

*Pee Dee Hamilton County*

Captain William Cone was a celebrated Indian fighter and pioneer plantation owner\*  
He moved to Florida about 1839, settling a few miles from White Springs, near the Suwannee  
River. He became a member of the territorial legislature, a signer of the petition to  
make Florida a state and, according to family lore, "the first white man to settle in  
Hamilton County". He distinguished himself fighting in Florida's bloody Seminole Indian  
Wars. When the post office was established January 2, 1845 at Blount's Ferry army  
encampment, on the east bank of the Suwannee River, William Cone was named Postmaster.

\*He was born Christmas Eve, 1777 near the Pee Dee River, North Carolina, the third son  
of Revolutionary War Patriot, Major William Cone and Keziah Barber, and the fifth of eight  
children. William first married Miss Jane Cason ~~in 1800~~, daughter of Hillery and Sarah  
Cason <sup>in 1800</sup>. This marriage did not last long and William thereafter moved with his parents to  
Glynn County (now Camden), Georgia. He was a Georgia state Representative for many years  
and a Justice of Peace. ~~As a captain of the militia in the War of 1812, he served with~~  
~~great military skill.~~ In the Georgia Legislature he was <sup>known as</sup> "Old Billy Cone", the poet, and  
the man who surveyed the Okefenokee Swamp with a grapevine.

On January 16, 1826 he married Mrs. Sarah Haddock Peoples, born 1788, daughter of  
John Haddock. A resolution approved December 17, 1825 in the Acts of the General Assembly  
changed the names of her children to Cone and made them "the legitimate heirs of their  
deputed father, William Cone of Camden County". Their children were: Daniel Newman  
Peoples, William Henry Peoples, Nancy Peoples, Simon Peter, James Barnard and Charles Floyd

He died August 24, 1857 and his obituary in The Atlanta Examiner, in part, said,

"During the War of 1812 he commanded the "Patriots", a free fighting  
corps of noble fellows, well known by the old inhabitants of Georgia  
and Florida. He and Col. Williams were taken prisoner by the Spaniards  
and confined in the castle in St. Augustine. While thus in duress,  
they were invited by the Spanish Governor to dance the Bolero with him,  
and to partake of the hospitalities of the Castle previous to being  
ordered out the next morning to be garroted. But one chance was left  
them, and that was to dance the Governor dizzy and to drink him drunk.  
Having accomplished both feats, they seized upon two of the Governor's  
horses and, hotly pursued by fifty mounted Spanish soldiers, made for  
the St. John's River, which they reached and swam, landing at Old Cow  
Ford, now Jacksonville. This was a daring feat as the St. John's at  
that point is over a mile wide...No man had more friends than "Old  
Billy Cone" and we have yet to see the Floridian who knew him that  
does not speak in his praise. Peace to his ashes."

The great uncle of the late Gov. Fred P. Cone, William was a Pioneer, a patriot, a  
leader and a family man who knew when to do the right thing. He and Sarah are buried in  
Prospect Church Cemetery on the Suwannee River in Hamilton County near where his mansion  
stands today in decayed grandeur.

*Thank you  
Abraham*

*Recorded Clifton Alfred  
CONE  
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