

A Review of The Johnson Family History as dedicated to Mrs. James D. Moore:

This book was written from the notes of Mrs. James D. Moore during the 1940's. It was dedicated to Mrs. Moore, but the author did not list his/her name when the book was published. The book relies heavily on oral family history with little documentation available.

I have not attempted to verify the ancient Johnstone lineage listed in the book. This information appears to be based somewhat on the ancestry of Governor Gabriel Johnston.

The American Johnston lineage begins by stating that "Hotten's records give the following information: Thomas Johnston, single, with eight negro slaves came to Virginia from Ireland in July 1680." The book shows that Thomas Johnston left a will in Chowan County, NC dated April 10, 1724. The will named six children and two of the sons named were Jonathan and William Johnston. The book shows that Jonathan Johnston left a will dated May 2, 1762 naming 2 children: Ashby and Soloman. The book further mentions that William Johnston provided for the other children of his brother Jonathan in his will, but the date and location of the will was not given. One of the sons of Jonathan Johnston provided for by William was named was Joab Johnston, born about 1725. According to oral family history, Joab Johnston moved to what is today Sampson County and was the father of Joel and William Johnston.

There are several contradictions that can be noted concerning this book:

1. Researcher Fred Hintze of Richlands, NC stated "An exhaustive study has been done of Hotten's THE ORIGINAL LISTS OF PERSONS OF QUALITY, 1600-1700. Hotten does NOT record that Thomas Johnston came to Virginia in 1680."
2. No courthouse fires, etc. have been reported concerning the early records of Chowan County, NC. Several researchers, including myself, have tried to locate the will of Thomas Johnston dated 1724. The will does not exist.
3. The will of Jonathan Johnston was dated Dec 1, 1761 in Currituck County, NC and it names one heir "Soloman Ashbe". The will does NOT name sons Soloman Johnston and Ashbe Johnston.
4. The undated will of William Johnston, brother of Jonathan, also cannot be found.
5. Several researchers, including myself, have tried to locate records of Joab Johnston, born 1725. None can be found.