

Albert McKinney King FACT SHEET

Albert McKinney King

- Born: 1/21/1851 Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Died: 12/1/1934 Toledo, Ohio
- 1891 Toledo City directory notes that Albert M. King joined the police force 2/2/1887.
- Retired from TPD 1913 (per N-B 12/1/1934 article)
- Father and mother both born in England.
- Came to Toledo in 1867
- Daughter born 11/24/1882 in Toledo (did she survive?)

Julia (Ward) King

- Born: 3/3/1856 Louisville, KY
- Died: 6/9/1938 Toledo, OH
- Mother: Matilda (Macalvain) Ward
 - Born: 1845 Georgia
- Father: Sam Ward
 - Born: 1840 Georgia

Notes:

- 1880 US Census: Albert King (boarder) living with the Ward family at 33 Oak St. occupation 'Waiter'

[News-Bee 6/10/1938 – "Mrs. King Dies at 82"]

- Home: 731 Oakwood avenue.
- Died following a stroke.
- Born in Louisville, KY. Taken by her mother, a fugitive slave, across the Ohio River into Ohio via underground railroad to Detroit, then Canada "before the civil War".
- Family left Canada, moved to Monroe, Michigan, then to Toledo in 1869 (seven years after the first Negro Church, Warren A.M.E. was founded in Toledo).
- IN early Toledo days, most African-Americans lived in Manhattan out N. Erie Street.
- Recalled first "negro school in a little blacksmith shop on Erie Street, with entrance in the rear because of the canal in front." Remembered the first negro graduate, Alonzo Lott, of old Toledo High School.
- Husband Albert "a leader in civic and social life and took an active part in theatrical work in the community." Spoke of play "The Mistletoe Bough" that was so good that a group of white citizens made it possible to stage the play in the old Wheeler Opera House.
- First negro appointed a Juvenile Court probate officer in Toledo.
- Golden wedding anniversary 1926.
- Both members of Third Baptist Church.
- Leaves an adopted daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Kimbrough, and a niece, Mrs. Beulah bond.
- Services at 1:30 PM Monday in Third Baptist Church.
- Buried in Forest.

December 1, 1934
Saturday
[Toledo Blade]

A. M. King, Retired Policeman, Dies

Albert M. King, retired colored policeman, died in his home 731 Oakwood avenue, Friday night. He was one of the oldest retired members of the Toledo police department.

Mr. King was born in Toronto, Ont., in 1851 and came to Toledo when he was 16 years old. He had lived here since. He was appointed a patrolman in 1887 and retired in 1913. He leaves his wife, Mrs. Julia King, and a daughter, Miss Elizabeth King. The body was taken to the Easley funeral home.

Services will be held in All Saints Episcopal church Monday. Burial will be in Calvary cemetery.

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June 10, 1938

Friday

[Toledo News-Bee, page 17]

PIONEER NEGRO

Mrs. King Dies at 82

Widow of First Negro Policeman Born a Slave

Mrs. Julia King, pioneer Toledo Negro born a slave and widow of Toledo's first Negro policeman, died yesterday in her home at 731 Oakwood Avenue following a stroke. She was 82.

Mrs. King, born in Louisville, Ky., was taken by her mother, a fugitive slave, across the Ohio River into Ohio, up through the underground railroad to Detroit, and finally into Canada and freedom before the Civil War.

Her family left Canada and moved to Monroe, Mich., then to Toledo in 1869, seven years after the first Negro Church, Warren A.M.E., was founded here.

TOLD OF EARLY DAYS

Mrs. King used to tell of her early years in Toledo, when there were few Negroes here and most of them lived in Manhattan out N. Erie Street. She was quite active until she suffered a stroke.

She recalled Toledo's first Negro school, in a little blacksmith shop on Erie Street near Washington Street, with entrance in the rear because of the canal in front. She remembered the first Negro graduate, Alonzo Lott, of old Toledo High School.

A CIVIC LEADER

Her late husband, Albert, was a leader in civic and social life and took an active part in theatrical work in the community. She often told about a play, "The Mistletoe Bough," that was such a good production white citizens made it possible to stage the play in the old Wheeler Opera House.

She was the first Negro appointed a Juvenile Court probate officer in Toledo. She and Mr. King celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1926. They both were members of Third Baptist Church. Mr. King died in 1935. Mrs. King leaves an adopted daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Kimbrough, and a niece, Mrs. Beulah Bond.

Services will be at 1:30 p.m. Monday in Third Baptist Church. Burial will be in Forest. The body is in the residence.

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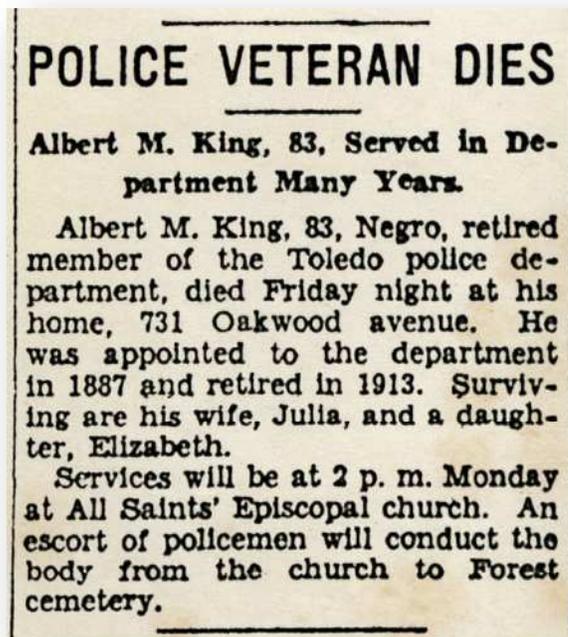
December 1, 1934
Saturday
[Toledo Blade, page 2]

POLICE VETERAN DIES

Albert M. King, 83, Served in Department Many Years.

Albert M. King, 83, Negro, retired member of the Toledo police department, died Friday night at his home, 731 Oakwood avenue. He was appointed to the department in 1887 and retired in 1913. Surviving are his wife, Julia, and a daughter, Elizabeth.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at All Saints' Episcopal church. An escort of policemen will conduct the body from the church to Forest cemetery.



June 10, 1938
Friday
[Toledo Blade]

Julia D. King

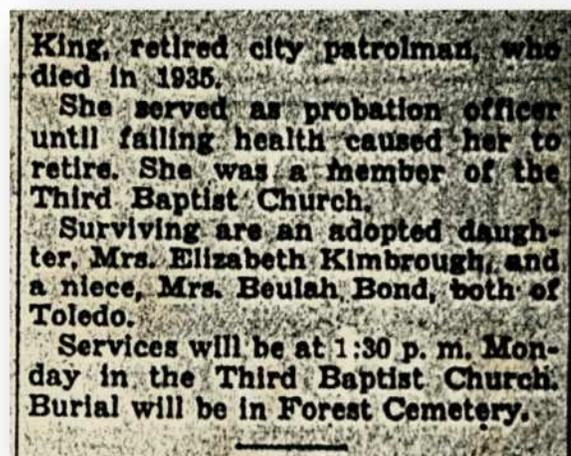
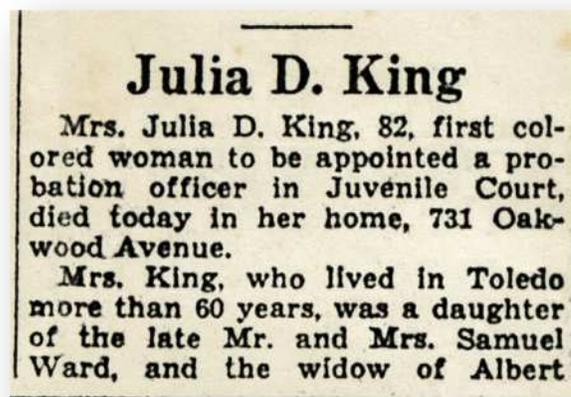
Mrs. Julia D. King, 82, first colored woman to be appointed a probation officer in Juvenile Court, died today in her home, 731 Oakwood Avenue.

Mrs. King, who lived in Toledo more than 60 years, was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Ward, and the widow of Albert King, retired city patrolman, who died in 1935.

She served as probation officer until failing health caused her to retire. She was a member of the Third Baptist Church.

Surviving are an adopted daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Kimbrough, and a niece, Mrs. Beulah Bond, both of Toledo.

Services will be at 1:30 p.m. Monday in the Third Baptist Church. Burial will be in Forest Cemetery.





Blazing a trail

BY RHONDA B. SEWELL
BLADE STAFF WRITER



The 5-foot, 5-inch, gun-toting police lieutenant is about to conduct roll call for the noon shift of about a dozen Toledo patrol officers.

Standing behind a podium, her silky jet-black hair, curled at the ends just so, shines under the fluorescent lights in a second-floor room in the Safety Building downtown.

She adjusts her glasses and begins reporting on drug deals going down in a neighborhood, citizens complaining of heavy traffic on one street, recent house break-ins in another part of town. Without breaking the flow of her sentence, she says to a patrolman who is coughing, “You alright? You're never getting over that cold,” concern in her voice. That's just Shirley Green's way.

The 27-year veteran and first woman to reach the rank of lieutenant with the Toledo Police Department recently retired; she worked her last day on Feb. 12. That day, officers she supervised had her brought to work in a limousine. Patrol cars with lights flashing lined the street in front of the Safety Building when she arrived, and dozens of officers greeted her with applause when she walked in the door.

“She's a great role model to women and to men also,” said Officer Maureen Wade, 31, after Lieutenant Green's roll call. Officer Wade joined the force in 1993.

“November of '76 is when I hit the street,” recalled Ms. Green, who turned 49 today.

At that time, when the retired lieutenant was sworn in at the age of 22, there were few role models on the force for women, especially African-American. But there were some notable African-American women who broke new ground decades ago in the Toledo Police Department.

In 1922, the year the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which provided for women's suffrage, was declared constitutional by the Supreme Court, and the first female U.S. senator, W.H. Felton, was appointed to a vacant seat, one Toledo black woman was making her own national history.

Toledoan Esther B. Ferguson, born on May 10, 1896, is recognized as one of the top 10 earliest hires of an African-American policewoman in the country.

Toledo Police Department personnel records and a book by W. Marvin Dulaney, *Black Police In America* (Indiana University Press, 1996), are sources for information about the local history-maker. Dulaney's book is the first complete history of blacks in policing from the Civil War to modern times.

According to local police records, Ms. Ferguson was hired on March 6, 1922. The move made the 26-year-old about the eighth earliest hire of an African-American policewoman in the United States. According to Dulaney's book, the first was in 1916 in Los Angeles; Pittsburgh's department hired a black policewoman in 1919.

Before joining the force, Ms. Ferguson's previous job was a manager of elevators. She later married, but was listed as a widow at the time of her resignation from the local department in January, 1931, making her tenure on the force just over nine years. Her badge number was 122.

Ms. Ferguson set the path for other early hires of black policewomen, including the late Dorothy Brown and the late Nina Hunt. Both were hired by Toledo in 1946 — a period still considered early for the hiring of blacks, either male or female, to city police departments.

Another Toledo woman, Ida M. Fox, is listed as the first black probation officer, hired locally in the 1930s. The first black Toledo policeman was Albert King, hired in 1900 — the same year that the city's first black firefighter, James Miller, was hired, according to retired educator Edrene Cole's 1972 thesis, "Blacks in Toledo," for her master's degree in education from the University of Toledo. Mrs. Cole's thesis is frequently cited by historians, librarians, and the press for black history research.

Mrs. Brown and Ms. Hunt, who both said their police careers began by accident, worked in the crime prevention bureau for about 18 years before their retirement in 1974. Trained to be a schoolteacher, Mrs. Brown had just been discharged from the U.S. Army, and a friend suggested she apply to the division.

Ms. Hunt told The Blade in 1974 at her retirement that she applied to become a policewoman because a former husband and another friend thought she would be good at the job.

Like most female police officers assigned in the early years, their duties mainly involved juvenile delinquency and child abuse cases.

By the time Mrs. Brown and Ms. Hunt joined the force in the 1940s, they were members of the former women's bureau, which later was absorbed by crime prevention. They walked beats and worked on vice and rape cases, as well as juvenile and child abuse cases.

It was a friend who first encouraged Ms. Green to apply to be a police officer, but it was the retired lieutenant's father, Marshall Swan, whose footsteps she was actually following. Her father, who worked as a detective, primarily in the crimes against persons section, joined the academy in 1959 and retired in 1985 — just two years before Ms. Green was named Toledo's first woman police lieutenant.

About a week before her last day, Ms. Green, a divorced mother of one son, Michael Green, Jr., 29, sat at her desk with boxes filled with personal belongings. "They were actively recruiting women at the time. . . my son's godmother encouraged me to take the test, I felt I should go ahead and try because I was separated (Ms. Green married a month after high school graduation) and working as a bank teller.

"At the time the department was paying about \$14,000 a year, which doesn't sound like a lot today, but it was more than I was making at the time," recalled Ms. Green, who attended Spring Elementary School and graduated from Notre Dame Academy.

Ms. Green's father initially was "shocked" at the news that his eldest child of six wanted to join the force.

"Out of the clear blue sky I was buying her a doll one minute, and that went to a gun. I was constantly worried about her," said Mr. Swan, who describes his daughter as an ideal eldest child and police lieutenant. The two get together regularly for breakfast chats.

Ms. Green and her father come from a long line of police officers. Mr. Swan's brother, Irving Swan, was a captain in Internal Affairs, and an uncle, the late Joe Carnes, also served with the department. Ms. Green now has two cousins, Robert Malone and Kathy Swan, and a cousin by marriage, Mary Swan, on the Toledo force.

Ms. Green said although she is proud of her place in local history as the first woman lieutenant, and of being a high-ranking woman of color on the force, she wants to be remembered more for her competence and fairness.

"I couldn't get caught up in the fact that I was a woman, you just had to do the job. When supervising I tried to never forget that I was once one of them [a patrol officer]," said Ms. Green.

Debbie Woodard, who retired last year from the department and now works as a case manager at the Zepf Center, recalls Ms. Green as a shy, unassuming young woman when the two entered the academy. Ms. Woodard and Ms. Green were the only two African-American women in their class of about 36, which had fewer than 10 women — and that was considered a high number at the time, said Ms. Green.

Ms. Woodard added that she and Ms. Green and other female officers benefited from a generation of women before them who fought for equality on the force, including the late Rose Reder, a white female officer who in 1969 was promoted to sergeant, becoming the first female command officer on the Toledo Police Department.

Sgt. Gloria Burks, who considers Ms. Green a mentor, said she connected with Lieutenant Green when she went through the academy in 1983.

“She was kind of an automatic role model. I had never seen a female officer before.

“Actually, I didn't consider the force as a career until after I met Lieutenant Green. I started watching her and seeing how she excelled and the respect she received from guys much older than her. When I met her she really made an impact on me,” said Sergeant Burks, whose husband, Gary, is also on the force. Like Ms. Green, Sergeant Burks, 42, will be eligible to retire at age 48.

Although leaving the force was an emotional move, she is excited about the next chapter in her life, Ms. Green says.

She is to graduate this summer from the University of Toledo with a bachelor's degree in history, and plans to also pursue a master's degree.

A genealogy and history buff, Ms. Green also is researching her family.

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Interviewer: K. Osthimer
Person Interviewed: Julia King
Date of Interview: June 10, 1937
Location: Toledo, Ohio
Place of Residence: 731 Oakwood Avenue, Toledo, Ohio
Age: (about) 80

K. Osthimer, Author

Folklore: Stories From Ex-Slaves Lucas County, Dist. 9 Toledo, Ohio

The Story of MRS. JULIA KING of Toledo, Ohio.

Mrs. Julia King resides at 731 Oakwood Avenue, Toledo, Ohio. Although the records of the family births were destroyed by a fire years ago, Mrs. King places her age at about eighty years. Her husband, Albert King, who died two years ago, was the first Negro policeman employed on the Toledo police force. Mrs. King, whose hair is whitening with age, is a kind and motherly woman, small in stature, pleasing and quiet in conversation. She lives with her adopted daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth King Kimbrew, who works as an elevator operator at the Lasalle & Koch Co. Mrs. King walks with a limp and moves about with some difficulty. She was the first colored juvenile officer in Toledo, and worked for twenty years under Judges O'Donnell and Austin, the first three years as a volunteer without pay.

Before her marriage, Mrs. King was Julia Ward. She was born in Louisville, Kentucky. Her parents Samuel and Matilda Ward, were slaves. She had one sister, Mary Ward, a year and a half older than herself.

She related her story in her own way. "Mamma was keeping house. Papa paid the white people who owned them, for her time. He left before Momma did. He run away to Canada on the Underground Railroad.

"My mother's mistress-I don't remember her name-used to come and take Mary with her to market every day. The morning my mother ran away, her mistress decided she wouldn't take Mary with her to market. Mamma was glad, because she had almost made up her mind to go, even without Mary.

"Mamma went down to the boat. A man on the boat told Mamma not to answer the door for anybody, until he gave her the signal. The man was a Quaker, one of those people who says 'Thee' and 'Thou'. Mary kept on calling out the mistress's name and Mamma couldn't keep her still.

"When the boat docked, the man told Mamma he thought her master was about. He told Mamma to put a veil over her face, in case the master was coming. He told Mamma he would cut the master's heart out and give it to her, before he would ever let her be taken.

“She left the boat before reaching Canada, somewhere on the Underground Railroad-Detroit, I think-and a woman who took her in said: ‘Come in, my child, you’re safe now.’ Then Mama met my father in Windsor. I think they were taken to Canada free.

“I don’t remember anything about grandparents at all.

“Father was a cook.

“Mother’s mistress was always good and kind to her.

“When I was born, mother’s master said he was worth three hundred dollars more. I don’t know if he ever would have sold me.

“I think our home was on the plantation. We lived in a cabin and there must have been at least six or eight cabins.

“Uncle Simon, who boarded with me in later years, was a kind of overseer. Whenever he told his master the slaves did something wrong, the slaves were whipped, and Uncle Simon was whipped, too. I asked him why he should be whipped, he hadn’t done anything wrong. But Uncle Simon said he guessed he needed it anyway.

“I think there was a jail on the plantation, because Mamma said if the slaves weren’t in at a certain hour at night, the watchman would lock them up if he found them out after hours without a pass.

“Uncle Simon used to tell me slaves were not allowed to read and write. If you ever got caught reading or writing, the white folks would punish you. Uncle Simon said they were beaten with a leather strap cut into strips at the end.

“I think the colored folks had a church, because Mamma was always a Baptist. Only colored people went to the church.

“Mamma used to sing a song:

“Don’t you remember the promise that you made, To my old dying mother’s request? That I never should be sold, Not for silver or for gold. While the sun rose from the East to the West?

“And it hadn’t been a year, The grass had not grown over her grave. I was advertised for sale. And I would have been in jail, If I had not crossed the deep, dancing waves.

“I’m upon the Northern banks And beneath the Lion’s paw, And he’ll growl if you come near the shore. “The slaves left the plantation because they were sold and their children were sold. Sometimes their masters were mean and cranky.

“The slaves used to get together in their cabins and tell one another the news in the evening. They visited, the same as anybody else. Evenings, Mamma did the washing and ironing and cooked for my father.

“When the slaves got sick, the other slaves generally looked after them. They had white doctors, who took care of the families, and they looked after the slaves, too, but the slaves looked after each other when they got sick.

“I remember in the Civil War, how the soldiers went away. I seen them all go to war. Lots of colored folks went. That was the time we were living in Detroit. The Negro people were tickled to death because it was to free the slaves.

“Mamma said the Ku Klux was against the Catholics, but not against the Negroes. The Nightriders would turn out at night. They were also called the Know-Nothings, that’s what they always said. They were the same as the Nightriders. One night, the Nightriders in Louisville surrounded a block of buildings occupied by Catholic people. They permitted the women and children to exscape, but killed all the men. When they found out the men were putting on women’s clothes, they killed everything, women and children, too. It was terrible. That must have been about eighty years ago, when I was a very little girl.

“There was no school for Negro children during slavery, but they have schools in Louisville, now, and they’re doing fine.

“I had two little girls. One died when she was three years old, the other when she was thirteen. I had two children I adopted. One died just before she was to graduate from Scott High School.

“I think Lincoln was a grand man! He was the first president I heard of. Jeff Davis, I think he was tough. He was against the colored people. He was no friend of the colored people. Abe Lincoln was a real friend.

“I knew Booker T. Washington and his wife. I belonged to a society that his wife belonged to. I think it was called the National Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs. I heard him speak here in Toledo. I think it was in the Methodist church. He wanted the colored people to educate themselves. Lots of them wanted to be teachers and doctors, but he wanted them to have farms. He wanted them to get an education and make something of themselves. All the prominent Negro women belonged to the Club. We met once a year. I went to quite a few cities where the meetings were held: Detroit, Cleveland, and Philadelphia.

“The only thing I had against Frederick Douglass was that he married a white woman. I never heard Douglass speak.

“I knew some others too. I think Paul Lawrence Dunbar was a fine young man. I heard him recite his poems. He visited with us right here several times.

“I knew Charles Cottrell, too. He was an engraver. There was a young fellow who went to Scott High. He was quite an artist; I can’t remember his name. He was the one who did the fine picture of my daughter that hangs in the parlor.

“I think slavery is a terrible system. I think slavery is the cause of mixing. If people want to choose somebody, it should be their own color. Many masters had children from their Negro slaves, but the slaves weren’t able to help themselves.

“I’m a member of the Third Baptist Church. None join unless they’ve been immersed. That’s what I believe in. I don’t believe in christening or pouring. When the bishop was here from Cleveland, I said I wanted to be immersed. He said, ‘We’ll take you under the water as far as you care to go.’ I think the other churches are good, too. But I was born and raised a Baptist. Joining a church or not joining a church won’t keep you out of heaven, but I think you should join a church.”

(Interview, Thursday, June 10, 1937.)