

House History of 11261 St. Laurence

(247 Watt Before 1907)

1900-1950



This is a collection of information about the various residents living at this address from 1900 to 1950. The picture above is of some children standing on the street of this house. The house on the corner is 11261.

1900 Federal Census

Marguerite Loughran- Born July 1864 in Illinois. She was the head of the household, and had no other occupation. She had four living children who also lived in this house. She was married in 1880 and widowed after 20 years. Her father was born in Kentucky, Her mother was born in Virginia.

Nettie Loughran- Nettie is the daughter of Marguerite. She was born in July 1885 in Illinois which makes her 14 at the time of this census. She was a student and had been attending school for 10 years at this point. Her father was born in Maryland.

Lester Loughran- Son of Marguerite, his father was born in Maryland. He was born in July 1882 in Illinois which makes him 17 at the time of the census. He was single at the time. He was working as an apprentice, it is not known what he was apprenticing for.

Lincoln Loughran- Another son of Marguerite, his father was born in Maryland. He was born in March of 1895 which makes him 5 at the time of the 1900 census.

Espy W Loughran- Espy is another of Marguerite's sons, his father's birthplace was Maryland. He was born in January 1881 in Illinois making him 19 at the time of the census. He was single at this point and worked as a Bolt Heater. It is not known where he was working as a bolt heater.

John Griffin- John was born in May 1879 in Michigan. Both of his parents were also born in Michigan. He was single and living in this house as a roomer. He worked as an Oiler.

Henry Long- Henry and John had a lot in common. Henry was born September 1879 in Michigan. Both of his parents were born in Michigan. He was a roomer. He was single. He was working as an Oiler.

Mark Plunk- Mark was born April 1840 in Germany. Both of his parents were born in Germany as well. He immigrated to the United States in 1880 and he was naturalized. He was a roomer in the house. He was widowed. He worked as a SteamFitter.

John Rector- John Rector was born February 1850 in Illinois. Both his parents were born in Illinois. He was a roomer. He was widowed. He was working as a Watchman.

1910 Federal Census

Dennis William Falvey- Dennis was the head of the household in 1910. He was born in 1844 in Ireland. Both of his parents were also born in Ireland. He immigrated to the United States in 1850 and he was a naturalized citizen. He owned the house and had a mortgage. He was married to Louisa A Falvey. At this point they had been married 29 years. Dennis was working as an Engineer at the Pullman Palace Car Company Car Works.

Louisa A Falvey- Louisa was born in 1851 in Germany. Her parents were both from Germany. She immigrated to the United States in 1855. She had been married to Dennis Falvey for 29 years at this time. She had four children, none of them living at the time of the census. She had no occupation.

Charles Oberich- Charles was born in 1885 in Illinois. Both of his parents were born in Germany. He was living in this house as a lodger. He was single. He was working as a Carpenter at the Pullman Car Works.

Patrick Gerrity- Patrick was born in Ireland in 1884. Both of his parents were born in Ireland. He immigrated to the United States in 1893. He was not a naturalized citizen. He was living in this house as a lodger. He was single at this time. He was working as a Blacksmith at the Pullman Car Works.

1920 Federal Census

Dennis William Falvey- Dennis was still living in this house when the 1920 census was taken. He was 75 years old when this census was taken. He is still married to Louisa A Falvey. In 1910, his house was labeled as mortgaged. In 1920 it was labeled as free. At this time his occupation is listed as Inspector at the Pullman Car Works.

Louisa A Falvey- At the time of this census, Louisa was 69 years old. She still has no occupation. She is married to Dennis W Falvey. At this point they had been married for 39 years.

Hector Cooke- Hector was born about 1884 in Illinois which would make him 36 at the time this census was taken. His father was born in Vermont and his mother was born in Canada. He was a lodger in this house. He was widowed. He was working as a machinist at a construction company.

John R Decker- John was born in Illinois in about 1883 making him 37 years old at this point. Both of his parents were also born in Illinois. He was a lodger. He was single at this time. His occupation is as a painter but the place he worked as a painter is unknown.

1930 Federal Census

Dennis William Falvey- Dennis was still at this address in 1930. This means he lived in this house for at least 30 years. At the time of this census, he was widowed. Unfortunately this means that between the 1920 census and the 1930 census Louisa A Falvey died. Dennis was 88 at this time. This census specifies that he was not attending school and did not own a radio set. He was not working at this time, but he did still have lodgers. This house was valued at \$4500 in 1930. That equates to \$71,960 today.

Ella Falvey- Ella is Dennis Falvey's sister. She moved into this house sometime between 1920 and 1930. She was born in New York in about 1867. Both her parents and her brother were born in Ireland. At this time she was 63 years old. She was single at this time and not widowed. She was considered to be the homemaker of the household.

John Olson- John was born in Sweden in about 1892 which would make him 38 at this time. Both of his parents were also born in Sweden. He immigrated to the United States in 1911. He was a naturalized citizen. He was living in this house as a roomer. He was single at this time. He was working with truck material for the carbuilding company.

John Vadekom- John was born in Illinois in about 1877 making him 53 at the time of this census. Both of his parents were born in Germany. He was living in this house as a roomer. He was single at this time. He was working as an Oiler for the car builder company.

1940 Federal Census

Charlotte Rodskier- Charlotte was born about 1894 in Iowa. She was 46 during this census. She owned the house and was the head of the household. At this time the house was valued at \$2500 which would be \$47,688 today. She attended school through two years of college. She had no occupation at this time. She had two children, one living with her. She was a widow, and there were interesting circumstances and a court case in regard to the life insurance her husband had.

Court Case Regarding the Life Insurance Policy of Charlotte's Husband

Rodskier v. Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance, 216 Iowa 121 (1933)

May 9, 1933 · Iowa Supreme Court · No. 41801

216 Iowa 121

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Charlotte Rodskier, Appellee,

v.

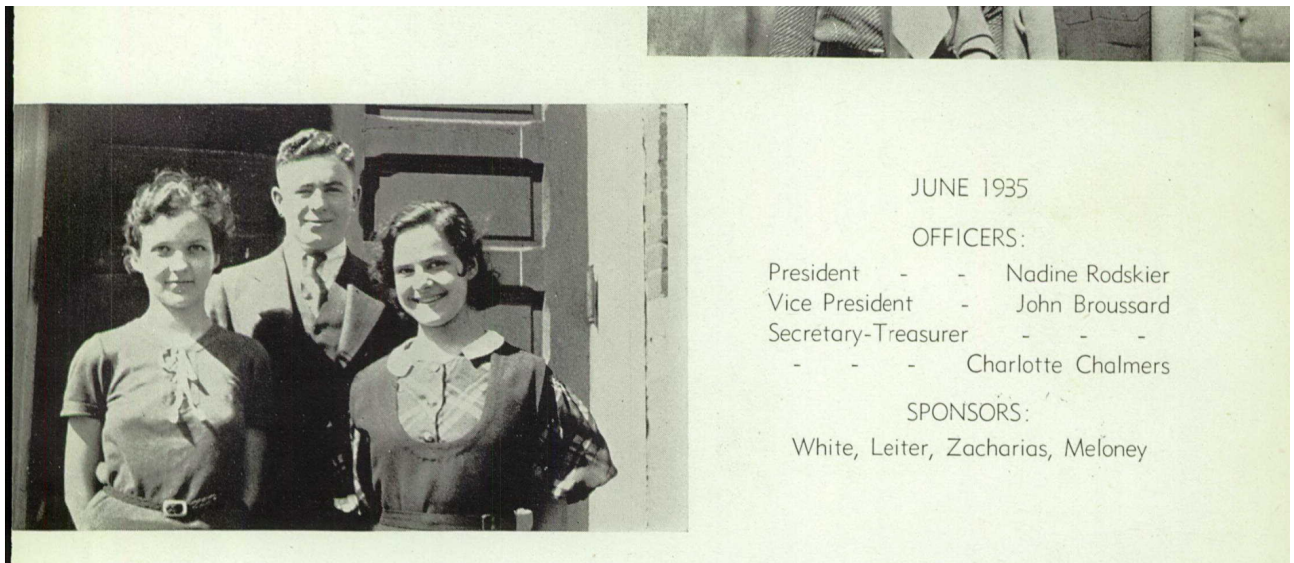
Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance
Company of Milwaukee, Appellant

Charlotte's husband Aage left their home in 1921 in poor health claiming he was going to Cleavland to find a job. Charlotte and Aage's old boss each received a letter from Aage from New Orleans. After that he was never seen or heard from again. Seven years later in 1933 this case came to court for Charlotte to collect the life insurance. It was determined that there had been a thorough enough search for Aage and that it was appropriate to assume he was dead. Charlotte was awarded the \$1,000 life insurance. This case also helped set a precedent for cases

where it was unclear whether a person was dead or missing and if beneficiaries would be able to collect benefits.

Nadine Rodskier- Nadine was born in 1917 in Iowa. She would have been 23 at this time. She is the daughter of Charlotte Rodskier. Her father was Aage Rodskier, who was deceased at this time. She attended Grant High School in Cedar Rapids Iowa. She was the class president for the class of 1935.

Yearbook Photo of Nadine Rodskier



She attended school through two years of college. She worked as a cashier.

1950 Federal Census

John Gawenski- John was born June 23rd 1894 in Turuli, Poland. He was 53 in 1950. He became a naturalized citizen in 1928. He died on October 20th 1977. He was married to Josephine Gawenski. He was considered the head of the house. He owned a tavern. He also ran a rooming house. He registered for the draft in 1942. At the time the Gawenski family lived at 11270 Champlain.

John Gawenski's Draft Card from 1942

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)			
SERIAL NUMBER	1. NAME (Print)	ORDER NUMBER	
U. 2010	John Gawenski		
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)			
11270 Champlain Ave Chgo Cook Ill			
(THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL)			
3. MAILING ADDRESS			
SAME			
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)			
4. TELEPHONE		5. AGE IN YEARS	6. PLACE OF BIRTH
Pull. 4363		47 1/2	Turuli
(Exchange) (Number)		(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	(Town or county) (State or country)
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS			
Mrs. Josephine Gawenski, 11270 Champlain			
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS			
OWNER OF 2 TAVERN			
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS			
11270 Champlain Ave Chgo Cook Ill			
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE			
D. S. S. FORM 1 (Revised 4-1-42)		(over)	10-21630-2
		John Gawenski	
		(Registrant's Signature)	

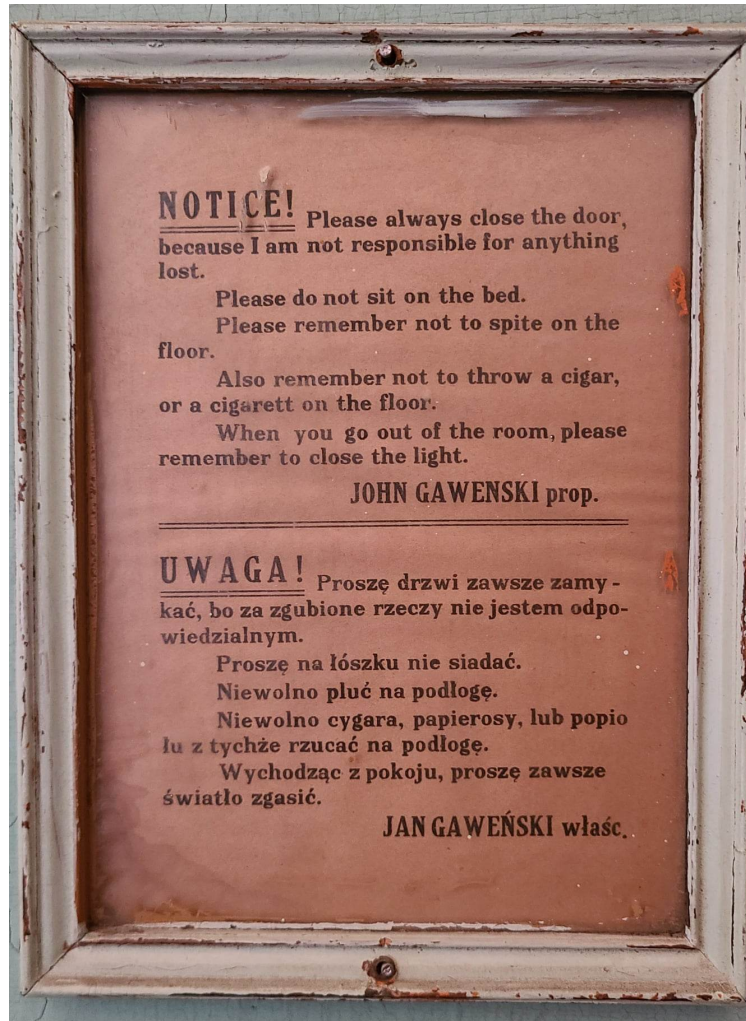
Josephine Gawenski- Josephine was born in Illinois in about 1907. She was 43 in 1950. Both of her parents were born in Poland. She had three children. Two of them lived with her at the time of this census. She was the one keeping up the home, she had no other occupation.

Irene Gawenski- Irene was born in Illinois in about 1932. She was 18 in 1950. She is the daughter of John and Josephine. She was single at this time. She was working as a stenographer for a retail department store.

Bruno Gawenski- Bruno was born in Illinois in about 1928. He was 22 in 1950. He is the son of John and Josephine. He was single. He worked as a self employed carpenter and had not been working at the time of this census. He was known to prune his neighbors' bushes at his own discretion.

The Gawenski family used to live at 11270 Champlain. Their other daughter Elizabeth also lived with them at this time, but was living elsewhere at the time of the 1950 census. 11270 became a rooming house run by the Gawenskis when they moved to 11261 St. Lawrence.

Rooming House Sign



NOTICE! Please always close the door, because I am not responsible for anything lost.

Please do not sit on the bed.
Please remember not to spit on the floor.

Also remember not to throw a cigar, or a cigarette on the floor.

When you go out of the room, please remember to close the light.

JOHN GAWENSKI prop.

UWAGA! Proszę drzwi zawsze zamykać, bo za zgubione rzeczy nie jestem odpowiedzialnym.

Proszę na łóżku nie siadać.

Niewolno pluć na podłogę.

Niewolno cygara, papierosy, lub popiołu z tychże rzucać na podłogę.

Wychodząc z pokoju, proszę zawsze światło zgasić.

JAN GAWENSKI właśc.

This was a sign hanging in the rooming house describing a few rules regarding the behavior of the residents. It is written in English and Polish.

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