

## Looking back ...

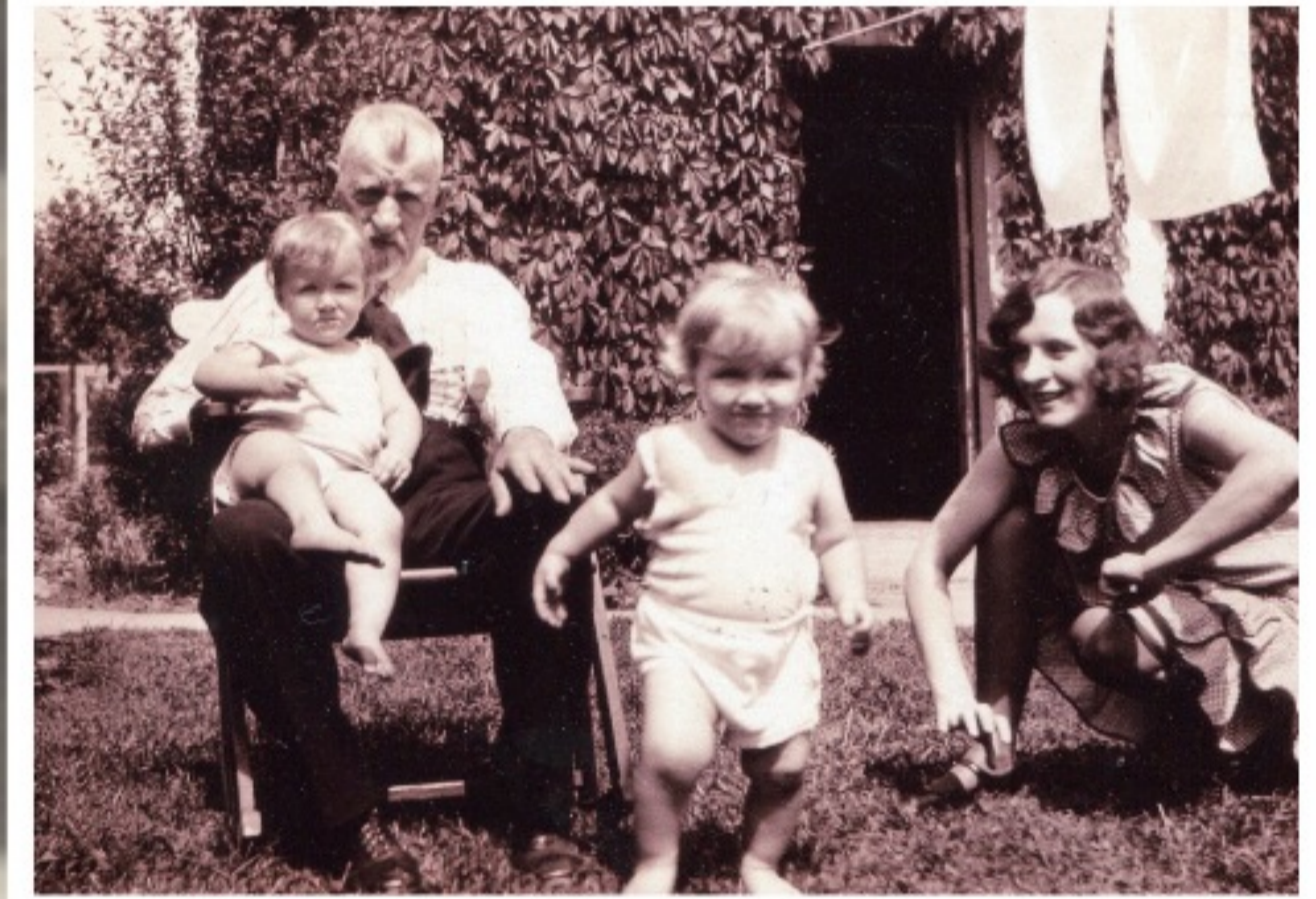
“I feel like my life in general has been a blessing, as though I've lived three lives. With my family and especially with my closeness with Eugenia. And then I feel my time with Jack was just so, fun. That's the first thing that comes to my mind. Not that there weren't struggles, but I feel like Jack and I were such a team. We enjoyed being together and having adventure. Our life was an adventure. And now it's time for me to be alone in some ways, but I have all of you. My family and my spiritual family. And I can't tell you how much it's meant to me to have all of you wise women because it's been such a joy. I think that's my passion, my real joy, to watch people evolve. And when we are together there is such a bond. I mean we are bonded on such a deep level, so I am very blessed to have been with all of you—to have been on this journey. It's been exciting. It's been, well, my passion: Teaching, being with like-minded sincere seekers on this great glorious path to who we really are. That has been wonderful. I am very, very blessed indeed.”

— Johanna Hoey  
May, 2011





Clockwise, left to right: John and Katie Hoey (Jack's paternal grandparents); Mary Griffin Clark (Johanna's maternal grandmother); Otto and Ella Van Atta (Jack's maternal grandparents); James and Alice O'Brien (Johanna's paternal grandparents); George and Mary Clark (Johanna's maternal grandparents); James Clark (Johanna's great grandfather); John Hoey and sons John and Charles (Jack's paternal grandfather, father and uncle); Nell Clark (Johanna's mother).



Clockwise, left to right: The twins; Jack Hoey; Johanna with her sisters Tricia and Eugenia, mother and great grandfather; Johanna with her mother, father and sisters.

**Judy:** Johanna Hoey was born on March 11th, 1928 to Nellie and Harry O'Brien at Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, across from the University of Cincinnati where she studied applied arts.

**Johanna:** Cincinnati is a great place. We always say, a wonderful place to be from. Climate-wise it's pretty bad, but we had a lovely growing up time, really.

**Judy:** But, Johanna didn't come into the world alone. Along with sister, Patty, who was nearly four years older, Johanna was joined twenty minutes later by her twin sister, Eugenia, who was also completely unexpected!

**Johanna:** No one mentioned to my mother that she was having twins. Imagine that in this day and age? She said, I suspected it, and I knew it toward the end, but no one mentioned it. So, that when I was born, the doctor said, "Okay. Now, that's it. And she said, "No. There's another one." And then, 20 minutes later—that's a long time between twins. In these days they would have rushed her into emergency surgery or something. So, my father's first comment was, "I wanted a drink of water, but I didn't want the hose turned onto my face." Which was very welcoming. I think it had an impact on Eugenia. She was always trying to make herself feel worthy to be here because neither one of us were wanted. I don't want to sound morbid or anything but my mother used to say, "I didn't want one child and I was saddled with two." Which, I wouldn't want to say to any of my children. But, that's just the way it was.

**Judy:** Despite their missteps, family life had its perks and the O'Brien household enjoyed plenty of entertainment: musicals, ice shows or anything big that came to town. There were also plenty of dances and the traditional Sunday night dinner at the country club where the girls were expected to be funny and witty.

**Johanna:** I didn't have a big identity when I was younger I had almost no identity I was called Joan or Jean which ever one you are. My parents liked the idea that we were twins and they could always identify us that way.

**Judy:** In fact, Patty was the only one who could tell them apart. But, finding her identity would prove a lifetime journey—one that eventually took her 10,000 miles away to an ashram in northern India: Learning how to meditate, becoming free of codependency, learning how to really communicate from love, not fear, manifesting her heart's desires, and teaching others how to do the same, which would become her life's work and passion. Today, at age 83, Johanna reflects on that path, its joys and hardships and the wondrous life that was created in the process.

**Johanna:** Somebody says, "You're 83? I can't believe that!" I can't believe it either, but I've had a lot of fun and I do feel like I've had three lifetimes. My twin sister and I, we moved like a unit. We would be together all the time and we knew we could pick up each other's thoughts. We had psychic experiences and our own language until we were four. We were just together. And then I married Jack. And she had married several months before. This is what you did when you got to be 23. And I married Jack for fun and companionship. It didn't turn out that way in the beginning. Lots of struggle with raising children and so forth and starting a business, but we had a lot of fun later on.

**Judy:** The couple first met at a local swimming pool at the insistence of each of their best friends.

**Johanna:** Well, we were dragged to Coney Island swimming pool. It was a sunny afternoon, neither one of us had anything to do and my best friend dragged me to a big pool at Coney Island on the Ohio River and his friend literally dragged him because he didn't have anybody to go with and Jack didn't have anything to do. And I knew his friend from the University