

The Harris Family Part 5 – A Hard Worker

-Did you know Jeremiah Harris was known for his teamster work on the streets of Amherstburg?

Read more below.

For the last few pages we have been discussing David Leonze Harris' children, but we still need to discuss the rest of David's siblings (Ernest, Chester, Sylvere, Fitzgerald, Howard and Betty June). David's brother Ernest was born on May 31, 1902 in Essex and he married Viola Woodlynn on May 27, 1932. Their children included: Milton (married Penny), Joyce, Herbert (married WilliMae Baylis), Wanda (m. Barry Rusell), Veronica, Patricia (m. Robert O'Neil), Elizabeth (m. Marion Jamison), Doreen, Clayton (m. Betty), Gloria (Riley), Ernestine (m. Timothy Dungy) and Ernest Jr.

The next sibling is Chester who was born in April 1905 in Ypsilanti. He married Juanita Wilson on October 16, 1936 and they had three children: Juanita (m. Robert R. Bell), Denise (m. Gerald Talbot) and Cynthia (m. Wilbur Mulder).

Chester's brother Sylvere was born in December 1909 and he tragically died in a car accident on Sandwich St. near the old Seagrams in Amherstburg. Sylvere's brother Fitzgerald 'Jerry' was born on March 13, 1913 in Colchester and he married Ethel Mae 'Babe' Goodman who was born in 1920. Jerry and Ethel's children include: Gerald (twin born 1938), Earl (twin born 1938), Fitzgerald II (born 1943 and married JoAnne Green), Angelo (1st wife was Maria Almanza, 2nd wife was Andrea and 3rd wife is Vicki Dandy), Broderick (1st wife Shannon Walton, 2nd Lydia), Lorraine (m. Bennie D. Harris) and Stanley (m. Mary Ann Davis in 1980).

Howard is the next child of Jeremiah and Emma and he was born in Gesto in 1916. Howard married Evelyn Sims and they had the following children: Larry James (born 1947), Sandra Harris (Nivens), Susan Harris (m. Clevester Gooch), Brenda Harris (Johnson), Howard

Jr. (1st wife Arlene Ogrodnik, 2nd Jackie Dumas), Jane Harris (Adams) and Leona (m. Dan Woods).

The last child of Jeremiah and Emma is Betty June Harris who was born in Amherstburg in 1926, but sadly she passed away a few years later in 1928 in Essex.

We've spent the last several pages discussing the children of Jeremiah and Emma Harris, but it should also be mentioned that Jeremiah was especially known for his teamster work on the streets of Amherstburg, especially during the snowy winter months. An article from the *Amherstburg Echo* talks about his career and says "Jeremiah Harris and his team of two powerful horses were under contract with the town to scrape and sweep the streets of the 'Burg in the summer and clear snow in the winter ... Another position he held was dog catcher for the area."

We also still need to discuss the rest of Jeremiah's siblings (Caroline, Mary Helen, James William and David). Jeremiah's sister, Caroline Melinda was born circa 1868 and later married Albert White on December 6, 1888. Following Albert's passing, Caroline married John Franklin Chavis in April of 1891 and lived on a farm on Lot 13 on South Malden Road in New Canaan.

The couple had the following children: William Chavis (1892), Frederick Edward (born in 1894 and married Laura E. Woodson), David (1897), Ida Belle (born in 1900 and married Forrest Grayer – read more of Grayer family history at amherstburgfreedom.org) and Phoebe Ann (1906). John also had children from a previous marriage. He first married Dinah Scott and his 2nd wife was Pheobe Milton with whom he had the following children: Isaac Thomas, Cortny, John Miley, Daisy May and Eva A.

Caroline's sister, Mary Helen Harris was born circa 1872 and later married Walter Brooks. The couple had several children including: Harry Oley Brooks (born March 1891),

Sarah (born 1895 and married Harry Baylis), Earl Brooks (born May 1896 and married Leona Anderson) and Oliver Brooks.

Next is James William “Willie” Harris who was born circa 1876 and married a woman named Emma. William and Emma had at least two children: Helena “Lena” who was born circa 1928 and later married Robert Dorsey) and Leslie who was born circa 1929. The last Harris family member that we will discuss is James’ brother David was born in 1879, but sadly passed away in 1885. No further information was available for him.

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 another history of an amazing family.