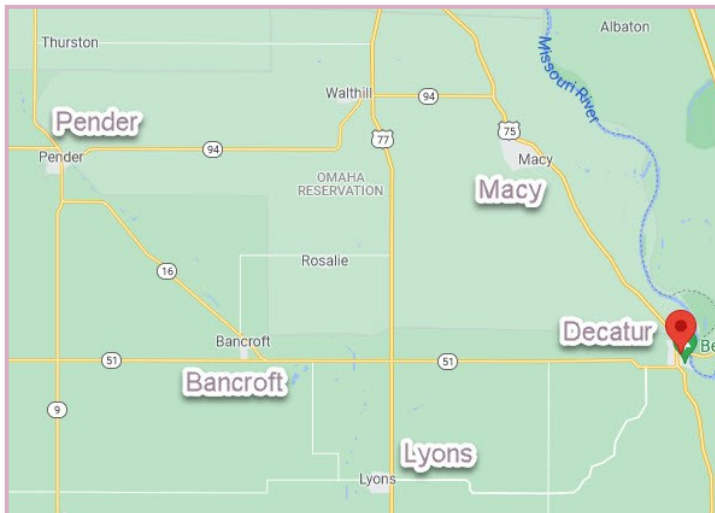


# CHARLES LAWLESS FAMILY

**This is the story of the Charles Lawless family.** Charles was the brother of Eugene Lawless, our great-grandfather on the Lawless side.

The information in this chapter is derived from several sources. The public sources are census records and newspaper articles. Victor Johnson collected letters and photos that were preserved by Eugenia Lawless. The photos and letters are precious artifacts that reveal the characters of some of our ancestors as well as giving us clues about their lives beyond the bare facts.

**Significant names** in this story are Leopold and Eileen. Anna Lawless named two of her children after her uncle and cousin. Paulina may have been the inspiration for Dorothy Johnson Lichty naming one of her daughters Pauline. However, it is not known if Dorothy knew any of the Charles Lawless story.



## Decatur Area Map

Most of the Lawless family stories center around Decatur, Nebraska. The Eugene Lawless family lived just a few miles west of Decatur. Charles Lawless also lived in the area, but probably did not own land. The Oliver and Anna (Lawless) Johnson family lived just west of Lyons in the early years.

Charles Lawless' brother-in-law Hiram Chase The Younger was based in Pender.



## Maryville and Clyde Missouri

Eileen Lawless spent most of her childhood and brief adult life in Maryville, Missouri, just South of the city of Omaha. Minnie and Anna Lawless attended a school in Maryville and Clyde, Missouri.

# CHARLES LAWLESS FAMILY

## Family Statistics

**Charles Leopold Lawless** b. 24 Mar 1865 in Rathmines, Dublin South, County Dublin, Ireland, d. 1913 in Port Arthur, Jefferson County, Texas and was buried in Burt County NE.

Parents of Charles were **William John Lawless** (b.1830, deceased) and **Louise Marie Denise (Denis) Van Laer** (b. 1840, deceased).

**Eugene William Lawless** was a brother of Charles. EW Lawless married Elizabeth (Bessie) DeCourcy and they were the parents of Anna (Anne) Josephine Lawless Johnson.

**Charles married Paulina "Lina" Chase** (b.1867/9, d. 8 September 1894 in Burt County NE) on November 22, 1887 in Decatur NE.

Charles and Paulina had two children: **(Mary) Eileen Lawless** (b. 8 Sept 1888—d. 4 June 1911) and **John Wm(?) Sheely Lawless** (b. Jan/Feb 1891—d. after June 1891 and before Jan 1892).

John died as an infant. Eileen died of tuberculosis at age 22.

## Their Story

Eugene (EW) Lawless came to Decatur Nebraska in 1880 for the first time. Charles followed Eugene and arrived in about 1884 (?). He may have lived with the Eugene Lawless family for a time. The Eugene Lawless home was just a few miles from Decatur. Charles was involved in the Decatur community and a newspaper note said that he had been elected County Commissioner several times.

Charles and Paulina Chase likely knew each other because the community was rural and rather small. Paulina lived with the James Ashley family in the town of Decatur after her parents died. The social scene at the time consisted of visits with friends and occasional house dances. They may have met in a social situation or possibly through business dealings in the town.

Charles and Paulina were married in Decatur at the house of James Ashley on November 22, 1887. The marriage was performed by an ordained Minister of the Gospel, Pres (Presbyterian?) Church. Several witnesses are listed on the marriage certificate, but Eugene Lawless is not one.

Paulina was a daughter of Hiram Chase (The Elder) and Nungainsa (Nunzainza) (Clarissa) Noyes (Noyse). Nungainsa was a member of the Omaha Indian Tribe in Macy NE, about 10 miles north of Decatur. Hiram Chase The Elder, was a government inspector, and Paulina's mother, Nunzainza, was the granddaughter of Wahnookega, chief of the Omaha Indians. Wahnookega's name appears on all treaties signed to the Omahas. (He signed the treaty between the United States and the Omahas in 1854. His other name was Noise.) A note on a family group sheet identifies Paulina as 1/4 Indian, so her mother must have been half Indian.

Charles and Paulina lived in Decatur or nearby, but very little information survives about their earlier life. The family is mentioned in the Decatur Herald and Decatur Advertiser, papers that started publication in about 1895. During those years, quite a lot of references are found related to the Lawless family, but only a few about Charles, Paulina, and Eileen Lawless. Some information about their story is also found in The Pender Republic paper where Hiram Chase (The Younger), Paulina's brother lived.

Decatur Herald, Mar 2, 1922

34 Years Ago

Mr. Charles Lawless and wife have taken up their residence in town, having moved in during the week.

# Charles and Paulina Marriage Record

**MARRIAGE RECORD, Burt COUNTY, NEBRASKA. 501**

No. Charles Lawless } No. 501  
 to }  
 Miss Paulina Chase }  
 Before the County Judge of Burt County, Nebraska,  
Nov 21 1887

### AFFIDAVIT.

I, Charles Lawless of Burt County,  
 State of Nebraska, aged 22 years do solemnly swear, that I am acquainted with  
 Mr. Charles Lawless and Miss Paulina Chase  
 who are parties for the marriage of whom a LICENSE is applied for; that said Charles Lawless  
 is of the age of 22 years and upward; of sound contracting mind, and unmarried,\*  
 that said Paulina Chase  
 is of the age of 20 years and upward; of sound contracting mind, and unmarried,\*  
 and may lawfully contract and be joined in marriage.

I furthermore do solemnly swear that the following schedule, containing the names of the aforesaid parties, their age, color, place of birth, residence and parents' names, is correct in every particular, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, to-wit:

NAMES OF PARTIES	Age	Color	PLACE OF BIRTH	RESIDENCE	FATHER'S NAME	MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME
<u>Charles Lawless</u> Groom	<u>22</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Dublin Ireland</u>	<u>Stanton Neb</u>	<u>John Lawless</u>	<u>Louisa Van Lear</u>
<u>Paulina Chase</u> Bride	<u>20</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>Omaha Res</u>	<u>" "</u>	<u>William Chase</u>	<u>Clarrissa Hayes</u>

W. H. Lawless Applicant.  
 Subscribed and sworn to before me Nov 21 1887  
Robert B. Dalry  
 County Judge

### ISSUE OF LICENSE.

Application having this day been made by Charles Lawless for License for the Marriage of  
 Mr. himself aged 22 years, and  
 Miss Paulina Chase aged 20 years,  
 and it appearing by the affidavit of Chas Lawless as above recorded, that the said parties  
 are of competent age and condition to marry†

and all the requirements of the law having been complied with, LICENSE IS THEREFORE ISSUED this 21  
 day of Nov 1887

### CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

To the County Judge of Burt County, Nebraska:  
 This Certifies, That on the Twenty second day of November A.D. 1887  
 at The house of James Ashley, DeKalb in said County, according to law and by authority, I duly  
 JOINED IN MARRIAGE Mr. Charles Lawless and Miss Paulina Chase  
 and there were present as witnesses Thomas Ashley, Eva Ashley, Mrs E. D. Hamel & Mrs Mary Ashley  
 Given under my hand, the 29 day of November A.D. 1887  
Wm Hamel  
 An ordained Minister of the Gospel Pres. Chas

\* If either party is under age, the written consent of their parents must be filed, in which case the affidavit should show the fact as follows: "And has the written consent of his (or her) parents."  
 † If under age, say: "And the written consent of (John Smith), the parent of said (John Smith) is filed in my office."

## Paulina and Her Families

Paulina was listed as “Lina” in the Indian census records. Paulina and her children are listed in the Indian census records. The records also give clues about their relationships to others in the tribe. In most of the records Paulina is listed with her brother Hiram (Hathu Mi) Chase. Paulina’s father is listed on the marriage certificate as Hiram Chase (Hiram the Elder). Her father Hiram the Elder does not appear in other records. He was a white man and government inspector on the reservation. Paulina and Hiram (Hathu Mi, The Younger) were about 5 years apart in age. Hiram Chase was a well known attorney who advocated for Indian rights. (See p. 15). Hiram had a son who was called Hiram Jr. in the Indian rolls.

In the **1880 U.S. Census**, Paulina and Hiram Hathu Mi Chase were living as wards with the James Ashley Family in the Village of Decatur, Burt County, Nebraska. The date of the census was 16 June 1880.<sup>x</sup> In 1880, Paulina was 13 and her brother Hiram was 18. Paulina was in School and listed as a Ward. Hiram was also listed as a ward and did labor.

James Ashley was born in England and was a hardware dealer. The Ashleys had 5 children and other people living with them, including John Ashley (blacksmith, also born in England), James’ father, and a cousin C.J. Jackson who was a teacher (Female age 31). The children were ages 3 months to 18 years. That was a full house!

	Mary	W F 35	Wife	1	Blacksmith	
142	Ashley James	W M 50		1	Keeping House	
	Mary	W F 44	Wife	1	Hardware Dealer	
	John	W M 18	Son	1	Keeping House	
	George	W M 15	Son	1	At Home	
	Jennie	W F 13	Daughter	1	At School	
	Freddie	W M 6	Son			
	Arthur	W M 7 1/2	Son			
	John	W M 75	Father	1	Blacksmith	
	Jackson C J	W F 31	Cousin	1	School teacher	
	Chase Hiram	W M 18	Ward	1	Laborer	
	Paulina	W F 13	Ward	1	At School	
143	Byram J P	W M 55		1	Carpenter	
	Asah	W L 5 1/2	Mother	1		

	Maud	W F 2	Daughter	1															
13	Ashley James	W M 53		1	Hardware store					England	Eng	Eng							
	Mary	W F 45	Wife	1	Keeping house					Nebraska	Ill	Ill							
	Jennie	W F 13	Daughter	1	Musical instrument					Nebraska	Eng	Ill							
	Freddie	W M 11	Son		Blacksmith					Nebraska	Eng	Ill							
	Charles	W M 5	Son							Nebraska	Eng	Ill							
	Ashley James	W M 79	Father	1	Farmer					England	Eng	Eng							
	Maud Lina	W F 18			At school					Nebraska	N.Y.	Ill							
										Nebraska	Eng	Ill							

### 1885 Census

Paulina (Lina) is 18 and “at school”.

Paulina, Hiram and their families are listed in the Omaha Indian rolls. They are listed ‘together’ either in the same group (such as being part of the household) or separately. Paulina and her children (Eileen and John) are sometimes listed with her brother Hiram’s family. In later years, Eileen is listed a line or two below the Hiram family.

People with Indian heritage were listed on the rolls even if they did not live in the area. A record of Paulina’s death has not been found, but according to other references, her death year was 1894. Her name appears on the 1894 roll but not on the 1895 roll. The rolls were usually dated June of the year, so she died in the latter part of 1894.

<sup>x</sup>(p. 20, Supervisor’s District No. 2, Enumeration District No. 44)

## Indian Census (Roll)

The Indian Census was taken every year in the 1880s and 1890s (and still to this day). These census records kept track of all people of Indian descent even if they did not live on the reservation. Paulina and her children are usually listed right after her brother Hiram. Her husband Charles Lawless is not listed because he did not have Indian heritage. These records give us some clues about the family that are not necessarily found in other places. For example, the 1891 Indian roll is the only record of Charles and Paulina's son John who died before he was a year old.

Hiram Chase	M	Husband	27
Jepphia Chase	F	Wife	27
Isabella Chase	F	Daughter	7
Bertie Chase	F	"	3
Pauline Chase Lawless	F	Mother	22
Eileen E. Lawless	F	Daughter	8 mo.

1889 Omaha Indian Census, June 30 1889.



**Charles Lawless Family**

Eileen (age 1 1/2 ?),  
Paulina, Charles

Hiram Chase	M		27
Jepphia "	F	Wife	27
Isabella "	F	Daughter	7
Bertie "	F	"	4
Cathryn "	F	"	2
Pauline Chase Lawless	F		24
Eileen E. "	F	Daughter	2
John Wm. Sheely	M	Son	5/12

**This image is from the Indian Roll from June 1891.**

Pauline(a) Chase Lawless is shown with her two children, Eileen E. and John Wm(?) Sheely. This is the only time John shows in the Roll, so it is presumed that he died after age 5 months.

Paulina and her family appear right after the Hiram Chase family, so the presumption is that they were related, but may have been living in different households.

After Paulina died, Eileen continues to appear on the roll very soon after the Hiram Chase family.

ENGLISH NAME	SEX	RELATION.	AGE
Paulina C. Lawless	F		26
Eileen "	F	Daughter	4

1894 Omaha Indian Census, July 1894.

This entry in the Indian Census is from 1894 and the last year Paulina appears in the Indian Roll. The Weekly Burtonian reported Paulina's death as September 8, 1894. She died of consumption and was buried on the Chase property on the Omaha Reservation.

**Weekly Burtonian,  
Sept 13, 1894**

Died, at the residence of Mrs. Eugene Lawless, Saturday, September 8th, of consumption, Mrs. Lina Chase Lawless. The deceased was born at Omaha agency twenty-five years ago. She, with her brother, Judge Hiram Chase, of Pender, being left orphans at an early age, made her home until of age with Mr. and Mrs. James Ashley of this place. She was married to Charles Lawless about six years ago. She has been in delicate health for several years, knowing all the while that the dread disease would soon claim her for its own. She leaves a husband and a little daughter to mourn for her. Her remains were laid beside those of her parents and little children at the Omaha agency.

## Charles Lawless

Charles was a farmer like his brother Eugene when he first moved to Decatur. Charles probably didn't own land in the area, but may have farmed with his brother or the Chase family. A Pender Republic newspaper article from 1900 (see P.9) identifies Charles as working as a railroad grader, but we don't know where he was based at that time. Charles or a family member sent his daughter Eileen to live in Maryville Missouri some time between when Paulina died in 1894 and 1900. No record has been found about that timing.

Charles worked as a Marine Shipper in Port Arthur, Texas\*, according to his death certificate. He probably moved there in 1899 or 1900. A note said that at the time of his death, Charles had been living in Port Arthur for 14 years, so had probably moved by at least 1899.

The Decatur Herald published a couple of notices about Charles being ill and then dying. It is likely that Eugene was with him when he died. Eugene signed the death certificate as the Informant.

Charles was 47 when he died of heart disease or dropsy as the death notice declared. The death certificate identifies the cause of death as “? Disease of Heart”. Charles is also listed in a death index of the time.

Charles was taken to Macy, Nebraska for burial. No FindAGrave reference has been found. His brother Eugene brought his body back to be buried in Macy, Nebraska. The death notice in the Pender paper states he was buried on the Chase homestead beside his wife and child.

### Decatur Herald, Jan 9, 1913

Mr. E. W. Lawless received word early yesterday morning that his brother, Charles, who resides at Port Arthur, Texas, was dangerously ill and for him to come at once. Mr. Lawless boarded the afternoon train from Onawa. Charles Lawless has a host of friends in Decatur who hope for a speedy recovery.

### Decatur Herald, Jan 16, 1913

A message tells of the death of Mr. Chas. Lawless, at his home in Port Arthur, Texas, yesterday. The remains is expected in Walthill Saturday afternoon and the funeral is to be held at Macy, Sunday, the interment being made beside the wife and children, who are buried on the Chase farm near that place.

### From The Pender Republic, Pender Nebraska, 17 Jan 1913.

**Charles Lawless Dead.** Charles Lawless died at Port Arthur, Texas, Wednesday of this week of dropsical trouble. He had been in poor health for some time so that his death was not unexpected. Mr. Lawless was for several years a resident of Thurston County and is known to a large number of Republic readers. While a resident of our county he took an interest in public affairs and served several years as County Commissioner from his district.

He was married November 10, 1888 at Decatur, Nebr to Miss Paulina Chase, a sister of our townsman, Hiram Chase. Mrs. Lawless died a number of years ago. She and a child\*\* were buried on the Chase homestead near Macy. The body of Mr. Lawless will be brought to Macy and buried by their side tomorrow, Saturday, January 18.

\*\* The child referred to would be John who died as an infant. Marriage was 29 Nov 1887.

### The Pender Republic, Nov 25, 1932

**Looking Back**

(Taken from Files of The Republic)

**Forty Years Ago This Week**

Peebles Bros. expected to open their bank for business about Dec. 1.

D. N. Wheeler sold his ranch near Flournoy to Thomas Bacon of Harlan, Ia., for \$8,000 cash "and no grumblng."

Charles Lawless was over from the Omaha agency. He says there is no occupation on earth like farming in this particular section; an example, a patch of beans which cost him seven days labor, netted him \$63 cash. (1892)

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\* Port Arthur is east of Houston on the Gulf of Mexico. It is well known as a shipping location for oil and other commodities.

Charles Lawless Death Certificate

The Pender Republic Aug 13, 1915.

13359

Texas State Board of Health  
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

County Jefferson Registered No. 332  
City Paris Texas 1764  
(No. 101 Hospital Ward)  
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give the NAME instead of street and number.)  
FULL NAME Charles Leopold Lawless

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL PARTICULARS	
SEX <u>Male</u>	COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	DATE OF DEATH <u>January 14th 1913</u>	At place of death <u>Yes</u>
DATE OF BIRTH <u>March 24th 1866</u>	OCCUPATION <u>Marine Shipper</u>	That I last saw him alive on <u>Jan 14 1913</u>	At place of death <u>Yes</u>
AGE <u>47</u> yrs. <u>7</u> mos. <u>20</u> da.	BIRTHPLACE <u>Dublin, Ireland</u>	That death occurred on the day stated above, at <u>2:00</u> p. m.	At place of death <u>Yes</u>
NAME OF FATHER <u>John Lawless</u>	BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER <u>Dublin, Ireland</u>	CAUSE OF DEATH <u>Chloroform induced heart</u>	At place of death <u>Yes</u>
NAME OF MOTHER <u>Marie Louise</u>	BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER <u>Lucy-Lau-Lau</u>	Duration <u>10</u> yrs.	At place of death <u>Yes</u>
THE ABOVE ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (Informant) <u>W. H. Lawless</u>	ADDRESS <u>Paris, Texas</u>	Where was disease contracted? Former or usual residence.	At place of death <u>Yes</u>
FILED <u>Jan 15 1913</u>	REGISTERED	ADDRESS <u>W. S. Cook</u>	At place of death <u>Yes</u>

415 3-11-50m.

### Order of Hearing on Probate of Foreign Will.

State of Nebraska, } ss  
Thurston County, }

At a County Court held at the County Court Room, in and for said county, this 11th day of August, 1915.

Present: Roy B. Carlberg, County Judge.

In the matter of the estate of Charles Lawless.

On reading and filing the petition of Eugene Lawless, praying that the instrument, filed on the 11th day of August, 1915, and purporting to be the duly authenticated and certified copy of the last will and testament which was admitted to probate in the County Court of Jefferson County, State of Texas, may be proved, approved, probated, allowed and recorded as the last will and testament of said Charles Lawless, deceased, and that the execution of said instrument may be committed and the administration of said estate may be granted to Eugene Lawless, as administrator with the will annexed.

Ordered, That September 6th, A. D. 1915, at 10 o'clock A. M. is assigned for hearing said petition, when all persons interested in said matter may appear at the County Court to be held in and for said county, and show cause why the prayer of petitioner should not be granted; and that notice of the pendency of said petition and the hearing thereof, be given to all persons interested in said matter by publishing a copy of this order in the Pender Republic, a weekly newspaper printed in said county, for three successive weeks, prior to said day of hearing.

[Seal] ROY B. CARLBERG,  
County Judge.

Charles left a will in Texas. (See P.16)

Thurston County Property

Charles' daughter Eileen jointly owned property with her sister-in-law Cynthia Chase in Thurston County (E 1/2 SE 1/4, Section 26, T25N, R9E). Both died without a will. In 1922, Eugene Lawless filed a petition with the court in Thurston County about a final settlement of the Charles Lawless estate. Eugene petitioned to purchase the property for \$6,600 and was granted a deed on July 1, 1922. The final action (settlement) on October 16, 1922 gave Eugene sole ownership of the property. The newspaper notice was the final step to complete the transfer. The deed and other court documents are preserved in the Charles Lawless files. It is not known what happened to the property after that, but it may have been farmed by Eugene's son John Lawless who lived in Macy.

Pender Republic,  
20 Oct 1922

### Order of Hearing and Notice on Petition for Settlement of Account.

In the County Court of Thurston County, Nebraska.

STATE OF NEBRASKA, } ss  
Thurston County, }

To all persons interested in the estate of Charles Lawless, deceased:

On reading the petition of Eugene Lawless praying a final settlement and allowance of his account filed in this court on the 19th day of October, 1922, and for his discharge.

It is hereby ordered that you and all persons interested in said matter may, and do, appear at the County Court to be held in and for said

County, on the 28th day of October A. D. 1922, at ten o'clock a. m. to show cause, if any there be, why the prayer of the petitioner should not be granted, and that notice of the pendency of said petition and the hearing thereof be given to all persons interested in said matter by publishing a copy of this order in the Pender Republic, a weekly newspaper printed in said county, for one successive week prior to said day of hearing.

(Seal) FRANK FLYNN,  
County Judge.

First publication Oct. 20th, 1-t.

# (Mary) Eileen Lawless

## Sister Mary Anselma

Sr Mary Anselma (Eileen) Lawless was born 8 Sep 1888 and died of tuberculosis on 4 Jun 1911 (aged 22). She was buried at Saint Mary's Cemetery, Maryville, Nodaway County, Missouri, USA.

### Some Confusions

Some of the records about Eileen are not consistent, so they are listed here.

Name: Her name appears in some records as Mary, in some as Mary Eileen, and some Mary E. Most of the Indian roll entries identify her as Eileen Lawless. Mary seems to be an additional, unofficial name that may have been given to Eileen at the hospital in Maryville Missouri. When she became a nun, Mary became an official part of her name, a common practice when the vows were taken.

Birth Date: Eileen's cemetery record shows her birth date as September 8. A notice in the Pender Republic paper at the time identifies her birth date as September 15.

Hospital: The Maryville Hospital was referred to as St. Joseph Hospital in census records, but has a different name today (Mosaic Medical Center). Sr. Anselma sent letters from Sisters of Saint Francis, which was probably the convent associated with the hospital. She also wrote a letter to her cousin Anna Lawless on St. Francis Hospital stationary, so it isn't clear what the name of the hospital actually was. One of the census records clearly identifies the hospital as St. Francis. Another census record does not identify the name of the hospital. A St. Joseph's hospital and/or school was located at the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration at Clyde Missouri.



Mary Eileen Lawless First Communion Picture. She looks like 8 or 9 years old, but may have been older. The inscription on the back reads:

"To Aunt Bessie from her loving niece Mary"

Victor Johnson (or Eugenia Lawless) wrote the name "Eileen Lawless" on the back of the picture.

Religious Life: Eileen was apparently a Sister of St. Francis. One of her letters to her Aunt Bessie Lawless shows the Sisters as her address. She probably had some connection with the Benedictines because of the religious name she chose, but that connection is not known. Her habit looks like the Benedictine habit of the time (p. 10).

Occupation: Sr. M. Anselma was identified as a teacher in one of the newspaper articles and as a nurse in a census record. Possibly she did both.

For more about the Benedictine Sisters: (<https://benedictinesisters.org/subsectioncontent.php?secid=6&subsecid=20>) and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benedictine\\_Sisters\\_of\\_Perpetual\\_Adoration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benedictine_Sisters_of_Perpetual_Adoration) for a summary of the Clyde Missouri monastery.

The Pender Republic, Sept 15, 1933. (from 45 years ago)

Births—Sept. 8, a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Murray sr.; Sept. 10, a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Olbrey; Sept. 11, a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Neff; Sept. 11, a twin daughters to Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lamson; Sept. 15, a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Lawless.



## Eileen Lawless in Indian Rolls and U.S. Census

The Pender Republic, 13 July 1900

The little eleven-year-old daughter of Chas. Lawless whose mother, a sister of Hiram Chase, has been dead for six or seven years, was the subject of quite an interesting contest in the county court last Monday. The little girl, who had been with her father for some time in a railroad graders camp, was taken in charge nearly six years ago by a catholic priest down in Missouri and since that time reared and educated in his household. It was supposed till very recently that the child was without means. Last week the little girl, in company with two sisters of mercy, came up to Pender, the former to visit and the latter to learn what they could about the little girl's condition. The next day after arrival here, Hiram Chase, her uncle, knowing that the child's father was an improper person to have the care and custody of the child, applied for guardianship for the child before the county court which was granted temporarily. A couple of days later the father of the child and the priest mentioned before came up to Pender desiring to have it arranged so that the priest could have charge of her and quite a legal battle was indulged in before Judge Comstock, who finally decided, and a stipulation by all parties agreeing thereto, to appoint M. W. Murray her guardian. This done, the little girl was committed to the care of this priest for a couple of years to enable her to finish her preparatory education and she, in company with the priest and her father, left Monday evening for Missouri.

What happened to Eileen when her mother died? We know that by the 1900 U.S. Census, Eileen age 11/12 and was living as a Boarder at St. Joseph's Hospital in Maryville City, Polk Township Missouri. Her name is listed as Mary in that census.

In a Pender Republic newspaper article from July 13, 1900, we get the following information about Eileen. Eileen is not mentioned by name, but only as the daughter of Charles Lawless.

- Eileen had been living with her father in a railroad grader's camp 'for some time'.
- Six years previously she was sent to live in a Catholic priest's household in Missouri. That would have been 1894 or 1895 and probably soon after her mother died. Was Eileen living with Charles before her mother died? We don't know, but it is likely he tried to take care of her.
- Eileen inherited some Indian lands, so she had 'means'.<sup>x</sup>
- Hiram Chase said Charles was an improper person to care for Eileen and wanted to have guardianship.
- The Judge gave the guardianship to the priest, M.W. Murray.
- Charles and the priest (presumably M.W. Murray) took Eileen to Missouri.

The 1900 census shows Eileen at the St. Joseph's Hospital in June, so we can assume that was considered being in the household of the priest since it was a Catholic hospital and she was a 'boarder'. The hospital was run by Sisters. Possibly she lived in the convent with the Sisters.

Eileen spent most of her young life living with nuns. It is not surprising that she became a nun herself when she came of age. We don't know why she was sent to Missouri, but can speculate that her uncle Eugene may have followed some suggestions from the local Catholic church. Possibly there was some connection between the Catholic Communities.

Eileen may have lived for a time with the Eugene Lawless family near Decatur after her mother died. Eileen and her cousin Anna appear to have been close. They traded letters and they seem to have great affection for each other. Anna and her older sister Minnie were sent to the St. Joseph's Academy Catholic school attached to the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration Monastery in Clyde MO to study for their confirmations. Sr. Anselma also stayed in touch with her 'beloved' Aunt Bessie (Lawless).

30		Elizabeth Bates	Domestic	W	Q	Apr	1872	21	8
31		Agatha Bates	Domestic	W	Q	Dec	1877	23	8
32		Goldie Bates	Domestic	W	Q	May	1880	20	8
33		Lawless Mary	Boarder	W	Q	Sept	1872	11	8
34		Rebecca Uda	Patient	W	Q	Jan	1880	20	8
35		Constance Uda	Patient	W	Q	June	1892	7	8
36		Keisling Mary	Patient	W	Q	Nov	1873	27	32
37									

This is the listing of Mary (Eileen) Lawless in the **1900 Census** where she is shown as a boarder living at St. Francis Hospital in Maryville MO.

<sup>x</sup> Land records with Eileen's name were found. See the Appendix.



“Auntie B from Sr. M.A.”  
 Note the text in German.  
 Means: “Your Will Be Done”

Decatur Herald, April 4, 1907.

E W. Lawless returned from Marysville, Mo., the latter part of last week, where he accompanied his youngest daughter, Anna, who will enter the St. Joseph's Hospital there to complete her church studies preparatory to confirmation. She will also enjoy a visit with her cousin, Sister Anselma, formerly Eileen Lawless, daughter of Chas. Lawless, who is one of the instructors in the school. Eugene reports crops as looking fine, cattle are in the pastures and the gardens are all up. It rained considerable while he was there.

The picture of Sister Mary (Eileen) Anselma Lawless was taken in Maryville, Missouri.

Minnie and Anna Lawless both attended the St. Joseph's Academy boarding school that the Sisters ran near the Monastery in Clyde, Missouri. Apparently there was also a hospital with the same name at the Monastery.

**Sr. Mary A Lawless in the 1910 Census**, St. Francis Hospital, Polk Township, Nodaway County Missouri. City of Maryville, Census taken May 7 1910. She was a nun by then and her occupation is shown as Nurse. She could read and write (far right column).

Kennedy, Mary V	Sister	F W 31 S	Iowa	Englsh	Nurse	Hospital	✓	Yes	Yes
Manning, Mary C	Sister	F W 33 S	Illinois	Englsh	Nurse	Hospital	✓	Yes	Yes
Lawless, Mary A	Sister	F W 37 S	Missouri	Englsh	Nurse	Hospital	✓	Yes	Yes
Stankov, Mary M	Sister	F W 18 S	Missouri	Englsh	Nurse	Hospital	✓	Yes	Yes
Stanko, Mary J	Sister	F W 18 S	Missouri	Englsh	Nurse	Hospital	✓	Yes	Yes
Stanko, Mary J	Sister	F W 20 S	Missouri	Englsh	Nurse	Hospital	✓	Yes	Yes

(19)

Sis of St Francis  
Maryville, Mo.

Oct. 8, 1905

Dear Aunt Bessie

No doubt you feel a little out of sorts when you try to reckon back to the date of my last letter and find out that I owe you two, for the last couple of months. But now I hope you will forgive me for neglecting you so long.

I was in Park Arthur the last of June and three days of July to see my father. Rev. Mother let me go with Sr. Salesia.

You may be sure my father was very glad to see me, and indeed satisfied with the life I chose. It did me good to know that he was so well contented, but how could he be otherwise.

## Letters

This was written by Eileen Lawless to her Aunt Bessie Lawless Oct 8, 1905. Eileen was 17 at the time.

See p. 1. She went to see her father in Texas and told him she was going to be a nun. [Or maybe she already was?] She probably took vows by the time she was 18.

Charles was glad to see her and was satisfied with her choice

Have you ever heard from him? I got a letter from him last week and he said he had a letter from Aunt Eileen saying she is quite happy and contented, and would not leave Paris under any circumstances. (Father was trying to get her to come over and keep house from him.) He said also that Uncle Harry had just left London for a few weeks to play Golf in Ireland. So they are both alive and apparently not so hard up as father said. But that wouldn't bother me if I knew they were good Catholics. There is Minnie teaching now? Had she raise her mark as she wished, last summer. Tell her I used to think I had a cousin Minnie. But I haven't heard from her so long that I begin to think it was a dream of long ago. Tell her to drop me a

time or two, just for old times' sake. When do you think she can come to Maryville? Last Wednesday we had a ceremony take place in the chapel like what Uncle Eugene saw when he was here, viz., two candidates received the religious habit.

Tell Uncle Eugene it was his fault that I didn't have any thing ready for that fair. He's a good one. He told me it would be the first full-moon in Sept. and so I thought I had plenty of time. But before the real date, we would have been too busy any way. But when you have your next fair or picnic rather, we will see what we can do, if we can find time. Did you succeed pretty well? I hope so for much depends

it. Well dear Auntie when I look out of the window and see the leaves falling to the ground in such great numbers, and think that still more souls fall from Life tree every moment, I always wonder how many will be here next year this time. It makes me think so seriously about my father, he being always in such imminent danger of losing his life while at his work, and it seems as if he thinks about it so seldom if ever. Dear Auntie I hope you all pray for him often: and also for me. You mustn't think I don't need your prayers, I need them worse than you do. Well now I will have to close for this time hoping that you are all in good health and enjoying God's choicest blessings. With love to all, I remain as ever, Your loving niece

## Letters (cont.)

September 1908: Sister Anselma was living in Maryville Missouri at the Sisters of St. Francis when she wrote this letter to her cousin Anna (Lawless). Anna was studying for her confirmation at the St. Joseph Academy in Clyde Missouri at the time. Anna was at the Academy in 1908 and 1909. This series of 3 letters were all sent to Anna at St. Joseph's.

Srs. of St. Francis,  
Maryville, Mo.  
Sept. 1908

My dear Cousin Anna,

Your postal came to me Tuesday A.M. and I was indeed glad to receive it and to know that you like your new place so well; although I knew it could not be otherwise. Dear child you have precious opportunities at hand which you must make the best possible use of, and I know you will. I hope you have gotten over your homesickness ere this. I do not doubt that you have had, and still have

enough work with which to drive off its occasional sallies.

I received a lovely card from your mother on the 5th, and letter yesterday. I am glad that Minnie is satisfied out there.

I had a letter from my father also last week. He may possibly come to see me very soon.

When you get time you must write me a letter and tell me all about your studies.

Our school opened on the 8th, and I have 22 pupils. Louis started in with the rest. He managed to persevere the first four days, in staying until school was out, but

these last two or three days he gets spell with his stomach (stummy ache) about 12:30 and can't go to school. But you may be sure doesn't need any pills or medicine as it is all over in about an hour. But I am not the least sorry, as my head doesn't ache quite so badly when he is absent, and the room is more quiet. The second day of school he asked to leave the room, and returned in about 20 minutes with a good-sized squash which he begged from John who was working in the garden nearby, and in the afternoon he went out again and spent considerable time hunting gourds; he brought me two when he came back.

We have a great many more patients now than when you were here, and 11 children.

How many pupils are there at the Academy?

Well dear, permit me to close my letter now, as it is time for school to begin. Be good & diligent, and remember me to Jesus when you so often have holy Adocations. I shall pray for you also.

With love to dear Reverend Mother, Sr. M. Brown, Dorothea and all, I remain,

Yours affectionately, in the Sacred Heart,  
Sr. M. Anselma

## Letters (cont.)

January 20, 1909: Sr. Anselma is at the hospital in Oklahoma City where she is probably being treated for tuberculosis. In the first letter she talks about gaining weight and feeling better. Having to gain more before she is released. Two letters were sent from there.

St. Anthony's Hosp.  
Oklahoma City  
Jan 20, 1909  
My dear little Cousin,  
This is my third effort to answer your very welcome letter of almost a month ago. I hope you will graciously and mercifully pardon me, although I can't promise to do any better in future, for I'm sure I did my best so far. However I will do the best I can under

circumstances. Letter-writing, (that is social,) should simply be scratched out down here. It is too busy a place for such business.  
I know you wonder how my health is. Indeed I have improved wonderfully - have gained almost 10 lbs. and feel very much better.  
I hope you are well. Have you increased in circumference? I hope not. For you know you wonder

ed how you would fix that skirt?  
I had a letter from Min some days after home. I must answer soon. It took her letter about six days to get here.  
This is the first sunshiny day we've had this year. The weather has really been miserable for almost three weeks.  
I am so sorry to know that Sister M. Fowles is so poorly. If you have a chance, give her my

love and tell her I pray for her. Also dear Sister Dorothea.  
Tell Maud Sister Innocent is well and sends love. Our new building was solemnly blessed Jan 3, by the Rt. Rev. Bishop, and is now well occupied. In fact it was so inside of three or four days after the opening. We have about 65 or 70 patients.  
Well dear permit me to close my letter for this

perhaps  
perhaps  
time. May God bless you and all the dear Sisters who are doing so much for you and have done much for me also.  
With best wishes for good success in your studies and every other good thing you may desire, I remain with much love, In the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Your fond Cousin  
Sister M. Anselma  
P.S. Please excuse my scribbling.

## Letters (cont.)

February 21, 1909: Sr Anselma is still in the hospital in Oklahoma City and talks on the second page about her health. She says she can return home when she weighs 131 pounds and has 9 1/2 pounds to go. She was back at the St. Francis Hospital in Maryville by the time of the 1910 Census. (See p. 10)

news and success and a blessed Easter, rich in grace, I remain in the Sacred Heart.

Your loving cousin  
Sister M. Anselma  
S.T.

St. Anthony's Hospital,  
Oklahoma City, Okla.  
Feb 21, 1909.

My dear Cousin,  
Complying with your wish, I shall answer your very kind and welcome letter of the 10th inst. however you must pardon me if it be rather short.

I was sorry to hear of the misfortune that befell your home, as I understand by your letter, though you did not state anything particular concerning it.

We had a very pleasant week's visit from Rev. Mother and Rev. Father Anselm. They came all unexpected a week

ago last Friday noon and remained until last Friday. You may be certain we enjoyed that. They took poor Sister M. Georgia back with them, as she was not improving any.

Now my dear I want you to say a prayer that I may gain rapidly, as Rev. Mother promised me I might return home when I weigh 131 lbs. I have 9 1/2 to gain yet.

I often think of you, and imagine I see you hard at your books. I hope you will advance to the desired proficiency in all the branches you are working at, in order to pass a most successful examination in June.

Please remember me to Sisters M. Rowin and Dorothea and to all whom I know.

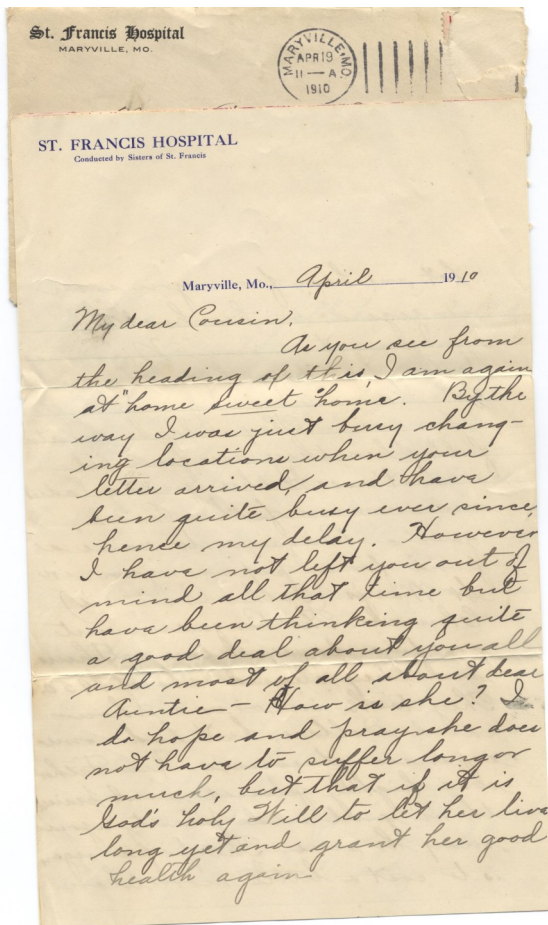
I intend to answer Minnie's letter before Wednesday. I have not heard from Auntie Bessie since Xmas, but I suppose they pray for me any way, and have more to do than write to letters.

I had a letter from my father last week; he is well and happy.

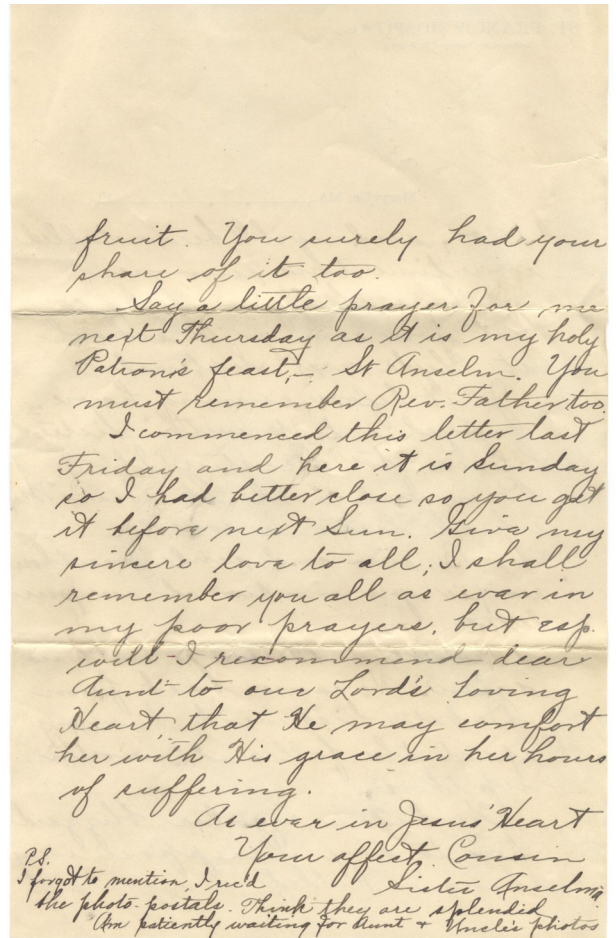
Tell this will do now until the holy Season of Lent is past.

Wishing you all happy

## Letters (cont.)



From Sr. Anselma  
to her cousin  
Anna Lawless, .  
  
April 1910.  
  
Auntie is Bessie  
Lawless.



Let me hear from you soon in regard to her health. I must answer Minnie's letter Sunday, by all means. We are having our halls redecorated. They will be beautiful when they are finished. Last week the young ladies and women of the Parish, gave a Bazaar, to raise a fund for a pipe-organ in St. Mary's (Father Anselm's) church. The Bazaar went on two days, Wednes. + Thurs. and they cleared about \$950.00. They took in over a thousand Dollars, but had some expenses of course. Rev. Father was highly pleased, and praised them good and plenty you may be sure. The pipe organ to cost a little more than

Maryville, Mo., \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_

\$1500, and will be installed sometime this summer. I hope things will be so that you can go to school at Clyde next September. Just before coming home, I enjoyed a trip with Sister Salacia, to Decatur (Illa.) Peru, Ind. and St. Louis Mo. which lasted a week. Be sure and send me those recipes you mentioned in your letter. Rev. Father Martin is with us again. He came back from Dakota last week, having spent the fall and winter up there. We had a regular blizzard here to-day. I suppose every thing is killed, anyway

^ Last page.

These letters are not momentous in a sense of great revelations. However, they give us a snapshot of who the people are and what their concerns were at the time.

It is special to see these letters, the handwriting, and know that they were written by our relatives at the time. They held these letters and packaged them.

They survived the years!

## Newspaper Items related to Charles and Eileen Lawless

Decatur Herald, June 15, 1911

4-5-8th.  
In the death of his accomplished daughter, Eileen, Chas, Lawless has the sympathy of all his Decatur friends.

The Pender Republic, Feb 3, 1922

On Thursday of last week Judge Welsh held court in Pender to hear several cases in which Hiram Chase raised the question of the right of the state and county to tax any property belonging to Indians, and urged that such taxation was a violation of the treaty with the Indians. In other cases Judge Chase urged that no white person could inherit from an Indian, that only blood relatives could inherit. The cases of Springer vs. Andrew Lieb and Springer vs. Lawless involved this question. The Court decided adversely to Judge Chase on both the questions of taxation and of inheritance.

The Pender Republic, Dec 15, 1922.

**INDIAN ATTORNEY SAYS  
LOWER COURT ERRED**

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 8 (Special).—Hiram Chase, Indian lawyer of Thurston county, has asked the supreme court to be allowed to file a suit to mandamus District Judge Graves in order to stay a decree of his giving Eugene Lawless half of a quarter section that Chase says belongs entirely to him. He claims that the district judge denied him, by entertaining it as a suit in equity, his right to a trial by jury, and that he had no jurisdiction to enter the decree he did.

Tekamah Journal\_Thu\_Jul\_5\_1900

Two Sisters of Charity visited last week at Eugene Lawless'. They had with them Ilene Lawless, daughter of Chas. Lawless who used to reside here.

The Lyons Weekly\_Sun\_Wed\_Jul\_11\_1900

Sister Gertrude and Sister Serphine, of St. Joseph's Hospital, Marysville, Missouri, were the guests of Eugene Lawless and family east of Lyons last week. In company with them was Mary Lawless, the only child of Charles Lawless. Shortly after the death of Mrs. Lawless several years ago Charles went to Port Arthur, Texas where he now is and the little girl entered a convent. She owns considerable land in Thurston county left to her by her mother and the sisters came up to look after Mary's interests. They were also selling chances on a lot in St. Louis at \$1 per chance. They returned home by the way of Lyons last Friday.

The Pender Republic, April 14, 1922.

Atty. J. A. Singhaus was up from Tekamah last Saturday as attorney in the Chase-Lawless case which has been pending in district court several months.

The Pender Republic, March 3, 1922

Atty. Hiram Chase was over from Macy yesterday, having a hearing in district court on the Lawless case which has been pending in court for a long time.



# Lands

The Pender Republic, Jan 10, 1936

## Sale of Inherited Indian Lands

Omaha Agency.

The Public is hereby informed that the following list of inherited Indian lands, within the limits of the Omaha Agency, are offered for sale under Sec. 7 of the Act of Congress approved May 27, 1902.

**Advertised June 12, 1907.  
Bids Opened Sept. 10, 1907.**

ADVERTISED BY (HEIRS)	DESCRIPTION OF LAND	ALLOTTEE
Hiram Chase Eileen Lawless	E 1/2 SE 1/4, 26-25-9.	Me gthe tain Clay

(Roy B. Carlberg, Attorney)

### NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an Order of Sale issued by the Clerk of the District Court of the Eighth Judicial District of Nebraska, within and for Thurston County, in an action wherein the Fremont Joint Stock Land Bank of Fremont, Nebraska, is Plaintiff, and Eugene W. Lawless, widower; C. A. Fisk and wife, Etta Belle Fisk; W. F. Truesdell; and White Investment Company, are Defendants, I will, at one o'clock P. M., on the 21st day of January, A. D. 1936, at the East front door of the Court House in Pender, Thurston County, Nebraska, offer for sale at public auction, the following described lands and tenements, to-wit:

The East Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section Twenty-six, Township Twenty-five, Range Nine, East of the Sixth P. M., Thurston County, Nebraska.

Given under my hand this 19th day of December, A. D., 1935.

RAY ELLIOTT,  
Sheriff.

Case No. 4643  
First publication Dec. 20. 5t-6

**Advertised February 21, 1907.  
Bids Opened, May 22, 1907.**

The Improvements on the SW 1/4 NE 1/4, 17-24-9, are Not to be Sold With the Land.

Stephen Wells Alice Harlan Fremont	E 1/2 NE 1/4 33-26-9	Horace Wells
Stephen Wells Edward Wells	N 1/2 SE 1/4 33-26-9	Ma za pa wa Wells
Wa tae we Morris	NE 1/4 SW 1/4 33-26-9	Mary Wolf Morris
Eliza Robinson Drum Me ha we Keece Leaning	E 1/2 NW 1/4 32-26-9	Tha ta de we Keech
Samuel Irwin	NW 1/4 SW 1/4 34-26-9	George Irwin
John Wood Mabel Fremont Mitchell Marguerite Fremont	SE 1/4 NW 1/4 5-24-9 SE 1/4 NW 1/4 35-26-8	Mary Butler
James Porter Mary Porter William P. Callon		
As sa hoo bae Mitchell Grant		
Me me ta M. Grant Neal Mitchell Gladys Mitchell Stella Mitchell Grant	SW 1/4 NE 1/4 17-24-9	Gtha de gthe tha Mitchell
Eileen Lawless Charles Lawless	Lots 5 and 6 (74.60 A.) 30-25-10	Paulina Chase

Weekly Burtonian (Tekamah NE), Feb 27, 1896

### Real Estate Transfers.

Elizabeth Ford to Mary R. Shaw qcd 1/4 int in w 1/2 w 1/2 3-22-8	\$ 825 00
Chas Hegert to Henry Christensen wd, n 1/2 nw 1/4, 27-21-9	2,000 00
Paulina C Lawless to Geo M Calnon wd, se 1/4, 32-24-10	2,100 00
Helen D Thomas to Lucinda B Ash- by, sp wd, lot 2, blk 150, Tekamah...	35 00

The Pender Republic, May 19, 1922.

Attorney J. A. Singhaus of Tekamah, accompanied by his wife, was here Monday as attorney in the Eugene Lawless referee sale.

At the referee's sale of real estate, in which Eugene Lawless was plaintiff and Hiram Chase et al, were defendants, on Monday the tract was purchased by the plaintiff for \$6,600.00.

The Pender Republic, Sept 15, 1922

United States to Hiram Chase and Eileen Lawless, 7-13-11, e 1/2 of se 1/4, 26-25-9.

## Hiram Chase

Hiram Hathu Mi Chase was Paulina's older brother and an attorney who had a lot of influence in the Omaha tribe.

Hiram Chase is an interesting character. His actions give some insight into the Omaha tribe and how things worked at the time. He is included in this book because of his interactions with the Lawless family. A page in Wikipedia has information about him. Other sources give more information about who he was and what he did. Newspapers of the time also had quite a bit of additional information about his activities.

From Wikipedia- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hiram\\_Chase](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hiram_Chase)

**"Hiram Chase** born on the Omaha Reservation on September 9, 1861, in Macy, Thurston County, Nebraska. Chase was the great grandson of Omaha Chief Mohwoorgga. His father, Hiram Chase, Sr., was an interpreter and a post trader among the Omaha Indians, having come to Nebraska in 1854. Hiram attended mission schools on the Omaha Reservation in Nebraska until he was 15, then St. Stephen's Lutheran Academy in Zelienople, Pennsylvania, and Peru State College in Peru, Nebraska. Chase studied law at the Cincinnati Law School graduating with a Bachelor of Law degree, and in 1889 was the first Native American admitted to the bar in Nebraska. In 1892, Chase and fellow Omaha, Thomas L. Sloan, formed "Sloan & Chase, Attorneys-At-Law", the first Native American law firm in the United States. In 1893, Chase was elected County Judge of Thurston County, Nebraska, and served one term. In 1898, he was elected County Attorney and re-elected in 1901. Chase was the first to record the Omaha language on paper. In 1897. Chase wrote "O MU HU W B GRa Za: The Chase System of Reading and Recording the Omaha and Other Indian Languages." In 1884, Chase married Miss Cynthia Snyder and together they had seven children. Chase was involved in local community projects and a lifelong Freemason. "

Hiram was active in the community and was recognized as "a clear and fluent speaker". He was selected by the Omaha Tribal Council along with several others to represent the tribe in Washington DC.

Hiram was an accomplished and well-recognized attorney and Native American civil rights advocate. He had several appearances at the U.S. Supreme Court. He also had an alcohol problem and took treatment at the Keely Institute in Omaha. (*The Decatur Herald, April 11, 1907*)

Hiram Chase died in Chadron, Nebraska, on December 3, 1928, while visiting his daughter. Preceded in death by his wife of 33 years, he was survived by seven children. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery at Pender, Nebraska. ([https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/81019804/hiram-john\\_hatu\\_mi-chase](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/81019804/hiram-john_hatu_mi-chase))



Judge Hiram Chase

Cynthia Snyder  
Chase



**Red-Man Helper, Mar 6, 1903.**  
**Published by apprentices at the Indian Industrial School, Carlisle, PA.**

### GOT HIS EDUCATION AWAY FROM THE TRIBE.

Hiram Chase, a half breed of the Omaha tribe, is County Attorney of Thurston County and went recently to Lincoln, where he appeared before the court representing the descendants of Black Bird, Chief of the Omahas in a case which involves millions of acres of land.

Attorney Chase comes from a long line of distinguished ancestry on both sides. His grandmother was the daughter of Wahnookega, the Omaha chief whose name appears on all treaties signed by the Omahas.

Attorney Chase was born on the Omaha Reservation, now Thurston county. He was educated at Government schools, then at the State Normal School at Peru. After graduating at Peru he attended the Cincinnati College of Law and graduated there in 1889 with the honors of his class. He is very proud of his ancestry.

He married a Miss Cynthia Snyder, a highly educated lady of New York State, who went to Thurston county to teach the Indians. They have four boys and three girls, who are being educated as the better class of white children are. As soon as they are old enough they will be sent to the University of Nebraska.— [Pender Times.

# Miscellaneous Documents

## Charles Lawless Left a Will in Texas

It appears that the will was probated after his death. He may have had a written will, but the record of the will is in the County records. It looks like the probate record is a copy of the original written into the County Will Book.

### Charles Lawless

Texas, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1833-1974

Residence Date: Abt 1913

Residence Place: Jefferson, Texas

Will Date: 7 Jan 1913

Probate Date: 7 Jan 1913

Probate Place: Jefferson, Texas, USA

Inferred Death Year: Abt 1913

Inferred Death Place: Texas, USA

Case Number: 1018

Item Description: Vol 13-14, 1912-1914

Estate of  
Charles Lawless Deed  
Proof of Will  
Filed 12 day of Aug 1913  
J.R. Jefferson  
County Clerk Jefferson County Tex.  
By Clyde Marchbanks, Deputy

1018 The State of Texas )  
This County of Jefferson )  
Know all men by these presents:  
That I, Charles Lawless of Part Arthur  
Jefferson County Texas and being of  
sound and disposing mind and memory  
do make and publish this my last  
will and testament hereby revoking  
all wills by me at any time heretofore  
made.  
First: I direct that my body shall  
be buried along side of that of my  
wife near Macy, in Thurston County,  
State of Nebraska  
Second: I direct that all of my just

26  
July Term A.D. 1913

debts and obligations shall be paid  
out of my estate  
Third: I give and bequeath unto my  
brother Eugene Lawless now residing  
at Decatur, Nebraska all of my property  
consisting of real personal and mixed  
and of whatsoever kind and nature and  
wherever located or situated; excepting  
however five (5) lots of land situated  
in Mission View addition to the City of  
San Antonio Bexar County Texas.  
Fourth: I give and bequeath unto Dora  
and Andrew Beck minor children of  
Andrew Beck of Part Arthur Jefferson  
County Texas the five (5) certain lots  
of land which I own and which are  
situated in Mission View addition to  
the City of San Antonio Bexar County  
Texas the said Dora and Andrew Beck  
to each have an undivided one half  
interest in and to all of said lots.  
Fifth: I hereby constitute and appoint  
Lee Beck of Part Arthur Jefferson County  
Texas as the sole executor of this my  
last will and I do direct that the  
Probate Court do confirm him as such  
with out bond.  
Sixth: It is my last will and desire  
that no other proceedings be had or  
taken in the Probate Court in regard to  
this my last will and in the Admin-  
istration of my estate except to prove  
and read this will and to return an  
inventory and appraisement of my estate  
and list of claims as required by law.  
In witness whereof I have here unto  
set my hand at Part Arthur Jefferson  
County Texas on this 7th day January  
A.D. 1913 in the presence of Warren E.  
Young and J.W. Williams who attest

27  
July Term A.D. 1913

the same at my request  
Charles Lawless

Witness  
Warren E. Young  
J.W. Williams  
The above and foregoing last will and  
testament of Charles Lawless is now  
here at the request of said Charles  
Lawless and in his presence witnessed  
by us in the presence of each other  
and we at the request aforesaid  
hereto subscribed our names as  
witnesses in the presence of said  
Charles Lawless; the said Charles  
Lawless signing the same in our  
presence and declaring the same to be  
his last will and testament  
Warren E. Young  
J.W. Williams

#1018 Estate of Charles Lawless-Will-  
Filed 5 day of June 1913. J.R. Jefferson  
County Clerk Jefferson County Texas  
By Clyde Marchbanks, Deputy.

1018 The State of Texas ) In the County  
Order ) County of Jefferson ) Court of Jeffe-  
In the matter ) son County  
Estate of ) Texas. July  
Charles Lawless deceased ) Term A.D. 1913  
On this the 12th day of Aug A.D. 1913  
Came on to be heard the application  
of Lee Beck for the probate of the last  
will and testament of Charles Lawless  
deceased now produced in Court and  
the evidence a statement of which  
is filed in this case being heard  
and fully considered by the Court;  
and it appearing to the Court that  
citation thereof has been duly made  
as provided by law to which no

July Term a D 1913

July Term a D 1913

objection has been made and the said Lee Bock is named and appointed in said will as executor thereof without bond and that he is not disqualified therefor

It is therefore ordered adjudged and decreed by the Court that the said last will and testament of the aforementioned Charles Lawless deceased is hereby admitted to probate and recited and the testimony thereon be recorded in the minutes of this Court

It is further ordered by the Court that letters testamentary thereof be granted to the said Lee Bock without bond upon his taking the required oath as provided by law

and it further appearing to the Court that Travis Lambert a la Warkler and W. N. Mc Reynolds are residents of Jefferson County Texas and disinterested persons in said estate it is therefore ordered that they or any two of them be and are hereby appointed to appraise the estate of Charles Lawless deceased both real and personal

R. H. Wilson County Judge of Jefferson County Texas

(Seal)  
 Attest: J. R. Jefferson County Clerk of Jefferson County Texas  
 By Clyde Marchbanks, Deputy  
 #1018 - Estate of Charles Lawless  
 Order appt. Executor  
 Filed 12 day of Aug 1913. J. R. Jefferson County Clerk Jefferson County Texas

By Clyde Marchbanks, Deputy  
 1018 The State of Texas )  
 both County of Jefferson ) In the County  
 In the matter of ) Court of Jefferson  
 Estate of ) County Texas  
 Charles Lawless Deceased ) July Term a D 1913

I, Lee Bock do solemnly swear that the writing which has been offered for probate in this cause is the last will of Charles Lawless so far as I know or believe and that I will well and truly perform all the duties of executor of said will of the estate of Charles Lawless deceased

Lee Bock  
 Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 18 day of August a D 1913  
 (Seal) R. H. Hudson  
 Notary Public

Jefferson County Texas  
 My Commission expires June 1 1915  
 #1018 Estate of Charles Lawless Deed  
 Oath of Executor  
 Filed 20 day of Aug 1913  
 J. R. Jefferson County Clerk Jefferson County Texas By M. A. Anderson Deputy

1042 The State of Texas )  
 4442 County of Jefferson )  
 In the matter of the ) In the  
 Estate of William Heuman ) County Court  
 Deceased )

To the Honorable R. H. Wilson Judge of said Court, sitting in Probate.  
 Your applicant Fred L. Heuman respectfully shows unto the Court that his father William Heuman departed this life on the 21st day of August 1913 at Beaumont in Jefferson County Texas;

Charles Lawless Proof of Will and Probate Summary

- The Charles Lawless will was written on 7 January 1913 in the presence of Warren G. Young and J.W. Williams.
- The official record was probably copied from Charles' handwritten will.
- Direct that he buried beside his wife near Macy in Thurston County, Nebraska.
- Debts and obligations to be paid from his estate.
- Bequeath to Eugene Lawless his real personal property except for 5 lots of land situated in Mission View Addition\* to the City of San Antonio. Those lots of land were bequeathed to Dora and Andrew Bock (?) and their children. Lee Bock was his executor.
- Proof of the Will was filed on 12 August 1913. The will was probated on 12 August 1913.
- Lee Bock was accepted as Executor. Travis Lambert and W.N. McReynolds were appointed to appraise the estate. No appraisal has been found.

\*Mission View is in the SE part of San Antonio, Texas.

## Timeline for Paulina and Eileen Lawless on Indian Roll and U.S. Census

Census type	Census Yr	Name(s)	Age(s)	Comment
Indian rolls	1886	Paulina	19	Paulina is shown in the household of James Ashley.
	1887	Paulina		Paulina married in 1887 at age 20.
	1888	Eileen		Birth 8 Sep 1888
	1889	Paulina Eileen E	22 8 mo	Paulina age Ok. Eileen b Sept 1888 birth date.
	1890	Paulina Eileen (sp. Eilene) born Sept/89	23 9/12	Paulina Age OK as shown in the roll. However, Eileen was born in Sept 1888. This must be an error.
	1891	Pauline Eileen E John Wm Sheely	24 2 5/12	
	1892 30 Jan	Paulina Eileen	25 3	Paulina age OK John died between June 1891 and January 1892.
	1893	Paulina Eileen	26 3	Listed as part of Hiram Chase family.
	1894	Paulina Eileen	26 4	Paulina should be 27.
	1895	Eileen	5	No mother. Assume Paulina died after June 1894.
	1896	Eileen	5	Eileen should be age 6.
MO US census	1900 13 June	Eileen	11	Eileen was a Boarder at St. Joseph's Hospital in Maryville City, Polk Township Missouri. Her name is listed as Mary.
Indian rolls	1901	Eileen	10	Single (Eileen was 12 in June 1901, so the age is not correct.)
	1903	Eileen	13	BHS – By Herself (She was probably 14)
	1905	Eileen	17	Indian Census, listed as Ward.
	1906	Eileen	18	Ward
	1907	Eileen	19	Ward
	1908	Eileen	20	BHS (Sp. Ilene Lawless)
	1909	Eileen	21	BHS
MO US census	1910	Eileen	22	BHS – (In Missouri Census and Indian roll) Eileen is shown as Mary A Lawless, Sister, Age 22. Eileen's religious name was Sr. Mary Anselma Lawless.
Indian Rolls	1911	Eileen	22	Eileen died 4 Jun 1911 and does not appear in later rolls.

This table summarizes the places where Paulina and Eileen show up in the Indian rolls and Census records. The Indian Census information is fairly consistent, but some of the ages don't match what is known from previous records—mainly on ages. The notes above identify where there are discrepancies.

Charles is not shown in the Indian Census because he was not of Omaha Indian heritage.

# More About Charles Lawless Family

Lyons Mirror, January 15, 1891

- Charles Lawless, who married in to the Omaha tribe, has been appointed county commissioner, of Thurston Co. to fill vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Wheeler, another white man who lived on the Omaha reservation until recently. His family have fallen heir to an estate in Indian Territory, and he has moved there.

Lyons Mirror, January 29, 1891

There was quite an increase in the population of Decatur and vicinity the past week. An army of little ones come to stay. Born to Amy Welch and wife, a son; Mrs. and Mr. Eugene Brewer, a son; Mr. and Mrs. Salsbury, a son; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Calnon, a daughter; Mr. and Mrs. Lawless, a daughter. The latter is more fortunate than his white brothers as every child born on the reservation is equivalent to \$75. - Herald.

This may be an error. Charles and Paulina had a son in January of 1891. John DeCourcy Lawless, son of Eugene and Bessie was born Feb 21, 1891, so the newspaper item is not likely referring to that birth. Charles and Eugene were the only Lawless' known to live in Decatur at that time.

Lyons Mirror, Aug 24, 1893

- Mrs. Charles Lawless came in from the Omaha Agency Wednesday enroute to Pender, accompanied by Mrs. Atkins of Homer. Mrs. Lawless is in very delicate health and it is to be hoped she will profit by her journey.

Tekamah Journal, July 4, 1901

**Cholera Immunes.**

Chas. Lawless, a farmer living between Decatur and Lyons, having experimented with hog cholera remedies, says in the Lyons Mirror of last week: "On the 16th of June I took 3 shoats up to a Mr. Fitch on the reservation for a test against hog cholera. He has lost about 100 head. Should these stand the test I have over 80 that I will place in any herd infected with cholera. I will be greatly obliged to anyone who will inform me from now on of any herd infected with cholera so that I can take some pigs there. This is for the benefit of those engaged in the swine industry, and all should take deep interest in this new discovery. Should these three pigs die from cholera it will not shake my belief in the theory a particle; it will be because I've made a mistake, and if so I know just when and where I made it. When I treated the dam of these I did not know so much about the laws of immunity as I do now. Consequently the next generation will be cholera proof."

Lyons Mirror, January 4, 1894

Chas. Lawless and family are spending the winter in California.

Decatur Herald, January 16, 1913

**Charles Lawless Dies**

A message tells of the death of Mr. Chas. Lawless, at his home in Port Arthur, Texas, yesterday. The remains is expected in Walthill Saturday afternoon and the funeral is to be held at Macy, Sunday, the interment being made beside the wife and children, who are buried on the Chase farm near that place.

(Charles' daughter Eileen is buried in Missouri. His son John was buried on the Chase farm.)

## References

### **Charles Birth record:**

"Ireland Civil Registration, 1845-1913," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPZT-RKXF> : 30 January 2020), Louise Denis Van Laer Lawless in entry for Charles Leopold Lawless, 24 Mar 1865; Birth; Rathmines, Dublin South, County Dublin, Ireland; citing General Register Office, Southern Ireland; FHL microfilm .

**Indian Census Rolls, 1886-1911.**

**1880 U.S. Census.**

**1900 U.S. Census.** Taken in Polk Township, Nodaway County Missouri on 13 June 1900, Division: Maryville City, 4th Ward. Name of Institution: St. Joseph's Hospital No. 17 to 47 Inclusive. (Some of the people listed on the page were not part of the hospital at the time.) At entry 33, Eileen is shown as Mary Lawless, Boarder, Age 11.

**1910 U.S. Census.** Taken in Polk Township, Nodaway County Missouri on 13 June 1900, Division: Maryville City, 4th Ward. Name of Institution: St. Joseph's Hospital No. 11 to 56 Inclusive. (Some of the people listed on the page were not part of the hospital at the time.) Eileen is shown as Mary A Lawless, Sister, Age 22. Eileen's religious name was Sr. Mary Anselma Lawless.

**Cynthia Snyder Chase** on FindAGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/80381215/cynthia-w-chase>. Buried in New York in the Chase family cemetery.

**Hiram Chase** on FindAGrave: [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/81019804/hiram-john\\_hatu\\_mi-chase](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/81019804/hiram-john_hatu_mi-chase). Buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Pender NE. He had a second wife, but no children with the 2nd wife.

**Sr Mary Anselma Lawless** on Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/157982006/mary-anselma-lawless> : accessed 12 December 2021), memorial page for Sr Mary Anselma Lawless (8 Sep 1888–4 Jun 1911), Find a Grave Memorial ID 157982006, citing Saint Mary's Cemetery, Maryville, Nodaway County, Missouri, USA ; Maintained by Our Family Genealogy (contributor 47796684) .

**Newspaper Articles** from The Decatur Herald and The Pender Republic.

## THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many, many thanks to Bob Johnson who provided some/much of the basic research and inspiration for this project. Bob is an excellent genealogical researcher for our family.

Many thanks also to our ancestors who saved and collected the information that went into this story. The main contributors are Victor Johnson who collected and saved letters and pictures that had been accumulated by Eugenia Lawless, Anna Lawless Johnson, and Oliver Johnson. The family tradition of "hoarding" (i.e. saving lots of stuff) has benefits for future generations.

Other information was collected from Newspapers.com, Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.com, and FindAGrave.com. These genealogical sites are a fabulous resource that are repositories of family connections. Ancestry and FamilySearch do not always have the correct information, but they are still a source of data that could previously be found only by visiting the Library of Congress, courthouses, churches, and graveyards. I thank the thousands of people who contribute to these sites, including Bob Johnson.

*Betty Gibbs*