

The Boyd Family Part 2- Military Connection

Ernest's brother Walter Trumen/Tryman is next. He married Florence H. Hurley, daughter of Robert Cook and Mary Brown, on August 7, 1901 in Detroit. Florence was previously married to a man named Robert Hurley, the son of Rev. Dr. Hurley and Race Tale, on March 2, 1899 in Windsor. Florence and Walter are listed on the 1910 Detroit Census along with their children Charles and Emery, and their niece Pearl Baylis (daughter of Walter's sister Maria). Further documentation was available for Charles and Emery. On February 7, 1920, Charles married Bessie Brown, daughter of Fred Brown and Martha Wallace, in Detroit. I was also able to find Emery's birth record which states that he was born on November 10, 1904 in Detroit, and his death record states that he passed away on April 28, 1937 in Cleveland Ohio. This record also shares that he was single and working as a Porter. The informant was Emery's aunt, Esther Boyd Freeman.

Walter's sister Maria is next. She married Robert Baylis, the son of Robert Baylis Sr. and Elizabeth Ryer-Baylis, on August 14, 1875 in Colchester. In the January 29, 1932 issue of the *Amherstburg Echo* it mentions an 80th birthday celebration for Robert Baylis, saying "The home of Mr. and Mrs. John Day, seventh concession, was beautifully decorated on Wednesday, January 13th, on the occasion of the eightieth birthday of Robert Baylis, Sr. A well worded address was read by Mrs. Day, after which Mr. Baylis was presented with a beautiful copy of the Holy Bible and a pair of reading glasses for which Mr. Baylis thanked them heartily. The evening was spent in prayer and song. At the conclusion of the evening a delicious lunch was served by Mrs. Day ... Mr. Baylis gave a very inspiring talk on 'The sin of the present world' and concluded with 'lay not up for yourself treasures on earth where moth and thieves break through and steal, but rather lay up for yourself treasures in Heaven and prepare to meet thy

God.' Mr. Baylis is a pioneer of this district and we are glad to say is hole [sic] and hearty for one of his age. He is held in high respect by all."

At the time of this publication, Maria Ann had passed away many years earlier, on April 30, 1914 in Colchester at the age of 57. In her obituary it says, Maria Ann was the "eldest daughter of the late John Boyd of Colchester North, and was married to Robert Baylis of Malden, August 14, 1875 and took up their residence in this township. To them were born twelve children, of whom nine are living – Robert, of Kalamazoo; Elisha, of Windsor; John, of Malden; Herman, Ellen (Mrs. Meddon), Pearl and Cora, of Detroit; Hattie, of Colchester South. Besides her husband and children she leaves to mourn four brothers and three sisters – Andrew, of Amherstburg; Ernest, of Chicago; Anthony, Walter, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Freeman and Mrs. Binga, of Detroit, and eighteen grandchildren. The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon being very largely attended. Mrs. Baylis was a devoted Christian woman and held in high respect in the community."

Many years later, on November 9, 1938, Robert Baylis passed away in Inkster, Wayne, Michigan at the age of 87. On November 18, 1938, the *Amherstburg Echo* informed its readers of Robert's passing by writing "A highly respected native of Colchester, Mr. Robert Baylis, passed away at the home of his daughter in Detroit Wednesday of last week and was buried in Windsor following services at the Baptist Church, Saturday." A few days later, on November 25th, the *Amherstburg Echo* shared another obituary for Robert which said "Mr. Baylis' Life – The late Mr. Robert Baylis, who passed away November 9 at the home of his daughter, Pearl Tatum of Inkster, Mich., at the age of 87 years, was born in Malden Township, and married Maria Boyd, who predeceased him years ago. To this union 12 children were born of whom nine are living, including John of Colchester South. Services were held in the First Baptist Church,

Windsor. Interment in Windsor cemetery. Because of an industrious life even to the last and being highly respected, he is mourned by many.”

Robert Jr. and Maria Ann had thirteen children: Robert (1876), Iva Dell (1876), Elisha (1880), Forest (1883), John Edward (1884), Mahaliah (1886), Herman (1888), Malidia (1889), Pearlie (1890), Josephus (1893), Cora (1896), Bertha (1899), and Hattie (1901). Robert Jr. and Maria farmed in Malden Township for a time, but in the early 1900s moved to the United States which is recorded on the 1901 US Census, indicating that they along with Cora, Bertha and Hattie were living in Hamtramck, Michigan. It is likely that many of their remaining children stayed in Canada.

We'll begin this section with Robert Jr. and Maria Ann's first child Robert F. Baylis who was born on June 11, 1876 in Malden. He married Ida Brooks, the daughter of Benjamin Brooks and Delia Brown, on July 15, 1896 in Windsor. Robert F. and Ida had at least four children: Josephus/Joseph, Robert J., George Henry and Peter. Josephus was born on May 26, 1902 in Windsor and according to his death record he sadly died at age 16 of influenza on November 4, 1918 in Windsor. This record also mentioned that he worked as a stamper. Robert J. Baylis was born on May 23, 1900 and passed away on May 5, 1941 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, while George Henry was born on April 16, 1904 and Peter sadly passed away at 13 months on April 13, 1908.

Robert and Maria Ann's next child was Iva Dell Baylis. The death record for an "Ivy" Dell Balis says she was 15 years old at the time of her passing on November 2, 1893. Iva Dell's brother, Elisha, was born on April 5, 1880 in Malden and later married Martha Brooks, the daughter of Benjamin Brooks and Delia Brown, on September 19, 1900 in Windsor. The *Windsor Daily Star* printed obituaries for both Martha and Elisha. Martha's obituary appears on January 8, 1944 and says "Mrs. Martha Baylis, 59, of 465 Niagara street died at her home

yesterday following a heart attack. She was born in Anderdon, and settled in Windsor 50 years ago, coming from Amherstburg. She was a member of the Church of God in Christ. Surviving are her husband, Elisha; seven daughters, Mrs. George Colbert and Mrs. William Tolson, of Detroit; Mrs. Cleveland Jackson, Mrs. Lee Elliott, Mrs. Howard Berry, Mrs. Charles Chase and Miss Margaret Baylis of Windsor; three sons, John and Kenneth of Windsor, and Trooper Clayton Baylis stationed at Camp Borden; two brothers, George Brooks of Windsor and Benjamin Brooks of Detroit.”

Elisha’s obituary appears on June 25, 1955 which says “A resident of Windsor for 60 years, Elisha Bayliss, 75, of 971 McDougall, died in Hotel Dieu Friday after a lengthy illness. Mr. Baylis was born in Colchester and came to Windsor from Harrow. He was a retired city employee. His wife, Martha died in 1944. He is survived by three sons, John and Kenneth, both of Windsor; Clayton (Mike), Chatham; six daughters, Mrs. George Colbert (Ethel) and Mrs. William Tolson (Ruby), both of Detroit; Mrs. Howard Berry (Pearl), Mrs. Elmer Elliot (Gertrude), Mrs. Charles Chase (Bessie) and Mrs. George Hamilton (Margaret), all of Windsor; two brothers, John, Harrow, and Herman, Detroit; four sisters, Mrs. Pearl Tatum, Mrs. Hattie Lewis, and Mrs. Bertha Harris, all of Inkster, Mich., and Mrs. Ellen Meaders, Detroit.”

According to the 1921 Census, Elisha and Martha had the following children: Ethel, Beatrice, Ruby, Bertha, Pearl, John, Gertrude, Bessie, Louis, Margaret, Kenneth and Clayton. This list should also include Delia Baylis who was born on October 22, 1904, but she sadly passed away the following year on December 27, 1905 in Windsor. This is in addition to Elma Baylis who passed away at 8 months on December 15, 1911 and Louis Baylis who was born on October 13, 1916, but sadly passed away in Windsor on February 10, 1930 at the age of 13. Of Elisha and Martha’s remaining children, information on Ethel, Emma Beatrice, Ruby, Bertha,

Pearl, John, and Gertrude was available. According to the 1921 Census, Ethel married into the Colborne family, but her husband's first name is not listed.

Ethel's sister Emma Beatrice was born on April 17, 1903 and her obituary from the *Windsor Daily Star*, which appeared on October 30, 1950, says "Mrs. Wilmot Jackson – Mrs. Beatrice E. Jackson, 47, of 658 Mercer street, died at Metropolitan General Hospital on Saturday after a long illness. Born in Windsor, Mrs. Jackson had lived here all her life. She was a member of Mount Zion Church, Windsor. She is survived by her husband, Wilmot; her father, Elisha Baylis of Windsor; three daughters, Mrs. Eleanor Knight of Windsor, Miss Ella Jackson and Mrs. Judy Walker of Detroit; three brothers, John and Kenneth Baylis, of Windsor, and Clayton of Chatham; and six sisters, Mrs. Ethel Colbert and Mrs. Ruby Tolson of Detroit, Mrs. Pearl Berry, Mrs. Gertrude Elliott, Mrs. Bessie Chase, and Miss Margaret Baylis, all of Windsor." Mentioned in this obituary is Ella Jackson who is discussed in our November 2021 Black History Series Presentation "Fighting a Double War: Remembering Windsor's Unsung Black Heroes Who Fought Fascism Overseas and Racism at Home." To watch, click

<https://www.facebook.com/AmherstburgFreedom/videos/4667025306651680>

Emma Beatrice's sister Ruby was born on March 15, 1906, Bertha Edith was born on August 28, 1907 and John was born on April 2, 1909, all in Windsor. Their sister Pearl's obituary appears in the *Windsor Daily Star* on July 4, 1955 and says "Mrs. Howard Berry – A resident of Windsor all her life, Mrs. Pearl Berry, 47, of 539 Mercer, died Saturday in Metropolitan Hospital after a brief illness. Surviving are her husband, Howard E.; six sons, Robert Howard, David, Herman, Ernest and John, all of Windsor; three daughters, Mrs. John Ford (Helena), Cleveland; Roberta and Pearl, home; two brothers, John and Kenneth Baylis, both of Windsor; Clayton, Chatham; five sisters, Mrs. George Colbert and Mrs. William Tolson, both

of Detroit; Mrs. Elmer Elliott, Mrs. Charles Chase and Mrs. George Hamilton, all of Windsor. Also surviving is a grandchild. Her father, Elisha Baylis, died June 24, 1955.”

The *Windsor Daily Star* also printed an obituary for Gertrude Violet Baylis Elliot, wife of Elmer D. Elliot, on November 22, 1955 which shares the passing of “Gertrude Violet, 42 years, Nov. 21, 1955, at Hotel Dieu Hospital. Formerly of 405 McDougall. Beloved wife of Elmer D. Dear mother of Martha, Elmer, William, Joseph, Mitchell and John, of Windsor; Donald and James, Amherstburg; Sister of John and Kenneth Baylis, Windsor; Clayton, of Chatham; Mrs. George Colbert (Ethel), Mrs. William Tolson (Ruby), Detroit; Mrs. Charles Chase (Bessie), Mrs. George Hamilton (Margaret) of Windsor. Three grandchildren.”

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.