

Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of the Juniata Valley, Comprising the Counties of Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, and Perry, Pennsylvania, J. M. Runk and Company, Publishers 1897

**Edward C. Johnston**, New Germantown, Perry County, Pa., was born December 2, 1842, in Toboyne Township, on the farm which he now owns. He is a son of **George** and **Margaret (Russell) Johnston**. His grandfather, **James Johnston**, was a native of County Armagh, Ireland. He emigrated to this country between 1760 and 1770, and settled in Toboyne Township, Perry County. **James Johnston** married **Margaret Anderson**, of Madison Township, Perry County. Their children were: **William; John; Ann; Jane; James; George; Alexander;** and **Elizabeth**, all deceased. The second son, **John**, was a member of the legislature when the law establishing the free school system was passed, and supported the Hon. Thaddeus Stevens in its passage. Being at one time asked what they raised in Perry County, he answered, "We raise men." He had a fine physique, being over six feet in height, and weighing more than two hundred pounds. **George Johnston** was born, December 14, 1802, on the old **Johnston** farm. He received a part of his education at Andersonburg School, which was six miles from his home. He learned farming, but began business for himself by dealing in cattle, buying in Ohio, and the western part of Pennsylvania, and selling in the east. In this way he made enough money to buy the farm now owned by his children. **Mr. Johnston** was a Republican; and served as school director for several years. **George Johnston** married **Margaret Russell**, of Miami County, O., in May, 1835. Their journey home was made via Cincinnati; there they took a boat up the Ohio River to Pittsburg, then went to Mifflintown by canal and inclined planes. They settled on the homestead which they bought, and began life in a simple manner, having but little furniture. **Mr. Johnston** spent his life in farming and stock-raising. They were members of the United Presbyterian Church. **Mr. Johnston** died January 26, 1872; his wife survived him about three years. Their children are: **Samuel A.**, a farmer of Spring Run, Franklin County, Pa., where he settled in 1887; **Margaret; Edward C.; Alexander A.**, a farmer of Toboyne Township; **Mary A.**, died aged two years; and **Letitia (Mrs. James Anderson)**, died in Jackson Township.

**Edward C. Johnston** received his primary education in the public schools of his native township, and completed his course at Loysville Academy under Prof. George W. Leshner. He was very studious and devoted all his spare time to his books. He was twice prepared to enter college, but was forced to abandon these plans, as his father needed his assistance on the farm. When **Mr. Johnston** was thirty, his father died; since then he and his brother **Alexander**, and their sister **Margaret** have held the estate in equal shares. **Mr. Johnston** is a Republican; he has never sought office. He is a member of the United Presbyterian Church.

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