

1834
Sept 14

1905

Johnson's birth & death date
- March

A Trip to the Gold Fields of California in 1852.

By--Dr. John Franklin Johnston.

John Franklin Johnston, oldest son of Thomas and Sally Ann Workman Johnston, had been in Columbus, Ohio, for a year; staying with his Aunt Lucretia Workman Tipton and her husband. He attended North Grammer School now called "Commercial High" School; was on the same site at least. The Tipton brothers had a grocery and meat market on the west side of High Street, near Gay. They lived in the same building. The remainder of this article is copied from his diary. He was not quite 18 years old.

March 1, 1852.

As spring drew near and the days began to be warm and bright; I became homesick, and instead of applying my mind to my studies, I often just sat and thought of home. I had heard that there was a prospect of a train making up for California but nothing definite.

Until One day towards the close of March I got a letter from my uncle Stuart Workman informing me that he was making up a train to cross the plains to California. He said he had asked my father to let him take me with him--as his brother, Franklin, who had been in the mines for ~~3~~ years, wished to have me come to him. Father had agreed to my going, if I wished to do so. Of course, I was anxious to go, as they knew I would be. I bade my teacher and schoolmates goodbye, and the next day after receiving the letter took the train for home. But I could not leave my dog. I got a collar and chain and led him with me to the depot.

I thought he would be scared and lonesome in the baggage car where everything was new and strange to him, so I slyly took him in with me and hid him under my seat in the passenger car. We got past several stations all right, the conductor on his visits did not seem to know of the extra passenger. At last after we left Delaware he turned after passing me and said "My young friend, do you intend to pay full fare for your dog?" I looked at him and said "Oh, is my dog here?" He laughed and said "Oh, you need not look so innocent, I saw his tail wagging from under the seat when leaving the city. I don't blame you, he is a fine pup and I would like to own him myself; but I will see that he is well used in the baggage car." I felt very sorry for the poor little fellow but had to submit.

The Conductor smiled kindly on me after that, everytime he came through the car, and when I left the train at Shelby, shook hands and asked me to put a price on the dog, but I would not part with him; he was a curly coated Spaniel and New Foundland cross--a real beauty and I wished my folks to have him for he was very intelligent. I was not dissappointed in Carlo. He became a noted coon-dog, and I sold him after I came from California for six dollars and an accordion, to a man who would be good and kind to him.

The Franklin Workman left Ohio in 1840. After completing his course, he settled at a place called Monticello in Miss.

He was chosen surgeon of the regiment, and was a popular officer throughout the war.

John Franklin Johnston

See memo of mother

Platts River Road Hamilton

Entry # 1208

20 To 24 miles to the Plains now
28.5 miles from S. 90° C.
wet clay & some willow
for fuel to night we
now are through the Pawnee
tribe of Indians and now
come among the Sioux
who are more honorable
and noble than the Pawnee
do not steal from
the whites they number
about 10000 strong tribe
little thunder is their
chief — we are now in
sight of 5 different

20 To 21 Miles to the Plains
28.5 Miles from St. Joe
wet clay & some willow
for fuel to night we
now are through the Pawnee
tribe of Indians and now
come among the Sioux
who are more honorable
and noble than the Pawnee
do not steal from
the whites they number
about 10000 strong tribe
little thunder is their
chant — we are now in
sight of 5 different

Companies of Engineers
from different points
the Canadian Army
comes in here and teams
are waiting in front
of the station in large
companies - An Indian
trader from St. Catharines
stays with us to
night - Says there are about
300 companies between here
and there ahead of us
and we are now 30 miles on
ward from St. Joe's
- He says he came in the day
before yesterday and
he says he has seen
40 mile teams
of pack mules
coming down the

Caught in light
trap. Males
3 & 2 females.

22. 7. 8 Miles to 10. 10. 11

Wandered about 4 miles
from the first willows

[Faint handwritten signature]

Enter good repaired money

44 The Court-Res.

23. 59. After examination of

Wagon, pulled by horse, etc.

to One Man Soldier

After a night last ^{there} night by

Wing Lieutenant 2195 - 2196

1907-1908

6 Cart 3 Miles in each pass
10 to 12

118 to 120

[illegible]

Sinc.



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on board this morning
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14 Gold Camp & Eagle middle
pass one fresh made
Grave in the Prairie
day 8 Mule teams passed
and camped in sight
of our camp. The Indians
large well water scarce
and the land not as rich
as nearer the Missouri R.
we have passed through
the Dacotah, Arapaho & Cheyenne
-traders- tribes of Indians
then we the remnants of
the tribes a few years ago
they are each a separate
tribe now almost extinct
and the great majority
of the people are American

15 20
men none like they
will steal and rob any
small company they can
upon a small party of
60 with mules a few days
ago and rob them of all
they had but killed none
we have 10 wagons in our
company 30 men all
well armed and will fight
to the last before we will
be robbed camp in the night
if a scout in the camp
finds a trail he will
small party and we will
one will shoot or as were
the tip of the spear they
are killing the Caribou

we passed the little mountain
and ran over the river this
evening and the day after
the morning of Camp
but in the Prairie carried on
over with us 8 miles
later on the river. Little
mountain of grass growing
and water in the stream
and the river is deep and
wide. The river is a good
great excitement in the
camp this night. Indians begin
to get the horses and are
driving them in the river and
a little distance and a
large number of horses
are driven into the river
and all the horses are

in the night
16th, Crossed the Sandy stream
the fork of little Sandy stream
a long cut off about 15 miles
and found here 40, 50, 60 Indians
in the river and near where
we crossed the Sandy stream
but in the Prairie carried on
a good distance with us Indians
are waiting at the woods and
in camp this evening
wood being scarce some of
our cooks are cooking with
buffalo and chip for sale
with some of the season
meat and the cooking
with the fire.

remained in camp here in
a rain of rain. Still the
fighting continued all these
days and in the early morning

The night wind still in a 10 minutes
 blew our tents down by the water
 level in and the water
 was 10 inches deep around our
 baggage. Hard fare last night
 25. A. There is a string of towns
 about 74 miles ahead of us and
 at every mile behind us all
 have except about 45 mile
 towns. Camped in the
 Prairie. Grass is water
 and there are good crops
 Beef, Fat & Chips this night
 to the next. Doubled with
 extra waggon loads with
 4000 Buffalo skins going
 to the good. No more to be seen
 in camp. No more of the
 Buffalo very dry but

At 10 o'clock we started
on the trip to the
the Emigrants
the mouth of the river
up the river in a small boat
and on our way we
were this night to see
some of the Indians. Many
Indians were there. The
boat was full of them with
so many lodges. The
men and best looking
Indians. Over the
camp was a large
tent. The Indians were
very friendly.

Grave in the top of a big
Cottonwood tree 30 ft from
the ground one body carried
on a stretcher in a blanket and then
lowered in a large basket of
a long shape made of willow
bark that all covered with
buffalo hides. In the thick
mist to preserve it from
the weather. It was covered
with skins and many birds
were hanging from the sides
with the bones - and to keep it
about was very large and
the Indians had built a large
tent. The Indians were
very friendly.

The Miller and Campbell families
 of the Maine and New York
 and Virginia families.

[illegible]

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7. At about 12.30 miles from
Chimney Creek to the Bl.
River we reached some water
you can see the Rocky Moun-
tains from here. The water is
very warm from the land but we
got it and were visited with
a bunch of deer yesterday in
the afternoon. I shot a
one as the day before.

8. We rode to the creek where
the Indians are camping
We camped in the night. The
Indians are very friendly
and we are very happy
to be here. The Indians are
very friendly and we are
very happy to be here.

9. At about 13.20 miles
we camped at the right-
hand side of the river. The
water is very warm and the
Indians are very friendly.
The Indians are very friendly
and we are very happy to
be here. The Indians are
very friendly and we are
very happy to be here.

10. We remained in camp
to rest our cattle. The
Indians are very friendly
and we are very happy to
be here. The Indians are
very friendly and we are
very happy to be here.

[illegible][illegible]

15. 2. 1880. The
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