

Collection Summary

ID Number: MSS 300

Title: River Rat, Michael Johnson Collection

Extent: 3 Boxes

Span Dates: 1630s – 1980s

Language: English, Latin

Geographic Location: Indiana

Abstract: The River Rat, Michael Johnson collection consists of photographs, documents, and other items about local, regional, and U.S. history from 1630 to 1987.

Historical Notes: Michael Johnson was born on August 28, 1947, in Newburgh, IN. He was a member of the Patriot Guard, VFW in Boonville, IN, Sons of the American Legion Post 44, and Commissioner for Clan Grant Society. Johnson was an avid motorcycle rider and collector of historical memorabilia. He was also a military and memorabilia dealer as well as portraying Captain Adam Rankin Johnson in American Civil War reenactments for the Newburgh Ghost Walks. Johnson was a Kentucky Colonel, a Son of the Confederacy, and an honorary Wild Goose. He was married to his wife, Vicki, and had one son, Morgan, and one stepdaughter, Sarah Johnson was passed away on March 14, 2020. Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library: Browning Genealogy Database.

Selected Search Terms

Keywords: Military History, Local History, Regional History

Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Location
Photographs [1-100]: Photo Index	1911-1912	Box 1, Folder 1	RL 3027
Photographs [1-10]	1911-1987	Box 1, Folder 2	RL 3027
Photographs [1-46]	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 3	RL 3027
Books (2): <i>Hazeltine's Pocket Book Almanac for 1896</i> and <i>The Piso Pocket Book Almanac</i>	1896-1902	Box 1, Folder 4	RL 3027
Scrapbook with photos (unnumbered)	1905-1911	Box 1, Folder 5	RL 3027
Foreign Currency from Europe and Asia; Military Currency	1943-1944	Box 1, Folder 6	RL 3027
Correspondences, Cards, Letters, Carte de Visite (n.d.)	1945-1955	Box 1, Folder 7	RL 3027
Japanese coin book and Vietnamese Coin Book	1740-1967	Box 1, Folder 8	RL 3027

Contents	Date	Container	Location
Correspondence	1901-1950	Box 1, Folder 9	RL 3027
Photographs [1-143]	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 10	RL 3027
Photographs [1-47]: Western Union Telegrams and Photos	1945-1946	Box 1, Folder 11	RL 3027
Daily tasks and diary / military	1908	Box 1, Folder 12	RL 3027
Correspondence from Harold Price to Sherry Price	1979-1982	Box 1, Folder 13	RL 3027
Photographs [1-8]: Scrapbook with photos	1945-1966	Box 1, Folder 14	RL 3027
Photographs [1-15]	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 15	RL 3027
Green cloth drawstring bag with Japanese characters that read "Valuables bag," called a Kichohinbukuro	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 16	RL 3027
Wide aluminum bracelet, theater made, engraved "Dutch New Guinea; C. E. Baker; Admiralties" dated 1944 engraved on band "Honolulu Hawaii; Australia; Goodenough; Hollandia"	1944	Box 1, Folder 17	RL 3027
Narrow aluminum bracelet, theater made, engraved with a "V" for victory	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 18	RL 3027
Plexiglass plaque, theater made, engraved "Sons; US Army; Chuck Calvin; VICTORY" in top corners are photos of 2 soldiers labeled for European and Pacific theaters of operation	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 19	RL 3027
Honorable discharge patch for veterans of World War 2, khaki diamond with yellow bird in wreath. Often called the "Ruptured Duck"	1944-1946	Box 1, Folder 20	RL 3027
Military training and doctrine command patch, founded in 1973. Patch is a circle with red, blue, and yellow stripes.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 21	RL 3027
Shoulder sleeve insignia for 38 th infantry division, nicknamed "Cyclone Division". Patch is the letters CY superimposed on a blue and red shield.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 22	RL 3027
Shoulder sleeve insignia for Hawaiian Division. Green taro leaf with yellow border superimposed on a red shield with green border, above this there is a yellow banner with red border and the word "Hawaiian"	1921-1941	Box 1, Folder 23	RL 3027
Shoulder sleeve insignia for Hawaiian Division. Green taro leaf with yellow border superimposed on a red shield with green border, above this there is a yellow banner with red border and the word "Hawaiian."	1921-1941	Box 1, Folder 24	RL 3027
Personal identification necklace, "Dog Tags," Notched edge style with later ball chain. They read "Charles E Baker; 15062307 T4123 A; Lizzie C Baker; RT 4; Evansville Indiana C". The T4123 marks his tetanus toxoid dates by year, C marks him as Catholic.	1941-1943	Box 1, Folder 25	RL 3027
Theater made bracelet constructed from Australian coins and copper wire; one coin filed away into a heart pendent.	1938-1943	Box 1, Folder 26	RL 3027
Theater made bracelet, unfinished, Constructed from Australian coins, and wire; one coin filed into flat sided pendant for engraving but left blank. One coin still undrilled.	1938-194	Box 1, Folder 27	RL 3027

Contents	Date	Container	Location
Military ribbon bar, pin backing, American defense medal with star device.	1941	Box 1, Folder 28	RL 3027
Military ribbon bar, pin backing, left to right; Philippine liberation medal with 2-star devices, Asiatic-Pacific campaign medal with 3-star devices, army good conduct medal.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 29	RL 3027
Military ribbon bar, clutch backing, left to right; Asiatic-Pacific campaign medal with 3-star devices, American defense medal with a missing star device, Philippine liberation medal with 2-star devices. Each ribbon has a plastic cover on it.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 30	RL 3027
Type 3 Army Air Force collar disc; brass face with propellor blade, wings, and screw back fastener.	1937-1943	Box 1, Folder 31	RL 3027
Type 3 variant "U.S." collar disc; domed brass face with "U.S." and screw back fastener.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 32	RL 3027
"Sweetheart" type private purchase pins with chain; one is diamond shape with "USA" surrounded by small pearls, other is gold plated and features the great seal of the republic. Back is marked sterling craft by Cora.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 33	RL 3027
Combat infantryman badge, clutch back. marked "Sterling" on back.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 34	RL 3027
Sharpshooter grade marksmanship badge, pin back, with "Rifle" clasp. Marked "Sterling" on back.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 35	RL 3027
Fort Benning infantry training school distinctive unit insignia pin. Silver hand holding sword with banner that reads "Take it and follow me" on blue oval background. Marked "Sterling" on back.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 36	RL 3027
"Sweetheart" type private purchase pin, American eagle with branches over patriotic shield which reads "US; Son in service"	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 37	RL 3027
Flatware, silver plated with Iraqi Coat of Arms (1965-1991) manufactured by Christofle of France Possibly taken from one of Saddam Hussein's Palaces during the Iraqi invasion of 2003. One tablespoon (a), one serving ladle (b), 1 gravy ladle (c), two forks (d and e), one fish serving knife (f) and one lobster fork (g) (7 total items)	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 38	RL 3027
Robert Williams Hospital Bracelet	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 39	RL 3027
20 Seashells (a) inside a Walgreens Drug Store Box	1944	Box 1, Folder 40	RL 3027
Star Bouillon Cubes tin	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 41	RL 3027
Handheld compass with compartment	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 42	RL 3027
Shoehorn with Horse Handle	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 43	RL 3027
Small Wood and Paper Handheld Fan, with Girls and Butterflies Design. *FRAGILE*	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 44	RL 3027
Small Wood and Paper Handheld Fan, with Girls and Butterflies Design. *FRAGILE*	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 45	RL 3027
Small, Black Wood Chopsticks (2)	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 46	RL 3027

Contents	Date	Container	Location
Small Metal Container of Fungicidal Foot Powder	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 47	RL 3027
Roman Empire Coin – Constantine the Great Era (#2212705863)	330	Box 1, folder 48	RL 3027
Roman Empire Coin – Constantine the Great Era (#2212705878)	330	Box 1, Folder 49	RL 3027
Coin: Third Reich 10 reichspfennig (10 cent) Germany	1941	Box 1, Folder 50	RL 3027
Coin: 50 Xu South Vietnam	1963	Box 1, Folder 51	RL 3027
Coins: 10 Dong Vietnam (3)	1964	Box 1, Folder 52	RL 3027
1 cent token	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 53	RL 3027
Wackenhut G4s Badge - Gold	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 54	RL 3027
Wackenhut G4s Badge - Silver	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 55	RL 3027
Patch: Apollo The White Rocket	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 56	RL 3027
Patch: Round Apollo Nasa (2 – a and b)	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 57	RL 3027
Patch: Shield shape Airborne, gray and black	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 58	RL 3027
Patch: Shield shape Airborne, red and black	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 59	RL 3027
Patch: Square NASA 25 Year Anniversary	1983	Box 1, Folder 60	RL 3027
Patch: Triangular Space Shuttle, blue, white, and gold	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 61	RL 3027
Patch: Space Shuttle Columbia, Young & Crippen Mission. Blue, White, Yellow, and Red	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 62	RL 3027
Patch: Space Shuttle Columbia – Spacelab 1, Merbold, Parker, Young, Shaw, Garriott, Lichtenberg Mission. Red, White, and Blue.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 63	RL 3027
Patch: Round. Space Shuttle Columbia, Allen, Brand, Overmyer, Lenoir Mission. Red, Blue, White and Gold.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 64	RL 3027
Patch: Round. Space Shuttle Columbia Lousma, Fullerton Mission. Blue, Orange, Gold and White.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 65	RL 3027
Patch: Rectangular Morale MLD Major League Doorkicker. Brown and Green.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 66	RL 3027
Patch: Round. Space Shuttle Challenger, Crippen Scobee, Hart, Van Hoften, Nelson Mission. Red, White, and Blue.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 67	RL 3027
Patch: Round. Space Shuttle Enterprise Approach and Landing Test. Halse, Fullerton, Engle, Truly Mission. Red, White, and Blue.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 68	RL 3027
Patch: Round. European Space Agency (ESA) Ariane. Blue with European Countries' Flags.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 69	RL 3027
Patch: Round. Spacelab ESA NASA with European Countries' Flags. Blue.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 70	RL 3027
Patch: Round. Space Shuttle Challenger, Truly, Brandenstein, Thornton, Bluford, Gardner Mission. Red, White, and Blue.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 71	RL 3027
Patch: Oval. STS-51A – “The Ace Repo Company” Mission. Allen, Fisher, Gardner, Hauck Walker Mission. Eagle and Shuttle in Space.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 72	RL 3027
Patch: Oval. Space Shuttle Voyager. Red, White, and Blue.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 73	RL 3027
Patch: Oval. Space Shuttle Columbia. Mattingly, Hartsfield Mission. Red, White, and Blue.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 74	RL 3027

Contents	Date	Container	Location
Patch: Shield Shape. VCC-1/TUA (TOW Under Armor) Red, Blue and White.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 75	RL 3027
Patch: Round. Skylab II. Bean, Garriott, Lousma Mission. Red, White, and Blue.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 76	RL 3027
Patch: Round. Crane Naval Weapons Support Center. Yellow, Blue and Green.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 77	RL 3027
Patch: Shield Shape. Spacelab 2. Physics, Astronomy, Biology. Blue, Red and Yellow.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 78	RL 3027
Patch: Triangular shape. Skylab Carr, Gibson, Pogue Mission. Blue	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 79	RL 3027
Patch: US Air Force Captain Rank – Black and White	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 80	RL 3027
Viet Cong Sun Helmet Badge. Red and Teal with a Gold Star in the Center.	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 81	RL 3027
Photographs []: Tan photo album with flags on the cover	n.d.	Box 1, Folder 82	RL 3027
Robert Burns Letters and correspondence, military paperwork, ration book; Cornelius Burns birth certificate (1887)	1887-1983	Box 2, Folder 1	RL 3027
George M. Eldridge Christmas and Thanksgiving menus, misc. military paperwork	1944-1945	Box 2, Folder 2	RL 3027
Misc. Newspaper Clippings (some Australian)	1944	Box 2, Folder 3	RL 3027
English and Japanese language maps, postcards, psychological warfare leaflet from the Pacific Theater WWII	1945	Box 2, Folder 4	RL 3027
Brochures and Advertisements: Staples Oil Burner Advertisement, Vanderburgh County Financial Report (1941) Show of Shows (2020) Mann-Heim Ordinance Supply Depot “An Introduction to Mann-Heim”	1941-2020	Box 2, Folder 5	RL 3027
Vocal Gems Song Book *FRAGILE*	n.d.	Box 2, Folder 6	RL 3027
Booklet: HISTORY AND RHYMES OF THE LOST BATTALION by "Buck Private" McCollum *FRAGILE*	1923	Box 2, Folder 7	RL 3027
Photographs []: WWII Norm Sr. Red Scrapbook, Photos	n.d.	Box 3, Folder 1	RL 3027
Photographs [1-98]: WWII Norman O. Morgan Sr. Green Scrapbook, Photos		Box 3, Folder 2	RL 3027
Photographs []: Nellie E. Blue and William F. Bautz Light Blue, Family Scrapbook, Photos *FRAGILE*	1911-1950	Box 3, Folder 3	RL 3027
Photographs []: Lawrence L. Ehlers Red Military Scrapbook, Photos *FRAGILE*	n.d.	Box 3, Folder 4	RL 3027
Major J. F. Fee Camp N. 37 United Spanish War Veterans Department of Indiana Meetings Minutes Book *VERY FRAGILE*	1919-1923	Box 3, Folder 5	RL 3027
Doric Lodge # 732F. & A.M. White Leather Hanging Scroll Honoring Norman Overton Morgan	1959	Box 3, Folder 6	RL 3027
Imperium Neptuni Regis Equator Certificate (for crossing it) to Norman O. Morgan	1943	Box 3, Folder 7	RL 3027

Contents	Date	Container	Location
Photographs []: Photos of N.T.S. Great Lakes, Illinois 206 th Co. December 19 th , 1941, U.S. Naval Training Station	1941	Box 3, Folder 8	RL 3027
Photographs []: Strasburgh Alsace Lorraine, France. French Political Prisoners / Natzweiler - Struthof Concentration Camp	n.d.	Box 3, Folder 9	RL 3027
Photographs []; 83 rd Infantry Award of Bronze Star Medal	1944-1945	Box 3, Folder 10	RL 3027
Leonard Meyer Military Scrapbook *VERY FRAGILE*	1943	Box 4, Folder 1	RL 3027
Photographs []: Photos of Imperial German MG 08 15 Crew WWI	1918	Box 4, Folder 2	RL 3027
Newspapers: 83 rd Spearhead, 83 rd Division Thunderbolt, Thunderbolt: The Weekly Newspaper of the 83 rd Infantry Division	1945	Folder 1	Map Case 24-D
Newspaper: 83 rd Thunderbolt	1945	Folder 2	Map Case 24-D
Newspaper: TTF	1944-1945	Folder 3	Map Case 24-D