

The Christian Family History Part 4 – An Appearance in *JET* Magazine

Alice, sister of Sarah Ellen and the next child of Henry and Anne Christian, married Roman F. Smith, son of James A. Smith and A. Smith, on May 18, 1889 in Amherstburg. According to Alice's obituary she formerly lived in Anderdon and Amherstburg but passed away in Cleveland, Ohio. It also lists her surviving children which includes five daughters: Mrs. Marion Brodess, Mrs. Hazel Hickman, Mrs. Manola Langrum, Mrs. Vivian Parker of Cleveland and Mrs. Anne Benson of Detroit." In addition to her daughters, Alice also had sons named Wilfred (m. Billie), and Roman Jr. Also found was a marriage record for Charles Smith, listed as the son of Alice Christian. This marriage record states that Charles Smith married Katherine Winters, the daughter of Joseph Winters and Grace Jacobs, on March 4, 1918 in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. At the time, Charles worked as a clerk.

There was no other available information for Alice's daughter Marion Brodess (also spelt Broadus) other than her being listed as one years old on the 1891 Census with her parents Roman and Alice. There are more details to share about her remaining siblings Hazel, Manola, Victoria, Anne, Wilfred, and Roman. Hazel married Harry Hickman and the couple had a daughter named Alice who married Cleve Brooks. In the *Plain Dealer* Hazel is also listed as Hazel H. Green, meaning that she married more than once.

Hazel's sister Manola was born on January 4, 1897 in Amherstburg and in the 1901 Census she is listed as living with her grandmother Anne Christian, in addition to Anne's children Ellen, Ada, and Thomas. Manola's obituary states that her married name was Langrum and further research reveals that her husband's name was Dr. Edgar L. Langrum, the son of John E. Langrum and Mary Nash. At the time of Edgar's passing on November 25, 1944, he was

living in Los Angeles. His death record also states that he was a WWI veteran born on May 12, 1898 and was born in Crockett, Texas.

The next child of Alice and Roman Smith is Vivian. She married Augustus Parker who became a Chief Justice and even appeared in *JET* magazine. In the 1940 US Census, Vivian and Augustus are listed with their son Augustus Jr. In her obituary from December 1988, Vivian Smith Parker is listed as living in Cleveland, Ohio.

Vivian's sister Anne married James Benson on October 12, 1936 in Steuben, Indiana. According to their marriage record Anne was born on July 23, 1906 in Cleveland, Ohio and worked as a teacher, while James was born on June 16, 1900 in Bessemer, Alabama and was the son of James Benson and Mary Mason (some records say Mary Owens). Alice's husband James worked as a Druggist at the time. This record also reveals that Alice's father Roman worked as a Steward, while James Benson Sr. was a Contractor.

Now that we have discussed Elizabeth, Susan, Sarah Ellen and Alice, we will move on to discuss their brother Charles Henry. According to his death record, Charles Henry was born in Anderdon in 1870. At the time of his death in September 1891, he was 21 years old and is listed as a Sailor. Charles Henry's obituary states that he "came home, lately from sailing, with typhoid fever, and now two of his sisters are ill with it at their home on Sandwich street."

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 5.