

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

- 1-1 Clippings from Elburn 1881 – 1927, in book “The Ford Industries”
- 1-2 The Elburn Enterprise, January 19, 1895
- 1-3 Scrapbook, 1900 – 1916
- 1-4 The Elburn Herald, 1908 – 1912
- 1-5 Clippings 1895-1917
- 1-6 Census 1960, transcribed by Bea Johnson (disbound from black binder)
- 1-7 “The Golden Book of Favorite Songs” Gifted to Elburn Library by B. Johnson in 1963
- 1-8 Oral History Transcript from interview July 2, 1964
- 1-9 Elburn history notes, n.d.

Box 2 – Scrapbooks (Interleaf with Acid Free Paper)

- 2-1 Index of Clippings, 1930s, created by Kane County Genealogical Society, (1 of 3)
- 2-2 Clippings, 1930s, Indexed by Kane County Genealogical Society (2 of 3)
- 2-3 Clippings, 1930s, Indexed by Kane County Genealogical Society (3 of 3)
- 2-4 Clippings 1984

Box 3 – Clippings (all dates approximate) – Index Available

- 3-1 1880 – 1934; includes September 25, 1880 of Elburn Weekly Blade
- 3-2 1895 – 1970
- 3-3 1898 – 1973
- 3-4 1910 – 1974

3-5 1942 – 1951

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

4-1 Laminated roll of clippings, starting 1901, labeled D.M. Stevenson

4-2 1916-1968

4-3 1930s, bulk 1934, Obits, History of Elburn

4-4 1941 – 1973

4-5 1962 – 1967

4-6 1962 – 1970

Box 5

5-1 Household/food purchase record book, 1862 – 1864

5-2 Primary Songs 1878; The Crowning of Christmas 1893; Hearts of Gold 1895; Christmas Cantata 1900

5-3 Ontario, California CA, Gravity Car photo with note on verso “Brought by Grandpa Morrill from Cal when I was about 3”

5-4 Notebook cover, 1915

5-5 Automobile record 1930 with miles driven, places visited, gas purchased, etc.; note “Mom & Will’s”

5-6 Correspondence to/from Augusta Johnson from cosmetics company in NY, 1936-37

5-7 Photograph of Bee Johnson, 1939

5-8 Correspondence to Bernice “Bee” Johnson re: Harris House (copy 1940)

5-9 Military Map of the U.S. by Union Pacific Railroad (given by Grace Beam, 1943)

5-10 Holiday cards received 1944-1945

5-11 Grand Opening Notice, G.R. Johnson Co., Inc. Ford Sales and Service, 1960

5-12 Certificate, Gift to Washington State Historical Society 1961

5-13 Photograph of G.R. and Bernice Johnson, 1964

5-14 Holiday Greeting Card 1967

5-15 Correspondence to Bernice “Bea” Johnson from Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen (signed) 1969

5-16 Correspondence to Bernice “Bea” Johnson from Clifford Smith 1973

5-17 Misc. postcards and correspondence

5-18 Thank you cards to Bernice “Bea” Johnson, n.d.

5-19 Blackberry Cemetery Records as transcribed by Bea Johnson

5-20 “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)

5-21 Elburn High School List of Graduates, 1886 – 1962

5-22 Genealogies – Johnson, Mathewson (includes Pattee)

5-23 American Red Cross – Certificates of Recognition, 1958, 1961; Honor Roll of Service 1971 (30 Years)

5-24 Correspondence from daughter of Bea Johnson (Mrs. Gene (Harry) Kurtz); Garnet Tillesen re: grandchildren of Bea Johnson 1988

5-25 Photocopied Material of Historic Nature

Box 6 – Wedding Invitations/Announcements/Anniversaries – Index available

6-1 Wedding Invitations/Announcements – Richmond, Humphreys and Read, Pelton 1879

6-2 Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1880s

6-3 Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1890s

6-4 Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1900s

6-5 Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1910s

6-6 Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1920s

6-7 Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1930s

- 6-8 Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1940s
- 6-9 Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1950s
- 6-10 Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1960s
- 6-11 Wedding Invitations/Announcements – 1970s
- 6-12 50th Wedding Anniversary Invitations/Announcements – 1907-1953

Box 7 – Clippings (all dates approximate) (can be further processed/indexed)

- 7-1 Anderson, Gunnar
- 7-2 Garfield, Viola(Kehoe)
- 7-3 Miscellaneous Advertisements
- 7-4 Obituaries, misc. clippings(can be further processed/indexed)
- 7-5 Photocopies of material of historic value, includes copies of photographs
- 7-6 Undated misc. clippings
- 7-7 Other items found among clippings(including postcards dated 1882-3, genealogy material, etc.)
- 7-8 1890-1899
- 7-9 1900-1909
- 7-10 1910-1919
- 7-11 1920-1929
- 7-12 1930-1939
- 7-13 1940-1949
- 7-14 1950-1959
- 7-15 1960-1969
- 7-16 Souvenir Booklets

Box 8 – Clippings (unprocessed) Note: Due to the nature of other clipped materials in the collection (i.e. handwritten notes, reminiscences, etc.) these clippings should be processed with due care.