

# **SMITH SLAVE CEMETERY, 72 – 1**

## **Summary Report**



**Smith Slave Cemetery (72-1), Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Alabama, July 2002.**

**(Gate at SW corner of cemetery)**



**Smith Slave Cemetery (72-1), Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Alabama, July 2002.**

**(View from gate at SE corner into shaded cemetery)**



**Smith Slave Cemetery (72-1), Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Alabama, July 2002.**

**(View over fence into cemetery from SE corner at gate)**

This shaded, quiet cemetery immediately appears as very old when visited in person. It is a couple of hundred yards north of the Smith Cemetery (72-2), which is firmly believed to be the burial place of Hughy Smith, the original landowner of the area. Considering the old plantation practice of putting the owner's cemetery within about 150 – 300 yards of the plantation main house, and then placing the supporting slave village and cemetery within about another 300 – 500 yards, the arrangement here certainly supports that this is the Smith Plantation slave cemetery. There are no grave markers at all to be found here, which further supports the conclusion that this is a slave cemetery.



**Smith Slave Cemetery (72-1), Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Alabama, July 2002.**

**(Evidence of old fence in several tree trunks of SW corner)**

There was apparently an old fence in the southwest portion of the cemetery, as indicated by remnants of barbed wire embedded in several tree trunks. However, there was no particular patter perceived regarding the route of the old fence, so it is not known whether it was part of a perimeter fence or perhaps an internally separated family plot.



**Smith Slave Cemetery (72-1), Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Alabama, July 2002.**

**(Close view of barbed wire in a cedar tree trunk)**



**Smith Slave Cemetery (72-1), Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Alabama, July 2002.  
(View to south along east fence from north end)**



**Smith Slave Cemetery (72-1), Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Alabama, July 2002.  
(View to southwest from NE end)**

At the base of the oak tree to the right can be seen one of the few fieldstones found in this cemetery. The photos below enlarge on views of that fieldstone, which carries no inscribed information.



**Smith Slave Cemetery (72-1), Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Alabama, July 2002.  
(Top view of one of the few fieldstones found)**





**Smith Slave Cemetery (72-1), Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Alabama, July 2002.  
(Same fieldstone as above, flipped up to reveal other side)**

With no inscribed tombstones to provide names of those buried here, land records provide the only avenue of further investigation, beyond the oral history reports (if any, for this cemetery) that may have been collected by Beverly Curry. The original land record summary for this area is shown below, as published by Margaret Matthews Cowart in her book **OLD LAND RECORDS OF MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA**. Of course, the lines of interest deal with the location of this cemetery, in the northwest corner of the **Southeast Quarter of Section 15**, Township 15, Range 1 West.

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
Page 53 continued								
Frac W of Bdy	13	3.06		Richard Burdyne				
	14	206.45		East of Old Chickasaw Boundary		2 Feb 1818	799	
		470.38		West of Old Chickasaw Boundary				
Frac E of Bdy	"	206.45		Alexander G. Wall, Asse		15 Dec 1813	2815	
E Frac pt of W Bdy	"	97.00		Alexander G. Wall, Asse		4 Jul 1831	1452	
W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	"	80.00		Thos. Owen Burton		17 Mar 1832	4816	
S Frac pt of W Bdy	"	293.38		Benjamin Patterson		4 Jul 1831	1453	
				Benjamin Patterson, Asse				
	15	642.70		Solomon Spence				
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	40.17		Hughy Smith		11 Dec 1833	6835	
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	40.17		Solomon Spence		12 Nov 1833	6676	
W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	80.34		Hughy Smith		25 Jul 1831	4095	
E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	"	80.34		James F. W. Smith		22 Jul 1835	8350	
W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	"	80.34		Hughy Smith, Asse		13 Nov 1833	6683	
South East $\frac{1}{4}$	"	160.67 $\frac{1}{2}$		Hughy Smith, Asse		25 Mar 1818	2941	
E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	"	80.34		Pleasant S. Austin, Asse		25 Jun 1831	876	
W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	"	80.34				28 Apr 1818	3026	
Page 54 Entire	16	648.14		State		2 Mar 1819		
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	40.50 $\frac{1}{2}$		*School Arthur Jacobs 31 Jan 1942 Vol. G, p 558		31 Jan 1942		
				State of Ala 16th Section Patents - Letter Secretary of State dated 1/17/42.		31 Jan 1942		
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	40.50 $\frac{1}{2}$		State		2 Mar 1819		
				*School Arthur Jacobs 31 Jan 1942 Vol. G, p 560				
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	40.50 $\frac{1}{2}$		Same as above				
				State		2 Mar 1819		
				*School Arthur Jacobs 31 Jan 1942				
				*School Arthur Jacobs 31 Jan 1942 Vol. G, p 558				
				N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and Wattie Timmons? 25 Feb 1942				
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	40.50 $\frac{1}{2}$		Vol. G, p 560-40 acres of S side of NE $\frac{1}{4}$				
				State		2 Mar 1819		
				*School N $\frac{1}{2}$ Arthur Jacobs 31 Jan 1942, 40 acres evenly off side side of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ conveyed to Wattie Timmons by State on 2/25/42 conveyed recorded State of Ala. 16th Section Patents. Letter Secretary of State dated 1/17/42 . Vol. G, p 560.				
				*Same				
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	"	40.50 $\frac{1}{2}$		State		2 Mar 1819		
				*School N. T. Graham 8 Mar 1856 Vol. C, p 420				
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	"	40.50 $\frac{1}{2}$		State		2 Mar 1819		
				*School N. T. Graham 8 Mar 1856 Vol. C, p 420				
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	"	40.50 $\frac{1}{2}$		State		2 Mar 1819		
				*School N. T. Graham 8 Mar 1856 Vol. C, p 420				
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	"	40.50 $\frac{1}{2}$		State		2 Mar 1819		
				*School N. T. Graham 8 Mar 1856 Vol. C, p 420				
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	40.50 $\frac{1}{2}$		State		2 Mar 1819		
				*School H. H. Lea 20 Oct 1856 Vol. D, p 5				
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	40.50 $\frac{1}{2}$		State		2 Mar 1819		
				*School H. H. Lea 20 Oct 1856 Vol. D, p 5				
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	40.50 $\frac{1}{2}$		State		2 Mar 1819		
				*School H. H. Lea 20 Oct 1856 Vol. D, p 5				
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	40.50 $\frac{1}{2}$		State		2 Mar 1819		
				*School H. H. Lea 20 Oct 1856 Vol. D, p 5				

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 or Conveyance	WHERE RECORDED		MEMORANDUM
		TO WHOM CONVEYED				VOL.	PAGE	

Note that Pleasant S. Austin, Hughy Smith's son-in-law, purchased the adjoining land in the W/2 of the SW/4 of Section 15.

The **INDEX TO LANDS** compiled by G. W. Jones & Sons, Inc., shows the ownership changes via private deeds through the rest of the 1800s:

Section 15 Township 5 South of Range 1 East Madison County, Alabama																		
G. W. JONES & SONS																		
BOOK	PAGE	Kind of land	Acres	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	DATE OF INSTRUMENT	FILED	18				19						
								18	19	20	21	18	19	20	21			
1	572	D		Smith, Hugh	France, William	1825												
1	577	D		Hydock, Wm & by wife	Cole, Robert	1826												
1	584	D of Trust		Cain, Thomas	Moore, Benjamin & Jr	1829												
1	14	D		Cain, Thomas by wife	Borris, William	1830												
1	466	D of Trust		Austin, Elizabeth & Mary	Hill, James & Jr	1830												
1	490	D of Trust		Snoddy, Nathaniel	McIntosh, William & Jr	1831												
1	520	D		Austin, Wm & E by Jr	Oney, John	1834												
1	466	D		Burner, Henry & Cynthia	Oney, John	1835												
1	59	D		Borris, William	Borris, George	1835												
1	211	D		Smith, Henry by wife et al	Edwards, William	1837												
1	487	D		Edwards, Wm & Martha	Edwards, Wm & Eliza	1837												
1	415	D		Springer, David & et al	Edwards, William	1837												
1	571	D		Edwards, Wm & Martha	Spaulding, Isaac	1837												
1	150	D		Farmer, Peter & by wife	Campbell & Bailey	1837												
1	242	Wg		Felley, James	Cumby, Archibald	1838												
1	137	D		Frankland, Wm & wife et al	Pitts, Margaret	1838												
1	274	D		Horton, Alfred	France, William	1838												
1	277	D		Horton, John	France, Wm	1838												
1	276	D		Horton, Alfred & Dorcy	France, William	1838												
1	353	D		Oranland, George	Rice, David et al	1838												
1	1	Wg		Beale, F S & Louisa D	Barbey, John & Jr	1838												
1	302	Wg		Pitts, Margaret & Allen	Jones, Thomas	1838												
1	520	D		Horton, Geo & wife by wife et al	Beale, Joshua H	1838												
1	164	Wg		Long, Thos E & wife	Pitts, Margaret	1838												
1	589	D		Pitts, Margaret	Jay, Thomas	1838												
1	12	Wg		Grady, Henry & Mary	Land & Intest Co	1838												
1	170	Wg		Grady, Henry & Mary	Edwards, Wm	1838												
1	149	D		Rice, David by wife et al	Horton, John	1838												
1	381	D		Beale, Joshua H & Louisa	Grady, John	1838												
1	31	Wg		Horton, Geo & Margaret	American Freshhold S & Co	1838												
1	105	Wg		Horton, Geo & Margaret	Edwards, Joseph	1838												
1	18	Wg et al		Edwards, J W	Horton, J W	1838												
1	541	D		Horton, Geo & by wife	American Freshhold S & Co	1838												
1	146	D		Jayne, Eliza et al	France, William	1838												
1	150	D		Land & Intest Co	Indiana Lumber Company	1838												
1	497	D		Jayne, Eliza et al	France, James	1838												

The **INDEX TO LANDS** reveals that Hughy Smith retained title to the SE/4 of Section 15 until his death, when it passed to his son Stanhope Smith. Stanhope was a physician, who apparently did not want to be a plantation “farmer”. He allowed the land to eventually go to auction, and William B. Edwards purchased it in 1867 – after the slaves had been emancipated during the Civil War, which ended in 1865. (See details of the Smith family

story and transition of the land ownership in the Summary Report for the Smith Cemetery, 72-2.) The slave count for the Hughy Smith plantation is given below for 1840 and for 1850, just before Hughy passed away:

by the Marshal of the *Alabama* District (or Territory) of

SLAVES															TOTAL	NUMBER OF PERSONS IN EACH FAMILY EMPLOYED IN						PERSONS FOR REVOLUTIONARY OR MILITARY SERVICE, CALLED UP IN THE FOREGOING	NAME	AGE	SEX	
MALES					FEMALES					Under 10	10 to 24	25 to 49	50 to 74	75 and over		Male	Female	Under 10	10 to 24	25 to 49	50 to 74					75 and over
Under 10	10 to 24	25 to 49	50 to 74	75 and over	Under 10	10 to 24	25 to 49	50 to 74	75 and over						Under 10							10 to 24	25 to 49	50 to 74	75 and over	
															6874	2216	86	172		11	24					
															43	22										
															5	1										
															4	2										
															7	2										
															3	1										
															15	6										
															34	14										
															7											
															41	21										
															51	37										
															6	1										
															13											
															23	11										
															11	4										
															3											

(Hughy Smith household)

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

The above 1840 record counts 41 slaves for Hughy Smith. The 1850 slave census for Hughy (Huey / Hucy) Smith is recorded on two pages, totaling 35 persons:

BEFORE ME, Slave Inspectors in St. Michael in the County of Madison, Alabama, authorized by me, on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1860, R. W. Stewart

STATE OF ALABAMA		SECTION	
NAME OF SLAVE OWNER	DESCRIPTION	NAME OF SLAVE OWNER	DESCRIPTION
John Stewart	1 05 1/2 m	1 05 1/2 m	1 05 1/2 m
	1 11 1/2 m	1 07 1/2 m	1 07 1/2 m
	1 08 1/2 m	1 08 1/2 m	1 08 1/2 m
	1 09 1/2 m	1 09 1/2 m	1 09 1/2 m
	1 10 1/2 m	1 10 1/2 m	1 10 1/2 m
	1 11 1/2 m	1 11 1/2 m	1 11 1/2 m
	1 12 1/2 m	1 12 1/2 m	1 12 1/2 m
	1 13 1/2 m	1 13 1/2 m	1 13 1/2 m
	1 14 1/2 m	1 14 1/2 m	1 14 1/2 m
	1 15 1/2 m	1 15 1/2 m	1 15 1/2 m
	1 16 1/2 m	1 16 1/2 m	1 16 1/2 m
	1 17 1/2 m	1 17 1/2 m	1 17 1/2 m
	1 18 1/2 m	1 18 1/2 m	1 18 1/2 m
	1 19 1/2 m	1 19 1/2 m	1 19 1/2 m
	1 20 1/2 m	1 20 1/2 m	1 20 1/2 m
	1 21 1/2 m	1 21 1/2 m	1 21 1/2 m
	1 22 1/2 m	1 22 1/2 m	1 22 1/2 m
	1 23 1/2 m	1 23 1/2 m	1 23 1/2 m
	1 24 1/2 m	1 24 1/2 m	1 24 1/2 m
	1 25 1/2 m	1 25 1/2 m	1 25 1/2 m
	1 26 1/2 m	1 26 1/2 m	1 26 1/2 m
	1 27 1/2 m	1 27 1/2 m	1 27 1/2 m
	1 28 1/2 m	1 28 1/2 m	1 28 1/2 m
	1 29 1/2 m	1 29 1/2 m	1 29 1/2 m
	1 30 1/2 m	1 30 1/2 m	1 30 1/2 m
	1 31 1/2 m	1 31 1/2 m	1 31 1/2 m
	1 32 1/2 m	1 32 1/2 m	1 32 1/2 m
	1 33 1/2 m	1 33 1/2 m	1 33 1/2 m
	1 34 1/2 m	1 34 1/2 m	1 34 1/2 m
	1 35 1/2 m	1 35 1/2 m	1 35 1/2 m
	1 36 1/2 m	1 36 1/2 m	1 36 1/2 m
	1 37 1/2 m	1 37 1/2 m	1 37 1/2 m
	1 38 1/2 m	1 38 1/2 m	1 38 1/2 m
	1 39 1/2 m	1 39 1/2 m	1 39 1/2 m
	1 40 1/2 m	1 40 1/2 m	1 40 1/2 m
	1 41 1/2 m	1 41 1/2 m	1 41 1/2 m
	1 42 1/2 m	1 42 1/2 m	1 42 1/2 m
	1 43 1/2 m	1 43 1/2 m	1 43 1/2 m
	1 44 1/2 m	1 44 1/2 m	1 44 1/2 m
	1 45 1/2 m	1 45 1/2 m	1 45 1/2 m
	1 46 1/2 m	1 46 1/2 m	1 46 1/2 m
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	1 64 1/2 m	1 64 1/2 m	1 64 1/2 m
	1 65 1/2 m	1 65 1/2 m	1 65 1/2 m
	1 66 1/2 m	1 66 1/2 m	1 66 1/2 m
	1 67 1/2 m	1 67 1/2 m	1 67 1/2 m
	1 68 1/2 m	1 68 1/2 m	1 68 1/2 m
	1 69 1/2 m	1 69 1/2 m	1 69 1/2 m
	1 70 1/2 m	1 70 1/2 m	1 70 1/2 m
	1 71 1/2 m	1 71 1/2 m	1 71 1/2 m
	1 72 1/2 m	1 72 1/2 m	1 72 1/2 m
	1 73 1/2 m	1 73 1/2 m	1 73 1/2 m
	1 74 1/2 m	1 74 1/2 m	1 74 1/2 m
	1 75 1/2 m	1 75 1/2 m	1 75 1/2 m
	1 76 1/2 m	1 76 1/2 m	1 76 1/2 m
	1 77 1/2 m	1 77 1/2 m	1 77 1/2 m
	1 78 1/2 m	1 78 1/2 m	1 78 1/2 m
	1 79 1/2 m	1 79 1/2 m	1 79 1/2 m
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	1 83 1/2 m	1 83 1/2 m	1 83 1/2 m
	1 84 1/2 m	1 84 1/2 m	1 84 1/2 m
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	1 86 1/2 m	1 86 1/2 m	1 86 1/2 m
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	1 88 1/2 m	1 88 1/2 m	1 88 1/2 m
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	1 96 1/2 m	1 96 1/2 m	1 96 1/2 m
	1 97 1/2 m	1 97 1/2 m	1 97 1/2 m
	1 98 1/2 m	1 98 1/2 m	1 98 1/2 m
	1 99 1/2 m	1 99 1/2 m	1 99 1/2 m
	1 100 1/2 m	1 100 1/2 m	1 100 1/2 m

SCHEDULE 2.—Slave Inhabitants in 34 District in the County of Madison of Alabama, enumerated by me, on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1850. C. M. Newcomb,

NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	Number of Slaves.	DESCRIPTION.			Fugitives from the State.	Number manumitted.	Deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.		NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	Number of Slaves.	DESCRIPTION.			Fugitives from the State.
		Age.	Sex.	Colour.							Age.	Sex.	Colour.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<u>Wey Smith</u>	1	13	F	B					<u>Thomas O. Benton</u>	1	2	m	B	
	1	1	F	B						1	1	m	B	
	1	7	F	B						1	1	m	B	
	1	45	m	B						1	97	F	B	
	1	41	m	B						1	14	F	B	
	1	34	F	B						1	11	F	B	
	1	15	m	B						1	40	F	B	
	1	11	F	B						1	6	F	B	
	1	9	m	B						1	90	F	B	
	1	7	m	B						1	13	F	B	
	1	6	m	B						1	6	F	B	
	1	4	F	B						1	6	F	B	
	1	1/2	F	B						1	5	F	B	
	1	21	m	m						1	23	F	B	
	1	40	m	m	-					1	5	F	B	
	1	35	m	m	-					1	21	F	B	
	1	35	m	B						1	30	F	B	
	1	20	F	B						1	13	F	B	
	1	3	F	B						1	10	F	B	
	1	7/12	m	B						1	96	F	B	
<u>Thomas O. Benton</u>	1	85	F	B						1	5	F	B	
	1	76	F	B						1	3	F	B	
	1	85	F	B						1	11	F	B	
	1	55	F	B						1	12	F	B	
	1	32	m	B						1	16	F	B	
	1	53	m	B						1	48	m	B	
	1	37	m	B						1	84	m	B	

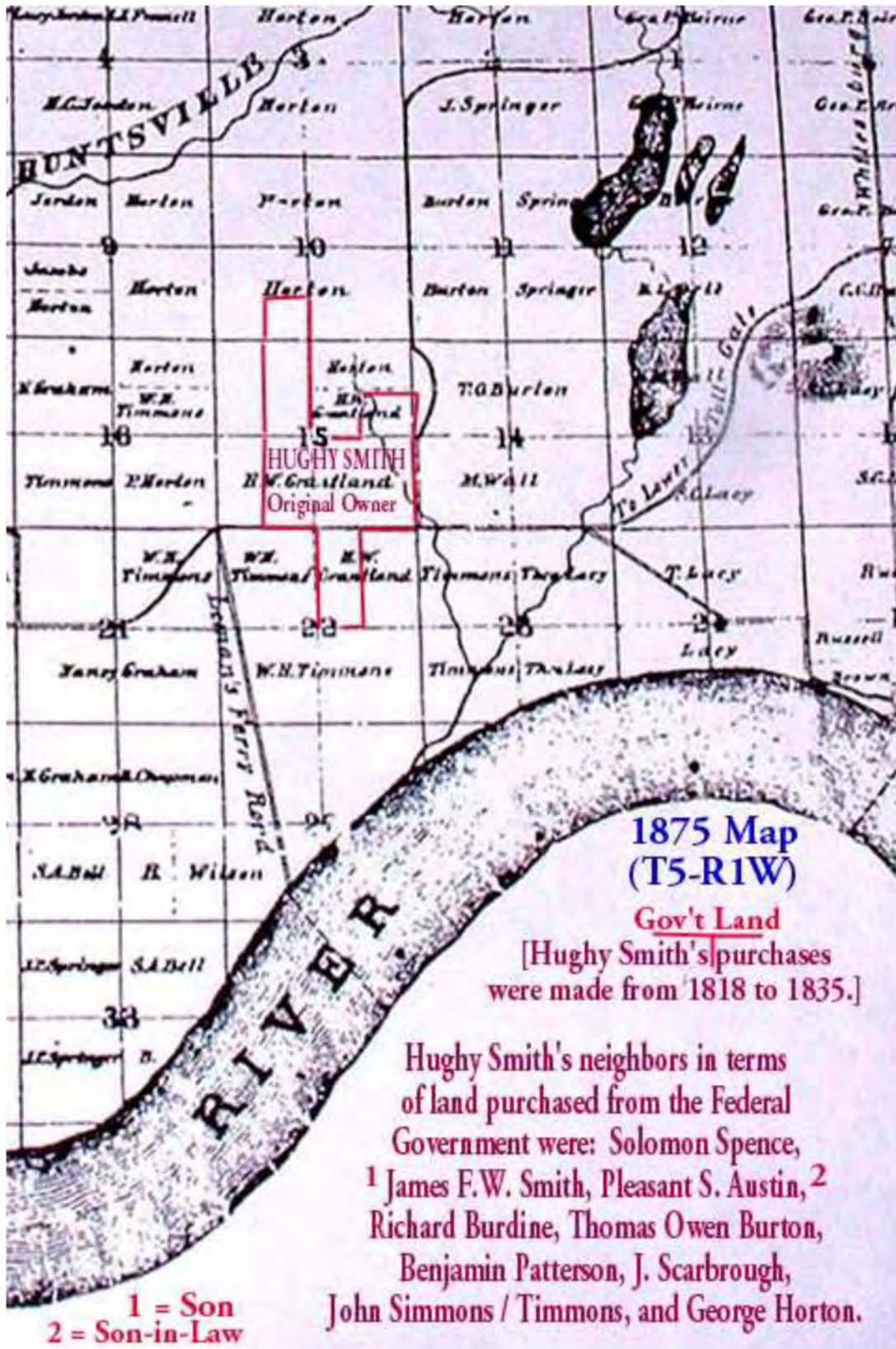
The land of the Smith Plantation is shown on the map below, outlined in red lines:



1875 Map showing landowners of record in Madison County, AL (Redstone Arsenal Portion)

[Zoomed segment shown below]

(Hughy Smith did indeed buy additional lands privately.)



1 = Son  
2 = Son-in-Law

1875 Map  
(T5-R1W)  
Gov't Land  
[Hughy Smith's purchases  
were made from 1818 to 1835.]

Hughy Smith's neighbors in terms of land purchased from the Federal Government were: Solomon Spence, <sup>1</sup> James F.W. Smith, Pleasant S. Austin, <sup>2</sup> Richard Burdine, Thomas Owen Burton, Benjamin Patterson, J. Scarbrough, John Simmons / Timmons, and George Horton.



William B. Edwards gave the “Smith Plantation” to his daughter Lizzie when she married Henry Grantland. Henry and Lizzie had a daughter named Beulah, who married a Rice, and from that marriage was produced Grantland Rice. For those too young to recall, Grantland Rice was the foremost sportscaster and sportswriter in America during the 1930s and 1940s. The annual collegiate championship trophy for many years was known as the known as the Grantland Rice trophy, in his honor.

While the slaves in the little cemetery would not have had any knowledge of the national prominence that would come later to owners of the land that they worked, it was their effort that made the land ultimately productive and supportive of such families. The cemetery remains as a silent witness to the lives of the black families who labored and enabled this area to produce prominent persons who were influential across the entire country in future generations. Today, we can only surmise that black people from the slave populations of the Smith, Austin, and other nearby families are interred here.

Prepared by John P. Rankin, September 5, 2005