JAMAR – NEW MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY,

82 – 1

Summary Report

Jamar Cemetery, 88-1, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, April 28, 2003
On Sheet 16 of the 1986 Redstone Arsenal Maps, this cemetery is named "New Mount Olive Church Cemetery". Other references call it the "New Mount Hope Cemetery". It is located 1.3 miles south of Buxton Road on the west shoulder of McAlpine Road.
This cemetery is found in the Southeast Quarter of Section 29, Township 5, Range 1 West. In Dorothy Scott Johnson’s book *CEMETERIES OF MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA*, Volume 1 (1971), she labeled it as the “Moore Cemetery”, denoting it as “Colored”.

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The right side of the double gate is open in this photo, looking along McAlpine Road to the south and into the cemetery grounds on the right.
This view is toward the west, along the northern end of the cemetery.
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There is a small green growth area in the background above, just to the left of center, enclosed by an inner fence as shown below.
The inner fenced area is obviously a separated family plot, but it is not known which family is buried there, as there are no tombstones.
View into the inner fenced area, showing what appears to be two graves that are very deeply sunken and overgrown.
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There are about 150 such obvious grave depressions here. The cemetery seems to have 10 N-to-S rows of about 50 graves each, if full.
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There are no stones at all in this cemetery, but there is one possible fieldstone marker thrown over the fence onto the shoulder of McAlpine Road about 15 feet south of the gate.
Just another example of the numerous grave depressions with no markers.
Land records usually give a clue to the possible burials. When the landowner is known, sometimes the census records can indicate other likely interments, of elderly people in the census who lived near the landowner(s). The initial landowner of the location of the cemetery (SE/4 of S29-T5-R1W) is shown below:
The INDEX TO LANDS by G. W. Jones & Sons, Inc., as shown below, gives the subsequent transitions of ownership of the land from Austin L. Sands through the 1800s and throughout 1919:
The **INDEX TO LANDS** continues to 1920:
Ownership of the land is somewhat vague with just using the **INDEX**. However, many of these actual deeds have been photographed for the Jamar and Owen family research. There are perhaps over a hundred such deed digital images, with over 70 still awaiting processing for enhancements to improve readability. These images will be inserted as appropriate after processing. They may have some mentions of the cemetery in their wording. Meanwhile, the **INDEX** shows that Austin L. Sands bought the land from the government in 1818, he transferred ownership to Francis Philippon in 1846. In 1847 Francis transferred the land to Joachim Heydecker, who in turn sold it to Richard Jamar (and others) in 1851. Thomas and Richard Owen enter into the **INDEX** listings for 1876 and continue through at least 1913.
Among the many changes in ownership of the SE/4 through the years between 1876 and 1919, there was even an entry for (Dr.) James Cofelt Mitchell Rankin (see the Summary Report for the Dickson – Rankin Cemetery, 87-2). The Jamar / New Mount Hope Church / Moore / New Mount Olive Church Cemetery (82-1) is thought to be entirely a black cemetery, but there is always a possibility that it existed as a cemetery before the black churches were built in the area, and that the churches just added interments to it. While the land records provide clues, they do not at this point of examination yield any proof of any particular surnames of burials or the times thereof. As the research continues and new data is acquired, this report will be updated.

Prepared by John P. Rankin, August 24, 2005