

HISTORY OF THE CREED OF JOHANSEN

1833 - 1950

*An in-depth look into the history behind the illustrious Creed of
Johansen, the company of Johansen Fishery & Food Processing
and getting behind the mask of Joseph Johansen.*

April Buvelle



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface

A Look Back

1833 - 1851

1852 - 1877

1878 - 1894

1895 - 1936

Man Behind the Success

Childhood

The Business, Evolving

Today's Deals

Preface

When I was told that my next assignment would be an interview with Mr. Johansen, I will admit I had a bit of a frog in my throat. He's quite the busy man with his opening of the new fishery at the docks in [INSERT CITY NAME HERE], so I wasn't expecting him to take the time for a reporter to answer questions. However, he was pretty receptive!

It's no secret that the history of the Creed of Johansen is shrouded in mystery. Some say it's akin to a collective of worshippers in a church - a movement or a community. Others have gone on record saying it's more like a cult with a dangerous figurehead. My hope is that once you finish reading this, dear viewer, you will be able to draw a conclusion on the man behind the Creed: Joseph Johansen.

There can only be one truth, and I'm here to tell it to the world.

April Buvelle
Report for the NY Times

Chapter 1

A Look Back

*Faith does not eliminate questions
But faith knows where to take them.
- Elisabeth Elliot*

But before we can ask about the present state of Joseph Johansen, we must first look back. We shall look back years and years ago to the origins of the Johansen influence in America and perhaps even abroad. After all, the only way to unearth knowledge of the present is to learn of the past.

1833 - 1851

The Johansen bloodline has significant records dating all the way back to 1833 within the depths of Ireland. A man by the name of Thomas Johansen was beginning to make a name for himself in two industries:

the linen factory and the potato fields. It is said that Thomas took far more pride in the potato fields, inheriting the land from his late father. Processing the crops and feeding them to the commofolk was a hobby, and due to this, Thomas found happiness in food processing.

Of course, back then, it wasn't quite as sophisticated as it is now. Thomas would often earn his extra money for his family through the different preparations of the crop. Mashing them, boiling them or sticking them in a stew - if it came down to a properly prepared potato, the Johansen Family was the home to come to.

For the first eighteen years of his life, Thomas was dedicated to earning money for his family. The linen factory was grueling work, yet when it came to the smiles of the common folk, it seemed Thomas could not deny them properly prepared meals for a good price. Never about the money, always about the satisfaction.

By 1846, the supplies to actually grow potatoes were in rare supply. The Johansen Family was one of the last bastions of consistent food within the small town bordering on Dublin, yet even they had to run out at some point. Once 1847 rolled around, even their family could no longer support anyone but themselves. Those smiles soon faded to the depths of rage.

1851 marks the end of the Johansen bloodline in Ireland. However, this is not where their story ends.

1852 - 1877

Thomas took his parents and got them onto a ship with the little coin he had saved up. The ship's destination was the same as most leaving ports from Ireland at the time: America. Wanting to escape the famine from lack of crops and inability to pay rent, the Johansens hoped that they would be able to find prosperity and profit within America.

The years from then on were extremely turbulent. Thrust into the middle of a civil war between the north and the south, the Johansens needed to do everything and more just to stay afloat in the economy. Thomas' father went to fight in the war, taking a stipend from his service to dedicate to his family.

Thomas didn't want to sit on his hands and do nothing, but what was he able to do in his position aside from living a good life? That was when Thomas realized it. He may not be able to work at the linen factories of Ireland anymore, but when it came to processing food, perhaps he could find his footing with the delicacies America had to offer.

This was how Johansen Food Processing was born.

1878 - 1894

Throughout the years Johansen Food Processing was finding mediocre success. Where Thomas had the ability to find many starving faces in his hometown and plenty of land to work on his supply before, America did not offer him the same natural opportunities. Thomas needed to get to work.

He started small with a variety of crops. A few years were spent practically bleeding away the stipend his father gave service for, much to the dismay of his mother. However, with a bit of faith and even more work, Thomas managed to finally find his footing in 1883.

In the wake of the Civil War and the Reconstruction, Thomas traveled to the South. With many still recovering from wartime and food being scarce, Thomas saw an opportunity to thrive. His father had been gravely injured and was unfit to serve anymore, meaning that if further drafts came about, Thomas would need to serve.

This dream couldn't die with him. With this in mind, in the midst of his work in the new company, he found himself a wife. Three beautiful children were born from this marriage, and by 1893, Thomas had a beautiful family and a thriving company.

Then the Panic of 1893 happened.

Thomas had collected a lot of debt from trying to start up his business from quite a few shady characters within America. The South in particular did not take too kindly to his can-do attitude, and with tensions being high toward immigrants, he was not given quarter.

In 1894, he paid his debts both in money and blood. Thomas was dead, leaving behind a wife and three kids. One of these kids was named Connor Johansen – the father of Joseph Johansen.

1895 - 1936

With an entire food processing company inherited from his father, Connor Johansen grew up to be a businessman first and foremost. He was often regarded as a cold and even a cruel man to people. The man did not possess any of his father's passion for the craft. What he lacked in this passion, he made up for with a sharpened eye.

Under Connor's guidance, the Johansen Food Processing company managed to make record profits despite declining heavily in 1893. Some would call this prosperous. Others would refer to it as unfortunate. Knowing that their brother was successful despite his tactics, his two siblings aimed to knock Connor from the throne of the empire he brought back to light.

Tragedy struck at two separate points. In 1905, the first sibling hung himself from the rafters of an apartment in [INSERT CITY NAME HERE]. A second offense was found in 1907 within Union City: the second sibling shot himself in the head with a shotgun. Police presence was abundant, but no connections could be made to Connor and he was the sole runner of the company.

During this time, there was an uptick in organized crime within the outer rim of [INSERT CITY NAME HERE]. Men and women alike were participating in armed deals so tight that police couldn't hope to pierce the thick carapace of security. Organized, almost business like.. and there was no shortage of customers in the underworld.

Researching the history of crime and crime families through the history of [INSERT CITY NAME HERE], you will find that most families find something akin to a specialization. A certain narcotic or perhaps even smuggling illegal firearms. However, the one that began to sprout up around 1905... It was a different storm altogether.

They owned nothing, yet they aimed to profit from everything.

Such was the Creed of Johansen, according to my research.

Chapter 2

Man Behind the Success

*I guess you've just gotta find something you love to do and then
... do it for the rest of your life.
- Rushmore*

Childhood

Connor managed to keep up that cold front for the most part, but he had one weak spot according to the people that knew him: his family. He wedded a lovely wife and had a single child by the name of Joseph, so Connor was very protective of his family. In fact, almost oddly so. Like someone who seemed to have enemies...

Once he had his child, according to some people, Connor began to 'soften up'. He'd spend a lot less time running the business from his CEO position and would instead enjoy time with his wife and lone son. Fishing trips were abundant, something that Joseph loved taking part in with his father.

Rumors state that this was the inspiration behind the Expansion of 1946 where the Johansen Food Processing company became Johansen Fishery & Food Processing. Being able to spend more time with his son while also

making a proper profit for them seemed like a dream come true, but in reality, it was a grave mistake.

It'd be more accurate to say it was his final mistake.

The Business, Evolving

Connor had enemies. For what reason, we're still unsure of it to this day. People associated with him seem hesitant to speak on anything regarding his business life. They want to focus on the family man that he had become in his older years. I can't say I blame them when he was the far more pleasant version of Connor, but...

How can one explain this then? A freak accident where a ship goes down in the middle of a storm, yet Connor's body is recovered with multiple stab wounds? There was a hole in the hull, yet when the bending and warping of the metal was investigated, it states that the impact came from the inside of the ship?

The case went cold and it was filed as a freak accident, but something told me that the glint in Joseph's eye was that of a knowing man. Someone had murdered his father. I won't state such a thing as fact, but it's odd how all these things seem to add up when you look more into it, isn't it?

Joseph took the business over as the sole heir to the company, and with his passion for fishing with his father guiding him, he began to emulate what he saw his father

doing at first. He would be cold, calculated and cruel to his employees, making sure that they worked every hour to the bone.

However, as the years passed, Joseph found that mirroring his father was not working. While it may have worked on the everyman in the past, today's hard-working individuals did not want to be treated like dirt. So Joseph tried his own method: respect and firmness.

A clever combination of the sharpness he gained from his father and the respect that people deserved and wanted, Joseph became something of an icon in the food processing industry. He practically re-invented the wheel, much like his grandfather did before him.

Then we got the man we have today: Joseph Johansen, CEO of Johansen Fishery & Food Processing.

But what of their business today?

Today's Deals

The Creed of Johansen began to fade into obscurity. While they were often regarded as a very secure and tight-knit organization up until then, it was as if all their operations had ceased. Did Joseph disband them, or were there even more deals happening behind the curtain that Joseph could put up in the meantime?

There were even rumors that the Creed of Johansen had been discovered due to Joseph's work ethic and they were working with another crime family in the background in order to bolster both their numbers and their profits. However, a deep dive into the financial reports of the Johansen Fishery & Food Processing company did not show any signs of foul play.

One thing is for certain though: Joseph Johansen has made himself known as both a better food processor than his grandfather, a better businessman than his father and perhaps a better boss than he ever thought he could be. Surpassing three men's expectations with a single life...

Where will Joseph Johansen go next? Will the company thrive? Will the Creed of Johansen ever make headlines in [INSERT CITY NAME HERE] again?

This author is going to wait and see.