John Vincent Atanasoff was born on October 4th, 1903 near Hamilton, New York. From a young age, John began to understand electricity. John’s home in Brewster, Florida was the first house they lived in with electricity, and John found and corrected faulty electric wiring in a back-porch light being only nine years old. John was a very brilliant child, reading *A College Algebra* and studying number bases at only the age of nine. He completed high school in only two years, and decided to become a theoretic physicist. But since the University of Florida did not offer that degree, John took electrical engineering courses, eventually graduating with that degree.

John Vincent accepted a teaching fellowship from Iowa State University because of its reputation and it was the first offer he received. John received his master’s degree in mathematics there and married Lura Meeks days after receiving it. He was finally prompted to build a faster computing machine when he spent weeks of calculations on his doctoral thesis. He finally found a way to build the machine after a destination-less drive to clear his thoughts. He began work on the ABC with Clifford E. Berry from 1939 until the war put a halt to the computer. In 1948, after working as the Chief of the Acoustics Division at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory with the Navy, John learned in 1948 that the ABC had been dismantled and only a few parts remained. In 1949 he divorced Lura, citing the long separation from his family. The same year he married Alice Crosby, an Iowan who had also gone to Washington to work during the war years.

From 1949 to 1952, John Vincent hopped around in several military-related jobs until establishing the Ordnance Engineering Corporation, a research and engineering company, with David Beecher. The company was then sold to Aerojet General Corporation in 1957. He worked for Aerojet up until 1961, when he retired. In 1974 John returned to Iowa State University to be guest of honor and grand marshal at Veisha. John received many awards for his work over the years, and he and Cliff Berry were recognized as co-inventors of the first electronic digital computer.