

Joan and Cary Levy
~~landkeepers~~



JOAN'S ON JONES

April 7, 2023

Jay Melder
City Manager, Savannah
P.O. Box 1027
Savannah, GA 31402
Dear Manager Melder,

I am proposing the name "Sheftall Square" for the square formerly known as Calhoun Square, in honor of my Sheftall ancestors. Attached, is the Sheftall family history, of which I am a direct descendant. These patriots have long been neglected in the eye of the public that visits our historic city and should be recognized for posterity.

I own the properties at 103 East Jones Street and 17 West Jones Street, both of which are situated near the square. I urge you, our Mayor and alder-persons to consider using the Sheftall name. My address is: 17 West Jones Street
Savannah, GA 31401
joansonjones@yahoo.com
(912) 429-2452

Sincerely,

Joan L Levy

MORDECAI SHEFTALL (1735-1797)

Mordecai Sheftall (December 2, 1735-July 6, 1797) was a Georgia merchant who served as a Colonel in the Continental Army during the American Revolution and was the highest ranking Jewish officer of the Colonial forces. He was born in Savannah, Province of Georgia, to Perla and Benjamin Sheftall, who had arrived in 1733 to the Georgia colony on the William and Sarah from London, England, with a few dozen other Jewish immigrant families. The Sheftalls were among the founding members of Congregation Mickve Israel in Savannah, GA. On October 28, 1761, he married Frances Hart (1740-1820).

He was a leader in the Revolutionary movement against the British in Georgia and was recognized as an important outstanding citizen in Savannah. He and his son, Sheftall Sheftall, were captured during the Siege of Savannah and became British prisoners of war in Antigua until their release in 1780.

Residing in Philadelphia during the last years of the war, he was an active and leading member of Congregation Mickveh Israel there, before returning with his son to Savannah. He subsequently figured as one of the incorporators of the Union Society (1786); which helped fund Bethesda Orphanage. His name is also closely associated with the early history of free-masonry in the United States.

After the Revolution, Sheftall was one of the foremost reorganizers of the Savannah congregation, and he was largely instrumental in securing the first enclosed Jewish burial ground in that city. Congressional records show that Sheftall subsequently made efforts to recover some of the funds he had advanced to the American cause, but these funds were never repaid to him or his heirs.

He served as President (Parnas) of Congregation Mickve Israel in Savannah from 1791-1796.

Mordecai Sheftall is buried in the walled Jewish cemetery that bears his name.

SHEFTALL SHEFTALL (1761-1847)

Son of Mordecai and Frances Hart Sheftall, born in Savannah, GA. At the age of 15 Sheftall Sheftall served with his father in the Revolutionary War and both were captured by the British, sent to the island of Antigua and released in 1780.

After the war, he became an attorney in Savannah and served as president of Congregation Mickve Israel from 1799-1800. Known as "Cocked Hat Sheftall" because of the three-corned hat he wore patriotically from his military days, he was a very picturesque old gentleman around town. He never married and when he died in 1847, the entire military force of the city honored his memory. Sheftall Sheftall is buried in the Mordecai Shaftall Cemetery near his parents' graves.



Office of the Mayor Savannah, Georgia

Van R. Johnson, II
Mayor

May 31, 2023

City Hall
2 East Bay Street
Savannah, Georgia 31402

Re: Naming Request Endorsement for Consideration- 'Sheftall Square'

To Whom It May Concern,

I, Mayor Van Johnson, II officially endorse the naming request for consideration to name the public square located on Abercorn and East Wayne Streets, to ' Sheftall Square' in accordance with City Ordinance and the process outlined within 'Article E. Naming of Public Property, Facilities, and Streets'.

I look forward to this application advancing within the process as required by City Code.

Thank you,

Sincerely,



Mayor Van Johnson