

# 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](mailto: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*

*at Camp Douglas in Chicago. He caught consumption and died a couple years after the war. His photo, made while he was sitting next to his brother Joe Graham, is on page 107 in my book about Doctor William Simpson.*

*About 10 feet laterally from Nancy Graham's grave is Virginia G. Dickson's grave. This marker is a tapering cylindrical shaft from which a top fixture of some sort appears to be missing. Inscribed on the shaft: Virginia G. Dickson, August 22, 1811, March 4, 1877. Inscribed on the base: "Having Finished Life's Duty She Now Sweetly Rests". This stone faces west while the others face east.*

*The fourth marker is in a corner of the cemetery somewhat apart from the other three. A plain marker in comparison to the others, it reads: Charles S. Fowler, Born Mobile, Ala. March 27, 1827, Died December 11, 1889.*

*Charles S. Fowler was an educator, the husband of Juriah James (Graham) Fowler, who is buried next to her father at the old Somerville Cemetery, Somerville, Morgan County, Alabama.*

*There was a fifth monument for another sister of Nancy and Virginia Dickson, that of Sarah A. Dickson, whose birth was recorded on the marker as October 29, 1813, but her date of death was not mentioned when the DAR asked Frank Jacobs to record the information for them. Frank was a neighbor of both the Simpson's and Dickson's. He was a Free Black, whose ancestor by the name of Jacobs freed his slaves. Frank was a descendant of a White master and a former Black slave. During the War they helped a lot of Slaves in the area with freedom.*

*Sallie or Sarah A. Dickson was never married. She resided at the Troup Store in Somerville, where she probably died before October 27, 1873, when letters of Administration were issued to John Simpson.*

*I also have some history on the Timmons Cemetery if you need more information on that. William H. Timmons was living in the Simpson home after his parents died. John Simpson was his legal guardian.*

*Dennis*

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The above communication came as a result of an offer to exchange information about pioneers and cemeteries of Redstone Arsenal lands with Dennis Simpson of California. Dennis is a descendant of the Simpson family, as represented by the Simpson – Jones Cemetery, 65–3. He is also a thorough and dedicated researcher of the early history of the area, having published a book about Doctor William Simpson with many related family

details and photographs. Pertinent pages of his book have been digitally photographed and included in this series of Redstone Arsenal cemetery Summary Reports, with Dennis' kind permission.

The subject cemetery appears as shown below:



Rankin - Dickson Cemetery, 87-2, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 26, 2003  
View toward southeast from NW corner of cemetery, which is behind Igloo #8741 off Buckeye Road, west of the southern portion of Patton Road. There are four inscribed tombstones plus one base with the tombstone missing. Since early maps show the name of the cemetery as Rankin - Dixon or Rankin - Dickson, it may well be that the missing tombstone was for a Rankin, as no Rankin tombstones were found.

After the caption was added to the photo above, Dennis' communication indicated that the tombstone base with no marker would have been for that of Sarah A. Dickson, a sister of Nancy and Virginia, who have markers in the cemetery. Additional overviews of the cemetery are provided below:



**Rankin - Dickson Cemetery, 87-2, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 26, 2003  
Back (east end) and north side of Igloo 8741 in background**



**Rankin - Dickson Cemetery, 87-2, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 26, 2003  
View from Southeast corner, looking northwest**



Rankin - Dickson Cemetery, 87-2, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 26, 2003  
Base of missing tombstone, which could have been for a RANKIN, in keeping with old names for the cemetery

[As previously stated, base is now believed to be for Sarah A. Dickson.]

Photos of the remaining tombstones are given below:



**Rankin - Dickson Cemetery, 87-2, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL  
Footstone (foreground) and monument headstone for Virginia G. Dickson**



Rankin - Dickson Cemetery, 87-2, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 26, 2003



Rankin - Dickson Cemetery, 87-2, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 26, 2003



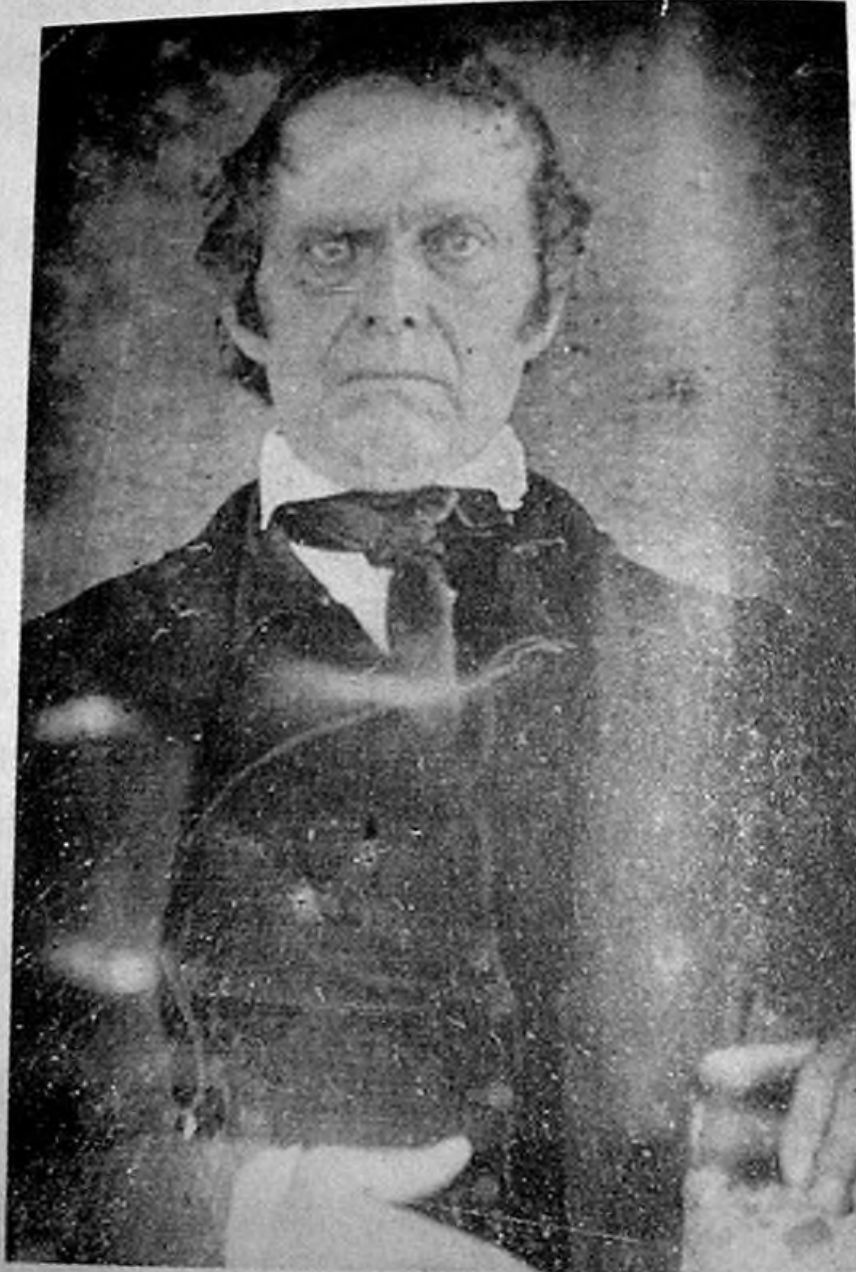


Rankin - Dickson Cemetery, 87-2, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 26, 2003



Rankin - Dickson Cemetery, 87-2, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 26, 2003

While there is no known photo of Nancy T. Graham, her husband is shown in a photo of his image in a page from Dennis Simpson's book:



**JAMES B. GRAHAM**

PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAM F. DUKES

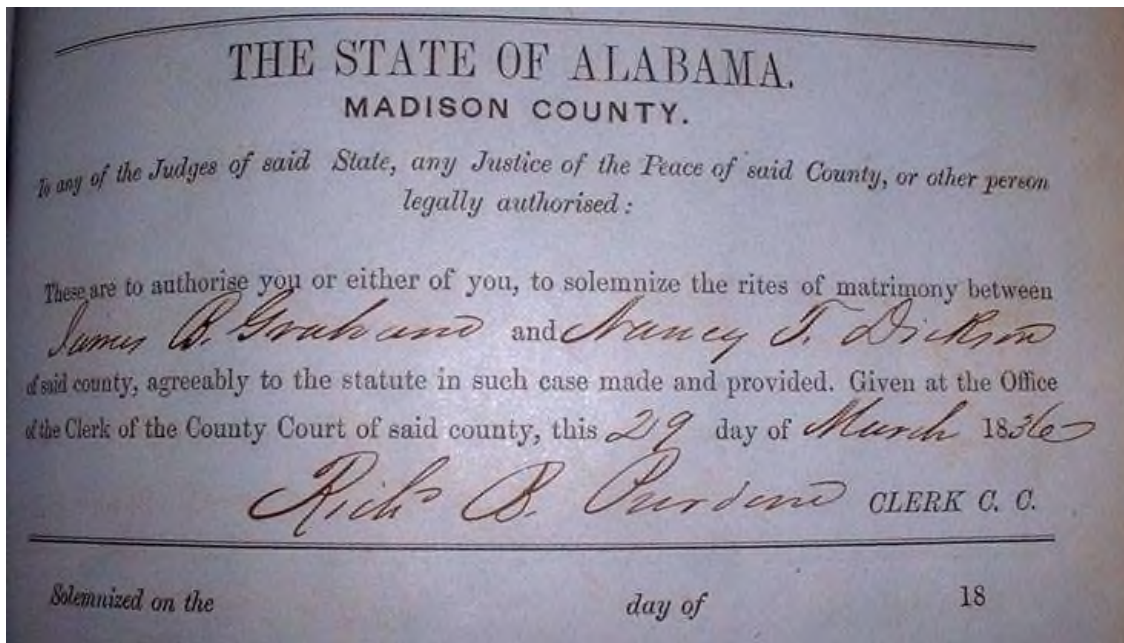
THE DESCENDANTS OF DOCTOR WILLIAM SIMPSON, compiled by Dennis William Simpson, 1993

Even though James Graham had an imposing image and his family had impressive tombstones in the Dickson – Rankin Cemetery, his own tombstone in the old Somerville Cemetery in Morgan County was rather plain and unimpressive, as shown below:



Somerville Cemetery, Highway 67, Morgan County, Alabama; June 26, 2004

Nancy Tyree Graham is the key to understanding the Dickson – Rankin Cemetery. She was, as Dennis Simpson stated, a Dickson before she married James Graham. The word “Relict” on her tombstone was the old term for “widow” and is often found on the older markers. [The word “consort” was used for women who died before their husbands.]



There are several Ahnentafels found on Ancestry.com’s web pages to trace the history of the families represented in this cemetery. However, the most thorough treatment of their history found to date is Dennis William Simpson’s book about his ancestor, Madison County pioneer Doctor William Simpson. Pertinent pages of that book have been photographed and are included in the CD files given to the Army offices. In fact, several additional resource folders of historical data files have been provided in digital form on CDs for the history of the families of this cemetery.

Researchers will find that the history of the Laniers is strongly intertwined with the Dickson and Graham history, so review of the various Lanier cemetery Summary Reports for Redstone arsenal is also recommended. In particular, William Dickson was the father of Mary D. Lanier of pioneer arsenal land days, and Joseph Dickson was the father of Ann D. Lanier. There are several extensive Ahnentafels for the Dickson family history

included on the CD-ROM provided to the Army offices for expanded historical data on the family. Selected files are included in the pages that follow to give a brief overview of the available information that has been collected on the Dickson, Graham, and Rankin families for which the cemetery is known.

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Name: Dennis Simpson

Email: ca11812@juno.com

Comments:

Information on Early Settlers of your county. I am a descendant of Dr. William Simpson, first white surgeon in Madison County, Alabama from Londonderry, Ireland, settled near Ditto's Landing in 1807. He and his wife Marguerite (McAlpine) Simpson were suppose to have been buried at Hobbs Island, but there is no tombstone marking their graves. There son, John Simpson is buried with several members of his family at Redstone Arsenal, including my great-grandfather Arthur Marcus Simpson, one of ten children of John and Margaret Ann (Dickson) Simpson.

Margaret Dickson was a daughter of James and Keziah (Wood) Dickson. James Dickson was one of the 241 signers of the petition requesting the government to allow them to stay on Indian land in 1819. Dr. Simpson's daughter Mary Simpson married the Hon. George W. McLeod, Justice of the Peace and Postmaster of Ditto's Landing. One of their daughters, Margaret McLeod married the Hon. David Campbell Humphreys, later US Justice of the Supreme Court for the District of Colombia, and famous for his stand against Alabama joining the Confederacy during the Civil War. After Dr. Simpson died in the springtime of 1816, his widow married the Hon. Hopkins Lacy, former member of the Tennessee House of Representatives and attorney who represented both Andrew Jackson and John Coffee in several legal matters. Their daughter Martha Jane Cocke Lacy married Dr. Albert Russell, member of the same family who founded the Russell Erskine Hotel.

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## Dennis Simpson

Entries: 2433 Updated: Sun Oct 20 03:16:02 2002 Contact: Dennis

Simpson

[call1812@juno.com](mailto:call1812@juno.com)

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### Ahnentafel, Generation No. 1

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1. [Juriah James GRAHAM](#) was born 3 Oct 1839 in Somerville, Morgan County, Alabama, and died 14 Jan 1913 in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. She was buried Jan 1913 in Somerville Cemetery, Somerville, Morgan County, Alabama. She was the daughter of 2. [James B. GRAHAM](#) and 3. [Nancy Tyree DICKSON](#). She married [Charles S. FOWLER](#), son of Daniel FOWLER and Mary A. UNKNOWN. He was born 27 Mar 1827 in Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama, and died 11 Dec 1889 in Madison County, Alabama. He was buried 12 Dec 1889 in Dickson Family Cemetery, Rutherford County, Tennessee.

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### Ahnentafel, Generation No. 2

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2. [James B. GRAHAM](#) was born 17 Sep 1794 in Bath County, Virginia, and died 21 Feb 1849 in Somerville, Morgan County, Alabama. He was buried 22 Feb 1849 in Somerville Cemetery, Somerville, Morgan County, Alabama.
3. [Nancy Tyree DICKSON](#) was born 23 Sep 1808 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died 10 Oct 1891 in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama. She was buried 11 Oct 1891 in Dickson Family Cemetery, Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama. She was the daughter of 6. [James DICKSON](#) and 7. [Keziah WOOD](#).

Children of Nancy Tyree DICKSON and James B. GRAHAM are:

- i. [Dewitt C. Dickson GRAHAM](#) was born 15 Feb 1837 in Somerville, Morgan County, Alabama, and died 11 Mar 1867 in Madison County, Alabama.
- ii. [Joseph David GRAHAM](#) was born Abt 1838 in Somerville, Morgan County, Alabama. He married [Mary J. UNKNOWN](#). She was born Abt 1854 in Alabama.

1. iii. [Juriah James GRAHAM](#) was born 3 Oct 1839 in Somerville, Morgan County, Alabama, and died 14 Jan 1913 in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. She married [Charles S. FOWLER](#), son of Daniel FOWLER and Mary A. UNKNOWN. He was born 27 Mar 1827 in Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama, and died 11 Dec 1889 in Madison County, Alabama.
- iv. [Virginia Zeulika GRAHAM](#) was born Jul 1841 in Somerville, Morgan County, Alabama. She married [Matthew K. MAHAN](#) 28 Jul 1860 in Madison County, Alabama, son of Matthew K. E. MAHAN and Elizabeth UNKNOWN.
- v. [Julia Alabama GRAHAM](#) was born 9 Aug 1843 in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama, and died 27 Feb 1927 in Belle Mina, Limestone County, Alabama. She married [Frances Marion WINDES](#) 1 Apr 1866, son of Enoch WINDES and Mary Ann RYAN. He was born 1 Jul 1839 in Apple Grove, Morgan County, Alabama, and died 16 Sep 1868 in Lynchburg, Campbell County, Virginia. She married [James Cofield Mitchell RANKIN](#) 1877 in Alabama, son of Thomas Campbell RANKIN and Louisa WARREN. He was born 22 Jul 1833 in Rutherford County, Tennessee, and died 18 Feb 1906 in Belle Mina, Limestone County, Alabama.
- vi. [Cass Dallas GRAHAM](#) was born 11 Mar 1845 in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama, and died 8 Feb 1848 in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama.
- vii. [Ann Lucretia GRAHAM](#) was born 7 Mar 1847 in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama, and died 8 Apr 1848 in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama.

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Ahnentafel, Generation No. 3

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6. [James DICKSON](#) was born 1780 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died 16 Sep 1843 in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama. He was buried in Dickson Family Cemetery, Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama. He was the son of 12. [William DICKSON](#) and 13. [Lucretia NASH](#).
7. [Keziah WOOD](#) was born 1781 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died Bef 1840 Census in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama. She was buried in Dickson Family Cemetery, Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama. She was the daughter of 14. [James WOOD](#) and 15. [Ann PHILPOTT](#).



Children of Keziah WOOD and James DICKSON are:

- i. [Elizabeth K. DICKSON](#) was born Abt 1806 in Amherst County, Virginia. She married [John KING](#) 10 Feb 1929 in Madison County, Alabama.
3. ii. [Nancy Tyree DICKSON](#) was born 23 Sep 1808 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died 10 Oct 1891 in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama. She married [James B. GRAHAM](#) 29 Mar 1836 in Madison County, Alabama. He was born 17 Sep 1794 in Bath County, Virginia, and died 21 Feb 1849 in Somerville, Morgan County, Alabama.
- iii. [Joseph DICKSON](#) was born Abt 1810 in Amherst County, Virginia.
- iv. [Virginia G. DICKSON](#) was born 23 Aug 1811 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died 4 Mar 1877 in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama. She married [Nathaniel G. MINGEA](#) 30 Mar 1847 in Madison County, Alabama, son of Jesse MINGEA. He was born Abt 1822 in Virginia.
- v. [Sarah A. DICKSON](#) was born 29 Oct 1813 in Rutherford County, Tennessee, and died Bef 27 Oct 1873 in Morgan County, Alabama.
- vi. [Margaret Ann DICKSON](#) was born 9 Aug 1816 in Rutherford County, Tennessee, and died 31 Aug 1874 in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama. She married [John SIMPSON](#) 18 Nov 1840 in Madison County, Alabama, son of William SIMPSON and Marguerite MCALPINE. He was born Abt 1811 in Ditto's Landing, Madison County, Mississippi Territory, and died 27 Jan 1876 in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama.
- vii. [Juriah Wood DICKSON](#) was born Abt 1821 in Madison County, Alabama, and died 22 Apr 1868 in Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi. She married [Samuel READ](#) 30 Oct 1838 in Madison County, Alabama, son of William READ. He was born 12 Sep 1816 in Tennessee, and died 23 Dec 1871 in Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi.
- viii. [Lucretia Nash DICKSON](#) was born Abt 1823 in Madison County, Alabama, and died Bef 22 Mar 1873 in Noxubee County, Mississippi. She married [Edward B. STANBACK](#) 12 Dec 1853 in Morgan County, Alabama, son of UNKNOWN STANBACK. He was born 1817 in Virginia.

Child of Keziah WOOD is:

- i. [Margaret Ann DICKSON](#) was born 9 Aug 1816 in Rutherford County, Tennessee, and died 31 Aug 1874 in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama. She married [John SIMPSON](#) 18 Nov 1840 in Madison

County,Alabama, son of William SIMPSON and Marguerite MCALPINE. He was born Abt 1811 in Ditto's Landing,Madison County,Mississippi Territory, and died 27 Jan 1876 in Pond Beat,Madison County,Alabama.

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Ahnentafel, Generation No. 4

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12. [William DICKSON](#) was born Abt 1740 in Goochland County, Virginia, and died Aft 28 Jan 1828 in Nelson County, Virginia. He was buried in Nelson County, Virginia.
13. [Lucretia NASH](#) was born Abt 1745 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died Bef 28 Jan 1828 in Nelson County, Virginia. She was buried in Nelson County, Virginia. She was the daughter of 26. [Enoch NASH](#) and 27. [Susanna BURRASS](#).

Children of Lucretia NASH and William DICKSON are:

- i. [Ann DICKSON](#) was born Abt 1764 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died Bef Mar 1849 in Franklin County, Tennessee.
- ii. [Elizabeth DICKSON](#) was born Abt 1768 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died 1840/1850 in Franklin County, Tennessee. She married [Lewis BALL](#) 8 Feb 1811 in Nelson County, Virginia, son of William BALL and Sarah JOPLING. He died 1830/1840 in Franklin County, Tennessee.
- iii. [Enoch DICKSON](#) was born Abt 1773 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died Bef 5 Feb 1841 in Rutherford County, Tennessee. He married [Juriah WOOD](#) 7 Oct 1801 in Amherst County, Virginia, daughter of James WOOD and Ann PHILPOTT. She was born Abt 1775 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died 1841/1850 in Rutherford County, Tennessee.
- iv. [John DICKSON](#) was born Abt 1775 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died Bef 1870 in Nelson County, Virginia. He married [Nancy WOOD](#) 4 May 1809 in Nelson County, Virginia, daughter of James WOOD and Nancy LIPSCOMB. She was born Bet 1784-1794 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died Bef 1830 in Nelson County, Virginia.
- v. [William DICKSON](#) was born Abt 1779 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died Bef 12 Jan 1837 in Rutherford County, Tennessee.
6. vi. [James DICKSON](#) was born 1780 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died 16 Sep 1843 in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama. He married [Keziah WOOD](#) 8 Apr 1805 in Amherst County, Virginia, daughter of James WOOD and Ann PHILPOTT. She was born 1781 in Amherst

County, Virginia, and died Bef 1840 Census in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama.

- vii. [Joseph DICKSON](#) was born Abt 1783 in Amherst County, Virginia.
  - viii. [Samuel DICKSON](#) was born Abt 1784/1794 in Amherst County, Virginia.
  - ix. [Sarah Nash DICKSON](#) was born Abt 1786 in Amherst County, Virginia. She married [Acton N. MATTHEWS](#) 20 Sep 1821 in Nelson County, Virginia.
  - x. [Lucretia DICKSON](#) was born Abt 1789 in Amherst County, Virginia. She married [Charles MCCARTHY](#). She married [Rice NEWMAN](#) 27 Apr 1837 in Nelson County, Virginia.
  - xi. [Margaret DICKSON](#) was born Abt 1801 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died 1830/1835 in Nelson County, Virginia. She married [Henry W. MARTIN](#) 23 Dec 1822 in Nelson County, Virginia.
14. [James WOOD](#) died Bef 17 Jan 1814 in Amherst County, Virginia. He was the son of **28. [Samuel WOOD](#)**.
15. [Ann PHILPOTT](#) died Bef Oct 1781 in Albemarle County, Virginia.

Children of Ann PHILPOTT and James WOOD are:

- i. [Jacob WOOD](#). He married [Bartheene PHILLIPS](#) 16 Feb 1796 in Amherst County, Virginia, daughter of William PHILLIPS.
  - ii. [John WOOD](#).
  - iii. [Lucy WOOD](#). She married [Elijah STATON](#) 28 Jul 1800 in Amherst County, Virginia.
  - iv. [Samuel WOOD](#).
  - v. [James WOOD](#).
  - vi. [Robin WOOD](#).
  - vii. [Juriah WOOD](#) was born Abt 1775 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died 1841/1850 in Rutherford County, Tennessee. She married [Enoch DICKSON](#) 7 Oct 1801 in Amherst County, Virginia, son of William DICKSON and Lucretia NASH. He was born Abt 1773 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died Bef 5 Feb 1841 in Rutherford County, Tennessee.
7. viii. [Keziah WOOD](#) was born 1781 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died Bef 1840 Census in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama. She married [James DICKSON](#) 8 Apr 1805 in Amherst County, Virginia, son of William

DICKSON and Lucretia NASH. He was born 1780 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died 16 Sep 1843 in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama.

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Ahnentafel, Generation No. 5

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26. [Enoch NASH](#) died Bef 5 Mar 1781 in Amherst County, Virginia.
27. [Susanna BURRASS](#). She was the daughter of 54. [UNKNOWN BURRASS](#).

Children of Susanna BURRASS and Enoch NASH are:

13. i. [Lucretia NASH](#) was born Abt 1745 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died Bef 28 Jan 1828 in Nelson County, Virginia. She married [William DICKSON](#). He was born Abt 1740 in Goochland County, Virginia, and died Aft 28 Jan 1828 in Nelson County, Virginia.
- ii. [UNKNOWN NASH](#).
- iii. [Mary NASH](#) was born Abt 1750/1759 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died 7 May 1838 in Clark County, Georgia. She married [David MONTGOMERY](#). He was born Abt 1750 in Virginia, and died 27 May 1796 in Wilkes County, Georgia.
- iv. [Joseph NASH](#).
- v. [Elizabeth NASH](#).
- vi. [Enoch NASH](#).
- vii. [Joseph B. NASH](#) was born 5 Dec 1772 in Amherst County, Virginia, and died 1842 in Marion County, Kentucky. He married [Lucy BAILEY](#). She was born 7 Jan 1775, and died 2 Nov 1857.
- viii. [Sarah NASH](#).
28. [Samuel WOOD](#).

Child of Samuel WOOD is:

14. i. [James WOOD](#) died Bef 17 Jan 1814 in Amherst County, Virginia. He married [Ann PHILPOTT](#). She died Bef Oct 1781 in Albemarle County, Virginia. He married [Nancy LIPSCOMB](#) 12 Oct 1785 in Louisa County, Virginia, daughter of William LIPSCOMB. She died Bef Aug 1828 in Rutherford County, Tennessee.

54. [UNKNOWN BURRASS](#).

Children of UNKNOWN BURRASS are:

27. i. [Susanna BURRASS](#). She married [Enoch NASH](#). He died Bef 5 Mar 1781 in Amherst County, Virginia.
- ii. [John B. BURRASS](#) died Aft 22 Aug 1783 in Amherst County, Virginia.

The above Ahnentafel shows how the Fowler and Rankin names became associated with the Dickson and Graham lines of this cemetery. What is not shown is the extent of the Rankin involvement with the control of the land. Since Dr. James Cofelt Mitchell Rankin has common ancestry with the writer of this report (John P. Rankin), much data is available about him. He eventually owned the land around the cemetery, along with the rest of the Dickson estate, and he added more lands around Belle Mina, Alabama, where he lived. He is buried with his wife and several of his children in Decatur. A photo of them from Dennis Simpson's book about Dr. William Simpson is shown below:



JULIA ALABAMA GRAHAM



DR. JAMES C.M. RANKIN

Dr. Rankin's tombstone in Decatur's City Cemetery is shown below. It is surrounded by smaller markers for his wife and children.



Decatur City Cemetery, Section 11; Morgan County, AL; June 26, 2004



**Decatur City Cemetery, Section 11; Morgan County, AL; June 26, 2004**

There are more Rankin children markers than shown in this photo, and there are likewise many Simpson family markers within about 30 yards of Dr. Rankin's tombstone in Decatur's City Cemetery.

A short Ahnentafel prepared by Dennis Simpson for Dr. Rankin's ancestry is given below:



## Dennis Simpson

Entries: 2433 Updated: Sun Oct 20 03:16:02 2002 Contact: Dennis

Simpson

[ca11812@juno.com](mailto:ca11812@juno.com)

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### Ahnentafel, Generation No. 1

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1. [James Cofield Mitchell RANKIN](#) was born 22 Jul 1833 in Rutherford County, Tennessee, and died 18 Feb 1906 in Belle Mina, Limestone County, Alabama. He was buried Feb 1906 in Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama. He was the son of 2. [Thomas Campbell RANKIN](#) and 3. [Louisa WARREN](#). He married [Julia Alabama GRAHAM](#) 1877 in Alabama, daughter of James B. GRAHAM and Nancy Tyree DICKSON. She was born 9 Aug 1843 in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama, and died 27 Feb 1927 in Belle Mina, Limestone County, Alabama. She was buried Mar 1927 in Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama.

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### Ahnentafel, Generation No. 2

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2. [Thomas Campbell RANKIN](#) was born 1804, and died 1840.
3. [Louisa WARREN](#) was born 1810, and died 1875.

Child of Louisa WARREN and Thomas Campbell RANKIN is:

1. i. [James Cofield Mitchell RANKIN](#) was born 22 Jul 1833 in Rutherford County, Tennessee, and died 18 Feb 1906 in Belle Mina, Limestone County, Alabama. He married [Julia Alabama GRAHAM](#) 1877 in Alabama, daughter of James B. GRAHAM and Nancy Tyree DICKSON. She was born 9 Aug 1843 in Pond Beat, Madison County, Alabama, and died 27 Feb 1927 in Belle Mina, Limestone County, Alabama.

Dr. Rankin bought the house in Belle Mina that was built for a grandson of Thomas Bibb, the second governor of the state. Belle Mina in fact derived its name as a community from the name of the mansion of the governor,

where the village grew. Dr. Rankin became a noted physician, serving the area from Decatur to Madison, north to Athens and south to Triana. Considering that he owned land (inherited by his wife Julia Graham) at Pond Beat, Dr. Rankin probably also treated others who lived in that area as the need arose. Since it is known that he is buried with his wife in Decatur and not in the Dickson – Rankin Cemetery, it is not known why old records use the name Rankin associated with the cemetery. However, sometimes it is the practice to name a cemetery according to the current landowner's name, whether anyone of that surname is buried in the cemetery or not. It is also possible that one or more of Dr. Rankin's children may be buried in the cemetery on the arsenal, but there are no markers to substantiate that. The story published in the book *LURE AND LORE OF LIMESTONE COUNTY* about Dr. Rankin adds more detail:

memory is kept alive in the furnishings and portraits which are widely scattered among the descendants. Two pier mirrors once stood in the entrance hall at "Druid's Grove," one is now in Waco, Texas, and the other was inherited by Benjamin Donnell Peck of Athens.

The first record of the Binford family in America available was in the granting of acreage to Anthony Binford by Governor Berkley in 1665 in Lower Norfolk County, Va. Anthony's son, James, bought land in Charles City County (later Prince George County), Va., for which he paid two pounds of tobacco per acre. James' grandson, James Binford, married Margaret Mosby in 1745 and their son, John Mosby, came to Alabama before 1820.

John Mosby (1746-?) md. Eliza Frances Hardiman of Charles City County, Va. They moved to Northampton County, N. C., and he represented that county in the state legislature from 1798-1807. The Binfords brought at least three of their children to Limestone County with them. They were:

- I. James Addison (1780?) md. Sarah Bell and had: (1) Thomas D. (Feb. 4, 1816-?) md. first Sarah Ingram (Jan. 22, 1815-Oct. 23, 1843) and secondly, Mary Lou Brandon (Dec. 29, 1829-May 30, 1850) and third, Melvina Louisa Harrell (February 9, 1835-?). (2) James Addison. (3) Dr. Richard Littleberry md. first Sarah Elizabeth Richardson (see *Richardson House*) and had Richard Littleberry and William Richardson. He md. secondly, Martha Hays, n/c. (4) Peter d.y. (5) Lewis md. John Turner. (6) Lucy md. Dr. Thomas Brandon of Huntsville. (7) Mary Ann md. Dr. T. L. H. Maclin and had Addison Binford Maclin. (8) Margaret d.y. (9) Peter d.y.
- II. Abner (Dec. 25, 1794-?) md. Ann Elizabeth Jones on July 18, 1822, and had: (A) John Henry (Aug. 25, 1823-?) md. Amelia Matilda Allen, daughter of Aba Allen, and had (A) Ann Eliza (July 26, 1850-1908) md. R. G. Throne, (B) John Littleberry (Oct. 24, 1854-?) md. Annie Worley, (C) Matilda Allen (1860-1884), (D) Fannie (1862-1888), (E) Asa Allen (Sept. 24, 1864-?), (F) Burton (1867-1885), (G) Henry Newell (Dec. 3, 1872-June 7, 1958) md. Mary Louise Donnell (September 16, 1885-June 28, 1958) and had (a) Henry Newell, Jr. (1907-1908), and (b) Lucy Haywood, who md. Lt. Malcolm Sidney Adams, U.S.N., on June 15, 1933.
- III. Eliza Frances Hardiman md. James Chapelle Malone on Nov. 14, 1824, in Madison County. They were parents of Frances, who was the first graduate of the Tennessee Confederate Female Institution (later Athens College) and the young lady for whom the steamboat *Fanny Malone* was named. She married Samuel Henderson. Other children of the Malones were Elizabeth, Thomas, James, Julia, Mary, and Lucy.

#### BIBB-RANKIN-DUKE (ca. 1865)

19

The Memphis and Charleston Railway postoffice at the end of Bibb's Lane was first named "Fertilis" at the suggestion of Thomas Hobbs. "It has this recommendation at least, that there is no other office in the Union of the same name," wrote Thomas Hobbs in 1856.

When the proposed route of the Memphis and Charleston was first made, the railroad would have come much closer to Mooresville, but the villagers opposed the noise

and dirt of the locomotives and the line was laid on the Bibb property some two miles north of the town. The colloquial name of "Belle Mina" was given to the post-office in 1872. Thomas Bibb had named his palatial mansion "Belle Manor," but local pronunciation soon changed it to "Belle Mina."



Thomas Bibb's son, Porter, presumably built this house around 1865 for his son Porter, Jr., soon after his marriage to Amelia Bradley in 1863. Amelia was the daughter of Nathan and Amanda (Taliaferro) Bradley, who had left Madison County several years previous to this time and settled in Marengo County, Ala. The house was sold in 1870 by Robert Bibb to Dr. J. C. M. Rankin.

Dr. Rankin, a native of Wayne County, Tenn., graduated in medicine from the University of Nashville in 1858. He married and lived in Tennessee for several years. Among his children by his first wife were William, who died unm.; Quinton, who according to family tradition was killed by nightriders; and Vichlorine, who married Henry Kellog Peebles (see *Peebles-Zeitler-McCrary House*). Dr. Rankin came to Alabama soon after the death of his first wife, married Julia Graham and had:

- I. Margaret md. Watkins Bradley.
- II. Annie md. William E. Duke and had: (1) Julia md. William Sourile and had Barry, who died recently in New York. (2) William F. md. Natalie ? and lives in California.
- III. James G. (Oct. 6, 1883-Oct. 5, 1942) md. Myrtle McGuire (see *Andrew Legg House*) and had Marian md. Charles R. Lawing of Mobile, who died on May 20, 1975. They had (a) James, (b) Susan md. first Rex Penrose and had Brett and Beth, and secondly Allen Dupuis, (c) Charles Rankin, and (d) Barbara.
- IV. Marvin md. Maude ?, n/c
- V. Campbell died unm.

SOUTHEAST

### The LURE and LORE of LIMESTONE COUNTY (ALABAMA)

by Faye Axford & Chris Edwards for the Limestone County Historical Society (1978 / 1990 Addenda)

199

SE#19-Pg.199- Veone Rankin Johnson (Mrs. Emmett F.) of Atlanta GA wrote on 29 July 1979: "My paternal grandfather, Dr. J. C. M. Rankin was born in Rutherford Co near Murfreesboro TN. On May 24 1861 he md. Elizabeth Rasbury (d.28 Feb.1875) where were born to them six children: (I) Ida Rebella md. Lytle Burns and lived in Florence AL. Their children were: (1) James Rankin Burns md. Lucia Leeper and had James, Jr. She died and he md. Bess Shannon who had Thomas Shannon, William Edward and John Albert Burns; (2) Essie Mable md. Clayton Strickland and had Margaret Collier, Ida Rankin, Jane August, Ala Burns, Katherine A. Strickland, Margaret Elizabeth (dy). (3) Lytle DeWitt md. Pearl Powell and had Lytle, Jr., Mary Wilella, Sam, and Martha Lee Burns; (4) Isham G. Harris Burns md. first Mattie Glenn Dalton and had Martha Ida, Mary Sue, and Harriet Glenn. Harris md. secondly Beulah Knowlton and had Harris Burns, Jr. (5) Fleming Cayce md. Bess Shannon(?) and had Fleming Cayce, Jr.; (6) Cora Katherine md. Calvin Dennis Waddell and had Calvin Dennis, Jr., and Kathryn Ann Waddell; (7) Guy Olney md. Clarice Long, n/c; (8) Mattie Glenn md. Don Carlos Price and Charlotte Elizabeth, Don Carlos, Jr., Dorothy Lee, and Martha Glenn Price; (9) Ida Mae (dy); (10) Robert (dy); (11) Roy Rasbury md. Elizabeth Brittain and had Elizabeth Mayfield md. Ed Reynolds Davies and had Ed Reynolds, Jr., Robert Rankin, and Wade Vance Davies; (12) Robert Brittain (killed 18 Jan.1972) and Cecelia Vance Burns who md. Michael J. Travis and had Elizabeth Hall and Michael Brittain Travis; (13) William Quentin md. Effie Mae Hanson and had (A) Marilyn Ann md. Carlos Dale Parker and had Susan Burns and Mary Jane Parker, and (B) William Quentin, Jr. md. Ann Montfort and had William Montfort and Elizabeth Ann Burns. (II) Victoria md. Henry Kellog Peebles and lived in Detroit, Michigan; (III) Vance Olney md. Johnie King and lived in Atlanta. They had (1) Catherine Elizabeth (dy); (2) Veone Rankin md. Emmett Francis Johnson (d.30 Nov.1956), n/c; (3) James King md. first Margaret Mather Hunt (d.8 July 1959) and had (A) Margaret Hunt md. David Eugene Taylor (d.14 Feb.1977) and had David Edmund, Richard Howell, Margaret Susannah, and James Rankin Taylor. James King md. secondly Henrietta Howard Bell on 24 Sept.1960 and had (B) Harriet Susannah md. Andrew Coleman Schraut Hobbs and had Andrew Coleman, Jr., Claiborne Rankin, and Elizabeth Mather Hobbs; (C) Vance Olney, Jr., md. Anne Wynne McCoy and had (a) Vance Olney III,

practices law in Atlanta; and (b) Nancy Anne md. Benjamin James Tarbutton, Jr., and had Anne Rankin, Rosa McMaster, and Benjamin James Tarbutton III; (5) William King (unm); and (6) Suste May (unm). (IV) Margaret Rankin md. Watkins Bradley and had Amanda, Elizabeth, Margaret, Watkins, Jr. md. Emily Lyle, n/c, Quentin and Jimmy Bradley. (V) Quentin md. Eliza Grizzard and lived in Trenton TN until he was killed by nightriders on 19 Oct.1908. (VI) Dr. William Rasbury Rankin lived in Montgomery AL (d.unm).

The land transactions of Dr. Rankin and his wife in Madison County also shed some light upon their prominence in the area:

SPECIALS		N	O	Pa	Pe-Pf	Pi	PhPi/Py	Q-Ra	Re	Rb Ri	Ro Ru Ry	53
CHURCHES		Na	Oa to Ok	Pa to Pal	Pe to PeL	Pi to PiL	Ph Pi	Q	Re to ReL	Rb	Ro to RoL	
See page 17 under Ch		1	11	17	25	25	35	47	57	65	65	
LOGGES		Ne	O'B to O'K	Pa to PaP	Pe to PeL	Pi to PiL	Ph Pi	Ra to RaL	Re to ReL	Rb to RbL	Ro to RoL	
See page 21 under La		3	11	19	27	27	37	49	59	67	67	
SCHOOLS, COLLEGES		Ni	O'L to O'R	Pa to PaP	Pe to PeP	Pi to PiP	Ph Pi	Ra to RaL	Re to ReL	Rb to RbL	Ro to RoL	
and SCHOOL BOARDS		5	13	21	29	29	39	51	61	69	69	
See page 15 under Sc		7	15	23	31	31	41	53	63	71	71	
		Na Ny	O'S to O'T	Pa to PaZ	Pe to PeZ	Pi to PiZ	Ph Pi	Ra to RaZ	Re to ReZ	Rb to RbZ	Ro to RoZ	
		9	15	23	31	31	41	53	63	71	71	

TO WHOM MADE				SEARCH THESE NAMES		GENERAL INDEX TO REAL PROPERTY	
<i>Rankin</i>				<b>FIRST</b> Surnames, First or Corporations here written will, because of their frequent entry, be found separately grouped on page here indicated. If name is not here written, look for it in last name column of this and following pages.		<b>No. 1</b> <b>DEEDS, MORTGAGES, JUDGMENTS, LIS PENDENS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS EFFECTING REAL ESTATE</b> <b>From 1810 to 1919 Inclusive</b>	

SURNAME	GIVEN NAMES A B C D E F G H	GIVEN NAMES I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	M A K E R	KIND OF INSTRUMENT	WHERE AND WHEN RECORDED	LOCATION OR OTHER BRIEF DESCRIPTION
<b>Rankin</b>		<u>James</u>	John McCartney	Deed	K 448 1827	Brownboro
do	Anna Fanny	<u>Milly</u> <u>Maggie</u>	Henderson Hill	Deed	LL 324 1848	Pelham St Hvl
do		<u>Millie</u>	Maggie A Rankin	al Deed	SES 89 1888	Pelham St Hvl
do		<u>J C M</u>	J T Thompson	Mtg	M 58 428 1888	28 5 1-W
do	Ella A		Joe M McKee	al Mtg	M 60 368 1901	6th St & Ward Ave
do		<u>J C M</u>	N B Grayson	al Mtg	M 71 635 1901	Taylor St Curley
do		<u>Julia A</u>	Edwin R Jordan	Tabr Deed	D 89 138 1901	17 5 1-W
do		<u>J A Mrs</u>	J B Stewart	al Deed	D 90 291 1902	21 5 1-W
do		<u>Julia G</u>	William B Manning	al Deed	M 123 616 1913	21 5 1-W
do	Annie E	<u>Marvin S</u> <u>James G</u>	Thomas C Frank Jacobs	Mtg	M 131 89 1914	28 5 1-W
do		<u>Julia G</u>	Yancy Horton	al Mtg	M 131 204 1914	21 5 1-W
do		<u>Julia</u>	James G Rankin	al Mtg Augst	M 171 68 1919	
Randles			Thos Anderson Hazer	al Deed	D Y 180 1851	28 6 2-E

The land purchases recorded per this index in Madison County prior to 1898 were not for Dr. JCM Rankin or his family. They are for another branch of the Rankin clans in America.

SPECIALS		N	O	Pa	Pe-Pf	Pi	PhPi	Py	Q-Ra	Re	Rh Ri	Ro Ru Ry	53
CHURCHES See page 17 under Ch LOGGES See page 21 under Lu SCHOOLS, COLLEGES and SCHOOL BOARDS See page 15 under Sc		Na 1	Ob to Ok 11	Pa to Pd 17	Pe to Pf 25	Pi to Pl 27	Ph Pi 25	Py 25	Q 47	Re to Ref 57	Rh 65	Ro to Rk 65	
		Nb 3	Od to O'K 11	Pa to Pa 19	Pe to Pf 27	Pi to Pl 27	Ph Pi 27	Py 27	Ra to Ra 49	Re to Re 59	Ri to Ri 57	Rk to Rk 67	
		Nl 5	O'L to O'R 13	Pa 21	Pe to Pe 29	Pi to Pi 29	Ph Pi 29	Py 29	Ra to Ra 51	Re to Re 61	Ri to Ri 59	Rk to Rk 69	
		Na 7	O to O' 15	Pa 21	Pe to Pe 31	Pi to Pi 31	Ph Pi 31	Py 31	Ra to Ra 53	Re to Re 63	Ri to Ri 61	Rk to Rk 71	
		Nb 9	O'S to O'Z 15	Pa to Pa 23	Pe to Pe 33	Pi to Pi 33	Ph Pi 33	Py 33	Ra to Ra 55	Re to Re 65	Ri to Ri 63	Rk to Rk 73	

MAKER			SEARCH THESE NAMES		GENERAL INDEX TO REAL PROPERTY			
SEPARATELY GROUPED ON PAGE INDICATED			1911		No. 1			
Rand 113			MADISON CO. AL		DEEDS, MORTGAGES, JUDGMENTS, LIS PENDENS			
Randolph 200			MADISON CO. AL		AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS EFFECTING REAL ESTATE			
			MADISON CO. AL		From 1810 to 1919 Inclusive			

SURNAME	GIVEN NAMES			TO WHOM MADE	KIND OF INSTRUMENT	WHERE AND WHEN RECORDED				LOCATION OF OTHER BRIEF DESCRIPTION		
	A B C D E F G H	I J K L M N O	P Q R S T U V W X Y Z			Book	Vol.	Page	Year	Sec.	Tp.	Rg.
Rankin		James	Wilmoth	Grant Taylor	Deed	D	L	81	1827			Brownboro
do	al	Maggie A		Millie Rankin	Deed	D	SSS	89	1888			Pelham St Hvl
do		Millie		T H Wade	Mtg	M	59	286	1887			Pump St Hvl
do		Millie		Annie L Walker	Deed	D	81	93	1897			Pelham St Hvl
do		Julia		Edron B Jordan	Deed	D	88	68	1900			17 5 1-W
do		J C M		Edron B Jordan	Deed	D	88	68	1900			28 5 1-W
do		Millie		A M Booth	Mtg	M	60	519	1902			Pelham St Hvl
do		Millie		J Robert Jones	Mtg	M	85	1	1904			Pelham St Hvl
do		Millie		J Robert Jones	Mtg	M	83	63	1906			Pelham St Hvl
do		James G		Thomas W Jones	P of A	Misc	2	7	1913			21 5 1-W
do	al	Julia G		Thomas W Jones	P of A	Misc	2	7	1913			21 5 1-W
do	al	Annie	Marvin S	Thomas C	Deed	D	107	312	1913			21 5 1-W
do		James G		do do	Deed	D	107	312	1913			21 5 1-W
do		Maude G		do do	Deed	D	107	312	1913			21 5 1-W
do		Marvin S		do do	Deed	D	107	312	1913			21 5 1-W
do	al	Annie E	Maude G	Thomas C	Deed	D	107	383	1914			21 5 1-W
do		M S		Thomas C	Deed	D	107	383	1914			21 5 1-W
do		James G		do do	Deed	D	107	383	1914			21 5 1-W
do		Julia G		W B Manning	Mtg Rel	M	131	244	1914			21 5 1-W
do	al	Maude		W B Manning	Mtg Rel	M	131	244	1914			21 5 1-W
do	al	James G	Thomas C	Alva Jacobs	al Deed	D	111	486	1916			21 5 1-W
do	al	Julia G		do do	al Deed	D	111	486	1916			21 5 1-W
do	al	Marvin S		do do	al Deed	D	111	486	1916			21 5 1-W
do		Julia G		W B Manning	Deed	D	114	340	1917			29 5 1-W
do	al	Julia		Milton H Lanier	P of A	Misc	1	269	1919			
do		James G	Thos C	Mrs Julia Rankin	Mtg Asgmt	M	171	68	1919			
Randle	al	Obedience	Thos	Joel Childress Tr	D T	D	Y	188	1851			38 6 2-E
Randell		Obedience	Thos C	Wm D Hollowell	Deed	D	Y	184	1851			31 6 2-E

This index of land sales by the Rankins in Madison County shows when Frank Jacobs got the land around the cemetery – 1914 – from Dr. Rankin’s heirs.

One other interesting note about Dr. Rankin’s 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Julia A. Graham, is that her 1<sup>st</sup> husband was Frances Marion Windes. Colonel Windes served in the Confederate forces that defended north Alabama. He was in command

of many of the troops who were engaged on December 23, 1864, at Indian Creek, just east of the town of Madison. His familiarity with the area no doubt served him well, but the Confederates still lost the battle in a decisive Union victory. This battle and the only other significant engagement to occur in Madison County during the Civil War are both commemorated with an official Historical Marker on the Village Green along the railroad tracks in Madison.

Another item of particular interest is the will that Nancy T. Graham wrote. It was the instrument that ultimately put much of the extensive Dickson and Graham lands under the control of Dr. Rankin by providing that his wife Julia and their children inherit lands from Julia's siblings after their deaths.

LWT of Nancy T. (Dickson) Graham; Madison County, Alabama

In the name of God amen. I Nancy T Graham do this day make my last will and testament hereby revoking all other wills made by me. & being sound in mind but feeble in body.

Item 1<sup>st</sup> It is my desire that all my just debts be paid before any division takes place.

Item 2<sup>nd</sup> I give and bequeath to my son Joseph David Graham a note that I hold against him dated April 5, 1876. for nine hundred and fifty four dollars also one hundred and sixty acres of land a part of the sixteenth section said lands being one mile north of the Huntsville road. Said lands are his to have and hold his life time. If he has any lawful heirs of his body at his death then these lands are to go to them otherwise they are to go to my four grand children, Julia Mahan Smith, Florence Mahan, Graham Mahan, and Ethel Mahan.

Item 3<sup>rd</sup> I give and bequeath to my daughter Sarah James Fowler one hundred and fifty nine acres of land which is the farm that I live on. these lands are hers to have and to hold her life time. At her death these lands are to go to her sister Julia F. Rankin's children the heirs of her body not to be sold or divided until the youngest child comes of age. and to be managed by their father as he may think proper.



Item 4<sup>th</sup> I give and bequeath to my daughter Virginia Zuleka Mahan the house and lot situated in Heartzell, Morgan County Alabama. This house and lot is to belong to her her life time at her death it must go to her children the heirs of her body not to be divided until her youngest child is of age her children have no claim on the property while she lives I also give her one hundred and sixty acres of land in Morgan county lying on the road leading from Subnersville to Fletchers ferry. she may sell this land if she can do so to advantage and invest the money in real estate for the benefit of herself and children.

Item 6<sup>th</sup>

I give and bequeath to my daughter Julia Mahama Rankin Eighty acres of land lying north of the eighty she got from her fathers estate, called the King place, and eighty acres of land lying on the Huntsville<sup>vt</sup> beginning at my woods pasture and going down to the Landowners fence. I also give her eighty acres of wood land joining the Pritchett farm. These lands I give to my daughter Julia A Rankin her life time at her death they are to go to her children the heirs of her body. Not to be divided until the youngest child is twenty one year of age.

Item 6<sup>th</sup>

Nov 6<sup>th</sup>

I wish all my household and kitchen furniture beds and bed cloths equally divided between my four children except 1 Oz silver spoons which I give to my son Joseph D. Graham and my daughter Jariah J. Fowler. All my cattle mules or horses that I may have also all the money notes, or cotton or corn I may have on hand, after my debts are paid, I give to my three daughters Jariah J. Fowler, Virginia J. Mahan and Julia S. Rankin. This gift is to bring them on an equal footing with their brother Joseph D. Graham for the one hundred and fifty four dollars as I possibly can. My children can take my property as I have directed without any executor except themselves.

This is my last will and testament  
Witness my hand seal.

Nancy T. Graham

Witness

A. C. Simpson

J. M. Proctor

State of Alabama } Personally appeared before me Thomas J.  
Madison County } Taylor Judge of Probate for said County  
H. C. Simpson and A. J. Proctor who being by  
me duly sworn depose and say that Miss Nancy  
T. Graham executed the within and foregoing  
instrument in their presence in or about the month  
of May 1890 day not remembered and then and there

declared it to be her last will and testament that said  
Nancy T. Graham was at the time of signing of sound  
mind and memory and of disposing judgment  
that said affiant together with Wm. Proctor the  
other attesting witness subscribed said instrument  
as attesting witnesses in the presence of the testatrix  
and at her request and in the presence of each other  
on the day or date hereinbefore referred

A. C. Simpson.  
Wm. Proctor

Pursuant to a decree of Probate Court of Madison  
County, Alabama the foregoing instrument was  
admitted to Probate on the 27th day of October 1891  
and together with the proof thereon duly recorded  
Thomas J. Taylor Judge Probate

LWT of Nancy T. (Dickson) Graham; Madison County, Alabama  
Probate Case Record Number 4133 (LWT - May, 1890)

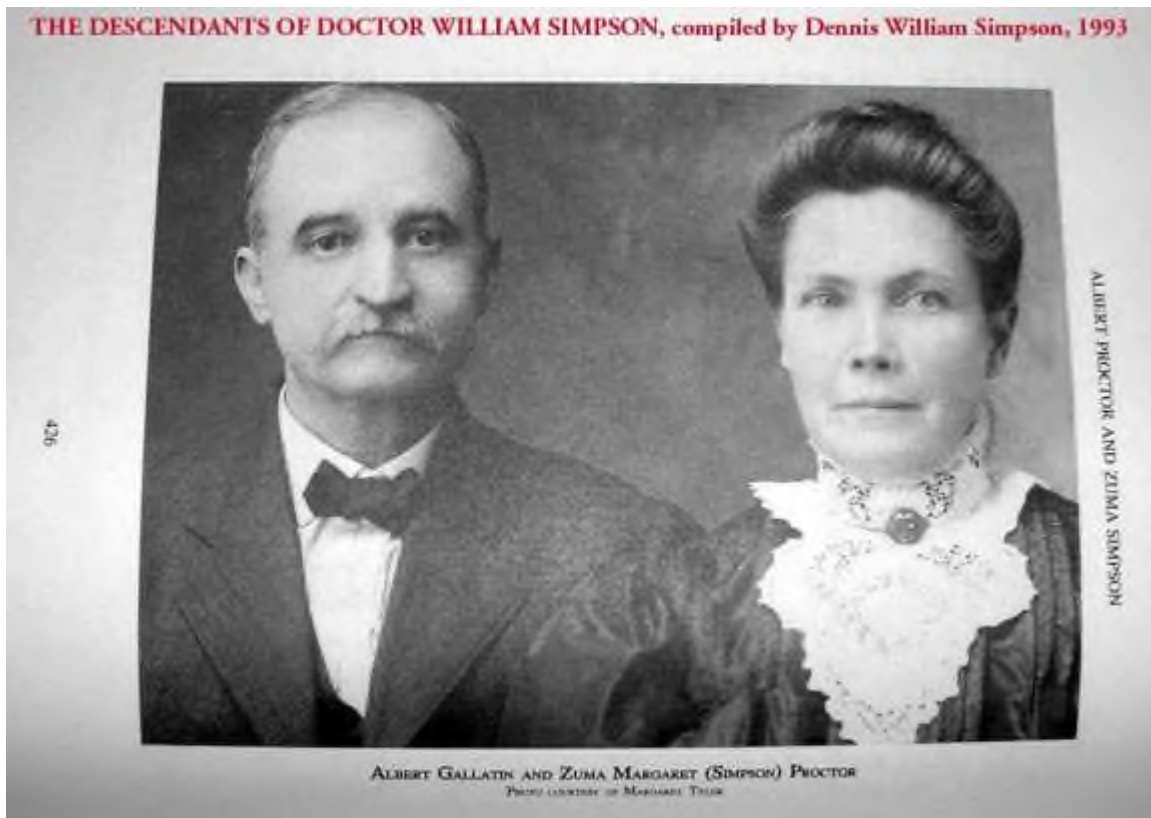
Will Nancy Graham

4133

Received October 27 1891  
Will Book No 6 Page 330

Filed Oct 27 1891

Note that the witnesses to the will above were H. C. Simpson plus Z. M. and A. G. Proctor. These are names associated with the Simpson – Jones Cemetery (65-3), which is located about a mile and a half to the northwest of the Dickson – Rankin Cemetery. A photo of the Proctors is shown below:



In addition to the details of Nancy T. Graham's will, there is much more data, including many of the estate papers of James Dickson, on the CD-ROM database for this cemetery that was supplied to the Army offices at Redstone Arsenal. The name of the cemetery actually hides the true identity of the known burials there. At first glance, it would seem to be more appropriate to call it the Graham Cemetery, acknowledging that there is a marker for a Fowler and a Dickson in the cemetery. Of course, it is possible that people of other surnames were also buried there. In particular, the Dicksons may have even begun the cemetery as such for their family by interring family members there while James Dickson owned the land.

The land record data below shows the transitions of the land ownerships. First, it was obtained from the government by Benjamin S. Jones. This was recorded on 21 June 1831, when he patented the Southeast Quarter of Section 21, Township 5 South, Range 1 West. (See Cowart's "**Old Land Records**" page image below.) Benjamin S. Jones sold the land in 1833 to George McLeod, as shown in the "**Index to Lands**" by G. W. Jones & Sons, Inc. (image below). According to this index, George McLeod sold the land to Hughy Smith in 1837. Smith sold the land to James Dickson in 1847, and the Administrator of James Dickson's estate transferred it to Joseph D. Graham ("and others") in 1855. Therefore, the land was held under the Graham surname far longer than any other owner in the 1800s. Joseph D. Graham was, of course, a son of Nancy Tyree Dickson and her husband James B. Graham (who died in 1849, before his widow and her children inherited the land from the Dickson estate). Likewise, Nancy T. Graham was a daughter of James Dickson and Keziah Wood.

Since Nancy Graham was one of the heirs of James Dickson, and that is how the Grahams got the land, it strongly supports the claim that both James Dickson and his wife Keziah are buried in the family cemetery, as stated by Dennis Simpson in the Dickson Ahnentafel shown earlier in this report. That information can be found on page 16 of this report, in Ahnentafel Generation No. 3, for persons numbered 6 and 7. While they have no tombstones remaining to mark their graves, James Dickson and Keziah Wood Dickson are almost certainly buried there beside the graves of their known children who are interred in the cemetery. This deduction additionally supports the name of the cemetery including "Dickson", even though there is only one tombstone visible in the cemetery today with that surname inscribed. Considering all of these things, it now appears that the most descriptive name for the cemetery would be the **Dickson – Graham Cemetery (87-2)**.

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 54 continued					2 Mar 1819		
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	16	40.50%		State *School H. H. Lea	20 Oct 1856	Vol. D, p 5	
	"	40.50%		State *School H. H. Lea	20 Oct 1856	Vol. D, p 5	
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	"	40.50%		State *School H. H. Lea	20 Oct 1856	Vol. D, p 5	
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	"	40.50%		State *School H. H. Lea	20 Oct 1856	Vol. D, p 5	
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	"	40.50%		State *School H. H. Lea	20 Oct 1856	Vol. D, p 5	
	17	631.80					
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	39.48%		Nancy (T.) Graham	20 Nov 1854		21178
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	39.48%		Nancy (T.) Graham	20 Nov 1854		21178
W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	78.97 $\frac{1}{2}$		George Cook	4 Jul 1831		1461
E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	"	78.97 $\frac{1}{2}$		State	23 May 1828		
	"	78.97 $\frac{1}{2}$		*River Impts J. & W. Points	1 Sep 1837		*Memo
W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	"	78.97 $\frac{1}{2}$		State	23 May 1828		
	"	78.97 $\frac{1}{2}$		*River Impts John Ives	5 Oct 1830		*Memo
	"	78.97 $\frac{1}{2}$		John Ives	Same	Vol. 1, p 77	
E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	78.97 $\frac{1}{2}$		Francis C. Prichard	28 Sep 1854		19131
W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	78.97 $\frac{1}{2}$		George Cook, Asse	6 Feb 1819		2853
South West $\frac{1}{4}$	"	157.95		Charles G. Bowen	4 Jan 1834		6960
	18	650.50					
E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	81.31 $\frac{1}{2}$		John Ives	26 May 1825		1851
W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	81.31 $\frac{1}{2}$		John Ives	9 Dec 1825		1974
North West $\frac{1}{4}$	"	162.62 $\frac{1}{2}$		Isaac Alexander Lanier, Wm. Henry Lanier & Burwell Clinton Lanier	22 Oct 1850		14921
South East $\frac{1}{4}$	"	162.62 $\frac{1}{2}$		Donaldson Turner, Asse	1 Jul 1831		1307
E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	"	81.31 $\frac{1}{2}$		William Patton, Asse	3 Feb 1818		3018
W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	"	81.31 $\frac{1}{2}$		William Patton, Asse	28 Jun 1831		964
Page 55	19	586.97		North and East of Tennessee River			
East Half	"	320.00		Littleberry Robinson & Rodah Horton, Asse	2 Feb 1818		1004 $\frac{1}{2}$
North West $\frac{1}{4}$	"	160.00		Littleberry Robinson & Rodah Horton, Asse	2 Feb 1818		1004 $\frac{1}{2}$
South West part	"	106.97		Entered Name unknown James Cooper	unknown		unknown
	20	620.62			31 May 1831		657
N $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	77.57 $\frac{1}{2}$		Francis C. Prichard	28 Sep 1854		19131
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	38.79		blank John M. Lynch	2 Jul 1855		3323
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	38.79		Benjamin Spence	15 Dec 1832		5838
North West $\frac{1}{4}$	"	155.16		James Cooper, Asse	2 Feb 1818		1486
South East $\frac{1}{4}$	"	155.16		Lemuel Mead	2 Feb 1818		992
South West $\frac{1}{4}$	"	155.16		James Finch, Asse	16 Mar 1818		2988
	21	637.89					
E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	79.74		Edmond Rives, Asse	2 Feb 1818		863
W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	79.74		John Timmons, Asse	28 Sep 1821		2964
North West $\frac{1}{4}$	"	159.47		Samuel V. D. Stout, Asse	2 Feb 1818		824
South East $\frac{1}{4}$	"	159.47		Benjamin S. Jones, Asse	21 Jun 1831		770
South West $\frac{1}{4}$	"	159.47		Lemuel Mead	2 Feb 1818		104
Page 56	22	632.82					
E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	"	79.10 $\frac{1}{2}$		State	23 May 1828		
	"	79.10 $\frac{1}{2}$		*River Impts Hugh Smith	27 Mar 1830		*Memo

Information in script appears on the copy from the office of the Secretary of State of Alabama.

FUND	STATE TITLE	WHEN CONVEYED	Number of State Transfer or Conveyance	WHERE RECORDED	MEMORANDUM
				VOL. PAGE	

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G. W. JONES & SONS

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620	Wright, Nancy T	Wright, John	1878				

A cautionary note to any future researcher of the Graham family on arsenal lands: there are two different Nancy Gramms who were pioneers of the arsenal lands, and they lived close to one another, as well as being contemporaries. The other Nancy Graham was born as a Graham, not married into that name. She married in 1849 at age 17 to Abraham Beadle, who was 72 at the time. Abraham was childless, having been deserted by his first wife, Susan Grimes. It was reported in the divorce petition that

Susan had “run off to Tennessee with another man and resides there”. The 1850 census shows Nancy Graham Beadle with her mother and a sister living in the household headed by Abe. Abraham died in 1858 after 9 years of this marriage, and Nancy inherited his plantation and considerable wealth. She married John Jordan (of another pre-arsenal family) in 1860 and later became involved in litigation over land with the Matkins associated with the Matkin Cemetery (37-3). As would be expected, there is extensive history available in the old land and court records for the Grahams, the Beadles, the Jordans, and the Matkins. Most of those records are also on the CD-ROM provided to the arsenal offices.

By John P. Rankin, August 17, 2005