

## **The Green Family History Part 4 – Military Service**

Very little information was found for Bertha's sister Esther. All that could be found was that she married a man named Henry Balfour. Esther's brother Edmund Alonzo Green was born on May 27, 1882, in Amherstburg. He married several times. His first marriage was to Ella Enos, the daughter of Newton Enos and Mary L. Grinage. The couple married on May 25, 1903, in Flint, Michigan. At the time, Edmond worked as a cook. Edmond's second marriage was to Emma Thurman, whose maiden name was Henderson. They married on July 18, 1908, in Windsor. On their marriage record, Edmond is listed as a widower and a sailor. Just two years later, Emma passed away on July 19, 1910, in Amherstburg. According to her obituary from July 22, 1910 "Mrs. Edward Green passed away at the home of her sister-in-law, Mrs. David Hulbert, Sunday last, at the age of 23 years, following a year's illness with consumption. Deceased was formerly Miss Emma Henderson, of Detroit. Her parents are dead, but she leaves one half-sister, Mrs. Kennedy, of Detroit. She was married two years ago, but their union was childless. Mr. and Mrs. Green came to Amherstburg to reside last April. The funeral took place Tuesday, services being held in the First Baptist church, after which the remains were taken to Windsor for interment."

A Petition for Naturalization for Edmond Alonzo Green records his third marriage to a woman named Katie. Further research revealed that Edmond married Katie B. Collier, the daughter of E.C. Collier and Ella C. Bartwell, on March 14, 1914, in Cuyahoga, Ohio. The Petition for Naturalization states that Katie was born on August 26, 1892 in Starkville, Mississippi and the couple had a son named Edmond B. who was born on October 7, 1917 in Cleveland. Edmond and Katie had two more children named Margarett (born on March 27, 1918) and Paula Ella (born May 2, 1919), but they sadly passed away in infancy.

Edmond had more children because an *Amherstburg Echo* article from July 29, 1927 says “Ed A. Green and three children of Cleveland, who visited with his mother, Mrs. Margaret Green, and sisters, Mrs. Myrtle Smith, Mrs. David Holbert, also his daughter, Mrs. Chas. Moxley, in Detroit. Mr. Green’s little girl Betty Jane, three years old, was struck by a motor truck and instantly killed at Cleveland just before he came here. Returning home on Friday he received word Monday morning of the death of his eldest daughter, Mrs. Charles Moxley in Detroit, of ptomaine poisoning.”

A final record for Edmond shares that he married a fourth time to Birdie M. Drake, the daughter of E.B. Drake and Sarah Washington, on April 2, 1930 in Cuyahoga, Ohio. At the time, Edmond was a cook and both were previously married. Before marrying Edmond, Birdie was married to a man with the last name Frye and they divorced on January 1, 1930.

Edmond’s sister Ruth is the next child of John and Margaret Green to be discussed. She was born on September 3, 1888 in Amherstburg. She married John Cole who was born in 1879 in Hot Springs, Arkansas and was the son of John Cole and Fanny Lee. They were married on March 9, 1912 in Cuyahoga, Ohio. At the time, John worked as a Porter. The *Amherstburg Echo* shared a brief message on March 29, 1912 which said “Mrs. Cole (nee Ruth Green), who was recently married in Cleveland, O., is home on a visit to her mother Mrs. Margaret Green, Park street.” It doesn’t appear that Ruth and John had any children because the 1920 Census lists John and Ruth, along with Ruth’s brother Denzil, a ‘roomer’ named Clarence Allen and Ruth’s nephew Joe Holvert, which is likely Ruth’s sister Bertha’s son Joseph Holbert. The 1930 Census lists John and Ruth with Edward Green (likely Edmond), along with a ‘roomer’ named Charlie Boyd, Ruth’s niece Grace Jackson, and nephews Edmond Green and Excel Green. The 1940

Census also does not mention any children of John and Ruth but does mention that their niece Grace Jackson was still living with them.

Ruth's niece Grace Jackson was the daughter of Ruth's sister Grace Green. Grace Green was born on February 9, 1891 in Amherstburg, although her death record says February 16, 1892. She married Elmer Jackson who was born circa 1882 in Pontiac, Michigan and was the son of Guy Jackson and Perly Butler. The couple married on February 25, 1918 in Cuyahoga, Ohio. At the time, Grace worked as a dressmaker and Elmer was a labourer.

Grace Ellen Jackson passed away on September 14, 1923 in Cleveland. An obituary appeared in the *Amherstburg Echo* on September 21, 1923 and said "The remains of Mrs. Elmer Jackson, who died in the East Cleveland hospital, arrived in Amherstburg on Sunday and were taken to the home of her sister, Mrs. Grant Smith, George street, from where the funeral was held Monday afternoon. Services were conducted in the First Baptist church by Rev. Mr. Talbot and burial was in Rose Hill cemetery, the pallbearers being William Banks, G. McCurdy, Wm. Maier, John Foster, H.D. Brown and S. Wilson. Mrs. Jackson was before her marriage Grace Green, daughter of Mrs. John Green. She was born here 31 years ago, and was a beautiful girl. She married Mr. Jackson in Cleveland seven years ago, and bore him four children – three sons and a daughter: Denzil, Whitney, Grace and Guy. The latter is only a month old, and Mrs. Jackson's last illness developed from his birth. Besides these she leaves her aged mother who has been living in Cleveland but who now will remain in Amherstburg to look after the little family; two brothers, Edmund and Denzil, both of Cleveland, and four sisters – Myrtle (Mrs. Grant Smith), Bertha (Mrs. David Holbert), Esther (Mrs. Henry Balfour), all of Amherstburg, and Ruth (Mrs. John Cole), of Cleveland, to all of whom sincere sympathy is extended." This explains why Grace's daughter Grace would be listed on the Census with her aunt Ruth, but I could not

find where Denzil and Whitney were living after the death of their mother. Sadly, Grace's fourth child, Guy, passed away the follow year on January 13, 1924, in Amherstburg.

Grace Green Jackson's brother Denzil is the last children of John and Margaret (Brooks) Green. According to a Naturalization Record for Denzil Green, he was born in Amherstburg on November 15, 1895 and was living in New York. He worked as a Janitor and was married to a woman named Lillian whom he married on January 31, 1927 in Cleveland. Lillian was born in West Point, Mississippi on February 28, 1896. No children are recorded, but this record does share details of Denzil's military service. It says "I entered the US Army April 17, 1918, Honorably discharged March 19, 1919, serial number 2436841, Pvt. Inf. Unassigned, Last assigned Co. D. 317<sup>th</sup> Supply train." Denzil's Draft Registration adds that he worked as a labourer at Standard Brewing Co.

Further research reveals the last name of Denzil's wife Lillian. On April 15, 1927, the *Amherstburg Echo* shared details of their wedding. The article says "A Cleveland paper says 'One of the prettiest weddings of recent date was that of Miss Lillian Gavin and Denzil Green at the Phillis Wheatly Association. Dr. Henry P. Jones of St. John's A.M.E. church officiating. Many of the couple's friends attended the reception following the ceremony at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Cole ... brother-in-law and sister of the groom. Mrs. Green is a popular church worker being a member of St. John's Gospel choir and the Sunday school league, and an active member of the P.W.A. Art club. Mr. Green is a son of Mrs. Margaret Green, of this town.'" A few months later, on July 15, the *Echo* reported their visit from Cleveland, to visit his mother, Margaret.

**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 5.**