

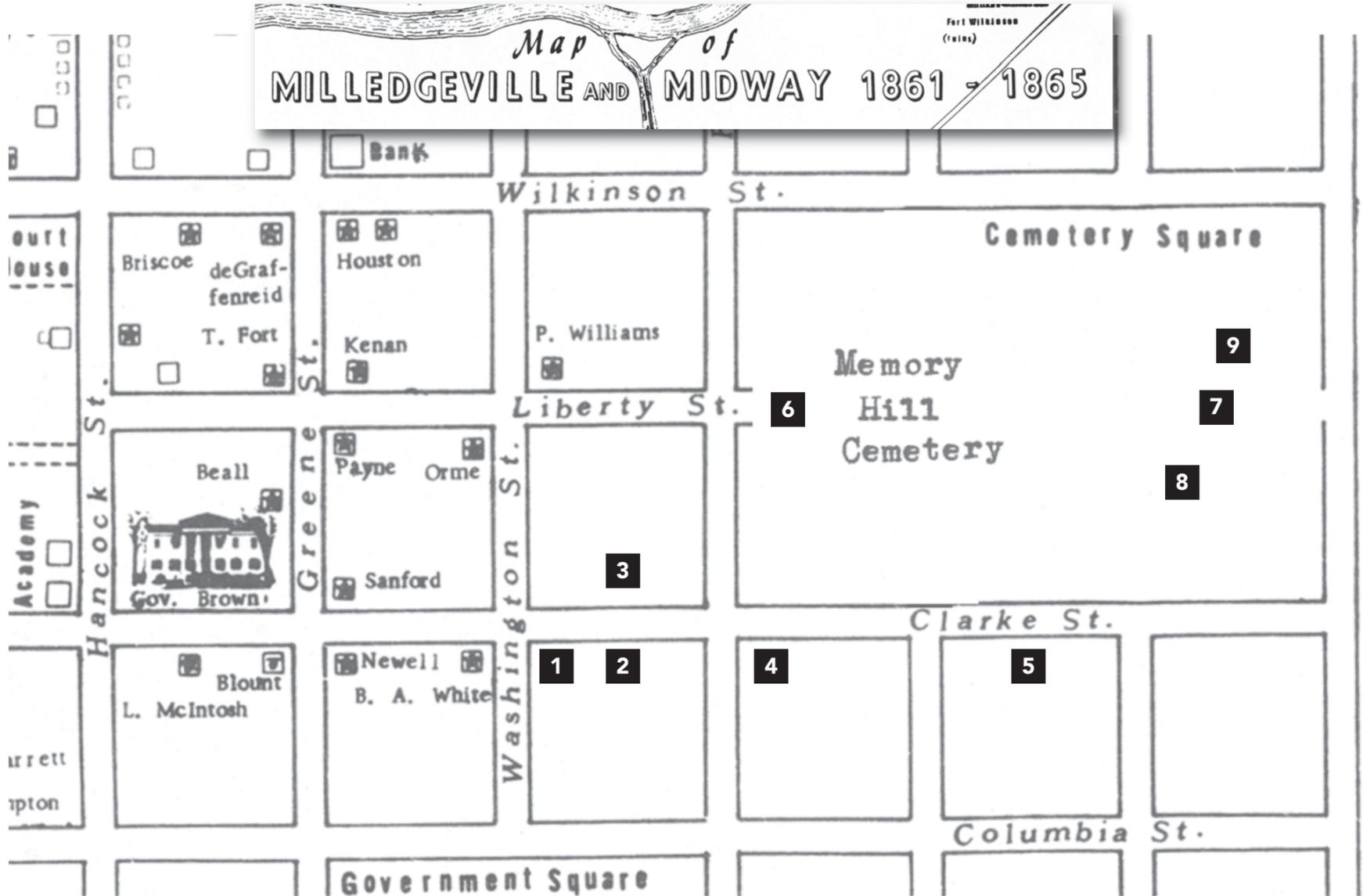
# Welcome to The Eddy Neighborhood.

*The Eddy Neighborhood*

Welcome to Eddy Neighborhood, a historic location of many African American homes in Milledgeville. The people who lived here and the events that took place in these blocks helped shape the history of Milledgeville and are an intricate part of this city's heritage. This walking tour hopes to highlight and celebrate some of these important people and places.

This tour will focus mainly on the Clarke Street branch. South Clarke St. did not develop into a residential area until the early 1900s, when most of the homes were built. This area was set aside in

the expansion of the city for the African American community since the land was swampy, infertile and not considered desirable by the white community. In the early 1900s, segregation was an established social norm in the Southeastern United States. The city was separated into two different communities that intersected in certain approved situations. This tour highlights the residential area of the African American community within the white dominated city of Milledgeville, and the religious and educational establishments that flourished there.



### 1. Sallie Ellis Davis House:



Sallie Ellis Davis was born in 1877 to a prominent white landowning merchant and an African American woman. She obtained her masters degree at Atlanta University in the field of education. She returned to her native Milledgeville to be a teacher at Eddy High School, located at the end of S. Clarke Street behind Flagg Chapel. She was a schoolteacher and a principal. She remained at Eddy High for almost 50 years. Ms. Davis put

her students education before anything else, sometimes sacrificing her personal space to do so. Her home was a boarding house for some of the Eddy High School students who lived too far away to make the trip into town every single day to attend school. Census records show that other families in the neighborhood were boarding students as well, such as Charles and Mamie Ford, who owned the restaurant at the end of Clarke and Franklin Street, and Ms. Henrietta Slater. In 1911, Ms. Davis married Jack Davis and lived in the house you see before you until her death in 1950. To learn more we invite you to take a tour of the Sallie Ellis Davis House. For more information about our tour schedule please call (478) 445-5889 or visit [gcsu.edu/saliedavis](http://gcsu.edu/saliedavis).

### 2. Genie Andrews House:



This was the home of Genie James Andrews, who taught at Eddy High School with Sallie Ellis Davis. Ms. Andrews father, Eugene James, worked as a laborer and deliveryman for a local hardware store, he bought this house in 1893. It was passed down through generations and extended family until it was sold in 1972. The 1940 census shows Ms. Andrews was the head of her home, with no children and a deceased husband. A former Eddy

High School student said that Ms. Andrews taught piano in the neighborhood and would sometimes teach at student's houses. Like Ms. Davis, former students honored Ms. Andrews for her dedication in the Eddy High/Carver High School.

### 3. 310 Clarke Street:



This was the home of Ms. Olivia Thomas, more affectionately known as the "Guardian of the Old Governor's Mansion." Olivia Thomas was a tour guide and caretaker of the Mansion for thirty-nine years. She served under five College Presidents: Dr. Wells, Dr. Stanford, Dr. Lee, Dr. Bunting, and Dr. Speir. Through her years of service she was revered as a dependable, dedicated, and irreplaceable person.

Below is a poem written for Ms. Thomas because of her unwavering love for the Old Governor's Mansion and its inhabitants.

Only thirty-nine years at the mansion ---  
How can it be?  
For she is a WELLSpring of knowledge for all to see.  
She STANDs for duty, constancy, and loyalty.  
LEEDing the way she wears the BUNTING proud for G.C.  
May she SPEIRhead into retirement with the same vitality.

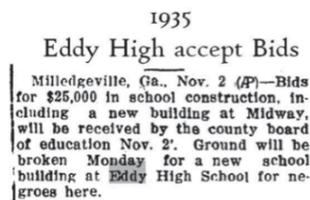
### 4. Flagg Chapel:



The chapel is named for Wilkes Flagg. Flagg was a slave who spent his formative years on the plantation of Zachariah Lamar. Dr. Tomlinson Fort, the physical who helped found Central State Hospital, bought him in 1831. Fort's children educated Flagg teaching him to read and write, which was an opportunity rarely offered to people of color in the 1800s. Dr. Fort permitted Flagg to use his blacksmith shop to make and sell goods, Flagg eventually bought himself, his wife Lavinia, and his son Wilkes Flagg Jr.'s freedom. After securing his family's freedom, he bought an acre of land, where Flagg Chapel now stands, and started a blacksmith shop and built a house. He also served as headwaiter at the Governor's Mansion for eight separate governors. With his established fortune and public standing he acquired, Flagg started Flagg Chapel Baptist church with a group of his free black followers. A local historian says that the church had "The most distinguished black congregation in Milledgeville." Sallie Ellis Davis, mentioned previously on this tour, was an active member of the congregation. Flagg served as head pastor from 1845 to 1878 and is buried in the church.

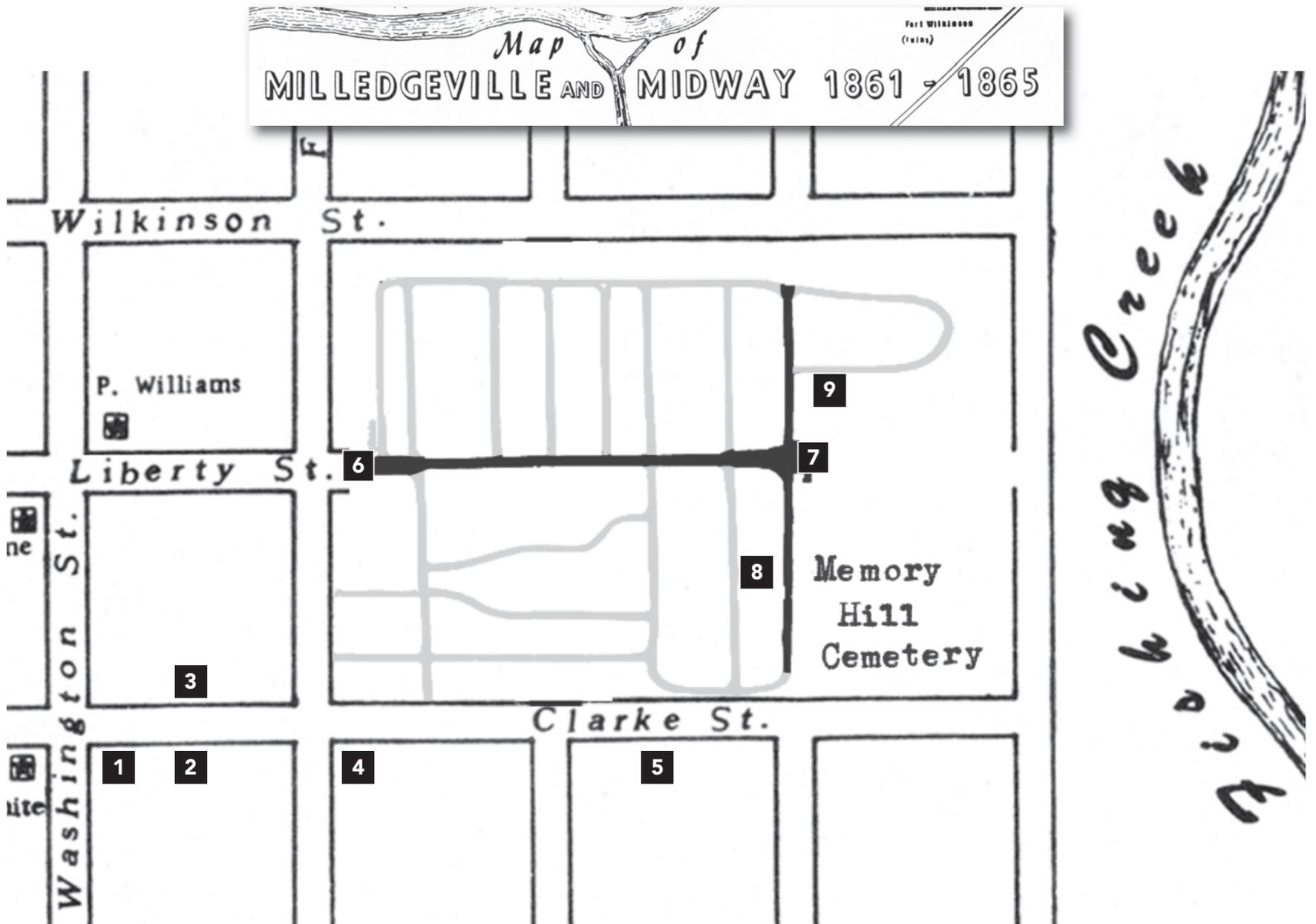
Through his many endeavors, Flagg promoted education, religion, and social interactions of blacks during his life. He helped found Eddy High School in 1868. Before the school had its own building, classes were held within the church. Flagg Chapel burned down in 1973. Fortunately the congregation was able to rebuild and a new church was erected in 1976 on the same site. The church is still active today and rooted in the African American community in Milledgeville.

### 5. Eddy High School:



After the Civil War, the education of former slaves was imperative to the success of the African American people. The American Missionary Association, otherwise known as AMA, and the Freedman's Bureau made the establishment of the only black school in Milledgeville possible. In 1868, the AMA assigned five white teachers to teach over 350 African American students in Flagg Chapel while the actual school was still being constructed. In 1869, the school opened its doors as Eddy High School, named after Rev. Hiram Eddy of the American Missionary Society. Soon the school expanded from two rooms to six rooms, having the potential to house 200 students per room. Although it was called a high school, the school included African American students of all ages.

In 1925, the original school building burned to the ground, which caused the Board of Trustees to give the ownership over to the Baldwin County Board of Education. The school was rebuilt with help largely from the community; people used their own resources and labor to restore this center of education for the African American community. Unfortunately, in 1946 the school burned down again, but this time was not rebuilt. Students were then transferred to Carver High School and eventually into integrated schools. The land behind Flagg Chapel, where Eddy High School once stood, is now a bus depot for Georgia College and State University.

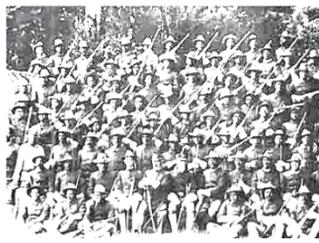


**6. Memory Hill Cemetery:**



The First United Methodist Church of Milledgeville established Milledgeville City Cemetery in 1810. Over the years, because of land acquisitions and reconfiguration of surrounding buildings, the cemetery now covers a total of 30 acres. The Milledgeville City Cemetery was renamed in 1945 to Memory Hill Cemetery. The cemetery contains over 7,300 identifiable graves and at least 1200 unmarked graves. The cemetery is a "who's who" of the community. When you walk into the cemetery, the social status of the cemetery's inhabitants is clear. The slaves and free African Americans were buried in the very back on uneven land with only stone slabs or nothing at all to denote their final resting place. This separation shows the segregation of the races even in death. Many African Americans could not afford proper burials or tombstones and thus their graves are left unmarked.

**8. Buffalo Soldiers:**



"Buffalo Soldiers" was the name given to the African American soldiers who fought in the Indian Wars of the 1870s and 1880s and the Spanish American War. They fought at San Juan Hill with Theodore Roosevelt and later served in the Philippines. Three Buffalo Soldiers are buried here in Memory Hill: Sol Sanford, Robert E. Lee, and James Arthur Gibson. The 9th cavalry was made up of only African Americans who fought of their own volition; there was no draft for "colored" men. All of these men served in the 9th Cavalry in Troop H under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Merritt and were originally stationed at Fort Davis. The 9th cavalry motto was: "We Can, We Will".

**7. Dr. B.J. Simmons:**



Dr. Benjamin J. Simmons was Milledgeville's first African American physician. Simmons went to public school at Ballard's Normal school in Macon, Georgia and Georgia State Industrial School. He graduated medical school in 1893 from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN. He began practicing medicine in 1897 in Milledgeville. He married his wife Petronia, disregarding her parent's objections, in 1901. Dr. Simmons stopped practicing medicine in 1907 due to complications involving a self-inflicted gunshot wound. He died in 1910 at the age of 40. He was revered not just by the African American community, but also by his white colleagues, even being regarded as a brilliant diagnostician.

West Side, Section J, Lot 1, Grave 1

**9. Unmarked Slave Graves:**



As you come to the rear of the cemetery you might notice the unmarked stone slabs or the uneven land. Both the left and right rear sections are where most of the slaves of the city were buried. Out of that section alone, there are almost 500 unmarked graves and almost 550 unknown graves. That's 87% of all the unmarked/unknown graves in the whole cemetery.

In the 19th century, burial practices differed between the African Americans and the white community. During the time of slavery, most slaves were laid to rest with a small ceremony or gathering because slave owners wouldn't let slaves gather in large groups. However, when a member of their master's family died they had to take care of the dead body, thus starting a long-standing practice of African American mortuary businesses. After slavery ended, African Americans openly celebrated and threw a party to honor the life of the deceased. Whites, however, mourned in silence and repressed their emotions as they had always customarily done. Churches and communities would raise money for funeral services, coffins, and any other services needed. This variance in mourning practices shows the cultural differences between two communities.

*Thank you for participating*



Thank you for taking the time to go through the Eddy Neighborhood walking tour. We hope you enjoyed your experience and learned something new about the city of Milledgeville and its diverse history.

To continue your experience from today's tour you can visit Sallie Ellis Davis's grave in Bone Cemetery located at 941 N. Clarke Street Milledgeville. Her grave is located on Row H lot 7 in the cemetery. You can also visit the Daughter's of the American Revolution, Women in History Bench. Sallie Ellis Davis is the most recent addition to this memorial located on a small road median on W. Washington Street in Milledgeville.

If you would like to learn more please contact the Sallie Ellis Davis House at 478-445-5889 or go online to [gcsu.edu/salliedavis](http://gcsu.edu/salliedavis).

Please use caution while on the Eddy Neighborhood Walking Tour. This section of Clarke Street has no cross walks or stop lights and participants must use their own judgement when crossing traffic. Please note that participating in the walking tour is done at the participant's own risk.