

Johnstone of North Carolina



JOHNSTONE

Lineage. The name Johnstone is an ancient family deriving the name from the Barony of Johnstone in Annandale, Scotland. The history begins with Captain the Hon. John Johnstone, the second son of James, Earl of *Annandale* and Hartfell and Lady Henrietta Douglas and brother of William first Marquess of Annandale. Raised in the home of his uncle, the Duke of Hamilton, John's ardent support of the fated Stuart cause. John was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Gabriel Belchier in 1698 who went to France with the deposed James II, serving "with distinction" under Louis XIV. The Battle of Boyne found him still further out of grace with the existing government, but the influence of his brother, who had espoused the cause of William and Mary, saved his life. Shortly afterward he was enabled to return to the ancestral Scottish border estates of *Annandale* and resided at *Stapleton*, an ancient fortress-tower overlooking a branch of the Annan.

The first of the family in America was **Gabriel Johnstone** who was appointed by the King to be Governor of North Carolina in 1734; his brother, John Johnstone, was appointed Surveyor in 1736. Gabriel Johnstone held his office for nearly twenty years. Governor Johnstone estate was *Brompton* on the Cape Fear River near where other Scots had already settled, but soon married a wealthy heiress (Penelope) and settled instead on her plantation in Edenton. Though some Scots families were already settled along the Cape Fear River: it was during Johnston's long administration that the Scots emigration began to increase at a very rapid rate, due greatly to the Governor's effort and encouragement. Governor Gabriel Johnstone, from Dundee, Scotland, died August of 1752. He was married to Penelope, the daughter of Charles Eden, the Governor of North Carolina in 1720 (died in office in 1722). His only child was Mary Johnstone who married Colonel John Dawson of Williamsburg, Virginia, the son of Colonel Dawson and wife, Mary (Stith) Dawson, a descendant of William Randolph of Turkey Island.

John Johnstone, the brother of Governor Gabriel Johnstone, was a wealthy planter in Onslow County, North Carolina; an ordained minister of the Church of England. He was married to Helen Scrymgeour of Scotland. Issue.



Governor Samuel Johnstone

- Samuel Johnstone, Governor of North Carolina in 1787; President of the Provincial Congress 1780-82; delegate to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia; a Judge in 1800; and the first US Senator elected from North Carolina in 1789. He died at his home *Hayes*, near Edenton, in 1816. He married Frances Cathcart and by her had four children, viz.

1. Penelope Johnstone married John Swann.
 2. James C. Johnstone, unmarried.
 3. Fanny Johnstone, unmarried.
 4. Helen Johnstone, unmarried.
- John Johnstone was a wealthy planter who resided at *Sapona* in Bertie County, North Carolina. He was a member of Congress at Hillsboro in 1775; State Senator 1787-89; delegate to Provincial Congress in 1776. He married Elizabeth Whitmel Williams. Issue.
 1. Samuel Johnstone married Sarah Thompson. Issue.
 - a. John T. Johnstone, planter of Jackson, Mississippi, married Margaret Thompson.
 - b. John Johnston married Elizabeth Cotton.
 - Elizabeth Johnstone married Phillip Alston.
 - Jane Duncan Johnstone married George Blair.
 - Penelope Johnstone married Parson Stewart.
 - Annie Johnstone, unmarried.
 - Isabella Johnstone died before she was to be married to Joseph Hewes, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.
 - Hannah Johnstone married James Iredell, Judge of the US Court of North Carolina.

Ref. A Genealogical History by Colonel Cadwallader Jones.