

*William I. Johnston and
Martha G. Hazelton, Their Family
and Descendents*

William I. Johnston and Martha G. Hazelton are of particular interest, both because they are my great-grandparents, and because William started the Johnston farm, whose history and evolution I trace in the next chapter.

William I. (the “I” is possibly “Irvine” - a small lowlands clan situated just to the east of the Johnston clan) was clearly a very industrious man. He built a tiny house and 80 acres that he purchased after the Civil War into a prosperous farm that is still the center of the Johnston family’s holdings in Illinois. Looking at the family photo in Figure 4.4 William and Martha must have been good organizers - all of the farm building that went on between 1870 and 1900 was undoubtedly done by boy power!

This farm was taken over in 1910 by Walter I. Johnston (my grandfather).

4.1 William I. Johnston in “Past and Present of Will County”

(We don't know the exact publication date of this article, but it was written before Walter I. Johnston married Laura Grimes in April, 1911.)

William Johnston, an honored veteran of the Civil War and for many years an enterprising and progressive agriculturist of Will county is now living retired in Wesley township. He was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, June 10, 1838, his parents being John and Mary (Campbell) Johnston. The father was born in Galloway¹ and died in Scotland in 1842, while his wife, coming to the new world, passed away in Morris, Illinois, in 1887 at the age of 67. John Johnston followed the occupation of farming in his native country and much of the character of the man is indicated by the fact that he was an exemplary member of the Masonic fraternity and of the Presbyterian church. In the family were seven children, three sons and four daughters, but only three are now living: Joseph, a resident of Wilmington [Ill.]; Mary, the wife of Thomas McComb, living in Rich Hills, Bates county, Missouri; and William.

In the schools of his native country William Johnston acquired his education, remaining a resident of Scotland until fifteen years of age, when in 1853 he crossed the Atlantic on a sailing vessel to New York City. He there proceeded up the Hudson to Albany and by rail to Joliet, where he arrived in the month of August. He continued a resident of the city until August 5, 1862, when in response to the call of his adopted country he enlisted in Company G of the One Hundredth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was wounded at Louisville, Kentucky, being shot in the hand, and was again wounded at Franklin, Tennessee, November 30, 1864, in the right leg, after which he was in the hospital up to the time of his discharge on the 20th of June, 1865, at which time he held the rank of first sergeant of Company G of the one Hundredth Regiment. He returned home on crutches and it was some time before he had fully recovered from his injuries sustained in battle. In March, 1867, he bought eighty acres of land in Wesley township, where he now lives, and to this he added from time to time as his financial resources have increased until he owned three hundred and twenty acres of finely improved land. In 1906, however, he deeded one-half to his son John. In 1902 he retired from active farming and has since spent his remaining days in the

1. Galloway: traditional region, southwestern Scotland, composed of the districts of Wigtown, Stewartry, and part of Nithsdale, Dumfries and Galloway region. Until 1975 it was part of the counties of Kirkcudbright (east Galloway) and Wigtown (west Galloway). It is bounded by the districts of Kyle and Carrick and Cumnock and Doon Valley on the north, the Solway Firth on the southeast, and the North Channel, the narrowest point (26 miles [42 km]) between Scotland and Ireland, on the southwest.

The Rinns (or Rhinns), a hammer-shaped 210-foot- (64-metre-) high peninsula in the extreme southwest of Wigtown, surmounted by a 60-foot (18-metre) lighthouse, is the most southerly point in Scotland. The name Galloway is derived from the Gallgaidhel, or Gallwyddel (“Stranger Gaels”), the original Celtic people of this region, called Novantae by the Romans. The last “king” of Galloway died in 1234, and during the 14th century the Balliols and Comyns were the chief families, succeeded about 1369 by the Douglasses (until 1458) and in 1623 by the Stewarts. The 17th-century Scottish Presbyterians known as the Covenanters found much support throughout the region. Galloway's economy is predominantly pastoral in the lowlands, based on dairy farming of the indigenous black, hornless cattle called Galloway cattle. The moor areas above 500 feet (150 m) elevation have undergone afforestation and now provide hope for the establishment of a forest industry (including a pulp and paper mill). The Galloway Hydro-Electric Scheme (1935) harnessed the waters of the Rivers Dee and Ken for the generation of hydroelectricity. With the former county of Dumfriesshire, it is included in the South West Scotland Development Area.

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enjoyment of the comfort and ease which has been secured to him through untiring activity and well directed effort in former years.

On the 7th of November, 1867, Mr. Johnston was married to Miss Martha G. Hazelton, who was born in Oswego, Kendall county, Illinois, August 31, 1852, a daughter of Norman and Almira (Frost) Hazelton, who are mentioned on another page of this work. Unto Mr. And Mrs. Johnston have been born ten children, of whom nine are now living: Minnie, the wife of George Beckwith, a resident of Wesley township; Mattie, the wife of Dayton E. Charter, living in Essex, Kankakee county, Ill.; Ernest S., who married Edith Scroggins and is living in Emmet county, Iowa; John, who married Sadie Gray and is living in Wesley township; Jennie, the wife of C. A. Jones of Wesley township; George L., who married Myrtle Leausser, living in Wesley township; Walter I., who is carrying on his father's farm; Mabel and Edith, both at home. Charles, the eldest son died in January, 1901.

Mr. Johnston has been somewhat prominent in local political circles, serving as justice of the peace for twenty years or more. He has received five commissions for this office, the last dated April 24, 1901. He has also been school director for more than two decades and was commissioner of highways from 1885 until 1888. He is a member of Boyd post, No. 17, G. A. R. of Wilmington, and is a member of the committee on the Soldiers' Widows' Home at Wilmington. In politics he has been a stalwart republican since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. No native born citizen of America is more loyal to its interests and institutions than Mr. Johnston, who in his life has manifested the sterling characteristics of the Scottish race – the industry, the perseverance and the stalwart integrity.

4.1.1 William I. Johnston and Martha G. Hazelton

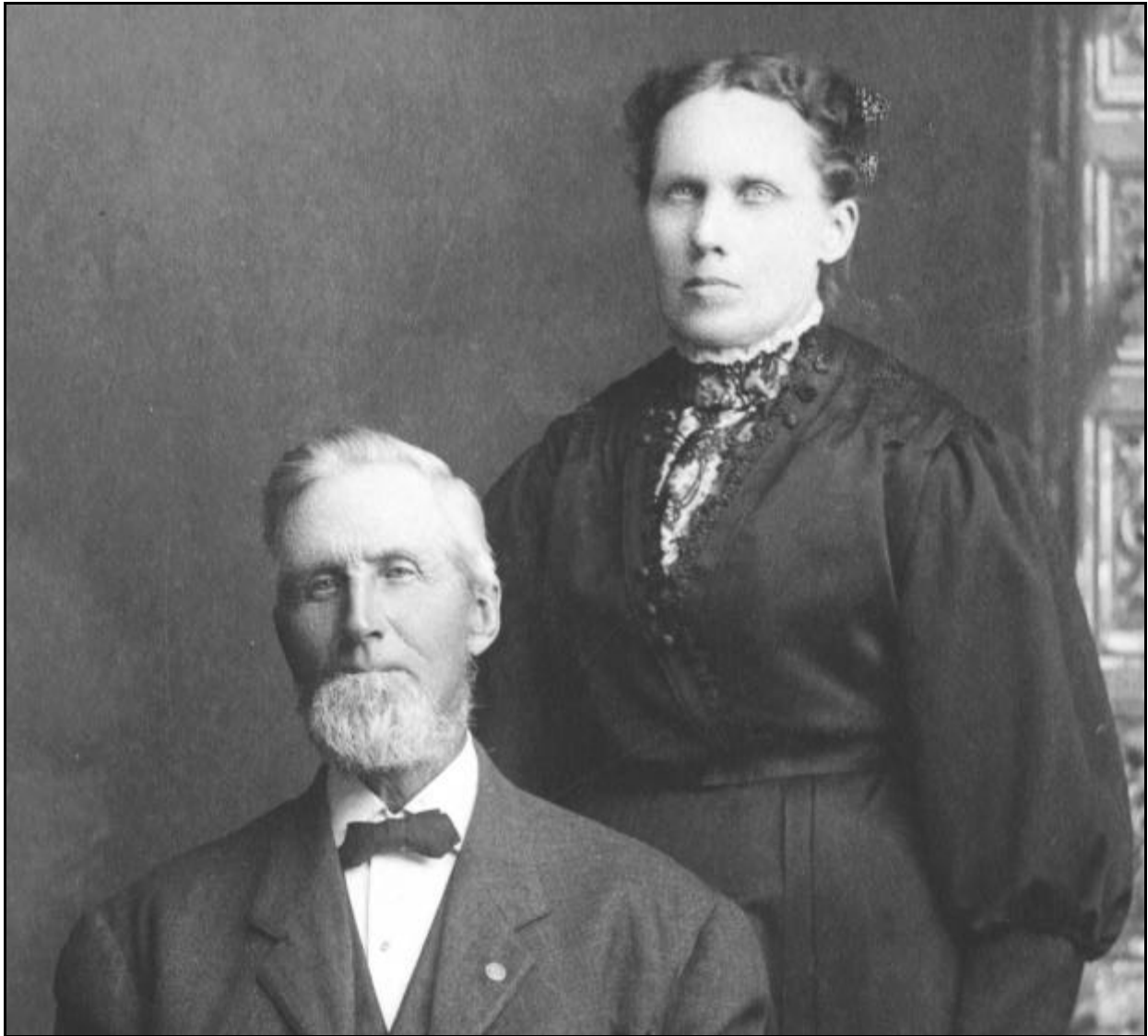
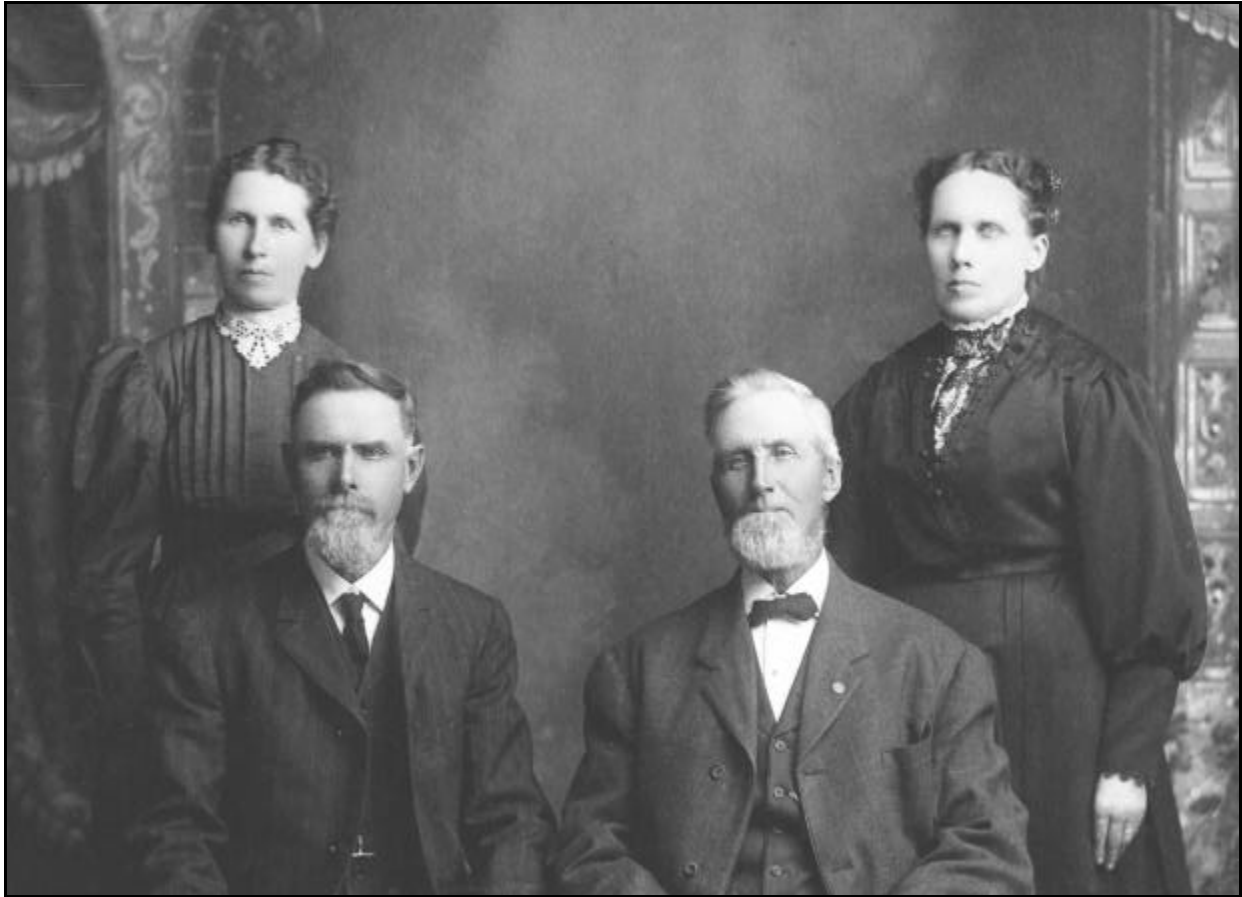


Figure 4.1 William I. Johnston and Martha G. (Hazelton) Johnston, ca. 1905.



Mary Hazelton
Jo Richardson

Martha Hazelton
William I. Johnston

Figure 4.2 Mary Hazelton and Jo Richardson, Martha Hazelton and William I. Johnston
Notes of Laura Johnston (?)

WEJ: William I. Johnston and Martha Hazelton are my great grandparents. They are the parents of Grandpa Walter Irving Johnston, the father of my father (Lester). Mary Hazelton is the sister of Martha Hazelton.

4.1.2 William I. Johnston and Friends, G. A. R.

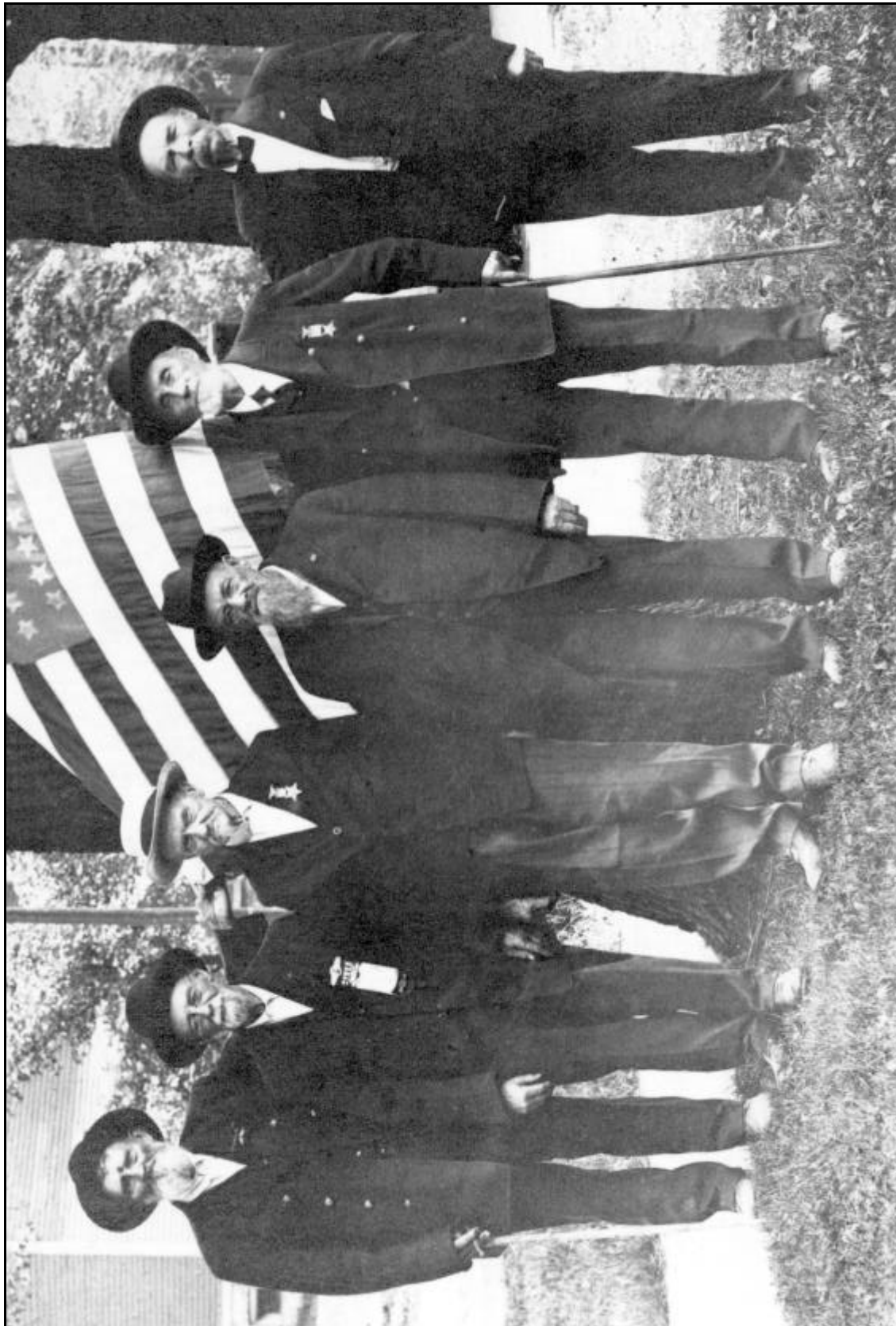


Figure 4.3 unknown, Loyd Kahler Higbie, unknown, William I. Johnston, unknown, ca. 1910.

G. A. R. members
5th - William Johnston

1. _____
2. Loyd Kahler
3. - Higbie
4. _____
5. William Johnston
6. _____

4.2 The First Generation

4.2.1 William I. Johnston and Family, ca. 1890



Figure 4.4 George Lester, Martha Elizabeth, Charles William, Jennie A., Ernest Sevelon, John Arthur, Mary Almira Anna Mable. Martha (Hazelton) Johnston (Mother), Edith Isabelle, William I. Johnston (Father), Walter Irving

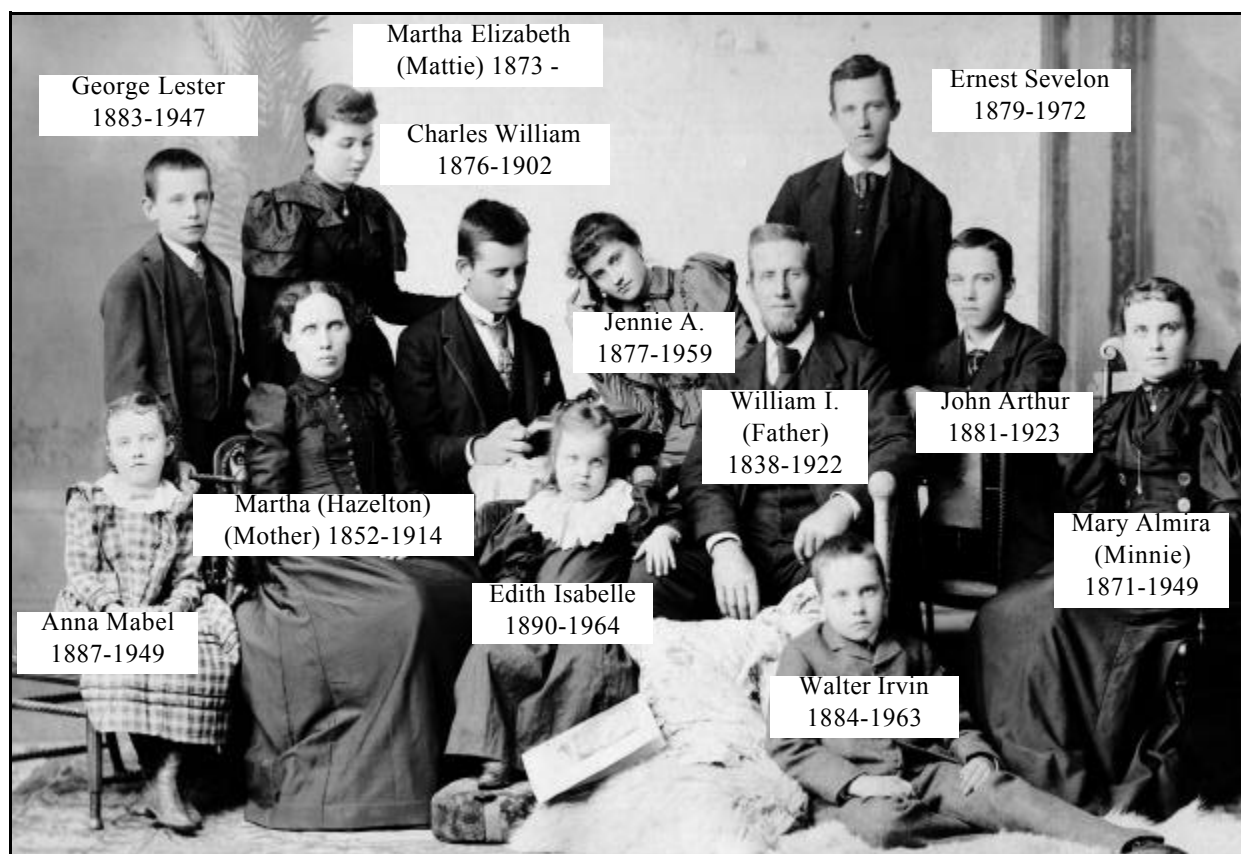


Figure 4.5 The Family of William I. Johnston, son of John Johnston and Mary Campbell of Muirkirk, Scotland

Note that Walter's legs are paralyzed at the time of this picture. His "infantile paralysis" (maybe polio) cleared up in about a year. -LWJ

I wonder if "Irvin" maybe should be spelled with an "e" (Irvine) since that is the name of the clan adjacent to the Johnstons. (The name is also spelled "Irving" and "Urwen.")



Figure 4.6 Note great-grandfather William's Civil War metal. He was twice wounded, the second time resulted in his discharge.



Figure 4.7
Note the
tartan ties on
the two boys
(probably
both ggf
William's
ties) and the
two Maltese
Cross
necklaces
on the girls.





Figure 4.8
What is Edith's
"toy" (or is it
part of the photo
props?)

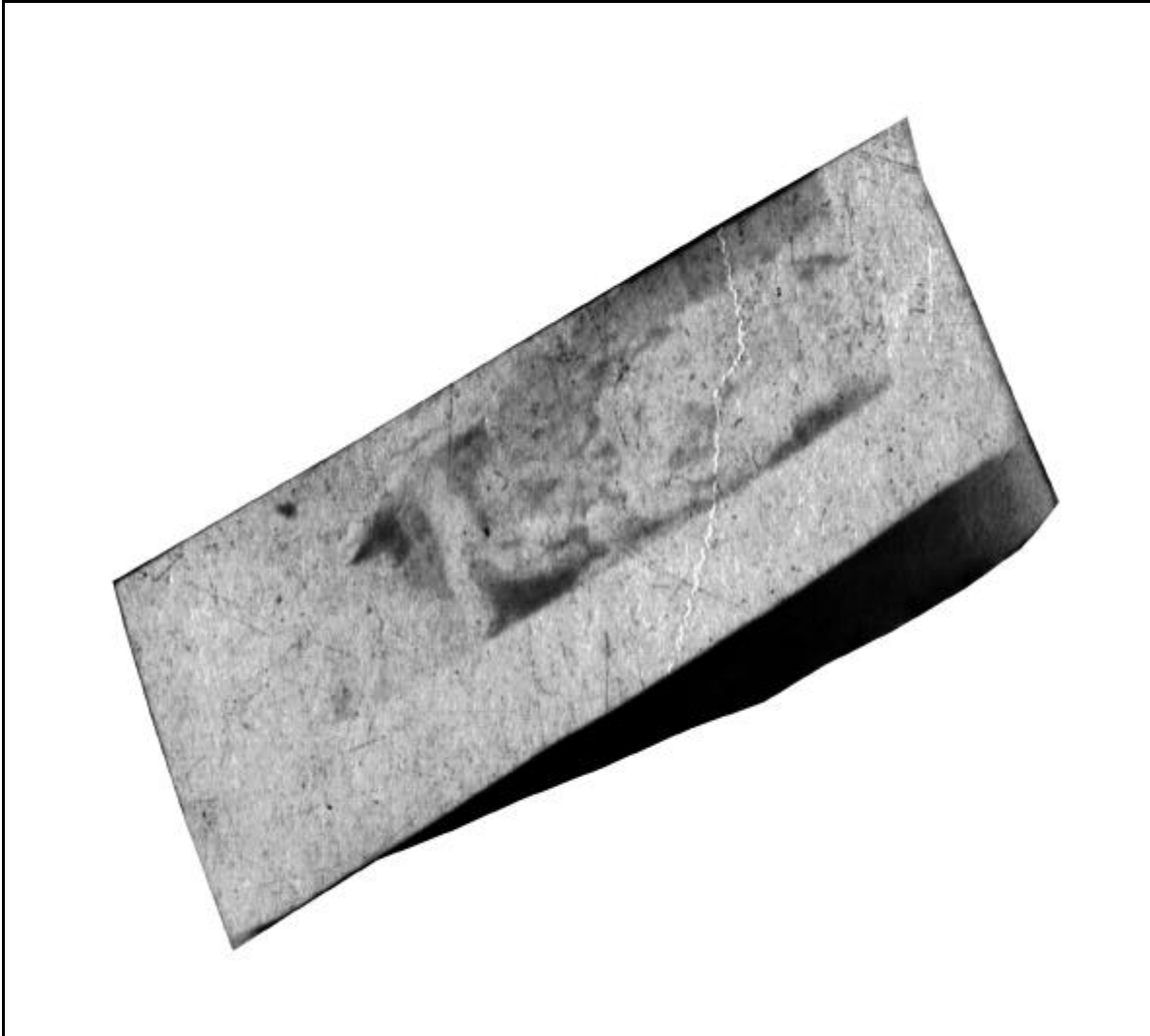


Figure 4.9

Edith's "toy" - a Turtle by a mushroom??

4.3 The Second Generation

4.3.1 The Sons of William I. Johnston, ca. 1905



Ernest
Walter,
John, ca. 1905.

George,
Charlie,

Figure 4.10

4.3.2 John Arthur Johnston and Sadie Gray



Figure 4.11 **John Arthur Johnston and Sadie (Gray) Johnston, ca. 1905.**

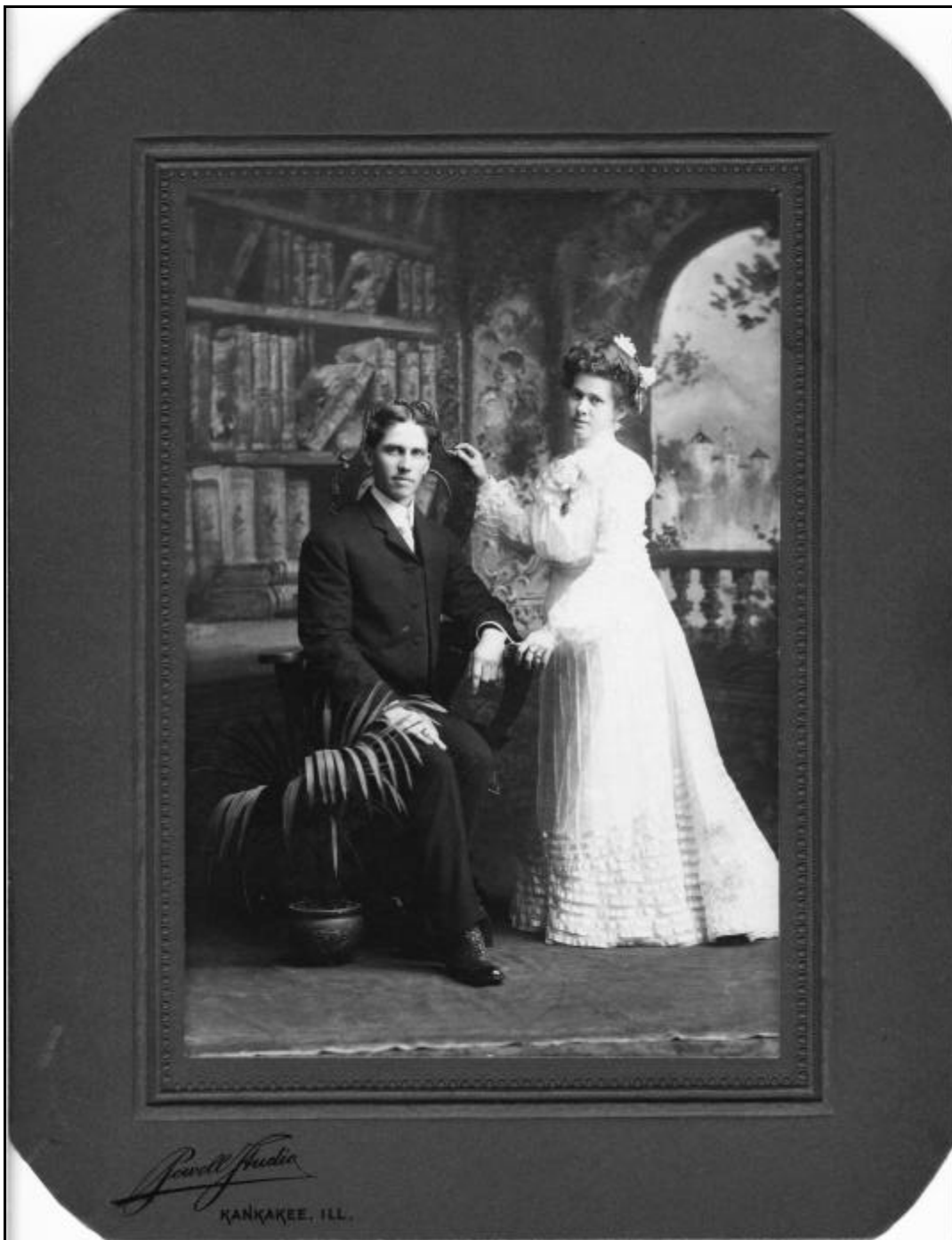


Figure 4.12

John A. Johnston, Sadie
(notes of Laura Johnston (?))

WEJ: John A. Johnston was one of the 12 children of William I. Johnston, and the brother of my grandfather, Walter I. Johnston.

4.3.3 George Beckwith and Mary Almira “Minnie” (Johnston) Beckwith



Figure 4.13 Mary Almira “Minnie” (Johnston) Beckwith and George Beckwith



Figure 4.14

Minnie Johnston was the daughter of William I. Johnston and Martha Hazelton, and sister of my grandfather Walter Irving Johnston, the father of my father (Lester).

4.4 The Third Generation

4.4.1 L. W. Johnston Photo Album

A Photo Album given to Lester Johnston on his graduation from high school.



Figure 4.15
"Lester W. Johnston.
Member Class of 1931,
Joliet Township High
School.
Album a graduation
present."



Figure 4.16
"Mrs. Laura E. Johnston.
June, 1931"



Figure 4.17 “Francis Johnston, Margaret Johnston, Lester Johnston. Fish caught at Wall Lake, Sac County, Iowa. June, 1930. Mrs. Dimmis Grimes with fish pole on pier.”

LWJ: We drove the '27 Chevy on this trip. It was a long day's drive from home to New Providence, Iowa [about 350 miles]. Over on the eastern edge of Iowa somewhere, we had a flat tire. We stopped at a service station and the fellow fixed it in jig time. He charged us 50 cents. We visited Ethyl (Grimes) and Wendel Clappitt in New Providence, and Hazel and Grandma [Dimmis (Stevens) Grimes] in Rockville. Grandma loved to fish. She caught most of the fish in the picture. Francis was about seven and he was having a ball. He caught one or two of the fish.

AJ: Janette was our neighbor on Comstock St. in Joliet.
 LWJ: This is the whole group of us. We used to pile in the old Dodge and go on picnics. I don't remember exactly where this is, but we never went too far. Eventually we got over to Starved Rock Park, but most of our trips were half and hour to an hour's drive.

{note} (Where is the "Will County Forest Preserve"? - WEJ
 AJ: Walt Bell was always sort of hoping that Lucy would notice him, but she had already met Brownie [Weller - whom she married in 1944].



Figure 4.18 "Will County Forest Preserve, July 1934
 Lester Johnston, Walter Bell
 Margaret Johnston, Janette Gleason, Hazel Bell,
 Lucy Redmon, Mary Redmon, Alice Bell"



Figure 4.19 "Will County Forest Preserve, July 1934.
 Walter Bell, Lucy Redmon, Ann Redmon,
 Lester Johnston"



Figure 4.20 Margaret Johnston - Hazel Bell - Walter Bell
Francis Johnston - Alice Bell - Ann Redmon -
Lucy Redmon
Joliet, Ill., June, 1934.

Figure 4.21
Margaret Johnston, Lester Johnston
Lucy Redmon, Ann Redmon,
Alice Bell
Francis Johnston
Joliet, Ill., June, 1934



Figure 4.22
Lester Johnston operating corn husking outfit.
W. I. Johnston farm. Ritchey, Ill.
Nov. 1934.

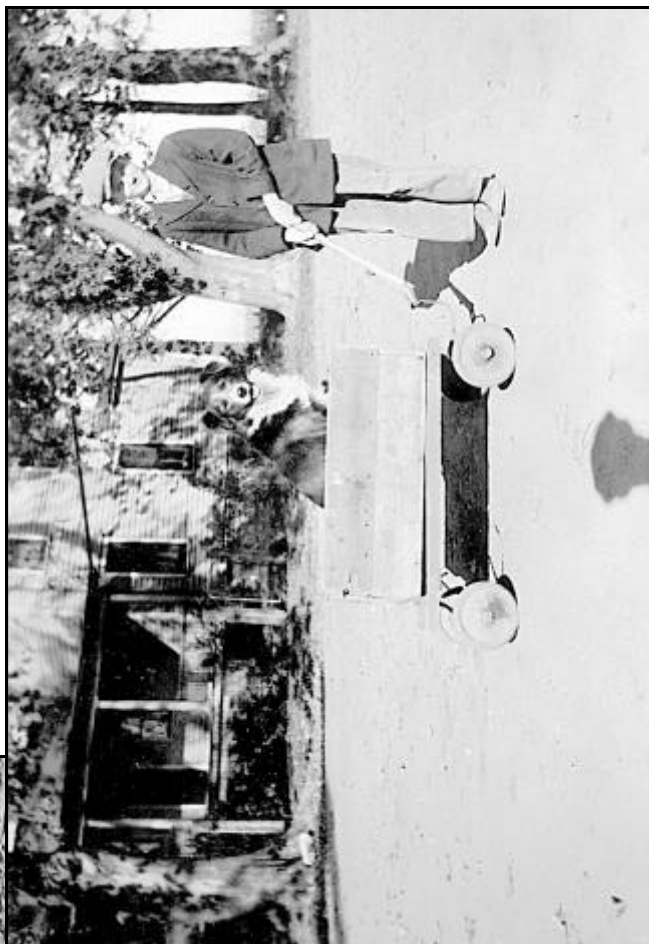
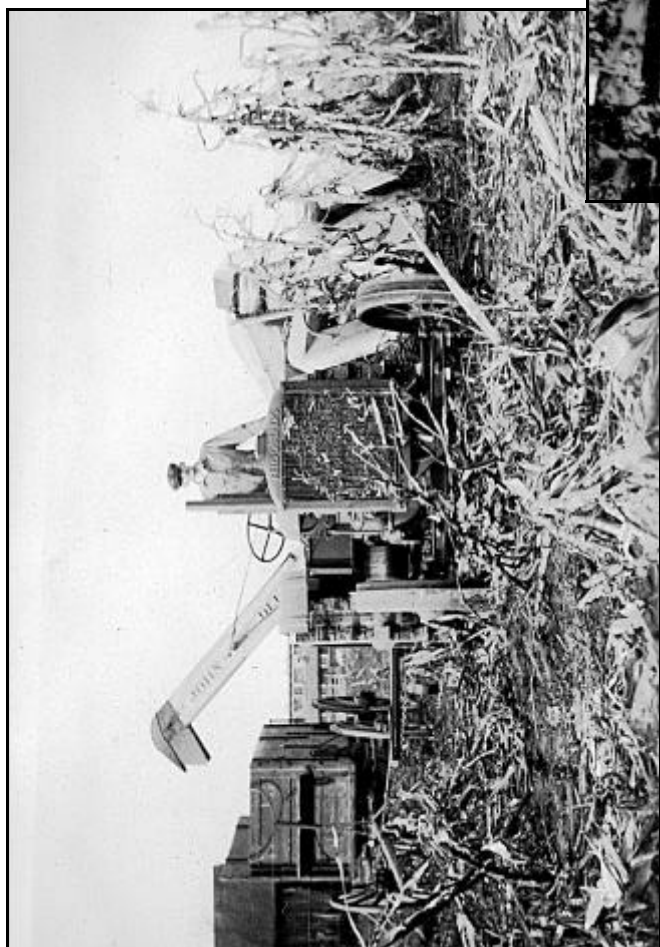


Figure 4.23
Francis Johnston and "Smokey"
W. I. Johnston residence, Ritchey, Ill.
Oct., 1934

Figure 4.24
Lester Johnston and Walter Bell.
Wesley Township Grading Outfit.
McCorkle road. August, 1934.

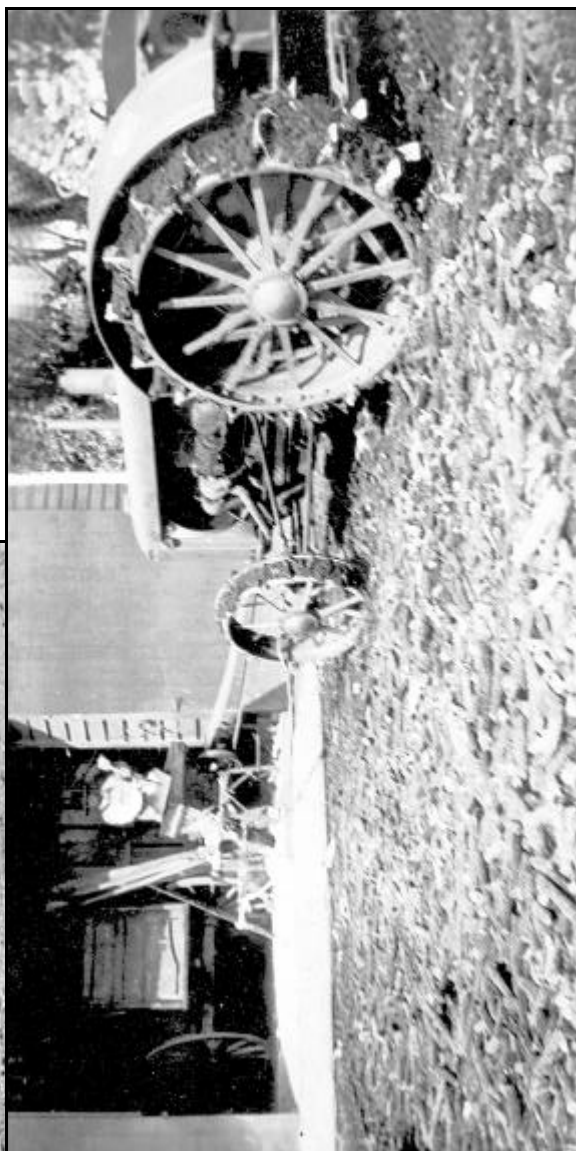
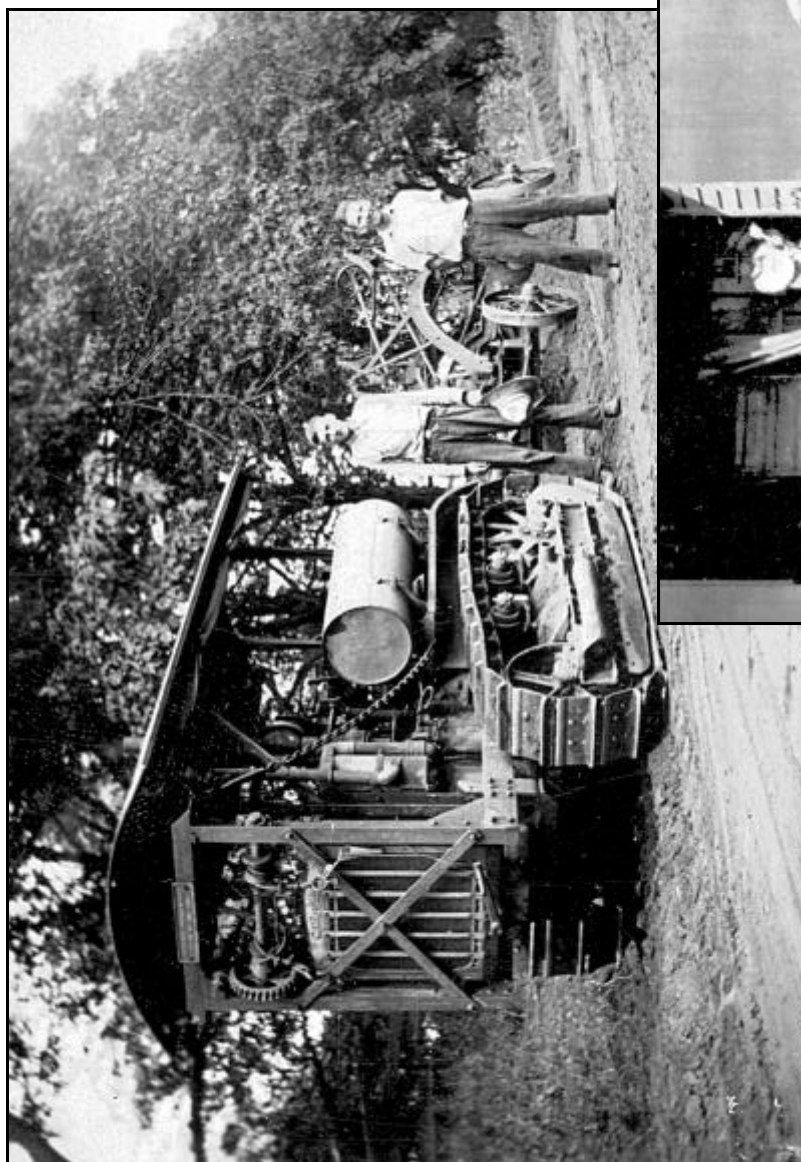


Figure 4.25
Walter Johnston grinding feed on
his farm. Nov., 1934.



Figure 4.26

Southeast view Walter Johnston's farm buildings.
Nov., 1934

Figure 4.27
Francis Johnston
1929

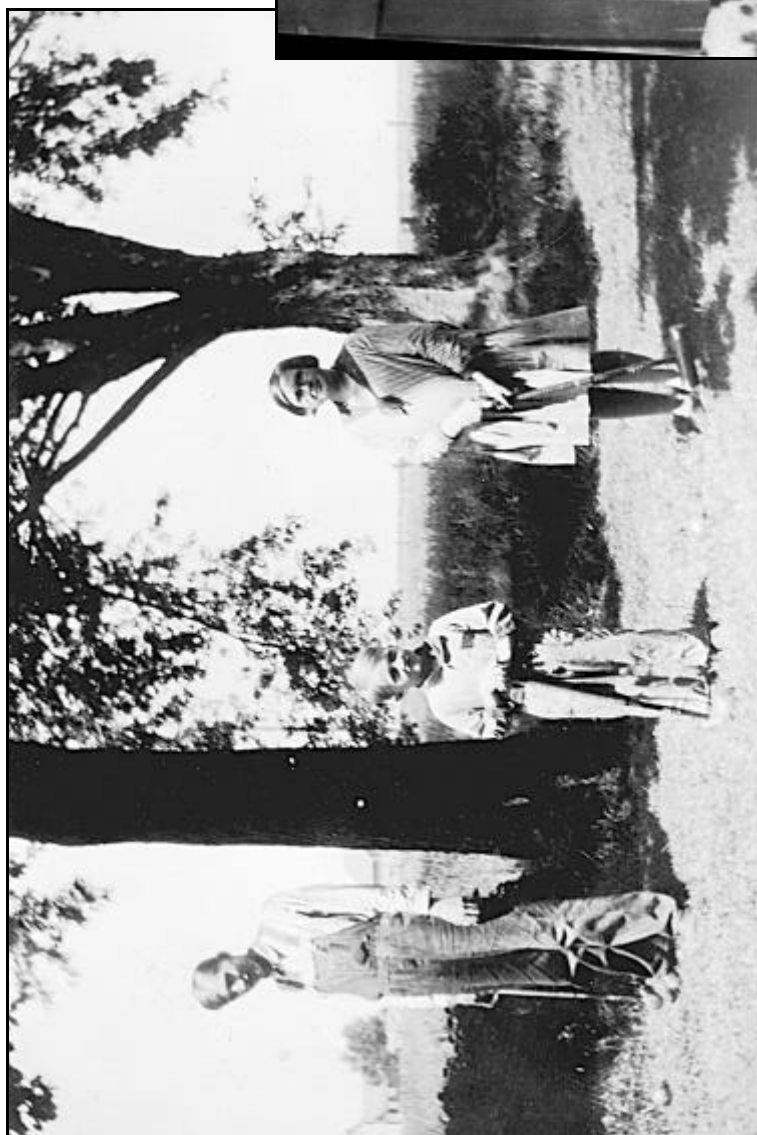


Figure 4.28 Lester Johnston, Francis Johnston, and Margaret Johnston
Playing croquet on the lawn at home.
June, 1928.

Figure 4.29
Francis Johnston
1930

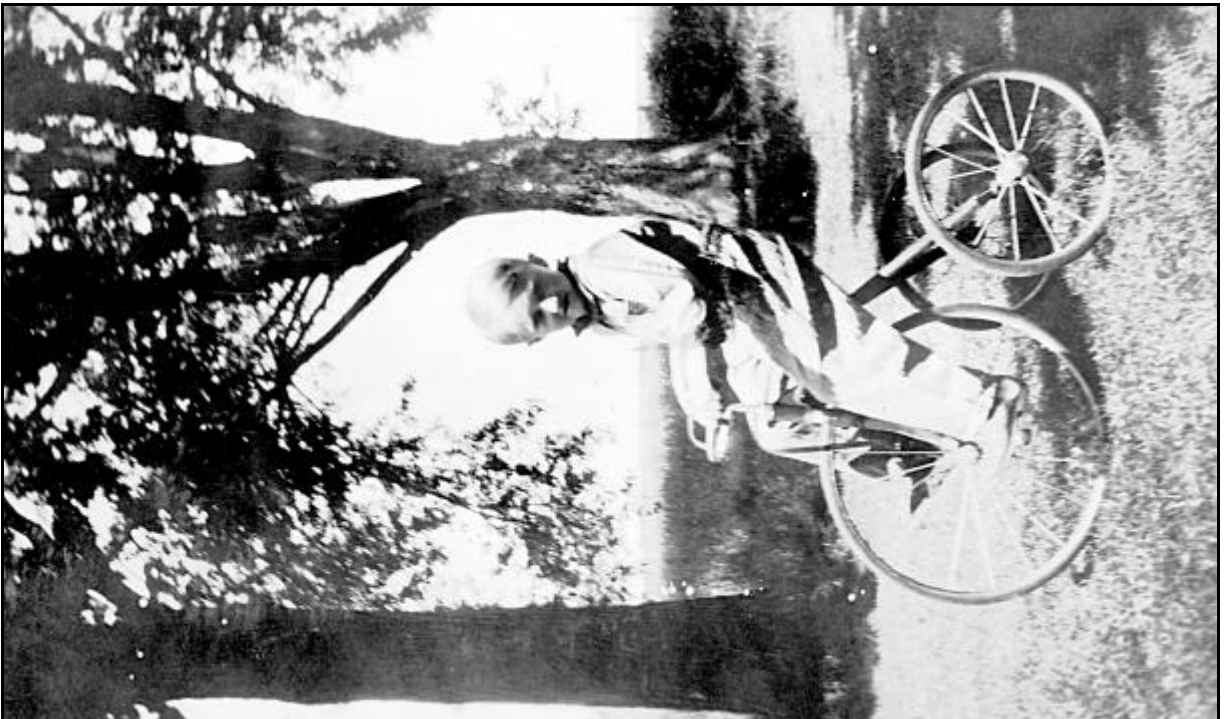


Figure 4.31
Lester Johnston and Margaret Johnston
1922



Francis Johnston
1930

Figure 4.30

Figure 4.33
L. W. J., JTHS
1931



Figure 4.32
Francis Johnston and Smokey
July, 1934

Figure 4.34
Margaret Johnston and Lester Johnston
Millrace at Willmington
1922



Figure 4.35
Lester Johnston and Margaret Johnston



Figure 4.36
Lester Johnston and Margaret Johnston



Figure 4.37
Margaret and Lester Johnston
1923

Figure 4.39
Margaret and Lester Johnston
1918



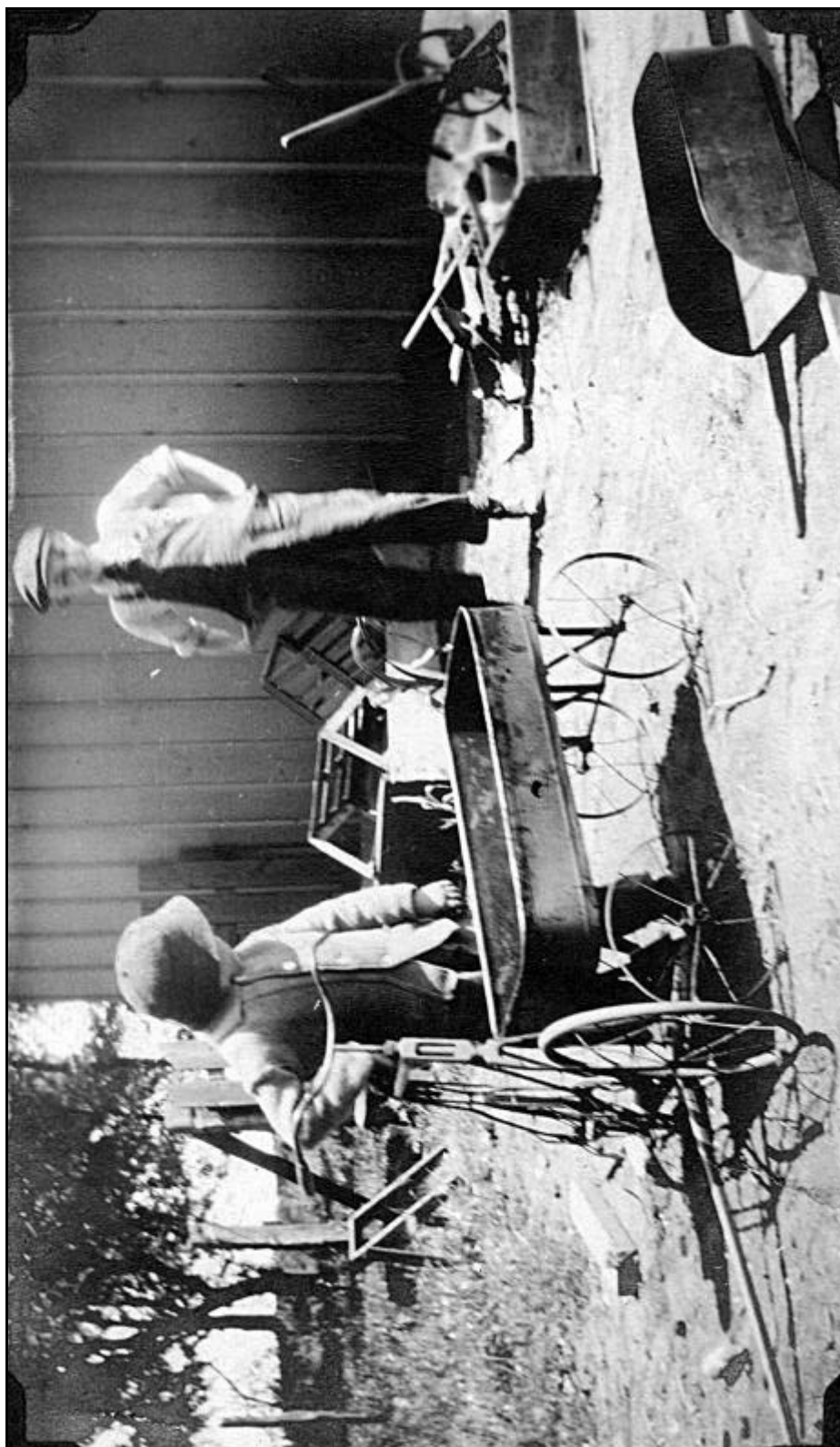
Figure 4.38
Eileen and Bobby Shipp
Margaret Johnston and Lester Johnston
1923

Figure 4.40
Margaret and Francis
Laura Johnston
1923



Figure 4.41
School Picnic, District 51
1920





Lester Johnston and Floyd Johnston
1917

Figure 4.42

4.4.2 Charters, Johnstons, and Beckwiths, ca. 1944



Figure 4.43 Howard Charter, Ann Johnston, Paul Fleetwood, Sr., Harold Charter, Everett Charter, Lester Johnston
Mable Johnston, Margaret Charter, Hazel Charter, Doris Charter,
Harriet Beckwith, Ida Fleetwood, Paul Fleetwood, Jr., and Wilbur Charter

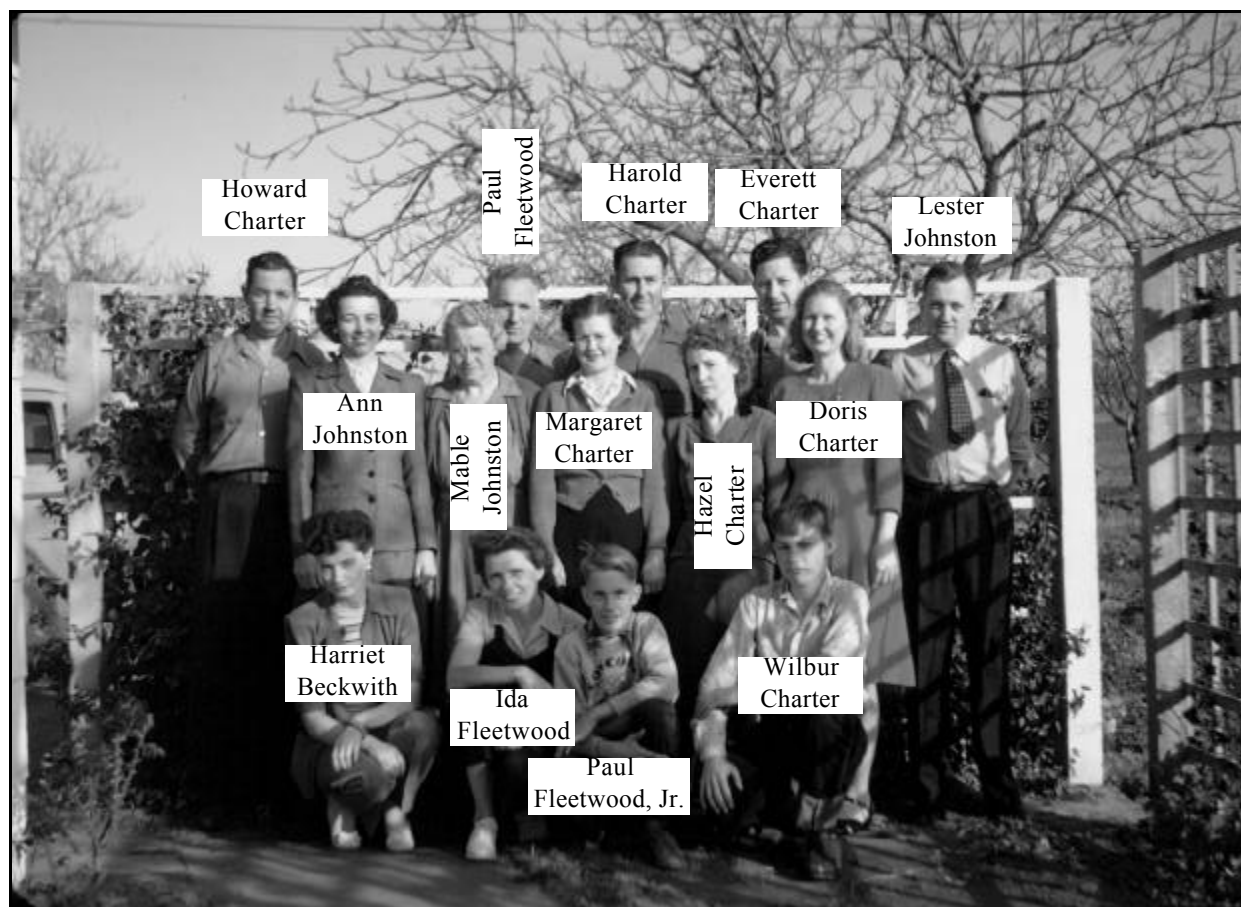


Figure 4.44 Taken at Fleetwood home, Concord, CA, ca. 1944 by Lester W. Johnston
(the original is a 35mm color transparency)

Notes of Lester W. Johnston:

Martha Elizabeth Johnston (“Aunt Mattie”), who married Dayton E. Charter (the father of Howard, Harold, and Everett Charter in this picture) was the older sister of Walter I. Johnston (Lester’s father). Harriet Beckwith and Ida (Beckwith) Fleetwood are sisters, and the children of Mary Almira Johnston (“Aunt Minnie” - Martha and Water’s older sister) and George Beckwith. So, Howard, Harold, and Everett Charter, Lester Johnston, and Harriet Beckwith and Ida (Beckwith) Fleetwood are all first cousins. Mabel Johnston is the younger sister of Walter I. and Mary Almira, and the Aunt of the Charters’, Johnstons’, and Beckwiths.

LWJ tells the story that when Ida Beckwith was about one year old (ca. 1905), that she was too much for Aunt Mattie to deal with, so Ida came to live in Grandpa William Johnston’s household. At the time Walter I. Johnston was in his early 20s and farming the “home place.” Walter was the youngest boy and was delighted to have a “baby sister” in the house. When George and Minnie came about a year later (in a horse and buggy) to bring Ida home, Walter and Ida were such

friends that Ida cried all the way home. Ida and Walter always had a special friendship. The picture below shows Walter at about this time.

This whole collection of people ended up in California because of Curtis Charter and the fact that Howard and Harold were trapped in low-wage jobs. Curtis was the brother of Dayton E. Charter. Curt lived in San Francisco during the 1906 earthquake. He told the story that on the day of the quake, he went to bed on the second floor and woke up on the first floor. Howard was the first of the Dayton Charter boys to come to Calif. (presumably because



Figure 4.45

Walter I. Johnston, ca. 1910.

of Uncle Curt). Howard came in the early 1920s and went to work for Standard Oil in Richmond, Calif. Harold came a year or so later and also went to work at the Refinery. Lester W. Johnston came in 1942 on his honeymoon to visit Howard and Harold. At this time Howard lived on Santa Fe Ave. in Albany (where he lived until he died) and Harold lived on Potrero Ave. in Richmond. There was a vacant lot next to Harold's house and Lester and Ann Johnston parked their house-trailer there when they came on their honeymoon. Shortly after the honeymoon, Lester and Ann returned to Calif. to live. Howard was, at that time, the head of the machine shop for Chevron Research Corp. (a subsidiary of Standard Oil of Calif., and co-located with the Richmond Refinery). Howard gave Lester the names of the people to see about getting a job at CRC. "They told me in a minute that they wanted to hire me, and only hesitated about 5 minutes when I told them I could only work night shift." (LWJ). LWJ spent the war years working nights at CRC and going to UC Berkeley during the days. Years later, at Howard's retirement party, one of the CRC people discovered that Howard and LWJ were cousins, and that Howard had helped LWJ get the CRC job. His comment to LWJ was "No wonder you could always get your machine work done!" (LWJ was an engineer in the CRC engine test lab for years and frequently had machine work that needed to be done.)

Notes about the people in the picture:

Howard and Hazel were married, and Wilbur is their son.

Everett and Doris were married.

Paul and Ida (Beckwith) Fleetwood were married, and Paul is their son.

(Paul Fleetwood senior died shortly after this picture was taken, as the result of a being hit by a baseball which caused a blood clot.)

Harriet Beckwith and Ida are sisters.

Lester and Ann (Redmon) Johnston were married.

Harold and Margaret Charter were married.

4.5 The Fourth Generation



Figure 4.46

Ann Johnston and WEJ. Summer 1946.
LWJ Kodachrome.



Figure 4.47 These three cousins - Joy Schroeder, Bill Johnston, and Jane Schroeder - had a lot of good times together on the various visits of the LWJ family to Illinois and the Schroeder family to California. Fall, 1946.

LWJ Kodachrome.



Figure 4.48
**Willard Johnston “4H
winner.” Fall, 1964.**
Training the next genera-
tion of farmer. FLJ.



Figure 4.49

“Doug and Will”
FLJ, summer 1960.

4.5.1 Charters and Johnstons, ca. 1954



Figure 4.50 Christmas at the Charter home on Bailey Rd., Concord, Calif., ca. 1954. On couch: Paul Fleetwood, Jr., Earl Charter, Harold Charter. Chair: Wilbur Charter. In front of chair: Gerald Charter, Ann Johnston, Ida Fleetwood. In front: Ronnie, Sandy, and Rick Charter, Bill Johnston, Margie Charter, David and Steven Johnston (in front).

4.6 The Fifth Generation