

replied 4/vi/91  
with list of names in  
Bridge Grammar

411

P.O. BOX 635,  
MANUREWA,  
NEW ZEALAND.

May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1991.

Dear Mr. Williamson,

Subject: The Johnson Family of Bridge.

First of all I owe you an apology. While in Kent last year I visited Bridge on the 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. and after making a few enquiries ascertained your house number and called. Unfortunately you were away but your wife suggested that I should telephone the following evening prior to 7.30pm. I went visiting relatives and the Channel Tunnel exhibition the next day, also Hawkinge, and did not arrive back in Bethersden until 8pm which was too late. The next day I telephoned to apologise but no one was home. The following day the same. We had to move on after that intending to write before we left England. You know the rest!!

The reason for my visit was that some time ago I read that you had addressed a meeting at one of the branches of the K.F.H.S and the subject was the Johnson Family.

My grand-father was George Edward Johnson born in 1850 died in Canterbury 1950. He was living with his daughter in Gordon Road, Canterbury at the time. Around the 1890s - 1910 George lived in Bridge where he was a builder. I believe his wife, Emma, ran a small shop as well. When in Bridge I was hoping to find out where they actually lived. The Agency for the Halifax Building were very helpful, sorry I cannot remember their names, and showed me over their premises because that is where I had been given to understand the Johnsons lived. However my mother's description of their house placed <sup>it</sup> further down the road, on the left hand side and protruding towards the road. Are you able to assist me in identifying their house also was the talk about the same family?

George Edward Johnson married Emma Lee on  
Nov: 9<sup>th</sup> 1875 at St. Pauls, Canterbury.  
His father was Thomas Johnson and his mother  
Caroline nee French.

George and Emma are buried in Grave 221 in  
Thannington Churchyard. My sister was also  
buried there, Grave 145, in 1937.

Should my family be the same, or related to,  
the Johnsons mentioned in your address  
would it be possible to have a copy of the  
article.

I have enclosed some England postage stamps  
to cover costs. I hope they are sufficient.

One other item that may interest you: - when  
in Perth in 1988 I was carrying out some  
genealogical research and came across a  
George French Johnson who had been killed  
in a duel in 1832. His name certainly  
attracted my attention. I found out that he

had arrived in Western Australia on the vessel Orelia from Tasmania in 1829 and had applied for residence and some land. He was granted 766 1/2 acres. During my next trip I checked the Archives in Hobart but they only confirmed the information available in Perth. I estimated that George French Johnson was born c 1799 but where?

The combination of French & Johnson may not be very common but Johnson appears to be a very common in many countries while French appears frequently in some English countries.

Probably nothing to do with us however nothing ventured nothing gained"

Sorry to have taken up so much of your time, apologies also because I have mislaid your address.

Yours sincerely

Charles E. Davis  
K.F.H.S. Member 2865.