

# Finding Aid to the Johnson Family Letters Collection

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## Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Johnson Family Letters Collection

**Date Range:** mid 1800s to 1980

**Collection number:** 14-28

**Repository:** County History Center, Contra Costa County Historical Society, 724 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553, 925-229-1042

**Abstract:** The family history begins with the mention of Captain Edmund Robinson who was the family heir and grandfather of Frank R. Webb and Phoebe Dickinson and great grandfather of Thaddeus Johnson and Abbie Johnson, whom much of the correspondence from the collection revolves around. These are family archived materials consisting of letters, maps, and personal archived materials.

**Legal status:** public

## Information for Researchers

**Access:** Collection is open for research.

**Publication Rights:** [Contact the Contra Costa County Historical Society for publication permission.](#)

**Preferred Citation:** Suggested citation of these records is: [Identification of item], Special Collections, Contra Costa County Historical Society.

**Scope and Content:** The collection holds family archived materials dating from the mid-1800s to as late as 1980. Notable documents include:

**Box 1:** Seven folders of letters dated as early as 1866 with the bulk dated 1866—1879 to and from family and friends of the Webb/Johnson families.

**Box 2:** Various assorted letters with accompanying stamped envelopes, the bulk from Frank Webb to his family when looking for employment in Portland & Tacoma during the 1890s, and correspondence between Mrs. Thaddeus Johnson and Mrs. Abbie Johnson with various family members. Many of Frank's letters are on hotel letterhead. There are also copies of maps from 1827—1865 of railroads, War of 1812, Oregon Territory, Michigan Territory, and Wisconsin, Iowa & Minnesota territories. A newspaper folder holds *The Thomaston Herald*, September 1, 1904 and *The Sunday Chronicle*, August 5, 1885 that highlights the funeral of General Ulysses S. Grant.

**Box3:** This box has a wider variety of materials that include commercial receipts (1920s), taxes (1907, City of Martinez; 1917, City of Walnut Creek), many letters and cards to and from Della (sister of Abbie Johnson), official documents (Declaration of Homestead, Division of Highways, CC Title Co., CCC taxes, Las Lomas report card), and newspaper sport articles all from the 1950s. Also notable are a Gunter's Scale (used in navigation & precursor to the slide scale), Western Union Telegram, greeting pin-up cards by Gil Elvgren, and a marketing pamphlet showcasing four models of horseless buggy "Harvest Beauties" by Sears Roebuck & Co. with paint samples.

**Arrangement of Materials:** The Johnson Family Letters Collection is contained in three boxes. The special collection resides in the Special Collection room on the back wall.

**Indexing Terms:** Johnson Family Letters

**Personal Names:** Edmund Robinson, Frank R. Webb, Pheobe Dickinson, Thaddeus Johnson, Abbie Johnson.