

The Taylor Family Part 1 – Working the Land

For this month's family history we owe a great deal of thanks to several people who generously shared information on their ancestors from the Taylor family including Michael Taylor, Janice (Taylor) Harris, Kim Elliott, Veronica Cobb, Alden Taylor, Renard Taylor, Tamara Muise, Allen E. Walls and a child of Phyllis Taylor who wrote their mother's obituary. Our focus is the family line of James Taylor and the generations that followed him. James Taylor was from Louisville, Kentucky and was born in the state circa 1835 and was the son of James Taylor and Mary Jones (the daughter of Henry Jones). According to the book *New Canaan* James is listed in the 1861 Census as living in Anderdon Township, likely in the Marble Village area of Anderdon, where they lived in a log cabin.

Have you ever heard of Marble Village in Essex County? It was a small Black settlement on Texas Road in Amherstburg. This settlement was established by a white Anderdon resident, Rowland Windfield, who was opposed to slavery, but it was inhabited by freedom seekers. Many residents worked as farmers, but a significant number of residents also worked at the local stone quarries. Within this settlement there was a small rural school called the Quarry school or the Marble Village School, which included teachers such as John Alexander, who taught there in the early 1900s. The Marble Village School was in operation until 1917.

According to Kim Elliott, James George "Isaac" Taylor's daughter Sarah Taylor Chase and her family stated that John Taylor was a "Civil War hero who was married to Hute [N]ative 'Kitty Cloud' Taylor (see the book *Black Indians*), and William George TAYLOR whose log cabin is now situated at the Freedom Museum were in all likelihood brothers. As they all came to Amherstburg as Black Loyalist from Kentucky and settled in Marble Town near Anderdon to be

near Ft. Malden [,a]s well as to live in and amongst the CanAm Cherokee-Wyandotte (USA) / Chippewa-Wyndet (Canadian) that also lived in the Anderdon village.”

If you look at the 1861 Census you get a rough idea of when James, his wife Martha and their daughter Mary came to Canada because it shows that Mary was born in the United States in 1856. James and Martha’s second daughter Frances was born in Canada in 1859 and she is two years old at that point. This means that James and Martha must have come to Anderdon Township (Canada) sometime between 1856 and 1859.

According to the next Census in 1871, James was residing in Colchester South. James married twice. His first marriage was to Martha Harris and the couple had at least three children: Mary, Francis and Amanda. Sadly, Francis passed away on March 30, 1879 at the age of 17 years old due to consumption, while it is believed that Mary passed away before 1871 based on Census records and Amanda does not appear on the Census after 1871, meaning she must have passed sometime between 1871 and the following Census in 1881.

James Taylor’s second wife was Dolly Melvina Green and they married in 1863. Dolly was the daughter of Joseph Green and Elizabeth Hutchins. Before we move forward, we want to share a bit about the Green family. Joseph Green was a successful farmer in Colchester, having arrived in Essex County before 1835 from Hardin, Tennessee. He and Elizabeth Hutchins married circa 1837 and Joseph fought for the Essex Colored Militia in the 1837-38 Upper Canada Rebellion. The 1837-38 Rebellions occurred in Upper and Lower Canada and was a result of political unrest that developed soon after the War of 1812. This caused resistance against the British Crown, which ruled the colonies of Upper and Lower Canada.

There were numerous Black soldiers who were loyalists and they assisted in defending against rebel attacks. According to Irene Moore Davis' article "Canadian Black Settlements in the Detroit River Region", found in the book *A Fluid Frontier: Slavery, Resistance and the Underground Railroad in the Detroit River Borderland*, "In December 1837, during the 1837-38 Mackenzie Rebellion, the Reverend Josiah Henson's company of black volunteers attached to the Essex Militia was part of the group that captured the rebel schooner *Anne* and made prisoners of its crew ... Josiah Henson's unit defended Fort Malden [in Amherstburg] from Christmas 1837 to May 1838, and another company of 123 black volunteers, Captain Caldwell's Coloured Corps, was subsequently stationed there for two months."

According to the 1861 Census, Joseph Green's children included Rutha/Ruth, Eliza, Dolly and Elijah. He also had another daughter named Elizabeth who was married to Nathaniel Jacobs and, therefore, is not listed in the Census with the Green family. Elizabeth and Nathaniel had a daughter named Elizabeth (Eliza). Following Nathaniel's passing, Elizabeth married a second time to Charles Curran in 1864 and the couple had five children: Charles (1866), William J. (1875), Jessie A. (1877), Mary M. (1881), and Melinda (1872).

Elizabeth's sister Mary Eliza married William Grayer circa 1862 and they had nine children: William Joseph (1863), George Albert (1867-1910), Maria (Moriah) (1868), Nesseler (1871), James Hatfield (1871), Charles Augusta (1872), Emnily (1876), Wylie (1881), and John (1885). Mary Eliza's sister Ruth married William 'Henry' Graham in 1864 and they had six children: Elijah, Henry (1866), Thomas (1867), Alvin (1868), Amanda (1870), Alzora (1873), and Francis (1876), in addition to Ruth's son Elijah from a previous relationship.

When Dolly's father Joseph Green passed away, he willed her 40 acres of property that was located on Concession 2, Lot 4. The road was Highway 18, but is now Highway 20. When

you look at the Land Registry it shows the first entry as Francois Marchand who was granted 200 acres on Concession 2, Lot 4 from the Crown in 1807. The record also reveals that on May 15, 1833 Francois Marchand transferred land to Joseph Green for \$400. Several years later in 1841, more land was transferred to Joseph Green for \$100.

According to the 1851 census it shows that, at that point, Joseph Green had 70 acres of land. At that point, 30 acres were under cultivation, 25 were under crop and 5 were under pasture. Additionally, the Agricultural Census shows that Green devoted land for the production of wheat, oats, corn, hay and tobacco. This was in addition to producing wool and raising cows, horses, sheep and pigs. Ten years later, the 1861 Agricultural Census reveals that Joseph now owned 150 acres of land on Concession 2, Lot 4 and 5, with 40 acres under cultivation, 20 acres under crop and 30 under pasture. Impressively, the 1861 Agricultural Census states that the cash value of Joseph Green's farm was \$3,000. At this point Joseph is still growing wheat, oats, corn and potatoes. Also revealed is that the Greens lived in a log home.

The Land Registry also shows the transfer of land to Dolly and James, their children and grandchildren. James and Dolly, as mentioned had 40 acres, of which 25 acres was in pasture and what appears to be ½ an acre in garden or orchards. They also grew wheat, oats, corn, potatoes, apples and hay. This was in addition to raising horses, milk cows, other horned cattle, sheep and pigs. They also produced butter, wool, and home-made cloth and flannel. When James and Dolly passed away, they transferred land ownership to their two living children, Martha and James George, but Martha later transferred her portion of land to her brother James. When James passed, the land went to his wife Jessie Walls Taylor, then to Wellington (James and Jessie's son). Each of these land owners will be discussed in the following pages.

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 2.

REFERENCES by Michael Taylor (1 to 7) & Kim Elliott (8 to 14)

1) The 1851 Agricultural Census, Canada West for The Joseph Green Family Pages 85, 86, and 87, line 28 The 1851 Canada West Census for The Joseph Green Family, Page 5, Lines 43 to 47

2) The 1861 Agricultural Census, Canada West for The Joseph Green Family page 609, Line 25 The 1861 Canada West Census for The Joseph Green Family, Page 120, Lines 18 to 22

3) The 1861 Canada West Census for James Taylor Sr's Family in Essex County, page 93, lines 36 to 40.

4) The 1871 Canadian Census, Essex County, Colchester for James Taylor Sr's Family, Page 46, lines 18 to 20 and Page 47, line 1

5) MARBLE VILLAGE, *A Fluid Frontier, Slavery, Resistance and The Underground Railroad in the Detroit River Boarder Land*: pages 87 & 88.

https://books.google.ca/books?id=vhWCCwAAQBAJ&pg=PT90&lpg=PT90&dq=marble%20village%20in%20anderdon%20township%20upper%20canada&source=bl&ots=WYVzHXfd8_&sig=ACfU3U2NabdbAs_Y96V5qy1egJmm0NOMoA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi_q2i6tnoAhUbZc0KHZyVD9sQ6AEwAXoECAwQM

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6) Service Ontario Land Registry in Windsor: Joseph Green, Concession 2 Lot 4, Page 1, Lines 1, 2, 3, 4, and 13

7) James Taylor Sr's and Dolly Melvina Green's Marriage Document @ Ontario, Canada Marriage Archives at York University in Toronto. MS246 Reel 6.

8) The conclusion that James Taylor Sr, John Taylor, and George William Taylor was derived from a comparative study of various Census Records in the Marsh Collection in Amherstburg.

9) The claim that John Taylor was a Civil War hero and was married to the Hute native American woman, Kitty Cloud Taylor is documented in the book "Black Indians" published in the USA. 1) <http://williamkatz.com/books/> (2) <https://pinerivertimes.com/articles/90421>

10) The claim that the Taylors in particular settle in Anderdon among the "panis", AfricanIndians mixed peoples is documentary novel *Sandwich* published in Windsor and distributed by the Baby House Museum in downtown Windsor.

11) The research concerning Indian land surrenders to British Loyalists, related to the Anderdon and Amherstburg region, also corroborates this evidence in the documentary novel *The Western District*.

12) Other supportive evidence to the above can be found in a search of Windsor Star microfilm, Amherstburg Echo microfilm.

13) For supportive narratives Kim Elliott references two books written ARMBAs historian by Dorothy Shads Shreve-Suggee *The Pathfinder* and *AfriCanadian Church A Stabilizer*.

14) The information concerning Elizabeth Hutchins heritage, as the grandmother of James George Issac Taylor was provided directly to Kim Elliott in an interview with historian Mrs. Dorothy Shadd Shreve-Suggee (who lived to be 100 years old).