

The Brown/Nelson Family History Part 2 – Masonic Tradition

There was no obituary found for John D. Brown's wife Sarah, but we do know that Sarah's maiden name was Chancellor (some sources say Chandler), she was from Oberlin, Ohio, and was still living in 1912. Our records indicate that Sarah and John married on December 1, 1852. The couple had 3 children named William R., John S.H. and Sarah Elizabeth, in addition to their adopted son Fremont Nelson.

There was limited information for John and Sarah's first child, William, but what we do know is that he passed away on July 8, 1897 in Cleveland, Ohio. There was more information for William's brother John S.H. Brown who resided on the adjoining farm from his parents in Anderdon. According to John S.H.'s death record, his date of birth was October 3, 1858 in Malden and he became a farmer. John S.H. Brown married Fanny/Fannie Winnings of Colchester South on February 19, 1896. Fanny was the daughter of Edward Winnings and the 1881 Census for Colchester North lists Fanny as the daughter of Edward and Emily Winnings, along with her siblings named Daniel, Mary, and Robert. Under nationality, their family is listed as Scottish.

According to the *Amherstburg Echo* "At the residence of James A. Naul, Sandwich street, on Ash Wednesday evening, Rev. J.A. Holt officiating, John S.D. Brown, of Anderdon, was married to Miss Fanny Winnings. The nuptial knot was tied at 8 o'clock in the presence of about 30 relatives and friends of the contracting parties, after which all partook of a wedding supper. The next couple of hours was spent in social conversation, etc. The couple were the recipients of a number of useful and handsome presents. The groom is the son of John D. Brown, of Anderdon, and they will make their home for the present at the groom's parents."

The *Amherstburg Echo* prints more details about John S.H. in his 1923 obituary which says “John S.H. Brown, son of the late John Daniel and Sarah Brown, died at his home in Anderdon Tuesday, March 27th. He was born in Amherstburg 65 years ago. He was one of a family of three, the other two predeceasing him – William, who died in Cleveland some years ago, and Sarah E., Mrs. James A. Nall, who died in 1910. He was married to Miss Fannie Winning February 19th, 1896, and to the[sic] them were born five children – four boys and a girl who died in infancy. He leaves to mourn his loss his widowed mother, a wife and four sons: Theodore, William E., Richard H. and James A.; an adopted brother, Fremont E. Nelson and one niece, Margaret E. Nall, also a mother-in-law and a host of friends. He was a deacon in the Baptist church, also a member of Lincoln Lodge, No. 8 F.&A.M.” Being a member of the Masonic Lodge was a tradition that John S.H. continued from his father, John D., who was a member for over fifty years.

The 1901 Census lists John and Fanny as living with John’s parents (John D. and Sarah) and both Johns are listed as farmers. John S.H. and Fanny had four boys named Theodore, William, Richard, and James A., and a girl named Daisy who was born on February 6, 1889 in Anderdon, but she sadly passed away a few days later on February 12, 1899. Daisy’s brother Theodore was born on February 18, 1897 and he lived with his parents until at least 1921 because the Census for that year lists Theodore as residing with his parents while he worked as a labourer. The 1921 Census also lists Theodore’s brother William Everette as living with his parents John and Fanny, while he worked as a labourer. William E. was born on April 27, 1901 in Anderdon. William’s brother James Alfred was born on September 23, 1908, while James’ brother Richard was born in 1906. We were able to find a birth record for a child of John and

Fanny, born on February 2, 1906, but no first name is listed. It is very likely that this birth record is for Richard, who according to the 1921 Census was born in 1906.

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.