



Stories from Bosque Bello

The lives they led...

Dr. Elisha Graham Johnson

Dr. Elisha Graham Johnson was born in North Carolina in 1839. During the Civil War, he served with the Confederate 69th NC Infantry and rose to the rank of Major.

Settling in Florida following the war, Johnson became a landowner and a producer of turpentine, a widely used solvent in the 1800s and a key ingredient to the soap, rubber and varnish industries. Johnson also became active in politics and was elected as a Republican State Senator. At the same time, he held the position of Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue for the United States Department of the Treasury.

In 1875, the Florida State Senate became deadlocked in a 12-12 Republican-Democrat partisan split. In July of that year, it is theorized that Johnson might have become an intentional victim of the stalemate by way of assassination. On July 21st, Johnson was killed by a shotgun blast to the face at his turpentine facility by an unknown assailant near his home in Lake City, Florida.

He was survived by his wife Eliza, who died in 1921 and is buried in the same plot.

Johnson is listed on the Officer Down Memorial, a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring America's fallen law enforcement officers.