

The Taylor Family Part 2 – A Pioneer

Now that we have discussed Dolly Green's family, we will move on by discussing Dolly and her husband James Taylor who passed away in 1904. His obituary says "We are pained to record the death of James Taylor one of the pioneers of the township who passed away on Sunday evening, Jan. 17th, about 6 o'clock, in the 70th year of his age. He came from Louisville, Kentucky, when quite a young man, he first lived in Anderdon with his grandfather. After he lived a long time with the late Dr. Reynolds, of Malden. He was married twice, his first wife was Martha Harris, the sister of John Harris, of Sandwich. By this union were born to him two daughters, Frances and Amanda both deceased. Some years after his first wife died he was again married to Dolly Melvina, youngest daughter of the late Joseph Green. By this union there were born to him four children, Melissa (deceased) James at home, Eliza (deceased) Martha at home. His last wife predeceased him about five years ago. He was converted about 14 or 15 years ago under the Rev. Thorton Moriss and attached himself to the first Baptist church of Colchester, soon after his conversion, in which church he lived a consistent Christian. Mr. Taylor was sick about three months and bore his affliction with patience. He was a good husband, kind parent and a good neighbor. He leaves his children besides real estate something greater, namely a legacy of good character."

James and Dolly had at least four children: Melissa Jane, James George "Isaac", Sarah Eliza (some documents say Eliza Melvina) and Martha. According to her birth record, Melissa (spelt Malissa on the birth record) was born on May 12, 1873. Sadly, Melissa Jane passed away in 1881 at eight years old and Sarah Eliza passed away shortly after, in 1883, at the age of 3. The last daughter, Martha, was born on May 20, 1883. On August 30, 1905, she married Jesse

Freeman who, according to their marriage record, was the son of Bryant Freeman and Elizabeth Garl. The couple had at least five children: Jesse, Russell, Virgil, James and Kathleen.

Martha, Melissa Jane and Sarah Eliza's brother, James George "Isaac", according to his birth record, was born on February 25, 1876. He later married Mary E. Matthews, the daughter of Edmund Matthews and Sarah Mary Mason, on April 16, 1894 in Detroit. James George and Mary Matthews had at least four children named Henry/Harry Augustus (1894), Sarah (1896), James Henry (1898), and John Guy (1899).

According to his birth record, Harry Augustus was born on April 17, 1894. Sadly, Harry Augustus passed away at 6 months old in 1894. Harry's sister Sarah Beatrice was born in 1896. She married Prince Chase on February 14, 1912, and according to their marriage record, Prince Chase was the son of William H. and Rebecca Chase. If you look at the 1911 Census you will see Prince living with his parents (listed as Henry and Rebecca) and his siblings William, Stella and John. According to her Border Crossing form, Sarah moved to Hamtramck, Michigan in July 1912 to live there permanently with her husband. Prince and Sarah had several children. The 1921 Census lists a few of their children: Charles, Beatrice, Arytia and Leroy. According to the records, Prince and Sarah also had two other daughters named Georgetta Warreatta and Betty Ozalla, but they sadly passed away at young ages. Kim Elliott adds that their children also included Vivian, Effie and Warren.

James George "Isaac" and Mary's son John Guy lived in Detroit where he worked as a cook. He also married Mary Lockhart who was the daughter of John Lockhart and Eva Allen. Guy and Mary married in July 1921. There is also a WWI Draft Registration Card for Guy which says that he was 5 feet six inches and 170 pounds. This document confirms that he was a cook

but was not working at the time. James and Mary's first son James Henry was born on June 6, 1898. James Henry married Myrtle Lucretia Walls, who was the daughter of John Henry and Parthenia Hannah Perry-Walls (daughter of Henry Perry and Kizzior Thomas Perry, who was the daughter of Thomas 'Chief White Cloud' Hopkins of the Cherokee Nation in Virginia), on April 12, 1922 in Detroit. The couple had thirteen children: Mildred (Donald) Harris, Eunice (Grenville Brood) Harris, Carl James Jr., Ethelda (John) Richardson, Wilbert (Eleanore Browning), Delores (Jack) Robinson, Donna (Elmer, Lloyd Mulder) Elliot, Anne (Robert) Davis, Lois (Clyde) Lewis, Paul (Lydia Olbey), Sheldon (Lucille Davis), Robert (Elizabeth Thompson), Daryl (Rose Marie, Jackie).

Kim Elliott, James and Myrtle's grandson and the son of their daughter Donna Delaine Taylor, would like to give credit to Tamara Muise and himself for the following information on the Walls family. Myrtle was the granddaughter of John Freeman and Jane (King) Walls whose story which includes the escape of John, who was enslaved, and Jane (a former owner's wife) from a plantation in North Carolina, in addition to their marriage in 1856, are documented in the book *The Road That Lead To Somewhere* by Dr. Bryan Walls. Kim adds that the couple settled "on a homestead in Puce - Maidstone, on the outskirts of WINDSOR, ON which they purchased from the Refugee Home Society lead by abolitionists Henry and Mary Bibb. Although, John Freeman and Jane married [in] Detroit before crossing over into Canada with three of her British American children, Myrtle was the daughter and youngest child of their eldest mixed race child John Henry. Perhaps this is why Myrtle inherited the family homestead on East Puce Road, before her and her husband James Henry Taylor (who maintained the taxes on the property) donated it to the Walls family heritage committee. The private property is now a National Heritage Site and the burial ground of John Freeman, his wife Jane and a few other relatives."

Kim also mentioned that “Across the street and down the road from their enduring homestead, is the Puce Baptist Church which also had its beginnings in the original cabin built by John Freeman and Jane Walls. It too is now a provincially designated heritage site. Myrtle’s siblings from youngest to eldest were Frank, Harding, Joseph, Jessie, John, Gertrude, Eva and Lydia.”

Kim would like to credit Allen E. Walls, who authored the audio book “Timberland” that tells the story of William Perry’s relationship with Henry Ford for the following information. “It’s also notable that Myrtle’s maternal uncle William Perry (a bricklayer by trade), saved the life of Henry Ford when he was hired to help the founder of the Ford Motor Company clear land in Michigan for the first automotive research/production plant. Because of his life saving heroic’s Henry Ford not only guaranteed William a job for life as a custodian in one of his plants, he became the first automaker to hire [Black persons] en masse [,w]hich was a pivotal factor in causing the great migration of African Americans from the South to Northern urban areas like Detroit, Cleveland and Chicago. Not only did Myrtle’s husband James Henry and her brother-in-law Orville benefit from Ford’ Motor Company’s non-prejudicial hiring practices in Canada, a few of her son’s, many of her grandchildren, and distant relatives have also been benefactors of her uncle’s good deed [,e]specially since Chrysler Canada and General Motors followed suit.”

Kim ends by saying “the ultimate legacy of James Henry and Myrtle Lucretia Taylor was the fruitfulness of their marriage. Not only did they have 13 children, 100 grandchildren and hundreds more great grandchildren, their descendants continue to celebrate their lives with the Taylor Family Reunion which marks its 40th consecutive year at MicMac Park on the West Side of Windsor. Fortunately, members of the families of James Taylor and Myrtle Walls’ siblings

also attend this unifying event annually. With up to 500 hundred direct descendants they are among the largest close knit families in Canada and North America.”

Now we will return to discussing James George “Isaac” Taylor who also married Jessie Belle Walls. Jessie was the daughter of John Henry Walls and Parthenia Hannah Perry. On their marriage record from February 14, 1912, James’ occupation is listed as “Huckster.” That being said, James’ primary occupation was a farmer, as discussed previously. James’ children (Lloyd, Wellington, and others) would also help him work the land and they grew crops such as tobacco, corn, other vegetables and red and white grapes. According to Michael Taylor, there were also large walnut and cherry trees on the property, and the family also raised pigs and cows, in addition to selling milk to the Dairy.

Michael was lucky enough to speak with the late Fred Johnson who was a respected local farmer and keeper of his own family’s history. Fred shared his memories of the Taylor family and said (paraphrased by Michael) “when James Jr. ran the farm, he was a very aggressive and successful farmer. James was one of the first farmers in the area to take his products over to the Detroit market. It wasn’t until the other local farmers [saw] how successful James Jr. was working the Detroit market that they decided to give it a try.” Advertisements in the *Amherstburg Echo* during the late 1920s and 1930s also describe transactions for James Taylor & Sons including the selling of spinach to the Toronto Market, the purchasing of “poultry for Christmas trade,” and ice delivery. Interestingly, Taylor & Sons used to deliver ice to people’s homes for their ice boxes or to businesses that needed to keep their products cold. Michael adds that mechanical refrigerators in homes didn’t become widely available until later and because they were expensive, not everyone had that luxury. This meant that there was “a good dollar to be made selling ice to homes and businesses that needed it.”

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.

REFERENCES: by Michael Taylor (1 to 18) & Kim Elliott (19 to 22)

- 1) James Taylor Sr's (born circa 1834 in Kentucky) obituary was published in The Amherstburg Echo on February 5, 1904. It was on page 5. I first became aware of this obituary, when Renard Taylor sent me a copy. It was from this obituary, that I received from Renard, I was able to piece together the early years of James Taylor Sr's timeline in Canada West using ancestry.ca.
http://ink.scholarsportal.info/viewer/cecil/focus/ink/newspapers/echo/01_1904/000251-x0-y0-z1-r0-0-0?q=James+Taylor+
- 2) Melissa Jane's Taylor's birth May 12, 1873; Detail: Series: MS929; Reel: 13; Title: Ontario, Canada Births, 1869 to 1913 Archives of Ontario; Ancestry.ca
- 3) Melissa Taylor passed July 20, 1881; Detail: Archives of Ontario; Series: MS935; Reel: 27; Title: Ontario, Canada, Deaths, 1869-1938 and Deaths Overseas, 1939-1947; Ancestry.ca
- 4) James George Isaac Taylor's birth February 25, 1876; Detail: Series: MS929; Reel: 22; Title: Ontario, Canada Births, 1869 to 1913 Archives of Ontario; Ancestry.ca
- 5) Sarah Eliza Taylor's birth February 17, 1880; Detail: Series: MS929; Reel 42; Title: Ontario, Canada Births, 1869 to 1913, Archives of Ontario; Ancestry.ca
- 6) Sarah Eliza Taylor passed on February 5, 1883; Detail: Archives of Ontario; Series: MS935; Reel: 33; Title: Ontario, Canada, Deaths, 1869-1938 and Deaths Overseas, 1939-1947; Ancestry.ca
- 7) Martha A. Taylor's birth May 20, 1883/ Source: Ancestry.ca 1901 Canadian Census, Page 38, Line 6
- 8) James George Isaac Taylor's marriage to Mary Mathews on April 16, 1894 in Wayne, Michigan; Title: Michigan, County Marriages, 1822 to 1940, Record Number: 15901, Ancestry.com
- 9) Harry Augustus Taylor Birth April 17, 1894; Detail: Series: MS929; Reel: 120; Title: Ontario, Canada Births, 1869 to 1913 Archives of Ontario; Ancestry.ca
- 10) Harry Augustus Taylor passed October 30, 1894; Detail: Archives of Ontario; Series: MS935; Reel: 71; Title: Ontario, Canada, Deaths, 1869-1938 and Deaths Overseas, 1939-1947; Ancestry.ca

11) Sarah Beatrice Taylor's birth September 1896 in Harrow/ Source: Ancestry.ca 1911 Canadian Census, Essex County, Colchester, page 3, line 28; Ancestry.ca

12) Dolly Melvina Green Taylor passed away on March 3, 1899 (of Bright's Disease). She was 51 years old; Detail: Archives of Ontario; Series: MS935; Reel: 91; Title: Ontario, Canada, Deaths, 1869-1938 and Deaths Overseas, 1939-1947, line 7; Ancestry.ca
http://ink.scholarsportal.info/viewer/cecil/focus/ink/newspapers/echo/01_1898/002651-x0-y0-z1-r0-0-0?q=James-Taylor-Joseph-Green-Martha-Taylor

13) Guy Taylor born September 8, 1899, Source: Ancestry.ca 1901 Canada Census, Colchester South, Essex County, page 38, line 10. i) Guy Taylor married Mary Lockhart July 1921 in Wayne Michigan, Title: Michigan, Marriage Records 1867-1952; Record Number: 216190; Ancestry.com

14) Mary Mathews Taylor passed on September 13, 1901 (cancer of the womb) She was 24 years old; Detail: Archives of Ontario; Series: ms935; Reel: 100; Title: Ontario, Canada, Deaths, 1869-1938 and Deaths Overseas, 1939-1947; Ancestry.ca

15) Martha A. Taylor's marriage to Jesse Freeman, August 30, 1905 in Detroit, Michigan; Title: Michigan County Marriages 1822 to 1940, Record Number: 47168, Ancestry.com i) Martha & Jesse Freeman's children: Jesse, Russell, Virgil, James and Kathleen. Title: 1910 United States Federal Census; Detail: Hamtramck, Wayne, Michigan; Roll: T624_678; Page: 29A; Enumeration District: 0292; FHL microfilm: 1374691; Ancestry.com page 57, lines 22 to 55. Title: 1920 United States Federal Census; Detail: Hamtramck, Wayne, Michigan; Roll: T625_820; Page: 10B; Enumeration District: 744; Image: 324, Ancestry.com page 20, lines 56 to 60 Title: 1930 United States Federal Census; Detail: Hamtramck, Wayne, Michigan; Roll: 1073; Page: 1B; Enumeration District: 0963; Image: 319.0 FHL microfilm: 2340808, Ancestry.com page 2, lines 89 to 92.

16) James George Isaac Taylor married Jessie Belle Walls on February 14, 1912 in Detroit, Michigan; Title: Michigan, Marriage Records, 1867-1952; Detail: Record Number: 83262, Ancestry.com

17) The information describing business activity on James George Isaac & Jessie Taylor's farm were provided by Marvyn Taylor, who was born on the Taylor Farm, and Fred Johnson, who was James cousin. I had several conversations with both. i) The reference to James George Isaac Taylor and Sons delivering ice to Colchester residence was in The Amherstburg Echo on May 27, 1932 page 5.
http://ink.ourontario.ca/viewer/cecil/focus/ink/newspapers/echo/01_1931/003671-x0-y0-z1-r0-0-0?q=James+Taylor ii) The reference to news stating that James George Isaac Taylor was shipping spinach to the Toronto Market was in The Amherstburg Echo on May 16, 1930 page 4.
http://ink.ourontario.ca/viewer/cecil/focus/ink/newspapers/echo/01_1929/003530-x0-y0-z1-r0-0-0?q=James+Taylor iii) The reference to James George Isaac Taylor and Sons were selling poultry for Christmas trade was in The Amherstburg Echo December 13, 1929 page 10.
http://ink.ourontario.ca/viewer/cecil/focus/ink/newspapers/echo/01_1929/002380-x0-y0-z1-r0-0-0?q=James+Taylor+%26+Sons

18) Sarah Beatrice Taylor's married Prince Chase on February 14, 1912; Detail: Series: MS932; Reel: 199; Title: Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801 to 1928, Archives of Ontario; Ancestry.ca i) Sarah & Prince Chase children: Beatrice, Arytia, Vivian, Effie, Louise, Charles, Leroy, and Warren. Source: February 20, 1941 Obituary in the Windsor Star of Sarah Taylor Chase.
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/45367409/obituary-for-sarah-beatrice-chase-aged/>

19) The information regarding the parents, siblings and children of Kim Elliott's maternal grandparents James Henry & Myrtle Lucretia (Walls) Taylor comes from their respective obituaries. That information was supported by Kim's discussions with his mother Donna Elliott (James & Myrtle Taylors 7th child) and Cousin Renard Taylor (Wellington & Nettie Taylors 2nd youngest son).

20) The account of John Freeman Walls marrying his former slave owner Jane King (the former spouse of slave master Daniel King), is well documented in documentary novel *The Road That Lead to Somewhere* by Dr. Bryan Walls. A novel which was based upon historical government documents in Canada and the U.S.A, as well as the eyewitness account of our aunt Stella Butler who knew our grandparents John Freeman and Jane (King) Walls personally.

21) The information concerning the founding of Puce Baptist Church is supportive by historical documents in the Puce Baptist Church Archives as well the novel *The Road That Lead To Somewhere* by Dr. Bryan Walls.

22) The information presented about William Perry's relationship with Henry Ford comes from the audio book series "Timberland". It was written and narrated by Allen E. Walls.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGLVLF0lzU0&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2jgBlh4m7vV Hunlhs_XspJYZgyQsPvcQ1NtaIhyEcqC8XROIA2ES4kq1c