

### **The Green Family History Part 3 – John Green of Amherstburg**

As mentioned at the beginning of the Green family history, I came across information for multiple John Greens who are connected to Amherstburg. I will discuss them next beginning with John Green, the husband of Margaret Brooks. According to their marriage record, John W. Green and Caroline Margaret Brooks were married on June 27, 1875, in Anderdon. John was the son of Silas and Esther Green, while Margaret was the daughter of Isaac and Mary Ann Brooks. The *Amherstburg Echo* printed an obituary for Mary Ann Brooks on September 13, 1918 which stated “Mrs. Mary Ann Brooks, relief of the late Isaac Brooks, passed away at an early hour yesterday (Thursday) morning at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Green in the 70<sup>th</sup> year of her age. She had been in failing health for over a year. Mrs. Brooks’ maiden name was Loew, and she was born in England. Her husband died some 22 years ago. Surviving her are two daughters – Mrs. Green, mentioned above, and Mrs. Ellen Bradford, of Minneapolis. Arrangements for the funeral have not yet been made.”

John and Margaret’s marriage record also shares that John was born circa 1850 in Kentucky and worked as a Sailor while Margaret was born circa 1859. The 1881 Census for Amherstburg lists John (a cook) and his wife Margaret with three children, Myrtle E., Bertha E., and John. According to his birth record, John Edmond Green, the son of John Green and Margaret Brooks was born on June 10, 1880, in Amherstburg. His death record shares that he passed away the following year on August 13, 1881, at 14 months.

John and Margaret Green had more children in addition to Myrtle, Bertha and John including Esther, Edmund, Ruth, Grace, and Denzil. Throughout her life Myrtle was active in her community and was involved with groups such as the Buisy Gleaners which was a youth group that featured activities such as singing, reading essays and hosting events; the Oxford Club

which was part of the Nazrey AME Church; and the Order of the Eastern Star, which was the female auxiliary of the Prince Hall Masons. The *Amherstburg Echo* also printed an article on December 3, 1926 which details a gathering of the Ladies' Sewing Circle whose membership included Myrtle and her sister Bertha. The article reads "The chicken supper and concert on Thursday night of last week under the auspices of the Ladies' Sewing Circle of the First Baptist church drew a fine attendance notwithstanding the inclement and unseasonable weather. The sumptuous supper served left nothing to be desired, and the program was of an excellent order. Miss ... Wava Davis gave piano selections; Mrs. H.D. Banks, Mrs. Wm. Wilson and Mrs. Frye rendered solos in their usual pleasing manner. Instrumental duets by Mrs. J.A. Foster and Miss Florence Kirtley were well received. Professor McCallum added much to the pleasure of the evening by his piano selections and readings. Readings were also very acceptably given by Mrs. M. Green and Mrs. D. Holbert. Rev. Frye gave a brief address and J.H. Alexander occupied the chair. The proceeds amounted to \$58.50. The ladies of the Circle very sincerely thank all those who so kindly contributed to make the entertainment an outstanding success."

According to her marriage record Myrtle married Grant Smith, the son of Charity Smith, on September 15, 1902, in Amherstburg. At the time Grant worked as a Waiter, while Myrtle was a Seamstress. The 1910 Census for Detroit lists Grant and Myrtle with their children Harry, Whitney, and Thomas. Whitney Grant Smith was born on February 25, 1905, while Thomas Lowe Smtih was born on April 23, 1906, both in Amherstburg.

On February 29, 1924, the *Amherstburg Echo* printed an obituary for Grant Smith which said "Grant Smith, who suffered a stroke two weeks previously, died at the Dunbar hospital, Detroit, February 12<sup>th</sup>, aged 53 years. Mr. Smith was at one time head waiter at Bois Blanc café,

coming here from Atlanta, Ga. He was married here to Miss Myrtle Green 22 years ago, and she with three sons, Harold, Whitney and Thomas survive him.”

Myrtle’s sister Bertha is the next child of John and Maggie Brooks to be discussed. According to her marriage record she married David J. Holbert who was the son of Jos. D. Holbert and Carolina Hedgman. The couple married on March 8, 1897, in Detroit. As a young woman, Bertha was involved with the Amherstburg-based Young People’s Social Club which was part of the Nazrey AME Church. In 1892, she was elected as Vice President of this organization. Years later, in 1924, the *Amherstburg Echo* records that Bertha, along with Mrs. H.D. Banks, were delegates from the First Baptist Church for the Baptist Association in London. The *Echo* also mentions Bertha’s participation in the Order of the Eastern Star and not only did she attend the Grand Chapter O.E.S. in Chatham but was also re-elected the Grand Royal Matron.

In January 1926, the *Echo* reported that “The Women’s Guild of the First Baptist church met in the home of Mrs. B. Holbert on January 12<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of closing all business for the year 1925 and election of officers for present year. For the year 1925 the Guild raised \$331.70. During the fifteen years the Guild has been in progress its achievements have been many in doing for the church, the sick and the needy. The last year’s greatest accomplishment was the gift of a beautiful Heitzman piano to the church. Officers elected for the years: Hon. Pres., Mrs. B. Holbert; President, Mrs. E. Stokes; Hon. Vice-Pres., Mrs. J. Saunders; Vice-Pres., Mrs. E. Thomas; Chaplain, Mrs. B. Holbert; Treasurer, Mrs. E. Kirtley; Secretary, Mrs. B. Hall; Asst. Sec., Mrs. M. Bank; Finance Committee, Mrs. B. Holbert, Mrs. F. Johnson, Mrs. B. Wilson. The Guild extends a vote of thanks to all who helped her in her undertakings and especially the merchants of Amherstburg, who are always so liberal.” The Women’s Guild began as the Church

Aid Society in Amherstburg which was a mixed-gender society that began in 1850 out of the First Baptist Church. From the Church Aid Society came the Amherstburg Guild in 1899, and then the Women's Guild in 1909.

Sadly, Bertha Green Holbert passed away on September 25, 1928. Her death record also mentions that her date of birth was July 1, 1880. A few days later, on September 28, the *Amherstburg Echo* printed Bertha's obituary which said "Mrs. Bertha Hulbert aged 48 years, prominent in colored church and fraternal organizations of Amherstburg and wife of Mr. David Hulbert died at her home, Kemp avenue, late Tuesday night. Since last October she had been suffering from heart trouble, but on Tuesday seemed somewhat improved; however in the evening she suffered a severe attack and died about midnight. She was born in Amherstburg, the daughter of the late John Green and his wife, Margaret Brooks. Thirty years ago she was married to David Hulbert. At an early age she became a member of the First Baptist Church and has been very active in church work ever since, occupying many positions of responsibility in the church and church societies. At the time of her death she was clerk, honorary president of the Guild, and honorary president of the Women's Missionary Society. She was also a member of Ruth Chapter, O.E.S., for four years and was Grand Worthy Matron of this Order for Ontario, resigning this position because of ill health. She is survived by her husband, who is in the employ of Falls & Son; one son, Joseph, chef of the steamer Queen City; her mother, Mrs. John Green; three sisters, Mrs. Myrtle Green, of Amherstburg; Ruth, Mrs. John Cole, of Cleveland; and Esther, Mrs. Henry Balfour, of Maidstone; also two brothers, Edmund and Denzil, both of Cleveland. The funeral services will be held this afternoon (Friday) at 2 p.m. in the First Baptist Church. Rev. Talbert will be in charge, assisted by Rev. Edwards, pastor of the church. Interment will take place in Rose Hill cemetery."

Decades later, on December 8, 1955, the *Amherstburg Echo* printed an obituary for Bertha's husband David Holbert which says "Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon for David Joseph Holbert, who died at his residence on Perry St., Amherstburg, in the First Baptist Church. Mr. Holbert was born in Amherstburg and was a resident of this district all his life. He was employed as a maintenance man at Bob Lo Island. Mr. Holbert was a member of the First Baptist Church. He was also a member of Lincoln Lodge No. 8 A.F. and A.M. His wife, Bertha, died in 1928. A son, Joseph, died in 1946. Surviving is one brother, John, in Detroit."

As mentioned in their obituaries, Bertha and David had a son named Joseph D. Holbert. He married Mable Bow, daughter of William and Mamie Hughes, on June 2, 1924, in Detroit. Sadly, Mable passed away a few months later. The *Amherstburg Echo* shares her obituary from September 19, 1924 which says "Funeral services for Mrs. Joseph Holbert, who died at the home of her mother, Mrs. Mammie Bow, Seymore street, took place Sunday to the A.M.E. church, Rev. Alexander officiating. Burial was in Rose Hill cemetery, the pallbearers being Lionel Conway, Reginald Adams, Alonzo Harris, Roy Banks, Norvel Wilson and John Boyd. The deceased's maiden name was Mabel Bow and she was born in Detroit May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1905. She was married to Joseph Holbert June 2<sup>nd</sup>, being a bride of three months, which makes it doubly sad. Besides her husband and mother, she leaves two sisters: Lillie (Mrs. Arkard Wilson), Nettie (Mrs. Neal Wilson), and four brothers: Richard, Ellwood, Elmer and Carl. Those who attended the funeral from out of town were Mr. and Mrs. Purdie Dennis, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Powers, Mrs. Whittaker, Miss Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Miller, Robert Miller, Mrs. Maud Valentine, of Detroit; Denzie Green, of Cleveland, and Harry Smith, Windsor."

I was also able to find an obituary for Joseph David Holbert in the *Amherstburg Echo* from February 1, 1945 which says "Following a short illness Joseph David Hulbert, aged 46

years, died in Hotel Dieu, Windsor, early Tuesday morning. He was taken to the hospital Friday suffering from a kidney condition. He was born in Amherstburg the son of David Hulbert and his late wife Bertha Green. The young man attended the schools in Amherstburg and went sailing on the lakes as a cook. Coming ashore he worked at the Brunner Mond Canada Limited plant and recently at Ford Motor in Windsor. He was twice married, his first wife the former Mabel Bow of Detroit, died shortly after marriage. His second wife was the former Maxine Roper of Dresden. Besides his wife he is survived by his father and two children Jackie and Bobbie. His grandfather, for whom he was named was the well known pastor of the First Baptist Church in Amherstburg at the turn of the century. The young man was master of Lincoln Lodge No. 8 A.F. & A.M. Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon in the First Baptist Church, Amherstburg and burial will follow 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.**