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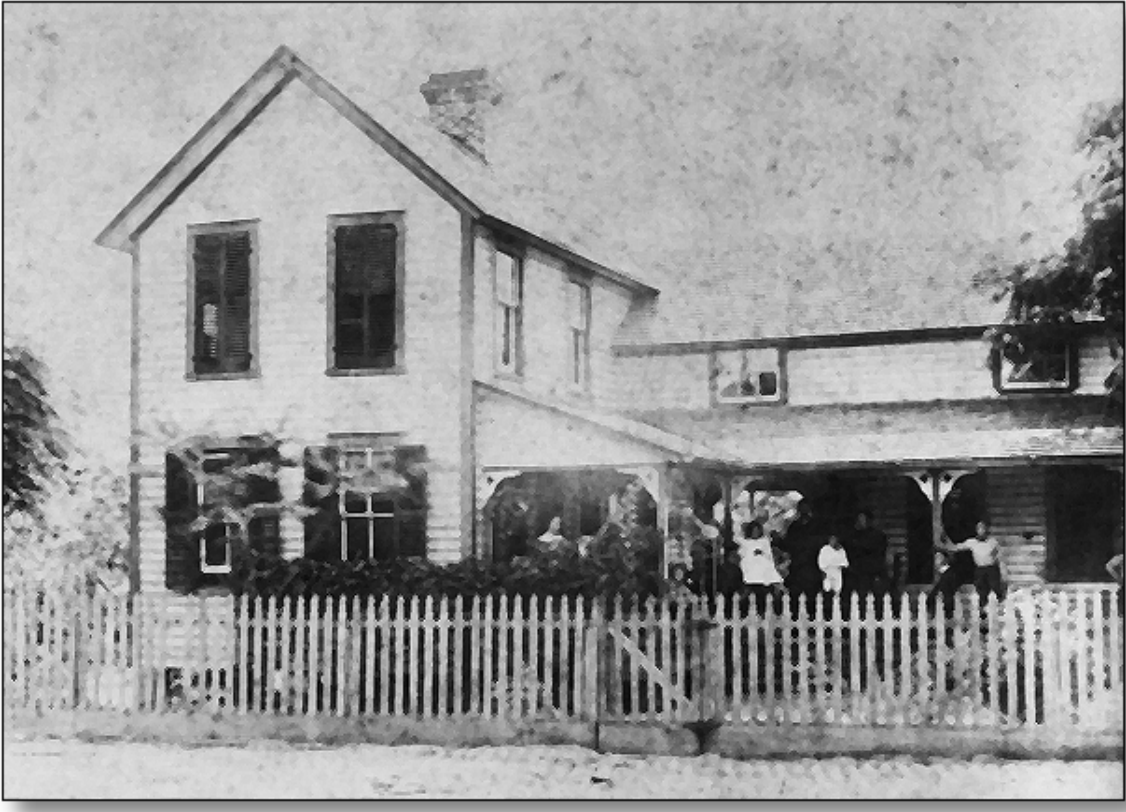
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THE FOUNDING OF JACKSON HEIGHTS

By VIRGINIA I. HALL



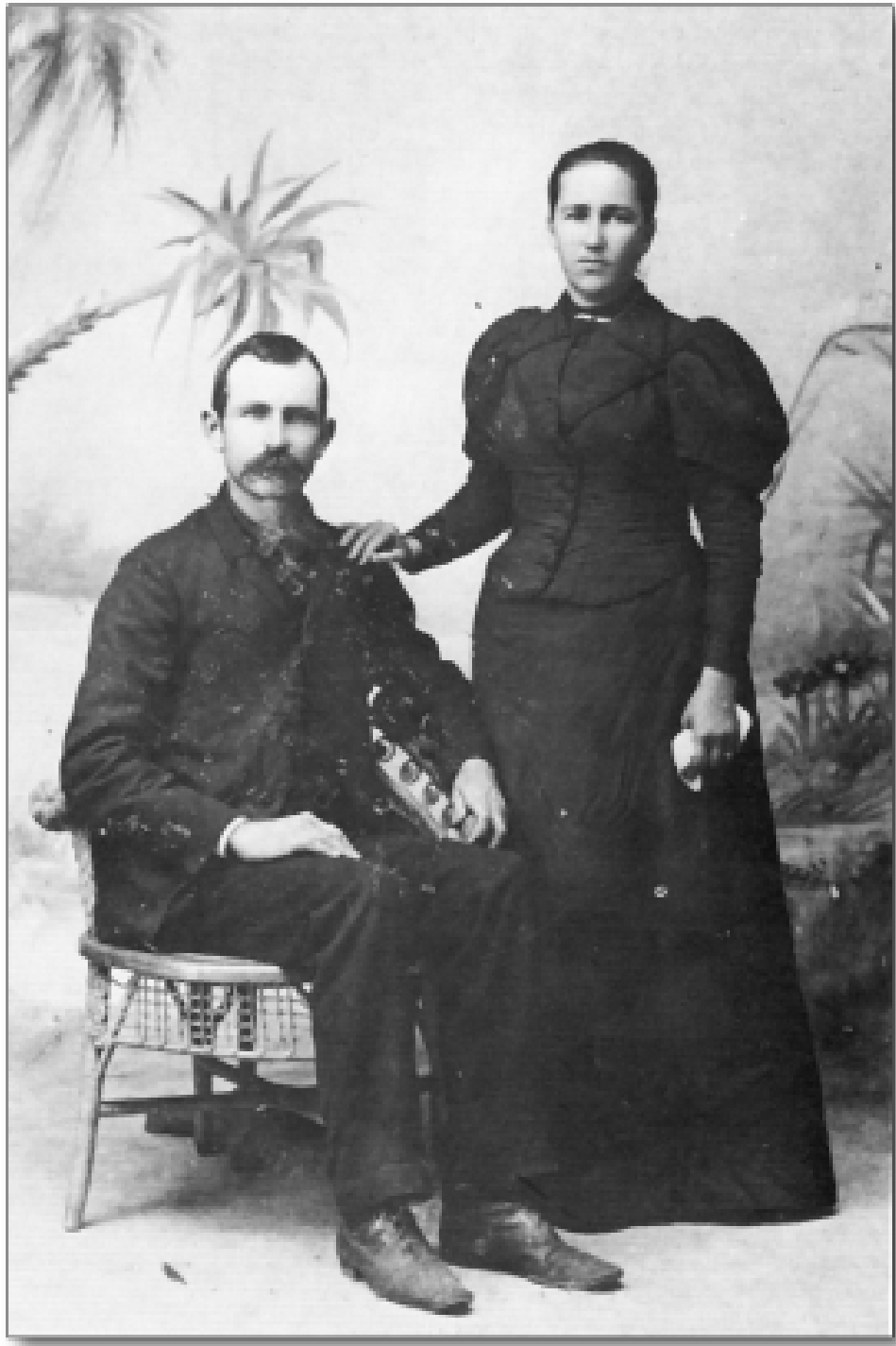
**HOME OF WILLIAM FRANKLIN JACKSON AND WIFE SUSAN
... With Several Family Members on Porch**

Mamie Susan Jackson Hall, a second generation native Floridian, was born September 17, 1882. Her parents, William Franklin Jackson (born February 27, 1855 in Dade City, Florida) and Susan O'Berry Jackson (born November 28, 1860 in Blackshear, Georgia), were married September 15, 1881.

Their first home was near the town of San Antonio, Florida, where he planted an orange grove and where their first child, Mamie Susan Jackson, was born. They later moved to Twin Lakes where he also planted

a grove, had a country store, and kept the Post Office. Three sons, Thomas Butler, William Henry and Austin Solomon, were born there.

Later, because of malaria, the family moved to Tampa where William Franklin Jackson went into the dairy business on a 10-acre tract located in the vicinity of what is now Lake Avenue and 34th Street in Jackson Heights. He also had a small grove and other fruit trees and he raised much of the food his family ate and millet and casava for the cows. Their home, located on the southwest



WILLIAM FRANKLIN JACKSON AND WIFE SUSAN O'BERRY JACKSON

corner of what is now 34th and Lake, was a hospitable home where friends and relatives were always welcome, sometimes to spend the day, a week or even a month. Their sons, John, Emory Walter and Joseph Glenn and daughter Katherine Jane, were born there.

William Franklin Jackson's father, Thomas Butler Jackson (born December 13, 1825 in Upson County, Georgia) moved his family to Tampa from the Dade City area in 1868, and took a 160-acre homestead, which location is now known as Jackson Heights. He first built a one-room log house, and the next year built a larger home where he lived the remainder of his life, during which time he saw Tampa grow from a village of insignificant proportions to a growing city. He was a charter member of the Hillsborough Masonic Lodge and was a prominent member of the Oaklawn Methodist Church. He died February 17, 1907, having reached the advanced age of 81. He had been sick for four weeks with an attack of the prevailing epidemic of grip. His beloved wife Mary Jane died February 23, 1907, also a victim of the grip, and entirely prostrated by her husband's death. Both are buried in Jackson Cemetery, located on Lake Avenue, just west of the railroad.

William Franklin Jackson did not start to school until he was 12 years old. The school term in Tampa was only three months, so his father, Thomas Butler Jackson, boarded him out at Cork Academy near Plant City where he went for an additional three months. In spite of his limited schooling, he had a liberal education for that time. He studied the Blue Book Speller, Philosophy and no doubt Arithmetic. He later taught school in Hernando County at the Townsend House Church.

Mamie Susan Jackson attended Hillsborough High School and graduated

from there on May 17, 1900. The "Class of 1900" consisted of: Kathleen Phillips, Anne High, Hattie Murphy, George M. Calhoun, Katherine E. Graham, Edna Kendrick, Agnes Everett, Annie Janes, Thomas M. Shackelford, Clara Estelle Long, Mamie S. Jackson, Sue Cumming, James Anderson, Fannie Cumming and Myron J. Miller. At the Commencement Exercise Mamie Susan's part on the program was Alexander's Mission. She later attended Stetson University in DeLand; however, because of her mother's illness, she had to return home to help with her younger brothers and sister, and was unable to return, as her mother died June 15, 1901. (Buried Jackson Cemetery, Tampa). In the meantime, Mamie Susan taught school in a small one-room school which was located in the southeast corner of Jackson Cemetery.

At a Halloween Party Mamie Susan * met a handsome young man by the name of Spence Hall, who had moved to Florida from Arkansas, and lived with his aunt and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. W.H.C. Carruthers, and worked with Mr. Carruthers in his produce business on Whiting Street. After her marriage to Spence Hall on March 15, 1904, they lived with her father and family until after the birth of her first child, Spence Hall, Jr., May 17, 1905. They then built a small home on what is now Lake Avenue (30th) in the vicinity of where her father's cattle business had been.

Her father, William Franklin Jackson married his second wife, Miss Anna Murray, in 1905, and in 1909 he traded homes with a Mr. Blanton Salmon in Keystone Park near Odessa, where they moved with the younger members of his family. They had three children - George Erwin, Mattie and James (the latter two died in infancy).



SPENCE HALL

WHOLESALE GROCERY BUSINESS

After adding an additional five children to their family, which now consisted of: Spence Hall, Jr. (who was born at William Franklin Jackson's home), Malcolm Jackson (September 18, 1906), Mildred (March 21, 1908), Virginia Ivey (November 5, 1909), Mamie Susan (December 17, 1911) who died shortly before the birth of Nathan (August 10, 1913), they needed more room. They built a two-story frame home on the property east of the small home on Lake Avenue.

Spence Hall and J.A. O'Berry (Mamie Susan's uncle) organized a wholesale grocery business which was located on Whiting Street, across the street from his aunt and uncle's home and business.

Spence and Mamie Susan were a loving and devoted couple and provided well for their family. They often helped and cared for other relatives during illnesses and death. Their living room was often used for wakes and funeral services.

During her lifetime Mamie Susan encountered many changes. When the Tin Can Tourists came during the Florida Boom, she and her husband built the necessary requirements (latrine, washhouse and store building) for a trailer court on the property located east and adjacent to their property. Many of these people stayed and later purchased their own homes and became well-established in the community. (This property was later donated to the City of Tampa for a park).

TIME TO SELL

Spence and Mamie Susan later built rental houses on the west and north side of their home property and small grove, which afforded additional income and time-consuming work. The houses were a source of revenue after his retirement and to her after his death January 23, 1943 (buried Myrtle Hill Memorial Cemetery), during World War II, at which time the older boys were in the service - Malcolm in the Navy and Spence in the Army (Chemical Warfare in Hawaii). It took Mamie Susan a long time to recover from the sudden death of her husband, but with a lot of family encouragement she realized that she had a lot to live for with her grandchildren and also had a lot to give. She lived to the age of 86 (died December 15, 1968 and is buried next to her husband in Myrtle Hill Memorial Cemetery). The neighborhood of Jackson Heights was deteriorating. Her home and rental houses were depreciating and it was difficult to get good renters, so it was time to

sell. A good offer was submitted, she got all her bills paid and in good order, and went to bed one night and did not wake up the next morning in this world ...a wonderful wife, mother, neighbor, friend and in-law.

During the First World War she helped organized a group of women to make bandages and knit socks. (Two of her brothers, several relatives and friends were active in this War.) She helped organize and was a charter member of Edgewood Methodist Church, which later closed and, together with the church in Gary, combined and formed Christ Methodist Church on the northeast corner of 34th and Columbus Drive. She also helped organize the Poinsettia Garden Club in Jackson Heights, which later disbanded and started another garden club under another name, as the name "Poinsettia" was adopted by another group. She was a member of the Tampa Woman's Club and enroute to the meetings would sometimes pick up Mrs. R.A. Ellis who gave book reviews at the Woman's Club.

During the Boom some of the people who came to Florida did not fare too well and in two cases Mamie Susan and Spence Hall helped financially for a return trip where they came from.

RETIRED CIRCUS PEOPLE

Once, Mrs. O'Brien of the Red Cross brought an elderly retired circus couple to rent one of the houses which backed up to the orange grove. They had been all over the world (except the Holy Land) and lost their trained horses in China during the Boxer Rebellion, started again, and now were no longer able to continue. They had recently sold their horses to Ringling Brothers . . . the beautiful white horses that would form a freeze to make them look like a statue. They

brought with them a trained donkey and goat (with sliding board), and she had a blind white poodle dog that had done high diving. They spent their remaining years on the Hall property. When the donkey and goat died he got some chickens and trained them. (They also supplied them with eggs.) They were invited to our home for Christmas and Thanksgiving dinner. Again, with Mrs. O'Brien's help, when they died they were buried in Jackson Cemetery, of which Mamie Susan was the custodian at one time. (Now owned by the City of Tampa).

When Nathan, the youngest child of Mamie Susan and Spence, was about four years old, he was stricken with polio. Dr. Hoke in Atlanta was famous at the time for treatment of this affliction, so Mamie Susan and sister Katherine took him to Atlanta and were gone for several weeks. This was a difficult time for Spence, but with our cook Nina and the help of Spence's mother and father (Mattie and James Malcolm Hall), they were able to manager very well. (Our Grandmother and Grandfather Hall had moved to Tampa from Arkansas and lived in the little house, which Mamie and Spence furnished them with food and clothing). Their grandchildren were glad to have them nearby and they were always treated with love and respect.

"COTTAGE DELIGHT"

About 1920 Mamie Susan and Spence built a house called "Cottage Delight" at what was then known as Haven Beach (north of Indian Rocks) - a 2-story 7-room stucco house with 2-car garage and servants' quarters above. The family spent a number of summer vacations at this beach-front "cottage". At that time we traveled to the Beach via Memorial Highway through Oldsmar, skirted Clearwater and Belleaire,

across the Indian Rocks wooden toll bridge, sometimes stopping at Brandon's Grocery or the fish house for mullet. Once a storm covered the island with a tidal wave and blew the roofs off some of the houses. There was constant replacement of screens (which at that time were not rust-proof) and we were supplied with sulphur water from a wind-mill type tank. (We also had a rain-water tank for emergency use). We loved the beach house but there were children to educate and send off to the University, so it was sold for \$5,000. It is still there unoccupied. The whole island no longer has the beauty and charm of the place we once enjoyed.

William Staten Jackson, born August 8, 1800, in Screven County, Georgia, pioneer father of the Jackson family, came to Florida in 1844 with his second wife Elizabeth Burnham Jackson and their two children, James M. and Mary Jane (they later had a child Florida who was born in Florida and died when a small child); also his children by Clarissa Lanier Jackson who died in 1837: Thomas Butler (about 18 years of age), John Staten, Emily, George W., and Sarah. They first lived several miles north of Dade City near Blanton and later moved to Safety Harbor, then to Tampa near Spanish Creek, and then back to the Dade City area where they lived two or three miles south of Dade City and where he spent his last years (died March 12, 1872).

William Staten and his second wife, Elizabeth Burnham Jackson (Howell), are buried at Mt. Zion Cemetery about 4 miles west of Dade City. He was a large cattle owner and at his death left 100 head of cattle and two horses to each of his seven children and the remaining 300 cattle to his widow. The original gravestones are still there and the epitaphs read as follows:

William S. Jackson
Born Aug. 8th 1800
Died Mar. the 12th 1872

After Winter's Stormes
Comes Life and Joy and Bloom
So Life anew shall clothe those formes
That slumber neath the tomb

Sacred to the memory
of
Elizabeth A. Howell
Born 1816 and Died Feb. 10, 1887
Blessed are the pure in
Heart for they Shall See God

Every Spring and Fall family descendants and members of those buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery gather to clean the cemetery and later serve a covered dish luncheon. A pavilion was built several years ago for this purpose. I feel privileged to be one of the descendants of William Staten Jackson and enjoy visiting with others who attend these meetings.