

## Holton Family History Part 4 – The Mariner

Now that we have discussed Laura Holton Adams, we will move on to discuss her brothers Luke and James. Luke was born on November 26, 1860 but sadly passed away on July 17, 1861. Luke's brother James is the last child of John and Susan (Scott) Holton that will be discussed. Other than the Census records that mention James above, the earliest mention of him is in the *Amherstburg Echo* which reports on December 16, 1887 that "The following of our mariners have returned home during the past week ... James Holton of the Badger State." A little over a year later James married Anna Goodrich, the daughter of Philip and Ellen Goodrich, on January 16, 1889. The marriage announcement states "HOLTON – GOODRICH – At the residence of Mrs. Susan Holton, Amherstburg, on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> ..., by the Rev. J.A. Holt, Mr. James Holton, of Amherstburg, to Anna, daughter of Mr. Philip Goodrich, of, Anderdon."

Before we discuss James and Anna's union, we want to share some details about Anna's parents, Philip and Ellen Goodrich. There were several references found for Anna's parents and the first is found in the *Essex Record* from May 26, 1881 and it says, "Mr. Goodrich has exhibited some newly-burnt lime, which, when slacked, bears the appearance of white lead." This description makes more sense when accompanied by another article from the *Amherstburg Echo* from August 28, 1908 which says "PHILIP GOODRICH who many years ago was in the lime business in Anderdon and was among the best known residents of that township, is very sick at the home of his son-in-law, James Holton." It was just a few days later that the *Essex Free Press* reported "Philip Goodrich died of dropsy last Friday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Jas. Holton. He had been in failing health for three of four years. The deceased

was born in Kentucky in March 1831, and was accordingly 77 years and 5 months of age at the time of his demise.”

Philip and his family appear in the 1881 Census and it records Philip’s origin as ‘African’ while his wife Ellen is listed as English. Their children are also listed in this Census including Candice, Henry, Ellen, Martha, Anna, Albert, Norris, and Emmie. Ellen’s obituary provides more details and says “At six o’clock a.m., Tuesday, June 8, Mrs. Ellen Goodrich died in Cleveland, O, at the home of her youngest daughter, Mrs. Wm. Bryant. The deceased was born in Liverpool, England 72 years ago, and came to America when seven years old. In 1856, in Detroit, she married the late Philip Goodrich whose death was chronicled in these columns but ten months ago. Mr. and Mrs. Goodrich lived on the first concession of Anderdon, near the stone quarry for many years where he engaged in the lime business and also in light farming. Some 18 months ago the family removed to Colchester North and subsequently to Malden. The deceased had been ailing for a long time. She was the mother of nine children of whom but five survive. They are Henry now in Mexico; Annie, Mrs. Jas. Holton, of Amherstburg; and Albert, Norris and Amy (Mrs. Wm. Bryant), all of Cleveland. These with five grandchildren and many friends mourn their loss and revere her memory. The subject of this obituary had been a member of the first Baptist church of Amherstburg since 1886. The remains were interred in Cleveland.”

Ellen and Philip’s daughter Anna, as mentioned, married James Henry Holton. The couple had several children including Forrest Arthur Holton, Alva May, Gwendeline, Sherman, and Herman. This information is found in the 1911 Census for Amherstburg, but members of the Holton family made their way to the United States too. The 1940 Census for Cleveland, Ohio lists James and Anna Holton with their son Herman, who was 32 at the time and a labourer for road construction. At the time, James worked as a cook on a Lake Boat.

There are further details for Sherman, Alva (or Elva) May, and Forest. According to Sherman Hazeras Holten's (Holton) death record he was born in April 1908 and sadly passed a few years later on November 26, 1911 in Amherstburg at the age of 3. Sherman's sister Alva passed away on March 17, 1912 in Amherstburg at the age of 17. According to her obituary – "Mr. and Mrs. James Holton were called upon to give up their eldest daughter, Alva May, on Sunday, she passing to the Better Land after a few months' illness with consumption. She had not been well the past year, but took to bed four months to the day before she died. The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon to the First Baptist church for services and the remains were interred in Rose Hill cemetery. The young lady was born in Amherstburg and was in her eighteenth year. Besides the sorrowing parents she leaves two brothers – Forest and Herman, and one sister, Gwendolyn to whom the sympathy of the community will be extended."

According to Forest Arthur Holton's WWI draft Registration card, he was born on October 13, 1889 in Amherstburg and worked as a Truck Driver for Max Freedman Co. His marriage records states that Forest married Flora B. Harris, the daughter of Joseph and Mary Harris, on May 3, 1920 in Detroit. This record states that Flora was born in Ohio circa 1890 and was 30 years old at the time of their marriage, which is the same age that Forest is recorded as. Flora and Forest appear on the 1930 Census for Green County, Ohio, which states that Forest's occupation was "Stationary Engineer" for State Power House. The 1940 Census lists Forest Holton, but he is married to someone else. Her name was Esther. Forest's death record from December 26, 1956 places Forest and Esther as living in Chicago. At the time, Forest was working as a mechanic.

**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.**