

**American Antiquarian Society
Manuscript Collections**

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Johnson Family, Papers, 1697-1985

LOCATION(S):

Mss boxes "J"
Octavo vols. "J"
Folio vols. "J"
Oversize mss. boxes
"J"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

twenty-two manuscript boxes; five octavo volumes; five folio volumes; three oversize folders

NOTE ON COLLECTION:

ACCESS TO MOST OF SERIES I. IS RESTRICTED. Access to Winifred Channing Johnson Chrisman's correspondence and diaries is restricted during her lifetime, with the exception of those having her written permission to use them. Access to Winifred Channing Johnson Chrisman's correspondence and diaries is restricted for five years after her death, with the exception of those having written permission of her son, Channing B. Chrisman, to use them. Please consult the Curator of Manuscripts for further information.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

Albert B. Southwick, *The Johnson Family of Hyde Park & Sag Harbor* Carmel [Ca.]: Sea Change Press, 1991.

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Gift of Winifred Channing Johnson Chrisman, 1988

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

The Johnson family's roots stem back to the early settlement of New York. Early residents include Lancaster Symes (-1729), Samuel Bard (1742-1821), and Peter Roosevelt (1763-1833), nephew of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's great-great grandfather, Isaac.

Lancaster Symes (-1729) came to New York in 1690 as a British officer and later became a businessman. He received a land grant for parts of Staten Island from Queen Anne. Symes married, in 1694, widow Catherine de Hart Larkin (-1750); they had four children, one being **Lancaster Symes (-1756)** who married, in 1729, Maria Lydius (-). They had three children: Lancaster (1729-); Sussanna Catherine (-); and Elizabeth.

Elizabeth Symes (1736-1801), daughter of Lancaster and Maria Lydius Symes, married three times: first to Rev. Dominie Frelinghouse (1723-1758?); second, in 1762, to Peter Roosevelt (1732?-1762), by whom she had one son, Peter Roosevelt (1763-1833); and third, in 1770, to William Lupton (1728-1796), by who she had three children, William (1771-), Lancaster (1775?-1803), and Elizabeth.

Elizabeth Lupton (1777-1803), daughter of William and Elizabeth Symes Lupton, married, in 1797, **John Barent Johnson (1769-1803)**, a minister in the Dutch Reform Church who served as pastor in Albany and Brooklyn, N.Y. They both died of tuberculosis in 1803, she three months after the birth of her last child and he six months after that. The Johnsons had three children: Maria Laidie (1798-); William Lupton (1800-1870); and Samuel Roosevelt.

Samuel Roosevelt Johnson (1802-1873), along with his siblings, was raised by his half-uncle, Peter Roosevelt (1763-1833) in New York. Johnson became an Episcopal minister in 1823 and served in Hyde Park, N.Y.; Lafayette, Ind.; Brooklyn, N.Y., at the General Theological Seminary; and, until his death, Amenia, N.Y. He married, in 1826, **Elizabeth Johnston (1809-1879)**, the daughter of John Johnston (1762-1850) and Susan Bard Johnston (1772-1845). Samuel Roosevelt and Elizabeth Johnston Johnson had four children: Peter Roosevelt; Susan Bard; William Allen; and George Barent.

Elizabeth Johnston Johnson's grandfather was **Samuel Bard (1742-1821)**, who lived in New York City and on a country estate at Hyde Park. He became George Washington's physician in 1789 and was a founder of both the medical school of King's College (Columbia University) and the Society of New York Hospital.

Peter Roosevelt Johnson (1827-1905), the oldest child of Samuel and Elizabeth Johnston Johnson, was a physician from 1851 to 1866, after which he stopped practicing medicine to study literature and oriental religions. He married, in 1865, **Mary Chamberlain Hunt (1839-1916)**, who was one of ten children of Henry Wentworth Hunt and Frances Elizabeth Howard Hunt (1794-1871).

Peter Roosevelt and Mary Chamberlain Hunt Johnson had nine children, including: Mary Roosevelt (1866-1954?); Frances Hunt (1870-1925), who married in 1922 William Lincoln Palmer (1868-1943); Susan Bard (1868-1957?); Roosevelt Johnson (1873-1931), who moved to California, married Teresa Abeel (-1923); Elizabeth Howard (1867-1931); Margaret ("Madge") Howell (1879-1940); and William Colet.

Henry Wentworth Hunt (1774-1857), the father of Mary Chamberlain Hunt Johnson, trained in Worcester, Mass., in the book binding and printing business from 1790 to 1794. After the death of his first wife, he was a soldier in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, from 1804 to 1809; he eventually joined the Mexican forces. From 1817 to 1819, he was commissioned to oversee the building of fortifications in Florida, and in 1822 founded the newspaper The Corrector, which he managed for the remainder of his life.

Susan Bard Johnson (1829-1860), the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Johnston Johnson, married James S. Purdy (-). They had two children: Elizabeth (1856?-1946), who became an Episcopal nun and was renamed Elisa Monica; and Lawson (-).

William Allen Johnson (1833-1909), the second son of Samuel and Elizabeth Johnston Johnson, became an Episcopal minister and served in churches in Bainbridge, N.Y.; Burlington, N.J.; and Salisbury, Conn., which culminated in a professorship at Berkeley Divinity School, Middleton, Conn. He married in 1860 Henrietta Chamberlain (-1927?). They had two sons, William Allen (-) and John Barent (-), and five daughters, Roosevelt (-), Euphemia Johnson (-1931), Margaret Marmion (-1928?), Elizabeth Roosevelt (-), and Katharine Symes (-), who married ????? Ashe (-). William Allen Johnson retired in 1903 to Littleton, Colo.

George Barent Johnson (1847-1914), the youngest child of Samuel and Elizabeth Johnston Johnson, was an Episcopal minister. He first served as an instructor at St. Paul's School in Concord, N.H., and later as a rector of parishes in Baltimore, Md., and Lebanon Springs, N.Y., and was chaplain to the Bishop of Vermont for eighteen years.

William Colet Johnson (1875-1943), the son of Peter Roosevelt and Mary Chamberlain Hunt Johnson, an insurance executive, married in 1898 Erma Mecklem (1878-1953). They had four children: Winifred Channing; Stephen Roosevelt (1902-1988); Erma Mecklem (1905-), who married ????? Fisk (-); and William Colet (1911-).

Winifred Channing Johnson (1899-), the daughter of William Colet and Erma Mecklem Johnson, was born in Englewood, N.J., and raised in Brookline, Mass. She attended Miss May's School in Boston, Mass. In 1920 she married Raymond Burke Chrisman (1898-1974); they had two children: Channing Burke (1928-); and Wende (1931-), who married ????? Harper (-).

Raymond Burke and Winifred Channing Johnson Chrisman lived in Minnesota before moving, early on, to Worcester, Mass. In 1943 they moved to Arizona and later settled in California.

The ministry represents a major vocation for the Johnson family. John Barent Johnson served in the Dutch Reform Church. When Peter Roosevelt assumed responsibility for John Barent Johnson's orphaned children he took them to the Episcopal church. John Barent Johnson's two sons, William Lupton Johnson and Samuel Roosevelt Johnson became Episcopal ministers. Samuel Roosevelt Johnson's two sons, William Allen Johnson and George Barent Johnston, continued the tradition of ministry in the church, as did his granddaughter, Elizabeth Purdy ("Elisa Monica") Johnson, who became an Episcopal nun.

Earlier generations of the family also practiced medicine. Samuel Bard, John Howard (1749?-1816), Francis Upton Johnson (1796-1858), and Peter Roosevelt Johnson were all physicians.

Several members of the family enjoyed writing poetry, beginning with Henry Wentworth Hunt and Samuel Roosevelt Johnson, continuing into the next generation with Fanny Howell Hunt (1825-1886) and Peter Roosevelt Johnson, followed by Peter's daughter Susan Bard Johnson and Frances Hunt Johnson Palmer, and continued by Winifred Channing Johnson Chrisman.

This collection documents eight generations of the Johnson family and includes correspondence, poetry, prose, legal documents, diaries, genealogical charts and supporting information, commonplace books, scrapbooks, and photographs. The bulk of the collection lies in the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries, with material relating to the donor's father, aunts, uncles, and grandparents.

The collection has been arranged in two series. The first consists of Winifred Channing Johnson Chrisman's personal papers, and the second contains the family's papers from the generation preceding hers.

Winifred Channing Johnson Chrisman's personal papers reflect her interest in writing poetry and prose, in her earlier years, and in maintaining a correspondence with family and a broad circle of friends. A large part of her correspondence is from friends, although there is substantial correspondence from her son, Channing, and her daughter, Wende. The correspondence from friends is newsy, while the bulk of Channing's and Wende's letters are childhood letters or, later, concern the Korean War and a European trip, respectively. Winifred's diaries contain a record of some of her daily activities.

The earlier material in the collection consists largely of correspondence between family members, in which family news, travels, and activities are discussed. Peter Roosevelt Johnson, for example, toured Europe in 1846, and in 1849 he voyaged to California via South America. His letters home recount his activities abroad. Peter's daughter, Susan Bard Johnson, also wrote letters home during her trip to Europe in 1908.

In addition, there are financial and legal records including miscellaneous accounts, wills, and land records. Genealogical and historical material, and writings of various family members, including public discourses on medicine, sermons, addresses, commissioned brochures on California, as well as personal work based on travel, gardening, family, inspiration, and whimsy, are also significant components of the collection. Katharine Symes Johnson Ashe assumed the role as family historian and her genealogical work is reflected in numerous typed transcriptions of early family letters, and in letters and notes on her ancestors the Bards, the Johnsons, and specifically on John Barent Johnson.

The scrapbooks in the collection reflect intellectual interests, family events, and individual recognition. The photographs include many portraits of family members and of some family homes.

**American Antiquarian Society
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT**

JOHNSON FAMILY, PAPERS, 1697-1985
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Papers of Winifred Channing Johnson Christmas, 1930s-1980s**

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[author's last name unknown]

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Series I. [restricted]
Papers of Winifred Channing Johnson Christmas, 1930s-1980s

Correspondence

[alphabetical by correspondent]

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[her letters from 1952-1953 were written from Europe]

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Series I. [restricted]
Papers of Winifred Channing Johnson Christmas, 1930s-1980s

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[alphabetical by correspondent]

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Papers of Johnson Family, n.d.; 1792-1964**

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[arranged chronologically]

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(alphabetical by author)

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Series II. [unrestricted] Papers of Johnson Family, n.d.; 1792-1964

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Box 11, Folders 4-14: Johnson, Susan Bard
Box 11, Folders 15-16: Johnson, William Allen
Box 11, Folders 17-19: Johnson, William Colet
Box 11, Folder 20: Johnston, Susan Bard
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**Series II. [unrestricted]
 Papers of Johnson Family, n.d.; 1792-1964**

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- Box 13, Folder 19: Johnson, Roosevelt (1873-1931)
 Box 13, Folders 20-22: Johnson, Samuel Roosevelt
 Box 13, Folder 23: Johnson, Susan Bard
 Box 13, Folder 24: Johnson, William Allen
 Box 13, Folders 25-26: Johnson, William Colet
 Box 21, Folders 19-20: Johnson, William Colet
 Box 13, Folder 27: Johnson, William Lupton
 Box 13, Folder 28: Johnson, Winifred Channing
 Box 13, Folder 29: Johnson, bookplates, coat of arms, calling cards
 Box 13, Folder 30: Johnson, cemetery plot, Sag Harbor
 Box 13, Folder 31: Johnson, family recipes
 Box 13, Folder 32: Johnson/Johnston
 Box 13, Folder 33: Johnston, Francis Upton
 Box 13, Folder 34: Lupton
 Box 13, Folder 35: Mackay
 Box 13, Folder 36: Mecklem
 Box 13, Folder 37: Olejnik

Box 13, Folder 38: Palmer
Box 14, Folder 1: Palmer, Frances Hunt Johnson
Box 14, Folder 2: Purdy
Box 14, Folder 3: Roosevelt
Box 21, Folder 21: Roosevelt chart
Box 14, Folder 4: Shepperson
Box 14, Folder 5: Sleight
Box 14, Folder 6: Symes
Box 14, Folder 7: Zimmerman

Photographs

Box 15, Folders 1-2: unidentified
Box 15, Folder 3: unidentified girl (daguerreotype)
Box 15, Folder 4: unidentified girl (tintype?)
Octavo Volume 1: unidentified girl (tintype?)
Box 15, Folder 5: Ashe, Katharine Symes Johnson
Box 15, Folder 6: Bard, Samuel
Box 15, Folder 7: Bard, Susan Mary
Box 15, Folder 8: Channing, Francis Allston
Box 15, Folder 9: Chrisman, Channing Burke
Box 15, Folder 10: Chrisman, Channing Burke, family
Box 15, Folder 11: Chrisman, Raymond Burke
Box 15, Folders 12-14: Chrisman, Winifred Channing Johnson
Oversize Folder 3: Chrisman, Winifred Channing Johnson
Box 15, Folder 15: Evermeyer, Adolph
Box 15, Folder 16: Fay, Thornton
Box 15, Folder 17: Fisk, Erma Johnson
Box 15, Folder 18: Harper, Wende Chrisman

Series II. [unrestricted]

Papers of Johnson Family, n.d.; 1792-1964

Photographs (cont.)

Box 15, Folder 19: Hunt, Frances Howard
Box 15, Folder 20: Hunt, John Howard
Octavo Volume 2: Hunt, Mary Chamberlain
Box 15, Folders 21-23: Johnson, Elizabeth Howard
Box 15, Folder 24: Johnson, Erma Mecklem
Box 15, Folder 25: Johnson, Euphemia
Box 15, Folders 26-27: Johnson, George Barent
Box 16, Folder 1: Johnson, John Barent (1769-1803)
Box 16, Folder 2: Johnson, John Barent (1878-1939)
Box 16, Folders 3-5: Johnson, Margaret Howell
Box 16, Folders 6-10: Johnson, Mary Chamberlain
Box 16, Folder 11: Johnson, Mary Roosevelt
Box 16, Folders 12-13: Johnson, Peter Roosevelt
Box 16, Folder 14: Johnson, Peter Roosevelt, family
Box 16, Folders 15-16: Johnson, Roosevelt
Box 16, Folder 17: Johnson, Samuel Roosevelt
Box 17, Folders 1-2: Johnson, Susan Bard
Box 17, Folder 3: Johnson, Theresa Abeel

- Box 17, Folder 4: Johnson, Virginia
Box 17, Folder 5: Johnson, William Allen
Box 17, Folder 6: Johnson, William Colet
Oversize Folder 3: Johnson, William Colet
Box 17, Folder 7: Johnson, William Colet, Jr.
Box 17, Folder 8: McKay, Sue
Box 17, Folders 9-10: Palmer, Frances Hunt Johnson
Octavo Volume 3: Purdy, Susan Bard Johnson
Box 17, Folder 11: Sheperson, Fanny
Box 17, Folder 12: Chrisman's ranch house
Box 17, Folder 13: Fay house (Westborough, Mass.?)
Box 17, Folder 14: Roosevelt Johnson's home (San Francisco, Calif.)
Box 17, Folder 15: Old Johnson Place (Sag Harbor, N.Y.?)
Box 17, Folders 16-21: Sag Harbor house
Box 17, Folder 22: Susan Bard Johnson's house (Bridgehampton, N.Y.)
Box 17, Folder 23: William Colet Johnson's house (Brookline, Mass.)
Box 17, Folder 24: Julia Channing's house (40 Eaton Place, London, England)

Photograph Albums

- Box 18: Johnson, Peter Roosevelt, family photographs [1860s-1870s?]
Johnson, Peter Roosevelt, family photographs [1870s-1930s]
Sag Harbor, N.Y.(?), including some photographs of Peter Roosevelt Johnson's house, [1900?]

Series II. [unrestricted]
Papers of Johnson Family, n.d.; 1792-1964

Commonplace Books

- Box 22, Folder 1: unidentified, n.d.
Box 22, Folder 2: Bard, Sarah, 1829
--with notes by Susan Bard Johnston
Box 22, Folder 3: [Johnson, Euphemia?], n.d.
Box 22, Folder 4: Johnson, George Barent, [1873-1914?]
Box 22, Folder 5: Johnson, Margaret Howell, n.d.
Box 22, Folder 6: Johnson, Margaret Howell, 1895
Box 22, Folder 7: Johnson, Margaret Howell, 1911
Johnson, Peter Roosevelt, n.d.
Box 22, Folder 8: Johnson, Peter Roosevelt, [1868?]
Box 14: Johnson, Peter Roosevelt, [1870?]
Johnson, Peter Roosevelt, [1877?]
Box 22, Folder 11: [Johnson, Susan Bard?], n.d.
Box 22, Folder 12: [Johnson, Susan Bard?], [1909-1912?]
Box 22, Folder 13: Johnson, Susan Bard, [1915-1921?]

Scrapbooks

- Folio Volume 1: Johnson, Peter Roosevelt
--letters to the editor and articles; some family obituaries

- Folio Volume 2: Johnson, William Allen
--letters to the editor and articles
- Folio Volume 3: Johnson, Henrietta Chamberlain
--family obituaries, announcements, articles, and letters to the editor
- Folio Volume 4: Johnson, William Colet
--adult life as an insurance executive, in photographs, writings, articles about him, and business papers
- Folio Volume 5: Johnson, William Colet
--commemoration of the dedication of Johnson Hall, Clark University, and related letters and clippings, 1964

Miscellaneous

- Box 22, Folder 9: Johnson, Peter Roosevelt, passport, 1846
- Box 22, Folder 10: Johnson, Peter Roosevelt, travel account book, 1846
- Box 21, Folders 13-16: Johnson, Peter Roosevelt, prints from European trip, 1846
- Box 22, Folder 14: Johnson, William Colet, "Aloha" logbook, 1900
- Box 22, Folder 15: [Johnston, Mary E.?], diaries, 1832-1870
--copied by Euphemia Johnson?