

The Pearl Family Part 2 - “a distinguished looking man”

Next is James William “Willie” Harris who was born circa 1876 and married a woman named Emma. William and Emma had at least two children: Helena “Lena” who was born circa 1928 and later married Robert Dorsey and Leslie who was born circa 1929. Lastly, David was born in 1879, but sadly passed away in 1885.

James Harris, husband of Mary Anne Pearl, passed away on July 2, 1884, in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and several years later, Mary Anne moved back to Amherstburg and married Otto/Ortho Taylor in 1887 in Michigan, then married Robert East (son of William East) in 1908 in Colchester. For further information on the Harris family, please visit our website – amherstburgfreedom.org.

Mary Anne’s brother, William, was born circa 1843 and married twice. His first marriage was to Margaret Fowler and the couple had three children: Lyman, Alfretha and William Jr.. William Sr.’s second marriage was to Minerva Alice McCurdy, the daughter of William Henry McCurdy and Mary Grinage-McCurdy. William and Alice were married in 1893 and they had a daughter named Ida. William fought in the Civil War and joined Company B of the 32nd United States ‘Colored’ Troops in 1864. He was discharged and hospitalized at Beaufort, South Carolina due to his injury. Following the Civil War, William purchased land in New Canaan, but also lived in Ypsilanti for a time. In his obituary, William was described as “a distinguished looking man and of late wore a flowing white beard which marked him in any company where he might be.”

The next child of Bozzle and Catherine Pearl, Caroline, was born circa 1844/6, married Isaac Leek circa 1866. The couple had eight children: Simon Peter, Mary Elizabeth, William,

Amanda, Nancy, Susie, Clara, and Minnie. Simon Peter married Marthie Jane Matthews, the daughter of Matthew Matthews and Alma Day-Matthews in 1864, but married a second time to Medora Carter- Myles, the daughter of Lewis Jasper Carter and Sarah Elizabeth Hawkins. Medora was born in 1865 in Puce and first married William H. Myles who passed away in 1910. Simon was a successful farmer, but was most known for his horses, which earned him several awards at the Harrow Fair. To help make extra money, Simon used his horses to haul gravel and complete road work.

Mary Elizabeth Leek married John Mulder and had four children: Charles, Harvey, Lucille and Viola. There wasn't any available information on Caroline's next child, William, but Caroline's daughter Amanda married George Jones. Amanda's sister, Nancy, was born circa 1883 and married into the Adams family. Susie Leek, Caroline's next child, married Arthur Coates. Clara Leek was born circa 1884 and Minnie Leek was born circa 1886 and married William Shoffner but married a second time to John Dickerson. Minnie and William had four children: Katherine (born 24 January 1936 and married Walter Williams), Theodore (born circa 1909), Marguerite (born April 1907) and Evelyn (1918).

Caroline's sister Nancy, the next child of Catherine and Bozzle Pearl, was born circa 1886 and married Gilbert Lambert Green. Nancy and Gilbert had six children: Arthur, Joseph, Rosie, Frederick, Georgia and John. Arthur was born circa 1869 and married Nellie McCurdy. Arthur and Nellie had 5 children: Chauncey, Jessie, Bessie, Wavy and Olive. Nancy's next child, Joseph was born on October 2, 1873, married Verlita Medesta Wilson (born January 31, 1900) and the couple had one son, Joseph Green, who was born circa 1927. Nancy's third child, Rosie was born June 20, 1877, while Frederick 'Freddie' Green was born on May 15, 1879 and married Sarah Bibb (born circa 1884). Frederick and Sarah had three children: Ruth, Dorthy

and Frederick Jr. No further information could be found on Nancy's remaining children, Georgia and John.

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 3 where will discuss the remaining children of Basil and Catherine.