

## **The McDowell Family History Part 2 – Steward on a Steamer**

Benjamin's brother Simuel McDowell is the next child of John McDowell and Mary Harris. He married Emma Rudd on July 26, 1876 in Detroit. Simuel is mentioned several times in *The Amherstburg Echo* because of his work as a steward on steamers. On May 18, 1894 *The Amherstburg Echo* wrote "Simuel McDowell has shipped as steward on the Dominion steamer Petrol." A few years later, on May 10, 1907, *The Amherstburg Echo* shared "Sim McDowell jr., assistant steward leaves this week for the steamer Thomas C. Case, flagship of the steel trust, which is being built at the Great Lakes Engineering works, Detroit." Later that year, on December 17, 1907 it was reported in *The Evening Record* that "Benjamin and Simuel McDowell arrived home on Thursday after laying up the flag-ship of the steel trust fleet, the 'Cole.'" On March 24, 1911 *The Amherstburg Echo* wrote "Simuel McDowell has gone to Loraine, O., to fit out the big steel steamer, Princeton, of the Pittsburgh steamship fleet, on which he will be chef. Willie Adams, who will be assistant, left the same day." Later that year, on September 15<sup>th</sup>, *The Echo* reported that "Sym McDowell chef the Str. Princeton of the Steel Trust fleet, rejoined his boat this week after a few holidays in town."

Simuel McDowell passed away on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1909 and his obituary was printed in *The Amherstburg Echo* on October 1<sup>st</sup>. It says "In Amherstburg, Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, Simuel McDowell, aged 58 years. In death of Mr. McDowell, Amherstburg lost one of her best known and highly respected colored citizens. Born in Malden township, he spent his whole life in this vicinity. His father was the late John McDowell, and of a family of seven only one is now living, Samuel McDowell of Windsor. The parents died in Amherstburg where they came to reside a number of years ago. The subject of this sketch was married to Miss Emma Rudd, whose father lived in Buffalo. She came to Amherstburg with her step mother who afterwards became Mrs.

Henry Jackson. Mrs. McDowell died seven years ago. To Mr. and Mrs. McDowell were born nine children. All of whom are living as follows: Alonzo, of Cleveland; Myrtle, Mrs. Richardson, of Detroit; John, in Amherstburg; Ben and Simuel, Mariners; Ray, Rudd, Emma and Ethel at home. Mr. McDowell was seized with lung trouble about a year ago and has had a lingering illness. The funeral took place yesterday (Thursday) afternoon.” Simuel’s death record also shares that he was born on April 5, 1850.

Simuel’s wife Emma passed away a few years before, on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1902, as was reported in *The Amherstburg Echo* on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1902. *The Echo* wrote “In Amherstburg, on Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, Emma Jane, wife of Mr. S. McDowell, aged 46 years. Deceased’s maiden name was Emma Jane Rudd, and she was married to Simuel McDowell, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August, 1875 – 26 years ago. For seven months, deceased was confined to her bed, and she bore her suffering with Christian fortitude. For 20 years she was a member of the First Baptist church, and always took an active part in church work. Besides her husband, she leaves nine children to mourn her loss, the eldest of whom is Mrs. Myrtle Richardson, and the youngest 6 years of age. The funeral took place on Easter Sunday afternoon to the First Baptist church, and was very largely attended by all classes of the community, the building not being of sufficient capacity to accommodate the large congregation, which had assembled to pay their last tribute to the deceased.”

Simuel and Emma’s children include Myrtle, Alonzo, John, Benjamin, Simuel, Emma Jane, Raymond, Ethel and Samuel. I will start with Myrtle. She was born on October 28, 1880 in Amherstburg. She married twice. Her first marriage was to Joseph Richardson, the son of Edward Richardson and Rebecca Burt, on April 5, 1900 in Detroit. She also married Edward Hulbert, the son of Harvey Hulbert and Ellen Norris. According to the Museum’s family history

binders, Myrtle and Joseph's children include Alberta, Russell, Clifford, Rebecca, Elizabeth and Simuel, while her marriage to Edward resulted in two sons named Ralph and Lester. Myrtle's daughter Alberta Richardson was born on September 4, 1902 in Amherstburg, while Alberta's brother Simuel was born on April 11, 1907 in Amherstburg. I also found Russell Richardson's obituary from January 24, 1973 which says "Russel Richardson, 72, son of the late Joseph and Myrtle McDowell Richardson, who lived in Amherstburg at the time, died in Detroit, January 14<sup>th</sup>. He was a nephew of the late Mrs. Norman G. Wilson (Ethel McDowell). Amherstburg. The funeral was in Cleveland, Thursday. Surviving is a sister, Mrs. Alex Harris in Cleveland and cousins in Amherstburg."

Myrtle passed away in 1916 and her obituary was printed in *The Amherstburg Echo* on September 22, 1916. It says "There died in Detroit early on Sunday morning Mrs. Edward Hulbert, a former resident of this town, in the 38<sup>th</sup> year of her age. She had been ill for some weeks, following the birth of a child. The remains were brought to Amherstburg by special car Tuesday afternoon, and after service in the First Baptist church burial was made in Rose Hill. Mrs. Hulbert was formerly Miss Myrtle McDowell, daughter of the late Simuel McDowell, and was born in this town. She was first married to Jos. Richardson, of Ypsilanti, who died. Two years ago she was married to Edward Hulbert. Besides her husband, she leaves six brothers and two sisters: Simuel and Benjamin, of the steamer Lynn; Alonzo and John, of Detroit; Ruddy, of the steamer Alex McDougall; Ray, Ethel, Mrs. Norman Wilson and Emma, of Amherstburg."

I could not find anything for Myrtle's brother Alonzo, but I did find information for their brother John who was born on March 24, 1885 in Amherstburg. John married twice. He was first married to Lucretia Highwarden, the daughter of William Highwarden, on July 20, 1903 in

Detroit. John and Lucretia had a son named Feardon who was born on November 29, 1913 in Detroit. Feardon passed away on February 12, 1935 in Detroit at the age of 21.

John also married Adella Day, the daughter of Samuel Day and Sarah Hunt, on November 22, 1918 in Lucas, Ohio. According to her birth record, Adella Day was born on February 20, 1877 in Colchester. I was unable to find a death record or obituary for John McDowell, but in the 1940 Detroit Census Adella is listed as widowed. Adella passed away on June 2, 1949 in Detroit at the age of 70.

John's brother Benjamin Douglas McDowell is the next child of Simuel McDowell and Emma Rudd. He was born on October 24, 1886 in Amherstburg. His WWI Draft Record states that he was a cook for the Pittsburg Steamship Co. and that he had a wife and child. With further research, I found Benjamin's marriage record. He married Edna Jones, the daughter of Frank Jones and Nelina Wesley, on August 26, 1912. According to Edna Louise (Jones) McDowell's Naturalization Record, she was born on February 9, 1894 in Amherstburg. It also mentions that Edna and Benjamin had a daughter named Gladys who was born on July 14, 1913 in Amherstburg. The 1940 Census records Benjamin McDowell and his wife Edna, along with their daughter Gladys and her husband James Bailey. Also listed is Edna and James' son Robert. I was able to find Gladys' marriage record to James D. Bailey which states that they married on November 3, 1931 in Ohio and that James was the son of James Bailey and Eva Gay.

I was unable to find a death record or obituary for Edna McDowell, but I did find an In Memoriam which says "We treasure the memory of our beloved mother, sister and grandmother, EDNA MCDOWELL, who passed away on May 21, 1966. We missed you but God had other plans for a richer life beyond the unseen shore. Sadly missed by daughter Gladys Bailey,

grandchildren Donald, Dennis, Robert and great grandchildren Sherry and Terry.” Benjamin McDowell passed away several years before Edna, on February 20, 1948 in Detroit.

Benjamin’s brother Simuel Jr. is next. He married Inez Beck McKinnery, the daughter of Ed Beck and Elizabeth Pogin, on November 1, 1934 in Manhattan, New York. The 1940 Census still lists them as residing in New York.

Simuel Jr.’s brother Raymond was born on March 16, 1894 in Amherstburg. He married Carrie (Cummings) Jackson, the daughter of Abel Cummings and Laurie Allan, on June 1, 1918 in Windsor. Raymond passed away in 1924 as was reported in *The Amherstburg Echo* on February 15, 1924. His obituary says “Raymond McDowell passed away Monday at his home on Seymore street, aged 29 years. Three years ago he suffered a severe attack of influenza and out of this developed tuberculosis, which proved a lingering illness, the last six months of which he was bedridden. He suffered a great deal from weakness. Mr. McDowell was born in Amherstburg, being a son of the late Simuel McDowell. His parents are both dead, but he is survived by five brothers and two sisters; Simuel, of Chicago; Ben, John, Alonzo and Ruddy, of Detroit; Emily at Home, and Ethel, Mrs. Norman Wilson, Brock street. He was married in 1918 to Miss Carrie Cummings, of Detroit. They had no family. The funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at the First Baptist church by the Rev. B. A. Shaw and burial in Rose Hill cemetery. The family is extended the sympathy of the community.”

Raymond’s sister Emma Jane was born on May 14, 1890 in Amherstburg. According to her death notice from *The Windsor Star* she passed away at age 79 on March 14, 1969 in Amherstburg. It does not mention any children and says that she is survived by nieces and nephews. Additionally, she is listed as Emma Jane McDowell, which means it is likely that she never married.

Emma Jane's brother is the next child of Simuel McDowell and Emma Rudd. I found a birth record for Samuel Rudd McDowell who was born on September 12, 1896. Immigration papers for Ruddy McDowell states that he was a cook and was going to see his wife Laura. I could not find a marriage record for Ruddy and Laura, but I did find a marriage announcement from *The Amherstburg Echo* for Rudd McDonald McDowell and Genevieve Scott, the daughter of George Scott. The couple was married in February 1947.

According to Ruddy S. McDowell's obituary from *The Windsor Star* (May 12, 1949), "Ruddy S., 52 years, May 12, 1949, at Hotel Dieu. Beloved husband of Geneva Scott McDowell, 106 King St., Amherstburg. Dear brother of Mrs. Norman Wilson, Miss Emma McDowell, Amherstburg; Simon and Alonzo of Detroit. Funeral arrangements incomplete."

**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.**