## Bolton/Friendship (Two miles west of Malone)

Concurrently or shortly after the area around present day Banner Road was occupied, land clearing was continuing to the west. According to headstones, burials were taking place at Friendship Cemetery (2 miles west) prior to 1840. Posted on the Church is an established date of 1857. A small community school building was built adjacent to the church. Within a 25 year span 1850-1875 the area had become well populated. In a few short years, wilderness was turned into prosperity. The area was blessed with a saw mill, cotton gin, griss mill, turpentine steel, school, post office, three mercantile stores as well as farming on the rich lands being very lucrative. By the turn of the century the original Banner Road pioneer businesses had ceased operation and supplies were being purchased at Bolton. The old business structures on Banner Road were converted into hay barns. A small dry goods store was open between Bolton and Collins Church. The old abandoned building on Autumn Road is still standing and even today referred to as Peelers Store. During this era Malone was a logging camp and the concept of township was not even on the calendar. Today there are no reminisces of the town of Bolton. Crops are planted where homes and businesses thrived a century ago. The Post Office was transferred to Greenwood in 1909.

## Allison Jacobs

By 1860 the word of opportunity in the new area of Bolton had spread to other states. Allison Jacobs was one of many to come, be impressed and relocate his family. Allison was born in 1825 in Brunswick County, North Carolina. His father had migrated from the Cherokee Indian Reservation in district 96, a few years early. Allison grew up in Brunswick County and married his wife Mary, (of white English parents) in 1847. Allison and Mary moved across the state line to Marlboro County, South Carolina and begin life together. In 1856 he moved his family to Randolph County, Georgia and purchased a 200 acre farm. Allison's name was well documented there in land transactions and even a pay request for having a County bridge constructed. Six vears later he liquidated his assets in Georgia and moved his family to the booming area of Bolton Florida. Bolton was located in the Friendship Church area, 2 miles west of present day Malone. This was 1861 and he and Mary had 7 children. Almost concurrently with completing a house and getting his family settled in this new land of opportunity, Civil War broke out. On February 1<sup>st</sup> 1863 Allison enlisted in the 11<sup>th</sup> Florida Infantry to support his patriotic duty. The next two years he fought courageously through Georgia, South and North Carolina and into Virginia. On April 06, 1865 he was mortally wounded at Farmville Virginia. Records indicate he did not get medical treatment until June 14, 1865. This was two weeks after the war ended. He died 5 days after being admitted to the Hospital. He was buried at Green Lawn Cemetery in Newport News, Virginia on June 20, 1865. If destiny had been kind to Allison and permitted him to return, perhaps the history of Bolton would be written in a different context. The speculation of one successful entrepreneur changing the course of geographical history is not impossible. Perhaps Highway 71 would travel through Bolton today instead of the logging camp of yesteryear. As a civilian it is apparent he was a man of excellent character and a very good business man. Mary never remarried and raised her children as a single parent. She was eligible for a Civil war pension but did not apply until the turn of the century. On her application she was 67 years of age and still listed her address as Bolton. She also stated she had been a resident there for 35 years. It is apparent Mary never moved from the home Allison provided for her before going to war. She died in 1906 and was buried in the Jacobs plot in Collins Cemetery, only a mile east of where he left her. Note: Many of his descendants still remain in the Malone area today.

