

12. Lily Belle Johnson, born May, 1902; married George Eggar.

William Johnson was listed in the 1880 Polk County census with his wife and two children, Effie and Virginia. His neighbors included his parents, Elias & Elizabeth Johnson, families of his brother, Moses Johnson and his sister, Georgia McClenithan and his wife's parents, John and Rachel Douglas.

His neighbors in the 1885 Polk County census consisted of his wife's relatives: her widowed mother, her uncle, Barzilla Douglas, her brother, A. T. Douglas (who married William's sister, Marietta Caroline Johnson) and her cousin, Wiley Douglas.

About 1899 William moved to their homestead near Wauchula. Mrs. Lessie (Johnson) Simmons described her father's homestead in a letter in 1977:

We moved to the homestead in DeSoto County in 1899. We had one big room with a fireplace in one end and three beds in the other end. On the north side of the log house was a board room for the kitchen and dining room. The four boys slept in the barn loft. We had about fifteen acres in farm land and citrus trees: rough lemons, sour oranges and sweet oranges. One tree bore sweet oranges on one side and grapefruit on the other.

About 1901 we built a double-pen log house with a separate kitchen. I had a mighty good father but he sure raised a lot of cane--sugar cane that is!!

William J. Johnson was enumerated in the Wauchula section of the 1900 DeSoto County census. They had been married twenty-three years and had twelve children of which nine were still living.

William Jackson Johnson died June 16, 1907 and was buried in the Wauchula Cemetery. Mary Ann (Douglas) Johnson died in January of 1928 in Bradenton, Florida and was buried in the Wauchula Cemetery.

REFERENCES: Alice (Johnson) Patrick, Tyrone, Pa.; Lessie (Johnson) Simmons, Winston-Salem, NC; Mrs. Florence Johnson, Greenville, Fl.; Lenora (Keen) Mulford, Punta Gorda, Fl.; CENSUS: 1860 Columbia Co., Fl., 1870 Manatee Co., Fl., 1880, 1885 Polk Co., Fl., 1900 DeSoto Co., Fl.; Elias E. Johnson family Bible; Polk Co. marriages; Fort Ogden & Wauchula cemeteries; "Elias E. Johnson" in SOUTH FLORIDA PIONEERS, Issue #1; "John Douglas" in SOUTH FLORIDA PIONEERS, Issue #12.

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