

JOHN SIMPSON AND MARGARET DICKSON

Access to Simpson Cemetery is not readily available. It lies within the boundaries of our test area which is secured because of the classified work. Therefore, arrangements would need to be made two weeks in advance of any visit, and an escort would be required while in the area.

Should you have further questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Ralph C. Perrill
Public Affairs Office

There are many interesting articles written about the pioneer families who settled in the area now known as Redstone Arsenal. Of particular interest is Weldon Payne's article for the Huntsville Times entitled, "Many Cemeteries Remain in the Shadow of Missiles" written Sunday, November 8, 1959. The picture in the article shows a Nike-Hercules anti-missile missile passing a gravestone. He writes, "despite the drastic switch of the area from a quiet country place into one of the busiest places in the country, this graveyard and about 59 others on the Arsenal property have not been molested and are, in fact, kept up by the Army". He continues, ". . . On one stone is listed the names of John Simpson, Margaret A. Simpson, Marion E. Simpson and Arthur M. Simpson. John's wife was born Aug. 9, 1816, died Aug. 31, 1874. Did she dream that some of the world's smartest men would someday walk in their backyard--in the years ahead after her country had fought three big wars".

On November 18, 1840, John Simpson married Margaret Ann Dickson near Whitesburg, Alabama. She was the daughter of James Dickson and Keziah Wood.² Margaret was born in the State of Tennessee, probably in Rutherford County where the family was residing before moving into Alabama.³ Margaret's dates of birth, August 9, 1816, and death August 31, 1874,⁴ are both listed on her gravestone which is located in the Simpson family cemetery at Redstone Arsenal.

²Pauline M. Jones and Kathleen P. Jones, "Genealogy of the Harris and Allied Families," (Huntsville, AL: December 1929), p. 31.

³Will of William Dickson, 17 December 1836, Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, Tennessee, Wills 9:407-408. Also, Will of Enoch Dickson, 23 November 1840, Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, Tennessee. Will copied by Naida Dickson without recording source.

⁴Pauline M. Jones and Kathleen P. Jones, "Genealogy of the Harris and Allied Families," p. 31. The following notation was handwritten: "b. Aug. 9, 1815, d. Aug. 31, 1873. No source of information was given.