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William Johnson, Jr. Papers
Collection 189-1 to 189-4

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May 1998

Manuscript Division

Scope Note

The papers of William Johnson, Jr., a well known Baltimore caterer, and those of his daughters, Elizabeth Catherine Johnson and Mary Johnson (Spellman), span the period from 1890 to 1977. Johnson and his daughters were all graduates of Howard University. Elizabeth Johnson worked for the Probation Department of the Circuit Courts of Baltimore; Mary Johnson Spellman was a former assistant Dean of Women at Morgan State College.

The collection was received in two installments. Miss Elizabeth Johnson, the last remaining family member, donated some photographs, certificates, and diplomas during the first half of 1982. Other materials were acquired in September of that year.

The bulk of the collection contains photographs, some especially important to Howard University history. Included are images of Johnson's classmates and faculty from classes as early as 1890 and 1891. George Cook, the principal of the Howard University Normal Department is depicted in these. Johnson the teacher is also shown with his students from Unionville School in Talbot County, MD in 1895. Also of interest are tintypes ca. 1890; photographs by William A. Warfield, Superintendent of Howard University's Freedmen's Hospital; and snapshots by Elizabeth Johnson of classmates and staff of the Bishop Tuttle School located on the campus of St. Augustine College, and, later, many others taken while she was a Howard University student.

Other collection highlights are the highly decorative Howard University and Spencerian Business College (Washington, DC) commencement invitations and programs dating from 1890 - 1892, and addresses by Howard University presidents William W. Patton (1880) and Mordecai W. Johnson (1926).

Elizabeth Johnson also contributed many Howard University memorabilia--programs of many campus events, invitations, schedules and newsclippings.

Other materials may be found at the Enoch Pratt Library, Maryland Room in Baltimore, Maryland. See also [The Black Presence in Maryland](#) by the Herbert M. Frisby Historical Society, 1974.

Biographical Data

William Johnson, Jr. (1869-1954)

- 1869 William Johnson, Jr., born to William and Sarah (Gibson) Johnson, former slaves, on the Wye Plantation in Talbot County, MD.
- ca. 1879 Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Johnson, uncle and aunt of William Johnson, Jr. established catering business. Also purchased 939 Eutaw St. in Baltimore at that same time; transferred to Johnson's parents in 1897.
- 1890 William Johnson, Jr. completed the Howard University Normal Department three-year course.
- 1891 Completed H.U. Normal Department four-year course.
- 1892 Graduated from the Spencerian Business College in Washington, DC.
- 1897 Eutaw Street property transferred to Johnson's parents.
- 1894 Received teaching certificate and applied for position in Unionville, Talbot County in MD.
- 1898 Took over uncle's catering business.
- 1899 Resigned teaching position.
- 1902 Married Mary Catherine Mitchell who died in 1909.
- 1918 Gave up catering business.
- 1923 Employed as Talbot County Club steward.
- 1954 Died of heart ailment at age 84; interred at Arbutus Memorial Park, Baltimore, MD

Biographical Data

William Johnson, Jr. family

Fannie Ellen Johnson Chew (? - 1922)

ca. 1869 Born to William and Sarah (Gibson) Johnson, former slaves, on the Wye Plantation in Talbot County, MD. Sister to William N. Johnson, Jr.

Mary Catherine Johnson (Spellman) (1904 - ?)

1926 Earned Howard University B.S. degree.

1929 Graduated from Coppin Normal School (MD).

Elizabeth Jemina Johnson (1906 - 1982)

ca .1919- 1923 Attended Bishop Tuttle School (NC)

1928 Earned Howard University A.B. degree, cum laude.

1929 Returned for additional study at Bishop Tuttle School.

Series Description

- Series A** **William N. Johnson, Jr.**
Box 189-1 Contains correspondence, stationery, fairly elaborate early programs and invitations from Howard University and also the Spencerian Business College in Washington, D.C.
- Series B** **Elizabeth Johnson, et.al**
Box 189-1 Materials in this series contain correspondence, writings by Dr. Mordecai
to Box 189-2 W. Johnson and others, and Howard University programs, invitations and schedules. Of note are newsletters and programs from the St. Augustine College Bishop Tuttle School, materials from the St. James African Episcopal Church (Baltimore, MD), a 1924 Howard University student manual, and a program and newsclipping of a 1928 Marian Anderson concert.
- Series C** **Photographs**
Box 189-2 This series contains photographs of early Howard University classes; Johnson's
to Box 189-3 students in Talbot County, MD; Johnson himself and daughters and other family members, relatives and friends and classmates; classmates and friends of Elizabeth at Howard University and the St. Augustine College Bishop Tuttle School. Also included is a 1890 photograph of George W. Cook, Howard University Normal Department Principal.
- Series D** **Oversize Awards and Certificates**
Box 189-3 Included in this series are diplomas, certificates, awards, and degrees from Howard
to Box 189-4 University and other institutions, dating from 1891.

Container List

Series A William N. Johnson, Jr.

Box	Folder	
189-1	1	Biographical information
	2	Correspondence
	3	Stationery
	4	Programs and Invitations Howard University and Spencerian Business College
	5	Writings by Others Howard University President, William W. Patton, 1880

Series B Elizabeth Johnson, et.al

6	Correspondence, ca. 1924-1968 Durkee, Stanley Day, Mattie James, Susie B. Sutton, Ethel L. Virgil, Rosa U.(?) Wilkinson, F.D.
7	Howard University Programs and Invitations, 1922-1928
8	Howard University Programs and Invitations, 1924-1928
9	Writings by Others, 1926 and 1927 Opening Address for Autumn Quarter, Howard University President, Mordecai W. Johnson, 1926 Inaugural Address by Pres. Mordecai W. Johnson, 1927
10	Writings by Others, 1926-1927 An Official Statement from the Howard University Trustees, 1925 "An Estimate of Carter G. Woodson and his work in connection with The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, Inc." by Kelly Miller, 1926 "Negro History Week: A National Celebration" by the Assn. for the Study of Negro Life and History, ca. 1925 "A Short visit to the Memorial Church of the Holy Lamb, Franciscan Monastery, Washington, D.C., n.d.
11	Elizabeth Johnson Howard University Scrapbook
12	Mottos, n.d.
13	Howard University Student Activity Tickets, Schedules, 1924-1928
14	Howard University Academic Grades, 1924-1928
15	Howard University School Songs and Yells, 1927-1928

Container List

Series B	Elizabeth Johnson, et.al continued
Box	Folder
189-1	16 <u>The Hilltop</u> News Clippings, 1925-1928
	17 Howard University Invitations, ca. 1924-1928
	18 Other Invitations, ca. 1928-1929
	19 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, 1923-1925
	20 Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Programs, 1926-1928
	21 Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, 1926
	22 Dance Card, ca. 1928
	23 Howard University Student Manual, 1924
	24 Post Card, 1924
	25 Notes, ca. 1926
	26 Community Programs and Conferences, ca. 1926-1928
	27 Marian Anderson Recital, Baltimore, MD, 1928
189-2	1 Bishop Tuttle School Newsletters and Programs, 1928-1930
	2 Bishop Tuttle School Academic Records (Eliz. Johnson), 1929
	3 Episcopal Church Materials (Holy Week with Horology of the Passion, 1887
	4 St. James African Episcopal Church, Balt., MD., ca. 1934-1967
	5 Church Related Materials, Episcopal Diocese of MD., 1936-1941
	6 George F. Bragg Home for Boys, Balt., MD., 1946
Series C	Photographs
	7 William N. Johnson, Jr. William N. Johnson, Jr. Senior Normal class, Howard University, 1890 William N. Johnson, Jr., and friends, Howard University, 1891 William N. Johnson, Jr. Unionville School, Talbot County, MD, (with older students), 1895 William N. Johnson, Jr. Unionville School, Talbot County, MD, (with younger students), 1895 William N. Johnson, Jr. with group of unidentified African American men (in Talbot County, MD)
	8 Elizabeth Johnson
	9 Johnson, Mary Catherine
	10 Johnson, Elizabeth and Mary
	11 Other relatives Daniel Johnson, uncle of William N. Johnson, Jr., n.d. Fannie Johnson Chew, sister, 1901 Henriette __?__, a niece

Container List

Series C	Photographs continued	
Box	Folder	
189-2	12	Howard University Male Friends and Classmates of William N. Johnson, Jr., ca. 1886-1892 Bondy, Dr. ___? ___, ca. 1890-1896 Brandon, David G. (?), 1890 Butler, Madden, 1891 Davidson, S. James, 1892 Gilbert, James A., Dr.,(three photos) 1890,1893, 1901 Henderson, G.A., M.D.,1891 Moore, Urius A., 1887 Rice, William H.P., 1886 George B. ___?____, n.d. Walter ___?____, n.d.
	13	Howard University Female Friends and Classmates of William N. Johnson, Jr., ca. 1890-1896 Harrison, Hallie Perkins, 1891 Harmon, Adele, 1892 Harmon, Mary, 1890 Johnson, W., Mrs., 1887 Jones, Miss Maxine, 1896 Perkins, Lulu, 1893 Perry, Mrs. Lizzie, n.d. Temu (?), Mrs. Mollie, 1891 Gladman, Clara A., (Mrs. Clara A. Brown), 1892 Williams, Mrs. Allie, 1893 Young, Loretta Viola, 1890
189-3	14	Howard University Identified Individuals
	1	George W. Cook, Howard University Normal Dept. Principal, 1890
	2	Mrs. W.A. Warfield, ca. 1896
	3	Unidentified Woman. Photo by Dr. William A. Warfield, Superintendent, Freedmen's Hospital, ca. 1896
	4	Unidentified Howard University students, 1888-1890
	5	Howard University Unidentified Individuals, ca. 1926-1927
	6	Howard University Unidentified Events
	7	Eugene Pearson Turner, 6 mos. n.d.
	8	J.W. Beckett, D.D., Trinity AME Church, paperweight, n.d.
	9	Unidentified Woman and Baby, n.d.
	10	Bishop Tuttle School Years Photo Album (cover only)

Container List

Series C Photographs continued

Box	Folder	
189-3	11	Unidentified Bishop Tuttle men, women & children
	12	Unidentified Bishop Tuttle Physical Plant Scenes, ca. 1922-1923
	13	Unidentified groups
	14	Unidentified Individual Women, n.d.
	15	Unidentified Individual Women, ca. 1888-1916
	16	Unidentified Men, ca. 1888-1893
	17	Unidentified Men, ca. 1888-1916
	18	Unidentified Men and Women, tintypes, ca. 1890

Series D Oversize Awards and Certificates

189-4	1	Mary Johnson, elementary school promotional certificate, 1918
	2	Mary Johnson, United WAR Work campaign certificate
	3	Corp. William H. Chew, enlistment poster, 1918
	4	Elizabeth Johnson, elementary school promotional certificate, 1920
	5	Mary Johnson, Colored High School diploma, 1922
	6	Mary Johnson, Trinity AME Church, certificate of recognition, 1922
	7	Elizabeth Johnson, Douglass High School diploma, 1924
	8	Mary Johnson, Howard University B.S. degree, 1926
	9	Mary Johnson, Coppin Normal School diploma, 1929
	10	Elizabeth Johnson, Howard University A.B. cum laude degree, 1928
	11	William Johnson, Howard University Normal Department diploma, 1890
	12	William Johnson, Howard University Normal Department diploma, 1891
	13	William Johnson, Spencerian Business School diploma, 1892