

# GREENSPACE

DEKALB COUNTY, GA  
18th Land District  
Lot # 232

## INTRODUCTION

Upon DeKalb County's purchase of the "Greenspace" which is near the Flair Forest subdivision, I became interested in the families which had owned that 10.9 acres portion of the 18th land district lot #232 over the many years.

In order to document these families, I consulted a number of sources. Among these are:

- *The History of DeKalb Co., GA 1822 - 1900* by Vivian Price. This book can be found in the Decatur Library in the reference section.
- United States Federal Census documents *State Archives*
- Land records found at the County Court House
- Internet websites sponsored by folks interested in a particular family
- AJC newspaper articles

I also want to thank Betty Phillips, Beth Nathan and Janet Littler of the Flair Forest Garden Club.....and Larry Foster of the Hawthorne Civic Association for their parts in instigating the process of DeKalb's purchase of this "Greenspace". Their letters and other documents can be found at the end of this notebook.

I began my search with the Armstrong family who owned the property from 1943 until the purchase by the county in 2003. I then moved backward in time through the various owners.....the Mozleys.....several generation of McElroys.....and the Tillys who married into the MCElroy family. The earliest purchase which I could document was in 1862.....earlier records were burned. But I was able to trace the families back to earlier times. That was the fun part, the people becoming more than just names on a piece of paper. Also I was challenged to translate initials into names.....for example "M.M. McElroy" turned out to be Margaret Malinda (Tilly) McElroy.

I hope you enjoy the following "story".



THE DEKALB HISTORY CENTER . O N L I N E R E S E A R C H

> *The Place Where Your History is Held in Trust*

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|--|---|
| <b>Available Indexes</b><br><br><u>Grantee</u><br><u>County of Residence</u><br><u>Military District</u><br><u>Land District</u> | <b>DeKalb History Center</b><br><br><b>1821 Georgia Land Lottery for DeKalb</b> |
|--|---|

In 1821, the State of Georgia held the fourth of its seven land lotteries, to distribute the tract of land United States by the Creek Nation of Indians in the Treaty of Indian Springs (January 8, 1821). This what is today DeKalb County. Each lot was 202 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres and the fortunate drawer could claim his gra \$19.00 fee.

Those persons eligible to draw were:

- Bachelor, 18 years or over, who had been residents of the United States and Georgia for three
- Married man, with a wife and/or minor son under the age of 18 and/or unmarried daughter; res States & Georgia for 3 years - 2 draws
- Widow, 3 year resident of Georgia - 1 draw
- Family of minor orphans, father dead, three year residence in Georgia - 1 draw
- Family (3 or more) of minor orphans, father and mother dead - 2 draws
- Family (1 or 2) of minor orphans, father and mother dead - 1 draw
- Widow, husband killed or died in Revolutionary War, War of 1812 or Indian War - 2 draws
- Orphan, father killed or died in Revolutionary War, War of 1812 or Indian War - 2 draws
- Child or family of children of a convict, 3 years residence in Georgia - 1 draw

There are no applications on file, nor any written documentation of the fortunate drawers elig fortunate drawers swore an oral oath in order to be eligible to receive a grant in the 1821 Land Lotte

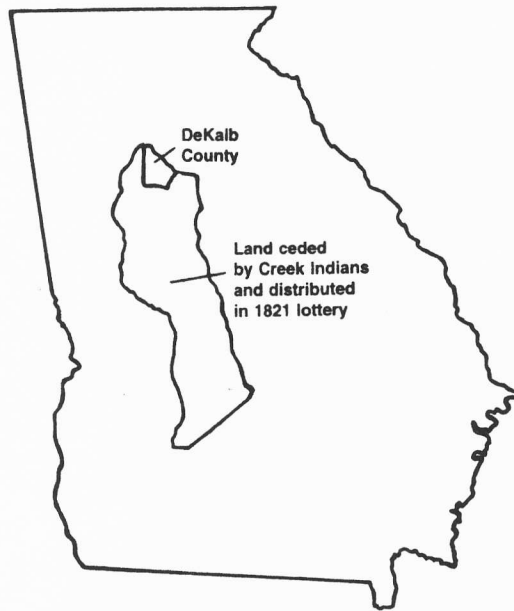
In some cases, the original recipient of the grant, for whatever reason, failed to pay the \$19.00 their prize. In such an instance, the grant reverted to the State to be awarded a second, or even a third time. There are no records of recipients who forfeited their prizes. The date show is when the gran the person whose name appears in the column labeled ifortunate drawer.†

1821 LAND LOTTERY \*\*  
AND  
EARLY SALES OF LOT # 232

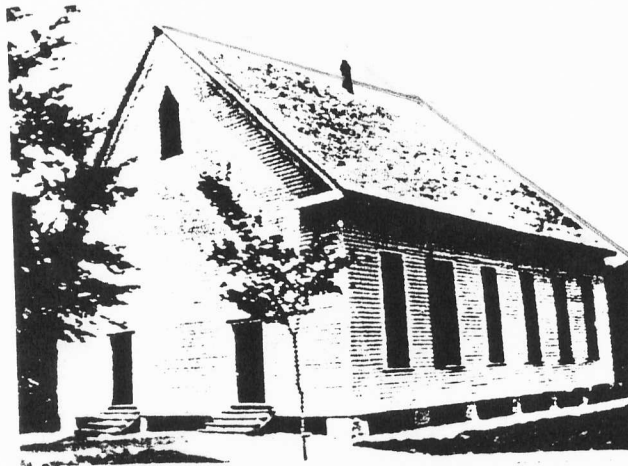
- 1821 Henry Cannady of Emanuel County drew this lot of 202  $\frac{1}{2}$  acres.
- 1823 Mary Canady (probably the widow) sold to Josiah Collins for \$1.00 per acre.
- ?? Josiah must have sold to Jesse Dobbs.
- 1830 Jesse Dobbs sold to James Wood for \$3.00 per acre.
- 1832 James Wood sold to John W. Hooper for \$3.70 per acre.
- 1832 John W. Hooper sold to John Blake for \$3.00 per acre.  
(John Blake built a mill here).
- 1860 John Blake sold to Alen Blake for \$5.00 per acre.
- ?? Alen Blake sold to John W. Fowler.
- 1860 John W. Fowler sold to J.N. and W.J. Hadden for \$4.00 per acre.
- ?? The Haddens to Thomas Blake.
- 1862 Thomas Blake (from Alabama) sold 502 acres to William McElroy for \$6.20 per acre.

\*\* The orphans of James Cravey received 2 draws in 1821





Map shows area of the 1821 Creek Indian cession, and the the location of DeKalb County within the ceded territory and the state of Georgia. (Map by



The Prospect Methodist Church made possible by the donations of Fletcher Tilly was built in 1885. Note the two doors, one for men and one for women. The building gained additions through the years, and now houses an antique shop.

The ink was barely dry on the Indian Springs treaty when the state of Georgia began doling out 202 1/2-acre plots through the 1821 land lottery. So many settlers streamed into Henry County that only one year later, in 1822, the Georgia General Assembly felt compelled to create another new county. At this same time, Masons were spearheading a drive to raise funds for a monument to a popular hero of the American Revolution, Baron Johann DeKalb. Of the three major heroes of the struggle for independence, DeKalb was the only one having no jurisdiction in Georgia named for him. The state already had counties named for George Washington and LaFayette.

Five large counties -- Dooly, Houston, Monroe, Henry and Fayette -- were created out of the 1821 cession. From these five counties came ten more new counties, including DeKalb. In addition, these five counties also gave portions of their land to seven more. <sup>28</sup> 1822

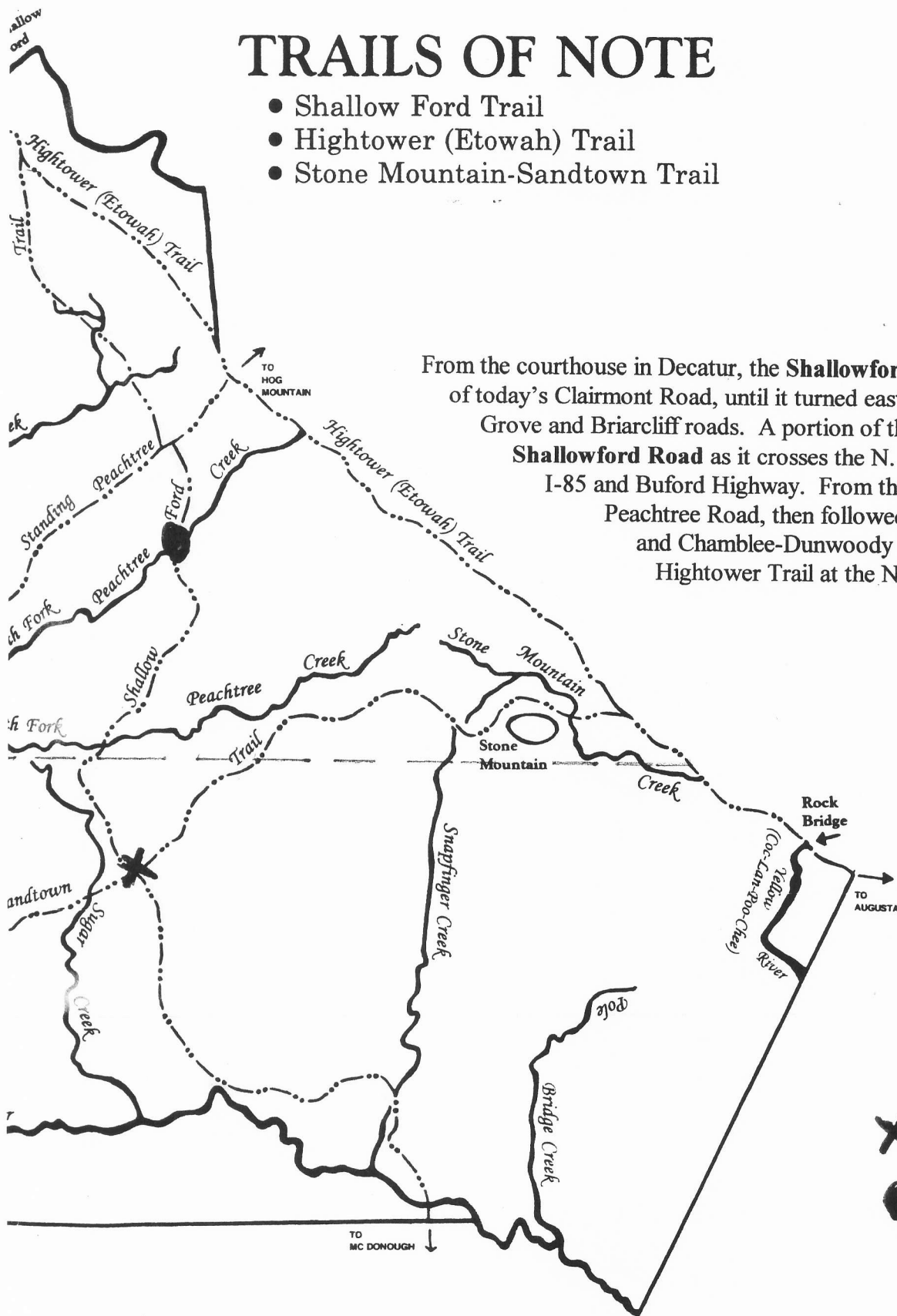
Each of the new counties was divided into land districts nine miles square. Each district was divided into land lots of 202 1/2 acres each. "Fractional" lots were those left-over, odd-shaped lots caused by irregular topography. These "fractions" usually were auctioned by the state.

County → 9 mi sq land dist. → each 9 mi sq → 202 1/2

# TRAILS OF NOTE

- Shallow Ford Trail
- Hightower (Etowah) Trail
- Stone Mountain-Sandtown Trail

From the courthouse in Decatur, the **Shallowford Trail** followed the path of today's Clairmont Road, until it turned eastward along LaVista, Oak Grove and Briarcliff roads. A portion of the old path today is called **Shallowford Road** as it crosses the N. Fork of Peachtree Creek, I-85 and Buford Highway. From there the trail crossed New Peachtree Road, then followed today's N. Shallowford and Chamblee-Dunwoody roads to connect with the Hightower Trail at the Northridge exit at GA 400.



- X Decatur-courthouse
- Shallowford Rd and Peachtree Creek Crossing
- - - South boundary of 18<sup>th</sup> district

## TILLY FAMILY

Stephen Tilly                      m.                      Rebecca King  
1782 - 1862                      1812                      ( ? - 1826)

|

Ebenezer ca1813 -

Margaret Malinda 1815-1916 m. William McElroy

Robert

J.W.Fletcher 1823-1892

Adeline

Caroline


Jane

The names which are underlined designate those found on the land records

## THE TILLY STORY

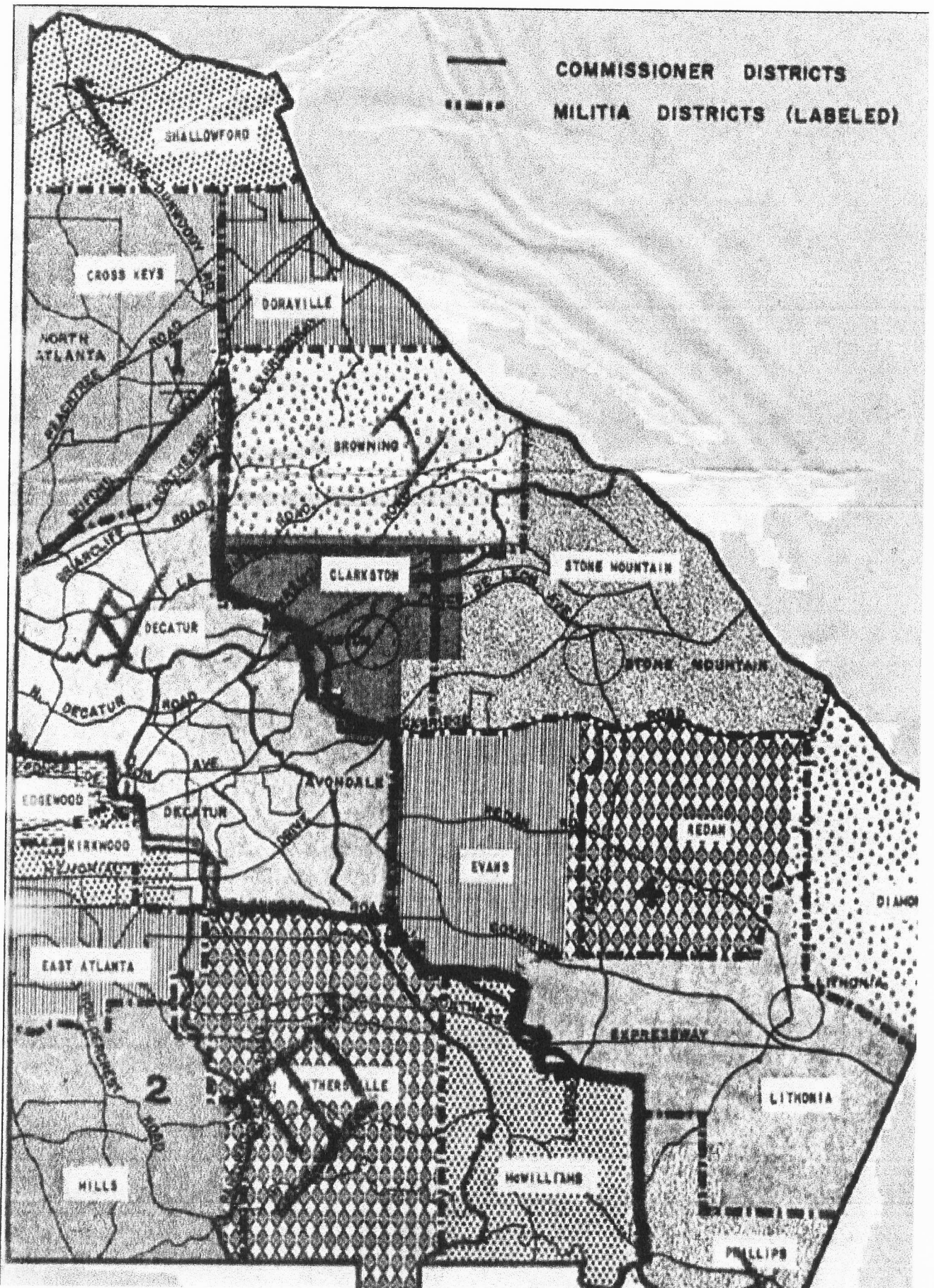
Stephen Tilly begins the story of this family in DeKalb Co., GA. He came from the Pendleton District SC, having been born in NC. According to the 1820 Federal Census his household consisted of 2 males under 10 years old, 1 male 26-45 years old, 3 females between the ages of 10 and 16, and 2 females over 45 years old. Stephen was born 1782 and married Rebecca King ca1812. Following the birth of her seventh child in 1826, Rebecca died. By 1827 Stephen and his seven children had arrived in DeKalb Co. The oldest daughter, Margaret Malinda, was then eleven years. She became the "mother" to the other siblings. The chart on the previous page lists the seven children. Three of them (Ebenezer, J.W.Fletcher, and Margaret M.)remained in DeKalb Co. Robert moved to Floyd Co....no further record of the three young girls. Ebenezer(the oldest son) married Martha Ballenger (1816-1876). They had one son and three daughters. J.W.Fletcher married Susannah Medlock (1825-1880) and had five boys and two girls. He took over his father's ginnery, saw and grist mill, located on TillyMill Rd 2½ miles north of Doraville. Margaret Malinda, who had been born 1815, married William McElroy ca 1840 and had three boys and two girls. This story continues with the presentation of the McElroy Family.....following.

Upon arrival in DeKalb, Stephen became very active in the newly-organized Prospect Methodist Church. It was located where the current city boundaries of Chamblee and Doraville are found. This church is now known as the First United Methodist Church of Chamblee, located on Chamblee-Dunwoody Road. Below is a picture of the 1885 building. Note the separate entrances for men and women.



By 1826 the Prespect Methodist Church was founded. It's first building was a log house.... having been constructed where the Peachtree Indian trail and the Shallow Ford trail intersected. Today this is where Chamblee and Doraville city boundaries meet. This picture is of the third sanctuary, built in 1885. It still stands (1997), next to {Prospect Cemetery, and is occupied by an antiques store). Note the two doors, one for men and one for women. This church, along with others, was served by a minister of the Decatur Circuit. Today the church is the Chamblee First United Methodist and is located on Chamblee-Dunwoody Road.

The Stephen Tilly's, having arrived in 1827, became active in this newly-organized church.



## MCELROY FAMILY

Samuel McElroy  
1778 -1862

m.  
1805

Mary Stevenson  
1780 - 1856

|

John 1805-1886

Samuel Jr. ca 1808 - 1880

William 1811-1864 m. Margaret M. Tilly  
ca.1840

|

Frances 1842 -

Stephen Tilly 1844 -1929

Mary Elizabeth 1848 -

William Samuel (died young)

John Ebenezer 1857- m. Sarah F.Jones 1864-1929

|

Sewell 1886 -

William Hogsed m. Sarah M. 1891-1977  
1914

|

William 1914-1979

Effie 1909-1994

Miller

The names which are underlined designate those found on the land records



## THE McELROY STORY

The 1820 federal census taken in the Pendleton District of SC lists the Samuel McElroy SR family consisting of 5 males and 3 females....this census follows. By 1830, Samuel McElroy JR, age 22, wanted to leave SC with his new bride, Nancy(1806-1871), and travel to DeKalb Co. His father, Samuel SR, thought his son too young for that journey and sent John, the older brother, age 25, to accompany them. The brothers first rented from Stephen Tilly and later built a one and onehalf story log house in the Cross Keys area. John later married Margaret (Peggy) McDill (1812-1884) in 1831. They then wrote back to their father, suggesting that the rest of the family leave SC for DeKalb.

This " rest of the family" included another son, William, age 19. This is the William McElroy who married Margaret Malinda Tilly ca 1840.

The chart on the proceeding page lists the children of this marriage. Three of them (Stephen Tilly, Mary Elizabeth, and John Ebenezer) lived to maturity.

Stephen T. married four times. His first wife was Laura Lively. Their marriage license, issued in 1866, is included here. Before Laura died at age 38, she had produced six children. Stephen had two other children by his third wife. He eventually moved to Pinckneyville, Gwinnett Co., GA. He was a well known banker, was mayor of Norcross at one time, and was the first historian of Prospect Church. At the age of 18 he enlisted in Co.F, 36th GA Reg. He was wounded in 1863 in Mississippi and lost his left leg below the knee.

Mary Elizabeth married Nathan Lankford. They also lived in Cross Keys with their five children. Margaret Malinda Tilly McElroy lived with this family following the death of William McElroy.

John Ebenezer married Sarah F. Jones. They had two children, Sewell and Sarah. Sarah(1891-1977) married William Hogsed ca1912 and had three children. The 1930 census shows her living in the Browning District of DeKalb on Briarcliff Road. Along with her husband and children, her father, John Ebenezer McElroy, is living with her. This census is included.

Sarah was given (\$5.00 and love and affection) 88½ acres of lot 232 by her father John Ebenezer McElroy in 1918.



captured at Murfreesboro, Tenn. One of the rifles accidentally discharged, hitting Poole, who died the next day at the home of Oliver H. Jones. He is buried in his in-laws's Lively Cemetery on Briarcliff Road. His widow, Judith Matilda C. Lively Poole, later married Jabez M. Loyd. <sup>41</sup>

Many more of DeKalb's young men were wounded in 1862 and '63. Stephen Tilly McElroy of Cross Keys was 18 when he enlisted in Company F of the 36th Georgia Regiment. During the battle of Baker's Creek, May 16, 1863, he was twice wounded, first with a gunshot wound through the left side, then through the left leg. His leg was amputated halfway between the knee and ankle. He was hospitalized in Clinton, Miss.

McElroy takes up his story in his autobiography:

"After I got to be on crutches just a little, a good Virginia lady by the name of Mrs. Lungher, who lived two miles out from the hospital, carried me to her home in Georgia. The treatment I received at the hands of this extraordinarily fine family was such that words will not do it justice. They did for me all that was possible for anyone to do, regardless of favor, reward or the hope thereof, and they did it because I was a Confederate soldier. The memory of such people lingers with us old veterans, and each thought of them sets our heartstrings quivering to a sweeter tune.

"I arrived at home, that is to say in Atlanta, on the 4th day of July. When I got off the train in Atlanta I allowed my detail nurse to go on to his home in Marietta, taking the chances on getting out to my father's home in the country, 12 miles distant. I went to a merchant whom my father and kinspeople had been trading with for years, and asked him to send me out to a friend's house where I could spend the night. He declined to do it, but consented to send me the next morning if I could not do any better. I had to accept that as I had no money, and he was the only man there that I knew to whom I could go. I went to the Wayside Home, a place kept for passing soldiers to stop over, and spent the night. It was a miserable place.

**T**he next morning I went to this man's store (for the purposes of this paper it is not necessary that his name be given) and awaited the arrival of his conveyance. It was Sunday morning. Finally his negro drayman drove up with a dray that he hauled goods on, and carried me out to Mr. Medlock's (John W. Medlock, kin by marriage to the Tilly family). When I got *there* I was surely in the hands of *friends*. His daughter, of whom I thought quite a lot, met me at the gate and helped me up the steps into the house. The contrast between my treatment there and that of this should-be friend in Atlanta, was very striking. Mr. Medlock had his carriage hitched up and sent me to my father's home.

Just how I was received at home by the family and even by the old watch-dog, words fail to correctly tell. I was very weak, and thought then that I was ruined for life; that I never could accomplish anything; would never be able to do anything, and that I would be an object of charity to my family for the balance of my life. But I quickly regained the health and flesh I had lost, and circumstances soon forced me into the world to take a man's place there, for my father died the next year, leaving my mother, sister and brother in my care. The surrender came in 1865, finding us and our country in devastated condition. We had neither meat nor bread, and just how we lived that year it would be difficult to tell." <sup>42</sup>

## SOME BURIAL RECORDS

**PROSPECT METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY.** This is located near the intersection of Peachtree Road and North Peachtree Road.

Margaret Malinda (Tilly) McElroy - 12 Feb 1815-6 Aug 1916  
William McElroy - 19 Dec 1811-11 Oct 1864  
John W.F. Tilly - 19 Apr 1823-16 Feb 1892  
Suzannah(Medlock), wife of J.W.F Tilly - 18 Aug 1825-15 Jan 1880  
Stephen Tilly - Sep 1782-29 Jun 1862  
Martha(Ballenger), wife of Ebenezer Tilly - 1 Sep 1816-31 Oct 1876  
J.W.F. Tilly - 12 Jul 1845-21 Apr 1924

**PROSPERITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CEMETERY.** This is located on the westside of Peachtree Road between Chamblee and Doraville.

Samuel McElroy SR - -12 Nov 1862  
Mary(Stevenson) McElroy, wife of Samuel - 8 Mar 1780-30 Oct 1856  
Samuel McElroy JR - no dates given on tombstone, but he died 1860  
Nancy( ) McElroy, wife of Samuel Jr. - 11 Mar 1806-7 Mar 1871  
Rev. John McElroy - 28 Nov 1805-22 May 1886  
Margaret(McDill) McElroy, wife of John - 15 Feb 1812-18 May 1884



Margaret Malinda Tilly married William McElroy. She was an early member of Prospect Methodist Church, where she was known affectionately as "Granny McElroy." (Chamblee First United Methodist Church)

Margaret was born 12 February 1815 in SC, daughter of Stephen Tilly (1781-1862) and Rebecca King (ca 1782-1826). Following the death of her mother in 1826, Margaret and her 6 siblings accompanied their father to DeKalb Co., GA. She married William McElroy ca 1840. They had five children. She died ca 1915: 1916

“Uncle” Fletcher Tilly is one of Margaret Tilly McElroy’s brothers. He was younger than she was. He married Susan Medlock, and they had seven children.



John William Fletcher  
(Uncle Fletcher) Tilly. (H.



Stephen Tilly McElroy.

Stephen Tilly McElroy is the oldest child of Margaret and William McElroy. He was born ca 1844 in DeKalb Co. He married four times. He died in 1929 in Gwinnett Co.

It is with the following family that the property is improved with the addition of a two bedroom house. Read on about the Mozleys.

## THE MOZLEY FAMILY

|                                    |               |                                    |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>James Willis</u><br>1890 - 1950 | m.<br>ca.1919 | <u>Jean Wallace</u><br>1894 - 1981 |
|                                    |               |                                    |
| James Willis, Jr. (ca.1920 - )     |               |                                    |

The names which are underlined designate those found on the land records.

## THE MOZLEY STORY

James Willis Mozley was born in October 1890 in Douglas Co, GA and later moved to Cobb Co. He died in DeKalb Co. on 18 January 1950 of a massive stroke. He was the son of Zella Lowell Mozley. James Willis married Jean Wallace ca1918. They had one son, James Willis Mozley, Jr., born 26 April 1920.

At the time of the 1930 federal census, the family was living on Emory Road, DeKalb. James managed a paint company. In 1936 he bought the 10.9 acres which is now our "Greenspace".

Jean Wallace Mozley was born 15 September 1894 in GA. In 1921 she opened a girls' boarding school on Gordon Street in Atlanta. After James' death she married twice more.....to an heir to Grant's Department store and then to H.G. Harland of the Harland Check Company. Jean died in October 1981.

A copy of the 1930 census showing this family follows.

James and Jean bought the 10.9 acres from Sarah McElroy Hogsed in 1936. They built a 2 bedroom house on the property in 1940. Two chimneys are all that remains today. Pictures have been included.

## ARMSTRONG FAMILY

Arthur H. Armstrong    m    Phebe -----  
b.1885 in W. Indies        1912                      b. ca 1886 in New York

|

Arthur M.        m    Mary Louise Cummins  
1915-1983    1941        1918-2002

Marjorie  
1920-

The names which are underlined designate those found on the land records

## THE ARMSTRONG STORY

Arthur H. Armstrong was born 1885 in the West Indies. By 1912 he was in New York where he married Phebe ---?----. She had been born ca 1886 somewhere in NY. They had two children, Arthur Morgan(b.1915) and Marjorie (b.1920). Both of these children were born in New York. The 1930 federal census shows this family living on Techwood Drive, Atlanta GA. Arthur was a teacher at a college, presumably Georgia Tech. A copy of the 1930 census follows.

Arthur M. married Mary Louise Cummins 17 September 1941. Their marriage record is enclosed. She was born in Alabama in 1918, daughter of Robert L. And Mary Louise Cummins. She is shown on the 1920 census in Birmingham AL, which see. By the 1930 census the family is living in the DeKalb portion of Atlanta, GA, which see. Her father was a soda fountain supplies salesman.

Arthur and Mary Louise bought the 10.9 acres and house from James and Jean Mozley in 1943. Arthur died 29 December 1983 in Fulton Co., and Mary Louise died 3 Jan 2002 in Cobb Co.



# MARRIAGE LICENSE

STATE OF GEORGIA, DEKALB COUNTY

Book Q  
p-95

TO ANY JUDGE, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, OR MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL:

You are hereby authorized to join:

Age

Age

Arthur Morgan Armstrong and Miss Mary Louise Cummins  
in the Holy State of Matrimony, according to the Constitution and Laws of this State, and for so doing this shall be your License. And you are hereby required to return this License to me, with your Certificate hereon of the fact and date of the Marriage, within thirty days after the date of said Marriage.

Given under my hand and seal this 6 day of September, 1941.

License obtained under oath by:

U. S. Morgan

(L. S.)  
Ordinary.

STATE OF GEORGIA, DEKALB COUNTY.

Certificate.

I certify that Arthur Morgan Armstrong and Mary Louise Cummins were joined  
in Matrimony by me this 17 day of Sept., 1941.

Wm. V. Gardner

Recorded September 23, 1941.

U. S. Morgan

Ordinary.

**SOCIAL SECURITY  
DEATH INDEX INFORMATION**

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**Arthur ARMSTRONG**

**Birth Date:** 15 Nov 1915  
**Death Date:** Dec 1983  
**Social Security Number:** 253-01-9740  
**State or Territory Where Number Was Issued:** Georgia

**Death Residence Localities**

**ZIP Code:** 30314  
**Localities:** Atlanta, Fulton, Georgia

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**Mary ARMSTRONG**

**Birth Date:** 15 Jul 1918  
**Death Date:** 3 Jan 2002  
**Social Security Number:** 260-26-7230  
**State or Territory Where Number Was Issued:** Georgia

**Death Residence Localities**

**ZIP Code:** 30068  
**Localities:** Marietta, Cobb, Georgia

**Death Benefit Localities**

**Zip Code:** 30068  
**Localities:** Marietta, Cobb, Georgia

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## LAND RECORDS (SUMMARY)

- 1862 - Thomas Blake, from Alabama, sold 502 acres to William McElroy. Lot #232 was included in this sale.
- 1868 - Following the death of William McElroy in 1864, J.W.F. McElroy Jr. (Ebenezer's son) purchased lot #232 from the estate. *There is an index saying that in 1868 JWF sold this to S.T. and M.M. McElroy for \$1.00 per acre. However, I could not find the deed.*
- 1874 - Margaret Tilly McElroy sold lot #232 to her son, Stephen Tilly McElroy.  
*I could not find the sale which must have occurred between Stephen Tilly and his brother, John Ebenezer.*
- 1918 - John Ebenezer McElroy gave a portion of lot #232 to his daughter, Sallie Frances McElroy.....for "Love and affection and Five Dollars".
- 1929 - A record appears correcting an "unintentional" error in the 1918 sale. By this time Sallie F. McElroy was listed as Sarah M. Hogsed (Mrs Wm.)
- 1936 - Sarah M. Hogsed sold 10.9 acres of lot #232 to James and Jean Mozley.
- 1940 - A two-bedroom house was built on the 10.9 acres.
- 1943 - James and Jean Mozley sold the 10.9 acres and house to Arthur Morgan and Mary Louise Cummins Armstrong.

Lot #232 originally contained 202½ acres. Henry Cannady, Jr. received the property in the 1821 land lottery. In 1823 Mary Cannady sold it for \$1.00 per acre. Before the property was improved in 1940, the cost per acre was \$165.00. The Armstrongs were able to buy the improved property for \$177.00 per acre (during WWII).