

### **Lucas Family History Part 3 – Active in Her Community**

Next up is Lavina Melvina's brother Wellington, who is the next child of Susan Lucas and Benjamin Richardson. The only record available for him, other than being mentioned in obituaries for his siblings and father, was a birth record which states that he was born on April 22, 1901, in Chatham.

There was more information available for Wellington's sister Nellie Belle Richardson. She married Clarence Ben Smith, the son of Harris and Ethel Smith, on September 8, 1920, in Dresden. According to a death record for Nellie, she died in 1962 in Dresden. Nellie and Clarence's children include Grant E. and Ernest Beverly. Grant married Blanche Vincent, while Ernest married Labirtha Burks, the daughter of Kennedy Burks and Dicie Kidd, on August 8, 1955, in Steuben, Indiana. Their marriage record also states that Ernest Smith was born on July 8, 1925 in Windsor and Labirtha Burks was born on January 15, 1931 in Detroit. A note in the Museum's family history collection states that Ernest also married Etta Mae Douglas, but we could not find a record to accompany this information.

Nellie Belle's brother Benjamin Richardson Jr. was born on October 6, 1905, in Chatham. He later married Velma Marie Bissell. According to a naturalization record from November 27, 1933 in Flint, Michigan, for Benjamin (also listed as Bennie) Richardson, it states that Benjamin and Velma (born April 18, 1909) were married on May 28, 1928 in Chatham and they had two children named Bernice (born December 19, 1931) and Benjamin Jr. (born January 28, 1935). This record also states that he went to Michigan on the D&W Ferry. The Museum's family history collection also shares that Bernice married Edward Brayboy and Roosevelt Johnson, while Benjamin Jr. married Ruby Rozina Adams.

An obituary for Benjamin's wife Velma was also available and says Velma, who was from Chatham "formerly of Dresden passed away Tuesday November 23, 1993 at her residence. She was born in Chatham daughter of the late Thomas Bissell and Margaret Highgate. She is predeceased by her first husband Benjamin Richardson Sr. in 1966 and her second husband William Richardson in 1989. She was a member of the Union Baptist Church, Past President of Missionary Convention, Past President of Ladies Aid Mission society, Sunday School Superintendent, Deaconess, and treasurer of the Sunday School. Surviving are one daughter Bernice (Richardson) Johnson and her husband Roosevelt of Marianna, Arkansas; three grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. Several nieces and nephews also survive. She is predeceased by one son; Benjamin Richardson Jr., three sisters; Emma Dudley and two infant sisters, one brother William Highgate and two grandchildren. Visitors will be received at the Thomas L. DeBurger Funeral Home."

The only information available for Benjamin's sister Mary is a death record which states that she passed away on February 20, 1908, in Chatham at the age of 9 months, 1 week, 4 days. Mary's sister Margaret was born on December 8, 1908, in Chatham. She married twice. Margaret's first marriage was to Vern/Irvin Handsor (1903-1974) and the second was to William Chester Hazard. According to their marriage record, Margaret and William married on December 26, 1946 in Lucas, Ohio. William was the son of William O. Hazard and Harriet Hansen. Margaret and her first husband Vern had a son named James Handsor and he married Ruth Mitchell.

Margaret's sister Barbara Lillian Richardson was born July 1, 1910, in Chatham. Barbara married twice. Her first marriage was to James William Highgate (1906-1972) and her second marriage was to Paul Clarence Moss (1897-1969). According to their marriage record, Barbara

Lillian, listed as Lily, and William James Highgate, married on October 18, 1924, in Chatham. William James was the son of James Henderson Highgate and Susan Richardson. According to the Museum's records, Barbara and James' children include Kelsey Lavere Highgate (m. Kathryn Guest) and Benjamin Shirley Highgate (m. Patricia Rhodes). Barbara and her second husband Clarence had the following children: Milton David Moss (m. Minnie Louise Campbell); Barabara Jean Moss (1937-1943); Charles Leonard Moss (m. Marva R. Keel); Richard Merlin Moss (m. Willa Lee Winton) and Alma Arnetta Moss.

Now that we have discussed Susan Lucas and her family, we will move on to discuss her siblings Barbara Lillie, Richard A., Ida Adora, Annabelle, Melvina Julia, and Jennettie. We will start with Barbara Lillie. She married William Davis (1864-1938), the son of Absolom and Elizabeth Davis, on June 10, 1896, in Chatham Township. Barbara Lillie and William Davis had a son named John Davis who was born on June 2, 1897 and sadly passed away in 1918 while serving in the military. According to Barbara Lillie Lucas Davis' death record, she passed away on March 28, 1899, in Dresden. An additional marriage record reveals that William married a second time on December 27, 1899 in Dresden to Julia Lucas, also the daughter of Richard Lucas and Rachel Jones. A family tree located in the Museum's collection lists the children of Rachel Jones and Richard Lucas including two daughters Barbara Lillie Lucas (1869-1899) and Melvina Julia Lucas (1878-1970) who are both listed as marrying William Davis. No children are listed on the chart for Julia and William.

Barbara Lillie's brother Richard A. Lucas is the next child of Richard Lucas and Rachel Jones. He married Lillie/Matilda Proctor on May 9, 1895 in Camden, Ontario. Lillie was the daughter of William and Annie Eliza Proctor. Lillie and Richard's children include Norma and Clarence Lucas. Norma married Frank Handsor (1866-1966) on December 1, 1919, in Chatham.

Frank was the son of Perry Handsor and Mary Pope. At the time, Frank was a widower and farmer, while Norma was a housekeeper. A reference on 'Find A Grave' states that Norma Odora Lucas Handsor was born on August 9, 1896 and passed away on February 10, 1947 in Dresden. Their children include Mildred O. Dora Handsor who married 1<sup>st</sup> Luverre Johnson (1915-1942) and 2<sup>nd</sup> married Morley John J. Ladd; Clarence Ellwood Handsor (m. Carrie Isabel Johnson); Henry Handsor/Hanson (1923-1966) who married Mary Harasen (1923-1966); Jean Handsor who married Chan You Willie Funn; Wilfred Handsor who married Norma June Rickman; Beulah Handsor; Charles Handsor; Roy Handsor (born April 1, 1936, passed away on April 7, 1936 in Dawn); and Betty Marie Handsor who married Donald Stockley Prestage.

Norma's brother and the second child of Richard Lucas and Lillie Proctor is Clarence. He married Lavina Timbers and they had two daughters named Lillian (m. Richard Jones) and Ileen Lucas.

**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 4.**