

The Coates Family History Part 1 – From Kentucky to Colchester

This month's family history will feature the Coates family beginning with Milton Coates. He was born in Kentucky circa 1832 and came to Colchester some time before 1850. He married Francis Sophia Reynolds, the daughter of John Bartlett and Lucinda Reynolds. According to the book *New Canaan* by Milo Johnson, Milton and Fannie lived and farmed on the family homestead in Colchester South on Concession 2 (Lot 8). I could not find a death record for Milton, but he appears in the 1881 Census, but Francis, also referred to as Fannie/Fanney is listed as a widow in the 1891 Census, meaning that Milton passed away between 1881 and 1891. I did find an obituary for Fannie in *The Amherstburg Echo* on October 6, 1911 which says "Miss Fannie Coates, an aged resident of this township, died on Saturday following a stroke of paralysis with which she was seized ten days ago, and the funeral took place Monday forenoon to Central Grove A.M.E. church, where services were conducted by Rev. Peter Brooks, and interment followed in the cemetery there. She leaves three sons, William, Arthur and Milton, and a number of other relatives."

Fannie Reynolds and Milton Coates had several children including Phoebe, Rachel M., William M., Caroline, Annie, Elizabeth, Georgina/Georgia, Milton Jr., Arthur, Adelaide, Almish Cory 'Cora', and Minnie. I could not find information for Phoebe, Caroline, Annie, and Elizabeth, but there were documents uncovered for Rachel, William, Georgina/Georgia, Milton Jr., Arthur, Adelaide, Almish Cora, and Minnie. I'll begin with Rachel. She married William Davis, the son of John and Eliza Davis on April 26, 1877 in Colchester. The 1881 Census for Colchester South lists William and Rachel, along with their children Early and Mary.

Rachel's brother William M. married twice. His first marriage was to Adeline Mulder and then to Elise Golden Thompson. Adeline Mulder was born in 1866 and was the daughter of John

Joseph Mulder Jr. and Almaney McCoy. Adeline and William lived on the property that was formerly owned by Adeline's father, John Joseph Mulder Jr. Interestingly, the 1871 Census record lists the Mulder and Coates family as living right next to each other. Following their marriage, Adeline and William had twelve children: Maude Luella, Josephine, Oda, Archie, Claude Leo, Clodia, Ethel, George Henry, Roland, Blanche Dell, Almana, and Dora.

Maude Louella Coates Mulder, was born on March 16, 1881 in Colchester South. She married Wiley Grayer, the son of William Grayer and Mary Elizabeth Green, on April 13, 1900 in Detroit. The couple lived on a farm on Gore Road on the 2nd Concession. Maude Louella's husband Wiley was one of the first mail carriers in Colchester South Township in the early 1900s and delivered mail on Rural Route 2 and Rural Route 4. Wiley and Maude had sixteen children: Estelle Mae, Mazie Luella, Ruby Beatrice, Virgil Sylvester, Olive Marie, Lovedy Bernetta, Helen Josephine, Wilfred, Ida Evelyn, Gerald, Sylvanna, Mary, Gladys Leone, Violet Winifred, Marvin Lester, and Kenneth. See Grayer family history – <https://amherstburgfreedom.org/mulder-family/> – for further information.

Adeline and William's next child, Josephine, was born circa 1886 and according to her marriage record, she married James Taylor on January 6, 1905. At the time, Josephine or Josie was 19 and worked as a domestic. James was a 28-year-old farmer and the son of James Taylor and Dollie Green.

Josephine's brother Oda was born on July 12, 1888 in Colchester. On his birth record there is a note from Oda's aunt, Mary E. Coates, confirming his birth, which says "That I am the aunt of the said person and was on intimate terms with his family at the time of his birth; that although I was not present at his birth, I saw the child within a few days thereafter and was informed at the time and fully believe that he was born at the place and on the date mentioned."

No information was available for Archie, Clodia, Ethel or Dora, but there are a few documents concerning Claude Leo and Georg Henry Coates. Claude's death record states that he passed on August 3, 1934 in Colchester. His obituary which appeared in *The Amherstburg Echo* on August 10, 1934 says "Claude Coates was born in Colchester South, the son of William and Adeline Mulder Coates. He was raised on the farm on which he was residing at the time of his death and on the death of his parents took over the farm himself. He was 39 years of age and besides farming he worked with his team on road work. He was married eight years ago and his wife and five children, Claude, William, Carl, Marlene and Lois, survive. Three sisters, Maude, Mrs. Wiley Grayer, Colchester South; Josephine, Mrs. Joseph Matthews, of Harrow; Dora, Mrs. Raymond Mayles, of Detroit; and two brothers, George, of Windsor, and Otis, of Cincinnati, survive him."

Claude was married to Lillian Beatrice Kennedy, the daughter of Andrew Kennedy and Margaret Harrison. The couple had six children named Claude Leo Jr., William Andrew, Carl Arthur, Marlene, Lois and Alger. Following Claude's death, Lillian remarried to a man named Joseph Morgan. Lillian passed away on December 7, 1963. Her obituary appeared in the *Windsor Star* two days later on December 9th and says "MORGAN – Lillian Beatrice, 64 years, Dec. 7, 1963 at Hotel Dieu Hospital. Late residence 456 Elliott St. E. Dear wife of Joseph (deceased May 1963). Dear mother of Claude, William and Carl Coates of Windsor; Mrs. Harry (Marlene) Benstead, Windsor; Mrs. Kenneth (Lois) Brooks, Oakville; Mrs. Alger (Lillian) Coates, Windsor; Mrs. Carmelo (Norma) Wrontera, also of Windsor; Miss Julie Morgan (deceased 1957). One step-son Llewellyn Morgan of Windsor; 2 step-daughters, Mrs. James (Marion) Alonzo, Mrs. Leo (Beatrice) Montgomery of Detroit; 2 brothers, Mr. Golson Kennedy of Puce; Mr. Raymond Kennedy of Windsor. Dear sister of Mrs. Kenneth Nevels of Windsor; 29 grandchildren."

According to a Coates family member, Levi and Andrew should also be listed as brothers with Golson Kennedy.*

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 2.