

## **Benjamin Carter Campbell, Member # 1246**

William Jefferson Milford

b. 17 Dec 1852 Campbellton/Campbell, GA

d. 03 Aug 1927 Monroe/Ouachita, LA

This story is by my grandpa Marlin Clyde Campbell who wrote about his Grandpa (my Great Great Grandpa William Jefferson Milford) years ago.

### **Jeff Milford by Marlin Clyde Campbell**

This information was written on the back of their marriage license. Note: All sons bear the name of a president. Jack, who died young, was approximately (5) five weeks old when the family came by train to Ruston, LA, arriving December 24, 1887. It had been raining quite a bit and when they got off the train, it was so muddy my grandmother began crying when she saw all the red mud and wanted to return to Georgia. Her brother, already in Louisiana, had persuaded them to come to "Gods" country.

"Jeff" Milford was nine years old when the Civil War broke out. He had tried to farm to provide food for his mother, brothers and sister. He had cut oats to feed the milk cow which was kept tied in the woods where it was hoped the YANKEES would not find her. Someone left the corn crib door open, and all the chickens were in the crib eating the oats. Yankee soldiers came by, closed the door and caught all the chickens carrying them away. They took all the food that they could find at the farm except a small slab of meat that hung on a wire in the kitchen. The slab of meat was about the size of your hand.

After Jeff Milford had been in this country for a few years, he bought property which was several hundred yards southeast of Pleasant Grove Church. This property had been sold several times in the last several years. I believe a Mr. Sanderson owned the property and when he sold a man the property on credit, he would offer to furnish (groceries, plows and other needs that was needed during the year). The buyer would make a down payment and take (furnish) for the year. At the time that the crop was gathered you paid for the furnish, first. This usually meant that you did not have enough money to make the payment on the mortgage. The seller then foreclosed on you, and you lost the farm.

When Jeff Milford bought the farm, he was offered furnish. He refused. He stated that he would feed his family and stock. Before the crop was gathered and sold, all meat and most other groceries were gone. I was told by my mother that grandma Milford would bake a pan of cornbread and the family would eat the bread and drink water to wash it down. When the crops were gathered, Jeff made the payment. He paid the farm out. Also he bought the farm where Gus Milford bought and lived and also the two hundred acres that my mom and dad bought at his death.

Jeff Milford's word was as good as his bond. He owed no man any longer than was necessary to save the money to pay the debt. He is one of your ancestors that you, any one, can say that was my grandpa, etc.



**Front Row left to right**

Maggie Florence Milford (Campbell), Nancy Jane Milford (Musselwhite, White), William Jefferson Milford, Gladys White, Susan Caroline Milford (White), Esther White

**Back Row left to right**

Samuel Abraham Milford, Henry Jackson Milford, George Cleveland Milford, Lougenia Milford (Campbell), Gus Ammons Milford, John Thomas Milford, Sr.