

The Harris Family Part 4 – A Growing Family Tree

-Did you know David and Sadie Harris had at least 11 children. Read about them below.

David Leonze Harris married Sadie Allen who was born in 1902 in Detroit and was the daughter of Arthur Allen and Tempia Marinda ‘Tempy May’ Artis. In addition to Sadie, Arthur and Tempia had two other daughters named Elba and Norma. Sadie’s mother Tempia was born in May 1872 in Colchester and was the daughter of Matthew Artis and Martha Elizabeth Kersey (born 1853 and the daughter of Ephraim D. Kersey and Tempy Acoch). Tempia’s siblings were: Alfred, John Randall, Adline, Matthew and Elwood.

Both of Tempia’s parents married more than once. Tempia’s father, Mathew Artis, was first married to Amanda Pierson and they had four children: Nancy, Joseph, Cornelius and Henrietta. Tempia’s mother, Martha Kersey married a second time to Ryal Thompson and then to George Turner.

Sadie’s father Arthur was born in July 1875. Arthur was the son of Benjamin Allen (1818) and Nancy Chavis (the daughter of Wiley Chavis and Eva Chandler). In addition to Arthur, Benjamin and Nancy had ten other children including: Mary Allen (born 1867 and married Frank Norris and Jessie Hall), Martha Allen (born 1868), William Benjamin Allen (born 1870 and married Victoria Brookes and Annie Harper), Salvina Allen (born 1872), Dara Allen (born 1874), Lucy Allen (born 1878), David Allen (born 1879), Eva Allen (born 1880), Allonzo Allen (born 1881) and Eliza Allen (born 1883 and married Lewis Hulben and Albert Davis).

Sadie Allen married David Leonze Harris in 1920 and they also had several children who we will discuss next. They include: Donald Herbert, Grenville ‘Brother’, Orla, Clayton, Shirley Jean, Bobby, Helen, Allan, Nancy, Betty Lou and Ethelda Marie ‘Pye.’

Donald Hebert was born on April 25, 1920 in Amherstburg. He was first married to Mildred Ethel Taylor who was born on August 30, 1922 in Puce and was the first of thirteen children to James Henry Taylor and Myrtle Ethel Walls. Donald and Ethel were married on June 31, 1942 and their children are: Donald Frederick Harris (m. Elaine Banks), Gary Wayne Harris (m. Carolanne Caldwell), Diana (m. Lionel 'Lonnie' Hanson), Dennis (m. Elaine Langlois), Byron Cecil Harris (m. Lyric Crocker), Dwight Colin Harris (m. Anna DiPasquale), Cheryl (m. Lyndon Whited), Jacqueline (m. Richard Brown), Paula (m. Les Chiswell), Vaughn Keith Harris (m. Theresa France), Tamara (m. Gary Ross) and Blair Craig Harris (m. Carolin Armstrong).

Sadly, Mildred passed away on July 18, 1997 and she was described as "an active Church member, Sunday School Superintendent and teacher, and served in the ministry of Hospitality. She was a wonderful homemaker and worked at S.K.D., Canadian Cannery and Bob-lo Island." Following Mildred's passing, Donald married Janice Taylor who was born on January 24, 1942 and they married on May 27, 2000. They recently celebrated 19 years of marriage!

So far, we have shared information on David and Sadie Harris' first child, Donald. Now we'll take a look at their other children: Grenville, Orla, Clayton, Shirley Jean, Bobby, Helen, Allan, Nancy, Betty Lou and Ethelda Marie. Grenville 'Brother' Harris was born in 1921 in Amherstburg. He married Eunice Taylor and their children are Brian, Duane (m. Lisa and Karen) and Larry (m. Mary Ann).

Grenville's sister Orla was born on April 29, 1923 in Amherstburg and married Clarence 'Jake' Simpson. Their children include: Marilyn (m. Carvin McBounds), Reginald (m. Sherry Wilson), Ricky, Linda (m. Artie), Allen (m. Shelley), Clarence (m. Gladys Sims) and Darrell (m. Emma Scott).

Orla's brother Clayton was born in Amherstburg in the 1920s and married a woman named Irma. The couple had the following children: Rozell (m. Rick Nichols), Ronald (born 1966 and married Sumreen) and Abena (1968).

Clayton's sister Shirley Jean was born on February 6, 1929 in Essex and married William 'Bill' Lavern Handsor. Their children are: Gloria Jean (born 1947 and married Robert Britton), Bonnie Lee (born 1949 and married John Paul), Brenda Lee (born 1950), William Paul (born 1952 and married Debbie Wilson and Susan Lynn Metcalfe), Shirley Louise (born 1953 and married Roger Baylis), David Lavern (born 1954 and married Laura Gardin), Gregory Edward (born 1955 and married Mary Matt and Patty Grayer), Mary Vanessa (born 1958 and married David Racz), Belinda Hansor (born 1959 and married Larry Bernard), Murray Alonzo 'Peter' (born 1960 and married Dolores Bratt), Kim Tracey (born 1962 and married Cindy Brush), Anthony Quin (born 1963 and married Tonya Osman and Sandra Barber), Sherry Lynn (1965) and Michael Douglass (1967).

The next child of David and Sadie Harris is Bobby who was born in the 1930s in Essex. His sister Helen was born on March 5, 1932 and she married James Matthew Jr. Harris. Helen and James had a son named James 'Jimmy' III. Helen's brother Allan was born in October 1937, while Nancy Harris married Joe Elliot and had several children including Leonard, Nancy, Valerie, Claudette, Dana and Lenora.

Nancy's sister Betty Lou Harris also had several children including Natalie, Constance, Jeanna, Timmy, Roger, Wanda and Tyrone. Betty Lou's sister Ethelda Marie 'Pye' Harris was born in Amherstburg in 1941. She had three children named Clinton, Guy and Vinnie.

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 the final part of the Harris family history.