

Collection #
SC 2751

ANDREW JOHNSON LETTER, 7 AUGUST 1861

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 folder
COLLECTION DATES:	7 August 1861
PROVENANCE:	Historical Collectible Auctions, Graham, NC, 4 February 2004
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 2004.0146

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Andrew Johnson became the seventeenth President of the United States after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Johnson was born in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1808 and grew up in poverty. During his early adulthood he opened a tailor shop in Greeneville, Tennessee, and married Eliza McCardle. He started his political career in 1828 as an alderman in Greeneville, and in 1834 became mayor. He was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1835 and served two two-year terms. He was elected to the State Senate in 1841, and elected as a Democrat to the twenty-eighth and the four succeeding Congresses.

He was elected Governor of Tennessee in 1853. In October 1857 he was elected as a Democrat to the Senate and served until March 1862, when he resigned. When the southern states seceded Johnson was the only Senator from the seceded states to continue participation in Congress. In 1862 Johnson was appointed by President Lincoln as Military Governor of Tennessee.

He was elected Vice President on the National Union ticket headed by Republican Abraham Lincoln in 1864. He became President on 15 April 1865, following the death of Lincoln. He was the first Vice President to succeed to the U.S. Presidency upon the assassination of a President and the third to succeed upon the death of a President.

In March 1867, Radical Republicans affected their own plan of Reconstruction, again placing southern states under military rule. They passed laws placing restrictions upon the President. When Johnson allegedly violated one of these, the Tenure of Office Act, by dismissing Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, the House voted eleven articles of impeachment against him. In the spring of 1868 he was tried by the Senate and acquitted by one vote. After unsuccessful bids for election to the Senate and House of Representatives, he was elected to the Senate in March 1875. He served until his death on 31 July 1875.

Emerson Etheridge was born in Carrituck County, North Carolina. He was a member of the legislature in 1845, and was elected to Congress as a Whig in 1853. He was the defeated American candidate for the next congress, but was successful in 1858, and served for three more years. In July 1861 he was elected clerk of the House of Representatives. On his return to Tennessee he devoted himself to the practice of his profession and the study of philosophy, served in the Tennessee senate in 1869, and was twice nominated for the governorship of his state, being defeated once and declining the second nomination. He was the last Whig that served in congress.

Sources:

The White House [cited 18 July 2005]. Available from the World Wide Web:
(<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/aj17.html>)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Collection consists of a letter written by Emerson Etheridge and signed by Andrew Johnson. The letter was addressed to prominent men of Indiana: H.S. Lane, W.M. Durms, A.G. Porter, J.A. Crarens, John Law, J.P.C. Shanks, Geo. W. Julian, Wm. Mitchell, Albert S. White, Schuyler Colfax, R.W. Thompson, J.P. Usher, Jno. D. Defrees, and Geo. W. Ewing. The men had written an earlier letter to Johnson and Etheridge inviting them to visit Indiana. Etheridge responds that they cannot visit at the time, but look forward to making the trip at some point.

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ADS from Andrew Johnson and Emerson Etheridge, 7 Aug. 1861 Folder 1

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 2751).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.