

The Bush Family History Part 2 – Firemen on the D.&C. Steamer

The next branch of the Bush family is for Luther Bush and I was able to find significantly more information on this branch. Luther Bush married Martha Kirtley. Both are mentioned several times in *The Amherstburg Echo*. Martha seems to have been quite involved in the church. An article from May 19, 1882, reported “Walter Anderson and Sylvester Williams were presented with ‘two handsomely bound volumes of Burns’ and Scott’s poems, a Russia leather pocket album, a scrap book and silk handkerchiefs, by the ladies of the First Baptist and B.M.E. churches, of this town, in recognition of the services rendered by them at the late concert. The presentation was made by Mrs. Luther Bush and Miss Sarah Monroe, and took the recipients by surprise. Messrs. Anderson and Williams well deserve all they received.” In 1893 *The Amherstburg Echo* shared Martha’s involvement in another gift presentation. It says “A number of scholars of the A.M.E. Sabbath School met at the residence of Mrs. Luther Bush Wednesday evening and then repaired to the home of Principal J. H. Alexander where they presented him with a beautiful rocking chair.” A further note. John H. Alexander was the principal at the King Street School in Amherstburg. The following year, on November 23, 1894, *The Amherstburg Echo* reported “The ladies of the Open Hand Society of the A.M.E. church will give a grand dinner and supper on Thanksgiving Day, (Thursday) ... Everybody invited, Martha Artis, Martha Smith, Fanny Bell and Martha Bush, committee.”

Martha’s husband Luther Bush is also mentioned in *The Amherstburg Echo*. On April 5, 1889, it was reported that “There has been a regular exodus of ... mariners this week, they having gone to the various lake ports to join their boats for the season’s navigation. Among those who have gone are ... Luther Bush and George Brantford, of the Atlantic.” Almost a decade later, on September 16, 1898, *The Amherstburg Echo* wrote that “Albert Brown, cook on the

Imperial, is taking a holiday of two weeks. Luther Bush is taking his place in the meantime.”

Decades later, on June 3, 1927, Luther is listed in a different profession. The article states “Luther Bush, of Amherstburg, Daniel Reynolds, Moses Bayliss and Henry Harris, of Colchester, were compelled to quit their jobs as firemen on the D.&C. Steamer, City of the Straits, because they were Canadians.” No further explanation is given.

Luther was also involved in organizations. On January 4, 1895, *The Amherstburg Echo* reported that “Luther Bush elected Curator for the Social Literary Society of the A.M.E. church. Organization met every Wednesday evening.” On January 21, 1898, Luther Bush also appears on the Executive Committee for Amherstburg’s Ward 3 at a convention of the South Essex Liberals which took place in Kingsville at the town hall. It was described as “the largest and most enthusiastic convention ever held in the Riding and augurs well for the success of the nominee of the party in the coming election for the Local Legislature. The utmost harmony and unanimity prevailed and the delegates went home after the meeting determined to roll up the largest majority in the history of the Riding. The party is well organized for the election which will soon be at hand.”

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.