

## A History of Educators in the Alexander Family – Part 4

Arthur's children must have recognized his love of teaching, considering some of them also became teachers. Ronald, a Professor Emeritus of Communication at Stanford University, taught documentary filmmaking for 18 years in the graduate program of the Department of Communication. In 1970, he was invited to Stanford as a visiting lecturer for six months and was soon after offered a permanent position. This is all despite not having a bachelor's degree. Ronald retired in 1988 but was a beloved mentor to countless students. Ronald's career in film began while he worked as a sleeping car porter of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It was while working that he met the wife of the commissioner of the National Film Board of Canada and she was so impressed by him that she introduced Ronald to her husband who then recommended Ronald for a job in the technical research department. He also worked as a re-recording sound mixer at the National Film Board of Canada and his name is listed in the credits of almost 300 films. Ronald also developed and patented a soundtrack-mixing device known as CUE VUE, which is a system still in use today.

The educators of the Alexander family did not always teach in the traditional classroom setting as is the case with Gloria who became a music teacher and taught many North Buxton residents to play piano. Gloria's brother Philip Valoure, who was a carpenter and cabinet-maker, went on to marry the daughter of the Reverend H. Talbot (Windsor), Elsie Adele Talbot on October 2, 1940. Philip was a long time Sunday School Superintendent at the First Baptist Church in Windsor. Although Philip was not a certified teacher, he did teach Sunday School classes which has an educational component. Sunday Schools were a place where children received both a religious and academic education. During the nineteenth century, in some areas the only education that children received was in Sunday School, once a week. People such Mary

and Henry Bibb were among the leaders who taught reading and writing in Sunday School in addition to teaching Bible classes. Through the years, organizations such as the Amherstburg Regular Missionary Baptist Association continued the tradition of educating youth by having them compose and read essays or read minutes and reports. Even though his lessons were not in a traditional classroom, Philip enriched the lives of his students.

Philip and Elsie had two sons: Philip Henry (Windsor) and David Valoure (Belleville) and they also taught in one way or another. David taught outdoor painting at Seneca College in 1970, in addition to teaching Art at Albert College in Belleville from 1979 to 1992, and from 1992 to 2011, he taught for the Hastings Prince Edward District School Board. David's brother, Philip, who has a significant connection to the museum as one of its founding members, has an impressive academic career that complements his family's pursuit of knowledge. Phil received a Bachelor of Applied Science degree from Assumption University in 1963 and a Master of Applied Science degree the following year, 1964, from the University of Windsor. Each degree was in Electrical Engineering. Phil pursued further graduate work at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (1970-1972), but his devotion to academia did not end with his graduate studies, as he began working as a professor at the University of Windsor in 1964. Not only did he work as Associate Dean (Academic) for the Faculty of Engineering, he continued teaching as an Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Windsor until his retirement.

The tradition of educators in the Alexander family continues in ongoing generations including Philip's children. Dan Alexander and his wife Paula are both elementary school music teachers, while Phil's daughter Paula (McGlaun) teaches Law and Physical Education courses, in addition to coaching, at Walkerville Collegiate Institute. Clearly, members of the Alexander

family recognize and appreciate the importance of education. Whether through academics, music or art, education is woven throughout their family's history and continues with each generation.