

BIO of JOHN BATISTE LAUZON

Disclaimer: Although all genealogical and family information (names, spellings, dates, places, relationships, stories, etc) has been gathered in good faith the nature of such information can never be 100% accurate due to variable reliability of documents. As a result, please be skeptical of any material that seems unreasonable and inform the author of such issues. The author reserves the rights to update all information as more data becomes available.

Tracing the Lauzon family is complicated by the variations in the spelling/miss-spelling of the name, including Louson, Loson, Lozen, Lawson, Lozo, etc. Dates are notoriously misstated. Locations frequently do not indicate if they are PO locations, cities, villages, towns, or counties, so must be taken with caution.

I used to think that the locations recorded for births and residences accurately give the communities that our ancestors made their home. However, research into the Lauzon and Cholette families dashed that thought. Their recorded locations were not the actual place that our families lived, but the township or county where they resided, and sometimes were miles away from the true home. Clarence Creek, Alfred, St. Thomas, and Escanaba took on new meaning, and I had a deeper appreciation of the rural nature of their homes.

THE EARLY LIFE OF JOHN B LAUZON

John Baptiste Lauzon was born on December 20, 1876 to Antoine and Liza Lauzon (see Book 2) at their farm near the town of Clarence Creek in Clarence Township of Russell County in Ontario Providence, Canada.

John was the 4th child of 16 in the farming family, and the 4th boy.

On a trip to Clarence, the daughters of John found that St. Felicite, the only Catholic Church in Clarence Creek, had burned and all the records were destroyed. No birth records were available there [5]. However, centralized Church records showed that he was baptized on Dec 23, 1876

Family of Antoine Lauzon & Liza Lalonde

John was the 4th child in the all-boy initial Lauzon family, which ended up having 16 children. Ultimately, there were 5 girls and 11 boys in the farm family. The family included:

- 1-Edward Lauzon (1873-1930)
- 2-Antoine Lauzon Jr (1873-1951)
- 3-Alphonse Lauzon (1875-1954)
- 4-John Baptist Lauzon (1876-1956)
- 5-Catherine Lauzon (1877-unk)
- 6-Hilaire (Eli) Lauzon (1878-1953)
- 7-Hormidas (1880-1967)
- 8-Alfred Lauzon (1882-1956)
- 9-Pierre (Peter) Lauzon (1884-1975)
- 10-Rose Alba Lauzon Poirier (1886)
- 11-Armoza Lauzon Charbonneau (1888)
- 12-Amedee (Homer) Lauzon (1891-1975)
- 13-Eveleen Lauzon O'Brien (1892-1918)
- 14-Isabelle Lauzon Hull (1893-1989)
- 15-Albina Lauzon Lalonde (1894-1935)
- 16-Emide Lauzon (1898-1975)

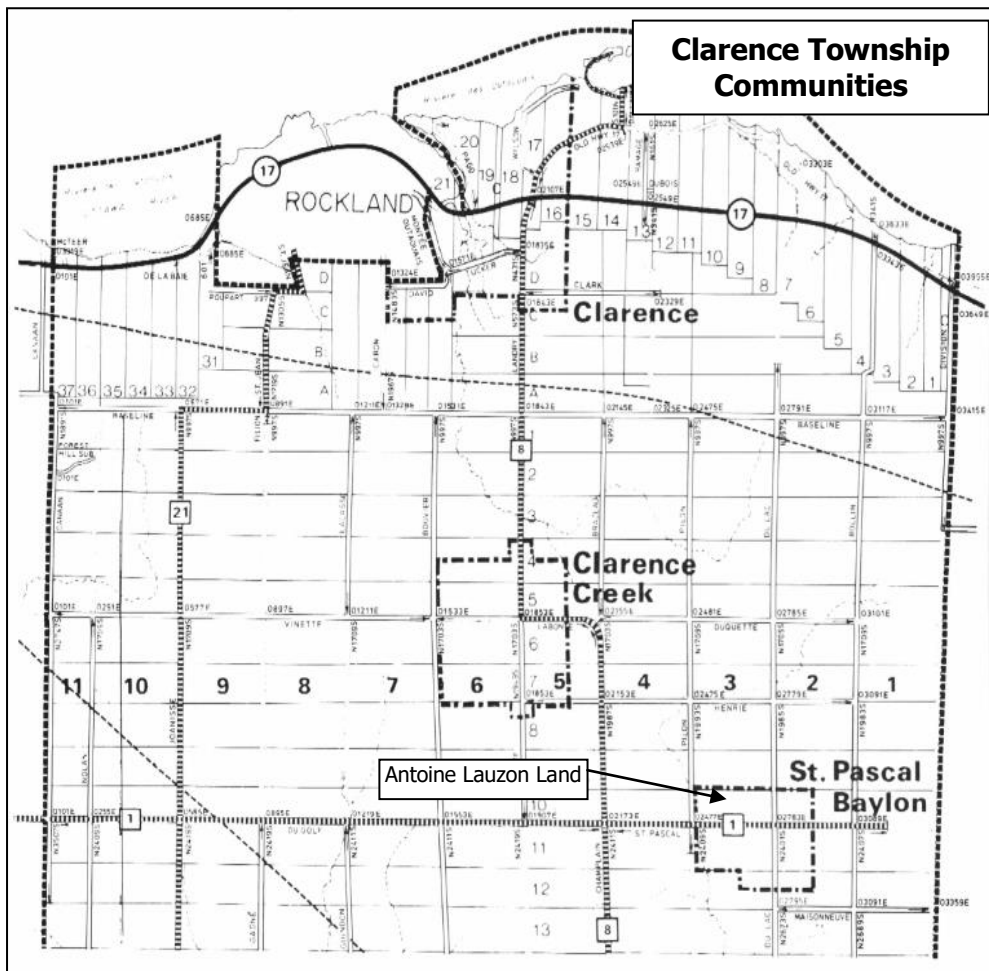
Eveleen died young at 26 years, Edward at 57 years; but, the rest lived into their 70's and beyond.

Clarence Creek is a small farming community located about 35 miles east of Ottawa, the capital of Canada. Clarence was pronounced as "Claire-ense" [7]. Although the area is in the English speaking Providence of Ontario, Clarence residents speak predominantly the French language.

A review of Canadian census and cemetery records showed that many relatives and ancestors of the Lauzon & Cholette families lived in the area east of Ottawa. Note that the areas north of the Ottawa River are in Quebec Providence and those south are in Ontario.

John was born and raised about 20 miles west of where his future wife, Marceline Cholette, was raised, which was Alfred Township in Prescott County, Ontario.

The Lauzon farm was located about 5 miles southeast of the village. The family probably attended the St. Felicite Catholic Church in Clarence Creek, since that is where family religious events took place. However, Antoine's farm appeared to be across the road from the future and more rural St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church and there are several Lauzon family members who were buried there. In his family research trip in 2018, Bill Lauzon found that both facilities were closed at the time so no one was available to confirm any information.

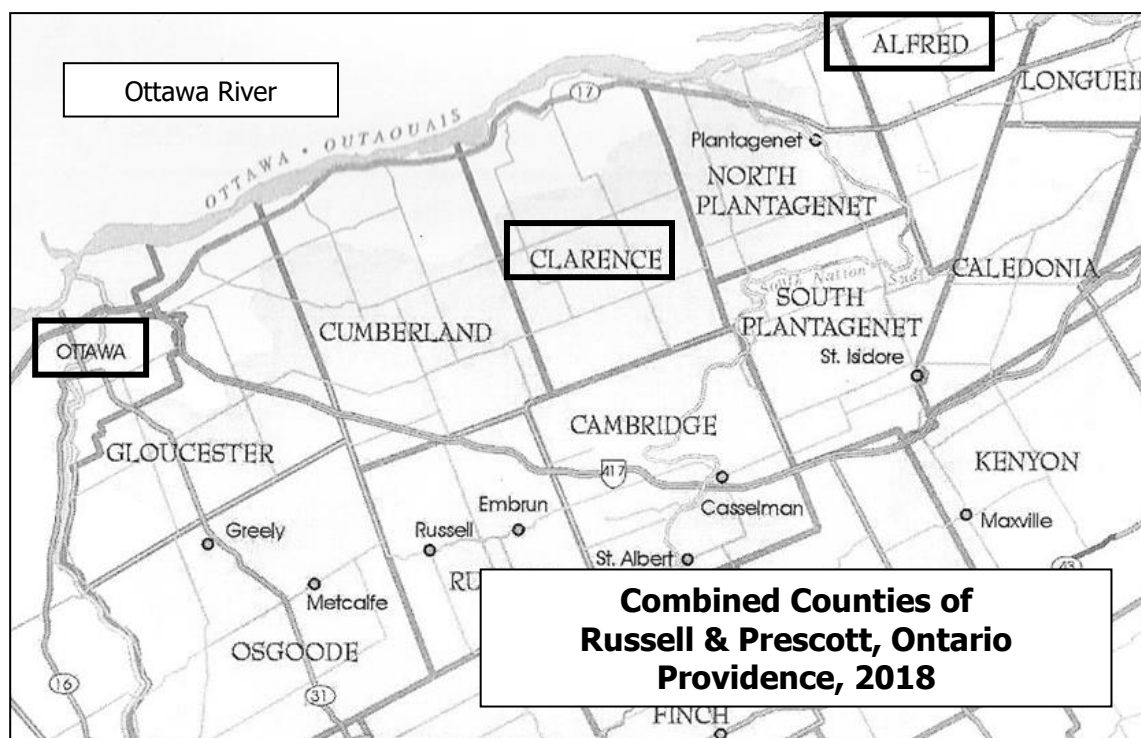
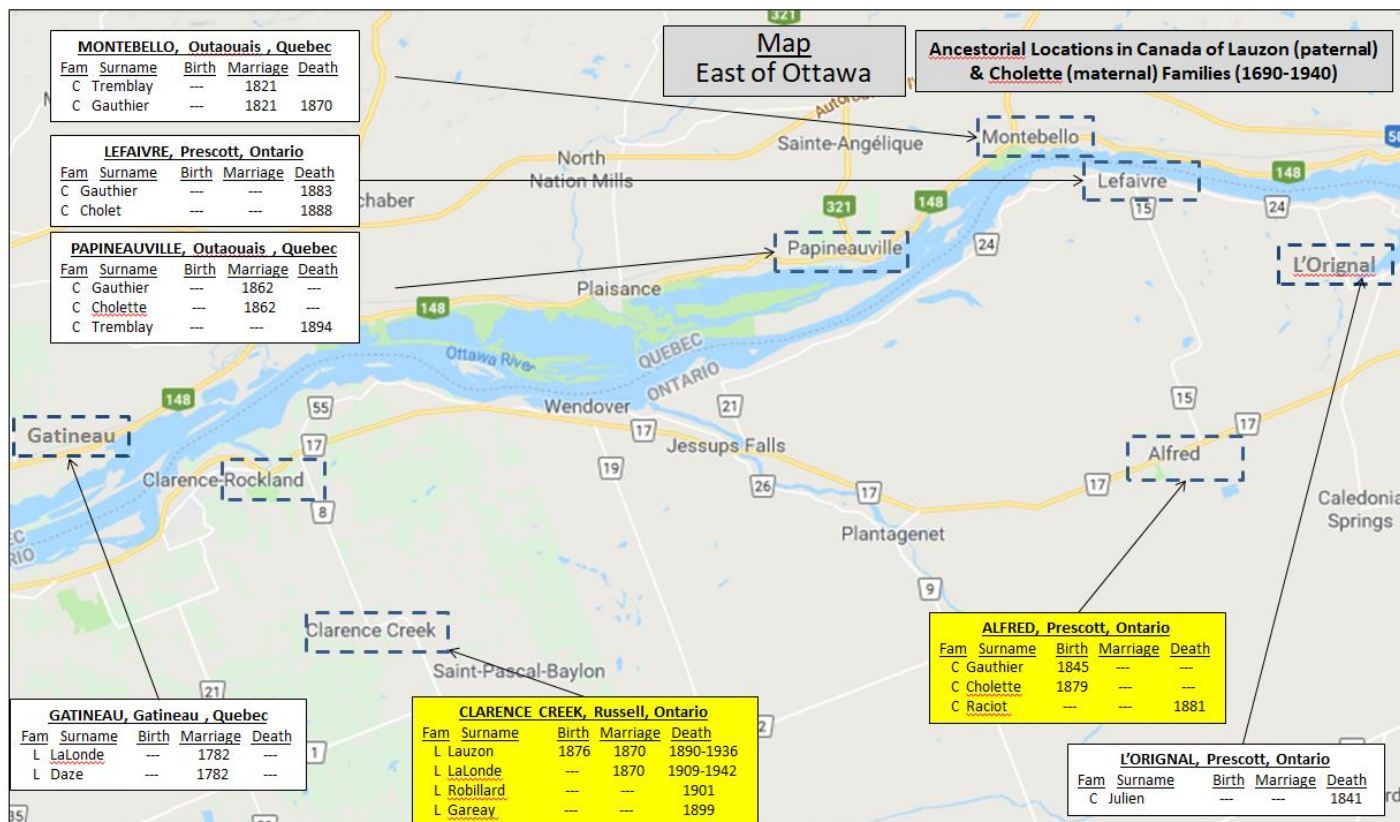


The land in the area is fairly flat and good for farming. The Antoine Lauzon farm in Clarence Township was near his father Edward's farm, his brother's Andre Hillarie and Pierre Lauzon farms [23]. They were also located near the farms of Antoine's in-laws, the Lalonde's.

They must have been a close-knit family, as evidenced by how several joined one another when they came to America in later life. A summary of each of John's siblings is given in Part 2, Chapter 1 of the Lauzon Ancestry Book.

The Canadian censuses of 1881 and 1891 provide

some information about John family and their family farm.




**Provincial Birth Record
of Jean Baptiste Lauzon**

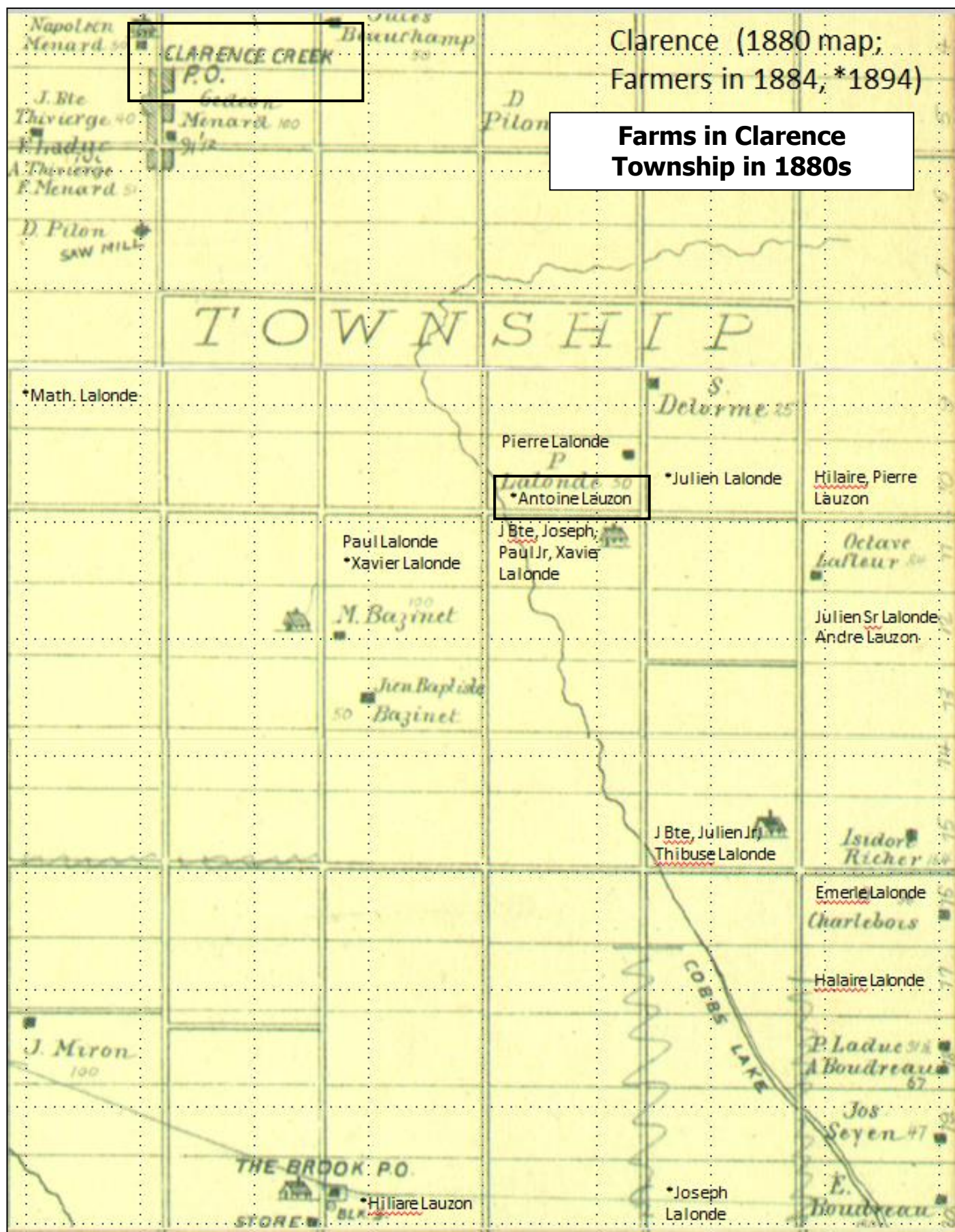
Ontario, Canada Births, 1832-1914

62 County SCHEDULE A.—BIRTHS.	
When Born.	025633 No. 95 20 th December 1876
Name.	Jean Baptiste
Sex (M. or F.)	M
Name and surname of Father.	Antoine Lauzon
Name and maiden surname of Mother.	Eliza Lalonde
Rank or profession of Father.	Farmer
Signature, description and residence of Informant.	Baptiste Lauzon Farmer Clarence
When Registered.	23 rd December 1876
Name of Accoucheur.	Mrs Lacroix
Signature of Registrar.	James McLean



St. Felicite Catholic Church in Clarence Creek, 2018
(rebuilt after the fire of

Baptism of Jean Baptiste Lauzon 164 th Entry in Records of 1876 at St Felicite in Clarence Creek, Ontario	
B. 164	Le vingt trois Decembre mil huit cent quatre vingt six, nous pretre sacre, avons baptise Jean Baptiste ne le vingt de Decembre, du legitime mariage de Antoine Lauzon Cultivateur et de Eliza Lalonde de cette paroissee. Le parroissien ete M ^{re} Lalonde eble. marraine Emma Lauzon qui ont declare ne savoir signer apres lecture faite. Lacroix. Pros Comm Bte
	Fr Thomas Caron, pastor 1875-1901





LAUZONS IMMIGRATE TO AMERICA

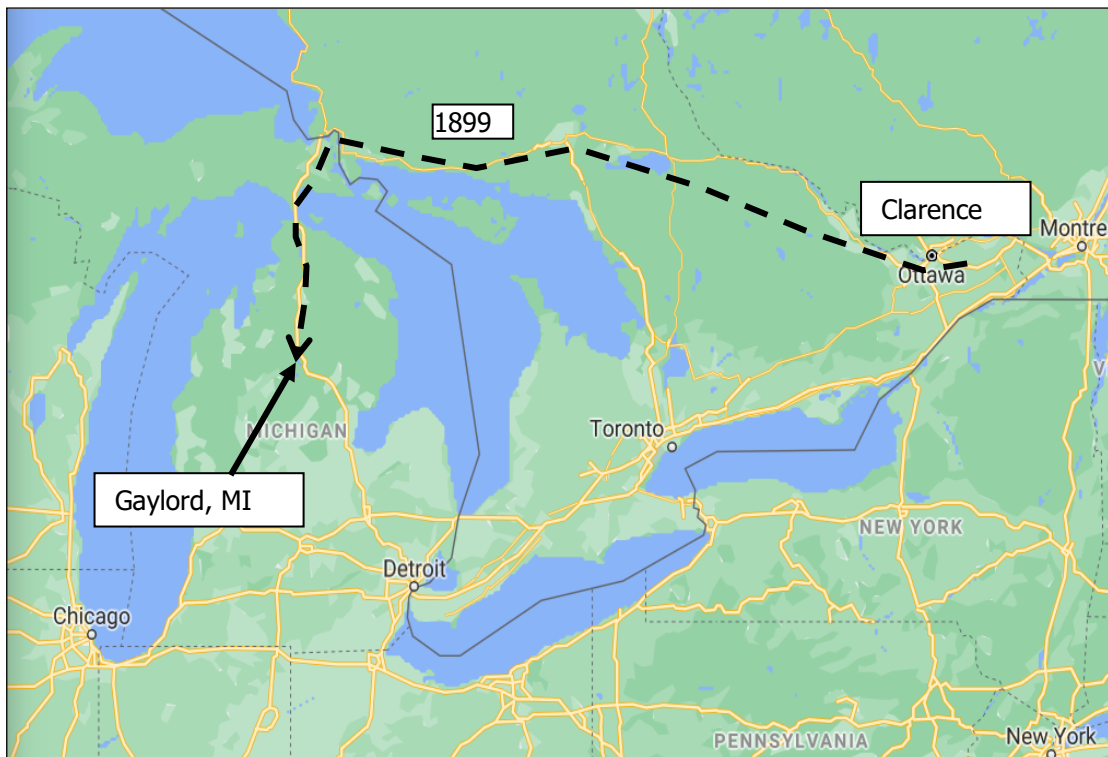
In Sept 1899 [19], when he was almost 23 years old, John left home to come to the US via Soo Michigan to look for work. He traveled with his brother, Hillarie (Eli), to meet his brother, Edward, and sister, Armosa, in Gaylord, MI. [24] Edward had emigrated to Michigan in the early 1890's and did not appear in the 1891 Canadian Census listing of Antoine's family in Clarence Creek. John didn't need much incentive to leave home, because he never liked farming [5].

The two brothers soon moved to upper Michigan, near Escanaba, to look for work [1]. In 1900, the US Census in Michigan showed John had been employed as a day laborer for a year, and lived in a boarding house in Escanaba Township. He was one of only half of the 23 hired hands living there that could speak, read, and wrote English [22].

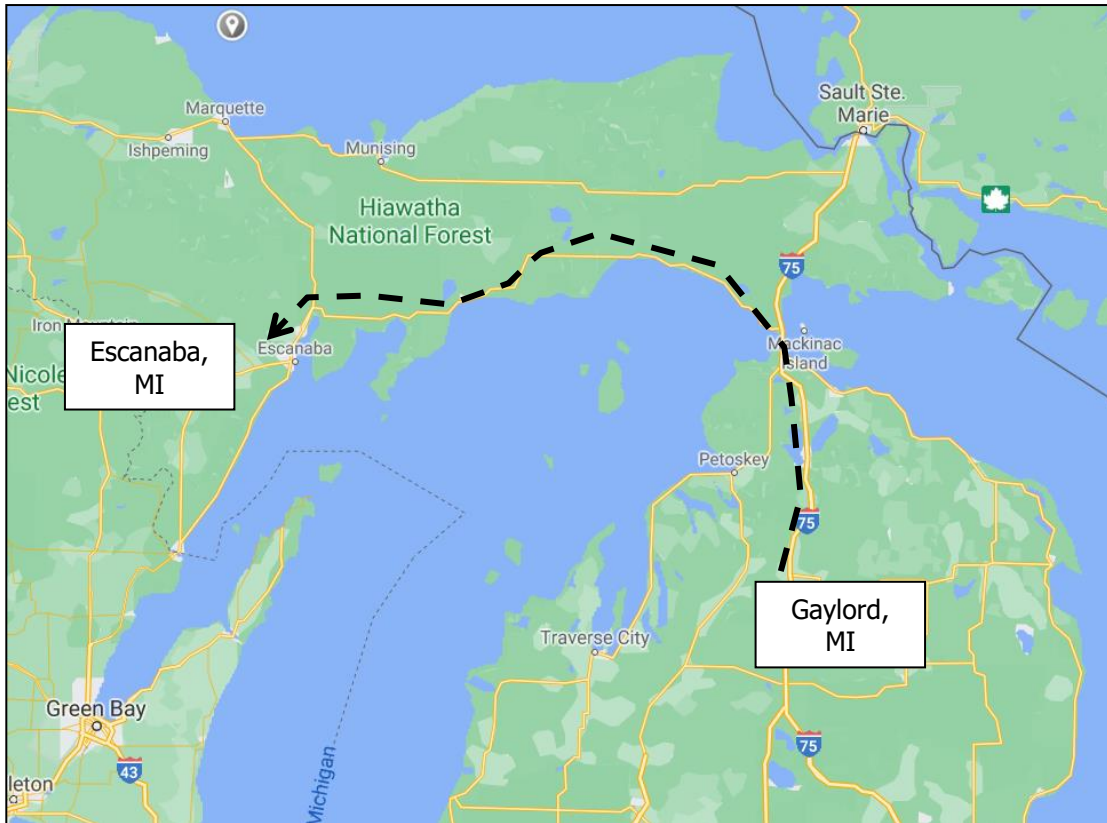
Escanaba Township produced a lot of lumber during the late 1800s and many French Canadians came to work in the forests and sawmills. The 100 year anniversary booklet of Holy Family Church, which is located in the Township, specifically named Clarence Creek, Canada as the birthplace of many French immigrants who came to the area. Most likely this is what drew John B Lauzon to Escanaba and to settle in the Township.

There was no Catholic Church Escanaba Township so many French Canadians traveled to Gladstone or Schaffer to attend Mass. This may be where John B met Marceline Cholette, who lived in Schaffer and attended Sacred Heart Church in the community.

Lauzon Immigration to Michigan, 1899



Lauzon Move to Upper Michigan, 1899



ESCANABA TOWNSHIP (JOHN B LAUZON RESIDENCE, 1899-1906) & HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

"Escanaba" comes from an Indian word meaning "Flat Rock", which the bottom of the Escanaba river is made of.

Escanaba Township

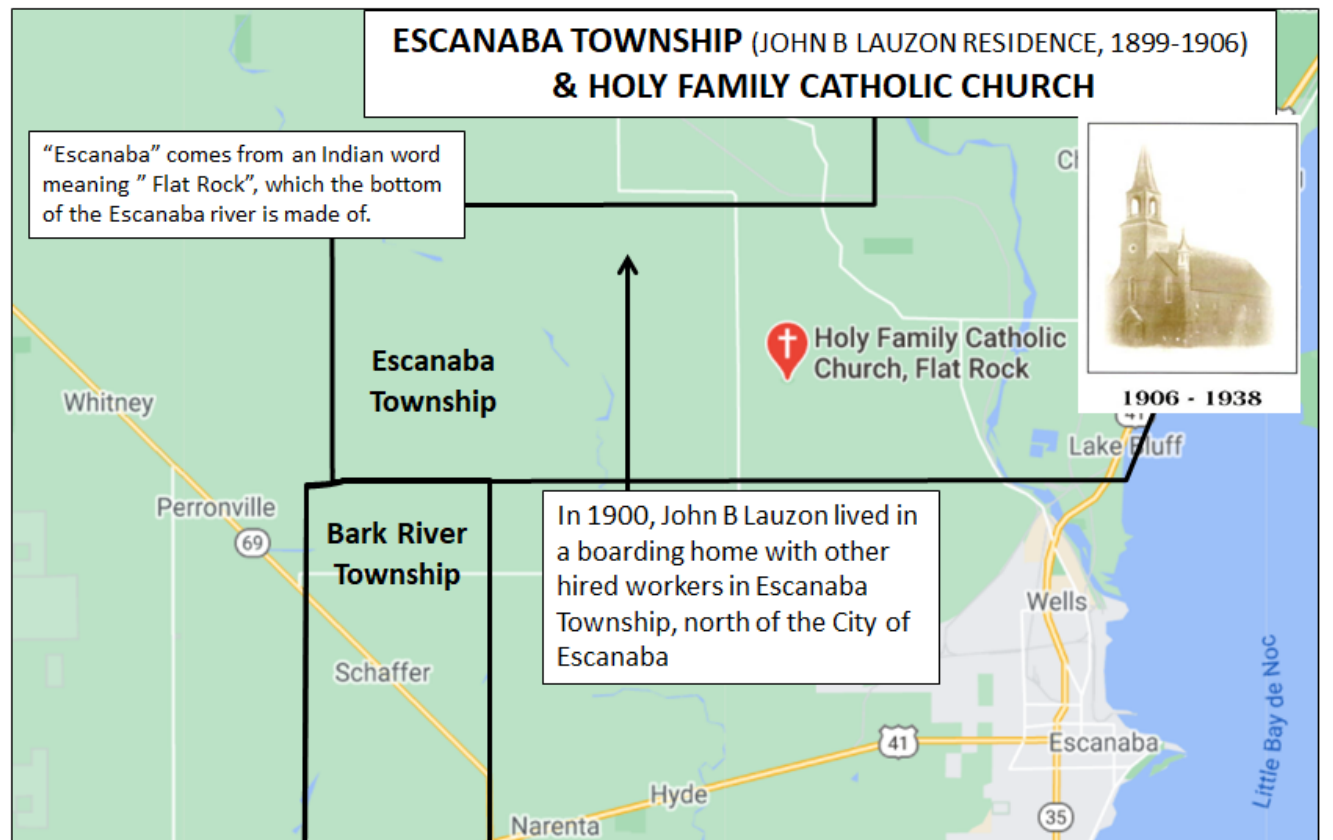
 **Holy Family Catholic Church, Flat Rock**



1906 - 1938

Bark River Township

In 1900, John B Lauzon lived in a boarding home with other hired workers in Escanaba Township, north of the City of Escanaba



THE LaLONDE BOARDING HOUSE

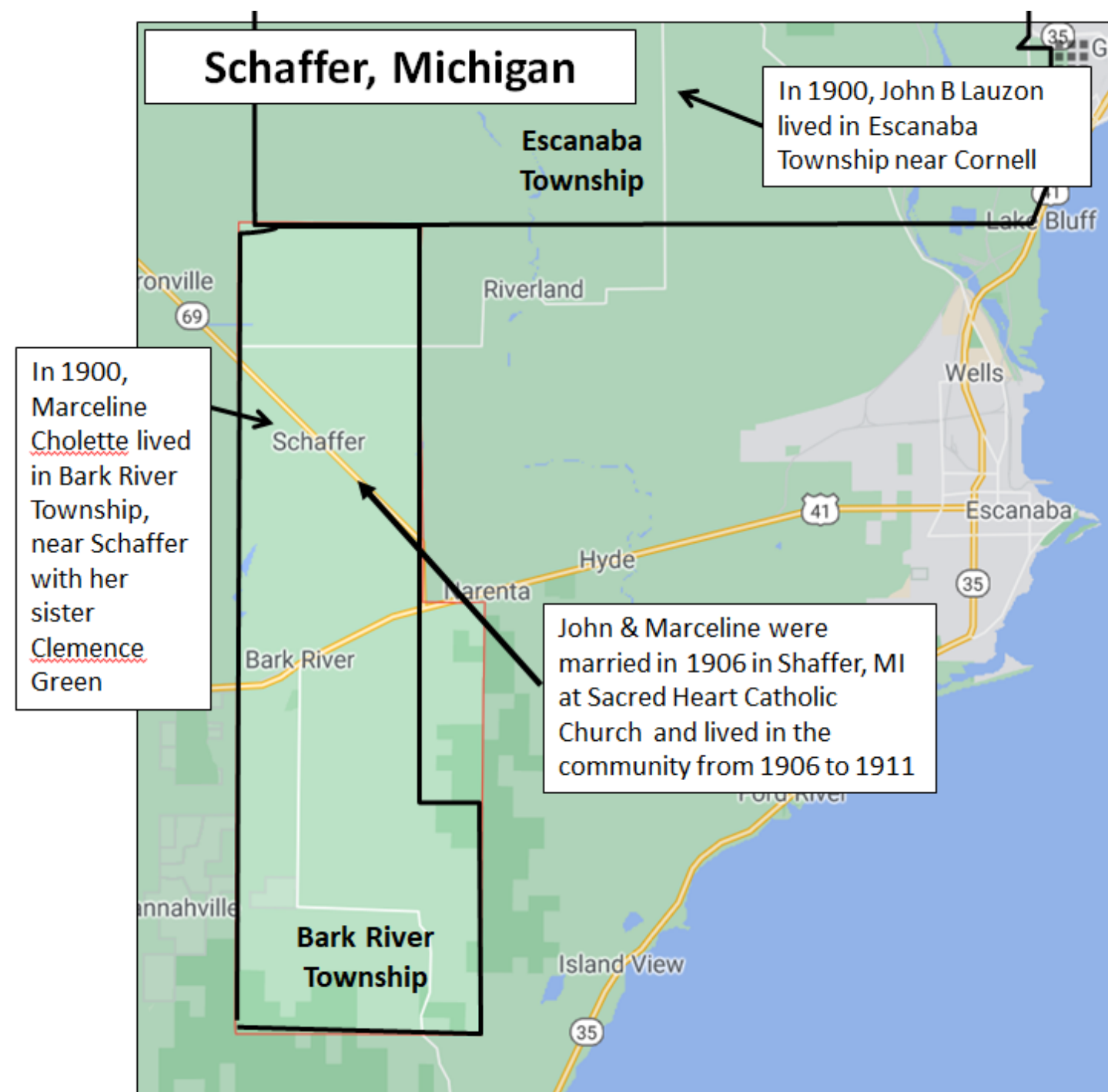
The Lauzon sisters referred to the establishment as the "Lalonde Boarding House", but the Escanaba City Directories do not list this business name during 1900-1909. However, the "Washington House" (hotel) is listed with 'Lacome & Lalonde' as proprietors, is probably the correct name of the place that Marceline worked. The 1905 Escanaba City Directory showed Mrs. Julia Lalonde as operating the facility and living there. The hotel was located at 601 Thomas Street (renamed "Escanaba Street" in 1920 when many street names were converted to numbers). The hotel was listed in the 1909 City Directory with G.W. Kaufmann as proprietor, so the Lalonde's must have divested of it sometime prior to 1909.



PERSONS IN THIS PHOTO (Circa late 1903)

- 1-Mrs Marchand & Pricilla, unknown relationship
- 2-Lottie Minneau, unknown relationship
- 3-Victor & Bertha Cholette, Older brother of Marceline, married 1903, wholesale grocery
- 4-Mr & Mrs. Lalonde, cousins of John B Lauzon and Marceline Cholette
- 5-Ben Cholette, Older brother of Marceline, married 1904 to Kitty Fleming. Ben lived in Escanaba, per the 1905 City Directory and worked as a clerk at North Star Clothing.
- 6-Marceline Cholette, future wife of John B Lauzon
- 7-Kitty Fleming, future wife of Ben Cholette
- 8-Eli Cholette- Older brother of Marceline, married 1907, Saloon Keeper in Escanaba

The family story says that John Lauzon met Marceline when he came to Escanaba to visit Mrs. Lalonde, his distant cousin [7]. I wouldn't be surprised if the handsome John B saw or met the good-looking Marceline in Schaffer and followed her to the Boarding House where she worked.



MARRIAGE

John and Marceline were married in Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Schaffer, Michigan on Monday morning, Jan 8, 1906. Fr. Dassylvia performed the ceremony and Marceline's brother Joseph Hillarie (Eli) Cholette and his future wife, Eva Boda, were groomsman and bridesmaid. John was 29 and she 26 years old at the time. A wedding dinner was given at the home of Marceline's parents, Joseph Damien Cholette in Schaffer. Afterwards there was dancing at Leclair's hall. The party continued on Tuesday evening in Bark River at the home of Zotique Lalonde.

**John Baptiste
Lauzon**

Circa 1905





**Marceline
Cholette**

Circa 1905




**The Iron Port
Jan 13, 1906 (Sat)**

The wedding of Marceline Cholette of Schaffer and Mr. John Lauzon took place Monday morning at Sacred Heart church, Schaffer, in the presence of a large number of friends and relatives. Rev. Father Dassylvia performed the ceremony. Eli Cholette of Escanaba, a brother of the bride was groomsman and Miss Eva Boda of Escanaba, was bridesmaid. After the wedding ceremony a fine wedding dinner was served at the home of the bride's parents and in the evening a wedding dance was held at Leclair's hall which was largely attended. On Tuesday evening the wedding party drove to the home of Zotique Lalond at Bark River where the festivities were continued. The bride and groom received many beautiful presents.

**SCHAFFER (MARCELINE CHOLETTE RESIDENCE, 1888-1910)
& SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**



**60th. Anniversary 1893-1953
SACRED HEART CHURCH, Schaffer, Mich.**

The Sacred Heart Parish was a Catholic church building located in Schaffer, an unincorporated community in the northern portion of Bark River Township. When Schaffer was established it was primarily a French speaking community. Masses were performed in French at the parish for a long time. There are a few stones in the Sacred Heart Cemetery that are in French.

The parish was merged with St. George Parish in Bark River and St. Michael Parish in Perronville to form the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, in Bark River. In December 1996, the Sacred Heart building in Schaffer was closed.

Left Hand Sheet

To the Honorable Secretary of State of Michigan										
Return of Marriages in the County of <u>Delta</u> 28										
Record Number.	Date of License.			Full Name of Bridegroom and Bride, and Maiden Name of Bride if a Widow.	Age of Each in Years.	White, Black, Mulatto, Etc.	Residence of Each.	Birthplace of Each.	Occupation of Each.	Name of Father of Each.
	Month.	Day.	Year.							
2654	Jan.	6	1906	Baptiste Lauzon Marceline Cholette	29 26	white white	Escanaba Schaffer	Canada Canada	Labourer farmer	Antoine Lauzon Samuel Cholette

Right Hand Sheet

for the Quarter Ending <u>March 31st</u> A. D. 190 <u>6</u> 28								
Maiden Name of Mother of Each.	Times Previously Married.	Date of Marriage.			Place of Marriage.	Name and Official Station of Person by Whom Married.	WITNESSES TO MARRIAGE.	
		Month.	Day.	Year.			Names.	Residences.
Elizabeth Lalonde Philomene Law	no no	Jan.	8	1906	Schaffer	Fr. Dassylon Cath. priest	Kilain Cholette Eva Beaudin	Schaffer Schaffer

Marriage Record of John Lauzon & Marceline Cholette, Jan 9, 1906,
at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Schaffer, MI; Fr. Dassylon officiating

Michigan Marriage Records, Registers, 1887-1925 (generated by Bill Lauzon, Nov, 2020)

THE INITIAL FAMILY of THREE

When first married 1906 they lived in Schaeffer, Michigan [5], the community Marceline resided in prior to marriage. It has not been discovered precisely where they or the Cholette/Green families lived in the community. Perhaps they initially lived with her father, Damien Cholette, or her older sister, Clemence Greene.

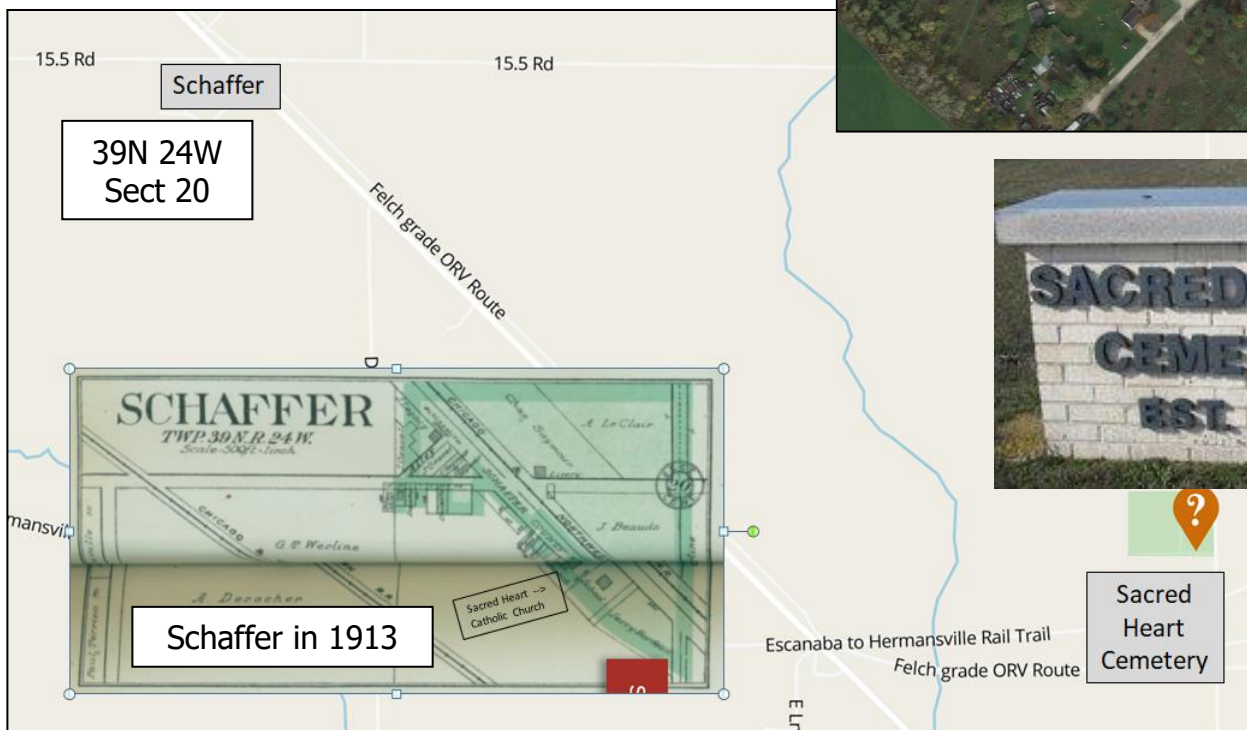
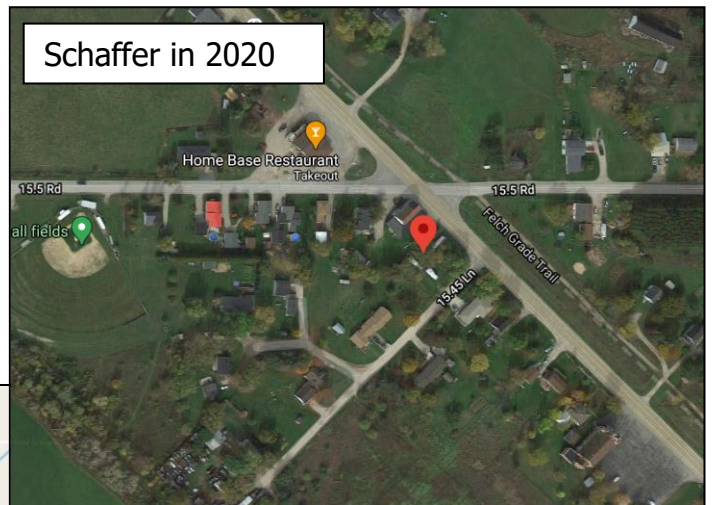
Per their birth records three girls were born into the family while they lived in Shaffer:

- Blanche in November 1906,
- Lucille in April, 1908, and
- Evelyn in July, 1909.

Sacred Heart Church was discontinued in 1996 and only the cemetery remained (also known as Schaffer Cemetery). Lot 35 was listed as the Cholette Plot, where only Armand C (1888-1911),

Schaffer is an unincorporated community within the Bark River township, north of the Bark River. It is situated on [M-69](#), about 14 miles northwest of Escanaba.

Marceline's 1st cousin, was buried.



Cemetery located out of town several miles

VARIOUS RESIDENCES

John and Marceline lived in several different small towns. There is inconsistency in City Directory records and birth records that show where the new family lived. The 1909 City Directory showed the family living at 916 or 918 Wells in the City of Escanaba. In April, 1910 the US Census in the city of Escanaba showed the family renting a rental building at 916 Wells Street (now 1st Street South).

Although the documents don't reflect it and could not be confirmed by records, it appears that John moved his family to Northland in late 1910. Eventually, one of John's sisters moved to Northland, Michigan, followed by her brothers [6] in around 1910. It is here that the birth records of two additional children were born: Joseph Samuel in December, 1910, and Yvonne in Nov, 1911.

Meanwhile, some of John's relatives had moved to Kingsford and Iron Mountain, Michigan, and John moved the family to the City of Escanaba.

The 1911 Escanaba City Directory showed John and Marceline rented a house at 217 N. Sarah Street (now 14th Street). The 1915 Directory showed him working at the same place, but living at 1800 Park Avenue (now South 5th Street).

By 1918 the family had moved to at 421 S Oaks (now South 16th Street) in Escanaba [21].

In 1919 and 1920 the family lived at 416 18th Street South. The 1920 US Census listed them owning the home.

* = Owned Home

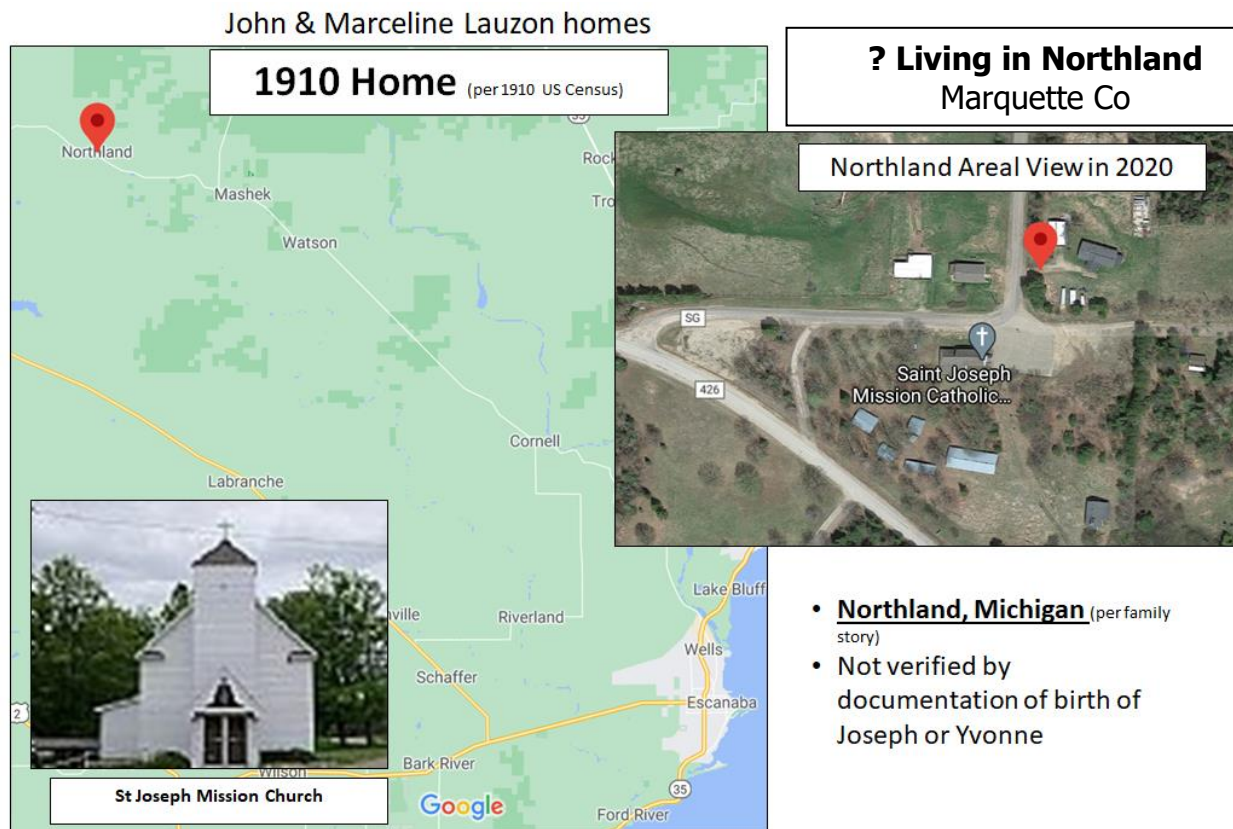
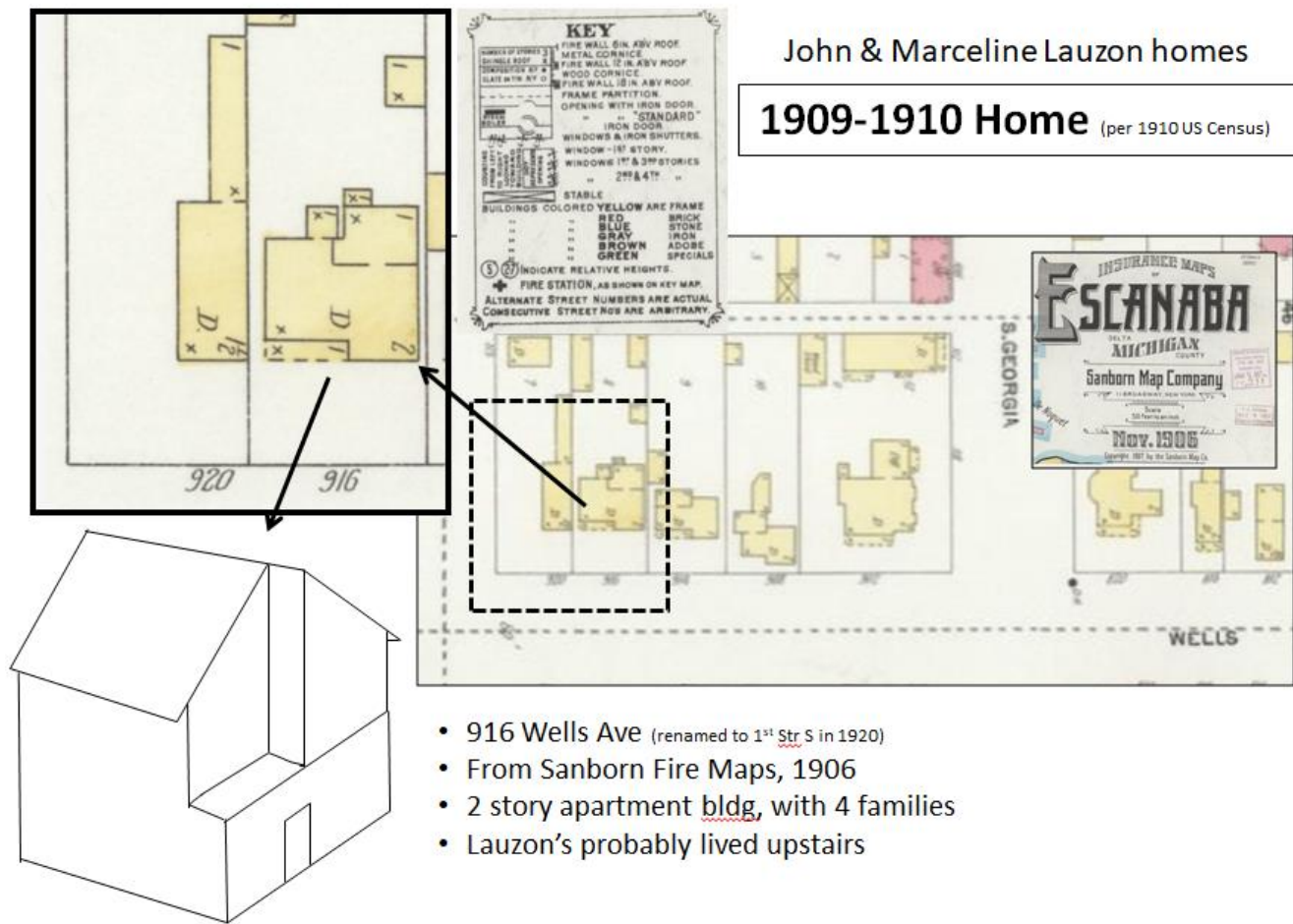
YEAR	DOC	Home
1899	1924 Immig	Clarence Creek; left via RR at Soo, Ont
1900	Census	J-Escanaba Twnsp, MI
1909	City Dir	916 Wells (1st S) Escanaba, MI
1910	Census	918 Wells (1st S) Escanaba, MI
1911	City Dir	217 N Sarah (14th) Escanaba, MI
1915	City Dir	1800 Park Ave (5th S) Escanaba, MI
1918	WWI Draft	421 S Oak (S 16th) Escanaba, MI
1919	City Dir	416 18st S Escanaba, MI
1920	Census	416 18st S Escanaba, MI*
1922	City Dir	416 18st S Escanaba, MI
1924-26	1924 Immig	Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
1927	City Dir	214 N 18th Escanaba, MI

Escanaba was the name of an Ojibwa village in this area in the early 19th century.^[9] The Ojibwa were one of the Anishinabek, Algonquian-speaking tribes who settled and flourished around the Great Lakes. The word "Escanaba" roughly translates from Ojibwa and other regional Algonquian languages to "land of the red buck", although some people maintain that it refers to "flat rock".

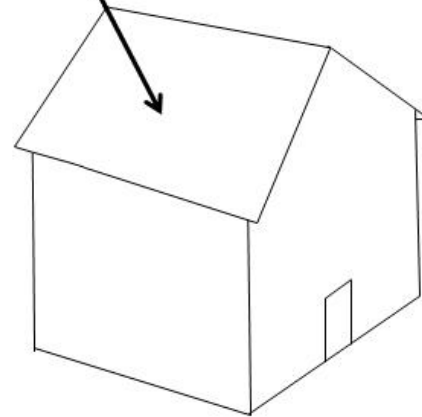
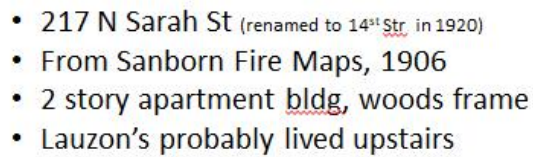
As a European-American settlement, Escanaba was founded in 1863 as a port town by surveyor Eli P. Royce. Early industry was the processing and harvesting of lumber, dominated in this area by Daniel Wells Jr., Jefferson Sinclair, and Nelson Ludington. Ludington later moved his headquarters to Chicago, where he also entered banking. I. Stephenson established a successor lumber company in the area.

John & Marceline Lauzon Homes in Escanaba,



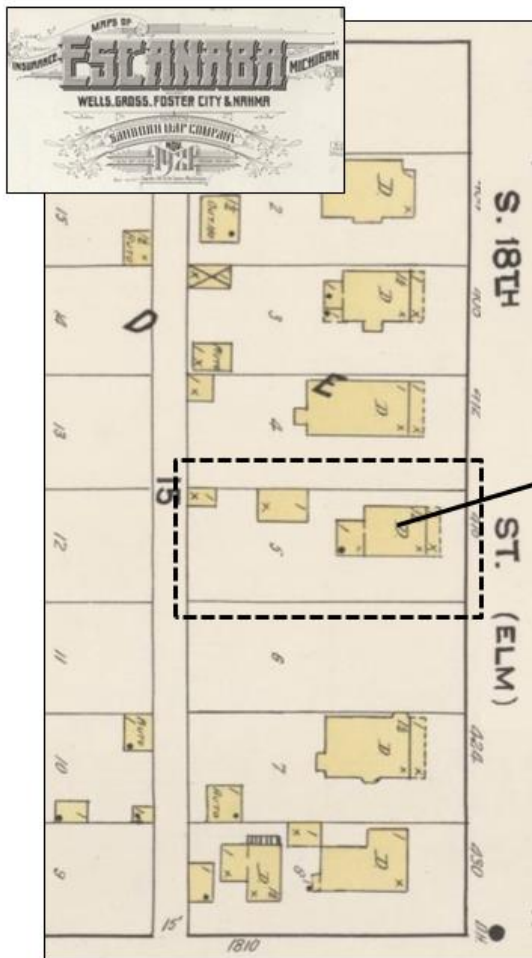


1911 Home (per 1911 City Directory)



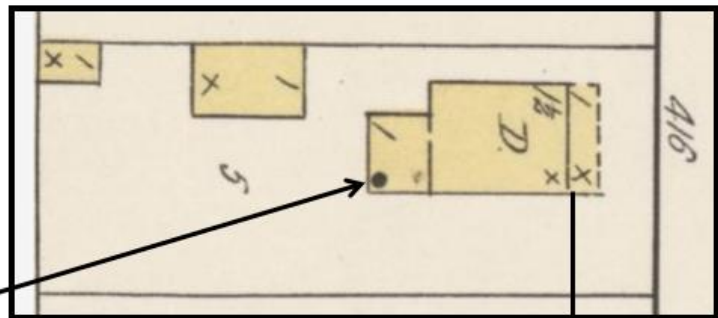
1915 Home (per 1915 City Directory)

- 1-17

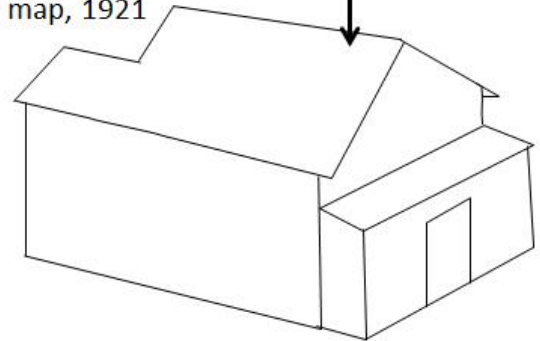


John & Marceline Lauzon home

1920-21 Home (per 1915 City Directory)



- 416-18th Street South (per 1920 US Census)
- 11 in family
- 1-1/2 story, wood frame, owned
- From Sanborn map, 1921



Lauzon Kids – 1911-12



Lauzon Kids – Circa 1911 – Living in Escanaba



Lauzon Kids – Circa 1913

Back: Blanche, Evelyn, Lucille
Front: Yvonne, Joseph

THE LAUZON FAMILY GROWS BY FIVE

While in Escanaba, the remaining Lauzon children were born. Irene came in Feb, 1914 and Joseph Albert in May, 1915. This was followed by three more girls, Marie in April, 1917, Bernice in Feb, 1919 and finally Dorothy in June, 1922. Marceline had given birth to ten children between 1906 and 1922. Her last child was born when she was 43 years old.

The Lauzon aunts and uncles include:

1. Blanche Lauzon Wolters, Gellenbeck (1906-1993)
2. Lucille Lauzon Kittson (1908-1985)
3. Evelyn Lauzon Spielbauer (1909-1980)
4. Joseph Lauzon (1910-1977)
5. Yvonne Lauzon Schmidling (1911-1974)
6. Irene Lauzon Seifert, Brinkman (1914-2006)
7. Joseph Albert Lauzon (1915-1960)
8. Marie Lauzon Scoggins (1917-2008)
9. Bernice Lauzon Jozwik (1919-2012)
10. Dorothy Lauzon Lewandowski (1922-2014)

REGISTRATION CARD				
SERIAL NUMBER	3948		ORDER NUMBER	3671
1. <i>John Baptist Lauzon</i>				
2. PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: <i>421 S Oak Escanaba Delta Mich</i>				
Age in Years	Date of Birth			
41	Dec 22 1877			
RACE				
White	Negro	Oriental	Indian	
5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	7	8	9
U. S. CITIZEN			ALIEN	
Natural Born	Naturalized	Citizen by Father's Naturalization E. Live in U.S. for 5 years	Declarant	Non-declarant
10	11 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12	13	14
15. If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?				
16. PRESENT OCCUPATION		17. EMPLOYER'S NAME		
<i>Laborer</i>		<i>C. N. W. Reys</i>		
18. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS				
<i>Escanaba Delta Mich</i>				
19. NEAREST RELATIVE				
Name	<i>Mrs Marceline Lauzon</i>			
Address	<i>421 S Oak Escanaba Delta Mich</i>			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE				
P. M. G. O. Form No. 1 (1918)				
<i>John Baptist Lauzon</i>				

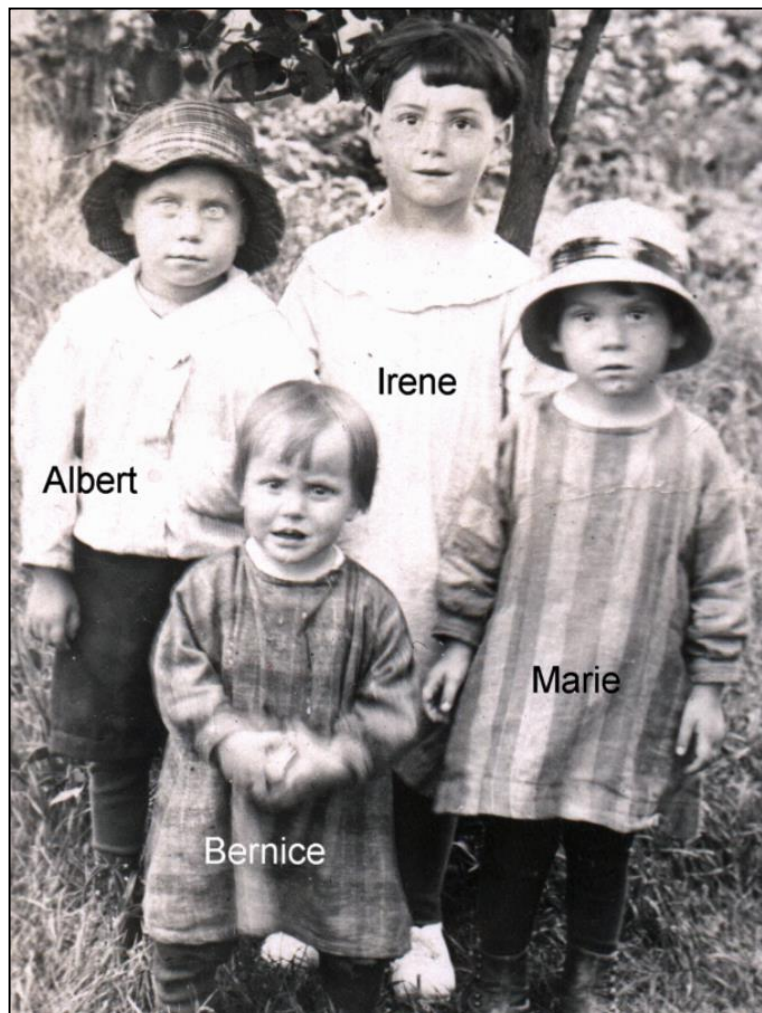
When John registered for the World War I draft in 1918, he was identified to be medium height and build, with blue eyes and dark hair [21]. Barb Wolters Reuss said the her mother Blanche said that John was near six feet tall. [27]

John became a naturalized American citizen on Jan 10, 1921 in Michigan [19]

Lauzon Kids – 1915-21



Lauzon Kids – Circa 1915



Lauzon Kids – Circa 1921

Lauzon Kids – 1922-23



Irene, Marie, Dorothy, Bernice, Albert – Circa 1922



**Marie, Yvonne, Dorothy, Albert, Irene, Bernice-
in Escanaba– Circa 1922**

Lauzon Kids – 1923-24



Cholette & Lauzon Cousins – Circa 1923

Standing: Marceline Cholette Lauzon (44), Clemence Cholette Greene (52), Lucille Lauzon (15), Agnes Dufor (?), Alma Greene (25), Blanche Lauzon (17), Mae Greene, Evelyn Lauzon (14)

Sitting: Irene Lauzon (9), Marie Lauzon (6), Dorothy Lauzon (1), Bernice Lauzon (4), Yvonne Lauzon (12), Albert Lauzon (8)



LAUZON KIDS - 1924 - ESCANABA, MI



Irene, Albert, Marie
At S 18th-Escanaba – Circa 1924



Marceline & Isabelle DeGrand (half-sister), **Circa 1924**

JOHN'S JOBS, 1910-1922

In April, 1910 the US Census in the city of Escanaba recorded that John worked at a long shoreman on the Escanaba docks.

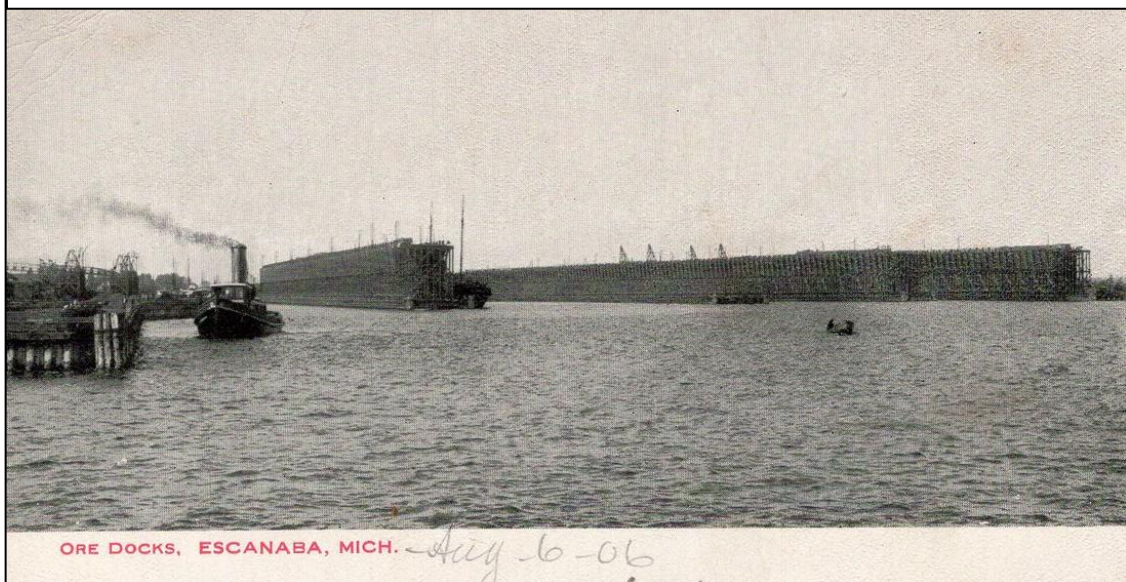
The 1911 Escanaba City Directory showed John worked as a driver (teamster) for C. Maloney and Company in the city's downtown area. Maloney was a dealer of "Ceresota" flour, feed, hay, and grains. The 1915 Directory showed him working at the same place. John probably drove teams of horses when he made deliveries. It's a coincidence that Joseph Albert's father worked as a driver (in Michigan) and Mary Martha Cook's (Lauzon) father used his own car as a "taxi" (in Wyoming) at about the same time.

By 1918 John worked as a railroad section hand for the Chicago Northwestern Railroad in Escanaba [21].

In 1919 and 1920 John was a laborer for a wood ware factory in Escanaba. In Dec 1919 he broke his left leg in a saw mill accident at Escanaba Manufacturing.

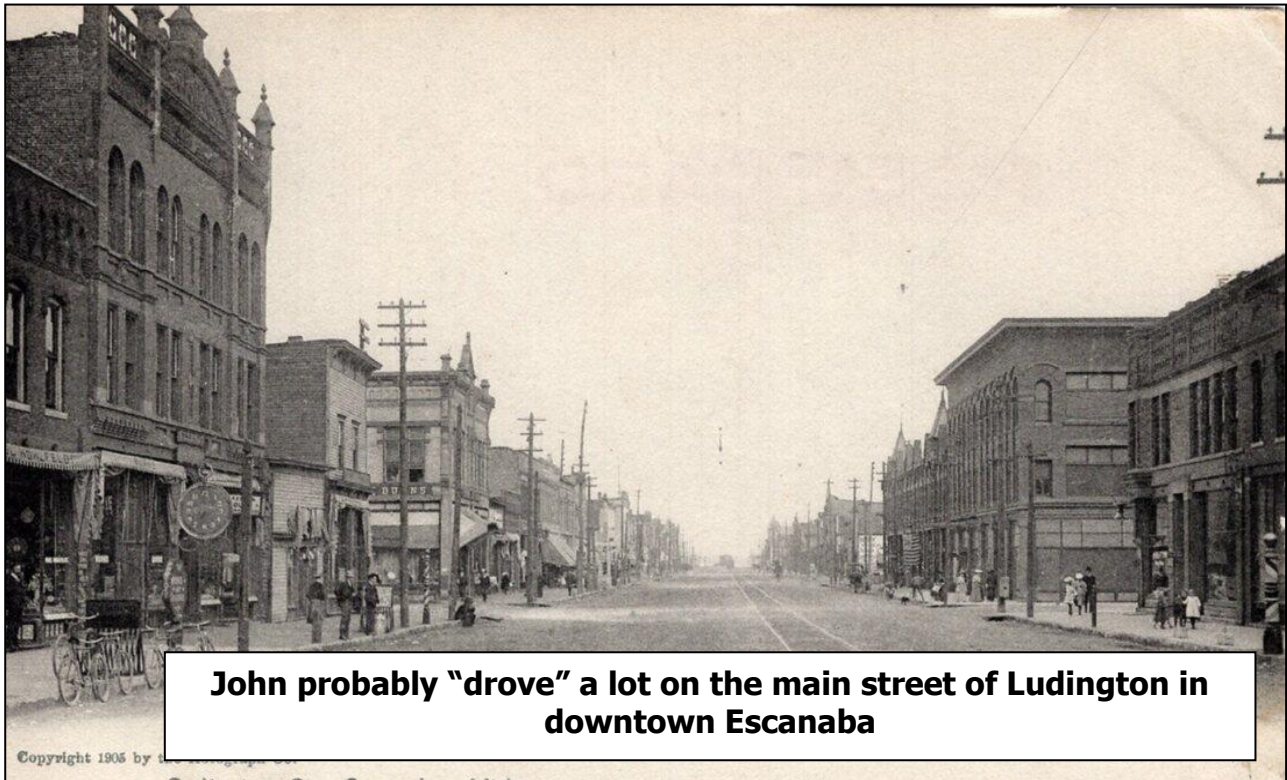
YEAR	DOC	Occupation
1899	1924 Immig	Farmer
1900	Census	Day laborer
1909	City Dir	laborer
1910	Census	longshoreman at docks
1911	City Dir	driver at C Maloney Co
1915	City Dir	Teamster
1918	WWI Draft	Labor at CNWRR
1919	City Dir	Labor at wood ware factory
1920	Census	Labor at wood ware factory
1922	City Dir	Clerk at J.H.Cholette
1924-26	1924 Immig	(had \$1400 cash) Traveled via CPRR at Soo, Ont
1927	City Dir	Top Deck Worker

John Worked as a Longshoreman at Escanaba Docks 1909-11



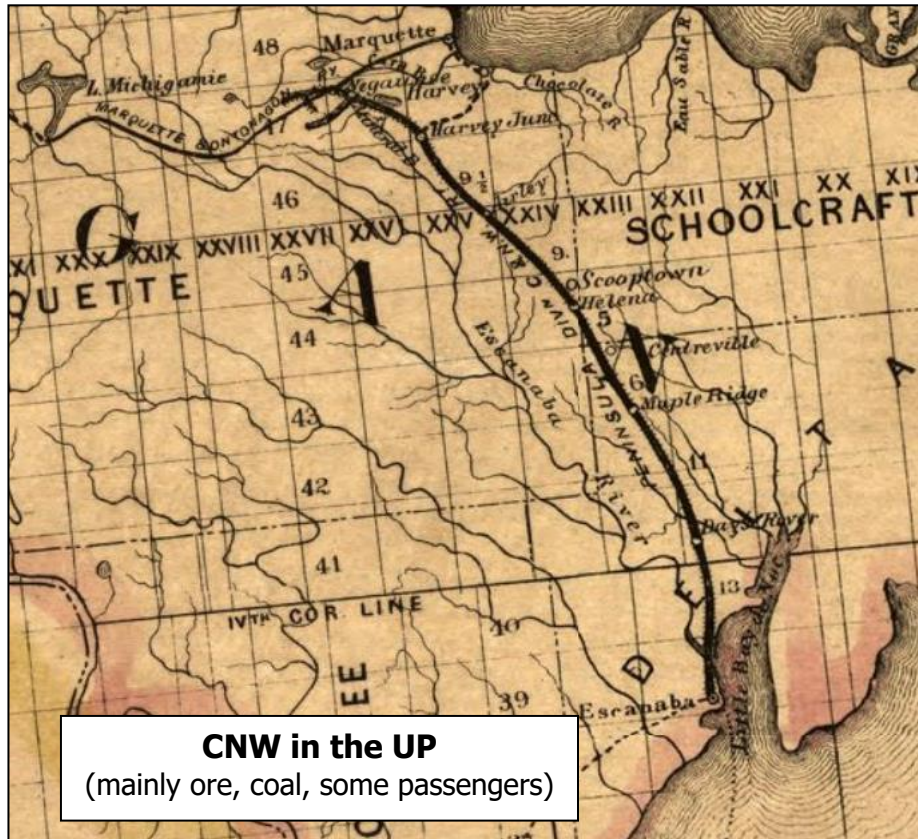
John was a Driver, 1911-15

The Celebrated "Ceresota"
THE LEADING FAMILY FLOUR
C. MALONEY & CO.
Sole City Agents
DEALERS IN FLOUR AND FEED, HAY, GRAIN
FIELD SEEDS, ETC.
1203 Ludington Street. Tel. 92. ESCANABA, MICHIGAN



**John probably "drove" a lot on the main street of Ludington in
downtown Escanaba**

**John worked as a section hand at the Chicago
Northwestern RR in Escanaba in 1918**



John worked in a "woodenware" factory in 1919-1920.
 Escanaba Mfg. was the only one listed in the City Directory & was located near the CHW yard

THE PLANT



THE PRODUCT




THE ESCANABA MANUFACTURING COMPANY IS THE LARGEST BUTTER DISH, PIE PLATE AND CLOTHES PIN CONCERN IN THE WORLD

The Most Remarkable Story of Commercial Progress Ever Recorded in the Northwest

THE ESCANABA MANUFACTURING COMPANY

THE ESCANABA MANUFACTURING COMPANY, which has become one of the most prominent industrial concerns in the Northwest, is located in the city of Escanaba, Michigan. The company was founded in 1892 by J. W. Escanaba, who at that time was a young man of twenty-two years of age. He had just returned from a tour of Europe, where he had been studying the manufacturing methods of the various countries. He had been particularly impressed by the methods of the Germans, and he had decided to apply these methods to the manufacture of woodenware in this country.

He had no capital, and he had no experience in the manufacturing business. He had only a few friends, and he had only a few ideas. But he had a vision, and he had a determination. He was determined to make a success of his venture, and he was determined to do it in the most remarkable way possible.

He began by renting a small building in the city of Escanaba, and he began by hiring a few men. He had no money, and he had no credit. He had only his own strength, and he had only his own determination. But he had a vision, and he had a determination. He was determined to make a success of his venture, and he was determined to do it in the most remarkable way possible.

Eight Million Feet of Lumber Is Consumed Annually in Mak- ing Wooden Dishes for Butter and Pies

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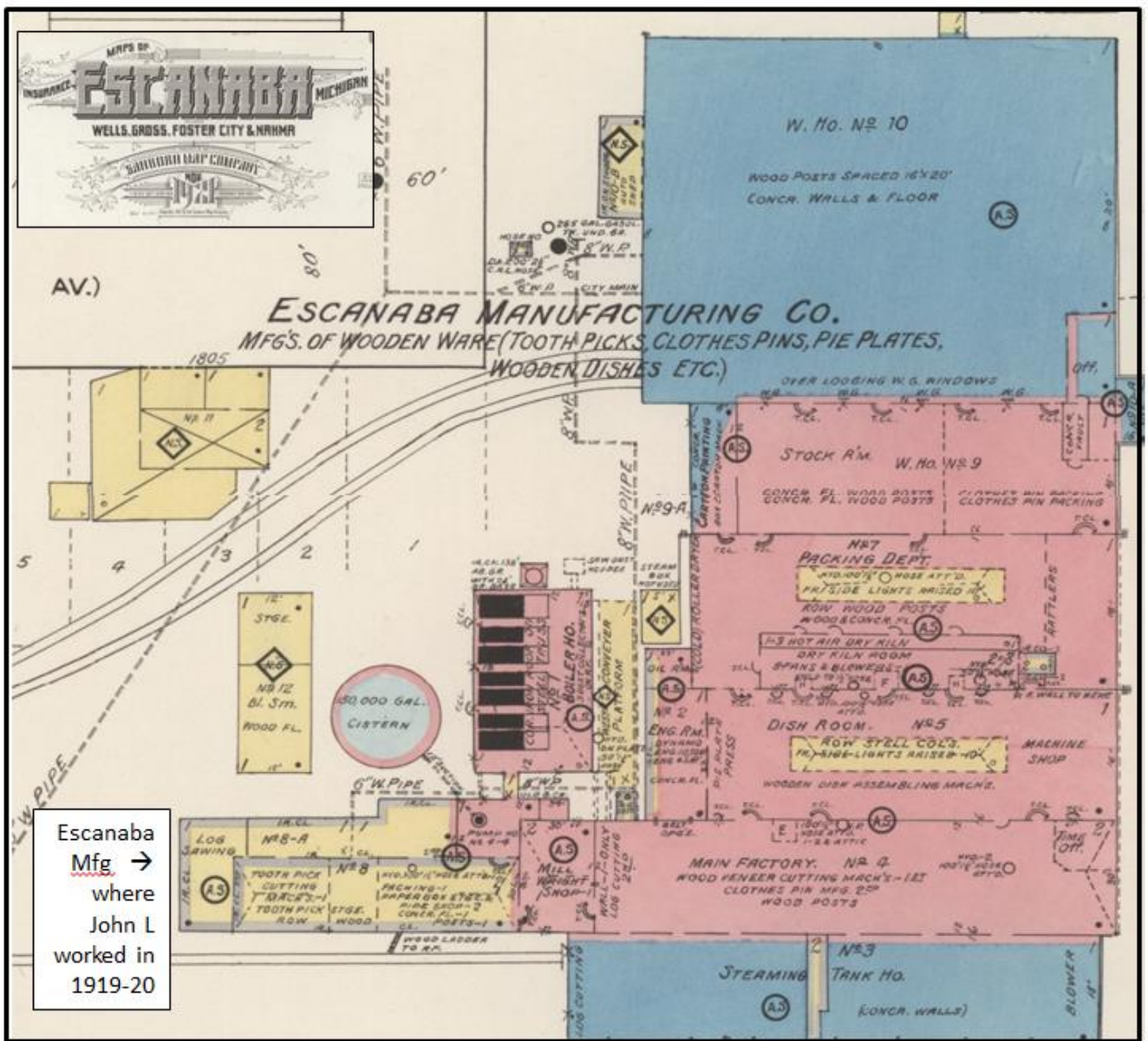
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Escanaba
Mfg →
where
John L
worked in
1919-20

Escanaba Morning Press
Dec 21, 1919 (Sun)

LEFT LEG BROKEN BY LOG SLIPPING DOWN A SKIDWAY

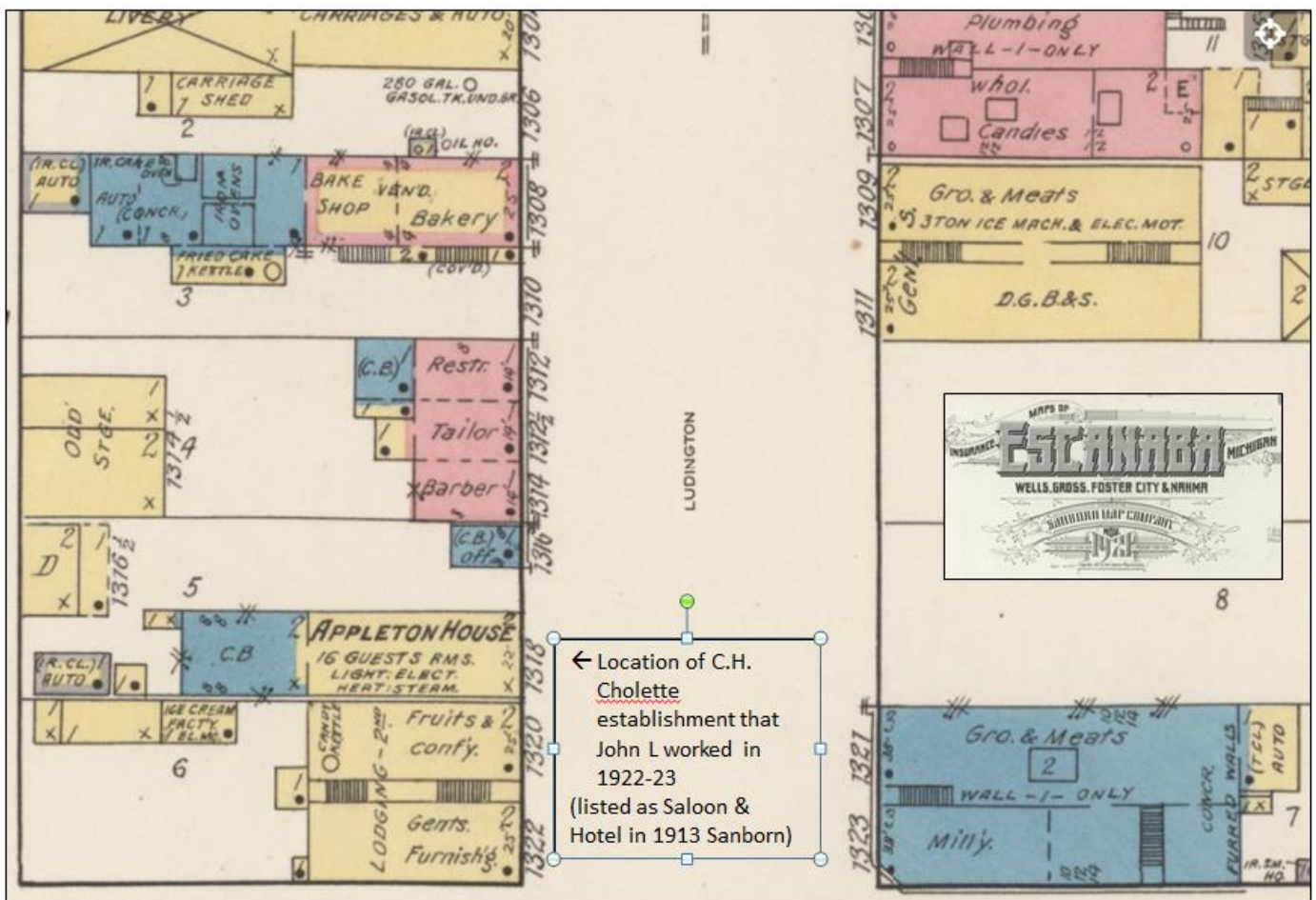
John Lauzon, 52 years of age, residing at 316 Eighteenth street, sustained a fracture of his left leg below the knee while at work at the Escanaba Manufacturing company's plant yesterday afternoon. He was connecting the skidway with the loader when a log slipped in such a manner as to catch the unfortunate man's leg. He was taken to the Laing hospital in Richer's ambulance and the proper surgical attention was rendered.

WAS JOHN A BOOTLEGGER IN 1923-24?

In 1923-24 John worked as a clerk for J.H. (Eli) Cholette [25], who was Marceline's older brother. Joseph Hilaire (Eli) Cholette was listed in the 1905 City Directory as a bartender at a facility run by Irene Marchand (who was shown as operating at the Elk Buffet at 1108 Ludington). We know from US Census records that Eli owned a "soft drink" parlor in 1920 and ran a hotel in 1930. This was during the period of alcohol prohibition, so saloons were not legal. Rather, the names changed to "soft drink parlors." Eli's obit in 1930 said he operated a boarding house for many years in Escanaba. Eli had brushes with the law during this time.

John worked for J.H. Cholette in 1922-23

Purveyor of "soft drinks" at 1318 Ludington St, Escanaba



John worked for J. H. (Eli) Cholette – Brushes with the Law

In 1922 there were many soft drink places in Escanaba, including 17 on Ludington Street

Soft Drinks

Escanaba—Asp Gust C, 618 Ludington
Bergeon Oscar A, 1522 Hartnett av
Blau Edward, 331 Stephenson av
Brassard Margaret Mrs, 322 Stephenson av
Burns John F, 510 Ludington
Cholette Joseph H, 1318 Ludington
Dupont Philip, 330 S 10th
Fredericksen A Fredericksen, 305 Ludington
Hotel Colonial, 400 Stephenson av
Iverson John, 310 Ludington
Jaeger Paul, 1022 Ludington
Jekes Peter, 310 Stephenson av
Johnson Axel, 115 N 10th
Johnson Jennie Mrs, 1600 Ludington
Johnson Victor, 1432 Hartnett av
Kell John, 1819 3d av N
Konz Wm, 513 Ludington
Kujala Peter, 1222 Ludington
La Chapelle Napoleon, 1123 1st av N
La Fave Joseph, 321 Ludington
La Londe Alfred, 1223 Ludington
LeQuia Albert, 123 N 7th
McCarthy & Aird, 112 S 10th
McCauley & Powers, 300 S 10th
McGuire John, 1117 Ludington
Malo Wm F, 1629 Hartnett av
Mileski Joseph, 1529-1531 Hartnett av
Morin Isadore J, 200 S 10th
Olson Charles, 123 N 10th
Paquin Frank, 1213 Ludington
St Clair Hotel, 1823 3d av N
Schills Anton W, 111 N 10th
Schnoor Charles, 323 Ludington
Schuette Louis, 814 Ludington
Skradski Mirko, 1431 Hartnett av
Tebear Mae Mrs, 1601 Hartnett av
Thinnes Nick, 1608 Ludington
Walsh Michael A, 1016 Ludington
Winski Peter, 1805 3d av N

Escanaba Daily Press
Jan 27, 1922 (Sat)

FEDERAL MEN PAY ESCANABA SOCIAL VISIT Eli Cholette, 1320 Ludington Street, Arrested

Floyd Smith, of the federal prohibition office, Marquette, and Deputy U. S. Marshall Tim T. Hurley, of the same city, paid Escanaba a sociable call Thursday. They dropped in on Eli Cholette, 1320 Ludington street and Smith tried to shake hands with Eli. Perhaps because he had a glass with suspicious contents in his hand, Eli didn't want to shake, and the contents of the glass were spilled on the floor, but Eli was arrested anyway. He was arraigned before U. S. Commissioner C. D. McEwen and will have a hearing February 26.

Escanaba Morning Press
Jan 31, 1922 (Sat)

COURT ASSESSES \$2900 IN FINES IN COURT HERE

Sixteen Defendants Arraigned for Sentence Yesterday Morning.

Fines totalling \$2900 were assessed against law violators by Judge R. C. Finnigan in the Delta county court yesterday morning. One defendant escaped a prison sentence and was allowed to pay a fine only because of the crowded condition of the penal institutions of Michigan, while another defendant was placed on parole for year because of his service to the nation in the World war. When 16 defendants were arraigned before Judge Finnigan for sentence yesterday morning it was done in a crowded courtroom that taxed the judge. As a majority of the defendants were confessed moonshine vendors, the court took occasion to give to that class one of the most scathing lectures ever delivered in this court. Judge Finnigan brought into play, in commenting on conditions that exist, a biting sarcasm such as could not fail to impress every person in the courtroom.

Sentences Imposed.
Followers were the ones imposed by the court upon the defendant arraigned yesterday morning:
Pearl Adams, keeping house of ill fame, \$1,000 fine or one year imprisonment at county jail.
Myrtle Dewey, furnishing liquor, paroled for one year.
Palmer Benard, burglary, paroled to sheriff for one year.
Irene Norman, furnishing liquor, paroled to sheriff for one year.
Percy Hubbell, selling liquor, \$100 fine \$50 costs, or 30 days imprisonment at county jail.
Harry J. Smith, larceny, paroled to Paul Bushong, Gladstone, for one year.
J. H. Cholette, possession liquor, \$150 fine \$50 costs, or 60 days imprisonment at county jail.

Escanaba Daily Press
May 18, 1923 (Fri)

Cholette, Rivets, Cases Dismissed

Marquette, May 17.—(Special.)—Cases against Eli Cholette and James Rivets of Escanaba were charged with resisting a federal officer, were dismissed by Judge Sessions in United States district court today.

Cholette and Rivets ejected two federal officers from the former's place of business in Escanaba several weeks ago. It was contended by the defense that the officers began a search of the premises without making their identity known and that there was no resistance to a search after it was revealed that they were officers.

The defendants were represented by Attorneys H. R. Dotach and N. C. Spencer.

Escanaba Daily Press
Oct 29, 1924 (Wed)

SEVEN LIQUOR RAIDS STAGED

Seven raids conducted last night in Escanaba by federal prohibition operatives, state troopers, members of the Delta county sheriff's staff and the city police department, netted a considerable quantity of moonshine whisky, and smaller amounts of beer and wine.

"Two man buys" in each case formed the basis for search warrants. The raids furnished additional evidence in five of the seven places, and these five will be called upon to answer possession charges as well as charges of sale.

The places raided included:
Joe Peltier, 1223 Ludington street. Three bottles of wine and a small quantity of moonshine found behind the bar.
Oscar Johnson, 1201 Ludington street, four and one-half quarts of moonshine whisky seized.
J. H. Cholette, 1318 Ludington street. Small quantity of moonshine whisky seized.
John Olson, 121 North 10th street. About a half-pint of moonshine taken.

The soft drink parlor at 1014 Ludington street. A drinking glass full of moonshine found behind the bar was confiscated.
Paquin hotel, 1213 Ludington street, Frank Paquin, proprietor. No liquor found during the raid but Paquin will be held on sales charges.

RETURN TO CANADA

In 1924, John left Escanaba. Perhaps the "soft drink" business was getting too hot. Perhaps John felt that working for a relative of his wife wasn't so bad. Regardless, in June, 1924 John sold the house in Escanaba and traveled to Ontario, Canada to work for another brother-in-law, Victor Cholette, in his wholesale grocery business in Ottawa. Victor had never immigrated to the US with the rest of his family and became a successful businessman in Canada.

In June, 1924, John and Marceline sold their house in Escanaba and with \$1,480 in his pocket, took the family on the CP railroad and immigrated back to Canada in search of work [19]. The family settled in Hull, Quebec Providence, Canada (on the north side of the Ottawa River, across from Ottawa). The Lauzon family stayed with Marceline's brother, Victor, who ran a relatively wealthy wholesale grocery [4]. [1]

The family spoke French at home. The home was near a dairy. Blanche used to buy her younger sister, Dorothy, ice cream cones for 5 cents each [3]

Canadian Immigration Service
FORM 30.

1. NAME LAUZON JOHN Age 45
(Print name in block letters, family name first.)

2. Last permanent address 446 R.R. #1, Escanaba, Mich
(Street and No.)

3. Sex Male Are you married, single, widowed or divorced? Married
If married are you accompanied by husband or wife? If so give name of husband or wife
Yes Maricela

4. Birthplace Clarence Creek, Ont. Citizenship U.S.A. Race or people French
(Country and P.O.) (Intended)

5. Nat. Cert. No. 91345 Date 16th Jan'y 1921 Court Circuit
State Michigan Minister Albert J. B. Pien

6. Object in coming to Canada To make home Occupation Laborer
(Intended)

7. Able to read? Yes Language English French Religion Roman Catholic
(State Denomination)

8. Ever lived in Canada? Yes Address Clarence Creek, Ont.
Entered previously at _____ Date _____
Left Canada at Soo, Ont. Date September, 1899

9. Why left Canada? Seeking employment

10. Ever refused entry to or deported from Canada? No Where? _____

11. Money in possession belonging to passenger \$1450.00 If settler \$ _____
(Value of effects)

12. DESTINED TO (Relative, Friend or Employer) (Relationship)
Name Alway
Address _____
(Passenger must give full address.)

13. R.R. Ticket issued C.P.R. No 79141 Form Card
no 18 From Soo Mich To Soo, Ont.

14. Port of last arrival in the United States Soo, Mich
Date September 1899 S.S. _____ Class _____

15. Are you or any of your family mentally defective? No
Tubercular? No Physically defective? No
Otherwise debarred under Canadian Immigration Law? No

16. Apparent condition of health Good

17. ACTION TAKEN Admitted CAUSE _____ 18. Appeal Taken No

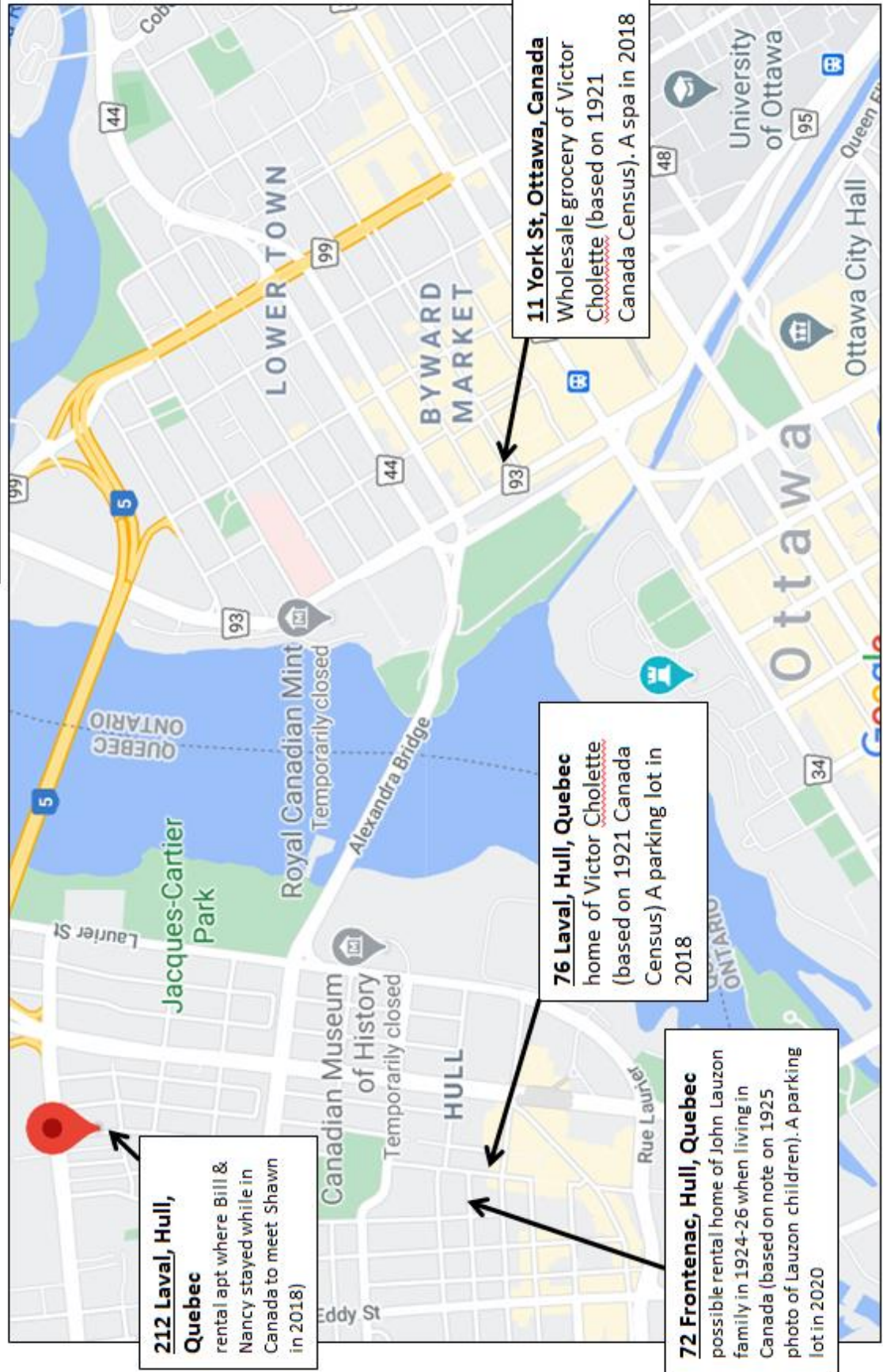
Copy of File No. 265-158

While living in Canada, the Lauzons were relatively near to the farm of John's parents, Antoine and Delphine Lauzon near Clarence Creek, about 30 miles east. The grandparents were in their 60's at the time. They only visited the Lauzon grandparents once, probably via horse and buggy. [5] The elder Lauzons struck their young grandchildren as being very crabby [4]. Albert got in serious trouble with his grandma, Delphine Lauzon, because he washed a dirty handkerchief in an outside barrel of rainwater, which was also their only source of clean wash water. Grandma got very mad at him. [5]

After a couple of years, John apparently didn't get along with Victor, and the family returned to Escanaba in about 1926.

1924-26 Stay in Canada,

John & Marceline Lauzon home





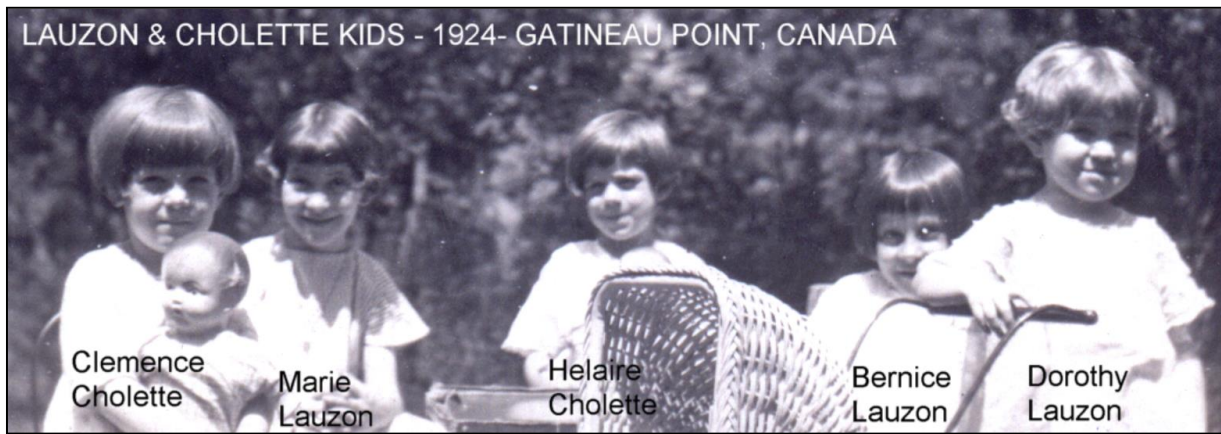
76 Laurel, Hull, Canada where Victor Cholette's home used to be & presumably where John & Marceline Lauzon stayed in 1924-26. In 2018, the building was no longer, and a driveway remained



2018 Photo of the address in Ottawa of Victor's Wholesale Grocery business, now a spa

Living in Canada, 1924-26

LAUZON & CHOLETTE KIDS - 1924- GATINEAU POINT, CANADA



**Marie-Yvonne-Dorothy-Bernice-Irene-Albert
At 72 Rue Frontenac, Hull-Quebec— Circa 1925**

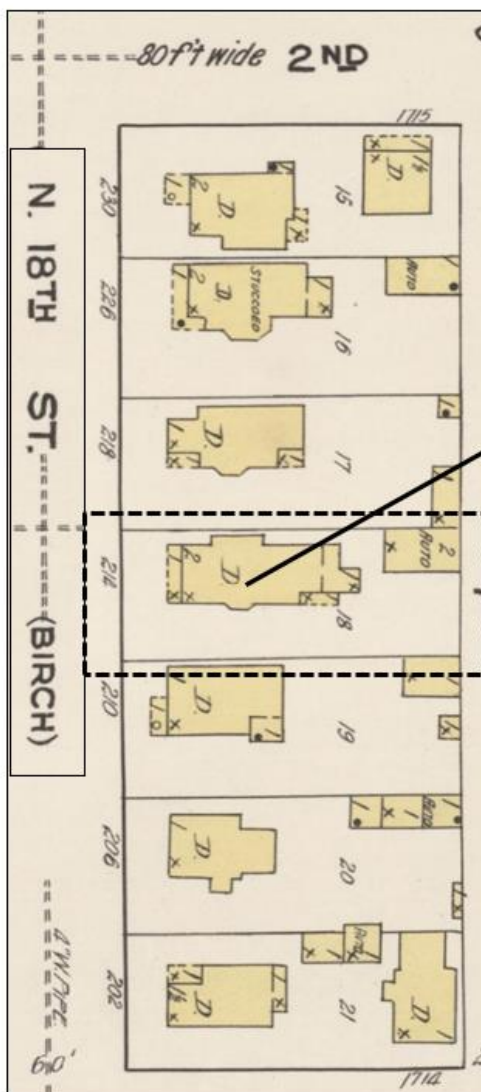
BACK TO ESCANOBA

The Lauzon family didn't stay in Canada very long, only about 18-24 months [1, 4]. John did not get along with his brother-in-law, Victor. [1] The family returned to Escanoba, Michigan where John continued working at the northwestern ore docks [7].

They lived in an apartment referred to after the name of the man who owned it ("No-E-Dose"). [7].

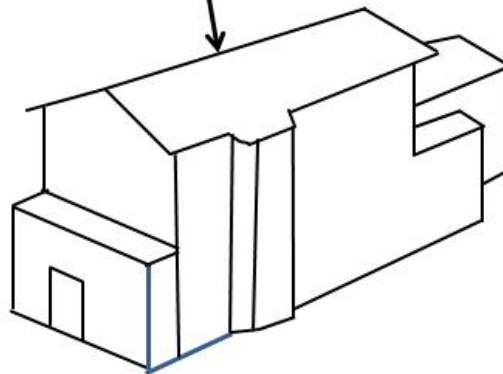
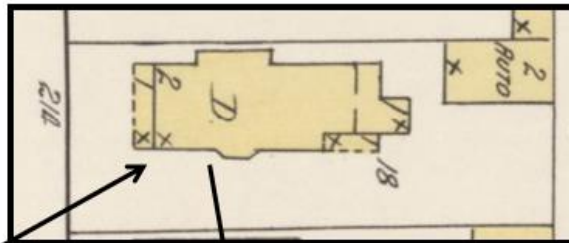
After that, the family bought a home, next to a creamery [9]

Irene was considered the brave girl in the family, not bashful, gutsy and street-smart. She'd be the one to do the running and chasing around when somebody needed something. [7] "We'll send Irene" seemed to be the catch phrase. Irene enjoyed it because she was doing something to help someone [9]. Whenever anyone had the flu in the family, it was always Irene that'd be sent to Uncle Eli's (mother's brother) tavern to bring back some whiskey or brandy [7].



John & Marceline Lauzon home

1927 Home (per 1915 City Directory)



- 214 N18th Street (per 1927 City Directory)
- From Sanborn Fire Maps, 1921



Back in Escanaba, 1927-28



About 1927, Back in Escanaba
Back: Marcelin, Irene, Evelyn, Yvonne
Middle: Bernice, Dorothy
Front: Marie (Billie), Albert

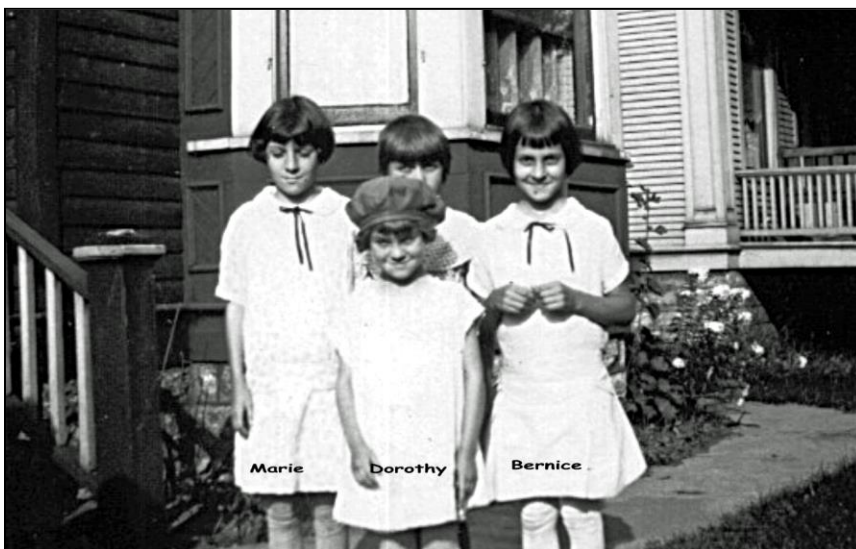
Back in Escanaba, 1927-28



Dorothy & Beverly (?), 1927



**Irene, cousin, Clemence
Greene, Yvonne, 1927**



1927

JOHN'S JOBS, 1927

The 1927 Escanaba City Directory listed John employed as a "top deck worker" at the local docks. John's daughters later recalled that during the fall and winter their father worked as a lumberjack, being gone from home for months at a time. In the summer, he'd work unloading ships in the Escanaba harbor [1], perhaps ore boats. Ore boats had been visiting Escanaba since the late 1800's and at one time Escanaba was dubbed "the iron port of the world." Over the decades, ore was brought to Escanaba by train from the mines on the Menominee Iron range and the Marquette Iron range. It was the only iron ore port on Lake Michigan, moving raw materials to industry in Chicago and Indiana, and the Midwest.

During 1928 John became displeased with the unsteady and back-breaking work he was doing. John may have gotten the idea of moving from a friend, Mr. Bomana (Bo-me-ah), who lived in Kenosha and may have written to him that there was regular work down in a place called Racine, Wisconsin. There were many more job opportunities in Racine than the ore docks of Escanaba

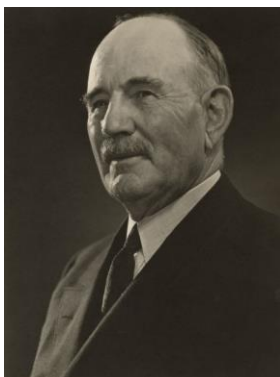
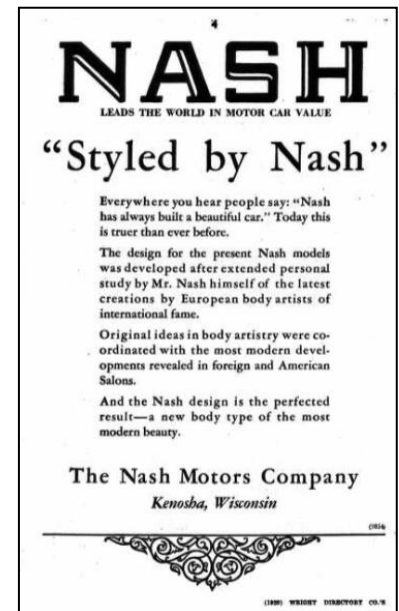
In about 1929, John moved his big family of mostly teenage girls to Racine, Wisconsin.

WORKING FOR NASH

John started working in 1929 for Nash Motors as a "laborer" in the Racine branch of the Kenosha-based auto maker [19].



John received job advancements at Nash, and the family moved each time. For a short time the family lived at 1302 Grand in 1931. In 1933 the family lived at 1323 Center Street, per the Racine City Directory of that year. In 1937 they moved to 1801 Grand when John became an assembler at Nash.



Charles W. Nash, President of Buick, (1910-1912), head of General Motors (1912-1916) and founder of Nash Motors of Kenosha, Wisconsin, a man sometimes referred to as the "great independent" of the automobile manufacturers.



1939 Nash Ambassador autos, nicknamed the "Kenosha Duesenbergs" because of their quality

Auto Making in Racine

Although Kenosha has always been known as the hometown of Nash cars, at least one line of the company's cars was manufactured in Racine. The company worked out of the old Mitchell & Lewis plant.

Henry Mitchell and his son-in-law, William Lewis, started the Mitchell Motor Car Company in 1903. It produced two models of Mitchell cars in Racine. In 1911, Walker Manufacturing merged with the Mitchell & Lewis Motor Car Co. At that time Walker was the largest employer in Racine, with 3,000 employees. Local historians have said Racine's commitment to customer satisfaction is what killed the automotive industry in Racine. Racine's auto manufacturers, among them Mitchell & Lewis, only offered custom made vehicles. Therefore, they had a hard time competing with the nation's assembly-line auto producers. It drove the price of Racine-built cars sky high and eventually led to the demise of automobile manufacturing in the city. The Mitchell & Lewis company went bankrupt in 1923.

Charles Nash acquired the defaulted Mitchell Motor Company in 1923, along with the LaFayette Motors of Milwaukee in 1924, and made vehicles in both locations. Due to labor relation problems, Nash shut down the Racine plant in 1938 and moved the work to its Kenosha factory [7]. Later, Massey-Harris bought the Nash building and started tractor production.

MOVE TO RACINE – ONE JOB, MANY HOUSES

The Lauzon family initially rented a home at 1643 Phillips.

There were no other "Lauzons in the Racine phone book when Albert looked when they moved there. He did find several in the Milwaukee phone book and "he really enjoyed seeing the name, thinking it was pretty special". It wasn't thought that he contacted any of them. [7]

In 1930 the family rented a home for \$35/mo. at 1731 Flett Ave.

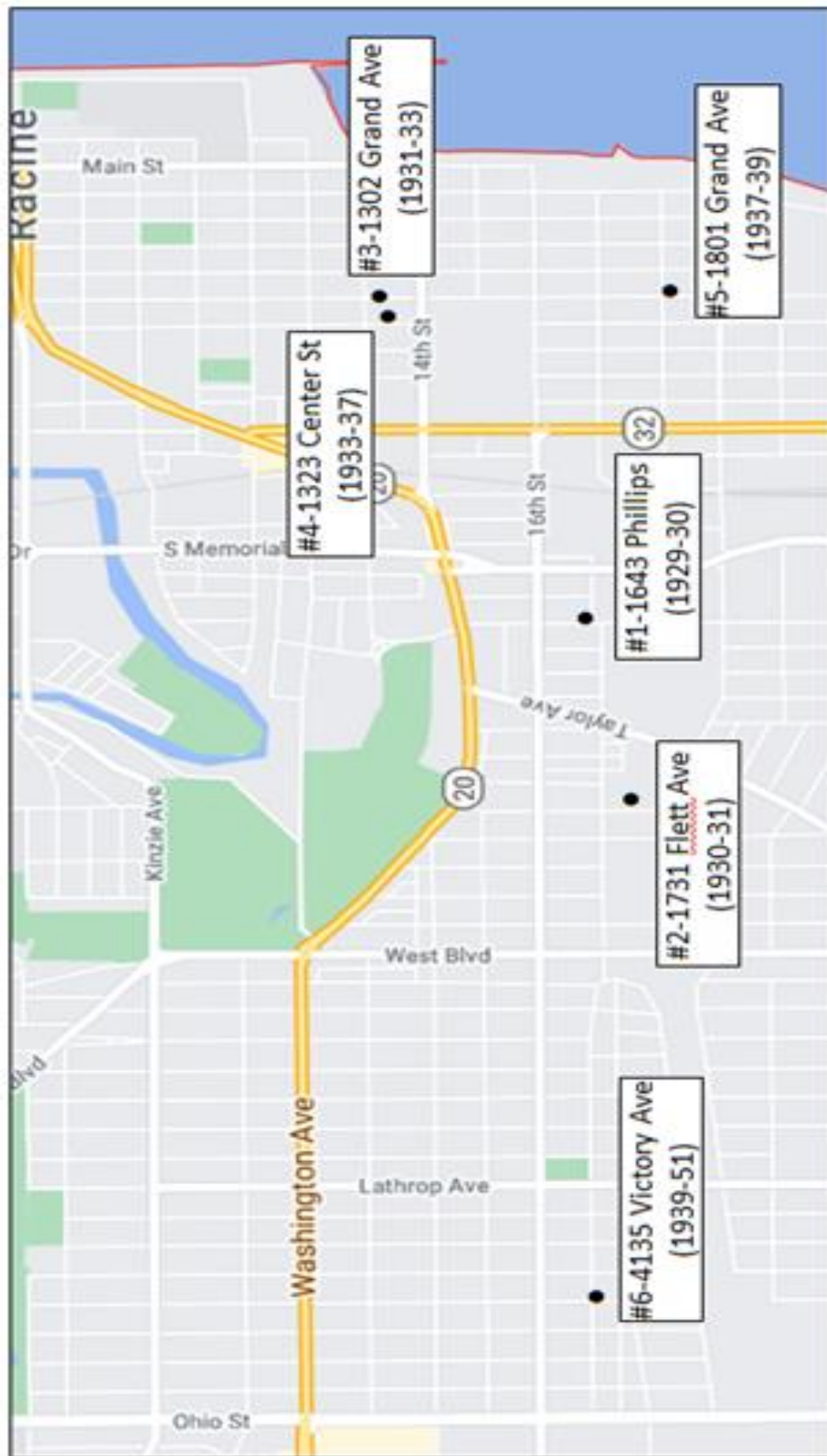
Over the years, John advanced at his work at Nash Motors. The family moved many times during the 1930's, each time in a different rental.

It was the time of the depression. Labor unrest sometimes made it difficult to pay the rent.

* = Owned Home

		JOHN B & MARCELINE	
YEAR	DOC	Home	Occupation
1929	City Dir	1643 Phillips Racine	?
1930	Census	1731 Flett Racine	laborer at Auto Factory
1931	City Dir	1302 Grand Racine	Mach at Nash
1933	City Dir	1323 Center Racine	Sweeper at Nash
1935	City Dir	1323 Center Racine	
1937	City Dir	1801 Grand Racine	Asmblr at Nash
1939	City Dir	4135 Victory Mt Pleasant	Asmblr at Nash
1940	Census	Mt Pleasant*	Asmblr at Nash (wkd 36 wks for \$900)
1941	City Dir	4135 Victory Racine*	Asmblr at Nash
1943	City Dir	4135 Victory Racine*	unk
1945	City Dir	4135 Victory Racine*	Laborer

John & Marceline Lauzon Homes in Racine, WI



Residences in the 1930s

1929-30 Rental

- **1643 Phillips,**
Racine, WI
- (per 1929 City Directory)
- Photo from 2019 Google Maps



1930-31 Rental

- **1731 Flett Ave,**
Racine, WI
- (per 1930 US Census)
- Rented house for \$35/mo.
- Photo from 2011 Google Maps



Residences in the 1930s

1931-33 Rental

- **1302 Grand**
Ave, Racine,
- (per 1931 City
Directory)
- Photo from
2019 Google
Maps



1933 Rental

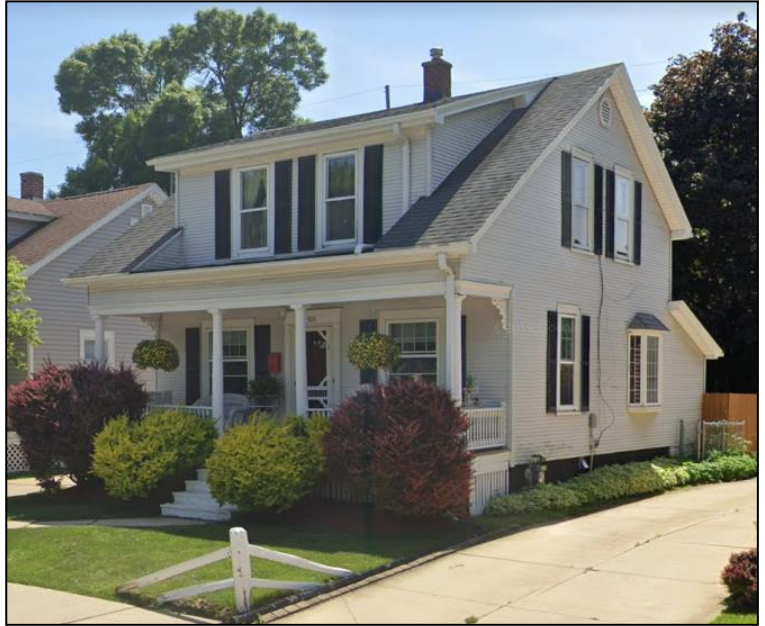
- **1323 Center St,**
- (per 1933 City
Directory)
- Photo from
2019 Google
Maps



Residences in the 1930s

1936 Rental

- **500 West Blvd**
- (per 1936 Newspaper)
- Photo from 2019 Google Maps



1937-39

- **1801 Grand Ave,**
- Now a vacant lot
- (per 1937 City Directory)
- Photo from 2019 Google Maps



John Lauzon
Circa 1930



John & Marceline Lauzon, Circa 1935



Life with the Lauzons in the 1930s



all unidentified, Circa 1936

Life with the Lauzons in the 1930s



Irene & Marie 1938

4135 VICTORY AVE

By 1939 the family must have saved enough money to buy a house at 4135 Victory Avenue, Mt Pleasant. The home was located next to the WRJN radio transmitter tower (1400 AM), just outside the south west edge of the City of Racine. It later became part of the City of Racine, Wisconsin.

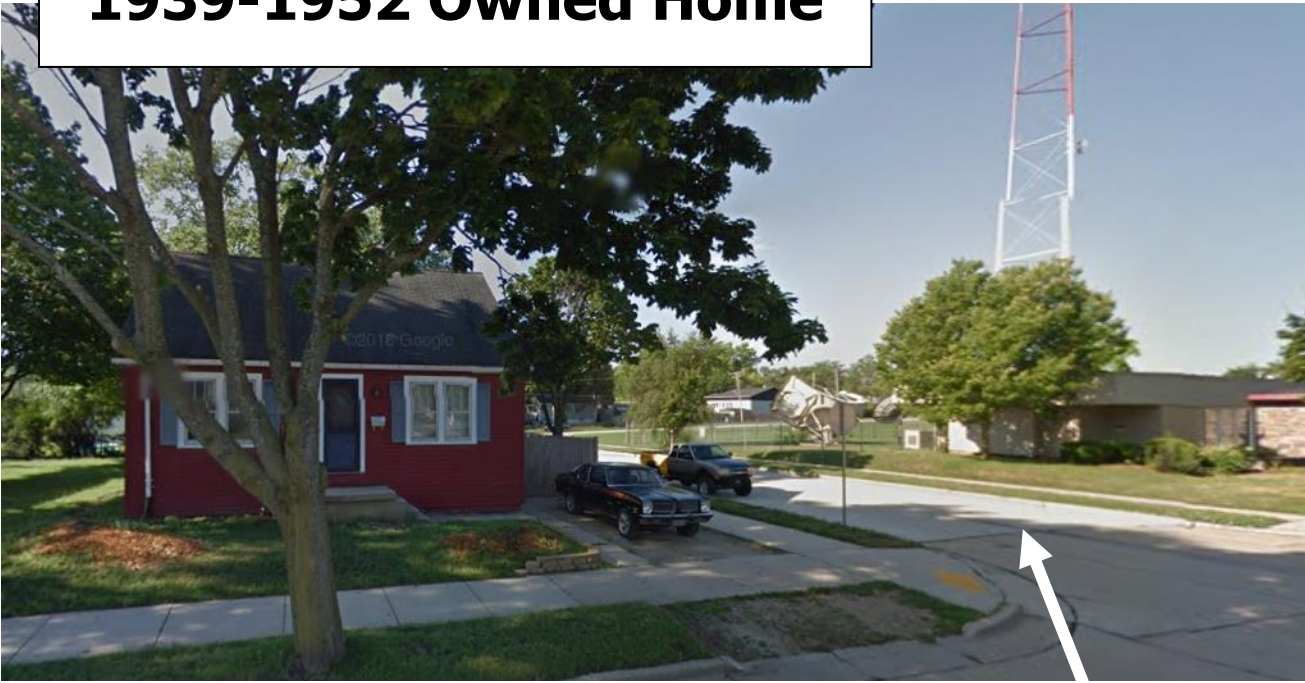


John & Marceline 1938

There was a chicken coop in the back.

For 14 years he worked at Nash Motors, Inc. (American Motors Company-AMC) in Kenosha [2] and retired in 1944. The family continued to live at their Victory Ave home until the 1950's.

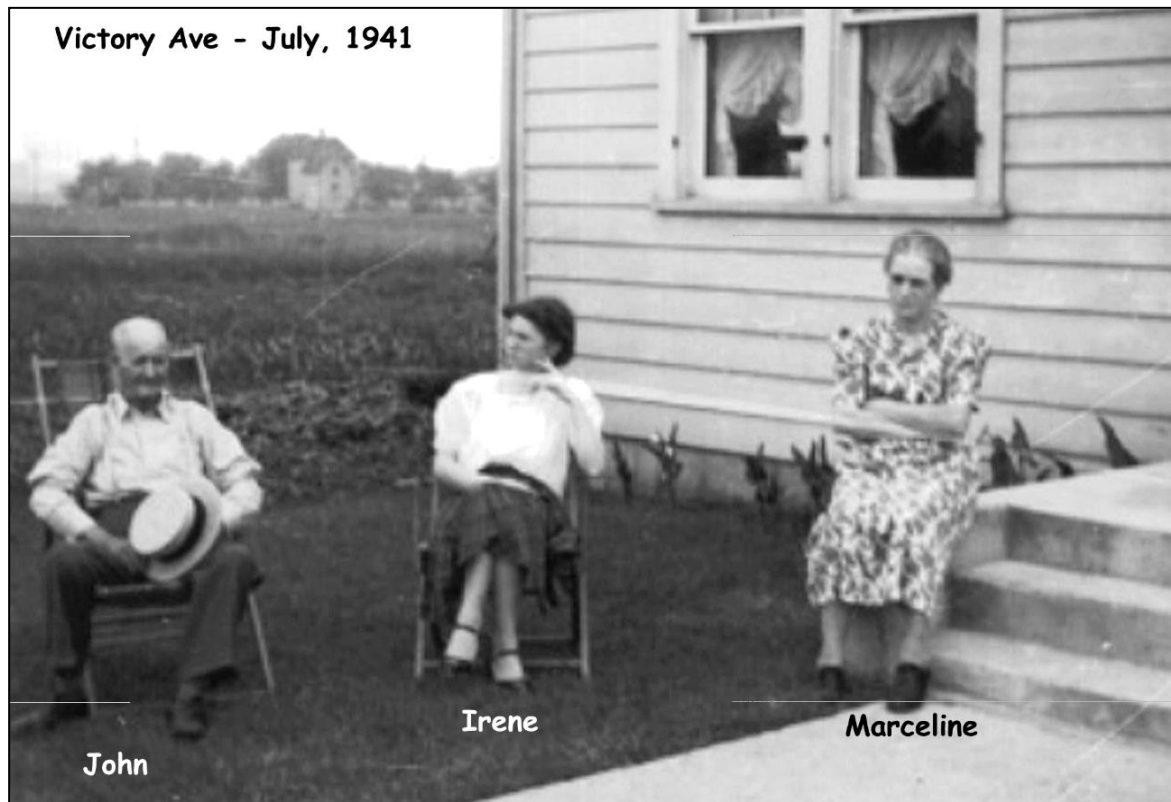
1939-1952 Owned Home



- **4135 Victory Ave**
- (per 1941, 1950 City Directory)
- First home shown as “owned”
- Photo from 2019 Google Maps

Red house is 4125 Victory Ave;
Kentucky Street is where
4135 used to be located





1940's LIFE IN THE LAUZON HOME

John would call his wife "Marceline" ("Marce-linn") and she'd call him "John Batiste" ("John Ba-tis") [8]. John would encourage his children, "Always look up, and always put your head up" [9]

John was a gruff person. He could be demeaning. John liked to show his authority, saying, "I'm the Boss here!" [6]. as was the way in many older families, John would just sit at the end of the dining room table and be waited on by Marceline. Marceline never talked back to John, even



Fisherman John
(Circa 1941)

when he was going about yelling, "I'm the boss!" [8]. It was only when he was older and not as strong that she would talk back a little (with the encouragement of her daughters) [8]. Her strength seemed to be stronger when she'd come to the aid of one of the grandchildren that he'd be teasing.

THE OUTHOUSE STORY

When she was a young girl, Barb Wolters would visit her Lauzon grandparents in Racine on an infrequent basis. Barbara recalls, incidents with the outhouse. The Lauzon house on Victory Ave did not have indoor



John (Circa 1942)

plumbing, so the little house in the back was a necessity. The outhouse was next to the chicken coop. Joan, her older cousin, and Dorothy, her youngest aunt, would lock poor Barb inside the outhouse. There was just a wooden latch on the outside. One time, Barb wanted to get back at them so she tried to lock one of them in. Barb stood outside and watched and watched the door. All of a sudden the "lockee" came up behind her and scared poor Barb out of her wits. Neither Joan or Dorothy, even after they all were grown, would tell Barb how they got out. [3]

**John & Mark
Schmidling**



John, Barb,



John
(Circa 1941)



Jan 1946 – 40th Anniversary Celebration



Jan 1946 "Lauzon Children at 40th Wedding Anniversary" -

Standing: Joseph Lauzon, Bernice Jozwik, Irene Sielfert, Dorothy Lauzon, Marie Scoggins, Yvonne Schmidling, holding Tim
Seated: Lucille Kittson, John B & Marceline Lauzon, Evelyn Spielbauer (missing-Blanche)



Jan 1946 "40th Wedding Anniversary" - John B and Marceline Lauzon



Lauzon Family, Circa 1946

Back: Roy Scoggins, Roman Spielbauer, Bob Schmidling, Joe Seifert
Front: Marie, Yvonne, John, Marceline, Irene, Evelyn, Dorothy, Albert

GRANDCHILDREN



Barb Wolters, Sue Seifert- Joan Kittson, Pat & Gail Seifert (Circa 1943)



Visit by the Grandkids: Joan Kittson, Barb Wolters w Jim Lauzon, Pat & Gail Seifert , and Susan Spielbauer (Circa 1947)

GRANDCHILDREN



Susan Spielbauer, Gail, Roberta & Renee Seifert, Joan Kittson, Pat & Sue Seifert, Tim Schmidling (Circa 1950)



1955 Christmas at Als
Bill, Jim, Linn, Lorene, Mary,
Marceline, Bev, John

POSSIBLE INDIAN HERITAGE

John used to tell his children and grandchildren, "Oh, someone in my family married an Indian squaw." [5]. Marceline, his wife, would respond by telling him to "Keep quiet". [5] Sometimes when Pa would be lying on the bed, after having a few too many, he'd 'sing' Indian-type chants to various tunes [5]. Although not substantiated, the story may be true, since in the early days of French Canadian settlement there were a shortage of women so the men frequently married the native Indian women. The women often took French names so much of the direct history is lost or vague. They had to have some way to "colonize" [5]. While our ancestors were primarily farmers, not fur traders who were more on the edge of civilization, the possibility exists of such a union, though not likely.

HOUSEHOLD CHORES

John had a BIG garden on the side of the house. There were always jars of fruit and vegetables that Grandma preserved on shelves in the basement. [3]

Grandpa raised chickens so they had a chicken coop, next to the outhouse. One Easter, Joan and Barb, the two oldest grandchildren (living in Chicago) got some little yellow chicks for Easter from their parents. The girls had to take the chicks to Racine and put them in the chicken coop. Barb recalled how sad she was to leave her chicken. She didn't eat chicken for years. [3]

RELAXATION

John had a good singing voice and liked to sing [8]. In those days, however, people were so busy working that they never had or took the time to peruse all their personal things [8]. Marceline liked to sing also, but not was frequently or as much. John used to sing some Indian chants (especially when he had 'a buzz on') [7]

John enjoyed sitting in his chair in the living room listening to Dinah Shore on the radio. She was his favorite performer! He wanted everyone to be quiet when Dinah was on so he could hear her! He would yell "Marceline, stop that noise" when she did dishes and banged them a little too much. [3]



Circa
1950

The family had a phonograph in the living room, located in a big wooden cabinet. Al, while he was still living at home, would pay his niece, Joan Kittson, a nickel to keep it wound up so he could listen to his records [11]. He also would take her out for ice cream quite a lot. The two of them were pretty good friends [11].

The family house had a big old Victrola record player in the spare upstairs bedroom. Dorothy was living at home, and Barbara recalls that one time her Aunt Dorothy played an old scratchy record for her. [3] She had a recording of Bing Crosby's White Christmas. Dorothy would crank up the Victrola and start the song when the Seifert girls went to bed. [29]



John, Marceline & unknowns Circa 1951

DRIVING WAS A "NEW" THING

A family story about the destruction of the garage arose in about 1942-3. One version had Dorothy learning how to drive the car while her father had told her not to. She managed to put it through the garage. [11] The other story had it that Pa was the one who was learning to drive when the garage met its demise [7].

John had worked for Nash but didn't own a car until shortly before he retired in 1944 [8]. He got a good price on it, with his discount. He sold it shortly afterwards, probably feeling he didn't use it enough to get around, and he liked the money he got for it. [8] He didn't want anyone else driving it if he couldn't. [9]

Joe Sieffert used to call them to take them to church. [8]

JOHN'S TEASING OF JOAN

John was a terrible tease when it came to kids [11]. John would call his granddaughter, Joan Kittson, into the bedroom, "Come here, I want to show you something". When she'd walk in he'd give himself a shot of insulin. Joan would go out crying because she didn't want to see it. Marceline would come to her rescue, "Pa, if you don't leave her alone...Now, you just leave her alone! She'd just a little girl!" And then Joan would say "Yah" [11]

Grandpa would chase Joan. He didn't frighten her, because she was too sassy. She'd also tease him a little bit. She'd tell Grandpa, "You can't hurt me because Grandma will get after you". Grandma stood up for her all the time. Most of the time, however, Grandpa was the instigator. To get out of his way, Joan would run upstairs and lock herself into Bernice's bedroom. Sometimes Bernice was staying there (when Frank was in the service) along with Dorothy. Joan would hide in the closet cubbyhole so Grandpa couldn't find her [11].

In the afternoons, John would sit outside in his favorite wooden chair. He'd select a spot next to the garage in the shade and lean back on its two back legs and take a nap. [11] The memory Joan enjoyed the most to tell about was how one day she saw a spider and took it from its web and placed it on the gardening hat he always wore and it crawled down on his cheek. She woke him to tell him about the spider. He jumped up, yelled and chased her until she ran into the house to Grandma, which caused Grandma to scold Grandpa saying, "Pa leave that child alone!" Joan laughing all the time. Joan recalled, "I was such a brat!" [27]. She liked to get back at him because he teased her so unmercifully. [11]

Grandpa would make Joan cut the hair in his ears. He'd say, "You're going to stay here and do what I tell you!" One time he wanted her to cut the hairs in his nose, but Joan complained to Grandma, saying she didn't want to do that [11]. In later conversations with Barb Wolters Reuss Joan did not have anything good to say about Grandpa, to put it briefly. [27]

Barb Wolters was one of the older grandchildren. She didn't get to know her grandfather very well because she was always a little afraid of him [3]. One time, Barb recalled, how Grandpa pulled her in a wagon to the store. But, he made her stay outside while he went in; she was so scared of being left alone [3].

GATHERINGS AT THE LAUZON HOUSE

In the mid-1940's members of the Lauzon family would get together on the weekends (Sundays) and socialize. Barbara Wolter Reuss recalls how her mother, Blanche, and sister would take the train from Chicago on Friday afternoon for a weekend visit. Her father, Urban, would drive up after work at the Hotpoint Company (thinks it was in Cicero, Illinois) to meet them and stay the weekend. The uncles would come to Grandma and Grandpas and sit outside in their cars and drink beer. If they had Limburger cheese they'd have to eat it out there because Grandma wouldn't let the stinky cheese in the house. [3]

Roman & Evelyn would visit on Sundays during the war years in the early 40's. Evelyn would bring a cake. [7] They'd get a case of beer and have a good time. Dorothy would ride her bike up to "Manns" and buy a couple of half-gallon bottles of Kingsbury beer [8].

Pat Seifert Holub recalled that the Sunday afternoons at Grandma and Grandpa Lauzon's were special. Many of the Lauzon siblings came with their families. The men played cards and the women talked, watched the kids, and made a yummy supper that involved using the wood cook stove as well as the electric range. Grandpa had a big garden and would pull a carrot out, wipe the dirt off, and give it to you for a treat. The house had a nice bathroom but the water line in the street had not been connected to the house. However, they did have a nice three-hole outhouse: small, medium, large, plus a chamber pot for night. [29]

When Mary first met Albert, her first introduction to the family was during one of these regular Sunday gathers at Ma and Pa's house. She recalled that it seemed that every week all the children and their families would congregate. She was amazed at the regularity and size of the group. [10] They'd all do the dishes and afterwards talk. [7]

After a while the regular family gathers got to be too much and they grew less frequent.



John-Enjoying a smoke, Circa 1953



John-By the Singer, Circa 1954



1-57

Holding Hands, Circa 1954

DIABETIS

John would have a big bowl of oatmeal in the morning, every day of the year, and heap on the sugar. He never liked milk. Sometimes he'd put butter on his oatmeal [5]. After he learned he had diabetes; he'd put four saccharin tablets on it. Marceline would say, "Pa, you shouldn't put so much in" But, he'd just say, "Leave me alone!" [11]

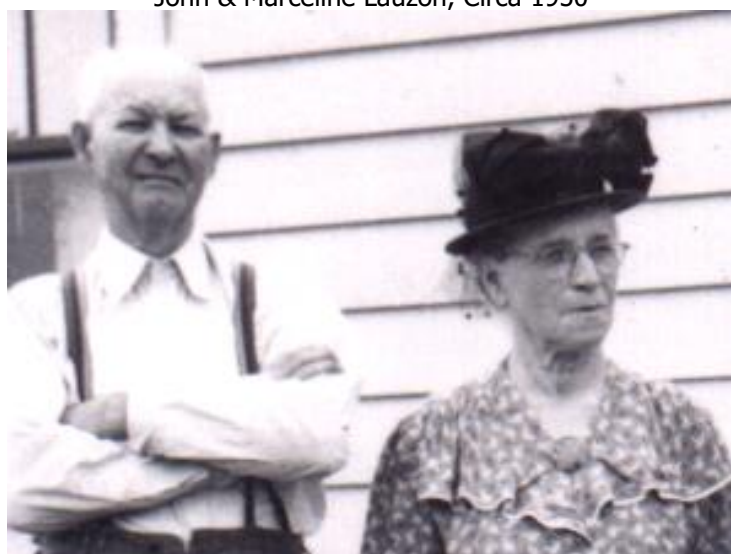
John suffered from diabetes, just like he believed his father to have. [5]

TRAVEL & VISITS

John and Marceline didn't travel very much, except up to Escanoba and Iron Mountain to visit their family [8]. Later, John would go up more often, mostly by himself. His daughters would drive him to the train station [8]. His legs were better than his wife (before one got amputated). He liked to walk and she couldn't walk that much [7]. After all, after having ten kids you're not going to want to walk so much [7].

Bev (Lauzon) Calkins recalled when she visited her grandparents how Grandpa would sit on his back porch and take his cane and rap on his wooded leg to scare Bev and her sister, Linn. [17].

RETIREMENT



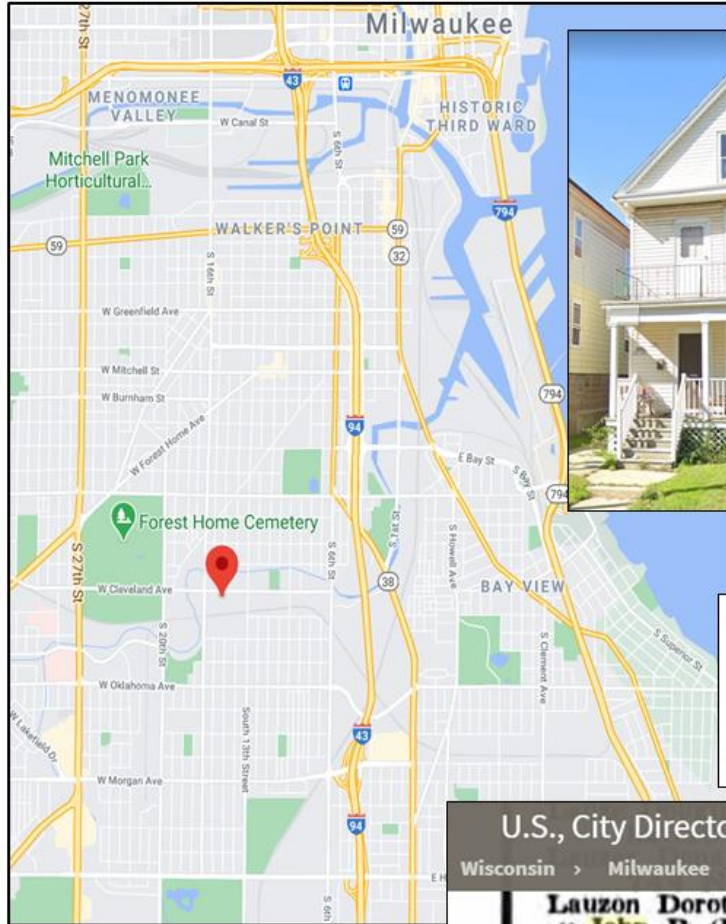
John started working for Nash Motors in Racine in about 1929. When the factory was shut down and work was transferred to Kenosha in 1938, John followed. From 1942 to 1945, Nash Motors made aircraft engines in Kenosha for the U.S. military in World War II.

John retired from Nash Motors in 1944 after working there for about 14 years [2]. He was a member of St. Joseph's Church, the Holy Name Society and Catholic Order of Foresters.

MILWAUKEE HOME (FOR A SHORT TIME)

The 1952 Racine City Directory did not show John & Marceline living in the community, but the Milwaukee Directory listed them living in Milwaukee with their daughter, Dorothy. This may have been for a short time, because in April, 1952, Dorothy married Len Lewandowski and most likely the Lauzon parents moved out.

John & Marceline Lauzon homes



**1952
home
In Milwaukee,
Wisconsin**

- **2715 S 15th, Milwaukee, WI** (per 1952 [Milwaukee City Directory](#))
- Lived with daughter, Dorothy before she was married
- Photo from 2019 Google Maps

U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 for John B Lauzon
 Wisconsin > Milwaukee > 1952 > Milwaukee, Wisconsin, City Directory, 1952
Lauzon Dorothy M ofcwr r2715a S 15th
" John B (Marceline) h2715a S 15th

BACK TO RACINE

By 1954, Dorothy was married and John and Marceline were shown in the City Directory as living back in Racine. They rented the 1st floor rear apartment at 1816 N Chatham. Other tenants included Clifton DeFer and Joseph Stetka. The home was right next door to that of Roy & Marie Scoggins. Their granddaughter, Betty Ann, thought it was a blessing having them living next to her [30].



John & Marceline Lauzon
home

**1954, 1957 home
In Racine,
Wisconsin**



- 1816 Chatham, Racine, WI (per 1954, 1957 City Directory)
- Roy & Marie Scoggins lived nearby at 1746 Chatham
- Photo from 2011 Google Maps

1956 – 50th ANNIVERSARY

On Jan 6, 1956 John and Marceline's family celebrated 50 years of their marriage by renting a bar and having a large celebration. Barb Wolters remembered that Grandpa got sick at the 50th anniversary dinner and never did get well from that day on. [6] Shortly thereafter he died.





Lauzon Family at John & Marceline's 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary, Jan. 1956

1-Dorothy Lewandowski*, 2-Susanne Seifert, 3-Diane Wolters, 4-Linn Lauzon, held by 5-Barbara Wolters, 6-Susan Speilbauer (glasses), 7- Blanche Wolters*, 8-Mary Lauzon (glasses), 9-Yvonne Schmidling*, 10-Marie Scoggins*, 11-Bernice Jozwik*, 12-Lucille Kittson*, 13-Joseph Albert Lauzon (glasses)*, 14-Joan Kolecki, 15-Gail Seifert, 16-Pat Seifert, 17-Irene Seifert*, 18-Evelyn Speilbauer*, 19-Jim Lauzon (glasses), 20-Michael Speilbauer, 21-Mark Schmidling, 22-Tim Schmidling, 23-Lorene Lauzon (glasses), 24-Tom Jozwik, 25-Betty Anne Scoggins, 26-Grandma Marceline Lauzon, 27-Suzette Schmidling (behind flowers), 28-Linda Kolecki, 29-Grandpa John Lauzon, 30-Roberta Seifert, 31-Renee Seifert, 32-Beverly Lauzon (Missing: Bill Lauzon, Paul & Jim Lewandowski)

*Child of John & Marceline

RACINE JOURNAL - TIMES Thursday, February 2, 1956

LAUZON, JOHN B.
1816 N. Chatham St.

Age 79. Passed away Wednesday, Feb. 1, in St. Mary's Hospital. Born in Clarence Creek, Ontario, Canada on Dec. 22, 1876, Mr. Lauzon had lived in Escanaba, Mich. before coming to Racine 28 years ago. For 14 years he had been employed by American Motors Inc., Kenosha, until retiring 12 years ago. He was a member of St. Joseph's Church, Holy Name Society and Catholic Order of Foresters. Surviving are his wife, Marceline; eight daughters, Mrs. Urban (Blanche) Wolters of Lombard, Ill., Mrs. Robert (Lucille) Kittson of North Riverside, Ill., Mrs. Roman (Evelyn) Spielbauer, Cudahy, Wis., Mrs. Joseph (Irene) Sei-

fert of Racine, Mrs. Roy (Marie) Scoggins of Racine, Mrs. Robert (Yvonne) Schmidling, Mrs. Frank (Bernice) Jozwik and Mrs. Leonard (Dorothy) Lewandowski of Milwaukee; two sons, Albert Lauzon of Kenosha and Joseph Lauzon of San Francisco, Calif.; 23 grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; one sister in Niagara Falls, N. Y. and a sister in Canada; four brothers in Canada. Funeral services will be held Saturday, Feb. 4, 8:20 a. m. in the Strouf Funeral Home and 8:45 a. m. in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Msgr. H. J. Schmitt officiating. Interment will be in Holy Cross Cemetery, Highway 32. Friends may call at the **STROUF FUNERAL HOME**, 1001 High St., Friday afternoon and evening and until service time Saturday. The Rosary will be recited Friday evening, 8:30, in the funeral home.

JOHN'S DEATH

John died at St. Mary's Hospital, Racine on Wednesday, February 1, 1956 at the age of 79 years. The funeral was held on Saturday, February 4, 1956 at 8:20 am in the Strouf Funeral Home (1001 High St) and St. Joseph's Catholic Church at 8:45 am. Msgr. H. J. Schmitt officiated. John was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, on Highway 32 on 2/04/1956. [2]

SOURCES:

- [1] Irene Lauzon Sieffert Brinkman
- [2] Obituary of John B. Lauzon
- [3] Letter from Barbara Wolters Reuss to Bill Lauzon, Sept 12, 1996 on her recollections of her grandparents
- [4] Letter from Irene Lauzon Seifert to Mary Lauzon; Jan 12, 1994 on some recollections of her parents/grandparents
- [5] Bernice Lauzon Jozwik, verbal recollection of her family history at a visit to Dorothy Lewandowski's house; info given to Bill Lauzon, August, 1996
- [6] Dorothy Lauzon Lewandowski, verbal recollection of her family history at a visit to her house; info given to Bill Lauzon, August, 1996
- [7] Bernice Lauzon Jozwik, verbal recollection of her past at the 1996 Lauzon Family Picnic at the Racine Zoo; info given to Bill Lauzon, July 18, 1996
- [8] Dorothy Lauzon Lewandowski, verbal recollection of her past at the 1996 Lauzon Family Picnic at the Racine Zoo; info given to Bill Lauzon, July 18, 1996
- [9] Irene Lauzon Seifert, verbal recollection of her past at the 1996 Lauzon Family Picnic at the Racine Zoo; info given to Bill Lauzon, July 18, 1996
- [10] Mary Cook Lauzon, verbal recollection of her past at the 1996 Lauzon Family Picnic at the Racine Zoo; info given to Bill Lauzon, July 18, 1996
- [11] Joan Kittson, verbal recollection of her past at the 1996 Lauzon Family Picnic at the Racine Zoo; info given to Bill Lauzon, July 18, 1996
- [12] Obituary of Marceline Lauzon, Feb, 1970
- [13] Verbal story over the telephone from Barbara Wolters Reuss, 6/20/96 to Bill Lauzon.
- [14] Letter from Barbara Wolters Reuss to Bill Lauzon, Sept 12, 1996 on recollections of her grandmother
- [15] Book of 8000 Lauzon Marriages, p.227
- [16] Book of 8000 Lauzon Marriages, p.59
- [17] Bev (Lauzon) Calkins recollection on July 14, 2001 during a Lauzon reunion at Johnson Park in Racine, to Bill Lauzon.
- [18] Bernice (Lauzon) Lewandowski story on July 14, 2001 during a Lauzon reunion at Johnson Park in Racine, to Bill Lauzon.
- [19] 1924 Immigration to Canada Document
- [20] Email from Susan Murray to Bill Lauzon, 1/31/2016.
- [21] WWI Draft Registration Card of John B Lauzon in Sept 1918.
- [22] 1900 US Census of Escanaba Township, Sheet 2, line 53
- [23] 1881 US Census of Clarence Township
- [24] Oral Lauzon verbal story to Bill Lauzon in Oct 1979 when Bill was in Iron Mountain doing work for the VA and learned that Oral lived with his mother in nearby Kingsford.
- [25] 1922 Escanaba City Directory
- [26] Barb Wolters Reuss email, Jan 13, 2013
- [27] Barb Wolters Reuss email, Jun 18, 2015
- [28] Barb Wolters Reuss email, Jun 15, 2015
- [29] Pat Seifert Holub email of Memories, Dec 19, 2020
- [30] Liz Scoggins Schlembach, email, March 15, 2021