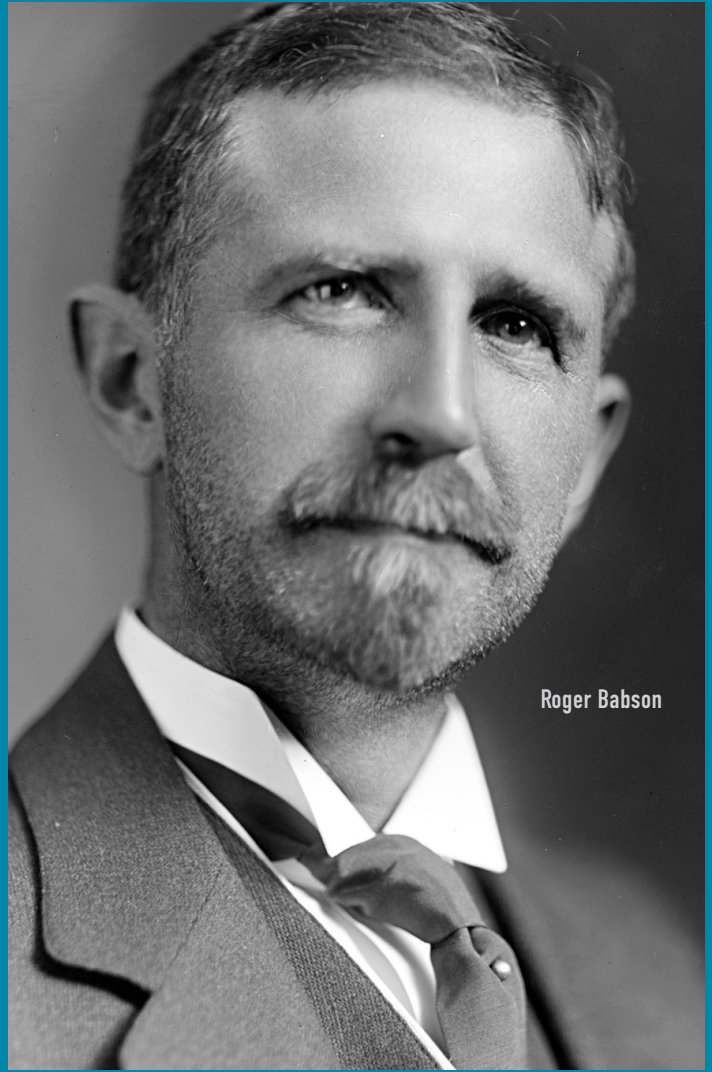


Roger Lawson



Roger Babson

A Tale of Two Rogers

by Ken Lawson

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This story is from our "Moments" collection which shares a singular impactful memory from someone's life.

A Tale of Two Rogers

BY KEN LAWSON

The first Roger we are talking about is Roger Lawson, born in 1936 in Gloucester, MA. He's 86 now! His father's name was Bill, and his mother was Elsie Lawson. Elsie was once asked how Roger got his name and here is the story in her words:

"The year was 1936. I was pregnant with my third child. My husband Bill was out duck hunting. For some this was sport, but for us it was food on our table. Remember, this was during the Great Depression. Bill and I never finished high school. He was a fish cutter who was often laid off from work in the winters, so he hustled for jobs and always provided for our family. One day he walked to Dogtown, an area where hunting was allowed. He shot, and his dog retrieved several ducks. It was pouring rain while Bill, the dog, (and the dead ducks), made their way home. They were soaked and filthy. Then a gigantic, fancy and expensive car drove slowly by and stopped. It was driven by a chauffeur in a black suit. The man sitting in the back of this huge car was Roger Babson, the millionaire businessman and inventor! Mr. Babson saw Bill soaking wet and walking in the rain, so he stopped and offered Bill a ride. Now Bill only had an eighth-grade education but was very polite and honest and he liked to talk. Bill said the two of them had a delightful conversation in the back of the car even though Bill stank of sweat, he was carrying dead ducks, and the dog smelled bad! But Mr. Babson did not care about any of that, he just spoke to my Bill like friends might speak. Now, as for me, I was at home while my husband was duck hunting. I heard a car pull up. When I looked out the window I saw this black fancy car and I thought my husband was dead and this was his hearse! When Bill came into the house with the ducks, I was shocked and relieved. Bill said that Roger Babson had just given him a ride home. Bill was so impressed by Mr. Babson that he insisted that we name our next child Roger. I had no objection. On August 5, 1936, our son Roger Barrett Lawson was born to us in my mother's house on Friend Street in Gloucester."

ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS

The image on left side of cover is a family-owned photo of Roger Lawson, circa 1948. The image on the right of Roger Babson (circa 1918) is from the Harris & Ewing collection at the Library of Congress and is part of the public domain.