Phillip Oscar Johnson

Phillip Oscar Johnson was born 31 August 1896 in Hastings, the son of Einar Johnson (1865-1951) and Eva Hedstrom (1871-1945), parents of a large family. They attended Our Saviour Lutheran Church. Phillip's father was born in Norway, and his mother was born in Sweden. Phillip's brother Maurice H. Johnson was also a WWI veteran.

Phillip registered for the draft on 3 June 1918 in Hastings. At the time, he was working for Wright & Austin Company, a dry goods business, in Hastings. During the War, Phillip served in the U.S. Navy. He enlisted on 13 June 1918 and was discharged 1 March 1919. He served as a second class seaman on a receiving ship at Puget Sound Navy Yard in Washington State. A "receiving ship" was moored at a navy yard and used for new recruits or men in transit between stations.

Phillip was married to Myrtle Ruth Fleming. For many years, Phillip maintained a men's clothing store in Hastings. He was treasurer in 1940 when thirty businessmen of Hastings undertook to provide lighting for Todd Football Field. His work was instrumental in the financial success of the athletic program at Hastings High School.

Phillip died 24 March 1973 at his home in Hastings and is buried in Lakeside Cemetery. He was survived by his wife, Myrtle; a daughter, Ruth (Mrs. Vernon) Kusilek; a son, Robert; and a sister Clara (Mrs. Albert) Sandquist; and five grandchildren. He was 75 years old.