

THE JOHNSON CITY BAND

Stanton County, Kansas

Written by Eunice Rumford

Consultants: Mr. Lawson Tucker and William E. "Bill" Reynolds, both of Johnson, Kansas

Reference: The Johnson Pioneer

** Additional information added about certain people mentioned in this story*

The People of Johnson, Kansas known as the "Johnsonites" realized the value of having a town band and put it into action on November 21, 1924. They gave a pie supper that took in forty-five dollars; a shadow picture social, taking in sixty-one dollars; a play, taking in thirty-five dollars; and this was all in the first year. There was also a wrestling match and they received 75 dollars of the proceeds.

The band began with twenty (23 listed) members. W. W. Bachus of Two Buttes, Colorado, was their instructor and teacher from October 1924 to 1926. They gave him fourteen dollars a week for instructions. William E. "Bill" Reynolds* was their first treasurer. Each member paid an assessment of five dollars a month. They first bought a base horn that cost them ninety-five dollars. Besides playing a great number of times in their local area, the Johnson City Band also took trips to Colorado, playing for the town of Two Buttes on Labor Day.

They would disband now and then, but would always manage to get back together during the year.

The first members were:

William E. Reynolds
John B. Cockrum*
W. L. Watson
Marie Norlin*
N. Fern Rorick
George M. Engle
Mrs. R. J. Shelter
Esther Grantham*
Harry Johns
Raymond Friend
Emma Fiss*
Clarence Brocket
Forrest Walker
Ralph Aller*
Leah Yinger*
Edwin Cockreham
Evelyn Smith

Royce Fiss*
John Wartman*
Robert Brocket
Orval Lane
Roma Engle
Lloyd Carter

The interest of the band goes to Mr. Lawson Tucker* when he came to Johnson as our newly elected County Clerk and took a great interest in keeping the need for music in the town. The Chamber of Commerce elected three directors (Fred Collingwood, Steve Church, and J. A. Padden) to investigate what it would take to organize a local band. The proposition of the Johnson Band was placed before those attending the meeting on February 6, 1925, the second monthly dinner at the Stanton County Courthouse. This issue took up a good part of the discussion during the evening. O. S. Chesterman, president of the Chamber of Commerce appointed the three Johnson businessmen to serve on a committee that made a personal survey of Johnson to determine how many prospective players there were in the city and the surrounding vicinity and to arrange for obtaining instruments for persons here who wish to join the new organization. Every possible effort was made at once to make the proposition a success. It rapidly proved to be a big asset to the community.

The Commerce Club appointed a committee, M. S. Childs, O. G. Barrows, and Rev. Stanley Welch. Lawson Tucker was appointed director. They had their first rehearsal on February 15th and looked forward to giving their first public concert in June. It was off to a good start. By March 21, 1925, the Johnson Band had grown to over thirty members. Usually, a town the size of Johnson would have about ten or fifteen members. By June 13th, the pupils were studying hard and making rapid progress on new musical pieces. By now, the band had a variety of instruments and they were planning to make their first appearance in August or September.

Johnson was very proud of their town band and the members and directors all deserved many compliments.

Additional information

A FEW OF THE FIRST MEMBERS OF THE JOHNSON CITY BAND

WILLIAM E. "BILL" REYNOLDS

WILLIAM ELMER "BILL" REYNOLDS was the son of James B. Reynolds (1858-1931) and Sadie Luella Aller (1875-1959). Bill was born on 26 Mar 1905 in Johnson, Stanton County, Kansas. On 27 Sep 1931, he married REVA INEZ FLOYD, daughter of James Allen Floyd (1879-1954) and Era Myrtle Hudson (1888-1970), in Johnson, Kansas. Reva was born on 22 Mar 1914 in Sparta,

White County, Tennessee.



BILL & REVA (FLOYD) REYNOLDS

Married 27 Sep 1931

Photograph provided by their grandson, Mark Caryl of Salem, Oregon

Bill and Reva were living in Stanton County, Kansas until about 1936, when they moved to Arvada, Jefferson County, Colorado. In 1947, they moved on to Oregon, and in 1956, they made Salem, Marion County, Oregon their home. Bill made his living as a Carpenter and retired in 1967.



BILL & REVA

1991 Newspaper photograph

Celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary

Bill died on 19 Jan 1995 in Salem, Oregon. Reva died there on 28 Jun 2002. Both were buried at the Restlawn Memory Gardens Cemetery in West Salem, Polk County, Oregon.

Six children were born in their marriage:

MELVIN JAMES REYNOLDS was born on 20 Sep 1932 in Stanton County, Kansas. (*Other records give birthdate as 26 Sep 1932.*) He married Peggy Ann Cole on 10 Jan 1959 in Clark County, Nevada. They divorced in March of 1967 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California. Melvin passed away there on 20 Mar 1988. He was buried at the Valley View Memorial Park Cemetery in Newberg, Yamhill County, Oregon.

CAROL LOUISE REYNOLDS was born on 10 May 1934 in Johnson, Stanton County, Kansas. She died there at the age of 1 month on 24 Jun 1934 and buried at the Johnson Cemetery in Johnson, Kansas.

GERALD LOWELL REYNOLDS was born on 8 Jan 1936 in Johnson, Stanton County, Kansas. He married Eva Marie Carlson on 14 Mar 1956 in Linn, Oregon. Gerald's death certificate reveals that they lived in Jasper, Jasper County, Texas where he worked as a manufacturing engineer. He died on 9 Mar 1980 at the St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas. His body was cremated on 11 Mar 1980 in Houston, Texas.

Gerald and Eva had four children; three sons, Martin L. Reynolds, Daniel K. Reynolds, and James S. Reynolds; plus a daughter, Lisa M. Reynolds.

RALPH EDWARD REYNOLDS was born on 15 Oct 1937 in Denver, Denver County, Colorado. On 20 Jul 1968, he married Rosalee Cannon in Eugene, Lane County, Oregon. They had two children, Julie Ann (Reynolds) King and David Aaron Reynolds. Ralph was an Industrial Arts and Science Teacher for 32 years at the Redmond, Oregon High School. He died on 13 Jun 2014 in Bend, Deschutes County, Oregon.

JOYCE REYNOLDS was born in 1942. She was married to Frank Cristofolo and they lived in Beaverton, Oregon.

RICHARD REYNOLDS was born in 1944. Richard lived in Salem, Oregon with his wife, Maureen.

JOHN B. COCKRUM

JOHN BERRIMAN COCKRUM, son of John Kendrid Cockrum (1847-1931) and Martha Mariah Dodson (1855-1940) was born on 10 Mar 1892 in Laclede County, Missouri. In 1930, John was working as a cashier at the bank in Johnson, Stanton County, Kansas. He later became the president of a local bank in Johnson.

John married **DORA BELLE BOREN**, daughter of Henry Francis Boren (1858-1946) and Lucinda Wilson (1865-1930) on 31 May 1915 in Lebanon, Laclede County, Missouri. Dora was

born on 19 Mar 1897 in Plato, Texas County, Missouri. She passed away on 10 Jul 1966 in Johnson, Stanton County, Kansas. John died there on 21 Jun 1970. Both were buried at the Johnson Cemetery in Johnson, Kansas. John and Dora had two children: **DARIUS ETHEN COCKRUM** (1916-2005) and **LEROY BERRIMAN COCKRUM** (1926-1996).

MARIE NORLIN

MARIE ELIZABETH NORLIN, daughter of Carl Gustaf "Charles" Norlin (1854-1919) and Ida Christina Johansdotter (1865-1950) was born on 11 Dec 1905 in Stanton County, Kansas. Marie married **GLENN "EVERETT" TUMBLESON**, son of Albert Truitt Tumbleson (1866-1931) and Irena Alice Fuller (1876-1975), on 1 Feb 1926, in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas. Everett was born on 3 Nov 1902 in Barber County, Kansas.

One daughter was born in their marriage, **NORMA LEE NORLIN** (1929-2019).

Everett and Marie moved to Scott City, Kansas soon after they were married, and in 1940, they were found living in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma where Everett was working as a truck driver. By 1942, they had moved to Joplin, Jasper County, Missouri, and in 1950, they were living in Lynwood, Los Angeles County, California where Everett was working as the manager of a local Ice Plant.

Glenn E. Tumbleson passed away on 11 Feb 1977 in Los Angeles County, California. Marie died there on 2 Sep 1980. They were buried at the Rose Hills Memorial Park Cemetery in Whittier, Los Angeles County, California.

ESTHER GRANTHAM

ESTHER CORDELIA GRANTHAM, daughter of Richard Grantham (1848-1936) and Lydia Hyde (1849-1936) was born on 28 Sep 1891. In the year 1900, Esther and her family were living in Osborne County, Kansas, and by 1910, they had moved to Roanoke Township in Stanton County, Kansas. In 1920, Esther was living with her parents in Abbeny, Prowers County, Colorado and she was working as a teacher for the Abbeny public school.

On 28 Jul 1926, Esther married **AARON LEROY KEARNEY**, son of Lambert Kearney (1829-1884) and Louisa Jane Bowman (1854-1928), at Canon City, Fremont County, Colorado. Aaron was born on 15 May 1882 in Douglas County, Illinois. In 1930, Aaron and Esther were living in Johnson, Stanton County, Kansas where Aaron worked as a Grain Dealer for the local Grain Storage Elevator, and Esther was working there as a bookkeeper.

Aaron and Esther had only one child, **CHARLES FRANKLIN KEARNEY**, who was born on 7 Mar 1934. He died at the age of 4 years on 13 Feb 1939. In 1940, Aaron and Esther were living in

Big Bow, Stanton County, Kansas. Aaron died on 21 Mar 1959 and Esther died on 4 Feb 1977. Both were buried at the Ulysses Cemetery in Ulysses, Grant County, Kansas, along with their young son, Charles.

EMMA FISS

EMMA LOUISE FISS, daughter of Herman Carl Fiss (1863-1957) and Iola May Martin (1864-1924) was born on 21 Dec 1904 in Washington County, Kansas. On 19 May 1924, she married **FORREST OLIVER WALKER**, son of William Morton Walker (1866-1949) and Ella Maude Kennison (1868-1973). He was born on 8 Sep 1904 in Jackson County, Missouri.



FORREST & EMMA (FISS) WALKER

Forrest died on 1 Dec 1961 in Johnson, Stanton County, Kansas. Emma died there on 4 May 2006. They were buried at the Johnson Cemetery. Forrest and Emma had two children, **FORREST LAVERNE WALKER** (1926-2017) and **MARJORIE MAE (WALKER) WHITTINGTON** (1929-2001).

RALPH ALLER

RALPH WALTER ALLER, son of William Walter Aller (1873-1931) and Loma Pearce (1877-1972), was born on 1 Mar 1903 in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri. Sometime after the year 1930, he married **LAURA VIVIAN SAUNDERS**, daughter of Johnston Saunders (1866-1939) and Laura Mills (1875-1965). Laura was born on 23 Apr 1911 in Stonington, Caca County, Colorado. She died in Johnson, Kansas on 25 Dec 1959.

After the death of his first wife, Ralph married again, to **LENA HELEN SOUTH** on 16 Dec 1962 in Henry County, Georgia. Lena was the daughter of Callaway South (1873-1926) and Thena

Moore (1879-1942). She was born on 17 Mar 1911 in Henry County, Georgia, and died on 18 Dec 2000 in Johnson, Stanton County, Kansas. Ralph Aller died there on 18 Nov 1989 and buried next to both of his wives at the Johnson Cemetery.

LEAH YINGER

MARY "LEAH" YINGER, daughter of Finley Yinger (1855-1921) and Frances Ellen Abrams (1857-1922) was born on 7 May 1897 in Mankato, Jewell County, Kansas. Leah Married JOHN FRANCIS CARRITHERS, son of Francis Carrithers (1870-1950) and Emma Aller (1877-1952), on 17 Sep 1924. John was born on 5 Nov 1897 in Stanton County, Kansas. John and Leah left Kansas in 1939, moving to the state of Idaho. The four children born in their marriage were ELDON CARRITHERS, MADISON CARRITHERS, VERNA CARRITHERS, and HAZEL CARRITHERS.

Leah died on 30 Nov 1964 and John died on 14 Mar 1967. Both died in Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho, and buried there at the Pinecrest Memorial Park Cemetery.

ROYCE FISS

HERMAN "ROYCE" FISS, son of Herman Carl Fiss (1863-1957) and Iola May Martin (1864-1924) was born on 28 Apr 1899 in Washington, Washington County, Kansas. (He was a brother to Emma Fiss.) Royce married WILMA TUCKER, daughter of Herman L. Tucker (1883-1953) and Luella Warren (1884-1969) on 31 Jul 1930 in Stanton County, Kansas. Wilma was born on 3 Jun 1911 in the state of Missouri.

Two sons were born to this marriage: GALEN ROYCE FISS, who was a professional football player for the Cleveland Browns from 1956 to 1966, and LAWRENCE LAVERNE FISS, who was an attorney and lived in Johnson, Kansas.

Royce passed away on 18 Oct 1967 in Johnson, Stanton County, Kansas and Wilma died there on 5 Apr 1996. They were buried at the Johnson Cemetery.

JOHN S. WARTMAN

JOHN STEELE WARTMAN, son of Fred Albert Wartman (1877-1960) and Pearl Mae Figart (1881-1980), was born on 23 Jan 1905 in Syracuse, Hamilton County, Kansas.

John married EMILY AGARTHA FRIER, daughter of John Henry Frier (1888-1947) and Ada Wallace (1883-1988), on 17 Nov 1935 in Wichita, Kansas. Emily was born on 13 Sep 1916 in Galatia, Barton County, Kansas. Four children were born in their marriage: GREGORY

WARTMAN, PATRICIA WARTMAN, JONNITTA WARTMAN, and BONNITTA WARTMAN.

John was a retired bank director, farmer, and rancher at the time of his death. They lived just north of Manter in Stanton County.

John died on 14 Jan 1986 in Johnson, Stanton County, Kansas and Emily died there on 29 May 2015. They were buried at the Johnson Cemetery in Johnson, Kansas.

LAWSON TUCKER

EDWIN "LAWSON" TUCKER, son of Dr. William V. Tucker (1867-1947) and Anna V. Larson (1871-1940), was born on 26 Nov 1897 in Greensburg, Green County, Kentucky. He was married to **CECELE E. FISHER**, daughter of Leslie Fisher (1875-1933) and Lillie C. Harris (1872-1930). Cecele was born in 1901 in Remington, Jasper County, Indiana.

Lawson Tucker was the owner of the Tucker Drug Store in Manter, Kansas, and the Dixie Clothing Store in Elkhart, Kansas. He was also a cashier and a Notary Public for the Manter State Bank during the mid-1920s. About 1946, Lawson and Cecele left Kansas and moved to Maricopa County, Arizona.

Lawson passed away on 3 Jul 1969 and Cecele died on 8 Dec 1978. Both died in Tempe, Maricopa County, Arizona, and buried at the Green Acres Memorial Park Cemetery in Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona.

Lawson and Cecele had nine children:

ALICE "NOREEN" (TUCKER) GRAY was born on 2 Nov 1921 in Elkhart, Morton County, Kansas. She was married to Ralph M. Gray on 5 Oct 1940 in Guymon, Texas County, Oklahoma. They lived in Phoenix, Maricopa County, Arizona. Noreen died there on 20 Dec 1992.

LAWTON "GLENN" TUCKER was born on 13 Sep 1923 in Elkhart, Morton County, Kansas. He worked as a farmer and rancher in Stanton County, Kansas. There, he married Genevieve Hampton (1931-2014), daughter of George Hampton and Nellie Johnston, on 15 Aug 1948. He died on 9 Jan 1998 in Johnson, Kansas. Glenn and Genevieve were buried there at the Johnson Cemetery.

EVELYN "MAXINE" (TUCKER) BURKHARD was born on 11 Oct 1924 in Elkhart, Morton County, Kansas. She married Raymond Kenneth Burkhard on 15 Sep 1948 in Maricopa County, Arizona. In the late 1960s, Maxine and Raymond were living in Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas. Evelyn passed away on 29 Mar 2018 in Riley, Riley County, Kansas. Raymond died on 28 Jul 2018 in Hutchinson, Reno County, Kansas. Their bodies were cremated.

KENNETH ROY TUCKER was born on 29 Nov 1926 in Manter, Stanton County, Kansas. He was married to Naomi Moody (1930-2005), daughter of Omer Lee Moody and Ruth Marie Trafton on 28 Feb 1950. Naomi was born on 28 Feb 1930 in Grant County, Kansas. Kenneth passed away on 21 Mar 1989 in Johnson, Stanton County, Kansas. Naomi died there on 15 Dec 2005. Burial for both was at the Johnson Cemetery.

LILLIE ANNE (TUCKER) HAGERMAN lived in Tempe, Maricopa County, Arizona.

PATRICIA L. (TUCKER) WILLER lived in Tempe, Maricopa County, Arizona.

JANE TUCKER MC EWIN was born on 21 Sep 1936 in Elkhart, Morton County, Kansas. She died on 7 May 1964 in Glendale, Maricopa County, Arizona, and buried at the Green Acres Memorial Park Cemetery in Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona.

GENE TUCKER was born in 1937 in Elkhart, Morton County, Kansas. When he was 19 years old, Gene was living in Colorado. He was married to Mary Elaine Phillips on 16 May 1956 in Soda Springs, Caribou County, Idaho. He died on 16 Jan 2005 in San Diego County, California.

MYRNA KAY (TUCKER) YSASI was born on 25 Apr 1939. She was married to Elsie J. Ysasi. They lived in Tempe, Maricopa County, Arizona.

JOHNSON CITY BAND Newspaper Article

The Syracuse (Kansas) Journal and Republican News – Friday, 11 July 1924

JOHNSON CITY BAND PLEASES BIG CROWD

The Johnson City Band helped make the Fourth of July celebration (*in Syracuse, Kansas*) the big success that it was. The band is one of the infant musical organizations of the state, rounded up by a director from Two Buttes, Colorado. They have made great progress and the general celebration committee and many others favorably commented on their music. One of the attractive features of this band is that part of its membership are women. The director of the band was not with them on the Fourth but they all did fine. The band also took first prize for the most patriotic float in the parade.