

Artis Family Part 3 – Family Connections

Did you know Alfred Artis had assets totaling \$1,400? Read more below.

Sadly, Amanda Pearson Artis passed away circa 1860, which was just a short time before the Artis families moved from Parke, Indiana, to Colchester Township. After a few years, Matthew purchased land in New Canaan and in the early 1870s married his second wife, Martha Kersey.

Before discussing Martha and Matthew's union, a few details about Martha's mother, Tempy. Tempy Acoch/Artis/Kersey was married twice. She first married Alfred Artis who owned significant property in Indiana. According to the 1850 US Census, Alfred had assets totaling \$1,400. Alfred and Tempy Acoch had several children including Thomas (1830), Archibald (1832), Elijah (183?), Louisa (1840), Caroline (1846), Mary J. (1850) and Martha (1852). A note about Martha. Some documents state that her maiden name is Kersey (after Ephraim Dennis Kersey -see below), while Milo Johnson's book *New Canaan* lists her as being the daughter of Alfred Artis. Alfred is among those who relocated to the New Canaan area with other members of the Artis family in the 1850s, as discussed earlier. With him, he brought his wife Tempy and their children. Sadly, Alfred passed away shortly after they settled in New Canaan, circa 1854-1855.

It was following Alfred's passing that Tempy married Ephraim Dennis Kersey. Ephraim Dennis Kersey was the son of Dennis Kersey Sr. and Kiser "Kessiah" Kersey and was born circa 1819. He was also previously married to Parmelia Harris while living in Tennessee. Ephraim Dennis and Parmelia had the following children: Alexander, Mary A., Amanda, Margaret, Agness, Rebecca A., George, Nathaniel and Mary E. Parmelia passed sometime before 1854.

Ephraim and his second wife Tempy also had several children: Almeda, Thomas George and James Henry. Almeda was born circa 1855 and similar to Martha was, according to Milo Johnson, the stepdaughter of Ephraim Kersey and biological daughter of Alfred Artis. Almeda married Robert Henry Morton Jr., the son of Robert Morton and Annie Higgins-Morton. Almeda and Robert had six children.

Almeda's brother Thomas George was born circa 1856 and married Sarah Elizabeth Jones, the daughter of Samuel and Charlotte Jones. Thomas and Sarah had at least six children: Maria, Charlotte, Berthia, Jerome, Charles Samuel and Irene. James Henry was born circa 1859 and married Mary Ann Emanuel, the daughter of Joshua Emanuel and Lucinda Travis. James and Mary Ann had nine children: Herman, Oscar, Ernest, Harrison, Bernice, Arden, Nina, Leonard, and Winand. Following Tempy's passing in 1871, Ephraim and some of the children moved to Raleigh (Chatham-Kent) and later to Ypsilanti, Michigan, including Archibald, Louisa, Elijah, Almeda, and James, who became a respected carpenter and builder who helped construct several buildings in Ypsilanti.

We've discussed Martha Kersey's mother Tempy Acoch and can return to discussing Martha. Matthew and Martha also had several children: Tempia Marinda (1872), Alfred (1875), John Randall (1877), Adeline (1880), Matthew (1882), Elwood (1884), and William (1884).

Matthew and Martha's daughter Tempia Marinda 'Tempy May' Artis was born in 1872 in Colchester and married Arthur Allen. They had at least three daughters named Sadie (See Harris family history for more information), Elba, born on May 15, 1900, and Norma, born on March 27, 1904, but a 1907 birth record for Leva Allen also lists Tempy Artis and Arthur Allen as parents, but no other documents were available for Leva.

According to the Harris family history, Tempia's brother Alfred was born on January 10, 1875 in Colchester, but sadly passed away at 19 years of age on November 9, 1894. John Randall Artis was born on November 10, 1877 in Colchester North, while Adline was born on January 22, 1880, but sadly passed away on July 3, 1893 at the age of 13. Adline's brother, Matthew Artis jr., was born on March 20, 1882, but also sadly passed away in infancy on December 9, 1883. Elwood Artis was born on July 8, 1884.

Martha married a second time to Ryal Thompson and then to George Turner. In Martha's 1926 obituary it says she "was a native of Terre Haute, Indiana. Her maiden name was Martha Kersey. She came to Canada with her parents when a child. They first settled in Colchester North, and there she married Matthew Artis. Only one daughter was born to that marriage who survives – Mrs. Arthur Allen (Tempia), of Amherstburg. By a former marriage Mr. Artis leaves two sons, Cornelius Artis, of Colchester, and William Artis, of Toledo. Sometime after Mr. Artis' death his widow moved to Amherstburg and was here married to Ryal Thompson ... By his former marriage he leaves a daughter, Mrs. Annie Williams. Her third marriage was to George Turner, of Windsor on November 2, 1919. He survives her along with his family of his former marriage."

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.