

Lincoln's Springfield

JOEL JOHNSON

SPRINGFIELD HOTEL KEEPER



REVIRE HOUSE. COR. 2ND AND WASHINGTON STS. SPRINGFIELD ILL. J. JOHNSON, PROPRIETOR.

Spring Creek Series

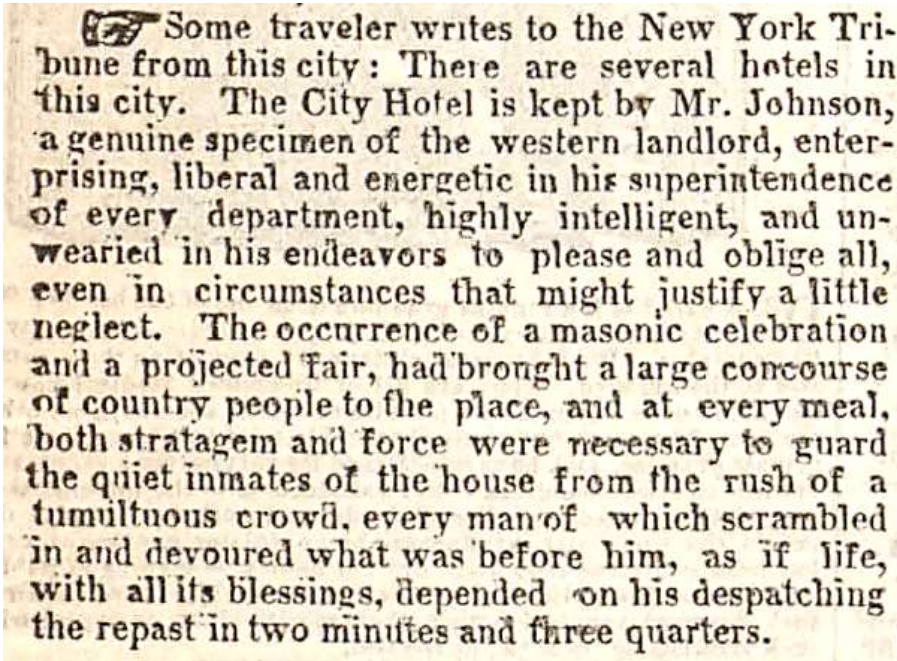
Richard E. Hart

Curtis Mann, Special Contributor

Michael Kienzler, Foreword

Front Cover Photograph: Drawing of Revere House (Johnson's Building) from *Illustrated Atlas Map of Sangamon County, Illinois, 1874*, p. 78.

Back Cover Photograph: *Souvenir of Springfield*, published by H. E. Barker, Art Dealer, Springfield, Illinois, 1890. The apparent park in the foreground has geometric walkways crisscrossing the park. Speculation is that they may have been paths for carriages to use when picking up or dropping off passengers on the railroad that adjoined the park to the west.



Some traveler writes to the New York Tribune from this city: There are several hotels in this city. The City Hotel is kept by Mr. Johnson, a genuine specimen of the western landlord, enterprising, liberal and energetic in his superintendence of every department, highly intelligent, and unwearied in his endeavors to please and oblige all, even in circumstances that might justify a little neglect. The occurrence of a masonic celebration and a projected fair, had brought a large concourse of country people to the place, and at every meal, both stratagem and force were necessary to guard the quiet inmates of the house from the rush of a tumultuous crowd, every man of which scrambled in and devoured what was before him, as if life, with all its blessings, depended on his despatching the repast in two minutes and three quarters.

Journal, November 4, 1852.

Lincoln's Springfield: Joel Johnson: Springfield Hotel Keeper
Spring Creek Series.

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Richard E. Hart
Suite 501, One North Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1323
(217) 553-0055
rhart121342@gmail.com

Joel Johnson: Springfield Hotel Keeper

Joel Johnson's Three Springfield Hotels

While living in Springfield, Abraham Lincoln was familiar with two hotels located at the corner of Fourth and Washington streets. Joel Johnson constructed and operated both, but not at the same time. These two hotels and an additional, earlier one operated by Johnson on the west side of Springfield's Public Square are described here.

Hotel Number One

West Side of Public Square

Springfield Hotel
1837-1839
Joel Johnson

Hotel Number Two

Northeast Corner of Fourth and Washington Streets

City Hotel
1840-1855
Joel Johnson

Chenery House
1855-1883
William D. Chenery
John W. Chenery

Hotel Palace
1883-1899
David J. Block

Hotel Number Three

Northwest Corner of Fourth and Washington Streets

Johnson's Building
1856-1869
Joel Johnson

Revere House
1869-1877
Joel Johnson
1878-1893
Edward S. Johnson

Joel Johnson: Springfield Hotel Keeper

1857 Improvements

A block of five brick stores on the corner of Fourth and Washington Streets, 92 feet front on Washington street, and 45 on Fourth street, three stories, and basement for bath house, barber shop &c., under the whole building; owned by Joel Johnson. The upper stories are finished off for private rooms and offices. Designed and drawn by T. J. Dennis; Warwick & Ball builders; brick work by George Wise; plastering by Hosford & Young; painting by Willard and Zimmerman. Cost \$12,000

Journal, January 6, 1858.

President-elect Lincoln's Office in Johnson's Building

Late in December (1860), in anticipation of the meeting of the legislature, when the Governor would need his office for his own use, Lincoln and Nicolay moved from the State House to Johnson's Building across the street from the Chenery House. There, and in a vacant room over the store of C.M. Smith, his brother-in-law, where he could work on his inaugural address in privacy, Lincoln spent most of his time.

Paul M. Angle, *Here I Have Lived*.¹

From his headquarters just a block west of the State House in Number 4 of the Johnson Building at the northwest corner of Fourth and Washington, Abraham Lincoln closely observed the political actions of the Legislature.

Sunderine and Wayne C. Temple, *Abraham Lincoln and Illinois' Fifth Capitol*.²

Next day was Christmas (December 25, 1860). As the weather had again turned inclement, and the holidays tended to keep people at home, the week was a quiet one. It was also the last in which the casual visitor could have easy access to the President Elect. Lincoln relinquished the Governor's room in the State House, his office since early in the canvass, for the Illinois legislature was soon to assemble and the room would be needed. The copious letter and newspaper files managed by John Nicolay were moved to a room in Johnson's Building, across from the Chenery House, a well-known Springfield hotel a block west of the State House. Nicolay spent all his time in the new office while Lincoln came in occasionally. Visitors were received by the President Elect at his home, a half mile southeast of the State House.

William A. Baringer, *A House Dividing*.³

¹ *Here I Have Lived; a History of Lincoln's Springfield, 1821-1865*, Paul M. Angle, Springfield, Illinois, The Abraham Lincoln Association, 1935, p. 259. (Hereafter referred to as *Angle*.)

² *Lincoln and Illinois' Fifth Capitol*, Sunderine (Wilson) Temple and Wayne C. Temple, Mayhaven Publishing Inc., 1995, p. 171. (Hereafter referred to as *Capitol*.)

³ *A House Dividing*, William A. Baringer, The Abraham Lincoln Association, 1945, p. 124. (Hereafter referred to as *Baringer*.)

Table of Contents

JOEL JOHNSON’S THREE SPRINGFIELD HOTELS	I
FOREWORD	VII
INTRODUCTION	IX
THE EARLY YEARS BEFORE SPRINGFIELD (1806-1832)	1
1806	1
Birth of Joel Johnson May 21, 1806	1
1811	1
Joel Johnson’s Mother Leaves Him With Uncle.....	1
1824	1
Joel Johnson’s Mother Moves to Rochester, Illinois	1
1832	1
Joel Johnson Goes West to Visit Mother in Illinois.....	1
Joel Johnson Stops in St. Louis Upon Return East	1
Joel Johnson Finds Work in St. Louis as Boot and Shoe Maker.....	1
Joel Johnson Moves to Edwardsville, Illinois.....	2
THE EARLY SPRINGFIELD YEARS (1833-1839)	3
1833	3
Joel Johnson Moves to Springfield, Illinois.....	3
Joel Johnson Advertises New Boot and Shoe Shop.....	3
Possible Location of Shoe Shop	4
1834	5
Joel Johnson Marries Elizabeth “Eliza” Newman.....	5
Joel Johnson Borrows \$184 and Uses Leased Lots as Collateral.....	5
1835	5
Joel Johnson Advertises Boot and Shoe Shop	5
1836	6
Joel Johnson Requests Payment of Accounts Due.....	6
Joel Johnson Sells Part of Lot to William Florville	6
William Florville Moves to Building West of Mr. Rague’s Bake Shop.....	6
Joel Johnson Advertises Boot and Shoe Store	7
1837	7
Joel Johnson Requests Payment of Accounts Due Him.....	7
THE SPRINGFIELD HOTEL YEARS (1837-1839)	8
1837	8
Joel Johnson’s First Advertisement For His Springfield Hotel on the Square	8
Abraham Lincoln Comes to Springfield.....	8
Joel Johnson Advertises Seven Tenements For Rent.....	8
Abraham Lincoln Represents Joel Johnson Monday, October 9, 1837.....	9
Abraham Lincoln Represents Joel Johnson Tuesday, November 7, 1837.....	9
1838	9
Joel Johnson Advertises Seven Tenements For Rent.....	9
Joel Johnson Signs Note to Facilitate Financing of Move of Capital to Springfield March 22, 1838.....	9
1839	10
Joel Johnson Purchases the Indian Queen Hotel at the Northeast Corner of Second and Jefferson Streets.....	10
Joel Johnson Advertises Springfield Hotel on Fifth Street	11
THE CITY HOTEL YEARS (1840-1855)	12
1840	12
Joel Johnson Opens City Hotel at Washington and Fourth Streets	12
Large Pumpkin Displayed at Johnson’s City Hotel	12
Lithographs at Johnson’s City Hotel	13
1841	13
Backwoodsman Pleased with Johnson’s City Hotel	13
1842	13
Joel Johnson Improves City Hotel and Gives Rates	13
Joel Johnson Advertises New Additions to City Hotel	14
1843	14
Birth of Edward Schrader Johnson (1843-1921)	14
1844	15
Bathing House at Johnson’s City Hotel.....	15

	William Flourville Moves Two Doors East From Johnson's City Hotel	15
	Rates at Johnson's City Hotel.....	15
1845		16
	Rates at Johnson's City Hotel.....	16
	Joel Johnson Insurance on His Residence	16
1846		17
	Joel Johnson Advertises City Hotel – Temperance House.....	17
	Warm Baths at Johnson's City Hotel.....	17
1847		17
	Joel Johnson's City Hotel Burns.....	17
	Abraham Lincoln Loans Joel Johnson \$10.....	18
	Joel Johnson Erects New Building for City Hotel	18
	Joel Johnson Opens New Building for City Hotel For Convention Attendees.....	19
	Son of Temperance Thanksgiving Celebration Held at City Hotel	19
1848		20
	Corn-sheller Exhibited at City Hotel	20
	Joel Johnson's Loss From Tenant "An Unworthy Scamp".....	20
	Joel Johnson Advertises City Hotel.....	20
1849		21
	City Hotel Register: December 30, 1848-January 1, 1849.....	21
	Cotillion Party Held at City Hotel	21
	Entertainment at City Hotel.....	22
	Joel Johnson Advertises Property For Rent	22
	Bee Palace Exhibited at City Hotel.....	22
	Death of Eliza Newman Johnson.....	22
	City Hotel Guest Not Down With Cholera	23
	Joel Johnson Advertises City Hotel.....	23
	Warm and Cold Baths at Johnson's City Hotel	24
	Learned Pig Entertainment at City Hotel.....	24
	African American Spencer Donegan Advertises Move of Barber Shop to City Hotel.....	24
	Joel Johnson Receives Flooring For Sale	25
1850		25
	Joel Johnson Property Sold to Pay \$88 to City For Removing Nuisance.....	25
	Masonic Procession Catered at City Hotel	25
	Joel Johnson's City Hotel Wins Praises of Customer	26
	Mail Stage Office at City Hotel to Salem, Illinois	26
	Joel Johnson Holds Public Sale of 80 Acres of Land Near Petersburg	26
	Joel Johnson Advertises Two Tenements to Rent.....	27
	Joel Johnson Manager of American House in St. Louis	27
	Dr. Hays Takes Rooms in City Hotel	27
1851		28
	Railroad Depot Located on Third Street Tracks	28
	Joel Johnson's Old Tavern Mistakenly Said to be Site of Cholera	29
	Joel Johnson Purchases Lots From Samuel Stover	29
	Joel Johnson Deeds Land to Alton and Springfield Railroad for Depot.....	29
	City Hotel Reopened by Joel Johnson and Daniel M. Jackson	30
	New England Supper Held at City Hotel.....	30
1852		31
	Joel Johnson Stockholder in the Mechanics and Farmers Bank.....	31
	Abraham Lincoln Represents Joel Johnson	31
	Kilmiste Family to Perform Vocal Concert at City Hotel.....	31
	Joel Johnson and Daniel M. Jackson Dissolve Partnership as Keepers of the City Hotel	31
	Daniel M. Jackson Leaves City Hotel and Returns to Logan County	32
	New York Traveler Describes Springfield Hotels	32
1853		32
	Marriage of Joel Johnson and Elizabeth T. Campbell.....	32
	Joel Johnson Advertises City Hotel For Rent	33
	Joel Johnson Advertises 200,000 Brick For Sale.....	33
	Pekin and Decatur Railroad Corporate Meeting Held at City Hotel	33
	Dr. Lafayette Yeates at City Hotel to Treat Eye Diseases	33
	Temperance Association Has Supper at City Hotel	34
	Joel Johnson Purchases the Indian Queen Hotel at the Northeast Corner of Second and Jefferson Streets.....	34
1854		35
	Joel Johnson Enlarges City Hotel	35
	Theft at City Hotel.....	35
	Joel Johnson Makes Addition to City Hotel	35
	1854 Map of Springfield, Illinois	36
1855		36
	William H. Herndon Sues Joel Johnson to Collect on Note.....	36

Joel Johnson Advertises 200,000 Bricks for Sale	36
Joel Johnson Advertises That He Found Thread Purse With Change	36
William D. and John W. Chenery Purchase City Hotel From Joel Johnson Rename it Chenery House	37
Annunciator Installed in Chenery House	39
Piano Teaching at Chenery House.....	40
William D. Chenery Advertises Chenery House	40
Joel Johnson Opens Mammoth Furniture Store in Journal Building.....	40
Poem By Traveler at Chenery House	41
THE JOHNSON'S BUILDING YEARS (1856-1868)	42
1856	42
Joel Johnson Builds Three-Story Brick Building Across From Chenery House at Northwest Corner of Washington and Fourth Streets	42
Springfield Hotels Described.....	42
1857	43
Joel Johnson Builds Three-Story Brick Building.....	43
1857 Improvements.....	43
Joel Johnson Advertises Rooms to Rent in New Block of Buildings.....	43
Joel Johnson Real Estate to be Sold at Sheriff's Sale	44
1858	44
Creditors Public Sale of Joel Johnson Property	44
1859	44
Edward S. Johnson Joins Springfield Grays	44
1860	45
Joel Johnson Listed in 1860 Census	45
Joel Johnson Advertises "Tinsley Property" at Fifth and Madison for Sale or Rent	45
Joel Johnson's Testimonial for Ague Bitters	45
President-Elect Abraham Lincoln Moves Office to Johnson's Building.....	45
Lincoln's Secretary, John G. Nicolay, Writes of the Move to Johnson's Building	47
1861	48
John G. Nicolay Writes of Lincoln in Johnson's Building January 6, 1861.....	48
Abraham Lincoln to Meet Public in His Office in Joel Johnson's Building	48
Abraham Lincoln and Family Move to Chenery House	49
Civil War: Edward S. Johnson Mustered Into Company I, 7th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry	50
Civil War: Edward S. Johnson Mustered Into Three Year Service in Company I, 7th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry.....	51
1862	51
Joel Johnson Selling Lumber Business Inventory	51
1864	52
Letter From Capt. Edward Schrader Johnson	52
William Todd Falls Into Cistern in Joel Johnson Lumber Yard.....	52
John Johnson Mistakenly Identified as Person in Police Court.....	53
1865	53
Letter From Major Edward S. Johnson, Joel's Son.....	53
Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln and Return of His Body to Springfield	53
Major Edward S. Johnson Returns to Springfield at End of Civil War	54
1866	54
Joel Johnson Joins Second Presbyterian Church	54
Edward S. Johnson Advertises Building Materials.....	54
Joel Johnson Advertises Johnson's Block for Sale or Lease.....	55
1867	55
Gas Fixtures Advertised For Sale at Joel Johnson's New Building	55
Drs. Lord & Barrell Advertise Office in Johnson's Building.....	56
Joel Johnson Granted Permit to Run Hand Cart From Hotel to Depot.....	56
1867 Springfield Perspective Drawing by Albert Ruger.....	57
1868	58
Edward S. Johnson Takes Five Month European Tour.....	58
THE REVERE HOUSE YEARS (1869-1877).....	59
1869	59
Description of Joel Johnson's Revere House.....	59
Edward S. Johnson Marries Laura Clinton	60
1870	60
Joel Johnson Advertises Revere House	60
1871	60
Second Presbyterian Church Constructed at Fourth and Monroe Streets.....	60
Joel Johnson Advertises for Good Dining Room Girls at Revere House	61
Joel Johnson Advertises Revere House	61
Description of Joel Johnson's Revere House.....	61

1872		62
	Perspective Drawing of Springfield.....	62
1873		63
	Death of William D. Chenery.....	63
1876		64
	Description of Joel Johnson’s Revere House.....	64
	Attempt to Steal Lincoln Body and Reburial.....	64
1877		65
	Springfield Hotels	65
	Death and Funeral of Joel Johnson.....	66
	Joel Johnson Estate.....	67
	Elizabeth Johnson Sues Stepson Edward S. Johnson.....	68
AFTERWARDS (1878-1921)		70
1878		70
	The Revere House Operated by Edward S. Johnson.....	70
1880		72
	The Lincoln Guard of Honor Includes Edward S. Johnson.....	72
1883		72
	Ownership of Hotel Palace Changes	72
1884		72
	History of Ownership of City Hotel and Hotel Palace and Chenery House	72
	1884 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.....	73
1886		73
	Tax Purchaser Notice: Joel Johnson Property.....	73
1889		74
	Elizabeth Johnson Sues Stepson Edward S. Johnson.....	74
1890		74
	1890 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.....	74
1892		75
	Edward S. Johnson Entertains New Year’s at the Revere House.....	75
1893		75
	Edward S. Johnson Sells Revere House	75
1894		76
	Death of Elizabeth T. Johnson.....	76
1893-1895		76
	Edward S. Johnson in Chicago Managing Hotels	76
1896		76
	Edward S. Johnson Appointed Custodian of Lincoln Tomb.....	76
	Edward S. Johnson First to Live in Custodian’s House at Lincoln Tomb.....	77
	1896 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.....	77
1900-1901		78
	Edward S. Johnson Supervises Reconstruction of Lincoln Tomb.....	78
1901		78
	Edward S. Johnson and Wife Present at Interment of Abraham Lincoln in Concrete Vault	78
	Photograph of Revere House and Chenery House	78
	The Palace Hotel	79
1903		79
	Illinois Hotel Built 401 East Washington Street, Springfield, Illinois	79
	Edward S. Johnson Authors Leaflet <i>Abraham Lincoln and His Last Resting Place</i>	81
1912		82
	Death of John R. Campbell	82
1921		83
	Death of Edward Schrader Johnson.....	83
APPENDIX.....		84

Foreword

By Mike Kienzler

Thanks to the 30 years Abraham Lincoln spent there, historians have examined the past of Sangamon County, Illinois, in more detail than almost anywhere else in the U.S. Yet much more remains to be discovered, as Richard E. Hart keeps reminding us.

Joel Johnson: Springfield Hotel Keeper is the 37th installment in Hart's series of monographs on Sangamon County history. Although Johnson figures in few Lincoln biographies, the two men interacted on multiple occasions during their Springfield years. Joel Johnson several times employed Lincoln as a lawyer, and Johnson borrowed money from Lincoln at least once. He also was, briefly, the President-elect's landlord. Even after both men were dead, Joel Johnson's son Edward served as the caretaker of the Lincoln Tomb.

The Lincoln-Johnson relationship, however, is only a minor part of *Joel Johnson: Springfield Hotel Keeper*. Hart's research also reveals much about the growth of Springfield from a pioneer village to a comparatively cosmopolitan community – a statement that holds true for many of the other three dozen tracts in Hart's unique body of work.

By trade, Hart is a lawyer, a partner in the firm of Hart, Southworth and Witsman. His lifelong avocation, however, has been to preserve local history, as demonstrated by the list of achievements on his resume. Among them: Springfield Preservationist of the Year, 1999; Logan Hay Medal from the Abraham Lincoln Association, 2012; Illinois State Historical Society Lifetime Achievement Award, 2014; Springfield NAACP Legal and Political Award, 2015. It's hard to find a local historic preservation group where Hart hasn't played a major role.

In the field of written history, Hart's publications focus on two areas: Springfield during the Lincoln era (the Spring Creek Series) and the settlement of Ball and Cotton townships south of Springfield (the Sugar Creek Series). The addition of *Joel Johnson: Springfield Hotel Keeper* brings the Spring Creek Series to 26 books, on topics ranging from *Lincoln's Springfield Neighborhood* (2015), co-written with Bonnie Paull, to *Circuses in Early Springfield* (2013), and *Lincoln's Springfield: Letters of Springfield Ladies* (2020). In *Lincoln's Springfield: The Early African-American Population* (2008), Hart's digging determined the probable (and melancholy) identity of Springfield's first African-American resident: "Jack," a 5-year-old slave of the founding Kelley family.

The Sugar Creek Series encompasses another 11 tracts, mostly explorations of old family cemeteries in the two townships.

All of Hart's books focus on the research. Aside from brief explanations, his books consist mainly of contemporaneous documents – photos, maps, legal papers, newspaper clippings, etc. – which Hart lets tell their own stories.

The *Joel Johnson* paper trail shows the arrival of an ambitious shoe repairman to Springfield in 1833 and follows his subsequent careers as hotel owner, furniture dealer and real estate investor. The reader can see Springfield change via Johnson's newspaper advertisements. When his City Hotel opened in the 1840s, important features included nearby stables and cheap rates for people traveling by stagecoach. In the 1870s, by contrast, notices for Johnson's Revere House pointed out the hotel's proximity to two railroad depots.

Other slices of life also peek out of the newspaper pages. Johnson's hotels were the backdrop for club meetings, cotillions and entertainment of all sorts – a “bee palace,” a “Phrenologist and Mesmerizer” and a genius pig. When a young shoemaker slipped out of the City Hotel without paying six weeks' board, Johnson warned the public not to trust such “an unworthy scamp.”

And then there was the New York visitor who described the eating habits of City Hotel patrons in 1852: “(E)very man ... scrambled in and devoured what was before him, as if life, with all its blessings, depended on his despatching (*sic*) the repast in two minutes and three quarters.”

When Johnson died in 1877, the Illinois State Journal said, he “was the oldest landlord in Central Illinois and probably more widely known than any other now living.” Nearly 150 years later, Dick Hart's scholarship helps bring Joel Johnson, and the community he and Abraham Lincoln inhabited, back to life.

Mike Kienzler is founding editor of SangamonLink.org, the online encyclopedia of the Sangamon County Historical Society.

Introduction

Lincoln's Springfield was a very small town. Its population in 1840, three years after Lincoln arrived, was 2,579. Ten years later in 1850, the population had grown by 76% to 4,533. By 1860, Lincoln's final full year of residency, the population had grown to 9,320. It was this population and these people who nurtured Abraham Lincoln and his family. They as well as the Lincolns were first generation Springfieldians and together they comprised and created the environment where Abraham Lincoln matured and thrived.

These people were diverse in ethnicity, origin, age, skills, wealth and culture. Their ancestral origins were in western Europe and Africa. Within America, they came from the south, north and east, following common patterns of emigration. They, like Springfield, were young and on the make in a very small town at the edge of the American frontier.

One of those persons was Joel Johnson who came to Springfield in 1833 at age 27 from Berkshire County, Massachusetts, via Ohio and St. Louis. Joel arrived as a shoemaker, but soon became the operator of a small hotel on the west side of the Public Square. For the next 44 years, Joel operated Springfield hotels until his death at age 70 on May 4, 1877.

Four years after Joel's Springfield arrival, Abraham Lincoln arrived on April 15, 1837. Lincoln roomed above Joshua Speed's store, just half a block north of Joel's Springfield Hotel on the Public Square. In October of 1837, Abraham Lincoln acted as Joel's attorney in a debt collection matter. Their client and attorney relationship continued and additionally evolved into one of friendship that is evidenced by a number of events in the 24 years that followed.

In 1840, Joel moved from the Public Square to the northeast corner of Fourth and Washington streets where he built and operated a hotel that he named the City Hotel. In 1855, Joel sold the City Hotel to John W. Chenery who changed the name to Chenery House. It was there that the Lincoln family lived for a brief time in early 1861, after vacating their house at 8th and Jackson.

For the next eight months or so in 1855, Joel operated a furniture store in the Journal Building at the northeast corner of the Public Square. He then acquired property west and opposite of the Chenery House at Fourth and Washington streets and constructed a three-story brick building. Like Chenery, he named it after himself—Johnson's Building. Here he operated a hotel and leased first floor commercial space for the next 21 years.

Joel's short brush with history came in late December 1860 when newly elected President Lincoln moved his office from the State Capitol (now the Old State Capitol) to Number 4 of "Johnson's Building". It was there that Lincoln's secretary, John G. Nicolay, officed and lived and where Lincoln spent time and received callers. Indeed, Joel had become Springfield's grand hotelier.

Joel's son, Edward S. Johnson, grew up knowing Lincoln and attending school with his oldest son, Robert. Edward would succeed his father as a hotelier, but his first love was the military and Abraham Lincoln. Edward's first military experience was in the Springfield Grays, a company of young men organized in October 1859 by Ephraim E. Ellsworth, a law student in Lincoln's law office who later became the first Union officer to be killed in the Civil War.

Edward enlisted in the Union Army and served from July 25, 1861 to July 9, 1865, and was discharged with the rank of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel. He was a part of Sherman's army on its victorious march to the sea.

After the war, Edward returned to Springfield and stepped into his father's shoes, operating the Johnson's Building/Revere House. He also became involved with another military company that was organized in Springfield known as the Springfield Zouaves, a crack military organization well known for their fancy, colorful uniforms. Governor John M. Palmer named them his Governor's Guard and Edward was captain of his company and later President of the Guard's Veteran Corps.

Joel Johnson died on May 4, 1877, at age 70. His funeral was conducted by Father Hale at the Second Presbyterian Church, the abolitionist church, and he was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois. Edward Johnson continued to operate the Revere House for some time and then moved to Chicago for two years.

In 1895, Edward was appointed custodian of the Lincoln Tomb at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois. For the following 26 years, he oversaw the graves of his friends and early Springfieldians—the Lincoln family. He retained that position until his death at age 77, on February 15, 1921.

This is an overview of the lives of Joel Johnson and his son, Edward. They were an intricate part of Lincoln's Springfield and to know of their otherwise unremembered lives further expands our knowledge of Lincoln's Springfield environment.

Much of the information that I have found has been from newspaper searches that would have been difficult to find before the internet and its window on the world. I feel lucky, if not blessed, that I have lived during a time when this new-fangled research tool has been available.

However, there is no substitute for digging in the trenches of the materials in the Sangamon Valley Collection of Lincoln Library in Springfield, Illinois. Its librarian, Curtis Mann, has done so and provided me with a number of deeds and documents relating to the real estate transactions of Joel Johnson. I thank Curtis for his contribution to this story.

Finally, I thank James M. Cornelius for his proof reading the manuscript. His eyes are better than those of any eagle I know.

Richard E. Hart
December 5, 2020

**The Early Years Before Springfield
(1806-1832)**

1806

**Birth of Joel Johnson May 21, 1806
(1806-1877)**

Joel Johnson was born on May 21, 1806, in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. He was one of six children born to Abigail Carter Johnson and his father whose name is unknown. Joel's father died when he was five months old, and Joel's mother, Abigail, thereafter married James Gregory.

1811

Joel Johnson's Mother Leaves Him With Uncle

In 1811, when Joel was five years of age, his mother, Abigail, left him with an uncle. Joel would not see his mother again for twenty-one years.

1824

Joel Johnson's Mother Moves to Rochester, Illinois

James and Abigail Gregory had four children in New York, and in 1819 or 20, moved to Gallatin County, Illinois. From there they moved to Sangamon County, Illinois, arriving on December 31, 1824 in what is now Rochester Township.

1832

Joel Johnson Goes West to Visit Mother in Illinois

In 1832, Joel Johnson, age 26, left Massachusetts and visited an elder brother who lived in Salem, Ohio. From there, he traveled by steamboat down the Ohio River and up the Mississippi River to St. Louis. From there he travelled to Sangamon County, Illinois to visit his mother, arriving in July 1832.

Joel Johnson Stops in St. Louis Upon Return East

Joel was returning to his brother in Ohio when, upon reaching St. Louis, he discovered that he had only five dollars. That would pay for a deck passage on a steamboat, but he lacked a single dollar to buy food for the trip. He didn't continue his journey, but remained in St. Louis.

Joel Johnson Finds Work in St. Louis as Boot and Shoe Maker

For a short time, Joel found work in St. Louis at his trade -- boot and shoe maker. Unfortunately, after he had saved fourteen dollars, there was no further work for him.

Joel Johnson Moves to Edwardsville, Illinois

By this time Joel had abandoned the idea of returning to Ohio, in part due to what he had heard in favor of Illinois. With his fourteen dollars, he procured leather and other materials, and left for Edwardsville, Illinois. There he opened a shop and went to work making boots and shoes.

The Early Springfield Years (1833-1839)

1833

Joel Johnson Moves to Springfield, Illinois

In April 1833, 27-year-old Joel Johnson left Edwardsville and moved to Springfield, Illinois. He traveled with 19-year-old Alexander B. Irwin, who was hauling goods from St. Louis to Springfield. Irwin charged Joel fifty cents for the trip. In Springfield, Joel continued in the boot and shoe making business.⁴

Joel Johnson Advertises New Boot and Shoe Shop

By October 1833, Joel Johnson had opened a boot and shoe shop near Springfield's Public Square. He advertised his shop in Springfield's *Journal* newspaper and added that he needed three journeymen who were good workers.

BOOT and SHOE SHOP.
J. JOHNSON,
HAS removed to his new shop, near the public square, and opposite to Mr. J. F. Rague's Bakery, where he would thankfully receive orders for work. He has on hand and will continue to keep, a good assortment of
Eastern tann'd Leather and Skins,
and is determined to make them up in a style of strength and neatness that shall not fail to please. He has on hand a good assortment of Boots, Shoes, Pumps, &c. which he will sell on good terms.— Also, a small lot of India Rubber shoes—a new article in this market.
[] Wanted immediately, three Journeymen, who are good workmen. They will find steady employment and good wages.
Springfield, Oct. 18, 1833. 2

Journal, October 26, 1833.

BOOTS and SHOES,---J. JOHNSON, at his new shop, opposite Mr. Rague's Bakery, has just received a supply of *Boots, Shoes, Pumps, &c.* which he will sell on as good terms as can be bought in Springfield. He has also received a small lot of Ladies' India rubber shoes, lined with kid, a new and excellent article. He continues to manufacture Boots and Shoes of the best materials, and in a style which cannot fail to please. He solicits orders for work.
[] Wanted immediately, three Journeymen, who are good workmen. They will find steady employment and good wages.
Springfield, Nov. 6, 1833. 5

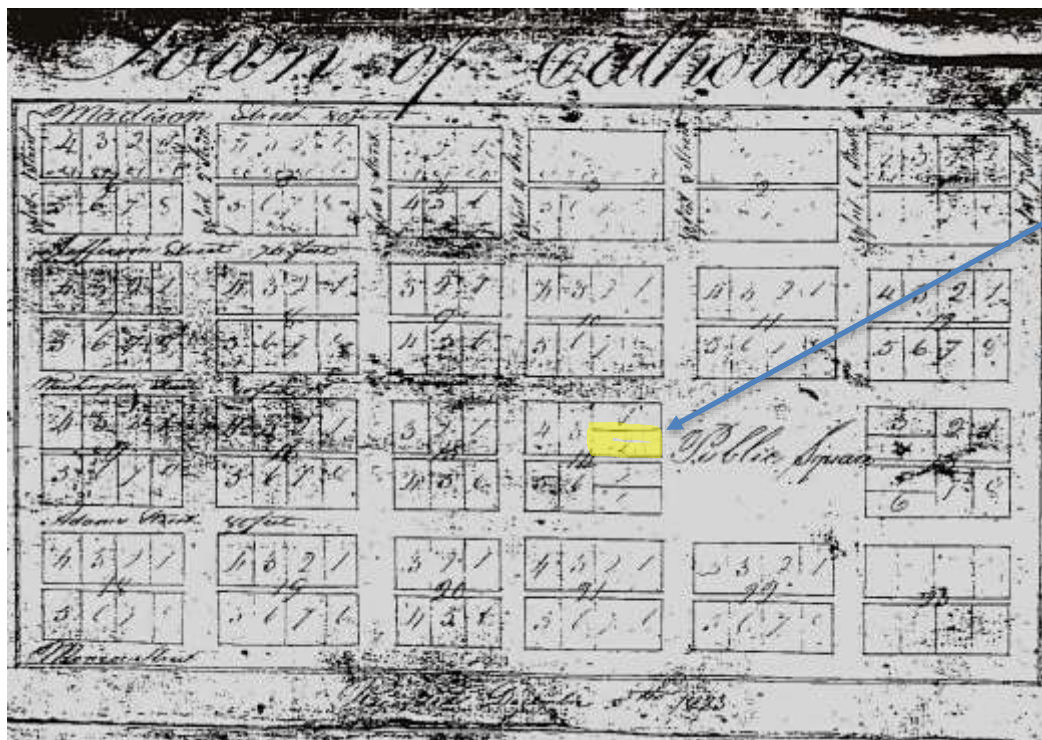
Journal, December 28, 1833.

⁴ Samuel L. Irwin was born on June 6 1779 in Cabarras County, North Carolina. He married Rachel Hudson on September 23, 1802, and they had ten children born in North Carolina. In the fall of 1818, the family moved to Tennessee, and then to what became Sangamon County Illinois, arriving on April 20, 1820. Of their fifteen children, Alexander B. Irwin was born on February 7, 1814 in Cabarras County, North Carolina. On October 18, 1838, he married in Sangamon County to Cynthia Broadwell. They had four children. Cynthia died on August 10, 1847, and Alexander married on February 28, 1855 to Mrs. Jane S. Seaman whose maiden name was Broadwell. They had four children and resided in Cartwright Township two miles east of Pleasant Plains. Alexander served a number of years as a Justice of the Peace and also as a member of the Board of Supervisors of Sangamon County. *Journal*, October 30, 1852, p. 3, cl. 2. John Carroll Power and S. A. Power, *History of the Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois*, Springfield, Illinois, Edwin A. Wilson, 1876, pp. 412-13. (Hereafter referred to as *Power*.)

The first thing that struck me as remarkable was the honesty of the people. Joel Johnson had a shoe shop west of the Enterprise building with an old-fashioned bow window and one pane of glass gone, so that one could have helped himself to boots and shoes, as the window was full of them. The glass was not replaced until cool weather in the fall. It was years after I located there before I heard of a robbery."

Possible Location of Shoe Shop

Johnson leased two different sections of lot 7 in Block 10 of the Old Town Plat from the heirs of James Latham for a period of five years. One lot began 16 feet west of the southeast corner of the lot and was 30 feet by 34 feet. The second lot was located just west of the first lot and was 30 feet by 30 feet. Johnson paid a rent of 10 dollars a year for the bigger lot and \$7.50 for the smaller lot. He was also given the right to remove all buildings that he might erect on the lots at the end of the lease.



1834

Joel Johnson Marries Elizabeth “Eliza” Newman

In February 1834, at Carlinville, Illinois, Joel Johnson, age 28, married Elizabeth “Eliza” Newman, age 19, who was born in 1815 in Madison County, Illinois. Their children were: Charles H. Johnson (1839–1860); Edward Shrader Johnson (1843–1921); and John W. Johnson (1846–1861).

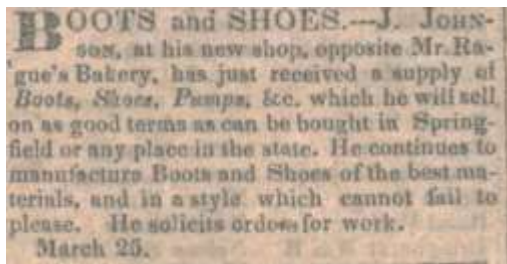
Joel Johnson Borrows \$184 and Uses Leased Lots as Collateral

Johnson used the leased property as collateral to secure a loan of \$184 from the firm of Wood and Abbott of St. Louis on July 7, 1834.⁵

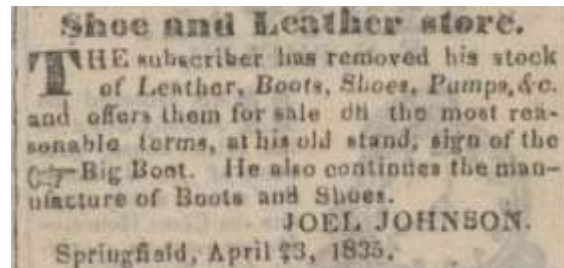
1835

Joel Johnson Advertises Boot and Shoe Shop

In early 1835, Joel Johnson again advertised his boot and shoe shop as a “new shop, opposite Mr. Rague’s bakery.” His shop could be identified by the large sign, a Big Boot.



Journal, January 3, 1835.



Journal, May 2, 1835.



Journal, September 26, 1835.

⁵ Sangamon County Deed Book G, pp. 396-397, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois. Provided by Curtis Mann, Librarian.

1836

Joel Johnson Requests Payment of Accounts Due

In January 1836, Joel placed an advertisement in the *Journal* requesting that all of those who owed him money pay up as he was “much in want of Cash.” A second advertisement in April threatened those who owed him money with placing them in the hands of those whose “tender mercies are sometimes termed cruelties.”

NOTICE.
THE subscriber respectfully requests those whose notes and accounts are due, to come forward and settle the same by the first of February next, as he is much in want of Cash.
Jan: 12, 1836, J. JOHNSON.

Journal, January 16, 1836.

TAKE NOTICE.
I WANT money, and must have it. Those indebted therefore, are informed that unless they settle their accounts before the first day of May next, shall place them in the hands of those whose tender mercies are sometimes termed cruelties.
April 2, J. JOHNSON.

Journal, April 9, 1836.

Joel Johnson Sells Part of Lot to William Florville

On February 23, 1836, Joel Johnson sold the east 20 feet of lot 5 in block 5 OTP to William Florville for \$275.⁶ Florville must have built a new barbershop there because a little over a year later on March 11, 1837, he sold the partial lot to Levi Nave for \$1,500.⁷ Nave sold the partial lot back to Johnson. on January 24, 1852 for \$1,000.⁸

William Florville Moves to Building West of Mr. Rague's Bake Shop

BARBER'S NOTICE.
THE subscriber has removed his tonsorial establishment, to the new building (put up the last winter) one door west of Mr. Rague's Bake Shop where he will be happy to take by the nose all his old customers as well as all new ones who may wish to do themselves the high honor of placing the projecting portion of their phiz between his thumb and finger. He takes this occasion to relieve the public mind from their anxiety in regard to his political predilections in the coming election; though he must say that he is somewhat surprised that there should be any necessity for doing so. He then frankly says he is not a *White* man, though he is inclining that way; neither is he a Van Buren man, though he goes in for the "spoils." (Of this last item those indebted will please to take notice.) He hopes this explicit confession of his political faith will be satisfactory to the public.
WM. FLEURVILLE.
March 25, 1836. 39

Journal, April 2, 1836.⁹

ABODE OF FASHION.
DOCTORS Gall and Spurzins have concluded that genius, taste, the passions, and all that belong to the intellectual powers of man, rest upon the formation of the cranium; this may be true, but with how much more truth can it be said that the beauty of the human face divine depends upon that great feature of the countenance, the Hair?
And science teaches when to cut or spare, Shaping each lock in beauty to a Hair,
So as to hide as much as possible all deformities of the head, and at the same time give a full and fair expression to the countenance. Monsieur FLEURVILLE (while he performs operations on the face that make it smooth as the cheek of a Venus) will render any gentleman's head with a shape, a complexion and contour altogether suited to his quality which for ease and grace of appearance, and a certain indefinable air of fashion, will make the wearer as one familiar with the luxuries and refinements of the first circles.
Mons. Fleurville begs most respectfully to be permitted to intimate to his friends that he is now particularly distressed for Agents, and he begs that in their great complacency they will not permit themselves respectful invitations to be entirely fruitless.
Mons. Fleurville will be found in either shop at his new establishment, one door west of Mr. Dirkey's Bakery.
August 27, 1836. 40

Journal, August 27, 1836.¹⁰

⁶ Sangamon County Deed Book I, p. 304, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois. Provided by Curtis Mann, Librarian. Copies of the page may be seen in the Appendix.

⁷ Sangamon County Deed Book K, p. 415, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois. Provided by Curtis Mann, Librarian. Copies of the page may be seen in the Appendix.

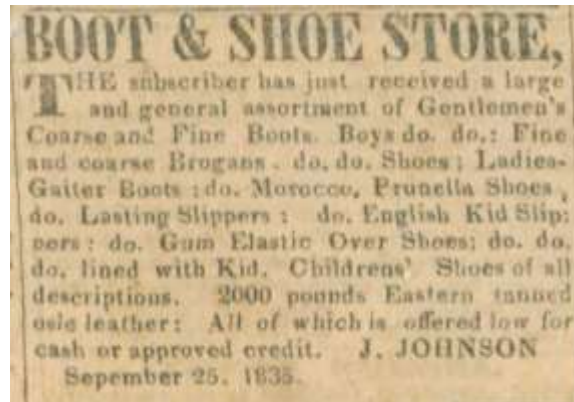
⁸ Sangamon County Deed Book HH, p. 614, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois. Provided by Curtis Mann, Librarian. Copies of the page may be seen in the Appendix.

⁹ *Journal*, April 2, 1836, p. 1.

¹⁰ *Journal*, August 27, 1836, p. 2.

Joel Johnson Advertises Boot and Shoe Store

A *Journal* newspaper advertisement dated September 25, 1835, but published on June 25, 1836, is the last newspaper advertising for Joel Johnson's boot and shoe store. His supply of sole leather had been reduced from 10,000 pounds in September 1835 to 2,000 in June 1836.

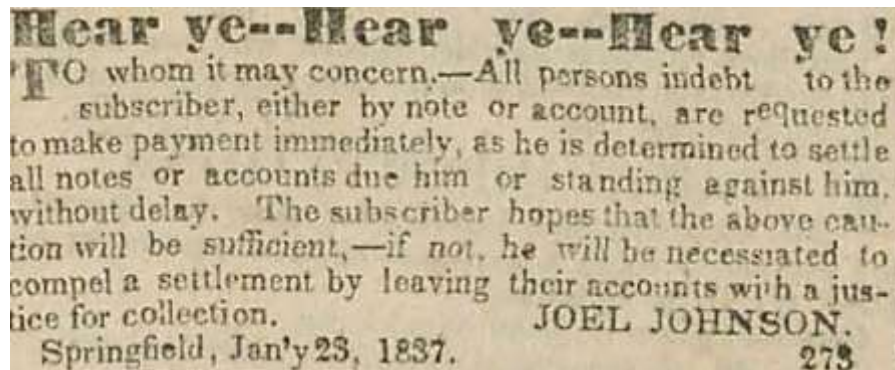


Journal, June 25, 1836.

1837

Joel Johnson Requests Payment of Accounts Due Him

On January 23, 1837, Joel Johnson placed an advertisement in the *Journal* newspaper requesting that all of those who owed him money pay up. He had ceased his boot and shoe store business and was attempting to settle up all accounts. He was about to enter his new career as a Springfield hotel keeper.



Journal, January 28, 1837.

The Springfield Hotel Years (1837-1839)

1837

Joel Johnson's First Advertisement For His Springfield Hotel on the Square

Joel Johnson's first advertisement for his Springfield Hotel was included in the *Journal* of January 28, 1837. The hotel was on Fifth Street, directly across from the west side of Sangamon County Court House that then stood in the square now occupied by the Old State Capitol. Later in the year, Joel would have the perfect location to watch the destruction of the Sangamon County Court House and the construction of the Old State Capitol. The hotel had previously been kept by J. Whitney. At age 31, Joel began his life as a Springfield hotelier with beds, food and stables for the visitors to Springfield.



Journal, January 28, 1837.

Abraham Lincoln Comes to Springfield

Abraham Lincoln was 28 years old when he came to Springfield on April 15, 1837. He roomed above Joshua Speed's store at the southwest corner of Fifth and Washington and about one-half block north of Joel Johnson's Springfield Hotel on the west side of the Public Square. Joel was age 31, about 3 years older than Lincoln.

Joel Johnson Advertises Seven Tenements For Rent



Journal, February 24, 1838.

**Abraham Lincoln Represents Joel Johnson
Monday, October 9, 1837**

Within six months of Abraham Lincoln moving to Springfield, he had acted as Joel Johnson's attorney. Stuart & Lincoln had three cases called on the first day of the 1837 fall term of the Sangamon County Circuit Court. In *Whitney v. Johnson*, they represented the defendant Joel Johnson who gave Whitney three promissory notes but failed to pay. Whitney sued Johnson to recover the debt. Johnson confessed his indebtedness of \$250 owed to the plaintiff and agreed to a judgment against himself. The court ruled for Whitney and awarded him a judgment of \$250 against Johnson. The note must have represented some or all of the purchase price Johnson owed Whitney for the hotel.

**Abraham Lincoln Represents Joel Johnson
Tuesday, November 7, 1837**

In November 1837, Abraham Lincoln again represented Joel Johnson in a forcible detainer case, *Johnson v. Gray* before justice of the peace Benjamin S. Clement. Lincoln took a \$6 fee in board at Johnson's hotel.¹¹

1838

Joel Johnson Advertises Seven Tenements For Rent



Journal, February 24, 1838.

**Joel Johnson Signs Note to Facilitate Financing of
Move of Capital to Springfield
March 22, 1838**

Joel Johnson was one of the one hundred and one who signed a promissory note in order to bring the Illinois State Capitol to Springfield. It was thought by many to be unreasonable to require a little town of eleven hundred inhabitants, struggling with the disadvantages of a new country, to pay the \$50,000 pledged. Arrangements were entered into for paying it in three instalments. The two first payments were made without any great difficulty; but the third pressed more heavily, as the financial crash that swept over the whole United States, while the new State house was in course of construction, impoverished many.

¹¹ Stuart & Lincoln fee book. . <http://www.thelincolnlog.org>

Under these circumstances, it became necessary to borrow the money to make the last payment, from the State Bank of Illinois. A note for the amount was signed by one hundred and one citizens, and deposited with the bank, the money drawn, with which internal improvement scrip or stock was purchased and paid into the State treasury, thus paying the last instalment in the State's own evidence of indebtedness. From that time, it was a matter between the State Bank and the citizens who signed the note. Soon after the note was given, the State Bank failed, and some of the payments were made in the depreciated paper of the bank, for which it had received par value when it was paid out.¹²

1839

Joel Johnson Purchases the Indian Queen Hotel at the Northeast Corner of Second and Jefferson Streets

On March 30, 1839, Joel Johnson purchased lot 5 and the west 35 feet of lot 6 in Block 5 of the OTP from Lewis Keeling for \$4,000.¹³ These lots are located at the northeast corner of Second and Jefferson streets. The Indian Queen Hotel was once located on this site and was operated by Archer G. Herndon. Herndon sold the site to land speculator Nathaniel Ware in 1833. Ware sold it to Keeling in 1838 and Keeling sold it to Johnson the next year.¹⁴

¹² Illinois State Archives, Springfield, Illinois.

https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/online_exhibits/100_documents/1837-perm-capital-spfld.html

Power, pp. 47-49. \$16,666.67. SPRINGFIELD, March 22, 1838. One year after date, we, the undersigned, or either of us, promise to pay to the President, Directors and Company of the State Bank of Illinois, sixteen thousand, six hundred and sixty-six dollars and sixty-seven cents, for value received, negotiable and payable at the bank, in Springfield, with interest until paid, at the rate of six per centum per annum, payable semi-annually.

John Hay, Thomas Mather, C. R. Matheny, L. Higby, Tho. Houghan, William Butler, Joseph Thayer, D. Prickett, P. C. Canedey, William Thornton, J. Calhoun, Jos. Klein, M. O. Reeves, Josiah Francis, P. C. Latham, W. P. Grimsley, Washington Iles, A. G. Henry, William Wallace, Joel Johnson, Ninian W. Edwards, John B. Watson, C. B. Francis, John T. Stuart, C. H. Ormsby, Wm. S. Burch, Jonas Whitney, Moses Colman, Geo. Pasfield, B. C. Webster, S. M. Tinsley, Ephraim Darling, Jon. Merriam, Ira Sanford, Charles Arnold, John L. Turner, Joshua F. Amos, Sullivan Conant, And. McClellan, Alexander Shields, A. Traylor, C. C. Phelps, R. B. Zimmerman, William Hall, James L. Lamb, M. L. Knapp, J. M. Shackelford, B. Ferguson, Benjamin Talbott, Jesse Cormack, B. C. Johnson, Thomas Moffatt, John F. Rague, Simeon Francis, Nathaniel Hay, Robert Irwin, Virgil Hickox, George Trotter, Stephen T. Logan, Robert Allen, James R. Gray, J. Adams, J. S. Britton, W. B. Powell, F. C. Thompson, E. M. Henkle, James W. Keyes, Wm. Porter, Wm. H. Marsh, W. Ransdell, Joshua S. Hobbs, John G. Bergen, B. S. Clement, Erastus Wright, John Todd, E. D. Baker, A. Lincoln, Garrett Elkin, John Capps, Alexr. Garrett, Gershom Jayne, T. M. Neale, William G. Abrams, Dewey Whitney, M. Mobley, Foley Vaughn, Abner Y. Ellis, N. A. Rankin, S. H. Treat, Elijah Iles, Henry F. Lockett, James P. Langford, Henry Cassequin, J. M. Cabaniss, James Maxcy, Z. P. Cabaniss, E. G. Johns, Amos Camp, Thos. J. Goforth, Benj. F. Jewett, W. M. Cowell. From a totaling up of the principal and interest, the final settlement appears to have been made on February 19, 1846. The principal and interest to that time was \$17,918.

¹³ Sangamon County Deed Book O, p. 86, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois. Provided by Curtis Mann, Librarian. Copies of the page may be seen in the Appendix.

¹⁴ *Indian Queen Hotel* Posted on SangamonLinnk on October 22, 2013 by editor Mike Kienzler,

<https://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=1958>

A few Springfield and Sangamon County histories mention a once-famed hostelry, now generally forgotten — the Indian Queen Hotel. Owned and operated by Archer Herndon Sr., Sr., the Indian Queen was one of the city's best accommodations in the early 1830s. In most cases the Indian Queen is referred to as a tavern, then the common name for an establishment selling food and drink, providing beds and stabling horses. The Indian Queen's beginnings date back to the founding of Springfield. Elijah Slator was given a license by the county to keep a tavern in the town of Springfield in 1822. Slator's tavern was on the northeast corner of present-day Second and Jefferson streets, the town's business center at the time. Gershom Jayne, Slator's son-in-law, sold the tavern property to Herndon on Oct. 1, 1828 for \$600. In his reminiscence of early Springfield, John Todd Stuart described the

“The deed of the sale to Johnson references this property as having the Old Tavern on the premises. I think this is the property owned by Johnson noted on page 23 as the site mistakenly associated with cholera. I found an article about the Old Tavern property being destroyed in an October 1853 fire.”¹⁵

Joel Johnson Advertises Springfield Hotel on Fifth Street

This is the first advertisement that says that the Springfield Hotel is directly west of the “State House.” Prior ads referred to it as being west of the Court House.



Journal, April 26, 1839.



Journal, December 31, 1839.

northeast corner of Second and Jefferson as being occupied by a small log house, used by Herndon as a store and dwelling. Herndon received his license to keep a tavern in September 1829 after paying a tax of \$6. The county established rates for the sale of alcohol, food, rooms and stabling. Brandy and whiskey could be purchased for 12½ cents a half-pint while “good quality” wine was 25 cents. Meals cost 25 cents as well, while lodgers paid 12½ cents per night to bed down. Little is known of Herndon’s operation. But one account, left by a traveling Englishman, does shed some light on the hotel. In his book *Three Years in North America*, James Stuart describes his brief stopover in Springfield. “Springfield is a struggling village, somewhat larger than Jacksonville, but the situation is not at all equal to it in point of beauty or interest. The hotel was nearly as bad as that at Jacksonville. (Herndon) was the name of the landlord. It was difficult to say whether he, his wife, or his daughter was the sauciest. They certainly were as rude and untutored as I have seen.”

Herndon nearly lost the Indian Queen in September 1832, when the Sangamon County Circuit Court ordered the hotel sold to pay for debts he owed. He managed to redeem the property, but a year later, Herndon sold the Indian Queen, along with some other city property, to land speculator Nathaniel Ware for \$7,500. It is not known if the property was ever used as a tavern again.

The deed of the sale to Johnson references this property as having the Old Tavern on the premises. I think this is the property owned by Johnson noted on page 23 as the site mistakenly associated with cholera.

I found an article about the Old Tavern property being destroyed in an October 1853 fire.

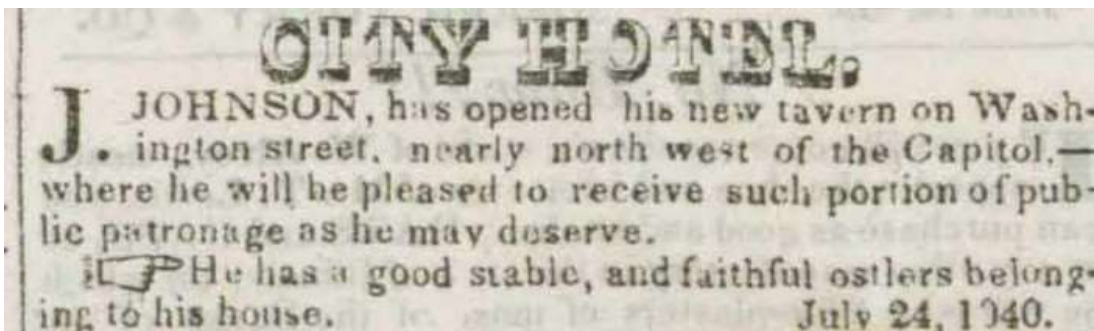
¹⁵ Provided by Curtis Mann.

The City Hotel Years (1840-1855)

1840

Joel Johnson Opens City Hotel at Washington and Fourth Streets

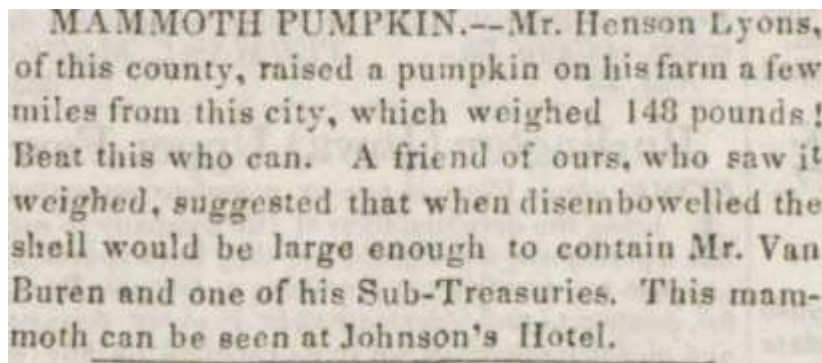
This *Journal* newspaper advertisement dated July 24, 1840 is the first newspaper appearance of Joel Johnson's City Hotel at the northeast corner of Fourth and Washington streets. Joel had moved from the Public Square to his "new tavern." The importance of a good stable as an adjunct to the Hotel is noted by reference to "faithful ostlers belonging to his house."



Journal, September 4, 1840.

Large Pumpkin Displayed at Johnson's City Hotel

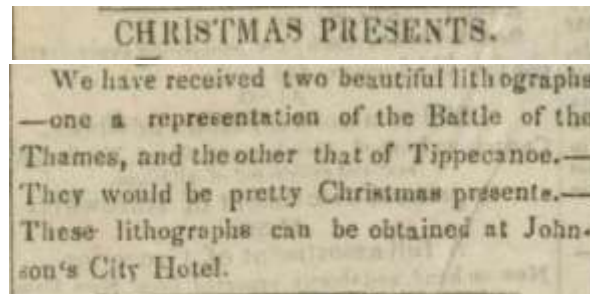
In the fall of 1840, a pumpkin weighing 148 pounds was on display at Johnson's Hotel.



Journal, October 16, 1840.

Lithographs at Johnson's City Hotel

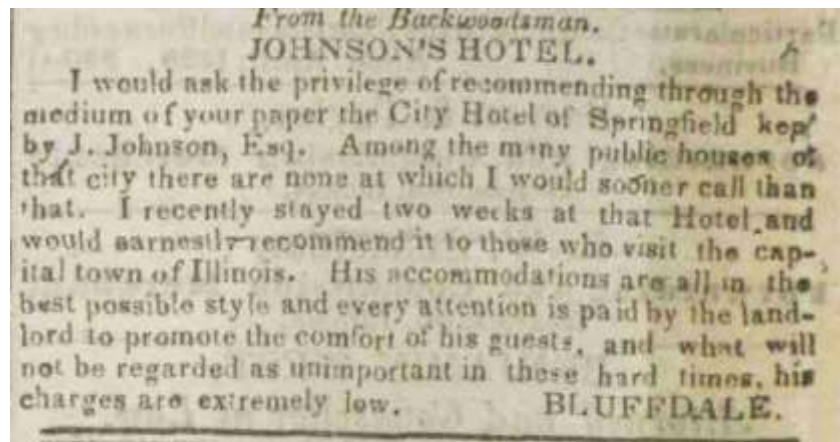
On December 25, 1840, Joel Johnson advertised lithographs, one of the Battle of Thames and one of Tippecanoe, on sale as Christmas presents at Johnson's City Hotel.



Journal, December 25, 1840.

1841

Backwoodsman Pleased with Johnson's City Hotel



Journal, August 6, 1841.

1842

Joel Johnson Improves City Hotel and Gives Rates

In 1841-1842, Joel Johnson built a large addition to the City Hotel. In January 1842, advertised the terms for borders per week, per day and horse keeping per day.

CITY HOTEL,
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS,
Washington st., N. W. corner of the square.

THIS old stand has been so improved by building a large addition to it, that the proprietor is now able to accommodate citizens and strangers as well as any other house in the vicinity, and on as reasonable terms and no pains will be spared in trying to make comfortable all that may favor him with a call. He hopes by strict attention to his business to receive a share of public patronage.

There is a good stable connected with the House.

TERMS.

Regular boarders per week with lodging	\$3 00
do do do without lodging	2 50
Transient do per day	10 0
do do per meal in all cases	25
Horse keeping per day	50

— Gentlemen and ladies' parlors and rooms for society and club meetings can be furnished at all times.

J. JOHNSON.

Jan. 1842. 546v1

Journal, May 20, 1842.

Joel Johnson Advertises New Additions to City Hotel


On November 1st and 25th, 1842, Joel Johnson placed advertisements for his City Hotel with new additions offering furnished pleasant rooms to families and individuals who wish to remain at the seat of government during the winter. Members of the Legislature were invited to call and examine the accommodations.

CITY HOTEL.

THE subscriber has made such additions to his establishment, that he is now enabled to furnish pleasant rooms to families and individuals who wish to remain at the seat of government during the winter. Members of the Legislature are invited to call and examine his accommodations. There is a good stable connected with the house. Nov 1 J. JOHNSON

Journal, December 2, 1842.

CITY HOTEL.

 **T**HE subscriber has made such additions to his establishment, that he is now enabled to furnish pleasant rooms to families and individuals who wish to remain at the seat of government during the winter. Members of the Legislature are invited to call and examine his accommodations. There is a good stable on the premises. **JOEL JOHNSON.** Springfield, Nov. 25, 1842.

Journal, January 18, 1843.

1843

Birth of Edward Schrader Johnson

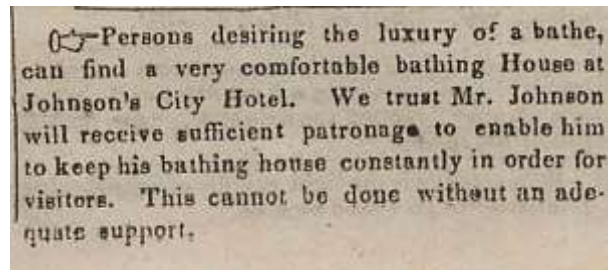
(1843-1921)

On August 9, 1843 in Springfield, Illinois, Joel and Eliza Johnson had a son born to them. He was named Edward Schrader Johnson. Edward attended Springfield schools, and grew up with and was a classmate of Robert Lincoln, Mary and Abraham's oldest son.

1844

Bathing House at Johnson's City Hotel

On April 25, 1844, Joel Johnson advertised a bathing House at his City Hotel. He hoped that he would receive the necessary patronage to enable him to keep the House constantly in order for visitors.



Persons desiring the luxury of a bathe, can find a very comfortable bathing House at Johnson's City Hotel. We trust Mr. Johnson will receive sufficient patronage to enable him to keep his bathing house constantly in order for visitors. This cannot be done without an adequate support.

Journal, April 25, 1844.

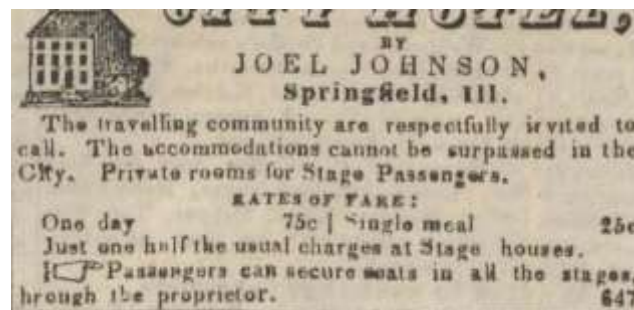
William Flourvile Moves Two Doors East From Johnson's City Hotel


Barber shop Removed.
WILLIAM FLOURVILE has removed his shop to the room adjoining the Mayor's office, and two doors east of Johnson's Hotel, where he invites the public to give him a call. He is too well known as a Barber to add any thing further, than to return thanks to the citizens of Springfield for their many favors.
May 10, 1844.

Journal, May 23, 1844.

Rates at Johnson's City Hotel

On June 20, 1844, Joel Johnson placed an advertisement for his City Hotel in the *Journal* newspaper. He states the rates for one day and a single meal at the Hotel. There were also private rooms for Stage Passengers who could secure seats in all the stages through Johnson.



BY
JOEL JOHNSON,
Springfield, Ill.

The travelling community are respectfully invited to call. The accommodations cannot be surpassed in the City. Private rooms for Stage Passengers.

RATES OF FARE:
One day 75c | Single meal 25c
Just one half the usual charges at Stage houses.

Passengers can secure seats in all the stages, through the proprietor.

Journal, June 20, 1844.

1845

Rates at Johnson's City Hotel

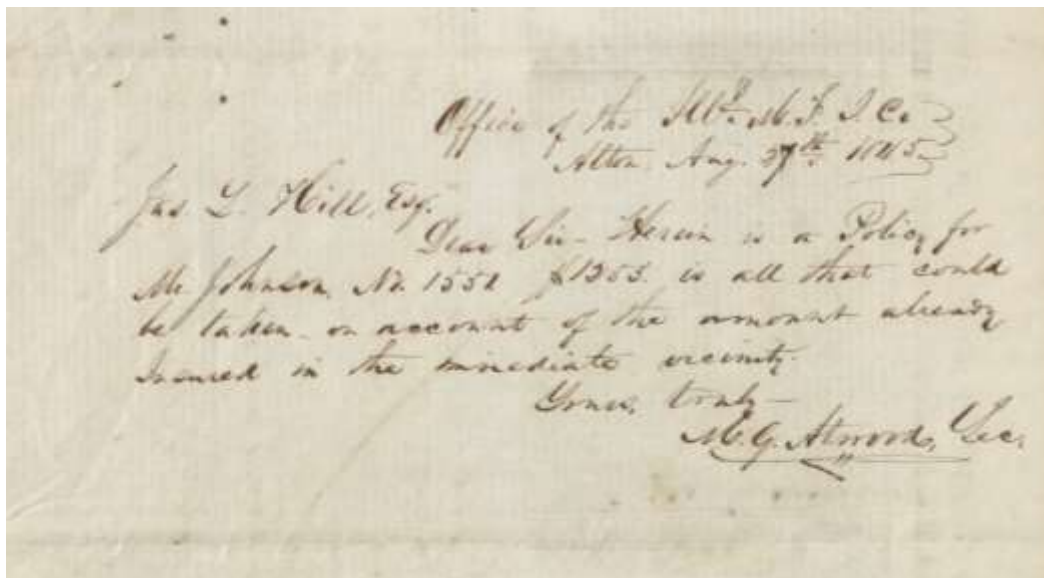
Again, on October 16, 1845, Joel Johnson placed an advertisement for his City Hotel in the *Journal* newspaper. He stated the Hotel rates for one day and a single meal. There were private rooms for Stage Passengers who could secure seats in all the stages through Johnson.



Journal, October 16, 1845.

Joel Johnson Insurance on His Residence

The image below is a letter rejecting Joel Johnson's application for insurance on his Springfield property.¹⁶



¹⁶ Illinois Regional Archives Depository, Brookens Library, University of Illinois Springfield, Springfield, Illinois.

1846

Joel Johnson Advertises City Hotel – Temperance House

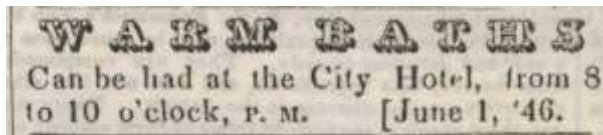
Temperance, according to the dictionary, means restraint in the use of, or abstinence from, alcoholic liquors. In this case, it would be safe to say it was total abstinence.



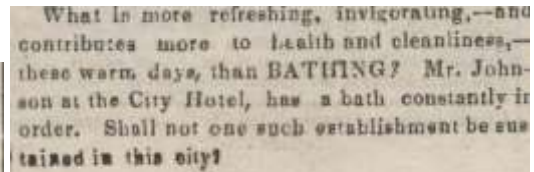
Journal, November 5, 1846.

Warm Baths at Johnson's City Hotel

On June 11 and July 16, 1846, Joel Johnson advertised a bathing House at his City Hotel.



Journal, June 11, 1846.



Journal, July 16, 1846.

1847

Joel Johnson's City Hotel Burns

On January 28, 1847, Joel Johnson's City Hotel burned.

FIRE!—This calamity which our city has long escaped, befel us on Sunday morning last.—The stable, attached to the City Hotel, was found on fire, about 3 o'clock A. M., and before the fire was arrested, consumed the City Hotel, owned by J. Johnson: the three story brick building, with a full stock of groceries, &c., belonging to B. F. Jewett: the two story framed dwelling, belonging to Mr. Levison: a one-story house, belonging to Mr. L. Higbee,—the Mayor's office, and Wm. Flourville's Barber's shop,—also, stable belonging to A. G. Herndon, estimated at \$250:—in all, some 18,000 dollars worth of property. Mr. Johnson was insured on his personal property: and Mr. Jewett on his building 4,500. Sixteen horses and some cows, were burnt in the stables of the City Hotel.—

Mr. JOHNSON, of the late City Hotel: Mrs. AITKEN, Milliner and Mantuamaker; Mr. JEWETT, merchant, and "BILLY," the barber,—who were burnt out on Sunday night, will immediately resume business, and it is hoped that their friends will not forget them.

Journal, January 28, 1847.

Abraham Lincoln Loans Joel Johnson \$10

On Friday, April 30, 1847, Abraham Lincoln withdrew \$10 from his bank account and loaned it Joel Johnson.¹⁷

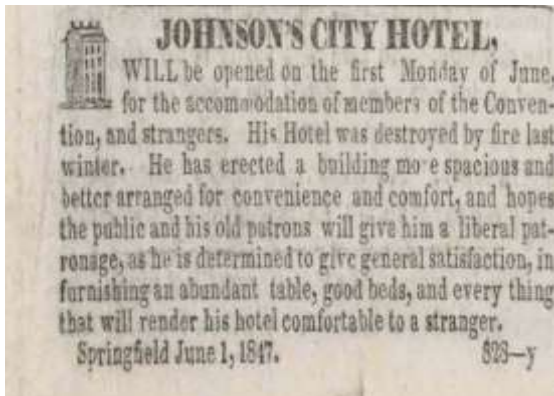
Joel Johnson Erects New Building for City Hotel

"RICHARD IS HIMSELF AGAIN!"
Mr. J. Johnson, keeper of the City Hotel, which was burnt last winter, has already erected another building, far superior to the old one destroyed, and which, with good fortune, and his usual energy, will be ready for occupation in a few days.—Indeed, a part of it—the dining room and kitchen—will be so far completed as to be occupied the present week. He has attached to the new building quite a number of rooms, which will enable him to furnish accommodations, immediately, for a large number of boarders. The energy exhibited by Mr. Johnson in the erection and completion of the new tavern, is worthy of all praise.

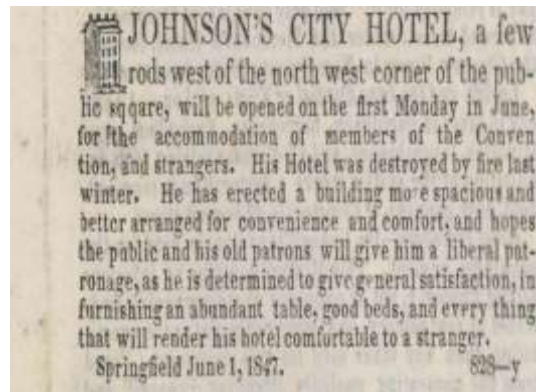
Journal, June 3, 1847.

¹⁷ Irwin Ledger. <http://www.thelincolnlog.org/Results.aspx?type=CalendarDay&day=1847-04-30&r=L0NhbGVuZGFyWWVhci5hc3B4P3I1YXl9MTg0NyZyPUwwTmhiR1ZlWkdGeUxtRnpjSGc9>

Joel Johnson Opens New Building for City Hotel For Convention Attendees

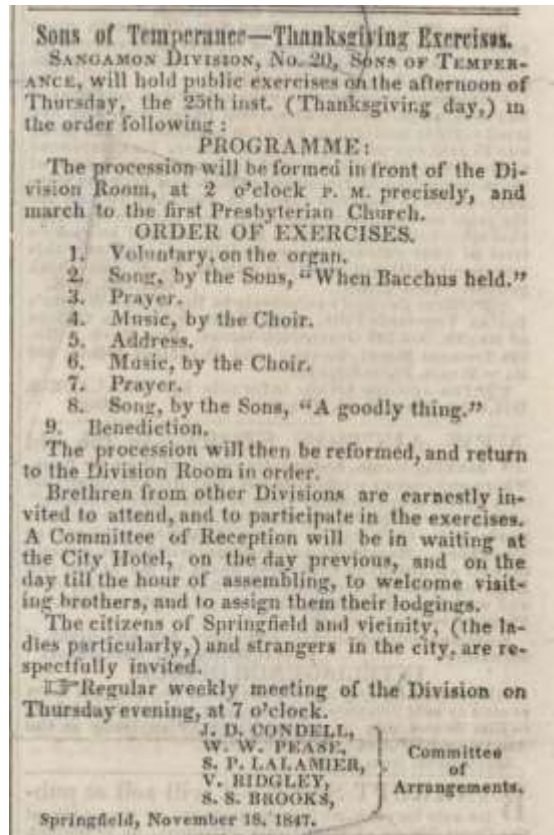


Journal, June 15, 1847.



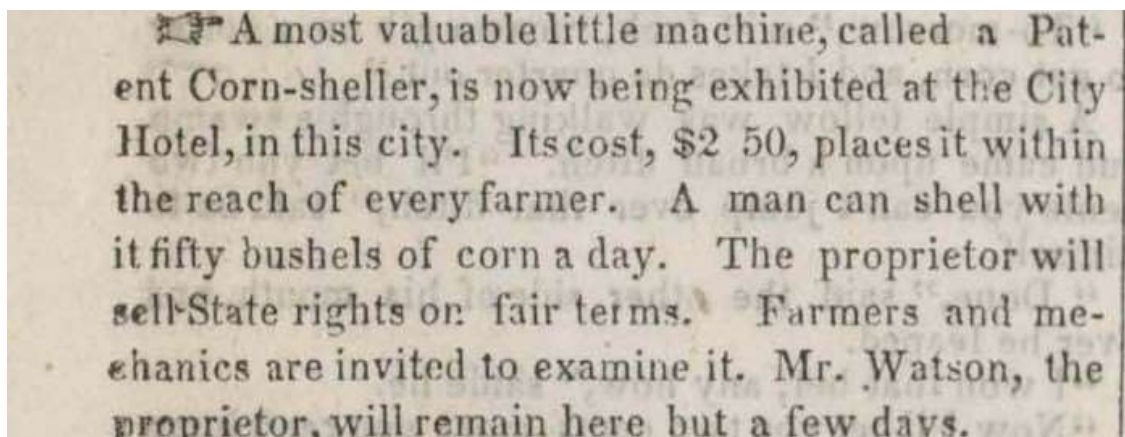
Journal, September 23, 1847.

Son of Temperance Thanksgiving Celebration Held at City Hotel



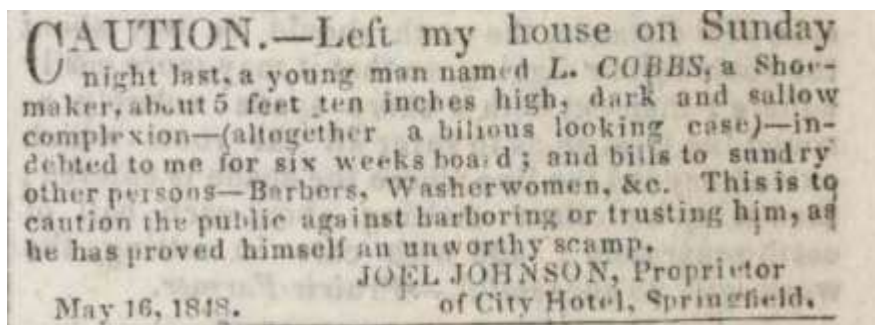
Journal, November 25, 1847.

1848

Corn-sheller Exhibited at City Hotel


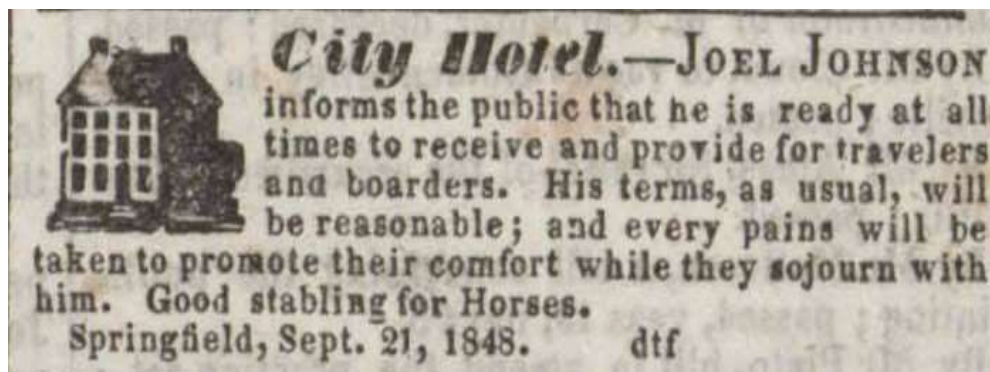
A most valuable little machine, called a Patent Corn-sheller, is now being exhibited at the City Hotel, in this city. Its cost, \$2 50, places it within the reach of every farmer. A man can shell with it fifty bushels of corn a day. The proprietor will sell State rights on fair terms. Farmers and mechanics are invited to examine it. Mr. Watson, the proprietor, will remain here but a few days.

Journal, January 13, 1848.

Joel Johnson's Loss From Tenant "An Unworthy Scamp"


CAUTION.—Left my house on Sunday night last, a young man named L. COBBS, a Shoemaker, about 5 feet ten inches high, dark and sallow complexion—(altogether a bilious looking case)—indebted to me for six weeks board; and bills to sundry other persons—Barbers, Washerwomen, &c. This is to caution the public against harboring or trusting him, as he has proved himself an unworthy scamp.
JOEL JOHNSON, Proprietor
of City Hotel, Springfield.
May 16, 1848.

Journal, May 18, 1848.

Joel Johnson Advertises City Hotel


City Hotel.—JOEL JOHNSON informs the public that he is ready at all times to receive and provide for travelers and boarders. His terms, as usual, will be reasonable; and every pains will be taken to promote their comfort while they sojourn with him. Good stabling for Horses.
Springfield, Sept. 21, 1848. dtf

Journal, Saturday, November 11, 1848.

1849

City Hotel Register: December 30, 1848-January 1, 1849

CITY HOTEL.—Dec. 30.—Potters; A Patterson, Oquayka; E H N Patterson do.; J Denny, Knoxville; J Snider, Canton; A Leech, Pittsburg; P Barkey; Judge Makley; A C Harding; Wm Kelley, Canton; Z Casey, Mt. Vernon; J J Richardson, Salem; J P Handy; J L Japin, St. Louis; R Conner; W L Wheeler; U Wills; Wm M Wentey, Knox; H I Rannell; F Wit, Green; G Patterson, Hamburg; I Darneal Jersey; J Fetch Carelton; S B Smith, Sangamon; J D Fig, Caralton; A B Hickcock, Lasall; J M Roberts Danvill; J Evry; E Evry; H Sconce; A Miller, Edwardsvill; W Crellen St. Kouis; W H Benton S R Casey, Benton; D Oderm, Mason; W A Denning, Benton.

Dec. 31.—R Williams; W Tawmbull, Michigan McNear, Chicago; Trepp, Perue; F C Sherman, Chicago; D Cole, Boston M; H H Grandell Winebago; W Caystell, Micigan; J J Ferrel, Indianopolis; Wm Vining, do; L L Jones, N. York; Wm Anderson, Jacksonvill; C N Dickson and Lady, Winebago; J Wison, Lake Co.; P Maxwell, Chicago; J C. Elleott, Quincy; N B Judd, Chicago; J H Brackett, Exeter; J B Thomas, Chicago; E Peck and Daugter, do.

Jan. 1, '49.—E Wills, Salem; J B Cempbell, Chicago; H W Geer, do; S Noble, Dixon; S Ingram, Pulaski V. A.; J W Boss and Lady, Phila.; S H Rensmon N. Y.; J M Gregor, Peoria; E J Rice, Hillsboro; E W Clawson; N B Pike, Chicago; W W Barlow, do; A J Arnell, do; I Lawrence, N. Y. City; E O Smith, Decator J Raphale N. Y. City; J H Parrell; Wm H Russel; J Martindall; E G Malrey; J S Duulap, St. Louis; J Elliott, jr; M Tackaburry, Pekin, Illi.

Journal, January 3, 1849.

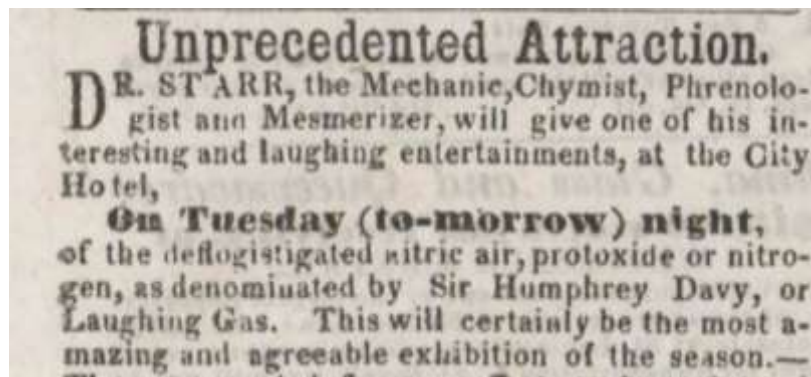
Cotillion Party Held at City Hotel

Cotillion Party,
At the City Hotel on Thursday evening, 25th instant. Gentlemen can procure tickets of invitation for the Ladies by calling on the Managers.
Tickets of admission for Gentlemen can be had at the Bar. Jan. 23.

MANAGERS.
B. C. WEBSTER, S. SNOWDON HAYES,
VIRGIL HICKOX, J. D. FRY,
JACOB BUNN, THOMAS H. DOYLE,
JOHN C. LAMB.

Journal, January 23, 1849.

Entertainment at City Hotel



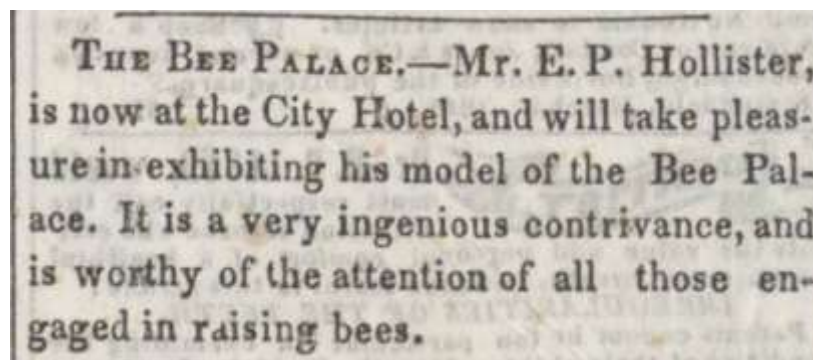
Journal, March 27, 1849.

Joel Johnson Advertises Property For Rent



Journal, April 12, 1849.

Bee Palace Exhibited at City Hotel



Journal, April 27, 1849.

Death of Eliza Newman Johnson (1815-1849)

Joel Johnson's wife, Eliza Newman Johnson, died on May 17, 1849. They had one child, Edward S. Johnson, who was born in 1843.

DIED—In this city to-day, at 11 o'clock, A. M., Mrs. Eliza, wife of Joel Johnson, Esq. Funeral will take place from his residence to-morrow at 10 o'clock A. M. The friends and acquaintances are invited to attend. May 17.

Journal, Thursday, May 17, 1849.

City Hotel Guest Not Down With Cholera

It is rumored about town this morning, that a traveler who arrived last evening from St. Joseph, Mo., is down with the Cholera at the City Hotel. We learn from Doctor Henry (who was called to see him,) that the report is unfounded. The gentleman had been attacked with cholera while at St. Josephs and is now only suffering from debility and fatigue, incident to traveling. He is quite comfortable this morning, and will undoubtedly be able to resume his journey in a day or two, to his home in Indiana.

Journal, May 26, 1849.

Joel Johnson Advertises City Hotel

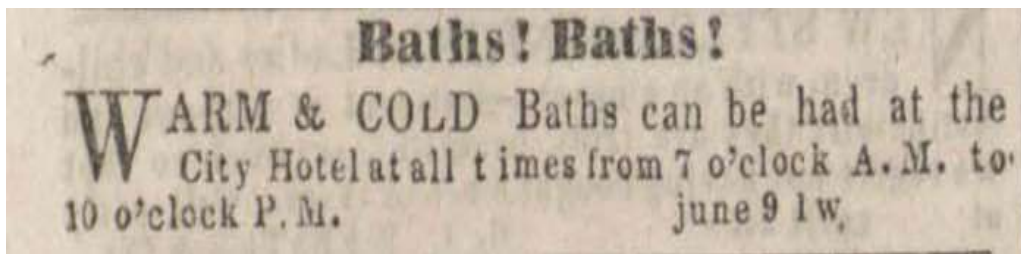
 **CITY HOTEL--Springfield.**
KEPT BY
JOEL JOHNSON.
The best attention given to Travelers and
and Boarders. June 4.

Journal, Tuesday, June 5, 1849.

JOEL JOHNSON, keeper of the City Hotel. Mr. J. has been in this business in our city for several years. He is a man of most indomitable energy and perseverance. When his tavern house was burned, he gathered the means, went to work, and in a few months, he was prepared to do a heavier business than before his misfortune. Johnson always gets his share of public patronage.

Journal, Tuesday, August 21, 1849.

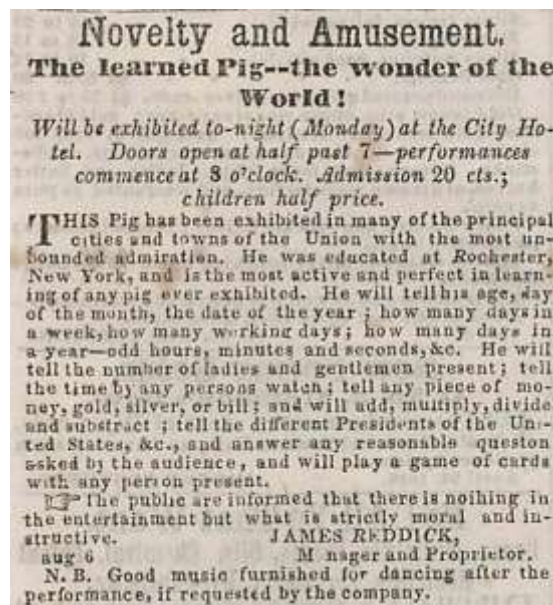
Warm and Cold Baths at Johnson's City Hotel



Baths! Baths!
WARM & COLD Baths can be had at the
City Hotel at all times from 7 o'clock A.M. to
10 o'clock P.M. June 9 1 w.

Journal, June 11, 1849.

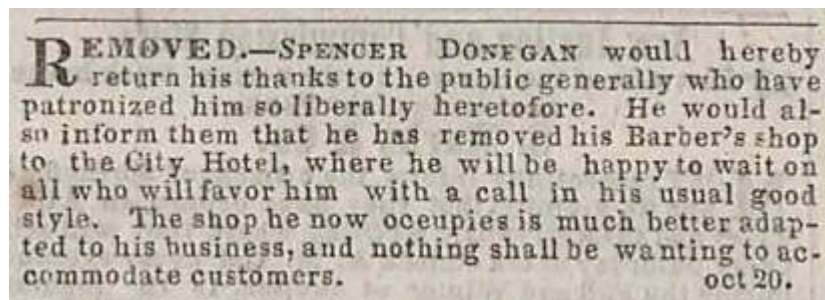
Learned Pig Entertainment at City Hotel



Novelty and Amusement.
The learned Pig--the wonder of the World!
Will be exhibited to-night (Monday) at the City Hotel. Doors open at half past 7--performances commence at 8 o'clock. Admission 20 cts.; children half price.
THIS Pig has been exhibited in many of the principal cities and towns of the Union with the most unbounded admiration. He was educated at Rochester, New York, and is the most active and perfect in learning of any pig ever exhibited. He will tell his age, day of the month, the date of the year; how many days in a week, how many working days; how many days in a year--odd hours, minutes and seconds, &c. He will tell the number of ladies and gentlemen present; tell the time by any persons watch; tell any piece of money, gold, silver, or bill; and will add, multiply, divide and subtract; tell the different Presidents of the United States, &c., and answer any reasonable question asked by the audience, and will play a game of cards with any person present.
If the public are informed that there is nothing in the entertainment but what is strictly moral and instructive.
JAMES REDDICK,
aug 6 Manager and Proprietor.
N. B. Good music furnished for dancing after the performance, if requested by the company.

Journal, August 6, 1849.

African American Spencer Donegan Advertises Move of Barber Shop to City Hotel



REMOVED.—SPENCER DONEGAN would hereby return his thanks to the public generally who have patronized him so liberally heretofore. He would also inform them that he has removed his Barber's shop to the City Hotel, where he will be happy to wait on all who will favor him with a call in his usual good style. The shop he now occupies is much better adapted to his business, and nothing shall be wanting to accommodate customers.
oct 20.

Journal, October 23, 1849.

Joel Johnson Receives Flooring For Sale

Joe Johnson continued with a construction supply business as is evidenced by this advertisement for 1600 feet of flooring.



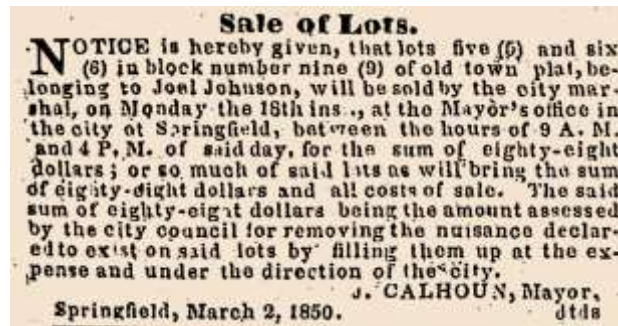
Journal, Wednesday, October 24, 1849.

1850

In the 1850 Federal Census, Joel Johnson was said to be a shoemaker.¹⁸ This must have been an error as he had not engaged in this business for several years.

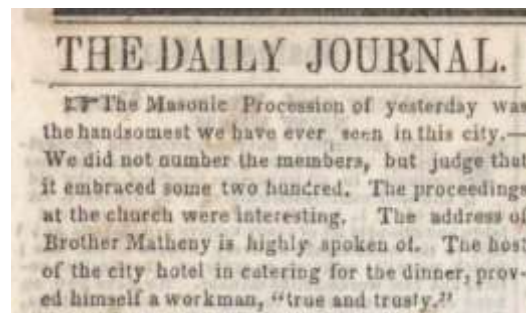
Joel Johnson Property Sold to Pay \$88 to City For Removing Nuisance

On Monday, March 18, 1850, the City of Springfield was to sell lots owned by Joel in order to pay for an assessment for removing the nuisance declared to exist on the lots.¹⁹



Journal, Thursday, March 7, 1850.


Masonic Procession Catered at City Hotel



¹⁸ U.S. Census Office, Seventh Census of the United States (1850), Sangamon County, Illinois, p. 87.

¹⁹ Lots 5 and 6, Block 9, Old Town Plat.

Joel Johnson's City Hotel Wins Praises of Customer


 We clip the following from the Journal of yesterday. We fully endorse it:
AMERICAN HOUSE.—A gentleman who has spent much of his time in traveling, now stopping at the American, tells us that he has seldom met with a better spread table any where—that every day its appearance displays the fact that no pains or expense are spared in procuring the first of all the rarities and delicacies of the season.
 The same may be said of our friend “Mac” of the City Hotel, who, during the short time he has been in charge of the “City,” has won “golden opinions” from all who have rested under his hospitable roof.
 The above is taken from the Register of this morning. We say ditto ! ditto !!—and “nothing shorter !”

Journal, June 12, 1850.

Mail Stage Office at City Hotel to Salem, Illinois

Mail Stage from Springfield to Salem, Ill.
 THE subscriber will run this stage three times a week between these points.—
 The stage will leave Springfield at 8 o'clock A. M. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and will leave Salem on the same days at the same hour.
 Stage office at the City Hotel!—Books kept by J. Bur-nap.
 THOS. H. COREY.
 Springfield, July 1, 1850.

Journal, July 3, 1850.

Joel Johnson Holds Public Sale of 80 Acres of Land Near Petersburg

**Public sale of valuable land,
 NEAR PETERSBURG.**
THE undersigned will sell at public sale on Saturday the 22d inst., as soon as the Bank property is sold, the following described land, to wit:
 Lots No. two and three, being the north west quarter of the north east quarter, and the north east quarter of the north west quarter of section No. sixteen, in township 18 north, range 7 west of the 3d principal meridian, containing 80 acres.
 Terms—One half in hand and the balance on the 1st of January next.
 JOEL JOHNSON.
 June 17 tds

Journal, Friday September 13, 1850.

Joel Johnson Advertises Two Tenements to Rent

TO RENT.--Two tenements to rent by the subscriber. **JOEL JOHNSON.**
Sept. 13, 1850.

Journal, Wednesday, June 19, 1850.

Joel Johnson Manager of American House in St. Louis

In the fall of 1850, Joel Johnson surprisingly left Springfield and went to St. Louis where he worked in the newly refurbished American Hotel. But his stay there did not last long.

AMERICAN HOTEL.
On Vine Street, between Main and Second Street,
ST. LOUIS, Mo.



THE above Hotel, thoroughly renovated, re-fitted and furnished, with entire new furniture, with large and convenient additions, was opened by the subscriber for the accommodation of transient and permanent boarders on the 16th of September instant.

The location is desirable, being situated in the centre of the most extensive mercantile portion of the city, and equally convenient to the Levee. The house with its new additions, contains large and airy rooms, sufficient for the accommodation of two hundred guests, with dining room of sufficient size to seat comfortably the above number.


The proprietor is pleased to inform the public that he has secured the services of Mr. Joel Johnson, who has been for the past twelve years proprietor of the City Hotel, Springfield, Ills., in the management of his House.

It is the determination of the proprietor, to make it equal in every respect to any house in the city, and hopes by the strictest attention to the best interests of his guests, to merit a liberal share of patronage.

Sept. 20, '50. dtwandwtf **GEORGE WOOD.**

Journal, Friday, September 20, 1850.

Dr. Hays Takes Rooms in City Hotel

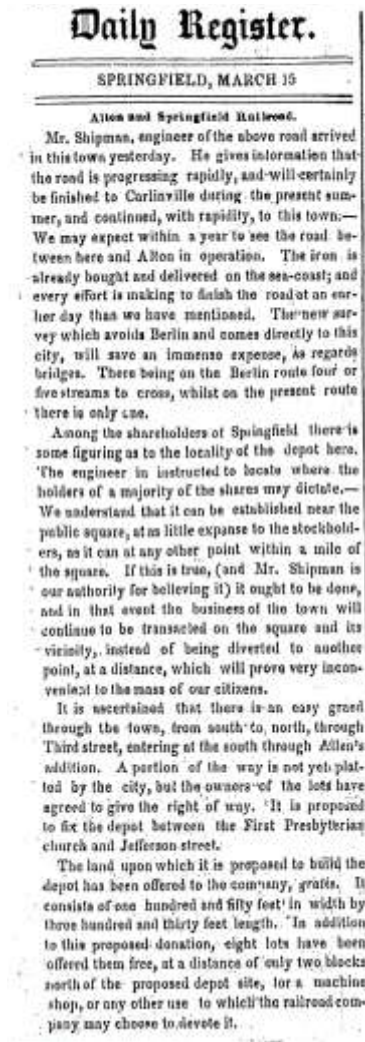
 Dr. HAYS, whose advertisement appears in this paper, has taken rooms at the City Hotel.

Journal, December 3, 1850.

1851

Railroad Depot Located on Third Street Tracks

Curtis Mann: "It appears that Joel Johnson might have been involved in bringing the Alton and Sangamon (later Chicago and Alton) Railroad to downtown Springfield. The *Register* newspaper article is from March 15, 1851 and describes how a depot for the railroad will likely be located on the Third Street Tracks between the First Presbyterian Church and Jefferson. The land was going to be offered to the railroad for free. The depot was going to be built on lots 3 and 4 of Block 9 OTP."²⁰



Register, March 15, 1851.²¹

²⁰ Sangamon County Deed Book I, p. 304, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois. Provided by Curtis Mann, Librarian. Copies of the page may be seen in the Appendix.

²¹ *Register*, March 15, 1851, p. 2. Provided by Curtis Mann.

Joel Johnson's Old Tavern Mistakenly Said to be Site of Cholera

This article refers to Joel Johnson as the owner of the "Old Tavern" that is in perfect order and not the seat of the cholera disease in Old Town, Madison to Monroe and First to Seventh streets. This is most likely the old Indian Queen Hotel that Johnson owned for a brief time.

In our article yesterday, headed "Truth sometimes stranger than fiction," we unintentionally referred to the "Old Tavern," as the seat of the cholera disease in Old Town. We intended to refer to the building known as "Glenn's Tavern" — a mistake which must have been obvious to all our citizens. The Old Tavern is in perfect order, and no sickness has appeared there, nor is there likely to be any. It is owned by Mr. Joel Johnson. In regard to the tenement where the cholera last appeared, we are quite certain that it was from no fault of the owner, Major Kleine, who furnished lime and authorised any expense necessary to be made to keep it in perfect order. The state of the house was the result of the filthy habits of the inmates, who he was anxious to remove from the premises; but having rented the building to another individual he was not able to effect the object he desired.

We are glad to state that no further symptoms of cholera have appeared in any part of the city.

Journal, Friday, May 30, 1851.

Joel Johnson Purchases Lots From Samuel Stover

Curtis Mann reports, "On May 31, 1851, Joel Johnson purchased lots 5 & 6 in Block 9 OTP from a man named Samuel Stover for \$1,000. On June 9, 1851, he borrowed \$650 from Stover and used lot 6 and 11 3/4 feet off the east end of lot 5 as collateral. On June 12, Johnson purchased lot 4 in Block 9 OTP from a man named Rhodes Lloyd for \$625. With these two purchases he owned all of the property on the north side of Washington between 3rd and 4th streets."²²

Joel Johnson Deeds Land to Alton and Springfield Railroad for Depot

Curtis Mann reports, "On June 12, 1851, Johnson deeded lot 4 and 70 feet of the west side of lot 5 to the Alton and Springfield Railroad for \$1. One of the covenants of the deed said that the railroad was required to build a depot on lots 2, 3, 4 and 5 in Block 9 and use the rest of the lots for railroad purposes. If the railroad breached the contract, then Johnson was entitled to get lot 4 back. The 70 feet in lot 5 was to go to the following men who had paid \$1,050 to Johnson for that part of the lot.

George Pasfield - 6 shares

John Williams - 6 shares

²² Sangamon County Deed Book I, p. 304, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois. Provided by Curtis Mann, Librarian. Copies of the page may be seen in the Appendix.

Thomas Condell - 2 shares
 Erastus Wright and Roswell P. Abell - 2 shares
 Jacob Bunn - 2 shares
 Stephen T. Logan - 2 shares
 John G. Bergen - 1 share

Curtis Mann said, "I think these men were stockholders in the railroad and had an interest in making sure the railroad came through the downtown and not somewhere further away. In the end Johnson kept lot 6 and the 11 3/4 feet of lot 5 that became the site of the Revere House. I would think having the railroad station close to his hotel was the incentive for Johnson to get involved and donate lot 4 to the cause."²³

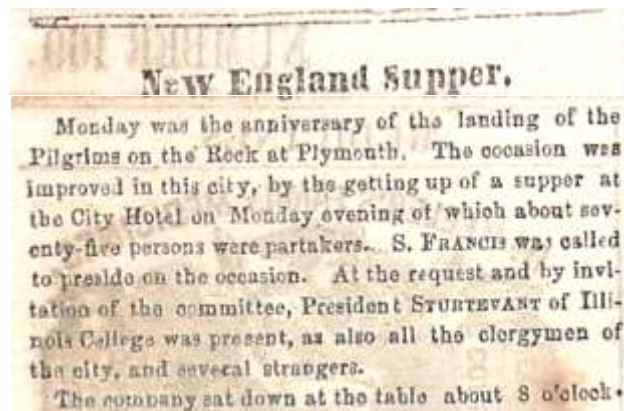
City Hotel Reopened by Joel Johnson and Daniel M. Jackson

In October of 1851, Joel Johnson and his partner, Daniel M. Jackson, reopened the newly refitted and furnished City Hotel. Jackson was an experienced Hotel Keeper from Ohio.



Journal, October 23, 1851.

New England Supper Held at City Hotel



Journal, December 25, 1851.

²³ Sangamon County Deed Book I, p. 304, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois. Provided by Curtis Mann, Librarian. Copies of the page may be seen in the Appendix.

1852

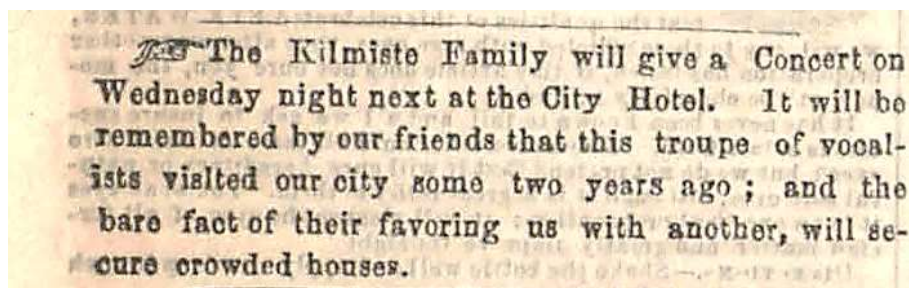
Joel Johnson Stockholder in the Mechanics and Farmers Bank

In 1852, Joel Johnson was a stockholder in the Mechanics and Farmers Bank in Springfield, Illinois.

Abraham Lincoln Represents Joel Johnson

On March 3, 1852, Abraham Lincoln wrote and signed a declaration in *Joel Johnson v. John McMullen*, a Sangamon County Circuit Court case.²⁴

Kilmiste Family to Perform Vocal Concert at City Hotel



Journal, May 24, 1852.

Joel Johnson and Daniel M. Jackson Dissolve Partnership as Keepers of the City Hotel

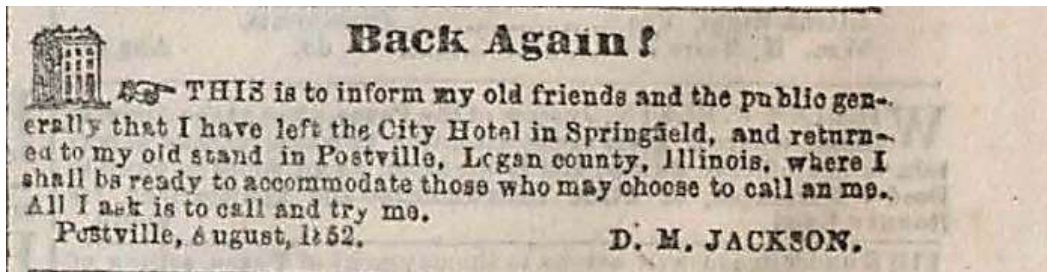
Joel Johnson's partnership with Daniel M. Jackson lasted only nine months. A dissolution notice was published in the *Journal* on July 16, 1852.



Journal, Friday, July 16, 1852.

²⁴ Herndon-Weik Collection, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Daniel M. Jackson Leaves City Hotel and Returns to Logan County



Journal, September 14, 1852.

New York Traveler Describes Springfield Hotels

Some traveler writes to the New York Tribune from this city: There are several hotels in this city. The City Hotel is kept by Mr. Johnson, a genuine specimen of the western landlord, enterprising, liberal and energetic in his superintendence of every department, highly intelligent, and unwearied in his endeavors to please and oblige all, even in circumstances that might justify a little neglect. The occurrence of a masonic celebration and a projected fair, had brought a large concourse of country people to the place, and at every meal, both stratagem and force were necessary to guard the quiet inmates of the house from the rush of a tumultuous crowd, every man of which scrambled in and devoured what was before him, as if life, with all its blessings, depended on his despatching the repast in two minutes and three quarters.

Journal, November 4, 1852.

1853

Marriage of Joel Johnson and Elizabeth T. Campbell

On January 5, 1853, Joel Johnson, age 45, married Elizabeth T. Campbell, age 31, of Decatur. Elizabeth had been married once before as had Joel. Elizabeth had a son by her prior marriage, John R. Campbell. Joel also had a son by his prior marriage, Edward S. Johnson.

MARRIED—In Decatur, on the 5th inst., by Rev. Mr. Stamper, Mr. Joel Johnson, of the "City Hotel" of this city, to Mrs. Elizabeth Campbell, of the former place.
As soon as our worthy hosts give us a treat, they'll receive our best wishes and a printer's blessings.

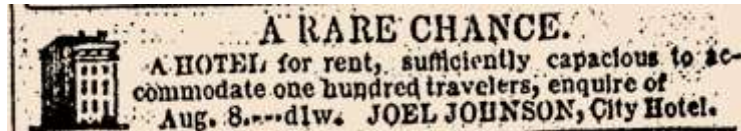
Journal, Saturday, January 8, 1853.

My host of the City Hotel entertained a large number of friends at his tables on Thursday evening. The occasion may be inferred, by reference to our marriage chapter.

Journal, January 8, 1853.

Joel Johnson Advertises City Hotel For Rent

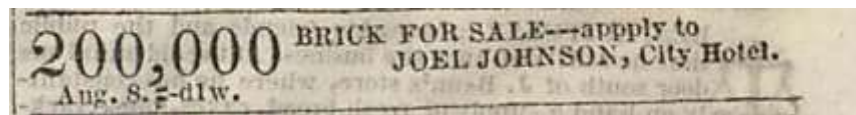
Eight months after his marriage, Joel Johnson advertised the City Hotel for rent stating that it would accommodate one hundred travelers.



Journal, Tuesday, August 16, 1853.

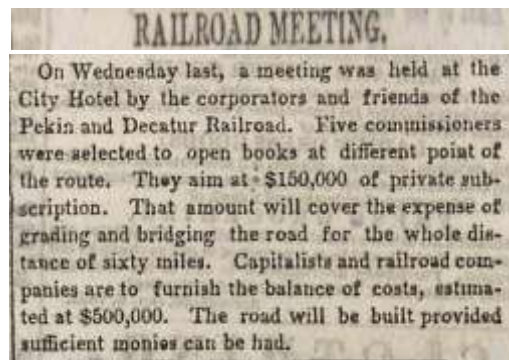
Joel Johnson Advertises 200,000 Brick For Sale

Joel Johnson was a real entrepreneur. This advertisement dated August 8, 1853, indicates that he was selling 200,000 brick. He also placed other ads for building materials.



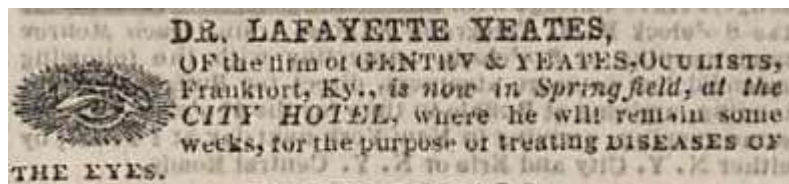
Journal, August 11, 1853.

Pekin and Decatur Railroad Corporate Meeting Held at City Hotel



Journal, October 14, 1853.

Dr. Lafayette Yeates at City Hotel to Treat Eye Diseases



Journal, November 30, 1853.

Temperance Association Has Supper at City Hotel

The SOCIAL DEGREE of the Temperance Association had a Supper at the City Hotel on last Monday evening. Some seventy-five or eighty persons were present, among whom, were a choice sprinkling of ladies. JAS. H. MATHENY, Esq., delivered an excellent and very appropriate address. The supper was a very fine one—and did credit to the host and hostess of the City Hotel—long life to them. The party then adjourned to Temperance Hall, where the Degree was addressed by WM. H. HERNDON, Esq.

Journal, December 29, 1853.

Joel Johnson Purchases the Indian Queen Hotel at the Northeast Corner of Second and Jefferson Streets

“The deed of the sale to Johnson references this property as having the Old Tavern on the premises. I think this is the property owned by Johnson noted on page 23 as the site mistakenly associated with cholera. I found an article about the Old Tavern property being destroyed in an October 1853 fire.” Curtis Mann.²⁵

A PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MISFORTUNE.—The extensive buildings known as the Old Tavern, below the Depot of the Chicago and Mississippi Rail Road, were burned to the ground on the night before last. The fire broke out about one o'clock, and the buildings being all of wood, burnt to the ground in a few minutes. These buildings, with the exception of one or two, had been entirely renovated,—the buildings were newly covered, painted, plastered, mostly newly floored, and otherwise improved; and was calculated to accommodate a large number of persons—probably two hundred. It is therefore, a great public loss, under the circumstances, to our town, and a serious individual loss—Mr. Joel Johnson, the proprietor, not being insured. He was at the time putting in furniture, with the view of opening in time for the Fair.—Several hundred dollars worth of furniture had already been placed in the buildings. The fire is believed to have been the work of an incendiary.—The loss to Mr. Johnson must be at least five or six thousand dollars.

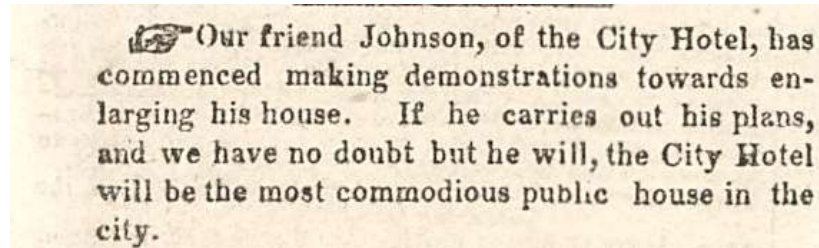
Journal, October 6, 1853.

²⁵ Provided by Curtis Mann.

1854

Joel Johnson Enlarges City Hotel

In 1854, Joel Johnson made a large addition to his City Hotel on the northeast corner of Washington and Fourth Streets.



Our friend Johnson, of the City Hotel, has commenced making demonstrations towards enlarging his house. If he carries out his plans, and we have no doubt but he will, the City Hotel will be the most commodious public house in the city.

Journal, March 25, 1854.

Theft at City Hotel

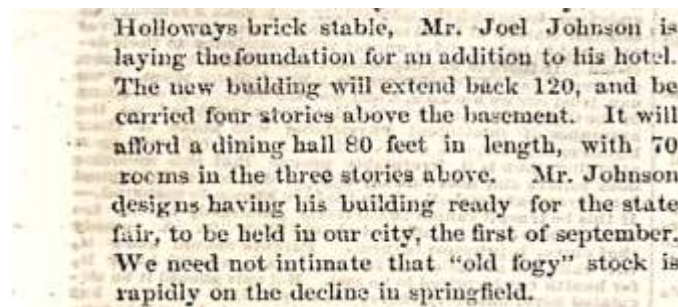


NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.
Stolen from the Subscriber
 ON the night of the 31st March, at the City Hotel, in Springfield, Ill., three hundred dollars in bank notes: One one hundred dollar note on the bank of Missouri; one ten dollar Indiana bill, and the remainder in five dollar notes of the banks of Connecticut. A reward of one hundred and fifty dollars will be given for the recovery of the money and detection of the thief or fifty dollars for the detection and conviction of the thief.
 ABNER PYLE.
 New Lebanon, St. Clair Co., Ill., April 3.--p31.

Journal, April 3, 1854.

Joel Johnson Makes Addition to City Hotel

As noted above, in the spring of 1854, Joel made an addition to the City Hotel. It extended back 129 feet, four stories above basement. The dining hall was 80 feet long and there were 70 rooms in three stories above.



Holloways brick stable, Mr. Joel Johnson is laying the foundation for an addition to his hotel. The new building will extend back 120, and be carried four stories above the basement. It will afford a dining hall 80 feet in length, with 70 rooms in the three stories above. Mr. Johnson designs having his building ready for the state fair, to be held in our city, the first of september. We need not intimate that "old fogy" stock is rapidly on the decline in springfield.

Journal, April 17, 1854.

1854 Map of Springfield, Illinois



City Hotel

1855

William H. Herndon Sues Joel Johnson to Collect on Note

In June of 1855, William H. Herndon filed suit in the Sangamon County Circuit Court against Joel Johnson. He asked the court to find judgment against Joel Johnson on his \$186 note to T. G. Gaylord and Co.²⁶ T. G. Gaylord and Co. assigned the note to Gaylord, Son and Company, who assigned the note to William Herndon as attorney and collector on the note. Johnson failed to appear and the court found in Herndon's favor. Herndon was represented by his partner Abraham Lincoln.

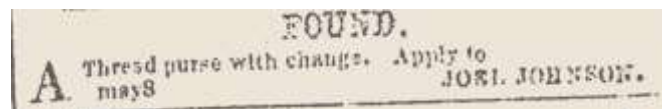
Joel Johnson Advertises 200,000 Bricks for Sale

This advertisement is the same as that dated August 8, 1853. Joel Johnson was still trying to sell 200,000 brick.



Journal, Wednesday, December 19, 1855.

Joel Johnson Advertises That He Found Thread Purse With Change



Journal, Tuesday, May 8, 1855.

²⁶ Case Name: Herndon v. Johnson File ID: L03525.

William D. and John W. Chenery Purchase City Hotel From Joel Johnson Rename it Chenery House

In 1855, Joel Johnson sold the City Hotel property to William D. and John W. Chenery, who had been managing the American House at Sixth and Adams Streets. The new proprietors improved the front of the building, added an ornamental doorway, rearranged the interior, bought new furniture and bestowed his own name upon it. When the Chenery House opened for business, each of its 130 rooms was lighted with gas and equipped with a bell for summoning servants—the latest improvements in public comforts.²⁷ The following newspaper story tells of the sale and transfer as well as the change in name from City Hotel to Chenery House.

William D. Chenery

When Springfield became the capital of Illinois in 1837, Elijah Iles built a hotel to accommodate legislature members, on the southeast corner of Adams and Sixth streets, which he called the American House. The hotel was at the time the finest in the entire state. William D. Chenery²⁸ and his eldest son, John William, operated the American House from 1852 to 1855, when they purchased the City Hotel, located on the northeast corner of Fourth and Washington streets. They added additional stories and named it Chenery House. They operated the Chenery House until 1877.

The Chenery House.

This hotel, which is one of the largest and certainly one of the best in the West, is now open for the reception of visitors. The old "City Hotel," in the hands of the new proprietors, presents a different appearance from what it did formerly, and is "winning golden opinions from all sorts of people." The front has been altered and improved; a handsome ornamental doorway having been erected at the main entrance. The interior has also been rearranged, and much new furniture added. The building is five stories high, 80 feet front by 118 feet deep, exclusive of a large wing of the same height of the main building, contains eighty single rooms for gentlemen, numerous parlors, reception rooms, and suites for families, besides the usual reading rooms, dining room, &c. of a first-class house. One hundred and thirty rooms are appropriated to the use of guests, in addition to which is a fine basement story, for barber shops, store rooms, pantries, servants' rooms, &c. Five hundred persons have been accommodated at one time on the premises, and still there was "room for more."

The Messrs. Chenery have shown much taste in the selection of their new furniture--that two parlors costing over five hundred dollars. The furniture in the bed rooms was all purchased new by the late proprietor, and is in the same style as that of the Burnett House²⁹ in Cincinnati. Every room is lit by gas,

²⁷ <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~ilmaga/newspapers/cheneryhouse.html>

²⁸ William Dodd Chenery came from Massachusetts in the summer of 1830 and located on a farm near Jacksonville, Illinois. He returned to Massachusetts for his family during the winter of the Deep Snow (1830-1831), going on horseback via Chicago with four companions, all wearing leather suits to protect them from the abnormally cold weather of that winter.

²⁹ N.W. corner of Third and Vine Sts., Cincinnati, Ohio, the site of the Burnet House, which the *Illustrated London News* called "the finest hotel in the world." The big, domed structure was formally opened on May 3, 1850. Abraham Lincoln stopped here in February 1861 while on his way to Washington. Around mid-March of 1864 Generals Grant and Sherman met in Parlor A of the Burnet House, spread out their big war maps, and discussed the campaign that soon resulted in Sherman's historic devastation of Georgia and South Carolina. *Cincinnati: A Guide to the Queen City and Its Neighbors*, 1943, Tour 2, pp. 156-157.

and furnished with a bell, by which servants can be summoned at a moment's warning. The proprietors are well known to the traveling public, and already the "Chenery House" is obtaining a reputation abroad which will insure "full houses," so long as it bears its present cognomen. We refer to the advertisement in another column.



Hotel Deed from Joel Johnson to William D. and John W. Chenery, August 1855.³⁰

³⁰ Sangamon County Deed Book TT, p. 163, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois. Provided by Curtis Mann, Librarian.

Annunciator Installed in Chenery House

BELL HANGING.—Mr. Charles W. Colson, Bell Hanger and Silver Plater in Chicago, is now engaged in putting up an annunciator in the Chenery House in this city. When completed he will offer his services to any of our citizens who may wish house bells hung. A friend has let us know that Mr. Colson is an adept in his business, and the present opportunity should be embraced by all who wish bells hung. Orders left with Mr. B. F. Fox will meet with prompt attention.

BELL HANGING.—Mr. Charles W. Colson, Bell Hanger and Silver Plater in Chicago, is now engaged in putting up an annunciator in the Chenery House in this city. When completed he will offer his services to any of our citizens who may wish house bells hung. A friend has let us know that Mr. Colson is an adept in his business, and the present opportunity should be embraced by all who wish bells hung. Orders left with Mr. B. F. Fox will meet with prompt attention.

Journal, October 3, 1855.

Sold in 1852; purchased in 1855 of Joel Johnson, the hotel which has since been so favorably known over the country as the Chenery House, where he has associated with himself in the control and management three of his sons.

Journal, November 17, 1855.



The Chenery House Hotel at the northeast corner of Fourth and Washington Streets.

Piano Teaching at Chenery House

A CARD

MRS. A. D. SALISBURY, OF ALBION,
 N. Y. would announce to the citizens of Springfield and vicinity, that she will commence a course of instruction on the PIANO and MELODEON, at her rooms at the Chenery House. Her terms and manner of instruction may be learned by calling on Mrs. S. as above. ec26-d2m*

Journal, October 26, 1855.

William D. Chenery Advertises Chenery House

CHENERY HOUSE.
 SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

THE UNDERSIGNED, HAVING PURCHASED the property known as the "CITY HOTEL," would respectfully announce to their friends and the traveling public, that they are again in the Hotel business, and solicit a share of patronage.

Since the house came into our possession, it has been thoroughly renovated, and many pleasing changes have been made, rendering it in all respects one of the most comfortable and pleasant public houses in the West. The name has been changed to the "CHENERY HOUSE."

CHENERY & SON,
 nov17-dwtf

Chenery House, SPRINGFIELD, ILL. THE UNDERSIGNED, HAVING purchased the property known as the "CITY HOTEL," would respectfully announce to their friends and the traveling public, that they are again in the Hotel business, and solicit a share of patronage. Since the house came into our possession, it has been thoroughly renovated, and many pleasing changes have been made, rendering it in all respects one of the most comfortable and pleasant public houses in the West. The name has been changed to the "CHENERY HOUSE"

nov17-dwtf CHENERY & SON.

Journal, November 19, 1855.

Joel Johnson Opens Mammoth Furniture Store in Journal Building

As said earlier, Joel Johnson was an entrepreneur. After selling the City Hotel to the Chenerys, he quickly took up a new business as a furniture store proprietor.

MAMMOTH FURNITURE STORE!

JOURNAL BUILDINGS---N. E. Corner of Square.

THE SUBSCRIBER HAS JUST RECEIVED, direct from the best manufacturers, a large and varied assortment of FURNITURE, consisting of
 Chairs, Bedsteads, Bureaus, Tables, Sofas, &c. &c.

together with every article usually kept in a Furniture Store. My entire stock is NEW, having been selected with great care, expressly for this market, and I cordially invite all wishing to purchase to give me a call, being confident that I can give satisfaction) o h in style and price.

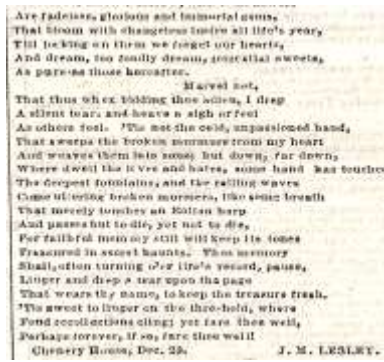
doel)
 JOEL JOHNSON.

NEW FURNITURE STORE.-- We refer the reader to the card of Mr. JOEL JOHNSON, who has just opened a large and elegant stock of Furniture in the middle store of "Journal Buildings." The assortment of furniture in Springfield is now large and complete, and persons wishing to purchase would do well to look over the various stocks in this city before going elsewhere.

Journal, Wednesday, December 19, 1855.

Journal, Wednesday, December 19, 1855.

Poem By Traveler at Chenery House
Farewell to Springfield



Journal, December 27, 1855.

Farewell to Springfield.

'Tis night, and through the window gleams the moon,
Shadowing weird figures on the walls, that seem
Half visible yet indistinct, and throws
Strange feelings o'er the soul, like those we feel
In youth's sweet noontide; and a chime of bells,
Sweet, silver bells, that have a tongue of joy
Rolling on every heart a calm repose,
Comes wafted on the night wind, as it sweeps
Loughing across the heavens. Winter's breath
Is breath'd upon us, and his icy hand
Has bound the murmuring waters like a slave;
But then it cannot cool the heart! When joy
Like some winged messenger of heaven comes down,
When hope like morning dews upon the flowers,
When love that weaves a woof of silver dreams,
Centers on things of earth, there is a rush
Of passionate waves, that roll across the breast,
And the bleak breath of winter fails to freeze
The ever flowing waters.

Thus I stand,
Looking upon thy spires, upon thy homes,
Homes where all hearts are happy, and the glow
Of fond, young animation, like the flush
That spring-tide breathes upon the world; those homes
That never knew a sorrow, where the flowers

[col. 2]:

Are fadeless, glorious immortal gems
That bloom with changeless lustre all life's year
Till looking on them we forget our hearts,
And dream, too fondly dream, terrestrial sweets,
As pure as those hereafter.

Marvel not,
That when bidding thee adieu, I drop
A silent tear, or heave a sigh or feel
As others feel. 'Tis not the cold unpassioned hand,
That sweeps the broken murmurs from my heart,
And weaves them into song; but down, far down,
Where dwell the loves and hates, some hand has touched
The deepest fountains, and the rolling waves
Come uttering broken murmurs, like some breath
That merely touches an Eolian harp
And passes but to die, yet not to die,
For faithful memory still will keep its tones
Treasured in secret haunts. Thus memory
Shall, often turning o'er life's record, pause,
Linger and drop a tear upon the page
That wears thy name, to keep the treasure fresh.
'Tis sweet to linger on the threshold, where
Fond recollections cling; yet fare thee well,
Perhaps forever, if so, fare thee well!

Chenery House, Dec. 23.

J. M. LESLEY.

The Johnson's Building Years (1856-1868)

1856

Joel Johnson Builds Three-Story Brick Building Across From Chenery House at Northwest Corner of Washington and Fourth Streets

Joel Johnson didn't stay in the furniture business for long. In 1856, he began construction of five business houses at the northwest corner of Fourth and Washington Streets, west across the street from the Chenery House. This was to become the hotel that he operated for 21 years.

MORE IMPROVEMENTS.—Mr. Joel Johnson is laying the foundations for five business houses, two stories high, on his lots, just west of the Chenery House. The improvement will be an important one to that part of our city.

Journal, August 29, 1856 .

Springfield Hotels Described

Hotel Accommodations.

In former times, much has been said of the want of suitable accommodations for strangers who may chance to visit Springfield, during the session of the General Assembly, and we must confess there were some grounds of complaint on this score. Within the past two years great changes have taken place in our city, and in no respect is this more apparent than in the comforts and conveniencies which now distinguish our public houses. Two new and commodious hotels have been erected, and the old ones have been entirely refitted and refurnished, so as scarcely to be recognized by their former guests.

In view of the wants of the crowd who may be expected to visit Springfield during the months of January and February, we have been at some pains to ascertain the capacity of our principal hotels, for receiving and taking care of them. We subjoin a list of them, together with the number they can comfortably accommodate, and the price per day.

Hot'l.	No. persons.	Price per day.
American.....	113	\$1 50
Chenery.....	225	1 50
National.....	75	1 25
Brown's.....	230	1 50
New England.....	75	1 50
St. Nicholas.....	125	2 00

The last named house is just about to open, with entire new furniture, bedding, &c., and is intended to be kept in the very best style. Besides, there are the Sangamon and Washington houses, of smaller capacities, at \$1 per day, together with numerous private boarding houses, which added to the above will give accommodations for about one thousand guests. So come on, all who wish to see the Elephant. He will be visible in many shapes this winter, and we think it will be a good investment for all who have a little spare time, and a good many spare dimes, to come and spend a few weeks at the Capital.

Journal, December 31, 1856.

1857

Joel Johnson Builds Three-Story Brick Building

Five brick stores on corner of Washington and Fourth streets. Size, 45 by 90, three stories; with sliding or recess fronts of a new pattern; Joel Johnson, owner; cost \$12,000; Warnick & Ball, architects and builders; Geo. Wise, bricklayer; Hosford & Young, plasterers; Willard & Zimmerman, painters; Donald's patent composition roof by C. A. Smith.



Journal, Tuesday, January 6, 1857.

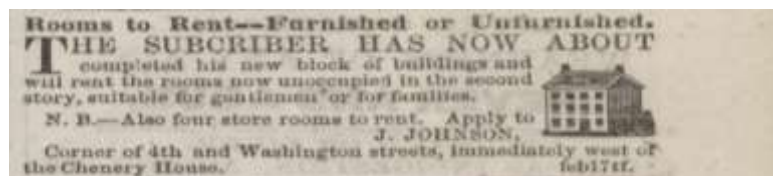
1857 Improvements

A block of five brick stores on the corner of Fourth and Washington Streets, 92 feet front on Washington street, and 45 on Fourth street, three stories, and basement for bath house, barber shop &c., under the whole building; owned by Joel Johnson. The upper stories are finished off for private rooms and offices. Designed and drawn by T. J. Dennis; Warwick & Ball builders; brick work by George Wise; plastering by Hosford & Young; painting by Willard and Zimmerman. Cost \$12,000

Journal, January 6, 1858.

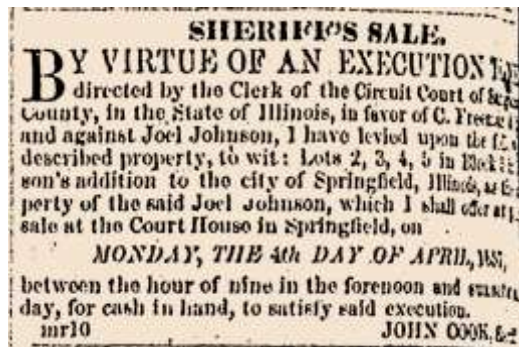
Joel Johnson Advertises Rooms to Rent in New Block of Buildings

By February 17, 1857, Joel Johnson had completed construction of his new building and advertised rooms for rent.



Journal, February 17, 1857

Joel Johnson Real Estate to be Sold at Sheriff's Sale

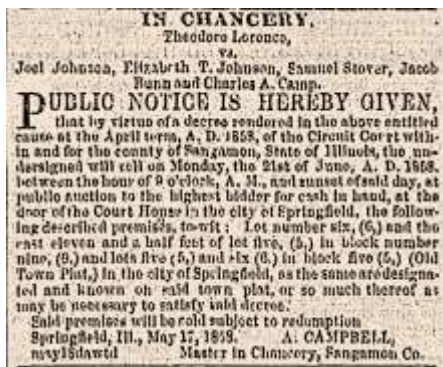


Journal, April 4, 1857.

1858

Creditors Public Sale of Joel Johnson Property

Theodore Lorence obtained judgement against and put up for public sale property owned by Joel Johnson. (Lot 6 and the east eleven and a half feet of lot 5 in Block 9 and lots 5 and 6 in Block 5 Old Town plat)



Journal, Tuesday, May 20, 1858.



Journal, Thursday, May 20, 1858.

1859

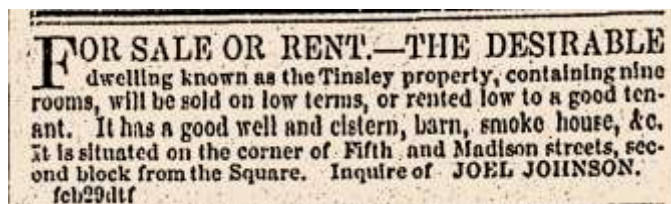
Edward S. Johnson Joins Springfield Grays

Joel Johnson's son, Edward S. Johnson, was 16 years old when he participated his first military experience. He became a part of the Springfield Grays, a company of young men organized in October 1859 by Ephraim E. Ellsworth who had come to Springfield to read law in Mr. Lincoln's law office.

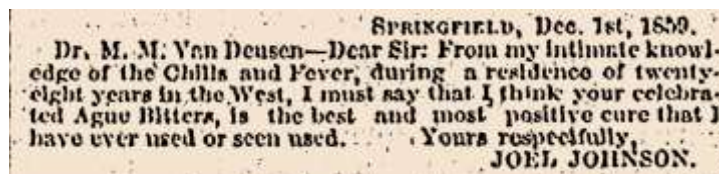
1860

Joel Johnson Listed in 1860 Census

In the 1860 census, Joel Johnson was listed as a 54-year-old who was born in New York and who was a real estate dealer. He owned real estate valued at \$25,000 and personal property valued at \$2,000. The census also listed his 35-year-old wife, Elizabeth, who was born in Kentucky, and two children: Edward (III.)(16), and John (III.)(15).³¹

Joel Johnson Advertises “Tinsley Property” at Fifth and Madison for Sale or Rent

Journal, Wednesday, February 29, 1860.

Joel Johnson's Testimonial for Ague Bitters

Journal, Monday, May 7, 1860.

President-Elect Abraham Lincoln Moves Office to Johnson's Building

Journal, Saturday, December 29, 1860.

On December 29, 1860, in anticipation of the meeting of the legislature, when the Governor would need his office for his own use, Abraham Lincoln and John George Nicolay, his 28-year-old German-born secretary, moved from the State House to Number 4 of the Johnson Building at the northwest corner of Fourth and Washington streets, across the street from the Chenery House. It was a double parlor on the second floor.

There, and in a vacant room over the store of C. M. Smith, Lincoln's brother-in-law, Lincoln closely observed the political actions of the Legislature. The copious letter and newspaper files managed by John Nicolay were moved to the Johnson Building. Nicolay spent all his time in the new office while Lincoln came in occasionally. Visitors were received by the President-Elect at his home, a half mile southeast of the State House.

³¹ U.S. Census Office, Eighth Census of the United States (1860), Sangamon County, Illinois, p. 219.



This view of Washington Street shows the southwest corner of Johnson's Block.

"Mr. Lincoln rented his house to Mr. Tilton, superintendent of the Wabash railway, and spent the last few weeks of his stay in Springfield at the Chenery House which was situated on the northeast corner of Washington and Fourth streets. Owing to the fact that the legislature met in the fore part of December, Mr. Lincoln had to give up his reception room in the state house, and Joel Johnson, an old-time friend of his, who had recently erected some brick buildings on the northwest corner opposite the Chenery House, offered him the use of his double parlors in the second story as a reception room for the remainder of his stay, which Mr. Lincoln gladly accepted. Mr. Johnson's buildings afterwards became known as the Revere House.

Journal, Thursday, February 13, 1919.

Late in December (1860), in anticipation of the meeting of the legislature, when the Governor would need his office for his own use, Lincoln and Nicolay moved from the State House to Johnson's Building across the street from the Chenery House. There, and in a vacant room over the store of C.M. Smith, his brother-in-law, where he could work on his inaugural address in privacy, Lincoln spent most of his time.

Paul M. Angle, *Here I Have Lived*.³²

³² Angle, p. 259.

From his headquarters just a block west of the State House in Number 4 of the Johnson Building at the northwest corner of Fourth and Washington, Abraham Lincoln closely observed the political actions of the Legislature.

Sunderine and Wayne C. Temple, *Abraham Lincoln and Illinois' Fifth Capitol*.³³

Next day was Christmas (December 25, 1860). As the weather had again turned inclement, and the holidays tended to keep people at home, the week was a quiet one. It was also the last in which the casual visitor could have easy access to the President Elect. Lincoln relinquished the Governor's room in the State House, his office since early in the canvass, for the Illinois legislature was soon to assemble and the room would be needed. The copious letter and newspaper files managed by John Nicolay were moved to a room in Johnson's Building, across from the Chenery House, a well-known Springfield hotel a block west of the State House. Nicolay spent all his time in the new office while Lincoln came in occasionally. Visitors were received by the President Elect at his home, a half mile southeast of the State House.

William A. Baringer, *A House Dividing*.³⁴

On January 7, 1861, the Twenty-Second General Assembly opened its First Session. The members still lacked adequate space for committee meeting. As a result, they had to rent outside accommodation. Joel Johnson leased a room to the Judiciary Committee, probably in his building on the northwest corner of Fourth and Washington. That cost \$35.

Wayne C. Temple, *Abraham Lincoln and Illinois' Fifth Capitol*.³⁵

Lincoln's Secretary, John G. Nicolay, Writes of the Move to Johnson's Building

Mr. Lincoln and I moved out of our room at the State House yesterday. He went down to his own house where he will stay most of the time to receive visitors, and I have come to a room in what is called Johnson's Building just across the street from the Chenery House. It is quite a good room, about twenty feet square nicely furnished. This I shall occupy both as a bedroom and office. I shall be here all the time at work, and Mr. Lincoln will come over occasionally when I need his advice or he my immediate assistance. It is a very comfortable place if I can keep the crowd out during the session.

John G. Nicolay³⁶

³³ *Capitol*, p. 171.

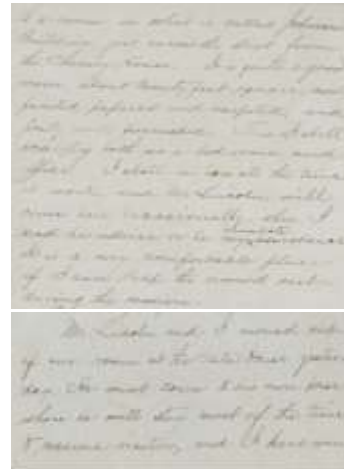
³⁴ *Baringer*, p. 124.

³⁵ *Capitol*, p. 171.

³⁶ This was a letter to Nicolay's finance Therena Bates who lived in Pittsfield, Illinois. Image 55 of John G. Nicolay Papers: General Correspondence, 1811-1943; 1860, Nov.11-Dec. 30, 1860.

Image provided by: Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

Link to the full image: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/mss34736.00205/?sp=55>



1861

John G. Nicolay Writes of Lincoln in Johnson's Building January 6, 1861

Mr. Lincoln brought in seventy-five letters yesterday — an increase that doesn't specially gratify me as I am yet some days behind since I moved down here.

John G. Nicolay



37

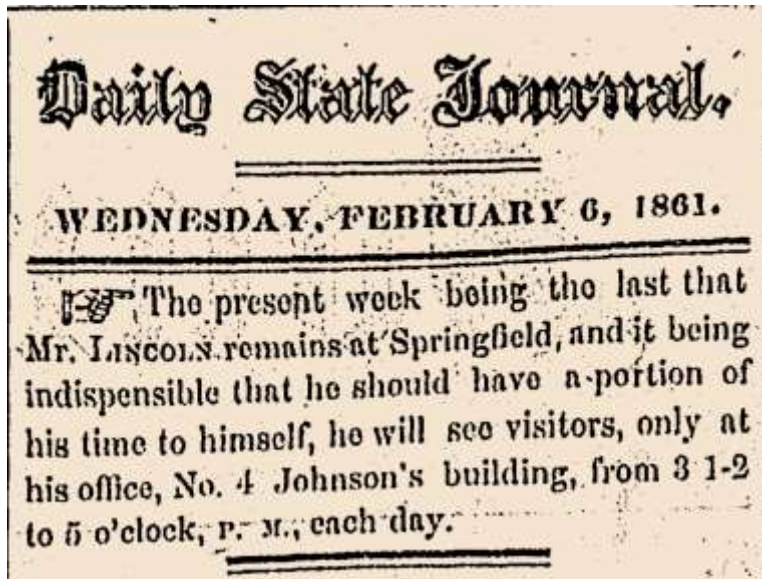
Abraham Lincoln to Meet Public in His Office in Joel Johnson's Building

The *Journal* of February 6, 1861 announced that during Abraham Lincoln's last week in Springfield, Lincoln would see visitors only at his office, No. 4 Johnson's building from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. each day.

³⁷ Image 7 of John G. Nicolay Papers: General Correspondence, 1811-1943; 1861, Jan.-Feb.

Image provided by: Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

Link to the full image: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/mss34736.00206/?sp=7>



Journal, Wednesday, February 6, 1861.

Abraham Lincoln and Family Move to Chenery House

A few days before leaving for Washington, Lincoln and his family removed to the Chenery House, then the leading hotel of Springfield. On the morning of his departure, he came down to the hotel office, and declining the proffered help of the attendants, roped his trunks with his own hands. Then, taking some of the hotel cards, he wrote on the backs this simple address:

A. Lincoln
White House
Washington, D. C.³⁸

³⁸ https://archive.org/stream/lincolnspringfie00sons/lincolnspringfie00sons_djvu.txt

President-Elect Lincoln's Office in No. 4 Johnson's Building

By Richard E. Hart

ALA Board Member and Former ALA President

Shortly after Abraham Lincoln was elected President in November 1860, he sought an office for receiving visitors and for use by his secretary, John Nicolay. Governor John Wood offered his chambers in the Old State Capitol and it was here that Lincoln officed until late in December 1860. The Illinois Legislature was to convene on January 7 and Governor-Elect Richard Yates would take office on January 14. Wood and Yates would need both the Governor's Chamber for their own uses, and Lincoln and his secretary, Nicolay, would have to move.

Lincoln did just that in late December 1860, when he moved his office to No. 4 Johnson's Building at the northwest corner of Fourth and Washington streets. This remained his office until he departed



Johnson's Building—Revere House 1873

Springfield on February 11, 1861, a total of about 40 days.

William E. Baringer in his book *A House Dividing* described the move:

Next day was Christmas (December 25, 1860). Lincoln relinquished the Governor's room in the State House, his office since early in the canvass, for the Illinois legislature was soon to assemble and the room would be needed. The

copious letter and newspaper files managed by John Nicolay were moved to a room in Johnson's Building, across from the Chenery House, ...a block west of the State House. Nicolay spent all his time in the new office while Lincoln came in occasionally.

One hundred and fifty years later, on a mellow October afternoon, I walked west on Washington Street from my office on the North Side of the Old State Capitol Square. It was a walk that I had taken hundreds of times, but this one was different. I looked up as I waited for the light to change at Fourth and Washington streets, and there it was in plain sight—a mid-nineteenth century three-story commercial building, now home to A-1 Lock.

Is this a remnant of the Johnson's Building where President-elect Lincoln officed?

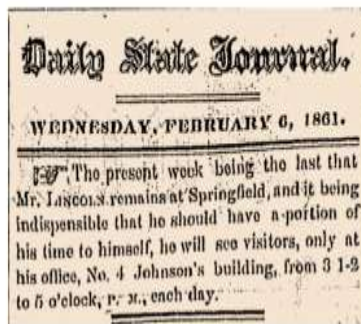
(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

I searched for photographs, drawings, and newspaper articles about Johnson's Building. Curtis Mann, librarian at the Sangamon Valley Collection of Springfield's Lincoln Library, found and shared with me a photograph of the west side of the Johnson's Building circa 1870s. The photograph is to the right.

I walked around the A-1 Lock building and noticed that the windows and a door on the west side had been bricked-in. I compared those bricked in openings with the circa 1870s photograph. They matched. The same was true when I compared the still remaining chimneys on the A-1 Lock building with those in the Johnson's Building pictured on the previous page. A perfect match.

It was in the Johnson's Building that Lincoln received visitors from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. during the week of February 6, 1861, as evidenced by the *Daily State Journal* article of Wednesday, February 6, 1861.



This indeed was a remaining portion of a much larger building known as Johnson's Building and sometimes the Revere House or Hotel, that once housed the office of Abraham Lincoln. It is now a newly identified remaining part of Lincoln's Springfield.



Johnson's Building Circa 1870s



October 2019 photographs of the A-1 Lock building, now verified to be a remnant of the Johnson's Building where President-elect Lincoln officed for 40 days in 1861.

39

Civil War: Edward S. Johnson Mustered Into Company I, 7th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry

The Battle of Fort Sumter prompted President Abraham Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers to serve for 3 months (the longest time allowed by the Constitution without Congressional approval). The Sangamon County recruits included several militia companies that were already uniformed and partially trained. Notably the "Springfield Grays" offered its services to Governor Richard Yates on April 16, 1861 and was mustered

³⁹ For *The People*, the newsletter of The Abraham Lincoln Association, Springfield, Illinois, Winter, 2019.

in as the 7th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Company I. The recruits were organized at Camp Yates on the outskirts of Springfield and mustered into Federal service by Captain John Pope on April 25th, 1861. The Springfield Grays served 3 months in the Union Army between April 25 – July 25, 1861.⁴⁰

As sergeant of his company, E. S. Johnson, then a lad of eighteen, had the honor of leading the first squad of armed men into Camp Yates a few days after the firing upon Fort Sumter. Camp Yates was located at the old Illinois State Fairgrounds site (currently the site of Dubois Elementary School). Throughout their training the men lived in the state fair's stables, which provided considerable comfort and relief from the elements. Despite being the first troops raised in Illinois, the regiment was numbered the 7th Illinois, paying homage to the six Illinois infantry volunteer regiments that were raised to fight in the Mexican–American War fourteen years earlier. During their service part of the regiment wore gray zouave uniforms with orange piping.

In May 1861, they departed Camp Yates, and went on duty at Alton, Cairo, Mound City, Illinois and then at St. Louis, Missouri until July, 1861.

Civil War: Edward S. Johnson Mustered Into Three Year Service in Company I, 7th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry

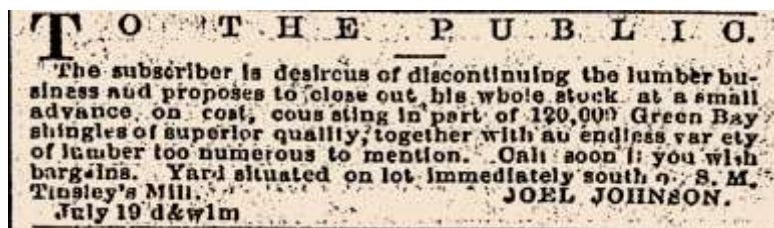
At the end of the initial three-month enlistment, on July 25, 1861, Edward was mustered into the three-year service as First Lieutenant of the 7th Infantry.

On April 22, 1864, he was promoted to the rank of Major. He was honorably discharged on July 9, 1865 with the rank of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel. He participated with his regiment in the battles of Shiloh and Altoona Pass and was a part of Sherman's army on its victorious march to the sea.

1862

Joel Johnson Selling Lumber Business Inventory

Joel Johnson, in addition to being a hotel keeper, conducted a lumber and supply business. Here he advertises the sale of his stock as he was discontinuing the lumber business.



Journal, Tuesday, July 22, 1862.

⁴⁰ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/7th_Illinois_Infantry_Regiment_\(3_Months\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/7th_Illinois_Infantry_Regiment_(3_Months))

1864

Letter From Capt. Edward Schrader Johnson

Edward Schrader Johnson's letter to his father Joel was reported in the *Journal* on January 11, 1864. He reported that his regiment had reenlisted for the war. They would probably start for the North about January 1, 1864. He gave detail of the service rendered by the 7th for seven days beginning on December 11.

Joel Johnson, Esq., presented a letter from Capt. E. S. Johnson, stating that the regiment had re-enlisted for the war, and that they would probably start for the North about the first of January, also giving a detail of the service rendered by the old fighting 7th for seven days, commencing December 11th, which, of itself, is a record well worthy of preservation, and reflects great credit upon that gallant little band.



Journal, Monday, January 11, 1864.

Edward Schrader Johnson

William Todd Falls Into Cistern in Joel Johnson Lumber Yard

Joel Johnson was still operating a lumber yard in January 1864, when William Todd fell into a cistern on Johnson's property.

NARROW ESCAPE.—Yesterday as Mr. Wm. Todd was carrying an arm full of wood across the lumber yard of Joel Johnson, Esq., he stepped upon a cistern the covering, which was of boards, slipped, and he fell partially into it, hanging only by his extended arms. His cries brought a small boy to the place, who was unable to help him, but went for assistance which arrived just in time to save Mr. Todd from dropping into the cistern, as he was nearly exhausted.

Journal, Tuesday, January 19, 1864.

John Johnson Mistakenly Identified as Person in Police Court

EXPLANATION.—The John Johnson, whose name appeared in the proceedings of the police court, on Thursday last, was not the son of Joel Johnson, Esq., of this city, as some may have supposed from the names being the same.

Journal, Monday, February 1, 1864.

1865

Letter From Major Edward S. Johnson, Joel's Son

Through the courtesy of Mr. Joel Johnson, of this city, we have been permitted to see a private letter from his son, Major Edward S. Johnson, of the 7th Illinois Infantry, dated at Fayetteville, N. C., March 18th, two days after the occupation of that place by General Sherman.

Major Johnson reports the army much in want of shoes, clothing, &c., and much fatigued, but otherwise in excellent condition and the best of spirits. The casualties in the 7th regiment amounted to only two between Savannah and Fayetteville—one man killed in action and one drowned in crossing the Saltkatchie. Six companies of the regiment were mounted and on duty at Gen. Leggs' headquarters, the remaining four were on foot. The whole regiment is armed with the Henry repeating rifle, and are prepared to do most effective service.

In their march from Savannah General Sherman's forces found forage abundant, but the roads were generally bad. They had no general battle, though skirmishing was kept up nearly the whole distance from Slater's Ferry on the Savannah, to Fayetteville.

Journal, Friday, March 31, 1865.

Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln and Return of His Body to Springfield



This is a photo of the south side of the Chicago & Alton Railroad Depot on the morning of May 3, 1865, the day Abraham Lincoln's body was returned to Springfield for burial.

Major Edward S. Johnson Returns to Springfield at End of Civil War

After Colonel Edward S. Johnson returned home at the close of the Civil War, another military company was organized in Springfield known as the Springfield Zouaves. This was a crack military organization which gave exhibitions of drilling and entered competitions in neighboring cities and states. It was prominent in the social life of Springfield and its dances and dinners are well remembered by the older inhabitants.⁴¹

By an executive order of Governor William Henry Bissell on January 23, 1860, the Springfield Zouaves became the Governor's Guard. Colonel Johnson was elected captain of this company at its organization and remained its leader until 1878, when he resigned. In later years it became the Governor's Guard Veteran Corps and Colonel Johnson was elected its president and held this office until his death.

1866

Joel Johnson Joins Second Presbyterian Church

On May 6, 1866, Joel Johnson joined the Second Presbyterian Church, known as the abolitionist church. The church was located on the west side of Fourth Street between Adams and Monroe streets and its minister was Rev. Albert Hale.



Edward S. Johnson Advertises Building Materials

In a *Journal* newspaper advertisement dated January 1, 1866, Edward S. Johnson, Joel's son, advertised that he was the successor to his father, Joel, in the lumber business.

⁴¹ *Memorials of Deceased Companions of the Commandery of the State of Illinois*, by Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. Commandery of the State of Illinois, pp.632-636.

<https://books.google.com/books?pg=PA634&lpg=PA634&dq=springfield+illinois+hotels+joel+johnson&sig=ACfU3U2R3j54aHNER7PNOY0e9mm967gLtA&id=bagNAQAIAAJ&ots=a96OIRUzqk&output=text>

LUMBER, LIME, ETC.
E. S. Johnson,
 (SUCCESSOR TO J. JOHNSON.)
Dealer in
Lumber, Lath, Shingles, Timber,
Posts, Fence Pickets, Doors,
Doors, Sash, Blinds, Lime,
Hair, Etc.
 Office and yard west of the C. A. & St. R. R.,
 near H. Post & Co.'s Grain Elevator.
 Also constantly on hand Beckley's Cement
 Pitch and Roofing Felt, and Dr. Boynton's Metallic
 Roofing Varnish, for Tin Roofs.
 Orders by person or by mail will secure prompt
 and careful attention. Jan. '66

Journal, Saturday, July 21, 1866.

Joel Johnson Advertises Johnson's Block for Sale or Lease

In a *Journal* newspaper advertisement printed on December 5, 1866, Joel Johnson advertised the building known as the Johnson's Block, which had been enlarged, renovated and arranged for a hotel with upwards of 100 rooms. It was to open during December 1866.

FOR SALE AND TO LET.
FOR RENT—HOTEL.—The building known as Johnson's Block, corner Fourth and Washington streets, Springfield, Ill., which has been enlarged, renovated and arranged for a hotel, now containing upwards of one hundred rooms. This house is situated in the business portion of the city, near the Public Square, and is but one block from the Chicago & Alton railroad depot and immediately west of the Chenery House. Will be ready to open during the present month of December. Terms reasonable. For further information address or apply to
JOEL JOHNSON;
 Springfield, Ill., P. O. Box 396.

Journal, Wednesday, December 5, 1866.

1867

Gas Fixtures Advertised For Sale at Joel Johnson's New Building

GAS FIXTURES,
 also gas, steam and lead pipe of all sizes, at the lowest possible rates. Our store is in Mr. Joel Johnson's new building, opposite the Chenery House.

Journal, Thursday, January 17, 1867.

Drs. Lord & Barrell Advertise Office in Johnson's Building

E. S. LORD, M. D. H. C. BARRELL, M. D.
DRS. LORD & BARRELL
Have formed a partnership for the purpose of practicing medicine and surgery. Office, west end of Johnson's building, between Third and Fourth streets. Dr. Barrell may be found at the office at all hours, and will attend to calls in the city and country.
feb16d3m

Journal, Thursday, February 21, 1867.

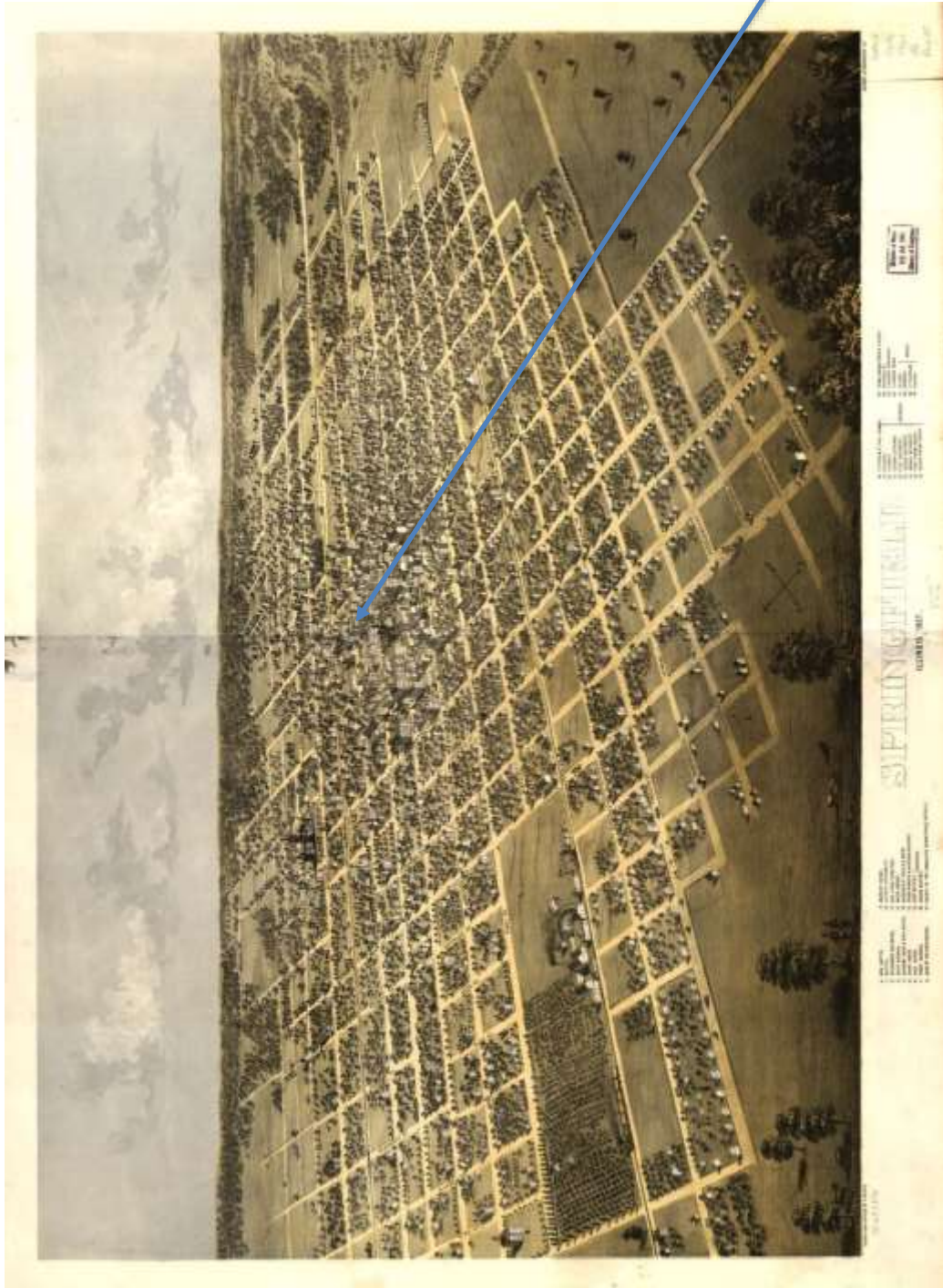
**Joel Johnson Granted Permit to Run Hand Cart
From Hotel to Depot**

The petition of Joel Johnson for privilege to run a hand cart from his hotel to O. & A. depot, was granted.

Journal, Tuesday, April 2, 1867.

1867 Springfield Perspective Drawing by Albert Ruger⁴²

Johnson's Building



⁴² Albert Ruger's map can be seen on the Library of Congress web site at <https://www.loc.gov/item/73693374/>.

1868**Edward S. Johnson Takes Five Month European Tour**
(March 30, 1868-September 1868)

Major Edward S. Johnson was engaged in business in Springfield from the close of the rebellion for more than two years. In consequence of impaired health, and for observation, he planned a European tour, and in company with Dr. Rufus S. Lord, left Springfield on March 30, 1868. They went by steamer from New York to Liverpool, thence to London, and from there to Paris. Thence to Nice on the Mediterranean; entered Italy at Genoa, thence to Pisa, Leghorn and Naples. They visited Herculaneum, Pompei, Vesuvius, etc. From Naples to Rome, Florence and Verona. In Austria, they visited Trieste and Vienna, thence to Dresden in Prussia. From there to Berlin, Potsdam, Cologne, down the Rhine to Coblenz and Mayence, where they left the Rhine, and visited Baden-Baden, Heidelberg and Strasbourg, entered Switzerland at Basle, thence to Berne, Luzerne, Mount Rigi, Martigny, and by the mountain pass Tete Noir to Chamonix, in the midst of the mountain region, including Mont Blanc. Thence to Geneva, by Diligence, and from there to Paris, where he met Dr. Lord, whom he had previously left at Strasbourg. They proceeded to London, thence to Edinburgh, Scotland, and back to Liverpool, where they took steamer for New York. From the latter city they proceeded to Saratoga, Ticonderoga, on Lake George, Plattsburg, Ogdensburg, Prescott, Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, Niagara Falls, Buffalo and Sarnia, where they took steamer on the lakes for Chicago, reaching Springfield early in September.⁴³

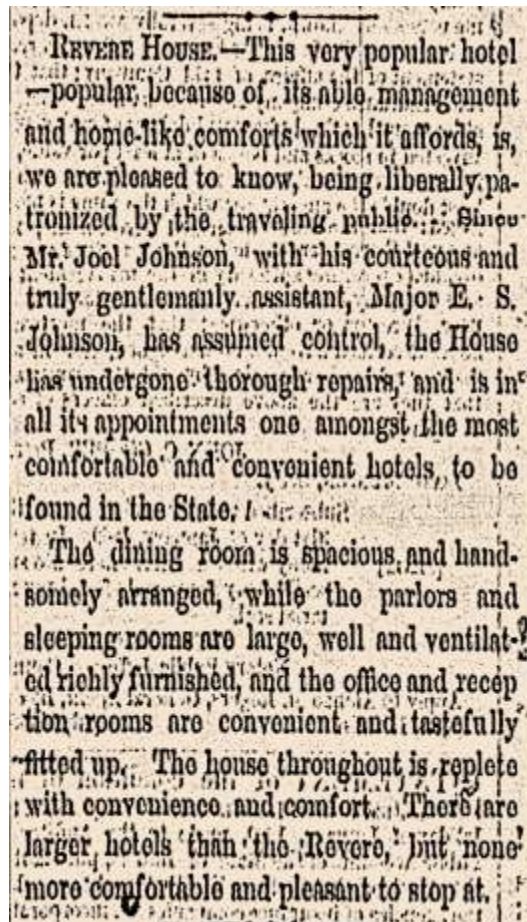
While Edward S. Johnson was on his five-month European tour, his step brother, John R. Campbell, was helping his step father, Joel Johnson, at the Revere House.

The Revere House Years (1869-1877)

1869

Description of Joel Johnson's Revere House

Joel Johnson and his "courteous and truly gentlemanly assistant, Major E. S. Johnson, has assumed control. The House has undergone thorough repairs... There are larger hotels than the Revere, but none more comfortable and pleasant to stop at."



Journal, Saturday, July 10, 1869.

Edward S. Johnson Marries Laura Clinton

On August 10, 1869, Edward Johnson was married to Laura Clinton of Springfield, Illinois.

1870

Joel Johnson Advertises Revere House

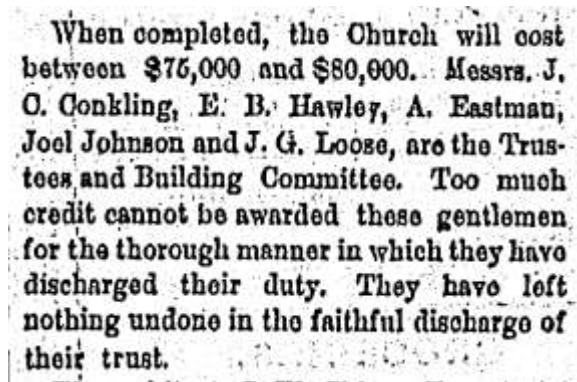


Journal, Thursday, April 14, 1870.

1871

Second Presbyterian Church Constructed at Fourth and Monroe Streets

Joel Johnson was a Trustee and member of the Building Committee for the construction of a new church for the Second Presbyterian Church at the northwest corner of Fourth and Monroe Streets.



Journal, Monday, January 2, 1871.

Joel Johnson Advertises for Good Dining Room Girls at Revere House

WANTED.—Good dining-room girls at Revere House. Also, good store rooms to rent in same building, lately occupied by I. & S. E. R. R. JOEL JOHNSON.
June 5th

Journal, Monday, June 5, 1871.

Joel Johnson Advertises Revere House

REVERE HOUSE,
SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

The undersigned having assumed the active management of this spacious hotel, so well known as the "Revere House," respectfully solicits for it the patronage of the traveling public.

The house is situated on the corner of Washington and Fourth streets, in close proximity to the Chicago & Alton Railroad Passenger Depot, and within one block of the Capitol Building.

It has undergone thorough repairs, and is, in all its appointments, one of the most comfortable and convenient hotels in the State.

Commercial men with samples will find it to their interest to call. J. JOHNSON, Proprietor.
nov14th

Journal, Wednesday, November 15, 1871.

Description of Joel Johnson's Revere House

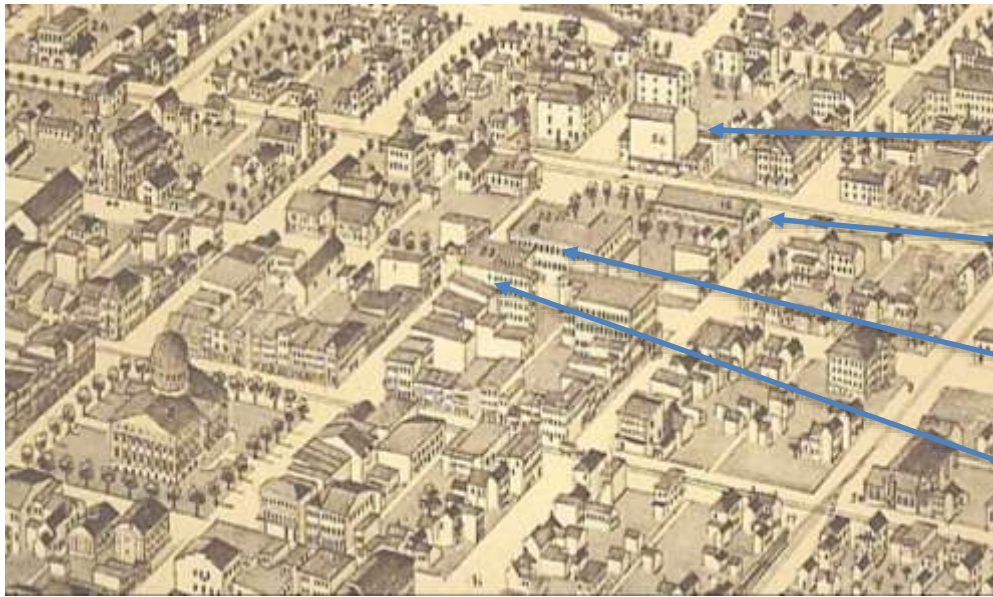
REVERE HOUSE.—This house is now under the personal management of Mr. Joel Johnson, long and favorably known to the traveling public as one who knows how to keep a good hotel. The house is situated near the depots of the Chicago & Alton and Springfield & Southeastern railroads, and within one block of the public square. The house has been put in thorough repair, and is in all its appointments a comfortable and desirable hotel. See card in another column of to-day's paper.

Journal, Wednesday, November 15, 1871.

1872

Perspective Drawing of Springfield

The *Bird's Eye View of Springfield* shown below was drawn in 1872 by artist Augustus Koch. I have identified several of the places and streets associated with Joel's Springfield life.



Mill

Railroad Station

Revere Hotel

Chenery House

Washington

Jefferson

Madison

1873

Death of William D. Cheney

(1790-1873)

Memorial.—William D. Cheney, who died in this city on the 21st inst., was born on the first day of May, 1790, at Boyston, Worcester county, Massachusetts. He was the eldest child of Dr. Thaddeus and Mary Cheney—his mother's maiden name was Doda. His father was a very eminent physician, who followed his profession many years and died at the advanced age of ninety-one. Mr. Cheney had two brothers and three sisters, two of the latter now residing in the north part of the State.

He was married in December, 1826, to Abigail Patridge, who now survives him; he leaves a family, to mourn his loss, of four sons and three daughters.

Possessed of great energy and enterprise of character, he naturally thought of the distant West and the Mississippi Valley as the proper place for a home for himself and family. In the year 1831 he came West on a prospecting tour—after examining different parts of the country, he decided to select Morgan county, Illinois, as his future home. He returned to Massachusetts during the winter of the deep snow, 1831-2, on horseback, a journey of many weeks and much hardship, but not altogether uncongential to a man of his positive character and firm resolve. Having made his arrangements he bid farewell to his parents and early friends and removed in July 1832 with his family and settled on a farm two miles from Jacksonville, in what was then and since known as Diamond Grove.

He afterwards moved to Jacksonville and was engaged in merchandize for several years; in 1839 he removed to a farm near Bethel.

In 1848 he engaged in the hotel business in Jacksonville, in which occupation he was engaged, with the exception of two or three years of leisure, the rest of his life. He took charge of the American House at Springfield in 1852; purchased in 1855 of Joel Johnson, the hotel which has since been so favorably known over the country as the Cheney House, where he has associated with himself in the control and management three of his sons.

Mr. Cheney's death was rather sudden, though being in his seventy-eighth year, and of late in declining health, could not be altogether unexpected. On Thursday night he was attacked with a violent fever, the force of which was seated on his brain. He was delirious during the greater portion of his illness, but at times when the fever seemed to be passing away, his mind cleared and asserted its superiority over all bodily infirmities. He then fully appreciated his situation and all its surroundings. Peacefully and with sweet christian resignation he recognized the solemn fact that with his advanced years, failing strength, and the destroying disease which was so firmly fastened upon his system, that his days were numbered, and his earthly life must give place to the eternal one.

In conversation with the Rev. Mr. Shaw and the Rev. Albert Hale, he expressed his perfect confidence and willingness to die, trusting in the truth and grace of our beloved Savior for his sanctification and immortal life.

During the last few days of his life, though very weak and often suffering, he was especially thoughtful and considerate of all his friends, and members of his own family, who waited by his bedside, and ministered to all his wants, with such watchful eyes and ready hands, vainly hoping to postpone the fatal hour.

Submissively resigned to death, he calmly passed away supported by Christian faith.

Few men in Central Illinois were so well and favorably known to the traveling public. Being at the head of a popular hotel for more than twenty years in the Capital city of this State, he necessarily made the acquaintance of most all the public men of the State, and during the candidacy of Abraham Lincoln for the presidency, of many of the most eminent men of the Union; all of whom will remember him with kindness and respect for his cordial welcome and strict attention to their comfort.

At the disruption of the Whig party, and during the politico-moral contest on the slavery question which preceded the rebellion, he became a member of the Republican party, naturally carried there by his love of liberty, hatred of oppression, and moral and religious convictions. During the war he was a consistent and enthusiastic friend of the Union. He was always a man of decided opinions, but he never allowed his political views and feelings to interrupt or mar the pleasure of his social intercourse with his friends, who might hold different political ideas.

He was a man of too enlarged intelligence and depth and breadth of character, not to willingly concede to others what he would have most strenuously claimed for himself, free and independent convictions on all questions of a political or religious nature.

As a man he was endowed with warm feeling and generous impulses. If at any time he was impatient, and said or did anything calculated to wound the sensibilities of any person, he was the first to regret it; for cordiality and goodness of heart were deeply implanted in his disposition.

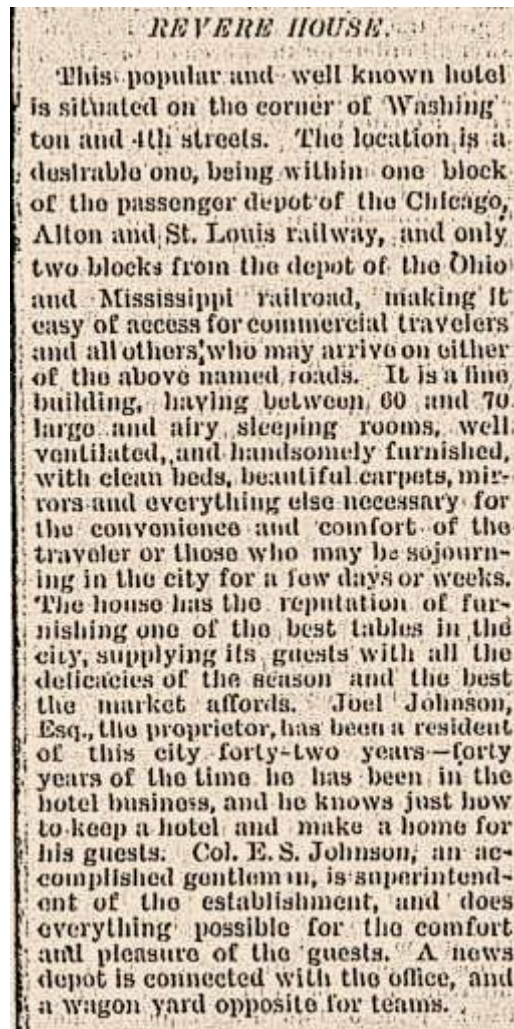
He was an earnest, sincere and faithful friend; a most devoted husband, a kind and indulgent father. It was in the inner home circle where the most beautiful traits of character and the purity of his whole life was best known and most gratefully recognized and appreciated.

Journal, Thursday, October 23, 1873.

1876

Description of Joel Johnson's Revere House

The *Journal* newspaper of January 1, 1876, described the Revere House. It had between 60 and 70 large and airy sleeping rooms, well ventilated, and handsomely furnished with clean beds, beautiful carpets, mirrors and one of the best tables in the city. Col. Edward S. Johnson, an accomplished gentleman, is superintendent of the hotel and does everything possible for the comfort and pleasure of the guests. A news depot is connected to the office and a wagon yard is opposite for teams.



Journal, Saturday, January 1, 1876.

Attempt to Steal Lincoln Body and Reburial

On November 7, 1876, after the unsuccessful attempt to steal the body of President Lincoln from its resting place in the marble sarcophagus in the north room of the monument, fears were entertained by the trustees of the Lincoln Monument Association as

to its future safety. It was decided to select a few men whose honor was beyond question to be entrusted with the burial of the casket containing the President's body within the confines of the monument known only to themselves. Those chosen were John C. Power, who was at that time custodian of the monument, Major Gustavus S. Dana, Gen. Jasper T. Reece, Colonel Edward S. Johnson, Joseph P. Lindley and James F. McNeill.

1877

Springfield Hotels

HOTELS.

Springfield has always been noted for its excellent hotel accommodations. Even in the early days, when a little cluster of houses was all that existed on the present site of the city, people from far and near sounded the praises of the hotels. It is impossible to state with a degree of certainty who carried on the first hotel, and when it was opened to the public. The National House stood on Adams street, between Third and Fourth, at a very early day. It was a long, low frame building, and has had the honor of sheltering, in its day, men whose names have gone into history. The building, long ago, fell into decay, and has been removed. At a very early day, Joel Johnson built a hotel on what is now West Jefferson street. He had in the larger portion of his furniture, when the building caught fire and burned down. Nearly everything was destroyed. Mr. Johnson was not dismayed, however, and soon after built the City Hotel, now a part of the Hotel Palace. The American House was built about the year 1837, and was considered a wonder for those days. Its praises were sounded far and near, and people who lodged within its walls were as proud as the man from the back district who is permitted to occupy a room and sit at the Leland dining-table. The old American has gone, has literally disappeared from the earth, and we now have to do with the hotels of to day, and it will be seen that in that respect we are as well off as cities of twice our population and wealth.

Death and Funeral of Joel Johnson (1806-1877)

Joel Johnson died on May 4, 1877, at age 70 at Springfield, Illinois. His funeral was held at the Second Presbyterian Church and he was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois.

ANOTHER OLD CITIZEN GONE.

Mr. Joel Johnson Drops Dead in the Street.

Mr. Joel Johnson, proprietor of the Revere House, about five o'clock Friday afternoon, went to the store of Henson Robinson, on Fifth street, to see about some work he was having done there. While in the shop over the store he was observed to have a peculiar look, but no particular attention was paid to it. It not being convenient for the workmen to attend to him at the instant, he left the shop, got in his buggy and drove around to his hotel, and transacted some business there and started to return to Mr. Robinson's, but when near the store was observed to fall backward. Capt. Wilkinson and others who saw him went to his relief and found him dead. He was taken back to the hotel, and physicians summoned, who found that his death was caused by *embolism*, a form of apoplexy, wherein the blood vessels clog instead of burst. Coroner Bierce held an inquest, and the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the above facts.

Mr. Johnson was born in Berkshire, Mass., in 1806, and removed to Springfield in 1833, and for a year or two was engaged in the boot and shoe business. He then opened a hotel, and has been engaged in that line of business ever since. He built the present Chenery House—then known as the Revere—and after disposing of that built the present Revere House. He was the oldest landlord in Central Illinois, and probably more widely known than any other now living.

His funeral will take place at the Second Presbyterian church, at 3 o'clock, Sunday afternoon, Revs. G. H. Fullerton and Father Hale officiating.

Journal, Saturday, May 5, 1877.

The funeral of Mr. Joel Johnson took place from the Second Presbyterian Church, yesterday, and was largely attended, not only by citizens of Springfield, but by old residents from all parts of the county, and other points. Revs. Father Hale and, G. H. Fullerton officiated.

Journal, Monday, May 7, 1877.



This is the Joel Johnson Family grave marker in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois. In addition to Joel's name, the marker also contains the following names: Elizabeth Newman, his wife 1815-1850; Charles, his son, 1839-1860; John W., his son 1845-1864; and Elizabeth Campbell, his second wife, 1822-1894.

Joel Johnson Estate

Joel Johnson had a simple will leaving his wife, Elizabeth Johnson, half of his property after payment of debts and expenses. He left his son Edward the balance. He named Lucian Adams as his executor. Joel's will failed to meet the formal, legal requirements for a valid will. It was not admitted by the court and instead, Joel's estate was treated as if he had no will and his wife was appointed Administratrix, the person with the legal authority to settle Joel's estate.

In the matter of the estate of Joel Johnson, deceased, letters were issued to Elizabeth Johnson, upon her giving \$40,000 bonds with George M. Brinkerhoff and Clinton L. Conkling as sureties.

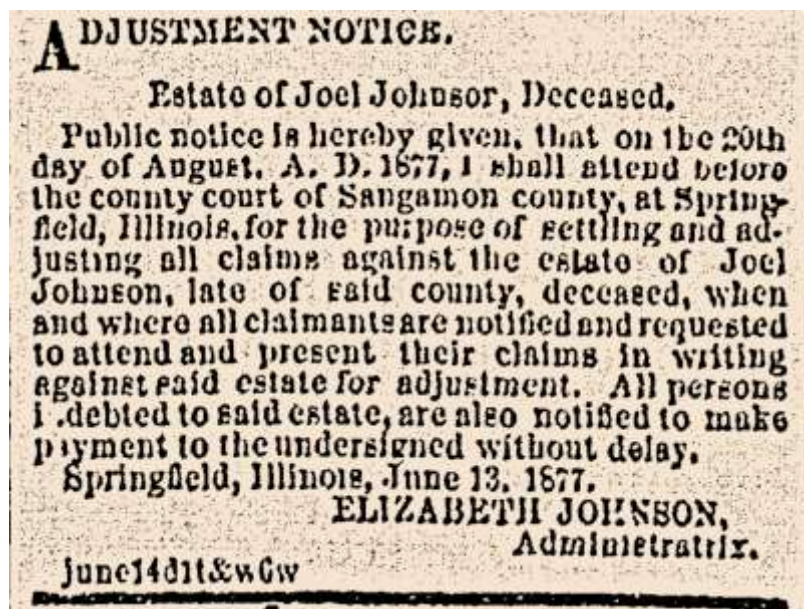
Journal, Friday, June 15, 1877.⁴⁴

The probate court file for Joel's estate is archived at the Illinois Regional Archives at the University of Illinois Springfield and is quite large. The documents can be sorted into three categories. The first category contains the standard documents one would find

⁴⁴ *Journal*, Friday, June 15, 1877, p. 4.

in most estates: admission of the will, appointment of person in charge of estate, inventory of the estate, authorization for payment of debts and finally receipts of those receiving property from the estate and a discharge of the person in charge. The other category contains documents pertaining to a contentious fight between Edward and his stepmother over property and payments to be made from the estate. The third and final category is claims for unpaid debts against Joel, and there were many.

On June 14, 1877, Elizabeth Johnson, Joel's widow, published his estate adjustment notice. She was the administratrix of Joel's estate.



Journal, Thursday, June 14, 1877.

Elizabeth Johnson Sues Stepson Edward S. Johnson

It seems that at Joel's death, Edward continued the management of the Revere House—paying employees and suppliers and welcoming guests. This was not suitable for Elizabeth, and objections and court affidavits tell a story of disagreement and accusations that last for a number of years. Finally, Edward bought Elizabeth's interest, but then defaulted on payment of the purchase price.

In October 1877, Elizabeth Johnson, Joel's widow, sold her dower interest in property that Joel had owned in Springfield for \$6,000 to her stepson Edward S. Johnson.

Elizabeth Johnson has commenced an assumpsit suit against her son, Major Edward S. Johnson. Mrs. Johnson is the widow of Joel Johnson, who died May 4, 1877. In October, 1877, according to the papers filed yesterday, Major Johnson bought out his mother's dower interest in certain property in this city agreeing to pay her the sum of \$6,000. She alleges that he has not made payment of that sum, and therefore sues him for its recovery.

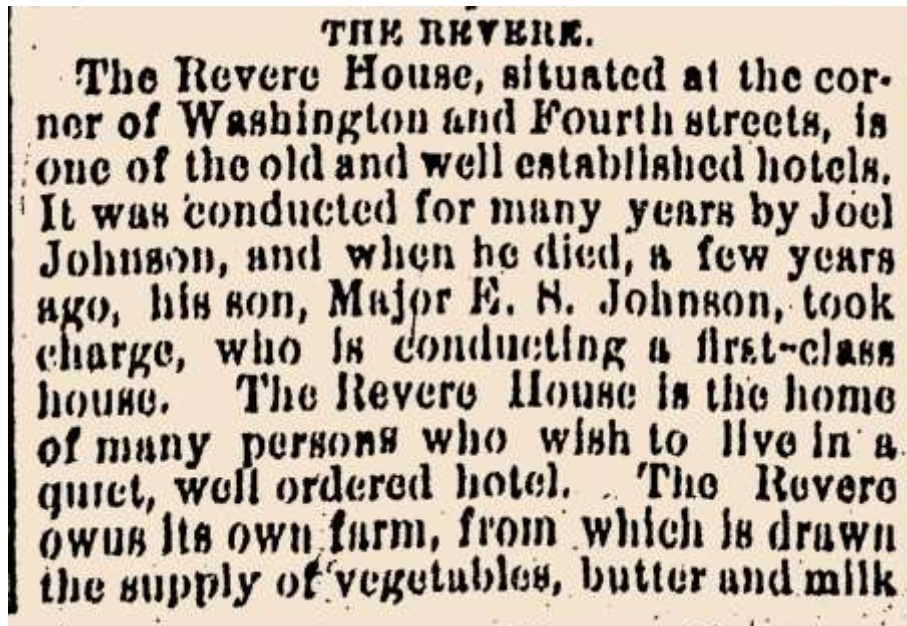
Journal, Saturday, December 28, 1889.

**Afterwards
(1878-1921)**

1878

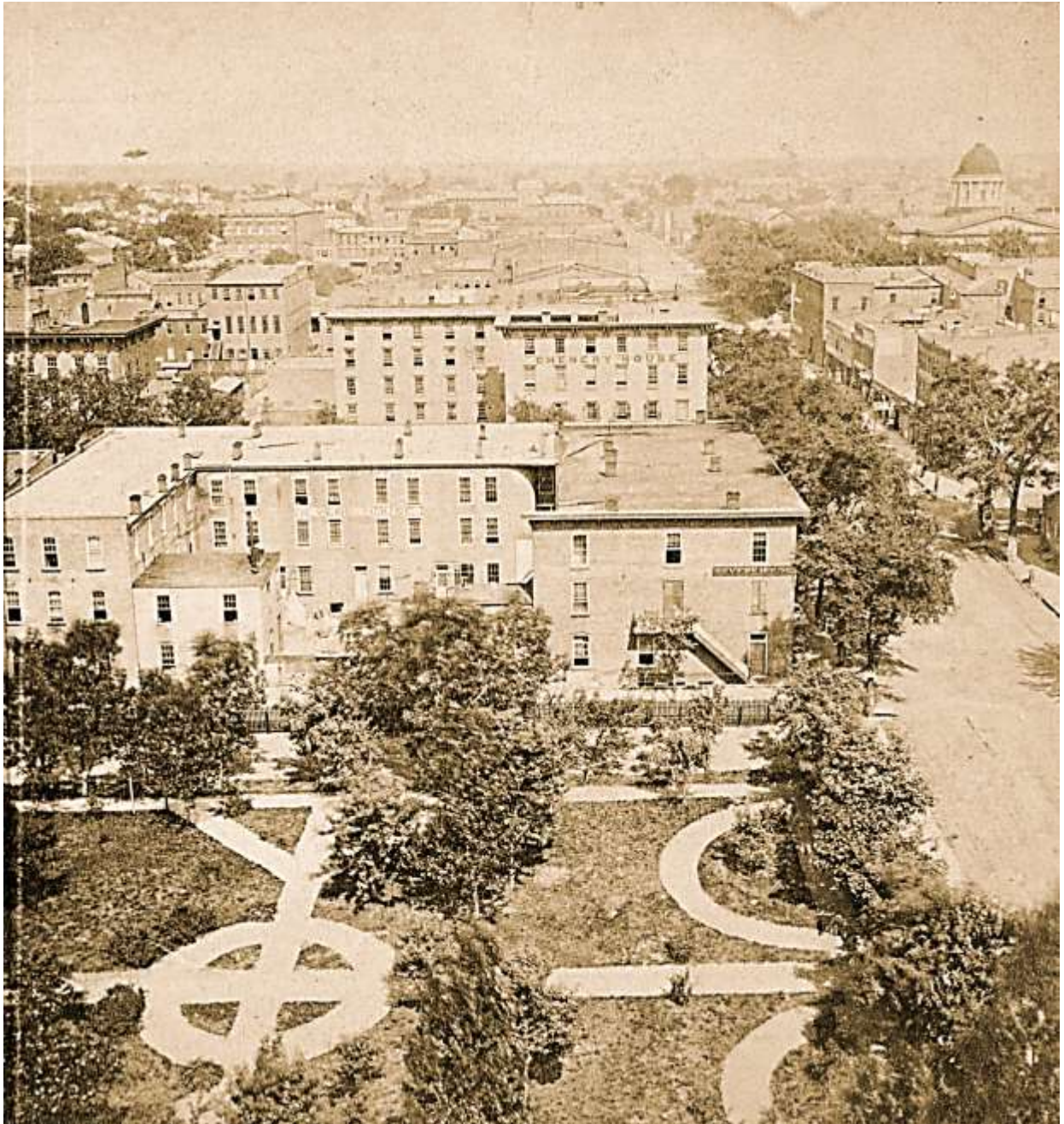
The Revere House Operated by Edward S. Johnson

At Joel Johnson's death in 1877, his son, Edward S. Johnson, acquired his father's Revere House property at the northwest corner of Fourth and Washington streets. He remained the hotel proprietor until 1893, when he sold the business and spent two years in Chicago.



THE REVERE.
The Revere House, situated at the corner of Washington and Fourth streets, is one of the old and well established hotels. It was conducted for many years by Joel Johnson, and when he died, a few years ago, his son, Major E. S. Johnson, took charge, who is conducting a first-class house. The Revere House is the home of many persons who wish to live in a quiet, well ordered hotel. The Revere owns its own farm, from which is drawn the supply of vegetables, butter and milk.

Journal, Tuesday, May 10, 1878.



The photograph above is of west or back side of the then Revere House, previously known as Johnson's Building, at the northwest corner of Fourth and Washington streets.⁴⁵ It was taken from an upper floor of the mill just west of the railroad, at the northwest corner of Third and Washington streets, so the view is looking east. The Chenery House is east across the street and the Old State Capitol in the upper right corner. The name of the photographer is unknown. This photograph was printed in *Souvenir of Springfield*, published by H. E. Barker, Art Dealer, Springfield, Illinois, 1890. In the foreground is an

⁴⁵ *Souvenir of Springfield*, published by H. E. Barker, Art Dealer, Springfield, Illinois, 1890.

open landscaped parcel, perhaps a park, with geometric walkways crisscrossing the park. These paths may have been for carriages to use when picking up or dropping off passengers at the Chicago and Alton railroad station that adjoined the park to the north. The number of street side trees surprised me.

1880

The Lincoln Guard of Honor Includes Edward S. Johnson

On February 12, 1880, the 71st anniversary of the birth of Lincoln, the six men appointed to protect the body of Abraham Lincoln were formally incorporated into the organization known as the Lincoln Guard of Honor whose object was to purchase the former home of the President in Springfield and open it to the public; to be in charge of memorial services upon anniversary occasions and to collect and preserve mementoes of Lincoln's life and death.



The photo to the right is of the Lincoln Guard of Honor and those pictured from 12:00 o'clock clockwise are H. C. Chapin, N. B. Wiggins, J. C. Power, E. S. Johnson, J. N. Reece, C. L. Conkling, J. P. Lindley, G. S. Dana, and J. F. McNeill.

1883

Ownership of Hotel Palace Changes

On January 1, 1883, ownership of the Hotel Palace passed to David J. Block.

1884

History of Ownership of City Hotel and Hotel Palace and Chenery House

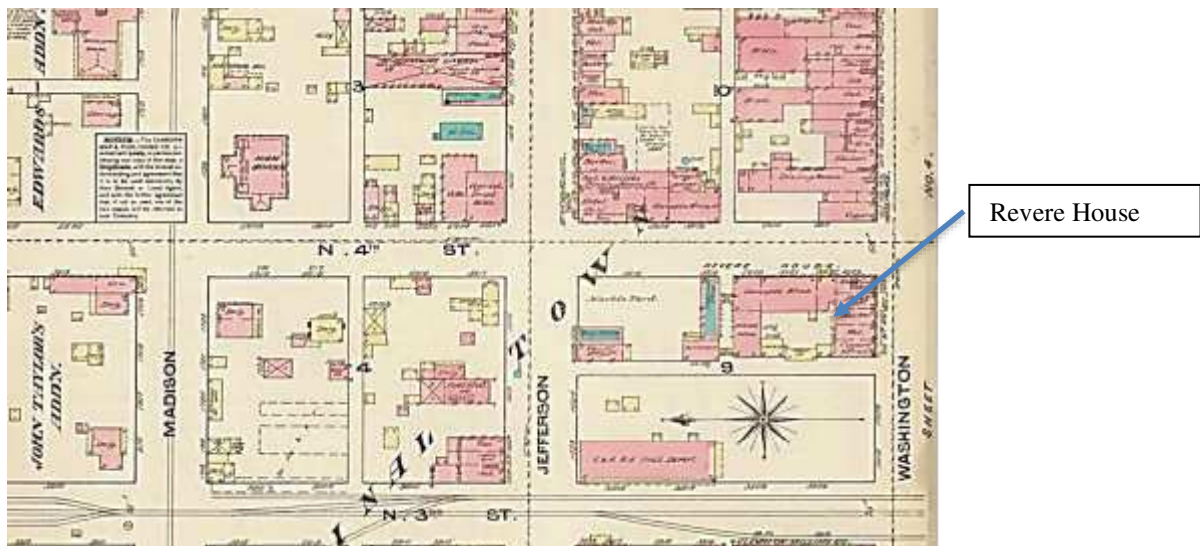
The Revere Hotel was at the northwest corner and the Hotel Palace was at the northeast corner of Fourth and Washington streets.

used on the table. The Revere can accommodate from 150 to 200 guests.
THE HOTEL PALACE.
This well-known and favorite resort stands opposite the Revere House, corner of Fourth and Washington streets. The Palace has a long and eventful history, dating back to the time of the Constitutional Convention, although this claim is denied by some. It was first run by Joel Johnson under the name of the City Hotel. It was afterward conducted by the Chenery's, and after passing through several changes, on the first day of January, 1883, fell into the hands of the present proprietor, Mr. D. J. Block. The Palace has been newly furnished, and is in every respect a first-class house.

Journal, Saturday, January 5, 1884.

1884 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map⁴⁶

The map below is from the 1884 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the footprint of what had been Joel Johnson's Revere House.



1886

Tax Purchaser Notice: Joel Johnson Property

A sheriff's sale of property owned by the estate of Joel Johnson was held at the Court House on June 18, 1884. C. McLane purchased the west part, north ½, south ½

⁴⁶ 1884 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois.

southeast $\frac{1}{4}$, northwest $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 12, Township 15 North, Range 8. containing 6 acres.
Redemption rights expired on June 1, 1886.

TAX PURCHASER'S NOTICE.
Springfield, Ill., March 18, 1886.
To Joel G. Johnson and all parties interested:
You are hereby notified, that at a sale of real estate, made by the County Treasurer and Collector of Sangamon County, Illinois, at the door of the Court House, in the City of Springfield, Sangamon County, and State of Illinois, on the 18th day of June, A. D. 1884, C. McLane purchased the following described real estate, situated in said County, for the taxes, special assessments, interest, penalties and costs due and unpaid thereon, for the year A. D. 1883, to-wit:
In whose name taxed—Joel G. Johnson; west part north one-half, south one-half, south-east one-fourth, north-west one fourth, Section 12, Town 15, Range 8, 6 Acres.
And that the time allowed by law for the redemption of said real estate will expire on the 1th day of June, A. D. 1886.
d3t
E. S. WALKER, Assignee.

Journal, Thursday, March 11, 1886.

1889

Elizabeth Johnson Sues Stepson Edward S. Johnson

In October 1877, Edward acquired his mother in law's interest in her inheritance from Joel. The acquisition price of \$6,000 was to be paid over time with interest. Edward failed to pay, and Elizabeth sued him in 1889 to have paid notes for the \$6,000 obligation and Elizabeth sued him to recover.

Elizabeth Johnson has commenced an assumpsit suit against her son, Major Edward S. Johnson. Mrs. Johnson is the widow of Joel Johnson, who died May 4, 1877. In October, 1877, according to the papers filed yesterday, Major Johnson bought out his mother's dower interest in certain property in this city agreeing to pay her the sum of \$6,000. She alleges that he has not made payment of that sum, and therefore sues him for its recovery.

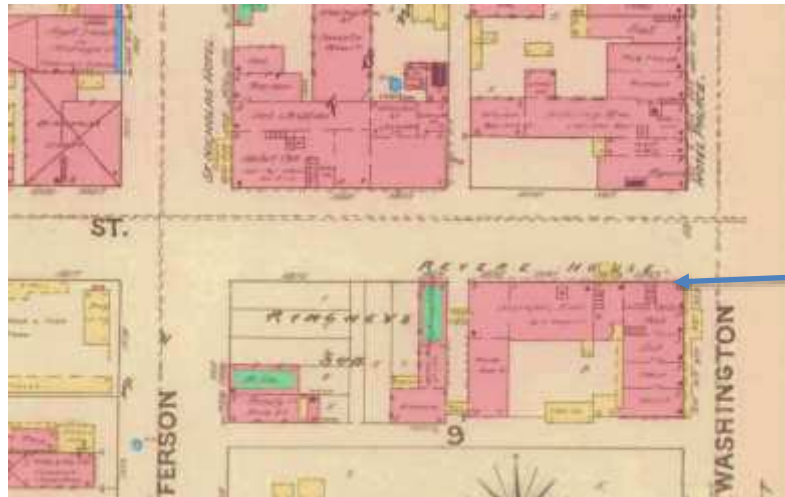
Journal, Saturday, December 28, 1889.

1890

1890 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map⁴⁷

The map below is from the 1890 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map and shows the footprint of what had been Joel Johnson's Revere House.

⁴⁷ Illinois, Sanborn Map Company, July 1890, Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C. 20540-4650
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4104sm.g021631890>



Revere House

1892

Edward S. Johnson Entertains New Year's at the Revere House

NEW YEAR'S AT THE REVERE.

Major and Mrs. Edward S. Johnson of the Revere House observed New Year's day in a most appropriate manner. The table was laden with all of the delicacies of the season and each guest present was presented with a souvenir in the shape of a very handsomely embossed menu card, with a beautiful picture of a sprig of May flowers and bearing a pretty verse in gilt letters. Among the guests were a number of the local newspaper men and their ladies.

Journal, Saturday, January 2, 1892.⁴⁸

1893

Edward S. Johnson Sells Revere House

Edward S. Johnson acquired the Revere House property at the northwest corner of Fourth and Washington streets from his father Joel. He remained its proprietor until 1893, when he sold the business and spent the following two years in Chicago.

⁴⁸ *Journal*, Saturday, January 2, 1892, p. 4.

1894

Death of Elizabeth T. Johnson (1824-1894)

Joel Johnson's widow, Elizabeth T. Johnson, died in Springfield on November 11, 1894. The funeral took place at the Second Presbyterian Church at the northwest corner of Fourth and Monroe streets.

JOHNSON—At the residence of her son, John R. Campbell, No. 417 Williams street, Sunday, Nov. 11, suddenly, of heart trouble, Mrs. Elizabeth T. Johnson, widow of the late Joel Johnson, aged 70 years.

Mrs. Johnson was born in Kentucky and came to this state with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward McGovern, when she was quite young. They settled near Carrollton. She was married to John L. Campbell and removed to Des Moines county, Iowa, where her surviving son, John R. Campbell, was born. She afterward removed to Decatur, where she was married in January, 1853, to Joel Johnson, who died in the spring of 1877. She has been a resident of this city ever since her marriage with Mr. Johnson. She is survived by her son, John R. Campbell, of this city; a stepson, Maj. Edward S. Johnson, late of this city, but now of Chicago, and her sister, Mrs. J. P. Boyd, of Decatur.

The funeral will take place at 2 p. m. to-day at the Second Presbyterian church, of which she has been a member since she came here in 1853, the Rev. D. S. Johnson officiating. Her sister, Mrs. Boyd, arrived in the city last night.

JOHNSON—Died, Sunday, Nov. 11, at the residence of her son, John R. Campbell, 417 Williams street, of heart trouble, Mrs. Elizabeth T. Johnson, widow of the late Joel Johnson.

Mrs. Johnson's death resulted from heart trouble and was sudden. She was 70 years old. Mrs. Johnson was formerly Mrs. Elizabeth T. Campbell. She was married to Joel Johnson, Jan. 3, 1852. The latter's first wife, Mrs. Eliza Johnson, died some years previously. Their son, Major Edward S. Johnson, is well known here as the former proprietor of the old Revere house, having taken sole charge of that hostelry in 1879, after the death of his father, Joel Johnson. The elder Johnson first opened a hotel in this city in 1835, coming here two years previously from Edwardsville.



Register, Tuesday, November 13, 1894.⁴⁹

Journal, Monday, November 12, 1894.⁵⁰

1893-1895

Edward S. Johnson in Chicago Managing Hotels

From 1893 until 1895, Edward S. Johnson lived in Chicago where he managed hotels.

1896

Edward S. Johnson Appointed Custodian of Lincoln Tomb

When ownership of the Lincoln Tomb was transferred to the State of Illinois, Governor Altgeld appointed 53-year-old Major Edward S. Johnson as custodian. Edward returned to Springfield from Chicago and assumed his duties on July 9, 1896, during the period of reconstruction of the tomb.

⁴⁹ *Register*, Tuesday, November 13, 1894, p. 8.

⁵⁰ *Journal*, Monday, November 12, 1894, p. 5.

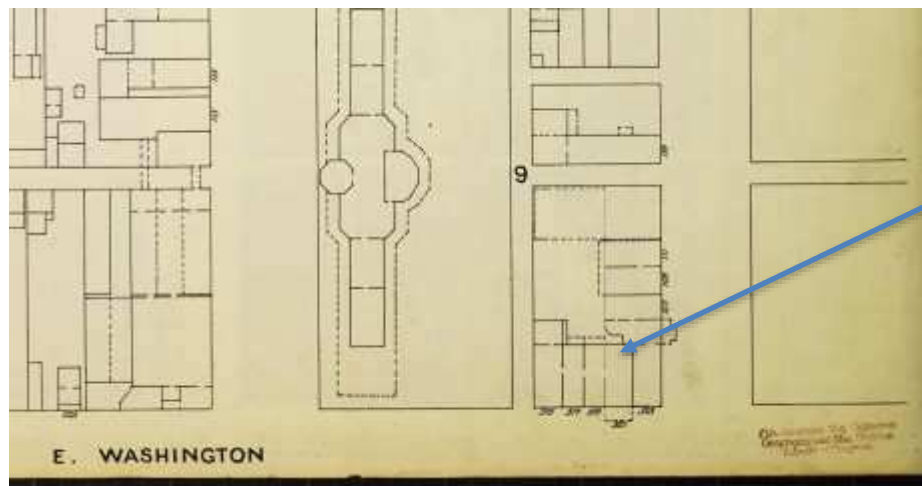
Edward S. Johnson First to Live in Custodian's House at Lincoln Tomb

Edward S. Johnson was the first custodian to live in the Lincoln Tomb Custodian's Home, which was built next to the tomb in 1896. Joel spent the next twenty-five years in loving service to the memory of the friend and hero of his youth, Abraham Lincoln. He died at age 77, on February 15, 1921.⁵¹



1896 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map⁵²

The map below is from the 1896 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the footprint of what had been Joel Johnson's Revere House.



⁵¹ *Custodians of The Lincoln Tomb*, by George L. Cashman, as printed in the "Central Illinois Genealogical Quarterly", August 1968, Vol IV, Number 3, Transcribed by Kim Torp. <https://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=7206>

⁵² Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C. 20540-4650 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4104sm.g021631896>

1900-1901

Edward S. Johnson Supervises Reconstruction of Lincoln Tomb

Edward S. Johnson oversaw the complete reconstruction of the Lincoln Tomb in 1900-01.

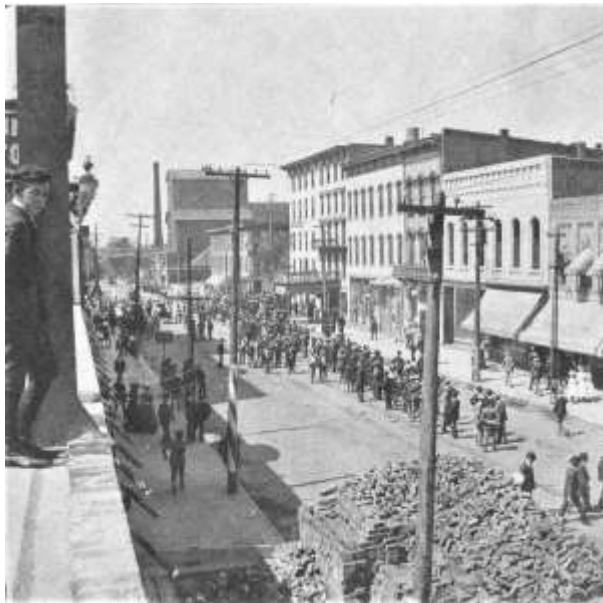
1901

Edward S. Johnson and Wife Present at Interment of Abraham Lincoln in Concrete Vault

Edward and his wife Laura were among those present when President Lincoln's body was permanently interred in a concrete vault below the burial chamber on September 26, 1901. Edward remained custodian for another 20 years, until his death in 1921.⁵³

Photograph of Revere House and Chenery House

The early 1900s photograph below looks west on Washington Street from the southwest corner of Fifth Street. It shows the two hotels—Revere and Chenery—at the north corners of Fourth and Washington streets. Further west beyond Third Street it shows the ___ Mill. It would be interesting to know the occasion that brought together the well-dressed group of Springfield folks.



⁵³ <https://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=7206> *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association*, "Transformation of the Lincoln Tomb," Nancy Hill, Volume 27, Issue 1, Winter 2006, pp. 39-56.
Permalink: <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.2629860.0027.105>

The Palace Hotel

In the late 1800s, Springfield's Palace Hotel had a great location at Fourth and Washington streets, a half-block from the Chicago & Alton railroad station (today's Amtrak station). For a while, the Palace was one of the city's premier hostelrys.

But the place deteriorated considerably by the time its owner, Col. David Block, decided to sell out in 1899. Here's how *Illinois State Journal* columnist A.L. Bowen described his first memories of the Palace in 1945.

"It was flourishing when I came to Springfield under the direction of David Block, his wife, son Dave Jr. and daughter Sally, as fine publicity as any house could have, since all of them were jovial and well fed. Will, another son, was prominent in New York theatricals.

"The Palace was purely ironical. It was dreary to look at and sad and dark inside, built of wood and tinder. How much its guests owe to the sheltering hand of Providence, I doubt that any of them ever stopped to consider, but a fire once started would have exceeded in speed Springfield's pony express squirt gun fire department of that day.

"The Palace was famous for its rodents, some as large as cats and as ferocious as hyenas. Guests used to tell of their sleepless nights as these travelers raced about through the hollow walls and floors raising a tremendous racket, like a flour mill in full action."

Bowen remembered the Palace because of a chat he had had with a state official on that corner the night Bowen arrived in Springfield in 1899.

The Palace was sold a couple of times after Block unloaded the property. Most of the furniture and fixtures were disposed of in a series of auctions in 1901. Finally, in 1904, new owners built another hotel, the Illinois, on the site at the northeast corner of Fourth and Washington streets. That building, somewhat remodeled, has been in recent years the offices of the Illinois Sheriffs' Association.⁵⁴

1903

Illinois Hotel Built 401 East Washington Street, Springfield, Illinois

The Illinois Hotel was constructed in 1903 on the site of the former Chenery House Hotel at the northeast corner of Fourth and Washington streets. Its 71 rooms provided permanent and transient accommodations and was described in a 1912 promotional publication as having a "modern fine popular priced café" on the premises. The hotel operated until 1947 when it was converted to offices. The picture shows the building's distinctive, curved bay windows on the second and third floors that were removed later. Subsequently the original glass storefronts and Classical Revival cornice were removed.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ *Original content copyright Sangamon County Historical Society.* Posted on March 21, 2020 by editor Mike Kienzler <https://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=11965>

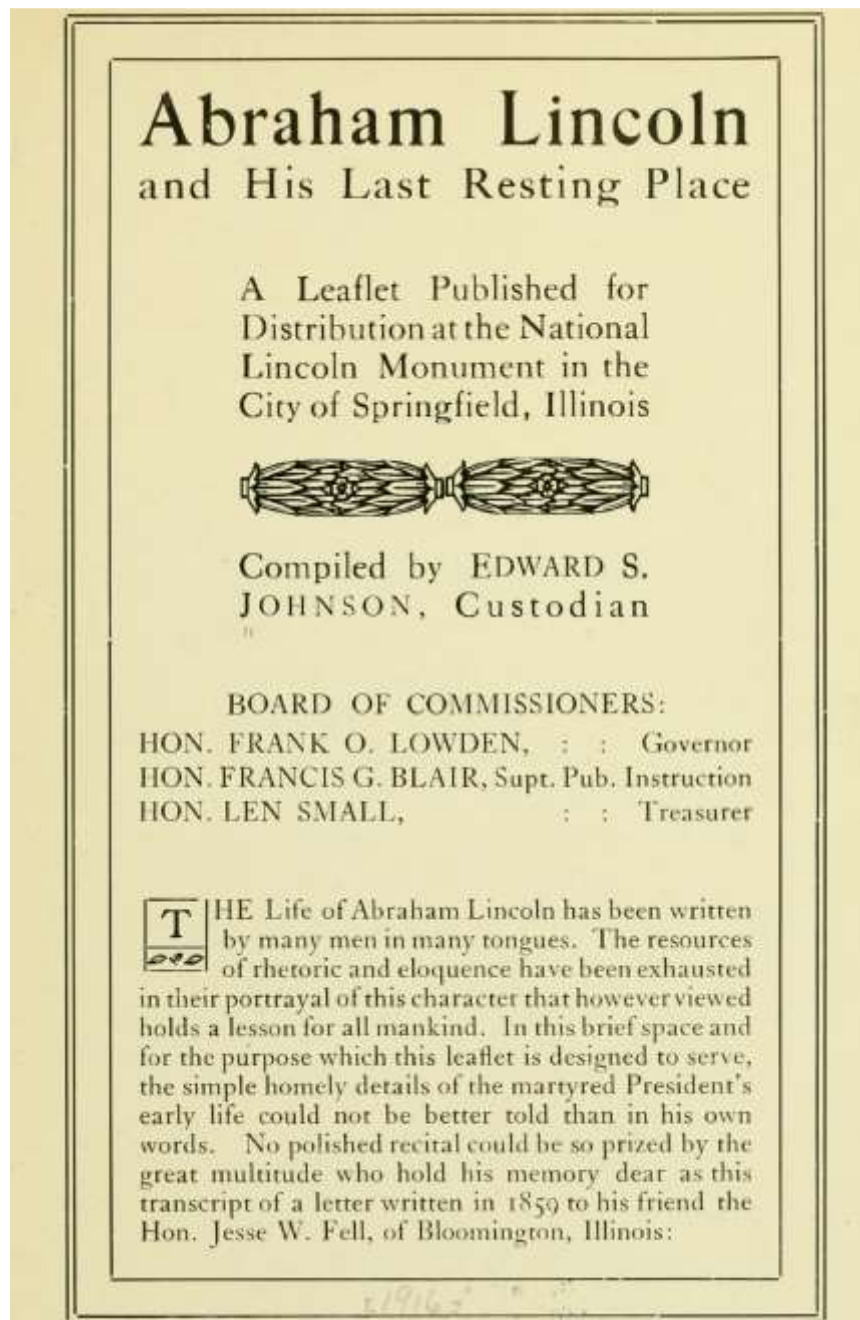
⁵⁵ *Springfield: The Capital of the State of Illinois*, 1912, Courtesy of the Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.



The 2019 photograph below is of the Illinois Hotel, the Chenery House site at the northeast corner of Fourth and Washington streets, after a 1990s remodeling and as it appeared in 2020.



Edward S. Johnson Authors Leaflet
Abraham Lincoln and His Last Resting Place



The first edition of Edward S. Johnson's writings was a leaflet printed in 1903. There were 5 more editions by 1924 and the leaflet had by then expanded into a full grown oak tree.⁵⁶

⁵⁶ *Abraham Lincoln & His Last Resting Place*; a leaflet published for distribution at the National Lincoln monument in the city of Springfield, Illinois, comp., Johnson, Edward S. Alfred Whitall Stern Collection of Lincolniana (Library of Congress).

1912

**Death of John R. Campbell
(1845-1912)**

John R. Campbell was Joel Johnson's stepson. John's mother was Elizabeth T. Campbell Johnson.

Aged Veteran Passes Away - Died, at 8:25 o'clock Saturday morning, Jan. 20, 1912, at the residence of his son, Dr. R. K. Campbell, 630 South Eleventh street, John R. Campbell, aged 67 years, a veteran of the civil war and a well-known resident of this city. Mr. Campbell's health had been failing for more than a year, but his death followed an acute illness of one week.

The deceased was born near Burlington, Iowa, April 28, 1845, and removed with his mother to this city in 1863, following a second marriage of his mother to Joel Johnson, proprietor at that time of the Revere House in this city. Leaving college to enlist in the Seventh Illinois Infantry at the outbreak of the civil war, Mr. Campbell served throughout the war and was discharged from the service June 16, 1865. He was a prisoner in [a Confederate] prison at ... for ten months in the course of the conflict.

At the close of hostilities he returned to this city and engaged in various businesses, including the management of the Revere House, the grocery, grain and hardware businesses. Going to Lawrence, Kan., in 1869, he was for a time engaged in the real estate business there. He had traveled extensively, having visited all but two of the states of the union. He was also active in political affairs.

As a member of Stephenson Post No. 30, G. A. R., Mr. Campbell was chosen commander of the post, which position he held throughout the year 1907. He had also been connected with the Illinois National Guard in the capacity of sutler for twenty-one years.

Mr. Campbell was united in marriage with the widow of Lieut. Busby, a daughter of Captain Caleb Hopkins of this city, in 1871. Following her death in 1877, he married Mrs. Clark of Scottsville, Ill, who survives him. He is also survived by his son, Dr. R. K. Campbell.



Funeral services will be held at 10 o'clock Monday morning at the residence of Dr. Campbell, 630 South Eleventh street. Interment will be made in Oak Ridge cemetery, the G. A. R. having charge of the services at the grave.⁵⁷

⁵⁷ *Journal*, January 21, 1912. https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24770066/john-r_-campbell

1921

Death of Edward Schrader Johnson (1843-1921)

Colonel Edward Johnson died suddenly of heart failure at sunrise on the morning of February 15, 1921. He had not been in his usual vigorous health for more than a year, but had been able to perform his duties in connection with the monument and at no time had been confined to his bed. On February 12, three days previous, he had arranged and conducted the exercises held in commemoration of Lincoln's birth.

Major Johnson, 1843-1921
Great Falls. It was a beautiful sunset that evening. Johnson was here a lot of about sixteen weeks. Chapter I was the first company of the Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and the first to be sent to Illinois to make the march to Governor Robert Yates. This was about April 25, the day following his being sworn into service.

MAJOR EDWARD S. JOHNSON, 1843-1921
Major E. S. Johnson, for twenty-five years custodian of the Lincoln monument, died at his residence Sunday, Feb. 15, at 6:30 o'clock, after a lingering illness of several months. Major Johnson was 77 years of age and one of the best known Civil war veterans in Illinois.

Major Johnson, 1843-1921
A frontier town in a modern city, and those who were his comrades in arms in the great war for the union. Formerly in his business career as a hotel keeper and later in his position as custodian of the National Lincoln Monument, he was necessarily brought into contact with all kinds of people from all parts of the world, and it was characteristic of his gentle and kindly nature that he was able to impress upon the memory of all with whom he was associated his personality which was the natural outgrowth of such a nature.

EDWARD S. JOHNSON
1843-1921, 77 years
A native of Springfield Illinois, Edward S. Johnson became the second custodian of the Lincoln Tomb. He was born August 9, 1843 and with the exception of the years spent in military service and a short time in Chicago, resided in the city all his life. His father and Abraham Lincoln were close friends, and Edward Johnson and Robert Lincoln were school mates--but eight days separating their respective births.

Appendix



Samuel Stover single
 To & his heirs
 Joel Johnson
 These venditions made and entered into
 this 31st day of May A.D. 1853 between Samuel
 Stover & Elizabeth Stover his wife of the County
 of Sangamon and State of Illinois of the
 first part, and Joel Johnson of the County of Sangamon and State
 of Illinois of the second part Memorably that the said party of the
 first part for and in consideration of the sum of one thousand Dollars
 in hand paid by the said party of the second part the receipt whereof
 he hereby acknowledges have granted bargained and sold and by
 these presents do grant bargain and sell unto the said party of



Fall 2019



Remnant of Revere House, looking northwest from the intersection of Fourth and Washington Streets



Remnant of Revere House, looking north, just west of the intersection of Fourth and Washington Streets



RICHARD E. HART

Richard E. Hart was born in Ottawa, Illinois, and attended school and was raised in Springfield, Illinois. He attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he received his B.A. in 1964 and his J.D. in 1967. He was admitted to practice law in 1967 and has been a practicing attorney in Springfield for the last fifty-three years. He is a partner in the firm of Hart, Southworth & Witsman. Hart is married to Ann and they have three children and seven grandchildren.

Hart is a past President of The Abraham Lincoln Association and member of the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. He is a past President and board member of the Sangamon County Historical Society, past Chairman of the Advisory Board of The Lincoln Legal Papers, and past President and member of the Board of Directors of the Elijah Iles House Foundation. Hart was largely responsible for raising the funds and managing the day-to-day restoration of the Elijah Iles House and the Strawbridge-Shepherd House, two circa 1840 Greek Revival residences.

Hart is also past President of Springfield Preservation, Ltd., a for-profit corporation that has restored and leased five Lincoln-era houses in Springfield's German Settlers Row.

Hart suggested the format for the *Looking for Lincoln* project in Springfield and donated his personal historical research and ideas that were used for that project.

Hart and his wife Ann were also responsible for proposing the design for the City of Springfield's streetscape. Their design proposal and advocacy were adopted in lieu of another proposal for a contemporary design. As a part of their advocacy, the Harts purchased and donated the first period lights for Springfield's streetscape. Since that first donation, the use of the design has spread throughout downtown Springfield and is now moving into several neighborhoods, including the Iles Park Neighborhood.

In 1999, Hart was given the City of Springfield's Preservationist of the Year award.

In 2012, Hart was presented with the Logan Hay Medal. The bronze medal is awarded infrequently and is the highest honor given by The Abraham Lincoln Association to recognize individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to the mission of the Association.

In 2014, Hart was awarded the Illinois State Historical Society's Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions over the decades to promoting the

history of the Prairie State. In 2015, Hart was awarded the Springfield NAACP Chapter's 2015 Legal and Political Award.

From 2003 until 2015, Hart served on the Board of Managers of Oak Ridge Cemetery and was Chairman of the Board of Managers of Oak Ridge Cemetery. He is a founding member of the Board of Directors of Springfield Illinois African American History Foundation Museum. Hart remains a member of the Board of Directors of The Abraham Lincoln Association and of the Elijah Iles House Foundation.

For ten years Hart was the editor of *For The People*, a newsletter of The Abraham Lincoln Association, and the *Iles Files*, a newsletter of the Elijah Iles House Foundation.

Hart's personal interest has been in the history of Springfield during the time that Abraham Lincoln lived there and in particular in the presence there of African-Americans. He is also interested in particular areas of Sangamon County during the period of early settlement. He has divided his published research on these two areas into the Spring Creek Series focusing on Lincoln's Springfield, and the Sugar Creek Series focusing on the early settlement of Cotton Hill and Ball Townships in Sangamon County.

Spring Creek Series

- Lincoln's Springfield – The Public Square (1823-1865)* (2004)
Springfield, Illinois' Nineteenth Century Photographers (2005)
Early Sangamon County Antiques – The Barringer Exhibit (2005) (Editor)
Lincoln's Springfield – The Underground Railroad (2006)
Lincoln's Springfield – The Early African American Population (2008)
The Early Court Houses of Sangamon County, Illinois (1821-1837) (2008)
Lincoln in Illinois: The Bicentennial of the Birth of Abraham Lincoln (2009) (Editor)
Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher (2009)
Lincoln's Springfield – Springfield's Early Schools (2009)
The Colored Section, Oak Ridge Cemetery (2009)
Lincoln's Springfield – Greek Revival Architecture on the Prairie (2011)
Camp Butler: A Civil War Story: Photographs of Union Soldiers (2013)
Circuses in Lincoln's Springfield (1833-1860) (2013)
Preston Butler: Photographer in Lincoln's Springfield (2014)
Jameson Jenkins and James Blanks, African Americans in Lincoln's Springfield (2014)
Lincoln's Springfield: The Funeral of Abraham Lincoln: May 3rd and 4th, 1865 (2015)
Lincoln's Springfield Neighborhood (2015)
Lincoln's Springfield: Entertainment in Lincoln's Springfield (1834-1860) (2017)
Lincoln's Springfield—Chair and Cabinet Makers (1831-1860) (2017)
Lincoln's Springfield: Benjamin Robert Biddle: Lincoln's Tailor and Friend (2018)
Lincoln's Springfield: Elizabeth Jane Todd Grimsley Brown (2018)
The Collected Works of Thomas Lincoln Carpenter and Cabinetmaker (2019)
Lincoln's Springfield: Letters of Springfield Ladies (2020)
Lincoln's Springfield: Letters From California and Oregon 1845-1852 (2020)
Lincoln's Springfield: The Todd Brothers (2020)

Sugar Creek Series

Jones Cemetery Tour: Ball, Cotton Hill & Woodside Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2002)

Philemon Stout Cemetery: Ball Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2006)

Christopher Newcomer Cemetery: Woodside Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2009)

Sugar Creek Cemetery: Ball Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2010)

Vigal Cemetery: Cotton Hill Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2010)

David Brunk Cemetery: Ball Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2010)

Cumberland Sugar Creek Cemetery, The Old Burying Ground (2012)

George Brunk Cemetery, Cotton Hill Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2012)

The Strawbridge – Shepherd Farm Site

Thomas Royal: Revolutionary War Soldier and Early Sangamon County Settler (2016)

A Genealogy of the Descendants of John Ashmore: A Tribute to James Newton Ashmore (2016)

- 1806**
Johnson, Joel birth May 21, 18061
- 1811**
Johnson, Joel mother leaves him with uncle1
- 1824**
Gregory, Abigail moves to Rochester, Illinois-December 31, 1824.....1
Johnson, Joel mother moves to Rochester, Illinois1
- 1832**
Johnson, Joel boot and shoemaker in St. Louis.....1
Johnson, Joel goes West to Ohio and Rochester, Illinois-1832 1
Johnson, Joel moves to Edwardsville, Illinois and opens boot and shoemaker shop.....2
Johnson, Joel stops in St. Louis on way back east1
- 1833**
Johnson, Joel moves to Springfield, Illinois-April -1833.3
Johnson, Joel opens boot and shoe shop in Springfield, Illinois-October-18333
- 1834**
Johnson, Joel borrows money-July 7, 18345
Johnson, Joel marries Elizabeth Newman-February 1834
Newman, Elizabeth marries Johnson, Joel-February 1834 5
- 1835**
Johnson, Joel advertises boot and shoe shop-early 1835..5
- 1836**
Florville, William
moves barber shop west of Rague's Bake Shop-April 1836.....6
Florville, William
Johnson, Joel sells part of lot to -February 23, 1836..6
Johnson, Joel advertises requesting payment of monies owed him-January 1836.....6
Johnson, Joel final advertisement of boot and shoe shop- June 25, 1836.....7
Johnson, Joel sells part of lot to William Florville - February 23, 1836.....6
- 1837**
Johnson, Joel advertises requesting payment of monies owed him-January 23, 1837.....7
Johnson, Joel opens Springfield Hotel on Square in Springfield, Illinois-January 1837.....8
- 1838**
Johnson, Joel advertises seven tenements for rent-June 28, 1837 9
- 1839**
Johnson, Joel advertises Springfield Hotel west of State House-April 26, 183911
Johnson, Joel advertises Springfield Hotel-December 31, 1839 11
Johnson, Joel buys Indian Queen Hotel-March 30, 1839 10
- 1840**
Johnson, Joel opens City Hotel at 4th and Washington-July 24, 1840.....12
Johnson, Joel's City Hotel advertises 148 pound pumpkin-October 16, 184012
Johnson, Joel's City Hotel advertises lithographs-December 25, 1840.....13
- 1842**
Johnson, Joel adds new addition to City Hotel and advertises rates - May 20, 1842.....14
Johnson, Joel advertises new addition to City Hotel - November 1, 184214
- 1843**
Johnson, Edward Schrader born - August 9, 184314
- 1844**
Florville, William moves barber shop east of Johnson's City Hotel - May 23, 1844 16
Johnson City Hotel advertises Bathing House - April 25, 1844 16
- 1845**
Johnson, Joe advertises rates at City Hotel - October 16, 1845 17
- 1846**
Johnson City Hotel advertises Bathing House - June 11, 1846 18
Johnson, Joe advertises City Hotel Temperance House - November 6, 1846..... 18
- 1847**
City Hotel
hosts meeting of Sons of Temperance Thanksgiving Exercises - November 25, 1847 20
City Hotel hosts meeting of Sons of Temperance Thanksgiving Exercises - November 25, 1847 20
Johnson, Joel builds new building for City Hotel - June 3, 1847 19
Johnson's City Hotel burns - January 28, 1847 18
- 1848**
City Hotel tenant leaves owing six week board - May 16, 1848 21
Johnson, Joel advertises City Hotel - November 11, 1848 21
- 1849**
City Hotel advertisement for model of the Bee Palace for raising bees - April 27, 1849 23
City Hotel advertisement of site of Spencer Donegan new barber shop-October 23, 1849 25
City Hotel entertainment - March 27, 1849 23
City Hotel learned pig advertisement-August 6, 1849... 25
City Hotel register-December 30, 1948- January 1, 1849 22
City Hotel warm and cold baths advertisement-June 11, 1849 25
Donegan, Spencer advertises new barber shop at City Hotel - October 23, 1849..... 25
Johnson, Eliza Newman death - May 17, 1849..... 23
Johnson, Joel advertises 1600 feet of flooring -October 24, 1849 26
- 1850**
City Hotel is office for mail stage - July 3, 1850..... 27
City Hotel site of Dr. Hays rooms - December 3, 1850. 28
Johnson, Joel holds public sale of 80 acres near Peterburg - September 13, 1850..... 27
Johnson, Joel lots to be sold to pay for removal of nuisance from lots -March 7, 1850 26
Johnson, Joel manager of American House in St. Louis - September, 1850 28
Johnson, Joel said to be shoemaker in 1850 census 26
- 1851**
City Hotel hosts New England Supper - December 25, 1851 31
City Hotel operators Joel Johnson and Daniel M. Jackson dissolve partnership - July 16, 1852 32
City Hotel reopened by Joel Johnson and Daniel M. Jackson - October 23, 1851..... 31
Johnson, Joel and Daniel M. Jackson reopen City Hotel-October 23, 1851..... 31
Johnson, Joel deeds land for Railroad Depot on Third Street tracks - June 12, 1851..... 30
Johnson, Joel purchases Indian Queen Hotel - May 31, 1850 35

- Johnson, Joel purchases lots from Samuel Stover – May 31, 1850.....30
- Johnson, Joel's Old Tavern mistakenly said to be site of cholera – May 30, 1851.....30
- Railroad Depot on Third Street tracks – May 15, 1851..29
- 1852**
- Jackson, Daniel M. returns to Logan County – September 14, 1852.....33
- Johnson, Joel and Daniel M. Jackson dissolve City Hotel partnership– July 16, 1852.....32
- Johnson, Joel represented by Abraham Lincoln - March 3, 1852 32
- Kilmiste Family performs vocal concert at City Hotel – May 24, 1852.....32
- Lincoln, Abraham represents Joel Johnson - March 3, 1852 32
- Springfield Hotels described by traveler to New York Tribune – November 4, 1852.....33
- 1853**
- Campbell, Elizabeth T. marries Johnson, Joel – January 5, 1853 33
- City Hotel site of Pekin and Decatur Railroad Corporation meeting – October 13, 1853.....34
- Johnson, Joel advertises 200,000 bricks – August 11, 1853 34
- Johnson, Joel advertises City Hotel for rent with accommodations for 100 travelers – August 16, 1853 34
- Johnson, Joel marries Elizabeth T. Campbell – January 5, 1853 33
- Matheny, James H. attends Temperance Association supper at City Hotel – December 29, 1853.....35
- Temperance Association has supper at City Hotel – December 29, 1853.....35
- Yeates, Lafayette, Dr. oculists at City Hotel – November 30, 1853.....34
- 1854**
- City Hotel addition described.....36
- City Hotel theft – April 3, 1854.....36
- Johnson, Joel enlarges City Hotel.....36
- Springfield map.....37
- 1855**
- Chenery House annunciator installed – October 3, 1855 40
- Chenery, John W. buys City Hotel from Johnson, Joel - August 1855.....38
- Johnson, Joel advertises furniture store in Journal Building – December 19, 1855.....41
- Johnson, Joel advertises he found purse with change - May 8, 1855 37
- Johnson, Joel selling 200,000 bricks – December 19, 1855 37
- Johnson, Joel sells City Hotel to John W. Chenery – August 1855.....38
- 1856**
- Johnson, Joel builds three story brick hotel across from Chenery House –August 29, 1856.....43
- Springfield Hotels described – December 31, 1856.....43
- 1857**
- Johnson, Joel advertises rooms for rent in new block of buildings– February 17, 1857.....44
- Johnson, Joel builds three story brick hotel across from Chenery House –January 29, 1857.....44
- Johnson, Joel sheriff sale of real property – April 4, 1857 45
- 1858**
- Johnson, Joel creditors sale of real property – May 20, 1858 45
- 1859**
- Johnson, Edward S. joins Springfield Grays-October 1859 45
- 1860**
- Johnson, Joel advertises Tinsley Property for sale or rent – February 29, 1860..... 46
- Johnson, Joel endorses ague bitters – May 7, 1860..... 46
- Lincoln, Abraham moves office to Johnson's Building – December 29, 1860..... 46
- Nicolay, John G. writes of move of Lincoln offices to Johnson's Building – December 29, 1860..... 48
- 1861**
- Johnson, Edward S., Major mustered into Illinois Volunteer Infantry – July 25, 1861..... 52
- Lincoln, Abraham and family move to Chenery House – February 9, 1861..... 50
- Lincoln, Abraham to meet public in office in Joel Johnson's Building – February 6, 1861..... 49
- Nicolay, John G. writes of Lincoln offices in Johnson's Building – December 29, 1860..... 49
- 1862**
- Johnson, Joel advertises discontinuation of lumber and supply business – July 22, 1862..... 52
- 1864**
- Johnson, Edward S., Major letter to father Joel Johnson – January 11, 1864..... 53
- Johnson, Joel mistakenly identified as person in police court – February 1, 1864..... 54
- 1865**
- Johnson, Edward S. returns to Springfield after Civil War 55
- Johnson, Edward S., Major letter to father Joel Johnson – March 13, 1865..... 54
- 1866**
- Johnson, Edward S. advertises building materials -July 21, 1866 55
- Johnson, Joel advertises block for sale – December 5, 1866..... 56
- Johnson, Joel joins Second Presbyterian Church – May 6, 1866 55
- 1867**
- Drs. Lord & Barrell advertise offices in Johnson's building – February 21, 1867..... 57
- Johnson, Joel allowed to run hand cart from his hotel to C. & A. depot – April 2, 1867..... 57
- Ruger, Albert perspective drawing of Springfield..... 58
- 1868**
- Campbell, John R. helps Joel Johnson at Revere House while Edward S. Johnson was on European Tour - March 30, 1868-September 1868..... 59
- Johnson, Edward S. takes five month European Tour - March 30, 1868-September 1868..... 59
- 1869**
- Clinton, Laura marries Johnson, Edward S. – August 10, 1869 61
- Johnson, Edward S. marries Laura Clinton – August 10, 1869 61
- Revere House described July 10, 1869..... 60
- 1870**
- Johnson, Joel advertises Revere House- April 14, 1870 61
- 1871**
- Johnson, Joel advertises for good dining girls at Revere House-June 5, 1871..... 62
- Johnson, Joel advertises Revere House-November 15, 1871 62
- Johnson, Joel trustee of building committee for Second Presbyterian church – January 1871..... 61
- Revere House advertised-November 15, 1871..... 62
- Revere House described – November 15, 1871..... 62
- 1872**

- Bird's Eye View of Springfield63
 Koch, Augustus perspective drawing of Springfield.....63
1873
 Chenery, William D. death-October 21, 1873.....64
1876
 Revere House described-January 1, 187665
1877
 Hotels in Springfield history of.....66
 Johnson, Edward S. sued by stepmother Elizabeth Johnson
 69
 Johnson, Elizabeth sued stepson Edward S. Johnson.....69
 Johnson, Joel
 death-May 4, 187767
1878
 Johnson, Edward S. operates the Revere House-May 10,
 1878 71
1880
 Johnson, Edward S. member of Lincoln Guard of Honor-
 February 12, 1880.....73
1883
 Block, David J. purchases Hotel Palace-January 1, 1883
 73
1884
 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.....74
 The Palace Hotel and Chenery Hotel history of ownership
 73
1886
 Johnson, Edward S. property notice of sale for unpaid
 taxes 74
1889
 Johnson, Edward S. sued by stepmother Elizabeth Johnson
 75
 Johnson, Elizabeth sued stepson Edward S. Johnson.....75
1890
 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.....75
1892
 Johnson, Edward S. entertains New Year's at Revere
 House 76
1893
 Johnson, Edward S. sells Revere House76
1893-1895
 Johnson, Edward S.
 managed hotels in Chicago77
1894
 Johnson, Elizabeth T. death-November 11, 1894.....77
1896
 Johnson, Edward S.
 appointed custodian of Abraham Lincoln Tomb.....77
 appointed first custodian of Lincoln Tomb77
 first custodian to live at Lincoln Tomb residence78
 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.....78
1900-1901
 Johnson, Edward S.
 oversaw reconstruction of Abraham Lincoln Tomb.79
1901
 Abraham Lincoln Interment Observer
 Edward S. Johnson-September 26, 1901.....79
 Laura Johnson-September 26, 190179
1903
 Illinois Hotel
 built 80
1912
 Campbell, John R.
 death 83
1921
 Johnson, Edward Schrader death - February 15, 1921 ...84
Bathing House
 Johnson City Hotel advertises - April 25, 184416
 Johnson City Hotel advertises - June 11, 1846.....18
Block
 David J.
 purchases Hotel Palace-January 1, 1883 73
Campbell
 Elizabeth T.
 marries Johnson, Joel - January 5, 1853 33
 John R.
 death-January 20, 1912 83
 helps Joel Johnson at Revere House while Edward S.
 Johnson was on European Tour - March 30, 1868-
 September 1868 59
Chenery
 John W.
 buys City Hotel from Johnson, Joel- August 1855.. 38
 changes name of City Hotel to Chenery House -
 August 1855..... 38
 William D.
 advertises Chenery House - November, 1855..... 41
 death-October 21, 1873..... 64
Chenery Hotel
 history of ownership 73
Chenery House
 annunciator installed - October 3, 1855..... 40
 Chenery, John W. changes name of City Hotel to Chenery
 House - August 1855..... 38
 piano teaching at - October 26, 1855..... 41
1855 41
City Hotel
 addition described - 1854..... 36
**advertisement for model of the Bee Palace for raising
 bees - April 27, 1849 23**
 advertisement of site of Spencer Donegan new barber
 shop-October 23, 1849 25
 entertainment - March 27, 1849 23
 hosts New England Supper - December 25, 1851 31
 learned pig advertisement-August 6, 1849 25
 office for mail stage - July 3, 1850..... 27
 operators Joel Johnson and Daniel M. Jackson dissolve
 partnership - July 16, 1852 32
 register-December 30, 1948- January 1, 1849 22
 reopened by Joel Johnson and Daniel M. Jackson -
 October 23, 1851..... 31
 site of Dr. Hays rooms - December 3, 1850 28
 site of Pekin and Decatur Railroad Corporation meeting -
 October 13, 1853..... 34
 tenant leaves owing six week board - May 16, 1848 21
 theft - April 3, 1854..... 36
warm and cold baths advertisement-June 11, 1849.. 25
Clinton
 Laura
 marries Johnson, Edward S. - August 10, 1869 61
Donegan
 Spencer
 advertises new barber shop at City Hotel - October 23,
 1849 25
Florville
 William
 Johnson, Joel sells part of lot to -February 23, 1836 . 6
 moves barber shop west of Rague's Bake Shop-April
 1836 6
Gregory
 Abigail
 moves to Rochester, Illinois-December 31, 1824..... 1
Hotels
 Springfield history of-1877 66
Illinois Hotel
 built-1903 80
Jackson
 Daniel M. returns to Logan County - September 14, 1852
 33
Johnson

- Edward S.
- Abraham Lincoln Interment Observer-September 26, 1901.....79
 - advertises building materials - July 21, 1866.....55
 - appointed custodian of Abraham Lincoln Tomb-1896 77
 - entertains New Year's Eve at Revere House-January 1, 1892.....76
 - first custodian of Lincoln Tomb-July 9, 1896.....77
 - first custodian to live at Lincoln Tomb residence-1896 78
 - joins Springfield Grays-October 185945
 - managed hotels in Chicago-1893-1895.....77
 - marries Laura Clinton – August 10, 1869.....61
 - member of Lincoln Guard of Honor-February 12, 1880 73
 - operates the Revere House-May 10, 1878.....71
 - oversaw reconstruction of Abraham Lincoln Tomb-1900-1901.....79
 - property notice of sale for unpaid taxes-June 1, 1886 74
 - returns to Springfield after Civil War-186555
 - sells Revere House - 189376
 - son of Joel Johnson.....46
 - sued by stepmother Elizabeth Johnson-188975
 - sued by stepmother Elizabeth S. Johnson-187769
 - takes five month European Tour - March 30, 1868-September 186859
- Edward S., Major
- letter to father Joel Johnson – January 11, 186453
 - letter to father Joel Johnson – March 13, 186554
 - mustered into Illinois Volunteer Infantry – July 25, 1861.....52
- Edward Schrader
- born – August 9, 184314
 - death - February 15, 192184
- Eliza Newman
- death – May 17, 184923
- Elizabeth
- sued stepson Edward S. Johnson-188769
 - sued stepson Edward S. Johnson-188975
 - wife of Joel Johnson-186046
- Elizabeth T.
- death-November 11, 1894.....77
- Joel
- adds new addition to City Hotel and advertises rates – May 20, 1842.....14
 - advertises 1600 feet of flooring -October 24, 1849..26
 - advertises 200,000 bricks – August 11, 1853.....34
 - advertises block for sale – December 5, 1866.....56
 - advertises boot and shoe shop-early 1835.....5
 - advertises City Hotel – November 11, 184821
 - advertises City Hotel for rent with accommodations for 100 travelers – August 16, 185334
 - advertises City Hotel Temperance House – November 6, 1846.....18
 - advertises discontinuation of lumber and supply business – July 22, 186252
 - advertises for good dining girls at Revere House-June 5, 1871.....62
 - advertises furniture store in Journal Building – December 19, 1855.....41
 - advertises gas fixtures for sale in his new building – January 17, 1867.....56
 - advertises he found purse with change - May 8, 1855 37
 - advertises new addition to City Hotel -November 1, 1842.....14
 - advertises rates at City Hotel – October 16, 184517
 - advertises requesting payment of monies owed him-January 1836..... 6
 - advertises requesting payment of monies owed him-January 23, 1837 7
 - advertises Revere House- April 14, 1870..... 61
 - advertises Revere House-November 15, 1871..... 62
 - advertises rooms for rent in new block of buildings – February 17, 1857 44
 - advertises seven tenements for rent-June 28, 1837.... 9
 - advertises Springfield Hotel west of State House-April 26, 1839 11
 - advertises Springfield Hotel-December 31, 1839.... 11
 - advertises Tinsley Property for sale or rent – February 29, 1860 46
 - allowed to run hand cart from his hotel to C. & A. depot – April 2, 186757
 - and Daniel M. Jackson dissolve City Hotel partnership– July 16, 1852 32
 - and Daniel M. Jackson reopen City Hotel– October 23, 1851 31
 - birth May 21, 1806..... 1
 - boot and shoemaker in St. Louis-1832..... 1
 - borrow money-July 7, 1834..... 5
 - builds new building for City Hotel – June 3, 1847.. 19
 - builds three story brick hotel across from Chenery House –August 29, 1856 43
 - builds three story brick hotel across from Chenery House –January 29, 1857 44
 - buys Indian Queen Hotel-March 30, 1839 10
 - City Hotel advertises 148 pound pumpkin-October 16, 1840 12
 - City Hotel advertises lithographs-December 25, 1840 13
 - creditors sale of real property – May 20, 1858..... 45
 - death-May 4, 1877 67
 - deeds land for Railroad Depot on Third Street tracks – June 12, 1851 30
 - endorses ague bitters – May 7, 1860 46
 - enlarges City Hotel - 1854 36
 - final advertisement of boot and shoe shop-June 25,1836 7
 - goes West to Ohio and Rochester, Illinois-1832 1
 - holds 27
 - insurance correspondence – 1845..... 17
 - joins Second Presbyterian Church – May 6, 1866... 55
 - lots to be sold to pay for removal of nuisance from lots -March 7, 1850..... 26
 - manager of American House in St. Louis -September, 1850 28
 - marries Elizabeth Newman-February 1834..... 5
 - mistakenly identified as person in police court – February 1, 1864 54
 - mother leaves him with uncle-1811 1
 - mother moves to Rochester, Illinois-December 31, 1824 1
 - moves to Edwardsville, Illinois and opens boot and shoemaker shop-1832..... 2
 - moves to Springfield, Illinois-April -1833 3
 - Old Tavern mistakenly said to be site of cholera – May 30, 1851 30
 - opens boot and shoe shop in Springfield, Illinois-October-1833 3
 - opens City Hotel at 4th and Washington-July 24, 1840 12
 - opens Springfield Hotel on Square in Springfield, Illinois-January 1837..... 8
 - proprietor City Hotel-1860..... 46
 - purchases lots from Samuel Stover – May 31, 1850 30
 - said to be shoemaker in 1850 census..... 26
 - selling 200,000 bricks - December 19, 1855 37

sells City Hotel to John W. Chenery – August 1855 38	
sells part of lot to William Florville -February 23, 1836 6	
sheriff sale of real property – April 4, 1857	45
stops in St. Louis on way back east-1832	1
trustee of building committee for Second Presbyterian church – January 1871	61
William Todd falls into cistern on Joel’s property – January 1864.....	53
Joel marries Elizabeth T. Campbell – January 5, 1853 ..	33
Joel represented by Abraham Lincoln- March 3, 1852 ..	32
John	
son of Joel Johnson.....	46
Laura	
Abraham Lincoln Interment Observer-September 26, 1901	79
Johnson’s City Hotel	
burns – January 28, 1847	18
Kilmiste Family	
performs vocal concert at City Hotel – May 24, 1852 ..	32
Koch	
Augustus	
perspective drawing of Springfield-1872.....	63
Lincoln	
Abraham	
and family move to Chenery House – February 9, 1861 50	
moves office to Johnson’s Building – December 29, 1860.....	46
represents Joel Johnson - March 3, 1852	32
to meet public in office in Joel Johnson’s Building – February 6, 1861	49
Lord & Barrell, Drs.	
advertise offices in Johnson’s building – February 21, 1867 57	
Matheny	
James H.	
attends Temperance Association supper at City Hotel – December 29, 1853	35
Newman	
Elizabeth	
marries Johnson, Joel-February 1834.....	5
Nicolay	
John G.	
writes of Lincoln offices in Johnson’s Building – January 6, 1861	49
writes of move of Lincoln offices to Johnson’s Building – December 29, 1860.....	48
Origin of Adults	
Illinois	
Johnson, Edward S.....	46
Kentucky	
Johnson, Elizabeth	46
Palace Hotel	
history 80	
history of ownership	73
purchased by Block, David J.-January 1, 1883	73
Railroad Depot	
on Third Street tracks – May 15, 1851	29
Revere House	
advertised-November 15, 1871	62
described July 10, 1869.....	60
described-January 1, 1876.....	65
described-November 15, 1871	62
Ruger	
Albert	
perspective drawing of Springfield-1867	58
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map-1884.....	74
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map-1890.....	75
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map-1896.....	78
Springfield Drawing	
1872 Augustus Koch Bird’s Eye View of Springfield	63
Springfield Hotels	
described – December 31, 1856.....	43
described by traveler to New York Tribune – November 4, 1852 33	
Springfield map-1854	37
Temperance Association	
has supper at City Hotel – December 29, 1853	35
Yeates	
Lafayette, Dr.	
oculists at City Hotel – November 30, 1853.....	34

Lincoln's Springfield

JOEL JOHNSON

SPRINGFIELD HOTEL KEEPER



Spring Creek Series.

Richard E. Hart

Curtis Mann, Special Contributor
Michael Kienzler, Foreword