

The Hawkins Family History Part 4 – Another Branch of the Hawkins Family

This month's family history is going to feature two branches of the Hawkins family. Already discussed was the first branch with James Hawkins and his descendants. We will now move on to the second branch which includes Washington Hawkins, his wife Eva A. Thompson, and their descendants. On October 21, 1880, the *Essex Record* wrote "Washington Hawkins, of Anderdon, died at Grand Rapids, Mich., on the 15th inst., aged 65." The following year, in 1881, the Census now lists Washington's wife Eva/Evie and their children Cassius M. Clay (also spelt Ceshes on the Census), William, Sarah, Louis, James, Mary (sometimes listed as Mandie/Amanda) and Susan.

Cassius M. Clay's name appears several different ways in the records including Cashiasamie, Cashions, and Ceshes. According to the records, Cassius M. married twice. He first married Margeret M. Bush and the couple had a son named George Washington Hawkins who was born on December 19, 1882 in Colchester North. Cassius' second marriage was to Elizabeth Collins, the daughter of Benjamin and Ann James. The couple married on May 24, 1887 in Windsor.

The only information found for Cassius' brother William was his death record from January 22, 1937 which states that he passed away in Windsor, was born on February 25, 1868, worked as a cook "on boats" and was 68 years old. William's sister Sarah married Mr. C. Scott, but no other information was available. Sarah's brother Louis Alexander Hawkins, according to his death record was born on January 30, 1866 in Anderdon Township, was single, and passed away on December 10, 1930 in Windsor at the age of 64.

The next child of Washington Hawkins and Eva Thompson is Amanda M., but she is also sometimes listed under different names including Minnie, Mandie, and Mary (her middle initial could be for Mary). She married James Stevens, the son of Joseph Stevens and Mary McCurdy, on August 24, 1898 in Detroit. The 1871 Census lists Joseph and Mary Stevens (spelt Stephens in Census) with their children Joseph, James and Mary. The following Census in 1881 lists Mary Stevens (a Dressmaker) with her children James, Mary and Annie, but they are living in the household of Mary's parents, Nasa (a carpenter) and Parmelia McCurdy. Mary's husband Joseph is not listed in this Census. Also available is a marriage record for Amanda (listed as Minnie) and James' son William Alonzo Stevens who married Marion Nowak, the daughter of Martin Nowak and Rose Urbanski on November 27, 1918 in Windsor. At the time William was a salesman and Marion was a checker.

Next is Amanda's sister Susan, who is the last child of Washington Hawkins and Eva Thompson. Susie was very active in Amherstburg and was involved in several organizations including the Frederic [sic] Douglass Self-Improvement Club, the Young People's Social Club, where she was elected secretary in 1892, the Social Literary Society of the A.M.E. Church, where she was secretary in 1895, and the Juvenile Willing Workers, where she was among their leaders. She also performed recitations at the A.M.E. Church which included subjects such as "Lady love's choice" and "Jealousy."

Susie Hawkins married the Reverend Walter Davis, son of James Davis Jr. (the brother of Delos R. Davis and son of Mary Lewis and James Davis Sr. – see Davis Family History - <https://amherstburgfreedom.org/family-histories/davis-family/>). The *Amherstburg Echo* printed a marriage announcement for Susie Hawkins and Lewis Walter Davis on April 14, 1899 which said "Colchester North. On Tuesday evening of last week, Lewis Walter Davis, son of James

Davis, New Canaan, was united in the holy bonds of matrimony to Miss Susie A. Hawkins, of Amherstburg, at the residence of the bride's mother in Amherstburg by Rev. W. T. Artis, pastor of the A.M.E. church. The happy couple were supported by Wm. H. Simpson and Miss Carrie Simpson, respectively. They are now residing at New Canaan, where they are receiving the congratulations of their many friends." According to Susie's November 1933 obituary titled "Native of Amherstburg – Many people of Amherstburg were concerned by the death on Monday, in Windsor, of Mrs. Susan Davis, widow of the late Walter Davis, a native of this town. Mrs. Davis' maiden name was Susan Hawkins and she grew up in Amherstburg, where she was married to Walter Davis, son of James Davis, of New Canaan. They lived here until about 20 years ago and then moved to Windsor. There Mr. Davis died a number of years ago. Surviving her are two sisters, Mrs. Minnie Stevens, of Windsor, and Mrs. Sarah Scott, of Chicago, and two brothers, William Hawkins, of Windsor, and James Hawkins, of Detroit." Her death record from November 13, 1933 adds a few more details including that she was 60 years old and a housekeeper. Susie's husband Walter's death record states that he passed on September 2, 1930 in Windsor at the age of 64 years old. His death record also mentions a date of birth which was January 15, 1866 in New Canaan. Neither Susie nor Walter's obituaries list any children leading us to believe they had no children. The 1901 and 1911 Census also do not list any children for the couple.

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 where we will celebrate another amazing family.