

# **Moses Johnson (1749-1840) of Virginia, Kentucky & Illinois**

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 1988

14 November 1988

Roland Bauer  
#22 Briarcliff  
Collinsville, IL 62234

Dear Mr. Bauer:

Here is my report on my research on Moses Johnson. In the enclosed article I tried to synthesize all that is known on Moses Johnson, which included notes from your research, as well as my research and that of several other researchers. I thought we might use the article, if you don't mind, in the Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy and Records, the publication of the Society of Kentucky Pioneers. You would be eligible for membership in this organization by virtue of Moses Johnson having been a resident of Kentucky before 1800. I checked what Virginia sources we had here in Owensboro but could find nothing new on Moses Johnson or on his parentage. However, I believe I have several findings to report on the family of Moses Johnson.

I have the names of three other serious researchers of Moses Johnson: 1. Neil & Loreda Gallagher of Olney, Ill. I do not have their complete address but believe you can get it from either of the next two researchers. Several years ago I talked to this very nice couple at the Owensboro, Ky. Library, they are descendants of Moses Johnson through his daughter, Amelia wife of Henry Taylor. 2. Walter Kingsley Taylor, PH.D., 2415 Baxter Court, Winter Park, Florida 32792. In 1984 he published (by McDowell Publications, Utica, Ky.) a book on the Taylor family which intermarried with the Moses Johnson family. Several pages from this book are enclosed. 3. Marilyn A. Bone, 14002 Woodland Ridge, Baton Rouge, La 70816. Enclosed is a copy of a letter I sent her on the Davis-Taylor families. She is a descendant of Moses Johnson through his daughter, Amelia wife of Henry Taylor. I included this because your letter seemed to suggest you also were a descendant of Henry Taylor & Amelia Johnson.

I am also presently researching another Virginia Johnson family, that of U.S. Vice-President, Richard Mentor Johnson (1780-1850). While looking for this family I will continue to keep an eye open for Moses Johnson. I will ask \$70.00 for my research time and copying expenses (total of 15 hours x rate of \$4.50/hr = \$67.50 plus \$3.50 for the enclosed copies).

Thank you for contacting me and if I can be of any more help just drop a line. Happy hunting.

Yours truly,  
Jerry Long

1701 Alexander Avenue  
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6 Nov 1988

Dear Jerry,

I am delighted with your work. I have read it over several times, trying to digest all of what you sent. Thanks for sending me the names of the other Johnson researchers. I had talked to the - Gallaghers about 7-8 years ago but had lost contact with them. Walter Taylor contacted me several years ago but only wanted info and didn't want to give any. He didn't even thank for all the things I sent him so I wrote him off as not worth dealing with.

Yes we are descended from Henry Taylor and Amelia Johnson. But I thought our Henry 1770-1845 was from Southampton Co., Va. This came from Dr. Kenneth H. Taylor of Noble, IL (near Olney) and Celia Archibald Brooks of Wayne Co., IL . Both are now dead. The 1845 Will is of our Henry. I guess I need to hunt further on this.

Nov 28th

Our Henry Taylor was born in 1770 which is also shown on pages 184 & 185 of MOSES JOHNSON LINEAGE but on page 5 of the article you sent that starts "the families of Owen Davis and his wife Nancy Taylor Henry (s/o Philip) was born about 1782 and married Amelia Johnson. Would you give me your opinion on this? Several years ago I submitted my wife application for the DAR on the Taylor line using the 1770 Henry from Southampton Va. and it was approved. Regardless I would like to know which is correct. She was also approved for Moses so I guess it won't make a lot of difference except for the personal satisfaction of knowing. If the Va. line is incorrect Kenneth T. Will be spinning in his grave as he considered himself to be an expert gen. on the Taylor line.

Amelia Johnson and Henry Taylor had a dau. Celia Taylor (1808-1869) who married Charles Archibald (1805-1858). Their son was Charles Greenville, who was our ancestor. Can you find anything on this family land records etc. Charles' parents are thought to be Thomas and Christine. Is there any proof?

I am going to Salt Lake on Dec 10th, so will you please let me know if you think there is anything in particular that I should look for!

Talked to Lorena C. last night and I am going to Olney to compare notes as soon as I can but doubt if it will be before Christmas.

I have ordered Walter Taylor book on interlibrary loan, so I can read the whole book.

Thanks again,  
Roland Bauer

22 Briarcliff  
Collinsville, IL 62234

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2 December 1988

Roland Bauer  
22 Briarcliff  
Collinsville, Il 62234

Dear Mr. Bauer:

After reviewing my Taylor notes I am still of the opinion that Henry Taylor, who married Amelia Johnson in 1804, was the Henry who was a son of Phillip Taylor, and that he was born about 1780-1782. My reasons are essentially as I explained on the page numbered 5 in the notes I sent you. According to an 1834 Daviess County, Ky. Circuit Court suit Phillip Taylor's son, Henry, was then living. In the yearly tax lists and the census records two Henry Taylors appear. One was Henry B. Taylor, born 1787, son of Benjamin, & married Ruth Hedges in 1809. Since Henry Taylor, who married Amelia Johnson, is the only other Henry in the county records it would appear that he would have to be the son of Phillip. They resided near each other, frequently appear on the same documents, and members of the Johnson family and of the Phillip Taylor family married into the same families.

I estimated that Henry Taylor, son of Phillip, was born about 1780-1782 based on the fact that he was first listed in the tax lists of Ohio County, Ky. in 1803. Since Phillip Taylor had lived in the area since about 1785 I assumed that his son, Henry, when he first appeared in the tax records was because he had recently attained the age of 21 and not because he had just moved to the county. I do not believe that Henry Taylor was born as early as 1770, as was cited in the Walter Taylor book. Do you know the source for this date? Was it on his tombstone? Even if it is engraved in stone it may not necessarily be correct. Do you know why Kenneth R. Taylor linked Henry Taylor to Southampton County, Va? Did he have Henry Taylor as a son of Phillip Taylor?

Good luck with your research and happy hunting.

Yours truly,  
Jerry Long  
1701 Alexander Ave.  
Owensboro, KY 42301

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Moses Johnson was born about 1749 in Virginia, based on his Revolutionary War pension application. In official records his name is spelled both Johnson and Johnston. At the time of the Revolution he resided in Frederick County, Va. At Winchester, Frederick County, Va. in 1777 he enlisted for one year in the company of Alexander Morgan, a unit of the 2nd Virginia Regiment under the command of Col. Alexander Spotswood. Upon the end of this term he reenlisted for another three years. In 1780 he hired a substitute, Henry Parrish, to serve for him, and he was discharged as a private by General Woodford at Newark, New Jersey in 1780.

Based on the births of his children Moses Johnson was married about 1780. A deed recorded in 1819 in Ohio County, Ky. indicated that his wife, at that time was named "Jane". On a 1782 list of tithables in Frederick County, Va. returned by Thomas Throckmorton, Moses Johnson appeared. He was listed as having five white persons in his household. Six white persons were listed in the household of Moses Johnston on a list by Colonel Holmes returned in Frederick County, Va. in 1785. On this list his name followed that of Topper Johnson Sr. & Jr.

In Jillson's Kentucky Land Grants, South of the Green River, is listed a grant of 100 acres to Moses Johnston. It was issued by virtue of military warrant #956 on 20 June 1783 for his three years service in the Virginia Line. Between 1796-1799 Moses Johnson moved to Kentucky. On 19 November 1795 a daughter, Mariam, was born in Virginia and about 1796 another daughter, Celia, was born in Virginia. On 5 February 1799 his youngest child, Moses Jr., was born in Kentucky. Moses Jr. was possibly born in Logan County, Ky. Moses Johnson, his father, was listed in the 1799 tax list of Logan County, Ky. The tax book for Logan County for the preceding year is missing and in the years 1792-1797 Moses Johnson was not listed there. He resided in Logan County, Ky. until about 1803. While living there his daughter, Siby, was married in that county to William Hughes on 27 April 1800.

In the 1799 Logan County, Ky. tax list Moses Johnston was shown as being taxed on 200 acres on the waters of Green River; in the same record the tract was listed as having been originally surveyed & patented in the name of David Elms. In the 1802 Logan County tax list the 200 acre tract was recorded as having been surveyed & patented in the name of Moses Johnson. Moses Johnson appeared in the 1799, 1800, 1801 & 1802 tax lists of Logan County, Ky.; in 1803 his name disappeared from the tax books there.

Between 1802-1804 Moses Johnson moved his family to Ohio County, Ky. He was first listed in the Ohio County tax books in 1804, in the same year his oldest son, Marcus, was also first listed there. In the Ohio County tax records Moses Johnson is first shown as being taxed on land in 1809, when he was assessed on 100 acres on Highland Creek in Henderson County, Ky. This tract was shown as being a "military grant" and as having been originally issued in the name of Moses Johnston. Subsequent tax lists indicate this land was situated in the part of Henderson

County which became part of the new county of Union County, Ky. in 1811. He was shown as being taxed on this tract in the 1809-1814 Ohio County, Ky. tax lists; in 1815 & afterwards he is not listed with this tract.

In the 1811 tax list of Ohio County, Ky. Moses Johnson was first taxed on a tract of 220 acres on Lewis Creek in Ohio County, which runs north of the Green River in the southwestern part of the county. He is shown as being taxed on this same 220 acres through the year 1822, the year he is last listed in the Ohio County tax books. No deed could be found in the Ohio County deed books whereby Moses Johnson bought or sold this land. In some cases a deed was not recorded until years after an original purchase agreement, often times someone would sign his note agreeing to purchase land but no deed was recorded until the purchase agreement had been made. The tax records show that this tract was originally surveyed & patented in the name of Joseph Barnett and was first granted to John Adair. Barnett was an early surveyor of Ohio County, he died intestate, and after years of court litigations his heirs reclaimed many of the lands which he had owned and which were subsequently sold off by court appointed commissioners. Due to this court action and other litigations many honest and hardworking farmers of Ohio County lost their homesteads, especially during the 1820's; in many cases after they had lived on the land for many years & made extensive improvements. Possibly Moses Johnson may have suffered this same plight.

Moses Johnson was enumerated in the 1810 & 1820 censuses and in the 1804 through the 1822 tax lists of Ohio County, Ky. In the 1810 census seven persons were listed in his household: 1 male 10-16, 1 male over 45, 1 female 10-16, 3 females 16-26 & 1 female over 45. In the 1820 census three persons were shown in his household: 1 male 16-26, 1 male & 1 female over 45, they were most likely Moses, his wife Jane, & his youngest son, Moses. The families listed near Moses Johnson in the 1820 census suggest he was living in the southwestern area of Ohio County, in the vicinity of the present town of Centertown.

In Ohio County, Ky. deed book AA, p.500 the following document by Moses Johnston was recorded in 1812: "Whereas I did sometime back charge George Render with false swearing on the trial of a cause then depending between the said Render and myself before William Rogers, Esqr. and when I made the charge I did fully believe it to be correct and true but on reflection and being better informed of all the circumstances I feel free to confess that I was mistaken and hereby to every intent and purpose retract what I then said of said Render. Given under my hand and seal this 8th day of April 1812." Moses Johnston; witnesses J. crow & William Rogers.

On 22 September 1818 Moses Johnson purchased lot #56 in the town of Hartford, the county seat of Ohio County, Ky., from William L. & Sarah Barnard for \$50 (Ohio County Ky. deed book D, p.510); no deed was found whereby Moses Johnson transferred this same lot. He purchased another lot in Hartford on 6 February 1819, paying Jesse Cravens \$48 for it. On the

same day Moses Johnson & his wife Jane sold the same lot to Walker & Murray for \$50 (Ohio County, KY. deed book E, pp.46-47).

While residing in Ohio County, Ky. Moses Johnson applied for and was granted a pension for his service in the Revolutionary War. In the 1896 Yearbook of the Kentucky Society Sons of the American Revolution Moses Johnson is one of eight Ohio Countians who were granted a pension under the act of 18 March 1818, the others being Peter Brandon, William Cooper, William Campbell, John Howell, Robert Mosely, Thomas Pender and Peter Parks. In February 1820 he was granted a pension of \$8 per month, being retroactive to 13 July 1818. In a document dated September 1814 one of his former commanders Marquis Calmes attested to his service. Marquis Calms may have been related to Moses Johnson, possibly his brother-in-law & possibly a son of a Marquis Calmes, who in 1744 was a Justice in Frederick County, Va. Moses Johnson named his oldest son Marcus.

In an affidavit, dated November 1820, in the pension file of Moses Johnson (#S36024 Va), Moses Johnson made the following statements: "he is 71 years old, a farmer, but unable to work owing to age and a rupture in his abdomen"... he had two children living with him and his wife, who "is about sixty-six or seven"... He served as "a private in the Calmeses Company, later in Captain Cattels Company, then in Francis Taylors Company in the 2d Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Spotswood, then by Colonel Frebecker of the Continental establishment." At this time he stated that his only property consisted of: One mare & colt-\$60, 4 cows & calves-\$40, 20 hogs-\$30, 5 head of sheep-\$10, & 1 still-\$30, total value of \$179.

Moses Johnson and his wife Jane most likely accompanied their youngest child, Moses Jr., when he left Ohio County, Ky. and moved to the southeastern section of Illinois between 1822 & 1824. Moses Johnson Sr. & Jr. were both last listed in the tax records of Ohio County, Ky. in 1822. By 30 March 1824 Moses Johnson Jr. was in Edwards County, Ill, where on that date he married Sarah Mason. Moses Johnson Jr. was listed in the 1830 census of Lawrence County, Ill., he would have then been 31 years old. Listed in his household was a male & a female, who were both listed as being 84 years of age, no doubt they were Moses & Jane Johnson Sr. In the Lawrence County, Ill. Circuit Court in May 1831 Moses Johnson Sr. signed a bond for his son, Moses Jr.

Prior to Moses Johnson Sr. move to Illinois at least two of his daughters families had already moved to the same area. William Hughs & John Clark (both son-in-laws of Moses Johnson) according to the Counties of Cumberland, Jasper and Richland Illinois, 1884, settled in the area in 1818. Several of the children of Moses Johnson remained in the Ohio-Daviess County area of Ky. for a while after their father had moved to Illinois. Eventually most of the living children of Moses Johnson moved to the Clay, Richland, Lawrence, Wayne & Edwards County area of Illinois, where there are many descendants today.

In June 1834 Moses Johnson requested that his pension payments be moved from Kentucky to Illinois because he "had moved to Illinois as he is old and infirm, his children live in Illinois live and he wishes them to take care of him, the remaining days of his life". Possibly in the prior decade his pension had been delivered to some of his children who had remained in Ohio County, Ky. Moses Johnson was listed as a Revolutionary War pensioner in the 1840 census of Clay County, Ill. Moses Johnson died in Clay County, Ill. on 31 October 1840. He was buried in the "Old Lost Cemetery" in Louisville, Clay County, Ill., a short distance southeast of the courthouse. The cemetery was called this because there are no stones or markers of any kind and it has been an open field for many years.

Moses Johnson's will was filed in Estate Papers Box 3-J, Clay County, Ill., Probate Clerk's Office. It read as follows:

I Moses Johnson being weak in body and in health but of sound mind I do heare make my last will and testamet before god amen, I do will to Sely Morgan my third daughter all of my house hold property seven head of cattle and one mare and what money I have coming to me from my pensin, I do will to Marcus Johnson eldest son one yoke of cattle, I do will John Clark one dollar, I do will William Hues one dollar, I do will John Trafford ten dollars, I do will Henry Tailor one dollar, I do will Jesse Lee one dollar, I do will Moses Johnson my youngest son one dollar, I do will to William Brown one dollar, I do will to Arnold Morgan one dollar, I here set my hand and seal this ninth thy of September eighteen hundred and forty, his mark (Moses Johnson. Witness - Robert Taler, James Russel. We do certify that the within will was duly proven on the 14th day of November of A,D. 1840 and was admitted to record on the same day, Samuel A. Stanford.

Moses Johnson referred to by name three of his children in his will and seven of his son-in-laws, two of whom had been married to his daughter, Mariam, Arnold Morgan having been divorced from her. The nine children of Moses Johnson were:

1. Siby/Sibba married William Hughs 23 April 1800 Logan County, Ky. Moved to Illinois in 1818.
2. Amelia/"Maley" born ca 1780 Va., married Henry Taylor 25 September 1804 Ohio County, Ky. Her husband died 1845 Richland County, Ill., in 1860 she was living the same county. Their children were: Nancy wife of Owen Davis, Celia wife of Charles Archibald, Philip, Johnson, Sutton & William Taylor.
3. Marcus born ca 1782 Va. The 1810 & 1820 Ohio County, Ky. censuses suggest he was first married about 1808. He married Susanna Brown 6 May 1818 Ohio County, Ky. He is listed in the Ohio County, Ky. tax lists from 1804 through 1827. In Richland County, Ill, he married Mrs. Elizabeth Day 22 October 1861. He died 3 May 1862 Edwards County,

Ill. His children included: Joseph, William, Marcus, James, Thompson Johnson, Margaret wife of Silas B. Baker, Nancy Johnson, Jane Martin, & Julia wife of Harrison L. Hedrick.

4. Susan married John Clark about 1810, moved to Illinois in 1818, & died by 1830.
5. Katy born 1784-1794, married John Trafford 8 March 1811 Ohio County, Ky.
6. Mariam born 19 November 1795 Va. Married Arnold Morgan 27 August 1812 Ohio County, Ky., they were divorced by 18 May 1826 when she married 2nd Jessee Lee 18 May 1826 Perry County, Ind., both of her husbands were named in her father's will. Moved to Lawrence County, Ill. ca 1831, she died 12 April 1843 Richland County, Ill.
7. Celia born ca 1796 Va., married Charles Morgan 7 September 1812 Ohio County, Ky. Her husband died in Ohio County, Ky. in 1834, during 1839-1850 she moved to Clay County, Ill. She served as the administratrix of her father's estate. Her children were: Amelia wife of George Brown, Celia Jane wife of John Brown, Mary wife of James Tanner, Elizabeth wife of John W. Atherton, & Delitha wife of John Robertson.
8. Elizabeth born 1784-1800, married William Brown 9 June 1818 Ohio County, Ky.
9. Moses born 5 February 1799 Ky., listed in the 1820-1822 tax lists of Ohio County, Ky. Married Sarah Mason 30 March 1824 Edwards County, Ill. Died 13 August 1849 Richland County, Ill., buried in the Johnson Cemetery in the same county. His children were: Mary wife of Francis Marion Archibald, Jane wife of Jacob Calhoun Williams, Elizabeth wife of A.H. Miller, Permelia wife of Jesse McGrath, Celia wife of Andrew Bleakley, Thomas Mason, Andrew Victor & Moses Johnson.

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