Dorothy Scott Johnson's book "Cemeteries of Madison County, Alabama, Vol. 1" (1971) on page 280 states that information was provided by Mr. Bob Drake in November of 1969 about the grave of William Dickson Lanier in this cemetery. According to his transcription of the long-gone marker, it read: "In the Memory of WILLIAM DICKSON LANIER, born July ...8, 1830, died October ...2, 183... ...nts do not weep in sorrow ...or your cherished idol slain, ...y resignation borrow, for your loved one lives again. Bow ye to the will of God while the day of time is given, (then?) when life's short path is trod ...c shall meet your children in Heaven."
This cemetery provides the only example of an intact table tomb in the portion of Madison County encompassed by Redstone Arsenal. The table tomb has a tablet inscribed for Mrs. (Mary) Ann Lanier Rawlings, who died January 15, 1823, at the age of 20. She was a daughter of Isaac Lanier (1767 – 1827), who came to Madison County and bought pre-arsenal lands to live among his brothers, Thomas and William Lanier. William Lanier, uncle of Ann L. Rawlins, is buried in the Jordan – Lanier Cemetery (51-1), about a mile southwest of the Rawlins – Lanier Cemetery.

Ann Lanier Rawlins was also a sister of Clarissa Lanier Boddie (later, Dickson), who bought land in Section 5, T5-R1W, which is just over two miles southwest of this cemetery. Among his other holdings, Ann’s husband Eldred Rawlins was the first recorded owner of land half a mile south of the present Redstone Arsenal airfield, being the south half of Section 25 in T4-R2W. He purchased this land on February 3, 1818, when it was first made available by the U. S. Government land office. Eldred was involved in numerous land transactions involving pre-arsenal lands, and he also served as cashier of the Planters’ and Merchants’ Bank in Huntsville.

Apparently, from the old land records, Ann’s husband Eldred Rawlins never came into possession of the land around the cemetery where she is buried. There is reference in Madison County’s first deed book (A, on page 210) that the original owner of the land, John Couch, sold the north half of Section 22 to Isaac Jackson in 1815. The south half of the section is not addressed in that particular deed, but other references, upon subsequent sales, state that the south half of Section 22 was sold by Couch to Isaac Lanier, who is known to have died in 1827. His widow Mary J. Dickson Lanier is shown in 1832 as selling the land of the south half of Section 22 to William Brandon (Deed Book N, page 554). Apparently, Mary J. Lanier (wife of the senior Isaac – see Lanier Cemetery, 46-3) actually owned the land where the Rawlings – Lanier Cemetery is located at the time when Mary Ann Lanier Rawlins was buried there. Since Eldred Rawlins is almost certainly not buried in the cemetery, it perhaps should more properly be known as another Lanier Cemetery – especially since the only other recorded burial in the little cemetery was for a child, William Dickson Lanier, who was born in 1830 and died before reaching his 10th birthday (see caption under photo at top).
RAWLINGS-LANIER CEMETERY, 37-4
Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Alabama: SE/4, S22-T4-R1W.
View from SE corner of Ann Rawlins grave covering in center of cemetery.

(This is the only known table tomb on the arsenal. They are rare in the county, as well.)
Sacred to the memory of
M' ANN, RAWLINS
Who departed this life
in the triumph of Christian faith
on the 15th of January, 1823
in the 20th year of her age.

RAWLINGS-LANIER CEMETERY, 37-4
Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Alabama: SE/4, S22-T4-R1W.
Ann Lanier married Eldred Rawlins on August 11, 1821.

(Top half of the “tablet” of the table tomb.)
It is likely that Ann Lanier Rawlins died either during childbirth or as a result of complications thereof, since that was a common cause of death for women of her age at the time. Moreover, Ann’s husband Eldred had a daughter named Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins who remained under the age of 21 (per probate court records) until after 1840. Such a daughter, born in 1823 at the time of Ann’s death, would be 16 or 17 in 1840 and 26 or 27 in 1850. This daughter married William G. Love in Autauga County, Alabama, on July 25, 1843 – when she would have been about 20 years old, if she was...
born at the time of her mother’s death. The census of 1850 confirms her birth year as 1823 (when her mother died) by showing her age as 26 in Autauga County, AL. Initially, her father Eldred Rawlins himself was granted guardianship over Mary Ann Eliza’s estate (inheritances from her grandfather Isaac Lanier, who died in 1827) as a minor, but later (apparently after a remarriage for Eldred and after he sent his daughter to live with her maternal grandmother, Mary Dickson Lanier, widow of Isaac) one of her maternal uncles, Clement G. Lanier, was appointed as her guardian.

Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins Love continued to reside with her husband in Autauga County, as further probate records regarding her father’s estate were handled there, as well as in Limestone County (where Eldred had moved with a second wife and family) and in Madison County. Eldred Rawlins never made final settlement of his daughter’s Madison County estate before his own death out of the state of Alabama around 1855. By 1856 his widow Sarah J. Rawlins had received Letters of Administration of his estate from the Limestone County (Alabama) Probate Court, but she must have been either unable or a bit reluctant to close out the Madison County estate for her step-daughter Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins Love. Many court actions were recorded to force the settlement, but it appears that the Civil War intervened, and there was no final settlement found in Madison County records.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES</th>
<th>MALES</th>
<th>FEMALES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Farrand</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Farrand</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shewster Reed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John H. Carter</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Reed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Reed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Reed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Reed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Reed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John H. Reed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John H. Reed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Ham Reed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John H. Reed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1830 Madison County, Alabama, census page 129
The 1840 census record overview for Eldred Rawlins is shown below:
### 1840 Limestone County, Alabama, census page 157 - Left Side

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>White Males</th>
<th>White Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 5 yrs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 - 10 yrs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 - 20 yrs</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 - 30 yrs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 - 40 yrs</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 - 50 yrs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 60 yrs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1840 Limestone County, Alabama, census page 157 - Right Side

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLAVES</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male Female</td>
<td>Total Household</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2 3 1 1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2 1 1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1 1 1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 2 1 1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MyFamily.com
The above 1840 census record shows Eldred Rawlins and family in Limestone County. None of the children of this record would be Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins, who married William G. Love in 1843 in Autauga County, AL. She was apparently sent away to live with someone else by her father after her mother’s death in 1823. The only census record of 1830 among her relatives in Madison County that has an entry to fit her age (5 – 10 age bracket) and gender was that for Mary (Dickson) Lanier, widow of the senior Isaac Lanier. This would have been her maternal grandmother, and it would be one of the more expected choices for sending a young daughter to live there, if Eldred had indeed remarried as the 1830 record for him suggests.

The female at age 15 – 20 in Eldred’s household in 1830 Madison County cannot be a daughter born to Ann Rawlins between their marriage date (1821) and Ann’s death in 1823, because the age bracket doesn’t fit for 1830. Of course, it would be possible that Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins was born to an earlier wife of Eldred’s, before he married Ann. However, that doesn’t fit the ages of minority (“infant of Eldred”) for Mary Ann Eliza as seen in the various Probate and Orphan’s Court records through the 1850s. Therefore, it is pretty well conclusive that Eldred must have taken another very young wife after Ann’s death in 1823 and before the time of the 1830 census. The age bracket shown for the female in 1830 (15 – 20 yrs.), while Eldred was shown as age 40 – 50 yrs., fits precisely for the oldest female in his household in Limestone County in 1840 (20 – 30 yrs.).

The 1850 federal census of Alabama further confirms that Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins was sent to live with her grandmother Mary Dickson Lanier by showing that Mary Lanier at age 74 was living beside her daughter Clarissa Lanier Boddie Dickson (Dixon), who in turn was living beside Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins Love and her husband William G. Love in Autauga County. Apparently, Mary Lanier and Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins moved to Autauga County to live beside Clarissa between 1840 and 1850, and that is where Mary Ann met William G. Love, who became her husband in that county.
The 1860 census showed that Mary Dickson Lanier was still living (given as age 83) beside her daughter and grandchild at Independence in Autauga County. By that time, all were widows, but it is interesting that Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins Love named a child Eldred (after her father) and another Clement – most likely after her maternal uncle who was the guardian of her estate for a period while her father was still living. Since Mary Lanier and Mary Ann Eliza Rawlins Love remained as residents of Autauga County for an extended period late in life, it is unlikely that they are buried in the family cemeteries on the arsenal in Madison County.

On the other hand, the census record for Eldred Rawlins in 1850 is somewhat confusing, at least with respect to Alabama enumerations. There was found only one possibility for him to be residing in the state in 1850. That was for the household headed by John “Raulings”, age 73, born in Tennessee, and living in Cherokee County, Alabama. His wife is shown as “Joannah”, age 66, born in Maryland. This age difference between John and Joannah is not the same as the difference shown in the 1830 and the 1840 censuses, so it is not at all likely that this is the same family as lived in Madison and Limestone Counties. Furthermore, the Limestone Probate Court case files indicate that Eldred’s wife remained in that county.
throughout the 1850s and into the 1860s. Therefore, it is unknown where Eldred may have lived until his death sometime in the 1850s “out of the state of Alabama”, per the court petition below.

(Here Mary, the daughter of Eldred, is called an “Infant” in legal terms of the day, since she must have been under the “age of majority” – 21 at the time. Of course, the “infant” was a married woman at the time. This probate court file is continued below:)

To the Honorable J. S. Almon, Esquire,
County of Madison, Alabama,

In the matter of the estate of Ida Rawling, deceased.

This is to certify that I, Eldred Rawling, have been appointed by the circuit court of the county of Madison the guardian of the estate of said deceased, having been the last surviving child of the deceased, an infant under the age of one year, and the only child of said deceased.

I, as guardian, do hereby appoint you, the undersigned, to act as my agent and attorney in the administration of the estate of said deceased.

Eldred Rawling

[Signature]

G. H. Rawling

[Signature]

[Date: 2/22/1932]
To the Honorable W. J. Hornsmon,
Judge of Probate of Madison County,
Alabama

Your Petitioners, William J. Love
and Ellen A. Love, his wife (whose maiden
name was Ellen A. Hawthorne) represent
That on the 15th day of February 1857, their
Eldred Hawthorne, then a child of age
of Madison was appointed by the then
probate Court of said county the guardian
of the estate of said Eldred. The same of
the time an infant under twenty-one
years of age and the daughter of
Wm. and Elizabth Hawthorne. That said Eldred
was subsequently the said office for you
bonds and qualifies as such guardian
appear to have been
and took charge of his estate
That said Eldred afterwards removed
from this state and departs this
life intestate, without having previous
by made any settlement of his
said guardianship. That in the year
1856, Notice of Administration upon

14
(The expanded view of the text is below.)
The married Mary Rawlins Love did not stay under the authority of her stepmother, with respect to the estate management, as the next record below shows that her maternal uncle Clement G. Lanier became her legal guardian:
The State of Alabama | Official Records Court
Montgomery County
June 14th, 1846

O. W. Snow came, in behalf of James G. Daniels, and presented the certificate of Mary E. E. Robinson, daughter of William G. Daniels, making choice of said J. G. Daniels as her Guardian.

Thereupon the Court Ordered that the said James G. Daniels be appointed Guardian of said Mary E. E. Robinson by his good Bond and Security,

Whereas the said James G. Daniels presented his Bond as such Guardian to the sum of Two Thousand Dollars, in the Williams Co. Dialect as Elizabeth Ballard as security — and it is by the Court Ordered that the same be received and filed, and further Ordered — that the same be vacated.

Ordered — that return of Guardianship be made to James G. Daniels in and upon the person, Goods and Chattels, rights and credits of Mary E. E. Robinson in said,

Ordered — that said Guardian make a just full and complete inventory of all and singular the goods and Chattels, rights and credits of the said Mary E. E. Robinson.

Ordered — that said Guardian make a return of said Inventory to this Court 1st day in three months.

The State of Alabama | S. William S. Thompson, Chief
Circuit Court | 5th of the county Court of 1846

County: duly certified that the foregoing transcript is a true copy from the records in my office of the adjournment of the said J. G. Daniels as guardian of the said Mary E. E. Robinson.

S. Pitts

In testimony of all of which I have sworn to set my hand and affixed the seal of Office this 14th day of June A.D. 1846

William S. Thompson, Clerk
One other interesting aspect of the investigation into the history of Eldred Rawlins in Madison County is that he was the defendant in numerous lawsuits – mostly filed over debts that Eldred failed to pay on time. Whether the suits were indeed filed against the same man who was married for a time into the Lanier family or perhaps against a son by an earlier marriage is not yet known. Certainly the nature of the character of the early landowner, bank cashier, friend of William D. Lanier, witness to many deeds, and husband of Ann Lanier Rawlins would not be in keeping with that of a “ne’er-do-well” who reneged upon his debts over a considerable period of time. Still, the census records consistently show only one Eldred Rawlins / Rawlings / Raulins / Rollins / etc. that could fit for Ann Lanier’s husband. Furthermore, some of the Circuit Court records of these lawsuits show that William D. Lanier was in partnership with the Eldred Rawlins who was the defendant, so it is almost certainly the same person who married Mary Ann Lanier (1803 – 1823).

Since Eldred Rawlins moved away from Madison County and died out of the state of Alabama, it is considered very unlikely that he would have been buried in the Rawlins – Lanier Cemetery on the arsenal. This is especially so, since the parcel of land that contains the cemetery was sold by Mary J. Dickson Lanier in 1832 to William Brandon, and since Eldred didn’t die until around 1856, per the Limestone County probate court records.

As a final note, the other known grave (per Dorothy Scott Johnson’s recording of observations of Mr. Bob Drake in 1969 of an old tombstone) in the Rawlings – Lanier Cemetery is for a child, William Dickson Lanier. Mr. Drake’s input said that the inscription on the old stone showed a birth date in July of 1830 and a death date in the same decade. The epitaph is obviously that for a deceased child. Of all the Lanier families living in the area, only that of William Dickson Lanier fits the profile for having a child of that age who died in that period. This child would have been William Dickson Lanier, Jr. He was not mentioned in the Last Will and Testament of his father, dated December 7, 1837, and recorded in Probate Record Book 8, pages 207-8, since he had already passed away when the will was written.

William Dickson Lanier (Sr.) was the first child of Isaac Lanier (1767 – 1827) by his second wife, Mary J. Dickson. William D. Lanier was born in 1798, and he married Lucy Ann Caldwell in Madison County on February 24, 1829. When William Sr. made out his will at the age of 39, apparently
knowing that he was about to die (his death was reported as December 19, 1837), he designated as Executors his “friends Eldred Rawlins and George Mason. Since he is not known to be buried anywhere else and because his mother owned the land around the Rawlings – Lanier Cemetery until 1832, and since his firstborn child (William Dickson Lanier Jr.) was buried in the little cemetery, it is considered likely that William himself is also buried within these walls. It may well be that his wife Lucy Ann Caldwell Lanier (1813 – 1868) is also buried with her husband and child. No markers remain there today to verify the supposed burials, but since there is indeed evidence of other graves within the walled area, it is logical that all three members of this part of the Lanier family were buried in the little plot where Eldred Rawlins left the body of his deceased wife Ann, who was a sister of the senior William D. Lanier.

To review the original documents that support the statements given herein and supply much additional information about the history of the family, see the files of digital photographs of the document pages as provided on CD-ROMs to the Office of the Directorate of Environmental Management at Redstone Arsenal.

Prepared by John P. Rankin, November 6, 2004; revised December 2, 2004.