

The Hall Family History Part 2 – Significant Tragedy

As mentioned, Mary and Jesse had fifteen children and I was able to find information for twelve of their children: James, Roman, Mamie, Drusilla, Richard, Elmer, Harold, John, Mabel, Nellie, David, and Cecil. James married Lucy Bradshaw, the daughter of Tom Bradshaw and Dollie T., on October 21, 1919, in Davenport, Scott, Iowa. James' brother Roman was born on May 10, 1887, in Colchester South and married Ella Mitchel, the daughter of Charles Mitchel and Clara Butler, on June 28, 1916, in Windsor. Roman passed away shortly after he married Ella, on November 27, 1917 and *The Essex Free Press* shares more details in his obituary. It says "The death occurred here of Roman Hall, second son of Jesse Hall, at 6 o'clock, Tuesday evening, at his home on the Malden Road. He was married a year ago last June, to Ella Mitchell, daughter of Charlie Mitchell who survives him. He was 30 years of age. This is the fifth death in the family in the last couple of years. The deepest sympathy goes out to the bereaved family and wife. He is survived by his father and three brothers and sisters, James of Kentucky, Elmer and Ida, of Detroit, and John and Nellie, at home. The funeral took place on Thursday afternoon with interment in New Canaan cemetery."

Roman's wife Ella appears to have lived many years passed Roman's death. In 1945, the *Windsor Daily Star* mentions that "Mrs. Hall (Ella Mitchell) of Colchester North, was honored at a delightful birthday party by 45 of her friends recently." I was not able to find an obituary for Ella, but I found one for her sister Mira which shares information about their family. On September 11, 1950 *The Windsor Daily Star* wrote "Mrs. John Day – Mrs. Mira Ann Day, 55, of 1086 Mercer street, widow of John Day, died Sunday at her home after an illness of one year. She was born in New Canaan and lived in Windsor 10 years, coming here from Harrow. She was a member of Tanner A.M.E. Church. Surviving are two sons, Iva Elwood Day, and John Isaac

Day, both of Windsor, two brothers, Fremont Mitchell, of Detroit, and Charles Mitchell, of Ann Arbor, and four sisters, Mrs. Ella Hall and Mrs. Mary Knox, both of Ann Arbor; and Mrs. Mabel Lucas and Mrs. Clara Franklin, both of Detroit.” Not only does this obituary reveal the names of Ella and Mira’s siblings, but it also states that she was still alive by 1950.

Interestingly, I came across an obituary for Philo R. Hall who is Ella’s son and because Philo is listed with the last name ‘Hall’ it seems that he is the son of Roman who must have passed away while Ella was carrying Philo. Philo’s obituary from *The Windsor Daily Star* on December 17, 1945 states “HALL – Philo R., 26 years, December 15, 1945 Beloved son of Mrs. Ella Hall, Ann Arbor. Grandson of Mrs. Clara Mitchell of Ann Arbor. Funeral private. For further information call Jas. H. Sutton Funeral Home.” It does not seem as if Philo’s mother Ella remarried. By 1930, the Census lists Ella E. Hall (a cook and widow), along with Philo. Also, I previously mentioned the birthday party held for Ella in 1945 and at that point she is still listed with the last name Hall.

The Hall family experienced significant tragedy in a short amount of time. Roman’s sister Mamie sadly died of tuberculosis, which is the same illness that took Roman in 1917. Mamie’s death record states that she died on April 29, 1916 in Colchester at the age of 27. She is also listed as single. Mamie’s sister Drusilla was born on October 30, 1890 in Colchester and passed away on September 9, 1907 in Colchester of typhoid. She was also not married. Drusilla’s brother Richard died on July 1, 1917 in Colchester due to consumption. His death record lists him as single and working as a farmer. A brief obituary appeared in the *Amherstburg Echo* on July 13, 1917 and stated “Richard, son of Jessie Hall, died on Sunday after an illness of a year with consumption. The funeral was held on Tuesday afternoon with interment in Gesto cemetery. Deceased was 23 years of age.”

Richard's brother Elmer married Olive Land, the daughter of John Land and Naomi Peters, on August 30, 1919 in Windsor. An obituary for Olive's father John appeared in *The Windsor Daily Star* on August 30, 1941 and says "John Land, 83, of Elmstead, died at Metropolitan Hospital, Windsor. Deceased was born in Mississippi, came to Windsor 38 years ago, moving to Elmstead in 1929. He is survived by his wife, one daughter, Mrs. Elmer Hall, Windsor; four sons, Harry, Windsor; George, Donald and Elwood, at home; also seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be held at First Baptist Church, Puce, at 2 p.m., Sunday, August 31. Burial in the church cemetery."

Based on the information I could find, Elmer and Olive had at least five children including Agatha Lucille, Cleo, Eleanor, Louis, and Mitchell. Before sharing information about their children, I would like to share Elmer's obituary which appeared in the *Amherstburg Echo* which says "Funeral services were held Tuesday for Elmer F. Hall, 57, formerly of Windsor who died Friday in Westminster Hospital, London, following a lengthy illness. A native of Gesto, he had lived in the Windsor district for 35 years. Surviving are his widow, Olive Land Hall; two sons, Louis, Windsor, and Mitchell, No. 18 Highway; two daughters, Mrs. Raymond Lee (Cleo), River Canard, and Mrs. Harold Green (Eleanor), Windsor, and two brothers, John of Gesto, and James, Detroit. Rev. I.H. Edwards conducted the services Tuesday in Windsor. Burial took place in Puce Cemetery."

As mentioned, Elmer and Olive had at least five children including Agatha Lucille, Cleo, Eleanor, Louis, and Mitchell. I found a death record for Agatha Lucille Hall which records that she passed away on June 24, 1924 in Windsor. This record also states that she was born on May 3, 1915 in Windsor and was nine years old at the time. I was not able to find any documents specifically about Cleo, but I did find a message of thanks from Cleo in the *Windsor Star*, printed

on March 23, 1981, following the passing of Cleo's husband Raymond Lee. The message says "The family of the late Raymond Lee wish to extend their appreciation & sincere thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours for sharing in the recent loss of a loving husband, father and grandfather. Your concern, many acts of kindness, floral tributes, sympathy cards, and donations to the Heart Foundation will always be remembered. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. John Richards, Dr. Barnby, Dr. Milos, Pallbearers and Anderdon Funeral Home. – Mary Cleo Lee."

On a happier note, I was able to find a lengthy writeup in *The Windsor Daily Star* about Cleo's sister Eleanor's wedding which was printed on September 7, 1951. The article says "Greene - Hall Vows Are Spoken – In a lovely setting of pink and white gladioli at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hall, on South Cameron boulevard, Miss Eleanore Nancy Hall was united in marriage to Mr. Harold William Greene, son of Mr. William Greene of Windsor, the Rev. William Garnier of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, officiating. The bride wore white flowered organza over blue satin, ballerina-length, with a blue and white veil, and carried a white Bible showered with gardenias, carnations and stephanotis. Mrs. Alma Coats, as her matron of honor, was in aqua nylon marquisette over taffeta, also ballerina-length, and Miss Betty Green of Chatham, the bridegroom's sister, as bridesmaid, was in yellow organza over yellow taffeta. They both carried nosegays of pink roses and stephanotis. Mr. Raymond Wright of Detroit was best man, and Mr. Leon Land the bride's cousin, was the usher. Mrs. Hall wore for her daughter's wedding a gown of royal blue and black print, and Mrs. Elizabeth Freeman of Red Deer Alberta, the bridegroom's mother, was in aqua. They both wore rose corsages. Miss Cecile Wright of Detroit, the bridegroom's sister; Miss Barbara Greene, Miss Barbara Wilson, Miss Doris Brooks and Mrs. Joseph Faulkner assisted as

hostesses at the reception following the ceremony. Mrs. Irma Land Berry of Cleveland, the bride's cousin, was here especially for the wedding.

There was not any available information for Eleanor's brother Mitchell, but I did find the obituary for their brother Louis Elmer Hall who is also referred to as "Highpockets." On February 4, 2002, the *Windsor Star* wrote "HALL, Louis Elmer "Highpockets" – Died peacefully at Extencicare Southwood Lakes on February 3, 2002, at the age of 79 years. Beloved husband of the late Ileen (nee Chase) and father of the late Lois Parker. Survived by sons: John and wife Sheila, Ralph and wife Sharon, Brian and wife Gwen Hreceniuk; and daughters; Sharon Wilson and Patricia Hall. Sisters Mary Cleo Lee and Eleanor Green, and brothers Dale Martin and Mitchell Hall. Also survived by 10 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Mr. Hall was a retired welder with the City of Windsor Public Works Dept."

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.