

Please identify the Lawtons  
from the book *Cyprian*  
Especially William G. Lawton Pg 67

post. In fact the station was a much bigger and busier place than it was one hundred years later, although there is still a little post office there. A post office was first established there in 1839 and Enos H. Scarborough was the first Postmaster. He was followed by David R. Wadley and George Hurd.

On May 20th, 1842, a post office was established at Halcyondale, which became a sizeable town about one hundred years ago.

It, as Scarborough, had been made by the Central of Georgia Railroad. Men very prominent in the affairs of the county lived in the vicinity of Halcyondale. Mrs. H. S. McCall (Miss Dalhia) is authority for the statement that the name "Halcyondale" was selected by Cuyler Young, a young man of a very poetic nature that lived there. Mrs. McCall says that Cuyler also named "Sylvania". Mrs. McCall is the granddaughter of Hezekiah Evans who lived between Cameron and Halcyondale on the old Louisville Road. She says she remembers visiting her grandfather there and would hear him talk about their neighbors, the Youngs. Among those old citizens that got their mail at Halcyondale besides Mr. Hezekiah Evans, were Willis Young, Charles W. Young, Cuyler Young, Benjamin Lawton, Edwin Everett, Harvey Sheppard, Jacob Freeman, Charles Evans and John Cameron.

Another old village of Screven County was Cooperville which gained its name from the Cooper family. The original Cooper to move to Cooperville was George Cooper, who was the grand father of Mrs. A. R. Roberts now living at Ogeechee, and the great grandfather of Misses Mae and Hallie Humphries of Sylvania. He was the father of Wilson Cooper who represented the county in the House and Senate just before the War Between the States. Other families that lived in the vicinity of Cooperville at that time were the Ransom Rogers family, the Isaac Hollingsworth family, the Enoch Simmons family, the John Morgan family and the Miles Hunter family.

The most talked of and possibly the greatest one thing that has ever happened in Screven County was the coming of the railroad. Loads of wagons rolling on iron rails and pulled by an iron horse was almost unbelievable. Its coming created more excitement and caused more speculation than any other one thing that has ever happened. The road was built through the coun-

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### Screven's

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Beaver Dam Creek at Jac  
plan. An Act was passed i



\* Archer as Lieutenant to replace Eli K. McGee, resigned. Some of the new names on the roster are W. J. Lawton, Reuben Blackburn, J. L. Singleton, Richard M. Herrington, John Green and Greene D. Sharpe. \*  
+ Joseph Lawton Singleton

While a semblance of a military company was kept activated little was done to prepare the men of the county for war until it was upon us in all of its fury. In desperate straits the people almost frantically went about organizing military companies and trying to arm themselves. Everybody wanted to be a captain and a number of people came into Screven to organize companies so that they could command them. One of the first companies organized in the county were the Ogeechee Rifles. It was well manned but poorly armed. Lieut. J. R. Cooper wrote to the Adj. General of the state pointing out that there were only 400 men of voting age in the county, and many of these too old for military duty, yet there were in process of organization in the county 5 companies. There were eighty men on the roster of the Ogeechee Rifles. It would have taken every man in the county, regardless of age or physical condition, to have filled up five companies with the same compliment as the Ogeechee Rifles. It was the practice for each company to elect their own leaders, hence the effort of men to organize so many different units. The frantic and almost impossible task of arming the men in preparation for the war can best be appreciated by reading of a letter written to Adj. General Wayne by Lieutenant J. Randolph Cooper on May 27th, 1861. Mr. Cooper said:

General Wayne:

Dear Sir:

I will again call your attention to the fact that the Ogeechee Rifles have not yet received their arms, though their application has been made about six months. You have our bond for One Thousand Dollars for which we have received nothing. I think we have sent up three different roll lists at different times. If we have not complied with the law in every respect, we are not aware of the fact. Do not understand us as complaining. We know that you have a great deal to attend to. We are more urgent in our requests from the fact that we are expecting the enemy daily, and are entirely unprepared to meet them, not having

His Exc<sup>y</sup> Charles J. McDonald,  
Governor of Georgia,  
Milledgeville, Georgia

Agitation for the removal of the county site from Jacksonborough grew and became more demanding as the years went by. The southwestern part of the county was growing stronger politically and financially which was due largely to the presence of the railroad. In 1844 the people of the county elected Wilson C. Cooper to the legislature. They did not elect a Senator to succeed J. B. Hunter for the reason that the state was that year cut into Senatorial Districts, with Screven and Effingham in the same district. Effingham furnished the Senator.

Whether the removal was an issue in the election is not known or whether Mr. Cooper even had opposition is not known. but he was in favor of the removal of the county site from Jacksonborough. On December 27th, 1845, Mr. Cooper had passed an Act which empowered the Grand Jury of Screven County to select at their spring term seven commissioners whose duty it would be to select the center of the county, or a place within one and one half miles of the center if a more suitable location could be found upon which to build the county site. After the spot was selected Mr. Cooper's Act called for an election to be held the following October 1st to determine the desire of the people on the matter. However the Grand Jury at the spring term 1846, failed to name the Commissioners, due probably to pressure from anti-removalists. The Grand Jury did name the Commissioners at the October Term, 1846, but it was too late for the election to be held. The anti-removalists evidently were playing a delayed action game hoping that the tide might turn in their favor and the issue could be defeated at the polls.

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## XIV

### *The Creation of Sylvania*

Sylvania was created by an Act of the General Assembly of Georgia on December 24th, 1847. This measure was introduced by the Screven delegation which included Wilburn J. Lawton in the Senate and George Pollock in the house. The election had

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me JAMES MIDDLETON, (teacher); MORNING SHEPPARD  
95; W. J. LAWTON 30, (lawyer and born in NC); WILLIAM  
MANER 22, (lawyer); DR. W. L. MATHEW 34; JOSEPH SING-  
LETON 27, (lawyer); DR. JAMES D. LAWRENCE.

In 1850 there were 569 dwellings in Screven County and the same number of families, according to Mr. Cameron. There were 3174 free people in the county among whom was one colored person. There were 3673 slaves. The real estate was valued at \$1,260,577.00; Personal property was valued at \$1,101,900.00.

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## XVI

### *War Clouds Over Screven*

After Sylvania was established as the county site, and the courts, city government, churches, and other social and civil organizations were functioning and the people were all set to build a society comparable with any in the nation, disturbing sounds of distant trouble began to be heard. What a pity that such was the case! Screven county was in a very enviable position. Sylvania, situated upon the divide between the Savannah and Ogeechee Rivers, was connected with Savannah by a road that followed the divide all the way down to Savannah. On the eastern boundary was the Savannah River up which steam boats were busy handling the shipping between the County and Savannah and Augusta. Near the western boundary ran for the entire length of the county the Central of Georgia railroad that gave the county easy access to both Savannah and Macon. The people of the county were in the most prosperous condition that they had ever been in, even if it had been gained through the institution of slavery. And now the very institution upon which we were growing rich gave disturbing promise of destroying us. Eastern politicians were becoming jealous of the power and wealth of the south. Southern hotheads would talk nothing else except we "Must defend our honor upon the field of battle." Dow had said thirty years before that we could not exist half free and half slave. Cool heads were trying hard to adjust the differences so that war might be averted between the North and the South. However, there was little the people of the county could do about it, and as the approaching storm became closer and

**MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FROM SCREVEN COUNTY**

1794-95	Clement Lanier	1829-30	Edmond Gross
1796	Clement Lanier		John F. Lovett
1797	Solomon Gross	1831	John Robert Kittles
	Lewis Lanier		Thomas W. Oliver
1798	Solomon Gross	1832	John Robert Kittles
	Enoch Godfrey		Charles H. McCall
1799	Clement Lanier	1833	Charles H. McCall
1800	James F. Lovett		Alexander Kemp
1801-02	Clement Lanier	1834	Benjamin Green
1802-03	Clement Lanier		McLin Lunday
1803-04	Theophilus Thomas	1835	Benjamin Green
1804	Caleb Howell		Edw. J. Black
1805	Mund Gross	1836	Elijah Roberts
1806	Lewis Lanier		W. H. Scruggs
	Mund Gross	1837-38	Wilson Connor
1807-08	Lewis Lanier		Benjamin Prescott
	Mund Gross	1839	Benjamin Prescott
1808	Mund Gross		Joshua Perry
	William Blair	1840	William A. Hotchkiss
1809	Mund Gross		John D. Moultrie
	William Blair	1841	Wilson Connor
1810	Mund Gross		John D. Moultrie
	John Pollock	1842	<del>William J. Lawton</del> *WINBORN
1811-12	Hardy Scarborough		Barnett Newton (1818-1884)
	John McWade	1843	Benjamin Prescott
1813-14	John McWade		Henry R. Roberts
	John Pollock	1845	Wilson C. Cooper
1815	Jacob Lewis	1847	George Pollock
	William Oliver	1849	<del>William J. Lawton</del> *WINBORN
1816	William Oliver	1851	William M. Carr (1818-1854)
	John Pollock	1853	E. B. Gross
1817-18	Thomas Colding	1855	B. L. Boykin
	Roger McKinney	1857	Daniel E. Roberts
1819	Thomas Colding	1859	Benjamin L. Prescott
1820-21	James Lambert	1861	E. B. Cross
	Roger McKinney	1863	W. L. Mathews
1821	Lewis Lanier	1865	E. B. Gross
	James Lambert	1868	
1822	William Smith	1869	
	Solomon Kemp	1870	W. D. Hamilton
1823-24	William Smith	1871	John C. Dell
	Reuben Williamson	1873	John C. Dell
1825	Jacob Bryan	1875	V. H. Burns
	Moses N. McCall	1877	U. P. Wade
1826-27	Lewis Lanier	1878	W. M. Henderson
	Jacob Bryan	1880	J. L. Singleton
1828	Edmond Gross	1882	Ransom A. Brinson
	John F. Lovett	1884	John M. Johnson

1886	John W. Johnson	1921	I. H. Evans
1888	John R. Humphries		H. L. Howard
1890	H. G. Edenfield	1923	I. H. Eyans
1892	Causey Overstreet		H. L. Howard
1894	H. G. Edenfield	1925	Josh A. Lee
1896	H. G. Edenfield		I. H. Evans
1898	J. W. Overstreet	1927	I. H. Evans
1900	L. H. Hilton		Joshua A. Lee
1902	E. K. Overstreet	1929	Dr. J. C. Cail
1904	E. K. Overstreet		J. S. Powell
1906	E. K. Overstreet	1931	W. G. Sharpe
1907	H. S. White		R. W. Walker
1909	H. S. White	1933	Robert W. Walker
1911	H. S. White	1935	Horace L. Howard
1913	J. H. Evans	1937-39	George M. Hill, Jr.
1915	J. H. Evans	1941-43	George Elliott Hagan
1917	J. C. Hollingsworth	1945	Phillip W. Harrison
1919	John C. Hollingsworth	1947	George Elliott Hagan

Senators In Georgia General Assembly From 1794 To Date  
From Screven County

1794-95	Lewis Lanier	1849	Effingham furnished Senator
1797-98	William Skinner		
1799	Benjamin Lanier	1851	William Butler
1800-04	William Skinner	1853-54	George L. Jackson
1805-10	Clement Lanier	1855-56	W. L. Mathews
1811-14	William Blair	1857-60	Wilson C. Coper
1815	James Blackman	1861	Burke, Bulloch and Screven established as Senatorial District
1816	John M. Wade		
1817-21	James Blackman	1865-66	B. R. Mims
1822-24	Roger McKinney	1875-76	George R. Black
1825	Reuben Wilkinson	1877	George R. Black
1826-27	William Smith	1882-83	T. W. Oliver, Jr.
1828-32	Jacob Bryan	1888-89	John W. Johnston
1833	John Robert Kittles	1894-95	Uly P. Wade
1834-35	Charles H. McCall	1900-01	James H. Daniel
1836	Benjamin Greene	1907-08	E. K. Overstreet
1837	Edward J. Black	1915-16	H. A. Boykin (Screven, Burks and Jenkins made Senatorial District)
1838-39	Benjamin Green		
1840	Wilson Connor	1921-22	John C. Hollingsworth, Jr.
1841	Edward J. Black	1927	Horace L. Howard
1842	Curtis Humphreys	1933	John C. Cail, Jr.
1843	J. B. Hunter	1939	John C. Cail, Jr.
1845	Senatorial District established; Effingham furnished Senator.	1945	Dr. W. H. Bennett
1847	Winborn Joseph Lawton		