The house shown above in the town of Madison, Alabama, has a direct connection to the Cooper – Penland Cemetery on Redstone Arsenal. It was the home built by James Cooper for his bride Charity Allison Cooper in the mid-1800s. Originally, it overlooked the Tennessee River, from about a mile north of its banks. Of course, the house as shown here in August of 2005 has been extensively renovated, but it is indeed the old Cooper house, just relocated to the northwest corner of the intersection of Eastview Drive with Metaire Lane in Madison.

The house was moved into Madison from the arsenal by Tyler and Evelyn Darwin in 1977. Below are notes made of a telephone conversation with Mrs. Darwin about the house and its move and it history.
Mrs. Evelyn Darwin related that she and her husband Tyler Darwin personally moved the old Cooper – Lea / Lee – Harris home from Redstone Arsenal in about 1977 to Madison, Alabama. Tyler Darwin is deceased, but he was an expert cabinetmaker and woodworker in general, according to Evelyn. He rented house-moving equipment from the Kennedy Moving Company, and he moved the house from the arsenal himself in two stages. First the bricks were moved, then the remainder of the house was relocated. The house as they got it was constructed of wood planks, not brick. However, the basement was of brick construction. According to Evelyn, the house is supposed to be haunted, with several stories told of seeing a woman (female ghost) on the stairs at various times. She said that Tyler had grown up around the old house in its original location. When asked if he had ever mentioned the existence of more than one tombstone in the nearby cemetery, she said that she was pretty sure that there were no others during their lifetime.

Evelyn and Tyler had decided to move from Huntsville “into the county” in order to get their son out of the city school system and raise him in a more relaxed setting. Their son was about 12 years old when they moved the house, which had 5 fireplaces – two upstairs and three downstairs. They chose the site in Madison to provide the view overlooking Huntsville, so they bought 4 acres there and put the house on it. Stories of the house and its move were published in the Redstone Arsenal newspaper and in the Huntsville newspapers at various times. She credited U. S. Senator John Sparkman and Huntsville Mayor Joe Davis (personal friends of hers) with helping clear away the “red tape” to get the house move accomplished.

Evelyn said that she had some old photos of the house before the move, but most of her historic materials had been loaned to one of her son’s schoolteachers for a special report, and she never got them back. She also said that the local Darwin families are descended from the famous Charles Darwin, who proposed the theory of evolution, and she stated that he was a religious man who had sons in Christian ministry.

Evelyn further stated that Tyler Darwin’s mother was Edna Woodward, of the Woodward family on the pre-arsenal lands. Edna is buried in Maple Hill Cemetery, but the family still considers the Woodward Cemetery on the arsenal as “theirs”. She intends to revisit it soon, if her son will escort her there. Tyler’s father (Edna’s husband) was Jeff Darwin, and he died in the 1918 great flu epidemic. Tyler died in his 80s, and his mother lived to be 101. Maple Hill Cemetery records (per Old Huntsville Magazine’s web page) shows that Edna died January 28, 1989.

Evelyn also mentioned that Huntsville Attorney Fred Simpson interviewed her husband Tyler Darwin extensively for an entire day to learn details of the Woodward girl’s murder in Huntsville during the cotton mill days (1936). Mr. Simpson documented the
murder details in his book “Murder in the Heart of Dixie” (2003) and brought her a complimentary copy after its publication.

John P. Rankin
103 Madison Avenue
Madison, AL  35758

Addendum:  Percy Keel says that a Mr. Foster lived in the house after the Darwins. Madison City Attorney Ann Marie Lacy and her husband are the present occupants / owners.

James Cooper came to Madison County around 1818. He began buying land that later became arsenal property until he had a small plantation. A 1933 newspaper account reports that he built his house with brick brought down the Tennessee River from Chatanooga, Tennessee. However, the owner who moved the house from the arsenal to the town of Madison said that it was made with plank siding, not brick. In any event, the house has passed through many owners to this point. It was said to be haunted, with a female form or ghost seen at various times on the stairway. It is strange that the ghost stories would involve a female, since it was the male, James Cooper, whose death would more possibly be expected to generate ghost stories of unhappy spirits hanging around the house.

The article inserted below is from the Huntsville Times newspaper series about historic homes, as published in 1932-3. The series was written by Pat Jones, and printed on page 4 of every Sunday issue of the paper. The homes were mostly in Madison County, but there were a few articles about historic homes in other counties of Alabama. The partial listing below states that at the time of the writing, Joseph B. Harris was the occupant of the “Lee” (Lea – Cooper) home, thus it became known to the later generations as the “Harris House”.

### Dates Upon Which 29 ‘Historic Homes’ Built

For the convenience of readers who have followed the series of stories on historic homes of Madison county, published in The Times each Sunday since August 28, the following compact list, giving the present occupants and the year in which those already written about were built, has been prepared:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home</th>
<th>Occupants</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Echols</td>
<td>R. E. Spragins</td>
<td>1834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitten</td>
<td>Mrs. S. L. Whitten</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCulley</td>
<td>(Razed)</td>
<td>1811</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weeden</td>
<td>Robert P. Weeden</td>
<td>1819</td>
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<td>Scruggs</td>
<td>Tenants</td>
<td>1811-1815</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boswell</td>
<td>C. S. Boswell</td>
<td>1838</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grayson</td>
<td>David A. Grayson</td>
<td>1852</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>Tenants</td>
<td>1818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burritt</td>
<td>Tenants</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newman</td>
<td>W. W. Newman</td>
<td>1824-1832</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dillworth</td>
<td>W. P. Dillworth</td>
<td>1840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCracken</td>
<td>Miss Laura McCracken</td>
<td>1843</td>
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<tr>
<td>Otsey</td>
<td>J. B. Walker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toney</td>
<td>John Toney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stiley</td>
<td>Tenants</td>
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<td>Jude</td>
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<td>Willis W. Garth</td>
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<td>Eugene Gill</td>
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<td>Strong</td>
<td>W. P. Satterfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee</td>
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<td>Bone heirs</td>
<td>1826</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steele</td>
<td>W. M. Fowler</td>
<td>1840</td>
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Article Series on Historic Homes of Madison County, by Pat Jones published Sundays in HUNTSVILLE TIMES newspaper, 1932-3
The name “Harris House” on the arsenal today has been applied to another, much smaller house that remains near the site of the original Cooper – Lea – Harris home.

Harris House, about 200 yards east of Penland - Cooper Cemetery, 80-1
The 1933 newspaper account of the original Cooper – Lea – Harris house is shown below:
A Z-shaped dwelling in two sections, of different ages, wrapped around an Irish woman with a business tendency, and distinguished by the most beautiful circular stairway in Madison county—all of this comes to light in a review of the Col. H. H. Lee home, for the last 33 years the residence of Joseph B. Harris, situated near the Tennessee river four miles west of Whitesburg.

Tall cedars and two of the largest pecan trees in the South, which have borne for more than 60 years, shade the home, forming a gradual contour from the hundreds of fertile acres of river bottom land surrounding.

Two rooms of the mansion, both of brick and forming the lower part of the Z, were built soon after 1818, and were followed nearly 25 years later by the others, built of substantial frame material.

Land Entered by Cooper
The quarter section of land, on which this home was erected, was entered in 1818 by James Cooper. This was choice acreage, and included some of the best farming soil in the county, all in the center of what is now known as Pond Beat, a name gained from the number of tiny ponds formed by floods when the river is high. His neighbors were scarce, but he was not many minutes’ ride from Ditto’s landing, the import and export center for this section during the early years of the last century.

With bricks hauled from the landing, where they had been brought by boat from Chattanooga or some other point, Cooper erected a small two-story building, the beginning of the present mansion. This was to be his home and that of his bride, Charity Cooper, born in 1801, the daughter of William Allison, who had come over from Ireland several years after her birth.

This settler did well, hauling his cotton to Whitesburg for shipment, and occasionally coming to Huntsville to get supplies. He found that his land, untilled before his arrival, could not have been better suited for a young planter, and made the most of his opportunity.

Bought More Land Later
In 1830, his fortune increasing, he bought for $800 three-quarters of an adjoining section from Rodah Horton, builder of the present McCracken home on Meridian pike. Four years later, through a deal with Charles G. Bowen, covered by
four notes, he added one quarter of still another section.

Then came his death—through suicide—on Dec. 7, 1836, the same year of his purchase from Bowen. Just what influenced him to take his own life—whether money matters, troubles with his wife, or debauchery over his health—is not known. On this day, cold for the method of dying he chose, he walked the mile to the banks of the Tennessee, fastened an iron pot he had carried with him over his head, and plunged into the water. His will, made the June prior, left the majority of his property, estimated at nearly $12,000, to his wife. Her share included his real estate, his cotton crop, valued at $2,470.51, and 38 slaves, appraised at $10,000. She also was bequeath
ded all cattle, horses and household furniture.

Cooper further specified that $500 should be given to each of his sisters, Mrs. Mary Wall, Mrs. Nancy Veitch and Mrs. Elizabeth Ross, wife of the Rev. Alexander J. Wall. His father was to receive $25 annually as long as he lived.

Charity Took Over Farm

Charity took over the reins there on the plantation without thought of moving the few miles to Huntsville for an environment not nearly so lonesome. She directed her slaves with as true an iron hand as ever Irish woman possessed, using her own judgment as a farmer herself in having potatoes planted in that field, corn in this one, or cotton over the entire acreage. She forgot her troubles during the first year or two of this new task, yet, as the months passed, she gradually began to miss the companionship of her husband.

But a suitor appeared on the scene. He was Col. Houston H. Lee, originally of Tennessee, five years her junior and the owner of half a section of land jammed up into the full formed by her three sections.

After this courtship began, Lee often was her counsel in matters pertaining to her farm. Often, he rode over in the early evenings and sat there at her doorstep in the bright moonlight that flooded the slope toward the river. Quietly, they talked of new arrivals in Pond Beal, of the latest wrinkle in cotton planting, or of other topics of the day, interrupted only by some cow or sheep in the lowlands, or by the sound of a stern-wheeler chugging its way slowly up the river.

As the months rolled by, Charity gradually began to realize that this neighbor was becoming part of her life, so she listened to his proposal of marriage when finally it came.

Marriage Agreement Recorded

Charity was a business woman and she considered that all agreements should be treated carefully and wisely. On Dec. 1, 1840, she came to the courthouse in Huntsville and had a marriage agreement recorded.

"Whereas, a marriage is shortly intended to be solemnized between Charity Cooper and Houston H. Lee," it read, "and the said Charity is possessed in her own right of a large property, both of a real and personal nature, and whereas, it is agreed by and between the contracting parties that said Charity Cooper shall reserve to her own separate use, benefit, and control, exclusive of the said Houston H. Lee...but that the same (property) shall in all things remain in subject to the rights, control and dominion of the said Charity Cooper in as full and ample manner as if said intended marriage had never taken place...."

On this same day, she recorded a deed of trust with James W. Fennell of near Guntersville, grandfather of W. F. Essellinger and Dr. James L. Jordan of this city.

After their marriage, the Lees began plans to enlarge the wife's home left by her first husband. Four large rooms, 20 by 20 feet square, with ceilings 16 feet high, were built in a two-story section to form the upper part of the Z. nearer the gateway.

Stairway In Hall

In the wide center hall between the two rooms at each end of this division of the mansion was built the gradually winding walnut stairway, the really remarkable piece of the house, considering the tools with which carpenters worked in those days. These steps were put up so carefully that even now, nearly a century later, they do not shake or give way. The weight upon them. To allow the curve, the wall in the rear part of the hall was rounded to coincide with the angle of the outer hanniser. At regular intervals in the wall along the stairs were placed niches for statuary, comprising another feature seen in few local homes.

From the front section of the dwelling, back to the old brick part was constructed a connecting link a story and a half in height and composed of four more rooms. This division was inclosed on both sides and at the back by a brick stoop, making it possible to pass from any room in the house during rainy weather without going out into the dampness.

A cellar, reached by two doors from the outside or by an inner door near the back, was excavated under the entire building.
One of the first Ahnentafels found for James Cooper was posted on the Ancestry.com web pages by Dennis Simpson of California, as shown below:
Ahnentafel, Generation No. 1

1. James COOPER died Bef 15 Jan 1835 in Tennessee River, Madison County, Alabama. He was the son of 2. William COOPER. He married Charity UNKNOWN.

Ahnentafel, Generation No. 2

2. William COOPER.

Children of William COOPER are:

i. Mary COOPER was born 1801 in Virginia, and died 1 Mar 1869 in Madison County, Alabama. She married Alexander Grey WALL 1820, son of James WALL and Mary TURNER. He was born 1793 in Virginia, and died 1836 in Madison County, Alabama.

1. ii. James COOPER died Bef 15 Jan 1835 in Tennessee River, Madison County, Alabama. He married Charity UNKNOWN.

iii. Nancy COOPER. She married UNKNOWN VEITCH.

iv. Elizabeth COOPER. She married Frederick ROSS.
This is supplemented by family groups sheet also found on the internet postings, as given below. Unfortunately, the source information was not saved for these files and has not been relocated.

---------------------------------------------------------------------

Family Group Sheet

**William Cooper** Husband:
1762 Born: Virginia in:
24 Nov 1787 Married: Orange Co Virginia in:
Aft. 1834 Died: Alabama in:
James Cooper Father:
Mary Landrum Mother:

**Mary Quisenberry** Wife:
Abt. 1768 Born: Virginia in:
Bef. 1834 Died:
Moses Quisenberry Father:
Mary Gatewood Mother:

CHILDREN:

1 Elizabeth Cooper Name:
15 Sep 1788 Born: Spotsylvania Co Virginia in:
26 Apr 1867 Died: Tuscumbia, Colbert Co Alabama in:
24 Feb 1807 Married: in: Albemarle Co Virginia
Alexander Ross Spouse: F

2 Nancy Cooper Name:
07 Nov 1790 Born: Orange Co Virginia in:
10 Oct 1845 Died: Hinds Co Mississippi in:
30 Dec 1808 Married: in: Orange Co Virginia
John G Veatch Spouse: F

3 James Cooper Name:
Abt. 1793 Born: Virginia in:
07 Dec 1834 Died: Madison Co Alabama in:
03 Mar 1832 Married: in: Madison Co Alabama
Charity Allison Spouse: M

4 William Cooper Name:
25 May 1795 Born: Virginia in:
28 Dec 1843 Died: Franklin Co Alabama in:
M

5 Mary Cooper Name:
Abt. 1799 Born: Virginia in:
13 Feb 1869 Died: Madison Co Alabama in:
22 Feb 1820 Married: in: Madison Co Alabama
Alexander Gray Wall Spouse: F
### Family Group Sheet

**James Cooper**
- **Child:**
- **Abt. 1793**
- **Born:** Virginia
- **07 Dec 1834**
- **Died:** Madison Co Alabama

**William Cooper**
- **Natural Relationship with Father:**
- **Mary Quisenberry**
- **Natural Relationship with Mother:**

**Address and Phone(s)**

**Medical**

**Notes**
James Cooper was born about 1793 in Orange Co Virginia. He came to Madison county Alabama about 1818/19 with other family members. James first bought a quarter section of land. This land was located near the Tennessee River. James built a two story plantation home from bricks brought by boat from Chattanooga, Tennessee. This was the home he would share with his bride, Charity Allison, they were married March 3, 1832. She was born in Ireland about 1801, she came to the United States as a young child. She was the daughter of William Allison.

In 1830, James's fortune increased, he bought for $800.00, three quarters of an adjoining section from Rodah Horton. Four years later, through a deal with Charles G Bowen, covered by four notes, he added one quarter of still another section. Then came his death, through suicide, on December 7, 1834, the same year of his purchase from Bowen. Just what influenced him to take his own life, whether money matters, troubles with his wife or despondency over his health, is not known. On this day, cold for the method of dying he chose, he walked the mile to the banks of the Tennessee River, fastened an iron pot over head, and jumped into the river. His will made in June 1834, left the majority of his property, estimated at nearly $12,000.00, to his wife. Her share included his real estate, his cotton crop, valued at $2470.51 and 18 slaves, appraised at $10,000.00. She also was bequeathed all cattle, horses and household furniture. He further specified that $500.00 should be given to each of his sisters, Mary Wall, Nancy Veatch and Elizabeth Ross. His father was to receive $75.00 annually as long as he lived. Charity Cooper continued to run the plantation. She later married a man named Houston Lee. The plantation was sold in the 1860's. The 170+ year old plantation home still stands on the Redstone arsenal, Huntsville Alabama.

Charity Cooper Lee died in March 1872. James and Charity had no children.

**Marriage Information**
Charity Allison Wife:
- **03 Mar 1832**
- **Married:**
- **Married Beginning status:**
- **Madison Co Alabama**

**Family Group Sheet**

**Moses Quisenberry**
- **Husband:**
- **1748**
- **Born:** Virginia
1805 Died: Orange Co Virginia in:
Aaron Quisenberry Father:
Joyce Gayle Dudley Mother:

Mary Gatewood Wife:
1742 Born: Virginia in:
Henry Gatewood Father:
Ann Webb Mother:

CHILDREN

1 Mary Quisenberry Name:
Abt. 1768 Born: Virginia in:
Bef. 1834 Died:
24 Nov 1787 Married: in: Orange Co Virginia
William Cooper Spouse:
F

2 Moses Quisenberry Name:
1769 Born: M

3 Lydia Quisenberry Name:
25 Sep 1805 Married: in: Orange Co Virginia
Achilles Durrett Spouse:
F

4 Dolly Quisenberry Name:
F

5 Henry Quisenberry Name:
1788 Born: M

6 Nancy Quisenberry Name:
22 May 1807 Married: in: Orange Co Virginia
James Johnson Spouse:
F

-----------------------------------------------

Family Group Sheet

Moses Quisenberry Husband:
1748 Born:
Virginia in:
1805 Died:
Orange Co Virginia in:
Aaron Quisenberry - Natural Relationship with Father:
Joyce Gayle Dudley - Natural Relationship with Mother:
Address and Phone(s)
Medical
Notes
October 29, 1799 - Richard Collins and Sarah, his wife, of Kentucky, by Henry Collins, their attorney in fact: Moses Quisenberry and Mary, his wife, of Orange Co Virginia; Wharton Schooler and Margaret, his wife of Kentucky; John Edwards by Wharton Schooler, his attorney in fact, and Henry Gatewood and Ann, his wife, of Spotsylvania Co Virginia (heirs of Henry Gatewood Sr., Deed), to Martin Brent of Spotsylvania ....138 acres whereon said Henry Gatewood Sr., deed, lived in Spotsylvania Co ....December 3, 1799 Orange Co Virginia Tithables 1734-1782 Lists Moses Quisenberry - 1 free male; 1 slave (Esther) Deed Book 18, Orange Co Virginia Aaron Quisenberry deed of gift, negro girl about nine or ten years old, Moses Quisenberry, his son. Dated March 21, 1786, aifnws "his mark" Aaron Quisenberry.

Marriage Information
Mary Gatewood Wife:
Married Beginning status:
Marriage Notes

After the 1834 death of her husband James Cooper, Charity Cooper is found in the 1840 Madison County census as head of household:

One of the items of particular interest in this 1840 census record is that there are two young adults aged 20 – 30 (possibly a husband and wife) plus a male child aged 10 – 15 and a female child aged 5 – 10 included in Charity’s household. It was reported in the Ahnentafel and Family Group Sheets
above that Charity and James had no children, so this data apparently represents some “guest” family who was taken into the household for a period of time.

Additionally, Charity is listed on the 1840 census sheet immediately above James E. Clarke. In the report on the Clark Cemetery of Redstone Arsenal, it is pointed out that Lucy Lanier Ives married James E. Clark in 1837-8, and the census entry shows that James E. Clarke has a wife in the age bracket of 30 – 40. However, according to her tombstone, Lucy was born in 1790, so she may have looked younger than her true age and fibbed a bit to the census taker. Of course, she may have not told her second husband (James Clark) her true age, either, necessitating the erroneous entry on the census record to protect her secret. For comparison of their relative wealth, consider the slave page for this same census, showing that James Clarke had 8 slaves (in his total household of 10), whereas Charity is shown with 20 slaves (in her total household of 25).
Charity is also listed in the 1840 census as living adjacent to Mary Lee, and she later remarried to Houston H. Lee / Lea. In fact, her house was later mentioned in newspaper articles as being the “Lee House”, even though Charity had executed a pre-nuptial agreement to exclude Mr. Lea’s ownership, control, or inheritance of her property, which would have included her house. Obviously, she was a “wealthy widow” who had good business sense about her remarriage, and she planned better than the commonly-held concepts of most women’s roles of her day.
MADISON COUNTY, AL
Estate Case File
Lee, Houston & Charity Cooper
Date 1879

Deed Book S
Pages 173-4

Dec. 1, 1840
Mad, Co. Al

Case No. 4

17
Other neighbors of Charity Cooper in the 1840 census listing included a number of the pioneers noted in Summary Reports of additional cemeteries on Redstone Arsenal. Charity’s Allison roots are known to have included her father William. William Allison was a resident of the northern portions of what is now arsenal land. He lived near Bartholomew Jordan, a Revolutionary War soldier for whom Jordan’s Chapel and Jordan Lane were named. In fact, William Allison was one of the charter members (along with Batt Jordan and about 20 others) of Jordan’s Chapel, a Methodist Episcopal congregation. The 1830 census shows William’s family to include two males in the 20 – 30 age bracket, one of whom would almost certainly be David Allison, who appears with his own family in the 1850 census. Charity Allison may be one of the two females in the age 15 – 20 age bracket, but she was reported by family researchers as having been born in 1801 in Ireland. That would make her age 29 in 1830, before her marriage to James Cooper in 1832.

1830 Madison County, Alabama, 3rd & 4th ranges, page 122: William Allison (Ellison)  
[Note: “range” should actually be township; census notes were in error.]
William Allison died before 1839, when his estate settlement papers listed his heirs, which included Charity (Allison) Cooper, along with her brothers John and David and others, including Williamson W. Cobb and his wife Catherine of the New Hope area:

The 1850 census included a listing for David Allison, living in District 35 of Madison County, which included the New Hope area in the southeast.
From a communication sent by e-mail from John Rankin to Beverly Curry in early 2005, the relationships between the Cooper, Penland, Lea ("Lee"), and Timmons families of the pre-arsenal lands are summarized as follows:

Houston H. Lee apparently died before April 25 of 1847, per Probate records that show Alexander Penland being Administrator of the estate of Houston H. Lee on that date. Alexander Penland made “Final Settlement” of Houston Lea's
administration of John Timmons’ estate. Alexander Penland would not have been an administrator of the estate of Houston H. Lea unless Mr. Lea had died.

Alexander Penland was married in July of 1850 to Isabella J. Allison, daughter of David & Sarah T. Smith Allison. Charity Cooper, wife of Houston H. Lea, was nee Allison. She first married on Feb. 27, 1832, to James Cooper (who used to have a stone in the Cooper - Penland Cemetery, per Dorothy Johnson’s account on page 274 of Volume 1 of her book CEMETERIES OF MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA). Dot Johnson further reported that James Cooper died December 7, 1834, at the age of 42 years. Charity must have been an aunt of the Isabella J. Allison, who married Alexander Penland. Isabella’s father David Allison married Sarah T. Smith on December 23, 1833. Since both David and Charity Allison married in the years 1832 and 1833, it is a pretty sure bet that they were siblings.

Dot Johnson recorded that Charity was a sister of John Allison, but she never stated any relationship between Charity or John and David Allison. John Allison married Mary Ann Taylor on May 16, 1835. There was an earlier marriage record for a John Allison who wed Nancy Cobb on November 23 of 1825, but their graves and tombstone location indicate that they lived and died together in the far eastern portion of Madison County. They are buried on their own land, and there is no grave at that location for a second wife of that John Allison. Therefore, that is a strong indication (but not conclusive proof) that the John Allison who married Mary Taylor in 1835 was of a separate family from the John Allison who married Nancy Cobb in 1825.

These facts show that the relationship of Alexander Penland to Charity Allison Cooper Lea was that of his being the husband of her niece. Thus, when Houston H. Lea died, Alexander was administrating the estate of his aunt’s husband, with the relationships being by marriage, not blood.

The 1880 census of Madison County showed the names of a later “Alexander” Penland with children named Charity C. and David A., indicating that the names were kept in the family for generations. This later generation was still living on pre-arsenal land, per the Township 5 label.

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Census Place: **Township 5, Madison, Alabama** -- 1880

Source: FHL Film 1254022 National Archives Film T9-0022  Page 144A

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<td>Self</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>58</td>
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<td>Charity C. PENLAND</td>
<td>Dau</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td>David A. PENLAND</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>21</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
As recounted in the 1933 newspaper article, Charity Allison Cooper Lee / Lea died childless in March of 1872. However, she lost her home by sheriff’s sale in 1857 due to inability to pay her debts. Since she no longer owned the home and the land that contained the nearby cemetery, she provided in her will for funds to transfer the graves of her two husbands (James Cooper and Houston H. Lea) to the graveyard at Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, where her former neighbor and husband of her niece (Rev. Alexander Penland) preached for a number of years. A photo of his grave at Ebenezer is shown below:

![Rev. Alexander Penland's grave at Ebenezer Presbyterian Church](image)

The Ebenezer Church Cemetery is much larger than the little Penland-Cooper family cemetery on the arsenal. In fact, because the church cemetery is immediately behind an active church, it is well-maintained. The
arsenal grounds contractor maintains the Penland – Cooper Cemetery, but it is located in a wooded area away from well traveled roads, as shown below:

Even after extensive probing of the soil to a depth of about two inches, fragments of only one obvious grave marker were found, as shown in the photos inserted below. From the traces of the remaining inscription on the fragments, it can be identified as the marker for a child named Isabella J.

Penland - Cooper Cemetery, 80-1, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 26, 2003
No inscribed tombstones were found on this date. Dorothy Scott Johnson, in her book CEMETERIES OF MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA, VOL. I (1971), recorded a tombstone for Isabella J. Penland, "...daughter of Rev. Alex & I.J. Penland. Died December 16, 1856, aged ... (stone broken & age illegible...)"

Mrs. Johnson further noted in her book that "... Alexander Penland -M- Isabella J. Allison, the daughter of David Allison and Sarah (Smith) Allison, on July 30, 1850."
Penland, who was apparently the daughter of Alexander and Isabella J. (Allison) Penland.

Alexander and Isabella J. Penland also apparently had a daughter named for her mother, as the fragments of the marker shown in the photos above and below indicate.
PENLAND - COOPER CEMETERY, 80-1
Remnant of only remaining marker plus flat rock slab pieces found buried around marker
This portion of an inscription identifies the stone remnants as those of the marker for Isabella J. Penland, since Mrs. Johnson’s book includes that epitaph for her on the stone that Mrs. Johnson saw in the cemetery before 1971. The stone fragment was subject of the communication excerpted below from John Rankin to Beverly Curry:

It appears to me that the little marker remnant in the Cooper - Penland Cemetery (80-1) is most likely for Isabella Jane Penland, daughter of Rev. Alexander Penland and his wife, Isabella Jane Allison. The daughter was born in 1856 and is not listed among the children in the census of 1860. Therefore, it can be assumed that she is the one who died and is buried in the old family cemetery in a child's grave, which should date back to before 1860. Alexander Penland is known to be buried in the Ebenezer Presbyterian Church Cemetery, so his wife of the same name as this daughter is most likely also at Ebenezer.
I have also collected files for the related Allison and Cooper families, since James Cooper is reported to have been originally buried in the Cooper – Penland Cemetery in 1834, per Dot Johnson's book of 1971. Rev. Penland's wife, Isabella Allison, was a daughter of David Allison and his wife Sarah Turner Smith. Dot's book states that Charity Allison, wife of James Cooper, was a sister of John Allison. Considering the dates of birth and death and locations, I strongly suspect that she was also the sister of David Allison, father of Isabella Jane Allison Penland.

These families all lived in the New Hope area before moving onto the pre-arsenal lands. It would be very interesting if Sarah Turner Smith was a descendant of Sugars Turner, since Sugars was one of the very earliest land speculators of Madison County on a large scale. After these families moved onto the pre-arsenal lands, they were listed in the census records as neighbors of Hughy Smith, John Timmons, Pleasant S. Austin, and others that we clearly recognize as among the earliest of the pre-arsenal settlers. Before that, they were neighbors in the New Hope area of the earliest Madison County settlers of the Grayson, Maples, Clark, Glover, Vann, Ellett, Lemley and Kennamore / Kennamer names...

A communication from Beverly Curry to John Rankin in 2004 had the information excerpted below:

Rev. Alexander Penland was born 13 June 1819, died 1896. You know already that he was a preacher. He preached for 40 years at the Ebenezer Presb. Church and is buried behind the church, his photo in a book at the church. He and wife were married 3 July 1850, her name was Isabella Jane Allison. Children were David Alexander, born 1855; Mary E., born 1852; Charity Carolene Penland, born 1855(?); Isabella Jane Penland, born 1856; and Sallie Jamar Penland, born 1853, died 1888 (buried in Ebenezer Cemetery). The name of Rev.'s grand daughter is Elaine Brazelton.

On-line research yielded an Ahnentafel for Alexander Penland from Ancestry.com’s data as follows:

**Garners and Penlands of Webster County, MO**

**Entries:** 4093  **Updated:** Fri Dec 10 00:34:24 1999  **Contact:** Donna Carmichael caldmc@msn.com
1. **Alexander Penland** was born 13 Jun 1813, and died 10 Jun 1896 in Triana, Madison County, Alabama. He was the son of 2. **William Robert Penland** and 3. **Mary Casey**. He married **Isabella Jane Allison** 3 Jul 1850 in Madison County, AL, daughter of David Allison and Sarah Smith.

Children of Alexander Penland and Isabella Jane Allison are:

i. **Mary E. Penland** was born 1852.
ii. **Sallie Penland** was born 10 Jun 1853.
iii. **Charity Caroline Penland** was born 1855.
iv. **Isabella Jane Penland** was born Nov 1856.

v. **David Alexander Penland** was born 1858.

2. **William Robert Penland** was born 1771-1786 in Salisbury District, Rowan County, NC, and died 1837 in Cocke County, TN. He was the son of 4. **George Penland** and 5. **Anne Alexander**.

3. **Mary Casey** was born 4 Nov 1793 in Newberry County, South Carolina, and died 5 Jun 1847 in Morgan County Tennessee. She was the daughter of 6. **Aaron Casey** and 7. **Mary Polly Wayne**.

Children of Mary Casey and William Robert Penland are:

i. **Dydeema Alice Penland** was born 19 May 1812 in Roane Co., Tennessee, and died 20 Sep 1873 in Thayer, Missouri. She married **James Clift** 24 Jun 1826 in Tennessee. He was born 7 Jun 1806, and died 23 Aug 1876 in Thayer, Missouri.

1. **Alexander Penland** was born 13 Jun 1813, and died 10 Jun 1896 in Triana, Madison County, Alabama. He married **Isabella Jane Allison** 3 Jul 1850 in Madison County, AL, daughter of David Allison and Sarah Smith.

iii. **George Washington Penland** was born 9 Nov 1813 in Roane Co., Tennessee, and died 19 Apr 1862 in Marsfield, Webster Co., Missouri. He married
Nancy Edington ABT. 1836, daughter of James Edington and Nancy Agnes Scott. She was born 1819 in Roane or Knox County, TN, and died in CA. He married Lucinda Bolin 24 Aug 1852 in Marsfield, Webster Co., MO., daughter of Unknown Bolin.

iv. Matilda Penland was born 15 Oct 1815, and died 17 Jan 1879 in Oakdale, TN. She married James Alley 1841. He was born 26 Dec 1820, and died 12 Mar 1905 in Oakdale, TN.

v. Barbara Caroline Penland was born 7 Nov 1817, and died 1906-1907 in Winlock, Washington. She married Larkin Bethel Snow. He was born 26 May 1813, and died 2 Dec 1884 in Oakdale, TN.

Ahnentafel, Generation No. 3

4. George Penland was born 1753 in St Georges Hundred, New CastleCo., Delaware, and died 1829 in Reemes Creek, Buncombe Co., NC. He was the son of 8. John Pendland Penland and 9. Jean Unknown.

5. Anne Alexander was born in Morgan Dist., Rowan.

Children of Anne Alexander and George Penland are:

2. i. William Robert Penland was born 1771-1786 in Salisbury District, Rowan County, NC, and died 1837 in Cocke County, TN. He married Margaret Unknown. He married Mary Casey 29 Jun 1811 in Roane Co., Tennessee, daughter of Aaron Casey and Mary Polly Wayne. She was born 4 Nov 1793 in Newberry County, South Carolina, and died 5 Jun 1847 in Morgan County Tennessee.

ii. Christopher F. Penland was born 1774 in Salisbury Dist. Rowan Co. NC.

iii. Rachel Penland was born 1776 in Salisbury District, Rowan Co., North Carolina. She married William Penland 1792 in Burke Co, NC, son of William Penland and Annis Donnal.

iv. George Penland was born 1780 in Morgan District, Burke Co., North Carolina, and died AFT. 1850. He married Mary Polly Erwin ABT. 1802.

v. Jane Penland was born 1782 in 1782 in Burke Co., North Carolina.

vi. Ann Penland was born 12 Apr 1782 in Morgan District, Burke Co., North Carolina. She married James Hughey.

vii. Alexander Nobel Penland was born 12 Apr 1789 in Morgan District, Burke Co., North Carolina, and died 25 Mar 1869 in Buncombe County, NC. He
married Lucinda Penland 1827 in Buncombe County, NC, daughter of George Penland and Mary Polly Erwin.

viii. Matilda Jane Penland was born 30 Jun 1799 in Reems Creek, Burke Co., NC, and died 21 Jun 1841 in Cielo, NC.

6. Aaron Casey was born ABT. 1748 in Bedford Co., Virginian, and died 1811 in (Roane County) TN. He was the son of 12. Jesse Casey and 13. Mary.

7. Mary Polly Wayne was born 1752 in Spartenburg South Carolina, and died 1845 in Parthenon (Newton) Ark.

Children of Mary Polly Wayne and Aaron Casey are:

i. Abner Casey. He married Elizabeth Bowen.

ii. Alexander Casey.

iii. Anthony Casey.

iv. Jesse Casey was born 1768 in North Carolina. He married Phoebe in Green County, Georgia.

v. Uriah Casey was born 25 Dec 1791 in Spartenburg South Carolina, and died 1840 in Floyd Co. Ga. near Rome. He married Leatha BEF. 1820. She was born 25 Sep 1802.

3. vi. Mary Casey was born 4 Nov 1793 in Newberry County, South Carolina, and died 5 Jun 1847 in Morgan County Tennessee. She married William Robert Penland 29 Jun 1811 in Roane Co., Tennessee, son of George Penland and Anne Alexander. He was born 1771-1786 in Salisbury District, Rowan County, NC, and died 1837 in Cocke County, TN. She married William J. Clift 4 Mar 1824 in Roane Co. TN.

Ahnentafel, Generation No. 4

8. John Pendland Penland was born 1706 in Monmouth, New Jersy, and died 1776 in St. Georges 100, Newcastle, Delaware. He was the son of 16. Nathanial William Pentland.


Children of Jean Unknown and John Pendland Penland are:

4. i. George Penland was born 1753 in St Georges Hundred, New CastleCo.,
Delaware, and died 1829 in Reemes Creek, Buncombe Co., NC. He married Anne Alexander 1772 in Morgan Dist., Rowan, County. She was born in Morgan Dist., Rowan.

ii. Margaret Penland was born ABT. 1740.

iii. William Penland was born ABT. 1742 in Birmingham Twp, Chester Co., Pennsylvania, and died Dec 1815 in Morgan District, Burke Co, NC. He married Annis Donnal 4 Jun 1762 in St. Georges Hundred, Newcastle Co., Delaware.


12. Jesse Casey was born 1728 in Baltimore, MD, and died 1796 in Spartanburg district 96, SC. He was the son of 24. Abner Casey and 25. Harriet "Hattie" Green.

13. Mary.

Children of Mary and Jesse Casey are:

i. Isaac Casey.

ii. Jesse Casey.

iii. John Casey.

iv. Thomas Casey.

v. Abner Casey was born 1746 in Bedford County, VA.

vi. Aaron Casey was born ABT. 1748 in Bedford Co., Virginian, and died 1811 in (Roane County) TN. He married Mary Polly Wayne. She was born 1752 in Spartenburg South Carolina, and died 1845 in Parthenon (Newton) Ark.

vii. Moses Casey was born 1750.

viii. William Casey was born 1755.

Ahnentafel, Generation No. 5

16. Nathaniel William Pentland was born 1671 in Old Scotts, Monmouth County, East Jersey, NJ, and died 1741 in Monmouth (Royal Colony) NJ. He was the son of 32. John Penland Pentlentn.

Children of Nathaniel William Pentland are:
8. i. **John Pendland Penland** was born 1706 in Monmouth, New Jersy, and died 1776 in St. Georges 100, Newcastle, Delaware. He married **Jean Unknown** 1738 in Birmingham, Chester Co, Pennsylvania.

   ii. **Alexander Penland** was born 1704 in Monmouth (Royal Colony) NJ, and died ABT. 1779 in Northern Liberties, Philadelphia, PA.

   iii. **George Penland**.

24. **Abner Casey** was born 1700 in Tyrone County, Ireland. He was the son of 48. **John Casey**.

25. **Harriet "Hattie" Green** was born in Wales.

Children of Harriet "Hattie" Green and Abner Casey are:

   i. **John Casey** was born 1726 in Roanoke Valley, Virginia, and died 14 Aug 1814 in Spartanburg Dist. SC.

12. ii. **Jesse Casey** was born 1728 in Baltimore, MD, and died 1796 in Spartanburg district 96, SC. He married **Mary**.

   iii. **Moses Casey** was born ABT. 1730 in Roanoke Valley, Virginia. He married **Abigail unknown**.

   iv. **Nancy Casey** was born ABT. 1730 in Roanoke Valley, Virginia.

   v. **Christopher Casey** was born 1730 in Roanoke Valley, Virginia, and died 2 Aug 1840 in Cole Co, MO. He married **Susannah**.

   vi. **Benjamin Casey** was born 1731 in Roanoke Valley, Virginia (Anne Arundel, MD).

   vii. **James Casey** was born 1733 in Roanoke Valley, Virginia. He married **Nancy**.

   viii. **Sarah Casey** was born 1735. She married **Edward Phillips**.

   ix. **Randolph Casey** was born 1738 in Roanoke Valley, Virginia, (Virginia Colony), and died 1815 in Smith Co. TN. He married **Mary Jane Penington**.

   x. **Levi Casey** was born 1749-1752 in Roanoke Valley, Virginia, and died 1 Feb 1807 in Washington, DC. He married **Elizabeth Duckett** 1775 in South Carolina, daughter of Jacob Duckett and Sarah ODELL. She was born 1759 in Frederick Co., MD, and died 1839 in Lauderdale Co., AL.

Ahnentafel, Generation No. 6
32. **John Penland Pentlentn** was born 28 Nov 1641 in Old Scotts, East Jersey, NJ, and died 23 Jun 1719 in Monmouth (Royal Colony) NJ. He was the son of 64. **Henry Pentland**.

Children of John Penland Pentlentn are:

16.  
   i. **Nathaniel William Pentland** was born 1671 in Old Scotts, Monmouth County, East Jersey, NJ, and died 1741 in Monmouth (Royal Colony) NJ.
   
   ii. **Henry Pentland** was born 1673 in Monmoth Co. NJ.
   
   iii. **Jean Pentland** was born 1675. She married **Henry Ross**.

48. **John Casey**.

Children of John Casey are:

24.  
   i. **Abner Casey** was born 1700 in Tyrone County, Ireland. He married **Harriet "Hattie" Green**. She was born in Wales.
   
   ii. **Peter Casey** was born 1715.

The land purchases recorded in Madison County by deeds issued to Alexander Penland are indexed below:

![Madison County, Alabama, Index to Land Sales by Alexander Penland](image)

The lands shown in the index above that are in Township 5, Range 2 West, are immediately west of the section that contains the Cooper – Penland
Cemetery. All of these parcels were acquired from other prominent plantation owners of the area who were significant in the history of the land that became the arsenal. The lands in Madison County that Alexander Penland sold were recorded in the index below. The last transaction to Laura Lanier was executed by the Trustee of his estate, since he died in 1896. Since the Cooper – Penland Cemetery is located on the section line between Sections 19 and 20 in T5-R1W, it is strange that none of the index entries show Alexander involved in either purchasing or selling land in either of those sections. However, he could well have come into possession of the land around the cemetery by his marriage to Isabella J. Allison. If she outlived him, any sale of that land would be recorded with her as Grantor.
A check of the land transitions in Sections 19 and 20 of T5-R1W in the indexes prepared by G. W. Jones and Sons, Inc., show the ownership trail through the 1800s. Neither Alexander Penland nor his wife Isabell J. Penland appear at any time as owners either buying or selling land in the sections that contain the Cooper – Penland Cemetery. Accordingly, it must be concluded that permission to use the cemetery for the Penland family burials must have been granted by owners at the time of need by their neighbor. Yet, it would be strange that anyone with so much of their own land would use another family’s cemetery – except for the marriage connection back to the Allison family.
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Section 19, Township 5, Range 1 West land ownership transitions.
Section 20, Township 5, Range 1 West land ownership transitions.

The original land purchases from the government for these sections is shown in the photo of a page from Margaret M. Cowart’s “Old Land Records” book below:
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*MEMO*

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

OLD LAND RECORDS OF MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA by Margaret Matthews Cowart
It is assumed that since the Cooper and the Allison families who owned the land of the little cemetery were mostly wealthy, they surely would have had inscribed tombstone erected at the graves of their family members. However, there is no evidence of such markers today. Perhaps a clue is given for the Cooper and Lee / Lea graves from the records that state that Charity Allison Cooper Lea left funds to move graves from this cemetery to the Ebenezer Presbyterian Church Cemetery. It may be that other graves and markers were also moved through time.

Another possibility arises relative to the dismal reports encountered from a number of people that over the years some of the grounds maintenance contractors of the past may have uprooted tombstones and thrown them in the Tennessee River near the boat ramp at the Recreation Area. It is generally known that old, broken tombstones do tend to cause damage to mowing machines and trimmers in overgrown cemeteries, so there may be some truth in these reports. Mowing operations would certainly go much more smoothly if old tombstones were removed, but still, one must wonder about the integrity and values of anyone who would deliberately destroy historic cemeteries rather than restore them. Yet, such has been known to happen to many old cemeteries in Madison County that are not on the arsenal, and there certainly was ample opportunity for destruction of cemeteries before the Army acquired the land.

Considering the number of threats to the old cemeteries, perhaps the miracle is that so many still exist. At least those on the Army property now are much better protected in general than many of those in undeveloped civilian areas of the county.

By John P. Rankin, August 15, 2005