

Armstrong Family Part 3 – Finding Roots

At the age of sixteen, Sarah Jane Armstrong married Jonathan R. Carter, a 23-year-old farmer and son of Lewis and Mary Carter. The couple was married on November 15, 1874 in Colchester. The 1881 Census lists Sarah as living with her husband John Carter and their children: James, William and Eli. Ten years later, the 1891 Census records Sarah as living with her husband John Carter, along with their growing family that included: William, Harry, Melinda, Blanche and Mary. When looking at the 1901 Census we see a Sarah Carter and her children: William (and his wife Nellie), Harry, Melinda, Blanche, Mary, Freddie and Gussie, but it does not list her husband Jonathan and states that Sarah is a widow. The 1898 death record for Jonathan Carter from Sackville (Colchester) lists cause of death as pulmonary tuberculosis. In Sarah's sister Mary's obituary, it lists Sarah as Sarah Lancaster, meaning that she married a second time. In the 1911 Census Sarah is listed as Sarah Lancaster with her husband Samuel Lancaster, along with three children: Fred Carter, Gussie Carter and Charlotte Carter. Each are listed as the step-children of Samuel Lancaster and are listed as Carters not Lancasters. Further documents help us confirm this is the correct Sarah, such as the marriage record for her son William Carter and his wife Nellie Pride, the daughter of Asa Pines and Emily Taylor. For William's parents we see Jonathan Carter and Sarah Armstrong listed. William and Nellie married on October 10, 1899 in Colchester North.

Thomas and Mary's next child, Samuel married Hannah Bridgette on November 1, 1886. In Thomas Armstrong's obituary it lists his son Samuel as living in Ypsilanti and also mentions Thomas' daughter Minerva marrying into the Hughbank's family and resided in Detroit. Minerva married a second time to a man named Elisha/Elijah Matthews, the son of Elma Day and Matthew Matthews. In the record for her second marriage, Minerva is listed as Minervia

Ughbanks (Hughbanks) and a widow, explaining her second marriage. The couple married on October 25, 1904 in Colchester South. Elijah is listed as a farmer and Minerva was a hairdresser.

Minerva's sister Mary was also mentioned in her father's obituary as "Mrs. Peter McCoy (Mary A.) living in Ypsilanti." On March 17, 1895, a 21-year-old Mary A. Armstrong married Peter William McCoy, a 23-year-old labourer and the son of Peter McCoy and Carrie Harris. The couple was married in Ypsilanti, Michigan. According to Mary's death record and obituary she married a member of the Hughbanks family. Mary's obituary also mentions that she was "a very fine pianist" and was living in Ann Arbor.

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 4.