

PERSONAL REMINISCENCES

of the

CIVIL WAR

1861 - 1865

written at the request of

My Children to whom

this little Manuscript is

affectionately dedicated

by their devoted father

John Johnston

Memphis, Tennessee

November 8th, 1900

MANUSCRIPT
DIVISION AC NO 1407

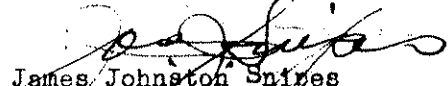
FOREWORD

At the outbreak of the Civil war, John Johnston, a direct descendant of Scottish Covenanters, was in college preparing himself for the Presbyterian ministry. Although a frail, delicate boy, he gave up his studies and joined the Confederate Army, and was a member of Forrest's Cavalry for the entire duration of the war.

I have often heard my mother - his sister - speak of his mental and physical suffering during the war. Mental, on account of his deep religious convictions and his love of home and country. Physical, because he was sick a large part of the time.

Unable to continue his ministerial studies on account of disrupted conditions following the war, he entered the law office of his brother-in-law, Bedford M. Estes, of Memphis, and began the study of law; and was a prominent attorney in Memphis throughout a long life.

Although an attorney, his whole life was one of Christian ministry; and he was an outstanding member and elder of the Southern Presbyterian Church until his death on May 7, 1928.


James Johnston Snipes
Lincoln, Nebraska
January, 1940

LINEAGE

1. Robert Johnston, born in Scotland in 1655, went to Ireland and was one of the defenders of Londonderry in the famous siege of 1689.
2. Robert Johnston (1698-1778) emigrated to Bucks County, Pennsylvania, in 1735. Thence to Rowan County, North Carolina, about 1750.
3. John Johnston (1734-1816) was a Major of North Carolina Militia during the Revolutionary War. Moved to Davidson County, Tennessee, in 1796.
4. Robert Johnston (1773-1838) was with Jackson at New Orleans. Moved to Madison County, Tennessee, about 1820.
5. James Johnston (1809-1849) lived at Denmark, Tennessee.
6. John Johnston (1842-1928) writer of following letter.

Johnston, John - Reminiscences.

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11/17/40

Tennessee State Archivist
Nashville

Dear Sir:

as promised some months ago I am sending you a copy of a civil war manuscript written by my uncle John Johnston of Memphis.

You will find that the two other manuscripts in your library, and this filed with them will make a valuable historical contribution.

I wish you would call this to the attention of the head of the American history department of Vanderbilt University and get his reaction. I, of course, may be prejudiced as it was written by my uncle and nearly all the men mentioned were either relatives of mine or close family friends - many of whom I knew during my youth & young manhood.

Anyway, I feel that the Tennessee State Library is where this book should be permanently placed.

Yours very truly
John Johnston