

Jonas Johnston, of this county (Edgecombe) is a name which deserves our remembrance and respect. He was a member of the House of Commons in 1776, an officer (Major), by the State Congress. He left all the comforts of home, and the enjoyment of his family, and joined the standard of his country. He was severely ^{wounded} at the battle of Stono, fought in 1779, and died on his way home, leaving several children; one of whom was the maternal grandfather of Hon. Richard Hines, now of Raleigh.--See Wheeler's History of North Carolina, volume 2, page 143.

It would be unpardonable on this occasion not to mention the merits of Col. Jonas Johnston, who rose from obscurity, and acted a conspicuous part in our Revolutionary struggles. He was born in the year 1740, in Southampton county, Virginia, and came with his father to this country when quite young. # # # # At a public meeting at Tarboro not long after the commencement of the war, information was brought there that there was an insurrection of Tories near Cape Fear, and that assistance was much needed to quell them. Mr. Johnston being present addressed the people in a speech of considerable length and eloquence, and soon obtained a band of volunteers; who marched with him at their head that same evening. In the year 1776 he went out to Moore's Creek against the Tories, and in the same year was a member of the Convention that formed the State Constitution, after which he was constantly and actively employed as a legislator and military officer until the year 1779, when he took command of a regiment of militia and went to the assistance of South Carolina. As his regiment was a considerable time attached from any other army he had frequent occasions to address, sometimes the legislature of this State, and at others the

Governor of South Carolina, by letter--nor would those letters (in matter and dictation) have discredited any statesmen. He was not long enough in the army to distinguish himself much as a soldier. He was in the battle of Stono, and there conducted himself with the interpidity and coolness of a veteran. His tenderness and love for the soldiers under his command are spoken of to this day by those who had the pleasure to serve under him. He could not bear to see any soldier suffer more hardship than himself. This was the last service he rendered his country. Then he being in a debilitated state, so exhausted himself, as to hasten the disease of which he died on his return home.--See University Magazine, April, 1861, page 458-459.

Wheeler's Memoirs of Eminent Men place his death July 29, 1779 at the house of Mr Amis on Drowning Creek, near the South Carolina line.--Page 158.

Among a number of resolutions agreed upon in Committee of the Whole, the following was reported and adopted by the Provincial Congress at Halifax, April 22, 1776:

Edgecomb--Exum Lewis Colonel; Simon Gray, Lieut.-Colonel; Jonas Johnston, 1st Major; Thomas Hunter, 2d Major.--Colonial Records, vol. 10, page 531. (Field Officers for the county.)

At a session, of the Provincial Congress, held at Halifax, November 12, 1776, Jonas Johnston was certified as elected to represent Edgecomb county.--Colonial Records, page 914.

The following in reference to Mr. Johnston, is recorded:

Appointment on the Committee on Inquiry.--page 918.

Mr. Johnston voted in the affirmative on the Report of Committee on the manufacture of Guns in Halifax County.--Page 960.

Resolved, That Mr. Jonas Johnston, # # # be a committee to take under consideration the petition of a number of soldiers

in Wake County, under command of Captain James Jones, of the Light Horse, and make report thereof.--Page 969.