

Interview with Otto Lindig, of Stonewall, Texas. Done by Mrs. Jesse Hunter and Mr. Norman Dietel, in the boyhood home of President Johnson in Johnson City, March, 1965.

["L" is Lindig. "I" is used when it is not clear whether Hunter or Dietel is asking question.]

D: We are seated here in the boyhood home of President and Mrs. Johnson.

This is the home to which the President's father, Sam Johnson, moved in 1913. They lived in this home until 1936. We have here with us today Otto Lindig, a neighbor and life-long friend of the President. There is probably no man alive today who knows our beloved President better than Otto Lindig of Stonewall.

This is Norm Dietel, the publisher of the Radio-Post of Fredericksburg, Texas. I have known Mr. Lindig personally most of my life and I can well say that Mr. Lindig has been a very close friend and a supporter of the President all of his life. Now I'll turn this microphone over to Mr. Lindig and he can tell us [about] some of the early days of the President.

L: It's not only the President we want to know the history of. It's also of his mother and father. His father was just a few years older than I, and I knew him ever since I was about seven years old. He grew up about 3-1/2 miles east of Stonewall, just across the river from the Stonewall Lutheran Church, and he worked on the farm just like every other farm boy had to do. The President's mother was raised in Fredericksburg and she was one of the best declamation teachers in Texas.

Sam Johnson was married to Rebekah Baines in 1902. In 1902 he was elected to the office of the Justice of Peace which was a very high office in those days. Sam married more boys and girls than any pastor in Gillespie County because he just charged \$5. Every couple he married stayed together because the boy knew he'd never have another \$5 and the girl knew she never would find another boy with \$5.

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When he got married in 1907 to Rebekah Baines, their honeymoon was in a topless one-horse buggy, riding from Fredericksburg to a place about 500 yards away from the old Johnson place where he was raised.

After that, in 1916, his nephew, Tom Martin, was elected to the House of Representatives in Texas. In 1917 he quit and joined the army and there was a vacancy. Ferguson was governor at this time. He gave Sam Johnson, Lyndon's dad, the appointment, and he was the representative from our district for a few terms after that. His mother gave declamation lessons to many a child at Albert and Stonewall, and they are all grandmothers now. One I especially knew was Mary Neal Brody. She took the declamation lessons in 1919, '20 and '21.

The Johnson's had five children; two boys and three girls. Lyndon was born on the place which they moved to when they were married, about 500 yards away from the old Johnson home. When he was born and was about four hours old, I went down there and wanted to sell his dad a span of horses. He said, "I'm not interested in horses. Come in the house. I want to show you something." So when we went into the house, there was Lyndon, about four hours old. He stated then, like any proud father would have done in those days, "He's gonna be Governor of Texas some day."

D: Otto, let me ask you a few questions before we go on. We might mention that we are seated here in the living room of the boyhood home of President Johnson. Mrs. Jessie Hunter is here with us--she is the curator in charge of the home. Mrs. Hunter has a question.

H: Mr. Lindig, you have given us a little information about the President's birth. Give me the names of all the people who were at the house on the day of the President's birth.

L: There were just the midwife--Christian Lindig's wife. In those days they

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were 20 miles away from the doctor and it took the doctor too long to come. So everybody had the midwife and the midwife stayed, as a rule, two or three days after the child was born.

I: Mr. Lindig, you have told us about the President's birth now. Can you tell us some of the things he did before his school days--some of the things most children do, the way they play, the toys they had, the children they played with, parties, anything that you can think of in that phase of his life?

L: Lyndon was just five years old when he went to school. Of course he was just like all other children. He had lots of toys to play with but when he was five years old he always ran away from home and went down to the Johnson school. Mrs. Johnson always wanted then to send him to school even if he was young. So they had a special election of the trustees and took him into the school. It was just a one-teacher school with seven grades.

I: Mr. Lindig, you said the Johnson school. Was there a school just for the Johnson children?

L: That place is called Johnson. That was just the name of the place. All the children in that neighborhood went to that school. Lots of children that I know that went to school with Lyndon in that one-teacher school. There were sometime over 60 children enrolled in that school. After he finished seven grades, he came to Stonewall. Lloyd Brody was the principal and Mada Fritz was the assistant teacher. That is where Lyndon took violin lessons, and Maranita Brody took declamation lessons in return. There was no money to be paid because nobody had any money, and so she took the 8th grade in Stonewall and in that same year she took declamation lessons. He went up to Fredericksburg at the field day and declamation was in Clenis

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Hall that night. Lyndon took first. The title of that speech was, "Texas Undivided and Indivisible," which was a very popular speech in those days. The next year he went to Albert. There was Dora Von Hagen and a little girl by the name of Eckert. She was assistant. That's where Lyndon took his ninth grade. From there, he went to Johnson City where he finished high school in 1924.

I: Mr. Lindig, how did the President's mother and father arrive at a name for the President? Do you know why they chose Lyndon?

L: Yes. There was a lawyer by the name of Linden. Sam and the lawyer were very good friends. Sam, he was the one who wanted to have his boy named Linden. That lawyer Linden was a very smart man.

I: Where did this lawyer live?

L: Linden lived in San Antonio. They were all good friends and whenever we had District Court in Fredericksburg, this Linden came up. He always had somebody to defend up there. And as a rule, he made his headquarters down at the Johnson's.

I: Oh, then Mr. Linden went down to the Johnson Ranch at Stonewall and that is where he stayed while he was in Fredericksburg for court?

L: Yes, that's where he stayed. He went back down to the Johnson's at night and went back to Fredericksburg the next morning. That was his headquarters.

I: Now let's go back to those earlier days if you can recapitulate perhaps some of the experiences the President had in his early youth before he went to school. Did he help on the farm after he started to school? Did he help his mother and father on the farm? What did they do there?

L: Before he went to school he was just five years old and he couldn't help much. But after he went to school, he worked on the farm just like every other farm boy. He worked hard. He followed a double shovel from morning

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till night. On Saturday, he helped out on the farm and worked hard.

I: I understand Lyndon helped his mother while his father was State Representative in Austin. Is that correct?

L: Yes, in 1919 we had the biggest cotton crop we ever did have in Gillespie County. Lyndon was at home and I still see him coming to the cotton gin with a bale of raw cotton. He had it ginned, barefooted. I don't think he wore shoes before he was about 15 years old.

I: In other words, in those early days, Lyndon didn't have it very easy, did he?

L: No, Lyndon was just an average boy. He had it just as hard, if not harder, than all the boys around Stonewall. But he didn't give up--he just kept going.

I: This place where Lyndon was born. Was that a small farm? Do you know approximately how many acres they had there and also what they grew on the farm besides cotton?

L: Cotton was the main crop in those days. People planted about 20 percent of their cultivated land in corn and other seed crops and the rest in cotton. Cotton was the only cash crop we had.

I: How many acres were on the farm approximately?

L: I believe there were about a hundred acres on the farm in cultivation and about 400 acres of pasture land.

I: Do you know if they had very many cattle or sheep or goats or livestock of any kind on the farm in those days?

L: Yes, they had maybe 40 to 50 head of cows on the place but they never raised any sheep. Just a few people raised sheep in those days.

I: Why didn't they have more sheep?

L: The wolves was so bad in those days that even if a person started to

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raise sheep it didn't take long before they didn't have any more sheep, unless there was a guard all of the time. And there was not enough money in it to hire a man to herd the sheep.

I: You certainly have a keen memory. It goes way back yonder. How old are you today, Otto?

L: I'm 82 years old. One more thing. My wife's gonna be 84 and the 15th of March we are going to be married 61 years.

I: Then you've known the President since you were about six years old?

L: No, I knew the President--you know he was born on the 27th of August 1908 and I'm 82 now. Why I'm 26 years older than...

I: That's correct. I was wrong in my assumption.

L: Yea, I was 26 years old then.

I: Twenty-six instead of six years?

L: Yea, I was 26 years old then. I was married before Sam Johnson was married, and my oldest boy is six months older than Lyndon Johnson. My boy was born the 23rd day of February and Lyndon Johnson, Sam Johnson's boy, was born the 27th day of August. Also the same year, 1908. They were very close friends all their lives. I believe they were in lots of mischief just like every other boy.

I: Well, can you relate what kind of mischief they were in? Did they go down to the river and go swimming together? Or did they go to the neighbors and visit them?

L: Well, they went down to the river swimming and that wasn't much like today because everybody's got a car now. They couldn't get far away from the house but it was nothing unusual if they went to the neighbor's watermelon patch and got them a watermelon to eat. Or if they passed a

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peach orchard, where there were ripe peaches, they also went in there and got some ripe peaches. Of course, they didn't waste any. But they ate all the peaches they could hold, like everybody else in those days.

I: I guess we all did that when we were kids.

L: Yes, I guess everybody did that.

I: We sure did enjoy those watermelons, especially when they came out of somebody else's yard. Right?

L: Yes, when they were in somebody else's patch.

I: Did Lyndon's mother and father own a car when he was a little boy or did they just have a horse and buggy?

L: When Lyndon was born, nobody had a car. There were no cars around. But Sam Johnson, Lyndon's dad, did get a Model T. I believe it must have been about a 1914.

I: Where did they take this car to? Where did they drive it because there weren't very many good roads in those days, were there Mr. Lindig?

L: No, and the cars were very expensive to drive. Sam, when he was in the House of Representatives, just came home about every two weeks because it cost too much and it was too hard work. Sometimes it would take all day to drive from Austin to the Johnson Ranch. And it was nothing unusual to have five or six flats on a trip like that.

I: You mean five or six flats in one day in one trip from Austin to Stonewall?

L: Yes, it was nothing unusual. It took a whole day then and if a person went to Austin from Stonewall in half a day, why he made good time.

I: That's quite a contrast with the present day when we can go from Stonewall to Austin in about 40 minutes. Do you still drive a car today?

L: Oh yes, I bought my first car in 1914 here in Johnson City.

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I: From whom did you buy this car?

L: John King and as well as I can remember, the house we are in today--John King owned that house in 1914.

I: What make of car did you have? Was it an open car?

L: Yes, all cars were shaped like the Model T. You know you could lay the top back and those curtains you put on them were celluloid and half the time there was no light in it and if you put them on, it would just rain through. But we were satisfied.

I: Mr. Lindig, you said a while ago you recalled those days when Lyndon went to school in Stonewall where Professor Brody also taught violin and Lyndon took some violin lessons. About how long did Lyndon take these lessons and did Lyndon ever play in public?

L: No. I think they were the only violin lessons Lyndon ever took and that was about eight months--from Mr. Brody. Nobody can learn to play the violin in eight months. He was too busy and had too many other things to do to take violin lessons.

I: I think Lyndon was more interested in declamation and making speeches.

L: Lyndon was very much interested in making speeches and in public life. He didn't have time to sit down and practice violin. But if he studied his speech, it didn't take him much time and he knew it. He recited all right too.

I: I see that there is a report card here in Lyndon's boyhood home when he went to school here in Johnson City and I see they're all A's except one or two. And in his deportment he had a C plus. So he might not have been perfect in deportment, but he was certainly an A student in all other subjects. Do you know about his schooling at Johnson School--his first years? Do you know about his early days in school at Johnson?

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L: I talked to the boys down there. He was an average student because he was too young. He was too far advanced in school for his age and he graduated when he was very young. He was about at least two years advanced of the other children.

I: Mr. Lindig, did the President have a horse? Did he like to ride a horse? Did he like to work on the ranch?

L: Yes, mam, that was his hobby. He liked to get on a horse and he worked in the fields. There was one horse, and there was the double shovel that he followed on Saturday, all day long, barefooted. And on Sunday, he got his saddle and his horse and he rode around like all the other boys.

I: Mr. Lindig, you told us a story about the President when he was on a fishing trip. He saved a Negro boy's life by [rescuing him from] drowning. Would you tell us that again?

L: One rainy morning the river had a little rise. I went down on the river and there I saw Lyndon and the boy fishing. All at once the boy slipped in the water and Lyndon jumped after him. Lyndon was a little older. He was about eleven years old and I told him, "Say, Lyndon, you ought to have a medal for this." "Oh," he said, "he had my chewing tobacco in his pocket."

I: Mr. Lindig, what did they do with the fish after they caught them? Did they fry them on the river or did they take them home? And did the boys go swimming?

L: You know it was just a couple hundred yards to the river and they took the fish home and they fried them at home. The only time the boys got time to fish during cotton picking days was on rainy days. That's when they went fishing. They had a nice swimming hole there--right below

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their house--not very far from their house--and right close to the Albert Lutheran Church. Sometimes there were 20 boys in there swimming.

I: Was the President a big cutup? Was he one of the boys who got ducked most or was he one that ducked the others most?

L: Lyndon is just as I said a hundred times. You cannot outsmart a Johnson. He outsmarted the other boys and just like I said, Lyndon Johnson is the kind of President we have to have in the United States today because there is no man in the whole world that can outsmart a Johnson.

I: Mr. Lindig, you knew Mr. Johnson's father and also his grandfather Sam Ely Johnson. Do you remember when the family first came there--Sam Ely Johnson? And when they moved into that house? Who built the house which is today known as the LBJ White House on the Pedernales?

L: The Johnsons. They moved there in 1888 from the Lutheran Church right across the river. Where Lyndon lives now, the President, well that was built in 1897 or '98. It took two or three years to complete it. They might have started in '96 and ended in '98. A man by the name of Myer built that rock building, the first rock building I know that is still standing. But they attached it so much that you have to look twice before you can find it.

I: You mean that little rock house behind the present LBJ home was the original house where the Johnson's lived? Did they live in that house?

L: No, the Johnsons never lived on that place where Lyndon lives today. All the time they lived right across the river from the Lutheran Church. That's where the Johnsons lived.

I: Is that house still standing?

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- L: Oh, yes. It is owned by a man name of Jordan. He used to live there and I think Lyndon bought it all. That property all belongs to Lyndon now. That's the place which Lyndon's grandfather bought when he came here in 1888.
- I: What Mr. Jordan was that who lived there for a while?
- L: I don't know. His wife died and I believe he's in San Antonio.
- I: Is that Harvey Jordan?
- L: Yes, I believe Harvey Jordan.
- I: Now they moved to this place where Harvey Jordan lived until a year or two ago. I believe that's when he sold that house. Is that right?
- L: You know the Johnsons lived there until they sold the place. I don't know, it's not too long ago since they sold that place but the Johnsons never did live there where Lyndon lives.
- I: Where Lyndon lives today?
- L: Where Lyndon lives today.
- I: In other words, Sam Ely Johnson came to Stonewall and he built that house a few hundred yards from the White House. And that house is still standing?
- L: It's still standing, yes.
- I: Did you know Sam Ely Johnson when you were a little boy?
- L: Yes, I sure did.
- I: Can you tell us something about Lyndon's grandfather?
- L: Lyndon's grandfather was a good mixer. He was a good mixer but as a rule he stayed around home all the time. Before I knew him, he was a trail driver, and he and his brother drove lots of cattle up north. I think his brother's name was Tom or Thomas. They drove cattle up north all the time.
- I: Did they start here at Stonewall or did they have another starting point

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when they drove these cattle north?

L: In those days, they didn't live in Stonewall. When they moved to Stonewall, they didn't drive cattle much longer. You know from 1888 on, there was not much cattle driven north any more by the road. It was all shipped by rail.

I: Where did they live before they came to Stonewall?

L: I really don't know.

I: Could they have come to Stonewall from Johnson City?

L: I believe that they lived on the other side of Johnson City and that they came from there to Stonewall but I really don't know.

I: After Sam Ely Johnson moved to Stonewall, he built the house where his son Sam Johnson continued living and that's where the President was born. Is that correct?

L: No. The President was born about 500 yards east of that place where the old Johnson residence is. When Lyndon was born, the Johnsons still lived in that house. And Sam built them a house about 500 yards east--but it's still on the same tract of land where the old Johnson house is.

I: Is Lyndon's birthplace still there? Has it been removed or has there been another house similar to that built in its place? Is the original still there where Lyndon was born?

L: I always thought that it was the original house. If it's not the original house, it's a house just like it. The well where Sam had drilled when he married, that well is still there.

I: Was that well dug by hand?

L: No, it was drilled with a machine.

I: How deep was that well, do you know?

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- L: I don't know but those wells, weren't too deep because the water was always shallow around there.
- I: Tell us about the early homes around here. Were they all built by hand? These big rock homes, these big rock native stone walls, were they all built by hand? Can you tell us how they were built?
- L: You mean the sheetrock?
- I: No, we're talking about the pioneer homes when Sam Ely Johnson first came in that neighborhood. There were rock homes built back in 1888 and 1890. They got these limestone rocks from the surrounding hills.
- L: Yes. They got the rocks from the hills but the first rock houses were built in about 1869 and I know my house, the log house, was built in 1873 and it was built out of logs.
- I: Did Sam Ely Johnson assist in building that house where they moved? Do you know if he helped in building it?
- L: I don't know. In those days, when a house was built all the neighbors helped. Maybe they had one carpenter but all the neighbors helped to build the house?
- I: In other words, all the people in that neighborhood came to help Sam Ely Johnson to build the house?
- L: To build the house.
- I: Well, I think that was mighty nice, don't you?
- L: In those days everybody helped everybody. There was no money or anything. If one man worked two days and another man worked only 1/2 day, they forgot about it. There was no settling up or anything like that. There was no money to pay anyhow.
- I: After Sam Ely Johnson moved there, what did he do for a living? Did he farm?

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- L: Yes, he had land put in cultivation and he started farming. And he raised cattle.
- I: In those early days, it was a matter of survival wasn't it?
A man who moved into this then wilderness along the Pedernales River had a tough time supporting his family. Isn't that correct?
- L: Yes, that really is because there was no money. And the neighbors, they just helped one another but there was no money, and you had a hard time getting by. One dollar in those days was just as hard to get as \$200 is today.
- I: Now isn't that amazing. It's not very easy to come by \$200 dollars today. But if it was hard to come by one dollar--
- L: It's as easy to get \$200 now as it was to get one dollar then because there was no money.
- I: Tell me, Mr. Lindig, what did land sell for in that area at that time? Approximately what was it worth?
- L: The good land was a dollar an acre and the hills sold for 25 cents an acre.
- I: You mean to tell me that in those days people could buy some of this valuable hill country land for 25 cents an acre?
- L: Absolutely, absolutely. There was land sold for 25¢. The hills were sold for 25¢, and the valuable land was sold for a dollar.
- I: Mr. Lindig, it's almost unbelievable to think that when the pioneer citizens came here in the Stonewall region, in the heart of the LBJ country, where President Johnson's grandfather moved in 1888, that land was so reasonable and today it has gone almost sky high. I understand it's \$125 an acre now and more. In those days, 1888 and 1900, did anybody anticipate that somebody

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within this area would be born here and go all the way to becoming Governor of the State of Texas or even President of the United States? Did anybody ever anticipate that in those early days?

L: No, no, they absolutely did not. If they were a County Judge that was about as much thought of as the President today.

I: What about Lyndon's father? You said earlier that his father was a Justice of the Peace. Where was he, a Justice of the Peace?

L: In Gillespie County, in the eastern part of the county. In those days, Gillespie County was divided into three or four district precincts. And he was Justice of the Peace in the eastern part of the county.

I: Besides marrying couples, what other duties did he have? Did he have anything to do with enforcing the law as an officer of the law?

L: Oh, yes, you know in those days there were lots of fights. The people weren't civilized. They went to the Justice of the Peace and filed a complaint. Then the other man had to pay a fine.

I: They settled their arguments and difference in those days in the JP court?

L: No.

I: They didn't settle them there?

L: Very seldom, yes.

I: Tell me, did they have many dance halls in this area, or in the Stonewall-Albert area. Did they have any fights in those dance halls?

L: Yes, oh, yes. In those days they had dance halls in Stonewall and Albert and elsewhere. And if there wasn't two or three fights in the dance hall that night, why the people didn't enjoy themselves.

I: Did the President go to dances in his youth in the Stonewall and Albert area? Do you know if he went to dances?

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L: He was really too young when he lived up here. You know a boy didn't go to a dance until he was 16-17 years old. And the President lived in Johnson City then.

I: Did they have dance halls in Johnson City and Albert or at Hye?

L: They did have dance halls here and also one at Hye. But I never attended them so I don't know anything about them.

I: Did Lyndon's father and mother go to dances?

L: No. I don't think Rebekah ever went to a dance. Sam, Lyndon's dad, yes, he went to dances as long as he was a boy and he liked to dance. But I never saw his mother dance.

I: What kind of music did they have in those days?

L: Brass bands. They had nothing but brass bands in those days.

I: Nothing like we have today?

L: Different music too. They had the old style music, good music.

I: Tell me, Mr. Lindig, we've been talking about the President, do you recall when the President met Lady Bird?

L: Well, the first I know of, that was on the 10th of September 1934. There's when he met Lady Bird in Austin and he fell in love with her. He followed her and I think it was on the 17th of November of the same year, that he had Lady Bird in his cage.

I: You mean he courted Lady Bird and it took him three months to put her in the cage?

L: Yes, but I think he had to fix up that cage first so she'd stay in there.

I: He didn't let her get out. She's been a very faithful wife and a wonderful woman, hasn't she?

L: She's a wonderful woman, a wonderful neighbor, friendly neighbor. There is not a better woman around Stonewall than little Lady Bird.

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- I: She makes a wonderful First Lady of the land, don't you think?
- L: Yes, I think very much of her.
- J: Mr. Lindig, you've always been a great admirer and friend of the President. Can you tell us how far back you have supported him politically?
- L: I always supported him but in 1956 the State of Texas and lots of places called precinct conventions and boosted Lyndon for President. So I called the precinct convention in Stonewall and we all wanted to have Lyndon for President. Lyndon carried Texas that year in the Texas Democratic convention but in the national convention he lost out and they put Stevenson there for President.
- I: All right, that was in 1956. What about in 1960? Did you have any part in that election?
- L: I guess so. That's the only election I really did spend money. And I made a couple of speeches for him. One in Stonewall, the night of the Centennial, and I presented him with a pair of silver spurs which cost me \$75. It wasn't much but it was a whole lot of money for just a pair of spurs. And I see this morning that Lyndon's still got them hanging in his office.
- I: The President has his silver spurs in his office in Washington or in his home here at the LBJ White House?
- L: Here at the home in the LBJ White House.
- I: I suppose you are very proud of that honor?
- L: Yes, I am. Being a young man like myself, why there's a big future ahead of me yet.

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D: I think you're right, Mr. Lindig. You have many happy years ahead of you. Mr. Lindig, it's been a pleasure talking to you and hope we get to see you again and hear more from you. Mrs. Hunter, would you like to have a word or two here for Mr. Lindig?

H: Mr. Lindig, we appreciate your coming down here and talking to us this morning. It's been a pleasure and I hope we get to see you soon and hear some more of these fine stories.

L: Thank you, I was more than glad to come.

Second Interview with Otto Lindig. Done by Mrs. Jessie Hunter in the boyhood home of President Johnson, Johnson City, Texas, March, 1965

My name is Otto Lindig. I have always been a close neighbor of the President, his father and his grandfather. I'm 82 years old and I am going to be married 61 years next Monday. I was asked by Mrs. Hunter to come here and give the history of Lyndon, our President's father, and his grandfather which I brought along. It's in the pioneer days and God's hills so I want to read it to you all.

Samuel Ealy Johnson, Sr., was born somewhere in Alabama [on] November 12, 1838. His parents, Jessie Johnson and Lucy Barnett Johnson, lived most of their lives in Georgia but brought their family to Lockhart, Texas in 1846. Samuel was the tenth child. When he was 18 years of age, he lost both of his parents. He was closely attached to his brother, Tom Jessie [Jessie Thomas] Johnson, in partnership with whom he went into the cattle business. They bought cattle, pastured them in the Fredericksburg area and then drove them on the long trail to Kansas and Montana. They were known as some of the largest individual trail drivers of the Blanco, Gillespie, and neighboring counties. Their Pedernales River Ranch headquarters, a log cabin, port hole, rock barn, branding stalls, and pen were the beginning of Johnson City, a Texas landmark of today.

On September 18, 1861, Samuel Ealy Johnson enlisted in Lockhart, Texas Company B, the Brave Regiment, CSA, and served through the Civil War. He was at the Battle of Galveston and had his horse killed under him at Crescent Hill in 1862. He was a man of high physical courage and strong nerves. He

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carried a wounded companion on his back from the battlefield with great danger to himself and he helped care for the wounded after the battle.

After the war he resumed his work as cattle buyer and herd driver. On December 11, 1967 he married Miss Eliza Bunton, daughter of Lieutenant Robert Bunton and his wife, Jane McIntosh. The young couple set up house-keeping in a log cabin at Johnson City where Tom and Sam had lived as bachelors. Indians still gave trouble in this area at the time. Soon after the Indian Battle at Deer Creek in 1869, Sam and Eliza Johnson moved first to Caldwell County and then to Hays County. In 1889, they returned to the mountains, the hills of the Pedernales River region. They settled down on a farm 12 miles west of Johnson City near the Pedernales. Here they lived for more than 25 years.

They had nine children [including]: Mary, Mrs. Edward Walling; Frank Barnett; [Lela] Mrs. Clarence Martin*(Clarence Martin was one of the best lawyers in the state of Texas); Ava, Mrs. John Harvey Bright (John Harvey Bright was one of the first teachers that had a degree in Texas); Lucie, Mrs. James Sterling Price; Samuel Ealy Johnson, Jr., married Rebekah Baines in 1907, the 20th day of August, and it also shows in Fredericksburg in the Court House in the Clerk's Office that they married August 20, 1907; Tom Jessie [who married] Kittie Clyde Chapman; George Desha Johnson; Katie, Mrs. Tom Odiorne; and Jessie Hermine (Mrs. Silas Hatcher).

Samuel Johnson was a religious man. He was reared a Baptist, joined the Christian Church in early manhood but in later years, he affiliated with the Christadelphians. He was a consistent and devoted member of his church until his death from pneumonia at Stonewall, Texas, on February 25, 1915.

*Lela Martin was not a child of Sam Ealy, Sr.

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He was six feet in height, rangy and well-built. He had dark wavy hair and blue eyes. In his later years, his snowy beard and thick mane of white hair gave him a particular appearance. He was widely known for his hospitality and friendliness. He enjoyed neighborly gatherings and met his friends with a handshake, friendly greeting, and often a heavy resounding laugh. He had a high temper but was seldom seen in anger. He loved to sit down on the front porch of his farm home, read the Bible or the newspaper or converse with some guests. His Gillespie County farm home is now owned by his illustrious grandson, Lyndon Baines Johnson, and is one of the beauty spots of the county.

About Lyndon Baines Johnson--on August 27, 1908, a proud grandfather mounted his seat to carry his news to the neighbors that day a grandson was born to him. The grandfather, Samuel Ealy Johnson, Sr. predicted that the infant would be a Senator. The child was named Lyndon Baines Johnson, after a lawyer by the name of Linden. He was the first born of Samuel E. Johnson, Jr. and his wife, Rebekah Baines, daughter of Joseph W. Baines. The place of the child's birth was at Stonewall, in Gillespie County. Lyndon's father, a teacher, farmer, and lawyer, served five terms in the Texas Legislature. His first term was when his nephew resigned and went to join the Army. Then Governor Ferguson appointed Sam Johnson in Tom Martin's place. His maternal grandfather had served in the Legislature and as Texas Secretary of State.

Lyndon had a normal childhood on the Johnson Pedernales River farm together with his brother, Sam Houston, and his three sisters, now Mrs. James Moss, Mrs. O. Bobbitt, and Mrs. Birge Alexander. He was a precocious child though his books during his school days were not his first love. He attended school in

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Albert and Stonewall in Gillespie County and when he had finished high school in Johnson City, he bade farewell and was off to California together with five friends to seek their fortune.

Lean days followed. Lyndon returned to Texas after a few months and found employment with a highway construction crew. Before long the advice of his friends to continue his education came to have appeal. In February, 1927, he entered Southwest Texas State Teachers College at San Marcos, Texas. To help earn his way he worked both as a janitor and as secretary to the president of the college. He took his BS degree in August 1930. He then accepted a high school teaching position in Houston where he taught public speaking and debate. He did well at it. He enjoyed working with young people but he felt a desire for a political career.

In 1931, Richard Kleberg entered the race for Congressman. Lyndon Johnson, public speech teacher and debate coach, participated in Kleberg's successful campaign. The new Congressman saw in young Lyndon a man of promise. Lyndon accepted the offer to be Kleberg's secretary. He put his heart and soul into his work and learned thoroughly the work. He became a leader among Congressional secretaries; he studied law at Georgetown Law School. In September of 1934, while in Austin, he met Claudia "Lady Bird" Taylor. As he was always interested in birds so he picked that bird and, in November of the same year, he had that bird in his cage. She was definitely the girl of his choice and he lost no time in his effort to win her. They were married November 17, 1934.

Hardly had they become well settled in Washington before Lyndon was appointed State Administrator for Texas for the National Youth Administration. He did his job well and his effort brought him his first taste of national fame.

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Many young Texans came to call him "Lyn" and to see him as a personal friend. Early in 1937, Representative Buchanan died. A special election was called to fill the vacancy. Johnson resigned his NYA position and became the successful candidate over nine other contestants.

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

Gift of Personal Statement
of
OTTO LINDIG
to the
Lyndon Baines Johnson Library
by
Reno Lindig

In accordance with Section 507 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (44 U.S.C. 397) and regulations issued thereunder (41 CFR 101-10), I, Reno Lindig, hereinafter referred to as the donor, hereby give, donate and convey to the United States of America for deposit in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, and for administration therein by the authorities thereof, tapes and transcripts of personal statements approved by me and prepared for the purpose of deposit in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library. The gift of this material is made subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Title to the material transferred hereunder, and all literary property rights, will pass to the United States as of the date of the delivery of this material into the physical custody of the Archivist of the United States.

2. It is the donor's wish to make the material donated to the United States of America by terms of this instrument available for research as soon as it has been deposited in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

3. A revision of this stipulation governing access to the material for research may be entered into between the donor and the Archivist of the United States, or his designee, if it appears desirable.

4. The material donated to the United States pursuant to the foregoing shall be kept intact permanently in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

Signed

R. G. Lindig

Date

March 1, 1976

Accepted

Harry J. Winkler
Director, Lyndon Baines
Johnson Library for Archivist
of the United States

Date

March 8, 1976