

JOHNSTON CO, NC - BLACK CREEK

○ FROM: CONCERNING OUR ANCESTORS - 1980 BY RUTH
BETHEA JOHNSON - PAGE(S) 11, 12, 13

Ruth writes about her earliest American Johnson Ancestor
and gives the following insight re Tapley Johnson, Sr &
his wife LYDIA MATTHEWS

CROSS FILE:

TAPLEY JOHNSON, SR

LYDIA MATTHEWS

JOSEPH IRBY

MARK MYATT

The land of Tapley Johnson,

It was originally in
Cumberland Co, NC but

in 1855 became part
of Harnett Co, NC when
it was formed. of the

6 towns (*) near his
land, all except LILLINGTON

were on the North side
of the Cape Fear River -

or otherwise described as
between the Cape Fear

River & the Wake and
Johnston County southern
boundaries.

CREEKS - ALL HARNETT CO, NC

HUGHES CREEK

HECTORS CREEK

BUIES CREEK

NEIL'S CREEK

THORNTON'S CREEK

MILL CREEK

AVENTS CREEK

LITTLE CREEK

BLACK RIVER

Consider not the spelling: Where there are recorded land grants, deeds,
and wills, there is various spelling on the same page - Johnstone, Jon-
son, Johnson - and our forefather Tapley Johnson's name is spelled every
way it could be spelled, including Tarpley - Taply, Tapply, Taple, Tapley,
and Tappley. And the spelling Johnston was used more frequently until
about 1800; the spelling without the "T" was more often used after that
date.

Tapley Johnston's name appears first in Johnston County in 1786, "on the
20th of October...Joseph Irby for the sum of 80 £...sold unto the said
Taple Johnson a certain tract or parcel of land lying in the County of
Johnston on both sides of Black Creek containing 800 acres. Witness:
Mark Myatt".

The first land grant to Tapply Johnston is 200 acres lying in Cumberland
County on Cooper's Branch...issued in 1789 by Governor Samuel Johnston.
The Grant had been entered in 1780. And subsequently there are five
other Grants to him totaling 1265 acres - on Hughes Creek, Hectors Creek,
Buies Creek, Neils' Creek, Thornton's Creek, Mill Creek (now Avents
Creek), Little Creek and Black River, - through the year 1807. During
that period of twenty years, it is recorded that he acquired by Grant
and deed 3653 acres of land near the waters of the Cape Fear, in the vi-
cinity that is now Averasboro, Erwin, Buies Creek, Lillington, Cokesbury
and Kipling. *

There appears no sale, but in the years 1814 and 1818 he deeds land to
his four children - William, Tapley, Jr., Sarah, and Betsy.

He like other men of ability in his day was appointed to select and build
ferry crossing on the Cape Fear, to lay out and overseer roads, to prove
deeds or wills; serve as Superior Court Juror at Wilmington, as bonds-
man and other like services that were common in his day.

We do not know when or where he married Lydia Matthews, but the story
is told of his proposal. Lydia was putting down a hoe cake on the

griddle over some coals on the hearth. The inspiration for a practical
helpful wife overtook him and he patted her shoulder and said, "Lydia,
will you have me?" Lydia patted the bread and replied, "Hush Tapley,
hush!" And the patting pursued with, "O, Lydia, won't you have me?"
and "Hush, Tapley, hush!" until the bread was all patted into the fire...
when they faced their embarrassment, they laughed and decided to stop
fencing with each other and face life together.

To this union we have a record of four children - two boys and two girls.
William who married Goodin Carter; Elizabeth married Jesse Branch, but
lived only a short time. Sarah married Joel Prince, and the youngest
child, Tapley Ormond Johnson, Jr., married Mary (Polly) Atkins.

CREEKS - JOHNSTON CO, NC

BLACK CREEK ↑