

Joseph DAWSON and Annie McCORMACK

Joseph William Dawson was born 28 July 1872 at Ryckman's Corners, Barton Township, Wentworth County, Ontario to John Dawson (1849-1909) and Hannah Adelia Young (1854-1943) – see biography of this couple.

1873. Baptisms.			
CHILD'S NAME	PARENTS' NAMES	QUALITY, TRADE, OR PROFESSION	AGE
6. Edmund Irelandford	Jacob Edmund & Louisa Young	Farmer	Barton 8 th con
7. Jason Angus			
8. George Henry			
9. Jacob Augustus	Jacob Edmund & Hannah Jane Young	Farmer	Barton 8 th con
10. Martha Rosilla			
11. Frances Elizabeth			
12. Mary Elizabeth	Henry & Annie Brierley	Painter	Lennox St.
13. Sarah Ann	Mary & Mary Clarke (Cowan)	Stationer & printer, Bookseller	St. Paul's, Glanford
14. Harriett Jane	Jonathan & Harriett Dawson	Carpenter, &c.	" " "
15. Joseph William	John & Hannah Adelia Dawson	" " "	" " "
16. William Thomas	John & Hannah Adelia Dawson	" " "	" " "
17. Jane	Philip & Catherine McKee	Farmer	Glanford
18. Alice Bertha	George & Mary Grace Marshall	Farmer	Glanford, 2 nd con
19. Charlotte Ida	Abraham & Helena Maria Wolf	Carpenter, &c.	Barton 6 th con
20. Rebecca Lynn	Abraham & Helena Maria Wolf	Carpenter	Barton 6 th con
21. James Thomas	John & Isabella Johnston	Painter	Barton 5 th
	Josiah & Mary Hill	Farmer	Windsor

1873. Baptisms.			
DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF BAPTISM	SPONSORS	OFFICIATING MINISTER
	10 th July 1873	St. George's Church	Geo. A. Knell
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	10 th July 1873		Geo. A. Knell
	10 th July 1873		Geo. A. Knell
17 th Dec. 1871	17 th August 1873	Wm. & J. Knell	Geo. A. Knell
27 th Dec. 1871	17 th August 1873	George Dawson & wife	Geo. A. Knell
21 st May 1870	17 th August 1873		Geo. A. Knell
27 th June 1871	17 th August 1873		Geo. A. Knell
28 th July 1872	17 th August 1873		Geo. A. Knell
9 th April 1872	14 th September 1873	Received into the Church by the at St. Paul's Church, Glanford	Geo. A. Knell
12 th Sept 1872	5 th September 1873		Geo. A. Knell
27 th August 1872	5 th September 1873		Geo. A. Knell
26 th March 1872	5 th September 1873		Geo. A. Knell
31 st August 1870	20 th Sept. 1873		Geo. A. Knell
12 th July 1872	6 th November 1873	Miss Eliza McKee	Geo. A. Knell

Baptismal record for Joseph William Dawson from St. Paul's Anglican Church, Glanford

Annie (Anna) McCormack was born 4 August 1871 in Ancaster, Wentworth County, Ontario to William McCormack (1836-1907) and Mary Bain (1839-1912) – see biography of this couple.

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BIRTHS.

Registration District of

	GENERAL No. 531	GENERAL No. 532	GENERAL No. 533
When Born.	July 26 th 1871	Aug 3 rd 1871	Aug 4 th 1871
Name.	<i>Edith Lavinia</i>	<i>Nathaniel Right</i>	<i>Anna</i>
Sex. (M. or F.)	F	M	F
Name and surname of Father.	<i>Abner G. Stephens</i>	<i>Abraham Dandy</i>	<i>Wm. M. McCormick</i>
Name and maiden surname of Mother.	<i>Esther Ann Supleher</i>	<i>Mary The Durginian</i>	<i>Mary Bain</i>
Rank or profession of Father.	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Wagoner</i>
Signature, description and residence of Informant.	<i>Abner G. Stephens Ancaster</i>	<i>Dr. Harry Asher Ancaster</i>	<i>Wm. M. McCormick Ancaster</i>
When Registered.	Aug 28 th 1871	Sept 2 nd 1871	Sept 4 th 1871
Name of Accoucher.		<i>Henry Asher</i>	<i>Wm. Hovey</i>
Signature of Registrar.	<i>Wm. A. Cooley</i>	<i>Wm. A. Cooley</i>	<i>Wm. A. Cooley</i>
Division.	<i>Ancaster</i>	<i>Ancaster</i>	<i>Ancaster</i>
REMARKS.		*	

Ontario Birth Registration for Anna McCormick

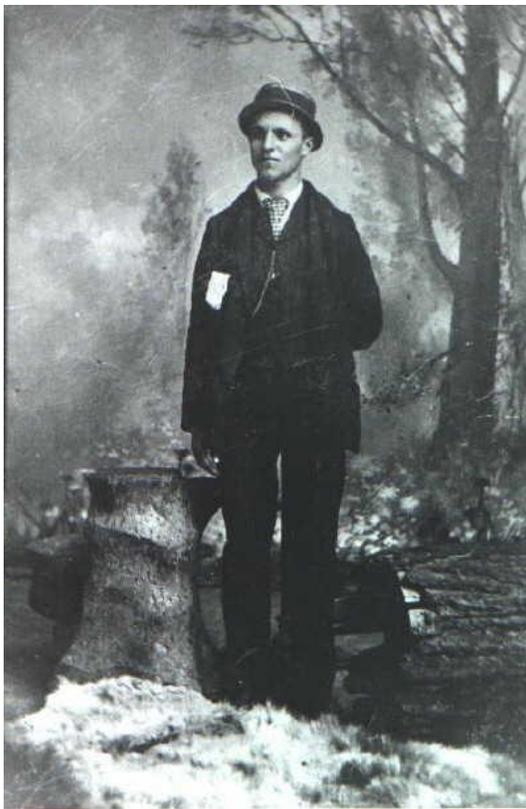
Joseph resided at Ryckman's Corners from 1872 to about 1880 when the family moved to the Mountain Brow and Bartonville (below the Mountain), before moving permanently to Hamilton. Unfortunately the family cannot be located in the 1881 census. In the 1883 Directory John Dawson was residing as a tenant on Concession 2 Lot 3 Bartonville. The Directories from 1884 to 1891 have John residing at 186 Jackson W, 121 Caroline N, 22 Jones, 52 Ray N, and 77 Jones. In the 1891 census of Hamilton an 18 year old Joseph is living with his parents and family, and working as a Labourer in a Can Factory.

Meanwhile Annie was residing in Ancaster and Dundas, and the family had moved to Hamilton before 1892 when they were residing at 44 Ferrie E (business at 189-91 James N., and by 1895 were living at 308 McNab N.

Joseph and Annie were married 6 June 1894 in Hamilton. The certificate below was given to the author by his great Aunt Hazel Mae (Dawson) Gordon:



Pictures likely taken just before marriage include the following:





The above picture may have been taken about the time of the marriage of Annie and Joseph.

In 1898 the Directory of Hamilton gives the address of Joseph, a labourer, as 411 James N and from 1899 to 1902 at 399 James N.

At the time of the 1901 census, Joseph (a Tinsmith) was residing in Hamilton with his wife Annie, and daughters Eva F. and Hazel. While Joseph belonged to the Church of England, Annie and children were members of the Presbyterian Church.

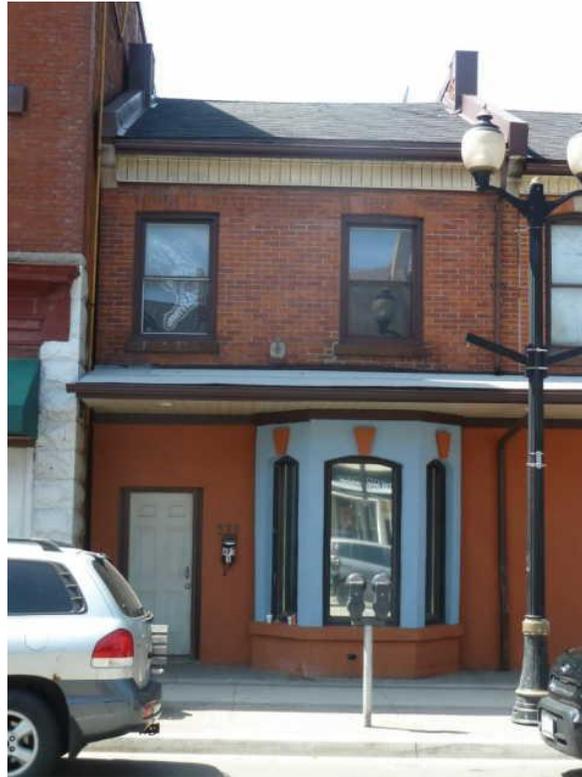
Joseph and Annie had 5 children between 1895 and 1905 – namely Hazel, Eva Fern, Hazel Mae, Pearl, and Arthur William. Alas the first and last of the children did not live through infancy.



A photo of Eva Fern, Joe, Hazel, Pearl and Annie about 1901; and below circa 1910



The Hamilton City Directory indicates that Joseph resided, from the time of his marriage, on James Street North in Hamilton - at least until 1908. Although changing residence on a number of occasions, he kept returning to 329 James Street North throughout his married life (e.g., 1921, two years after the marriage of his eldest daughter). His occupation was given either as a Tinner or a Tinsmith.



329 James N

These documents indicate that he worked for E.T. Wright & Co., and McClarys. By 1912, he was an Engineer, and worked at Gurney Scale Co., International Harvester Co., and finally Copley, Noyes and Randall.

Much of the following information comes from interviews with Joseph's grandchildren Jack R. Williamson and Violet Mae (Williamson) Faux in 1979.

As to physical appearance apparently Joseph was tall (about 6 feet) and slender, with a nose similar to that of the author (i.e., Roman type), dark brown hair, blue eyes, and a copper coloured or swarthy complexion (he always looked like he had a tan). Also, as a result of an industrial accident he was missing some fingers. It does not seem that Joseph had any formal education, and could not read or write. Apparently his passport was signed with an "X", and if holding a newspaper he would often have it upside down.

Concerning his character, he was apparently a very nice man who never showed any outbursts of temper. When the grandchildren would return from Detroit they would stop by the factory where Joseph worked and he would come out and give them money. He was also renowned for his oyster stew - a talent he learned while working for a time as a cook on a laker ship. Joseph was apparently best pals with his son - in - law Gilbert Williamson. They were drinking buddies, and during prohibition, when in Detroit, they would drink beer made in the Williamson basement. Apparently Gilbert's nickname for Joseph was "Indian Joe". Other than drinking, Joseph seems to have enjoyed being treated to an airplane ride from Connor's field when in Detroit; and hockey. Jack recalled that in 1935 his grandfather took him to a hockey game at the Barton Street Arena, and that "Grandpa was always 3 paces ahead of me". Jack also remembered that this was the same night that Joseph took him (Jack) to visit his (Joseph's) mother.



Joseph and Annie and their grandchildren

The above picture shows Violet Williamson (back, beside Joseph); Jack Williamson, June McCully, June McCully in the middle; Gilbert Williamson and Hazel Gordon in front.



Pearl, Annie, Hazel and Eva Fern

At some point Joseph and Annie separated. The grandchildren only recall the couple residing with their daughter Hazel and son - in - law Doug Gordon. It seems that this arrangement was not healthy, and was the prime reason for the separation. Jack recalled that his Uncle Doug could be a "bull - headed b.....d" at times such that Joseph was blamed for everything - "If coffee was made in the morning it was not good. Any repairs done in the basement were never satisfactory".

Joseph took up residence at 444 1/2 York Street with a nurse named Sunski Coneker who was 20 years his junior. They died together in a horrible car - train crash at a level crossing where the C.N.R. track crossed the "new centre highway" at Freeman between Hamilton and Toronto. The event made headlines in the Hamilton Spectator, complete with pictures of the individuals involved, and the scene of the accident. At 9 p.m. on Saturday Charles Ellis was driving a new car with Dawson and Coneker as passengers when he plowed head on into the front of the train which dragged the car 75 yards up the track. Death was instantaneous for Joseph, Ms. Coneker died in the ambulance, and Mr. Ellis survived his injuries. Jack recalled that they were returning from a hockey game in Toronto, Violet remembers that they were on their way back from the Canadian National Exhibition.



Joseph's daughter Hazel was the administrator of the estate - which amounted to only \$102.19 in a bank account (and which was to be turned over to his widow Annie).

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PROVINCE OF ONTARIO—CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF DEATH

1. PLACE OF DEATH County or District of Haldon Township of Nelson
 If in City, Town or Village (Name) Railway crossing near Broad St. & Freeman

2. LENGTH OF STAY (in years, months and days) (Name) Wife
 (a) In City, Town or Township where death occurred (b) In Province: Wife (c) In Canada (if immigrant) —

3. NAME OF DECEASED Lawson Joseph William
 RESIDENCE No. 444 1/2 Street York City, town, village or township Hamilton Province Ont

4. Sex Male 5. Nationality (Citizenship) Canadian 6. Racial Origin English 7. Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (mark the word) married

8. BIRTHPLACE Ontario

9. DATE OF BIRTH July 28 1872

10. AGE in Year 65 Months 1 Days 14 If less than one day old hrs. or min.

11. Trade, profession or kind of work as spinner, inspector, office clerk, etc. Engineer

12. Kind of industry or business, as cotton mill, lumbering, bank, etc. Stationary

13. Date deceased last worked at this occupation Sept 11 14. Total yrs. spent in this occupation 25

15. If married give name of wife or husband of deceased Anna McCormick

16. Name John Lawson

17. Birthplace Ontario

18. Mother's Name Adelia Young

19. Birthplace Ontario

20. Signature of informant Mrs D B Gordon
 Address 494 Mary St Hamilton
 Relationship to deceased daughter

21. Place of Burial, Cremation or Removal Hamilton Cemetery
 Date of burial or removal Sept 15 1937

22. Undertaker E. F. Southall Burlington

23. DATE OF DEATH Sept 11 1937

24. I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from Sept 11 to Sept 11 and last saw him alive on Sept 11

CAUSE OF DEATH

Immediate cause (last disease, injury or condition, also which caused death and the mode of dying, such as heart failure, embolism, infection, etc.) (a) Violent - accidental

Underlying conditions, if any, giving rise to immediate cause (b) Prodrome of cerebral sclerosis

Other medical conditions (if important) contributing to death but not directly related to immediate cause (c) Prodrome of six ribs and chest

25. If a venereal disease was the death associated with pregnancy?

26. Was there a surgical operation? Yes Date of operation _____
 Have findings _____ Was there an autopsy? _____

27. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following:
 Accident, suicide or homicide? Accidental Type of injury Sept 11 1937
 Manner of injury Scalawags - hit by train
 Nature of injury Broken neck & ribs
 Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place public highway

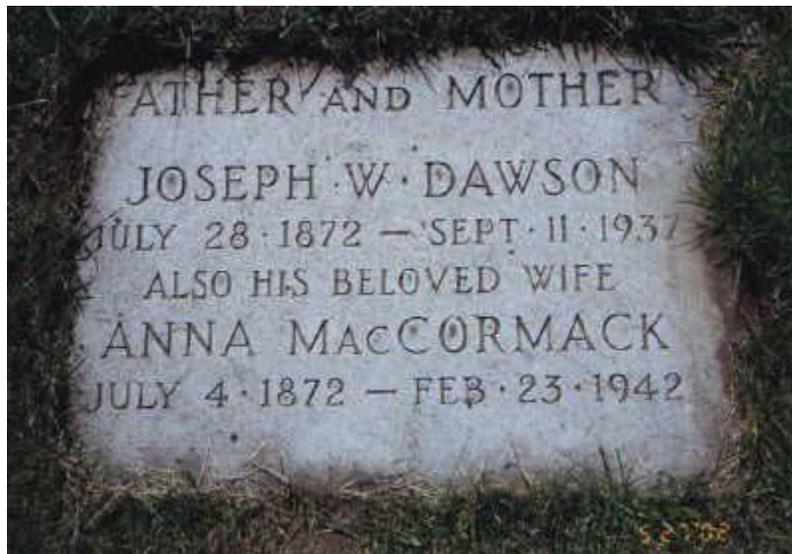
Signed by W. K. Dapin M.D.
 Address Burlington Date Sept 13 1937

28. Division Registrar's Record Number _____
 29. Filed Sept 21 1937 J. A. P. (Division Registrar)

THIS FORM MUST BE FILED FORTHWITH WITH THE REGISTRY OFFICE IN THE DISTRICT IN WHICH THE DEATH OCCURRED BEFORE A BURIAL PERMIT CAN BE ISSUED. WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK. THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. (See reverse side for instructions.)

Annie lived on to 23 February 1942, dying of a stroke while residing with daughter Hazel and son in law Doug Gordon at 494 Mary Street N (where great uncle Doug made his "Gordon's Specialty Pickles").

Joseph and Anna were buried in the Gordon plot in Hamilton Cemetery where, in addition to members of the Gordon and Lenz family, Joseph's wife Anne, two of their daughters (Eva Fern Williamson and Hazel Mae Gordon with their husbands), a great - grandchild (Victoria Lenz) and great great grandchild (Joseph Lenz) are also interred.



Dr. David K. Faux
Cypress, California; Caledonia, Ontario
1 July 2017