

### **The Bush Family History Part 4 – Settlers of New Canaan**

The third branch of the Bush family that will be discussed is the family line connected to George Washington Bush and his wife Susan Bell. According to Milo Johnson's book *New Canaan: Freedom-Land* George Washington Bush and Susan Bell were born enslaved and came to Canada through Amherstburg, settling in New Canaan, Colchester North circa 1844, with a residence on Lot 76 of the 6<sup>th</sup> Concession. Johnson adds that George's farm was 47 acres with 27 acres in crops with the rest being pasture, orchards and woodland. Milo Johnson also states that "By 1891, the Bush household, now located on Lot 18 of South Malden Road, was quite large."

I was only able to find a death record for Susan Bush which records that she was born in Virginia circa 1825 and passed away on September 10, 1920 in Windsor at the age of 95. This record also reveals that Susan's mother's name was Annie Bell. The informant was Susan's son Lewis Bush. According to the Census, George Washington and Susan had at least four children: Morgan, Margaret, William J., and Lewis. Morgan is listed in the 1861 Census as 3 years old, but is not listed in the 1871 and 1881 Census. It is likely that he passed away considering he was too young in 1871 (age 13) to have married and started a household of his own.

Morgan's sister Margaret is the next child of George Washington and Susan to be discussed. She married three times. Her first marriage was to John I. Thornton and they had two children named Emit Valentine and Louisannah. I was able to find a birth record for Emmet Valentine Thornton which lists his parents as Margaret Bush and John I. Thornton. Emmet/Emit was born on March 30, 1877 in Colchester. The 1881 Census lists Margaret (Bush) Thornton and her children Emit and Louisannah living with Washington and Susan. John I. Thornton is not listed. Margaret's brothers William and Lewis are also listed in addition to Susan's relative

Betsey Bell (a widow), and George Washington's brother Miles Bush (a farmer). A man named George Presser is also listed.

Margaret Bush's second marriage was to Cashion Hawkins. I was able to find a birth record for her and Cashion Hawkins' son George Washington Hawkins who was born on December 19, 1882 in Colchester.

Margaret's third husband was George W. Brown. They had a daughter named Rosena. The 1891 Census for the household of Washington and Susan A., includes Margaret and her brother Lewis but also Margaret's children from her first marriage (Valentine and Louise Thorton), and Margaret's child from her second marriage (George Washington Hawkins), and Margaret's child (Rosena Brown) from her third marriage. George Washington's brother Miles is also listed. I was able to find a birth record for Rosena Brown who was born on March 22, 1889 in Colchester North. I was also able to find Rosena's marriage record where she is listed as Rosa. She married John Fields, the son of Charles Fields and Catherine Sullivan, on March 27, 1912 in Lucas, Ohio. Rosa married a second time to a man named Granvil Singleton, the son of Buell Singleton and Mattie Henry, on May 25, 1917 in Lucas, Ohio.

On July 29, 1892, *The Amherstburg Echo* reported Margaret's passing which said "In Colchester North, on Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Margaret M., wife of Mr. George Brown, aged 31 years. Deceased was a daughter of George Washington Bush, of Colchester North and leaves four children and a husband to survive her. The funeral took place on Sunday from the residence of her father to the Union cemetery." After Margaret's passing, the 1901 Census records Valentine, George W. and Rosy as living with their uncle Lewis A. Bush and grandparents Susan (Bell) and George Washington Bush. By the 1911 Census, Margaret's children George, Louisa and Rosie are still living with their uncle Lewis and grandmother Susan. The only difference is

that Louisa is listed instead of Valentine and, also, George Washington Bush is not listed meaning that he had likely passed away since the last Census.

Margaret's brother William is the next child of George Washington Bush and Susan Bell. According to his death record, William James Bush was born circa 1864 in Colchester North and passed on August 18, 1884 at the age of 20. He is also listed as a farmer.

William's brother Lewis is the last child of George Washington and Susan. Lewis married Blanche Pinkerton, the daughter of Daniel and Catherine Pinkerton. Blanche was previously married to a man named Henry Colbreath and they had several children including Tha. H., George, Joseph, Ludania, Samuel, Beatrice and Nathaniel who are mentioned in the 1891 and 1911 Census. Blanche's first husband Henry Colbreath is mentioned in the 1891 Census, but not in the 1911 Census so he must have passed away some time within those years. A 1915 immigration record for Blanche Colbreath states that she was accompanied by her son Nathaniel and that she was going to stay with her daughter Mrs. Blanche Warren in Detroit. Blanche Warren can be added to the list of names of Blanche's children which was mentioned above. It was in the following year, on April 20, 1916, that Blanche married Lewis Bush in Detroit, Michigan. The 1921 Census lists Lewis and Blanche as living in Windsor, along with Blanche's son Nathaniel Colbreath. Also listed are Blanche's daughter Beatrice and her husband William Savage, and Daniel and Elizabeth Warren who are listed as Lewis and Blanche's grandchildren. Above it was mentioned that Blanche's immigration record stated that she was going to visit her daughter Blanche Warren so Daniel and Elizabeth Warren are likely Blanche's children.

Just a few years later, Lewis Bush passed away. His death record states that he died on May 29, 1927, but I could not find an obituary. According to Milo Johnson, Lewis worked as a bricklayer.

While discussing George Washington Bush's line, I mentioned his brother named Miles Bush so I wanted to share a few details about him. According to Milo Johnson, Miles came to Canada with his brother George and lived on the farm. Johnson adds that Miles never married but lived with Betsey Bell. Both Miles and Betsey are listed in the 1881 Census as living under the household of Washington and Susan Bush. I was also able to find a reference to him in *The Evening Record* which reported on January 1, 1897, "Gesto News - Miles Bush of New Canaan is going to build a new house on the old homestead, about a quarter of a mile west of Gesto. He intends to move there in the spring." Sadly, just a few months later, on May 12, 1897, Miles passed away in Colchester North at the age of 73. His death record states that he was born circa 1824 in Kentucky. A note mentions that he passed due to old age.

**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 5.**