

## **The Saunders Family Part 4 – The Nurse**

Peter Stokes and Sarah Estella King had one child, a daughter named Mae Elizabeth who was born on September 25, 1895 in Anderdon. According to her Naturalization Application from 1941, she was working as a cook, was not married and had no children. Sadly, a few years later, Mae Elizabeth passed away in April 1946 at the age of 50. Her obituary adds that she was a practical nurse and received her training at the Chicago School of Nursing. Before returning to Amherstburg, she lived in Ann Arbor.

As mentioned previously, Mary Ellen Saunders King was first married to Albert King, but also later married Willis Chapman. According to his obituary, “Willis Chapman, an old resident on St. Arnaud street, [passed] Tuesday evening of last week in the 68<sup>th</sup> year of his age. He was a native of Mayville, Ky., and came to Amherstburg forty years ago. He was twice married and is survived by his second wife. Funeral services were conducted in the A.M.E. church Friday afternoon by Rev. Sterling Harris a former pastor, assisted by Rev. Graine, present pastor, and it was under the auspices of Stevens Oddfellows Lodge, of which the deceased had been a member. Lee’s band from Detroit, was present and marched at the head of the procession. Burial was in Rose Hill cemetery the pallbearers being Daniel Scott, Fred Chavis, Walter Scott and Oswald Simpson. A large number of mourning relatives and friends attended the funeral.” Willis’ death record provides further information and states that Willis worked as a Teamster and was the son of Julia Hulbert, but his father’s name is not listed.

Willis’ wife Mary Ellen Saunders Chapman’s obituary from November 1937 also shares details of her life and says “Mary Ellen Chapman, mother of Mrs. Peter Stokes, died at their home Wednesday noon, aged 76 years. She suffered a stroke a week before while in the yard, and never rallied. The funeral is being held this Friday afternoon to Rose Hill cemetery, with

funeral services in the home, King Street. Mrs. Chapman was a daughter of Benjamin Saunders, and was born on the second concession of Anderdon, one of four, and the last. Two of her brothers are well remembered, Aaron and Leonard. The other brother George died many years ago. She was married twice, first to Albert (Doe) King, and second to Willis Chapman. She had four children by her first husband, only one of whom is living, Mrs. Stokes.”

**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.**