

## The Growing Grayer Family – Part 5

The last several pages have discussed James Hatfield Grayer and his descendants. It's now time to discuss James' siblings: Charles Augusta, Emnily, Wiley Sylvester and John. Charles Augusta was born on January 2, 1872 in Colchester South, but sadly passed away the next year. Emnily was born circa 1876, but sadly passed roughly 10 years later in 1886.

Wiley/Wylie Sylvester Grayer was born on March 23, 1881 in Harrow. He married Maude Louella Coates Mulder who was born on March 16, 1881 in Colchester South. Wiley and Maude married on April 13, 1900 in Detroit and lived on a farm on Gore Road on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Concession. Wiley was one of the first mail carriers in Colchester South Township in the early 1900s and delivered mail on Rural Route 2 and Rural Route 4. Wiley and Maude delivered the mail by horse buggy at first, but in 1920 Wiley purchased a car that made things easier. He delivered mail for 24 years. In his obituary, Wiley Grayer was described as "One of the most highly respected residents of the colored community of the township ... In that long span of years he never missed a mail and although there was a time when the roads were so bad that he had to walk the 25 miles around the route, he saw that the rural patrons received their mail. He delivered the mail on foot, on horseback, with a horse and cart and finally with a car, and was always an efficient and reliable employee of the government. Since his illness his wife and daughters have looked after the delivery." The couple had sixteen children: Estelle Mae (1900-1936), Mazie Luella (1902-1975), Ruby Beatrice ( 1903-1979), Virgil Sylvester (1905-1963), Olive Marie (1907), Lovedy Bernetta (born 1909), Helen Josephine (1910-1911), Wilfred (1911), Ida Evelyn (1911), Gerald (1915), Sylvanna (1916-1918), Mary (c. 1918-1922), Gladys Leone (c. 1917-1919), Violet Winifred (1916-1921), Marvin Lester (1918-1919), Kenneth (1920-2009).

Wiley and Maude's first child, Estelle Mae was born in August 1900 and later married Walter Scott of Elmstead, in the County of Essex, on November 27, 1918. Walter was the son of Henry Scott and Mary Proctor. At the time, Walter was 19 and Estelle was 18; neither were previously married. Under occupation Walter is listed as a farmer, while it says "farming" next to Estelle, which is further evidence of the contributions of women to the family income.

Estelle's sister Mazie Luella was born in May 1902 in Harrow and married a Mr. Myers. Mazie and Estelle's sister, Ruby Beatrice, was born in September 1903 and later married John McWhorter. According to her obituary she was the mother of Shirley Reid of Los Angeles and Gilbert of Detroit. Ruby's brother Virgil Sylvester was born in July 1905. He married Edna Johnson and the couple had at least one child named Everette Ernest Sylvester Grayer, who was born on November 28, 1929 in Harrow. Sadly, he passed away at the age of 5.

The next child of Maude and Wiley is Olive Marie who was born on April 16, 1907 in Colchester South. She later married Frank Walls on October 27, 1925. According to her obituary, she was the mother of Clifford of Windsor, Earl of Toronto, Irvine of Essex, Alger of Windsor, Lylie Joynier of Seattle, Freda Winston of Deroit, Larry of Essex, Sandra at home, Winston and Allen of Windsor. Olive's sister Lovedy Bernetta/Barnetta was born on February 16, 1909 in Harrow. She later married Joseph Wolfrey Scott who was the son of Henry Scott and Mary L. Proctor. Joseph was also a farmer and a bachelor of 20 years old, while Lovedy was an 18-year-old spinster. Lovedy and Joseph had at least two daughters named Violet and Ruth, but sadly both passed in infancy. Sadly, this was also the fate of Lovedy's siblings Helen Josephine, Wilfred, Gladys Leone, Violet Winifred and Marvin who all passed away at a young age.

Ida Evelyn Grayer married Lornie Hurst in 1932 and their union brought 11 children: Lornie Jr., Maynard, Delores, Evonne, Virgil, Carole, Wayne, Priscilla, Beverly, Larry and Calvin (See Hurst Family History). Ida's brother Gerald was born circa 1915, while Sylvanna was born in roughly 1916 and Mary was born circa 1918. The last child of Maude and Wiley to be discussed is Kenneth. According to his obituary he was the husband of Martha Matthews and father to Yolande, Rennae and Charlene Grayer Cook. Kenneth retired from Chrysler Canada with over 30 years of service and was a member of CAW Local 444.

We have discussed all of William Grayer and Mary Elizabeth (Eliza) Green's children except for John. Not much is known about him, but what we do know is that he was born in 1885 in Colchester South and passed away in roughly 1896 in Colchester.

**What we publish is not a complete history of any family and is based on the documents that are available. We welcome photos and information to fill in the gaps. See you next week for the history of another amazing family.**