

### **Holland Family History Part 3 – Settling in Bronte**

Now we will return to William Henson Holland, son of Leatha and William August Howard. After that, William Henson Holland's brother Thomas John will be discussed. As mentioned, William married Margaret Felson. The 1851 Hamilton census lists Margaret with her parents Alfred and Margaret W. Felson and her siblings Mary, (Jane) Anne, Hester, Daniel, and L. Ann. William and Margaret's children include Rebecca Martine, John Augustus, William Chappie, Gertrude Elizabeth, Harriet and Evelyn. The 1871 Census for Trafalgar Township lists Margaret and William living in William's brother Thomas' household, along with William's children Emmanette and Rebecca. There is a separate note in the Museum's family history binders that says Emme Holland died in July (no year listed) of inflammation. Emme/Emmanette is not listed in the 1881 Census so she had to have passed before that. The 1891 Census for Trafalgar Township lists William Holland (spelt Howland) who worked as a 'fruit grower', along with his wife Margaret and their children Rebecca, John, William, Gertie, and Hattie. Not list is Evelyn who was born after this census was taken.

Rebecca married Brown Wesley Payne and their children include Evelyn Christine who married Jackson Starling and Brown Hugo who married Ruth Boyd. In Rebecca's obituary there are further details provided and it says "Native of Canada Dies Here At 95 – "Mrs. Rebecca M. Holland Payne, 95, a resident of Beckley for the past 50 years, died Friday at her home at 417 S. Fayette St. Funeral services will be conducted Sunday at 2 p.m. at Ebenezer Baptist Church with the Rev. Corey O. Mitchell officiating. Burial will follow in Greenwood Memorial Park. Born in Bronte, Ontario, Canada, October 27, 1868, she was the daughter of the late William Henson Holland and Margaret Felson Holland. At the age of 16, she became a member of the St. Paul AME Church at Hamilton, Ontario. Later she came to the United States. On Jan. 19, 1910, she married Brown W. Payne, who practiced law in Beckley for 31 years and preceded her in death

in 1943. Survivors include one daughter, Mrs. Evelyn Starling of Cleveland, Ohio; one son, Brown Hugo Payne of Beckley and Tallahassee, Fla.; one sister, Mrs. Evelyn Sparkman of Detroit, Mich.; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. She was a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church. The body will remain at the Wright Anderson Funeral Home until one hour prior to services, when it will be taken to the church. Friends may call after 4 p.m. today at the funeral home.”

According to the Museum’s records and information provided by Janice Harris, Rebecca’s brother John Augustus Holland moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and remained unmarried. No further information was available for him. John’s brother, William Chappie Holland, married Jean Watson and moved to Atlantic City, New Jersey.

William’s sister Gertrude married William Bell, the son of George Bell and Bridget Brush, on July 22, 1903, in Hamilton. A Holland family record titled ‘Holland’s Heroes’ includes a letter from James Avery (husband of Aileen Bell Avery) to Bill which says “Dear Bill: Here is a poem I received from a soldier. William J. Bell of World War I who has several medals of honor. He is now in the Christie Street Hospital in Toronto, ON., Canada. IN fact, he has been hospitalized for many years since returning, due to severe wounds inflicted by German machine guns. – James Avery, New York.” The poem is also included and says:

No more for them the drumbeat  
Or brazen bugles blare  
Nor sight of silken standards  
Flung to the evening air.  
But just as glorious memory  
Of gallant deeds well done.  
Where Canada’s loyal legions  
Had fought their fight and won.  
They met their foe at Courcellette  
And drove home to his lair,  
They stormed the slope at V...

While death soared on the air,  
When C.... found the ready  
To do their deeds again  
To mount the ridge at V...  
O'er heaps of H...  
Now to the sons of those men  
The torch is thrown again,  
... will the fail or falter  
... will crush the Hun again.

An additional record from the same source says, "Private William J. Bell of the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division, Machine Gun Corp. Service no. 175092 was hospitalized upon return to Canada and subsequently died on June 16, 1919 from injuries sustained in Germany."

According to records in our family history collection, their children include Aileen, Gordon, Gerald and Ewan. Aileen was born on August 5, 1904, in Hamilton and married James Avery (mentioned above) and moved to Harlem. According to 'Holland's Heroes' Aileen became the first Black female city council member in New York, New York. Her brother Gordon Richard Bell was born on July 13, 1906, in Hamilton, while Gerald was born on December 30, 1907 and married Lucille Sellow. According to 'Holland's Heroes' Gerald Bell served as a fighter pilot for the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Service Force known as the Devil's Brigade during WWII.

According to 'Holland's Heroes' Gerald's brother Ewan Bell was hired by the company Stelco in the 1940s and became the first Black foreman at the company. Ewan was born on October 29, 1909 and married Audrey Harrison, the daughter of Edith Lewis and Robert Harrison who worked as a Porter. Interestingly, Edith Lewis Harrison was a cousin to Norman 'Pinky' Lewis, a respected trainer for McMaster University and the Hamilton Tiger Cats, and Ray Lewis, the first Canadian-born Black athlete to win an Olympic medal (bronze).

Additionally, Edith and Robert Harrison's daughter Yvonne, the sister of Audrey, was married to Lincoln Alexander, the first Black Canadian to be a Member of Parliament in Canada.

**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.**