Hughs Smith was the first recorded landowner for the area where this cemetery is located. The 1875 map shown below has been outlined with his land holdings in Madison County.
Land (outlined in red) purchased originally by Huggy Smith from Federal Government. (He may also have purchased other lands from private owners.)

1875 Map showing landowners of record in Madison County, AL (Redstone Arsenal Portion)
Here it is shown that Hughy Smith got the SE/4 of the SW/4 of S10-T5-R1W in 1835 from the government.
This page shows that Hughy Smith got about 360 acres of S15-T5-R1W in 1818 – 1835 from the government in 4 parcels. His son-in-law Pleasant Austin, husband of his daughter Mary, got another parcel in S15 in 1818.
This page shows Hugh(y) Smith buying the E/2 of the NE/4 of S22-T5-R1W from the government in 1830, with the money from the sale applied to “river improvements” to support navigability and commerce on the Tennessee River.
The government land patents looked like the example image below:
The genealogy of a Hughy Smith from York County, South Carolina is reported on Ancestry.com’s World Tree by several sources, all of whom agree fairly well on the details. However, the researchers who posted to Ancestry.com’s World Tree for that Hughy Smith did not have the descendency records for him. He was simply known to be one of 9 children of James Smith and his wife Mary Henry of York County. When James died in 1821, he left the plantation where his son Hughy was living to one of his daughters. That may have been because Hughy was already in fact living in Madison County, Alabama, on land that he purchased in 1818. Even if Hughy was still residing in South Carolina, he must have already purchased the Alabama land and stated intentions to move from South Carolina. In any event, when James left the South Carolina plantation (about 10 miles from Yorkville, which is near the border with North Carolina and Kings Mountain Military National Park) to Hughy’s sister, it certainly would have provided motivation to relocate to Alabama, if he had not already done so.

1790 Camden District, SC: Peter ("Putter") Lemley neighbors, page 159 (top).

The above 1790 census record shows a Hugh Smith in South Carolina who lived near Peter Lemley. Peter is not shown on this page, but J. P. Rankin, author of this report, had already collected this census information before the
arsenal cemetery project was undertaken because Peter Lemley of South Carolina is his ancestor, whose son Ephraim Lemley moved to Madison County in 1812, near New Hope. However, there were several “Hugh Smith” heads of households in the 1790, 1800, and 1810 censuses of South Carolina, so it is certainly not completely established that the one of York County was the same as the one who came to Madison County, Alabama by 1818.

One consideration that makes the match-up likely is the consistent use of particular given names within the family of the Madison County Hughy
Smith and the family of his assumed siblings in South Carolina. Yet, in Madison County, Hughy Smith lived in close proximity to several free Mulatto families of the Jacobs surname that had origins in South Carolina. The early census records show that the family of Isaac Jacobs and Burwell Jacobs lived in Richland and Fairfield Counties of SC at the same time that a Hugh Smith resided in Richland County, SC. Burwell, Isaac, and Hugh are all gone from the records in those SC counties by the census of 1830. People of those same names were living in Madison County on pre-arsenal lands by that time period, with Hughy Smith buying land by 1818 in this area.

Still, Hughy Smith of Madison County consistently used the spelling of “Hughy”, not “Hugh” in his public records. Only the York County SC Hughy Smith fits this criteria of name usage. Therefore, considering his own name consistency, the siblings’ and children’s given names, and the time and circumstances, it is thought to be most likely that the York County Hughy Smith is indeed the one of Madison County. [If it should ever prove to be that the Hugh Smith of Richland County is the proper man, that will be of great satisfaction, as that Hugh Smith and the associated Jacobs free Mulattos were closely linked geographically in SC and AL with Ephraim Lemley, the only Madison County ancestor of John Rankin, author of this report.]

The records from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) inserted earlier showed the lands that Hughy purchased on what is now Redstone Arsenal, but they also have a purchase by another “Hugh” Smith in Section 11 of Township 4 South, Range 1 East. This purchase was dated April 2, 1857, and it is for land about a half mile north of the bend in Dug Hill Road to the east of Highway 431, where Dug Hill Road turns northward. The 1860 census shows the age of this Hugh Smith as 60 (b. ~1800), born in TN, versus the Hughy Smith who purchased arsenal land was age 67 in the 1850 census, born in SC. Furthermore, the Township 4 Hugh Smith was found to have middle initial “A” in the 1850 census (when his age was given as 47), whereas the Hughy Smith of arsenal lands had middle initial “L” per Madison County AL Deed Book Q, page 314-315. Finally, according to probate records, the Hughy Smith of arsenal lands died at the end of April, 1857, just a few weeks after the land purchase in Township 4 by the other Hugh Smith.
Considering the dates, the location, middle initials, and the fact that all other records for the Redstone Arsenal initial landowner gave his name as either Hughy or Hughey, it is fairly certain that the 1857 purchase was by a different Hugh Smith. However, a photographic image of the BLM record for the 1857 purchase is included in the computer CD-ROM folder supplied to the Army offices for reference by later Smith researchers.

One other proof of the difference of the Hugh Smiths is the names of their wives. The Hughy Smith of the arsenal lands had a wife named Betsy (Elizabeth) E. Smith. She was born in NC per the 1880 census report for her son Stanhope C. Smith, a physician living in Huntsville at that time. That fact is further confirmed by her obituary in the *Southern Advocate* of January 22, 1847, where it was reported that she was born in Rutherford County of North Carolina and that she died at age 64. She was reported to be a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Betsy was Hughy’s last (and only?) wife, according to the data found in early deed records and probate files. The Hugh Smith of Township 4 was married to Harriet Landman, who was the daughter of William Landman, another early plantation owner on what became arsenal lands (see LANDMAN I CEMETERY, 34-1, on this CD). Harriet lived beyond 1860, as she was still listed in the census of that year with Hugh Smith.

The two cemeteries on the arsenal in what was Hughy’s first purchase of government lands in Alabama in 1818 are within a few hundred yards of one another. Because of the boulder-covered grave in the southernmost cemetery (nearest to Buxton Road), it is thought that this cemetery was for the landowner and his immediate family.
The single boulder-covered grave could be that of Hughy, but it is perhaps more likely for Hughy’s wife, Elizabeth (“Betsy”) E. Smith. She preceded him in death, dying on December 31, 1846, per the obituary in the *Southern Advocate* (a newspaper published in Huntsville). Hughy would have been wealthy enough to provide such a boulder-covered grave.

Smith Cemetery (72-2), Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Alabama, July 2002.

The remains of the box tomb are thought to be most likely that for either Hughy Smith or his wife, who preceded him in death. Hughy was the first private owner of the land where the cemetery is located, having purchased it from the government 25 March 1818. Hughy appears at age 67 (b. SC) in the 1850 Madison County census with only a son (Stanhope, age 24, b. AL) in the household with him.

The 1840 census of Madison Co. shows Hughy as age 50-60 with a wife in the same age bracket. They had in the household one male child 20-30 and another 15-20. The household included 20 male slaves and 21 female slaves. The slaves are thought to be buried in the cemetery that is about 350 yards north of this Smith family cemetery, which is on a small hill overlooking what was once the Whitesburg-Triana Road but is now part of Buxton Road. The family mansion probably stood just west of the cemetery, on the higher ground, affording a more majestic overview of the surroundings. The 1840 census lists immediate neighbors as the families of Pleasant S. Austin, John Timmons, and Thomas Lipscomb. By the time of the 1875 map of the area, H. W. Grantland was shown as owning the land around the Smith cemeteries. The box tomb of large rocks was typical of burials of wealthy people in the area in the early 1800s, but the practice had been discontinued by the 1860s.
Covering of graves with large boulders was a fairly common practice in Madison County prior to the late 1850s for prominent people. After that time, the railroad made it easier to import professionally engraved tombstones from the large cities, and many were brought in from St. Louis.
to this area. When Hughy died on April 30, 1857, perhaps his descendants who remained in the area were more concerned about current events and other issues, so they saved money by not providing such an elaborate burial for Hughy. It is also possible that an elaborate grave covering was provided for him at his death, but after the Civil War, perhaps the freed former slaves destroyed the grave markings of the former master – especially if he had been a particularly cruel master. Hughy had over 40 slaves at the time of the 1840 census, and it is thought that the northernmost of the two cemeteries was used for the slaves, since there are no markers in that cemetery.

Additional conjecture would indicate that the master’s plantation house would most likely have been near the Whitesburg – Triana Road that passes just south of the cemetery. That portion of the road today is part of Buxton Road on the arsenal. The house, if it was indeed near the cemetery (which would have been the normal practice) could well have been about 150 yards west of the cemetery, where the land rises a bit. That location would have provided a good view of the landscape and an overview of the road, just to the east of where the old Leeman Ferry Road turned south from the Whitesburg – Triana Road to reach the river. Such a view would have enabled the Smith family to see the travelers who crossed the river at Leeman’s Ferry and journeyed to Huntsville from there.

The 1860 census showed Stanhope C. Smith (son of Hughy) living alone at age 24. He was listed on page 16 in the Madison Station Post Office area, living close to Burrel & Betsy Jacobs, who are known to have been living on arsenal land near the old Smith Plantation. Stanhope had also been shown as age 24 in the 1850 census, while still living in the household headed by his father Hughy.
It is suspected that Stanhope did not move, and that he simply remained in the plantation house of his parents after Hughsy’s death in April of 1857. Stanhope was listed as a physician in 1860, and that is further supported by later census data which listed his occupation as “MD”. There is also a record in Morgan County, AL, that he married Sallie Hollingsworth on January 13, 1875. Sallie is not included with Stanhope in the 1880 Madison County census, so she may have died soon after the marriage. Stanhope served as the initial administrator of Hoghy’s estate when his father died intestate at age 74. After a period of about a decade, he was removed from that position after a sister requested an increased Administrator’s bond, which Stanhope refused to post. Morris K. Taylor became the new administrator of the estate to divide the inheritances among the 4 or 5 living children of Hoghy and the heirs of the known 4 deceased children. The final settlement of Hoghy’s estate was recorded on September 22, 1884 – a full 27 years after Hoghy died. At that time, John H. Shippey (Shiffey?) was noted as the administrator of the estate.
Much of the data about Hughy Smith’s ancestry came from the Ancestry.com files posted by Jerald L. Knodle, with his e-mail address of August 2001 being jerry@ezstart.com. With respect to the descendants of Hughy Smith, information in the Family File for “Smith” in the Heritage Room of the Huntsville – Madison County Public Library includes a copy of a portion of the Final Settlement papers of his estate. In these papers, his children, living and dead at the time (April 22, 1884) are named. Hughy’s living descendants at the time of 1884 were named as being: Margaret A. Richards (nee Smith) of Augusta, Arkansas; Cynthia N. Otey (nee Smith, b. ~1807 SC), wife of John W. Otey b. 1801 VA, served as Madison County’s first Judge of Probate and as Clerk of the County Court; Sophia A. Turner (nee Smith, b. ~1812 SC), wife of Henry B. Turner (b. ~1808 VA) of Walnut Grove, Etowah Co., Alabama; and Stanhope C. Smith (b. ~1826) of Morgan Co., Alabama.

The known dead children of Hughy Smith at the time of the 1884 Final Settlement were given as:

1. **James F. W. Smith**, who owned land adjoining Hughy’s, purchased from the U.S. Government Nov. 13, 1833, W/2 of NW/4, S15-T5S-R1W – died leaving no issue. James sold land beside his father’s plantation to William W. Spence in 1834. Several deeds of the period show that James F. W. Smith was an acting Justice of the Peace for Madison County. James afterwards was living in Virginia in October of 1857 (per Mad. Co. AL Probate Record Book 21, page 559). He died before 1869, when Morris K. Taylor was appointed administrator of his estate concerns in Madison County, per Probate Minute Book 12, page 319.

2. **Mijamin W. Smith**, of whom nothing is known except the implication that he reached adulthood and left no issue. However, it is known that Mijamin also moved to Virginia, where he was living in October of 1857 per Madison County AL Probate Record Book 21, page 559. Just as for his brother James, Mijamin was known to be deceased by 1869, when Morris K. Taylor was appointed administrator of his estate matters in Madison County.

3. **Isabella E. Otey** (nee Smith), whose heirs were Amanda Pruitt (wife of Green Pruitt of Madison County, Alabama), Sophia
Nowlin (wife of A. G. Nowlin of Madison County, Alabama), Lucy Crisman (of Texacana, Limestone Co., Texas), and C. A. Otey of Spring Hill, Lee Co., Arkansas. Isabella Smith married Christopher C. Otey, brother of John W. Otey, who married Isabella’s sister Cynthia N. Smith. Isabella and Christopher were married in Madison County on February 10, 1831. After Isabella had died and Christopher had remarried, in the census of 1850, the household of Christopher included Mijahman Smith at age 36, born in SC. The family was living on the pre-arsenal lands, adjacent to the mulatto family headed by Isaac Jacobs that included white widow Mary E. Austin and her children.

(4) Mary E. Parker (nee Smith), whose heirs were James A. Austin of Selma, Arkansas, and Prudence E. Ledbetter of Selma, Arkansas. Marriage records show that a Mary Smith married James R. Parker in Morgan County on December 27, 1870. However, this was far too late to be Hughy’s child Mary, who would have been born in the early 1800s. Data in Madison County Probate Record Book 21, page 559, show that Mary E. Smith’s husband was named William Parker. Furthermore, Madison County Marriage Book A4 on page 484 shows that Mary E. Austin married William Parker on November 4, 1852, with Thomas J. Owen, JP, officiating. William Parker was indeed the second husband of Hughy Smith’s daughter Mary. Her first husband was Pleasant Austin. They were married in Madison County on October 26, 1827, per Marriage Book 3, page 523. The volumes of *Early Alabama Marriages* give the marriage date as November 6, 1827 in Madison County, but the county’s own records are more likely to be correct.

A. G. Nowlin was noted as the Administrator of the estates of both Isabella E. Otey and Mary E. Parker, his sisters-in-law.

The only listed child of Hughy Smith with unknown status (whether living or dead) and unknown residence was Rebecca J. Tanner (nee Smith). Rebecca married Meredith Tanner, who owned land near Hughy’s at one time. Meredith and Rebecca are shown in Madison County Probate Record Book 21, pages 559 – 560. Additionally, John H. Shippey (Shiffey?), the
Administrator of Hughy’s estate at Final Settlement, stated in the affidavit that he was not informed as to whether or not the husbands of Margaret A. Richards, Cynthia N. Otey, Lucy Crisman, or Prudence E. Ledbetter were living. He likewise stated that he did not know whether any of the heirs of Isabella E. Otey and Mary E. Parker were minors. Finally, he stated that he did not know whether any of the above-named parties were of unsound mind. It should be noted that from the wording of the Final Settlement, Stanhope C. Smith was perhaps considered by someone to be less than a man of integrity or financial competency as the initial Administrator of the estate of his father Hughy Smith. This is deduced from the parenthetical notation beside Stanhope’s name that his interest in the estate “… has been absorbed in his administration of it.”

The 1875 map shows that H. W. Grantland became the owner of Hughy Smith’s lands where the cemeteries are located. He obtained the land through his father-in-law, William B. Edwards, who purchased the Hughy Smith plantation at public auction on the Madison County courthouse steps around 1860. Henry Grantland married Lizzie (Elizabeth) P. Edwards in Madison County on April 5, 1860. She was given the Smith Plantation lands by her father William and mother Martha on February 28, 1874, according to Madison County Deed Book WW, page 574. The contents of the Grantland family file at the Heritage Room of the Huntsville – Madison County Public Library show that Henry W. Grantland was the 11th child of William and Susan Draper Grantland. The information in the file was contributed by (Mrs. R. K.) Clifford Sharp Coffee of 807 Pine Drive, Box 509, Jacksonville, AL 36265. That information shows that Henry W. Grantland was born August 5, 1832. He died February 17, 1926, and is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1882 Henry Grantland deeded his lands in Madison County to his children: Beulah G. Rice, Mary Grantland, Harry Grantland, and Lizzie Grantland – per Madison County Deed Book GGG, pages 353 - 354.

Henry W. Grantland married first Marie / Maria F. Owen(s) on February 3, 1857 (per Madison County Marriage Book 4B, page 211), when he was about 25 and she was 19 years old. Maria’s age is stated from the data in the 1850 Madison County census, where she was listed as 12 years old in the household of her father Thomas J. Owens (39, b. VA) and his wife Mary E. [Jamar] (37, b. VA). Apparently Maria died soon after the marriage, as Henry married Lizzie P. Edward[s] on April 10, 1860, per Madison County Marriage Book 4B, page 395. Lizzie was shown in the 1850 census as age 7
in the household of her parents, William B. & Martha Edwards. In the 1860 Madison County census Lizzie is found as Elizabeth P. “Grantlin” (19, b. AL) with her husband Henry W. “Grantlin” (26, b. AL). Both were living with her parents -- the household of William B. Edwards (56, b. VA) and his wife Martha (56, b. NC) and child Mary A. Edwards (12, b. AL). Later, a daughter of Henry W. Grantland and his wife Lizzie P. Edwards, L. P. Grantland (Lizzie P. “junior”?), married D. J. Smith on January 18, 1883, per Madison County Marriage Book 12, page 470.

Lizzie and Henry had 4 children: (1) Beulah Grantland, who married Bolling Rice; (2) Harry Grantland, who never married; (3) Lizzie Grantland (no information – except the assumption that this is the L. P. Grantland who married D. J. Smith in 1883); and Harry Grantland (per Madison County Deed Book GGG, pages 353-354). Another assumption from the Madison County marriage records is that the grandfather of Henry W. Grantland might have been Thomas B. Grantland, who married Ann E. Powell in Madison County on December 24, 1816. (This assumption requires the deduction that Ann was not Thomas’ first wife or the grandmother of Henry, who was born in 1832.) Ann was the daughter of Peyton Powell, who lived in the SW/4 of Section 27, Township 2 South, Range 1 West. This is in the area north of Bob Wade Lane and east of Pulaski Pike.

Henry Grantland’s daughter Beulah, who married Bolling Rice had 3 children: (1) Grantland Rice, who married Katherine Hollis and had children Florence Rice and Grantland Rice, Jr.; (2) Bolling Rice (no further info; and (3) John Rice (no further info). The family of J. P. & Annie Rice is shown in the 1880 census in Murfreesboro, TN, with children in the household that included B. H. Rice and Beulah at age 19. Beulah was incorrectly identified as a daughter, when in fact she was a daughter-in-law, married to son Bolling H. Rice. Within a few months of the census, a son was born to Bolling and Beulah Grantland Rice, the later-to-be famous sportswriter, Grantland Rice. Grantland Rice married Katherine Hollis and went on to become the first celebrated sportswriter in America. He was responsible for the immortalization of the “Four Horsemen” of Notre Dame’s football heydays, and he covered the “Golden Age of Sport” in the 1920s. Grantland Rice spent his early days in Nashville (where Henry W. Grantland died in 1926) and Atlanta, but his most famous years were spent in New York. He counted among his personal friends the most famous of American sports players of the time, including Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Jim Thorpe, Red Grange, Jack Dempsey, and Babe Didrikson. Grantland was
personally expert in a dozen sports and became a columnist, a poet, a magazine writer, an author of several books, a film producer, a war veteran, and a family man, in addition to being a top sports writer for newspapers like the NY Times Herald. Grantland Rice is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, The Bronx, New York.

Since 1954 (the year of his death) the Grantland Rice Trophy has been awarded annually to the National Championship Team by the Football Writers Association of America. While Grantland Rice himself was never a resident of Madison County, Alabama, his roots on his mother’s side ran deep here, specifically on the land that became Redstone Arsenal. Indeed, his first name memorialized his mother’s maiden surname, perpetuating the legacy of his maternal grandfather, Henry W. Grantland, a plantation owner of the Redstone Arsenal lands. It is possible that Grantland Rice himself, at some point in his life, may have visited the old cemeteries on his grandfather’s homeplace. Grantland Rice may have been an infant in the arms of his mother Beulah, attending the funeral and visiting the gravesite of his grandmother Lizzie P., the wife of Henry W. Grantland, on the arsenal or in the nearby area. It would certainly be logical that before he deeded it to his children, Henry buried his wife on the land of Hughy Smith that she was given by her parents. Of course, her death date is not known to this researcher as of this writing, but according to land records, she was living in 1874 and deceased by 1882.

The ideally appealing scenario is that Henry was so despondent over the loss of his wife that he passed the land to his children and then left the area that reminded him of her so much, living thereafter with his daughter Beulah G. Rice and his grandson Grantland Rice in Tennessee. However, the reality of life rarely meets the ideal, so the 1920 census records were examined. In 1920 Henry Grantland was living in Nashville (Davidson County), appearing in the census in Enumeration District 41, page 5-A. His age was shown as 87, born in Alabama, with father born in England and mother born in Virginia. He had remarried to a woman simply listed by the census enumerator as “Mrs. H. W. Grantland”. An unmarried daughter named May, age 47, was also in the household, as was Beulah Rice, shown as a “stepdaughter”. Obviously, the stepdaughter was actually May, and the daughter was Beulah, considering that the relationships were supposed to be given to the listed head of household, Henry Grantland. Beulah was listed as a widow, so Bolling Rice (father of Grantland Rice) had apparently passed away.
Meanwhile, Beulah’s son Grantland Rice had moved to New York, having begun his career in Nashville and Atlanta. The 1920 census shows Henry Grantland Rice as age 38, living in Manhattan, Enumeration District 940, page 6-A. His wife is Katherine H. (age 36, GA-GA-GA), and they have one daughter (Florence D., 12, OH-TN-GA) listed with them. That tells us that Grantland and his wife must have been in Ohio around 1908, long enough for daughter Florence to be born there, so his career may well have involved a time in Cleveland or some other city of Ohio.

The detailed, supporting records for all of the above were digitally photographed, and the images are included on the CD-ROMs provided to the Army offices. The research has shown that another obscure cemetery without markers can tie Madison County to someone of national prominence, with reference to Grantland Rice. In fact, all of Hughy Smith’s children married well and were prominent citizens of their day. It would seem that he provided very well for his family, but nobody in his family provided an appropriate monument for Hughy’s grave – at least, if they did, then it has not remained in place through the years. Now only the isolated stone-covered grave with no name bears witness to this pioneer of arsenal lands.

Prepared by John P. Rankin, September 7, 2002; revised September 19, 2005