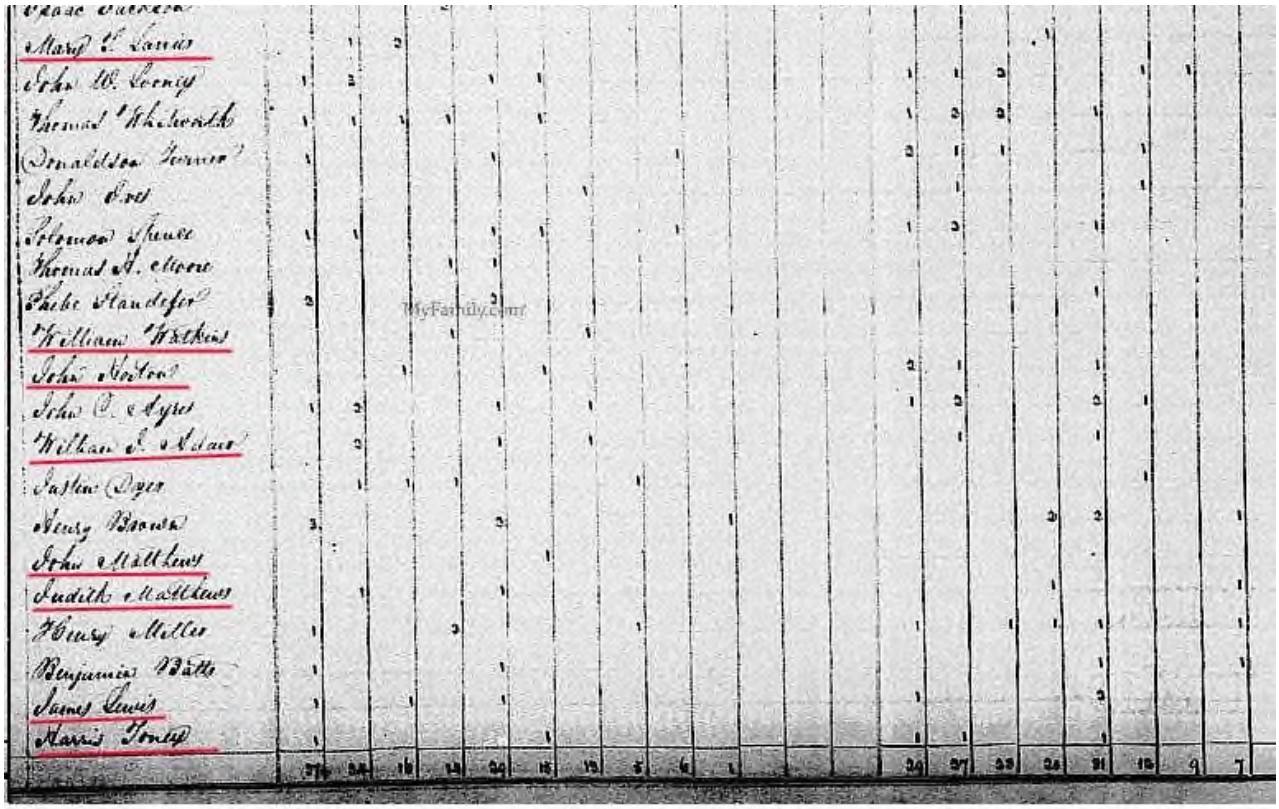

1830 Madison County, Alabama, page 145:
James Lewis, Mary L. Lanier, William Watkins, John Horton, John Matthews, Judith Matthews, Harris Toney, William J. Adair.

John Horton was among the many pioneers of arsenal lands, and his slaves eventually took the surname, remaining to farm the land as either paid employees or as sharecroppers after emancipation until they became landowners themselves. Today many public records still exist to tell the story of this group of hardy souls that kept the arsenal lands productive and built several communities before our government required their land for national purposes. As with all such research, much more remains to be learned, but already much is known about these early families, some of whom rest peacefully beneath the soil in the Horton – Joiner Cemetery.

By John P. Rankin, August 23, 2005