



Special Collections and University Archives

**Manuscript Group 107
George B. Johnson Collection**

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George B. Johnson Collection, Manuscript Group 107
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and University Archives
4 boxes; 5 linear feet

Scope and Content Note



From 1966-1995, George Bowden Johnson was a Professor in the Art Department of IUP, and he was instrumental in preserving the old Elkin family home, known as Breezedale Hall (circa 1868), which was used as a studio by the Art Department. Johnson made lithographic prints, and he started the IUP Art Department's printmaking program in 1966. He had artwork exhibited in 14 major museum shows across the country. His wife Julie Johnson was instrumental in researching the history behind [Breezedale Hall](#).

George Bowden Johnson (June 30, 1928 – March 15, 1997) was a canal historian and principal organizer of efforts to preserve and restore the canal and related sites in and around Saltsburg, Indiana County, Pennsylvania. He published numerous articles in the *Saltsburg Press*, *Canal Currents* and *Indiana County Heritage*. This collection is arranged in four series, which contain research information for Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal book, Printers and Paste-ups, Photos, and Canal Currents Bulletins. George Bowden Johnson passed away in Indiana, Pennsylvania, on March 15, 1997.

For more information about the canal and Saltsburg, see *Saltsburg, the way it was: An appreciation* (1986) by George Johnson, Call Number F159 .S265 J643 1986 (Special Collections)

Series Descriptions

Series A: Saltsburg Canal Book Research Information

Series A is contained in box 1. This consists of Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal research information, typed drafts, manuscript, and photographs.

Series B: Printers Paste-ups

Series B is contained in box 2. The typeface of book is glued on 10in. X 14in. cardboard.

Series C: Photographs

Series C is contained in box 3. There are 49 pasted photos on cardboard that includes page number, which will coincide with actual book. Also include are photos of old Saltsburg houses, bridges, aqueducts, maps, and people.

Series D: Canal Currents Bulletin

Series D is contained in box 4. This consists of Pennsylvania Canal Society newsletter bulletins 1970-1988. This contains Saltsburg area canal history, pictures, statistics, and stories.

Series A: Saltsburg Canal Book Research Information

Box 1

1. The Fantastic Diary of Adolph von Graffius
 - a. Murder on the Canal
 - b. The Lost Canal Store
 - c. The Mysteries of the Canal Boat Ledger
2. The Porter - O'Hagan Salt letters
3. Saltsburg Canal People (1) (2) Notecards
4. Canal Boatmen's Association Members/ Descriptions on few cards (2)
 - a. Indiana County Heritage, page 23 Book Review/ Mysteries of the Canal
 - b. Boat Ledger (article by Johnson)
5. Rough Drafts of "Murder on the Canal", "The Fantastic Diary of Adolph von Graffius", "The Mysteries of the Canal Boat Ledger", "The Porter - O'Hagan Salt Letters", "The Lost Canal Store".
6. Preliminary Publishing Letters/ Procedures Critiques of "Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal
7. Canal Transport Receipts
8. Canal People, Indiana County
9. Indiana County Canal Maps
10. Audubon on the PA Canal/ Magazine
11. Canal Drawing, Canal Day Booklet
12. NPS / HIS / Signs
13. A Shipment of Salt (old photos, information)
14. Centreville Canal Store
15. Photos
16. Murder on the Canal
17. Saltsburg Borough Council / Minutes & the PA Canal
18. Saltsburg & the Canal "29-64" / Anne Royall article
19. Photos
20. Final Drafts
 - a. Final Draft - "The Mysteries of the Canal Boat Ledger"
 - b. Final Draft - "The Lost Canal Store"
 - c. Final Draft - "Murder on the Canal"
 - d. Final Draft - "The Porter- O'Hagan Salt Letters"
 - e. Final Draft - "The fantastic Diary of Adolph von Graffius"
21. S.S. Jamison & the P.A. Canal / Photos
22. Johnstown and the Pennsylvania Canal by George B Johnson with Earl Guiles and Ralph Michaels
23. Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal
24. Laser Copies of Saltsburg Canal

Series II: Printers Past-Ups

Box 2

1. Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal Paste-ups

Series III: Photos

Manuscript Group 107

Box 3

1. Photos of Canal Boats, Schedule, Maps, Bridges, Saltsburg
2. Unused Photos
3. Jamison Chapter Photos
4. Photos in envelopes of Maps of Saltsburg, Canal Period houses, negatives.

Series IV: Canal Currents Newsletter

Box 4

1. Pennsylvania Canal Society Newsletter Bulletins, 1970-1988