

Victoria Wilder

My family history in America begins in 1751, in Virginia and blossomed in Canada.

Charles Thompson, my [paternal] Great, great, great, great grandfather, was born in 1751 in Northumberland County, Virginia, enslaved by John Ustuss. In the Revolutionary War, he fought for his freedom in the British army in Captain Snowball's Company. In 1776 he received a free pass from General Sam Birch to cross British lines to go to Nova Scotia. His wife, Elizabeth, escaped slavery in 1777 from another Virginia enslaver, George Ingram. They are listed as part of the Shelburne, Nova Scotia Free Black community in 1783.

Silas Chandler, my [maternal] Great, great, great, great grandfather, born in 1752, escaped slavery in Bucks County Pennsylvania and also resided in Shelburne in 1783. The time and route of his trek to Nova Scotia is unknown, perhaps military. He is listed as a Black Loyalist. His son, also Silas, was a farmer, married to Lucinda, my Great, great, great grandmother, and had eleven children. He died in 1896, aged 90 and Lucinda died a year later.

In 1870, one of their sons, Abraham immigrated to Lynn with his wife **Anna Sophia**. Their son, James Otis Chandler, married Mary Jane Wright and had 9 children. He is my [maternal] great grandfather.

In 1876, my grandfather, **William E. Thompson** left Canada for the United States. He resided in Cambridge and united the two Nova Scotia families – Thompson and Chandler – when he married **Alla Sophia Chandler** on March 27, 1913, in Lynn, MA and raised eleven children in Lynn. This included Dorothy Loretta, their 7th child, my mother.



Photos: Anna Sophia Chandler, William E. Thompson, Alla Sophia Chandler