

## Charles Clement Johnston

(30 Apr 1795 – 17 Jun 1832)

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### *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989*

A Representative from Virginia; born in Longwood, near Farmville, Prince Edward County, Virginia, April 30, 1795; was educated at home; moved with his parents to Panicello, near Abingdon, Virginia in 1811; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1818 and commenced practice in Abingdon, Va.; elected as a State Rights Democrat to the 22nd Congress and served from March 4, 1831; until his death by drowning near one of the docks in Alexandria, Va., on June 17, 1832; interment in the Congressional Cemetery.

Brother of Joseph Eggleston Johnston (Rep., Va.) and uncle of John Warfield Johnston (Sen., Va.).

### *The National Intelligencer, June 19, 1832*

Distressing Occurrence -- Just as our paper was going to press last evening, a gentleman arrived at our Office from Alexandria, who stated that, when he left that place, a Coroner's inquest was sitting to inquire into the cause of the death of the Hon. Charles C. Johnston, a Representative in Congress from Virginia, whose body had, a short time before, been found in one of the docks. Mr. J. went with a friend on a visit to Alexandria, on Saturday, and, it is supposed, by some accident fell into the dock in the evening, perhaps on his return. We have, however, no certain particulars, save the distressing catastrophe itself.

### *The National Intelligencer, Wednesday, June 20, 1832*

The mortal remains of the honorable C.C. Johnston, one of the Representatives in Congress from Virginia, were yesterday morning brought to his lodgings from Alexandria, attended by a Committee of the Corporation of that place.

The circumstances of his death are reported thus: He had gone to Alexandria to visit a friend on Sunday; he passed the evening at his friend's house, and left it, in the midst of the storm then raging, to go to the wharf, with a view to take passage on board the mail-boat "Sydney," which leaves Alexandria at about 9 o'clock, p.m. for the city. He was attended by a servant, who left him when he had shewn him within sight of the wharf. This was the last seen or heard of him until his body was found on Monday afternoon. It is beyond a doubt that he walked into the slip, and struck his head in falling, or he would have saved himself, being an expert swimmer.

This melancholy occurrence cast a gloom yesterday over all Congress. Its fatality, independently of the merits of the deceased, produced a deep sensation. By those who knew him, his death is doubly grieved, his character for talents and integrity being embellished by the most endearing personal qualities. His Funeral took place from the Capitol yesterday afternoon, and was attended by all Congress, both Houses having adjourned as soon as his death was announced yesterday.

### *The National Intelligencer, Wednesday, June 20, 1832*

#### **In the Senate**

Yesterday, as soon as the Journal had been read, a message was received from the House of Representatives, by Mr. M. St. Clair Clarke, their Clerk, notifying the Senate of the death of Charles C. Johnston, a member of that House from the State of Virginia, and that his funeral would take place in the afternoon at half past 3 o'clock.

On the motion of Mr. Tyler the Senate then adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Senate, as a mark of respect, will attend the funeral of the Hon. Charles C. Johnston, a member of Congress from Virginia, this day, at half past three o'clock; and, as an additional mark of respect, that the Senators will go into mourning, by wearing crape on the left arm for thirty days.

In motion of Mr. Tazewell, it was then Ordered, That when the Senate adjourns, it adjourn to meet at half past 3 o'clock. On motion of Mr. Tazewell, the Senate then adjourned. In the House of Representatives.

After the reading of the Journal of the preceding day, Mr. Bouldin, of Virginia, rose and communicated to the House an account of the death, on Sunday last, of the Hon. C.C. Johnston, late one of the Representatives from the State of Virginia. After a well-merited eulogium to the deceased, he moved that the House should attend the funeral; that a Committee should be appointed to superintend the funeral ceremonies; and, that the Members should wear the customary mourning for the usual term of thirty days; which were unanimously adopted: and Mr. Bouldin, Mr. Clay, Mr. Polk, Mr. Dearborn, Mr. Nuckolls, Mr. Conner, and Mr. Daniel, having been named as the Committee, it was then ordered that a message be sent to the Senate, communicating to them the melancholy event; and then the House adjourned.