

It is interesting that execution of the above deed (and others) was officiated by James F. W. Smith, an acting Justice of the Peace. James F. W. Smith was a son of Hughy Smith, a landowner who lived adjacent to John Timmons. Both the Smith and the Finch families, and probably the Timmons family as well, had roots in York County of South Carolina. (See the Smith Cemetery, 72-2, Summary Report.)

The inserts below show pages from Margaret Matthews Cowart's book, **OLD LAND RECORDS OF MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA**. Mrs. Cowart produced this very authoritative and comprehensive book by using the old Government Tract Book and augmenting entries with records from the office of the Alabama Secretary of State and other sources. It shows that John Timmons was the original owner (he "patented" government land) of tracts in T5-R1W involving Sections 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, and 34. Altogether, the land that John Timmons purchased from the government in T5-R1W included about 1450 acres of what is now the southern part of the arsenal.