

By Claire Murphy

Not So Long Ago...

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

circa 2018

Founding Members

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HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Spiritual home to many of the area's first families, Hopewell Baptist was constituted on April 14, 1851, with 15 original members. The church joined the Hightower Baptist Association in June 1851. Members first met in the home of Rhoda Byrd Rogers (Thomas Byrd house). Rhoda was the youngest daughter of Judith May Byrd, an

A CITY OF MILTON HISTORIC SITE

There's no question Milton has seemingly "effortlessly" developed a defining, dynamic community personality since incorporating in 2006. The timing is now right to take a look back - appreciating where we've been can inform where we're going.

IN 1832, THE CHEROKEE LAND LOTTERY WAS A significant event in the settlement of the now City of Milton and expansive surrounding areas. Lottery participants reached into a barrel and pulled out a slip of paper. Those whose selection contained a lot number paid a \$10 fee and took possession of the land.

Milton County was officially created in 1857 from portions of surrounding counties due to the need for a more accessible county seat. The county was an agricultural area with cotton as its mainstay. Thriving until the Great Depression, concurrent droughts and boll weevil infestations combined and destroyed Milton County's one-crop economy. Some farmers shifted to other crops and to poultry, but that was not enough to overcome the lack of services and decent infrastructure. On January 1, 1932, a nearly destitute Milton County was merged into Fulton County.

As part of Fulton County, the region began the process of urbanization. Paved roads, bridges, churches and schools altered the landscape and changed the way of life. New roads became important transportation links between the towns of the Georgia highlands and Atlanta.

The Milton Historical Society - circa 2018 - helps encourage understanding of our community's past and will be a source for research and learning. It actively safeguards and shares our history to enrich the lives of current and future generations. Connie Mashburn is the Resident Historian in the nonprofit located at 12660 Crabapple Rd, Suite

105. The Society's first project, funded by the City, was the installation of 27 historical markers throughout the city:

A. Willis Cass Tucker, Jr., Home | 14090 Freemanville Rd
Circa 1899, this clapboard house which typified Georgia farmhouses of the time was built by Willis Cass Tucker, Jr. on a 40-acre lot from the 1832 lottery.

B. Fields Crossroads | Bethany Rd
Circa 1815, Jeremiah Field settled here in what was once a thriving rural community, serving as a trading post, local militia mustering ground, a dry goods store and Fields Crossroads Post Office stood at the intersection, as well.

C. Thomas Byrd Home | 15690 Hopewell Rd
Thomas Byrd purchased and built a home on 40 acres in 1834 and the Hopewell Baptist Church was constituted here in 1851. The home served as a stagecoach stop and circuit riders stayed often in the two parsons rooms.

D. Thomas B. Newton House | 15800 Birmingham Hwy.
Formerly the Old Birmingham Hotel, the building was built by Thomas B. Newton Jr around 1865 and originally stood next to Hickory Flat Rd but was relocated in 2007 to preserve it.

E. Hagood Store | 2055 Bethany Way
Charles B. Hagood, an entrepreneur from Milton County, built the Hagood Store at the turn of the 20th Century. This brick structure housed a millinery and a post office.



Broadwell Building



Buice Store



Boiling Springs Primitive Baptist

F. Summit School | 1335 Summit Rd

The Summit School, a two room frame structure with clapboard siding and a two fireplaces -- one of the earliest public schools in the area, was built on two acres donated to the trustees of the school by A.S. Cantrell and John Cowart.

G. Crabapple Crossroads

Already settled by several pioneer families, many whose names still appear on the local roads and buildings, residents donated time, materials and financial support to build a school in 1874.

H. Broadwell Building | 755 Mayfield Rd

Local cotton farmer, John Broadwell, built this structure in 1902 with brick manufactured nearby. Later, the building served many uses: lodging for travelers, a hall for square dancing and community meetings, a millinery, and a men's lodge.

I. Phillips Homestead | 14390 Freemanville Rd

Abner Phillips - a founding member of Providence Baptist and Boiling Springs Primitive Baptist - and his wife Nancy Beck acquired 240 acres in the 1830s. When Nancy died in 1837, Abner married Nancy Broadwell and they had 15 children.

J. Cantrell & Nallie Reese House | 12680 Crabapple Rd

Built in 1912 by Ervin and Ann Devore Reese and their son Cantrell, this Queen Anne house is an elaborate example of a countryside home of the time with interlocking gables, wraparound porch and large front room.

K. Dangar-Fowler House | 13850 Hopewell Rd

The original farm house dates from about 1890 and was purchased by Freitas and Bessie Dangar in the early 1900s and passed down to Troy and Bertha Dangar Fowler.

L. Rucker Cotton Gin | 810 Mayfield Rd

Joel Jackson (J.J.) Rucker (1880-1960) founded the Rucker Cotton Seed Company in Crabapple and subsequently built a cotton gin in 1930 and provided electricity to the property, which made processing cotton more efficient for the cotton farmers in the area.

M. Walker Barn | 13775 Brittle Rd

Atlanta physician John Walker (1902 - 1977) purchased a

500 acre farm with a 19th century transverse frame barn here in the 1930s. The barn supported the doctor's herd of champion Angus cattle.

N. Hopewell Baptist Church | 15730 Hopewell Rd

In 1851, HBC was constituted by 15 original members and served last he spiritual home to many of the areas first settlers.

O. Boiling Springs Prim. Bap. Ch. | 1200 Birmingham Rd

In 1837, ten original members of the first primitive Baptist Church in N. GA chartered Boiling Springs, originally a log structure whose first pastor was John Wayne.

P. Double Branches Courthouse | 1425 Birmingham Rd

The militia district for the Birmingham Community was also known as the Double Branch voting district. This courthouse, one of seven in Milton County, served the community as the official site for sessions of the justices of the peace courts as well as the district voting booth.

Q. John B. Broadwell House | 800 Mayfield Rd

Jesse Broadwell, an original (1838) settler obtained four land lots (160 acres) in Crabapple. His son John Broadwell developed prize-winning Broadwell Big Boll cotton (in a Southern vernacular style) late 19th century just north on Mayfield Road.

R. Nix - Bell Home | 1150 Birmingham Rd

Circa 1896, Will Nix and Clara Maddox Nix (daughter of Dr. Cicero Maddox) raised six children in the home; their four sons all served in World War II. Jim Bell purchased the 23 acre property in 1976 and in 2011 instituted a 10 acre certified natural burial ground, Milton Fields, on the property.

S. McConnell-Chadwick House | 13725 Arnold Mill Rd

Circa early 1830s, this was the homestead of the Honorable Eli and Savilla Garrison McConnell, who built the first merchant flour mill in the area. State Senator McConnell first proposed the County of Milton to the Georgia legislature.

T. James Dorris Store | Crabapple Rd

Circa 1837, James Dorris (1801-1877) moved to Crabapple from South Carolina around 1834. In 1836 he purchased a 40-acre lot for \$65. Dorris, with Cherokee wife Nancy Cook, built a store near this spot. Dorris was generous offering credit accounts to early settlers.

U. Seven Gables Farm (McCleskey's) | 14495 Hopewell Rd
 Circa 1890, the original farmhouse - a charming white house with unpainted fine wood headboard walls and ceilings and solid cherry floors - that stood on the high point of hundreds of acres, was the homestead of the McCleskey family.

V. Bethany Community | 2655 Bethany Bend
 Bethany's name was derived from Bethany Baptist Church, constituted on December 27, 1850, which consisted of one room built on land donated by pioneer settler Wilkenson Jameson. Later a one room school was built nearby.

W. Dinsmore Barn | 1865 Redd Rd
 Circa 1890. This iconic barn was owned by Joe and Patsy Dinsmore who raised cotton, corn and vegetables on 150 acres during the first part of the last century. Patsy also maintained a telephone exchange in their home to supplement their income.

X. Hardeman's Grocery | visit www.miltongahistoricalsociety.com
 Constructed in the late 1940s / early 1950s, this country store was owned by Thomas William (Bill) Hardeman and wife Margaret Shope Hardeman and provided a meeting place the local businessmen to meet.

Y. Social Hill | visit www.miltongahistoricalsociety.com
 Near this location stood a store which included a post office. The U.S. Post Office Department appointed Thomas Wells the Postmaster of Social Hill effective June 1834.

Z. Buice's Country Store | 875 Hickory Flat Rd
 H. A. Buice and Son store was built in 1930, replacing the original store that had burned down.

AA. Providence Baptist Church | 14500 Providence Rd
 The original church building, a log cabin, was constructed by Abner Phillips and Joseph Walker. The rock structure seen today was built in 1940.

More photos and information online:
www.30004life.com/articles/milton-ga-historical-society

