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THE WARD AND JOHNSON FAMILIES
OF CENTRAL KENTUCKY AND
THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY



Ann Bolton Bevins

The Ward Hall Press
Georgetown, Kentucky
1984



ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Dedicated to
Frances Susong Jenkins
and her desire to
share Ward Hall with
the American touring public



Frances Susong Jenkins

Front Cover: Ward Hall, epitome of Grecian architecture in Kentucky, from W.H. Perrin (ed), History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties (Chicago, 1882).

Back Cover: Artist Edith Linn Clifton's conception of Johnson Station at Great Crossing, Scott County, Kentucky.

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CONTENTS

The Johnson Family	5
Robert Johnson	5
Jemima Johnson	6
Betsey Johnson Payne	8
Asa Payne	10
Robert Payne	10
George Viley Payne	10
Anne Payne Coffman	10
Nancy Payne Offutt	10
Sally Payne Thomson	10
Betsey Worthington	11
Betsey Payne Sebree	11
Uriel Sebree Hall	11
James Johnson	11
General William Johnson	11
Jilson Payne Johnson	12
Albert Johnson	12
Tom L. Johnson	12
Edward P. Johnson	12
Richard M. Johnson, Jr.	13
Leonidas Johnson	13
Colonel William Johnson	13
Madison Conyers Johnson	14
George W. Johnson	14
Henry Viley Johnson	14
Sallie Johnson Ward	14
Robert J. Ward	15
Sallie Ward	16
Junius Richard Ward	20
Ward Hall Mansion	22
Richard Mentor Johnson	23
Benjamin Johnson	25
Robert Ward Johnson	25
Juliette Johnson Sevier	25
Robert Johnson	26
John Telemachus Johnson	26
Joel Johnson	27
Lycurgus Johnson	27
George W. Johnson	27
Henry Johnson	27
Margaret Johnson Erwin	27

FOREWORD

Henry Viley Johnson, son of Kentucky Confederate Governor George W. Johnson, and great-grandson of the noted pioneer Robert Johnson, wrote in his memoirs of a boyhood in which he "could ride for miles and never be out of the sight of close relatives." Years later when his cousin, Congressman Tom L. Johnson of Cleveland, Ohio, presented him to President Grover Cleveland, the nation's chief executive mused about the situation: "Tom, this looks like too much Johnson." To this Tom replied, "Mr. President, there can't be too much of this kind."

This little booklet is an attempt to relate the phenomenon of political contributions made by the family of an important pioneer who brought up a sort of dynasty in America's early years. Robert Johnson, state representative, state senator, unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate, and developer of Kentucky, was progenitor of three future congressmen, one United States Senator, and a vice president of the United States. In addition he had a grandson and two great-grandsons in Congress, and a grandson in the Senate. On the state level we find ten members of the family in the Kentucky legislature. A son served on the Arkansas Supreme Court, a grandson and great-grandson were U.S. district attorneys, two were mayors of major United States cities, and at least one served in Confederate Congress.

Six sons were in the War of 1812, and one died as a result of the war. Additionally there were two sons-in-law in the war, and at least four grandsons.

The ten adult children of Robert and Jemima Suggett Johnson of Great Crossing, Kentucky, accumulated vast wealth as well as honor. Some of this came from farming, some from industry, some from investment, and some -- possibly most -- from connections established in the location of Mississippi Delta lands when son-in-law William Ward was an Indian agent.

Probably Ward Hall, located about a mile from the site of Johnson Station of 1783, epitomizes the success attained by this brilliant brood of the Kentucky frontier. Join us in reviewing their story. A.B.B.

THE JOHNSON AND WARD FAMILIES
OF CENTRAL KENTUCKY AND
THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

The story of the Johnson family who occupied the graphically named "big buffalo crossing" section of the valley of North Elkhorn Creek, that region known as Great Crossing in Scott County, Kentucky, is the chronicle of one of young America's great political and social dynasties. Now a two hundred-year-old account, it reaches back into the days when all of Kentucky was forest, canebrake, and occasional grassland. It is a story of Indian battles and spirited political conquest, of many victories, some defeat, and of bravery frequently amounting to audacity.

No doubt Robert "Robin" Johnson (1745-1815), thirty-four years of age when he led his twenty-six-year-old wife Jemima and their four children between the ages of one and seven from their ancestral home of Montebelle near Gordonsville, Virginia, down the Ohio River into Kentucky, talked with them of the opportunities that would greet them in the rich canelands of the Elkhorn region, for they were on their way to occupy their newly claimed portion of America. But then, for certain, he advised them, first there would be hardship, sacrifice, danger, possibly suffering, but most important, the willingness to place one's life on the line of absolute vulnerability.

Two decades remained in the eighteenth century following the Johnson migration to Kentucky that frigid winter of 1779-1780. During that span Robert Johnson was to move from John Floyd's station on Beargrass Creek near Louisville to Bryan Station near Lexington and then to his own station near the large buffalo crossing on the land grant he had bought from Patrick Henry. During that time he had fought with George Rogers Clark to secure the region for the new United States, and had led several excursions of his own against the Indians. He had helped set in motion Kentucky's statehood and had helped write her constitutions of 1792 and 1799; he was a frequent member of Kentucky's general assembly. Before the dawn of the

new century, Robert Johnson had acquired thousands of acres of rich lands and had helped survey many more thousands of acres for his fellow Kentuckians. He and his wife Jemima had led in establishing one of Kentucky's most important Baptist churches.

The first legislature of 1792 laid out from Woodford County a sort of fiefdom or political base for Robert Johnson: it was to be called Scott County. Johnson had crusaded to establish open navigational rights on the Mississippi River including right of deposit at New Orleans. He had been one of three commissioners to establish the Virginia-Kentucky border. An early, perhaps Kentucky's earliest, opponent of John Adams' Alien and Sedition Laws, he wound up the decade with defeats in contests for Congress and Kentucky's governorship. A member of the 1787 "Kentucky Society for Promoting Useful Knowledge," Johnson helped establish Transylvania University and its system of supporting academies and saw to it that his children received intense intellectual training.

Robert Johnson spent his last years still involved politically and anxious to encourage his budding political dynasty to exercise their political muscle. The Johnson family, tracing backward to Thomas Johnson, a member of Parliament in 16th Century England, and Benjamin Cave, wealthy planter and member of the House of Burgesses in 1756, was to move forward by making impressive beginnings in Kentucky legislative and judicial circles.

JEMIMA SUGGETT JOHNSON

The mother of the Johnson clan complemented Robert Johnson's genealogical attributes with an even more impressive pedigree. Born in Orange County, Virginia, in 1753, she was a great-great-granddaughter of Richard Lee (d. 1664) of Shropshire, England, who had come to America as royal secretary to Charles I. Her parents were Lieutenant James Suggett (d. 1786) and Jemima Spence; her British immigrant ancestors included John and Sarah Edgecomb Suggett who were in Rappahannock by 1692. Jemima Spence was a daughter of Patrick Spence (d. 1740) and Jemima Pope (d. 1755), the latter Jemima being a daughter of Lawrence and Jemima Pope.

The names of Jemima Suggett Johnson and her daughter Betsey have been engraved upon the minds of thousands of Kentucky schoolchildren and students of the Revolution as heroines of the Battle of Bryan Station. Robert Johnson was in Virginia representing the frontier folk in the House of Burgesses, when before daylight on August 15, 1782, a body of several hundred Indians surrounded the fort preparing to ambush when the fort gates should be opened for the day. A servant fortunately discovered them when he went out to collect firewood for cooking breakfast. As it was the custom every morning for the women and children to go to the spring just outside the fort walls to get water for the day, it was Mrs. Johnson who insisted that the custom be followed lest the Indians suspect their discovery. Without water the fort could not have been defended from flaming arrows, and throats would have been parched on the hot dry summer day. So Jemima, followed by Betsey, then ten years old, led the water brigade in the face of the hidden attackers.

Between 1772 and 1794 Jemima Suggett Johnson gave birth to eleven children, of whom ten grew to adulthood. Maturing in an atmosphere of sacrifice accentuated with growing abundance and in a setting in which education, political involvement, and remunerative work were regarded as religiously motivated callings, how could they help but attain greatness?

Jemima Suggett Johnson died on February 23, 1814, and was buried in the stone-walled cemetery on the hill northwest of the fort into which the Johnsons and ten other families moved the winter of 1783. Her husband, determined to live life the fullest to the end, built a home facing the Ohio River and in May 1815 established a town which he called Fredericksburg and which later came to be called Warsaw. Shortly before his seventieth birthday he married Fanny, daughter of Baptist preacher William Bledsoe. He died October 15, 1815, and was brought back to be buried beside the mother of his children.

This is the story of the Johnson family of eleven children as it relates to those members of the family and those of the Johnsons' seventy-seven grandchildren whose contributions to social, military, religious, and political history brought them power and fame.

By the time of his death Robert Johnson's dream of raising up a great American family was beginning to be realized. Five of his sons had served as officers during the War of 1812. His son-in-law John Payne was a brigadier general, and his grandson Asa Payne was aide to his father. In addition grandson Robert Payne risked his life as a member of his Uncle Richard's famous Forlorn Hope at the Thames. Richard M. Johnson received credit for killing the Shawnee leader Tecumseh and thereby breaking up the powerful Indian federation that had joined the British to block American expansion westward.

Had Robert Johnson lived until 1825, he would have seen three of his sons serving in the United States Congress at the same split second as Richard served in the Senate, as John T. wound up four years in the House, and as James began a two-year term in the House. By that time Benjamin was serving on the Arkansas territorial supreme court, and Henry's business interests were taking him as they were taking those of Sallie, her husband William Ward and their sons Junius and Robert J. into the eventual luxury of the Mississippi Delta region.

BETSEY JOHNSON PAYNE

Betsey Johnson (1772-1845) grew up fast on the Central Kentucky frontier, and in 1787 at the age of fifteen married John Payne, twenty-two year-old son of William Payne, Sr., and his second wife Ann Jennings. John's father assumed a sort of notoriety for having knocked down George Washington in a fistfight. The Father of Our Country then apologized for the cause of the argument, and the two men became close friends.

John Payne commanded a company in General Charles Scott's campaign against the Indians in 1791, and in 1806 he was commissioned brigadier general in the Kentucky militia. He headed the Kentucky militia in the War of 1812 until William Henry Harrison's appointment to the post. He was in command just before the battles at Frenchtown.

The Paynes built a rambling stone house on the farm just east of the Robert and Jemima Johnson home



The Johnson family offered the main elements of victory at the Battle of the Thames on October 5, 1813. This panoramic view of the battle was entered by William Emmons in August 1833 "according to an Act of Congress" as Richard M. Johnson was contending for the Presidency of the United States. The commemorative lithograph features the hero Richard M. Johnson killing federation Indian leader Tecumseh (center). At lower left veteran Kentucky volunteer William Whitley lies slain, while above him Major David Thomson contends with The Prophet, mystical half-brother of Tecumseh. Above are General William Henry Harrison, Commodore Perry, and General Cass acting as "aides." Next to The Prophet, Captain Ward deals with Mat-pock. Aiming a long rifle just to the left of Johnson is 86-year-old James Mason. In upper center James Johnson's battalion pursues General Proctor's carriage and troops after routing their lines. The city of Malden is in the background. Majors Suggett and Barry are in the shadows. The battle opened the West for expansion and made R.M. Johnson a hero.

plantation. They had thirteen children, four of whose homes survive today in the region which the Johnson families early came to dominate. John Payne died in 1837 from injuries received when falling from a horse. Betsey died in 1846. Both are buried near their home.

Asa Payne (1788-1887) was his father's aide de camp during the War of 1812. He made his fortune in farming and trading; and the important Louisville, Cincinnati, and Lexington Railroad of the 1830s passed near his home in southern Scott County, the region and the road coming to be known as Payne's Depot. He married three times and has a number of descendants who live in Scott County today.

Robert Payne (1789-1827) married Maria Williams and served with his uncle, Richard M. Johnson, in the company of twenty men who volunteered to draw the fire of Indians hidden in the brush across a swamp at the Thames River. His stone home off West Main Street in Georgetown survives under an Italianate remodeling and later stucco application. Payne moved to Howard County, Missouri, and his children became important Nebraska settlers. George Viley Payne, son of William Payne of Nebraska City, became Scott County judge, Farmers Bank president, and Georgetown College treasurer. He married Martha, daughter of Confederate Governor George W. Johnson; and their daughter, Anne (Mrs. William H.) Coffman, was the force behind civic and social reforms of Scott County beginning with the 1910 Civic League.

Nancy Payne (1791-1862) married Sabret Offutt in 1810 and built the stone story-and-half house looking down on the site of Johnson's fort. There were nine children. Nancy died in North Middletown.

Sallie Payne (1793-1882) married Charles P. Thomson in 1813. Their farm was west of Robert Payne's. They built a brick house which has undergone several remodelings and an important restoration by the late Craig Bradley, who literally rescued the house from use as a hog barn. Thomson operated a mill northwest of the house. Betsey, their daughter, married Dr. William Worthington in 1837. The Worthingtons, like the Wards and Johnsons, were important early settlers of Lake Washington, Mississippi.

Betsey Payne, born 1798, married Uriel Sebree, an important Boone County politician who in 1818 moved to Lexington and later became important in Howard County, Missouri, politics. John P. Sebree, a son, served in the Missouri house and senate. His daughter married Missouri Congressman William Augustus Hall (1815-1888). The Halls were parents of Missouri Congressman Uriel Sebree Hall.

JAMES JOHNSON

The oldest son of the Johnsons, James (1774-1826), born in Orange County, was managing his own plantation west of his father's lands before he was twenty. He married Nancy (1778-1850), daughter of Henry and Ann Lane Payne. He is known in the West as a major promoter, owner, and developer of shipping and stagecoach lines and as one of the wealthiest men of his day. James Johnson served in the Kentucky Senate from 1808 to 1811. He joined his brother Richard in training Kentuckians for service as mounted infantry in the War of 1812, and as lieutenant colonel led the attack at the Thames against General Proctor and the British while Richard's battalion fought and defeated the federated Indians led by Shawnee leader Tecumseh. In 1819 and 1820 Johnson held a contract to supply troops on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. He financed the Yellowstone Expedition, a military and scientific expedition, in 1819. Elected to serve a term in the United States Congress which began on April 4, 1825, he took leave for a time to pursue mining and smelting interests in Mississippi. His death occurred while he was serving in Congress, and his body was returned from Washington, D.C., to the family burying ground near the Great Crossing Church.

James and Nancy Johnson's children were Edward P., William, Ann, Darwin, Euclid J., Adeline, Henry P., James, Richard M., Nancy, Leonidas, and Jemima.

General William Johnson (1799-1875), frequently confused with his uncle, Colonel William Johnson, took over much of his father's Scott County plantation land while his brother Edward P. assumed management of the shipping industry. At the age of fourteen he joined his father at the Battle of the Thames and assisted carrying the wounded including his Uncle Richard off

the battlefield. After the war he went as a cadet to West Point Military Academy and compiled a record as the best mathematician in his class. He returned to Kentucky with his cousin Payne who had lost an arm in an artillery accident, and remained in the area, settling on the farm of his grandfather. William Johnson became a captain of the militia at the age of twenty-one and rose through the ranks to become a brigadier general. He was a fifty-year Mason and served in the state legislature from 1832 to 1835 and from 1859 to 1864.

General Johnson was married four times: (1) to Helen Buford, 1817, with whom he had Nancy B. and Hickman; (2) Ann H. Payne, 1826, with children being Jilson P., Albert W., Dullie P., Helen, Ann M., and William; (3) Adelaide Harmon; and (4) Anna E. Clayton, mother of his daughter Anne. The latter Anne married James F. Askew, an attorney who represented Scott in Kentucky's 1899 Constitutional Convention. One of William Johnson's homes, which he deeded to the Morrisons, stands on the corner in the village of Great Crossing.

General Jilson Payne Johnson was born in 1828 and was educated at Georgetown College, graduating in 1844. Shortly afterwards he began farming at Laconia, Arkansas, and in 1857 was elected to that state's legislature. He entered the Confederate Army in 1862 and in 1863 became assistant inspector general of the army. After the war he bought the Galt House, Kentucky's "first hotel" in terms of preeminence. He maintained a summer residence in Scott County.

Albert Johnson was born in 1830 and married to Helen Loftin in 1853. Their sons were Tom. L., William L., and Albert L. He lived on the Blue Spring Farm. His son Tom L. Johnson became an important official in milling and railroading and invented the Johnson street railway in 1872. He constructed Cleveland, Ohio's street railway system. He was elected to Congress and served from 1891 to 1895, and was mayor of Cleveland from 1899 to 1907. In 1903 he was the Democratic candidate for governor of Ohio, and was defeated. He died in 1911.

Edward P. Johnson (1797-1866) married Betty Ward in 1818. He succeeded his father as magnate of the stagecoach and shipping system, and built the property

later enlarged by David Sayre for Sayre College. In 1835 Johnson bought the Masson's outlaws' lands in present Washington County, Mississippi, where he died in 1866.

Richard M. Johnson was his Uncle Richard's favorite nephew. Born in 1813, he married Eliza M. Johnson. His second marriage was to Georgia Wade of Mississippi's Yazoo County, that union producing a son also named Richard M.

Leonidas Johnson was the only son of James Johnson who remained non-aligned during the War Between the States. In 1842 he married Irene Elley, daughter of George Elley. The Elleys owned vast plantation lands at Bayou Fouché, Louisiana. Their Scott home, designed by Johnson, is known as Clifton. Its landscape design, like that of several other Johnson homes, includes a baldcypress tree. In 1859 Leonidas joined A. Keene Richards on a trip to buy horses in Europe, at which time he also invested in European art treasures.

COLONEL WILLIAM JOHNSON

Colonel William Johnson's (1775-1814) short life (he died at thirty-eight) was very productive. He was educated at West Point and operated a system of mills, producing flour, lumber, and paper, and during the War of 1812, gunpowder. He married Betsey, daughter of Henry and Ann Lane Payne, set up housekeeping on the farm where Ward Hall was later built, and established a productive family of five sons and three daughters before dying from illness contracted while serving in the War of 1812. He led Kentucky troops sent in 1813 to the relief of Fort Meigs; the maneuver saved Harrison's army.

William and Betsey Johnson's sons were Euclid, Thomas, Madison, William, and George W. After William's death Betsey married her brother-in-law John Allen of Fayette; they had three sons, John, Albert, and James Lane. The latter's novel Two Gentlemen of Kentucky features Colonel Romulus Fields, modeled after Madison Conyers Johnson.

Madison Conyers Johnson (1807-1886) married Sallie A. Clay Irvin, daughter of General Green Clay. He built Botherum, a stone Roman Revival cottage of such unique design that it has for ages attracted many

admirers to its Madison Place lot. Johnson, born in 1807, was graduated from Transylvania at the age of 15 at the head of his class. He became one of the most able lawyers in the state, practicing in Lexington, from which city he was elected to the legislature in 1853 and 1857. He was president of the Northern Bank of Kentucky. He sided with the Union during the War Between the States, his counsel frequently being sought in Washington.

George W. Johnson (1811-1862) received a literary education and attended Transylvania to prepare for a career in law. In 1831 he married Ann Eliza, daughter of Willa Viley. He was elected to the legislature in 1838 and was a Presidential elector in 1852 and 1860. A thorough student of political science, he developed a strongly reasoned philosophical basis for states' rights and led Kentucky's secession movement, being elected provisional governor. He was fatally wounded at the Battle of Shiloh, dying April 9, 1862. There were nine children, of whom Henry served as county attorney of Scott from 1876 to 1884, United States District Attorney of Colorado in 1893, reform mayor of Denver in 1899, and county judge of Denver in 1904. He crusaded for storage of water for the arid West, and while in Scott built the Italianate house north of Georgetown near Dry Run's juncture with North Elkhorn Creek.

The William Johnson family home stood on the land which was bought by Junius R. Ward in 1836 and on which Ward built his great mansion Ward Hall. George Johnson lived on the Ironworks Pike in a large Grecian mansion which burned three times. In the yard stand a brick slavehouse and smokehouse with pilasters. The family had plantations at Grand Lake, Arkansas, spending the May to October season in Scott County.

SALLIE JOHNSON WARD

Sallie Johnson (1778-1846) was about one year old when her parents brought her to Kentucky and almost eighteen when she married General William Ward in 1795. Sallie's and William's children and grandchildren added glamour, excitement, and a share of scandal to the previously austere and serious Johnson family complex. Born to them were Robert J., Polly, Betsey J., Junius Richard, Malvina J., Sallie, George W., and William Henry.

William Ward is listed as a surveyor in Kentucky in the 1780s. He was a member of the 1787 and 1788 statehood conventions as a delegate from Fayette and a representative from Mason County from 1792 through the 1795 terms in the state legislature. William was an apparently controversial figure in pioneer Kentucky, John S. Erwin, historian, asserting in his biography of Henry Johnson's daughter Margaret that Ward was less than straight-forward in business dealings. Erwin claimed that Ward had repudiated Simon Kenton's joint claim to land where Urbana, Ohio, now stands and had profited at Kenton's expense. The Kenton-Ward alliance went back to about 1795, according to Allan Eckert's The Frontiersmen. Ward brought Kenton's Mason County store to a state of profit and joined Kenton in the Mad River migration of 1799. The Urbana settlement was made in 1805. In 1807 Ward and Kenton were part of an intelligence operation looking into activities of The Prophet, half-brother to Tecumseh.

A Colonel William Ward who served in the 12th Regiment in the War of 1812 is noted by Clift as having died in Mississippi in 1836. A Captain Ward is shown in the J. Donoval panoramic lithograph of the Battle of the Thames killing an Indian named Matpock.

Johnson family historians credit William Ward, the Indian agent in charge of lower Mississippi tribes, as having located land for his relatives in the Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana region.

Sallie and William Ward were parents of two exceedingly wealthy and powerful men. Robert Johnson Ward (1798-1862) married in Cincinnati in 1825 Emily Flournoy, daughter of the Matthews Flournoy, into whose family power block Sallie's youngest brother Henry had broken three years earlier with a marriage to Emily's sister Elizabeth (see page 27).

In 1822 Robert J. Ward began a series of six terms in the Kentucky House of Representatives; he spent one term as Speaker of the House. He was last elected from Scott in 1831. During the years between 1828 and 1833, he lived in Georgetown in an elegant house on East Main Street now known as Shropshire House. Here their later-to-be-famous daughter Sallie, born in 1827, spent her first years. Around 1832 the family moved

to Louisville where in 1838 Robert J. Ward built a fabulous family residence at Second and Walnut Streets. In addition to land speculation and financial ventures, Robert Ward amassed a fortune as a merchant in New Orleans. One of the wealthiest men of the South, Ward was known as a gambler as well as a patron of the arts. He sponsored the work of George Caleb Bingham including "County Election" and the work of the Audubon brothers. The Wards' parties were extravagant and flamboyant, and it was in this tradition that their daughter Sallie made her mark as the loveliest belle of the Commonwealth.

Sallie Ward Lawrence
Hunt Armstrong Downs

Portrait by G.P.A.
Healy, from Collection
of The J.B. Speed Art
Museum, Louisville,
Kentucky



Men of all ages since have been enchanted with Sallie Ward, who charmed the courtiers of her day with personal loveliness combined with intelligence and wit that influenced four of them to become her husbands. Even today she is extolled, with dean of Kentucky historians Thomas D. Clark having declared her to have been "born to be a princess" as well as the woman from history with whom he would most like to enjoy an evening.

Named after her Grandmother, Sallie Ward was supposedly born at the Walnut Hall farm of her Grandfather Flournoy on September 29, 1827, her parents' oldest child. At the age of six she began her career

as a Louisville beauty. When she was nineteen she presented before a sobbing crowd a flag to the Louisville Legion bound for the War with Mexico. She made such an emotion-charged impression that the Legion, on returning the next May 27, marched forthwith to the Ward home to present the colors back to her.

Sallie very early displayed a proclivity for being unconventional. Her love of playing pranks made a name for her at the finishing school in Philadelphia where she was sent at the age of fifteen. Later she was riding with a young man beside her on their horses on Louisville's Market Street when she darted through the market house itself, daring her escort to join her.

George Peter Alexander Healy, a famous artist who had painted Europe's royalty, declared Sallie to have been "the most exquisite woman that he ever painted." She was thirty-three when he painted the portrait of her which hangs in the J.B. Speed Art Museum.

Contrast, then, the extravagance of the Ward family with that of an equally if not more wealthy family of Boston's puritanical social community where the work ethic reigned supreme. It was into that culture that Sallie found herself after her December 5, 1848, marriage to Boston scion Timothy Bigelow Lawrence, son of the Abbott Lawrences. Louisville hotels were packed with visitors brought by steamboats and stagecoaches. Heavy rains on wedding day caused young Bigelow to spend one and one-half hours amidst a complete jam of vehicles to drive three blocks.

A Boston scribe wrote that "The lady is the acknowledged belle and leader of the 'ton' in every state, city, village, and hamlet between Pittsburgh and New Orleans..." The Ward house and bounty of the day "equalled, if not excelled, anything of the kind I have ever witnessed." Sallie's dress cost \$5,000, and the governor and ex-governor were present. Everyone was bedecked in splendor except the groom's mother who wore a "plain dark cotton dress trimmed in cotton lace." After wintering in the gala Louisville atmosphere, the couple arrived in Boston in June 1849. Trouble exploded almost immediately as the high-spirited, undisciplined bride met her new environment.

One of the first things that rankled Bigelow Lawrence was Sallie's use of face paint. She showed up

with a brightly rouged face for a formal dinner given in honor of her father-in-law's appointment as Minister to Great Britain. Then, apparently to address her mother-in-law's dress at her wedding, Sallie appeared at one of the most important levees in Boston in "a loose calico mourning dress."

Now legend is Sallie's appearance at a large ball clad in white satin bloomers and Persian slippers in the spirit of Dr. Alice Bloomer, who had lectured that month in Boston on the need for women to effect dress reform. Sallie, it is said, really intended to satirize the Bloomer movement.

In August 1849 Sallie Ward Lawrence returned to Louisville for a "visit" that did not end. In early 1850 Bigelow Lawrence announced via newspaper advertisements that his wife had deserted him; he cautioned "all persons against harboring or trusting her on my account, as I hold myself responsible for no debts contracted by her." George Prentice of the Louisville Journal came to her defense: "There is not a lady in Kentucky more admired and beloved than Mrs. Lawrence... kind-hearted, beautiful, fascinating, accomplished, brilliant, and the idol and ornament of the society in which she lived." In May her father petitioned for a divorce and a jury responded that she "had been harshly and improperly treated by her husband and that he had slandered her by his advertisement."

That fall the Wards gave Louisville's first fancy dress ball. Cunningham's band, dinner featuring rare dishes, an abundance of flowers, and the wealthy of society dressed as characters from the classics, found Sallie reentering society. Within the year she married Dr. Robert P. Hunt, son of Kentucky's first millionaire John Wesley Hunt of Lexington. They moved to New Orleans where they dazzled the great social center of the South with elaborate dinners, opera parties, and balls. There were three children born to the union, John W. being the only survivor. When John rode off to join his brother-in-law John Hunt Morgan fight for the South, Sallie decided to cast her lot with the Union. She returned to Louisville where she became known as "an open and somewhat influential friend of the Union." As she was being investigated for President Lincoln due to her request that her piano which she loved as a friend and her satin chairs and personal items be returned, she declared that

her "husband is in the rebel army" and that she would "not live with him again . . . and refused to see him when she had an opportunity during one of John Morgan's raids." Her request was granted and the items were shipped in from New Orleans.

Dr. Hunt died soon after the war and Sallie began her "leanest" years. Still a long way from being poor, she retained her diamonds, sometimes wearing \$20,000 worth of them at one time. In 1876 at the age of forty-six she married Venerando Politza "Vene" Armstrong, a "kind, clever, jovial, and warm-hearted Louisvillian" whose biography recalled his marriage to Sallie as one of his accomplishments. Armstrong died shortly after the wedding. In 1885 she married Major George F. Downs who had attended the 1850 fancy dress ball as a Knight Templar. The couple traveled widely and made their home at the Galt House. Sallie made her appearances in Louisville in an ultramarine landau with an enameled D on the door: she had been the first in America to purchase a vehicle of that color and again had set a trend.

Sallie Ward Lawrence Hunt Armstrong Downs died at the age of sixty-five in 1893 and was buried following ceremonies at St. Mary Magdalene Church. Pink and white roses banked the altar, and mourners came two hours early to get seats. Major Downs and John W. Hunt of New York survived. A sale after her death was announced by catalogs mailed all over America. Heirlooms were bought to be cherished. Citizens recalled Sallie Ward stories, and Captain James W. Kinnarney of the Louisville police recalled how as a little boy delivering newspapers and running errands he had been invited to join Sallie for breakfast and treats.

People recalled the rose named for Sallie, and others remembered learning the "Sallie Ward walk." Babies had been named for her. Two race horses were named after her, one of whose descendants included an English derby winner and three Kentucky derby winners.

The 1947 Kentucky edition of The Magazine Antiques declared that "If Sallie Ward was not the most beautiful of all Kentucky women, she had the genius to act the part and make others believe it to be true."

Sallie's younger brothers Matt, Robert, and William were made much of in Collins' History of Kentucky for Matt's involvement in the murder of schoolmaster William H.G. Butler. Matt was acquitted in a venue-changed trial in Elizabethtown in 1854 with former Governor John J. Crittenden leading the defense, after which a mob stormed the Ward home in Louisville and demolished the glass conservatory.

Junius Richard Ward (1802-1883), who is best known in Kentucky as the builder of the largest and most elaborate Greek Revival mansion in the state, almost had a similar reputation in Mississippi. But there, unfortunately, the forty-one room Georgian Palladian mansion under construction at the same time at Princeton Landing was engulfed by the mighty Mississippi in an earthquake-related disaster in 1855. The entire town including county records met the same fate. The house can be seen even today in the river.

Junius Ward, writes John Erwin in Like a Green Laurel, "seems to have been the more stable member of the family." The Washington County historical account recalls Junius Ward riding horseback along General Andrew Jackson's trail, stopping to talk with Indians who "told him of marvelous land and abundance of game in regions toward the sunset along the banks of Lake Washington." Excited over his discovery, Ward rushed back to Kentucky, loaded a flatboat with provisions and equipment, and floated down the Mississippi to a bend five miles from his destination. He named it Kentucky Bend. The year was 1827.

Washington, one of the richest counties in the Mississippi Delta region, lies completely within the Mississippi-Yazoo Delta. Settlers of "character and wealth" came from Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, the Carolinas, and older parts of Mississippi.

Ward's first Mississippi home was a log cabin. Soon his relatives came: more Wards, Erwins, Johnsons, Duleys, and Elleys. The Shelbys and Worthingtons of Kentucky and Tennessee also came and claimed land which was either to bring them wealth or add to that they already possessed. Port Anderson developed at



Junius Richard Ward



Matilda Viley Ward



Ward Hall, epitome of Kentucky Greek Revival architecture and crown of the Johnson family homes

the head of what was called the Georgetown Bend, and at the foot of Choctaw Bend which curved around Ashbrook or Offutt's Point stood the plantation of Dr. Zachariah Offutt of Georgetown, opposite Gaines Landing, Arkansas. The Johnsons were at Chatham; and Captain George Blackburn, at Upper Black Bayou. Harvey Miller was on Stella Plantation. Also in Washington were the Worthington brothers: Samuel, William, and Isaac, into whose family Betsey, daughter of Charles and Sallie Payne Thomson, married.

Junius Ward was married in 1824 to Matilda Viley (1808-1882), daughter of George and Martha Ann Janes Viley, Maryland emigrants who came to Scott in 1795. Her brother Willa was the noted scientific horseman who owned such noted racehorses as Dick Singleton, and in company with Junius Ward, R. Ten Broeck, and Abe Buford, owned the great Lexington. The famous artist Edward Troye, on his first visit to Kentucky in 1834, painted Dick Singleton at Viley's home.

Junius and Matilda Ward's children were Robert Johnson, Junius, Martha, Mary, Sallie, Elizabeth, William E., George Viley, and Matilda.

Some of the events in the lives of Junius and Matilda Ward can be followed in Like a Green Laurel. Their house being built at the Landing was seen by Margaret Johnson as being threatened by the river. "The lands in the vicinity of the Lake," she wrote, "are not only safer but far more beautiful. Yet the Wards have always considered gambling and unique gestures a virtue." After the earthquake and the Mississippi swallowed the place, they lived at their "east" plantation at Fair Oaks which is now Erwin.

Ward Hall

The greatest Greek Revival mansion in Kentucky is located one mile west of Georgetown on the road to Frankfort. Architectural historian Clay Lancaster has said that "Its monumental massing, formal interior arrangement, sophisticated architectural features, and classic craftsmanship make Ward Hall the noblest Greek Revival house in Kentucky."

From the foundation of the foundation of Ward Hall's 75-by-75 foot form to the top of its roof built above a roof, this great house represents an absoluteness of

perfection in every large and every small detail. Finished by 1855 as the Wards' summer home, its foundation is of scored and bush-hammered coquina, and its 40-foot columns are said to have been shipped up the Mississippi River by steamboat. Built on part of the land grant bought by Robert Johnson from Patrick Henry, its exterior window and door frames are carved stone and its transom and sidelights are cut glass. Ceiling centerpieces and cornices retain their original frescoe hues. Rich handcarved walnut cut from trees on the farm was used to create the massive entablatures and sliding doors. Floors are ash. There is a chambered nautilus stairwell winding to the third story. Beneath the top roof which was once sheathed with cooper and fitted with a large copper water system is a roof covered with slate and having its own boxed copper guttering: its purpose was to control the overflow from the waterworks.

The house was once considered by the Legislature of Kentucky as a state capitol on the proposal of former owner Colonel Milton Hamilton. The Nick Lancie Susong family acquired the property in 1945, and it is their daughter Frances Susong Jenkins who brought into being her long dreamed of hope that Ward Hall be made a museum.

Owners of Ward Hall after it was sold to satisfy Junius Ward's creditors following the Civil War have included: L. . Moore, 1869; Bettie DeLong, 1871; V.K. Glass, 1880; Milton Hamilton, 1887; Lizzie K. Allen, 1903; J.W. Robinson, 1904; Nathan T. Armstrong, 1905; Glover Watson, 1927; J.W. Bridges, 1931; and L.R. Cooke, 1944.

RICHARD MENTOR JOHNSON

Richard Mentor Johnson, the most famous of the children of Jemima Suggett and Robert Johnson, was born in 1780 at the Beargrass Creek station of John Floyd. He was saved during the Battle of Bryan Station (1782) by his sister Betsey who removed a flaming arrow from his cradle. In 1804 he became the first native Kentuckian elected to the state legislature; in 1807, the first native Kentuckian elected to Congress; and in 1819, to the United States Senate. On March 4, 1837, in a very controversial election which was finally settled in the Senate, he became vice

president of the United States.

Richard M. Johnson was an outstanding orator, and he held a vigorously extended conviction of service to his fellow man. He was an early opponent of the expedition of Aaron Burr. An early populist, he led Kentucky in becoming in 1821 the first state to abolish imprisonment for debt, and then carried the campaign to ultimate success in Washington in 1832. After finding futile various attempts at making peace with Great Britain, he became with Henry Clay the most avid of "War Hawks." When the War of 1812 was declared, he organized and with his brother James trained a mounted regiment which on October 5, 1813, at the Thames River in Canada broke Indian resistance to westward expansion and defeated the British flank under General Proctor. In this battle Johnson himself led the Forlorn Hope, a group of 20 Kentuckians who crossed a swamp to draw the first fire from Indians hidden in the brush. By the end of the battle Johnson, his clothes, and his horse bore the holes of 25 balls.

With his War of 1812 heroism and popularity among the masses for halting debt-related imprisonment, Richard M. Johnson rode the crest of his political wave. His democratic spirit found him graciously welcoming long lines of impoverished seekers of help at his home which was at the Blue Spring until 1833, possibly at Longview during his vice presidency, and at White Sulphur afterwards until his death in 1850.

Another important activity was the Choctaw Indian Academy. In 1818 in cooperation with the Baptists of Kentucky he established a school for the education of Choctaw and later other Southeastern tribes' children on his Blue Spring Farm. In 1825 the War Department established a \$6,000 a year grant to support the effort. At one time as many as 200 to 300 Indians attended, joined by neighborhood youths. One building survives. In 1830 the school was moved to White Sulphur due to scarcity of wood at Blue Spring.

In May 1825 Marquis de Lafayette traveled into the heart of America to visit the comrades of his younger years. A barbecue attended by 5,000 people was held at Blue Spring. Indians staged exhibitions for the French Revolutionary hero, and Johnson's daughters played the piano and sang for him.

Johnson's nemesis came when he chose to have his of-African-descent mistress Julia Chinn, octoroon slave reared by his mother, receive guests and preside at his table. A secret marriage is a possibility. Their daughters Imogene and Adelaide were educated and provided for with large farms when they married into important white families of the region. This was found unacceptable by most Southerners and many Northerners, and many Southern delegates to the national Republican-Democrat political convention could not support Johnson as a party nominee. Had he followed the trend of denying one's children by slave relationships, Richard M. Johnson doubtless would have become President of the United States. He had other eccentricities such as an unruly appearance and a habit of wearing a red vest.

Johnson is buried in the Frankfort Cemetery near the military monument.

BENJAMIN JOHNSON

Benjamin Johnson (1784-1849), sixth child, found his political fortune in the judiciary of Arkansas. This career began with his appointment as a district judge in 1812 after several terms in the Lexington circuit. In 1820 he was appointed by President James Monroe to the territorial supreme court on which he remained until 1836. Between 1836 and 1849 he was successively appointed federal district judge by Presidents Monroe, Adams, and Jackson.

The Johnson machine continued in the person of Robert Ward Johnson (1814-1879), son of Benjamin and Matilda Williams Johnson. His wife was a daughter of Charles P. and Elizabeth Redd Williams. From their farm on South Elkhorn Creek young Robert W. Johnson attended public schools and Choctaw Academy. In 1833 he was graduated from St. Joseph's College, Bardstow. He received a law degree from Yale in 1835. He practiced in Little Rock between 1835 and 1847 and was prosecuting attorney for the Little Rock circuit. In 1847 he was elected to United States Congress, serving through 1853. He served as a United States Senator from 1855 to 1861. During the War he was a Confederate Senator. He died in Little Rock in 1879.

Another child of Benjamin Johnson was Juliette E. (1812-1845). She united the political machines of

the Johnson and Sevier families with her 1827 marriage to Ambrose H. Sevier.

ROBERT JOHNSON

The Johnsons' seventh child bore the name of his father. He was born in 1786 and died in August 1812, the war being listed as the cause of his death.

JOHN TELEMACHUS JOHNSON

Only four of the Johnson children are listed with middle initials: Richard M., John T., William H., and George W. Of these, Richard Mentor and John Telemachus entered life with Greek mythology character names. John T. Johnson (1788-1856) carried the name of the son of Ulysses who searched the world for his father. Richard bore the name of Mentor, embodiment of the Goddess of Wisdom Minerva, who accompanied Telemachus on his travels. The fact that both had names from The Odyssey indicates a strong family affinity to classical literature. (Odyssey and Iliad scenes are etched on globes on Ward Hall chandeliers.)

John T. Johnson studied at Rittenhouse Academy and was graduated with highest honors in law from Transylvania University. In 1811 he married Sophia Lewis and lived for a time in the house now known as Shropshire House; they also lived on a farm on South Elkhorn Creek.

During the War of 1812 Johnson was an aide to General William Henry Harrison and helped build Fort Meigs. He had a horse shot from under him in the battle of May 5, 1813. From 1815 he was elected to the Kentucky legislature five times. He served in Congress from March 1821 to March 1825. As surety on friends' and clients' notes, he lost a fortune in the panic of 1819-1820. He served on the "New Court of Appeals" in 1826 as Governor Joseph Desha tried to address the panic with a relief measure. His last political service came in 1828 in the legislature.

Toward the end of the 1820s Kentucky Baptist churches divided over reforms proposed by the evangelistic movement led by Alexander Campbell of Virginia. Johnson decided in favor of Campbell's positions and threw his immense energy into the movement. He was the leading factor in the 1831-1832 merger of the Disciples (Reforming Baptists) and the Christians led by

Barton Warren Stone. Every major endeavor of the Disciples until Johnson's death in late 1856 was either led or generously supported by Johnson.

JOEL JOHNSON

Joel Johnson (1790-1846) married Verlinda Offutt in 1817 and moved to Arkansas. Their children included the Honorable Lyncurgus Johnson. Joel was the only male family member to achieve adulthood who did not enter public life.

GEORGE W. JOHNSON

Born in 1792, George W. Johnson died in 1810.

HENRY JOHNSON

Henry Johnson (1794-1862), youngest of the Johnson children, became one of the wealthiest members of the family. He joined the 1813 infantry charge against the British at the Thames. In 1816 he broke the barrier of political rivalry between the Johnson and Flournoy families by marrying Elizabeth, daughter of Walnut Hall's Matthews Flournoy.

Henry joined John T. Johnson in his Disciples projects and was owner of the building where Bacon College, first Disciples college in America, was located during its 1836-1839 stay in Georgetown. He was also a Bacon College trustee.

Henry bought his Mississippi land in Washington County in 1828 from a band of robbers who sold out to him. This land was bought later by Edward P. Johnson, Henry moving to Lake Washington. He continued as a captain in the militia. His youngest daughter Margaret was a sort of iconoclast as she freed her slaves in 1858. She designed her home with architect Samuel Sloan; Mount Holly rose on land bought from her father. She is the subject of John Erwin's Like a Green Laurel. Her letters form the basis for the book.

Margaret was born in 1821; in 1843 she married James Erwin (1796-1851), earlier husband of Anne B. Clay (1807-1835), youngest daughter of Henry and Lucretia Hart Clay. In 1856 she married Dr. Charles W. Dudley. A rift developed in the Johnson family at the time of the public furor about Richard M. Johnson's private life, Margaret taking her favorite uncle's side.

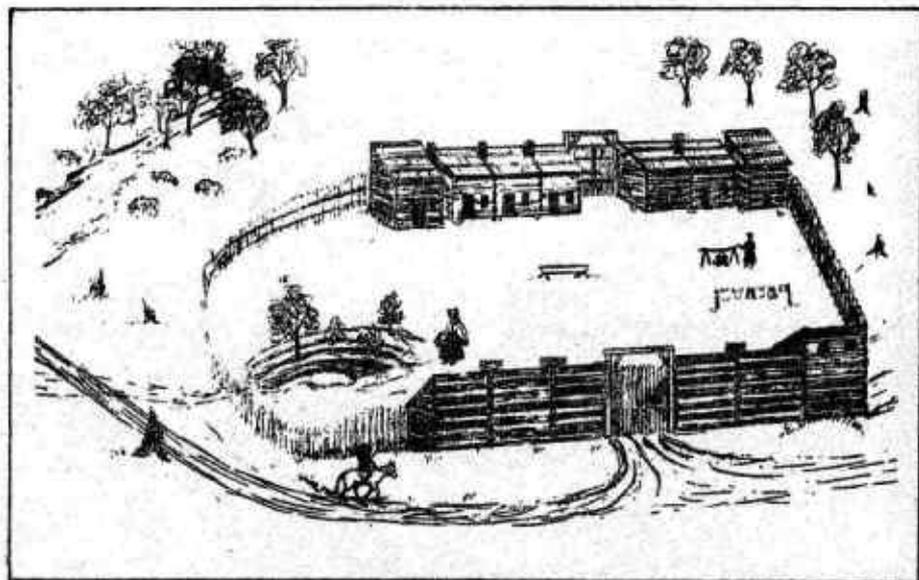
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Ward Family

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ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Ward Family Bible Record

Francis Ward was born November the 6th, 1841 in Walnut Township, Pickaway County, Ohio.

Sophia Smith was born in Amanda Township, Fairfield County, Ohio, in the year 1844 and was baptised by Rev. List.

Rebecca Ward was born in Walnut Township, Pickaway County, Ohio July 21, 1866.

Jacob Ward was born in Walnut Township, Pickaway County, Ohio April 15, 1868.

Allen Ward was born in Walnut Township, Pickaway County, Ohio August 26, 1870.

Lucy Maranda Ward was born in Walnut Township, Pickaway County, Ohio August 17, 1873.

Samuel Ward was born in Walnut Township, Pickaway County, Ohio, February 3, 1885.

Lyda Florene Ward was born in Walnut Township, Pickaway County, Ohio, June 23, 1890.

Francis and Sophia Smith were married September 10, 1865, in Madison Township, Pickaway County, Ohio, by Joseph A. Roof, minister of the Gospel.

Rebecca Ward, daughter of Francis and Sophia Ward, was married the 210th of February, 1889 to S.R. Bucanan.

Samuel Ward, son of Francis and Sophia Ward, died April 2, 1881, aged 5 years 11 days.

Hanna Ward died September 26, 1882.

Paulina Little died July 14, 1918 aged 33 years 5 months and 11 days.

Jacob P. Ward died December 10, 1914 aged 46 years, 7 months and 25 days.

Sophia Ward died July 10, 1918 aged 73 years, 11 months and 3 days.

Francis Ward died October 25, 1930 aged 88 years, 11 months and 19 days.

ACQUISITIONS, Continued

First Lady of Indiana; 200th Birthday Celebration of Rev. John Dreisbach, Dresbach Church 160 years booklet; Ebenezer Church Celebration news clipping.

Nancy Walkowski — The Greater Tallman Family Newsletter, Summer Issue, July 1, 1994; loose pages by Virgil B. Tallman; The Tallmans of Lakefield, Minn. and Newsletter, Autumn, 1987 and Summer, 1996.

Charles Earnhart — The Earnhart Family.

Dolores Dawson — Descendants of Joshua Pryor, 1812-1995.

Carolyn S. Weigand — Stout Family History.

Mader-Peters Funeral Home — metal desk with extension, chair and two-drawer file cabinet.

Ermil Stonerock — Copy of Map of Indian Towns, Villages and Trails in the Virginia Military District and Southwestern Ohio.

Joan Wilson — War Ration Book No. 3 with ration calendar.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I have just received my first issue of the *Pickaway Quarterly*. Genealogy is my reason for subscribing. I do not know how the genealogy section was presented before but I like the way it is now.

I also enjoyed "The Medical Care of the Civil War" article since I am a retired RN.

Sincerely

Louise Miller

31 N. Regency Dr. East
Arlington Heights, IL 6004-6639

Dear Editor:

The sadness I felt at seeing the name of Johnda Davis amongst the memorials is countered by the warm memory of her service to me, beginning in 1976.

From an ad in the *Genealogical Helper*, I sent a subscription request to the *Tri-State Trader*, along with an allowed free query. I asked whether anyone knew the origin of Anna Maria Carolus who had married Edson B. Olds. Within days I had a reply from your editor, Johnda Davis, telling me of the articles on the Olds family. I subscribed to the *Quarterly* and have been benefiting from it ever since.

Mrs. Charlene Woolever also was most kind in furnishing me with file information.

Congratulations on the format in presentation of genealogical information. It should be an attraction for genealogy buffs.

Margaret B. MacNeill

1320 South Riverside Drive

Indialantic, Florida 32903-3553

Pickaway County Home Superintendents

John Morris	1873-1896
Ezacheretes Yates	1896-1902
Louis Schneider	1902-1907
Louis Craffard	1907-1908
Jacob Kellstadt	1908-1914
H.E. Mowery	1914-1939
Wilson Dunkel	1939-1940
James H. Mowery	1940-1952
Floyd E. Ott	1952-1955
Muriel Ott	1955-1965