

JOHNSON, CHARLES GRANVILLE I 01

JOHNSON, (Johnston) CHARLES GRANVILLE, born at Palatine Bridge, Montgomery County, New York, April 23, 1832; son of George Granville and Atlanta (Alley) Johnson; married, Mary Ann Ruby at _____ on ^{about} _____ 1880; children _____

Listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, at La Paz, A.T., born in New York, occupation-Lawyer, resident in Arizona 6 months; the Prescott Arizona Miner of October 27, 1866, printed this item:

In the District Court on Wednesday, the case Meier vs. Bertrand was argued at some length, but owing to the absence of C. G. Johnson, of La Paz, a principal witness, it was finally deferred.

About that time he and his brother, George Alonzo Johnson of Yuma, purchased the Sterling Mine near Prescott and employed about 75 miners under his direction in developing the property but chiefly owing to Indian troubles they gave up working the mine with a loss said to have been \$25,000; the Arizona-Miner on November 14, 1868, quoted a California newspaper:

Mr. Charles G. Johnson, well-known in Arizona, is about commencing here the publication of an illustrated history of the Territory. He has issued to the Press a specimen number, containing two photographic views of scenes at Port Isabel; and general commendation has been awarded his work. Mr. Johnson feels encouraged in his undertaking and promises to carry it to a successful issue. The first number will be issued soon after election and the succeeding numbers semi-monthly thereafter.

The Miner printed the following advertisement on January 16, 1869, with an accompanying statement:

Johnson's Illustrated
History of the
Territory of Arizona
and the Great Colorado and the Pacific

This work by Judge Charles G. Johnson, of Arizona, is being issued from San Francisco, in numbers, to subscribers only. It is illustrated with Actual Photographs. It will be completed in Twenty-five numbers, or less, and will make a large and handsome quarto volume. Price, fifty cents a number.

Agents wanted in Arizona
Address Vincent Ryan and Co.
San Francisco, California

By advertisement in another column it will be seen that Judge Johnson's work on this Territory is being published by Mr. V. Ryan, a former citizen of the Territory. We have not seen a number of the work but believe, from what Mr. R. has written us, that it will be of great service to the Territory. Agents are wanted in Arizona. As soon as we receive a number of the work, we will give whatever ideas that we may form about it.

The receipt of number 1 and 2 of Johnson's History of Arizona was acknowledged by the Miner on February 17, 1869, to which was added "Not having read it we cannot say more just now, than that it is very neatly printed"; the following is taken from an article published in the Phoenix Arizona Republican in August, 1892:

Charles Granville Johnston, as long ago as 1868, published a series of sketches on Arizona, which were styled "histories" by the local press, but, in fact, so far were they in advance of the occurrences themselves--so far in advance of a general or intelligent comprehension of the facts mentioned as future probabilities, as to render them

very much more in the nature of pre-science, than an expression of the, then, history of this now partially developed portion of Uncle Sam's broad domain.

Could these wonderfully accurate promises of the dawning of new and better days, be reproduced intact, and given to the public, they would be read with avidity by those who can now look upon their statements as having become historic facts. But in the mutations of frontier life the hand of Time has been ruthlessly laid upon the "three volumes of magazine history of Arizona," leaving them in a disconnected, fragmentary shape, from which it would be difficult to follow the vein of thought and extract the meaning so as to present the whole in a readable shape.

A local reporter of a city paper, sometime since made this succinct comment:

"...The original history which consisted of twenty-five magazines containing about forty pages each, and was illustrated by photographic views taken by Mr. Johnston himself, is now reduced to three magazines, which have been preserved by Mrs. Johnston. In glancing through them one is struck with the almost miraculous insight into the future displayed by the author, there having been hardly a stride in progress made by the Territory since 1863, which is not forecast in the work. The ultimate solution of the Apache question; the subject of irrigation; the certainty of the building of the Southern Pacific Railroad; and kindred matter which at that time must have seemed the vagaries of a disordered mind, are predicted with startling accuracy."

From statements in letters written by his brother, Albert Jacob Johnson, it may be surmised that his habits at the time were such that the entire 25 numbers of the history were probably not compiled and printed; from Los Angeles on November 19, 1869, Albert wrote:

...This morning early while I was in bed someone knocked at my door and in a low voice asked to come in. I knew the voice in a moment and opened the door to our dear brother Charles. Of course I was astonished to see him and think I would rather have met anyone else at this time, but there he was and I almost had to laugh to look at him. He had just arrived from White Pine (Nevada), and had come overland on horseback and was the worst dressed man I ever saw. He sat

down and commenced immediately a description of his adventures.

He had been everywhere, done everything, and made out nothing. I took him to breakfast with me and then to a clothing store. He bought a coat and clean shirt. Had plenty of coin in his pocket; says he has some good clothes coming with a Teamster.

He is not decided whether to stay here or go to San Diego. Thinks I am a "wonderful handsome man" and insists on introducing me to his acquaintances. He knows everybody and is called here "The Judge". He was here when he first came to the country.

The following extracts are from letters written by Albert in 1870:

February 3--

About Charles, I forgot to tell you that I made up my mind before I left San Diego to draw out of the partnership. I was convinced that he had not stopped drinking, as he promised me he would, and I did not feel safe to leave him there with my name in the firm.

February 10--

I have not heard from Charles since I left San Diego and don't know as I want to. I left him with an old lawyer named Slade, who I found drank as much as Charles, so I imagine they are getting along very well....

February 25--

Charles writes he is doing some business at New San Diego and is still in partnership with Slade. Wants me to send him some business. We have a suit to commence in San Diego soon, but I shall go there myself to attend to it.

April 3--

I think some of going to San Diego next week. Charles is still there and doing very well; he writes me occasionally...

He returned to Arizona about 1880 and the Great Register of Cochise County lists him as a Lawyer at Teviston (Bowie) in 1882, at Bisbee, in 1884, and thereafter as a Lawyer at Tombstone; he was Justice of the Peace in Tombstone in 1891 and served several other terms in that office; in a letter written at San Diego, California on October 26, 1891, his brother George Alonzo Johnson stated:

Charles is living in Tombstone, Arizona, the principal mining town of the Territory; practicing law. Some years ago was married and sometime afterward a mutual separation occurred. Not long since I received photo of himself, wife and daughter of ten years. Charles has ability but dissipation was the means of wrecking him. I understand from acquaintances that he has reformed and making a good reputation and getting position again.

Died at Tombstone, Cochise County, Arizona, January 14, 1914, aged 81; buried Tombstone Cemetery.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Arizona Division of Vital Statistics - 1914
 The Arizona Miner, Prescott, October 27, 1866, 3:1; November 14, 1868, 1:2; January 16, 3:1-2 and February 17, 1869, 3:2
 The Arizona Republican, Phoenix, August - 1892, 4:2.
 Copies of letters written by members of the Johnson family in the files of the Arizona Pioneers Historical Society, Tucson
 Bell, H - Reminiscences of a Ranger, 1927, p. 146

ADDITIONAL NEWSPAPER REFERENCES FROM MULFORD WINSOR .

The Arizona Miner, Prescott, June 22, 2:4, July 6, 1864, 3:4, October 20, 1866, 1:2
 The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, April 13, 2:4 and June 1, 1872, 3:2-4
 The Tombstone Prospector, February 14 3:3 and June 12, 1888 2:1.
 The Tombstone Epitaph, August 20, 1887, 1:7.