John Clifford (aka Clifford John) Johnson

John Clifford Johnson was born 30 June 1893 in Hastings, Dakota County, Minnesota to August Johnson (1868-1943, born in Malmo, Sweden) and Amanda Nelson (1869-1981, born in Hastings). August worked as a mechanical laborer and a blacksmith; he is buried in Lakeside Cemetery in Hastings. Children of August and Amanda Johnson were John C., Goldie, Cora, Francis, Florence, Vera, and Arthur. They were members of Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Hastings. In the 1910 and some later census records, John C. Johnson went by the name of Clifford J. Johnson.

John aka Clifford Johnson enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in April or May 1917. Military records show that during the War, he was stationed at Mare Island Naval Shipyard at Solano, California. In 1911, the Marine Corps established two West Coast recruit training depots first at Mare Island, the second at Puget Sound, Washington. Mare Island eventually became the West Coast's only recruit training facility when the Puget Sound operation consolidated to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1912. Instructors trained recruits there until 10 August 1923, when they relocated to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. According to *Dakota County in the World* War, he served in the 1st Separate Machine Gun Company of the 1st Training Regiment, where he attained the rank of sergeant. It appears that Johnson was discharged on 11 August 1919.

After the War, Johnson returned to Hastings, where he lived with his parents in 1920 and worked as a barber. Sometime after 1920, Johnson married Grace Agnes, last name probably Brannick, (1895-1985), and they lived in Hastings. Johnson worked at the Hastings Post Office as a letter carrier. It doesn't appear that they had any children.

John C. Johnson died at age 86 on 15 February 1980 in Dakota County. He is buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota. His grave marker reads, "Sgt., U.S. Marine Corps, World War I." Grace A. Johnson is also buried at Fort Snelling, beside her husband.