

McLean County Museum of History

George W. and Alice M. Johnston Collection

Processed by
Mary Alice Wills
Winter 2023

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES	1939-1948
PROVENANCE	
RESTRICTIONS	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History.
ALTERNATE FORMATS	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS	None
LOCATION	Archives
NOTES	

Historical Sketch

George W. (1901-1988) and Alice M. (1905-1991) Johnston were both active in the American Legion, the Red Cross, and social services during the 1940s. Alice Johnston was awarded a Special Services Certificate by the American Red Cross in Home Services. She was also president of the Irving School PTA in 1939-40. George Johnston was very active in Company K of the Illinois Reserve Militia, achieving the rank of Captain in 1942.

The Johnstons were a big part of the local community's involvement in the World War II home front effort as their many awards reflected.

Scope

This collection includes materials from Alice Johnston's Red Cross volunteer activities and her PTA involvement. George and Alice were both involved in American Legion. George Johnston was commissioned as Captain of the Militia by the Governor of the State of Illinois. His time with Illinois Reserve Militia is well documented in photos and newspaper articles. Alice Johnston's well organized leather binder documents her time as president of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: American Red Cross

- 1.1 The American National Red Cross Volunteer Certificate, February 1944.
- 1.2 Spiral Notebook – 9” x 6,” handwritten notes on assistance for soldiers.
- 1.3 Pamphlet: “Monthly Allowances for the Dependents of Soldiers,” 20pp issued by Allowance and Allotment Branch, A.G.O., 1942. (Originally tucked inside notebook)
- 1.4 Pamphlet: “Monthly Allowances for the Dependents of Men in the Navy, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps,” issued by Bureau of Naval Personnel, 1943. 20 pp. (originally tucked inside notebook)
- 1.5 Three 9” x 6” booklets on how American Red Cross helps to meet various needs of service men and families, 1942. (Services to the Armed Forces, An Introduction to Home Service, and Abridged Handbook of Home Service Information)
- 1.6 Bloomington-Normal Social Service Directory, 1942.
- 1.7 “Preparation of Pension and Compensations Claims,” 15 pages, 1944.
- 1.8 3” x 5” note card w/penciled notes.
- 1.9 “Information Regarding the Execution of Application for Pension or Compensation by a Widow or Child,” 6-page fold-out, 1942.
- 1.10 “Application for Pension or Compensation by a Dependent Parent of a Veteran who died of a disease or injury due to service in the Active Military or Naval Forces of the United States,” 4 pages, 1942.
- 1.11 “Home Service Case Records,” carbon copy, 4 pages, no date.
- 1.12 “Prisoners of War Bulletin,” 2 copies, Vol. 1, No. 2 and No. 3, 1943 July and August.
- 1.13 “Home Service, Its Basic Philosophy,” 5 pages.
- 1.14 “American Red Cross Home Service Card,” 5” x 8”, 1943 unused.
- 1.15 “Affidavit in Support of an Application for Family Allowance based on Service in the Army of the United States,” 2 pages, 1943.
- 1.16 “Report of Change of Status and Address,” 6-page fold-out, 1942.
- 1.17 Letter from Millard A. Lloyd, Field Director for Red Cross writing from Oahu, to Johnston family in Bloomington, 26 Jun 1945. 2pp plus envelope. Greetings from local resident, etc.

Folder 2: Irving School PTA and Miscellaneous

- 2.1 “Irving PTA Has Program,” *Pantagraph* clipping, no date, in envelope addressed to Mrs. Hamman.
- 2.2 Gift enclosure card, “3 x 3 ½” unsigned.
- 2.3 Envelope from Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers addressed to Mrs. A. K. Montgomery, postmarked Oct. 27, 1937, containing By-Laws for Irving School Parent-Teacher Association, 4 pages.
- 2.4 Handwritten in pencil – 12 numbered notes for meeting procedures on notebook paper.

- 2.5 Handwritten in pencil – random notes on scrap paper.
- 2.6 “Back to School,” a play for amateurs, copyrighted 1939 by Charles L. Archbold, 23 pages.
- 2.7 Booklets/Pamphlets: “Directory of Bloomington Public Schools 1939-1940,” 3 ½” x 6,” 19 pages. “Annual Yearbook, Bloomington-Normal Council of PTA 1939-1940,” 3 ½” x 5 ½,” 8 pages. “Irving School Parent-Teacher Association,” 1939-1940.
- 2.8 Play Program “Back to School,” March 8, 1940.
- 2.9 “Parent-Teacher Manual, 1939,” w/post-it-note Alice Johnston, PTA president, Irving, 172 pages.
- 2.10 Three Annual programs 5 ½” x 4 ½” for B.H.S. PTA 1939, 1940, & 1941-42. Meeting for Irving School Parent-Teacher Association, 1940-1941 4 ½” x 6”
- 2.11 “Public Schools Bulletin,” June 6, 1941, Vol.1 No. 5-6.
- 2.12 National Congress of Parents and Teachers membership card for Mr. and Mrs. George Johnston, 1939-40.
- 2.13 Three Irving School photos, 3” x 2” January 14, 1938.
- 2.14 Mrs. George Johnston March 1938 – March 1939 membership card in Bloomington & Normal Garden Club.
- 2.15 Christmas card signed by Larry Jones.
- 2.16 Christmas card signed by Madam President
- 2.17 Cardboard banner (15 ½” in.) “Old Mexico Official.”

Folder 3: American Legion

- 3.1 “In the Wake of the News,” brochure with clips from various newspaper articles about Cohasset punch, 1934-35.
- 3.2 Booklet, 4 ½ x 6 ½, Ladies Auxiliary To The N.A.L.C., 1937
- 3.4 American Legion Auxiliary membership card for Alice Johnston, 1939, 1945, 46, 47.
- 3.5 Envelope from State of Illinois Military and Naval Department, Springfield, to Major George W. Johnston accepting his resignation, April 20, 1945.
- 3.6 American Legion Membership Card for George W. Johnston, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942 (2), and Milwaukee Guest Privilege Card.
- 3.7 Postcard invitation to American Legion Auxiliary Christmas Party, 1947.
- 3.8 Manual of Ceremonies booklet revised, October 1944, 23 pages.
- 3.9 “National News of the American Legion Auxiliary booklet, 35 pages.
- 3.10 New Members, New Juniors, 1947 and Renewals lists, handwritten.
- 3.12 Members, Gold Star Members, and Juniors lists, 1947, typewritten.
- 3.13 Pan-American Report, July 1, 1949, letter signed by Alice M. Johnston, Chairman.
- 3.14 Pan-American Report, 2 pages.

Folder 4: Illinois Reserve Militia

- 4.1 Two Official Certificates from State of Illinois signed by Gov. Green commissioning George Johnston in the Illinois Reserve Militia as Second Lieutenant in 1941 and Captain in 1942.

Folder 5: Company K photos

- 5.1 Company K Reunion itinerary and map, 2 pages.
- 5.2 Forty-nine various Co. K photos from 1941 through 1947, some identified on back. Also includes 3 Co. K photos from 1943 or 1944 Beardstown flood duty.

Folder 6: George W. Johnston photos

- 6.1 Formal 8" x 10" glossy group photo
- 6.2 Matted 8" x 10" YMCA, 1920 Basketball League team photo.

Folder 7: American Legion newspaper Articles, (*Pantagraph* unless noted) in archival sleeves, Photos, CD

- 7.1 "Sons of the American Legion, Youngest Organized Group in Parade," newspaper photo, May 31, 1936.
- 7.2 *The Legion Heir*, Indianapolis, Indiana, "Bloomington Sons Install," Louis E. Davis No. 56, October 1940.
- 7.3 *The POST TRIGGER*, Louis E. Davis Post. NO. 56, The American Legion of Illinois, Bloomington, Ill. Vol. 5, September - 1940, No. 4.
- 7.4 *Danville, Ill. Commercial News*, "Legion Sons Patrol Aids Community," w/photos, August 25, 1940
- 7.5 "Marchers Win 3 State Prizes," w/photo, August 19, 1940.
- 7.6 Copy of \$100.00 check payable to Louis E. Davis Squadron 56, Aug. 17, 1940.
- 7.7 "Impressive Rites and Parade Mark Memorial Day Services," w/photos, May 31, 1940.
- 7.8 "Emergency Patrol of Squadron No. 56, Bloomington, Illinois," 8" x 3" newspaper photo, 1940.
- 7.9 S.A.L. Emergency Patrol No. 1, May 23, 1940, 8" x 10" glossy photo.
- 7.10 Norman Johnston, 1940, Sons of the American Legion membership card and Snapshot 5" x 4" of parade, 2 copies.
- 7.11 *The POST TRIGGER*, Louis E. Davis Post 56, The American Legion of Illinois, Bloomington, Ill., Vol. 5, November - 1940, No. 11
- 7.12 Louis E. Davis Squadron #56, S.A.L., Emergency Patrol #1, 1941, 8" x 10" glossy photo, 2 copies.
- 7.13 Report to Legion Post #56 of events and activities for year ending fall, 1941. 2 pages.
- 7.14 "12th Annual Veterans Day," August 10, 1941, Program.

- 7.15 “Draftees to Roll Their Cigaretts by Machine,” “6 x 4” newspaper photo, August 15, 1941, and 3” x 4” snapshot.
- 7.16 “Sons of Legion Banquet,” 6” x 4” newspaper photo, November 13, 1941.
- 7.17 “Dance at Roland’s Tea Room,” group photo, March 25, 1942.
- 7.18 Three group snapshots, 1942.
- 7.19 “Emergency Patrol Receives Citations,” newspaper article copy, March 12, 1943.
- 7.20 “Jap Soldiers Fed False Tales of Victories in U.S. Cities,” and *The National Legionnaire*, “Illinois Boy’s State Governor Is Marine,” w/photos, 2 articles on Dave Brown, 1943.
- 7.21 “First Annual Reunion, Emergency Patrol No. 1 Sons of the American Legion, May 30, 1946,” group photo.
- 7.22 “Emergency Patrol No.1 Son’s of The American Legion (second annual reunion) May 30, 1947.
- 7.23 Sony CD, “American Legion Louis E. Davis Post 56, Sons of the Legion Emergency Patrol, 1940s.

Leather Binder

American Legion Auxiliary 1945, Alice Johnston President (all in gold lettering) 3 ring leather binder w/zipper. Contents are well organized and labeled in sections: State Convention, Unit Activities, In Memoriam, and Special Events.