

Annie B. (Deardorff) Johnson Papers
Adams County Historical Society

Accession No: 2002.022

Home Location: Room 203, Rack 4, Shelf C

PREFACE

The Adams County Historical Society was established to “foster interest in the history of Adams County and vicinity, conduct research, preserve records and objects, mark sites, and pursue such activities as may be related to the history of the community.” The Society’s collections are privately held, maintained, and made available to the public for research purposes at the discretion of the governing authority of the institution and its staff.

INTRODUCTION

The Annie B. (Deardorff) Johnson Papers were acquired by the Adams County Historical Society in February 2002 from Tom Frantz. The collection was processed by Chris Carter, May-June 2013. The collection is housed in two boxes.

The collection contains the love letters from Dr. Harry J. Bell to Annie Deardorff from 1886-1893. This collection was analyzed by Irene S. Frantz, wife of the donor, who collected the papers from the home of J. D. Johnson, the son of Annie and C. W. Johnson, and contains her research on Harry and Annie. The collection offers research possibilities to those interested in the medical practices of the day.

ACCESS

This collection is open for research, and viewing access to the materials is unrestricted. However, restrictions apply concerning the use, duplication, or publication of items. Please consult research room staff for specific information regarding the Society’s policies.

PREFERRED CITATION

Annie B. (Deardorff) Johnson Papers, Adams County Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Harry J. Bell (1868-1943), doctor, attended the Medico Chirurgical College in Philadelphia, a college at the University of Pennsylvania, and graduated in May 1892. Harry included in his letters some of the most up-to-date medical practices of the time, starting his medical practice in Fayette County in western Pennsylvania.

Annie B. Deardorff (1869-1950), married Charles W. Johnson in 1897.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is comprised of one series: Correspondence, dating from 1886 to 1950. The main focus of the collection is the letters to Annie from Harry, written between 1886 and 1893.

Researchers will find information on the medical practices of the time as Harry was studying at what would become the University of Pennsylvania's Medical School at the time, and started his medical practice in the seven year span of the letters.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I – Correspondence.

This series covers the entire span of the collection from 1886-1997. The majority of the collection is love letters from Harry J. Bell to Annie Deardorff, dating 1886-1893, with the majority of these letters dating 1891-1893. Also included are miscellaneous items, other letters written to Annie and her son Jay Johnson, including Irene S. Frantz's research, newspaper clippings, a recipe for inhalation, wedding announcements, and a portion of a newspaper article on Charles Lindbergh's flight across the Atlantic in May 1927, written in French.

CONTAINER LISTING

Box #1

- 1-1 A "Forward" written by Irene Frantz regarding Annie Deardorff and Dr. Harry J. Bell.
- 1-2 6 letters to and from Irene Frantz regarding Dr. Bell, 1888-89.
- 1-3 Irene Frantz research notes on Dr. Bell and Annie Deardorff.
- 1-4 Newspaper clippings regarding notable local and out-of-state people, 1945, 60, 63, 67, and 97.
- 1-5 5 photocopied letters to Annie from Harry, February 1892.
- 1-6 53 transcribed letters to Annie from Harry, November 1889-May 1893.
- 1-7 Recipe for inhalation, June 10, 1892.
- 1-8 Empty envelopes formerly containing Harry and Annie's letters.
- 1-9 Photographs of Harry, Annie, C. W. Johnson, Jay Johnson and family with 8.5 x 11.5 inch wooden picture frame.
- 1-10 4 miscellaneous postcards.
- 1-11 2 letters to Harry from Annie.

1-12 22 letters to Annie from Harry, April-May 1886, January-September 1891.

1-13 21 letters to Annie from Harry, October-December 1891.

Box #2

2-1 10 Letters to Annie from Harry, January-February 1892.

2-2 15 letters to Annie from Harry, March-April 1892.

2-3 Commencement announcements for Harry, May 3, 1892.

2-4 21 letters to Annie from Harry, May-June 1892.

2-5 26 letters to Annie from Harry, July-August 1892.

2-6 25 letters to Annie from Harry, September-October 1892.

2-7 16 letters to Annie from Harry, November-December 1892.

2-8 18 letters to Annie from Harry, January-July 1893.

2-9 5 letters to Annie from Harry, 1891-1893.

2-10 Letter fragments to Annie from Harry, ca. 1891-1892.

2-11 2 letters to Annie from C. W. Johnson, March-June 1893, and their wedding announcement, June 23, 1897.

2-12 8 letters to Annie from various people, 1893, 1898, 1899, 1903, 1914, 1930, and wedding announcement for William Clarence Sheely and Dorothy Bushnell, February 12, 1930.

2-13 9 letters from Eleanor Willhide to J. D. Johnson, son of Annie and C. W. Johnson, 1926, 1927, 1929, 1930, and their wedding announcement, March 11, 1931.

2-14 7 letters to Jay Johnson, 1921, 1927, 1928. Attached to May 30, 1927 letter is an advertisement for an American car in France, while on the back is most of an article on Charles Lindbergh's flight across the Atlantic, written in French.

2-15 Condolences on the death of Annie B. (Deardorff) Johnson, March 1950.