

CEMETERIES OF REDSTONE ARSENAL

INTRODUCTION

This project to record digital photographic images of the tombstones and cemeteries located on Redstone Arsenal began in the year 2002 – at least with respect to the involvement of volunteer effort by John P. Rankin of Madison, Alabama. **The work is still in progress**, and any files contained herein may be revised in future CD-ROM productions as new information comes to light. For now, each version of the CD-ROM of the results of the effort is labeled and dated to denote status as of a certain time. The entire contents of this CD-ROM are considered to be simply a collection of the photographs, findings, notes and other results of the volunteer effort by John Rankin -- intended for personal, private use only and not for publication or sale. Additional hardcopy research notes, working papers, and collected data regarding each cemetery will be left in the files of the Division of Environmental Management at Redstone Arsenal. This effort has been hosted and sponsored by Beverly Curry, Staff Archaeologist, of that office.

None of the images included on this CD-ROM have been altered to any way change the characterization of information. However, some images have been enhanced with software such as Adobe PhotoDeluxe or Adobe PhotoShop to improve legibility. In addition to the photographs made of the tombstones or graves and cemetery overviews, there are a number of digital images of official records (probate, census, land, and marriage records) that may provide insights into the history of the area and into the lives of the people associated with the cemeteries. In some cases, there are included scans of newspaper clippings and the written memoirs of people who lived on the arsenal lands before the government took the property by eminent domain in the early 1940s era. It is hoped that this means of preserving the record of the cemeteries of Redstone Arsenal will be useful to future students of history and to those who wish to research their lineages through the families who lived on pre-arsenal lands.