

The Day Family History Part 1 – The Settler

This month's family history will feature the Day family, beginning with Edmund (sometimes listed as Ellis) Day and his wife Diannah/Deannah. According to the book *New Canaan: Freedom Land* by Milo Johnson, Ellis Day married Deannah and resided in Salem, Ohio in the early 1800s. When Ellis passed away, Deannah left Ohio and settled in Colchester Township circa 1850. This corresponds with the 1851 Census which lists Diannah Day, but not Ellis/Edmund, and two of her sons Edmund and Samuel as living in Colchester. Milo Johnson adds that Deannah's children were born free in Ohio and the family arrived at Colchester "with some means and purchased land on Lot 7 of the 4th Concession ... The Day family members lived in various parts of Colchester South, Amherstburg, Windsor, and Michigan. The homestead on the 4th Concession was occupied by members of the Day family until the 1980s.

Edmund/Ellis and Diannah had five children named Joseph, Alma, Edmund, Samuel Profit and Solomon. I was not able to find any information for Edmund or Solomon, but have information to share about Joseph, Alma, and Samuel Profit. The 1871 Census lists Joseph under the same household as his younger brother Samuel and his family. According to the Census, at the time, Joseph was 36 years old and he worked as a labourer. I also found a Joseph Day listed on the Colchester North census for 1901 which states he was born March 15, 1831, was 60 years old, 'African' and a farmer. I could not find any documents to confirm that this is the correct Joseph Day. I also found a death announcement for a Joseph Day in *The Amherstburg Echo* which was printed on December 29, 1916 which says "DAY- At Leamington, on Sunday, December 21st, Joseph Day, of Colchester South." The Death Record for Joseph Day states that he passed on December 24th, 1916 in Mersea or Leamington (Essex House of Refuge). This record also states that Joseph was born in the United States, was single and a labourer.

Unfortunately, the names of his parents are not listed on this document, so I also could not confirm if this is the correct Joseph Day.

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.