

Rev. Olof C. Johnson (1909-2000)
Photos, 1930s-1940s
FB-67

Introduction

This is a collection of approximately 800 photographs and negatives taken by Rev. Olof C. Johnson of Shrewsbury, Vermont, in the late 1930s and early 1940s. The collection was given to the Vermont Historical Society by the photographer's son, Olof Johnson, in 2001 (ms. acc. no. 2001.8). The photographs and negatives are housed in four archival photo boxes inside one document storage box (1 linear foot).

Biographical Note

Rev. Olof C. Johnson was born February 28, 1909, in Gloversville, New York, and his family relocated to Northville, New York, when he was about 10 years of age. He went through business college, and his first job was as a bank clerk and stenographer in Cobleskill in 1929 at the First National Bank of Cobleskill.

He received his call to ministry about 1933, and received a Bachelor of Theology degree from Gordon College and Theological Seminary in Boston. He received a Master of Divinity degree from Andover-Newton Theological School in 1942. During this time he obtained a license to preach and worked in 3 Methodist churches in Shrewsbury and Cuttingsville, Vermont. He was active in the Rutland County 4-H, and met Elizabeth Hager at the summer 4-H camp at Elfin Lake in Wallingford. He was ordained at the 1942 Methodist annual conference in Troy, New York, and the next day he married Elizabeth Hager. They had four children, Olof, Jr., Andrew, John, and Eric.

Rev. Johnson also served Methodist parishes in Pittsfield, Stockbridge, and Gaysville, Vermont, for about 5 years, and then served in Castleton, Mendon, and Hubbardton, Vermont, from 1946-1963. During this time he also served in the volunteer fire department and managed the hot lunch program at the Castleton schools. In 1963, he returned to New York State, serving at the Central Bridge (Schoharie County, New York) Methodist Church and, at the same time, Grosvenors Corners and Barnerville churches until he was forced to retire under Methodist policy in 1979.

In his retirement he served as pastor for the Braman Corners Baptist Church and Broome Center Chapel, United Church of Christ, Gilboa, New York. During his time in New York State he also served as a volunteer fireman and as the Chaplain to the New York State Police. Rev. Johnson passed away in February 2000 at his home in Central Bridge, New York.

Scope and Content

This collection contains photographs taken by Rev. Olof C. Johnson in and around Rutland County, Vermont, during the late 1930s and early 1940s. The collection is particularly strong in photographs of churches, fairs, and 4-H activities. The collection includes pictures of the Rutland County 4-H Camp at Elfin Lake in Wallingford, Vermont (Camps-4H); other camps (Camps); other 4-H activities (ORG-4-H); a family making and eating sugar on snow (Maple Sugaring); activities in a farm kitchen (AG-Rural Life); families at the dinner table (Eating and Drinking); auto racing and stunts (EX-Fairs, Auto Racing); and a Model A pickup crash in which the driver is taken away in an ambulance (Autos, Other).

The collection also includes photographs of the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Massachusetts; the 1939 New York World's Fair; and the Queen Mary setting sail, probably from New York City.

Mr. Johnson stored each of his negatives in a separate paper envelope. He attached the corresponding print to the outside of each envelope. Each negative is dated; very few are identified. The Vermont Historical Society staff has left the negatives, prints and envelopes the way that Mr. Johnson left them. The envelopes have been organized to follow the subject organization of most of the other photograph collections at the Vermont Historical Society. Mr. Johnson kept his collection in two long cardboard boxes. The VHS staff has replaced these with four boxes made of archival board.

Inventory

- FB-67.1 AG-Barns and Silos
 - AG-Crops and Crop Production
 - AG-Crops-Haying
 - AG-Dairying
 - AG-Farm Scenes
 - AG-Rural Life
 - Animals-Cattle
 - Architecture
 - Auto
 - Auto-Delivery
 - Auto-Other-Truck Accident
 - Bridges
 - Camps
 - Camps-4H Elfin Lake
- FB-67.2 Camps-Religious-Vacation Bible School ?
 - Children
 - Churches
 - Eating and Drinking
 - Entertainment
 - EX-Fairs
 - EX-Fair-Auto Racing and Stunts

EX-Eastern States Exposition, Springfield, MA
EX-World's Fair, NYC, 1939
FB-67.3 Floods
Household Furnishings
Maple Sugaring
Mills and Factories
Monuments
Organizations
ORG-4-H
Politics and Government-Town Meeting?
Portraits
Portraits-Group
Power
Quarries
Railroads
Railroads-Construction
Scenery
FB-67.4 Schools
Ships-Queen Mary
Skills-Auctioneering
Snow
Snow-Clearing
Social Life and Customs
SO-Fetter Outings
Sports-Skiing
Sports-Water Sports
Sports-Other-Summer
Sports-Other-Winter
Stores
Towns-Montpelier-State House
Towns-New York City
Towns-Unidentified

Mary Carnahan
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