

Grandfather Henry Collins Flowers

William Johnston
Of Isle Of Wight County, Virginia
And His Descendants
1648-1964

A Genealogical Study of One Branch
of the Family in the South

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CHAPTER 1

William Johnston

First Generation

William Johnston, who lived from 1648 to 1719, of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, is the ancestor of the Johnstons and their descendants who are the subject-matter of this study. His ancestry has not been established as yet, but it has always been claimed by his descendants that he was of the ancient Annandale stock of Dumfriesshire, Scotland. Surviving records of Virginia in the crucial area for this period are limited; it is not until 1665 that William Johnston, as the ancestor of the Johnstons who follow can be established with reasonable certitude despite intriguing earlier appearances of the name.

On December 23, 1636, William Johnson patented fifty acres of land on the Nansemond River, in the present Isle of Wight County, for his personal adventure to the Virginia Colony,¹ and the grant was renewed October 29, 1637.² On October 12, 1640, Percivall Champion patented fifty acres on Nansemond River adjoining the land of William Johnson.³ On August 10, 1642, William Johnson was used as a headright by William Prior in Charles River (now York) County.⁴ On April 10, 1644, William Johnson and John Johnson were used as headrights by Samuel Abbott in James City County.⁵ On April 23, 1646, William Johnson and Daniel Johnson were used as headrights in Upper Norfolk (now Nansemond) County by Richard Moore and William Walton.⁶ On September 9, 1648, William Johnson and John Johnson were named as headrights of Randall Crew in Nansemond County.⁷ They were also used as headrights by Lieut.-Colonel John Blake and Edward Ison in Nansemond County on February 20, 1664/65,⁸ and again June 7, 1666, by Capt. Joseph Bridger and William Burgh of Isle of Wight and Nansemond Counties.⁹ William Johnson does not appear in the records for the next twelve years, and then suddenly as the father of an illegitimate child by a daughter of Colonel Thomas Woodward (1604-1677), first Surveyor-General of the Carolina Colony.

Philarete Woodward, on December 21, 1678, signed a receipt for 4,000 pounds of tobacco in a cask from William Johnson "for ye maintenance of my child"; it was witnessed by Thomas Woodward (Jr.) and John (ID) Duffie.¹⁰ By August 24, 1680, Philarete Woodward was the wife of John Giles of Isle of Wight County; for with her consent he executed a deed of gift to Jane, "daughter of said Philarete," of a plantation of 400 acres at Blackwater where Edward Hayes lived, with reversion to said John Giles in event of Jane's death without issue; witnessed by

John Harris and Richard (x) Poole.¹¹

It is evident Jane was the daughter of William Johnston by Philarete Woodward. It has not been ascertained whether she lived to maturity; a careful examination of land records after 1695 might reveal Jane with a husband and the same 400 acres.

William Johnson owed the estate of Colonel Joseph Bridger of Isle of Wight 527 bushels of wheat on June 28, 1686, according to an appraisal of the estate.¹² On August 16, 1690, William Johnson of the Lower Parish of Isle of Wight County bought 100 acres on a branch (part of 2,100 acres patented by George Pierce September 21, 1674) in said parish from George (P) and Ann (x) Pierce of the same place; witnessed by John Browne and William Crumpler.¹³ On October 9, 1691, William Johnston, Dr. John Johnson, Major Arthur Allen and others received payments from the estate of Christopher Wade.¹⁴

William Johnston married Sarah Griffeth, daughter of Owen Griffeth. Sarah and son-in-law William Johnson, and his widow Mary Griffeth, were named in Owen Griffeth's will, dated July 15, 1698, and witnessed by Jane Bragg and Henry Applewhite.¹⁵ On December 9, 1698, William (W) Johnson in a deposition relating to Thomas Norsworthy testified that he, William, was fifty years of age, thereby fixing 1648 as the year of his birth.¹⁶ On September 11, 1700, William (W) Johnson and William (W) Williams witnessed a deed of William and Elizabeth (E) Crumpler to William Carver in the sale of land south of Blackwater Swamp in the Lower Parish.¹⁷ On September 8, 1701, William (W) and Sarah (S) Johnson of the Lower Parish of Isle of Wight County, Blacksmith, sold 100 acres of the Pierce purchase land to John Bardin of the Upper Parish; witnessed by William Crumpler and William Williams.¹⁸ On October 20, 1702, William Johnson patented 428 acres of land south of Blackwater River in Isle of Wight County on account of having imported nine persons into the colony.¹⁹ In 1704 William Johnson, John Barden, Arthur Whitehead, and George Pierce appraised the estate of John Cooke.²⁰ On April 9, 1705, William Johnson, Henry Pope, and Arthur Whitehead appraised the estate of George Pierce.²¹

On August 18, 1715, Madison and Margaret (M) Street and Ann (A) Surby and Sarah (S) Surby of Newport Parish, daughters of the late John Surby, sold William Johnson for 2,100 pounds of tobacco a tract of 150 acres in said Parish (from 200 bought by John Surby from George Pierce July 27, 1691); witnessed by William (W) Brewer, William (W) Daniel, and Nicholas (S) Berren.²²

William (W) Johnson made his will in Isle of Wight County April 10, 1719. It was probated September 28, of the same year. He named his son, John Johnson, to be his executor, and

the will of John Williams.³³

On August 25, 1740, and again on August 24, 1741, John Johnson, William Pope, Edward Cobb, and James Edwards appraised the estate of Henry Applewhite of Isle of Wight County.³⁴ On June 25, 1744, John Johnson, John Lawrence, and William Fowler appraised James Tullaugh's estate.³⁵ On —, 1748/49, John Johnson, Sr., and John Johnson, Jr., of Isle of Wight County sold James Fowler for £10.0.0 current Virginia money 150 acres on Blackwater at the mouth of Deep Branch adjoining James Peden, John Johnson, Sr., the patent line, and Blackwater Swamp (from a patent of 428 acres to William Johnson of October 28, 1702); witnessed by Matthew Griffin, Joseph Jones, and Robert (x) Carr.³⁶

On February 22, 1748, John Johnson of Isle of Wight County paid Thomas Davis of Northampton County, North Carolina, £5.0.0 current Virginia money for 75 acres in the latter county south of Kirby's Creek on Mandue's Branch; witnessed by Joseph Johnson, Oliver Woodard and John Woodard.³⁷ On January 14, 1750, John Johnson of Northampton County sold Noah Predham for £22.10.0 current Virginia money 113 acres adjoining Benjamin Thomas and a swamp (formerly owned by Thomas Richardson); witnessed by William Baker, Susannah Baker, and Esther Caudell.³⁸

John Johnson, "Being Old and in years," signed his will in Northampton County on January 27, 1745/46, and it was probated there in August Court, 1753. He left granddaughter Mary Johnson Bridger, a feather bed and furniture, iron pot, 4 dishes, 2 plates, small tankard, 12 spoons, and an iron skillet; his wife and executrix Mary Johnson, he referred to as the heir of other real and personal property; presumably the rest of his estate was given to her, and witnesses were James (†) Johnson and Nicholas Boon.³⁹ On June 15, 1755, Mary (M) Johnson of Northampton County deeded to her granddaughter Mary Johnson Bridger of the same place for love the home plantation and all other of the estate; witnessed by James Washington, Robert Tharp, and Theophilus Tharp.⁴⁰

Son: John Johnson, Jr. Granddaughter, daughter of John Johnson, Jr.: Mary Johnson Bridger.

II. WILLIAM JOHNSTON, JR.: He lived in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, before moving to Bertie County, North Carolina, and later to Edgecombe County.

On December 19, 1716, William Johnson was granted 480 acres in Chowan Precinct on Sandy Branch near Roanoke River and bounded by Great Fresh Pond, Reedy Branch, and Sea Side Hills.⁴¹ On September 5, 1723, William Johnson patented 165 acres in Isle of Wight south of Lightwood Swamp adjoining Bartholmew Andrews and Round Hill Swamp.⁴² On November 7, 1723, he patented 200 acres in Bertie Precinct north of Morratuck (Roanoke) River adjoining William Green and Falling Run.⁴³

On September 22, 1729, William Johnson of Bertie Precinct sold Anthony Lewis, Jr., for £30.0.0 a tract of 150 acres in Isle of Wight County south of Blackwater (part of a grant to William Johnson, Sr., of 428 acres on October 28, 1702); witnessed by John Johnson, Benjamin Johnson, and Richard (RB) Beel.⁴⁴ On April 20, 1733, William (WJ) Johnson of North Carolina sold John Ingram of Isle of Wight County 165 acres south of Lightwood Swamp adjoining Bartholomew Andrews and Round Hill Swamp (patented by said William Johnson September 1, 1723); witnessed by William Branch, Etheldred Taylor, and Joseph Gray.⁴⁵

On August 17, 1734, John (x) Lee sold William Johnston for £12.0.0 a tract of 200 acres in Edgecombe County north of Conocoary Creek adjoining said Johnston and Joseph Moore; witnessed by Needham Bryant and Thomas Cook.⁴⁶ On February 14, 1739/40, William Johnston patented 300 acres in Edgecombe County north of Conehoe Creek adjoining John Lee and Rocky Run.⁴⁷ On November 10, 1743, William Johnston proved three

rights with three whites, for taking March 1, 1743/44, William Johnston on the Miry Branch of Chockeet Sw⁴⁸ 1744, William Johnston of Edgecombe sterling money of Great Britain a Harris, William (x) Smith, and M

On May 14, 1744, William John Harris for £5.0.0 sterling money Gambill; witnessed by William (x) uary 8, 1744/45, William Johnston money of England 640 acres south Smith and Richard Cuerton; witness nah (x) Cuerton, "ye younger."⁴⁹ patented 600 acres in Edgecombe C

William Johnston died after Au 1748. He did not leave a will of of Inventories, Accounts, Sales, and contain the pages for the period Court, 1748. The Christian name However, the family can be largely transactions in Edgecombe (now H

1. William Johnston, III: He li (then Edgecombe) and Northamp in Northampton County in the lat

On May 18, 1744, John and Ri £20.0.0 English money 80 acres in Pond Creek and along "the Count and Henry Bishop.⁵⁴ On August Johnson for £36.0.0 current Virgin in Edgecombe County adjoining Ki and Joel (†) Vassor.⁵⁵ On May County sold William Johnson of th money 400 acres in Northampton joining David Razar, the Edgecom Johnston; witnessed by John Moore

On November 4, 1755, William £30.0.0 Virginia money 320 acres o witnessed by Isaac Edwards and J liam Johnson of Northampton C current Virginia money 150 acres n of Tar Kiln Branch, and Mitchell's William Mitchell, and John Critt

On January 11, 1769, William J liam Mitchell for £40.0.0 current V Pond Creek adjoining Flowers, T Razar, Hackney, and the County Mitchell, and John (x) Mitchell. of Northampton County sold Isha lings money of Great Britain 15 joining William Mitchell, Tar Kiln by John Moore and Richard Moo Johnson and Noel Vaughan.⁶⁰

William Johnson made his will 1777, and it was probated in Se as follows: (a) to wife Sarah J bed with rug and blanket, 2 pa with calves, 2 steers, 2 sows wit

John Harris and Richard (x) Poole.¹¹

It is evident Jane was the daughter of William Johnston by Philarete Woodward. It has not been ascertained whether she lived to maturity; a careful examination of land records after 1695 might reveal Jane with a husband and the same 400 acres.

William Johnston owed the estate of Colonel Joseph Bridger of Isle of Wight 527 bushels of wheat on June 28, 1686, according to an appraisal of the estate.¹² On August 16, 1690, William Johnston of the Lower Parish of Isle of Wight County bought 100 acres on a branch (part of 2,100 acres patented by George Pierce September 21, 1674) in said parish from George (P) and Ann (x) Pierce of the same place; witnessed by John Browne and William Crumpler.¹³ On October 9, 1691, William Johnston, Dr. John Johnson, Major Arthur Allen and others received payments from the estate of Christopher Wade.¹⁴

William Johnston married Sarah Griffeth, daughter of Owen Griffeth. Sarah and son-in-law William Johnson, and his widow Mary Griffeth, were named in Owen Griffeth's will, dated July 15, 1698, and witnessed by Jane Bragg and Henry Applewhite.¹⁵ On December 9, 1698, William (W) Johnson in a deposition relating to Thomas Norsworthy testified that he, William, was fifty years of age, thereby fixing 1648 as the year of his birth.¹⁶ On September 11, 1700, William (W) Johnson and William (W) Williams witnessed a deed of William and Elizabeth (E) Crumpler to William Carver in the sale of land south of Blackwater Swamp in the Lower Parish.¹⁷ On September 8, 1701, William (W) and Sarah (S) Johnson of the Lower Parish of Isle of Wight County, Blacksmith, sold 100 acres of the Pierce purchase land to John Bardin of the Upper Parish; witnessed by William Crumpler and William Williams.¹⁸ On October 20, 1702, William Johnson patented 428 acres of land south of Blackwater River in Isle of Wight County on account of having imported nine persons into the colony.¹⁹ In 1704 William Johnson, John Barden, Arthur Whitehead, and George Pierce appraised the estate of John Cooke.²⁰ On April 9, 1705, William Johnson, Henry Pope, and Arthur Whitehead appraised the estate of George Pierce.²¹

On August 18, 1715, Madison and Margaret (M) Street and Ann (A) Surby and Sarah (S) Surby of Newport Parish, daughters of the late John Surby, sold William Johnson for 2,100 pounds of tobacco a tract of 150 acres in said Parish (from 200 bought by John Surby from George Pierce July 27, 1691); witnessed by William (W) Brewer, William (W) Daniel, and Nicholas (S) Berren.²²

William (W) Johnson made his will in Isle of Wight County April 10, 1719. It was probated September 28, of the same year. He named his son, John Johnson, to be his executor, and

also gave him a reversional interest in his home plantation. Other devises and bequeaths were: a life estate in the home plantation of 150 acres to his widow, Sarah Johnson; a plantation of 150 acres to his son, William, on which he lived; 128 acres to his son, Thomas Johnson; his blacksmith tools [and apparently a tract of 150 acres of land] to his son, Benjamin Johnson, and ten shillings, sterling money, to Hardy Council, a friend.²³

The estate of William Johnson, Sr., was inventoried October 24, 1719, by John Johnston, executor, and personal property as follows was reported: 31 cattle, 5 calves, 75 hogs, 2 horses, a mare and foal, 12 sheep; 6 chairs, 3 chests, 2 trunks, looking glass, small table, framed table, 4 beds with cording and steads; 4 books, gun, £0.14.6 in cash, 2 wallets, 2 saddles, 3 bridles; 9 pewter dishes, 6 pewter basins, 19 pewter plates, 8 pewter porringers, 24 spoons, stone mug, drinking glass, earthen plate, pewter tankard, brass candlestick, 7 glass bottles, 2 knives and forks, glass salt cellar; tin funnel, earthen pot, 2 frying pans, 2 iron pottrucks, iron spit, pair of fire tongs, 4 iron pots, 2 trays, meal bag; drawing knife, handsaw, crosscut saw, pair of steelyards, pair of sheepshears, pair of tailor's shears, 2 iron pestles, pair of wedges, broad hoe, 2 sickles, part of a set of smith's tools, 3 grindstones, horse collar, pair of hames, 2 old halters, 8 cider casks; canoe, flat; some tallow, some beeswax, bushel of salt, barrel of corn, some old pewter, some old iron, some cooper's ware; 4 sides of leather, 2 raw deerskins, 5 deerskins, some yarn, some wool, some cotton, half-pound of thread, some silk and mohair buttons, 26 yards of ozenberg, 11 yards of carsey, 3 yards of blue linen, 9 yards of white ozenberg, 3 yards of ticking, 15 yards of serge, 6 yards of drugget, 4 yards of shawl; quire of paper, blank book, some pipes, some powder and shot; wearing clothes, 6 hankerchiefs, pair of worsted stockings, and a muslin neck cloth.²⁴

Children of William Johnston and wife Sarah Griffeth:

I. JOHN JOHNSTON: He lived in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, most of his life, but died in 1753 in Northampton County, North Carolina. He married Mary ——— who was still living in 1755.

On October 28, 1717, Francis Bracy sold John Johnson, son of William Johnson, for 600 pounds of tobacco 100 acres south of Blackwater Swamp adjoining William Johnson in Isle of Wight County; witnessed by Arthur Smith and Philip (R) Raiford.²⁵ On December 31, 1725, John Johnson and John Williams witnessed the will of John Thomas.²⁶ On June 8, 1726, John Johnson, Joseph Price, and Francis Williamson appraised the estate of John Thomas.²⁷ On November 26, 1729, John Johnson, Edward Cobb, and Richard Williams witnessed the will of Edward Cobb.²⁸

On October 22, 1733, and on October 28, 1734, John Johnson, William Pope, and Richard Williams appraised the estate of John Row of Isle of Wight County.²⁹ On November 26, John Johnson and Richard Williams appraised the estate of Richard Bateman.³⁰ On July 25, 1737, John Johnson, John Williams, and John Pope appraised Richard Bayton's estate.³¹ On November 8, 1737, John Johnson and James Garner witnessed the will of Richard Williams;³² and on November 21 he and Nathan Godwin witnessed

was processioned in the Upper Parish of Nansemond County.²⁴⁵ In March, 1760, this land apparently was considered abandoned inasmuch as that land "Belonging to Moses Johnson [was] left undone by the Reason he was out of the Government."²⁴⁶

Probably he was the Moses Johnson included in the seven taxables listed in 1757 by George House, Sr., in Bertie County. On April 3, 1759, Moses and Rachel (x) Johnson of Northampton County sold Samuel Davis for £19.0.0 Virginia money 160 acres adjoining Osborn Jeffreys, Joseph Sikes, and Wildcat Branch (the purchase from William Sikes); witnessed by Joseph Sikes and John Ingram.²⁴⁷ On January 24, 1761, Moses Johnson, Hardy Darden, and John Darden, Jr., witnessed the will of Robert Johnson of the Upper Parish of Isle of Wight County.²⁴⁸

On February 3, 1764, Moses (x) and Rachel (x) Johnson of Dobbs County, North Carolina, sold Henry Raines for £20.0.0 Proclamation Money 200 acres south of Little River and north of Neuse River; witnessed by William Oliver.²⁴⁹ On October 14, 1765, Moses and Rachel Johnson of Dobbs County sold William Oliver for £7.0.0 current Virginia money 100 acres south of Little River adjoining Edmond Smith; witnessed by William Talton and Henry Rains.²⁵⁰

Moses Johnston made his will in Wayne County August 26, 1788; it was probated in October Court, 1788. Terms: to son James, five shillings sterling money (including a debt of 45 barrels of corn); son William, a small pot and pothooks, 3 pewter plates; son Moses, five shillings sterling money; son Robert, the same; son Aaron, 100 acres adjoining Richard Pearce, a bay mare, saddle and bridle; son Amos, 100 acres adjoining the fork of the Swamp and Great Branch and also adjoining James Johnston, and a young horse, cow, calf, and a gun; daughter Rebecca Faulk, a heifer and an old side saddle; daughter Alse Johnston, 100 acres on Great Branch, a bed, stead, and furniture; daughter Sarah Johnston, a bed, stead, and furniture; daughter Edith Johnston, a bed and furniture; daughter Rachel Johnston, all sheep. He called Michael Fulghum and William Powell friends, and named them executors; witnesses were Willoby Rogers, Hardy Talton, and Simon Branch.²⁵¹ The inventory of the estate was taken by Michael Fulghum and William Powell on October 14, 1788.²⁵²

Children: (a) James Johnston; (b) William Johnston; (c) Moses Johnston, Jr.; (d) Robert Johnston; (e) Aaron Johnston; (f) Amos Johnston; (g) Rebecca Johnston — married — Faulk; (h) Alse Johnston; (i) Sarah Johnston; (j) Edith Johnston; (k) Rachel Johnston.

IV. BENJAMIN JOHNSTON: Benjamin Johnston, son of William Johnston and wife Sarah Griffith, is treated in the next chapter.

¹ Nell M. Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers* (Richmond, Va., 1934), p. 53.

² *Ibid.*, p. 740.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 120.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 132.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 152.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 167.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 177.

⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 444.

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 559.

¹⁰ Isle of Wight County, *Will & Deed Book*, No. 1, 1662-1715, p. 392.

¹¹ John B. Boddie, *Seventeenth Century Isle of Wight County, Virginia* (Chicago, Ill., 1938), p. 589.

¹² Isle of Wight County, *Will & Deed Book 2*, pp. 255 - 267.

¹³ *Deed Book No. 1, 1688-1704*, p. 31.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 127-128.

¹⁵ *Will & Deed Book 2*, p. 397.

¹⁶ *Deed Book No. 1, 1688-1704*, p. 266.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 319-320.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 347.

¹⁹ *Patent Book 9*, p. 470, Va. State Dept. of Archives.

²⁰ Isle of Wight County, *Will and Deed Book 2*, p. 464.

²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 466.

²² *Great Book, 1715-1724*, p. 90.

²³ *Ibid.*, Vol. 2, Part 2, p. 8.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, Vol. 2, Part 2, p. 16.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 111.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 195.

²⁷ *Will Book 3*, p. 6.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 3, p. 251.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 3, p. 370; 4, p. 26.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, 3, p. 380.

³¹ *Ibid.*, 4, p. 173.

³² *Ibid.*, 4, p. 193.

³³ *Ibid.*, 4, p. 195.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 4, pp. 290 and 367.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, 4, p. 493.

³⁶ *Deed Book 8*, p. 205.

³⁷ Northampton County, *Deed Book 1*, p. 367.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, 1, p. 470.

³⁹ J. Bryan Grimes, *Abstracts of North Carolina Wills* (Raleigh, N. C., 1910), p. 188.

⁴⁰ Northampton County, *Deed Book 2*, p. 302.

⁴¹ N. C. Land Grant Office, *Patent Book 111-B*, p. 92.

⁴² *Grant Book 11*, p. 260, Va. State Dept. of Archives.

⁴³ N. C., *Patent Book 111-A*, No. 709.

⁴⁴ Isle of Wight County, *Deed Book 4*, pp. 34-35.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, 4, pp. 235-237.

⁴⁶ Halifax County, *Deed Book 1*, p. 131.

⁴⁷ N. C., *Patent Book 4*, p. 46, and *Book 5*, p. 36.

⁴⁸ William L. Saunders, Editor, *The Colonial Records of North Carolina* (Raleigh, N. C., 1886), Vol. IV, p. 640.

⁴⁹ N. C., *Patent Book 5*, p. 161, and *Book 10*, p. 12.

⁵⁰ Halifax County, *Deed Book 5*, p. 227.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 5, p. 226.

⁵² *Ibid.*, 5, p. 365.

⁵³ N. C., *Patent Book 5*, p. 225, and *Book 10*, p. 69.

⁵⁴ Northampton County, *Deed Book 1*, p. 113.

⁵⁵ Halifax County, *Deed Book 2*, p. 333.

⁵⁶ Northampton County, *Deed Book 2*, p. 129.

⁵⁷ Halifax County, *Deed Book 2*, p. 335.

⁵⁸ Northampton County, *Deed Book 3*, p. 64.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 4, p. 206.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, 4, p. 289.

⁶¹ *Will Book 1*, p. 290.

⁶² Halifax County, *Deed Book 3*, p. 270.

⁶³ Sampson County, *Deed Book 1*, p. 322.

⁶⁴ Duplin County, *Deed Book 1*, p. 58.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, 3-A, p. 1.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, DFTU, p. 224.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, L, p. 292.

⁶⁸ *Will Book A*, pp. 247-249.

⁶⁹ *Deed Book P*, p. 198.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, 5, p. 438.

⁷¹ *Ibid.*, G, p. 265.

- 184 *Ibid.*, A 1, p. 60.
 185 *List of Justices of the Peace, 1800-1810*, in N. C. Dept. of Archives.
 186 Johnston County, *Land Divisions*, A 1, p. 49.
 187 *Family Records of Mrs. G. Clayton Johnson, Elizabethtown, N. C. For the will (nuncupative) of Drucilla Pate: See Will Book A, p. 42, Columbus County.*
 188 Wake County, *Deed Book H*, p. 147.
 189 *Ibid.*, H, p. 500.
 190 *Heads of Families, etc., op. cit.*, p. 102.
 191 Wake County, *Record Book 4*, p. 215.
 192 *Deed Book Y*, p. 383.
 193 Southampton County, *Will Book 1*, p. 215.
 194 *Deed Book 2*, p. 161.
 195 Johnston County, *Deed Book H 1*, p. 178.
 196 *Ibid.*, Trans. 2, p. 373.
 197 *Heads of Families, etc., op. cit.*, p. 142.
 198 Johnston County, *Will Book 1*, p. 112.
 199 *Ibid.*, 1, p. 510.
 200 *Deed Book H 2*, p. 191.
 201 *Will Book 1*, p. 317.
 202 *Deed Book Z 1*, p. 173.
 203 *Ibid.*, A 2, p. 219.
 204 *Ibid.*, D 2, p. 107.
 205 *Ibid.*, B 2, p. 128; *Patent Book 114*, p. 409.
 206 *Will Book 1*, p. 371.
 207 *Ibid.*, 1, p. 686.
 208 Wake County, *Record Book 28*, p. 589.
 209 Isle of Wight County, *Deed Book 5*, p. 527.
 210 *Ibid.*, 5, pp. 514-517.
 211 *Ibid.*, 6, pp. 361-362.
 212 *Ibid.*, 7, p. 401.
 213 Southampton County, *Deed Book 2*, p. 55.
 214 *Will Book 2*, p. 176.
 215 *Ibid.*, 3, p. 23.
 216 *Deed Book 5*, p. 245.
 217 *Will Book 3*, p. 199.
 218 *Ibid.*, 3, p. 290.
 219 *Deed Book 6*, p. 456.
 220 *Ibid.*, 6, p. 589.
 221 *Will Book 4*, p. 494.
 222 *Ibid.*, 4, p. 425.
 223 *Ibid.*, 4, p. 556.
 224 *Ibid.*, 4, p. 616.
 225 *Ibid.*, 4, p. 456.
 226 *Ibid.*, 4, p. 662.
 227 *Ibid.*, 4, p. 29.
 228 Halifax County, *Deed Book 3*, p. 8.
 229 Isle of Wight County, *Deed Book 7*, p. 401.
 230 *Minute Books of Edgecombe County Court*, in N. C. Dept. of Archives.
 231 *Heads of Families, etc., op. cit.*, p. 39.
 232 Northampton County, *Deed Book 1*, p. 262.
 233 *Ibid.*, 1, p. 331.
 234 *Ibid.*, 2, p. 178.
 235 File No. S. S. 837, in N. C. Dept. of Archives.
 236 Northampton County, *Deed Book 4*, p. 23.
 237 *Ibid.*, 4, p. 148.
 238 *Ibid.*, 6, p. 144.
 239 *Ibid.*, 7, p. 61.
 240 *Ibid.*, 8, p. 188.

- 241 *Ibid.*, 9, p. 19.
 242 *Will Book 1*, p. 480.
 243 *Grant Book 30*, p. 155, *op. cit.*
 244 Northampton County, *Deed Book 2*, p. 196.
 245 Wilmer L. Hall, Editor, *The Vestry Book of The Upper Parish, Nansmond County, Virginia, 1745-1798* (Richmond, Va., 1949), p. 114.
 246 *Ibid.*, p. 138.
 247 Northampton County, *Deed Book 3*, p. 6.
 248 Isle of Wight County, *Will Book 7*, p. 424.
 249 Johnston County, *Deed Book D 1*, p. 215.
 250 *Ibid.*, E 1, p. 16.
 251 Wayne County, *Wills & Settlement of Estates*, 1, 1782-1791, p. 61, f. 3-4, File No. C. R. 105.002, in N. C. Dept. of Archives.
 252 *Ibid.*, p. 62.

CHAPTER 2

Benjamin Johnston, Sr.

Of the Second Generation

Benjamin Johnston, Sr., son of William Johnston, Sr., and wife Sarah Griffith, was born circa 1693 in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, and died in 1767, in Southampton County. He married Mary _____ whose maiden name has not yet been established.

On December 24, 1719, Richard Williams sold Benjamin Johnston of Isle of Wight County for £50.0.0 sterling money of England 200 acres south of Nottoway Swamp adjoining James Bryant (from a patent of 400 acres to said Williams of November 13, 1713); witnessed by Thomas Bryant, Philip (P) Brantley, and Robert Scott.¹ On February 28, 1725/26, William Hickman sold Benjamin Johnson for £40.0.0 sterling money 100 acres south of Main Blackwater Swamp and bounded by Hickman's Swamp and Henry Bosman (from a patent of 370 acres to said Hickman of November 13, 1713); witnessed by John (B) Barnes, Henry Summerell, and John (†) Sumerell.²

On March 24, 1728, Benjamin Johnston, Henry Applewhite, and George Washington appraised the estate of Robert Scott.³ On March 25, 1728, Benjamin Johnston, John Barnes, Sr., and George Washington appraised the estate of John Gent.⁴ On April 22, 1728, Benjamin Johnston, George Washington, and Oliver Woodward appraised the estate of Henry Flowers.⁵ On October 15, 1731, John (R) Reavell and wife Sarah (S) Reavell sold Benjamin Johnson for 2,000 pounds of tobacco 75 acres east of Nottoway Swamp adjoining said Johnson (from a patent to William Farecloth and deeded to his daughter Sarah Revell on April 22, 1727); witnessed by Henry (H) Flowers, Francis

Jones, and George Washington.⁶

On July 14, 1738, Benjamin Johnston of Isle of Wight County sold William Hickman for £40.0.0 sterling money 100 acres south of Main Blackwater and bounded by Hickman's Swamp and Henry Bosman.⁷ On February 20, 1738/39, Benjamin Johnston, Sr., deeded to his son, Benjamin Johnston, Jr., for love 135 acres where he then lived on Nottoway Swamp and a pond.⁸ On August 22, 1742, Benjamin Johnston and James Edwards, Sr., witnessed the will of Edward Cobb.⁹

On April 5, 1743, Benjamin Johnston and William Pope witnessed the will of James Edwards.¹⁰ On July 25, 1746, Benjamin Johnson patented 150 acres north of Nottoway River at Round Meadow in Isle of Wight County.¹¹ On August 13, 1747, Benjamin Johnston, Sr., Benjamin Johnston, Jr., and Nathan Vassar appraised the estate of Robert Grimmer.¹² On March 10, 1747/48, Benjamin Johnston, William Hickman, and Francis Wills appraised the estate of Richard Price.¹³ On June 14, 1750, Benjamin Johnson, Nathan Vassar, and Phillip Brantley appraised the estate of Francis Wills in Southampton County.¹⁴

Benjamin Johnston executed his will in Southampton County March 29, 1764, and added a codicil April 15, 1764. It was probated February 12, 1767. Terms: to his wife Mary Johnston the lifetime use of the home plantation, etc., including without reservation all cotton and wool and a third of "the moveable estate"; son Joseph Johnston, the reversional interest in the home plantation (65 acres); son Job Johnston, 150 acres of land at Round Meadow patented in 1745, a gun, sow with pigs, and a heifer; son Stephen Johnston, a young horse, iron pot, pewter dish, and a share in two-thirds of the residue of the estate; son Jacob Johnston, daughter Mary Godwin, son John Johnston, son William Johnston, daughter Ann Wooten, daughter Sarah Barrett, daughter Lydia Beal, and grandson Jesse Johnston — one shilling sterling each; son Henry Johnston and daughter Lucy Johnston — to each a share in two-thirds of the residue; and he named as executors his son Joseph Johnston and son-in-law John Beal. Witnesses to the will and codicil were George Washington, Job Wright and James Jordan Scott.¹⁵

The estate of the late "Benja Johnson" was inventoried March 4, 1767, by Job Wright, George Washington, and John Joyner, and the inventory was recorded August 13, 1767.¹⁶ The accounts were examined by Job Wright, John Beal and James Jordan Scott by order of court of July 11, 1768, and the accounting was reported, accepted and ordered recorded July 14, 1768. Disbursements were, all in sterling: to Mary Johnson, widow, £15.1.10; Stephen Johnson, £10.1.3; Lucy Johnson, £10.1.3; Henry Johnson, £10.1.3; appraisers, £0.12.6 — total, £59.7.10.¹⁷

The inventory exhibited an appraised value of the estate of

£54.19.0, later corrected to £59.7.10, and listed the following items: sorrel filly, 6 pigs, 7 cattle; parcel of apparel, cash in the house £1.10.6, pocket book, slate, sword, large Bible, parcel of old books, pair of money scales, pair of steelyards, razor and hone, 2 guns; set of smith's tools, pair of sheepshears, 8 reap hooks, pair of shears, 4 bells, pair of iron wedges, parcel of old chisels, 2 axes, 7 old hoes, plow, hand adze, 3 augers, 2 drawing knives, grindstone, hand saw, crosscut saw, whipsaw; 4 pewter dishes, 3 basins, parcel of old pewter, pewter funnel, tin funnel, quart pot, earthen bowl and cup, 3 drinking glasses, tin box, vial, 7 bottles, 2 old basins, 2 trays, 2 stone jugs, 2 stone pots, 2 large stone jugs, parcel of knives and forks, 28 spoons; 2 brass skillet, brass skimmer, crane, 2 iron pottrucks, 2 frying pans, box iron, 2 iron pots with hooks, gridiron, handmill, pair of bellows; linen wheel and cards; gilded trunk, 2 chests, table, 8 chairs and 2 old boxes, looking glass, 4 feather beds with furnishings; tub, 13 cider casks, 6 barrels, 4 old baskets, 4¾ gallons of brandy, side of leather, 2 cowhides, 3 small parcels of "lumber" (i.e., "odds and ends.").

Children:

I. JOSEPH JOHNSTON: Joseph Johnston lived in Southampton County, where he died in the fall of 1781. He married Charity — who survived him.

On July 9, 1767, Joseph Johnston, Job Wright, and John Beal appraised the estate of Joshua Joyner of Southampton County.¹⁸ On February 14, 1771, Joseph Johnston, Thomas Lawrence, and Mathew Wills appraised William Speed's estate.¹⁹ On September 13, 1777, Joseph Johnson was named as executor in the will of John Beal.²⁰ On ——— 20, 1779, Joseph Johnson, Hardy Johnson, Benjamin Williams, and George Washington witnessed the will of Benjamin Barnes.²¹

Joseph Johnston made his will in Southampton County February 23, 1781, and it was probated November 8, 1781. He gave his son Henry Johnston the home plantation after his mother's death; his wife Charity Johnston, use of all property not otherwise disposed of; his son Benjamin Johnston, a brandy still and a share in the residue; his daughters Molly and Olive Johnston shares in the residue. Henry Briggs and Drury Beal were named executors, and witnesses were Joshua Beal, Thomas Butts, and Shadrach Lewis.²² The estate was appraised by Mathew Wills, David Wright, and James Wright on June 12, 1783, and the account was audited by George Gurley and William Thomas, and signed by Drëwry Beale.²³ Children:

1. Henry Johnston: He lived in Southampton County for several years. On October 6, 1796, Henry Johnson of Southampton sold Albrigton Harvey for £100.0.0 current money 150 acres on Nottoway Swamp (a devise from his father Joseph Johnson, and last surveyed November 30, 1795); witnessed by Aea Beal, A. Jones, and Nathan Pope.²⁴ On April 23, 1796, Henry Johnson of Nottoway Parish mortgaged to Miriam Scott for a debt of £31.15.0 current Virginia money 150 acres on Nottoway Swamp and a small branch (land taken under the will of his father Joseph Johnson); witnessed by Amos Pretlow, Amos (x) Doyel, and James Scott.²⁵ On April 14, 1797, Miriam Scott was paid and released the foregoing mortgage; witnessed by Joseph Vick, James Scott, Josiah Murdaugh, and Benjamin Conneley.²⁶

2. Benjamin Johnston: He held 263 acres of land in the 1799 Tax List

On May 26, 1805, Jesse (x) Collins deeded to son-in-law Stephen Johnson for love his home plantation of 731 acres at the mouth of Cabin Branch and along Beaver Dam Branch in Nash County, the same to be enjoyed after said Collins's death; witnessed by Drew Williams and Burrell Kent.⁴⁷ On January 13, 1813, Stephen Johnson of Nash County sold Henry Horn of the same place for \$250 the 731 acres of "the land whereon Jesse Collins formerly lived"; witnessed by Drew Williams, Willobough Ballentine, and Levy (x) Hogg.⁴⁸ On February 13, 1813, Stephen Johnson mortgaged to Noah Strickland for \$350 his home plantation of 400 acres adjoining Hardy Pridgen, Jumping Branch, and Moccasin Creek; witnessed by Mathew Carter and Pilgrim L. Williams.⁴⁹ On April 26, 1817, he deeded to Noah Strickland's executors all his interest in the home plantation; witnessed by Dolly Harrison.⁵⁰ On November 15, 1823, the inventory of the estate of the late Stephen Johnson was taken by Jesse Johnson, his administrator, and his personal property was sold December 4, 1823. Purchases were made by Jesse Johnson, Berry Johnson, and Teresa Johnson, his widow.⁵¹ Children:

(i) Jesse Johnson: He lived for some time in Nash County. On March 27, 1821, Jesse Johnson paid David Hopkins \$125 for 100 acres north of Moccasin Creek adjoining Burrell Strickland, William Driver, and Hardy Pridgen; witnessed by Moore Lee, William Ezell, and Drewry Taylor.⁵² On March 1, 1834, the estate of the late Jesse Johnson was inventoried and his personal property was sold by Nathan Johnson, his administrator. Purchasers were Matthew Johnson and Treacy Johnson. The account current was recorded in August Court, 1835, after which the residue was divided among his seven heirs.⁵³

(ii) Matthew Johnston: He lived for some time in Nash County. On January 27, 1835, Mathew Johnson paid John and Sarah (x) Winborne, Hilliard and Nancy Hinton, James and Elizabeth (x) Bryant, Richardson and Treasey (x) O'Neal, and Patsey (x) Johnson \$120 for 100 acres in Nash County north of Moccasin Creek adjoining Burrell Strickland, William Driver, and Hardy Pridgen.⁵⁴

(iii) Sarah Johnston — married John Winborne.

(iv) Nancy Johnston — married Hilliard Hinton.

(v) Elizabeth Johnston — married James Bryant.

(vi) Treasey Johnston — married Richardson O'Neal in Nash County February 28, 1834; bonded by Eli Strickland.

(vii) Patsey Johnston.

(viii) Nathan Johnston.

(b) Matthew Johnston.

(c) Henry Johnston.

(d) Littleberry Johnston: He lived in Nash County, and died there in the winter of 1847-1848. He married Nancy ———. [See addendum 17.]

On August 24, 1821, Mary (x) Johnson deeded to her son Littleberry Johnson for love 383 acres on Cowpen Branch adjoining Rice, Winborne, Cattail Branch, and Crafford Hopkins.⁵⁵ Berry (x) Johnston made his will in Nash County July 31, 1846; it was probated in February Court, 1848. Terms: to his wife Nancy, use of his land and personal estate (presumably for her lifetime), and equal shares of the estate to son Henry Johnston, son Lemmon Johnston, son Jasper Johnston, son Emerson Johnston, son Wilby Johnston, daughter Milbry, daughter Nancy, and son Dennis Johnston. Witnesses were A. J. Taylor and James Byrant. He named his wife Nancy Johnston executrix.⁵⁶ Children:

(i) Henry Johnston: He married Lucy A. Mecomb in Nash County October 12, 1847; bonded by Davis (x) Barrett. On January 16, 1875, Henry (x) and Lucy (x) Johnson sold John Johnson for \$150 a tract of 50 acres south of Cowpen Branch adjoining Liney Balentine, Claiborne Perry, and others, it having been his share in the division of the estate of Berry Johnson; witnessed by H. H. Medlin.⁵⁷

(ii) Lemon Johnston: He married Lucinda Wells in Nash County November 4, 1841; bonded by Presley Allen. On November 7, 1857, Lemon (x) Johnson of Nash County sold Nancy Johnson, widow of Berry Johnson, his interest in the land formerly owned by the said Berry Johnson; witnessed by B. C. Strickland and William E. Stott.⁵⁸

(iii) Jasper Johnston.

(iv) Emerson Johnston: He married Diletha Strickland in Nash County January 17, 1861, and witnesses were Bryant P. Strickland and D. J. Bunn, J. P.

(v) Willoughby Johnston.

(vi) Milbry Johnston.

(vii) Nancy Johnston: She married Carson Strickland in Nash County December 5, 1858, and witnesses were Bryant P. Strickland and D. H. Bunn, J. P.

(viii) Dennis Johnston: He lived in Nash County, and married Ardella H. ———. On December 12, 1872, L. T. and Eliza Brantley sold Dennis Johnson for \$150 a tract of 89½ acres from the Wiloby Balentine tract adjoining Calvin Strickland and Alfred Stokes; witnessed by H. H. Medlin and Z. T. Brantley.⁵⁹ On February 1, 1876, Dennis (x) and Ardella H. (x) Johnson of Nash County sold Theodore Stokes for \$250 a tract of 75 acres adjoining Carisen Strickland, Nancy Johnson, Balentine, Hayles, and Alfred Stokes; witnessed by H. H. Medlin.⁶⁰ On March 10, 1881, Dennis and Ardella "Dellah" (x) Johnson of Nash County sold Robert Johnson of the same place for \$200 a tract of 48 acres adjoining William Richardson, Liny Balentine, and Cowpen Branch.⁶¹

2. Henry Johnston — died unmarried.

3. Rebeckah Johnston — untraced.

X IV. JACOB JOHNSTON, SR.: Jacob Johnston, Sr. son of Benjamin Johnston, Sr., and wife Mary ———, was born in 1714. He is treated in the next chapter.

V. MARY JOHNSTON: She married ——— Godwin, and is untraced.

VI. JOHN JOHNSTON: He lived in Southampton County, Virginia, and died there in 1775. He married Rebecca ———, who survived him.

On April 12, 1770, Moses and Mary (M) Johnson of Nottoway Parish sold John Johnson of the same place for £30.0.0 Virginia money 100 acres on Seacock Swamp adjoining Thomas Jones, William Jones, and Arthur Smith.⁶² On February 23, 1771, John Johnson executed his will; it was probated August 10, 1775. Terms: to son Moses Johnson, a feather bed and furniture, and chest; son David Johnson, five shillings current money, a mare, bridle, saddle, feather bed and furniture, 5 cattle, 5 sheep, and 7 hogs; daughters Patty Doyle and Sarah Doyle, five shillings to each; daughter Charity Johnson, a heifer, feather bed and furniture; son James Johnson, the home plantation; grandson Shadrach Doyle, son of Josiah Doyle, and Rawls Johnson, son of Moses Johnson, were referred to, and to his wife Rebecca Johnson, the residue. Moses Johnson, his son, was named executor, and witnesses were Bly Williams, Thomas Jones, and Joseph Crenshaw.⁶³ The estate was appraised April 11, 1776, by Benjamin Griffin, Hardy Doyel, and John Worrell.⁶⁴

Children:

1. Moses Johnston: He married Mary ———, and lived in Southampton County.

On January 24, 1761, Moses Johnson, Hardy Darden, John Darden, Jr., and William Baker witnessed the will of Robert Johnson of the Upper Parish of Isle of Wight County.⁶⁵ On February 9, 1764, Holoday Revel and wife Grace (x) Revel of Northampton County sold Moses Johnson of Isle of

- 100 *Ibid.*, 2, p. 158.
 101 *Deed Book 4*, p. 61.
 102 *Will Book 1*, p. 218.
 103 *Deed Book 15*, p. 165.
 104 *Ibid.*, 19, p. 211.
 105 *Ibid.*, 19, p. 217.
 106 *Will Book 1*, p. 55.
 107 *Deed Book 1*, pp. 31-34.
 108 *Ibid.*, 1, p. 328.
 109 *Order Book, 1749-1754*, p. 265.
 110 *Ibid.*, 1749-1754, pp. 303-304.
 111 *Will Book 2*, p. 457.
 112 *Deed Book 5*, p. 377.
 113 *Ibid.*, 5, p. 379.
 114 *Ibid.*, 5, p. 445.
 115 *Will Book 4*, p. 325.
 116 *Deed Book 7*, p. 440.
 117 *Ibid.*, 8, p. 10.
 118 Oglethorpe County, *Deed Book A*, p. 205.
 119 Southampton County, *Will Book 2*, p. 457.
 120 *Deed Book 7*, p. 199.
 121 *Will Book 3*, p. 403.
 122 *Ibid.*, 3, p. 197.
 123 *Ibid.*, 3, p. 242.
 124 Isle of Wight County, *Deed Book 5*, p. 313.
 125 *Will Book 4*, p. 340.
 126 *Ibid.*, 4, p. 541.
 127 Southampton County, *Will Book 1*, p. 97.
 128 *Ibid.*, 1, 283.
 129 *Ibid.*, 1, 94.
 130 *Ibid.*, 2, p. 130.
 131 *Ibid.*, 2, p. 228.
 132 *Ibid.*, 3, p. 264.
 133 *Ibid.*, 3, p. 284.
 134 Johnston County, *Deed Book L 1*, p. 174.
 135 Southampton County, *Deed Book 6*, p. 352.
 136 Wake County, *Deed Book H*, p. 196.
 137 *Heads of Families, etc., op. cit.*, p. 143.
 138 Southampton County, *Will Book 1*, p. 84.
 139 *Ibid.*, 1, p. 260.
 140 *Deed Book 2*, pp. 183-184.
 141 *Ibid.*, 3, p. 36.
 142 *Will Book 2*, p. 330.
 143 *Ibid.*, 2, p. 328.
 144 *Deed Book 4*, p. 214.
 145 *Ibid.*, 5, p. 152.
 146 *Ibid.*, 5, p. 166.
 147 *Will Book 3*, p. 190.
 148 *Deed Book 6*, p. 420.
 149 *Ibid.*, 6, p. 421-423.
 150 *Will Book 3*, p. 162.
 151 *Ibid.*, 3, p. 255.

CHAPTER 3

Jacob Johnston, Sr.

Of the Third Generation

Jacob Johnston, Sr., son of Benjamin Johnston, Sr., and wife Mary _____, was born circa 1714 in what is now Southampton County [then a part of Isle of Wight], and died December 11, 1781, in Edgecombe County, North Carolina. He apparently lived about a mile and a half southeast of the present Courtland, and he was born and reared between there and Main Blackwater River. He married Mary Waller; she died about November 21, 1790, in Edgecombe County.

On October 18, 1736, Thomas Gale sold Jacob Johnston for £20.0.0 current money 200 acres in Isle of Wight County bounded by the mouth of a branch on Nottoway River below the Indian field and on the head line of a patent.¹ On February 20, 1738/39, Jacob Johnston acknowledged a debt of £20.0.0 current Virginia money to Benjamin Johnston, John Johnston, and William Johnston and gave them liberty to take cypress timber from his home plantation in Isle of Wight County; witnessed by Nathan Godwin, Samuel Williams, and Thomas (x) Williams.²

In 1752 in an action *in debt* against William Johnson in Southampton County, "Jacob Johnson & Nicolas Williams came also into court and undertook for the said defendant Johnson that in case the said defendant shall be cast in the suit that he shall pay the condemnation of the court or render his body in prison for the same or that they will do it for him. And thereupon the said Jacob Johnston and Nicholas Williams now here in court surrendered the body of the said defendant to prison in discharge of this their undertaking."³

In the summer of 1757, Jacob Johnston and his family moved to Edgecombe County, North Carolina. On July 10, 1757, Francis (x) Bettis sold Jacob Johnson, Planter, for £63.0.0 North Carolina Proclamation Money a tract of 660 acres south and east of Beaver Dam Swamp, a branch of Town Creek, from a patent dated March 25, 1749; witnessed by Charles Evans, Jr., William Stokes, and John Wooten.⁴ On August 11, 1757, Jacob and Mary (x) Johnson of Southampton County sold Henry Johnson of the same place for £80.0.0 current money a tract of 200 acres on a branch of Nottoway River below the Indian field (patented by William Scott on June 16, 1714); witnessed by James Counsell and George Gurley, Jr.⁵

On August 18, 1757, Jacob Johnson was referred to in the Minutes of the Edgecombe County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. On September 25, 1759, he served on the Grand Jury;

and on September 22, 1761, he petitioned the court for permission to build a mill on Beaver Dam Swamp.⁶ Johnston's Mill and Run were to be for many years landmarks of the area east of the present Pinetops; the location is now known as Bynum's Mill Run after a later owner of the property.

In January, 1767, Jacob Johnson, "the elder," executed a deed of gift to his son Amos Johnson of the home plantation of 400 acres on Beaver Dam Swamp, and reserved for the lifetime of himself and wife Mary Johnson five acres of land south of Little Swamp adjoining the Grist Mill.⁷ On June 13, 1769, Jacob Johnston and Amos Johnston sold John Cartwright for £15.0.0 Proclamation Money 80 acres from the tract Jacob Johnston had bought from Francis Bettis adjoining Peach Tree Branch; witnessed by Jonas Johnston, John (x) Bullock, and Peter Cartwright.⁸

On March 8, 1770, Jacob Johnson, "the elder," of Edgecombe County, by deed of gift, conveyed title to Jacob Johnson of Dobbs County to 150 acres of land from the Francis Bettis purchase lying north of the Beaver Dam on Little Swamp, including the Grist Mill and the five acres on that side of the Swamp and Mill, title thereto to vest after the deaths of Jacob Johnson and his wife; witnessed by N. Johnson, Owen Cravey, and Hugh Cravey.⁹ On February 26, 1772, Jacob Johnston, "the elder," by deed, gave his son Jonas Johnston "for love" a tract of 56 acres of land adjoining "my mill pond" and "bounded by the mouth of the first branch above the pond, Spring Branch and the Bettis line"; witnessed by Amos Johnston, Edey (x) Waller and Seley (x) Dunagin.¹⁰ In a 1778 grant of land to Abraham Belcher, Beaver Dam Swamp was described as "now called Jacob Johnston's Mill Swamp."¹¹ On February 19, 1779, Jacob Johnston, "the elder," by deed reciting love as the consideration therefor, gave his son-in-law Owen Cravey a tract of 50 acres of land adjoining Bettis's Mill Branch, Evan's Path, and the Cartwright land; witnessed by Jordan Johnston, Amos Johnston and Redden Stokes.¹²

Jacob Johnston executed his will February 27, 1780, and it was probated in February Court, 1782. Executors named were "my well beloved sons Amos Johnston and Jacob Johnston and my Worthy Friend Owin Cravey." His estate was devised and bequeathed as follows: sons Nathan Johnston, Jacob Johnston and Amos Johnston, five shillings each; grandson Hugh Cravey, "son of Owin Cravey and my daughter Sely his former Wife," £2,000.0.0 in current North Carolina money "in the care of my son Amos Johnston . . . and delivered to him said Hugh as soon as he shall arrive at the age of twenty one years"; wife Mary Johnston the remainder of his estate for her lifetime "and after her deceas to be Equally Divided betwixt my sons Jacob Johnston and Amos Johnston and Grandson Jordan Johnston son of Nathan Johnston his part to be left in care of my son Amos and Delivered

to him as he shall think proper and my Grand children Daughters & son of Jonas Johnston and Grand Children Daughters & son of Owin Cravey and Sely his former wife . . ." Witnesses were Richard Tomlinson, Philip Belcher and Demcy Skinner.¹³

On January 1, 1782, the executors of the late Jacob Johnston counted £8.1.8 in cash at his home; on January 5, 1782, they paid Benjamin Barnes £1.12.0 for making his coffin, the Reverend Nathaniel Blount £2.0.0 for preaching the funeral sermon, and Dr. Robert Williams £0.16.0 for medicines.¹⁴ In the Edgecombe County Census of 1790 Mary Johnston was listed with two females and two slaves.¹⁵ On November 21, 1790, Rhoda Allen was paid £1.13.0 for making Mary Johnston's Coffin; on November 29, 1790, the executor found £0.11.6 in cash in her home.¹⁶

"A Just and True Inventory of the Estate of Jacob Johnston Decd taken by the Executor February 25th day of 1782" by Amos Johnston, Executor:

2 slaves, 4 horses, 24 cattle, 29 sheep, 84 hogs; 5 beds and furniture, 5 bedsteads, 6 chests, oval table, looking glass, 10 chairs, 2 broken chair-frames, case and bottles, 2 pine tables, 2 small trunks; skillet, griddle, gridiron, 2 iron ladles, iron hook, iron scraper, fire shovel, pair of firetongs, iron tea kettle, brass tea kettle, 4 iron pots, 3 pairs of pothooks, 2 iron potracks, coffee pot, iron spoon, box iron and heaters and frames, 4 earthen pots, earthen pan, 12 earthen plates, 2 milk pots, pickle pot, 2 butter pots, 10 large jugs, 12 chunk bottles, 2 snuff bottles, 2 teapots, water pitcher, large pitcher, small pitcher, 3 oil flasks, tea strainer, 2 large punch bowls, poringer, spice mortar and pestle, pewter half-pint pot, 6 pewter dishes, 11 pewter basins, 14 pewter plates, 6 large cups and saucers, 3 teacups and saucers, 3 tickler bottles, drinking glass, 3 small vials, salt seller, vinegar cruet, 5 glass tumblers, 11 round wooden bowls, 2 pepper boxes, 12 knives, 13 forks, 13 teaspoons, 28 spoons, 2 meal sifters, 4 breadtrays, canister, tin funnel, 2 candlesticks and snuffers, 3 candlemolds and melter, lantern; 3 churns, 6 tubs, loom and gear, 2 woolen wheels, 2 linen wheels, 2 flaxbreaks, 2 coarse hackles, 3 pairs of cotton cards, pair of wool cards, pair of "pulicans," pair of flax-drawers; roundshave, spaying knife and needle, lancet, claw-hammer, pair of iron wedges, howel, pair of marking irons, 2 iron pestles, pair of shears, 3 augers, gouge, jointer, 3 planes, square, large gimlet, 2 chisels, foot adze, grindstone, a fourth of a cross-cut saw, frow, handsaw, spade, set of lumber irons, pair of steel-yards, 2 old dressing knives, 4 bells, 2 grubbing hoes, hilling hoe, 4 weeding hoes, 3 reap hooks, sturgeon hook, 14 old casks, 13 baskets, 20 cider casks, 5 piggins, 3 pails, riddle, plow frame and hoe, pair of cart wheels, pair of collar and hames, old plow bridle, 5 cowhides; 2 pairs of money scales and weights, large Church Bible, "Sundry other old Books," pair of spectacles, sword and

cartouche box, £8.1.8 hard specie, \$931.00 State Dollars, 2 "peaces of state" (i. e., pieces of eight), man's saddle and bridle, woman's saddle and bridle, and an old saddle.¹⁷

On January 7, 1792, after the death of Mary Johnston, final disposition of the estate of Jacob Johnston was made by Peter Hines, Henry Hines and Beverly Belcher, Commissioners; £40.14.5 was paid to each of the following: Jacob Johnston; Amos Johnston; Jordan Johnston; Selah Johnston, Elizabeth Johnston, Prudence Johnston, Mary Johnston, William Johnston, children of Jonas Johnston; Hugh Cravey and Mary Cravey, children of Owen Cravey.¹⁸

On March 16, 1782, the public auction of "part of the Estate of Jacob Johnston decd Sold by Amos Johnston exor." had been attended by Amos Johnston, Jesse Lee, John Corbitt, Nathaniel Moore, Philip Belsher, Thomas Belsher, Richard Proctor, John Lee, Thomas Cartwright, Benjamin Dupree, Laurance Anderson, and John Wadford, and Jos Johnson bought a sword and cartouche box for £0.5.6.¹⁹ "The Remaining part of the Estate of Jacob Johnson decd. as was left at the death of his wife Mary Johnson and Sold by Amos Johnson exor" on December 17 and 18, 1790, and on February 26, 1791, realized a total of £436.7.10½; among the purchasers were Esther Johnson, Jacob Johnson, Amos Johnston, Jesse Hines, Owen Cravey, Hugh Cravey, Jr., Mary Cravey, James Scarborough, Wright Permenter, Beverly Belcher, Hardy Norvell, Benjamin Waller, John Bell, Jesse Drake, Simon Harrel, Henry Holland, William Dickinson, John Williams, John Chitty, William Fleming, Orman Allen, Amos Wooten, Joel Wooten, Leaven Eagle, James Story, Henry King, Benjamin Arrington, Edward Arnold, Caleb Killibrew, Henry Parton, Darby Riffin, Leaven Edge, John Colwell, and Hezekiah Cartwright.²⁰

Children of Jacob and Mary (Waller) Johnston:

1. Nathan Johnston, born in 1738 (See later).
2. Jonas Johnston, born in 1740 (See later).
3. Celia Johnston, born in 1742 (See later).
4. Jacob Johnston, Jr., born in 1744 (See later).
5. Amos Johnston, born April 8, 1746 (See later).

¹ Isle of Wight County, *Deed Book 5*, pp. 61, 62.

² *Ibid.*, p. 814.

³ Southampton County, *Order Book*, 1749-1754, p. 265.

⁴ Halifax County, *Deed Book 6*, p. 209.

⁵ Southampton County, *Deed Book 2*, pp. 183, 184.

⁶ Original Minute Books, Edgecombe County Court, in N. C. Dept. of Archives.

⁷ Edgecombe County, *Deed Book C*, p. 417.

⁸ *Ibid.*, D, p. 148.

⁹ *Ibid.*, D, p. 235.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, D, p. 451.

¹¹ Land Grant Office, State of N. C.

¹² Edgecombe County, *Deed Book 3*, p. 392.

¹³ *Will Book B*, p. 101. The date of death is recorded in a Bible entitled the *Jonas Johnston Bible* (Edinburgh, 1795), owned by Mrs. Marvin R. Robbins, Rocky Mount, N. C.

¹⁴ *Inventories & Accounts of Sales of Estates, 1790-1792*, pp. 151, 152, in N. C. Dept. of Archives.

¹⁵ *Heads of Families, etc., in The Year 1790: North Carolina* (Washington, D. C., 1908), p. 56.

¹⁶ See footnote 14.

¹⁷ Edgecombe County, *Will Book B*, pp. 268-270 (of Inventories and Estates section).

¹⁸ *Inventories & Accounts of Sales of Estates, 1790-1792*, p. 193, op. cit.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 46.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 47-56.

CHAPTER 4

Captain Nathan Johnston

*Revolutionary Patriot and Soldier
Of the Fourth Generation*

~~Nathan Johnston, son of Jacob Johnston, Sr., and wife Mary Waller, was born circa 1738 on the plantation of his father in Southampton (then a part of Isle of Wight) County, Virginia, and died circa 1807 in St. Peter's Parish, Beaufort District, South Carolina. His birth place is located about a mile and a half southeast of the town of Courtland.~~

In 1757 Nathan, then nineteen years of age, moved with his parents to Edgecombe County, North Carolina, where the family settled upon lands located in the lower portion of the county on Tar River near Beaver Dam Swamp, not far from the present town of Pinetops.

Nathan Johnston and Elizabeth Henry were married circa 1760, and they settled in Pitt County, on Tar River, not far from the plantation of his father. Tar River, which winds through the middle of the two counties, was an important artery of communication and transportation during that period.

Nathan and Elizabeth Johnston of Pitt County, as grantors, conveyed title to Jonas Johnston, his brother, of Edgecombe County, to 406 acres of land adjacent to the lands of their father situated on Tar River and bounded by Beaver Dam Swamp. This tract was acquired by deed to Nathan dated February 26, 1761, apparently *post factum* to clear the title. Both deeds were proved in Edgecombe County Court September 22, 1761.¹ This is the

only record of the ownership of land by Nathan Johnston in Edgecombe County.

Nathan Johnston appears first in the records of Pitt County in 1762 in the Pitt County List of Taxables.² It is believed he earlier acquired land in Pitt, but on January 7, 1763, he was given a grant of a hundred and two acres of land by John, Earl of Granville. This land was situated in St. Michael's Parish south of Tar River and south of Deep Creek "adjoining his corner."³ That he was firmly settled in Pitt is borne out by two other land transactions in which he was the seller. On January 21, 1763, he sold twenty and a half acres of land "at the head of Indian Branch adjoining the said Johnson (*sic*)," and on August 29, also in 1763, he conveyed seven hundred acres of land "south of Tar River and south of Deep Creek bounded by Indian Branch, Jacob's Branch and Osborne Jeffreys line," to Mathew Sturdivant, of Sussex County, Virginia, for a hundred and eighty pounds (Proclamation money).⁴ The latter deed was witnessed by Jacob Johnston, Jr., his brother, and Mary Johnston, probably his mother. It should also be noted that over in Edgecombe, in April, 1765, Nathan Johnston was named as a party in a law suit docketed against him in the County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, but the nature of the action and the disposition of the litigation does not appear in the record.⁵

Nathan disposed of his lands in Pitt County February 19, 1768, apparently in preparation for removal to South Carolina. This was accomplished by three deeds by Nathan and Elizabeth Johnston: to John Wooten for 120 acres; to Mathew Sturdivant for "certain land bought from Jacob Evans, Sr.," the acreage of which was not specified; and to George Evans for forty acres. The names of witnesses indicate all three deeds were executed on a single occasion.⁶

And in the spring of 1768, Nathan and Elizabeth Johnston and their family, with the exception of their son, Jordan Johnston, migrated to and settled in the Indian Lands of upper St. Peter's Parish of Granville County in South Carolina (at a site now in Hampton County).⁷ It is extremely likely they traveled along the Oconeechee Path which, at that time, was the main highway from Virginia to middle South Carolina. It ran from near Petersburg, across North Carolina, passing east of what is now Raleigh and west of what is Fayetteville, crossed present Clarendon and Sumter Counties and thence to an Indian town now the site of Augusta, Georgia. Over it had poured the Virginia-North Carolina settlers of the "High Hills" region; and it would be reasonable Pitt County people would follow the Path to its connection with the old Orangeburgh Road (another old Indian way).

The Indian Lands of St. Peter's Parish in 1768 had not been

open to settlement very long even though close to the more settled areas of Carolina and with easy access thereto via the Savannah. Indians still roamed the countryside; habitations were few and widely separated. Beech Branch Baptist had been established only nine years, and Pipe Creek Baptist Church (now Lawtonville) was not formed until seven years later.⁸

Nathan Johnston and his family settled upon lands adjoining the old Orangeburgh Road, in St. Peter's Parish, in the general neighborhood of the Lawtonville Community (which developed later), most of which are now located in Goethe Township, Hampton County. His land, as then described, lay "on the waters of the Savannah River and Branch called Boggy Gutt and partly on the waters of Coosawhatchie and Branch called Black Creek." His first acquisition of land was by private purchase, presumably in 1768 from William Greffin, who, according to the record, had acquired title thereto by royal patent.⁹

The Greffin purchase, and perhaps others, was followed in 1772 by two royal patents of two hundred and three hundred and fifty acres, respectively, which were adjacent to each other. The first patent, for two hundred acres, abutted upon the Greffin purchase. These patents were issued in the name of "George the Third by the Grace of God, of Great-Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, so forth (*sic*)," and title was granted ". . . in free and common socage . . ." to him and his heirs and assigns forever at an annual quit-rent "in every year at the rate of three shillings, sterling, or four shillings proclamation money, for every hundred acres, and so in proportion, according to the numr. of acres . . . the same to commence" two years thereafter.¹⁰

There were additional acquisitions of land by land grants in subsequent years until as late as 1802. The two royal patents and the land grants, according to the terms thereof, comprised 3,065 acres of land.¹¹ The extent of other land holdings, such as the Greffin purchase, is not a matter of public record.¹²

It is believed Nathan and his family were members of the Episcopal Church when they arrived in St. Peter's. This is based on the fact that his mother was an Episcopalian. In any event, in St. Peter's he became a Baptist and a member of the Beech Branch Baptist Church, and Johnstons and their descendants have appeared upon its rolls over the years.¹³

As in the case of his brothers in North Carolina — Jonas, Amos and Jacob — Nathan was active in the cause of the Americans in the Revolution. He served as a private and later as a captain in the militia of South Carolina. He was a captain in Colonel William Harden's Regiment of the Granville County Militia; he was usually engaged in guerrilla activities. There are two recorded engagements in which he participated. In one, in

1781, he was accompanied by his son, Jonas Johnston, then fifteen years old, who fought in his father's company and apparently without compensation. That was fortunate, for Captain Nathan Johnston was wounded in the battle — the Battle of Wiggins' Hill, the site of which is in Allendale County.¹⁴

After the fall of Savannah to the British in 1778 dark and evil days for the Revolutionary cause settled along the Savannah, and as one historian of the period has said, the Revolution assumed aspects of a class warfare, Whigs against Tories and the Indians. Raids and counter raids were the order of the day.

Edward McCrady in his *History of South Carolina in the Revolution — 1780-1783*,¹⁵ at pages 258 to 261, has written:

... The Whig captains Johns(t)on and McKoy, with a few active followers, had taken a position in the swamps of the Savannah River, and were employed in watching the communications between Augusta and Savannah. They had frequently intercepted boats laden with provisions and other stores, which they secured or destroyed. To put a stop to this Colonel Browne, who commanded the British garrison at Augusta detached (sic) Lieutenant Kemp of the King's Rangers with ten soldiers and twenty militia to dislodge them. Captain McKoy hearing of the advance of the party, took an advantageous position near Matthews' Bluff and attacked them, though much superior in number to his own, killed the officer in command and fifteen of his men, and compelled the remainder to retreat precipitately to Augusta.¹⁶

Continuing the account further, McCrady reported:

Hearing of Colonel Harden's party in the neighborhood of the Coosawhatchie, Colonel Browne ordered his royal militia to repair to Augusta to defend it; but they, covered with crimes, had no intention to be cooped up in a garrison, lest they might be taken and receive the punishment due them for their criminal offenses. Many of them fled to the Indians and joined in warfare against the frontier settlements.

Having called his troops, Browne determined to strike at Harden. He marched with the greater part of his own force and a number of Indians to drive him from the neighborhood. Guided by one Wylley, he encamped in a field at Wiggins' Hill for the night. Harden, joined by Johnston and McKoy, had advanced within a mile of the place where Browne was encamped, unaware of his approach. The two parties were there in striking distance, each ignorant of the other's position. Harden, first learning of Brown's position, decided to attack at once, hoping to carry Brown's encampment by surprise. Browne, it is said by McCall, had been warned by Wylley of the dangerous position he had taken, and the necessity to be on the alert when opposing an officer of Harden's enterprise, but impudent, and possessing no quality of an officer but courage, he retired to a house some distance from the camp and had gone to sleep. By some intelligence Browne's officers were apprised of Harden's approach, and were forming their ranks when Harden's troops commenced the attack. The contest lasted half an hour, when over-powered by superior numbers and discipline, Harden was compelled to retreat, which he effected in good order and carried off his wounded. The American loss was seven killed and eleven wounded. The loss to the enemy was about the same. Colonel Harden returned to an island in the Coosawhatchie swamp, upon which, like Marion at Snow Island in the Pee Dee, he established his headquarters. There his wounded were sheltered and furnished with food and other necessaries by three whites, William Rawls, Cotton Rawls, and Leonard Tanner. Unfortunately Tanner was

taken prisoner by some neighboring Loyalists while he was engaged in this service, and murdered because he would not discover the place where the wounded were concealed.

McCall, referred to by McCrady and the source for his story of the Battle of Wiggins' Hill, said, "The American loss was seven killed, and eleven wounded; amongst the latter was Captain Johnston."¹⁷ McCrady reported elsewhere that one American was taken prisoner, and speaking of Browne's force said that it consisted of 670 men, largely Loyalists and Indians. Wiggins' Hill is located near old Burton's Ferry and is approximately eight miles north of Matthews' Bluff.¹⁸

Tradition in the Johnston family tells us that the Revolutionary sword of Captain Nathan Johnston came down to his grandson, another Captain Nathan Johnston, and was to descend to whom-ever in the next generation bore the name of Nathan. The sword was displayed over the mantel in the parlor of the second Captain Nathan Johnston's home, and in 1865 it and many other things were carried away by union troops as they marched and "looted" their way along the Orangeburg Road en route to Columbia.¹⁹

Children of Nathan and Elizabeth (Henry) Johnston were five sons and at least two daughters. Their sons were:

1. Jordan Johnston, born September 4, 1762.²⁰ (See later).
2. Jonas Johnston, born October 19, 1766.²¹ (See later).
3. Amos Johnston, born circa 1768.²² (See later).
4. Jacob Johnston, born circa 1770 — untraced.²³
5. John Johnston, born December 11, 1778.²⁴ (See later).

The names of his daughters or other sons, if any, are not known. It is possible there was another son, either older than Jordan, or born between the births of Jordan and Jonas, named Josiah Johnston. There was a Josiah Johnston living in St. Peter's Parish prior to 1790; he married one of the seven daughters of John and Mary (Stafford) May.²⁵ The statement of "at least two daughters" is based upon the tabulation of three white females without classification as to age as members of the household of Nathan Johnston in the *First Census*, for 1790, enumerations from Beaufort District.²⁶ His wife would account for one, and the assumption is that the other two were daughters. In addition to himself, two males over the age of sixteen years and two under sixteen, as well as five slaves, were reported. Other Johnstons (Johnsons) appearing as "Heads of Family" in the census were John Johnston, William Johnson and Thomas Johnson.

Nathan Johnston was listed again in the *Second Census*, in 1800, as a Head of Family. Five white males, no females and four slaves were attributed to his household. Three of the males are carried in the over forty-five years of age category. These would include Nathan, then sixty-two, Jonas, thirty-four, and

Amos, thirty-one. Allowances must be made for frequent inaccuracy in the recording of ages in early census enumerations. Two males, one under twenty but over sixteen years of age, and the other under ten, are shown. John, twenty-two at the time, was undoubtedly the first; a grandson was perhaps the latter. The absence of females is not understandable except as evidence of the looseness of the return. Jacob, incidentally, is separately listed as a Head of Family. Jonas and Amos, both of whom were married and with children of their own in 1800, do not appear in the census enumerations until 1810.

Tradition has accorded Nathan Johnston two additional wives at one time or another. The only extant contemporaneous evidence is limited to Elizabeth Henry,²⁷ although there are references to Salina Houston, "the Belle of Tar River," and Hester Bryan in later records.²⁸

Nathan died *circa* 1807.²⁹ For many years his grave, as well as several others of the family in a private burial plot on land on which he lived and owned, was marked by ordinary stones of the neighborhood. These have now disappeared, and the earth in which his remains repose is in an open, plowed field, owned incidentally by one of his descendants, six generations away.³⁰

Historical Note

Upper St. Peter's Parish comprised the region lying between the Coosawhatchie and Savannah River now in Hampton and the lower edges of Allendale Counties. This region was a part of the Indian Lands, and was not open to general settlement until 1761 when the last remnant of Indian power was eradicated. Early communities were located at Matthews' Bluff, Beech Branch and Duck Branch. The only town of the Parish was Puryburg, in lower St. Peter's, settled in 1732 by a band of Huguenots from Switzerland led by Peter Pury. St. Peter's was one of four parishes of Granville County, one of five counties under the Lords Proprietors, which were nothing more than major geographical divisions. For a brief period, around 1785, upper St. Peter's was known as Lincoln County (apparently for General Benjamin Lincoln); Prince William Parish, essentially that part of Hampton County between the Coosawhatchie and the Salkatchie Rivers, was named Shrewsbury County. Beaufort District came into existence in 1798, and it functioned as a modern county. Parishes remained as principally election districts. The first district-seat was Coosawhatchie; it was also the principal crossing of the Coosawhatchie. Because it was unhealthy, the seat of the district was moved to Gillisonville, and it became a thriving town and the center of the activities of the district. Gillisonville was destroyed in February, 1865, by Sherman's troops. All public records had been previously removed to Columbia for safe-keeping, but were burned in a bon-fire on the grounds of the capitol February 17, 1865, or lost when the wagons transporting them to Columbia overturned.

Districts and parishes were abolished by the constitution of 1868. Beaufort District became Beaufort County, and townships appeared. Beaufort was the county-seat. Hampton County was created in 1878, and parts thereof were lost to Jasper (in 1912) and Allendale (in 1919).

Upper St. Peter's was originally a stronghold of the Yamacsee Indians, and one of their major towns was Palachicola, situated on a high bluff

overlooking the Savannah River. The site was later named Stokes Bluff, and as such was the terminus of the Orangeburgh Road when it was diverted from Hudson's Ferry sometime prior to 1820. Other great Yamacsee towns — not villages — were Coosawhatchie and Pocatigo, and it was from Palachicola and these two towns that the "Great Yamacsee War" of 1715 was launched.

¹ Edgecombe County, *Deed Book O*, pp. 334, 332.

² *Accession S. S. 837*, N. C. Dept. of Archives.

³ N. C. Land Grant Office, *Book 6*, p. 86; Pitt County, *Deed Book B*, p. 452.

⁴ Pitt County, *Deed Book B*, p. 287; *Deed Book B*, p. 443.

⁵ *Edgecombe County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions Minutes 1760-1790*, back page, N. C. Dept. of Archives.

⁶ Pitt County, *Deed Books D*, p. 13; *D*, p. 27; *F*, p. 382.

⁷ *Ibid.* And the year of removal and re-settlement is stated in the obituary of his son, Jonas Johnston, published in the *Charleston Mercury*, Charleston, S. C., 1843.

⁸ Nolan L. Brunson's *Beech Branch Baptist Church: 1759-1962*, 21 pp., Luray, S. C. Also see *The Savannah*, by Thomas L. Stokes (Rinehart & Co., Inc., N. Y., 1951).

⁹ *Plat Book*, Vol. 17, pp. 300-301, Archives Dept. of S. C.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, and *Royal Patents*, Vol. 31, pp. 300-301, Archives Dept. of S. C.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, and *Land Grants*, Vol. 13, p. 185; Vol. 1 Q, p. 77; Vol. 13 Q, pp. 180, 186, 189; Vol. 30, pp. 270, 279; Vol. 34, p. 479; Vol. 36, p. 235.

¹² All Beaufort District public records were destroyed February 17, 1865.

¹³ *The Beech Branch Church Book*, Vol. 1, p. 4, in the Library of the University of S. C. In an 1814 list of members the entry "Dead" is opposite the name of Nathan Johnston.

¹⁴ Other engagements in which he probably was involved were Coosawhatchie (May 3, 1779), Four Holes (April 7, 1781), Barton's Post (April 8), and Pocatigo (April 9).

¹⁵ MacMillan & Co., New York, 1902.

¹⁶ Cohen's Bluff is a half mile north of Matthews' Bluff; McKoy's Bluff is a mile north of Matthews' Bluff. It is believed that the engagement with Lieut. Kemp was fought at McKoy's Bluff and that the bluff derived its name from Captain McKoy.

¹⁷ Captain H. McCall's *History of Georgia*, pp. 511 and 512 (Savannah, 1811; reprinted, A. B. Caldwell, Atlanta, 1909).

¹⁸ Burton's Ferry appears upon an 1843 map of South Carolina (Copyrighted by Morse and Breese).

¹⁹ There are other variations of the sword story which are inconsistent with the possible facts.

²⁰ Last will of his grandfather, Jacob Johnston, Sr. — Edgecombe County, *Record of Wills*, Vol. B, pp. 101-102.

²¹ His obituary, *Charleston Mercury*, Charleston, S. C., 1843. Also privately printed.

²² Writings of Josiah Seth Mixson (1836-1899), of Allendale, South Carolina. He referred to his mother, Sarah Ann Johnston, a daughter of Amos Johnston, as the granddaughter of Capt. Nathan Johnston. Also D. A. R. Application in No. 295699 wherein Amos is listed as a son of Nathan Johnston (D. A. R., Washington).

²³ Tradition. He appears as a Head of Family in census returns from St. Peter's in 1800 through 1830. In 1830, his age is fixed between sixty and seventy years and four white males are attributed to his household. — *Censuses of the U. S. — Population Schedules*, National Archives, Washington.

²⁴ Yates Snowden's *History of South Carolina*, Vol. V, p. 168 (Lewis Pub-

Frank Herbert Trowell, born August 13, 1898; married Margaret Hood; died in 1963 in Camden, New Jersey. Daughters: (a) Mary Beverly well; (b) Margaret Ann Trowell.

Annie Beulah Trowell, born December 18, 1901; married Leslie Gil-Long, and resides in Tampa, Florida. Daughters: (a) Margaret Gil-Long, born June 14, 1926; (b) Glenna Jean Long, born September 19, 1931.

Thomas Claude Trowell, born January 20, 1907; died September 9, 1963; married Verda Elizabeth Abney; resided in Center Hill, Florida; daughter: Edna Trowell; married a Mr. Johnson.

II. ELIZABETH JOHNSTON DARRACOTT: Elizabeth Johnston Darracott was born May 16, 1867, in Brooks County. She married Robert Absolon Ivey of Branford, Florida. Children:

Carl Darracott Ivey, born in 1890; died in 1921; married Jessie Pou of Georgia. Son: Carl Edward Ivey; married Margaret McDowell.

Ralph Julian Ivey, born in 1892; died in 1947; married Iva Lois Iveson. Daughter: Ann Ivey.

Earl William Ivey, born in 1894; married Agnes Briggs. Daughters: Marjorie Ivey; (b) Dorothy Ann Ivey.

Robert Absolon Ivey, Jr., born in 1896; died unmarried in 1930.

Lena Pauline Ivey, born in 1898; married Wallace W. Dunlap, and in 1921 resided in Detroit, Michigan.

Lois Ivey, born in 1902; married Malcolm J. Nugent, and in 1952 resided in Miami, Florida. Children: (a) James Malcolm Nugent; (b) Paula Nugent; (c) Mary Janice Nugent.

Perry Dorsey Ivey, born in 1904; married Bessie Tucker, and resides in Miami, Florida.

III. SELANAH JANE DARRACOTT: Selanah Jane Darracott was born May 26, 1872. She is deceased, and is buried in Presbyterian Cemetery in Boston, Georgia. She married ——— Leak. Son: Fred Leak; married Sadie ———. Sons: Steele Leak, and (b) Roy Leak of Jacksonville Beach, Florida.

Mrs. Dora Lee Darracott Grizzard and Mrs. Margaret Darracott Pinkston, *The Darracott Family* (MMS., privately circulated, Tallahassee, Fla., 1910), pp. 350, 353 and 355.

ibid.
Genealogical Chart (MS.) by Mrs. Norma M. Trowell.

See Drucilla Johnston, *ante*, Chap. 28.

Census, *op. cit.*, and obituary of Capt. Jonas Johnston, *op. cit.*
Grizzard and Pinkston, *op. cit.*, p. 355.

ibid.
From records of the churches — provided by Folks Huxford, Editor, *The Genealogical Magazine*, Homerville, Ga. Withdrawing from Columbia County, Fla., vendors of the slave, Cora, in 1863, and two slaves, Mar- and Nancy (the former having been the property of William T. Johnston). Later in the 1840's letters of dismission were refused and withdrawal was by expulsion.

ibid.

¹⁰ Grizzard and Pinkston, *op. cit.*, pp. 351-352 (Also Register of Deeds Office, Lowndes County).

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 352.

References generally: Grizzard and Pinkston, *op. cit.*, and original correspondence between Mrs. Pinkston and various members of the Darracott family.

CHAPTER 32

Amos Johnston (1769-1815) See: p. 49

Of the Fifth Generation

Amos Johnston, son of Captain Nathan and Elizabeth (Henry) Johnston, was born in St. Peter's Parish, Beaufort District, South Carolina, circa 1769, and died circa 1815. He was buried in the old Johnston burial plot established by his father.¹

Amos married Elizabeth Daniels, daughter of Josiah Daniels and his wife, Elizabeth May. [See note at end of chapter dealing with Elizabeth May's parentage.]

Amos Johnston and his family lived in the community later known as Lawtonville. Included in his property was the site of Lawtonville Cemetery, the land for which he donated. Lawtonville, the village, began to develop in his lifetime as malaria drove planters from the regions along the Savannah into the pine lands "... the town was small, consisting of a post office, a store, a blacksmith shop, and three residences. There was no church."²

The plantation of Amos lay adjacent to the lands of his father, and included in his land holdings were 1,228 acres acquired in two land grants from the State of South Carolina, dated May 7, 1804.³ The descriptions in the grants show that the lands were bounded by lands of Captain Nathan Johnston and lay on the "waters of Black Creek, the waters of Boggy Gut, the waters of Savannah River, and the waters of the Coosawhatchie."

Amos was a member of Beech Branch Baptist Church, and later perhaps of Pipe Creek.⁴ Pipe Creek Baptist Church was located on the old Blake Plantation and was approximately eight miles west of Lawtonville; it was moved to Lawtonville in 1852, some thirty-seven years after the death of Amos Johnston.

About 1800, and from lands acquired by purchase or gift from his father, Amos donated and dedicated a "lot of four acres" of his land "for religious and educational purposes." These four acres constitute the present site of Lawtonville Cemetery. He built a church and a house for an academy on the lot. Rev. W. H.

Dowling, in 1893, in a sermon on the history of Lawtonville, after reciting the dedication of the lot by Amos Johnston, said:

... Here was erected by Mr. Johnston, a house for worship, called a Republican Church — it would now be called a Union Church, for it was free to all sects . . . The first church was erected out of clap-boards, the shingles were put on with wooden pins, the hinges and fastenings were of wood, and the floor was of puncheons. Mr. Johnston was a Baptist, his wife a Methodist and a member of the Union Church on the river road. To attend her church she had to ride horse-back, as there were no buggies in those days. Her husband thought the ride too long for her and built the church for her benefit. "Surely he built wiser than he knew." On this same lot, in after years, another church was built of better and more suitable material, and then about 50 years ago the present church was erected . . . Of church and pastors before the war of secession we would gladly speak, but the records are all destroyed.⁶

All remaining at Lawtonville today is the cemetery, but inset into the old baptistry is a marble tablet in which, among other things, is this inscription:

LAWTONVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

First organized at Pipe Creek Beaufort District by Joseph Blake and Lady Axtel dissenters who emigrated from Somersetshire England 1775. Moved here 1852, four acres of land having been given by Amos Johnston for religious and educational purposes.

Moved to Estill 1911.⁷

Children of Amos and Elizabeth (Daniels) Johnston were:

1. Josiah Daniels Johnston, born September 9, 1798.
2. Sarah Ann Johnston, born in 1800.
3. Amos Johnston (Jr.).
4. Benjamin Johnston.
5. Jerusha M. Johnston.
6. ~~Charlotte Johnston~~
[See following chapter.]

Note

Elizabeth May was a daughter of Mary Stafford and her husband, John May. As a widow with seven daughters, she emigrated to and settled in St. Peter's Parish, from her home in New Hanover County, N. C., in a company which included her brothers, William, Samuel and Seth Stafford and John Tison, also of New Hanover County and the husband of Mary (Stafford) May's eldest daughter. It is believed Josiah Daniels and Elizabeth May were married at the time and that the trip was made in 1765, perhaps as late as 1768. Also in the party was Josiah Johnston, who had married a third daughter of Mary (Stafford) May, and it is suspected he was a relative of Capt. Nathan Johnston. The group was largely composed of Methodists; at least, they became Methodists after settling in S. C. Seth Stafford located in St. Luke's Parish, either at or near the present community of Stafford, now in Hampton County. The remainder settled in St. Peter's near Robertville and the present town of Garnett.

The other four daughters of Mary (Stafford) May married as follows: Jerusha married John Paisley; Sarah married John Garnett; Mary married Capt. Samuel Maner, and Jane Asenath married Capt. William Maner. Mary (Stafford) May married a second time — a Mr. Mullet. She later

became known in the family as "Grandma Mullet"; she was born in 1717, in North Carolina, and died in 1823, at the age of 106 years. She is buried in the Old Bostick Cemetery, adjoining the Churchyard at Black Swamp Methodist Church, near Garnett, S. C. It is speculated that Capt. Nathan Johnston was a member of the party at the time of emigration from N. C.

Seth Stafford represented St. Luke's Parish in the S. C. convention which ratified the U. S. Constitution. His children removed to Mississippi in 1808-1810. William Stafford represented St. Peter's in the "Jacksonborough Legislature" (1782), and was a colonel in the revolution, and a member of the S. C. Senate from St. Peter's. Capt. William Maner also represented St. Peter's in the S. C. Senate in 1800-1804.

Of interest is that Capt. Nathan Johnston assigned an unpaid claim for money due for militia service to John Paisley, a son-in-law of Mary (Stafford) May, in 1791, and earlier, in 1786, addressed an order to the Commissioners of the Treasury of S. C., at Charleston, to deliver an "Indent" and "an Special Indent for Intrust" (i. e., interest) for money owed for military service to Captain Samuel Maner; the order was certified by William Stafford, as a Justice of Peace for Beaufort District.

Also of interest is that Amos Johnston named two of his daughters Sarah and Jerusha, for maternal aunts, and his eldest son for his father-in-law, Josiah Daniels. Sarah Ann Johnston repeated the names of Jerusha, Josiah and added Seth and Maner in her generation.

Mary (Stafford) May was the daughter of William and Elizabeth Stafford of New Hanover County, N. C. He died in 1765. William was the son of a second William Stafford (and Jean Brown, daughter of John Brown), of Currituck Precinct, N. C.; he died in 1728. He was the son of a third William Stafford, of Stafford County, Va., who was the son of a fourth William Stafford (and Frances Mason), of "Elizabeth Cittie," Va., who arrived in Virginia at the age of fourteen, in 1622, aboard the English ship "Furtherance."

For a more complete account of the Stafford family see the *House of Stafford* in Annie Elizabeth Miller's *Our Family Circle*, at pages 503-505, *op. cit.*

¹ *Ante*, Chap. 4, footnote 30, and Chap. 10, footnote 3.

² Writings of Josiah Seth Mixson (1836-1899), Allendale, S. C.

³ Rev. W. H. Dowling's *History of Lawtonville* (Savannah River Baptist Association, 1893).

⁴ *Post-Revolutionary Land Grants*, Book H, No. 5, Vol. 72, pp. 356, 357, *op. cit.*

⁵ Lawtonville is approximately seven miles south of Beech Branch.

⁶ Dowling, *op. cit.*

⁷ Pipe Creek no doubt held services at Lawtonville in the Amos Johnston "Republican" church for many years prior to official occupancy of the location by the Pipe Creek Baptists. Also see feature articles in the *News and Courier*, Charleston, S. C., July 16, 1950, and the *Savannah Morning News*, Savannah, Ga., Nov. 26, 1961.

CHAPTER 33

Children of Amos Johnston (1769-1815)

Of the Sixth Generation

I. JOSIAH DANIELS JOHNS(T)ON: Refer to following apter.

II. SARAH ANN JOHNSTON: Sarah Ann Johnston, daughter of Amos and Elizabeth (Daniels) Johnston, was born in 1800, St. Peter's Parish, Beaufort District, South Carolina, and died in May, 1880, at the "Georgia home of her daughter Eliza Daniel." She and William Joyce Mixson, son of John Mixson, and his wife, Mary Joyce, were married in 1815. William Joyce Mixson was born February 1, 1793, in Barnwell District, South Carolina, and died there September 22, 1862.¹ The family lived in the general neighborhood of Smyrna (now in Allendale County), and is recorded in the 1850 census.² Nineteen children were born of the union, of which four died in infancy and were not named:

1. William Joyce Mixson, Jr., born in 1817 (*See later*).
2. Jerusha Mixson; married a Mr. Nelson.
3. John Hampton Mixson, born in 1824 (*See later*).
4. Elizabeth Mixson, born in 1831; married Joseph H. Stokes, son of William and Ann (Nischer) Stokes.
5. Experience Mixson — died in childhood.
6. Benjamin Mixson.
7. Eliza[beth] Ann Mixson, born in 1833; married a Mr. Daniel, and resided in Georgia.
8. Sarah Lavicy Mixson, born in 1835; married William H. Wesner July 1852.³ [It is also indicated she might have married secondly a Mr. Hammond.]
9. Josiah Seth Mixson, born April 29, 1836 (*See later*).
10. Amos Johnston Mixson.
11. Susan Brown Mixson, born in 1840.
12. Samuel Mixson.
13. Josephine Mixson, born in 1842; married George B. Green July 6, 1842.⁴
14. Louise Mixson, born in 1844. She is listed as Louisa in the 1850 census.
15. Frank Maner Mixson, born December 5, 1846.

III. AMOS JOHNSTON: Amos Johnston, the second son of Amos and Elizabeth (Daniels) Johnston, was born about 1803,⁵ St. Peter's Parish, and died there *circa* 1840. He married Caroline Warnock, daughter of David and Jane Warnock of the Beech Branch community, and they resided on "Blood Hill Bay the Coosawhatchie,"⁶ near Beech Branch. Amos and Caroline Johnston along with Jerusha M. Johnston, his sister, and Edward S. Johnston [whose connection, if any, with the family has not been established], were baptized July 28, 1833, by Beech

Branch Baptist Church. It is believed Amos Johnston is buried in the Beech Branch Churchyard. Amos Johnston was listed in the census returns from St. Peter's Parish in 1840 in the age bracket of twenty to thirty and was credited with twelve slaves.⁷

Amos Johnston was survived by his widow and a son, Amos David Johnston (of the 7th generation), who spelled his name in the manner adopted by his uncle, Josiah D. Johnson. In 1843 Caroline (Warnock) Johnson married a second time, Aquilla Richard Johnston (*q.v.*), also a widower and of the Beech Branch community (but not a member of the Beech Branch Baptist Church). She died February 18, 1875, in Pilot Point, Texas.

Amos David Johnson was born in 1834; died in the mid 1860's, and is buried in Beech Branch Churchyard. He married Esther C. ("Hettie") Solomons (born *circa* 1834) of St. Peter's Parish. A daughter, Elizabeth ("Bessie") Johnson, born in 1855, survived him. She married Nathaniel Felder of Bamberg, South Carolina, where they lived. She died in 1931, and is buried in Bamberg. There were surviving descendants. One of her sons, a sailor, disappeared in World War I when the U. S. S. Cyclops was mysteriously lost.⁸

IV. OTHER CHILDREN: Other children of Amos and Elizabeth (Daniels) Johnston were Benjamin M. Johnston, Jerusha M. Johnston and Charlotte Johnston. Little is known of them. Benjamin moved to Shreveport, Louisiana, married, reared a family and left descendants.⁹ Jerusha married a Mr. Best. Charlotte married first Amos Smart, and they resided in the Beech Branch community where he was active in the affairs of Beech Branch Baptist Church. After the death of Amos Smart,¹⁰ she married a Mr. Nicholson.

¹ References: Writings of Josiah Seth Mixson (1836-1899), Allendale, S. C.

² Census, *op. cit.* According thereto W. J. Mixson was 57; Sarah, 50, and these children were listed as members of the household: Elizabeth, 19; Eliza, 17; Sarah, 15; Seth, 14; Susan, 10; Josephine, 8; Louisa, 6; Frank, 5. Separately listed as Heads of Family were W. J. Mixson, Jr., and J. H. Mixson.

³ *The Courier*, of Charleston, S. C., for July 23, 1852.

⁴ *The Barnwell Sentinel*, of Barnwell, S. C., for July, 1862.

⁵ An estimated date based on the census of 1840 and his marriage prior to July 28, 1833, on which date he and his wife became members of Beech Branch. He probably had been a Methodist and a member of Lebanon Methodist Church. Of interest is tradition in the Forrester family that Amos Johnston was responsible for removal of the Forresters and others from the Beech Branch community to Texas in the 1840's. As he died in 1840 in Beech Branch and was known to be there in 1833, doubt attaches to the story, according to which Amos Johnston moved to Texas and returned to Beech Branch. It is said he was prominent in the government of Texas during the period of the republic; in fact, it is said he was Secretary of State under President Sam Houston. (The period of the independence of

Texas dated from the Battle of San Jacinto, 1836 to 1846, when by agreement, Texas was annexed by the United States.)

⁶ In 1833, Amos Johnston conveyed 728 acres of land "on Blood Hill Bay of the Coosawhatchie and adjoining 10½ acres on which Amos Johnston had erected a house." — p. 23, *Peoples' Peebles, Ante 1600-1962* (Washington, 1962).

⁷ Church record, *op. cit.*, p. 87.

⁸ Census, *op. cit.*

⁹ Letters of Mrs. Nathaniel ("Bessie") Felder (1855-1931) to Coy K. Johnston.

¹⁰ According to Mrs. Felder (*ibid.*). She further said "... my great uncle Ben Johnson wanted to marry his first cousin, Miss Nelly Johnston, and their parents objected, so that was when the T came out. The old lady died an old maid at 80 years of age." [See p. 225 — Eleanor S. Johnston].

¹¹ He died in 1863. His will was dated September 4, 1860, and recorded September 9, 1863, in Barnwell District — see *Will Book E*, p. —, Barnwell County, S. C. According to his will he was survived by four sons: James Jefferson Smart, Job Rowley Smart, Asa D. Smart and John Calvin Smart; five daughters: Thinza Ann Brunson, Eliza Jane Brunson, Florence Amanda Owens (wife of Augustus Owens), Lowra Josephine Forrester (wife of Edwin H. Forrester), and Mary Florida Flowers (wife of John W. Flowers); and two grandsons: Amos Mattatha and Joseph Brunson; all of them doubtless were by his wife Charlotte Johnston.

CHAPTER 34

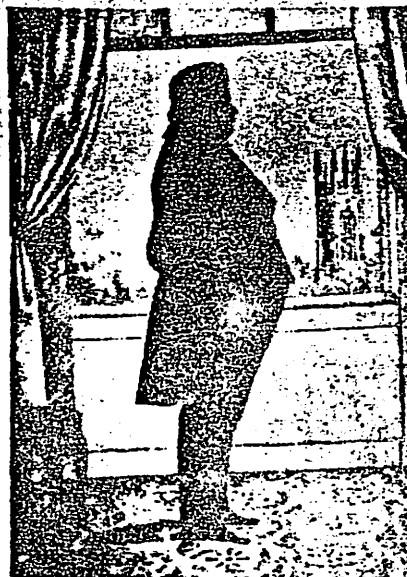
Josiah Daniels Johns(t)on

Planter and Public-Office Holder

Of the Sixth Generation

Josiah Daniels Johnson [although originally Johnston, he dropped the "t" and styled himself "Johnson"], son of Amos and wife Elizabeth (Daniels) Johnston and grandson of Captain Nathan Johnston (1), was born September 9, 1798, in St. Peter's Parish, Beaufort District, South Carolina; died at his residence near Steep Bottom, in St. Peter's Parish, August 25, 1858, and is buried in the Lebanon Methodist Church Cemetery, which is now located in Hampton County (near the present town of Scotia).¹

Josiah married Catherine Goettee, daughter of George and Elizabeth (Walzer) Goettee, of Goettee's Mills, of St. Peter's Parish. Catherine was born March 5, 1805.² It is believed Catherine and Josiah were married in the early spring of 1821 on or about her sixteenth birthday. There followed on February 22, 1822, the birth of their eldest child, Ann Elizabeth Johnson. Catherine died February 16, 1881, in the home of her daughter, Missa Catherine (Johnson) Johnston, and son-in-law, Nathan Johnston, M. D., with whom she lived during the latter years



Hon Josiah Daniels Johnson
(1798-1858) Circa 1845

of her life. She is buried beside her husband in Lebanon.³

Catherine Goettee Johnson was a kind and gentle woman, and as a resident of the household of Nathan H. Johnston was the companion and mentor of the father of your author during the first fourteen years of his life. He, Coy Johnston, always spoke of her in terms of admiration and deep affection.

George and Elizabeth Walzer Goettee, parents of Catherine, are buried in marked — but undated — graves in the private *Goethe Cemetery*, located approximately a mile north of Hopewell, in Hampton County. The cemetery is situated upon land, on the west side of the Coosawhatchie River, not too far from the site of old Goettee Mills, and was originally a part

of the eight hundred acres of land embraced in three royal patents issued in 1772 to George Goettee, grandfather of Catherine.⁴ Tradition has it that George Goettee, an immigrant from Germany, was an ardent patriot and served as a soldier in the cause of the Revolution. It is more probable that as a Whig he participated in guerrilla activities in the general neighborhood of his home in the conflict between the Whigs and Tories. There is no record of service by him in the Granville County Militia in the *Political Revolutionary Audited Accounts* of the State of South Carolina, although his son, another George Goettee, as administrator of the estate of Henry Gotee, deceased, on August 2, 1791, executed a claim, along with an assignment thereof, for moneys owed Henry Gotee amounting to three pounds, two shillings and four pence, sterling, for "Duty in the Granville County Militia from 19th June 1779 to Augt follg."⁵ It is believed that the first George Goettee died prior to 1790.

George Goettee, as George Gooty, is listed as a head of family in the *First Census*, in 1790, and in 1800, in the *Second Census*, as George Goatee. These, of course, are the spellings of the census enumerator. In the census return for 1790, George Goettee is credited with one white female and three slaves. In 1800, his age is placed in the category "Of 26 and under 40 years," with one white female "Of sixteen and under 26 years" (no doubt his