

MANUSCRIPT SECTION
TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

JOHNSON, GILBERT M. L., 1837-1871.
PAPERS, 1773-1910.

Accession number 68-369

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Location III-K-2

The papers of Brevet Brigadier General Gilbert Motier Lafayette Johnson, commanding officer of the 13th Indiana Cavalry in the Civil War, were given to the Manuscript Section by his granddaughter, Mrs. Raymond L. Jack, Fallbrook, California.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: .42
Approximate number of items: 70 items and
one volume

Single photocopies may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

Library of Congress catalog card no.

MS 69-1873

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Gilbert Motier Lafayette Johnson Papers, consisting of one volume and 70 items covering the years 1773-1910, are composed of an affidavit, Bible records, correspondence, genealogical data, military papers, clippings, application papers for pension, photograph album and one photograph, a will, and programs of the 8th and the 27th reunions of the 11th Indiana Cavalry Association.

There is an affidavit, Madison County, Alabama, January 28, 1870, submitted by Gilbert M. L. Johnson when applying for a pension for his service in the Civil War. This states how he was hurt in the fighting at Gallatin, Tennessee, August, 1862, when his horse fell on him. He served in the war until 1865, however, and never asked for a discharge even though he was badly and permanently hurt.

The military papers include Johnson's appointment as colonel of the 13th Indiana Cavalry, April 19, 1864; and appointment as brevet brigadier general, March 13, 1865, "for gallant and meritorious service during the war." A most interesting document signed by Johnson as Acting Assistant Inspector, Headquarters District of Nashville, January 15, 1864, to B. H. Polk, Assistant Adjutant General to General Rousseau, gives in detail the layout of the land between Nashville and Columbia, Tennessee, and Johnson's recommendations as to what was needed militarily for security of the area.

Included is General Johnson's discharge, November 18, 1865, at Vicksburg, Mississippi. He was then 28 years old. There is a directive from Headquarters Northern District of Mississippi, at Jackson, 1865, which outlines policy to be followed in Sub District and Post of Columbus (Mississippi) which tells how to behave towards the Negroes, how to deal with marauders, disturbers of the peace, outlaws, and guerrillas.

There is a recommendation signed by Conrad Baker, Lieutenant Governor of Indiana, December 5, 1867, to Assistant Secretary of the Interior recommending Johnson highly as assessor of Internal Revenue for the 1st District of Ohio.

Papers dealing with reunions of Civil War units include a letter re: reunion of the 13th Cavalry in Fortville, Indiana, 1888, and two booklets; report of the proceedings of the 27th annual reunion of the 11th Indiana Cavalry Association, in Terre Haute, Indiana, 1910; and booklet on the 8th reunion of the 11th Indiana Cavalry Association, Portland, Indiana, 1890. The latter includes a regimental roster.

There are three family letters: the earliest, 1852, written by Susan Clarke Bradley, age 12, later the wife of General Johnson; one by her mother, Isabella Martha (Clarke) Bradley, 1866, to her after her marriage; and one in 1854, by Susan (Adams) Clarke, her grandmother, written to Mrs. Clarke's son, Ashley.

The fourth letter is from the Honorable Joseph Wheeler, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., to General Johnson's widow thanking her for a battle flag she had sent him.

Clippings include several giving the history of Huntsville, Alabama; Civil War clippings with sketches of General Johnson's participation in the war; an amusing sketch of General Joseph Wheeler at the battle of San Juan when he unthinkingly called the Cubans "Yankees" in exhorting his troops onward; a sketch of Huntsville Female Seminary, Huntsville, Alabama, etc.

Included are Bible records for the Bradley family (1838-1857), There is some genealogical data on the Eppes (Epps) family of Virginia, 1635-1746; and there is a will of Joseph Rowlett, Chesterfield Court House, Virginia, October 9, 1773. Included is information on the origin of the family names Clark, Black, and Ward with pictures of the respective coats-of-arms.

The papers include a volume of photographs, with only a few identified, of Johnson's fellow men-in-arms and, in some instance, pictures of their wives. The album contains a few pictures of the Chattanooga area. There is a group picture taken atop Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, which includes Johnson. This is not dated.

There are obituaries of some members of the family: Gilbert M. L. Johnson, 1839-1871; his wife, Susan Clarke (Bradley) Johnson, 1840-1918; Joseph Colville Bradley, 1810-1880; and his wife, Isabella Martha (Clarke) Bradley, 1820-1891; and J. W. Johnson, son of General Johnson.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Affidavit, 1870
2. Application for pension increase--papers
3. Bible records
4. Clippings
5. Clippings--Civil War
6. Clippings--"Echoes of the Past"
7. Clippings--Huntsville (Alabama) Female Seminary
8. Correspondence, 1852-1900
9. 11th Indiana Cavalry Association--8th reunion
10. Genealogical data
11. Military papers, 1864-1865
12. Obituaries
13. Photographs
14. Recommendation
15. 13th Indiana Volunteer Cavalry--reunion
16. Will, 1773