

Town and Country Public Library
Historical Collection
Bernice “Bee” Morrill Warne Johnson Collection
#2010-07

Scope and Content Note: Bernice Clare Morrill Warne Johnson (1888 – 1979) Married Earnest Elisha Warne (1879 – 1934), 1914 in Elburn, then G.R. Johnson, date unknown. Bernice, known as ‘Bee’, was the unofficial Elburn historian, accumulating, cataloging and describing a large volume of material pertaining to Blackberry/Elburn and its citizens. A 1906 graduate of Elburn High School, she was very socially active in the community, and had a very wide circle of friends from whom she actively obtained material. Later in life, she provided access to the material she had accumulated by way of tours of her home, as recollected by Dave Anderson, a long time resident and current (2010) Village President. The Elburn Historical Society Museum (now defunct) was posthumously dedicated in her honor in October, 1988. This collection contains personal, scholastic, business, and governmental material as well as scrapbooks of newspaper clippings pertaining to Blackberry/Elburn and its surrounding area from 1862 to 1988. Of note are a record of household/food purchases dated 1862-1864, an automobile record of a trip taken in 1930, an oral history transcript from 1964, a listing of veterans of American Wars buried in Blackberry/Elburn, transcribed 1960 Census of Elburn, a listing of graduates of Elburn High School from 1886 to 1962, a collection of wedding invitations and 50th wedding anniversary announcements. This collection is arranged chronologically. This Collection is Complete.

Quantity: 8 Letter Sized Boxes, 5 x 12 ¼ x 10 ¼
40 Linear Inches 3.33 Linear Feet

Box 1 – Scrapbooks

Clippings from Elburn 1881 – 1927, in book “The Ford Industries”
The Elburn Enterprise, January 19, 1895
Scrapbook, 1900 – 1916
The Elburn Herald, 1908 – 1912

Box 2 – Scrapbooks (can be further processed/indexed)

Clippings, 1930s, Indexed by Kane County Genealogical Society, Index only (1 of 3)
Clippings, 1930s, Indexed by Kane County Genealogical Society (2 of 3)
Clippings, 1930s, Indexed by Kane County Genealogical Society (3 of 3)
Clippings 1984

Box 3 – Clippings (all dates approximate) (can be further processed/indexed)

1880 – 1934; includes September 25, 1880 of Elburn Weekly Blade
1910 – 1974
1895 – 1970
1898 – 1973
1942 – 1951

Box 4 – Clippings (all dates approximate) (can be further processed/indexed) (NEED ARCHIVAL FOLDERS)

1930s, bulk 1934

1962 – 1967
1941 – 1973
1962 – 1970
1916 – 1968

Box 5

Household/food purchase record book, 1862 – 1864
Primary Songs 1878; The Crowing of Christmas 1893; Hearts of Gold 1895; Christmas Cantata 1900
Ontario, California CA, Gravity Car photo with note on verso “Brought by Grandpa Morrill from Cal when I was about 3”
Notebook cover, 1915
Automobile record 1930 with miles driven, places visited, gas purchased, etc.; note “Mom & Will’s”
Correspondence to/from Augusta Johnson from cosmetics company in NY, 1936
Correspondence to Bernice “Bea” Johnson re: Harris House (copy 1940)
Military Map of the U.S. by Union Pacific Railroad (given by Grace Beam, 1943)
Holiday cards received 1944-1945
Grand Opening Notice, G.R. Johnson Co., Inc. Ford Sales and Service, 1960
Certificate, Gift to Washington State Historical Society 1961
Oral History Transcript from interview July 2, 1964
Holiday Greeting Card 1967
Correspondence to Bernice “Bea” Johnson from Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen (signed) 1969
Correspondence to Bernice “Bea” Johnson from Clifford Smith 1973
Misc. postcards and correspondence
Thank you cards to Bernice “Bea” Johnson, n.d.
Blackberry Cemetery Records as transcribed by Bea Johnson
List of Veterans of American Wars buried in Blackberry Cemetery (Elburn)
Census 1960, transcribed by Bea Johnson (disbound from black binder)
Elburn history notes, n.d.
“Centennial Year 1936” – list of business firms in existence, Q&A re: area history, schools, list of residents w/’bits of information’, Village Poll List, List members O.E.S. (disbound from black binder)
Elburn High School List of Graduates, 1886 – 1962
Genealogies – Johnson, Mathewson (includes Pattee)
American Red Cross – Certificates of Recognition, 1958, 1961; Honor Roll of Service 1971 (30 Years)
Correspondence from daughter of Bea Johnson (Mrs. Gene (Harry) Kurtz); Garnet Tillesen re: grandchildren of Bea Johnson 1988

Box 6 - (can be further processed/indexed)

Wedding Invitations/Announcements – Richmond, Humphreys and Read, Pelton 1879
Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1880s
Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1880s
Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1900s
Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1910s
Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1920s
Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1930s
Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1940s
Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1950s
Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1960s
Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1970s
50th Wedding Anniversary Invitations/Announcements – 1907-1953