

The Clingman Family Part 4 – A Growing Family

-William Clingman Jr. tragically drowns while working as a deck hands on the steamer Pearl.

Read more below.

We have discussed James Milton (son of Gabriel Jr. and Mary Ann) and Nancy Clingman's first child William and will move onto the rest of their children: Mercilla Ann, James M., Joseph, Ernest, Charles, Amos Burt, Albert, Harvey Richardson, Jessie, John, George, Francis and Laura. We will start with James and Nancy's daughter, Mercilla, who was born on September 9, 1870 in Colchester South. She married James Hatfield Grayer and they had four children: Charles Amos, James Arthur, Forrest Albert, Livinia/Lavena (See Grayer Family History on our website – amherstburgfreedom.org - for more information).

Mercilla's brother James M. was born on May 13, 1876 in Colchester South. He married Georgia Plummer on June 30, 1906 in Windsor. She was the daughter of Sherard Henry Butler and Rosie Georgina Davenport and was born in 1872 in South Carolina. Their marriage record says that both James and Georgia were previously married, and James worked as a plasterer. James and Georgia had a daughter named Fannie. James also married a woman named Lucy Allen and they also had a daughter named Ada, who went on to marry Carl Jenkins on January 15, 1916 in Detroit.

There is little information on the next three children of Nancy and James Milton Clingman: Joseph, Ernest and Charles. Joseph was born in 1873 in Colchester South and passed away in March 1901. His obituary does not mention a wife or children, but says "Besides his parents, he leaves several brothers and sisters." There is a similar amount of information for Ernest who was born on June 23, 1877 in Essex and passed on July 11, 1877, while Charles was born on June 23, 1877 in Essex and died on September 24, 1882.

More information exists for Amos Burt who was born on May 11, 1880 in Colchester. Amos married Mary Louisa Harris who was born in Detroit and they had three children: Simeon Burt Clingman (born August 13, 1899 in Detroit); Albert Earl Clingman (born 1902 in Detroit and married Calda L. Tate) and Raymond H. Clingman (born on September 9, 1903 in Detroit). Amos also married Rose Herron on May 11, 1929 in Paulding, Ohio. Rose was born on July 21, 1879 in Van Wert, Ohio, and was the daughter of Gilbert Green and Nancy Pearl. At the time, Amos was 47 and a chauffeur, while Rose was 50 and a housemaid.

Next in line for discussion is Albert who was born circa 1882 and he married May Wilson on April 22, 1916 in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. May was born in Meadville, Pennsylvania, and was the daughter of William Barney and Martha Green. At the time of their marriage, Albert worked as a driver and he was not married previously, while May was a widow. Albert's brother, Harvey Richardson was born in July 1884 in Colchester South, and he later married Lizzie Scott on December 2, 1905. Lizzie was born in 1883 in New Canaan. Harvey married a second time to Mary E. Highwarden in May 1921 in Detroit.

Jessie, the next child of James Milton and Nancy Clingman, was born on September 20, 1886, and married William Robert Morgan on January 6, 1904. William was born in 1882 in Colchester and was the son of William Hartwell Morgan and Julia Ann Baylis. At the time, Jessie was 18, while William was a 22-year-old farmer. Jessie and William had 5 children: Florence Vivian (born on August 23, 1910 and married Davis Dean); William Lloyd (born on August 8, 1915 and married Marie Ference Campbell); Beulah Bernice (born on April 19, 1909 and married Harold Kersey); Silvia Ann Morgan (born on February 20, 1913 and married Arthur T. Harrison) and Hazel Morgan (born on April 4, 1904).

We're almost there. Only four more of Nancy and James Milton Clingman's children to discuss before we move onto James Milton's siblings (Uriah, John, Robert, Obediah, Eraustes, Frances, Mary, William and Augustus). The remaining children of James Milton are John, George Francis, Francis and Laura. First up is John who was born on October 9, 1888 and later married Florence Puryear on June 8, 1907 in Harrow. Florence was born in Indianapolis, Indiana and was the daughter of Sidney Puryear and Hattie Pope. John married a second time to Margaret Thomas on May 9, 1910 in Detroit. John and Margaret had a daughter named Margaret who was born on October 18, 1910 in Detroit.

George Francis married Mary Hurst on December 11, 1910 and had at least three children: Marion Clingman (born in 1918); George M. Clingman (born in 1927) and Sarah Clingman (born in 1922). George Francis' brother, Francis, was born on September 19, 1890 and later married Mary Clingman who was born in October 1889. Lastly, Laura was born on September 2, 1892 in Colchester South and later married George Langston on August 28, 1920 in Detroit.

The last several pages have been devoted to James Milton and Nancy Clingman and their family. It is now time to discuss James Milton's siblings: Uriah (1845), John (1847), Robert (1850), Obediah (1855), Eraustes (1857), Frances (1858), Mary (1859), Augustus (1859), and William (1863). There is more information on some than others, but we will begin with Uriah who was born on August 1, 1844 in Greenup County, Kentucky. He married a woman named Luc who was born on March 12, 1847 in Ontario. Uriah passed away on January 14, 1911 in Raleigh Township, Kent County.

As mentioned, Gabriel and Mary Ann had eleven children, but only three were born in Kentucky, the last being Uriah who was just discussed. John is their first child to be born in

Canada. He was born in 1847 in Colchester South and was a labourer. According to his death record, he passed on July 8, 1873 in his mid 20s. John's brother Robert was born on June 3, 1850 in Colchester South, which is the same year that the Fugitive Slave Act was passed. If Gabriel and Mary Ann had chosen to remain in Kentucky, it would be 15 years before Robert and their other children would know freedom, following the end of the Civil War in 1865.

Robert married Harriet Flemming on March 30, 1873 in Colchester South. Harriet was the daughter of Stephen and Harriet Flemming and was born in 1858. At the time, Harriet was only 15 years old, while Robert was 21 and a farmer. Robert married a second time to Sarah L. Harper-Branham on October 27, 1903. Their marriage record states that both were widow(er)s. Sarah was born in 1865 and was the daughter of Samuel Harper and Jennie Boston.

More information exists for Robert's brother, Obediah Clingman, who was born in May 1855 in Colchester South. He married Matilda Pettiford-Moore who was born on September 25, 1868 in Colchester and the daughter of Charles Nelson Pettiford (born in 1831 in Louisville, Kentucky, and the son of Nelson and Nancy Pettiford) and Sarah J. Hulburt (born in 1842 in Colchester South). The couple married on April 9, 1911 in Harrow and there is an interesting note on their marriage record which says "I [Obediah] am a Bachelor and the said Matilda Moore is a wife of Elijah Moore whose wife was living when he married Matilda Moore (Matilda Pettiford) and he is still living."

Obediah inherited 5 acres of land from Obediah's father Gabriel Jr. in New Canaan, where he lived with Matilda, who also had four children from her previous marriage to Elijah Moore: Luella (born on July 5, 1893); Theodore (born on November 22, 1896); Sarah J. (1899) and Zaida (1899). Following Obediah's passing in April 1929, Matilda moved with her children to Detroit, which is where she passed in 1937.

Obediah's brother Eraustes Clingman was born in 1857 in Colchester South and married Elizabeth Charlotte Brooks who was born in the same year as Eraustes, 1857. Eraustes and Elizabeth had two children: Frederick Emanuel Clingman and William G. Clingman who was born in 1890. Frederick Emanuel was born on June 3, 1886 in Colchester South and married Nora D. Jackson (born circa 1887 in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia). Frederick and Nora had 6 children: Montrose, Howard, Alfreda, Clara, Juanita and Winola.

Eraustes' sibling Frances was born in Colchester South in 1858, while the next child of Mary Ann and Gabriel Clingman, Mary, was born in 1859 in Colchester South. She married Nelson Strang on November 19, 1885 in Detroit. Nelson was born in 1846 in Missouri and, according to their marriage record, worked as a "carman."

The last two children of Gabriel and Mary Ann, Augustus and William, will be the last Clingman members discussed. Augustus was born on April 3, 1859 in Colchester South and he married Charlotte Annie Brooks on June 1, 1888 in Colchester South. Charlotte was the daughter of Harriet Griggs and Johnathan Brooks. Augustus and Charlotte had 3 children: Alfred Clingman (born on June 3, 1884 in Colchester South); Garnet Clingman (born on August 15, 1888) and Dessie Clingman (born on December 4, 1895 in Colchester South).

The final member of the Clingman family that we will discuss is William Clingman who was born in 1863 in Colchester South and was a sailor. Tragically, he passed away in July of 1884 in Put-in-Bay, Ohio, after drowning. According to his obituary, "William Clingman, of Colchester ..., deck hands on the steamer Pearl, were scrubbing the sides of the boat at Put-in-Bay, Monday, when the scaffold broke and threw them into the water. Both sank like lead, and neither came up again. The bodies were recovered by dragging and sent to Detroit, Monday night, on the steamer Alaska. Clingman was was [sic] 22 years of age. The remains were turned

over to brothers of the deceased. Another deck hand, who was working with them at the time, swam ashore.” Unfortunately, there was not any further information on William.

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 another history of an amazing family.