

Marshall Family History Part 3 – The Oldest Tiger Fan in Amherstburg

Now that we have discussed Harriet Marshall Hurst's line, we will move on to discuss her brother David Marshall. The 1881 Census lists David alongside his wife Jennie (Busha) and the following Census for 1891 lists some of their children: Lucindy, Charles, George, and Anney. Other records mention that David had a daughter named Mary Louise (which could also be Lucindy) and a son named Isaac who passed at a young age. Before we discuss David and Jennie's children, here is some more information about David.

On July 30, 1937 the *Amherstburg Echo* printed a lengthy article about David who was a fan of baseball. The article titled 'Amherstburg Nonagenarian Is Ardent Radio Baseball Fan' reports "The oldest Tiger fan in Amherstburg, and probably the oldest along either side of the border, David Marshall, sat on the shady side of a shed at his home on Kemp Street, Amherstburg, Friday, and listened to the broadcast of the Boston-Detroit baseball game. Mr. Marshall is one of Amherstburg's oldest residents, for he has gone beyond the 90 mark and will be 91 years of age on August 13. That's a ripe old age, but the years sit lightly on the shoulders of this son of a former slave ... His eyesight has dimmed a little but he can still see fairly well and his health is good. Best of all he still retains his sense of humor and chuckles contagiously when he recalls a droll incident or hears a jocular remark."

The article continues, "Secret of Long Life – Of course one has always to ask the secret of an aged person's longevity but the reason he gave was that he 'guessed it was just the mercy of God.' He smokes, but he doesn't think smoking hurts anyone. 'But, of course, you shouldn't smoke too much,' he hastened to add. 'I remember a long time ago in Harrow Dr. Campeau telling me that smoking too much would not be good for me.' He has apparently taken the advice

for he hasn't been 'hurt' by the use of tobacco. He used to chew too, but he gave that up long ago. Did he drink? Well he had often had the odd glass of beer or wine, but he 'never followed that stuff.'"

"We asked him if he could advise The Echo readers how to live to a ripe old age and he replied, 'Ah dunno how they can do that, but if they serve God I believe they'll have better luck and God will bless them,' which shows that he is a bit of a philosopher and possesses a homely wisdom."

The article also shares "Hard Work and Religion – Hard work has always been his lot and he found little time in his long span of years to play. His chief recreation was attending church and enjoying the emotional outlet this afforded. He really began to work when he was about 13 years of age. At least that was when he first began to earn money. Mr. Marshall was born on the Theodore Langlois farm in Malden and as soon as he was old enough he began to do chores around the farm. 'Ah 'member Theodore Langlois well,' he said, 'and Ah'd suttinly like to see him now.' His father had worked for the Langlois family after he had come here from Kentucky. Mr. Marshall remembers his father telling how he escaped from slavery in the south. He and his wife planned their escape and after they made the break they were helped out by white folks who favored the abolition of slavery. But they had a hard time getting out of the country. They were pursued by dogs. 'But,' chuckled Mr. Marshall, 'my father and mother put pepper on their boots so that bloodhounds couldn't trail them.' They finally managed to reach Amherstburg and then secured work on the Langlois farm."

"Only Survivor – They raised a family of seven boys and six girls of whom David is the only one living. He farmed most of his life but he did try sailing for two years. But he found that

the turbulent life of a mariner was not for him. ‘Ah got awful scared when Ah seen that water come a-rollin’ over the boat,’ he related, and that decided him that he would stick to farming or gardening. The latter work he did when he got too old for the strenuous life on the farm. Over 56 years ago he married Jennie Busha, who was also the daughter of parents who escaped from slavery and found freedom and happiness in Colchester South, near Harrow. They had two children, Mary Louise Thompson, Kemp Street, Amherstburg, with whom Mr. Marshall lives and Charles Marshall, also of Amherstburg.”

The article continues with “Likes the Radio – Mr. Marshall has always been an early riser and he still gets up regularly at six o’clock. He retires about nine o’clock. He can do little around the house but he likes to listen to the radio and especially to the ball games. We asked him what Tiger ball players he liked best and he answered Greenberg and another player but he couldn’t remember his name. We suggested Walker, Gehring, Cochrane, but he shook his head to all of these. Then suddenly he remembered: ‘Pete Fox! Pete Fox! That’s the fellow I like.’ And we figured that Peter should feel mighty proud to have a fan as old as that among his public. Mr. Marshall had a brother Hezekiah (Shug) of Colchester South, who is one of the best remembered colored men in South Essex.”

Now that we have discussed David, we can move forward to discuss his children. There was no further information for George Henry or Anney (Annetta), but the 1911 Census lists Charles Albert in the same household as his uncle, Hezekiah. The Census adds that Charlie was born in July 1883 and worked as a labourer. There was significantly more information for David’s daughter Mary Louise.

It seems that Mary Louise married twice because she is referred to as Mary Louise Thompson in a 1937 article in the *Echo* and as Louise Mulder in a 1942 article. The name of her

first husband (Thompson) is not listed, but her second husband was Ernest Bratford Mulder. This was not Ernest's first marriage. He was previously married to Ethel May Clingman, the daughter of William Clingman and Matilda Ridout.

Both Louise and Ernest are mentioned several times in the *Amherstburg Echo* for their contributions to Essex County's agricultural progress. An article from October 30, 1936, titled 'Cotton Grows in Amherstburg,' says "A GAMBLE with the fertility of the Sun Parlor of Canada has been successful, and Amherstburg can now be classed among those places where 'de cotton blooms and grows.' Ernest Mulder, Kemp Street, Amherstburg, was given some cotton seeds last year and he planted them in a flower pot. As soon as danger of frost was past this spring he transplanted them to his garden where they thrived as well as if they were growing in the sunny south. Tuesday morning Mr. Mulder brought a cotton plant into The Echo office and on it were six bolls of cotton. Three of them had already burst from the boll and the others are almost ready to pop from their shell and prove to the world that cotton can actually be grown in Amherstburg. The plant is on display at The Echo office, and Mr. Mulder has also donated plants to the local schools so that the pupils may see the productiveness of their town."

A second article about Ernest growing cotton from August 14, 1936 states that Ernest was given the cotton seeds by relatives that live in Atlanta, Georgia, and that he had 5 successful plants at that point that grew over a foot high.

A few years later, on September 17, 1942, the *Amherstburg Echo* printed another article titled 'Cotton and Yams Are Produced In Local Garden.' It says "Cotton and sweet potatoes sound more like the Southern States than the Banana Belt but nevertheless right here in Amherstburg those two famous southern products of the soil are growing side by side in the garden of Mrs. Ernest Mulder, Kemp Street. A few years ago Mrs. Mulder had received a gift of

cotton seeds from a friend of hers. She planted them and they grew to a fair height. This year she sent away to the Department of Agriculture in Georgia for some seed and planted it first in the house and then transplanted it outside. It thrived under the rays of the Banana Belt sun and has now reached a height about three and a half feet and there is a profusion of blossoms which presage a good crop of cotton. Alongside the cotton patch her husband planted some yams and this vegetable is also showing signs of a good crop.”

Ernest Mulder’s obituary appeared in the *Amherstburg Echo* on November 12, 1975 and said “Ernest Mulder Bradford died at the Richmond Nursing Home Saturday in his 90th year. His wife was Louise Thompson. He was father of Kenneth of Chatham, Mrs. Harvey (Vida) Mulder of Harrow, Mrs. Ace (Geraldine) Brown and Mrs. Carl (Catherine) Berrigan, Yvonne Montgomery, Mrs. Meryle (Helen) Harrison, Mrs. Wallace (Jean) Mack, 17 grandchildren. The funeral was in Amherstburg Tuesday with Wellington Taylor officiating. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery.”

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 4.