

## **The Henderson Family History Part 2 – An Act of Service and Sacrifice**

Ruth and Morris' children include Morris Kenneth, Elise Lenore, Robert, Shelley Lynn, Jaynelle, Velma, and Maureen who was the oldest daughter from Morris' first marriage. I will share details about each child in this history, but more information will be shared about each of Morris and Ruth's children in the next family history series installment which will feature the Harding family. I'll begin with Morris Kenneth. He worked as an electrician with his father and was married to Marie Antoinette (Toni) Shaheen. His children include Lisa Marie, Morris, Christian, and Keith Allen.

Morris Kenneth's sister Elise, who has generously shared memories and photographs to enrich this family history, is Curator Emeritus of the North American Black Historical Museum (now The Amherstburg Freedom Museum) in addition to being an author, educator, historian, and African Canadian Heritage Consultant. She married Garland Davis and is mother to Sybil, Daphne, and Angelique. Elise was also recently named to the Order of Ontario.

Sadly, the next child of Ruth and Morris, named Robert, was stillborn in 1950 and is buried at Windsor Grove Cemetery. Robert's sister Shelley married Herman Steve Smith and worked as Canada's first African Canadian Female Master Electrician. She was among fourteen apprentices trained by her father Morris. She is also the mother of Richard, Stephanie, and Olivia.

Shelley's sister Jaynelle was Vice Principal at a public school near Oshawa and married Melvin Thomas. Elise also recalled Jaynelle's marriage to a man named Greg but could not confirm his last name. She thinks it is Williams. Elise also mentioned that Jaynelle was brilliant and on the dean's list. Jaynelle's obituary mentions her partner Gaitan. Jaynelle also has two daughters Euphemia and Tia Thomas.

Jaynelle's sister Velma worked as a cosmetologist and also as a carpenter. She sadly passed at the young age of 29 years old. Velma's sister Maureen is the oldest child of Morris from his first marriage. Elise shared that Maureen was a Supervisor at a Plastic Plant in Windsor. She married Wilbert Mulder and their children include Alrita, Wendy, and Wilbert Jr.

Now that I have discussed Roland and Euphemia (Moxley) Henderson's daughter Ruth, I will continue with their remaining children including Robert, Edward Guyon, Warren, Roland, Wallace Q., George, Ruby, Gloria Jean, and Euphemia Joyce. Robert married Anne Lucille Levi. An article from *The Windsor Star* titled "Our Brave Heroes" which was printed on November 11, 2010 states Robert was a "member of the 7<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> Hussars, battled tyranny in Italy in the Second World War. Bob was a supervisor at Windsor's Canada Post until his retirement." Robert's wife Anne, according to Elise, worked for Sears in the cosmetic department, but first worked at the Norton Palmer Hotel in Windsor, cleaning rooms. *Find a Grave* includes an obituary for Robert which states that he "Passed away on January 24, 2014 peacefully at W.RH. Met Campus at the age of 91 years. Survived by his wife of 62 years Anne. Step-father of Wilma Davis, Grandfather of Mark (Julie), Tim, Lisa and Jon (Chandelle). Great grandfather of six, great great grandfather of five. Also survived by his sisters Ruby and Jeane, brothers George (Barbara), Roland (late Dottie), Warren (Judy). Several nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews also survive. Robert was retired from Canada Post and a Veteran of W. W. II. Cremation services were held. Arrangements entrusted to Families First 3260 Dougall Ave. South Windsor."

I was also able to locate Robert's wife Anne Lucille Levi Henderson's obituary. It says "Passed peacefully at the age of 101 years at Schlegel Villages of St. Clair. Reunited with her loving parents Vida Wright (1921) and John W. Levi (1958), and husband Robert E. Henderson (2014). Loving mother of Wilma Davis. Affectionately known as Gram to grandchildren Mark

(Julie), Tim (2017), Lisa, Jon (Chandelle). Great-Grandmother of Tameka, Shane (Stephanie), Nicole, Kendra, Brianna-Lee, Chaylee, Cayman. Great-Great-Grandmother of Illyana, Julius, Jayden (2008), Carter, Brooklyn, Brayden, and Bray-Lynn. Anne was a long-time employee of the Norton Palmer Hotel, and Sears Canada until her retirement where she made many friends. Anne was also a faithful member of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness for most of her life in which she took great comfort. Gram, we love you and you will truly be missed by all of us. A special thanks to the caring staff of Schlegel Villages of St. Clair, Oldcastle neighbourhood.”

Robert's brother Edward Guyon is the next child of Euphemia Moxley and Roland Henderson. According to Elise, Edward Guyon was a mathematical genius and liked listening to classical music. He served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during WWII and tragically died during a training exercise after his aircraft collided with Tiger Moth 5944. In 1942, following his tragic death, an article titled “Refused Café Service – Airman Dies in R.C.A.F.” was printed in *The Windsor Star* on November 22, 1942. It says “L.A.C. Edward Henderson, Colored Youth, Killed While Serving in Country's Uniform (By Weston Gual) – LAC Edward Guyon Henderson, 19, R.C.A.F., who months ago was turned away from a downtown Windsor restaurant because it wasn't the policy of the place to serve colored people, died in an aircraft accident yesterday at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, his parents were informed by wire today. Mr. and Mrs. Roland P. Henderson of 319 Assumption street took the news of their son's death in a quiet way but none but the father, a Windsor postal clerk, his pleasant wife, and the eight of their other children who are at home, could feel in full the tragedy which robbed them, of their symphonic music-loving 'Eddie,' a former welder at Gotfredson's Limited.” Elise adds that Euphemia was a Silver Cross mother which is a medal awarded to mothers who have lost children in the service of their country.

The article continues with “BROTHER IN ARMY – Another son of the family of four girls and six boys is a trooper with the Canadian Armored Corps overseas, Trooper Robert Henderson, 21, who went overseas in April this year. LAC Henderson joined the Royal Canadian Air Force at Windsor in March this year and was sent to the Manning Depot at Toronto to undergo basic training leading to a navigator’s course in the service. He hoped to get his first furlough this Christmas, but had written often to his mother and dad.”

“PATTERSON STUDENT – A student at Patterson Collegiate he held his senior matriculation and his love of symphonic music is attested to by the many records lying on the top of the family’s piano in his crowded little home. No particulars were forthcoming as to how the colored lad who months ago when in civilian clothes was refused permission to eat in a local downtown restaurant met his death, and it was only last week that his mother received a letter informing them of his transfer to Prince Albert. His cheery last letter ended thusly, ‘Please send me those pictures of Gloria (his 10-month-old sister) and the biggest chocolate cake you can lay your hands on. (Don’t send me any little two-bit something either, mom!). Besides his parents and Gloria he is survived by three other sisters, Ruth, 22; Joyce, 13; and Ruby, 19; and four other brothers, Warren, 17; Roland, 15; Wallace, 11, and George, 6.”

“PROUD OF HIM – ‘He wanted to join the R.C.A.F.,’ said his father today, ‘and I was proud that he did.’ He joined voluntarily. ‘I don’t see why colored folks so long as they are respectable can’t eat in a white man’s restaurant,’ said his mother. ‘Eddie was always a good boy.’ Funeral arrangements are pending further details from Saskatchewan. Two other airmen, a pilot-instructor and another student pilot, were killed in the same accident that took the life of the Windsor flier, it was announced today at Winnipeg.”

Edward Guyon's brother Warren, according to Elise, worked at the Norton Palmer Hotel, but also at the Red Door which was part of the Howard Johnson hotel chain on Ouellette Avenue in Windsor. Elise also shared that Warren was a very quiet person and was called the 'elusive uncle Warren.' He also lived in Windsor, was married to Judy Wilson and had two children named Janice and John, but was also stepfather to David. He was born in 1926 and passed away in 2021.

**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.**