

The Green Family History Part 2 – 75 Years of Masonic Service

Gilbert married Nancy Pearl and another article found in the Museum's collection gives details of their life together. Unfortunately, the full name of the author is not given, but she is referred to as Pearl in the document. I will refer to the document as 'Pearl's article.' This thorough article says "Gilbert and Nancy Pearl received letters from members of John Green's family in Ohio. They were always filled with merits of Ohio, and how the family wished that they would come and make it their home. Finally Gilbert and Nancy decided to leave Canada and join the rest of the family. They joined them at Ashley, Ohio. Their first two children, Arthur and Joseph were born while they lived there."

"John Green got the urge to move farther north in the state. His choice was Van West County. The whole family again went together to this part of the state and remained there. For more than fifty years his descendants lived there. A few of the third generation are still living in the area. John Green was very happy. He had all of his family around him, grandchildren and great grandchildren and great grandchildren."

"Gilbert and Nancy were in Van West County about a year, when they had another child whom they named Rosa. After two boys, the little girl child was received with much joy. Van West County was not to Gilbert and Nancy what they thought it would be, so they decided to move back to Canada. Polly Ann's son Elisha and their son Arthur were near the same age. They were close playmates and loved each other dearly. When Gilbert and Nancy got ready to move, Polly Ann, who was a very sentimental person, hated to see the little boys separated. She suggested to Arthur's parents to leave Arthur with her. She sold them on the idea that it would be difficult to travel with three small children. She said that she would gladly keep Arthur until they

got back home and settled. She was persuasive enough to have them leave the child with her. Arthur wanted to stay. So they went back with the two children.”

“Arthur started to school with his cousins. He enjoyed it very much. He attended a whole school year. Places seemed far apart in those days, and travel was slow. His parents did not come back to see him nor was he sent to visit them. All the cousins loved him and he loved them and was getting more attached to them and Polly Ann. Gilbert’s sister Elizabeth was married to Jerry Williams and lived in Lima, Ohio. She was the type of woman who would stay away from her family just so long and she would have to go and see about them. She was very devoted to her father. Her father was making his home with Polly Ann. When she found Gilbert’s and Nancy’s child there, and found out how long he had been there, she was appalled. She told them that it was wrong for this little boy to be away from his own family. She said that he should be brought up with his own brother and sister and by his own parents. She went on to say to Polly Ann, that regardless how you feel toward this child, he has a father and mother and a brother and sister, and since they have not returned to take him home, I am going to take him to them. Elizabeth was a very strong person and when she spoke, the family usually heard. In a few days she took little Arthur to his parents in Canada. Knowing Elizabeth as I did, I am sure she made it unmistakably clear to the parents why she brought their child home.”

“Gilbert and Nancy had three more children after they moved back to Canada – John, Frederick and Georgia. John died when he was eight years old, and Georgia was just an infant when she passed. All their children were reared in Canada. They grew up on the family farm near Chatham. They went to a French public school near by and later to a private colored school. They participated in school and church activities.”

“When the children were old enough to go to work, they left the farm and went to the city. Joseph spent most of his adult life in Toledo, Ohio and worked as a brick layer. Rosa as a young woman worked in Detroit, Michigan and Toledo, Ohio as a domestic. She was a domestic, highly proficient in her work and much in demand. Joseph was a skilled bricklayer. He worked on many large construction projects. Arthur was a resident of Ypsilanti, Michigan most of his adult life.”

Before we continue with Pearl’s article about the Green family, I would like to share some more information about Arthur. He married Nellie McCurdy circa 1890. They lived in Canada for a time and had five children named Chauncey, Bessie Mae and Jessie Pay (twins), Wavey and Olive Pearl. In the early 1900s, they moved to Ypsilanti, Michigan, where Arthur worked for the city Utility Department. According to Clayton Collins, Arthur passed in the early 1940s, while Nellie passed circa 1950. Mr. Collins also shares that Chauncey worked for the Ypsilanti City Utility Department and married a woman named Hazel. The couple had no children. Bessie Mae married Robert Garth Collins and they had seven children including Clayton who recorded this information. His siblings were Roberta Mae, Guy Owen, Paul, Shirley Belle, Lois Pauline and Charles McCurdy. Roberta married James Henry Smith and their children include James H. Smith, Jr., Wavey Janette, Gail Elaine, Robert Lee, and Duane Allen.

Guy Owen married Carrie Blakemore in Anderson, Indiana, while attending theological school. He became the Reverend of an Episcopal Church in Detroit. They had two daughters named Karen and Dorinda. Guy’s second marriage was to Jacqueline ‘Jackie’ Cromer and they had one daughter, Guyanne. Jackie, who worked as a principal of Presentation School of Detroit, passed away in 1973. Guy married a third time to Alma.

Guy's brother Clayton married Jeanne, while their sister Shirley Belle married Thomas Douglas Smith and had four children named Thomas Douglas Jr., Bradford, Tony, and Cybil. Shirley's brother Charles married Vercie Little and had two children named Tanya and Charles.

Arthur and Nellie Green's next child is Jessie Pay. She married Guy McKinley Smith and they had a daughter named Wanda Mae, while Wavey passed at a young age. Their sister Olive Pearl married Theron Kersey in Ypsilanti and they had a son named Theron William Kersey Jr.

Now that we have discussed Arthur Green, we can continue with Pearl's article. It continues saying "Frederick Green was born May 21, 1879. When he was fifteen years of age, he started to work as an apprentice to a chef cook for four years. At the age of nineteen, he was employed as a chef on a passenger boat that sailed the Great Lakes. At the age of forty-three, he retired from cooking and became interested in the Building Trades. He was a member of the AFL-CIO. He retired from this type of work when he was seventy-two. He and his wife Sarah Bibb were married in Toledo, Ohio, December 31, 1912. They were the parents of two daughters and a son. All their children received an education and were outstanding citizens, making a contribution to the communities in which they lived. Frederick and Sarah encouraged their children to aspire for the higher things in life and they did just that. They all are members of the Antioch Baptist Church of Cleveland, Ohio. Ruth Green Brown, the eldest child was interested in Religious Education and served her church in that capacity. Their son Frederick, Jr. was interested in the Credit Union of the Antioch Baptist Church. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors and is chairman of the credit committee. Frederick, Sr. has served on the Deacon's Board and his wife Sarah for years was an ardent worker with the Missionary Society. The church has had a big influence on the family life."

Before we continue with the information from this article, I wanted to insert the contents of a newspaper article that discusses Fred's dedication to Masonry, having served for 75 years. The article is titled "Masons to honor brother" and is from 1975. It says "Fred Green and his wife Sarah will take a look back into time when his fraternal brothers William T. Boyd Lodge #79, F&M of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Masons gathered tonight at the Prince Hall Masonic Temple 1624 E. 55th St. Green, 96 last May 21, will hear his history as a charter member of the lodge traced back to its start in 1919, and his background before that. Curvis S. Rhyne, Most Worshipful Master of Ohio, and vice mayor of Alliance, will be on hand to make a special gift presentation celebrating Green's Diamond Jubilee (75 years) as a member of the Cleveland lodge. Green first became a Mason when he joined Star Lodge in Canada in 1900. He was born in Essex County, Ontario, as was his father before him, son of an escaped slave in 1848."

"Green's father was born free because his grandfather had escaped as a slave via the underground route to Ohio, thence to Canada. When his parents returned to Ohio Green developed a varied work experience as a chef, serving on both lake ships and railroads, did construction work and worked in construction and street paving projects for the City of Cleveland. The present Worshipful Master, William Colvin, may recall or relate that Green served as Presiding Officer of the Royal Arch Masons, Cuyahoga Chapter #36 and as Emanuel Commander of Cleveland Knights Templar, during his long career in the Masons."

The article concludes by saying "And perhaps, a tear may fall when they retrace his documented family history and the struggle of his grandfather to escape a slave plantation in Kentucky. But in the end they'll applaud Fred Green and his wife Sarah, for his Diamond Jubilee

as a Mason, and for their 63 years of marriage.” A separate article that shares similar details adds that Sarah was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Now we’ll return to Pearl’s article which continues with “Both Frederick, Sr.’s daughters married men named Brown. They are not related. Dorothy, the younger, is a retired business woman. When Dorothy was eighteen, James Brown went to her father and asked him for her hand. Her father told him that Dorothy was not ready for marriage. James insisted that he loved her and that he would do anything he could do to make her happy. Her father said, ‘Well, I was going to send her to school in order that she could be able to take care of herself.’ James could understand that, but it did not keep him from wanting to marry Dorothy at this young age. Finally her father said, ‘If you will send Dorothy to school, I will give my consent.’ These two young people were very happy. Dorothy graduated from High School in June 1934. They were married and James entered her in a professional school in 1934. She graduated from the College of Cosmetology in June 1937. Her husband set her up in business and for years she operated a very successfully Beauty Shop in Cleveland, Ohio. I had the pleasure of visiting in her home recently. Their home reflects welcome and love. James and Dorothy are gracious host and hostess. The regard they both have for Dorothy’s parents, who now make their home with them, is so precious, that an observer can’t help saying under their breath, ‘God bless this house, there is a wonderful foursome occupying it.’”

“Dorothy and James Brown have no children. It was a pleasure to visit them in September 1975. It was like I had known them for years, yet I had never seen them, when I decided to go to Cleveland and see her parents, whom I had not seen in years, Frederick, Sr. and I are first cousins. I knew his wife Sarah before they were married.”

“I was privileged to have met their daughter Ruth, but I had seen Dorothy and her brother Frederick, Jr. I telephoned Dorothy and asked her if it would be convenient for her to have me spend the night with them. She graciously said she would be delighted to have me. I then asked her if she would meet me at the station, she said, ‘Yes Pearl, but I have never seen you, how will I know you.’ Jokingly I said, ‘I’ll wear a red rose.’ We both laughed heartily. Finally I said, ‘If you see an old lady at the station looking bewildered, it will be I.’ She said that she would send her brother to meet me. Her brother Frederick, Jr. met me. He looked so much like his mother that I knew him at first glance it was he. He said that I looked so much like his father’s sister, that he was sure that I was the passenger for whom he was looking. We walked right to each other and after a greeting, we walked out on the street where his wife and Ruth awaited in his car. We went to Dorothy’s home where I was greeted by Frederick and Sarah, and met Dorothy and her husband for the first time. I had intended to spend the night but we had such a delightful time that I remained a day longer than I had planned. Dorothy and James are so compatible. It was a pleasure to be around them. Jimmie, we affectionately called him, and Dorothy spent their vacation in Mexico City, Mexico in 1952. He was so impressed with the climate and the topography. He said when he retired he wanted to live there. When he returned home, he enrolled in a Spanish class and continued his study of the language until he now speaks it fluently. With his looks, Jimmie fools many people who take him for Spanish. Dorothy and Jimmie are interested in visiting historical places. They have visited many such places in the United States. They have visited some of the Islands in the Caribbean sea and spend an extended visit in Hawaii. They own their beautiful home where they live. They also have rental properties. They are comfortably situated. Frederick, Sr. and Sarah are very happy with their family, and his son and daughters are very devoted to their parents. At their age, they seem to have very few

health problems. Because of their state of health, all their family gatherings are joyous occasions. Frederick, Sr. is ninety-six and Sarah is ninety-two. This year he was honored for having been a member of the Masonic Lodge for seventy-five years. He and his wife attended the ceremony.”

“He reads a great deal, but Sarah’s eyes are rather dim? She cannot read. They like television and radio. They have their favorite programs. They like sports, but baseball is their favorite sport. Cleveland Indians is their favorite team and they prefer the American league over the National league. They like music. Frederick, Sr., as a young man, was a pretty good guitarist. Dorothy, his daughter, said that she could remember her father playing and singing to them when they were little children. His son Frederick inherited his musical talent. As a lad he occupied the first chair in his Senior High School orchestra. He played the violin. He had a competitive spirit and he worked very hard to attain this place. On one occasion, when his high school was invited to do a concert at a high school in Madison, Wisconsin, Frederick, Jr., was enthused over the trip. He had high anticipation about going and the role he was to play. The young people making the journey were enjoying the event and like most high school students, were very happy and having a jolly time traveling together to Madison. They were in high glee when they arrived in the city. The night for the concert came. The young people were assembling on the state in their respective places when Frederick, Jr. was told by the director that he could not occupy the first chair because the girl sitting behind him could not be seen. His enthusiasm for playing in the concert was dampened by this humiliation. It was never the same for him.”

“Frederick Donald Green, Jr. is the only son of Frederick, Sr. and Sarah Green. He was born September 17, 1919 in Cleveland, Ohio. He graduated from high school in June 1937. He was inducted in the United States Army in 1941 and served his country until 1945. He met and married the charming Anna Cross, after some months of courtship, June 28, 1943. He was still in

the military service. After his discharge from the army, he returned to Cleveland in 1945. He became an employee of the U.S. Post Office in Cleveland, Ohio and retired from the system in 1971. He became interested in Real Estate in 1959 and sold some on his free time. Since he has retired from the Post Office, he now has the time to devote to it, and he has become a full-time Real Estate agent. He serves on boards and committees of the various community agencies. He is tremendously interested in his church's credit union. He and his wife Anna have two sons and a daughter. All are grown and have children of their own."

"Frederick Brian Green, the elder son of Frederick, Jr. and Anna Green, was born in Cleveland, Ohio on July 18, 1944. He graduated from high school in 1962. He was married to the lovely Ethel Hardy in July 1972. He is employed as a sheet metal apprentice in Cleveland. He and his wife have two sons, Frederick Marcus and Phillip."

"Gerald Dennis Green, the younger son was born December 9, 1946. He graduated from high school in 1965. He is employed as a lineman police and the Fire Department of Cleveland. He is married to the vivacious Alicia Davidson. They were married in August 1971. They have one child, Danielle Cheri Green."

"Andrea Green, the only daughter of Frederick and Anna Green was born June 12, 1949. She graduated from high school in June 1967. She married Donald Pounds in January 1970. They have a son, Gerald Anthony Pounds."

"Ruth and Warren Brown have three brilliant daughters. Ruth is a serious person and very meticulous. She is very studious and thorough. Her daughters reflect the qualities of their parents. It has not been my privilege to meet Ruth's husband, but I am sure his influence is redounded in his lovely family. They both, Ruth and Warren, conducted a home conducive to

interest in education which the daughters so beautifully exhibited. Ruth is a graduate from Schauffer College of Religious Education and received her BS degree from the college in 1937. She spent two years in graduate study at Atlanta University Graduate School of Social Work, earning a MA in the field. As a young woman, Ruth was a professional group worker. She started working in Neighborhood Community Centers. She worked on the NYA programs and for a while at case work. She became interested in Geriatrics and went into the field of working with the aged as an occupational therapist. Ruth was married in 1940. Eleven months later, her first child was born. Her children and her home so occupied her, that she gave up working outside. Warren Brown attended the public school of Cleveland. After finishing high school, he attended Fenn College and John Carrol University. He was appointed to the Cleveland Police Department March 1, 1944 and retired from the Police Department March 1, 1975. He spent twenty-nine years and six months with the Juvenile Unit working with boys between eight and eighteen years of age. June 1975 he came out of retirement. He is now working with the Cleveland Police Department, as a civilian, in the Communication Division.”

“Iris Patricia Brown Fields, Ruth and Warren’s eldest daughter, is a graduate of Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, with a BS degree from the College of Education, in August 1963. She taught for sometime and then took more college work. In 1973 she graduated from Ohio State University from the College of Education receiving a MA degree. She has taught in the secondary schools in Akron, Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio, from the fall of 1963 to 1971. In 1973 she was appointed Assistant Principal of the Junior High status in Columbus. The fall of 1974 she received a permanent appointment as principal. She is married to Ernest Fields, a graduate of Kent State University in Political Science. He has worked with Housing Development as a coordinator at Canton, Ohio, and with Urban Housing Development as

Assistant Director in Columbus. He has completed work at Ohio State University that has led to a MA degree and Ph.D. He is now on the faculty at Ohio State. Ernest and Iris have two children, Chad Plu and Marka Naombi. The Fields live in Columbus, Ohio.

Olivia, their second daughter, is married to William Robinson. She is a graduate of Kent State University from the College of Education. She received her BS in 1964. She has taught in the elementary schools of Cleveland, Ohio, Wheeling West Virginia, and is now teaching in the public elementary school of Fairfield, California. Her husband is a graduate of Findley College, Findley, Ohio. He is interested in Urban Development and Housing. He worked in Wheeling West Virginia as an Assistant Director of Housing and Urban Development. He served as Director of Urban Development and Housing in Fairfield, California. He is now back in college working on a master's degree. The Robinson's have three children, Todd Anthony, William Edward and Julia Alexander. They live in California.

Jennifer Carla, the youngest daughter, is a graduate of Ohio University, College of Education. She received her BS degree in January 1967 and completed her graduate studies at Women's College, Denton, Texas. She majored in Psychological Counseling. She received her MA from the Texas College in December 1974. She has taught in Cleveland, Ohio, Kokomo, Indiana and Dallas, Texas. She is married to Dr. Ben Clark, Jr. Ben is a graduate of Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana and the Cleveland College of Pediatric Medicine. He served an internship [in] Clarke Clinic, Kokomo, Indiana. He worked at the Veteran's Hospital, Wadsworth, Kansas. He set-up private practice in Dallas, Texas. He is on the staff of some hospitals in Dallas. He and Jennifer are the parents of two children, Ben III and Alexis, an infant daughter.”

This is all of the information that Pearl included and I am truly grateful to her for writing this very detailed article.

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.