

Jackson County Historical Society News

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Braselton Downtown Development Office was built as the Home Economics building for Braselton Highschool in the early 1920's

The Jackson County Historical Society will meet at the The Downtown Development Office and Heritage Center at 65 Frances St. Braselton, GA, on May 18, Sunday at 2:30.p.m. A program by Tom Murdo will be presented on the Grist and Roller Mill. We will not be able to enter the Mill due to liabilities. Many of Braselton's shops are open on Sundays. The Braselton Brothers Department Store building (now the Antique Mall) is fun to walk through. Original fixtures from the bank are still inside. There are 5 parking spaces next to the building, parking at Northeast Georgia Bank and Frances Street by the Mill.

Jackson County Historical Society

P.O. Box 1234, Commerce, Georgia 30529

(706) 207-6889

Newsletter

Jackson County Historical Society dues run from September to September and can be mailed to:

Jackson County Historical Society
P. O. Box 1234, Commerce, GA 30529:

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

The Historical Society's collection of books, files and research materials are housed in the Heritage Room of the Commerce Public Library.

An index of the collection and newsletters from 1997-2013 can be viewed on the library website:

<http://prlib.org/our-libraries/commerce-public-library/>

Scanner

The Commerce Public Library has purchased a new microfilm scanner. This will make the census, newspapers, Confederate pension records and church records much easier to view and print high quality copies. It will also have the capabilities to send as an e-mail and copy to a flash drive.

JCHS Officers 2013-2014

President:	Shirley Wilson
Vice-President:	Marie Parks
Recording Secretary:	Boniface McDaniel
Treasurer:	Tommy Benton
Directors:	James Mathis Jerry Legg
Past Presidents:	the late, Joyce Ethridge the late, 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 Mealar Caine Campbell

Document Recovery Project

Thank you Sharon Stanley and others who made donations to the Document Recover Fund in memory of L. C. Bell. These donations help pay for the file folders that we continue to need.

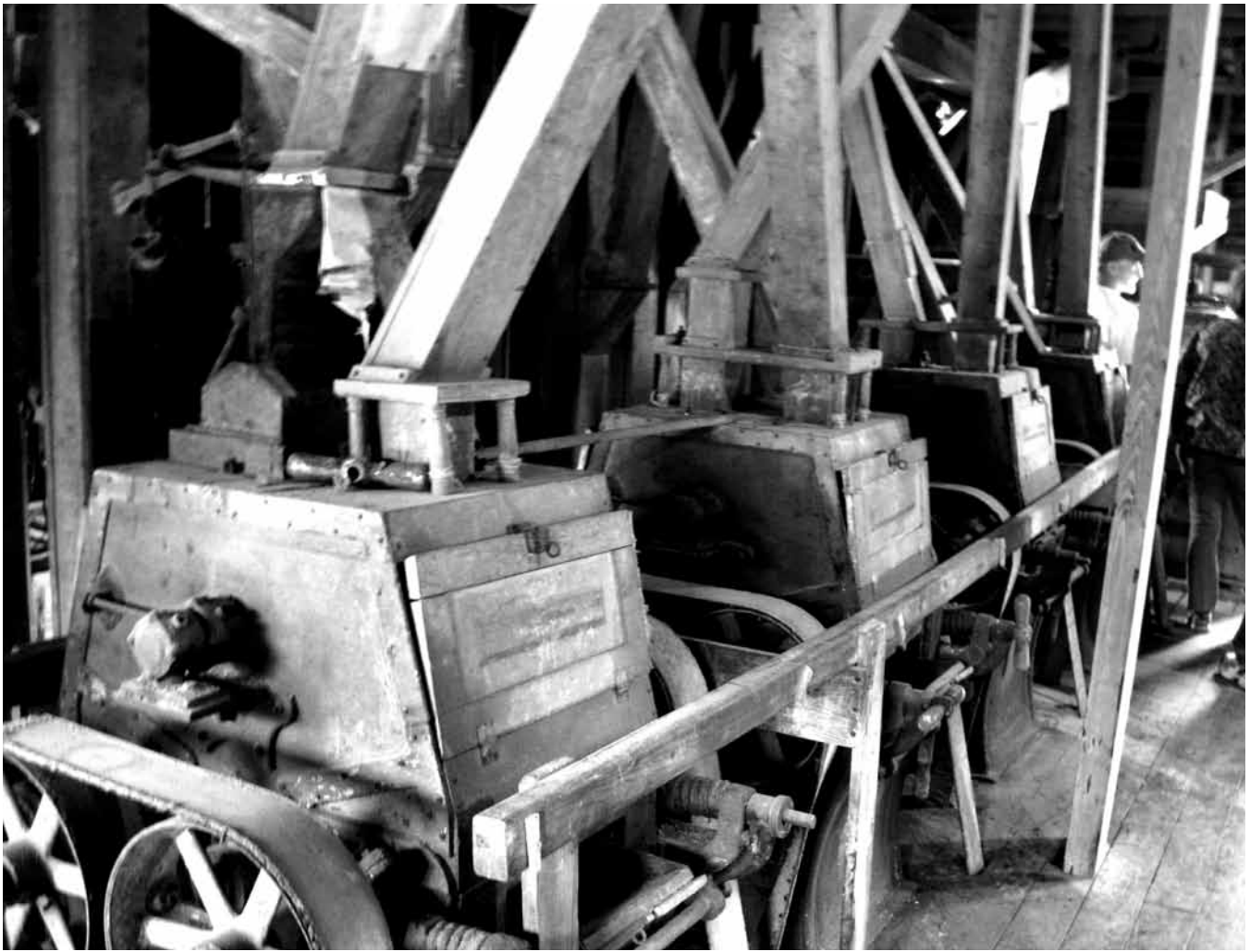
Braselton Roller Mill

The Enterprise Roller Mill was built between 1900 and 1906 by the Braselton brothers; Henry, Green, and John Oliver. It is speculated that a giant steam generator used in their nearby saw mill operation may have been moved to the rear of the building and was the power source during the milling season. Electricity was added around 1917 and it was probably at that point that they began serving other farmers, some who came from many miles away to have their wheat ground in Braselton. It's possible that the mill started off a grist mill and a roller mill system was added a short time later. The last Miller here was John Oliver Braselton, also known as Little John. Little John was the last person to live in the house that is now Town Hall. The Mill was in operation through the early 1960's and some say that it was the last mill in Georgia to offer self-rising flour.

The Mill is currently owned by the Town of Braselton. In 2010, the Town took measures to stabilize the building. A new roof had been added several years prior. It was discovered that the Mill had originally been painted. Fragments were sent to a lab to recreate those original colors which are now seen on the building today. The original machinery is still intact. Due to liabilities, the Mill is not accessible to the public.



Braselton Roller Mill circa 1920.



Wheat Roller Mill

excerpt from the Atlanta News Saturday Evening February 18, 1907

The Wonderful Progress of 3 Young Men, William Henry, Green and John Oliver Braselton

Large Planters

They are numbered among the extensive planters of this section, having the prettiest and most productive farm of 1,800 acres in all this part of Georgia. It runs along the line of railroad above mentioned for several miles and up and into the incorporated limits of the prosperous town of Hoschtton. On this farm, is more original forest and valuable timber land than any other farm in Jackson County. They made 150 to 200 bales of cotton yearly, 700 to 800 bushels of wheat, and several thousand bushels of corn, besides other crops. Henry Braselton the oldest brother, has supervision of their farming interest, as well as machinery, being a natural machinist.

Roller Mill and Ginnery

The first full roller process flouring mill in Northeast Georgia with a daily capacity of 50-75 barrels of flour and 300 bushels of meal. The Murray ginning system gined from 800-1000 bags every season.



Cornmeal Mill

The most successful merchantile firm in Northeast Georgia is the firm of Braselton Bros. composed of W. Henry, Green and John Oliver Braselton. John, the youngest member of the firm, started the business in 1887, and when he was only 8 years old. He constructed with his own hands a little house 6x6 feet, and with a few dollars put in it a small stock of goods. After about twelve months, he associated with him, his brother, Green and as his trade had increased, they erected another store room 14x16 feet, and in 1891, the third building, 22x50 feet, was built to accomodate their customers, and Henry, was added to the firm. Their volume of business increased so rapidly that in 1894, they were forced to make an addition or enlarge their store by putting on 22 feet more in length to the third building.

In 1902, Colonel S. C. Dunlap, the manager and receiver of the Gainesville, Jefferson and Southern Railroad, had a side-track put in for them, and they at once erected a mammoth warehouse, 24x120 feet for the storage of merchandise of different kinds bought in car load lots.

The business grew to such proportions, reaching into the fertile and prosperous territory of three of the finest agricultural counties in the state—Jackson, Hall and Gwinett—they found they would be forced to have larger and more commodious quarters for their immense trade, and on March 1, 1904, they began construction of their handsome brick building, which was completed on September 1, 1904.



Corn Husker



Braselton Store and Bank, 1927. Artis Davis, Glenn Braselton, Royce Braselton, John Braselton and Charles Drake are identified.

The handsome brick store is 60x95 feet, with 14 feet walls and a basement 30x60 feet. The main floor is divided into three departments—one for millinery and clothing; one for groceries and the basement for heavy groceries. It has a solid plate glass front of 60 feet with iron columns.

The entire building including basement, is lighted by acetylene gas, requiring 730 candles. This is the brightest light known and makes this large store, with its different departments, a thing of beauty when lighted up at night.

Their old store, opposite the new one is filled with stoves and furniture, which they bought in car load lots. They employ six to eight salesmen during the entire year; one of the firm goes to New York and other Eastern markets one to two times every year, and they have always made it a rule to discount or pay cash for all goods bought. They manufacture their own fertilizer; selling hundreds of tons of their celebrated BBB brand every season.

Braselton School

John Oliver, William Henry and Green Braselton built a two story brick high school that opened in September 1920. The girls would have to walk across the street to the Home Economics building, now used as the Downtown Development office and Heritage Center. In 1958 the school closed and kids were transferred to Jackson County High School. The Braselton Woman's Club took over the building as their club house. They were passionate about having a community library and the building eventually served as a full time library until 2006 when the town was able to build a library facility a few blocks away. The building became the Welcome and Heritage Center and in 2012, the Downtown Development office opened in the building.



Green Braselton, May Duncan, Brassie and Leta



William Henry Braselton, Sadie Belle, Royce, Grace, Pallie, Lewis and infant Bill



Braselton High School, 1927

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Braselton Roller Mill, circa 1970