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Moore-Johnson-Bland Family Papers, 1851-1944

1 box

Processed by Dennis Northcott, September 2003

REPOSITORY

Missouri Historical Society Archives

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DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated by Helen Smither of the Kansas City chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in July 1980 and January 1985.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Waldo Porter Johnson was born September 16, 1817, in Bridgeport, Harrison County, Virginia. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1861, and moved to Osceola, St. Clair County, Missouri, the following year. He was elected as a Democrat to the U.S. Senate and served from March 1861 to January 1862, when he was expelled for disloyalty to the government. During the Civil War he served in the Confederate army as a lieutenant colonel of the 4th Missouri Infantry and later served in the Confederate Congress. He briefly resided in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, following the war, before returning to Osceola, where he died August 14, 1885.

William Tell Johnson, son of Waldo Porter Johnson and Emily Moore, was born August 4, 1848, in Osceola. He married Agnes M. Harris September 15, 1885, in Denver, Colorado. Their children were: (1) Margaret Johnson, born July 23, 1886, who married James P. Morley; (2) Robert Waldo Johnson, born May 29, 1889, who married Agnes Shackelford; (3) Mary Agnes Johnson (1892-1977), who married William J. Bland; and (4) Helen Johnson, born February 27, 1894, died June 24, 1894. William Tell Johnson moved to Kansas City around 1880 and became a prominent lawyer with the firm of Johnson & Lucas. He died in Kansas City in September 1930.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Collection contains photocopies of correspondence, genealogical notes, and other family papers of the Moore-Johnson-Bland family from the estate of Mrs. Mary Agnes (Johnson) Bland, which were donated to the Kansas City chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The collection was arranged in several sections, each of which was given a title and indexed by the Kansas City chapter of the D.A.R.

- Folder 1 “The Moore-Johnson Letters, 1851-1931,” compiled 1980. Consists primarily of family correspondence of Mr. and Mrs. Waldo P. Johnson. Includes letter of Mrs. Harriet L. Goff to Waldo P. Johnson, dated Clarksburg, West Virginia, June 18, 1864, regarding her son Nathan who is a Union prisoner of war.
- Folder 2 “The William Tell Johnson of Osceola and Kansas City, Mo., Papers, 1851-1930,” compiled 1980. Includes the undated reminiscences of William Tell Johnson and correspondence and other family papers of William Tell Johnson.
- Folder 3 “The Mrs. William Tell Johnson (Agnes M. Harris) Memoirs, 1850-1931, Dictated to Mary J. Bland,” compiled 1980.
- Folder 4 “Bits and Pieces from the Mary Johnson Bland Files on the Cox, Harris & Johnson Families of St. Clair County, Missouri, 1700-1925,” compiled 1983. Contains transcriptions of deeds, wills, and other genealogical papers; and a biographical sketch of Dr. Edwin Eugene Harris (1828-1864) and extracts from his correspondence while serving as a surgeon in the 8th (Musser’s) Missouri Infantry Battalion (Confederate) mostly in Arkansas.
- Folder 5 “On the Bland Side, 1700-1950,” compiled 1984. Consists primarily of compiled genealogical data on the Bland family and numerous allied families.
- Folder 6 “The 1944 Journal Mary Johnson Bland Kept While in England and France with the Red Cross,” compiled 1984.
- Folder 7 “The Waldo Porter Johnson of Osceola, St. Clair County, Mo., Papers, 1821-1935,” compiled 1979. Consists primarily of Johnson family correspondence, including official correspondence, general and special orders of the Confederate Trans-Mississippi Department, and other military papers of Waldo P. Johnson relating primarily to his recruiting efforts in Missouri, and a letter of Waldo P. Johnson to his wife, dated State of Arkansas, March 27, 1862, which contains an account of the Battle of Pea Ridge.