

# *Jackson County Historical Society News*

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FEBRUARY 2011



*Darby Building, built circa 1880*

The Jackson County Historical Society will meet at the Historical Hoschton Train Depot on Sunday, February 20, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. A program will be presented by the Hoschton Historic Commission on the moving and restoration of the Darby Building. The Historic Preservation committee of the Hoschton Women's Civic Club will present information on the preservation of the Historic Train Depot. There will be visual aides and historic memorabilia.

*Directions: Take Highway 53 from Braselton to Hoschton. The Depot is on the left across from the Gazebo in the center of the town*

*Jackson County Historical Society*

*P.O. Box 1234, Commerce, Georgia 30529*

*(706) 335-5946*

## Newsletter

The Jackson County Historical Society has experienced a lag in meetings and publication of newsletters since the July 2010 picnic and tour of homes in the Commerce Historic district. Many organizations have been in similar situations and found that it takes more than attending meetings and paying dues to keep an organization functioning. We are looking for a few individuals who have an interest in the history and research of Jackson County and the time to find the sources to present this at our meetings and to contribute material for our newsletters. We have many knowledgeable people and resources at our fingertips that can be helpful. Please contact Tina at 706-207-6889 or [tina313@mindspring.com](mailto:tina313@mindspring.com), if you would like to be involved.

Back newsletter issues can be obtained for \$3.00 each plus postage. Some of the past newsletters can be viewed online at:  
[rootsweb.com/~gajackso/](http://rootsweb.com/~gajackso/)

Dues run from July to July and can be mailed to:  
Jackson County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 1234, Commerce, GA 30529:

Individual –\$15, Family –\$25, LIFE members –\$100

## Collections

The Historical Society's collection of books, files and research materials are housed in the Heritage Room of the Commerce Public Library. The library has generously provided computers, microfilm readers and copiers and expanding space in their future expansion. We are in need of volunteers to assist researchers and keep the collection organized. If you are available to assist, contact Annabel Seltzer at [abseltzer@windstream.net](mailto:abseltzer@windstream.net)

## Jackson County Historic Courthouse Restoration

The Jackson County Historical Society is an active supporter of the Jackson County Historic Courthouse restoration. Several members are volunteers on the courthouse record project where they are sorting and recording courthouse records dating as early as 1797. If you are interested in volunteering, call Charlotte Mealor 706-757-2471 or [cmealor@uga.edu](mailto:cmealor@uga.edu).

## JCHS Officers 2010-2011

President:	Mary Lynn Bell
Vice-President:	Shirley Wilson
Recording Secretary:	Boniface McDaniel
Treasurer:	Tommy Benton
Directors:	James Mathis Ann Jarrett Jerry Legg
Past Presidents:	the late, Joyce Ethridge Ann A. Jarrett the late, Richard Chambers the late, Jean H. Booth Betty Ann Mathis James Mathis Ralph Freeman Carol Tanner Marie Parks Tina Harris Charlotte Mealor
Newsletter Editor:	Tina Harris

## The Darby Building

The building is one of the original buildings from the Hoschton Square. It was owned by Jim Darby who had a business working on guns, repairing furniture and making violins in the building. Historic commission member, Ralph Freeman told the council that Darby was also known for playing checkers out in front of the building.

Later, Ben Frank Wilson rented the building. Wilson was the former city clerk and city council meetings were held in the building. Wilson also did bookkeeping and maintained his insurance company there.

A church also held its Sunday school programs in the building, before Theron Boyd purchased the building in the 1960's for \$25. and moved it from the city square for \$35. The Hoschton Historic Commission took this on as their first project. The building was given to the Commission and City of Hoschton by the Hoschton Church of God of Prophecy. The building had been moved to a third location that was located behind their church and was being used for storage.

The 5 member Hoschton Historic Commission spent almost three years planning and raising \$15,000 to move the Darby Building. No city funds were used. The Hoschton Historic Commission moved the building to Hoschton Historic Commons in January 2009, but a prop-

erty line dispute with the City and local resident caused the building to have to be moved to a 4th location in April, 2010 where it is now located on the grounds with the Train Depot. The exterior renovation is complete, but funds have to be raised to complete the interior. The commission is trying to collect items of historic interest for a museum on Hoschton and the surrounding area to be located inside the Darby Building.

### **The Hoschton Train Depot**

In 1878, a railroad was being built to run from Gainesville through Jefferson to Athens. Soon afterwards, stock was sold to connect the railroad at Belmont and to extend it to Monroe. While the railroad was being constructed south from Gainesville, the Hosch brothers secured the right-of-way for the railroad to run through the community and built the present-day Depot in 1883 to serve the needs of the new railroad.

### **Hoschton**

In 1865, Hoschton began at the present-day intersection of State Road 53 and Peachtree Road, about one-half mile south of the present-day City Square. At this location, the three pioneering brothers named J.R., R.A. and William Hosch, for whom the City is named, built the first store.

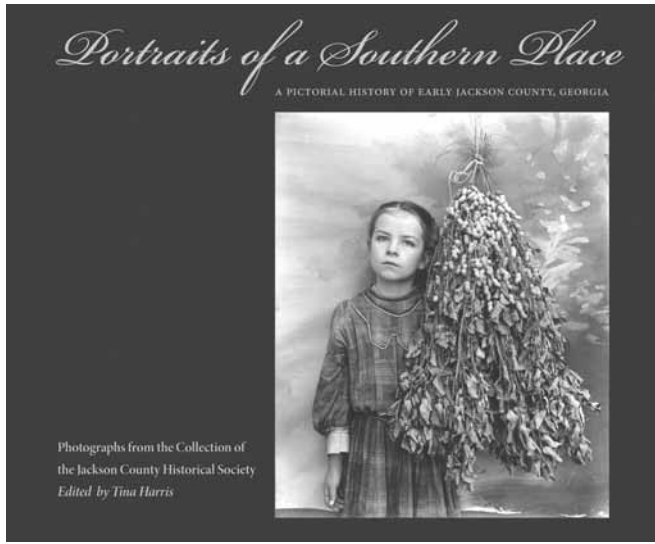
In 1880, J.R and R.A. Hosch decided to start a town and had the community surveyed. The survey established the city limits as three-quarters of a mile in every direction from the Depot. As a result, city lots began to be sold on December 21, 1881. The Hosch Brothers bought and donated property for the use of Hoschton citizens that would be used for the city square, streets, railroad right-of-way, church, school, Rockwell Lodge and the city cemetery.



*Hoschton Town Square, circa late 1880's; The Darby Building is the second building on the left.*

## Portraits of a Southern Place

This is a reprint in paperback of our 2007 hardback publication. The price of \$25.00 includes tax. Checks and money orders can be made to The Jackson County Historical Society. The book is available in Jackson County at special locations or send a check to JCHS, P. O. Box 1234, Commerce, GA 30529, Shipping cost is \$3.00 per book. Call Tina for special deliveries (706)207-6889 or [tina313@mindspring.com](mailto:tina313@mindspring.com)



## Jackson County Historical Society

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P.O. Box 1234 Commerce, Georgia 30529

## The Jackson County Historic Courthouse Restoration Committee

We are delighted to publicly report the exterior facade of the Historic Jackson County Courthouse is finished. If you have not been through Jefferson in recent months, you need to drive through to see the transformation.

We have a sub-committee of citizens, led by Jack Legg, who are currently and enthusiastically working on a preliminary landscape plan, which we will submit to the Board of Commissioners in the Spring. The committee has already been studying first floor plans and cost estimates, and we will now concentrate our efforts on these plans as we eagerly await news on two potential grants. We remain committed to the restoration of as many areas inside the historic courthouse as funds permit.

Event plans for 2011 will include another tour of the courthouse in conjunction with the dedication of Jefferson's new streetscape, and the 2nd Heritage Celebration, which will be on October 15th. Plans are already underway for an even better celebration than our first in 2009. **SAVE THE DATE.**