

The Mulder Family Part 2 – Independent Women

-Strong, land-owning women in the Mulder Family. Read more below.

John Joseph Jr. married Almaney McCoy, who was the daughter of William McCoy and Esther Malawice. In the late 1800s, John Jr. and Almaney owned a farm on Walker Road, which was land that was willed to Almaney by her mother Esther Malawice-McCoy. Following Almaney's passing in 1902, she willed 17 acres of land to her son Albert Mulder, 23 acres to her son Isaac, 17 acres to John and 17 acres to her daughter Adeline. There is certainly a pattern of women owning land in the Mulder family.

John Joseph and Almaney had seven children: Isaac (1859), Albert William (1862), Alfred (1865), Adeline (1866), John Arthur (1868), Joseph (Jack) (1871), Mary E. (1872). Isaac was born in 1859 and married Ellen Hunt-Day in February of 1883. Their marriage record states that Ellen was the daughter of Joshua Hunt and Sarah Day. Ellen was also 23 years old and had never been married. Isaac was also never previously married but was a 24-year-old farmer. Sadly, Ellen passed away only a few months after their wedding in May. Isaac married a second time to Annie Pines in 1894 and no children came from this marriage. Interestingly, according to the 1911 Census, Isaac took in his sister-in-law Sarah, along with her children Harvey, Viola and William who are all listed under Isaac's household. This is in addition to a border named Steward who also lived with them. A few years later in December of 1916 Isaac passed away.

Albert William Mulder, brother of John Joseph Jr., was born in 1862 and he became a farmer/labourer, living in Colchester. He later married Delia Charlotte Johnson, the daughter of James Johnson and Mary Elizabeth Dennis-Johnson on May 27, 1884. Albert and Delia had two children: Ernest (1880) and Glenna (1901). Ernest married Ethel May Clingman on December

22, 1912. Their marriage record states that Ernest was born in Windsor, a bachelor and 27-years-old, while Ethel was born in Colchester South, a spinster and was 16.

According to the 1921 Census, Ernest was living with his wife Ethel and their children: Ivan, Vida, Geraldine, Catherine, and Yvonne. According to Ethel Mulder's obituary, it states that the couple was living in Amherstburg on the corner of Simcoe and Apsley (Sandwich) street and had eight children, the eldest of which was 12 years old and the youngest was six months at the time of her passing due to pneumonia. The 1921 Census only provides five of their children's names, but the remaining children are named in Ernest Mulder's 1975 obituary which lists his children: Kenneth of Chatham, Mrs. Harvey (Vida) Mulder of Harrow, Mrs. Ace (Geraldine) Brown and Mrs. Carl (Catherine) Berrigan, Yvonne Montgomery, Mrs. Meryle (Helen) Harrison, Mrs. Wallace (Jean) Mack. There is one person missing which is Ivan, who passed away at the age of 19 from tuberculosis.

Ernest's sister Glenna was born on December 23, 1901, and she later married Joseph Aron Walls on February 19, 1919. At the time, Glenna was 18 years old and a housekeeper. Joseph was a 25-year-old farmer, born in Maidstone and the son of Henry Walls and Parthina Perry.

There was no available information for John and Almaney's next child, Alfred, but there was significant documentation for their daughter Adeline who we will discuss next. Adeline was born in 1866 and later married William Coates who was the son of Milton Coates and Frances "Fannie" Reynolds (daughter of John Bartlett Reynolds and Lucinda Reynolds). Adeline and William lived on the property that was formerly owned by Adeline's father, John Joseph Mulder Jr. Interestingly, the 1871 Census record lists the Mulder and Coates family as living right next

to each other. Following their marriage, Adeline and William had twelve children: Maude Luella (1881), Josephine (1886), Oda (1888), Archie (1891), Claude Leo (1892), Clodia (1894), Ethel (1896), George Henry (1898), Roland (1900), Blanche Dell (1901), Alman (1903), and Dora (1905).

Adeline's daughter, Maude Louella Coates Mulder, was born on March 16, 1881 in Colchester South. She married Wiley Grayer, the son of William Grayer and Mary Elizabeth Green, on April 13, 1900 in Detroit and lived on a farm on Gore Road on the 2nd Concession. Wiley was one of the first mail carriers in Colchester South Township in the early 1900s and delivered mail on Rural Route 2 and Rural Route 4. Wiley Grayer and Maude-Mulder Coates had sixteen children: Estelle Mae (1900-1936), Mazie Luella (1902-1975), Ruby Beatrice (1903-1979), Virgil Sylvester (1905-1963), Olive Marie (1907), Lovedy Bernetta (1909), Helen Josephine (1910-1911), Wilfred (1911), Ida Evelyn (1911), Gerald (1915), Sylvanna (1916-1918), Mary (c. 1918-1922), Gladys Leone (c. 1917-1919), Violet Winifred (1916-1921), Marvin Lester (1918-1919), Kenneth (1920-2009). See Grayer family history – amherstburgfreedom.org – for further information.

Adeline and William's next child, Josephine, was born circa 1886 and according to her marriage record, she married James Taylor on January 6, 1905. At the time, Josephine or Josie was 19 and worked as a domestic. James was a 28-year-old farmer and the son of James Taylor and Dollie Green.

Josephine's brother Oda was born on July 12, 1888 in Colchester. On his birth record there is a note from Oda's aunt, Mary E. Coates, confirming his birth, which says "That I am the aunt of the said person and was on intimate terms with his family at the time of his birth; that

although I was not present at his birth, I saw the child within a few days thereafter and was informed at the time and fully believe that he was born at the place and on the date mentioned.”

No information was available for Archie, Claude Leo, Clodia, Ethel or Dora, but there are a few documents concerning Georg Henry Coates. According to his birth record, he was born on December 22, 1898 in Colchester. Just like with Oda’s birth record, there is also an interesting note on his birth record by his sister Josephine which confirms his date of birth. The note says “I am an Elder sister being 8 years senior and I was in the home just after my brother George Coates was born as I lived there and I know that he was born on the 22th day of December 1898 and [illegible word] record was lost by fire about 25 years ago.” George went on to marry Maud Boyd, the daughter of Anthony Boyd and Hattie Turner, on December 25, 1918. George was a 20-year-old farmer, while Maud was 19 and listed as “at home on farm” for her occupation.

Adeline and William’s next child, Roland, was born on November 7, 1900, while his sister Blanche Dell was born on December 24, 1901 and Almana was born on January 24, 1903.

Sadly, Adeline passed away around 1902. In the 1911 Census, it lists William Coates as living with his 2nd wife Elsie, along with Oda, Archie, Caud [sic], George and Dora, but also William’s step-children: Enoch Thompson, Andrew, Lorance, Eliza, Elizabeth, Lenny, and Florance. This was in addition to a lodger named Eliza Sheppard and grandson, but the later person’s name is illegible.

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 3.