

Brantford Family History Part 4 – Military School

There is significantly more information for George's sister Martha and her family who we will turn to next. Martha married James L. McGruder on October 23, 1879 in Jackson, Michigan. According to the 1880 Michigan Census, James worked as a barber. By 1900, the Michigan Census lists James and Martha (listed as Mattie) with their children Estella, Lavinia, Wellington (Wellington), Erie, Ethel, Lewis and Romain. Not listed are two of their children, Walla and Clara (sometimes listed as Dennie). Before discussing James and Martha's children, it should be mentioned that James married a second time in 1922 to Ella S. Miller. The 1930 Michigan Census lists James McGruder and Ella with their grandson Russell L. McGruder, stepson Edwin N. Wallers, stepdaughter Rozina Wallers and step-granddaughter Ella M. Wallers.

Ten years earlier, in the 1920 Michigan Census, James and Martha are listed with their daughter Stella and her children Finley Guthrie, Margaret Guthrie, Viola Guthrie and Russell McGruder. It should be noted that the Census does not state whether Russell McGruder is the child of Stella; it just lists him as the grandson of James and Martha.

Estella/Stella's sister Lavinia was born on July 15, 1885 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, while her brother Wellington was born on September 27, 1889 in Battle Creek, Michigan. His WWI Draft Registration Card states Wellington was unemployed at the time and single. Under military service it says that Wellington had 6 years of experience in Military School, Lansing, Michigan, and was currently the rank of Adj., likely meaning Adjutant.

Wellington's brother, Lewis, was born on October 15, 1895 and later married Hazel M. Jackson, the daughter of John Jackson and Anna Campbell. The couple married on September

25, 1916 in Adrian, Michigan. Lewis' brother Romain was born on January 21, 1899 in Battle Creek, Michigan and, according to his death record, passed away in Chicago on March 5, 1945 at the age of 46 years old. Romain married Helen Sharpe, the daughter of Charles Sharpe and a woman with the last name Jones. The couple married on September 26, 1918 in Detroit, Michigan. At the time, Romain was a cook.

Next is Romain's sister Walla who was born on September 10, 1883 in Battle Creek, Michigan. Walla's sister Clara married twice. Her first marriage was to Philip Lee, the son of Free Lee and Mary Long. The couple married in March 1906 in Battle Creek, Michigan and, interestingly, Clara is listed with the name Dennie McGruder. At the time, Philip was working as a waiter and Clara/Dennie did housework. Philip and Clara had at least two children: Elizabeth and Walter, as is shown on the 1920 Michigan Census.

Clara's daughter Elizabeth Lee married twice. Her first marriage was to George H. Griffith, the son of James Griffith and Julia Ann Henry, on June 25, 1924 in Albion, Michigan. Elizabeth married a second time to George Junior Maupins, the son of Hector Maupins and Florence Ferman. They married in October 1940. The 1910 Michigan Census lists Elizabeth, her brother Walter J. and their mother Clara, but Clara is listed as a widow. She married a second time to Owen W. Coy, the son of James Coy and Menerva J. Robinson. Clara and Owen married on April 4, 1914 in Battle Creek, Michigan. Owen was born in Ft. Scott, Kansas and was a labourer, while Clara worked as a cook. Both were married before. The 1920 Michigan Census lists Owen and Clara with their children: Wilbur and Dora, in addition to Clara's brother Romain and his wife Helen. The 1930 Michigan Census adds to the list of Clara and Owen's children with Romaine and Jack, but a marriage record for Helen Coy adds her to the list of children.

Helen married Clifford Allen, the son of August Mooney and Gertrude Locas, on October 6, 1934. Clifford worked as a Metal Finisher and Helen was a Maid.

We will end the Brantford family history with the last child of Moses and Maria/Eliza Brantford, Claressa. She is listed in the 1891 Census as single, working as a Domestic and living with her father Moses. Her obituary says she was one of Amherstburg's oldest natives and lists her as single and living in the Essex County Home for Aged, in Leamington, where she was admitted only two months prior. She was also listed as a long-time member of the First Baptist Church.

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.