

## NORMAN HARRIS AND JULIA PRICILLA MORRIS JOHNSON

Norman's great-great grandfather, John Johnson, was a Revolutionary War soldier. D.A.R. records: John Johnson, b. 1757 - d. 1852. Discharged from the army 1780. He settled with his family after the war near Jackson Hill in Davidson County. John was given a land grant of 265 acres on Mores Road in Alleghany Township in 1786 (verified by Rowan County land grant records, Salisbury). He was the son of Abraham Johnson, and according to family information, came from Virginia.

John's will, dated Nov. 7, 1807 (Wills and Deeds, Rowan County, State of NC, page 148, probated 1888, page 101 and 102 B.G.) shows that he and his wife, Sarah, had 11 children. They were: William, Randal, Harris, John, Abraham (Abram), Willie, James (Jimmy), Lewis, Mary and Nancy. Sons Abraham and Randal were co-executors.

John's son, Abraham, left the area some time in the 1830's and settled in Mitchell County, North Carolina. He married Jane Kinney. They had 3 sons: Alfred, Wesley and Alex Harris, and three daughters: Frankie, Polly and Sally. Abraham was a blacksmith of renown and an "ironmaster". According to the Johnson records, Abraham was the first "rosemelter" in North Carolina. He worked near the Cranberry Iron Mine in Avery County, a mine that supplied considerable metal to the Confederate iron works during the Civil War. Abraham smelted the ore and made it into plow points, selling a load of his wares in Marion County after he was 100 years old. He died Oct. 18, 1881, age 106 and Jane died July 10, 1880, age 96. They are buried at Old Fork Mountain Cemetery, Vale, N.C. on the Toe River Road.

Another son of John Johnson, James (Jimmy), b. cir 1793, d. 8-2-1858, age 65 yrs. 8 mos. married Nancy Charity Skeen, b. 10-26-1792, d. 5-26-1860, age 67 yrs. 7 mos. They had 8 children: John, Pinkney, Alson, Pricilla (married Hansel Elliott), Adeline (married Rueben Elliott), Temperance - Tempie (married Stephen Adderton) and Allen Harris. They lived and died on his father's farm. Jimmy died from becoming overheated while threshing wheat. They are buried in the family cemetery - 2 to 3 hundred yards from the Johnson home. Jimmy was a member of the ME Church for 35 yrs. and Nancy was a member of the ME Church for 37 years. According to legend, Jimmy once buried a goodly sum of money (gold and silver) on his farm, then could not find it. After more than a hundred years it was plowed up by a member of another family, then living on the farm.

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The last son of Jimmy and Nancy, Allen Harris, b. 3-21-1817, d. 9-30-1905 married Elizabeth (Betsy) Kearns, b. 1-29-1821, d. 7-21-1899, in 1836. She was the daughter of Thomas and Rebecca Ivy Kearns. Betsy was 15 years old and Harris was 18. After their marriage, Jimmy gave Harris a colt and enough corn to feed it. They lived in a cabin on the farm for a while before moving to the Farmer community in Randolph County. They farmed and Harris ran a grist mill. They had the following children: Titus Winbourne, James Ivey, Thomas Clarke, John (Jack) Hansel, Jeremiah W., Clarinda, Milton H. and Louie Jane.

James Ivey married Elizabeth Daniel. They had 7 children.

Thomas Clarke married Letitia Lewis. They had 8 children. Daughter Kate married Ralls - Grandparents of Bob Ralls - Minister and District Superintendent of the Lexington District when retired June, 1997.

John (Jack) Hansel married Jennie Birkhead.

Jeremiah W. Married Elbie Stokes. They had one child. Elbie died and he married her sister, Maggie Stokes. They had 3 children. Daughter Bettie married Oscar Elliott. They had 10 children.

Clarinda E. married Manley Riley. They had 7 children.

Milton was a bachelor.

Louie Jane married Alpheus Diffie.

Titus Winbourne b. 7-4-1837, d. 4-17-1913 married Melinda Campbell. They had 4 children: Norman Harris, Perry, Mary and Tura. After Melinda died Titus Winbourne married Amanda Nance. They had 7 children: Effie, Lonnie, Herman, Walter, Louie, Lillie and Mamie. They lived west of Farmer on Tom's Creek where they farmed and Winbourne helped with the grist mill.

Norman Harris Johnson, son of T. W. Johnson of Randolph County, age 21 (b. 4-18-1867 - d. 4-22-1955) married Julia Pricilla Morris, age 21 (b. in Randolph County 11-29-1866 - d. 4-1-1950) on August 22, 1888. Julia was the daughter of Allen Gilbert and Nancy Jane Bescher Morris of Davidson County.

Allen Gilbert Morris b. 8-7-1838 in Randolph County, d. 8-24-1918, was the son of William and Sarah Hicks Morris. William and Sarah had 14 children. Two were burned to death in what was called the "big house." William was the son of Benjamin and Sara Morris. Benjamin and Sara had 8 children. In his will in 1808 (year of his death) names of the children were: Reuben, Enoch, Simon, William, Elijah, Asa, Phebe and Sarah. Benjamin was given a land grant of 150 acres on Sexton Road, near Mt. Ebal Church in 1787. He was the son of William Morris of Lancaster County, VA.

William Morris' will of Lancaster County, VA was dated 1727 / 1728. His sons were William, Thomas, Benjamin and John - Daughters were Elizabeth and Mary. Mary was married to Henry Curtis. Curtis was executor of Williams will.

Allen married Nancy Jane Bescher (b. in Randolph County March 28, 1840, d. Sept. 29, 1924). She was the daughter of Godfrey and Lucinda Laughlin Bescher. Godfrey Bescher (b. Dec. 1, 1818, d. Sept. 7, 1897) was born aboard a ship while his parents, Conrad and Margareta Bescher were coming to America from Nassau, Weilburg, Germany. He married Lucinda Laughlin (b. 10-21-1812, d. 12-2-1881) and they lived on a farm on Skeen Road in west Randolph County. (Farm now owned by Clarence and Maxine Loflin.) To them were born the following children: John, William, Nancy Jane, Angeline, Julia, James, Sarah, Rosaline, Worth, Franklin, Milton and Donnie. Rosalie had eight names, they were Rebecca, Louiza, Martha, Lou Ellen, Victoria, Adelaide, Roxanna, Rosaline Bescher.

Allen and Nancy Morris had seven daughters, they were: Nettie, Flora, Julia Pricilla, Georganna, Louise, Elsie and Gertrude.

They moved from Randolph County to Denton. In 1880 he and two other men built a grist mill, powered by the first steam engine located in the vicinity. In 1880 he took over the operation of a general store for his son-in-law, J. M. Daniel, who was married to his daughter, Nettie. (Store originally owned by Daniel and B. S. Harrison.) Allen Morris was one of the original stockholders of Denton Chair Co. (later Biltwell Chair Co.) which was organized in 1913. A few years later he acquired controlling interest, which he later sold. He continued in the grist mill business. He was also one of the organizers of the Denton Academy and the Methodist Children's Home.

Allen and Nancy were members of Mt. Ebal Church. After moving to Denton they helped organize and were charter members of the Methodist Protestant Church.

Norman and Julia Johnson ("Mr. Poppy" and "Julie" as they affectionately called each other) lived in Randolph County for several years, later moving to Davidson County and to Jackson Hill where they lived on a farm for about 14 years. They moved to Denton so their children could attend the Denton Academy. Norman went into the lumber business, Johnson Lumber Co., and continued working in the lumber business, though no longer in business for himself, until he retired. He also had a chicken farm, raising chickens and selling eggs. He was a member of the

Davidson County Board of Commissioners serving two terms, from 1918 to 1922. He also served on the Town Board of Commissioners from 1924 to 1926. He was a great fisherman through the years, and especially during his retirement years. It was not unusual to see him going through town on his way to the lake with his fishing poles tied to the side of his Terra plane Coupe. -Remember as a child going with grandpa to the barn to milk the cow. He carried a bucket with some water in it to wash the cow's bag before milking. He set the bucket up on the edge of the barn loft and reached for the milking stool and accidentally hit the bucket and it fell off onto his head. What a funny sight to see the bucket on his head and the water streaming down his face! -He was a pleasant and good-natured man.

The first house they lived in after moving to Denton -near the intersection of highway 109 and Salisbury St. burned down and they lost most of their possessions. They rebuilt a nine room red brick house on the same location, where it still stands. At that time it was the only house on the block so there was space for a garden, barn, corn crib, chicken houses, smoke house, a garage for a car, tractor and wagon. In the early days in Denton most families had cows, chickens and gardens.

"Julie" was an avid reader. She read for entertainment and self education. When the children were growing up she kept a medical book she would refer to for help when there was sickness in the family. -She especially enjoyed poetry. She collected poems and also wrote some poetry. She made a scrapbook of poetry for each of the 7 children. She also wrote her thoughts for each child the day they were born. She enjoyed crocheting- saving thread from the tops of sugar and flour sacks. She crocheted a bedspread and table cloth and numerous other pieces- They had a wicker living room suite that she decided she would upholster -So she made a cover (floral pattern) for the couch and two chairs and stuffed it with whatever was available-even an old pair of "Mr. Poppy's" pants. Surprisingly, it looked nice and was very attractive. She was a very pleasant and loving person.

Norman and Julia were members of the Methodist Protestant Church - now Central United Methodist Church. Julia taught a Sunday School class for many years. They were both active in the church until their deaths. They are buried in the Denton Cemetery.

They had seven children: Allen Starling b. in Randolph County 10-14-1889 - d. 5-9-81. He married Della Mae Surratt (sister to Gurney Surratt). They had two children: Virginia (Shackford) and Allen Starling, Jr. Allen b. 9-4-1918-d. 1982 age 63. Della Mae b. -d. 1940. Starling later married Kathleen White. Vaturie Gertrude b. Randolph County 1-3-1892 - d.9- -86. She married Gurney Surratt (brother of Della Mae) b. -d. . They had six children: Harold b. -d. 1984, Johnsie (Ladson), Henry, Franklin b. -d.2- -86, George, and a son who died as a child. Norman Valentine b. Randolph County 7-14-1895,-d. 5-29-1972. He married Cora Smith b. 9-7-1896 -d. 6-5-1964. They had one son, Robert Lee. He later married Mattie Workman Powell b. 6-9-1902 - d. 3-10-1980. Joseph Wheeler b. Randolph County 7-6-1899 , d. . He married Roxie Wall b. - d. . They had five children: Jo Doris (Edgeworth), Helen (Dosier), Hubert (deceased), Jimmy and Wayne. Herman Edwin b. Davidson County 2-17-1902,d. 8-6-72. He married Gertrude Leona Hill b. 5-9-1902 , d. 10-24-91. They had three children: Geraldine "Jerrie" (Lomax), Hilda (Cranford) and William Herman

(Bill). Robert Willard b. Davidson County 2-24-1904 - d. 7-3-86. He married Annie Morris b. - d. . They had three children: Willard H. (Billy) b. 5-31-26 - d. 2-29-28, Mary (Vardone) and Paul. Thomas Campbell Morris b. Davidson County 11-9-08, d. 4-8-91. He married Blanche Shaw. Blanche died in 1972. He married Pearl Wright who died 1987.

### THE KEARNS FAMILY RECORD

The first Kearns that can be found on record in Washington, D. C. was William and Mary King Kearns (our great, great grandparents). They came from Ireland between 1760 and 1765 and made their home on Second Creek in Concord Township, Randolph County, N. C., and they were buried in the family plot on their farm. This farm has always been owned by some of the Kearns family. William and Mary King Kearns, had five children:

William, who married Margaret Andrews

Isaac, who married Rebecca Webb

Silas, who married Ann Taylor

Josiah, who married Jane Hannah

Thomas, who married Rebecca Ivy

Thomas and Rebecca Kearns (our great grandparents) had ten children:

Nancy born July 12, 1802 - married Joel Kibel

Mary born May 27, 1805 - married (Cameron

Sallie born Aug., 1807 - Martin Luther

Ivy born Nov. 16, 1809 - married Deza Arnold

Annie born Feb 21, 1812 - married Elisha Hancock

Silas born March 7, 1814 - married Dorcas Lassiter

Hannah born Sept., 1816 - married Richard Loflin

John born Sept. 20, 1818 - married Margaret Feazier

Elizabeth (Betsy) born Jan. 29, 1821 - married Harris Johnson

Martha born Sept. 13, 1823 - married Stephen Harris

Three of Norman's and Julia's children continued to live in Davidson County - Two in Denton - Val and Tom, and Starling who lived in Lexington - Ed moved back to Denton after his retirement.

Val co-owner of Yadkin Valley Co. and Valentine Ins. also served as postmaster in 193 , and was in the hosiery mill business for a while. He and Cora had 1 son, Robert. After W.W. II son, Robert, joined the business. (Robert continued the business until his retirement). He married Edith Glidewill of Mayodan. They have three sons - Jon, Dick and Bo (Robert, Jr.) Jon and Dick and families live in Denton. Bo and family live in Charoltte. Bob served on Town Board of Commissioners from 1950-1952 and was mayor from 1952-1954. Val was a member of the Lions Club and a Mason. He and Cora were members of Central United Methodist Church.

Tom worked for Bisher Hosiery Mill and Thorton Hosiery Mill. He was a member of Central United Methodist Church. Tom had cerebral palsy and while it was a handicap he never let it keep him from living as normal life as possible. He enjoyed golf - a great past time for him. He and Blanch had no children.

Ed was a linotype operator - working for The Dispatch, Hickory Daily Record, The Greensboro Daily News, Charlotte Observer and the Miami Herald. He also had a business, Johnson Printing Co., Hickory, for 3 years in 1930's. Ed retired in 1963 and he and Gertrude moved to Denton after living in Miami 18 years. They were members of Central United Methodist Church. They had 3 children, 2 daughters, Geraldine (Jerrie) and Hilda, and a son Bill. Jerrie married John Haven Lomax., Denton. They have two children, Marcia Ellen and John H. III. Hilda married Mack Hurlan Cranford, Denton. They had two children, Sharon Amanda and Rodney Hurlan. (Rodney died from injuries in an automobile accident 12-17-85). Bill married Lorene Thomas from Enfield. They had one child, Elizabeth Leigh. Lorene died September 7, 1963. He later married Carolyn Fisher from Harrisonburg, Va. They have four children: Neil, Billy, Jamie and Carolyn Jane Marie. They continue to live in Harrisonburg.

Starling took a stenographic course at Draughn's business College in Raleigh. After working in Brunswick County and Fayetteville a few years he moved to Lexington where he lived until his death at age 91. He started Johnson Lumber Co. in 1920. After World War II he sold the lumber co., and he and his son formed Johnson Concrete Co. in Salisbury. He and Della Mae had 2 children Virginia (Shackford) and Allen Starling, Jr. Della Mae died in 1940. Starling married Kathleen White in 1941. Allen married Billie Hedrick of Salisbury. They continued to live there. They had 4 children: Allen III (deceased), Judy, Kathryn and Joanne. Allen was a star football player with the Duke Blue Devils. He was captain of his team when they played in the Rose Bowl in 1938-39. Allen died in 1982, age 63. Virginia married Joseph Shackford (deceased), a Methodist minister. They lived in Oklahoma City, Okla., where Virginia continues to live. They had 4 children: 3 sons- Jody (deceased), John, Hilliard and a daughter Ginger Polly. Starling was a member of the Junior Order, Rotary Club and a Mason. He and Kathleen were members of First United Methodist Church.

Gertrude and her family lived in High Point. Gurney was a carpenter and Gertrude worked, until retirement from the Blue Bell Co. She and her family were members of the First



United Methodist Church. At age 88 she went on a trip to the Holy Lands. She was active until her death at age 92. She and Gurney had 6 children: Harold, and wife Katie (deceased) had one son, Allen, lived in High Point. Harold died in 1984. Franklin and wife Mary had 2 children-daughter, Julia, son, Presley, lived in Winston-Salem. Franklin died in 1986. Henry and wife Lib live in Tampa, Fla. George and wife Etha live in Appalacheecola, Fla. They have 2 sons. Johnsie married Bill Ladson. They have 2 children: Bill and Jean. They live in Moultrie, Ga.

Joe was a linotypist-working for The Dispatch and The High Point Enterprise, where he worked until his retirement. He, Roxie and family lived in Lexington for many years. -They moved to Sanford and then to High Point where they lived until their deaths. They had 5 children: Hubert (died a young man), Jo Doris (Edgeworth), Helen (Dozier), Jimmy and Wayne. Jo Doris, Helen and Wayne live in High Point - Jimmy lives in Winston. Joe also enjoyed golf. Joe and Roxie were members of the First United Methodist Church.

Willard and his family lived in Baltimore, Md. A graduate of High Point College he worked as a chemist with the Civil Service for the Fed. Gov. until his retirement. They lived in N.C. and Va. in their earlier years. Willard and Annie had 3 children: a son Willard H. (Billy)(deceased), daughter, Mary Evelyn, married Pat Verdone, lives in Adelphi, Md.; and Paul Watson married Betty Smith, lives in Silver Springs, Md. Uncle Willard had many interest after retirement. He spent a lot of time researching family history. He is responsible for much of the Johnson-Morris-Bescher family history. He died July 23, 1986.

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Along The Way With Bajamin Morris (1757-1808) and His Wife, Sarah, of North Carolina- From Before 1680-1996, Compiled by : Lewis E. Morris (RR2, Box 91 Earlliam, Iowa 50072).

Samuel or William Shatluck/Shattuck died on a ship on the way from England to New England, America before 1642. He married Damarius Hopkins. (Her 2nd marriage to Thomas Gardner). Daughter, Damarius Shattuck b. ca. 1634, England, d. Mass. or N.C., m. 3 Sept. 1653, Boston, Mass., Issac Page from Great Balloon, Essex, England, d. 4 May 1680. Issac Page, a Quaker, and family left Boston, Mass. for N.C. sometime between 1663-1664. A band of Quakers and others settled on and near Symons Creek on land owned by Henry White, Sr. and Henry White, Jr., grants by the Va. government, approx. 1,000 acres, along west side of Pasquatank County and Little River. In about 1663 Issac Page and daughters, Damarius and Elizabeth, established residence. Daughter, Damarius Page, b. 1659-d. 12 Sept. 1722, md. 1st. to John Morris 1678-(2nd md. Henry White 10 Sept. 1681). John Morris, b. 31 Mar. 1680-d. Sept. 1739- it is supposed he is son of previously mentioned John Morris-md. 4 Sept. 1703, Mary Symons, b. 14 Dec. 1678-d. 14 Aug. 1745. Children of John & Mary: Aaron, b. 14 July 1704-d. 10 Sept. 1770, Elizabeth (Bettie), Joseph, Sarah, John, Mary Zachariah, Hannah & Issac. Aaron, b. 1724, md. Mary Pritchard b. 1706-d. Oct 1791. Children of Aaron & Mary: Joshua, Benjamin, Joseph b. 1 Feb. 1731-d. 10 Sept. 1770, md 1st. 1 May 1755 Mary Newby (2nd md. Hannah Overmen, 3rd. Elizabeth). Children of Joseph & Mary: Mariam, Benjamin, b. 10 May 1757 d. 25 July 1808, md Sarah: John, Mary & Joseph. (There were children by 2nd & 3rd marriage).

Children of Benjamin & Sarah: Reuben, Simeon, William N. b. 24 June 1792-d. 24 Sept. 1873, md. Sarah Hicks b. 21 Jan. 1791-d. 26 July 1882; Enoch, Elijah, Asa, Phobe and Sarah. William N. and Sarah (Hicks) children: Mary (Polly), Belinda, Reuben, Pricilla, John Wesley, Nancy, Emily, William Nelson, Asa Thomas, Allen G., and 2 other children (no names), Sarah & (William A.). Allen G. md. Nancy Jane Bencher parents of grandmother, Julia Priscilla md. To Norman H. Johnson, grandfather.

Reuben moved to Indiana in 1815. Benjamin & father Reuben are listed as very early pioneers of Spiceland Township. Simeon and Elijah were in Illinois by 1853. Nancy C. Morris & husband John Lanier - 2 children moved to Cowley County, S.E. Kans. Enoch went to De Kalb County, Ga. Sarah went to live near son, Enoch, after 2nd husbands death. Died past 91st year and believed buried in De Kalb County, Ga. Family of Lewis Morris (compiler) lived in Campbell, Polk County, Iowa; Keota, Iowa, Keakuk and Washington Counties and Valley Junction. Lewis lives in Earlliam.