

THE FAMILY OF JOHN AND CATY MCKAHEN JOHNSTON OF GREENE COUNTY TENNESSEE

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John Johnston, born c. 1788 in Virginia, was the son of Zopher Johnston Senior, Revolutionary War Soldier buried at Kidwell Cemetery near Baileyton Road. On 2-7-1809, John married "Caty" (Catherine) McKahen, bond by John Graham. John and Caty lived on the 189 acre Roaring Fork farm of John's father, Zopher Johnston Senior. After Zopher Senior's death, John is shown in the annual District 12 tax lists owning 94 acres. His brother, Joseph, owned an equal, 94 acres of land.

John served in the War of 1812 in Captain Robert Maloney's Company, enlisting on 10-14-1813. However, John was unable to serve his full term of three months. He was discharged after only 19 days, with the annotation of "unable to perform duty". John received \$4.90 for his service. John and his family of seven sons and four daughters lived along Roaring Fork in District 12 in northern Greene County, where they were farmers and coopers.

John signed his Will on November 8, 1854. By this date, the family surname had been permanently changed to that of Johnson. John named all seven of his sons in his Will, but referred only to his "four daters". The Will was "proven" on February 5, 1855. John passed his 94 acre Roaring Fork farm to his son, Joseph A., who was also the executor of his father's estate. It is not known where John is buried. He is possibly buried at Kidwell Cemetery where his father, Zopher Johnston Senior, is buried or nearby in the Old Cooper Burial Ground on Spider Stine Road. There exists the possibility of a Johnson Family Cemetery on the 189 acre Roaring Fork farm. John and his brother, Joseph, owned a combined 188 acres of land. The "missing" one acre could possibly have been set aside for a cemetery that no longer exists.

John's widow, Caty, left Greene County in the 1850's when six of her seven sons migrated into northern Missouri. In the 1860 Census of Sullivan County, Missouri, Caty is living with her sons, Wiley and Joseph A. Johnson. Caty died before the 1870 Census. Caty is buried in an unmarked grave located in a field just outside the Mt. Zion Cemetery in Grundy County, Missouri. The cemetery was previously known as Johnstontown Cemetery, and may have at one time, been located on the family farm. Many family members are buried there.

Of John and Caty Johnston's eleven children, eight are positively known. The seven sons are named in John's 1854 Will, and one of the "four daters" was residing in his 1850 household. The other three daughters can be identified with a high degree of confidence based on who they married, where they lived in Greene County, their subsequent migrations to the Midwest, and the names given to their children. John and Caty Johnston's seven sons were:

1. James, born 10-7-1812. On April 1, 1834, James married Margaret Cox, bond by George Graham and Dave Reynolds. Margaret, born 2-12-1816, was the daughter Eliakim and Nancy Long Cox. James and Margaret (Cox) Johnson had eleven children, all of whom migrated to Missouri in 1859, except one son, Cornelius who remained in Greene County and died during the Civil War. Margaret Cox Johnson died on 9-11-1862. James Johnson died on 6-23-1899. Both James and Margaret Cox Johnson are buried in Campground Cemetery in Sullivan County, Missouri. Many of their descendants are also buried there. **For further information on this Family, please refer to the James and Margaret Cox Johnson Family. For further information on the Cox Family, please refer to the Eliakim and Nancy Long Graham Cox Family.**

2. Joseph A. (Alfred??), born 7-30-1817. In 1855, Joseph inherited the 94 acre Roaring Fork farm of his father, John Johnston (Senior). Joseph married Nancy "Mary" Cradic on 5-23-1848, bond by J. C. Hankins. In 1858, Joseph and his family migrated to Sullivan County, MO. Joseph's wife, Nancy Cradic died before November 1858. It is not known if she died in Greene County or in Missouri. On 11-7-1858 Joseph remarried to Nancy Brassfield. Joseph's widowed mother, Catherine, lived in his 1860 household.

THE FAMILY OF JOHN AND CATY MCKAHEN JOHNSTON (CONTINUED)

Joseph A. Johnson had four children by his first wife, and one child with his second wife. Joseph died 11-19-1862. He is buried in the Willis Family Cemetery in Grundy County. **For further information on this Family, please refer to the Joseph A. and Nancy Cradic Johnson Family.**

3. Landon "Carter", born 8-21-1819. On 2-9-1841, Carter married Catharine Maloney. The marriage was performed by Christopher Cooper (Junior). Catherine Maloney, born 5-29-1820, was the daughter of Robert and Catherine Cooper Maloney. Upon the death of Carter's Uncle Joseph Johnston (Senior) in 1872, Carter inherited the remaining 94 acres of the Johnston Family's original Roaring Fork farm. Carter and Catherine Maloney Johnson had eight children. Landon Carter Johnson died on 1-11-1880. His wife, Catherine Maloney Johnson, died on 12-17-1899. They are both buried at the Cross Anchor Church Cemetery. Landon Carter Johnson, grandson of Revolutionary War Soldier Zopher Johnston Sr., is the only male Johnson branch who remained in Greene County, Tennessee into the 20th Century. Carter's son, "Volentine" Sevier Johnson, born in June 1844, died in Greeneville, Tennessee, on 4-3-1921. **For further information on this Family, please refer to the Landon Carter Johnson Family.**

4. John Jackson, e.g. John Jr., born 12-28-1821. On 9-24-1850, John Jr. married Martha P. (Pearlina) Foster, bond by Ephraim Carter. The marriage was performed by John Kidwell, Justice of the Peace. Martha Pearlina, born 2-24-1827, is possibly a daughter of Robert and Mercy Johnston Foster. John and Martha left Greene County in 1852 and migrated to Harrison County, Missouri. John and Martha had eight children. John Jackson Johnson, known as "Colonel John", died on 11-17-1898. His wife, Martha Pearlina, died on 3-26-1910. They are buried in the Foster Family Cemetery in Harrison County. **For further information on this Family, please refer to the John Jackson Johnson Family.**

5. Samuel, born c. 1824. Samuel is in his parent's 1850 household. He migrated to Missouri in 1853 where he was married. In 1860 Samuel and his wife, "Polly" (Mary) lived in Butler Township, Harrison County. Sometime during the 1870's, the family migrated to Lincoln Township, Johnson County, Nebraska. Samuel and Mary had eleven children. In 1900, Samuel and Mary were living with a son in Gage County, and in 1910, they lived with a daughter in Lancaster County. Samuel Johnson died in Nebraska between 1910-1920. His wife, Mary, is a widow in the 1920 census. **For further information on this Family, please refer to the Samuel Johnson Family.**

6. Alfred "Wiley", born August 14, 1831. Wiley migrated to Sullivan County, Missouri in 1858. He lived with his brother, Joseph A. Johnson, and their Mother, Catherine, in the 1860 Census. On 8-24-1862, Wiley married Martha Annes Maloney. Martha Annes, born 5-29-1843, was the daughter of John (Junior) and Jenny Sample Maloney. Wiley and Martha had eight children. Wiley Alfred Johnson died on 5-4-1910. Martha Annes Maloney Johnson died on 2-28-1913. Wiley and Martha are buried at the Mt. Zion Cemetery in Grundy County, MO. **For further information on this Family, please refer to the Wiley Johnson Family and the John Maloney Junior Family.**

7. Elijah K., born 9-2-1833. Elijah was no doubt named for close friend and neighbor Elijah Kidwell. Elijah Johnson married Martha Babb on February 28, 1855 in Greene County, bond by his cousin, Joseph Addison Johnson, the son of Joseph Johnston (Senior). The marriage was performed by John Kidwell, Justice of the Peace. Shortly after their marriage, Elijah and Martha migrated to northern Missouri, settling in Sullivan and Grundy counties. Elijah and Martha had six known children. Martha Babb Johnson possibly died before 1872. On 8-20-1872, an Elijah Johnson married Martha Daily in Sullivan County, Missouri where Elijah K. lived. This is presumed to be Elijah K. Johnson's second marriage. Elijah was annotated as "divorced" in the 1880 Census. Elijah died on 8-19-1914 and is buried in the Mt. Zion Cemetery in Grundy County where three of his children are also buried. Martha Babb Johnson is probably also buried there in an unmarked grave. **For further information on this Family, please refer to the Elijah K. Johnson Family.**

THE FAMILY OF JOHN AND CATY MCKAHEN JOHNSTON (CONTINUED)

John and Caty McKahen Johnston also had four daughters. Only their youngest daughter remained in their 1850 Greene County household, and she is:

8. Sally (probably "Sarah"), born c. 1828. Sally was age 22, unmarried, and living with her parents in the 1850 Census. Her father, John, died in February 1855. Between 1852 and 1859, Sally's mother, Catherine, and all but one of Sally's brothers (Landon Carter Johnson) had migrated to northern Missouri. It is not known whether Sally remained in Greene County or if she, too, migrated to Missouri. There is no marriage in the Greene County TN marriage records for Sally, nor is she found in the 1860 household of her brother, Landon Carter, who remained in Greene County. It seems reasonable to assume Sally migrated with her mother to Missouri. No other information is available for Sally.

Of John and Caty's other daughters, we know that in the 1830 Census, all four of the daughters were still in John's household. By the 1840 Census, only the youngest daughter, Sally, was still at home. Based on Greene County marriages between 1830 and 1840 of District 12 families, we can make a reasonable assessment as to the names of John and Caty's three older daughters:

9. Rebecca, born c. 1811. On 4-20-1833, Rebecca married John "Grimes" (Graham), bond by Isaac Justice. In the 1850 Census of Greene County, Rebecca and John are enumerated under the surname of "Graham". In their 1850 household were six children: **(1) Sarah**, age 17, who would married John Henderson Johnson on 10-29-1850, then migrate to Hamilton County, Illinois with John's parents, Zopher (Junior) and Phebe Cooper Johnson; **(2) Thomas**, age 14; **(3) Polly**, age 14; **(4) Prudence**, age 11; **(5) Margaret**, age 5. Margaret was born on 1-27-1844. She migrated to Grundy County, Missouri with her Mother and is in her Mother and Stepfather's 1860 household. After 1860, Margaret married Joseph A. Samples (1848-1905). Margaret "Grimes" Samples died on 10-9-1931. She and her husband are buried at the Mt. Zion Cemetery in Grundy County, Missouri. **(6) Nancy**, age 2. Nancy is also in the 1860 Missouri household of her Mother and Stepfather. It is not known if Rebecca Johnson's first husband, John Grimes (Graham), died in Tennessee or in Missouri. By 1855, Rebecca Johnson Grimes was in Grundy County, Missouri. There, on 9-16-1855, "Mrs. Rebecca Grimes" remarried to the widower, James Simpson, who was also a District 12 Greene County, Tennessee family. James Simpson migrated to Grundy County, Missouri shortly after the 1850 Census. It is possible the Grimes and Simpson Families traveled together. James and Rebecca Grimes Simpson are in the 1860 Census of Grundy County, Missouri, with their children from their prior marriages. James and Rebecca Simpson died between 1871-1879 and are presumed to be buried in the Mt. Zion Cemetery in Grundy County.

10. Jane, born c. 1815. On 2-6-1838, Jane married John P. "Kildea" (Kilday). John P. Kilday was born c. 1808 in Hawkins County TN, the only son of Henry Kilday. At the time of Jane's marriage to John P. Kilday, he was a young widower with five young children to care for. John's first wife, Nancy Lucky, whom he had married on 6-19-1828, died after the birth of their sixth child. John's second wife, Jane Johnston, raised John's first five children in addition to the eight children they had together. Before 1870, John and Jane Johnston Kilday migrated to Hamilton County, Indiana with their younger children. Jane Johnston Kilday died in Indiana before 1870. Four of the older sons remained in Greene County. **For further information on this Family, please refer to the John and Jane Johnston Kilday Family.**

11. Mary, born c. 1817. On 2-8-1839, Mary married Robert Sample. The marriage was performed by Christopher Cooper (Jr.). Robert and Mary are believed to have had four children before Robert died about 1848. Mary Johnston Sample remarried on 3-18-1852 to Alexander Rose. They removed to Jefferson County, Illinois shortly after their marriage. Mary had one child with Alexander Rose. Mary Johnston Sample Rose was once again a widow by 1860. Mary died in Illinois about 1880. Her burial place is not known. **For further information on this Family, please refer to the Robert and Mary Johnston Sample Family.**

**THE FAMILY OF JOHN AND CATY MCKAHEN JOHNSTON
(CONTINUED)**

The descendants of the John and Caty McKahen Johnston family invite you to visit the family websites, www.johnsonfamilyhistory.org and www.sandersfamilia.com.

We also encourage your participation in the **Johnson Family DNA Project**. Through DNA testing, we are hoping to find more descendants of this Johnston/Johnson Family. Information on the DNA project can be found at the family websites.

THIS FAMILY HISTORY HAS BEEN COMPILED FROM PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENTS IN TN, MO, IL, IN AND AR; GREENE COUNTY MARIAGES 1783-1868 BY GOLDENE FILLERS BURGNER; AND FAMILY INFORMATION FROM THE DESCENDANTS OF JAMES JOHNSON, JOSEPH A. JOHNSON, JOHN JACKSON JOHNSON, LANDON CARTER JOHNSON, ALFRED WILEY JOHNSON; JANE JOHNSTON KILDAY, AND MARY JOHNSTON SAMPLE ROSE.