

The Smith Family History Part 2 – The Barber

As mentioned, James and Mary had 12 children including Henry, George, John, Joseph, James, Sarah, Clarence, Mary, Gertrude, Roman, Philo and Anna. I'll start with Henry.

According to James A. Smith's obituary, Henry died in youth. The 1861 Census lists him as 15, meaning that he was born circa 1846. The 1871 Census does not list Henry, so it is likely that he passed away between 1861 and 1871. There was also limited information for Henry's brother George. His father James' obituary mentions that he, just like Henry, died in youth.

George's brother John W. Smith, according to the 1871 Census, was a mariner. He married Amelia Brown, the daughter of William Brown, on August 16, 1875 in Amherstburg. On August 20th, *The Amherstburg Echo* reported "SMITH – BROWN – At Amherstburg on Monday, August 16th, by the Rev. Wm. Pitt, Baptist Minister, Mr. John W. Smith son of Capt. Smith, to Miss Amelia Brown, all of Amherstburg."

John's brother Joseph L. Smith is next. The 1871 Census states that he was a farmer and born circa 1851. He married Ida French on May 18, 1879 in Marquette, Michigan. The 1880 Census for Marquette records Joseph and his wife Ida and their daughter Ida. Joseph is also listed as a Barber. The 1900 Census records Joseph and Ida along with their other children James L., Grace F., Erma L., Zerelda E., Joseph L., and Margaret J. *Find A Grave* also lists Florence and Gertrude as additional children of Joseph and Ida. Their daughter Ida is not listed because she sadly passed away on August 5, 1897 in Marquette, Michigan. Ida's birth record states that she was born on June 7, 1880. The next Census for 1910 lists Joseph as widowed, meaning that Ida passed away between 1900 and 1910. I could not find an obituary for Ida. The 1910 Census also shows that Joseph was still working as a Barber but owned his own shop.

I found a few documents for Joseph and Ida's children. Their daughter Margaret was born on February 10, 1899 in Marquette, Michigan. I couldn't find a birth record for Margaret's brother James L. Smith, but I found his death record. His death record says that he passed away on November 1, 1903. James was also a student and single. James' brother Joseph Smith passed away on December 12, 1927 in Chicago at the age of 31. His death record also reveals that he was born on October 5, 1896 in Marquette, Michigan. Joseph was also single and worked as a labourer. Joseph's sister Gertrude's death was reported in the October 28, 1898 edition of *The Amherstburg Echo* which reported "On Tuesday, Mrs. Geo. H. Foster received a telegram from Marquette, Mich., stating that Gertrude, daughter of her brother, Jos. L. Smith, aged 16 years, died there. It is only a year since Mr. Smith lost an older daughter."

Joseph's father Joseph L. Smith passed away on October 28, 1928 in Marquette, Michigan. Joseph's death record states that he was born on August 23, 1851. *The Amherstburg Echo* reported his death on November 9, 1928 writing "SMITH – In Marquette, Michigan, Tuesday, October 30th, 1928, Joseph L. Smith, son of the late Capt. James A. Smith, and brother of Mrs. W.H. Bush, Sandwich street, Amherstburg, aged 77 years."

Joseph L. Smith's brother James lived in Cincinnati, Ohio, but I could not find any further information for him. I was able to find substantially more on James' sister Sarah J. Smith. She married George H., the son of Levi Foster and Elizabeth Waring. George was born on July 3, 1838 in Ohio. George's father operated several businesses and he and his brother James W. continued their father Levi's livery stable business after he passed away. Advertisements for their business can be found in *The Amherstburg Echo* and one ad from April 30, 1875 says "FOSTER & BROTHER'S Livery Stables – Apsley Street, near Richmond, Amherstburg – All parties requiring horses for hire can obtain the best in town, with stylish Buggies or Cutters at their

stables. Commercial travellers supplied with fast and reliable horses and good buggies or wagons on short notice. All visiting this town who require anything in this line will do well to call on FOSTER & BRO.”

George H. and Sarah had at least seven children: George H. Jr., Waring, Philo Smith/Smithie, Maud, Evelyn, Madeline and Sarah. Their children will be discussed shortly, but first a bit more about George H. and Sarah. George H. worked as a porter on the Great Lakes fleet, and *The Amherstburg Echo* mentions that in April 1895, George H. worked as a steward on the steamer ‘State of Michigan,’ while in August 1898 “Mrs. George H. Foster left on Wednesday morning for Port Stanley to visit a week with Mr. Foster who is steward on the steamer Flora.” When his wife Sarah (Smith) sadly passed in 1899, George H. stopped working in this profession and was left to solely care for their children on their farm.

In Sarah’s 1899 obituary found in *The Amherstburg Echo* it says “This township suffered a keen and distinct loss on Thursday last, in the death of Mrs. George H. Foster. The deceased lady was widely known and her many estimable qualities endeared her to a large circle of friends, who were most assiduous in their attentions during her illness. She suffered more or less for the past two years with cancer of the stomach, and when it terminated fatally her many friends were grief stricken. The funeral was held on Sunday, and was one of the largest seen for sometime. Services were conducted in the First Baptist church, by Rev. J.H. Hot, pastor assisted by Rev. W. T. Artis, pastor of the A.M.E. church, and Rev. W. Dickey, of Chicago. The church was crowded to the doors and many stood outside listening to the very impressive services. Interment took place in Rose Hill cemetery, following being the pall- bearers: - D.R. Davis, J.H. Alexander, Samuel McDowell and Leander Jones. Mrs. Foster was born Jan. 12th, 1854, and so was 45 years 2 months of age at her death. She was one of a family of ten, being a daughter of

Capt. James A. Smith, of Amherstburg. The other members of the family are John W., of Erie, Pa.: Joseph L., of South Dakota; Clarence E., of Amherstburg; Mary E. (Mrs. Samuel McDowell), of Windsor; Gertrude (Mrs. W.H. Bush), of Amherstburg; Roman J., of Cleveland, Ohio; Phylo G., of Wanesburg, Pa., and Annie M., of Shelbyville, Ky. Mrs. Foster was married to Geo. H. Foster, at Amherstburg, on May 6th, 1874. Seven children were born to them, all of whom are living – 3 sons and four daughters – George, aged 23, Waring, 16; Philo, 14, Maud, 13, Evelyne, 11; Madaline, 6, and Sarah, 4. The deceased was an earnest Christian and was a member of the Baptist church the past 31 years. Her Christian fortitude enabled her to bear her last illness without a murmur. She expressed herself as ready and willing to go at her Master's bidding. She frequently told her husband not to grieve, for she was all right. Liberality and kindness were two great traits in her character and her home was open to all whom she could assist. The sorrowing family wish to return sincere thanks to their many friends who were so kind and attentive to their loved one in her last illness, some especially being particularly attentive, whose names it will be unnecessary to mention. Those from a distance who attended the funeral were Samuel McDowell, wife and son, and L. Hyatt, of Windsor; Roman Smith and wife, of Cleveland, and Annie M. Smith, of Shelbyville, Ky.”

A few years after Sarah passed, in 1902, George H. passed away which is recorded in *The Amherstburg Echo*. The article says, “A very sudden death, of a citizen of this township, occurred Monday evening last, on the quarry road, when George H. Foster passed away without, so far as is known, a moment's warning. Mr. Foster had been in Amherstburg that day and on returning home went about his chores. Later he was driving a hog along the quarry road and it is supposed that he became worried following the animal, bringing on a sudden attack of heart failure, he having been troubled for some time with heart disease, and he dropped on the road,

never apparently having moved again. When the children came from school they found the house locked and the neighbors became alarmed at Mr. Foster's absence for the man was always very punctual, and a number of them went out to search for him. In the meantime the body had been found by the Powers' boys, who reported same to coroner Hobley. An order was given for its removal and it was taken to the house. The death has caused a profound sensation among the people of the section and in Amherstburg where deceased was well known. He was a most kind hearted man and was always showing little kindnesses to his friends. He was born in the State of Ohio, July 3rd, 1838, so was 64 years of age last July. With his parents he came to Amherstburg, when he was but an infant. His father, the late Levi Foster, kept livery stable in Amherstburg on Apsley street for many years. There was a large family, five of whom are left. They are: – Levi, of Wisconsin; Elizabeth, of Los Angeles, Cal.; Mrs. Jacobs, of the same place; besides two half brother, John, of Amherstburg; Thos. Of Biggar City, Oregon, and a half sister, Mrs. Annie Hyatt, of Windsor.”

The obituary continues saying, “On May 6th, 1875 the deceased was married to MISS SARAH J. SMITH, in Amherstburg. They lived there for a few years and then moved to Malden, on the farm next to the cemetery. They had eight children, seven of whom are living. They are: George H. of Cleveland; Waring, Smith, Maud, Evelyn, Madeline and Sarah, at home. Mrs. Foster died three years ago last March. Since that time Mr. Foster had remained at home and attended to the farm. Previous to that he had been a steward on some of the larger liners. He was a member of a Masonic Lodge in Cleveland and a member of the First Baptist Church, Amherstburg.”

After George H.'s passing several of his children were sent to live with their Aunt Gertrude Smith Bush, wife of William H. Bush and sister of George's wife Sarah Smith Foster.

Gertrude and William married circa 1888 and the couple had no children. Additionally, Gertrude was active in the community, particularly as a member of the First Baptist Church for more than sixty years, a member of the Ladies Sewing Circle and the Ladies Missionary Society.

George H. and Sarah's sons followed in the footsteps of their father and worked as cooks in the shipping industry. The August 3, 1900 edition of *The Amherstburg Echo* states that George and Sarah's son, George H. Jr. worked on the steamer 'Iron Chief' while in the December 21, 1900 edition it says Waring Foster, was "among the arrivals home from sailing this week." I found another reference to Waring Foster in *The Amherstburg Echo* from September 9, 1921 which says "Mrs. William Bush, Sandwich street, received a telegram Tuesday evening from her nephew, George Foster, of Cleveland, stating that his brother, H. Waring Foster, had died that day at Welland, Ont., where he had been employed. No further details have been received up to going to press. Mr. Foster was a son of the late George Foster, of Malden. He leaves two brothers, George and Smith, of Cleveland, and uncle Philo, Pennsylvania, and three sisters, Mrs. Lightfoot, teacher in the Public schools, Cleveland; Mrs. Reynolds, of Cleveland, and Mrs. Charles M. Jones, of Carrying Place, Ontario. The remains were brought to Amherstburg last (Thursday) evening and will be interred today (Friday)."

H. Waring's brother George H. Jr. married Florence Isabelle Dunjill and *The Amherstburg Echo* describes their wedding which took place on Christmas night in 1901, adding that "The decorations were appropriate to the Christmas season. After the ceremony a reception was held at the bride's home and the happy couple left that night for their wedding trip to Canada. They expect to make Cleveland their future home. The bride's maids were Miss Addie Hackley and Miss Florence Wilson. The groomsmen were J.E. Dunjill and J.G. Robinson."

Next is George H. Jr.'s sister, Maud. She married Charles L. Jones who was the son of Leander Jones of Anderdon. On December 22, 1911, *The Amherstburg Echo* printed a brief account of their wedding which says "A very quiet and pretty wedding was solemnized last Tuesday afternoon, when Rev. Allan Peavy using the ring service, united in marriage Miss Maud Foster, eldest daughter of the late Geo. H. Foster, and Charles L. Jones, son of the late Leander Jones, of Anderdon. The bride was daintily attired in white ... and was attended by her sister, Mrs. Evelyn Foster McCurdy, who was also in white. H.W. Foster served as best man. Those present were the immediate relatives of both families, the out-of-town guests being Mrs. Louisa F. Jacobs, of Los Angeles, Cal.; Mrs. George H. Foster, of Cleveland, Ohio; Mrs. Leroy N. McCurdy and son Foster, of Conneaut, Ohio, and Philo G. Smith, of Waynesburg, Pa. The bride was the recipient of many handsome and useful presents. Mr. and Mrs. Jones will be at home to their friends at his mother's home in Anderdon for the present."

Maud's sister Madeline married Dr. John E. Murrell and the couple had a daughter named Marilyn. Madeline and John's marriage is recounted in the September 22, 1922 edition of *The Amherstburg Echo* and says "The residence of Mr. and Mrs. P.W. Lemon, 2330 E. 55th street, Cleveland, was the scene of a quiet but very pretty wedding on the evening of September 2nd, when Mrs. Madeline E. Lightfoot, third daughter of the late George H. Foster, of Malden, and John E. Murrell were united in marriage by Rev. E.A. Clarke of St. John's A.M.E. church. 'O Promise Me' was sweetly rendered by Madame Grace Willis Thompson, followed by the Mendelssohn wedding march, played by Miss Marguerite Sanford. The bride was beautifully attired in white crepe romaine trimmed with satin and lace and carried a shower bouquet of white rosebuds. A string of pearls and lilies of the valley in her hair were the only ornaments. The ceremony was performed amid a profusion of gladioli and palms and Philo S. Foster, brother of

the bride gave her in marriage. During the reception, Harry Thompson sang several selections. Mr. and [Mrs.] Murrell were the recipients of many lovely gifts in silver, cut glass, china, linen and mahogany.”

According to her October 31, 1946 obituary from *The Amherstburg Echo*, “Dies Suddenly In Cleveland – Madilene Foster Murrell passed away suddenly of a heart attack at her home, 1065 E. 97th Street, Cleveland, Ohio, September 25. She was born in Amherstburg, daughter of the late George H. and Sarah Smith Foster and niece of the late Mrs. Gertrude Bush. She leaves to mourn her loss her husband, Dr. John E. Murrell and daughter Marilyn, besides three sisters and two brothers, Mrs. Maud Jones of Toronto; Philo S. Foster of Geneva, Ohio, and George H. Foster, Mrs. Evelyn Cowan and Mrs. Sara Lee of Cleveland, Ohio. Mrs. Murrell received her degree in education at Western Reserve University. She retired a year ago after teaching in the Cleveland Public Schools for thirty years. She was a member of St. John’s A.M.E. Church, Alpha Kappa Alpha National Sorority, and had long been active in the League of Women Voters.”

Madeline’s husband is also praised in the September 5, 1930 edition of *The Amherstburg Echo* which writes “Graduate of Our High School” – “The Editor of The Echo was glad to meet on the grounds of the Canadian National Exhibition, at Toronto, on Press Day, Friday last, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jones and to learn how well Mr. Jones is getting along. He will be remembered as a native of Anderdon, who after graduating from the public and high schools here passed through the normal school and taught for a few years in Ontario. He then entered Queen’s university and graduated from that institution after a very creditable course, and is now mathematical teacher on the staff of one of the largest high schools in Toronto. Mrs. Jones is the eldest daughter of the late George Foster. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are a frugal pair, have saved their

money, and are just completing a nice new home in Toronto. The products of this district certainly do make good out in the world in competition with the best of them.”

Madeline’s obituary mentions that her sister Sarah Maria Foster married into the Lee family and lived in Cleveland, Ohio. With further research, I discovered Sarah’s marriage certificate which says that she married James Reynolds Lee of Cleveland, Ohio, on October 19, 1914 in Amherstburg. James was the son of John L. Lee and Susan Reynolds. Their marriage record also reveals that Sarah worked as a stenographer, while James Reynolds Lee was a dentist.

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.