



## **Allen Bolles Johnson Papers (R0289)**

**Collection Number:** R0289

**Collection Title:** Allen Bolles Johnson Papers

**Dates:** 1860-1861

**Creator:** Johnson, Allen Bolles, 1835-1864

**Abstract:** The Allen Bolles Johnson Papers contain typescript and photocopies of letters written by Allen B. Johnson from Rolla and St. Louis, Missouri during the American Civil War. A native of Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, his letters include descriptions of rail travel from Birmingham, New York to Missouri, the controversy over secession at Rolla, and the Camp Jackson affair and civil unrest in St. Louis.

**Collection Size:** 0.1 cubic foot  
(2 folders)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [rolla@shsmo.org](mailto:rolla@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Allen Bolles Johnson Papers* (R0289); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Charles L. Perkins on May 20, 1986 (Accession No. RA0344).

**Existence and Location of Originals:** Johnson's letters from Missouri are part of a much larger collection held by the donor.

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Allen Bolles Johnson Papers can be found in the following collections:

*Lyman G. Bennett Collection* (R0274)

*John T. Buegel Diary* (C1844)

**Processed by:** Processed by John F. Bradbury, April 20, 1987. Revised by Kathleen Seale, December 22, 2022.

### **Biographical Note:**

Allen Bolles Johnson was born in 1835 in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. He came to Missouri in October 1860 following a bitter dispute with his father. Eliza Frazier, his fiancé, stayed behind in Pennsylvania. He had acquaintances among railroad workers in New York and Pennsylvania who had come to Missouri to build the South-West Branch of the Pacific Railroad. He secured employment in Rolla as a clerk first at a hotel and then at a drug store.

A Douglas Democrat and supporter of the Union, Johnson found himself on the opposite of prevailing opinion in Rolla. He left Rolla due to secessionist activity in the area. Accounts in the *Rolla Express* state that Johnson was forced to leave by local rebels. He removed to St. Louis where he enlisted in the Union Army. Johnson mustered into the 39<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry as a sergeant. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in November 1861, and first lieutenant in December.

Johnson broke his engagement to Eliza in February 1864. He died of yellow fever while in military service at New Bern, North Carolina on September 13, 1864.

### **Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

The collection contains letters from Allen B. Johnson to his fiancé, Eliza Frazier. The love letters are filled with Victorian era moralizing and philosophical discourse. Johnson frequently mentions Rolla and its inhabitants. The letters written in spring of 1861 comment on the division of opinion between Unionist and secessionist. He made it clear in his letters that he did not like the residents around Rolla. In his last note from Missouri written on May 16, 1861 at St. Louis, he recounted the events which led to his departure from Rolla. He also described the agitation in St. Louis over the Camp Jackson affair and the shootings of civilians by Union troops.

The letters in this collection were edited and published as "Union or Disunion: The Letters of Allen B. Johnson," *Newsletter of the Phelps County Historical Society*, (June 1987).

### **Container List:**

Box 001	f. 1	Allen B. Johnson letters, 1860-1861
	f. 2	Letter typescripts, 1860-1861

### **Index:**

Index Term	Folder	Image
Cincinnati (Ohio)	1-2	
Cumberland Presbyterian Church (Rolla, Mo.)	1-2	
Missouri--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1-2	
Phelps County (Mo.)	1-2	
Rolla (Mo.)	1-2	
Saint Louis (Mo.)	1-2	
Saint Louis (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1-2	
South-West Branch of the Pacific Railroad	1-2	
Springfield (Mo.)	1-2	
Susquehanna County (Pa.)	1-2	
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1-2	
Curry, Rev	1-2	
De Normandie, Anthony	1-2	
Frazier, Eliza, ca. 1835-1912	1-2	Yes
Johnson, Allen Bolles, ca. 1835-1864	1-2	Yes
Malcolm, Andrew, 1804-1878	1-2	