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Johns Family.

(I) **Enoch Johns**, a native of Wales, emigrated to Pennsylvania near the close of the eighteenth century, and with his wife, **Mary** (born in Dauphin County) settled in Horse Valley, Franklin County. **Enoch** and **Mary Johns** had issue:

1. **Samuel** (II).
2. **Enoch**.
3. **Rebecca** married **David Sarver**.
4. **Sarah**.
5. **Mary**.

(II) **Samuel Johns** (born in Horse Valley, in 1800—died in Franklin County, March 16, 1869), son of **Enoch** and **Mary Johns**, was a farmer. He settled in Cumberland County, where he lived until 1849, when he removed to Southampton Township, Franklin County. He married **Elizabeth Carson** (born in 1807—died Jan. 18, 1883): they had issue:

1. **David H.** (born Dec. 15, 1826) enlisted in Company H, 7th Regiment. P. V., April 22, 1862, and served in the 3d Brigade, 1st Division, of Major-Gen. Patterson's army. He went into camp with his regiment at Camp Slifer, which was within the present limits of the borough of Chambersburg, and joined in the advance into the Shenandoah Valley. After the expiration of his three months' term of enlistment he re-enlisted for three years, serving until Feb. 18, 1864, when he was mustered out, only to re-enlist as a veteran in Company E, 49th Regiment, P. V., from which he was discharged by order of the War Department, July 16, 1865. During this long service he was wounded only once, and then slightly, being struck on one of his thumbs by a piece of shell, which also grazed his shoulder. An army surgeon ordered the wounded thumb to be amputated, but **Mr. Johns**, feeling sure that it could be saved, slipped away and dressed his own wound. Time proved that he was right, for the thumb thus saved has given him little trouble. He is a farmer living in Perry County.

2. **Mary J.** (born Dec. 15, 1826) married **William Morret**.

3. **Elizabeth A.** (born March 29, 1830) married **John Flora**.

4. **Samuel A.** (born June 11, 1833) enlisted in February, 1864, in Company H, 49th Regiment, P. V., and served until the close of the war, being mustered out July 16, 1865. He lives in Concord, Franklin County.

5. **Joseph A.** (born Sept. 6, 1835) enlisted in Company E, 29th Regiment, P. V., Dec. 18, 1864, and was mustered out with his company, July 17, 1865. It was agreed by the five **Johns** brothers that **Joseph A.** should remain at home to care for the parents while the other four were in the Union service. He was drafted, however, and then, instead of asking President Lincoln for his

discharge, as was first contemplated, it was determined that he should serve the few months that it was clear would end the war.

6. **Isabella P.**, born Aug. 17. 1837, died Sept. 8, 1847.

7. **Benjamin F.** (born in Cumberland County, June 1, 1839) was educated in the public schools of Cumberland County and of Southampton Township, Franklin County. He remained on his father's farm until he was twenty years old, when he apprenticed himself to the plastering trade, at which he worked until the outbreak of the Civil war. Then his ardent patriotism led him to become one of the first soldiers of the Union. He enlisted in Company I, 49th Regiment, P. v., Sept. 16, 1861, and was transferred to Company A, Jan. 11, 1863. He was promoted to be a corporal of his company March 1, 1863, and mustered out as a veteran, July 16, 1865. From the siege of Yorktown, which began April 16th, and lasted until May 4, 1862, to the action at Sailor's Creek, Va., April 6, 1865, he took part in seventeen battles and five skirmishes, making a total of twenty-two engagements. In 1862 he participated in nine battles: The siege of Yorktown, which lasted eighteen days; Williamsburg, Va., May 5th; Gannett's Hill, Va., June 27th; Golding's Farm, Va., June 28th; Savage Station, Va., June 29th; White Oak Swamp, Va., June 30th; Malvern Hill, Va., July 1st; Antietam, Md., Sept. 17th; and Fredericksburg, Va., Dec. 13th. In 1863 he was in six battles: Fredericksburg, Va., April 29th; Gettysburg, Pa., July 2d and 3d; Funkstown, Md., July 12th; Rappahannock Station, Va., Nov. 7th; Locust Grove, Va., Nov. 27th; and Mine Run, Va., Nov. 28th, 29th and 30th. It is worthy of remark that although the battle of Gettysburg is generally supposed to have ended on July 3d, 1863, Company A, of the 49th Regiment, P. V., in which **Corporal Johns** was serving, was sent out to skirmish at dawn on the 4th, and lay all day near the Devil's Den, in front of Round Top. In 1864 he took part in five of the hardest fought battles of the war: The Wilderness, May 5th-10th; Spottsylvania, Va., May 12th; Cold Harbor, Va., June 1st-12th; Weldon Railroad, Va., June 30th; and Petersburg, Va., June 22d and 23d. In 1865 he was in the assault at Petersburg, April 2d, and in the final action with the Confederates at Little Sailor's Creek, Va., April 6th, in which Ewell's Corps was routed and Gen. Ewell taken prisoner. At this battle; **Mr. Johns** was taken prisoner, and while he was with the Rebels was asked by Gen. Ewell where the Union men were and who they were. **Mr. Johns** answered that the troops consisted of the 6th Corps and Sheridan's Cavalry and that they were all around him. The General said, "It looks very much like it," and he wrote a note which he dispatched by a carrier. In a short time eight of his general officers reported to him, and **Mr. Johns** was asked the same question, giving the same answer. The old general walked back and forth for a while, and then turning to his men said, "It looks very much like it, and I think we had better throw up the sponge and save life on both sides." The flag of truce was accordingly sent into the Union lines, and **Mr. Johns'** regiment, the 49th Pa., was detailed to take the prisoners back to Burksville Station, about fifteen miles. On the way back our subject heard Gen. Ewell tell his colonel that but for information given him by a Yankee he (Ewell) would have made another charge, which would undoubtedly have resulted in the useless slaughter of two or three hundred men. **Mr. Johns** also had the distinction of being an advisory member of a Rebel council of war. In his long and arduous service of four years, including the most sanguinary battles of the war, **Corporal Johns** escaped without a wound. Returning to civil life he became a resident of Chambersburg, where he worked at his trade as a journeyman for a year and a half. He then lived in Pittsburgh and in Somerset County until 1877, when he returned to Chambersburg. In 1877 he began business as a contracting plasterer, in which line he is still

engaged, and at which he has been very successful. He has always had plenty of work, employing seven or eight hands. He does both plain and ornamental plastering, and it is conceded that he does the best and the most work in his calling in the county. In politics **Mr. Johns** is a Republican; he has served as judge of elections in his ward, and has been twice a member of the Chambersburg town council. The second time he was elected a councilman as a Republican in a Democratic ward. He was also chosen Justice of the Peace for the 3d ward, Chambersburg, but declined to serve. He built the handsome residence in which he lives, in Second Street, in 1883. He is a member of the Red Men, Pocahontas Council, and of the Shepherds of Bethlehem. He has always been one of the most active and enthusiastic members of Housum Post, No. 309. G. A. R. and he is also an honorary member of the Ladies Circle, G. A. R. In his youth his educational advantages were meager, his entire attendance at school covering a period of not more than eighteen months, but he has always been a student, and is a good penman and a fair scholar. He writes well and is the author of a number of essays reminiscent of the Civil war, which have appeared in the National Tribune, and some of which have attracted wide attention and been the subjects of inquiry from old Confederate soldiers. **Mr. Johns** married Aug. 15, 1867, **Mary Glessner**, daughter of **John Glessner**, of Franklin County.

8. **Caroline C.** (born Aug. 16, 1842 —died May 1, 1878) married **Jacob Ziegler**.

9. **Reuben Scott** (born Oct. 26, 1846) enlisted in 1863, under the six months' call, in Company H, 21st Regiment, Pa. Cav.; he re-enlisted in Company I, 9th Pa. Cav., Sept. 17, 1864, and was discharged by General Order, May 29, 1865. He was with Gen. Sherman in his famous "March to the Sea." and was present when Gen. Joseph E. Johnston surrendered. During his long service as a cavalryman he escaped serious injury, but on one occasion his horse was shot from under him, and in falling, his left leg was slightly fractured by the weight of his horse.

10. **Rebecca S.** (born Oct. 26, 1846 — died Dec. 12, 1890), married **Thomas Clemens**.

11. **Isaiah M.**, born Nov. 13, 1848, died Aug. 18, 1864.

12. **William M.**, born Aug. 12, 1850, died March 4, 1882.

It should be especially noted that the five **Johns** brothers who served in the Civil war are all yet living, the oldest now almost seventy-nine.

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