JORDAN’S CHAPEL CEMETERY

Summary Report

The cemetery associated with Jordan’s Chapel has been “lost” through the years. However, it has been possible through exhaustive research of the old land and probate records of Madison County to determine with a fair degree of accuracy where the Chapel was located. The associated cemetery would no doubt have been close by the Chapel, either on the same grounds (one acre deeded for the church in 1826 by Bartholomew Jordan) or nearby on other lands of the Jordan family.

When the quest to locate this cemetery was begun, it was generally thought by historians and descendants of the Jordan family that the site of Jordan’s Chapel was on what is now Redstone Arsenal. This belief was fostered by several influences. Among them were recollections of tales of long ago by old-time residents. Perhaps most importantly, there was a letter from Dr. J. W. Jordan (a direct descendant of Bartholomew Jordan) of Lexington, Mississippi, published in the Memphis Commercial Appeal newspaper in 1929. In this letter, information was given that “…Bartholomew Jordan settled in what is now Richmond [County?], NC, about 1777-80”. The letter further stated that Bartholomew Jordan was “…married to Charlotte Gregory, and about 1810 he moved to Huntsville, Alabama, and settled on what is now (1929) known as ‘Mullen’s Flat’ a few miles from Huntsville.” It should be kept in mind, however, that the letter was written by a descendant seeking information to substantiate family traditions and lore that were perhaps poorly preserved through time. Furthermore, it was written by one who lived in another state and was more than a generation removed from those of the family who lived in Madison County.

Pauline Jones Gandrud in her Volume 131 of ALABAMA RECORDS on page 70 stated that “Batt [Bartholomew] Jordan came from Virginia to North Carolina then to Alabama and is buried at Jordan’s Chapel in Mullins Flat….” [According to her original notes on file at the Gandrud Reading Room in the Hoole Special Collections Library at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, she was drawing upon material from the same Dr. J.}
W. Jordan of Mississippi.] The site of Mullins Flat in Section 31, Township 4S, Range 1W, is known from several living sources and printed materials to have been located on arsenal lands, along the north end of Dodd Road, near its junction with Martin Road. However, there are some who recollect that Mullins Flat was near the junction of Buxton Road with Patton Road – several miles from the Dodd Road location. Accordingly, the initial focus centered on land in both of those areas, where the early Jordan families and their relatives by marriages did indeed have extensive holdings.

Subsequent detailed investigations of land and probate records proved that Mullen’s Flat was in fact at the location along Dodd Road near Martin Road. This was confirmed by several old newspaper clippings as well as by detailed deed descriptions that used the name of the place. Digital photographs of the several hundred pertinent deeds and probate records checked in the effort to locate the site of Jordan’s Chapel (and incidentally Mullin’s Flat) are included in the files supplied to the Army offices on CD-ROM. [For those digital images of deeds incorporated into this particular report, it may be necessary to adjust the “ZOOM” feature within the “VIEW” menu in order to more easily read the old writing.] Moreover, photographs of various possible site locations for Jordan’s Chapel indicated by the initial investigations are included in a separate subfolder within the Jordan’s Chapel folder. Each site had its apparent basis as the location of the Chapel, as suggested by information uncovered at the time the photographs were made. However, by continuing to examine all pertinent records of land holdings and probate by the Jordan family, it became apparent that Jordan’s Chapel could NOT have been located in Mullin’s Flat – confirming that family tales were somewhat fact-based, but also they were somewhat distorted with time.

It is easy to understand how the Mississippi Jordan family stories could confuse the location of Jordan’s Chapel, since the Jordan families in Madison County, Alabama, had land tracts that were widely separated. The largest parcels in term of total acres were perhaps in the Mullin’s Flat area, but other large holdings were around the north end of the arsenal lands, and that is the area where the Chapel was finally proven to have been, just outside the northern perimeter of the arsenal. Unfortunately, in all of the many deeds and probate records that mention or address Jordan’s Chapel, none state the section, township, or range of its location. Apparently it was so well known that the tract of land from which it had been taken was itself a landmark of reference in the early days. Even in the deed from Batt Jordan
to the trustees for the establishment of a Methodist Episcopal Church in 1826, the location was specified in terms of rocks and post oaks, etc., with some references to surrounding landowners’ property lines. [A digital photo of the deed for the church is given below. If the reader has difficulty perceiving the images of the words, remember to use the VIEW and ZOOM buttons to enlarge the display for readability of difficult characters. Keep in mind that the old style of writing and spelling was often quite different from today’s practices, but there is nothing in the images inserted into this report that cannot be fully interpreted with accuracy.]
This Indenture made the 21st day of May 1826 between

Thos. Jordan

To William D. Jordan of the County of Madison State of Al

For the sum of Twenty dollars in American Silver

of the true and lawful money of the said State.

Received of the within named William D. Jordan the sum of Twenty dollars in American Silver

to have and receive the undivided possession and use of the abovenamed real estate

in consideration of the sum of twenty dollars in American Silver

in possession of the within named Thos. Jordan

in the absence of the same to the said William D. Jordan.

in witness whereof the within named Thos. Jordan has hereunto set his hand and seal.

This instrument was acknowledged by the said Thos. Jordan in the presence of

Thomas Jordan

Madison Co. AL Deed Book K, page 314: Batt Jordan to Methodist Episcopal Church (Trustees).
Other deeds that address the tract of land at one time owned by Bartholomew Jordan from which the Chapel’s one acre was taken call that tract “the Meeting House Tract”. They almost all include references to the owners of adjacent properties and name previous owners of the tract itself. Each mention of the location and ownership provided clues to ultimately enable a definite conclusion to be reached regarding the modern equivalents of the old specifications. Most significant among these clues to the location were the mentions of adjacent landowners and the chain of possession of the tracts. These clues will now be presented for the reader to assess and therefore reach his own conclusion as to the validity of the author’s summation.

CLUE 1, Deed Details -- Trustees: In Madison County Deed Book K, pages 314 and 315, of May 31, 1826, Batt [Bartholomew] Jordan sold for one dollar one acre of land to the trustees of a Methodist Episcopal Church congregation. The deed stipulated that the trustees “… shall erect and build or cause to be erected and built on the said land a house of divine worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church…. ” Prior to this date, there were Methodist Campground meetings held on the land (“in the neighborhood of Batt Jordan”) according to newspaper notices published in the Huntsville Republican newspaper on September 1, 1820, and other dates. The trustees of the church were named as Robert Lanford, William Blake, Henry Jordan (a son of Batt Jordan), Jesse Jordan (another son of Batt Jordan), Nicholas Hopson, William Ellison (sometimes “Allison”),
William Bibb (not the 1st governor of the state, who had already died), and James Thompson.

It should be noted that on July 27 of 1820 Robert Lanford and his wife Ann C. Lanford had already deeded for one dollar one acre of land for a Methodist Episcopal Church, naming the trustees at that time as Batt Jordan, William Blake, Robert Lanford (same as grantor of land), William Lanier, James Bibb, and William Bibb. The wording is very similar to that of Deed Book K when Batt Jordan sold an acre to the church. This transaction by Robert Lanford is found in Madison County Deed Book G, pages 221-3. It suggests that the churches are of the same congregation and that the original (nearby but indefinite) location proved unsatisfactory for some reason. There is no other known early Methodist Church in the area at the time and the trustees were nearly the same in each deed. Additionally, these families had land in close proximity to one another in Sections 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 of Township 4S and Range 1W or Sections 32, 33, and 34 of Township 3S and Range 1W. Also, the census records of 1830 and 1840 confirm the community association of the names.

At the time of the 1826 deed to the church, Batt Jordan and his sons did not own any land in the area near Mullin’s Flat, Section 31, T4S-R1W. All of his land purchases were sections 4, 8, and 9 of T4S-R1W. However, Batt Jordan’s son Henry had married Mary D. Lanier on November 8, 1821, in Madison County (MB 3, page 132). Mary was a daughter of William Lanier, another owner of nearby northern pre-arsenal lands, and William was a Methodist Episcopal minister, as was another of his sons-in-law. Moreover, one of the trustees of the congregation when Robert Lanford deeded land for a church, James Bibb, was an early Methodist minister of the area. James was born in 1778 in Virginia and married Sally Alford. James was admitted to the Methodist Conference in 1810 in Nashville. It has been recorded in early papers that he was a preacher of the Methodist Society at Jordan’s Camp Ground. James and Sally had ten children, and one of the older sons was named William Livingstone Bibb. Census records and other documents give the name of the William Bibb who lived near Batt Jordan as William L. Bibb, so it is almost certain that he was the son of the Rev. James Bibb, who is buried in the Bibb Cemetery in the town of Madison. Rev. James Bibb served as the Madison County Tax Assessor and Collector from 1824 until he died in February of 1826. James and Sally are buried in Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville. The date of his death explains why James was not among the trustees listed in May of 1826 when
Batt Jordan deeded his land to the church, and why he was listed among the trustees in the 1820 Lanford deed for the church. More about the life of Rev. Bibb can be found on page 96 of the book *HERITAGE OF MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA* (1998) in the Heritage Room of the Huntsville – Madison County Public Library on St. Clair Street in Huntsville.
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>90 East of Jackson Boundary Line</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>East of 36</td>
<td>William Gray</td>
<td>15470</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>90 East of Jackson Boundary Line</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>East of 36</td>
<td>William Thompson</td>
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<tr>
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<td>East of 36</td>
<td>James Henderson</td>
<td>15470</td>
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<tr>
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<td>36</td>
<td>East of 36</td>
<td>Thomas Cook</td>
<td>15470</td>
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<tr>
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<td>36</td>
<td>East of 36</td>
<td>William Gray</td>
<td>15470</td>
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<tr>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>East of 36</td>
<td>James Dunsmore</td>
<td>15470</td>
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<tr>
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<td>East of 36</td>
<td>James Dunsmore</td>
<td>15470</td>
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<tr>
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<td>East of 36</td>
<td>Anthony Slack</td>
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<td>East of 36</td>
<td>Henry Smith</td>
<td>15470</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>90 East of Jackson Boundary Line</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>East of 36</td>
<td>John King</td>
<td>15470</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The land purchases by Batt (Batte, Bate) Jordan [see index above] point to a location for Jordan’s Chapel (and cemetery) in the area of Sections 4, 8, or 9 of Township 4S, Range 1W. They specifically rule out consideration of the Mullin’s Flat area or the area around the intersection of Buxton Road and Patton Road in the center or even on the south end of the arsenal, since Batt Jordan never owned land in those areas. Jordan’s Chapel was located in the area of the north end of the arsenal. Bartholomew Jordan could not have deeded land that he did not own, and the land for the church would have to be located around the neighborhood where the trustee families lived. In the days before automobiles, people generally attended church very near where they lived, since commuting by foot, horseback, or wagon made traveling impractical for more than a very few miles. Therefore, the census records which showed trustees of Jordan’s Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church in proximity to one another reinforce this preliminary deduction about the location. This is especially true when one considers where the Bibb, Ellison (Allison), Jordan, and Lanford families are known to have owned land and lived, as well as where their neighbors in the census records are known to have lived.

1830 Madison County AL page 127: Bartholomew Jordan & neighbors.
### 1830 Madison County AL page 133: Jesse Jordan, Temperance (Jordan) Fennell, & neighbors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>State of Birth</th>
<th>Manner of Acq.</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>John G. Jordan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1830 Madison County AL page 135: John G. Jordan & neighbors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>State of Birth</th>
<th>Manner of Acq.</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>John G. Jordan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The census records above for 1830 indicate that Batt Jordan lived among several people known to have resided in the area along what was then Brown’s Ferry Road, just west of old Huntsville. Today, part of that same stretch of road is called Old Madison Pike, but in the early 1800s the town of Madison was not yet established, so the current name would not have been applicable at that time. The eastern part of the road that was then known as Brown’s Ferry Road is now identified as Bob Wallace Avenue. The road tracks along the section line dividing sections 4 and 9 and dividing sections 5 and 8 in township 4S, range 1W. In fact, the road was maintained according to custom of the time by those who lived along it, which included two sons of Bartholomew Jordan. These sons were Henry and Jesse, who were assigned by the County Commissioner’s Court to oversee maintenance of the road, giving landmarks of the portions for which they were responsible in terms of features of known neighbors’ properties. The designation of the stretches of road for which they were responsible shows
that (Alexander) Jones lived to the east of the Jordan families, whereas (James) Manning lived to the west of them.
21. Ordered that Henry Str. be appointed Engineer of the Green's Road, which is four rods from Blades to the Leaside Road.

22. Ordered that Joshua B. be appointed Engineer of the Green's Road, which is four rods from the top of the hill to the front of the house.

23. Ordered that John P. be appointed Engineer of the Green's Road, which is five rods from the house to the front of the house.

24. Ordered that John D. be appointed Engineer of the Green's Road, which is five rods from the house to the front of the house.

25. Ordered that Henry D. be appointed Engineer of the Green's Road, which is five rods from the house to the front of the house.

26. Ordered that William S. be appointed Engineer of the Green's Road, which is five rods from the house to the front of the house.

27. Ordered that Robert D. be appointed Engineer of the Green's Road, which is five rods from the house to the front of the house.

28. Ordered that Thomas D. be appointed Engineer of the Green's Road, which is five rods from the house to the front of the house.
[Note: Henry Jordan died at age 38 on November 4, 1836, per his obituary in the *Huntsville Democrat* newspaper of November 16, 1836. He had married Mary D. Lanier, a daughter of William Lanier (another resident of the northeastern arsenal lands and a trustee of the church) on November 8, 1821. She passed away 10 January, 1830, per her tombstone inscription {see photo in *Jordan – Lanier* folder}. Henry thereafter married Marie A. Glasgow in Madison County on December 1, 1831. Marie later (December 7, 1838) married Thomas E. Thompson and recorded an agreement {Deed Book R, page 125} with him regarding preservation of the Jordan lands for Jordan heirs.]
Ordered that Robert Brazos be appointed Overseer of the Road which is second grade from Mabianville to McClure's Meeting House.

Ordered that Robert Clark be appointed Overseer of the Road which is second grade from McClure's Meeting House to the Richland Road.

Ordered that George Lemhi be appointed Overseer of the Summa Road, which is first grade from the Deeds Landing Road to the third mile post.

Ordered that Thomas Madkins be appointed Overseer of the Summa Road, which is first grade from the third mile post to the sixth mile post.

Ordered that Jason Drum be appointed Overseer of the Summa Road, which is first grade from the sixth mile post to Indian Creek.

Ordered that Daniel Thompson be appointed Overseer of the Summa Road, which is first grade from Indian Creek to the top of Ayres Hill.

Ordered that Thomas Owen be appointed Overseer of the Summa Road, which is first grade from the top of Ayres Hill to the jail of the Road.

Ordered that Martin Sevitt be appointed Overseer of the Road from the Summa Road near McDonalds to the Deeds Landing Road.

Ordered that Thomas D. Riedel be appointed Overseer of the Brown's Ferry Road, which is first grade from Riedelville to Jones Shop.

Ordered that John Jordan be appointed Overseer of the Brown's Ferry Road, which is first grade from Jones Shop to Manning's Lane.
[Note: Henry Jordan having died in November of 1836, his brother Jesse was assigned to “oversee” (maintain) the road section for which Henry was previously responsible. That portion of the road ran from {Alexander P.} Jones’ Shop on the east to {James} Manning’s Lane on the west. This indicates that both Jesse and Henry lived along the road, as did their sister Temperance, who had married Isham Fennell in North Carolina before moving to Alabama. [She became a widow in 1819 and never remarried.] Their brothers John and Jason L. Jordan lived on land south of Temperance, Jesse, & Henry (see item 15 above in the 1839 assignments), where Jesse was assigned to maintain a portion of the Triana Road from Huntsville. Jason was born in NC in 1802 and moved to Holmes County, Mississippi in 1844. Dr. J. W. Jordan of Lexington, MS, was his grandson. Jesse Jordan died in Aberdeen, MS, in his 77th year in 1877 at the residence of a son. Bartholomew Jordan was still living in Madison County, Alabama, in 1839, but he was too old to maintain roads. {Bartholomew was born about 1759.} He was in the household of his daughter, the widow Temperance Jordan Fennell, during the census of 1840, noted in the 80 – 90 age bracket. (In the census of 1830, he was properly shown in the 70 – 80 age bracket as head of his own household.) Batt Jordan died on March 24, 1842, in the 83rd year of his life, according to the obituary in the Huntsville Democrat newspaper of April 9 of that year.]

The conclusion of investigation into the wording of the deed for the church relative to the statement that Batt Jordan resided on the land is that Batt lived in the area along Brown’s Ferry Road (now Bob Wallace Avenue) in sections 4, 8, and 9 during the year 1826. Furthermore, at least three of his adult children likewise lived in the area along Brown’s Ferry Road during that time, with sons John and Jason moving southward a few miles during the 1830s. (John purchased land mostly in S19 & S20 of T4-R1W. Jason apparently got his land by marriage. He married Charity W. Hobbs, whose father had lands along the river. They were married on February 18, 1824, per Madison County Marriage Book 3, page 277. Before moving from the state, Jason and his wife sold lands in Sections 2 and 3 of Township 6, Range 2E, and in Section 34 of Township 4S, Range 1W. The latter parcel is the one near Mullin’s Flat on arsenal lands.)

The record of the land sales by Batt to his children and grandchildren (except that he never recorded a sale or gift to his son John or his son Jason; Jason was apparently already “well off” by a good marriage into land holdings) again shows clustering around the Brown’s Ferry Road area:
While the index to land transactions above indicates that Deed Book M on page 631-2 transfers land in Section 16, that is an error on the part of the
clerk who interpreted wording of the deed when preparing the index. The deed does indeed mention the “sixteenth section”, but the manner in which it is used and the directions given for laying out the land relative to the 16th section indicate that it certainly had to lie north of the 16th section. This puts it in the 9th section, which is known to have been owned by Batt Jordan. Conversely, there is no record that Batt Jordan ever acquired or owned land in the 16th section to sell to anyone.

The bottom line is that the only possible interpretation of the various land records shows that Bartholomew Jordan never lived in the area of Mullin’s Flat. While living in Madison County, he always owned land in sections 4, 8, and 9 (T4S-R1W) and resided there near his adult children, in close proximity to Brown’s Ferry Road. Therefore, when he deeded to the church some land “… whereon the said Batt Jordan now resides”, he was making deed to land in one of the above sections.

CLUE 3, Deed Details – “…beginning at a rock on the line of Ellison & Jordan, running due south 73 yards by a white oak in front of the meeting house … to a corner rock … thence west 67 yards … to another corner rock and thence north 73 yards to another corner stone … thence east to the beginning ….”:

This layout describes a rectangle of 219 feet by 201 feet. That amounts to 44,019 square feet, or 1.01054 acres. The specifications mention that from the beginning point the line runs south in front of the meeting house before turning west. That tells us that the meeting house faced east, probably toward a primitive road or overlooking a valley from a hill. The statement that the beginning point was “on the line of Ellison & Jordan” is a bit ambiguous, since one at this point cannot tell whether that line ran east – west or north – south. Either would suffice. However, it suggests that one could perhaps determine the locations of properties owned by Batt Jordan and compare their locations with properties owned by William Ellison, who was one of the church trustees named in the deed. He was also a close neighbor of Batt Jordan in the 1830 census, enumerated only 3 houses away.

Unfortunately, no record has been found of William Ellison (or Allison) buying any property from either the government or from private citizens in the area adjacent to the holdings of Batt Jordan in sections 4, 8, and 9 of
township 4S, range 1W. However, John Allison apparently owned land at times in the SE/4 of section 4, township 4S, range 1W. John Allison sold 30.5 acres of the “northwest corner” of the SE/4, 4-4-1W, on November 29 of 1817 to William Wilkins, per Deed Book D, page 142-3. Per Deed Book A, page 67, he had purchased 30.5 acres in “the northeast corner of SE/4, 4-4-1W from Hugh Rodgers on July 7, 1814. This same Hugh Rodgers sold 52 acres of the SE corner of the SE/4, 4-4-1W, to John McWilliams in 1814, per Deed Book A, page 68. The deed records found at the time of this writing do not clearly show until well after 1826 who owned the balance of the SE/4 after Hugh Rogers [Rodgers] bought the entire 160.0 acres of the SE/4 from the U.S. government. In other words, the land records examined to date do not account for ownership (other than Hugh Rodgers) of the SW/4 of the SE/4, and 9.5-acre portions of the NW/4 and the NE/4 of the SE/4, 4-4-1W. John Allison did buy an additional 161 acres of government land in 1810, being the NE/4 of S32-T3S-R1W. However, that land was a half mile north of section 5 in T4S-R1W and about a mile from Batt Jordan’s land in section 4 of T4-R1W. Keep in mind that the deed from Batt Jordan to the church did not specify a given name for “Ellison”, so it did not have to be his 1830 neighbor William Ellison (per the census) and could have been John Allison, who seems likely to have held the land adjacent to Batt Jordan’s property in Section 4.

William Allison did purchase government land in Section 20 of T4-R1W, and this land was adjoining that of a son of Batt’s, John G. Jordan. He also purchased from private citizens some lands in sections 20 and 17 of T4S-R1W. However, these lands were purchased in the 1830s, after Batt had already deeded land to the church in 1826, so they could not have had a bearing upon the wording of the bounds of the church’s tract. There was one record of William Allison buying land in section 17 (same township & range) in 1819, but that was over a mile away from any holding of Batt Jordan.

Apparently, only the land of John Allison in the SE/4 of S4-T4S-R1W fits the criterion of adjacency to some part of Batt Jordan’s property, but the deed timings and scopes are such as to leave room for some doubt. This land was on the east side of Batt’s land, with a north – south line running between them. This piece of the puzzle assumes that John Allison retained the balance of about 9.5 acres from the 40 acre quarter section after selling the “northwest” corner of the SE/4, S4-T4-R1W to William Wilkins in 1817.
Furthermore, the primary interpretation of the wording of the church land deed that one should begin at a rock “… on the line … running due south” (between Ellison & Jordan) certainly fits well. If the line between Ellison and Jordan had run east – west, then one would expect the wording to have been “… beginning at a rock on the line of Ellison & Jordan thence running due south ….” Since the normally-employed word “thence” was not used, it affirms the interpretation of the structure of the sentence that the term “running due south” in the deed referred to the line of Ellison & Jordan – hence reinforcing the argument that only John Allison’s land fits this clue of association with Batt Jordan’s property. Additionally, the idea of an east – west line between “Ellison and Jordan” can be ruled out because deeds clearly show that Isaac Parker (and later James Lanford) had the land north of the Jordan property in the SW/4 of Section 4, T4-R1W. Of course, the precise location of the “rock of beginning” on this line cannot be determined by the records. However, the rock would most likely not have been at the exact corner of the tract held by John Allison, or then the routine practice with the wording would have stated that one should begin at the corner of the property. Therefore, it is safe to assume that the rock of beginning would be somewhat south of the northwest corner of John Allison’s property.

If this were all that there was to locate the site of Jordan’s Chapel, the conclusion would have to be somewhat indeterminate. Fortunately, another set of clues can be derived from the many later references to the particular tract of land from which the acre of land for the chapel was taken. Those references in subsequent land transactions referred to the larger, surrounding parcel as “the meeting house tract”. Numerous documents use this nomenclature, and they provide significant clues to the general area, as summarized in the following pages.

**CLUE 4, Meeting House Tract** – “… and being the same [140 acres of land] purchased in part from Isaac Parker … by Bartholomew Jordan [before 1826]….” Deed Book W, page 492 - 494, 1847, plus many more of similar wording regarding the meeting house tract.
JESSE G. JORDAN,
To--Deed of Trust,
BENJAMIN T. MOORE TRUSTEE.

WHEREAS, Jesse G. Jordan of the town of Huntsville, in the
County of Madison, and State of Alabama, is justly indebted to Richard Holding of the
county and state aforesaid in the sum of eight thousand dollars, as appears by his
several five bonds, each for the sum of sixteen hundred dollars, of even date herewith
each payable to said Richard Holding or order, the first, twelve months after date, the
second two years after date, the third three years after date, and the fourth four
years after date, and the fifth five years after date. And whereas the said Jesse G.
Jordan is willing and desirous to secure the payment of said bonds. NOW THEREFORE
THIS INDEBTURE, made and entered into by and between the said Jesse G. Jordan and his
wife Margaret, of the first part, Benjamin T. Moore of the second part, and said Rich-
ard Holding of the third part, WITNESSETH: THAT the said Jesse G. Jordan and wife for
and in consideration of the premises, and for the further consideration of the sum of
one dollar, to them in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, at and
before the sealing and delivery of these presents, have this day given, granted, bargain-
ed, sold, delivered, enfeoff, released, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents
do give, grant, bargain, sell, alien, enfeoff, release, convey and confirm unto the said
party of the second part, the following described tracts or parcels of land, lying and
being and being in said county of Madison, and known and described as follows: The Nor-
th and South East quarters of section eight, in township four, of range one West of the
Basis Meridian, in the district of land subject to sale at Huntsville aforesaid, also
part of section nine in township and range aforesaid, beginning at the South West corner.
of said section, thence North along the section line fifty six chains to a stake, thence West seventeen chains and eighty six links to a stake, thence South along the dividing line between said Jordan and Mrs. Temperance Fannell, fifty six chains to a stake, in the Southern boundary line of said section, thence along said line West seventeen chains and eighty six links to the beginning, and containing one hundred acres, and also the tract or parcel of land known and described as the Hastie House Tract and bounded by the lands of Samuel Ward and Alexander P. Jones, and being the same purchased in part from Isaac Parker, and in part from Henry Jordan by Bartholomew Jordan, late of said County deceased, and excepting of said tract so much thereof as by the last will and testament of Henry Jordan deceased, was bequeathed to his widow, and excepting also the portion thereof conveyed by the said Bartholomew Jordan to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Jordan's Chapel; and containing one hundred and forty acres more or less. And the said Jesse G. Jordan for the consideration aforesaid has this day likewise bargained, sold and delivered, and by these presents does bargain, sell and deliver unto the said party of the second part, the following described negro slaves, upon such warrants to be sound and healthy wise: Jerry, a man aged about seventy years, Howell, a man aged about forty seven years, Ben, a man aged about thirty eight years, Bob a man aged about thirty years, Reuben a man aged about thirty years, Alderman, a man aged about twenty one years, Julius a man aged about twenty years, Jack a man aged about nineteen years, Jim a boy aged about thirteen years, Billy a boy aged about thirteen years, Kintew, a boy aged about eleven years, John a boy aged about twelve years, Old John a man aged about fifty years, Any, a woman aged about twenty eight years and her two children, Laura about three years old, and Simon about one year old, Lurilla, a woman aged about twenty years and her three children, Newt aged about five years, John aged about four years, and Milton aged about one year, Ellen a woman aged about twenty one years, and her three children, Lucy about five years old, Henry about four years old, and Rev about one year old, Ann, a woman aged about twenty three years old, and her three children, Lemuel about five years old, Mary about two years old and Abram about two months old, Eliza a woman about thirty years old, and her child Charlotte about two years old, Almira, a woman about thirty one year and her child Tom, about one month old, Martha a woman about twenty years old, Kitty a woman about nineteen years old, Mary a girl about twelve years old, Sally a woman about twenty two years old, Harriet a woman about twenty eight years, Nody, a woman about forty five years, Sally, a woman about seventy years old, Kitty, a woman about forty eight years old, John a man about twenty years old. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the above described tracts or parcels of land, with the tenements and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns from the said Jesse G. Jordan and his wife for themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators, do hereby and in consideration of the premises, warrant and forever defend the title to the aforesaid property unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever. And will forever defend the said property against the lawful claim, title or demand of all and every person or persons claiming or holding under them, and also against the lawful title, claim or demand of all and every person or persons whomsoever. IN TRUST SEVERELY, that if the said Jesse G. Jordan, shall fail and transgress, then this Indenture shall be null and void, if however the said Jesse G. Jordan
shall make default in the payment of the bonds aforesaid, or either of them, then the
said party of the second part, and it shall be his duty to do so, upon the request
of the said Richard Holding, his assigns etc. upon giving thirty days notice of the
time and place of sale, by publication in some newspaper, printed and published in the
said town of Huntsville, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, in said town
of Huntsville, the tracts or parcels of ground aforesaid with the tenements and appur-
tenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining, and the said slaves or so
many of the said slaves, or such portion of the property aforesaid, as will be necessary
to pay and satisfy each of said bonds as they respectively become due, and payable
and all costs incident thereto, and if there should be any excess in the hands of said
party of the second part after paying and satisfying the bonds aforesaid, with all in
terest, costs etc the sum shall be paid over to the said Jesse G. Jordan.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the said parties aforesaid hereon subscribe their names and affix their
seals, in said town of Huntsville, this the sixth day of December, eighteen hundred
and forty seven.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of,

John W. Otey, Jr. | Rich. Holding, Seal
Em. N. W. Browne, as to J. G. Jordan
B. T. Morey, Seal
Mary M. Jordan, Seal
H. T. Moore, Seal

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, | BEFORE ME, John W. Otey, Clerk of the County Court of Madison
MADISON COUNTY, S. S. | County, in the State of Alabama, personally appeared Jesse G.
Jordon, Benjamin T. Moore, and Richard Holding, and said Jesse G. Jordan acknowledged
that he had signed, sealed and delivered the within deed of trust to Benjamin T. Moore
the day and year therein mentioned, and the said Benjamin T. Moore and Richard Hold-
ing also acknowledged that they had signed and sealed the said deed on the day and
year therein mentioned.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL, at office in Huntsville, this
sixth day of December, eighteen hundred and forty seven.

Jno. W. Otey Clerk C. C. (Seal)

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, | BEFORE ME, John W. Otey, Clerk of the County Court of Madison
MADISON COUNTY, S. S. | County in the State of Alabama, this day personally appeared
Mary M. Jordan, wife of Jesse G. Jordan, who on a private examination separate and apart
from her said husband acknowledged that she had signed, sealed and delivered said
deed to Benjamin T. Moore on the day and year therein mentioned, freely, voluntarily
and of her own accord, without fear, threats or compulsion from her said husband.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL, this eighth day of December, eighteen hundred and forty
seven.

Jno. W. Otey Clerk C. C. (Seal)

The foregoing deed of trust was delivered into the office of the Clerk of the County
Court of Madison County, in the State of Alabama, for registration on the eighth dec-
ember, eighteen hundred and forty seven, and was duly registered on the twenty eighth
day of December, 1847.

Jno. W. Otey Clerk C. C.

On margin of page 492, I acknowledge the receipt of sixty thousand dollars in full sat-
sation of the first note embraced in this deed, this the eighth day of December,
1846.

Richard Holding.

I acknowledge the receipt of sixty thousand dollars in full sat-
sation of the second note embraced in this deed, Dec. 8th, 1849. Richard Holding.

I acknowledge the receipt of sixty thousand dollars in full satisfaction of the third
note embraced in this deed Dec. 8th, 1851. Richard Holding.

The fifth and last bond described in this deed of trust has been paid in full and all
the foregoing described hereon has been released. Given under my hand and seal this.

Apr. 8th, has this day been paid in full by Jesse G. Jordan, 12th. July 1852.

By, W. M. Holding.
The ONLY land purchased by Batt Jordan from Isaac Parker per the deed index for 1810 – 1919 was 104.25 acres in the SW/4 of Section 4, Township 4, Range 1W in 1817. Per the wording of Deed Book E, page 237 [see below], this land would have included all 40 acres of the SW/4 of the SW/4 of 4-4-1W, all 40 acres of the SE/4 of the SW/4 of 4-4-1W, and apparently 12.125 acres in the south portions of both the NE/4 and the NW/4 of the SW/4 of 4-4-1W.
acknowledged before me this fifth day of November, 1819.

John Withers J.Q. seal

Madison County
Alabama Territory.

Personally appeared before me, John Withers a Jus-

to of the quorum of said county, John McCullum and ack-

nowledged that he signed sealed and delivered the within deed to the within named

Bat Jordan the day and year therein expressed fifth November, eighteen hundred and
eighteen--

John Withers J.Q. seal

The foregoing deed was delivered in this office for registration on the 5th day of

0 of February 1819, and is duly recorded this 19th day 1819.

Isaac Parker & W X
To deed

Bate Jordan

This Indenture is made this eleventh day of July one thousand and eight hundred and seventeen between Isaac Parker and M. Parker his wife, of the one part, and Bate Jordan of the other part all of the county

of Madison in the Mississippi Territory Witnesseth that the said Isaac Parker

and Mary for and in consideration of the sum of one thousand dollars to them in

hand paid by the said B. Jordan the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have

sold and confirmed and by these presents do bargain sell and confirm unto the

said B. Jordan his heirs and assigns.

A Certain tract of land containing one hundred forty and fourth acre ( vi ) lying in the south side of the south west quarter

of section four of township four in range one west of the basic meridian lying in

in Madison county, Mississippi Territory.

To have and to hold the said tract of

land with the tenements and appurtenances therein belong or in anywise apper-
taining unto the said Bate Jordan his heirs and assigns forever and the said Isaac

Parker and Mary his wife, or themselves their heirs executors administrators

forever warrant and will forever defend the right and title to the said Bate Jordan
his heirs and assigns forever, and a from and against the Government of the

United States and all and every person or persons holding or claiming under them

Madison County AL Deed Book E, page 237: Isaac & Mary Parker to BAT JORDAN
A sketch of the section map to indicate the layout and dimensions of this land is given below:

Section 4 Township 4 Range 1W

Land purchased from Isaac Parker by Batt Jordan, 104.25 acres total, Deed Book E, page 297 (1817, recorded in 1819)

(12.125 acres) (12.125 acres)

396 feet

(40 acres) (40 acres)
CLUE 5, Meeting House Tract – “… and being the same [140 acres of land] purchased in part from … Henry Moore by Bartholomew Jordan [before 1826]....”

There has been no record found of Bartholomew Jordan ever purchasing land from Henry Moore in Madison County. However, that is certainly not unusual for the time. Bartholomew Jordan was in Madison County by about 1810 (but he is not listed in the January 1809 county census), and land records for transactions between private citizens prior to 1810 were not generally kept in the county records. While the county was officially established by proclamation of the governor of the Mississippi Territory in December of 1808, the government land office was not moved from Nashville until 1811. The county government was embryonic in 1809, and land records were obviously somewhat loosely maintained until the county government was fully operational.

However, it is possible to infer from other records that Henry Moore lived near enough to Batt Jordan that they would be acquainted and possibly be involved in land transactions with one another. For example, as published in the June 1972 issue of Valley Leaves by the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society, Henry Moore on February 6 of 1809 purchased from the U.S. government 160 acres (a quarter section, unspecified) in Section 10 of Township 4, Range 1W, according to the 1809 Register of Applications & Permissions. Since Bartholomew Jordan owned land in Section 9 of the same township and range, their lands of these recordings were within a mile of one another.

Batt Jordan lived near David Moore and immediately adjacent to Robert C. Moore when the 1830 census was taken. The census page image showing them has been provided earlier in this report. It has David Moore as the first name on the list of page 127, whereas Bartholomew Jordan is name number 11 from the top of that page. However, Robert C. Moore is name number 10 from the top of the same page, living in the next house “down the road” from Batt Jordan. The relationship of David Moore to Henry is a matter of conjecture, as there is no probate record for Henry Moore. Still, there are later land records and circuit court records that indicate that David Moore had a brother named Henry, who apparently was too young to be the one who sold land to Bartholomew Jordan in the very early 1800s. That suggests that there was a “senior” Henry Moore who sold the land and who had (as a minimum) sons David and Henry “Junior”. David was listed in the
40 to 50 age bracket in 1830. Henry was given as age 37, born in Alabama, in the 1850 census. The 1830 census shows Henry Moore [senior] on page 136 in the 40 – 50 age bracket. The 1840 census gives both Henry Moore Sr. and Jr. on page 184, with Stephen Tribble living between them. [One of Henry’s daughters married a Tribble, and in 1847 Henry and his wife Rebecca sold land to John P. Tribble, per Deed Book W, page 428.] In the 1840 census, Henry Sr. was shown as age 50 – 60, and Henry Jr. was 20 – 30. Henry Moore and his wife Rebecca M. sold land to Henry H. Moore in 1842 per Deed Book T, page 229. The land was in Section 32 of Township 3, Range 2W. Of the 5 parcels of land recorded as sold by Henry Moore and Rebecca, 4 are in Sections 29, 32, and 33 of T3-R2W. Only the parcel sold to John P. Tribble was in Section 4 of Township 4 and Range 2W.

Apparently the Moores lived west of Bartholomew Jordan, in the area where the town of Madison is now located. If Henry Moore Sr. ever owned land in the area of Bartholomew Jordan’s known holdings and sold some of it to Batt, that record is not known to be available in Madison County today. However, it could be in existence at other locations – such as the state archives in Montgomery, the office of the Alabama Secretary of State, the Mississippi state archives, or even the Nashville land office archives in Tennessee. For now, this aspect will be left as an open mystery that should not preclude arriving at a conclusion regarding the location of the site of Jordan’s Chapel. It is very likely that David Moore and Robert C. Moore were living on land that Henry Moore may have bought before the time of the 1830 census, either in Section 9 or Section 10.

CLUE 6, MEETING HOUSE TRACT – “… bounded by the lands of Samuel Ward….“ [adjacent to lands owned by Batt Jordan in 1826].

Samuel Ward purchased 8 parcels of land, according to the records found in the Madison County courthouse. Of these 8 tracts, only 2 were adjacent to any of the lands known to have been owned by Bartholomew Jordan. In 1813, Samuel Ward obtained from the U.S. government the SE/4 of Section 5, Township 4, Range 1W. That land is immediately west of the land Bartholomew Jordan owned in the SW/4 of Section 4, same range and township.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part of Section</th>
<th>Description of the Land</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Date of Sale</th>
<th>Location or Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North East Quarter</td>
<td>150 acre, Surveyed June 25, 1809</td>
<td>551  150 acre, Surveyed June 25, 1809</td>
<td>August 25, 1809</td>
<td>Lee County, Missouri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West Quarter</td>
<td>150 acre, Surveyed June 25, 1809</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>August 25, 1809</td>
<td>Lee County, Missouri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East Quarter</td>
<td>150 acre, Surveyed June 25, 1809</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>March 15, 1811</td>
<td>Illinois County, Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West Quarter</td>
<td>150 acre, Surveyed June 25, 1809</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>September 8, 1811</td>
<td>Illinois County, Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North East Quarter</td>
<td>150 acre, Surveyed June 25, 1809</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>October 28, 1811</td>
<td>Illinois County, Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West Quarter</td>
<td>150 acre, Surveyed June 25, 1809</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>August 25, 1809</td>
<td>Lee County, Missouri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East Quarter</td>
<td>150 acre, Surveyed June 25, 1809</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>March 15, 1811</td>
<td>Illinois County, Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West Quarter</td>
<td>150 acre, Surveyed June 25, 1809</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>September 8, 1811</td>
<td>Illinois County, Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North East Quarter</td>
<td>150 acre, Surveyed June 25, 1809</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>December 13, 1811</td>
<td>Illinois County, Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West Quarter</td>
<td>150 acre, Surveyed June 25, 1809</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>August 25, 1809</td>
<td>Lee County, Missouri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East Quarter</td>
<td>150 acre, Surveyed June 25, 1809</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>March 15, 1811</td>
<td>Illinois County, Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West Quarter</td>
<td>150 acre, Surveyed June 25, 1809</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>September 8, 1811</td>
<td>Illinois County, Illinois</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The only other parcel of Samuel Ward’s land that adjoined property of Bartholomew Jordan was the west half of Section 8, Township 4, Range 1W. Samuel bought this land in 1844 (Deed Book U, page 362) from Bartley M. Lowe. The land Bartholomew Jordan owned that was adjacent was the east half of the same section – township – range. While Samuel Ward didn’t own the land in Section 8 in 1826, when Batt Jordan deeded land for the Methodist Episcopal Church, that of itself does not preclude it from being the parcel later referred to as bounding the Meeting House Tract in 1847. The 1847 reference may have applied to ownership of the land bounding the Meeting House Tract as of 1847. Therefore, this particular clue cannot be taken as definitive by itself. However, when placed in conjunction with the next clue, it becomes part of a puzzle whose pieces begin to fit together much better.
Section 8  Township 4  Range 1W

To Batt Jordan from James Criss, Jan. 8, 1816 (Deed Book C, page 1) NE/4, 8-4-1W, 160 acres

Land of Samuel Ward, obtained from U. S. government in 1813; NW/4 and SW/4 of Section 8, Township 4, Range 1W; 320 acres.

To Batt Jordan from James Dunsmoor, Mar. 3, 1823 (Deed Book H, page 426) SE/4, 8-4-1W, 160 acres
The land transactions of Alexander P. Jones were quite numerous in Madison County, according to the indexes to real property at the courthouse. It appears that there was most likely a “senior” and a “junior” by the same name, considering the lengthy period of transactions recorded under the name. However, it was obviously the “senior” who had land around the holdings of Bartholomew Jordan. A review of the known holdings of Bartholomew Jordan helps to select those holdings of Alexander P. Jones that would “bound” the Meeting House Tract relative to Jordan holdings and in conjunction with the lands of Samuel Ward per the previous clue.

All of the parcels of land known to have been owned by Bartholomew Jordan were entirely within Sections 4, 8, and 9 of Township 4 South and Range 1 West, as shown in the section maps above for Sections 4 and 8 and below for Section 9:
With the holdings of Bartholomew Jordan firmly in mind, and recognizing that Samuel Ward had the southeast quarter of Section 5 (adjacent to Batt’s land in the SW/4 of Section 4) and the west half of Section 8 (adjacent to Batt’s land in the east half of Section 8), then the lands of Alexander P.
Jones that were associated with these lands can be selected from the entire list of known transactions of A. P. Jones.

The problem with this approach is that some of the land records address tracts that are indefinitely described. However, with patience and thoroughness of examination of all linked transactions, even the “indefinite” parcels can be located in terms of adjacent landowners and history of ownerships. Per the Madison County Real Property Index, Book 1 (1810–1919), Alexander P. Jones purchased the following tracts in the areas near the holdings of Batt Jordan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deed Book</th>
<th>Year Recorded</th>
<th>Land Seller</th>
<th>Location of Land</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K / 177</td>
<td>1826</td>
<td>Richard Perkins</td>
<td>“indefinite” (73 acres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N / 492</td>
<td>1831</td>
<td>David Bradford</td>
<td>SE/4 (+ more), 4-4-1W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O / 147</td>
<td>1832</td>
<td>Nicholas Brewer</td>
<td>“indefinite”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O / 619</td>
<td>1833</td>
<td>James Ware</td>
<td>E/2 of NE/4, 9-4-1W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P / 060</td>
<td>1834</td>
<td>Andrew Martin</td>
<td>SE corner of SE/4, 4-4-1W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P / 182</td>
<td>1834</td>
<td>William Allison</td>
<td>S/2 of NW/4, 17-4-1W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each of the above deed records (and others) can be reviewed in detail in the rest of the files stored in the Jordan’s Chapel section of the CD-ROM supplied to the Army offices.

The land in Section 17 (P/182) can be dismissed from the possibilities for A. P. Jones’ adjacency because it was separated from Batt Jordan’s nearest holding in the SW/4 of 9-4-1W by a half mile. The N/2 of the NW/4, 17-4-1W, was owned by Samuel Ward, not A. P. Jones – and that is the land that “bounded” Batt Jordan’s property.

Careful examination of the deed description and ownership history for the land that A. P. Jones bought from Richard Perkins (K/177) proves that “indefinite” property to consist of the SE/4 of Section 34 (4-1W) plus the
NE/4 & the NW/4 of Section 3 (4-1W) plus NE/4 & NW/4 of Section 4 (4-1W). The parcel specifically excluded the “widow’s dower” of Lokey Russel, widow of Albert Russel. This widow’s dower was located in the northern halves of Sections 3 and 4 of Township 4, Range 1W [Deed Book I&J, page 3, et al.]

The “indefinite” parcel purchased by A. P. Jones from Nicholas Brewer was most probably the same tract of 107 acres that had been purchased by Nicholas Brewer from Batt Jordan in 1825. That transaction was recorded in Deed Book O, page 110, but it never gave the section number, even though it did state that the tract was in Township 4, Range 1W. The deed recording further gave the bounds of the tract in terms of adjacent landowners. It was bounded by the properties of James Thompson, Andrew Martin, David Bradford, Batt Jordan (who was the seller, indicating that he held additional lands tangent to the sold parcel), F. [Francis] Fennell, and J. Wan[n]. Andrew Martin and David Bradford were known to at some time own land in the SE/4 of 4-4-1W. Batt Jordan may well have at some time owned part or all of the land of the SE/4, 4-4-1W as property bought from Henry Moore or someone else, in one of the many apparent transactions that were not recorded or indexed. Francis Fennell and his wife Isabella were listed among the heirs of William Allison, Sr., in Probate Record Book 8, page 538, April, 1839.

At the time of his death, the probate records show that the Alexander P. Jones estate included 52 acres in the SE corner of the SE/4, 4-4-1W (November 1865). The wording of Deed Book N, page 492, indicates that he bought 111 acres in three tracts, all in the SE/4, 4-4-1W, from David Bradford in 1831. Of course, there is an assumption in that statement, concerning the exact quarter section in Section 4, since the quarter was not specifically named in the wording of the deed with respect to the third tract (31 acres) being sold. Either way, these records prove that Alexander P. Jones held land on the north and on the east adjacent to Bartholomew Jordan’s property in the SW/4, 4-4-1W, during the time periods of concern. Likewise, Samuel Ward held land on the west of Batt Jordan’s property in the SW/4, 4-4-1W. No other locations of property owned by Batt Jordan, Alexander P. Jones, and Samuel Ward were found to have adjacencies for all three owners. This fact pinpoints the SW/4 of Section 4, Township 4 South, Range 1 West, as the location of the “Meeting House Tract” of 104 acres owned by Batt Jordan and from which the acre was deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church that
became known as Jordan’s Chapel. [See maps of pertinent lands below.]

Section 4 Township 4 Range 1W

All of NW/4 and NE/4 sold by U.S. government to LeRoy Pope in 1809. Pope sold it to Albert Russel in 1816 (B/198). Albert's son John sold all except Lokey Russel's widow's dower to Richard Perkins on 29 March 1824; F/282-3.

[Lokey Russel (wife of Albert Russel) had a widow's dower comprising most of the south half of NW/4 & NE/4 of Sections 3 & 4, Township 4S, Range 1W.]

54 acre tract from Isaac Parker to James (brother of Robert) Lamford, 19 Dec 1817 (D/125); later owned by JONES per wording in Deed Book AAA, page 392, 2 Dec 1875, regarding transfer of a 93-acre tract in SW/4, 4-4-1W, of estate lands of Jesse G. Jordan's widow to Samuel Fordyce.

30.5 acre tract in NW Corner of SE/4, 4-4-1W, sold by John Allison to William Wilkins; D/142; 29 Nov 1817. Wilkins disposition never found. David Bradford sold this corner to Alexander P. Jones in 1831.

Land purchased from Isaac Parker by Batt Jordan, 104.25 acres total, Deed Book E, page 297 (1817, recorded in 1819).

David Bradford sold 109 acres of SE/4, 4-4-1W, to Alexander P. Jones, 28 Dec 1831 (N/492).

396 feet

Andrew Martin sold 52 acres of SE/4, 4-4-1W, to Alexander P. Jones, 5 May 1834 (P/060).

[Alexander P. Jones owned all 161 acres of SE/4, 4-4-1W, by 1834.]
South Half of Section 4, Township 4 South, Range 1 West.
TVA Topographical Map, Madison Quadrangle, showing detail in Section 4 (dashed red lines), Township 4S, Range 1W.

Jordan's Chapel "one acre" was located within the area enclosed by green dashed lines and marked with green "X", 1826 - circa 1850, per old land record descriptions, taking many together to make deduction.
Even with the above conclusions, it may be well to continue to reinforce the deductions by examining additional clues found in the land and probate records relative to the location of the Meeting House Tract and thereby of Jordan’s Chapel and its cemetery.

**CLUE 8, Meeting House Tract was transferred to Henry Jordan (son of Batt) since it was mentioned as a part of Henry’s estate in probate records leaving a portion of that tract to his widow María A. Glasgow Jordan, who later married Thomas E. Thompson.** [Henry’s brother Jesse G. Jordan was executor of the estate. As already presented herein, Deed Book W, page 493, contains wording that makes an exception for Henry’s widow from within the Meeting House Tract.]

Deed Book Q, page 144, recorded the sale of lands in two tracts from Batt Jordan to his son Henry on October 24, 1836. Henry died on November 4 of 1836, according to his obituary in the *Huntsville Democrat* of November 11 of that year. He made his last will and testament on October 24, 1836, which was the same day as the purchase of land from his father. It is
possible that he was terminally ill on that date, and Batt Jordan was simply providing for Henry’s widow and children by selling the land at that time.

It should be noted in examining the deed (below) that the first tract of land was the 160 acres of the NE/4 of Section 8, which lies immediately southwest of the SW/4 of Section 4 in Township 4, Range 1W. The Meeting House Tract was described as consisting of 140 acres purchased by Batt Jordan from Moore and Parker. Its location was not specified, but at least the ownership chain is now known for additional tracking with respect to location clues. As already presented above, we know the location to have been in the SW/4 of 4-4-1W.
Bartholomew Jordan
To Deed
Henry Jordan

This Indenture made this 24th day of October one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six between Batt Jordan of the county of Madison in the state of Alabama of the one part and Henry Jordan of the county of Madison & State aforementioned of the other part. Witnesseth: That the said Batt Jordan for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred dollars to him in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged to have this day bargained sold alienated enfeoffed and conveyed and by these presents do bargain sell alienate enfeoff and convey to the said Henry Jordan the certain tracts of land lying and being in the County of Madison and State aforementioned and known in the plan of said County as the North east Quarter of Section eight of Township four in Range one west of the Meridian Line and also one hundred and forty acres of land designated by said Jordans as the Meeting house track and bounded by the lands of Bond Ward and Alex P Jones and both tracts containing three hundred acres be the same more or less. One hundred and sixty acres of which land was purchased by said Batt Jordan of James Cross assignee of John Russell and one hundred and forty acres of Moore and Parker. To have and to hold the above described track of land with the tenements and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining unto the said Henry Jordan his heirs and assigns forever. And the said Batt Jordan for himself & his executors and administrators do warrant and will forever defend the title to the above described and hereby granted premises unto the said Henry Jordan his heirs and assigns from and against Batt Jordan and all and every person or persons claiming or holding under him the said Batt Jordan and also against the lawfull title claim or demand of all and every person or persons whomsoever claiming or holding by from or under the Government of the United States. In testimony whereof the said Batt Jordan has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year above written. Signed sealed and delivered in the
Presence of
Jason L Jordan

Batt Jordan (Seal)

Before me Richard B Purdom Clerk of the County Court of Madison County in the State of Alabama this day personally appeared William Blake one of the subscribing witnesses to the within deed who being duly sworn deposes and says that he heard Bartholomew Jordan acknowledge that he had signed sealed and delivered the said Deed to the within named Henry Jordan on the day of its date and that he said defendant and Jason L Jordan the other subscribing witness to said Deed subscribed their names thereto as witnesses in the presence of the said Bartholomew Jordan and in the presence of each other. Given under my hand and seal at office in Huntsville this seventh November eighteen hundred and thirty six.

Rich B Purdom (Seal)

The foregoing deed was delivered into the office of the clerk of the County Court of Madison in the State of Alabama for registration on the seventh day of November eighteen hundred and thirty six and was duly registered on the second day of December eighteen hundred and thirty six.

Rich B Purdom Clerk C C

Madison County AL Deed Book Q, page 144: Batt JORDAN to son Henry Jordan
Henry Jordan's Last Will & Testament

In the name of God, Amen. I, Henry Jordan, of the county of Madison and state of Alabama, being weak in body but sound in mind do make and publish this my last will and testament in the presence of the witnesses hereunto subscribed (signature)

- I leave unto my wife Maria Jordan, all my personal estate
- I give to my children, as my executor shall think fit
- I leave to my children, their personal effects and their future earnings
- I appoint my children, myexecutor

In testimony whereof, I have subscribed my name and these 18th day of October, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and ninety

Signed in the presence of

Wm. Blake

Louis W. Byrom

The State of Alabama

Marion County Court of Madison County this 18th day of October 1897

The execution of the last will and testament of Henry Jordan, late of said County, deceased, having been duly proven by the oaths of William Blake, James W. Allen, and Louis W. Byrom, the undersigned clerks thereof, and the same is hereby proved, to be admitted, and declared to be true, and the same is to be entered on the records of this Court in accordance with the 24th volume, page 122, to be read and sealed with the last will and testament, recorded on the 24th day of October, 1897.
Wording proves that the Meeting House Tract was different from the more southern tracts where Henry Jordan lived.
The above image of page 134 from Orphan’s Court Minute Book 10 clearly states that the Methodist Episcopal Church that was established on land deeded by Batt Jordan became known as Jordan’s Chapel. The previous page (133) of this document also listed lands where Henry Jordan apparently lived during his last days. This land that Henry owned was well south of the
Meeting House Tract. The Meeting House Tract in fact was stated separately, as being a distinctly different parcel of land than that specified as being in Township 5.

**CLUE 9, Depositon statements of William Lanford regarding petition by Jesse Jordan to sell the lands of Henry Jordan in order to equitably divide the estate.**

In 1844 Jesse G. Jordan was Administrator of the estate of his brother Henry’s estate, and he petitioned the County Court / Orphan’s Court to sell Henry’s land and slaves in order to enable a more equitable division among the heirs. Henry had died in 1836, so Jesse had probably tried for several years various schemes to get the 5 living sons of Henry to agree upon a division of lands and the four slaves. Finally, he would have realized that only a sale of the lands and slaves and subsequent division of the resulting cash would produce a truly equitable settlement. His petition and bond to sell the land and the remaining slaves is seen in the documents below.
To the Honorable County Court of Hendricks County, Indiana.

The petition of Stephen Gibson, Executor of the last will and testament of
Henry Gibson, late of said county, deceased, respectfully sheweth:
That said deceased did execute and profess to execute his last will and testament, to-wit:

Pursuant to said last will and testament, to-wit:

That said last will and testament provides for the distribution of the estate as follows:

- One hundred acres of land
- Fifty acres of land
- Fifty acres of land
- One hundred acres of land
- One hundred acres of land
- One hundred acres of land
- One hundred acres of land
- One hundred acres of land
- One hundred acres of land
- One hundred acres of land
- One hundred acres of land
- One hundred acres of land
- One hundred acres of land


That the said Henry Gibson, deceased, left his estate in trust for the benefit of his children, to-wit:

- William H. Gibson
- Henry H. Gibson
- Andrew J. Gibson
- Glasgow H. Gibson

That the said William H. Gibson is over the age of twenty-one years, to-wit:

That the said Henry H. Gibson is over the age of twenty-one years, to-wit:

That the said Andrew J. Gibson is over the age of twenty-one years, to-wit:

That the said Glasgow H. Gibson is over the age of twenty-one years, to-wit:

That the said William H. Gibson is over the age of twenty-one years, to-wit:

That the said Henry H. Gibson is over the age of twenty-one years, to-wit:

That the said Andrew J. Gibson is over the age of twenty-one years, to-wit:

That the said Glasgow H. Gibson is over the age of twenty-one years, to-wit:

That the said William H. Gibson is over the age of twenty-one years, to-wit:

That the said Henry H. Gibson is over the age of twenty-one years, to-wit:

That the said Andrew J. Gibson is over the age of twenty-one years, to-wit:

That the said Glasgow H. Gibson is over the age of twenty-one years, to-wit:

That the said William H. Gibson is over the age of twenty-one years, to-wit:

That the said Henry H. Gibson is over the age of twenty-one years, to-wit:

That the said Andrew J. Gibson is over the age of twenty-one years, to-wit:

That the said Glasgow H. Gibson is over the age of twenty-one years, to-wit:
Liber J. Garbon and Harrietton Gordon, who have departed this life in
infancy, and without issue here than the legal heirs thereof, all of said
heirs reside in the County of nominee.

Petitioners therefore pray that that before proceeding refers to the last
estate and testament of said Harrietton Gordon deceased, which is on record in
the Office of the Clerk of the County Court of said County, as part of this petition;
and prays that such proceeding may be had as the law directs, so that
a sale of the before mentioned and described tract or parcel of land may be
ordered for the purposes aforesaid, pursuant to the statute in such cases
made and provided.

Petitioners also represents that he has made final settlement of his
administration in the estate of said deceased, as the records of this honorable
Court will show, and that all the property now belonging to said estate
except the tract or parcel of land aforesaid consisting of four negro
slaves, to wit: Thos. Mens, aged about twenty-six years, Willy, aged a
bout twenty years, Charlie, aged about eighteen years, and Jim, aged
about fifteen years, the same to be equally fairly and beneficently, all
sold amongst said legatees without a sale thereof; And petitioners
also prays that he may be authorized to sell the slaves aforesaid
agreement to law as or about the first day of January next, at
which time the land for which the said slaves are now hired out
will have expired, so that the proceeds thereof may be divided
amongst said legatees.

August 18th, 1844

[Signature]

I agree that the property aforesaid may be returned to bear as originally
to the owner of the premises, to wit: 15th day 1844

[Signature]
Sease G. Jordan, Esq., of
Henry Jordan deceased

\( \frac{3}{4} \) Bond to sell land

John C. Thompson Judge

2nd December 1844 O. M. B.

No 10 Page 170 42eg
Know all men, that we Judge J. Jordan, Executor of the last will and testament of Henry Jordan deceased, and George Jordan and George M. Johnson, Madison County, in the State of Alabama, are joint and several bond into Edna G. Thompson, Judge of the Circuit Court of Madison County, and his successors in Office in the county of Madison, for the true payment of which sum of one thousand dollars, for the true payment of which sum, and to be made, we and each of us to bind ourselves, and every one of us, Executors and Administrators jointly and severally, jointly by these presents, with our houses and lands this the sixteenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-four.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas the above bound Judge J. Jordan, Executor, has applied to the Judge of the Circuit Court of said county for a sale of the real estate of said Testator, which consists of the North half of section nine, Township 5, Range 1 West, the South East part of fractional section four, Township 5, Range 1 West, containing 103 acres 90 per cent of an acre, the South West part of fractional section nine, Township 5, Range 1 West, containing 103 acres 90 per cent of an acre, part of fractional section nine, Township 5, Range 1 West, of the town meridian containing 103 acres 90 per cent of an acre, bound on the North by the land of Thomas W. Jordan, on the East by the land on which the late James Jordan lived, on the South by the land of land on which said Thomas Jordan formerly lived, and on the West by the land on which William Jordan formerly lived, and one other tract in parcel of land containing 46 acres of the same town, as known as the heating house tract, and bounded by the lands of James Reed and Henry Jordan, the same tract so much of as by the last will and testament of said Henry Jordan, deceased was bequeathed to his widow, and excepting also the part thereof conveyed by said Jordan to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Jordan's Chapel.

Now if the said Judge J. Jordan, Executor, does severally that will and truly observe the rules and directions of law for the sale of real estate by Executors &c., and shall well and truly account for the proceeds of said sale and do that same shall be disposed of according to law, then this obligation shall be
Hearings were held to determine the appropriateness of the proposed sale of the land and slaves of Henry Jordan’s estate. Depositions were taken from William Lanford and George Horton regarding their [unbiased but knowledgeable] opinions about the necessity for the sale. Isham J. Fennell, son of Temperance Jordan Fennell (who was Henry’s sister), was also summoned for a deposition, but such a document was not found. It may be that the blood relationship to Henry disqualified Isham’s participation. The documents below show the statements of William Lanford and George Horton in the deposition.
The State of Alabama,

MADISON COUNTY,

In the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

John B. Eldridge, a commissioner of any Justice of the Peace for the County of Madison in the State of Alabama, Greeting:

KNOW YE, That we, in confidence of your prudence and fidelity, do hereby commission, authorize and require you to call and cause to come before you, at the your office house of in the court house in the County and State aforesaid, on the 10th day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-four, William Sansford and Isham J. Farmers and George Norton

and them after being first duly qualified, diligently examine, touching their knowledge respecting the matters in difference between the parties, in a suit now pending in the County Court held for the said County of Madison, wherein Henry Jordan's Executor is Plaintiff and Henry Jordan and John

and Defendant on behalf of the Plaintiff and Defendants

Their examination to taken from under your hand and seal, send certified to the Judge of the County Court for the County of Madison, and State of Alabama, at the Court to be held at the Court-house in the Town of Huntsville, on the third Monday in October instant next.

Witnesses—Richard E. Purdom, Clerk of our said County Court, at office, this twentieth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-four and of American Independence the sixty-ninth year.

Testa. Isaac M. Agey CLERK, C. G.

Issued twelfth day of October 1844

Let notice of the time and place of taking said deposition be given.

CLERK, C. G.

I acknowledge service of the above.

We agree that the depositions may be taken as above.
The State of Alabama by Plesseant to the unknown person
Madison County, on the 12th day of October, A.D., 1831, from the office of the Clerk of the County Court in said County, filed on the 12th day of October, A.D., 1831, the

Carlos 

above

William Conner, being first sworn, deposes as follows:

1st. That J. M. Cotton, the defendant, was acquainted with the lands of which he is accused, and the

answer, I am in part:

question. Can said land be fairly and

The remainder is the part about

down miles apart, and no

further, the defendant is not

born to be subscribed by:

Geo. Homan

O. L. Land.

The 11th day of Oct. 1831

M. R. Athines, Clerk.
The report on the eventual sale of the lands at auction in 1845 is provided in the images below.
Report of the sale of the real estate belonging to the estate of Henry Jordan deceased.

Ordered to be recorded 20th March 1845 O. No. B. No. 10
Page 276 Rev.

Recorded
In Orphans Record
Petit No. 12
Page 35 Rev.
two years, the purchase or purchase giving some or bonds and offered
security for the payment thereof, and it is further ordered that
said Executor sell or offered all the right, title, claim and
interest which said Executor had in and to the aforesaid tract
or parcel of land and make report thereof to the next term to
this Court thereafter.

Lorenz, [Signature]

In the State of Missouri, the person or persons being the school
district for the state of Missouri, the town of Poon,
also lot of the city, and the person, the school of which the above
parties are the parties to a contract for the sale of the
land, of which the above
above.

On this day, the

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To the Circuit Court of Henry County, in the State of Alabama:

Know all men by these presents, that I, Henry Jordan, have made oath and sworn, and do hereby duly swear, that the foregoing description of the real estate, to-wit: the land described, as belonging to the estate of my said father, deceased, and now belonging to me, is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, as shown in the records of this county.

Henry Jordan

Before me, John M. Oley, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Henry County, in the State of Alabama, this 21st day of March, 1850, in open court, in presence of the subscriber, John M. Oley, Clerk of this Court, have appeared, Henry Jordan, Defendant, who having been summoned and made oath, that the above and foregoing description of the real estate belonging to the estate of my said father, deceased, is true, and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief, as shown in the records of this county.

Henry Jordan

State of Alabama

Circuit Court of Henry County, in open court, on the 21st day of March, 1850, before me, John M. Oley, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Henry County, have appeared, Henry Jordan, Defendant, who having been summoned and made oath, that the above and foregoing description of the real estate belonging to the estate of my said father, deceased, is true, and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief, as shown in the records of this county.

Henry Jordan

Evidence of Deed

Before me, John M. Oley, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Henry County, in open court, on the 21st day of March, 1850, in presence of the subscriber, John M. Oley, Clerk of this Court, have appeared, Henry Jordan, Defendant, who having been summoned and made oath, that the above and foregoing description of the real estate belonging to the estate of my said father, deceased, is true, and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief, as shown in the records of this county.
Note that in the deposition of William Lanford, he stated that the holdings of Henry Jordan included lands “… in three different parcels, and some of said land without a particle of timber or fence and a portion of said land being near Jordan’s Chappel [sic], the remainder in the Flat about seven miles apart – and no houses.” The lands of the estate listed in other documents were:

Tract 1: N/2 of NW/4, S9-T5-R1W (80 acres)
Tract 2: SE part of fractional S4-T5-R1W (102.5 acres)
Tract 3: SW part of fractional S[blank]-T5-R1W (102.5 acres)
Tract 4: Part of fractional S4-T5-R1W (101 acres)
Tract 5: One other tract, the Meeting House Tract, of 140 acres.

Note that the first four tracts are all located in Township 5, not Township 4. Their location on maps puts them along Dodd Road, from the intersection with Martin Road southward and eastward for a mile or so. This is the location of the old community of Mullins Flats. It was this “Flat” that was the reference given by William Lanford as being 7 miles from the parcel near Jordan’s Chapel. On maps of the county that show land sections, it can easily be seen that the southern portions of Henry Jordan’s land was in fact 7 miles from the northeastern part of the SW/4 of Section 4, Township 4, Range 1W – where other records have already indicated that Jordan’s Chapel was located. **This statement in the deposition of William Lanford is concrete proof that Jordan’s Chapel was not located at Mullins Flat, and it in fact affirms the location previously concluded, that being 7 miles to the north of the Flat.**

**CLUE 10, Deposition statements of George Horton regarding lands of estate of Henry Jordan.**

When George Horton was asked if he was “… acquainted with the lands of which Henry Jordan died seized and possessed”, Mr. Horton replied that he
was familiar with “... that portion that lies in Mullins Flat.” He further, in response to the 2nd question put to him, stated that “… the land [of the estate of Henry Jordan] is cut in to two parts and detached.” This last statement seems to affirm that there was a separate portion of land not in Mullins Flat. However, it may simply be that Mr. Horton was indicating that even the parcels in the Mullins Flat area were separated into two detached parcels. The latter interpretation is preferred, since a plot of the known descriptions of the locations of the parcels in Mullins Flat does in fact show that three of the tracts were contiguous, while one was separated to the west of the others. In any event, the statements of Mr. Horton do affirm that Henry Jordan owned land with which Mr. Horton was not familiar. George Horton owned land on the southern part of the arsenal, so it is not at all unusual that he would not be familiar with lands on the northern portion of the arsenal area, west of the primary roads to Huntsville from where Mr. Horton lived.

George Horton certainly must have become familiar with the Meeting House Tract during the proceedings of the Jordan estate settlement, because he bought that tract as the “highest and last bidder” for that land during its auction on the courthouse steps in 1845. It is interesting to note that George W. Fennell and James B. Jordan were his sureties for that purchase, since both of them were related to Henry Jordan, whereas George Horton was not. It is further interesting to note that the tract was described as containing 140 acres in the 1845 sale. In earlier references, the tract was described as containing 104.25 acres. Either some land was added from other holdings or the clerk transposed the “0” and the “4”, making “104” into “140” in his notes.

**CLUE 11, Reference to the location of Jordan’s Chapel in early documents.**

In the book *A HISTORY OF METHODISM IN ALABAMA* by the Rev. Anson West, D.D., published in Association with the Commission on Archives and History of the Alabama – West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church (reprint of 1983), there is an indirect reference to Jordan’s Chapel. On page 115, in the chapter entitled “First Work of Methodism in Alabama” the book states “At the very beginning a Society was organized five or six miles west of Hunt’s Spring, in the neighborhood where Jordan’s Camp Ground was afterward established. … Hunt’s Spring
changed in name to Huntsville. … in the neighborhood where Jordan’s Camp Ground was afterward established were William Lanier, Robert Lanford, James Bibb, William Bibb, Loyd Aday, James Pollard, Batt Jordan, James Sharp, William Blake; … Judging from the oldest deeds on record, these Societies all worshiped in private houses until 1820 and 1821, as no houses of worship were built previous to said dates.”

The reference to Jordan’s Camp Ground (which is assumed to be the precursor name for what became Jordan’s Chapel) as being “five or six miles west of Hunt’s Spring” is pretty close to the actual straight line distance from Big Spring to the location concluded as the site of Jordan’s Chapel. The actual straight line distance is 3 miles, but the reference to a distance of 5 or 6 miles may have meant by best roads of the day. Those roads certainly would not have been straight along the shortest, most direct routes, so it may well have taken a journey of 5 or 6 miles to reach Jordan’s Chapel from the Big Spring. The distance reference could also have meant from the center of the town that became Huntsville (rather than from the Big Spring), which was located primarily on the bluff east of the Big Spring, making it more like 5 miles of straight line distance to the site of Jordan’s Chapel.

One thing for sure, if the location of Jordan’s Camp Ground had been in the Mullins Flat area, the reference in the book would have said that it was about 7 or 8 miles southwest of Hunt’s Spring. Furthermore, the list of names associated with Batt Jordan’s neighborhood contains the trustees of the church and others who are known to have lived in the area along Brown’s Ferry Road / Bob Wallace Avenue at the north end of the arsenal area.

CONCLUSION

In summary of all of the various clues regarding the location of Jordan’s Chapel, it is quite apparent that the site was in the northeastern quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 4, Township 4 South, Range 1 West. The acre of land deeded to the church by Batt Jordan most probably was in the area between the railroad bed and the DOT office / yard on Governor’s House Drive. In other words, Interstate Highway 565 cuts through the likely site,
which measured 201 feet east – west by 219 feet north – south. This site provided ready access to water for the congregation during the all-day meetings that also ran into the nights. There was water available at the spring and associated headwaters of McDonnell Creek located today on the campus of the University of Alabama in Huntsville just east of Sparkman Drive. There were more springs and increased flow of McDonnell Creek in the area that today is part of the Aviation Challenge pools of the Space and Rocket Center. Both of these “watering holes” were within about a quarter mile of the chapel site, which would have made ideal conditions for early camp meetings. There were additional small springs within less than a half mile on the land to the south of the site -- in the area of the Botanical Gardens and along the west side of Jordan Road today. In fact, there is a small cemetery on the line between the Botanical Gardens and Morris Elementary School, about 40 or 50 yards south of Bob Wallace Avenue (which in Batt Jordan’s day was known as part of Brown’s Ferry Road). This is almost certainly the location of the old Jordan’s Chapel Cemetery.

Just as older published accounts stated erroneously that Jordan’s Chapel was in Mullins Flat, it may be that Batt Jordan was in fact not buried at the site of Jordan’s Chapel. Both claims were based upon information from Jordan descendants who apparently mixed up the facts of their family traditions. Batt Jordan could well be buried in the cemetery on the grounds of the Space and Rocket Center, which is locally said by some to be the Jordan family cemetery. It certainly was on land owned by the Jordans, and it appears to be old enough to fit. However, this study has encountered numerous “red herrings” in the land records and in the old published accounts. Therefore, it cannot be entirely ruled out that family traditions may indeed have some basis in fact. It is easy to see that the Jordan descendants in Mississippi would have heard of Mullins Flats as the ancestral area, since William H. Jordan, a child of Henry Jordan, bought the four tracts of Henry’s land in Mullins Flats when the estate holdings were auctioned. Those descendants would also have heard that Henry owned the land where the chapel stood, so they could have easily assumed that the chapel therefore was also in Mullins Flat. The family would have “forgotten” the lands that were owned by Batt Jordan through time, as these lands entirely passed to others outside the family by the late 1800s.

With regard to the gravesite of Batt Jordan, it is considered very likely that he would have wanted to be buried on the grounds of the chapel that carried his name. If the data found on Ancestry.com’s web pages is true, then Batt
was strong in the Methodist movement back in North Carolina, before he came to Alabama with Isham Fennel, who married Batt’s daughter Temperance. However, the only indication the he is buried on the Jordan’s Chapel site is from the statement in the 1929 letter published in a Memphis TN newspaper. That letter was written by a Jordan descendant who had never lived in north Alabama, and in fact, he was two generations removed from this area. His letter also stated that Jordan’s Chapel was in Mullins Flat, which is definitely proven incorrect herein. The facts of the legal records (in spite of their limitations of unrecorded transactions, incomplete indexes, omitted words, misspelled terms, and possibly transposed numbers in notations) still point to the location of the chapel and its cemetery (if indeed it had one) as being just outside of the arsenal boundaries, on the northeast end. Nevertheless, the lives of Bartholomew Jordan and his children and their “in-laws” certainly figured prominently in the settlement and early history of the land that became Redstone Arsenal. It is hoped that a commemorative plaque will someday be erected near the site of Jordan’s Chapel (perhaps at the DOT site or on the shoulder of Governor’s House Drive in that area) to denote to the public that one of the earliest Alabama Methodist congregations met in the area and that American Revolutionary War soldier Batt Jordan is buried nearby.

For the more avid researchers, the majority of the records examined during this investigation were photographed and stored digitally on CD-ROMs provided to the Army offices, even when those records may not directly shed light upon the determination of the site of the chapel. Much useful information is contained in these records for genealogical purposes and for association with other landowners of the properties that became Redstone Arsenal. In addition to these digital records, all handwritten notes made during the investigation were kept. It is intended at the time of this writing that the original notes will be given to the Huntsville – Madison County library’s Heritage Room archives for JORDAN family files and/or for a JORDAN’S CHAPEL folder, since those subjects are of interest to the general public for history of areas outside of arsenal considerations.

For additional information about the original location of the Methodist Episcopal Church that became known as Jordan’s Chapel after it moved a few miles to the northwest, see the Summary Report for the Williams – Scott Cemetery, 37-1. This location was on land owned by Robert Lanford, the first donor of land for the church’s meeting place. For some reason, the congregation decided to move to a “more suitable place”, and Batt Jordan
provided the land in the 1820s, thereby unintentionally getting his name further recorded in the history of north Alabama. The only stone in the little cemetery that is believed to be the Jordan’s Chapel Cemetery is quite likely for Bartholomew Jordan. (It could be the “rock of the beginning” for the deed specifications, but since it is not located within the one acre site of the chapel itself, then that possibility is discounted.) The stone has no inscription, but it is shown below:
Morris Elementary School, NE corner, S. of Bob Wallace Avenue, Huntsville, AL.
November 16, 2004