

John Martinus Grawrock

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Level Up¹

UNKNOWN	NAME	VITAL	PARENTAL	CENSUS	FAMILY	LOCATION	JOBS & MILT	BIO	DNA
V1	V1	V1	V1	V1	V1	V1	V1	V1	
VERSION HISTORY									
VERSION	DATE	NOTES							
V1	Sep 2023	Created from previous work							

Vitals

John Martinus Gravrok, the son of John Jacobsen and Carolina Eriksdatter, was born on 11 March 1868 in Gamle Aker, Oslo, Norway.² John died on 22 February 1929 in Mount Vernon, Westchester, New York, USA.³ John married **Aase Thomasdatter** on 13 December 1891 in Oslo.⁴ Aase was born on 3 February 1870 in Austre Moland.⁵ Aase died on 10 August 1944 Mount Vernon, Westchester, New York, USA.⁶

* © David Grawrock. The author is a Certified Genealogist[®] and a retired high-tech computer architect. Writing international standards and industry specifications, along with numerous speaking engagements, the author loved solving technical problems and telling the world about the solutions. Since retirement, the problem solving and explanations efforts, now revolve around genealogical problems. All URL's active as of 20 September 2021.

* The words Certified Genealogist[®] and designation CG[®] are registered certification marks of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, used under license by Board-certified genealogists after periodic competency evaluation. *

¹ A level up report attempts to create a complete picture of an individual and their family. The report conducts research way beyond the basic vitals and attempts to find tidbits that illustrate an individual's life. The genesis for this idea is from Yvette Hoitink, "Six Levels of Ancestral Profiles – Level-up Challenge!" Dutch Genealogy, 22 January 2021 (<https://dutchgenealogy.nl/levelup>). Yvette used buckets to indicate completion and status.. I've modified this to include more buckets to look at and the buckets are not hierarchical but independent. I.e., Research may solve DNA prior to locating jobs.

² Gamle Aker Parish (Oslo), *Kirkebøker*, 1865-1873, section "Fødte og døpte," p. 136 (stamped), entry 86, John Martinus, baptism 26 March 1868; *Digitalarkivet* (<https://www.digitalarkivet.no/kb20060228020140>), image 140 of 430; citing SAO/A-10617a/F/L0002. Digital index <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/255/pd00000020739295>.

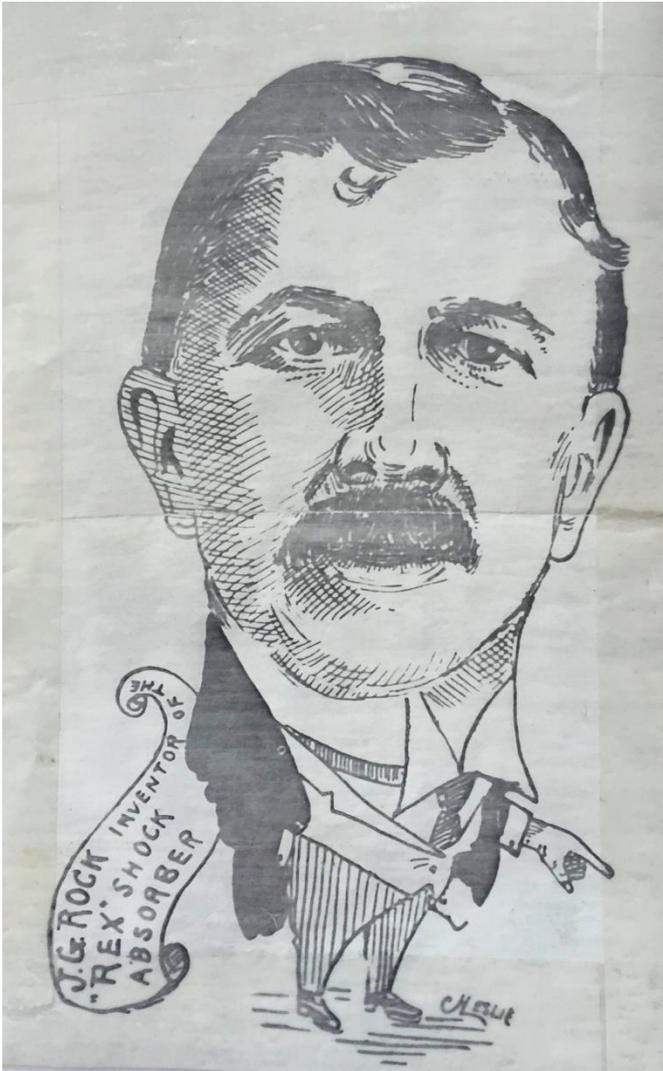
³ New York State Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics (Albany), unnumbered death certificate, 1929, John M. Graw Rock [Grawrock], copy issued 1980 to David Grawrock; image posted 2019 by David Grawrock to "John Martinus Gravrok (17BL-W8M)," FamilySearch FamilyTree (https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/96178386?cid=mem_copy). "New York State Death Index, 1880–1956," FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSGD-937Z-8>), image 472 of 1379 images on digital film 104,132,622, assigns death registration no. 13638 (1929) to its entry for John.

⁴ Petrus Parish (Oslo), *Kirkebøker*, 1881-1896, "Agteviøde", p. 279 (stamped), entry 70, John Martinus Gravrok and Aase Thomassen, 13 December 1891; consulted at *Digitalarkivet*, DPR (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/5426/287>), image 287 of 324; citing SAO/A-10872/G/Ga/L0001. Digital index <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/327/pv00000005126967>

⁵ Austre Moland Parish (Aust-Agder), *Kirkebøker*, 1869-1879, "Fødte og døpte", p. 38, no 3, Aase Thomasdatter, 20 February 1870; consulted at *Digitalarkivet*, DPR, DBDI (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/6156/31659/3>), image 32 of 180; citing archive SAK/1111-0001/F/Fa/Faa/L0009. Digital index <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/255/pd00000025935280>

⁶ New York State Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics (Albany), death certificate no. 49890 (1944) [stamped], dist. 5903 [stamped], registered 391 [inked], Aase Grawrock, copy issued 1980 to David Grawrock; image posted 2019 by David Grawrock to "Aase Arnesen (262V-P39)," FamilySearch FamilyTree (https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/95699569?cid=mem_copy).

Description



American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), "John Graw Rock obituary", 1929, [Journal and volume unknown]; copy from private papers of Henry Grawrock delivered to David Grawrock [347 West Shield] Ivins Ut, 84738 1985.

This drawing of John accompanied his obituary.⁷ His clothes are very dapper for the 1920's. We know from his naturalization and immigration forms that he had brown hair and blue eyes.⁸ The short wavy hair, was a family trait that both his son and grandson had. The author, a great grandson, did not inherit wavy hair. The mustache is big, a proper crumb catcher. The author, when he wore a mustache, had an almost identical mustache. The artist does a great job of providing life into the portrait, the eyes are intense and draw you in. John knew both success and failure, the eyes showed that life.

Early Life

First Month

John's parents, John Jacobsen and Carolina Eriksdatter, were married on 25 February 1868 just three weeks prior to his birth on 11 March 1868.⁹ While getting married just prior to or just after the birth of the first child was not that unusual in Norwegian society, the reasons for John and Carolina's marriage have a deeper meaning. Twelve days after John's birth, his father John Jacobsen, died of consumption, now

known as tuberculosis (TB).¹⁰ TB is not a fast-acting disease, rather it "consumes" the body little by little with the individual spitting up blood as one effect of the disease is the destruction of the lungs.¹¹ It is unlikely that TB killed John in only a month. Rather he would have been sick for some time, likely years, and the last-minute marriage was to legitimize his soon-to-be-born child.

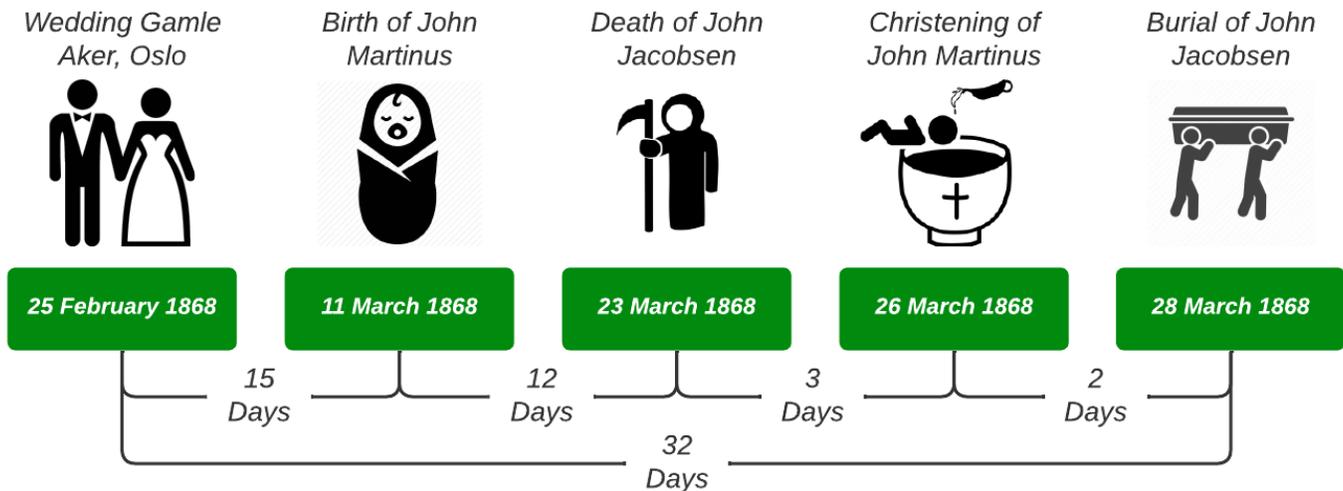
⁷ ASME, "John Graw Rock obituary", 1929.

⁸ Ancestry, "New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957", John Grawrok (entry 16 May 1911, SS *United States*), page 137, line 28; DBDI (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7488/NYT715_1679-0349/4008528965), image 122 of 198; citing NARA, microfilm serial T715.

⁹ Gamle Aker Parish (Oslo), *Kirkebøker*, 1865-1873, "Agteviiede", p. 182, entry 13, John Jacobsen and Caroline Erikssen marriage 25 February 1868, entry 13; consulted at *Digitalarkivet*, DPR, DBDI (<https://www.digitalarkivet.no/kb20060228020611>), image 181 of 265; citing Satsarkivet Oslo (SAO), archive SAO/A-10617a, piece L0003, no. 3.

¹⁰ Gamle Aker Parish (Oslo), *Kirkebøker*, 1865-1873, "Døde og Begravede", p. 367, no 67, John Jacobsen Gravrok, 28 March 1868; consulted at *Digitalarkivet*, DPR, DBDI (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/594/373>), image 367 of 430; citing Satsarkivet Oslo (SAO), archive SAO/A-10617a, piece L0003, no. 3.

¹¹ *Wikipedia*, "Tuberculosis" (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuberculosis> : rev 06:21, 5 April 2022).



The timeline shows how fast events occurred in the winter and early spring of 1868. In the space of 32 days Caroline, got married, gave birth, her husband died, she christened her child, and she buried her husband.

Stepfather

Caroline married Vilhelm Andersen in 1872, four years after the death of John, according to the birth record for their child Olga. However, there are no index entries for such a marriage and a page-by-page review of the parish record matching Olga's christening, did not find the marriage.¹²

Table 1 1875 Norway Oslo [Kristiania] – Wilhelm Andersen

NO	NAME	BIRTH	REL	STATUS	BIRTH	OCCUPATION
33	Wilhelm Andersen	1852	Head	Married	Kristiania	Restaurateur
34	Karoline Andersen	1841	Wife	Married	Skedsmo	Supported by Wilhelm
35	John Marthinus Andersen	1868	Son	Unmarried	Kristiania	Supported by parents
36	Magnus Olaf Emil Andersen	1874	Son	Unmarried	Kristiania	Supported by parents
37	Olga Dagmar Therese Andersen	1875	Daughter	Unmarried	Kristiania	Supported by parents
38	Josephine Marie Andersen	1858	Sister	Unmarried	Kristiania	Servant

1875 Norway census, Kristiania, census district 007, urban residence 0391 Tomtegade 23, person 33, Wilhelm Andersen [household]; imaged at Digitalarkivet, DBDI (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/52055/1157>), image 1157 of 9068. Index at (<https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/census/person/pf01052055009833>).

In this census, when John was seven years old, he used this stepfather's surname. The switch from patronymics is evident here as the children are not Wilhelmsen's or datter's but rather Andersen's.

Confirmation

As required by law, John had his confirmation into the Lutheran church on 1 April 1883 in Grønland parish, Oslo, when John was fifteen years old.

¹² Vår Frelser's Parish (Oslo), *Kirkebøker*, 1868-1878, "Døpte", p. 443 (stamped), no 144, Olga Dagmar Theresie, 26 December 1875; consulted at Digitalarkivet, DPR, DBDI (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/659/455>), image 455 of 586; citing SAO, archive SAO/A-10752/F/Fa/L0017. Indexed at <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/255/pd00000019683842>. Marriage's filmed in Married - Oslo Domkirke / Vår Frelser's congregation (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/en/kb/contents/663>).



Grønland Parish (Oslo), Kirkebøker, 1881-1893, "Konfirmerte," p. 52, entry 15, John Martinus Johansen, confirmation 1 April 1883; consulted at Digitalarkivet, DPR, (<https://www.digitalarkivet.no/kb20060929020044>), image 28 of 185; citing SAO, archive A-10848, folder L0008, no. 8.

The surname is a bit off but the dates and parents match, this is John Martinus. The entry lists John’s father and his father’s occupation, but there is no mention that the father had died. John received his smallpox vaccination in 1870. His knowledge of the church was “neppe godt” or hardly good enough, in other words he just squeaked by.¹³

Schooling

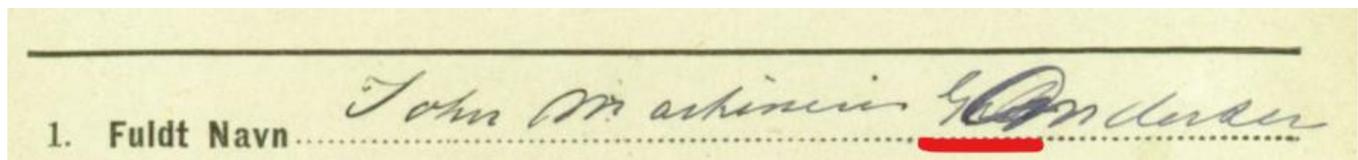
Sometime after his confirmation, John attended schools in Trondheim, Norway and Munich, Germany studying mechanical engineering.¹⁴

Table 2 1891 Norway Oslo [Kristiania] – Wilh Andersen

NO	NAME	BIRTH	REL	STATUS	BIRTH	OCCUPATION
10	Wilh. Andersen	1852	Head	Married	Xania	
11	Caroline Andersen	1841	Wife	Married	Skjesmøe	
12	John Marthinus Andersen	1868	Son	Unmarried	Xania	
13	Magnus Olaf Emil Andersen	1874	Son	Unmarried	Xania	
14	Welhelmine Theresie Andersen	1877	Daughter	Unmarried	Xania	
15	Dagmar Margrethe Andersen	1879	Daughter	Unmarried	Xania	
16	Fredrik Vilhelm Andersen	1880	Son	Unmarried	Xania	

1891 Norway census, Kristiania, census district 178 Oslo Gade, urban residence 005 Oslo Gade, person 10, Wilh Andersen [household]; imaged at Digitalarkivet, DBDI (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/52721/107656>), image 107656 of 174149. Index at (<https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/census/person/pf01052721029523>).

While the children are still using the Andersen surname, John’s entry has an interesting clue.



When writing John’s surname whomever started with a Gr and then overwrote that with the An and finished the Andersen. John, who is twenty-three years old, is attempting to use a form of Grawrock, which he will use the rest of his life. John’s entry does not claim an occupation.¹⁵

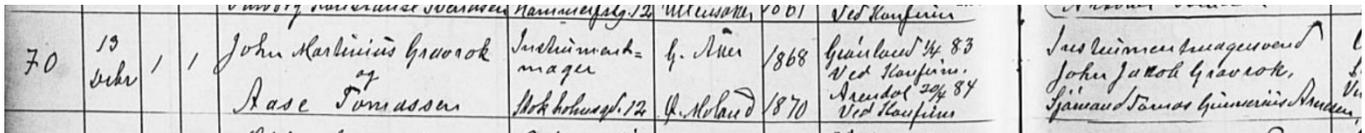
¹³ Grønland Parish (Oslo), Kirkebøker, 1881-1893, "Konfirmerte," p. 52, entry 15, John Martinus Johansen, confirmation 1 April 1883; consulted at Digitalarkivet, DPR, (<https://www.digitalarkivet.no/kb20060929020044>), image 28 of 185; citing SAO, archive A-10848, folder L0008, no. 8.

¹⁴ American Society of Mechanical Engineers, "John Graw Rock obituary", 1929; [journal and volume unknown]; transcript, with no sourcing, in possession of David Grawrock. Attempts to find school records in Trondheim and Munich have been unsuccessful.

¹⁵ 1891 Norway census, Kristiania, census district 178 Oslo Gade, urban residence 005 Oslo Gade, person 10, Wilh Andersen [household]; imaged at Digitalarkivet, DBDI (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/52721/107656>), image 107656 of 174149. Index at (<https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/census/person/pf01052721029523>).

Family

John married **Aase Thomasdatter** on 13 December 1891 in Petrus Parish, Oslo. At the marriage claimed to be an instrument maker so his education in Munich completed prior to 1891.¹⁶ Aase, the daughter of Thomas Gunerius Arnesen and Amborg Iversdatter, was born on 3 February 1870 in Austre Moland, Aust-Agder, Norway.¹⁷ Aase died on 10 August 1944 in Mount Vernon, Westchester, New York, USA.¹⁸



Petrus Parish (Oslo), Kirkebøker, 1881-1896, "Agteviende", p. 279 (stamped), entry 70, John Martinus Grawrak and Aase Thomassen, 13 December 1891; consulted at Digitalarkivet, DPR (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/5426/287>), image 287 of 324; citing SAO/A-10872/G/Ga/L0001. Digital index <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/327/pv00000005126967>

Just as with his parents, John and Aase's first child arrived a month after their marriage on 17 January 1892 at the Rikshospital in Oslo.¹⁹

Children

There would be a total of six children born to John and Aase.

Known children of John Martinus Grawrock and Aase Thomasdatter

- i. THOMAS GRAWROCK was born on 17 January 1892 at the Rikshospital in Oslo.²⁰ Thomas died 12 August 1965 in Blue Point, Suffolk, New York, United States.²¹ Thomas married

¹⁶ Petrus Parish (Oslo), Kirkebøker, 1881-1896, "Agteviende", p. 279 (stamped), entry 70, John Martinus Grawrak and Aase Thomassen, 13 December 1891; consulted at Digitalarkivet, DPR (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/5426/287>), image 287 of 324; citing SAO/A-10872/G/Ga/L0001. Digital index <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/327/pv00000005126967>

¹⁷ Austre Moland Parish (Aust-Agder), Kirkebøker, 1869-1879, "Fødte og døpte", p. 38, no 3, Aase Thomasdatter, 20 February 1870; consulted at Digitalarkivet, DPR, DBDI (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/6156/31659/3>), image 32 of 180; citing archive SAK/1111-0001/F/Fa/Faa/L0009. Digital index <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/255/pd00000025935280>

¹⁸ New York State Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics (Albany), death certificate no. 49890 (1944) [stamped], dist. 5903 [stamped], registered 391 [inked], Aase Grawrock, copy issued 1980 to David Grawrock; image posted 2019 by David Grawrock to "Aase Arnesen (262V-P39)," FamilySearch FamilyTree (https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/95699569?cid=mem_copy).

¹⁹ Rikshospitalet Parish (Oslo), Kirkebøker, 1890-1893, "Fødte og døpte," p. 116 (stamped), entry 26, Thomas William Ross Grawrak baptism 24 January 1892; consulted at Digitalarkivet, DPR (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/5429/123>), image 123 of 291; citing SAO/A-10309b/F/L0008. Digital index <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/255/pd00000024361678>. The transcription is incorrect, it shows the wrong father. The record itself is clear as to the identity of the father.

²⁰ Rikshospitalet Parish (Oslo), Kirkebøker, 1890-1893, "Fødte og døpte," p. 116 (stamped), entry 26, Thomas William Ross Grawrak baptism 24 January 1892; consulted at Digitalarkivet, DPR (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/5429/123>), image 123 of 291; citing SAO/A-10309b/F/L0008. Digital index <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/255/pd00000024361678>. The transcription is incorrect, it shows the wrong father. The record itself is clear as to the identity of the father.

²¹ New York State Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics (Albany), death certificate no. 63137 (1965) [stamped], dist. 5151 [stamped], registered 595 [inked], Thomas W Grawrock, copy issued 1980 to David Grawrock; image posted 2019 by David Grawrock to "Thomas William Grawrock Sr (K6SB-5N6)," FamilySearch FamilyTree (<https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/96178447>).

- Clara Herron** 26 August 1922 in Mount Vernon, Westchester, New York, United States.²² Clara, the daughter of Christopher Herron and Christina Cockburn, was born on 13 January 1895 in Mount Vernon.²³ Clara died on 18 July 1955 in Blue Point.²⁴
- ii. **MARGARETHE GRAWROCK** was born on 11 June 1893 in Grønland Parish, Oslo.²⁵ Margarethe died on 26 October 1972 in Danbury, Fairfield, Connecticut.²⁶ She married **Arnt Arntsen** on 29 August 1912 in Manhattan, Kings, New York.²⁷ Arnt, the son of Johan Alfred Arntsen and Inga Elise Norby, was born on 3 August 1894 in Johannes Parish, Oslo.²⁸
 - iii. **JOHN OSWALD BJARNE GRAWROCK** was born on 13 March 1895 in Grønland Parish, Oslo.²⁹ John died on 9 May 1895 in Oslo. The record states that John's first baptism occurred at home and while there is no date specified, there is a cross, indicating death, prior to the reconfirmation of the christening at the church.³⁰
 - iv. Ruth Grawrock was born on 31 January 1896 in Oslo. Her christening occurred seven years later 21 June 1903 in Trefoldighet Parish, Oslo.³¹ Ruth died on 11 August 1928 in Mount Vervon.³² Ruth married **Fred Herbison** on 24 September 1917 in Brooklyn, New York.³³

²² Trinity Episcopal Church (Mount Vernon, Westchester, New York, United States), marriage certificate, 22 August 1922, Thomas William Grawrock and Clara Kuhn; photocopy provided by Henry Grawrock from private files 1980 to David Grawrock; image posted 2019 by David Grawrock to "Thomas William Grawrock Sr (K6SB-5N6)," FamilySearch FamilyTree (<https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/95754082>).

²³ New York State Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics (Albany), death certificate no. 47431 (1955) [stamped], dist. 5151 [stamped], registered 365 [inked], Clara Grawrock, copy issued 1980 to David Grawrock; image posted 2019 by David Grawrock to "Clara Herron (KDMT-K15)," FamilySearch FamilyTree (<https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/95809416>).

²⁴ New York State Department of Health, death certificate no. 47431 (1955) Clara Grawrock.

²⁵ Grønland Parish (Oslo), *Kirkebøker*, 1893-1900, "Fødte og døpte,," p. 21 (stamped), entry 6, Kamilla Margretha, 14 July 1893; consulted at Digitalarkivet, DPR, (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/3107/25>), image 25 of 469; citing SAO/A-10848/F/Fa/L0012. Digital index <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/255/pd00000015028621>

²⁶ Social Security Administration, "United States Social Security Death Index," DBDI, *Ancestry* entry for Margrethe Arntsen (1893-1972).

²⁷ New York City, New York, Marriage Records, no. 10251, Arnt Arntsen and Margarethe Grawrock (29 August 1912).

²⁸ Johannes Parish (Oslo), *Kirkebøker*, 1882-1896, "Fødte og døpte,," p. 253 (stamped), entry 116, Arnt Henie, 2 September 1894; consulted at Digitalarkivet, DPR, (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/6236/262>), image 262 of 408; citing SAO/A-10848/F/Fa/L0012. Digital index <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/255/pd00000015028621>

²⁹ Grønland Parish (Oslo), *Kirkebøker*, 1893-1900, "Fødte og døpte,," p. 111 (stamped), entry 152, John Oswald Bjorn 29 April 1895; consulted at Digitalarkivet, DPR, (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/3107/119>), image 119 of 469; citing SAO/A-10848/F/Fa/L0012. Digital index <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/255/pd00000015036353>

³⁰ Grønland Parish (Oslo), *Kirkebøker*, 1891-1898, "Døde," p. 112 (stamped), entry 105, John Oswald Bjarne Gravrok death 9 May 1895; consulted at *Digitalarkivet*, DPR, (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/6235/118>), image 118 of 210; citing SAO, archive A-10848, folder L0010, no. 10.

³¹ Trefoldighet Parish (Oslo), *Kirkebøker*, 1900-1914, "Fødte og døpte,," p. 89 (stamped), entry 64, Ruth Wilhelmine, 21 June 1903; consulted at Digitalarkivet, DPR, (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/694/95>), image 95 of 313; citing SAO/A-10882/F/Fa/L0007. Digital index <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/255/pd00000022458259>

³² *Ancestry*, "New York, U.S., Death Index, 1852-1956," 11 August 1928, Certificate 49517, Ruth W. Herbison (<https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=61535&h=38195&ssrc=pt&tid=82938857&pid=44474149211>).

³³ New York City Clerk's Office, Index to Marriages, 1917, no. 16833, Frederick C Herbison and Ruth W Rock; imaged in "New York, New York, U.S., Marriage License Indexes, 1907-2018," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/9506892:61406>), image 2033 of 2313.

- v. JOHN OSWALD BJARNE GRAWROCK was born on 4 August 1898 in Oslo. John's christening occurred five years later with his two sisters on 21 June 1903 in Trefoldighet Parish, Oslo.³⁴ John died 20 April 1964 in Westchester, New York.³⁵ John married **Minnie Anna Rotenberger** 17 March 1926 in Manhattan, New York.³⁶ Minnie, the daughter of Henry Rotenberger and Anna Meier, was born 28 April 1899.³⁷
- vi. EDITH AASE SOLVEIG GRAWROCK was born on 28 May 1903 in Trefoldighet Parish, Oslo.³⁸ Edith died 28 January 1986 in Greenwich, Fairfield, Connecticut.³⁹ Edith married **William Sherman Jones** 10 August 1924 in Mount Vernon.⁴⁰

Oslo Norway Locations

DATE	ADDRESS	EVENT	MAPPED
11 March 1868	Thorvald Meyers Gade 61, Oslo	Birth	Google
31 December 1875	Tomte gade 23, Oslo	1875 Census	
1 April 1883	Platous Gate 7, Oslo	Confirmation	Google
13 December 1891	Stockholm gata 12, Oslo	Marriage	Google
24 January 1892	Lakke gata 38, Oslo	Child	Google
31 December 1900	Eckersbergs gade 2, Oslo	1900 Census	Google
31 December 1910	Sven Brunsgate 2, Oslo	1910 Census	Google

The locations are spread out in Oslo city but seem to ring around the port. That makes logical sense as John was working in the shipping industry.

Norway Censuses

The Norwegian census enumerations enumerated John's family twice, in 1900 and 1910.

Table 3 1900 Norway, Oslo – John Marthinus Grawrok

NAME	BIRTHDATE	REL	STATUS	BIRTH	JOB
John Marthinus Grawrok	11 March 1869	Head	Married	Christiania	Engineer
Aase Grawrok	3 February 1870	Wife	Married	Arendal	

³⁴ Trefoldighet Parish (Oslo), *Kirkebøker*, 1900-1914, "Fødte og døpte,," p. 91 (stamped), entry 72, John Oswald Bjarne, 21 June 1903; consulted at Digitalarkivet, DPR, (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/694/95>), image 97 of 313; citing SAO/A-10882/F/Fa/L0007. Digital index <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/255/pd00000022458301>

³⁵ Ancestry, *Find A Grave*, DBDI (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/201900940>), memorial 201900940, John O Rock (1898-1964), Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Hawthorne, Westchester, New York; create by anonymous.

³⁶ "New York, New York City Marriage Records, 1829-1940," DBDI, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:2472-RRV>), John Bjarne Oswald Rock and Minnie Anna Rotenberger, 17 Mar 1926; citing New York City Municipal Archives, New York; FHL microfilm 1,643,643.

³⁷ New York Department of Health, New York State Birth Index, 1881-1942, Minnie Rotenberger (28 April 1899), certificate 15992; consulted at *Ancestry.com*, DBDI (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/61667/48877_556464-00684), image 685 of 915; citing *New York State, Birth Index, 1881-1942*, Albany, New York.

³⁸ Trefoldighet Parish (Oslo), *Kirkebøker*, 1900-1914, "Fødte og døpte,," p. 89 (stamped), entry 65, Edith Aase Solveig, 21 June 1903; consulted at Digitalarkivet, DPR, (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/694/95>), image 95 of 313; citing SAO/A-10882/F/Fa/L0007. Digital index <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/255/pd00000022458262>

³⁹ "Connecticut Death Index, 1949-2001," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VZ57-3JL>), Edith S Jones, 28 January 1986; citing Connecticut Department of Health, Hartford.

⁴⁰ "New York State, Marriage Index, 1881-1967," *Ancestry*, certificate 34040, Edith Grawrock (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61632/images/48722_556188-00585?pId=274695); citing New York State Department of Health, Albany, New York.

Thomas Grawrok	17 January 1892	Son	Unmarried	Christiania
Margrethe Grawrock	11 June 1893	Daughter	Unmarried	Christiania
Ruth Grawrok	31 January 1895	Daughter	Unmarried	Christiania
Bjarne Grawrok	4 August 1898	Son	Unmarried	Christiania
Anna Sivertsen	18 March 1882	Servant	Unmarried	Molde
1900 Norway census, Oslo, census district 153, urban residence 0012 Eckersbergs Gade 2, apartment 4, John Marthinus Grawrok [household]; imaged at <i>Digitalarkivet</i> , DBDI (https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/37045/17797), image 17797 of 116139. Index at (https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/census/person/pf01038161004254).				

There are no known records that connect Anna Sivertsen the servant to John or Aase. The dates and number of children match the known parish records.

Table 4 1910 Norway, Oslo – John Gransok

NAME	BIRTHDATE	REL	STATUS	BIRTH	JOB
John Gransok	11 March 1869	Head	Married	Kristiania	Foreman motor factory
Aase Gransok	3 February 1870	Wife	Married	Arendal	Housewife
Thomas Gransok	17 January 1892	Son	Unmarried	Kristiania	Apprentice
Margrethe Gransok	11 June 1893	Daughter	Unmarried	Kristiania	
Ruth Gransok	31 January 1897	Daughter	Unmarried	Kristiania	
Bjarne Gransok	4 August 1898	Son	Unmarried	Kristiania	
Edit Gransok	28 April 1903	Daughter	Unmarried	Kristiania	

1910 Norway census, Oslo, census district 037, urban residence 0084 Sven Brunsgate 2, apartment 3, John Gransok [household]; index at Digitalarkivet, DBDI (<https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/census/person/pf01036392052253>).

The 1910 census matches the parish records. The servant is no longer living with the family.

Emigration

Margarethe

While, from a job standpoint, it appeared that John and family were doing ok, the family decided to immigrate to the United States. The family does not all immigrate at the same time. The first to leave was Margarethe who left Norway 10 February 1911 on the SS *United States*. She arrived at Ellis Island on 22 February 1911. Her destination in the United States is New Rochelle, New York where she is to live with her uncle Thom Thomsen.⁴¹

There are numerous horror stories of mistreatment and other deprivations for just arrived immigrants, especially for eighteen-year-old young ladies. A careful reading of Margarethe's experience paints a different picture. A separate section of the immigration record records the detained aliens, the reason for their detention, the duration of their detention, and the resolution. Margarethe is in this section and the reason for her detention is that Uncle Thos was not at the dock waiting for her. Her detention was just for the morning, her release occurring at 11 am to her uncle. She detained for such a short period that the facility did not feed her any meals.⁴²

1	Lind,runa	Ellen	6	26	1	To cousin	10.00	Cous. Augustas Kristiansen New Rochelle, NY	23	11:	-	-	-
2	Gransok	Margareta	8	15	1	" uncle		Uncle Thos Thomsen 450 main St	23	11:	-	-	-

The fact remains that the immigration officials were concerned enough to not let a young lady, who may or may not have spoken English, off the island until her uncle was present. She had

⁴¹ Ancestry, "New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957", Margrethe Growcock (entry 22 February 1911, SS *United States*), page 117, line 15; DBDI (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7488/NYT715_1631-0232/4036480772), image 67 of 107; citing NARA, microfilm serial T715, roll 1631.

⁴² Ancestry, "New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957", Margrethe Growcock (entry 22 February 1911, SS *United States*), page 137, line 2; DBDI (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7488/NYT715_1631-0272/4036480911), image 107 of 107; citing NARA, microfilm serial T715, roll 1631.

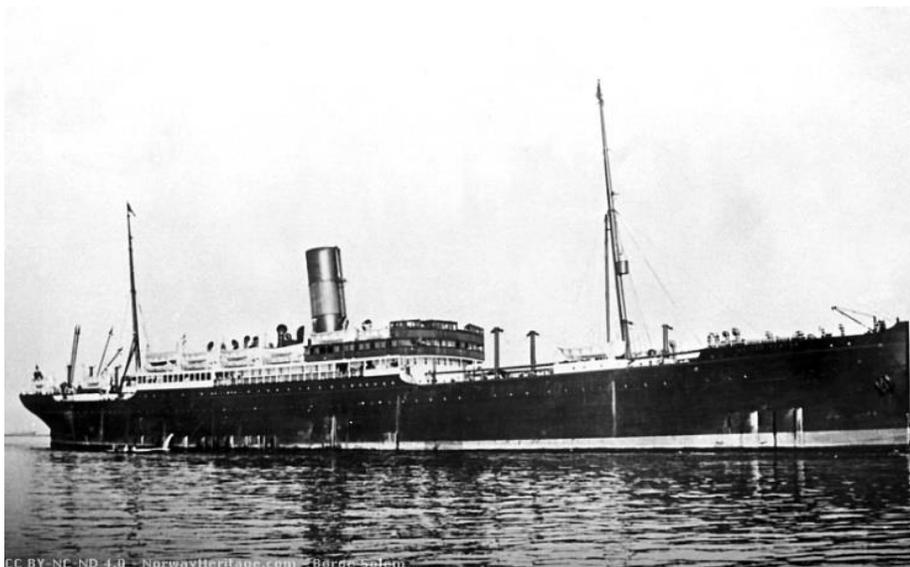
\$25.00 and that would have been sufficient to take a train out to New Rochelle, but the officials took care of her.

Rest of Family

John, and the rest of family, left Norway 5 May 1911 on the same ship that carried Margarethe the *SS United States*. The family followed Margarethe and their destination is the same, New Rochelle and John’s brother-in-law, “Rev” Thompson.⁴³

The SS United States

When most people think of immigrants crossing the ocean to the United States, there is an image of crowded conditions in the bottom of the boat. The ship the Grawrock’s used is very different. The ship was custom built by Alexander Stephen & Sons, Glasgow, Scotland in 1903 for carrying passengers. While it could carry just over 1600 passengers, the majority were not in steerage, but rather third-class cabins. The ship could carry 1400 third-class passengers in a small but decent cabin that could hold six people.



A supposition is that Margarethe came a few months prior to the rest of the family as seven would not fit into the cabin. Therefore, they sent one of the children first.

Family Descriptions

In 1911, the Ellis Island immigration paperwork included a physical description of everyone.

Table 5 Ellis Island Physical Descriptions

NAME	AGE	HEIGHT	COMPLEXION	HAIR	EYES
John Grawrok	43	5'7" [170 cm]	Fresh	Br [Brown]	Blue
Aase Grawrok	41	5'6" [167 cm]	Fresh	Br [Brown]	Brown

⁴³ Ancestry, “New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957”, John Grawrok [family] (entry 16 May 1911, SS *United States*), page 18, line 23; DBDI (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7488/images/NYT715_1679-0349), image 122 of 198; citing NARA, microfilm serial T715, roll 1631.

Thomas Grawrock	19	5'7" [170 cm]	Fresh	Red	Blue
Ruth Grawrock	14	5'1" [155 cm]		Red	Blue
Bjarne Grawrok	11	[blank]		Fair	Blue
Edith Grawrok	7	[blank]		Fair	Blue
22 February 1911					
Margrethe Grawrock	18	5'6" [167 cm]		Fair	Blue
Ancestry, "New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957", John Grawrok [family] (entry 16 May 1911, SS United States), page 18, line 23; DBDI (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7488/images/NYT715_1679-0349), image 122 of 198; citing NARA, microfilm serial T715, roll 1631.					
Ancestry, "New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957", Margrethe Growcock (entry 22 February 1911, SS United States), page 117, line 15; DBDI (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7488/NYT715_1631-0232/4036480772), image 67 of 107; citing NARA, microfilm serial T715, roll 1631.					

Naturalization

In 1907, the US changed the rules around the naturalization process making the process more uniform across the country. The major requirement in 1911, when John arrived, was to be in the country for three years. With the family arrival date of 16 May 1911, John, and his son Thomas file their declaration of intention for citizenship 8 September 1914, just a few months after meeting the three-year requirement.⁴⁴

The declaration stated that John is forty-six years old in 1914. Light complexion, 5'6" tall [170 centimeters], weighing 122 pounds [55.3 kilograms]. Living at 77 Cresnet Place, Sherwook Park, Yonkers, New York in September 1914. John is a superintendent [no company listed].⁴⁵

John filed the petition for naturalization on 14 June 1917. He lived at 5502 6th Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. His occupation was foreman. He claimed Aase as his wife and lists his five children, all born in Christiania Norway and his residence as Brooklyn. No discrepancies between the names or birth dates. The petition required an affidavit of continuous residence and good character signed by two witnesses. John's witnesses were John Anderson, a blacksmith, and Frederick Herbson, in the ice business. They file a second affidavit signed on 11 December 1917 by Arnt Arntsen a machine operator, with the notation that Fred Herbson is in the Army.⁴⁶

The court filed the order admitting the petitioner to US citizenship on 15 May 1918. John's certificate of naturalization number is 891574.⁴⁷

Other than their addresses the data that John provides does not contradict any already known facts. What is interesting are the witnesses. John Anderson, one of the signers of the 14 June

⁴⁴ John Martinus Grawrock declaration of intention (1917), naturalization file 33063, King county, Petitions for naturalization and petition evidence (1917), vol. 133, nos. 32851-33100; consulted at *FamilySearch*, "New York, County Naturalization Records, 1791-1980," DBDI, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89MX-9T83>), image 917 of 1066; Citing multiple County Clerk offices of New York.

⁴⁵ John Martinus Grawrock declaration of intention (1917), naturalization file 33063, King county.

⁴⁶ John Martinus Grawrock petition for naturalization (1917), naturalization file 33063, King county.

⁴⁷ John Martinus Grawrock order of court admitting petitioner (1917), naturalization file 33063, King county.

affidavit, has no known connection to John, the assumption is a work associate. Fred Herbson is known. He will, in September, marry John's daughter Ruth. Had Fred really known the family for three years? Fred grew up in Mount Vernon which shares a border with New Rochelle, so the connection is possible. Using Fred as a witness was risky as ten days prior to signing the affidavit on 4 June 1917, Fred joined the US Army.⁴⁸ The risk does not pay off, and with Fred unavailable, they turn to another individual Arnt Arntsen who signs an additional affidavit 11 December 1917.⁴⁹ He is the husband of Margrethe. They have been married since 1912 so he does have three years of knowledge regarding the family.⁵⁰ John uses two sons-in-law as his witnesses for his moral character and time in the country. How many sons-in-law would bend the truth to stay in the good graces of their father-in-law and, more importantly, their wives?

Censuses

1915 New York

This census occurs just four years after the family's arrival into the United States. They lived in Westchester County, New York.

Table 6 New York 1915 Westchester

NAME	AGE	REL	STATUS	BIRTH	OCCUPATION
John G Rock	47	Head	Married	Norway	Manufacturing
Anna Rock	45	Wife	Married	Norway	Housewife
Thomas Rock	22	Son		Norway	Foreman
Ruth Rock	19	Daughter		Norway	Housework
John Rock	16	Son		Norway	Stock clerk
Edith Rock	12	Daughter		Norway	School

1915 New York census, Westchester County, Mount Vernon, Assembly District 2, Election District 2, p. 6, line 12, John Rock [household]; imaged at Ancestry (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2703/images/32848_B094139-00422), image 4 of 18.

The enumeration includes the statement that all are aliens who arrived in the country four years ago. Four years matches the known immigration date.

Table 7 United States 1920 New York, Westchester

NO	NAME	AGE	REL	STATUS	BIRTH	OCCUPATION
64	John Rock	52	Head	Married	Norway	Toolmaker
65	Anna Rock	50	Wife	Married	Norway	Housewife
66	Margerette Arntsen	26	Daughter	Married	Norway	None
67	Arnt Arntsen	26	Son-in-law	Married	Norway	Foreman
68	Thomas Arntsen	7	Grandson	Single	New York	
69	Gladis Arntsen	5	Granddaughter	Single	New York	

⁴⁸ New York State Adjutant General's Office, *Abstracts of National Guard Service in World War I, 1917-1919*, Frederick C Herbison (service no. 1214222); consulted at Ancestry, DBDI (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/9281/43214_1120704930_2899-00612), image 612 of 819; citing New York State Archives, Series 13721, Box 5, volume 13.

⁴⁹ John Martinus Grawrock petition for naturalization (1917), naturalization file 33063, King county.

⁵⁰ New York City, New York, Marriage Records, no. 10251, Arnt Arntsen and Margarethe Grawrock (29 August 1912); consulted at FamilySearch, DBDI (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:243K-TT7>), FHL microfilm 1,613,448; citing "New York, New York City Marriage Records, 1829-1940," New York City Municipal Archives, New York.

70	Fredrick Herberson	25	Son-in-law	Married	New York	Police
71	Ruth Herberson	24	Daughter	Married	Norway	Clerical
72	Edith Rock	17	Daughter	Single	Norway	Clerical

1920 U.S. census, Westchester County, New York, population schedule, Mount Vernon, p. 4B (inked), Supervisors district (SD) no. 6, enumeration district (ED) no. 92, ward 4, dwelling 54, family 93, 212 West Lincoln Ave, John Rock and family; DBDI, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GRJQ-CKB>), digital film 004966773 > image 377 of 1304; citing NARA T625.

This is a full house, three daughters, two sons-in-law, and two grandchildren, would have made for a very energetic household. Both Bjarne and Thomas are out of the house.

Table 8 New York 1925, Westchester

NO	NAME	AGE	REL	STATUS	BIRTH	OCCUPATION
11	John Rock	57	Head	Married	Norway	Mechanic
12	Anna	55	Wife	Married	Norway	Housewife
13	John Rock Jr	26	Son		Norway	Steward
14	William S Jones	23	Head	Married	US	Bricklayer
15	Edith A Jones	22	Wife	Married	Norway	Housewife
16	Ruth Herbison	29	Daughter		Norway	Housewife

1925 New York State census, Westchester County, population schedule, Mount Vernon, p. 23 (inked), AD 1, ED 1, 212 W Lincoln , John Rock [household]; DBDI, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/20270048:2704>), image 12 of 22.

Five years later most of the kids and grandkids are out, but Bjarne John is back.

Table 9 United States 1930 New York, Westchester

NO	NAME	AGE	REL	STATUS	BIRTH	OCCUPATION
83	Arnt Arntsen	36	Head	Married	Norway	Policeman
84	Margaret Arntsen	36	Wife	Married	Norway	
85	Thomas Arntsen	16	Son	Single	New York	
86	Gladys Arntsen	14	Daughter	Single	New York	
87	William Jones	27	Head	Married	New York	Brick layer
88	Edith Jones	26	Wife	Married	Norway	
89	Edith Jones	4/12	Daughter	Single	New York	
90	Anna Rock	60	Mother-in-law	Widowed	Norway	
91	Thomas Arterburn	37	Head	Married	Kentucky	Proprietor
92	Ida Arterburn	28	Wife	Married	New York	
93	Thomas Arterburn Jr	2 11/12	Son	Single	New York	
94	Edith Ashbee	16	Sister-in-law	Single	New York	
95	Paul Dreyfus	42	Head	Married	Germany	Ice Cream Parlor
96	Irma Dreyfus	38	Wife	Married	Austria	
97	Vivian Dreyfus	9/12	Daughter	Single	New York	
98	Erick Schroeder	25	Roomer	Single	Germany	Salesman
99	Herbert Schroeder	23	Roomer	Single	Germany	Salesman
100	Robert Blake	42	Head	Married	New York	Chauffer
1	Anna Blake	38	Wife	Married	New York	
2	Eleanor Blake	17	Daughter	Single	New York	Telephone
3	Virginia Blake	12	Daughter	Single	New York	
4	Robert Blake	9	Son	Single	New York	
5	Thomas Blake	8	Son	Single	New York	

6	Daniel Blake	6	Son	Single	New York
1930 U.S. census, Westchester County, New York, pop sch, Mount Vernon, p. 3B (inked), SD 20, ED 60-220, dwelling 35, family 67, 15 Washington Place, Arnt Arntsen [household]; DBDI, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GRH1-WPP), digital film 004952264 > image 6 of 44; citing NARA T626.					

This is a large boarding house and Arnt does not own the house but is renting along with the other tenants. Aase is now a widow and was living with her children and grandchildren.

Occupations and Obituary

Obituary

John's acceptance into the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) occurred in 1927. As part of that acceptance John would have submitted a resume with his job history and qualifications. The ASME, two short years later, created an obituary, presumably from his application resume. Accepting that the obituary represents John's resume, his work history is as follows:

John Graw Rock, whose death occurred on February 22, 1929, was born in Oslo, Norway on March 11, 1868. He was the son of Wilhelmine Wilhelmsen and John Graw Rock. He secured his public school and early technical education in Trondhjem, Norway, and studied machine design in Munich Germany. He served an apprenticeship with Julius Gallus, a surgical instrument manufacturer in Oslo, after which he became foreman and superintendent for Wisbech & Meinich, Oslo, and subsequently part owner and shop manager of a mechanical and electrical manufacturing concern, of Oslo and Fredrikstad. During the last year of his stay in Norway he was engaged in the design and manufacturer of marine engines for commercial and pleasure use, as superintendent and machine designer of the Levahn Motor Company, of Oslo. After Mr Rock came to the United States he spent two years as a master mechanic and designer for G. O. Reynolds, Inc of New Rochelle, New York. In 1913 he organized the John G Rock & Co. and later the Volute Spring Shock Absorber Company, of New Rochelle and Mt. Vernon, and manufactured his invention, the "Rex" automobile shock absorber. Because of financial reverses he was forced to abandon this business in 1915 and during the remainder of the World War he was associated with the American Machine & Foundry Co., in Brooklyn NY. In 1920, he accepted a position as machine designer in charge of the experimental department of the Ward Leonard Electric Company of Mt Vernon, and at the time of his death had been advanced to the position of mechanical engineer for the firm. Mr Rock was the author of a reference book for engines and mechanics, which was published in Norway in 1909. Among his inventions and designs, in addition to the shock absorber for automobiles, were safety door for street and railway cars, safety stop devices for railway cars, a safety clutch for factory shafting, automatic grease cups for loos pulleys, a non-explosive kerosene stove, an internal-combustion turbine, a reversing timer for gasoline motors, the double volute spring, a thread and milling machine, tool holders, a machine lap to tap holes, a shutter for moving picture machines and various parts for electric

batteries, gasoline and kerosene motors, carburetors, timers, wire bending and spring wind machines and different tools. Mr Rock became a member of the A.S.M.E. in 1927.⁵¹

Patents

As a prolific inventor, and business owner, patenting ideas would be mandatory. Research has identified three patents issued to John; 1143068, 1143069, and 1143070. These three patents, filed in 1912, are the main components for the Volute Shock Absorber, which John used to start his company in 1913. Further searches in the US Patent and Trademark Office do not uncover any additional patents.⁵² It was the author's bucket list item to have more issued patents than his great great grandfather. The current count is 82 to 3, however, as the obituary listed, John worked in a variety of areas and should have applied for more patents. Whatever the real number is, the author is grateful for the spirit of invention that John displayed.⁵³

Financial Reverses

The obituary included the comment that "...due to financial reverses he was forced to abandon the business in 1915."⁵⁴ The family lore passed down was that it was not the business that failed but John himself. Supposedly, John was a gambler and deeply in debt to the local crime syndicate. To pay for his gambling losses, John sold the company.⁵⁵ While the company wasn't making millions of dollars from the Volute shock absorber, it soon would. The shock isn't really useful in cars and trucks, but it turns out to be very useful in tanks. With two world wars about to commence, having a financial interest in every tank and half-track built would be very enriching.

Land Ownership

There are no records of land ownership. In the census records, they are renting.

DNA

DNA results are inconclusive. There are insufficient matches and testers to make any comments relative to DNA.

⁵¹ American Society of Mechanical Engineers, "John Graw Rock obituary", 1929.

⁵² USPTO, "Patent Public Search" (<https://ppubs.uspto.gov/pubwebapp/#Basic-Search>), search terms [john.in. near rock.in.] only reveals the three known patents.

⁵³ USPTO, "Patent Public Search" (<https://ppubs.uspto.gov/pubwebapp/#Basic-Search>), search terms [david.in. near grawrock.in.] filtered to USPAT database, gives 82 patents as of 29 September 2023.

⁵⁴ American Society of Mechanical Engineers, "John Graw Rock obituary", 1929.

⁵⁵ Grawrock Family Traditions, David Grawrock, compiler (oral history passed from father to son); privately held by Grawrock, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE], Ivins, Utah); John's business record, reported by Thomas William Grawrock Sr [and seniors siblings John's children] to Thomas William Grawrock Jr [and others], ca. 1970-1990. The company folded and no records of its sale exist, it does not seem prudent to attempt to contact the suspected members of the local crime syndicate and ask for any records of the "purchase" of the company.