

Marshall Family History Part 2 – A Man Named Apples

The next child of Alex and Maria Marshall is Harriet. She married Jonas Hurst, the son of Washington and Jemima Hurst. Jonas was born in the 1840s in Colchester South and several documents list different years of birth. The 1851 Census lists his year of birth as 1843, while his obituary says 1844. Additionally, the 1901 census gives the exact date of October 8, 1847. According to their marriage record, Jonas Hurst and Harriet Marshall married on May 4, 1863, in Essex County. Before we discuss their children, a few more details about Jonas and Harriet.

According to Jonas' obituary which was printed in the *Amherstburg Echo* on January 24, 1902, "JONAS HURST, one of the best known colored men in Amherstburg died Thursday of last week, at the age of 58? Years. The funeral was held Saturday forenoon, the remains being taken to the B.M.E. church, Harrow, where services were conducted by Rev. T.W. Johnson, after which the remains were interred in the B.M.E. cemetery at Colchester village. The pallbearers were: - William Thompson, William Brantford, John Dickenson, Simon Hulbert, John Young, and James Holton. The deceased was born in Colchester South in the year 1844. He was a son of the late Washington Hurst. He was married to Harriet Marshall and they had fifteen children, nine of whom are living. – Norman of Colchester South; Albert, Earnest, Charles, Gary, of Amherstburg; and Lizzie, Mima, Della, Hattie at home. He has two brothers, Washington and Albert, of Colchester South. He had been sick about four years with heart trouble, which later developed into dropsy, which caused his death."

Also available was Harriet's obituary which appeared in the *Amherstburg Echo* on September 20, 1918, and said "Mrs. Harriet Hurst, widow of the late Jonas Hurst, Brock street, Amherstburg, passed away at an early hour Wednesday morning, aged 72 years. She was in her

usual health until Sunday, but suffered a stroke of paralysis on Monday, and the end came rapidly. Mrs. Hurst's maiden name was Harriet Marshall, daughter of the late Alexander Marshall, of Colchester South. Of the family there are two brothers and one sister – David and Hezekiah Marshall, of Colchester South and Mrs. Lucinda Mickens of Malden. She was married to Jonas Hurst and became the mother of sixteen children of whom eight survive her – Norman, Gary, Early, Charles, Mrs. Lizzie Day, Mrs. Mina Mann and Mrs. Hattie Simpson, all of Amherstburg. There are besides thirteen grandchildren. They moved from Colchester to Amherstburg 21 years ago, and Mr. Hurst died here 12 years ago. The funeral will be held at the B.M.E. church, Harrow, this (Friday) afternoon, at 3 o'clock, conducted by Rev. Ware, assisted by Rev. P. Brooks, and burial will be at the lake cemetery.”

We have identified 13 of their 16 children: Albert, George, Jonas Jr., Edward, Gary, Ann, Norman, Charles, Early, Della, Hattie, Mina, and Elizabeth. We were lucky enough to find further details for nine of them: Albert, George, Gary, Norman, Early, Charles, Della, Hattie and Mina. The only evidence that we could find of Albert was his death record which states that he was the son of Hattie Marshall and Jonas Hurst, born in Colchester around 1878 and was a 35-year-old labourer who passed away on May 18, 1913 in Amherstburg.

Albert's brother George was born in Malden Township circa 1875 and became a farmer. He married Nellie Hywarden, who was the daughter of Eli Hywarden and Elizabeth Marshall, on May 16, 1898 in Harrow. George and Nellie's marriage record also says that Nellie was born circa 1881 in Colchester South.

George's brother Gary is the next person to be discussed. He married a widow named Mamie Bow, the daughter of James Hughes and Catherine Stockley, on October 2, 1916. Gary was a 42-year-old labourer, while Mamie was a 40-year-old Housekeeper who was born in

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Gary sadly passed away in December 1930, suffering from dropsy and lung trouble. According to his obituary which was printed in the *Amherstburg Echo* on December 5, 1930 “Funeral services for the late Gary Hurst, whose death was announced in last week’s *Echo* were conducted Saturday afternoon, in the A.M.E. church by Rev. Burton, the pastor, and burial was in Rose Hill cemetery, with the following pallbearers: Jerry Harris, Peter Brooker, Peter Stokes, Walter Scott, George Brooks and Henry Chambers. The deceased was a son of the late Jonas Hurst and was born in Amherstburg 56 years ago and lived his whole life in the neighborhood where he died. He had suffered a lingering illness with dropsy and lung trouble, and his end came as a blessed relief from earthly suffering. Surviving him is his widow, who lives in Detroit and the following brothers and sisters: Charles and Early Hurst; Mrs. George Scott; Mrs. Oswald Simpson; and Mrs. Walter Mann. Deceased members of the family are Norman and Albert Hurst and Mrs. Robert Day, the latter two lived in Colchester.”

There are a few documents that list Gary’s brother Norman, including the 1920 Census for Toledo, Ohio. It lists Norman as a “Roomer” in the household of Joseph Miller. The Census also lists him as a 53-year-old widow who moved to the US in 1919 and that he worked as a labourer who did “General Work.” Norman’s death record states that he passed away in Amherstburg on March 3, 1924. According to his obituary which was printed in the *Amherstburg Echo* on March 7, 1924 “Norman Hurst, a native of this township, died at Amherstburg on Monday, aged 56 years, following a two weeks decline after a stroke of paralysis. The funeral was held there on Wednesday afternoon to Rose Hill cemetery. Deceased was a son of the late Jonas Hurst and spent most of his life here. The last few years he was in Toledo, coming from there to Amherstburg at Christmas. He was twice married but both wives are dead. One son survives him, also three brothers and three sisters, all of whom are living in Amherstburg.”

Unfortunately, the names of his wives are not listed, but it does state that they predeceased him, explaining why he is listed as a widow in the 1920 Toledo Census. This document also mentions that he had a son (no name mentioned), who survived him, but it is possible that he could have had more children.

Early is the next in line. According to his death record from December 1932, he was born on February 28, 1877, in Colchester. He married Edith Thompson on March 21, 1906. Edith was the daughter of Royle Thompson (mother not listed) and neither Edith nor Early were previously married. Early was 29 at the time of their marriage while Edith was 24. The couple had a daughter named Margaret Elizabeth who was born on May 31, 1906, in Amherstburg. Margaret later married Stanley Allen in March 1922. Stanley was born in Colchester North and was the son of William Allen and Victoria Brooker. At the time of their marriage, Stanley was nineteen and Margaret was sixteen. Interestingly, both are listed as labourers on their marriage record, which is not often an occupation associated with women at that time, if an occupation is listed at all. Often women are listed as housewives or without an occupation, but Margaret demonstrates that women worked outside of the home and contributed financially to their families.

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 at 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 housekeeper. Russell and Edna had 13 children: Pauline, Viola, Russell, Edward, Leroy, Marvin, Delphine, Barbara, Charles, Mary, Donna, Brenda, and Peggy.

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 on the family farm that was passed down to him. 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. 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 in Amherstburg, Hattie married Oswald Simpson

whose nickname was 'Apples.' The story goes that Oswald was given this nickname because he could crush an apple in the palm of his hand (see Simpson family history <https://amherstburgfreedom.org/simpson-family-james-line/>). Oswald was a 22-year-old labourer and the son of James Simpson, a farmer, and Matilda Brooks.

According to Hattie's obituary from August 1978 "Death came to Hattie, Mrs. Oswald Simpson, Fort St., Amherstburg, Thursday in her 88th year. Her husband died in 1962. Mrs. Simpson was born in Colchester South a daughter of Jonas and Harriet Marshall Hurst. Her only son Clarence (Jake) died in 1965. She leaves 7 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Rev. Lloyd Jenkins conducted the funeral in Tanner A.M.E. Church, King Street, Saturday. Burial followed in Rose Hill Cemetery."

As mentioned, the couple had a son named Clarence D. 'Jake' Simpson who was born on December 10, 1909. He married Orla Harris who was born on April 29, 1923, in Amherstburg. The couple married on Saturday, June 5, 1943, and Orla was the daughter of David Leonze Harris and Sadie Allen.

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. 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 an article from the April 17, 1936 issue of the *Amherstburg Echo*, "Town Employee Dies Suddenly – Walter Mann Is Victim Of Heart Failure – Walter Mann, well known colored employee of the Amherstburg Board of Works, died suddenly Saturday morning, April 11, while engaged in playing a prank on his fellow worker, Oswald Simpson, which his happy nature had prompted. He had told Mr. Simpson that he would beat him to the town hall and the challenge was accepted. They chose different routes and Mr. Mann reached the hall first. After his arrival he told Freeman McCaffrey town engineer, that he was going to hide on Simpson and stepped into a corner. 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. Deceased was born in Anderdon 61 years ago. His father was Hartwell Mann, who escaped from slavery in the United States just before the Civil War and came by the underground railway to this district which was 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. 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.' He is survived by his

second wife, who, before her marriage, was Mina Hurst, daughter of Kersey Hurst of Colchester South; one son, Charles, and a grandson Lloyd of Amherstburg and one brother, Rev. James Mann of Cleveland, O. Sincere tribute was paid to the memory of Mr. Mann by the larger number of citizens, white and colored, who attended the funeral services held at the B.M.E. Church Tuesday afternoon.”

Walter’s wife Mina passed away several years later in 1945 and on January 11th the *Echo* printed “Mrs. Walter Mann, 58, a former resident of Amherstburg and Colchester South, died in London on Saturday. She was the former Jemima Hurst and leaves a sister, Mrs. Oswald Simpson and a brother Charles in Amherstburg.”

The last child of Harriet Marshall 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. Elizabeth’s obituary states “Mrs. Robert Day, daughter of the late Jonas Hurst, Brock street, passed away quite unexpectedly on Friday evening last. She had been poorly for a couple of years, but was no worse than usual that evening, and her death as she was conversing with her sister was a great shock. The remains were taken to Harrow on Monday morning, where services were conducted, and interment was at Colchester, where other members of the family are buried. Mrs. Day’s maiden name was Elizabeth Hurst. She was born in Colchester South but came to Amherstburg

with her parents when a child. She was married to Robert Day, of Chicago, and he survives her together with the following brothers and sisters: Norman, in the States; Gary, Earl and Charles, of Amherstburg; Mrs. Oswald Simpson, Mrs. Walter Mann and Mrs. Della Scott, all of Amherstburg.”

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.