

Letter to Mrs. Warren L. Johnson from Mrs. G. B. Turner of Hillsboro, Georgia dated July 25, 1940

Hillsboro, Georgia July 25, 1940-

Dear Mrs. Johnson:

I went out to the old Johnson place yesterday which is about 2-1/2 miles from here. The road is almost impassable. There is a family of negroes living there now. The old house which is over a hundred years old is almost gone. The pillars under the house are almost washed out. Altho I've lived here 28 years I had never been to the family cemetery before. Its away down in the woods..of course it has been years since the land round it was cultivated and it has grown up. It is kept clean by these negroes. Its a beautiful little cemetery, clean as a pin away out in the woods. It made me feel sad yesterday. There are 8 graves there. The Grandfather, Grandmother and Father have an old fashioned square box like tomb over them. They are so pretty. The sons and daughter and mother all have a tomb just alike; they are large and very pretty. Nice iron fence. The slaves were buried just outside of their masters graveyard fence. They are not kept cleaned off and there are lots of their graves. None of the boys nor the girl, who was Miss Mary we called her, ever married. Miss Mary was left alone for years before she died. I only remember her. I've heard my husbands old aunt who passed on 3 years ago and would now be 88 years old say the Johnson home was once a beautiful place and that she danced many a night there. Seems she and some of the boys were near the same age. Out in the section where the old Johnson place is, was once thickly settled. All of the old homes are gone now. The government bought all the land around here and they tore all of them down, which was a shame as the lumber in them was still perfect after 100 years. We don't have such timber now. Some of them are left, only a few tho. The government still owns the old Johnson place. I have copied exactly what was on each tomb and put who they were opposite each I do hope you can get what information you need from it. I used a Mr. Freeman's car to go out there as we don't have a car. The Johnsons were a grand old family.

Sincerely,

Mrs. G. B. Turner

<b>Grandfather</b>	Sacred to the memory of <b>Snellen Johnson</b> departed this life Dec 3 in the 70th year of his age 1842.
<b>Grandmother</b>	Sacred to the memory of <b>Mary Johnson</b> died Apr 9, 1856 in her 79th year.
<b>Father</b>	Sacred to the memory of <b>Alfred Johnson</b> who departed this life Jan 8 1874 in the 67 year of his age.
<b>Mother</b>	<b>Adeline E. Johnson</b> died Aug 2 1887 age 71 yr.
<b>Daughter</b>	<b>Mary F. Johnson</b> died Jul 18 1931 age 83 yr.
<b>Son</b>	<b>J Tom Johnson</b> born Jul 30, 1853 died Jun 14, 1915.
<b>Son</b>	<b>Alfred L. Johnson</b> died Dec 16, 1913 age 65 yr.
<b>Son</b>	<b>Snellen A. Johnson</b> died May 2, 1896 age 50 yr.

**NOTE:**

The foregoing inscriptions are on the old gravestones at the Johnson Cemetery in Hillsboro, Georgia. Mrs. Turner did not copy all of the information from the gravestones as each, except for Marys, had an inscription or epitaph. Those that are not complete were recorded by Wallace L. Taylor in February 1992, and are as follows:

**Adeline E. Johnson...** August 2, 1887 at 71 years. To forget is vain endeavor, loves remembrance is forever.

**Alfred L. Johnson...**December 16, 1913 at 65 years. May he find you in the life hereafter.

**Snellen A. Johnson...**May 2, 1896 at 50 years. Father let thy grace be given, that we may meet in heaven.

**J. Tom Johnson...**Born July 30, 1843...Died June 14, 1915. It was hard indeed to part with thee, but Christ's strong arms supported me.

**Mary F. Johnson...**July 18, 1931...Age 83

[WLT1]



This wonderful letter was apparently discovered during June Belcher Roberts research for the "Johnson-Greer-Davis Connection" book. One can only speculate that the wife of our cousin Warren L. Johnson was doing some genealogy work back in 1940 and some how got in touch with Mrs. Turner and the letter was a result of that exchange. This letter provides much information for us to use in our ongoing research of Snellen Johnson and where he came from and who were his parents.

Of special note is the fact that Mary Foreman Johnson, the daughter of Alfred and Adeline Johnson was the last of their family. It is sad and disheartening to also note that all of the gravestones had inscriptions of some sort or epitaphs, but Marys had nothing. I am surprised that the Brown family that she spent her last several years with, and who were the beneficiaries of her substantial estate, did not have a single word for Marys gravestone.

Wallace L. Taylor.....January 4, 1994