

The Brooks Family Part 2- “A man among men”

The next child of Jonathan and Harriet is John Walter, but we will discuss his siblings (Levi, Letitia, Amanda, Millia and Adelle) first considering there is substantial documentation on his line. John Walter’s brother Levi was born on March 2, 1872. He married Lilly Harris in 1883 in Gosfield. They owned a farm on Lot 6 on the 4th Concession in Colchester South. According to his obituary from the *Amherstburg Echo* Levi “was born in Colchester South, and was married to Mary Johnson, daughter of the late George Johnson, who survives him. They had no children. He is also survived by his aged mother, one brother, Walter, and four sisters – Mrs. Henry Lewis, Miss Barbara Brooks, Mrs. Harris, of Colchester South, and Mrs. Elizabeth Clingman, of Detroit.”

Letitia was born circa 1874, while Amanda was born circa 1879. Sadly, Amanda died of typhoid fever at the age of 14 on October 1, 1893. Letitia and Amanda’s sister Millia was born circa 1880, but no further information was available for her. Adelle “Della”(1883), the next child of Jonathan and Harriet Brooks, married Henry Harris, the son of Henry Harris Sr. and Annie Fletcher. At the time of their marriage, Adelle was 34, while Henry was 38. Neither were married before and Henry worked as a farmer.

John Walter Brooks, the next child of Jonathan and Harriet, was born in 1871. He married Mary Harris, the daughter of Henry Harris and Christina Anne Fletcher. John Walter Brooks was active in his church, Central Grove A.M.E., and he must have been very well respected considering the lengthy obituary written in the *Amherstburg Echo* documenting his life. The article, printed on December 17, 1953, says “He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Brooks and his parents too spent most of their lives in Colchester South. Walter Brooks was highly respected in the township and especially by his neighbors who valued his friendship and

his readiness to lend a helping hand in any emergency. It is not what he was, nor even what he does which directly expresses the worth of a man but what he is and was and Walter Brooks was a man among men – a man of sterling worth and character – and I think that to have known a good man like him – a man who through the chances and mischances of a long life has carried his heart in his hand like a palm branch – waving all discord into peace, helps our faith in God, in ourselves and in each other.”

The article goes on to say “His pleasant smile will be remembered by the many friends he has left behind for many years. The funeral was held on Saturday, December 11th from the J.H. Madill and Son funeral home to Central Grove Church where funeral services were conducted by Rev. Brookenshire, who in his discourse paid a fine tribute to the worth of the deceased. Burial was in the family plot in the Central Grove Cemetery and the large crowd that attended the services was mute evidence of the respect and esteem in which the family are held in the township of Colchester South and elsewhere. Walter Brooks was a Christian gentleman what more can we say.”

Mary Harris Brooks, John Walter’s wife, was also active in the community. According to the *Amherstburg Echo*, Mary was the President of the Sodality Club at Central Grove A.M.E. In April 1921, the Sodality Club hosted an event with a concert committee that consisted of Earley Brooks, B. Johnson, Mrs. Earley Brooks and Mrs. Jessie Morgan, who “will give the greatest concert of the season at Central Grove church.”

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.