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# JESSE JOHNSON

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SHERIFF



**Jesse Johnson Served two terms as Sheriff: 1824-27 and 1828-30.**

**Jesse Johnson was born April 28, 1795 in Oglethorpe County, Georgia to John and Ann Ealy Johnson. Jesse and his brother Samuel came to Henry County in 1822 by way of Greene County Georgia. They settled in the Bear Creek area (later known as Hampton). They were two of the first settlers in Henry County.**

**In 1823 Jesse and his brother both bought lots in the town of McDonough. There is no record that Jesse ever lived in McDonough; his residence appears to have been on Burnt Mill road (now Rocky Creek Rd) where he built a water powered sawmill and grist mill. Burning waste from the sawmill gave it the name "burnt mill" which became the name for the road.**

**He was a prominent farmer in the county and considered a very clever man. He was connected in politics with the Democratic Party, and was one of its strongest adherents. He was put in by this party as a candidate for Sheriff and after being appointed served as such to the entire satisfaction of political leaders and friends as well as foes. He had been Deputy to Sheriff's Fletcher and Brooks. James Fletcher and James Love served as Deputies under Sheriff Johnson.**

**Jesse Johnson married to Lucy Webb Barnett on November 14, 1817 and had 10 children. In 1831 he owned 827 acres of land in Henry County and additional lands in Muscogee and Lee Counties for a total of 1,433 acres. By late 1837 Jesse is listed on tax records as being out of state, he had moved to Alabama, but his affairs were not properly settled in Henry County until 1841. Jesse and Lucy left Henry County with most of their children in 1837 for Alabama and then they continued west, as was the practice when the land gave out, to Texas in 1846. Their daughter Ava Ann Johnson married an Adams and remained in Henry County. Nathan Barnett Johnson, a son, became a doctor and after schooling returned to Spalding and Henry Counties. Jesse was an original trustee of Pleasant Grove Academy.**

**In 1824 Jesse Johnson was commissioned by the Executive Department and the Governor of Georgia to be Sheriff of Henry County, and in 1828 he received a second commission.**

**Jesse Johnson was in the Georgia Senate in 1830 and 1831. By May 1833 Jesse appears as Justice of the Court of Ordinary. From 1822 through 1837 Jesse's signature appears on Inferior Court Minutes as a Justice. Jesse died May 15, 1856 in Lockhart, Caldwell County, Texas and his wife Ann followed him in death the next year.**

**A final note on the legacy of Sheriff Jesse Johnson; he was the great-grandfather to Lyndon Baines Johnson who served as the 37<sup>th</sup> Vice President and the 36<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. LBJ is remembered for ascending to the Presidency after the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy on November 22, 1963. His design of the Great Society, new civil rights laws, and the escalation of the Vietnam War were hallmarks of his time as President.**

If you have photographs or additional information about past Sheriff's of Henry County that you would like to share for this display, please contact Major Jack Oakman at 770-288-7034.