

The Johnson Family of Congleton and Buglawton.

The Johnson family of Congleton and Buglawton though not connected by marriage to the Hogg family were however very much in touch with each other both socially and in business and these few particulars are being inserted in the Memoir of Henry Hogg as being of some interest,

Thomas Johnson, (Joneson) was Mayor of Congleton 1580 / 1581 and was an Alderman in 1593 at the age of 66. He was born in 1593.

John Johnson was Mayor of Congleton, 1805/1806. also 1816/1817; also 1823/1824; and again 1824 and 1825. In 1820 he is shown as a silk Throwster, Daneinshaw. His Father's name was William Johnson.

His Wife , Sarah Johnson, described as of "Mortlake House" died 20th May 1832 at the age of 63.

John Johnson in 1846 sold one of his houses in Buglawton for the Parsonage or Vicarage which still remains as such. (1948)

James Johnson in 1820 is described as of Bridge Street.

William and Thomas Johnson in 1820 are described as being of "Throstle Nest Mill" and Thomas Johnson lived at " Bank House", Buglawton

Joseph Bulkely Johnson of London, appears in 1835. and his wife Sophia Johnson died on the 11th April 1835 aged 35.

Thomas Johnson, is shown as being at Buglawton in the silk trade in 1840.

John Bulkley Johnson, was Mayor of- Congleton, 1844/1845.

Charles Johnson is shown as a "Freeman" in 1846.

Thomas Potter Johnson is described as Churchwarden of St. Peter's church, Congleton in 1867.

John Johnson, died at his residence "Throstle Nest House" Buglawton on the 9th of April 1866 at the age of 84 he was therefore born in 1782,

The Vicarage Buglawton Congleton

Purchased for a vicarage from Mr John Johnson in 1846

Photograph taken in 1905



The " Congleton & Macclesfield Mercury" of April 17th 1866, contains the following announcement.

Death of John Johnson, Esq.

" On the 9th inst at his residence , " Throstle Nest House", Buglawton, John Johnson Esq.. Aged 84, years.

He was the last of his generation. The rise and progress of Buglawton was intimately connected with, if not solely attributable to the enterprise and energy of the deceased Gentleman .

He was the oldest son of Mr William Johnson, of Congleton, Teaman (whose ancestors were owners of land in Buglawton from 1589) an enthusiastic antiquarian. His son , the subject of this Memoir, was sent to the Congleton Grammar School and there received that education which enabled him so successfully to pursue his after vocation in life.

On leaving School he was sent to London in the Counting House of the Antrobus family then in the Tea Trade - with the Congleton branch of which family , as Dyers, his father was connected with trade.

At this time the silk trade had become of great importance and being an extensive landowner in Buglawton, conceived the idea of making its water power available for the purpose of silk manufacture and accordingly he summoned his eldest Son John home in order to learn the Silk Trade and he was at once apprenticed to Mr Thomas Hartham, at the "Well Mill" Bridge Street, Congleton.

On completion of his apprenticeship, he at once commenced business in Dane Street in a factory long since pulled down- thence he removed to Buglawton where in conjunction with his brother William who had been put to the Silk trade in London- he built a Mill- the one now attached to the "Bank House" estate where the business was carried on under the name of J. and W. Johnson.

The firm was afterwards joined by another brother- the late Thomas Johnson of Bank House, but shortly afterwards Mr John Johnson retired from the partnership and built the Mill now known as "Braddocks Mill". In conjunction with the introduction of the Silk trade into Buglawton by the Messrs Johnson and their building of Silk Mills, was the building of houses for their workpeople and hence arose the populous and extensive village of Buglawton and during the connection of Mr Johnson with

An Injured Queen:

Caroline of Brunswick

By LEWIS MELVILLE

*Author of "The First Gentleman of Europe," "The Beaux of the Regency," etc.; with
34 full-page plates, including two Photogravure Frontispieces.*

In 2 vols., demy 8vo, cloth gilt and gilt top, 24s. net.

This biography of the consort of George IV. is the first extensive work on the subject that has been written since within a year or two of her death in 1820. It describes her early years at her father's court and traces her miserable married life, dealing in detail with the charges brought against her at various times, and shows clearly that these charges were never to any serious extent sustained. Queen Caroline was an unhappy persecuted woman, hated by her husband, who was from the first openly unfaithful to her, and by her mother-in-law, Queen Charlotte. Her indomitable spirit alone enabled her to stand up against all the troubles that beset her. Mr. Melville has from various sources collected letters, many of which have not hitherto been published. The book is fully illustrated, and contains reproductions of many rare prints kindly supplied by Mr. A. M. Broadley from his collection.



CAROLINE PRINCESS OF WALES

Buglawton he built not less than Seven Factories and three excellent and substantial houses.

Mr Johnson was no less attentive to the spiritual than the temporal wants of his workpeople and neighbours , for seeing that there was neither School nor Place of Worship, he generously erected a building which he gave the Wesleyan Methodists the use of until they had a society sufficiently large to enable them to build the commodious Chapel they now occupy near the Bridge and to which building he gave the handsome sum of £20 and continued a supporter till death.

As a politician from early years he was from principle and conviction of the school of those in our day called advanced Liberals. The first time we have any record of his public acts as a political partisan was in connection with the Trial and Acquittal of Queen Charlotte and when the news of her acquittal reached Congleton, Mr Johnson and his brother organised a public rejoicing and on the day appointed, their workpeople consisting of Silk workers, apprentices, joiners bricklayers and labourers and others formed a monster procession headed by two of the best looking girls in their employ carrying banners blue and white, apprentices being dressed uniformly, the bricklayers and labourers carrying their spades and other implements of their trade- sheep were roasted- bonfires were lighted' and a general rejoicing took place- testifying their abhorrence of the malice which had actuated. a Tory King and Government in attempting so infamous a transaction.

He was a staunch supporter of the Repeal of the Corn Laws.

Mr Johnson was buried at Buglawton by the Rev. Wm. Besant and the Rev , J, Hughes.

Caroline of Brunswick, Queen of George IV and daughter of the Duke of Brunswick, married George, the Prince of Wales in 1795.and gave birth to the Princess Charlotte the year following but almost immediately after her husband abandoned her, she retired to a mansion at Blackheath; was allowed to go abroad for a time ; on the accession of her husband she was offered a pension of £50,000 if she stayed out of the country, but rejected it and claimed her Rights as a Queen; she was charged with adultery, but after a long Trial was acquitted; on the day of the Coronation she sought admission to Westminster Abbey, but the door was shut against her. She died a fortnight after, in 1820

(See the book entitled " An Injured Queen by Lewis Melville.)

Thomas Johnson of " Bank House" Buglawton.

Extract from the " Congleton and Macclesfield Mercury" dated 18th
September 1869.

" We have much pleasure in reporting the fact that the " Bank House", Buglawton, formerly occupied by the late Thomas Johnson, Esq, together with the Mill and Cottages have been purchased by A. Humphreys Esq, of Manchester, who has let the Mill and premises to a firm as a Macintosh and Crape manufactory, which is a new branch of trade in Congleton.



Photograph from the Congleton Chronicle 13th September 1945

The Cottages which have been so long unoccupied will become tenanted by hands who understand the business, introduced from a place where the trade is carried on. The silk machinery in the factory has been purchased by Mr James Morecroft, of Manchester, engineer, and will be removed. "



This photo taken in 1944 is of the back of " Bank House, Buglawton, Congleton, a portion of which can be seen among the trees. It shows the magnificent copper beech trees which were still growing there but which were all cut down in 1945 what vandalism !!! this has left the high banks all bare , as I saw it in 1946 and the house all exposed, the owner at the time was a Mr Alfred Barnett of Buglawton. The row of black and white cottages at the bottom are locally known as the "Barracks" and are situated at the far end of "Tommy's Lane" adjoining the premises upon which once stood the Silk Throwing Mill at one time owned by Thomas and John Johnson. Thomas Johnson built and lived in Bank House in his day. The stream, the Dane- in -Shaw Brook, furnished the water power and the weir still exists though the Mill was totally demolished about 1880, the bricks from it being used to build, the long walls of the field shown on the left of the Photo and adjoining the property of Mr Capel Wilson Hogg.

The trees on the slope adjoining the large beeches are in the grounds of Buglawton Vicarage. "Tommy's Lane, so named after Thomas Johnson, runs along the long buttressed brick wall. The lane was also known as " Half-penny Lane or Ha' penny Lane as there was formerly a toll gate situated at The Davenshaw Lodge where ½d was demanded for the privilege of using the Lane. The Gate is now demolished.