Born a slave in 1809, William Tiler Johnson was freed in 1820 by his owner (most likely his father) who had earlier freed his mother and sister. He became an apprentice barber in the Mississippi River town of Natchez and in 1830 took over his brother-in-law’s barbershop. In 1835 he married Amy Battles, also a free person of color, with whom he had eleven children.

In 1835 Johnson began a personal diary to record his daily activities and financial affairs. He operated several barber shops and a bathhouse, owned land and buildings which he rented out, and regularly loaned money at interest to black and white men alike. He was also a slaveowner, as were many other free blacks in the South. In 1851 Johnson was murdered in a land dispute. These diary entries span six years from 1838 to 1844, when Johnson was in his late twenties and early thirties.

January 1, 1838  Business has been very Lively and a very greate Quantity of persons in town to day — Mr. Edward Thomas paid me to day fifty Dollars. It was a debt that Mr Marshall, the portraitte Painter, Owed me for House rent and he gave me an Order on the Estate of Mr William Arlettes. To day it was paid me by Mr. Arlette. Messrs Barlow & Taylor paid me To day One Hundred Dollars, money that I Loaned him a short time ago. They also paid me $15 that I Loaned them a good while ago — Mr John P. Smith Took Charge of the Mansion House. To night I Let all the Boys go to the theatre or Circus.

January 10, 1838  Auctions to day at Sprague & Howells and at Dolbeares and at Sorias. To day, the things belonging to the Estate of Mr. Sml Mason — I bot a pair [of] and Irons, tongs and poker, One spider and one Oven. The Concern only cost 1.50. Very Cheap — Dr Samuel Hogg paid me to day $19.50 for his shaving bill up to this date and I paid him Eleven dollars that I owed him for Medical Services up to this date — $7 of the amount was for Mother.

February 11, 1838  To day I went Out into the woods with my Gun and I Killed 10 Robbins, 2 Rice Birds, and 4 yellow Hammers, and I Only went Out at 1 Oclock. Me went Out too, some w[h]ere in the nighboughhood of Minors pasture and Only Killed 4 Birds. Mr Armatt Returns from Jackson and brings with him a Black Eye. He said it was hurt by a Dr Aiken or Hagan. The[y] had a small fight at the States House steps in Jackson. He sead that he Knocked the Fellow Down flat. Mr. Armatt paid me five Dollars to day on his acct. for hair cutting &c.
February 28, 1838  Taxes Taxes  I gave in my Tax List To day and it reads as follows
My two Lots value                      $10,000
My Three Slaves                        2,000

----------                               12,000
Mother, three women and two children Slaves 1,650
Mrs Battles House and Lot 4,500 and Slave women 4,750

March 19, 1838  Business not very good. Steven got drunk Last night and went off[f] and
remained all night and was not Here this morning to go to Market. I sent Bill Nix to the Jail
to see if He was there and He was not there. I sent Him out to Dr Ogdons and in going there
He found Him and brought Him Down and Left Him in the gate and he Jumped over the
Fence and went thre in Judge Montgomerys yard. Bill He ran around the Corner and
found him and brought Him in, I Kept him [in] the shop a Little while and then sent him to
Help Mrs Lieper to move from the old House Down to the House belonging to Bill Hazard
He ran off 4 times in about three hours and Bill Nix Caught Him Every time, so He Brought
Home after a while and I went to the stable and gave him a pretty sefveere thrashing
with the Cow hide — then he was perfectly Calm and Quiet and could then do his work. Tis
singular how much good it does some people to get whiped. Mr. Kenney paid me $40.00
for One months House rent due to day, the 19th inst  I then told him here after He could
have the Room for $35 per month

March 27, 1838  Steven ran off Last night and God Only Knows where he has gone to, for I
dont, tho if I should have the Good Luck to Get Him again I will be very apt to Hurt his
Feelings — This is the second time he has ranaway in a week.

March 31, 1838  I got on my Horse Early this morning and wrode Out to Washington in
search of Steven but Could not find Him at all  I also went Out again in the afternoon to
Becon Landing but could not hear of Him. During the time that I was in sea[r]ch of him He
sent me word that if I would Only Let him off without whiping him that he would never
runaway again Durring His Life

April 5, 1838  Business Quite dull. I got my Barrells to give Baths to day for the First time
and Mr Ayres Called and took a Bath —The First this Season and paid the Cash for it  I to
day Saw a Man up at the auction Room and he wanted to buy my Girl Sarah. I told him he
could have her for twelve Hundred Dollars in cash. I intend to see about it To morrow and if
I can find out about him I will do something  Peter Boisaw Open to day in the new Coffee
House and to day was the day of the Collinizationest had a Large meeting and here is the
names of some of the Leading Parties or Head Dogs in the Bone Yard — Tis a pitty that
they [are] not doing something Else better for there Country  [names omitted by diarist]3

April 7, 1838  I felt a degree of Suspicion about a man that I thought from his Generall apearance,
would if he Could, do me a Damage, that is, I thought He wanted to steal my Girl Sarah.

3Johnson was here expressing his opposition to the Mississippi Colonization Society, organized at Natchez in 1831 as an auxiliary of the American
Colonization Society. The Mississippi organization had as its objective the removal of free Negroes from the state, preferably by sending them to
Liberia. If Johnson had named some of the "Leading Parties or Head Dogs in the Bone Yard," he would have listed the officials of the society, which
included wealthy and prominent Dr. Stephen Duncan of Natchez and a long list of individuals prominent in educational, religious, business, and
political life. The total number of Mississippi Negroes sent to Africa before 1860 was between 550 and 600, but probably at least 500 of these were
slaves freed by their owners with the specific object of colonization. Most of the established group of free Negroes probably shared Johnson's attitude
of opposition. [Footnote continues.]
April 12, 1838  To day was spent in Talk about the Duell that was to have Taken place this Evening between Col. Nickolds and Dr Booye. They were to have fought between 4 and 5 Oclock this Evening — There was a Greate many Person assembled to see the Expected fight. Crowds were On the Other Side and a Greate many were on this side trying to see and after all, those that remained seen as much as we that Crossed the River for shortly after we Got Over Dr Ker He got up on the Levee and there commenced a Long Harangue of Stuff which was seconded by the Elustrious Abby and The Hon. R. Patterson who is at this time One of the Bourd of Selectmen. A Committee was appointed. The following Composed the Com — Abby, Patterson & Lucas — They were Dispached fourth with to the Parties to state the Resolutions that Had been passed by the speaker and Crowd — 1st, that they Had resolved to follow those Gentleman and prevent there fighting on any part of the Ground — Well the time had passed when they were to have fought and still there was no preperations made that I could see for the fight when at last Here Came the Sherriff of La and stoped the Consern. They were held to bale in the sum of One Hundred Dollars to Keep the peace. Col Nickolds were on the River Bank and the Dr was on the other side of the Road in the woods on a Log.

April 13, 1838  The Large Town meeting that was to have Taken place to day on the Subject of Dueling appears to have been Neglected by the partees as there was no meeting at all. No person To Open the meeting. Tis well Enough.

June 1, 1838  This has been decidely the dullest day we have seen for some time, Cegwin paid me One Months Shaving Due the First inst — I went to the Methodist Church and Listened on the Out Side of it at Mr. Maffitt Preaching — He is a splendid speaker, the best I Ever herd in all my Life. — The heavy rain that we have had to day and yesterday has done a greate harm to the Planters in this County. Dr Duncan and Col Bingaman both has Lost a greate deal of Cotton and Labour.

June 3, 1838  Mr H. A. Cegwin paid me to day Fifty Dollars. He Still owes me fifty Dollars more on a hundred Dollars that I Loaned him Some time ago.

June 7, 1838  Fourteen Baths to day.
June 8, 1838  Buisness Tolerable good.
June 10, 1838  Good deal of Buisness in my Line, Bathing in particular I had to turn off a good many.

June 12, 1838  Buisness Quite Dull, I thought, Only tolerable Dull, I was up at Soria Auction room to day and Bot 1 Sofa at $34, 2 Large picture & Frames, $4.25, 2 Kitchen Hand Irons, 1 Large Carpet, $12.00 I paid Mc McFaddin $100 for filling up my Lot up by the Rail Road — Maj Shields gets married to night to Miss Surget.

June 20, 1838  To day Mother paid me one Hundred and twenty-five Dollars, which Leaves her Still in my debt Four hundred and Seventy Dollars to this date. The oven that I paid Mr Breeden for is not included in the above amount at all. It Cost me $153.00 This is mine at any time, To

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4 The diarist was here referring to the Reverand John Newland Maffitt, renowned Methodist pulpit orator, who was delivering a series of sermons and addresses in Natchez. [Footnote continues.]
day or this Evening Young Bledsoe and Preacher Dixon has a sort of a fight The Particulars I have not herd Bledsoe got a Bruised Eye and Dixon got nearly Knocked Down with a 4 pound w[e]ight — got his head cut a good Deal

June 23, 1838 To day has been a profitable day with me in the way of Bathing, 22 Baths E Miller Came Down from Vicksburgh Late Last night on the S. B. Monarch

June 24, 1838 To day the Capt Miller Left here for Vicksburgh I went down To the River with Him, and staid untill he Left

June 27, 1838 I Bot of a Stranger to day 6000 Segars and paid him 28 Dollars a Thousand

July 1, 1838 Nothing New that I have herd of to day, I wrode Out to day to the old Field beyond Col Wilkins and Took my Riffle, and spent the Evening shooting at a mark, Me Came Out also and we shot to gether all the Evening and to take our shooting altogether I Beat him about a fut

September 6, 1838 To day I Bot a cow from Patrick Hurst for $27 and I paid him the money Cash and the Rascal promised to take her back if did not Like Her and when I made the offer for him to take her back he would not, I pronounce him a Rascal

October 19, 1838 I gave Mr Tweksburg an order to Vancampen & Jones for Some Lumber and to Sislocs for some also — He then went to work Plaining of Planks and made about 3 qrts of a Days work — The Rain of yesterday Caused my new House to crack very considerable, that is from the top to the Botom on the Lower Side — Lawyer Baker and Lawyer Armat has a small fight to Day at Dinner at the Mansion House, To day a number of the Free Trader Containd the Severest piece against the Banks that I have Ever Seen From the pen of Mr John Hagan the article Eminated

November 16, 1838 This morning quite Early I Came Down in my shop and found that the Boys had Just been smoking some of my Cegars which they Denied I listened a while and was satisfied that they had stolen them I then Boxed Bills Jaws and Kicked his Back Side and I slaped Charles along side of the Head several times

November 17, 1838 The Carpenters Finished putting on the Roof of my House to day. The Brick Layers have not finished the House yet

November 19, 1838 Mr. James Ballard Commences To do his Own Shaving Dr Davis moves from next Door and Takes his Horses from my Stable

5The article [in an edition of the Natchez Free Trader] was a condemnation of “wildcat” banking practices.
November 20, 1838  Business better than it has been for some time past  I Had a Settlement with Mr Elam & Stanford to Day for the Brick work of my New House  The Bill for Brick work amounted to Nineteen Hundred and fifty seven Dollars and Eighty Cents  I paid them and took a Receipt for the same . . .

December 3, 1838  Mr Sisloff paid me $50 that I Loaned Him on Saturday Last.

December 4, 1838  The Steam Boat Augusta was brought Down to Day by the Hail Columbia. She had Blown up Last night a few miles above this place, 49 Persons Shaved in my shop to Day

December 5, 1838  Fifty-six Persons shaved to Day in my shop

December 11, 1838  I paid in to Day One Hundred and seventy four Dollars and 53 cents on my R. Road Stock — this makes $774.53 that I have paid in on my Stock,  I moved Down to Mrs Battles This Evening . . .

1839

January 24, 1839  My Little son William R. Johnson was Born three years ago this morning the 24 inst  He is three years Old to this Date — The Cols Boy John Came Down from Jackson to Day — Left Jackson Yesterday

January 25, 1839  Nothing new that I Know of  City Taxes — I Gave in my Property to day at those Rates — 2 town Lots, Value $12000 — 2 Houses, 3 Slaves — 2000 — the amount in full $14000, which is more in my Opinion than the Property would Bring at Auction in Cash — I was out this Evening to Shoot with my Pistol and I put two Balls in a Card out of nine shots

January 26, 1839  City Tax — I gave in Mothers 4 Slaves a[t] $1000 and Mrs Battles Property at $3000 . . .

February 16, 1839  Business has been very Good to Day.  I went Out to the Race tract to Day and stayed nearly the whole afternoon out there. I made a greate many Bets of Different Kinds, and won in all forty One Dollars, twenty one of which was good, the other $20 of Aberdeen Planters Bank . . .

February 21, 1839  Mr Robt. Smith Brought me His Little Boy to Day To See how I Liked Him To make a Barber Out of Him, The Late John Rex of North Carolina Died short time since and Gave fifteen thousand Dollars to Build an Infirmary for the poor sick of Reighla or Raleigh — All his Slaves, twenty in number, to be Emancipated and to be Sent, if they are willing, to Liberia Under the patronage of the Collonization Society — He has provided ample means for the purpose

February 22, 1839  To night is the Grand Ball at Parkers Hotel. The Manergers of the Ball are all Bigist Kind of Bugs. I pd to Day fourteen Dollars for 43 Razors to Day  I Bot them from Houghf at Sorias auction Room

February 23, 1839  Business of all Kinds very Dull.  L David Paid me to Day the amount of his Shaving Bill for two years wich amounted to $42 including Box Rent, and cutting Boys hair in all made it
$43.25 His Own account VS. me was $16 and I Deducted $3.25 for Lost time, which made his act 19.25, thus Left a Ballance in my favor of $24 which he paid — Enough Said

March 2, 1839 Buisness not very Brisk The Boy Peter that has been with me 4 or five Days went Home and his Mother Brought Him back again an I told Her that she had better Keep him for I thought impossible to Lern him the trade and She took Him Home again

March 16, 1839 Buisness very Good
March 17, 1839 Buisness was pretty Good
March 18, 1839 Buisness very Good for the Season
March 19, 1839 Buisness good for Such times — I paid The House of E. Thomson & Co twenty nine Dollars, this being a Ballance of a note that I owed Mr Hutchison for a Lot [of] cigars that I Bot a Short time Ago for $79 and I paid Hutcherson $50 some time ago and the Ballance to Day to Thomson

March 20, 1839 I spent a good part of this Day at the Auction Room where the Marshall was Selling Out Mr O.Farrell and the Sherriff also, both at wonce

March 21, 1839 I spent a good part of the Day at the auction Room below at O Farrells Sale and Bot a number of things that I had have better Left alone

April 8, 1839 Buisness good in fore noon tho very Dull in the afternoon. Mc and mysefe played Sixteen Games at Marbles this Evening and He won ten Out of 16 and I have not been so tyred for some time As I am now from playing those Marbles

August 19, 1839 Very Dull in the way of Buisness — Mr Thomas Evans wal[k]ed over to Esqr. Robertiles office to Day and made othe [oath] to Wellingtons being a free Born Boy &c.

Natchez August 16, 1839
To all who it may Concern. I do hereby Certify the Be arer of a Mullato Boy named Wellington West is a free Boy Born Free in Natchez in the year One thousand Eight hundred and Seventeen — His Mother was a woman of Black Complection named Judy West — was free and Lived in Natchez many years before her Death
William Parker
I with pleasure Concer in the above Certificate
Noah Barlow
also do I
J G Taylor . . .

September 1, 1839 Buisness not very Brisk as usual — This Morning was a Greate time among the Baptist People — Old Mrs Bondurant & a Miss Woodfork and three of the Miss Thomases were all Baptised in the River Just below the old Fort & in the afternoon there were Sixteen Darkeys Baptised at the same place and by the same man — Mr Bradley — the 16 Darkeys were all Baptised in the time that he Baptised the 5 Ladies in the Morning

September 2, 1839 Buisness dull — nothing new — Yellow fever Still very bad in New Orleans — I went this Evening in to the Buyio in Company with Mc & Basanett to shoot with Pistols and they had their Pistols and I Beat them all with Ease — Mc has a Large Pistol of P. Michells and I Discover in a short time that he will be very hard to Beat with it — I Reced One Letter from Mrs Miller to day — Mr A Kenney assumed the amount that Mr Whip Owed me — Seventy Dollars

September 3, 1839 Our town is very healthy at present and we Lern that the Sickness is

\[\text{Esqr: Esquire, i.e., Mr.} \]
\[\text{&c.: etc.} \]

\[\text{Buyio, i.e., bayou} \]
\[\text{Reced, i.e., received} \]
\[\text{Mrs Miller: Johnson's sister Adelia in New Orleans} \]

\[\text{Footnote from earlier reference to West, p. 261.} \]
much worse in Orleans instead of a change for the better — God help them for I cannot

September 4, 1839  Buisness Dull — I had a match to Day with Jno Greek for a pair of shoes — 3 best in five with Pistols — and I won the shoes Easy — not so Easy Either for we had to shoot a good many times more than the match — Mr Spelmaman gave his note to day for 170 dolls, 60 Days after Date

September 5, 1839  This Morning about 3 Oclock I was awakened by the Cry of Fire, Fire — I got up and ran with all possible Speed and found The Fire Burning on a stable up in Cotten Ally formily Kyles Ally — it then spread Out in Different Dirrections and both Sids of the Ally was on fire at the same time — I commenced to work on the Cotton that was in the shed With the help of others got it all out and at Least the One half Burned up afterward. It Burned Down the following Houses — Messrs Jacob Sorias, 2 Story Ware House, Messrs. Stanton, Buckner & Com 2 Story Commission & Ware house, also their Large Cotton Shed 7

September 6, 1839  This morning or Last night we had the alarm of Fire Given. I got up and ran with all possible speed and found it to [be] Mrs. W B Howells Dwelling House with stores underneath all on a full Blaze. I at wonce thought that my Little Effects would be Burned up without Doubt for the then Fearfull Element had the appearance of Breaking Out on Main St. I was for a time so bewilder that I Could not Commence to work at first. The Fireman of the City in this Case did perform wonders. They Extinguished the fire when for a Long time no one could have Reasonably hoped such a thing. The People are very much Jaded from the Labour Done Last night by them at the other fire Thank God I have wonce more Escaped, wonce more from Distruction 8

September 7, 1839  Large Barbacue and Shooting match this Evening out at Washington on this fore noon — Greate many Persons out there I am told

September 8, 1839  Buisness good  Report Seys to night that there were 4 Deaths of Yellow Fever in Our Hospital to day.

September 9, 1839  Considerable Excitement about the Cases of Yellow Fever that occured Yesterday at the Hospitile and tis Said that there are ten or fifteen Cases of Sickness now at Different Places under the Hill— I insured my new Brick House to day at the Natchez Insurance Company in the sum of three Thousand Dollars, 1 ½ per Cent, in all $46.509

September 17, 1839  Several persons or Families has Left the City for the Country  I wrode Out myself to the Quigless place to See how it would Suit to Live out thare in Case of much Sickness in

7 The Natchez Free Trader, September 6, 1839, gave a complete account of the “Disastrous Conflagration.” The fire destroyed a large number of stores and brick warehouses in the block bounded by Pearl, Franklin, Commerce and Main streets, which was perhaps the most valuable business area in Natchez. None of the stores facing Main Street were destroyed, although many of them were on fire at various times. [Footnote continues.]

8 The second fire apparently started from the smoldering ashes of the previous one. It was extinguished with minor damage to the store of William B. Howell on Commerce Street.

9 Natchez Insurance Company Fire Policy No. 398, September 9, 1839, certified that Johnson paid the premium on “a three story brick house situated on the North side of Main Street between Wall and Pearl Streets, Natchez, occupied by D. F. Waymouth.” Johnson Papers.
town. I Gave McCary to day 200 Dollars to get small Bills for it was Rail Road money — There were three Deaths in the City to Day

September 19, 1839 No buisness a Doing of Any Account — All sorts of a run on the Rail Road Bank both to day and Yesterday for specie. The People are Leaving town very fast to Day for fear of Yellow Fever. No Deaths in the City to Day — Yesterday Dr Lyle was appointed Health officer, in the absence of Dr Hubbard, by the Selectmen.

September 21, 1839 Buisness tolerable for the season — I Bot a Gun or a Rifle from Mrs Vaugn and Gave her seventeen Dollars for it. I went Out and shot her several times and made better shooting at the Commencement than I did afterwards — The fact is I Cannot shoot a Riffle worth a cent

September 22, 1839 Buisness not very Good. People all Leaving the City very fast to Day. Mr Coddington Died this morning.

September 23, 1839 Citizens are fast Leaving the City — I too made up my mind to Leave the City too. I sent Out a Load of small things

September 24, 1839 Buisness was quite lively for the times — Mrs Vaugn Left the City to day and I bot a Sadle and Bridle and Marting Gale [martingale] from her for five Dollars — I moove out to the Quigless Place to day — Henry Austing Drove the Hack with my Family and I came out on Horse back

September 25, 1839 I am in the Country Sound as a Dollar. It was near 9 Oclock to night that I saw from the Country a Large fire Given Light from Natchez and I mounted my horse and in a few minutes was in town and found, I am Sorry to say, One of the Larges Kinds of Fires on the Hill in State Street. It was Yesterday Evening that I took the First Gun to Hunt on the Quigless Place and in a few minuets I found and Killed two Bacbons — in fine Order they were in

November 18, 1839 I Commenced this morning to moove in from the Country to the House on Wall St owned by Mrs Richards. I moved all my things in to day safe and without any Loss or accidents

November 19, 1839 I arose this morning Early and went to my Shop for the purpose of rema[in]ing all Day at Buisness and it is the first whole day that I have made in the Shop Since I went out of town for the Sickness — I found Buisness tolerable fair for the Season

1840

January 4, 1840 Buisness has been very Good — I Loaned Mr Geo. Watson twenty Dollars. With Eighty that He got yesterday He now owes me One Hundred Dollars, which money He is, according to promise, to remit to me as soon as he gets to Grand Gulph — in the Funds of Louisiana — I hope so, I do indeed. The[r]e is nothing New to day that I have herd of. Gen Jackson is Expected Down in the morning But I dont believe that he will be here at all

10 It was common practice for Natchez families to move to the country until a yellow-fever epidemic had passed. On December 2, 1839, the Natchez Courier stated that “the greater part of the population left the city” during the period from early September until the middle of November.

11 The Natchez press did not comment on the run upon the bank.

12 The Natchez Free Trader, September 20, 1839, carried a short note on the yellow-fever epidemic: “We shall take no responsibility by giving advice (on leaving the city) and shall still be most happy to disappoint those who would seem to be dissatisfied that we do not report ‘a smart chance’ of deaths every day.”

13 Late in September, 1839, the building formerly called “The Southern Exchange,” owned by Johnson’s mother-in-law and managed by him, burned. But unless the fire noted in this entry recorded the event, Johnson did not mention it in his diary. The Natchez Free Trader, October 7, 1839, described “the fire a week since, which consumed the square bounded by State, Canal, Washington, and Wall streets” (the block in which the house stood). Johnson was outside the city during the yellow-fever scare of this period — which may be the explanation of his failure to record his loss. In any event, the building, which had cost nearly $3,000 to construct, was covered by insurance to the extent of $2,000. On March 7, 1840, the Natchez Insurance Company paid him the full amount of the policy, and before the end of the year he began to rebuild. [Footnote continues.]
January 5, 1840  The Bluff is covered with persons waiting to see Gen Jackson. I took my Horse and wrode Down in the swamp and took a Look at the Land as I went and found it to be pretty swampy — I then went to Mosbys and He had gone in to the Swamp to Hunt I saw 3 of my Hounds

January 6, 1840  I with the rest of the Good Citizens of this City had the pleasure of seeing Genr Jackson on His way to New Orleans, He having stoped at the Landing a short time 14

May 7, 1840  To Day was in the aforesnoon very pleasant Day until past One Oclock and then we had rain, with One of the Greatest Tornadoes that Ever was Seen in this place before 15

May 8, 1840  This was a part of the time pleasanst and agreeable and part of the time was warm and unpleasant Several persons found during this Day that was Killed under the Houses Oh what times, no One Ever seen such times

May 17, 1840  I took my Horse together with Sterns and Jno Jackomine and went into the Swamp — We found the road in a terrible condition Indeed — trees was a Lying all over the Road in Every Direction — Maj Jno Winns Plantation Houses were all Blown over — Gin and all — and the water from the River was very high and runing over for an Hundred yards or more

May 18, 1840  There was a man Sold a negro yesterday at Auction and stole him again Last night, and a negro Girl from Capt Barlow. The name of the Girl was Mary — Mr Sargent got off on some Boat Last night and has gone to Philadelphia where he Lives — Buisness has Been Only tolerable to day in the way of Bathing and in the way [of] shaving too

July 4, 1840  Buisness was Quite Dull, this being the 4th of July I did not Keep open more than half of the Day but walked out into the Pasture to see How the Citizens were Engaging themselves and I found them all in fine Humor and in good order

July 9, 1840  Buisness has been dull Mr Jno Thom. Winn 16 was shot Last night whilst at supper by some unknown person — A more Gentlemany Young man I have never seen I think, a man that the world must Love if they could but Know Him

July 10, 1840  Buisness as usual has been Quite Dull I have been for the Last ten Days Sinking money.

July 24, 1840  Buisness Dull — We have news that Arad Woodard was arrested in some part of Ohio — He is the man that Killed Mr Frazier of Woodville, a Gentleman, who had a Family — I had a

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14 Jackson’s brief pause at the Natchez Landing was noted in the Natchez Free Trader, January 7, 1840. Three militia organizations — the Natchez Fencibles, the Natchez Guards, and the Adams County Light Guards — had boarded the steamboat Edward Shippen at Natchez and ascended the river to a point some eight miles distant where they met the Vicksburg and the Clarksville, the two boats which carried the Jackson party. Jackson assured the people of Natchez that he would spend a day with them on his return trip. He was en route to New Orleans to visit the scene of his victory over the British in 1815.

15 For accounts of the tornado, see the extra edition of Natchez Free Trader, May 8, 1840. Three days later the Free Trader estimated damage to buildings at $1,260,000 and total damages at $5,000,000. It was estimated that more than 300 people were killed or drowned in the river and more than 100 wounded. [Footnote continues.]

16 Winn was lieutenant colonel of the Fourth Regiment, Mississippi Militia. The regiment held a commemorative meeting on July 11. [Footnote continues.]
settlement with Sterns\textsuperscript{17} to night and told him that I could not afford to Keep him any Longer and that his maner of doing buisness would never do. To be Drunk \(\frac{1}{2}\) of his time would never Suit me nor my Customers and I paid him twenty Dollars in good money and then He said that he would work for his vituals, that he did not care for the wages. I told him if He was Disposed to Come around in that way He Could do so, but at present I could do with out any assistance and if Buisness got Better in the fall why I might give Him a Situation, tho I was not sure.

\textit{August 5, 1840}  
Little or nothing doing at present and there don’t appear to me that buisness will Ev[e]r revive  
Oh what miserabl times. Good Hevens

\textit{August 10, 1840}  
Steven got Drunk to day and walked off[?] and I, after he had been Brot Home, Hand Cuffed him and Floged Him. In the first place I Knocked him Down at the Building — he then ran away, but was soon Brought Back again and when he came back he was so drunk that he Could not walk, talk or do any [thing] Else — I gave Him Late in the afternoon a tolerable severe whiping and Left him, so the First thing I know the Rascal had runaway\textsuperscript{18}

\textit{November 2, 1840}  
Buisness has [been], oh remarkable Dull and there is such a Large Concours of Persons in the City too — To day is one that I thought we would have a fine Days work but the Contrary is the fact and no mistake sure  
To Day is the First Day of the Presidential Election and I saw at One time 163 Persons Come in at One time in the Court House yard to vote and the[y] all were at that time Followers of the Tumble Bug Ball, properly named I thing. The Ball was Rolled up and Down the Different streets, and then under the Hill, and up and there was nothing wise about the Concern that I Could See,\textsuperscript{19} 649 were the number of votes Polled. The Ball Starts again from the Court House and then Down Town to the Log Cabin, there it was adressed by Col Bingaman for a very short time.

\textit{November 3, 1840}  
The Election is still going on  
The Greate Hum Bug Ball was stollen Last night by Some One that has more sense than the man that made it, and Demolished the thing, an rolled it Down the Bluff\textsuperscript{20}

\textit{November 15, 1840}  
Nothing new transpired during the whole day of any Interest  
Both of the

\textsuperscript{17} Washington Sterns (also spelled Sterne and Stearns), free Negro barber, worked intermittently for William Johnson and Robert McCary between 1831 and 1840. In this last year Johnson paid him $25 per month and fed him. Sterns was the oldest and most independent of all Johnson’s barbershop employees; he had written to Johnson in terms of equality as early as 1829 and he had inherited property. He had been freed in 1827 by an executor of the will of Payton Sterne of Natchez, who had left his property to “three coloured children in my possession, Sons and Daughters of a certain woman of color named Milly.” The will (probated 1819) had further enjoined the executors to arrange for the children’s freedom and for their education. In 1841 the Adams County Board of Police refused to grant Washington a license to remain in the state, but his name appeared on the tax rolls two years later. As a result of a number of emancipations of members of the family arranged by Washington Sterns and his mother, the Natchez free Negro group bearing their name increased considerably in size in the 1830’s and 1840’s. [Footnote continues.]

\textsuperscript{18} There was considerable agitation by the citizens of Natchez at this time against the selling of intoxicants to Negroes. See letter in Natchez Courier, August 13, 1840.

\textsuperscript{19} One of the effective Whig methods of arousing party enthusiasm was the rolling of a gigantic ball from town to town. Trooping crowds followed singing, “Hail to the ball which in grandeur advances.” One of the campaign slogans was “Harrison and two dollars a day and roast beef.”

\textsuperscript{20} The Natchez Free Trader, November 3, 1840, reported: “The election yesterday went off in the most peaceable and orderly manner; no fights and an abundance of good feeling.”

National Humanities Center  ♦  Diary of William T. Johnson, Jan. 1, 1838 – Jan. 1, 1844, selections. 10
Political Parties are Claiming the State of Pennsylvania. We don't know which — I wrote out in the afternoon with Mc. He wrote the Poney and I wrote Kitty Fisher, and the way she paced coming back was familiar to me.

November 17, 1840  I was doing some fencing and stopped work. Nothing of importance, nothing true from Pennsylvania. I am in hopes that the Democrats will carry the state.

November 30, 1840  Business has [been] very good for a Monday. Mr Robertson paid me the amount of his account which was twenty-eight dollars to the 12th of June, 1840 — came to hand in good time. I wanted the money very much at present — I find out today that my new brick building is about to fall down — I hope not — must have been occasioned by the tornado.

December 5, 1840  Nothing new that I have here. A Day of singular coincidences. The following are a few of them. In the first place, my 2 turkeys were stolen & my 2 cows were left out and ran away. I had 1 calf to die — Steven ran away — all of those I was pestered with. I intended to have gone hunting but for the fact of all those things running away &c. I was prevented and all for the better. I hope yes, and I had my mare Kitty Fisher badly hurt by John in looking for my cows — I signed an article of agreement this morning with Mr. Staples, renting him my house for one thousand dollars per year commencing on 15th inst.

December 6, 1840  I find business not so good. This is another mistake for business is not at all to be complained of for it is some what lively. Considerably so.

1841

March 2, 1841  Business only tolerable. Steven got drunk this morning and ran away — Bill found him out in the body of a cart under the brick shed and brought him home.

March 11, 1841  Business in the shop uncommonly dull, I have been quite busy all day — Mr. Brown the plasterer finished the kitchen this afternoon, and laid one hearth in the kitchen. Paper hanger commenced this morning to hang the paper in the front room. Came very near finishing the room to day — I commenced to work on the wooden cistern to day, stopping up the cracks with tar &c. I commenced to day to move down some of the furniture to the building &c. Mr Phillips left to day to the upper states somewhere.

March 25, 1841  To day about [blank] o'clock my little daughter was born. And the largest & finest child I ever saw of its age — Mrs Dickson was with her, Ann was well at dinner time. I sent in a letter to day one hundred dollars to Mr Miller in Orleans. I gave the letter to Mr Britton on board.

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21 This was Anna L. Johnson (christened Ann Johnson, and known as Anna L. Johnston in her later years), the diarist's eldest daughter and fourth child. She died November 25, 1922. In the above entry, "Ann" referred to the mother.
March 28, 1841  I remained at Home all day and read a Book through

April 2, 1841  To Day the young man Phelps Came and wanted me to pay Him for catching Steven  I Gave Eight Pieces of Paper for it, Such as I sell for 5 Bits a Roll, which is Just five Dollars that the Infernal Rascal has Cost me precisely — not to Include His days work.

April 22, 1841  Nothing new that I Know.  To Day it was that I opened my Baths for the 1st time this season. Nothing new — 7 Persons took Baths to day  That is doing very good indeed for a Commencement

May 3, 1841  To Day is Quite a Dull Day  Nothing new that I Have Herd — I Took a Boy by the name of Edmond from Mr N. Hoggatt to day to Lern the trade of Haircutting & shaving &c — Mr George Snider Died Last night or Just before day Light this morning

May 4, 1831  Nothing New that I Know of  To Day I went up to McCarys Shop and told Him that I had two Little Boys and was requested by Mr Hogatt to get situations for them to Learn a trade of some Kind — He wanted One of them and I Gave Him Choice of the two, Jefferson and William  He Liked the Look of Wm Best tho  Wm told Him that He wanted to Live with me so Mc then said He would take the other — Accordingly I sent Jeff up to Him this Evening

May 12, 1841  This morning Shortly After Breakfast time The Boy William ran off and Took with Him Jeff, His Brother, that I had put with McCary  They Both went Out Home.  They are Boy that were put with me by Mr N Hogatt  William was the Cause in Toto — From what I have seen of Him I am Inclined to think that He is a Boy of no Kind of Energy — Young William Commenced this Afternoon to Moove the Effects that He had in a Room Back in my yard that He was to have paid me Eight Dollars per month for — McCary got on His Horse To Day After those Boys Ranaway And tried to overtake them, but did not Cucced

May 14, 1841  I am Nervous to Day And will have some fighting to do before night I do Expect, Tho I hope not, Cincerely do I, and I will try and Keep Cool — Very Singular that Steven ranaway to day And the two Boys that ranaway the other day should have returned at the same time  Just as One ranaway two Came back or one rathar, for One of Said Boys ranaway from Mc, the other from me, I wrode Out this afternoon to the Forks of the Road to try and swop Stephen off for Some One Else, But could find no one that I would Like

June 19, 1841  Nothing new that I know of  Buisness To Day was Good, Bathing and Shaving also

June 21, 1841  Nothing new this morning that is worth the attention of a smart man

July 24, 1841  Nothing new that I Know of — Large Comp of Our Citizens went out to day in the Bayous in search of Runaway Negroes. Capt. Ruffner & Mr McAlister, Mr Joseph Mesho and a number of Our Respectable Citizens was out — Mr R finds a fire Burning in the woods — Jo Mesho finds a Bucket of meat in a tree where the Runaways has been tho there was no Negroes Caught that has been Known — I had a Settlement to day with Mr Reynolds and I find to my surprise that instead of owing him about $20, when the Documents was Compaired he was in my
debt 16 cents Close fit it was To day has been the Beef Shooting at the Race tract and target shooting &c. Mc was Out and won $10 from the people

November 27, 1841 To day Has been a Day of Greate Trouble with me on acct of the Seviere illness of my Little Richard — He is very Sick and has had several Fitts or Spasems which So alarms me, I remained all the Evening at Home, Did not go to the Shop . . .

November 30, 1841 To day I find Richard no better, Still Suffering As much as a poor Little Soul Can

December 6, 1841 My Poor Little Richard is very sick yet. Dr Davis Comes very Regular to see him — The Poor child has had a very hard time of it. Poor Little Fellow. God Grant that He may soon recover from this Dreadfull sickness — McCary and Hester Commings has Came to night to set up with Him

December 16, 1841 . . . My Little Richard is much better to day Thank God.

1842

January 7, 1842 The Streets are mudy and unpleasant walking in them, Nothing new that I Know of Buisness dull. I took in Cash to day 6.37½ And Collected $29.50 Those times are very different from what they were 6 or seven years ago — The City is full of French and Duch Jews — trading mostly in Dry Goods, I got a Letter from Mrs Miller to day in which She mentions that George Britton, very Lately on a visit to New Orleans from Bayou Sarah, So Stoping at Mrs Williams Gratis Got up Early in the morning and Stole a wach from Mrs. Williams and Left the City, That is too bad for the Lady is quite Poor indeed

April 20, 1842 Nothing new that I Know of. Business Dull, Quite so indeed Mr T Rose Came in the shop to night and we began and ta[]k]ed untill After ten Oclock — The Subjects, Banks & Banking — prospects of war — money Loaning — insolvent people, England and the English — Slavry — Texas & Mexico

April 24, 1842 Nothing new has transpired to day worth the attention &c. Mc and myself took a wride Out this Evening to the Scott old Fields and the Creek &c — There we read the Laws of Louisiana in pamphlet form &c.

April 28, 1842 Nothing new Buisness has been Dull, very Dull — We Lost a Beautifull Little Cannary to day, One that we Raised — pretty One It got Out — Mrs. Linton, Daughter &c. Left this Evening for the North on the Grey Eagle S B

June 6, 1842 Nothing new that I Know of Except that some people on the other side of the River Caught One of those Runaway Slaves that helped Kill a man by the name Todd Living near Red River — They Burned Him up soon after he was taken They Caught One moore of them and they Broght him to there Concordia Jail &c. They shot the other one but did [not] Kill Him

22 The account totaled $251.81.
July 9, 1842   I Spoke to A. L. Willson the other day to procure me a passage on the Steam Boat, Maid of Arkensaw, which he promised to do and to day when the Boat Came I went down to see about it and I saw him and He told me that he had spoke to the Capt. and that he had Refused to Let a State Room, But that my wife Could have the whole of the Ladies Cabbin to Herself but it was a Rule on his Boat not to Let any Col persons have State Rooms on Her — I asked him to go with me on Bourd — He went on Board and showd me the Capt. and I asked him if could not spare a State Room and he told me that He Could not spare one that it was against the Rules of His Boat and that he had said it once and that was Enough and that he was a man of his word and Spoke of Prejudice of the Southern people, it was damd Foolish &c., and that he was a doing a Buisness for other people and was Compelld to adopt those Rules — I did not prevail by no means — He then said that I Could Have a State Room on Conditions which I told him would answer.

July 27, 1842   I Saw Mr W Burns this Evening and had a Long talk with him about Winston. He wantd to Know how he was ageting along &c and I told him that he was doing very well tho I was not at this time Learning him much in the way of his Book. He wanted me to do so and he thought that Winston was now about Eighteen years old and that he wanted to have him Learn to Read and write, so that he might be able to Keep his Books or accts when he became older Enough to do Buisness for Himself He thought that wages was and Injury to a Boy, that would give them Bad Habits, and that he did not want him to have any but to work along as Long as he was satisfied. We Could agree I thanked him. He Said that he thought that there would be something Left out of the Estate and that if he conducted himself well that he would give him a start some day — I told him that Winston was a very smart Boy and that I Liked him very much indeed.

August 13, 1842   Nothing new that I Know of Buisness still without any Change for the better, [I] wrote a Letter to New Orleans to day and sent it down on the Steamer Maid of Arkansaw — I had Last night and this morning together several Quarrels with my wife She Commenced it of course I did not have a great deal to say — all amounts to nothing any how for I Cant say that I said anything to Her to Hurt her feelings that I believd myself whilst I was talking. I only did it in a Spirit of Retalation — that [is] all so Help me — All sorts of fights at the City Hotell to night, Mr Geo Pulling and Thom Munce. Mr Munce got whiped and there [were] several other fights that I don’t hear anything said about this Morning.

23 It was customary to end the apprenticeship of free Negroes when they became eighteen, but William Winston (Negro barber who worked for Johnson) was not yet free. The will of Fountain Winston had directed that “Bill or William” should be freed when he was twenty-one years of age, had made provision for his support during his minority [years under eighteen], and had left all property in the estate (amounting to more than $3000 after certain deductions) to the executor to hold in trust for the young Negro. [Footnote continues with sources.]
1843

January 20, 1843  Buisness was dull for the season. Nothing new that I Know of. I offered Mr Gemmerson to day five Hundred and fifty dollars for 60 Acres of his Land that Fronts on the River, I bot a vest to day and One Dozen pairs of Shoes for the Children

January 21, 1843  Buisness has been dull, Quite so, I think I have had several Conversations with Mr Gimmerson to day about his Land tho we made no trade after all, I think that it will be bot by Mr Weldon & Co

January 27, 1843  Steven was in Jail this morning And I went and took him Out and Floged Him not a Little, He was taken up by a Duchman who had him before Esqr. Rivers and tried to make it appear that he had Stollen some things from Dr Ogdens but Steven got up and Cleared his own self before the Jury in a minute

January 30, 1843  Tax, Tax, Taxes, Taxes, Taxes, Tax I gave in my Tax List as Follows—

- One Town Lot & 2 Houses, Value 5000
- Five Slaves, value 1500
- Mrs Amy Johnson Property —
- Five Slaves, Value 800
- Mrs Harriett Battles Property
  - One House & 1 Lot, Value 1900
  - 2 Slave, Value 300

February 21, 1843  Nothing new that I Know of Buisness Some what dull I bot a Little Boy by the name of Anderson from Mr Thornton who signed his name as Agent for a mr Covington, When Ever Mr Covington Calls and will make me title He will Get his money, which is Two Hundred and ninety dollars

March 23, 1843  This has been a very Cold and unpleasant day Tis very Cold indeed, No One here has Ever Seen Such wether in March here Greate many Plover in the fields in Every direction from the City tho they are very poor

March 24, 1843  Nothing new more than the Effects of mr F Stantonin Bank Ruptsy was Sold to day and a Short time after Dinner we had the Snow to Commence faling and in the course of three Hours the town was perfecty white Then the Citizens Commenced to throw Snow Balls

March 25, 1843  To day the Sun shone out very fine but did not melt all the Snow that fell yesterday Prety good Snow balling to be had to day in the Shade, Nothing new. Buisness tolerable Only — Comet was visible to night.

April 5, 1843  Nothing new. Buisness tolerable good Another Spanish Barber has opened a Shop around by Mr Kanes in State Street — Mr Antonio paid me to day twenty Dollars and owes me Still thirty Dollars
April 6, 1843 News — that Gen Santa Ana had made a proposition to Texas to acknowledge her Independence upon Certain Conditions &c. 24 Another report Says that President Boyer had fled from Port au Prince 25 — Cap Navet told me good news today — I am thus far pleased.

July 19, 1843 Nothing new — Buisness dull. I Jumped on board of the Steam Boat Buck Eye this morning and Started to New Orleans. We got off at Eight Oclok in the morning — we made a good run for the times

July 20, 1843 Mississippi River — I arrivd at Lafayette this morning about ½ past 7 Oclock. I then got in the Omnibus and wrode down to the City and was there two Hours before the Boat got in. From what I can hear the whole population of New Orleans has been more or Less affected with the Enflurenzy. Mrs Miller is Sick with it and Mr Miller has Just recoverd from the Complaint

July 21, 1843 I arrose this morning Early and took a walk to the market in Coppany with Mr Miller then back to Breakfast and then to the office &c. We then got in a Cab about 11 Oclock and wrode down to the Ponchetrain Rail Road We got in the Car and went down to the Lake. We then went down to the Bath House and took a Bath in the lake. I remained for Some time in the Lake tho Mr M. came Out amediately We then wrode back to the City in the Cars, took dinner, and I Bot a few things before dinner and among the rest was a Scuin to fish with After I went back to the House I found that Mr Miller was Sick from going to Bathe in the Lake and I did not get off from the City untill I suppose 7 Oclock. We made rarther a Slow run for the Boat was heavy Ladend

July 22, 1843 We were on the River and got up at Baton Rougue about ½ past 12 Oclock. The Boat put Out Considerable freight, Cement, Bricks, Slate. I took a walk nearly all over the town of Baton Rouge, then bot 2 Razor strap and a Book of Songs — About 2 Oclok we got fast in backing Out and remaind untill late at night, 10 or 11 Oclock. We were taken Out of the Difficulty by the Steam Boat Mount Vernon

July 23, 1843 I was On the River all day to day. We stoped at Bauyou Sarah to day and did not get up to natchez untill late in the night, Say about 2 Oclock

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24 The conditions included a provision that Texas was to acknowledge the sovereignty of Mexico. Although there was not the slightest chance that Texas would agree to this provision, President Sam Houston used the offer to secure an armistice between the Republic of Texas and Mexico. [Footnote continues.]

25 Jean Pierre Boyer, president of the Republic of Haiti after the gaining of its independence, fled the country during the insurrection of 1843.
July 24, 1843  I arrivd about 2 Oclck Last night and came up the Hill. I found all well and nothing new. Buisness dull

August 1, 1843  Nothing new what Ever — Mr Day gets the Contract for Building the Jail and Commenced this morning Early to pull down the old One, I believe he gets 11,000 Dollars for the building of it &c. Mr George Pulling was Burried this Evening ½ past 3 Oclock. He was a good man &c. I Only took in 9 dimes to day  Every day I make Less — oh what times &c.

August 23, 1843  Nothing new. Steven ranaway Monday and has not Come Home yet. I herd of him several times to day. I have been a good part of this day Ingaged in cuting or puting up my Corn, Buisness is very dull indeed

August 24, 1843  Nothing new. Buisness dull, I Came very near Cetching Steven to night. He was in the Stable ajoin[ing] mine but he Jumped out and ran into the weeds somewhere

September 15, 1843  Nothing new  Go[o]ld deal of talk about the Ellection for Sherriff. Mr Boyers Friends are very Sanguine about it — $25 VS 2 Cows I bet with Mr Jaqumine to day  Gave him Eights votes and took Mr Newman VS. Mr Boyer. They are both men that I Like very well. I have no Choice at all

October 21, 1843  To day has been warm again  Such wether will, I am told, produce new cases of yellow fever in New Orleans. The yellow fever [is] a terable mally: but if it is Gods will, why not? Slay Slay them. Buisness is tolerable Only — Nothing new — I herd Speech to night from Mr S. S. Prentess which was one of the best I have ever herd  It was on repudiation  Oh he was very Seviere indeed, He spoke from ½ past 7 untill ½ past 10 Oclock to a full House

November 1, 1843  To day is the 1st day of the Fair and there was a great many persons Out thare — I Looked at the Cattle and the Hogs & Horses They were very fine indeed  I took my Little William with me on the Little White poney that I Bot yesterday and I wrode the Combey Horse

December 5, 1843  Buisness has been good To day and I have been pretty Extravigant for I have bought 3 pair pants and 1 Coat & a bale of Hay and a Barrell of Irish Potatoes, and Several other things  The City is pretty well fill with Strangers and a great many has Left for New Orleans. Mr Fisks man Brot my Cow Home this Evening and I gave him two Dollars for it

December 30, 1843  Nothing new. Buisness Tolerable fair. I Expect from what past between Mr Cannon and myself that he will take Steven On Monday if Nothing Happens — And what is the Cause of my parting with him, why it is nothing but Liquor, Liquor, His fondness for it. Nothing more, poor Fellow. There are many worse fellows than poor Steven is, God Bless Him. Tis his Own fault. This day was Committed before Esqr Woods, Monroe Beck and a young Fellow by the name of Mitchell They were bound over to Court at the May Term. They are both bad young men, Sure.

December 31, 1843  To day has been to me a very Sad Day; many tears was in my Eyes to day On acct. of my Selling poor Steven. I went under the hill this Evening to See him off[f] but the Boat did not Cross over again and Steven got drunk in a few minutes and I took him Home & made him Sleep in the garret and Kept him Safe

1844 ~

January 1, 1844  I rested bad Last night. I had much Care On my mind, the night appeared very Long — I got up this morning Early and took Steven with me down to the Ferry Boat and gave him up to the Overseer of Young & Cannon. Crawford was his name  I gave Steven a pair [of] Susenders and a pr
of Socks and 2 Cigars, Shook hands with him and see [him] go On Bourd for the Last time I felt hurt but Liquor is the Cause of his troubles; I would not have parted with Him if he had Only have Let Liquor alone but he Cannot do it I believe, I receved a check from mr Cannon to day On Mr Britton & Co for four Hundred dollars and a demand note or due bill for two Hundred more, I will Speak more of it when I See it again for I did not Examin it very Close this morning — To day Came On the Election and there were a great number of fights during the day with One or another &c.

William Tiler Johnson wrote his last journal entry over seven years later, on June 14, 1851. Two days later he was ambushed and murdered by Baylor Winn, also a free black man, with whom he had long disputed over the boundary of their lands outside near Natchez. Before Johnson died the next morning, he identified Winn as his murderer. In addition, two free black men (including one of his sons) and an enslaved man witnessed the murder. Winn successfully escaped prosecution by presenting evidence that he was white; thus by Mississippi law no black person could testify against him in court. After two years of trying to refute Winn’s claim, the state dropped the case and Winn was released.

An indication of Johnson’s standing in the community is the article published by the Natchez Courier two days after his death.*

SHOCKING MURDER

Our city was very much excited on Tuesday morning, by hearing that what could only be deemed a horrible and deliberate murder had been committed upon an excellent and most inoffensive man. It was ascertained that William Johnson, a free man of color, born and raised in Natchez, and holding a respected position on account of his character, intelligence and deportment, had been shot, . . .

This murder has created a great deal of excitement, as well from its atrocity, as from the peaceable character of Johnson and his excellent standing. His funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Watkins, who paid a just tribute to his memory, holding up his example as one well worthy of imitation by all of his class. We observed very many of our most respected citizens at his funeral. Johnson left a wife, nine children, and quite a handsome property; probably twenty to thirty thousand dollars.