Johnson, Everett C., 1877-1926.

Everett C. & Louise Staton Johnson papers
1835-1988
(bulk dates 1916-1958)

Abstract: The Everett C. & Louise S. Johnson Papers concern the personal affairs of prominent Delaware publisher and politician Everett C. Johnson (1877-1926) and his wife Louise Staton Johnson (1882-1977). In addition, the collection contains material from their Newark publishing house, the Press of Kells, which brought the Arts and Crafts Movement to the community from 1916 to 1918.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 361
Creator: Johnson, Everett C., 1877-1926.
Title: Everett C. & Louise Staton Johnson papers
Inclusive Dates: 1835-1988
Bulk Dates: 1916-1958
Extent: 2 linear feet (4 boxes)
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 361, Everett C. & Louise Stanton Johnson papers, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

Shelving Summary: Box 1: Shelved in SPEC MSS record center carton; Box 2: Shelved in SPEC ½ MSS record center carton; Box 3: Shelved in SPEC MSS oversize boxes (15 inches); Box 4: Shelved in SPEC MSS shoebox

Location: Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/


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Biographical Note

Everett C. Johnson

Everett C. Johnson was born on September 8, 1877, in Blackwater, Delaware, to Isaac (d. 1917) and Belinda (Williams) Johnson. He grew up in Selbyville, Delaware, where he attended school and became lifelong friends with John G. Townsend (1871-1964), a friendship that would later bear fruit in Johnson’s political career. In 1895 Johnson entered Delaware College, where he graduated in 1899 with a Latin Scientific major. In 1898 he was the editor of the college’s first yearbook, and frequently wrote articles for the college paper, the Review, as well as for the Delta Phi Literary Society Newsletter. These activities helped prepare him for his future publishing and editing career. Inspired by the Arts and Crafts Movement, he also developed an interest in painting and the book arts.

From 1899-1902 Johnson pursued postgraduate studies in history and political science at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. In order to earn a living, he taught at the Deichmann College Preparatory School (see F5) in Baltimore, and lectured on Hamlet. After graduating, he married Louise Staton, daughter of Joseph L. Staton, who was pastor of the Welsh Tract Baptist Church in Newark, Delaware, from 1880 until his death in 1891. For the next several years Johnson undertook a career in agriculture, purchasing a farm several miles south of Newark, but largely gave this up in 1910 when he founded the Newark Post, originally located on the corner of Main Street at South College Avenue. The circulation of this weekly newspaper was quick to expand, and Johnson remained the editor until his death in 1926. In 1916 Johnson built the Press of Kells, a printing house situated on the corner of South College Avenue and Park Place. The name was taken from the Book of Kells, a large illuminated gospel created by Irish monks in the eighth century, and it represented the nostalgia for master craftsmanship and the rejection of technology that were at the center of the Arts and Crafts ideology. Johnson brought the craft of handprinting to Newark, modeling the Kells building after the Tudor-style Roycroft print shop of Elbert Hubbard (1856-1915), the leading American Arts and Crafts printer of his time.

Hubbard founded Roycroft in East Aurora, New York, in 1895, after spending several years selling soap products door-to-door. He had acquired an interest in writing and literature, and he combined this interest with the marketing and promotional techniques which he learned as a salesman. He was the first to undertake mass-market advertising of books on a large scale and to distribute them to would-be customers through mail-order gift catalogs. Hubbard was well aware that colorful and artistic graphic designs would sell books, and he was wholly dedicated to the production of books which were hand-crafted without the aid of machinery.

Johnson admired Hubbard and was influenced by his work, and after Hubbard’s death on the Lusitania in 1915 Johnson ordered the special memorial edition of Hubbard’s Little Journeys series for his daughter Marjorie. Johnson hired a linotype operator from Boston by the name of John Schultz, affectionately known as the "vagabond printer," who also took the movement very seriously. Schultz helped to shape the ideology of Kells, "Where Printing is an Art & not a Job," and was the centerpiece of a promotional booklet which celebrated the spirit of the movement (see F49). However, the artistic typography and crafted style only
lasted at Kells until about 1918, when state government took Johnson away from Newark for several years, and when Schultz left for a tour of duty in post-war France.

Johnson was a progressive Republican, seeking social, governmental, and educational reforms, and he used his newspaper as a forum for his progressivism. He sought improvements for a better Newark -- the establishment of good roads, good schools, a free library, a city sewer system, and a YMCA -- and became a very popular and outspoken local figure. In the same year that he founded the Newark Post (1910), Johnson was elected to the Delaware House of Representatives on the Republican ticket, and was re-elected in 1912. While in Dover, Johnson did a great deal for Newark, helping rejuvenate the social sciences at Delaware College and fostering agricultural expansion and improvements in the area. In 1911 he was elected to the board of trustees of the University of Delaware. Perhaps his greatest accomplishment, however, was criticism of Delaware’s lack of commitment to women’s higher education and sponsorship of state legislation which admitted women into Delaware College, which occurred in 1913.

His political career soon gained momentum, and in 1917 he was appointed by recently-elected Governor John G. Townsend as Delaware secretary of state, a position he held until 1921. Governor Townsend was a staunch reformer as well, and together they set out a successful program to improve Delaware’s infrastructure, including the creation of better roads and the reform of education and the tax system. Townsend utilized Johnson’s charismatic personality by calling upon him to speak for the cause of reform, a role which Johnson continued to play after retiring from public office. During the First World War, Johnson served as a leader in numerous drives, including those for Liberty Loans and the Red Cross, and he also served as chairman of the State Council of Defense. In addition, Johnson lobbied Congress to have the Cape Henlopen lighthouse, a colonial-era structure, given to the state of Delaware. It was about to collapse due to erosion from the sea, and Johnson hoped to shore up enough money to preserve it. Unfortunately, it collapsed in 1926, but a small drawing of the lighthouse, which had been hanging on the wall in his house, is in the collection (see F1).

The last years of his life were spent in public speaking and in his continuing support of the community. He constantly endeavored to assist the University and its students, even offering loans and employment to students who needed financial aid. In 1922, Johnson was elected chairman of the Committee on Grounds and Buildings, which was responsible for planning the new library for the University, to be named Memorial Hall in commemoration of those Delawareans who had died in World War I. Johnson also continued his duties at the Press of Kells and at the Newark Post, though his increasingly frail health forced him to spend several days a week at rest. The most important work to come out of Kells at this time was a 1924 printing of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. This had a very large regional distribution, finding its way into Rotary Clubs and numerous high schools. The publication won Johnson election into New York’s Grolier Club in 1925, and was made an official souvenir for Philadelphia’s Sesquicentennial Exposition in 1926. Unfortunately, Johnson did not live to see this last distinction, for he died of a heart attack on February 20, 1926. Moreover, after his death, the Press of Kells went into a rapid decline, and was eventually sold in 1935.

Louise Staton Johnson
Louise Staton Johnson was born in 1882 to Joseph L. Staton (1836-1891) and Martha (Rounds) Staton, in Newark, Delaware. The family originally lived in Snow Hill, Maryland, but moved to Newark in 1881 when Joseph Staton took over the pastorship of the Welsh Tract Baptist Church after the death of the former pastor, his brother George Staton. Joseph Staton’s first wife was Louisa Tilghman, a sister of William Tilghman who was a businessman from Salisbury, Maryland, and together they had five children: Jeff Staton, John Staton, Margaret (Staton) Wilson, Georgia (Staton) Warren, and Elizabeth (Staton) Jarmon. Louisa died of tuberculosis in 1879, and in the following year Joseph married Martha Rounds, who came from a large Philadelphia family. Together they had two children: Louise, who was named after her father’s first wife, and Henry Staton, born in 1884. Her father died when she was eight years old, and her mother was left to raise the children alone. Louise attended Newark High School, and after graduating in 1897 she worked as a teacher for several years. In 1902 she married Everett C. Johnson, and 1907 saw the birth of their only child, Marjorie Johnson [Tilghman].

After the death of her husband in 1926, Louise continued at the Newark Post as editor for several years and rented rooms in her house to university professors and other professionals in order to make extra money. However, she soon embarked on a number of ventures that would take her to New York and Washington, D.C. In 1928 she and her daughter left Delaware to take a temporary job at the Manumit summer camp in New York state, and later that year Louise moved to Troy, New York, as an assistant dietitian at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. This job was cut short, however, by an invitation to work as a secretary in the office of family friend John Townsend, who had been elected to the United States Senate by the state of Delaware in November 1928. In early 1929 she moved to Washington, DC., and continued to work for Townsend through two terms of office, from 1929-1940. Afterwards she worked for several years in the Commerce Department as an editor in the Division of International Economics and Statistics. During this period she was encouraged to take Spanish classes, and in 1946 she retired and eventually moved back to Newark. While in Washington, and as a result of her senatorial connections, she was invited to various state functions: the inauguration of Herbert Hoover, the reception of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, and the unveiling of statues of Caesar Rodney and John Middleton Clayton in the Capitol rotunda.

The remainder of her years in Newark were relatively quiet. She was very interested in family history and subsequently wrote memoirs of her life, a work which she completed in 1975. She also wrote countless narratives and poems, which she submitted to magazines and newspapers throughout Delaware and Maryland over the course of forty years. Many were published, and through these she did a great deal to preserve the memory of her husband and his work. She died in 1977, at the age of 95.

Sources:

Delaware History. Fall-Winter 1993-94 (vol. 25 no. 4)


The National Cyclopedia of American Biography. New York: James T. White & Co., 1892-1984. Historical and biographical material was also found in the collection.
Scope and Content Note

The Everett C. & Louise S. Johnson Papers concern the personal affairs of prominent Delaware publisher and politician Everett C. Johnson (1877-1926) and his wife Louise Staton Johnson (1882-1977). In addition, the collection contains material from their Newark publishing house, the Press of Kells, which brought the Arts and Crafts Movement to the community from 1916 to 1918.

The collection comprises two linear feet of material and contains publications, correspondence, manuscripts, photographs, newspaper clippings, speeches, certificates, and ephemera. The collection is divided into three main series: I. Everett C. Johnson, II. Louise Staton Johnson, and III. publications from the Press of Kells and the Roycrofters.

The first series spans the period 1897-1988, and includes newspaper clippings, correspondence, photographs, photocopied newspaper articles and manuscripts, certificates, speeches, booklets and programs, items from the Lincoln Club of Delaware, and other miscellaneous items.

The second series spans the period 1835-1988 and includes a wide variety of original writings, as well as copies of magazines and newspapers in which they were found; memoirs; correspondence; photographs; speeches; invitations; items relating to the death of Everett Johnson; a ledger; and a scrapbook.

The third series spans the period 1911-1926, and includes original publications from the Press of Kells and the Roycroft printing shop.

The collection is a depository for numerous publications from the Press of Kells between the period 1916 and 1925, as well as some of the works of the Roycroft shop in Aurora, New York. Many of the publications are printed in the craftsman style, enriched with color and hand-lettered initials, and printed on handmade paper. Many of the works that were produced at Kells were no more than several pages in length and were directed towards the Newark community, such as a printed program for the Shakspeare festival of 1916, or transcripts of speeches given at the University. Other publications were more ambitious, such as the Gospel of St. John or Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night. However, most of the extant material in this collection is only a page or two in length. The decline of the craftsman influence is seen in later works, such as the 1921 English Bible, which was printed in standard type, reflecting Johnson’s extended absence from Kells and a gradual loss of interest in the movement.

The collection is rich in biographical and historical material, including information about Everett Johnson and the Press of Kells in various scholarly journals, newspaper articles, and family narratives. Of particular interest are the memoirs of Louise Johnson, "A Narration of Many Memories, Several Detours, and a Few Thoughts" (see F45). Written in 1975, she recounts growing up in Newark, her family and acquaintances, and the experiences of her own career after the death of her husband. Though written with free-flowing associations, this is a valuable source for Newark historians interested in the last years of the nineteenth century. Mrs. Johnson provides colorful descriptions of everyday life as well as numerous anecdotes of local interest, and methodically recounts the names of numerous residents and the businesses located along Main Street.

Her memoirs also provide insight into the social and political life of Washington, D.C. during the 1930s and early 1940s, with a vague sense of growing racial tensions and crime in the city. Mrs. Johnson described
in some detail the daily routines and business of Senator Townsend, providing an informative profile of his personality as well. She wrote about housing shortages during and after the war, noting that she rented part of her home in Washington to Dr. Richard C. Tolman, who she later discovered was an important figure in the development of the atomic bomb that was dropped on Japan in 1945.

Much of the material from the papers of Louise Johnson reflects her deep interest in family history, particularly that of her parents and husband. She wrote several narratives about each of her parents, describing the death of her father, his involvement with the Welsh Tract Church, and a long piece about her mother entitled "The Friend within our Gates," which she submitted to Yankee magazine for publication in 1972 (F26). She also transcribed an autobiography written by her father in 1884 (F37), as well as an 1835 indenture which documented the purchase of the family homestead by her paternal grandfather. Upon the death of Everett Johnson, newspapers from around the region ran articles commemorating him, and these were kept together with other items regarding his death. Mrs. Johnson wrote and submitted dozens of other writings, some of local interest such as a compilation of "Delaware Sayings," while others were simply poems, often only several lines in length.

The correspondence in both series shows the wide range of contacts that both Everett and Louise Johnson maintained throughout their lives, much of which was in the political sphere. Aside from John Townsend, Everett Johnson was friends with Judge Hugh M. Morris (after whom the University of Delaware library is named), Coleman du Pont, and William Tindall. Perhaps the most interesting letters in this collection are those by John Schultz (former linotype operator at Kells) to Marjorie Johnson (later Tilghman), written while he was on a tour of duty in France during 1919. These letters are very reflective in nature, and reveal the same type of free-thinking, passionate personality that must have attracted him to the Arts and Crafts Movement. They describe his experience in France in some detail, including a "pilgrimage" to the birthplace of Joan of Arc.

The collection also contains material from the Lincoln Club of Delaware, an organization founded in 1929 at a dinner-meeting at the Wilmington Country Club. Everett Johnson idolized Lincoln and was well known for his tributes to the president, particularly his annual Lincoln day addresses before the Delaware legislature. Even though Johnson had died in 1926, when the Club formed in 1929, he was honored as a charter member. The Lincoln Club celebrated the president’s birthday every year with a formal dinner program in Wilmington, featuring addresses from prominent professors and political figures, or descendants of those who worked with and knew the president. Among other items, the collection contains several of the programs from these meetings, as well as an official history of the organization to 1969.
Selected Search Terms

**Personal Names**

Johnson, Everett C., 1877-1926.


**Corporate Names**

Press of Kells.

Newark post (Newark, Del. : 1910)

Roycroft Shop.

**Topical Terms**

Printers--Delaware--Newark--History--20th century.

Newspaper publishing--Delaware--Newark--History--20th century.

Statesmen--Delaware--History--20th century.

Publishers and publishing--Delaware--History--20th century.

Arts and crafts movement--Delaware--History--20th century.

**Geographic Names**

Newark (Del.)--History--20th century.

**Form/Genre Terms**

Correspondence.

Clippings (information artifacts)

Photographs.

Programs (documents)

Artifacts (object genre)

Books.

Postcards.

Speeches (documents)
Printed ephemera.

Newspapers.

Certificates.

Articles.

Eulogies.

Invitations.

Magazines (periodicals)

Newsletters.

Indentures.

**Occupation**

Printers (people)

Publishers.

Statesmen.

Authors.

**Corporate Contributors**

Press of Kells.

**Related Materials in this Repository**

Marjorie J. Tilghman papers

MSS 179 Robert H. Richards, Jr., Delaware Oral History collection (interview with Louise Staton Johnson)
Arrangement

I. Everett C. Johnson, 1897-1988
II. Louise S. Johnson, 1835-1988
III. Press of Kells and Roycrofters, 1903-1990
Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I. Everett C. Johnson, 1867-1988

Pictures and Photographs, circa 1897-1925 21 items

Included are photographs of the Press of Kells building and employees, Everett Johnson, and his family. Most of these are undated, and many were taken at portrait studios in Wilmington and Philadelphia.

Cape Henlopen Lighthouse, undated [Box 1 F1]

1 item

A 5 x 7" print in a green and gold wood frame. Signed on the back, "From Everett C. Johnson to Frank W. Wilson, Park Pl. Newark Del." Trade sticker on the back reads "Haderer Co./Art & Gift Shop/Picture Framing/Artists Materials/225 W. Ninth St./Wilmington, Del." The Cape Henlopen Lighthouse washed out to sea in 1926.

Photographs, circa 1880-1925 11 items

Isaac R. and Belinda A. Johnson, undated [Box 1 F2]

Photograph by Hendrickson, 307 Market St., Wilmington, Del.

Isaac Johnson, undated [Box 1 F2]

Johnson as a child, undated [Box 1 F2]

J.C. Steinman, 504 S. Second St., Philadelphia

Johnson aged 14?, undated [Box 1 F2]

Swain A. Bridle, 526 S. Second St., Philadelphia

Johnson in uniform, undated [Box 1 F2]

Officer at Delaware College

Officers of the Delaware College Cadet Corps (including Johnson), 1897 [Box 1 F2]

Johnson's study, 1899 [Box 1 F2]

904 N. Carey St., Baltimore

Johnson with W.B. Welch and J. Ryland Clark, undated [Box 1 F2]
114 W. North Ave., Baltimore

Johnson and five women, undated [Box 1 F2]

Baltimore

Portrait of Johnson as a young man, seated with a book, undated [Box 1 F2]

Gilbert's Studio, 926 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA

Staff of Kells, 1925 [Box 1 F2] (Removed to oversize)

Studio of A.N. Sanborn, 404 Market St., Wilmington; list of staff names provided by Marjorie Tilghman; removed to oversize box

Portrait of Johnson, undated [Box 1 F2]

Photo-postcard; Modern Studios, 10½ No. 9th St, 223 No. 8th St., 251 No. 8th St., Philadelphia

Portrait of Johnson, undated [Box 1 F2]

Ellis Photographs

Study for a portrait of Everett Johnson, undated [Box 1 F3]

2 items

Gouache? on artist drawing board with a newsclipping. By Delaware painter Stanley Arthurs for commissioned portrait which is hung in Old College at the University of Delaware

Lincoln Club, 1931-1970 6 items

Program, 1931 February 12 [Box 1 F4]

Wilmington, Delaware. Speakers: William Heald, Thomas Bayard, and George McIntire. On the cover is a silhouette of Lincoln along with a quote, and on the inside is a quote from Everett Johnson. On the back cover is a list of guests attending the dinner.

Program, 1934 February 12 [Box 1 F4]

Wilmington. Speaker: Ray F. Nichols, Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania. On the cover is a silhouette of Lincoln along with a quote, and on the inside is a quote from Everett Johnson.

Program, 1937 February 12 [Box 1 F4]
Lincoln Dinner, Wilmington Country Club. Speaker: Robert Fortenbaugh, Professor of History at Gettysburg College. Printed on the program is a menu, quotes by Lincoln and Everett Johnson.

Newscutting, undated [Box 1 F4]

2 copies

Regarding Senator George McIntire's Lincoln address to the Smyrna Rotary Club.

The Lincoln Memorial [detail], undated [Box 1 F4]

"Jake McGuire" in the lower right corner; "This print reproduced exclusively for: The Lincoln Institute, 1735 DeSales St., N.W., Washington D.C. 20070-0243."


49 pp.

By Albert O. H. Grier and Harold Brayman; published by the Lincoln Club of Delaware.

Correspondence, 1923-1988 12 items

Correspondence with notables such as Hugh M. Morris, John Townsend, and Coleman du Pont. Everett Johnson wrote to John Townsend on February 19, 1926, the day before he died, and a copy of Johnson's letter was sent by Townsend to Louise Johnson in 1963.

Typed Letter (carbon) EJ to Samuel E. Shannahan, 1923 December 5 [Box 1 F5]

Typed Letter (carbon) EJ to Miss Fannie Herrington, 1924 January 2 [Box 1 F5]

Typed Letter (carbon) EJ to Sec'y, Atlantic City Rotary Club, NJ, 1924 January 8 [Box 1 F5]

Typed Letter, Coleman du Pont to EJ, 1924 October 25 [Box 1 F5]

Typed Letter, Coleman du Pont to EJ, 1924 October 27 [Box 1 F5]

Typed Letter Signed, Thomas F. Bayard to EJ, 1924 October 28 [Box 1 F5]

Typed Letter Signed, Coleman du Pont to EJ, 1924 November 5 [Box 1 F5]

Typed Letter Signed, Hugh M. Morris to EJ, 1925 January 20 [Box 1 F5]

Typed Letter Signed, Hugh M. Morris to EJ, 1925 January 28 [Box 1 F5]

Typed Letter Signed, Hugh M. Morris to EJ, 1925 January 29 [Box 1 F5]
Memorial Hall Dedication, 1925 [Box 1 F6]

7 items

Built to house the University of Delaware library, Memorial Hall was dedicated on May 23, 1925. The ceremony included the acceptance of a Book of Memory for those Delawareans who died in the war. Johnson chaired the Memorial Library Committee. Included is a program from the dedication (2 pp.); Everett Johnson's speech (4 pp., 2 copies); Governor Robert P. Robinson's speech (1 p., 2 copies); and a transcript of that speech, as written in an article by Everett Johnson for the Wilmington Every Evening.

Speeches, 1924-1927

Includes speeches either by or about Everett Johnson.

Sons of the American Revolution, 1924 April 19 [Box 1 F7]

2 items

Speech given by Johnson at the Hotel DuPont, Wilmington. Typescript (carbon), 13 pp., Typescript (carbon), 7 pp., incomplete draft

Memorial to Everett C. Johnson, 1927 February 19 [Box 1 F8]

3 items

Speech given by George Morgan at the University of Delaware Alumni Dinner. Holograph and typescript manuscript, 50 pp., George Morgan 408 S. 45th St., Phila. Pa. Galley of speech (removed to oversize box). Autograph letter signed from Louise S. Johnson regarding loan of the manuscript, 4 pp.

Hamlet lecture, undated [Box 1 F9]

53 pp.

Typescript probably given between 1899 and 1902 by Johnson at Johns Hopkins

Speech, undated [Box 1 F10]

2 pp. (3 drafts)

Typescript speech regarding Americanization and the "Service Citizens of Delaware."
Newspaper clippings, 1910-1971 [Box 1 F11]

18 items

Miscellaneous articles, either written by Johnson or about him. There are several copies of articles from Wilmington newspapers regarding the appointment of Johnson to the post of secretary of state and the retirement of Gov. John Townsend. Also included is a 1971 article about the Cape Henlopen lighthouse which was washed out with the tide in 1926; photocopies of several undated articles; an article pasted in a folder entitled "A Clipping from the Delaware State News," which is dated October 24, 1935; and a typed copy of quotes supplied by Everett Johnson in his first issue of the Newark Post in 1910.

Grolier Club, 1924 July 26 [Box 1 F12]

1 item

A receipt from the Grolier Club for a copy of the Declaration of Independence which Johnson sent to them. There are two pages mounted on board, with the script and lettering of the formal receipt found within a border of double blue lines. On the upper right-hand sheet is the insignia of the Grolier Club, and the letter is signed by the Librarian, Ruth S. Granniss.

Newark Post, 1960, 1976 [Box 1 F13]

Four copies of the 50th anniversary edition of the Newark Post, dated January 28, 1960, in which is found a commemoration of Everett Johnson. Also included is a copy of the Weekly Post "Time Capsule Edition," dated Jun 30 - July 6, 1976, in which there is an article about Johnson.

Certificates, 1867-1925 4 items

Belinda H. Williams, 1867 March 14 [Box 1 F14]

"Certificate for good behavior and rapid improvements at School in various branches..." awarded to Belinda Williams, Johnson's mother. Signed by Joshua J. Williams, framed by Haderer Co. Art & Gift Shop, 225 W. 9th St., Wilmington.

Certificate of Appointment, 1919 September 29 [Box 1 F14]

For Dr. E.S. Dwight of Kent Co. to the Delaware State Tuberculosis Commission. Signed by Everett Johnson, secretary of state, and Gov. John G. Townsend, Jr.; includes the Delaware state seal.

Certificate of Merit, 1921 June 22 [Box 1 F14]

"For halftone printing on Certificate Bond," awarded to Kells by the Crocken-McElwain Co. of Holyoke, Massachusetts; signed by C.A. Crocken.

Certificate of membership to the Grolier Club, 1925 April 15 [Box 1 F14]
Series I.

Publications, undated

(vol. XLVI, no.2) pp. 10-20.


"Everett C. Johnson" in Delaware Past & Present, undated [Box 1 F15]
pp. 314-316.

Ephemera and artifacts, undated [Box 1 F16]
6 items
Bookplate with Emily Dickinson quote, "From the Library of Everett C. Johnson"; a placecard for Everett Johnson; Typescript manuscript of a poem written by Mrs. A.E. Watson for a farewell party given to the Johnsons when they left Dover; printed portrait of Johnson pasted onto black paper; and brochure for "European Tours .. organized and accompanied by W.A. Johnson," July - August 1901. Prof. E.C. Johnson is listed with the party. One Waltham pocket watch originally belonging to Everett Johnson has been removed to Box 4 in the SAFE.

Everett C. Johnson's Death, 1926

Newspaper Clippings, 1926 February 20-April 3 [Box 1 F17]
29 items
Contains 11 loose clippings from various newspapers, including the front pages of the Wilmington Evening Journal (February 20, 1926) and the Newark Post (February 24, 1926); three photocopied pages of undated clippings; and 15 pages with numerous clippings glued to each. The latter group contains articles from various papers around Delaware and Maryland, and one article from the New York Times. Clippings include memorials from the University of Delaware, the Rotary Club, and other groups, as well as stories on his death and funeral, poems, eulogies, and general reminiscences.

Quotes, undated [Box 1 F17]
2 items
One of these items is a note found at Johnson's bedside on the day he died, with a quote from Emily Dickinson scrawled in pencil. The other item is a quote from Lincoln, printed in black on a large sheet of handmade paper.

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Eulogy, 1926 February 20 [Box 1 F17]

1 item

By the Alumni Association of Delaware College, printed on handmade paper.

Memorial resolutions, undated [Box 1 F17]

2 pp.

Drafted by the Orpheus Club of Wilmington in honor of Everett C. Johnson

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Series II. Louise S. Johnson, 1835-1988, undated

This series contains correspondence, photographs, narrative writings, speeches, newspaper clippings, magazines, memoirs, a ledger book, and other items pertaining to the life of Louise S. Johnson.

Marjorie Tilghman Lists, undated [Box 1 F18]

3 items

Lists compiled by Marjorie Tilghman regarding the life of her mother, Louise S. Johnson: "Other writings by LSJ"; "LSJ's Careers," which lists the occupations of her mother in chronological order; and "LSJ's Roomers -- Extended family," which lists renters over the years, including their occupations.

LSJ Speeches, undated 4 items

"Everybody's Town," Newark New Century Club, 1935 October 7 [Box 1 F19]

26 pp.

Introduction of U.S. Rep. from Delaware, George Stewart, undated [Box 1 F19]

3 pp.

American Legion Reunion, Rehoboth, 1936 May 9 [Box 1 F19]

2 pp.

Tribute to Sara Slack, 1956 [Box 1 F19]

3 pp.
School, circa 1915-1942 16 items

Essay on Poe's short stories in Examination Book, Delaware College; LSJ, English, Dr. Sypherd, circa 1915 [Box 1 F20]

Certificates for credit in secretarial courses, Strayer College, Washington, D.C., 1929-1930 [Box 1 F20]

Report for Spanish class, Western Night School, D.C., 1942 [Box 1 F20]

Marriage Certificate, 1880 October 24 [Box 1 F21]

1 item

Joseph L. Staton and Martha C. Rounds, October 24, 1880

Invitations, 1929-1939 [Box 1 F22]

3 items

Inauguration Ceremonies Program, 1929 March 4 [Box 1 F22]

For the inauguration of President Herbert Hoover, with invitation and a picture of Charles Curtis laid in.

Invitation, 1934 June 26 [Box 1 F22]

For unveiling of statues of Caesar Rodney and John Middleton Clayton in the Capitol rotunda.

Ladies' Ticket, 1939 June 9 [Box 1 F22]

For the congressional welcome of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

Department of Commerce, 1942-1944 [Box 1 F23]

20 items

From the period of LSJ's employment as editor with the Division of International Economics and Statistics. Included are correspondence and official forms regarding her promotion in 1943, as well as a Notice of Efficiency Rating, dated May 31, 1944.

John Schultz Letters, 1919 4 items

Letters written by 2nd Lt. John R. Schultz to his friend, Marjorie Johnson, while he was on a tour of duty in post-war France. Schultz had been employed at Kells, and in 1919 was in active service with the American Expeditionary Force. All of the letters are written in pencil on YMCA letterhead.

1919 February 17 [Box 1 F24]
16 pp.
from Maugiennes

1919 May 29 [Box 1 F24]

17 pp.
from Joncery

1919 August 23 [Box 1 F24]

20 pp.
from Brest

1919 September 30 [Box 1 F24]

11 pp.
from Soldiers Rest

Magazines, 1935, 1972 3 items

Including articles written by Louise Johnson.

Today, 1935 April 13 [Box 1 F25]

"Secretary (My Boss Works for You)," written anonymously by LSJ

Yankee, 1972 May [Box 1 F26]

"The Friend within our Gates" (about LSJ's mother, Martha Rounds Staton)

Delaware Today, 1972 November [Box 1 F27]

"Lifestyles 1880"

Newsletters, 1952-1988 [Box 1 F28]

12 items

Three issues of the Delaware Folklore Bulletin and nine issues of the Newark Historical Society Newsletter. The Delaware Folklore Bulletin (issues from October 1952, 1956, and 1958) contains submissions by Johnson regarding Delaware sayings gathered from various sources, and based on a much larger list which can be found among her personal writings. The Newark Historical Society Newsletter, dating from March 1984 to September 1988, contains an ongoing series of Johnson's unpublished memoirs, which is also found in the collection.
Indenture, 1835 January 15 [Box 1 F29]

3 pp.

Three copies of a typed transcript of an 1835 indenture between Jessa Fooks and Warner Staton, LSJ's paternal grandfather, which marked the purchase of the Staton family homestead.

Correspondence with Magazines, 1909-1958 [Box 1 F30]

10 items


Personal Correspondence, 1925-1963 21 items

Correspondence with friends, as well as business-related correspondence.

Walter T. Bradley to Mrs. Everett C. Johnson, 1928 February 8 [Box 1 F31]

1 p.

Philadelphia company citing LSJ as editor of the Newark Post.

Carlton Keefe to Mrs. Johnson, 1929 February 28 [Box 1 F31]

1 p.

Prudential Ins. Co. of America to LSJ, 1929 March 12 [Box 1 F31]

1 p.

Ruth Bryan Owen to Louise S. Johnson, 1930 July 1 [Box 1 F31]

1 p.

William Tindall to LSJ Louise Johnson, 1931 June 9, November 29 [Box 1 F31]

2 items, 7 pp.

Rice-Schmidt Baking Co. to LSJ, 1931 December 15 [Box 1 F31]

1 p.

Regarding the award of first prize in an essay contest.

W.C. Cox & Co. to LSJ, 1934 March 20-22 [Box 1 F31]
W.C. Cox & Co. was an International Probate Service, based in Chicago, responding to inquiries about the heirs of John W. Staton, an early-nineteenth century ancestor who lived in Accomac Co., Virginia.

G. Burton Pearson and LSJ, 1934 April 9, 13 [Box 1 F31]
2 items, 2 pp.
Concerning the estate of Everett C. Johnson.

Hugh Morris and LSJ, 1937 April 19, 20, 26 [Box 1 F31]
3 items, 3 pp.
Concerning the estate of Everett C. Johnson.

Lee W. Warren to LSJ, 1951 May 15, 21 [Box 1 F31]
2 items, 5 pp.
From the husband of Louise's stepsister, Georgia. These letters contain reminiscences about Louise's stepfamily during the late nineteenth century, as well as the birth of Mildred Staton Tilghman.

John G. Townsend to LSJ, 1963 March 5 [Box 1 F31]
1 p.

Greeting card for Marjorie Tilghman from Jean, undated [Box 1 F31]
2 pp.

G.C.H. to Mrs. Johnson, undated [Box 1 F31]
2 pp.

W. Dent Smith to LSJ, undated [Box 1 F31]
1 p.
A handwritten note regarding Everett Johnson's Hamlet lecture.

Photographs, undated 22 items

Joseph L. Staton, undated [Box 1 F32]
3 items

Welsh Tract Meeting House, undated [Box 1 F32]

photo-postcard

Henry and Louise Staton as children, undated [Box 1 F32]

A.P. Beecher, Photographer, 315 Market St., Wilmington, Del.

Martha Rounds Staton, undated [Box 1 F32]

2 items

A.P. Beecher, Photographer, 315 Market St., Wilmington, Del. Cummings Photo, 307 Market St., Wilmington, Del.

Louise Staton, undated [Box 1 F32]

color xerox of a photograph of LS as a young woman

Graduating class of Newark High School, 1897 [Box 1 F32]

Louise Staton seated in the front row with Professor Ellis

LS standing before window, undated [Box 1 F32]

note on back: "Married June 10, 1902"

LSJ standing in front of Capitol, Washington D.C., 1938 [Box 1 F32]

2 items

LSJ and Keeley (the cat), undated [Box 1 F32]

LSJ standing in hat and gloves before brick wall, undated [Box 1 F32]

LSJ and Pamela K. Peterson, 1946 [Box 1 F32]

LSJ and an unidentified woman, undated [Box 1 F32]

LSJ in hat with corsage, undated [Box 1 F32]

LSJ at the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. Douglas H. MacArthur, Takoma Park, MD, undated [Box 1 F32]
LSJ seated in living room, undated [Box 1 F32]

LSJ with Virginia Allen and Marjorie Squire at Christmas, undated [Box 1 F32]

LSJ in blue suit outdoors, undated [Box 1 F32]

Color xerox of LSJ in blue suit outdoors, undated [Box 1 F32]

Photographs of John G. Townsend, Jr., undated [Box 1 F33]

Newark Post, 1927-1928 [Box 1 F34]

5 items

Included are several largely complete editions of the Newark Post from the period of September 7, 1927 to June 13, 1928, when Louise Johnson was editor.

Marjorie's Sayings, undated [Box 1 F35]

3 items

Included is an undated, bound journal in which Louise Johnson recorded the sayings and comments of her daughter Marjorie, "age 3-4-5." It is 40 pages in length, written in pencil, and is largely in a prose style. In addition, there are also two typed transcripts of this journal (8 pp. each).

Narrative Writings, undated 246 pp.

Various works written by LSJ throughout her life. Many were submitted to newspapers and journals and were published, though some were not. Many of these correspond to published material in magazines or newspaper clippings which are found in the collection. Autograph manuscripts and typescripts, though many are photocopies of the original material, as well as of works that are not in the collection. Most pieces are undated (with the exception of the occasional date supplied by Marjorie Tilghman), and frequently provide the address at which LSJ was living at the time, as well as the number of words of the narrative. These writings are subdivided into several categories: poetry, folklore, a series entitled *Times Have Changed*, and various other narratives.

Folklore, undated [Box 1 F36]

6 pp.

Anecdotes and "Delaware sayings" collected by Louise Johnson and submitted to the *Delaware Folklore Bulletin*

Reflections of the Late Elder Joseph L. Staton, undated [Box 1 F37]

9 pp.

Typescript (copy) of autobiography written by LSJ's father
"Unfinished Business (from a Secretary's Personal Notes)", undated [Box 1 F38]

17 pp.

Typescript of two articles submitted to *Today* magazine in 1935

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Poetry, undated [Box 1 F39]

48 pp.

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Family Narrative, undated [Box 1 F40]

66 pp.

Reflections of LSJ’s childhood, as well as memories of her family

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Miscellaneous Narrative, undated [Box 1 F41]

60 pp.

Short stories and other writings, many of which were submitted for publication

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*Times Have Changed*, undated [Box 1 F42]

41 pp.

Anecdotes about the way society, language, fashion, and prices have changed over the years

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Ledger Book, circa 1885 [Box 1 F43]

1 item

Bound in leather, there are 34 intermittent pages written in ink and purple pencil. Farm accounts and calculations of Joseph Staton, father of LSJ

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Scrapbook, undated [Box 3 F44]

18 pp.

Newspaper and magazine clippings of articles written by LSJ. Source names are written above the clippings, and include the *Rural New Yorker*, *The Newark Post*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Journal Every Evening* (Wilmington), *The Delaware Star*, and *The Washington Post*. The scrapbook is bound in a hard cover, and most of the pages are blank.

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"A Narration of Many Memories, Several Detours, and a Few Thoughts," , 1975 June [Box 1 F45]

161 pp., index, 2 copies
Memoirs of Louise S. Johnson. Inlaid between the pages of one of the copies are several notes, two by her daughter, Marjorie Tilghman, and several photocopies of a letter to LSJ from "Betty," who commented on the book.

Series III. Press of Kells and Roycrofters, 1903-1990, undated

Press of Kells, 1911-1926, undated 28 items

Johnson, Everett C. *Abraham Lincoln: an appreciation*. Newark, Del.: The Craftsmen at the Shop of Kells, 1911 [Box 1 F46]

"Delivered before the General Assembly of Delaware, on the twelfth day of February, nineteen hundred eleven."

Lamb, Charles. *The Tale of Twelfth Night, or What You Will* by Charles and Mary Lamb, 1916 [Box 1 F47]

Newark, Del: The Craftsmen at Kells. Printed on the 300th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. Cataloged and transferred to Delaware Collection.

*The Shakespeare Festival, 1916* [Box 1 F48]

Newark, Del.: Master Craftsmen at Kells. "A community celebration of the occasion of the three hundredth anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare consisting of a pageant depicting some scenes from the Life and times of the Dramatist; the performance of Twelfth Night; and an address on the Universality of his works. Given at Newark, Delaware, on April Twenty-eight & Twenty-nine, Nineteen Hundred & Sixteen, under the direction of the English Department of Delaware College and the Women's College of Delaware." Cataloged and transferred to Delaware Collection.

Vagabond printer. *Kells: the story of the visit of a vagabond printer to the shop where master craftsmen study and work at the art of printing*, 191? [Box 1 F49]

Newark, Del.: Kells

*My Truth* [broadside], undated [Box 1 F50]

2 copies

Newark, Del.: Kells

*Divinity* [broadside], undated [Box 1 F50]

2 copies

Newark, Del.: Kells
My Symphony [broadside], undated [Box 1 F50]
Newark, Del.: Kells

The Gospel according to Saint John as found in the King James version, 1918 [Box 1 F51]
5 pp.
Photocopy from the work which was printed at Kells

Vallandigham, Edward Noble. Fifty years of Delaware college, 1870-1920, 1920? [Box 1 F52]
Newark, Del.: Kells

The English Bible: being a book of selections from the King James version, 1921 [Box 2 F53]
Edited, with introduction and explanatory notes, by Wilbur Owen Sypherd. Newark, Del.: The Craftsmen of Kells

Morris, Hugh Martin. America's safeguard of liberty: being an address delivered by the Honorable Hugh M. Morris, United States District Judge for the district of Delaware, before the students of the University of Delaware at Wolf Hall on May 15, 1923., 1923? [Box 2 F54]
Newark, Del.: Courtesy of Kells

United States. Declaration of independence; Constitution of the United States of America, 1923 [Box 2 F55]
Newark, Del., The Craftsmen of Kells. "Americanization Bureau/ 835 Market Street / Wilmington, Delaware" on title page. Cataloged and transferred to Delaware Collection.

United States. Declaration of independence; Constitution of the United States of America, 1924 [Box 2 F55]
Newark, Del., The Craftsmen of Kells. "N. Snellenburg and Company / Wilmington, Delaware" on title page. Cataloged and transferred to Delaware Collection.

United States. Declaration of independence; Constitution of the United States of America, 1926 [Box 2 F55]

"U.S. Constitution as a best seller", undated [Box 2 F55]
4 pp.
Typescript (carbon)

Three newsclippings regarding sale of the volume, undated [Box 2 F55]

Ephemera from the Press of Kells, undated

All items cataloged and transferred to Delaware Collection.

"Merry Christmas to the Old Man", 1925 [Box 2 F56]

Poetry broadside from "The Kids" (employees of Kells) to "The Old Man" (Everett C. Johnson).

"The Log in the Dam," undated [Box 2 F56]

Pamphlet by "The Old Man in the Newark Post at the Shop of Kells, Newark, Delaware" (Everett Johnson)

Kells, undated [Box 2 F56]

Booklet describing the Kells workshop, as well as the background of its name. Includes a quote from Hamlet, and opposite the first page of text is a small color print of Kells.

Kells, 1922 [Box 2 F56]

Prospectus with same text as booklet, with Fall Announcement for forthcoming Poems to Ianthe by Walter Savage Landor, Story of the Unknown Church by William Morris, and The Gospel of St. John according to the King James version

University of Delaware. Alma Mater, undated [Box 2 F56]

1 pp.

Broadside with a small picture of Old College opposite the song.

Roycroft Books, 1903-1916

Hubbard, Elbert. Little Journeys to the homes of eminent orators: Luther, 1903 [Box 2 F57]

Aurora, N.Y.: Roycrofters. Inscribed Everett C. Johnson. Cataloged and transferred to Delaware Collection.

Hubbard, Elbert. Little Journeys to the homes of Good Men and Great, 1916 [Box 2 F58]
East Aurora, N.Y.: the Roycrofters; New York: Wm. H. Wise & Co. "This copy of the Memorial Edition in fourteen volumes ... has been specially prepared... for Marjorie L. Johnson known as Boots."

Miscellany Kells , 1983-1990, undated 22 items

Perspective , 1983 [Box 2 F59]
2 items

Photocopy of a sketch in ink of the Kells /YWCA building, drawn by the architectural firm of Victorine & Samuel Homsey, Inc. , and to be used for a proposed montage. , 1983 July 20 [Box 2 F59]
Also included is a letter from Richard L. Dayton, who worked for the firm, to Marjorie Tilghman, dated July 20, 1983.

2 copies
Newark, Del.: University of Delaware Library Associates. Vol. V

"Kells!," , undated [Box 2 F60]
1 p.
Holograph manuscript of poem entitled "Kells," author unknown.

"A Brief Account of the Press of Kells," , undated [Box 2 F61]
6 pp., 2 copies
Typescript (and copy) by Marjorie J. and Cornelius A. Tilghman

"The Old Printer," , undated [Box 2 F62]
13 copies
Copy prints of a photograph "taken for Red Cross by Louis Hine, NY, during World War I." Printed at Kells

Kells envelope with logo and seal in return address , undated [Box 2 F62]

"Where Master Craftsmen Study & Work at the Art of Printing."

Bicentennial Grant Write-up , undated [Box 2 F62]
5 pp.

Typescript unfinished draft, with holograph corrections; with picture of the building.

Kells logo, undated [Box 3 F63]
1 item

Wood logo of Press of Kells [K in a triangle, each side of which is an "H"]

Photographs, undated [Box 2 F64]

Four black & white images of the Kells building; photocopy of two photographs, one of which is an interior; miscellaneous note regarding the building