

# Robert Johnson of the Virginia Company

*Lorand V. Johnson, M.D., OAA*

During this Bicentennial it is appropriate to recognize the leaders who declared their unwillingness to accept tyranny and oppression. Let us not, however, forget the foresight six generations earlier of the founders of the Virginia Company, or the cavaliers whose efforts produced a surplus to be taxed by England. The achievement of two men was notable—Sir Thomas Smith and Alderman Robert Johnson.

In 1599 Smith organized with a small band of London Merchants the corporate scheme of the East India Company, which had received immediate financial success. Assisted by the organizational genius of Alderman Robert Johnson, on 10 April 1606 King James I granted a patent which defined the boundaries and made provision for the government, under the name of "His Majesties Council of Virginia", and naming Alderman Robert Johnson as Deputy-Treasurer. In 1609 Alderman Robert Johnson published the treatise "Nova Britannia", dedicated "To the Right Worshipful Sir Thomas Smith of London, Knight, one of His Majesties Council for Virginia, and Treasurer of the Colony, and Governor of the Companies of the Moscovia, and East India Merchants, and of the Somers Islands (Bermuda), Hudson Bay and the West Indies and of Ulster".

On the 25th day of November 1612, the Virginia Company sold the Somers Islands for 2,000 pounds to Sir William Wade, Sir Dudley Digges, Sir Baptist Hicks, Richard Martin, John Wolstenholme, Richard Chamberlaine, Robert Offley, ROBERT JOHNSON, Jerome Heydon, George Schtt, and George Barkley. On 23 November 1614, the same persons resigned the Somers Islands to the Crown because of fear from the Spaniards. A new company was granted these islands by a royal charter in 1615. Since all immigrants to Virginia were then acquainted with Alderman Johnson, it is not known whether the Somers Islands were resigned to the Crown (James) so soon, because of true fear, or to eliminate immigration competition with Virginia. Alderman Robert Johnson seemed always to find indentured colonists for the large plan-

tation owners, or purchasers for Virginia stock held by estates.

By 1610 the news of the misfortunes in Virginia had reached England. The Company were utterly disheartened. The adventurers became remiss in paying their shares. The funds of the Company ran short and profits failed. The young Robert Johnson had been a loyal follower of Sir Thomas Smith, and as Deputy-Treasurer shared in the criticism against Smith, both from failing profits and the humanitarian neglect of the Jamestowne colonists.

The first opposition from Cecil and King James I was upon the election of a successor to Sandys, whose term expired May, 1620. A message came from court ordering that a successor be one of the following four: Sir Thomas Smith, Alderman Robert Johnson, Sir Thomas Roe or Mr. Abbot. Smith was ~~not~~ the open enemy of a majority of the Company because of the lack of profit. Robert Johnson was his loyal Deputy-Treasurer. Abbot was an obscure merchant but a Scotsman. Roe was an intimate friend of Sir Thomas Smith.

It is reported that Robert Johnson went to Virginia in 1619 on the ship "Margaret and John", took with him his father Sir Robert Johnson who had resigned the Prebendary of Sutton Buckingham and his relative Thomas Johnson of St. Giles Holborne who inherited stock in the Virginia Company from his father, in an effort to obtain approbation by the colonists for the management of the Company. I have found no record of such sailing, and careful scrutiny of the attendance records of the Company do not indicate his absence from their meetings. History does record that "certain of the Commissioners landed in Virginia and with a view to entrap the Assembly into sanctioning their proceedings but the snare was laid in vain", and encouraged the Crown to act against the Company. In July, 1623, the Attorney and Solicitor-General recommended that the King take the government of the Colony, and in October this was done. Had Robert Johnson remained as loyal to Cecil as to Smith?

The "magazine" was organized as a purchasing agent for Virginia tobacco and other items, and Robert Johnson was accused of purchasing tobacco and sassafras at less than market. He did, however, always preserve approbation of stockholders in the Virginia Company by being always ready to sell for stockholders, their equity to a relative, friend or Scotsman. The acquisition of the Virginia Company by the King was probably more an act of greed than punishment of the officers.

Robert Johnson organized and supervised the "lottery" for the benefit of the colonies, and it is probably coincidental that one of the larger "prizes" was won by a relative "Archdeacon Robert Johnson of North Luffenham", who "deemed it ungodly for a Clergy to win at a gamble" and he turned the money back into the treasury, for churches and

schools in Virginia. How the money was used is not known, but it must have aided in keeping the Company solvent.

Sir John Johnson, elder brother of Alderman Robert Johnson, married Elizabeth Munday, whose father edited the "Visitation" series, and fortunately preserved many accounts of the Johnson connections. Robert Johnson, second son of Sir John, continued the brockridge of Virginia Company shares, as did his nephew Robert Johnson (grocer), informer on Robert Ferguson (the plotter) his countryman (of Inverurie) and relative. As were his predecessors, grocer Robert was an ardent Royalist and Anglican. I do not know of his fate after Cromwell, but presume that he and his children escaped to Virginia.

When the banqueting house of Whitehall was erected, it was little thought that James was constructing a passage from it for his son and successor, Charles I, to the scaffold. This unfortunate monarch was the prey of two contending parties: (1) "the Independents, whose descendants still survive in various sects now called Calvinistic Methodists, and (2) the Presbyterians, who are now including the Unitarians, Arians, and General Baptists. The first of these parties was bent on the King's destruction; the latter wished to save him, and eventually brought about the restoration of Charles II, though they could not succeed in saving his father.

The rebellious army had the support of the Independents; but it should not therefore be concluded that the King had cordial support of the Presbyterians, whom nothing would satisfy but the abolition of the episcopacy, though they do not seem to have wished this at the expense of their monarch's life. The Independents wished to abolish all kingly authority and establish a Commonwealth, and they contrived to prevent any reconciliation until Cromwell was sufficiently strong to allow them to act with the necessary vigor against their enemies—the Scots, the Royalists and the Presbyterians.

On 19 January 1649 the King was tried, and the death sentence was carried out on the 30th, on a scaffold in front of the banqueting house of Whitehall. Reference to the emigration charts will locate the fate of many of these Scotch Royalists--the political favorites of the preceding generation. Only one generation is lacking, between the "Visitations" of Munday and the emigration lists, to establish accurate genealogical connections.

It is regrettable that the most numerous migrations occur during political or social crisis, the move being precipitous and record of the migration is seldom accurate. Such movements may be illustrated by migration of Royalists from Aberdeenshire during the Civil War and the success of the covenanters; and again the secrecy of Jacobite adherence following the Battle of Sheriffmuir.



In retrospect, it appears that the following loyal Royalists created a basis for royal favors, to last for three generations: (1) Thomas Johnson, "Clerk of Deliveries" of the ordinance until 1604, who was "tutored by his father-in-law" Stewkley, clerk of the ordinance. He was succeeded by Sir Robert Johnston of Annadale, the historian.

(2) Sir Robert Johns(t)on of Calesmill, who possessed the Prebend of Sutton Regiscum Buckingham, and father of Alderman Robert Johnson, Treasurer of the Virginia Company.

(3) Rev. John Johnson of Crimond, first Professor of Theology at St. Andrews University, friend and schoolmate of James Hamilton (later Viscount Clanboyne) who placed many Johnstons in responsible positions in the Ulster Plantation of the Virginia Company.

(4) Colonel William Johnston, commander of the Royalists forces in Aberdeenshire and hero of the Brigg-O-Dee Battle.

(5) Alderman Robert Johnson (of London) Treasurer of the Virginia Company, of the Ulster Plantation and of Somers Islands. Apparently he was a shrewd businessman like Smith but he did stay in royal favor.

After three generations of favor, this family also appears to have totally defected from Cromwell and the Protectorate rule, and these Johnsons fled to America. As in Spotsylvania County, these early Johnsons immigrated with that name, but after about 1670, many reverted to the name of Johnston.

Unlike Caskibeen, the Cayesmill and Crimond families of Johnson appear to have been very loyal to their kinsmen.

Alderman Robert Johnson directed a number of displaced Scot countrymen among the first voyagers to Jamestown. John Johnson, probably a son of Crimond, apparently sailed with Yeardley in 1619, was granted 100 acres of land (50 each for him and for his spouse) by Governor Yeardley, which grant was voided in 1624 by a new grant. Sir Robert Johnson of Crimond had married Isobel Boyse (Boyse), and the John Boyse, also with Yeardley, was probably his equally young cousin. His son Luke Boyse lived in Henrico County. John Johnson had two children, the daughter having married Luke Travis, who in 1637 consolidated the property being granted 900 acres in James City County ("200 acres due in right of John Johnson, his wife and two children", 250 acres for five persons transported by John Johnson and nine persons by Edward Travis). Walter Johnson was one of the transported persons, whose fate is unknown to me, as also the son of John Johnson.

In 1619 Martin's Hundred was represented in the first Virginia

Assembly by John Boys and John Jackson.

Reverend George Keith, who was for a time minister at Barbados, came to Virginia in 1617 in the ship "George". He lived at Elizabeth City in 1626, and his wife Susan Keith was reported in 1624 among the dead at Jamestown. In 1634 he obtained a grant for the adventure of his second wife, Martha, and his son John. He is thought to be of the Aquhorsk family of the celebrated Quaker, George Keith.

Sir William Johnson, eldest son of Sir John and Elizabeth (daughter of Richard Munday) married as his second wife and her second husband, Mrs. Peter Colleton, and there was a daughter Elizabeth Johnson named in the will of Lord Proprietor Sir Peter Colleton. Robert Johnson, second son of Sir John and Elizabeth Munday Johnson had a daughter Elizabeth Johnson who married in 1661 Sir Edward Carteret, son of Sir Edward de Carteret, the member of the Kings household. His uncle Sir George de Carteret 1617-1680 was Treasurer of Ireland, Proprietor of Carolina 1650 and was granted New Jersey 1661. Elizabeth Johnson Carteret had a daughter Elizabeth, born 1663, who married Sir Phillip de Carteret of St. Owens.

Each of these "Elizabeth" Johnsons (Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Johnson by Mrs. Peter Colleton, and widow Elizabeth Johnson Carteret), have been considered to be the mistresses "Elizabeth Johnson" of Spencer Compton, Baron Wilmington 1728, who died unmarried 1743, having had many children "unlawfully begotten" by an Elizabeth Johnson. One of his illegitimate daughters is said to have married James Glen, Governor of South Carolina. In 1734 he appointed Gabriel Johnson to be colonial Governor of North Carolina. Gabriel wrote that he had lived many years in the household of Spencer Compton (possibly in his youth before going to St. Andrews University).

Only one or two generations is the gap between the "Visitations" by Munday, and the published grants of lands to the immigrant cavaliers.

ancestry of  
PENELOPE JOHNSON  
\*\*\*\*\*  
wife of  
CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER CLARK

32.KING DUNCAN I

32.RICHARD "LITTLE DUKE"	33.URSUS	34.AETHELRED II m.34.AELFGIFU 9th English King d.1016
31.DUKE RICHARD m.31.FULBERT	32.SPARTINGUS	31.WALTHEOF Earl of Northumbria
30.DUKE ROBERT m. 30.HERLEVE	31.ULSIUS	28.KING DONALD BANE deposed 1094
29.EUGUERRAND m. 28.ADELAIDE Count of Ponthieu	30.BEORN	30.UHTRED m.3rd 30.AELFGIFU
28.JUDITH married	29.STEWARD m.	29.EI.FLIEDA
	28.WALTHEOF	

27.UHTRED of Tyndale married 27.BETHOC

26.JOHN, Son of Uhtred. Granted Federath, Ardindrach and Pryce of Johnston, New Deer Parish Abderdeenshire

25.GILBERT, Son of John (Gilbert de Johnston) Granted Warmby and Annan. Living 1191

24.THOMAS JOHNSTON

23.GILBERT de JOHNSTON. Living in 1249

22.ADM JOHNSTON

21.STIVEN (STEPHEN) de JOHNSTON

Living in 1380. Went to Abderdeenshire in time of King David Bruce and became chief secretary to the Earl of Mar. During the next five generations Johnstons married into many ancient and wealthy families attaining wealth, position, prestige and extensive land holdings

married before 1380



20.JOHN de JOHNSTON  
d.1481 Caskieben

married

20.MAJORIE LEIGHTON  
Living 1428

19.GILBERT de JOHNSTON of Caskieben d.1481 m.1428 20.LAIRD VAUS of Menie in Abderdeenshire 19.ELIZABETH VAUS (VASS)

18.GILBERT de JOHNSTON married 18.ELENE LICHTON

18.ALEXANDER GLOSTER of that ilk and of Gleck, District of Garioch in Abderdeenshire

17.ALEXANDER JOHNSTON m. 17.AGNESS GLOSTER  
In the reign of King James II of Scotland received lands in Caskieben formerly held by the Earl of Mar

24.WILLIAM de HAYA c.1160  
23.DAVID de HAYA, Sheriff of Forfar 1211  
22.GILBERT de HAYA, Sheriff of Perth 1262  
21.NICHOLAS de HAYA, Sheriff of Perth 1288  
20.SIR GILBERT de HAYA of Erroll

16.WILLIAM JOHNSTON of that ilk m.16.MARGARET MELDRUM  
Accompanied King James IV of Scotland on an expedition into England and was killed 1513 in the battle of Floden

19.NICHOLAS de HAYA  
18.SIR DAVID de HAYA of Erroll  
17.SIR THOMAS HAY m.before 11/7/1372  
Constable of Scotland

15.JAMES JOHNSTON of that ilk m. 15.CLARA BARKLEY  
Received 1521 charter under Great Seal of King James V of Scotland

16.SIR GILBERT HAY 16.ELIZABETH REID  
of Dronlaw

14.WILLIAM JOHNSTON married  
Killed 1547 in the cause of his country in battle of Pinke

15.ALEXANDER HAY m. 15.MARGARET FRASER  
of Dronlaw and Dalgatv

13.GEORGE JOHNSTON, 8th of that ilk d.1593  
In addition to already large holdings received charter from King James VI for Lands of Boyndis in shire of Aberdeen. Created 1st Baron 3/21/1565, "Domino Georgies Johnston de Caskilen in Regalities de Johnston"

married

12.DR. ARTHUR JOHNSTON m.2nd before 1629 12.BARBARA GORDON  
b.1587 Caskieben Scotland d.1641 Oxford England d.March 1650 Aberdeen  
Took a degree of medicine at Padua 1610. Went to France and was laureated a poet at Paris. 1637 Elected Retour in King's College. Physician to King James VI of Scotland (later became King James I of England) and King Charles I of England.

11.EDWARD JOHNS(T)ON d.after 1689 Virginia  
Was living in St. Peter's Parish, New Kent County VA 5/4/1689

10.CAPT CHRISTOPHER CLARK married  
b.1681 Virginia? 1709  
d.1754 Louisa Virginia  
County Virginia

10.PENELOPE JOHNSON  
b.8/4/1684 St. Peters Parish, New Kent Co. VA  
Baptisted 8/17/1684 St. Peters Parish, New Kent Co. VA  
d.after 1754 Virginia

King of Scotland killed 1040 married 32. SYBIL, sister or cousin of Siward

29. MELMARE

28. NADACH (NADDAD) m. 2nd 29. HACO, Earl of Orkney  
 Earl of Athol 28. MARGARET

27. GOSPATRICK MacMADETHNY m. 27. --- (daughter) ---  
 Granted Strathern et Kyndrochet by Earl  
 of Buchan, William Comyn. Living in 1214

26. WALDEVUS de GARVIACH Granted Garioch  
 Granted Charter for Caskieben in 1220

25. ANDREW de GARVIACH Sheriff of Aberdeen married  
 1264-66. Lived in Fortlice of Caskieben

24. SIR JOHN de GARVIACH married 25. STEWART of Lorne  
 24. --- (daughter) ---

23. SIR JAMES de GARVIACH married  
 Granted Forest of Cordyce, Lived in Caskieben in Aberdeenshire

22. SIR ANDREW de GARVIACH  
 married 1357  
 Caskieben and Pryce of Johnston  
 inherited by his son-in-law  
 21. Stephen de Johnston

21. MARGARET GARIOCH  
 (GARVIACH)

23. JAMES, Lord High Steward and Guardian of Scotland 23. EGIDA BURGH  
 22. WALTER, The Steward, VI High Steward b. 1292 d. 1327 married 1315

21. KING ROBERT II of Scotland b. 3/2/1316 d. 5/13/1390 married 22. SIR ADAM MURE of Rowallan  
 First King of the House of Stewart 21. ELIZABETH MURE

20. John Stewart, Earl of Carrick m. 21. SIR JOHN DRUMOND  
 Succeeded as KING ROBERT III of Scotland d. 4/4/1409 20. ANNABELLA DRUMOND d. 1401

20. DUNCAN FORBES, Granted charter for Lands of Forbes  
 19. JOHN de FORBES of that ilk m. 19. MARGARET

19. WILLIAM, 1st Earl of Douglas and Mar 19. PRINCESS MARY  
 19. GEORGE DOUGLAS 1st Earl of Angus (STEWART)  
 18. SIR ALEXANDER FORBES, 1st Lord Forbes 18. ELIZABETH DOUGLAS  
 Created Baron Forbes by King James II of Scotland circa 1370

24. SIR JOHN de KEITH m. 24. MARGARET CUMYN  
 23. SIR WILLIAM KEITH m. 23. BARBARA SEATON  
 22. SIR EDWARD KEITH m. 1st 22. ISABEL SINTON  
 m. 2nd Christian Menteith  
 21. SIR WILLIAM KEITH MARISCHAL m. 21. MARGARET FRASER  
 Built Dunottar Castle on confiscated church lands. In  
 gratitude to the King founded Marischal College.

17. ELIZABETH

20. JOHN KEITH married 20. JEAN  
 19. SIR ROBERT KEITH

19. JAMES, 1st Lord Hamilton  
 18. WILLIAM KEITH, 1st Earl of Marischal m. 18. MARY  
 17. JAMES, 2nd Lord Forbes married 17. EGIDA KEITH

17. ALEXANDER GORDON, 1st Earl of Huntley  
 16. WILLIAM, 3rd Lord Forbes d. b. 1483 m. b. 1468 16. CHRISTIAN GORDON  
 15. JOHN, 6th Lord Forbes d. 1547 married

14. WILLIAM, 7th Lord Forbes m. 1518 15. SIR WILLIAM KEITH married  
 13. CHRISTIAN FORBES b. 1547 d. 1622 14. ELIZABETH KEITH

married 1677

15. JOHN WALKER  
 Lived Daviot 1550  
 14. JOHN WALKER  
 Minister Kinkell 1599-1615  
 13. SAMUEL WALKER  
 Minister Monkegry 1630-1649  
 12. ALEXANDER WALKER  
 11. ELIZABETH WALKER

Earl of Northumberland

31.KING MALCOLM CANNORE III married  
b.circa 1031 killed 1093 2nd

29.RUADRI or ROTHERI c.1114-32  
1st Earl of Mar

28.MORGUND 2nd Earl of Mar

27.DUNCAN 4th Earl of Mar  
d.circa 1244

26.WILLIAM m. 26.ELIZABETH COMYN  
5th Earl of Mar

25.DONALD m.1st 26.Earl of Strathmore  
6th Earl of Mar 25.MURIEL

24.GARTNEY d.1305 married 24.CHRISTIAN BRUCE  
7th Earl of Mar (m.2nd Patrick Dunbar)

23.LADY HELEN (ELYENE) of Mar  
(Lady Helen m.3rd Sir John Menteth)

23.KING ROBERT BRUCE I, known as ROBERT THE BRUCE m.1st 23.LADY ISABEL of Mar  
d.12/6/1247 dau.6th Earl of Mar

22.MAJORY BRUCE d.3/2/1316



32.EDWARD the AETHERLING m. 32.AGATHA  
b.circa 1014 d.1057 b.c.1025 d.+1056

31.MARGARET AETHERLING, Saxon Princess  
d.1093

30.KING DAVID I, of Scotland m.2nd 30.MATILDA

29.PRINCE HENRY d.1152 m.1139 29.ADA WARREN  
Earl of Huntingdon and Northumberland d.1178

28.DAVID b.1114 d.1219 m.NAUD, Countess  
Earl of Huntingdon, of Chester d.1233  
Earl of Lenon & Lord of Strathmore

28.WILLIAM BRUCE  
27.ROBERT de BRUCE married 27.ISABEL  
Lord of Annadale d.1245

27.SIR GILBERT de CLARE, a Surety  
26.ROBERT BRUCE m.1240 26.ISABEL CLARE  
d.1295 b.1226 Living 1264

26.NEIL, Earl of Carrick  
25.ROBERT BRUCE d.1304 m.2nd 25.MAJORIE  
Earl of Carrick Countess of Carrick

25.KING WILLIAM I, known as WILLIAM THE LION  
b.c.1143 d.1214

24.ROBERT de LONDON (natural son of King William  
the Lion and Matilda Ferrer wife of Richard  
Lundie) married daughter and heiress of Lundie  
of that ilk

23.WALTER de LUNDIN  
Granted Belcarmock to Phillip Meldrum 1248

22.WILLIAM Sub Prior St. Andrew d.1384

21.SIR WILLIAM de LUNDIE m. 21.HELEN  
Killed at Otterburn 1388

20.ALAN LUNDIE of Bonnholm

19.SIR ROBERT LUNDIE of Bologne m.18.HELEN SIBOLD  
Lord High Treasurer

18.SIR WILLIAM LUNDIE

17.SIR JOHN LUNDIN b.c.1141 m. 17.ISOBEL WEYMESSE  
of that ilk

17.Earl of Crawford  
16.SIR JOHN LUNDY m. 16.ELIZABETH LINDSEY  
Sir John and Lady Lundy were keepers of  
Stirling Castle, and took custody of Margaret  
Drumond, mistress to King James IV of Scotland

15.CHRISTIAN LUNDIN (LUNDY)

SPECIAL NOTE

This chart is not intended to be a complete record of the ancestry of Penelope Johnson, whose ancestry reaches into antiquity. It is hoped to serve as a bridge between Penelope Johnson (the first Johnson of the descendants of Capt. Christopher and Penelope Johnson Clark to be born in the Colony of Virginia) and to the ancient families, particularly those with Royal connections, whose genealogies are recorded and easily available. The principal source of reference and documentation for this chart was obtained from two books by Lorand V. Johnson, M. D., 17600 Parkland Drive, Shaker Heights OH 44120. These books resulted in many years work, both here and abroad by Dr.Lorand V.Johnson, renowned authority on the Johns(t)on lineage and on Scottish history.

THE ANCESTORS OF WILLIAM AND JOHN JOHNSON and JOHNSTON OF CASKIEBEN, CRIMOND AND CAYESMIL

Cannonised 1250 as  
Saint Margaret

42.SVEIDE the VIKING, Norse King 760  
41.HALFDAN, The Old d.800  
40.IVAR, Earl of Uplands m. dau of 41.EVESTEIN GLUMRA  
39.EYSTEIN, Earl of More m. 39.ASEDA of Jutland  
38.ROGNVALD, Earl of More d.890 m. 38.HILDA  
37.ROLLO, The Dane b.846 d.931 m. 37.LADY POPPA  
1st Duke of Normandy

32.WILLIAM I m. 32.ADELA  
2nd Duke of Normandy  
31.RICHARD I m. 31.GRUNGRA  
3rd Duke of Normandy  
30.RICHARD II 30.JUDITH de Bretagne  
Duke of Normandy d.1026  
29.ROBERT m. 29.ARLETTA of Falise  
Duke of Normandy  
28.WILLIAM the CONQUEROR 28.MATILDA d.1083  
b.1027 Normandy of Flanders a  
d.1086 England descendant of  
16th English King 1066 Charlemagne

27.MATILDA m. 27.HENRY I, 18th English King 1100  
b.1082 d.1118 b.1070 d.1135

26.MATILDA of England m. 26.GEOFFREY PLANTAGENET  
b.1113 d.1151

25.HENRY II m. 25.ELEANOR of Aquitaine  
20th English King 1154 d.1167

27.LOUIS VI King of France

26.PETER Prince of Courtney

25.ALICE of Courtney m. 25.ALMAR  
Count of Angelen

24.JOHN m. 24.ISABEL de Taillefer of Angoulene  
22nd English King 1199  
Granted Magna Charter 1215

23.HENRY III 23.ELEANOR of Provence  
23rd English King 1216

22.EDWARD I married 22.ELEANOR of Castile  
24th English King 1272

21.EDWARD II married 21.ISABELLA of France  
25th English King 1307

20.EDWARD III d.1369 m. 20.PHILLIPA of Harnault  
26th English King 1327

19.JOHN of GAUNT m. 20.SIR RAYNE of Guinne  
Duke of Lancaster 19.KATHERINE (widow of  
Sir Hugh Swinford)

19.THOMAS HOLLAND, Earl of Kent  
18.JOHN BEAUFORT married 18.MARGARET HOLLAND  
Earl of Somerset, K.G.

17.SIR JAMES STEWART m. 17.JOAN BEAUFORT (widow  
of Lorne of King James I of Scotland)  
16.ANDREW 2nd Lord Gray m. 16.LADY ELIZABETH STEWART

15.LADY JANET GRAY

36.WILLIAM LONGSWORD d.942  
35.RICHARD the Fearless b.933 d.996  
34.GOEFFREY (Godfrey) Count 'Eu  
33.GILBERT, Count d'Eu d.circa 1040  
32.RICHARD Fitz GILBERT d.before 1035  
Later became known as Richard de  
Clare, Founder of the House of Clare  
in England. Chief Justice of England.  
Killed in skirmish with Welsh 1090.  
m. 32.RHOSE de BOLEBEC

31.GILBERT de TONEBRUGE de CLARE born  
before 1066. 2nd Earl of Clare m.  
31.ADELIZA dau of 32.HUGH, Count of  
Clermont

30.RICHARD Fitz GILBERT de CLARE born  
before 1105. 3rd Earl of Clare  
Killed in skirmish with Welsh  
voemen 4/15/1536. m. 30.ADELIZA dau  
31.RANULPH de MESCHINES Earl of  
Chester

29.SIR ROGER de CLARE "The Good Earl of  
Hertford" b.before 1116 d.1173 5th  
Earl of Clare m. 29.MAUD dau of  
30.SIR JAMES HILLARY

28.SIR RICHARD de CLARE A Surety  
d.12/30/1218 4th Earl of Hertford  
and 6th Earl of Clare m. 28.LADY  
ANICA de MUELLENT daughter of 29.  
WILLIAM, Count of Muelient

27.SIR GILBERT de CLARE A Surety  
b.c.1180 d.10/25/1230 5th Earl of  
Hertford and Lord Gloucester m.  
10/9/1217 27.ISABEL MARSHALL dau of  
28.WILLIAM MARSHALL 1st Earl of  
Pembroke

note: for descendants of 27.Sir  
Gilbert de Clare, refer to 27.  
Sir Gilbert de Clare in center  
section of chart.



Additional sources of information for this chart were obtained from the following:  
ANTHONY ROOTS AND BRANCHES by: Nancy Vashti Anthony Jacob, 2400 McCutcheon Ave., Shreveport  
LA 71108. In addition this book contains records of the descendants of Captain Christopher  
and Penelope Johnson Clark. MAGNA CHARTER by John S. Wurts has been consulted on Royal and  
related lines.

Numerals preceding names indicate the generation number of the family chart of Barbara  
McConnell Weatherford. Additional, continuing and relating charts will connect with the  
generation numbers shown on this chart.

Chart compiled by: James Thomas McConnell, 3235 Cadiz Circle Atlanta GA 30349

## Membership Application

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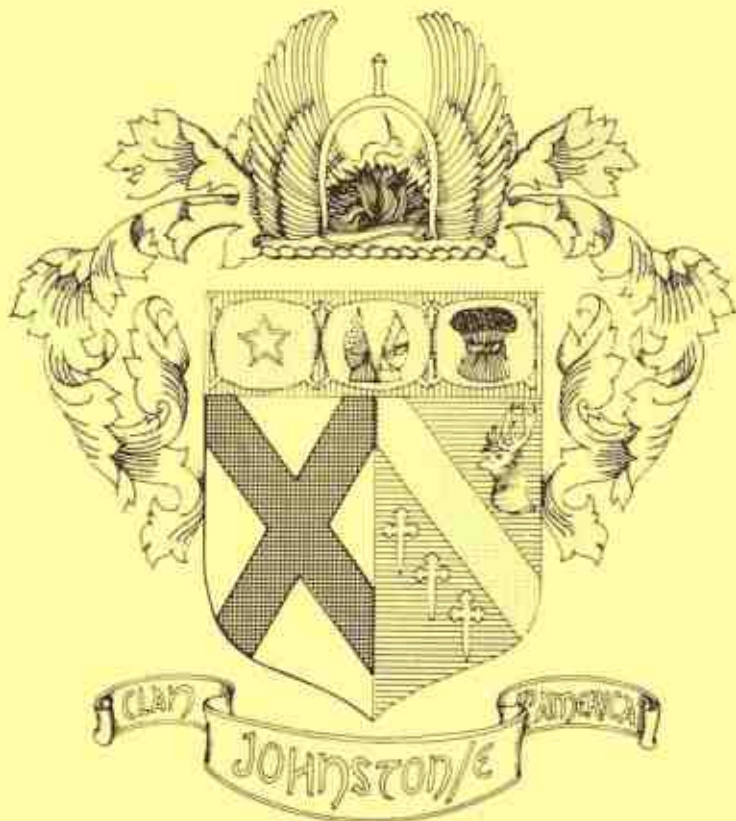


*Johnston  
fan*

# Clan Johnston/e in America

founded 1976

COCA MEMBERSHIP ONLY



Coat-of-Arms Insignia of  
Clan Johnston/e in America



ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# CLAN JOHNSTON/e IN AMERICA

## The Organization

Clan Johnston/e in America is a nonprofit, nonsectarian, and non-political organization of persons or their spouses who trace their family bloodline to persons from Scotland or Northern Ireland of the family of Johnston or Johnstone. Use of the name Johnson is recognized where Scottish ancestry is known.

The first meeting was held in October, 1976, at the Stone Mountain Games, Atlanta, Georgia. The Constitution and By-laws were adopted in 1977 at the Annual Meeting at the same location.

The organization receives its direction from the membership at the Annual Meeting, but it is governed during the year by action of the Council of Officers, which is elected annually by the membership.

The Purposes of the organization are as follows:

1. To collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge and information with reference to historical, genealogical, biographic, and heraldic data relating to Johnston/e of Scotland and the descendants in America.
2. To teach and promote interest in research in these fields, to foster accurate documentation, and to champion ethical standards in research.
3. To establish a repository or library for the permanent preservation of books, manuscripts, genealogical data, photographs, and other records of interest, as well as artifacts and relics, relating to the family of Johnston/e, so that all such reference material will be available on a secure basis to any member of this organization. Our Archives are presently located in Charleston, South Carolina.
4. To publish our quarterly news magazine, *The Spur and Phoenix*, and other publications of interest to Johnston/e/s.
5. To promote fellowship and social interaction among the membership.
6. To provide scholarships and grants.



## Origin of the Name and the Chief's Line

Precise derivation of the name Johnston is not possible at this late date. Surnames were not used early in our history, but as the name developed four groups became identified. These are: 1) the Annandale group, 2) the Caskieben group, 3) the Ulster group, and 4) a group whose exact origin is unknown. The first use of the name Jonistun or Jonestun was recorded in the period 1170 to 1194 with three references to Gilbert, son of John and a fourth to Sir Gilbert de Joneston.

“Who John, the father of Gilbert, was it is now perhaps impossible to determine. He may have been a native settler who, when the Bruces were made lords of Annandale, elected to hold his lands from them, or, as seems most likely, he followed his overlords from their Yorkshire, or more southern, estates, and was gifted with the lands to which he gave his name, and which, later, formed the parish and barony of Johnstone” (Sc. Peer., I, p. 231).

In time, the Johnstons became a powerful Border clan and became involved in frequent episodes of Border warfare. In 1633, James Johnstone of Johnstone was created Lord Johnstone of Lochwood by Charles I, and ten years later Earl of Hartfell. The extinct Earldom of Annandale was conferred on the 2nd Earl of Hartfell, who died in 1672. His son was created Marquis of Annandale in 1701. The Marquessate and all Peerages and Titles became dormant on the death of George, 3rd Marquis, in 1792.

On February 16, 1983, after a lapse of nearly 200 years without a Chief of Clan Johnstone, the Lord Lyon of Scotland officially recognized Percy Wentworth Hope Johnstone of Annandale and that Ilk as Chief with all titles that pertained thereto. Included in those titles was Chief of the Name and Arms of Johnstone. Upon the death of his father a few months later, Patrick Andrew Wentworth Hope Johnstone of Annandale and of that Ilk became the present Clan Chief. Since the designation Chief of the Name and Arms of Johnstone can be given to only one person, he therefore becomes the Chief of all Johnstons. In 1985, he was recognized by the House of Lords as 11th Earl of Annandale and Hartfell. He resides, with his wife, Susan Josephine Johnstone nee Ross, one son, David, and one daughter, Julia, at Raehills on their Annandale Estate.

## **The Caskieben Branch**

The Caskieben branch of the Clan traces its origin to Stiven de Johnston who lived during the reign of King David II (1331-1368). Two theories exist regarding his origin. Some authorities claim his name was Stiven Cherie, and that he took the name Johnston from the lands inherited by his wife. Others claim that he was the younger brother of the laird of Johnstone in Annandale. Whatever the case may be, from him are descended all the Johnstons of the north.

He established his residence in Aberdeen-shire. There, being a man addicted to learning, on which account he was called clerk, he was appointed principal secretary to the Earl of Mar. By his marriage with Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir Andrew Garioch of Caskieben, he got the lands of Caskieben and Crimond. His grandson later possessed the lands of Ballindalloch.

Sir George Johnston was, by King Charles I, created a baronet of Nova Scotia by royal patent, March 31, 1626. In 1630, Sir George was made sheriff of Aberdeen.

On November 10, 1984, Sir Thomas Alexander Johnston III, 13th Baronet of that Ilk, Hilton, and Caskieben, died in Mobile, Alabama. Sir Thomas was acknowledged by the Lord Lyon as the Head of the House of Johnstons of Caskieben. He was a Charter Life Member of Clan Johnston/e in America and served as Vice-president since its founding in 1976. He is survived by his wife, Lady Helen DuBois Johnston, two daughters, Helen Dubois Sargent, and Leslie Sheldon Krempa, and a son Thomas A. Johnston IV, who succeeds to the title.

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



## **The Remainder of the Annandale Branch and The Other Johnstons**

It is recognized that there are a vast number of Johnstons. Most of their families originated in the areas of Aberdeenshire and Annandale. The earliest persons of that name came from the Annandale area, the valley of the River Annan, in Southern Scotland.

In the early days before surnames, persons were identified by whatever seemed convenient with each case. With the coming of the Normans, there also came record keeping and better means of identification. About this time, the surname Johnston did appear with its varied spelling.

The development of the Caskieben branch of Aberdeenshire has been discussed. The Annandale branch is more complex.

In the case of the Annandale Johnstons, there was the Chief's genealogical line that has been discussed, but there were other lines as well. In fact, very few Johnstons of Annandale can trace their line to the direct line of the Chief, but the bulk of the Johnstons of Annandale descend from one of the many cadet lines, or in still greater numbers from those lines which did not even hold a cadet title. Among the cadet lines were the Johnstones of Elsiehiels, Westerhall, Newbie, Poldean, and Elphinstone, to name a few. It is undoubtedly from these lines that the great numbers of Annandale Johnstons have come.

Some may be able to trace their line to one of the major branches of Johnstons, but still others may find that their point of origin is in neither of them. The category is small, but there are those who may have come from small groups of Johnstons that were found here and there over Scotland. One such group were Johnstons from Perthshire, the ancient name for which was St. Johnston. It is to these that we shall refer as "the other Johnstons."

## **The Ulster Johnstons**

During the early 1600's, a period of extreme economic hardship in Scotland, many Scots migrated to Ulster which was then an unsettled frontier. Many Johnstons were included among these settlers, and it has been said there are more Johnstons in Northern Ireland than in Scotland! Many of these Scotch-Irish Johnstons migrated subsequently to America.

## **Clan Johnston/e in America**

Clan Johnston/e in America clearly recognizes the importance of both the Annandale and Caskieben branches, but it also recognizes the other Johnstons as well. In particular, it recognizes those Americans of Johnston descent who have contributed and still contribute to our American heritage and way of life. To those persons and to their descendants, we are dedicated to rediscover our Scottish background and heritage and to attempt to preserve it in our American homeland.

### **The Johnston Tartan**

The Johnston Tartan first appeared in VESTIARIUM SCOTICUM, 1842. It is a "checkerboard" of green and blue, with a yellow stripe flanked by two black stripes in the center of the green and three black stripes in the center of the blue.

Two shades of Tartan material are usually seen. The "modern" tartan is usually in rather dark shades. The "old colors" (sometimes mistakenly called "ancient") represent an effort to reproduce the old vegetable dyes and are rather light shades. A variation sometimes seen is the "muted" which are colors rather difficult to describe, but are midway between the dark "modern" and the lighter "old", and are of a softer hue. Still another variation is the "reproduction colors" (sometimes called "weathered") in which the effort is to reproduce a tartan which has faded for 50 years, and the green becomes an olive green (sometimes even brown) and the blue becomes a slate gray. All four types are available from Clan Johnston/e in America.

### **The Clan Johnston/e Crest**

The Clan Johnston/e crests represent the two houses of Johnston/e. The crest of Annandale is the Winged Spur. The crest of Caskieben is the Flaming Phoenix.





Arms of the Chief  
The Right Honourable Earl of Annandale  
and Hartfell  
Patrick Andrew Wentworth Hope Johnstone

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

COLONEL RICHARD JOHNSON  
of the KING'S COUNCIL and  
SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS

1936

Grace Warner



COLONEL RICHARD JOHNSON  
of the KING'S COUNCIL and  
SOME OF HIS DESCENDENTS

1936

Grace Warner

The first of this family in Virginia was Col. Richard Johnson of Bilsby, Lincolnshire, England, who came to Virginia and settled in what is now King and Queen County, year \_\_\_\_\_, but in 1677 as "Capt. Richard Johnson" he was living in New Kent, from which King and Queen was formed. See Va. Magazine of History Vol. 25, pp. 328 and 423.

In 1680 he was J. P. for New Kent and Captain of Horse in the militia, Virginia. Hist. Vol. 1, pp. 248. He was appointed to the council in 1696. See Va. Magazine Hist Vol. 21, pp. 67 letter from Col. Richard Johnson to Gov. Francis Nicholson, Dec. 8, 1698. Col. Richard Johnson died in 1699, aged 70, and his tomb and that of his wife, Susanna Duncombe, daughter of Wm. Duncombe of Holbeach, Lincolnshire, England born 1664, died 1686, are at Colonial Church, near Little Plymouth, King and Queen County. See Va. Hist. Mag. for epitaphs. Major Richard<sup>2</sup> Johnson, who died without issue is also buried there. The stones are broken, partly overgrown with honeysuckle, and the letters indistinct and the church in the ~~Hands~~ of the Methodists.

Col. Richard<sup>1</sup> Johnson had issue: 2. Thomas<sup>2</sup>; 3. Richard<sup>2</sup>; and William<sup>2</sup> Thomas<sup>2</sup> Johnson was a member of the House of Burgess for King and Queen County April 1718 and for King Wm. at sessions of Nov. 1720 and May 1722. Died in 1734 and was buried at

"Chenicoke", King William County. See Wm. and Mary Quar. Vol. 6, pp. 59. He married Anne <sup>3</sup> Meriwether born 1694, daughter of Col. Nicholas <sup>2</sup> Meriwether and wife, Elizabeth Crawford, issue: 5. Nicholas <sup>3</sup> Johnson; 6. Richard <sup>3</sup> Johnson; 7. Jane <sup>3</sup> Johnson, who married Richard Chapman of King Wm. County in 1740; 8. Anne <sup>3</sup> Johnson married Thomas Coke; 9. Thomas <sup>3</sup> Johnson "Maj.", married 1st Elizabeth Ashton (See Wm. and Mary Quar. Vol 14, 2nd Ser., pp. 163) married 2nd Ursula Rowe (See Va. Mag. Hist. Vol. 26, pp. 103-104); 10. William <sup>3</sup> Johnson. William <sup>2</sup> Johnson has a descendant Miss Ida Johnson Lee, now living in Richmond Va. address 608 Professional Building.

Nicholas <sup>3</sup> Johnson in about 1740 moved from King Wm. County to the part of Hanover which is Louisa & est<sup>lished</sup> the Johnson home "Roundabout". In 1734 he made a deed to his sisters and therefore was of age at that time. On June 9, 1761, by deed recorded in Louisa, Nicholas <sup>3</sup> Johnson conveyed to John Boswell land in Louisa which said Nicholas and wife Elizabeth, daughter of Chas. Hudson, had received from Hudson's estate. See Woods Hist. of Albemarle pp. 230 for Charles Hudson, one of the early patentees, also see Va. Hist Mag. Vol. 33, pp. 395. Inventory of the estate of Nicholas Johnson ~~decd~~<sup>deceased</sup> was recorded in Louisa in 1764. Issue of Nicholas <sup>3</sup> Johnson and wife Elizabeth Hudson;

<sup>12</sup>Thomas <sup>4</sup>Johnson born 1736 (1735 family Bible) died Friday the 12th of August, 1803 ; 13. Mary <sup>4</sup>Johnson who married Richard Anderson, and possibly others. Va. Mag. Hist. Vol. 26.

Richard <sup>3</sup>Johnson married Dorothy Powers. William<sup>3</sup> Johnson, member of House of Burgesses for Louisa in 1761-65, relinquishing his place in last session to Patrick Henry, see Wirt's Life of Patrick Henry.

He married Elizabeth Hutcheson and had a son. Thomas<sup>4</sup> Johnson, "Minor" who was the father of the eminent lawyer, Chapman<sup>5</sup> Johnson born March 12, 1779 in Louisa and died in Richmond 1849. See Va. Mag. Hist. Vol. 29, pp. 155-156. Thomas<sup>4</sup> Johnson (Va. Hist. Mag. Vol. 26, pp. 105) was born March 6, 1735 and died August 12, Friday, 1803, was known as Sheriff from the frequency with which he held office and he often signed his name Tho. Johnson Sh. Burgess for Louisa 1758-1774, member of the Committee of Safety, 1775, and a member of the House of Delegates, 1779. A deed dated 1783 from Thos. Johnson Sh. of Louisa County to his bondsmen, conveying 1133 acres where he lived, 43 Negroes, 78 heads of cattle, 14 horses, etc. Deed dated Sept. 21, 1792 from Thos. Johnson Sh. to James Dabney conveying 1700 acres where said Johnson lived to indemnify Dabney as his surety. On Dec. 8, 1762 Thomas<sup>4</sup> Johnson married Elizabeth<sup>5</sup> Meriwether born 1744; daughter of Thos.<sup>4</sup> Meriwether and wife, Elizabeth Thornton and grand daughter of Col. David<sup>3</sup> Meriwether (Nicholas<sup>2</sup> Meriwether) and wife Anne Holmes. For will of Elizabeth Johnson 1812 see E. P. Valentine Papers Vol. 3, pp. 678. They had issue:

14. Mary Johnson born Aug. 30, 1763 married Col. John Winston. Her will probated Nov. 10, 1823, Louisa County mentions legacy to Mary Willis, Mary Thornton, and Barbara Willis; son Thomas Winston, son Bickerton Winston, son Nicholas Johnson Winston, daughter Maria Thornton, daughter Patsy Collis Anderson, daughter Barbara O. Willis. See Winston of Va; 15. Elizabeth<sup>5</sup> Thornton Johnson, born May 18, 1765 married John Poindexter; 16. Nicholas<sup>5</sup> Johnson, born August 11, 1768 married Miss Marks; 17. Francis<sup>5</sup> Johnson born Nov. 29, 1770 died Feb. 6. 1841 married Barbara Mitchell; 18. Rebecca<sup>5</sup> Johnson born June 2, 1773 married Joseph

Winston, brother of John, see above, marriage bond dated Nov. 15, 170-; See Winstons of Va.; 19. Lucy<sup>5</sup> Johnson born Feb. 27, 1775 died Aug. 1841 married Wm. Quarles who owned "Bloomsbury", Orange County; 20. David<sup>5</sup> Johnson born June 21, 1778 died 1822, married Mary Tinsley; 21. Nancy<sup>5</sup> Johnson born \_\_\_\_\_, married Charles Barret; 22. Sarah<sup>5</sup> Johnson born Oct. 7, 1782 married Richard Overton; 23. Thomas<sup>5</sup> Johnson born Nov. 14, 1783 died Nov. 2, 1848 at "Roundabout" Thomas<sup>5</sup> Johnson born Nov. 14, 1783 died Nov. 2, 1848 married first on Feb. 7, 1803, Ann Catherine Harriet Washington born at "Woodville" Albemarle County May 10, 1788, daughter of Henry<sup>5</sup> Washington, whose father Col. John<sup>4</sup> Washington (Henry<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>) married his cousin Catherine<sup>4</sup> Washington (John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Lawrence<sup>1</sup>) and his wife Ann Quarles, daughter of Capt. James Quarles and wife Mary Pryor. See Woods Hist. of Albemarle County. They had issue: 24. Ann Maria Eliza Johnson born Dec. 9, 1804; 25. Elizabeth<sup>6</sup> Meriwether Johnson born Jan. 19, 1807; 26. Henry<sup>6</sup> Washington Johnson born Sept. 6, 1808 at Univ. of Va. in 1828, lawyer in Mississippi died without issue in 1841; 27. <sup>1</sup>Meriwether<sup>6</sup> Lewis Johnson, nicknamed "Gov", born Sept. 20, 1810; 28. Harriet<sup>6</sup> C. Washington Johnson; 29. Mildred<sup>6</sup> Barbara Johnson; 30. William<sup>6</sup> Quarles Johnson born 1818 at Univ. of Va., 1838-39 at college of Physicians and Surgeons, Univ. of Pa., 1839-40, died in 1842 in Mississippi, no issue; 31. David<sup>6</sup> Terrell Johnson born Tues. Apr. 4, 1820 and his mother Ann Catherine Harriet Washington Johnson died April 20, 1820. Thomas<sup>5</sup> Johnson married 2nd Martha Winston dau. of Bickerton Winston and grand dau. of Col. John Winston and wife Mary Johnson marriage bond dated April 7, 1823. Issue: 32. Bickerton Lyle Johnson; 33. Thomas<sup>6</sup> ;



Johnson; 33. Thomasia<sup>6</sup> Johnson, attended the Misses Randolph's School, "Edgehill"; 34. Nicholas<sup>6</sup> Johnson, M. D.; 35. Henry<sup>6</sup> Washington Johnson (Instance of younger brother being named for older deceased one); 24. <sup>2</sup>Ann<sup>6</sup> Johnson born Dec. 9, 1804, married Dr. Frederick Perkins and had issue; 36. Thomas<sup>7</sup> Henry Perkins; 37. Robert<sup>7</sup> Perkins; 38. Frank<sup>7</sup> Perkins, killed in Civil War; 39. Physis<sup>7</sup> P. Perkins; 40. Nathaniel<sup>7</sup> Perkins and two others killed in the Civil War. 25. Elizabeth<sup>6</sup> Johnson born Jan. 19, 1807, married Powhatan Perkins, issue: 41. Harriet<sup>7</sup> Perkins married P. Crawford and had issue: P. P. Crawford, Mrs. L. C. McGhee, and Johnson Crawford, Richmond, Virginia. 1. Meriwether Lewis, the explorer, was first cousin of Thos.<sup>5</sup> Johnson. 2. A descendant of Ann. J. Perkins is Mrs. R. S. Omohundro, 4412 Hanover Avenue, Richmond, Virginia. 27. Meriwether<sup>6</sup> Lewis Johnson, born Sept. 20, 1810, married Miss Lipscomb and had issue: 42. Theodore<sup>7</sup> Johnson died in St. Louis; 43. Thomas<sup>7</sup> Johnson, married Alice Parker of Arkansas, Pine Bluff (?) and lived on plantation adjoining "Como", Arkansas Post, in 1807 and thereabouts, issue: two daughters, Lula<sup>8</sup> Johnson who married Wm. M. Almond, lives at Starkville, Miss., and they have two sons, the other daughter, Alice<sup>8</sup> Johnson married Mr. Parker, a distant cousin of her mother's; 44. Minnie<sup>7</sup> Johnson married Thos. Cosby and had one son, Lewis<sup>8</sup> Johnson Cosby; 45. Mary<sup>7</sup> Winn Johnson died in Memphis. 28. Harriet<sup>6</sup> C. Washington Johnson married Dr. Wm. Beverly Towles of Prince Edward Co., issue: 46. Thomas<sup>7</sup> O. Towles, Jefferson City, Missouri; 47. Harriet<sup>7</sup> J. Towles married Mr. Harris of Nelson County, Virginia, and has a descendant, Mrs. Carrie H. Hart, 1202 Second Street, S.W. Roanoke, Virginia; 48. Dr. Wm.<sup>7</sup>

B. Towles, late Professor of Anatomy, Univ. of Va., married Mary Thompson and has issue: Eleanor<sup>8</sup> Towles, Box 236, Charlottesville, Va., Oliver<sup>8</sup> Towles, and Tom<sup>8</sup> Towles; 49. Agatha<sup>7</sup> Luna Towles, DAR Lineage, Vol. 1, No. 56, no issue; 50. Margaret<sup>7</sup> Towles, DAR Lineage Vol. 1, No. 119; no issue. 29. Mildred<sup>6</sup> Barbara Johnson married Dr. Edwin F. Watkins, Univ. of Pa., 1828 to 1830 and had issue: 51. Henry<sup>7</sup> W. Watkins, killed during Civil War; 52. Harriet<sup>7</sup> C. Watkins; 53. Louisa<sup>7</sup> V. Watkins; 54. Thomas<sup>7</sup> J. Watkins; 55. Anna<sup>7</sup> Elizabeth Watkins, married Sam Alston, no issue, adopted niece, Elizabeth<sup>8</sup> Watkins daughter of Thomas<sup>7</sup> J. Watkins; 56. Henningham<sup>7</sup> Watkins, Patalos, N. M.; 57. Mildred<sup>7</sup> Watkins died in Arkansas; 58. Janie<sup>7</sup> Watkins, Charleston, S. C. 31. David<sup>6</sup> Terrell Johnson born April 4, 1820, attended Univ. of Va. in 1840-42, lawyer in Memphis, Tenn. in 1850 and married to Sally<sup>6</sup> Ann Frances Christian (Frederick<sup>5</sup>, Wm.<sup>4</sup> of "Green Oaks", Charles City County, Va., <sup>3</sup>Wm., Jonus<sup>2</sup>, Thos.<sup>1</sup> Christian) born at Christian home south of Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 26, 1832 (See Wm. and Mary Quar. Vol. 8 also Wills of William<sup>4</sup> Christian and Frederick<sup>5</sup> Christian, DAR Library Washington). They established a home "Como", Arkansas, Post, Arkansas, before 1860. David<sup>6</sup> T. Johnson died shortly thereafter, and Sally A. Johnson died Oct. 31, 1872, both are buried in the garden at "Como", issue: 59. Frederick<sup>7</sup> Johnson, never married, died in Illinois; 60. Wm.<sup>7</sup> David Johnson, died young; 61. Henry<sup>7</sup> W. Johnson married and lived in Atlanta, Georgia, died about 1908 (?) issue untraced; 62. Frances<sup>7</sup> Vivion Johnson, named for grandmother, Frances Vivion Robertson, who married Dr. Frederick<sup>5</sup> Christian, attended St. Mary's Episcopal School in Memphis, Tenn., also The Sisters' School in Peakshill,

N. Y., married Samuel Gardiner Miller on May 22, 1884 (See Desc. of Wm. McCreight, DAR Library, Wash. D.C.) and lived near Atoka, Tenn.; 63. Archie<sup>7</sup> Johnson died young. 33. Thomasia<sup>6</sup> Johnson married Beverly R. Fox, issue: 64. Meredith<sup>7</sup> Fox died without issue; 65. Henry<sup>7</sup> W. Fox died without issue; 66. Linda<sup>7</sup> Jox, married 1st to R. Ellis Henderson, married 2nd to David N. Walker. 34. Nicholas<sup>6</sup> M. Johnson married Sally Langham, issue: 67. Mrs. Edwin Davis, Charleston, W. Va.; 68. Lewis<sup>7</sup> Johnson; 70. Linda<sup>7</sup> McFarland; 71. Sally<sup>7</sup> Johnson; 72. Agnes<sup>7</sup> Johnson. 36. Thomas<sup>7</sup> Henry Perkins married Miss Page of Louisa, lived in Fluvanna County, desc. untraced. 39. Physic<sup>7</sup> Perkins married Miss Net Hackett, lived in Louisa County and has issue untraced. 52. Harriet<sup>7</sup> Coleman Watkins married Nathaniel Levitt Lawrence, Memphis, Tenn. Issue: . . . t.

73. Joseph<sup>8</sup> Lawrence;

74. Mary<sup>8</sup> Winn Lawrence,

75. Anderson<sup>8</sup> Lawrence;

76. Hallie<sup>8</sup> Lawrence, DAR number 67900, Vol. 68, p. 317, Colonial Dame, married Judge Tom M. Phillips, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, issue: Two sons, Tom E. Phillips died when a student at Sewanee and Lawrence<sup>9</sup> Phillips who attended University of Virginia and married Adeline Davis, daughter of late Dr. John Davis of University of Virginia, and they have two daughters, Harriett<sup>10</sup> Phillips and Adeline<sup>10</sup> Phillips, address, Altheimer, Arkansas, 77. Levitt<sup>8</sup> Lawrence married \_\_\_\_\_ McTrine, Little Rock, Arkansas, issue living in Pine Bluff and Little Rock.

53. <sup>1</sup>Louisa<sup>7</sup> V. Watkins married T. S. Heyward of Charleston, South Carolina, issue:

78. Edwin<sup>8</sup> Watkins Heyward, killed in rice mill;

79. Louisa<sup>8</sup> Heyward, 142 Church Street, Charleston, South Carolina  
Colonial Dame, Custodian at Fort;

80. Wilnot<sup>8</sup> Heyward, Shawnee, Oklahoma and several other people died  
with yellow fever.

74. Thomas<sup>7</sup> J. Watkins, married first in 1869 Jennie Mitchell,  
daughter of Paymaster General Mitchell of Mexican War, issue.

81. Edwin<sup>8</sup> S. Watkins;

82. Henningham<sup>8</sup> Watkins, "Ravenscroft", Brighton, Tenn., never  
married;

1. Mrs. Louisa W. Heyward was interested in genealogy and had  
Dr. Stanard, late editor of Va. Hist. Mag. when he was Secretary  
of Colonial Dames, do research on the Johnsons and Allied Families.

83. Henry<sup>8</sup> M. Watkins;

84. Florrie<sup>8</sup> Watkins married and has issue;

85. Elizabeth<sup>8</sup> Watkins married Mr. Bishop, Memphis, Tenn. has  
daughter Tommye. Thomas<sup>7</sup> J. Watkins married second Betty Alston,  
sister of his brother-in-law, Sam Alston of "Holly Grove" adjoining  
"Ravenscroft", Tipton Co., Tenn., no issue.

56. Henningham<sup>7</sup> Watkins married in 1869 Dr. Hoer, widower with  
one child, from Harpers Ferry. Issue untraced.

62. Frances<sup>7</sup> Vivion Johnson married Samuel Gardiner Miller on  
May 22, 1884, at "Ravenscroft" Chapel, lived on Old Miller place  
near Atoka, Tenn., until her death June 3, 1894, issue:

86. Bertha<sup>8</sup> Rose Miller christened at Ravenscroft Chapel, married  
Dr. Charles P. Teets, address, Box 1, 1232 17th St. NW, Washington  
D.C.,

87. Grace<sup>8</sup> Christian Miller,<sup>1</sup> christened at Cathedral in Memphis,  
at University of Tenn. 1906-10, married on Aug. 5, 1915, Dr. Selden



Richard Warner (see descendants of Andrew Warner, p 575), issue:  
Mary<sup>9</sup> Gaylard Warner, born July 11, 1916, and Anne<sup>9</sup> Merivether  
Warner, born Oct. 24, 1923 Address, Huntsville, Texas.

66. Linda<sup>7</sup> Fox married first R. Ellis Henderson, issue:

88. Josephine<sup>8</sup> Henderson, married J. S. Neal, has one son, address  
"Roundabout", Louisa, Va.,

89. Linda<sup>8</sup> Henderson, married Mr. Downey, address, Box 378 ,  
Fayetteville, West Virginia;

90. Thomas<sup>8</sup> Johnson Henderson; 915 6th Street, Huntington, West  
Virginia

Mrs. Linda<sup>7</sup> Fox Henderson married second David W. Walker, no issue,  
died March 1936. She was a member of the Virginia Press Association  
and had a memory rich in Johnson and Fox family lore (see William  
and Mary Quarterly Vol. 20 pp 122-138, for Fox Family). Mrs.  
Walker through her mother, Mrs. Thomasia<sup>6</sup> Johnson Fox inherited  
"Roundabout", Louisa Co., Va., the home of the Johnsons from  
about 1740 on. See Will of Nicholas Merivether, Va. Mag. Hist.  
Vol. 34, pp 107-112, also Wm. & Mary Quar. 2nd Sér. Vol. 12  
p. 19, mentions Roundabout Castle, home of the Johnsons. The old  
home burned in about 1912. There are no stones in the "Roundabout"  
burial grounds.

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Note 1. Christening dress made early 1850's (evidently copied  
from one, now in pieces, brought to Tenn. by Frances Vivion M  
Christian) and used for Sally Ann Christian's children, also used  
for Frances V. J. Miller's two daughters and the two daughters  
of Grace Christian M. Warner were christened in this robe.

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The historical marker at Louisa Courthouse is misleading  
and Mrs. Josephine Neal, Johnson descendant and present owner of

son of Elisha Johnson and Lydia (Smith)  
Marcus D.<sup>5</sup> Johnson (Elisha<sup>4</sup>, Isaac<sup>3</sup>, Joseph<sup>2</sup>, George<sup>1</sup>)  
b. Dec. 15, 1805, Stratford, N. H.

m. Sept. 30, 1832, Stratford, N. H.,

Maria Marshall, dau. of William Marshall and Margaret (Jemison)

b. Oct. 25, 1804, Northumberland, N. H.; d. Dec. 2, 1883, Stratford, N. H.

d. June 18, 1895, Stratford, N. H.

He lived in Stratford, N. H.

His principal business was that of a surveyor of land  
in northern New Hampshire and Vermont.

Children (all born in Stratford, N. H.):

John Jay, b. Nov. 30, 1833;	m. Ann Titus	(7 ch.)
Charles De Forest, b. June 13, 1835;	m. Emma M. Day	(no ch.)
George Marshall, b. Jan. 21, 1838;	m. Mary Jane Martin	(2 ch.)
Guy William, b. Dec. 15, 1839;	m. Eva Ruth Martin	(5 ch.)
Julia Emma, b. Feb. 5, 1842;	d. Nov. 19, 1847.	

Anna S.<sup>5</sup> Johnson, dau. of Elisha Johnson and Lydia (Smith)

b. Oct. 27, 1807, Stratford, N. H.

m. Dec. 3, 1826,

Emery Bissell, son of David Bissell,

b. Sept. 29, 1803, Colebrook, N. H.; d. Aug. 4, 1875, in Maine.

d. Jan. 4, 1864, in Maine.

This family lived in Brewer, Maine.

Children: (name Bissell)

Eliza Ann	b. Nov. 13, 1827; m. 1851, James P. Chandler	(8 ch.)
Harriet Kentfield	b. July 16, 1830; m. 1854, Samuel C. Crane	(5 ch.)
Julia Hawkins	b. Aug. 12, 1832; m. 1853, Nathaniel J. Bunker	(8 ch.)
James Madison	b. Mar. 20, 1835; d. Oct. 2, 1867. unm.	
Samantha Johnson	b. Sept. 24, 1837; m. 1866, Edward F. Bucknam	(9 ch.)
Annette Maria	b. Oct. 13, 1839; m. 1874, Charles E. Towne	(4 ch.)
Henry David	b. Sept. 16, 1841; d. Feb. 19, 1846.	
John Wesley	b. Mar. 24, 1844; m. 1869, Ada J. Ray	(5 ch.)
Emery Herbert	b. Nov. 13, 1848; d. Jan. 27, 1854.	



Elisha<sup>4</sup> Johnson (Isaac<sup>3</sup>, Joseph<sup>2</sup>, George<sup>1</sup>)

b. Sept. 2, 1783, Stratford, Conn.;

m. 1805, Stratford, N. H.,

Lydia Smith, dau. of Jonathan and Judith (Thayer) Smith;

b. Jan. 8, 1782; d. Mar. 23, 1870, Stratford, N. H.

d. Nov. 24, 1852, Stratford, N. H.

Elisha Johnson <sup>with his parents</sup> came from Connecticut to Stratford, N. H., about 1790. After his marriage, he lived on a farm less than a mile north of the one on which his father had settled.

Children, born in Stratford, N. H.:

Marcus De Forest, b. Dec. 15, 1805; m. 1832, Maria Marshall (5 ch.)

Ann Smith, b. Oct. 27, 1807; m. 1826, Emery Bissell (9 ch.)

Lydia, b. July 7, 1809; m. 1st, 1825, William Mahurin (1 ch.)

2nd, Jonathan Rolfe (4 ch.)

<sup>called</sup> } John Wesley, b. July 14, 1811; m. Mary Byron (no children)

Elisha, b. June 2, 1813; m. 1st, Jane Byron (2 ch.)

2nd, 1852, Emeline Stockwell (no ch.)

Samantha, b. Mar. 14, 1816; d. Jan. 3, 1835. Unmarried.

Hannah B., b. Jan. 19, 1818; d. Jan. 5, 1832. Unmarried.

Priscilla S., b. Mar. 7, 1821; d. Feb. 14, 1870. Unmarried.

[Priscilla stayed at home and cared for her mother who was bedridden with rheumatism the last years of her life.]

<sup>called</sup> } James Madison, b. Jan. 19, 1826; m. 1854, Georgianna Stanley (6 ch.)

Lucretia, b. Mar. —, 1827; m. 1858, Abram Brown Towle (6 ch.)

When a Bible Record and Town Record conflict, what do you do?

In the Family Bible the marriage of Elisha Johnson and Lydia Smith is given as May 1, 1805. In the Town Records of that newly-settled town, it is given as July 7th, of the same year. It makes little difference which is used, but I just wanted to know what a Genealogist does in a case like that.



Johnson Family

Harris. As this is a limited compilation, no research is included regarding the children of Jacob G. Harris. The compilation is interwoven with biographical sketches of each person accompanied by photographs, transcriptions, abstractions, citations, and maps within the main body of the book. Scanned documents, charts, the citation list, contributor list, and the appendix follow the main text.

One of the far-reaching goals of this research project was to locate the living descendants of Esther Johnson. Amazingly, that happened. I could not have written this book without the inspiring contributions of Ona and Bud Johnson, Joseph Cox, Viola Wiggins, and Harold and June Culver.

#### ❖ Biographical Sketch of Esther Johnson

1. **ESTHER JOHNSON** was born on 27 May 1805, in Menallen Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. She married her first husband, Jesse Johnson, about 1830-1831; her second husband, Samuel A. Harris, on 15 November 1846; and died on 7 February 1908 in German Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. She was buried on 9 February 1908, in Sandy Hill Cemetery, Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

When Esther Johnson was born in Menallen Township, Fayette County, in Southwestern Pennsylvania in 1805, Thomas Jefferson was President of the United States, and Lewis and Clark were exploring a vast unknown region, much like the astronauts did in the Twentieth Century. During the continuing War of 1812, she saw the American soldiers pass by her home on the National Road, on their way to Pittsburgh, to join the troops. At nine years of age she heard that the British were burning the Capitol and White House in Washington DC. On 25 May 1825, Esther excitedly rode her horse bareback to nearby Uniontown to get a glimpse of the famous French General de la Fayette, for whom the county was named and whom the country valued for his personal sympathy and support during the Revolution. Much to her disappointment, she got lost in the crowds and missed seeing this international star.

The Quaker faith has a deep heritage in the Johnson lineage. Esther's parents were Quakers and her life demonstrates devotion and passion for the ideals of that religion, and to her own ancestors that left Ireland in the early 1700s, hoping to find religious freedom in Pennsylvania. Her maternal grandfather, Joseph Mendenhall, fought in the Revolutionary War, and was known as "The Fighting Quaker," because he chose to take up arms and fight rather than practice pacifism. Consequently, he was

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disowned both by the Quakers and his father.

Her father, Daniel Johnson, was a squire, a justice of the peace, and a cabinet maker. The estate of Daniel Johnson, probated in 1824, was substantial for all the children.

Esther had two sons, one from each of her marriages. Her first marriage to Jesse Johnson, and the one that is main context of this research, is the more difficult to substantiate. They had one known child, Aaron Johnson, born 1 November 1831 in New Salem, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. What happened to Jesse Johnson is an unsolved mystery. Her second husband was to Samuel Harris on 15 November 1846. While in her 50s, and during the Civil War, Esther strongly favored The North; and it is said that the name of Jefferson Davis was not to be mentioned in her home. She was part of the great Underground Railroad movement and stories still circulate from her descendants of seeing the room where she harbored the escaped slaves on their way to freedom. In celebration of her 100th birthday in 1905, a local banker took her for a ride in his new automobile, for her first and possibly only time.

My third great grandmother was a fascinating duality of being both gracious and outspoken, and her Quaker roots helped her embrace sweeping cultural and social changes-- perhaps even such inventiveness as the automobile as a means of transportation. At almost 103 years of age and bedridden, she decided she had lived long enough. According to the stories handed down through family members, on her last day she gathered her family around her, said an old Quaker prayer, settled back on her pillow, and died.

The photograph on the cover of this book is of Esther Johnson. It was taken at her 100th birthday party, on 27 May 1905, in German Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, where she lived with her second son, Jacob Harris. Dressed in her white Quaker bonnet and long black dress, she sits in her cherished wicker chair, which most likely was one of the chairs that she inherited from her father's estate. Nearby is her birthday cake topped with fresh flowers and surrounded by 100 stubby homemade candles.

This is the birthday party adventure my great uncle Glen told me about so many years ago on that farm in Southern Oregon. Esther Johnson is the woman he and my grandfather traveled so very far to see celebrate her 100th birthday. The photograph's dim background is full of many well-wishers. I like to squint and imagine that I can see my great uncle and

grandfather weaving among the guests. I sometimes wonder about their reactions to seeing their great grandmother, almost 90 years older than either of them. Probably the magnitude of the event was lost in their youth, but knowing how much they enjoyed desserts, the birthday cake was well worth that long, long train trip from Kansas to Pennsylvania.

### ❖ Primary Sources for Esther Johnson

Family Bible Record of the Johnson Family, Family Record section only, birth of Esther Johnson, 27 May 1805; marriage of Esther Johnson and Samuel Harris, 15 November 1846, copy in possession of the writer.

*Abstract note by CCJ:* The handwritten document states: "Esther Johnson was born the 27 day of May 1805." It is part of a list of the children of "Daniel and Jane, nee Mendenhall, Daughter of Joseph Mendenhall." In the section listed as "Marriages," are the handwritten words, "Samuel Harris and Esther Johnson was [sic] Married on the 15th Day of November 1846."

*Abstract note by CCJ:* This is a small notebook piece of paper with 3 different handwritings on it. One states "Esther Harris died Feb 7 1908 age 102 years 8 mo 10 days." Another section states "Esther Harris nee Johnson, Grandfathers name was Simon Johnson his wife name was Rebecca Messer Johnson (Correction--Rebecca was a Mercer.)" The third writing reads: "My Father departed this life 9th month 9th d [sic] 1824 in the 57th year of his age. (Daniel Johnson)" Please note: The writing of the month and day as ordinal (first month, second month, etc.) and not written as common names (January, February, March ) is typical Quaker date transcription. Recording the months as January, February, etc. was considered pagan.

Death Record for Esther Johnson Harris, 7 February 1908, File No. 15943, Orphans' Court Records, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, 61 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401-3514, copy in possession of writer.

*Abstract note by CCJ:* The death is listed as February 7, 1908, and the birth of Esther Harris is listed as May 27, 1805, in Menallen Twp., Fayette Co., to parents Daniel Johnson and Jane Mendenhall. The informant was Jacob G. Harris [her only living child], who was living in Uniontown, PA. She died from "general disability and advanced age" in "German Township, Fayette Co., PA." She is buried at "Sandy Hill Cemetery" and the date of burial is listed as "Feb. 9, 1908."

Headstone inscription for Esther Johnson Harris, Sandy Hill Quaker Cemetery, New Salem, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, photo taken by trip to cemetery in May 1996 by Joseph Cox, 4109 SW Barton Street, Seattle, WA 98136, copy of photo in possession of writer.

*Transcript note by CCJ:* The headstone reads "Esther Johnson Harris May 27, 1805 --February 7, 1908." It is a larger and newer stone in an old Quaker cemetery. The cemetery has headstones dating to the date 1700s, many of which are ancestors of Esther.

### ❖ Secondary Sources for Esther Johnson

"Will of Esther Harris," 7 February 1895 (probated 30 December 1908), Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, Will Book #139, Page 276-277, Fayette Co. Orphans' Court Records, Orphans' Court Records, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, 61 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401-3514, copy in possession of writer.

*Abstract Note by CCJ:* The will of Esther Harris of German Township, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, was written after the death of her first son, Aaron Johnson. He died on 15 January 1895. She bequeathed her real estate in Hiawatha, Brown Co., Kansas, to "my Grandchildren, their heirs, assigns, being children of my son Aaron Johnson, Deceased. Viz: Samuel H. Johnson, Charles S. Johnson, Frank Johnson, George N. Johnson, Berret M. Johnson, ...and further to bequeath to Jacob Harris my son...all my property, both Real and personal of which I may die possessed of in Fayette Co., Pennsylvania."

Deed of Sale from Esther Harris (Grantor) to Aaron Johnson (Grantee), 25 May 1874 (Recorded 13 July 1874), Book 5, Page 53, Register of Wills, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, 61 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401-3514, copy of abstract in possession of writer.

*Abstract note by CCJ:* "Esther Harris of Fayette Co., Pennsylvania" is the Seller or Grantor and "Aaron Johnson of Hiawatha, KS" is the buyer or Grantee. "The legal description is lots 65 and 67 (but does not indicate where the lots are located)." "Power of attorney to Aarron [sic] to collect rent and do repairs on the house at this location. Instrument was signed in the presence of Jacob Harris but does not give address of Jacob." Indenture Deed between Simon Johnson and William Miller, and Esther



Johnson, 19 November 1846 (Recorded 17 May 1847), Book 3, Page 482, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania Court Records, 61 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401-3514, copy in possession of writer.

*Abstract note by CCJ:* Indenture and land sale from the will of Esther Johnson's father, Daniel Johnson, who died 9 September 1824. This land was for the use during the lifetime of his wife, Jane Mendenhall Johnson, who died 28 August 1845. Because of Jane Mendenhall Johnson's death, the land reverted to her children. Esther paid \$133 for a lot in Uniontown, Fayette Co., PA that belonged to her father.

"Will of Jane Johnson," 27 January 1845, Book of Wills, Pages 510-511, Register of Wills, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, 61 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401-3514, copy of abstract in possession of writer.

*Abstract note by CCJ:* This is the will of Esther Johnson's mother, Jane Mendenhall Johnson, dated 27 January 1845. Jane Johnson, widow of Daniel Johnson, lived in Menallen Township, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania and died there 28 August 1845. The will left the estate to her 7 daughters, but curiously, only Esther, among the daughters, inherited \$300 and the others inherited only \$100. Esther was the second oldest daughter. The oldest daughter, Ann, received only \$100, and that was not for 3 full years after the death of her mother. The other daughters were all married at the time of their mother. Also, the only grandchild mentioned was Aaron Johnson, the only child of Esther Johnson. The will states "unto Aaron one red cow with white face." Esther is named as the executor, with her older brother Simon.

Application for Daughters of the American Revolution on Daniel Johnson, 25 January 1930 (membership date), No. 214525 and 188352, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1776 D Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006, [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org), copy in possession of the writer.

*Abstract note by CCJ:* This application was completed by Mrs. Frances Cone, of 640 Idaho Avenue SE, Huron, South Dakota. The document reads that Daniel Johnson did indeed fight in the Revolution and listed the children of said Daniel Johnson. Esther Johnson's birth is listed as "27 May 1805."

"Will of Daniel Johnson," 22 July 1824, Register of Wills, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, 61 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401-3514.

Given to writer by Ona Johnson, 2746 NW 58th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112, 405-842-4261, copy in possession of writer.

*Abstract note by CCJ:* This is the last will and testament of Daniel Johnson, father of Esther Johnson, dated 22 July 1824, (he died 9 September 1824.) He bequeathed plantations and estates to his sons, and to his wife during her lifetime; and then gives the remainder of the estate to all the daughters, to be equally divided.

Probate Inventory and Account of Daniel Johnson, 3 May 1833, Register of Wills, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, 61 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401-3514. Given to writer by Ona Johnson, 2746 NW 58th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112, 405-842-4261, copy in possession of writer.

*Abstract note by CCJ:* The inventory and register detail the years after the death of Daniel Johnson, the father of Esther Johnson, from 1824-1842 when his children would have reached majority. It states "Account of Ellis Bailey, [sole surviving executor of the estate, the other executor, Reuben Bailey died after the 1824 death of Daniel Johnson] Surviving Guardian of the person and Estate of Esther Johnson..." and the other children are listed. On October 1825, Esther Johnson 1 set chairs \$10.

"On 18 August 1827," it reads, "paid Esther Johnson cash \$15."

Guardianship Petition and Assignment of Esther Johnston [sic] to Guardian Ellis Bailey, January 1825, Book 2, Page 163, Orphans' Court Record, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, 61 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401-3514, LDS Family History Library microfilm #0861070, copy in possession of writer.

*Abstract note by CCJ:* The law in Pennsylvania during this time period required people under the age of majority (21 years) to have a court documented and assigned guardian. Only men could qualify. The document states that "Johnston, Daniel Esqr Dec'd on the petition Esther Johnston and Phoebe Johnston minor daughters of Danl Johnston late of Menallen Township that they are above the age of fourteen and are without a Guardian or Guardians to take care of their persons & Estates & therefore praying the Court to [illegible] the petitioners being admitted choices Ellis [illegible] Bailey who are approved of and appointed to Court Guardians of the persons and Estates of Esther and Phoebe." Ellis Bailey was the executor of the will for Daniel Johnson.

Daily News Standard (Uniontown, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania) 27 May

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1905, Vol. 17, No. 139, Uniontown Public Library, 24 Jefferson Street, Uniontown, Pa 15401, copy in possession of writer.

*Abstract note by CCJ:* The article is about Esther Johnson's 100th birthday celebration and information included in the beginning biographical information came from this article.

Daily News Standard (Uniontown, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania), Obituary of Esther Harris, 8 February 1908, Uniontown Public Library, 24 Jefferson Street, Uniontown, Pa 15401, copy in possession of writer.

*Abstract note by CCJ:* The newspaper clipping headline is " Oldest woman in County is dead."

1820 U.S. Census Record, Menallen Township, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, P. 146, National Archives microfilm M33, roll 103, copy and abstract in possession of writer.

*Abstract note by CCJ:* The attached copy is difficult to read. "Daniel Johnson, Esq." Is listed as head of the household with 3 white males 16-26 years, and 1 over the age of 45 years, 4 white females under 10 years of age, 2 females 10-16 [Esther would be 15 at the time of this census], 1 female 16-26 years and 1 female 26-45 years. Daniel, Esther's father was a Squire for the township. Samuel Harris, the second husband of Esther Johnson, is listed as a neighbor and four families prior to Daniel Johnson

1830 U.S. Census Record, Menallen Township, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, P. 185, National Archives microfilm M19, abstract in possession of writer.

*Abstract note by CCJ:* Jane Johnson is listed as head of the household with 1 male 5-10 years, 1 female 5-10 years (probably Elizabeth), 2 females 10-15 years (probably Sarah and Martha), 1 female 15-20 (probably Jane), 3 females 20-30 years (probably Phoebe, Esther and Ann), and 1 female 40-50 years (probably Jane, herself).

1840 U.S. Census Record, Menallen Township, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, p. 371, National Archives microfilm M704, Roll 460, abstract in possession of writer.

*Abstract note by CCJ:* Jane Johnson is the head of household with 1 male 10-15 years old (probably grandson Aaron Johnson), 1 female 15-20, (probably daughter Elizabeth), 2 females 20-30 (probably daughters Sarah

and Martha), 1 female 30-40 (probably Esther), and 1 female 60-70 (probably Jane, herself).

1850 U.S. Census Record, Menallen Township, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, p. 132, National Archives microfilm M432, roll 779, lines 6-9, copy in possession of writer.

<u>Harris,</u> Farmer	Samuel	69 years	Born: Virginia	Occupation:
"	<u>Hester</u>	45 years	Born: Pennsylvania	"
"	Jacob G.	2 years	Born: Pennsylvania	
Durbin Farmer.	William	15 years	Born: Virginia	
<i>Abstract note by CCJ:</i> Value of real estate of Samuel Harris was listed as \$5500 and Hester [sic] Harris' information was blank for this information in real estate.				

*Abstract note by CCJ:* Value of real estate of Samuel Harris is listed as \$5500 and Hester [sic] Harris' is left blank for this information in real estate.

1860 U.S. Census Record, Menallen Township, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, p. 278, dwelling 222, National Archives microfilm M653, roll 1109, abstract in possession of writer.

<u>Harris, Sr.</u> Farmer	Sam'l	80 years	Born: Virginia	Occupation:
"	<u>Hester</u>	56 years	Born: Pennsylvania	"
"	Jacob G.	12 years	Born: Pennsylvania	
Burner lab.	Jno.	40 years	Born: Virginia	D.
<i>Abstract note by CCJ:</i> Value of real estate of Samuel Harris was listed as \$5200 with personal property listed as \$1000. Hesther [sic] Harris' was listed as \$1200 in real estate, with \$1000 in personal property.				

*Abstract note by CCJ:* Value of real estate of Samuel Harris was listed as \$5200, with personal property listed as \$1000. Hesther [sic] Harris was listed as \$1200 in real estate with \$1000 in personal property.

1870 U.S. Census Record, Menallen Township, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania,



p.285, lines 33-36, dwelling 232, National Archives microfilm M593, roll 1342, abstract in possession of writer.

Harris, Farmer	Samuel	89 years	Born: Virginia	Occupation:
"	Esther	65 years	Born: Pennsylvania	"
Keeping house				
"	Jacob G..	22 years	Born: Pennsylvania	
Gancoe	Olive	F 8 years	Born: Pennsylvania	
<p>Note by CCJ: Value of real estate was listed as \$13,000 for Samuel and \$2000 for Esther, with personal property listed as \$1000 for Samuel and \$300 for Esther.</p>				

Note by CCJ: Value of real estate was listed as \$13,000 for Samuel and \$2000 for Esther with personal property listed as \$1000 for Samuel and \$300 for Esther.

#### Biographical Sketch of Jesse Johnson, First husband of Esther Johnson

##### ❖ Esther married Jesse Johnson about 1830-1831

Try as I might to finding more conclusive evidence about the marriage of Esther Johnson to her first husband, Jesse Johnson; there is, to date, only one convincing document and much family myth to support this conclusion. Jesse Johnson remains the mysterious figure in this compiled genealogy. The application for marriage of Aaron Johnson, Esther and Jesse's only known child, is the most positively supporting document found to date. The application filed out and signed by Aaron Johnson states that his parents' names were "Jesse and Esther Johnson." I have searched probate, land, census, church, military, tax, and family sources; and the evidence is soulfully lacking.

I believe more research in Quaker records would be appropriate. The Work Progress Administration compiled a book in 1941 titled *Inventory of Church Archives, Society of Friends in Pennsylvania*. This is available at George Fox College Library in Newberg, Oregon. On page 338 of this book, it reads "records are deposited with Ohio Yearly Meeting, Salem, Ohio" for the Sandy Hill Preparative Meeting, 1792-1850. I believe if I could locate these meetinghouse records, I would obtain more information. So far, it has been a slow search. I have also wondered if Jesse (not to be confused with the brother of Esther Johnson) might have been killed in a military action. Several people

from Fayette County were involved with the military in Texas during the 1830s and 1840s, including the famous fight in the Alamo in San Antonio. An interesting side note is that Aaron Johnson's father-in-law, William Lomas, bought property from a veteran of the War with Mexico. This information is according to court real estate documents that are discussed in the research section for Anna Lomas, Aaron Johnson's first wife.

Information is not adequate and more extensive research is required for Jesse Johnson. Records show Esther Johnson listed as a single woman in 1825 in the guardian appointment for her as a minor child of Daniel Johnston [sic]. Aaron Johnson, Esther's only child with Jesse Johnson, was born 1 November 1831, in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Esther is most probably in the 1830 U.S. Census, living with her widowed mother, Jane (Mendenhall) Johnson. In the 1840 U.S. Census, Esther is again most probably living with her widowed mother. There is a listing for a female 30-40 years of age. Her older sister Ann married in 1834, and the other daughters in the family, that would be of this age grouping, are Phoebe and Esther. In the 1840 U.S. Census, there is a male mentioned as being between 5-10 years. Aaron Johnson, the child of Esther, would have been between the ages of 9-10 years of age in 1840. I conclude the marriage took place after the 1830 census and possibly before the birth of Aaron Johnson in 1 November 1831. Esther received \$300 from the estate of her mother in 1845, and the other married daughters received \$100 each. The mention of "Aaron" in the will of Jane (Mendenhall) Johnson in 1845, is most probably the child of Esther Johnson. It is curious that Aaron is the only person recorded that is not linked by acknowledged lineage. Perhaps he was either a special child, as Jane must have had other grandchildren; or an indication of help for a widowed Esther and her only child. Esther is appointed as executor (along with her older brother Simon) of her mother's will in 1845. There was another son, Jesse Johnson, but he is not mentioned as an executor. There are no records to support Esther as a widow, other than nuisance.

I know that Aaron is indeed Esther's child. The evidence in her personal will, court documents, and the family myths are replete with this fact. For now, I am stating that she was married to Jesse Johnson. The lack of mention of Jesse Johnson's name in later historical data, or family bible, could be an early death, a possible divorce or abandonment, or both. The inclusion of Aaron Johnson in the will of his grandmother, a Quaker, could be supporting evidence that he was not illegitimate, but I would not hang my hat there. Oral interviews with descendants and also myths talk about Esther Johnson being married to a man that had the same last name, and that she was married to a man before her marriage to Samuel Harris in 1846. This is an ongoing process for this common name ancestor research.

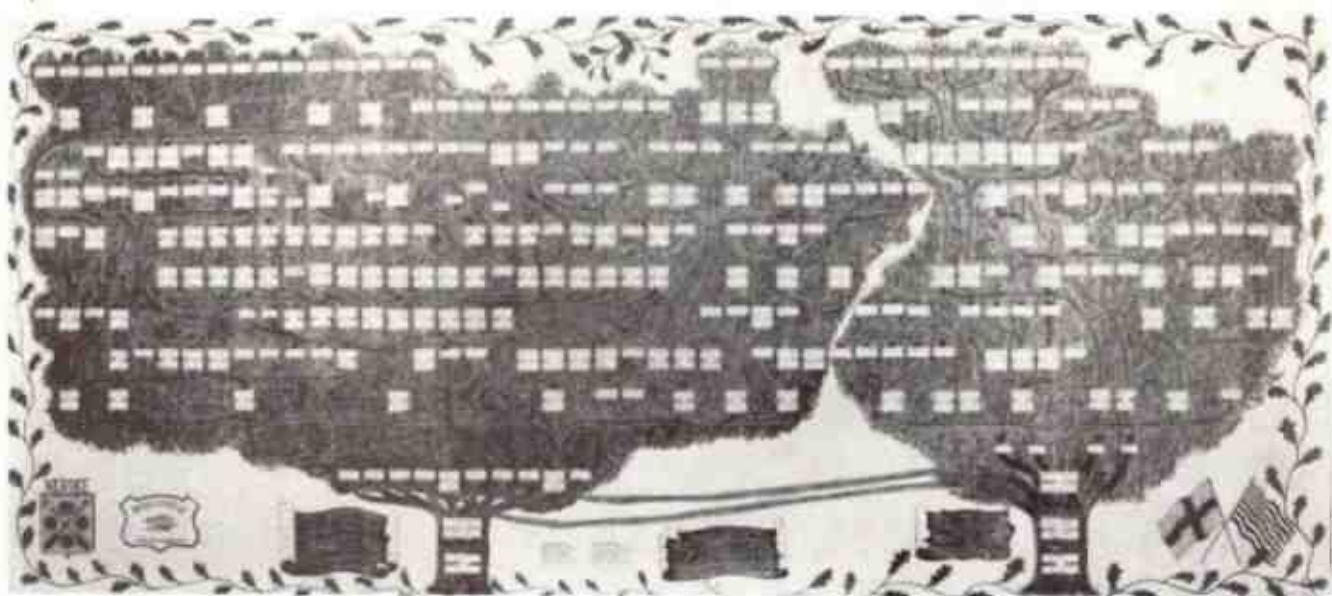
*To be completed in our October 2007 issue....*

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**Come Dig Your Fayette Roots on 22 September 2007! See page 41 for details.**

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# FAMILY HISTORY

written for decendants to

Lars Jonsson ~ Anna Pärsdotter  
[1742 ~ 1818] [1748 ~ 1836]  
Ingvaldstorp in Kvistbro parish

and

Nils Nilsson ~ Karin Pehrson  
[1751 ~ 1810] [1755 ~ 1813]  
Wägen in Edsberg parish

An addition to the family-tree  
made by Jan Helling  
in Trollhättan 1978



Trollhättan Januari 1 1979

To my dear relatives in Sweden and USA

My interest for genealogy began in connection with my trip to the USA in October 1977. I then had the chance to meet my american relatives of whom I knew little about. In my correspondence with Lucile Johnson during the summer of 1977, I became aware of the fact that there were more relatives in USA than I had expected. I got hold of my father Hjalmar's posthumous papers on genealogy to increase my knowledge. I also tried to expand the information myself. For example I returned to Närke to try and find the locations of my ancestors homelands.

In order to get a clearer picture of all the names I found, I put them down on a large sheet of paper, forming a family tree. I brought this tree with me to the USA as a help at a planned family get-together.

Sunday the 23rd of October 1977 turned out to be an important day for me. The family gettogether took place in Hastings, southeast of St Paul, Minnesota. At this very event I was in the position to meet a 100 relatives of mine! This was an overwhelming experience for me. I wish all of you the experience of meeting relatives living far away. I could feel a valuable connection and sense the presence of wing-strokes from history.

My simple family-tree on a large sheet of paper was shown a great interest. Wrong facts were corrected and incomplete facts were added. Back home again in Sweden I had a family-tree in my hand with the names of many new friends.

On the 1 of March 1978 I arranged a familygettogether for my Swedish relatives living in Stockholm. I showed them the family-tree and other documents on our family-history. I also told them of my experiences among relatives in the USA. This meeting gave me inspiration to continue my genealogy work.

During the spring of 1978 I started working on a new family-tree. Over time I had gathered new facts that I wanted to fit in to the tree. Curtiss Moline in St Paul gave me a great help from his genealogy on branches living in the USA. During the summer and fall of 1978 I intensified my own investigations in different archives in Sweden. I also went to see the old homelands in Närke and distant relatives still living there. It was an exiting and fruitful period. Beside the picture on the tree I made lists of relatives.

Facts to fit in to the tree expanded. I felt enthusiastic and happy while working on the tree and it became more and more decorative as time went on. I soon found the descriptive list of relatives more artistic than I had expected in the beginning.

After a period of hesitation for fear of destroying our family-economy, I decided to make copies of the family-tree. I was eager to share the knowledge I had gained. I was also aware of the increasing interest for genealogy both in Sweden and USA. One reason



for that might be the attention shown to Arthur Haileys book and TV-series "Roots". In Sweden the movie "The emigrants" has been shown on TV and a TV-series in 8 programmes on the emigrated swedes in the USA today has been shown during Christmas time 1978. I have expectations that some of my relatives will some day either in the near or distant future continue the genealogy work I have been working on.

For me the genealogy during the last year has given many important experiences in my life. Not only exiting puzzle with unknown relatives and gaining new friends, but also increased knowledge of living conditions and other historical facts from the period 1750 - 1900. That has been of equal importance. I have gained a new perspective on our present living conditions and even a better understanding of my own social inheritance through increased knowledge of the living conditions for my ancestors.

For me it is almost unbelievable how fast our society has changed and how complex it has become. An ever changing environment has forced us to hard physical and psychological strains. Now I have a better understanding of the human difficulties and problems we live with during the industrial era.

When the family-tree-picture was finished and sent to the printer, I got the idea of making an additional family-history. I had difficulties in writing it. By this time I had gathered a swarm of information from which I would try to produce an interesting history with my limited time and financial resources.

If You have a desire to know more I would be very pleased to help You as much as I can. Maybe my material has errors or You find it incomplete. Please drop me a line. I promise I will give You a reply.

The family-tree-original in my home is sized 6 x 3 feet (180 x 80 cm). The copy You have got is about half that size. Some facts in the tree is missing because I was unaware of them, others because of lack of space inside the oakleaf-frame.

Alf Algemo in Stockholm gave me a valuable help in printing the posters at the Arkitektkopia Co where he is working. I want to thank him for his cooperation and help with technical problems because of the size and quality of the original.

I also want to thank my relative Mark Chamberlain from Minneapolis (son of Louis and Mary Chamberlain). He helped me with the english translation of this family-history, during visiting my home on his tour in Europe 1978 - 1979.

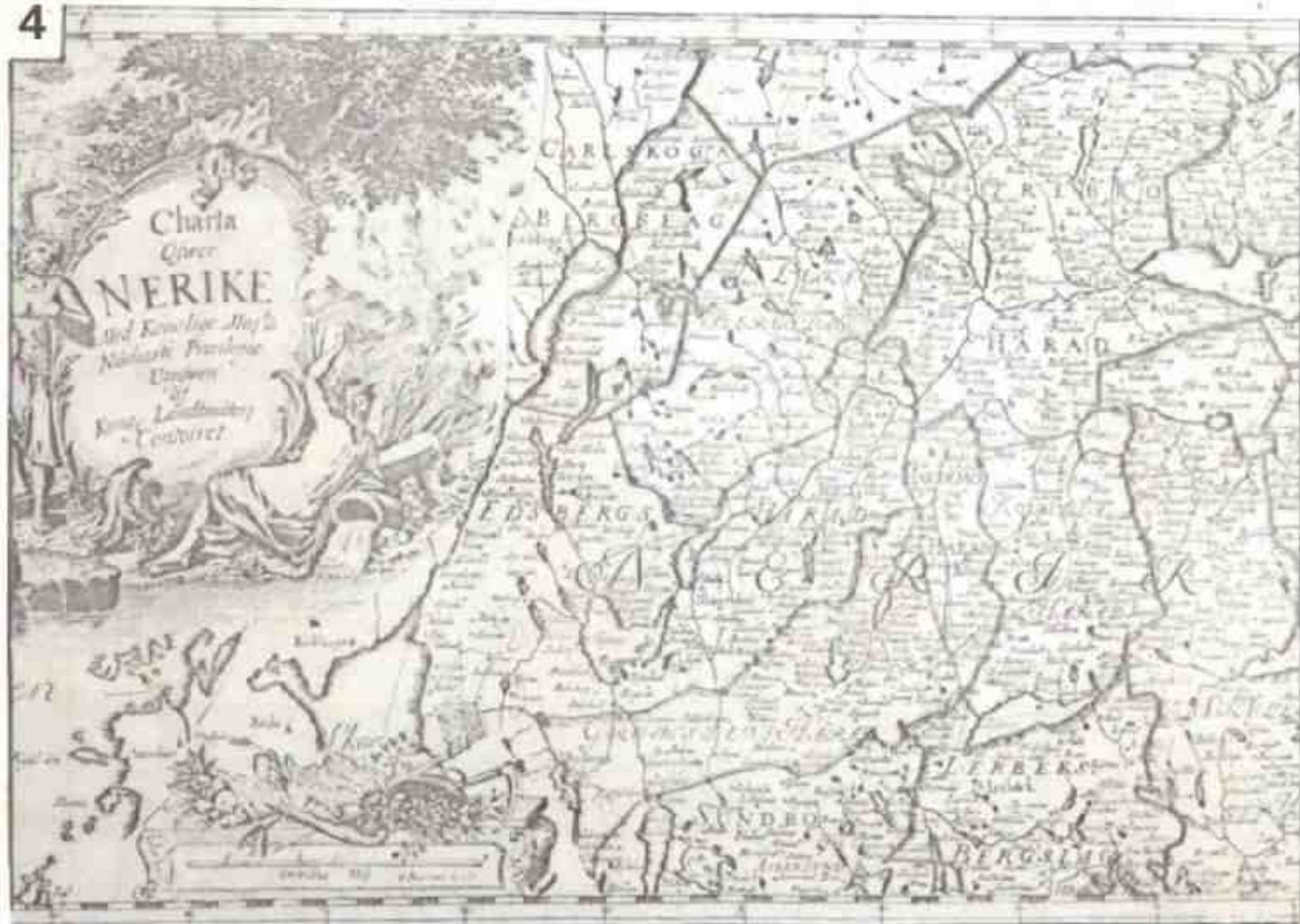
Finally I want to thank my wife Sonja and my children Anna-Lena, Tomas and Anders. The genealogy work has taken a great deal of my familylife, and they have not only tolerated my task but even shown patience and interest in what I have been doing.

*Jan Helling*  
/Jan Helling/

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Address: Jan Helling, Ryrvägen 19, 48100 Trollhättan, Sweden

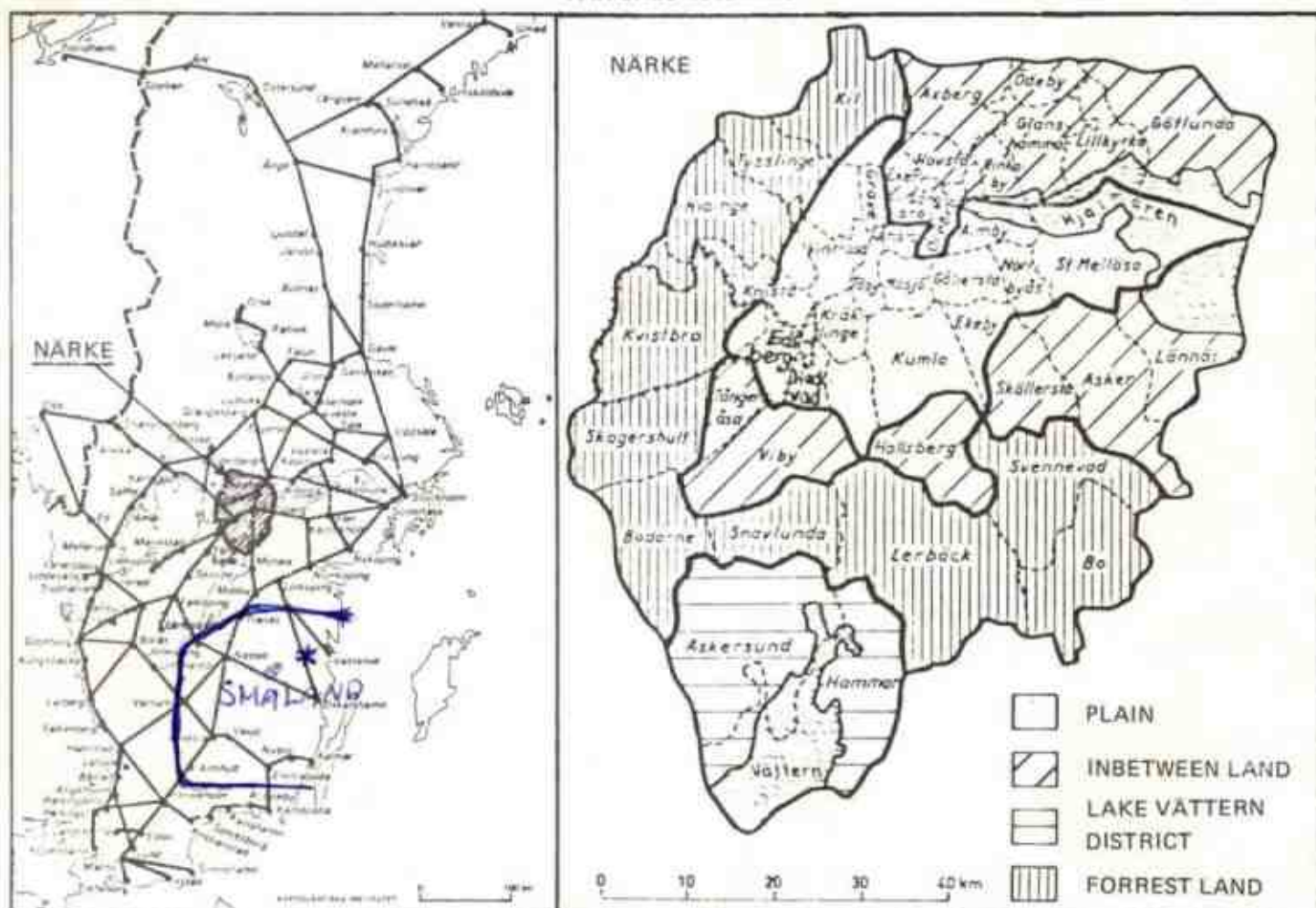




RAILROAD MAP

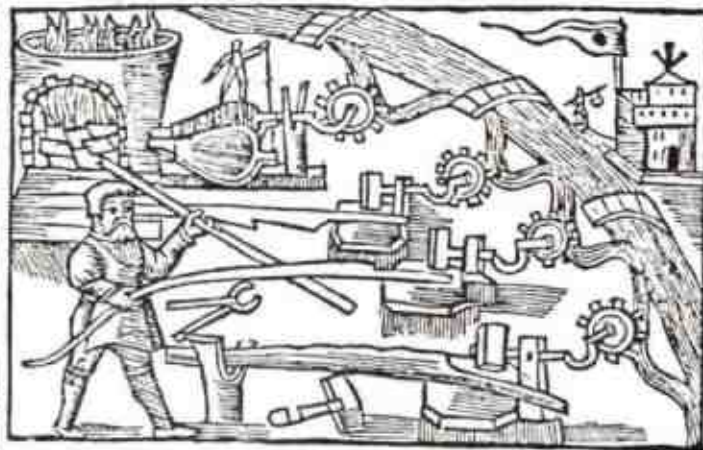
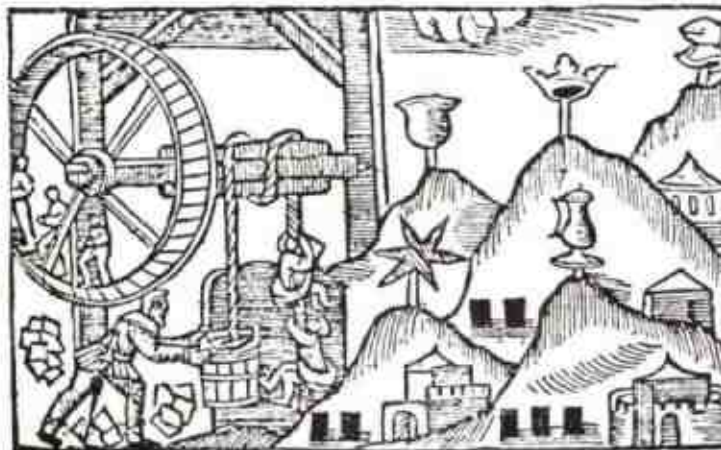
PARISHES IN NÄRKE

MAP FROM 1750



\* = Here about is Veng





## LONG AGO

Lets pretend to leave the present and move to the old district of Edsberg in the western part of Närke. It is there we find the two parishes of Kvistbro and Edsberg, where our two familytrees have their deepest roots in ancient times.

This area belongs to the woody district of central Sweden. In the eastern part there are flat lands and in the western part wilderness mountains. In the old days of mankind the plains were the only place where people lived. After the Great Ice Age period the large Litorina sea was formed. On its islands and banks agricultural people settled down on the limerich soil and the easy cultivated claygrounds.

During the period of the Wikings (800-1000) the society had a radical change and development. An increase in population took place, and the agricultural land was expanded. New settlements took place in the woods to the west. Villages and village-communities were established. The form of the society from this period remained almost unchanged until the middle of 19th century.

With help of fire the forest was cleared for good agricultural ground. Meadows were laid near streams, and houses in the village were built close together. All around in the forest were game, timber and fuel. Borderline controversy between villages took place almost continuously.

The normal form for the farmers house was the so-called twin-cottage. It was originally formed from two small cottages, with a single room each, attached together with a common roof. One part was the living-room of the family and the other was the guesthouse. Between these parts they had a vestibule with a best-room behind. Not until the beginning of 19-th century did well-to-do farmers build upstairs rooms. Almost all houses were covered with birch-bark and turf.

The farmsteads were along a villagestreet. A typical village consisted of 2-7 farmsteads. On the farmstead were the farmhouse and 5-6 other buildings for different purposes. A small garden and a hop-growing were attached.

During the 13-th century mining, iron and wood manufacturing, or a combination of these industries, became important. The village settlements in the hilly west expanded as they found iron ore, woods and streams. Over a long period of time the untouched nature passed a transformation from the conquer of man. Piece after piece the settled country took over the wilderness. The settled country represented safety, cooperation and the nearness to help in moments of danger. The wilderness was risky and dangerous. Here lived brigands and robbers even in the 17-th century. They had left the community to avoid trial and punishment. Here you could meet dangerous animals such as bear and wolves. But here you also could meet evil beings, such as woodnymphs and trolls who could lie in ambush for innocent people. To the people of 17-th and 18-th century the belief in unhuman evil beings was strong among all, whether high and low class, learned and unlearned.

The villages were brought together in parishes with the nearest church as center. During 17-th century the pastor was ordered to register all inhabitants in his parish. From this time we are able to trace our ancestors in different books and document and even from earlier centuries if we are very lucky. But the oldest facts I have found so far stems from about 1750. Every parish was divided in "rotar" consisting of several villages cooperating in some common affairs.

Our ancestors in the Johan Jan Larsson familytree lived in the village of Ingvaldstorp in Mullhytte rote and Kvistbro parish. Here the farmers lived close to the mountains and the wilderness, and because they were also involved in iron manufacturing, they were called "bergs-män" (miners).

Our ancestors in the Nils Nilsson family tree lived on the Wägen farm in Stäringe rote and Edsberg parish. They were pure farmers.

Let's now take a look at their living conditions.



### 1750-1800

At the end of 18-th century Närke was an under-developed territory, behind the times even in the eyes of inhabitants living in adjoining provinces. The standard of agriculture was very low and the fertile ground was mismanaged because of almost medieval methods of cultivation. The governor of Närke accused the farmers of laziness and apathy. The farmer was only interested in producing for the survival of his own family and showed no interest for overproducing and merchandising. There was a lack of enterprise and what we today call rationalization. But there was also competing will between the different villages which made common efforts complicated. Also, high taxes for different governmental expenses like wars, churches, governmental buildings, etc. had a restraining effect.

You could see no obvious distress except in years with a crop failure or epidemic. Death and diseases could ravage terribly, and the people lived very common, ordinary lives, trying only to provide for their basic needs. This explains the lack of richness in rustic style in Närke. Also, the home furnishings and manners of this village community had very little of the extravagance found in the nearby Bergslagen-area to the north.

At the end of 18-th century pastors and land-proprietors tried to reorganize the agricultural field, but for a long time had difficulties in changing the Närke-farmer who did not want to abandon his ancient methods of cultivation. Not until the middle of 19-th century were any substantial changes seen in the under-developed primary trade.

Iron-manufacturing has traditions since the 13-th century in this area. Farmers worked with smelting-works beside agriculture. They formed smelting-work-teams with about 8 "bergsmän" (miners) in each team. They

owned one eiths of the business. They never got well-to-do from iron manufacturing but received a satisfactory standard of living without poverty.

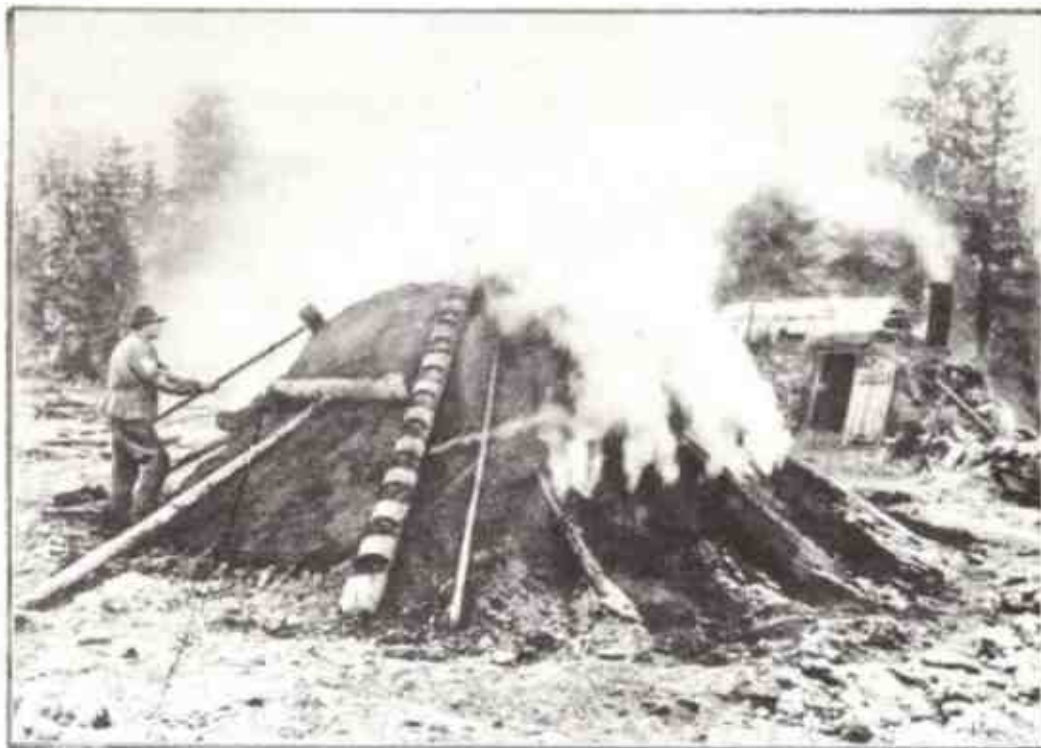
The minors found iron in the mountains where they made their mines. During winter they transported ore on snow and ice down to the smelting house situated by a stream. They got charcoal from wood in charcoal-kiln. In this area they also had limestone quarries. Limestone was needed for iron manufacturing in the blast furnace. The manufacturing in the smeltinghouse took place in the spring and fall when rainfall was common.

Our "bergsmän" in Ingvaldstorp had their interest placed in the Mullhytte-smelting-house. In the beginning of 1900-th century this smelting-house was the most productive in this area.

### 1800-1850

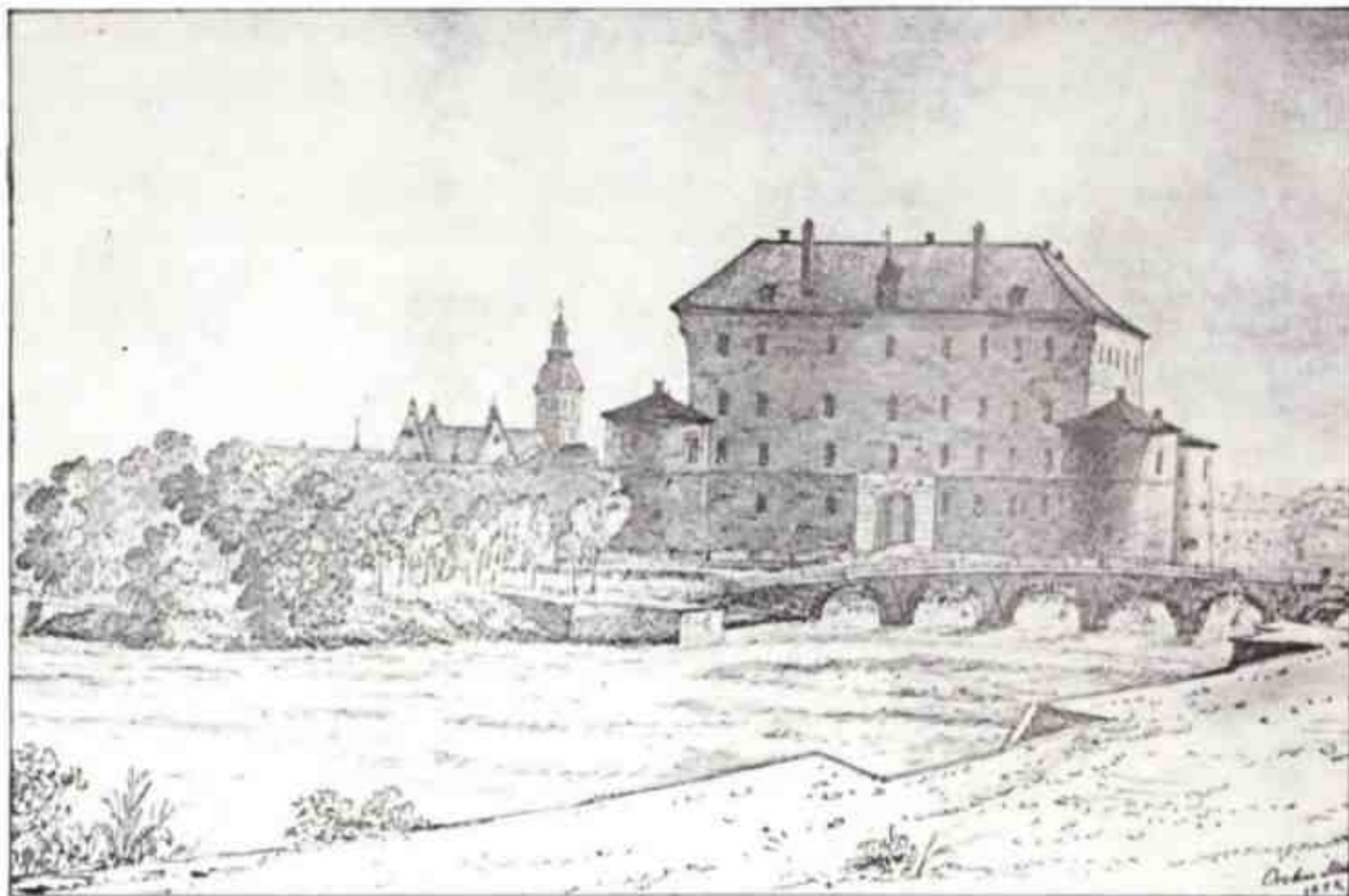
Since the days of the farmers revolt in the middle of 17-th century because of oppression from noblemen and taxes for warfare, a period lacking in incidents took place for 200 years. There were very limited increases in population. Communities and conditions of life did not change much.

Orebro, the capital of Närke province, came in focus of political interests 1810. Orebro is situated 18 miles (30 km) to the north east of Edsbergs härad. The Swedish parliament had its annual meeting there that year and the French marshal Jean Baptiste Bernadotte was elected as king of Sweden. The Swedish crown is still held by his descendants.



CHARCOAL KILN





OREBRO CASTLE 1822

The parliament was gathered in Orebro again in 1812. During the beginning of this century an obvious increase in population took place. The farmers estate was cut into smaller and smaller pieces of land and split up among the children in the family. New farms and villages were formed. Those who were not peasant proprietors had to build very simple cottages in the outskirts of the village and live as crofters. As the stripes of ground to be cultivated became more narrow, agriculture became more difficult. One farmer could have his land in 30-40 different places.

At the end of 18-th century different attempts were made to form larger areas through legal negotiations. Most important was a new law in 1827 called "Laga skifte". Landowners were then forced to make agreements on dividing the village district in larger pieces of land. This caused disintegration to the old village community. The houses in the former tight village were moved out to the new grounds or new houses were built instead of the old ones which was torn down.

This "Laga skifte" was a stimulation to agriculture. The areas for cropfields expanded and even living standards in general were improved. At the same time other values were destroyed together with the former village community. Both the farmer and the miner had worked in teams for many generations and had learned the advantage of joint responsibility. The number of farmers was fast increasing over time. But the farmhouses were situated far apart and cooperation had to find new forms. New associations were founded in the community such as rural-economy associations, temperance-reformers and revival movements.



JEAN BAPTISTE BERNADOTTE



VILLAGE STREET IN NÄRKE BEFORE "LAGA SKIFTE"



A CROFTERS COTTAGE AT THE END OF 19TH CENTURY

### 1850-1890

During this period, industrialization made its entrance to the life of these parishes and large modifications took place. At the end of 1850, the first railroads were built in Närke. Örebro started growing as an important town with flourishing economic life. In 1846 it was permitted to carry on trades even in rural districts which had previously been reserved for towns only. In Kvistbro parish the first village-store was established in 1848. After this, farmers got more interested in overproducing because it gave them chance to buy and sell new consumers goods. Massfabrication had come.

The State church had in many respects a large influence on the people. All who could had to attend in the Sunday service. Rigorous rule of life were lectured on from the pulpet. After the service, various information of general interest for the parish people was given out. For centuries the church had the same function as mass-media today. The first widespread use of newspapers began during this period.

As a reaction to the rigid preaching of the state church, different free churches began to have revival meetings. One of them, the so called Ropare-rörelsen (caller-movement), caused riot like conditions in Kvistbro in 1843 with armed battle between believers and the district constabulary.

A severe crises occurred during 1867 and 1868. The spring of 1867 was very late and crop did not ripe until the frost appeared in the fall. Both spring sowing and fall sown grain were badly hurt. During 1868 a severe drought caused even more damage, and large numbers of poor people suffered badly from the harvest disaster.

Many young people were unemployed these years. The "Laga skifte" and more organized agriculture had changed the basic condition for landowning and cultivation methods. The increase of the population continued thanks to better meals, vaccination and other improvements in standards of living. Most families had around 10 children.

Now let's look at some facts from some of our ancestors during the period 1750-1890 before we face the emigration from this part of Närke.

KVISTBRO CHURCH FROM 17TH CENTURY



## THE JOHAN JAN LARSSON FAMILY-TREE

LARS JONSSON (1742-1818)—ANNA PÄRSDOTTER (1748-1836).

Lars was born in Ingvaldstorp village. His fathers name was probably Jon Jonsson. The village had by this time five farmers along the village-street. The family lived in the farm that had got the number 5 during the land surveying. Lars became a bergsman (miner) as his father. Besides the agriculture which was the main occupation he made his living from a partnership in Mullhytte smelting-work team. The village was situated at the edge of the Kilsbergen wilderness.

THE LEGAL CONFIRMATION FOR  
LARS LARSSON PURCHASING HIS  
FATHERS FARM IN INGVALDS-  
TORP 1808

**Kongl Maj:ts**  
**Min Allernådigste Konungs och Herres**  
**Trotjenare och Härads höfdinge**  
Uti  
Vester-Nerikes Domsaga,  
Jag  
**CHRISTOFFER DIDR.**  
**GOTHILANDER,**

**G**ör vederligt Ait till Jag *Lärare i Härads*  
Lagtima Ting å nedanstående år, dag och ställe förutade, när-  
varande Nämnd och Krono-betjent, som Domboken utvisar,  
ble, med anhallan om Laga Fasta till Härads-Rätten ingif-  
vit ett bevittnadt och Bref under den 10<sup>de</sup> October 1808

*Uti följande och till den Bergsmans hem*  
*och Ingvaldstorp, som Lars Larsson*  
*och hans hustru Britta Cajsa Olsson*  
*från Stenådrade och Stenådrade*  
*af deras Förelägg och Skrifvelsen där*  
*konsterna och Anna Persdotter i*  
*Ingvaldstorp, som hvar för sig*  
hållit vid Trenne allmogens Ting den 10<sup>de</sup> October 1808  
för sig och samt den 10<sup>de</sup> April 1809, härstades  
beviljade; och som vid denna Lagfart i öfrigt är vorde iakttaget  
allt det, som Kongl. Maj:ts Nådiga Föreskrifvar under den 13  
Juni 1800 och den 14 Maj 1805 föreskrifva, utan att något klander  
sig

Lars enjoyed great confidence with his "rote" in the parish and was elected "sexman". This institution had roots in medieval time and lasted until 1850. The sex-man was elected for terms of 2 or 3 years. He had many different tasks. For instance, he counted the farmers sheafs in the field and gave information to the tax authorities. He was tax collector. On churchservice-days he was responsible for the attendance of all the citizens who could manage to come to church. During the service he would see to the order in the gallery. He was also an informer against citizens who did not behave well. He gave the pastor or head of the district constables information on quarrels between husbands and wives, between parents and children, between neighbors, and even on slander and superstition. People punished for these offenses had to sit for different periods of time in front of the church with their hands and feet held in a timber log, and it was the sexman's job to put them there. In other words, his task was to maintain the law and rules of church. It was an honor to be elected to sexman.

Lars and Anna had five children, Jonas, Lars, Erik, Olof and Johan (who later called himself Jan).

JONAS LARSSON ( — )

Jonas was probably the eldest son. However, he left Ingvaldstorp and moved to Västana's village after having sold his share to his younger brother Lars. I have no information on the destiny of this branch.

LARS LARSSON (1777-1839)—BRITTA CAJSA  
OLSDOTTER (1786-1853)

Lars bought the farm in Ingvaldstorp from his father in 1808. He expanded his land by buying shares from his brothers and sisters.

Even Lars enjoyed a good reputation in the parish of Kvistbro. He was elected churchwarden in 1817. He was also requested a great deal as a guardian and administrator for closing up of estates.

Lars and Britta had 10 children, Lars, Olof, Johan, Anna Cajsa, Britta Cajsa, Stina Maja, Beata, Carolina, Sophia, Clara Lovisa and Ulrika. Next to be mentioned is one of those children — Olof Larsson.

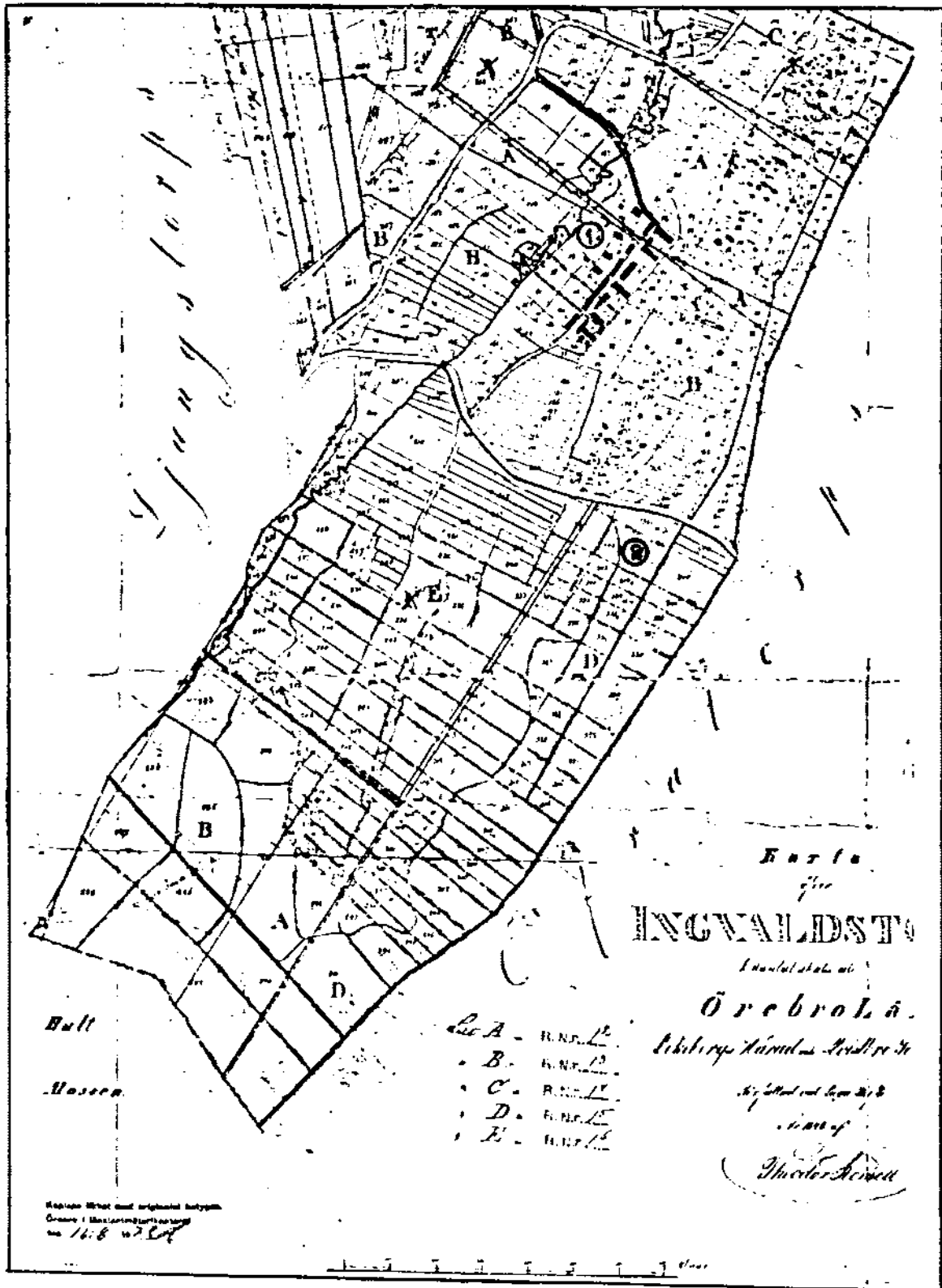
OLOF LARSSON (1809-1886)—STINA CAJSA  
JANSDOTTER (1817-1905)

Olof took over the farm from his father Lars. He married the daughter of his neighbour, the powerful and combatant "Stor Jaan", Jan Jansson.

Olof was the one to participant in the "Laga skifte"-reform. It was he who had to transfer the family farmhouse out of the village street. The decision was made 1848 and the houses were transferred two years later. They were rebuilt on Österängen in the south-east part of the village territory. The farm house is still there today but unfortunately it is in a state of decay. The last relative to live there was the granddaughter of Olof. Her name was Anna Elisabeth Olsson. She lived an unmarried life from 1891-1962. Another relative Sven Olsson owns the house today.



PART OF MAP FROM LAGA SKIFTE (LAND DIVISION) 1848. THE NARROW SQUARES ARE THE SCATTERED PIECES OF LAND BEFORE 1848, OUR ANCESTOR (OLOF LARSSON) GOT THE LARGE SQUARE MARKED D.



- 1) INGVALDSTORP VILLAGE WITH 6 FARMS  
2) ÖSTERÄNGEN

[ 15 16 17 ] ORIGINAL SITE

Now back to Olofs uncle.

ERIC LARSSON ( —1860)—STINA CAJSA  
JANS DOTTER ( — )

Eric left Ingvaldstorp and settled down in Öfratorp village next to the east. Eric and Stina had 6 children Lars Petter, Olof August, Justina Sofia, Maria Charlotta, Ulrika and Johan. I am not familiar with their destiny.

OLOF LARSSON (1785— )

Olof moved to Södra Hult, Mullersäter, I am not familiar with his destiny either.

JOHAN (JAN) LARSSON (1789—1859)—ANNA  
PÄRSDOTTER (1790—1857)

Jan the youngest child had grown up in Ingvaldstorp. He worked for his father and elder brother Lars even after he married in 1810. He bought land at auctions in Stora Storbjörboda village in the southern part of the parish of Kvistbro. Then around 1823, he moved there together with his wife and four children. Their first child, Anna Cajsa, had already died at the age of one 1911. Storbjörboda village consisted of 4 farms at this time. At the end of the 1820, Jan owned the largest part.

The farms were built on the state common ground but reserved for the Svartå foundry in the neighbourhood. At the end of the 18-th century an inn (gästgivargård) was founded there. The village laid at the so called "Letstigen", an ancient highroad between Örebro and Värmland. Svartå foundry held the rights to run the inn-business but the farmers in the village could lease it. Sometimes more than one farmer was innkeeper at the same time. Jan was titled "bergsmän" (miner) from his origin and he became an innkeeper as well beside his agriculture work.

At the end of the 1830's, something seems to have went wrong. In 1841 he had to leave Storbjörboda and was then a poor man. He returned to Ingvaldstorp and rented the so called "Luggastugan". He was 52 and his wife 51. Some of their children still lived with them at this time, Anna Cajsa 26, Johan 24, Stina Beata 21, Peter 16, Frans Adolf 13, Olof 11 and Carl Fredrik 8. Some children had already left the family. Two of them left for Stockholm, Lars in 1837 at the age of 24 and Erik Gustav in 1840 at the age of 17. These two branches of the tree have not been traced.

During the 1840's, the children of Jan and Anna were spread among relatives in the district. Johan, for some unknown reason, was punished for a crime and sent to Karlsborgs fortress on work. He disappeared there. Peter was sent to school in Örebro and settled down later in Skagershult in Närke. Frans Adolf came to his uncle Olof Larsson in Södra Hult. In the following, you will read what happened to Stina Beata and Olof.

OLOF JANSSON (1830—1910)—MAJ LOTTA  
PERSDOTTER (1829—1918)

Olof left Ingvaldstorp about 1850, at the time when the old family farm house was transferred to Österängen. He came to Kräcklinge parish as worker of the land. Here he met Maj Lotta (from Nils Nilsson family-tree. See next page) who lived there with an older married sister. They had a child in april 1852, and then married in June and settled down in Skeppsta village in November the same year. Skeppsta is situated next to Wägen. Olof got a job as a tenant and they lived in a former soldiers home (Fältvälbostaden).

Every "rote" had to sponsor at least one soldier for the army and provide for his living. Some soldiers who were promoted to hussars or other commanders use to change their surnames.

The surname they very often chose was the name of the village they lived in when the emigrants left Sweden. I think they too wanted to feel more important, so they changed their common Swedish surname derived from their fathers first name. I guess our surnames, Halling and Helling, came by this reason. In the district at this time lived a well known hussar whos name was Jan Erik Helling.

In 1857 it was time for Laga Skifte even in Skeppsta village. The three farms had to split up. The owner of the land Olof leased found another tenant and Olof Maj Lotta and their children had to transfer their house, which from the document was in bad condition, to the very north corner of the village land. There they lived under hard conditions.

Olof worked on Skeppsta farm and even on a larger farm at Riseberga monastery (already a ruin). There he earned one to two kronor a day (30 cents). During these hard times, the children had to go out to work as early as they could.

Olof and Maj Lotta had 10 children. Erik left Skeppsta in 1882 at the age of 19. He first settled down in Kräcklinge and later in Almby near Örebro. After having fulfilled his military service, he left Sweden and emigrated to Wisconsin in America in 1885. He came to his fathers sister and mothers brother in Pepin County (see next page). From there he wrote home to convince his parents and brothers and sister to emigrate too.

Olof and Maj Lotta decided to follow the advise of their son. A new depression period hit Närke and they had suffered as poor people for a long time. On april 27, 1888, they left Närke for America. Olof 58 and Maj Lotta 59, went together with Maria 18, Hjalmar 13, and their granddaughter, Ellen 2.

Remaining in Sweden were the three oldest daughters, already married, and the son, Per Adolf, who recently had gone to Stockholm to enroll in the army because of lack of work opportunity in Närke. Three children were already dead.



## NILS NILSSON FAMILY TREE

**NILS NILSSON (1751–1810)—KARIN PEHRSDOTTER (1755–1813)**

Nils lived on the farm Wägen in Stäringe rote and Edsberg parish. This farm has a vague history. It is situated in the middle of the Härvesta village land but has since ancient times been an independent farm.

Nils was elected a member of the parliament for the Estate of the Peasants. He represented Edsberg and Grimsten juridictional districts. He was titled "danne-man", and took part in parliament sessions in 1800 and 1810 and perhaps the years in between as well. So he was one of those electing Jean Baptiste Bernadotte to king of Sweden in Örebro 1810.

Nils and Karin had three children: Erik (1784-1811), Petter (1790-1847), and Britta (1801- ).

**PETTER NILSSON (1790–1847)—CATHARINA LARSDOTTER (1795–1845)**

Petter remained on Wägen farm where he lived all his life as a farmer. Petter and Catharina had seven children.

Britta Cajsa, born in 1818, moved to Kräcklinge in 1840, where she probably was married. Anna Stina, born in 1821, died young. Nils, born in 1823, has an unknown destiny as does his youngest sister, Anna Sophia, born in 1838.

Some facts indicate that the children of Petter and Catharina were spread out in the district after their parents died. The farm Wägen was too small to feed them.

**MAJ LOTTA PERSDOTTER (1829–1918)**

See above on previous page.

**PETTER PETERSSON (1826— )—STINA SOFIA OLSDOTTER (1828— )**

Petter was 19 when his mother died in 1845, at which time he went to work for the seargent major Owen in Härvesta village next to Wägen. 1851 he was married to Stina Sofia and moved to a farm in Hackvad parish in the near east. His younger brother, Lars Erik, emigrated in 1867 and Petter and his family emigrated two years later. He was then 43 and Stina Sofia was 41. They took all their children with them. Anna Lotta, 18, Christina 10, Eric 9, Amanda 7, Emil 4 and Ellen 1.

They arrived in Wisconsin where his brother Lars Erik had settled down. Like many other swedes with common son-names, he changed his surname to Halling.

In their new home in Pepin County they got their youngest children, Frank in 1871, and Ida in 1875.

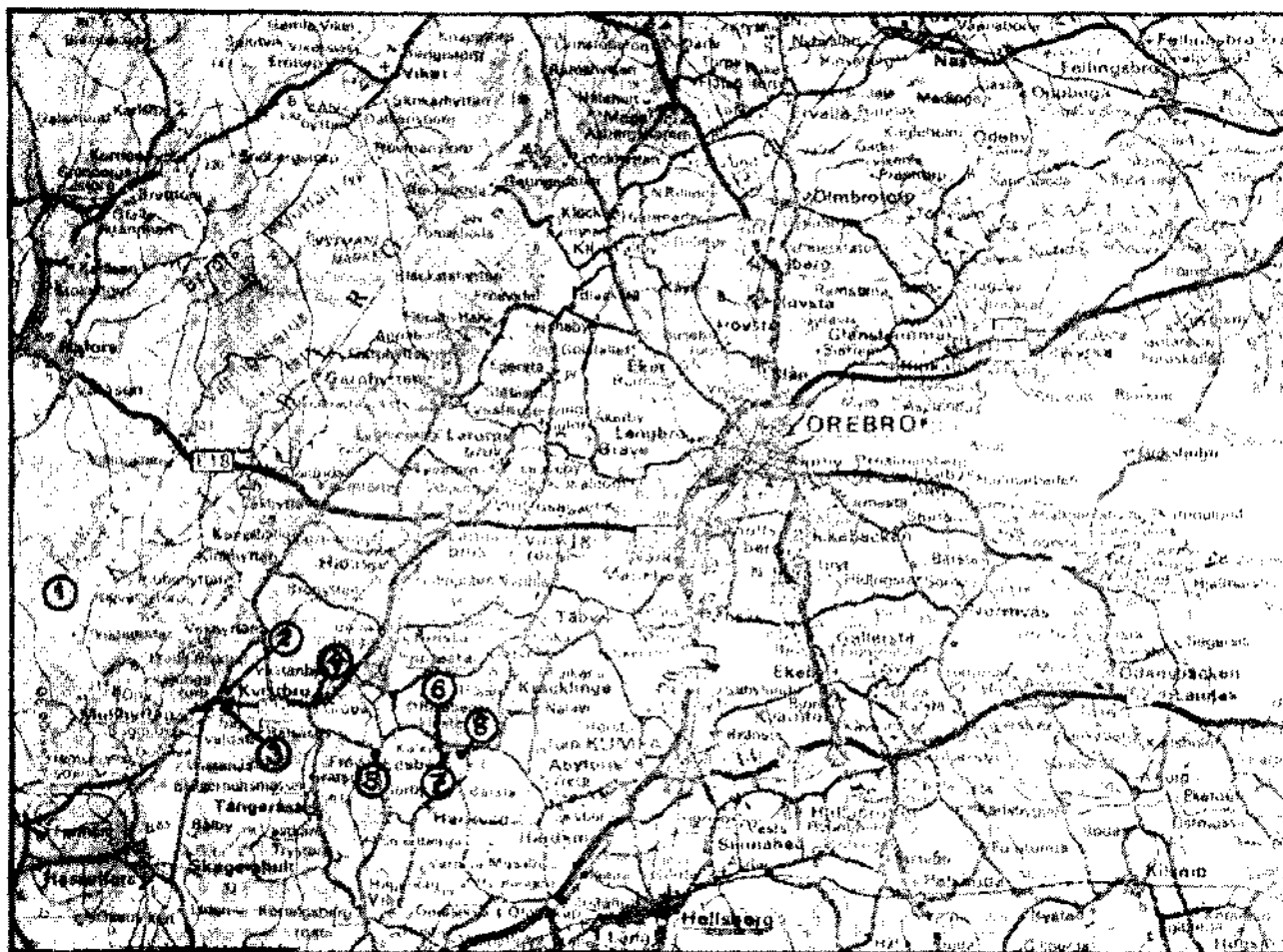
**LARS ERIK PETERSSON (1833— )—STINA BEATA JANSBOTTER (1820— )**

Lars Erik was only 12 when his mother died. I guess he lived with one or several relatives in the district.

Even his future wife left her parents home in Ingvaldstorp and lived in different places in western Närke for several years.

Lars Erik 26, and Stina Beata 39, met and were married in 1859. Three years later they came to Skeppsta village where Lars Eriks sister and Stina Beatas brother had lived for 10 years. In 1867 a terrible crop-failure hit the territory. This was the deciding factor to emigrate, and Lars Erik and Stina Beata were among the first to move away to North America. They left Närke May 14, 1867.

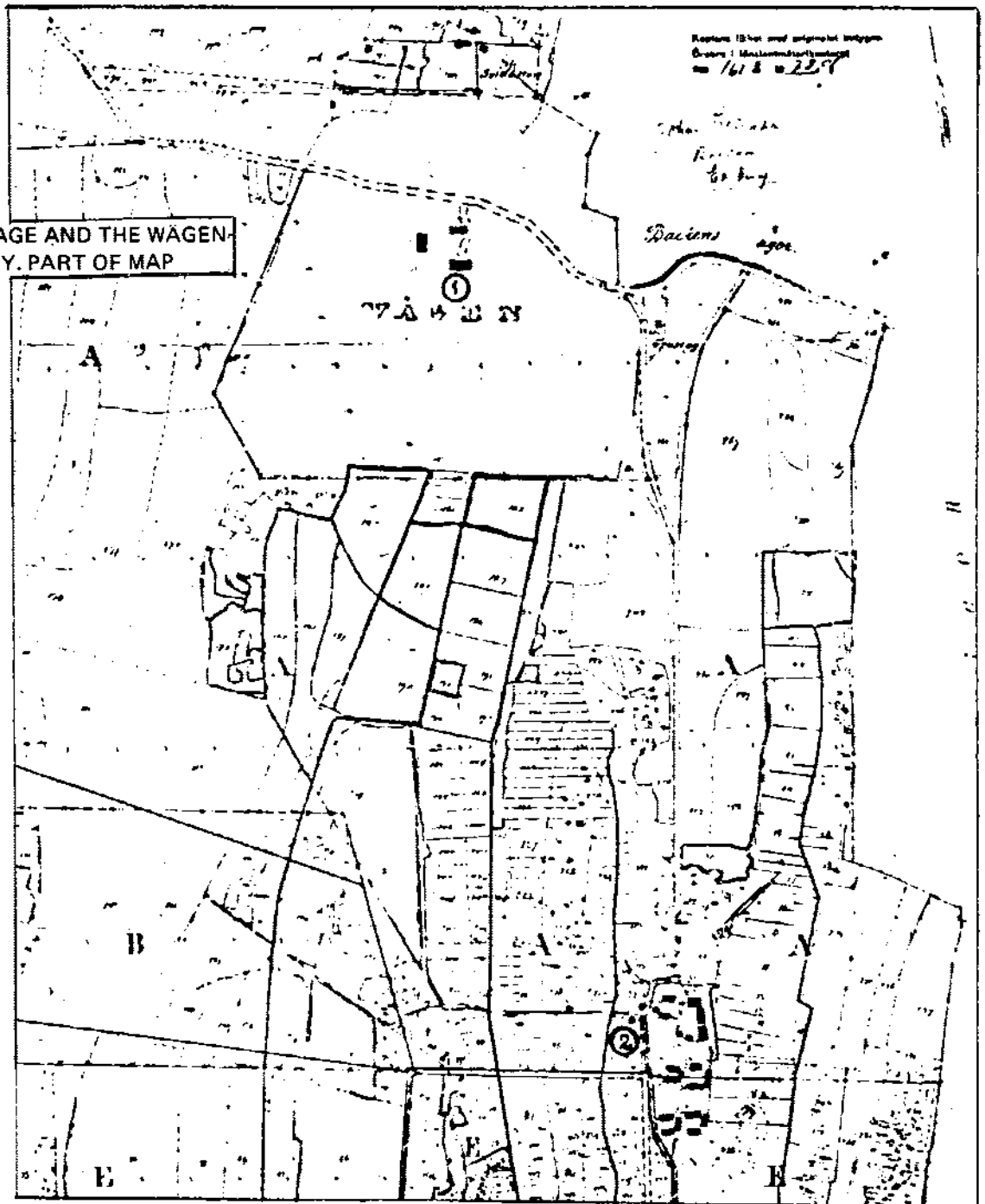
Now let us take a closer look at the emigration.



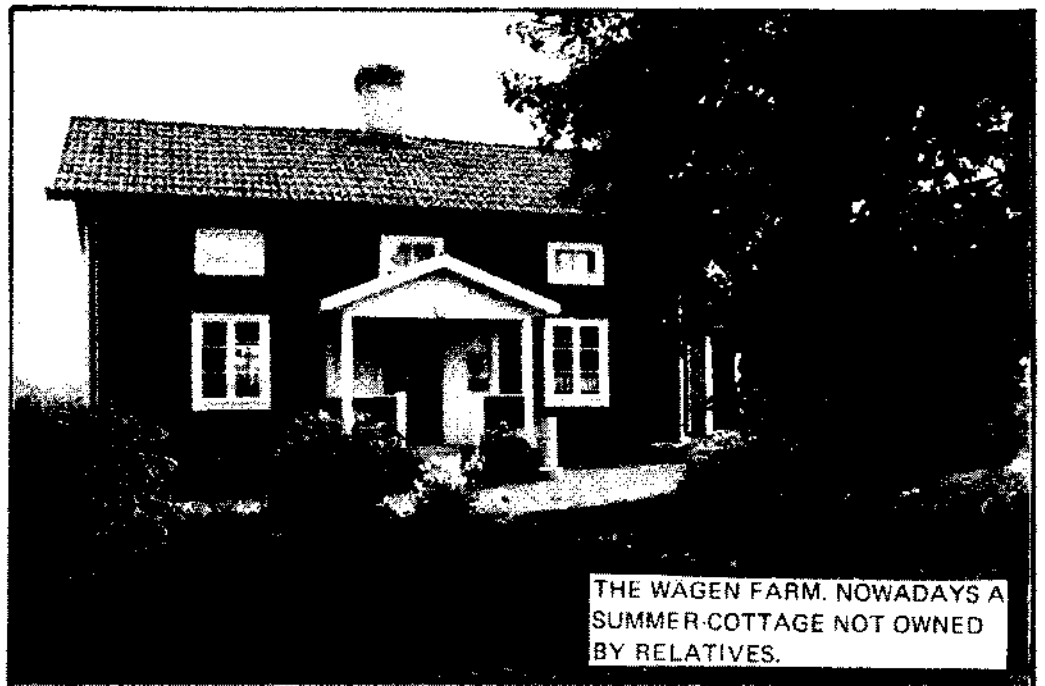


HERVESTA VILLAGE AND THE WÄGEN-  
FARM TERRITORY. PART OF MAP  
FROM 1857

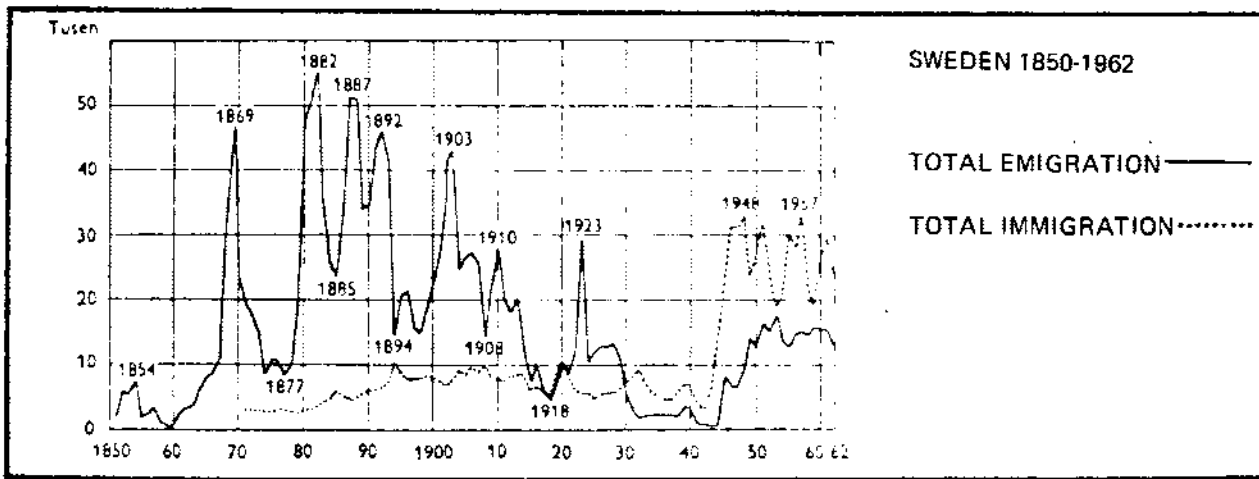
- 1 WÄGEN  
2 HERVESTA



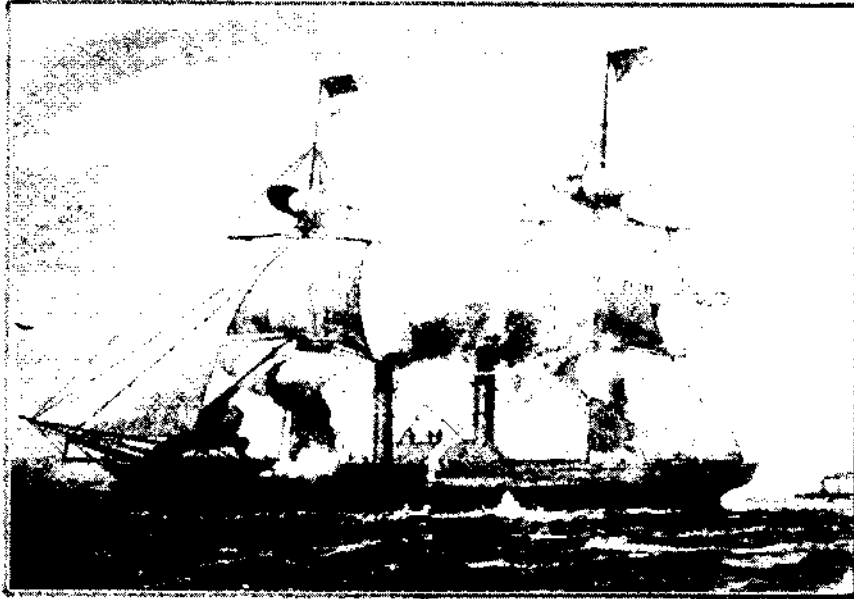
1. Kilsbergen Mountain
2. Ingvaldstorp Village
3. Österängen Farm
4. Kvistbro Church
5. Edsberg Church
6. Wägen Farm
7. Härvesta Village
8. Skeppsta Village



THE WÄGEN FARM. NOWADAYS A  
SUMMER-COTTAGE NOT OWNED  
BY RELATIVES.



EMIGRATION SHIP  
ARABIA 1853, CUNARD  
LINE



NEW YORK 1870



## EMIGRATION

There were many reasons why "America fever" occurred among the poor people in the parishes of Närke at the end of the 19th century. The crop-failures in 1867 and 1868 gave spark to start the movement. 40 youngsters left Kvistbro parish that year. Among those leaving Hackvad parish we find our relatives. Two years later more relatives left. Then there were several years with limited emigration, but in 1880-1882 new peaks were reached. About 70 left Kvistbro parish each year. At the end of 1880's came the last peak.

At this time a new depression hit Närke. Small iron-works and smelting-houses had to close down because of the more profitable large foundrys. Improvements in agriculture was another factor to cause unemployment. Better standards of living brought larger families with many children. The limited freedom for religious revival beside the State Church may have had some effect too. In 1888 the last emigration took place among our relatives.

During the period 1861-1915, 821 persons emigrated from Kvistbro parish to North America. 111 of them returned to their native land. Most of these emigrants were young and unmarried, but there were also 57 families. Among those were 18 crofters, 11 workers, 11 blacksmiths, 7 minors, 6 tenants and 4 farmers.

During the same period many young people also moved to Stockholm, Örebro and the growing industries in Borås and Degerfors. Despite emigration and migration to larger towns, the population in Kvistbro increased from 2.150 in 1850 to 3.747 in 1900. At 1800 the population was about 2.000.

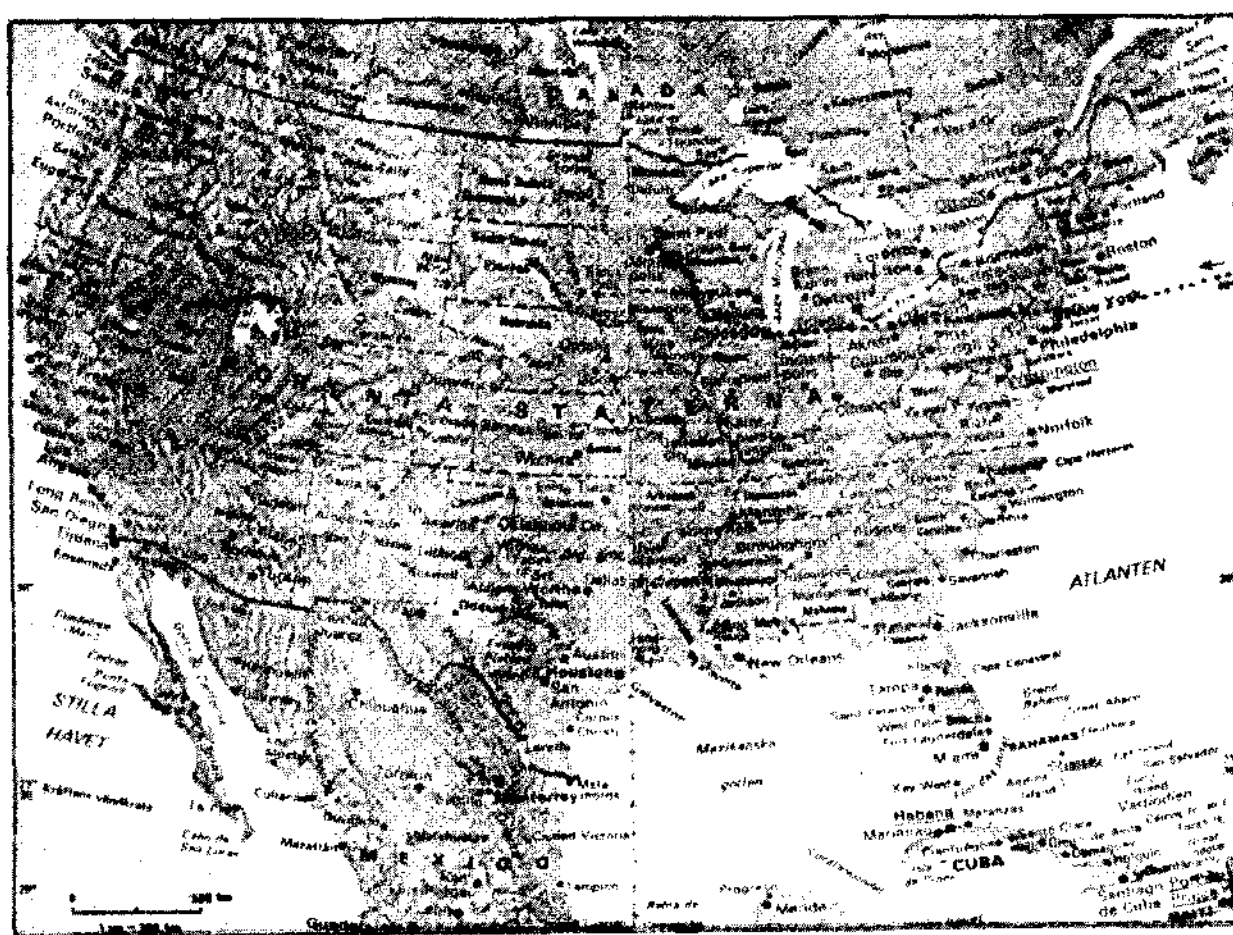
The emigrants left their homes with horse and carriage and went to Hasselfors railway station. From there they went by train to Gothenburg, where they were able to buy their tickets to North America from the emigration agents. First they took the Wilson liner from America key in Gothenburg to Hull, England. From there they went by train to Liverpool where they boarded the America ship. It took them 3-4 weeks to cross the Atlantic Ocean and arrive in Castle Gardens, at the southern end of Manhattan.

## THE EMIGRANTS WAY TO NEW SETTLEMENTS

Outside Castle Gardens our emigrants met "the runners". Their job was to recruit workers for different districts in the USA. If the emigrants were lucky they would meet a runner who was an honest worker, who would arrange for their lodging, tickets, employment, or home-stead land. At the end of the emigration period the agent system was better and I believe our last emigrants already had a ticket for the whole journey when they left home in Sweden.

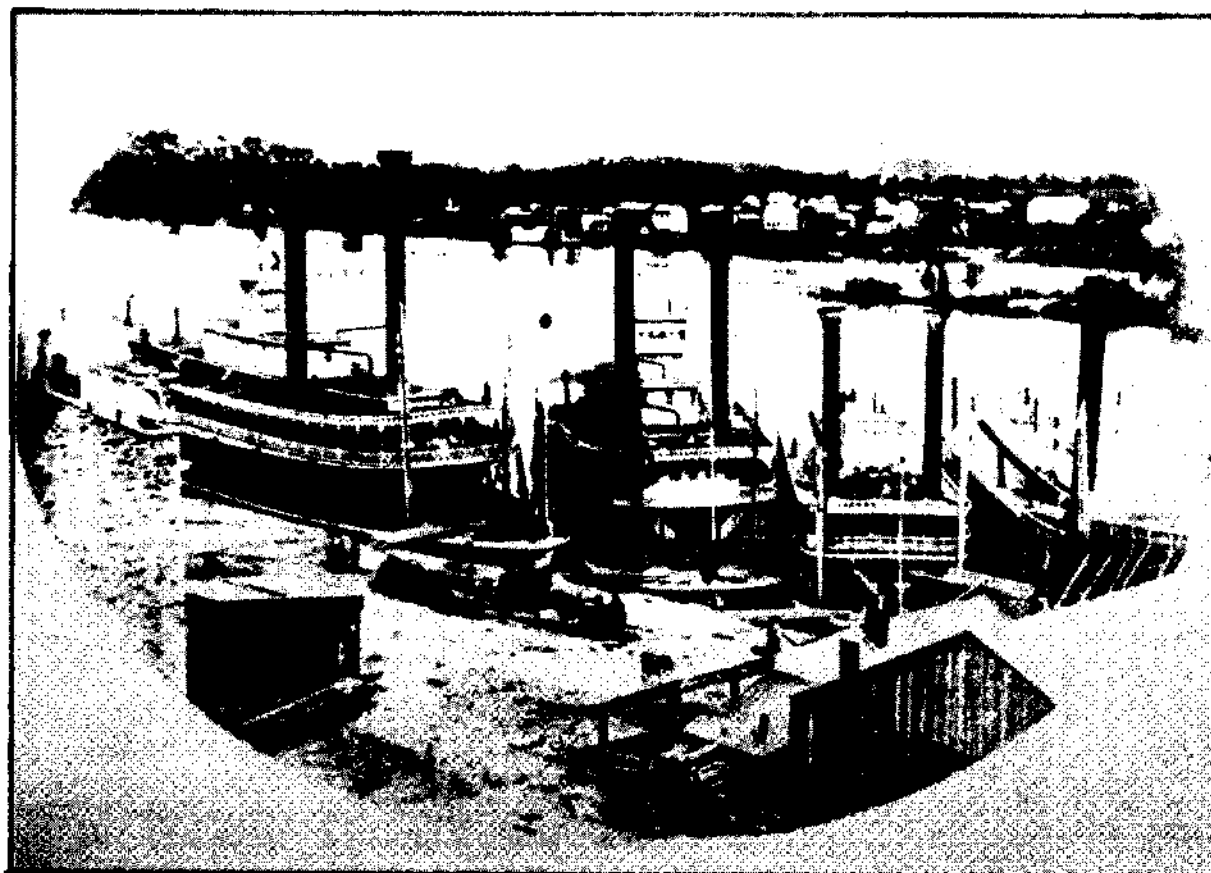
The journey continued from New York by train to Chicago, the capital of the emigration-industry. Here there was the administration for railroad companies, Homestead land companies and industries. In 1868 runners and hawks were particularly active in the Swedish influenced city of Chicago. I guess our first emigrants got their advise to settle down in Wisconsin from them.

The journey was continued by train to La Crosse on the Mississippi River. From there they went by steam-wheeler up to Stockholm on the east river bank in Pepin County Wisconsin.

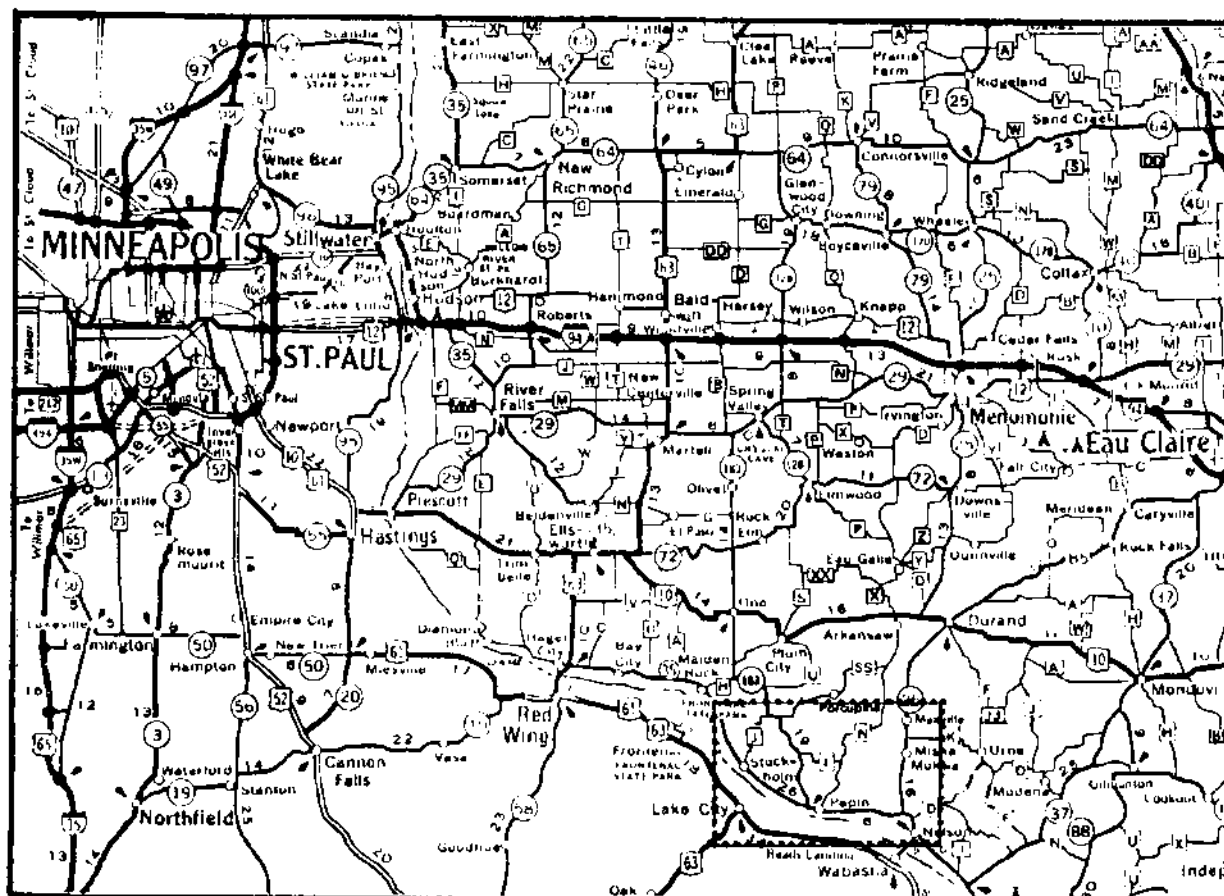


EMIGRANTS WAY .....

PEPIN COUNTY 



WHEELSTEAMER IN ST PAUL 1859.





## OUR EMIGRANTS FIND THEIR HOME-STEAD LAND

In a book published in 1939 on the history of Stockholm, Wisc., there is a part describing the arrival of our first emigrants Lars Erik Pettersson and his family, (like many americans he spelt his name Peterson).

Lars Erik Peterson, his wife Stina, and their children Erik, Anna Lovisa and Lena arrived in Stockholm late in 1867 or early in 1868. Here follows their story.

## HISTORY OF STOCKHOLM AND VICINITY

PAGE 26

### PEPIN COUNTY

1. Stockholm
2. Pepin
3. Lund
4. Nerike Hill
5. Mississippi
6. Lake City



Pioneer picture: Family of Lars Eric Peterson, parents and three children. Anna Louisa, Eric and Lena, driven by ox team in open lumber wagon in winter by John Hill to 160-acre homestead on Nerike Hill about 1868. No roads, except blazed, rough track; bumping against tree trunks. Children hungry and given corn on cobs, meant for the oxen, as the only food. No house, the family living in cellar with logs, turf and branches for roof. Wife had left good home in Sweden; she and children cry over hardships and over loss of two trunks of clothing and linen en route to America. The picture is typical of a large number of immigrants who settled on the bluffs in the early days.

Lars Eric had bought the land from Eric Peterson, (no relation). Another man of same name had threatened to jump the homestead, hence the haste to live on it despite lack of conveniences. When the family first came over, they had to spend the summer in the little schoolhouse in Stockholm as the only available shelter.

A deer and Indian trail passed the Lars Eric Peterson cabin. Herds of as many as 11 deer were seen sometimes. Indians had a salt lick under a large tree and sat in the branches to shoot the deer as they came. His son often helped the Indians skin the deer, but not often, the family related, was he rewarded with a portion of meat.

Anna Louisa began to go to school in 1869 at the age of seven to Hannah Peterson, the little girl who had come over with her father's, Jacob's, party in 1854. Anna became the wife of Frank Wilson (brother of Abraham Josephson and Isaac Newman, Wilson and Newman having taken new names on entering the country), and now lives in Minneapolis. She used to relate that "Dr." Rosenberg once vaccinated her and his dignified mien frightened the children.

Lars Eric Peterson was an odd character—that is, he made odd retorts and answers, so that in the habitual Swedish manner of conferring nicknames, he was designated as "Crazy Peterson." He was short, stocky, with bushy beard and often drove to town behind oxen, and his manner was sometimes odd, yet he left no evidence of having deserved the nickname of "Crazy."

One winter day Lars Eric Peterson drove to Lake City with a horse and sleigh to buy a plow. En route home, the horse, plow, and sleigh broke through the ice and were lost. Asked about it afterward, he replied: "The horse is plowing at the bottom of the lake." Once he raced on the ice with his oxen against Thure Larson with his team of horses, and won, which wasn't so dumb.



A TYPICAL HOMESTEAD COTTAGE IN THE FORREST LAND

## FINAL WORDS

This is the end of my story. But of course our family-history continues for ever, I hope. If you want to know more about what happened next to our relatives in Sweden and the USA after 1890, you still have a chance to find information. Take for example personal contact with the older people in your branch of the tree. Let them tell you about their lives in the beginning of this century. Why not record their story as you listen to them.

It might be very profitable to stop the spinning wheel of the life for a while to look back. It has given me a better opportunity to find out who I am, from where I

come, and in what direction I am going. It's one way to find a clearer position. I have also learned that I have many friends. That is a good feeling. It helps me feel important, and gives me a sense of self-dignity.

But going back in history and tracing roots is time-consuming and sometimes a difficult task. You find such thin fibres of information. I wish you could help me trace more fibres of our roots so that we together could form a nice network of historical facts from our past. Every contact I get from you will be greatly appreciated.

*Jan Heeling*

The source of my information has been:

1. My own genealogy findings in old books and documents of different kinds.
2. Kvistbro sockens historia, 1972
3. Närke, ett bildverk, Alihem 1960
4. Närke, STF Yearbook 1975
5. Amerika, Amerika, Ulf Beijbom, Natur och Kultur, 1977
6. The History of Stockholm and Vicinity, 1939
7. Province-land-surveyors in Örebro with maps and documents from land-division accomplishments.



NÄRKE



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

ORDER FOR PHOTOCOPIES  
CONCERNING VETERAN

(See reverse for explanation)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

RECEIPT NO.

435 47

DATE

6-5-65

SEARCHER

M. L.

FILE DESIGNATION

Johnson, James

W 7089

BIWT 2365-160-55 REV

33. 197  
Pennsylvania, Phila.  
James Johnson cell,  
of in the State of Penna.  
who was a Private in the  
by Captain of the  
in the Revolution  
due for 10 mos 24 days

Inscribed on the Roll of Philadelphia  
at the rate of 36 Dollars 00 Cents per annum  
to commence on the 4th day of March, 1831.  
29. May 1853.

Certificate of Pension issued the 30 day of March  
1853 and Certificate  
Daniel Sturgeon  
Attest to the 4th of  
Semi-annual allowance ending Pension of  
Philad.

Recorded by A. C. Weighman Clerk  
Book E. 2 Vol. 15 Page 32  
32

James Johnson  
Private in the  
Revolution  
1776  
From the  
Philadelphia  
29 May 1853  
Daniel Sturgeon  
Attest to the 4th of  
Semi-annual allowance ending  
Pension of  
Philad.



State of Pennsylvania }  
County of Adams } S S

On this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March  
AD one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five before me a  
justice of the peace in and for the County & State aforesaid personally  
appeared Sarah Johnson a resident of Gettysburg in the  
County aforesaid aged about seventy four years who being  
duly sworn according to law declares that she is the  
widow of James Johnson deceased who was a Revolutionary  
War Soldier and performed service for which a pension  
was obtained from the United States government -  
that she does not know anything of the particulars of the  
service of her said husband but that she has understood  
his service was on the frontier - that since the death  
of her said husband a pension certificate at the rate  
of thirty-six dollars per annum has been granted to  
her which she now holds - that it is dated May 8. 1854  
and numbered 4.125 and was obtained under the act  
of February 3. 1853 Section 2 -

She further states that she was married to the said James  
Johnson on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ AD 1795  
at Washington County Penna by one Rev. Mestrick  
a Clergyman and that her name before her  
said marriage was Sarah Burns that her  
said husband died at Gettysburg Adams County in the  
State of Pennsylvania on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of May  
AD 1853 and that she is now a widow. that  
she has no record of her said marriage but proof of the  
same can be found in the pension office in connection  
with her pension claim - She makes this declaration for the  
purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which she may be entitled  
under the act approved March 3. 1855.

Sarah Johnson



We David E. Houck and W. H. Greary residents of Steptoe  
in the State of Pennsylvania upon our oaths declare the  
foregoing declaration was signed and acknowledged by  
Sarah Johnson in our presence, and that we believe  
from the appearance and statements of the applicant  
that she is the identical person she represents herself  
to be; we further declare that we were well acquainted  
with <sup>said</sup> Sarah Johnson and said James Johnson in the  
life-time of said James Johnson, and that said parties  
lived and cohabited together as husband and wife and  
were so known and reputed to be in the neighborhood and  
doubtless were so in fact, and that said Sarah is now a widow.

David E. Houck

W. H. Greary

The foregoing declarations and affidavit were sworn to and  
subscribed before me on the day and year aforesaid, and I  
certify that I know the affiants to be credible persons; that  
the Claimant is the person she represents herself to be  
and that I have no interest in this claim.

J. A. Buehler J. P.

State of Pennsylvania  
Adams County ss

I John Pickering, Prothon-  
otary of the Court of Common Pleas  
of Adams County, aforesaid, certify  
that D. A. Pugh, Esq before whom  
the foregoing declaration and  
Affidavit were made, and sub-  
scribed to, is, and was, at the time of doing  
the same one of our Commonwealth Justices of the  
Peace, in and for said County of Adams, duly elected  
Commissioner & qualified to act as such; and  
that due faith and credit is to be given to all  
his official acts and deeds and that the signa-  
ture purporting to be his, is genuine

In testimony whereof I  
have hereto set my hand and affixed the  
Seal of said Court, at Gettysburg, in said County  
this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March. A.D. 1855

John Pickering, Pro



State of Pennsylvania } S S  
County of Adams

On this 29th Day of April 1858 Personally appeared in Open Court before the Court of Adams County now sitting, James Johnson a resident of Gettysburg in the County of Adams State aforesaid aged about eighty six years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on this oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as hereintated first under Captain Samuels of the Cumberland County Militia as a Substitute for his father Robert Johnson who was drafted in the year 1782 from said County in the month of April, he being at that time a little over sixteen years of age and marched first to Punbury and thence to Smiths Station on the West Branch above Northumberland the service in which he was engaged being the protection of the frontier from the incursions of the Indians, that his service at that time was for two months when he was honorably discharged but has no written discharge.

He further states that he afterwards volunteered for a two months tour under Captain Poe and marched to the western frontier against the Indians as far as to the Ohio River at or near Wheeling, but the Indians retreating, they never came to an engagement. He also served



out this Tour and returned, but had no writ-  
ten Discharge. He then enlisted for a six  
months Tour under Captain Bow and mar-  
ched to the Western Frontier again and served  
this Tour in different parts of what is now  
Washington and Alleghany Counties, protecting  
the Frontier, in which service he had no engage-  
ments with the Enemy, he also served out this  
Tour and was honorably discharged, and had  
a written Discharge, but it has been lost for many  
years - that he knows of no person now living  
by whom he could prove those services, except  
Nancy Kirkpatrick formerly of Cumberland, now  
of Perry County. - He hereby Relinquishes every  
claim whatever to a Pension or an Annuity  
except the present, and declares that his name  
is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any  
State. - He further declares that he was  
born in the year 1766 he having a record of the  
same, and that he was born in Bucks County  
Pennsylvania, and at an early age removed to  
Cumberland County Pa and resided until  
he entered the service, as above stated, and  
continued to reside there till the close of the  
war he then removed to the western part  
of Pennsylvania, and resided there for some years  
and then removed to Ohio and resided there  
ever since, until the last three years that he  
has resided in Gettysburg Adams County Pa  
sworn to and subscribed the Day  
and year aforesaid

Recd

W. W. Parsons Prothy

James Johnson

I, William W. Parton, do certify that  
the foregoing contains the original proceeding  
of the said Court in the matter of the  
application of James Johnson for  
a pension, In Testimony whereof I have  
hereunto set my hand and the seal of the  
said Court at Gettysburg this 19<sup>th</sup> day  
of April A.D. 1853

W. W. Parton Prothonotary  
of the Court of Common Pleas of  
Adams County Penn.

We John Garvin Esq and Hugh Demwidie  
residing in Gettysburg Adams County State  
of Pennsylvania hereby certify that we are  
well acquainted with James Johnson who  
has subscribed and sworn to the above  
Declaration, that we believe him to be eighty  
six years of age, that he is reputed and  
believed in the neighborhood where he resides  
to have been a soldier of the Revolution and  
that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn and subscribed the Day and year  
aforesaid Before

W. W. Sartor Prothy

J. Garvin  
H. Demwidie

And the said Court do hereby declare their  
opinion after the investigation of the matter  
and after fulfilling the interrogatories prescribed  
by the War Department that the above named  
Applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier and  
served as he states, and the Court further  
certified that it appears to them that  
John Garvin Esq and Hugh Demwidie who  
has signed the preceding Certificate are  
residents of Gettysburg, Adams County Pa and  
that they are credible persons, and that their  
statements are entitled to credit.

Robert A. Fisher  
President of Court of Common  
Plas Adams County Penna



State of Pennsylvania  
County of Adams }


On this twenty first day of February A D Eighteen hundred and fifty four, personally appeared before the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Adams aforesaid Sarah Johnson a resident of Gettysburg in the said County and state aged seventy four years, who being duly sworn according to law doth, on her oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed the 27th July 1848; That she is the widow of James Johnston who was a private soldier in the war of the Revolution, that she does not know anything personally as to the services of her said husband but has often heard him speak of the same in his life-time - that his first term of service was performed when he was very young as a substitute for his father from Cumberland County Pennsylvania; That her said husband was the identical James Johnston to whom a revolutionary pension certificate was granted, numbered 33.197 and dated the thirteenth day of January 1854 and she presumes that evidence of the services of her said husband may be found on file with his application in said case -

She further declares that she was married to the said James Johnston on the thirtieth day of July A D seventeen hundred and ninety-five, that her husband, the aforesaid James Johnston died on the twenty ninth day of May Eighteen hundred and fifty-three; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the second of January Eighteen hundred, viz, at the time



before stated. She further swears that she is now a widow, and that she has never before made any application for a pension from the United States.

Sworn and Subscribed } Sarah Johnson  
in open Court the day and }  
year first above-written }

W. W. Paxton Prothy  


PENNSYLVANIA: }

Beaver County, ss. }

I, MILTON LAWRENCE, Prothonotary of

the Court of Common Pleas of Beaver county, do certify,

that *Samuel M Baker Esq who took the foregoing*  
*affidavit*

and subscribes his name to the same in his own hand writing, was, at the time of the taking and certifying thereof, an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said county, duly elected, commissioned, and sworn; and to all whose official acts as such, full faith and credit is due, and of right ought to be given.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and  
affixed the Seal of said Court, at Beaver, this *20*  
day of *May* A. D. 184*3*

*Milton Lawrence* Proth'y.

State of Pennsylvania Beaver County

On this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1838, personally appeared before the Hon John Nestor one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas for said County being a Count of Record Catharine Johnston, aged about Seventy four years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed July 7<sup>th</sup> 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows. That she is the widow of David Johnston Esquire who was a Sergeant in the War of the Revolution; that he served in Captains William Ross & Lairs Company, and that he received a pension of forty dollars per annum under the act of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832, a Certificate for which was granted to him by the War department dated the ninth day of October 1832.

She further declares that she was married to the said David Johnston Esq<sup>r</sup> on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 1785 by the Rev<sup>d</sup> Rev<sup>d</sup> Duffield in Philadelphia; that she had a certificate of her marriage, but that it is lost or mislaid, and that there is no record evidence to be had that she has any knowledge of.

That her said husband died on the Sixth day of March one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but that the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794, at the time above stated.

Beaver County Pa

Personally came before the subscribers a Justice of  
the peace in and for said County Thomas Henry and being  
dearly sworn that he knew David Johnston Esq. and  
Catherine his wife since the fall of 1803. the time they came  
to Beaver, in Beaver County to live. That they then lived together  
as man & wife & so continued to live in that place until his death  
which I believe to be the time stated by her in her declaration, that  
there are none in the County sustained a better character, deposited  
his papers, by which he obtained his pension under the  
act of Congress of 1832. and that his papers to draw his pension was  
always executed before him as a Judge of the County. That the old  
lady is widowed, & he made the foregoing declaration before his removal  
since his death & resides in his former residence in the town of Beaver  
known & subscribed before me the 8th Sept  
1838

Thos Henry

Beaver County Pa

I John A. Scroggs Prothonotary of said  
County for the Court of Common Pleas do  
certify that James D. Eakin Esquire before  
whom the above deposition is taken is a Justice  
of the peace duly commissioned & sworn to all

whose official acts full faith & credit is and ought to be  
given. Known & subscribed for testimony thereof I have set  
my hand & appended the seal of said Court at Beaver the 8th  
day of Sept A.D. 1838

John A. Scroggs



That she is now in firm and in good health, and does not  
feel able to appear in open court to make her declarations.

Suorn to and Subscribed on the day and year first above  
written  
John Nesbit associate judge } Catherine Johnson

Deaver County Lk

Personally appeared in open court being the Court of  
Common Pleas for Deaver County Thompson M. Johnston  
Esquire and being duly Suorn with that, he has often heard  
David Johnston Esq. & Catherine his wife before named speak  
of their marriage, and that he has saw the marriage Certificate  
referred to in the declarations hereto made by his mother  
Catherine Johnson. That his father David Johnston died 5<sup>th</sup> March  
1837

Suorn in open Court, the 6<sup>th</sup> day of Sept. 1838  
John A. Seeger as Pro M. Johnson

Personally appeared in open Court William Clarke Esq  
and being duly Suorn with that, he personally knew  
David Johnston Esq. before named as early as the year 1794. That  
he and Catherine Johnson who has made the foregoing declarations  
were then living together as man and wife and that he knew them  
to live together from that time, until he died. That they were  
always

always reputed and believed to have been legally married  
and sustained a good reputation, that his first knowledge  
of them was in Washington County, but he knew them for  
the last thirty years & upwards in Beaver County Penna and  
that he remains his belief known in open Court the 5<sup>th</sup> day of Sept 1838

John A Seroygs Prothy

W. Clarke

Pennsylvania

Beaver County



I John A. Seroygs Prothonotary of  
the Court of Common Pleas in and for  
said County it being the Court before  
whom the said Thompson all Johnston and  
William Clarke Esquires were sworn do certify

that the said Thompson all Johnston & William Clarke  
are of good moral character, whose declarations or statements  
are entitled to full credit & belief.

And it is further certified that John A. Seroygs Esquire  
before whom the said Catherine Johnston made the foregoing  
declaration is one of the Judges of said Court.

In Testimony Whereof I have hereunto set my hand  
and affixed the seal of said Court the 5<sup>th</sup> day of  
September A. D. 1838.

John A Seroygs Pro

BRIEF in the case of  
of *Beaverly*

*David Johnson*  
in the State of *Pennsylvania*  
(Act 7 June, 1832.)

1. Was the declaration made before a Court or a Judge?

*Court*

2. If before a Judge, does it appear that the applicant is disabled by bodily infirmity?

3. How old is he?

*81*

4. State his service, as directed in the form annexed.

Period.	Duration of Service.			Rank.		Names of General and Field Officers under whom he served.
	Years,	Months,	Days.	As a	Gen.	
<i>May</i> In 1776		<i>8</i>		<i>1st Sergeant</i>		<i>Capt. Laid Col. McCallister</i>

5. In what battles was he engaged? *In no battle, was on the march to the Battle of Long Island but the American Army was defeated, before he got up.*

6. Where did he reside when he entered the service? *York County, Penna*

7. Is his statement supported by living witnesses, by documentary proof, by traditionary evidence, by incidental evidence, or by the rolls?

*Traditionary. Blagg's manuscript annexed.*

8. Are the papers defective as to form or authentication? and if so, in what respect?

*Correct*

I Certify that the foregoing statement and the answers agree with the evidence in the case above mentioned.

*James M. Johnson*

Examining Clerk.

State of Pennsylvania, Beaver County ss.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> day of July 1832, Personally came before <sup>and Joseph Kimball</sup> Thomas Fenwick one of the Associate Judges for said County of Beaver, David Johnson Esq<sup>r</sup> aged about eighty one years, who being first duly sworn according to law on his oath makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832.

That he entered in the Service of the United States as a Volunteer in the Pennsylvania line under Captain Lee in the month of May as he believ<sup>g</sup> 1776, started from Beaver County Penn<sup>a</sup> and marched from thence to Philadelphia, and from Philadelphia to Princeton, remained about four months in this service as a volunteer militiaman in the vicinity of New York, and was stationed at a small town called Tergen, where he left the Volunteer Militia and joined what was called the Flying Camp, under Captain John Laid in the Regiment commanded by Colonel M. Calister, that he served in the flying Camp about four months - he was never in any regular battle but was where there was some skirmishing, was marched to go to the battle of Long Island, but the American Army was defeated a short time before the detachment to which he belonged reached there, that he was first Sergeant of both Company's to which he belonged, from his very advanced age infirmity of body, and imperfection of Memory, that he cannot now recollect the duties and particulars of his Service of which he never kept any account or record, that he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his Service, and he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of State any State, -

Question - Where and in what year were you born, and have you any record of your age, and if so where is it -



Answer - I was born in Ireland I think in the Year 1757, never kept any record of my age. ~

Quest - Where were you living when called into the Service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you live now. -

Ans - I came to the United States some time previous to the Revolutionary War, went into the Service in York County Penn<sup>a</sup>, after I left the Service, I lived in Philadelphia, was employed as a teacher there in the College there eight years, moved from thence to Washington Penn<sup>a</sup>, taught in the Academy there two years, from thence I removed to Cannonsburg Pa and taught in what is called Jefferson College for eight years, from thence removed to Charleston (now called Millburg) Virginia, taught there for three or four years, and from thence removed to the town of Beaver, in which I now live, and where I have resided for about twenty eight years.

Quest - How were you called into the Service, were you drafted, or did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom. -

Ans - I volunteered as before stated, first as a Militia man, where I served for four months, and then joined the Flying Camp, where I served four months longer, making in all eight months Service, during which Service I acted in the Capacity of first Sergeant.

Quest - State the names of some of the regular Officers who were with the troops where you served. -

Ans - My mind and memory is so impaired from Old age that I cannot with certainty give the names of the regular Officers, only those whom I have mentioned as being immediately connected with me in the Service. -

Quest - Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service, and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it. -

Answer - I received a discharge from Col. M<sup>c</sup>Callister being then very sick, the discharge I know not what become of it, never thinking it would be of any Service to me. ~

Quest- State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity, & their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution. -

Ans- The Rev<sup>d</sup> William Macclair, James Allison Esq<sup>r</sup> and General Samuel Power.

Sworn to, and Subscribed the day and  
Year aforesaid, David Johnson  
Thos Henry  
Joseph Humphill

I William Macclair, a Clergyman residing in the Town of Beaver do hereby Certify, that I am well acquainted with David Johnson Esq<sup>r</sup> who has Subscribed and Sworn to the above declaration, that I believe him to be eighty one years of age, that he is reputed and believed in the neighbourhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the revolution, and that I concur in that opinion.

Sworn & Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. William Macclair  
Thos Henry  
Joseph Humphill

We Samuel Power and James Allison residents of the Town of Beaver, do hereby Certify, that we have been acquainted with David Johnson Esq<sup>r</sup> who has Subscribed & Sworn to the above declaration, of about twenty years, that we believe him to be about eighty one years of age, that he is reputed and believed in the neighbourhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the revolution, and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn & Subscribed the day Samuel Power  
and year aforesaid. James Allison  
Thos Henry  
Joseph Humphill

No 1457  
The Subscribers Associate Judges in and for the County of Beaver  
do declare their opinion after the investigation of the Matter, and after  
putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War department, that the  
above named David Johnson Esq. was a Militiaman or Volunteer  
in the revolutionary War, and that he performed the Service as stated  
by him in his declaration, and that owing to his advanced age, ill health,  
and bodily inability, he is unable to attend in Court to make his declar-  
ation. And we do further certify and declare that the Rev. William Al-  
-lain who is the regular Pastor of the Presbyterian Church in the Town  
of Beaver, and Samuel Pomer and James Allison Esquires, are credible  
persons, and that their Statements are entitled to credit. -

Thos Henry

Joseph Humphreys

State of Pennsylvania  
Beaver County ss

I James Logan Prothonotary of the Court of Com-  
mon Pleas of Beaver County, do hereby ~~that~~ certify  
that Thomas Henry, & Joseph Humphreys Esquires before  
whom the foregoing declaration was made and affi-  
davit taken was at the time of taking said affidavit  
and certifying said declaration, Associate Judges of the Court of  
Common Pleas of Beaver County, duly sworn to make & swear  
and that full faith and credit is and ought to be given to  
all their official acts = In testimony whereof I have hereunto  
set my hand and the seal of said Court this 24th day of July  
A.D. 1852

James Logan Prothonotary

Beaver County

Personaly came before the Librarian an assaite  
Judge for said Court. & in the presence of  
his made the foregoing declaration to procure a pension  
& being duly Sworn & said, that the words "about four  
months" used by the Scrivener, who prepared his appli-  
cation he intended to be understood to mean not less  
than four months in each term of service, at this  
late period after a lapse of more than fifty years  
I am in a shattered condition both as to mind &  
body; it is impossible for him to give dates, but  
that he feels conscious that his whole period of service  
was not less than eight months

Sworn & Subscribed before  
me the 18<sup>th</sup> day of Aug. 1832. } David Johnson

Thos Henry



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE  ORDER FOR PHOTOCOPIES CONCERNING VETERAN  (See reverse for explanation)	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE	
	RECEIPT NO.	DATE
	SEARCHER	FILE DESIGNATION

435 47

6-5-69

M. L.

Johnson, David  
W 5009

REV

1180  
Pittsburgh Agency  
David Johnson  
Beaver Co. in the State of Pittsburgh Agency  
he was a Sergeant in the company commanded  
by Captain Laird of the Regt. commanded  
by Col. McCallister in the Pennsylvania  
line for 8 months.

Inscribed on the Roll of Pittsburgh Agency  
at the rate of \$40 Dollars ~~annually~~ per annum  
to commence on the 1st day of March, 1831.

Certificate of Pension issued the 29<sup>th</sup> day of October  
1832 and sent to Pensioner  
Beaver P<sup>o</sup>.

Accrues to 1st of Sept. 1832	60.00
Semi-annual allowance ending 4 <sup>th</sup> Mch <sup>y</sup> 1833	20.00
	<u>\$ 80.00</u>

{ Revolutionary Claim,  
Act June 7, 1832. }

Recorded by *McCuffie* Clerk  
Book *D* Vol. *2* Page *1*

Pennsylvania, 529.

Catherine Johnson, the  
widow of David Johnson, do  
who was a pensioner under the Act of 7 June 18  
and who died on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 18  
of Beaver Co. in the State of Penn  
who was a Sergeant in the company command  
by Captain Laird of the regt. command  
by Col. McCallister in the Penn  
line for 8 months.

Inscribed on the Roll of Pittsburgh, Pa  
at the rate of \$40 Dollars ~~annually~~ per annum  
to commence on the 1st day of March, 1831.  
7<sup>th</sup> March 1837.

Certificate of Pension issued the 28<sup>th</sup> day of Sept  
1838, & sent to Hon. Thomas  
Henry, Beaver, Penna.

Accrues to the 1st of Sept '38 \$59.67  
Semi-annual allowance ending 4<sup>th</sup> Mch<sup>y</sup> 20.00

\$ 79.67

{ Act July 7,  
1838. }

Recorded by *McCunley* Clerk  
Book *A* Vol. *2* Page *155*

State of New York  
County of Beaver  
On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, A.D. 1843, personally appeared before me James C. Eakin one of the Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Beaver, Catherine Johnson, a resident of the Borough of Beaver in said County, aged seventy seven years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed the 3<sup>d</sup> March 1843, granting pensions to widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary War. That she is the widow of David Johnson who was a Sergeant in the Army of the Revolution that he served in Captains William Rife and Squads company of Infantry in Col. Mifflin's Regiment, That she received a pension at the rate of thirty dollars per annum under the Act of Aug 7. 1835.

She further declares that she is still a widow.  
Sworn & subscribed on the  
day & year above written, before me

J D Eakin  
J. P.

Catherine Johnson

John Johnson of Ipswich and Andover, Mass.

There are two genealogies of this family here in the Detroit Library. I have failed to record the compiler of the first one and the 2nd. is by Rev. William W. Johnson. Also there is sketch in American Ancestry, Vol. II, page 88. I think I have sent you the record of John<sup>1</sup> with names of children.

Thomas<sup>2</sup> Johnson, son of John and Susanna

b. 1631

m. 7-5-1657 Mary Holt, dau. of Nicholas and Elizabeth

b. 10-6-1638 d. 11-15-1700

m. 6-9-1703 (Int.)

7-14-1703 Damaris Marshall of Billerica, widow of John Marshall (her 3rd. marriage)

d. 2-15-1719

Ch.: Mary

b. 2-11-1659 m. Return Johnson

Susanna b. 10-4-1662

Phoebe b. 1-3-1664 m. Thomas Russell-dau. Phoebe married Henry Farnham

John b. 2-28-1667 m. (1) Eleanor Ballard

(2) Mary Farnham

(3) Anna (Farnham) Russ

Thomas b. 10-19-1670 m. Hannah Stone

James b. 2-4-1672 m. Elizabeth (Farnham) Peters

Peter b. 8-8-1675 m. Deborah Farnham

Jemima b. 1-1-1678

Penelope b. 1679 Killed by Indians 3-4-1698

Josiah b. 10-29-1683 m. Annis Chandler

Mary<sup>3</sup> Johnson, dau. of Thomas and Mary (Holt)

b. 2-11-1659

m. 7-7-1673 Return Johnson (Very unlikely at age of 14) *prob married in*

b. d. 3-15-1706/7 Hefield, Mass.

d. ?

Ch. Mary

b. 10-3-1673

m. Parachias Herendeen-Samuel Sadey

Elizabeth b. 10-1681

m. Jeremiah Plympton

Jemima b. 9-16-1683

m. John Pelton

Sarah b.

m. John Allen

(Your record)

John<sup>3</sup> Johnson, son of Thomas and Mary (Holt)

b. 2-28-1667 Andover, Mass.

m. 9-13-1683 Eleanor Ballard, dau. of Joseph and Elizabeth

b. 2-24-1672 d. 11-21-1707

m. 5-18-1708 Mary Farnham, dau. of Thomas and Elizabeth (Sibborne)

b. 3-24-1666 d. 5-17-1723 no issue

m. 7-9-1723 Anna (Farnham) Russ, dau. of John and Rebecca (Kent) widow of Thomas Russ

b. 12-11-1677 d. 12-31-1743

d. 3-26-1741

Ch. John

b. 2-24-1690

Tabitha b. 1-4-1693

Lydia b. 5-26-1695 m. 2-4-1718 Joseph Dane

Eleanor b. 12-26-1697

Phoebe b. 2-2-1700

Joseph b. 1702 d. 1702

(ch.) b. 1703

Joshua b. 1704 d. 1707

Sarah b. 1705 d. 1707

Thomas<sup>2</sup> Johnson, son of Thomas and Mary (Belt)

b. 1-10-1803 Andover, Mass.

d. 1-10-1803 Elizabeth (Howard) Peters, son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Hibbard) and sister of John Peters who was killed by Indians 1-1-1803.

b. 1-10-1803 d. 1-1-1816

m. 1-22-1816 Sarah Smith of Concord who died 12-1-1818

d.?

(1)

Elizbeth b. 1-17-1805 d. 1-17-1817-Drowned in Concord River

James b. 1-18-1805 d. 1818

Andrew b. Oct. 1805 m. Hannah Chandler

Peter b. 1807

Orville b. 1808 m. Hannah Gentry

Abigail b. 1809 m. Thomas Huntington

John b. Feb. 1810 m. Sarah Jones

Joseph b. 1811 d. 1812

(2)

Sarah b. 1813

James b. 1814

Peter b. 1815

Joseph<sup>2</sup> Johnson, son of Thomas and Mary (Belt)

b. 10-19-1803 Andover, Mass.

m. 1-13-1811 Ann H. Miller, son of Thomas and Mary (Peters)

b. 1-10-1803

d. 10-15-1877

Res. to Lancaster (Harvard), Mass.

Ch. Ann b. 1-10-1811 d. Concord Church

David b. 1-10-1813 m. Mary Jones-Lady

(Ann.) b. 1-10-1815 died young

Mary b. 11-10-1816 m. Jonathan Bright

Joseph b. 1-10-1817 m. 1838

Isaac b. 7-10-1818 m. Lydia Hester (Elizabeth) Ann

Joseph b. 1-10-1819 m. Sarah

Isaac Johnson, son of Joseph and Ann (Chandler)

b. 1-10-1819 Andover, Mass.

m. 1-10-1846 Maria Ryan who died Nov. 1875 in Middle, N.H.

m. 1-10-1839 Elizabeth Ann

(You will see I am inclined to agree with you about his 1st marriage)

Isaac and Lydia joined the church in Westminster, Mass. and in Middle by letter

in 1848. He and his four sons were in the Rev. Army at about by rolls of N.H.

and were in the Battle of Cedar Hill.

Ch. Isaac b. 11-10-1841 m. Mary Jones

Sarah b. 1-10-1843 m. David Jones

Lydia b. 11-10-1845 m. William Jones

Ann b. 1-10-1847

Thomas b. 1849

David b. 1851 m. Emily Jones

Michael b. 1853

Isaac b. 1-10-1855 m. Sarah Jones

Ann b. 11-10-1857 m. Elizabeth Jones

Ch. of Isaac, Ann were buried in Middle. He moved to Mass, N.H. and

his wife, Isaac and Emily b. 1-10-1858. Since you have this record I will not

say.



Isaac Johnson, son of Isaac and Lydia (Hall)

b. 11-1-1778

d. 1-1-1798 Mary Barker

d. 1798

bur. Boone, N.H.

Ch. Stephen b. 1-1-1778 d. young

Mary b. 1-1-1778 d. "

Stephen b. Jan. 1778

Mary b. 1-1-1778

Lydia b. 1-1-1778 d. 1-15-1798 Benjamin Barnum

Abigail b. 11-27-1783

Isaac b. 1-17-1788

Sally b. 1-17-1788

Lydia Johnson, dau. of Isaac and Lydia (Hall)

b. 10-31-1780

d. 1-1-1798 Benjamin Harvey

d. 1798

bur. Northampton, Ver.

Ch. Lydia b. 11-29-1780 m. Ebenezer Gooding

Benjamin b. 1-1-1781 m. Mary Clark

Rebecca b. 1-1-1781 m. \_\_\_\_\_

Eliza b. 1781 m. \_\_\_\_\_

Here is much more data but I have only tried to send what you are interested in. Let me know if there is anything else you need.

As for Capt. Ebenezer Johnson of Wells, Ver. and Middlebury, Ver., I think I have traced him back to Norwich West Farms, near Norwich, Conn. also that he was a desc. of John of Andover, Mass. and, if the latter is true, through a son named John who isn't in the record but would have been the youngest son.

The History of Franklin, Conn.--Abiel Woodward, N.H. states "John Johnson was at Norwich West Farms as early as 1677. His place was in Lebanon Valley and his dwelling upon the site at now occupied by the mansion of John A. Hastings. William and Benjamin were probably his sons and Isaac was grandson."

Ch. From Genealogy and Town of Norwich, Conn.:

Isaac b. 11-7-1687 d. young

John b. 1-2-1688

Jeremy b. 1-10-1688

Abigail b. 1-1-1688/1

Benjamin b. 1-5-1688/1 m. Deborah Thorne

Ruth b. 1-11-1688 m. Ebenezer Baker

William b. 1-18-1688 m. Hannah Stoddard

John b. 1-2-1688/1/00

Daniel b. 1-11-1688 m. Sarah Gentry

Eliza b. 1-1-1688

Isaac b. 1-1-1688

William Johnson, son of John and \_\_\_\_\_

b. 1-1-1697

d. 1-1-1798 Hannah Stoddard, dau. of Thomas and Deborah (Hayce)

d. Sept. 1798

6.3

Joseph<sup>3</sup> Johnson, son of Joseph and Hannah(Tenney)

b.10-13-1667 Haverhill, Mass.

m. 6-30-1693 Hannah Barker

Ch. Joseph b. 5-17-1694 d. 1694  
 Mary b. 4-23-1695  
 James b. 8-25-1696  
 Samuel b.12- 3-1701 d. 1-2-1707/8  
 Jonathan b. 6-16-1704  
 Rebecca b. 6-10-1707  
 David b. 4- 9-1710  
 Zachariah b.12- 0-1712  
 Daniel b.12- 6-1715

17077 311-169

Joseph<sup>3</sup> Johnson, son of Th. and Elizabeth(Storey)

bp.2-13-1636/7 Charlestown, Mass.

m. 1-19-1664 Mary Dextlie d. 3-22-1664/5

m. 1666 Hannah Tenney, dau. of Thomas of Rowley, Mass.

d.11-12-1714

Ch. Joseph b.10-13-1667 m. Hannah Barker

(2)

William b. 1-1-1668

Thomas b.12-11-1670 m. Elizabeth Mayo

Zachariah b. 4-18-1677 d. 1673

John b.11- 9-1673 m. Susannah Brown

Hannah b. 6-10-1675 m. Nathaniel Osgood

Mary b. 6- 4-1677 m. John<sup>3</sup> Johnson, son of John and Elizabeth(Maverick)

Jonathan b. 4-24-1679 Killed by Indians 1/63/4

Elizabeth b.2-26-1680

Nathaniel b. 3-1-1683 m. Ruth Gille

Zachariah b. 3-26-1687

Probate Records of Salem  
15175 31-10- Samuel Johnson of Rowley

Samuel<sup>4</sup> Johnson, son of Samuel and Frances(Nixon)  
b. 11-11-1699  
m. 1-29-1739/40 Rachel Boynton b.1716 d. 2-3-1799 as 83  
d. 12-26-1773 as 75  
Ch. Hannah b.12- 2-1740 unm.  
Samuel b. 6-20-1742  
Rachel b. 3-11-1744  
  
Samuel b. 4-22-1743  
Mass b. 2- 3-1751

15036 312-410 Hannah Johnson of Rowley, widow

Capt. John<sup>2</sup> Johnson, son of John of New Haven, Conn.  
b. ab. 1630 England  
m.12-6- 1685 Hannah Crosby, dau. of Anthony and Constance  
b.1638 d. 12-25-1717  
d. 1-29-1739/6  
Removed to Rowley, Mass. 1651

Ch. Hannah b.20;9th. mo. 1656 m. Thomas Palmer  
Elizabeth b. 1-12-1671/60 m. James Bailey  
John b. 4; 1st. mo. 1685 d. 1686  
John b. 1-31-1687/3 d. 1693  
Samuel b. 4-4-1671 m. Frances Nixon(See above)

15061 312-267/10 John Johnson of Haverill

John<sup>3</sup> Johnson, son of John and Elizabeth(Maverick)  
b. 12- 3-1697  
m. 7- 8-1683 Mary Bondell of Charlestown d. 3-23-1688  
m. 2-13-1688/9 Lydia Clement d. 10-11-1690  
m. 2-17-1697 Mary Johnson, dau. of Joseph and Hannah(Tenney)  
Ch. (1)  
John b. 6-12-1683 m. Sarah Johnson  
Thomas b.12- 4-1685 m. Ruth Bradley-Rachel Orinway  
William b.12-12-1687 d. 1688  
(2)  
Jediah b.12- 7-1689 m. James Chase  
Nathaniel b.10-3 -1691 m. Hephizabel Gille  
Mary b. 1-6 -1693/4 m. Samuel Roweltine  
Sarah b. 2-12-1695/6 m. Timothy Dustin  
(3)  
Ruth b. 2-21-1697/8 d. 1701  
Elizabeth b. 4-17-1699  
Timothy b.10-10-1701  
Rebecca b. 2- 6-1703 d. 1703  
Maverick b. 4-14-1704 d. 1704  
Hannah b. 3-10-1705/7  
William b.10-28-1709 m. Lucy E. Ingalls  
Abigail b. 3-10-1711/12  
Samuel b. 3-17-1715

# Johnson Family

The Johnsons, Dye's and Hixon's came together from New Jersey to Virginia about 1769 or 1770.

Rut Johnson, Sr came from Holland with his brother (brother's name unknown) and settled on Long Island. Brother later went to Tennessee, - no later record.

Rut Sr. and his wife Ann bought a tract of land near Princeton, N.J., sometime before 1709 and settled there. He died in 1749.

There is a story that when the Johnsons, Dye's and Hixon's left N.J. for Va., they took a cow with them so that the children might have milk on the trip.

JA1-a-1 Rut Johnson, Sr. Died in 1749. in N.J.

Married (in N.J.)

Miss Ann ----- ?

Children

JB2-a-2 John

JB2-a-3 Garret or Gerard

JB2-a-4 Mary

JB2-a-5 Christian

Another daughter

2 other daughters

Married John Schenck

" ----- Smith

" ----- Covenhoven

Names unknown

JB2-a-2 John Johnson

Married

1st Wife Catherine Updyke

Children

Died in 1752. Son of Rut Johnson, Sr

Daughter of Lawrence Updyke

JB3-a-1 John, Jr.

5 daughters

names unknown

2nd Wife Mary Fisher

Children

JB3-a-2 Andrew

Aug. 1959



1039-1 John Johnson, Jr.

Died in 1800

Married

1040-1 Elizabeth Hoff

Children

1040-1 Catherine

1040-2 Sam 3rd

1040-3 Elijah

1040-4 Jesse

1040-5 Abel

{ Assume he was the Jesse Johnson who  
went to Ark with Albert J. Dye in 1836

2nd Wife Sarah Furman

Children

1040-6 Enoch

1040-7 Caleb

1040-8 Ralph

1040-9 Sarah

1040-10 Lewis

1040-11 Fanna

1040-8 Ralph Johnson

Married

?

Children

1050-1 Henry Drake

1050-2 Daughter

name unknown

1050-1 Henry Drake Johnson

Married

?

Children

1060-1 Alvina

1060-2 Augustine

1060-3 Sarah

1060-4 Josiah Furman

1060-5 William Young

1060-6 Lydia

1060-7 Henry Paul

Aug. 1959

JB-2-43 Garret (or Gerard) Johnson Son of Rut. Johnson, Jr.  
Married

----- ?  
Children

103-b-1 John

103-b-2 Rut, Jr

Came to Va. with Dye's & Hixon's, about 1769-1770  
not certain of this name

103-b-3 Joseph

103-b-8 Rut Johnson, Jr.

Married in N.J.

Son of Garret J. Came to Va. with Dye's  
and Hixon's, about 1769 or 1770.

1<sup>st</sup> Wife Miss - - - Morrill.

It is believed he was older than John Dye, Jr.  
He died before Nov. 2, 1824.

Children

104-c-1 Rut, 3<sup>rd</sup>

Married Mary Florence { Rut, 3<sup>rd</sup> came to Va.  
with his father

104-c-2 Elizabeth

" Wm Hixon, Son of Benj. Hixon, Jr.

104-c-3 Judith

{ Married Jacob Luyker. Marriage disapproved.  
" had 4 Children, names unknown.

104-c-4 Jane

4 Other Children, names unknown.

2<sup>nd</sup> Wife Lydia Hixon @

Daughter of Benj. Hixon, Jr. & Sarah Hutchinson

Children

Both she & Rut, Jr. had been previously married  
in N.J. and had children there.

104-c-5 Benjamin, Born 1792

104-c-6 Ann Hixon. Married John Hixon Dye. (born 1797 Died Sept. 21, 1861.)

104-c-7 Mary " Mr. - - - Collins. Went to Ky.

104-c-8 Sally " Moses Cockerille. (Cousin Josie's grandmother?)

104-c-9 Joseph " Emily Elizabeth Wheatley (born Aug. 12, 1803 died Jan. 24, 1852)  
(Married Dec. 27, 1843)

Children not for certain listed in order of birth.

Benj. was unmarried. Died Nov. 26, 1881, in 89th yr., per tombstone

Emil J. J. has copy of "for Sale" ad. of Rut, Jr.'s farm in N.J. in 1769  
before he came to Va. He purchased the farm now known  
as Clover Hill Farm, near Manassas, presently owned and  
operated by direct descendants.

Clover Hill farm purchased Sept. 7, 1770.

Rut, Jr. and Lydia were married after 1770.



Johnson

JD-4-7 Mary Johnson

Daughter of Ruf. Johnson &amp; Lydia Hixon

Married

Mr. - - - Collins

Children

JE-5-d-1 Mary Virginia

Married John Nutt - Ch.

{	Mary Belle
	Norma Emma
	Wm Oscar
	Mary Annie
	Ray Johnson

JE-5-d-2 James Oscar

" Sarah Ann Wells - "

JE-5-d-3 Isora Eliza

" Merritt Alloway

Children: Aubrey John Died Young

Mary Elizabeth " "

Althea Married John Elden - 3 children

Nannie B. Died young

Samuel Married Mary Hardesty - 2 "

Virginia " Wm Tyler

JD-4-8 Sally Johnson

Daughter of Ruf Johnson &amp; Lydia Hixon

Married

Moses Cockrell

Children

JE-5-e-1 Mary

Married Mr. - - Birkhead

They were married in Ky.  
per letter Jan. 10, 1896  
from H. C. Dye to Albert J. Dye

Children

Joseph Lewis

Moses Eli

Mary Elizabeth

Mr. Lloyd

Children

Elma

Lula

Ottie

Emma

Curt

Kenneth

Lee - married Charlie (Pud) Brawner

JE-5-e-2 Lucy married

1<sup>st</sup> H. Mr. Thurman, - several children2<sup>nd</sup> H. Mr. Coleman - Daughter, - Laura

JE-5-e-3 Jesse

married twice, - names unknown

JE-5-e-4 Johnson - Married as below -

1<sup>st</sup> Wite Elmina Weedon - Ch. Josephine, - m. Charlie Brawner

{	Grace
	Elmina
	Margaret
	Charlie (Pud)

2<sup>nd</sup> " Mary Johnson 1 ch. Mary3<sup>rd</sup> " Orna Dearing4<sup>th</sup> " Fannie Carter

Benjamin - Half brother of Josephine, above Married Ann Brawner

14 children - Among them - Ferd. Lived on farm adjoining Wilcox's

Benjamin

## Johnson

JE-5-9 Joseph Johnson

Son of Ruf. J. Jr.

Married

Emily Elizabeth Wheatley

(Her sister married Richard Nutt Johnson, a cousin of Joseph Johnson. Not known how he fitted into the Johnson family. He lived in Fauquier Co.)

Children

JE-5-1 Sarah Elizabeth

un married. Teacher. B. Oct. 14, 1844 - D. Jan. 1916

JE-5-2 George William

B. Oct. 22, 1845 - Died 1914  
Married Mrs. Hannah Lomb Lindsay

JE-5-3 Anne Miller

un married Born Oct. 13, 1840 - D. Feb. 6, 1928

JE-5-4 Emma Josephine

Died young

Another

" in infancy

JE-5-5 Joseph Benjamin

Married Fannie Simpson

JE-5-5 Joseph Benjamin Johnson Born Mar. 26, 1852, Died Apr. 4, 1921

Married Oct. 15, 1883

Fannie Simpson

Born Nov. 8, 1852, Died Feb. 7, 1930.  
Daughter of James Hendley Simpson & Emily Dye

Children

JE-6-1 Emily James

un married. Teacher Born

JE-6-2 Joseph Hendley

Born June 21, 1886 <sup>un-married</sup> Killed in accident Oct. 2, 1909 in Tenn.

JE-6-3 Wheatley M.

" Feb. 2, 1888, Married Dorothy Haydon

JE-6-4 Joseph Benj. Jr.

" May 23, 1892

JE-6-5 Elizabeth French

Teacher, Rock Hill, S. C.

JE-6-3 Wheatley M. Johnson

Married Apr. 26, 1918

Dorothy Charlotte Haydon

Children

JE-7-1 Wheatley Marshall

Born Dec. 9, 1920 Married Shirley Wright

JE-7-2 Lucy Traies

" July 15, 1922 - Married Howard Pison. No children

JE-7-3 Joseph Benj. 3rd

" Aug. 18, 1924 Unmarried

JE-7-4 Edith Frances

" Apr. 5, 1926 Do

JE-7-5 William Hendley

" Aug. 27, 1927 Do



Johnson

JG-7-a-1 Wheatley Marshall Johnson

Married

Shirley Wright

Children

JH-8-a-1 Michael Floyd

JG-7-a-3 Joseph Benjamin Johnson

Married

June 1936

1<sup>st</sup> Wife Sarah Pitts

Died

Daughter of John H. & Jane C. Pitts

Children

JH-8-b-1 James (Jimmie)

Born Sept. 29, 1937 unmarried

JH-8-b-2 David C.

" Nov. 3, 1939 "

2<sup>nd</sup> Wife Alice Webb

Children

JH-8-b-3 Daniel Webb

Born in 1949. ?

John 5072

JF6-2 George William Johnson. Son of Joseph & Emily Eliz. Wheatley.  
Married 1868 Born Oct. 22, 1845. Died Oct. 28, 1914

Mrs. Hannah Lamb Lindsley. " Aug. 1, 1838 " Jan. 14, 1921.

Children

When married she had a son, Ernest Lindsley

JF6-b1 Robert Lee Born Nov. 10, 1868 Died Oct. 30, 1934

JF6-b2 Minnie Chaffee " Oct. 27, 1870

JF6-b3 Willis Love " July 29, 1874 Died Oct. 20, 1920. Unmarried

JF6-b4 Maud Minton " Dec. 16, 1872 " July 22, 1950

JF6-b5 Ralph Valentine " Feb. 14, 1879 " March 11, 1959.

JF6-b1 Robert Lee Johnson

Married

Emma Dawson Born Apr. 1, 1873 Died Oct. 23, 1951.

Children

JG7-b1 George Dawson Born Married Lulu Hixon

JG7-b2 Myrtle " Mar. 6, 1896. Died Apr. 12, 1951. " Hinton Washington  
NO CHILDREN

JG7-b3 Gladys " " Rod. Tilgham

JG7-b1 George Dawson Johnson

Married

Lulu Hixon

Children

JH8-c1 Nancy Kathrin (Or Kathryn)

JG7-b3 Gladys Johnson } Live in Pomona, Calif.

Married

Rod. Tilgham

Children

None

Aug. 1959



Johnson

JF6-82 Minnie Chaffee Johnson

Married

Egbert Harrell Son of John Harrell

Children

JG7-C1 Mildred Lee Born Sept. 22, 1895

JG7-C2 Maurice Wilbert " Jan. 1898

JG7-C3 Georgia Remington " Mar. 1904

JG7-C1 Mildred Lee Harrell

Married

Bower Beale

Children

JH8-d-1 Page Born

JH8-d-2 Georgia Lee "

JH8-d-3 James (Jimmie) " unmarried

JH8-d-4 Mary Ellen "

JH8-d-1 Page Beale

Married

Thetma Fondurant

Children

JK9-d-1 Nancy

JH8-e-1 Georgia Lee Beale

Married

Clarence Brogan

Children

JK9-b-1 Maurice

JH8-d-1 Mary Ellen Beale

Married

George Hettyer, Jr.

Children

Aug. 1950

Johnson

JF-6-bf Maud Minton Johnson

Married June 2, 1903

Gustavus Ludwell Hutchinson. Born Mar 25, 1849 Died Oct 12, 1943

Children

JG-7-d4 Julian

unmarried

JF-6-b3 Ralph Valentine Johnson

Married Oct. 19, 1925

Dora Harrell (daughter of John Harrell)

Children

JG-7-e1 Eugene Berkeley

JG-7-e1 Eugene Berkeley Johnson

Married

Corrine Tyres

Children

JH-8-T-1 Margaret Ann

JH-8-T-1 Margaret Ann Johnson

Married

----- ?

Children

JK-9-C1 Ralph Eugene Born 1949-?

Daughter

Much of the information shown was supplied by  
Miss Emily J. Johnson from her notes and records  
collected over the years through search and conversations  
with older members of the family and relatives.

David E. Gulick

August 1959



## Cemetery Record.

The following are buried in the Johnson private Cemetery at Clover Hill Farm, near Manassas, Va.

The information was taken the tombstones.

The wording on the stones is as given below.

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|   | <p>1. Joseph Johnson<br/>Departed this life Jan. 24, 1852<br/>Age: 49 yrs, 5 mos, 12 days.</p>        | <p>Note.<br/>He would be the son of<br/>Rut Johnson, Jr. &amp; Lydia Hixon</p> |
| 2 | <p>In Memory of<br/>Benj. Johnson<br/>Died Nov. 26, 1881<br/>In his 89th year</p>                     | <p>He was son of<br/>Rut Johnson, Jr. &amp; Lydia Hixon</p>                    |
| 3 | <p>Our Mother<br/>Emily Eliza.<br/>wife of Joseph Johnson<br/>Born Oct 2, 1823. Died May 20, 1901</p> | <p>She was Emily Elizabeth Wheatley</p>  |
| 4 | <p>There two small stones for the<br/>two children of Joseph &amp; Emily</p>                          |  |

The same numbering system applies with the Dye Record except with prefix "J."

Aug 1962

**The Josiah Johnson Family Bible**

You may remember reading the article entitled "A Tale of Two Sisters" about Miss Myrtle Feimster and Aunt Sally who lived across the street from me when I lived on Hillcrest Drive. The article was about Aunt Sally's Bible and her family. And you do remember me mentioning that my Mama kept all sorts of things in the most unlikely places, don't you? Well, anyway, you do not know how close I came to throwing away what I thought was just another old molded pair of shoes. "Acrobat Shoes for Boys and Girls" guaranteed by Good Housekeeping; size 9D, item # Y9171C at a cost of \$5.95 was the info on the old discolored and faded shoe box. But you know me, I'm inquisitive enough to peek in the box. To my surprise, I found a leather bound Bible with the words "American Bible Society" stamped in the center of the front cover. The cover itself was torn and the pages were frayed. The front cover was sewn to the back with long stitches. I opened the front cover and found in faded ink "Josiah Johnson's" name written above the printed words "Holy Bible". The last name in the Bible gave me a clue about where my mama got this Bible. I'm sure it came from Miss Feimster or her sister Sallie Feimster Stimpson.

The info from the Bible follows:

Title Page:

HOLY BIBLE  
CONTAINING THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS  
TRANSLATED OUT OF  
THE ORIGINAL TONGUES  
AND WITH THE  
FORMER TRANSLATIONS DELEGENTLY COMPARED AND  
REVISED  
STEREOTYPED  
FOR THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY  
BY D. AND G. BRUCE

PRINTED BY D. FANSHAR, NO. 22 SL.....[illegible]  
NEW YORK

.....  
1827

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**The Josiah Johnson Family Bible****Frontspiece:**

Josiah Johnson's (Holy Bible)  
Sally Johnson was born 17<sup>th</sup> Febr 1774  
Marinda Johnson was borne 24<sup>th</sup> Aug 1817  
Josiah Johnson was born 25<sup>th</sup> March 1781

In the center of the Bible between the Old and New Testaments:

Josiah Johnson was born 25<sup>th</sup> March 1781  
Sarah Johnson wife of Josiah Johnson was bon 17<sup>th</sup> Fb 1774  
Eleanor M. Johnson was born 24<sup>th</sup> of Aug 1817  
Sarah Johnson wife of J. J. departed this life 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 1852

Next page:

Sarah Elizabeth Godbey daughter of Jos. P. and E. M. Godbey was born  
2<sup>nd</sup> day of Febr 1840  
Harriet Temperance Godbey was born 20<sup>th</sup> day of Febr 1842  
Wm. H. C. Godbey was bor 21<sup>st</sup> May 1844  
James M. Godbey was bor Jue 16 1846

Next page:

Ann P. Howard Daughter of William and Sarah Howard was born 20<sup>th</sup>  
July 1797  
G. G. Howard was bon 25<sup>th</sup> June 1799  
Alvin Howard was born 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 1801  
Harriet Johnson was born 22<sup>nd</sup> Decr 1809  
Eleanor M. Johnson was born 24<sup>th</sup> August 1817

Next page:

Alvin Howard departed this life December the 8<sup>th</sup> 1843  
being 44 years and 25 days old

Eleanor M Godbey departed this life Sept the 16<sup>th</sup> 1849

**The Josiah Johnson Family Bible**

James P. Godbey departed this life August 21<sup>st</sup> 1849

John Ab Feimster died Mr 3<sup>rd</sup> 1863

Y. W. Gaither May 1863

On the pages at the end of the Bible:

Saly Jonson Book Price 65

Cents March the Twnty 25

Next page:

William Howard

Marenda Johnson

Sarah E. Godbey was born 2<sup>nd</sup> Febr 184?

Harriet F. Godbey was born 20<sup>th</sup> Febr 1842 or 43

---

Wm. H. C. Godby was born 21<sup>st</sup> May 1844

Eleanor Marinda Johnson

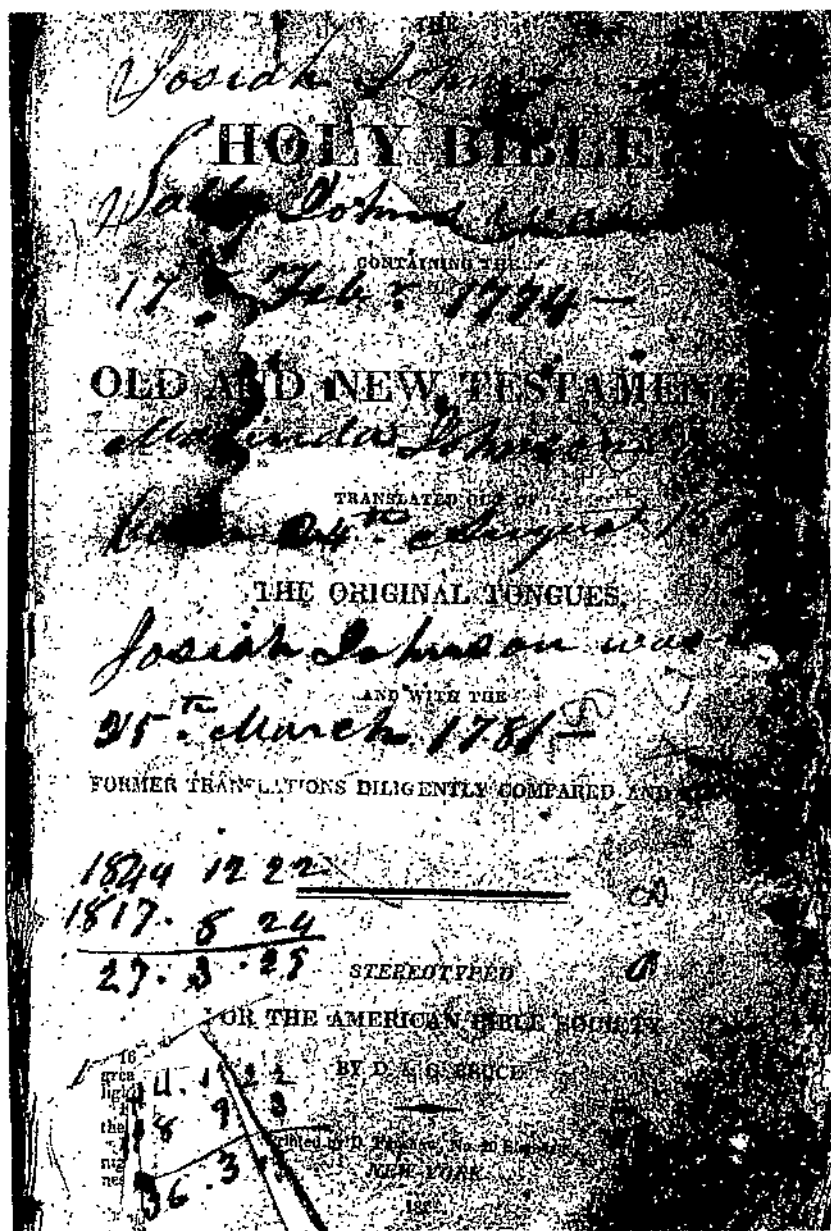
B Book price 65 cents

March the twenty 25 1832

Photo copies of the Bible pages follow:



## The Josiah Johnson Family Bible



## The Josiah Johnson Family Bible

Josiah Johnson  
was born 25<sup>th</sup> March  
1781

Sarah Johnson wife  
of Josiah Johnson  
was born 17<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
1774

Eleanor M. Johnson  
was born 24<sup>th</sup> of  
August 1817

Sarah Johnson wife  
of Josiah Johnson departed  
15<sup>th</sup> September 1862

## The Josiah Johnson Family Bible

Martha Elizabeth Goddard  
Daughter of Jos. P. &  
E. C. Goddard was born  
2<sup>nd</sup> day of Feb. 1840

Harriet Temperance  
Goddard was born 20<sup>th</sup>  
day of Feb. 1842

William H. C.  
Goddard was born  
21<sup>st</sup> May 1844

James M. Goddard was  
born June 16 1846

Anna D. Howard  
Daughter of William and  
Sarah Howard was  
born 20<sup>th</sup> July 1797

G. G. Howard was  
born 25<sup>th</sup> June 1799

Alvin Howard was  
born 14<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1801

Harriet Johnson was  
born 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. 1807

Eleanor M. Johnson  
was born 24<sup>th</sup> Aug.  
1817

The Josiah Johnson Family Bible

Alvin Howard  
departed this life  
December the 8<sup>th</sup>  
1843 - being 44 years  
and 25 days old

He was born at the  
old place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of 1799  
and was 44 years old  
at the time of his death  
on the 8<sup>th</sup> of 1843

John A. ...  
Nov 3rd 1863  
J. W. ...

THE  
NEW TESTAMENT

OF OUR  
LORD AND SAVIOUR

JESUS CHRIST,

1843-12-8  
1807/11/11/12

TRANSLATED OUT OF  
THE ORIGINAL GREEK,

AND WITH THE  
FORMER TRANSLATIONS DILIGENTLY COMPARED AND REVISED.

STEREOTYPED  
FOR THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

BY D. & G. BRUCE.

NEW-YORK,  
1821.

came  
and was  
rejoiced  
one into the  
world Mary  
worshipped  
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is gold,  
a dream  
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2002





Nephew to Professor John, Crouner William Johnston of the Battle of Brig-O-Dee, served briefly as informer for James the First, was knighted and placed in the Ulster Plantation by James Hamilton (Lord Claneboye). Thomas Johnson was "Clerk of Deliveries" of the Ordinance until 1604.

The wide territory north of the Forth, known in early times as Pictland gave many emigrants to Ulster. It is known that a good many years later than the actual Plantation under King James a large number of people came from the region that lies between Aberdeen and Inverness, the ancient province of Moray. In his book of "Travels", Sir William Brereton stated that in July 1635, from Irvine, Ayrshire, above 10,000 persons have within two years past left for Ulster, that they have come by, 100 to 300, and shipped for Ulster at one tide.

After three generations of favor, this family also appears to have totally defected from Cromwell and the Protectorate rule, and these Johnsons fled to America.

Readers with proven heritage will enjoy the published accounts of the activities of their diverging ancestry through several centuries. Readers with presumptive heritage may find additional motivation to prove these connections. As a reference book the individual seeking a specific ancestor will be aided by the identification of many known and proven lineages.

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Lorand V. Johnson M.D., F.A.S. (Scot)  
17600 Parkland Drive,  
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

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The Orange County California  
Genealogical Society

When the Annandale Chief was outlawed for the Battle of Dryfe Sands, Professor John Johnston received a grant of a third of the benefices in Annandale from James VI on condition that he took "Godlie ministers in the parish Kirks". The arms represented on the seal of John Johnston following this appointment are the arms of Annandale—a saltire, on a chief three cushions—are those of the Johnstons of Annandale prior to 1694, and are surmounted by two stars on either side of the letter M (Magister). The initial letters of Johnston's name I.I. are placed one on either side of the shield. A star was the crest of the Johnstones of Annandale until replaced in 1694 by a winged spur.

Professor John Johnston was of the Cadet line of Crimond, descended from Sir Gilbert Johnston, five generations earlier. Sir Gilbert married first, Elizabeth Vass of Meny, and her eldest son, Gilbert married Elene Lichton and carried on the Johnston of Caskieben line. Gilbert Johnston married second Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Lord Forbes, second Baron Pitsligo, and her son William Johnston originated the Cadet line of Crimond (of Bendoch) and took the arms of 'Pheon' and the affronte' lion (facing the spectator as used in Scotland). A son of Gilbert and Elizabeth Forbes, Alexander Johnston received letters of denization in England 1480 as Alexander Johnson. It is assumed without proof that English Johnson families using the Pheon and Affronte' lion are descendants of Alexander. As indicated by English coats of arms using the Pheon and/or lion, most individuals of the Crimond family did go to England.

Sir William Johnston, Laird of Crimond married second, a daughter of Sir John Keith of Auquhorsk, and her eldest son Robert became Laird of Cayesmille. Grandson Sir Robert Johnston of Cayesmille married Janet Johnston of Caskieben, went to England and in 1601 possessed the Prebend of Sutton Regiscum Buckingham in England. He went back to Scotland to join in the train of King James VI after the death of Queen Elizabeth. Second son of Sir Robert Johnston was Alderman Robert Johnston of London, Deputy Treasurer of the Virginia Company, who resided at St. Mary LeBow and who died in 1626.

Rev. John Johnston of Crimond was first Professor of Theology at St. Andrews University and friend and schoolmate of James Hamilton, (later Viscount Clanboyne) who placed many Johnstons in responsible positions in the Ulster Plantation of the Virginia Company. Nephew Edward Johnston, younger, merchant in Edinburgh, was surety in the application of Robert Irving for 2,000 acres as the names appear in the first list of Scottish applicants for Ulster allotments as completed on September 14, 1609. John Johnstone, bailie of Water of Leith, also applied for 2,000 acres.

## OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

and was Provost of Aberdeen. Alexander Jaffray, Jr. introduced Quakerism into Scotland in 1663, largely to the students and young faculty members of the two universities. The Bishop excommunicated him in 1665. The children of Drs. Arthur and William Johnston were among his earliest converts, and it was he who now owned their revered birthplace of Caskieben.

GEORGE KEITH early converted Elizabeth Johnston, daughter of Dr. William Johnston. Through his childhood schoolmate and friend, Robert Ferguson of Inverurie, all of the aforementioned cousins of Elizabeth were directed to Virginia to acquire Quaker religious freedom.

ROBERT FERGUSON, son of William and Janet CLARK Ferguson, went as a young man to England with the Clarks. He preached at Moorfields, the Presbyterians cast him out and he became an Independent. His most important function for his confidant Lord Ashley, was to procure emigrants for Ashley's colonies. Lord Ashley died in the arms of Walker and Ferguson while in exile in Holland.

These young college graduates would probably have gone to any location recommended by Jaffray, Keith and Ferguson.

In 1662 Sir John Keith acquired the ancient castle of Caskieben from Alexander Jaffray, Jr., re-named the castle "Keith Hall", and during the following century built extensive additions. The castle, some 2 miles from Inverurie is still occupied by the Keith family.

The complete book contains a chronological index of these immigrants.

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seat of the Johnstons of Caskieben until the death of JOHN JOHNSTON in 1614. A guardianship trust was established for eldest son Sir George, a minor, and he succeeded in 1615. In 1618 Sir George mortgaged the entire holding to "wadsetter" ALEXANDER JAFFRAY, who foreclosed in 1633.

JOHN JOHNSTON, by a second marriage to Katherine Lundy in 1597 had an illustrious second family. Katherine Lundy was a descendant of Robert, a natural son of King William the Lion and the Lundy's quartered the Royal Arms. She was a daughter of William Lundy of that Ilk in Fife, a member of the Scottish Bar. Katherine's mother was Christian Ruthven, sister to Patrick Lord Ruthven who was concerned with the slaughter of David Rizzio. THOMAS JOHNSTON eldest son by Katherine Lundy, was endowed, probably with the expectation of creating a new family of Johnstons. His third son James Johnston was the father of WILLIAM, JOHN and ALEXANDER, the emigrant progenitors of this family.

GILBERT JOHNSTON, the brother of John, owned a mill and was later merchant in Inverurie. His son George was imprisoned as a Quaker and migrated probably to Chuckatuck (Nansemond) Meeting in Virginia.

DR. ARTHUR JOHNSTON, Latin Poet, Physician and Professor at Marischal College, had a son Edward, who married Elizabeth Walker and founded a numerous family in Virginia. His daughter Penelope married Christopher Clark, a descendant probably from Clan Chattan which descended from King Ferchar (d. 697) of Loarn. Arthur's son James migrated to Norfolk County Virginia and his son George migrated to Accomac County Virginia.

DR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON, Physician to King James VI and Professor of Mathematics at Marischal College. (Portraits by Jameson of Dr. Arthur and Dr. William still hang at the college.) His widow Barbara Forbes Johnston was imprisoned as a Quaker, and was buried at Quaker ALEXANDER JAFFRAY'S cemetery. Their daughter Elizabeth married secondly Rev. George Keith at Aberdeen Meeting of Friends 1672. In Philadelphia, George Keith founded the Keithonian sect of Quakers. Keith's daughter married George Walker of Kickaton Virginia and their daughter Mary Walker married Thomas Massie 1698.

The situation is not unique, where the credit or fault of the actions of an individual should be attributed to the advisor. In most large libraries will be found the Diary of ALEXANDER JAFFRAY, JR., son of wadsetter Alexander Jaffray who loaned small sums of money to young "heir males" with no obvious means of repayment and foreclosed on their entire estates. Alexander Jaffray, Jr. was an inquisitive young man, highly educated at Aberdeen and on the continent, represented the Burgh of Aberdeen in the Scottish Parliament, was brother-in-law to the Laird of Pittodrie. He married Jean, the daughter of Principal Dun of Marischal College in Aberdeen,

The Pictish period of Scotland embraces 397 years, from the date of Roman abdication in the year 446, to the subversion of the Pictish government in 843. In 503 a colony of Dalraids, under the direction of three brothers, named Lorn, Fergus and Angus, the sons of King Erc settled in Scotland from Ireland. These three princes or chiefs each had his own tribe and territory, which involved them frequently in civil war, often because of disputed succession. In 839 the Vikings entered the Pictish territories, and the King and many Pictish chieftans fell. This event hastened the downfall of the Pictish monarchy, since the Picts were now unable to resist the arms of Kenneth, the Scottish King. In 843 Kenneth united the Scots and Picts, and placed both crowns on his head. Kenneth descended from King Loarn (Lorn), and commenced the reign of the "Scottish Kings", which lasted until the death of MALCOLM CANMORE III in 1003.

King MALCOLM (III) CANMORE married 1st Ingibiorg Thorfinn, and had a son DUNCAN, whom the pope in Rome declared illegitimate because of consanguinity of the parents. A grandson, Earl Gospatrick married a Comyn, and the "barbs" of the great Comyn family later appeared on the Johnston arms. Waldevus (son of Earl Gospatrick) was given a charter for the Garioch in 1200 as guardian for the infant "John The Scot" and thereafter bore the name "de Garviach". His son Andrew married the daughter of Norino the Constable, who possessed "Caskieben".

KING MALCOLM CANMORE married secondly Margaret Atheling, sister to Edgar Atheling, last King of England of the old English Royal Dynasty. Daughter Beatrix Canmore married Bartolf (a Hungarian exiled nobleman) and their son Malcolm became the first constable of Inverurie; his son Norman was the second constable and was given a charter for Caskieben. Norman married a daughter of Stewart of Lorne. The third constable was Norino (the founder of the great Leslie family) and whose daughter married Dominus Andrew de Garviach (the Sheriff of Aberdeen 1264) and who was Dominus Caskieben. His son James de Garviach married Helen of Mar, the powerful Earls of Mar having descended from King Ruaird, from King Loarn of Dal Radia. His only child, Margaret de Garviach married STEPHEN JOHNSTON, the founder of this family.

STEPHEN JOHNSTON, because of his great learning, was Principal Secretary to THOMAS, 9TH EARL OF MAR, whose grandmother was Christian Bruce, sister to King Robert Bruce I. King Robert Bruce had married Lady Isabel Mar, sister to Gartney, 7th Earl of Mar.

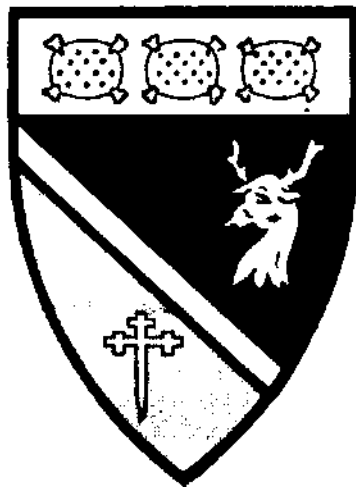
STEPHEN JOHNSTON thus inherited much of the Garioch from the "de Garviach's" and Caskieben from Norino, the last constable of Inverurie, who had lived in the Ancient Fortalice of Caskieben. Stephen built (about 1400) a new castle about 100 yards from the ancient fortalice (see photograph) which was the

A RESUMÉ OF  
THE ANCESTRY OF WILLIAM AND JOHN JOHNSON  
COLONIAL FRIENDS OF VIRGINIA  
(1972)

Prepared for the information of those descendants who are not addicted  
to reading



Original Caskieben 1400-1634



1595—The Seal of John Johnston Of That Ilk, which seal in red wax was attached to "Caskieben's acquittance of the price of Johnston, June 7, 1595." Three cushions, a Hart's head from de Garviach and a cross crosslet from the Earls of Mar.

LORAND V. JOHNSON, M.D.  
17600 Parkland Drive  
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

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King Eochaid, the Poisonous, King of Argyll, 781, married a sister of Unuist, high King of Picts, so that his grandson, Kenneth mac Alpin was King of Albany. (High King of Picts and Scots). Five generations later, King Malcolm II, King of Albany died of wounds in 1034. His daughter Bethoc, married Crinan, hereditary Abbot of Dunkeld of the Kindred of St. Columba.

The Rev. John Johnston, poet, historian, and professor of religion at the University of St. Andrews in 1600, narrated in poetry the origin of the Johnston family and dedicated the "Johnston Legend" to Adam Newton, tutor to Prince Henry, son of King James I.

"In time so far the guiding star, of written history fails;  
Ere a Bruce was known, in the halls of Scone,  
Or a Norman Prince of Wales.  
Where Criffer shades, wild glens and glades,  
And where bright Solway ran,  
By bow and bend and red right hand, lived a stalwart Border Clan.  
Ere the Anevin King, from those whose blood we spring,  
To the three crowned kingdom clomb,  
With a host arrayed, for a fierce crusade,  
The Johnstone was found in Rome.  
'No priest or Pope, with cowl or cope, shall dompt the belted plaid;  
To the old man there, in up-borne chair, I will not kneel' he said."

"Anevin King" refers to "Eochaid IV, the Poisonous". The three crowns refers to the triple crown of the Pope, inferring that the Johnstons descended from this Scottish King and were on a crusade (1192) before they accepted Christianity.



AFFRONTÉ' - THE LION FACES THE SPECTATOR AS USED IN SCOTLAND

**LORAND V. JOHNSON, M.D.**  
17600 Parkland Drive  
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

# Sir William Johnson and the Indians of New York

by Milton W. Hamilton

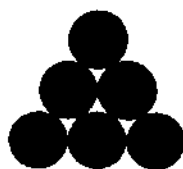


New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission

# Sir William Johnson and the Indians of New York

by  
MILTON W. HAMILTON

The University of the State of New York  
The State Education Department  
Office of State History



New York State  
American Revolution  
Bicentennial Commission

*Albany 1975 — Second printing*

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## Foreword

The relations of white settlers and Indians during New York's colonial period have a fascinating attraction for teachers, students, and general readers. Sometimes peaceful, but often warlike, this relationship encompasses cultural history, wars, international diplomacy, and economic affairs. For the individual Indian and white settler, success or failure in these matters could be the difference between life and death, or prosperity and economic failure. How Indians and whites worked together also had a bearing on international events during the century that Great Britain and France fought the great wars for empire with most of North America as the winner's prize. During the final conflict, the French and Indian War from 1756 to 1763, the Indians were a key part of both the French and British plans.

There is a vast literature dealing with Indian and white relations, but little of it is readily and easily accessible to teachers, students, and general readers. To bring together the main points of this exciting and vivid history, Dr. Milton W. Hamilton has written this booklet on Sir William Johnson and the Indians. As trader, Indian agent, soldier, and Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Johnson was a key figure in the Indian story. He is as important for his great work during the momentous events of the 18th century as for his ability to understand the Indians and to work well with them. His success in this dual role is unique in New York history.

To tell this significant story of Johnson and the Indians, Dr. Hamilton drew extensively on the 13 volumes of the *Sir William Johnson Papers*, 5 of which he edited before retiring from the State Education Department as senior historian in 1965. All of the other relevant sources have been consulted. These materials have been used to present both the white man's and the Indian's views on major events. Long quotations from the sources are included to help the reader understand and appreciate the life and times of the 18th century. A select bibliography includes suggestions for further reading.

Readers of this booklet may wish to visit some of the historic sites associated with the Johnson story. Johnson Hall, at Johnstown, N. Y., has been beautifully restored by New York State. Guy Park at Amsterdam is also administered by the State. Fort Johnson, a mile west of Guy Park, is the home of the Montgomery County Historical Society. The Tryon County Courthouse in Johnstown serves as the Fulton County Courthouse. Indian Castle Church, near Fort Plain, is preserved by an association chartered by the Board of Regents.

Acknowledgment is made elsewhere for the courtesy of organizations in permitting the use of illustrations. Special thanks are due to Dr. Eugene F. Kramer, Senior Historian in the Office of State History, who edited the manuscript and prepared it for publication.

LOUIS LEONARD TUCKER  
*Assistant Commissioner for  
State History*

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Sir William Johnson  
*Painting by John Wollaston, Jr.*  
*Courtesy of Albany Institute of History and Art*

## Introduction

"Indian Affairs" today are a relatively minor concern of our State and national governments. While the numbers of Indians involved—some 400,000 in the nation, and 7,000 on reservations in New York—are considerable, they are small in relation to our total population. The organized groups of Indians get public attention periodically when their national or tribal rights are threatened; but, as in cases of the St. Lawrence Seaway or power projects, they are dealt with as minorities.

In the colonial period of the 17th and 18th centuries, however, Indian affairs were a major concern. The number of Indians in New York was approximately the same as now, but, since the settlers were few, they were relatively large in importance. Relations with the Indians were an important function of government; upon their successful management depended the growth and prosperity of the colony, while failure in this field could bring death and destruction to civilized communities. A statesman who knew how to handle the Indians was of the greatest value.

When the white man first came to these shores and sailed the rivers and lakes, he encountered Indians (so-called because the first Spanish explorers believed they were in the East Indies) who were the members of two major native stocks—the Algonkin and the Iroquois. The former, among whom were Indians of Canada and New England, were represented by some tribes of northern New York who were first seen by Champlain, and by the river Indians, or Mahicans, and the Wappingers, who were seen by Henry Hudson. Eventually, more important than these, because of their military strength and organization, were the Iroquois Five (later Six) Nations who occupied the central part of New York. Since Indian relations in colonial New York were primarily with the Iroquois, it will be helpful to have a brief survey of their history.

As the Iroquois were dependent upon hunting and fishing for their livelihood, they ranged over a large area. Their early history was concerned with migrations and the search for hunting grounds, bringing some conflicts with other tribes. When conditions were favorable, they felt secure and made settlements and permanent communities. In such circumstances, they could develop a tribal government. It is because the Iroquois went through this cycle of forming settled villages, developing a government, and occupying definite areas, with an improved culture, that they became the dominant people of the East. Their strategic location in central New York, with access to the great water routes of the interior, the Great Lakes, and the Ohio and Susquehanna Rivers, enabled them to exert influence over the other tribes

## Indians of New York

Some time about the year 1300, western and central New York were occupied by the Iroquois tribes or nations who later formed a confederacy. A beautiful legend describes the founding of the League by Deganawidah, the lawgiver, and Hiawatha, the diplomat, who persuaded the warring nations to come together and plant the great tree of peace. They sought out the wicked and vindictive Ododarho, the cause of the tribal dissension, and "Combed the snakes out of his hair." Thereupon the Five Nations united in the "Longhouse" with its council fire at Onondaga, near the present site of Syracuse. The great White Pine was the symbol of their peace, and the "Longhouse," the council of chiefs or sachems, was their governing body. The Confederacy was known as the Five Nations. These nations were the Mohawks or "Keepers of the Eastern Door," the Oneidas or "People of the Stone," the Onondagas or "Hill People," the Cayugas or "Swamp People," and the Senecas, the "Keepers of the Western Door." When the Dutch and English arrived, the Mohawks were located about 50 miles west of Albany; the Senecas were as far to the west as Batavia, and they began to extend their influence north and south. Although the Iroquois later obtained a reputation as warriors and conquerors, they were peaceful during their earlier history.

The common picture of the American Indian, the tribesmen of the plains living in tepees and hunting buffalo, does not describe these Iroquois. Neither did they wear the elaborate feathered headdress of the western Indians. Instead they lived in villages named "Castles" by the white men which were sometimes fortified (palisaded) strongholds. Their habitations were rectangular "longhouses" of bark and saplings. They cultivated fields of corn and were good farmers. Through the longhouse with its central council fire at Onondaga the Confederacy evolved a government which enabled them to act in concert. They did not always agree, and there was room for talk and diplomacy among the sachems, but they achieved a measure of harmony unusual among primitive people. They had a well-understood system of laws and representation, which sometimes appears wiser than those of the white men. Socially, the Iroquois were a matriarchy, for inheritance was in the female line. The women of the tribe had great influence in their councils. Although the Iroquois achieved a reputation as intrepid fighters and conquerors of other tribes, the society was peaceful; they became hostile only when driven to war over trade or hunting grounds.

## Coming of the White Men

Henry Hudson sailing along the Atlantic coast in 1609 found some Indians friendly and desirous of cordial relations; others, perhaps through misunderstandings, provoked conflict, or feeling themselves wronged, became hostile. Samuel de Champlain in the same year made friends with the Algonkin Indians along the St. Lawrence, who then sought his aid against the Iroquois.

In a skirmish between these foes, he used his guns with fateful consequences. This action did not forever decide that Iroquois should hate Frenchmen (in fact they collaborated to a great extent later), but it began an unfortunate practice of white men meddling in the Indians' wars and then enlisting Indians to fight for them.

The Dutch who by 1624 had made permanent settlements in New Netherland were primarily interested in trade. The colony was under the control of the Dutch West India Company whose directors at their offices in Amsterdam beheld the venture as successful only if trade flourished. Settlement was promoted by a system of patroonships which were granted to directors of the company. To the company, the natives were useful only if they provided furs and other goods for barter. They saw little hope in civilizing or Christianizing the Indians. If the Dutch traders had been friendlier and more charitable toward the Indians, they might have lived as neighbors in peace. But there were greedy and ruthless men among these settlers, contemptuous of the Indians and their way of life, who were bound to provoke trouble. Thefts, murders, and reprisals bred clashes and minor wars. A bellicose Governor Kieft tried to end the Indian menace by extermination, but only made matters worse. It required the strong rule of the dictatorial Peter Stuyvesant to rescue the Dutch colony from its errors, lethargy, and unwise Indian policy. He did not succeed in preserving the colony, which he was compelled to surrender to the English in 1664, but he did make peace with the Indians.

Following the explorations of Cartier and Champlain, the French established posts along the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes to exploit the fur trade. Venturesome *coureurs de bois*, or wood rangers, lived and traded with Indians, often intermarrying and raising halfbreed children. After them came Catholic missionaries, Recollect friars and Jesuits, who worked to convert Indians to Christianity. Some penetrated south into New York as far as the Mohawk and Onondaga castles where they made converts among the Iroquois. Later, when the Iroquois became hostile to the French, some missionaries were tortured and suffered martyrdom.



The fur trade was largely responsible for the Iroquois hostility towards the French. After 1640, beavers were so scarce in central New York that the Iroquois had to deal with western tribes to obtain enough for trade. Of these tribes, the Hurons, living north of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, were the most successful traders and suppliers of furs. But they were easily reached by the French who sought to monopolize the trade and shut out the Five Nations. At times the Iroquois were tempted to raid the canoe fleets carrying the year's furs down the Ottawa River to the St. Lawrence, and thus began a struggle between the two groups of Indians. The French, profiting from the Huron trade, sought to keep them at odds with the Iroquois who would carry the furs southward. Hence the Five Nations began a war on the French, struck down the French Jesuit missionary Father Jogues, who was then among them, and attacked the Hurons.

In spite of efforts to make peace, the Iroquois in 1649 penetrated far into Huronia, destroyed the Huron towns and so thoroughly ravaged their settlements that they ceased to be a powerful tribe. The Five Nations were now free to obtain furs from the various western tribes. This was not always easy, however, for there were other rival tribes hemming in the Iroquois. Their old enemies the Mahicans were finally defeated, and then there was a long drawn-out struggle with the Susquehannas of Pennsylvania.

Supported by the colonies of Maryland and Delaware, from whom they obtained arms, these people raided far into the lands of the Senecas, and even forced some to flee across Lake Ontario. When the whites of these provinces clashed with the Susquehannas, however, the Senecas were able to retaliate and finally destroy the power of these southern Indians, too. The Delaware Indians, formerly subjects, of the Susquehannochs, now became tributary to the Iroquois.

Thus the Indian wars had raised the Five Nations from a peaceful agricultural people to the status of conquerors. They sought to solve their new problems by drawing other tribes closer to the Longhouse. The Delawares and the Nanticokes were resettled along the Susquehanna River, and the Iroquois governed them by means of a "half-king," who was a kind of proconsul. Later, the Tuscaroras were aided in their northward migration from North Carolina, and eventually added to the Five Nations. By 1700, the Iroquois had obtained an empire, or hegemony, over lesser or weaker tribes, which enhanced their importance in dealing with the whites. Yet the "Beaver Wars" had not solved the problem of the fur trade; defeated and dispersed tribes moved further west, thereby requiring longer journeys to bring their pelts to either the French or English.

## Management of Indian Affairs

Now that French efforts among the Iroquois had been frustrated, the English, succeeding the Dutch in New York, sought their friendship. In 1683, Governor Thomas Dongan, one of the ablest of the colonial governors, made a treaty with the Iroquois and offered them the protection of the English king. The king's arms were erected in the Castles of the Five Nations, but the Indians called themselves "brethren," not subjects. The English hoped to extend their influence over all the lands under Iroquois rule. Although a Catholic, appointed by Catholic James II, Dongan recognized that Jesuit missionaries were agents of French aggression and opposed their missions in New York. He even suggested that English Jesuits might be sent over.

In 1689, war broke out between France and England, "King William's War" it was called in America, and was reflected along the American frontier by outbreaks of violence and murderous raids in which the Iroquois were the French target. In 1689, the Mohawks moved on Montreal, burned the French settlement at La Chine and massacred its inhabitants. The next year the French and their Indian allies retaliated. They marched south in the dead of winter (February 1690), burned Schenectady and massacred or carried off many of the inhabitants. Albany should have been the objective, but the Dutch merchants there were carrying on a secret fur trade with Montreal, so Albany was spared. A truce in 1701 ended hostilities and permitted this trade to continue.

After the first halting steps of the colonists and their leaders to deal with "the savages," there came a realization that success with the Indians depended upon respect for their leaders, their institutions, and their methods of negotiation. A few wise men won their confidence by treating them as equals, adopting their manner of negotiation and learning to speak their language. Interpreters were employed to translate speeches and help make treaties, but too often they were rude fellows who had acquired the native tongue through long association in hunting and trade, but who had little concept of the needs of the colony or the policies of their leaders. Too often they were unscrupulous self-seekers whom the Indians did not trust.

An exception, during the Dutch period, was Arent Van Curler, known as the founder of Schenectady. A relation of the Van Rensselaers, he was sent out by them in 1638 as a minor official. Later, he took up farming and trade, had many contacts and several official assignments with the Indians. Because of his honesty and sincerity, he won the Indians' respect, and they chose to deal with him instead

of others in the Dutch government. He kept this position under the English until his accidental death in 1667. The Indians called him "Corlaer," which they also applied to successive governors of New York.

Likewise, there appeared under the English governors men of stature and responsibility who won the respect and cooperation of the Indians. Of these, Peter Schuyler (1657-1724) and his brother-in-law, Robert Livingston (1654-1728), were among the most influential. Schuyler became the first mayor of Albany after it received its charter from Governor Dongan in 1686. Not only was Albany the outpost for the fur trade, but its Fort Frederick, on the hill overlooking the settlement, was the chief military center for defense. From here, Schuyler led expeditions of English and Indians against the French and their allies. Successive royal governors employed Schuyler to keep the Indians friendly, and they returned the good faith and trust of the man whom they called "Quider."

In 1710, in order to solicit more aid and concern for Indian affairs, Peter Schuyler and Colonel Francis Nicholson visited London with four sachems, commonly called "Four Kings," who were presented at the court of Queen Anne. They were lionized and feted. Their portraits were painted in elaborate and colorful costumes. One, "King" Hendrick, became more famous in later years as a leader of the Mohawks and a friend of the English. Another, surnamed Brant, was supposed to have been the grandfather of Joseph Brant of the American Revolution. Their visit caused Queen Anne to promote Anglican missions among the Iroquois, for which she sent Bibles, prayerbooks, and communion plate to her "Chapel of the Mohawks" and "Chapel of the Onondagas."\*

Robert Livingston, an ambitious young Scot, who had been exiled to the Netherlands for his political views before coming to New York in 1675, was the next most influential figure in dealing with Indians. With his knowledge of Dutch, he was a useful person in the early days of English rule. First secretary of the Colony (or Manor) of Rensselaerswyck, he also served as Town Clerk of Albany and ex officio secretary of Indian Affairs. From Governor Dongan he received two grants of land on the east bank of the Hudson below Albany which he used for an enlarged claim, later known as Livings-

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\* The former was used in Queen Anne's Chapel at Fort Hunter, was carried by the Mohawks to Canada in the Revolution, and is now in the chapel at the reservation in Brantford, Ontario. There was no chapel among the Onondagas in 1710, so that the mission at Albany held the gift, and the silver communion service is now in St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Albany.

ton Manor. Through these and other offices, and by the accumulation of wealth, he became a key public figure, even lending money to governors when necessary for public use. Finding it difficult to collect these advances, he sailed to England in 1696, and there persuaded the ministry to make the Indian secretary of the province a permanent official with an annual salary of £100. Continuing in the office, he assisted at Indian conferences, translating speeches (in Dutch, English, and Indian) and keeping the records which became later the source for Indian claims and the basis of Indian policy. Through these official efforts, and with his many official connections, Livingston had a hand in Indian affairs until his retirement in 1721.

## William Johnson Comes to America

In the early 18th century, America was the land of promise for many people of the Old World. Here were vast areas of virgin forest and fertile river valleys, where land could be readily obtained. Men of affairs were taking claims, by any means, and devising schemes for their exploitation.

One such promoter was Captain Peter Warren of Ireland, whose naval exploits won him favor with the crown and connection by marriage with the governor of New York. Of good family at home, he had married Susan De Lancey of New York, and had occupied a farm on Manhattan. Bitten by the speculation bug, he had also acquired extensive acreage in the Mohawk Valley.

It was to manage and develop this land that he sent his young nephew, William Johnson, to the new world.

Christopher Johnson, the father of William, occupied a 200-acre estate called Smithstown, County Meath, some 20 miles from Dublin. Of the country gentry, he had a comfortable home and could provide well for his sons and daughters. William no doubt had a tolerable education, but there were few opportunities in Ireland for a young man of spirit and ambition. There was the army, to which his brother Warren turned, and there was the navy where the patronage of his uncle would help. But Uncle Peter saw a way both to promote the career of his nephew, and, at the same time, to exploit his new world properties. He would charge the young man with the settlement of the Mohawk lands, and stake him for a venture into trade. It was a business rather than a military career for young William.



In the spring of 1738, William Johnson arrived in Boston, bringing with him 12 families to settle as tenants on the land. Also with him for a brief time was his cousin, Michael Tyrrell, who later went into the army. Details are lacking about Johnson's first moves in America, but, by summer of 1738, he was in Albany transporting his people and supplies by wagon to Schenectady; then upriver by hired bateaux, loaded barges propelled by poles. At length, they reached Warrensborough (as his uncle's tract was known), south of the Mohawk River, near the present city of Amsterdam. Here the settlement included Palatine Germans and several Irish families.

Uncle Peter proposed to have him do some trading. The Captain wrote a detailed letter of instructions.

I am sorry you have been oblidged to draw for more on New York then I directed but as it is I presume for goods that will Bring part of it in Again, I am not displeased with it, but will not go beyond £200<sup>p</sup>. annum in making the settlement, and y<sup>l</sup>. to be complete in 3 years from your first beginning which will make the whole 600. . . .

The articles of the trade were staples, but the great difficulty was in transporting them and making remittances.

. . . it will answer to send wheat, Corn, Pease, or any of the produce of that Country to this place, and early in the Spring, if you Can Ingage y<sup>e</sup>. first sloop from Albany to take in what you May have. and order it to be sent Me I will send y<sup>e</sup>. returns in such goods as you May desire and as for what Skins you Can procure I will send them to London, and y<sup>e</sup>. produce of them Shall be sent you in proper goods. I have wrote to Dublin for 200 £ster: in Linnen from 8<sup>d</sup>. to 20 pence pr. yard and to Scotland for 50 £ster: in Check linnen, besides about £200 worth of goods from London.

. . . pray let me know what Rum and all things sells for there such as Axes and other wrought Iron, them I could send from hence, if I found y<sup>e</sup>. profit great I wou'd soon have a thousand pounds worth of goods there, what wou'd then leather Caps sell for, and what profit had you on the linnen and any of your goods, how can I Judge what is best for you when you dont, particularly tell me the prices only say at large this and y<sup>l</sup>. sells well you ought to be more Circumspect and particular.

There was much in the way of suggestions for improving the land: the planting of orchards, the use of meadow land, girdling of trees, and marking the lots with hedge rows (as in the old country). He

would send "some Muskets for your House," and "Books for you to keep y<sup>r</sup>. Accts. which You Must do very regular." Finally there was advice as to his conduct.

. . . keep well with all Mankind act with honour & honesty both of you. dont be Notional as some of our Country men are often foolishly, and dont say any thing about the Badness of the Patroncs (patroon's) Horses, for it may be taken Amis, he is a near relation of my wives, and may have it in his power very much to Serve you. . . . My love to Mick live like Brothers, and I will be an Affecte uncle to you Both.

P. Warren

By next spring "Billy," as his aunt and uncle addressed him, was reporting on a great deal of trade. He told how his situation would be "the properest place on the Whole River for a Store house and Shop in the Winter, by reason of all the High Germans passing by that way in the Winter, and all the upper Nations of Indians whose trade is pritty Valuable."

Then he spoke of branching out:

. . . to a place Called Oquago on the Susquehannah [near Windsor, N. Y.] River, towards Philadelphia, which I intend if y<sup>u</sup>. think proper to make tryall this fall W<sup>th</sup>. abt. £200 worth of Goods W<sup>n</sup>. I am credibly Informed by those that Came from thence that I Can to better advantage dispose of them to the Indians there, better than at Oswego because there are too many traders go there,

More important for the future was his taking up some land on his own account, although this incurred the displeasure of his uncle. Perhaps the Captain felt that the young man should confine himself to his assigned task, and the trade, but in a new land many prospects beckon.

I find Y<sup>u</sup>. are displeased at my purchaseing land, Which in Every Bodys Opinion is a good Bargain, and Can any time I please Sell it for the Money And More So that I hope, D<sup>r</sup>. Uncle y<sup>e</sup>. not continue y<sup>r</sup>. Opinion when y<sup>u</sup>. See it and know My Design (w<sup>h</sup>. is this) to have a Carefull Honest Man there Who will Manage the farm, w<sup>h</sup>. will at least Clear I am Sure £30 per Annum, Moreover the Chief thing is a fine Creek to build a Saw Mill on, having Logs Enough at hand, half of w<sup>h</sup>. Creek belongs to Me, so that I intend after a little time, please Cod, to build a Mill there, w<sup>h</sup>. may clear £40 per annum, and that w<sup>th</sup> out Much trouble, so that the Income of that May Enable me the better to go on in the World, . . .

There was indeed a fine location (in present city of Amsterdam) where he built his first home on his own land in 1739, to be known as Mount Johnson. Here he brought his young wife, Catherine Weisenberg, a runaway Palatine redemptioner, and here were born his son John and his daughters, Ann (or Nancy) and Mary (Polly).

And go on in the world he did. . . .

## The Indian Trade

William Johnson had no idea when he came to the New World that his future would be so much influenced by the natives, the Indians of whom he then knew little. Yet his trade along the Mohawk River soon threw him more and more among the tribes. He handled their furs in trade and discovered that many traders were so grossly unfair in their methods that the Indians were often swindled. The traders used rum to tempt the Indians, to get them drunk, and then cheated them or stole their lands. The Indians were fooled by the white man's tricks, but later they realized how they had been treated and nourished a resentment. Sometimes this erupted into violence and savage reprisals.

Now, William Johnson was a trader, too, but he was smart enough to see that while cheating the Indians might make a "fast buck," it would lose their long term good will. Would it not be better to cultivate their trade for a long term by playing fair? Furthermore, William was an honest and openhanded young Irishman who wanted to make friends and who respected the rights of others as he wished them to like and respect him. Unlike many others traders, he thought of the Indians as fellowmen, and he discovered that when they were treated well they made good friends and pleasant companions. Therefore in a short time he had won many friends among the Indians who came to respect him, and eventually to honor him with the title of sachem, meaning a wise man and an adviser in their affairs. When trouble arose, they turned to him and frequently he was able to make peace or to settle disagreements. They said, "He speaks with a straight tongue," and they gave him the name "Warraghiyagey," meaning "one who does much business."

As indicated above, the beavers were exhausted in New York, and the fur trade had to be carried on with the "far Indians" of the West. The French in Canada through their *courcours de bois* (wood rangers) developed an extensive commerce with these western Indians, and

when the English and the Iroquois traded in furs they were competing with the French. In 1720, the French had built a trading post on the Niagara River, the *Magazin Royal*; and, in 1726, they built another post, which became Fort Niagara, where the Niagara River enters Lake Ontario.

These moves alarmed the English in New York, and, in 1727, Governor Burnet built a post at Oswego to serve as a fur trading center and as a strategic point to break the French monopoly of the western fur trade. In fact they called it a "beaver trap," by which they hoped to catch their share of the business. Now, both French and English sent agents among the Indian tribes to win their allegiance. Since the time of Governor Dongan, the English had called themselves protectors of the Iroquois. Likewise the French through their missionaries and traders sought to keep the Iroquois attached to them. When war broke out, as it did in 1745, this rivalry for Indian support became intense. The posts on the frontier became forts and were used for military bases.

In 1746, a conference was held in Albany between the Iroquois Indians and the English colonists who were threatened by the French on the north. New York and Massachusetts sent delegates to parley with the Indians as they had often done before. The Mohawks resented the treatment they had received from the Albany traders, who were also commissioners of Indian affairs, and it was doubtful whether they would come. William Johnson was asked to persuade them, and greatly impressed everyone by his leadership and success.

Cadwallader Colden in his *History of the Five Nations* related how:

Mr. William Johnson was indefatigable among the Mohawks; he dressed himself after the Indian Manner, made frequent Dances according to their Custom when they excite to War, and used all the Means he could think of . . . in order to engage them heartily in the War against Canada.

On August 8, he led the Mohawks in person, "dressed and painted after the Manner of an Indian War Captain," as they marched down the river to Albany, armed and dressed for war.

After this, Governor Clinton often depended upon William Johnson in his dealings with the Indians. He recognized the ability of the young Irishman, his knowledge of the country and his wide influence in the valley. Perhaps he could help with other difficult problems of the frontier. One of these was the supply of the military garrison at Oswego. Because of the great risks, many merchants and bateaumen refused to carry supplies over the long route — the Mo-



hawk River, the Oneida portage or carrying place, Oneida Lake and Oswego River to Lake Ontario — from Albany to Oswego. Clinton persuaded Johnson to undertake the task, and, with characteristic energy, he gathered supplies of food, hired wagons and bateaux, and provided protection, so that the fort was effectively supported. It was a big wartime contract, as we might call it, which could be both personally profitable and an act of patriotism. The Governor appreciated the achievement, but his political enemies in the Assembly held up payment on Johnson's bills until they owed him a large sum. After the war was over, and he was still unpaid, he complained that he could no longer afford to act. Finally, payment was still not forthcoming, and he resigned his commission as agent to deal with the Indians for the Province.

## French and Indian War

In time of peace, colonial governments often allowed Indian affairs to drift, paying little attention if there were no clashes or untoward incidents, but in times of war or danger they hastened to act. In 1749, the French in Canada began a gradual encroachment on the western lands claimed by the English. They buried lead plates along the Ohio River to assert a claim to areas west of Pennsylvania and Virginia. At the same time, they tried to win over the western Indians and to turn them against the English. The Iroquois who were wards of the English likewise seemed disaffected. Learning of these circumstances, the English ministry became alarmed and urged the several colonies to meet together in an "interview" with the Six Nations, to appease them and to concert measures for defense. They instructed the Governor of New York to call a meeting for this purpose. This meeting, the Albany Congress, proved to be a landmark in American history.

The Congress which met in Albany in June and July 1754 was the largest intercolonial meeting yet held. Delegates came from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. New York was host, and the meetings were presided over by Governor James De Lancey; three councillors, one of whom was William Johnson, acted as delegates. Much time was lost because the Indians were slow in arriving. In the meantime, the delegates considered a plan of colonial union presented by Benjamin Franklin, which with some modifications was adopted by the Con-

gress and sent to the provinces and to the English government for approval. If they could agree to act together, the colonies felt they could more successfully handle their Indian relations and colonial defense.

When the Indians finally arrived, a formal address was made to them and their complaints were heard. The Indian leaders, King Hendrick and his brother, Chief Abraham, made eloquent speeches, chiding the English for their failures, and demanding guarantees that they would keep their promises better than in the past. Hendrick said:

Tis your fault Brethren that we are not Strengthened by Conquest, for we would have gone and taken Crown Point, but you hindered us, We have concluded to go and take it, but were told it was too late and that the Ice would not bear us, Instead of this you burnt your own Fort at Saraghtoga and run away from it, which was a Shame and a Scandall to you. Look about your Country and see, you have no Fortifications about you no not even to this City, tis but one step from Canada hither and the French may easily come and turn you out of your Doors.

. . . Look at the French, they are Men, they are fortifying every where—but we are ashamed to say it, you are all like Women bare and Open without any Fortifications.

Chief Abraham asked why the Governor had not reinstated Colonel Johnson in charge of their affairs, as he had promised.

We embrace this Opportunity of laying this Belt [and gave a Belt] before all our Brethren here present, and desire them that Colonel Johnson may be reinstated and have the management of Indian Affairs, for we all lived happy whilst they were under his Management, for we love him and he us, and he has always been our good and Trusty Friend.

The Albany Congress of 1754 was apparently a failure; nothing was accomplished in Indian affairs, and the "Plan of Union" was rejected by both the provincial assemblies and the ministry in England. Yet in the long view of the historian it was a step towards eventual union of the American Colonies. Also the Congress emphasized the need for united action in defense and in better management of Indian affairs. The British ministry now took steps in both fields.

In the fall of 1754, General Edward Braddock was given command of an army of regular troops and sent to Virginia to cooperate with colonial levies in a campaign against the French. War was not

yet declared between France and Britain, but overt aggression on the frontier justified these steps. Young George Washington had been sent by the Governor of Virginia to remove the French from the forks of the Ohio, but he had been rebuffed in his talks, and later had lost a small skirmish with French troops. Now the responsibility for ousting the French was shifted to a professional soldier with the King's regular forces.

In accordance with his instructions, General Braddock asked the colonial governors to meet with him and the military leaders to plan their campaign. Colonel William Johnson attended the meeting at Alexandria, Va., in April 1755, in company with the governors of New York, Virginia, Massachusetts, and Maryland. Braddock was authorized to give him a commission as sole manager of Indian affairs; and Governor Shirley of Massachusetts suggested that Johnson was the "fittest person" to command a force of Indians and militia to be sent against the French Fort St. Frederic, at Crown Point on Lake Champlain. Governor Shirley was made commander of an expedition to be sent against Fort Niagara. And General Braddock with his regulars would assault Fort Duquesne at the forks of the Ohio. Thus Johnson had a double task: to pacify the Indians and to enlist their support for the English cause, and as major general to lead a military campaign. In spite of many difficulties, he was signally successful in both assignments.

The high hopes of the English for this three-pronged attack were rudely shattered when, on July 9, 1755, the army of General Braddock was disastrously defeated at the forks of the Ohio. The General was killed and his battered army fell back to the settlements. A well-trained army of British regulars had been defeated by the French, and their Indians and the frontier lay exposed to further attack.

In the meantime, General Shirley had assembled his forces at Albany and had embarked by bateaux up the Mohawk en route to Oswego. Johnson had held a conference with the Six Nations at his home, Mount Johnson (soon to be renamed Fort Johnson), where he won their support and a promise of Indian warriors for his campaign. Militia from New England and New York marched from Albany northward to the Carrying Place on the Hudson, where Johnson began a fort, later called "Fort Edward." About 200 Indians were to meet him there. Delay in the arrival of troops and in getting guns and supplies held up both of these expeditions, and news of Braddock's defeat almost shattered the morale of men and Indians. There was no longer a possibility of taking the French by surprise.

## Battle of Lake George

Early in the year, the French had sent a fleet and 3,000 regular troops to Quebec. They were under the command of a veteran general, Baron Dieskau, known for his success on the battlefields of Europe. He planned to attack the English at Oswego, until the capture of Braddock's papers revealed the strategy of the British. Then he concluded that Johnson's thrust toward Crown Point was the more immediate danger. Up the Richelieu River and Lake Champlain, he took his army to Crown Point. There he learned that Johnson was marching from Fort Edward to Lake St. Sacrement (which Johnson renamed Lake George). He decided to strike at Johnson's rear by seizing Fort Edward with its small contingent. With some 1,400 men (600 Canadians, 600 Indians, and 200 French grenadiers) he marched through the woods until he was a few miles from the fort. Here his Indians balked; they did not like to face the guns of the fort, and they said they preferred to attack Johnson's open camp.

In the meantime, Johnson's scouts had brought word of the French force and its threat to Fort Edward. A courier was sent to warn its commander, Colonel Blanchard, but the man was shot and his dispatch was captured. Johnson in a council of war decided to send a thousand men and Indians to relieve the fort. While marching down the road, they were ambushed by the French and their Indians. Colonel Ephraim Williams and a number of other officers were killed, as was also King Hendrick, the venerable leader of the Mohawks. The remainder of the troops retreated to Lake George.

Johnson had just time to throw up breastworks of felled trees, wagons and bateaux, ringing the camp, when the white-coated French regulars, their bayonets fixed and glittering in the sun, came down the road. He had also placed several cannon, 32-pounders, light and field pieces, where they would be most effective. While the fugitives from the first engagement were arriving in general disorder, he ranged his raw militia behind the temporary defenses. The French, who were having difficulty with their Indians, halted before charging the camp, thus giving the defenders an opportunity to collect their men. Then the French grenadiers came on in solid platoons and fired volleys. The British field pieces were fired several times at the French regulars, causing such havoc that they deployed to fight behind bushes and rocks as did the Indians and Canadians. For 5 hours the battle raged; the French tried a flank attack on Johnson's right, which was repulsed by the Massachusetts regiments of Titcomb and



Ruggles. General Dieskau, the French commander was wounded, leaving the French without effective command. The English and their Indian allies leaped over the barricades and carried the fight to the enemy, who began to disperse. The French Indians had had enough, and they sifted into the forest, or turned to scalping and plunder.

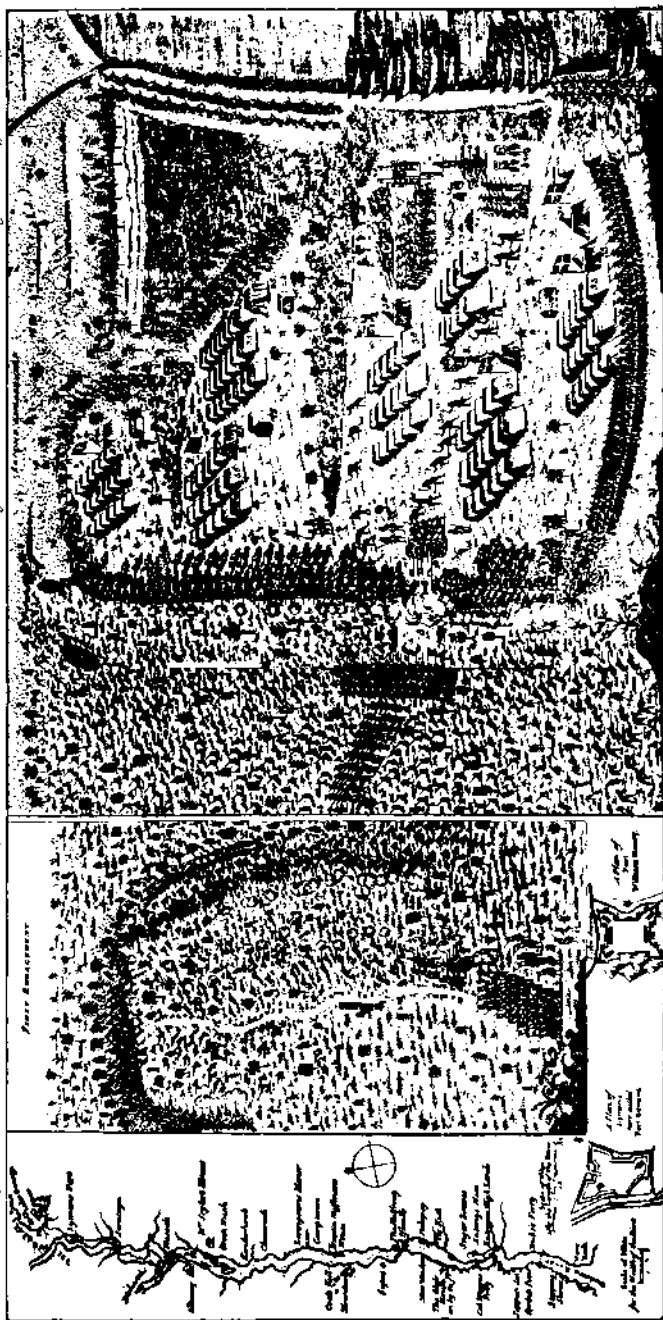
During the fight Johnson received a ball in his thigh and went to his tent, but he returned to the engagement and inspired his men to a determined resistance. It had been a severe and costly fight with many casualties on both sides. Dieskau was brought to Johnson's tent a captive. He had boasted that he would spend the night at Johnson's camp—he meant as victor—and now found himself there as a prisoner.

The retiring French were now forced into a third engagement. Colonel Blanchard at the carrying place (Fort Edward) learned of the battle and sent his New Hampshire men and Yorkers to help Johnson. They found the French collecting their wounded and burying their dead, and fell upon them. After a smart action, in which there were losses on both sides, the French began their retreat to Canada. Johnson's Indians, mourning the loss of Hendrick, had no stomach for further action and also withdrew. Smarting from their losses, the English dug in. A council of war decided that it would be dangerous to attempt to follow the French, from whom they anticipated another attack.

News of the engagement and the repulse of the enemy electrified the English. The colonies rallied to send reinforcements to Johnson for his expected advance upon Crown Point. Conditions, however, rendered this impossible. The Indians had gone home and could not be persuaded to return. Terms of enlistment were running out and militiamen wanted to return to their farms; there was a shortage of provisions and supplies. So Johnson had his engineer lay out a stronger fort on which the men labored throughout the fall. He called it Fort William Henry, and it represented a new outpost in the defense of English America.

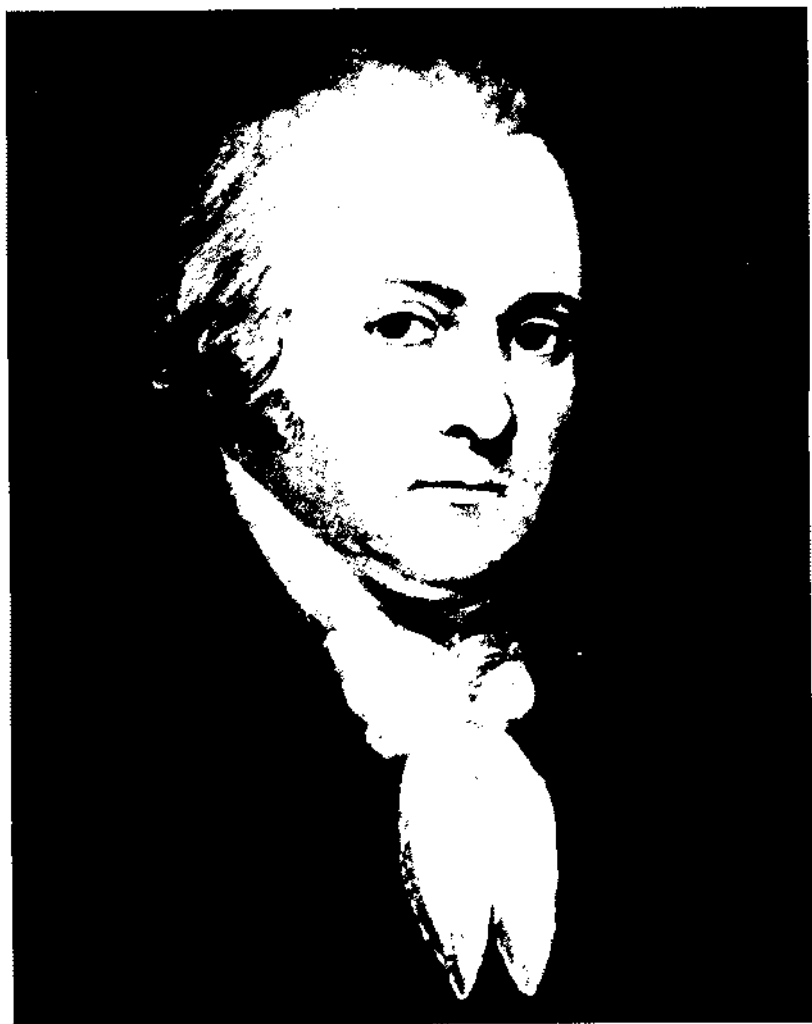
There was wild elation and great celebration in the capitals of the American Colonies when they learned of the victory at Lake George. It was the first real success of the war. After the defeat of Braddock and the failure of General Shirley to get beyond Oswego in his campaign against Niagara, it was the one bright spot on the British record. Reinforcements were sent to Albany to fill up the regiments which were expected to go on against Crown Point. General Johnson was acclaimed a military genius; an inexperienced colonial with only militia had defeated French regulars under a famous soldier,

*Northward View of the British Camp, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of Sept. 1755. Between 2000 English, with 250 Mohawks, under the command of Gen. Young, and 1500 French & Indians under the command of Gen. L'Archeveque, on which the English were victorious, capturing the French Gen. and his Main Battery, 100 Spanning Guns and 10000 lbs. of Powder.*



Battle of Lake George  
 Contemporary sketch by Samuel Blodget.  
 From Documentary History of New York, vol. IV, p. 256

and had taken him captive. Since Johnson was a New Yorker and most of his troops were New Englanders they had viewed him with some distrust, but Thomas Williams, a Massachusetts surgeon with the army, described him in glowing terms:



Sir John Johnson  
*Pastel by St. Memin.*  
*Johnson Hall, New York State Historic Site, Johnstown, N. Y.*

I must say he is a complete gentleman, and willing to oblige and please all men, familiar and free of access to the lowest

Centinel, a gentleman of uncommon smart sense and even temper; never yet saw him in a ruffle, or use any bad language—in short I was never so disappointed [disillusioned] in a person in the idea I had of him before I came from home, in my life; to sum it up he is almost universally beloved & esteemed by officers & soldiers as a second Marlborough for coolness of head and warminess of heart.

Not everyone was so enthusiastic, and criticism of the General and his campaign started, especially when he did not push on against Crown Point. New Englanders grumbled over his plan to fortify Fort William Henry on New York soil and refused to support it. General Shirley, who had succeeded to the command of all British forces on the death of Braddock, was jealous of Johnson's success, while his Niagara campaign had been stopped at Oswego. Moreover, Shirley blamed Johnson for his trouble in getting Indians to go with him, and challenged Johnson's authority over the Indians. Some critics started a story that General Lyman had wanted to push on toward Ticonderoga, but that Johnson had held back. Later, these same persons claimed that Lyman as second-in-command while Johnson was wounded should have credit for the battle. They even said it was not such a victory after all.

## Sir William Johnson

These criticisms stirred Johnson's friends to promote his interests and his reputation at home and abroad. After he had resigned his command, General Johnson was brought to New York, feted, and became celebrated as a conquering hero. Vivid reports of his merit were sent home to the ministry. The latter had been quick to recognize the importance of Johnson's achievement, not so much for the size of the battle, as for the changed morale, and the reversal of the climate of defeat. In November, the King awarded him a hereditary patent as baronet, and Parliament granted him a purse of £5000. Not until February 1756 did news of these honors reach America.

As winter came on, the campaign to the northward was abandoned, although a garrison held Fort William Henry and continued its construction. General Johnson resigned his commission and returned to his home on the Mohawk River. He had plenty to do to manage the Indians; in February 1756, he received a royal commission as "Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Northern District,"

thus confirming and making permanent his wartime authority. He also got a commission as "Colonel of the Six Nations." He devoted himself to Indian affairs, holding frequent meetings with them, journeying westward to their castles and the Council Fire at Onondaga, and, whenever needed, enlisting Indians to help the British armies. He was suffering from his wound and from ill health, but he was by no means inactive.

Now, too, he returned to the care of his lands and his business. During the war, the fine stone house which he had built for himself in 1749 and named "Mount Johnson," was fortified and protected by a garrison of soldiers. Henceforth it was known as "Fort Johnson." Here he carried on his trade, his negotiations with Indians, and managed his farm lands with their tenants. It was one of the finest of colonial houses, and exceptional for this outpost of the frontier. Not only officers of the army, but other travelers and visitors enjoyed its hospitality. It was described by a French observer in 1757 as follows:

Colonel Johnson's mansion is situate on the border or left bank of the River Mohawk; it is three stories high: built of stone, with port holes (crenelees) and a parapet and flanked with four bastions on which are some small guns. In the same yard, on both sides of the Mansion, there are two small houses; that on the right of the entrance is a Store, and on the left is designed for workmen, negroes and other domestics. The yard gate is a heavy swing gate well ironed; it is on the Mohawk river side, from this gate to the river there is about 200 paces of level ground. The high road passes here. A small rivulet coming from the north empties itself into the Mohawk river, about 200 paces below the yard. On this stream there is a Mill about 50 paces distant from the house; below the Mill is the miller's house where grain and flour are stored, and on the other side of the creek 100 paces from the mill, is a barn in which cattle and fodder are kept. One hundred and fifty paces from Colonel Johnson's Mansion at the North side, on the left bank of the little Creek, is a little hill on which is a small house with port holes where is ordinarily kept a guard of honor of some twenty men, which serves also as an advanced post.

Two years later Guy Johnson made a drawing of Fort Johnson, on which many of the features described can be noted. Here Sir Johnson lived until 1763, after which it was occupied by his son. The house still stands, a historic building associated with many great events and persons.



Some writers have passed over these years of Sir William Johnson's life as unmarked by great events. His work among the Indians was not spectacular, and many military leaders of the time thought little of the help which Indians could give them in battle. But the fame and reputation of Johnson were spreading. Whenever Indian affairs were considered, and wherever there was a crisis in Indian relations, his counsel was sought. His acquaintances and correspondents throughout the colonies were increasing in number. When again chance thrust him into the main stream of the country's history, he was a man of recognized consequence.

## The Close of the War

The war had been going badly. Recoiling from the reverse at Lake George, the French built Fort Carillon at Ticonderoga. This now rather than Crown Point was their southern outpost and only the length of Lake George separated them from the English at Fort William Henry. Between these posts, scouting parties ranged through the forest or skirted the shores of the lake, sounding out the enemy's defenses. The redoubtable Robert Rogers became famous for his sorties down the lake and his commando raids on the French.

In 1756, war was officially declared in Europe and more attention was given to military affairs in America. General Shirley had laid plans for new campaigns, but he was now superseded as supreme commander by Lord Loudoun. A professional soldier of ability, Loudoun brought over new regiments of regulars and organized the Royal Americans, recruited in America but with English officers. His delays and indecision, however, gave the French their opportunity.

The place of the defeated Dieskau was taken by the energetic Marquis de Montcalm. The French were soon on the move. Anticipating the principal English thrust on Lake George, Montcalm planned a diversion. With three regiments and Indian support he set out from Fort Frontenac, and, in August, surprised Fort Ontario at Oswego. The English had been sending supplies and reinforcements to Oswego, and had started to build a fleet on Lake Ontario, but their efforts were uncertain and the fortifications were weak. The demoralized garrison soon surrendered to the French who destroyed the forts. Hence the French had control of Lake Ontario and the English withdrew down the Mohawk valley. Their prestige was at a low ebb, and Sir William had great difficulty in holding the allegiance of the Six Nations.

The following year (1757) Montcalm led an attack upon Fort William Henry and was able to destroy it. Again, it was the weakness of the English and the indecision of their officers which gave the French an easy victory. Loudoun had gone off by sea for a futile attempt to take Louisbourg. Colonel Monro with the forces at Fort William Henry made a gallant defense and appealed to Major General Webb at Fort Edward for help. Webb, judging the French to have superior numbers, made no effort to relieve the fort but sent Monro a letter advising him to make terms. When this fell into the hands of Montcalm, he was assured of success. Sir William had marched with Indians to Fort Edward and pressed Webb to reinforce the fort, but to no avail. Webb was ill and incompetent and his inaction led to disaster. Worse still was the massacre of the English prisoners which followed. Montcalm had promised protection, but he was unable to control his Indian allies who fell upon the defenseless captives, stripped and plundered them, and killed many. These defeats for which he was not wholly responsible brought the recall of General Loudoun.

General James Abercromby now succeeded to the command and assembled a formidable army of 15,000 men at Albany. Moving northward, this force was borne down the waters of Lake George on a great flotilla of boats for an attack upon Ticonderoga. English spirits were high for they seemed to have an overwhelming force and were inspired by the brilliant leadership of George Augustus, Viscount Howe. The attack should have succeeded but was badly mismanaged. Without waiting for his artillery, which were never brought into action, Abercromby ordered a frontal attack with infantry. Lord Howe was killed in an early skirmish. The English assault was repulsed with such heavy losses that Abercromby, to the great disgust of many, gave up the campaign and withdrew to Albany. Sir William had recruited Indians for the campaign, but they were sent to occupy the mountain which rose above the fort, and they saw little action. It was not their kind of fighting. Abercromby had failed, and the ministry looked for another commander.

Now the fortunes of war were changing. While Abercromby was retreating from Ticonderoga, General Jeffery Amherst was successful in capturing the fortress of Louisbourg. Colonel John Bradstreet with 3,000 men, a fleet of bateaux and some Indian auxiliaries procured by Sir William seized and destroyed Fort Frontenac without the loss of a man. Although weakly defended, Frontenac was a significant link in the line of French communication, and its loss was a heavy blow to French prestige.

William Pitt, the new prime minister, chose able commanders to carry on the war in 1759. Jeffery Amherst, the hero of Louisbourg, replaced Abercromby at Lake George, and General James Wolfe, his dashing aide, was selected to besiege Quebec. At the close of 1758, the French had lost Fort Duquesne at the forks of the Ohio, which fell to an expedition commanded by General John Forbes. The time was ripe for a renewal of the project to take Fort Niagara.

## Taking Fort Niagara

Sir William had long urged the importance of capturing Niagara, and he assured Amherst that a considerable force of Indians would be available for the attack. Now the Senecas of Western New York had turned against the French. Amherst agreed with the plan and selected Brigadier General John Prideaux to lead the expedition. A force of 2,200 men, including an artillery unit, was gathered at Schenectady and, by the usual bateaux route, proceeded to Oswego. There they were met by 600 Indians, later augmented to 900, under Sir William. From there the expedition proceeded in whaleboats and bateaux, skirting the shore of Lake Ontario and putting in at coves during the night, until they were only 4 miles from Fort Niagara. The whole plan had been kept secret so as not to alarm the French; French boats patrolling the lake failed to discover the approach until the landing on July 6. Too late they attacked Oswego, which was defended by a small protective force under Lieutenant Colonel Haldimand.

Although the principal campaigns of 1759 were those of Amherst and Wolfe, the French were well aware of the importance of Niagara. They had sent an able engineer, Captain Pouchot, to rebuild and strengthen the defenses of the fort and they counted upon contingents at neighboring posts to assist in the event of an attack. They also depended upon their allies among the western Indians. Fort Niagara was a powerful influence in keeping these tribes friendly and in controlling their trade. Its loss would break the supply line to the westward, which the French could ill afford.

After landing at Four Mile Creek on July 6, General Prideaux began a system of entrenchments with gun emplacements, gradually working his lines toward the fort. Within 2 weeks, they were close enough for the British to bring an effective fire upon the defenders and to batter the fort's bastions. Then on July 20, Prideaux was

accidentally killed by the explosion of a coehorn, one of the mortars being fired at the enemy. Sir William Johnson, having the rank of Colonel, then assumed command and continued the siege operations.

As soon as Captain Pouchot learned of the English landing, he sent out Indian couriers asking for reinforcements. Joncaire Chabert at Little Niagara, the trading post above the falls, crossed the river and finally was able to come into the beleaguered fort. Messengers summoned the French forces on the Ohio, Lake Erie, and at Detroit. At length, Pouchot learned of their approach. He well knew the strength of the English, and advised De Lignery to come down the west bank of the Niagara River where he would not encounter the main army. This was good advice, but the French commander was supremely confident; "there were about 600 French and 1000 Indians," Pouchot reported, "who when passing the little rapid at the outlet of Lake Erie resembled a floating island, so black was the river with bateaux and canoes."

But Sir William, well informed by his Indian intelligence, sent a detachment to entrench the roadway at a place called La Belle Famille, and chose the scene of battle. The French and their Indians, like Braddock in 1755, marched into a trap. Captain James De Lancey wrote the best first-hand account of the engagement:

The 23d, I was sent with 150 of the light infantry to encamp near the River close to the Road leading from the Falls to the Fort, in order to prevent the enemy's throwing any Succour into the Fort . . . that night and the next morning I threw up a breastwork in Front of my camp. . . . I sent a Serjeant to Sir William to acquaint him that the Enemy were coming and in ten Minutes I was joined by three pickets of 50 each who were that morning ordered to reinforce me. about a quarter of an hour after Lt. Colonel Massey arrived with 150 of the 46th with which and the picket of the 44th he drew up on the Right of me, and the other two pickets on the left . . . about 100 Indians went to the left of the whole in order to fall on the Enemy's Flank.

Some of our Indians went to the Enemy's Indians to prevail on them not to fight But the French told them, they did not want to fight with our Indians but with us, on this our Indians returned and told us, the Enemy was coming, which they soon did with a very great noise and shouting.

They began the attack on the Right and our Men kept their ground and soon returned their fire, I ordered the light infantry not to fire until they were sure of their mark, which they punctually obeyed; Part of the enemy inclined to the

left and gave us a very smart fire, we did not fire for some time and then only about ten shot at some few who came very near us, very soon after this I found the Enemy's fire slacken, upon which I sent Col. Massey to desire he would let me leave the Breastwork, and rush in on the enemy which he granted, desired I would move slow, and advanced with his party on the Right, we jumped over the Breastwork and rushed in on the Enemy who immediately gave way,

They then Endeavoured to Flank us on the left, but I ordered a party from the Right to Move to the left which they did, and with them I pushed forward to the enemy, who falling in with the party which was on my left immediately ran away as fast as they could, and never offered to rally afterwards, a few of them remained behind and exchanged a few shots with us, and were either taken or killed;

Our Indians as soon as they saw the Enemy give way pursued them very briskly and took and killed numbers of them, we pursued about five Miles and then returned, we took several prisoners in our return under the bank of the River.

Among the captives were the officers De Lignery, Aubry, and Marin. Sir William now summoned Pouchot to surrender; when that unfortunate officer found that his relievers were prisoners of the English, he had no other choice. His fort was weakened, his garrison had suffered much, and his provisions were running low. Sir William dictated the capitulation and took possession of the fort. Over 600 of the enemy were taken prisoners and guaranteed safe conduct. Sir William by great exertions prevented his Indian allies from falling upon the prisoners, as Montcalm was unable to do at Fort William Henry. Leaving a small force at the fort, he moved his army and prisoners to Oswego. His command was then turned over to Colonel Thomas Gage.

The fall of Niagara was an event of the greatest importance. General Charles Lee called it:

... a most glorious and solidly advantageous acquisition, by its strength most formidable, and by its situation absolute Empress of the Inland parts of North America, commanding the two great Lakes, Erie, Ontario; the River Ohio, all the upper Nations of Indians, and consequently engrossing the whole Fur trade, cutting off the communication between Canada and Mississippi, & thus defeating their favourite and long projected scheme of forming a chain round our Colonies, so as in time to have jostled us into the Sea.



Johnson informed General Stanwix at Pittsburgh that the French forts were no longer serious threats to his westward campaign. While the victory was soon dwarfed by the fall of Quebec, it was a substantial advance in the British conquest of North America. Sir William was acclaimed a second time a military conqueror, and his reputation soared. A map of the campaign with a diagram of Fort Niagara made on the spot was later published with his name and coat of arms. Critics of "Johnson's Indians" had to admit that these allies had played a key role in the victory.

The following year, 1760, witnessed the final campaigns of the war. Gage in command of Oswego was directed by General Amherst to use his forces to seize La Gallette on the upper St. Lawrence, while the British closed in on Montreal. Sir William brought a number of Indians from Onondaga for the purpose and urged Gage to go down the river, but that officer chose instead to devote himself to the completion of Fort Ontario. Impatient with the delay, many Indians drifted away, but Sir William and the others moved down to participate in the occupation of Montreal. As the fighting came to an end, Sir William longed for the pursuits of peace.

## Sir William—Colonial Statesman

The Treaty of Paris 1763 removed France from North America and ended the threat to New York's northern frontier. The forts at Oswego, Niagara, and Detroit were yielded, and the inhabitants of Canada became British subjects. The hostile Indian menace seemed at an end, but, with the accession of territory, came new responsibilities. Among these new responsibilities were the Canadian Indian tribes which now came under Sir William as Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

The transfer of the Indian allegiance from France to England was not easy. The French *habitants* clung to the hope that some day France might return, and so they intrigued to keep the friendship of the Indians. Traders were reluctant to see the posts which they had occupied so long in the hands of a new regime. Yet, in November 1760, Major Robert Rogers, the noted ranger, was sent to receive the French surrender of Detroit. The next year Sir William journeyed to Niagara and Detroit and held a general parley with the western Indians to assure them of the friendly intentions of the British. He had built up an organization in the Indian Department of deputies,

commissaries, and interpreters to regulate trade and to maintain good relations between the Indians and the whites. He now appointed his aide, Colonel Daniel Claus, as his deputy for Canada and sent him to Montreal. He tried to allay the fears of these former wards of the French, to cultivate their trade through proper channels, and also to control the traders and the whites on the frontier. This was difficult, for peace brought new opportunities for settlement. Frontiersmen were impatient of restraint, and showed little regard for the claims and rights of the red man. Sir William hoped for a smooth transition, and therefore wanted to continue the practice of conciliating the Indians with gifts.



Sir William Johnson

*Painting attributed to Thomas McIlworth.*

*Courtesy of New York Historical Society, New York City*

General Jeffery Amherst, who now commanded the British forces in North America, however, had a different point of view. He considered the Indians of little value as fighting men, felt they were no longer needed as allies, since the French menace to the Northern border was removed, and therefore would cut off expenditures for gifts and support for the tribes. Such an abrupt change of policy Sir William knew would alienate his old friends and cause others to contrast this parsimony with French generosity. He and George Croghan, deputy for Pennsylvania, protested, and the latter threatened to quit the service. At the same time, the western Indians were worried by the continual pressure of frontiersmen encroaching upon their lands. Their resentment eventually boiled over in the "Pontiac Uprising."

Pontiac, an Ottawa chief, was credited with organizing the western tribes for a war against the white man. The so-called "conspiracy," hatched in the usual secretive manner of the tribes, called for a concerted attack upon the posts of the northwest. Sir William was not unaware of this undercurrent of Indian intrigue and warned his superiors, but Amherst gave no heed. He thought the Indians incapable of a serious threat to British rule. When in July 1763, the Indians attacked the whole line of western forts—Michilimackinac, Detroit, Venango, LeBoeuf, and Fort Pitt—the plan almost succeeded. Only Detroit and Fort Pitt received sufficient warning to avoid capture, and they were closely besieged for some time. A bloody war erupted, and the British hurriedly sent reinforcements and relief. The frontier receded eastward as settlers fled in panic.

Sir William, who had warned of the danger and had tried to pacify the Indians, now vigorously supported the measures for relief. Through his efforts, the Six Nations, except for the westernmost Senecas, remained neutral. Of course the British, due to their superior numbers, their organization, and their supply of arms, were bound to win, but for 2 years the rebellion terrified the frontier and caused many settlements to be abandoned. British regiments found it no easy task to recapture the western posts and to restore peace and order to the back country. Not until 1766 was Pontiac willing to submit and to acknowledge defeat. In July of that year, a conference was held at Oswego, where Sir William representing the British crown received the capitulation of Chief Pontiac and his promise to keep the peace.

Yet if the Indians were to remain peaceful, Sir William argued, the whites must be restrained, the fur trade must be regulated to prevent frauds and impositions, and Indian relations must be conducted in a fair and intelligent manner. This could only be done if there were

centralized control in the Indian Department. He drew up a plan for the reorganization of the service and urged it upon the British ministry. The proposal was both logical and statesmanlike, but the ministry was seeking a way to cut down expenses after the war, and they rejected the plan. Instead, they returned control of the fur trade to the several colonial governments who either so economized or so neglected affairs as to bring back many of the old abuses. There was general chaos in the rules applied and much dissatisfaction among both Indians and whites. Left without restraint and taking advantage of leniency and confusion in regulations, the traders became a law unto themselves. This contributed to the already unsettled conditions of the frontier.

Even more disturbing was the increased pressure on the frontier. With Pontiac subdued, frontiersmen, land speculators, and agents of newly organized companies surged into the West. The Indians were alarmed, for they saw a speedy end to their hunting grounds as the whites moved inexorably westward. The same kind of resentment which had spurred the Pontiac uprising now reappeared.

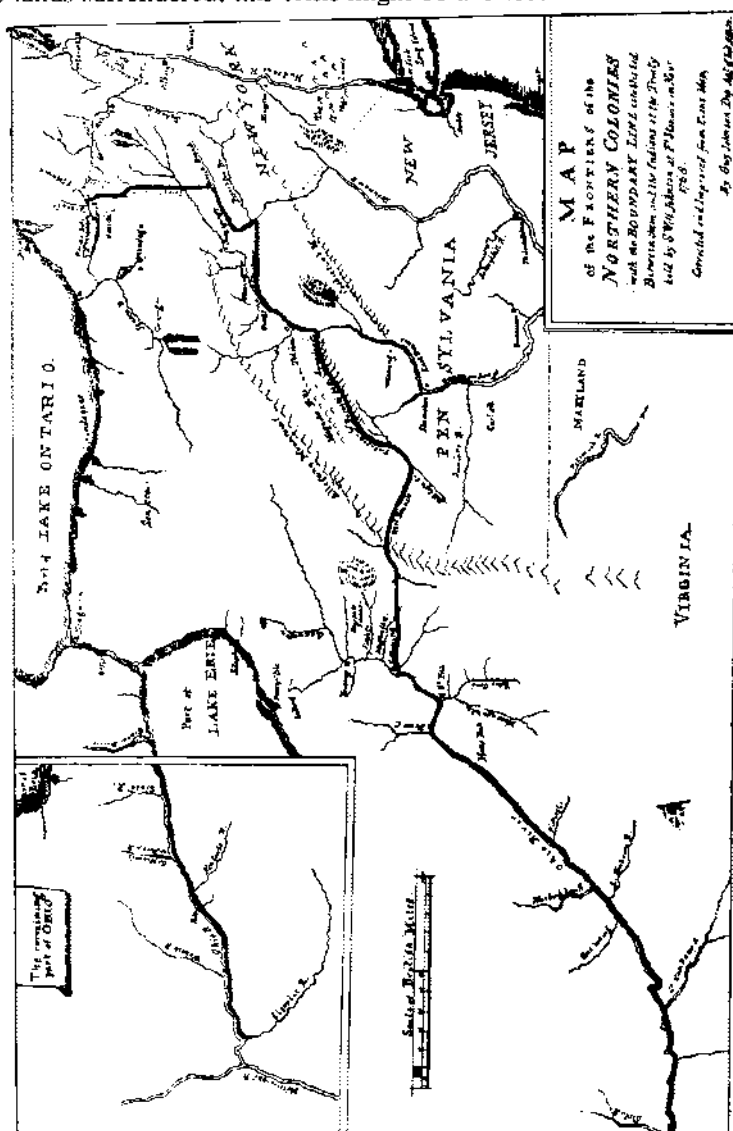
For some time, Sir William had urged upon the ministry a limitation on westward expansion. He suggested that a line be drawn between the Indian lands and those to be open for settlement. He understood the dangers of too rapid expansion, and he feared the excesses of the frontiersmen who often viewed the Indian tribes as mere obstacles to progress. He well knew how the Indians felt and how well justified were their complaints. He had spent his life making accommodation of the white men and the natives as neighbors, friends, and allies. In so doing, he had preached mutual understanding and respect which he felt were the only sure bases for peace. He wanted a treaty which would be fair to both sides.

Now he prevailed upon the ministry to sponsor a general congress to draw a demarcation line. The provincial governments and the several Indian nations involved would send delegations. The result was the Fort Stanwix Congress of 1768.

The Fort Stanwix Treaty may be considered the apogee of Sir William's career. It was the largest and most pretentious meeting ever assembled. Some 3,000 Indians represented not only the Six Nations, but also their allies and dependent tribes. The task of gathering them, accomodating them, and feeding them for a period of six weeks was a responsibility which only Sir William, with his long experience in Indian management and diplomacy, could handle.

The initial purpose of the Congress was to prevent conflict between Indians and white frontiersmen by drawing a boundary line, separat-

ing the Indians' lands from those which the provinces had granted for settlement. There were ugly rumors of coming conflict, and Indian agents were even predicting another uprising if Indians were not mollified. If a line could be drawn and the Indians could be paid for the lands surrendered, this crisis might be averted.



Map of the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, 1768  
Drawn by Guy Johnson.  
From Johnson Papers, vol. VI, group p. 450



There were many complicating factors, however, which made such a settlement difficult. Many large grants of land had already been made to land speculators of great influence and these would have to be considered. A group of "suffering traders," who had lost extensively due to the depredations of the Indians in Pontiac's uprising of 1763, now asked for indemnity and both the Indians and government had promised them relief. Some missionaries tried to safeguard the interests of religion, or of Indians under their tutelage, by setting off some lands. They opposed the grants to settlers. And the several provinces had their own interests in expansion. The Board of Trade had recommended an arbitrary line to Johnson, but he found this difficult to reconcile with the Indian claims and those of the provinces.

Indian agreement to participate in the meeting was difficult to obtain and slow to realize. Sir William first summoned the Six Nations, but it was also necessary to include dependent people of the confederacy and others whose interests were involved. First called for July 1768, the Congress had to be postponed until September. Representatives from Virginia and Pennsylvania arrived at Johnson Hall early in September, but it was September 15 before they and Sir William began their journey up the Mohawk to Fort Stanwix. They found only a small number of the Indians there, and it was a whole month before the official proceedings could begin. Distinguished guests and delegates—Governor John Penn of Pennsylvania and Governor William Franklin of New Jersey—had to wait while the tribes slowly assembled; they halted for days to condole deaths of their chiefs, and they had frequent excuses for other delays. Governor Penn and Chief Justice Allen left for Philadelphia on October 15, before the official proceedings began.

These delays of course caused the expenses to mount. Sir William had first estimated a cost of £10,000. When he and his party came up the river in five boats they were followed by 20 boatloads of presents. Added to this, however, was the cost of provisioning and housing the growing throng. Some 800 Indians at the beginning increased to 3,100 before the treaty was finished. The cost amounted to £21,900 New York currency when Sir William rendered his final bill.

Sir William's greatest difficulty was with the Onondas, who protested the extension of the line through New York to include the cession of great grants along the Mohawk. The Six Nations also insisted on the extension of the line down the Ohio River nearly to the Mississippi, by virtue of their claim over the Indians of that area. The final demarcation line took in more land than the Crown had

asked, and for this Sir William was reprimanded. But he had to balance the speculators', traders', and provincial claims, and also achieve a settlement which the Indians would accept. With the acceptance of a huge gift, guarantees of their lands within the area ceded, and a promise of observance of the line, Sir William achieved a diplomatic victory and passed a crisis in Indian affairs. It is true that the treaty marked a great extension of governmental control over the western lands of the Indians, but this seemed inevitable. It had been achieved, moreover, without loss of face or of the confidence of the Indians. But the test was whether the line would be observed. It was not long before white settlers were disregarding the restraints of the governments and pushing farther west.

Historians have been critical of Sir William's role in the Fort Stanwix treaty. Some have said that he betrayed the Indians by paving the way for settlement of large areas of the West, and that he favored the land speculators and the governments. Also he had violated the explicit instructions of the ministry in drawing the line. He was blamed for accepting the Six Nations as spokesmen for the other tribes. And of course the subsequent failure of the arbitrary line to hold back settlement and to prevent Indian wars proved that it was no solution.

All of these criticisms are true in part. The line was a compromise, the best that could be done under the circumstances. Yet the Congress averted an immediate conflict. It recognized the traders and speculators as forces to be controlled rather than denied. It recognized the Indian rights, and if it preferred the Confederacy as negotiator it was because the Six Nations were the most capable. That the settlement was not final or permanent was no fault of Sir William. He wrote to the ministry:

I have staked my reputation with the Indians that the Several Articles they have made shall be observed, without which the charges attending the Assembling them at this time and all other endeavors would have been ineffectual, they have at length relied on my Assurances and I am confident that the regard paid to them will be the only security for the observance of the line.

## Culture on the Frontier

With the tumults and the cares of the wars receding, Sir William turned his attention to his lands and their development. While on his

journey to Detroit in 1761, he collected seeds for his farm and made plans for future buildings. He wrote about the new establishment which he planned several miles north of the Mohawk River. Fort Johnson, once thought commodious for his growing family, had become crowded. It was flanked by barracks filled with soldiers; it was frequently overrun with friendly Indians; and, as a convenient stop on the principal route to the interior, it was visited by all manner of travelers. Warren Johnson said that it had "more Custom than any Inn in England." A new farm and residence far removed from the river would provide space for Sir William's many activities and perhaps be less troubled with such distractions.

In the spring of 1763, Sir William began the construction of his new mansion, Johnson Hall, in the midst of his farm. Unlike Fort Johnson, which was of field stone, this was a wooden frame construction, though the boards were rusticated to resemble stone blocks. Samuel Fuller of Schenectady was the builder and he and his men worked throughout the summer, so that by winter the house was ready to be occupied and furnished. Its broad hallways, with stairway, were flanked by two large rooms on each side on the first and second floors. The ground floor contained the kitchen and the service rooms.

While the mansion was being built, the carpenters were also at work on barns, a coach house, and a bowmaster's house for the overseer. Soon there would be mills, shops for craftsmen, and a number of dwellings for servants and tenants. A few years later, two stone blockhouses were erected, flanking the mansion. Apparently intended for defense of this residence on the frontier (for the Hall, unlike Fort Johnson, had no defensive features), they served at various times for offices, for storehouses or the "Indian store," and for general utility. At one time, when danger threatened, they were connected by a stockade to enclose a courtyard. But the general outline of the Hall grounds showed no fear of hostile neighbors.

About 2 years after building the Hall, Sir William laid out a town 1 mile away. Some 120 families, most of them his tenants or craftsmen, were living in houses which were built for them, and there was now need for a church and a school. When the stone church was completed in 1766, Sir William applied to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to send a minister, or missionary, for whom he promised a parsonage and glebe—a living worth £60. It was not easy to fill the place, and not until 1773 did the Reverend Mosley become its first minister. By this time, the town had so grown that the church was enlarged. It was provided with an organ imported from England and a canopied pew for Sir William.

New settlers appeared rapidly as Sir William held out encouragement to artisans, merchants, and hardy immigrant farmers. A number of families from the Scottish Highlands were of the middle or upper class, a highly desirable type of colonist. Many of these were Catholics and among them was their priest who had a house and his own chapel. This liberal policy of Sir William was in marked contrast to the general intolerance of the times. The growth of settlement and the progress of industry were such that their patron could boast of the activity even in winter. The town, he said, was "a mere thorough Fair, Every Day full of Sleds bringing Ashes [for potash] to the Mayor, and others bringing goods from him, & numbers on business to me, which makes the place more lively than Albany or Schenectady."

Sir William hoped that his estates might become a manor, with markets, fairs, courts, and other institutions like those of the Van Rensselaers and Livingstons. Yet it was too late; the governors were no longer able to issue such patents. He had to be content with his markets and fairs. He was able, nevertheless, in 1772 to have the new Tryon County set off from Albany, with Johnstown as its county seat. Here he built a courthouse, which still stands, and here he set up the county government. Thus he pushed forward the frontier of settlement, promoted industry and culture, and expanded his "empire," under benevolent supervision.

## Life at Johnson Hall

When Sir William moved into Johnson Hall, he also made provision for his growing family. In 1762, his deputy for Canada, Daniel Claus, was married to his eldest daughter Ann (or Nancy), so Sir William had his carpenters remodel his first house on the river as their home. It was occupied by the Claus family until the Revolution. In 1763, too, his nephew Guy Johnson was married to his daughter Mary (or Polly), and for them Sir William built a fine house 1 mile east of Fort Johnson. "Guy Park" was opened in 1766. Fort Johnson he kept for his son John who lived there after his return from England in 1767. There in 1773, Sir John brought his bride, Polly Watts of New York.

The mistress of Johnson Hall was the Indian housekeeper, Molly Brant, whose growing brood of Sir William's natural children en-

livened the household. The eldest, Peter, was only four in 1763, and he had two infant sisters. Before Sir William's death, there were eight of Molly's children who received the best of care and education. It was for them, as well as for others of the neighborhood, that Sir William established a free school in Johnstown. Formerly all instruction was given by a clergyman. Sir William sought a teacher in New York, and there was a succession of "masters." For further education, Peter was sent to Philadelphia and to Montreal; other children attended boarding schools in New York and Schenectady.

These families joined in creating a lively social life at Johnson Hall. Perhaps less frequently the stopping place for travelers than Fort Johnson, Johnson Hall gave gracious hospitality to many visitors. Here came for official visits New York's governors, Moore and Tryon. On their way to Fort Stanwix, Sir William entertained Governor Franklin of New Jersey, Governor John Penn, and Chief Justice Allen of Pennsylvania. Sometimes, as in the case of the governors and their staffs, their ladies and attendants graced the Hall. Most notable as visitors of the fair sex were the Duchess of Gordon and Lady Susan O'Brien (daughter of Lord Ilchester). Then there were men of affairs, military officers, and land speculators (great men to be)! For all of these, Sir William played the role of country squire, dispensing hospitality, good cheer, and a touch of the culture of the Colonies or of the Old World.

On social occasions, there were entertainments of music and drama. Daniel Claus was an enthusiastic musician, a violinist, and little Peter also had his fiddle. Sir John, after returning from England, played the harpsichord which he brought home. There was group singing, and no doubt much hilarity on festive occasions. At one time, an Irish harper served as a kind of court musician. Sir William established in Johnstown St. Patrick's Lodge of the Masonic order in 1766, and monthly meetings were sometimes held at the Hall. St. Patrick's day was always an occasion for festivity, heartily joined by Sir William and his Irish cronies. Hence the Hall was an island of society in the wilderness.

Life at Johnson Hall, however, could not ignore the presence of the Indians. Sir William carried on his Indian diplomacy there, and there he established a council fire of the Six Nations. A continuous round of Indian visits, conferences, and councils meant that Indians were never missing from the scene. An Indian store was maintained to supply gifts for Indian diplomacy, and houses were built nearby for the more numerous visitations. In 1772, a log building 100 feet



long was erected for Indian use. Sir William once complained to Gage that "every Room & Corner in my House [is] Constantly full of Indians."

It was chiefly for the Indians that Sir William promoted religion and the establishment of churches. As early as 1750, the Reverend John Ogilvie, rector of the English church, St. Peter's in Albany, and missionary to the Mohawks at Fort Hunter, found Johnson his chief patron. Ogilvie served also as military chaplain and aide to Sir William during Indian conferences and on campaigns. Ogilvie revised the English prayer book, printed in Mohawk, under Sir William's auspices. Missions to the Indians were promoted by Sir William both as a civilizing force and through his earnest support of the Anglican Church. He underwrote the building of St. George's Church, Schenectady, and his own church in Johnstown. He encouraged clergymen to come to the area and was so interested in missionary work that he was elected a member of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. He corresponded with the leading clergymen of the time, and became an advocate of sending an Anglican bishop to America.

Most interesting was his building of a church for the Mohawks at the Upper Castle (Canajoharie). Funds were raised and labor was contributed by the Indians. Then Sir William hired the carpenters and supplied a bell and a weathervane. The Indian Castle Church (though much altered) still stands as an evidence of this enterprise.

While Sir William strongly supported the official Anglican church, he was generous and friendly in support of others. Eleazar Wheelock, Samuel Kirkland, and Gideon Hawley were aided in their missions among the Indians. The Dutch Reformed Church was active in the area, and Lutherans even held services at the Johnson home. Roman Catholics, who were officially frowned upon, received a welcome at Johnstown, where many settled, and were allowed their own priest and chapel.

## Failure of Indian Management

When the ministry rejected Sir William's plan for a centralized administration of Indian affairs, they restored the control of Indian trade to the several provincial governments. Sir William still had his regional deputies, and there were commissaries and interpreters at the principal posts, but he could not enforce regulations for trader's passes, fair prices, or the confinement of all trade to posts for stricter regulation. Traders, difficult to control at best, took advantage of the diversity of rules and the loosening of control by the colonial govern-

ments. They welcomed any opportunity to expand trade or to venture into new areas.

This tendency was well illustrated by the episode of Major Robert Rogers at Michilimackinac. The renowned Ranger, hero of the Indian wars, had achieved a great reputation in England, where he had published an account of his adventures and a drama on the story of Pontiac. Ever ambitious and conceiving great plans for the American West, he obtained a commission as governor of Michilimackinac, one of the posts which had fallen in Pontiac's uprising. This he envisioned might be the seat of a great Western empire with himself at the head, and perhaps the staging ground for the "North-west Passage." He drew up elaborate plans for its government and trade.

Rogers' appointment over the heads of the American authorities was a shock to Sir William and General Gage who knew something of the man's unstable character. They sought to circumscribe his activities to prevent his stirring up trouble. In Indian affairs, he was under Sir William who appointed a commissary to regulate the trade at the fort. Sir William also directed that all trade in the West should be confined to the posts, a regulation which hampered those traders who preferred to carry on their barter among the tribes. Rogers disregarded these regulations, ran up a considerable debt, and engaged in a brawl with the commissary. His violent behavior and grandiose plans aroused the suspicions of some subordinates who claimed that he was plotting treason and was in communication with the French. He was arrested, thrown in irons, and sent to Montreal for trial. There, however, he won the backing of Montreal traders who had loaned him money and who had ventured into his unauthorized trade. Witnesses against him were either driven to England or jailed on trumped up charges, and Rogers was acquitted.

It is not clear that Rogers was guilty of treason as he was charged, but that he was extravagant, reckless, and insubordinate there is no doubt. His grandiose plan for the West would have been a clear violation of the spirit of the Fort Stanwix treaty. Any such scheme might jeopardize the pacific Indian policies of Sir William. Rogers had little liking or sympathy for Indians and he chafed under all government regulation. He was a popular figure, who still has his admirers, but his ideas and plans were endangering the pacification of the frontier.

Considering the instability of the Indian tribes, their weakness and deteriorating condition, their rivalries, and their constant demands upon the government, it is doubtful whether any treaty-fixing boundaries could have had any lasting value. In periods of peace, white

settlements expanded at an accelerated rate. The constant push westward was bound to encroach upon the Indians' tribal claims and to affect their mode of life. The frontier settler was an individualist, with little regard for laws, and impatient of all restraint. This westward march of settlement and the white man's civilization could hardly be opposed by colonial governments.

Rogers' illicit exploit, the attempt to carve an empire out of the Far West, could be checked. There were other plans, however, legal, and officially approved, and with the backing of influential men of the Colonies, which also tended to upset the equilibrium of frontier peace. By 1774, leading citizens of Virginia and Pennsylvania were forming companies to take over large areas in the West. Lobbyists were in England drawing plans and preparing measures which would give official sanction to developments far beyond the Fort Stanwix Line. Sir William knew of these plans; some of the leading speculators, like George Croghan, were his associates and correspondents; but he could do little to check their schemes. Neither could the colonial governments say anything to counter such plans, although they brought Virginia and Pennsylvania close to conflict.

A certain amount of white expansion would have been tolerated by the Indians, had there not been sporadic outbursts of violence. Some aggressive frontiersmen seemed bent on exterminating any Indians who stood in their way. Murders of Indians by white men on the frontier for no cause, and with no punishment for the crimes, were all too frequent. Those by Michael Cresap and William Greathouse—the slaying of the whole family of Chief Logan—were so wanton as to shock the civilized communities. It was more and more difficult to convince the Indians that the white settler was not his enemy. These and other difficulties brought constant pressure upon Sir William to convene another meeting to appease the Indians, to assuage their grief and to answer their complaints. These demands came when he would have preferred quietly to cultivate his farm, to promote his settlements and to enjoy his homes and family.

Sir William's health, first impaired by his wound in 1755 (the ball having never been removed), had suffered from his numerous journeys to the frontier and was undermined by various ailments. He had given up riding; he had sought the aid of various doctors and had tried numerous remedies. Since 1767, he had been going to the seashore in Connecticut or to Long Island, for months to recuperate. He had tried the waters of mineral springs. During these absences, he delegated his duties to Guy Johnson, his deputy, who had conducted several conferences. Yet so great was the Indians' dependence upon "War-

raghiyagey," and so great was his influence over them, that he was again forced to convene a meeting of the Indians at Johnson Hall.

On July 11, 1774, the Chiefs of the Six Nations were continuing a conference with Sir William and his deputies, Guy Johnson and



Colonel Guy Johnson

*Painting by Benjamin West.*

*Courtesy of National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C.*

Daniel Claus, concerned chiefly with complaints of white outrages on the frontier. Sir William, as was his custom, spoke long and earnestly, reviewing and condemning the murders by Cresap, the excesses of others, but also blaming the warlike Shawnees in the Ohio country. He told of steps he had taken to settle these troubles, and he called for the help of the Six Nations in restraining the others. It was the same difficult task of appeasing both sides and calling for moderation and the rule of reason. Sir William, however, was a sick man and he was tired. He had to be helped to the Hall where he collapsed. Within 2 hours, he died.

The sudden death of Sir William was in itself a crisis. The Indians who trusted and believed in him were shocked. They wanted to broadcast the news by runners to all their castles. Guy Johnson persuaded them to wait and to avoid a panic. He asked for their participation in the funeral and promised his own in the condolence ceremony. And for the continuity of the Indian negotiations, he promised to take care of their affairs.

Sir William had not been unmindful of the consequences of his illness and death, and some months before, displaying statesmanlike concern for his office, had made plans for a successor. His son and heir Sir John was consulted but showed no desire to shoulder his father's burdens. Daniel Claus was the senior deputy of long experience in Indian affairs and might have been a logical choice. But Guy Johnson had acted frequently in Sir William's absence, was familiar with negotiations, and had the advantage of the Johnson name. So Sir William declared his preference for Guy to General Gage and to Lord Dartmouth of the Colonial Office. Guy immediately took over and was recognized as the temporary superintendent. He very ably carried on the Indian policy of Sir William, until he was faced with new issues in the American Revolution.

## American Independence

Within a year after Sir William's death came the outbreak of the American Revolution, which was to have a profound effect upon relations with the Indians. One can only conjecture what would have been the course of events had Sir William lived to witness the Revolution. Would he have sided with the American Colonies? Or would his great influence with the Indians have changed the course of New York's history? Certainly he would have been a power in the shaping of events of the time.



Sir William was well informed concerning the issues of the day. He was supplied with the New York newspapers and other contemporary literature and he had a wide correspondence with merchants, officials, officers, and clergymen in New York, Philadelphia, and London. He was much concerned with the measures passed by Parliament which stirred opposition in the Colonies—the Stamp Act, the Tea Tax, and the Boston Port Bill. He realized the need for taxes, but he felt the ministry were not aware of the temper of the Colonies. A week before his death he wrote: "I am afraid the Parliament did not reflect when the Port Bill was passed, that every thing of late Years is carried here by Associations; & that if they have time they will form a Union which will Alarm the British Merchants & Manufacturers, & by setting them on the back of Government, render every Law that has the aspect of restraint Abortive."

While he understood the issues and the temper of the people, Sir William as a crown official deplored the resort to violence and opposed such groups as the "Sons of Liberty." He was frankly a monarchist and had no sympathy with "Republicans." For years he had been a member of the governor's council and had been interested in colonial politics. In Indian relations he had always been the advocate of reason, compromise, and accommodation. He believed that issues might be settled without resort to force. Had he lived and been compelled to make a decision, he would probably have remained loyal to the king, as were members of his family and many of their friends and associates. He would have found many others of his friends, tenants, and neighbors going along with the Revolutionary cause. He no doubt would have been chiefly concerned, however, with the effect of the struggle upon the Indians and would have noted that the troublesome pioneers of the frontier were likely to be on the side of rebellion, for Indian affairs were complicated by the struggle.

## Indians and the Revolution

In all the colonial wars the Six Nations played an active part. They occupied a strategic area in the center of New York and they could help or hinder on routes of communication any major military campaigns. They could give valuable service as scouts and spies as well as military auxiliaries. Traditionally the Six Nations were allies of the British, and the Indian Department under Sir William strove to keep them "in the British interest." Hence Guy Johnson as Superintendent

tried at this time to keep them friendly. The patriot leaders, knowing that the great authority of Sir William was now exercised by his successor, were suspicious and hoped to neutralize the Indians rather than to win them over. At first it appeared that was also the aim of Guy, for he told the Indians that this was a quarrel between "the Boston people" and the King's ministers. Indeed to the people of upper New York it did seem to be a localized affair and none of their business. But Samuel Kirkland, the New England missionary to the Oneidas, tried to explain to his charges the issues as he saw them. This seemed to Colonel Guy like outright incitement to rebellion and harsh letters were written between him and Kirkland. He continued to hold official conferences with the Indians.

When the militia of New York were called out to support the patriot cause they feared the consequences if the Indians were kept on the British side. A committee from Albany met the Indians at German Flatts and arranged another meeting in Albany with representatives from the Congress at Philadelphia. There they obtained from the Indians a promise of neutrality. But neutrality was just as difficult for the Indians as it was for civilians who had ties with both sides. At Albany, Chief Abraham had told the Committee of the Indians' high regard for Sir William's son and heir, Sir John, and that he should not be molested. They also trusted Colonel Guy, who continued officially to dispense gifts and supplies. If the Johnsons were interfered with the Indians would be offended.

Early moves of the patriot leaders in New York were regarded by Guy Johnson as a threat to his authority. He believed that efforts would be made to arrest him and to control the Indians through his office. He decided to leave the Mohawk Valley and to hold an Indian Congress at Fort Ontario, Oswego. There he still urged Indian neutrality, but the Caghnawagas of Canada were definitely on the British side, and he could not control the western tribes. He decided to go down the St. Lawrence to Montreal with his officers of the Indian service and others who were with him. There he reported to General Carleton, and his officers and Indians joined the British forces. Soon they were engaged in skirmishes on Lake Champlain and at St. Johns and Montreal.

Back in the valley Sir John, who was not a crown official, declared his loyalty to the King, but gave his promise not to take part in the struggle. Johnson Hall was kept under surveillance by the militia, and when it seemed that Sir John was arming his loyalist followers, steps were taken to seize him. Having spent 2 years in England, Sir John was more British than his father. He was a man of spirit and

keenly resented the restraints thrown about him. He organized his faithful tenants as a protection for his property. When he learned that the provincials with a force under General Schuyler were coming to the Hall, he decided to flee. In May 1776 with a party of 200, Sir John fled through the Adirondacks to Montreal. Suffering much privation since they had little time to prepare or equip themselves, the small party joined the exiles who had preceded them. Subsequently they were organized as Loyalist Rangers fighting for the British. Johnson Hall was seized and plundered, and Sir John's pregnant wife, Lady Johnson, was carried as a hostage to Albany.

The flight of the Johnsons was a great blow to the security of the Mohawk Valley. With them went many of their loyalist retainers, tenants, and officers of the Indian service. They were also accompanied by influential Indian leaders, of whom Joseph Brant was the most important. A protege of Sir William, Joseph had become an interpreter and secretary for Colonel Guy after Sir William's death. He was the brother of Sir William's housekeeper, Molly Brant. When Guy decided to go to England, to confirm his position as Indian superintendent, Brant went with the party. He became very popular in London; he was feted and had his portrait painted by leading artists; he finally came back to New York, with a captain's commission in the British army. Upon returning to America, Joseph Brant began enlisting the Indians for the British forces.

In the Mohawk Valley, in the meantime, the Revolutionary Tryon County Committee forced wavering neutrals to take the oath of allegiance. The Indians who were personally attached to the Johnsons and other Tories were disaffected. Many fled to Canada with the Reverend John Stuart, the missionary at Fort Hunter. Those who remained, according to Colonel Tench Tilghman, who visited the valley with the Commissioners from Congress, were much influenced by Molly Brant, the relict of Sir William. Only the Oneidas and Tuscaroras, due to the work of Samuel Kirkland, remained friendly to the patriot cause.

During the Burgoyne campaign in 1777, the Mohawk Valley was the object of the expedition of Barry St. Leger, who was accompanied by Sir John Johnson and his Tory Rangers and by Indians under Joseph Brant. When the militia went to the relief of Fort Stanwix, Molly Brant informed the British of their movements. At Oriskany, Tories and Indians were engaged in bloody combat with their former neighbors. After this Molly Brant fled to the Indian country where she lived for awhile; then joined British garrisons, first at Fort Niagara, and later on Carleton Island. She was influential in controlling the

Indians for the British. From Niagara and from the North, Tory and Indian raids devastated the Mohawk valley. The massacres at Cherry Valley and Wyoming alerted the country to the dangers of frontier warfare. Finally, General Washington planned a war of extermination against the Iroquois of central and western New York. The campaigns of Clinton and Sullivan in 1779 were directed at the Indians; Seneca towns were destroyed, crops were burned, and most of the tribes fled to refuge in Canada. So successful was this expedition that



Joseph Brant

*Painting by Gilbert Stuart.*

*Courtesy of New York State Historical Association,  
Cooperstown, N. Y.*

most of the Indians left New York. They settled on lands provided for them by the British on the Bay of Quinte and at Brantford, Ontario. Their lands in New York were confiscated. The relocation of the Indians was a principal result of the Revolutionary War. That the Indians played such a prominent role in the conflict and that they were so strongly attached to the British was undoubtedly due to the great influence exerted over them by Sir William Johnson.

## Importance of Sir William Johnson

The history of New York was profoundly influenced in the Colonial and Revolutionary periods by the Iroquois Indians of the Six Nations. They in turn were so successfully managed, directed, and even controlled by Sir William Johnson that he became one of the greatest New Yorkers of his day. His greatness is more remarkable because he gained his power over the Indians through his honesty, fairness, and brotherly love shown in dealing with them. And he used his power for honest aims and for the good of the Indians as well as for the whites. He was a diplomat and peacemaker. His material success as merchant, land developer, and empire builder served only to reinforce and strengthen his position. The frontier was open for development and many sought to carve out spheres of influence and to build a fortune in land. By his moderation, tact, and good sense, Sir William was able to conserve and consolidate his gains both materially and in his relations with other men. A wide acquaintance and correspondence won for him fame and reputation. He was universally trusted. He was content to wield his influence without show of personal ambition or political preferment. His passing left a vacuum, for no one was able to gain such a breadth of influence. It was unfortunate that the course of war and revolution wrecked so much that he had built. Patriotic historians have done him less than justice, due to the unpopularity of his successors. Now his contributions and his good example are better understood.

The role of the Indians in New York history also has been too little appreciated. During the Revolution they sided with the British, their lands were confiscated, and many of them fled to Canada with the Tories. This brought them a kind of stigma in American history and they received little sympathy. Yet they were original New Yorkers and their achievements and destiny need to be studied as a part of our history along with the story of Sir William Johnson.



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**WILLIAM JOHNSTON (1753-1838)**

of Virginia and Georgia  
Revolutionary War Soldier

By Linda Ward Meadows

William Johnston was born in Amelia County, VA in 1753. His first wife was Mary Ballard (1750-1799), who was a widow. They had 15 children. The following are the known children among those 13 boys and two girls: Gideon (married Polly Redding in Baldwin County, GA 1810; Gideon was born 18 April 1786, died 2 July 1839, and is buried at Salem Methodist Church Cemetery in Monroe County, GA), Caleb (married Nancy Feagin in Baldwin County, GA in 1812), Asa (married Eliza Feagin), Moses, Rebecca (married \_\_\_\_ Turk), Mary Ann (married \_\_\_\_ Turk), Albert, Lloyd, and Joel Mac (deceased before March 1837). In addition, Mary Ballard Johnston had a daughter Lottie Ballard, by her first husband.

Johnston married his second wife, Millison S. Hogan, daughter of Isham Hogan, on 5 April 1814, in Baldwin County, GA. The marriage was performed by James Irwin, J.P. Millison was born in GA in 1790. Born to William Johnston and his second wife, Millison S., were the following nine children:

1. Susan D. m. 1st William F. Clark 12/10/1829.  
2nd Ch. Harwood.
2. William Blackstone b. 1816 in Baldwin County, GA.  
m. 1st Caroline B. Bailey 10/10/1833, in Bibb Co., GA;  
2nd Eleanor C. Bullock, daughter of Irwin Bullock  
& Ladufsia Pound, on 11/15/1838 in Bibb Co., GA  
d. 7/20/1868 in Dooly County, GA.
3. Elizabeth "Eliza" b. 1818 in Baldwin Co., GA.  
m. 9/25/1834 to William Harrington who was born in 1809.
4. Martha b. 1818 in Baldwin Co. (twin to Eliza).  
m. Joseph John Holleman 10/2/1834.  
d. 1894.
5. Vastile m. Solomon Johnson 8/8/1839.
6. Luther R. b. 6/23/1823 in Bibb Co., GA.  
m. 6/18/1844 to Eliza Hollingsworth, who was born 10/3/1825 in Bibb Co. and died 11/15/1883 in Bibb Co.  
d. 4/17/1866 in Bibb Co.  
(Confederate Veteran, Co. B, 27th Regt., GA Volunteers)
7. Morgan Parker b. 10/15/1825 in Bibb Co.  
m. 1st Sarah Ann Reynolds, born in Ga in 1832; Morgan was married 3 times  
d. After 8/26/1904  
(Moved to Bullock Co., AL in 1852; Confederate Veteran from AL)

8. Millison H.    b. 1828 in Bibb Co.  
                    m. 10/3/1843 to John Hollingsworth, who was born in N.C. in 1819.  
                    d. After 8/26/1904
9. Ann Miriam    b. 5/30/1832 in Bibb Co.  
                    m. 9/4/1847 to Walter Hollingsworth, who was born 10/2/1824, and died  
                        6/15/1887 in Bibb Co.  
                    d. 7/18/1876 in Bibb Co.

William Johnston was among the earliest settlers in what is now Bibb County, GA. He owned land in the fourth district of original Houston, now Bibb County, located in lots 230, 231, and 232. In addition, lot 3 in square 24 in the city of Macon belonged to him, as did lot 183 in the fifth district of original Houston, now Bibb County. He left this legacy of land to his wife and 16 children who survived him. He also provided for the widow and child of his deceased son, Joel Mac. Johnston's lengthy last will and testament also contains numerous bequests of slaves and personal property to his heirs.

In addition to Johnston's last will and testament, his pension claim (VA-S31780), filed in Bibb County, provides further background information about the man. During the American Revolution, he entered service as a regular soldier at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania on 9 January 1777, enlisting in a company commanded by Captain William Lewis. His term of enlistment was for one year with the First VA Regiment, commanded by Colonel Richard Parker. Brigade commander was General Mecklenberg. Johnston was engaged in the Battle of Monmouth, where he was under the immediate command of Prussian leader Baron von Steuben. Following his first enlistment, Johnston was discharged by Captain Payne. Another term of duty involved him in the Battle of Cowpens, under the command of Captain Archer. He later guarded prisoners during a three-month term in Salisbury, North Carolina.

Johnston's youngest son, Morgan Parker, noted his father's Revolutionary service in his Confederate records filed August 26, 1904. He recalled how his father had often spoken of his experiences in the Continental Army. Morgan remembered "distinctly hearing him tell of being at the Cowpens and at the surrender of Cornwallis, and that he also saw Mollie Pitcher." Morgan Parker further recalled his father's references to William's brother James, who was in a different command, and who when last seen by a comrade, was wounded and leaning against a tree.

According to his own pension application, William Johnston resided in many places during his long life. He moved from Amelia County, VA to Prince Edward County; from there to Henrico County, VA. Then he moved to North Carolina; from there to South Carolina, then back to Guilford County, North Carolina. He then moved to Salisbury, within the same state. In the early 1800's, he moved to the state of GA, wherein he resided in the counties of Columbia, Washington, Hancock, Baldwin, and Bibb.

William Johnston was allowed a pension of \$50.00 per annum, issued 15 February 1836, as provided for in an Act of Congress dated 7 June 1832. When he applied for the pension in 1835, he claimed to be 81 years of age. He died in Bibb County, GA on 26 October 1838, and

was buried in the Johnston Family Cemetery, now located on GA Highway 129, between Warner Robins and Macon. Morgan Parker's Confederate papers mentioned his father's death. William "had been remarkably active and vigorous to within 4 years of his death when he became a victim of rheumatism, which finally resulted in his death. His home at that time was ten miles from Macon, Georgia." He stated that his father's age at the time of his death was 86.

Millison Johnston died at the age of 70 at her residence in Bibb County on 2 January 1861. She was a member of Sardis Primitive Baptist Church at the time, and had been a Primitive Baptist for over 45 years.

*Sources consulted:* NSDAR applications #324738, #332892, #401332, #439845, & #502897; Pension Claim VA-S31780 obtained from National Archives; Last Will and Testament of William Johnston probated 1838 in Bibb County, GA; 1814 Baldwin County, GA marriage license of William Johnston and Milley Hogan; Roster of Revolutionary Soldiers in GA, Vol. III, p. 128, by McCall; Historical and Genealogical Collections of Dooly County, GA, Vol. I, p. 308, by Watts and Nora Powell; 1833 Bibb County, GA Marriage License of William B. Johnston and Caroline B. Bailey, Book A, folio 164; 1838 Bibb County, GA Marriage License of William B. Johnston and Eleanor C. Bullock, Book A, folio 282; Georgia Genealogical Magazine, Issue 96, p. 121; Christian Index, p. 15, Column 6, 30 January 1861; Marriages and obituaries from the Macon Messenger; Confederate records of Morgan Parker Johnston, A-911, Alabama Dept. of Archives and History; History of Baldwin County, GA, pages 259 and 260, by Anna Maria Green Cook; Bibb County, GA Early Wills and Cemetery Records, page 52, by Jean Saunders Willingham and Berthenia Crocker Smith.

Submitted by Linda Ward Meadows, 3rd-great grand-daughter of William and Millison Johnston, and 2nd-great grand-daughter of William Blackstone and Eleanor Bullock Johnston; 9088 Val-Del Road, Adel, GA 31620. Phone: 912-896-3591. Email: [lmeadows@surfsouth.com](mailto:lmeadows@surfsouth.com)

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



# William Joseph Johnston

## Mayor of Fort Smith, 1909-1911

Ben B. Johnston, Jr., Grandson

*Johnston  
Family*



Mary Bates Bourne Johnston



William Joseph Johnston

William Joseph "Colonel Bill" Johnston, known as one of the most powerful political figures in Sebastian County and one of the most dedicated civic supporters of Fort Smith, was mayor of Fort Smith when thirteen Fort Smith citizens first petitioned the city to set up the present water system by taking over the private water system.

In an article written sometime between 1923 and 1926, his friend Bleeker Luce described him as "the most independent character Fort Smith has ever known... and yet, in spite of his abnormally stiff backbone, his love and loyalty for his friends and his community were so intense that without yielding an iota in his decisions, he was enthusiastically honored by his city and country."

Not only was he recognized by his country, but in 1902 he received a royal invitation to the coronation of King Edward VII of England. (See accompanying invitation on following page.)

Bleeker Luce continued his description of Bill Johnston by saying, "Politically his head contained all the brilliant strategy of 'Old Tree Full of Owls' and the shrewd wisdom of 'Scattergood Baines', two famous politicians of modern literature."

"Two townships in Sebastian County are named, one Mont Sandels for his best friend, and the other,

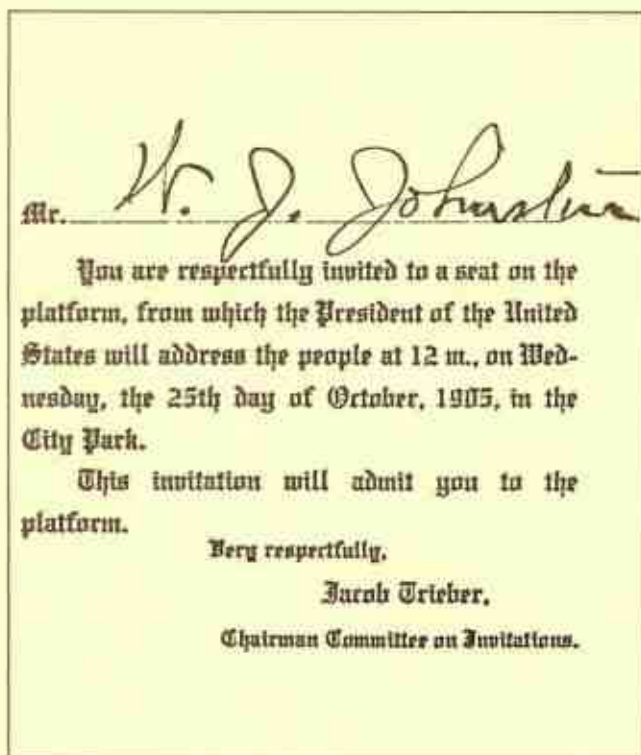
Bill Johnston for his son, William Joseph Johnston, Jr. He scorned public recognition for himself."

As a young man, Bill Johnston drove a stage coach between Fort Smith and Winslow, and while the railroad tunnel leading from Winslow was under construction, he drove a hack transporting people over the mountain from where the railroad ended on one side to where it began on the other side.

He owned a mercantile store on Lee Creek, and on January 1, 1881, went into the livery and transfer business with Samuel McLoud in Fort Smith. He bought half interest in the business for \$850.00 at 10%. They also operated the first steam ferry, the *Jenny Pearl*, to ply the Arkansas River between Fort Smith and the Indian Territory (Moffett, Oklahoma). In addition, they furnished horses for the Butterfield Stage Line.

An enterprising and farsighted business man, he was one of the largest stock holders in the company that installed the gas plant that first supplied Fort Smith with artificial gas, and was one of the original incorporators of the Fort Smith Light and Traction Company which brought electricity to Fort Smith and operated the electric streetcar system. He was also one of the original incorporators of the Ballman-Cummings Furniture Manufacturing





Invitation to Coronation of King Edward VII

Company and the Fort Smith National Bank (which later merged with Merchants National Bank).

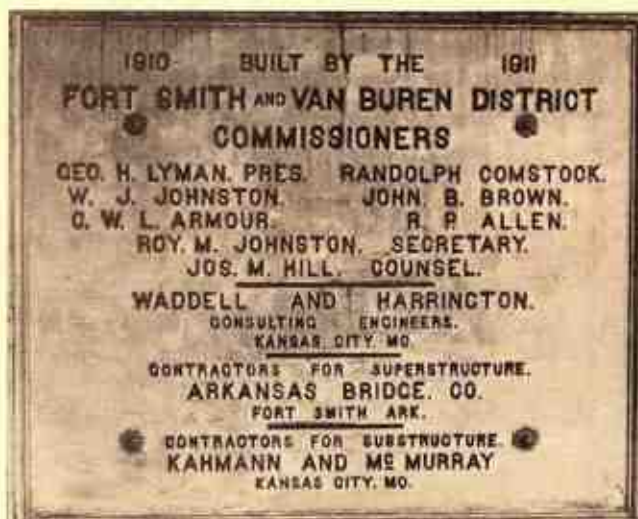
Always actively identified with any movement for the betterment and advancement of Fort Smith, he played a prominent role in negotiations for the expansion of the following railroad systems in the Fort Smith area: Missouri Pacific, Frisco, Kansas City Southern, TS, and Missouri & Arkansas.

He was a commissioner of the Fort Smith and Van Buren bridge district which erected the free bridge at Van Buren and was one of the first persons to cross the bridge in a vehicle.

He was also a member of the original commission chosen by the Arkansas Legislature for the Sebastian



First vehicle to cross Fort Smith-Van Buren Free Bridge. Occupants of the buggy are W.J. Johnston, Jim Johnson, Colonel Decker of the *Southwest American*, and a fourth man who is unidentified. Courtesy of the Arkansas History Commission.



Plaque from Fort Smith-Van Buren bridge built in 1911. Photo by Ben Johnston, Jr.

County bridge district to construct the free bridge at the west end of Garrison Avenue.

For thirty years he was the acknowledged Democratic political leader of Fort Smith and Sebastian County, serving as secretary or chairman of the Central Committee and heading the delegation to the state Democratic conventions during that time. A delegate to the National Democratic convention a number of times, he was a delegate to the convention in Baltimore which nominated Woodrow Wilson for president.



Admittance card to National Democratic Convention

He was a member of the Fort Smith City Council for 15 years under the ward-mayor form of government, and defeated Fagan Bourland to serve as Mayor of Fort Smith from 1909 to 1911. On March 16, 1909, the City Council increased the Mayor's salary to \$200 per month, or \$2400 per year.

He opened his mayoral inaugural speech, made April 13, 1909, with, "In assuming the management of the affairs of the city, I fully realize that my success depends upon the advice and cooperation of all those people who unselfishly design to promote the growth, prosperity, health and happiness of this community. I am simply your agent and it will be my purpose to guard your interests with



FOR MAYOR



## W. J. JOHNSTON

*There are a great many reasons why you  
should support me for Mayor of your city.  
There is no good reason why you should not.*

Campaign for Mayor political card

fidelity and to execute the trust placed in me with whatever energy and ability I have.

"I have no special policy outlined for the performance of my duties further than to try to foster, encourage and build up that which will be conducive to bringing about results that will produce the greatest good to the greatest number. There should be harmony between the Improvement Board, the contractors and the City government. Each one should vie with the other in getting the best results for the common cause."

As an alderman, he was working with the improvement board regarding the extension of the main sewer line and had been promised the work would begin immediately. He mentioned this in his inaugural address, and he solicited the cooperation of property owners to put in their curb and gutters so street paving work could be done, promising to see that the city engineer would furnish grades promptly.

He promised to endeavor to put the police, fire and public works departments to the highest possible standard of efficiency, urged municipal ownership of the water and sewer system, and proposed a plumbing and sewer inspector, an electric wiring inspector, and a first-class building inspector. He also made suggestions for improvement in the police and fire departments.

His plea to citizens was, "Do not be fault finders with your public officials, but if you have a grievance, come to the headquarters and report in a frank, business-like way the trouble, and I assure you that as far as lies in their power, they will correct it."

In his usual manner of getting directly to business, following his address he announced his standing committees, then made his official announcement of the appointment of Sid Johnston as chief of police and Henry Surratt, chief of police under Mayor Bourland, as chief of the fire department. The *Southwest American* reported, "Chief Surratt took off his star and passed it over to the new chief, and there was applause. The announcement of Mr. Surratt as fire chief also received a generous hand."

On April 11, 1909, before the mayor had made his official announcement, the *Southwest American* reported, "Sid Johnston Appointed Chief of Police. Sid was appointed on merit. In fact, his appointment was a promotion. He has been a member of the force

for practically fourteen years and was a day captain under Chief Surratt. All officers of the police force have already been serving on the police force."

Obviously Mayor Johnston was "dead serious" about law enforcement. The *Southwest American* reported a little later, "Mayor W.J. Johnston took matters in his own hands last night, and accompanied by Patrolman Baker rounded up a gang of eight men and women at the Farmers Exchange on Towson Avenue, who were drinking and having a regular knock-down-and-drag-out time..."

In 1914 he was appointed postmaster of Fort Smith by President Woodrow Wilson and served until 1918 when he resigned because of failing health.

Despite his vote-getting ability, he never aspired to any higher political offices than those he held in his beloved city.

November was his crucial month. He was born November 11, 1851, married November 10, 1878 and died November 21, 1922.

He and his wife, the former Mary Bates Bourne, who was active in the First Presbyterian Church, had five sons: William John (1880-1898); Frederick Bates (1881-1959); Roy Meredith (1883-1949); Mont Sandels (1894-1958); and Ben Bourne (1885-1928). Fred and Mont moved early in life and spent their latter years in California, while Ben and Roy spent their entire lives in Fort Smith. The nine living grandchildren of William Joseph Johnston are: John "Gene" Johnston and Ben B. Johnston, Jr. of Fort Smith; Dick Johnston, Lawrence, Kansas; Roy Johnston, Fayetteville, Arkansas; Adele Young, Santa Fe, New Mexico; Mary Ann Hollingsworth, Green Valley, Arizona; Marcie Forbes, North Ridge, California; Monte Johnston, Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Tom Johnston, McAlester, Oklahoma.

The first members of the Johnston family to come to Fort Smith were the parents of William Joseph Johnston, John Independence Johnston and his wife Eliza Virginia Meredith (1816-1895), who with a young son came from Rome, Georgia in 1838. John I. Johnston was a blacksmith and merchant, and a staunch Confederate sympathizer. At an advanced age, he took part in the Battle of Prairie Grove, was wounded, and returned home the following day on a stray mule he had caught. On March 10, 1864, he signed the Oath of Allegiance of the United States, but two months later, on May 13, 1864, he was called to the front door of his home at 4th Street and Garrison Avenue and was shot by bushwhackers when Bill was in his teens. Again we quote Mr. Luce: "In later years, Bill was considered by outsiders to be a cold-blooded, practical businessman, but he never sold that home place though many profitable offers were made for the plot. He had a great sentimental attachment for the scene of his father's sacrifice on the altar of patriotism and financial matters were without avail."

John I. and Eliza Virginia Johnston were the parents of four children: James A., the oldest, married Emma Rogers, daughter of John Rogers; two daughters who died at an early age; and William Joseph.