LYNCH CEMETERY, 80 - 3

Summary Report



Lynch Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co., AL, July, 2002.

View toward the southwest, overlooking Buxton Road, just west of the junction with McAlpine Road. Van in background is parked at igloo pond road, where it meets Buxton Road.

This cemetery is about 25 ft X about 30 ft in size. It has only one marked grave, that for Fannie M. Lynch, daughter of John M. and Nancey Lynch, born December 14, 1846, died February 12, 1868.



Lynch Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co., AL, July, 2002.



Lynch Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co., AL, July, 2002.

Epitaph:
Long are the paths and sad the bowers
Whence thy meek smile is gone.
But Oh: a brighter home than ours,
In Heaven is now thine own.

There appear to be indications of 11 likely graves, but the cemetery could hold up to at least 15 in total. The cemetery is located in the northeastern corner of the NW/4 of the SE/4 of Section 20, Township 5 South, Range 1 West. It is on the north side of Buxton Road, on a small hill, about 30 feet from the fence along the road. There is a nearby (to the west) gate through the fence, but it is normally locked. The gate of the cemetery's chain link fence is not locked, but it is sagging somewhat. In general, this cemetery, like most others on the arsenal, is well maintained and mowed.

In Dorothy Scott Johnson's book "CEMETERIES OF MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA, VOL. I" (1971), she reports that the 1850 census as recorded on November 16 has:

Lynch, John M. (40) TN -- farmer, \$2160 " Nancy (37) NC " Martha F. (3) AL " Maria M. (1) AL

Dot Johnson also reported her research that showed that John M. Lynch married Nancy **HATTON** on February 19, 1846, per Madison County Marriage Book 4A. She reported that Maria M. Lynch married John W. Landman on June 30, 1869, per Marriage Book 5 of Madison County.

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1850 Madison County AL census page 447-B1: John M. Lynch family on pre-arsenal land

The 1860 census has in the southwestern division, Madison Station P.O., the family of John M. Lynch, 50, a farmer, born in TN. His wife is shown as Nancy, age 48, born in NC. The children listed in the household are two girls: Sarah T. (or Y.?), age 14, born in AL; and on the next page (not shown below) Maria M., age 11, born in AL.

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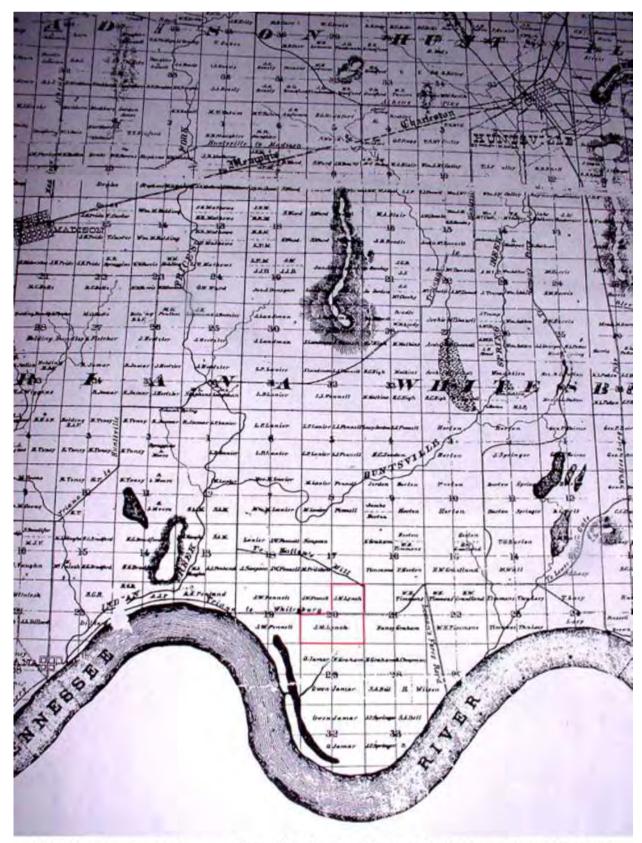
1860 Madison County, Alabama, census page 074: John M. Lynch family, Madison Station Post Office District

Obviously, the child, listed as Martha F. (for "Fannie"?) in 1850 and as Sarah T. in 1860 was the same as the Fannie M. of the tombstone inscription. It is apparently just another example of the problem of the census variations through time for any given person's records. Perhaps the girl's name was Sarah Frances ("Fannie") Martha T. Lynch!!!

To compound the problems, there is another John Lynch (per Ancestry.com's index) in the 1860 Madison County, AL, census records. He and his family are found in the northwestern division, Madison Station P.O., page 4. This John Lynch (looks more like "Lanch") is age 20, a farmer, born in TN. His wife is Margaret, age 29, born in AL. Their children listed in the home are Mary E., 3, AL; and Rutha J., 2, AL. Of course, due to the age of the John M. Lynch listed at age 50 in the 1860 census, this younger John Lynch could well be his son.

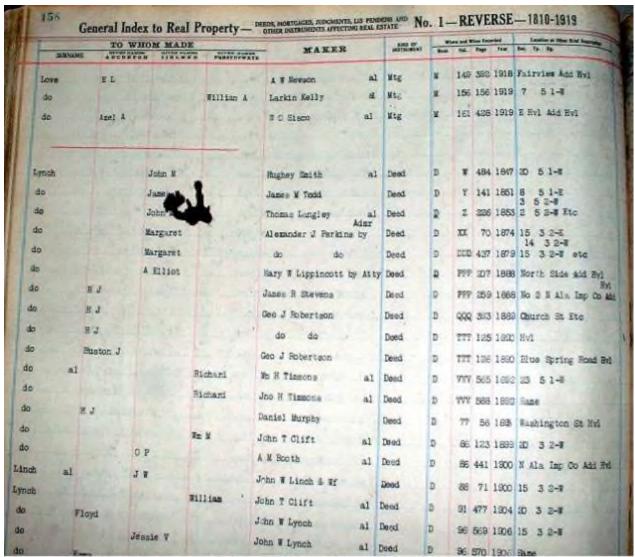
In November of 1850 the Madison County census in the 36th District had a John Lynch at age 82, born in VA, with wife Sarah, age 67, born in SC. They were living near several families with the surname of Capshaw and near families with other surnames generally associated with what became the Madison Station area within the next decade. Also enumerated in this Lynch household was Margaret A. Winfrey, 36, born AL. Four Winfrey children were listed next in the household, consisting of William (16), John (14), James (12), and Martha (8). All were listed as born in AL. Finally, the household included Roda Lych [not "Lynch"] at age 19 and Charly Lych [not "Lynch"] at age 3. Both of the "Lyches" were listed as born in Alabama. Again, considering the ages, this senior John Lynch at 82 could well be the father (or even the grandfather) of the John Lynch at age 40 in the 1850 census.

The land owned by John M. Lynch around the cemetery on the arsenal is shown on the 1875 map below, outlined in red.



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

The land Lynch family land purchases and sales per deeds recorded at the Madison County courthouse are given in the index images below.



Madison County, Alabama, Private Land Purchases by LYNCHs.

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Madison County, Alabama, Land Sales, LYNCH to others.

Note that John M. Lynch recorded the purchase of his land around the family cemetery in 1847 (just after the birth of his daughter Fannie). He got the land from Hughey Smith, a prominent landowner to the east, who land transitioned to Henry W. Grantland by the time of the 1875 map. Furthermore, John M. Lynch and his wife Nancy recorded a purchase of land in Sections 2 and 3 of Township 5, Range 2 West, in 1853 when their daughter Fannie would have been about 7 years old. In 1847 the Lynch family recorded the sale of land to James Landman. In 1869, Fannie's younger sister Maria M. Lynch married John W. Landman, so it is possible that the families lived adjacent to one another. After Fannie's death in 1868, the Lynch family sold land in Section 21, Township 5, Range 1 West, to William Joiner, so they may have moved from the area around the cemetery at that time. Of course, the cemetery is actually located in Section 20, just to the west of Section 21. There may have been a recording error, at least in the deed index, regarding the section number sold to William Joiner, since

there is no entry in deed records or the government tract book to show that the Lynch family ever got land in Section 21 to offer for sale to anyone. Additional research of the actual deeds themselves may shed some light upon how the ownership transitioned from one family to another. This remains an activity for the future, as of the time of this writing.

Prepared by John P. Rankin, July 25, 2005