Edward Johnston of Plymouth, Richland County, OH Soldier in the American Civil War



© Susan McNelley

On July 4th, 1863, Edward Johnston, a twenty-seven-year-old farmer from Plymouth, Ohio received his commission as a Second Lieutenant with Company B, 4th Regiment of the Ohio Militia in Richland County, Ohio. Edward was the son of John and Mary Johnston who had emigrated from Ireland and settled in the town of Plymouth in Richland County in 1830. Edward had been married to Hannah Kuhn, the daughter of John Kuhn and Elizabeth Reymer, for six years. Their first child would be born the following year, in 1864.

Nothing more is known about Edward's service during the Civil War. We don't know where he served or for how long he served.

After the war, Edward returned to his farm outside of Shelby, Ohio. Edward and Hanna raised four children: Elbert E., Minor K., Lottie Blanch, and Edward Reymer. The Civil War veteran died on March 18, 1901 at the age of 65. With the exception of his time in the Ohio Militia, Edward spent his life engaged in farming in the community in which he was born. Edward and his family are listed in the U.S. Census records of 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1900 for Plymouth, Richland Co. Ohio. The farm was eventually sold by Edward's sons Minor and Edward about 1935.

Nearly 320,000 Ohioans served in the Union army. Only New York and Pennsylvania had more men in military service. In addition, out of all of the states, Ohio had the highest percentage of its population enlisted in the military. Edward was fortunate in that he returned home. Many of his fellow Ohioans died on the battlefield or in the camps. Many others had their lives shortened by the injuries and sicknesses that they had suffered as a soldier.

The sword Edward Johnston received at his commission had special significance for the family. Edward passed it to his son Edward Reymer, who, in turn, passed it on to his son Edward Weber Johnston, who was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1935. Edward Weber Johnston served in the Second World War and in the Korean Conflict, eventually achieving the rank of Colonel.

In the Jume and by the Anthority of the State of Ohio.
HHA THE THE PROPERTY OF THE PR
David Tod, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of said State. To Church Johnston, Greeting: St appearing to me that on the Fourth day of Sugar, 180 %, you were duly elected Second Lieutenant of Cill. Lie Rogt. Com, in Richland County.
Now Know You, That by the powers vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of said State, and reposing special trust and confidence in your patriotism, valor, fidedity and ability, I do by these presents COMMISSION you as Color and as a foresaid, for the term of Five Years, unless sooner discharged, upon condition that you uniform within the time limited by law, and take the oath, or affirmation, endorsed hereon, within ten days from the receipt hereof, sending a certificate thereof to General Head Quarters; and I do hereby authorize and require you to discharge, all and singular, the duties and services appertaining to your said office, agreeably to law and general regulations, and to obey such orders and instructions as you shall, from time to time, receive from your superior officers.
Recorded, Volume Page Spintant General's: Office, 1868. MULLING ADJUTENT GENERAL OF ONIO. GIVEN under my hand, at Columbus, Chie, this Most day of when hand, at Columbus, Chie, this Most day in the year of euro Lord one thousand eight hundred and siety-three, und in the eighty-eighth year of the Independence of the United States. BY THE GOVERNOR: ONION OF State.

Edward Johnston's Commission as Second Lieutenant in July of 1863 Document was among the papers of Edward's grandson, Edward Weber Johnston.

No. 224 No.									
RESIDENCE	NAME.	Age 1st July, 1863.	WHITE OR COLORED.	DESCRIPTION. PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, OR TRADE.	MARRIED OR UNMARRIED.	PLACE OF BIRTH. (Naming the State, Territory, or Country.)	FORMER MILITARY SERVICE.	REMARKS.	
Mand County						e Ohio		1	
hland Comity	Johnsten John Jem. 2 Johnsten Robert 3 Johnsten Edward	30	White	Farmer .	Manuel	Chie		2	
bland benety	James Daniel	25	White	Farmer .	Married Harried	Ohio Ohio		3 4	

Source: U.S. Civil War Draft Registrations Records – 1863-65, downloaded from Ancestry.com on November 22, 2014; Edward is listed here, along with his brothers John and Robert.