

Simpson Family History (Levi Simpson's Line) Part 2 – Chatham Connection

There was no information available for Mary Ann's brothers William H. and George, but there was for the next child of Levi Simpson and Elizabeth Hutchinson, Elizabeth Victoria Simpson. She was born in Colchester on April 22, 1840 and later married Absalom Davis. According to their marriage record, Elizabeth and Absalom married on April 22, 1861 in Detroit. The 1871 Census lists Absalom and Elizabeth with their children Elizabeth, William, Francis, James, and Peter. The following decade Absalom, Elizabeth, William, Franklin, James, and Peter are listed with the addition of Absalom, Sarah Jane, Lydia A., and Levi. In this Census the neighboring property is owned by Peter Davis, aged 97, who could possibly be Absalom's father or at least relative. The 1891 Census adds to the list of children with Walter and Alberta, who is likely Lydia A. mentioned in the previous Census.

No further information was available for Elizabeth and Absalom's daughter Elizabeth, but there are records for William, Francis, James, Peter, Absalom, Alberta, and Walter. Let us start with William H. Davis. According to his marriage record, he married Lely (Lily) Lucas, the daughter of Richard and Rachel Lucas, on June 10, 1896. 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 Rachael 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. The chart adds that Lillie and William had a son named John Davis (1897-1918) but he died in military service. No children are listed on the chart for Julia and William.

Francis (or Frank), the next son of Elizabeth Simpson and Absalom Davis, married Susan Henry Wallace, "Minnie," the daughter of Littleton T. Wallace and Mary Lacy Miles, born in

Charles City County and Chickahominy territories. The couple married on December 21, 1898 in Dresden. Francis' brother James was married to Minnie Ophelia Butler. At least three of their children can be identified as George Augustas Davis, born October 9, 1909 in Chatham Township; Nelina Davis, born on August 4, 1911 in Chatham; and Clara Bell Davis, born November 21, 1906 in Chatham.

James' brother Peter married Jennie Jones, the daughter of Josephus Jones and Lucy Boswell. Peter and Jennie married on June 24, 1899 in Chatham. He and his family are listed in the 1911 Chatham Census which includes Peter and his wife Jennie and their children Silvia, Jennie and Gladys. Also found was the death record for another child of Peter Davis named Absalom who sadly passed away on November 30, 1915 in Chatham. At the time he was 83 years old, a widower, and a farmer. Already mentioned is Peter and Jennie's (listed as Jennette Ann Jones) daughter Jennie Elizabeth Davis. She was born on November 7, 1903 in Chatham and later married Donald Charles Campbell on December 21, 1921 in Dresden. Donald was the son of John D. Campbell and Christie McCartnine. Lastly, a delayed statement of birth was found for Sylvia Alberta Davis who was born on August 4, 1900 in Chatham Township.

Next is Peter's brother Absalom Davis who married Ann B. Handsor, the daughter of William Handsor and Rachel Prisby. Absalom and Ann married on December 3, 1902 in Dover, Kent County. According to Absalom's death record, he passed away on June 23, 1937 in Chatham. In this document Ann's name is listed as Annee Burrell Davis. Information for three of their children (Luella Marie, Genevieve, and Irma) was available. Luella Marie's birth record states that she was born on August 24, 1908 in Chatham. She later married Thomas Mathew Milben, the son of Howard Milben and Julia Richardson. They married on September 22, 1927 in Chatham. Interestingly, this document lists Luella's mother as Burley Handsor, while Luella's

sister Genevieve's birth record from October 7, 1909 (Chatham) lists Ann as Anna Burl Handsor. Lastly, Irma Leo Davis's birth record lists July 1, 1911 in Chatham as the date of birth.

Absalom's sister and the next child of Elizabeth Simpson and Absalom Davis is Lydia A. who is also listed as Alberta at times. In the 1911 Census Alberta is listed with her husband Edward Campbell and their daughter Odessa who was born on September 29, 1906 in Chatham. On her birth record she is listed as Odessa Maude Campbell.

Alberta's brother Walter married Annie Highgate, the daughter of James Henderson Highgate and Emma Snook. They married on October 4, 1911 in Chatham. Information for two of their children, James Alvy and Goldie Odessa, were found. James Alvy's birth record states that he was born on April 25, 1912 in Chatham, while Goldie Odessa Davis' death record states that she was born on January 17, 1928 and she sadly passed away a few days later, on January 24, 1928 in Kent.

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 3.