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Solomon James Johnson
Collection
194-1

Prepared by:
Abena Lewis
November 1998

Manuscript Division

Scope Note

Solomon James Johnson (1842? - 1885) was a forerunner, a barber for President Abraham Lincoln, and one of the first African-American clerks in the U.S. Treasury Department from 1864-1885. This collection consists of photographs, personal documents, letters to and from Solomon James Johnson, and letters of recommendation from government officials. The material covers the years from his birth in 1844 to his death in 1885.

It was donated by Mr Paul E. Sluby, a published genealogist in the Washington D.C. area.

Biographical Data

Solomon James Johnson

1844 June 8	Born Columbus, Ohio
1863	Married Elizabeth Cunningham. Father of 5 children Solomon Johnson arrived in Washington, D.C.
1863	Became a barber to President Lincoln
1864 February 2	Employed at the U.S. Treasury Department in the Office of the Secretary as a Laborer, Assistant
1864 September 1	Became a messenger in the Office of the Secretary
1871-72	"Read law" at Howard University; Washington, D.C.
1874 June 1	Appointed Loan Roll Clerk in Office of the Secretary
1876 October 1	Appointed clerk in the Office of the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department, Clerk
1876 November 1	Appointed clerk in the Office of 3rd Auditor of Treasury
1885 November 24	Died of tuberculosis in Washington, D.C. He is buried in Graceland Cemetery

Source: From the papers of the Solomon James Johnson Collection,
MSRC, Howard University

Solomon James Johnson

Series Description

Series A Personal Papers

These papers include the pamphlet, The Collected Papers of Solomon James Johnson compiled by Paul E. Sluby Sr. This is a chronology of his life (1842? - 1885); U.S. Treasury Department personnel file and correspondence (1864-1885); social invitation in a fundraising effort for the Knights of Templar (1867); Solomon Johnson (1877); a certificate of death for Solomon Johnson (1885); an affidavit of search for the death records of his father, Hanson Johnson (1972); and a document settling Hanson Johnson's estate.

Series B Correspondence

Includes recommendation letters on behalf of Johnson from government officials for promotions. Also includes a letter from a colleague.

Series C Photographs and Microfilm

These are portraits of Solomon Johnson and his wife, and snapshots of Johnson children; and microfilm of the collection.

CONTAINER LIST

A Personal Papers

Box 194-1	Folder	
	1	U.S. Treasury Department personnel file and correspondence (1864-1885)
	2	Social Invitation to a fundraiser for the Knights Templar, 1867
	3	Agreement between the children of Hanson Johnson, 1877
	4	Certificate of Death of Solomon Johnson, 1885
	5	The Affidavit of Search for the death records of Hanson Johnson, 1972
	6	<u>The Collected Papers of Solomon James Johnson.</u> Published by Paul E. Sluby, 1973

B Correspondence

7	Barbee, Llwellyn? - 1877
8	Chase, Fred - 1869
9	Clark, John - 1877
10	Coogon, M. - 1875
11	Gill, Wilson L. - 1876
12	Green, David - 1876
13	Harrington, George (notation by Abraham Lincoln) - 1864
14	Lockwood, H.A. - 1874
15	Porter, E.D.B. to Johnson, 1885
16	McCartee, George - 1868
17	Robinson, F.V. - 1868
18	Treswelt, Harmon - 1874

C Photographs

19	Solomon Johnson
20	The children of Solomon Johnson
21	Microfilm of collection