

The Matthews Family History Part 3 – The Lawyer

Luke's brother Matthew J. Matthews married Sarah Amanda Reynolds, the daughter of John and Jane Reynolds, on October 26, 1887. The *Amherstburg Echo* wrote about the event on November 11, 1887, writing "Matthew Matthews, jr., has bettered his condition by taking to himself a partner of the fair sex in the person of Miss Sarah A. Reynolds." Their children include Alma Gertrude, Luella, Emma, Angeline Annie, Harry, and Estella, who will be discussed shortly. According to Sarah Reynolds Matthews' gravestone and the website *Find A Grave*, she passed away on May 19, 1906 in Harrow at the age of 47. It also adds that she was born on February 21, 1859. A few years after Sarah's passing, Matthew married a second time to Naomi Jones, the daughter of John Wesley and Angelina Washington, on December 28, 1912 in Harrow. He also moved from Colchester to Sandwich as was reported in the December 12, 1924 issue of the *Amherstburg Echo*.

Matthew J. Matthews passed away on April 13, 1936 in Windsor (Sandwich) and his passing was reported in the *Amherstburg Echo* on April 24, 1936. The article titled 'Pioneer Dies' says "Following a lengthy illness extending over several years, Mr. Matthew J. Matthews, a highly respected resident of Essex County, passed away at his home in Windsor Monday, April 13, at the age of 81 years and 10 months. Deceased was born in Colchester South, June 8, 1843, a few miles from Harrow. His father was Matthew Matthews, and his mother before her marriage was Miss Alma Day. His grandmother was one of the pioneer settlers of Colchester South. On October 26, 1867, he was married to Miss Sarah A. Reynolds, and they went to live on his farm on the fifth concession. His wife died about 30 years ago. In 1912 he was married to Mrs. Naomi Jones, of Amherstburg, who survives him. He resided in Colchester South until 12 years ago, when his health failed and he retired and moved to Windsor. He was a member of the old Baptist

Church on the third concession. Besides his widow he is survived by five children: Mrs. Gertrude Pettiford, Miss Luella Matthews, Miss Emma Matthews, Mrs. Annie Ellis and Mr. Harry Matthews. His daughter, Mrs. Estella Lewis, died 11 years ago. He has living two sisters, Mrs. William Thomas and Mrs. William Bazie; one brother, Mr. Elisha Matthews; five grandchildren and a number of cousins, nieces and nephews. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. Thomas Woodcock at Central Grove A.M.E. Church last Thursday. The pallbearers were Measrs. Charles Talbert, James Taylor, jr., Ira Dennis, George Matthews, Wellington Harris and Prince Grace. Interment was in Central Grove cemetery.”

As mentioned, Matthew J. Matthews and Sarah Reynolds had several children including Alma Gertrude, Luella, Emma, Angeline Annie, Harry, and Estella. Alma married Alonzo D. Pettiford, the son of David Pettiford and Amanda Coen, on June 23, 1915 in Harrow. On July 9, 1915, the *Essex Free Press* wrote “On Wednesday evening, June 23rd, Alonzo D. Pettiford, of Detroit, Mich., and Miss Gertrude Matthews, daughter of M.J. Matthew, were quietly married at the home of the bride’s parents, Colchester South, by Rev. P. Brooks. They left on the evening train for their honeymoon trip to Toledo, Springfield, Dayton, Columbus, and different interesting points in Ohio. Upon their return they will settle in Detroit.” Alma’s husband became a lawyer and on June 29, 1917 the *Amherstburg Echo* wrote about his graduation, writing “Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Matthews attended the commencement exercises of the Detroit College of Law, at the Arcadia last Thursday evening, his son-in-law, A.D. Pettiford, being one of the students receiving a degree of Bachelor of Laws.” A few years later, on July 28, 1922, the *Echo* shared that “Mrs. A.D. Pettiford and children, of Detroit, Mich., spent the week at the home of her father, M.H. Matthews, and was joined later by her husband, attorney Pettiford, who leaves shortly for New York on an extended business trip during the month of August.”

There are several other instances where the *Echo* writes about Matthew J. Matthews' children visiting him. On June 1, 1923 it was reported that "Matthew J. Matthews' daughters, Mrs. Alonzo Pettiford, Mrs. Sullivan Ellis, of Detroit, and Mrs. Roy Lewis, of Salem, motored down on Saturday and spent the weekend with their father." On September 18, 1925, it was shared that "Matthew J. Matthews, 406 Albert street, Windsor, enjoyed a beautiful lake ride on the magnificent steamer Put-In Bay, Thursday, September 3rd. He was accompanied by his daughters, Miss Emma Matthews and Mrs. Alonzo Pettiford, of Detroit." And finally, on September 16, 1927, "Attorney Alonzo D. Pettiford and his wife, of Detroit, accompanied by their father M.J. Matthews, 400 Albert street, Windsor, spent the weekend and Labor Day at Niagara Falls and Buffalo." As mentioned, Alma and Alonzo Pettiford were living in Detroit. The 1930 Detroit Census lists Alonzo D. Pettiford, along with Alma and their children Vivienne A., Alonzo D. Jr., E. June, and Dorthy E. (Elaine).

Alma's sister Luella was born on May 1, 1892 in Colchester South. It appears that she never married because she is listed as Luella Matthews in her *Windsor Star* obituary from November 23, 1984 which says that she passed at the age of 92 at the Country Village Nursing Home and is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Luella's sister Sarah Emma was born on February 10, 1898 in Colchester South. According to her Immigration papers from September 22, 1924, she was living in Detroit, was not married and was age 26. No further records were found for Sarah.

Sarah's sister Angeline Annie married Sullivan Ellis, the son of Hampton Ellis and Anna Smith, on May 31, 1922 in Detroit. Her Obituary from the *Windsor Star*, which appeared on May 22, 1962, shares further details and says "Mrs. Angeline Annie Ellis, 67, of 287 Tuscarora St., died Sunday in the Essex County Sanitorium. Mrs. Ellis was born in Harrow and lived in

Windsor for 39 years coming from Harrow. She was a member of First Baptist Church. Her husband Sullivan died in 1949. Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Alexander (Evangeline) Goba of Windsor, a brother Harry Matthews of St. Thomas, and a sister, Miss Luella Matthews of Windsor ... Burial will be in Windsor Grove Cemetery.”

Annie’s brother Harry was born on May 23, 1896. Sadly, he passed away a month after Annie. I was also able to find his obituary from the *Windsor Star* which appeared in the June 29, 1962 issue which says “Harry Matthews, 66, formerly of Windsor, died Monday in St. Thomas after a lengthy illness. Mr. Matthews was born at Harrow and lived at St. Thomas for ten years. Surviving is a sister, Miss Luella Matthews of Windsor. Funeral will be held 1 p.m. Saturday at the James H. Sutton Funeral Home ... Burial will be in Green Lawn Cemetery.”

Harry’s sister Estella was born on May 1, 1892 in Colchester South. She married Lewis Leander Jones, son of Leander Jones and Nancy H. Lewis, on December 3, 1914 in Windsor. Stella married a second time to Ray E. Lewis, the son of John Lewis and Evangeline Smith, on September 22, 1919 in Wayne, Michigan. On October 3, 1919, the *Amherstburg Echo* shared details of the day, reporting “M.J. Matthews attended the marriage of his daughter, Mrs. Estella Jones, to Ray E. Lewis, of Salem, Mich., at the parsonage of the Rev. R.C. Ross, 117 e. Grand Boulevard, Detroit, on Monday of last week, and also attended the Northville Fair. He was so much interested in the arms and customs that probably he will purchase one there in the near future.” According to Estella’s death record, she passed away on January 14, 1925 in Detroit.

Now that I have discussed Matthew J. and all of his children, I will move on to Mary L. Matthews, the next child of Matthew Matthews and Alma Day. She married John Banks, the son of Erving S. and Esther Banks, on February 5, 1874 in Colchester. John Banks was born in

roughly 1850 and he and Mary had no children. According to John's death record, he passed away on April 21, 1880 at age 35 of cancer and consumption of the lung.

All that I could find for Mary's sister Ann is her obituary from the *Amherstburg Echo* which was printed on September 7, 1894. It says "Ann, wife of Samuel Boyles, died on Saturday, of inflammation of the bowels after a very short illness. She was the daughter of Matthew Matthews, sr., and was married to Mr. Boyles on August 1st last. The funeral took place on Monday afternoon from the residence of the deceased's parents to the Baptist church in the Matthews settlement, the interment taking place in the family burying ground, Rev. Mr. Binga, of Windsor, officiating."

Ann's sister Elisha is the next child of Matthew Matthews and Alma Day. According to the Museum's family history binders, Elisha was born circa 1858 in Colchester. He married Minervia 'Minnie' Armstrong, the daughter of Thomas Armstrong and Mary Mahoney, on October 25, 1904 in Colchester. This record lists Minnie as Minervia Ughbanks (Hughbanks) from a previous marriage. Their marriage record lists Elisha as a farmer and Minerva worked as a hairdresser. This is confirmed in the May 16, 1902 edition of the *Amherstburg Echo* which printed an ad for Minerva's business. The ad reads "If your hair is thin or falling out don't fail to call and see Minerva Hughbanks, hair dresser and manicurer. Hair switches, curls and puffs made to order. Any lady wanting soft, white hands call or send post card. All orders promptly attended or will call at your homes if desired. Mrs. Hughbanks."

Minerva Armstrong Hughbanks Matthews passed away on October 10, 1937 in Colchester. Her obituary, which appeared in the October 15th issue of the *Amherstburg Echo* says "A Well Known Woman – A large crowd of mourners attended the funeral Wednesday afternoon at St. Mark's A.M.E. Zion Church of Mrs. Elisha Matthews, who passed away Sunday, aged 73

years. Burial was in the local cemetery. Mrs. Matthews was born at Colchester, daughter of Thomas Armstrong and Mary Mahoney, on February 7, 1865. She is survived by her husband, a brother, Thomas Armstrong at the lake, and a sister, Mrs. Lancaster of Colchester. Two children are deceased.”

A few years later, Minerva’s husband Elisha passed away on November 22, 1940. His obituary reads “Well Known Resident Dies – Elisha Matthews, one of the finest and most respected residents of this district died in his home on the third concession of Colchester South Friday. Deceased was born in this township 82 years ago, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mathew Matthews, who were pioneer colored settlers. ? up on the homestead and turned it into one of the most successful farms in the section. He was married to Miss Minnie Armstrong who predeceased him three years ago. They had no family but two adopted children, Russell ?, and Mrs. Vida Mulder of Colchester South, survive him. Also a sister, Mrs. Alzora Thomas of Detroit. The funeral was held Sunday at Central Grove with Rev. Henderson of Amherstburg officiating.” Elisha’s obituary mentions that he and Minnie had two adopted children, but the 1911 Census mentions another adopted son named John.

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.