

The McDowell Family History Part 3 – Baptist Missionary Society

The last child of Simuel McDowell and Emma Rudd is Ethel McDowell. She married Norman George Wilson, the son of Albert and Margaret Wilson. Norman was born on January 22, 1894 in Amherstburg. The 1921 Census for Norman and Ethel lists their children Alva, Margaret, Marietta, Arnold and Herman. Also found was a death record for June, the daughter of Norman and Ethel, who sadly passed at 9 months old on January 19, 1926.

Before sharing information on their children, I will share Ethel and Norman's obituaries. Ethel's passing was reported in *The Windsor Star* on July 30, 1966 and says "Mrs. Ethel Lillian, 74, of 202 George St., Amherstburg died Friday at home. She was born and raised in Amherstburg. Mrs. Wilson was a member of the First Baptist Church and its missionary society. Surviving are her husband, Norman George; sons, Arnold, Herman, both of Amherstburg; daughters, Mrs. Ralph (Alva) McCurdy, Mrs. Alvin (Margaret) McCurdy, both of Amherstburg, Mrs. Lyle (Marietta) Talbot, Windsor. Mrs. Floyd (Violet) Jones, Detroit, Miss Isabelle at home; sister, Mrs. Emma McDowell of Amherstburg; 23 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren. The body will be at the James H. Sutton Funeral Home, Sandwich and Gore Sts., Amherstburg, until 11 a.m. Monday, then to the First Baptist Church for 1:30 p.m. service with Rev. Banks Clark officiating. Burial will be in Rose Hill Cemetery, Amherstburg."

Ethel's husband Norman Wilson passed away a few years later on July 1, 1970. *The Windsor Star* wrote "WILSON – Norman G., 77 years, July 1, 1970, at Grace Hospital, late of 295 George St., Amherstburg. Predeceased by his wife Lillian (July 26, 1966). Dear father of Arnold and Herman, Amherstburg; Mrs. Ralph (Alva) McCurdy, Mrs. Alvin (Margaret) McCurdy, Amherstburg; Mrs. Lyle (Marietta) Talbot, Windsor; Mrs. Greene (Isabelle) Clarke, Mrs. Floyd (Violet) Jones, Detroit. Dear brother of Mrs. Rebecca Kersey and Norval, Windsor;

Albert, Neil, Ira, of Harrow and William of Amherstburg. Resting at the James H. Sutton Funeral Home, Sandwich and Gore Sts., Amherstburg, until Friday morning, thence to the First Baptist Church until time of service, 1 p.m. Friday, July 3, Rev. Banks Clark officiating. Interment Rose Hill Cemetery.”

I was also able to find information for each of their children Alva, Margaret, Marietta, Arnold, Herman, Violet, and Isabelle. According to Alva Wilson McCurdy’s obituary from *The Windsor Star* (November 20, 1971), “Amherstburg councillor’s wife dies – AMHERSTBURG – Mrs. Alva McCurdy, 56, the wife of Amherstburg councilman Sheldon Ralph McCurdy, died today at IODE Hospitals Windsor, following a lengthy illness. Mrs. McCurdy, a lifelong resident of Amherstburg was the former Alva Wilson, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Norman Wilson. Besides her husband, Mrs. McCurdy is survived by two daughters, two sons and nine grandchildren, plus four sisters and two brothers.”

Alva’s sister Margaret also married into the McCurdy family. Her obituary was printed in *The Windsor Star* on October 27, 1995 and says “McCurdy, Margaret E. 79 years, October 26th, 1995, at Windsor Regional Hospital, Western Campus. Late of Amherstburg. Beloved wife of the late Alvin (1989). Dear mother of Mary Margaret and husband John Payne, Detroit; Michael and wife Margaret, Toledo, Ohio; Alvin and wife Ruth, Amherstburg; Emily and husband Alonzo Wheeler, Oak Park, Mi. Also survived by 16 grandchildren and 17 greatgrandchildren. Dear brother of Alonzo Wilson, Amherstburg; Mrs. Isabelle Graham, Windsor; Mrs. Marietta Talbot, B.C. Predeceased by brothers and sisters Herman Wilson, Violet Jones, and Alva McCurdy. Also survived by numerous nephews and nieces. Mrs. McCurdy was a member of the Evangelical Baptist Church.”

Margaret's sister Marietta is next. *The Windsor Star* printed her obituary on December 17, 2010 which says "TALBOT, Marietta – Born on September 4, 1918 in Amherstburg, Ontario, went to be with the Lord on December 15, 2010 in Kelowna, BC. Survived by her loving husband of 73 years, Lyle; five children: Marilyn (Ian) Hamilton, Carol Talbot, Jerald (Amy), Cheryl (Jeff) Evans, Sandra Talbot ... Sadly predeceased by two brothers and four sisters."

Marietta's brother Arnold's obituary appeared in *The Windsor Star* on January 28, 2001 which said "WILSON, Arnold E. 81 years on January 5, 2001 at Malden Park Continuing Care. Predeceased by his wife Viola Wilson (1993) and his friend Annette Rogers (1991). Dear father of Ann Jones, Arnold Wilson Jr. and wife Joanne, Curtis Wilson and wife Marion, Sheila Harris, Deborah Turner and husband Timothy, Monica Wines and Husband Michael and Jason Wilson. Will be missed by a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Survived by his sister Marietta and husband Lyle and predeceased by several brothers and sisters."

Arnold's brother Herman's obituary was printed in *The Windsor Star* on April 14, 1972. According to the article, "WILSON – Herman G., 51 years, April 13, 1972, at the residence, George St., Amherstburg. Predeceased by his wife Wanda. Dear father of Gordon, Amherstburg; Ralph, Vancouver; Mark, Windsor; Blake, Detroit; Brent, Gail and Katherine, at home. Dear brother of Arnold, Amherstburg; Mrs. Alvin (Margaret) McCurdy, Amherstburg; Mrs. Lyle (Marietta) Talbot, Ottawa; Mrs. Floyd (Violet) Jones and Mrs. Greene (Isabelle) Clark, Detroit. 10 grandchildren. Friends may call the James H. Sutton Funeral Home Sandwich and Gore Sts., Amherstburg, from 2 p.m. Saturday."

I could not find an obituary for Violet Wilson, but I did find a document that says she was living in Ypsilanti, Michigan and her husband's last name was Jones. It also shares her middle name: Manola.

The last child of Ethel McDowell and Norman Wilson is Isabelle. Her obituary from *The Windsor Star*, which was printed on March 24, 2000, states “CLARKE, Isabelle (nee Wilson) 78 years, March 21, 2000 at Windsor Regional Hospital, Met. Campus. Late of Harrow. Beloved wife of the late Greene Clarke and the late Charles Graham. Dear mother of Wayne and wife Mary Jane Wilson, Harrow; Gerald Talbot of Toronto ...Dear sister of Arnold Wilson of Windsor and Marietta Talbot of B.C. Predeceased by sister Alva McCurdy, Margaret McCurdy and Violet Jones and brother Herman Wilson.”

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.