

## 682 John Alexander McClure

John Alexander McClure was born in Georgia July 17, 1848, according to his death certificate. This birth date is compatible with the possibility that he is the son of John McClure and first wife Sarah (\_\_\_). The death certificate gave his father's name as John.

John A. married 10 October 1866 to Martha Ann Townsend (may 31, 1849-11 April 1927). She was the daughter of Elisha and Sarah Caroline (Anthony) Townsend. John and Martha Ann reared ten children.

Henry Alexander (1867-1952) married America Ann Daniel on December 12, 1888; Sarah Caroline (1870-1963) married William Arch Nichols in July of 1888; John Elisha (1877-1957) married Artie Berrong on October 25, 1896; Margaret Liza Jane (1876-1917) never married; George Washington (1881-1959) married Minnie Plott (first) and Louvenia Chastian (second); Mary Elizabeth (1884-?) married Wylie Nichols; Amanda Pelina (1886 – 1975) married William David Howell on December 18, 1904; Thomas Calvin (1889-1945) married Lela Justice on July 5, 1914; Alice Etta (1891-\_\_\_) married Arthur Stephens; James Taylor (1895-1961) married Ena Colwell Jones on August 7, 1916.

John Alexander McClure served in the Civil War and was a farmer and a hunter. He often led an unwary hunter of the mountains with his imitation of a turkey gobble – thereby earning his nickname “Gobbling John”. He was also known as “Fiddling John” and is fondly remembered by family members as the best fiddle player ever heard.

“John McClure, Sr.” (1801-1881) deeded 20 acres of Lot #54, 9<sup>th</sup> District of Towns Co. (formerly Union Co) to “John McClure, Jr” about 1867. John Sr. sold 100 acres at approximately the same time to William G. McClure, his son.

John “A” McClure and Elisha Townsend witnessed the same of John Sr.'s personal property and remainder of lot #54 in 1870. Neighborhood reconstruction shows John Alexander living in this particular area and surrounded by other known children of the above John McClure, Sr. Other close family associates such as the Gribbles, Pattons and Townsends were also in this same area.

Two of fourteen McClure households in 1850 have males named John who fit the appropriate age for John Alexander. One is the household of John Sr. and the other household was John and Nancy McClure whose son was later identified with the middle name of William.

The 1860 census for John and Sarah McClure does not show a child John age 12-13. However, the listing of children is out of order making it possible that John A was accidentally not recorded. John Alexander's family is identical to the John McClure who appears as John E in all subsequent censuses 1880-1920. His death certificate is also written as John E. information provided by his son Thomas. Although I have not discovered contradictory evidence for my conclusion, additional support would be desirable. Photographic comparison shows a remarkable resemblance between John Alexander and Matilda Elizabeth McClure Patton, his probable sister.

*Submitted by Joanne C. Black 7072-47<sup>th</sup>  
Avenue West, Mukilteo, WA 98275.*

*The rest of the submission information is illegible on current copy - Norma Stamp*

*This photograph was included in the original article (see below).*



*I have written to the author, Joanne Black, and this is what she said:*

*The photo is of my great grandparents, William Woodward Patton and his wife Matilda Elizabeth McClure.*

*The story of John Alexander McClure along with "his" picture was originally in the Towns County Heritage (Fiddlin John). Mrs. Powell, who wrote the bio on John A. and had the photo of him, gave me permission to use her article in the Union County book. She was supposed to send the photo of Fiddlin John to the book committee to be included in that article.*

*I don't know if she just didn't send the picture, or if the committee printed it wrong, but the photo of my great grandparents was incorrectly placed with the John A. article.*

*At least they did get my great grandparents photo placed correctly with the Patton article that I did.*

*So there you go, a piece of published wrong identity (unknown to me until I saw the book). What is worse is that dozens have used my McClure articles (without permission) and posted my great grandparents Patton photo with it claiming it to be John McClure (John the father of Matilda and John A. etc).*

*It would be so nice to have a copy of picture of Fiddlin John. I am amazed at the resemblance between him and Matilda; they have so many strong similar features from what I can tell from photocopies, which are poor at best.*

*Joanne*

## 682 JOHN ALEXANDER McClURE

John Alexander McClure was born Georgia July 17, 1848, according to his death certificate. This birth date is compatible with the possibility that he is the son of John McClure and first wife Sarah [\_\_\_\_\_]. The death certificate gave his father's name as John. John A. married 10 October 1866, to Martha Arch Townsend (May 31, 1849-11 April 1927). She was the daughter of Elisha and Sarah Caroline (Anthony) Townsend. John and Martha Arch reared ten children:

✈ Henry Alexander (1867-1952) married America Ann Daniel on December 12, 1888; Sarah Caroline (1870-1963) married William Arch Nichols in July of 1888; John Elisha (1877-1957) married Artie Berrong on October 25, 1896; Margaret Liza Jane (1876-1911) never married; George Washington (1881-1959) married Minnie Plott (first) and Louven Chastian (second); Mary Elizabeth (1884-1959) married Wylie Nichols; Amanda Pelina (1881-1975) married William David Howell on December 18, 1904; Thomas Calvin (1889-1945) married Lela Justice on July 5, 1911; Alice Etta (1891?) married Arthur Stephen James Taylor (1895-1961) married Ena Colwell Jones on August 7, 1916.

John Alexander McClure served in the Civil War and was a farmer and a hunter. He often led an unwary hunter over the mountains with his imitation of a turkey gobble — thereby earning his nickname, "Gobbling John". He was also known as "Fiddling John", and is fondly remembered by family members as the best fiddle player ever heard.



"John McClure Sr." (1801-1881) deeded 200 acres of Lot #54, 9th District of Towns Co (formerly Union) to "John McClure Jr." about 1867. John Sr. sold 100 acres at approximately the same time to William G. McClure, his son. John "A" McClure and Elisha Townsend witnessed the same of John Sr.'s personal property and remainder of lot #54 in 1870. Neighborhood reconstruction shows John Alexander living in this particular area and surrounded by other known children of the above John McClure Sr. Other close family associates such as the Gribbles, Pattons, and

McClure does not show a child John age 12-13. However, the listing of children is out of order making it possible that John A. was accidentally not recorded. John Alexander's family is identical to the John McClure who appears as John E. in all subsequent census 1880-1920. His death certificate is also written as John E.; information provided by his son Thomas. Although I have not discovered contradictory evidence for my conclusion, additional support would be desirable. Photograph comparison shows a remarkable resemblance between John Alexander and Matilda Elizabeth McClure Patton, his probable sister. Submitted by: Joanne C. Black, 7072-47th Avenue West, Mukilteo, WA 98275. Printing, and additions to this story, with permission of Justice Carter Powell.

Sources: Georgia vital records, land records, U.S. Federal census, family knowledge.