

Shown on the photograph above is the new monument which was erected by the Boyd-Austin monument association in the Hollis Place Cemetery of the "Old Field Rock Tombstone" on the grave of the late Mr. Pleasant G. Cochran (1868-1926) in the Old Harmony Grove Church Cemetery, Route 3, Harmony Grove Road, Dallas, Georgia 30132. The late Mr. Pleasant G. Cochran was a son of William Calvin (1839-1898) and Martha Ann Hill (1842-1870) Cochran and the husband of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Ferguson Cochran who died in 1979 at age 106 in Tennessee. He was named in honor of the memory of his Uncle Pleasant G. Cochran who died in 1863 while a soldier in Company C, 22 Georgia Infantry, C.S.A.

Cobb and Paulding Counties were created by the General Assembly of Georgia on December 3, 1832, and the present Harmony Grove Area was a part of Cobb County until annexed into Paulding County in 1852. Richard and Nancy Ruff Carnes migrated to a farm on Pumpkinvine Creek in 1836 and in 1840 they and other pioneers founded the Harmony Grove Church and Harmony Grove School. According to Mrs. Celia Cochran Bruce and Bob and Janet Cochran Tripcony, William (1803-1872) and Sarah Kiser (1809-1890) Cochran had ten children: Pleasant G., Henry A., Aaron, David, Mary, Ivy (daughter), William Calvin, Margaret, Martha and John Wesley Cochran and they migrated from North Carolina to the Harmony Grove Community in about 1841. The paternal ancestors of William Cochran (1803-1872) are named as follows: Aaron Cochran and Mary Tracy; Jacob Cochran, Jr., and Mary English and Jacob and Mary Cochran, Sr. Mr. Jacob Cochran, Sr., aided the North Carolina Militia during the American Revolutionary War and several of his descendants are members of the Captain Edward Hagin Chapter of the N.S.D.A.R., Paulding County, Georgia, and qualified for membership under the service record of this famous old patriot.

Judge John N. and Mrs. Margaret Hughes Sligh from South Carolina and other prominent families migrated to the Harmony Grove Community prior to 1850. Mrs. Margaret Hughes Sligh was a daughter of Dr. John Hughes, a famous physician in South Carolina. By her first husband who was born in Scotland, Margaret had a son named Thomas J. Hunt who married Elizabeth Green and their bodies are buried in the Hunt Cemetery, Route 3, Ferguson Place Road, Dallas, Ga., in graves marked with a beautiful, inscribed, granite double-tombstone purchased recently by Mr. Walter C. Hunt, a very kind grandson who is 95 years of age. Several of their descendants now reside in Paulding County, Georgia.

The bodies of Mrs. Margaret Hughes Sligh (1799-1864) and Mrs. Sarah Ann Sligh Johnston (1841-1865), daughter of Judge John N. and Mrs. Margaret Hughes Sligh, rest quietly in graves in the Old Harmony Grove Church Cemetery.

Prior to 1862 the John V. Baker, John W. Brown, Richard Carnes, Albert B. Clark, David D. Dudley, John T. Graves, George Washington Guess, David D. Grogan, Richard Grogan, David Kennedy, William Kennedy, Robert H. McMillan, J. Monroe Ruff, Martin V. Sanford, John T. "Tompie" Siniard, Joseph C. Tibbitts, John Tidwell and other famous families migrated to the Harmony Grove Community.

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Family 498, 1081 GMD, Paulding County, Georgia, U.S. Census of 1860, on microfilm in the Paulding County Public Library contains data as follows: "Reuben Ferguson (head of household, age 68, born in Virginia), Jackson (age 32), Joseph (age 31) and Mary Ferguson (age 26)." Family 486 on the same roll of microfilm contains data as follows: "Reuben Ferguson (head of household, age 47, born in South Carolina), Sarah Ferguson (wife of head of household, age 47, born in South Carolina), Elizabeth (age 22), Abraham Gideon (age 19), Douglass ? (age 17), Benjamin Franklin (age 16, John (age 14), Emily (age 11), Mary (age 9), William (age 6) and Esther Ferguson (age 4)." According to the U.S. Census Record of 1860, all of the nine children of Reuben and Sarah Stroud Ferguson, Jr., were born in Georgia. Messrs. Abraham Gideon Ferguson and Benjamin Franklin Ferguson served as soldiers in Company C, 22 Georgia Infantry, C.S.A., during the Civil War. Benjamin Franklin Ferguson died of wounds sustained in battle on July 7, 1862, and his body was buried in a confederate cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. Abraham Gideon Ferguson returned home from the Civil War in 1865 and on November 25, 1866, he married Miss Mary E. Womack and they had five children named as follows: www.georgianews.com Thomas Howell Ferguson married Alice Puckett and they had two children named as follows: (a) Pledger and (b) a daughter who died at an early age; (2) Lou Ella Ferguson married John Wills and they had ten children: (a) a son who died at birth, (b) Noah married Nealie Siniard, (c) Melvin married Elizabeth Siniard, (d) Gideon married Gladys Abernathy, (e) Rhoda married John Grogan, (f) Lula married Frank Kay, (g) Mattie married Paul Dabbs, (h) Bessie married James Cantrell, (i) Ruby married John Grogan and (j) Georgia Wills married Thomas Grady Holland (son of Harrison Ramsey "Tone" and Dorothy Jones Holland) and they had five children: Henry Grady Holland married Edith DeBoard, Ella Mae married John Harrington, Virginia married Marvin R. "Bud" Zimmerman, Louise married William "Bill" Lester and Johnny Andrew Holland married Shelba Fouts; (3) Georgia Ferguson married Thomas B. Hunt (son of Thomas J. and Elizabeth Green Hunt) and they had three children: (a) Walter C. Hunt married Jodie Holland and they had five children: Jewell married H.E. "Gene" Tibbetts, R.J. married Evelyn Atcheson, Gid Clay married Vera Wills, Ella Mae married John Moore and JoEtta Hunt married J.T. Wood; (b) Roy married Evie Bullock and they had two children: Marvin and Elwood Hunt; (c) Lewis W. married Amanda Elizabeth Brown and they had two children: Vera married Wayne Swanson and Celetia Hunt married Marcus Finch; (4) Emily Elizabeth Ferguson (died in 1979 at age 106) married Pleasant G. Cochran, and they had three children: (a) William Hill Cochran married Celetia DuPree and they had one child: Pleasant Goodman Cochran; (b) Gideon Abraham Cochran, Sr., married Minnie Chapman and they had five children: Gideon Abraham "Bobby" Cochran, Jr., married Starr Pannell, Mary Nell married E.G. Roberts, Mildred married Jeff Byrd, Juanita married Paul McClary and William Edd Cochran married Mildred (?); (c) John Edward Cochran married Carrie Owens and they did not have any children; (5) William Noah Ferguson married Constance "Connie" Alberta Dabbs (daughter of John and Florence Jefferson Dabbs in whose honor the Dabbs Bridge and Dabbs Bridge Road were named) and they had seven children: (a) Mary Florence

married Grady Wilbanks and they had two children: Corine and Betty Jo Wilbanks, (b) Robbie married William Mathis Carnes and they had one child: Herbert Cecil Carnes, (c) Lewell married Mattie Lee Bullock and they had three children: Billy married Foy Long, Randall married Charlene Davis and Peggy Joyce Ferguson; (d) Roy Elwood married Josephine Cantrell and they had eight children: Jerry married Betty Howell, Ann, Wendall married Lula Belle Keever, Vernon married Becky Grimsley, Mary Ellen married John Jennings, Harold, Douglas married Betty Overton and Gail Ferguson married Freddy Forsyth; (e) Thomas Howell married Jaynelle Camp and they had one child: Annette Ferguson married Kenneth Phillips (head football coach at the Paulding County High School); (f) Inell married William Horace Gurley and they had one child: Sarah Constance "Connie" Gurley and (g) Ruth Ferguson married Sharon Lee Monk and they have five children: Patsy married Bobby Morgan, Boyd married Sandra Carruth, Sarah Nelle married Dale Ragsdale, Terry married Mellisa Morris and Gregg Monk married Kim Shipp.

Mrs. Mary E. Womack Ferguson died on November 13, 1880. Mr. Abraham Gideon Ferguson married Miss Martha Jane McEver on August 12, 1883, and they had two children: (1) Jessie who died at age 16 in 1901 and (2) Robert Lee Ferguson who married Ruby Burt and they had four children: (a) Robert O. who died shortly after birth in 1930, (b) James E. married Bonnie Hibbert, (c) Jo Ann who married Alvin "Bud" Barrett and (d) Jeannette Ferguson married Leroy Clark.

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The inscribed granite monument for the grave of the late Mr. Pleasant G. Cochran was purchased by the National Bank of Georgia as trustee of the Harmony Grove Church Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 1343, Atlanta, Georgia 30301. This charitable trust was created in 1983 to provide interest income each year (generated by donations made to the principal of it) with which to purchase inscribed monuments for the graves in need of the same and provide perpetual care for the New and Old Harmony Grove Church Cemeteries. Since January 1, 1984, this charitable trust has purchased twenty-four inscribed granite monuments for graves in the Old (22) and New (2) Harmony Grove Church Cemeteries.

The bodies of Mr. Pleasant G. Cochran (1868-1926), Mrs. Martha Ann Hill Cochran (1842-1870), Mr. William Cochran (1803-1872), Mrs. Sarah Kiser Cochran (1809-1890) and of eighteen other beloved people now rest quietly in the Old Harmony Grove Church Cemetery in graves marked with new inscribed granite monuments purchased and erected recently by the National Bank of Georgia as trustee of the Harmony Grove Church Memorial Fund.

This article was written by Atty. Hubert G. Holland, 7 Atlanta Street, Marietta, Georgia 30060, in August, 1987, with data gleaned from microfilm of U.S. Census records at the Paulding County Public Library and information given to him by several very pleasant, kind people named as follows: Mrs. Celia Cochran Bruce, Mrs. Kate Crew Burt, Mrs. Robbie Ferguson Carnes, Mr. Gideon Abraham "Bobby" Cochran, Jr., Mr. Harbin Cochran, Mrs. Celestia Hunt Finch, Mrs. Jaynelle Camp Ferguson, Mrs. Lula Belle Keever Ferguson, Mrs. Inell Ferguson Gurley, Mrs. Georgia Wills Holland, Mr. Walter C. Hunt, Mrs. Louise Clark McKnight, Mrs. Frances Tibbitts Michael, Mrs. Ruth Ferguson Monk, Mrs. Ella Mae Hunt Moore, Mrs. Geneva Sligh Rainwater, Mr. Howard L. Sligh, Mr. Jack Sligh, Mr. H.E. "Gene" Tibbetts, Mrs. Carrie Cochran Ruff, Mrs. Ruth Loudermilk Ruff, Rev. William Hugh Ruff, Mrs. Janet Cochran Tripcony and other people. According to Mr. Gideon Abraham "Bobby" Cochran, Jr., Mr. E.G. "Sonny" Roberts, Jr., 104 Douglas Street, Cartersville, Georgia 30120, has done a large amount of research as to his Cochran, Ferguson, Hill, Womack and other famous ancestors and their descendants and may write a book on the genealogy of his relatives in the near future.

HARMONY GROVE CHURCH HOMECOMING



Shown on the photo above from left to right are: Mesdames Ruth Ferguson Monk, Mildred Sligh Gamel, Celetia Hunt Finch, Addie Mae Cochran Sligh, Lula Bell Keever Ferguson and Inell Ferguson Gurley on the front steps of the Harmony Grove Church Building, Route 3, Harmony Grove Road, Dallas, Georgia, on August 16, 1987, at the annual Harmony Grove Church Homecoming Celebration.

According to Mr. Ralph Ruff and Mesdames Carrie Cochran Ruff and Ruth Loudermilk Ruff, there were more people in attendance on August 16, 1987, than at any other Harmony Grove Church Homecoming Celebration in the past 50 years or longer. Mr. Walter C. Hunt, age 95, was the oldest person present and has attended the annual celebrations continuously since about 1890. www.georgiapioneers.com

Rev. William Hugh Ruff preached an excellent sermon based on the Beatitudes contained in the Sermon on the Mount, Saint Matthew, Chapter 5. Several gospel songs were sung before lunch and everyone especially enjoyed singing AMAZING GRACE led by Mrs. Lona Little and Mr. Ralph Ruff. The famous JOURNEYLAND QUARTET sang several gospel songs after lunch.

Many of the people there enjoyed inspecting the beautiful Harmony Grove Church Building as its exterior walls were freshly painted with a coat of paint as white as snow, the tin roof had been given a new coat of aluminum paint and shined like a silver star and the steps and underpinning of the building were given a fresh coat of paint as green as a precious emerald. The paint and labor were paid for by Messrs. Ralph Ruff, Sharon Monk, Eugene Fleming, Mrs. Edith Cantrell Ruff and other kind donors. There was such a large amount of delicious food spread on the "Old Wooden Dinner Table" at noon that it sagged from the weight. Donations were made by several people to replace the old table with a new one.

Several people enjoyed inspecting the beautiful emerald Zoysia grass, rose bushes and shrubbery in the Clark-Thompson plot and the twenty-two new inscribed granite monuments erected since January 1, 1984, in the Old Harmony Grove Church Cemetery. Also, two new inscribed granite monuments were erected in the New Harmony Grove Church Cemetery recently and these twenty-four new monuments were purchased by the National Bank of Georgia as trustee of the Harmony Grove Church Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 1343, Atlanta, Georgia 30301. This charitable trust was created in 1983 to provide interest income each year (generated by donations made to the principal of it) with which to purchase inscribed monuments for the graves in need of the same and provide perpetual care for the New and Old Harmony Grove Church Cemeteries.