Cobb County was named after Judge Thomas Willis Cobb, and it is rumored that Marietta was named after his wife, Mary.

John Cobb, Thomas’ father, moved to Georgia from Virginia, and in 1784, Thomas was born in Columbia County, Georgia. Thomas pursued preparatory studies and studied law under William H. Crawford. Shortly after, he was admitted to the bar and practiced law in Lexington, Ga.

Later, Thomas moved to Greensboro in Greene County. He then ran for Congress, and was elected to the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Congresses (March 4, 1817-March 3, 1821). He was an unsuccessful candidate for reelection to the Seventeenth Congress, and then was elected to the Eighteenth Congress and served from March 4, 1823, to December 6, 1824, when he resigned after being elected Senator.

Thomas was elected to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Nicholas Ware. As Senator, Thomas was the chairman of the Committee on Public Expenditures (Eighteenth Congress). He resigned from this position in 1828.

Following his years in Washington, Thomas returned to Georgia and was elected as judge of the superior court of Georgia.

Thomas was a brilliant orator, and during his public life, he was prominent in all debates on important questions. He died at the age of 46 at his home in Greensboro, Ga., on February 1, 1830.

**Let’s Review**

1. Who was Cobb County named after? ____________________________________________

2. According to rumors, how did Marietta get its name? ________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

3. What did Thomas Willis Cobb do when he returned to Georgia after serving in Congress and the Senate? ___________________________________________________________________

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