

WORCESTER HISTORICAL
MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Johnson, Alexander Howard, Family
Collection

1999.FIA.02

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Collection Information

Abstract: One of several collections relating to Mr. Johnson. Includes genealogical and biographical information, as well as information about his adoptive family.

Finding Aids: Finding Aid in print form available at Worcester Historical Museum Library and Archives.

Preferred Citation: Worcester Historical Museum Archives, 30 Elm Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance: Found in Archives, provenance unknown. (Possibly donated by Richard Massey, great-grandson of Johnson.)

Access: The Finding Aid is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (LCSH, AAT, TGM, GMGPC)

Johnson, Alexander H., Major, ca. 1847-1930

Johnson, William Howard

Lawyers – Massachusetts – New Bedford – Biography

Massachusetts. Militia. 54th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry – Biography

Drummers (Musicians) – Massachusetts – Worcester

United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Participation, Juvenile

Grand Army of the Republic. Col. George H. Ward Post, No. 10 (Worcester, Mass.) – Biography

See Also: Worcester Historical Museum Library. Clippings files.

Archives of the Worcester Historical Museum. Other holdings.

Biographical Information

Alexander H. Johnson was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts about 1847, said to be the son of a Narragansett Indian father and mother, and descendant of King Philip. He was raised by a black family in New Bedford. His adoptive father was William Henry Johnson, a prominent attorney in New Bedford.

Johnson enlisted at age 14 in the United States Navy as drummer boy prior to the outbreak of hostilities in the Civil War, and served aboard the frigate Sabine for about eight months. He then enlisted in the 54th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers in March, 1862, and served as musician throughout the hostilities. He was mustered out August 20, 1865.

Johnson lived in Worcester for the rest of his life, and was active as a musician and promoter of drumming. He was a member and active in the affairs of Col. George H. Ward Post, No. 10, G.A.R. in Worcester, in which he held the rank of Major.

Johnson died in 1930 at the age of 83.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of photocopies of clippings and documents relative to the ancestry of Alexander Howard Johnson, with emphasis on his native American ancestry. It also includes information about the life and ancestry of William Henry Johnson, prominent black attorney in New Bedford who was adoptive father to Alexander Howard Johnson. Clippings span the period from 1897 to 1997.

Collection is arranged topically, and described to item level.

Series Description

Series 1: Genealogical information. Includes information about Johnson's ancestry with emphasis on his native American background. Also includes information on his descendants.

Series 2: Biographical information. Includes information on the life of Alexander Johnson, and information on the life of his adoptive father William Henry Johnson.

Alexander H. Johnson Family Collection
1999.FIA.02
Series 1, Genealogy

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1999.FIA.02.1.1	Clipping. "Roots of man from Webster reach back to the Civil War." Worcester Telegram and Gazette, April 11, 1997.
1	1	1999.FIA.02.1.2	Letter. "Ron from Dick Massey", March 28, 1996, concerning Alexander H. Johnson's adoptive parents.
1	1	1999.FIA.02.1.3	Computer print-out showing Native-American ancestry of Alexander H. Johnson. 2 p.
1	1	1999.FIA.02.1.4	Letter and photocopies. Ancestry of Alexander Howard Johnson. 5 p.

Alexander H. Johnson Family Collection
1999.FIA.02
Series 2, Biography

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	2	1999.FIA.02.2.1	Facsimile transmission printout. Ron Borgeson from Dick Massey, June 25, 1997, re attendance at Memorial for descendants of 54 th MVI veterans.
1	2	1999.FIA.02.2.2	Clipping (photocopy). [S.l.], Morning Mercury, June 12, 1897. To the memory of William H. Johnson (adoptive father of Alexander Howard Johnson). 5 p.
1	2	1999.FIA.02.2.3	Clipping (photocopy). [S.l.], Evening Standard, December 19, 1uuu. William Henry Johnson dead. 2 p.
1	2	1999.FIA.02.2.4	Clipping (photocopy). [S.l.: s.n., n.d.] William Henry Johnson: incidents in the life of a bond- and freedman. 4 p.
1	2	1999.FIA.02.2.5	Clipping (photocopy). Worcester Telegram, September 29, 1907. "Drummer of war renown." Includes typescript of article. 4 p.