

Census Records: Georgia Federal Census Index

1820- Elbert County, Georgia, Page 188, Roll M33_8

List 1 free white male under 10, 1 free white male 26 to 45, 1 free white female under 10, 1 free white female 16 to 26, and 1 person at this residence engaged in agriculture.

1830-Henry County, Georgia, Page 200, Roll M19_18List 1 male under 5, 1 male 5 to 10, 1 male 30 to 40, 1 female under 5, 3 females 5 to 10, and 1 female 20 to 30.

1840- 827th District, Carroll County, Georgia, Page 111

1850- Cass County, Georgia, 12th Division, Page 217

List Joel Brawner, age 53, farmer, born in Georgia with his wife Elizabeth, and children John 31, Jesse 18, William 21, Susan 15, David 13, Henry 11. His property was valued at \$1000.

1860- Cass County, Georgia, 827 District, Cassville, Page 874

List Joel Brawner, age 63, farmer and born in Georgia with his wife Betsy and youngest son Henry. Property valued at \$3000 and belongings valued at \$855. His son Jesse lived next door, with real estate valued at \$2000 and belongings valued at \$900. Several other neighbors on this census page had ties to the Brawner's including the Bakers, Shaws, and the Odoms.

Note: Cass County changed it name to Bartow County around 1861.

Joel is mentioned in the War of 1812 Muster Rolls. His company was 1 Reg't (Hall's) Tennessee Volunteers. His rank induction was Private, and his rank discharge was Private.

Marriage Record:

"Joel Brawner and Betsey King were Married on the 9th day of December, 1816 by, Robert B. Christian, J.P. Recorded the 18th day of August, 1817, by J. Weston, C.C.O."
(Recorded in Will Book L, Page 52, Elbert County Records, Office of Judge of Probate Court, Elberton, Georgia.)

Joel Brawner's Will

Filed in office Sept. 18th, 1866 J.A. Howard, Ordinary
Original will is handwritten by Joel Brawner:

State of Georgia:

Bartow County:

In the [name] of God Amen, I Joel Brawner of said State and County being of advanced age and knowing that I must shortly depart this life deem it rite and proper both my self and family that I should make a disposition of the property of which a kind Providence has blessed me with do therefore make this my last will and testament hereby revoking all others heretofore made by me. I give and bequeath to Betsy Ann Sanders heirs one hundred dollars. I also appoint Jesse J. Brawner Guardian for said heirs.

John F. Brawner and his heirs and eaqueal portion of the ballance of said state.

also Jane Tolbert and her heirs and eaqueal portion of the ballance of said state.

also Sarah E. Tabler an her heirs and eaqueal portion of the balance of said state.

Sarah C. Bakers heirs and eaqueal portion of the ballance and I also appoint Jesse J. Brawner Guardian for said heirs.

William K. Brawners heirs and eaqueal portion of the ballance of said estate.

Jesse J. Brawner and his heirs and eaqueal portion of the ballance of said estate.

Susan F. Odoms heirs and eaqueal portion of the ballance. I also appoint Jesse J. Brawner Guardian for said heirs.

David G. Brawner and his heirs and eaqueal portion of the ballance the of said estate.

Henry M. Brawner and his heirs and eaqueal portion of the ballance of said estate.

Joel Brawner (Seal)

Signed, Sealed, delivered and published by Joel Brawner as his last Will and Testament in the presents of us the subscribers who subscribed our names hereto in the presents of said testator at

his special request and each of us this 25th August 1866.

W.H. King

Test: H.M. Brawner

John F. Brawner

Source: Will of Joel Brawner, Bartow County, GA Records. [Thank you to Jack T. Brawner]. The will is set forth above with all grammatical and spelling errors of the original.

Land Contract:

Joel Brawner to James Oliver

This indenture made this seventeenth day of December, eighteen hundred and twenty-two between JOEL BRAUNER of the one part and JAMES OLIVER of the other part and both of the County of Elbert, and state of Georgia witnesseth that of said JOEL BRAUNER hath for and in consideration of the sum of four hundred dollars to him in hand paid the receipt whereof I hereby acknowledged both bargained and sold release and confirmed and bt this presence doth bargain and sell release and confirm unto the said JAMES OLIVER all that parcel of land lying and being in the state and county aforesaid and on the branch of DOVES BROOK (Creek?) containing two hundred acres by the _____ more or less beginning on a black and gum corner on GATESWOOD line running from thence a straight line to a stake and corner on ROBERT KINGS line thence down said branch to a poplar and corner on said KINGS line thence down the line to a black gum corner and thence a straight line to AMBROUSE KINGS line and Spanish oak thence on said line to a post oak on THOMPSONS line thence a straight line to the beginning black gum corner thence together with all and singular rights, the rights and titles appertaining to have and to hold the aforesaid premises unto the said JAMES OLIVER his heirs and assign forever in _____ and the aforesaid JOEL BRAUNER doth hereby waiver and forever defend the aforesaid promises from himself and his heirs and assigns and from every other person or persons whatsoever so that the said JAMES OLIVER his heirs and assigns shall have _____ pcession of the land as witness my hand and seal this day and date mentioned above written.

Signed in the presence of JOEL BRAUNER

Bucley (?) Andrew

John L. Christain

Recorded this 12th Oct. 1830

Reuben Christain J.P.

Land Records:

(From Some Georgia County Records, Volume 3, Page 185)

Sheriff's Deed from James Fletcher, sheriff Henry Co. on writ from Justice Court of Elbert Co., in suit of F. and R. Jordan agst. Joel Brawner, seized land on 6th Jan 1824 sold same to Fleming Jordan for sum of \$50. Deed dated 6 Jan 1824 fot tract in Henry Co., Lot No. 218 in 12th Dist. Signed: James Fletcher, Sheriff. Wit: Thos. C. Benning, David Johnson, J.P. Rec.15, Jan. 1824.

Historical Collections of the Georgia Chapters National Society Daughters of the American Revolution - Volume III, Records of Elbert County, Georgia

Land Lottery of 1821

The land disposed of by this lottery was obtained by treaty from the Creek and Cherokee Indians, covered by five original counties at the time of survey. Dooly, Houston, Monroe, Henry, and Fayette counties, since divided into twenty one counties.

List Joel Brawner with 2 Draws in Captain Benjamin Penn's District.

Georgia, Elbert County

We James D. Jarratt and Samuel Bentley appointed by the honorable, the Inferior Court of the state and county aforesaid to take a return of the amount of draws claimed in the Land Lottery contemplated and authorized by an act of the General Assembly of said state passed at an extra session thereof, assented to the 15th, day of May 1821, by persons residing in the 142 Battalion Georgia Militia in the said State and County, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct list and return of the same.

Given under our hands this 18th, day of July 1821.

(Signed) Samuel Bentley
James D. Jarratt

Other Records:

Administrator Bond: Page 135, State of Georgia, Bartow County, December 3, 1866

State Of Georgia,
Bartow County

Know all men by these presents, That we John F. Brawner and H.J. _____ security are held and firmly bound and obliged unto the Honorable the Ordinary of said county, for the time being, and his successors in office, in the sum of Five Thousand Dollars to be paid to the said Ordinary, his successors in office or assigns, for which payment well and truly to be made and done, we bind ourselves jointly and severally, and each of our heirs, executors and administrators, firmly by these presents.

Sealed with our seals and dated at Cartersville the Third day of December in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty six.

The condition of the above obligation is such, That if the above bound John F. Brawner administrator of the goods, chattels, and credits of Joel Brawner deceased, do make a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the goods, chattels, and credits of the said deceased, which have or shall come to the hands, possession, or knowledge of the said John F. Brawner or in the hands or possession of any other person or persons for him and the same so made do exhibit in the Court of Ordinary of said county when he shall be thereunto required, and such goods, chattels, and credits, do well and truly administer according to law, and make a just and true account of his actings and doings therein when required by the Superior Court or the Ordinary for the said county, and all the rest of the goods, chattels, and credits which shall be found remaining upon the account of the said administration, the same being first allowed by the said Court, shall deliver and pay in such persons respectively as are entitled to the same by law. And if it shall hereafter appear that any last Will and Testament was made by the said deceased, and the same be proved before the Court, and the executors obtain a certificate of the probate thereof, and the said John F. Brawner do in such case, if required, seeder, and deliver up the said letters of administration, then this obligation to be void, else to remain in full force.

Signed, Sealed, and Deliveried,
in presence of

J.A. Howard
Ordinary

John F. Brawner

Bartow Court of Ordinary: Page 409, Book E, State of Georgia, Bartow County, December 3, 1866

Application to prove _____ can now form _____. and now at this a regular term of the Court John F. Brawner next of kin to Joel Brawner deceased and produce to the Court the Will and Testimony of said deceased to said Will refusing to make probate of the execution of said Will as requested by the Court therefore ordered by the Court that said Will be declared interstate. J.A. Howard Ordinary B.C.

(We know that Joel Brawner did in fact have a will as proved by Jack Brawner and his wife Syble)

Bartow Court of Ordinary: Page 409, Book E, State of Georgia, Bartow County, December 3, 1866
Application for Letters of Administration. Now at this term of the Court it being a regular term comes John F. Brawner his application for administration on the estate of Joel Brawner deceased having been regularly called and it appearing to the Court citation of said application has been issued and published as stated by the Law and name applicator being made orders by the Court that Jon F. Brawner he and heirs hereby appointed administrator of the estate of Joel Brawner deceased appoint arrangement and lucently and taking the oath prescribed that Letters of Administration issue to him. J.A. Howard Ordinary B.C.

Bartow Court of Ordinary: Page 410, Book E, State of Georgia, Bartow County, December 2, 1866 shows that John F. Brawner applied for permission in court to sell Joel Brawner's personal property.

Bartow Court of Ordinary: Page 410, Book E, State of Georgia, Bartow County, December 13, 1866 states that administrator John F. Brawner appointed appraisers to appraise the estate of father Joel Brawner.

Bartow Court of Ordinary: Page 132, Book ???, State of Georgia, Bartow County, July 12, 1870. Mrs R.D. Hart (Sarah E. Tabler, daughter of Catherine Brawner) versus John F. Brawner, administrator of Joel Brawner's estate. Application for Rule to remove administrator for not making accrual return. The rule taken against John F. Brawner administrator of Joel Brawner having been duly served by the Sheriff of said court and the said John F. Brawner as afore said having failed to answer said rule or to make his accrual return as required by Law. Therefore orders by the Court that said John F. Brawner as afore said be and he is hereby removed from his office as administrator of the estate of Joel Brawner deceased, and his letters be and they hereby revoked. Granted in Court July 12, 1870. J.A. Howard Ordinary.

(Apparently there was animosity among some of the family members during this time. Sarah probably felt she wasn't getting her fair share from the estate and tried to get John F. Brawner removed from the role of administrator of Joel Brawner's estate).

Bartow Court of Ordinary: Page 106, Book 1869-180, State of Georgia, Bartow County, November 10, 1872. The above application of John F. Brawner administrator of Joel Brawner deceased, for leave to sell the land of said Deceased having been called regularly at this term of the Court being a regular term and appearing to the Court that said administrator has given the notice of publication as required by law. As this his intended application and no objection being made and it further that purchase should be made in order to pay the debts of Deceased and for distribution. Therefore ordered by the Court that said administrator have leave to sell all the land of said deceased.

Deed Book U, Page 75, State of Georgia, Bartow County, Recorded June 6, 1877. This indenture made this the second day of July Eighteen Hundred and Seventy Two between J.F. Brawner administrator of the goods and chattles, rights and credits and which of Joel Brawner deceased of the first part, David Quarles of the second part, witness that whereas the ordinary of Bartow at his court on Sixth day of May last part impowered the said J.F. Brawner administrator as aftersaid to sell and dispose of all this real estate of the said Joel Brawner deceased and whereas the said J.F. Brawner having given public notice of such sale for sixty days in the Cartersville Standard and Express published in the town of Cartersville and said county and having complied with all the requestations of the law did on the first Tuesday of this present month proceed to expose the lot of land _____ after described for sale at the Court Door in said county for such sale and whereas the said David Quarles bought said lot and for the sum of Seven Hundred Dollars which was the highest sum bid for the same at said sale. Now the said J.F. Brawner administrator as afore said in consideration as aforesaid of the said sum of seven hundred Dollars to him in hand paid the receipt where of is hereby acknowledge has granted bargained, sold, and conveyed and by these presents _____, _____, and convey the said David Quarles and heirs and assigns a lot of land in the Twenty Third District of said County of Bartow known in the _____ of said County as lot Number Two Hundred and fifty there in the Twenty third District of said County:

To have and to hold said premises to the said David Quarles his heirs and assigns forever, In testimony when of the said J.F. Brawner administrator has known to set his hand and seal this day and year above written, signed, sealed, & delivered.

In presence of

John Yarbough

John F. Brawner

J.A. Howard Ordinary B.C.

Received this information from Jack Brawner:

There are a few items I can highlight for you in this E-Mail. First of all all of the records in the Courthouse in Cartersville, Georgia (Bartow County) state that Joel died intestate i.e., without a will. However my greatest discovery was my wife finding his original will -- in his handwriting . This will lists all of his children.

All of the census records specify that Joel was born in Georgia. He married Betsy King in Elberton, Georgia when he was 19 years of age. I have a document that a Joel Brawner was a member of the Tennessee Volunteers during the war of 1812. He would have been 14 years of age. I am convinced that he was born in Elberton, Georgia in 1798 even though I cannot prove it. As with other researchers I have been trying to determine Joel's father for several years. I have not been very active in research for the past few years but have not given up.

Regarding Jesse Johnson Brawner and his wife Mary Ann Quarles, I have a lot of information. They had 16 children. Roughly half of these children moved to Texas, My Grandfather moved to Florida and the remainder stayed in Georgia. Since you received your information on the Brawners from Betty, I doubt that I have any information that you do not have. I corresponded with Betty for several years and we exchanged much information. She provided me with much more information than I provided to her. However, I did send her a copy of Joel's will plus some additional information on Jesse Johnson Brawner.

Joel Brawner was my Great Great Grandfather. He was born in 1798 in Elberton, Georgia. He married Betsy King daughter of William King in Elberton, Georgia in 1816. Betsy King was born in Virginia in 1800. The writer has spent the past three years attempting to find the names of the parents of Joel Brawner, When Joel was born there were the following Brawners living in Elberton who were of sufficient age to be Joel's father: John, Henry, Joseph, James, William, Basil, Basil's son named Basil, Benjamin and Jesse. I have been able to narrow down the possibilities and believe but cannot prove that the younger Basil was the father of Joel. I will keep researching until I locate Joel's father. Only then can I trace the Brawner line (my line) back to Virginia and Maryland.

I have official records that state that Joel died intestate i.e., without a will. Syble (my wife) and I were in Cartersville going through some old papers in the Family History Center and SYBLE FOUND JOEL'S ORIGINAL WILL! AND IN HIS OWN HANDWRITING! Prior to finding this will none of the Brawner researchers were able to determine the names of Joel's 10 children. A copy of this will is in another part of this document. You will note that my direct line i.e, Jesse Johnson Brawner one of Joel's and Betsy's sons was trusted to handle the inheritance of some of the grandchildren.

Another descendent of Joel and Betsy lives in Rydel, Georgia (Mrs Garrison) and she showed Syble and me where Joel and Betsy are buried in an unmarked grave. She also showed us where William and Jane King are buried. They were Betsy's parents.

TRUTH OR FICTION?

Ultimately, Joel and Betsy moved to Cartersville, Georgia where they both died in 1866. Folklore has it that a Union soldier shot Joel in the back when he refused to water the horses of the Union soldiers and is supposed to have said "let a darkie do it". I do have documents (medical records) provided by another descendent of Joel and Betsy. She is presumed to have died immediately from a heart attack and Joel died about three days later.

BARTOW COUNTY HISTORY

Established in 1832, named in honor of Francis S. Bartow, a Confederate Army general who was killed on July 21, 1861 at Manassas Plains. The name was changed on December 6, 1861. The story of Bartow County is one of the longest in Georgia, and to a great extent was dependent on the natural history of the state. It is the story of the Etowah River and its flood plain. Here, in a fertile valley, one of the earliest North American civilizations built ceremonial mounds on the river and farmed the surrounding plains. The Moundbuilders flourished from Northeast Georgia to the Great Southwest, and from the Mississippi Delta to Wisconsin. The Creek, believed to be the descendants of that great culture controlled the area until 1755 when a great battle was fought with the Cherokee for control of the land. The loss of the battle

forced the Creek south, and a "green zone" was established from the Etowah in the north to the Chattahoochee in the south where Native Americans from both tribes could trade and travel without threat from the other. The Cherokee controlled the land in Bartow from then until their forced removal on the Trail of Tears in 1838. Sometime around 1800 whites began to travel through Bartow on one of the Alabama Roads. The road, which followed an Indian Trace, passes through present-day Cartersville, which is built on the remains of the Cherokee town of Hightower. Early travelers who were not deterred by occasional theft along the road became settlers as early as 1808 near present-day Euharlee and by 1830 a significant number of whites had built homes on this new frontier. Originally organized as Cass County, after Secretary of War Lewis Cass, Bartow attracted Americans from coastal Georgia as well as from Virginia and North Carolina. Bartow County was dominated by the county seat, Cassville, before the Civil War. When the Western and Atlantic Railroad came through in the mid-1840's, Cassville, Kingston and Adairsville were the major stops. Kingston housed a large railyard and 5 major churches where passengers of most faiths could worship on their trips. The maintenance facility in Adairsville did most of the work on the trains. Cassville was the cultural center of the area. It housed both a men's and women's college, and by 1850 had become the largest community in North Georgia, taking the title from Ringgold.

Mark Anthony Cooper, former candidate for governor of Georgia, was the driving force behind the city of Etowah, now mostly located in the center of Lake Allatoona. The city, later destroyed by William Tecumseh Sherman, was founded in the 1830's by Jacob Stroup and his son Moses. Cooper joined Moses Stroup shortly after his defeat in the election (1843). Cooper built a new furnace and added equipment to facilitate the manufacturing of iron, lumber and flour. He bought mines in Dade County and helped build the Western and Atlantic Railroad. His dedication to the town resulted in a population of between 2,000 and 4,000 people. The city had a church, post office, bank, school, railroad and (ahem) a bordello. Although the town was never profitable for Cooper, the townspeople loved him.

In 1857, when the nation was in the grips of a devastating panic, Cooper considered calling it quits. Near the brink of bankruptcy, 37 townspeople decided to loan Cooper the money he needed to keep his businesses going. Within 2 years he repaid the loan with interest and built this statue, which now stands above his iron works.

During the War of Northern Aggression, many camps were established in the area to train troops. Two of the largest were Camp Felton, near Cartersville, home to Smith's Legion, among others, and Camp Foster at the Etowah River Bridge near Etowah Station. The 1st (Galt's) Regiment are among the troops trained here. The Civil War brought brutal destruction to Bartow County. Thriving communities, such as Cassville and Etowah, were destroyed. Others suffered heavy damage. In general, the only material wealth that remained intact was the railroad and the support industries that General Sherman needed to use it. Some palatial estates in the surrounding country, such as Sir Godfrey Barnsley's Woodlands were also spared.

After losing the city of Atlanta, General John Bell Hood returned to the county briefly. Forces under his command fought a pitched battle at Allatoona Pass in October, 1864.

During the late 1800's a national evangelical revival was centered in the hills of Bartow County. Pastors from the churches of Kingston grew in popularity and fame. In the 1870's, a Cartersville lawyer, Samuel Porter Jones, began a career as an evangelist. The modern evangelical movement owes a debt of gratitude to Bartow for the role the county played in its early development.

After the war cotton gradually became a major crop in the area, with Bartow and Cherokee leaders in production in North Georgia. The cotton bust in the 1920's took a heavy toll on the area. To offset the impact of the boll weevil and falling cotton prices the state of Georgia and federal government undertook a major construction project, the completion of U.S. Highway 41 from Chattanooga to Atlanta.

Proposed in the 1930's and approved in 1941, the dam forming Lake Allatoona was completed in the 1947 and the lake formed from the waters of the Etowah and Little Rivers. A major attraction for the county, the lake offers sports and outdoor enthusiasts a quick getaway from the work-a-day world 40 minutes south in Atlanta. The lake is technically a watershed, managed to control the seasonal floods of the rivers that it blocks. In winter much of the water is drained to make way for the spring runoff, which refills the lake.

Historical Marker at the Bartow County Courthouse Bartow County

Originally Cass, Bartow County was created by Act of Dec. 3, 1832 from Cherokee County. The name

was changed Dec. 6, 1861 to honor Gen. Francis S. Bartow (1816-1861), Confederate political leader and soldier, who fell mortally wounded at the First Battle of Manassas, while leading the 7th and 8th Ga. Vols. of his brigade. His last words were said to be, "They have killed me, boys, but never give up." First officers of this County, commissioned March 9, 1833, were: Benjamin F. Adair, Sheriff; Chester Hawks, Clerk Superior Court; Leathern Rankin, Clerk Inferior Court; Nealy Goodwin, Surveyor; John Pack, Coroner. (Location: At the Courthouse in Cartersville.)