

### The Mulder Family Part 3 – Civil Rights

-Members of the Mulder family help close the last segregated school in Ontario. Read more below.

Adeline's brother John Arthur Joseph (Jack) married Mary Elizabeth Leek, who was the daughter of Isaac Leek and Caroline Pear. John and Mary married on February 3, 1888. John Arthur Mulder and Mary Elizabeth Leek had several children including Harvey Sr. (1886), Charles (1887), Lucille (1892), and Viola (1895). The 1901 Census lists John and his four children, but also another child named Nina, in addition to a woman named Emma (listed as "Sister to H"), his mother Almaney and his brother Isaac.

Harvey married Mamie Gertrude Myles, the daughter of William H. Myles and Medora (Masidonia) "Dora" Carter. The couple had six children: Wilbert Harvey Jr. (1913), Wilbur Howard (1913), Judson (1918), James Arthur (1921), Ethelda Medora (1924), and Ervan Leroy (1926). Wilbert Harvey Jr., married Vida Mae Bradford in September 1934. They were married for over 60 years and also played a role in the closure of the last segregated school in Ontario, SS #11 in Colchester, through their participation in the organization, the South Essex Coloured Community Association (SECCA). SS #11 existed because of Upper Canada's (Ontario) 1850 Common School Act which permitted racially separate schools at the request of twelve or more resident heads of families. Not every school was segregated, but this law gave white citizens the power to exclude African Canadian children from attending the same schools as white children, if they wished it so. As a result, if Black residents wanted to have any school at all, they had to request a separate school so that their children would receive some form of education. As a result, children of African descent were forced to attend segregated schools. Over 100 years later, Leonard Braithwaite, the first Black Canadian elected to a provincial legislature, assisted

with its closure. On February 4, 1964 he delivered his first speech to the Ontario Legislature and spoke out against the Separate Schools Act. Shortly after, on March 12th, the education minister Bill Davis introduced a bill that repealed the 114-year-old law and amended the Act.

Organizations, parents and government officials worked together and in 1965 the school was finally closed.

Harvey's brother, Wilbur Howard, married Juanita Taylor, the daughter of James Taylor and Jessie Walls. Howard and Juanita had several children including Rodney, Howard, Diane, Juanita, Joanne, Michelle, Wilbur, Marva, Brian, Everet, Christel, Dorothy and Oscar.

Howard's brother Judson married Vida Baylis, who was the daughter of John Baylis and Daisy Ellen Marshall, while James Arthur married Melda Elain Grayer, the daughter of Forest Albert Grayer and Ida Belle Chavis. James' sister Ethelda Medora married George Talbot, the son of James Talbot and Jordina Matthews, while Erva Leroy married Lenora Wilson, the daughter of Norval Wilson Sr.

Harvey's brother Charles married Edna Walker and they had three children: Charles Erwin (1913), Ruth Lucille (1922), and John. On October 29, 1938, Charles Erwin married Thelma Grayer, who was the daughter of Forest Albert Grayer and Ida Belle Chavis. The couple was married for over 50 years. Ruth Lucille married Gerald Grayer who was a farmer and operated a trucking company. John, who was also called "Walkin' John," never married but remained in Colchester for his entire life.

Charles' sister Lucille married James Morgan on February 16, 1910 in Amherstburg. James was born on August 6, 1888 and was the son of William H. Morgan and Julia Baylis. James and Lucille had at least one child, a daughter named Lana May Morgan who was born on

March 6, 1912. Several years later, the 1921 Census lists James living with his second wife Mabel (daughter of N.H. and Madora Dixon) and daughter Helen. The Census also shows Medora Myles (James' mother-in-law) as the head of household. James married Mabel Dixon on November 8, 1919 and he is listed as a widower, meaning that Lucille had passed away. At the time of their marriage James was a labourer and Mabel did housework.

Lucille's sister Viola tragically passed away at an early age. According to the book, *New Canaan*, Viola experienced an anxiety attack while visiting friends in Sandwich (now Windsor) in 1913. She believed that two men were following her and panicked. She ran and jumped into The Springs Canal in Sandwich and drowned. Just a year before, Viola travelled to Detroit, Michigan. According to the Passenger list for 1912, Viola was 17 years old, single and a domestic.

Following the passing of his first wife Mary Elizabeth Leek in 1900, John Arthur Mulder (father of Harvey, Charles, Lucille and Viola, who were just discussed) married a second time to Sarah Anne Stewart on August 8, 1901. According to their marriage record, John was 33 and a farmer, while Sarah was 21 and the daughter of Leonard Stewart and Doreas Kisner. The couple had one child in 1902 named William Arthur. At the age of 21, William, a farmer, married Madeline Baylis, the daughter of John Baylis and Mary Brown. The couple married on June 1, 1920.

**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.**