

# **Genealogical Research at Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery, Gallatin Fossil Plant, Sumner County, Tennessee**

Wood Project No.: 7361191255

Wood Cultural Report of Investigations No.: 2020-006

Lead Federal Agency: Tennessee Valley Authority



Prepared for:  
Dr. Steve Cole  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
400 W. Summit Hill Dr.  
Knoxville, TN 37902

**April 2020**

# wood.

**Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.**  
**11003 Bluegrass Parkway, 690 Commonwealth Center**  
**Louisville, Kentucky 40299**  
**T: 502-267-0700**  
**[www.woodplc.com](http://www.woodplc.com)**





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Dr. Steve Cole

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400 W. Summit Hill Dr.

Knoxville, TN 37902

Authored by:

Wes Cunningham, MA

Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.

11003 Bluegrass Parkway

690 Commonwealth Center

Louisville, Kentucky 40299

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Wampler', is written over a horizontal line.

Marc Wampler, MA, RPA

Principal Investigator

**April 2020**



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## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

In November and December 2019 Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. conducted genealogical research for the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery located at the Tennessee Valley Authority's Gallatin Fossil Plant in Sumner County, Tennessee. This work was completed in support of previous geophysical surveys to provide a detailed genealogical record of individuals known to be interred in the cemetery for future resource management purposes.

Genealogical research was completed at the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery. A list of known burials was compiled using a combination of legible headstone inscriptions from the original TVA survey, a 2008 compilation of Sumner County African American death certificates, and additional death certificates that were discovered during this effort. Overall, 41 individuals were identified and researched for this report. Additional family information was collected that could shine some light on why additional burials were not correlated to a death certificate. Additional research is recommended to identify additional descendants, next of kin, and to uncover contact information for any next of kin, should they be found.

The availability of data during the initial genealogical research was limited due to many factors. Since the original efforts, other avenues have been identified that, with more resources, time, and planning, could provide a much better understanding of the people interred at the cemetery, potential next of kin, the cemetery itself, and the surrounding communities as a whole. Some of these additional avenues include, 1) conducting oral histories with locals, some of whom have already been identified and others who are reachable, 2) scouring additional archival sources, such as African American obituaries, and 3) exploring additional resources available now that were previously unfamiliar, and by reaching out to other sources in the community. It is believed that with this additional effort, more data on this cemetery and these communities could be uncovered. Two such examples of what additional efforts could produce is included in the Conclusions chapter of this report.

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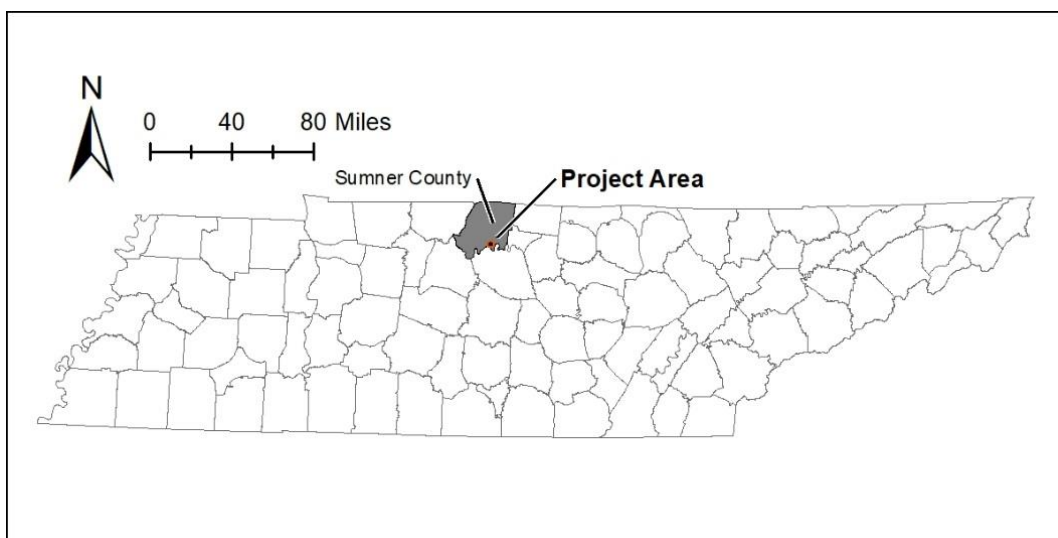


## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

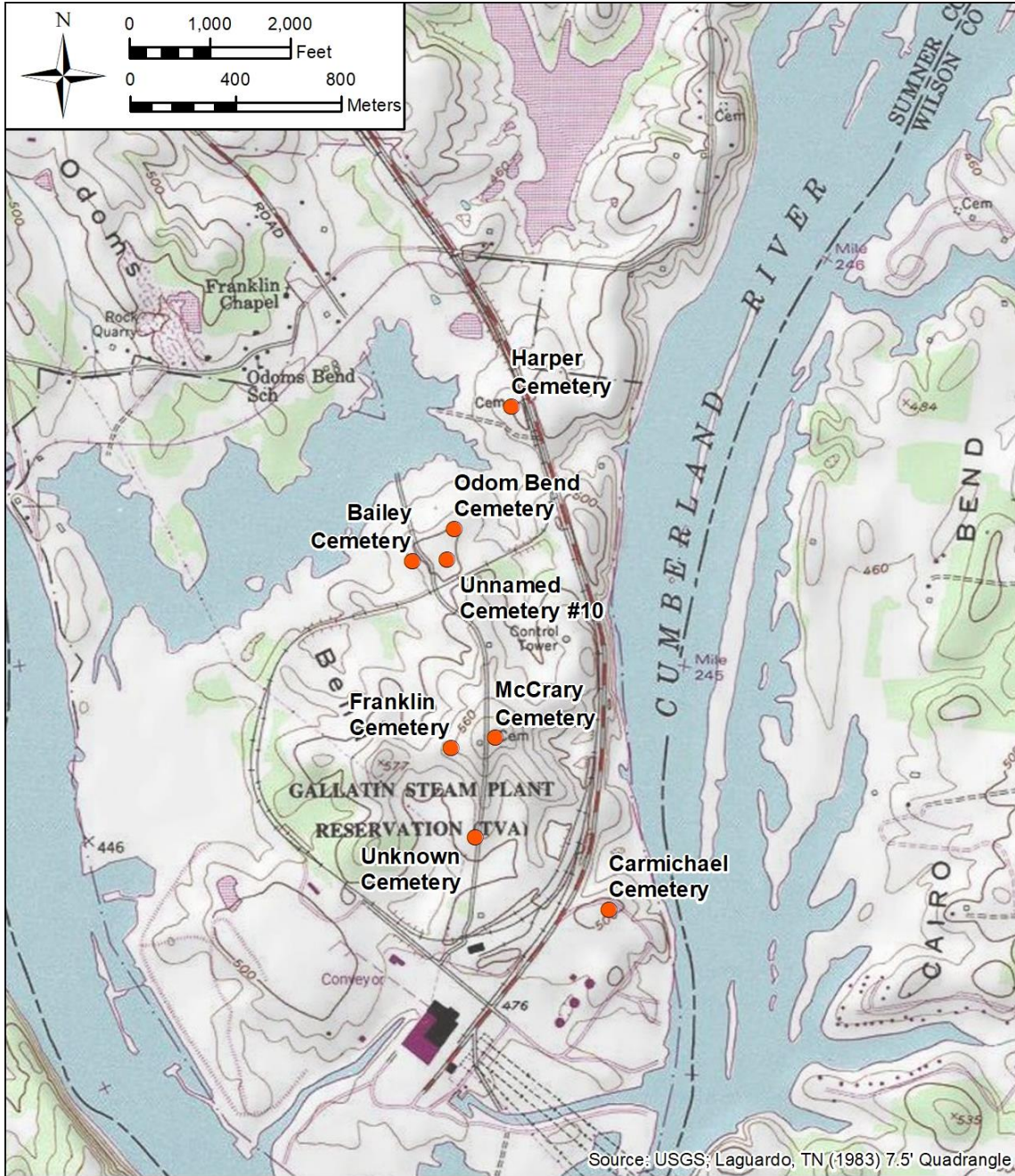
In November and December 2019 Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. (Wood) conducted genealogical research for the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery located at the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Gallatin Fossil Plant in Sumner County, Tennessee (**Figure 1.1**). Previous efforts included genealogical research into other cemeteries within the Gallatin Fossil Plant's boundaries and geophysical surveys of other cemeteries, including the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery (**Figure 1.2**).

The genealogical research was conducted at the request of TVA because they may elect to disinter graves at the cemetery and reinter them at another cemetery outside the Gallatin Fossil Plant. The purpose of the research was to attempt to identify the individuals buried there, to uncover information about them, and to attempt to identify any potential living descendants.

During the course of the research Wood interviewed local historians and residents, visited local repositories, and examined numerous resources in person and online. This information was collected and used to compose a historic context of the area where the Gallatin Fossil Plant is located and to assemble a narrative of the cemetery and those buried there. Although all efforts were made to identify the descendants of those interred at the cemetery, this was not always possible. The lack of records, the nature of the communities that existed in the area, and the diaspora of local residents after the acquisition of land by the TVA made it difficult to find descendants. However, the research provided more information on those buried there which makes it possible to still find descendants. Other avenues for future research, using both online and physical resources, are suggested such as scouring obituaries and exhausting heretofore inaccessible online repositories, in order to best identify any living next of kin.



**Figure 1.1. Location of Project Area in Sumner County, TN.**



	<p>Tennessee Valley Authority</p>	<p><b>Legend</b>   Cemetery Delineation Location</p>
<p>Wood Environment &amp; Infrastructure Solutions          690 Commonwealth Center          11003 Bluegrass Parkway          Louisville, KY 40299</p>		

T:\TVA\Task1\MXD\GAF\Nine\_Cemeteries\Cemetery\_Topo\_Overview.mxd

**Figure 1.2. Location of several cemeteries at TVA Gallatin Fossil Plant, including the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery.**

## 2.0 HISTORIC CONTEXT

### 2.1 Sumner County, Tennessee

Although there were many settlers living in the area as early as 1783, the area was primarily wilderness, and it wasn't until 1786 that the North Carolina General Assembly established Sumner County, naming it after General Jethro Sumner from the Revolutionary War (Lester 2011). In 1789, North Carolina ceded its western land to the U.S. government, and Sumner County became part of the Southwest Territory, also known as the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio (Vincent 2015). On June 1, 1796, Tennessee became the 16<sup>th</sup> State to the Union, and Sumner became the second oldest county, after Davidson, in Middle Tennessee (Vincent 2015). The boundaries of the county continued to change as, in 1799, Wilson and Smith counties were carved out of Sumner County, as well as Macon and Trousdale counties later on (Cisco 1909). Cairo was originally chosen to be the county seat and court was held there from 1800 to 1802 (Cisco 1909). Gallatin was officially established as the county seat in 1801 (Vincent 2015). Early settlement in Sumner County occurred along transportation lines such as rivers, streams, established trails, and eventually, wagon roads. Early settlement was often associated with constructed forts used as a line of defense against the native inhabitants.

The first half of the nineteenth century in Sumner County was a time of growth and development, save for a short (2-year) agricultural depression in the early 1820s and a cholera outbreak in the mid-nineteenth century (Lester 2011). During this century, the county economy was supported by agriculture, timber, and thoroughbred horse breeding. Corn, tobacco, and wheat were principal crops for the county, as well as cotton towards the southwest (Killebrew 2015). As land was being cleared, timber became a large commodity. Several landowners were able to create large estates through raising thoroughbred horses and plantation-style farms (Lester 2011). It was a common practice by family farmers to enlist the assistance of additional farm hands, or tenants, or acquire slaves (McKee 2010). By the 1820s, roads through the county had been improved, a stagecoach line, river trade, and ferry services had been created, and thirty additional communities had been established (Lester 2011). Slaves made up approximately one-third of the overall population, with this population likely related to the growth in agriculture.

Sumner County residents fought in several wars throughout the county's history, including the War of 1812, the Seminole War of 1836, the Mexican-American War, and the Civil War (Lester 2011). The county sent 821 men to Andrew Jackson during the War of 1812, three companies of men for both the Seminole War of 1836 and the Mexican-American War, and over 3,000 soldiers from the county fought in the Civil War (Lester 2011).

Following the Civil War, a large population of freed black citizens living in Sumner County established a handful of communities including Village Green and Free Hill (Lester 2011). In 1868, the *Sumner County Colored Agricultural Fair* was first hosted in Gallatin (Ligon 2014). This fair was created by and for Black citizens of Sumner County and was held annually from 1868 to 1976 (Ligon 2014). By the early 1900s, Black residents had established schools, churches, a variety of businesses, and even a baseball team, the Travelers (Lester 2011).



Agricultural production for the county expanded in the 1920s, when Portland began growing strawberries as an export crop (Lester 2011). Thoroughbred horse breeding was also emphasized in the late 1920s with the development of the *Southland Grasslands Hunt & Racing Foundation*. In the early 1950s, there was a large housing boom and an influx of new jobs associated with the Old Hickory Dam built on the Cumberland River by the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE). Following dam construction, TVA established a steam electric generating plant in adjacent Gallatin, which greatly boosted the county economy (Lester 2011).

## 2.2 City of Gallatin, Tennessee

Gallatin has been the official county seat for Sumner County since 1801. In the late eighteenth century, though the town had not yet been established, many families lived in the area. Most of the earliest settlers to the Gallatin region were given land warrants that they received during the Revolutionary War (Cisco 1909). Some of these settlers included James Cartwright, James McCann, John and Joseph Byrns, Benjamin Williams, John Edwards, Samuel Wilson, John Hall, and James Trousdale (Cisco 1909). The Elliott and Odom families were two prominent families that had moved into the Gallatin region in the late eighteenth century. These two families owned land that stretched from Gallatin to three miles west of the city. Both families became wealthy landowners who profited from farming and raising thoroughbred horses (Cisco 1909).

In 1799, land commissioners were appointed to purchase 60 acres of land where a county seat could be established (Cisco 1909). They purchased this land from James Trousdale (Cisco 1909). On November 6, 1801, Gallatin was officially recognized as the permanent Sumner county seat, and on November 7, 1815, the town was incorporated (Cisco 1909). Gallatin was named after Albert Gallatin, who served as U.S. Secretary of the Treasury from 1801 to 1813 (Vincent 2015; City of Gallatin 2015).

By 1830, Gallatin had a population of over 660 people, with about a third being African American (McKee 2010). At this time, the town was home to a chair factory, several stores, three academies, and approximately 100 houses (McKee 2010). By 1858, the Louisville & Nashville Railroad had been completed which improved trade between Gallatin and the surrounding area (McKee 2010). In 1873, the population of Gallatin was over three thousand, and by this time Gallatin had a wool factory, a foundry, a cotton factory, and another railroad, the Cumberland and Ohio line, was under construction (Rural Sun 1873).

In the months leading up to the Civil War, the citizens of Gallatin tried at first to remain neutral, but eventually fully supported the Confederacy once the war began (Lester 2011). In February 1862, Gallatin, a strategic location due to the Louisville and Nashville railroad and its position on the Cumberland River, was captured by the Union Army. Confederate forces took control of Gallatin in July 1862, but the Union Army retook the city in November of the same year and held it throughout the rest of the war. Following the Emancipation Proclamation, Union troops set up a "contraband camp" of slaves who had fled to the army in Gallatin. The camps fed and housed the now freed slaves, likewise, setting up schools to educate both adults and children. Following the war, there was an influx of freedmen moving from farms into town, while Caucasian citizens

tended to move from town out to farms to avoid the occupying Union troops still living in Gallatin (Durham 1999).

By 1913, the construction of an electric streetcar had been completed so that citizens living in Gallatin could ride to and from downtown Nashville (McKee 2010). The line was shut down in the mid-1930s, as automobiles became the common mode of transportation (McKee 2010). In 1928, the Kraft Cheese plant was opened in Gallatin, which increased the production of dairy products (Lester 2011).

The economy of Gallatin was further enhanced by the damming of the Cumberland River by the USACE and the associated construction of the TVA Gallatin Steam Plant (Lester 2011). The steam plant was one of a series of coal-fired steam plants constructed to meet the post-World War II energy demands (TVA 1967). That Gallatin Steam plant, located on a peninsula landform on the north side of the Cumberland River, was well placed in terms of easy rail access, good proximity to the market and fuel sources, and availability of needed water resources. During the 1950s and 60s, TVA began acquiring land for establishment of the plant, as well as for associated right-of-way and access routes. Numerous houses and associated buildings were located on this acquired land and many were used to house construction crews prior to completion of the plant (Hockersmith et al. 2013). Some residences, particularly along old Coles Ferry Road, which historically ran centrally through the peninsula, were used as temporary hospitals, personnel buildings, workshops and storage buildings. Most of these buildings were vacant by 1953, and all were eventually razed. Eleven cemeteries were recorded within the acquired land parcels, all but three of which were preserved in place. A rail spur was created from the existing Scottsville branch of the Louisville and Nashville rail line through the plant for efficiency of loading and unloading. Historic Coles Ferry Road was replaced by Steam Plant Road, which linked the plant directly to TN Highway 25. Much of the area used for construction of the plant was graded and/or filled prior to building construction. This plant, now called the Gallatin Fossil Plant, is still in operation today.

### **2.3 Odoms Bend**

The peninsula formed by the bend in the Cumberland River, where the TVA Gallatin Fossil Plant is currently located, was historically known as Odoms Bend. The area gets its name from Eli Odom, a wealthy white landowner whose family had been some of the earliest settlers in Sumner County. Eli's parents, James and Rhonda Odom, moved to Sumner County in the late eighteenth century from South Carolina with their sons, Harris and Eli, and their daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, and Sarah (Cisco 1909). The Odoms are representative of "the highest type of what [Teddy] Roosevelt calls "the backwoodsmen,"" and along with one other family, the Elliotts, owned "all the land from the town of Gallatin to about three miles west, extending from the Nashville Pike north to the Douglass Pike" (Cisco 1909).

Eli Odom was the wealthiest man in the county after the Civil War (Kenneth Calvin Thomson Jr. 2019). Eli married Catherine Phagan Odom and the two of them had one child, Eleanor Katherine Odom, in 1841. Eleanor went on to marry Charles Trousdale and they had two children, Fergus Julian Trousdale, who died a year after birth, and Katherine Trousdale (Findagrave.com). Katherine

Trousdale inherited everything from her grandfather, Eli, when he passed in 1866, making her one of the wealthiest women in the county (Kenneth Calvin Thomson Jr. 2019).

Most of the land in what would be known as Odoms Bend was sold to various settlers during Eli's lifetime. After the Civil War, several African American communities began to settle in the area, many of whom were freed slaves and worked the land as sharecroppers. Odoms Bend became one of these early African American communities. Among Odoms Bend's early settlers were "Buck Odom, Bill J. Franklin, Gabriel Wiley, Tom Jay (Franklin), Frank Cantrell, Levi Anderson and Tom Green" (The Teachers and Jeanes Teacher of Sumner County, School Year 1944-1945, 1945). Research shows that although many of "the homes were poor, lacking in sanitation, and (had) crowded living quarters," by the 1940s, "80% of the people own(ed) their homes" (The Teachers and Jeanes Teacher of Sumner County, School Year 1944-1945 1945). Some of the other early families in the area include the Robbs, Polites, and Hudsons (Velma Brinkley 2019). This land was available to African Americans, because the lots were hard to work and not ideal agricultural land. Nevertheless, the people in Odoms Bend, along with other African American settlements in the area such as Pilot Knob, Avondale, and Cedar Grove, maintained tightknit communities. Many of the white families lived north of Odoms Bend along Coles Ferry Pike.

The African American population around Odoms Bend was substantial, and they were close with neighboring communities as well, such as Pilot Knob. Many of these early families intended to work the land and keep it within their families for as long as possible, which led to the practice of small family burials in the area. This practice goes back centuries. However, as many of the poor African American families lacked the funds to erect elaborate fences or purchase extravagant headstones and footers, graves were marked with nondescript stones and their locations were passed down through oral tradition. Some of the cemeteries were associated with churches, such as the Franklin Chapel Cemetery, linked with the historically African American church that still stands today, while others were community based and retained the name of their associated communities, such as the Odoms Bend Cemetery, also known as the Hudson Cemetery, and the Pilot Knob Cemetery (Snider and Yorgason 1981a). Still, other plots were located near family farms and houses, with little to no identifying information still associated with them.

In 1952, TVA began acquiring all of the land on the peninsula on which Odoms Bend is located to make way for the new Gallatin Fossil Plant. Many of the existing large tracts were still held by wealthy white landowners who were leasing the land out while others had been subdivided and belonged to the African American families who settled there. During this process, some cemeteries were relocated to protect them from damage while others were left undisturbed. Detailed data on many of these cemeteries, especially the plots that lacked identifying information, was mostly lost. While some of the descendants relocated to areas just north of the newly acquired TVA property, others moved far away. Some information on African Americans in Odoms Bend was misconstrued in the records because of the practice of neglecting to submit deeds for African Americans. Often, even though land was bought, deeds would never be officially filed, which effectively stole money and land from African Americans in the area. There is still a large African American population in the northern portion of Odoms Bend to this day.

### 3.0 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Genealogical Survey Methods

The purpose of this in-depth, genealogical research was to attempt to identify the individuals buried in the cemetery, to uncover information about them and the cemetery in general, and to attempt to identify any potential living descendants. A historian with Wood mobilized to Sumner County in order to complete all of the research necessary for this level of research. Before commencing with the in-person research, a study of online resources as well as other materials took place in order to become adequately familiar with the area so that unnecessary time would not be needed once in the field. Additionally, attempts were made to contact local historians who might be able to assist with the research upon arrival in Sumner County. These efforts were taken in the hopes of enhancing the productivity in the field by eliminating a portion of the work beforehand.

Once in Sumner County, a great deal of the research was conducted at the R.J. "Hank" Thompson Building, which houses the Sumner County Archives. The Sumner County Archives likewise houses many valuable resources, such as family vertical files, genealogical family histories, death records, maps, manuscripts, etc. While in Sumner County, in-person interviews were conducted with multiple local historians. Other historic sites and repositories were visited while in the area to further expand the knowledge of Gallatin, Sumner County, and the communities around the cemeteries. A full list of resources consulted during the research is provided below in **Table 3.1**.

**Table 3.1. Resources Consulted during the In-Depth Genealogical Research.**

Name of Source	Author	Type of Source	Year
<b>Books, Bulletins, Pamphlets, and Reports</b>			
<i>Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Stockpile Area at the Gallatin Fossil Plant, Sumner County, Tennessee</i>	Jared Barrett and Jeff Holland with TRC Environmental Corporation	Cultural Resource Management Report	2012
<i>Historic Sumner County, Tennessee with Genealogies of the Bledsoe, Cage and Douglass Families and Genealogical Notes of Other Sumner Families</i>	Jay Guy Cisco	Book	1909
<i>1914-1955 Sumner County, Tennessee African American Death Certificates</i>	Michael Denning	Book listing all of the known African American Death Certificates in Sumner County, Tennessee	2008
<i>Sumner County, Tennessee Cemetery Records</i>	Margaret Cummings Snider and Joan Hollis Yorgason	A book compiled from a detailed survey of nearly 600 cemeteries in Sumner County which contains roughly 30,000 names and dates	1981
<i>Phase I Archaeological Survey, Southern Portion of the Rail Loop Parcel at the Gallatin Fossil Fuel Power Plant, Sumner County, Tennessee</i>	Larry McKee with TRC Environmental Corporation	Cultural Resource Management Report	2011
A Study of the Negroes in Sumner County	The Teachers and Jeanes Teacher of Sumner County, School Year 1944-1945	A section within <i>A Brief Study of the History of Sumner County</i> , a bulletin compiled by the Sumner County Schools to "supply needed information on the history of Sumner County"	1945

Name of Source	Author	Type of Source	Year
<b>Collections at the Sumner County Archives</b>			
Sumner County African American Obsequies: Volumes I through III	Sumner County	Select Funeral Programs and Obituaries	Multiple
Sumner County Death Certificates and Records	Sumner County	Death Certificates and Records	Multiple
Sumner County Archives Family Vertical Files	Multiple	Family Vertical Files	Multiple
Sumner County Archives Genealogical Collection of Family Histories	Multiple	Family Histories	Multiple
Sumner County Newspaper Collections	Multiple	Newspapers	Multiple
<b>Interviews</b>			
Kenneth Calvin Thomson, Jr. Sumner County Historian President of the Sumner County Historical Society Chairman of the Gallatin Historical Commission	NA	Interview	2019
Velma Brinkley: Local Historian Specializing in African American History African American Community Contact	NA	Interview	2019
Alene Walker via Velma Brinkley: Ms. Walker is a 100-year-old African American woman born and raised in Odoms Bend. While Wood did not interview her directly, Ms. Brinkley took a list of questions prepared by Wood to Ms. Walker and reported her answers back.	NA	Interview	2019
Yvonne McCrary: Local DAR Member Wife of Ellis James McCrary, Grandson of Robert "Robin" McCrary	NA	Interview	2019
<b>Maps</b>			
Cumberland River Survey for Navigation, Flood Control, Power Development, and Irrigation	United States Army Corps of Engineers	Map	1930
Map of Cumberland River between Nashville and Sumner County	United States Army Corps of Engineers	Map	1930
Map of Sumner County, Tennessee from New and Actual Surveys	D.G. Beers and Co.	Map	1878
Sumner County, Tennessee Cemetery Records Map	Margaret Cummings Snider And Joan Hollis Yorgason	Map	1981
TVA Acquisition Map	TVA	Map	1952
TVA Acquisition Map Update	TVA	Map	1962
TVA Robert Bailey Cemetery #7	TVA	Map	1954
<b>Online Resources</b>			



Name of Source	Author	Type of Source	Year
Ancestry.com	Ancestry.com	Online genealogical website, the world's largest online history resource	2019
FamilySearch.org	Service provided by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Online website that includes a large variety of sources	2019
FindAGrave.com	FindAGrave.com	Online crowd-sourced repository that helps the public access information about cemeteries and individuals buried there around the world	2019
Other Resources			
Sumner County Deed Records	Sumner County, Tennessee Register of Deeds	Deed Records	1787-1967
United States Federal Census: 1870-1940	United States Census Bureau	Federal Census	1870-1940

Using information provided from previous surveys of the cemetery, as well as information gathered during this mobilization, several names were gathered through death certificates and legible headstones to provide a starting point for known burials in the cemetery. Upon distinguishing the individuals and families that are definitely buried in the cemetery, as well as uncovering family members who are likely interred there, other resources, such as census data, family histories, etc., were used to learn as much about them as possible in an attempt to assemble a cohesive narrative. Lastly, this information was taken to local historians and individuals who are well-known in the different local communities with the hopes of identifying any known descendants.

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## 4.0 GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH RESULTS

While conducting research of the individuals and communities who inhabited the land on which the TVA Gallatin Fossil Plant now operates, an in-depth look into the deed books was necessary. In doing so, a great deal of information on the land and the individuals who were selling it to TVA was acquired. This information, along with other valuable data that can be found when combing through deed records, was not only used to assist in the research of the individuals who might be buried in the various cemeteries on TVA property, but also to inform on the demographics of the region, the relationships between families in the area, as well as many other social and economic factors that informed the lives of the people. A brief summary of 21 TVA land acquisitions from 1952 can be found in **Table 4.1** (Sumner County Register of Deeds 1787-1967). It should be noted that this table does not contain every land conveyance that took place between TVA and the people of Gallatin or Sumner County Tennessee, but rather it is a representative sample taken from several acquisitions that took place on the peninsula where the Gallatin Fossil Plant now operates.

**Table 4.1. Amount TVA Paid Per Acre.**

Deed Book	Tract Number	Cost	Acreage	Cost per Acre	Grantor	White or African American
151:438	GSP 1	\$54,415.00	317	\$171.66	S.F. and Mary Richardson	White
151:122	GSP 2	\$14,456.00	83	\$174.17	Sam P Sanders et. al.	African American
150:331	GSP 4	\$42,373.00	185	\$229.04	Hershel T. Hackett et. al	White
151:94	GSP 5	\$2,050.00	9.6	\$213.54	Malvina Carmichae	White
151:95	GSP 6	\$30,536.00	159	\$192.05	L.H. and Stella Sullivan	White
151:124	GSP 7	\$20,012.50	112.8	\$177.42	Hillie Franklin	White
151:91	GSP 8	\$10,210.00	64	\$159.53	W.A. Carmichael	White
151:92	GSP 9	\$9,565.00	58.8	\$162.67	Jene Carmichael	White
150:315	GSP 10 & 14	\$9,202.00	42	\$219.10	H.A. Schell's Heirs	White
151:475	GSP 11	\$712.50	9	\$79.17	Tom Franklin's Heirs	African American
151:126	GSP 12	\$1,860.00	10.5	\$177.14	Silas Sweat	African American
151:272	GSP 13	\$350.00	2	\$175.00	Henry Cantrell's Heirs	African American
150:319	GSP 15	\$25,501.00	150	\$170.01	Elwood B. Bruce	White
151:198	GSP 16	\$32,795.00	266	\$123.29	Nelson Alexander et. ux.	White
151:201	GSP 17	\$600.00	1.6	\$375.00	J.T. Bruce	White
151:472	GSP 18	\$5,375.00	9.5	\$565.79	Sam N. Schell et. ux	White
151:534	GSP 19	\$2,582.00	12.2	\$211.64	Joe Hudson's Heirs	African American
151:276	GSP 20	\$5,430.00	26.7	\$203.37	Elmira Mills et. al	African American
150:325	GSP 21	\$23,530.00	145.35	\$161.89	Virgil and Luther Merritt	White
151:278	GSP 22	\$20,910.00	90	\$232.33	E.H. Hackett	White
150:335	GSP 24	\$255.00	2.4	\$106.25	Sam Sanders	African American

### 4.1 Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery

The Odoms Bend Cemetery, alternatively known as the Hudson or Hutson Cemetery, is an African American cemetery located on a 12.2-acre tract of land acquired by TVA in 1952 from Joe Hudson's Heirs (Sumner County Courthouse, Gallatin, Tennessee (SCC): 1952: Deed Book (DB) 151:534). The land had been in the Hudson family since 1869 when Isham (Isam) Hudson

purchased 37 acres from Peter Gourley (SCC: 1869: DB 26:498). The land that Isham purchased from Gourley was a portion of the farm that Gourley owned, operated, and on which he lived.

Isham Hudson had likely been a slave prior to the Civil War, as “he is not listed in the 1860 federal census, and he was not married until 1866, well after he had a family with his wife, Hannah Moore” (Barrett and Holland 2012). In 1870, Isham was a 60-year-old farm laborer who was enumerated as living with his wife Hannah, his daughter Nancy Bush (24) and her family William Bush (29) and their infant son Benjamin, as well as Isham and Hannah’s three sons, Benjamin (21), Joe (21), and Albert (18), the former two being twins (US Census 1870). Isham and Hannah had a fourth son, Charles, who served in the Union Army during the Civil War and who helped his parents purchase the land in 1866 for \$931.25, an amount that, without Charles’ assistance, would likely have been too expensive for a freedman in 1866. Charles, who “enlisted in Company B of the 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment, U.S. Colored Infantry in Gallatin, Tennessee on October 1, 1864” at the age of 21 received a \$200 bounty for his service in addition to his regular pay (Barrett and Holland 2012). This is bounty may be the source for the money he loaned his parents.

By 1880, Isham and Hannah were living on their own with Benjamin and Joe living nearby with their respective families (US Census 1880). It is likely that the sons built their houses on the portions of their father’s land that would eventually be willed to them. This belief is in part due to the proximity of their farmsteads and as well as the presence of “B. Hudson” on the D.G. Beers and Co. 1878 Map of Sumner County, which places his homestead near Isham’s land and the location of the cemetery (Beers 1878).

Isham Hudson died in 1895 and in his will, he left the entirety of his 37 acres to his wife. After her death, the year of which is unknown, the land was split evenly between three of their children, Benjamin, Joe, and Albert, each getting a little over 12 acres (Barrett and Holland 2012). The tract of land that Joe Hudson received contains the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery and the acreage of the inheritance corresponds with the tract of land that Joe Hudson’s heirs sold to TVA.

The exact number of burials at the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery is unknown. The 1952 TVA Land Acquisition Map shows the cemetery as containing approximately 50 graves, however, after TVA’s 1954 survey, a total of 67 burials were included on the survey map and an associated report puts the number around 70 (Barrett and Holland 2012). Available records for individuals interred at this cemetery are limited. Of all the burials, only seven marked stones with legible inscriptions were present at the time of TVA’s survey (**Table 4.1**). This indicates that the majority of the burials either lacked a marker of any kind or were marked with unworked fieldstones, which is indicative of a lack of wealth and was a common practice in rural African American cemeteries. An additional 34 names were identified by examining Sumner County death certificates and using a 2008 compilation of death certificates for African Americans in Sumner County, TN from 1914 (the year that Tennessee began to require death certificates) through 1955 (Denning 2008) (**Table 4.1**). These individuals were enumerated on their death certificates as being interred at the Odom Bend Cemetery. This was confirmed to be another name for the Hudson Cemetery as the death certificates of Will Hudson, Emma Hudson, and W.R. Payne, all of whom had legible inscriptions at the time of TVA’s survey, had Odom Bend Cemetery listed as their final resting place. These

numbers suggest that approximately half of those interred in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery are currently unidentified.

Similarly, it is unknown when the cemetery was established. The earliest known interment occurred in 1901 according to the legible inscription on Mary E. Rains' headstone. It is believed that early members of the Hudson family, such as Isham and Hannah, are buried here. Since Isham and Hannah passed before the state began to require death certificates, there are no records contradicting this assumption. Furthermore, since this cemetery is on property that passed from Isham to his son Joe and since records indicate that Joe's family used it extensively for internments, it is reasonable to assume that the Hudson's established the cemetery in the late nineteenth century to serve their family, as was commonplace at the time. If this is the case, then the following genealogical research on the Hudson family could potentially identify other unknown individuals buried at the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery.

**Table 4.1. List of known burials at Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery**

Last Name	First name	Birth Year	Death Year	Father	Mother	Source
Abston	Mary	1851	1927	-	Hanner Jennings	Sumner County Death Certificates
Abston	Mary	1866	1930	-	-	Sumner County Death Certificates
Abston	Mattie C	1928	1953	George Abston	Catherine Tipton	Sumner County Death Certificates
Baber	Dora	1853	1933	-	-	Sumner County Death Certificates
Bailey	Susie	1863	1920	-	Hannah Jimerson	Sumner County Death Certificates
Bailey	Robert	1870	1938	Albert Bailey	Lilie Bailey	Sumner County Death Certificates
Brown	Emmer	1922	1923	Henry Brown	Katy B. Bush	Sumner County Death Certificates
Bullock	Bobbie Dazy	1909	1915	Mitchell Bullock	Annie Abston	Sumner County Death Certificates
Bullock	Earl	1915	1932	Mitchell Bullock	Annie Abston	Sumner County Death Certificates
Bullock	Simon	1911	1918	Mitchell Bullock	George Bullock	Sumner County Death Certificates
Bullock	Mitchell	1869	1934	George Bullock	-	Sumner County Death Certificates
Bush	Annie	1922	1923	Bud Bush	Annie Duncan	Sumner County Death Certificates
Cleavlon	Ambrose B.	1913	1914	Ambrose Cleavlon	Ellen Jackson	Sumner County Death Certificates
Douglass	Kate Bell	1913	1914	Joseph Douglas	Viry Carr	Sumner County Death Certificates
Douglas	Wiley	1915	1932	Joseph Douglas	Elvira Hudson	Sumner County Death Certificates
Harris	William Henry	1902	1917	Henry Harris	Emmer Williams	Sumner County Death Certificates
Harris	John B.	1912	1931	Henry Harris	Emmer Williams	Sumner County Death Certificates
Harris	Oscar	1903	1949	Henry Harris	Emma Williams	Sumner County Death Certificates
Harris	Emma	1880	1917	Billie Williams	-	Legible Inscription in 1954

Last Name	First name	Birth Year	Death Year	Father	Mother	Source
Hewsten	Florance	1920	1920	Lawrence Hewsten	Florance Smith	Sumner County Death Certificates
Hudson	Henry Edward	1923	1923	Jack Hudson	Clara Bullock	Sumner County Death Certificates
Hudson	Joseph	1847	1926	Isham Hudson	Hannah Hudson	Sumner County Death Certificates
Hudson	Will	1874	1941	Joe Hudson	Hannah Gordon	Sumner County Death Certificates and Legible Inscription in 1954
Hudson	Emma	1882	1946	Joe Hudson	Hannah Gordon	Sumner County Death Certificates and Legible Inscription in 1954
Hutson (Hudson)	Albert	1850	1918	Isum (Isham) Hudson	Hannah Cotton	Sumner County Death Certificates
Jones	Swail	1855	1950	Hardy Jones	Mary Carley	Sumner County Death Certificates
Morrow	Marguerite	1878	1947	-	-	Legible Inscription in 1954
Odom	Robert	1888	1953	Alfed Odom	Susie Jennings	Sumner County Death Certificates
Odum (Odom)	Mand	1913	1916	Robert Odum (Odom)	Mary Sanders	Sumner County Death Certificates
Parker	Lucy	1820	1914	Brack Sea	Lucy Sea	Sumner County Death Certificates
Parker	Rebecca	1864	1916	Beary English	-	Sumner County Death Certificates
Payne	William Robert	1867	1953	Henry Payne	Martha Utley	Sumner County Death Certificates and Legible Inscription in 1954
Payne	Lavenia	1872	1933	Joe Hudson	Hannah Gordon	Sumner County Death Certificates and Legible Inscription in 1954
Polite	Martha	1849	1919	-	-	Sumner County Death Certificates
Polite	Mary	1913	1923	Bide Polite	Estell Jones	Sumner County Death Certificates
Rains	Mary	1899	1901	F. Rains	M. A. Rains	Legible Inscription in 1954
Rogan	Nancy E.	1902	1931	Bud Bush	Annie Duncan	Sumner County Death Certificates
Sanders	Emma	1863	1922	Sam Sanders	-	Sumner County Death Certificates
Sanders	Clarriah	1897	1914	Sam P. Sanders	Emmers Sanders	Sumner County Death Certificates
Smith	Louler	1874	1919	-	Martha Ann Franklin	Sumner County Death Certificates
Williams	Bill	1839	1924	Louis Harney	-	Sumner County Death Certificates

As previously mentioned, the branch of the Hudson family associated with the Hudson Cemetery began with Isham Hudson, a former African American slave who purchased 37-acres of farmland in 1869. Isham and his wife, Hannah Cotton Hudson, had at least four sons, Charles, Albert, Joseph, and Benjamin, as well as one daughter, Nancy. Little is known about Nancy and Charles, except that Nancy had a husband William Bush and a son Benjamin Bush, and Charles served in the Union Army in the Civil War. More is known about the other three brothers. All three of these brothers received a third of their father's land and worked and settled in the area.

Albert Hudson was born around 1850 and was working as a farm laborer with his father in 1870 (US Census 1870). By 1880, Albert was working as a servant for a white family named Baker (US Census 1880). In 1881, Albert married Francis McNeil and by 1900, at which point Albert owned his own farm near his brothers, and the couple had three children; Walter (15), Albert (13), and

Vallie (10) (US Census 1900). Little is known about Walter and Vallie, but Albert Jr. passed away in 1911. His final resting place is unknown. It is unclear what happened to Francis but in 1902, Albert married Elmira Cantrell and by 1910 the couple had a daughter, Arizona Hudson. Elmira had two children from a previous relationship, but Arizona would be the only child from this union. In 1918, Albert Hudson passed away and was buried in his family plot, the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery (Sumner County Death Certificates). Elmira would go on to change her name to Elmira Mills and in 1958 she passed away. She was interred in the Gallatin Cemetery.

Benjamin Hudson was enumerated as living near his father and brother in 1880 with his wife, Vania, and their two children, Joseph (8) and Emiline (4) (US Census 1880). After 1880, little shows up in the record for Ben Hudson or his family. In 1899, Ben Hudson sold all the land left to him in his father's will to his brother, Albert (SCC: 1899: 46:367). While it is unclear why the family moved or if there were any deaths, it is likely that they would have been interred in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery.

Joseph Hudson is the third brother mentioned in Isham's will and the twin of Benjamin. Furthermore, it is on Joe's inherited property that the cemetery is located, therefore he would have owned the land and overseen cemetery maintenance throughout many years of interments. In 1870, Joe lived with his parents and siblings, however, by 1880, he was living with his wife Hannah Gordon and their six children: Susan (9), William (8), Lou (6), Mag (5), Emily (2), and infant (US Census 1870, 1880). In 1900, Joe and Hannah owned their farm, lived next door to Albert, and lived with four of their children: Joe (18), Mariah (15), Pearl (12), and Cora (8) (US Census 1900). In 1910, Joe and Hannah lived alone with their grandson, Robert, and in 1920, Joe and Hannah lived with their daughter, Elvira, and their grandchildren: Alexander Douglas (11), Julia Douglas (9), Margarette (8), Julian B. Douglas (6), and Wylie Douglas (4) (US Census 1910). Albert's widow, Elmira, lived next door. Joe Hudson passed away in 1926 and was buried in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery along with at least three of his children: William Hudson, Emma Hudson, and Lavenia Hudson Payne (Sumner County Death Certificates).

As previously mentioned, Joseph and Hannah had several children. For some of their children, there is little information available in the historical record, however it should be noted that should further research take place, it is possible that additional information could be located on these individuals. While it is likely that many of Joe Hudson's children and grandchildren were buried in Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery, because Joe owned and oversaw the property and cemetery, only those children who are known to be interred there are discussed here.

William Hudson, the eldest son of Joseph and Hannah, was born around 1874 and married Emma Bullock in 1893. In 1900, Will and Emma had two children, Bettie (6) and Willie (1), and Will worked as a day laborer (US Census 1900). In 1910, Will and Emma had a total of five children; Bettie (16), Willie (11), Henry (8), Albert (8), and Louise (<1) and Will worked as a farmer and lived in a house that he owned (US Census 1910). His father and uncle were listed as near neighbors. In 1916, Emma died in Odoms Bend and was buried in the Bullock Cemetery (Sumner County Death Certificates). As of 1920, Will remained in Odoms Bend and lived with his five children and in 1923, he remarried a woman named Estelle Jones, who then herself passed in 1930 (Ancestry.com).

Estelle Jones' burial place is hard to read on the death certificate but appears to just list Gallatin, TN as the location. It is believable that Estelle was buried in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery, the burial place for many of the Hudson family in addition to the final resting place of one of Estelle's children from a previous marriage, Mary Polite in 1923, and Estelle's own father, Swail Jones, in 1950 (Sumner County Death Certificates). In 1940, Will was no longer working and was living with his daughter Betty Whiteside and her husband Henry Whiteside, a carpenter (US Census 1940). Will died a year later and was buried in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery (Sumner County Death Certificates). The Whitesides are buried in the Gallatin City Cemetery.

Lavenia Hudson was born in Gallatin to Joe and Hannah Hudson. Her name appears in the records with several different spellings and there are varying years associated with her birth. In the 1880 census, she is listed as a six-year-old with the name of Lou who lived with her parents and five siblings (US Census 1880). Lavenia is likely the correct spelling as this is what the inscription on her headstone read. This is a common occurrence as names were often misspelled by the person writing the information down or improperly transcribed. Her birth year is shown as 1874 in the 1880 census, her headstone shows the year 1872 as the year of her birth, and her death certificate estimates 1881. The likely year is sometime in the early 1870s and the death certificate is incorrect about her age. Nevertheless, Lavenia married Reverend William Robert Payne in 1903 and the two of them lived in Nashville in 1910 where Lavenia worked as a cook for a private family (US Census 1910). In 1930, the couple lived in Robertson County, Tennessee where William worked as a pastor (US Census 1930). Lavenia died in 1933 and her husband followed in 1953. Both of them were buried in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery (Sumner County Death Certificates).

Emma Hudson was born in 1881 in Gallatin to Joe and Hannah Hudson. Throughout her life, Emma worked as a cook for private families in Gallatin. In 1900, she lived with the Schluter family and worked for them as a cook (US Census 1900). From as early as 1910 through 1940, she was enumerated on the US Census as working as a cook for a private family. She rented a room in 1910 from Amanda Douglas, was listed as owning her own home on Railroad Avenue in 1920 and was listed as renting her own home in 1930 (US Census 1910-1930). In 1940, Emma was living on Hallum Street and was listed as a widow, although no record of any marriage could be found (US Census 1940). She was buried at the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery in 1946 (Sumner County Death Certificates). Emma's obituary was published in *The Tennessean* on April 14, 1946 and it read

"Miss Emma Hudson, survived by sisters Mrs. Elvira Douglass, Nashville, Mrs. Margaret Morrow, Columbus, Ohio, Mesdames Cora Hail and Pearl Price, both of Covert, Michigan; brother, Mr. Julius Hudson, Tucson Arizona; nieces Mrs. Pauline Ecton, Covert, Michigan, Mrs. Margaret Alexander, Gallatin, Mrs. Julia Jenkins, Nashville, Misses Louise Hudson, Windsor, Canada, and Joanne Hudson, Detroit; nephews Misters Isom, James, Ben, and Julius Hudson, Detroit, Misters William and Emmanuel Hudson, Terre Haute, Indiana, and Julian B. Douglas, Nashville; other relatives and friends." (The Tennessean 1946)

Elvira Hudson was one of Joe and Hannah's daughters. In 1910, she worked as a laundress and lived with her husband Joe Douglass, their children Thomas (5), Julia (2), and Alexander (<1), as well as her niece Pauline Hudson (US Census 1910). In 1920, Elvira and her five children, Alexander



(11), Julia (9), Margarette (8), Julian B (6), and Wylie (4) lived with her parents, Joe and Hannah Hudson (US Census 1920). Finally, in 1930, Elvira was living with her husband and five of their kids Marguerite (18), Alexander (20) Julian B (15), Wylie (12), and Thomas (25), the last of whom kept his mother's maiden name of Hudson (US Census 1930). They were living in Nashville at the time where Joe and Thomas worked in a plant, Elvira and Marguerite worked as cooks, and Alexander worked as a driver. Elvira does not show up again in the record but was still alive and in Tennessee in 1952 when the land was sold to TVA. At least four of Elvira's children passed away between 1914 and 1944, and while it is unclear where Elvira herself was buried, research suggests that at least two, if not all, of her children were buried here. Kate Bell Douglas was less than one year when she passed in 1914 and Wylie was 15 when he passed in 1932, both of whom were buried in the Odom Bend (Hudson) Cemetery (Sumner County Death Certificates). Alexander Douglas passed in 1932 and no burial site was listed while Thomas, who passed in 1944, has his final resting place listed as a family cemetery. It is important to note that throughout Thomas' death certificate, both of his parents' names are listed as "Hudson" so it is reasonable to assume that a family cemetery was in fact the Hudson Cemetery.

The land on which the cemetery is located was sold to TVA by Joe Hudson's heirs. Joe and his wife, Hannah, had a total of fifteen children over their many years together, of which ten are enumerated in various census records and one is known because of the headstone inscription. Three of the seven legible inscriptions at the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery belonged to children of Joe and Hannah while another one belonged to the husband of Lavenia, William Robert Payne. The special effort and money it took to provide worked stone markers demonstrates that those individuals were being especially revered. This is likely due to the fact that the cemetery was considered a family plot to the Hudson family, especially since the land had been in their family since 1869. This added level of veneration from the Hudsons and the cemetery's use as a Hudson family plot, suggests that there were definitely others from the family buried there, making up a number of the unknown individuals. Of the list of heirs provided in the deed granting the land to TVA, four of Joe and Hannah's children were listed as well as nine others who appear to be the couple's grandchildren. Of the thirteen heirs, only one woman, Elvira Douglas, one of Joe's daughters, remained in Tennessee. The deed listed the following heirs: "Henry Hudson of Marion County, Indiana; Issam, Julius, Joanna, and Ben Hudson of Wayne County, Michigan; Julius Hudson of Pima County, Arizona; Cora Hall of Van Buren County, Michigan; Louise Harding of Windsor, Ontario; and Will Hudson Jr. and Emanuel Hudson of Lake County, Illinois" (Barrett and Holland 2012).

One additional known Hudson family member was buried at the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery according to the Sumner County Death Certificates. Henry Edward Hudson was interred in 1923, the same year he was born (Sumner County Death Certificates). His parents were James "Jack" Hudson and Clara Bullock Hudson. The couple married in 1919, lived in this area of Sumner County through the mid-twentieth century, and had at least four other children together; William Trousdale Hudson (1921-1980), Helen Hudson (1925-), Robert Henry Hudson (1929-2018), and Albert Paul Hudson Sr. (1932-1988) (Ancestry.com). The relationship to James Hudson and the rest of the Hudson family is unclear. Most of the family moved out of Sumner County eventually

with William moving to Indianapolis, Albert moving to Nashville, Robert moving to New Jersey, and Clara and Helen moving to Detroit.

In addition to the Hudson family, several individuals from other families, many of whom either had close ties to the Hudsons through family or community relationships, are known to have been interred at the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery. Genealogical research on those known to be buried here is as follows. As with the Hudsons, family members of the known burials could account for the large number of unknown burials.

Swail Jones, the father of Estelle Jones Hudson, second wife of Will Hudson, was born around 1855 to Hardy and Mary Jones. By 1880, Swail was living in Smith County, Tennessee with his wife Rena, where he was working as a farm laborer (US Census 1880). Swail, Rena and their children, of which they had eight in 1900, continued to move, first to Trousdale County in 1900, then to a different district in Trousdale in 1910, and finally to Sumner County in 1930 (US Census 1900-1930). By this time, Rena had passed and Swail was living with his child Bessie Jones. Swail had a number of children who survived into adulthood, of which, multiple had children of their own. One of Swail's grandchildren, Mary Polite, was one of the children of Estelle and her first husband Bide Polite. Mary was only 10 when she passed away and was buried in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery in 1923 (Sumner County Death Certificates).

Another member of the Polite family was also interred in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery. According to the existing Sumner County Death Certificates, Martha was buried here in 1919 (Sumner County Death Certificates). Martha Polite first shows up in the record in 1900 as a farmer who was married to William Polite who worked as a cook in government works (US Census 1900). The two had a hired hand by the name of Bryson Judson (Hudson?). In 1910, William's occupation was listed as a farmer working his own farm with two hired hands, William Orr and Hurbert Coler (Coles?). Biard (Bide) Polite, first husband of Estelle Jones Hudson, was also listed as living with his parents William and Martha and working as a cook at Lock 6. Mary passed in 1919 and her husband served as the informant on the death certificate (Sumner County Death Certificates). It should be noted that on the death certificate for Bide Polite, the cemetery is listed as "Family B. Gds" which could refer to the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery as the family plot, however his brother Ben Polite was buried at the nearby Franklin Chapel Cemetery.

The Harris family is prominently represented in the known burials in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery. Henry Harris and his wife, Emma (Emmer) Williams Harris, were married in February 1902. In 1910, Henry worked as a farmer and the two lived with their five children; William H. Harris (8), Oscar Harris (7), Mary Ann Harris (4), Etha Ramsey Harris (2), and Catherine Harris (<1), as well as Emma's father, Billie Williams (US Census 1910). In 1917, both Emma and their oldest son, William Henry passed away and were interred in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery, followed shortly after by Emma's father, Bill in 1924 (Sumner County Death Certificates). Two other members of the Harris family were known to be buried in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery; John B. and Oscar, who passed in 1931 and 1949 respectively (Sumner County Death Certificates). John B. Harris was still living with his father and siblings as late as 1930, the year before his death (US Census 1930). Oscar was married around 1930 to Bertha Strader Harris, who had a daughter

previously, and the three of them lived in Indianapolis where Oscar worked as a laborer in a gas plant. He passed in 1949 in Tennessee and was survived by his widow, stepdaughter, sisters Ethel Harris of Nashville, Mary Figgins of Gallatin, Elnora Banks, and Catherine Harris of Indianapolis (The Tennessean 1949).

Another family that appears frequently in the record is the Bush Family, though it is unclear if there is any relation to William Bush who married Isham's daughter, Nancy. The patriarch of the family was William "Bud" Bush who married Annie Duncan around 1902. William worked as a farmer for his entire life and he and Annie had several children; Nancy, Emma, Katy, Leora, Susie, Willis, June, Duncan, Joe, Minnie, and Albert, many of whom lived with their parents through at least 1920 (US Census 1920). By 1930, Katy had married Henry Brown and the two had their own child, Marie, who was living with her grandparents (US Census 1930). By 1940, Bud Bush was living with his youngest daughter, Minnie, and three of his grandchildren, Thomas Bush (Minnie's son), and Annie and William Rogan, children of Nancy who had since been married to David Rogan (US Census 1940). Of the known burials in this family, Annie Bush, a daughter of Bud and Annie who passed as an infant, Nancy Rogan, who passed in 1931, and Emmer Brown, daughter of Katy Bush and Henry Brown, are all buried at the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery (Sumner County Death Certificates). Of the other family members whose final resting places are known, Leora and Bud were buried at the Franklin Chapel Cemetery, which is located very close to the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery, and Katy was buried in Gallatin. This location either refers to the Gallatin City Cemetery or the death certificate lacked detail and could refer to any cemetery (Sumner County Death Certificates). Minnie Bush, who went on to marry Robert G. Odom, passed in 1982 and was likely buried in the Franklin Chapel Cemetery along with her husband and her father (*Sumner County African American Obsequies: Volume II, "Minnie I Odom."* 1982). With such a large family, it is likely that other members of the Bush family were buried in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery, however no records were found to verify this. Additionally, another point worth noting, which speaks to the familial nature of the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery, is that Bud Bush was the uncle of John B. and Oscar Harris along with their siblings, according to the obituary of Oscar (The Tennessean 1949).

The Odom name is exceedingly common in this area, not only as the name of the geographic area, but also as the name of several families who lived there. At least two members of the Odom family are known to be buried at the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery; Robert Odom Sr. and Mand Odom. Robert Odom Sr. was born to Alfred Odom and Susie Jenning in 1888 (Sumner County Death Certificates). Robert Odom married Mary Sanders Odom in 1906 and the two were enumerated in the 1910 census where Robert worked as a farm laborer, Mary was a laundress, and they had a newborn son, William (US Census 1910). In 1913, Robert and Mary had a child Mand Odom who passed in 1916 and was buried in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery (Sumner County Death Certificates). In 1920, Robert was still working out as a farm laborer and he and his wife had two children, Mary (8) and Robert Jr. (4); there was no mention of William (US Census 1920). In 1930, Robert was working as a farmer living with his wife and their three children Mary, Robert and Georgia and by 1940, nothing much had changed except Mary no longer lived at home (US Census 1930, 1940). Robert passed in 1951 and was interred at the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery (Sumner County Death Certificates). Mary Odom passed away in 1943 and her

death certificate states that she was buried at her family cemetery, which is likely the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery, although this could not be verified (Sumner County Death Certificates).

The Bullock family is another family who has multiple members interred in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery. The patriarch and matriarch of the family were Mitchell Bullock and Annie Abston Bullock and the two were married in 1894. In 1900, Mitch worked as a day laborer and lived with his wife and three of their children; Clora (5), Estell (2), and Emma (<1) (US Census 1900). In 1910, Mitch was working as a rancher and his wife was a laundress. Five children were enumerated as living with them in 1910; Chlora (sp.) (16), Lewis (10), Clara (7), Georgia (4), and Bobby Daisy (<1) (US Census 1910). Although her death certificate states that Bobbie Dazy was born in 1889, it is likely that her age in the 1910 census is accurate as her death certificate says she is only six years old at the time of her death in 1915 (Sumner County Death Certificates). In 1930, Mitch and his wife were living with three of their children, Emma (18), Georgia (13), and Earl (5) (US Census 1930). Mitchell passed in 1934 and was buried at the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery alongside his children Bobbie Dazy, Simon, and Earl who passed in 1915, 1918 and 1932 respectively (Sumner County Death Certificates).

The familial bond between the families interred at the cemetery is further shown with the Bullock family as Clara Bullock is the same woman who married James "Jack" Hudson and who was the mother of Henry Edward Hudson. Furthermore, the name Abston, which was Annie Bullock's maiden name, appears for three people in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery, Mattie Abston and, coincidentally, two women named Mary Abston (Sumner County Death Certificates). Trying to track down records for the latter two women was inherently difficult, in part because they share the same name, but also due to the inaccuracy of the records. Birth dates on these death certificates are frequently inaccurate, especially for African Americans in the mid-nineteenth century, because there is often an uncertainty among close relations at a time when records were seldom kept. Furthermore, birthdates and ages on census records are frequently flawed because of poor record keeping. Therefore, trying to discover records on two women with the same name around the same time was difficult. However, some telling facts allowed for a reasonable amount of certainty in the separate identities. The first Mary Abston, according to her death certificate, was born around 1851 and died in 1927. She was born Mary Jennings and she married Chariot Abston in 1879 (Ancestry .com). In 1880, the two were living together with children from previous relationships and Chariot was working as a laborer and Mary was keeping house (US Census 1880). By 1900, the couple were no longer living on their own, but living with the Shafer family as servants where Chariot was a farm laborer and Mary was a cook (US Census 1900). The two do not appear again in the records.

The other Mary Abston does not show up until 1880 where Mary Bradshaw marries Jack Abston (Ancestry.com). The couple shows up again in the record in 1930 when Jack worked as a cropper (US Census 1930). Mary died in 1930 and according to the Tennessee, Wills and Probate Records, Jack passed a year later. Everything was given to George Abston, whose relationship to Jack and Mary is unknown, as Jack did not have a will. It is believed that George was their son. In 1930, George is enumerated as a 20-year-old working as a day laborer on a farm and living with his wife, Catherine Abston, his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Dock and Mattie Tipton, his daughter,

Mattie C. Abston, and his brothers-in-law, Willie and Edgar, and his sisters-in-law, Florida and Florence (US Census 1930). Mattie C. Abston was still living with her grandparents in 1940 and in 1953 she died and was interred at the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery (Sumner County Death Certificates). It is interesting to note that George Abston was married to Catherine Tipton Abston whose sister, Florida Tipton would go on to marry Robert James Odom Jr.

The death certificate of Dora Baber indicates that she was buried in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery in 1933 at roughly 80 years of age (Sumner County Death Certificates). In 1900, Dora is enumerated with her husband, Peter, where she is shown as working as a cook and he as a farm laborer (US Census 1900). She is also shown to have at least one child although no other records could clarify this. In 1910, Dora worked as a laundress at home and Peter was still a farm laborer (US Census 1910). In 1910, the couple's neighbors included other names from the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery such as the Harris family and two of the Hudson brothers, Albert and Joe (US Census 1910). Lastly, in 1930, the couple is shown still living on Coles Ferry Pike where Peter worked as a cropper on a farm (US Census 1930). Little else is known of the couple and no other information was found concerning Dora's child.

Two members of the Parker family have been identified through their death certificates as being buried in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery; Lucy and Rebecca (Sumner County Death Certificates). Lucy Parker was born around 1820 and first shows up in the census records in 1870 as living with Sawney Parker, her inferred spouse, a woman who might be her mother-in-law Crisey, a man who is likely either a boarder or hired hand Henry Harper, and Lucy and Sawney's four inferred children; James (21), Brice (19), Sawney Jr. (15), and Jacob (2) (US Census 1870). In 1880, Sawney (Sony) and Lucy lived with their son Brice and his wife Rebecca Elnora Parker and their four children; James (8), Lucy (6), Hannah (4), and Jennie (2) (US Census 1880). In 1900, Lucy was still living with her son Brice and his wife Rebecca, and their four children; Jim (28), Jane (22), Alex (13), and Bess (6) (US Census 1900). Of all of the Parkers, only Lucy and Rebecca are enumerated on their death certificates as being buried at Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery (Sumner County Death Certificates). It is likely that other members of the family are among the unknown burials at the cemetery.

Two members of the Bailey family are buried at the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery, according to their death certificates; Susie and Robert (Sumner County Death Certificates). Robert and Susie were a married couple whose ages are inconsistent throughout the record. The couple first shows up in the census record in 1910 when Robert worked as a farmer on his own farm and Susie worked as a laundress (US Census 1910). Susie's brother, Joseph Jennings, a coachman, and his wife Irene, lived with them along with their two children, Joe and JT Jennings, as well as two of Robert and Susie's grandchildren, Walter Odom (5) and Robert G. Odom (1) (US Census 1910). Robert G. would go on to marry Minnie Bush later in his life. In 1920, Robert was working as a farm laborer, Susie was a laundress, and they lived with four of their grandchildren; Walter (15), Robert G. (10), Benie (5), and Charlie (4) (US Census 1920). Susie passed away in 1920 and Robert followed in 1938 (Sumner County Death Certificates).



The Sanders family is an oddity associated with this Odoms Bend Hudson Cemetery genealogical research and shows some inconsistencies in the archival record. Sam and Emma Sanders were married in 1881. In 1900, Sam, who worked as a farmer, and Emma lived together with their six children; Jim (16) who also worked on the farm, Hurma (sp?) (11), Sam Jr. (10), Mary Lou (7), John (4), and Clara (3) (US Census 1900). In 1910, Sam is still working his own farm and the couple lived with six of their children; Sam Jr. (20), Mary (17), John (14), Clara (12), Joanna (9), and Abe (6), and three grandchildren; James Franklin (8), Maggie Franklin (6), and Emma Franklin (4) (US Census 1910). Clara passed in 1914 and her mother, Emma passed in 1922, both of whom were supposedly buried in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery, according to their death certificates (Sumner County Death Certificates). Death certificates for Sam Saunders Sr., who passed in 1932, and one of his children, John Edward Sanders, who passed in 1952, do not have cemetery locations associated with them (Sumner County Death Certificates). At first look, it was assumed that Sam was buried in Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery because Odoms Bend was listed as the location of the informant, Sam Jr. However, the TVA Cemetery Relocation Database identifies Sam Sanders Sr., James Sanders, John Edward Sanders, Emma Sanders, and Clara Sanders, among others, as being removed from the Sanders Cemetery to the Harper Cemetery (TVA Cemetery Relocation Database ND). While Clara's and Emma's death certificates are specific when listing Odoms Bend as the place of their burials, it is possible that they were referring to the geographic area and not the cemetery itself. If this is the case, then it is possible that there have been similar instances with other individuals believed to be buried in Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery. Further evidence of this confusing misinterpretation is found in TVA records from the cemetery relocation, which shows the site of the Sanders Cemetery to be located on a tract of land that Sam P. Sanders' heirs sold to TVA in 1952, which is located at considerable distance from the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery to the southwest (SCC: 1952: DB 151:122; TVA 1954). This cemetery consisted of roughly 26 graves, all of which were purportedly relocated to the Harper Cemetery (TVA 1954). However, the tract of land on which the Sanders Cemetery was located was not purchased by Sam Sanders until 1926, some years after the passing of Clara and Emma (SCC: 1926: DB 95:253). Therefore, while it is likely that Emma and Clara were originally buried in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery, it is possible that after Sam acquired his 80 acres, he established a family cemetery, at which point he disinterred his family to move them there. While this is all conjecture, it seems to be a plausible explanation for the inconsistencies in the record.

Several of the individuals whose death certificates verified that they were buried in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery were very young at the time of their passing and others appear to be the sole member of their family represented there. Furthermore, sometimes, individuals are simply absent from much of the historical record. These issues make finding additional information on those known to be interred very difficult. One such case is that of Louler Smith. Louler Smith was born in 1874 and passed in 1919 (Sumner County Death Certificates). Although she does not show up in any census data, her death certificate confirms that she was a widow who worked as a house worker and whose mother was named Martha Ann Franklin. Another case is Marguerite Morrow who was born in 1878 and passed in 1947. The only record that could be found pertaining to her was in the original TVA survey which listed her name among the legible inscriptions still present.

Many of the known burials at the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery were infants when they passed. One such individual was Ambrose B. Cleavlon Jr. Ambrose Jr. was born to his father, Ambrose Sr. and his mother Ellen Jackson in June 1913 in St. Louis, Missouri and he passed in Odoms Bend in December 2014 (Sumner County Death Certificates). No further record of Ambrose Sr. or Ellen Jackson could be found. Florance Hewsten (Heusten), was the daughter of Lawrence Hewsten from Wallace, KY and Florance Smith from Odoms Bend. Unfortunately, she was stillborn on June 11, 1920 in Peach Valley and buried at the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery (Sumner County Death Certificates). Nothing further could be found on Florance's parents. Mary Evelena Rains, whose headstone had one of the legible inscriptions from the original TVA survey, was born in 1899 and passed in 1901. Her father was F. Rains and her mother was M.A. Rains and no additional information about them was found.

## 6.0 CONCLUSIONS

In November and December 2019 Wood conducted genealogical research for the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery located at the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Gallatin Fossil Plant in Sumner County, Tennessee. Previous efforts included genealogical research into other cemeteries within the Gallatin Fossil Plant's boundaries and geophysical surveys of other cemeteries, including the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery, as well.

The genealogical research was conducted at the request of TVA because they may elect to disinter graves at the cemetery and reinter them at another cemetery outside the Gallatin Fossil Plant. The purpose of the research was to attempt to identify the individuals buried there, to uncover information about them, and to attempt to identify any potential living descendants.

During the in-depth genealogical research, Wood found that many of the records were lacking regarding the African American experience in Odoms Bend. This area of Odom's Bend was largely populated by African Americans historically and, just north of the TVA property, it still is today. Looking at Census records shows the overwhelming African American population in the area which, according to the local historian, was triggered by the relocation of many Freedmen following the Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation. When comparing the African American cemetery/death certificate records with the County-wide cemetery survey that was completed in 1981, many of the African American cemeteries were never listed in the county survey and access to cemeteries on federal fossil plant property was likely limited. Many of these family cemeteries are unknown and unrecorded which explains their omission from the survey. Additionally, the absence of African American death certificates prior to 1914 further complicated this investigation. The fact that these would have been poorer African American families explains the simple stone grave markers instead of the elaborate or worked stone markers that were readily available at the time. It was also commonplace for African American families to create small family plots, which might have been lost over time as descendants move or land is sold.

The Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery is estimated to have nearly 100 people interred there. Using several sources, this report has identified 41 people who are likely to be buried there, or as is the case for two individuals, might have been moved from there in the past. This report serves as a genealogical examination of the people known to be buried there as well as those potentially buried there as the genealogical research into the family histories provides a narrative that attempts to identify other individuals buried there. The records indicate that the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery was exclusively African American, which explains the lack of records for so many of the burials. Similar to the lack of records for African American deaths and cemeteries, the presence of African Americans in general in the records in rural Tennessee is severely lacking. These individuals lived here during a time of slavery, war, and the unstable years during Reconstruction and ever uncertain years thereafter. Their presence was not always welcomed and their omission from the records is indicative of this. These exclusions make finding detailed information and making identifications almost a century later difficult.



A previous compilation of African American death certificates in Sumner County by Michael Denning in 2008 was used to develop the first list of interments in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery. However, throughout the process of completing research for this undertaking, other death certificates were found using other sources that listed Odoms Bend as the burial place. It is believed that if a more in-depth analysis of all African American death certificates in Sumner County were completed, and not just a revisiting of the previous compilation, then other individuals at this cemetery might be identified.

It should be noted that there were two cases during this genealogical research that suggested that Odoms Bend was used on death certificates to denote the geographic location of a person's burial rather than the name of a specific cemetery. The cases of Emma and Clara Sanders is a confusing one full of archival inconsistencies, however it is presumed that they were originally interred at the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery and potentially disinterred by their family after they established a separate family plot on acreage they owned. While this case is an oddity, it does present a potential flaw of misidentifying a place of burial in the archival records, albeit an unlikely one due to the overwhelmingly familial nature of the cemetery.

While trying to uncover more about the identities of the people buried at the cemetery, Wood met with Velma Brinkley, a local African American historian who is very active in the community today and discussed the holes in the records at length. Ms. Brinkley emphasized the fact that many of the former residents of Odoms Bend left Sumner County entirely and those who stayed are unlikely to be familiar enough with their family histories to identify themselves as descendants. Furthermore, she highlighted other hurdles one faces in this research such as name changes, a practice that was common among freedmen to distance themselves from the surnames of their oppressors, lack of proper record keeping, and muddled family histories as a result of the circumstances and the times. Ms. Brinkley, eager to help and personally invested in the cause, then took a list of several pointed research questions to elderly African Americans who remain in the area, most notably Ms. Alene Walker, a centenarian who was born and raised in Odoms Bend. Ms. Brinkley returned with information that confirmed her initial theories that while some of the original African American families of Odoms Bend still have a presence, the connection with the area's history is strained. This is in-part due to the diaspora experienced in the mid-twentieth century, the hardships that have been faced, and the lack of documentation. It is believed that with more time and with additional visits with Ms. Brinkley and her contacts, further information on the individuals buried at the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery could be attained.

Wood also met with County and City Historian, Mr. Kenneth Thomson who was integral to the research. Mr. Thomson was a valuable resource regarding the prominent families of Gallatin, and he was able to assist on many levels of the on-site research. Wood presented both Mr. Thomson and Ms. Brinkley with lists of names of individuals who were identified in the research as well as individuals whose names appear either on legible headstones or who were enumerated as being interred in the cemetery in the hopes that next of kin might be identified or that more information could be attained on those in question. An initial list of known interments had been gathered at

this stage, however there is likely more valuable information available should more efforts be made in the future, this includes information on the individuals interred in the cemetery and information on potential next of kin.

Ms. Brinkley and Mr. Thomson, along with other prominent individuals and historians, is arranging the erection of a monument for unidentified African American burials in the Gallatin City Cemetery, of which there are over five hundred. Given the nature of the cemeteries on TVA property and the uncertainty surrounding those buried there, this section of the Gallatin City Cemetery would make an ideal spot for re-interment.

When looking into the next of kin for the individuals interred in this cemetery, it is important to note that the African American diaspora in this country spreads far and wide. The term America's Great Migration is the name that was given to the exodus of millions of African Americans from the south to cities in the north and west. The Great Migration began around the time of WWI and ceased around 1970, after the African American civil rights struggles of the 1960s. African Americans during this time recognized that although they were technically free, the Jim Crow south ensured that they would never know true freedom. This ugly period of American history is rife with unequal pay, prohibition of basic rights, unfair laws to ensure continued subjugation, and lynchings, all of which guaranteed that the south would remain in a pre-war daze of racial disparities and African Americans would remain under the proverbial boot. Needless to say, escape to the west and north, like many of their ancestors before them did on the underground railroad, was a dream and a goal. Thus, it is no surprise that many family members of the individuals buried in this cemetery, many of whom passed away in the early decades of the twentieth century, found themselves living in other cities, often miles away, in the industrial north.

Availability of data during the initial genealogical research effort was limited partly due to time constraints owing to the number of cemeteries, scheduling, and overall awareness of accessible data and potential data outlets. As with most in-depth research efforts, other opportunities for investigation that could potentially yield valuable information are obtainable but were either learned about too late in the original effort or were sidelined in lieu of other available avenues. It is believed that with adequate resources, time, and planning, these potential outlets could provide critical data that would greatly benefit the undertaking. Some of these avenues include:

- Utilizing new online subscription services and resources to identify and acquire contact information for potential next of kin
- Reaching out to local churches, specifically the First Baptist Church on East Winchester Street, as it is the historically African American church, of which many of the elderly members grew up in the area. Additionally, the Franklin Chapel Baptist Church is located just outside of Odoms Bend and is still in use, albeit occasionally, today. In fact, many of the families with ties to the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery also had ties to the Franklin Chapel Baptist Church.
- Set up oral history interviews with individuals that were either identified late in the research phase, who have been identified since the initial fieldwork, or who have yet

- to be identified. Oral histories are great resources and have the potential to yield valuable information on the history of the area, demographics, and any identifiable next of kin.
- Scour the African American obituary records of Sumner and the surrounding counties for individuals identified in the research or their relatives. The Sumner County Archives has a collection of some of the African American obituaries that has been briefly studied, but a more thorough investigation of this collection, and others like it, could garner significant results.
  - Reach back out to local contacts. While in the field, the availability of time with the contacts was limited due to their schedules, health, and previous engagements. Further utilization of these contacts could result in additional contacts and useful information.
  - As the case with most in-depth historical research, the deeper one digs, the more potential avenues present themselves. Wood is confident that by exploring these other research outlets and making more local contacts, further avenues, and thus more data, will become available.

While few potential next of kin were identified for the majority of the individuals believed to be buried in the various cemeteries, the aforementioned avenues, especially oral histories and the new online resources, and a more in-depth study on the information outlined in this report would certainly lead to identifying living relatives and next of kin for many of the interred individuals. This effort, while valuable for the information it produces, is labor intensive. That being said, should any further phases of research take place, these avenues would be integral and worthwhile. In order to demonstrate the potential and the necessity for these additional levels of research so that they may be included in future phases, Wood has provided a couple examples of what this research could produce. This information was gathered using avenues that have either become available to the researchers since the initial effort took place, or from avenues of which the only the surface was scratched, and thus not fully utilized, during the initial research efforts.

The first such example is regarding the next of kin of Albert Hudson, buried in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery in 1918. Albert and his wife Elmira Cantrell had a daughter, Arizona Hudson. Arizona moved to Ohio at some point before the early 1930s because in 1933, she married her husband, Andrew S. Burton. Andrew Burton passed in 1974 after 41 years of marriage (*The Newark Advocate 2007*). Arizona continued to live in Ohio until she passed in March 2007. She was survived by her adopted son, Ralston W. Reid, PhD, and his wife Shirley of Venice, Florida, her niece Billy Jean Collier, of Marvell, Arkansas, and her grandniece Regina Collier, of Atlanta (*The Newark Advocate 2007*). As of 2019, Ralston W. Reid still lived in Venice, Florida and has several phone numbers listed under his name.

The second example is regarding the next of kin of Robert James Odom, Sr. Robert James Odom, Jr. was born in 1917 to Robert James Odom, Sr. and Mary Odom. Robert Odom Jr. was a veteran of WWII where he was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor, the Good Conduct Medal, and five Overseas Bars (*Sumner County African American Obsequies: Volume II, "Robert James Odom, Jr."*

2002). Robert married Florida Mae Tipton Odom and the two lived their lives together in Odoms Bend. When Robert Jr. died in 2002, he was survived by his wife, their two sons James E. Odom (Thelma) of Gallatin, and Allen Horton (Lisa) of Nashville, as well as several nieces and nephews. As of 2019, James and Thelma still lived in Gallatin with several phone numbers to their names as well as multiple relatives listed. Robert's other family have current information as well that can be used to contact them.

These preliminary examples should serve to demonstrate the availability of data with further research. This research is recommended for all individuals who are known to be interred in the Odoms Bend (Hudson) Cemetery in order to provide contact information for potential next of kin.

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