

## **The Harding Family History Part 4 – The Constable**

Now that I have discussed William Harding's line, I will move forward by sharing information about Robert and Elizabeth (Travis) Harding's next child Robert Thomas Harding. He married Caroline M. Moore, the daughter of William and Sarah Moore, on October 10, 1889 in Raleigh, Kent. Their children include Robert William, Bertha Lauretta, Charles Henry, Alta, Elsie May, Samuel, Albert, Ethel Marie, and Irene. Robert William was born on June 12, 1890 in Raleigh, Kent, while his sister Bertha Lauretta was born on March 12, 1892. Their brother Charles Henry Harding was born on January 23, 1894. Charles' sister Alta Helen was born on January 22, 1899. She married Samuel C. Gilmer, the son of John Gilmer and Nora Cropps, on August 14, 1922 in Wayne, Michigan. She married a second time to Eddie Wallace who is listed on the 1940 Census as a 'Core Maker' at an auto factory. The next Census for 1950 lists Eddie as a Millwright in an auto factory. Alta passed away on June 12, 1988 at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Her death record shares that her husband Eddie passed away on October 18, 1976 and that Alta was a member of the Church of Christ. This record also shares that Alta was survived by "one daughter, Agatha Wallace, Escanaba; one brother, Sagasta Harding, Romulus, Mich.; one sister Marie Hardwick, Lansing; several nieces and nephews."

Alta's sister Elsie May was born on December 27, 1895 in Raleigh, Kent. According to her death record from August 19, 1938, she married a man with the last name Anderson, but his first name is not mentioned. This record also shares that she passed in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Elise May's brother Samuel Wilfred Harding was born on June 20, 1902 in Raleigh, Kent. He married Dolly Scott, the daughter of William Scott and Margarette McCarthy, on May 25, 1927 in North Buxton. Samuel's wife Dolly Scott was born on September 2, 1908. I also found a marriage record for Samuel and Dolly's daughter Valaida E.M. Morton who married William A. Segee, the son of John A. Segee and Elizabeth Timbers. They married on July 9, 1981 in Lucas,

Ohio. This record also states that Valaida was previously married to Howard L. Morton but was widowed. Valaida is also listed as an Assistant Nurse.

Next is Samuel's brother Albert Sagasta Harding who was born on June 21, 1908. He married Ruth Huff Rideout, the daughter of Thomas Huff and Mary Meek, on May 2, 1940 in Lucas, Ohio. This record also shares that Ruth was previously married to Robert Rideout. *Find A Grave* states that Albert and Ruth had a son named Robert Sagasta Harding, but I could not find any documents that confirm this. Albert Sagasta Harding passed away on December 8, 2002 in Wayne, Michigan. According to Elise, Sagasta was a talented jazz pianist who used to visit his cousin Morris and wife Ruth; Ruth and he would play piano duets.

Albert's sister Irene is next. According to her obituary which was printed in the *Windsor Star* on July 7, 1982, she is listed as Irene Rhue. It says "RHUE – Irene V, 67 years, late of Wyandotte St. W., July 5, 1982 at Grace Hospital. Dearest mother of Kenneth, Windsor and Mrs. Patricia Jiminez, Kitchener. Also survived by 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Dear sister of Sagasta Harding, Romulus, Mich.; Mrs. Alta Wallace, Estinoba, Mich.; Mrs. Marie Hardwick, Lansing, Mich."

Irene's sister Florence Harding Jones passed away in 1977. A tribute to Florence appeared in the *Windsor Star* on June 20, 1979 and says " JONES – In loving memory of Florence who passed away 2 years ago in Escanabo, Mich., -She was something special And I miss her more each day; The saddest day of my life Is the day she passed away; I think of her in silence And often speak her name; All I have is memories And her pictures in a frame – Always remembered by her twin sister Irene Rhue and brother Sagasta Harding." The last child of Robert and Caroline Marie Moore Harding is Ethel Marie. She was born on March 12, 1911 in Raleigh,

Kent. I could not find any further information for Ethel, but she is listed in her sister Irene's obituary as Marie Hardwick.

Now that I've discussed Robert, William, Martha, Mary and Benjamin, I will move on to discuss the remaining children of Robert Harding and Elizabeth Travis who are Morris (Maurice), Elsin, Elizabeth and Lavina. Morris married Eliza McConnell, the daughter of Josiah McConnell and Hannah Scipio, on August 17, 1889 in Raleigh, Kent. The 1901 Census lists Morris and Eliza along with their children Harry, Ralph, and Lillian. According to Eliza's death record, she passed on November 18, 1932. The following year, Morris passed away on September 29, 1933 in Chatham at age 58. At the time, Morris worked as a Blacksmith. According to Elise, he was the last Black Constable for Buxton.

Elsina (some records says Ellen) Harding, is the next child of Robert and Elizabeth (Travis) Harding. She married George W. Shreve, the son of Felix and Matilda Shreve, on July 8, 1890 in Chatham. Elsin and George's son Amos William Shreve was born on July 20, 1887 in Raleigh, Kent. Amos's brother Ernest W. Shreve married Mezephor E. Brown, the daughter of R.S. Evans and Katie B. Haley, on April 9, 1918 in Cuyahoga, Ohio. According to their marriage record, Ernest worked for the U.S. Army while Mezephor worked as a housekeeper. Ernest's Immigration record states that he worked as a Barber. Both George Shreve and Elsin Harding married again. George married Wilhelmina Hooper, daughter of William Hooper, on September 3, 1902 in Detroit. His third marriage was to Sarah Ward Pitts, the daughter of Joseph and Lucy Pitts, on April 15, 1923 in Detroit. George passed away on September 28, 1930 in Detroit at the age of 63. Elsin married a second time to John L. Jackson, son of David Jackson and Mary Johnson, on September 30, 1901 in Cuyahoga, Ohio. According to her death record, Ellen/Elsina passed away on March 30, 1937 in Cleveland, Ohio at age 66.

Elsina's sister Elizabeth is next. She was born on August 30, 1875 and later married Isaac Doras Shadd, the son of Garrison William Shadd and Harriet Jane Poindexter, on September 23, 1893 in North Buxton. Their son Ralph Stanton Shadd was born on March 8, 1895. He married Bonnie B. Sands, daughter of Alfred Sands and Lucy Dean, on August 29, 1919 in Cuyahoga, Ohio. Elizabeth and Isaac's daughter Floretta Minerva Shadd was born on July 12, 1896 and their next daughter Fredda Shadd was born on July 20, 1900. They may have also had another daughter named Elsie Elizabeth, but I could not find any documents to confirm this. Elizabeth Harding Shadd's death record states that she passed away on July 20, 1900 at the age of 25. It seems that Elizabeth died in childbirth because her death date is the same as the birth date of her daughter Fredda. Following Elizabeth's death, Isaac D. Shadd married Emma Jones, the daughter of Ren. S. Jones and Cathy Richison, on December 18, 1911 in Chatham. Isaac passed away on November 13, 1920.

The last child of Robert Harding and Elizabeth Travis is Lavina. She married Henry Alonzo Enos, the son of Jacob and Lenvezer Enos, on September 21, 1880 in North Buxton. Their son Robert H. married Jennie Traves (might be Travis), the daughter of Robert Traves and Emma Birdett, on June 1, 1910 in Chatham. His Social Security Information record states that Robert was born on May 3, 1883. Robert's sister Hester Lavina Enos was born on November 26, 1887. According to her death record, she passed away on August 17, 1922 at the age of 35. This record lists her as Ester Lavina Rolls, but her husband's first name is not listed. Ester's brother Andrew Enos married Henrietta Clark, the daughter of William Clark and Hattie Higgins, on November 14, 1912 in Windsor. Andrew's sisters Caroline Enos married William Earvin Johnson, the son of Louis Johnson and Susan Wallace on February 20, 1918 in Chatham. Caroline's death record states that she passed away on November 12, 1945 in Romulus, Wayne,

Michigan and that her date of birth was February 19, 1897. Caroline's brother Frank Enos married Alma Smith, the daughter of James W. Harrison and Leona Williams on October 14, 1940 in Lucas, Ohio. This record states that Alma was previously married to a man named Artie Smith.

**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 where we will celebrate another amazing family.**