". There may be some connection to the John Kibble and Leana Pope marriage of 1897, but the exact nature of any such connection is not yet known.

Similar research was done with respect to the tombstone for Mary Lightford:



Fennil Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co., AL, June, 2002.

Madison County marriage records don't contain any data that conclusively points to the person named Mary Lightford buried in this cemetery. However, there are several possibilities for connections. For example, there is a record in Marriage Book Volume 5, page 391, that has the 13 Sept. 1867 license of Bartley Lightfoot to marry Mary E. Sisley, both of whom are noted as "colored". Likewise, there is another entry in the index for a Milton Lightfoot licensed (7 March 1883) to marry Mary L. Bradford in Volume 12, page 546. Again, both are noted as "colored", and both Lightfoot and Bradford are surnames known to have resided on lands that became arsenal property. (The Mary B. Lightfoot of the 1910 land sale shown below is probably this one, who would have been a widow to be "unmarried" at the time.) Either of these marriages could have produced a daughter named Mary who could be born in 1883. Of course, this avenue of conjecture assumes that "Lightford" was actually "Lightfoot", which was a common name in the area at the time.

388 MAD. Co. AL David Book 102 The State of Alabana, Madison County. Page 383 Mary B. Lightfoot, Chas.L. Toney.

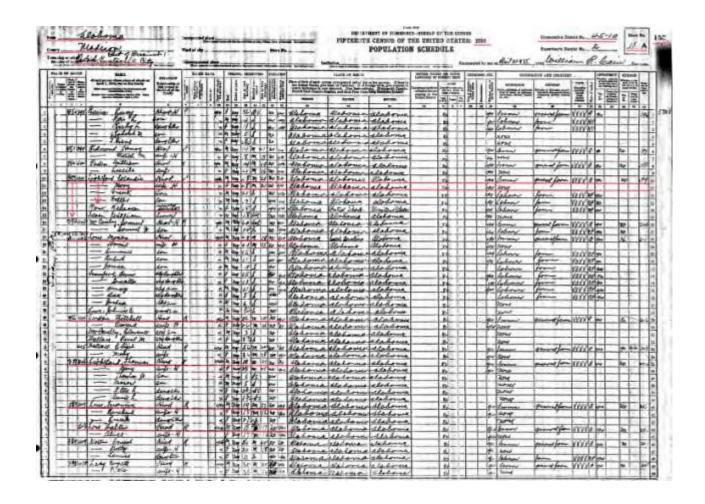
Know all sen by these presents, that for and in consideration of the sum of Five hundred dollars, cash in hard paid by Charles L. Toney the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged; and other good and valuable considerations to the undersigned moving, the receipt of which is also acknowledged, the undersigned Mary B. Lightfoot, an unmarried mosan, doth hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Charles L. Toney the following described real estate, lying and being in the county of Medison and State of Alabama, to-wit; Practional parts of sections, three, four and ten, township five, range two west and more particularly described as follows, to-wit; beginning at a stone at the center of said section four, thence with quarter section line south one half degree east forty and fifty two hundred the chains to the quarter section corner; thence with section line north 89 degrees 20° east if ty five and eighty two hundred the chains to a stake on the south toundary of said section three, thence south thirty four degrees sast twenty six and eighty hundredths chains to a stake in the center of Trians Pike, thence with same north twenty degrees east 39 links to a stake; thence north thirty four degrees west twenty six and twenty five hundredths chains to a stake on the section line; thence north twenty three links; thence parallel with section line south eighty nine degrees twenty minutes west nineteen and forty saven hundredths chains to a stake; thence north one quarter of a degree east forty and twenty seven hundredths chains to a stake on the quarter section line; thence with same south eighty nine and one half degrees west thirty seven and fifteen hundredths chains to the beginning, and containing 150.24 acres, more or less. To have and to hold, the above described real estate with all the rights, tenements and appurtanences thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining unto him, the said the said Mary B. Lightfoot, for herslef, ter heirs, administrators and executors does hereby and in consideration of the premises, warrant and will forever dafend the title to the above described and hereby granted premises unto the said Charles L. Tornes, his heirs and assigns from and against herelef, and all and every person or persons claiming or holding under her, the said Mary B.Lightfoot, and also against the title, claim or desand of all persons whomseever covenanting that she is selzed in fee thereof and that the same are free from incumbrance. In witness whereof, the said Mary B. Lightfoot, an unmarried woman, hereunto subscribes her nume and affixes her soal on this the 21st day of December, A.D. 1910. Mary B.1.1ghtfoot, (Seal) The State of Alabama, Madison County. I Hardingins, a Notary Public in and for said County and state hereby certify that Mary B.Lightfoot, an unmarried woman, whose name is signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who is known to se, acknowledged before me on this day, that being informed of the contents of the conveyance, she executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date. Given under my hand this the 21, day of Imcomber, A.D.1910. H.R. Wiggins, Notary Public. (80al) The foregoing deed was filed in the office of the Judge of Probate of Madison County, Alabama, Feb. 16, 1911, at 4 P.M. and duly recorded Feb.17, 1911. W.T.I.nwlor, J of P.

[Could this be "Mary Lightford" who is buried in the Fennil Cemetery on Redstone Arsenal?]

Below is one of two possible matches for Mary Lightford in the census records of 1930:

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Both this page (15-B of Enumeration District 45-10) and the next match (shown below, page 18-A of the same E. D.) list families along "Triana Pike" as it passed through land that became arsenal property. The surnames of the neighbors of the Lightford families found on these two pages include Jacobs, Moore, Love, Langford, Jordan, Lacy, and Mastin – all recognizable as those who lived on pre-arsenal lands. The age of the two Mary Lightfords is within a year of one another – ages 47 and 48. One Mary was the wife of James Lightford, and the other was the wife of Claudie Lightford. As of this writing, there is no known way to ascertain which is the one represented by the tombstone in the Fennil / Fennell Cemetery.



The search for data about Corporal Joseph Beasley proved more fruitful, as shown below in the caption of the photo of his tombstone:



Fennil Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co., AL, June, 2002.

In his personal input to the book "SLAVE GENEALOGY" by Thomas Henry Kenny, James Beasley stated on Nov. 13, 1869 that he was 26 years old. He further stated that he had served in the recent war in Company C, 12th regiment of the U.S. Colored Infantry. In 1869 he was a farmer on Matt Strong's plantation.

James Beasley further stated that his father was Bill Beasley, his mother was Maria Beasley, and his wife was Emmaline Beasley. He mentioned no children, but he said that he had a brother Elick Beasley (there was a "Nick" Beasley who served also in the USCI) and four sisters.

The sisters were named Mary Ann, Emma, Lucinda, and Becky.

The 1880 AL census has James Beasley (white), age 63, born in Virginia, as head of a household in Enumeration District 200, page 53A. His wife was Harriet (55 AL), and they had 3 daughters and 2 sons in the household. The household also included Mulattos Lizzie Mastin (married, 60, AL), Francis Mastin (single, 12, AL), and WILLIAM BEASLEY (married, 60, VA).

The 1880 AL census of Lauderdale County has the only Maria Beasley listed as head of household. [She was not found in a scan of the Madison County census records of 1880.] The Maria in Lauderdale Co. AL was shown as age 57, b. VA. She was listed with 3 sons: Edward (18, b. VA), Moses (16, b. AL), and William (14, AL).

While Maria of Lauderdale Co. was the right age and name to be the mother of Corporal Joseph Beasley, she was listed as a WIDOW, whereas it appears that Joseph's father William ("Bill") was still living in Madison Co. in the household of James Beasley, the plantation owner. Furthermore, Maria's sons gave conflicting information about their parents. Edward's parents were listed as father born in VA and mother born in VA, agreeing with data for Maria. However, Moses' father was listed as born in VA and mother in AL, and William's father was listed as born in AL and mother in AL. All of these children were born late enough to not yet be born when Joseph listed his brothers in 1869 in the book "SLAVE GENEALOGY".

Probate Records of Madison County, Alabama, show that Joseph Beasley died February 15, 1918. His brother Thomas became Administrator of the small estate.

The data to support the statements in the caption above is contained in the files on the CD-ROMs delivered to the Army offices. The CDs in fact contain much more information than the above caption reveals, but the salient points of what is known of Corporal Beasley's life are in the caption. The confusion between the names "James" and "Joseph" (or even "Josiah") is not uncommon in older records, probably due to the practice of abbreviating the name(s) as "Jos." and "Jas.", when the writing of the "o" versus the "a" was difficult to differentiate.

Beverly Curry sent notes of her interviews with living former residents of pre-arsenal lands regarding the Fennil / Fennell Cemetery:

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cemetery notes may interest you
Emma Horton March 9, 2001
Born: June 24, 1920=20
Husband: Ovoy Horton
Her cousin is Charles Burns
Buried in Fennel Cemetery:
Her brother (Walter Lee Lankford)
Her grandmother: Emma Slaughter
Her aunt: Maggie Simpson
Emma and Ovoy lived on Francis Horton's place: Map D-185
Moved off arsenal from there.
Got married and lived there, "across the yard from her big L house"
Fa: Ernest Lankford
April 8, 1902 - Sept 14, 1956
Dickson Lot: Mullen Flat
A creek ran through called Horton's Ford
Rented land from : Darphus Love
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Famo: Emma Simpson

Married name: Slaughter

Died Nov. 1926 Fennel cemetery

She was in her late 1940's

Her father had his own stock. He rented the land. Ernest Lankford worked 3rd and 4th,, which meant he got 3 out of 4. He had his own horses and tools. He had a crop with Anderson.

Dixon Lot. Near Horton Ford was the last place Emma lived where her dad farmed. Not too far from where Felix Lanier lived.

Emma's mother, Magnolia Baker Lankford was born Aug 23, 1902.

Emma's MoMo: Agnes McVay

Died in the 1960's. About 98 or 99.

Provided husband's genealogy

March 9, 2001
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Even without Beverly Curry's notes, it is obvious that there are many more burials in the cemetery. Not only are there numerous grave depressions, but there are some fieldstones and other uninscribed markers to show graves. Some of the photos of those markers are given below:



Fennil Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co., AL, June, 2002.

This photo shows an area bounded by stones to possibly denote a family area for burials. There is a leaning tombstone in the upper background, at center.



Fennil Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co., AL, June, 2002. This uninscribed rectangular concrete tombstone has a brick at its base.



Fennil Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co., AL, June, 2002.

This broken piece of a tombstone contained no inscriptions, but it is located at an obvious gravesite.



Fennil Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co., AL, June, 2002.

This overview from the southwestern portion of the cemetery perimeter looks toward the intersection of Martin Road with Mills Road, which can be seen as the traffic light in the background. Careful inspection of the photo will show the tombstone of Silla Moore in the center of the picture, very near the base of a pine tree.

At this time, nothing else is known of this cemetery.

By John P. Rankin, August 22, 2005