

Collection Name:

John A. Johnson papers, 1854-1969

Collection Number:

P0691

Extent:

8.8 cubic feet (22 archives boxes)

Biography/History:

John Anders Johnson was born in Telemark, Norway, on April 15, 1832. He was the oldest of five children who were born to Anders Johnson (1804-188) and Aaste Killing Koven (1808-1893). The family emigrated to the United States in 1844. By 1852, the family moved to Pleasant Springs, Wisconsin – near Koshkonong. Johnson first married Karen Thompson in 1856. Before she died, they had a daughter, Caroline. Both died in 1860. He remarried in 1861 to Kaia Nicoline Kildahl, and had six children together: Frederick, Ella, Ida, Carl, Hobert, and Maurice. Johnson's brother was Ole Skipness Johnson, a Norwegian-American soldier who served in the Civil War (Scandinavian Regiment).

He was founder and president of Fuller & Johnson Manufacturing Company, of Gisholt Machine Company, and of Hekla Fire Insurance Company. In 1896, he was elected president of the National Association of Implement and Vehicle Manufacturers. Johnson helped found *Amerika*, a Chicago newspaper, in 1873. He wrote frequently on political, economic, and social topics such as tariff, free silver, temperance, slavery, and education.

Johnson was a member of the Wisconsin legislature in 1857 and 1873-1874 and county clerk (1861-1869). His philanthropies included the University of Wisconsin, St. Olaf College, and the Gisholt Home for the Aged. NAHA published John A. Johnson, by Agnes M. Larson, in 1969.

Scope and Content:

Papers of a Norwegian-born industrialist, inventor, and philanthropist from Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin. Materials include articles, clippings, contracts, correspondence, indentures, patents, pamphlets, receipts, records, reports, scrapbooks, and statements. Besides several pamphlets, publications include *Det skandinaviske regiments historie* (1869) and *Fingerpeg for farmere og andre* (1888).

Access Rights:

This collection is open to research.

Bibliographic Citation:

[Indicate the cited item here]. John A. Johnson Papers. Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota.

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Papers, 1856 November 19-1961 Family Correspondence
1	2	Ole C. Johnson Skipness (brother), 1859 October 15-1877 December 12
1	3	Ole C. Johnson Skipness (brother), 1878 January 12-1899 December 28
1	4	Hans Johnson (brother), 1859 November 30-1862 March 30
1	5	Oliver Johnson (brother), 1864 May 10-1897
1	6	Caroline Stuverud (sister), 1861 June 14-1901 January 17, undated
1	7	Inger Stuverud (sister), 1870 May 4-1893 December 6
1	8	Frederick Johnson (son), 1883 August 3-1897 November 17
1	9	George M. Fiske (son-in-law), 1897 April 8-1909 October 20, undated
2	1	Relatives, 1874 April 28-1888 August 1, undated
1	10	Proceedings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1901 December 12
2	2	Health correspondence and receipts, 1880 October 4 October 1880-1899 August 21
2	3	Articles, correspondence, and reports, family history, 1848-1908 February
2	4	Articles, correspondence, reports, family history, 1928 August 1928-1862 November 30, undated
2	5	Kildahl documents and correspondence (Mrs. John A. Johnson), 1908-1953, undated
2	6	Frederika Kildahl correspondence and loans, 1876 February 21-1897 January 1
2	7	Johnson obituaries and clippings, 1901 November 11-26
2	8	Indentures, 1854 December 15-1890 July 22
2	9	Documents, Settlement of Estate, 1861 July 15-1910 January 22, undated
2	10	Carl Johnson purchase of estate agreement, correspondence, notes, receipts, 1905 July 6-1916 January 24
3	1	Wisconsin State Hospital correspondence, 1877 June 13-1880 August 27
3	2	Gisholt Home for the Aged correspondence and documents, 1900 November 14-1947 August 14, undated
3	3	Gifts and loans correspondence, 1866 May 1-1899 December 6
3	4	Advice and counsel correspondence, 1870 October 17-1899 April 20

3	5	Bequest to the University of Wisconsin correspondence and resolutions, 1876 February 12-1887 January 26
3	6	Johnson vs. Tenny articles and taxation, 1900 August 11-1900 October 8, undated
3	7	Smithback vs. Larson correspondence and receipts, 1862 November-1865 March 9
3	8	Ole Ouversen estate, 1863 July 23-1880 April 9
3	9	Correspondence, 1860 May 12-1899 February 3
3	10	Civil War letters, 1862 January 6-1862 December 20
3	11	Clergy, church officials, teachers correspondence, 1869 January 26-1899 February 27, undated Names include: Bergh, Brohaugh, T. H. Dahl, Eggen, Fjeldstad, J. B. Frich, Gjertsen, Hatlestad, Hjort, Hvistendahl, Johannesen, Koren, Oftedahl, Ottesen, Reque, Schmidt, Shirley, Simonsen, Stub, Underthun, Weenaas, Sverdrup, Boyesen, Nils Michelet.
4	1	Skandinaven agreement, correspondence, and pamphlet, 1872 June 12-1884 May 20
4	2	Temperance correspondence and articles, 1850 March 23-1894 March 29, undated
4	3	School problem correspondence, 1863 September 30-1901 May, undated
4	4	Slavery question articles and clippings, 1861 June 10-1876 September, undated
4	5	Correspondence "Fingerpeg for farmere og andre," 1884 January 21-1885 October 19
4	6	Cheesemaker position correspondence, 1876 October 30-1877 February 21
4	7	Combined Baby Walker correspondence and statements, 1875 October 26- 1880 March 20, undated
4	8	Tobacco sizer agreements and correspondence, 1900 July 6-30
4	9	Corn Planter agreements, 1883 June 19-1884 June 3
4	10	Correspondence and statements, inventions and patents, 1869 November 25-1918 July 19
4	11	Nils O. Starks patents correspondence, contracts, statements, 1878 April 6-1901 December 9
5	1	Morris E. Fuller agreements and indentures, 1875 September 17-1902 September 10, undated
5	2	Agreements, correspondence, reports, 1857 November 18-1933 June 9
5	3	Photographs, 1897-1960
5	4	Insurance correspondence, statements, receipts, 1868 January 5-1897 January 27
5	5	Employees correspondence, 1872 September 27-1965 May 24, undated
5	6	Capital City Bank letters and receipts, 1886 July 8-1898 December 28, undated

5	7	First National Bank correspondence, notes, receipts, 1870 April 7-1896 March 30
5	8	Sioux City Bank correspondence and reports, 1890 October 18-1897 June 8
5	9	Bank of Montevideo correspondence and records, 1880 February 18-1886 May 20
5	10	Scandinavian Bank (Chicago) correspondence, 1870 August 26-1887 August 2
5	11	Merchants Bank (Watertown, South Dakota) correspondence and reports, 1885 May 26-1892 December 1
5	12	Banks correspondence (South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin), 1876 February 10-1897 October 4
6	1	Brown & Sharpe Manufacturing Company letters, receipts, statements, 1885 November 12-1923 November 12
6	2	C. M. Conradson patent correspondence, statements, agreement, 1884 October 12-1896 June 29, undated
6	3	W. H. Foster Engineering Company correspondence, notes, reports, 1899 February 1-1905 May 1
6	4	Peter L. Norman correspondence, reports, statements, 1878 August 25-1962 September 19
6	5	J. T. Odegard correspondence, 1875 December 2-1897 June 11, undated
6	6	S. D. Peterson (New Ulm Bank) correspondence and statements, 1878 November 22-1891 November 30
6	7	Rawling and Harnischfeger statements and receipts, 1899 March 1-1891 March 7
6	8	O. A. Swerig (W. A. Wood Company) correspondence, 1872 October 17-1899 December 10
6	9	J. Thompson & Sons correspondence and statements, 1869 November 22-1890 December 22
6	10	Walter A. Wood Company correspondence, contracts, statements, 1870 January 5-1892 November 21
7	1	Business correspondence, 1869 May 18-1883 August 21
7	2	Business correspondence, 1883 September 7-1884 June 30
7	3	Business correspondence, 1884 July 9-1885 April 30
7	4	Business correspondence, 1885 May 1-1996 December 14
7	5	Business correspondence, 1887 June 20-1892 November 29
7	6	Business correspondence, 1893 January 13-1900 February 9, undated
7	7	Business correspondence (in Norwegian), 1869 February 26-1884 July 24
7	8	Business correspondence (in Norwegian), 1884 August 2-1896 November 30, undated
8	1	John A. Johnson receipts and statements, 1873 February 26-1910 January 20

8	2	Fuller and Johnson receipts and statements, 1874 October 19-1892 December 8
8	3	Gisholt Machine Company receipts and statements, 1889 January 3-1889 December 31
8	4	Gisholt Machine Company receipts and statements, 1890 January 1-1890 October 31
8	5	Gisholt Machine Company receipts and statements, 1890 November 1-1891 January 15
8	6	Gisholt Machine Company receipts and statements, 1891 January 16-1901 January 16
8	7	National Association of Agricultural Implement and Vehicle Manufacturers correspondence, 1864 March 18-1960 October
8	8	Farmers' National Congress articles and correspondence, 1895 September 19-1897 March 11, undated
8	9	Commercial Tour (Europe and South America) clippings, letters, pamphlets, records, 1896
9	1	Hekla Fire Insurance Company correspondence and reports, 1871 April 15-1885 November 25
9	2	Hekla Fire Insurance Company correspondence and reports, 1886 January 4-1891 November 27
9	3	T. G. Mandt correspondence, receipts, statements, 1876 May 13-1888 May 21
9	4	T. G. Mandt correspondence, receipts, statements, 1888 July 5-1890 May 31
9	5	T. G. Mandt correspondence, patents, 1891 February 6-1892 May 26
9	6	T. G. Mandt correspondence, receipts, statements, 1890 July 9-1899 August 26
9	7	Ole Amundson correspondence, 1877 September 18-1894 January 20
9	8	J.E. Anderson correspondence, 1869 November 4-1870 October 14
9	9	J J. Anderson correspondence, 1883 June 1-1884 July 1
9	10	Rasmus B. Anderson correspondence and clippings, 1869 April 19-1901 May 7
9	11	B. Anundson correspondence, 1877 September 4-1890 October 11, undated
9	12	Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson correspondence, 1872 June 3-1876 July 10
9	13	Claus L. Clausen correspondence, 1862 November 27-1886 January 2
10	1	Frederick Fleischer correspondence, 1869 March 12-1878 December 18
10	2	H. Gausta correspondence, 1899 July 12-1899 December 19
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10	4	Mons Grinager correspondence, 1873 April 23-1873 May 1
10	5	Ole K. Hamre correspondence, 1884 September 6-1885 September 8
10	6	S. I. Hanssen correspondence, 1866 May 1-1874 November 5
10	7	Peter Hendrickson correspondence, 1885 March 10-1892 March 3

10	8	Ole Herbrandson correspondence, 1880 April 10-1890 November 26
10	9	Chales Hoebel (Madison Harness) correspondence and statements, 1889 November 12-1899 December 7
10	10	Luth Jaeger correspondence, 1882 December 31-1891 February 25
10	11	Kristofer Janson correspondence, 1883 February 19-1887 June 1, undated
10	12	Gunder Kinney correspondence, 1876 September 1-1895 December 9
10	13	Samson M. Krogness (NAHA) correspondence, 1884 March 4-1884 August 25
10	14	Thure Kumlien correspondence, 1872 March 30-1880 August 17
10	15	Knud Langland correspondence, 1869 August 27-1889 November 29
10	16	Victor F. Lawson correspondence, 1870 September 9-1896 November 5
10	17	Knute Nelson correspondence and speech, 1876 February 8-1896 January 11
10	18	Peter Nelson correspondence and reports, 1884 January 16-1884 June 25
10	19	Svein Nilsson correspondence, 1886 November 29-1887 April 15
10	20	P. O. Noben correspondence and reports, 1882 December 4-1886 July 9
10	21	O. N. Olsen correspondence and invention, 1883 August 3-1883 October 31
10	22	I. T. Relling correspondence, 1877 May 12-1890 October 5
10	23	C. F. Solberg correspondence and legal statement, 1869 March 15-1894 July 2
10	24	K. T. Stabeck correspondence, 1884 January 10-1886 March 21
10	25	Halle Steensland correspondence, 1874 October 9-1892 December 21
10	26	M. Swenson correspondence and pamphlet, 1884 March 18-1896 December
10	27	T. Thorsteinson correspondence, 1871 January 22-1880 February 12
10	28	H. E. Warner correspondence, 1858 October 25-1860 February 8
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10	30	Johannes Wist correspondence, 1885 July 20-28
11	1-3	Government and politics correspondence and pamphlets, 1869 February 15-1900 May 21
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11	5	Articles by Johnson, 1887-1901
12	1	Americanization and government articles, 1864 July 4-1890
12	2	Government and industry articles, 1897 October 11-1901 May 6
12	3	Norwegian culture, politics, and religion articles, undated
12	4	Poem manuscript, undated
12	5	Letters patent, 1875 February 2-1891 October 6
12	6	Letters patent, 1892 March 22-1898 August 30
12	7	Brochures and pamphlets, 1884 May 13-1963, undated

13	1-6	First National Bank (Madison) checks and stub books, foreign bank drafts, 1865 March 10-1895 December 20
13	7	"Amerikas Forenede Staters Historie," 1875
13	8	"Fingerpeg for Farmere og Andre," 1884
13	9	Memoranda books, 1871-1885
14	1-2	Letter books, 1869-1886
14	3	Clippings Scrapbook, 1896-1966
14	5	Clippings, 1886 September 38-1901 June 2, undated
15	1-2	Clippings scrapbooks, 1870-1899
15	3	Tariff issue scrapbook, 1887-1890
15	4	Silver and Free trade articles, 1895-1898, undated
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16	2	Family history articles, clippings, and reports, 1866 February 19-1962 November 30
16	3	Leif Erikson correspondence and reports, 1873 June 7-1879 September 15, undated
16	4	Business advertising notes, 1882-1901
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16	7	Correspondence and reports, exhibits, "Firsts," reorganizations, 1895 March 19-1965 April 8
16	8	O. C. Johnson Civil War photostats, undated English translation of pp. 204-291 and pp. 303-317 of Buslett, who took mostly from John A. Johnson's newspaper articles about his wartime experiences, which Buslett translated to English.
16	9	C. L. Clausen Civil War research, undated
16	10	Gisholt Library and Relief Clubs records, 1900 January 8-1923, undated
16	11	Gisholt Club correspondence and reports, 1907 September 17-1925 November 19, undated
16	12	Gisholt Old Timers correspondence and programs, 1908 February 12-1925 December 17, undated
16	13	Freas M. Long correspondence and reports, 1913 September 4-1942 October 5
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17	1	Gisholt Machine Company brochures and pamphlets, 1889 February-1962 February
17	2	Gisholt Machine Company brochures and pamphlets, undated
17	3	George H. Johnson correspondence and reports, 1918 August 23-1952 October 22, undated

17	4	Hobart S. Johnson correspondence and blueprints, 1926 November 27-1926 December 27, undated
17	5	Clippings and reports, 1930 November 21-1966 May 4
17	6	Comet Corporation correspondence and brochures, 1931 January 21-1932 March 1, undated
17	7	Family and home photographs, undated
17	8	Gisholt Club photographs, undated
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18	2	Offices photographs, undated
18	3-4	Factory personnel photographs, undated
18	5	Exterior photographs, undated
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19	1	M. E. Fuller correspondence, 1870 February 1-1879 April 20
19	2	History of Gisholt Machine Company articles and clippings, 1895-1966
19	3	Hilma S. Grant correspondence, 1953 May 19-1969 July 14
19	4	Letter of Regina Johnson Tomlinson, 1974 Great-granddaughter of J. A. Johnson.
19	5	Gisholt Turret Lathe Guide, 1917
19	6	"The Fuller & Johnson Story II. Gasoline Engines. A Brief History of the Fuller & Johnson Manufacturing Company, Madison, Wisconsin" by Verne W. Kindschi, 2002
19	7	Notebook on Machines, 1896
19	8	Photograph albums
19	9	Medal from the Canadian National Exhibition, 1907
19	9	Medal from the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, 1895
20	1	Photographs, undated
20	2	Clippings and articles about Gisholt Machine Company, 1905-1907, undated
20	3	Scrapbooks of clippings and articles about Carl A. Johnson, 1918-1931
20	4	American Ordnance Association, 1942 August 28-1948 April 12
20	5	John A. Johnson book of letters, 1886-1901.
21	1-10	"John A. Johnson" manuscript by Agnes M. Larson, 1969
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