

Guide to the Obadiah Johnson Papers

MS 304



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

June 2010

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
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CALL NUMBER: MS 304

CREATOR: Johnson, Obadiah, 1736-1801

TITLE: Obadiah Johnson papers

DATES: 1664-1844

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.5 linear feet (1 box, 1 folio)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The bulk of the collection is made up of correspondence, notebooks, military commissions and other military papers, reflecting his service during the American Revolution. Also in the papers are letters (1802-1804) from his son, mostly relating to pensions for members of the Twenty-first regiment. Other members of the family represented in the collection include his great-great grandfather, Edward Johnson, his father, Obadiah Johnson and his second wife, Lucy Cady Spaulding. Also among the papers are contemporary printed pamphlets and broadsides.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0304>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0304>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Frederick Morgan Johnson, June 1916.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Obadiah Johnson Papers (MS 304). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Major of the Third Connecticut Regiment, 1775; served during the siege of Boston and at Bunker Hill; in 1776 he was Lt. Col. of Col. Andrew Ward's regiment, which joined Washington's Army at Fort Lee, New York; in 1777 appointed Col. of the Twenty-first Connecticut Militia; in 1778 served with the regiment in Rhode Island; resigned his commission Mar. 16, 1784.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, notebooks, military commissions, and other military papers of Colonel Obadiah Johnson make up the bulk of this collection. Included are items such as orderly books, receipt books, and account books for the 21st Regiment of the Connecticut Militia, a notebook entitled "Journal of the Army at Sampton and Chatham" (1776-1777), as well as assorted documents signed by such persons as John Hancock and Jonathan Trumbull. Taken together, the papers provide information on the Revolutionary War activities of the Connecticut Militia and form the basis of the history of the 21st regiment.

Also represented in the collection are members of Johnson's family, namely his great-great-grandfather Edward Johnson (1598-1672) of Woburn, Massachusetts; his father, Obadiah Johnson (1702-1765); his second wife, Lucy (Cady) Spaulding (1742-1814), and in particular, his son, John Johnson (1774-1854). Further information on the family can be found in *History and Genealogy of One Line of Descent from Captain Edward Johnson*, by Alfred Johnson. Most of the John Johnson correspondence concerns applications for pensions by members of the 21st Regiment. Finally, xerox copies of various printed pamphlets, broadsides, and so forth (1774-1816) are included in the collection. The originals have been transferred to the Beinecke Rare Book library.

A detailed list of the contents of this collection is available in the register file of Manuscripts and Archives. The papers were given to Yale University by Frederick Morgan Johnson in 1916.

Collection Contents

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|------------------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 1, f. 1 | Edward Johnson (1598-1692) | 1664 |
| b. 1, f. 2 | Obadiah Johnson (1702-1765) | 1739-1741 |
| b. 1, f. 3 - 16 | Obadiah Johnson (1736-1801) See also: Inventory Box 2 ref18 | 1767-1794 |
| b. 1, f. 17 - 19 | John Johnson (1774-1854) | 1802-1844 |
| b. 1, f. 20 | Printed matter | 1774-1816, undated |
| b. 1, f. 21 | Miscellaneous | undated |
| b. 2 | Obadiah Johnson (1736-1801) [Folio] | |

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Geographic Names

Connecticut -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783
United States -- History -- Revolution,
1775-1783

Names

Johnson, Edward, 1599?-1672
Johnson, John, 1774-1854
Johnson, Lucy Cady Spaulding, 1742-1814
Johnson, Obadiah, 1702-1765
Johnson, Obadiah, 1736-1801

Corporate Bodies

Connecticut Infantry. 21st Regt
Connecticut Infantry. 3d Regt., 1775