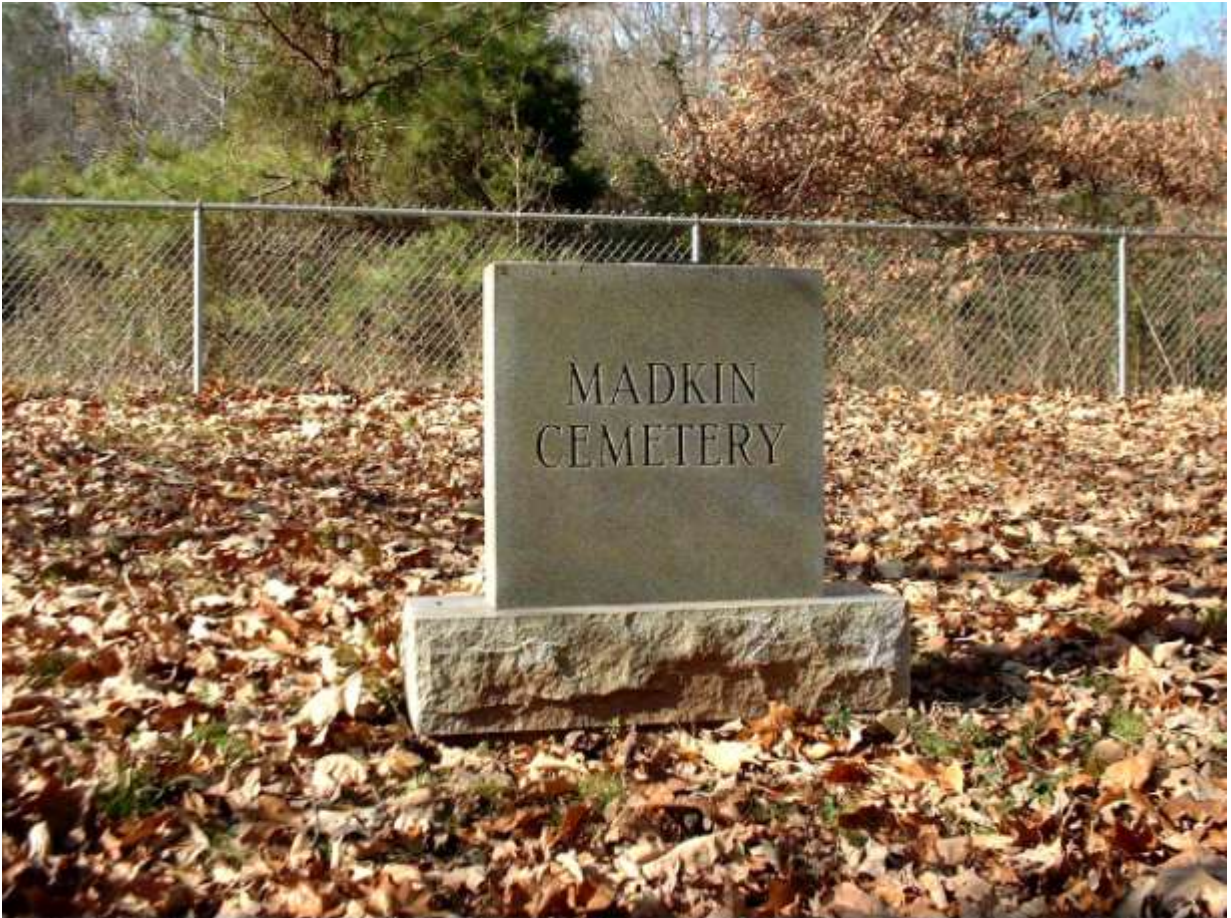


## MADKIN CEMETERY, 37 - 2

### Summary Report



Madkin Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, 37-2.

This cemetery is in the south half of Section 22, Township 4 South, Range 1 West. It is reached by turning onto a dirt road from Hansen Road in the northeastern portion of the arsenal. The dirt road is on the east side of Hansen Road, immediately after crossing the small creek to the north of the intersection of Hansen Road with the eastern end of Corporal Road. After turning onto the dirt road, there will be a fork to the left about 35 yards east of Hansen Road. The left fork to the north will end at the cemetery, a distance of about 0.2 mile.

The cemetery is small, encompassing enough area to hold perhaps 80 close-spaced graves, but there is evidence of only a couple of definite grave depressions. There is a recently-installed marker near the gate to denote the cemetery name. No obvious field stones to mark graves were located. The chain link fence around the cemetery was found to be in good condition as of December 16, 2002. The name “Madkin” is considered to be a variant spelling (from phonetics or possibly from a deliberate separate spelling of the names taken by freed slaves after the Civil War to distinguish them from the spelling of the surname of the white former slave owners) of the more established name “Matkin”. (See the Matkin Cemetery 37-3 report for a history of the white family by that name, who may well have been the owners of slaves buried in the nearby Madkin Cemetery.)

Overviews of the Madkin Cemetery are provided below:



Madkin Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, 37-2.



Madkin Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co. AL, 37-2.

(View from the northwest toward the southeast corner of the cemetery area.)

The land ownership records for the 1800s of the SW/4 of Section 22, Township 4 South, and Range 1 West are inserted below:

TOWNSHIP *4 South* RANGE *1 West* HUNTSVILLE

DESCRIPTION OF THE TRACT	AREA	UNITED STATES TITLE	Date of Sale, Location or Grant	Number of Acres or Warrant
PART OF SECTION	Section	Acres	Perches	TO WHOM SOLD OR GRANTED
North East 1/4	22	642.50	15070	Archibald McCombe of Aug. 29, 1809 86
North West 1/4	"	15070	Richard Elliott of Aug. 29, 1809 535	
South East 1/4	"	15070	John Couch of Aug. 29, 1809 113	
South West 1/4	"	15070	John Baker of May 19, 1810 958	
North East 1/4	23	642.80	15070	Joseph Acklin Aug. 29, 1809 896
North West 1/4	"	15070	W. Pope Jr. of Aug. 29, 1809 886	
South East 1/4	"	15070	Samuel Acklin Aug. 29, 1809 191	
South West 1/4	"	15070	Abner Satum of Sept. 16, 1809 719	
North East 1/4	24	637.20	15930	Peregrin Falconer of Dec. 13, 1811 329
North West 1/4	"	15930	Joseph Acklin & Abner Satum of Dec. 7, 1811 1138	
South East 1/4	"	15930	Peregrin Falconer of Sept. 18, 1811 338	
South West 1/4	"	15930	Peregrin Falconer of Aug. 29, 1809 327	

Government Tract Book, recording original land purchasers in Madison County, Alabama

INDEX TO LANDS

Section 22 Township 4 South of Range 1 West Madison County, Alabama  
G. W. JONES & SONS

Table with columns: BOOK, PAGE, Kind of land, SUB No., GRANTEE, GRANTEE, DATE OF SETTLEMENT, DATE FILED, and a grid of section indicators (N E 1/4, N W 1/4, S W 1/4, S E 1/4).

The land records reveal that the southwest quarter of S22 was originally owned by John Baker, from 1810. In 1829 William Baker (probably a son of John, who had most likely died) “and others” (other heirs) sold the land to Jones Wood. There is another apparent gap in ownership records (likely in estate probate records) per the INDEX above, because also in 1829 Abraham Beadle (and others) sold land in the SW/4 to Miles Watkins and others. However, it is commonly found that the name “Watkins” was often an incorrect interpretation of old handwriting of the name “Matkins”, so this was likely Miles Matkins. Again with a gap in the INDEX ownership trail, there is a William Baker listed as selling land of the SW/4 to William (and Margaret A.) Matkins in 1846. In 1854, the Matkins sold the land to George W. Davis. Mr. Davis sold the land in 1856 to Richard Holding, who died in 1863, during the Civil War, per his grave monument in the Madison City Cemetery.



Holding family markers moved to old section Madison City Cem in 1984



Remains and marker moved from original location at Madison County International Airport to old section Madison City Cemetery in 1984

The 1860 census showed Richard and his family living in Morgan County, at Valhermosa Springs, even though the owned extensive lands and slaves in Madison County.



SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in the Eastern Division in the County of Morgan State of Alabama enumerated by me, on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of June 1860. H. B. Williams, Post Marshal.  
Post Office Atchamess

1	2	3	Description			7	Value of Estate Owned		10	11	12	13	14
			Age	Sex	Color		Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate					
		Mr. A. Lawrence	52	M									
28	27	J. J. Lewis	40	M	1	Farmer & Dealer	3500	1500	Prussia				
		W. L. "	38	M					Texas				
		E. G. "	18	M					"				
		Mathie "	8	M					"				
		A. T. "	4	M					"				
		O. G. "	1	M					"				
		Mr. F. T. T. "	17	M	1				Ala.				
29	28	W. H. Smith	62	M	1	Farmer	400	425	S. C.				
		Mary "	38	F	1				Texas				
		J. H. "	16	M					Ala.				
		W. B. Smith	13	M					Ala.				
31	29	Eli Gray	47	M	1	Farmer	350	425	Virginia				
		E. "	27	M	1				Georgia				
		W. "	17	M					Ala.				
		E. J. "	14	M					"				
		Phineas "	10	M					"				
		W. H. "	7	M					"				
		W. J. "	6	M					"				
		J. R. "	4	M					"				
		W. H. "	5	M					"				
31	30	Geo. Smith	25	M		Farmer	300	500	Ala.				
		J. H. "	20	M	1				Texas				
		J. T. "	2	M					Ala.				
		Wm. H. "	16	M	1				Texas				
33	31	J. B. Grantland	28	M		Farmer	600	450	Ala.				
		W. L. "	25	M					"				
		W. J. "	3	M					"				
		John Rogers	21	M		Farmer			"				
33	32	Lucas Grantland	26	M	1			100	Virginia				
		Caroline Rogers	16	F					Ala.				
		Amelia Grantland	8	F					"				
		Sarah Drape	104	F	1				Virginia				
34	33	Richard Holding	52	M	1	Farmer	800	3000	S. C.				
		Martha Sharp	27	F					Ala.				
		Susan Holding	26	F					"				
		William Holding	19	M					"				
35	34	Lucinda Drape	39	F		Farmer	1000	8250	Ala.				
		Wm. G. Drape	20	M		Farmer		1600	"				
		Richard W. Drape	18	M		"		1600	"				

In 1870 Richard's son William Holding (who would have been age 29 in 1870) in turn sold the land to William M. McCloskey, after the conclusion of the Civil War, when the slaves were all freed. Probably a lot of the land owned by old plantation owners had to be sold after the Civil War, when there were no workers available unless they received wages or became sharecroppers. When land couldn't be farmed to be made productive or revenue producing, then it had to be sold before back taxes caused it to be seized and auctioned.

The conclusion of these land transactions is that the Matkin family owned the land where the "Madkin" Cemetery is located for about 8 years, from 1846 to 1854. Of course, if the Miles Watkins was really Miles Matkins, then the family may have owned the land from 1829 to 1854. During the years of the practice of enforced slavery, John Baker owned the land for 19 years, while George Davis owned it for 14 years, of which 9 years were during the time of slavery. Since the Matkin ownership is known to have lasted about 8 years (with the possibility of being 8 plus another 17, if there was a marriage or other probate basis between the Wood, Beadle, Watkins, and/or Baker men to the Matkin women), then it appears that the Matkin name should not be the basis for the name of this cemetery. That concept, of course, assumes that it is indeed a slave cemetery. If so, it may well have slaves that were owned by the Baker or Davis families, more so than the Matkins. The cemetery could also have been used for the slaves used by Richard and William Holding to farm this parcel.

Madison County marriage record indexes were checked to see if a relationship among the families who owned the land could be indicated, as a clue to the likelihood of probate court transitions of ownership. By examining the on-line index provided by the Madison County Records Center, any marriage before the 1870s for surnames of Baker, Beadle, Couch, Davis, Holding, Matkins, Watkins, and/or Wood was noted. (This included variant spellings of the surnames, such as Beedle for Beadle and Holden and Holdin for Holding.) There were only 4 marriages of people with these surnames to anyone with one of the other surnames of the group, which is based upon land ownership records. These were:

- |                |   |              |      |
|----------------|---|--------------|------|
| * Milton Davis | - | Betsy Baker  | 1819 |
| * W. H. Davis  | - | M. J. Matkin | 1855 |

- \* Darby Beadle - Emma Watkins 1872
- \* Andrew Couch - Polly Baker 1819

The last of the above list, for Andrew Couch to Polly Baker in 1819, is likely connected to the John Couch who in 1809 bought the SE/4 of S22-T4-R1W, adjacent to the SW/4 of S22 owned by John Baker in 1810. The Milton Davis marriage to Betsy Baker (possibly a sister of Polly), also in 1819, may well have established a relationship that led to the interest of George W. Davis in purchasing the land around the cemetery in 1854, considering that the same land had just been sold by William Baker to William Matkins in 1846. Likewise, the marriage of W. H. Davis to M. J. Matkin in 1855 could be another connection of the families who owned the land about that time, even if these particular members of the families were not the direct owners. They may well have been descendants or siblings of the owners, with a “vested interest” in the land.

Since nothing conclusive has been found to prove who may be buried in the cemetery, there is no suggestion at this time that the name of the cemetery be changed to another surname. There is already a monument in the cemetery to denote it as the Madkin Cemetery, so unless that is proven to be inappropriate at some later time, it is recommended that the name be left as is.

Prepared by John P. Rankin, September 17, 2005