

# JOHNSON FAMILY

## Who are the people in our family?

### Family Names

Johnson/Jensen

Curley

Lawless

DeCourcy/DeCoursey

Christiansen

Lichty

Gibbs

Renzi

More detailed information about the families is available in e-book form.

Contact Betty for copies.

Videos can be found on YouTube and Rumble.

The purpose of this presentation is to show the interrelationships of the Johnson family ancestors and descendants.

This introduction goes along with the movies and photos preserved by Victor Johnson. Victor visited all the families of his brother and sisters and recorded many of the events of our lives. He also knew aunts, uncles, and cousins on both the Johnson and Lawless sides.

You will see how we are related. The movies will make some sense when you know something about who the people are.

### **YouTube Channel:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ-I21zlnGpyFBSmEjete8g>

### **Rumble Channel:**

**Betty's Family History Channel**

Prepared by: Betty Gibbs.

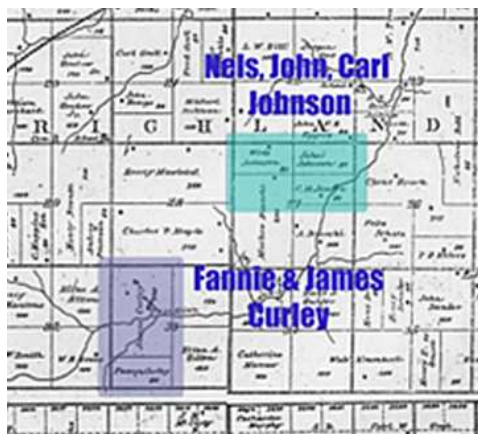
## Johnson Family Origins

Johannes Jensen/John Johnson came from Denmark with his family in 1869. The family established a farm in eastern Nebraska in Sarpy County (near Omaha).

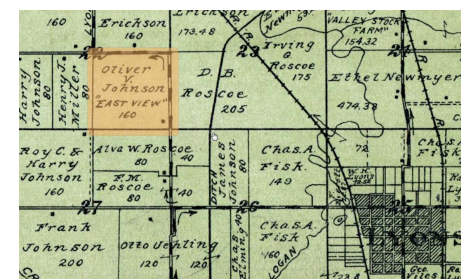
John Johnson bought the North ½ of the NE ¼ from the Union Pacific Railroad in 1889.

The Curley family lived less than 2 miles from the Johnsons.

The John Johnson family moved to near Lyons NE in 1894.



From 1889 plat produced by Anderson Publishing

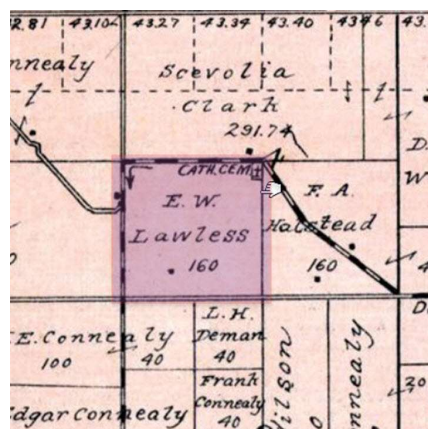


Oliver eventually took over the John Johnson property west of Lyons NE after his mother died in 1909.

## Lawless Family Origins

Eugene Lawless came from Ireland in 1880 and brought his new wife Elizabeth (Bessie) DeCourcy to a farm a few miles west of Decatur Nebraska in 1884. Eugene lived on the property until he died in 1927. Note the Catholic cemetery in the NE corner. Bessie and Eugene are buried there as well as their daughter Eugenia Lawless.

(1922)



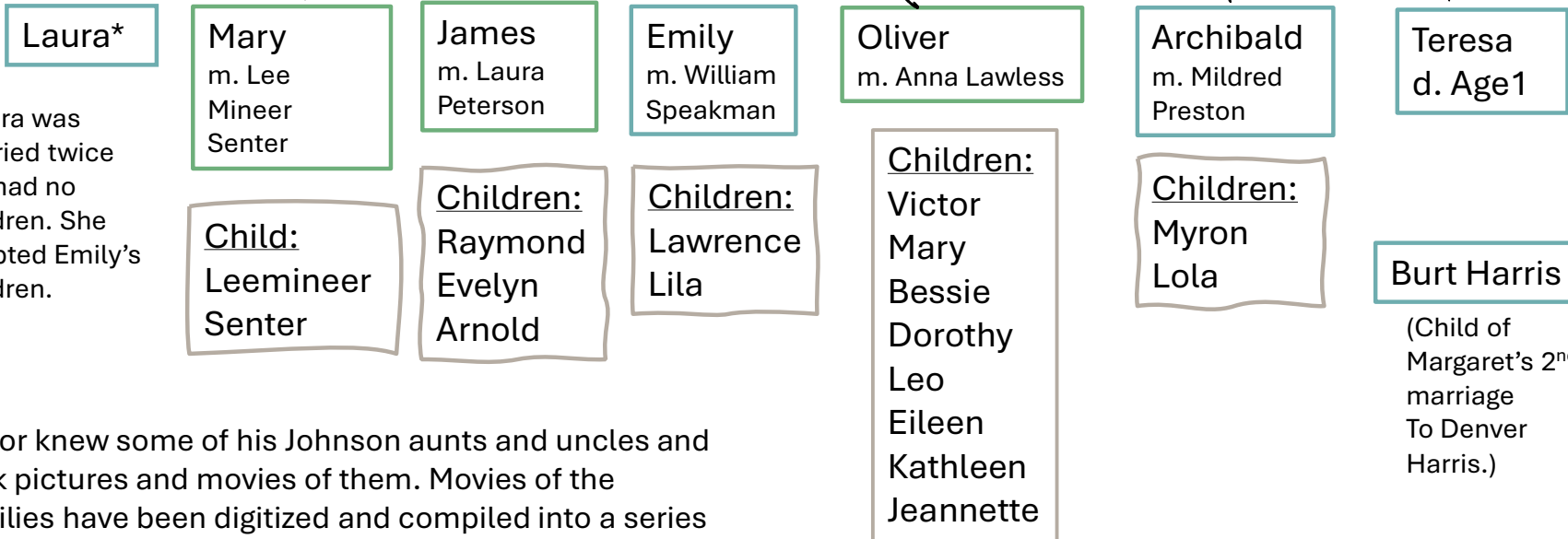
Eugene called his property GarryOwen which was a section of Limerick.

# JOHNSON FAMILY CHART ANCESTORS, DESCENDANTS

John Johnson's Parents  
Jens Jensen and Anna Nelson  
Immigrated from Denmark

John Johnson (1856-1897)  
m. Margaret Curley – 1882  
(1865-1909)

Margaret Curley's Parents  
James and Fanny Curley  
Immigrated from Ireland



\*Laura was married twice but had no children. She adopted Emily's children.

Victor knew some of his Johnson aunts and uncles and took pictures and movies of them. Movies of the families have been digitized and compiled into a series of videos for YouTube.





# FAMILY GROUPS

John Johnson  
Margaret Curley



Frank Curley  
Margaret Curley's Brother



John Johnson Family, 1909



Frank with daughters  
Alberta and Bernice

Lawless Family  
Eugene William Lawless  
Bessie DeCourcy



Eugenia, Sam Walheter, Anna, John,  
Nell Connealy (friend)



NOTE: Victor Johnson did not take movies or photos of all the John Johnson children. The lists of descendants in this presentation focus on the relatives that he took movies of. The full list of descendants is in the Johnson Family History book.

# FAMILY GROUPS

## JOHN JOHNSON CHILDREN

**Laura** (1883-1956)  
m. Abner Sharp  
(no children)



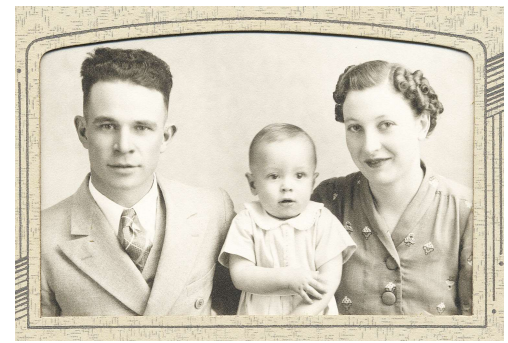
**James** (1887-1973)  
m. Laura Peterson

Children:  
Raymond  
Evelyn  
Arnold



Evelyn & Bob  
Wahlin

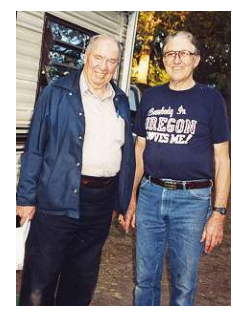
**Mary** (1885-1925)  
m. Lee Minier Senter



Child:  
Leemineer Senter  
m. Minnie Bell Pillow



Raymond Johnson Family



Victor Johnson and  
Raymond



Evelyn, Arnold, Raymond



Arnold & Theora  
Johnson



# FAMILY GROUPS

## JOHN JOHNSON CHILDREN

**Emily\*** (1889-1959)  
m. William Speakman

Children:  
Lawrence  
Lila



**Archibald (Archie)**  
(1893-1963)  
m. Mildred Preston

Children:  
Myron  
Lola



Archie, Mildred, Lola, Myron



Archie, Oliver, Jim Johnson



Myron and Lucille Johnson

\*Pictures. No movies



# FAMILY GROUPS

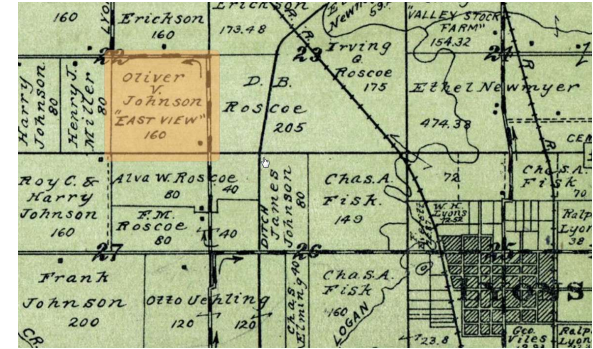
## OLIVER JOHNSON CHILDREN



**Oliver**  
(1891-1963)  
m. Anna Lawless  
(1893-1975)

**Victor** (1916-2000)  
m. Lois Sprentall  
Lois had two  
teenage boys.

**Mary** (1917-1978)  
m. John Christiansen  
6 children



Children:  
Victor  
Mary  
Bessie  
Dorothy  
Leo  
Eileen  
Kathleen  
Jeannette

**Bessie** (1918-2013)  
m. Ray Gibbs  
10 children

**Leo** (1920-2004)  
m. Nora Jane Boland  
7 children

**Dorothy** (1922-2017)  
m. Edward Lichty  
4 children

Eileen, Jeannette, Dorothy  
Mary, Kathleen, Bessie

**Eileen** (1924-2008)  
m. Rocco Renzi (Rocky)  
9 children

**Kathleen** (1927-2010)  
Became a nun.

**Jeannette** (1933-1942)  
Died Age 9



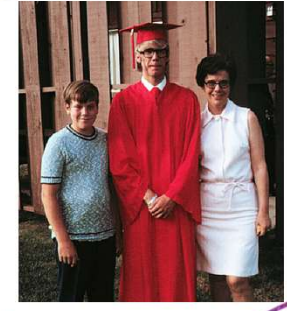
Leo and Victor  
(Taken 1941)



36 grandchildren, 2  
step-grandchildren

# FAMILY GROUPS OLIVER JOHNSON GRANDCHILDREN

**Victor**  
m. Lois Sprentall  
Lois had two  
teenage boys.



Jerry, Bob, Lois

**Bessie**  
m. Ray Gibbs  
10 children

**Mary**  
m. John Christiansen  
6 children



Christine, Joan, Robin, Steven, Victor, Scott, Betty, Julia. Front: Justin, Bessie, Ray, Hunter.



Ruth, Jim, Joel, Tom, Mary, Dale, Marie, John, Ivan Trowbridge





# FAMILY GROUPS OLIVER JOHNSON GRANDCHILDREN

**Leo**  
m. Nora Jane Boland  
7 children



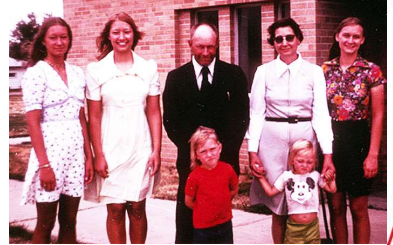
Herb, Bob, David, Jeanne, Nora, Therese, Sam, Barbara, Leo

**Sr. Kathleen**



Kathleen and Jeannette  
c1941

**Dorothy**  
m. Edward Lichy  
4 children



Pam, Pauline, Ed, Dorothy, Anne



Theresa (Tessie)

**Eileen**  
m. Rocco Renzi (Rocky)  
9 children



Patrick, John, Jeannette, Peter, Lucille Mary, Margaret, Rocky, Eileen, Ann, Eileen E.



Sr. Alphonus  
1950s



Sr. Kathleen Johnson  
1993

# FAMILY GROUPS

## LAWLESS

Eugene William Lawless (1860-1927)  
m. Elizabeth (Bessie) DeCourcy  
February 1884 in Ireland.  
(1852-1911)

Children Born near Decatur Nebraska:  
Marie Louise (Minnie) (1885-1972)  
Eugenia (1888-1982)  
John DeCoursey (1892-1956)  
Anna (Anne) Josephine (1893-1975)



Eugenia, Sam Walheter, Anna, John, Nell Connealy (friend)



Bessie DeCourcy



Eugene and  
Bessie Lawless



Minnie Lawless



# FAMILY GROUPS

## LAWLESS

Minnie Lawless  
(1886-1972)  
m. Phil Thompson (1883-1924)  
m. Thomas Byram (1886-1930)

Children:

Bernice (1916-1968)

Donald (1919-1975)



??, Donald, Bernice, Arthur, Kathy,  
Minnie. (No record of Donald's wife.)

John Lawless  
(1891-1956)  
m. Blanche Tannehill 1930  
(1910-2003)

Children:

Anna Marie, d. before 2003

Mary Eileen (1932-1997)

Jack (1940-2003)



Anna Marie, Jack, Blanche, Mary Eileen, John

Eugenia Lawless  
(1888-1982)





## FAMILY GROUPS

### GIBBS

*Tallest in back*, Jimmy Clore,  
 Katherine *next to him*. *On*  
*Katherine's right*: Bernard Gibbs,  
 Annie Carpenter, Bessie and Ray  
 Gibbs, Margaret and Jim Gibbs.  
*Left front*: Rye and Anna Jones,  
 Bunny, Marilyn, Hazel.  
 Cornelia Gibbs on Hazel's right.  
*Young girls*: Alma Katherine Clore,  
 Patricia Gibbs.  
*Littlest girls*: Nancy Clore, Sharon  
 Gibbs.

Taken c1942 at Gibbs home near  
 Rochelle, Virginia. This was the  
 farm of Bernard Gibbs' parents  
 Michael and Sarah Gibbs.



Bernard and Cornelia were called Daddy Bun and Mama Nelie.

# OTHERS IN MOVIES

## Oliver and Anne Johnson Grandchildren

**John, Mary  
Christiansen**

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Tom 1942  
Jim 1944  
Joel 1948  
Marie 1952  
Dale 1955  
Ruth 1958

**Ray, Bessie  
Gibbs**

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Betty 1943  
Joan 1945  
Scott 1949  
Steven 1952  
Julia 1954  
Victor 1955  
Christine 1957  
Robin 1960  
Justin 1964  
Hunter 1964

**Leo, Nora  
Johnson**

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Jeanne 1945  
David 1947  
Bob 1948  
Herb 1948  
Sam 1954  
Barbara 1955  
Terese 1958

**Edward, Dorothy  
Lichty**

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Theresa 1951  
Anne 1953  
Pauline 1956  
Pam 1959

**Rocky, Eileen  
Renzi**

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Jeannette 1949  
Lucille 1950  
Peter 1951  
John 1953  
Patrick 1954  
Eileen 1956  
Anne 1958  
Mary 1961  
Margaret 1962

# OTHERS IN MOVIES

## Bernard and Cornelia Gibbs Grandchildren

### Ray, Bessie Gibbs

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Betty 1943  
Joan 1945  
Scott 1949  
Steven 1952  
Julia 1954  
Victor 1955  
Christine 1957  
Robin 1960  
Justin 1964  
Hunter 1964

### Katherine, Jimmy Clore

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Alma Katherine 1936  
Nancy 1941

### Bunny and Hazel Gibbs

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Diane 1943  
Bruce 1953

### Jim and Margaret Gibbs

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Patricia 1937  
Sharon 1941

### Marilyn and Homer Jr. Seale

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Kevin 1952  
Cheryl 1943  
Ronnie 1959  
Michael 1963

### Anna and Rye Jones

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Cornelia Ann 1945