

AN ACCOUNT *of the* FAMILY
of
BARTHOLOMEW JOHNSON
Union, S.C.

Researched and written by
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I began writing this document as a means of organizing my research on the family of my great-great-great-great-grandfather, Bartholomew Johnson. I had been hesitant to publish this information, but am doing so to encourage further research and, hopefully, connect with others interested in this branch of the family. I would welcome any corrections or further input. My e-mail is cress12@live.com. Please be aware that, unless otherwise noted, all research presented here is original and protected by copyright.

Bartholomew Johnson was born in South Carolina about the year 1796. An obituary for his son, Richard, notes that “Maj. B. Johnson... came from Virginia, and was for 12 years sheriff of [Union] county.”¹ More likely, it was his father who had come as a young man to South Carolina with his family, as all records indicate that Bartholomew was a native South Carolinian.

In 1828, a Bartholomew Johnson was listed as postmaster at Goshen Hill, in the southwestern corner of Union District, a position which he retained in 1830.^{2,3}

According to an 1811 plat, a man named Daniel Lipham owned 460 acres of land between the Tyger and Enoree rivers, encompassing a majority of the Goshen Hill section. His will, proven in 1829, expresses his desire that “Maj’r Johnson keep the store house one year after my decease for the same he has it now at.”⁴ The 1820 map of Union District, surveyed by Robert Mills, suggests that this store was located near the intersection of the roads to Fishdam and Maybinton.

He next appears in the 1830 U.S. Census, where he is head of the household. It is unclear in what area of the county he then lived. According to an article in the *Union Times*, he moved to Union from Jonesville upon his election as sheriff only a year later:

¹ “Capt. R. C. Johnson Passes Away in Union,” *The State*, September 9, 1909.

² McLean, John. *List of Post-Offices in the United States...on the 1st of June, 1828* (Washington, Way & Gideon Printers, 1828), p. 44.

³ U.S. Post Office Dept. *Table of the Post Offices in the United States...as they were October 1, 1830* (Washington, Duff Green, 1831), p. 158.

⁴ Union District Record of Wills, Book B, Will 141, June 6, 1829.

The next postmaster in Jonesville was B. D. Bearden, who moved it down to his store in 1858, which was the homeplace of Sheriff Johnson, who moved to Union, after his election to the sheriff's office, selling the place to Buck Hames, he transferring it to Bearden...⁵

If Bartholomew Johnson, the postmaster, were the same man as Bartholomew Johnson, the sheriff, it seems unlikely that he would have lived in Jonesville, which lies approximately 25 miles north of Goshen Hill.

Bartholomew Johnson took the oath of office on April 2, 1831.⁶ He served as Sheriff of Union District intermittently between 1831 and 1851, but sources vary with regard to the exact years. According to the website of the Union County Sheriff's Department, he served from 1831-1835, 1839-1843, and 1847-1851. Alternately, the dates of 1831-1835, 1839-1844, and 1848-1851, are given in a history of Union County.⁷ Supposedly, he and Robert McBeth had arranged to alternate holding the position of sheriff every four years, as a sheriff could not hold more than one consecutive term. While this was widely known in the area, nobody interfered.

Few sources are available pertaining to his actions while in office, with one of the more interesting being a petition to the General Assembly filed in 1859. Allen Yates, of Choctaw County, Ala., requested compensation for a runaway slave, who had escaped and was "captured and sold by B. Johnson Esquire Sheriff of Union District South Carolina... on or about the seventh day of December AD 1847..."⁸ This date establishes that he was sheriff in 1847, probably having been reinstated earlier that year.

In addition to his occupation as sheriff, he also served as the ordinary of Union District, being the authority responsible for the discharge and adjudication of legal claims. He appears to have undertaken this position some time after assuming the duties of sheriff, and last witnessed a will in July 1859.

He married **Susan F. Liverett** about the year 1820.⁹ She was possibly the daughter of William Liverett, whose estate papers in 1827 were witnessed by Bartholomew Johnson, who averred that

⁵ Haile, Estelle Littlejohn. "Historical Events of Union County: Jonesville." *Union Times*, March 19, 1918. Originally an essay read before the Fair Forest Chapter, D.A.R.

⁶ Appendix, item I.

⁷ Charles, Allan D. *The Narrative History of Union County* (Spartanburg, Reprint Co., 1987), p. 453.

⁸ Yates, Allen. *Petition for Compensation for a Runaway Slave Anthony*. Manuscript Petition. South Carolina Department of Archives and History, *Petitions to the General Assembly*, 1859-59-01.

⁹ Census records confirm that her given name was Susan, and records from the collection Mrs. Nat B. Morgan indicate that her maiden name was Liverett. See below, the excerpt from *Genealogy of a Branch of the Johnson Family*.

the deceased owed him an amount of two-hundred dollars and forty-one cents.¹⁰ They had at least five children:

Elizabeth Ann Johnson, born ca. 1821, married William King Cooper on May 1, 1845.¹¹ They had three children: Talulah Jane, wife of Miles Marion Smith; William B., who removed to Mississippi; and Lucy Toccoa, wife of John Wesley Sanders. She died between 1850 and 1854.

Her husband survived her only briefly, dying of typhoid fever on June 19, 1854, in the vicinity of Carnesville, Ga. Their three children were raised for a time by their paternal grandparents in Spartanburg County.

Talulah Jane Cooper married Miles Marion Smith (ca. 1839-1915), of Kings Creek, in August 1867. They had two daughters: Cora (1868-1937), wife of William Oscar Nicholson, and Elizabeth Johnson (1870-1943), wife of John Hiram Wilburn. She died ca. 1871, and certainly before 1880.

William B. Cooper was a resident of Spartanburg in 1850 and 1860. He last appears in the 1870 U.S. Census, when he was living at Noxubee, Miss.

Lucy Toccoa Cooper married John Wesley Sanders (1848-1922), of Cross Keys, on February 28, 1867. They had thirteen children, who are listed in a separate document.

William E. Johnson, born ca. 1830, married Mary Eugenia Penelope Dunn.¹² They had five known children: Mary Leonard, wife of John Wallace Meng; Carrie, wife of B. F. Eison and William Elijah Ray; Annie Eugenia, wife of Hughes Crawford Worthy; William Chatman; and Sarah Elizabeth, wife of Robert Mitchell Love. He died around 1873.¹³

Jane J. Johnson, born 1830-1834, known as Janie. She never married, was a schoolteacher in Union, and in later life resided with her niece, Lucy Sanders. Her gravestone and obituary indicate her birth year as 1830, whereas Census records indicate her birth sometime around 1834. She took ill in May 1917, and died on February 21, 1921 in Union, where she was interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery.¹⁴

¹⁰ Note that this was prior to his appointment as ordinary of Union District.

¹¹ An announcement in the *Greenville Mountaineer* on May 9, 1845, identifies her as the “eldest daughter of Major Johnson of Union.”

¹² Bobo, Marion Johnson, “Thomas and William Hughes,” *Union County Heritage Book*, ed. Mannie Lee Mabry (Union, Union Co. Heritage Committee, 1981), p. 137.

¹³ Appendix, item V.

¹⁴ This is the date indicated by her obituary in the *Union Progress* of February 23, 1921. Her death certificate gives the date as February 22, 1921. She was interred on February 22 in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

James A. Johnson, born June 1835. He was educated in the common schools. Although no record of a marriage has been found, he was recorded as widowed in the Censuses of 1880 and 1900. The largest source of information about his life is found in the records of the S.C. State Hospital for the Insane, where he was committed on March 2, 1902, as patient number 10138. He was described as 5 ft. 6 in. tall, weighing 111 lbs., with medium eyes and a restless manner. According to the patient file, he was 65 years old upon his admittance (born circa 1837).

The doctor determined that he was suffering from “monomania of a suicidal tendency” wherein he “expressed the desire to end his life as he had nothing to expect in [the] future and wanted to get out of the way.” He died in the hospital on June 11, 1902.¹⁵ The cause of death was listed as “senile insanity [and] exhaustion,” and he was interred in an unmarked grave at Elmwood Cemetery.

Capt. **Richard C. Johnson**, born June 22, 1839, known as Dick. He never married. He enlisted as a Private in Co. A, 5th Reg., S.C.V. at Union on April 13, 1861. On June 1, 1861 he was promoted to the rank of 5th Sergeant prior to being mustered into service at Orangeburg on June 4. He was promoted again to 3rd Sergeant on August 31, 1861.¹⁶ Exactly when he was made Captain remains unclear, although an obituary states that the promotion occurred “upon the death of Capt. Christopher L. Beaty” at Deep Bottom, Va.¹⁷ In an 1862 report, Col. Micah Jenkins wrote that his instructions had been sent to him “by [his] commissary, Captain Dick” from Gen. Richard Anderson.¹⁸

The company, known as Johnson Rifles, surrendered at Appomattox, and were mustered out in May 1865.

After the war, he was instrumental in the organization of the Red Shirts in Union County, and was elected to the position of colonel. He also served briefly as the chief of police for the city of Union, resigning in July 1905. He died on September 8, 1909 in Union, and was interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery.¹⁹

Given the gap between the years of birth of Elizabeth and William, it is quite likely that a **Sixth Child** (second in order of age) was born, but whose name has yet to be

¹⁵ See his death notice in the *Union Times* of June 13, 1902, as well as his personal file from the State Hospital for the Insane.

¹⁶ Salley, Alexander Samuel. *South Carolina Troops in Confederate Service* (Columbia, State Historical Commission, 1930), pp. 13-18.

¹⁷ In this case, Deep Bottom probably refers to what is commonly known as the Battle of Glendale.

¹⁸ U.S. War Dept. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington, Govt. Printing Office, 1884), series I, vol. XI, p. 949.

¹⁹ This is the date indicated in his obituary in the *Union Progress* of September 10, as well as in probate records. His gravestone reads September 6, 1909. He was interred on September 9 in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

determined. Census records for the years 1830 and 1840 indicate another person, a male, born between 1825 and 1830.²⁰

There is the grave of a Wallace Johnson, who died in 1854, located in the Episcopalian Cemetery in Union. No indication is given of his birth year or parentage, but it might be worth noting that Lucy Cooper Sanders, granddaughter of Bartholomew Johnson, named her fourth son Wallace Johnson Sanders.

The home of Bartholomew Johnson in Union was known as Hill Crest, and appears to have been located on the western outskirts of town. It later became the home of Maj. J. W. McLure. In 1833, Sheriff Johnson purchased four acres on Grog (now North Enterprise) Street, in the vicinity of Main Street, for \$1000.²¹ This would have been located within a block of the ten-year-old Union Jail.

The family appears to have been Presbyterian. James Johnson was listed as a Presbyterian upon his committal in 1902, and Janie was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Union. A week before his death, Capt. Dick Johnson also joined First Presbyterian Church, having not previously been a member of any church.

Bartholomew Johnson died of palsy during the month of October 1859, in Union District. No will has been found in either Will Book C or D, covering the years 1849-1911. His wife, Susan, appears in the Censuses of 1860, 1870, and 1880. She must, then, have died between 1880 and 1900. Neither burial location has been ascertained.

It is possible that that he was a close relative of David Johnson (1782-1855), who served as governor of the South Carolina from 1846 to 1848. A biographical snippet of Capt. Dick Johnson refers to him as a “nephew of Governor Johnson.”²²



An excerpt is taken from the narrative *Genealogy of a Branch of the Johnson Family and Connections*, compiled by Abraham Malone Johnson (1830-1903):

George Johnson, my own uncle, lived on Ennoree [*sic*], and...had six children; Thomas, Jane, Edward, Stephen, Bartholomew and Polly.

[...]

Bartholomew was small and spare, about my size, and a number of Carolinians have called me Bartholomew Johnson, and said we favored each other very much. He married

²⁰ Appendix, item II.

²¹ Appendix, item III.

²² “Richard C. ‘Dick’ Johnson,” *Union Daily Times*, June 2, 1961.

Miss Mabun (I think) and lived at Union Court-house. He was Sheriff and Ordinary, etc., had fifty or sixty negroes, being well off, and died a short time before the war.²³

The above account almost certainly refers to our Bartholomew Johnson, especially in light of the fact that only one man by that name was recorded as living in Union District during the first half of the nineteenth century. It, however, apparently negates the possibility that Bartholomew was a close relative of Gov. David Johnson, as George Johnson was the son of Daniel, who came from Virginia.

Note that the excerpt was taken from the papers of Col. Ephraim Malone Johnson (1803-1884), father of the compiler. Thus, A. M. Johnson would have been a first-cousin, once-removed to Bartholomew.

A. M. Johnson's account also contradicts the records of Anna Lucile Sanders Morgan (great-granddaughter of Bartholomew), who reported Susan Johnson's maiden name to be Liverett, not Mabun.²⁴

Although such evidence is circumstantial, it may be worth noting that here Bartholomew Johnson was described as "small and spare." James Johnson, his son, was only 5 ft. 6 in. tall, and weighed 111 lbs. in March 1902.

²³ Johnson, Abraham Malone. *Genealogy of a Branch of the Johnson Family and Connections: Incidents and Legends* (Chattanooga, W. I. Crandall & Co., 1893), p. 20.

²⁴ Perhaps a corruption of the name Maybin, which was very prominent in the area of upper Newberry County.

Appendix

I. Union County Deed Book V, p. 65

Commission from James Hamilton, Junr. Esqr., Governor of South Carolina, to Bartholomew Johnson, Sheriff of Union District for four years from 1 Apr. 1831, dated 3 Feb. 1831 [...] Maj. B. Johnson took the oath of office, 2 Apr. 1831.

II. Census Records 1830, 1840, 1850

1830 U.S. Census: *Household of Mjr. Bartholomew Johnson* Union District, South Carolina

1 male between 30 and 40 ... (Bartholomew)

2 males between 20 and 30 ... (? and ?)

2 males under 5 ... (William E. and ?)

1 female between 20 and 30 ... (Susan)

1 female between 5 and 10 ... (Elizabeth Ann)

1840 U.S. Census: *Household of Maj. B. Johnson* Union District, South Carolina

1 male between 40 and 50 ... (Bartholomew)

1 male between 30 and 40 ... (?)

2 males between 10 and 15 ... (William E. and ?)

1 male between 5 and 10 ... (James A.)

1 male under 5 ... (Richard C.)

1 female between 30 and 40 ... (Susan)

1 female between 15 and 20 ... (Elizabeth Ann)

1 female between 5 and 10 ... (Janie J.)

1850 U.S. Census: *Household of Bartholomew Johnson* Village of Union, Union District, South Carolina

Bartholomew Johnson, 54, male, white, planter/sheriff, estate value \$2500, born in S.C.

Susan Johnson, 49, female, white, born in S.C.

Jane Johnson, 16, female, white, born in S.C.

James Johnson, 15, male, white, student, born in S.C.

Richard Johnson, 10, male, white, born in S.C.

1850 U.S. Federal Slave Schedule: *Bartholomew Johnson, Owner*

1 male, age 60
1 male, age 30
1 female, age 26, mulatto
1 male, age 11
1 female, age 8
1 male, age 4, mulatto
1 male, age 2, mulatto

III. Union County Deed Book W, pp. 209-210

John Anderson of Newton County, Georgia, for \$1000 to Bartholomew Johnson of Union Village, lot whereon Maj'r B. Johnson now lives by Grog Street, J. J. Pratt, John Graham, Main Street, four acres 28 Dec. 1833. John Anderson (LS), Wit: Thos. Anderson, John Rogers. Proved by the oath of J. Rogers, 28 Feb. 1834 before D. Wallace, J.P., Susannah Anderson, wife of John Anderson, relinquished dower 28 Dec. 1833 before J. Rogers, Q.U.

IV. Journal of the Union District Court of Equity

Session of February 4th, 1836

William Sims & Z. Hooker advs C. Degraffenreid. Rule against B. Johnson, Sheriff. To Bartholomew Johnson late Sheariff [*sic*]. You are ordered to appear in this Court Thursday morning next to shew cause why you have not paid over the costs in the case of William Sims and Z. Hooker at the suit of Christopher Degraffenreid on a *fifa*²⁵ lodged with you for that purpose, and in default an attachment will issue against you for contempt of this court.

Herndon, Defts. Solr.

Johnson failed to appear and Chancellor David Johnson ordered that an attachment be issued against him for contempt of court.

Session of June 14, 1837

Jane Wilbourne vs Bartholomew Johnson—In Equity. Bill for Writ of Dower.²⁶ Case came up to be heard. Bill read by James Edwd. Henry. Answer by T. N. Dawkins. John Norvell and Ann Norvell sworn for complt. Argued and submitted to the court.

[...]

Complt being entitled to be endowed out of one-half of the Putnam Tract of land, ordered by consent of the parties that the Comsr. report the value in money of complt's Right of Dower in said land. Each part to pay their own costs. (Entitled to 1/6th of the Comr. Putnam Tract.)

²⁵ *Fieri facias* (*fi. fa.*), a writ of execution issued after judgment in an equity case involving debt or damages.

²⁶ An order from the court in which a widow seeks to recover the remainder of her dower, no part of which had she priorly received (*cf.* writ of right of dower).

Session of June 10, 1839

Jane Wilbourne vs Bartholomew Johnson. Report confirmed and complt. have leave to issue Execution for the amount and interest reported.

V. Union County Probate Records 1909, Box 104, Package 11

R. C. Johnson died intestate, leaving assets which amounted to six-hundred dollars. His sister Janie J. Johnson petitioned to be named his administrator.

Relatives listed were: Miss Janie Johnson, sister; Mrs. J. W. Sanders, niece; W. C. Johnson, nephew; Mrs. Carrie Ray, niece; Mrs. Sallie Love, niece; Mrs. Mary Meng, niece; Mrs. Annie Worthy, niece. The latter five were noted as being the children of his deceased brother, W. E. Johnson.