



# OUR LOST PATRIOT

JOHN MILTON



**“I BEG LEAVE TO  
RECOMMEND HIM TO YOU  
AS A BRAVE AND  
WORTHY MAN, WHO  
MERITS MUCH FROM HIS  
COUNTRY;”**

# AGENDA

- Introduction
- The Mystery of John Milton – Our Lost Patriot
- The Journey
- Early and Personal Life
- Our Patriot
- Family Tree and Legacy
- Honoring John Milton

- “...as courageous as he was loyal, and as true as steel.
- “He was regarded in high esteem by his fellow countrymen as long as he lived and is one of the most heroic figures in Georgia history.”
  - Newnan Herald and Advertiser via AJC March 19, 1897
- “...who had done the state invaluable service both as military and civil officer during and after the revolution.”
  - The Cherokee Advance – Oct 9, 1891
- “It will thus be seen that Col. John Milton rendered valuable service to his country, but was the progenitor of a long line of distinguished descendants.”
  - Men of Mark in Georgia - 1910

# MYSTERY OF JOHN MILTON

- Known by most “Revolutionary War Hero” and secured Georgia’s records
- Significant roles in the history of America and Georgia
- Myths and conflicting information - Poet, Service, Votes for President
- Unsure of birthdate and conflicting death dates
- Who was Milton County *really* named after?
- Burial location unknown – sort of
- Son and wife final resting place moved to FL – why not John/Hannah?
- No known portrait
- Yet revered as a hero and respected by others in his time



# JOURNEY

- Where do you begin?
- Trips to Augusta/Louisville/Savannah/Florida
- Research – Buying old books, online, articles
- COVID – Closure of UGA, GA Hist Society, ARCHS
- Counties – Lines redrawn and renamed
- Misinformation / Mistakes
- Leads/Dead Ends – Family lines, Society of Cincinnati

# EARLY AND PERSONAL LIFE

- Not much is known prior to his enlisting in the military
- Born in Halifax County, NC Estimated 1740
- Married Hannah Spencer of SC in 1780
  - Pickney, Rutledge and Moultrie relations
- Flair for the literary dramatic
  - Children – Homer Virgil, Algernon Solomon, Lucius Quintas Cincinnatus, Augustus Caesar Gustavus Adolphus, Fabius Maximus -and daughters Anna and Mary
  - Primary Residence – Padan-Aram
- Death – Oct 17, 1817

# AUGUSTA GAZETTE

## SEPTEMBER 6, 1788

AUGUSTA, Sept. 6.

*Extract from the Journal of Congress, Friday, July 25.*

*Resolved,* That the Secretary at war direct the detachment of troops marching to the westward to rendezvous at Easton in Pennsylvania, and from thence march into the county of Luzerne, for quelling the disturbances in that county; provided the Executive Council of Pennsylvania shall find the assistance of those troops necessary; provided also, that the said troops shall not be delayed in their march to the Ohio more than two weeks.

Last Thursday a race of one mile around our course, on which considerable bets were depending, was won by Capt. Cole's gelding, Altamont; beating Capt. Watts's Flagstaff, Colonel Armstrong's Bacchus, Colonel Milton's Aries, and Major Fontaine's Matchless.—Flagstaff came in second; and between him and the winning horse another race of the same distance was agreed on, which was also won by Captain Cole's horse.

\*†\* The Rev. Mr. *Abraham Marshall* intends preaching a sermon in this town, to-morrow.



# OUR PATRIOT — MILITARY SERVICE

JOHN MILTON WAS AMONG  
THE FIRST TO ENLIST IN  
THE DEFENSE OF  
GEORGIA!

JANUARY 7, 1776  
(ACTUAL)

OFFICERS OF THE GEORGIA BATTALION.

FEB. 16, 1776.

(White's Historical Collections of Georgia, p. 94.)

In Provincial Congress, Savannah,  
Feb. 10, 1776.

Province of Georgia:

Whereas a battalion upon the Continental establishment is now raising in this Province; and whereas doubts may arise how far the same is subject to the control of the Provincial civil power: Now, therefore, be it known, and we, the several subscribers, officers bearing commissions in the same battalion, do hereby declare that we hold ourselves and the non-commissioned officers and privates, also others belonging to the said battalion, subject and subservient to such supreme and civil power of this Province as are or shall be erected for the purpose of defending our rights and liberties.

And further, we bound ourselves upon the words of soldiers and men of honour, at all times to obey and carry into effect, as far as in us lies, the orders and commands of the present or any future Congress or Council of Safety of this Province as the same shall, from time to time, be issued by us.

Provided, nevertheless, That the same do not contradict or interfere with the orders or directions of the General Congress, or a committee thereof, or any General or other officer by them appointed over us.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our names, together with the rank and date of our commissions opposite thereto.

A RETURN OF THE OFFICERS chosen for the Battalion, ordered to be raised for the protection and defence of the Colony of Georgia, Feb. 16, 1776:

Colonel—Lachlan McIntosh.  
Lieut.-Colonel—Samuel Elbert.  
Major—Joseph Habersham.

FIRST COMPANY.

Captain—Francis Henry Harris.  
First Lieut.—John Habersham.  
Second Lieut.—John Jenkins.  
Ensign—John Rae.

SECOND COMPANY.

Captain—Oliver Bowen.  
First Lieut.—George Henley.  
Second Lieut.—John Berrien.  
Ensign—

THIRD COMPANY.

Captain—John McIntosh.  
First Lieut.—Lachlan McIntosh.  
Second Lieut.—Francis Arthur.  
Ensign—John Morrison.

FOURTH COMPANY.

Captain—Arthur Carney.  
First Lieut.—Benjamin Odinsell.  
Second Lieut.—John Eman.  
Ensign—Delaplainé.  
John Nilton.

FIFTH COMPANY.

Captain—Thomas Chisholm.  
First Lieut.—Caleb Howell.



# OUR PATRIOT – MILITARY SERVICE

- January 7, 1776 – Enlisted as Ensign
- November 1776 – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Milton
- February 18, 1777 –  
Taken prisoner while  
stationed at Ft. Howe.

Where were they taken?





# OUR PATRIOT – MILITARY SERVICE

- September 15, 1777 – Capt. Milton
- 1777 – Became Georgia's First Secretary of State
- December 6, 1778 – Ordered to secure the records of Georgia
- By 1780 (likely 1779) - Served as Aide de Camp to General Lincoln
- ---
- Retired – July 15, 1782 as Captain, but was a Major by Dec 31, 1782
- Sept 1793 – Referred to as Col. Milton in newspaper/letters

# OUR PATRIOT – MILITARY SERVICE

## SAVING GEORGIA'S RECORDS

- Dec 6, 1778 – Secure official State Records and Seal from Savannah to Purrysburg, SC.
- Jan 1779 – Gen Lincoln takes command, orders Milton to move records to Charleston, SC.
- Sept/Oct 1779 – Siege of Savannah. Effort fails and re-group to Charleston.
- Feb 25, 1780 – Gen Lincoln orders Milton to secure and relocate the Georgia records to Monck's Corner, SC.



# ORDERS FROM GENERAL LINCOLN

FEBRUARY  
25, 1780

7  
Sir,  
The Honble Henry Laurens Esq. late President of the American Congress, and now a Member thereof, possesses the full confidence and esteem of the United States, and is appointed to transport one of the most important and interesting commissions, which they have ever granted.

The present state of matters here forbids his being honored with a Continental Frigate to convey him to France - and his own regard for the public safety and interest has induced him to relinquish that idea, and accept a passage in a small vessel to your Island from an expectation of obtaining a more safe and convenient one from thence to Europe - His character and the trouble he has repaid him with recommends him to your Excellency's <sup>particular</sup> attention - As his early arrival in Europe would be an event of great importance to these States - your Excellency's attention to the promoting of this object will confer the greatest obligation on them - I have the honor to be &c.

His Obedt. Servant  
The Governor of Martinique

RW 959

Charl Town Feb 25. 1780

Sir,  
As this Town will probably be besieged, if not invested, in a few days - I think it unsafe for the interest of the State of Georgia to suffer her public papers to remain in it - in a siege they would be constantly exposed to fire, and other accidents. You will therefore be pleased to remove in the Continental Waggon, ordered you, the public papers of Georgia to Mont's corner, and, if there, Mr. Parker

RW 960

8  
one of the Treasurers of this State, and an Officer of the Continental Army, will take them into his possession & engage to secure them as he secures the public papers of the State, which are committed to his care - you may, however, at safely deliver them to him - if he should not incline to take the charge of them - you will in that case proceed on with him, and lodge the papers where in your opinion they will be safe - I think you may lodge them where Mr. Parker shall lodge those in his care - Give me leave to call up your particular attention to this matter - keep an account of your expences - they will be paid you - All Quarter Masters and Commissaries are required to give you every assistance you may need in executing this business -

Yrs. Obedt. Servant  
J. M. Mulla

I am Sir, Your most obedt. Servant

Charl Town March 27. 1780

Sir,  
Spurred from some observations I made this day difficulties at respect to the frigates under your command anchoring near the bar, which, from the representation made to me, I did not expect - as the design of your being sent to this Department was, if possible, to cover the bar of this harbour, a measure highly necessary, therefore an attempt to do it should be made - but on the fullest evidence of its impracticability - I have therefore to request that you will as soon as may be, report to me the depth of water in the Channel from the bar to what is called five fathom hole, and what distance that is from the bar, whether in that distance there is any place where your ships can anchor in

RW 961



# OUR PATRIOT – MILITARY SERVICE SAVING GEORGIA'S RECORDS

- Dec 6, 1778 – Secure official State Records and Seal from Savannah to Purrysburg, SC
- Jan 1779 – Gen Lincoln takes command and orders Milton to move records to Charleston, SC
- Sept/Oct 1779 – Siege of Savannah. Effort fails and re-group in Charleston
- Feb 25, 1780 – Gen Lincoln orders Milton to move records
- Milton hides the records in New Bern, NC – care of NC Government
- The Georgia records were eventually relocated to Baltimore and returned to Georgia after the war



**“I BEG LEAVE TO  
RECOMMEND HIM TO YOU  
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WORTHY MAN, WHO  
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# WHAT HAPPENS AFTER RETURNING?

- Returns to South Carolina – May 1780
- Joins up with – Col. Francis Marion – THE SWAMP FOX
  - Both reported to Gen Lincoln and took part in the Siege of Savannah
- Orders to report to Hillsboro, NC leadership meeting w/General Gates
- Col. Otho Williams wrote:
  - “Col. Francis Marion....attended by a very few followers, distinguished by their small leather caps and the wretchedness of their attire.”
  - “Their number did not exceed twenty men and boys...and all mounted, but most miserably equipped.”
- Ordered to recruit militia, cut off British supplies and escape routes
  - focused between the Pee Dee & Santee Rivers. Based at Snow’s Island.
- Battles of Mingo Creek and Kings Mountain & general havoc for the British



- Nov 1780 – Marion dispatches Milton to General Gates w/his report
  - “The Bearer Captain Milton will inform you what difficulty I have and do now struggle with, and can give you full satisfaction of my conduct as he has been with me ever since I left you.”
  - “I beg leave to recommend him to you as a Brave and worthy man, who merits much from his country;”
- Nov 1780 - General Gates is relieved of duty by General Green
- Late Dec/Early Jan 1781 – Col. Marion is named Brigadier General and formally forms “Marion’s Brigade”. Milton is name Aide de Camp.

1780 Recap

- AND GETS MARRIED!

# OUR PATRIOT – SERVICE TO GEORGIA

- Secretary of State – 1777 – 1799
- Secured Georgia's official state documents
- Society of Cincinnati
  - Aug 14, 1783 – Elected the first Secretary for Georgia Chapter
- Mayor of Augusta – The TOWN of Augusta
  - Jan 1792 - 1794
- Notary Public
  - – March 1, 1784 (resigned)
- Appointed as a Trustee by Governor
  - 1788 - 1795 (resigned)

Sir

I hereby beg leave to signify to yourself, and the Honble. the Executive Council that I wish to decline acting - any longer as a Notary Public, and would recommend - Edward Davis Esq. as a fit person for that appointment in my stead.

J. M. L.

To his Honor the Governor -  
& the Honble. the Executive Council

1 March 1784.



# JOHN MILTON — ORDINANCE AS MAYOR OF AUGUSTA AND PROCLAMATION AS SECRETARY OF STATE.

## MAY 5, 1792

SATURDAY, May 5, 1792.]

## GEORGIA. THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE AND GAZETTE OF THE STATE.

FREEDOM of the PRESS, and TRIAL by JURY, shall remain inviolate. *Constitution of Georgia.*

AUGUSTA: Printed by JOHN E. SMITH, PRINTER TO THE STATE, *Esqy.* At the Office of Intelligence, Advertisements, &c. will be gratefully received, and every kind of Printing performed.

**An Ordinance**  
For clearing the Streets of Augusta from Rubbish; and for imposing Fines on Persons throwing dead Carcasses into Streets.

WHEREAS it appears necessary as well for the health, as for the convenience of the inhabitants of the town of Augusta, that the streets thereof should be cleared of all rubbish and other nuisances: *It is ordered by the Honorable the Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Augusta,* That from and after twenty days publication of this Ordinance, it shall not be lawful for any person or persons to throw or leave rubbish of any kind whatsoever in said streets; and if any lot-holder or occupier, seated to whom such rubbish may be, does not within four hours remove the same, after being informed thereof, such person shall be liable to pay a fine equal to double the sum which it may cost to remove the same, — the fine to be recovered in like manner of other fines and penalties, for the use and benefit of the town: *Provided nevertheless,* That nothing in this Ordinance contained shall extend or be construed to extend to prevent any person or persons from leaving in the streets materials for erecting houses in the said town.

*And it is further ordered by the authority aforesaid,* That if any person or persons shall throw or leave any dead carcass within three hundred yards of the limits of the town as laid off into lots, such person or persons shall, for every day such carcass remains, pay a fine not exceeding four shillings and eight-pence; and also a penalty equal to double the sum which may be given to remove the same, unless the owner or person throwing or leaving such dead carcass, after two hours notice, shall remove the same at least the distance before mentioned from town.

*And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid,* That if any lot or lots of persons owning or occupying any lot or lots within said town, shall suffer the weeds, commonly called *James-crow weeds,* to grow to the height of twelve inches in the densest part of their respective lots, that is to say, in Broad Street or Greene Street eighty feet, and in all other streets thirty-three feet, shall forfeit the sum of four shillings and eight-pence for every day such weeds may remain uncut, after being informed thereof.

*Witness-Hand, April 25, 1792.*  
JOHN MILTON, Mayor.  
Attest, ALEX. McMILLAN, T. C.  
Affize of Bread.  
Augusta, May 5, 1792.  
THE priced superfine flour being twenty-two shillings and two-pence per hundred weight.  
The 7d. loaf must weigh 2 lbs. 6 oz.  
The 5-pd. ditto 13 lbs.  
Of which all Bakers and Sellers of Bread are to take due notice.  
ALEX. McMILLAN, Town Registrar.

**GEORGIA.**  
By his Excellency EDWARD TELFAIR, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the said State.

**A Proclamation.**  
WHEREAS the fourth clause of the second section of the first article of the Constitution of the United States, is in these words: "When vacancies happen in the representation of any State, the Executive authority thereof shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies."

Whereas the following resolution of the Honorable the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, passed the twenty-four day of March, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, has been transmitted, to wit: "That the seat of Anthony Wayne, as a Member of this House, is, and the same is declared to be vacant."

Whereas in and by an Act prescribing the time, manner and place of holding elections for persons to represent this State in the Congress of the United States, passed at Augusta, the eighth day of December, one thousand seven hundred and ninety, it is among other things enacted, "That the State be divided into three districts as follows: The counties of Camden, Glynn, Liberty, Chatham and Edgewood, shall compose the Lower District;" &c.

And whereas the statutory vacancy of a Member to represent this State in the House of Representatives of the United States, in the said Lower District I HAVE THEREFORE thought fit to issue this my Proclamation, notifying all electors in the aforesaid free counties, who are so qualified to vote at elections in this State, agreeably to the constitution thereof, to assemble at the usual and respective places of holding annual elections in said counties, on Monday, the ninth day of July next, and to vote for one person, who shall have had three years previous residence, immediately preceding his election, and shall have paid taxes for said term, and who shall not hold any office or place of profit, under this or the United States, (Representatives now in Congress excepted)" to fill up the said vacancy. And I do hereby require any three or more justices, within the district counties of this State, to open a poll at nine o'clock in the morning of the said ninth day of July, at the several places for holding annual elections in the said counties composing the said Lower District, and to continue such poll open until sunset of the same day, taking especial care that the names of voters be taken down; that, after closing the poll, the ballots shall be publicly called over and counted; and that the names of the persons as candidates, the number of votes for each candidate, and the number of electors voting, shall be certified, sealed up, and transmitted to me by express within twenty days thereafter. And the clerks of the several counties are hereby directed and required to attend the election aforesaid for the purpose of preserving good order.

GIVEN under my Hand, and the Great Seal of the said State, at the State

House in Augusta, this twenty-four day of April, in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two; and in the sixth year of the Independence of the United States of America.  
EDWARD TELFAIR.  
By his Excellency's Command,  
JOHN MILLTON, Secretary.  
G O D S A V E T H E S T A T E.

In the Superior Court, April 2, 1792.  
Present the Honorable Judge HUNTINGTON, Commissioners of Augusta } Fencing  
vs. } for  
McQueen and others. } Foreclosure.

UPON the petition of George Watson, William Gibson, Abraham Baskin, Edward Telair, Robert Fortin, John Alden and Robert Jones, commissioners and trustees of the town of Augusta, praying the foreclosure of the equity of redemption of all that lot of land in the town of Augusta aforesaid, known by the number (12) twelve, containing one acre, lying and being situate between the lay street, westward by Lane each street, southerly by Reynolds street, and easterly by lot No. 13; and also all that lot of land in Augusta aforesaid, known by the number (13) thirteen, containing one acre, bounding southerly by the lay street, easterly by lot No. 14, southerly by Reynolds street, and westerly by lot No. 15, mortgaged by the said John McQueen and Trist Holsinger, of the commissioners of the said town of Augusta, for the sum of ten, and their executors, in office, for the security of a sum of money contained in a bond from the said John McQueen and Trist Holsinger, together with their attorney Edward Keeble, bearing even date with the said mortgage: And on motion of M. Jones.

It is ordered, That the principal, interest and costs upon the said bond and mortgage be paid into court within twelve months from this day; and unless the same shall be paid, the equity of redemption will from thenceforth be foreclosed, and other proceedings shall place pursuant to the act of Assembly in such case made and passed on the 9th day of December, 1790. *And it is further ordered in pursuance of the said act,* That this rule be published in one of the public Gazettes of this State, or served on the mortgagee or his attorney at least nine months previous to the time by which the said money must be paid into court as aforesaid.

Extract from the Proceedings, THO. WATKINS, C. S. C. R.  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES, Augusta, April 18, 1792.  
Ordered, That the mortgages be foreclosed in all cases where the whole of the interest due on the respective lots be not paid within thirty days.

Extract from the Minutes, J. MERTWETHER, CH. & T.  
Proposals will be received until the 18th of May, for building two houses, one 40 by 20 feet, the other 20 by 8, and enclosing the lots numbers 20 and 25. Persons inclining to undertake, will be shown the plan and the terms of payment will be made known by applying to the Clerks of the Board.

# DELEGATE TO NUMEROUS CONVENTIONS

## RATIFY US CONSTITUTION JANUARY 2, 1788

AUGUST A, Jan. 5.

We have the pleasure to announce to the public, that on Wednesday last the Convention of this State *unanimously* ratified the Federal Constitution in the words following, viz.

STATE OF GEORGIA.

In Convention.

Wednesday, January 2, 1788.

WE, the Delegates of the people of the State of Georgia, in Convention met, having taken into our serious consideration the Federal Constitution, agreed upon and proposed by the Deputies of the United States in General Convention, held in the city of Philadelphia, on the seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, HAVE assented to, ratified and adopted, and by these presents DO, in virtue of the powers and authority to US given by the people of the said State for that purpose, for, and in behalf of ourselves and our constituents, fully and entirely assent to, ratify and adopt the said Constitution, which is hereunto annexed, under the Great Seal of the said State.

DONE, in Convention, at Augusta, in the said State, on the second day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States the Twelfth. IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have hereunto subscribed our names.

JOHN WEREAT, *President,*  
and Delegate for the county of Richmond.

William Stephens,	} Chatham.
Joseph Habersham,	
Jenkin Davis,	} Effingham. -
N. Brownson,	
Edward Telfair,	} Burke. -
H. Todd,	
William Few,	} Richmond.
James McNeil,	
Geo. Mathews,	} Wilkes. -
Florence Sullivan,	
John King,	} Liberty. -
James Powell,	
John Elliott,	} Glynn. -
James Maxwell,	
George Handley,	} Camden.
Christopher Hillary,	
J. Milton,	} Washington. -
Henry Osborne,	
James Seagrove,	} Greene. -
Jacob Weed,	
Jared Irwin,	
John Rutherford,	
Robert Christmas,	
Thomas Daniell,	
R. Middleton,	

Attest. ISAAC BRIGGS, *Secretary.*

As the last name was signed to the Ratification, a party of Colonel Armstrong's regiment quartered in this town, proclaimed the joyful tidings opposite the State-house by thirteen discharges from two pieces of artillery.



# PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR RECEIVED TWO VOTES FOR PRESIDENT

*AUGUSTA, May 16.*

We learn from New-York, that on the 6th of April, the Honorable the Congress of the United States, having a quorum of both Houses, proceeded to business.

The Senate having chosen his Excellency John Langdon, Esq. president, for the purpose of opening and counting the votes for President and Vice-President of the United States, agreeably to the constitution, the House of Representatives attended in the Senate Chamber, when his Excellency opened and examined the ballots of the electors of the respective states.

The whole number of suffrages was 69, and it appeared that his Excellency George Washington, Esq. was unanimously elected. His Excellency John Adams had 39 votes—the Hon. John Jay 9—the Hon. R. H. Harrison 6—the Hon. John Rutledge 6—his Excellency John Hancock 4—his Excellency George Clinton 3—his Excellency Samuel Huntington 2—John Milton, Esq. 2—James Armstrong, Esq. 1—Edward Telfair, Esq. 1.

The illustrious George Washington, Esq. was then announced President of the United States of America, and his Excellency John Adams, Esq. Vice-President.

# JOHN MILTON OBITUARY

PASSED AWAY  
OCTOBER 17, 1817

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AUGUSTA HERALD.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1817.

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DIED, at PADAN-ARAN, in Burke county, on the 19th ult. aged 61 years, Col. JOHN MILTON, one of the Soldiers of the Revolution.—At an early age, Col. Milton, received a commission in the army, which he bore to the conclusion of the war, a period of about seven years. For upwards of twenty years, he held the office of Secretary of this State.

Both in public and private life, Col. Milton, was irreproachable—and he has left a numerous circle of friends as well as an afflicted family, to mourn his loss.



# FAMILY TREE AND LEGACY

- John Milton - The poet. Is he or isn't he?
  - IS related – Christopher Milton the younger brother of John Milton the poet





# FAMILY DESCENDANTS

- **Homer Virgil Milton** – Lt Col in war of 1812
  - State Sen. Appears elected to Congress 1 term. Gold mine.
- **John Milton** – Governor of Florida during Civil War, Death
  - **William Hall Milton** – US Senator - FL
  - **Jeff Davis Milton** – Texas Ranger – “A Good Man With A Gun”  
First USCBP Officer - 1924
  - **Susan Cobb Atkinson** – 1<sup>st</sup> Lady of GA Gov. Atkinson (1894-8) and the  
Post Mistress of Newnan, GA
    - Founder of Georgia Normal & Industrial College – Milledgeville (1899)  
Today is Georgia College & State University
- Numerous Others Served in Military



# MILTON COUNTY AND CITY

- County
  - Formed 1857 – Legislature/Book – boundaries
  - Disbanded and absorbed by Fulton County in 1932
  - The Debate
- What was the originally proposed name for Alpharetta?





## OLD MILTON COUNTY

This was the Courthouse of Milton County at the time it was merged with Fulton County Jan. 1, 1932. When the County was created by Act of the Legislature Dec. 18, 1857, it was named for Homer V. Milton, General in the War of 1812, though some claim the name was for his ancestor John Milton, first Secretary of State of Georgia. Among the first County Officers were: Sheriff James C. Mitchell; Clerk of Superior Court Joseph W. Johnston; Clerk of Inferior Court John L. Moore; Ordinary Oliver P. Skelton; Tax Receiver Barnabas B. Johnson; Tax Collector John K. C. Shirley; Treasurer John P. Reaves; Coroner H.W. Paris and Surveyor William Young.

GEO-25A

GEORGIA

HISTORICAL

COMMISSION

1955



# Cherokee Advance

## July 17, 1891

**THE CHEROKEE ADVANCE**  
ESTABLISHED 1880.  
PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY  
—BY—  
BEN. F. PERRY, Editor and Proprietor.  
ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR.  
*Official Organ Cherokee County*

---

Advertise in the Advance  
IF YOU WANT TO REACH  
THE **RIGHT** MEN  
AT THE **RIGHT** TIME  
IN THE **RIGHT** WAY.  
AND BRING BUSINESS TO YOU.

---

Canton, Ga., July 17, 1891.

The Free Press thinks it improbable that Milton county was named for John Milton the great poet, but is not sure, and asks the oldest citizens to state just how the county came to be called Milton. Larkin McNarin has written that he thinks the county was named for poet Milton and that Gen. Phillips suggested it. Judge Haynes however thinks the county was named for Col. Milton, of Indiana War fame, and that the then representative of Muscogee urged the adoption of the name. Bro. Rucker is writing a history of Milton and wants this important question definitely settled.



# Cherokee Advance – August 7, 1891

## BY AND FOR WHOM AND HOW WAS MILTON COUNTY NAMED?

For some weeks the *Alpharetta Free Press*, through its editor and contributors, has had much to say concerning how Milton county came by her name. Some claim that she was named for Milton, the poet, others for Milton, a noted Indian warrior, and others seem to give equally as good and plausible reasons that she was named because of some other circumstance or surrounding.

Editor D. D. McConnell, of the *Vernon, Tex., Call*, a former citizen of this county, writes the *Free Press* as follows:

"I noticed that there is a controversy and a difference of opinion as to for whom the county of Milton was named. My father, Milton McConnell, who is a veteran of the Mexican war and was after that war elected a general of the militia of Cherokee county, tells me that Lawson Field and Joshua Roberts represented Cherokee county in the legislature when Milton county was made, and they told him they would and did name the county Milton for him. Joshua Roberts' widow, who lives at Canton or Acworth, will tell you these are the facts. Eli McConnell was about the oldest settler in Milton county, and he was a brother to my father, Milton McConnell. The reason the county was named Milton and not McConnell, was to distinguish between the two."

S. G. Lowery, writing from Dallas, Tex., says he is reliably informed that Milton county was named in this wise:

"In 1857 Capt. Lawson Fields was elected State Senator from Cherokee county over Col. Milton McConnell, his opponent. After this Capt. Fields introduced a bill in the legislature to create a county, to be taken from Cherokee, Cobb and Forsyth counties. At the time Capt. Fields was asked what name he would give to the new county? He answered, 'I will name it Milton, in honor of Col. Milton McConnell.'"

Of D. D. McConnell's version Editor Rucker says, "Editor McConnell believes he is right about it, but we cannot agree with him. His father's name is J. C. McConnell. Milton is a nickname."

We have heretofore taken no part in this controversy, further than to give the versions of the different writers, but we will now undertake to say that the above two writers are correct and that the county received her name in the manner mentioned. Bro. Rucker is wrong in saying Milton is a nickname and not the real name of Mr. McConnell—that his right name is J. C. McConnell. Mr. McConnell's name is Samuel Milton McConnell, so we are informed by men who ought to know.

Some of our oldest citizens say that the race made in 1857 by McConnell and Fields was made on the issue of forming a new county. McConnell was opposed to and Fields favored it, and, in a speech at Hickory Flat, Fields made the assertion that he would be elected and that he would have a new county formed and name her Milton and the county site Miltonville. Fields was elected and the county accordingly formed and named, but for some reason the county site was not named Miltonville, but Alpharetta. Perhaps if we were asked to how came the town to be named Alpharetta, however much we would like to know, it would only bring on more talk.

The versions and instances we have cited above are verified by others,—by several of our oldest and best informed citizens. Judge Teasley says at the time the county was created Cherokee county (Milton was then a part of this county) Lawson Fields was Senator and Joshua Roberts and Rev. W. W. Worley representatives.

Bro. Rucker, however, is inclined to discard the suggestions of Mr. McConnell and Mr. Lowery and cling to that of Col. Candler, who says the county was named for Capt. John Milton, a Revolutionary patriot of the American army, and cites McCall's and Bishop Stearn's Histories of Georgia as proof of his assertion.

Now, who is to settle this perplexed question. Won't some Legislator of '57 answer?



# Cherokee Advance

## September 11, 1891

### \* Milton County's Name Once More.

Brother Perry, of the ADVANCE, insists that Milton county was named in honor of Mr. Milton McConnell. There is no reason in the world for such a belief. Men who are victorious in a good cause do not name cities or counties in honor of men who failed in a bad cause. It is nonsense to suppose that Mr. Lawson Fields would have worked hard to defeat Mr. McConnell, and then turn round and lick his hand by naming Milton county in his honor. We should like to have Col. Candler give us all the facts he possesses in connection with this matter.—*Alpharetta Free Press.*

Oh, no, Bro. Rucker, we do not insist upon anything of the sort. We merely gave you and our readers the way in which Milton county got its name as remembered by many of our oldest citizens, who affirm that it was named just as we and they have already stated. But when you succeed in showing that the good citizens of this county who are positive in saying the county was named for Milton McConnell and in the manner we have before stated are in error and that the county was named for another and better reason, then we will no longer contend that the version they give is correct. For the present, however, we prefer to believe with them that the county was named by Lawson Fields to carry out a campaign pledge and in honor of his friend, though political opponent, Milton McConnell. However we would like to see what Col. Candler has to say about the naming of Milton from an historical point of view.

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# Cherokee Advance

## October 9, 1891

### The History of the Naming of Milton County.

Col. Candler furnishes the press with the following facts as he has them concerning the forming and naming of Milton county. It looks like he has the record on his side, and very probably the version he gives is correct notwithstanding it differs with the recollection of some of our citizens. Col. Candler says:

"In the legislature which assembled in Milledgeville on the first Monday in November, 1857, Lawson Fields was the senator from Cherokee county. At that time each county had a senator.

"On the 10th of November, 1857, Senator Fields introduced in the senate a bill to lay out a new county from the counties of Cherokee, Forsyth and Cobb. When the bill came up on its passage in the senate John E. Ward, the senator from the county of Chatham, who was United States minister to China when the war of secession began, moved that the new county be named Milton and the county site Miltonville. His

and the county site Miltonville. His motion prevailed and the bill, thus amended, passed the senate. (See senate journal 1857, page 145.) The bill then went to the house, and on the 11th of December it came up for its third reading in that body and was defeated. On the morning of the next day (the 12th of December) Mr. Worley, one of the representatives from Cherokee, moved to reconsider the vote by which the bill was lost, and his motion prevailed and the bill went back on the calendar. On the 15th, three days later, it came up again and passed by a vote of 66 yeas and 57 nays. The name Miltonville as the name of the town was stricken out in the house, but the name Milton for the county was agreed to unanimously by both houses. Thus Milton county got its name. Lawson Fields, who was the author of the bill to make the county, and who was my brother-in-law—the husband of my oldest sister,—did not name the county at all, but John E. Ward did. It had always been the custom of Georgia to perpetuate the memory of her distinguished sons and public servants by naming counties after them. Captain John Milton, who

them. Captain John Milton, who had first distinguished himself as a soldier in the early part of the war of the revolution, and afterwards, when secretary of state, by preserving records of the state when Savannah fell into the hands of the British, was a citizen of Chatham county, from which Ward was the senator.

"In view of these facts nothing is more probable than that Ward named the county Milton to perpetuate the memory of the gallant Captain Milton, who lived and died in Chatham, Ward's own county, and who had done the state invaluable service both as a military and a civil officer during and after the revolution."



# Cherokee Advance

## November 6, 1891

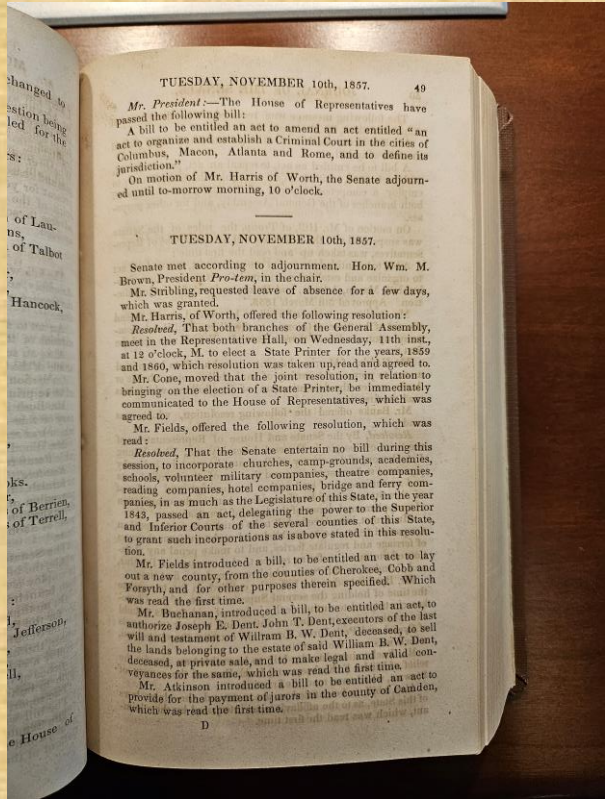
A great deal has been said in the papers of this section about the naming of Milton county. In order to get the views of one of the interested parties, we wrote Samuel Milton McConnell, who now lives in Texas, a few days ago, and this is what he wrote in reply: "You ask if Milton county was named for me. It was, if Lawson Fields' word is to be taken for anything. Fields said, before the county was named, that it would be named Milton; and, when the bill was before the Senate, he told my brother, Eli, that he 'had named the county for Milton, which would plague him.' I do not know Mr. Rucker, of the Free Press, but Elsa Rucker was always against me. Some time about 1848 Capt Elsa Rucker and Gen'l Rice had some words, and Rucker blamed me to some extent for the matter." So, according to Mr. McConnell's understanding, Milton county was named for him.



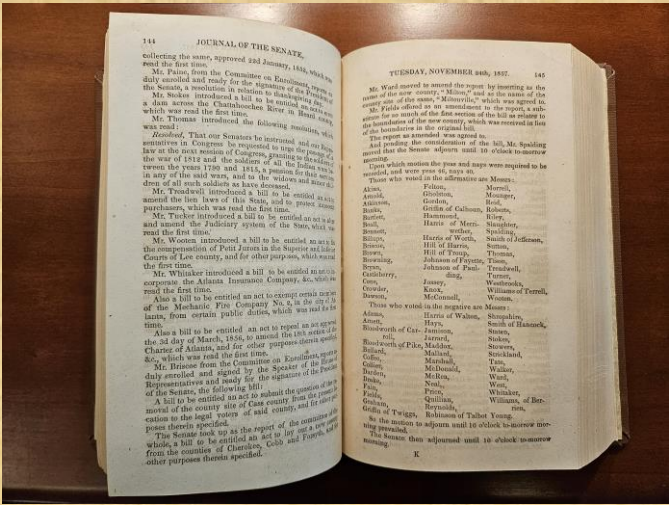
# FROM THE GEORGIA ACHIEVES

## 1857 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

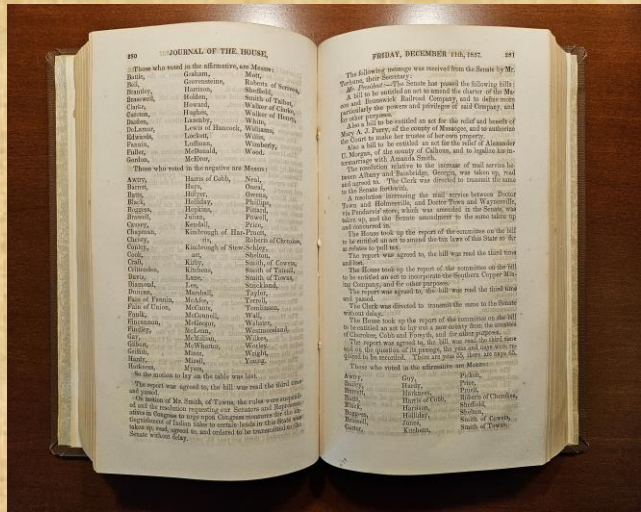
Nov 10 Sen Fields Introduces Bill



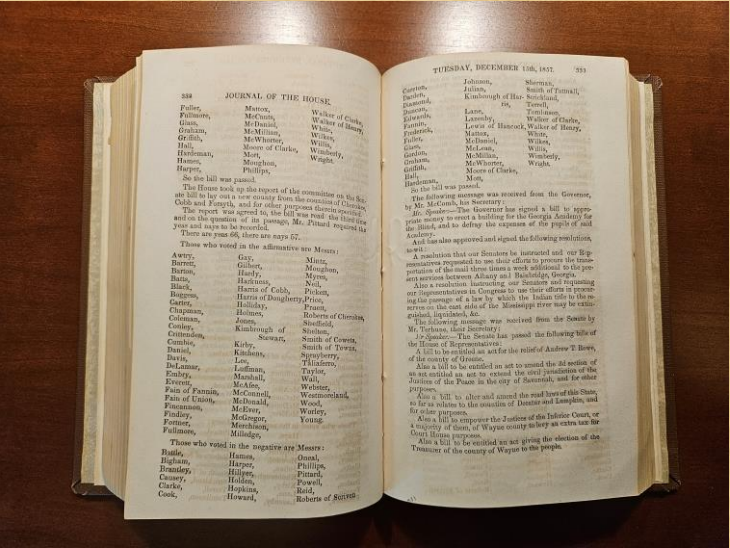
Nov 24 - Sen. Ward amends bill to be name Milton and county seat....Miltonville. Passes 46-40



Dec 11 – Bill fails to pass in the House 55-65



Dec 15 – House passes bill for creation of Milton County 66-57





**MILTON COUNTY WAS NAMED  
FOR JOHN MILTON**

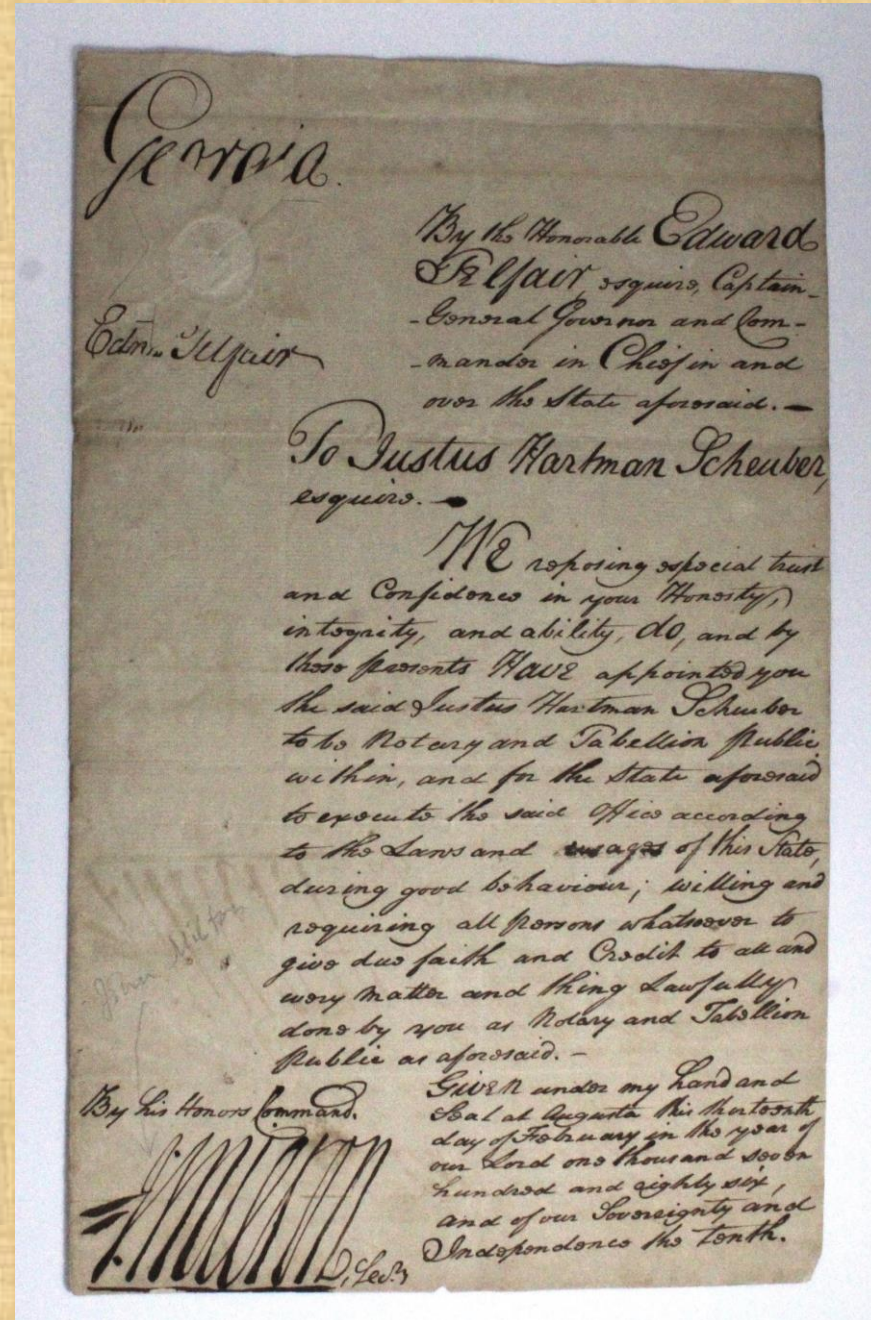
**AND SO IS THE CITY OF  
MILTON, GA**

# ANNOUNCEMENT



**APPOINTMENT OF  
JUSTUS HARTMAN  
SHEUBER AS NOTARY  
AND TABELLION BY  
GOVERNOR TELFAIR**

**FEBRUARY 13, 1786**





# GOVERNOR JACKSON'S CONCERN FOR SECURITY AT GOVERNOR'S MANSION

FEBRUARY 7, 1798

The Secretary of the State — agreeably  
to an order of the Executive Department  
of the 7<sup>th</sup> February 1798. —

Reports. — That he conceives the  
Windows of his Office not sufficiently  
secured by shutters as they have no  
others but Venetian-blinds, and they  
of course are not of sufficient strength  
to repel any rash assault that may  
be attempted against them. —

As the door does not  
be a good one & might with great  
be replaced. bolts are also wanted  
inside fastening to the door.

*J. Milledge*

His Excellency the Governor  
of the State of Georgia.

7<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1798.



R. Smith







# HONORING JOHN MILTON

- **RESEARCH**

- Find John Milton's resting place
- Portrait/Image

- **PRESERVE THE JOHN MILTON LEGACY**

- City's Website
- Historic Marker
- Signature
- Education
- Veteran Cross – Milton Veteran Memorial Markers
- 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Declaration of Independence





THANK YOU & QUESTIONS