

The Hawkins Family History Part 3- A Dress Maker

John's sister Clara is the next child of James and Sarah that we will discuss. In June 1875, the *Amherstburg Echo* printed an ad for Clara which said "DRESS MAKING. MISS CLARA HAWKINS Is prepared to do all kinds of needle work at Mrs. Wright's residence, 60 King St., in a style equal to any in town. Dress-making in the latest styles especially attended to at very reasonable prices. Patronage respectfully solicited." Clara married Moses Brantford Jr., the son of Moses Brantford Sr. and Maria Goodrich (see Brantford Family History <https://amherstburgfreedom.org/brantford-family/>). According to their marriage record, Moses Jr. and Clara wed on December 24, 1889 in Amherstburg and that Moses was a widower. Under Moses' profession it says "General Business." Moses Jr. and Clara had at least one child, a son named Homer. Clara's obituary, printed in the *Amherstburg Echo* on September 6, 1935, says "Mrs. Brantford was an old and very highly respected resident of this town, and it is a remarkable fact to report that she was one of the first women workers in the Bob-Lo café when the island first opened as a summer picnic ground and her services there extended over a period of 34 years. She was in the employ of the Company until the Island closed two years ago, but was unable to return this year on account of failing health. She had been around as usual until Thursday night when she was taken by a stroke and lingered until Saturday night, though unconscious. Mrs. Brantford's maiden name was Clara Hawkins. She was a daughter of James and Sarah Hawkins and was born on the third concession of Anderdon, 80 years ago. There she was married to Moses Brantford, of Amherstburg. A short time afterwards they went to Jackson, Mich., to live where they remained for a few years and then returned to Anderdon township, where Mr. Brantford took charge of his father-in-law's place. Forty years ago they came to Amherstburg. They had one son, Homer, well remembered in town as an amateur boxer. He died

two years ago. Mr. Brantford has been dead for about 25 years. Mrs. Brantford was greatly interested in the work of the First Baptist Church and was president of the Ladies Sewing Circle for over 30 years. Besides the above, she is survived by a brother, Vincent Hawkins, of Windsor, and a sister, Mrs. Julia Saunders, St. Arnaud Street, Amherstburg. Other members of the Hawkins family family [sic] who are deceased were Susie, John and Jesse, who are remembered by the older residents of the town. Mrs. Brantford had been living during the summer with her sister, Mrs. Saunders, and the Convention ladies used her home on George Street in which to do the cooking for the convention recently held here. After that, she returned to her own home intending to stay there during the winter.” Clarissa sounds like a very impressive woman.

The next child of James and Sarah Hawkins is Julia. She married Leonard Saunders, the son of Benjamin and Mary Saunders, on March 28, 1893 in Amherstburg. If you look at the 1871 Census you will find Benjamin and Mary Saunders listed with their children Erin, Leonard (spelt Lenord) and Mary. The 1901 Census lists Leonard (a lake cook) and Julia Saunders with Fredrick Crofferd who is listed as “ad. son,” which I believe means adopted son. Several years later Fredrick is listed with the last name Saunders and the son of Julia Hawkins and Leonard Saunders. Fredrick married Leona Mortimer, the daughter of John Johnston and Catherine Spotswood, on December 10, 1914 in Franklin, Ohio. Leona was previously married to Charles Mortimer. The 1911 Census only lists Julia and Leonard Saunders in their household and no other birth records for any child were found, leading us to believe that they had no other children. According to his May 1924 obituary, Leonard “was distinguished by his height, he being some 6 feet 8 inches tall. He was an industrious farmer, and for years had been living on the 2nd concession.”

The last child of James and Sarah Hawkins is James Vincent. He married Minnie Washington, the daughter of George (some sources say James) Washington and Sarah Morris, on April 22, 1917 in Detroit. According to her death record, Minnie was born in Midland, Ontario on April 19, 1880 and she worked as a housekeeper. Minnie May passed away on October 10, 1934 and her daughter, May (Jones) is the informant. Minnie's obituary reveals that she and James Vincent had a second daughter named Julia (Buchanan) and a step-son who drowned at Capreol two years previous. The 1921 Census also lists James Vincent with his wife Minnie and their son Vincent, meaning that James Vincent and Minnie had three children and a step-child. Their son Vincent is mentioned in the *Border Cities Star* when, on August 6, 1925 a group of Boy Scouts "celebrated Emancipation Day, in a novel manner, when they 'hiked' the 18 miles from Windsor to Amherstburg, and arrived there in time for the special program staged Monday. Among the boys and young men who left Cataraqui street at 3:30a.m. Monday morning, and who arrived at Amherstburg at 9 a.m., were Ellworth Boston, A.C.M., O. Boston, Archibald Ball, assistance scoutmaster, Vincent Hawkins, of the 5th troop boy scouts, Shirley A. Moore, assistant scoutmaster."

According to his obituary, James was a "native of Anderdon and brother of Mrs. Julia Saunders, St. Arnaud street, Amherstburg. Fellow members of Masonic Lodge, F. and A.M. acted as pallbearers and bore the remains to their last resting place at Rose Hill cemetery. Deceased died in the Ontario Hospital, London, Wednesday, April 10. He was born in Anderdon on the third concession, about 75 years ago, the son of James and Sarah Hawkins. When a young man he went to Windsor and lived there until two years ago when he became mentally ill. Surviving besides his wife and one daughter and the sister mentioned above."

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.