

**ZOPHER JOHNS(T)ON “THE ELDER”,
PATRIARCH OF THE ROARING FORK AND CROSS ANCHOR
FAMILIES
OF GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

INTRODUCTION

THE PATRIARCH OF THE GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE FAMILIES COVERED IN THIS BOOK ALL LINK TO ZOPHER JOHNSTON “THE ELDER”. HE IS THE OLDEST MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY WHO CAN BE DOCUMENTED IN THE AMERICAN COLONIES BY THE YEAR 1720. HE IS ALSO THE FIRST MEMBER OF OUR FAMILIES WHO ARRIVED IN GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE BEGINNING IN THE YEAR 1790.

TO UNDERSTAND THE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE ELEVEN SURNAMENES DOCUMENTED IN THIS FAMILY HISTORY, ONE MUST FIRST LEARN ABOUT THE PATRIARCH, ZOPHER JOHNS(T)ON “THE ELDER”. ALL OF OUR FAMILIES, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER DESCEND FROM HIM.

FOUR OF ZOPHER “THE ELDER’S” SONS CAN BE DOCUMENTED. TWO OF THESE SONS ARRIVED IN GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE WITH THEIR FATHER IN 1790 AND FOUNDED THE INTERMARRIED FAMILIES WHO LIVED IN THE ROARING FORK/CROSS ANCHOR AREA OF NORTHERN GREENE COUNTY:

JOHNS(T)ON/BROWN:

MOSES JOHNS(T)ON. HIS DAUGHTER, RUTH, MARRIED SYLVANUS BROWN, A SON OF OLD JOTHAM AND PHEBY BROWN OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

JOHNS(T)ON/COOPER/FOSTER/HATLEY:

ZOPHER JOHNS(T)ON SENIOR, A REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIER. HIS CHILDREN INCLUDED: JOSEPH WHO MARRIED ELIZABETH COOPER; ZOPHER JUNIOR WHO MARRIED PHEBE COOPER; JOHN WHO MARRIED CATY MCKAHEN; MERCY/MARTHA WHO MARRIED ROBERT FOSTER; AND PHEBE WHO MARRIED SHERWOOD HATLEY.

BROWN/COOPER/MALONEY:

ELIZABETH COOPER JOHNS(T)ON AND PHEBE COOPER JOHNS(T)ON ARE THE DAUGHTERS OF CHRISTOPHER AND JANE BROWN COOPER. JANE BROWN IS A DAUGHTER OF OLD JOTHAM AND PHEBY BROWN OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA. ANOTHER COOPER DAUGHTER, CATHERINE, MARRIED ROBERT MALONEY; ANOTHER COOPER DAUGHTER, LYDIA, MARRIED WILLIAM MALONEY. CHRISTOPHER AND JANE BROWN COOPER’S ONLY SON, CHRISTOPHER COOPER JUNIOR, MARRIED JANE MALONEY. ROBERT, WILLIAM AND JANE MALONEY WERE THE CHILDREN OF JOHN MALONEY. JOHN MALONEY’S DAUGHTER, MARGARET “PEGGY” MALONEY, MARRIED JOTHAM BROWN JUNIOR, A SON OF OLD JOTHAM AND PHEBY BROWN.

JOHNS(T)ON/FOSTER/COX:

ROBERT AND MERCY JOHNS(T)ON FOSTER’S CHILDREN MARRIED INTO THE MATHEW COX FAMILY. JOHN AND CATY MCKAHEN JOHNS(T)ON’S CHILDREN ALSO MARRIED INTO THE MATHEW COX FAMILY.

ZOPHER JOHNS(T)ON “THE ELDER”, PATRIARCH OF THE ROARING FORK AND CROSS ANCHOR FAMILIES

JOHNS(T)ON/BROWN/WILLIS:

IT IS THE OPINION OF THIS WRITER THAT ZOPHER JOHNS(T)ON “THE ELDER” WAS THE FATHER OF PHEBY BROWN, THE WIFE OF OLD JOTHAM BROWN OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA. NINE OF THEIR ELEVEN CHILDREN ARRIVED IN GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE BEGINNING IN 1803.

ZOPHER JOHNS(T)ON JUNIOR’S DAUGHTER, HILA MARTHA, MARRIED JAMES WILLIS. JAMES WILLIS IS BELIEVED TO BE A GRANDSON OF JOHN AND ESTHER BROWN WILLIS. ESTHER BROWN IS A DAUGHTER OF OLD JOTHAM AND PHEBY BROWN.

JOHNS(T)ON/BROWN/COOPER/KERBAUGH/WAMPLER:

ZOPHER JOHNS(T)ON JUNIOR’S OLDEST SON, CHRISTOPHER COOPER JOHNS(T)ON, MARRIED KATHRYN KERBAUGH. KATHRYN’S PARENTS WERE JOHN AND ELIZABETH WAMPLER KERBAUGH. ELIZABETH WAMPLER WAS THE DAUGHTER OF MICHAEL AND SUSANNAH WAMPLER.

JOHNS(T)ON/JOHNSON/HATLEY:

ZOPHER JOHNS(T)ON JUNIOR’S DAUGHTER, JANE, MARRIED HIRAM GIBBS JOHNSON, A SON OF WILLIAM AND NANCY MORGAN JOHNSON OF MIDDLE CREEK. ZOPHER JOHNS(T)ON JUNIOR’S GRANDAUGHTER, ELIZABETH JANE, MARRIED ENOCH JOHNSON, A SON OF ROBERT HENRY JOHNSON, A SON OF WILLIAM AND NANCY MORGAN JOHNSON OF MIDDLE CREEK. NANCY JOHNSON, A DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM AND NANCY MORGAN JOHNSON OF MIDDLE CREEK MARRIED WILLIAM CALVIN HATLEY, A SON OF SHERWOOD AND PHEBE JOHNS(T)ON HATLEY.

AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE ZOPHER JOHNS(T)ON FAMILY (1790), THE JOHN MALONEY FAMILY (1798), THE CHRISTOPHER COOPER FAMILY (1803), THE SONS OF OLD JOTHAM AND PHEBY BROWN (1805), AND THE SONS OF JOHN AND ESTHER BROWN WILLIS (C. 1824), MOST OF THESE FAMILIES BEGAN TO INTERMARRY.

WHEN THE DESCENDANTS OF THE ORIGINAL SETTLERS MIGRATED OUT OF TENNESSEE DURING THE 1840’S AND 1850’S, THEY FREQUENTLY MIGRATED TOGETHER. INTERMARRIAGES AMONG THESE FAMILIES CONTINUED TO TAKE PLACE AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL IN THE MIDWESTERN STATES.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION AND PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FAMILY WEBSITES:

1. WWW.JOHNSONFAMILYHISTORY.ORG, BY DAVID JOHNSON
2. WWW.SANDERSFAMILIA.COM, BY BRIAN SANDERS
3. WWW.BROWNFAMILYCLAN.ORG, BY H. WILLIAM BROWN
4. WWW.SPIDDYSKIDS.COM/JOTHAMBROWN, BY TARA PAINTER

ZOPHER JOHNSTON, “THE ELDER” PATRIARCH OF THE GREENE COUNTY FAMILIES

The Patriarch of the District 12 (Roaring Fork/Baileyton Road area) Johnson family was Zopher Johnston. His year of birth is not known, although he was born sometime in the early 1700's. His name was carried forward by multiple generations over an unbroken, 230 year time span. The last of his namesakes died in Macedonia, Illinois in the 1930s.

By 1791, there were three men named “Zopher Johnston/Johnson” in Greene County, Tennessee. The family Patriarch, Zopher, who was born in the early 1700's, is who we refer to as Zopher “The Elder”. The original surname was Johnston, but is often spelled as “Johnson” in various records. We have a first hand account of his name by Jane Brown Cooper in 1844, when, in her own hand, she phonetically spelled his name as “Zaffa Johnston”. By 1840, the “T” had been dropped from the surname in most records. By 1850, the “T” is completely gone, and the surname is Johnson. This is the surname his descendants would carry in their future westward migrations into Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska.

We first find the Patriarch, Zopher Johnston, in the 1730 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania tax list: “Zopher and John Johnson, settled ten years”; thus, we know he was in the Colonies at least by the year 1720. The timing coincides perfectly with the initial mass migration of the Scots into the American Colonies. It is possible Zopher and John came to the Colonies as young, indentured servants to a wealthy Quaker Family living in Philadelphia. After their indenture was fully paid, they migrated westward. This scenario is one theory.

The next “sighting” occurs in September 1761. Again, both “Sopher” and John Johnston are once again in a Tax List, this time in Allen Township in Northampton County, Pennsylvania. We can now make some speculative assumptions. Zopher and John appear to be brothers. “Sopher” had 6 persons in his household, while John had 5. We know “Sopher” is Zopher Johnston, the Patriarch of the District 12 Greene County, Tennessee Johnson Family, because in 1832 his son, Zopher Johnston Senior, filed for a Revolutionary War Pension in Greene County. In this pension application, Zopher Senior stated he was born on the Forks of Delaware in Pennsylvania. This area is in Northampton County, Pennsylvania. In 1832, Zopher Senior stated his age as 70 years old; thus, dating his birth in Northampton County about 1762.

Another twenty years elapsed before we are able to learn more about Zopher Johnston, the Patriarch of the Greene County District 12 Johnson families. During this twenty year interval (1761-82), like so many of the Scots, Zopher migrated south from Pennsylvania, down the Great Wagon Road into the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. It is uncertain if Zopher's brother, John, came with him. In 1782, we find only Zopher Johnston in Frederick County, Virginia. His “brother”, John, is not with him. In the 1782 Frederick County, Virginia Tax List, Zopher is listed with eight persons in his household. Two of his sons resided next door in their separate households. These two sons were Moses and Zopher Johnston Senior, the Revolutionary War soldier who is buried in Greeneville, Tennessee.

Both of the sons, Moses and Zopher Johnston Senior, came to Greene County, Tennessee with their father, Zopher “the Elder”. Residing next door to this Johnston Family in 1782 is the Jotham Brown Family. Jotham Brown's wife, Pheby, is believed to be a daughter of Zopher Johnston. There is not yet specific documentation with which to make this claim with certainty. Most of the Jotham Brown family members also migrated into Greene County, Tennessee beginning in 1803.

On November 17, 1790, Zopher Johnston, the Patriarch of the Greene County family, purchased 100 acres of land from the State of North Carolina, Grant #850. He paid 50 shillings for the land. At this date, the area which would later become Greene County, Tennessee was called “The Territory South of the Ohio”. The State of North Carolina maintained jurisdiction over this area, and in 1789, had ceded the land to the Federal Government. The land in Greene County would eventually become part of the State of Tennessee in 1796.

ZOPHER JOHNSTON, THE PATRIARCH (Continued)

We cannot be sure of the exact location of this land purchased in 1790; however, we do know it was adjacent to land owned by William Hannah and Daniel “Britten”. Therefore, Zopher’s farm was either at or very near the Roaring Fork of Lick Creek in the northern part of Greene County. We also know the initial land purchased in Greene County in 1790 was by Zopher “the Elder”. In the 1791/92 Tax List of the Captain Tate Company both Zopher “the Elder” and his son, Zopher are in the tax list as “Senior and Junior”. The Father, Zopher “the Elder”, owned the 100 acres of land. His son, Zopher, is shown with no land and is taxed only as a poll.

A few years later, on August 8, 1795, another 100 acres of land was purchased on Grant # 1336. This land was located at the Little Chuckey at Pigeon Creek, adjacent to the land owned by Frederick Hale and Henry Dunham (e.g. Dunham’s Fork in District 12). On February 6, 1795, another 200 acres was purchased from Thomas McMeans. The description of this acreage was Limestone Fork. The 1795 land purchases, could be by either Zopher “The Elder” or his son, Zopher Senior. The next available tax list, is that of the Captain Gist Company in 1796 where Zopher “the Elder” and his sons, Zopher and Moses, all own land.

With the absence of census records until 1830, the annual Greene County Tax Lists begin to “tell the story” of Zopher Johnston, the Patriarch of the Greene County families in District 12. Zopher “the Elder” is first found in the Greene County Tax Lists in 1791/92, owning 100 acres of land. He continues to be in the early Tax Lists up through 1798. In 1791/2 the land was under Captain Tate’s District, which is clearly in the Roaring Fork area. In 1796, the District was under Captain Joseph Gist. By 1797, the area was under Captain John Harmon. In the 1798 listing of Captain John Harmon’s Company, Zopher “the Elder” is listed with 300 acres of land. Zopher “the Elder’s” sons Zopher Senior owned 150 acres and Moses owned 100 acres.

Neither Zopher Johnston “the Elder” , nor either of his sons, Zopher Senior and Moses, are in the 1800 Tax List. This seems to imply the 1800 Tax List of Greene County is incomplete. The Tax Lists for the years 1801-1804 are missing. The next available tax list is that of 1805. In the 1805 Tax List, only a Harrison Johnston (born 1780) is named. Harrison is believed to be a much younger son of Zopher “the Elder” by a younger, second wife, Catherine Harrison (born 1753; died 1834). The Tax Lists for the years 1806 through 1808 no longer exist. By 1809, only Zopher Johnston Senior (born c. 1762), the Revolutionary War Soldier, remained in Greene County.

Zopher Johnston, the family Patriarch, who brought his family from Virginia into Greene County, Tennessee by 1790, most probably died in Greene County between 1800 and 1805. He is clearly deceased by February 1809, when Harrison Johnson, who is believed to be his son, was mentioned in the Greene County Court Minutes as the “Administrator of the Estate of Zopher Johnston, deceased”.

The known children of Zopher Johnston, the Patriarch of the Greene County District 12 Johnson families, and his first wife whose name is not known, include:

1. Zopher Johnston Senior, born c. 1762 Forks of Delaware Pennsylvania; died c. 1835 in Greene County, Tennessee. In the 1782 Frederick County, Virginia Tax List, Zopher Senior had two persons in his household. From this record, it would appear Zopher had recently married. Zopher and his young family arrived in Greene County, Tennessee with his Father about 1790. Zopher Senior was a Revolutionary War soldier who received a pension in Greene County in 1832. He is the only son of Zopher “The Elder” who remained in Greene County. Zopher Johnston Senior has a military marker at Kidwell Cemetery, although in reality, this may not be his final resting place. **For further information, please refer to the separate article on the Zopher Johnston Senior Family.**

ZOPHER JOHNSTON, THE PATRIARCH (Continued)

2. Moses, born c. 1750. In the 1782 Tax List of Frederick County, Virginia, Moses had six persons in his household. From this, we presume, Moses was somewhat older than his brother, Zopher. Another indication that Moses was born about 1750 is his daughter, Ruth, married in 1794. Moses was in Greene County through-out the 1790's and into the early 1800's. He is found in the Greene County Court Records appointed to juries and road construction. He is also found in the ledgers of Merchant, Robert Wyly. Moses is not in the 1809 Greene County Tax List. It appears Moses had moved to adjacent Hawkins County where he is named in a land deed. On 10-20-1813 a James Johnson purchased 200 acres of land adjacent to that of Moses Johnson. One witness to the deed was William Stapleton, a known intermarried family member. The relationship of James Johnson to Moses Johnson is not known.

Not all of the six family members in Moses' 1782 household have been identified. We know Moses had a daughter: **(1) Ruth**, who married Sylvanus Brown in Montgomery County, Virginia in 1794. Moses Johnston was the Bondsman for Ruth's marriage. Sylvanus and Ruth Johnston Brown arrived in Greene County, Tennessee about 1805. **For further information, please refer to the separate article on Sylvanus and Ruth Johnston Brown.** Moses is believed to have a son: **(2) Zopher**, born c. 1800 – 1809, who is in the 1830 Greene County Census with a young wife and two children. Living nearby was Zopher Johnston Senior (born c. 1762), and his son, Zopher Johnston Junior (born 1791). The 1830 Census is the only record where Zopher, son of Moses, appears in Greene County. Another son of Moses is believed to be: **(3) Moses Junior**, who married in Greene County, Tennessee on 3-23-1818 to Polly Weston. Neither of these sons, Zopher and Moses Junior are found in any Tax List or land deeds in Greene County. Another possible son is: **(4) James**, who purchased land in Hawkins County in 1813, adjacent to the land owned by Moses Johnson.

Research has not been performed on the records of adjacent Hawkins County, Tennessee; however, it is the opinion of this writer that the Family of Moses Johnston resided in Hawkins County by 1809 and thereafter.

3. Joseph. Joseph was named in his brother, Zopher Johnston Senior's, Revolutionary War Pension application. In 1832, Zopher Senior stated he had substituted in place of his brother, Joseph, in the Virginia Militia. By 1787, Joseph had left Frederick County, Virginia and was in Fauquier County, Virginia. Joseph also named a son, Zopher, born 6-30-1787. Joseph and his family never came to Greene County, Tennessee that is known. Joseph Johnson is in the Tax Lists of Fauquier County, Virginia for the years 1794-1799. In 1794, Joseph leased land from the heirs of John Carter. Joseph's son, Zopher, and a Thomas Newlon are mentioned in the lease. Joseph Johnston appears in the 1810 census of Fauquier County, Virginia. Only one of Joseph's children has been identified, and he is the son, **(1) Zopher**, born 6-30-1787. Zopher Johnson, married Elizabeth Romine in Loudoun County, Virginia on 8-16-1810. Elizabeth Romine was born in Loudoun County on 4-12-1789. By 1820, Zopher "of Joseph" and his family had migrated to Ohio where he is enumerated in the census of Licken County. On 4-4-1836, Zopher, purchased land in Prairie Township, Henry County, Indiana. Zopher and his wife, Elizabeth, are believed to have had nine children. These children are: **(i) John**, born 6-12-1811, who married Charlotte Stephenson. He took over the family farm in Henry County. **(ii) Hannah**, born 8-15-1812, who married George W. Evans; **(iii) Colwell**, born 1814, who married Margaret Caroline Collins; **(iv) Huldah**, born c. 1815, who married Aaron Sparks on 12-18-1831 in Wayne County, Indiana. By 1860 they lived in Wells County, Indiana, Rock Creek Township. Living in the 1860 household was Elizabeth Romine Johnson. **(v) Zopher**, born c. 1825, who married Elizabeth James; **(vi) Quincy A.**, born 3-16-1831; **(vii) Alvey**, born 1-5-1833, who married Fanny Kittsmiller; **(viii) George W.**, born 1836; and **(ix) Harrison R.**, born 1838.

Zopher Johnson "of Joseph" died in Indiana on 10-13-1844. Elizabeth Romine Johnson died on 11-27-1862. They are buried in the Lebanon Baptist Cemetery in Prairie Township, Henry County, Indiana. Fourteen descendants served with Indiana Regiments during the Civil War.

ZOPHER JOHNSTON, THE PATRIARCH

(Continued)

It is possible Joseph, son of Zopher Johnston “the Elder”, had other children who remain unidentified. Three men, who appear to be brothers, are found in the 1850 (and later) census records of DeKalb County, Indiana. These men are Zopher Abraham, Joseph and Rueben Johnson, who were born in Ohio. Recent DNA testing of a descendant of Zopher Abraham Johnson, born c. 1812-1818 in Ohio, confirms that this descendant is a near-perfect DNA match (36 out of 37 markers) to the Family of Zopher Johnston “the Elder” of Frederick County, Virginia and Greene County, Tennessee.

4. Possibly Pheby, born c. 1745. In the 1782 Tax List of Frederick County, Virginia, Zopher “the Elder”, had eight people in his household. His two sons, Moses and Zopher, resided in their separate household next door. Also residing next door was the Jotham Brown family. Jotham’s wife, Pheby, is believed by this writer to be a daughter of Zopher Johnston, the Patriarch of the Greene County families. Zopher “the Elder’s” son, Zopher Senior named a daughter, Phebe. In 1797 in Montgomery County, Virginia, Pheby, wife of Jotham Brown, identified eleven children as her legal heirs. Pheby and Jotham’s oldest daughter, Jane, was born about 1768. In the 1850 Greene County Census, Jane gave her place of birth as Virginia. This tells us three things about the Family of Jotham and Pheby (nee Johnston??) Brown: (1) Pheby, wife of Jotham Brown, was married about 1765. (2) Pheby’s year of birth can be estimated to about 1745; and (3) if Jane Brown Cooper was born in Virginia, then both the Jotham Brown Family and possibly the family of Zopher Johnston “the Elder” were in Virginia by 1768. Most of Pheby and Jotham Brown’s eleven children came to Greene County, Tennessee. **For information on Pheby (Johnston??) and Jotham Brown, please refer to the Jotham Brown Family.**

5. Others??? It is virtually certain that Zopher Johnston, the Patriarch of the Greene County District 12 families, named a son, John. This name carried forward in multiple generations of the Greene County, Tennessee family and in the Indiana branch. John, a son of Zopher, was *possibly* in Greene County in 1796. A John Johnson appears with 200 acres of land in the 1796 Tax List of Captain Joseph Gist. There is also an Abner Johnson, poll only, in this list. This is the same tax list where Zopher “the Elder”, and his known sons, Zopher Senior and Moses, are listed. In the 1797 Tax List, both John and Abner Johnson are gone, but in their place is a William Johnson who now owned 200 acres of land. In the 1798 Tax List William Johnson is now gone, but Abner Johnson has returned and he now owned 200 acres of land. The 1798 Tax List is the last time John, William or Abner Johnson appear in this area of Greene County. This gives rise to the possibility that more sons and/or grandsons of Zopher “The Elder” were also in Greene County, Tennessee; however, they did not remain in Greene County after 1808.

It is believed that Zopher Johnston’s first wife, whose name is not known, died before 1780, and Zopher remarried to Catherine Harrison. James Harrison with seven household members lived in the same 1782 Tax District where the Zopher Johnston Family lived in Frederick County, Virginia. There is only one known child by Zopher “The Elder” and his second wife, Catherine Harrison:

6. Harrison, born 6-18-1780. Harrison Johnston is named in the Greene County Court Minutes in February 1809. He was identified as the Administrator of the Estate of “Zopher Johnston, deceased”. In 1805, Harrison is the only one of the Johnston family members who was in the 1805 Tax List. It is probable Zopher “the Elder” was dead by 1805; and Zopher’s second wife and widow, Catherine Harrison Johnston, and her son, Harrison, were the “legal” owners of the farm in 1805. February 1809 is the last time Harrison Johnston can be documented in Greene County, Tennessee. He is not in the 1809 Greene County Tax List or in any list thereafter. He is also not found in the Marriage records. Harrison and his mother, Catherine Harrison Johnston migrated to western Tennessee, settling in Madison County. Once in Madison County, the surname became “Johnson”. Both Harrison and his Mother are buried in the Johnson Family Cemetery on their farm. Catherine, born 9-13-1753, died on 5-22-1834. On Harrison’s tombstone, he is identified as the son of Zopher and Catherine Johnson. Harrison died on 6-3-1857. A picture of their tombstones is at the website, www.johnsonfamilyhistory.org. As of this writing, descendants of Harrison Johnston are not participating in the DNA Project.

ZOPHER JOHNSTON, THE PATRIARCH (Continued)

It is the opinion of this writer that the 1809 court minutes referencing the Estate of Zopher Johnston, deceased, was the official division of Zopher “the Elder’s” property among his heirs. In the 1809 Greene County Tax List, Zopher “the Elder’s” son Zopher Johnston Senior is shown for the first time with the 189 acre farm located at the Roaring Fork of Lick Creek. The Roaring Fork farm would pass to Zopher Senior’s sons, John and Joseph, and later to his grandson, Landon Carter Johnson.

By 1809, neither Moses Johnston nor Harrison Johnston are in Greene County, Tennessee. Only Zopher Johnston Senior, Revolutionary War Soldier, remained in Greene County after 1809. Thus, the men who consistently appear in the District 12 Tax Lists of Greene County are the sons of Zopher Johnston Senior.

The name of “Zopher Johns(t)on” was passed down, generation-to-generation, for over two hundred years. This name appears in Virginia, Tennessee, Illinois and Indiana. DNA testing of male descendants confirms all branches are related. A timeline of men named Zopher Johns(t)on and where they lived follows.

ZOPHER JOHNSTON/JOHNSON TIMELINE

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|------------|---|
| 1730 | Zopher (The “Elder”) and John Johnston found in Philadelphia County, PA “settled ten years”. |
| 1761 | Zopher (The “Elder”) and John Johnston found in 1761 Allen Township, Northampton Co. PA Tax List: (“Soper” = 6 in his household and John = 5 in his household). |
| c. 1762 | Zopher Johnston Sr., son of “The Elder”, is born at “Forks of Delaware”, Northampton County, PA (Source: Revolutionary War Pension papers of Zopher Senior). |
| 1781 | Zopher Johnston Senior lives “near Winchester” in Frederick County, VA (Revolutionary War Pension papers of Zopher Senior). |
| 1782 | Zopher Johnston “the Elder” and his sons, Zopher Sr. and Moses, are in the Tax List of Frederick County, VA along with the Family of Jotham Brown. Their names have been transcribed in error as “Topper” Senior (“the Elder”) = 8 in his household; Moses = 6 in his household and “Topper” Junior (Zopher Senior) = 2 in his household. |
| 1787 | A “Zefue” Johnston is in the 1787 Tax List of Berkeley County, West Virginia. |
| 6-30-1787 | Zopher, son of Joseph Johnston who is another son of Zopher “The Elder”, is born in Fauquier County, Virginia. |
| 11-17-1790 | Zopher Johnston “The Elder” purchases a Land Grant from North Carolina for 100 acres of land in what will become Greene County, Tennessee. |
| 1790 | Zopher Johnston Junior, son of Zopher Senior, son of Zopher “the Elder” is the first son born in Greene County, Tennessee |
| 1791 | Zopher “The Elder” and his sons Zopher Sr. and Moses are in the Tax List of Greene County. |

ZOPHER JOHNSTON/JOHNSON TIMELINE

(Continued)

- 1790's+ Zopher "the Elder" (b.c. 1710) and/or Zopher Senior (b. c. 1762 PA) buy and sell land in Greene County and are consistently in the annual Tax Lists:
- 11-17-1790**, Grant #318: 100 acres from North Carolina. The land is adjacent to William Hannah and Daniel Britton, who live on or near the Roaring Fork of Lick Creek in north Greene County, Tennessee.
- 11-17-1790**, Grant #576: 100 acres, same as above. This grant may be a duplicate recording of the 1790 grant from North Carolina??
- Nov 1793**: Zopher sells 100 acres on Lick Creek to Wm. Stanbury
- 2-6-1795**: Zopher buys 200 acres on Little Chucky from Tho. McMeans
- 8-8-1795**: Grant #1336: 100 acres Little Chucky at Pigeon Creek, adjacent to Frederick Hale and Henry Dunham (Dunham's Fork is in the northern area of Greene County, in or near District 12).
- 9-13-1806**: Zopher sells 200 acres to Jacob Messiner, land on Limestone Fork of Little Chucky, originally granted to Thomas McMeans in 1793.
- 9-31-1806**: Zopher sells 100 acres to Jacob Messiner, land on Little Chucky and Pigeon Creek, originally granted to Zopher Johnson on NC Grant #1336 dated 1795, land being adjacent to Frederick Hale and Henry Dunham.
- 10-23-1809**: Zopher sells 200 acres to David Brown (son of Old Jotham Brown), land being on Roaring Fork of Lick Creek, adjacent to David Hughes.
- 10-24-1809**: Zopher sells 300 acres to John Johnston (his son), no description of the location is indicated, adjacent to John Gass. (This would be the Roaring Fork of Lick Creek area. John Gass shares a conditional line with Christopher Cooper Senior's 1803 property.)
- 3-20-1816**: John Johnson sells to Zopher Johnson **83 acres** located on Roaring Fork of Lick Creek, adjacent to David Brown. (John is a son of Zopher Senior)
- 1816** (day and month not stated): David Brown sells **106 acres** to Zopher Johnson (who could be either Senior or Junior) land located on Roaring Fork of Lick Creek.
- The two land sales in 1816 for 83 acres and 106 acres totals to the **189 acre** farm on Roaring Fork of Lick Creek. From 1809, Zopher Johnston Senior is shown consistently in the annual Tax Lists of Greene County owning the **189 acre** farm on Roaring Fork of Lick Creek. In 1836 when the Civil Districts are created, this area is included in District 12.
- In later years, after the death of Zopher Johnston Senior, his sons, John and Joseph, are consistently in the annual tax lists, each owning 94 acres of land. Each brother holds half of the original 189 acre farm.
- 1794 Joseph Johnson, son of Zopher "The Elder", is found in the tax list in Fauquier County, Virginia. Joseph's year of death is not presently known.
- 1796 A Zopher Johnson is found in Hanover Township, Northhampton County, Pennsylvania. He was one of the first settlers who established the Township. This Zopher is believed to be a descendant of Zopher "the Elder's" brother, John, who apparently remained in Pennsylvania.
- 1799 Zopher Johnston Senior and his brother Moses are listed in an estate inventory as owing debts to the estate of Robert Wyly, a Greene County merchant.

ZOPHER JOHNSTON/JOHNSON TIMELINE

(Continued)

- 1801-04 Tax Years for Greene County, Tennessee no longer exist.
- 1805 The 1805 Tax List of Greene County lists ONLY a Harrison Johnston. Harrison is believed to be a son of Zopher “the Elder” by “the Elder’s” second wife, Catherine Harrison. Neither Zopher “the Elder” nor his sons Zopher Senior and Moses are named in this 1805 Tax List.
- It is the **opinion** of this writer that Zopher Johnston “the Elder” died intestate before 1805. His widow, Catherine Harrison Johnson, and her son, Harrison Johnson (born 6-18-1780), are temporarily in “legal” possession of the land.
- 1806-08 Tax Years for Greene County, Tennessee no longer exist.
- Feb 1809 Harrison Johnson, administrator of Zopher Johnston, deceased, is documented in the Greene County Court Minutes. Unfortunately, the actual Court Case has not been found in the microfilm records of previous or subsequent Minutes.
- It is the **opinion** of this writer that the February 1809 petition is by the heirs to partition the lands of Zopher Johnston “the Elder”.
- 1809 Zopher Johnson Sr is in the Tax List of Greene County, TN. Neither Moses Johnston, Zopher “the Elder” nor Harrison Johnston are in the 1809 Greene County tax roster for 1809 and thereafter. (Moses Johnston **possibly** resides in adjacent Hawkins County, Tennessee.)
- It is the **opinion** of this writer that after the petitioning by the heirs of Zopher Johnston “the Elder” to divide-up the land and assets of their father, that Zopher Johnson Sr. receives his share of the Roaring Fork Farm. The son, Moses Johnston, then moves into nearby Hawkins County, and the son, Harrison Johnston, and his widowed Mother, Catherine Harrison Johnston, migrate into western Tennessee settling in Madison County.
- 2-7-1809 John Johnston, son of Zopher Johnston Senior, marries “Caty” (Catherine) McKahen in Greene County, bond by John Graham.
- 1809-1817 Zopher Senior, son of Zopher “the Elder”, is consistently shown in the annual Greene County Tax Lists owning 189 acres on Roaring Fork of Lick Creek.
- 1810 Zopher, son of Joseph Johnston, a son of Zopher “the Elder”, marries Elizabeth Romine in Loudoun County, Virginia.
- 12-18-1816 Joseph Johnston, a son of Zopher Johnston Senior, marries Elizabeth Cooper (daughter of Christopher and Jane Brown Cooper) in Greene County, Tennessee bond by William A. Hankins.
- 1-18-1817 Zopher Johnston Junior, a son of Zopher Johnston Senior, marries Phebe Cooper (daughter of Christopher and Jane Brown Cooper) in Greene County, bond by William A. Hankins.
- 1820 Zopher, son of Joseph Johnston, is in the 1820 census of Hanover Township, Licken County, Ohio with his wife, Elizabeth Romine.

ZOPHER JOHNSTON/JOHNSON TIMELINE

(Continued)

- 1830 Harrison Johnson and his mother, Catherine Harrison Johnson, are in the census of Madison County, Tennessee. There is no marriage in Greene County for Harrison. A son is born in 1814 hence the migration to western Tennessee must have taken place at least by 1813. Both Harrison, his mother, and several of Harrison's children are buried in the Johnson Cemetery in Madison County. Harrison was born 6-18-1780 and died 6-3-1857. The 2nd wife of Zopher "the Elder", Catherine Harrison Johnson died in 1834.
- 1830 In the 1830 Census of Greene County, Tennessee there are three Zopher/Zepher Johnstons:
(1) Zopher, age 60-70 (born between 1760-1770). This is Zopher Senior, born c. 1762 on Forks of Delaware, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, a Revolutionary War Soldier.
(2) Zepher Johnston, age 30-40 (born between 1790 and 1800). This is the son, Zopher Junior, born 1790 in Greene County, Tennessee, who later migrated to Hamilton County, Illinois with his family in 1853.
(3) Zepher Johnston, age 20-30 (born 1800-1810). He is believed to be a son of Moses Johnston. This is the only time he ever appears in any Greene County records.
- 1832 Zopher Johnston Senior, Revolutionary War Soldier, files for a Pension in Greene County, Tennessee, receiving an annual sum of \$20.
- 1836 The Comprehensive Civil Districts List is drawn-up for Greene County, TN. Every male "of age", whether a land owner or not, is enumerated in this Listing. Zopher Johnston Senior, Revolutionary War Soldier, is not included in this listing, and thus is presumed to have died. Zopher Senior's three sons, John, Joseph and Zopher are all listed in District 12. This area encompasses the area of Roaring Fork of Lick Creek, which is approximately three miles due north of the Town of Greeneville.
- 4-4-1836 Zopher, son of Joseph Johnston, son of Zopher "the Elder", has left Ohio and buys land in Prairie Township, Henry County, Indiana.
- 1840 Zopher Johnston Senior's sons, John, Joseph and Zopher Johnson Junior, are in the 1840 census of Greene County, Tennessee. They are the only men with the surname of Johnston/Johnson who live in District 12.
- 10-13-1844 Zopher Johnson, son of Joseph Johnston, son of Zopher "The Elder", dies in Henry County, Indiana.
- 10-23-1845 Zopher Johnson Junior's son, Christopher Cooper Johnson, names a son, Zopher Alexander Johnson, who is born in Greene County, Tennessee.
- Sept. 1850 John Foster sells 103 acres of land in Greene County, Tennessee to his Uncle Zopher Johnson Junior. The migration of the Foster family out of Greene County, Tennessee into Harrison County, Missouri occurs before the end of the tax year of 1851.

ZOPHER JOHNSTON/JOHNSON TIMELINE

(Continued)

- 1850 The three sons of Zopher Johnston Senior, John (born c. 1788 VA), Zopher Junior (born 1790 TN) and Joseph (born c. 1792 TN) are in the Greene County, Tennessee census. John and Joseph resided side-by-side on the Roaring Fork farm. Zopher Junior is nearby.
- 1850 Three men who appear to be part of the Zopher Family are enumerated in the 1850 census of DeKalb County, Indiana, residing side-by-side:
“Zophar” Johnson, born c. 1819 Ohio and wife Azuba
Joseph Johnson, born c. 1817 Ohio and wife Elizabeth
Reuben Johnson, born c. 1820 Pennsylvania and wife Olive
(Refer to the 1860 Census of DeKalb County, Indiana).
- DNA testing of a descendant of Zopher and Azuba confirms his relationship to Zopher “the Elder’s” Greene County, Tennessee Family.
- 9-1-1851 Zopher Johnson Junior’s son, John Henderson Johnson, names a son Zopher, who is born in Greene County, Tennessee.
- Oct. 1852 Zopher Johnson Junior sells 103 acres of land in Greene County, Tennessee to Cornelius Hardin. This is the Foster land purchased by Zopher Junior in September 1850 from the son of Robert and Mercy Johnston Foster. The Roaring Fork of Lick Creek area is today called the Hardin’s Chapel Community.
- Sept. 1853 Zopher Johnson Junior sells his remaining 50 acres of land to Lemuel K. Cox, an intermarried family relative. This 50-acres of land in District 12, may be the same two, 25-acre tracts of land originally owned by Robert and Mercy Johnston Foster and transferred by deed to the Foster heirs in 1845.
- Dec. 1853 Zopher Johnson Junior and his son, Christopher Cooper Johnson, buy adjacent tracts of land in Hamilton County, Illinois.
- 1851-59 The sons of brothers, John and Joseph Johnson, migrate to northern Missouri, settling in the adjacent counties of Sullivan, Grundy and Harrison counties. Only one Johnson son remains in Greeneville, Tennessee and he is Landon Carter Johnson, born 8-21-1819; died 1-11-1880, buried at Cross Anchor Cemetery.
- 1860 Two members of Zopher Johnston Senior’s Family remain in Greene County, Tennessee. They are Landon Carter Johnson, a son of John; and Cornelius Johnson, a grandson of John. Cornelius Johnson is enumerated in the household of Lemuel K. Cox. (Refer to the September 1853 land sale to Lemuel K. Cox.)
- 1860 Census of Dekalb County, Indiana: Zophar and wife, Azuba; Reuben and wife, Olive, still live next to each other in Dekalb County, Indiana. The third brother Joseph is no longer in Dekalb County by 1860. The parents of these three men are not as yet identified. These men could be descendants of either Zopher “the Elder”, by a son who has not as yet been identified, or Zopher “the Elder’s” brother, John of Pennsylvania. (See the 1880 census for Rueben Johnson.)

ZOPHER JOHNSTON/JOHNSON TIMELINE

(Continued)

- 1860 Zopher Johnson Junior and his sons, Christopher Cooper Johnson and John Henderson Johnson, are in the 1860 census of Hamilton County, Illinois.
- 1861 Zopher Evans Johnson, grandson of Zopher of Indiana is born in Henry County, Indiana.
- 1861 Zopher Junior's son, Christopher Cooper Johnson, joins IL 40th Co. A. He dies in Memphis, Tennessee in the fall of 1862.
- 1861-64 Grandsons of Zopher of Indiana join Civil War units in Indiana. Several died during service.
- 1864 Zopher Alexander Johnson, grandson of Zopher Junior joins Civil War unit 13th IL Cavalry. He survives the War, but dies a premature death from illness contracted during the War.
- 1860-70 Zopher Alexander Johnson (born 1845), a son of Christopher Cooper Johnson, and Zopher Johnson (born 1851) a son of Dr. John Henderson Johnson, marry and raise their families in Hamilton and Franklin counties, Illinois.
- 1866 Zopher Johnston Junior, born in 1790 Greene County, Tennessee dies in Hamilton County, Illinois and is believed to be buried near an apple orchard on his farm.
- 1870 The sole surviving son, John Henderson Johnson (born 1829 TN), of Zopher Johnston Junior, is enumerated in the 1870 census of Franklin County, Illinois. He lives to be almost 90 years of age.
- 1870 Zopher and Azuba Johnson are enumerated in the 1870 census of Lagrange County, Indiana. This census gives Zopher's age as 52, born c. 1818, in Ohio.
- 1870 Reuben, presumed brother of Zopher (h/o Azuba), is no longer in Indiana. (See the 1880 census. Rueben appears to be in Michigan by 1869)
- 1880 Zopher Johnson, born c. 1812-18 Ohio, the husband of Azuba has died. His widow, Azuba, is still living in Lagrange County, Indiana, with a niece, Icie Johnson, age 11, born Michigan.
- 1880 Rueben Johnson, born c. 1820 in Pennsylvania, (presumed brother of Zopher, born c. 1818 Ohio) and Rueben's wife, Olive, and one son, John A. (born c. 1854 Indiana) are living in Lee County, Michigan. In the 1880 census, Rueben Johnson states his father was born in Virginia and his mother was born in Pennsylvania.
- 1880 Z. (Zopher) A. (Alexander) Johnson, age 35, (born 10-23-1845), a son of Christopher Cooper Johnson, and grandson of Zopher Johnson Junior (1790 – 1866) is living in Hamilton County, Illinois with his family.
- 1880 Zopher Johnson, age 29 (born 9-1-1851), a son of Dr. John Henderson Johnson, and grandson of Zopher Johnson Junior (1790-1866) is living in Hamilton County, Illinois with his family.

ZOPHER JOHNSTON/JOHNSON TIMELINE

(Continued)

- 1-4-1887 Zopher Alexander Johnson, a son of Christopher Cooper Johnson , and grandson of Zopher Johnson Junior (1790 TN – 1866 IL), and great-grandson of Zopher Senior (c.1762 PA – c.1835 TN), and great-great-grandson of Zopher “the Elder” (c. 1710 – c. 1800 TN) dies in Illinois. Zopher Alexander Johnson is buried at the ME Church Cemetery in Macedonia, Illinois with his wife and all of their children.
- 6-20-1919 Dr. John Henderson Johnson, sole surviving son of Zopher Johnson Junior (1790-1866) dies in Illinois and is buried at the ME Church cemetery in Macedonia, Franklin County, Illinois. Many members of his family are also buried in this cemetery.
- 3-27-1932 Zopher Johnson, a son of Dr. John Henderson Johnson (1829 TN – 1919 IL), and grandson of Zopher Johnson Junior (1790 TN – 1866 IL), and great-grandson of Zopher Senior (c. 1762 PA – c. 1835 TN), and great-great-grandson of Zopher “the Elder” (c. 1710 – c. 1800 TN) dies in Illinois. Zopher Johnson is buried at the ME Church Cemetery in Macedonia in Franklin County, Illinois.

----- **THUS ENDING THE NAME OF ZOPHER JOHNSTON** -----

POSTSCRIPT:

Y-DNA testing of male Johnson descendants confirms the following branches share the same DNA:

ILLINOIS:

Zopher Johns(t)on Junior (1790 TN – 1866 IL), a son of Zopher Johnston Senior (c. 1762 PA – c. 1835 TN), a son of Zopher Johnston “the Elder”:

Three descendants have been tested. Two descend from Christopher Cooper Johnson (c. 1822 – 1862) and one descends from John Henderson Johnson (1829-1919):

THE DNA OF ALL THREE DESCENDANTS IS IDENTICAL. THE ILLINOIS BRANCH HAS A MUTATION IN MARKER NUMBER 15.

INDIANA:

Zopher Johnson (1787 VA – 1844 IN), a son of Joseph Johnston, a son of Zopher Johnston “the Elder”, the Henry County, Indiana Branch:

THREE DESCENDANTS HAVE BEEN TESTED. ONE DESCENDANT SHOWS A VERY RECENT MUTATION IN MARKER NUMBER 32.

Zopher, Joseph, and Rueben Johnson, who are believed to be brothers, whose line of descent is not yet known, the DeKalb County, Indiana Branch:

DNA TESTING OF ONE DESCENDANT OF THE DEKALB COUNTY, INDIANA BRANCH SHOWS ONE MUTATION IN MARKER NUMBER 35.

ZOPHER JOHNSTON/JOHNSON TIMELINE

(Continued)

POSTSCRIPT CONTINUED:

MISSOURI:

Two descendants of John Johns(t)on (c. 1788 VA – 1855 TN), a son of Zopher Johnston Senior, have been tested. One participant descends from John's son, James Johnson (1812 TN – 1899 MO). One participant descends from John's son, John Jackson Johnson (1821 TN – 1898 MO):

DNA TESTING SHOWS THE DESCENDANT OF JAMES JOHNSON HAS ONE MUTATION IN MARKER NUMBER 21. THE DESCENDANT OF JOHN JACKSON JOHNSON HAS ONE MUTATION IN MARKER NUMBER 35.

TENNESSEE:

As of this writing, no descendants of the branches who remained in Tennessee are participating in the DNA project.

For detailed information and the DNA Markers, please refer to Appendix 2.