

A Full Family Tree – The Hurst Family (Continued through Washington’s line) – Part 2

Just like Early, there is quite a bit of information about his brother Charles Hurst who was born on June 16, 1882/1883. He married twice. His first marriage was to Della Lucas of Chatham, who was the daughter of Edward Lucas and Mary Richeson. The couple married in December 1910 in Detroit, Michigan, where they were both living. Their marriage record states that Charles was a teamster and 28 years old, while Della was 23. The couple had a least one daughter and her name was Edna Lucas Hurst. Edna later married Russell Hurst in August 1921. Both were 18 years old and Russell was from Amherstburg, while Edna was born in Chatham. At the time, Russell was a labourer, while Edna was a house keeper. Russell and Edna had 13 children: Pauline (married Freeman Dungy), Viola (m. Arnold Wilson), Russell Hurst (m. Anne), Edward (m. Yolanda), Leroy (m. Connie), Marvin (m. Josephine), Delphine (m. Eddy Hawkins), Barbara (m. Howard Shaw), Charles (m. Tina), Mary (m. Leroy Carmichael), Donna (m. James Elliott), Brenda (m. David Grant), and Peggy (m. Ron Goosby). Russell was also married to Margaret Elizabeth Johnson (mother of Shirley, Leonard, Janice, Ronald and Linda) and was remembered as a beloved crossing guard in Amherstburg.

Charles’ second marriage was on March 19, 1946 to Dorothy Jackson, the daughter of William Jackson and Effie Lee. Dorothy was born on April 1, 1910, making her 35 at the time of their marriage, while Charles was 63. Both lived in Amherstburg where Charles worked as a teamster and Dorothy was a “domestic.” Before their marriage Dorothy already had a son named Richard Jr. (birth father was Richard Noland) and Dorothy and Charles raised him together. The couple also had three other children: Charles Jr. (Vernon), Lorvendale and Harriet Noreen. Their father, Charles Sr., worked the family farm that was passed down to him giving everything he had to keep the farm going. He also represented the Amherstburg community with his dedication

and long-time service to the church, serving as a pastor until his death at the age of 74. Following his passing, Dorothy resumed this service and never remarried.

Charles also had a sister named Della who married George Alton Scott in November 1916 in Amherstburg. George was born in New Canaan and was the son of Joseph Scott and Dina Galloway. At the time of their marriage George was 29 and a labourer, while Della was 26 and a "House maid." Neither were previously married, and both were living in Windsor. Several years before her marriage to George, Della had two sons: Russell who was born on August 24, 1902 in Amherstburg and Clifford who was born on April 5, 1908, also in Amherstburg. Sadly, according to the *Amherstburg Echo*, Clifford Hurst passed away at the age of 32 years on February 17, 1941 in Amherstburg, while Russell passed many years later in 1984.

Della's sister Hattie was born on October 28, 1890 in Malden, which later amalgamated with Amherstburg. On September 21, 1909, Hattie married Oswald Simpson in Amherstburg. Oswald was a 22-year-old labourer and the son of James Simpson, a farmer, and Matilda Brooks. The couple had at least one son named Clarence D. Simpson who was born on December 10, 1909.

Hattie's sister Mina/Mima was also known as Jemima. She married Walter Mann who was born in Anderdon on April 18, 1874 and was the son of Maria Kersey and Hardy/Hartwell Mann. According to Walter's obituary from the *Amherstburg Echo*, Hartwell escaped enslavement in the "US just before the Civil War and came by the underground railroad to this district which was a haven of refuge to so many of the oppressed colored people of the south. He began farming in Anderdon and was one of the well known Liberals of this district often

speaking at meetings.” This was not Walter’s first marriage because he was previously married to Emma Jane Britton who was the daughter of Thomas and Milley Britton. The couple married on October 5, 1896 in Colchester North, but the marriage record for Walter’s second marriage lists him as a widower, meaning that Emma passed away some time before his second marriage to Mina. Mina and Walter married on September 22, 1906 in Amherstburg and they had a son named Charles.

Mina’s husband Walter sadly passed away on April 11, 1936 after an unexpected accident. According to the *Amherstburg Echo*, Walter had a sense of humour and wanted to play a prank on his co-worker and brother-in-law, Oswald Simpson. He told Oswald that he would beat him in a race to the town hall and each man took a different route. Walter reached the town hall first and decided to hide so that he could scare Oswald upon arrival. The *Amherstburg Echo* goes on to say “After waiting a few minutes he said, ‘I guess Oswald isn’t coming, and stepped out of his hiding place. As he did so he fell forward on his face and died instantly. His death removes one who had become almost an institution in Amherstburg and one who hadn’t an enemy in the community. Always ready to joke, he had a friendly greeting for everyone and his exuberant nature prompted him to demonstrate his remarkable ability at step-dancing which always delighted his audience.” Walter must have been a highly respected person in the community not only because of the words written about him, but how much space (several paragraphs) the *Amherstburg Echo* devoted to honouring Walter. The newspaper also mentions that “Walter began sailing after he grew up and sailed on many of the lake steamers. Twenty-nine years ago he entered the employ of the Corporation of Amherstburg and has been a faithful employee since. During that time he and his partner on the job, Andrew Boyd, were responsible for installing and maintaining the water and sewer main system of the town. They worked under

the direction of Freeman McCaffrey and because of their difference in stature were often called 'Mutt and Jeff.'" Walter's wife Mina passed away several years later in 1945.

The last child of Harriet and Jonas Hurst to be discussed is Elizabeth. According to her death certificate, Elizabeth was born circa 1886. She later married Robert Day who was the son of Robert J. Day and Anne Mack on July 6, 1907 in Amherstburg. The couple's marriage record says that Robert was born in Richmond, Ohio, but was living in Detroit at the time of their marriage. Robert was 22 and Elizabeth was 21, and neither were previously married. The couple had two children: Willie (born in 1910) and Gladys Marie (1918), but sadly both passed away shortly after being born. In Elizabeth's obituary it does not list any children, so it is possible that the couple did not have other children.

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.