K0963
Niels Melvin Johnson (1931 - ) Papers
1830-2007
4 cubic feet, 1 oversize item

Research, oral histories, and manuscript materials collected and created by
Johnson, archivist and historian, on Swedish-Americans in Kansas City.

BIOGRAPHY:

Niels M. Johnson was born in Galesburg, Illinois in 1931. He graduated from
Moline High School in Illinois, 1949 and Augustana College, 1953. He earned a
M.A. from University of Iowa, 1965, and a Ph.D. from University of Iowa in
1971.

Before becoming an archivist and oral historian at the Harry S. Truman
Library, 1977-1992, Mr. Johnson was: a Public school teacher, 8th grade, 1954-57;
the Historian of U.S. Army Weapons command, 1957-1963; an instructor at
Augustana College, 1967-1969; Assistant Professor, Dana College, 1969-1974;
and visiting Assistant Professor, University of Nebraska in Omaha, 1975-1976.

In the latter half of the 1980s Johnson served as president of the Scandinavian
Club of Greater Kansas City, The American Friends of the Emigrant Institute of
Sweden, and the Historic Trails City Committee of Independence, Missouri.
Currently Mr. Johnson is historian/archivist for two organizations: The
Scandinavian Association of Greater Kansas City, and the Facklan Lodge of the
Vasa Order of America.

Since 1993, Johnson has performed as an impersonator of President Harry S.
Truman at hundreds of events. In addition, Johnson has researched, written and
illustrated over one thousand pages of family history.

PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from Niels Johnson as accession KA1929 on April 18,
2011.
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Specific item; folder number; *Niel Melvin Johnson (1931- ) Papers (K0963)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION:

This collection consists of research files, manuscript materials, oral history interviews, VHS and audiotapes, a few photographs and slides. Research, oral histories, and manuscript materials collected and created by archivist and historian Niel Johnson, on Swedish-Americans in Kansas City. There are three main divisions; Swedes in Kansas City, American Friends of the Emigrant Institute of Sweden, and New Sweden ’88 in the Kansas City area. The bulk of the records of the American Friends of the Emigrant Institute of Sweden are in the collections of the Vasa Order of America National Archives, Inc., Bishop Hill, Illinois.

*Note: one folder of photographs transferred to Kansas City Area Archivists (KCAA) Records (K0066).*

INVENTORY:

**BOX 001**

**SWEDES IN KANSAS CITY, GENERAL**

Folder 1.1 Swedes in Kansas City, General, 1895-1998

Folder 1.2 Churches – General, 1886-2005

Folder 1.3 Churches – Lutheran, 1886-2005

Folder 1.4 Churches – Baptist, 1898-2007

Folder 1.5 Churches – First Lutheran Church, 1883-1994
Folder 1.7 Businesses A-G, 1957-1983
Folder 1.8 Businesses H-R, 1952-1987
Folder 1.9 Businesses S-Z, 1934-1987
Folder 1.11 Persons H-R, 1920-2003
Folder 1.12 Persons S-Z, 1904-1992
Folder 1.13 Trinity Lutheran Hospital (Originally Swedish Hospital), 1956-1988
Folder 1.15 “Swedes in Kansas City: Selected Highlights” Published in Swedish-American Historical Qrly, January 1992
Folder 1.16 Swedes in Kansas City – Lodges, General, 1903-1990
Folder 1.17 Records of NN&E (Nytta, Nöja, och Enighet) (Duplicate, Copies), incl. Articles of Incorporation, 1934-1993 (removed to K0530 Box 1:20)
Folder 1.18 Swedes in Kansas City – Lodges, Pioneer Club (Pionar Klubben) #1, 1928-1976 (duplicate of blue notebook contents, all other contents including photograph of two unidentified men - moved to K0582)
Folder 1.19 Scandinavian Dancers, Greater Kansas City, 2000
Folder 1.20 Svenska Tribunen, (1905-Historical Issue) 1901, 1905
Folder 1.21 50 Years, Preserving and Enjoying the Scandinavian Heritage in Kansas City (50th Anniversary History of the Scandinavian Club/Assoc. of Greater Kansas City, 1999), 1999
Folder 1.22 Independent Order of Svithiod of America, Gotha Lodge #24, KCMO, 1830-1988
Folder 1.23 Swedish Pioneer Club #1, Kansas City, MO – Minutes Book, September 14, 1956-September 10, 1976 (removed to K0582)
Folder 1.24 Independent Order of Vikings – Thorvald Lodge #89 – Constitution and By-Laws, 1947-1962
Folder 1.25 Independent Order of Vikings – Thorvald Lodge #89, Correspondence and Notes, 1953-1962

BOX 002

SWEDES IN KANSAS CITY, GENERAL

Folder 2.1 Independent Order of Vikings – Minutes Books, July 24, 1941 – November 27, 1964
Folder 2.2  Wethonkitta Club – Minutes 1933
Folder 2.3  Swedes in KC, Photos, (1)
Folder 2.4  Swedes in KC, Photos, (2)
Folder 2.5  Swedes in KC, Photos, (3)
Folder 2.7  Slides: Swedes in Kansas City, 1902-1994
Folder 2.8  Portraits of Swedes in NN&E, no date (removed to K0530)

**ORAL HISTORIES - Project of the American Friends of the Emigrant Institute of Sweden**

Folder 2.9  Folder Title List, 1984-1990
Folder 2.10 Constitution, Bylaws, and Brochure, 1984-1996
Folder 2.11 Oral History Interviews: Correspondence and Notes, 1985-1990
Folder 2.12 Socio-Economic Profile of Interviewees, 1986
Folder 2.13 Oral History Agreements (Signed Releases), 1985-1994
Folder 2.14 Interviewees ID Sheets and Excerpts of Interviews, Folder 1
Folder 2.15 Interviewees ID Sheets and Excerpts of Interviews, Folder 2
Folder 2.16 Vendla Frampton – Notes and OH Transcript, 1887-1988
Folder 2.17 Evelyn Peterson – Notes and Clippings, 1994
Folder 2.18 Transcript of Interview with Florence Deeming, 1986
Folder 2.19 Genealogy Charts: The Blom Family Tree by Darrell Crane, 1971
Folder 2.20 A Kaleidoscope of Hope by Brooke C. Lohnes, 1976
Folder 2.22 Photographs of Interviewees, 1985-1988
Folder 2.23 Misc., 1979-1990
Folder 2.24 New Sweden ’88 Events in Kansas City, 1986-1988

**BOX 003**

**NEW SWEDEN ’88**

Folder 3.1  Magazines [New Sweden ‘88], 1988
Folder 3.2  New Sweden ’88 First Day Issue (stamps), 1988
Folder 3.3  Correspondence, 1986-1987
Folder 3.4  Correspondence, 1988-1989
Folder 3.5  Minutes and Agendas of New Sweden ’88 Committee, 1987-1988
Folder 3.6  Publicity, 1988
Folder 3.7  Proclamations and Traveling Exhibit, 1988
Folder 3.8  Financial Information, 1987-1989
Folder 3.9  Exhibit Labels, 1988
Folder 3.10  Thank You’s, 1988
Folder 3.11  Banquet, April 22, 1988
Folder 3.12  Photos: New Sweden ’88 Gala Banquet, April 22, 1988
Folder 3.15  References, 1988
Folder 3.16  Expenses and Income, 1988
Folder 3.17  Radio Sweden, 1988

VHS VIDEO TAPES
VHS tape  New Sweden in Kansas City
VHS tape  Sweden And America: 350 Years of Friendship
VHS tape  Interview – Niel Johnson with George Gee, January 27, 1988
VHS tape  Interview – Niel Johnson with Eclar Nielsen and Frank Tormoen, Seandin Association 50th Anniversary, November 3, 1997
VHS tape  “Good Morning America” In Sweden: Touristic Highlights
VHS tape  New Sweden’88 and “Good Morning America”
VHS tape  New Sweden ’88, Swedish Consulate-General, March 16, 1988

BOOK

DVD
DVD  Harry S Truman performance DVD
1. 90th anniversary of Independence Chamber of Commerce. January 22, 2011
BOX 004

AUDIOTAPES: INTERVIEWS WITH SWEDISH-AMERICANS, KANSAS CITY AREA-Project of the American Friends of the Emigrant Institute of Sweden

Container 1 of 2

Tape 1  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Mrs. Beda Södergren, April 13, 1985
Tape 2  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Arthur Severin, Kansas City, Kansas, May 7, 1985
Tape 3  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Kurt Norberg and Wife, Kansas City, Missouri, July 15, 1985
Tape 4  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Russell Larson, July 18, 1985
Tape 5-1 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Mrs. Valborg Hilstrom, September 14, 1985 (1 of 2)
Tape 5-2 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Mrs. Valborg Hilstrom, September 14, 1985 (2 of 2)
Tape 6-1 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Nils Svenson, Raytown, Missouri, September 21, 1985 (1 of 2)
Tape 6-2 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Nils Svenson, Raytown, Missouri, September 21, 1985 (2 of 2)
Tape 7  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Miss Ruby Erickson, Kansas City, Missouri, October 26, 1985
Tape 8  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Lewis Erickson, North Kansas City, Missouri, November 2, 1985
Tape 9-1 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with John Bergman, AFEIS, January 18, 1986 (1 of 2)
Tape 9-2 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with John Bergman, AFEIS, January 18, 1986 (2 of 2)
Tape 10-1 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Mrs. Tyra Street, Independence, Missouri, AFEIS, February 1, 1986 (1 of 2)
Tape 10-2 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Mrs. Tyra Street, Independence, Missouri, AFEIS, February 1, 1986 (2 of 2)
Tape 11-1 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Grant Peterson, AFEIS, February 1, 1986 (1 of 2)
Tape 11-2 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Grant Peterson, AFEIS, February 1, 1986 (2 of 2)
Tape 12-1 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Mrs. Pauline Garrett, Peculiar, Missouri, February 8, 1986 (1 of 2)
Tape 12-2  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Mrs. Pauline Garrett, Peculiar, Missouri, February 8, 1986 (2 of 2)
Tape 13   Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Albert N. Erickson, Mission, Kansas, AFEIS, February 8, 1986
Tape 14-1 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Daniel Jacobson, Kansas City, Missouri, AFEIS, February 15, 1986 (1 of 2)
Tape 14-2 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Daniel Jacobson, Kansas City, Missouri, AFEIS, February 15, 1986 (2 of 2)
Tape 15-1 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Florence Deeming, February 15, 1986 (1 of 2)
Tape 15-2 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Florence Deeming, February 15, 1986 (2 of 2)
Tape 16-1 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Hilding Lundstrom, AFEIS, February 22, 1986 (1 of 2)
Tape 16-2 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Hilding Lundstrom, AFEIS, February 22, 1986 (2 of 2)
Tape 17   Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Mrs. Emma Solenberger, Prairie Village, Kansas, AFEIS, February 22, 1986
Tape 18-1 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Cecil L. Johnson, Kansas City, Missouri, March 1, 1986 (1 of 2)
Tape 18-2 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Cecil L. Johnson, Kansas City, Missouri, March 1, 1986 (2 of 2)
Tape 19   Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Mrs. Frances Spielbusch, AFEIS, May 24, 1986
Tape 20-1 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with E.A. Monte Lindwall, Raytown, Missouri, June 7, 1986 (1 of 4)

Container 2 of 2

Tape 20-2 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with E.A. Monte Lindwall, Raytown, Missouri, AFEIS, June 7, 1986 and June 14, 1986 (2 of 4)
Tape 20-3 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with E.A. Monte Lindwall, Raytown, Missouri, June 7, 1986 (3 of 4)
Tape 20-4 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with E.A. Monte Lindwall, Raytown, Missouri, AFEIS, June 7, 1986 (4 of 4)
Tape 21   Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Millard and Gladys Berquist, AFEIS, August 2, 1986
Tape 22-1 Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Roy A. Johnson, AFEIS, January 17, 1987 (1 of 2)
Tape 22-2  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Roy A. Johnson, AFEIS, January 17, 1987 (2 of 2)
Tape 23  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Mrs. Chuck (Kenna) Bassett, January 17, 1987
Tape 24-1  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Jerome Hagstrom, AFEIS, March 7, 1987 (1 of 2)
Tape 24-2  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Jerome Hagstrom, AFEIS, March 7, 1987 (2 of 2)
Tape 25-1  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Ina Hurlbut, AFEIS, December 12, 1987 (1 of 2)
Tape 25-2  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Ina Hurlbut, AFEIS, December 12, 1987 (2 of 2)
Tape 26  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Elliot Norquist, Kansas City, Missouri, AFEIS, January 8, 1988
Tape 27  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Ruth Sarli, AFEIS, January 8, 1988
Tape 28-1  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Vendla Frampton, AFEIS, January 16, 1988 (1 of 2)
Tape 28-2  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Vendla Frampton, AFEIS, January 16, 1988 (2 of 2)
Tape 29  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Mrs. Eleanor Nash, Kansas City, Missouri, AFEIS, April 2, 1988
Tape 30-1  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Mildred Blom, February 9, 1990 (1 of 2)
Tape 30-2  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Mildred Blom, February 9, 1990 (2 of 2)
Tape 31  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Mrs. Mae Ellison, Kansas City, Missouri, AFEIS, September 7, 1990 (1 of 2)
Tape 32-1  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Almeda Carlson and Carl Carlson II, February 19, 1994 (1 of 2)
Tape 32-2  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Almeda Carlson and Carl Carlson II, February 19, 1994 (2 of 2)
Tape 33  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with (Hulda) Evelyn Peterson, April 26, 1994
Tape 34  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Nils August Skoglund, May 1987
Tape 35  Interview (Duplicate), Niel M. Johnson with Vendla Frampton, January 16, 1988 (1 of 2)
Tape 36  Interview (Duplicate), Niel M. Johnson with Ina Hurlburt, AFEIS, December 12, 1987
Tape 37  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Hildur EK, July 4, 1992
Tape 38  Interview, Niel M. Johnson with Daniel Blomquist and Stuve Johnson, January 30, 1988
Tape 39  Interview (Duplicate), Niel M. Johnson with Roy A. Johnson, January 17, 1987

Oversize (flat)

New Sweden Poster of Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silva of Sweden