

The Nolan Family Part 5 – “one of Windsor’s foremost softball pitchers in the 1930s and ‘40s”

Now that we have discussed Charles Franklin Nolan, we will discuss the rest of his siblings including his brother, Lloyd. He was born on November 4, 1905 in Colchester and he married Annie Belle Carter on March 19, 1960 in Windsor. Annie Belle and Lloyd had two sons named Burnelle and Paul. Lloyd’s sister Edna Zella was born on March 25, 1908 and married a truck driver named James George Harris (son of George Harris and Mary Bradford and born in Harrow in 1902) on September 27, 1924 in Windsor. Edna also married Gilbert Brooks.

Edna’s sister Sarah was born on December 25, 1910 but sadly died roughly a year later, while her brother George Washington was born on November 2, 1911 in Colchester North and married Leona Alice Pickens-Brooks (daughter of William and Mary A. Gregory-Pickens) on November 2, 1946 in Detroit. Leona and George had five sons, Larry, Lacey, Floyd, Melvin, and Lloyd and three daughters, Mary Lee, Leona and Lois (m. Johnnie Muse and had four children: Anthony, Tameka, Melisa and Montique). George Washington’s brother Kenneth married a woman named Ethel and had two children named Violet and George.

For the last several pages we have discussed Alexander Nolan’s descendants. Now we will return to discussing the rest of Alexander Nolan’s siblings: Isaac, Tracy, Henry and Lance. According to Isaac Nolan’s death record, he worked as a plasterer. He first married Eva Belle Allen in 1894 in New Canaan. Eva was the daughter of Benjamin Allen and Nancy Chavis and was born in 1878 in New Canaan. Isaac and Eva had two children: Thomas Elwood Nolan (born July 30, 1896) and Henry Frederic Nolan (November 6, 1898). Sadly, Eva passed away in 1900.

Isaac’s second marriage was to Matilda Jean Chambers, who was born on October 18, 1872 in Jackson’s Corner (Windsor) and was the daughter of John Thomas Chambers and

Christina Ann Morrisson. They married on December 28, 1902. After the couple married, they moved to Windsor and had four children: Alfred, Margaret, Wilbur Issac “Buzz,” and another baby that sadly passed away. Wilbur Issac “Buzz” married Lillian Helena Proctor and had two children named Garrie and Wilbur James. According to his obituary, Wilbur was “one of Windsor’s foremost softball pitchers in the 1930s and ‘40s ... and was one of the first to employ the ‘buzz-ball’ style of pitching, from which evolved his nickname. Buzz pitched for the strong Auto Specialties’ teams in the old Industrial League and was with the Windsor League all Black Dayus Roofing team that represented the city in Ontario Amateur Softball Association senior A play in 1942 and ’43. As well as being respected for his pitching, Buzz was also one of the finest hitters in the leagues in which he played.”

Wilbur’s father Isaac was also a well-known and respected resident and became very active in the community. He was elected alderman on Windsor’s City Council. According to his obituary, Isaac “was born at New Canaan, but had been in Windsor for a quarter century, and had become a leader there among his people, who elected him to sit in the council. Mr. Nolan was an active member of the B.M.E. Church and the North American Lodge, No. 11, F. & A.M.”

Isaac’s wife Matilda was also previously married. Her first marriage was to the Reverend James Robert Carter, the son of Lewis and Sarah E. Carter. Matilda and the Rev. Carter had at least five children: Christine, John, Willis, Ada and Minie Deliah. The Rev. Carter passed in 1900. Matilda passed away just before her 103rd birthday and according to Matilda’s obituary, she was born near Jackson’s Corners (Howard Avenue) and lived in Windsor all of her life. Her obituary also says that, in 1967, she was chosen as one of the City of Windsor’s Centennial Queens for the national centennial celebration.

No information was available for Tracy Adalina, but records show that the next child of Thomas and Mary Jane Nolan, Henry, never married and he died young at the age of 20 in 1889. Henry's brother Lance also passed away at a young age, 17, in 1888.

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 where we will celebrate another amazing family.