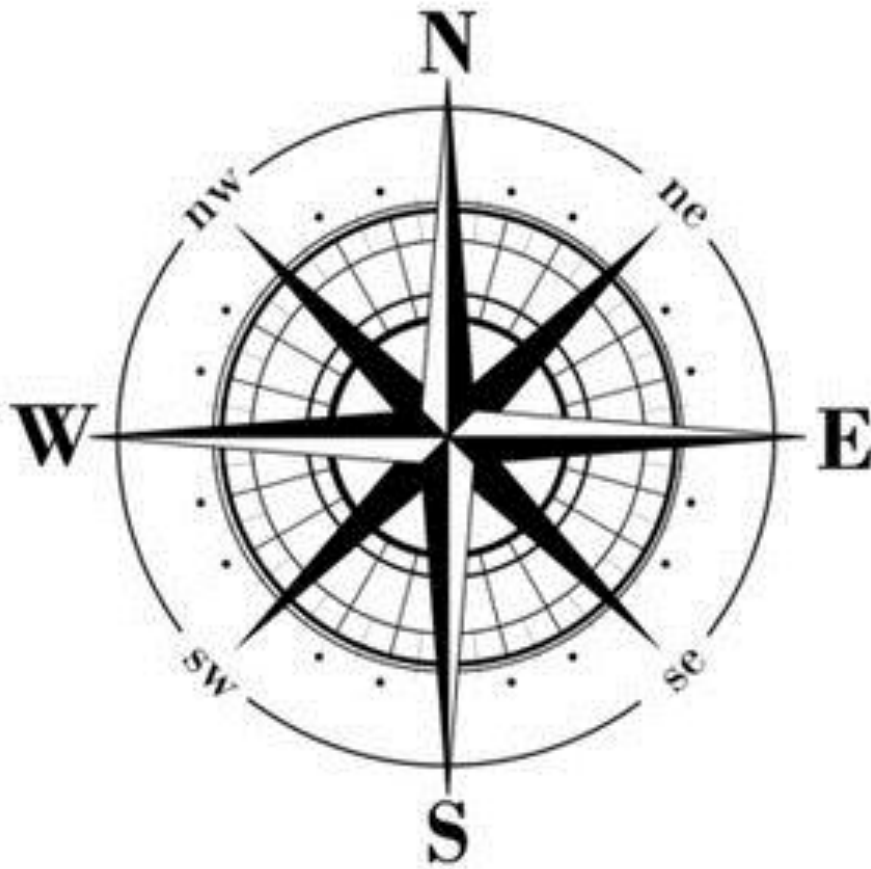


Then There Was The Adventure

THE STORY OF ALEXANDER WARE

1789-1836



Edward J. Lanham

Then There Was The Adventure

THE STORY OF ALEXANDER WARE

1789-1836

Introduction

“The story of America is of settlers following the sun westward to new opportunities.”

Georgia---Mid April, 2013

As spring drifted into summer along the Flint River, the landscape exploded across the Southland into a wreath of greenery. My field research, which I nick-named “GPS- in-hand and boots-on-the-ground”, is on hold until the leaves turn in the fall. It is now time to compile the past 6 months of research and exploration.

For the past 24 years, I have lived in a small town in Fayette County, Georgia which was established in 1823 along the famous Indian trail named the “McIntosh Road.” While researching the history and route of this major trail, I eventually, as a past time, devoted 15 years to mapping that trail and others, then overlaying them on to current day topographical and road maps.

I learned that the McIntosh Road was named for the Creek Indian Chief, William McIntosh, who widened a segment of a much longer existing trading route into a wagon road. Chief William McIntosh, a half breed Scot-Creek Indian, was raised by his Creek mother. As a young man, he fought with Andrew Jackson and became a brigadier general. He even dined with President Thomas Jefferson at the White House. McIntosh became a wealthy business man and owned hundreds of acres in Georgia and Alabama. His rank of both chief and brigadier general earned him an association with five presidents: Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, James Madison, James Monroe and John Quincy Adams.

While researching McIntosh, I discovered Alexander Ware and in a period of time my mind was consumed by the desire to learn more about this man. I discovered that much had been written about McIntosh, but very little, if any, about Ware. I couldn't wait to start tracking him down.

Here was a man who started life in an anonymous way. He achieved, failed and struggled, but never gave up. He turned out to be better at military life, politics, and farming than anything else. After getting in over his head, the road to Texas looked like the road to redemption and when he got there, he thought he'd found the Promised Land.



My wife and I followed Ware's trail from Fayette County, Georgia, across Alabama and on to Texas. Minutes after we walked into the historic courthouse at San Augustine, Texas, I could feel his presence increase...as I marched deeper and deeper into Ware territory. San Augustine was our last stop on the search for the historical and mythical Ware---the search for the "ghost" as I'd come to think of him, and his remarkable life.

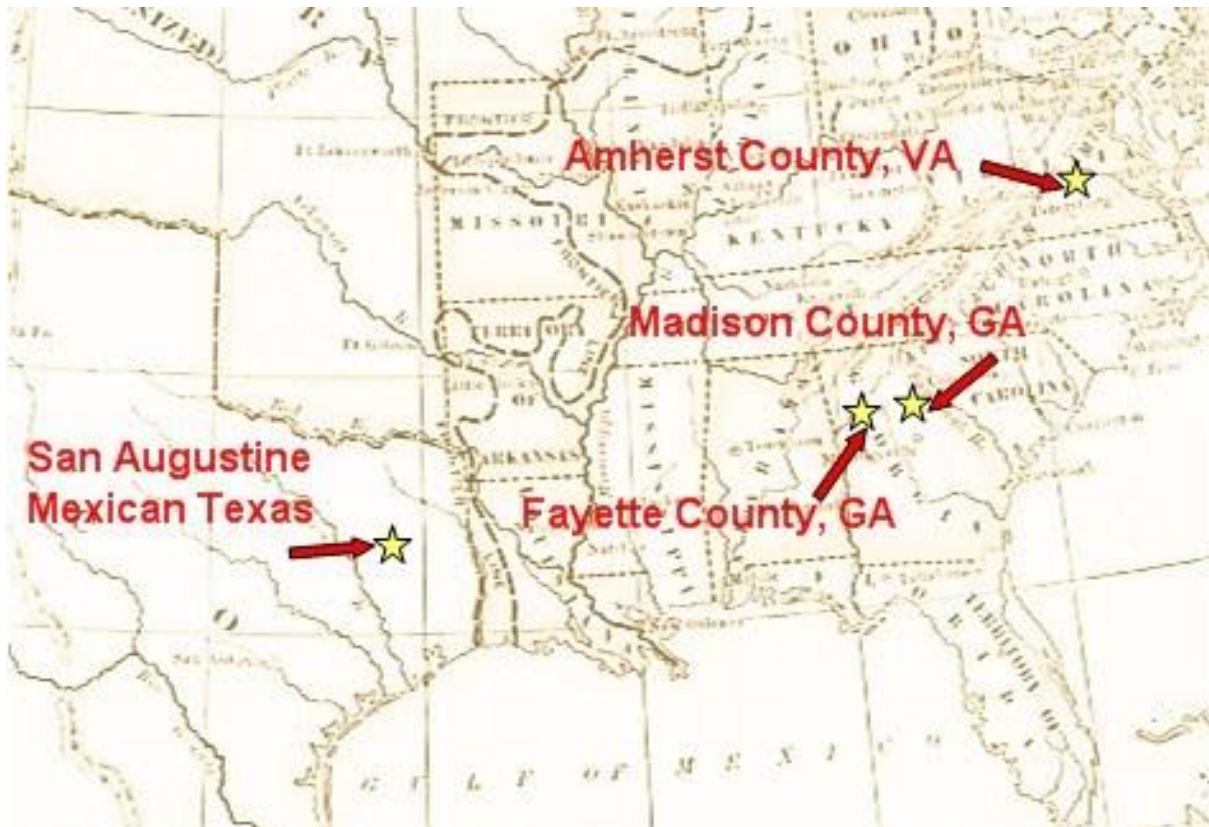
We all have but one life to live in God's creation, then at some point in time we will be drawn into the Nightland, the last unmapped country. We are all called to it...some before others. This is the story of one man...a star that fell before its time.



This research document is dedicated to my friend George Piner and his love to explore.

Notes: Please provide me with any feedback you may have regarding errors in the transcription or any additional evidence concerning the contents.

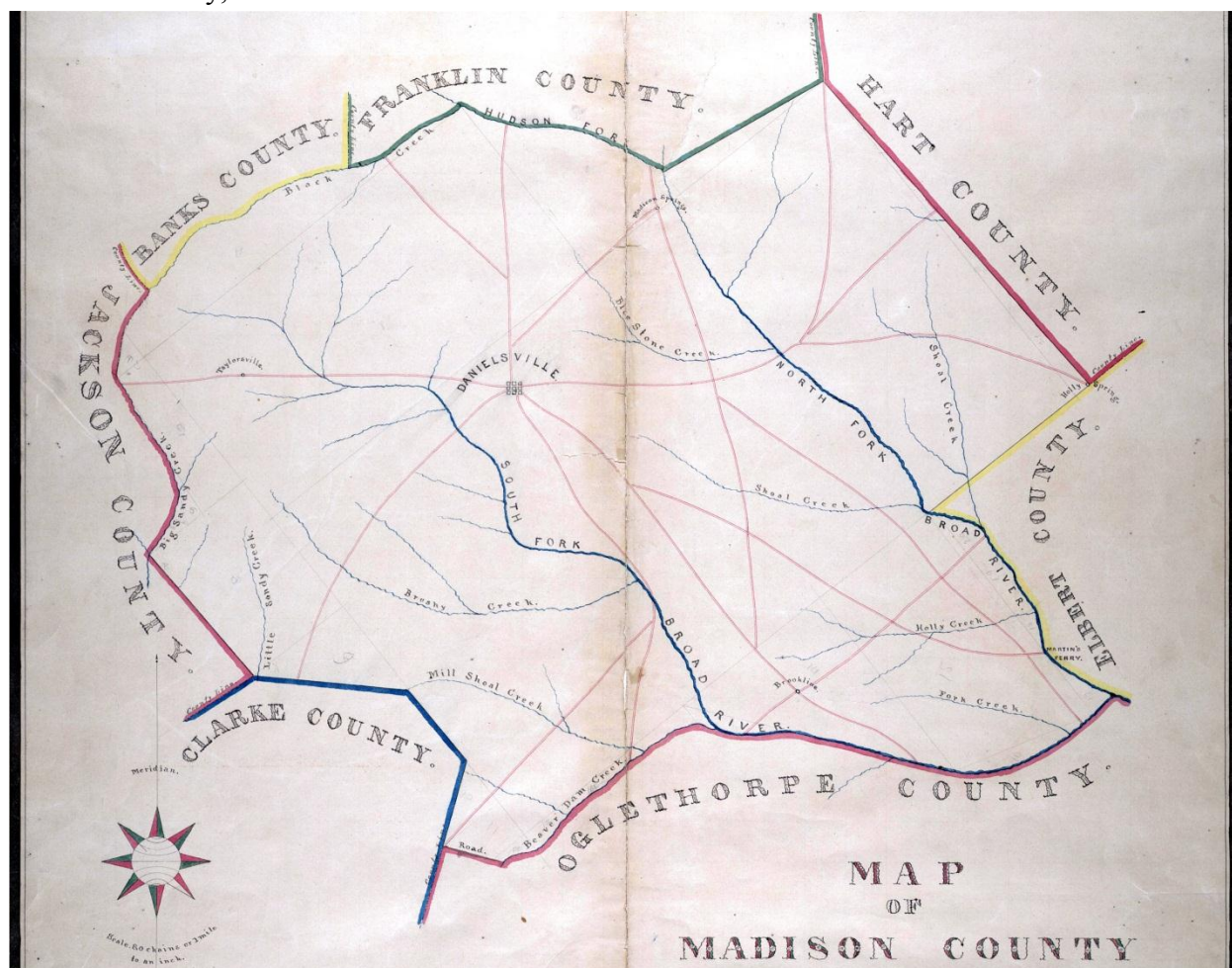
Spelling and punctuation were distinctive and informal in this era of the American frontier expansion. I have left the words as they wrote them, without correcting or altering punctuation. Nor have I inserted the "[sic]" after every misspelled word.



The World of Alexander Ware 1789-1836

After the Revolutionary War, Lt. James Ware, his wife, Mary Veal Ware, and their children moved south to Elbert County, Georgia, which later became Madison County on December 11, 1811. In 1793, because of his service in the Revolutionary War, James was awarded 987 ½ acres. He moved there with a younger brother, Sgt. Edward Ware (18 Sep 1760---21 Nov 1838), with whom he was associated in the Revolutionary War.

Research determines that he lived near Danielsville, Madison County, Georgia, and died there although neither gravesite nor grave marker has ever been found. National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Patriot Grave Search indicates he was buried in *Area Cemetery*, Madison County, GA.



Madison County Georgia

Created in 1811 from Elbert, Clarke, Jackson, Oglethorpe, and Franklin counties

In 1813 during the *War of 1812* Sgt. Alexander Ware appears on the muster roll of his older brother's unit, *Captain James Ware's Company of Drafted and Volunteer Infantry, 1st Regiment Harris' Georgia Infantry*. Harris' Regiment was part of Brigadier General John Floyd's Brigade fighting the Red Sticks, a faction of the Creek Indians, in Alabama in the fall of 1813 and spring of 1814. Floyd's unit had been mustered into Federal service under the command of Andrew Jackson.

Ware's commanding general, John Floyd (1769-1839), played an important military role in the Mississippi Territory (particularly what is now present-day Alabama) by leading troops in the battles of Autossee and at Calabee Creek during the Creek War of 1813-14. He then returned to his native Georgia, serving the state in many positions, including a term in the U.S. Congress.

In 1813, Georgia's governor gave Floyd command of Georgia militia units that were to participate in coordinated attacks against Red Stick Creek strongholds within present-day central Alabama. In anticipation of the incursion, during September Floyd set up a base of operations at Camp Hope near Fort Hawkins in central Georgia on the Ocmulgee River. From there, he dispatched troops to construct a line of defensive forts, including Fort Lawrence located west of current day Roberta, and blockhouses westward all the way to the Alabama River.

As per the journal of James A. Tait, a soldier from Elbert County, Floyd's army marched from Fort Lawrence on the 18th of October for Coweta, leaving a garrison composed of the companies of Capts. Smith & Ware and about 250 sick men. If this is correct, Sargent Alexander Ware would remain at Fort Lawrence with his brother's unit.



After securing rations to support his soldiers and allied Creeks, on November 24, 1813, Floyd's forces finally began their march westward and across the Chattahoochee River, where he built Fort Mitchell as a supply base in present-day Russell County.

From Fort Mitchell, Floyd marched his troops approximately 60 miles west to attack the Red Stick town of Autossee on the east bank of the Tallapoosa at the mouth of Calabee Creek. There, Red Stick leaders Peter McQueen and Hopoithle Miko had gathered some 1,500 warriors at various Creek towns in anticipation of an American response to the massacre at Fort Mims. Floyd had hoped to completely surround the town of Autossee to prevent any escape by the Red Sticks there. However, a second Creek town was discovered downstream from Autossee, causing

Floyd to stretch his troops out more thinly than he had intended. Also, the Tallapoosa River was too cold and deep to cross where Floyd had planned to block escape routes. Finally, a Red Stick hunter had spotted Floyd's troops and warned the warriors in Autossee of the impending attack.

Floyd nevertheless attacked both towns on November 29, 1813. The Red Sticks put up a fierce resistance but were overwhelmed with superior fire power. As a result, both towns were left in flames and approximately 200 Red Sticks were killed, and leader Hopoithle Miko, referred to by Floyd as the Tallassee King, was shot; only 11 of Floyd's men were killed and 53 wounded. Early in the fighting, Floyd's knee was shattered by a musket ball, but he remained in the field until the end of the battle, refusing to have his wound dressed until all of the wounded had been cared for. Because of a serious shortage of food, Floyd was forced to withdraw his forces to Fort Mitchell instead of pursuing the Red Stick warriors who had escaped and who would later fight in the decisive battle at Horseshoe Bend.

As per James Tait, he and part of Floyd's troops withdrew to Fort Lawrence, rather than Fort Mitchell. He stated that on January 11, "We abandoned Fort Lawrence to Capt. Twigg's company, and marched to Fort Mitchell." If the above is correct, Capt. Smith and Ware were deployed to Fort Mitchell.

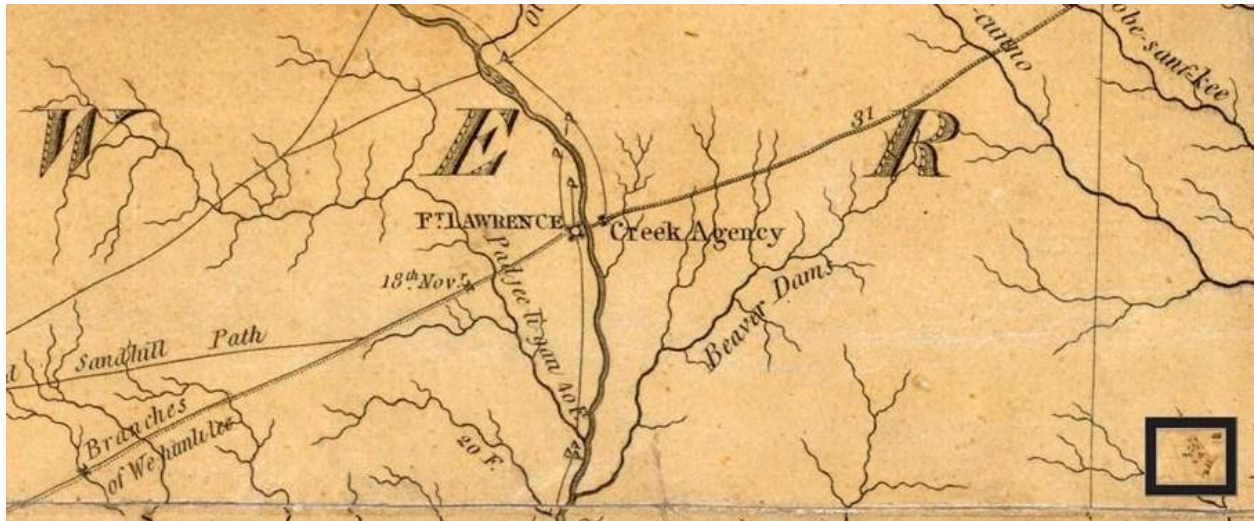
In January 1814, Floyd, having recovered from his wound and replenishing his supplies, made another incursion into Creek territory, this time with 1,100 militia and 600 allied Indians. They constructed Fort Hull in present-day Macon County, approximately 40 miles west of Fort Mitchell. Floyd's Georgia troops then returned to Calabee Creek, where they built the fortified Camp Defiance. In the predawn hours of January 27, 1814, however, Floyd's army was caught off guard. In the ensuing engagement, often referred to as the Battle of Calabee Creek, Red Stick leader Paddy Walsh led approximately 1,300 warriors who almost seized control of Floyd's two cannons. Reacting quickly, militia forces secured the cannons, which they then fired at point blank range at the attacking warriors, turning the tide of the battle and saving Floyd's army from a disastrous defeat. The battle left nearly 50 Red Sticks dead and Paddy Walsh seriously wounded. Approximately 17 of Floyd's Georgians were killed and 132 wounded.

Floyd then withdrew his army to Georgia because many of its members' enlistments were soon to expire. As per Alexander Ware's service record, he mustered out on March 4, 1814.

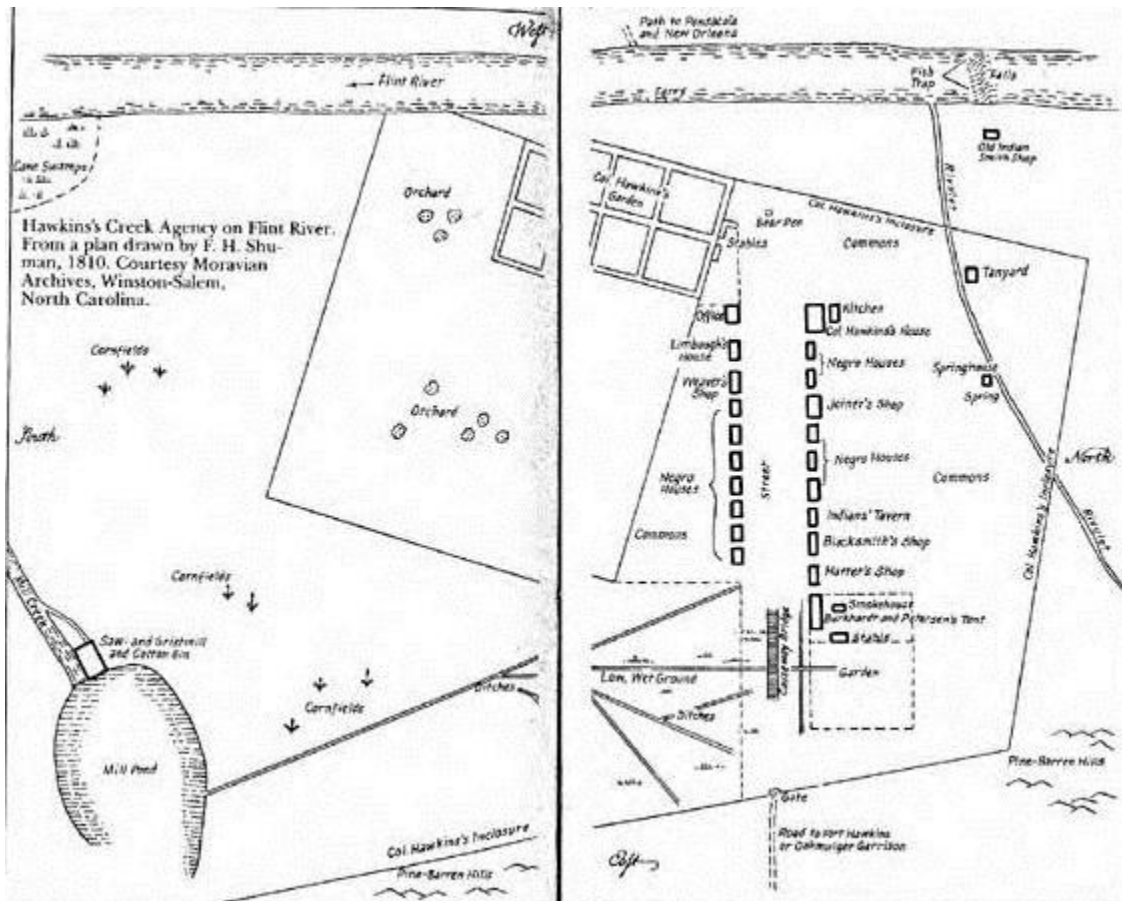
Ware certainly met the definition of the word "frontiersman." Yet, with the notable exception of his Creek War service, he was not directly engaged in driving Indians off their land. In fact, he supported the "friendly" Indians.



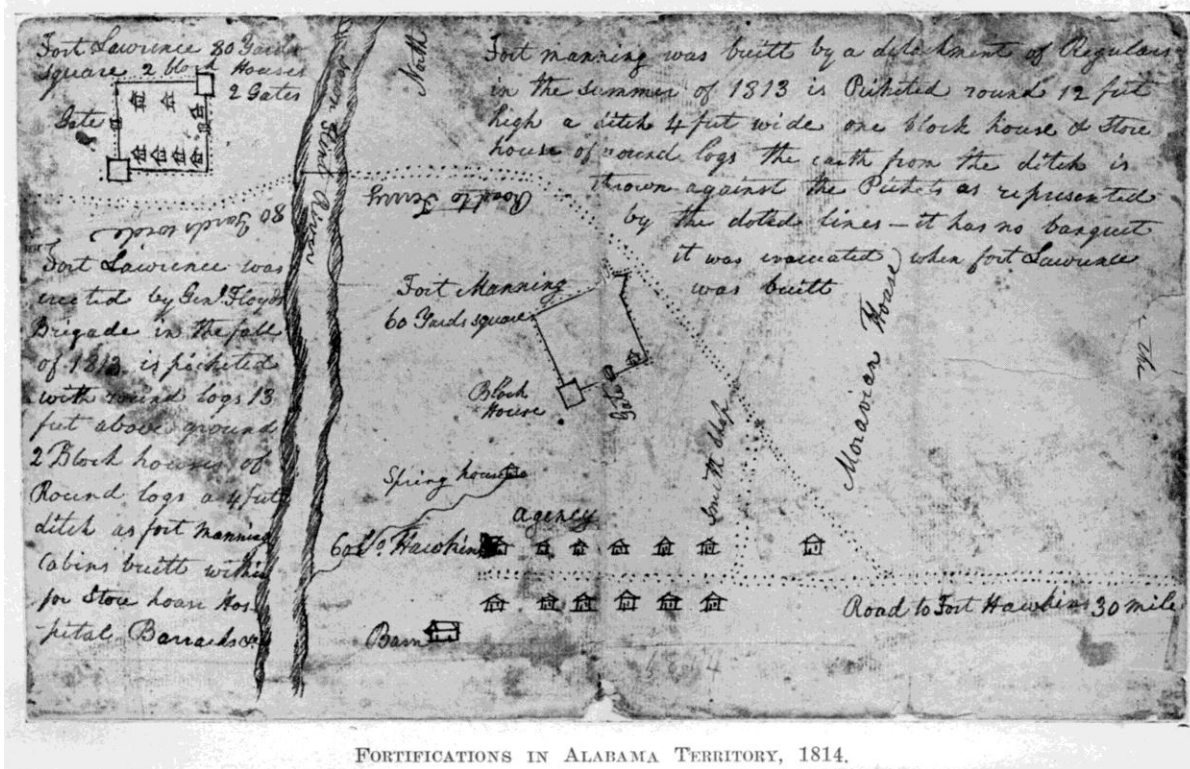
"Those Indians have been living in heaven for a thousand years, and we took it way from 'em for forty dollars a month." C.M. "Charlie" Russell.



Map of Creek Agency and Fort Lawrence, Flint river, west of current day Roberta, GA.
 Courtesy James Preston



Detailed Map of Creek Agency
 Courtesy Moravian Archives and James Preston

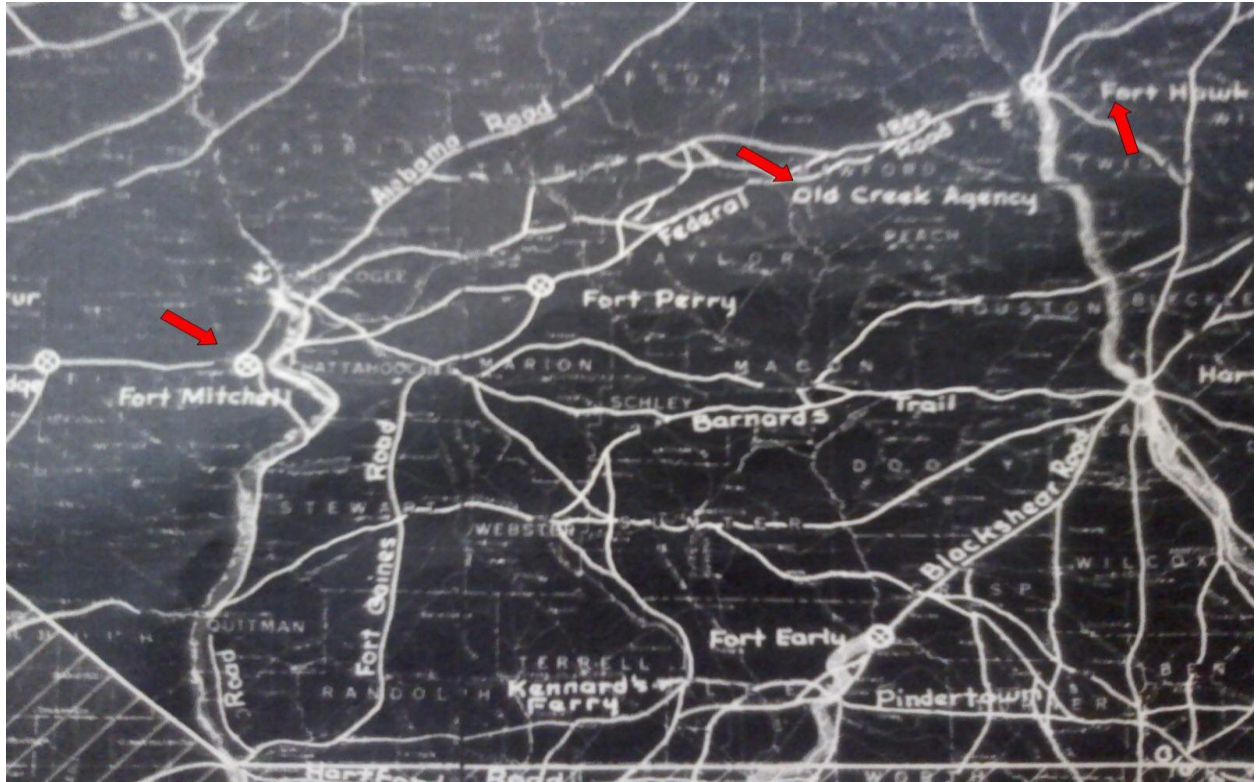


FORTIFICATIONS IN ALABAMA TERRITORY, 1814.

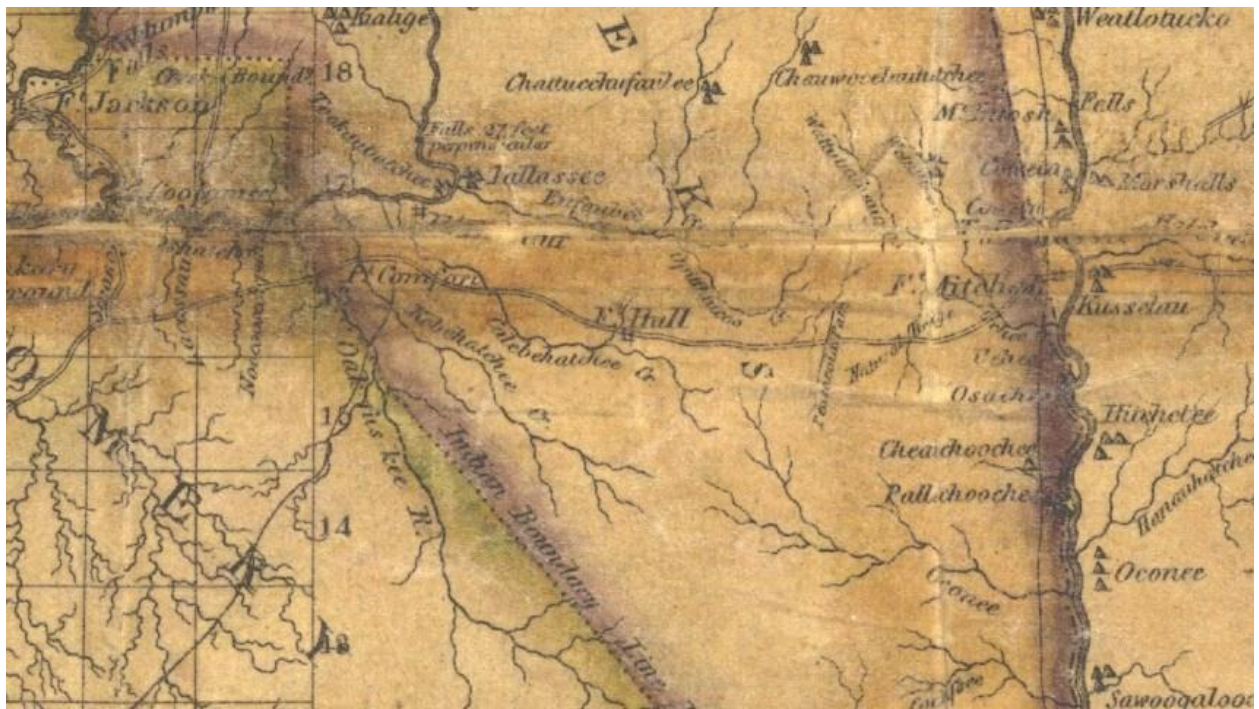
General Graham's Map of Creek Agency and Fort Lawrence
 Note Fort Manning Located in the Agency
 Courtesy Archaeologist Daniel T. Elliott of the LAMAR Institute and
 James Preston



Artist Rendering Fort Hawkins



Map Showing Fort Hawkins, Creek Agency, and Fort Mitchell



Federal Road Showing Fort Mitchell and Hull
Courtesy Alabama Department Archives and History

Chapter 2

1821-1835

Alexander Ware: Surveyor, Planter, and General

“The Canadians have managed to live peacefully with their Indians. It is disgrace that the United States has not done the same.” Stephen Ambrose, author *Undaunted Courage*

Alexander Ware first came to what is now Fayette County, Georgia, in July of 1821, as the selected surveyor of Fayette District Six. His restlessness and ambition had pushed him west to the Georgia frontier, which moved with him.

A treaty, which extended the border between the Creek Nation and the State of Georgia from the Okmulgee River to Line Creek was signed with the Creek Indians on January 8, 1821. In it, the Lower Creeks ceded land to the state of Georgia in return for cash payments totaling \$200,000 over a period of 14 years. Five new counties were created: Dooly with 16 districts (1-16); Fayette with 4 districts (6,7,9,14); Henry with 18 districts (1-18); Houston with 16 districts (1-16) and Monroe with 15 districts (1-15).

A “land lottery” was held to distribute land to those who qualified. In Georgia land lotteries were an early nineteenth century system of land distribution in Georgia. Under this system qualifying citizens could register for a chance to win large acres of land that had formerly - and in most cases recently - been occupied by the Creek Indians and the Cherokee Nation. The lottery system was utilized by the State of Georgia between the years 1805 and 1832.

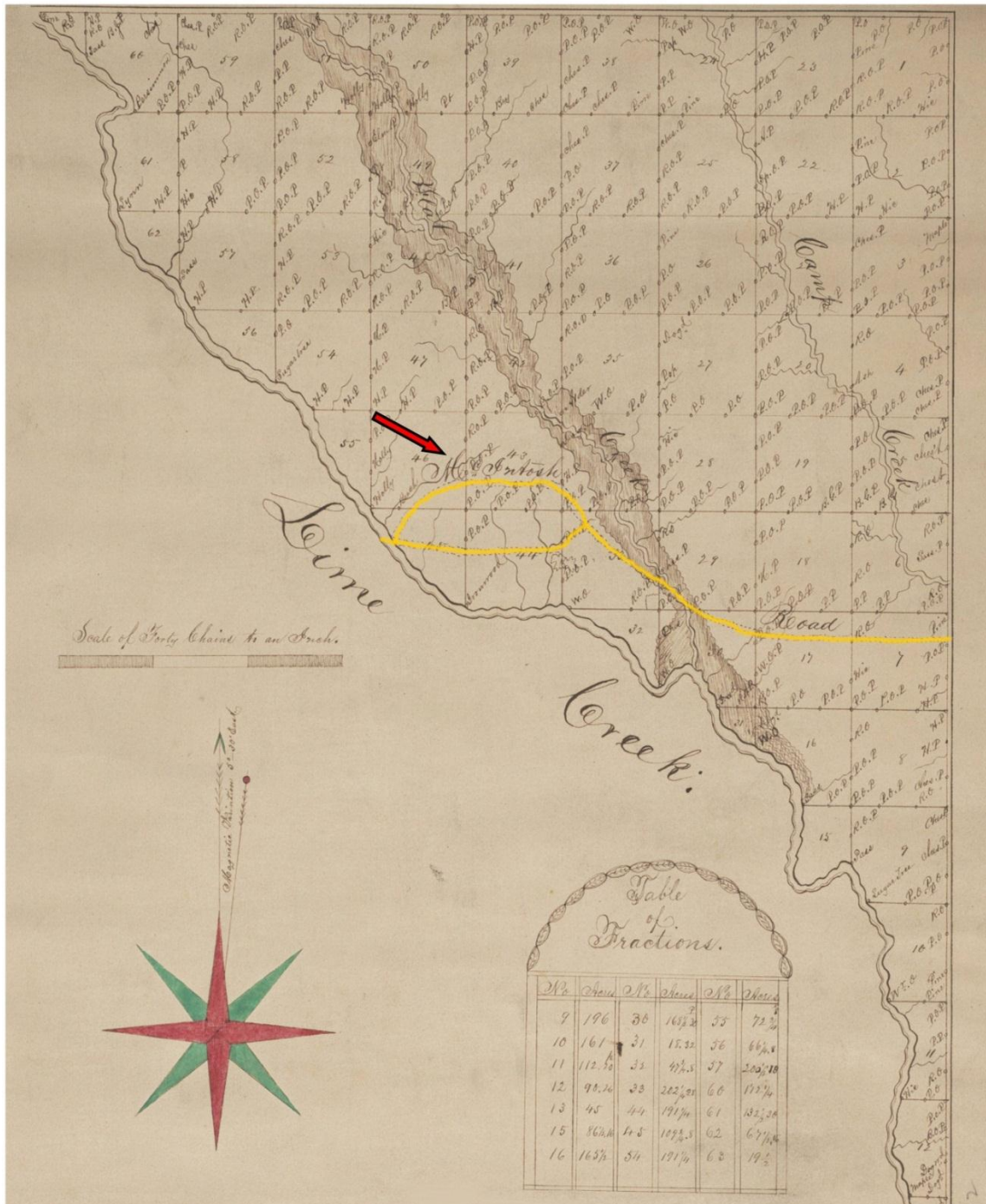


On July 23, 1821, Ware along with Martin Hales and John Millican, (chain carriers), and Andrew Scott and Hambleton Ware, (markers), began the survey of the Fayette 6th district. By August 7th, the field work of the survey was completed and on the way to the Surveyor General’s office at Milledgeville. Ware’s notes, which included locations of rivers, creeks, Indian houses, Indian camps, Indian fields and Indian roads and trails, were drawn into a master district plat including individual land lot plats.

While surveying, Ware found Fayette County to be ideal for planting and water-powered mills. Four major creeks, the Whitewater, Line, Flat, and Camp along with the Flint River offered an abundant water supply.

With the farmland like a tapestry passed down through generations, like his parents and their parents before them, Alexander Ware would choose to migrate. In 1822, at the age of 33, Ware migrated west from Madison County and purchased land from Land Lottery winners throughout Fayette County. He would spend the remainder of his life in the woods, forests, wetlands (creeks

and rivers) that were home to the Creek Indians who lived on these lands before removal.



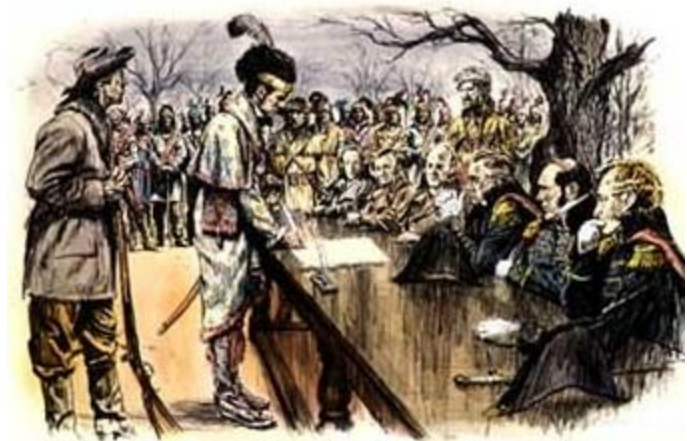
Map of Fayette District #6, Surveyor: Alexander Ware
 Note the highlighted "McIntosh's Road"



Creek leaders once stated, “When a path is new made, it does not at once become a great path... Paths and trails of every size and description crossed Creek territory and kept their towns and settlements connected to one another and to the outside world. Some of these were ancient footpaths, originally used by large animals, such as buffalo and elk, as they passed through the forests and fields to the waterways that sustained them, and were later adapted by Native peoples as useful travel routes from one river to another.”

One major Indian path that became a great path was listed in the 6th district survey of Fayette. The noted *McIntosh Road*, which ran through the southern part of the district, was a major east-west Indian road. The existing trail that ran between Chief William McIntosh’s properties and on into Alabama, later became known as the *McIntosh Road*. The road named after him - from the Ocmulgee River to the Chattahoochee River and on to Alabama - was an Indian trading route formed hundreds or even thousands of years ago. McIntosh, as per instructions from President James Monroe, improved the existing trail into a wagon road from his Reserve on the Ocmulgee to the point where it intersected the existing Seven Islands/Oakfuskee roads in Flovilla, Georgia. From that intersection, McIntosh improved a section of an existing trail that ran between Charleston and the Chickasaw Nation in

Mississippi, crossing western Georgia into Alabama. The improved trail, completed in 1819 and estimated to be 118 miles long, became a well-traveled route used by McIntosh, other Indian tribes, traders, and pioneer settlers. A newspaper reported, "Not long since 3 wagons have traveled this road, heavy loaded, and came through with the greatest of ease." McIntosh built stores, inns and ferries along the road, and subsequently became a very wealthy man. The locations of several of these were noted on the district surveys.



The Georgia 1821 Land Lottery opened the portion of Georgia between the Ocmulgee and Flint River/Line Creek for settlement. This tract was ceded to the United States by the Creek Indian Nation led by William McIntosh on January 8, 1821, at the Treaty of Indian Springs. By an Act of the Georgia General Assembly on June 9, 1821, the state would dispose of and distribute the lands lately acquired by the United States for Georgia’s use. The lottery was held between November 11, 1821 and December 12, 1821. As McIntosh and Ware became close friends, Americans continued to move westward.

The Upper Creeks had been reluctant to sign the 1821 treaty but were convinced by McIntosh to do so as the whites would eventually take the land anyway. McIntosh stated, *“The white man is growing in the State of Georgia, he wants our lands, he will buy them now, but by and by he will take them and the little band of our people will be left to wander without homes, poor, despised and beaten like dogs,”* and he urged us to take the government’s offer, saying: *” we will go to our new homes and learn like the white man to till these for the earth, grow cattle and depend on food and life.....Let us learn to make books as the white man does and we shall grow again into a Great Nation”*.



Chief William McIntosh

On December 15, 1823, Governor George Troup appointed Ware Brigadier General of the 2nd Brigade of the 5th Division of Georgia Militia. Two years later, on February 7, 1825, another large parcel was signed over at the Treaty of Indian Springs which the Upper Creeks rejected and refused to sign. They were highly displeased with McIntosh for the sale of this land, denounced him as a traitor, and vowed revenge. McIntosh also sold his 1000 acres at Indian Springs and his 640 acre tract on the Ocmulgee River. Opothleyoholo, a spokesman for the upper Creeks called McIntosh a "double-tongued devil" and warned, "your own blood shall wash out the memory of this hated treaty". Chief McIntosh had signed his own death warrant.

The "Red-Stick" faction of the Creek nation lived up to their threat. On April 30, 1825, at three in the morning about 170 warriors under the leadership of a brave called Menewa crept quietly up to McIntosh’s home in Carroll County and torched the house. One son, Chilly McIntosh, escaped through an open window and fled to Fayette County. Two of McIntosh's wives also escaped, but not before witnessing what happened to their husband and his property. Chief McIntosh held the warriors at bay with four guns until he could no longer stand the heat from the fire.

It was then that he was forced to exit into a spray of bullets from the marauding band. He was instantly killed, dragged out in the yard and scalped (beheaded according to one son's account). A friend and a son-in-law, Samuel Hawkins, were also killed. The plantation was then ravaged, the livestock killed and all buildings burned. The warriors left as quickly as they had come, taking the scalp of McIntosh with them as a trophy. He was buried at the site.

McIntosh's remaining family, including the two wives and two sons, took refuge at General Alexander Ware's home in Fayette County. Ware's home and property was on the eastern side of

Line Creek, near the border of Georgia and the Creek Nation, in the vicinity of present day Peachtree City. With them came 120-150 other Creek Indians who feared for their lives. In a letter dated May 3, 1825, to Governor Troup, the wives poured out their anguish and pleaded for food and assistance for themselves, their children, and the other indigent Indians at Ware's plantation. It was signed "Peggy and Susannah McIntosh."

For whatever reason, Governor Troup, a first cousin to the slain chief, offered meager aid. General Ware and friendly whites did what they could for the refugees. Ware reported to Troup, "The road is covered with refugees, and upwards of four hundred warriors of the hostile party are feasting on McIntosh's cattle and would be marching toward the settlement of whites in three days. I will prepare for an invasion of perhaps as many as four thousand warriors. Whites, who have lived among Creeks a long time and know them, are sending their families out of the Creek Nation."

General Ware, his men and the citizens of Fayette County anticipated an attack from a large hostile band of Indians. During this time, Fayette County was the western edge of the frontier, with Line Creek being the border of Georgia and the Creek Nation. Near General Ware's home, in fear of the Creek up-rising, Fort Troup was constructed. On June 11, 1825, in a letter from Troup to Ware, the governor responds, "Sir, you will receive for public service, 160 muskets, 5280 cartridges, 250 flints, 100 lb. buck shot, and 160 cartridge boxes." The attack never came and in June of 1827 the arms were returned to the arsenal at Milledgeville. The exact location of the fort has never been found.

Enclosure No. 3.

Number of Indians, men, women, and children, that belong to the McIntosh party, at General Alexander Ware's, Fayette County, 16th August, 1825.

Names of Chiefs and Headmen.	Grade of Chiefs.	No. of warriors.	No. of women.	No. of children.	What towns they belong to.
Big Coffee,	4th	2	2	-	Sand Town.
Elaparlar,	4th	1	2	6	Do.
Johna,	-	1	-	-	Do.
Lucy,	-	-	5	8	Do.
I could not get names for	-	5	7	18	Do.
		9	16	32	

A true copy.

E. G. W. BUTLER, *Aid-de-Camp.*

On August 14, 1825, General E. P. Gaines issued the order to General Ware, "Stop issuing rations to the Indians and that they are to be instructed to go to the military post near Marshall's Ferry, Flint River." From there, the Indians would eventually return to their homes.



Contradictory to Ware family history and other resources, Alexander may have had a son. In the book "Biographical Souvenir of the States of Georgia and Florida" it contains a biography of George M. T. Ware, aka G. M. T. Ware.

COL. GEORGE M. T. WARE, judge of the county court of Wayne County, Ga., was born in Fayette County, Ga., November 17, 1824. Gen. Alexander Ware, his father, was a soldier in the war of 1812, and later a State brigadier-general. He had charge of the McIntosh party of the Creek Indians who ceded lands to Georgia, which created a division in the tribe known as the Hostiles and the McIntosh party. He was also a planter and an enterprising man of means, investing when and where the outlook appeared inviting. He was killed July 7, 1836, at about the age of forty years, in Texas, by parties who belong to the "Murrell gang," which was a band of outlaws headed by one John A. Murrell. They originated in Tennessee during the thirties, and operated mostly in the southern States, and notably in Tennessee, Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama and the Carolinas and Mississippi and in the great Mississippi Swamp, where they had their headquarters. Their business was mostly stealing "niggers," selling them and stealing them again as often as possible or prudent, and then killing them, on the theory that "dead men tell no tales." This band was finally broken up under the surveillance of Detective Virgial A. Stewart.

Our subject began reading law in Rome, Ga., in 1850, and was admitted to the bar in 1852, at which time also he began his practice. His practice has been in southeastern Georgia ever since. He has been judge of the Wayne County court now four years. He enlisted in 1861 in an independent company of Georgia cavalry, and was in that branch of service during the entire war, and most of that service was on the coast and islands of Georgia, though some of it was in Florida, Alabama, and at Atlanta and north Georgia. He was also in the Fourth Georgia cavalry which served temporarily under Wheeler, Morgan, Avery and Ferguson, each for a time, then went flanking along after Sherman on his march through Georgia, and was among the last who crossed the pontoon bridge that spanned the river at Savannah. It was being torn up on the morning the Union troops entered that city. It was put there by the Confederates for the C.S.A. forces to cross over into South Carolina. The judge served as lieutenant most of the time. When the war closed he went to practicing law at Blackshear without a copper. He remained there until 1869, and had done well when he lost everything by fire. He left then for Brunswick and took charge of the city academy there, a position which was tendered him without solicitation. He had good success and remained there until 1874, when he left on account of the health of his wife and child, and went to Jesup, where he has been ever since. He was married in 1864, in

Blackshear, to Miss Isabella, daughter of Elias and Nancy (Strickland) Stewart, both natives of Georgia.

Listed below are other records and my assumptions.

1. In the 1830 census of Fayette Co., GA., Alexander Ware has 1 white male between 5-9 years living in his household. G. M. T. Ware was born 1824, so he would have been six years old in 1830.
2. His name G. M. T. Ware could have been named after Alexander's good friend and Gov. of GA, George M. Troup, or the son of his brother James Ware II, who was born in 1805 Elbert Co., GA., and died in 1849 Fayette Co., GA., named George M. T. Ware.
3. From the 1845 Will of Alexander Ware's mother Molly Veal Ware: "The plot and grant will show both of said lots of land lying in originally Cherokee County, but the former lot now in Paulding County, and the latter now in Cass County, both of said lots of land I do will and bequeath to my grandson George M. T. Ware for his exclusive use and benefit." However, she did not indicate if the grandson was the son of Alexander or James.
4. I have an 1850 record where G. M. T. Ware sold 2 land lots in Fayette County. Both land lots were owned by Alexander Ware.
5. The 1850 census lists G. M. T. Ware, attorney, living with the Bass family in Floyd County, Georgia. Alexander's brothers and mother lived in Floyd County.
6. In 1852, G. M. T. Ware was elected as a Whig Party delegate from Floyd County to the State convention.
7. In the 1880 census, it lists G. M. T. Ware, attorney, stating that his father was born Virginia (Alexander Ware was born Virginia), and his mother South Carolina.

As of this date, I can find no records of Alexander's wife or possible mistress.

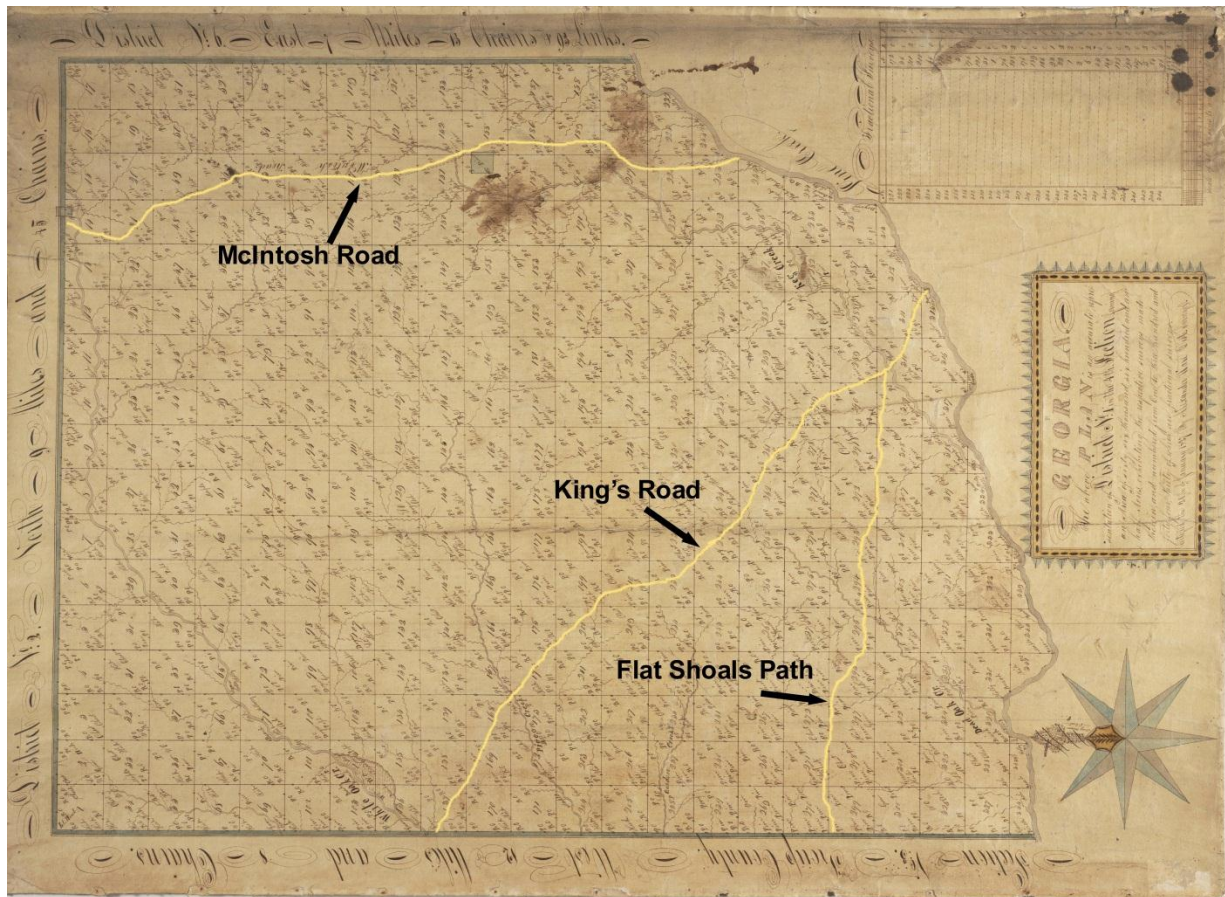


Monument of G. M. T. Ware
Jesup City Cemetery, Jesup, Wayne County, Georgia



In 1826, Alexander Ware again assumed the role of a surveyor. He was selected to survey district one in the new county named Coweta. Ware, along with chain carriers Calvin Strickland and Aaron Prichet, and markers Roswell Strickland and John Scholtz, started the survey on November 15, 1826. District one contained 344 land lots and the crew completed the survey on January 27, 1827 in just 74 days.

In the survey, Ware would mark two Indian Roads and one Path, the McIntosh Road, the King's Road, and the Flat Shoals Path. Two Indian Fields were also documented on the survey.



Coweta District #1

In the above map, surveyor Alexander Ware named the Indian Trail *King's Road* in honor of Major Tandy Dix King. Tandy, who lived in Fayette, traded with the Indians and drove the first wagon through the gap of the Pine Mountains in Harris County, which took his name, and is known as King's Gap.

The Creek Indians ceded their lands between the Flint and Chattahoochee River in 1827. A year later on 20 December 1828, the GA Legislature commissioned Alexander Ware and several others to “examine and lay out a large market road, the nearest and most practicable route from the town of Decatur, in De Kalb county, to the town of Columbus, by the way of Fayetteville, Greenville and Hamilton, or as near on this route as the ground will admit.” The existing Indian road named the *King’s Road* was widened and used for this route.



Historically correct artist rendering of migrating settlers in Georgia early 1800s.
Most pioneers traveled in a Conestoga type wagon or a spring wagon.

After the Creeks were removed in 1827 more land opened to the west. Ware soon purchased more farming land in Coweta. In a few short years, Alexander owned or paid taxes on 40 land lots in Fayette and Coweta. He also owned holdings in Lee, Early, Carroll, and Madison counties, owned town lots in Columbus, and owned several water mills on Line Creek. The water mills, which were located on land lot 161 Fayette County, were destroyed many years ago. However remains of the mill dams remain and are being preserved in the Line Creek Nature Preserve in western Peachtree City, Georgia.

While in Virginia, and later Madison County Georgia, Alexander’s family and relatives were “Planters.” They also owned and operated water powered grist and saw mills. At an early age he would have been educated in crops, carpentry, timbering, treating the sick, raising cattle,

blacksmithing, soils, horses, and many other tasks that went into running a plantation. His lesson would now be in management.

The 1830 Georgia Census listed Alexander Ware as owning 57 slaves. Growing the slave-based cotton and tobacco almost exclusively proved to have ravaging effects on the soil. Both crops wore the land out so fast that there could never be enough, but they never brought in enough money to allow planters to get ahead. Ware's later extensive speculation in land was mostly done on credit, promises, and warrants, not cash. He, like many others, in time could become land rich, but cash poor.

While a Planter, he served in the Georgia House of Representatives, served as Justice of the Inferior Court, commissioner of the Fayette Academy, and owned Ware's Store and Post Office. Ware served as Postmaster from 1831 to 1836. Ware's Store was located on the old Indian Trail, west of Line Creek.

Alexander Ware was successful at being a "Planter", but only out of necessity, not desire. What he wanted to do was roam and explore...and that...he did.



Remains of Alexander Ware's water mill dam, Line Creek



Petroglyph (also known as Rock Carvings)
Found near Ware's Store, Fayette County

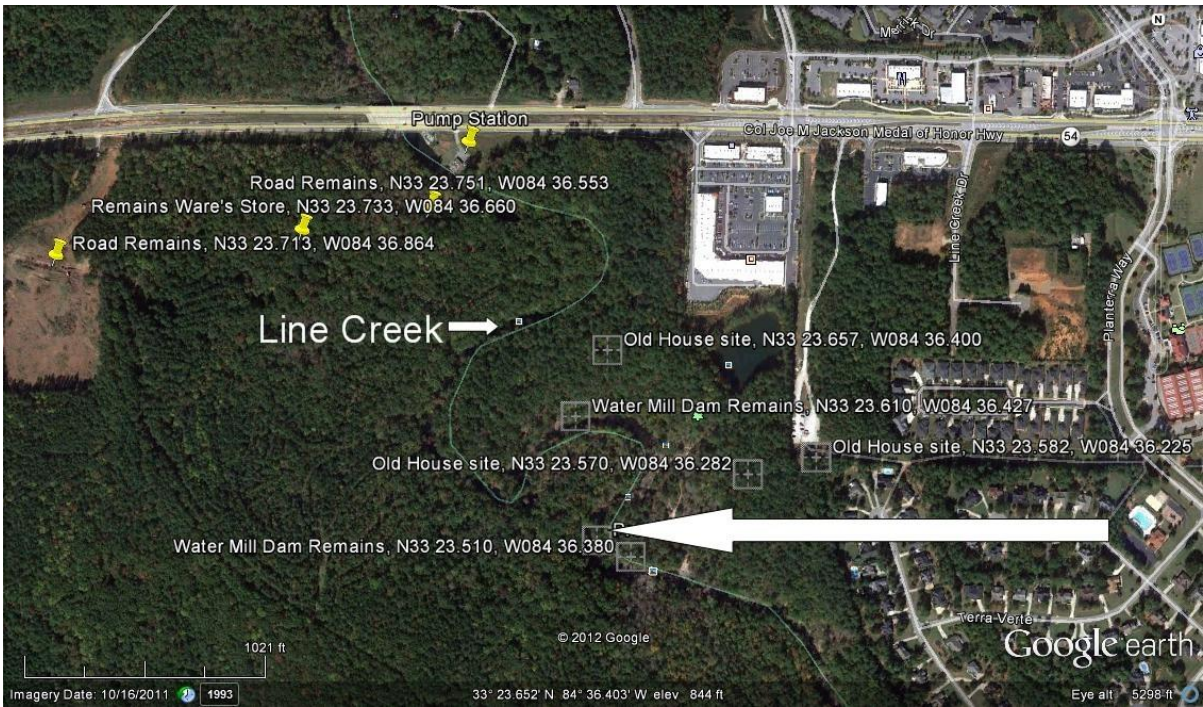
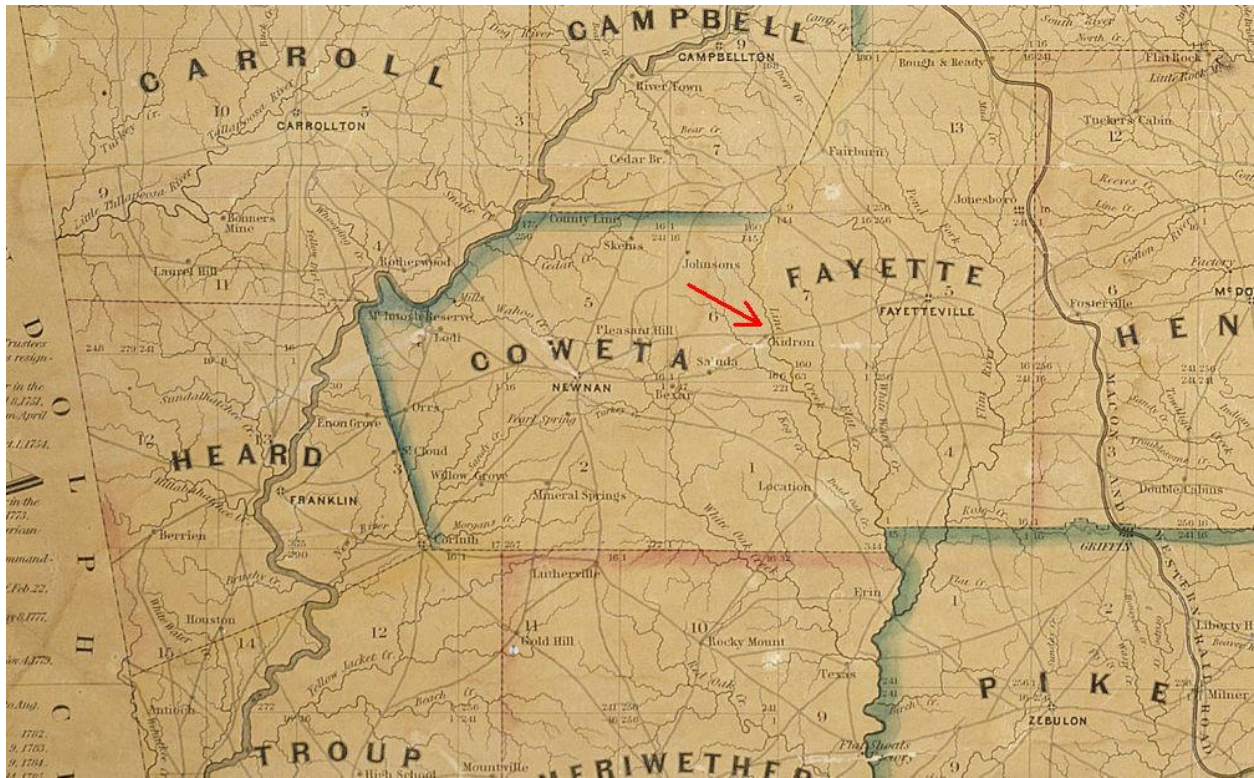
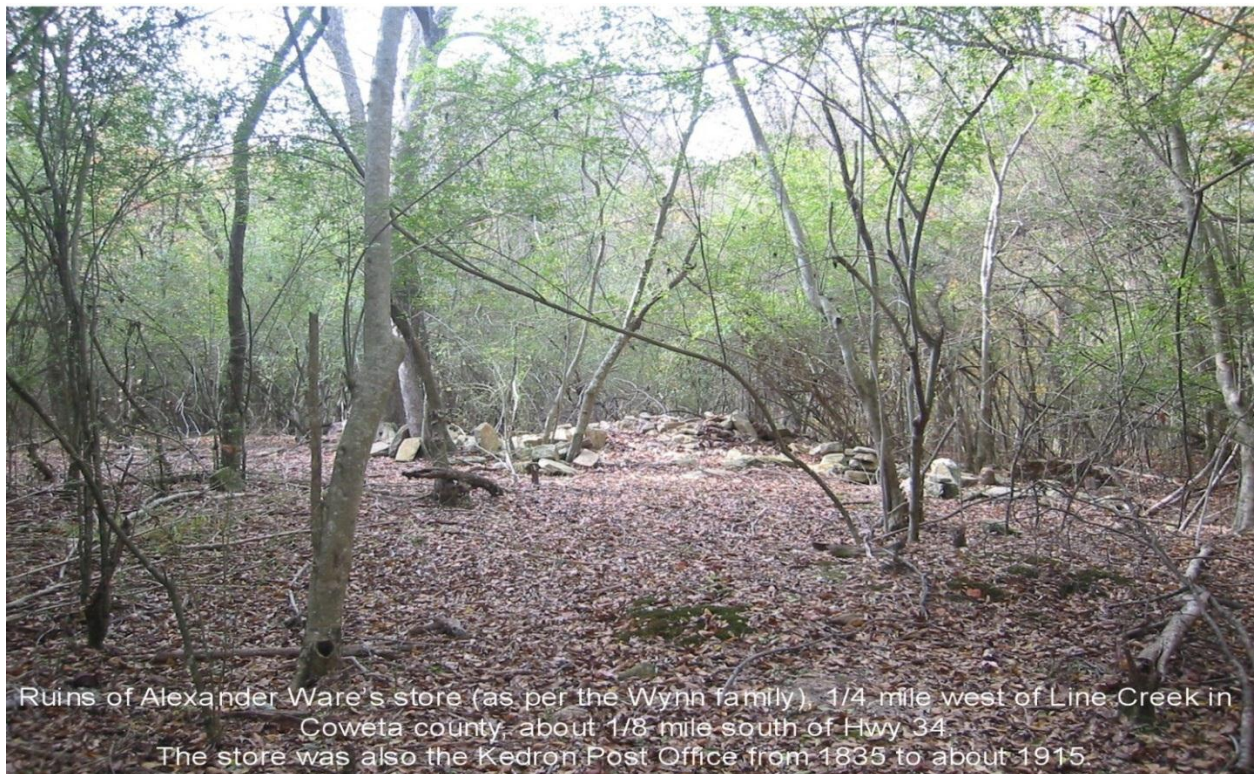


Image showing remains of Ware's mills and store, old road, and unknown house sites



Location of Ware's Store and Post Office



Ruins of Alexander Ware's store (as per the Wynn family), 1/4 mile west of Line Creek in Coweta county about 1/8 mile south of Hwy 34
The store was also the Kedron Post Office from 1835 to about 1915

Chapter 3 Gold Fever

Ware & Matthews' Gold Mine Cherokee Nation 1833-1835

Local folk-lore states that in 1828, a man walked Findley Ridge, kicked a rock...and discovered it was full of gold.

America's first gold rush started in North Georgia in 1828, twenty years prior to the California Gold Rush. This was in Cherokee Indian territory, and part of present day Lumpkin County, Georgia. Men arrived from many states to encroach on Cherokee land. They came on foot and horseback, some in wagons, acting more like senseless men than anything else you could imagine. They were soon panning for gold out of creeks and rivers, and making holes in the hillsides. Wealthy men, penniless men, educated and uneducated men... all there in north Georgia, working like beavers.

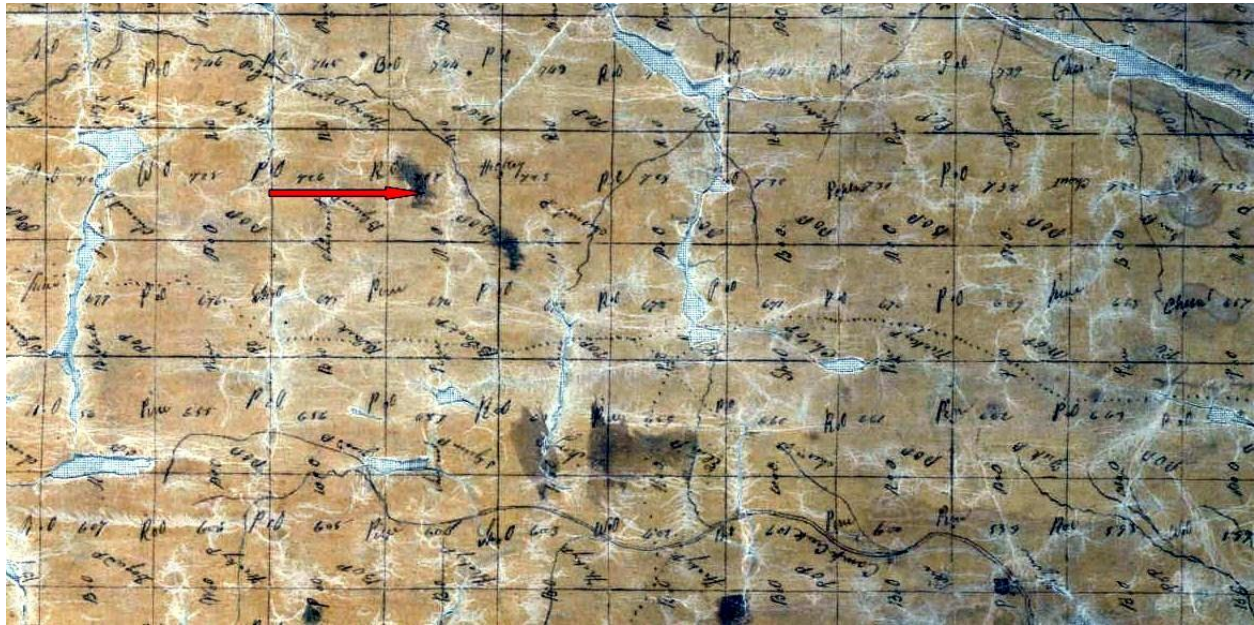
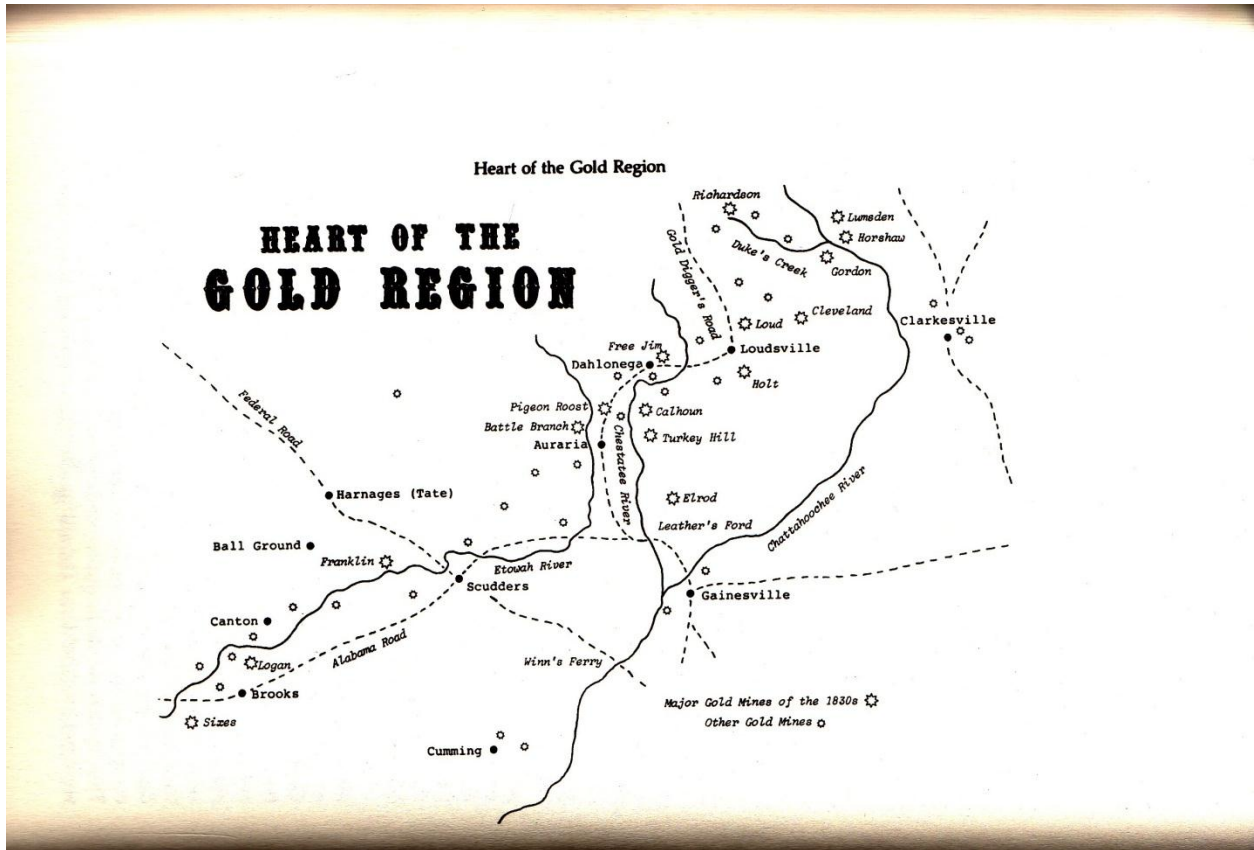


Out of this assortment of varied and motley gold seekers emerged an innovative group of "Twenty Niners" who, out of necessity, developed mining techniques, banking and assaying systems in a remote area at a time

when the world was not technologically advanced. There was no such thing as mining geology or geologic mapping practiced in the United States. Georgians were the first to engage in these unusual pursuits that lead the way for mining systems that flourished during the California Gold Rush.



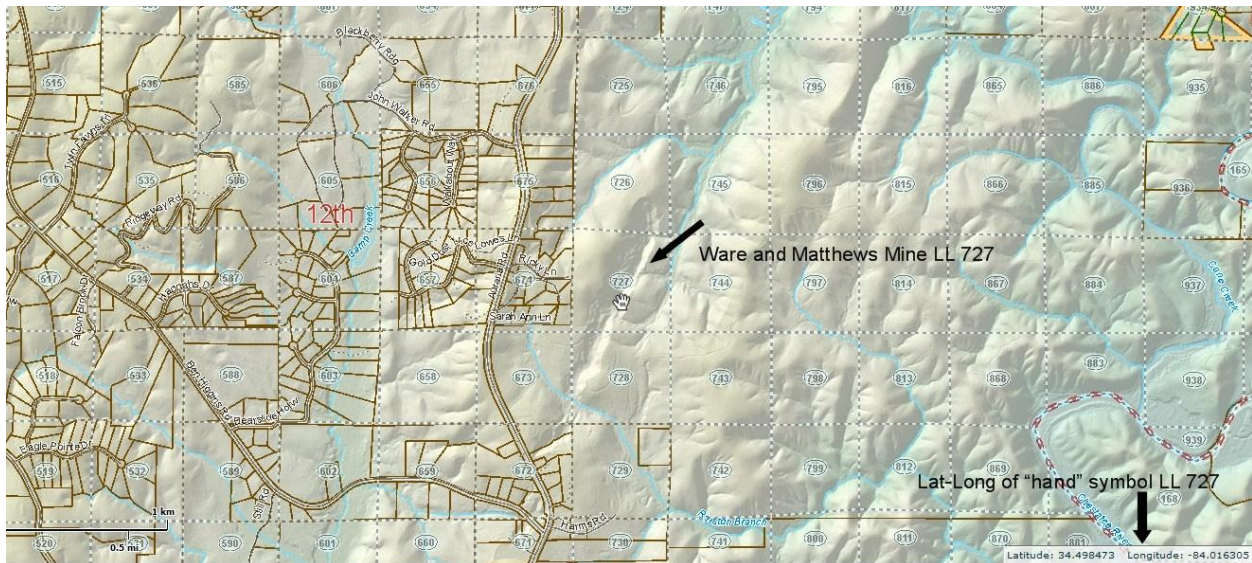
Around 1833, Alexander Ware, while operating farms, water mills, and a general store and post office near his home in Fayette County, invested heavily in a gold mining operation in north Georgia. Ware with his partner, Allen Matthews of Jefferson, Georgia, established the firm of Ware & Matthews. The document stated, "For the purpose of gold mining in the north Georgia town of Auraria." Known investors of Ware and Matthews were Alexander Ware, Allen Matthews, Green Duke, George Shaw, Horatio Webb, Sylvanus Ripley, and John Appleby. Alexander Ware was a general in the militia while the other investors were judges, senators, representatives, attorneys and public figures, mostly from Jackson County, Georgia.



Original Land Lottery Map Lumpkin County Georgia
Red arrow points to Land lot 727

In October of 1833 the newspaper reported, “*The lot (727) on Pigeon Roost has been sold to Gen’l Alexander Ware and Allen Matthews for \$10,000.*” History states that Ware & Matthews actually owned four 40-acre gold lots, together with mills, machinery, and other property connected with the mining industry.

On 12-19-1834, the Pigeon Roost Mining Company was incorporated by Allen Matthews and others to include lots 727, 817, 662, in the 12th district, and #163 in the 7th district.



Current Day Land Lot Map Showing Location of Ware & Matthews’ Mine on Lot 727

In time, Ware & Matthews were advised to dig a deep vertical shaft to find the main vein of gold, which they constructed, and also built a small stamping plant. Both were completed by 1834, but this smelled of disaster and due to cost over-runs the venture failed.

In the mid-1830s, the recorded records were sketchy. Several researchers state that Ware paid \$10,000.00 for lot 727. If so, he probably paid \$4,000.00 down, with the balance of \$6,000.00 to be paid within a certain time period. Listed below are documented records from Lumpkin, Jackson, and Fayette Counties.

“Lumpkin County Georgia Superior Court Records 1835

February 28, 1835

Wiley W. Webb

vs.

Sylvanus Ripley, Green R. Duke, Horatio Webb, Geo. Shaw and John Appleby.

The defendants in this case can confessed judgment to the plaintiff for the sum of six thousand dollars besides interest and cost. They now came into the office within four days and demand a stay of execution sixty days and under Alexander Ware and Allen Matthews as their security they and each of them acknowledge themselves held and firmly bound to the plaintiff for the principle interest and cost in the above case.”

19	do	do	"	47
202 $\frac{1}{2}$	do	Lot	"	33
41 $\frac{1}{2}$	do	Fraction	"	32
168 $\frac{1}{2}$	do	do	"	30
202 $\frac{1}{2}$	do	Lot	"	43
202 $\frac{1}{2}$	do	do	"	42
202 $\frac{1}{2}$	do	do	"	29
202 $\frac{1}{2}$	do	do	"	34

all in the 6th district of Fayette county, and 141 acres being fraction No. 160, 4 acres being fraction 161 both in the 7th district of Fayette county, together with the mills on said Lots —all levied on as the property of Alexander Ware by an execution from the superior court of Jackson county in favor of Willie W. Webb vs Green R. Duke, George Shaw, Horatio Webb, Sylvanus Ripley, John Appleby, and Alexander Ware, and Allen Matthews security on the stay of execution, property pointed out by Giles Mitchell attorney for plaintiff.

June 25 ALFRED BROWN, sh'ff.

Copy of Fayette County Sheriff's Advertisement for Sale

On June the 25th, 1835, a Fayette Sheriff's sale appeared in the Macon newspaper, which was a result from a suit by Wiley W. Webb against Ware and his associates. Webb, as having drawn the lot in the 1832 Gold Lottery of Georgia, was the owner of the land lot #727, district #12, Section #1, where the Ware mine was located. As a result, Ware lost 1,405 acres of land and his water mills on Line Creek in Fayette County, Georgia.

There is no question that Ware will be looking for political and financial renewal. But, on the other hand, he had always enjoyed a journey.



"The law is an axe. It cuts whoever it falls on. The man that wins knows how to aim the sharp edge away from himself." Charles Frazier, *thirteen moons*

Chapter 4

Tragedy on the Frontier

Fayette County, Georgia, to Mexican Texas 1835-1836

Thousands of men are marching together toward the same point on the horizon; their languages, religions, and more are different, but they all have one common aim. They have been told that fortune is to be found some-where toward the west, and they hasten to seek it.

Alexis De Tocqueville

In 1835 after his Georgia gold mine failed, forty-six year old Brigadier General Alexander Ware, of Fayette County, Georgia, traveled to Mexican Texas in search of new business opportunities. These long journeys were lonely affairs. The exact date of his departure is not known, but below is an educated guess.

The route Ware traveled from Central Georgia to San Augustine, Texas, was both by land and water: by stagecoach from Georgia to Montgomery, Alabama; south by boat to Mobile; and stagecoach to New Orleans. From New Orleans he traveled the Red River to Natchitoches, Louisiana. At Natchitoches, Ware would have likely purchased a horse and traveled by land on the El Camino Real – aka the *Kings Highway*, the Old San Antonio Road; now Highway 21 - crossing the Sabine River at Gaines' Ferry, and on to San Augustine. His estimated arrival at San Augustine was circa late 1835, or early 1836. The trip from Georgia to San Augustine lasted about a month. An example of trip time can be found in M. B. Lamar's journal when he traveled to Texas a few months before Ware: "*Mirabeau B. Lamar of Georgia (1798-1859), poet, journalist, and politician, first visited Texas in 1835. He traveled from Columbus, Georgia on June 15, 1835 by stagecoach and steamboat as far as Natchitoches, Louisiana, where he acquired a horse and rode into Texas in July 17, 1835, following the El Camino Real.*"



The Spaniards and the French marked the famous trail used by such men as Moses Austin and his son Stephen Fuller Austin (The Father of Texas), Jim Bowie, Davy Crockett, Sam Houston, early missionaries of multiple faiths, and other migrating Americans. The frontier restlessness eventually caught up with other fortune seekers and in large letters, they marked *G.T.T.* on their cabin doors --- meaning *Gone to Texas*.

Once Ware arrived in San Augustine, he most likely boarded at the home of Elisha Roberts, a haven of hospitality to travelers. In 1835–1836 Roberts furnished provisions, lodging, and transportation for the revolutionary cause. Sam Houston, James Bowie, David Crockett, William B. Travis and Stephen F. Austin all boarded there.

In March of 1836, Texans under the command of Col. William B. Travis were overwhelmed by the Mexican army after a two-week siege at the Battle of the Alamo in San Antonio. The “Runaway Scrape” began.

The Runaway Scrape is the period in early 1836 generally beginning with the siege and fall of the Alamo and ending with the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21. It was a period of terror and panic among the settlements of Texas, as Santa Anna and the Mexican armies swept eastward from San Antonio, virtually unopposed.

During the runaway, the colonists gathered a few personal possessions, abandoned their homes, and headed eastward under most difficult conditions. Rain and cold weather slowed the settler's eastward progress along the muddy roads and trails. Many died from widespread hunger and sickness. News of Santa Anna's atrocities---some true, but some distorted by rumor---added to the frenzy.

Alexander Ware joined the San Augustine Texas militia in 1836. He was listed on the muster roll of the “Texas Volunteers [San Augustine Co.], Thomas S. McFarland's Company." His unit was said to have been engaged at the defeat of Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna and the Mexican army.

On April 29, 1836, Ware purchases 217 acres on land 5 miles west of San Augustine on the El Camino Real. Location of the property is latitude N 31 31.669' longitude W 94 11.338'. Ware’s land was part of the original Zavalias’ Land Grant. In 1829, Manuel Lorenzo Justiniano de Zavala y Sáenz received a grant from the Mexican government to settle 500 families on a tract of land which is now southeast Texas.



Historical Marker
Located West Of
Venado Creek On
Property Owned
By Alexander
Ware In San
Augustine,
TEXAS

**McFarland, Thomas S.
Texas Volunteers [San
Augustine Co.]
"List of Texas
Volunteers in 1836
Thomas S. McFarland's
Company"**

COMPANY NAMES

Allen, Phillip J.
Anthony, Roddy
Augustin, H.W.
Barnes, Moses
Bennet, Miles
Bennet, Stephen
Bissell, Theodore
Blair, John
Border, John
Bridges, James
Bridges, Ross
Brown, Hiram
Brown, Reuben
Brown, Squire
Burliston, J.A.
Caldwell, Andrew
Caldwell, Robert W.
Carson, John
Cartwright, Thomas
Caveniss, Jeremiah
Chumley, A.
Collins, Geo.
Cransdale, Abram
Curry, Wiley
Daniel, Wm.
Davis, E.K.
Davis, Edward
Davis, George W.
Davis,
Pleasant/Pleasant
Davis, William M.
Doyle, _____
Earthman, James
Erwin, Phillip I.
Evans, _____
Ewing, Wilson E.
Flowers, James E.
Foster/Fortner, Lewis
N.
Francis, Wm.
Frazier, _____
Galloway, Peter

Garret, Claiborne (1
Lt)
Gilbert, John
Grigg, John
Haile, Jonas
Hardiman, John M.
Harvey, B.W.
Hemphill, Augustus
Hemphill, Lafayette
Hendrick, Edwin
Hendrick, Henry
Hendrick, John
Herrin, Jacob
Hill, David
Horton, Henry
Hunt, Charles S. (2
Lt)
Hunt, Thos.
Irwin/Irvin, Josephus
Jackson, E.
Jefferson, Thos.
Jessup, Curtis
Jessup, Curtis [2nd]
Johnson, Frances
Kuykendal, Abraham
Kuykendal, James
Kuykendal, William
Laban/Labor, Thos.
Lagow, Thos.
Landers, Levi
Lawhon, John C.
Linville, David
Love, James
Lucas, George C.
Lucas, John
Lucas, Saml. M.
Malone, Thomas W.D.
Martin, G. S.
McCarron, William
McFarland, S.P.
McFarland, Thomas S.
(Capt)
McGaughby/McGuaghby,
Benjamin
McGehie, _____
McGeunis/McGennis,
John
McKey, Edwin
Miller, Simpson
Miller, Solomon
Miller, William
Millican, Andrew A.
Mitchell, James A.
Moore, John
Moss, James
Nash, John D.
Nash, William

Norvell, Lipscomb
Parker, Benjamin
Parker, John
Peterson, Oliver
Prather, Freeman
Rainer/Rainor, S.M.
Ramsdale, George
Reeves, Green B.
Reiley/Riley, Bernard
Schults, C.
Shelton, James
Sims, Bartlet S.
Spears, John
Spillers, James
Spillers, William
Stephens/Stevens,
Corbet
Stephenson, John
B./P.
Tapp, _____
Terry, Jesse
Thomas, Jackson
Thomas, Shadrack D.
Thomas, Theophilus
Thomas, W.S.
Ursery, Geo. W.
Ursery, Wade P.
Ussery, H.
Ware, Alexander
Watts, William
Welch, William
Wells, Samuel
White, Robert
Wood, R.D.

Alexander Ware had been in Texas for less than a year when his life ended in a shocking tragedy. On June 8, 1836, while traveling alone near his land, Ware was robbed and killed by a member of the notorious John Murrell Gang. It was estimated that he was in possession of \$10,000 in gold.

Macon, July 7—We are informed by a Mr. Clark, a gentleman recently from Texas, that General Alexander Ware, Formerly a resident of Fayette county, in this state, was murdered in Veilon Zavalla Colony, about the last of May. He was traveling with a man by the name of Eaton, by whom he was shot and robbed of his money. Eaton was pursued into the United States, but it is not known whether he has been taken. General Ware left, it is believed, about 15 negroes on his farm, near the town of San Augustine, and as he has no connections in that country, that our informant knows of, it is probable that his property could be obtained, if claimed by his relatives in the United States. Our informant thinks that further information, might, probably be obtained respecting his property, by writing to Col. John Thomas, recently of Upson county, in this State, at San Augustine, via Fort Jessup.-Messenger

Nothing more is known about the death of Alexander Ware. In December of 2006 local historians in San Augustine, assisted me in the attempt to locate Ware's grave. *After exhausting all research efforts Ware's burial site became a victim to the most dreaded words in genealogy-- "dead end."*



Why Texas?

Who or what influenced Alexander Ware to venture far from his Georgia home to Mexican Texas? History does not tell us, but listed below in order are 3 distinct possibilities.

Investment Opportunities

Franklin J. Starr opened a law office in McDonough, Henry County, Georgia. (Fayette County, home to Ware, adjoins Henry County). In 1834 Starr and Amasa Spencer were commissioned by a group of Georgia investors to inspect conditions in Mexican Texas. They investigated potential localities for settlement and returned to Georgia in spring 1835. The report to their Georgia clients revealed Texas agricultural prospects and the unsatisfactory aspects of the Mexican administration. Alexander Ware could have very well been one of the investors.

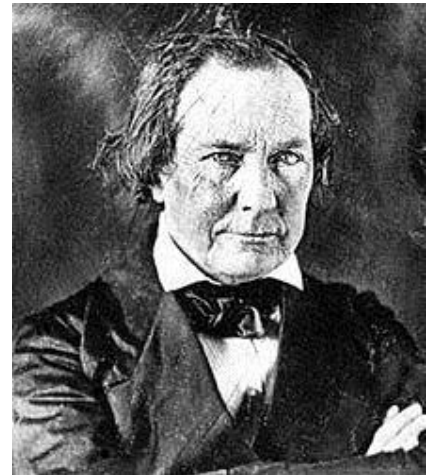
Starr married Pamela Orme sometime before August 30, 1835, when the newly married couple migrated to Texas. Starr took his Mexican citizenship oath at San Felipe de Austin on December 24, 1835. He and William B. Travis formed a law partnership at San Felipe at that time. While Travis took command of the Texan forces at the Alamo and gained fame as the ill-fated

commander of the Alamo, Starr joined a volunteer company under Moseley Baker and marched to Gonzales. Starr was granted a furlough to remove his family and belongings from San Felipe to a safer location in Nacogdoches during the Runaway Scrape.

Starr began the practice of criminal law in Nacogdoches in May 1836. In May of the next year he became captain of a company of mounted volunteers organized to pursue hostile Indians in Nacogdoches County which comprised a large part of the eastern part of the state at that time. Since the campaign was conducted during warm weather, the volunteers became sick from forced marches and exposure. Starr became ill with a fever and died on July 7, 1837.

Alternate Speculation of Ware to Texas

Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar, son of John and Rebecca Lamar, president of the Republic of Texas, was born near Louisville, Georgia, on August 16, 1798. He grew up at Fairfield, his father's plantation near Milledgeville. He attended academies at Milledgeville and Eatonton and was an omnivorous reader. As a boy he became an expert horseman and an accomplished fencer. He also began writing verse, and painting in oils. In 1819 he had a brief partnership in a general store at Cahawba, Alabama; in 1821 he was joint publisher of the Cahawba Press for a few months.



When George M. Troup (**close friend of Alexander Ware**) was elected governor of Georgia in 1823, Lamar returned to Georgia to become Troup's secretary and a member of his household. He married Tabitha Jordan of Twiggs County, Georgia, on January 1, 1826, and soon resigned his secretaryship to nurse his bride, who was ill with tuberculosis.

In 1828 he moved his wife and daughter, Rebecca Ann, to the new town of Columbus, Georgia. **(Alexander Ware owned a town lot in Columbus and had ties to the Bank of Columbus.)**

Lamar established the *Columbus Enquirer* as an organ for the Troup political faction. Lamar was elected state senator in 1829 and was a candidate for reelection when his wife died on August 20, 1830. He withdrew from the race and traveled until he was sufficiently recovered. During this time he composed two of his best known poems, *At Evening on the Banks of the Chattahoochee* and *Thou Idol of My Soul*. He ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1832, helped organize a new party, and was again defeated for Congress in 1834 on a nullification platform. He then sold his interest in the *Enquirer* and in 1835 followed James W. Fannin, Jr., to Texas to collect historical data. By the time he reached Texas, Lamar's health and spirits began to mend and he decided to settle in the Mexican province. Characteristically, he immediately declared for Texas independence, helped build a fort at Velasco, contributed three poems to the *Brazoria Texas Republican*, and hurried back to Georgia to settle his affairs. At the news of the battle of the

Alamo and the Goliad Massacre, Lamar rushed back to Velasco and inquired the way to the scene of battle. He joined the revolutionary army at Groce's Point as a private. When the Mexican and Texan forces faced each other at San Jacinto on April 20, 1836, Thomas J. Rusk and Walter Paye Lane were surrounded by the enemy. Lamar's quick action the next day saved their lives and brought him a salute from the Mexican lines. As the battle of San Jacinto was about to start, he was verbally commissioned a colonel and assigned to command the cavalry. Ten days after the battle, having become secretary of war in David G. Burnet's cabinet, he demanded that Antonio López de Santa Anna be executed as a murderer. A month later Lamar was major general and commander in chief of the Texas army. He was elected the second President of the Republic of Texas.

Thomas Jefferson Rusk Connection

Thomas Jefferson Rusk, hero of the Texas Revolution, signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence and first chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court to perform active service, was born in the Pendleton District of South Carolina on December 5, 1803. Rusk was trained as a lawyer and later practiced in Habersham County, Georgia. Soon after gold was discovered near his home, Rusk followed the gold fever and established an office in Auraria, which had a small courthouse. This was the same location as Ware's mine. While practicing law in Auraria, he acquired interests in several mining operations in the area. As the gold mines began to decline, Rusk learned that several shareholders fled with the gold and went to Texas.



In 1834, after the managers of his gold mine embezzled company funds, Rusk chased them to Nacogdoches, Texas, only to find they had gambled away all the money. He was befriended there by Sam Houston, and seeing great potential in Texas, he decided to stay. With Houston himself as a witness, Rusk took the oath of allegiance to Texas. His family joined him in Texas the following year.

Rusk's arrival in Texas on the eve of the revolution positioned him to become an important force in the state's development and his contributions were many. The six-foot, 200-pound Rusk distinguished himself in the military arena, and rose quickly to the rank of brigadier general. He was named Secretary of War for the Republic in 1836. Rusk relinquished his army post prior to the siege of the Alamo and became a key player in both the Texas Declaration of Independence and the revised Texas Constitution. The interim government chose Rusk as the new Secretary of War in 1836, and he fought with Sam Houston to defeat Santa Anna's Mexican army at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. Alexander Ware's unit, Capt. Thomas S. McFarland's

Company, was under the command of General Rusk. Subsequently he commanded Texas forces as Santa Anna's men were pushed back across the Rio Grande. Rusk was elected Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court in 1838, headed the bar of the Republic of Texas and served as a United States senator.



Afterwards

In historical research, often there never is a final word. In the case of Alexander Ware, there will never be a final ending to his story. There is a hidden trove of information yet to be discovered. At some point, one must tell the story, even though in a day, it can change.

Ware wanted to be in that “new country”---where the wilderness gave him the freedom to make his fortune out of the raw material around him. And that is what drew his generation with him. For Ware, his road stopped west of San Augustine. For those who followed, the horizon had no limit.

Had Ware survived, he most likely would have only stayed in Texas as long as the big land deals were profitable. After they dried up, he would have moved on.

At the age of 46, the visionary and single Alexander Ware was cut off in the flame of his life. The location of his gravesite is still not known. If his grave could be found, I would anticipate his monument would read: "Alexander Ware, War of 1812, General, Leader, Visionary, Pioneer, Patriot, Soldier, Surveyor, Explorer, Gold Miner, Mill Owner, Planter, Indian Agent, Mason, Friend of Chief McIntosh, State Legislator,...a man of passion and ambition."

As a eulogist for Davy Crockett said, “He has *gone ahead.*”



“History is a dynamic. It is not a static. You are always learning---always finding out more that will make that history richer and more accurate.” Joyce Badgley Hunsaker

Edward J. Lanham
7-1-2013
All Rights Reserved

Resources:

1. Stewart, Virgil A.. The history of Virgil A. Stewart: and his adventure in capturing and exposing the great "western land pirate" and his gang... Harper and Brothers, 1836.
2. Georgia Telegraph, Macon, GA. 1835
3. Auraria: The Story of a Georgia Gold Mining Town, By E. Merton Coulter
4. Macon Telegraph, Macon, GA 1835
5. Gold at Pigeon Roost, Holabird, Adams, 2010
6. The Handbook of Texas Online, Texas State Historical Association
7. Mirabeau B. Lamar Travel Journal, Rice University
8. The University of Texas at Austin
9. Texas Military Records
10. Ancestry.com
11. San Augustine, Texas, Courthouse Records
12. Georgia Archives
13. San Augustine Texas Historical Society
14. Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin
15. Tarlton Law Library, The University of Texas School of Law, Austin
16. Photographs, Felicia Lanham 12-2006
17. Messenger Newspaper July 7, 1836
18. Atlanta History Center
19. De Vorsey, Indian Trails
20. Hudson, Angela, Creek Paths and Federal Roads
21. Alabama Encyclopedia
22. Fort Hawkins Commission
23. Google Earth
24. Google Books
25. James Drake, mapping
26. Diane Wells, editing
27. Lone Star Junction
28. Rebecca Drake, editing

Special thanks to the "Boots on the Ground" team. We walked many a mile.
John Lynch, Kerry Elliott, Don Wells, and Jerry Peterson.