

## News from Nan

### DICK'S FAMILY HISTORY

# FINDING THE JOHNSON FARM IN CANADA

AUGUST 5, 2018 | DICK | LEAVE A COMMENT



*Johnson farm in Ontario*

In this post I outline the process I went through to solve a mystery about my family history. It is an example of the fun and occasional frustration that genealogy and family history can bring.

The mystery began in the early 1980s, when I first began digging into the history of my family. One of the facts I learned was that my aunt Evelyn Johnson was born in Canada in 1922. I wondered about that because my uncle Kenneth (Kenny) and my father, Harold, were both born in the United States, in 1916 and 1919, respectively. I also knew (from the 1920 U.S. census) that in that year the Johnsons were living in the area around Buffalo, New York. Searching the records available at the time turned up nothing about the Johnsons and Canada.

Years later, in 2013, I looked again at my aunt's birth record and decided to try to find out what connection the family must have actually had to Canada.

I did a search on the Internet and found that new records were now available online for the 1921 Canada census. There I found the entry for my grandfather Alfred Johnson's family, which at the time included Eva, Kenny, and Harold. On June 29, 1921, the family was living in Dorchester South, Elgin County, Ontario, on Lot B, concession 11. That place is about 200 miles west of Buffalo, New York, near the shore

of Lake Erie. The census record also said that the Johnsons migrated to Canada in 1920, that they were renters, and that my grandfather was working as a laborer.

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Province Ontario District No. 73

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SIXTH CENSUS OF CANADA, 1921. DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

No.	NAME AND RESIDENCE		TENURE AND CLASS OF HOME				PERSONAL DESCRIPTION			
	NAME	PLACE OF BIRTH	Owned	Rented	Other	Age	Sex	Marital Status	Profession, Occupation, or Trade	
1	Lindsay	Dorchester S. Ont.	0	1	0	44	M	W	Wife	
2	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Wife	
3	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
4	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
5	James	John H.	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
6	Johnson	John H.	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
7	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
8	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
9	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
10	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
11	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
12	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
13	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
14	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
15	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
16	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
17	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
18	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
19	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
20	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
21	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	
22	"	"	0	1	0	21	F	Wife	Son	

Johnson family, Ontario, Canada 1921

Also in 2013, Anna and I attended the RootsTech conference in Salt Lake City, and while there we spent some time in the Family History Center of the Mormon Church. As a result of some research I did there I found out that my grandmother Eva had relatives in Ontario, Canada.

The Family History Center also had microfilm copies of the Buffalo area city directories, and in the 1923 directory I found that Alfred Johnson and the family were back in Tonawanda, New York.

In 2014 I found a map, published in 1924, of the Dorchester part of Elgin County. The map showed where the various land concessions and lots were located, and from this I found the location of the Johnson farm mentioned in the 1921 Canada census.

