

The Goodrich Family History Part 3 – The Ohio Connection

Of all the Goodrich children, the most information exists for Annie, the next child of Philip and Ellen. In Amherstburg on January 10, 1889, Annie married James Holton, the son of John Holton and Susan Scott. In addition to James, John and Susan had at least four other children: John Mercedo Scott Holton (b. December 4, 1855), William Fenton Holton (b. November 20, 1856), Laura Dorcas Holton (b. July 26, 1857) and Luke B. Holton (born November 26, 1860 and died July 17, 1861). James was their youngest child and he was born on July 16, 1862.

Annie and James' marriage announcement can be found in the *Amherstburg Echo* and says "HOLTON – GOODRICH – At the residence of Mrs. Susan Holton, Amherstburg, on Thursday, January 16th ..., by the Rev. J.A. Holt, Mr. James Holton, of Amherstburg, to Anna, daughter of Mr. Philip Goodrich, of, Anderdon."

The couple had several children including Forrest Arthur Holton, Alva May, Gwendeline, Sherman, and Herman. This information is found in the 1911 Census for Amherstburg, but members of the Holton family made their way to the United States too. The 1940 Census for Cleveland, Ohio lists James and Anna Holton with their son Herman, who was 32 at the time and a labourer for road construction. At the time, James worked as a cook on a Lake Boat.

There are further details for Sherman, Alva (or Elva) May, and Forest. According to Sherman Hazeras Holten's (Holton) death record, he was born in April 1908 and sadly passed a few years later on November 26, 1911 in Amherstburg at the age of 3. Sherman's sister Alva passed away on March 17, 1912 in Amherstburg at the age of 17. According to her obituary – "Mr. and Mrs. James Holton were called upon to give up their eldest daughter, Alva May, on

Sunday, she passing to the Better Land after a few months' illness with consumption. She had not been well the past year, but took to bed four months to the day before she died. The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon to the First Baptist church for services and the remains were interred in Rose Hill cemetery. The young lady was born in Amherstburg and was in her eighteenth year. Besides the sorrowing parents she leaves two brothers – Forest and Herman, and one sister, Gwendolyn to whom the sympathy of the community will be extended.”

According to Forest Arthur Holton's WWI draft Registration card, he was born on October 13, 1889 in Amherstburg and worked as a Truck Driver for Max Freedman Co. His marriage record states that Forest married Flora B. Harris, the daughter of Joseph and Mary Harris, on May 3, 1920 in Detroit. This record states that Flora was born in Ohio circa 1890 and was 30 years old at the time of their marriage, which is the same age that Forest is recorded as. Flora and Forest appear on the 1930 Census for Green County, Ohio, which states that Forest's occupation was "Stationary Engineer" for State Power House. The 1940 Census lists Forest Holton, but he is married to someone else. Her name was Esther. Forest's death record from December 26, 1956 places Forest and Esther as living in Chicago. At the time, Forest was working as a mechanic.

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 4.