JOINER - LACEY CEMETERY, 89 - 2

Summary Report



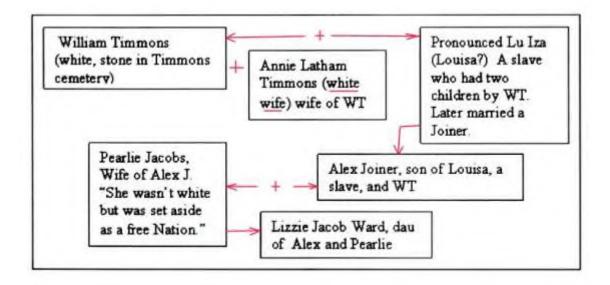
Joiner - Lacey Cemetery 89-2, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 26, 2003 Inner fenced area (wire gone) contained 4 obvious grave depressions; tombstone for Claudie Joiner

The information below is from the notes made in the year 2001 by Beverly Curry of the Army offices, when she interviewed Lizzie Jacobs Ward and Walter Joiner, from an e-mail sent to John P. Rankin 3 November 2004:

Lizzie Jacobs Ward and Walter Joiner

(See John Rankin info on Joiner-Lacy cemetery 89-2)

She was born on arsenal land. So were her parents. Her grandmother Luisa was a slave. Her grandfather was William Timmons (white). "We always stayed on his place. They rang bells when he died.



Brothers and sisters of Lizzie Jacob Ward were: JOINER NAME:

Bessie

Percy

Louise

Nina

Claudie

Gussie

What Lizzie Ward referred to as the "colored cemetery" is shown as Cemetery 89-2 Joiner-Lacy on our cemetery map.

"The colored cemetery is on down towards Leeman's ferry in the pine." Lizzie said the one stone in the cemetery belonged to her brother Claudie Joiner. He was in World War I. Alex Joiner was paid (by?) to go upkeep the cemetery. "The last ones buried in the colored cemetery were Jim Turner, Aaron Tate, and Joe Walker". Lizzie said her mother was buried there (Pearlie Jacobs). Her mother wanted to be buried at the **Jacobs** Cemetery, but backwater was up [water came up and stood]. It was near the river. The Timmons (white) was higher up.

Lizzie's mother died when she was two years old. "She died because she had milk leg. She had a baby born. When the baby died, she would milk out milk on a brick."

[John Rankin's info: In 1920 Claudie lived in household of Percy, which included his father Alexander Joiner, a widower at the time. Felix Joiner lived a few houses away, as did Melvin.]

After WWI, brothers (Claudie and Percy) bought some of Timmons land. The land was near the big house. Lonnie Wilson, he owned the Timmons house when Lizzie left the arsenal. He was white. He came from across the river on the other side of Leeman's Ferry.

The house where Lizzie grew up:

"Wasn't no good house. The land flooded some places. Had to move out of the houses. First time they had school in the schoolhouse (Hardin School), the water swelled up the floors.

The house had two bedrooms and a kitchen. Slab-over houses. Shingle house were good. "Bows" {boughs?} cut from trees on the others (not good). Toted water—sometimes a half mile. Was a well on the Timmons place. Had a bucket on the head and one in the hand. We raised: hogs, cows, chickens, corn, cotton. Cooked in fireplace. "Heap coals on the oven." Ash cakes. Swept the floor with a sage grass broom. Some folks had dirt floors. Cracks. Get a croaker sack of ashes. Poured them on the floor. Use a sage grass broom. It was smelling good when they did this in the spring.

What are ash cakes? Hot water and corn meal. Milk if you have it. Can pour soda it in (baking powder makes it dry). Sweep the ashes back so no grits be in it. I believe she said she remembered her Grandmother making them.

Lizzie was raised by her brothers and sisters.

The chimney in the house was double backed.

See diagram from notebook. {Not sent to J. P. Rankin}

Claudie bought north part of Timmons farm. His mother is Parthenia Wynn Joiner Horton. His father owned land on the east side of Leeman's Bluff.

Walter Joiner was the son of Claudie. Walter's step-father was Connie Horton. Connie Horton and Yancy Horton Jr. were the sons of Yancy Horton, Sr. Yancy was born of a slave housekeeper. The master had three by his housekeeper. Yancy had one sister and 1 brother. He lived in Silverhill. His land and his sister's joined. She married Adolphus love.

In the middle of our field was an old graveyard. About ½ acre, that we plowed right up to. My father is buried there (Claudie). No name for the cemetery. {Claudie Joiner is buried in the Joiner – Lacey Cemetery, 89-2, per Arsenal nomenclature and maps. However, if this note applies to the father of Lizzie, that was not Claudie, it was Alex Joiner. Alex may be buried in another cemetery, different from where Claudie Joiner is buried. Bev's insertion of the name "Claudie" may be in error here. Besides, the Joiner – Lacey Cemetery is larger than half an acre, in my estimation – JPR}

A-1 LANIER House by the National Guard Armory. Elnora Lanier's daddy owned. Copeland and Clay. The Army used existing house as offices and riding stable. Houses 2 story. Built according to size family on FHA standard. Put out orchards, chicken, house, barn, corral for hogs. This program started when Roosevelt came in. 1930s. Find farmer working as a tenant. Try to make him a homeowner. Bought a big tract up by Moore's Mill Road. Bought a big block.

Government bought from people who had a big block they wanted to sell. Government bought it. And cut it up. Like Skyline up on the mountain—WPA built a school, new community. 40 or 80 acres. New Deal

Program to get out of Depression. Number of acres depended on family size.

Stable tenants were the usual ones relocated. Tom Young, Fleming boys—didn't want you to take their tenants. So you had to find out what church they attended and they went to talk to them.

We had no bus in our neighborhood. No high school for colored people. We bought a bus. The guy who sold it to us thought we were going to (?) Walter and county agent bought it. Had cloth curtains. Couldn't (buy insurance?). When you rode the bus, you got a certificate, paid a little—so you were part owner. Couldn't say you paid to ride.

Walter Fleming (Fa) died last. Aaron (son) almost 80 now (2001), said "you pick up any children off my place, I'll burn the bus."

Before Roosevelt's time—pay on demand. You pay for it when you get the cotton crop in. No money next year. Banker's friend pay payment and get land. Hays and Fleming did this. He (Hays) later developed Haysland Square. He died (Hays) not so long ago. 90 some. Enfinger (Congressman) related to Hays. That is when they acquired their land. Poor whites and blacks were treated the same way

As shown in the photos of the Timmons Cemetery (89-1), William H. Timmons lived from 1839 to 1906. His wife Annie Eliza Timmons lived from 1835 to 1905. Therefore, Annie was living while William fathered the children by his servant Luisa.

The 1920 census data about Claudie Joiner living in the household of his brother Percy, along with his father Alexander, as mentioned in Beverly's notes of her interview with Lizzie Jacobs Ward, is shown below:

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1920 Madison Co. AL census page 1-B, Whitesburg Township, Beat 6: Claudie JOINER, Sr. & Jr., with wife/mother and relatives, including father Alexander in household of brother Percy Joiner. Claudie Jr. is shown as son of Percy [Perry?]; Lizzie is wife of Claudie Sr. and Alexander Jr. is son of Claudie Sr.; father Alexander is widower; Claudie Sr. shown as brother and partner of Percy.

The more of the census page is shown below, and due to page size limitations, it must be viewed at 200% (on a computer "Word" display) or examined with a strong magnifying glass to read details:

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1920 Madison Co. AL census page 1-B, Whitesburg Township, Beat 6: Claudie JOINER, Sr. & Jr., with wife/mother and relatives, including father Alexander in household of brother Percy Joiner.

The 1920 census records for nearby Felix and Melvin Joiner are also given below:

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1920 Madison Co. AL census page 1-A, Whitesburg Township, Beat 6: Felix JOINER, living near Percy & Claudie Joiner household; Felix' wife shown on page 1-B, top line; no children in household. Felix probably a brother of Alexander, father of Claudie and Percy.

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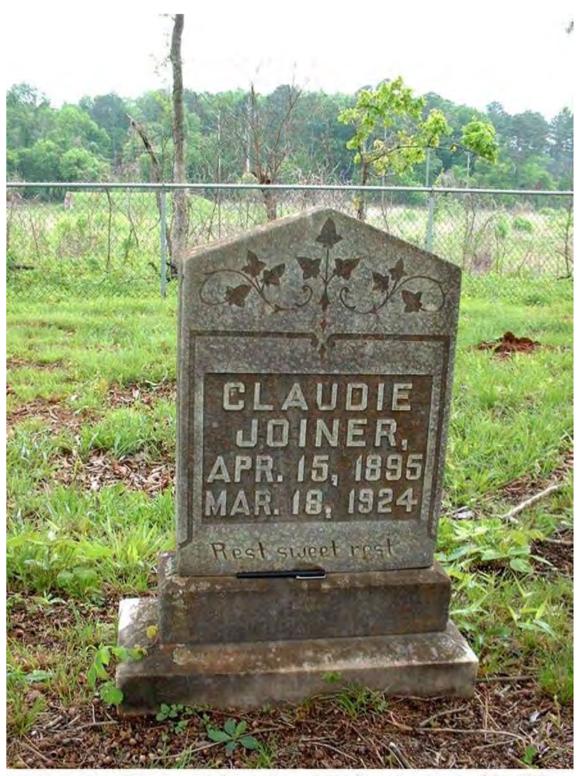
1920 Madison Co. AL census page 1-B, Whitesburg Township, Beat 6: Melvin JOINER, living near Percy & Claudie Joiner household



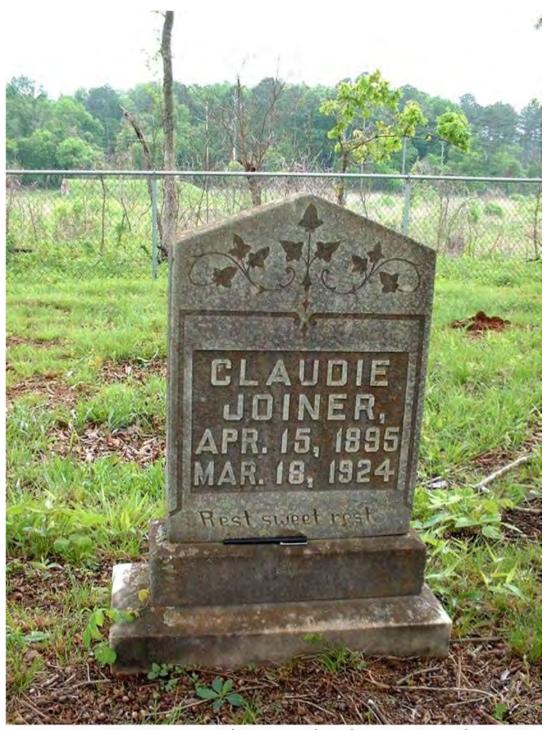
Joiner - Lacey Cemetery 89-2, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 26, 2003 Located on north side of Honeysuckle Road, between Igloos 8936 and 8937, east of Patton Road View toward entrance gate at SW corner, showing inner fenced area around grave of Claudie Joiner



Joiner - Lacey Cemetery 89-2, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 26, 2003 Honeysuckle Road in background at upper left; Igloo 8936 behind tombstone



Joiner - Lacey Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 26, 2003
The 1920 census shows Claudie and his wife Lizzie and son
Alexander living in the household of his brother Percy, which included
his father Alexander, a widower at the time. Felix Joiner, likely an uncle,
lived just a few houses away, as did Melvin, likely another brother or a cousin.



Joiner - Lacey Cemetery 89-2, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 26, 2003

This large cemetery has about 100 obvious grave depressions,
but room for about 300 burials, if full; no other tombstones found.

Notes (below) found in the Army files and provided to John Rankin by Beverly Curry show statements of other burials:

TIMMONS CEMETERY

[Taken from a 1952 file. At top of page is written "Whitman, Requardt & Smith". Centered heading: Report on Graves – Colored Cemeteries]

Maria Elle Timmons, 1937 Lottie Timmons, 1936 Shelby Timmons, 1924 Homer Walls, 1926 Joe Walker, 1940 Vernal Robinson, 1938 Aaron Tate, 1941

[Could the above list be for black burials in the apron of the Timmons Cemetery, or perhaps for the burials at the nearby Joiner – Lacey Cemetery (89-2), which was used by the slaves of the Timmons family and possibly referred to as being the "Timmons Black Cemetery"? It may be that the name at the top of this note is incorrect, or it could explain who is buried in the apron area of the Timmons Cemetery, 89-1. -- - JPR]

Grace Joiner, 1922 Grave with marker gone Claudia Joiner, 1924 Marble headstone and Footstone Group enclosed in fenced plot

Davis Joiner

(see Andy Joiner for names around this plot) [Could "Claudia" perhaps actually be "Claudie", per the tombstone? The date of death matches for Claudie. If these names are for the Joiner – Lacey Cemetery burials, then perhaps the whole page of notes applies to that cemetery. -- JPR]

About 40 unmarked and/or sunken graves clearly visible

The census records for these names found in the 1952 notes provide some clues to the proximity of their residences to the cemeteries in the Pond Beat and Green Grove areas of Whitesburg Precinct / Beat 6. Those that could be found with Soundex searches on the Ancestry.com census files as of August of 2005 are shown below. The images were truncated to allow for expanded detail when inserted into these pages of a Word document, but it will still be advantageous to view the images at 200% on a computer, when using the CDs. Otherwise, use of a strong magnifying glass is recommended. The occupation shown on the truncated census pages for each head of household was "farmer".

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Marie Timmons is shown at age 90 in this 1930 census page. The page also shows Percy Joiner with a child named Gussie, age 17. It may be that Gussie was actually named "Gracie" and the name was misunderstood when heard by the census taker. Likewise, the name could have been

misunderstood when the notes were made in 1952 during an interview. No entry was found for a Gracie or Grace Joiner in the census records of Madison County for 1900, 1910, 1920, or 1930. Felix Joiner is also shown on the above census page, and he has already been stated as being buried in the Joiner – Lacey Cemetery, 89-2.

Regarding Vernal Robinson, there was likewise no entry in any census of 1900-1930 found for that name, or for anything close to that name. However, there was only one Robinson family found in the area of the Green Grove Road / Pond Beat community during this time. It is shown below, but none of the given names resemble "Vernal" in any way. Still, Vernal could have been a middle name that was not recorded on the census records.

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This 1920 census page shows the only entry found during the 1900-1930 census years for a Shelby Timmons. He was 15 in 1920, a son of William and Mary Timmons. However, there was another similar name found in the 1930 record – for a "Shelry" Timmons, which may well have been for "Shelby" and even the same person, since the ages are very close to what would be expected between the records. However, the 1952 notes indicated that the Shelby Timmons of interest was supposed to have been buried in

1924, unless an error was made in those notes or the recollections that they documented.

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There were entries for James ("Jim") Turner in the census records below:

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Since the wife of Jim Turner Sr. (and mother of Jr.), Zilphy, had died by 1930, it is likely that she also is buried in the cemetery of the 1952 listing.

This 1920 census record for Joe Walker shows him as age 49, with a wife and a daughter living in his household. That would make him about age 69 when he died in 1940. Aaron Tate is also shown on the same page. He was listed as age 59 in 1920, with a wife, a son, and a daughter in the household. By the time he died in 1941, Aaron would have been about 80 years old.

No listings were found for Lottie (Charlotte?) Timmons or Homer Walls, as well as for Grace Joiner and Vernal Robinson. However, as stated earlier, those given names may have been middle names that were not used in the records. There were several possibilities for such a case with the surnames in question. A number of "Lacy" family entries were also noted in these census records and adjacent pages. While there are no known records or statements of Lacy burials in the Joiner – Lacey Cemetery, there must be a basis for the inclusion of the surname in the name of the cemetery, so it is likely that some of these Lacy family members are indeed buried here. It should be noted, however, that the census records for these Lacy families in the Pond Beat and Green Grove Road areas of Whitesburg Precinct 6 always omitted the "e", using only the spelling "Lacy". Perhaps the official name of the cemetery should be changed to reflect the spelling used by the families in the census records.

An interesting point of conjecture is that several of the census pages for the folks that were located (as mentioned in the 1952 notes) included Woodward / Woodard families as neighbors. It is known that the Woodwards lived near the Woodward Cemetery, 88-2, in a community that was known as Woodwardville and had its own post office in the 1840s. There is another small, unnamed cemetery (88-1) without any tombstones in that area, in Section 28 of Township 5, Range 1 West. The cemetery is along a gravel road on the west side of Pershing Road, about 250 yards north of the Woodward Cemetery. It is about one mile southwest of the Joiner – Lacey Cemetery, 89-2. From the interview comments by Lizzie Jacobs Ward recorded in the notes of the Army's files, it may well be that this is the cemetery referred to as being the "colored cemetery ... on down towards Leeman's Ferry in the pine". ["The colored cemetery is on down towards Leeman's ferry, in the pine." – from page 3 above.]

It is known that Leeman's Ferry was located on the banks of the Tennessee River in Section 27, less than a half mile east from the location of this

unnamed cemetery. Of course, it was also about a half mile south from the location of the Joiner – Lacey Cemetery, so that may not be conclusive. However, it seems that the census trails indicate a southern location for the "colored cemetery", which was described in different terms than the one now called Joiner – Lacey. For example, being "in the middle of our field" and being able to "plow right up to the edge of the cemetery" fits the one near the Woodward Cemetery, which is in relatively flat land. The Joiner – Lacey Cemetery is on a steeply sloped hillside. It is not at all likely that anyone ever plowed right up to its edges, as stated by Lizzie Jacobs Ward on page 4 above. The statement about being in the middle of a field suggests a relatively flat place, not hillsides. Furthermore, the unknown cemetery (88-1) is definitely "in the pines", as there are still pine trees in abundance there, and there are large old pine stumps in the cemetery. Finally, the size fits. Lizzie said that the cemetery in the pine was about a half acre. That agrees with current estimates, as opposed to the higher estimated size of the Joiner - Lacey Cemetery, 89-2.

While this could explain the Unknown Cemetery 88-1, it still leaves the question of another cemetery that Lizzie Jacobs Ward called "the Jacobs Cemetery", where her mother wanted to be buried (but couldn't, due to high water being "backed up" – implying "backed up" from the Tennessee River at flood stage). That situation most certainly would not fit either the Joiner – Lacey Cemetery or the Unknown 88-1 Cemetery, as both are in high areas far above the river's flood plain. Lizzie's comment would not fit the other known "Jacobs" cemeteries on the arsenal, either. However, there have been stories told by at least two people of an old tombstone overgrown with Kudzu behind an igloo in the extreme southern end of the arsenal. The igloo in question was thought to be either 8574, 8575, or 8577. Access into this area has not yet been gained by the preparer of this report, so nothing further is known of the stories of another cemetery to the south of the Woodward Cemetery. Still, it "makes the pieces of the puzzle fit together" if there is indeed another old cemetery in that area, near the river, where flood waters would back up and delay burials in the Spring of the years. Accordingly, there may be another cemetery as yet unmarked on the base installation maps. Perhaps time and further research will tell the rest of the story.

By John P. Rankin, August 25, 2005