

## The Baylis Family History Part 4- An 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Up next is Joseph, the next child of Robert Baylis Sr. and Elizabeth Ryer. Joseph married Louisa Egbert on January 1, 1898 in Windsor. Louisa was the daughter of Daniel Egbert and Hattie Moore. Their marriage record also reveals that Joseph worked as a Sailor, just like his uncle John. A second marriage record for Joseph reveals that he married more than once. On November 22, 1905, Joseph married Viola Hurst in Romeo, Macomb, Michigan. Viola was the daughter of Henry Hurst and Nancy Lewis.

Before moving onto discuss the line of Robert Baylis Jr., a little bit about his sister Martha first. According to her death record, she was born April 20, 1872 and passed on March 3, 1950 in Detroit at age 77. She is listed as Martha Pease and her parents were Robert and Elizabeth Baylis, meaning that she is the correct Martha. Although we know that she married into the Pease family, her husband's first name is not mentioned in the record.

As mentioned, Robert Baylis Jr. has been left for last because there is significant documentation for him and his descendants. Robert Jr. married Maria Ann Boyd, the daughter of John Boyd and Eleanor Nolan (one record says Ellen, not Eleanor), on August 14, 1875 in Colchester. In the January 29, 1932 issue of the *Amherstburg Echo* it mentions an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for Robert Baylis, saying "The home of Mr. and Mrs. John Day, seventh concession, was beautifully decorated on Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, on the occasion of the eightieth birthday of Robert Baylis, Sr. A well worded address was read by Mrs. Day, after which Mr. Baylis was presented with a beautiful copy of the Holy Bible and a pair of reading glasses for which Mr. Baylis thanked them heartily. The evening was spent in prayer and song. At the conclusion of the evening a delicious lunch was served by Mrs. Day ... Mr. Baylis gave a very inspiring talk on 'The sin of the present world' and concluded with 'lay not up for yourself treasures on earth where moth and thieves break through and steal, but rather lay up for yourself treasures in

Heaven and prepare to meet thy God.' Mr. Baylis is a pioneer of this district and we are glad to say is hale [sic] and hearty for one of his age. He is held in high respect by all."

At the time of this publication, Robert's wife Maria Ann had passed away many years earlier. In her obituary it says, Maria Ann was the "eldest daughter of the late John Boyd of Colchester North, and was married to Robert Baylis of Malden, August 14, 1875 and took up their residence in this township. To them were born twelve children, of whom nine are living – Robert, of Kalamazoo; Elisha, of Windsor; John, of Malden; Herman, Ellen (Mrs. Meddon), Pearl and Cora, of Detroit; Hattie, of Colchester South. Besides her husband and children she leaves to mourn four brothers and three sisters – Andrew, of Amherstburg; Ernest, of Chicago; Anthony, Walter, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Freeman and Mrs. Binga, of Detroit, and eighteen grandchildren. The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon being very largely attended. Mrs. Baylis was a devoted Christian woman and held in high respect in the community."

Robert Jr. and Maria Ann had thirteen children: Robert (1876), Iva Dell (1876), Elisha (1880), Forest (1883), John Edward (1884), Mahaliah (1886), Herman (1888), Malidia (1889), Pearl (1890), Josephus (1893), Cora (1896), Bertha (1899), and Hattie (1901). Robert Jr. and Maria farmed in Malden Township for a time, but in the early 1900s moved to the United States which is recorded on the 1901 US Census, indicating that they along with Cora, Bertha and Hattie were living in Hamtramck, Michigan. It is likely that many of their remaining children stayed in Canada.

**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 5.**