

THE CEMETERIES OF REDSTONE ARSENAL

Project Process & Summary

Status as of September 20, 2005

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An effort was undertaken in the summer of 2002 by John P. Rankin as a volunteer historical researcher to document the old family cemeteries located on Redstone Arsenal. The project was initiated at the request of Beverly Curry of the U. S. Army's Redstone Arsenal Division of Environmental Management. John Rankin was solicited (and eventually agreed to volunteer) for the project as a result of his earlier similar work in finding and documenting cemeteries in and around the City of Madison, Alabama.

The approach for the effort involved personal visitation to the known cemeteries on the arsenal, as recorded on existing maps. Additional cemeteries were found or sought in accordance with reports of unmarked graves from former residents, arsenal personnel, and contract workers on the sties, or from references in old land deeds. Moreover, there were 7 nearby cemeteries documented that are not located within the boundaries of Redstone Arsenal today, but some of the people buried therein were landowners of property that became Army lands.

Each cemetery was visited to perform an initial field survey, as well as to locate and photograph obvious tombstones and fieldstones. Inscribed tombstones were cleaned and photographed in order to have a visual record of the inscriptions and styles of markers. Notes were made of the condition of each cemetery's grounds, its fence (when so enclosed), and the individual