

# EUGENE WILLIAM LAWLESS FAMILY STORY



Eugene Lawless Farm 2019.  
Driveway leading to house site.

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This book about the Eugene Lawless family was compiled by Betty Gibbs and built on the work of many others. Victor Johnson did much of the basic work on the genealogy of the Johnson, Lawless, and other related families. Robert Johnson did a lot of on-line research on the families. Betty collected general family information on the DeCourcy and Lawless families from on-line resources.

Betty Gibbs  
303 859-5624  
2024

# EUGENE WILLIAM LAWLESS FAMILY

This is the story of the **Eugene William Lawless** and **Elizabeth DeCourcy** Family.

This is the story we have been told: Eugene was the son of Dublin lawyers, but didn't want to be a lawyer. He wanted to be a farmer. He went to Nebraska first in about 1880 and found farmland he liked. Then he persuaded Bessie DeCourcy to leave Limerick Ireland and become his wife.

The Decatur area is rather small, and the Lawless family was well known and active in the community. The local families had many social activities and frequently visited each other. The newspapers at the time had many entries about visits between families as well as visitors from other places.

**Eugene William Lawless** b. 5 November 1860 in Dublin Ireland, d. 9 Dec 1927, Decatur NE (Burt Co.), bur. 1927, in the Holy Family Cemetery Burt Co. NE. This cemetery is at the northeast corner of the family property in Burt County NE. The Holy Family Cemetery was deeded to the Catholic Church in 1923.

Parents of Eugene were **William John Lawless** (b.1830, deceased) and his second wife **Marie Louise Denise (Denis) Van Laer** (b. 1840, deceased). They were married in 1859 and Eugene was their first child.

**Charles Leopold Lawless** was a full brother of Eugene. Eugene also had a sister Eileen, and two other brothers: Frederick and Frank. He had four half brothers from a second marriage of his father: Edward, Lewis (Louis), John and Harry.

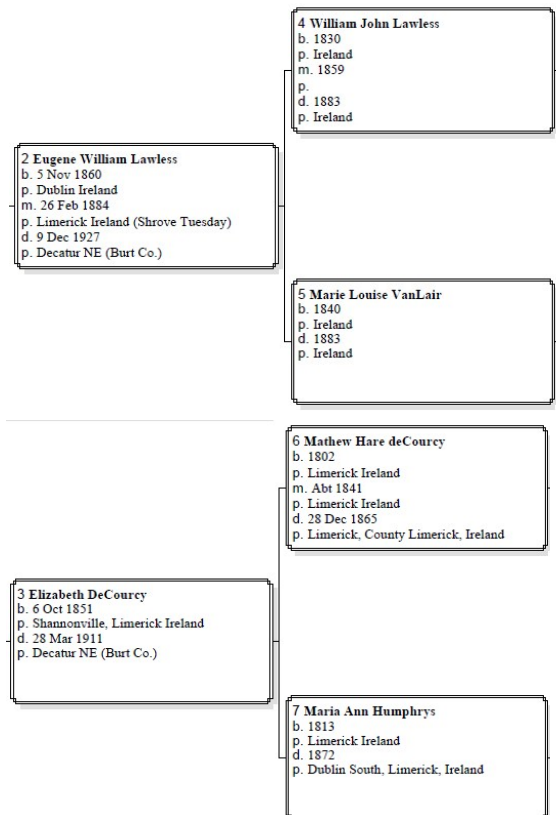
**Bessie DeCourcy** was born October 6, 1851 in Shannonville, Limerick, (County Clare) Ireland. She was a middle child of **Mathew Hare DeCourcy** and **Maria Ann Humphreys**. She died March 28, 1911, at home near Decatur NE (Burt Co.). She was buried in the Holy Family Cemetery, northeast corner of the family property in Burt County NE.

**Eugene W Lawless** married **Elizabeth (Bessie) DeCourcy** on February 26, 1884 in St. Mary Pro Cathedral on Marlborough Place, Dublin Ireland. When they married, Bessie was 33 and Eugene was 24.

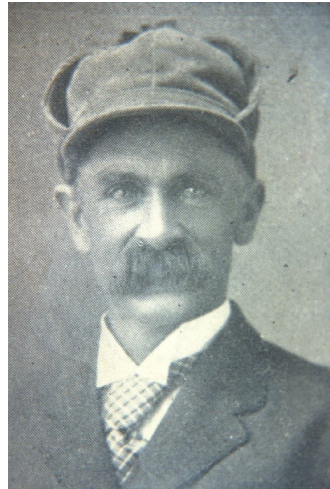
Eugene and Bessie were the parents of four children.

- **Marie (Mary, "Minnie") Louise Lawless** b. 5 Feb 1885, Decatur NE, d. 1972, Everett WA
- **Eugenia Lawless** b. 6 Jun 1888, Decatur NE, d. 17 Dec 1982, Sioux City IA. She was buried in the Holy Family Cemetery.
- **John DeCourcy Lawless** b. 21 Feb 1891, Decatur NE, d. 18 Nov 1956, Macy NE. Buried in the Holy Family Cemetery.
- **Anna Josephine Lawless** b. 30 Sep 1893, Decatur NE (on the farm 4mi W.), d. 8 Aug 1975, Miller SD (Prairie Center Nursing Home), buried Aug 1975, Miller SD in St. Ann's Catholic Cemetery.

## Eugene & Bessie's Ancestors



## Eugene (EW) and Elizabeth (Bessie) - Their Story



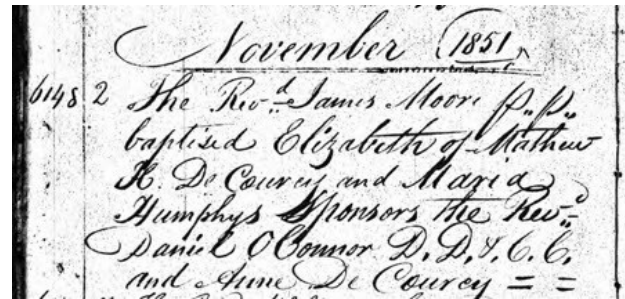
Eugene Lawless



Eugene and Bessie  
DeCourcy Lawless

### The Beginnings

Eugene was born in Dublin. We don't know how/why he got from Dublin to Limerick and met the DeCourcy family. From the letters it is obvious the families knew each other pretty well, but the letters are not clear how that happens. The Lawless family is originally from Dublin and the DeCourcy family was established in Limerick. Eugene has friends and family in Limerick, so may have lived there for some time. Eugene and Bessie were married in Dublin, so possibly there were DeCourcy families in Dublin. (See the *DeCourcy family origins section*.)



**Elizabeth DeCourcy baptismal record** from St Munchins Catholic Church, Limerick. November 2, 1851.  
“The Rev<sup>d</sup> James Moore P.P. baptized Elizabeth of Mathew H. DeCourcy and Maria Humphys. Sponsors The Rev<sup>d</sup> Daniel O'Connor D.D. y.C.C. and Anne DeCourcy.”

Eugene was 19 when he came to the U.S. in 1880 and was already in love with Bessie. We ‘know’ (rumor) that he didn't want to be a lawyer according to family tradition. Eugene wanted to be a farmer instead and the letters he wrote to Bessie between 1880 and 1884 show his determination to buy a farm and begin farming in Nebraska. He was young when he made those decisions and traveled to America when he was 19 to find his future.

We don't know why he chose Nebraska. In the letters he wrote between 1880 and 1884 he doesn't mention any relatives in the area. In the letters he talks about looking for property in Nebraska and how he makes the decision to purchase land in the Decatur area.

Eugene (EW) came to Decatur Nebraska in about 1880 for the first time. It is not known why he chose to go to Nebraska. He must have heard something about the country and opportunities for good farmland. Some of the reason can be deduced from letters he wrote to Bessie in Ireland.

Eugene wrote letters to Bessie in Ireland telling about his adventures in Nebraska. Bessie finally agreed to marry him and he returned to Ireland to marry Bessie in 1884. Very soon after the wedding, the couple travelled to Nebraska.

The ship record below from 1880 shows Eugene Lawless, Age 19 traveling from Ireland to the United States and staying in a 2nd Cabin.

Mr Lytle	25	I	Ireland	United States of America	2nd Cabin
Eugene Lawless	19	M			
Samuel Rowlett	33	M	Farmer		
William Mandy	28	M	Sp. dealer		
Mr. M.	22	F			

## Eugene and Bessie (Elizabeth) Letters

Copies of letters from Eugene written to Bessie between 1880 and 1884 survive. Eugenia Lawless had the originals of the letters and Uncle Victor copied them on one of his many trips to visit. This is a brief summary of the letters. A complete transcript of the letters is included in an Appendix.

### ***1880—Eugene traveled from Ireland to Nebraska. Age 19.***

This first letter is from Eugene in Nebraska to Bessie in Ireland. It seems he was living with a family and working for them. He doesn't name the family. Eugene is well accepted by the family. He is probably a hard worker. He is impressed with the country and says Nebraska is likely to become a great State.

### ***1883—Eugene was looking for land to buy.***

Eugene looked around for possible places to live and decided to stay close to Decatur. Eugene traveled west to an area around Ewing, Nebraska, about 100 miles west of Decatur. He was not impressed with living in a sod house. Back in Decatur, he realizes that the country is beautiful and more settled than further west.

Eugene buys a farm and begins to seriously ask Bessie to be his wife. He says he is not good at 'Batching' it and wants a wife. He has some money that was given to him by his Father, or he inherited it. It is enough to at least make a down payment on the 160 acre farm (1/4 of a section).

Eugene made friends with the Connealy family, other people from Ireland. The Connealy property was adjacent to "Garryowen", the Eugene Lawless farm.

### ***October 1883—Eugene has heard from Bessie about his proposal.***

From Eugene's letter, it sounds like Bessie is not very thrilled about his proposal. She probably hasn't seen him for more than three years. Why would she want to leave a relatively comfortable life in Limerick and go to the Nebraska frontier? Eugene is sad and bids farewell to Bessie forever.

I am dear Bessie still the same Eugene.  
"Though slighted memory will be forever dear." C.W.L.

### ***January 1884—Bessie writes to Eugene.***

So Bessie has changed her mind and accepted Eugene's proposal. Eugene is on his way to Limerick to marry Bessie.

### ***February 1884—Bessie and Eugene are married in Dublin, Ireland.***

*(See the Appendix for the complete text of the letters.)*

Bessie was 33 when she married EW and soon after the wedding left her Limerick home and came to Nebraska where she lived the rest of her life. That part of Nebraska was settled at the time, but was still very much a frontier. In addition, the property was next door to the Omaha Indian reservation. What would she have thought of that? The days of the Wild West were over and the Omahas were peaceful people.

## Eugene William Lawless

## Elizabeth DeCourcy

## Marriage Record

Eugene and Bessie were married at St. Mary, Pro Cathedral in Dublin. The address of the Cathedral is 72 Marlborough St. Dublin. This is the record as found on the Web site: irishgenealogy.ie. The spelling of Elizabeth's name is incorrect. Apparently the person who indexed the record misinterpreted the handwriting. Below is the reference as it appears on the irishgenealogy.ie Web site. See the next page for the actual images from the record book.

Area - DUBLIN (RC) , Parish/Church/Congregation - ST. MARY, PRO CATHEDRAL

Marriage of EUGENE LAWLESS of 9 ST GEORGES PL and ELIZABETH DE COMEY  
(De Courcy) of 9 ST GEORGES PL (Dublin) on 26 February 1884

	Husband	Wife
Name	EUGENE LAWLESS	ELIZABETH DE COMEY
Address	9 ST GEORGES PL (Dublin)	9 ST GEORGES PL
Father	JOHN LAWLESS	MATTHEW DE COMEY
Mother	LOUISA LAWLESS	MARIA HUMPHREYS
Priest (authorized by Rev. R. Conlan)	S R SHANAHON P P AUCTORITATE REV R CONLAN ADM	
Witness 1	CHARLES TEELING	
Witness 2	TERESA BLACKMORE	

### About the record

Book Number	Page	Entry Number	Record_Identifier	Image Filename
N/R	58	748	DU-RC-MA-121898	st.mary's-pro-cath_mf_1862-1881_ma_0095

The record also includes other information not indexed.

- Parents of both husband and wife are dead.
- Eugene's mother is Louisa Van Laer
- Maiden name of spouse (John Lawless): Louisa Van Laer
- Residence of Sponsors: Co. Tipperary (other information not readable)

The column headings are in Latin as was customary at that time. The Catholic church carried the Latin custom well into the 20th Century.

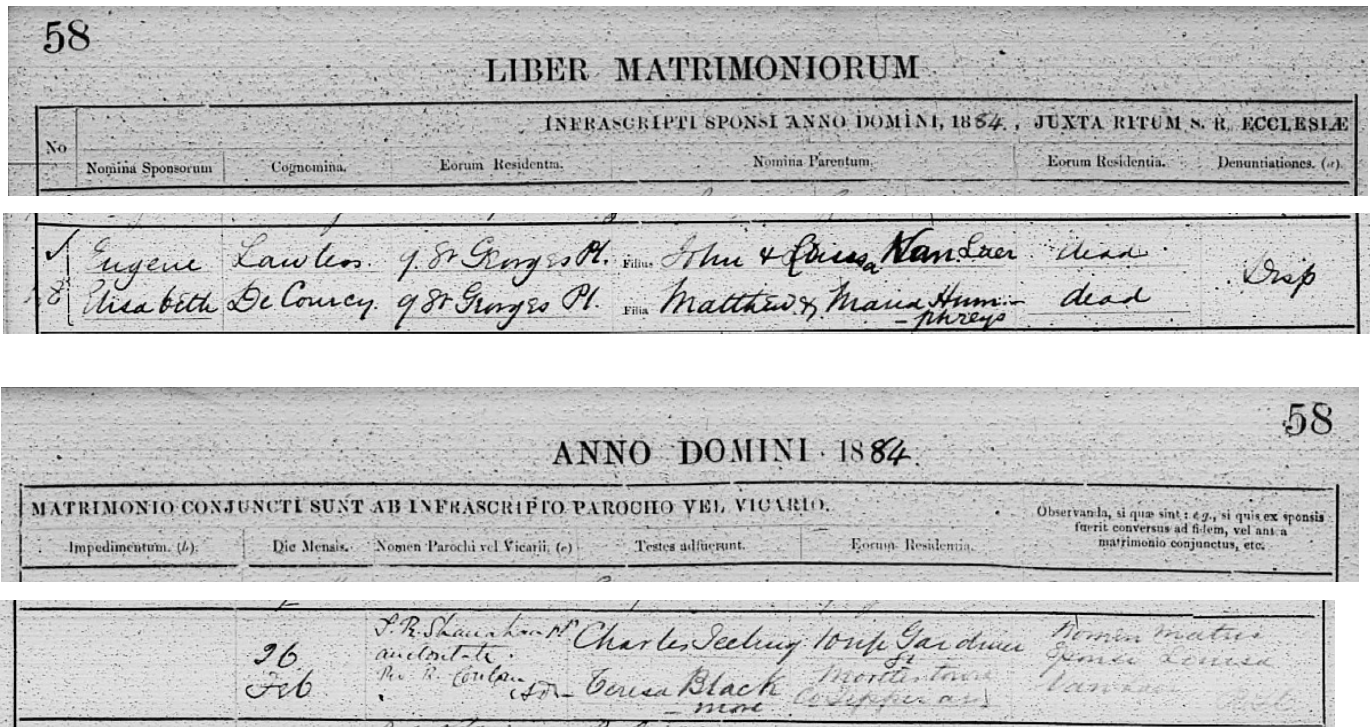
These are Latin headings in columns that were not indexed. (*Difficult to read in the image.*)

*AUCTORITATE* – authorized.

*Observanda* - Observancy - observandum – observant. (*Meaning that they observed the Catholic religion.*)

*Si quae sint*—Quae cum ita sint: This Latin phrase is often translated to English as “since these things are so” or “in these circumstances”. It is a common clause of transition, used to introduce a statement or action that follows from or is based on a preceding situation or fact.

These are the actual images from the marriage record book at St. Mary Pro Cathedral (with column headings):

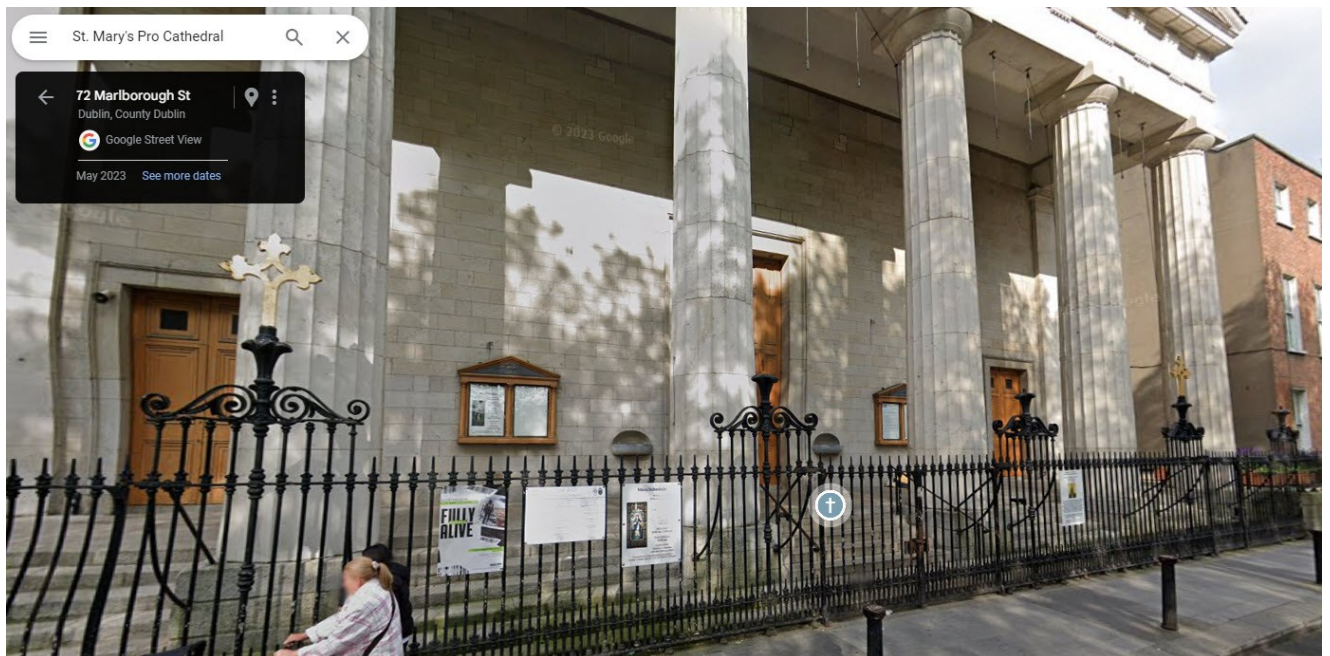


**SOURCE:** the marriage record for Eugene and Bessie is found at [irishgenealogy.ie](https://irishgenealogy.ie):

<https://churchrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/details/c5e34a0056716?b=https%3A%2F%2Fchurchrecords.irishgenealogy.ie%2Fchurchrecords%2Fsearch.jsp%3Fnamefm%3DEugene%26name1%3DLawless%26location%3DDublin%26yyfrom%3D1879%26yyto%3D1885%26submit%3DSearch>

The image of the church record page is found at: [https://churchrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/display-pdf.jsp?pdfName=st.mary%27s-pro-cath\\_mf\\_1862-1881\\_ma\\_0095](https://churchrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/display-pdf.jsp?pdfName=st.mary%27s-pro-cath_mf_1862-1881_ma_0095)

### St. Mary Pro Cathedral in Dublin Ireland today (Google Maps)



# Where They Lived

The area map shows the vicinity where the Lawless and Johnson families lived in the late 1880s and into the early 1900s.

The Lawless family lived near Decatur and the Johnson family lived near Lyons.

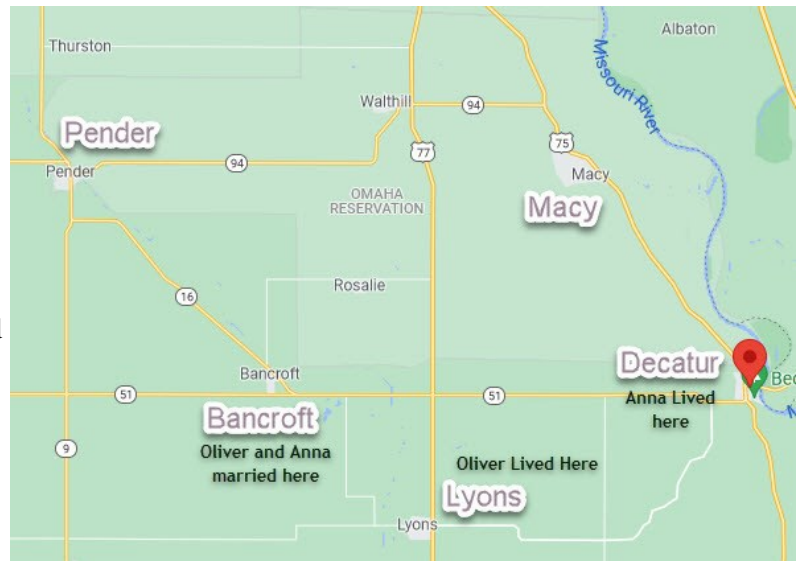
Macy is 12 miles to the northwest of Decatur and is the main town on the Omaha Reservation. The main tribal offices of the Omaha Reservation are located at Macy.

Lyons is about 16 miles by road to the Southwest of Decatur. Several Johnson families lived in Lyons from the 1880s-1890s and into the 21st Century.

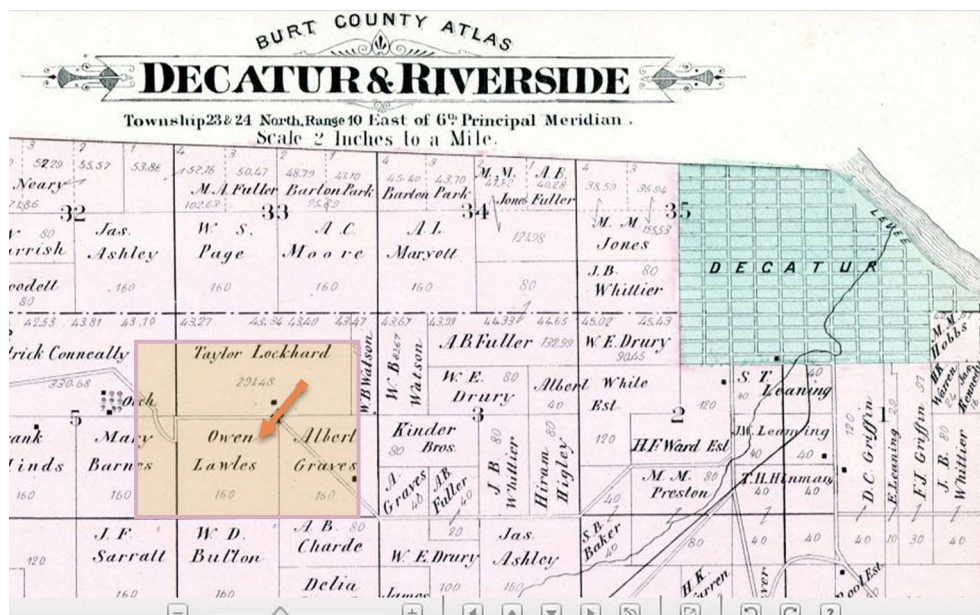
## Eugene Lawless Property

Maps on the next page show where the Eugene Lawless property was located about 2.5 miles Southwest of Lyons. The earliest map is from 1884. That was the year that Eugene brought his bride Bessie from Ireland. Note the name on the property is "Owen Lawless". Eugene bought the property in 1883 and took possession in early 1884. Later, Eugene named the property "Garryowen". (See the Other Info section for more about the origin of the name.) Eugene still owned the property in 1922, and did until he died in 1927. Notice the names of the surrounding property owners: Conneally, Ashley. These names are found in the local papers and have connections to the Eugene Lawless family. (See the Charles Lawless Family chapter for more about the Ashley and Chase connections.)

## Eastern Nebraska around the Decatur and Lyons Areas.



## 1884 Property Ownership around Decatur Nebraska



Eugene bought the SW 1/4 of Section 4 on July 5, 1883 from Henry Fontenelle. Not sure why the property is shown as owned by Owen Lawless.

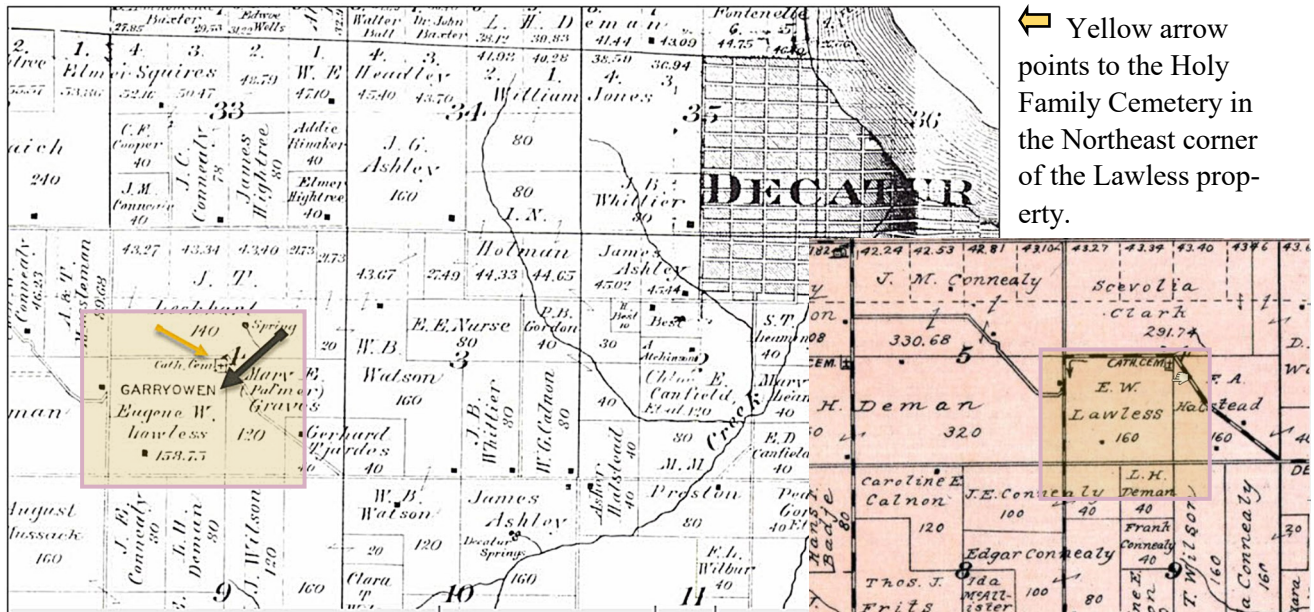
The property was owned by Eugene until at least 1927 (when he died). It was transferred to his son John on July 31, 1923. John sold it to Guy Conneally on Feb 7, 1929.

Ashley and Conneally families were in the area in 1884.



# 1909 Property Ownership around Decatur Nebraska

Lawless Property: SW Quarter of Section 04, Township 23 North, Range 10 East of the 6th PM.  
 Lat, Long: 41.99616, -96.29862

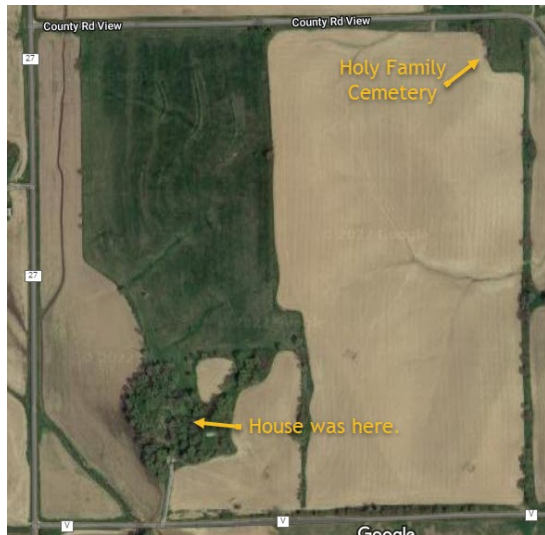


Yellow arrow points to the Holy Family Cemetery in the Northeast corner of the Lawless property.

## 1922 Property Ownership around Decatur Nebraska



Present Day view of Property owned by the Lawless Family until 1929.



The Lawless “Garryowen Heights” farm southwest of Decatur is where Eugene and Bessie raised their family. The property stayed in the family until after Eugene’s death in 1927.

The Editor of the Decatur Herald wrote about the property in the October 4 1906 edition of the newspaper. This is the article: “**A Day Well Spent**—Ye editor and family enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Lawless at their pleasant farm, west of town, last Sunday, returning home in the beautiful moonlight, feeling away down in their hearths that the day was well spent. These estimable people are surrounded with all the gifts of a gracious nature, earned by steady frugality and economical management. From a comparative barren waste, they have caused to grow large groves of cottonwood, maple and boxelder trees. A large orchard full of nice large juicy apples, peaches, etc. greeted our eyes and caused us to want to be a letter of the sail. What could be nicer to look at than 75

or 80 good healthy pigs, with two curls in their tails, running out in a ten acre pasture with 10 or 12 sleek cattle, Eh? But the greatest blessing on Garryowen Heights is the children, three young ladies and one young man who, indeed, prove themselves a blessing by knowing what to do and doing it.

Mr. Lawless and his estimable family have known some very hard struggles in former days but it is different now and in the near future they can enjoy the beautiful fruits of an early struggle. For a real old fashioned welcome, for one of the best spreads you ever helped put away, a visit to Garryowen Heights is the place to get both and will come again.

## Eugene and Bessie (Elizabeth) Lawless The Home Place—Land Transfers

The Burt County clerks' office in Tekamah has land records from the 1800s to the present. Following is a summary of the land transfers and other property records as indexed by the County. The earliest information on the property is in 1867 when the property was acquired from the United States by Stephen Geta. All of Nebraska was part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

Eugene Lawless purchased the 160 Acres in the Southwest Quarter in 1883 from Henry Fontenelle. He had a mortgage to Emily Fontenelle. No amount is recorded in the index. (*See page 10 and the Eugene letters for more about why Eugene settled on this property near Decatur.*) In 1887, Eugene obtained a mortgage from the Omaha Loan & Trust Company with which he paid off Emily. He had several other mortgages in the 1890s through 1916. In July of 1921, Eugene obtained a mortgage in the amount of \$9,000 from the Federal Land Bank of Omaha and used \$5000 of that to pay off a mortgage he had with Charles Burr.

On August 4, 1923, Eugene transferred the property to his son John for \$1.00. John had been helping Eugene with the farm since he returned from the War in July of 1919. John continued to own the farm until it was sold a Sheriffs sale in 1932.

280	DEED RECORD	
HUFFMAN No. 103 DEED—CONTAINING 281 PRINTED WORDS		
Eugene Lawless, a widower,  TO  John D. Lawless	} Warrant Deed	STATE OF NEBRASKA, Burt County, } ss. Entered in Numerical Index and filed for record in the County Clerk's office of said County, the 4 day of Aug. 19 23, at 11 o'clock and - minutes, A. M., and recorded in Book 25 page 280 of Deeds. C. L. Holland County Clerk, Register of Deeds, By Dorothy Thompson Deputy.
Know All Men by These Presents:		
That Eugene Lawless, a widower,  of the County of Burt, and State of Nebraska, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar and other good and valuable consideration <span style="float: right;">XXXXXX</span> in hand paid, do hereby grant, bargain, sell, convey and confirm unto John D. Lawless  of the County of Burt, and State of Nebraska, the following described real estate situated in Burt County, and State of Nebraska, to wit: The South West Quarter of Section Four (4) in Township Twenty-three (23) North Range Ten (10) East of the 6th. P.M. containing 160 acres, more or less, according to the United States Govern- survey thereof, subject to all liens now existing against said real estate and also subject to a life estate and a life use of said Eugene Lawless to the premises herein		

Many thanks to Victor Johnson who made copies of the land records index and the deed from Eugene to his son John.

## Eugene and Bessie (Elizabeth) Lawless The Home Place — Land Transfers (cont.)

In September of 1924, John took out a mortgage with Travelers Insurance Company for \$12,000. The Federal Land Bank was paid \$9,000 in October of 1924. John deeded the property to Guy Connealy for \$1.00 in March of 1929. A year later, Guy Connealy extended the agreement with Travelers Insurance Company in the amount of \$12,000.

The Warranty Deed for the Holy Family Cemetery was deeded from Joseph T Rummel to The Catholic Bishop (Omaha Diocese) in October of 1931. The Cemetery was originally deeded to the Archbishop in 1923. (See p. 24)

In 1932, the property was sold at a Sheriff's sale. The note in the paper shows the sale price as \$13,764.79 plus interest from June 1, 1932. This cleared the mortgage debt to Travelers Insurance Company. Travelers sold it in 1943 for \$15,200.

### Burt County Herald Thu Sep 29 1932

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SHERIFF'S SALE</b></p> <p>Pursuant to an Order of Sale issued to me out of the office of the Clerk of the District Court, of Burt County, Nebraska, in an action wherein, The Traveler's Insurance Company, a corporation, of Hartford, Connecticut, is Plaintiff and John D. Lawless et al. are Defendants, I will at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M. on the 10th day of October 1932, at the west and front door of the Court house in the City of Tekamah, Burt County, Nebraska offer for sale and sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described real-estate to-wit:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">The Southwest Quarter, (except a tract in the North</p>	<p>East corner two hundred twenty-eight (228) feet East and West, by two hundred sixty-seven (267) feet North and South) of Section No. Four (4), in Township No. Twenty-three (23), North of Range No. Ten (10), East of the Sixth Principal Meridian, and containing in all 160 Acres more or less according to government survey,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TO BE SOLD ACCORDING TO LAW TO SATISFY the following amounts;</p> <p>First: Costs in the sum of \$30.25 and accruing costs;</p> <p>Second: To Traveler's Insurance Company, a corporation from John D. Lawless, in the sum of \$13,764.79 with interest thereon from June 1st 1932, at 10% per cent per annum.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">L. G. PHIPPS, Sheriff</p> <p>First Pub. 9-8-32 Last Pub. 10-6-32.</p>
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The tract in the Northeast corner mentioned in the description is the location of the Holy Family Cemetery that was deeded to the Catholic Church by Eugene Lawless.

# Lawless Family Events Timeline

The Decatur and other local area newspapers carried hundreds of references about the Lawless family beginning in 1895 and continuing into the 1950s with the notice of John Lawless' death. Most of the items found are from 1895 through the late 1920s when Eugene Lawless' death was reported. The Lawless family was established in the Decatur area in 1884 when Eugene and Bessie arrived soon after their marriage in Ireland. Their four children were born between 1885 and 1893.

The newspapers with Lawless references include: The Decatur Herald (1902-1942), The Decatur News (1895-1947), The Weekly Burtonian, Burt County Plaindealer, The Lyons Mirror Sun, Burt County Herald, The Pender Republic, The Decatur Advertiser and a few others. The papers have been scanned and are available on Newspapers.com.

This section is a summary of events in the Eugene and Bessie Lawless family life. The copies of the actual articles from the newspapers are included in the Appendix.

## 1892

Eugene was Secretary of the North Divide Alliance.

## 1895

Eugene was a Justice of the Peace, but then lost the vote in the November election—in spite of his Irish gift of smooth talking and storytelling.

After Christmas, The Connealy School House Entertainment included Eugene doing several things. He played Major Puff Jacket in a play called "Rascal Pat". (See references. The script is available on the Internet!) Eugene also sang a song. (See p. 24)

## 1896

A "chopping bee" was held at the Connealy's. Eugene and Walt Walston made a trade and Walt (as usual) came out on top.

## 1900

Two Sisters of Charity visited with the Lawless family along with Eileen (Ilene, Mary), daughter of Charles. Eileen entered a convent (as a child) after the death of her mother. She owns land in Thurston County.

Eugene vaccinates for hog cholera with a 'huge degree of success'. Eugene does well with selling wheat.

## 1902

Eugene complains in a letter to the paper about someone who made a slur on the Irish. The Editor replies and after he and Eugene talked, all was reconciled.

Minnie Lawless is in high school and has perfect attendance.

## 1903

Minnie graduates from Decatur High School.

## 1904-1905

The Catholic picnic was held at the Lawless "Garry Owen" farm in both years. Everyone had fun and a lot of money was raised for the church building.

The telephone arrived in the country.

## 1906

Eugene acted as Marshall for July 4.

## 1907

Eugene was the auctioneer for a Box Social.

## 1908

Eugene sells wheat in Onawa, Iowa.

## 1909

A May basket was hung at the Lawless home.

Minnie accepted a teaching position at the Alaska-Yukon Exposition in Seattle for the summer and will teach at Bonners Ferry, Idaho in the fall.

Bessie Lawless had an operation in Omaha in August, but no hope was held out for her recovery. She returned home in October and was reportedly recovered. (She had cirrhosis of the liver.)

A dance was held at the Lockharts. Minnie Lawless came home from her school She was teaching near Craig Nebraska.

## 1910

Someone 'annexed' Eugene's horse blanket and a new 'Mitchell neckyoke'. No questions asked if returned.

## Lawless Family Events Timeline (cont.)

Much visiting of the Lawless family with neighbors. A home dance was held in October.

Eugene was auctioneer at a box social in November.

Eugenia lost a Jersey heifer from blackleg.

### 1911

Minnie was home for two weeks from her school in Clyde Missouri.

Eugene puts up a \$100 note payable to the Baker Construction Company who was to build a railroad between Omaha and Decatur within a year. If the railroad wasn't built, Eugene would get the \$100 back.

Bessie Lawless was very ill and died on March 28. Minnie was 26, Eugenia was 23, John was 20, and Anna was 18.

Sister M. Anselma (Eileen Lawless, daughter of Eugene's brother Charles) died in June. She had tuberculosis and lived in Missouri.

Sad year.

Eugene has a huge crop of blackberries.

Minnie traveled to Spokane Washington in August to visit relatives before returning to her teaching job in Idaho. Before Minnie left, she and Eugene went to Macy for the pow-wow. (Macy is the headquarters of the Omaha Tribe.)

### 1912

The Lawless family visited frequently this year and had many visitors. Eugenia, John and Anna were at home and served Eugene as family. Frequent guests were Connealys, Lockharts, Sears and others. Visiting happened around Decatur, Lyons, and Tekamah.

It looks like the most fun was had at a dance at the Lawless place in May.

*(NOTE: Not all the newspaper items found for this year are included in the appendix because they are not significant overall.)*

Eugene belonged to a group called "The Order of The Owls". Initials: O.O.O. The organization supported widows and orphans. It was a secret society with over 300,000 members at the time. Wikipedia has this information:

*The Order of Owls is a secret fraternal order founded in 1904 in South Bend, Indiana, USA, by John W. Talbot. According to its literature, the purposes of the society is "to assist each other in business, to help each other in obtaining employment, to assist the widows and orphans of our brothers, to give aid to our brother in any way that they may need, and assemble for mutual pleasure and entertainment." Its "catechism" said "Owls do good, speak kindly, shake hands warmly, and respect and honor their women".*

In September of 1912, Eugene wrote a letter to the editor of the Decatur Herald defending the organization. *(Not included in the appendix.)*

### 1913

Eugene's brother Louis J. Lawless died in Ireland in early January. Louis was a civil engineer.

Eugene went to Port Arthur, Texas in January to be with his brother Charles who was dangerously ill. He took the train from Onawa. Soon after, Charles died. Eugene was probably with him because he signed the death certificate. He accompanied Charles' body back to Nebraska to be buried near Macy. *(See the Charles Lawless Story.)*

Minnie came home in May for her summer vacation. She was teaching school in Cavendish Idaho.

Anna returned from school in Wayne in April. (Spring break?) In June, Anna left for school in Wayne (Nebraska). She probably went to Wayne State College that was established in 1891 as Nebraska Normal College. The focus of the college is on educating teachers. Was Anna thinking of being a teacher like her sister Minnie? Anna returned to Decatur in late July.

Eugene had a dance at his barn in September and again in November.

### 1914

Anna visits Mrs. G. C. Govey near Lyons.

Eugene is acknowledged as a good weather forecaster. He had a weather station at his property.

In July **Oliver Johnson** visited the Lawless Family with several friends. Oliver liked to dance, so had probably been to Lawless barn dances.

# Lawless Family Events Timeline (cont.)

## 1914 (cont.)

In October, **Oliver Johnson** had a wrestling match at the Lawless Barn. Eugene's 'usual' barn dance was postponed to Monday Oct 5. (*How often did they have the dances? Monthly? Only a few of the dances were announced in the paper.*)

The Lawless barn also hosted a basketball game in December.

## 1915

Anna Lawless and Oliver Johnson are married in May at Bancroft Nebraska.

## 1917

Eugene had a dance to benefit the Red Cross. (World War I)

A 'lawless' pig escaped the farm.

## 1918

Eugenia visits Anna in Lyons.

## 1922

Legal proceeding in Pender about a referee sale.

## 1923

Eugene predicts Spring Weather.

Eugene blows things up on Arbor Day.

## 1927

Eugene dies in Omaha.



Holy Cross Catholic Center in Bancroft Nebraska.  
Present day location of Anna & Oliver's marriage.

## 1900 Census, Decatur Township, District 3, Enumeration District 26, June 12, 1900.

Name	Relationship	Sex	Age	Marital Status	Year Born	Place of Birth	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Year Immigrated	Years in U.S.	Citizen
Lawless Eugene	Head	M	32	M	1860	Ireland	Ireland	France	1881	19	No
Elizabeth	Wife	F	43	M	1856	Ireland	Ireland	Ireland			
Mary L.	Daughter	F	14	S	1885	Nebraska	Ireland	Ireland			
Eugenie	Daughter	F	10	S	1889	Nebraska	Ireland	Ireland			
John	Son	M	9	S	1891	Nebraska	Ireland	Ireland			
Anna J.	Daughter	F	6	S	1893	Nebraska	Ireland	Ireland			

**Eugene**, b. 1860, Age 32, M 16 years, born in Ireland. Father born in Ireland, Mother born in France. Owns Farm. Immigrated in 1881, 19 years in the U.S. Not a citizen. **Elizabeth**, b 1856, Age 43, parents both born in Ireland. **Mary L**, b Feb 1885, age 14; **Eugenie**, b June 1889, age 10; **John**, b Feb 1891, age 9; **Anna J**, b Sept 1893, age 6.

## 1910 Census, Decatur Township, District 3, Enumeration District 25, May 3, 1910.

Name	Relationship	Sex	Age	Marital Status	Year Born	Place of Birth
Lawless Eugene W	Head	M	49	M	1860	Ireland
Elizabeth	Wife	F	52	M	1856	Ireland
Marie Louise	Daughter	F	29	S	1880	Ireland
Eugenie E	Daughter	F	20	S	1889	Ireland
John D.	Son	M	19	S	1891	Ireland
Anna J.	Daughter	F	16	S	1893	Ireland

**Eugene**, age 49, 26 years married, immigrated in 1880, not a citizen, owns the farm with a mortgage. **Elizabeth**, age 52, immigrated in 1884. **Marie Louise**, age 29, teacher in public school; **Eugenie E.**, age 20; **John D.**, age 19; **Anna J**, age 16. All children are single.

# Lawless Family Events Timeline (cont.)

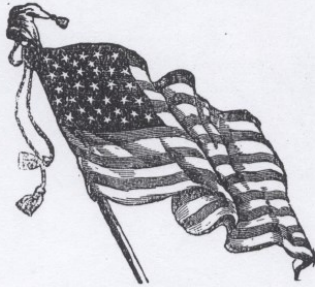
1920 Census, Decatur Township, District 193, Enumeration District 27, March 15&16, 1920.

10	Lawless Eugene	Head	W	W	59	1880	1900	400	400
	John	Son	W	W	27			400	400

**Eugene**, age 59, immigrated 1880, naturalized 1900, farmer, owns farm and has stock. Eugene's mother spoke French. **John**, Age 27, single. Farmer, has stock.

Eugene became a naturalized citizen On September 25, 1906.

United States of America.



THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, BURT COUNTY, SS.

Family name <b>LAWLESS</b>	Given name or names <b>EUGENE</b>
Address	
N. I. Certificate no. (or vol. and page)	NEBRASKA Title and location of court
N. I. Country of birth or allegiance	DIST. C T. BURT CO. Where born (or age)
ENGLAND Date and port of arrival in U. S.	N. I. Date of naturalization
N. I. Name and address of witnesses	Sept. 25, 1906
Emmett I. Ellis	
F. W. Palen	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form N-35 (Old 1-17) 16-17302	

To all people to whom these presence shall come. Greeting.

**Know ye,** THAT at a regular Term of the District Court holden within and for the County of Burt, in the Fourth Judicial District of the State of Nebraska, at Tekamah, in said County and State on the 25th day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and six

Eugene Lawless  
of Decatur Burt County in said State, having produced the evidence, and taken and subscribed the oath required by law, and the affidavits required by Act of Congress entitled "An act to regulate the immigration of Aliens into the United States," approved March 3, 1903, having been duly made and recorded, was admitted to become a citizen of the United States, according to the Act of Congress in such case made and provided.

^^ Part of Ireland was part of the United Kingdom between 1801 and 1923. That is possibly why his birthplace as noted as England.

<= This record is from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. It was issued by the State of Nebraska.



In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and affixed the seal of said Court, at Tekamah aforesaid, this 25th day of September A. D., 1906, and in the 131 year of Independence of the United States of America.

G. A. Ireland  
Clerk.

# Lawless Children

## Eugene and Bessie Lawless Children

- **Marie (Mary, “Minnie”) Louise Lawless** b. 5 Feb 1885, d. 28 Mar 1972 in Everett Washington
- **Eugenia/e Lawless** b. 6 Jun 1888, d 17 Dec 1982 in Sioux City Iowa.
- **John DeCourcy Lawless** b. 21 Feb 1891, d 18 Nov 1956 in Macy, Thurston County NE
- **Anna/Anne Josephine Lawless** b. 30 Sep 1893, d 8 Aug 1975 in Miller SD



**Lawless Family House.** Likely taken after 1910.



John, Anna, Eugenia

### NAMES:

Minnie was named for Marie Louise VanLaer, Eugene’s mother. Bessie’s younger sister was also called Minnie.

Eugenia/e was named after Eugene. Her name appears as Eugenia in many newspaper articles and Eugenie is on her tombstone. She was called Aunt Gene by her nieces and nephews.

John DeCourcy was named for Eugene’s father and Mathew DeCourcy’s father. His middle name is Bessie’s maiden name.

Anna (Anne) Josephine. When she was young she was known as Anna, later as Anne. Bessie’s Godmother was Anne DeCourcy.

Bessie’s siblings names were: John, Anne (Anna in another reference), Minnie and Mary.



1913—LtoR: Eugenia Lawless, unknown, Anne/a Lawless, John Lawless, Nell Connealy. Nell and Anna were lifelong friends and lived near each other when they were young. They visited frequently.

Eugenia Lawless saved family pictures and letters. Anna saved letters. Some of the other family pictures were taken by Victor Johnson. Thank you ancestors!

Victor Johnson left a note about Bessie DeCourcy: She said “*never marry a farmer or go to America*”.



## Elizabeth "Bessie" DeCourcy Lawless

Oct 6, 1857—March 28, 1911

The\_Decatur\_Herald\_Thu\_Apr\_6\_1911

### Elizabeth Lawless

Elizabeth De Courcy was born in County Clare, Ireland, Oct. 6, 1857 and died at her home west of town March, 28, 1911, being 53 years, 5 months and 21 days of age.

As announced last week she died from cirrhosis of the liver contributory to fibroid tumor, from which she has been ill for nearly two years. All that medical aid could do to relieve her suffering had been cheerfully furnished but to no avail and she gradually wasted away until that sweet rest came and relieved her of her intense suffering.

Deceased spent her early life in home in Ireland, where she belonged to one of the best families. She was married to her life partner, Mr. E. W. Lawless in St. Marlborough's Cathedral, in Dublin, Feb. 26, 1884, at once embarking for America where the groom already had a snug little home awaiting her on the prairie west of town and where they have since resided and reared their children. Minnie, the eldest, Eugenia, John and Anna, all who survive her.

Mrs. Lawless was highly respected by all who knew her for her sweet, lovable disposition and her untiring devotion to her family and the cause of suffering humanity never appealed in vain to her.

The writer is not capable of properly penning her obituary as it should read but we take pleasure in publishing a brief sketch from the husband of deceased which tells its own story better than we can do so:

THAN WE CAN DO SO:

Decatur Herald.

Dear Sir:—

Through the channels of your neat and trim little paper I wish to convey my sincerest gratitude to one and all of those who participated in the laying away of my dear departed wife and more especially to the ones who by their kind acts and tokens of love made her last few days and dying moments more holy and easy.

What a treasure we have lost the full value of which can only be estimated by myself. When I look back upon those early days when we started out hand in hand to help open up this prairie country when comforts were few and far between, and she who had been brought up in the lap of luxury from childhood and without any knowledge of farm life whatever and I, little more, our mode of living can be better imagined than described. It is only such as one who would start out on such a troubled sea. But the secret lays in a nutshell—love, pure and holy love for me, the amount of which I was never able to return in full. No love, no happiness, no happiness, no home.

In our 27 years of happy union no matter what went wrong she never uttered a cross word. I only wish I could say the same which makes me feel her loss more keenly. No wonder she was loved and respected by all. A more loving, care-taking mother of children never lived. And now that the girls have grown up big enough to be able to discharge the household duties so that she could enjoy a few more comforts of life the good Lord has ordained it otherwise and taken her into His household, there to enjoy the fruits of her labors. Eternal peace and happiness. We are selfish to mourn her loss.

And now before I close I wish also to thank all the merchants and business men in general for the respect shown to us in suspending business during funeral obsequies.

## **Elizabeth “Bessie” DeCourcy Lawless** **Oct 6, 1857—March 28, 1911**

*(Transcript of Bessie DeCourcy Obituary)*

### **Elizabeth Lawless**

Elizabeth De Courcy was born in County Clare, Ireland, Oct 6, 1857<sup>1</sup> and died at her home west of town March 28, 1911, being 53 years, 5 months and 21 days of age.

As announced last week she died from cirrhosis of the liver contributory to fibroid tumor, from which she has been ill for nearly two years. All that medical aid could do to relieve her summering had been cheerfully furnished but to no avail and she gradually wasted away until that sweet rest came and relieved her of her intense suffering.

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In our 27 years of happy union no matter what went wrong she never uttered a cross word. I only wish I could say the same which makes me feel her loss more keenly. No wonder she was loved and respected by all. A more loving, carestaking mother of children never lived. And now that the girls have grown up big enough to be able to discharge the household duties so that she could enjoy a few more comforts of life the good Lord has ordained it otherwise and taken her into His household, there to enjoy the fruits of her labors. Eternal peace and happiness. We are selfish to mourn her loss.

And now before I close I wish also to thank all the merchants and business men in general for the respect shown to us in suspending business during funeral obsequies.

#### NOTES:

1-Elizabeth was baptized Nov 2, 1851, so the birth year age at death in this article are not correct. (See baptismal record, p. 9)

2-This article says Bessie and EW were married at St. Marlborough’s Cathedral in Dublin. They were married at St. Mary’s Pro Cathedral on Marlborough St. in Dublin.

# Eugene William Lawless

The Decatur Herald Thu Dec 15 1927

**JEAN LAWLESS IS DEAD**

Eugene Lawless died last Friday morning at St Joseph's Hospital in Omaha where he had been for the past three weeks under treatment for Brights disease.

His remains were brought to Decatur for internment and the funeral was held at the Catholic church in Decatur Monday afternoon.

Deceased was a deep student of the science of meterology, and was known as quite a local weather man and his weather predictions attracted attention and were given great credence. His home was supplied with an elaborate equipment of weather observatory implements. His scientific opinions and prophetic voice, now stilled in death, will be greatly missed. He had a large circle of acquaintences and many close friends.

He was 67 years old and has resided at his late home since 1880, in which year he emigrated from Irland.

There are four children surviving Mr Lawless: Mrs Tom Byram, Roseberg Ore., Mrs Oliver Johnson, Miller S D ; Miss Eugenia Lawless, Sioux City, Ia; and John Lawless, Decatur.

Eugena Lawlss of Sioux City and Oliver Johnson of Miller, S D, daughter and son-in-law of deceased, were present at the obseuques.

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**CARD OF THANKS**

We desire to thank the many neighbors and kind friends for their generous assistance and comforting consolation during the last sad rites over the remains of our beloved father.

The Eugene Lawless Children.

## Eugene Lawless Obituary

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He was 67 years old and has resided at this late home since 1880, in which year he emigrated from Irland (*sic*).

There are four children surviving Mr. Lawless: Mrs. Tom Byram, Roseberg Ore.; Mrs. Oliver Johnson, Miller S.D.; Miss Eugenia Lawless, Souix City Ia; and John Lawless Decatur.

Eugenia Lawless of Sioux City and Oliver Johnson of Miller, S D, daughter and son-in-law of deceased, were present at the obsequies.

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We desire to thank the many neighbors and kind friends for their generous assistance and comforting consolation during the last sad rites over the remains of our beloved father.

The Eugene Lawless Children.

The Decatur Herald Thu  
Nov 19 1908

E. W. LAWLESS,  
AUCTIONEER.  
Phone Q 39. Decatur, Nebr.

EW30yrsPast Decatur Advertiser  
Thu Dec 5 1957

larger than Decatur  
The funeral services for Eugene Lawless, who passed away in Omaha, were held at 11 o'clock Monday morning. A large number of old friends gathered to pay tribute to their late friend and neighbor. Mr. Lawless was an old settler in Decatur and was known by almost everyone.

## Eugene William Lawless and Elizabeth DeCourcy Burial, Burt County Nebraska

### Holy Family Cemetery, Burt County Nebraska

The image to the right is the Eugene and Elizabeth (Bessie) Lawless gravestone. It is located in the Holy Family Cemetery on the north-east corner of the property they owned in Burt County near Decatur. Several other members of the family are buried there as well. The image below shows the cemetery looking to the west.



Elizabeth  
Wife  
1852-1911  
Eugene W  
1860-1927



### Holy Family Cemetery Land Transfer

On February 20, 1923, Eugene W. Lawless transferred about an acre of land to Jeremiah J. Harty, Archbishop of Omaha. This land became the Holy Family Cemetery.

<p>Eugene W. Lawless</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TO</p> <p>Jeremiah J. Harty, Archbishop of Omaha,</p>	} Warranty Deed	<p style="text-align: center;">STATE OF NEBRASKA,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Burt County, } ss. Entered in Numerical Index</p> <p>and filed for record in the County Clerk's office of</p> <p>said County, the 20 day of Febr. 1923,</p> <p>at 4 o'clock and - minutes, P.M., and recorded in Book 25</p> <p>page 163 of Deeds.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C. L. Holland County Clerk, Register of Deeds, Deputy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">By</p>
<p><b>Know All Men by These Presents:</b></p>		
<p>That I, Eugene W. Lawless, widower,</p>		
<p>of the County of Thurston and State of Nebraska for and in consideration of the sum of</p>		
<p>One no/100 DOLLARS,</p>		
<p>in hand paid, do hereby grant, bargain, sell, convey and confirm unto Jeremiah J. Harty, Archbishop of Omaha,</p>		
<p>of the County of Douglas and State of Nebraska the following described real estate situated</p>		
<p>as in Burt County and State of Nebraska to wit:</p>		
<p>A certain tract and parcel of land located in the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of Section four Township twenty three north of Range ten, East of the Sixth P.M. more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Commencing at a point 33 feet south of the north east corner of the south west quarter of said Section four on the half section line, and running thence west parallel to the north line of said southwest quarter a distance of 228 feet; thence south at right angles to the north line of said southwest quarter a distance of 267 feet; thence east parallel to the north line of said southwest quarter to the east line of said southwest quarter a distance of 223-8/10 feet; thence north a distance of 266-8/10 feet to the point of beginning:</p>		

Jeremiah Harty died in October of 1927 and the property passed to the next Archbishop, Joseph T Rummel.

### NOTES:

A note says that Elizabeth was at “the grove” on the farm. She was buried in what is now The Holy Family Cemetery that was transferred to the Archbishop in 1923. It is possible that this area was called the grove at the time of her death.

The gravestone in the Holy Family Cemetery has a footstone that says “Mother”. The stone could be a memorial rather than a marker of the actual grave site.

Eugene may or may not have been buried at the Holy Family Cemetery. He died in Omaha but could have been transported back to his home place for burial. His name was added to the gravestone much later. There are color photos of the stone without Eugene’s name as well as a photo with his name on the stone.

## Matthew Hare DeCourcy—Father of Elizabeth DeCourcy

Matthew Hare De Courcy was born in 1802 and died on December 28, 1865 in Limerick, Ireland. Matthew's parents were John de Courcy and Ellen Hare. John's birth date is unknown and he died in 1848. Ellen also died in 1848. Matthew was their first child.

Matthew Hare de Courcy, was Limerick Sub-Sheriff and City Treasurer. He lived in Shannon Ville, Ennis Rd, Limerick. He married Maria Ann Humphreys.

Bessie was born 1851, so she was 16 when he died.



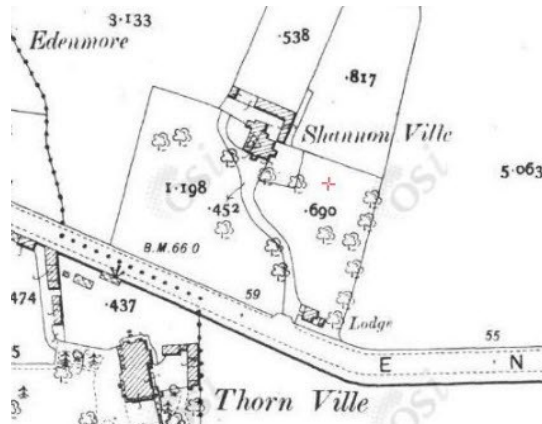
Mathew John DeCourcy  
Son of Mathew Hare DeCourcy,  
Brother to Elizabeth

**Mathew Hare DeCourcy**  
1802-1865 • G9FV-ND4  
Marriage: about 1841

**Maria Ann Humphrys**  
1813-1872 • G9FV-CHJ

Children

- Matthew John deCourcy**  
1842-Deceased • 9485-NJ4
- Thomas H DeCourcy**  
1844-1901 • G8SG-WWB
- Mary Hare DeCourcy**  
1846-Deceased • G8SG-QJ6
- Wyndham DeCourcy**  
1848-Deceased • G8SG-QJJ
- John Hare DeCourcy**  
1850-1917 • G8SG-Q3X
- Elizabeth DeCourcy** ←
- Anne DeCourcy**  
1853-Deceased • K8RH-M1T
- Maggie 'Muddie' DeCourcy**  
1854-1860 • G8SL-1WR
- Minnie DeCourcy**  
1856-1909 • G8SG-WHN
- Nellie DeCourcy**  
1857-1862 • G8SL-Y2L
- Thomas DeCourcy**  
1858-Deceased • G8SL-YLK



**DEATHS.**  
On this morning, at his residence, Shannon Ville, Matthew H. De Courcy, Esq., Sub-Sheriff and City Treasurer. His remains will be interred in the new cemetery, Mount St. Laurence, at one o'clock on Saturday.

De Courcy graves,



Will Probate in Limerick, Ireland, 16 December 1866.

Source: FamilySearch.org

### NOTES

Maria Humphreys lived at "Castle Comfort" with her uncle who was a priest.

Matthew also lived at 11 St Alphonsus Place and 32 Henry Street in Limerick.

The house is very close to the St. Alphonsus Church (Now called the Redemptorist Catholic Church.)

Family Motto: "Truth Conquers All". In Irish: "Tougours Prest"

Crest: Double headed eagle.

### DE COURCY Matthew Hare.

[290] Effects unadministered under £120.

16 December.

Letters of Administration of the personal estate of Matthew Hare De Courcy late of Shannonville County Limerick Esquire deceased who died 28 December 1865 at same place (left unadministered by Maria De Courcy the Widow) were granted at the Principal Registry to Matthew De Courcy of George's-street Limerick and John DeCourcy of Shannonville Equires the Sons of said deceased. (Former Grant 1866 folio 188.)

Much of this information is found at: <https://humphrysfamilytree.com/OMara/deCourcy.html>

## Background and Other Interesting Information

**Garryowen** is a neighborhood in Limerick, Ireland. The word Garryowen is a transliteration of the Irish Garraí Eoin - "the garden of Owen" - and relates to the association in the 12th century between St John's Church and the Knights Templar whose house in Limerick was dedicated to John the Baptist. In medieval times Garryowen was located just outside the Irishtown area of the walled city of Limerick. The citadel (located in the grounds of St. John's Hospital) was the Irishtown's main fortification. A jig and song by the name of Garryowen has been used as a marching song by military in Australia, Canada, Britain, and the United States. It was also a drinking song. (See Wikipedia)

### Lawless Family Origins

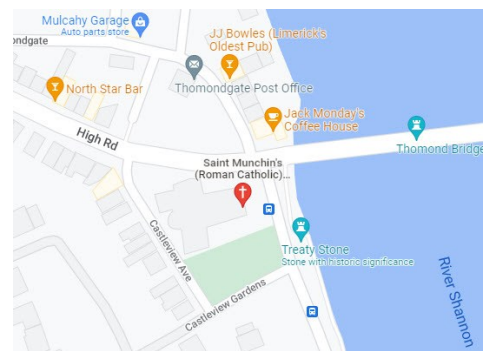
Though the surname Lawless is formed from the old English word Laghles meaning an outlaw, it may, as far as Ireland is concerned, be regarded as falling in the Anglo-Norman category. Following the invasion in 1172, the name Laghles, Laules, Lawles appears frequently in medieval records up to the end of the 16th century throughout Leinster and Munster, particularly in Co. Kilkenny, and in due course they became one of the "Ten Tribes of Kilkenny" In the 13th century several of the names were prominent at New Ross and other places in County Wexford. The family was linked with Ballycorus as early as the 13th century.

### DeCourcy family origins

Many family names can be traced back to a country of origin looking back just a few generations. The DeCourcy name however has documented roots that go way, way back through Ireland, England, Normandy and eventually to the Carolingian Kings of France. The name itself dates to 925 A.D., just a few generations after Charlemagne consolidated an empire which enveloped most of Europe. The village of Courcy in the Champagne area of France near Reims was the location of a royal birth – the third son of then King Charles III. The newborn was named Charles of Courcy (DeCourcy). His elder brother would inherit the crown as King Louis IV, but Charles and his descendents were royalty, attendees at court, and contenders for the crown. There were a number of individuals in the DeCourcy line that made their mark on history and continued the heritage and family reputation. In 1066, William the Conqueror successfully invaded England with a group of royal Norman knights which included Richard DeCourcy, then established in Courcy-sur-Dives, a few miles from Duke William's base in Falaise, Normandy. Shortly thereafter, the family was rewarded with vast lands in Somerset, England – referred to as Stoke Courcy. *(For more of the story: <https://www.decourcy.net/history/>)*



**De Courcy**



Saint Munchin's Roman Catholic Church in Limerick on the River Shannon today. This building was built in 1920-21. It replaced a church that was built in 1744. De Courcy children were baptized in this parish.

For more: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/21507003/saint-munchins-roman-catholic-church-clancys-strand-high-road-limerick-limerick-city>

<https://limerickslife.com/st-munchins-church-r-c/>

## Background and Other Interesting Information (cont.)

This book: "Genealogy of Irish Families" By John Rooney has information about the DeCourcy family. The complete 776 page book can be downloaded from: <https://archive.org/details/genealogicalhist00roon/page/n7/mode/2up>

A few items from the book:

- The Lawless name is not listed. Nor is the earlier Laighles
- The name De Courcy is of Norman origin. DeCourcy references are in the index.
- The motto of our DeCourcys is Tojours Prest (Gaelic), Truth conquers all things.

This is another reference: <https://www.houseofnames.com/decourcy-family-crest>

It has a different motto. Similar to the above: *Vincit omnia veritas*. Latin - Which also means *Truth Conquers All*. The crest with the motto is found in the book on p. 189.



*This is described as a demi-man in armor. It looks more like a leopard or some kind of cat.*

The following is transcribed from a typewritten paper in Victor Johnson's family documents:

**(National) Geographic Magazine, March 1927**

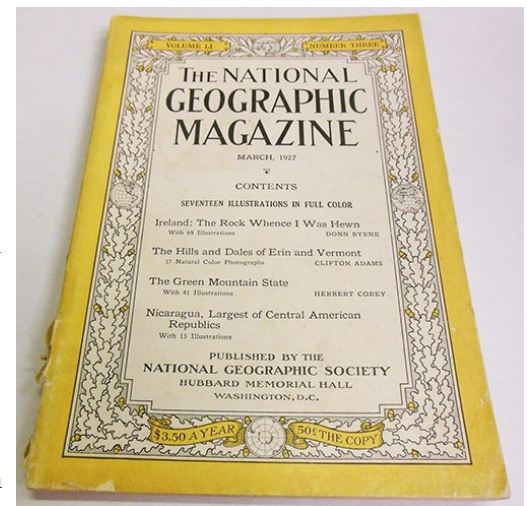
**Article title: "Ireland: The Rock Whence I was Hewn", by Donn Byrne. With 69 illustrations.**

The article discusses the distribution of land to Norman knights in Ireland, mentioning the deBurgo family in Connaught, deCourcy in Ulster, and deLacy in the south.

The deCourcy ancestors are mentioned in many books on Ireland.

Almericus deCourcy, the original ancestor, came to Britain with the Normans in 1066 and is said to be buried in Westminster Abbey.

The family crest is described as a demi-man in armor, the Latin motto is "Vincit veritas omnia," which translates to "Truth conquers all."



References with the article:

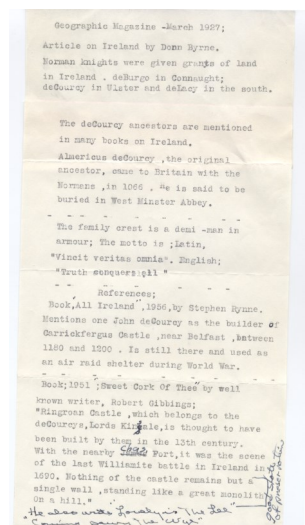
- "All Ireland" (1956) by Stephen Rynne, which mentions John deCourcy as the builder of Carrickfergus Castle near Belfast between 1180 and 1200. It is still there and used as an air raid shelter during World War (II)

- "Sweet Cork of Thee" (Book, 1951) by Robert Gibbings, which references "Ringroan Castle, belonging to the deCourcy family, Lords of Kinsale. It is thought to have been built by them in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. With the nearby Chas Fort it was the scene of the last Williamite battle in Ireland in 1690. Nothing of the castle remains but a single wall, standing like a great monolith on a hill." (in a good state of preservation.)

Donn Byrne also writes "Lovely is the Lee" and "Coming Down the Wye"

About Donn Byrne:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian\\_Oswald\\_Donn-Byrne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian_Oswald_Donn-Byrne)



# References

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46489105/eugene-william-lawless>

Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46489154/eugenie-lawless> : accessed 24 April 2022), memorial page for **Eugenie Lawless** (6 Jun 1889–17 Dec 1982), Find a Grave Memorial ID 46489154, citing Holy Family Cemetery, Decatur, Burt County, Nebraska, USA.

Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/88355032/marie-louise-byram> : accessed 24 April 2022), memorial page for **Marie Louise “Minnie” Lawless Byram** (5 Feb 1885–28 Mar 1972), Find a Grave Memorial ID 88355032, citing Marysville Cemetery, Marysville, Snohomish County, Washington, USA.

Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/72830623/thomas-pierson-byram> : accessed 24 April 2022), memorial page for **Thomas Pierson Byram** (1 Jun 1886–26 Apr 1930), Find a Grave Memorial ID 72830623, citing Hillcrest Cemetery, Decatur, Burt County, Nebraska, USA.

Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/93004935/anne-josephine-johnson> : accessed 24 April 2022), memorial page for **Anne Josephine Lawless Johnson** (30 Sep 1892–8 Aug 1975), Find a Grave Memorial ID 93004935, citing Saint Ann's Cemetery, Miller, Hand County, South Dakota, USA.

*That Rascal Pat* play that Eugene was in at the Connealy School House. He played the part of Major Puff Jacket. The script of the entire play can be downloaded from: <https://ia800205.us.archive.org/14/items/thatascalpat00grov/thatascalpat00grov.pdf>

**The Lyons Mirror-Sun** covers local news in Lyons, Decatur and the surrounding communities of Burt County, Nebraska. The newspaper began with the founding of the Lyons Sun (1907) and the Logan Valley Mirror (1884). The newspapers merged as the Mirror-Sun in 1917. <https://mondotimes.com/1/world/us/27/8124/23081>. Other papers: **Decatur Herald**, **Decatur Advertiser**, **Pender Republic**.

**The Order of the Owls.** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order\\_of\\_Owls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_Owls). Eugene was a member.

**Wayne State College** (Nebraska State Normal College). Est. 1891. [https://www.wsc.edu/info/20011/about/89/history\\_of\\_wayne\\_state\\_college/2](https://www.wsc.edu/info/20011/about/89/history_of_wayne_state_college/2)

**Garryown** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garryowen,\\_Limerick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garryowen,_Limerick); [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garryowen\\_\(air\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garryowen_(air))

**Lawless Family Origins**—<https://scionblueprint.com/lawless/>  
**DeCourcy Family Origins**—<https://www.decourcy.net/history/>

**"Nebraska, Naturalization Records, 1855-1989"**, database, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:CMQT-5WMM> : 3 February 2022), **Eugene Lawless**, 1906.

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