

DICKSON – RANKIN CEMETERY, 87 - 2

Summary Report

The communication inserted below provides a verbal overview of this cemetery located in the southeast quarter of Section 21, Township 5, Range 1 West:

From: [Dennis W Simpson](#)
To: jprankin@knology.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2004 2:37 PM
Subject: Re: CD

John,

The last burial at the Simpson Cemetery was that of Henry Clay Simpson who died February 26, 1918 at his home near Green Grove, Alabama. According to Ed Peters, Public Affairs Office at Redstone Arsenal in May 1989, he talked to Walter Cooney Penland, in 1983, who was then 80 years old a scion of a Madison County pioneer family that settled near the Simpson place told him that as a 16 year old he had helped dig the grave of a neighbor, Henry Simpson, whom he described as a wealthy bachelor with a 400 acre farm.

The last burial at the Dickson-Rankin Cemetery was that of Nancy Tyree (Dickson) Graham who died October 10, 1891. Her monument reads: Nancy T. Graham, Relict of James B. Graham, Born Amherst County Virginia February 3, 1808, Died October 10, 1891, Rest in Peace Beloved Mother. In the monument peak, "Christ Is Our Refuge" is inscribed in an arching pattern.

Facing Nancy Graham's grave is Dickson Graham's. (Her son) It has an ornate white marble marker, broken in half in such a manner that the date of death is somewhat illegible but appears to read: Dickson Graham, Born February 15, 1837, Died March 11, 186? (67). The face of this marker is raised to represent a scroll (as is Nancy Graham's). It has a wreath in relief at the top.

Dickson or Dewitt C. Dickson Graham was the first child of James B. and Nancy Tyree (Dickson) Graham. He was, according to the 1860 census of Madison County, a law student under the tutorship of David Campbell Humphreys and Edward Dorr Tracy. He was a Lt. in Co. D, Russell's 4th Alabama Cavalry, CSA. He was captured and interned