

Johnson, Patricia Givens, Papers

Patricia Givens Johnson Papers

1920-1986



Title Statement

Johnson, Patricia Givens, Papers Patricia Givens Johnson Papers, 1920-1986 Ms.1988.007

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Profile Description

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Revision Description

2025-03-21 Ella Winterling added Existence and Location of Copies.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1988.007

Unit Date

1920-1986

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection consists of papers of Patricia Givens Johnson, New River Valley local historian. It includes correspondence, subject files, printed materials and photographs. It also includes a scrapbook and a few other materials, scattered throughout the collection, which had belonged to Johnson's mother, Lula Porterfield Givens, also a local historian.

Creator

Johnson, Patricia Givens, 1932-1996

Creator

Givens, Lula Porterfield, 1906-1987

Extent

2 Cubic Feet 4 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Patricia Givens Johnson Papers were donated to the Special Collections in 1988 and 1989.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Patricia Givens Johnson Papers commenced and was completed in June 2003.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Patricia Givens Johnson Papers, 1920-1986, Ms1988-007, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note - Patricia Miller Givens

Patricia Miller Givens, teacher and local historian, was born in Newport, Virginia, on March 9, 1932. Known familiarly as "Patsy," Givens was the daughter of Hugh Peck and Lula Porterfield Givens. She graduated from Christiansburg High School in 1949, later obtaining her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin (1956) and master's from the College of William and Mary (1963). In December 1953, she married Walter L. Johnson; the couple would have one son, Walter Peck Johnson. Patricia Johnson taught history and social studies in various schools as the family moved frequently--to Texas, Japan, England, Atlanta and Washington, D.C.--due to the demands of her husband's air force career. Around 1980, the Johnsons returned to the New River Valley area, where they bought and restored the former James Bain Price home in Prices Fork.

Like her mother, Johnson maintained a lifetime interest in the history of Southwest Virginia; she eventually published 15 books and numerous articles related to the subject and became one of the foremost authorities on local history. Johnson's interests were reflected by her memberships in the Daughters of the American Revolution and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. She was also an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Johnson died on September 3, 1996; she is buried in the Price Cemetery, Prices Fork, Virginia.

Biographical Note - Lula Porterfield Givens

Lula Porterfield, teacher, local historian, and mother of Patricia Givens Johnson, was born in Giles County, Virginia on September 18, 1906. The youngest child of Jehu and Josephine Williams Porterfield, she began teaching in Giles County in 1925. Porterfield married Hugh Peck Givens in Roanoke on December 20, 1930. The couple had two children (Patricia M. and Hugh P. Jr.) and separated in 1939. In the meantime, Lula Givens had moved to Christiansburg and begun a 35-year teaching career in the Montgomery County school system. After her retirement in 1972, Givens was able to devote time to an interest in local history; her research resulted in two books: *Highlights in the Early History of Montgomery County, Virginia* (1975) and *Christiansburg, Montgomery County, Virginia: in the Heart of the Alleghenies* (1981).

Lula P. Givens died in Christiansburg, Virginia on February 23, 1987.

Scope and Content

The papers of Patricia Givens Johnson, New River Valley local historian, consist primarily of materials which arose from her research for--and publication of--books on local pioneers Andrew Lewis, Jacob Miller, James Patton, William Preston, and the early settlement of the New River Valley. The papers contain such materials as correspondence, subject files, printed materials and photographs used by Johnson during her research. Interspersed throughout the collection are a few materials which had belonged to Johnson's mother and fellow local historian, Lula Porterfield Givens, including subject files on Christiansburg and Montgomery County, Virginia, a scrapbook, and photographs.

Separated Material

Thirty-five books were transferred from the collection to the Rare Book Collection. A list of these books is available on request.

The following maps were transferred to the Historical Map Collection:

Map of Kentucke. [sic] John Filson, 1784. [reproduction]

Pearisburg Quadrangle. Virginia Geological Survey, 1932.

Map-0082, *Virginia Independence Bicentennial Commission American Revolutionary War Map, 1774-1783*. Virginia Independence Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

Keywords

Blacksburg (Va.)

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Montgomery County (Va.)

Women -- History

Existence and Location of Copies

Some of this collection has been digitized and is available online.

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

Series I. Correspondence, 1970-1981, n.d., contains letters relating to the research, publication and sale of Johnson's various books. Many of the letters consist of little more than book orders, while others--particularly those of Lee Pendleton--contain information on the history of Montgomery County and surrounding areas. The series also includes a few pieces of correspondence which had been addressed to Lula Porterfield Givens and apparently shared with Johnson.

Series II. Subject Files, 1965-1984, contains research notes and other materials compiled by Johnson in preparation for her books on Andrew Lewis, Jacob Miller, James Patton, William Preston, and the early settlement of the New River Valley. The James Patton file includes a typescript of the Augusta Parish Vestry Book and galley proofs for Johnson's *James Patton and the Appalachian Colonists*. The series also contains files which had been assembled by Lula Givens during research on her two books. Givens' Christiansburg file has histories of Cambria and the Montgomery County Courthouse, while her Montgomery County folder consists of writings by Lee Pendleton on various aspects of Elliston-area history.

Series III. Printed Materials, 1965-1986, includes articles by Johnson and Porterfield; histories of the Cox, Givens and Harless families; and various pamphlets and newsclippings relating to genealogical resources and topics in local history.

Series IV. Scrapbook, 1962-1978, is a single scrapbook compiled by Lula Givens, contains mostly newsclippings relating to Southwest Virginia history. It also includes clippings and ephemera of personal interest, relating to acquaintances and national celebrities.

Series V. Photographs and Illustrations, 1920-1979, were primarily collected for use in Johnson's and Givens'

various books, though not all of the images were published. The photographs are from a number of sources, including local newspapers and personal collections. The series is of probably greatest interest for images of the Christiansburg High School, Montgomery County Courthouse, Virginia Tech classes and campus of the 1920s, and a 1954 Palace Theatre (Christiansburg) program calendar.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I. Correspondence

Unit Date 1970-1981, n.d.

Incoming

A-B

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

C-E

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

F-G

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

H-J

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

K-L

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

M

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

N-R

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

S-Z, unidentified

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Outgoing

Unit Date 1970-1981, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Series II. Subject Files

Unit Date 1965-1984

Christiansburg

Unit Date 1965-1968, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Lewis, Andrew

Unit Date 1979-1981, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (3 folders) (folder)

Miller, Jacob

Unit Date 1969-1971, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Montgomery County

Unit Date 1971-1976, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

New River

Unit Date 1970-1981, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Patton, James (includes typescript copy of the Augusta Vestry Parish Book (1746-1752) and galley proofs for James Patton and the Appalachian Colonists)

Unit Date 1970-1984, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 3 (6 folders) (folder)

Preston, William

Unit Date 1975, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 4 (4 folders) (folder)

Series III. Printed Materials

Unit Date 1965-1986

Articles and Book Reviews

Unit Date 1966-1984

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Givens, Lula Porterfield, "Mountain Lake, Gist's Early Discovery," Journal of the Roanoke Historical Society,3(1)

Unit Date 1966

Johnson, Patricia Givens, "Tree Bottom, crossroads of the centuries," Journal of the Roanoke Valley Historical Society,9(1)

Unit Date 1973

**Johnson, Patricia Givens, "Maryland border war refugees flee to the Roanoke Valley,"
Journal of the Roanoke Valley Historical Society,9(2)**

Unit Date 1973

Reviews of Elder Jacob Miller (1735-1815)...,Highlights in the early history of Montgomery County, Virginia,James Patton and the Appalachian colonists,and William Preston and the Allegheny Patriots

Cox, Robert B.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

"Cox - Hampton"

Unit Date 1983

"Cox - Craig: PA - SWVA, 1730-1820"

Unit Date 1983

Givens, Elmer, "Some Ancestors and Descendants of Floyd and Sarah (Ross) Givens"

Unit Date ca. 1960

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Harless Family Association Bulletin

Unit Date 1977-1986

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 2 (2 folders) (folder)

Genealogy resources and bibliographies

Unit Date 1971-1979

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

"Bibliography of Southwest Virginia books"

Unit Date 1972

"Books in print from the Virginia State Library"

Unit Date n.d.

"Compiled service records of volunteer soldiers who served from 1784 to 1811"

Unit Date 1973

"Genealogical resources in the Washington, D. C. area"

Unit Date 1971

"Genealogy research in the Virginia State Library"

Unit Date 1979

"Resources in the field of genealogy"

Unit Date 1971

General printed materials

Unit Date 1965-1980, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

"Fairview Christian Church, 1905-1980: 75th anniversary"

Unit Date 1980

"A Colonial house tour"

Unit Date 1975

Journal of the Greenbrier Historical Society

Unit Date Sep 1965

"History repeats: George Wythe goes to courthouse" [newsclipping]

Unit Date n.d.

"The Legend of Angels' Rest"

Unit Date n.d.

""History of Giles County" [extracted and reprinted from Hardesty's historical and geographical encyclopedia(1884)]

Unit Date 1973

Series IV. Scrapbooks

Unit Date 1962-1978

Scrapbook

Unit Date 1962-1978

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Series V. Photographs and Illustrations

Unit Date 1920-1979

Photographs A-E

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Adams, Radford (Mrs.) [2 items]

Unit Date n.d.

Amtrack "Hilltopper" in Christiansburg

Unit Date 1979

APCO Dam on New River [2 items]

Unit Date n.d.

Bluestone Dam on New River

Unit Date n.d.

Christiansburg / Montgomery County employees

Unit Date n.d.

Christiansburg High School [2 items]

Unit Date n.d.

Christiansburg High School basketball team

Unit Date n.d.

Christiansburg passenger train station

Unit Date n.d.

Crockett, Davy

Unit Date n.d.

Photographs F-M

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Fayette Station Road Bridge on New River

Unit Date n.d.

Givens, Lula Porterfield and Christiansburg sixth-grade class (composite portrait)

Unit Date 1948

Godbey, Stanley B.

Unit Date 1949

I-77 bridge across New River at Jackson Ferry Shot Tower

Unit Date n.d.

Jackson, Thomas J. "Stonewall"

Unit Date n.d.

Lewis, Margaret Lynn [2 items]

Unit Date n.d.

Montgomery County Courthouse (new) [2 items]

Unit Date n.d.

Montgomery County Courthouse (old) [2 items]

Unit Date n.d.

Mountain Lake

Unit Date n.d.

Photographs N-S

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

New River from Lovers Leap on McCoy Road

Unit Date 1972

Radford College administration building

Unit Date n.d.

Radford University legislation signing (Gov. John Dalton et. al.)

Unit Date 1979

Sandstone Falls on New River [2 items]

Unit Date n.d.

Seven Mile Tree (on Mud Pike Road, Christiansburg)

Unit Date n.d.

Smith, Smokey Joe

Unit Date n.d.

Smithfield Plantation log cabin restoration

Unit Date n.d.

Photographs T-Z

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Thomas, Ronnie

Unit Date ca. 1978

Tinker Spring

Unit Date 1972

Unidentified log structure

Unit Date n.d.

Virginia Tech campus

Unit Date 1921

Virginia Tech freshman class

Unit Date 1920

Virginia Tech sophomore class

Unit Date 1921

Waterfall at Gauley Mountain

Unit Date n.d.

Willard, Leon David

Unit Date n.d.

Illustrations

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Confederate States 500 dollar bill [reproduction]

Unit Date n.d.

Fincastle Resolutions graphic

Unit Date n.d.

Palace Theatre (Christiansburg) program calendar

Unit Date 1954

Sketch of unidentified house (Johnson home at Prices Fork?)

Unit Date n.d.

Illustrations

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Montgomery County Courthouse etching by Robert G. Turner, Jr. [3 copies]

Unit Date n.d.