

## Some Historic People Of DeKalb County, Ga.

### BARON JOHAN DE KALB

1721-1780

- Poor farmer's son born in Bavaria (Germany)
- French soldier of fortune
- Major General in the (American) Continental Army
- Sent by George Washington to try and stop British from gaining a foothold in South Carolina and Georgia
- Revolutionary War hero, died during the Battle of Camden, S. C.
- Only Revolutionary War general to die on the battlefield fighting with his foot soldiers

### JAMES MC CONNELL MONTGOMERY

1770-1842

- Patriarch of DeKalb's first family; settled at Standing Peachtree.
- Merchant
- Clerk of the Court of Ordinary (kept records in books he bought until county appropriated \$5)
- School commissioner
- Postmaster and mail carrier
- Election superintendent
- Commissioners of roads
- State senator
- Ferry operator
- Indian agent
- First census taker (1830)

### CHAPMON POWELL

1798-1870

- DeKalb's first doctor.
- Log cabin home now "slave cabin" in Stone Mountain Park's Antebellum Complex. Powell treated Indians, who called the home "Medicine House."
- Said to have saved life of Cherokee Indian chief's daughter.
- Lived near intersection of North Decatur Road and Clairmont, land now occupied, ironically by VA Hospital, Emory University Hospital and CDC.
- Predicted future prominence of city of Atlanta.

### REBECCA ANN LATIMER FELTON

1835-1930

- Born in house on Covington Road between Decatur and Lithonia.
- Educated in Decatur City Schools and Madison Female College.
- Married William H. Felton, Bartow County physician and speaker at her college graduation.
- Considered the most powerful woman in Georgia.
- Causes included education for women, women's suffrage, temperance, ending the convict lease system, abolishing capital punishment.
- 1922 appointed to interim U. S. Senator (first female).
- Author, *Country Life in Georgia in the Days of My Youth*, detailed memories of life in DeKalb in the

### HISTORIC PEOPLE OF DEKALB COUNTY, GA.

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1830s, '40s and '50s [Google Books].

### **JOSEPH EMANUEL LYON**

1754-1830

- Came to the Colonies as British soldier.
- Captured by (American) Continental Army.
- Given choice of prison or oath of allegiance.
- Became a Colonial soldier, lost an arm fighting with against the British.
- Received a land grant and became one of the earliest settlers on land along the South River.
- Descendants lived on the same land for almost 200 years until property became part of the Arabia Mountain Heritage area.

### **JACK AND NANCY EVINS**

John Leroy Evins, 1794-1864

Nancy Baugh Evins, 1798-1883

- Came to DeKalb from Gwinnett.
- Lived near today's intersection of Peachtree Road and Wieuca.
- Attended Nancy Creek Primitive Baptist Church.
- Nancy (or Nance's) Creek named for Nancy Evins.
- 10 children, 57 grandchildren, 93 great grandchildren.

### **MARY ANN HARRIS GAY**

1829-1918

- Stayed in her home on the Square in Decatur during the Civil War battles of Decatur and Atlanta.
- Made long trips alone through the countryside, sometimes on foot, purchasing supplies for the destitute women and children of Decatur, twice walking as far as Augusta.
- Author, *Life in Dixie During the War*, source of information for authors such as Margaret Mitchell.
- Raised funds to preserve the Civil War battlefield in Franklin, Tenn. where her brother died, and to restore the Decatur Baptist Church of which she was a lifelong member.
- Home now part of the historic complex in Decatur.

### **ROBERT A. ALSTON**

1832-1879

- Confederate veteran
- Georgia state representative
- Opponent of the convict lease system
- Only person ever murdered (by Edward Cox) in the Georgia state capitol building.
- Buried in Decatur Cemetery, a short distance from Cox.

### **GEORGIA GOVERNORS FROM DEKALB**

Alfred Holt Colquitt, 1824-1894, served 1877-1882; also U. S. representative and senator

John Brown Gordon, 1832-1904, served 1886-1890; also U. S. senator

### **CANDLERS AND SCOTTS**

#### **HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND SITES IN DEKALB COUNTY, GA.**

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- Asa Griggs Candler, 1851-1929, founder of The Coca-Cola Company, land developer, philanthropist
- John Slaughter Candler, 1861-1941, Georgia Superior Court Justice
- Warren Akin Candler, 1857-1941, Emory University chancellor, Methodist Church bishop
- Milton Anthony Candler, 1837-1909, Decatur attorney, U. S. Representative, married Eliza Caroline Murphey
- George Washington Scott, 1829-1903, founder, Scottdale textile mill and fertilizer business; principle donor to the Decatur Female Seminary, which was renamed the school for Scott's mother, Agnes.
- Charles Murphey Candler, son of Milton Candler and Eliza Murphey, married George Washington Scott's daughter Mary.
- George Scott Candler, son of Charles Murphey Candler and Mary Scott, DeKalb commissioner 1939-1954.

### **ROBERT TYRE "BOBBY" JONES**

1902-1971

- Learned to play golf at the Atlanta Athletic Club (now East Lake Golf Club).
- Won his first golf tournament in 1908 at the age of 6.
- Won all four major tournaments – "The Grand Slam" – in 1930.
- Designed Augusta National golf course.

### **JOSEPH MAXWELL "MAX" CLELAND**

1942-living 2009

Vietnam War veteran; triple amputee.

Georgia senator, elected 1970, youngest member.

Head of the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, appointed 1997, youngest ever, first Vietnam veteran.

Georgia secretary of state, 1983-1997, received the most votes of any statewide candidate in history in 1990.

U. S. Senator, 1997-2003.