

## NICHOLSON, JONATHAN VERNON

### Birth

September 23, 1832 in  
Clinton Co., Ohio



### Death

July 8, 1909 at Valley Junction,  
Polk Co., Iowa

### Cause of Death

Died Suddenly

### Cemetery Lot

Buried on Lot 41

### Father

Abraham Nicholson

### Mother

Sarah Peacock

### Marriage

Jonathan V. Nicholson to Sarah A. Ross on June 30, 1868 in Madison Co., IA

### Census

1840 –

1850 – Wayne Twp., Hamilton Co., Indiana; Page 71B; October 22, 1850  
Dwelling 52; Family 52

Nicholson, Abraham	44	Blacksmith Real Estate, \$5000	OH
Sarah	45		NJ
Lewis	21	Farmer	OH
Jonathan	19	Farmer	OH
Almeda	16		OH
Hannah E.	14		OH
Joseph	11		IN

Albert

05

IN

1860 – South Twp., Madison Co., IA; Page 706; Post Office, Queens Point; July 15, 1860

Nicholson, Jonathan

28

IN

He was living with a family by the name of Queen

1870 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; Page 103B; August 22, 1870; Post Office, Altoona, Iowa  
Dwelling 143; Family 140

Nickelson, J. V.

34

farmer

OH

Sarah

23

OH

Louis

01

IA

Ross, Mary E.

06

IL

J. P.

20

OH

1880 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; ED167; Page 448A; July 12, 1880

Dwelling 186; Family 186

Nicholson, Jonathan

55

farmer

OH

OH

OH

Sarah

34

IL

OH

OH

Louie

13

IA

OH

IL

Meadie

11

IA

OH

IL

Ottie

09

IA

OH

IL

Lorne

06

IA

OH

IL

Garfield

02

IA

OH

IL

1885 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA

Dwelling 196; Family 200

Nicholson, Johnathan

43

farmer

OH

Sarah

38

OH

Lewis E.

15

Polk Co., IA

Alminda

13

Polk Co., IA

Otis J.

11

Polk Co., IA

Loran

08

Polk Co., IA

Alva

06

Polk Co., IA

Vernon V.

03

Polk Co., IA

Cunningham, Ross

66

laborer

OH

1895 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; Page 76

Dwelling 59; Family 62

Nicholson, John V.

63

divorced; farmer

OH

Otis

21

Polk Co., IA

Loran

19

Polk Co., IA

1900 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; ED61; Page 9; June 12, 1900

Dwelling 116; Family 117

Nicolson, J. V.

68

Wd – farmer

OH

NC

NJ

Born September 1831

Alvie	21	farm labor	IA	OH	OH
		September 1878			
Vernon V.	19	farm labor	IA	OH	OH
		Born March 1881			

1905 – Polk Co., Iowa; State census

Nicholson, John V. 72 Wd OH OH OH

\*\*\*\*\*

Iowa, Wills and Probate Records, 1758-1997

Estate and Will

Filing date: July 19, 1909

File No. 6788

Probate Case Files, 6775, 6806,

1909-1911

This Will and objections consisted of 33 pages

Nicholson, J. V.

Will of J. V. Nicholson

Know all men by these presents:

That I, J. V. Nicholson, of Polk County, Iowa, being of lawful age and of sound and disposing mind and memory, yet knowing the uncertainties of this life, do hereby make, publish and declare this to be my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former wills made by me, together with any codicils thereto attached, if any.

I give, devise, bequeath and dispose of all of the property and effects, both real, personal and mixed, of whatsoever kind or nature, or wheresoever situated, that I now own or may hereafter acquire, or do own and possess at the time of my death, in manner and form as follows, that is to say:

Paragraph 1. From the assets of my estate, all of my just debts and funeral expenses shall first be paid.

Paragraph 2. To my five (5) children, viz.: Lewis E. Nicholson, Otis J. Nicholson, Alva L. Nicholson, V. V. Nicholson, and Almeda N. Dennison, I give and bequeath all of the personal property of which I may be seized and possessed at the time of my death, including the royalties from any coal leases outstanding upon real estate of which I may die seized, share and share alike, save and except that upon the death of my daughter, Almeda N. Dennison, the proceeds from any coal leases on land belonging to me and of which I die seized shall be equally divided among my children surviving at that time, share and share alike.

Paragraph 3. I give and devise unto Lewis E. Nicholson, Otis J. Nicholson, Alva L. Nicholson, V. V. Nicholson, and V. V. Nicholson, Trustee, in trust for Almeda N. Dennison and her children, all of the real estate I may own and possess at the time of my death, share and share alike, except my undivided one-third (1/3) interest in the Southwest Quarter (1/4) of the Northwest Quarter (1/4) of Section Twenty-four (24), Township Seventy-eight (78), Range Twenty-five (25), of which one-third (1/3) interest in said tract and parcel of land Lewis E. Nicholson shall receive an undivided one-thirtieth (1/30) interest, Alva L. Nicholson an undivided one-thirtieth (1/30) interest, V. V. Nicholson and undivided one-thirtieth (1/30) interest, and V. V. Nicholson, Trustee, in trust for Almeda N. Dennison and her children, an

undivided six-thirtieths (6/30) interest thereof. The said V. V. Nicholson, Trustee, in trust to have and to hold the real estate vested in him as Trustee in trust for Almeda N. Dennison and her children, upon the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth and the limitations hereinafter made and imposed upon him as such Trustee in trust.

Paragraph 4. The real estate, the title to which is vested in V. V. Nicholson, Trustee, shall be held by him for the use and benefit of Almeda N. Dennison during her natural life; and if her children die prior to her death, or prior to the youngest child's attaining the age of twenty-one (21) years, then upon the death of the said Almeda N. Dennison and her children, within the time designated, the said Trustee in trust shall account and transfer to my four (4) children, or their descendants, all of the real estate or the proceeds thereof held in trust by him under the provisions of this will, they to receive per stirpes and not per capita. In event her children or any one of them survive their mother, and until the youngest attains the age of twenty-one (21) years, then and in that event the Trustee herein named shall account and transfer to the child or children of Almeda N. Dennison surviving her and surviving until the youngest child attains the age of twenty-one (21) years, all of the real estate, or the proceeds thereof, held by him in trust under the provisions of this will, share and share alike.

Paragraph 5. The Trustees named herein, and his successor in trust, shall be vested with the title to, receive, have, and hold possession of the real estate herein designate as going to such Trustee in trust for Almeda N. Dennison and her children. He shall have full power and authority to demand, collect, use, and receipt for all rents, issues and profits arising therefrom, except coal royalties collected from leases executed by me, and to improve, maintain and insure the same, and to lease and control said property in the same manner as he, in his judgment, may deem advisable for the best interests of said trust estate. He shall have power to sell, assign, transfer, convey and deliver possession of said property or any part or parcel thereof to such persons and upon such terms as, in his judgment, is deemed best; and he shall have full power to invest and re-invest the proceeds of the sale of such property, and shall turn over and deliver to Almeda N. Dennison, during her natural life, all rents, issues and profits of said property or the rents, issues and profits of the proceeds of the sale thereof, except such an amount thereof as may be required to pay taxes and to improve such property or any part thereof. He shall have power to pay all liens, encumbrances and claims upon or against said property now existing or hereafter created, and to protect and defend the title thereto, and to exercise all powers and rights over and concerning the property held by him in trust, and the proceeds thereof, as fully and with the same effect as though he were the absolute and unqualified owner thereof; except only that all net rents, issues, profits and proceeds arising therefrom, or the net issues and profits arising from the proceeds of the sale thereof, shall be delivered to Almeda N. Dennison from time to time as they are received, during her natural life; and in event of her death, with child or children surviving, then such net rents, issues, profits and proceeds, or the profits of the proceeds of the sale thereof, shall be used for the use and benefit of the child or children surviving until the youngest attains the age of twenty-one (21) years; such use to be in maintaining and educating such surviving child or children. In making sales of the property coming into his hands as Trustee, or any part or parcel thereof, said Trustee shall have power to make and enter into contracts in relation thereto, to execute bills of sale, assignments, deeds of general warranty, or any other necessary or proper form of transfer or conveyance, and to collect the purchase price thereof; and any and all purchasers from him are hereby relieved and exonerated from seeing to the application of the purchase money; and the trust estate and those entitled thereto, as provided for herein, shall, by the payment to said Trustee, be forever barred and estopped from having or claiming any right in

or to said property, or any part thereof, after sale by him. The Trustee shall have full power and authority to use all or any part of the money coming into his hands as Trustee, or the proceeds arising therefrom, in the improvement and maintenance of said real estate, as in his judgment is deemed advisable. He shall have power to invest or loan said moneys, or the proceeds thereof, on such terms and on such security as he may deem advisable for the best interests of said estate, and to invest and re-invest the same, and to receipt for and execute releases in relation thereto to the same extent as if he were the absolute and unqualified owner thereof.

Paragraph 6. The Trustee shall have power to charge all of the property, income, issues and profits thereof with all necessary, proper and reasonable expenses of maintenance and administration of the trust estate herein created.

Paragraph 7. The Trustee of the trust hereby created shall be but one in number; and should said trusteeship become vacant as the result of death, resignation, or removal for non-feasance or misfeasance in office, then and in that event, any person interested in the trust property or estate may apply to the District Court of Polk County, Iowa, for the appointment of a Trustee hereunder to fill such vacancy; and the Trustee so named or appointed shall be vested and burdened with all the powers, rights and duties granted to and imposed upon the Trustee appointed hereby, without further conveyance or authority to him.

Paragraph 8. In the administration of the trust estate hereby created, and in the prosecution of the business in relation thereto, including the sale of the real estate, and investment and re-investment of its funds, said Trustee shall be held only to ordinary care and faithfulness, and shall not be liable or accountable for errors in judgment.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my hand at Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1905

J. V. Nicholson

Witnesses to said instrument on the day last above written.

Maude Dixson, Des Moines, Iowa

Howard J. Clark, Des Moines, Iowa

I, V. V. Nicholson have personal knowledge of the death of J. V. Nicholson who died at Valley Junction on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July 1909. He was related to me as follows: My father.

V. V. Nicholson

July 16, 1909

In the Estate of J. V. Nicholson, Deceased:

Objections to and Contest of Will:

Almeda N. Dennison objects to and contests the probate of said will and for grounds therefor states that the said alleged last will and testament of said J. V. Nicholson, deceased, was procured and executed under duress and undue influence and was not and is not the last will of said J. V. Nicholson, deceased. It is requested that the will be set aside and held void.

Almeda N. Denison by

John A. McCall, Attorney

The court being fully advised in the premises further finds that the allegations set forth in the said objections to said will and the probating thereof filed by the said Almeda N. Denison,

contestant, are true and that the said instrument purporting to be the will of the said J. V. Nicholson deceased was the result of and executed under duress and under influence and was not the actual will of the said J. V. Nicholson.

It was declared and adjudged to be an invalid will and was null and void on November, 15, 1909. Almedia had one child, Jonathan Wood Denison.

\*\*\*\*\*

Funeral Home

Obituary

[The Indianola Herald, Thursday, July 15, 1909]  
Orillia News Items

J. V. Nicholson was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Sunday afternoon. Mr. Nicholson died very suddenly in Valley Junction Thursday morning. Funeral services was held at the house, Rev. Idleman preaching the sermon.

\*\*\*\*\*

History of Polk., Iowa – 1880; Bloomfield Twp.; Page 908

Nicholson, J. V. – Farmer, section 24, P. O. Des Moines. Was born in Clinton County, Ohio, in 1832, and at the age of four years his parents moved to Hamilton County, Indiana, where he was raised. He lived there until 1859, and then went to Illinois, remaining about one year. In 1862 he went to Oregon from Madison County, this State, and remained there about nine months, and from there went to Idaho, farming for three seasons. He returned to Madison County on horseback, and was two months and nine days on the road. In the spring of 1868 he settled upon his present farm. Owns about 200 acres, all in cultivation except ten acres of timber. Has 380 apple trees and some small fruit. June 30, 1868, he married Miss Sarah A. Ross, a native of Warren County, Ohio. They have five children, four boys and one girl: Lewis E., Almeda, Otis, Loran and Alva.

\*\*\*\*\*

History of Polk Co, Iowa – 1890

Portrait and Biographical Album; Page 291

Jonathan V. Nicholson, one of the well-to-do farmers and general stock-raisers of Bloomfield Township, residing on section 24, was born in Clarksville, Warren County, Ohio, September 23, 1832, and is the son of Abraham and Sarah (Peacock) Nicholson. His great-grandfather was the founder of the family in America. He left his home in Scotland and settled in this country during the Colonial days, and for five years served in the Revolutionary War. He then left the army but his health was so broken down that he died three months later. The grandfather of our subject was a native of North Carolina and his father, Abraham Nicholson, of Warren County, Ohio. The latter wedded Sarah Peacock, who was born in New Jersey of English descent, her parents being natives of England. By occupation, Abraham Nicholson was a blacksmith and carried on that business for a number of years in Clarksville, Ohio. Accompanied by his family in 1836, he removed to Hamilton County, Ind., where he purchased

three hundred acres of timber land. Building a shop of logs he resumed work at his trade, hiring men to clear his farm. He did an excellent blacksmithing business and succeeded in placing two hundred and forty acres under a state of cultivation. In 1848 he was elected County Commissioner of Hamilton County. Energetic and ambitious he proved himself a valued citizen, laboring not only for his own interest but doing much for the advancement of the county. Many other public offices he held and in all cases gave the best satisfaction. He was liberal with his means in the support of public enterprises, was a man well informed on the leading issues of the day and by those who knew him was held in high regard. Socially, he was a Mason, politically, a Whig, and religiously, a member of the Free-Will Baptist Church. He was called to his final rest in March, 1876, at the age of seventy-five years and his loss was deeply mourned by his many friends. His excellent wife passed away in 1879 at the age of seventy-six years. She shared in the esteem in which her husband was held and well merited the respect tendered her.

To this worthy couple was born a family of nine children, five of whom are now living: Mary Ann, wife of Sharon Jones, who resided on the old homestead in Hamilton County, Ind.; Jonathan, of this sketch; Almeda, widow of J. W. Evans, of Hamilton County; Hannah, wife of Franklin Bratton, of Cowley County, Kan.; Albert, a resident of Cheyenne County, Neb.

Although born in Ohio, Mr. Nicholson was reared on a farm in Hamilton County, Ind., where he received such educational advantages as the common schools afforded. In those days, however, they were not of the best. Farmer lads usually had to assist in the cultivation of the land during the summer months, only attending school during a short winter season, and his experience was not an exception to this rule. The sunshine, the rain or the snow, according to the weather, made its way through the roof into the school room, and often-times the scholars when taking their books for the day's work would have to shake the snow off before they could determine which volume they had. Mr. Nicholson assumed almost the entire management of the farm at the age of sixteen years. He worked hard and helped his parents secure a comfortable home and when this was done, at the age of twenty years, he started out in life for himself. He went first to Clay County, Ill., to improve a piece of land which his father had given him and two years later, in 1855, removed to Steele County, Minn., where he took up a homestead, upon which he resided eighteen months. His next place of residence was Madison County, Iowa, where he worked at the carpenter's trade for two years. The following spring he drove an ox-team from Winterset, Madison County, to Baker County, Ore., reaching his destination after four months. He located in a small mining town called Auburn, where he worked at the carpenter's trade until the following spring, when he went to Boise County, Idaho. In partnership with a gentleman who had accompanied him to the West, he there engaged in farming and gardening, raising vegetables for the city market. His efforts in that line were quite successful and he continued operations for three years, when he determined to return to the East. In the autumn of 1866, accompanied by two friends, he started on horseback across the plains, arriving in Winterset after some four years absence. When he left for the West he had no capital but returned with \$5,250 as his share of the proceeds of the trip. Once more he resumed work at carpentering and succeeded in establishing a good trade but in 1868 he abandoned that business and purchased two hundred acres of land on section 24, Bloomfield Township, Polk County, where he has since resided. His farm was then in its primitive condition but he had not forgotten the training of his youth and ere long waving fields of grain greeted the eye where before were barren prairies.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, 1868, Mr. Nicholson was united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. Ross, who was born August 16, 1847, in Warren County, Ohio. Her birth occurred on a farm

only six miles distant from that on which her husband was born, but although living within such close proximity in their early childhood they did not become acquainted until both had taken up their residence in Madison County, Iowa. The lady is a daughter of Cunningham and Mary J. (Emery) Ross, who were also natives of the Buckeye State, the former born of Irish parentage, the latter of Scotch descent. Mr. Ross made farming his life occupation, carrying on operations in that line in Warren County until 1856, when he moved to Illinois and thence came to Madison County. His death occurred in September, 1888, but his wife is still living. They were the parents of eight children: Sarah A., John D., Henry E., Silas W., Susan I., Lawson, Marietta and Perry C. To Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson have been born six children: Lewis E., Almeda, Otis, Loren, Alva L., and Vernon. The family circle remains unbroken and all are still with their parents.

After erecting a good frame residence upon his farm Mr. Nicholson at once began its development and his labors have not been without their result. He has made other improvements, has built barns and outbuildings, raises excellent grades of stock, and has everything necessary to a model farm. Politically, he is a democrat and has served as Road Supervisor and School Director, holding the latter office fourteen years. He is well known throughout the community as a worthy citizen, just and honorable in all his dealings and is a representative farmer of Polk County. See portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson on another page.