

The
Biography
of
John Milligan II



Representative John Milligan II
Ca. 1842 in the only image left
Of him on the planet.

By
Thomas L. Milligan

Early History

John Milligan II was born to his parents, John I and Sarah (Robinson) Milligan in northern Virginia, most likely in between the years of 1795-1799. He was one of their last born children. John I had moved his family from Berkeley County, Virginia in 1794 and established their new homestead on a 100 acre parcel where Peter's Run flowed through, in the area north of current day Triadelphia, W. Virginia. During these early years, 1795-1799, the city of Wheeling, Virginia, which lay a few miles to the north, would also be incorporated.

This was an exciting time for the development of the area around Wheeling, Virginia. Monument Place was built a few years earlier in Elm Grove by Colonel Moses Shepard and was about the time that Josiah Thompson was building the Lawson Tavern, which was the first permanent structure of present day Triadelphia. In fact the Village of Triadelphia was established on the Thompson farm. Portions of the original Lawson Tavern building still exist today in "The Lawson House" on the north side of the "Old Pike." There was even talk and politics getting started to build the "National Road" (Old Pike) that would start in Pennsylvania and terminate someplace on the Ohio River near Wheeling. Construction started on the National Road in 1806 after the bill was passed by congress and signed by President Jefferson and was completed all the way to Wheeling by the end of 1818.

John Milligan II grew up in this environment of "Frontier" construction and saw travelers of all walks of life. There were Politicians such as Henry Clay who came around to check on the construction progress of the Ol' Pike for Congress, adventures like the eccentric Davy Crockett, road workers, mail stages coming through, pioneers and settlers looking to travel to the Ohio Territory and points westward from Wheeling. On the western shore of the Ohio River was Zane's Trace that would take people a few hundred miles into the Ohio Territory before turning south and back again to the Ohio River at Maysville, just north of Lexington, Kentucky. The Ol' Lawson Tavern was a place where people could stop and rest from a hard days travel on the Pike. They rested their horses, oxen or cattle outside while they, themselves, got refreshed with a good meal, maybe a bath and a very good night's rest, all for about 2 bits (25 cents) per person. The "Road" brought commerce to the Wheeling and Triadelphia areas. With John

Milligan's farm, laying just north of the Lawson Tavern where the Old Pike came through and I often wonder if his sons, didn't hire themselves out at the Tavern to make sure a traveler's horses were fed, watered and rested for the night or their oxen and cattle had plenty of grazing before their owner's would start off again in the morning. John Milligan I, no doubt, knew allot, if not all of the early settlers of the area and helped with the building of their homes and other structures. He also owned a tannery that he located on his 100 acre farm. This was a very exciting place for the Milligan children to grow up in those years.

In or about 1816, John Milligan II became a traveler himself. He struck out, when he was of good age, to make a life of his own. He was a young man ready to experience the world that lay just outside his door, ready to travel to the places he had heard other travelers mention in their stories at the Lawson House. One has to wonder what Trail he took to get to the Arkansas Territory. Did he travel on the National Road to the Ohio River and take a flat bottom boat all the way to the Spanish Country which lay on the western shore of the Mississippi River? Did he take the National Road to Zane's Trace and travel to Lexington, Kentucky (which was also a bustling city, just being settled in those days) and continued on to Tennessee (Memphis Area) and across the Mississippi to Lawrence County, Missouri Territory from there? The Author has even heard of the speculation that he may have run into the Thomas Lincoln Family just west of Lexington. Tom Lincoln had just lost his own 3 homesteads to the tax collector and ended up moving his wife Nancy Hanks and young son, Abe, to Southern Indiana. I researched this and found that there is absolutely NO evidence to support this chance meeting. We perhaps, may never really know exactly what John Milligan's route was but we know this for fact: by 1818, he not only got to Lawrence County in the Missouri Territory (Reeds Creek Area) but he had met and married the grass widowed, Eda (Jeffery) Ragsdale, of the James and Jane (Mason) Jeffery Family who also had just arrived in Reeds Creek in 1816.

The James and Jane (Mason) Jeffrey Family

We first encounter the James Jeffrey Family, on their life-long migration to Reeds Creek, in North Carolina with the birth of Jehoiada Jeffrey, Aug 10, 1790. When he was 8 or 9 years of age, James and Jane Jeffrey picked up and crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains into Tennessee and

settled for a time in the Knoxville, Tennessee area living around Fort Southwest Point. This is where Eda Jeffrey was born in 1799/1800 and Jane Mason's two brothers, Daniel and Nathaniel Mason were stationed and served in the Military here. We also found Jeremiah Jeffrey, James Jeffrey's brother living here as well as Britain Ragsdale, who James and Jane Mason Jeffrey ran into some years later after they arrive in the Missouri Territory themselves in 1816.

They lived here in Knoxville for a few years and move on in 1808, were we find them in Christian County, Kentucky, around the Hopkinsville area. They didn't remain here for very long either and move again to Union County, Illinois in 1811. They were living here on 11 Dec 1811 when the New Madrid Earthquake struck along the Mississippi River; 86 miles to the south of where the Ohio River meets the Mississippi. They don't stay in Illinois long after the earthquake and unfortunately we find them moving again. They crossed the Mississippi at Cape Girardeau and traveled a few miles south and settled in the small river front town of Tywopity, Missouri. They actually moved closer to the epicenter of the earthquake. As earthquakes have the characteristics of doing, there were aftershocks that took place in the following years; two of significant note in 1812 and two more of significant note in 1813. The Jeffrey family remained here though and after 1813 everyone in this area could live a more normal life. The aftershocks stopped and people didn't have to worry about the chimneys toppling over anymore. The springs in the area still had the foul taste of Sulphur in them and occasionally there was still the release of Sulphur gas into the air but on the whole, things were getting back to normal.

Then in 1816, we find the James Jeffrey Family moving again. They pulled up stakes and traveled south and eventually settled in the Reeds Creek area of Old Lawrence County, Missouri Territory. James Jeffrey set up his homestead here. Jehoiada Jeffrey, being 10 years Eda's senior, moved on westward and set up his own homestead just north of Batesville about 3 miles or so. This would later become the Community of Mt. Olive. As for the James Jeffrey Family however they would remain in Reeds Creek for the next 5 to 6 years. We don't know exactly why the Jeffrey Family moved so much from place to place. I personally believe the stories handed down within my own family by Goldie Bell Milligan that Jane Mason was a Country Doctor (mid-wife). She had been studying "Doctorin" since she was 12 or 13 years old. Stories were also told that she was known to travel 40 to 50 miles to help someone in need or help a woman birth a child. I'll wager

that her skills came in handy during the earthquake years in Missouri though.

The Ragsdales

After the Jeffrey's arrived at Reeds Creek, Eda Jeffrey had met and married a man name of Ragsdale. We do not know this man's first name but believe it was Britain and may be the father of Ellis S. Ragsdale and his brother also named Britian Ragsdale, who both show up in the Reeds Creek area in 1816 as well. It is almost impossible to find any accurate information about Eda's Ragsdale husband but we know that soon after their marriage, probably in late 1816/ early 1817, he passes away and leaves Eda a very young widow. Now it's been said that Ellis S. Ragsdale originally settled on the parcel of land next to John Milligan's place before moving on to the Batesville area. So, with this in mind, the Ragsdale boys, Ellis and Britian, perhaps stepsons or brothers-in-Law to Eda, get to watch her move on in life by marrying their good Friend and Neighbor, John Milligan II from northern (Triadelphia, West) Virginia. We know that John Milligan and Ellis S. Ragsdale struck up a very close friendship and later on not only would John Milligan marry Ellis Ragsdale to a woman name of Zilpha Smith, 25 April 1830 but each of these men would go on and name one of their sons after each other out of respect of their friendship. John Milligan would name his 4th born child, a boy child, Ellis Ragsdale Milligan and later on Ellis S. Ragsdale would name his 4th child, also a boy child, John Milligan Ragsdale.

There is an excellent Family Story, written by Ambrose C. Jeffrey, of how, after John and Eda were married (March of 1818), that John took to drinking and left Eda after some arguments they were having. He wandered clear up to the high point of the White River, took sick and almost died up there. When he could travel again, he decided to go back to Eda. Eventually he made his way to Jehoiada Jeffrey's place (Eda's older brother) on the White River north of Batesville and asked if he could borrow a horse to get him the rest of the way home. A.C. wrote that Jehoiada Jeffrey gave John a pretty sever scolding and sent him on his way without giving him a horse. So John had to continue on home by foot.

Still very sick, with a severe fever, John Milligan laid himself down by the side of a dimly lit trail at the head of what was called the "Two Mile Branch" east of Mt. Olive, on a bed of pine needles beneath the thick cedars

to die. There, in the still dim light of the thicket, John Milligan made his solemn prayers to God. He asked that he be forgiven of his trespasses and that he wanted to live. Then, racked with fever, he passes out and sleeps. It was by seeming miracle that John, after a time, wakes up. He rolls himself out from under the cedar branches and stands up. Feeling a bit better but still weak, he continued on and made his way back to Eda and angry as she must have been, she nursed him back to good and decent health.

A.C. Jeffrey went on to write that John Milligan always said later on in his life, that he never allowed himself to depart from the promises he made to God beneath the cedars that day. I wonder myself if there isn't some kind of a connection to this episode in John's life and the Cedar trees he later planted in the Campground Cemetery at the head of his daughter Hulda's grave in 1840? Maybe he wanted her to wake up with God's Miracles as well.

Together, John and Eda Milligan set up a fine homestead (about 3 miles outside of current day Strawberry) in the Reed's Creek area of Lawrence County, "Arkansas (after 1819) Territory" (Sharp County today). A fine respectable woman herself, young Eda Jeffrey as her Father and Mother knew her by; (easy for James Jeffery to spell out E-D-A) would grow to be a tough and solid frontier woman (like her mother, Jane Mason) who remained dedicated to her husband and family. John and she built their home, log construction, like his father taught him to do in Virginia and also set up John's first tannery, once again as his father raised him with. Their home was just across the road from the area of land that would become Milligan's Campground. This area of the "Hill Country" in Lawrence County looks just like the lay of land one finds in Wheeling, W. Virginia and where John was born and raised. He knew how to hunt the hills for pelts, how to find good water. He knew how to plant crops, raise cattle and keep horses. All of this knowledge, he had instilled within him from his childhood growing up at the family homestead on Peter's Run. The only thing he didn't have at the time and promised God that he would find, was a church.

He was raised in the Cumberland Presbyterian Faith as a child. His Father and Mother were always in good standing at the Stone Church in Elm Grove, Virginia. John practiced his faith into manhood before he left his Family Home. He brought this with him too and after the vows he made to God during his sickness up on the White River, he also knew that he needed to continue growing in his faith.



This cabin is located less than 1/8 mile from the entrance to the Milligan's Campground and is believed by the Milligan Family to be John and Eda (Jeffery) Milligan's original homestead on Reeds Creek.

John Milligan's Military History

On the 10th of July in 1820, John enlisted in the military. Perhaps his income from the tanyard wasn't enough to keep his young children as well cared for as he and Eda wanted. So he joined the Lawrence County Militia and was given the rank of "Ensign." This is the Militia that would oversee large problems that occurred in the county. Don't forget, Lawrence County, during this time period, was huge and not only covered the great expanse of the whole northern part of Arkansas State as we know it today but also covered a good part of what was to become Indian Country in the Oklahoma Territory as well. The militia was formed in case of Indian (Cherokee and Osage) uprisings as the Cherokee were moving to their new reservations and lands in the North Central and Northwestern Arkansas and Oklahoma which happened to be Osage hunting grounds. Also there were a lot of planters and farmers moving into the territory that utilized slavery and the militia was used in case the slaves in the county would band together and create havoc with their owners with uprisings of their own. Some farmers and planters in the area had as many as 60 slaves working 125 acres. It didn't take the slaves much to figure out that they had strength in numbers. This county militia would be used to quench such uprisings in the event they should occur as actually happened in North and South Carolina.

ARKANSAS MILITIA—Continued

<i>Persons Commissioned</i>	<i>Rank.</i>	<i>Date of Com'n</i>
THIRD REGIMENT—Con.		
Lawrence County—Con.		
Robert Johnston	1st Lieut.	1820, July 10
Har. Creswell	do.	" " "
Thomas Whitaker	do.	1823, Oct. 20.
Napoleon B. Ferguson	do.	" " "
Isaac Bearing	do.	" " "
Charles Shaver	2d Lieut.	1820, July 10.
Joshua E. Brown	do.	" " "
Moses Stubblefield	do.	" " "
Elipas Davis	do.	" " "
Thomas McArnett	do.	" " "
Daniel Randall	do.	" " "
John Walker	do.	" " "
Horner James	do.	1823, Oct. 20.
Joseph James	do.	" " "
Wm. Findley	do.	" " "
Athan Davis	do.	" " "
Hoza Brown	do.	" " "
Isaac King	do.	" " "
Joseph Shaver	Ensign	1820, July 10.
Dennis Denham	do.	" " "
Lemuel Rice	do.	" " "
Powhatan Boatwright	do.	" " "
John Raney	do.	" " "
John Milligan	do.	" " "
John Halcum	do.	" " "
James Little	do.	1823, Oct. 20.
Henry Hudson	do.	" " "
James Buckman	do.	" " "
Harmis Criswell	do.	" " "
James Lewis	do.	" " "
William Pile	do.	" " "

John and Eda's Church

There is an article I ran across on the internet called, "The Founders of Arkansas Presbyterianism: Cumberland Presbyterians". It was in an "On-Line Encyclopedia." Here we read about the history of the Cumberland Presbytery in Kentucky and Tennessee and a man, name of John P. Carnahan. He was a Presbyterian Minister that came to Missouri Territory (Arkansas after 1819) from Tennessee in 1812 and was commissioned by the Cumberland Presbytery there to go to the White River Valley of the Missouri (Arkansas) Territory and "form a "Circuit" on the Arkansas" of churches along the river settlements there. So he came to the Missouri Territory and wandered and preached for 9 years along the rivers frontier at people's farms and social gatherings where he could find them. His first Presbyterian service (1st one in the Territory) was given at Jacob Pyeatte's home in Pulaski County (Little Rock). The article goes on to say that

Carnahan worked alone until 1823 and that he found and worked with four (4) “Minister Members” of the Presbytery.

Then, in 1823 with Reuben Borrows and Robert D. King starting to make their own preaching circuits on the White, Red and Arkansas Rivers, John Carnahan’s Arkansas Cumberland Presbytery was officially formed at the home of John A. Craig in Batesville, Arkansas. Batesville is only a few miles away from The Milligan Homestead being just 3 miles outside of Strawberry at Reeds Creek and the Jehoiada Jeffery homestead at Mt. Olive some 3 or 4 miles north of Batesville. Even though there is no evidence to support it, I can’t believe that John Carnahan, John Milligan and Eda and her family, including Jehoiada Jeffery, were not there together in the Craig Family Home to witness this historic Event. The John Milligan family would remain steadfast to Cumberland Presbyterianism all of their lives, just like John’s Father and Mother raised him with in Triadelphia, W. Virginia. Praise God.

Between the years of 1823 and 1825, John and Eda Milligan would build their church at Milligan’s Campground and the very first Cumberland Presbyterian Congregations in the territory were finally organized in 1825. The Congregation at Strawberry was Organized, with John and Eda’s Church in Lawrence County and then the congregation in Hopewell, Independence County later the same year. The Mt. Olive Congregation (Jehoiada Jeffery’s area) was organized in 1826; Mound Prairie near Hempstead County in 1828 and the Prairie Grove congregation in Washington County, where Carnahan was living with his family at Cane Hill, in 1827.

Now, even though John Milligan, a life long Cumberland Presbyterian since his birth, was preaching at the Campground, (as A. C. Jeffery writes us, “John went to Preachin.”) and having a Presbyterian Church building there that he and Eda built, there were still obligations John had to fulfill to become an “Ordained” Presbyterian Minister.

John Milligan II was called into Divine service and was received as a “Candidate” for the Ministry by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church on May 23, 1826. (Actually, I believe his Divinity was given to him by a higher power during his sickness up on the White River). He received his license to Preach on March 6, 1827 and was finally “Ordained” by the White River

Presbytery (Carnahan's Group) on February 29, 1840 as a "Minister of the Gospel" (MG).

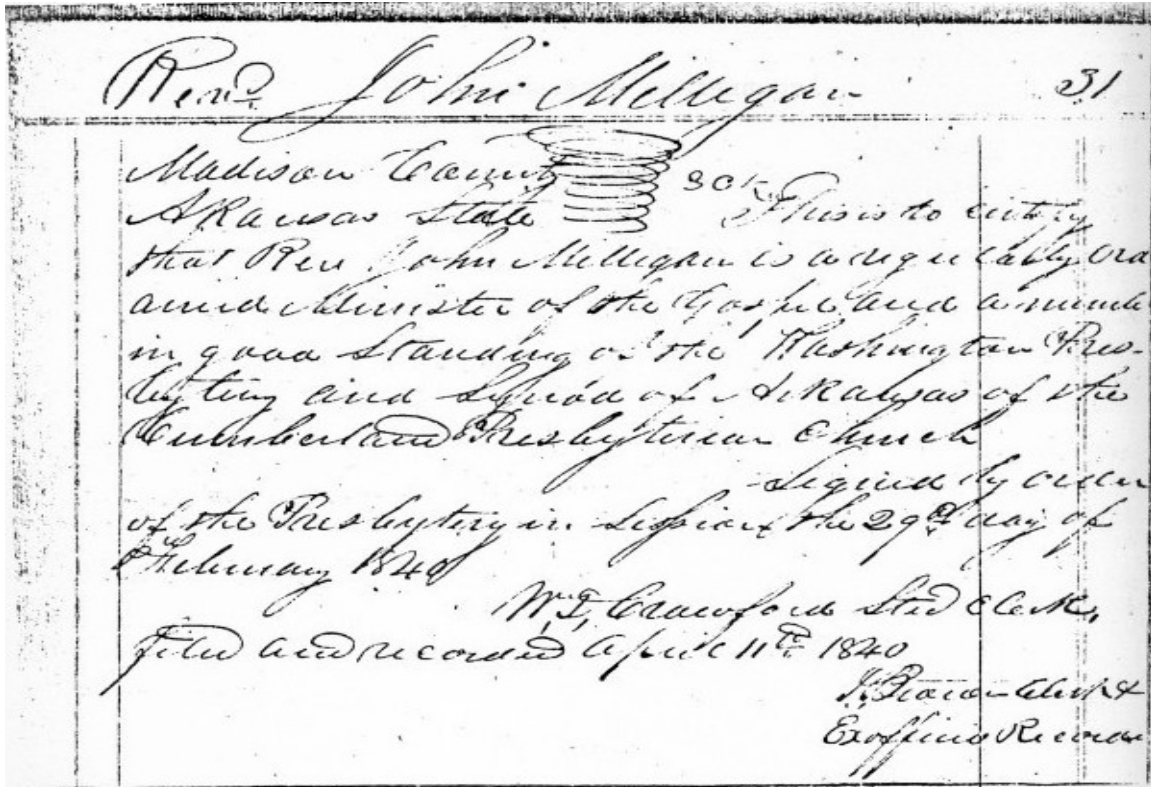
As a result of these entire God given events, we can see that John Milligan began fulfilling the promises he made to God by building and then organizing (1823-1825) what would become one of the oldest if not THE Oldest Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Church building in Arkansas State that still exists today. I do not have any hard evidence of a "Personal" relationship between John Milligan and John Carnahan but at the same time, there is also no reason to believe that they didn't know who each other were either. There is also no evidence (to our knowledge) to suggest that Carnahan was even at the Craig home in Batesville in 1823 during the formation of the Cumberland Presbytery but then again we also have to ask, "why wouldn't Carnahan be there on this occasion?" After all, it was the fulfillment of his goal to the Presbytery and to God. Surely, he wouldn't have missed this event for the world.

There is a map of the early Cumberland Presbyterian churches on Carnahan's "Circuit" in the internet article that clearly shows the settlement of Strawberry as a location that has a Presbyterian Church building and an organized congregation. Still, more documents may be available from the Cumberland Presbyterian Archives currently (2008) located in Memphis, Tennessee for those of you readers who wish to pursue this exciting territorial religious history a bit deeper.

It has always been well known with his descendants, that John Milligan's Family did their part in keeping and supporting this deep rooted Christian Faith and culture in the Arkansas Territory of 1823. Their actions still serve as an excellent example for all of us today to "Hold Tight" to your faith in Christ and in the Bible and to God as John Milligan did.

There is one last note. John Milligan's sons, A. J. Milligan and John Jr. later on in 1877, were associated with a man name of A. Craig. He was the clerk in the Strawberry Cumberland Presbyterian Church, A.J. and John Jr. were Elders. This man's father, John A. Craig, who is also listed in the Minutes of Session Document as "being present", was one of Carnahan's original 4 Minister Members. We can also see his church on the internet articles map, located further south than John's, ministered by a man named "Craig." We have A. Craig's signature on a "Minutes of Session" Document

dated April 1877. John A. Craig was probably just one of John and Eda Milligan's connections to John Carnahan.



John Milligan's Ordination Certificate of February 29, 1840 ordaining him as a "Minister of the Gospel" (MG). Notice the document is signed in Madison County. This county sits next to Washington County to the East in the far Northwestern corner of Arkansas State where John Carnahan lived with his own family at Cane Hill.

A Short Story one Sunday Morning

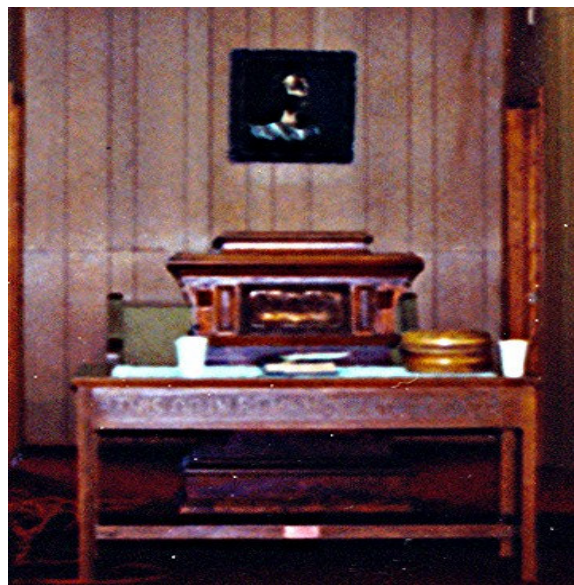
I found a story much like this one of Early Lawrence County. The only Cumberland Presbyterian Church around Strawberry during this time was John and Eda Milligan's Campground Church but this story doesn't necessarily reflect an account of their church.

The people who attended this church on Sunday mornings would come from miles around. Very early in the morning, through the valley mist, you could hear the creaking of ox carts and horse drawn wagons coming in from all directions. Of course the women and children would be dressed in their Sunday best, all loaded in the wagons with their husbands driving the

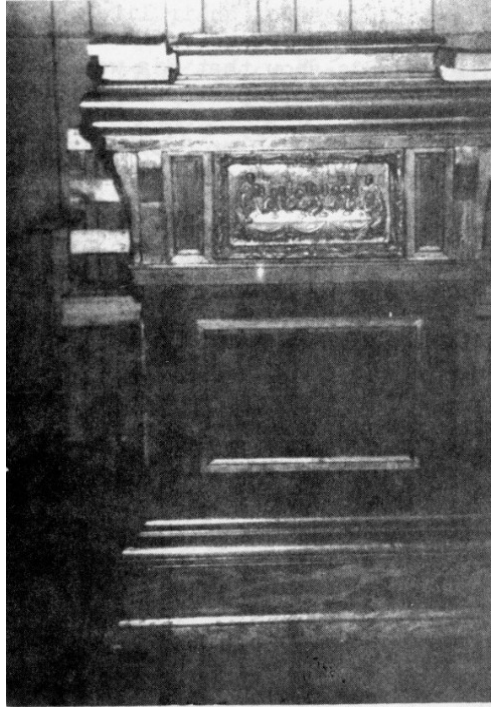
teams that pulled them; the family's dogs chasing after them to keep up with their owners.

This Sunday morning, everyone filed into church; the men standing their rifles up in the corners of the back wall where everyone's coats were hung. The dogs remained outside and would lie quietly in the early morning sun.

Halfway through the Preacher's sermon this Sunday, as they all sat there in their piety, the dogs outside started to bark. Then they went into long howling whines. Then, all of a sudden, the men inside heard them take off to the woods, baying as they ran. The Preacher at the pulpit, watching the expressions on the men's faces couldn't take the humor of the scene any more and finally said, "Ladies and gentlemen, we are going to take a short recess from services this morning so the men can go and take after the panther or bear that the dogs just discovered." The men, creating much of a ruckus, got up, hurried for their rifles and out the door they clamored, all in pursuit of their hounds. They caught up to a bear the hounds had treed, shot and killed it and within a short time, came back to church. Once again behind the pulpit, the Preacher said, "Let's pray to God for giving us his wonderful bounty and let's also pray for our devout womenfolk that remained steadfast in their faith while their men were away." The ladies erupted into laughs and smiles all around.



John Milligan's Pulpit



John Milligan's Pulpit

Church Buildings of the Milligan Campground

The Milligan Campground Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Cemetery still exists today. The small congregation there is in their third building on the original site of John and Eda Milligan's 1st church building. A replica of their church also still exists today and is currently located a few miles to the Northeast of the Milligan Campground. It is the Lebanon Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, in Lynn, Arkansas. Lynn is just outside of the New State Park at Powhatten, Arkansas. This log structure (walls only) is typical of what John and Eda Milligan's original church building looked like and is also of frontier architecture, as John was taught to build in his youth.

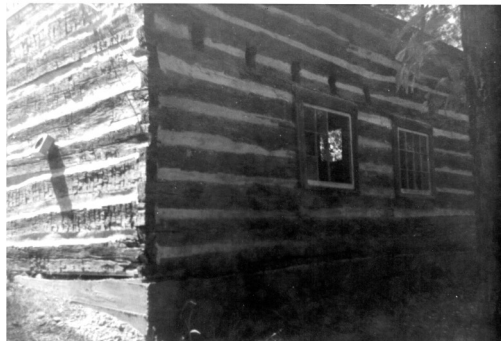


This is a replica of John Milligan's original church Building at the Campground, complete with ports in the walls.

These ports were later used as log supports for a loft Inside the building where the members slaves would be seated.

Shown above and below is the Presbyterian Church building in Lynn, Arkansas that was erected in 1852. Grandma Goldie Bell Milligan use to tell us that John Milligan and his boys helped build the walls of this church building.

Special note: John Ellis Milligan (son of Israel Henry and Harriet Jane Curtis) and Margret Parsley are buried in the cemetery just adjacent to this church on the far side of this building.



1st Church Building Documentation

The following "Minutes of Session" document is a reproduction from an original dated April 7, 1877. It is the minutes of an Elder's Meeting of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at the Milligan Campground in Strawberry, Arkansas. The meeting itself was conducted at the home of Andrew Milligan at 5 o'clock P.M. I am going to transcribe this document below. With spelling errors, it says:

Minutes of Session

The session of the Strawberry congregation of the C.P. Church met at Brother A.J. Milligan's at 5 o'clock P.M. opened by prayer. Role called presan: Jesey Shaw, pastor; Elder's presan; J.A. Milligan, John Milligan Jr., J.A. Craig, Isriel Milligan. Absent J.A. Baker, Brother M. Raney on motion was invited to a seat as an advisory member. Reading minutes of last session dispensed with the session taken up the cases of the following named persons for immoral conduct and ordered then to be notified to meet the session on the 12th day of May, 1877 at 3 o'clock P.M.:

F.P. Milligan, playing cards, drunkenness, and dancing; W.K.P. Milligan, playing cards and dancing; Mary A. Bell, dancing; Marhy A. Smithe, dancing, Lyda Milligan, dancing; Ann Henson, dancing; May E. Milligan, dancing; James Edington, dancing; Lorinda Steadman, dancing; Eliza Milligan, dancing; Eady Edington, dancing, James Crooms allowing dancing in his hous and dancing; Rebeckey Bailly, allowing dancing in hur hous; Catherine Ingram, swearing. On motion, session adjourned to meet at the church hous on Saturday before the second sabath in June, 1877, at 3 o'clock P.M. Adjourned by prayer Jessey made.

A. Craig, Clerk

Some of the mentioned people:

F.P. Milligan is Franklin Pierce Milligan, son of Ellis R. and Mahala Light (Billings) Milligan

W.K.P. Milligan is William Kay Patterson Milligan, son of Israel Milligan
Mary A. Bell

Martha Smithee

Lydia Milligan is Lydia Jane Milligan, daughter of Ellis R. and Mahala Light (Billings) Milligan

Ann Henson, this is Mahala Ann Milligan, daughter of Ellis R. and Mahala Light Milligan (she married Jefferson G. Henson at a young age)

May E. Milligan most likely is May Elise Milligan, also a daughter of Ellis R and Mahala Light (Billings) Milligan

James Edington

Lorinda Steadman

Eliza Milligan is the daughter of Israel Milligan

Eady Edington

James Crooms

Rebecca Bailey

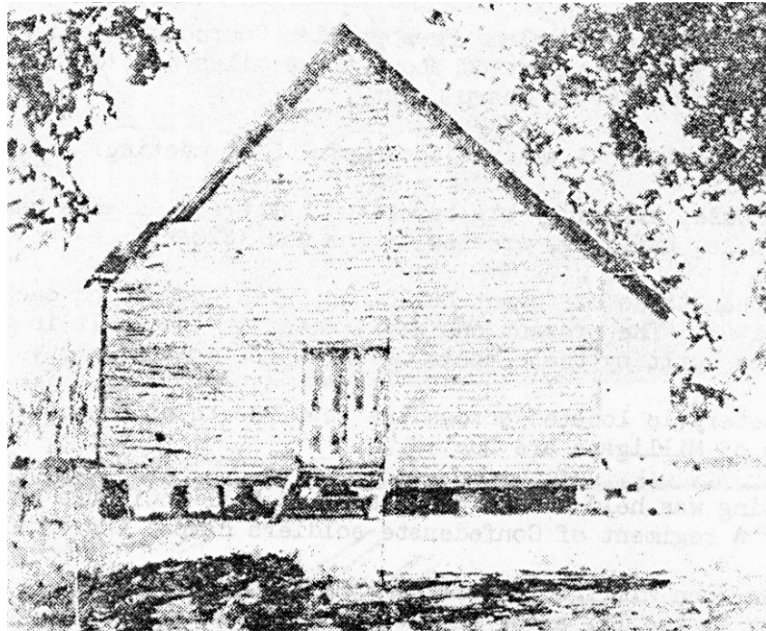
Catherine Ingram

MINUTES OF SESSION

The session of the Strawberry and grape vine of the
 H. P. Church met at Brokers of J. Milligan
 at 8 O'clock P.M. opened by prayer read
 by John P. Mason, pastor, J. H. Miller, J. H. Miller
 J. H. Miller, John H. Miller, J. H. Miller and
 J. H. Miller absent J. H. Miller, Brother
 H. H. Miller was invited to read a
 congratulatory memorial reading in memory of
 last session dispensed with the session taking
 up the subject of the following matter for
 for your moral conduct and conduct the
 to be notified to meet the session on the 12th
 day of May 1877 at 8 O'clock, P.M. at 8 P.M.
 Playing cards, drunkenness, and
 H. H. Miller, Playing cards, and
 Heavy of Ball, dancing, H. H. Miller
 Tyra Miller, dancing, H. H. Miller
 H. H. Miller, dancing, J. H. Miller
 dancing, Toronto Standard, dancing, J. H.
 H. H. Miller, dancing, G. H. Miller, dancing,
 J. H. Miller, dancing, H. H. Miller, dancing,
 and dancing, H. H. Miller, dancing,
 dancing, H. H. Miller, dancing, J. H. Miller,
 on motion session adjourned to meet at
 Church house on Saturday before the second
 Sabbath in June 1877 at 8 O'clock, P.M.
 adjourned by prayer, J. H. Miller

The 2nd Church Building

The new 2nd church building was built in 1910. It was a lap sided and whitewashed wood structure. This building served the congregation until 1946.



The 2nd Church Building erected in 1910. This photo was found in the book, “Our Milligan Heritage” by Eunice Baker and Odessa McGowan of Bono, Arkansas, 1985.

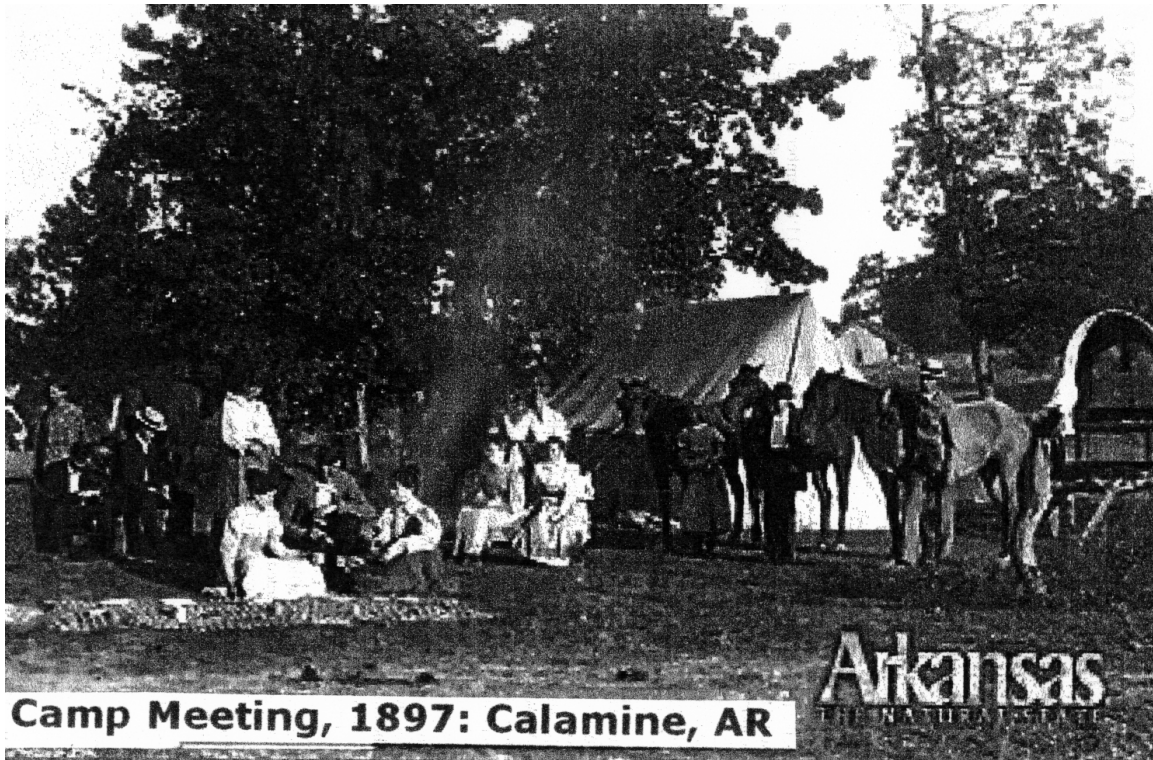
The 3rd Church Building



The third church building is made of local sandstone, (like some of the Grave Stones in years gone by) was erected in 1946. It still looks much like it did back then in those post WWII years. The picture above, taken in October of 2007, shows the minor modifications of a front porch (notice the “Campground Cumberland Presbyterian Church “1823-1946” door plaque in the porch gable) and a small utility room on the NE back corner. As you come out of the Churches front doors, you end up gazing on the Milligan Campground Cemetery and John Milligan’s 3 giant cypress trees just on the other side of the gravel drive area. Many horse drawn wagons use to park in front of this site in years past.



A Real Campground Meeting



Calamine is located near the Milligan Campground outside of Strawberry. Look Close! I wouldn't be half surprised that some of the people pictured were from the Milligan Family. Even knowing their names, I still couldn't tell who was who. Can You?



John II's Family (time line)

John and Eda went on to have a large family; 13 children in all; 7 girls and 6 boys. (Only their first marriages are listed)

Mary Ann Milligan born in 1819

Hulda Milligan born in 1820

(John's Militia Service 10 July 1820)

(John and Eda witness the birth of John Carnahan's Cumberland Presbytery at John A. Craig's House in Batesville, Arkansas. Start building their Church at Milligan's Campground in 1823.)

James Lancer Milligan born 3 Dec. 1823 - 4 Sept. 1882

Ellis R. Milligan born in 1825-16 Feb. 1862

(The Milligan Campground Congregation is Organized in 1825)

(John becomes a candidate for the Ministry 23 May 1826)

(John receives his license to Preach 6 March 1827)

Israel Milligan is born in 1827 - 7 Dec. 1887

John Junior Milligan is born 6 Feb. 1829 - 9 April 1906

George Washington (G.W.) Milligan is born in 1831 – 1874 became an Ordained Presbyterian Minister and Sharp County Justice of the Peace.

Eady Milligan is born in 1832 - 1912

Sarah Jane Milligan is born in 1834

Melissa Aveline Milligan is born 3 August 1837 – 25 May 1862

Mary Ann Milligan marries William Harvey Smith 18 Oct. 1838

Lydia J. Milligan is born in 1839

(James Lancer marries Edith Evaline Sexton 11 Dec. 1840 by John Milligan (MG))

(Hulda Milligan dies and is buried in the Campground Cemetery in 1840)

(John receives his Ordination Documents, 29 Feb. 1840)

Elvira Milligan is born 8 Dec. 1841 – 1 Sept 1866

(John Milligan is elected to the State House of Representatives and serves in the 4th State Assembly, 7 Nov. 1842 - 4 Feb. 1843)

(Ellis R. Milligan marries Mahala Light Billings 28 Feb. 1843 by Rev.

John Milligan (MG))

Andrew J. Milligan is born 9 Oct. 1844 – 23 March 1907

Israel Milligan married Clarissa Dukes 23 Dec. 1847 by Rev. John Milligan (MG). John Milligan spelled her name "Clarysa" on the original marriage certificate.

(The Honorable John Milligan serves as a Lawrence County Law Judge from 1850 – 1852)

John Milligan Jr. married Luesa Gardner 17 Jan 1850

George W. Milligan married Martha Mae Bone (she was the sister of Sarah Jane Milligan's husband, Porter A. Bone)

Eady Milligan married George R. West 30 Jan 1853.

Melissa Aveline Milligan married Dr. Enoch Softly 11 May 1854.

Sarah Jane Milligan married Porter Bone 24 May 1855. He is the brother of G.W. Milligan's wife Martha Mae Bone.

Lydia J. Milligan Dies about 1858

Elvira Milligan married Samuel A. Massey 24 June 1858.

Ellis Ragsdale Milligan dies 16 Feb 1862

Melissa Evaline dies 25 May 1862 giving birth to Faith Jane Softly.

Elvira Milligan dies 1 Sept 1866

Rev. John Milligan dies 12 Jan 1867

Andrew J. Milligan married Mary L. Smithee 28 Nov 1866

George W. Milligan Dies 1874

James Lancer dies 4 Sept 1882

Eda Jeffery Milligan dies 1886

Israel Milligan dies 7 Dec. 1887

John Milligan Jr. dies 9 April 1906

Andrew J. Milligan dies 23 March 1907

Eady Milligan dies 1912

James Lancer, Ellis R., Israel W., John Jr., George W., and Andrew J. all went on to have fine families of their own. Some of the Boys became Elders in the Church and some of these went on to receive their own Ordination Certificates to become Ministers themselves. All of the girls, except for Hulda and Lydia, went on to have very fine families. Most of John and Eda's children are buried in the Campground Cemetery with their wives and husbands and members of their individual families. Milligan Family "Oral history" claims that Hulda, John and Eda's 2nd born child, was snake bit as a young woman and died from the venom in her wounds. We find, in the original cemetery records and graves list of the Campground that she died in 1840 at the age of 20 years old. She was the first person buried in the Campground Cemetery (at her own request) and lays at rest beneath one of the 3 giant Cedar trees (Planted by John Milligan) that still stand in the cemetery today. Lydia also passed away as a young woman, close to her 20th birthday. Either of these two young women had any children of their own.

John Milligan's Community Service

John Milligan did more for his community as well. During the Antebellum Years just prior to the Civil War (1840's-1850"), he was also elected for one term as an Arkansas State Representative (1 of 2) from Lawrence County to the 4th Arkansas State Assembly. His term in the state house was from November 7, 1842 – February 4, 1843 and ended just prior to his son's Ellis' marriage to Mahala Light Billings on 28 February 1843.

He was also elected to the Judiciary of Lawrence County and served as a County Law Judge from 1850 – 1852 serving at the Old courthouse in Smithville.

All of his State and County service records and documents are available from the Arkansas Secretary of State's Office and can be found in their "Historical Report of 1998".

FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
From November 7, 1842, to February 4, 1843.

SENATE

President—Samuel Adams.

Secretary—John Widgery.

Arkansas, Jefferson and Desha Counties—J. Yell.
Benton and Madison—J. G. Walker.
Carroll, Marion and Searcy—W. C. Mitchell.
Chicot, Union and Bradley—J. Clark.
Conway and Pope—J. Williamson (a).
Hempstead—W. Trimble.
Independence—M. Magness (a).
Jackson, White and Van Buren—L. B. Tully.
Johnson and Franklin—S. Adams (a).

Lafayette and Sevier—T. W. Scott.
~~Lawrence and Izard—J. S. Ficklin (a).~~
Mississippi and Crittenden—A. G. Greer.
Phillips and Monroe—D. Thompson.
Pike and Clark—T. C. Hudson.
Pulaski—R. C. Byrd.
St. Francis and Poinsett—C. Neely.
Saline and Hot Spring—S. W. Rayburn.
Scott and Crawford—J. A. Scott (a).
Randolph and Greene—W. Black.
Washington—D. Walker (a), M. Bean.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Speaker—W. S. Oldham.

Clerk—S. S. Tucker.

Arkansas County—Richmond Peeler.
Benton—Alfred B. Greenwood.
Bradley—John H. Marks.
Carroll—G. W. Baines, J. Fancher.
Clark—H. Flanagan, J. D. Stewart.
Conway and Perry—Thomas S. Haynes, George W. Lemoyne.
Crawford—A. G. Mayer, Wm. Reeves.
Crittenden—Thos. M. Collins and Peter G. Rives.
Desha—Charles A. Stewart.
Franklin—W. A. Martin, J. Miller.
Greene—Rice Hardwick.
Hempstead—George Conway, John Field.
Hot Spring—Lorenzo Gibson.
Independence—Beniah Bateman, W. Byers.
Izard—Johoiada Jeffrey.
Jackson—David C. Waters.
Jefferson—John S. Roane.
Johnson—Wm. Gray, Wm. McCain.
Lafayette—James E. Nott.
Lawrence—George Humphrey and John Milligan.

Madison—Wm. Gage, Daniel Vaughan.
Marion and Searcy—John Campbell, Brown C. Roberts.
Mississippi—W. M. Finley.
Monroe—John C. Johnson.
Phillips—Elisha Burke, T. B. Hanly.
Pike—William Bizzell.
Poinsett—A. T. Robertson.
Pope—M. T. Logan, P. Tackett.
Pulaski—John W. Cocke, P. T. Crutchfield, Jared C. Martin.
Randolph—Wm. A. Houston, B. J. Wiley.
St. Francis—John W. Calvert, C. L. Sullivan.
Saline—Robt. Calvert, R. Brazil.
Scott—J. F. Gaines, A. Thompson.
Sevier—A. J. Armstrong, W. Scott.
Union—Albert Rust.
Van Buren—Geo. Counts.
Washington—A. W. Arrington, Lee C. Blakemore, Geo. Cline, Moses Stout, Williamson S. Oldham.
White—John Arnold.
Yell—Wm. J. Parks.



He was also elected to serve as a Lawrence County Judge from 1850–1852. See the Historical Roster below. He served at Smithville, Arkansas.

HISTORICAL ROSTERS

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LAWRENCE COUNTY—County Officials

Date	Judge	Clerk	Sheriff	Treasurer	Coroner	Surveyor	Assessor
1819-1821		R. Searcy	Joseph Hardin		Robert Blane		
1821-1823		H. Sanford	Joseph Hardin		John Reed		
1823-1825		H. Sanford	Joseph Hardin		John Reed		
1825-1827		R. Richardson	Joseph Hardin 2				
1827-1829		H. E. Hynson	J. M. Kuykendall			John Rodney	
1829-1830	James Campbell	D. W. Lowe	J. M. Kuykendall		Thomas Black	John Rodney	
1830-1832	James Campbell	D. W. Lowe	J. M. Kuykendall		M. Archer	J. M. Cooper	
1832-1833	T. S. Drew	D. W. Lowe	J. M. Kuykendall	DIED 1836	H. N. Waddle	J. M. Cooper	
1833-1835	John Hardin	D. W. Lowe	J. M. Kuykendall		H. N. Waddle	J. M. Cooper	
1835-1836	John Hardin	D. W. Lowe	J. M. Kuykendall		Jas. Underwood	N. W. Crawford	
1836-1838	John Hardin	D. W. Lowe	T. McCarroll	C. T. Stewart	Uriah Smith	T. Johnson	
1838-1840	John Hardin	J. S. Brown	T. McCarroll	C. T. Stewart		John Kidd	
1840-1842	J. C. Floyd	J. S. Brown	T. McCarroll	J. B. Wilmeth	Henry Turker	L. B. Lang	
1842-1844	J. C. Floyd	J. B. Wilmeth	T. McCarroll	Henry King	J. M. Johnson	G. Durham	
1844-1846	John Hardin	J. B. Wilmeth	L. Toney	F. B. Wilmeth	Stephen Justus	G. Durham	
1846-1848	A. H. Nunn	A. Hammon	L. B. Poer	C. C. Straughan	N. Moffit	T. Johnson	
1848-1850	A. H. Nunn	L. B. Toney	L. B. Poer	C. C. Straughan	A. J. Morrell	T. Johnson	
1850-1852	John Milligan	N. C. Steadman	C. C. Straughan	Edward Holt	T. J. Warner	T. Johnson	
1852-1854	G. McGehey	N. C. Steadman 1	C. C. Straughan	Edward Holt	W. Swan	J. T. Perkins	
1854-1856	Geo. McGehey	J. N. Hillhouse	W. J. Hudson	Edward Holt	Samuel Moser	T. Johnson	
1856-1858	W. C. Smith	J. N. Hillhouse	J. C. Steadman	Jas McCarroll	J. M. Hill	Alfred Gay	
1858-1860	Geo. McGehey	Z. P. Alexander	J. C. Steadman	J. McCarroll	James McKinney	Alfred Gay	
1860-1862	C. S. Walnwright	A. Lowe	J. D. Wyatt	J. McCarroll	T. Robinson	J. Patton	

1—Died August 31, 1853; J. N. Hillhouse appointed. 2—Died August 28, 1836; J. M. Kuykendall appointed.

Date	Judge	Clerk	Sheriff	Treasurer	Coroner	Surveyor	Assessor
1862-1864	G. McGehey	A. Lowe	G. F. Mathews	L. W. Robinson	Eli Thornburgh	T. Johnson	G. W. Wright
1864-1866	Solomon Yeager	H. W. Harlowe	John Wolf 10	E. Taylor	Lemuel Yeager	Alfred Gay	G. F. Mathews
1866-1868	G. McGehey	A. Lowe	J. H. W. Campbell	Edward Holt		T. B. Goforth	Alfred Gay
1868-1872	Joniah Dent	J. R. Snyder	J. B. Judkins	Samuel Sharp	W. M. Toney	H. L. Roberts 4	S. G. Sharp 5
1872-1874	J. N. Hillhouse	Wm. McChryle 9	W. G. Wasson	J. N. Campbell	John Carter	G. Mathews	J. B. Judkins
1874-1876	J. N. Hillhouse	J. P. Coffin	W. G. Wasson	J. N. Campbell	John Carter 6	E. T. Morris 7	C. G. Dent 8
1876-1878	David Wagster	J. P. Coffin	W. G. Wasson	J. N. Campbell	A. N. Robbins	John Darter	W. A. Townsend
1878-1880	Alex. Jackson	J. P. Coffin	W. A. Townsend	W. Childers	J. W. Patton	John Darter	E. A. Vinson
1880-1882	Alex. Jackson	J. P. Coffin	John Darter	W. Childers	J. W. Patton	W. Brannon	T. J. Moore
1882-1884	Alex. Jackson	J. P. Coffin	John Darter	M. D. Hudson	M. G. Jones	W. Brannon	J. H. Moseley
1884-1886	W. A. Townsend	J. P. Coffin	John Darter	M. D. Hudson	M. G. Jones	W. Brannon	Sam'l A. Harris
1886-1888	David C. Smith	Clay Sloan	C. A. Stuart	M. D. Hudson	J. H. Barlow	M. H. Agee	Jan. H. Doyle
1888-1890	W. A. Townsend	Clay Sloan	C. A. Stuart	J. N. Campbell	N. P. Farmer	Wm. Mathews	J. N. Childers
1890-1892	Thos. M. Duval	J. B. Coffman 11	T. J. Wilson	J. N. Campbell	N. P. Farmer	Wm. Mathews	J. N. Childers
1892-1894	Thos. M. Duval	J. H. Sloan	Wm. Childers	Wm. M. Campbell	W. A. Lokey	John R. Mitchell	Wm. Mathews
1894-1896	Thos. M. Duval	W. N. Steadman	Wm. Childers	G. W. Wells	Philip Farmer	J. L. Simms	Wm. Mathews
1896-1898	J. H. Townsend	B. S. Weir	C. C. Childers	G. W. Wells	Philip Farmer	B. W. Field	H. P. Geasin
1898-1900	W. A. Cunningham	B. S. Weir	C. C. Childers	J. G. Taylor	W. K. Surridge	Wm. Mathews	H. P. Geasin
1900-1902	W. A. Cunningham	C. C. Childers	J. E. McCall	J. G. Taylor	L. A. Bland	B. W. Field	W. A. Scott
1902-1904	L. B. Poindexter	C. C. Childers	J. E. McCall	J. C. Stokes	H. R. McCarroll	Wm. Mathews	W. A. Scott

3—Record for the term terminated. 4—J. P. Coffin appointed. 5—J. N. Hillhouse appointed.

LAWRENCE CO.

The Antebellum Years

By this time in his life in the late 1840's at the seeming mid-point of Antebellum Southern Societal Years, and after serving as a Representative to the State Congress, John found himself a fairly wealthy businessman. Over the years he had purchased five (5) 160 acre plots of land in addition to the 80 acres that the Campground sat on. In 1847 he was also paying taxes on two (2) lots in Smithville, Arkansas. The Lawrence County Personal Property Tax List of that year indicates that these town lots were where he and the boys built a tannery and kept horses and cattle. The personal assets that John paid taxes on were 3,010 dollars, which, for 1847, was one of the highest personal property values in the County. His acreages, each farmed by a different son, would keep their Cotton Gin in business and during the time that they weren't harvesting and producing cotton, they were working in the tannery. This too is where John and his family kept a small outlet store and warehouse where they could sell their produce and other products and services to their local economy.

These were happy and great years for the Milligan's. The family was growing in leaps and bounds. By the seeming Grace of God, his boys were starting families of their own and John's business would help them all by offering jobs and a place to sell and prepare their own farm's produce for market.

Earlier on in their lives and after their early years setting up their Church and preaching circuit, John and Eda both realized that they needed to have a place where John would be able to sell the tanned goods he was making. He made wagon harnesses for horses, straps and reins, saddles, offered minor blacksmithing services, leather holsters for pistols, shoes and boots and things of that nature. So he started himself a business and called it "Milligan and Sons." James Lancer and Ellis R. Milligan were his oldest boys and in time they both would become full partners in the family's business. It was hard work but soon they would be selling other goods too that were more of a household nature; Meats, salt, sugar, and flour.

This kept Eda and the wives of John's boys really busy at times too. Everybody worked! Creating livings and foods for this large and growing family was no easy chore. Butchering a few hogs or a few cows so John and the boys could have the hides to tan was very hard work but Eda and the womenfolk knew how to process these cuts of pork and beef into edible food stuffs and they made enough to sell out of the store as well. There is no

doubt about it; the women of the family were hard and tough working people.

A few days before processing, the animals would be killed and hung by the men so they could bleed out but when it came to butchering and preserving (salting) meats, the womenfolk took over, everyone pitched in. They would go out and fire up large black kettles of water and when they got to boiling, the women would start. First, the men removed the hides for tanning and then the women took the edible innards; liver and hearts etc. They washed out the carcass with boiling water from the very hot kettles. Then they would cut the hams, create the hocks and feet, cut out the roasts and slabs of fatback and bacon. Nothing went to waste. Even making a good head cheese (souse, I believe the term is) was a delight.

Then in autumn when the harvest was on, the womenfolk would be clearing their gardens. They canned everything; vegetables, berries, watermelon rinds, fish, pork hocks (were pickled like the cucumbers) and they even made jams and jellies, sometimes even going out into the woods and taking wild persimmons to make jam with. This part of Arkansas also had pecan trees around and black walnuts that could be harvested and sold from the store. They did alright and not only had enough to keep their family fed but also made enough to sell from the family's store.

James Lancer and Ellis R. stayed close to their father and learned all they could about the business as did the rest of the Milligan Boys who would all be farmers and contribute to the businesses produce. John Milligan's purchase of the 2 lots in Smithville and moving his tannery there was starting to flourish and everyone in the family had a part in it to play.

Now, John Milligan was a traveling Minister with the church most of his life. In the 1830's he began to hear of all of the Planters and farmers moving into the area that wanted to take advantage of Arkansas' natural waterways to get their produce to the Mississippi and the docks of Memphis and other river front cities. Many of these people gave up large plantations and farms east of the Mississippi in Tennessee (because of the changing slavery laws) and other places, to come to Arkansas and would purchase smaller acreages of land to farm. Besides that, after the Missouri Compromise of 1819 where the boundaries of Missouri were laid out and the state was still arguing the slave issue, Arkansas was left a territory that still allowed this practice. Corn, rice and watermelons were excellent crops to

plant in the fertile flood plains of the river system but like this area is today; there were many floods from the Mississippi River being so high in the Spring. Even still, the Cotton industry would even make an excellent showing for itself in Arkansas.

Along with these agriculturists, in 1837, also came a family to Arkansas name of Billings. Heinrich (Henry) and Elizabeth Billings were from Tipton County, Tennessee. Henry Billings, with his sons, William, Michael and Noah wanted to start their own small farms in the Jackson County area along the river and set up an operation like John Milligan had with his family. It seems like William Billings was already living in Randolph County when the rest of Henry's Family arrived. Henry Billings owned a fairly large farm in Tennessee close to Memphis and the Memphis docks of the 1830's so he would be able to get his produce to Memphis and New Orleans to the Mercantile Houses that were so lucrative during this time, fairly easy. Tennessee State was starting to change the laws regarding the use of Slavery, so Henry must have thought by moving his operation to Arkansas. He could settle on less land, retain his slaves and still get his produce to the markets he was use to dealing with. Unfortunately on a return trip to Tipton County, Tennessee in 1837, Henry Billings passed away, leaving his family in Arkansas; his will would be probated from Tipton County through the Court in Jackson County, Arkansas.

Henry's family consisted of 3 boys, 4 girls and his wife. The youngest of the girls was Mahala Light Billings. Born in 1824, she was 15 years old in April 1841 and an underage heir (11 years old when her father died) to her father's will even though Henry didn't write her name in before his passing. As she was coming to her 16th year of age, she needed a "legal" guardian. So in April of 1841 she petitioned the Jackson County Court to assign one. They did by selecting a man name of Henry H. Miller. Her brother Michael Billings would hold the bond for Uncle Henry as they were also close friends.

John Milligan traveling once, sometimes twice a month with his family, would find themselves in different Campground Meetings or churches to preach at. The area of Union Township, Jackson County was one of these. Here is where Ellis Ragsdale Milligan would meet his wife, Mahala Light Billings. Mahala Light must have been fairly excited about getting married to the son of the wealthy State Representative of Lawrence County. John Milligan, 3 weeks after fulfilling his obligation to the State and

the Lawrence County voters, married his son Ellis Ragsdale Milligan to Mahala Light Billings in Union Township, Jackson County on the 28 of February 1843. This was a tremendous start in life for Ellis. He learned about his father's business, "Milligan and Sons" and became a full partner. Now he would take a wife and the beginnings of a fine family were shaping up.

Late in the 1840's Milligan and Sons would add a Cotton Gin to their business holdings. With the tannery in Smithville off to a good start, not only would they sell leather goods from John Milligan's tannery but soon they would start putting up corn from his sons farms to sell and they eventually would get involved with Cotton as well. The Cotton industry wasn't as significant in Arkansas as one may think like it was in the Deep South during this period but it was an excellent additional crop for farmers to grow because the demand for it was high in the European markets and Arkansas had river access to the docks at Memphis and New Orleans. After erecting their Cotton Gin, (Don't know where its actual location was) Milligan and Sons would grow their own crops of corn and cotton. The corn could be stored by the ear or sack but the Cotton would be ginned, baled and sent (by riverboat before the railroad was established later in the 1850's) to either Memphis or to New Orleans to sell. Businessmen, such as Samuel Garner in Jackson County would also be looking at the local ginners to buy this type of produce and sell it in the Memphis and New Orleans Mercantiles. With the Southern Antebellum Movement in full swing in the Deep South of the late 1840's, it was finally coming up-river into Arkansas and Arkansas Cotton became very acceptable river trade.

John Milligan and Sons business was doing well but was not the cotton selling enterprise Sam Garner had going after he married Narcissa Billings. Narcissa Billings was the wife of Henry's son Noah Billings and after the death of Noah in 1841; Narcissa would go on to marry Sam Garner.

Then after the Marriage of Ellis R. Milligan and Mahala Light Billings, information about them seems to just stop. We haven't discovered any documents yet about them or their family during the 17 year period from Feb. 1843 until they show up on the Scott Township Census in 1860 where they are enumerated with a passle full of kids. They even a child of 3 months old, name of Mahala Ann Milligan. Ellis is listed as a farmer and maybe he and the whole family just plain missed the census of 1850 and wasn't home when the census taker arrived. We really don't know where they were for

that 17 year period of time. So it's safe to say that they remained in the Scott Township area for now.

The Milligan's Civil War History

In 1860, there was some pretty serious talk of Civil War coming to the South. The Memphis and New Orleans' river fronts were being abandoned and just like all of the other River Front towns they would get to be dangerous places in light of what happened to them during the War of 1812. No one wanted to make the same mistakes in New Orleans again so businesses and people left. With war coming though, John Milligan might have a chance to sell his goods to the Confederacy as all of businesses tried to do to keep their families fed and their soldiers supplied wherever their battles would take them. The majority of the Milligan Boys wanted to fight. James Lancer would stay at home during the war years as John and Eda Milligan were getting elderly and he would be needed to run the family's businesses. Most likely he felt as if he would be of more benefit to the Confederacy and his family by staying where he was. The rest of the Milligan Boys however were preparing for War.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church didn't want to take sides in the conflict. They wanted their members to concentrate on their own personal morals so we never see John Milligan do any actual fighting but that doesn't necessarily mean that he didn't have his own war time experiences as well.

May 1861, War comes to Smithville and the Milligan Family in the form of the 4th POA Regiment of Calvary, a Confederate unit out of Texas. On their way to Pocahontas, thinking that the Union Army was going to invade at Pitman's Ferry, they stopped at Smithville and cleaned out the Milligan and Sons warehouse and store. They took everything including \$500.00 of Confederate checks and bonds. All of the leather goods, dry goods, harnesses, wagons, horses, mules, bridles, quinine and other medicinal drugs, gun powder and lead, hundreds of pounds of bacon and beef, corn and fodder were taken. Everything was gone in a matter of a few hours time. John was upset. His family had hours of hard work invested into the items he had stored in the warehouse and he was getting cleaned out by the soldiers he was supposed to be supporting. They offered no payment and just took all they could carry and left.

John II and James took an inventory of what was taken, carried the list to the Courthouse in Smithville, had it registered and signed by the county

clerk who sent it to the Confederate States of America quartermaster's office in Pocahontas. This turned out to be a stroke of luck for John Milligan as from this point on, Milligan and Sons, from time to time would be vouchered for some of their produce by the CSA throughout the remainder of the War.

State of Arkansas Lawrence County, Keeds Creek
 The following is a correct list of the articles taken
 from the Dry Store belonging to the 4th Poa Regiment
 of Cavalry in May, A. D. 1862. J. M.

To Confederate notes, State Bonds and Bank bills	500.00
To 2 Wagons and Wagon, Harness and put Harness	200.00
To one Barrel Horse	130.00
To 2 Mules	140.00
To 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sacks of Salt at ten Dollars per sack	975.00
To 2 Thousand lb of Bacon at 20 per lb	4000.00
To 4 Barrels of Sugar	100.00
To one set of Blacksmith tools	60.00
To quinine and other Drugs and Medicines	100.00
To Dry Goods Hoops and other articles	200.00
To 400 Bushels of Corn at 50 per bushel	2000.00
To one oven and Lid	002.00
To cats and powder	025.00
To 10 Sides of Leather and Logchairs	067.00
To Knives and forks	035.00
To Powder and Lead	020.00
To one Brass Saddle & Bridle	25.00
	<hr/>
	2347 50

I do solemnly swear that the above List of property
 is a just and true one according to the best of my
 knowledge so help me God John Milligan Senior

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 26th of
 Dec. 1862 S. Taylor, J. P.

This is the actual inventory list created by John and James Milligan (written and signed by John Milligan Senior himself) of the 4th POA Cavalry cleaning out the Milligan's warehouse and store.

August 31, 1861; Ellis Ragsdale Milligan, George Washington Milligan and brother-in-law, Sam A. Massey (Elvira Milligan's husband),

enlist in the Confederacy at Pocahontas, Arkansas by Capt. Hardnett for a period of 12 months. Ellis enlisted as a 1st Lieutenant with Co. G. 18th Reg't Ark which became 14th McCarver's. Sam Massey enlisted in the same unit Ellis did as a 2nd Lieutenant and G. W. enlisted as a private in Company "K", 18th Reg't. Ark Infantry and later, May 15, 1862; this unit would consolidate into the 21st Reg't Ark. Infantry.

Israel Henry Milligan, Ellis' son, along with John's sons, Andrew, Israel and John Jr. enlisted (at different times) in Powhatan with Company "C", 45th Arkansas Cavalry Regiment as Privates. Israel Milligan initially was a Captain for a short time (Nov. 20 thru Dec. 20 1861) with a 30 day Volunteer Unit that he started in response to a call for volunteers by a Col. Boreland.



John Milligan's son Israel Milligan (left) and Ellis R. Milligan's son Israel Henry, John Milligan's grandson (right) just prior to the Civil War. "The Two Israel's" photo was probably taken around 1859/1860 and is part of revision 3 and new to this document.

By following the history of the 18th Arkansas Infantry Battalion, we find that it's 1000 men, including Company "G", at the end of September 1861, were sent from Little Rock and Pocahontas, Arkansas to Fort Pillow, Tennessee. Some would get to Ft. Pillow by Flatboat (Company "K",

G.W.'s company) and some would go overland by way of DeVall's Bluff. Ellis, Sam and G. W. were part of this migration of men initially but by Feb. 16, 1862, 1st Lieut. Ellis Ragsdale Milligan would die in the Military hospital in Pocahontas, Arkansas most likely due to the Measles epidemic that took the 18th by storm on the way to DeVall's Bluff and later, it decimated the camp at Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

Sam Massey was discharged from the Confederacy on June 5th, 1862, the day after the Confederate States of America decided to abandon Ft. Pillow and its Measles Epidemic.

G. W. Milligan, who enlisted as a private in Company "K", 18th Ark. Infantry, survived the Measles and the Union gunboat bombardments of Ft. Pillow. On October 4, 1862 he was wounded at Corinth, Mississippi and was taken prisoner. He would enlist again in 1863 from Benton, Saline County, Arkansas in the 11th and 17th Regiment Arkansas Cavalry eventually being taken prisoner again at Citronelle, Alabama and released at Jackson, Mississippi May 13, 1865.

John Milligan's Family was in shock: Ellis was gone.

These were dark days for John's family and Ellis' death destroyed his own family as well. Not only did Mahala Light Billings have a 3 month old, Mahala Ann Milligan in 1860 but just before Ellis went off to War, she had become pregnant again with May Elise Milligan, who was born just after Ellis' death. These two children would never know their father. Mahala Light Billings, with the help of John and Eda, tried to take care of all of her children over the next 4 or 5 years the best they could but sadly as bad news follows bad news, John Milligan II dies himself on January 12, 1867. After John's death, Ellis' son, Franklin Pierce Milligan petitioned the Lawrence County Court for guardianship for himself, J.C. (Flavian Joe Cephus Milligan), Lydia Jane, Mahala Ann and May Elise Milligan. The guardian selected was Manley Page Bonham at Franklin's request. This pretty much served as an adoption for these 5 children and after 5 years more had passed in 1872; Mahala Light Billings would pass away as well.

War Devastates Family's and this was the case with Ellis Milligan's Family. Within this 10 year period after his death, the first 5 years of war and the second 5 years during reconstruction, these 5 children would realize their place in the world; alone and looking for a direction to point their own lives and futures toward. They had been traumatized by the loss of all of the people they respected the most. Thank God Grandma Eda was still with them.



1st Lieutenant Ellis Ragsdale Milligan
1825 – 16 Feb. 1862

I have this vivid scene in mind of an Elderly John Milligan, standing at the foot of Ellis' grave with bible in hand, early in the evenings at the Campground Cemetery. There, in the peaceful still air of dusk, John would offer his blessings and his most solemn prayers to God on Ellis' behalf.

From across the grass in front of his and Eda's church, you could hear him crying out his heart to the everlasting memory of his son and as his tears soaked the pages of his good book, he tried somehow to come to grips with the severity of his loss at this stage in his life. John Milligan would never completely recover from the death of his boy.

What made this matter even worse was that on 25 May 1862, only 3 months after Ellis' death, John and Eda's daughter, Melissa Aveline died

giving birth to her and Doc Softly's daughter, Faith Jane Softly. No parent should ever have to bury their child.

The only other history I can relate to you during this time frame is the little bit of the Civil War history at the Campground itself. With the majority of their boys out fighting for the Confederacy, John, Eda and Andrew remained at the homeplace. James Lancer was at his home and Andrew would enlist later but stayed with John and Eda as long as he could as they were fairly elderly people at the time.

One night, June 16, 1862, the Illinois 5th Calvary moved into John Milligan's Campground and surrounding area. Not only because of the fresh spring water located around there for the horses and for the large open areas to bivouac a large group of men and supplies but also the 5th Cavalry was given Lawrence County as their area of responsibility and The Milligan Campground was being used as one of two Union Military posts in the Smithville area. This group was part of a full sized regiment because there was a high ranking major commanding from John's Church. They rode in and took possession of the Church Building and grounds. The Union Major sent out a small patrol of men to find cattle that his soldiers could butcher and eat. They went in the direction of Smithville (where Milligan and Sons had their tannery). While out, the patrol came under fire at the McKinney's House and the Skirmish at Smithville was underway. Some of the Confederate soldiers were wounded, two Union Soldiers were killed and all ended up back at the Campground. The confederate wounded were administered to and the dead? Perhaps they were buried at the Campground. We can no longer be sure as nothing is noted in the Graves List but then again it is known that between 1840 and 1985, there were more than 100 graves in the Campground Cemetery that weren't marked at all.

This whole episode must have scared poor Eda half to death; especially the next morning after the troop's arrival. "John?.....John! Get up! There's Yankees in the Church". "They're all over the Campground!" John being as wise as he was elderly and wanting to keep his faith and what was left of his family together, must have decided to be "true to his calling" and remained a calm and devoted Reverend that administered to all that would listen to his sermons, especially on Sunday Mornings after the death of his son, Ellis, who was "At Rest" in the Campground Cemetery, Boots to the East under the new strands of sunlit grass and the death of Melissa, who still had bare soil mounded over her. I would venture to say that on Sunday

mornings both he and Eda would go visit their children there, Yankees or not.

Having the Union Military barge their way into the Campground was so disrespectful to the honor and memory of Ellis let alone the fresher grave of Melissa's, only three weeks old. It was like rubbing salt into an open wound.

I would have loved to have heard any of the conversations John Milligan must have had with the commanding Major there; Minister of the Gospel or not.

The official records of the Illinois 5th Calvary, in the National Archives, relates their story much better than I could as the Major had to submit "Reports" of the Smithville Skirmish to his superiors.

All of John's boys eventually went to fight in the War save for James Lancer Milligan as he was watching the families business. Andrew was the last to enlist. He wanted to stay with John and Eda, as elderly as they were then, for as long as he could before he went off to fight. All of the boys came home after the war except for Ellis Ragsdale Milligan. He was 37 years old when he died.

Some of John's boys, George W., Andrew J. and Israel Henry (Ellis R.'s son) were captured and held as Prisoners of War. Two were later paroled from Jacksonport, Arkansas on 5 June 1865. As for G. W. Milligan, he was taken prisoner (2nd time) at Citronelle, Alabama and was paroled at Jackson, Mississippi 13 May 1865. He was all shot up; couldn't work any more and received a pension. William John Milligan, Ellis' young son and brother to Israel Henry, enlisted late in Company C, 8th Arkansas Cavalry as a private and John Milligan Jr. also a late enlistee, entered Co. B, 38th Arkansas Infantry.

There is another story of Family History of the time that John's Family was robbed of all of their silver and gold money that John had buried out in the barn. The story once again, written by Ambrose C. Jeffery goes something like this. Evidently 4 young men, that John Milligan later said he recognized, broke into the Milligan Family home one night with their guns drawn and ordered John to show them where he kept his money. John refused. So they put one of Eda's skillets on the fire in the fireplace and told him that if he didn't tell them where his money was that they would burn

Andrew's feet off to the knees. John, once again hesitated. The pan got sparkling "Red" hot and crackled in the fire and the robbers asked him again, drew the pan from the flames and held Andrew's feet to the air. John submitted and told them where his money was hid. So they lit a lantern and went out of the house. John showed them where they could find his money in the barn and asked them how they would answer to God for their deeds when they got to the bar of heaven. They didn't say anything. They dug up the money and ran off into the dark.

John Milligan's Death

After a long and dedicated life to his faith, community and family, The Honorable Reverend John Milligan II passed away in his home on January 12, 1867. He was already getting old prior to the Civil War but when he had started to see his own children being buried in the Campground Cemetery during the War; John aged considerably beyond his years.

After his burial at the Milligan Campground, Eda went on to live 19 years longer at the home of her son, Andrew. She passed away herself in July of 1886 knowing that the Church and the Campground were in the good capable strong hands of her sons that made it through the Civil War years. Most of the boys went on to become Elders in the Church themselves and some of these also attained their Ordination Certificates from the Presbytery.

After John's death and the Execution of his Last Will and Testament, The Presbytery sent this letter to Eda (Jeffery) Milligan. It states:

Friday, the 8th of March, 9 o'clock a.m. Presbytery met.

The following report was adopted: Whereas God, in his providence, has removed from his labors on this Earth to his reward in Heaven, our much beloved brother and father in the Ministry, Reverend John Milligan, who departed this life on January 12, 1867, 1. Resolve, therefore that in his death that this Presbytery has lost one of her oldest, wisest and ablest counselors: one of it's most pious members and that his place will be hard to fill in our Presbytery; The Church, one of her most acceptable Ministers; the Community, one of her best citizens; His Wife, an affectionate husband; His Children an indulgent father. 2. Resolved that we, as a Presbytery, offer to his bereaved widow and large circle of friends, our sincere sympathy and

would point them in this, their day of darkness, to the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom Brother Milligan ever trusted in all of his trials and afflictions in his life. 3. Resolved that the State Clerk be ordered to furnish the widow with a copy of this preamble and resolution.

J.M. Herrington, Chairman

The Graves of John II and Eda Milligan

John and Eda's Graves are at the Milligan Campground Cemetery just in front and to the left of The Cumberland Presbyterian Church that they labored on, organized and loved for so many years of their lives.



Their original headstones are shown here in the foreground, (John on the left and Eda on the right), and their new stone in the background. The names of their children are on the reverse of the new stone and John's public services are inscribed on the upper flat surfaces.

The Legacy's of John Milligan II's life are in the generations of living and dead alike that have come before him, during his time and long after his time in our sphere of existence. He is still a true example and model for the

rest of us to follow some 146 years after his death and will remain so for those of his family yet to come. We have discovered him to be a child, a young man, a frontiersman, a pioneer, a good father and husband, a Minister of the Gospel, a Law Judge and State Representative but most importantly, we have discovered him to be a good man. The promises he made to God during his sickness up on White River; he had fulfilled and it appears as though the Miracle of that day lived on within him, the rest of his life.

I have to say that it has been a sincere pleasure and privilege for me to be able to honor my 4th Great Grandfather in this true telling of his life's story. I am sure that there is more to tell and discover. I would love to find out what his exploits were in the Lawrence County Militia for instance. I would also enjoy some stories about him from the churches he used to travel to and preach at. Were there howling dogs outside the doors of his Church? Could be. Best Regards,

7th Generation of John Milligan II
6th Generation of Ellis Ragsdale Milligan
5th Generation of Israel Henry Milligan
4th Generation of John Ellis Milligan
3rd Generation of Earl Monroe Milligan
2nd Generation of Austin Milligan
Author's Generation – Thomas L. Milligan

During the research of this article I had met some wonderful people that I would like to thank for their help in making this document become a reality.

Over the years, allot of people have heard bits and pieces of the writings of A.C. Jeffery and how they related to the John Milligan II Story. We would like to thank the entire Jeffery Family for giving us access to these writings through the internet. Ol' James, Jane Mason and Eda will Love you all forever.

I also want to Thank Steve Saunders for his efforts in sending some of John Milligan's documents that are housed at the New State Park at Powhatten, Arkansas in the rebuilt Powhatten Courthouse. Steve is a researcher and an Arkansas State Historian. He managed to find the documents of John

Milligan's terms as a State Representative and a Lawrence County Law Judge. Thank You Steve!!!!

I want to send out a Very Special Thank You to James Logan Morgan, Historian of Jackson County, Arkansas and an extraordinary man and writer in his own right. His personal knowledge of Jackson and "Ol" Lawrence Counties of this time period is remarkable. Thank You James for helping us discover the "Real" Mahala Light Billings family. We promise we will pronounce her name, "Mahailia" from now on; just like y'all do in the South.

Last but certainly not the least is a fine woman I actually met last year that has been helping me put all of the pieces together. Her name is Pat Sproat. She is wonderfully dedicated to the study of not only this Milligan Family but to perhaps ALL of them as she is a Milligan descendant herself. Thank You Pat for all of your efforts and direction.

DISCLAIMER: This document is for the sole purpose of Genealogical study of the John Milligan II Family. I am releasing this document for reproduction, "Free of Charge" to any that wish to keep a copy for their own Genealogical Research, Study and Library. Sale is prohibited.

Library of Congress, 2008

Also see the Wartime Biography of John Milligan I: The Revolutionary War Locations of John Milligan I.

This is Revision 3A of this document dated October 8, 2008. All other Previous Revisions of this document are obsolete and should not be posted.

1. Added the tin type photo of the Two Israel's; Israel Milligan, John Milligan's son and Israel Henry Milligan, the son of Ellis Ragsdale Milligan.