

Sir John Johnson The First American Born Baronet

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Sir John Johnson, the First American-born Baronet

Excerpt from Sir John Johnson, the First American-Born Baronet: An Address; Delivered Before the New York Historical Society, at Its Annual Meeting, Tuesday, January 6th, 1880 It is well for men to reflect upon two or three expressions in the Bible which demonstrate that injustice is not always to exercise omnipotent sway, and that even the "High Song" of Odin, in the "Edda," was mistaken when it sang: "One thing I know that never dies. The verdict passed upon the dead." Whoever assumed the name of the "Preacher King" to present his own opinions in the Apocryphal book, styled the "Wisdom of Solomon," uttered a multitude of truths worthy of the divinely-inspired son of David, but no grander enunciation than the assurance, "Vice [Falsehood] shall not prevail against Wisdom" [Truth]; and St. Paul, the greatest human being who, as a fact and not a fiction, ever trod this little world of man, promised that even to humanity "every man's work shall be made manifest." It is in this interest - Truth - that the address of the evening is delivered. Victor Hugo, a truly bright, however erratic, mind, has thrown off, from time to time, sentences which are undoubted sparks of genius. One of these is his denunciation of the delusive lights of Success. "Success," says this great writer, "has a dupe - History!" It has another dupe - Public Opinion; and this latter is nowhere blinded by such obliquity, if not actual opacity, of vision as in this country; preferring gilt to gold, and bestowing the highest prizes on men, who, in comparison with demigods like Thomas, are of mere clay. The whole of our Revolutionary history is a myth. A member of this very society has torn some of the coverings from apparently slight scratches and revealed festering sores. It would be well if there were other practitioners as daring. The effort of this evening will be simply the vindication of a gentleman who has borne up, like an Atlas, under the hundred years of obloquy heaped upon his memory, a load of which he can alone be relieved by outspoken truth. The present King of Sweden has just published a species of vindication of one who was a grand hero and a great soldier, although historian, poet and playwright have united in damning his memory with faint praise, summed up in the epithet: "The Madman of the North." Could this opprobrious term be heard by Charles the Twelfth, he might exclaim with St. Paul, and with equal justice, "I am not mad?" for Charles was a patriot King, a Soldier, a General, a Man - the latter in the grandest sense of the word - without any vice, with manifold virtues. He failed, and he fell; and the curs that barked from afar off at the living: lion howled in triumph over the kingly creature which Fortune not their fangs tore down. The royal author - Oscar II., in the following eloquent passages quoted, doubtless refers to the

misjudgments of his countrymen in regard to prominent men who sustained the losing side in the civil wars of his country, as well to those of Swedes and foreigners upon his predecessor: "The past appeals to the impartiality of the future. History replies. But, often, generations pass away ere that reply can be given in a determinate form. For not until the voices of contemporaneous panegyric and censure are hushed; not until passionate pulses have ceased to beat; until flattery has lost its power to charm, and calumny to vilify, can the verdict of history be pronounced. Then from the clouds of error and prejudice the sun of truth emerges, and light is diffused in bright rays, of ever increasing refulgence and breadth. Every age has its own heroes - men who seem to embody the prevailing characteristics of their relative epochs, and to present to after ages the idealized expression of their chief tendencies. Such men must be judged by no ordinary standard. History must view their actions as a whole, not subject them to separate tests, or examin

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Sir John Johnson, the First American-Born Baronet

Sir John Johnson: Loyalist Baronet is the first full-length biography of a man who played a central role in the organization and development of Canada. The son of Sir William Johnson, he was born and bred in the Mohawk valley of New York and, after the onset of the American Revolution, became the most prominent Loyalist in the province of Canada. The commander of the King's Royal Regiment of New York, he played an important part in the forays on the rich agricultural lands of his native state, a region regarded as the breadbasket of the Thirteen Colonies. In 1782 he was appointed Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs in British North America; during his decades in this post, he remained the loyal friend of the Indians and the champion of their rights. In 1784 he supervised the movement of the Loyalists from the Montreal area to the upper St. Lawrence and Bay of Quinte regions and consequently may be considered as the founder of modern Ontario. He was recommended by Lord Dorchester for the position of first lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada, and there was widespread disappointment when some one else was chosen. This is the story of a colonial who mixed easily with the elite of both America and England, his tumultuous affairs reflecting the tumultuous times he lived in. The tremendous property losses he suffered as a Loyalist were never matched by the land grants and money payments made by the British Government; yet he maintained the same extravagant standard of living he had been accustomed to before the Revolution. His mansions in Montreal, his seigneuries in old Quebec, his houses and mills in other parts of Canada, and his home in the London suburbs were costly to buy and expensive to maintain. He and Lady Johnson had fourteen children to provide for, to feed, clothe, educate, and purchase dowries, positions, and military commissions for. He had his former common law wife and their two children in Schenectady to provide for, as well as the families of no less than three deceased brothers-in-law to concern him. His life was one long struggle, in an age of nepotism, favouritism, and graft, to find the funds to finance his responsibilities. The product of an age of violence, the Seven Years' War, the American Revolution, the French Revolution, the War of 1812, the Napoleonic Wars, he was not essentially a violent man. However, many of his male relatives, sons, nephews, brothers-in-law, cousins, were caught up in the turbulence of the age and paid with their lives. Sir John did not escape unscathed; he paid the price in a different currency.

Sir John Johnson, the First American-Born Baronet. an Address Delivered Before the New York Historical Society, at Its Annual Meeting, Tuesday, Januar

Includes titles on all subjects, some in foreign languages, later incorporated into Memorial Library.

Sir John Johnson

When I started to trace my ancestors I found what I expected at first; miners, woodsmen, soldiers, musicians and even a cordwainer. Going back further I was surprised to find Colonels, Generals, a bank manager, a Highland Chief, Scottish royalty and a Palatine refugee who sold herself into seven years servitude to get to the colony of America. There she was bought by an Irishman who took her to the frontier to keep his house and warm his bed. She had 3 children by him before she achieved her freedom. This woman, my 5 times great-grandmother is lied about in biographies of her owner, my 5 times great grandfather, William Johnson, and traduced on genealogy sites. Here I set out the truth about her with incontrovertible evidence obtained from a man known as Garter via the House of Lords in London, England.

Annual Report of the American Historical Association

III. on lining papers. Includes index.

Annual Report of the American Historical Association

Reproduction of the original: Twice-born Men in America by Harriet Earhart Monroe

Miscellanies

This is a listing of all the books, pamphlets, magazines, and similar matter held by the Library of the Huguenot Society of America in New York City as of 1920 when the Catalogue was published. Part I consists of a classified catalogue, with sections devoted to genealogical works including family history; Part II is a dictionary or strictly alphabetical catalogue, with cross-references to other listings. Our publication is a reprint of the edition of 1920, an edition originally limited to only 100 copies, which is roughly three times the size of the 1890 first edition.

Miscellanies

John Watts de Peyster (1821-1907) was born in New York City, the son of Frederic de Peyster and Mary Justina Watts. He married Estelle Livingston, daughter of John Swift Livingston and Anna Maria Thompson.

Senate documents

Bibliography of American Historical Societies