

# *Jackson County Historical Society News*

VOLUME ELEVEN, NUMBER ONE

OCTOBER 2003



Braselton -Stover House built by Green Braselton, 1918

The Jackson County Historical Society will meet on October 26, 2003 at 2:30 at the Braselton–Stover House for a tour of the event facility and garden and a presentation on the house’s history by Kit Braselton. Afterwards, there will be a ramble to the Hoschton Depot for refreshments compliments of the City of Hoschton and Hoschton Women’s Club.

Directions: To the Braselton-Stover House, take Highway 53 to Braselton. The address is 5257 Highway 53 on the I-85 side of Braselton. To the Hoschton Depot, take Highway 53 from Braselton to Hoschton. The Depot is next to the Gazebo in the center of town.

**NEWSLETTER**

The Jackson County Historical Society News is published quarterly. Back issues can be obtained for \$2.50 each plus postage. Newsletters can be viewed online at: [rootsweb.com/~gajackso/](http://rootsweb.com/~gajackso/)

**DUES**

Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Life Member	\$100.00

**JCHS OFFICERS 2003-2004**

president:	Tina Harris
vice-president:	Jerry Mealor
recording secretary:	Nora Tolbert
corresponding secretary:	Boniface McDaniel
treasurer:	Tommy Benton
directors	James Mathis Caroldene McEver
past presidents:	Joyce Ethridge Ann A. Jarrett Richard Chambers Jean H. Booth Betty Ann Mathis Ralph Freeman Carol Tanner Marie Parks
newsletter editors:	Tina B. Harris Jean H. Booth

**QUERY**

.Interested in information to establish George Ferguson as the son of James S. Ferguson and Mary DeLay, married 1848. James S. Ferguson is the son of Charles H. Ferguson, died 1878 in Jackson Co. I am the grand daughter of Mattie Belle Ferguson, b. 1888 Jackson Co., daughter of George D. Ferguson and Martha Frances Jackson, married 1884 Jackson Co. Frances Jackson was the daughter of Gabriel Jackson and Lucinda Cofer, married 1844. Lucinda is the daughter of Simeon B. Cofer and Martha Turner, married 1821 in Jackson Co. Contact: Beverly Kimble, 4814 Rebel Ridge Drive, Sugar Land, TX 77478, (281)277-9464. [lkimble@pdq.net](mailto:lkimble@pdq.net)

**Johnson Family Bible:**

John F. Johnson bornd 19th of March 1799.  
Polly Crews bornd April the 9th 1897.  
married the 6th day of February 1817.  
Jesse C. Johnson bornd the 7th day of April 1819.  
William T. Johnson bornd 30th day of January 1821.  
Elizabeth M. Johnson bornd 2nd day of March 1823.  
George T. Johnson bornd 11th day of November 1825.  
John F. Johnson bornd 27th day of December 1827.  
Sarah Ann Johnson bornd 15th day of March 1830.  
Leonodus J. Johnson bornd 12th day of Sept 1832.  
Jeremiah D. Johnson bornd 21th day of January 1835.  
Richard L. Johnson born July 14, 1837.  
James M. Johnson born December the 15 1840.

Jessey C. Johnson:

John W. Johnson born October 9th 1838.  
James R. Johnson was bornd June the 12 1841.  
Mary Frances Johnson was bornd March the 4th 1844.  
Jesse Cornelius Polk Johnson born 4th October 1846.  
Martha ann Eugenia Johnson born March 5th 1849.

Jesse C. Johnson married Gabriella Eliza Cowan about 1837 in Jackson County.

William T. Johnson married Rachel Daniell about 1839 and Mary A. Elizabeth Daniell in 1843 Clarke County.  
Elizabeth H. Johnson married John Bird Lyle on December 28, 1844 in Jackson County.

George Torance Johnson married Mary Emaline Lay on September 24, 1846 in Jackson County and then married Nancy A. Daniel between 1858-59.

John F. Johnson Jr. never married

Sarah Ann Johnson married Francis McElhannon on December 2, 1847 in Jackson County.

Leonidas Jeptha Johnson married Mary Jane Rogers on October 5, 1854 in Jackson County.

Jeremiah Daniel Johnson married Mary Trout on October 21, 1866 and then Nancy about 1889.

Richard Lacy Johnson married Lydia E. Fulcher in 1856 and Martha C. Whitehead on September 2, 1866.

James Monroe Johnson married Martha Jane Lyle in 1867 in Jackson County.

Seeking connections: Linda McGuire,  
9632 Saskatchewan Ave, San Diego, CA 92129,  
(858)484-1663, [lmcguire@ucsd.edu](mailto:lmcguire@ucsd.edu)



Hosch Family: front row; William Hill, Russell Angel, Mary Ann Tabitha Hill, Camma Lenora, John Henry in Mary Ann's lap. Back row: Alma Tabitha, Russell Preston, Bertha Naomi, Leila Banna.

## OBITUARY

excerpt from the Jackson Herald January 11, 1923

News of the death of Mr. R. A. Hosch, on Christmas morning, has been the occasion of wide spread regret among a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Hosch died at six o'clock Christmas morning, at his home, after an illness of several months.

Funeral services were held at the Methodist church Tuesday, December 26, conducted by his former pastor, Rev. W. M. Jonca, of Cornelia, and assisted by Rev. W. T. Hamby, presiding elder of the Gainesville district. Dr. Mamby is a friend of the family for many years standing. The third chapter of St. John, and the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthiana being read, as they were to him two of the sweetest passages in the Bible.

Mr. Hosch was buried with Masonic honors at the Hoschton cemetery, Mr. W. A. Bradley of Winder having charge of the impressive Masonic ceremonies. He had been a Mason of Rockwell Lodge, No 191, for 38 years. Tributes in behalf of the Masons were given by Mr. W. A. Bradley and Mr. J. K. Miller of Winder and Dr. Bennett of Jefferson. It has been truly said of him, "There is no truer Mason known."

Mr. R. A. Hosch was one of the pioneer business men of Hoschton, and was the soul of business integrity. He, with his brothers, William Hosch and Hon. John R. Hosch, laid off the town of Hoschton and he was in business with them here for several years. Of late years he gave his attention to farming, being one of the foremost farmers of this section of Georgia. He was a well known churchman, having been a member of the Methodist church thirty-five years. His life has



Built 1904, Braselton Store and Bank, photograph taken February 3, 1917

been a benediction to all who knew him.

Mr. Hosch was born one mile from his present home, on November 15, 1855; a son of the late Henry Hosch, an officer in the Confederate army, and Matilda Camp Hosch. His grandfather Mathew Hosch, moved to Walton County, Georgia, from South Carolina, when his father, Henry Hosch, was nine years old. His great grandfather Jacob Hosch, came from Germany, when 20 years old and was a member of Washington's Army seven years, being a soldier when America gained her independence.

Mr. Hosch's great grand father, Abner Camp, was a soldier in the war of 1812. He also has the distinction of being a descendant of the nobility of England. He was a brother to the late Hon. John R. Hosch, Miss Nancy Hosch, Miss Mary Ann Hosch, Mrs. John W. Smith of Hoschton, Mr. William Hosch of Gainesville,

Mrs. John P. Canning of Chickasha, OK, and Washington, DC.

Mr. R. A. Hosch is survived by his wife, who was, before their marriage on January 3, 1878, Miss Tabitha Hill, of Winder, daughter of the late Henry Hill and Camma Smith Hill.

He was the father of ten children. Two sons, Omer, and infant son, and daughter, Mary preceded him. Four daughters and three sons survive: Mrs. Ralph Freeman, Hoschton; Mrs. Paul W. Vaughn, Williamson; Miss Leila and Miss Leonora, Hoschton; W. Hill Hosch, Eatonton; Russell P. and J. Henry, Hoschton; and four grand children, Paul Vaughn, Jr., Ralph Freeman, Jr., Samuel Hosch Freeman and William Hill Hosch, Jr.; one sister, Mrs. Susan Braselton, of Braselton; one brother, Mr. Andrew Hosch, Arlington, GA.



Braselton Warehouse, built 1902

excerpt from *Treasured Memories of the Braseltons*

### **WILLIAM HARRISON BRASELTON**

son of Job Green and Sally Dowdy

Born: March 4, 1835 (Hall Co.)

Died: November 10, 1896 (Jackson Co.)

Married: December 11, 1867 (Hosch Plantation)

### **SUSAN FRANCES HOSCH BRASELTON**

daughter of Henry and Matilda Camp Hosch

Born: August 11, 1847 (Jackson Co.)

Died: January 3, 1929 (Braselton)

They married at her home, Hosch Plantation. The house was torn down by later owners.

William Harrison and Susan Hosch Braselton lived on Hosch Plantation with her parents. Harrison and Susan moved to Brown's Mill and on December 8, 1876 they moved to what is now Braselton. Harrison bought around 800 acres of land from Mr. G. W. Smith, Sr.

### **CHILDREN OF WILLIAM HARRISON AND SUSAN HOSCH BRASELTON**

William Henry Braselton: Oct 5, 1868–May 25, 1956

Green Braselton: Sept 29, 1872–March 4, 1953

John Oliver Braselton, Sr.: March 31, 1877–Feb 2, 1951

Belle Braselton: March 27, 1882–October 19, 1959

Lena Braselton: August 20, 1887–January 6, 1954



Seated: Green and Cora May Duncan Braselton  
children: Harrison Franklin "Brassie" and Leta

"The 3 B's" were W. H., Green and John Oliver Braselton. In 1887, when he was eight years old, John O. started a mercantile business in a 6x6 house he built on the yard of his family home. He stocked it with sardines, crackers and candy to sell to the farm hands working on his father's plantation. His brother Green joined him within a year and a new building was constructed. Wanting to expand their inventory, they discussed buying stock on time with their father, William Harrison Braselton. He advised them to go to Colonel Sanders at the bank in Gainesville to borrow \$2,000. John, 10 years old and Green almost 15 year old, took the buggy to Gainesville and borrowed the money with a note due in November of that year. They repaid the note and continued borrowing when needed.

Green Braselton attended the Eastman Business College in Poughkeepsie, New York, graduating in 1894. While living in New York, Green would go to New York City on the weekends and buy merchandise for

the store. They manufactured their own fertilizer and built the first full roller process flouring mill in northeast Georgia in 1900. Business increased rapidly and in 1902 a side track of the Gainesville, Jefferson and Southern Railroad was run to the store and a warehouse was built next to the track to store merchandise. In 1904, a large brick store was constructed and they had become the most successful mercantile house in northeast Georgia. Their business had tripled in size and they needed help running the store, so they called on their older brother, W. H. to join the firm. W. H. supervised a 1,800 acre farming operation growing wheat, cotton and corn and was in charge of machinery operations.

Over the years the store covered an undertaking department, barber shop, filling station, roller mill, garage, planing mill, blacksmith shop, bonded warehouse, building materials, warehouse, modern gin, private bank, post office and rail ticket office and the usual mercantile grocery and hardware services.

The brothers had begun construction of a brick public high school when the 1920 tornado came through Braselton and almost demolished it and demolished a fourth of their store. Their creditors held back on their debts and many neighbors and businesses contributed to the rebuilding of the store and school house.

John O. and Ottis Blanche McDonald married July 1911 and lived in the corner house built in 1904. W. H. and Pallie Darby married May 7, 1891 and lived in a house built in 1910 and now converted to Braselton City Hall.

Green married Cora May Duncan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Senator I. F. Duncan on April 9, 1898. They built a house in 1918 where they raised eight children. It is currently owned by Mary and Marvin Stover and used as special event facility.

### Children of Green and Cora

Harrison Franklin "Brassie"

Leita Green

Henry Herman

Nellie Ruth

Annie Rosalyn

(twins) Green Jr. and Mary Alline

Herbert Brown (Kit)



## HOCHTON DEPOT

Constructed between 1882 and 1883, the depot marked the end of the “Jug Tavern” route which ran from Winder to Hoschton. In order for the small settlement to be named a station along the railroad line, it had to become a town. After a site survey and land auction on December 21, 1881, three Hosch brothers J. R., R. A. and William bought and gave property to be used for the establishment of a town square, streets, railroad right-of-way, church, school and cemetery. The town of Hoschton was formed around the Depot.

Two passenger trains ran everyday, one north and one south. After the passenger engines stopped, a gas powered Brill Bus took over the iron rails. During the war there was gas rationing and it was difficult to buy gas for automobiles. The Brill Bus became very popular holding 36 people, and as many as 75 could be seen standing around the walls. A ride cost one cent a mile. The Brill Bus stopped running after the war and in the late 1940's E. J. Pierce operated a corn mill in the depot. It also has served as Hoschton City Hall, a fire station, barber shop, pottery shop, civic club, gym, dance school and veterinary clinic. The Hoschton Depot was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 31, 2000.

## **CEMETERY DATABASE OF JACKSON COUNTY, GEORGIA AVAILABLE IN NOVEMBER 2003**

**Finally, we are able to announce that the Cemetery Project is completed. This is a must have for researchers and libraries. View a sample on the web site.**

**[www.adsd.com/jackson](http://www.adsd.com/jackson)**

Historical Society member, Don Sailors has worked for several years on this incredible project that includes digital photographs of each grave marker and graveyard. It is a unique photographic database that will include 240+ photographed cemetery markers. It is completely searchable by name, date, location or soundex. A digital map with all the cemeteries plotted is included. GPS numbers and detailed directions to the cemeteries are provided. It will be available on one DVD or two CD's. For more information see the web site.

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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P. O. Box 1234

Commerce, GA 30529









