

## JOHNSTON

The Johnstons are often referred to as the "Gentle Johnstons," and in a Border ballad, entitled "The Lads of Wamphray," we find the Galliard after stealing Sim Critchton's 'wisdom dun', calling an invitation:

'Now Simmy, Simmy of the side,  
'Come out and see a Johnston ride,  
Here's the bonniest horse in a 'Nith side,  
And a gentle Johnston aboon his hide'.

The family honors include the Marquisate of Annandale; the Earldoms of Annandale, Hartfell and Bath; the Viscounts of Annandale; the Baronies of Lochwood, Lochben, Moffatdale, Evandale, Bath and Derrvent, and the Baronetcies of Caskieben, Elphinstone, Westerhall, Hackness and Gilford.

A Scottish border antiquary (A. 85) was of opinion that the original Johnstons like Bruce, Baniel, Gordon and Jardine, came from France with William I. He identified him with the Seigneur de Joinville, mentioned by the old chronicler Guillelme de Tailleure, as assisting at the battle of Hastings, and the name appears again half-Saxonized into Janvil, on the roll of Battle Abbey.

Sir William Wallace is said to have been brought up in the family of a Johnston, and the assertion is quite credible as his home was in Lenark, just North of Annandale.

In Scotland it was allowable for each knight to wear the same design on his shield as his chief; some change in color or line being necessary, of course, to distinguish one from another. The first lords of Annandale were the Bruces, whose arms were silver, with a red saltire (diagonal cross) and a gold chief band across the upper section; and while serving as vassals of the Bruces the Johnstons wore for their arms a silver shield with a black

## NOTABLE SOUTHERN FAMILIES

saltire and red chief. After the Bruces came the Randolphs, whose arms consisted of three red cushions on the silver field; and in order to show their allegiance to their new masters, the Johnstons put three gold cushions on the red chief of their shields. When the Johnstons were raised to the peerage their arms were confirmed in the above design, which is officially described Argent, a saltire sable, on a chief gules, three cushions.

The crest of the clan is a winged spur, or "flying spur", as Sir Walter Scott calls it. There is a legend explaining the way in which the crest was awarded, which recites that while John Baliol was King of Scotland, Edward, King of England, tried to make him acknowledge Scotland to be tributary to England, and Robert Bruce, then Earl of Carrick, bitterly opposed the scheme. Edward, upon hearing of Bruce's opposition, laid a plot to seize him, and was only prevented from doing so by Baliol's sending the chief of the Johnstons to Bruce with a warning. Baliol did not wish to write to Bruce for fear the message should be intercepted by the followers of Edward, so he sent a spur to which was tied a bird's wing. Bruce took the hint and saved himself by flight, and when he became King he conferred the crest of the winged spur upon the messenger.

When Sir James Johnston was Lord Warden of West Marches his motto was "alight thieves all"; but when the chief of the clan was raised to the peerage the motto was changed to 'Nunquam non paratus' (Never unready). This motto was particularly appropriate, as it is said that when the chief used to muster his clan for battle it was the custom for him to ask: "Men of Annandale, are ye ready?" and the answer was invariably, "Aye, ready".

The Clan badge is red hawthorn. The Seat of the Johnston clan, is Locherby, near center of district of Annandale-Castle of Lochwood, situated at that place.

Though their origin is Scotch, some of the Johnstons went to Ireland, County of Antrim, at the time so many Scotchmen emigrated here as has been often noted in this series. The tradition that the emigrant to Ireland, or possibly one of his immediate successors married an "Irish lady" is scarcely borne out by the records of the people, for it was their boast that for two hundred years the Scotch Nation of Ireland" as they liked to call themselves never "intermarried" with the Irish. Of course, the Johnston, who is said to have married the Irish lady may have been the exception which proved the rule. This would seem

## JOHNSTON

indeed to be indicated by the birth near Dublin of the seven Johnstons, who emigrated to America.

After living in Ireland a length of time not now known, the Johnstons like hundreds of their Scotch Irish neighbors decided to emigrate to the new land of America. In 1768 the four Johnston brothers, John, William, Francis and Joseph who were all born near Dublin and presumably their three sisters, Margaret, Nancy and Jean, all set sail for America. They landed in Philadelphia and settled for a short time in Pennsylvania, when following the tide of emigration, they moved to Virginia and from thence to South Carolina and Tennessee.

While this article primarily concerns the Tennessee Johnstons, a brief reference to the North Carolina group is not amiss. Governor Johnston and his family of that state are all from the same stock, and it is believed that the extinct Marquisite of Annandale should be vested in the North Carolina branch. Alabama Johnstons are from the North Carolina family, the late Governor Joseph Forney Johnston being of North Carolina extraction.

There were three Governors of North Carolina of the family and name. All were emigrants from Scotland and all were born in or near Dundee. They were: Governor Gabriel Johnston, Governor John Johnston, and the latter's son, Governor Samuel Johnston. Samuel Johnston was born near Dundee, Scotland, in 1733 and this date shows the approximate date of his father's and uncle's birth to be about 1700, or a little earlier. Gabriel Johnston was Governor of the Province of North Carolina in 1734 and was followed in 1736 by his brother, John Johnston. Governor John Johnston's emigration evidently took place between the date of his son's birth in Dundee in 1733 and this appointment to the Governorship in 1736. No approximate date of Governor Gabriel Johnston's emigration can be given.

Samuel Johnston, born in Dundee, Scotland, in 1733, emigrated with his father, John Johnston, say 1734. He held almost every possible office in the Province and State and in 1787 was elected Governor of that State.

Governor Johnston's wife was Helen Scrymsour. Governor Samuel Johnston's wife was Penelope Eden, only daughter of Governor Eden.

In America in the Revolution there were many Johnstons and in the War Between the States there were four Generals in the Confederate Army all supposedly kinsmen and all of the names spelled with a "t". Brigadier General

## NOTABLE SOUTHERN FAMILIES

George D. Johnston, Lieutenant General Albert Sidney Johnston, Lieutenant General Joseph Eggleston Johnston and Brigadier General Robert D. Johnston. Of the most famous are General Albert Sidney Johnston, who gave his life for the South at Shiloh, April 6, 1862, and General Joseph E. Johnston whose brilliant career throughout the War is also well known.

The Tennessee family of Johnston comes from the line of the four brothers who were born near Dublin, Ireland, in the middle of the Eighteenth Century. These four brothers, John Johnston, Joseph Johnston, Francis Johnston and William Johnston had three sisters, Margaret Johnson, Nancy Johnston and Jean Johnston. Margaret married a Mr. Shaw, Nancy a Mr. Henderson and Jean a Mr. Jones.

It is the belief of the family that they sprang from the Annandale Johnstons, and that one of the family went over into Ireland during the persecution and married an Irish lady.

John Johnston, the eldest child of the foregoing group was born near Dublin, Ireland, in 1735. His half brother, Joseph Johnston, was born near Dublin February 28, 1745, the births of the other five brothers and sisters have not been given.

The family of four brothers emigrated from Ireland to Pennsylvania about the year 1768. Two years later they went to Virginia and there made settlements in 1770. John Johnston settled in Rockbridge County, Virginia, married and raised a family.

The seven brothers and sisters who came from Dublin to America about the year 1768 will be taken up in the following order:

- I. John Johnston.
- II. Joseph Johnston.
- III. Francis Johnston.
- IV. William Johnston.
- V. Margaret Johnston.
- VI. Nancy Johnston.
- VII. Jean Johnston.

### I. JOHN JOHNSTON

John Johnston, eldest of the group of brothers who emigrated to America from Ireland about the year 1768, was the only son of his mother and was a half brother to Joseph Johnston, Francis Johnston, William Johnston, Margaret Johnston, Nancy Johnston, and Jean Johnston.

## JOHNSTON

He was born near Dublin about 1735 and emigrated to America about 1768. They moved to Virginia about 1770 and from there to Washington County, Tennessee, about the year 1800. He died there about 1806. He had married and had a family. Some of his children remained in Virginia, but his son Samuel Johnston accompanied him to Tennessee and after his father's death moved to Blount County.

Samuel Johnston married Nancy Shaw and died in 1846. He left ten children:

- (1) John Johnston, Second.
- (2) Samuel McMillan Johnston.
- (3) Esther Johnston.
- (4) Margaret Johnston.
- (5) William Johnston.
- (6) Josiah Johnston.
- (7) Francis Johnston.
- (8) James Harvey Johnston.
- (9) Anna Johnston.
- (10) Hamilton Johnston.

(1) John Johnston the eldest son of Samuel Johnston and Nancy Shaw Johnston married Keziah Rowan in 1815.

(2) Samuel McMillan Johnston, son of Samuel Johnston and Nancy Shaw Johnston, married his cousin, Margaret Johnston, daughter of Joseph Johnston, about 1817. Their children were: Nancy A. (who married Z. Edwards and had Samuel Edwards, William Edwards and Sarah Edwards, all of whom died without issue and Margaret Edwards who married W. H. Lowry and had four children); James Harvey Johnson (who married Jane Caldwell in 1845 and had six children); Ebenezer E. Johnson (who married Armina Montgomery in 1846 and had four children); Lucinda Jane Johnston (who married O. H. P. Caldwell in December 1843 and had five children, James A. Caldwell who married Elizabeth Gillespie and has Percy A. Caldwell, Rhobie Caldwell married Fred Smallman and Elsie Caldwell married Roland Olmstead; Alice Caldwell; Mary Caldwell; Samuel Caldwell; and Sarah Caldwell); Jefferson LaFayette Johnston (who married Bettie Blair in 1858 and had one child and, after her death married Bettie McGhee and had five children. Among their children are: Hugh M. Johnston, who married Lillie Shipp and has

## NOTABLE SOUTHERN FAMILIES

two daughters, Lynn Russell Johnston and Elizabeth Johnston, Samuel Hugh Hardin, who married Lillie Shipp and has Thomas H. Johnston, whose wife was Nona G. McDermott. They have Hugh Samuel Johnston and Louise Johnston.

Ester Johnston (who married Peter Hardin and left one son, Samuel M. Hardin, who married Lillie Shipp and has no children); Margaret Johnston (who married J. F. McGill and died in 1910, having had eight children, five of whom are living).

(3) Esther Johnston, daughter of Samuel Johnston and Nancy Shaw Johnston married Josiah Rowan in 1819. They had several children, one of whom was Colonel John A. Rowan who commanded 62 Tennessee Confederate Regiment.

(4) Margaret Johnston, daughter of Samuel Johnston and Nancy Shaw Johnston married her cousin, Samuel Johnston, son of Joseph Johnston in 1818.

(5) William Johnston, son of Samuel Johnston and Nancy Shaw Johnston, married Nancy Finley in 1820.

(6) Josiah Johnston, son of Samuel Johnston and Nancy Shaw Johnston married Clarissa Prater about 1828.

(7) Francis Johnston, son of Samuel Johnston and Nancy Shaw Johnston married Jane Ferguson in 1838.

(8) James Harvey Johnston, son of Samuel Johnston and Nancy Shaw Johnston, married Nancy Walker in 1835.

(9) Anna Johnston, daughter of Samuel Johnston and Nancy Johnston, never married.

(10) Hamilton Johnston, son of Samuel Johnston and Nancy Shaw Johnston, married Isabella Auneau in 1835.

### II. JOSEPH JOHNSTON

Joseph Johnston, who was born in or near, Dublin, Ireland, February 28, 1745 and emigrated to America in about the year 1767, settled with his brothers in Virginia in 1770. He served in the Revolution and was a Sergeant in Captain Joseph Spencer's Company.

In July 1778, Joseph Johnston and his brother Francis Johnston made a trip to Charleston, South Carolina, and were so delighted with the country that Joseph Johnston decided to remain there. He married Margaret Graham, of Graham's Ford, in 1781.

Margaret Graham had emigrated from Ireland in 1770 with her brother, Robert Graham. They had settled in Southwestern Virginia near Wytheville, according to Dr. J. T. Graham, of Wytheville. The ten sons and daughters of Joseph and Margaret Graham Johnston were born in York

## JOHNSTON

District, South Carolina. They lived on the Paden River near the "Old National Ford".

About the Year 1816, Joseph and Margaret Graham Johnston and their entire family moved to Tennessee, Blount County, and he later bought ten farms in Monroe and Roane Counties, Tennessee, leaving one farm to each of his ten children.

He died August 15, 1825, on the farm where he lived for several years, one and a half miles south of Blair's Ferry, now near Loudon where his grandson, James Harrison Johnston now lives. Joseph and Margaret Graham Johnston are buried at the Old Brick Church where they lived in Blount County.

From a memorandum book kept by Joseph Johnston, beginning February 16th, 1770, we find that he came to Virginia from Pennsylvania. Other items in the book show that he had business transactions with Francis Johnston, who must have been a brother.

He kept accounts with the Exchange Bank of Georgetown, Mechanics Bank of Baltimore, and a Virginia Bank in 1773. In July 1778, he and Francis Johnston made a trip to Charleston, South Carolina, and an account of the expenses of both on that trip was kept. He has accounts also with John Johnston and James Johnston, presumably brothers. He has entries of notes on Bank of Tennessee, payable at Nashville, and the State Bank of North Carolina, Wilmington, North Carolina.

Another entry in the book reads: "Received from Robert Graham on a note, 13 pounds and 12 shillings. Received from John Johnston, on Francis Johnston's account, six pounds and six shillings, April the 10th, 1797, and 260 feet of board. December ye 10th, 1779; this is the bargain between Francis Johnston and Joseph Johnston, viz., that Joseph Johnston bought ye half of a steel and vessels for 300 pounds".

After Joseph Johnston removed to South Carolina he accumulated a fortune, and when his children were all grown, he moved to Blount County, Tennessee, and afterwards to Roane, which is now Loudon County.

He bought ten plantations in that section of the country known as "Sweetwater Valley", between Blount County, and Chattanooga. He gave a plantation to each one of his children and furnished it with stock and negroes; but he set most of his own negroes free after he moved to Tennessee, and sent them back to Liberia. One negro who was

## NOTABLE SOUTHERN FAMILIES

liberated, was very young at the time, and started, with his mother, to Liberia, but when they embarked at Savannah, Georgia, he turned back with one or two others, preferring rather to bear the ills he already had than to fly to those he knew not of. His mother, after she arrived in Africa, wrote to her mistress several times, and occasionally sent presents of coffee and other products of the country, in exchange for tobacco and presents sent them from this county. They were not satisfied in Liberia and wished to return. In Joseph Johnston's will it will be found that he gave to each of his children a body servant or maid, with the proviso that they should be taught to read and and be set free at the age of thirty. In his will he also ordered that his books of divinity should be divided amongst his sons and daughters, but that his other books should be divided amongst his sons only. Evidently believing that it was not necessary for women to know anything except religion. Joseph Johnston served as courier in the Continental forces, during the Revolutionary war, and, for many years, the family possessed the note book, kept by him, with remarks upon the campaign from Newport, Rhode Island, to Charleston, South Carolina.

He, his ancestors and most of his descendants have been Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, of the strictest faith, and have been noted for their integrity of character and solid qualities, although a trifle austere. They acknowledge but one right and one wrong, and recognize no circuitous routes between the two.

The children of Joseph Johnston and Margaret Graham Johnston were:

- (1) James Johnston.
- (2) Josiah Johnston, born 1785.
- (3) Frances Johnston.
- (4) Samuel Johnston.
- (5) Joseph Johnston, Second.
- (6) Robert Johnston.
- (7) Ebenezer Johnston.
- (8) William Johnston.
- (9) Margaret Johnston.
- (10) Jean Johnston.

(1) James Johnston married Rachel Martin. Their children were: Joseph Johnston, William Johnston, Ebenezer Johnston, Francis Johnston, Polly Johnston, Michael Johnston and Martha Johnston.

(2) Josiah Johnston married Esther Walker, of Penn-

## JOHNSTON

sylvania. Their children were: Joseph Johnston, Walker Johnston, James Johnston, Francis Johnston, William Johnston, Emmett Johnston and Nancy Ann Johnston (who married Dr. Ford).

Of the foregoing:

Joseph Johnston married Caroline Hair and had seven children, namely: James Johnston, Inez Johnston, Hester Johnston, Alice Johnston, Caroline Johnston, Francis Johnston and Joseph Johnston. James Johnston married Lucy Callaway. She died soon after their marriage. He lives at the old Johnston place near Madisonville, Tennessee. Inez Johnston married Captain H. H. Taylor of Knoxville and left two children, Caroline Taylor and Alfred Taylor. Hester Johnston married — Reed, of Lexington, Kentucky and had two sons, one of whom died in infancy, the other, Joseph J. Reed married Felicia Murray of Anderson, South Carolina and lives in Knoxville. Alice Johnston died young. Caroline Johnston married Luke Callaway, and had two children, Lucy Callaway who died young and Thomas Calloway who married Rhoda King Shields and lives in Knoxville. Francis Johnston married Elizabeth Houston and has two children, Elizabeth Johnston and Locke Johnston.

Joseph Johnston ———.

Walker Johnston never married.

James Miller Johnston, married Sarah Tucker who was the daughter of John Tucker and Mary (Polly) Haigler of Lenoir County, North Carolina, who had moved from North Carolina to Tennessee in 1838 and settled at Tucker's Springs in Bradley County, seven miles south of Cleveland, Tennessee.

The children of James Johnston and Sarah Tucker, were John Tucker Johnston, Ida Johnston, Josiah Emmett Johnston, Esther May Johnston, James Francis Johnston, Samuel Marshall Johnston and William Thomas Johnston.

John Tucker Johnston married Mary Tipton of Cleveland, they had three children, James Johnston who died young; Willie Johnston, "Bunnie" (as she was affectionately called) who died at the age of twenty-two in Hahnemann hospital in Philadelphia upon returning to The States after a visit in Jamaica; and Clyde Johnston, who married C. L. Hardwick and lived in Cleveland.

Ida Johnston married John A. Steed of Cleveland; their eldest child, Mary Johnston Steed married W. C. Nevin of Sewickley, Pennsylvania, and had three children: Sarah