

Simpson Family History (James' Line) Part 2 – Family Connections

Now that we have discussed James and Matilda (Brooks) Simpson, we will move forward and discuss their children: Ann, James/John, Lucinda, William, Caroline/Carrie, Thomas, Jerome, Oswald, and Mary. Ann married Moses Kirtley, the son of Frances and Hiram Kirtley, sometimes spelt Hiram Curtley. Hiram worked as a sailor, sometimes listed as a marine engineer. In addition to Moses, Hiram and Frances/Fanny had several children including Hiram A. (listed as a waiter in 1881 census), James Henry (listed as a cook), Elizabeth, and Charlotte. The 1871 Census also lists a Sarah as one of their children.

On December 6, 1888, Annie Simpson married Moses Kirtley and they had at least four children: Lavernia, Ralph, Lloyd, and James Hiram. Lavernia attended the King Street School and in February 1898 was listed on the Honour Roll. She later married Royal Hall, son of David Hall and Rachel Thomton, on July 21, 1913 in Sandwich, Ontario. The previous year, Lavernia is listed as a guest for a masquerade party hosted by the “Mutt and Jeff” club. According to the *Amherstburg Echo*, the “evening was well attended and proved a brilliant success. Dancing commenced about nine o’clock and the light fantastic was tripped until about four a.m. There were about fifty couples in attendance, and all left the hall with warm spots in their hearts for ‘Mutt and Jeff’ ... A delicious luncheon was served at midnight.”

According to an immigration record for Ralph Kirtley, he worked as a mechanic and was over 6 feet tall. Ralph’s brother, Lloyd, was born on December 13, 1893 in Amherstburg. In April 1911, the *Amherstburg Echo* reported that “James Kirtley, chef, and Lloyd Kirtley, porter, left Tuesday for Milwaukee to fit out the big steel steamer James B. Wood, of the Hanna Fleet.” Years later he worked as a sheet metal worker and married Alice Evonne Kelly, a 21-year-old dental assistant and the daughter of William Kelly and Elizabeth Christian. Did you know,

Alice's sister was Ada Kelly Whitney who became the first Black teacher hired by the Windsor Board of Education? Alice and Lloyd were married on August 23, 1918 in Windsor. For Lloyd's brother James Hiram, all that could be found was his birth record which states that he was born October 1889.

The 1901 Census lists Annie Kirtley, who worked as a 'domestic', along with her children Lavernia, Ralph and Lloyd, living in the household of Matilda Simpson. Annie is listed as married, but Moses is not listed. A possible explanation can be found in an immigration record for Moses Kirtley from 1915. At the time, Moses was a 53-year-old cook. For nearest relative or friend, it says "no Rel," meaning no relative and for the question "Ever in U.S." it says from 1900 to 8-25-1915. The record also states that he intended to remain permanently in the US. To read more about the Kirtley family, go to <https://amherstburgfreedom.org/kirtley-family/>.

There was no information for James Jr., but Ann Simpson Kirtley's brother John Simpson Jr. met an unfortunate end as is detailed in an *Amherstburg Echo* article from January 1891 titled "THE REVOLVER'S WORK. – TRAGEDY ON CHRISTMAS EVE. JOHN SIMPSON SHOT DEAD." A portion of the article provides information for this tragic incident and says "Schoolyard in Anderdon the scene – Fatal shot by Walter Mann ... Late on Christmas Eve, people, who were about town were startled to hear that John Simpson, a respectable young colored man, of this town, has been shot and killed at the school house near the Anderdon stone quarry, on the road between the 1st and 2nd concessions, where a Christmas entertainment was in progress in connection with the church which holds services in that neighborhood. It appears that young Simpson who is about 21 years of age, and a son of James Simpson, of this town, had gone out there with David Holbert, son of Rev. J.D. Holbert, of this town, Geo. Lewis, Dan and Philip Thomas, also of this town. That, after the entertainment, had been in progress for some

time, Simpson, Holbert and Walter Mann (a son of Hartwell Mann, of Anderdon,) all of about the same age, evidently to have a drink of liquor out of a bottle in Simpson's possession, and that Joseph Campbell, son of Alex Campbell of Windsor, afterwards joined them. That Simpson and Mann had revolvers in their possession, which they were exhibiting, and that Simpson ? through the woodshed; that Holbert and Campbell walked off a little distance talking to each other, and that Simpson went towards the corner of the school house, leaving Mann trying to fire his revolver ... That suddenly Mann's revolver went off and the bullet then from entered the head of Simpson over the right eye and the poor fellow fell dead, without a simple groan just where he stood. All were so frightened that they hardly knew what to do, but, word was given to those inside and messengers were sent to Amherstburg to notify ... the Coroner. The body was afterwards brought to his father's home in Amherstburg."

There was no information available for John's sister Lucinda, but there was for William who we will discuss next. Unfortunately, John and Lucinda's brother also met a tragic end which was reported on April 5, 1901 in the *Amherstburg Echo* and said "A BRIEF despatch was received here Wednesday afternoon, containing the sad intelligence that William Simpson, formerly of this town, had fallen down the hatch of the steamer *Matanfa*, and was killed. No further particulars could be obtained, up to the time of going to press. Mr. Simpson was 25 years of age. He was the son of the late James Simpson, Fort street. Two years ago he left here to go sailing and spent his winters in Chicago. A few days before his tragic death he went to work on the *Matanfa*, on which D.W. Thomas, of this town, kept watch this winter. The deceased leaves a mother here, three brothers and three sisters, James, Jerome and Oswald, Carrie M., and Mary M., all at home, and Mrs. M. Kirtley. Much sympathy is extended the suddenly bereaved relatives."

The next child of James and Matilda (Brooks) Simpson is Carrie/Caroline. She married George Banks, the son of Anthony Banks (see <https://amherstburgfreedom.org/banks-family/>) and Susan Simpson (see Levi Simpson's line <https://amherstburgfreedom.org/simpson-family-levis-line/>). George and Carrie were married on September 10, 1903 in Amherstburg and the couple had a daughter named Violet who was born on October 16, 1904 in Amherstburg. According to Violet Mae Banks' Petition for Naturalization from January 20, 1943 in Detroit, Violet was single and had no children.

Next is Thomas Simpson, son of James and Matilda (Brooks) Simpson. He was born on August 1, 1880, but sadly passed away on December 17, 1895 at the age of 15. Thomas' brother Jerome is next in line, but because there is more information for Jerome than any other Simpson child, we will discuss him last. Before we share details about Jerome, we will discuss his siblings Oswald and Mary. The only detail that we were able to find for Mary was that she married Henry M. Marbly, but there is more information about her brother Oswald.

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 part 3.