

## Dr. W.A. Johnson Collection (AC154)

### ***Introduction:***

The Dr. W.A. Johnson Collection features certificates and photographs revolving around the life of Dr. William “Bill” Alexander Johnson, a Kansas City-based physician and surgeon, specializing in tuberculosis and other chest-related diseases.

### ***Descriptive Summary:***

Creator: Dr. W.A. Johnson

Title: AC154: Dr. W.A. Johnson Collection

Date Range: 1923 - 1954

Size: 1.5 linear feet (1 box)

Collection Number: AC154

### ***Donor Information:***

Found In Collection

### ***Citation Note:***

Dr. W.A. Johnson Collection (AC154), The Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri

### ***Related Collections:***

General Hospital No. 2 (AC50)

Wheatley-Provident Hospital (AC39)

### ***Administrative Information:***

Reproduction Restrictions: Unrestricted

Access Restrictions: Unrestricted

### ***Biographical Sketch***

Dr. William Alexander Johnson was born on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 1898 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the son of William S. Johnson and Ella Alexander. 1922, Johnson graduated with a B.A. degree from

the University of California-Berkeley. After his tenure at California-Berkeley, he attended Howard University's School of Medicine, receiving his degree in 1926. Johnson then moved to Kansas City, Missouri where he completed an 18-month internship at General Hospital No. 2, followed by an 18-month tenure as a resident physician at Wheatley-Provident Hospital.

In 1929, Johnson began his active practice of medicine, working as a physician and surgeon specializing in tuberculosis. Over time, he became the director of the chest clinic at General Hospital No. 2 as well as a staff member at Wheatley-Provident. In July 1940, Johnson extended his practice of medicine and surgery into the state of Kansas. With his affinity for medicine and playing sports, he became certified as an official physician to the Missouri State Athletic Commission in March 1942. Johnson also served as an examining physician during and after World War II for the Selective Service System from 1943-1947. Throughout his life, he was a member of an assortment of clubs and social organizations such as the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Kansas City Clinical Society, Kansas City Tennis Club, and the Beau Brummel Club. Johnson passed away on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1971 and was buried in Highland Cemetery in Kansas City.

***Scope and Content Note:***

This collection includes a variety of certificates that Dr. W.A. Johnson received throughout his life, highlighted by his service as an examining physician for the Selective Service System, being able to practice medicine and surgery in the state of Kansas, and his appointment as the official physician for the Missouri State Athletic Commission. There are also two photographs included, one with two children and another with Dr. Johnson holding an infant Alice Marie Howard.

***Collection Inventory:***

**Series 1: Certificates**

- f. 1 Certificates, 1923-1947
  - a. Certificate of Internship, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1928
  - b. Certificate of Appointment as Examining Physician, Selective Service System, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1942
  - c. Certificate to Practice Medicine & Surgery in State of Kansas, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1940

- d. Certificate of Service, Selective Service System, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1943 to March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1947
- e. Certificate of Appreciation, Selective Service System (From F.D.R.), No Date
- f. Certificate of Admission, Shriner's, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1923
- g. Certificate of Appointment as Official Physician to the Missouri State Athletic Commission, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1942

## **Series 2: Photographs**

- f. 2 Photographs, 1952-1954
  - a. Photo of two children (ages 4 & 7), Christmas 1954
  - b. Photo of Dr. Johnson holding infant Alice Marie Howard (age 3 months), 1952

**Processed by Andy MacKay, February 2026.**

### **Sources:**

Johnson, William A. (Bill) – KC Surgeon. Vertical Files, The Black Archives of Mid-America.

“William Alexander Johnson (1898-1971) - Find A Grave” 2022. Findagrave.com. 2022. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/239080061/william-alexander-johnson>.

Winkler, Elijah. 2023. “Kansas City’s Post-WWI Black Social Club. What’s Your KCQ? Investigates the Beau Brummel Club.” KC History: Missouri Valley Special Collections. Kansas City Public Library. February 21, 2023. <https://kchistory.org/blog/kansas-citys-post-wwi-black-social-club-whats-your-kcq-investigates-beau-brummel-club>.