

JOHN JOHNSON

John Johnson was born on the Johnson Estate, three miles from Kingston, South Brunswick Township Middlesex County, New Jersey, in 1760, and baptized in the Six Mile Run Dutch Reformed Church, October 12 of that year. The outstanding facts of his life are his long service in the War of the American Revolution and his voluntary service, when over fifty years of age, in the War of 1812.

Service - American Revolution: John Johnson enlisted March 12, 1778 – for three years. Six months earlier, September 11, 1777, occurred the Battle of the Brandywine. Many men who participated in that battle were hastily summoned without having had previous experience in the war, hence had not been formally enlisted, though, possibly, they had prior to the war been attached to the local militia. John Johnson's participation in that battle, evidently as a raw recruit but seventeen years old, rests upon the tradition reported by two of his descendants. John Johnson served in the Revolutionary War as a private in Capt. Gray's Troop. His service was confined chiefly to his three years in the Fourth Regiment of Light Dragoons, Continental Troops, commanded by Col. Stephen Moylan. He was recruited in New Jersey.

Service – War of 1812: John Johnson was private in Capt. James J. Wilson's Company of Volunteer Infantry, Major Isaac Angress Detachment, New Jersey. Detailed Militia, Stationed at Height of Noweswick, New Jersey. Enrolled August 15, 1814 – discharged September 18, 1814

The dragoon's sword used in the War of the American Revolution by John Johnson, and with which he swam across the stream in the Battle of Brandywine, was conveyed in April, 1920, by Richard Montgomery Johnson, of Kingston, New Jersey, to a great-granddaughter of John Johnson, and is now a cherished possession of Mrs. Edward Lee McClain (Lulu Johnson McClain). John Johnson was also drill master in the New Jersey militia after the war.

During the Battle of Monmouth, General Lee was in command of the Americans, and the British drove them back. The Americans ran away, but later Washington arrived and stopped the retreat. Tradition has it that Washington rode up to General Lee and upbraided him for running away from the British. Washington was so mad that he took from a trooper a sword and laying it on Lee deprived him of command. This trooper whose sword Washington reached for when he approached Lee was John Johnson's and is the one just mentioned.

Probably 1789 or 1790, John Johnson married Sarah McDonald. Their children were: Joseph, Peter, William, Elizabeth, Henry McDonald, Rebeckah Van Cleef, John, David Comfort, Maria McDaniel, Robert and Edward. The last two were adopted – sons of second wife, Rebeckah Dye. They took the name of Johnson.

John Johnson died in Middlesex County, in 1824. He was a direct descendant of Barent Driessen and wife, Aeltie, who with their infant son, Jan Barentsen, came directly from Ocstenengh, an estate near Ahmen, a few miles north of Zutphen, a town or fortress on the Yssel River in Province of Gelderland,

Holland, in the vessel "The New Netherland Fortune", December 19, 1650, to renew the settlement of Staten Island, which was destroyed in 1635 during the Indian massacre. Among those killed were Barent

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Driessen and his wife, Aeltie, their young son having survived. Jan Barentsen then came into the care of a prominent Dutch citizen of Gravesend, Long Island. As an orphan boy he had to (and did) make his own way in the world, and by 1674 he had accumulated enough money to purchase land, house, barn, garden and orchard, in Gravesend. He married Jannet je Willemse van Borcule of New York at Amesfoort, May 18, 1679.

Mrs. Edward Lee McClain (Lulu Johnson McClain), Greenfield, Ohio, descendant, is a member of the National Daughters of the American Revolution, National Daughters of 1812, and National Founders & Patriots of America on this line. A full account of John Johnson's service record may be found in the files of these societies, respectively.

Summary:

Barent Driessen = Aeltje (_____)

Jan Barentsen (van Zutphen) a Jannet je Willemse van Borcule

William Jansen (Johnson) = Jannet je Wyckoff

Peter Johnson = Rebecca (_____)

John Johnson = (1) Sarah McDonald (2) Rebeckah Dye

*Note: A complete history of the Johnson Family, ancestors of Mrs. Edward Lee McClain (Lulu Johnson McClain), Greenfield, Ohio, may be found in Volume III of the genealogy, "The Washington Ancestry and Records of the McClain, Johnson and Forty Other Colonial American Families;," in the Library of the Memorial Continental Hall, Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Edward Lee McClain