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ONE LINE  
OF THE  
DESCENDANTS  
OF  
CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON  
OF  
HERNE HILL, ENGLAND,  
AND Y  
WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS, U. S. A.

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COMPILED BY  
HERBERT BUELL JOHNSON  
FROM

*A Sketch of the Life of Edward Johnson*  
By Dr. William Frederick Poole  
Librarian of Boston Athenaeum:

*A Genealogy of the Descendants*  
*of Captain Edward Johnson*  
By John Alonzo Bouelle:

*(Both being part of An Introduction to a Reprint of*  
*Capt. Edward Johnson's Wonder-Working Providence*  
*By Draper, Andover.)*

*Leominster, Mass. Town Records:*

*Recollections of Three Generations*  
By George Lorenzo Johnson:

*Various Family Records: Etc.*

TOKYO, JAPAN,  
1898.

Aoyama Industrial Press.





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## CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

Was born in 1599, and before emigrating to New England resided at Herne Hill, near Canterbury, County of Kent, England. His will indicates that he was possessed of a comfortable estate consisting of a farm and two other pieces of property. On embarking from England with his family he is classed as a joiner. This may have been in part an evasion, as no one above the rank of mechanic or serving man was allowed to leave without special permission. As several of his sons and grandsons were shipwrights and carpenters, it is not improbable that he carried on the business of shipbuilding at Herne Bay. However, he did not engage in any mechanical occupation after his arrival in New England.

Early in April, 1630, Capt. Johnson, without his family, embarked in one of the ships of the fleet which brought Governor Winthrop and his company to Massachusetts Bay. The records show him trading on the Merrimac River, and it is probable that he came for traffic and adventure and that he returned to England in the summer of 1631.

He returned with his family, in 1636, a zealous Puritan and in full sympathy with the religious system of the Massachusetts Colony. His ruling motive was no longer business or pleasure but in building up a Puritan Commonwealth in this western world. Embarking this time at Sandwich, the nearest seaport at which there was foreign trade, he settled temporarily at Charleston. From that time to the day of his death the Records of Charlestown, of Woburn, and of the Colony are filled with his name and deeds.



He was one of the committee of the Charlestown church "for the erecting of a church and town" at Woburn and was the first Recorder (Town Clerk). He was generally known as the father of the town. May 10, 1643, he took his seat in the General Court as deputy from the town of Woburn, the first session of the court after the incorporation of the town. For thirty years he was not only town clerk and representative in the general court, but he usually was Chairman of the Selectmen and occupied some prominent place on commissions and committees, especially legal and military committees.

Captain Johnson had evidently given considerable attention to military matters in England, and there acquired the rank by which he has since been known. Soon after his second arrival, we find his name in the Charlestown Records with the prefix of Captain, a title of honor which in those days was not given at random. On becoming a deputy to the General Court, he was placed on nearly every military committee. These were intrusted with most extraordinary powers such as inspecting fortifications, levying fines, collecting arrearages, etc. He gathered and drilled a squad of militia at Woburn soon after its settlement, and always held a command in the militia of the Colony. He was often sent out on expeditions to treat with or overawe the Indians and to deal with troublesome neighbors. His name scarcely ever appears in the Massachusetts Records without his military title.

For more than two hundred years, tradition has ascribed to him the authorship of **WONDER-WORKING PROVIDENCE**, a quaint and authentic narrative of events connected with the settlement of Massachusetts Bay. It is acknowledged to be the most important book on the Massachusetts Colony that was printed during the first hundred years after the settlement. The fraudulent use made of this work in the collection known as the Gorges Tracts for a time robbed the author of the credit due



him, but the true authorship has beyond a doubt been established by Dr. Poole, the famous librarian.

Captain Edward Johnson married Susan ————— who was born in England in 1597 and who died at Woburn in 1690. He died in Woburn April 23, 1672, aged 73 years. At the session of the court following (15th May) it was ordered that a committee be appointed to gather and preserve such historical material as had been collected by him, John Winthrop, Sr., and others.

Seven children were born to Capt. Edward Johnson and Susan his wife as follows,—

*Note. The heavy type denotes the head of the family whose line is followed.*

1. *Edward*, born in England 1621-2; married *Katherine Baker*; died at Charlestown Sept. 15, 1692.

2. *George*, born in England; probably returned to England; had children named in their grandfather's will.

3. *William*, born in England 1629-30; married *Esther Wiswall*; died at Woburn May 22, 1704.

4. *Martha*, born in England; married *John Homes*.

5. *Matthæw*, born in England 1634; married 1, *Hannah Palfrey*, 2, *Rebecca Wiswall*; died at Woburn July 19, 1696.

6. *John*, born in England 1635-6; married *Bethiah Reed*; died at Canterbury, Conn.

7. *Susan*, born in England; married *James Prentice*.

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## II. MAJOR WILLIAM JOHNSON

Third son of Capt. Edward and Susan Johnson, was born in England in 1629 or 1630. He came to Massachusetts with his parents and resided at Woburn. He was elected Deputy for Woburn in 1674, 1676, and each subsequent year until 1684



when he was chosen Assistant and hence became Magistrate. He succeeded his father as Clerk of the Town of Woburn, as Selectman, as commander of the militia, and as commissioner, etc. He seems to have inherited the mental and moral qualities of his father. Like his father, he bore a conspicuous part in defending the chartered rights of the Colony. He was one of a zealous party who stood out resolutely for the old charter and failing in this would have no charter at all.

He married at Woburn, May 16, 1655, Esther Wiswall, the daughter of Thomas Wiswall who was a ruling elder of the church at Newton. She was baptised twenty years before their marriage. Both died at Woburn, Major William May 22, 1704, aged seventy-four years, and his wife Dec. 27, 1707.

They had nine children as follows,—

1. *William*, born Feb. 26, 1656; married *Esther Gardiner*; died Jan. 10, 1729.

2. *Edward* born March 19, 1658; married 1, *Sarah Walker*, 2, *Abigail Gardiner*; died Aug. 7, 1725-68.

3. *Ebenezer*, born March 29, 1660; married *Sarah Winn*; died at Woburn March 17, 1737.

4. *Esther*, born April 13, 1662; married *Seth Wyman*.

5. *Joseph*, born June 14, 1664; resided with his brother *Ebenezer*.

6. *Benjamin* born Oct. 15, 1666; married *Sarah Walker*; died Apr. 22, 1733.

7. *Josiah*, born Jan 15, 1669; married 1, *Martha Whitmore*, 2, *Deborah Giles*; died Dec. 16, 1739.

8. *Sasanna*, born June 29, 1671.

9. *Abigail*, born Oct. 4, 1674; married *Samuel Pierce*.







### III. EDWARD JOHNSON

Second son of Major William and Esther (Wiswall) Johnson, was born at Woburn March 19, 1658. He was captain of the military band of Woburn and for many years was selectman of the town, deacon of the church, and was deputy to the General Court in 1700. He resided in that part of Woburn which is now Burlington and, it is supposed, in a house once used as a garrison house opposite that of A. B. Shaw.

He married 1, Sarah, the daughter of Samuel Walker of Woburn, 2, Abigail Gardner who outlived her husband. He died at Woburn, Aug. 7, 1725—68, aged 67 years, it is said of grief for the loss of his favorite son, Ichabod, who was killed by the Indians.

The first union was blessed with eight children and the second with two.

1. *Edward*, born Oct. 12, 1687; died Jan. 3, 1687 - 8.
  2. *Edward*, born May 4, 1689; married 1, *Rebecca Reed*, 2, *Esther Coddige*, 3, *Sarah Wilson*; died Oct. 5, 1774.
  3. *Sarah*; married ——— *Simonds*.
  4. *Esther*, born Jan 26, 1693-4; married *John* son of *Lieut. Joly Sterns* of Billerica; died Apr. 13, 1786.
  5. *Sarah*, born Feb. 21, 1695-6; married 1, *Mary Butters*, 2, *Priscilla Emery*, 3, *Hannah Wyman*; died about 1764.
  6. *Abigail*, married *Timothy Richardson*.
  7. *Susanna*, born Jan. 14, 1700; married *Samuel Jones*.
  8. *Ichabod*, born Apr. 22, 1703; killed by the Indians at Lovewell's fight, May 8, 1725.
  9. *Elizabeth*, born Nov. 6, 1705; married *Joseph Winn* of West Nottingham, N. H.
  10. *Joseph*, born June 22, 1708; married *Sarah Thompson*; died Oct. 3, 1793.
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#### IV. EDWARD JOHNSON, JR.

Second son of Edward and Sarah(Walker) Johnson was born at Woburn, May 4, 1689. He took an active part in gathering the church in the second parish of Woburn, now Burlington, and was chosen a deacon of that church in 1741. He lived on the road to Lexington, on the farm in Burlington which continued in the possession of the family for one hundred and twenty five years. It is now in the possession of E. W. Willard.

He married 1, Rebecca Reed who was mother of his thirteen children, 2, Esther, daughter of Joseph and Mary Mason and widow of Capt. Joseph Coolidge, 3, Sarah Wilson, daughter of James and Susanna Simonds and widow of Samuel Wilson. He died Oct. 5, 1774. aged 85 years. His children were

1. *Rebecca*, born Apr. 22, 1712; married *Ebenezer Wyman*.

2. *Mary*, born Oct. 26, 1713; married *Enoch Richardson*.

3. *Edward*, born Sept. 28, 1715; moved to Leominster and was drowned in a well.

4. *Joshua*, born Feb. 16, 1716-7; removed to Bolton (now Berlin).

5. *Eleazer*, born Feb. 27, 1718-9; removed to Bolton.

6. *Jonathan*, born June 13, 1720; married *Sarah* daughter of *Samuel* and *Sarah Wilson*; resided at Leominster and at Woburn; died at the latter, Nov. 30, 1793.

7. *Nathan*, born Nov. 11, 1721; resided at Leominster; married *Abigail Walker*.

8. *Abigail*, born July 15, 1723; married, *Samuel Wilson*, 2, *Simeon Spaulding* of Chelmsford.

9. *Ichabod*, born Dec. 23, 1724; lived at Mosley place.

10. *Lucy*, born Jan. 3, 1725-6.

11. *Jonas*, born Feb. 16, 1728-9.





12. *Asa*, born Feb. 16, 1728-9; resided at Leominster; married *Tamar Witcomb*; died Aug. 13, 1820.

13. *Susanna*, born Oct. 23, 1740; married *Joshua Kandall*.

#### V. ASA JOHNSON

Son of Edward and Rebecca (Reed) Johnson, was born Feb. 16, 1728—9 and resided at Leominster.

His military record is as follows,—

“Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

Office of the Secretary Revolutionary War Service.

Record of ASA JOHNSON.

Asa Johnson appears with rank of Private on Muster and Pay Roll of Capt. Joseph Sargent's Co., under command of General Spencer for service at Rhode Island. Served between May 5 and July 12, 1777, 2 mos., 2½ days.

Residence Leominster.

Vol. 3, p 162.

Appears with rank of Private on Muster and Pay Roll of Capt. Nathaniel Carter's Co., Col. Job Cushing's Reg't.

Enlisted Sept. 7, 1777. Served 3 mos., 4 days.

Roll dated Leominster, Apr. 3, 1778. Vol. 18, p 31.

Appears with rank of Private on Muster and Pay Roll of Capt. Timothy Boutelle's Co., Col. John Rand's Regiment (Worcester Co.), raised for three months to reinforce the Continental Army.

Enlisted July 10, 1780: Served 3 months 11 days.

Vol. 17, p 137.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

Office of the Secretary.

Boston, Jan. 18, 1895.

I certify the foregoing to be true abstracts from the Record Index to the Revolutionary War Archives deposited in this office. Witness the Seal of the Commonwealth.

SEAL.

Wm. M. Olin, Secretary.”

Asa Johnson married Tamar Whitcomb by whom he had fourteen children, all born at Leominster, Mass. where he died Aug. 13, 1820, aged 92 Years.

1. *Tamar*, born Jan. 4, 1754; married *William Ross* of Sterling.

2. *Sarah*, born July 26, 1755; married *Benj. Mizzy* of Chester, Vt.

3. *Relief*, born July 25, 1757; married *Edward Johnson*, her cousin.

4. *Prudence*, born July 22, 1757; married *Josiah Sawyer* of Berlin.

5. *Asa*, born Feb'y 15, 1761; married *Hannah Horn*; settled in Waterford.

6. *Jonas*, born Nov. 30, 1762; married 1, *Sarah Ferguson*, 2, *Sarah McCoy*.

7. *Silas*, born March 14, 1765; married *Sally Pollansbee* of Leominster.

8. *Jonathan*, born May 3, 1767; married *Eunice Willard* of Lancaster.

9. *Eunice*, born June 19, 1769; married *Martin Newton* of Northton.

10. *Lucy*, born March 7, 1771; married *Eber Goldard*.

11. *Lettice*, born Feb'y 8, 1773; married *Daniel Newhall*.

12. *Mary*, born Dec. 1, 1774; married *Jonathan Carter*.

13. *Nathan*, born March 2, 1777; married *Martha Doculson*.

14. *Jotham*, born Oct. 28, 1779; married *Betsey Huff*.

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## VI. JONATHAN JOHNSON

Son of Asa and Tamar (Whitcomb) Johnson, was born at Leominster, Mass., May 3, 1767 and when a young man emigrated to central New York. He told his grandson George that when







out in the woods at sugar making he heard the firing on Apr. 19, 1775, referring probably to guns that were fired to arouse the patriots.

From 1785 to '90 emigrants from New England were rapidly settling Herkimer county, New York, north of the Mohawk river, pushing their way up the river in boats. The state legislature having in 1786 passed an act appropriating money to aid in public improvement, travel and transportation, a canal at Little Falls, about one half mile in length and with wooden locks, was completed in 1795. Whether he came to aid in building it is unknown, but he said, "I struck almost the first blow on that canal." He probably did not emigrate wholly for that, for in 1792-3 he settled on a good farm of one hundred acres between Eatonville and Middleville on a survey known as Glen's Purchase within the Royal Grant. It is now (1898) within the town of Fairfield which was set off from Norway in 1796. Here his children were born except the eldest, and here he remained until February 29, 1808 when he sold his farm to Stephen Brayton and purchased another (now known as the Dexter place) on the corner below Old City toward Middleville. Then there was no direct road to Newport, which was settled with families from Newport, R. I., 1786 to '91. He kept this place until 1836, his children being educated at "The City School" (District No. 4), the first building being burnt during their childhood and the second one replaced about 1859. Old City was at that time a place of much importance. He said concerning it, "Before the Bowens got started in business at Newport, the city was quite a place of business." Here was a gristmill, sawmill, fullingmill, etc., three dams and the sites of others remaining in 1834. The first sawed lumber used at Newport probably came from "The City."

The next and final earthly home was a farm which he purchased on White Creek on the old road leading from Old City over the hill to Newport, now owned by Joseph Spellmen.



*Apr 26*

He married, in 1790, Eunice Willard who was born at Lancaster, Mass., ~~May 3, 1767~~<sup>Apr 26</sup>. Both were members of the Newport Baptist church, he being deacon, and both are buried in the cemetery at the rear of the church. He died May 10, 1842, aged 75, and she Aug. 10, 1851.<sup>82</sup> Their eight children, like his brothers and sisters, all grew to manhood and womanhood. They are as follows,—

1. *Eunice*, born at Lancaster, Mass., Apr. 4, 1792; married *Amos Hildreth* of the town of Herkimer, N. Y.; died Feb. 20, 1868. *Age* 69

2. *Willard*, born Aug. 5, 1795; married *Saba Ballou* (or *Phillips*); lived near Pentiaeh, Mich.; died Aug. 1867. 72

3. *Lacy* (twin), born June 6, 1797; married *John Fortune* of Newport, N. Y.; Died Aug. 18. 1872. 75

4. *Tanner* (twin), married *William Bateman* of Newport; died Oct. 8, 1837. 70

5. *Jonathan*, born May 16, 1801; Married *Phoebe Eastman*; lived at Deerfield, N. Y.; died Mar. 6, 1874. 73

6. *Samson*, born Apr. 24, 1803; married *Louisa Comstock*; lived at Clinton, N. Y.; died 1884. 81

7. *Hiram*, born Apr. 25, 1805; married *Lavinia Tanner*; died June 21, 1882. 77

8. *Mary*, born June, 1807; married *Aaron Swift*; lived at Newport and Richfield, N. Y.; died Oct. 21, 1858. 79

## VII. HIRAM JOHNSON

Youngest son of Jonathan and Eunice (Willard) Johnson, was born Apr. 25, 1805, in the town of Fairfield, N. Y., between Eatonville and Middleville, the latter place being settled the next year. When about three years of age, his

parents purchased and moved to a farm just below Old City, the same township, where he spent his boyhood. After marriage he settled on a farm on Honey Hill, in the town of Newport, on the road from Newport to Utica and about three miles from the former. In 1830 he moved to White Creek near the bridge on the old Woodchuck Hill road leading to Newport, three years later he managed the "Oxbow" farm, and the next year lived at his father's. Soon after, the homestead was sold and he returned to White Creek, moving back onto his farm and his father onto an adjoining one on the south side of the creek. Here he managed both places as one, caring for his father until his death in 1842, and with his sister Mary for his mother until he sold out and went west in 1844.

He started for northern Illinois in September, taking a line boat from Mohawk to Buffalo, four days, and thence a steamboat for Chicago, four days more, this being before the days of railroads, Chicago having at the time about 8,000 inhabitants. He made a short stop with friends at Belvidere and then purchased land on the road to Rockford. Later he moved to Michigan and settled on a little place near Kalamazoo where he lived comfortably for many years. Becoming blind he returned to New York and made his home with his children at Ilion.

He married Lavinia Tanner who was born in Norway, Oct. 13, 1803, the union being blessed with one son and two daughters. She was ~~a member of the Baptist church~~ at Newport for many years, but later became a Methodist in which communion she remained a faithful member until death. He died at Ilion, June 21, 1882, aged 77 years, and she at the same place, Aug. 5, 1893, in her ninetieth year. Both are buried in the family plot in the village cemetery.

Their children are as follows,—

1. *George Lorenzo*, born at Newport Hill, N. Y., June 15, 1827; married 1, *Cynthia Maria Buell* to whom were born



one son and three daughters, and 2, *Mary Jane Moore* to whom was born a son.

2. *Harriet L.*, born at White Creek, N. Y., Dec. 18, 1830; married *Henry Hitchcock* of Michigan, who soon died leaving a daughter, *Rosa*, who married *Maremus Pearce* of Willowvale, N. Y.; returned to New York and made her home with her uncle Jonathan at Deerfield; later settled at Ilion and cared for her aged parents; a faithful member of ~~Presbyterian~~ *Episcopal* church; now (1898) with her daughter at Washington Mills, N. Y.

3. *Mary Ella*, born Jan. 15, 1835, near Old City, Fairfield Township, N. Y.; never married; lived at Trenton, New York City, Irvington, Riverdale, and again at New York City where most of her life has been spent; held various positions of trust as house keeper, head matron of Sing Sing Female Prison, etc. She was for several years connected with the Margaret Louisa Home of the Young Woman's Christian Association, New York, and was an active member of the Metropolitan Temple (Methodist); is now employed in the House of Refuge for Women at Hudson, N. Y.

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## VIII. GEORGE LORENZO JOHNSON

Only son of Hiram and Lavinia (Tanner) Johnson, was born on Newport Hill, N. Y., June 15, 1827, and removed with his parents to White Creek, to the homestead near Old City where he began his education in District No. 4, and then to White Creek again where he spent his boyhood. In 1844, at seventeen years of age, he went with his father to northern Illinois. He remembers Chicago as a town without pavements, with plank sidewalks, and low, cheap, wooden buildings. He also saw oxen drawing wheat in the city. The first winter he boarded near Belvidere and went to school, and the following summer





worked on a farm at eight dollars per month. Later he went to Belvidere to learn the carpenter's trade, being apprenticed at \$ 50 for the first year, \$ 60 for the second, and \$ 85 for the third. Taken ill, he was excused the third year and returned to Newport where he attended a private school in the basement of the Baptist church.

In the spring of 1848, he began working at his trade and the same autumn began work for Truman Buell at Middleville whose sister he afterward married. Purchasing his place and goodwill, he established himself in business and later bought a lot and built a beautiful home in the village. Selling out, he went to Wisconsin and bought government land. In Apr. 1858, he moved to Old City, N. Y., a little later exchanged his western land for wood-working machinery, and in 1860 began manufacturing sash, blinds, doors, etc in the old flax mill. The war affecting the price of cotton and flax, in partnership with Alexander and Frank Griswold under the firm name of Johnson & Co., he put in modern machinery and sowed and worked a hundred acres of flax. The second year they sold the crop on the ground, leaving the plant for working it, and later sold the machinery. He then changed back to wood again. Thinking that a railroad would never be built through the valley, though several surveys had been made and the work has since been done, he sold his places on both sides of the creek near the falls and moved to Herkimer. He rented a mill property in the lower part of the town and a home in the upper part near the Bellinger homestead. In Feb. 1871, the mill and contents were destroyed by fire, but the people coming to his aid in thirty days he was re-established in a new place.

Upon invitation and with the advice of friends, he removed to Ilion in 1874, purchased the planing mill of the creditors of the Green brothers, and entered into partnership with Brill & Russell, lumber dealers, under the firm name of



Geo. L. Johnson & Co. One object in thus moving was to give his children superior educational advantages. The business being prosperous and promising, he purchased a lot and built another home, but the Remingtons becoming involved which resulted in financial depression the partnership was dissolved. Hoping to save his home, he went to Colorado Springs and then to Denver where he worked in the D & R. G. R. R. shops for several years, sending money to meet his obligations. Failing in health, he returned to Ilion in 1887 since which time he has carried on a small business. Until leaving for Colorado he made a home for his father, and after his return assisted in caring for his invalid mother as did also both of his sisters. He has been for years a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and when in Denver was an official member.

He was married, Sept. 26, 1850, to Cynthia Maria Buell who was born Feb. 27, 1825. She was the daughter of George Buell of Middleville, a well to do farmer and builder and an honored member of the Methodist Episcopal Church as were nearly all his large family. She was also the cousin of Mrs. Hattie E. Buell who wrote the "Child of a King". She with her brothers and sisters was educated at Fairfield Seminary. After her marriage she was never strong but nevertheless managed her household after the manner of the model woman described in the last chapter of Proverbs. Moreover, she was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and like Dorcas was remembered for her good deeds. In time of sickness she was invariably called upon by her neighbors, and on one occasion by the skillful use of a bandage, saved the life of a boy who had cut his leg. Her useful life here was cut short through taking Typhoid Pneumonia from the writer of this sketch, when worn down by weeks of careful nursing. She lovingly gave her life for that of her boy. All the members of the family were sick, but only she was taken—the one most needed

*Hattie E. Buell the wife of Willard  
son of Luther Buell*



and the best prepared. She died Dec. 22, 1872, at Herkimer, and was buried at Middleville. She has but gone before.

After moving to Ilion, he married *Mrs. Mary Jane Moore* of Herkimer to whom was born one child, *Fred Arthur*. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The children are as follows,—

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1. *Fanny Matilda*, born at Middleville, N. Y., January 24, 1854; died February 17 the same year.

2. *Ella Harriet*, born at Middleville, April 27, 1856; taught school several years in Herkimer and Montgomery Counties, N. Y., and at Luzerne, Pa.; for several years Private Secretary for Mr. F. W. Guiteau at Irvington-on-the Hudson during which time she has been president of the local Woman's Foreign Missionay Society and a worker in the Sunday School.

3. *Herbert Buell*, born at Old City, Fairfield township, N. Y., April 30, 1858; married Emma Jane Leech; 2, *Clara Evira Richardson*.

4. *Anna Lavinia*, born at Old City, N. Y., June 14, 1861; taught school several years; married *Alfred Leavitt Hines* of Norway, N. Y., June 9, 1886, by the writer, at Plains, Pa.; they purchased the homestead near Norway, N. Y. where they live; both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and she the president of the local W. F. M. S.

They have one daughter, *Frances Ella*, born June 28<sup>7</sup>, 1895.

5. *Fred Arthur*, born at Ilion, N. Y., December 3, 1875; studied at Ilion Academy and Wyoming Seminary, Pa.; enlisted in the Americo-Spanish War and was promoted to Corporal while at Chicamauga. Returned to Wyoming *Am.*

#### IX. REV. HERBERT BUELL JOHNSON,

Only son of George Lorenzo and Cynthia Buell Johnson was born at Old City, Fairfield township, N. Y., Apr. 30, 1858.



On his mother's side he is a descendant of William Buell or Bewelle or Beville of Chesterton in Huntington, England, who emigrated to America about 1630 and settled at Dorchester, Mass., and then removed to Windsor, Conn. about 1635 where he died in 1681. He was a Puritan and a man of good position. The line is as follows,—2, Samuel Buell of Windsor and Killingworth, Conn.; 3, Major David Buell of Killingworth, Conn.; 4, Jedediah Buell of Killingworth (now Clinton) Conn.; 5, Jonathan Buell of the same place, who removed to Fairfield, near Little Falls, N. Y., and died at Pompey, N. Y., 6 George Buell of Fairfield, N. Y. who was born at Killingworth, Conn., married Anna Skinner at Plainfield, N. Y., and died at Middleville, N. Y.; and 7, Cynthia Maria Buell who married George Lorenzo Johnson and who died at Herkimer, N. Y., Dec. 22, 1872.

Herbert Buell Johnson, like his father and grandfather, began his education at District No. 4, Fairfield township, near Old City, and at ten years of age removed with his parents to Herkimer, N. Y. where he attended the graded school. Six years later, his mother having died, the family moved to Ilion where he attended the Union School and Academy from which he graduated in 1878. While at Herkimer he was twice sick unto death, once with Typhoid Pneumonia and again with Scarlet Fever. During the school days at Ilion, with the exception of one winter when he lived with a farmer and thus earned his board, he worked in his father's factory nights and mornings, Saturdays and vacations, thus learning the use of the scroll saw and turning lathe. He was president of his class and was instrumental in organizing the Academy Alumni Society, being the first president.

He taught a term of school at East Frankfort, spent a year in a general store at Ilion, and worked part of another in the Remington Sewing Machine Factory. May 29, 1879 he married





Miss Emma J., eldest daughter of Thomas and Angelina Leech of East Frankfort, who died four months later; and the next year, yielding to a call to preach after a long struggle, he entered upon his life work by starting for Drew Theological Seminary.

He had been converted in 1876 at Ilion, under the labors of Rev. Henry W. Bennett, but later removed his membership to Frankfort where he was a class leader when he left to enter the theological school. For years he had also been an active member of the Good Templars and Rechabites, and Superintendent of the East Frankfort Sunday School; and had also been Secretary of the Ilion Y. M. C. A. His first sermon was preached at Columbia, N. J., Nov. 21, 1880, from Matt. 13: 25, 30, his presiding elder giving written permission in the absence of a license. The Herkimer, N. Y. Dist. Conference licensed him to preach Feb. 22, 1881, T. B. Shepherd being presiding elder. In December the same year he was appointed junior preacher on the Port Oram and Teabo charge, Newark Conference, with J. P. Macaulay as senior. The circuit was practically divided, the junior preacher taking the Teabo end. He was reappointed the following conference and served the charge until just before graduation. During this pastorate, a gracious revival took place, the young lady whom he afterward married being one of the converts. He graduated in May, 1883, being one of seven speakers, and eleven years later received the degree of Bachelor of Divinity on a post graduate course. The following year (1895), he also received the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy from the Illinois Wesleyan University on a non-resident course.

In April, 1883, he entered the Wyoming Conference at the head of his class. He was ordained deacon by Bishop Foster at Owego N. Y. in 1885, and elder by Bishop Fowler, two years later, at Norwich, N. Y. His first appointment was Luzerne



where he spent three pleasant years, moving to Plains in the Spring of 1886 which place he left in the autumn of 1887 to take up mission work in Japan. He was the first pastor at Luzerne, the Forty Fort circuit having been divided that year.

His presiding elders, Revs. A. Griffin and R. W. Van-Schoick both spoke very highly of his work in their annual reports. At Luzerne over two hundred were converted, and the church was enlarged and improved at a cost of about \$ 5000, the entire expense being paid in cash. A gracious revival had occurred, and \$ 1000 paid on the debt at Plains when the call came to go to Japan. The Wyoming Conference letter in the *Christian Advocate* contained the following,— “The Rev. H. B. Johnson, one of our most valued and efficient young men, was tendered a farewell reception recently at Plains, Pa. by his devoted congregation there and the ministers of Wyoming District, preparatory to his departure for Japan. A bountiful collation, songs, prayers, informal addresses, appropriate gifts to brother Johnson and his highly esteemed wife charmed the happy hour. On Thursday evening the Order of Patriotic Sons of America also presented brother Johnson a beautiful gold watch. He left Nov. 12. Wyoming's loss is Japan's gain.”

Sailing from San Francisco Nov. 19th, he reached Nagasaki just before the close of the year where he immediately began work in Cobleigh Seminary. At the following Conference, he was appointed Principal of the Theological Department which position he held three years when at his suggestion the departments were consolidated. His subsequent appointments have been, 1891-2, Professor in Cobleigh Seminary and pastor of Deshima Church; 1893, Principal of Chinzei (Cobleigh) Seminary; 1894-5, Dean of Aoyama College (Tokyo) and Principal of the Academy; 1896, in the U. S. A. on furlough; 1897, Pastor of Mita Church, Tokyo, and Mission Treasurer; 1898, Presiding Elder of Fukuoka District.



By the division of the conference he thus became a charter member of the South Japan Mission Conference. In 1893, 4, 5, and after his return from furlough, at the session in 1898, he served his conference as Secretary.

Shortly after joining Wyoming Conference, May 22, 1883, he was united in marriage with Miss Clara Elvira Richardson who was born at St. Clare, Pa., December 29, 1861. She is the only daughter of Lancelot W. Richardson of Teabo, near Dover, New Jersey, who for years had been master mechanic of the Glendon Iron Company. Her mother was Mary Maddock of South Easton, Pa., who was a life long member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. She has two brothers, George W., master mechanic in a silk mill in Hoboken, N. J., and Robert W., foreman in a machine shop in New York City.

Six sons have blessed this union, one dying in infancy. In addition to her household duties, there being no suitable schools for foreign children the devoted mother had the care of their schooling while in Japan, and after her husband's return to Japan in 1897 she remained in the United States a year on account of the education of the two eldest whom it was not thought best to take back.

Their children are as follows,—

1. *Howard Maddock*, born at Luzerne, Pa., October 11, 1884, and baptised by Rev. Austin Griffin, D.D.

2. *Herbert Buell Jr.*, born at Plains, Pa., April 22, 1886, and baptised by Rev. R. W. Van Schoick, D. D.

3. *Milton Richardson*, born at Nagasaki, Japan, January 19, 1889, and baptised by Rev. J. C. Davison.

4. *Willard Edward*, born at Nagasaki, Japan, September 29, 1890, and died at the same place January 16, 1891.

5—6. *Clarence Lancelot* and *Robert Arthur*, twins, born at Nagasaki, Nov. 18, 1892, and baptised by Bishop Randolph S. Foster.

*Corrections taken from copy with  
"Corrected by father" on the front*



















