

The Butler/Fitzbutler Family History Part 3 – The Antique Dealer

Now that I have discussed Dr. Henry Fitzbutler's line, I'll continue with the rest of William Butler and Ann Calvert's children: Sidney, James, and Elizabeth. I could not find any information for Sidney but found significant documentation for James. He was married to Ann Donnelly. According to James' death record, he was born on April 29, 1845 in Canada and passed away on September 6, 1923 in Adrian, Michigan at the age of 78. His obituary appeared in *The Adrian Daily Telegram* on September 7, 1923 and it reports "JAMES BUTLER IS DEAD AT WEST MAUMEE HOME- Expired Last Evening After Illness of But a Few Days; Was Aged 78; Funeral Saturday – Aged 78, died 9 o'clock last evening in home at 1378 W. Maumee St. Died of paralysis. Survived by two daughters Mrs. Lincoln Salor [Falor] of Delta, Oh, and Mrs. Philip Aldrich of this city, and five sons, James, Thomas A., Joseph H., Forest and Walter, all of Adrian. Funeral on Saturday at 1:30 at residence and burial in Oakwood Cemetery." I could not find an obituary for Ann Donnelly Butler but *Find a Grave* states that she died on February 8, 1891.

James and Ann had several children including James, Carrie Ann Butler Falor, Sadie Ellen Butler Aldrich, Thomas Albert, Joseph H., Forrest Allen, Walter Jay, Ernest C. Butler, Minnie. James married Ida Richardson, the daughter of Henry Richardson and S. Simmonds, on May 6, 1901 in Adrian, Michigan. James' brother Joseph married Elizabeth/Lizzie (Cherry) Davis, the daughter of David and Margaret J. Cherry on July 21, 1902 in Monroe, Michigan. Elizabeth was born on September 13, 1878 in Riga, Lenawee, Michigan. Elizabeth and Joseph had at least three children named Benjamin, Elvin and Margaret, along with Albert Davis who was Elizabeth's son from her first marriage.

Before discussing their children, I will share Elizabeth's obituary from July 24, 1951 which says "Mrs. Elizabeth C. Butler, 71 years old, of Route 1, Tipton, died at 7:45p.m. Tuesday in Bixby hospital after an extended illness. She was born Sept. 13, 1879, in Petersburg and lived 33 years at the Tipton residence, moving there from Tecumseh. Mrs. Butler was a member of the Union Gospel church at Tipton. Her first husband was Edward Davis who preceded her in death. She married Joseph Butler in 1902 and he survives. Also surviving are three sons, Albert Davis of Adrian, Elvin Butler of Clayton, and Ben W. Butler at home; one brother, Charles Cherry of Adrian; one sister, Mrs. Ida Beaubien of Toledo and three grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her first husband; two sons, Franklin Davis and Leslie Butler; a daughter, Margaret Butler; her parents, David and Jane Cherry; three brothers, Frank and Albert McDonald and John Cherry, and two sisters, Mrs. Ada Poll and Mrs. Harriet Poll. The funeral will be held Friday at 2 p.m. at the Everiss Funeral Home. Seth Hoisington of the Tipton church will officiate. Burial will be in the Tipton cemetery." Elizabeth's death record adds that she was born on September 13, 1879 and her mother is listed as 'Jne Bortles.'

As mentioned, Joseph and Elizabeth (Cherry-Davis) Butler had three children named Benjamin, Elvin, and Margaret. I could not find any information for Margaret, but Benjamin's obituary appeared in *The Daily Telegram* on October 19, 1982. It says "TIPTON – Benjamin W. Butler, 71, of 6040 Teachout Rd., Tipton, died Monday evening at Bixby Hospital. He was born in Lenawee County, October 26, 1910 to Joseph and Elizabeth (Cherry) Butler. Mr. Butler was employed as an inspector at Tecumseh Products, retiring in 1972. He also taught grade school in Lenawee County and at Newberry. He was a member of the Union Gospel Church in Tipton. Survivors include one brother, Elvin of Onsted and one sister-in-law, Adah Davis of Tipton. He was preceded in death by a brother, Albert in 1967 and a sister, Margaret."

Benjamin's brother Elvin married Zelma M. Cook, daughter of George Cook and Minnie Berndt, on August 22, 1925 in Adrian, Michigan. The 1940 Census lists Elvin and Zelma, along with their sons Donald and R. George, as living with Elvin's father Joseph H. Butler. On February 2, 1990, *The Daily Telegram* reported Elvin's passing. His obituary says "Elvin James Butler, 86, of Onstead died Friday, Feb. 2, 1990, at Provincial House in Adrian. He was born December 27, 1903, in Adrian to Joseph and Elizabeth (Cherry) Butler. On August 22, 1925, he was married to Zelma Cook. She survives. Mr. Butler was a farmer residing in Tipton area from 1925-1951, the Cayton area from 1951 to 1974 and in Onstead since 1974. He was a member of the Union Gospel Church of Tipton He attended Tecumseh High School. He is also survived by two sons, Donald of Tipton and Richard of Adrian; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, one sister and two-step-brothers."

Joseph's brother Forest is the next child of James and Ann (Donnelly) Butler. According to Forest's WWI Registration Card, he was born on February 3, 1884 and later worked for Detroit Refrigerating Co. He married Cordelia Meldrum, the daughter of William Meldrum (some records say David), on March 4, 1905 in Adrian, Michigan. Their children include Walter, Clifford, Ruth, John, Thomas, Evelyn, Harold, Lillian, Viola and Frederick. I was only able to find information for Clifford Butler in *The Daily Telegram* which printed his obituary on August 13, 1996. It says "Clifford Butler, 89, of Adrian, died Tuesday, August 13, 1996, at the Adrian Healthcare Center. He was born June 7, 1907, in Adrian to Forrest Allen and Cordelia (Meldrum) Butler. He is survived by three brothers, Thomas Butler of Bradenton, Fla., Harold Butler of Palmyra, and Frederick Butler of Blissfield; four sisters, Ruth Erd of Lambertville, Mich., Mrs. Richard (Evelyn) Hoffman of Adrian, Viola Fist of Upland, Calif., and Irene DeBruyn of

Dundee. He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers, Walter, John, Floydd, and James Butler, and a sister, Lillian Runkle.”

Forest’s twin brother Walter Jay was born on February 3, 1884 in Colchester North. According to the 1950 Michigan Census, Walter worked at a steel factory as a Converter Machine Operator. He married Mable May Schwartz and they had at least three children named John, Joseph, and Lavern. Before I share details about their children, I’ll share Walter and Mable’s obituaries which both appeared in *The Adrian Daily Telegram*. Walter’s passing was reported on September 12, 1972 and his obituary says “Ann Arbor – Walter Butler, 67, a former resident of Adrian, died Monday at his Ann Arbor home. He was born September 18, 1904, in Adrian. He moved to Ann Arbor in 1941. Surviving are a son, John of Athens; two daughters, six brothers, four sisters, and several grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a sister.”

Walter’s wife Mable’s passing appeared in the December 10, 1981 edition of *The Adrian Daily Telegram* and said “Mable May Butler, 87, formerly of 504 S. Madison St., Adrian, died Wednesday at the Lenawee Medical Care Facility, where she had been a patient for the last six years. She was born July 1, 1894 in Adrian, to Jacob and Gertrude Schwartz. She married Walter Butler August 10, 1911. He died in 1972. Survivors include one son, Joseph Butler of Blissfield; three grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by one son, Laverne, in 1972; one grandson; and three brothers.”

As mentioned, Mabel and Walter had three sons named John, Joseph and Lavern. I could not find any information for John, but I did find Joseph and Lavern’s obituaries. Joseph’s passing was shared in *The Daily Telegram* on December 4, 1997 and said “Joseph F. Butler, 84, of Blissfield, passed away Dec. 3, 1997, at Bixby Medical Center. He was born July 31, 1913, in Adrian to Walter and Mabel May (Schwartz) Butler. On Nov. 24, 1934, he married Beatrice

Darstein in Adrian. She preceded him in death in 1991. He was in the Michigan National Guard. Joseph worked at DeKalb Ag Research for many years before retiring. He was loved by all, and was active at the Bliss-Liewert Senior Center in the Kitchen Band in Blissfield. He was also a member of St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Adrian. Survivors include one son, Jack 'Butch' (Barbara) Butler of Ann Arbor; a daughter-in-law, Dawn Butler; three grandchildren, Robert, Gary, and Michael; and five great-grandchildren, Bobbie Jo, Stephanie, Bradley, Kaitlyn, and Corrin. Besides his wife, Beatrice, he was preceded in death by a son, Richard, in 1981."

Joseph's brother Lavern's obituary from the February 14, 1972 edition of *The Adrian Daily Telegram* states "LaVern W. Butler, 57, of 427 Madison Street, died Sunday morning at 10 o'clock in Bixby Hospital where he had been a patient since Wednesday. Mr. Butler had been in failing health for the last five months. He was born May 29, 1915, in Adrian, and had been employed for 15 years with the Dunbar-Borton Company as a plumber-sheet metal worker. He was a member of The First Church of the Nazrene, the National Guard and the Eagles Lodge. On April 7, 1938, he married Esther Butts. She survives. Additional survivors are, a son Robert of Adrian; a daughter Mrs. Otto (Janice) Bilkey of Adrian; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Butler of Adrian and a brother, Joseph, of Blissfield. Also surviving are five grandchildren."

So far, I've discussed four of James Butler and Ann Donnelly's children: James, Joseph, Forest, and Walter Jay. I'll continue with the rest of their children Sadie, Thomas, Carrie, Ernest, and Minnie. Sadie married Philip F. Aldrich (sometimes spelt Aldrick), the son of Chauncey Aldrich and Nellie Beardsley, on March 15, 1916 in Detroit, Michigan. Philip was born on February 19, 1887 in Armada, Macomb, Michigan. The 1950 Michigan Census for Philip and Sadie reveals that Sadie's occupation was an Antique Buyer who sold antiques from her home,

while Philip was a Truck Driver who owned his own business. Sadie sadly passed away in 1965 which was reported in *The Daily Telegram* on April 25th. Her obituary says “Services for Mrs. Sadie Aldrich, wife of Philip Aldrich of 1370 West Maumee Street, who died Friday noon in the Bixby Hospital, were Monday at 3:30pm in the Braun Funeral Home. The Rev. William Welton officiated. Burial was in Lenawee Hills Memorial Park. The bearers were Thomas Butler, John Butler, Vern Butler, Benjamin Butler, Robert Falor and Wendell Falor.”

Sadie’s brother Thomas, according to his WWI Draft Registration card, was born on April 5, 1880. He married Mary Meldrum, the daughter of Ed. Meldrum, on September 17, 1901 in Mount Clemens, Michigan. Their marriage record lists Thomas as a hotel porter while Mary worked as a waitress. According to Thomas’s obituary “Thomas A. Butler, 90, formerly of 124 North Madison Street, died Monday at 6 a.m., in Ypsilanti State Hospital. Surviving are three brothers, Joseph, Forrest, Walter Butler, all of Adrian, and one sister Mrs. Carrie Falor of Delta, Preceding him in death were his wife, Mary, a daughter, Carrie, in infancy, one sister, Mrs. Sadie Aldrich and a brother, James Butler.”

Thomas’ sister Carrie is the next child of James Butler and Annie Donnelly. She married Lincoln Falor, the son of Andrew Falor and Hannah McConkey, on June 30, 1919 in Adrian, Michigan. The 1940 Census lists Carrie and Lincoln, along with their children Wendel and Robert B. living in York Township, Fulton, Ohio. Lincoln and Carrie’s son Wendel was born on May 15, 1920 and later married Margaret F. Herrick, the daughter of Fred Herrick and Beatrice O’Haver, on July 18, 1942 in Fulton, Ohio. He passed away on November 15, 1993. Wendel’s brother Robert was born on May 10, 1922 in Fulton, Ohio. Robert married Lois Louise Roddy, the daughter of Henry Roddy and Ethel Van Ness, on September 28, 1946 in Fulton, Ohio. Their marriage record states that Robert worked as a Soldier and Lois was a Clerk.

Robert and Wendel's father Lincoln Falor passed away on October 2, 1950 at the age of 91. Their mother Carrie Butler Falor passed on January 2, 1973 at the age of 90.

Carrie's brother Ernest, the next child of James and Ann (Donnelly) Butler was born in 1889 and sadly passed away in 1890. Ernest's sister Minnie was born on July 15, 1884 in Colchester North, but I could not find any further information for her.

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.