



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**John Albert Johnson papers**

1876-1928

Sc Micro R-5859

Processed by Deborah Willis.

## Summary

**Creator:** Johnson, John Albert, 1857-1928

**Title:** John Albert Johnson papers

**Date:** 1876-1928

**Source:** Bequest of Roland R. Johnson, May 1949. SCM78-38

**Abstract:** Principally sermons, together with speeches, biographies of distinguished Afro-Americans, and personal papers including two journals, one kept while he was ministering in Bermuda, 1889-1892, and the other while on a trip to England in 1891 to raise funds for a school in Bermuda.

### Conditions Governing Access:

Researchers are restricted to microfilm copy.

**Alternative Form Available:** Collection available on microfilm; Micrographic Preservation Service; call number Sc Micro R-5859

**Preferred citation:** John Albert Johnson papers, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Deborah Willis; machine-readable finding aid created by Apex Data Services; revised by Terry Catapano.

### Separated Materials:

The following items were removed from the:

John Albert Johnson Papers SCM78-3

*Date received:*1949

*Date transferred:*1949

The item(s) listed below have been sent to the division indicated, either to be retained or disposed of there. Any items that should receive special disposition are clearly marked.

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177 books (List in Archives Accession File)

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## **Creator History**

John Albert Johnson was born on October 29, 1857 in Oakville, Ontario, Canada. He attended the Hamilton Institute and Upper Canada College. In 1874, Johnson was converted and joined the British Methodist Episcopal Church. He was licensed to preach in Toronto by Reverend S.D. Smith and joined the annual conference in 1875 under Bishop Nazray. In 1876, Johnson was ordained deacon at Halifax, Nova Scotia by Bishop Disney and became an elder in 1880, also under Bishop Disney. He was a delegate to every general conference from 1880 and was a fraternal delegate to the Methodist Episcopal General Conference in Cleveland in 1896. He was also a delegate to the ecumenical conferences of 1891 and 1901.

Johnson was voted for the bishopric in 1908 in Norfolk, Virginia and was elected bishop for South Africa. He also was appointed and served as the presiding bishop of the Second Episcopal District.

Bishop J. Albert Johnson married Minnie S. Goosley of Liverpool, Nova Scotia in the Dominion of Canada in 1880. Their union produced two sons, Roland and Percival Courtland.

Bibliography: Richard Wright. *Encyclopedia of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The John Albert Johnson Papers, 1876-1884, n.d., are composed primarily of sermons written by Bishop Johnson covering a variety of moral and religious issues. Other writings by Johnson in the collection include speeches and biographies of distinguished Afro-Americans. There is also a small sampling of personal papers.

**Arrangement:** Papers organized into two series: I Personal Papers and II Writings

## **Key Terms**

### **Occupations**

African American clergy

### **Subjects**

African American Methodists

African Americans -- Bermuda Islands

African Americans -- Religion

Church fund raising

**Geographic Names**

Bermuda Islands -- Religious life and customs

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Diaries

Sermons

**Names**

Johnson, John Albert, 1857-1928

African Methodist Episcopal Church (Philadelphia, Pa.)

## Container List

### Personal Papers

The series consists of certificates documenting Bishop Johnson's appointments to various missions (Annapolis, St. Thomas, Liverpool, etc.) by the British Methodist Episcopal Church. Additionally, there are two journals kept by Reverend Johnson. One of the journals, dated November 6, 1889 through April 14, 1892, is structured more or less like a diary and was written while Johnson was ministering in Bermuda. It appears to be one of several volumes he kept during the period he served in Bermuda. The second journal was titled by Johnson, "*Notes of a Trip to England*" (taken to raise funds for a school he wanted to establish in Bermuda), April 1891 to September 1891.

- b. 1 f. 1     Personal 1876-1883
- b. 1 f. 2     Journal 1889-1892
- b. 1 f. 3     Journal, Notes of a Trip to England 1891

### Writings

The series which form the bulk of the collection has been arranged according to type; sermons, speeches, biographies and essays. The Sermons have been further divided by those based on Old Testament and New Testament themes. Within these classifications, the writings are arranged alphabetically.

#### Sermons

- b. 1 f. 4     C-P
- b. 1 f. 5     P-W
- b. 1 f. 6     Old Testament - Notes
- b. 1 f. 7     New Testament
- b. 2 f. 1     New Testament - Untitled
- b. 2 f. 2     New Testament - Untitled
- b. 2 f. 3     Sermons and Prose - Old and New Testament - Untitled
- b. 2 f. 4     Speeches
- b. 2 f. 5     Biographies
  - Benjamin Banneker
  - Henry Highland Garnett
  - Lewis G. Wells
  - Samuel Ringgold Ward
  - Isaiah C. Wears
  - James W.C. Pennington
  - James McCune Smith
  - Frederick Douglass
  - James Joshua Gould Bias
  - Ira Aldridge
  - Alexander Dumas, the Younger
- b. 2 f. 6     John Bunyan
- b. 2 f. 7     Essays