

Looking to the Future – Kersey Family – Part 4

In addition to William Jr., Annie Sawyer and William Sr. had other children including Robert Kersey. Robert married Minnie Clingman, who was the daughter of William Clingman and Matilda Ridout of Colchester. Robert and Minnie had several children including Mildred, Merele, Clara and Elmer. It appears that Mildred married twice because a marriage announcement in the *Amherstburg Echo* states that Mildred married Douglas Talbot on August 26, 1936. Douglas was the son of James Talbot of Harrow. At her wedding Mildred wore “a gown of cream with blue trimmings, and accessories to match. They have taken up residence in Colchester South.” A second document, the death announcement for Mildred’s father Robert from 1975, lists her as “Mrs. Mildred Dobson of Windsor,” meaning that she married again. Robert’s second daughter Muriel married Tom Armstrong, while Clara married Elmer Baylis of Harrow. Robert’s son Elmer married Effie Chase, the daughter of Prince Chase of Windsor, on September 20, 1941. The couple had several children: Robert and Gary of Windsor, Bryan of Amherstburg, Brett William, Floretta, who married Laurier Robinet, Sheila, who married Henry Rogers of Windsor, Bonita Denise who was born in July 1956 and Valencia.

Robert’s sister Ada was born on October 25, 1884 in Harrow and later married Fidel A. Naranjo who was born on March 23, 1895 in Cuba. The couple lived in Lorain, Ohio, where Fidel had some interesting, but dangerous careers. The 1920 Census lists him as a “Boiler Fireman” at a Steel Mill, while the 1940 Census states that he was a “fire knocker.” Have you ever heard of this occupation? It involved clearing the engine of fire and cinders over a cinder pit in the yard. This job also involved washing the hot engine in water to cool it down and reloading it with coal for the next run.

Ada's sister Hazel was born on December 25, 1887 and later married Thomas Colbreth on August 12, 1909 in Detroit. Her husband Thomas was born c. 1888 and his mother was Blanche Pinkham (father not listed). Hazel's brother Carrol was born on April 27, 1892 and later married Gladys Mae. The couple had three children: Kenneth, Agatha, and Schonitta Fae. Carrol passed away at the young age of 29. He worked in a blast furnace and the sand affected his lungs, causing tuberculosis. **See you next week for the final installment of the Kersey family history.**