

The Coates Family History Part 5 – The Sweet Potato Farmer

Cora's sister Minnie is the last child of Fannie Reynolds and Milton Coates. She married John Clay. They had a son named Frederick. I found a death announcement in *The Amherstburg Echo* on April 6, 1906 which says "Clay – In Colchester South, Saturday, March 31st, the son of John Clay, aged 21 years." Although the son is not named, I believe this is Frederick.

Minnie's husband John Clay appeared in *The Amherstburg Echo* on October 10, 1919. The article says "The 'Banana Belt' will produce anything. A very nice sample of sweet potatoes grown by John Clay, Snake Lane, are shown in F.H. Ferris's store this week. Their appearance is up to any imported potato."

Minnie Coates Clay passed away on August 13, 1932 in Colchester. Her death record also shares that she was born on August 14, 1864. Her obituary appeared in *The Amherstburg Echo* on August 19, 1932 and says "Mrs. John Clay Dies – After a lengthy illness Mrs. John Clay passed away at her home, Snake Lane, Saturday evening. Before her marriage to John Clay in November 1895, she was Minnie Coates. She is survived by her husband and two brothers, Milton and Arthur, both of this township. Funeral services were held Monday at the B.M.E. church, Harrow, followed by interment at the Central Grove cemetery."

Minnie's husband John Clay passed away decades later in 1962. His obituary appeared in the *Windsor Star* on February 9, 1962. It shared "John Clay – Harrow – Funeral service for John Clay, 91, of Given Rd., who was burned to death by a fire in his home Thursday, will be at 2 p.m. Monday at the Gerald Smith Funeral Home, Harrow, Rev. I.H. Edwards officiating. He was born in Windsor and has lived 65 years in Harrow. He was a member of the Central Grove Church, and was formerly employed by the Clark Company Ltd, of Harrow. Surviving is a brother, James of Detroit. Burial will be in Central Grove Cemetery."

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.