

INDIAN CREEK CEMETERY, 62 - 3

Summary Report



Indian Creek Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, March 12, 2003

View to north from south end of cemetery, which is entrance to Hancock Cemetery.

This cemetery is very small, and it basically appears to be an extension of the Hancock Cemetery. It is on the north side of the Hancock Cemetery, which is entered by passing through the Indian Creek Cemetery to the gate in the chain link fence around the Hancock Cemetery. There is a row of

infant or child sized graves on the east side of the Indian Creek Cemetery,
per the photo below.



Indian Creek Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, March 12, 2003

Gym bag in depression of one of the child-sized graves

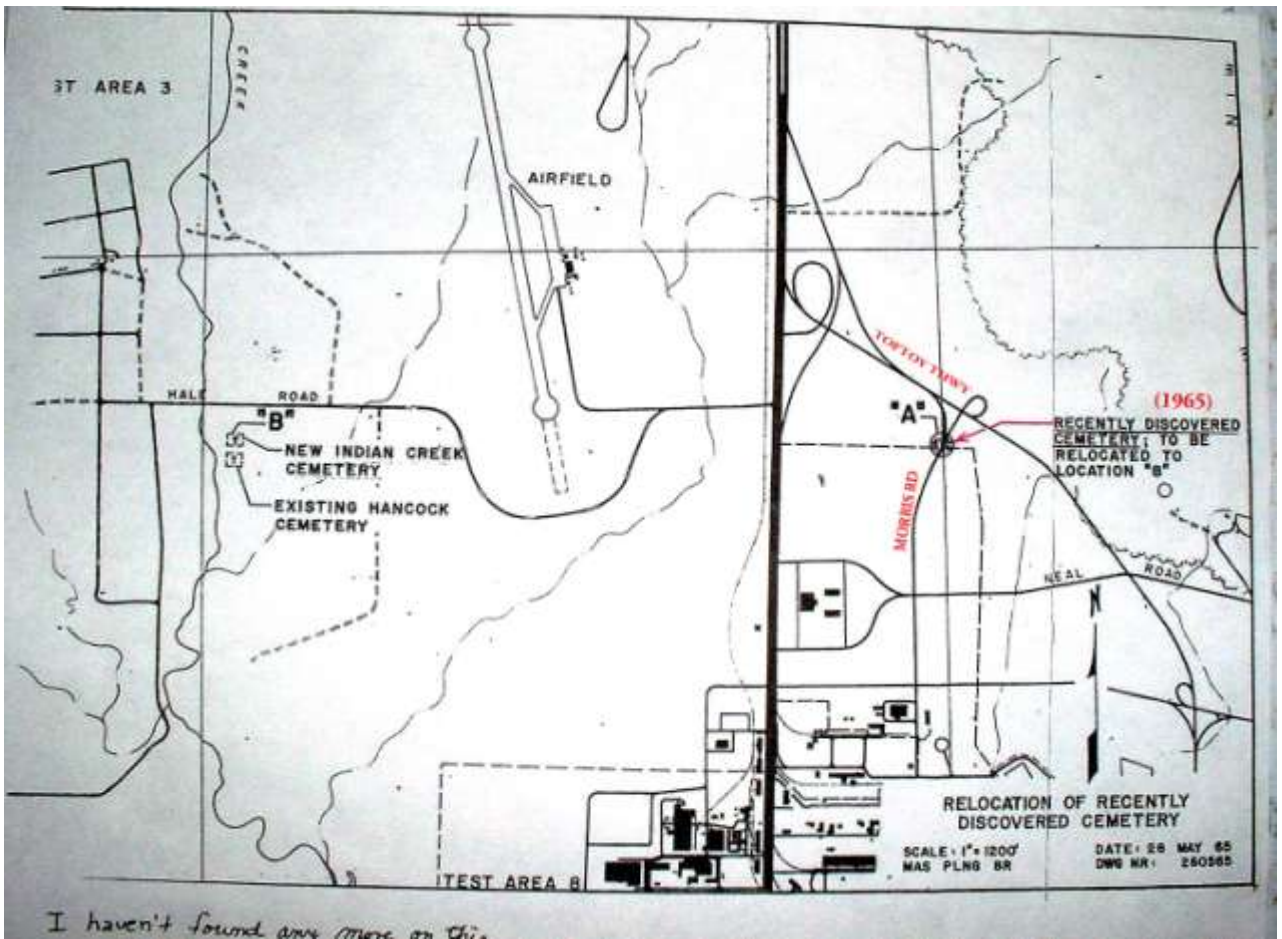
The photo below depicts the only fieldstone found in the Indian Creek Cemetery. The ballpoint pen gives an indication of its size.



Indian Creek Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, March 12, 2003

Only fieldstone found in this cemetery of children's graves

As the 1965 map below notes, there was another cemetery found on the arsenal during construction of the intersection of Toftoy Thruway with Morris Road. The location is in the extreme northeastern corner of Section 30, Township 4, Range 1 West. The graves of this cemetery were moved to Indian Creek Cemetery, according to information from 1965. One old, very faded Polaroid photo was found of the moving operations, as given below.



I haven't found any more on this.

Relocation of
Grave from un-
marked cemetery
North of Neal Road,
East of Rideout
to Indian Creek
Cemetery 11 August
1965-

Photo by ..
J.W. Weldon



Old photo by J. N. Weldon found in historical files at RSA Environmental Offices, showing relocation of graves from near the junction of Morris Road with Toftoy Thruway to Indian Creek Cemetery.

In the center of this old, faded photo there can be seen a man at the base of the trees who is lifting a coffin. A transfer box is shown in the foreground. It seems from this information that the Indian Creek Cemetery was basically constructed to hold the transferred graves from this unnamed cemetery. A check of land records of the 1800s suggests some of the family surnames of people who may have been buried here and then moved to the Indian Creek Cemetery:

TOWNSHIP 4 South		RANGE 1 West		HUNTSVILLE MERIDIAN		
DESCRIPTION OF THE TRACT		AREA		UNITED STATES TITLE	Date of Sale	Number of
PART OF SECTION	Section	Acres	100ths	TO WHOM SOLD OR GRANTED	Location or Grant	Certificates or Warrant
						Date of Military Act

Page 46	28	623.90	East of Indian Boundary Line			
		13.08	West of Indian Boundary Line			
Frac E of B Line	"	623.90	Thomas Freeman	30 Aug 1809		345
			*On January 27, 1942 Patent No. 1112986, to cure defective record of a previously issued patent based on Huntsville Credit System, Final Certificate No. 345 (Prior) issued to Thomas Freeman for the fractional Section 28, T4S, R1W, Huntsville Meridian, Alabama, containing 623.90 acres." (Letter Secretary of State Dated April 2, 1942)			
			*Pat. No. 1112986 by US Gov't to Thomas Freeman on Jan 27, 1942			
Frac W of B Line	"	13.08	Francis Anderson, Asse	2 Feb 1818		547
	29	128.12	East of Indian Boundary Line			
		514.46	West of Indian Boundary Line			
Frac A	"	40.00	blank			
Frac B	"	34.50	George Mason	17 Feb 1834		7091
Frac C	"	53.62	Benjamin Dew Armon	3 Oct 1832		5361
N½ of NW¼	"	41.06	State	23 May 1828		
			*River Impts W.T. Bolling	23 Jul 1830		
			Geo. Mason	26 Jul 1830		
			*Does not show Geo. Mason			
			*Memorandum: Also by US to State in Muscle Shoals Grant List #1, app. June 16, 1926.			
S½ of NW¼	"	41.06	State	23 May 1828		
			*River Impts blank			
			George Mason	26 Jul 1830		*Memo
S Frac part	"	432.34	George Mason, Asse	4 Jul 1831		1445
NE¼ of NE¼	"	blank	Alexander Jordan	29 Aug 1900		12476
	30	641.27				
North East ¼	"	160.31½	George Mason, Asse	2 Feb 1818		185
North West ¼	"	160.31½	George Mason, Asse	2 Feb 1818		186
E½ of SE¼	"	80.16	State	23 May 1828		
			*River Impts E.H. Thompson	1 Jul 1830		*Memo
W½ of SE¼	"	80.16	State	23 May 1828		
			*River Impts E.H. Thompson	1 Jul 1830		*Memo
South West ¼	"	160.31½	Robert A. Thompson, Asse	2 Feb 1818		79
Page 47	31	642.07				
North East ¼	"	160.51½	Asa Thompson, Asse	2 Feb 1818		67
North West ¼	"	160.51½	William Weeden, Asse	2 Feb 1818		83
E½ of SE¼	"	80.26	State	23 May 1828		
			*River Impts Polly Thompson	27 Jul 1830		
			*Same-overwritten- Polly Thompson 29 Sep 1837 Vol. 3, p 266			
W½ of SE¼	"	80.26	State	23 May 1828		*Memo
			*River Impts Polly Thompson	27 Jul 1830		
			*Same info as entry above			
South West ¼	"	160.51½	Asa Thompson, Asse	2 Feb 1818		66
E½ of NE¼	32	649.57				
		81.19½	State	23 May 1828		
			*River Impts Polly Thompson	13 Aug 1830		*Memo
W½ of NE¼	"	81.19½	State	23 May 1828		
			*River Impts John Brahan	5 Jan 1830		*Memo
			Same-overwritten: John F. Miller 2 Oct 1837 Vol G, p 511			

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

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FUND	STATE TITLE	WHEN CONVEYED	Number of State Transfer or Conveyance	WHERE RECORDED		MEMORANDUM
	TO WHOM CONVEYED			VOL.	PAGE	

surrounding land) in 1835. In 1838 George Mason had satisfied the mortgage and sold the land to William McDowell. “McDowell” could be a misinterpretation of “McDonnell” from poorly-defined handwriting, but both surnames were common in the 1800s in the southwestern part of Madison County. There were Williams of both surnames at the time, but this is probably the William McDowell who married Priscilla Withers in 1828 in Madison County, since the Withers family was known to have owned land in the area.

McDowell in turn transferred ownership of the land to James Hatton in 1840. Hatton is another name that is often confused in old records due to poor pronunciation. Sometimes it is recorded as Patton and vice-versa, depending upon what a census enumerator or clerk thought he heard and how familiar he might have been with one or the other surnames. However, there is no particular reason to doubt that James Hatton was one of the residents of the area in the 1800s. In particular, since the next transfer of the land was from James Hatton to John & Nancy Lynch, there is indeed confirmation of the Hatton spelling. John M. Lynch married Nancy Hatton in 1846, per license of 17 February 1846. This is recorded in Madison County Marriage Book Volume A-4, on page 111.

The newlyweds didn't keep the land very long, as they transferred it to James Landman in 1847. (See the Summary Report of the Landman Cemetery, 34-1, got additional details on this family.) Again, the land was apparently given as a wedding gift or inheritance to a daughter, as it next appears listed in the ownership of William & Julia A. Baldrige. Julia A. Landman married William Baldrige in 1870. The Baldrige family mortgaged the land to William Smith three times – once in 1887 and twice in 1892. They must have satisfied these mortgages, because the land transactions show dealings with F. A. & W. C. Sutphen in 1893. Madison County marriage records show that a T. A. Sutphin married Margaret Morrison in 1876, so the name was not unknown in the area. After this Sutphen – Baldrige transaction of the land, then the Baldriged lost the land to Robert Spragins (apparently on a defaulted mortgage) in 1897. Robert Spragins was a well-known lawyer and court official in the county. He was involved in numerous estate administrations and other land deals. Robert Spragins sold the land back to William Smith in 1898, but William Smith sold it to Samuel A. Latham in 1899. After that, into the early 1900s the land was associated with surnames of McAnelly, Shreve, Walker, and Hensley.

Any of the above families may have buried children in the parcel of land in the NE/4 of S30-T4-R1W in the 1800s and early 1900s. Likewise, there were probably several other family surnames associated with the land in the 1900s before the property became part of the arsenal. Accordingly, there are no clear indications of which family first used the little cemetery that got moved. Only after detailed examination of all of the original deeds and mortgage instruments will it be known whether any of the records include a statement of existence of a cemetery on the parcel, thereby providing an indication of which family may have initiated its use as a burying ground. Until that task is accomplished, the date and family association of the beginnings of the cemetery can only be speculative. Even if these things eventually become known, there will still be a question as to whether or not the Indian Creek Cemetery consists entirely of graves from the unnamed cemetery from Section 30. Indian Creek Cemetery's history may be linked in antiquity to the landowners of Section 25 in Township 4, Range 2 West, as discussed in the Summary Report of the Hancock Cemetery, 62-2. Until the additional detailed research of land (and associated probate) records is accomplished, this little cemetery must be "put to rest", as there is very little that can be known about it for now.

Prepared by John P. Rankin, August 22, 2005