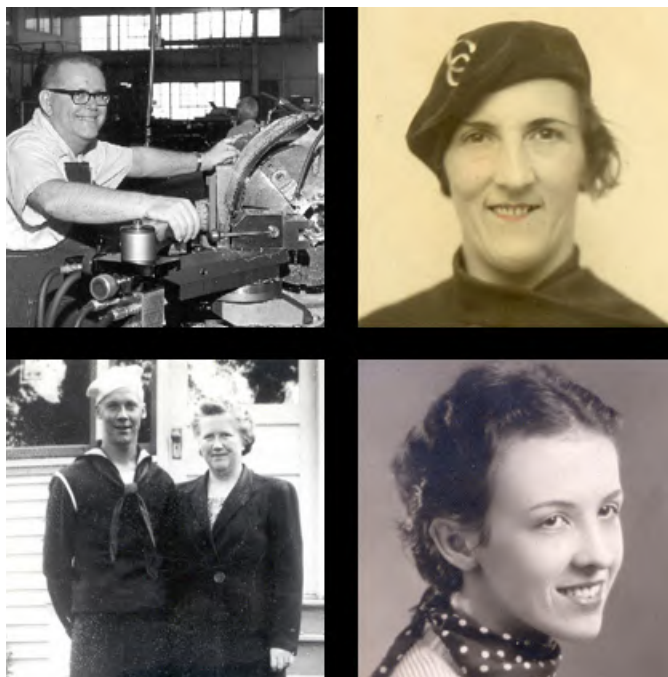


# Johnson-Moseley Family History



**Second Edition - September 2014**  
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# Chapter

# 1

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## Introduction

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Keyword tags: Ancestry.com, Family Tree Maker

This book contains genealogy information about the Johnson-Moseley family, and my personal remembrances of the ancestors I knew best.

The text is drawn either from my own remembrances or from information I found researching my family history. I have been doing the research on and off for over 20 years. Here I have tried to only use information from trusted sources, such as birth certificates and census records. The further I looked back in time, the harder it got to find such sources. I have been fortunate to find records from England and Alsace in France that allow me to trace ancestors from there back to near the year 1800.

I have recorded genealogy data about the Johnson-Moseley family using the Windows Family Tree Maker application. Detailed genealogical information about the Johnson-Moseley family, which is probably more current than what appears here, is contained in the Johnson-Moseley Family Tree file in Family Tree Maker and on the Ancestry.com web site. Additional information is referenced in [For More Information](#) on page 69.

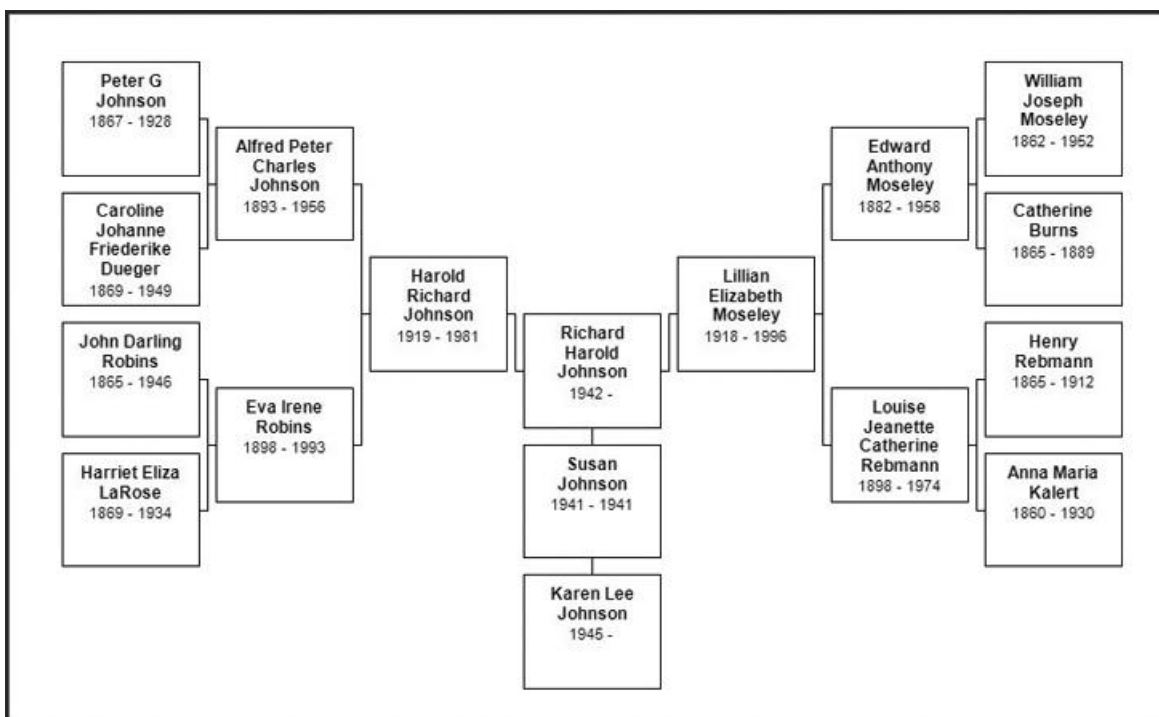
This is the second edition of *Johnson-Moseley Family History*. In this book the former *Johnson-Robins Family History* and *Moseley-Rebmann Family History* have been combined into a single document.

There are over 900 people in my Ancestry.com family tree and I have not written here about all of them. Who would want to read that anyway? Here you will find information drawn from my own experience and interesting stories I have uncovered about a few individuals.

I hope my descendants, and other friends and family, enjoy reading these stories.

### **Introducing the Johnson-Moseley family**

The graphical image below shows my ancestors going back three generations so you can see how some of the ancestors I mention later are related to me.



**Figure 1: The Johnson-Moseley family tree**

This chart shows that my parents were Lillian Moseley and Harold Johnson. My four grandparents were:

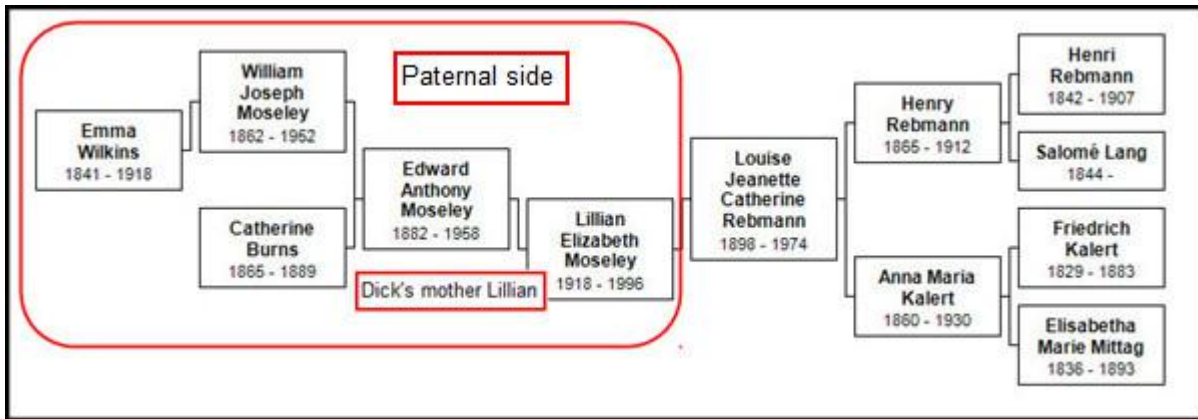
- Alfred Johnson and Eva Robins Johnson
- Edward Moseley and Louise Rebmann Moseley

## The Moseleys



### Family information

The Moseleys (Mosley, Moseley) are Dick's mother's paternal ancestors.



### Ancestor surnames

- Burns
- Glover
- Moseley, Mosely, Mosley
- Wilkins

### Emigration

The Moseleys are of English and Irish extraction. William Moseley was born in **Birmingham, England**. The Burns family probably lived in **Ireland** until about 1870.





### Immigration

Both families settled in New York State, in the Auburn area. William Moseley arrived in the USA in 1879, and lived his whole life in **Auburn, NY**.



### More photos

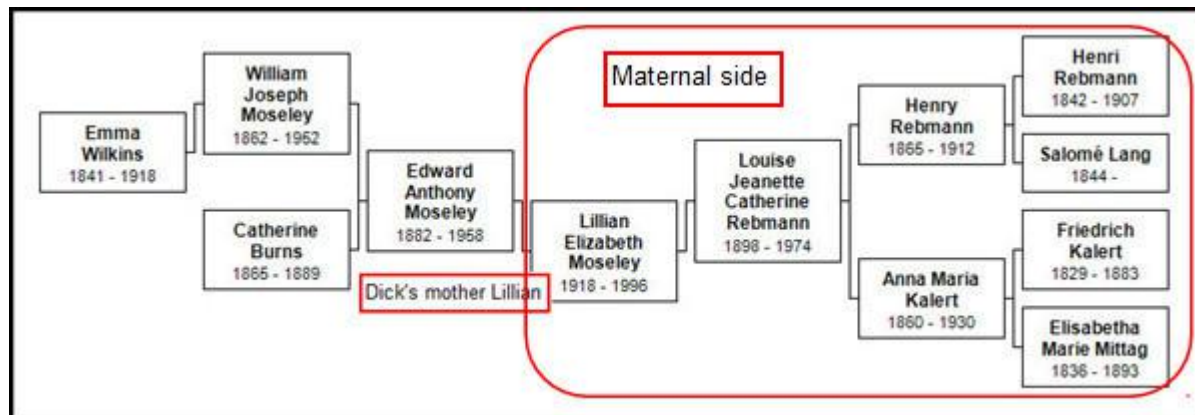


## The Rebmanns



### Family information

The Rebmanns are Dick's mother's maternal ancestors.



### Ancestor surnames

- Guttman
- Kalert
- Lang
- Lehe
- Mittag
- Rebmann
- Wilhack

### Emigration

The Rebmanns originated in **Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France** near the Rhine river and the German border. Dick's grandmother's father, Henry Rebmann, was born in Gundershoffen, just south of Niederbronn. Henry's mother, Salome Lang, was born in Hatten, just east of Niederbronn. All these towns are about 30 miles north of Strasbourg. Heinrich (Henry) Rebmann left Niederbronn in the late 1880s to live in Buffalo, NY. His sister Salome came to the US and lived in San Francisco. His sister Carolina moved to Ohio. Brother Peter also moved to Buffalo and was living there as late as 1940.



The Kalerts were also of German extraction, and the family lived in **Geinsheim**, which is now in Rhineland-Pfalz, but was part of Bavaria in the 19th century. Dick's great-grandaunt, Elisabetha Kalert, was born there in 1856. The Kalert family emigrated to the US in 1857 via New Orleans.



### Immigration

Most of the Rebmanns came to the United States. Henry arrived in the USA in 1886 on a ship that left Europe from La Havre. Heinrich and his brother Peter both lived in **Buffalo, NY**. Henry's sisters moved from Niederbronn to Ohio (Karoline or Carrie) and San Francisco (Salomea or Sally). This mass exodus may have been the result of Alsace-Lorraine falling into Prussian hands in 1871.



George Friedrich Kalert came to **St Louis** between 1856 and 1860. Dick's great-grandmother, Anna Maria, was born in St Louis in 1860, and at some point she moved to Buffalo. The other Kalerts apparently stayed in the St Louis area just across the border in Freeburg, Illinois.



Heinrich Rebmann and Anna Maria Kalert were married in Buffalo, NY, in 1890.

### More photos

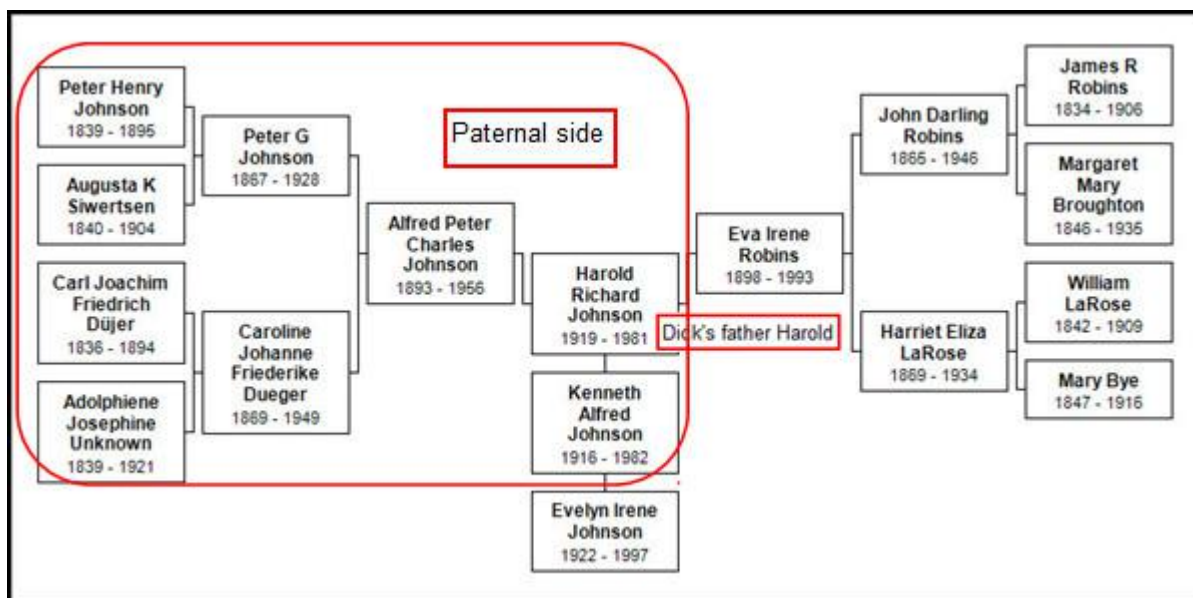


## The Johnsons



### Family information

The Johnsons are Dick's father's paternal ancestors.



### Ancestor surnames

- Dueger (Düjer)
- Johnson
- Siwertsen
- Thursam
- Pullen

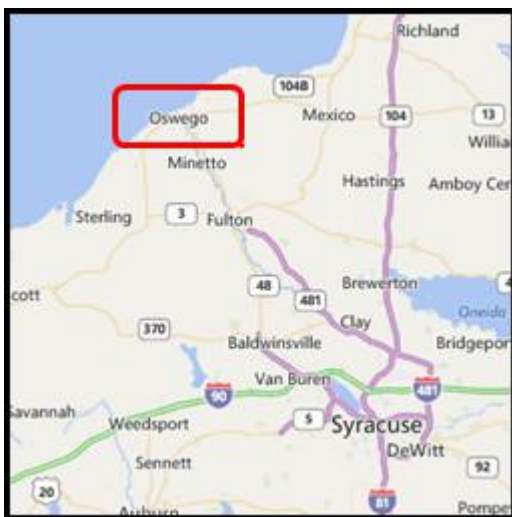
### Emigration

The Johnsons are of either Danish or German (Prussian) origin. They may be from the **Jutland Peninsula**, which is now the province of Schleswig-Holstein in Germany. It is likely they changed their surname to Johnson when they emigrated to the USA. The surname Johnson was being used as far back as 1865.



### Immigration

The Johnsons probably came to the United States through Canada. In the 1860s, they were living in **Oswego, NY**, and they moved to the **Tonawandas (Buffalo area)** by 1870.



**More photos**

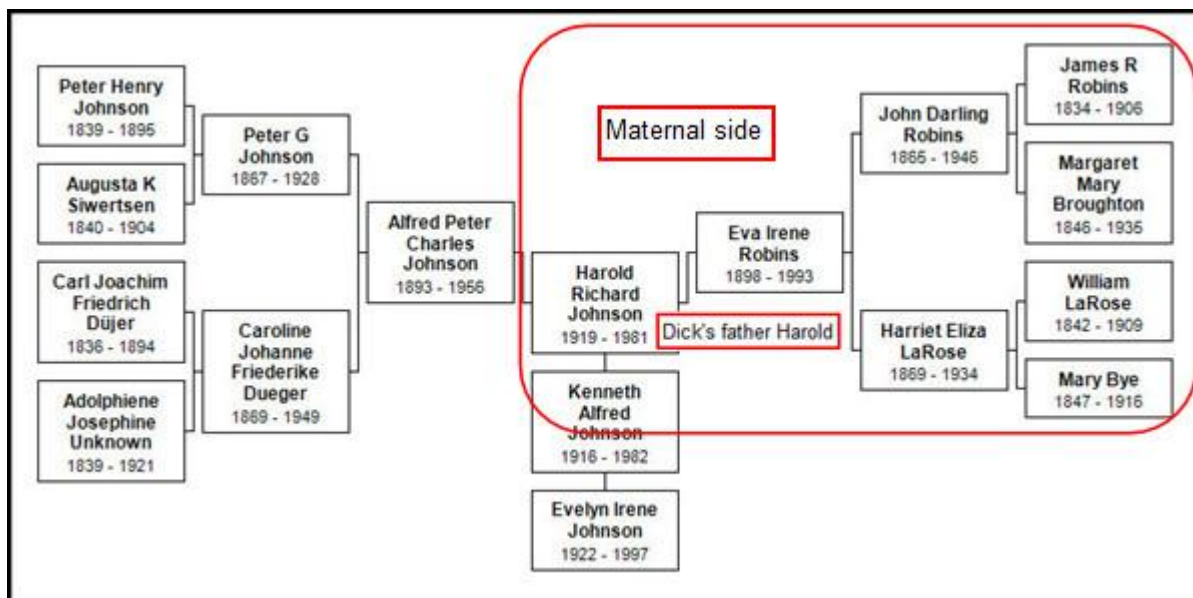


**The Robins**



**Family information**

The Robins are Dick's father's maternal ancestors.



### Ancestor surnames

- Brock
- Broughton
- Bye
- Coglin
- Hillman
- LaRose
- Poore
- Robins
- Wiley

### Emigration

Dick's oldest known Robins ancestors were born in **Ontario, Canada**. In Ontario they lived in farming communities near Windham and Springfield, Ontario. The family was probably originally from England.



### Immigration

The Robins family lived in Ontario, Canada as far back as the early 1800s. By the early 1900s they moved back and forth between Ontario and New York State several times and eventually settled in the **Buffalo area**.



More photos



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# Chapter 2

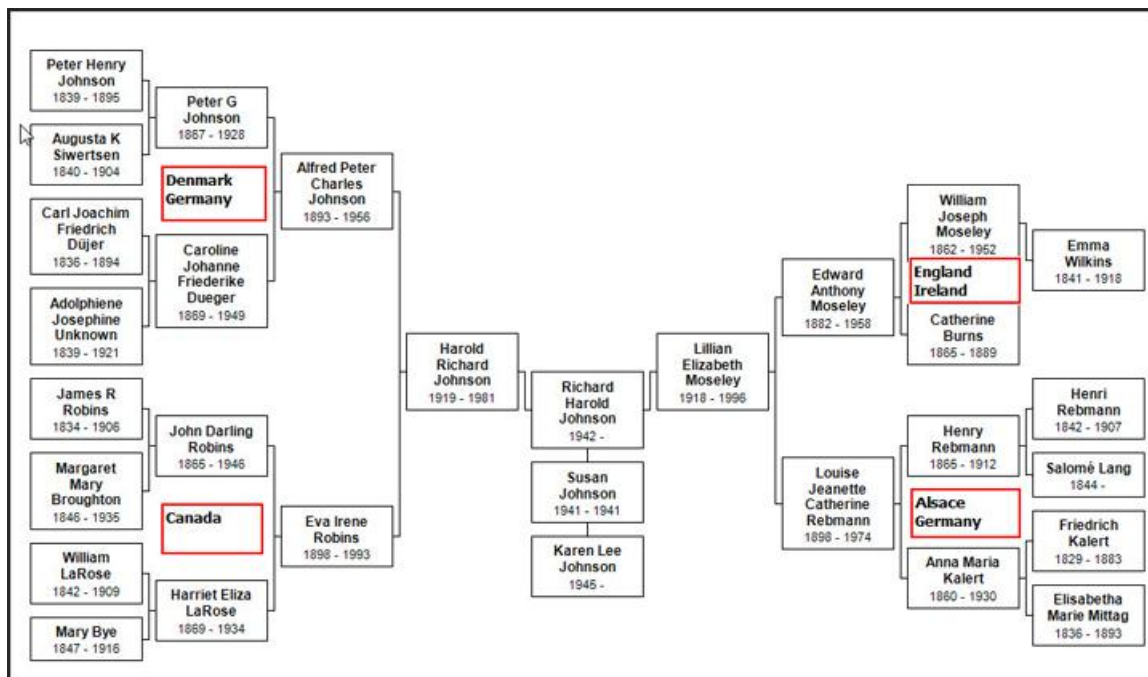
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## Immigrant Ancestors

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Keyword tags: ancestors, Ancestry.com, Family Tree Maker, immigration

All the Johnson-Moseley ancestors were immigrants that came to the United States in the 19th century. By the time I was born, they or their descendants were living in New York State near Buffalo or Auburn. They came from Canada, England, Ireland and Western Europe. They came to the United States for different reasons, and I can't say I know why any of them came for sure. Here is a picture that shows relationships between my ancestors and myself and also tells where they or their parents immigrated from.



**Figure 2: Ancestor nationality**

For my European ancestors, the next map shows in more detail when and where the first person in my ancestral family emigrated. Most of them came to the United States and a few came to Ontario, Canada.



**Figure 3: Where the ancestors came from in Europe**

In the 19th century some of my ancestors lived in Canada, including the Robins, LaRoses and Byes. Of course they had origins in Europe as well, going further back. I know the Byes came from Hampshire, England in 1836. Later on their descendants (my ancestors) moved to the area around Buffalo, New York.




**Figure 4: Where the ancestors came from in Canada**

The area in Southern Ontario near Waterford and Charlottsville was particularly important. It consists of many small farms. The Byes and Robins farmed there for many years. In the same area the LaRoses ran small businesses. If you look at the map you can see it is quite close to Buffalo and there was frequent traffic back and forth.

Here is a table that summarizes the migrations shown on the maps.

| Name              | Year | Emmigrated from                            | Immigrated to                   |
|-------------------|------|--|---------------------------------|
| James Bye         | 1836 | Sherbourne, Hampshire, England             | Ontario, Canada                 |
| Friederich Kalert | 1857 | Geinsheim, Germany, Bavaria, Germany       | St. Louis, Missouri             |
| Augusta Siwertsen | 1861 | Husum, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany         | Oswego, New York, USA           |
| Peter Johnson     | 1862 | Denmark                                    | Oswego, New York, USA           |
| Caroline Dueger   | 1869 | Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany              | Buffalo, New York, USA          |
| William Moseley   | 1880 | Birmingham, England, Warwickshire, England | Auburn, New York, New York, USA |
| Catherine Burns   | 1881 | Ireland                                    | Auburn, New York, New York, USA |
| Henry Rebmann     | 1888 | Nieberbronn, Alsace-Lorraine, Germany      | Buffalo, New York, USA          |

You may ask yourself, why did they immigrate to Buffalo, New York? In the late 19th century, the state of New York, and Buffalo in particular, were prosperous places. They were part of the economic core region of the US that had grown rapidly because of the opening of the Erie Canal, the building of major railway lines, and the rapid industrialization in the North during the Civil War. Buffalo was the second largest city in the state of New York. Tonawanda, near Buffalo, was a busy port city and lumber processing center. In 1911 the Spaulding Fibre company opened in Tonawanda and was a major employer in the area for many years.

 **Note:** One thing that I found interesting from researching this topic - in the late 19th century you did not need any visa, permission or anything else to enter the United States from Canada or Europe. If you could afford passage, you could come. There were no illegal immigrants in those days!



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# Chapter 3

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## Moseley Family History

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Keyword tags: Moseley

The following are the history and remembrances about the Moseley family.

### William Joseph Moseley

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Keyword tags: Auburn, New York, Ireland, Moseley, New York, St Alphonsus Catholic Church, St Mary's Catholic Church, Staffordshire, England, Woodruff Auburn Button Works

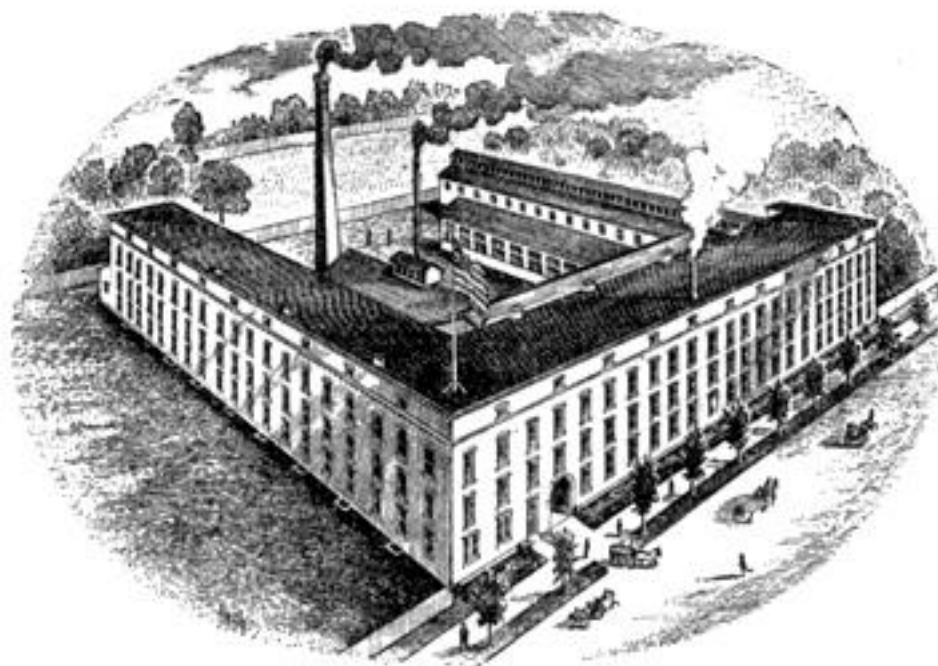
William Moseley was my great-grandfather, born in Staffordshire, England, between Liverpool and Birmingham, in December 1862. He came from England to the United States in 1880 and settled in Auburn, New York, where he lived the rest of his life.

William had three wives. He didn't divorce any of his wives; he just outlived them all! His first wife, Catherine Burns, was born in Ireland. They married in Auburn in 1882. My sister Karen bears a striking resemblance to Catherine Burns.



**Figure 5: William Moseley and Catherine Burns**

In 1880 William was working as a button turner in the Woodruff button factory on Logan St in Auburn, which was opened in 1878. He lived nearby in a boarding house, at 18 Easterley Ave, being managed by Jane Scotten, his aunt. Finding out more about Jane Scotten was key to learning where William was born and who his ancestors were in England.



**THE AUBURN BUTTON WORKS AND LOGAN SILK MILLS.**

**Figure 6: Woodruff Auburn Button Works in 1884**

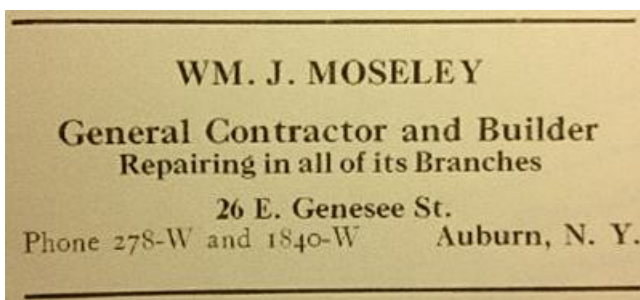
William became a United States citizen in 1888. This is what his signature looked like on his naturalization application, which I found in the Family History Center in Salt Lake City.

A close-up photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Wm Moseley". The letters are dark and the ink is on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a fluid, cursive style.

**Figure 7: Signature of William Moseley**

In 1900 William was a carpenter and by 1910 he had become a member of the business community in Auburn. For many years he owned and operated a general contracting and building business located at 26 E. Genesee Street, and he was an alderman in Auburn in 1911. His name appears many times in the minutes of the Auburn City Common Council published in the Auburn Citizen newspaper. My mother once told me he lost a lot of money building one of the churches in Auburn. My own research shows that in 1929 he won the bidding competition to build a new building for St. Alphonse Catholic church in Auburn. The church was finished a year later.

William was a Catholic. Most of his children were baptized in St Mary's Catholic Church in Auburn. Records of their baptisms and marriages can be found in the church record.



**Figure 8: William Moseley contractor ad from 1929**

William died in 1952 while in his 90s by falling down a flight of stairs and breaking his neck. He was still quite active, but his eyesight gave out finally and he couldn't see where he was going! He kept active anyhow. I remember meeting him just one time when my parents took us on a visit to Auburn, around 1950. He lived in a big old Eastern house with a nice lawn and big trees, at 34 Mary St. (On a visit in 1987 the house was still there, but the tree was gone.) My great-grandfather got a kick out of conning my sister and me into trying to put salt on the tails of pigeons in the front yard. He told us that if you could get salt on their tail, they would bend around to get the salt, and then you could catch them. My sister Karen and I spent quite a lot of time trying to do that while the adults laughed their heads off watching us. I remember that great-grandfather seemed to like me and called me "Rick". He gave me an enormous cookie to eat.

Below is a picture taken when we visited Auburn. From left to right are William Moseley, Edward Moseley, me, my sister Karen, and my mother Lillian. A picture of Mary Glover is above the couch. See the next section for more on the Glovers.



**Figure 9: William, Edward, Dick, Karen and Lillian, 34 Mary St, Auburn**

## William Moseley's Ancestors

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Keyword tags: Auburn, New York, Birmingham, England, England, Glover, Moseley, New York, Scotten, Wilkins

For a long time my research into the Moseley family ancestors yielded no information about where they came from in England. I knew that my great-grandfather, William Moseley was born in England and came to the US around 1880, and that was all. Then in 2013 I received an e-mail from Jean Ventura, a cousin, who had seen information about William that was on our newsfromnan web site. Jean Moseley Ventura is the daughter of William Moseley's son Joseph, my grandfather Edward's half-brother. Jean grew up in Auburn and visited William's house on 34 Mary St often. She told me that in the house was a picture of Mary Glover, and she always wondered who Mary was. Jean also sent me a copy of a will from Matthew Glover (1793-1875), who lived in Staffordshire, England.

These clues finally allowed me to piece together information from primary sources about the Moseley English roots.

### **The Glovers**

Mary Glover (1812-1879) was Matthew Glover's daughter. She was born in Handsworth, Staffordshire, England in the time of Napoleon. Mary was William Moseley's grandmother. Mary had two husbands. The first was Thomas Bennett Wilkins, who she married in 1836 in Handsworth. Mary and Thomas had two daughters, Emma, born 1841, and Jane, born 1845. In 1857, after Thomas died, Mary remarried Henry Hawkins Moseley and they lived in Birmingham, Warwickshire, England. In 1871, William was living with them in Birmingham. To date I have not found any record of William's birth, but there is reason to believe his original surname was not Moseley at all.



**Figure 10: Portrait of Mary Glover**

### **The Wilkins**

Emma Wilkins married a man with the surname of Bodet and lived in France near Paris. She died before 1918. Other than that, I know nothing about her.

Jane Wilkins married William Scotten in 1875 in Birmingham. Just prior to 1879 they moved to Auburn, NY. By 1880, William Scotten had deserted Jane and she was running a boarding house in Auburn and one of her boarders was William and he was working in a button factory. Census records show that Jane was William's aunt, so that plus the fact that Mary Glover Moseley was his grandmother leads to the conclusion that Emma Wilkins was William's mother.

By the early 1900s, Jane owned a house on 34 Mary St. in Auburn. She and William's family lived there until her death in 1921. After her death, William inherited the house from Jane. I learned this from a copy of Jane's will. My parents, my sister and my grandparents Edward and Louise Moseley visited this same house in 1950,

shortly before I moved to California. A picture taken on the visit shows the same picture of Mary Glover hanging over the living room sofa.



**Figure 11: 34 Mary St, Auburn, New York**

👉 **Note:** The house at 34 Mary St is no longer there. It has been demolished and replaced by a small office building.

### **William Scotten is robbed**

I ran across some interesting stories about Jane's husband, William Scotten, that are worth repeating. In November of 1879 he said he was robbed near the Woodruff Button Factory in Auburn. The Auburn paper had a front page article about the incident in their November 3, 1879 edition. The last sentence of the article sounds like it was written by the modern day NRA.

Y, NOVEMBER 3, 1879.

**FOOTPADS AT WORK.**

**William Scotten Held and Robbed on  
Easterly Avenue.**

Saturday night between 8 and 9 o'clock, as William Scotten an employe at Woodruff Brothers button factory was passing through Easterly avenue, he was approached from behind by three fellows, one of whom placed his knees in Mr. Scotten's back and threw him heavily to the ground, while the other footpad put his hand over Scotten's mouth and rifled his vest pocket of \$15 in greenbacks. Mr. Scotten did some trading during the evening and thinks the highwaymen must have been watching his movements, for when they attacked him they did not search his person but took the money out of his pocket where he had placed it after making purchases. He further says that he noticed three fellows on Genesee street, scrutinizing him, but he did not entertain a suspicion that they intended to rob him. He is positive that he can identify one of the trio. Mr. Scotten was so frightened that he did not raise an alarm. The rascals were heard laughing and chuckling over their success when they passed a Court street residence. It behoves all good citizens to carry a revolver and when molested on the highway deal out death in the shape of leaden missiles sent whizzing from its muzzle into the carcasses of the the vagabonds. One dose would suffice to put a stop to the nefarious business.

Figure 12: William Scotten robbery in the Auburn paper

The story did not end there. In December of 1879 the same paper published another article entitled "An Unfaithful Husband". This article claims the earlier robbery was a fake and that William had left his wife Jane rather suddenly.

### AN UNFAITHFUL HUSBAND.

#### A Man Named Scotten Deserts his Wife and Leaves Her Penniless.

A short time since the AUBURNIAN chronicled an attack by highwaymen upon a man named Scotten, an employe at Woodruff Bros Button factory, who claimed that he was robbed of \$10 or \$15 money. Subsequent events have transpired which brand Scotten as a consummate rascal. About three or four weeks ago he left his residence on Easterly Avenue, accompanied by a fellow workman ostensibly for the purpose of going to his labor. It was early in the morning and Scotten was clad in his working suit. Arriving at the junction of Love Lane and William street Scotten bade his friend good bye, and turned and went in a northerly direction. Failing to return for his dinner and at supper time not having put in an appearance his wife began making inquiries about him. When informed of the transaction on the street corner in the morning, she did not feel at all alarmed, and said he had been in the habit of getting on an occasional spree and would soon return; but at last accounts he had not been heard from.

There are those who believe that the alleged robbery was never committed. At the time it is claimed that it occurred Scotten was in arrears to his landlord for house rent, and it is thought invented the story of the attack on the street by foot pads. He promised that next pay day he would certainly settle up. When that occasion came he received about \$54, and on the following morning went away in the manner already described, leaving his wife almost penniless.

Mrs. Scotten was induced to leave her home in England and accompany her husband to this country and to leave her helpless in a foreign land among strangers, was indeed most cruel. But she is one of those women possessed of true courage, and instead of shedding tears at the departure of Scotten, set herself at work to ameliorate her condition. She opened a boarding house on Easterly Avenue, and by dint of energy and frugality has saved enough to pay the house rent past due, an unpaid coal bill and minor debts her husband left behind unsettled. She has succeeded admirably thus far, and avers that should Scotten return she will never live with him again.

Figure 13: William Scotten skips out

As the article says, Jane opened a boarding house to support herself after William Scotten left her. In October of that same year William Moseley's grandmother Mary Glover died and by June of 1880 William Moseley was living in Jane's boarding house in Auburn near the button factory.

I have spent a lot of time trying to find records of William Scotten after 1879, and have found nothing. I think he might have changed his name after his disappearance. We will probably never know what happened to him!

## Edward Anthony Moseley

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Keyword tags: Auburn, New York, Buffalo, New York, carpentry, gardening, Lemon Grove, California, Moseley, New York, Syracuse, New York



**Figure 14: Edward Moseley**

Edward Anthony Moseley, the oldest child of William and Catherine Moseley, was born in 1882 in Auburn, New York. His mother Catherine died when he was only 7 years old. Within three years William had married Catherine's sister Anna, and they had a child of their own, Joseph William Moseley.

Edward was about 5' 4" tall, and because of his short height was nicknamed "Shorty". My grandmother always called him Shorty. He was generally cheerful and energetic during most of his life. He could still run when he was 70.

My mother told me that at age 12 he ran away to Chicago because he didn't get along with his stepmother Anna.

He left school in the 4th grade. From what I have been told by others in the family, at age 16 he lied about his age and joined the Merchant Marine. He later served in the Navy as a carpenter's mate. He told stories about how they tested the food on ship by first giving it to the black sailors. This was before civil rights! He left the Navy in 1910.

I have never been able to confirm the stories about the Navy. I wrote for my grandfather's service record, but no records were available. This may be because he changed his name from Edward to Edwin during this time. All I know for sure is that he left Auburn for several years before 1910 and went somewhere!

In 1914 he moved from Auburn to Syracuse. In the years 1910-17, he worked as a carpenter.

While I was doing family history research, I stumbled upon church records that show that in 1910 he was very briefly married in Auburn to an Agnes Hemmings, so my grandmother was actually his second wife. I never heard anything about this from anybody in my family!

By the time I was born, Edward worked as a carpenter at Lake Erie Engineering Works in Buffalo, New York. He built the packing cases for the hydraulic presses manufactured by Lake Erie. These were enormous machines weighing many tons and standing maybe two stories high. He used to have catalogs from Lake Erie Engineering sitting around his house on Broughton Street. Needless to say, the packing cases were very big.

Edward had a really elaborate carpenter workshop in his basement on Broughton Street in Tonawanda. Wood he found at work that was "too good" for building packing cases got thrown over the fence so he could pick it up on the way home. Some of the things he made in his basement workshop are still in my possession. This includes a corner cabinet and some small tables. His finest works were a grandfather clock and a beautiful inlaid table that my sister has. Karen also has a desk Grandpa made for us in the 1950s.



**Figure 15: Edward and Louise Moseley**

My grandparents moved to San Diego in the 50s and lived in a small house built onto the back of our house at 2046 Dayton Drive in Lemon Grove. While he was alive, Grandpa turned our yard into by far the most beautiful in the neighborhood. He loved plants and the Lemon Grove climate, and he built us a greenhouse full of exotic plants. He was especially proud he could grow Bird of Paradise plants for us. He also built a cage that was used to raise finches and later rabbits. Our vegetable garden was always very lush also. He liked to grow great big red and white radishes. I can still remember biting into them when I was a kid.



**Figure 16: Edward Moseley in my back yard on Dayton Drive**

The corner cabinet in the following picture still sits in our living room in San Jose.



**Figure 17: Corner cabinet made by Edward Moseley**

## Lillian Elizabeth Moseley

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Keyword tags: art, cooking, Johnson, Kenmore, New York, Moseley, music, Spring Valley, California, Tonawanda, New York



**Figure 18: High school picture of Lillian Moseley**

My mother Lillian (often called Lil or Lily) was born in Tonawanda, New York, in 1918. She graduated from Tonawanda High School, the school that was the cross-town rival of North Tonawanda High School, where my father went. She did OK in school but was not a real scholar.

For awhile Lillian worked in the A&P grocery store in Tonawanda after graduating from high school. This was the only paying job she ever had. When we were kids, she used to tell my sister and me about various things she had learned "in the Army," but she never really enlisted. We both fell for it, of course.



**Figure 19: Sweethearts Lillian and Harold**

Raising two kids kept her pretty busy. When we lived in Kenmore, New York, near Buffalo, she used to walk us over to her mother's house on Broughton St. all the time. I remember doing that once when my sister was still in a baby carriage.

Mom used to listen to soap operas on the radio a lot when I was a little kid. I got early exposure to such radio gems as "The Second Mrs. Burton," "Helen Trent (life begins at 40)," and "Ma Perkins." We had a big Zenith radio that was always turned on during the day.

My mother was always a fantastic cook. Especially good were her spaghetti and her crab gumbo. She never cooked using recipes, but always did it "by guess and by gosh," as she used to say. I can still smell that spaghetti!

She played saxophone in grammar school and in her high school marching band. She had a real gift for playing musical instruments. She could play piano and organ by ear. In fact, she couldn't read music very well! When they had parties at the fire hall in Kenmore, she was always the one who played the piano.



**Figure 20: Lillian (center) with her saxophone in grammar school**

When we moved to California, she once got all excited about doing paint-by-number kits. We had lots of those pictures around our house for a while. She was actually a pretty good artist and did original painting, as well.



**Figure 21: Small painting done by Lillian in 1969**

She was also a big TV fan when television came along. She and my father watched it every night.



**Figure 22: Lillian and Harold at home in Spring Valley**

## **Mary Moseley Daley**

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Keyword tags: Auburn, New York, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, Moseley, New York

### **The Daleys**

My grandfather Edward's oldest sister was Mary Moseley, born in Auburn in 1893 to William Moseley and Catherine Burns. My mother and grandmother always called Mary "Mamie". I saw Mamie at least once on our family trip to Auburn. Here is a picture from the visit.



**Figure 23: William, Edward, Elizabeth, and Mary Moseley Daley**

Mamie's husband, George Daley, saw military service in World War I and II, and finally retired from the National Guard in 1950. George and Mamie had two sons, George Jr, born in 1907, and William, born in 1917. William was my mother's cousin, who she called "Sweet William". He met a tragic end during World War II at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. Here is a summary of what happened.

## THE ASIATIC-PACIFIC THEATER

**2.1. DALEY, WILLIAM****1LT, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division**

The Marines began an assault on Guadalcanal on 7 August 1942. In November 1942 the battle for Guadalcanal still raged on land and sea. The Marines after four months of constant combat had secured a lodgment around Henderson Field about six miles wide and five miles deep and were to be relieved by the U.S. Army's XIV Corps under General Patch which included 1LT William Daley's 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup> Division.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's first objective was to secure the high ground beyond the lodgment five miles southwest of Henderson Field known as Mount Austen. The assault began 7 January 1943. Although the Japanese hold on the island had become untenable, they nevertheless continued to fight desperately. 1LT Daley's 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry led the attack on Mount Austen where some of the fiercest fighting (as it was described by one author) of the Pacific took place. Not until 23 January was Mount Austen secured. During this period 1LT Daley was killed in action on 11 January 1943.

1LT Daley, 25, was survived by his parents LTC George Daley on active duty at Camp Crowder, MO and his mother. He was a former member of Co. I, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry New York State National Guard located in Auburn, NY. He is buried in the Woodlawn National Cemetery, Elmira, NY.

**Figure 24: William C Daley killed in Guadalcanal**



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# Chapter 4

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## Rebmann Family History

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Keyword tags: history, Rebmann

The following are history and remembrances about the Rebmann family.

### Louise Jeannette Catherine Rebmann

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Keyword tags: Broughton St, Buffalo, New York, California, history, Lemon Grove, California, New York, North Tonawanda, New York, Rebmann, Tiny, Tonawanda, New York



**Figure 25: Louise Jeanette Catherine Rebmann**

Louise Rebmann was my mother's mother, my grandmother. She was born in 1898 in Buffalo, New York, and died in 1974 in North Tonawanda, New York.

Grandma and Grandpa Moseley lived at 36 Broughton Street in Tonawanda, New York, when I was a kid. We used to visit there on holidays and often in between. I have a picture of my sister and I taken at that house on one such visit. They had a little black dog named Tiny that my grandmother was nuts about.



**Figure 26: Karen, Louise and Dick at 36 Broughton St**

After we moved to California and my grandfather Edward retired, they moved to a house built on to the back of my parents' house at 2046 Dayton Drive in Lemon Grove, California.

Grandma and I were pretty close when she lived next door. Her eyes had a certain twinkle about them and she had an excellent sense of humor. I enjoyed being around her.

She left school after the 5th grade, when she was 10. She went to work sewing burlap bags and later worked in a millinery shop. When she was 19 she married my grandfather (he was 35). Her daughter Lillian was born in 1918. Grandma worked in the Wurlitzer factory in North Tonawanda during World War II. On a trip to the Buffalo area in 1986, I drove by that factory. The building is still there, but I am not sure if they still make organs in it. It is near the highway on the edge of town.

Her parents came from Alsace-Lorraine (between France and Germany), and she spoke the local German dialect. I remember her making German potato salad and potato pancakes (she called them "panacakes").

My grandmother was cheerful and energetic. She used to tease me all the time. She had all these little sayings, like "a place for everything, and everything in its place." I used to hear that one quite a bit because I was always messing up the basement of our house, which she was always trying to keep neat and tidy. She used to go "shopping" in San Diego. She went on the bus, but she never bought anything! She just liked to "go bumming around." She was very active and did not spend much time sitting around reading or watching television.

I spent many afternoons at my grandmother's house on Dayton Drive playing canasta. We used to play with several decks of cards, and she always beat me! I got teased a lot while we played. Every time the discard pile got real high she would say things like "gee that pile sure is getting big," and when she discarded (something I never could pick up), she used to say "here's a good one for you, Dick." Just as an aside, I must mention that my grandmother's sister Selma was once the pinochle champion of New York state. Skill at games and cards definitely ran in the Rebmann family.

Here are more of her sayings and expressions:

- "'Raus mit 'em!" German
- "That's a good one!" upon hearing a dirty joke. She used to *love* dirty jokes. Sometimes she would add "Isn't that awful?!".

After my grandfather died in 1958, my grandmother moved back to Buffalo. We saw her there once on a trip back to New York. She didn't have much money. She lived in a small apartment and spent most of her time volunteering with the Salvation Army. The last time I saw her, we drove her around Tonawanda and she showed us some of the old haunts and introduced us to my Uncle Fritz and my Aunt Elizabeth, whom she

called Lizzie. I remember she cried when she took us to see the old house on 36 Broughton Street where she and my grandfather had lived for so many years. She died of colon cancer in 1974. She left me \$1000 in her will, which Anna and I used to buy a dining room table and some pictures (two of which now hang in Gillian's house).



**Figure 27: Fred and Ruth Rebmann, Louise, and Dick**



**Figure 28: Louise Moseley with Dick, Ellen, and Lillian**

## Selma Rebmann

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Keyword tags: Buffalo, New York, history, New York, North Tonawanda, New York, Rebmann



**Figure 29: Selma Rebmann**

Selma Rebmann Steckelberg was my mother's aunt. She was born in 1893 in Buffalo, New York, and died in 1974 in North Tonawanda. Selma and my grandmother were very close.

I used to call her "Aunt Selma." She lived with my Moseley grandparents at 36 Broughton St. in Tonawanda after she was divorced from Henry Steckelberg, and I saw her often while I was still living in New York.

Selma was an excellent card player; she was once the New York state pinochle champion. We have an old newspaper clipping that describes her winning the state championship.

Aunt Selma used to give me stamps for the stamp collection that I had when I was a kid. Many of them were Polish, and I believe she got them from somebody in the Catholic Church. Even after my family moved to San Diego, she sent me stamps in the mail. In fact, most of my stamp collection came from her. She used to laugh about the fact that when I was a little boy, she and I slept in one of my grandmother's beds and I kicked her in the ribs while I was asleep. I don't remember a thing about it!

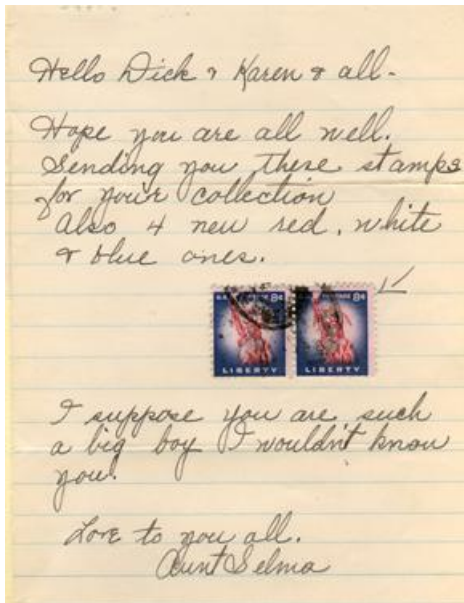


Figure 30: Stamp letter from Selma in 1954



Figure 31: Lillian, Eva, Louise and Selma in New York



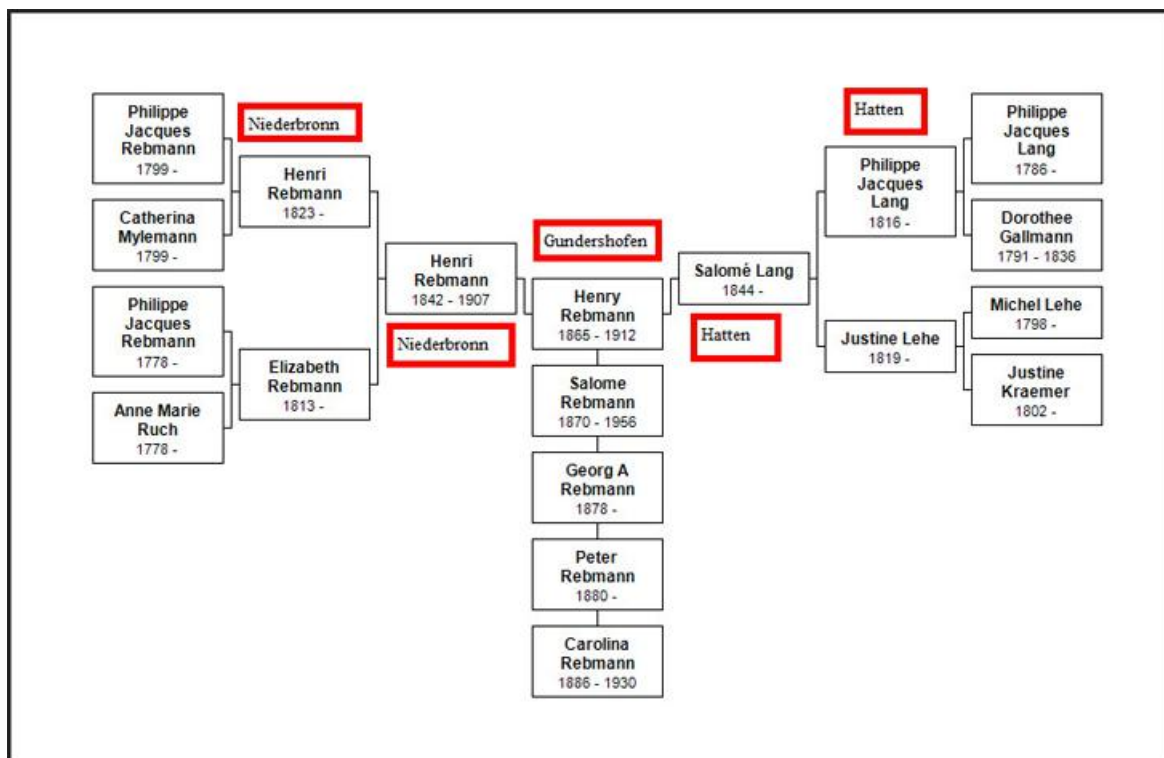
Figure 32: Rebmann sisters Louise, Selma, and Elizabeth in California

## A Visit to Alsace

Keyword tags: Alsace-Lorraine, France, Hatten, Alsace-Lorraine, France, history, Nieberbronn, Alsace-Lorraine, France, Rebmann

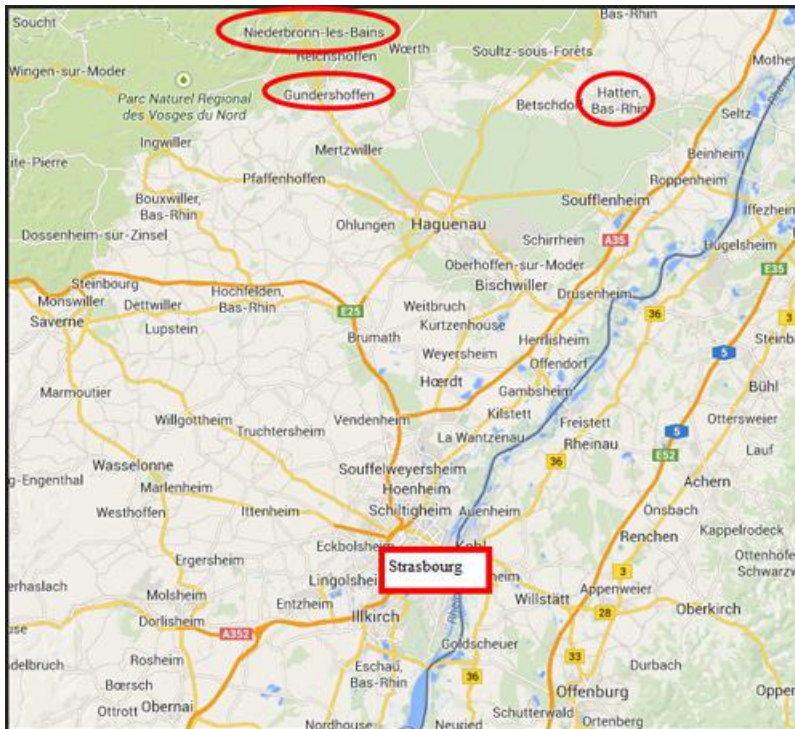
### Our Visit to Alsace

In 2013 I made a big breakthrough in researching my Rebmann ancestors when I discovered an online web site in France that makes available genealogy source records for Alsace. The chart below gives more detail about my Alsace ancestors and marks in red where some of them were born in Alsace. Henry Rebmann in the middle was my grandmother Louise's father and my great-grandfather. The Alsace records show that Henry Rebmann was actually born Henri Lang to his unwed mother Salome Lang, but was adopted shortly thereafter when Salome married Heinrich Rebmann in 1866. The Rebmanns came from Niederbronn and the Langs were from Hatten. When my great-grandfather left for the United States, the area was part of Germany, but now it is in France.



**Figure 33: Rebmann Ancestors**

All these little towns are in the department of Alsace called Bas-Rhin (Lower Rhine). They are located in France near the Rhine river just a few miles North of Strasbourg. In 2013 Anna and I went to Europe to help celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary, and one of things we did was to visit the part of Alsace where the Rebmanns were from. We stayed in Strasbourg and one day drove our rental car on a tour to visit Hatten, Niederbronn and Gundershoffen.



**Figure 34: Map of Alsace, Bas-Rhin, France**

On our tour we visited a small cemetery in Hatten and ate lunch on the Niederbronn town square.



**Figure 35: Dick in the Hatten Cemetery**

The tombstone I am leaning against is that of Salome Lang, but not that of my 2nd great-grandmother. A cousin perhaps?



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# Chapter 5

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## Johnson Family History

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Keyword tags: Johnson

This is the history and remembrances chapter for the Johnson family.

### Alfred Peter Charles Johnson

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Keyword tags: Ellicott Creek, Johnson, Kenmore, New York, Lemon Grove, California, North Tonawanda, New York, Tijuana, Mexico

Alfred Peter Charles Johnson was my paternal grandfather.



Figure 36: Alfred Johnson holding Dick in 1942



**Figure 37: Harold, Lillian, Eva and Alfred in Virginia Beach**

My grandfather Alfred and grandmother Eva had a cabin on Ellicott Creek (which flows into Tonawanda Creek, which flows into the Niagara River) near where we lived in Kenmore, New York. My parents took Karen and me there when we were kids. We used to pretend we could swim by walking on our hands along the bottom of the creek. To this day I think I can smell what that creek smelled like!

Once when I was at my grandparents' cottage I remember watching my grandfather butcher a turtle that was going to be used for making turtle soup. It was nighttime, and the turtle's head, which had been chopped off, was lying in some grass nearby, and the mouth was still snapping open and shut. The sight of this made a big impression on me. My grandfather had hung the turtle up by a rope so the blood would drain out of it. Funny how you can remember a scene like that so many years later!

Alfred and Eva moved to Lemon Grove a few years after my parents did in the 1950s. They had a house a few blocks from ours on Dayton Drive. Our family used to go and visit them frequently. I don't remember too much about Alfred, because he didn't say much.



**Figure 38: Alfred and Karen Johnson in 1955**

Alfred liked to gamble in Mexico on Jai Alai and the dog races. He always claimed to have a betting "system." One of his favorites was to bet one dog or player in combination with all the others on one of special 1-2 pick tickets they used to offer. I don't think he ever made much money, but he used to love going to Tijuana with my grandmother.

## The Move to Canada in the 1920s

I knew for a long time that my Aunt Evelyn was born in Brantford, Ontario, Canada in 1922. It was only recently that I did further research and found that the whole Johnson family moved to Canada in the early 1920s. My parents, and my father in particular, never said anything about this to me. Here is the timeline for the move:

- In 1920 Alfred and his family were living in Tonawanda, NY.
- In 1921 the family left Tonawanda and moved to Dorchester South, Elgin East, Ontario, Canada. The 1921 Canadian census lists Alfred's occupation as laborer. Living not far from them were William Bye and his wife Elisabeth. The Byes were some of Eva's relatives.
- In 1922 my aunt Evelyn was born in Ontario.
- In 1923 the family had moved back to Tonawanda and my grandfather was a machinist.

Why they moved and then came back will probably always be a mystery to me.

## Alfred Johnson's Ancestors

Keyword tags: Denmark, Dueger, Dueger, Lena, Husum, Schleswig, Germany, Johnson, Johnson, Leonora, Johnson, Peter G, Johnson, Peter Henry, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, Oswego, New York, Siwertsen, Augusta, Smallpox

### The Johnsons

As I described earlier, Alfred's father was Peter G Johnson, son of Peter Henry Johnson and Augusta Siwertsen. In his newspaper obituary, Peter G Johnson was described as a "a well-known and highly respected lake captain". It turns out that there was another Peter Johnson, who also was a lake captain and lived in North Tonawanda. His wife's name was Mary. This was the cause of lots of confusion when I was doing my research on this family!

Many records show that Peter Henry Johnson was born in Denmark. The family story was that the name was originally Hansen and that it changed when the Johnson family moved from Oswego to North Tonawanda. But my own research showed that the name was already Johnson when Peter Henry Johnson and his wife Augusta were living in Oswego in 1865. I still don't know what the original Danish surname was.

|                 |  |  |              |
|-----------------|--|--|--------------|
| Anna Husum      |  |  | June 27      |
| Lena Husum      |  |  | July 3       |
| Siwertsen Guste |  |  | Vancouver 21 |

**Figure 39: Gellert passenger list 1861**

While doing research on the Johnson family, I found information showing when my great-great grandmother Augusta "Guste" Siwertsen arrived in Canada. Augusta was the great grandmother of my grandfather Alfred Johnson. The first thing I found was a passenger list for the ship Gellert that left Hamburg, German in early June, 1861 and arrived six weeks later in Montreal, Quebec. Augusta came on the ship as a governess for a 3-year-old child named Anna Oelschlager, who was traveling with her family. The passenger list shows that Augusta was from Husum, in Schleswig, Germany. Husum is on the west coast of the Jutland peninsula. That was interesting enough, but some more searching turned up information that said that while this ship was en route to Montreal, there was a smallpox epidemic raging on board. Of the 300+ Gellert passengers, 40 of them came down with the disease and 4 people died during the voyage. When the ship finally arrived at Grosse Isle (an island in the St Lawrence off the coast of Montreal, Canada), they were held in quarantine for 5 more days. Now that must have been a difficult voyage!

Peter G Johnson had a sister Leonora who married John Thursam around 1893. I found this newspaper article that shows that Leonora met a tragic end:

## WOMAN DIES FROM WOUND

Mrs. Nora Thursam Was Shot  
by Italian in Saloon Row.

## SEEK HER SLAYER

North Tonawanda Police Resume  
Hunt for Suspected Man.

Special to The Buffalo Express

North Tonawanda, Oct. 14.—Mrs. Nora Thursam, 44 years old, wife of John Thursam of No. 116 Main street, who was shot at her home by an Italian alleged to be John De Angelo of North Tonawanda on Sunday night, September 1st, died at the General hospital in Buffalo at noon today. The police are now looking for De Angelo. The Italian fled on the night of the shooting.

De Angelo and four other Italians, it is alleged, entered the side entrance of the Thursam hotel at No. 213 Main street on the night of September 1st and demanded a drink of liquor. They were refused and an argument followed. Mr. Thursam and Frank Boland of No. 397 Grant street, Buffalo, ejected the foreigners from the saloon. De Angelo, it is alleged, fired two shots from a 22-caliber revolver at Boland. One ball lodged in Mrs. Thursam's neck, while the other struck John Allison of Cleveland, O., a guest of the hotel, in the right arm.

Mrs. Thursam was removed to the General hospital in Buffalo on the night of the shooting, but the physicians were unable to find the bullet. On Sunday night she was stricken with blood poisoning and this morning an operation was performed.

Figure 40: Death of Leonora Thursam in 1912





**Figure 42: Location of Mecklenburg in Europe**

At the time of Lena's birth, Mecklenburg was a Grand Duchy under absolute rule. The Grand Dukes owned the majority of the land and most people worked as laborers on the Duke's land. It was one of the poorer of the German areas. The land for farming was poor and farmers could not compete with those in other parts of Germany. This might be why Lena's family decided to migrate to the United States.

## Harold Richard Johnson

Keyword tags: Brighton Volunteer Fire Company, Johnson, La Mesa Tool, Masons, North Tonawanda, New York, Rohr Aircraft, Ryan Aircraft, Spaulding Fibre

My father, Harold Richard Johnson, born in 1919, was the second child of Alfred Peter Charles Johnson and Eva Irene Robins. His older brother was Kenneth Alfred (Kenny) Johnson, born in 1916, and his younger sister was Evelyn Irene Johnson, born in 1922. Both Uncle Kenny and Harold were born in the Buffalo area (Tonawanda and North Tonawanda, respectively), but Aunt Evelyn was born in Ontario, Canada.



**Figure 43: Harold Johnson**

My parents grew up and were married (in 1939) during the Great Depression. Times were tough then. When they were first married, they lived in a room with Alfred and Eva on Keil Street in North Tonawanda. In 1940 Dad was working as a lathe hand with his father Alfred at Spaulding Fibre, one of the biggest employers in the area.



**Figure 44: Harold and Lillian**



**Figure 45: Harold and Lillian wedding picture**

Dad graduated from North Tonawanda High School. He did well in school, and would have probably been college material, but because of the economic depression, going to college was not an option.

Instead, during the time he worked at Spaulding Fibre, he worked his way up to become a master tool and die maker. He used to brag that he "could operate any machine on the floor!" This included lathes and drill presses.



**Figure 46: Spaulding Fibre site in 1986**

In 1951, he and my mother decided to move to California, where he started out working for a tool and die shop in El Cajon where my Uncle Kenny also worked. (Kenny and Grace had moved to Southern California in the early 40s). In 1951, when we first got to California, we even lived with my uncle for a while near El Cajon.

Later he worked at Ryan Aeronautical. He started as a tool and die maker, and then became a shop foreman and eventually building superintendent. This was the most prestigious job he ever had. At one time he had several hundred people reporting to him. Unfortunately, Ryan went through one of those typical slumps that aerospace companies experience so often, and my father ended up having to supervise the layoff of many

people in his area. Having to do that hit him very hard. He was still at Ryan until just before I graduated from high school in 1960.

After Ryan he worked for a while as a tool and die maker and then foreman at La Mesa Tool. He stayed here until the early 60s when the company went bankrupt.

His last job was at Rohr Aircraft, where was a supervisor in the tool and die area.

He went on permanent disability from Rohr around 1980 when he contracted polymyocytis, which is a muscle disease. The last time he ever did tool and die making was during a strike they had at Rohr. The following picture of him with his shop apron on was taken during that strike. He looks very happy.



**Figure 47: Harold in the shop at Rohr**

Dad used to read a lot when I was a kid, mostly historical novels by authors such as Frank Yerby. I can also remember listening to the radio with my father and mother in their bedroom. I heard a lot of episodes of *Allen's Alley* and *The Jack Benny Show*. Once television came along in the early 50s, Dad pretty much gave up reading for TV. We had one of the original TVs, which we got around 1949-50, the kind with the little round screen that would never stay tuned for more than about 10 minutes. Dad used to watch live TV sports programs, such as wrestling and football. Back in those days, wrestling wasn't quite as fake as it is now. Dad collected sports clippings when he was a kid, mostly about boxing and wrestling. I remember looking through a scrapbook he had full of old newspaper clippings about Primo Carnera, Joe Louis and others.

He was a Mason when he lived in New York. He rose to be Grand Master of the lodge he was in in Tonawanda. He went to a few Masonic meetings after moving to California, but eventually gave it up.

In the part of New York where my parents lived, the volunteer fire companies served as a social organization. Sure, they put out fires, but they also had parties at the fire hall and entered parades with the fire trucks. My sister and I went to many parties at the fire hall. They used to let us drink birch beer (sort of like root beer) there. In the late 40s, my father was president of the fire company, Brighton Volunteer Fire Company in Tonawanda. It was still there when I visited the area in 1987, but not in the building I remember seeing when we lived there.



**Figure 48: Harold (standing, right) and Lillian (sitting, right) at the firehall in 1949**

In later years Dad was a big fan of the TV programs *I Love Lucy*, *Ed Sullivan*, *Sargeant Bilko*, *Steve Allen*, and especially *Jackie Gleason*. Jackie used to really crack my father up. When life wasn't being hard for him, he had a very well-developed sense of humor and loved comedy programs.

Just before he died, Dad took up CB radio. His CB "handle" was Gold Duster. He used to get up very early in the morning (2 a.m.!) and talk to his other CB buddies. This helped to reduce the loneliness of being home all the time, I think. He also bought electronic gadgets from Radio Shack. When he died in 1981, he had about half a dozen stereos, 2 or 3 scanners, 2 TV sets, and several CB radios. There were wires running all over his house! Quite a setup. He never did have any interest in personal computers, though, even when I tried to talk him into it when I came to visit.

My father was never very interested in taking vacations and going on trips. He usually took the money instead of vacation time from his employer, and he spent it on furniture or a down payment for a car. To the best of my knowledge, he went on only one business trip in his life. He went to Chicago once in the winter when he was working at Ryan. He got dumped out on his own by a Chicago cab driver during a snow storm. He came back from the trip thoroughly disgruntled and never went on another business trip again. (I was in junior high school when he came back, and I had just broken my wrist in an after-school football game, so he had that surprise waiting for him when he walked in the door from the airport.

## Kenny and Grace Johnson

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Keyword tags: Alpine, California, El Cajon, California, Johnson, Lemon Grove, California, North Tonawanda, New York, San Diego, California

Kenneth Alfred (Kenny) Johnson was my father Harold's older brother. He married Grace Elayne Webster in 1939. In 1940 they were living in a house at 122 Keil St in North Tonawanda, New York, next door to the house where Eva, Alfred, Harold, and Lillian were all living. All three men were employed at Spaulding Fibre. By the time I was born, Kenny and Grace had moved to San Diego, where my cousin Mike was born in April 1942.



**Figure 49: Anniversary party: Mike, Judy, Grace, and Kenny Johnson**

The first time I remember seeing Kenny and Grace was in 1951, the year my parents moved our family to San Diego. For our first few weeks in California, my family lived with them in Sunnyside near El Cajon. Cousin Mike and I went on hikes around the area, which I really enjoyed, and my sister Karen played with Cousin Judy a lot. For a while, even after my family moved into a house at 2130 Ensenada Street in Lemon Grove, my sister and I attended Quaker Sunday School with Mike and Judy. In the summer of 1952, Mike and I spent a week at Quaker Meadows Camp in the southern Sierra. Uncle Kenny drove us both to Bakersfield where we met a family that took us to the camp. This was my first time away from home, and I really enjoyed the experience.



**Figure 50: Grace in 1961**

After the early 50s I saw Kenny and Grace only occasionally at family gatherings. The last time I saw Kenny was in 1981, when my father died. Kenny died the next year in Cottonwood, Arizona.

In the early 2000s, Anna and I used to stop and see Aunt Grace when we were in the San Diego area. The last time was in 2005. Grace was living in a trailer in Alpine, not far from her daughter Judy. She talked a lot about Judy and her granddaughter Jennifer. Grace had a large collection of salt cellars she liked to show off. We when we visited her we took her out to lunch in Alpine several times.

We heard a lot of family stories from Grace. She told us that when my father moved us to San Diego, he "took" the tool and die maker job that Kenny had found for their father, Alfred. She also told us about the

long-running feud between her and Eva (her mother-in-law). Grace said that Eva never got over the fact that Kenny married her instead of his first love, Mary Lou. Apparently Eva like Mary Lou better, and never got over the loss.



**Figure 51: Grace and Anna in Alpine**

## Dick and Evelyn Starr

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Keyword tags: Brantford, Johnson, Orange, Starr



**Figure 52: Evelyn Johnson**

Evelyn was my father Harold's younger sister, born in 1922 in Brantford, Ontario at a time when my Johnson grandparents lived on a farm next to that of Will (Charles William) Bye and his wife Lizzie (Elizabeth Ann Marsh), who were part of the Robins family, actually a cousin of my grandmother Eva Robins Johnson. My father Harold was in Ontario too (he was born in 1919), but he never said anything about it.

Evelyn married my uncle Dick (Richard William) Starr in 1943. In the wedding picture below, my parents, Harold and Lillian, are on the right, and Dick's twin brother Robert is standing next to him. Dick, the groom, is in his Navy uniform. Evelyn and Dick had two kids, my cousins David and Daniel (Dan) Starr. Dan lives in Green Bay, Wisconsin and is also interested in family history.



**Figure 53: Evelyn Johnson and Dick Starr wedding photo 1943**



**Figure 54: Alfred, Evelyn, Lillian, and Eva**

When I was still living in New York I remember seeing the Starrs every now and then on holidays. I also remember one time when Uncle Dick took the kids to a pool and I saw him diving off a high dive while I was swimming in the shallow end of the pool.

Aunt Evelyn corresponded with me about family history a few times. She said she graduated from Edward J. Meyer Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, in Buffalo, New York, in September 1943, a month after she got married. Her hobbies were golf and needlework.

Uncle Dick was in the Coast Guard during World War II, from 1943-45, on the Destroyer Escort USS Richey, on depth charging convoy escort duty in the North Atlantic. Dick and Evelyn were in Times Square on VE Day.



**Figure 55: Destroyer Escort USS Richey (DE 385)**

Dick was also in the Navy in the Korean War in the Mediterranean, on the destroyer U.S.S. Vesole.

Here is a note I received from my cousin Dan Starr on his father Richard Starr's military career: "Oh, by the way, my Dad served in the Coast Guard during WWII and then in the Navy during the Korean War. His first Coast Guard posting was guarding the Florida beaches on horseback. Then he rode a Destroyer Escort in the North Atlantic Convoy Duty. He mentioned how his ship picked up survivors of U-Boat attacks more than once."

After his time in the Navy, he worked in banking for the Marine Trust Company (later the Marine Midland Bank of Western New York). When the Starrs moved to California in the 50s, he joined California Bank (later UCB and First Interstate Bank). When he retired, in April 1983, he had worked at First Interstate for 31 years and was vice president and chief credit officer, with world-wide responsibilities.

In the 80s and 90s Anna and I visited Southern California and sometimes stopped on the way to see Uncle Dick and Aunt Evelyn at their house in Orange, California. My grandmother Eva was living with them during those years. One of those times Uncle Dick told us how much fun he was having in his post-retirement years serving as an expert witness in court cases involving banking and finance. He said he was very well paid for his time on the cases.

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# Chapter 6

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## Robins Family History

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Keyword tags: Robins

This is the history chapter for the Robins family.

### Eva Irene Robins

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Keyword tags: Buffalo, New York, Johnson, Lemon Grove, California, Norfolk County, Ontario, Canada, Robins, Tussing, Whittier, California

My grandmother, Eva Irene Robins, was born in Norfolk County, Ontario, Canada, in 1898. She was the middle child in a family of five sisters (one brother lived only a short time). She and her husband, Alfred Peter Charles Johnson, had three children, Kenny, Harold, and Evelyn. Eva also helped to raise her sister Estelle's son Lloyd Robins.



**Figure 56: Eva and her nephew Lloyd Robins during WW II**

Eva and Alfred lived most of their lives in the Buffalo, New York area, with the exception of a short stay on a farm in Ontario. In the 1950s, they moved to Southern California along with all three of their children and Eva's youngest sister Mildred. In Lemon Grove, California, they first lived just down the street from us on Dayton Drive. After her husband Alfred died, Eva's daughter's family, the Starrs, moved to Whittier. Eva moved with them and also followed them later to Orange County.



**Figure 57: Anna, Eva, Ellen, and Tim**

Grandma Johnson always had a lot of "irons in the fire." She used to host big dinners at her house on Dayton Drive and invite the entire family. She was sometimes stubborn and could be very difficult to deal with on occasion, but she was mostly fairly cheerful.



**Figure 58: Ellen, Eva, Dick, Grace, and Kenny Johnson in 1966**

Grandma used to have a knitting machine that she used to knit all sorts of garments. She also got interested in making ceramics for a while. We still have some ceramic Christmas ornaments she made for us.

Grandma was always close to her sister Mildred and Mildred's family, many of whom still live in the San Diego area.



**Figure 59: Mildred and daughters Annette and Mary**

I remember attending a family reunion in Whittier that my grandmother hosted. There were many people there, including quite a few that I didn't know. We were given family trees when we arrived, but nobody seems to have one anymore. I am the only person who remembers that reunion!



**Figure 60: Eva age 89**

Here is a blurb about Eva that was written by the Starr family in 1995:

"Eva Irene Robins – b. 8/18/1898 - d. 11/19/ 1993. Born in Waterford, Ontario, Canada. Worked most of her life. As a young girl she did housework for a Mrs. Booth in Tonawanda. Also worked at Woolworth's and for Dr. Wilcox as a receptionist. After marrying Alfred, she owned and operated Peggy's Pantry, a restaurant at the corner of Erie and Division St. in North Tonawanda. Worked at Bell Aircraft during World War II. Was a member of the Eastern Star Organization. Moved with her family to California in July 1951. After her husband died, she moved to Whittier, California where she worked doing housework and babysitting. She used to enjoy playing the organ until her hands were too bent and painful from arthritis to continue. She had, at one time, three dogs: Genie, Tiny, and Dee Dee. She also had a calico cat named Twinkles. She loved to eat sweets, especially ice cream. In 1968 she moved in with Richard and Evelyn Starr when they bought a new house in Orange, California. It was at that house she spent the remainder of her long life. A family party was held celebrating her 75th birthday in 1973. Many relatives attended. During the last two years of her life she was in failing health, both physical and mental. During the summer of 1993 she was having a hard time

recognizing people around her, including those she had lived with for years. Eva died at the age of 95 years and 3 months of general heart/respiratory failure. But so much like her, she died with a cookie in her mouth. She was entombed with her husband in the Cypress View Mausoleum in San Diego, California.”

## Lloyd Robins

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Keyword tags: Johnson, Robins, Tonawanda, New York, Tussing

Lloyd Robins was my father's cousin. My grandmother Eva Robins Johnson and Estelle Robins were sisters and Estelle was Lloyd's mother. In the late 1930s and early 1940s Lloyd lived with Alfred and Eva along with my father, so my father treated Lloyd a little bit like a brother.

Lloyd was in the Navy during World War II. I saw him and his wife Jean Tussing Robins on a visit to Tonawanda in 2007 and he told me he was on cargo ships making runs between Australia and India. He also said that my father had been his mentor when he went to work at Spaulding Fibre.

Lloyd lived most of his life at 189 Walter Ave in Tonawanda, NY.

Lloyd brought his family to California in the 1950s on a visit. Here is a picture taken then.



**Figure 61: Lloyd, Jean's mother, Lillian, Harold, Lynn Robins, Karen Johnson and Dick in San Diego**

## John Darling Robins

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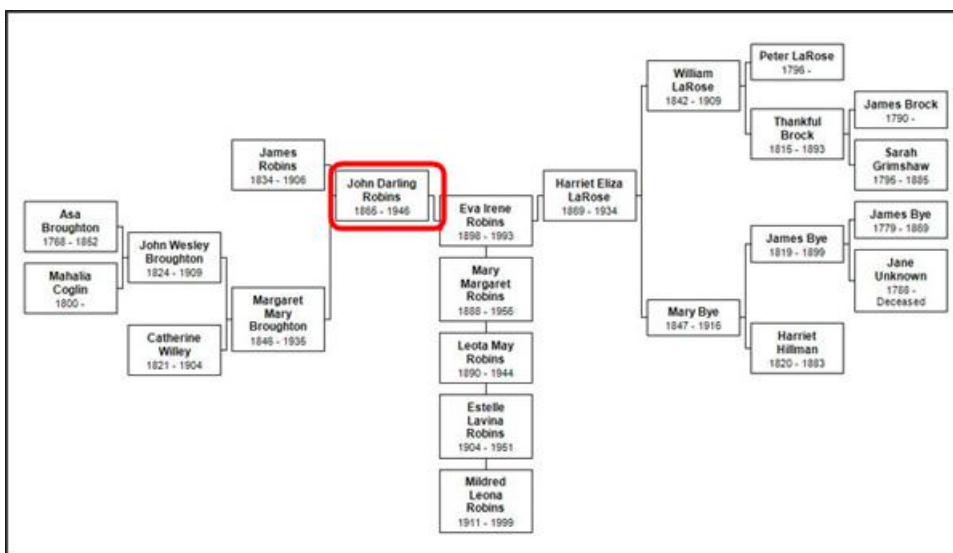
Keyword tags: Canada, Johnson, North Tonawanda, New York, Robins, Tussing



**Figure 62: John Robins holding Lynn; Estelle and Lloyd in rear**

I don't remember seeing my great grandfather John Robins. He was still alive when I was born and living in North Tonawanda, so I think there is a good chance my parents took me to see him on a family visit. The only picture I have of him is the one above taken in the 40s.

My father did talk some about "Grandpa" Robins. Dad said Grandpa Robins was strong and could bend bottle caps between his knuckles. I learned a lot about the Robins family from my cousin Cindy Sileo. Cindy has done extensive on-the-ground research in New York and Ontario on the Robins, LaRose, and Bye families.



**Figure 63: Robins and LaRoses**

Here is what Cindy wrote about John Robins:

“John was a farmer in Canada. He became indebted to the Case Co., which manufactured farm equipment, so he left Canada and came to the US. In the US, he worked in his brother-in-laws’ confectionary store, the Grelinger farm on Grand Island, then for the Wick Wire Co. on River Rd. in the Town of Tonawanda, and lastly at Spaulding Fibre Co. as a maintenance man.”

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# Chapter

# 7

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## For More Information

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Keyword tags: information source, News From Nan, reference, website

Following are references to additional information about the Johnson-Moseley family. Unless otherwise indicated, they are all in the possession of Richard Johnson.

### Formally published information

#### News From Nan website

[www.newsfromnan.com](http://www.newsfromnan.com)

News From Nan is a family history supersite dedicated to the memory of Nettie (Nan) Riedel van Raaphorst. The website owners, developers, and content creators are Anna van Raaphorst Johnson and Richard (Dick) Johnson. The site has been in existence since 1998.

News From Nan is the place where we post current information about ourselves and our family, as well as family history and genealogy. We like to think of it as a place where our family's current events and past history come together.

PDF versions of this book are available on the News From Nan website.

In addition, the following documents are published on News From Nan:

- "My High-Tech Adventure: Computing As I Knew It 1960-2012", written by Richard Johnson in 2012
- Various Johnson-Moseley family genealogy reports from Family Tree Maker (linked from the "Family history" page)

#### Dick's informal family history collection

These binders include photos, copies of original records, letters, newspaper clippings, original writings, and family recipes.

#### Johnson-Moseley Family Tree

Family Tree Maker / Ancestry.com. Detailed genealogical information about Richard Johnson's Johnson-Robins and Moseley-Rebmann families. A portion of the tree has been published as "Our ancestors" on the News From Nan website.

#### General References

Howard, Michael, *The Franco-Prussian War*

Clark, Christopher, *Iron Kingdom*

Ward, David, *Cities and Immigrants*



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