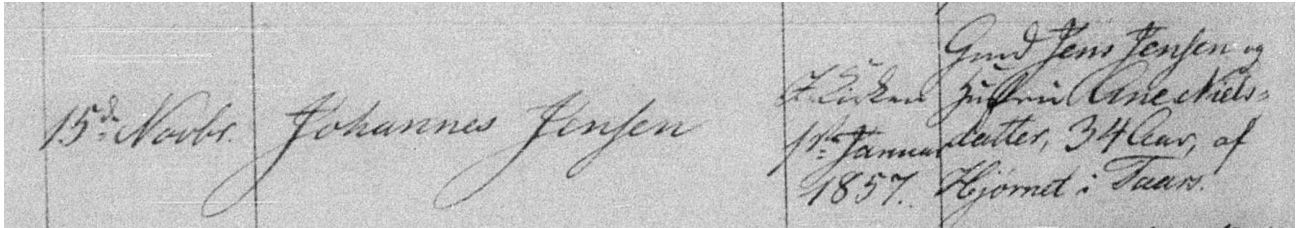


# THE JOHN JOHNSON FAMILY

**John Johnson** was born on 15 Nov 1856 in Denmark and died on 10 May 1897 in Lyons NE at age 40. He was buried in Lyons Cemetery, Lyons NE. John's Danish birth name was **Johannes Jensen**.



Johannes Jensen (John Johnson) birth record. Date: 15 November 1856. Christened 1 January 1857. Parents: Jens Jensen and Ane Nielsdatter of Tårs, Hjørring (Denmark).

John married **Margaret Curley**, daughter of **James Curley** and **Fanny Cook**, on 21 Apr 1882 in the James Curley Home, Section 33 Richland Twp near Gretna, Sarpy County NE. Margaret was born on 20 Jun 1865 in Larne, County Antrim Ireland, died on 24 Aug 1909 on farm West of Lyons NE at age 44, and was buried on 26 Aug 1909 in Lyons Cemetery, Lyons NE. The cause of her death was breast cancer.

## Census Records—John Johnson and Margaret Curly Families

### Margaret Curley

Margaret Curley appears in Nebraska Census records starting in 1870.

The 1870 Census was taken in Fort Calhoun Precinct, Washington County, Nebraska, Enumerated 14 June, 1870. Fort Calhoun is about 5 miles north of the north edge of present day Omaha on US Rte 75.

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Profession	Value	Place of Birth	Read	Write	Married	Single	Widow	Divorced
38	Curley James	M	32	Farmer	400	Ireland	/	/				
39	— Fanny	F	23	Keeping House		Ireland	/	/				
40	— Isaac	F	6			Ireland	/	/				

James Curley was a farmer, Age 32, born in Ireland, and had \$400 worth of personal property. He did not own land at that time. He could read but not write and was a naturalized U.S. citizen.

1	Curley Margaret	F	4			Ireland	/	/				
2	— John	M	3			Nebraska	/	/				
3	— Andy	M	2 1/2			Nebraska			Widow			
4	St George Oliver	M	24	Farm laborer	900	Rhode Island	/	/				

Margaret was 4 in 1870 and was born in Ireland. The family immigrated in about 1866 because her next sibling, John, was born in Nebraska.

By 1880, the Curley family moved to Richland Census Precinct in Sarpy County, Nebraska. The 1880 Census record was enumerated 22 June.

Margaret was 15 in 1880. James Curley could read and write.

7376	Curley James	W	42				/	/		Farmer
	— Fanny	W	33	Wife			/	/		Keeping house
	— James	W	16	Daughter			/	/		
	— Margaret	W	15	"			/	/		
	— John	W	12	Son			/	/		
	— Andrew	W	10	"			/	/		
	— James	W	8	"			/	/		
	— Frank	W	5	"			/	/		
	— Rachel	W	2	Daughter			/	/		



Children from the marriage of John Johnson and Margaret Curley were:



- **Laura Johnson** was born in May 1883 in Chalco Co. NE, died in 1956 in Dalton, Cheyenne Co. NE at age 73, and was buried in Dalton Cemetery.



- **Anna Mary Johnson** was born on 18 Feb 1885 in Chalco NE and died on 10 May 1925 in Hobart Cemetery Hobart OK at age 40.



- **James Johnson** was born on 20 Mar 1887 in Chalco Co. NE, died on 21 Nov 1973 in Sioux City IA at age 86, and was buried in Lyons Cemetery, Lyons NE.



- **Emily J. Johnson** was born in Sep 1889 in Chalco Sarpy County NE. She died in 1959 in Denver Colorado and is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Wheat Ridge Colorado.



- **Oliver Victor Johnson** was born on 28 Mar 1891 in Chalco Sarpy County NE and died on 15 Oct 1963 in Wessington Springs SD at age 72.



- **Archibald A. Johnson** was born on 11 Mar 1893 in Chalco NE. He died in 1963.

- **Teresa J. Johnson** was born in Aug 1895 in Lyons NE, died on 21 Mar 1896 in Lyons NE, and was buried in Lyons Cemetery, Lyons NE.

Six of the children were born on the "80" (N1/2 NE Quarter, Sect 27 Richland Township SW of Chalco, NE in Sarpy County). The property was bought from Union Pacific 5/13/1889. (BK 489.)

Laura, Mary and Jim were born in a 2 room building (later used as a garage by others). The "new" house was completed in c1887 on "80" 1 mile west, 1.5 mile south of Chalco. The family lived there until early 1894 when they moved to Lyons NE (1 mile west, 1/2 mile North on the "quarter"). They sold the Chalco "80" to Rosina Defendorf on 2/3/1894 for \$5,500. They bought the Lyons quarter section from Andrew Everett 2/20/1894.

Their seventh child was born in Lyons, but died when she was only 7 months old. She is buried in the Lyons cemetery by her parents.

John Johnson died of consumption in 1897 resulting from exposure in a flood approximately 2 years earlier.

Margaret Curley Johnson next married **David Denver Harris**.

The child from this marriage was:



- **Bert Harris** was born on 6 Sep 1900, died on 13 Jun 1922 at age 21, and was buried in Dalton Cemetery Dalton, Cheyenne County, Nebraska.

## John Johnson Family Group



Left to Right: Oliver (18), James (22), Laura (26), Bert Harris (9), Archibald (16),  
Emily (20), Anna Mary (24)

This picture may have been taken about the time of Margaret's death in 1909 at the Johnson family property. The picture is not dated. The year is estimated based on the approximate age of Bert who was 9 when his mother died. Ages are approximate assuming the picture was taken in 1909. A note on a copy of the picture states that it was likely taken soon after Margaret died.

## Family Movements and General History

After John Johnson died in 1897, children were older and some were able to help with the farm. Margaret had rheumatism and went to Colorado Springs for treatment for a year. The family was broken up and went to live with friends or relatives. Oliver and/or Jim recorded stories about several of the children. This is a summary of what happened to the family during those years after John died. Quotes are used where the stories are in the writer's words. The stories that tell about the whole family are interspersed with the individual stories. The parts are separated to build a timeline and to keep duplication to a minimum. The years are estimated based on the content of the stories. The stories are supplemented with articles from the Lyons newspapers.

### 1896

Teresa Johnson was born. Teresa Johnson died at 7 months, March 1896.

### 1897

"John Johnson died from tuberculosis of the lungs on May 10. He was sick in bed almost a year. Hans Larson was forking for us. "

**John Johnson Obituary**, *Lyons Mirror*, May 13, 1897. Died: John Johnson at his home west of Lyons on Monday 12:20 p.m. 5/10/1897 of consumption, aged 40 years, 6 months. Mr. Johnson came here with his family about 3 years ago from Sarpy City Nebraska. He leaves a wife and six children, 3 daughters and 3 sons, to mourn his untimely departure to his eternal home. The funeral was held at the family residence at 2 o'clock yesterday (5/12). Rev. T. C. Webster conducting the service, after which the remains were interred in the Lyons Cemetery. The Mirror extends its sympathy to the bereaved ones.

"Mother had inflammatory rheumatism so had a sale of the personal property, but kept the 240 acre farm. Then (she) went to Colo. Springs, was gone about a year." She went to Manitou Springs near Colorado Springs which was - and still is—a well-know health spa.

Margaret had a sale of the household goods before she left. She kept the land. The children were sent to live with friends and relatives and probably not all in the same place. Emily was living with her mother's father James Curley at the time of the 1900 Census.

### 11 Aug 1897 - Lyons Mirror

Be sure and attend Mrs. John Johnson's sale next Tuesday. There is a vast amount of property to be sold to the highest bidder without reserve.

### 02 Apr 1896, 3 - The Logan Valley Sun

Tressie, the seven months old daughter of John Johnson died last week and was buried on Thursday. Rev. J. V. Findlay conducted the services.

### 13 May 1897, 5 - Lyons Mirror

Geo. E. Huntsberger was called over to the John Johnson place west of town early Monday morning to make out a will and other papers for Mr. Johnson who was dangerously ill.

### 12 May 1897 - The Logan Valley Sun

**DEATHS.**

Died at his home near Lyons, on May 10, 1897, John Johnson, of consumption, aged 51 years.

Deceased was born in Denmark, November 13, 1856. He came to America in 1869 and with the exception of about three years he lived in Sarpy county, Nebraska. The funeral was held on Wednesday, afternoon at the home, Rev. T. C. Webster preaching the funeral sermon. The remains were interred in the Lyons cemetery.

### 11 Aug 1897 - The Lyons Mirror-Sun

If you want hogs, cattle or farm machinery, don't miss Mrs. John Johnson's great sale on Tuesday the 17th.

01 Sep 1897 - The Lyons Mirror-Sun

Mrs. John Johnson left Monday morning for Colorado Spring, where she hopes to benefit her health.

02 Sep 1897, 5 - Lyons Mirror

Mrs. John Johnson orders her Mirror sent to Manitou, Colorado, to which point she went this week to make her future home, in the hopes that the change of climate will benefit her health.

1899—1900

01 Mar 1899 - The Lyons Mirror-Sun

It is said that Mrs. J. Johnson will move here and occupy the house on her west eighty together with her family.

The following was handwritten by Oliver and given to Victor:

“When Mother came back from Colo. Springs, all the family were brought back home again to the eighty 2 ½ miles N.W. of Lyons. 160 acres was rented to John Hultquist. Mother owed \$4000.00 on the 260 acres. Jim and Mother moved to the eighty taking Emily, Oliver, Archie, and Bert too. Mary had married Lee Senter and moved to Hobart Okla. Farmed there through the summer. Jim was too small (age 12) to do the farming so Mother moved to Omaha at 16th and Chicago Street. (They lived in Omaha – 1 1/3 years.)”

1900 Census

When Margaret came back from Manitou Springs Colorado, she gathered the children together and moved to Omaha where she kept a boarding house.

The 1900 Omaha City (8th Ward, Douglas County) Census record shows Margaret with Laura, age 17; Mary, age 15; James, age 13; Oliver, age 9; and Archie, age 7. The record also shows three boarders. Margaret rent-

Household	Name	Age	Sex	Marital Status	Place of Birth	Year of Immigration	Occupation	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Color	Religion	Education	Can Read	Can Write
126	Johnson, Margaret	39	F	W	Ireland	1861								
	Laura	17	F	U	Ireland									
	Mary	15	F	U	Ireland									
	James	13	M	U	Ireland									
	Oliver	9	M	U	Ireland									
	Archie	7	M	U	Ireland									
	Bert	2	M	U	Ireland									
	John	20	M	U	Ireland									
	Thomas	19	M	U	Ireland									

ed the house.

At the time of the 1900 Census, Emily was living with her grandfather James Curley in the Forest City Precinct in Sarpy County. No image is available, but the index on Family Search records the following:

James was 69 at the time and widowed. He was born in Ireland in 1831 and immigrated in 1858.

Members of the household include James Curley, Frank Curley, son, age 24; Rachel Secord, daughter, age 23; Harold Secord, son-in-law, age 24; and Emily Johnson, granddaughter, age 11.

Bert Harris was born in September 1900 and was not listed in the Census. Margaret had not yet married Denver Harris at the time of the Census on 5 June, 1900.

Oliver's story continues:

"Mother married Denver Harris\* in Omaha and Bert, a half brother, was born there. Harris was a tree agent, tried to sell mother some fruit trees. When we moved back to the eighty, Harris helped plant them. Harris did know how to plant trees but not much about farming. Jim had to drive the horses for him while he held the cultivator. Harris would get terribly angry when Mother would make fun of him for not knowing how to do things.

"Mother and Harris had been quarreling about some pictures of a woman and a little boy Mother found in his suit case. Mother figured it was his wife. Harris denied it. Later it turned out he was (*married*) and after Mother's divorce, Harris went back to her. Some years later, Laura found out where they lived.

"Laura and husband Curley White came to visit from Deadwood. Denver Harris and Curley White had a fight. Curley licked him. Harris went to town and got a gun. Curley and Laura left that day. Harris put the gun under his pillow. When he was asleep mother hid the gun. Next morning Harris was beating mother. Us kids were crying so he let her up. We all ran to the neighbors and then went to town. Mother had him arrested. Then we all moved to town. Mother sued for Divorce. Harris stayed on the farm the rest of the summer.

"Mother got the divorce, gave Harris \$750.00 and he left. Mother sold out and moved to Bancroft. Run a restaurant for a while. Laura got a divorce from White and came to Bancroft and bot (*sic*) the restaurant. Mother got a job keeping house for (?) Johnson (no relation) on the farm across the road from the eighty, was there one summer then moved back to Bancroft, was there until March 1906, then moved to the eighty. Jim done the farming."

\*[David Denver Harris (b. 1867 Keokuk Iowa, d. 1950, Spokane, Washington)]

### Margaret Johnson Obituary

(Lyons Mirror, August 26, 1909) - Mrs. Margaret Johnson (Harris) died Tuesday afternoon. Funeral from her home west of town, Thursday at 10:00 am.

(Lyons Mirror, September 2, 1909) - Mrs. Margaret Johnson, widow of John Johnson died Tuesday of last week at an age of a little over 44 years. She with her husband are of the old settlers of their community. Seven children survive her. Rev. Jenkin of the Presbyterian Church of Bancroft conducted funeral service Thursday. Quite a large number attended. The remains were interred in the Lyons Cemetery.

The rest of the family stories continue with the child chapters.

### 26 Aug 1909 - The Lyons Mirror-Sun

Mrs. Margaret Johnson, widow of John Johnson deceased, died at her home west of Lyons, Tuesday afternoon after many weeks of suffering with cancer. Her age was 44 years, 2 months and 4 days. She was the daughter of James Curley, a Washington county family, and was born in Ireland. Her husband died here some ten years ago. Quite a large family of children survive her, the oldest a daughter, being married. The funeral services will be conducted by a pastor of one of the Bancroft churches, at the home today, and interment will take place in the Lyons cemetery. Being old settlers in this vicinity the bereaved family have the sympathy of many friends and acquaintances.



John and Margaret Johnson gravestone in Lyons Cemetery. The site also includes their infant daughter Teresa.

(Photo from FindAGrave)

## Margaret Johnson Harris Will

Margaret died on August 24, 1909. This is a summary of the estate probate process.

### September 4, 1909

- James Johnson files a petition for letters testamentary. This allows James to be the executor for the estate.
- Margaret had 240 acres of farm land in Section 22, Township 23 Range 8 East of the 6th P.M. and some personal property. Personal estate was estimated at \$3000.
- Margaret's Heirs: Laura A Sharp, Anna Mary Senter, Emily Johnson, James Johnson, Oliver Johnson, Archie Johnson, and Bert Harris. Oliver, Archie, and Bert were minors.

### September 27, 1909

- Margaret wrote a will on July 29, 1909, a little less than a month before her death. It was witnessed by R. J. Curley and Dr. C. A. Raver. The will was recognized in a session held at the County Court Room in Tekamah on September 27, 1909. James Johnson (age 22) was named in the will as the Executor.
- Estate included: SE 1/4 and East half of the SW 1/4 of Section 22, T23N R8E of the 6th P.M.
- Personal estate estimated at \$3,300.
- James Johnson is a suitable and competent person to be appointed as executor and is willing to assume the duties.
- The will is genuine and valid.

### October 4, 1909

- Inventory of the estate was filed. The inventory consisted of corn and barley, hogs, horses, milk cows, steers, heifers, calves and farm machinery and implements. Total estimated cash value was \$4496.10 including rents for 1910 and 1911.
- \$418 was distributed to the heirs. James was named guardian of Oliver and Archie who were minors. No guardian was named for Bert.

### May 28 1910

- Order for partial distribution.
- The land had not been sold and may not be sold for full value for an indefinite time. The land is rented and rents are paid to the estate.
- James earned \$100 as administrator of the estate.

### March 1, 1913.

- The property was sold for \$22,400. Rentals were collected and distributed to heirs.
- Oliver, Archie, and Bert received property (E 1/2 of the SW 1/4, Section 22) to be shared equally.
- Mary is declared the guardian of Bert. Archie was still a minor and James was declared guardian.
- Total cash: \$22,946.27. This cash was distributed to the heirs.