

who purchased items at the estate sale (typically nearby neighbors). Among those purchasers at the sale of the “perishable property” were many known pioneers of arsenal lands, including especially Edward Frost. Genealogical research led to the discovery that Isaac’s widow Martha was a daughter of Edward Frost, who is known to have lived at or very near to the cemetery site. All of this points to a burial of at least Isaac Inman in the Inman Cemetery, since most pioneers were buried on their own land, and there was no listing for Isaac Inman (or any other Inman of this generation) in the old Maple Hill Cemetery records in Huntsville.

### Edward Frost

THE HERITAGE OF MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA (LOC # 98-72637)

Edward Frost, born ca. 1770 in Bedford Co., Va., the son of Rev. John & Francis Frost. He married Amilla Roberts October 3, 1791, in Washington Co., Va. Amilla was the daughter of Cornelius & Mary (Benton) Roberts of Russell Co., Va. Amilla’s father was killed by Indians in 1788, while digging Ginseng roots on Big Black Mountain near the Ky. & Va. Border. Her mother, Mary, later married Rev. John Frost. Mary Benton Roberts was, said to be, a cousin of Thomas Hart Benton, a U.S. Senator and staunch ally of Andrew Jackson.

In 1795 Edward left Washington Co., Va. where his father had been an active force in the Baptist Church, having built the “Frost

Meeting House”, where the “North Fork Baptist” congregation was founded in 1776. Most of the Frost family and several related families moved to Knox Co., Tn., the area they settled in became Anderson Co. in 1801. There Edward’s father and uncles founded a new church, the “Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church”. It was later reorganized as the “Zion Baptist Church” and is still active in the Claxton Community near Clinton the county seat.

Edward left Anderson Co., Tn, in 1808 when he moved his growing family south and settled on Chickasaw land, along Indian Creek, just West of Madison Co., Miss. Terr. His name appears on a 1810 petition to President James Madison in which some 450 signers, all illegally settled on Chickasaw land, are pleading that they not be forcibly removed from said land. In spite of their pleas, Federal troops did remove them on several occasions, burning their cabins and destroying their crops. Edward Frost somehow persevered and continued in the area until it became legal for settlement in 1818.

When Limestone County was formed, the common boundary was redrawn and the area where Edward lived then fell within Madison County. His home was along the present Zierdt Road, approx. one and a half miles South of I-565.

When Edward left Tennessee and came South, several of his relatives and their families made the same move. Most of them were his cousins, the sons and daughters of his uncle, Thomas Frost, Sr. who died in Anderson County, Tennessee in 1807. Strangely, Edward’s siblings either remained in Virginia and Tennessee or migrated North into Kentucky and Illinois. Hannah Frost, who married Edmund Blankenship in 1809, was a cousin. Their marriage record is in Madison Co., AL, Marriage Book 1, page 1. They had a plantation just off Moores Mill Road, near the three forks of Flint River, and are buried there on land that was once part of the plantation.

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Phoebe Frost Standefer, another cousin, married Israel Standefer in Tennessee prior to moving to Madison County. He had a large family from a previous marriage, in addition to the six children born to him and Phoebe. This family settled mainly along Indian Creek, their land holdings eventually spreading West into Limestone County.

Hannah Wilson Frost, the widow of Thomas Frost, Jr., another cousin, bought land in the first land sale in 1809 and settled near Brownsboro, AL. Her brothers Henry and Jesse Wilson settled nearby. Benjamin Frost, one of Hannah’s sons, married Elizabeth Lawler, daughter of Jebu and Elizabeth Lawler who are buried in a plowed field a short distance from the intersection of Moontown Road and Highway 72. The Frost and Wilson families relocated to Shelby Co., AL prior to 1820 where a community known as Wilson’s Hill developed around them and later evolved into the city of Montevallo.

Joseph Frost, yet another of Edward’s cousins, initially settled in Madison County, but by 1819 lived on Cherokee land to the East. After the organization of Jackson Co., AL Joseph and his descendant’s are found in the Bellefonte area for many years. In the 1840’s some of Joseph’s descendants migrated to Texas, where they became involved in cattle ranching and founded the Frost National Bank in San Antonio.

Edward’s sister-in-law, Mourning Roberts Talley, married Capt. Jacob Talley, a plantation owner near Stevenson in Jackson County, Alabama. Their descendants can still be found in Scottsboro and surrounding areas.

In October 1813, Edward Frost enlisted in Capt. Hugh Kerr’s company of Mounted Riflemen, a part of Andrew Jackson’s volunteer army in the Creek Indian War. This company was formed in Madison County while Jackson’s Army was encamped there.

In 1818 Edward files a suit against John Jones and charged him with trespassing by force of arms and killing his dog, described as “being of great price”. The suit sought \$100.00 in damages.

Several of Edward and Amilla’s children married in Madison Co., the first was Frances Frost who married Joseph Dunaway on 28 August 1811. Hannah Frost married Marshall Abraham Smalling on 21 December 1811. In later life, Hannah married Thomas R. Johnson on 24 September 1855 in Morgan Co. Martha Frost married Isaac Inman on 5 August 1817, and another daughter Susanna Frost married Isaac Medlin on 7 September 1822. After Isaac’s death, Susanna married James Brogden on 28 December 1826 in Morgan Co. As a widow, for the second time, she moved to Texas where her Medlin son had become a prominent rancher. She died in Parker Co, Tx. in 1867. Family tradition has it that Camanches killed her and possibly a son, Dow Brogden.

[Story Truncated; continued in 1998 book]

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