

Lucas Family History Part 1 – Born in Pittsburgh

For this month's family history, I wanted to do something a bit different. While researching this month's family, I came across several family trees in the Museum's family history collection for the Lucas family who will be featured this month. With further research I discovered that many of the Lucas family members were from Chatham-Kent, so I reached out to our friends at the Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society & Black Mecca Museum to see if they wanted to collaborate on this month's family history. Being the fantastic people they are, they said yes and were able to share photographs and obituaries from Chatham newspapers, which helped me a great deal. I would like to send a big thank you to Sam and her team at the Black Mecca Museum for everything they shared. Let's get started!

Richard Alexander Lucas (1839-1931) married Rachel Jones and according to his death record, he was the son of Isaac Lucas and Susan King, and was born in 1839 in Pittsburgh. This record also states that he was a farmer and passed away on October 4, 1931, in Chatham at the age of 92. Richard and Rachel had at least 7 children: Susana (1867-1959), Barbara Lillie (1869-1899), Richard A. (1870-1957), Ida Adora (1874-1973), Annabelle (1876-1973), Melvina Julia (1878-1970) and Jennettie (1887-1971).

Susana, the first child of Richard and Rachel, married Benjamin Richardson, the son of James and Mary Richardson, on August 29, 1886, in Gore of Camden, Kent. Benjamin's obituary titled "Chatham Township Farmer Passes To Great Beyond" shares a few more details and says "DRESDEN, July 28 – Funeral services are being held this afternoon for Benjamin Richardson Chatham Township farmer, who died on Sunday. He was in his 79th year. The funeral cortege is to leave the residence, on Concession 9, at 1 p.m., and will proceed to the Prince Albert Baptist Church where services will be held at two o'clock. Rev. M. Brown is to be

the officiating minister, and interment will be in the Dresden Cemetery. Besides his wife, Mr. Richardson is survived by five sons, Richard of Pontiac, Mich.; Archie, of Jackson, Mich.; John of Detroit; Benjamin of Detroit, and Wellington, at home. There are six daughters, Mrs. George Highgate of Chatham Township; Mrs. George Millben, of Jackson, Mich.' Mrs. Earl Henson of Chatham; Mrs. Clarence Smith of Chatham Township, Mrs. Irvine Handsor of Windsor, and Mrs. Paul Moss, of Pontiac.”

Benjamin and Susana (sometimes listed as Susan Francis) had several children including James Alfred, Richard, Arnetta (Jenneta), Kathaleen, Archie, John, Lavina Melvina, Wellington, Nellie Belle, Benjamin Jr., Mary, Margaret, and Barbara Lillian. James Alfred was born in July 1887 in Chatham. He married twice. His first marriage was to Julie Stark, the daughter of William and Mary Stark, on April 29, 1916, in Chatham. His second marriage was to Nancy Jurelia Highgate (1894-1962), the daughter of J. Henderson Highgate and Emily Snooks, on September 3, 1919, in Chatham. James Alfred's death record was also available and states that he was born circa 1887 in Chatham Township, and he died on March 6, 1928 in Kent at the age of 40.

James Alfred's children include James Leonard (1920-1975) who married Violet E. Buschmeyer and had a son named James Leonard Richardson Jr.; Douglas Henderson (1921-1969), Ruby Irene who married Donald Roy Carter; Audrey May who married Gordon Milburn and had two daughters named Patricia (m. Leonard Hayward) and Debra; and Velma Annie who married Harry Judah. Velma's children include Kathryn, Nancy (m. Jerry Rice), Jonella and Michael.

The next child of Susan Lucas and Benjamin Richardson is Richard Alexander (1889-1969) who was born on December 31, 1890, in Chatham. Richard later married Edith Simmons,

the daughter of Edward Simmons and Lillie Johnson, on January 13, 1912, in Kent. Richard and Edith had a daughter named Relda who married Eugene Scott (1907-1959). Relda had a daughter named Vera Leola Scott who married Mack Rodgers, and a son named Orland Eugene Scott (1930-1964) who married Roseina Blanche Shoemaker. Vera Leola Scott Roger's children include Larry, Lorraine, Loretta, and Leonard. Orland Eugene Scott's children include Marcia Deborah, Benita Yvonne, Orland E. Scott Jr., Sharron, Dena Marie, and Richard Keith.

Relda Richardson married more than once. As mentioned, Relda married Eugene Scott, but another marriage record was found for her which says she married Edward Grady on March 25, 1949, in Indiana. It also mentions that Relda was born on April 12, 1912 in Chatham, was living in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and had been married two times before. A separate record states that they married in St. Joseph, Indiana. On a 'Resident Alien's Border Crossing Identification Card' for Relda Richardson Grady it lists her occupation as Maid. The 1930 Census for Pontiac, Michigan lists Eugene and Relda with their daughter Vera and the 1940 Census, also for Pontiac, Michigan, includes the addition of Eugene and Relda's son Orland in addition to Eugene's mother Anna Scott who was 94 years old.

The next child of Susan Lucas and Benjamin Richardson is Arnetta, who is sometimes referred to as Jenneta. She later married George Highgate, the son of James Highgate and Emma Snoles (could be Snookes), on June 3, 1908, in Camden, Kent County. George and Arnetta/Jenneta's children include George Oliver Highgate, James Garnet Highgate and Irene Highgate. George Oliver Highgate was born on September 29, 1908 in Chatham and he married Eva Mae Harris. Their children include Edsel C. (m. Ruby Alicia Lawson); Sydney Garnet Highgate (m. Sheila Isabel Munn); Alan G. Highgate (Yvonne); Kaydon O. Highgate (m. Doreen

Peters); Janet M. Highgate (m. Eize Bos); Marvin A. Highgate (m. Pamela N. Payne); Benjamin L. Highgate (m. Sharon Anne McMurdo); Eva Mae Highgate; Murray J. Highgate.

James Garnet Highgate's children include Judith Lorraine Highgate (1939-1940) and Richard Robert Highgate. James Garnet's sister Irene Highgate married Kingsley Travis and their children include Emily Travis (m. William Robinson); Cecil Travis (m. Doreen Franklin); Floyed Travis; Marvin George Travis (m. Mary Marie Taylor); Heddie Elaine Travis (m. Clifford Allen Solomon); Robert Travis; Richard Travis (m. Irene Chandler) and Keith Travis.

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 2.