

Deep Canadian Roots in the Davis Family – Part 3

1887, he started a law practice in Amherstburg. Although Delos focused on criminal and municipal law, his specialty was drainage litigation. He was also appointed to the King's Counsel on 10 November 1910, the first Black person to have this honour in the British Empire. What an impressive life.

Ever wonder about Delos' personal life? Delos was married twice. The first marriage was to Jane Mitchell in 1868 and they had three sons (Delos Jr., Fred and James) and four daughters (Nora Evaline, Wava, Clara Ann and Bertha). Sadly, Jane passed away during childbirth in 1893. His second marriage was to Mary Jane Banks in 1907. Of the children from his first marriage, Clara Ann was born in 1873, while Bertha was born in 1877, and Wava was born in 1893, later marrying Alfred Anderson. Nora Evaline married Marshall Dean and they had five children: Cleo, Flora and Florance (who were twins), and Veola and Davis (who were also twins).

Within the Amherstburg Freedom Museum collection, there is more information about the sons of Delos and Jane. Delos Jr., born in 1875, became a conveyancer (transfers the legal title of property from one owner to another) and notary public. Interestingly, both Delos Jr. and Fred continued their father's legacy of practising law. Fred Homer Alphonso Davis became the second Black lawyer to be called to the Ontario bar. Fred was born in Colchester North in 1871 and was the eldest son of Delos and Jane. Want to learn more? You're in luck! Learn more about Delos' son Fred in part 4 of the Davis Family History.