



## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0963

Niel 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:

Niel 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, 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Niel Johnson as accession KA1929 on April 18, 2011.

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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 1.6 Churches – Mission Covenant Churches, 1987-1988
- 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 1.10 Persons A-G, 1962-1988
- 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 1.14 Notes on Swedes in Kansas City – Essays, 1987-1988
- 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 (Nytt, 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 (50<sup>th</sup> 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 2.6 Slides: American Friends of Emigrants Institute of Sweden, Swedes in Kansas City, 1981-1988
- 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 2.21 Niel M. Johnson, “Swedes in Kansas City: Selected Highlights of Their History,” *The Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, XLIII, No 1 (January 1992) 19-41
- 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 3.13 Jubilee Cities Program, 1987-1988
- Folder 3.14 Performers and Exhibits – National Committee, 1987-1988
- 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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*

- Book *Power, Money, and Women: Words to the Wise from Harry S. Truman* by Niel M. Johnson, Copyright 1999 by Niel M. Johnson, reprinted 2007

#### *DVD*

- DVD Harry S Truman performance DVD
  1. 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence Chamber of Commerce. January 22, 2011
  2. Project Whistle-stop: “I’m just ‘wired’ about Harry.” November 1999
  3. Teleconference with Ken Hechler and his class at Marshall University in West Virginia. February 25, 2002.

**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 (1 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 Silvia of Sweden