### Post Offices

# City of Milton and its Crossroad Communities

May 10, 2022

Connie Mashburn
Ed Malowney
Barbara Latham

# "Crossroad Community"

- Where roads met or intersected
- Where roads crossed a river ford, ferry, or bridge
- As commerce and communication needs grew, "Crossroad Communities" built Post Offices
- The Post Offices were typically located in a store, pub, or in the Postmaster's home

# U.S. Post Office History

- 1775 -- Ben Franklin: 1st Postmaster General
- 1847 -- U.S. Postage Stamps Issued
- 1861-1865 -- Civil War Postal Services
- 1865- 1870s -- Reconstruction
- 1880 to 1890's Growth of local Post Offices

# Impact of Civil War

- Civil War smuggling letters
- Prisoner exchange
- John H. Reagan of Texas became Postmaster General recruited northern postmasters
- One stamp used as money
- The Reconstruction Era difficult times

### U.S. Post Office History

- 1902 to 1905 Rural Free Delivery (RFD)
- 1918 Scheduled airmail service began
- 1927 International airmail began
- 1963 ZIP Code implemented

#### Overview: Post Office Documents

- County Post Office Ledgers/ Logs
  - Postmaster Appointments & Dates
  - Post Office Discontinuations and Transfers
- Applications to establish a Post Office
- Verification of Post Office locations
- Postmaster Compensation Records
- Gazetteers (City Directories)
- Ancestry.com/ Individual family trees
- Old Milton Family Histories/ Genealogies/ Photos

# Post Office Logs By County

1951		Milton.	Co.	Ga.	
Welling +	Fields X Roads	John S. James	13 April 58	Moses G. Rosser	21 Dec: 185
+ Later te	Alpharetta +	Oliver P. Skellon	5 Oct. 38	Joel Rucker	23 Aug: 185
A 1	Freemansville +	Lot Ho. Jones Cicero At Maddox	25 Jany 1860 10 Sept >4	Cicero H. Maddon Discontinued	17 Jan: 186,
	Newton Warsaw	Milliam H. Antrey	21 Barks	Discontinued.	17 July 186
huabme	Field's lews Royal	Shueley W. Cook	170070	I Mapshaw	21 Apr 71 2 Dec 73
Qis 1	Grogauville +	Oliver Copelana	e 15 Oct. >	3. Just N. Roberts	25 June 34
			145		

# Request for a Post Office

#### **Application Form**

No. 1011. (LOCATION PAPER.)

#### Post Office Department,

OFFICE OF THE FOURTH ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL,

 $\label{eq:Washington} \textbf{Washington}, \ \textbf{D. C.}, \dots, \dots, 190 \quad .$  Sir: Before the Postmaster General decides upon the application for the establishment of a post office

1	of Group of Group of the stablished, to the correctness of the answers, and return the location paper to the pepartment, addressed to me. If the site selected for the proposed office be not on any mail route, only a "Special Office" can be established, to be supplied with mail from some convenient point on the nearest mail route by a special carrier, for which service a sum equal two-thirds the salary of the postmaster will be paid by the Department.  You should inform the contractor, or person performing service for him, of this application, and require him to execute the appended certificate as to the practicability of supplying the proposed office with mail.  Very respectfully,	,
	Fourth Assistant Postmaster General.	
	To M. Dougan Fortes :	,
	10 M	
4	care of the Postmaster of Oloswell, Fa., who will please forward to him.	:
	STATEMENT. fulton	
	STATEMENT OF THE OWNER O	
	The proposed office to be called Ashen Hittor Gr Fc	
	100 10000 10000 9	-
	Hotice directions for selecting post office names on next page.	
	It will be situated in the quarter of Section, Township (North or South),	•
	Range (East or West), in the County of Wilton State of 991.	
	Range (East or West), in the County of the route from 1000 to the per page 1200 to the per pa	i
	to Order Jones No. 2 12 9 9 on which the mail is now carried 3 times per week.	-
	Will it be directly on this route?—Ans. U.S.	
	If not, how much would its supply on this route increase the distance necessarily traveled by the carrier in going once over	5
	the route?	ŧ
	To be supplied from Kozuful 944 =	
	The name of the nearest office to the proposed one, on one side, is	Š
	its distance is miles in a 2 direction from the proposed office	ŝ
	The name of the nearest office, on the other side, is Colcers	200
	miles in a 4 4 direction from the proposed office.	į
	The name of the other nearest office to the proposed one is	ş
	its distance by the most direct road is miles in a direction from the proposed office.	ė
	The name of the most prominent river near it is halfahale	į
	The name of the nearest creek is Big Criff	5
	The proposed office will be	
	side of it, and will be miles from aid nearest creek, on the side of it.	13
	The name of the nearest railroad is Southern	1
6483	If on the line of or near a railroad, on which side will the office be located; how far from the track; and what is, or will be,	i
	the name of the station?—Ans.	
200	Give the population to be supplied by the proposed office.—Ans. 2 v 2 -	-
9	If it be a village, state the number of inhabitants.—Ans.	
	A diagram, or sketch from a map, showing the position of the proposed new office, with neighboring river or creek, roads,	-
6	and other post offices, towns, or villages near it, will be useful, and is therefore desired.	-
Litt	and other post offices, towns, or villages near it, will be useful, and is incretore desired.  All which I certify to be correct and true, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, this	í
1		-
0.4	day of Jell 1900.	i
5	(13 Sign full name.) Proposed P. M.  I CERTIFY that I have examined the foregoing statement, and that it is correct and true, to the best of my knowledge and belief.	ŝ
H	I CERTIFY that I have examined the foregoing statement, and that it is correct and true, to the desirch my knowledge and obtain.  (This must be signed by Postmaster at nearest office.)	ž
ea	(P / B1	
Sec.	J. B. Slogense	į
6	Postmaster at	á

# Postal Verification Form

DIVISION OF COURSENING (TOPOGRAPHY BRANCH)

A

#### Post Office Department

FOURTH ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.
Hashington May 14, 1923.

Postmaster,	Alphare	Ha			POST OFFICE DEPT.
	Mil	ton Go	Fulton	Co.	JUN 9 1923
		Ga.			dated Jan.1,1932
In order the it is requested to tions on opposit	at the site of your pos hat you carefully answ e side of paper, which	st office may be ac wer the questions l should be returne	curately represented below and furnish a ed to this Division :	ed upon the	post-route maps,
			EQUIPTIT ACCTOR		IASTER GENERAL.
The name of m	ny post office is	Uphase	tta	la	ASTER GENERAL.
If the town, vil	lage, or site of the post of	ffice he known by	in , , ,	sw,	***************************************
name here:		and be known by an	other name than that	of the post of	fice, state that other
My post office i	s situated in the Centr	el mortai Al	hlasitta	l	, 
or in	s situated in the Control	part of	privacia	1 200	C., Township,
County of	100 100	V	te of Seo		-
The name of the	e nearest river is	hattala	te of Seo	igia	
distance of	e nearest river is 6	-wuno	ocnee at	d the post-off	lee building is at a
The name of the	nearest creek is 15	Rig Gr	s, E, or W, side of it.	d the post-off	ice building is at a
The name of the		on the	side of it.		
and its distance :	nearest office on my rout	e is	well, Ga,		
and its distance is	7 miles, by the tr	raveled road, in a	S/W direction	from this, my	office.
The name of the	nearest office on my route	on the other it i	C	10. G	2
and its distance is	6 1/2 miles, in a N.	-E, direction	from this my off	91.01	<i>N</i>
The name of the	nearest office not on my	S., E., or W.	., + L	0	
and its distance is	2 miles led	route is Du	uln.	Ga.	***************************************
	2 miles, by the tr	aveled road, in a	s., E., or W. direction f	rom this, my	office.
The post-onice but	ilding is on the	side of the	no		
a memice of	from	the track.			Railroad,
The railroad statio	n name is	not an	y		
The air-line distance	ce from my post office to	the nearest point of	my county boundary	is 5,	'/¥ miles
n a d N., S., E., or W.	irection.				,
		Postmaster: .(	Ralph A	Mai	ere
4902	5-6225		Date: Ju	me 7.	1923
			1	1.1	1 1

# Maps: Circle Diagram

#### DIAGRAM, EXPLANATION, AND INSTRUCTIONS.

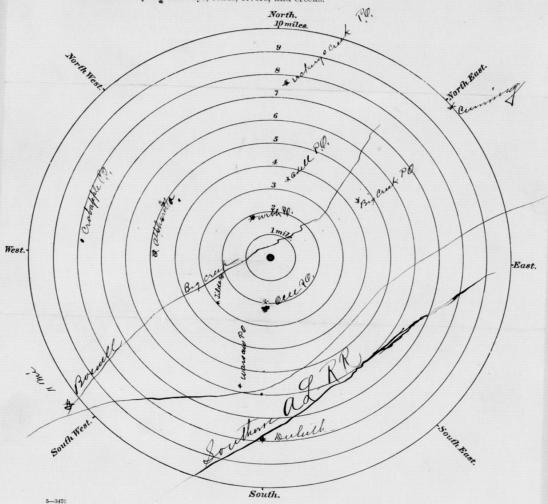
The dot in the center of the 1-mile circle represents the site of your office.

The surrounding offices should be carefully located by placing dots on or between the mile circles at the exact distance, and in the right direction from the proposed one, and their names

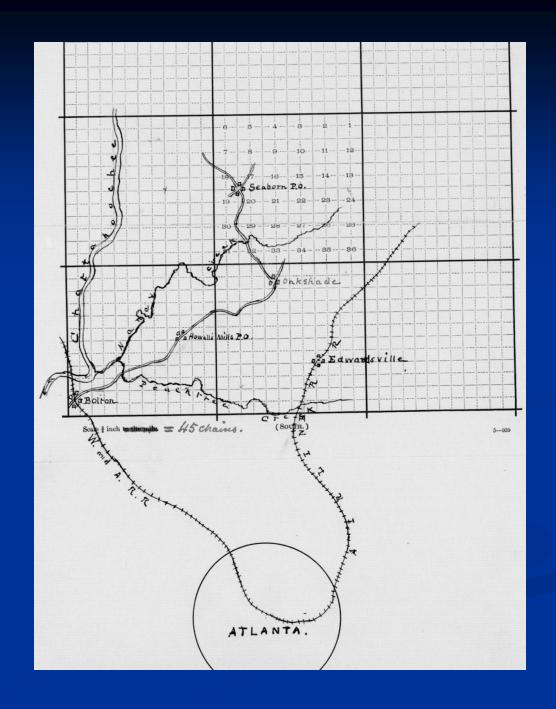
plainly written.

If it should be necessary to designate an office which is over 10 miles from the proposed one, place the dot outside of the 10-mile circle, write the name of such office, and state its distance from the proposed one.

Draw distinctly the railways, roads, rivers, and creeks.



### Maps: Graph Diagram



# Postmaster Compensation Database

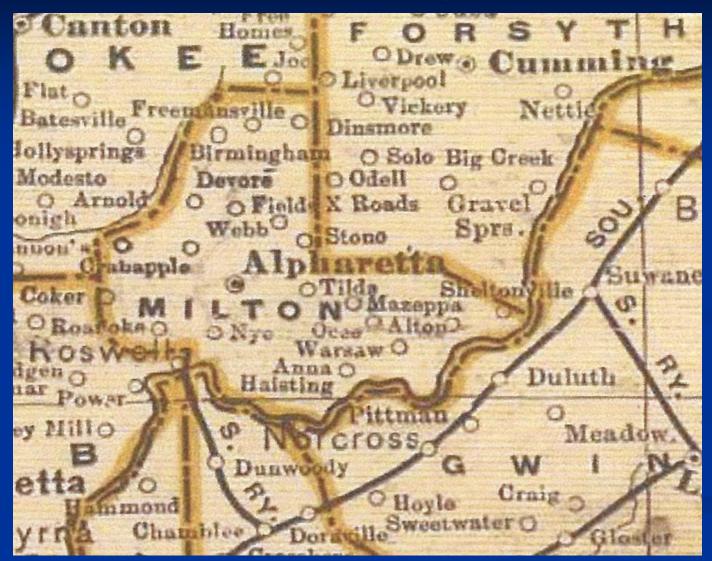
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#### Post Offices in the Milton Area

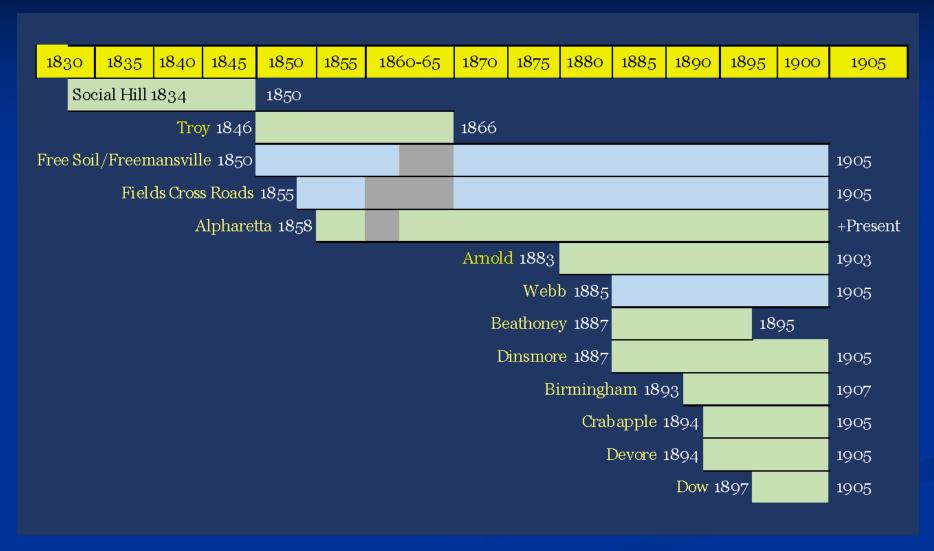
- Arnold
- Beathoney
- Birmingham
- Crabapple
- Devore
- Dinsmore

- Dow
- Fields Crossroads
- Freemansville
- Social Hill
- Troy
- Webb

# Milton County 1889



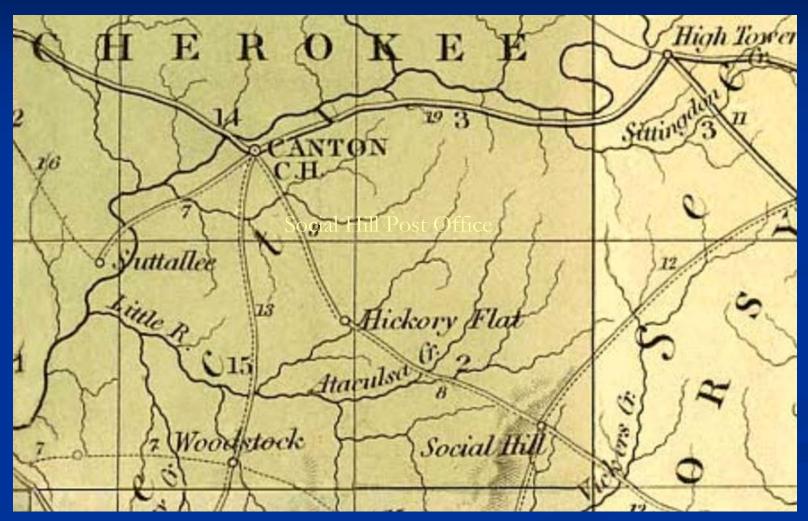
#### Post Offices 1834 to 1907

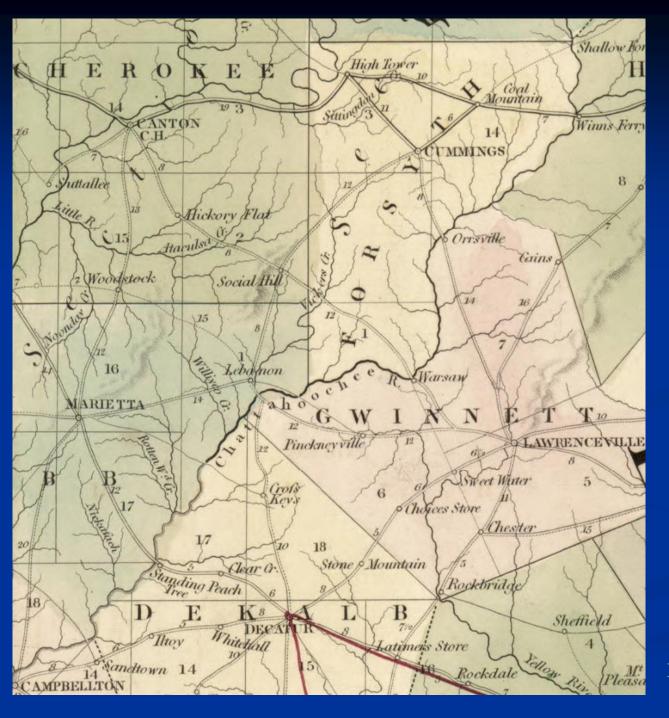


#### Social Hill Post Office

- Established June 11, 1834
- Postmasters appointed...
  - Thomas B. Wells June 11, 1834
  - Russell Jones February 19, 1835
  - Isaiah Simpson & Selser Dobbs August 13, 1842
  - D. W. Liddell February 9, 1849
  - Manley H. Ford February 18, 1850
  - Joseph Ragsdale August 5, 1850
- Discontinued November 4, 1850

#### Social Hill Post Office





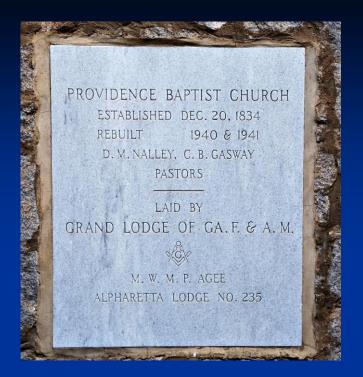
Milton
Communities
at the
Crossroads

Social Hill on the major crossroad linking

- Canton to

  Lawrenceville
- Coal Mountain to Lebanon and Decatur

David Burr Map of 1839





#### Providence Baptist Church Established 1834



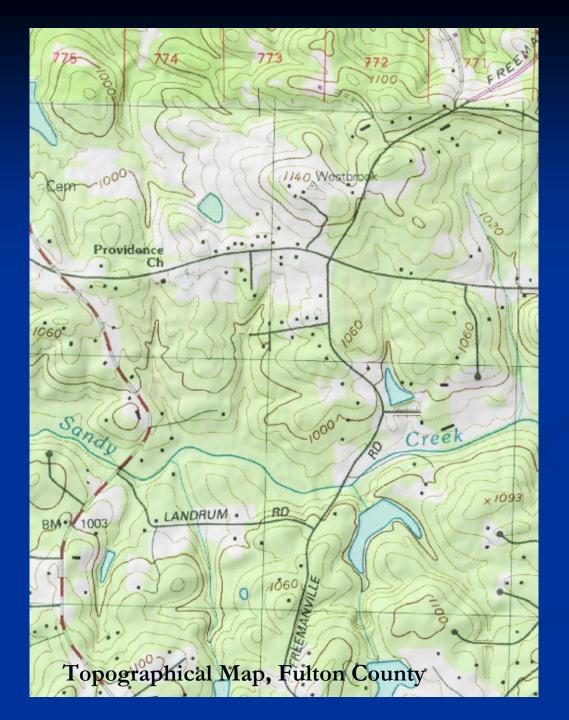
Old Providence Church circa 1940 Photo Credit: Burma Tucker Parker

ent to

#### Fields Crossroads Post Office

- Five-year gap in mail service 1850-1855
- Established January 1855 in the community of Social Hill,
   Cherokee County
- Providence Road and Old Freemansville Road





# Fields Crossroads Post Office #1

Providence Road and Freemansville Road

#### Fields Crossroads Post Office

Named for Lawson Fields, First Postmaster and the first Milton County State Senator

#### Postmasters appointed...

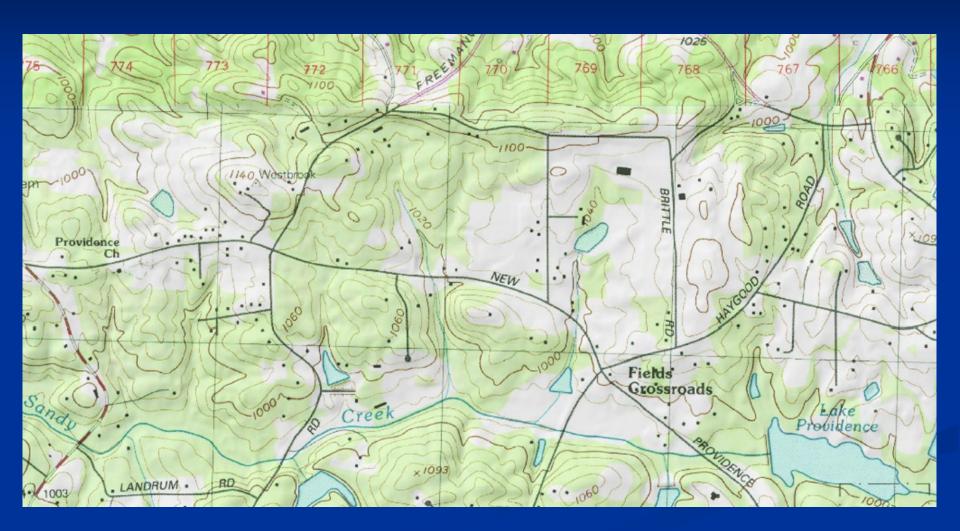
- Lawson Fields -- January 18, 1855
- John H. Cooke -- October 10, 1855
- John S. James -- April 13, 1858
- Moses G. Rosser -- December 21, 1858
- Shurley W. Cook -- November 1, 1870
- James Middleton Upshaw -- December 2, 1873
- Charles B. Hagood -- March 4, 1902

#### Fields Crossroads #2

Post Office moved east to southeast corner of Providence and Bethany Roads



# Fields Crossroads Post Office #2 Providence Road and Bethany Road

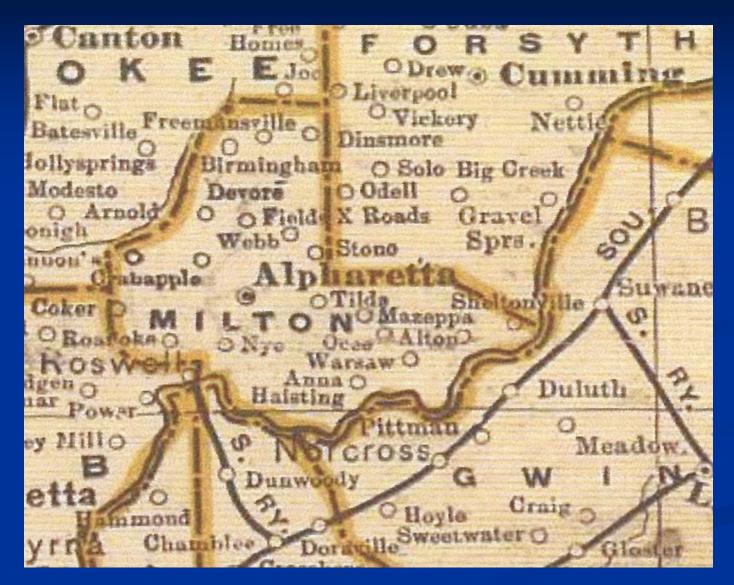


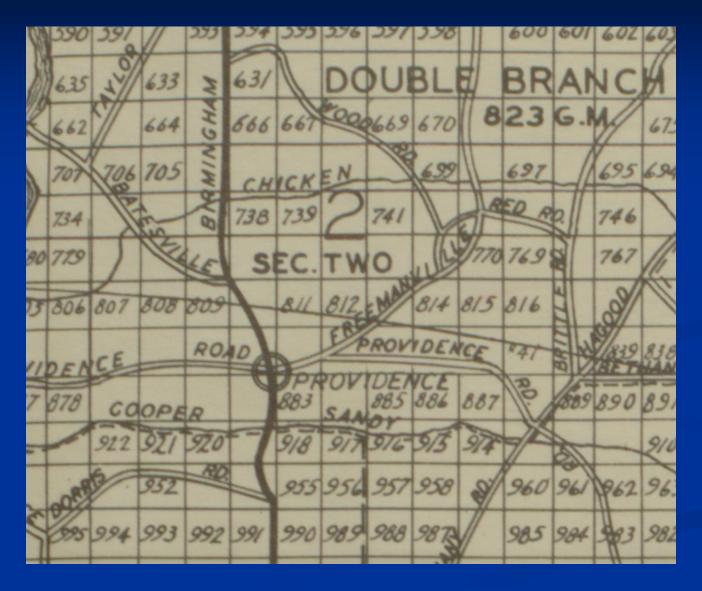
# Fields Crossroads Post Office #3 Hagood General Store



Served as the Fields Crossroads Post Office from 1902 to 1905

- Established June 1894
- Near the intersection of Providence Road and Birmingham Highway





- Postmasters appointed...
  - Mrs. Frances A. Devore Upshaw appointed June 1894
  - Her brother: David W. Devore appointed February 1899
- Discontinued February 1905

# Providence Baptist Church Cemetery

(Old Social Hill Community)

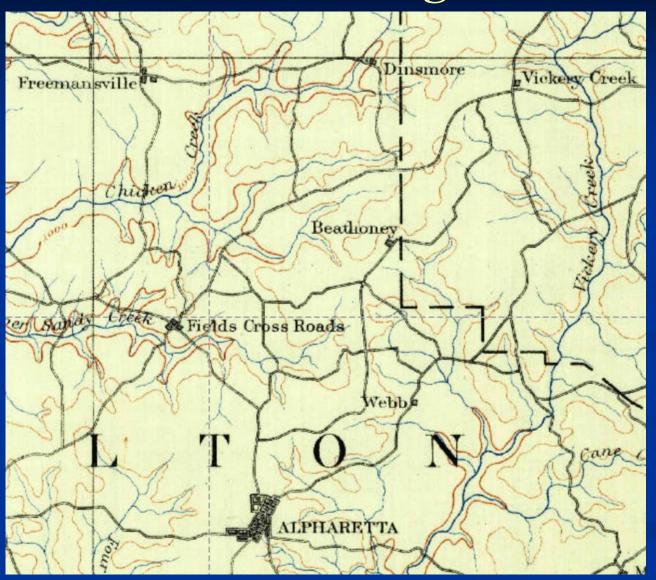


#### Webb Post Office

# Old timers referred to the Community as "Webb Georgia"

- Established in 1885
- Location: east of today's Hwy 9 and Webb Road
- On route from Alpharetta to Cumming

### Webb Georgia



# Webb Georgia

Postmasters appointed...

- Joel Webb -- December 8, 1885
- Robert R. Anglin -- January 14, 1903
- Joel's son: James A. Webb -- May 23, 1904

Discontinued February 6, 1905

### Webb Community

- The Webb family operated a store and blacksmith shop at the corner of Hwy 9 and Webb Road
- A Gin Mill operated until 1950
- A Grocery store in the community was built in 1938, replaced by the Webb Feed store around 1975

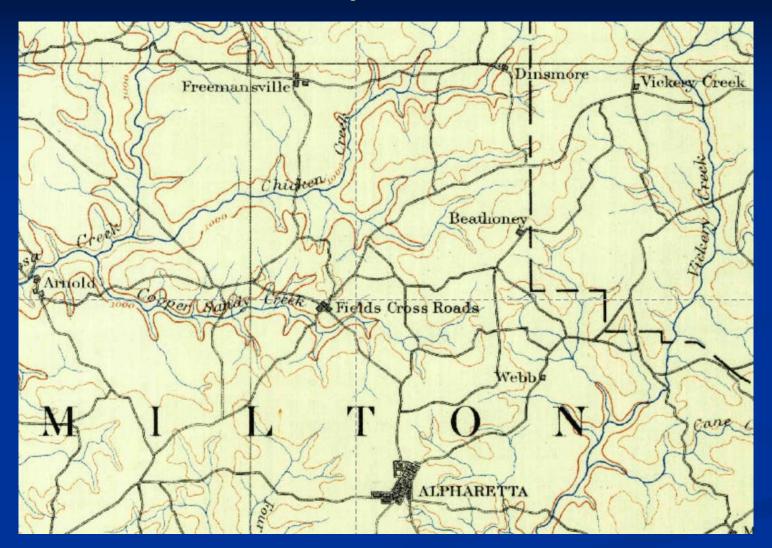
# Webb, Georgia General Feed Store



### Beathoney Post Office

- Established March 1887 requested "Roddy"
- Located on southwest corner of Hwy 9 at Bethany Bend Road

# Beathoney Post Office



# Beathoney Post Office

- Postmasters appointed...
  - Albert M. Bell April 21,1887
  - George M.D. Turner January 12, 1895
- Discontinued March 5, 1895 mail transferred to Odell Post Office (Forsyth County)
  - George Turner's wife, Zaphorah Ophelia Turner, appointed in Odell

# Bethany Baptist Church

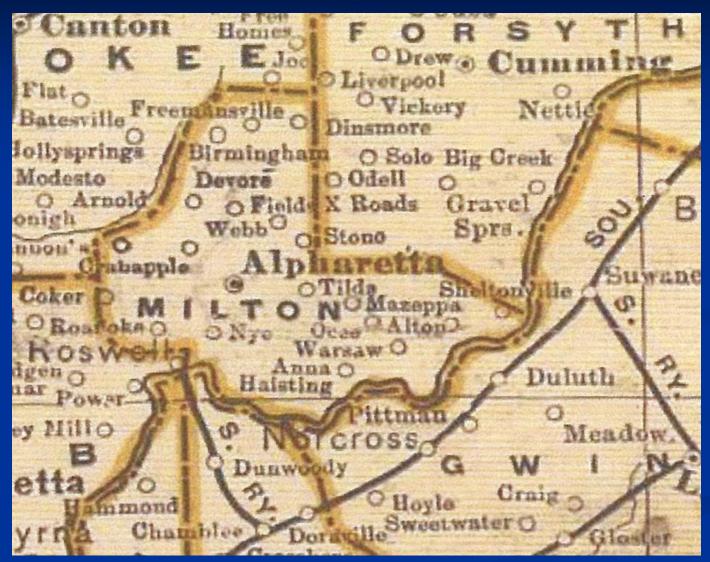


Congregation established December 27, 1850

# Crabapple Post Office

- Established January 1894
- Named for community school built in 1874
- Located 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles west of Alpharetta where five roads converge

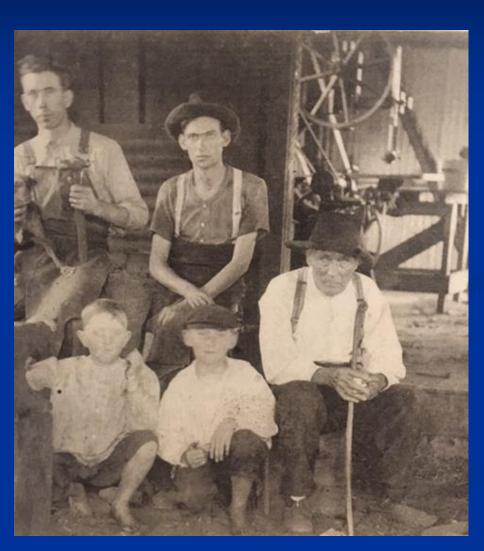
# Milton County Post Offices



# Crabapple Post Office

- Postmasters appointed...
  - Francis Fowler -- February 14, 1894
  - Simeon L. Rucker -- September 15, 1899
  - John W. Rucker -- October 20, 1902
- Discontinued February 28, 1905, with mail service transferred to Alpharetta

# Crabapple Postmaster Simeon Lamar Rucker



- Confederate Soldier injured during the Civil War
- Farmer
- Blacksmith

# Crabapple Mail Service



Photo was on the cover of the April 1, 1940 LIFE Magazine

#### **Dow Post Office**

- Established July 1897
- First name: "Ego" –changed to Dow
- Located in the Will's Store, intersection of Thompson Road and Francis Road

Map: East Milton County

Dow Post Office

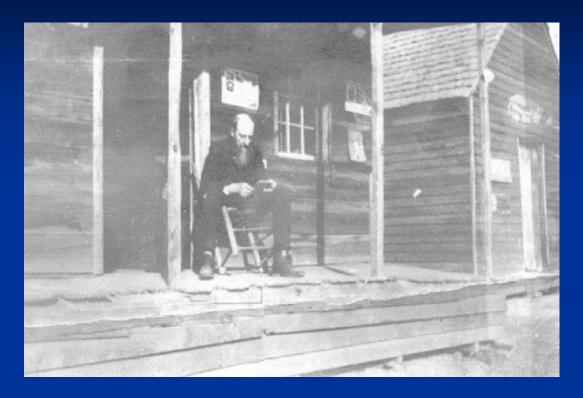
263 C 261 260 259 258 257 256 255 254 253 317 3/8 3/9 320 4 322 3/3 3/4 3/5 337 336 335 334 333 392 53/ 330 3290 327 326 325 385 386 387 80 389 390 391 392 394 395 396 401 400 398 397 110 409 408 407 406 405 404 FREEMANVILLE 463 464 465 466 456 457 458 459 460 461 468 470 463 482 481 480 479 478 477 476 528 529 530 531 532 535 536 537 539 540 546 545 544 543 553 352 554 550 549/548 600 601 602 603 604 605 607 608 609 W 615 614 613 619 618 617 823 G.M. 675 676 677 678 680 681 682 683 691 690 689 687 686 685 695 694 693 692 749 REE 755 752 753 754 755 756 746 TO CUMMINGS-770 769 767 765 764 763 762 760 759 758 757 820 821 822 823 824 825 827 828 815 816 836 835 834 BD 830 829 5 832

Robert's 1942 Map of Fulton County, Georgia

#### **Dow Post Office**

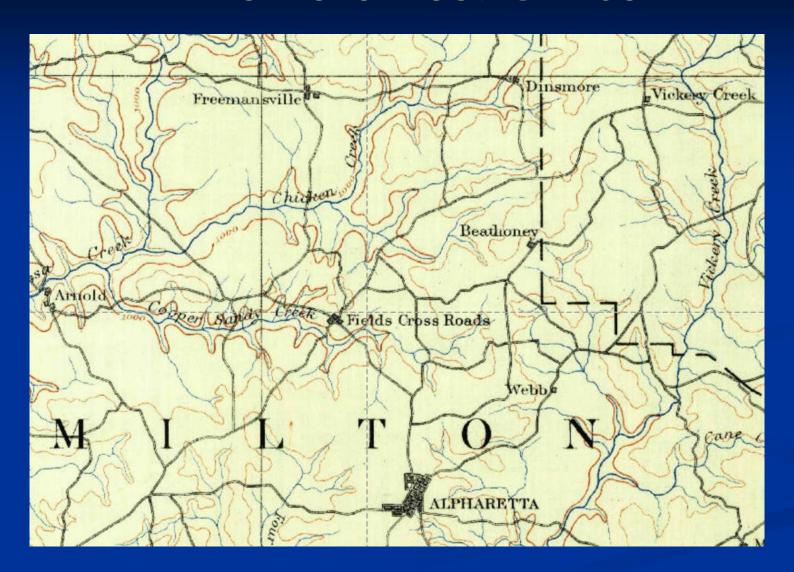
- Postmaster appointed...
  - William Thomas Wills July 2, 1897
- Discontinued March 21, 1905, with mail transferred to Alpharetta

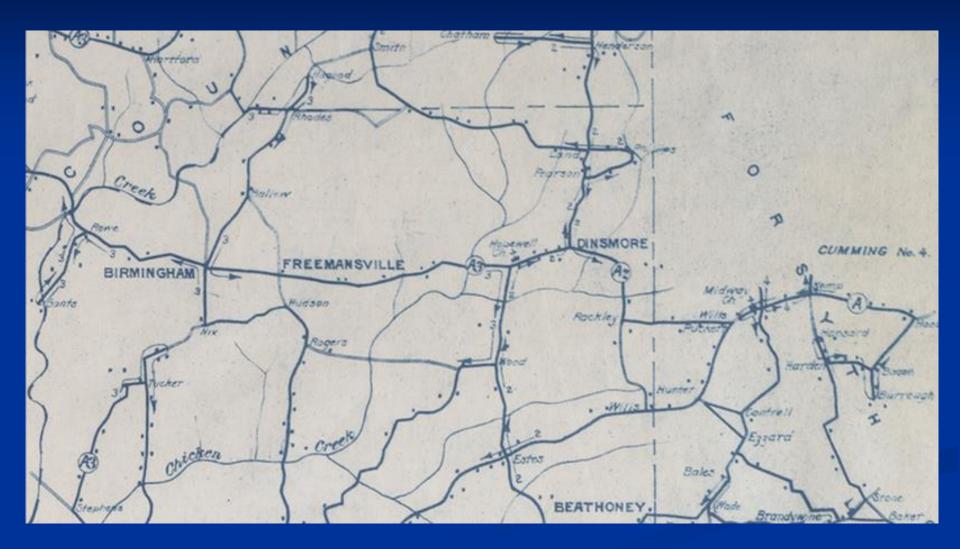
# William Thomas Wills



- Confederate veteran, W. T. Wills, sitting on the porch of his
   General Store and Dow Post Office
- Civil War: captured at Resaca 1864
- Prisoner at Camp Morton, Indiana until May 1865

- Established March 1887
- Originally named Dinsmore Mill
- Located on Hopewell Road, on west side of Chicken Creek, 1 mile south of Cherokee County line



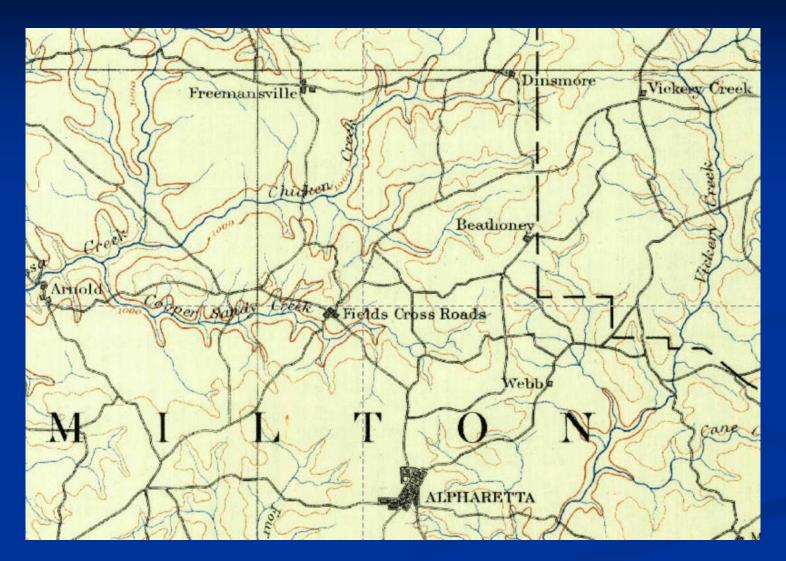


- Postmasters appointed...
  - William Z. Bevis March 2, 1887
    - Son of a Union County, South Carolina Postmaster
  - Henry T. Rogers December 27, 1888
- Discontinued April 10, 1905, with mail transferred to Alpharetta

#### Freemansville Post Office

- Established as Free Soil in May 1850
- Name changed to Freemansville in 1850 in Cherokee County, later Milton County
- Located on southeast corner of Birmingham Road at Freemanville Road

## Freemansville Post Office



#### Freemansville Postmasters appointed...

- Nehemiah J. Garrison May 30, 1850
- Joseph W. Johnston May 1, 1851
- Wiley C. Anderson April 8, 1858
- Lott H. Jones January 25, 1860
- John G. Cantrell, MD June 9, 1868
- Garrison Cross November 3, 1870
- Cicero H. Maddox -- September 10, 1873
- Larkin Isaac Thacker February 16, 1891
- Joseph D. Maddox March 2, 1891
- John C. Johnston May 6, 1892
- Joseph D. Maddox July 12, 1892
- Cicero H. Maddox March 23, 1893
- C. Cincinnatus Maddox October 4, 1900
- Discontinued June 9, 1905, with mail service transferred to Alpharetta

## Shoal's Georgia State Gazetteer, 1879

"Freemansville, Milton County, is situated near the head waters of Little River, in a cotton growing section, 7 miles north of Alpharetta courthouse.

All trade is carried on with Atlanta, 33 miles distant.

Baptist and Methodist churches and one school in the vicinity. Population 30. Mail weekly by hack."

## Freemansville Community Leaders

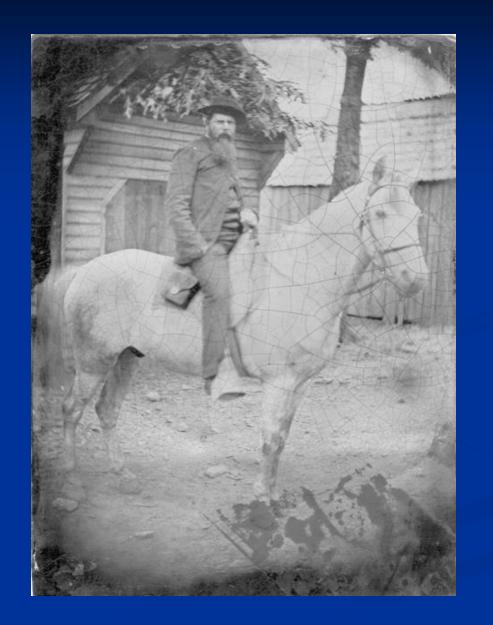
- Cicero M. H. Maddox, Postmaster
- William G. Anderson, Constable
- Joel Burgess, Justice
- John G. Cantrell, Physician
- Levi J. Land, Millwright
- Cicero H. Maddox, General Store
- Andrew P. Neese, Physician
- Abraham K. Newton, Tanner
- Rev. Perriman, Methodist
- Larkin Thacker, Blacksmith
- George W. Smith, Sewing Machine Agent
- Rev. James M. Stewart, Baptist
- John M. Williams, School Teacher
- Lawrence M. Yancey, Notary

In 1906, the Georgia Sketches of Counties book described Freemansville as a post-village of Milton County, about 6 miles north of Alpharetta.

In the 1900 U.S. Census the population of Freemansville was 113.

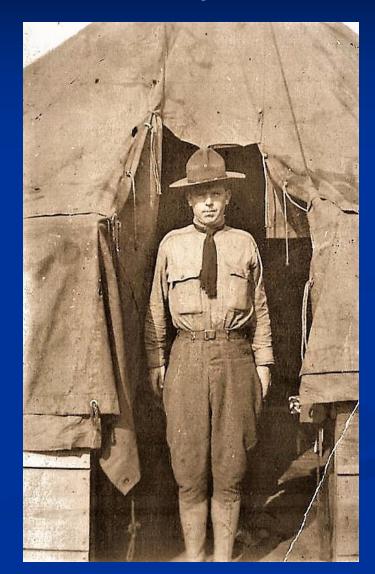
Georgia Sketches of Counties, Towns, Events, Institutions, and Persons Vol. II by Candler & Evans, 1906.

### Dr. Cicero Cincinnatus Maddox



# Cicero Holt Maddox, Jr.

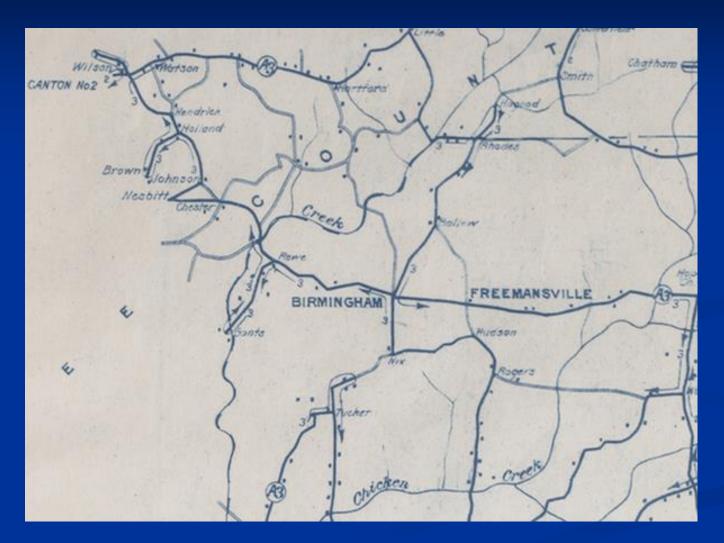
- Cicero Holt Maddox served in France during World War I
- For 38 years, he delivered mail on Route #3 in the Milton area
- His home was at the northwest corner of Roswell and Marietta Streets



# Birmingham Post Office

- Established May 17, 1895
- Located in the Farmer's Alliance Store on the northwest corner of Birmingham Highway (GA Rt. 372) at Birmingham/Hickory Flat Road
- The Farmer's Alliance Store became the Buice Country Store; today the 7-Acres Restaurant

# Birmingham Post Office



# Birmingham Post Office

- Postmasters appointed....
  - John Henry Johnston May 17, 1893
  - Smith Johnston May 19, 1897
  - Thomas B. Newton, Jr. February 9, 1904
- Discontinued August 31, 1907, when mail service was transferred to Alpharetta



# Buice's Country Store



# **Buice's Country Store**





The H. A. Buice and Son store was built in 1930, replacing the original store that had burned down. In 1947, son Doyle Buice and wife Betty renamed the store Buice's Country Store, operating it until the 1990s, it was a true country store, selling food, breakfast biscuits, work clothes and shoes, blankets, watches, tools, farm equipment, feed, and seed. The Birmingham Community Post Office was ance located in the rear of the store, with a 72-slot mail sarting bax. Buice's was typical of country stores that were the social centers of back country crossroads.

A CITY OF MILTON HISTORIC SITE

# Thomas B. Newton House



### Thomas B. Newton House



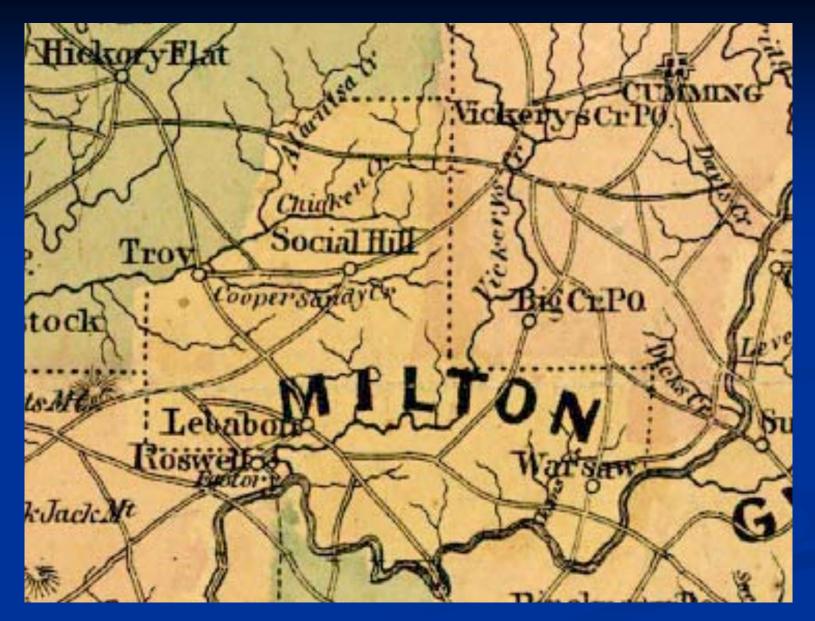
THOMAS B. NEWTON HOUSE

Formerly known as the Old Birmingham Hotel, the building was constructed by Thomas B. Newton, Jr. around 1865. It originally stood next to Hickory Flat Road, but was relocated here in 2007 to preserve it. The building served in numerous capacities over the years, including a boarding house for 'drummers' (traveling salesmen) and teachers at the nearby school, a livery stable and stagecoach stop, post office, convalescent center for wounded Confederate soldiers, and general store. The architectural style is folk hybrid, with elements of French Second Empire (roof) and Gothic Revival (gables).

A CITY OF MILTON HISTORIC SITE

# Troy Post Office

- Established June 1846, Cherokee County
- Located at or near the McConnell home on Hwy 140, south of the Little River



Lloyd's Topographical Map of 1864

## Troy Post Office

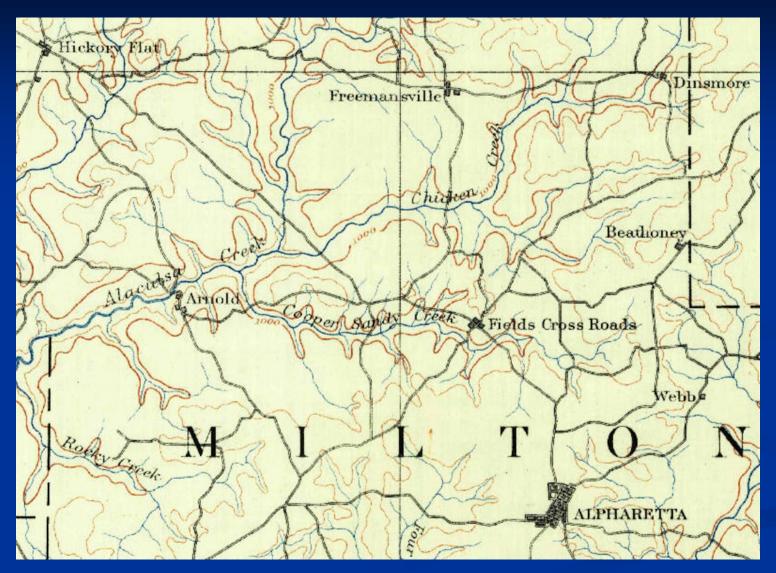
- Postmasters appointed...
  - Thomas B. Cook June 10, 1846
  - Eli McConnell August 21, 1849
- Perhaps discontinued in September 1866

By 1860 both the Cook and McConnell families were living in Milledgeville, working as administrators of the State Penitentiary

#### **Arnold Post Office**

- Established in August 1883 with proposed name of Arnold Mills
  - Application recognized site as Troy Post Office years before
  - N. J. Garrison is the subcontractor delivering mail from Woodstock to Alpharetta
- Located at Georgia State Route 140 south of the Little River

## **Arnold Post Office**



#### **Arnold Post Office**

- Postmasters appointed...
  - James B. Delk –August 9, 1883
  - Stanmore B. Pylant November 13, 1884
  - Thomas F. Gregory –April 29, 1886
  - Sarah Burroughs February 26, 1886
  - W. F. Gillespie –July 6, 1893
  - Humphrey Burdett February 1, 1894
- Discontinued July 14, 1903, when mail service was transferred to Woodstock, Cherokee County

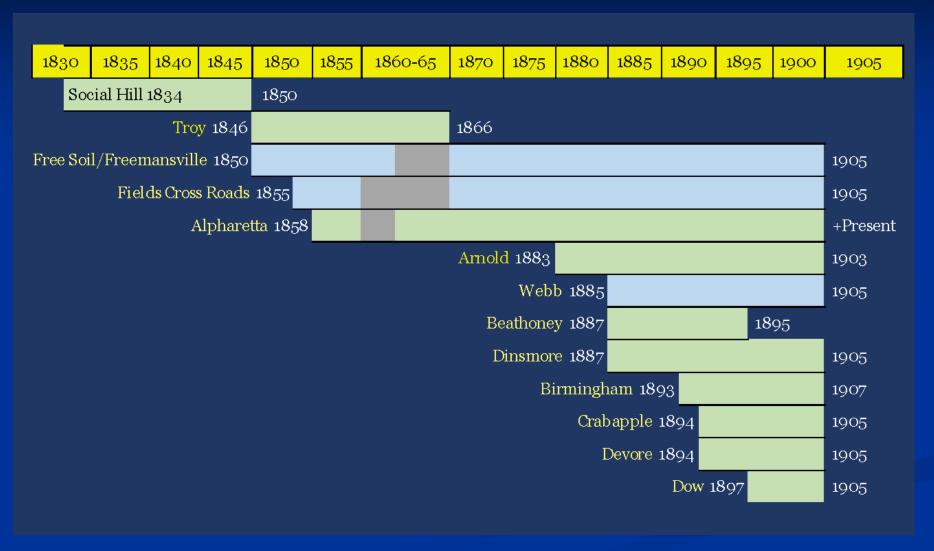
# Arnold Mill Cotton Gin & Sawmill



# Rural Free Delivery Established

- Legislation enacted 1902
- Implemented 1905 to 1907
- Mail Service transferred to:
  - Alpharetta
  - Roswell
  - Duluth

#### Post Offices 1834 to 1907



## Mail Delivery in the Early 1900s

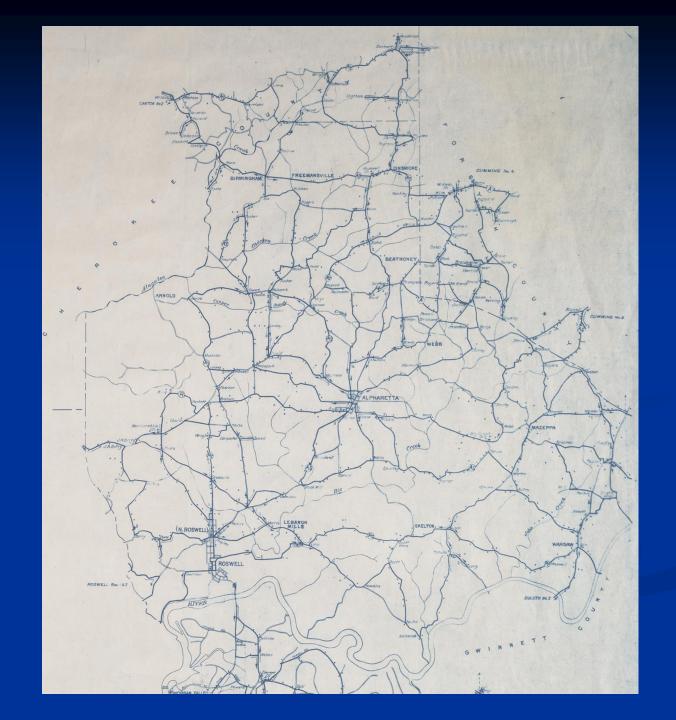


Model T Carried The Mail In 1915

Marvin Bagley, Sr., the first Rural Carrier of the Mail for Route One in Alpharetta purchased this Model T Roadster in 1915 to deliver the mail.

1930's Rural Free Delivery

Postal Routes Fulton County



## Alpharetta Route # 3

#### Rurel Strickland born in 1914

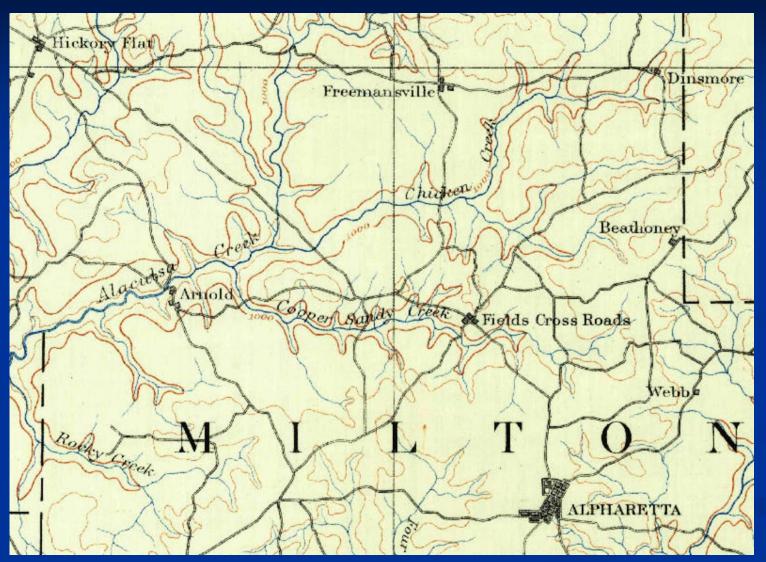
- Joined Navy in 1934; honorably discharged 1938
- Guard at Atlanta General Depot 1941-1945
- Drafted into Army 1945; returned to the Depot as a civilian supply employee
- Mail carrier on Route #3 from 1956 thru 1966

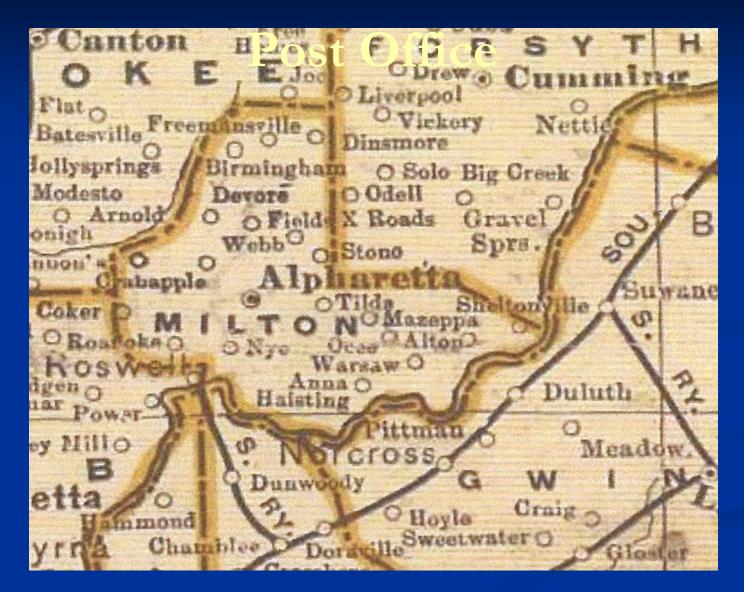
## Acknowledgements

- Barbara Latham
- Connie Mashburn
- Joan Borzilleri
- Stephanie Andersson
- Pat Miller
- Kim Zane
- Ben Kern
- Steven Wardrup



### **Post Office**

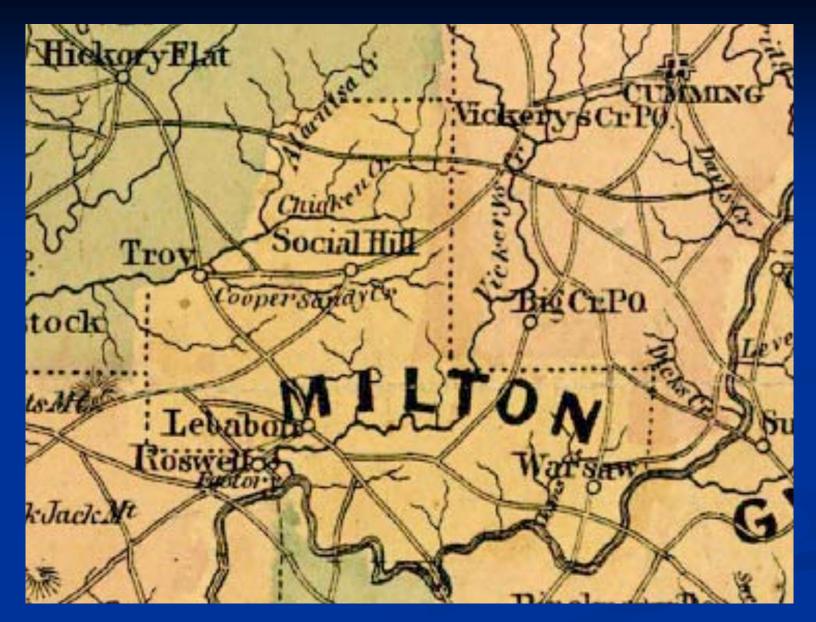




1889 Central Georgia Railway Map



U.S. Coastal Survey 1865



Lloyd's Topographical Map of 1864