

THE LETTERS OF
ANN WILLDEN JOHNSON

Compiled by
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INTRODUCTION PREFACE

The letters presented here were written by Ann Willden Johnson from 1807 to 1920. The last letter was written three weeks before her death on March 17, 1920. Of the 35 letters, 33 were written as a result of her correspondence with her mother, to an unrelated man.

Ann Willden immigrated to the United States from England with her parents in 1849. They traveled by covered wagon to Utah and settled in Cedar City. In 1860, at age fourteen, Ann married Neils Johnson, an immigrant from Denmark.

Their young family then traveled to Nevada, Owens Valley, Soledad and Los Angeles before settling on a homestead in the hills above Chatsworth in 1871. It was here that Ann learned to read and write while farming, raising her ten children and establishing a school and church.

Ann Johnson's letters presented in this volume give us a rare insight into this pioneer woman's character as well as a unique view of life in the early San Fernando Valley.

Chatsworth, Cal.

April 16 - 07

INTRODUCTION

Dear Daughter

The letters presented here were written by Ann Willden Johnson from 1907 to 1920. The last letter was written three weeks before her death on March 17, 1920. Of the 35 letters, 33 were written to her daughter Lenora McDonald and 2 were addressed to an unrelated man named Tom.

These letters were acquired from June Boardman of Sun Valley, Calif. She received them from Lenora McDonald. They are in good repair, very legible and many are in their original envelopes. They are presented here in chronological order. In an effort to assist the reader, an appendix has been added to identify the relationship of persons named in the letters. Punctuation and spelling have not been changed with the exception of periods.

A cover note written by Lenora McDonald states the following: Mother's letters. Letters of no value to anyone unless some one wants to read some of them for "Old Times Sake". We are grateful to Lenora for keeping these letters. However we must disagree with the assumption that they are of little value. As descendants of Ann Johnson who never knew her, these letters give an invaluable insight into her character. In conjunction with "Our Pioneer Mother" they give a vivid picture of a woman of strength, compassion, courage and integrity. Of particular interest are the letters of July 16, 1918 & Oct. 15, 1918 to Tom Mannes. These letters clearly demonstrate what we already knew, that Ann Johnson was more than a grandmother to her descendants, but rather a grandmother to the community she helped to establish. We are grateful to June Boardman, Wilda Johnson & Dorothy Pogue for their valuable assistance in compiling these letters.

Chatsworth, Cal.

Oct 31 - 08

Dear Daughter

I should have written to you before but have not a minute to spare neather night nor day.

Thursday while Grace was putting her cloaths into the wash her cloaths caught fire from the fire not the gasoline and she is burnt very bad.

I have not time to tell you about it now. We telegraphed for Hanna at her home and also to Duarte. She come yesterday morning and last evening Christa come for she was anxious to know how bad it was. She went back home to day. So they two sat up last night so Charlie and I could have some sleep.

Chatsworth Cal.
April 16 - 07

Dear Daughter

No, I did not know anything about that fly catcher so there. I just got home from Fernando. They are getting lots of bees in the vally. Grace had got six to day and when I passed there it looked like there was another out. Fred and Mr Graves did not have time to come to dinner. Mr Ancling was watching these up her but none came out. I wrote to Mr Charlton and got an answer. I think we will get new phones. As near as I can make out it will only cost 27.35 without the posts.

Eastman has got posts enough cut.

Mr Brazen was going to try to get a permit to go through the culvert and if he does we will be ready to go on with it. No one has got any money so I will have to do it all.

Emma said if she had the money she would put in five dollars. I guess Eastman will put in five. Mr & Mrs Ancling will go to Long Beach Thursday to try ostriophy. I cant find that word in the dictionary any where so I must guessed at it. Poor old Prinny he seemed to be failing so I sent him down to Charlies place for a while.

He had a swelling on his jaw like he might have the tooth ache but it all went away.

I think it was very kind of Mr Charlton to put himself out so much to see about the telephone.

I must close and take a look at the bees. Much love from Mama A.J.

x

Chatswoth, Cal.
Oct 31 - 08

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Chalworth Cal.

April 16-07

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out. Fred & Mr. Grace did not have time to come to dinner.

Mr. Boxling was watching these things but

none come out.

I wrote to Mr. Charlton and got an answer. I think we will get tele-phones. As near as I can make out it will only cost 2737- without the posts. Eastman has got just enough cash.

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from - Mamma

A.Y.

Dear Daughter

Chatsworth, Cal
Feb. 7 - 89

Fourty nine years to day I was a child bride. I never
thought of it till I came to write the date.

Made my regular trip today through all the mud and had
on a big load. It took me three hours to come from Fernando to
Chatsworth. I sure did rain Sunday. We did not get to church as
Mr. Moody was not here. Emma planned for me to come to Charles
and she would too and we would have Grace play for us as the
train was two hours late.

She also said Norman and Bertha was there. Eastman & I
did not know if we wanted to go or not but we finely decided to
go. Just as he got hitched up it just began to pour down but we
did not back out. I took two pies along and we got there just as
they were -----

(Rest of letter lost, ended at bottom of first sheet of
note paper)

I will go again this evening and give Hanna a chance to sleep to night. The doctor got here this morning before nine and it took him till after eleven to dress her and had us all to wait on him and help where we could. Grace is very patient and gritty through it all.

Her face did not get burned but her hair is and may have to be cut but I think not. We have not tried to comb it yet for she has enough to bare for a while. She has been resting some since the Dr. dressed her.

There are plenty of people that could be willing to help or sit up but you know no one can do for her but her own folks. Emma took the baby and Harrold stays there too to help take care of her. Mrs. Callock got one hand badly burned while trying to put the fire out so she is laid up too.

But she helps her self pritty good with one hand. There are deep burns but it is all over her body.

I have no time to write more. Will add on a little more in the morning and write postals till she is out of danger.

O my taxes are \$23.34. You can draw out the check in Freds name and send it to me and I will give it to Hanna.

Grace rested a little last night so we feel much better about it.

X

Dear Daughter

Chatsworth, Cal
Feb. 9 - 09

Fourty nine years to day I was a child bride. I never thought of it till I came to write the date.

Made my regular trip today through all the mud and had on a big load. It took me three hours to come from Fernando to Chatsworth. I sure did rain Sunday. We did not got to church as Mr. Moody was not here. Emma phoned for me to come to Charlies and she would too and we would have Grace play for us as the train was two hours late.

She also said Norman and Bertha was there. Eastman & I did not know if we wanted to go or not but we finely decided to go. Just as he got hitched up it just began to pour down but we did not back out. I took two pies along and we got there just as they were -----

(Rest of letter lost, ended at bottom of first sheet of note paper)

X

Chatsworth, Cal

Oct 9 - 11

Dear Daughter

Well you need not worry about my arm any more. The Dr. said in a little while I would not know that was ever broken. I asked him if I could over work it he said no the more I worked the better. Was that not consoling. I shall work harder now than ever.

I wish we could have the same consolation for Cecil. He did not give us any incorrigiment.

He said no man could tell weather he would ever walk or not.

Told us to go back too electricty again but not to take him to Fernando as that would set him back more than the electricty would do him good.

One treatment to be given him at night so he will have perfect quite after it and the other in the morning than let him rest an hower before dressing.

He said it would not hurt him to take up his studies but would help to pass the time away.

He said Jesse also could take up his studies without its hurting him.

His mother in law came with him.

I had the little box of grapes ready for him.

Told him that you were anxous for him to have a tast of our mountain fruit. I got to Emmas a little after eaight and we hurried to get the work done and was just though dusting when he came a little after nine. He left at half after ten.

He did not say much about Emma except she might break down or injure her back through the lifting of Cecil.

He thinks she has a kind of hay fever.

There ! I think I have told you every thing.

We are going to have a Mr Miller for a preacher this year. He used to be Christas Teacher in mathematics in the

(Bottom of page 2 on the notepaper, suddenly stops.)

X

Chatsworth, Cal

Jan. 14 - 12

Dear Daughter

We have got the roof painted so it can rain now if it wants too. I have sent for rest of the paint.

I dont know what we will do with the floors. They are mighty dearty looking now and they will look worse when the plastering is done.

Bertha is quite sick and they called the Doctor yesterday after noon.

I help them what I can.

Fay had the mumps all right and Bertha has got the grip. I will stay with her in the day time till she is able to be up.

Will told me to tell to tell you send him sixty dollars.

He ceartanly needs it.

He simply dont make enough to suport his family but goes behind little by little.

I am to sleepy to write more tonight.

15. Well is not this glorious. Norman had to go to Fernando to day so I stayed with Bertha. I guess she will be able to be up tomorrow.

O my I am glad that roof got painted. Lovel is quite sick with a cold and is not able to be around. I expet Fred will keep putting of taking Emma to the beach till I get ready to go to Nellies.

Norman says the Fernando people have lost all there orange crops and the frost cut down a great many young trees. Well I have laughed till I cried at Emmas story but it is all true and I was cross at her leading me over the top of kindling pile.

Much love from Mamma A.J.

X

Much love from Mana A.J.

X

Chatsworth, Cal
Jan. 21 - 12

Dear Daughter

Bertha was here to day walked over so you see she is much better. Lovel is around again but very weak.

Emely was quite sick all last week but is better now. Arthur is coming down with the same thing. Fred came out this evening to see what we are doing.

We have not got a plaster yet. There was one to come out from Pasadena the middle of this week but he is not here yet.

Eastman will see another plaster to morrow at Conoga. If we dont succeed in getting one by the last of this week we will send for the one that charges 35 cts a yard.

Will was mighty glad to get that money. He has been getting some duns. He worked some after he told me to send for the sixty dollars

I may have to get him to make the ces pool as every body is busy plowing and they will not stop for any thing till there crops are in.

We had four inches of rain here so the ground is in fine shape and they want to get it all in before it comes another rain. We had another aful big wind Monday.

It brought one of my empty pant cans past here a flying and the rest of them I see is scattered over Greys field.

I sold Fred a cow so that will get my stove and pay some on the paint. I would have went up this after noon to paint but there was not a sole at home over there so I done some sewing and will go up tomorrow if it dont rain. It looks very much like it to night. I dont know when Hanna will be ready to go with to Nellies. she is still at Lillians.

A very little thing up sets her and the Dr. thinks Hanna aught to stay with her a while longer.

Much love from Mama A.J.

X

Chatsworth, Cal.
Feb 4 - 13

Dear Daughter

Well the plastering is done and the men have gone home.

Chatsworth, Cal.

Jan. 7 - 13

Dear Daughter

Well there was six of us on the house to day putting on shingles. If we can all work at it to morrow it will be covered.

The brick layer will be there to morrow and Norman will help him.

Eastman is better but weak yet. He will work on the house to morrow.

We will get the paint all ready mixed.

Fred A. thinks it would be hard for us to mix and the cost will be very little more. We can get to the loft from the end of the house by climbing a ladder.

The projection will be closed tite. We have had harder winds and cooler weather than we have had in many years. Yesterday was very stormey and carried away a good many of our shingles.

The wind came from one way a while and then turn and came from the other way but we managed to stay with it. To day has been quite plesant only cold.

The ice never melted and we had ice cream for dinner.

We get our dinners at Norman's.

The buttons that you touch when you want to light a room are in a little Iron box with a brass plate over them.

Fred A. thinks we aught to put them in so I will talk to Eastman about it to morrow and let figure how much wire it will take and go to Fernando to get that and the rest that goes with it. I told Fred G. to get the paint for the roof I can paint the roof and will get at it has soon as it gets here. I guess this is all I can think of.

Lovingly Mama

A.J.

***x**

Chatsworth, Cal.

Feb 4 - 13

Dear Daughter

Well the plastering is done and the men have gone home.

Lovingly Mama A.J.

We did not say any thing to them about deducting any thing for we knew thy were making very little over good wages.

The reason we did not put anything on the floors to protect them. They were not contractors but just two men come out and done the work them selves.

The floors will never look nice any way for I had to oil them before. Boath past midle age & men of familys. Charlie and Will figured on it last night and they said they did not make any to much.

You will get a bill from Owensmouth which I will send to you if it gets here in time then the rest of the hundred dollars will go to Mr Chadwick when he sends us the rest of the bills. Fred says he made things as plain as he could and if you studied it a little you would see it. He said he could not write it any plainer.

Mr Parmantier would do it but he has not got time just now. When he was in town he went to see the lumber men and he said it was all right. He says there was just the four last articals on the bill that you was to have discount on. The rest did not belong to us but had to be sent back.

Has Miss Sallee I just wanted to know if you wanted wood work on the inside its naturel color or if you wanted it painted.

It was cold enough to put it up today but they did not want to take time to do it. I thought if you wanted it painted I would have to get more paint. I have all ready got about thirty five gallons of paint and oil Yes I shall like the wood worked varnished better than paint. There is so much to do at the new house I dont like to take time to sleep. It has taken me a whole day to put putty in nail holes.

Lovingly
Charlie helped me nearly all day to day and he said leave the sealing on the poarch and he would do that. I am painting the window sills now.

Then there will be such a job to scrape and clean the floors.

Dear Daughter
I must help to wash to morrow. Emma has sent me a hen so I will have some little chickens by the time I get in the new house. Fred thinks it will take six weeks to finish it yet. I think I will move in as soon as the walls are dry. Jesse was quite sick last week and we had to send for the Doctor.

I did not get any word from Owensmouth yet but it may come to day and Bertha will put it in this when she takes it down.

He had tonsilitis. He is better now but coughs aful hard yet.

Lovingly Mama A.J.

x

Dear Daughter

Chatsworth, Cal.
Feb. 19 - 13

The reason we did not put anything on the floors to protect them the plasters said it would come off easily.

The floors will never look nice any way for I had to oil them before the roof was on fearing it might rain and ruin the floor. In place of its raining we had an awful dust storm and it got on the newly oiled floor and it stuck there and I had to scrape it to get the dirt off.

It did rain after wards. If we cant afford to cover the floors we had better paint them. I think it will be some time yet before I can move in. I have got to oil all of the in side woodwork ready for the shallacking and they all tell me I cant do that.

Mr Parmantier would do it but he has not got time just now.

He said if I oiled it I could move in and he could shallack it later.

Has Miss Sallee got any of those chrysanthemums yet. I have lost most of mine and would like to get some more. My stove is here. It was cold enough to put it up today but they did not want to take time to put it up. Fred asked me if I had heard from you yet. I told him no but I knew you would want to swing the doors in to the dining room. When I got here your card was here. I send you two bills that Fred gave me for some things he got when he was in town.

Lovingly

Mama

X

Dear Daughter

Chatsworth, Cal
Feb 25 - 13

The carpenters are not done yet.

Fred will go home in the morning. I dont know when he will be back. Mr Parmantier says to wash the floors as good as I can and then get a stain for the floors and the shallack it. I dont think there are any floor coverings up home but I will go up to morrow and see what there is up there. I have one good rug that will do to put on the dining room or a bed room. How would it do to put matting where the rugs does not reach. That is the way Emely has hers.

The rugs such as I have I think costs from ten to fourteen dollars.

It would cost about ten dollars to cover the kitchen with linolium.

I dont like the crex rugs.

Bertha has one.

It looks to me as though there is as much to do yet as has been done. I have no place for my chickens or cow and no place to store any thing.

I aught to have a store room to put tools and wood in. There are singles enough left over to cover it and there lots of nails also. Well I guess I will get it some time.

We had over seven inches of rain.

Love from Mama

A.J.

X

Chatsworth, Cal.

Mar 4 - 13

Dear Daughter

Fred got another letter from the lumber men while he was in town so he went to see them and took your letter along that you wrote to him. They asked to keep it till they could look over it. Hanna come out to day and brought this letter and bill.

Fred went home friday morning and I moved in to the two rooms that was finished and left his tools and work bench in the front room. He expets to finish up to morrow and go home thursday.

There is a little oiling to do yet and the porch floor to paint and the windows to clean.

I went to Fernando saturday to see what I could do in the way of furniture and I think I can do better there than I could in the city. I found just the bed you speak off and it is 25.75 Matress like the two we have at 8.00.

Rugs like the one I have 14.00. Ex menester 9x12 \$25 That is very nice with a little green in it.

Shades 60 ct each.

They are the best. I will send you the sampels. 28 is the one I like best.

I asked Mr Parmantier how much good curtains would cost and he said we would have to pay 60 or 65 ct for good ones. I told Mr Noble I would be over again if we decided to get the furniture through him. So let me know what you think about it. Rough lumber will be all right for out buildings.

Bertha has a crex rug & she says she will never get another and when I was there doing the work I took a dislike to it.

They are to hard for a woman to handle and they need taking up oftener that any other rugs.

Reuben has gave me notice that he will not take the ranch another year. I think you and I and Eastman would have been better off if we had never left the ranch. It does worry me have you spend so much of your hard earned money for me.

Emma gave me a hen and fifteen little chicks. Will has three hens he is going to give me and Emma will give me three more. Last spring Cecil gave me a little rooster and he is a beauty now. Are you coming home this spring vacation? I hope you will..

Lovingly

Mama A.J.

X

Dear Daughter

Chatsworth, Cal.

Mar 11 - 13

Dear Daughter

Chatsworth, Cal.

March 11 - 13

I know I aught to be happy and thankful that I have children that does so much for my comfort. Fred has been very faithful and has done fine.

The others have done what they could. Will would have done more if he was able. I dont know how they get along down there. Lilly has been gone some time and Margreat is trying to keep house care for the other two children.

Willard is working in town. Earnest is working at the same place. Everybody thinks this is the nicest home in Chatsworth.

We are living very comfortoubl in three of the rooms and the hall. My bed room the kitchen and pantry. Eastman lives in the hall. I borrowed a cot from Emely that just fits in the hall nicely.

I am still scrubbing and painting. I scrubbed the front porch yesterday and expected to paint it today but it was too cold and stormy to be out of doors so I thought I would clean windows but that too I had to give up. So I made a fire and sat by it and did some sewing. I suppose the Bungalow net is the same kind I got for the front room windows on the ranch. That is fifty cents a yard and up. I don't enjoy writing as I used to for now it is money money all the time. I have a bill from the Owensmouth Lumber Company for ten dollars and fifty five cents. Fred looked over the bill and said it was all right so if you will send me a check for that amount I will pay it then. Will wants fifty five dollars more.

He has given thirty five dollars worth of work and he says he will help about the cesspool and any other little things that may be needed.

He brought me the wire from his chicken coops and he gave me the coop too but they will have to bring it up on the big wagon. Eastman tried to get me some R.R. ties but they won't sell any more red wood and the pine is so little good so I may have to send some one on the ranch to cut some sypress posts. I let my fire go out and it is getting cold so will go to bed. Much love from mama A.J.

X

Chatsworth, Cal.
Mar 18 - 13

Dear Daughter

Still the cesspool is not done.

When Eastman has a day or two off Will can't come. He had to go to town on some law suit but he sent a man in his place.

It is about fifteen feet now but they want to go to gravel or water. The stone and sand is here ready to wall it up if there is help enough tomorrow they may get it all done.

I suppose Will will be disappointed at not getting a check. He seemed to be anxious about it.

He said Clements had been dunning him again.

Dear Daughter

I will be ready to move the furniture down the last of this or the first of next week. I have only two more floors to scrub and the windows to clean. And another coat of paint to put on the front porch.

Eastman has got the posts in and boards on ready for me to put on the laths for my chicken correll. I dont want to get the hens from Emmas till I get the correll made because they run over to Normans and we cant tell his and mine a part.

Lovingly,

Mama

A.J.

x

Chatsworth, Cal.

Dear Daughter

May 16 - 16

Thank you for that dear kind letter. Yes your boquet of pink carnations is on the center table in the front room and I enjoy them very much.

I got greetings from Bertha Hand and family. A corset cover yoak from Bertha J. and a very pretty kerchief from Mrs Hayworth. I got some thing from Emily and Charley but to that hangs a long story and you will have to wait for that till you come home.

We had a fine service last sunday and the church was decorated in white and green from the Johnsons homes. Eastman was not in town sunday. Stella and all her family where here sunday came to see Iven.

They have a ford and have been to Cochella in it. Anna and Nelles got up a weany roast in honor of my birth day there are several funny stories to that too that you will heare when you get home. We will have our Aid meeting thursday so to morrow I will have to prepare for it. I did not sleep much last night and I am so sleepy I can hardly keep my eyes open so I guess I will go and chury that may wake me up. Lovingly mama A.J.

x

Chatsworth, Cal.

Dear Daughter

May 24 - 16

It is just so cold and windy it is like winter. Again I am invited out to supper. Charles birth day.

We did not get any rain but I think may be it will snow.

Dear Daughter

Iven has bought him a Ford. Almost new for three hundred dollars. Well I wonder where you are do day. Christa and Flossie were out yesterday and we compared notes or post cards. I am very glad to hear you got it on time.

I do hope he will get some pleasure out of it and not happen any accident with it.

Harrold drove it out of town for him and Iven drove it from Charlies here and some how he did not stop in time and banged into the barn and bent two rods pritty bad. Harrold took them off and straightened them so it seems to be all right now but I tell you it nearly made Iven sick. I felt aful sorry for him but Charlie has to teas him about it. Told him when he wanted to put his machine away he opened the door first. They were all going to Fernando last night but there was something the matter with Eastmans machine and before he could get it fixed it was too late. Eastman has to get of to work so early in the morning he just had to have his machine in running order befor doing any thing elce. There I had to light the heater so I could keep warm.

I never hear any thing form Christa or Hanna. There was only twelve out to the aid and two of them did not get here till after noon. It was so cold I kept a fire in the kitchen and the heater in the front room.

I had the table set out on the back porch and some one said they wished they could eat in the kitchen so the table was brought in where every body could be comfortuble. So much for a large kitchen. Emaly can have a small kitchen if she wants too but not me. Just got the mail and got a anousment card of Mr Riders wedding.

I am sure I wish him great joy.

Well I was sick a bed when your letter came and those two Daughters in law tried hard to keep me there.

Sunday afternoon I eat something that did not agree with me and I was too sick to go out in the evening.

I got up monday morning and got breakfast for the boys and put up there lunches and went to bed again.

I sent my washing out as I am too week to do it. I must close now with much love from mama A.J.

X

Lovingly Mama A.J.

Dear Daughter

Chatsworth, Cal.
July 2 - 16

Well I wonder where you are do day. Christa and Flossie were out yesterday and we compared noats or post cards. I am very glad to get those cards.

I did not get any yesterday. I hope there will one to day.

I hope you got my letter. In this I will try to give you the straight of the accident.

Edith is still improving and her mother came home for a few days. The Aid meet there friday after noon. So we heard of things. I can hardly relize she is alive and on the way to the straight recovery. Her hip was not broken but her leg was above the knee. One finger broaken and some others badly mashed. The skin was torn off of one of her elbows.

Her body was bruised all over.

Her corsets was torn into shreds and the steels broaken and Doctors say that her corsets was all that saved her unborn child and and her life too for they say she could not have lived if she had given birth to the child. Now for the worst. She was cut from the top of her hear down her fourhead through the eye and to her cheek boan then across from the nose to the cheek. Her glasses ground into her cheek boan so bad that the Doctors had to scrape away a great deal of the bone so beside the scars that side of her cheek will be flat. Now the wonder full thing is the eye is put back in place and she can see with it.

Of corse they keep it bandaged up and through it all she never lost consciousness.

She was the first one to find out her eye was out. She felt something on her cheek and put her hand up and felt her eye and said Oh my eye is out. Harry was badly injured on the head and it took four men to care for him all night He is better now and stayes with his wife most of the time.

When Mrs Gray got there her sisters was with her and also Mrs Grays sister. She will go back to morrow and not come home again for some time.

O those sudden triels they come upon us when we least expect it. Do take care of your self for such a shock would be to hard for me to bare.

Lovingly Mama A.J.

X

Chatsworth, Cal. Ca.
July 16 - 16

Dear Daughter

I will try once more to get a letter to you. In your telegram to me it said to direct my letters to station S. which I did and now you letter says to direct to station H.

I also sent a letter in the envelope you addressed and ought to have had an answer to it by this time. I sure was glad to get your letter. What a world you are living in. If you should get lost we never could find you. You have no one with you now to help you keep track of your self so do take care of your self. I really think I ought to have been with you.

You know you could not get lost if I was along.

I am not going to write much for I dont know that you will get it. Edith is still improving and they will be out home in two or three weeks. It will be some time before she can walk so they bring out a wheeled chair for her. Miss Sphan has been quite sick but she is much better now. I must see if I can sleep a little before going to church to night. Much love from Mama A.J.

Well there was a crowd out sunday Willford & his family & two friends. Georg Webb and his family & George & Grace.

X

Before I got the greeting Eastman & Ica came Hanna thought she had better go home with them. They had not been gone very long when Charlie & his girl come with a lot of his friends. Two machines full but they didnt want to go home. I thought Chatsworth, Cal. Dec. 11 - 16

Dear Daughter

Your letter came late saturday eve.

Arthur was working for Norman and he was not quite ready to go home so he got his too. My cold has left me very weak I do very little work. We had quite a frost the other night.

It finished up the tomatoes. I had just been over to Charlies and got a bucket full when the frost come. I have not any thing to write about only to thank you for the check and I come pritty near forgetting it. Much love from mama

A.J.

X

Dear Daughter

Chatsworth, Cal.
April 1 - 17

So you expect me to fill this paper. Well I just have not got time. We have had a nice rain and that saved us some work for we did not have to eragate, dont know if that is spelled right.

Chatsworth, Ca.
Dec. 19 - 16

Dear Daughter

Hanna is here and yesterday she worked hard all day & I thought she was going to work all night too. But today Well Emma came along with a nice easy riding horse and I did not see them any more till four o'clock. I think she is tireder tonight than she was last night. She will go home to morrow. Eastman is going to take a crowd to Fresno so he or Will will not be here so I have decided to invite Christies out for dinner.

I would liked to have had June too but I dont know her adress.

Lovingly mama A.J.

x

Chatsworth, Cal.
Mar. 6 - 17

Dear Daughter

Well there was a crowd out sunday Willford & his family & two friends. Georg Webb and his family & George & Grace.

Before I got through greating Eastman & Zoa came Hanna thought she had better go home with them. They had not been gone very long when Charlie & his girl come with a lot of his friends. Two machines full but they did not get out. He thought may be his mother would like to go home with them. Nellie & Elan came to day. Ester stayed with me Sunday & monday nights. I dont remember about the wind you spoke off but I do know it blew aful hard all last night and the house is full of dirt again when I wanted it to be so clean when Nellie came. We are talking some of building a wash house. Where had we better put it. I thought to put it where the cab bin is. I was on the ranch saturday and there is plenty of good old lumber to build it with.

Elan may go up to morrow to take things to pieces

I close with much love from mama A.J.

x

Chatsworth, Cal.
April 1 - 17

Dear Daughter

So you expet me to fill this paper. Well I just have not got time. We have had a nice rain and that saved us lots work for we did not have to eragate, dont know if that is spelled right.

of course M. Chatsworth Cal.

April 1 17

Dear Daughter

So you expect me to fill this paper. Well, I just have not got time. We have had a nice rain and that saved us lots of work for we did not have to eragate, don't know if that is spelled right.

Little Gracie Madson got her arm broken yesterday at school.

Two girls where in the swing and she wanted to get in so caught the rope to try to stop them but it threw her violently to the ground.

Some say her wrist was out of place also. They took June to town Sunday after noon so I went a long for a ride. We got back a little after seven. Our easter servis was all right only ours was a failur.

Dr. Mather did not get there in time so I had to select some one else to take his place and they made a bobble of it then Emily broke down and I thought I would never try to do this again.

of course the people thought
it was fine but they only said
that so we would not feel bad.
and they cheered at our failure

Well Nellie doing the dishes
all by her self and it is wash
day so I had better close.

I did not write last night
for we had company.

The men folks all went to a
meeting last night so Bertha Fay
Emily and Dorothy were here untill
half after nine.

Much love from maama

A. J.

Chatsworth, Cal.
Oct. 16 - 17

Dear Daughter

Yes I am taking my best juice. It is half gone but
of course it too soon to see the results. I got to Eastmans all
right and Charley came for me Wednesday evening. I wanted to get
home for the aid meeting but I should have been glad to stay with
them another week.

And they were very anxious to have me stay
longer. The crops are not all in yet. Norman break down yesterday
so he & Charlie went to Fernando early this morning.

Nellie had a great time trying to fix up my room
but had to give it up till I got home.

Little Gracie Madson got her arm broken yesterday at school.

Two girls where in the swing and she wanted to get in so caught the roap to try to stop them but it threw her vilently to the ground.

Some say her wrist was out of place also. They took June to town sunday after noon so I went a long for a ride..We got back a little after seven. Our easter servis was all right only ours was a failur.

Dr. Mathers did not get there in time so I had to select some one elce to take his place and they made a boble of it then Emily broak down and I thought I would never try to do any thing again.

Of corse the people thought it was fine but they only said that so we would not feel bad. and they cheared at our failure.

Well Nellie doing the dishes all by her self and it is wash day so I had better close.

I did not write last night for we had company.

The men folks all went to a meeting last night so Bertha, Fay Emily and Dorothy were here untill half after nine.

Much love from mama A.J.

X

Dear Daughter

Chatsworth, Cal.
Oct. 16 - 17

Yes I am taking my beat juice. It is half gone but of corse it too soon to see the results. I got to Eastmans all right and Charley came for me Wedensday evening. I wanted to get home for the aid meeting but I should have been glad to stay with them another week.

And they were very anxciuous to have me stay longer. The crops are not all in yet. Norman broak down yesterday so he & Charlie went to Fernando early this morning.

Nellie had a great time trying to fix up my room but had to give it up till I got home.

After she got the new carpet in she found it was four inches too long. Then she thought it would go in your room but it was two inches too long for that room so it was roweled up till I come. What did I do? why I just took the hem of each end and turned it up to fit in my room.

And the curtians are up so every thing looks very pritty indeed. Many thanks for your loving kindness. Nellie & Elan will take the ranch but I am so afraid he will not make a success of it as Nellie expets to stay here. Norman says if Nellie wants to go on the ranch with Elan he will try and rent his house and live over here if every thing is agreebale. Bertha wanted me to tell you so you could see what you thought about it. You know that Mr McKinnen has been sick for some time so he went to the hospittle and had an an operation. After opening him they found they could do nothing for him and sewed him up again and he passed away saturday morning. Funeral will be at Fernando this after noon and the most of Chatsworth will be there. I must close and answer my sisters letter and also a card to Eastman.

Lovingly mama A.J.

x

Chatsworth, Cal.

Nov 7 - 17

Dear Daughter

No your litter did not come for 2 ct.
Fay got the mail and he had to put another stamp on it.

Boath Eastman and Norman comes in the next draft. I knit a big scarf and a pare of socks for the soldiers and would have knit more but we could not get the yarn.

Emma gave me a lot of yarn that she got from the Jackens things so with what yarn I had I made six smaller scarfs for Christmas presents for my own boys only I gave them to them now as it is quite cold.

Norman had to go to Van Nuys yesterday so we all went along and Eastman got his scarf and I guess he would need it this morning.

Zoa gave us a very nice dinner.

Eastman was working near there so he come home to eat his dinner and found us all there.

Nellie has got two boarders till saturday. It is the Vidograps again Mr Babble and a stranger. Dec 4 - 17

No the goblins did not get me but they tried pritty hard.

And if you had been here sunday you would have thought merry. I had to stay in the house and make the coffee and after they all saw blue beards wives hanging by there hare and looking gostly white and the wild man from Burneo and got acquainted with the butterfly family. Elan is still at Cachella and he aught to by here now plowing. This is all I can think of now. Lovingly mama A.J. Nov. when you stay right here. So we had a big table full. Anna was her too.

After dinner ****X**** three boys Jesse & the minister come.

Richards started for home at Chatsworth leaving with Harold. Then the young pe Nov 13 - 17 to make Candy and such glorious time they all did have till church time.

I am glad you sent me that circular. We all will sure vote dry. Well yes what about the taxes. They are taking more than a tenth of our income.

Well who do you think come to see me yesterday and spent an hour Norman thinks he will sell out and go to a place where the taxes are not so high but where will that be.

My tax was 64 - 14. My income this year is \$340 that is better that I have done for some time. I am afraid we dont want any more yarn when it costs two dollars a scane or pound. Yes it is money for every thing. One red cross woman is trying to rais money for tobaco for the boys.

But none of my money will go that way if I know it. All our nice clean boys will be johnie smookers when they get back. If the government had all the money that is spent that way they would have enough money to run the war without trying to make the poor house wives economize so much. They said the red prince is ready but Mr Hall said he did not know just when it would be shown but he thought some time soon.

I have not had to light the heater yet and if it smooks very much I shall not use it. The boarders did not stay very long. They abanded the place where they were going to take the picturs.

Chatsworth, Cal.
Jan 30 - 18
Dear Daughter
Nellie is helping Emily to put up tomatoes to day. Much love from mama A.J. as mighty little rain we got and there is no planting going on yet. Norman has got your price put in to alfalfa.

****X****

I had a very pleasant viset 2oa. Norman and Bertha got back before Eastman came from his work.

Yes I am keeping well and warm. The heater
Dear Daughter a month was 65 ct. Chatsworth, Cal.
Dec 4 - 17

Well yes - it has been a merry after Thanksgiving.
did not use it this morning but last night was awful cold &
yesterday morn And if you had been here sunday you would have
thought merry. The Richards come out saturday evening. Sunday
Nellie stayed home from church to entertain and get dinner. We
were all ready to sit down to dinner when Will & Willard and his
girl came in. After all the greating Nellie asked Will if they
had there dinner. No but they were going over to Charlies. Was
you invited over there! Nooo. Then you stay right here. So we
had a big table full. Anna was her too.
After dinner Charlies three boys Jesse & the
minister come.

Richards started for home at three oclock leaving
June to come with Harold. Then the young people started to make
Candy and such glorious time they all did have till church time.
Normans got home all safe & sound saturday night and they had a
good time.

Well who do you think come to see me yesterday and
spent an houre and a half talking over old time. I had not seen
him for many years but I knew him.

Yes it was realy Ollie Charlton.

He called on every body he knew. This morning
early he was going to ramble around over his old haunts and going
to try to get a few quail for his mother.

I never thought to ask you if you got the last
letter I wrote to you. Went to the Dr. to day and took a
treatment. All is well with my kidneys but the Dr. wants me to go
to town and let his wife give me a thorough examination.

Much love from Mama A.J.

x

Dear Daughter

Chatsworth, Cal.

Feb 26 - 18

Chatsworth, Cal.

Jan 30 - 18

Dear Daughter

Well I wonder when it is going to rain.
Yes I paid the Doctor and I really dont think I care to take any
more treatments Well it was mighty little rain we got and there is
no planting going on yet. Norman has got your price put in to
alfalfa. My cold turned out to neuralgus in my head which
is quite bad.

I had a very pleasant viset Zoa. Norman and Bertha
got back before Eastman came from his work.

Yes I am keeping well and warm. The heater is all right and the bill a part of a month was 65 ct.

Of course I don't have to have it lit every day. I did not use it this morning but last night was awful cold & yesterday morning there was ice but the tomatoe vines are all right yet.

The red cross is to have quite an entertainment to night and all the knitters is to take part.

There will also be a picture show of people away back in the fifties and if you should come in you might not know all the people not even your mother but I don't think I want to dress up if I can help it. It is to raise more money to buy more yarn to knit with.

Nellie and I planted a little garden to day.

We would have planted before but we could not get any water to get the ground wet. Thomases are are building a nice six room house. Nellie has just been down there picking up little potatoes for seed and lots of them we can use for cooking but I can't eat any so I have to be contented with sweet potatoes carrots turnips beets and selery. I tries parsnips but they hurt my tongue. I did not pay Frank for the vegetables. No I did not even thank him.

Thursday morn.

Got home at twelve o'clock last night and every thing went of fine. And such a crowd I did not think there would be pies but there was & some to spare. We only served pie and coffee. A brother of Emalies is here from Oregon. Write more next time. Made \$56. Lovingly Mama A.J.

X

Dear Daughter

Chatsworth, Cal.
Feb 26 - 18

Well I wonder when it is going to quit raining. Yes I paid the Doctor and I really don't think I care to take any more treatments. And he has tried everything he can think of to cure my tongue but has not succeeded so I think I will live on mushes and rice. My cold turned out to neuralgue in my head which is quite bad.

Willard was here the other day to say good buy to all and I heard to day that his company pass by here to night.

We are still knitting knitting knitting.

Jesse was here this morning.

He took Anna back with him because he thaught it might keep raining and his mother would not be able to go. Lavelle will take her in tomorrow afternoon if it does not rain.

Nellie fixed her blue dress over and cleaned it good and bought a hat frame and trimed it and Emma looked quite sespectipile and I hope she will get to go.

Norman was here just now and made fun of me for looking in the dictionary so I asked him to spell neuralgia well he did not come any way near it.

Eastman & Zoa was here Sunday after noon and stayed a couple of hours.

Eastman has to put out lanterns on the road where there is any danger.

He had to come as far as the bridg across the wash so he brought Zoa a long to visit us for a while. Eastman and two of his helpers was out late putting out lanterns and they brought there suppers along and came here to eat it. I was just making Fay a cap out of the old one you left here so I called fay over to get it and when he saw Eastman he threw him self into his arms and huged and kissed him. Then I tryed his cap on and he went home.

His mother thought it was fine and she asked him if he thanked me for it, he said no he never thought of it he was so glad to see Eastman he nearly cried. Norman laughed at him and asked him what he wanted to cry for. Well I guess if you had not seen him for a milion years you would cry too. Good night and love from mama A.J.

X

Chatsworth, Cal.

April 30 - 18

Dear Daughter

Fay is all right and he went to see his mother yesterday.

May be she will be home to morrow. Here is a clipping may be he felt the earth quake while on an electric car.

Yes they are still at work with the bees. Nellie has got a day off so we will wash and plant but unless we have more water than we do now it will not come up.

Eastman was here yesterday and he said he knows the city water man and some time when he has to come up here he will tell him to come up to see me about connecting with the city water. Hanna will be here Monday to work in the bees. May be Hanna will have time to help with my dress some time. Five of us went to the red cross today. Norman took Mrs Berworth and my self and the rest walked.

When we were all ready to go home one of the school children come in and said Mr Johnson said if there was any one there belonged to him come along so we all went out - six of us and he had the back parte of the machine loaded with nice green hay.

I told him I could ride on the hay but he made me sit by him and while he was fussing with some of the others I crawled over the seat on to the hay. Charlie grabed for me but it was to late. Mrs Haworth crawled up be side me, Mrs Berworth stood on one fender and Mrs Turner on the other so Emily got her place beside Charlie. O yes and Dorethy was on the fender too. We were a funny looking crowd. Norman has gone to a scout meeting and Charlies have gone Chadwicks so we have the little folks here. Mrs Matson had gone to the hospittle to be treated for a canser.

I cant think of any thing elce to tell you so much love from mama A.J.

X

Chatsworth, Cal.
July 6 - 18

Mr Tom Mannes

You dont know how much pleasure it gives me to write this to you. Thanking you for your kind remembrance of me.

I feel now that I have another boy to pray for.

When those pritty cards come I wanted to sit right down and answer but I had a little red cross work to do. So did not get it done.

Mrs Procter is in the city and Mrs MacDonald is doing the cooking and she had to get breakfast for three of the men from the movies and I had to help what I could.

I feel lost without red cross work to do. Time is passing and I want to do all I can toward helping to win this war.

It seems so very little that I can do. We hope to have more work in a week or two. We are still enjoying some of the wild flowers yet.

I know you will want me to divide those cards so will wait till Mrs Proctor gets home so she can have first choice after I get mine.

I feel like the one you wrote on is my my very own and do greatly appreciate it. We were all on Stony point again last night. Got there before dark. But when we came down in the dark it was another thing.

We took the long way down or at least we thought we did and ended in losing the trail.

Twice we got off the trail and had to send a Scout to hunt it up again.

There was two in the crowd that had never been up there before and they felt a little timid while we thought it was a great "lark." There was about a Dozen of us come down early and another dozen stayed later.

Now I think I must close. If I had any knitting to do you would not get such a long letter. So with much love and prayers for my new boy from

Ann W. Johnson

X

Tom
Chatsworth, Cal.
Oct. 15 - 18

Are you wondering why you dont get a letter from me.

Well I am just too busy to write to any one. I have even mowed the lawn since I wrote you last and made Lavalley a swetter. You know or may be you dont know that he is in the Navy at san Diego. I did not have to drop any stiches I just put that swetter down. O no I didnt, I was eating my supper when your letter came and I quit eating till I had read that letter. Well the weather was pritty warm but we did not mind it much.

Here it is my bed time and those men folks have not got home yet and I want to see the paper before I go to bed. I was about to invite you here to a weany roost on halloween eve but on acount of influenza scare we may not have it. Yes sir I am happy to know you have made the better choice. So you think I am safe.

My Dear boy we are never safe but we must all pray for one another and for our selves. I am just what my heavenly father has made me and I do thank him for it.

God bless my boy and keep him in the right path and I will still pray for him. I think your education is all right. So dont worry about that for I think that Dear little teacher is about as busy as her mother. The men has just got through there supper and it is nine o clock and I must retire. Be strong and dont leave the narrow road and God will bless you. With lots of love from Grandma Johnson

X

Norman will have to do the sending next time.

Chatsworth, Cal.
Oct 9 - 19

Dear Daughter

The last big rain we had Norman thought he would go and attend to some busness at Fernando and Van Nuys so asked us to go along which we did.

After doing his business at Fernando we went to Nellies. They had just had dinner and she had plenty cooked and it was not cold yet so we had a good dinner but when come to start out again it was pouring down.

We had to all run to the side walk and into the machine has quick as we could. Norman drove to a garage and bought two chains and put them on so away went to Van Nuys. Hanna and I viseted with Zoa till they attended to there busness by this time the rain had ceased and we got home all right.

I believe I told you this before but dont remember but here is something I did not tell you. We heard there was going to be another play called Dady long legs so we all thought we would like to see. Emma thought so too so she decided to go along but Fred come down home and as usual she did not like to go and leave him - she was all ready drest and he asked here where she was going she said to see Daddy long legs. Fred wanted to know who he was she Said she did not know thats why she was going to find out. Well we have not quit laughing about it yet. When we come out of the show we run a cross the Proctors and had a viset with them out on the side walk.

Nellie said she knew that Norman was some where in the room for she could hear him laugh but she could not take her eyes off the screen. The beans has dried out and they are in a great hurry to get them thrashed befor there coming any more damp weather.

X

Dear Daughter

Chatsworth, Cal.

Dec. 2 - 19

Chatsworth, Cal.

Dear Daughter

Oct. 30 - 19

I just got your letter to day and also just got home from a big Ladies Aid Meeting.

Hanna did not tell you then that my heater was out of commission & she took it to Fernando and left it with Elan and he found out that it would have to be sent back where it come from so he sent it thare as he suposed but he did not make things plane so it come back to Norman to day. Well we opened it has soon as we got home and found there had been nothing done to it.

Norman will have to do the sending next time.

I told Bertha it came back mighty quick and of corse it only come from Fernando. I think I will have to try and find the directions but I dont know where it was put. We did not have the rain this week but we did have quite a heavy frost this morning.

My Poinsetta did not get frozen so to night I will have Norman nail up some sacks over it.

I have an invation to take dinner with Eastmans sunday and they will come and get me.

Christa was here to see me the first of the week or at least she was hunting for Hanna and she had gone back home again. She has no border just now and I think she wanted to clean house because they all soon be back.

There are eighty children and three teachers in our school. Where did you get the heater. I have found the directions but it not say where or when you got it. So I will wait till you write again before doing anything more. So will close with much love from mama A.J.

We had just rain last friday. I guess it did not do any damage. The new family is here all right but there furniture has not come yet and Mrs. Grey is entertaining them till it comes.

Friday big north wind.

No we did not do any washing and ironing. We left it all for Hanna to do when she comes.

X

Dear Daughter

Chatsworth, Cal.

Dec. 2 - 19

O yes the flour is planted some time ago. I got a letter from Zoa to day and she has invited a friend for Xmas dinner so they will not be here. Norman has got his corn all cut at last.

Now if he had it thrashed it could rain if it wanted too.

It sure is very cold.

We have got the carpet in the kitchen and my old carped in my room and looks has bright as ever.

The holes I have carefully darned so you will see no holes in it. Norman had to go to town last night to a scout meeting and did not get back till half after twelve.

Did you know that Nellie has got two of her grand daughters with her going to school. I thought they might be here last Sunday but they did not come so I was home all day alone. Norman had to go to Burbank and I would have went with them to Eastmans if I had been sure they would not come.

Much love from Mama A.J.

X

Dear Daughter

Chatsworth, Cal.

Dec. 9 - 19

No we have not found out yet who will be here yet.

Charlies are going to Harrolds and the last I heard from Zoa she had invited her friend to dinner. Bertha wrote to see if they cant bring the friend along and here for dinner. We have not heard yet what they will do. The last time she wrote she said she did not know if her uncle would come at all or not. Hanna and Fred was here yesterday and Hanna said that Christa would be here some time this week and bring us out a turkey.

Hanna was quite sure that she would not be able to come to our dinner unless she could go and stay there while she is away but Hanna has promised to go Correens that day. It would be no use to ask Nellies because I am sure some of the Procters will do something that day. I had twenty children Grand and great grand here for about four hours Sunday after noon.

Norman had to go to Fernando that after noon and I would have went with them to see Nellie only Hanna rang up and said she was at Bessies but she did not say there was such a crowd there.

The men all went over the mountain and then come round the other way.

Why yes we changed the rugs and I did not call it hard work. I think a mouth organ would please Fay or some sort of a cheap silly game to amuse him for the day.

That is what his mother says. Well this is a most beautiful day after such a big rain. The packages has not come yet but it may come this after noon.

Much love from Mama AJ.

x

Chatsworth, Cal.
Feb 24 - 20

Dear Daughter

Well I ought to keep warm with so many nice things to keep to keep me so such as the heater comona shawl wool stocking and other things I cant think of.

Now for the news.

I forgot to tell you in my last that Lavelle is engaged to the lovelist young lady. It is an old friend of Junes.

You may have heard June speak of her. Her father is a minester. Lavelle is boarding at there house. I just dont think of the name. Mr. Graves has been very sick and they are trying to get him to go to Arizona and stay with Della a while.

Sunday there was quite an axident at the dip. A man come rushing in for some water and camphor. Emma was here and we three stood on the front porch watching. We would not go down there for there seemed to be people enough there to do all that was needed but Norman & Mr Carter went down ther but come right back. They lifted the ingered person into one of the machines and was going to bring her up here by this time Norman was here

and said dont get frightened it is Queeny but she is not much hurt I just hollered right out. Emma run out to the road and asked the people to take her home.

Leslie was driving his Foard was going too fast and the road being wet the car skided to the other side of the road turned compleatly around struck a big bank and turned over.

The top and shield was smashed to pieces. Leslies sunday cloaths was nearly all torn of off of him but he is not much hurt.

The young man that was in with queeny was hurt pritty bad too. Queeny walked up here to day to see if she could go to school to morrow. Just when I got ready to write Nellie come then Hanna and the children and Fred they come by way of Fernando and brought Nellie along.

Fred drove down and got Emma so we all had a nice viset. Then Mrs Belcher come to regester us and now it is five o clock. Willard was here sunday and he said Grace was better. Well I wish some one could do something for my ear. Yes this rain was sure a blessing.

Now I think I will close with much love from Mama

A.J.

BAEBIE, MR. Appears to have been a boarder staying at the ranch.

X

BARZEN A friend of the Johnson family, he later loaned Harold and Leslie Johnson funds to cleanup their bee business. Mr. Barzen lived in Parliana.

BERNORTH, MRS. Apparently a friend of Ann Johnson from the Missionary Society at church.

BELCHER, (or BECHER,) MRS. Seemingly a friend from church.

BERTHA (HAND) Bertha J. Hand was the daughter of Harriet Jane (Johnson) and Fred Ahlstrom. Born in 1874.

BERTHA (JOHNSON) Bertha (Lehman) Johnson was the wife of Norman Carvin Johnson, the ninth child of Nellie and Ann Johnson. Bertha and Norman were married in 1905. (See also NORMAN and PAUL)

APPENDIX A

- BESSIE Bessie (Thompson) Ahlstrom, the wife of Reuben Ahlstrom, who was Hanna Jane (Johnson) Ahlstrom's son. (See also REUBEN).
- CALLOCK, MRS. The reference here is to the mother of Grace Ella (Brow) Johnson, a mother. Callock was her second husband. (See GRACE).
- ANCLING, MR. Relationship unknown.
- ANNA Probably Anna Margaret (Graves) Bryant, Billings. Known to family and friends as "Queenie", she was the daughter of Emma Louise (Johnson) and Fred Graves.
- ARTHUR Arthur F. Ahlstrom, son of Hanna Jane (Johnson) and J. Frederick Ahlstrom, born in 1882.
- BABBIE, MR. Appears to have been a boarder staying at the ranch.
- BARZEN A friend of the Johnson family, he later loaned Harold and Leslie Johnson funds to finance their bee business. Mr. Barzen lived in Pasadena.
- BERWORTH, MRS. Apparently a friend of Ann Johnson from the Missionary Society at church. (See DOROTHY.)
- BELCHER, (or BECHER,) MRS. Seemingly a friend from church.
- BERTHA (HAND) Bertha J. Hand was the daughter of Hanna Jane (Johnson) and Fred Ahlstrom, born in 1886.
- BERTHA (JOHNSON) Bertha (Lehman) Johnson was the wife of Norman Carvin Johnson, the ninth child of Neils and Ann Johnson. Bertha and Norman were married in 1905. (See also NORMAN and FAY.)

- BESSIE** Bessie (Thompson) Ahlstrom, the wife of Reuben Ahlstrom, who was Hanna Jane (Johnson) Ahlstrom's son. (See also REUBEN).
- CALLOCK, MRS.** The reference here is to the mother of Grace Ella (Brow) Johnson's mother. Callock was her second married name. (See also GRACE).
- CARTER, MR.** Relationship unknown.
- CECIL** Cecil Graves, son of Emma Louise (Johnson) and Fred Graves. Cecil was paralyzed by polio at an early age.
- CHADWICKS** Probably of a long-time Chatsworth family.
- CHARLIE (CHARLEY)** Charles Willden Johnson, fifth child of Neils and Ann, born in 1867. In 1890 he and Grace Ella Brow were married; they had eight children. See GRACE. In 1912 he married Emily Amelia Resing. Charles lived until 1950 at the age of 83.
- CHARLIE'S GIRL** This must refer to Charles Willden Johnson's only surviving daughter Dorothy. (See DOROTHY.)
- CHARLTON, MR.** Probably Olliver (Ollie) Charlton, younger brother of Frederic Charlton who at one time was engaged to Olive Lenora "Nonie" Johnson.
- CHRISTA** (CHRISTIE) Third daughter of Neils and Ann Johnson. Her actual name was Maria Christina, born on January 24, 1864. She married Douglas Springer in

(continued)

(Christie: continued)

1883 and bore him one daughter Florence Irene ("Flossie"). After marrying Frank Bliss in 1897 Christie had two children, Frances and Howard.

- CLEMENTS** Refers to the man running the grocery store and post office at Devonshire and Owensmouth.
- CORREEN** (K. Corinne) Daughter of Hanna Jane (Johnson) and Fred Ahlstrom. She was married to George Webb.
- DELLA** Relationship unknown.
- DOROTHY** (BABY DOROTHY) Dorothy (Johnson) Pogue, born on April 2, 1908 to Charles Willden and Grace (Brow) Johnson. She was to be their only surviving daughter.
- EARNEST** (ERNEST) Ernest Lester ("Bud") Johnson, third son of Charles Willden and Grace (Brow) Johnson. Ernest lived 1894-1979.
- EASTMAN** Oliver Eastman Johnson, the youngest of the ten children born to Neils and Ann Johnson. He was born June 26, 1885. In 1917 he married Zoa Span.
- EDITH** Probably Edith Gray, daughter of early Chatsworth settlers. Their home was at Lassen and Farralome. Edith was married to Harry McFarland.
- ELON** Elon Proctor, husband of Mary Eleanor "Nellie" (Johnson). He was born in 1854. (See also NELLIE)

- EMMA** The eighth child and youngest daughter of Neils and Ann Johnson, Emma Louise was born April 16, 1873. She married Fred A. Graves in 1896 and they had five children. Emma died in 1962 at the age of 89.
- EMALIE (EMALY, EMELY)** Born in 1865, Emma Amelia (Resing) Johnson was the second wife of Charles Willden Johnson from 1912 until she died in 1938.
- ESTER** Relationship unknown.
- FAY** Fahy Orville Johnson was the only child of Norman Carvin and Bertha Johnson, born in 1908. He was one of the editors of his grandmother Ann's notes in "Our Pioneer Mother" written in 1931.
- FLOSSIE** Florence Irene Springer, daughter of Marie Christina "Christie" (Johnson) from her first marriage to Douglas Springer.
- FRANK** This must refer to the second husband of Maria Christina (Johnson). Frank Bliss married "Christie" in 1897. Their children were Frances and Howard.
- FRED A.** Ann Johnson's son-in-law J. Frederick Ahlstrom, who was the husband of Hanna Jane (Johnson), the first child of Neils and Ann. Hanna and Fred Ahlstrom were married in 1881. (See also FRED A.)
- FRED G.** Fred A. Graves, son-in-law to Ann and Neils Johnson. Emma Louise Johnson married Fred in 1896. In 1919 he and Myrtle Pogue were married; they raised four children.
- GEORGE and GRACE** Son-in-law to Hanna Jane (Johnson) Ahlstrom, George Deffner and his wife Grace (Ahlstrom.) Grace

- (George and Grace: continued) husband to Edith (Gray) McFarland.
- was the second child born to Hanna and Fred Ahlstrom in 1883. (See also HANNA.)
- HAYWORTH, MRS. A friend living near the railroad at Audora is
- GRACE Grace Ella (Brow) Johnson was the first wife of Charles Willden Johnson. She was born in 1876 and died November 2, 1908, a week after the fatal fire mentioned in Ann's letter. Married in 1890, she and Charles had eight children.
- JACKSONS Relationship unknown.
- GRANDMA JOHNSON This was the name by which Ann Johnson came to be known to many people of Chatsworth.
- JESSE Jesse A. Graves was the oldest son of Emma Louise (Johnson) and Fred A. Graves.
- GRAVES, MR. This is probably the father of Fred Graves. (See FRED G.)
- JUNE Ann's granddaughter Lenora June (Proctor) Boardman, born June 4, 1899. June is the daughter of Mary
- GRAY, MRS. Most probably related to the gray family, early Chatsworth pioneers. (See also EDITH)
- LA VALLEE Known to everyone as "Kelly". Ray Lavelle was the
- GREY'S FIELD Presumed to be property belonging to the Gray family; see GRAY married Katharine Walton.
- HALL, MR. Relationship unknown. the sixth child of Charles Willden and Grace (Brow) Johnson. He lived from
- HANNA Oldest child born to Neils and Ann Johnson, Hanna Jane (Johnson) Ahlstrom was born April 24, 1861. She married J. Frederick Ahlstrom in 1881; they had nine children. (See also FRED A.)
- LILLIAN
- HARROLD (Harold) Son of Charles Willden and Grace (Brow) Johnson, Harold Francis Johnson was born in 1896. In 1919 he and Myrtle Pogue were married; they raised four children.

- HARRY** Harry McFarland, husband to Edith (Gray) Mc Farland.
See EDITH
- HAYWORTH, MRS.** A friend living near the railroad at Andora in Chatsworth.
- IVEN** (Ivan) Ivan Proctor, son of Mary Eleanor (Johnson) Proctor, born in 1882. (See also NELLIE.)
- JACKENS** Relationship unknown.
- JESSE** Jesse A. Graves was the oldest son of Emma Louise (Johnson) and Fred A. Graves.
- JUNE** Ann's granddaughter Lenora June (Proctor) Boardman, born June 4, 1899. June is the daughter of Mary Eleanor "Nellie" (Johnson) and Elon Proctor.
- LA VALLE** Known to everyone as "Kelly", Ray LaValle was the fifth child of Charles Willden and Grace (Brow) Johnson. He married Katharine Walton.
- LESLIE** Leslie Wildon Johnson, the sixth child of Charles Willden and Grace (Brow) Johnson. He lived from 1900-1977.
- LILLIAN** Lillian E. Ahlstrom, daughter of Hanna Jane (Johnson) and Fred Ahlstrom, she was born in 1888.
- LILLY** Probably the wife of Willard Willden Johnson. She was born Lilly Beebe, and in 1893 became his first wife. She and Will had six children.

LOVEL, MR. Level Hill, a friend and owner of a grocery store at Lassen and Topanga which he operated with Ann's son-in-law Fred Graves.

Mac DONALD Olive Lenora (Johnson) MacDonald was born December 23, 1868, was the sixth child of Neils and Ann Johnson. "Nonie" married David MacDonald in 1894 and before she died in 1946, helped to edit "Our Pioneer Mother", memoirs of her mother's life. She had no children.

NORLE He owned a mortuary in San Fernando.

MADSON, LITTLE GRACIE May be referring to Gracie Mattson, a child attending the church. (See MATSON, MRS.)

NORMAN Norman Carvin Johnson, the ninth child of Neils and Ann Johnson, born January 29, 1884. In 1905 Norman

MANNES Tom Mannes, a former border at the ranch. Mr. Mannes was a veteran of World War I and a friend of Olive Lenora (Johnson) MacDonald.

PARMENTIER, MR. Grover of Hard Rock chickens, he lived on

MARGARET Thought to be Margurite Johnson, daughter of Willard Willden and Lillie (Beebe) Johnson.

PROCTOR, MRS. Formal title of Ann's daughter Nellie (Mary Eleanor).

MATHERS, DR. Doctor F.D. Mathers was a preacher at Chatsworth Church during the 1916 period.

QUEENY "Queenie" Her actual name: Anna Margaret (Graves)

MATSON, MRS. May be the Helen Mattson whose family home was on the north side of Devonshire across from the post office. See MADSON, GRACIE.

RICHARDS Referring to Frank Richards, husband of Stella

MC KINNEN, MR. Relationship unknown. (See STELLA.)

MILLER, MR. Relationship unknown, but the letter indicates a possibility that he was going to be a preacher in Chatsworth.

- MOODY, MR. Pastor of Chatsworth Community Church during 1908 period. Mr. Moody also had a mercantile store in San Fernando.
- SALLEE, MISS Mrs. Sallee was a friend of Olive Lenora "Nonie"
- NELLIE Mary Eleanor "Nellie" (Johnson) Proctor. She was the second child of Neils and Ann, born November 30, 1862. Nellie married Elon Proctor in 1879 and had three children; Elmo, Ivan and Lenora June. See JUNE and ELON.
- SPAN, MISS
- NOBLE He owned a mortuary in San Fernando.
- NORMAN Norman Carvin Johnson, the ninth child of Neils and Ann Johnson, born January 29, 1884. In 1905 Norman was married to Bertha Lehman. They had one child, Fahy Orville. (See also FAY). Norman died in 1931.
- PARMENTIER, MR. Grower of Bard Rock chickens, he lived on Farralone near Andora Street in Chatsworth.
- PROCTOR, MRS. Formal title of Ann's daughter Nellie (Mary Eleanor). (See NELLIE.)
- WEBB, GEORGE and FAMILY George Webb was married to Ann's grand-
- QUEENY "Queenie" Her actual name: Anna Margaret (Graves) Bryant, Billings. She was the only daughter and fourth child of Emma Louise (Johnson) and Fred Graves.
- WILL and WILLARD These refer to the son and grandson of Ann
- RICHARDS Referring to Frank Richards, husband of Stella (Proctor) Richards, Johnson. (See STELLA.)
- RIDER, MR. Preacher and also a field missionary supported by the Chatsworth church. He lived in Los Angeles.

- REUBEN and Willard Reuben A. Ahlstrom, third child of Hanna Jane (Johnson) and Fred Ahlstrom. He was born in 1885. years he married Stella (Proctor) Richards.
- SALLEE, MISS Mrs. Salleé was a friend of Olive Lenora "Nonie" (Johnson) MacDonald with whom she stayed while attending college. WILLARD WILLDEN JOHNSON JR. was the second child and oldest son of Will and Lilly (Proctor) Johnson.
- SPHAN, MISS Referring to the "SPAHN" family, whose ranch was adjacent to the Johnson property. The Spahn Ranch is now the Retz Ranch on Santa Susana Pass Road between the Iverson homes and Iverson Road. WILLFORD and FAMILY Relationship unknown.
- STELLA Stella (Proctor) Richards. At the time of this writing she was married to Frank Richards. Stella was the sister of Elon Proctor. Years later she was married to Willard Johnson. (See also RICHARDS.) ZOA no children.
- THOMESES Reference to the Thomas family living on Santa Susana (now Topanga) and Andora Street in Chatsworth.
- TURNER, MRS. Relationship unknown.
- WEBB, GEORG and FAMILY George Webb was married to Ann's granddaughter Corinne, who was the daughter of Hanna Jane (Johnson) Ahlstrom. (See CORREEN.)
- WILL and WILLARD These refer to the son and grandson of Ann Johnson. The elder Will is Willard Willden Johnson, fourth child and oldest son of Neils and Ann. He was born November 13, 1865. In 1893 he married Lilly (Beebe); they had six children. In later

APPENDIX B

(Will and Willard: continued)

years he married Stella (Proctor) Richards.

May 15, 1845 Will died in 1950 at the age of 85. (See also LILLY, MARGARET and STELLA.)

November 10, 1849 Sailed for the United States

December 24 WILLARD WILLDEN JOHNSON JR. was the second child and oldest son of Will and Lilly (Beebe) Johnson.

June 7, 1852 Left Council Bluffs for the Utah Territory

WILLFORD and FAMILY Relationship unknown.

September 27, 1852 Arrived Salt Lake City, Utah

ZOA December 14, 1852 Zoa (Span) Johnson was the wife of Oliver Eastman Johnson, last of the ten Johnson children. Zoa married Eastman in 1917. They had no children.

April 24, 1861 Birth of Hanna Jane

November 30, 1862 Birth of Mary Sleanor

January 24, 1864 Birth of Maria Christina

1864 Left Utah for Nevada Territory

November 13, 1865 Birth of Willard Willden

Spring, 1866 Arrived Owens River, California

May 24, 1867 Birth of Charles Willden

Fall, 1867 Arrived Los Angeles

1868 Operated Grocery Business at Soledad

APPENDIX B

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|--------------------|--|
| December 23, 1868 | Birth of Olive Lenora |
| 1871 | Settled in the San Fernando |
| May 15, 1845 | Born, Sheffield, England |
| November 10, 1849 | Sailed for the United States |
| December 24, 1849 | Arrived in New Orleans |
| June 7, 1852 | Left Council Bluffs for the Utah Territory |
| September 27, 1852 | Arrived Salt Lake City, Utah |
| December 14, 1852 | Arrived Cedar City, Utah |
| February 9, 1860 | Married Neils C. Johnson |
| April 24, 1861 | Birth of Hanna Jane |
| November 30, 1862 | Birth of Mary Eleanor |
| January 24, 1864 | Birth of Maria Christina |
| March 17, 1864 | Death of Ann Johnson |
| 1864 | Left Utah for Nevada Territory |
| November 13, 1865 | Birth of Willard Willden |
| Spring, 1866 | Arrived Owens River, California |
| May 24, 1867 | Birth of Charles Willden |
| Fall, 1867 | Arrived Los Angeles |
| 1868 | Operated Grocery Business at Soledad |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| December 23, 1868 | Birth of Olive Lenora |
| 1871 | Settled in the San Fernando Valley |
| October 27, 1871 | Birth of Walter Levi |
| April 16, 1873 | Birth of Emma Louise |
| 1880 | Founded Union Sunday School which became the Chatsworth United Methodist Church in 1888 |
| January 29, 1884 | Birth of Norman Carvin |
| June 26, 1885 | Birth of Oliver Eastman |
| 1913 | Moved from ranch to house on Topanga |
| June 4, 1915 | Death of Neils Johnson |
| March 17, 1920 | Death of Ann Johnson |