

Biog 20 The Tull Brothers

Morag Cross 4 Jan 2014

When history confirms the reader's previously held expectations, it is generally accepted without question. When it contradicts them as outrageously as does the story of the Tull family, it is so unbelievable that it can only be true.

***20.1

In February 1940, the following story appeared the newspapers, using the accepted language of the day: *'A coloured man is being trained as an officer in the British Army. This is believed to be the first instance of the kind. He is Mr Arundel M Moody, 22-year old medical student, son of Dr Harold A Moody, founder and president of the League of Coloured Peoples ... the Prime Minister Mr [Ramsay] MacDonald announced that, as an emergency measure, people not of pure European descent would be admitted to commissioned rank in the Army, Air Force and Navy'*. This version was still circulating in 1943, despite having been corrected by relatives of Walter Tull, who actually was the first recorded black officer, predating Moody by over two decades. The 'colour-bar' to non-white officers had been enshrined in army regulations, but despite this formidable hurdle, by his personal conduct Walter Daniel John Tull had still obtained a commission in 1917. [Source: *The Scotsman*, 12 Feb 1940, p9; *Aberdeen Journal*, 30 June 1943, p4; *Western Daily Press*, 14 Sept 1943, p2].

***20.2 use one or more of the Football Battalion in training here

As amended, the story was this: *'Army Distinction Claimed ... The fact that a coloured man, Walter D Tull, held a commission in the British Army during part of the last war was recalled in Glasgow yesterday ... Second Lieutenant Tull, whose father was a native of Barbados, British West Indies, was a brother of Mr Edward Tull-Warnock, a dentist who has been practice in Glasgow for many years. Before the war, Mr Walter Tull played professional football with Tottenham Hotspur and Northampton, and joined the Army in September 1914.* [Source: *Glasgow Herald*, 13 Feb 1940, p8].

***20.3a and b use both

He served abroad until 1917, when he was recommended for a commission ... and was sent home to Gales, Ayrshire to train. While he was there, he was invited to play football for the Rangers FC war-time team, but returned before he was able to do so. Mr Tull returned to active service in Italy. His gallantry under fire on 1 January, 1918 was put on record by a senior officer. He was killed in action later in 1918, while serving with the 23rd Middlesex Regiment. The latest native of the West Indies to be given a commission is Mr Arundel M Moody, son of a London physician, and born in Jamaica'. [Source: *Glasgow Herald*, 13 Feb 1940, p8].

***20.4

The exact nature of Walter Tull's association with Rangers FC has been the subject of much debate among football fans since his story came to wider attention through several films, newspaper articles and biographies in the late 1990s. Tull did indeed formally sign for Rangers, although there is no record of him playing for the first team. The club historian has explained that their archives are incomplete for this period. Nevertheless, the Scottish Football Museum staff's own research has

recently revealed that the Scottish Football Association Players' Register lists him as officially signing on Ranger's books as a player on 2nd February 1917. There was another, equally genuine link with the team, through Walter's elder brother, Edward Tull-Warnock. In 1917, Edward played at Turnberry Golf Club, in Ayrshire, where his golfing partner was James Bowie, then a Rangers player and later the club chairman. This probably alerted Rangers to Walter's presence in nearby Ayrshire, as he was already a noted player in England before the war. Walter may have played some friendly matches for Rangers at this time, while undergoing officer training in Ayrshire. [Sources: Phil Vasili, biographer of W Tull, personal communication; David Mason, Rangers FC historian, personal communication; Dr Mike Gow, dental historian, relative of E Tull-Warnock, personal communication; Rangers signing information about Walter Tull, courtesy of Colin Lobban and Sandy Tyrie, Scottish Football Museum, Hampden, personal communication; Dr M Gow, 'Dental Roots, Part 2: The Warnocks and Tulls', *Dentistry Scotland*, April 2011, p25].

***20.5 a and b use both

The story of Edward Tull-Warnock is less well-known than that of Walter Tull. Walter's importance to sporting, military and black history has been acknowledged by his inclusion in projects such as '100 Great Black Britons' and the 'Crossing the White Line' exhibition, written by Tull biographer Phil Vasili. However, Edward Tull-Warnock was the first professionally registered black dentist in Britain, an achievement all the more astonishing when the year in which he qualified is considered: 1910. Edward also became a member of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow, and 'was fully registered by 1912', pioneering a new field of achievement just as much as his brother had done for football (where he was the second black English professional player and the first signed for a Scottish club), and in the army. [Sources: 'Crossing the White Line: the Walter Tull Exhibition', at <http://www.crossingthewhiteline.com>; 'Walter Tull, Footballer and Soldier', at <http://www.100greatblackbritons.com>; Dr M Gow, 'Dental Roots, Part 2: The Warnocks and Tulls', *Dentistry Scotland*, April 2011, p23].

***20.6

Edward James Alexander Tull-Warnock (1886-1950) was one of five children born to Daniel Tull, a carpenter from Barbados, himself the son of former slaves, and Alice (née Palmer), his white English wife, in Folkestone, Kent. On Alice's death in 1895, Daniel Tull remarried, to his wife's niece, and they had one daughter. When Daniel died in 1897, their stepmother was 'unable to support such a large family on the small household income', and the middle children, Walter and Edward, went into Dr Stephenson's Children's Home at Bonner Road, Lambeth. This was a Wesleyan Methodist institution, where children lived in small family-style groups, with a great emphasis on music, and worship in the neighbouring chapel. Edward joined the children's choir, which went on regular fundraising tours round Britain, 'bringing [Stephenson's] work before the people'. [Sources: W Bradfield, 1913, *The Life of the Reverend Thomas Bowman Stephenson*, London, pp218, 258; Dr M Gow, 'Dental Roots, Part 2: The Warnocks and Tulls', *Dentistry Scotland*, April 2011, pp20, 23; 'Daniel Tull', and 'Alice Elizabeth Tull', *England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915*, at www.ancestry.co.uk; at 'Photographs and Information of the NCH Branches', *Their History: History of a Child in Care*, Online Resource curated by Philip J. Howard, at www.theirhistory.co.uk].

***20.7a and b

James Aitken (1860-1919) and his younger sister Jeanie had been orphaned young, and were raised in the poorhouse in Kirkintilloch, outside Glasgow, but had done well for themselves. James became a dentist in the mid-1880s (before professional registration was compulsory), with a surgery in Glasgow's Gallowgate. Jeanie married James Kay Warnock, a block-printer from near Dumbarton, in 1881. Block printing was skilled occupation, requiring the precise placement of wooden printing-blocks on calico and other fabrics. He would probably already possess the necessary steady hand and dexterity required to apprentice to his brother-in-law, James Aitken as a trainee dentist. [Sources: Dr Mike Gow, The Berkeley Clinic, Glasgow, personal communication; Dr Mike Gow, 'Dental Roots, Part 1: The Aitkens', *Dentistry Scotland*, February 2011, pp18, 21; Statutory Register of Marriages, at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk].

***20.8

The Warnocks moved to Glasgow in the 1890s, along with Lizzie, listed as James Warnock's (rather than his wife's) daughter in the census, although Lizzie has not otherwise been traced. Warnock first appears in local directories as a dentist in 1901, with a practice at 465 St Vincent St (now demolished), near Charing Cross. [Sources: *Glasgow Post Office Directories 1890-1920*; 1891, 1901 Census, Valuation Rolls 1895, at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk].

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His wife remembered her own hard start in life, and being childless, wanted to give another child the chances she had lacked, when she first met fourteen year-old Edward Warnock, in 1900. Dr Stephenson's Children's Home Choir was touring again, and reviews of their other concerts that year ('sacred, popular and classical music') give an impression of what the Warnocks would have heard. 'The children sang 'The Bells of the Joyous Morn' ... and the 'Lord's Prayer, beautifully chanted ... an orchestra ... dulcimer, xylophone, mandolins, ... [all] betokened careful training'. Previous venues had included Glasgow Cathedral, and Edward, a talented singer, impressed the Warnocks at a similar local event in 1900. 'By November ... Edward had been adopted, and moved to Glasgow', although his new adoptive family kept in touch Walter in London, 'and frequently invite[d] the Tulls to their home in Scotland'. [Sources: Dr Mike Gow, The Berkeley Clinic, Glasgow, personal communication; Dr Mike Gow, 'Dental Roots, Part 1: The Aitkens', *Dentistry Scotland*, February 2011, pp18, 21; 'Dental Roots, Part 2: The Warnocks and Tulls', *Dentistry Scotland*, April 2011, pp23; 1911 Census, Statutory Register of Marriages, at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk; *Hampshire Advertiser*, 3 Feb 1900, p7; *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 24 March 1900, p9; W Bradfield, 1913, *The Life of the Reverend Thomas Bowman Stephenson*, London, p312].

***20.10

Edward took the surname 'Tull-Warnock', and sometimes 'Edward T Warnock', and was sent to Allan Glen's Boy's School, one of the best academies in Glasgow. There he played football, like his brother. A contemporary remembers: 'My first introduction to Eddie was in Ballantrae [Ayrshire] about 1904-5. On holiday there he was assisting the locals in a friendly football encounter.' He later 'played in the Rockbank [a junior team in Langside, Glasgow] with ex-President James Bowie, Rangers FC'. Edward also occasionally played for Girvan Athletic around 1908-12, being 'a tricky inside forward and a menace in the goal area'. [*Obituary*, quoted by Dr M Gow, 'Dental Roots, Part 2: The Warnocks

and Tulls', *Dentistry Scotland*, April 2011, pp25; 'Rockbank FC Fundraiser 1905', *Partick Thistle History Archive*, at <http://partickthistleahistory.wikifoundry.com/>].

***20.11 a and b use both

Allan Glen's, nicknamed Glasgow's 'High School of Science', was then managed by the Glasgow and West of Scotland Technical College, also known for its high educational attainments (now Strathclyde University). Perhaps unsurprisingly, given this schooling and his adoptive father's occupation, Edward seized the opportunity to enter the Incorporated Glasgow Dental Hospital in 1906, the same year the Warnock dental surgery moved to 419 St Vincent Street, where it remained for many years. [Sources: *Glasgow Post Office Directories 1890-1920*; *Allan Glen's School Club*, Online Resource, at www.allanglens.com].

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Edward proved an outstanding student, as two glowing references from former lecturers testify: He showed 'painstaking zeal in his work ... took second place for the Dall and Ash prizes for 1909 ... the former [prize] for the ... highest marks ... in operative work, and the latter [prize being] for the best all-round record ... in the general work of the hospital... Mr Warnock is gentlemanly, courteous, and obliging'. He was instructed in anaesthesia at the Royal Infirmary, and graduated in 1910 with a Licentiate in Dental Surgery (LDS). [Sources: Dr M Gow, 'Dental Roots, Part 2: The Warnocks and Tulls', *Dentistry Scotland*, April 2011, pp22-3].

***20.13

The speech at Edward's 1909 prize-giving revealed that the hospital saw 12,000 patients a year, and that the profession had been in an 'entirely unorganised and chaotic condition' before the 'Dentists Act of 1878, which established a registry ... on the lines of the Medical Registry'. There was, however, a way round the official rules, which had enabled unlicensed practitioners, such as James Aitken and his brother-in-law, James Warnock, to stay in business (patients had to pay for treatment, in the days before the NHS was founded in 1948). They could practice, 'providing they avoided the protected terms ['surgeon dentist' or 'dental surgeon']'. They could use signs like 'dental rooms' or 'dental treatment here'. ... Many skilled practitioners [saw no] need to register.' Registered dentists remained a minority until 1921. [Source: *Glasgow Herald*, 17 March 1909, p5; 'Was your ancestor a dentist?', *BDA Dental Museum*, at www.bda.org/museum].

***20.14 [two different resolutions available]

Although he was the first clinically-trained black dentist in Britain to hold the prestigious LDS qualification, Edward was not the only ethnic minority dentist at the time, A London-based Japanese woman, who treated her patients while wearing a kimono, is mentioned in 1910 as having recently qualified in Paris. Edward did inevitably face the unthinking prejudices of the time. Despite having 'taken the precaution of sending his photograph', when Edward arrived for his first job in Birmingham in 1910, his employer 'exclaimed 'My God, you're coloured! You'll destroy my practice in 24 hours!' Deeply hurt, Edward then practiced with his father in Glasgow, as well as Aberdeen, where he met his wife, and latterly, in Girvan. [Source: *Grantham Journal*, 5 Nov 1910, p7; Dr M Gow, 'Dental Roots, Part 2: The Warnocks and Tulls', *Dentistry Scotland*, April 2011, pp23].

***20.15

On the outbreak of war, Daniel Tull joined the 'Footballer's Battalion' of the Middlesex Regiment, but Edward apparently never enlisted, probably for several reasons. In August 1914, the British Dental Association offered to provide treatment for the armed forces, because 'many men ... are in such a dental condition' that they were rejected for service. Intending recruits received free treatment in Glasgow, from a rota of local, qualified, dentists of whom Edward might well have been one. The Military Service Act of May 1916 introduced compulsory enlistment that soon included every physically-suitable man, aged under 41 and not on the specified list 'exempt' or 'reserved' groups. [Sources: *Glasgow Herald*, 17 Aug 1914, p3; 5 Oct 1914, p3; *The Scotsman*, 21 Aug 1916, p7; 'The Military Service Act 1916', *The Long, Long Trail*, at www.1914-1918.net];

***20.16

'Military Appeal Tribunals' interviewed applicants for postponement of, or total exclusion from enlistment, using strict guidelines. Cases concerning Scottish dentists in 1916 examined their qualifications, if any. Glasgow Central Tribunal 'decided that registered dentists were to be exempted meantime' (July 1916). One practitioner's clientele could not afford his competitors' fees, while for another to leave 'would be seriously detrimental to the health of the community'. In July 1917, 'registered dentists in actual practice' were generally excused call-up. [Sources: *The Scotsman*, 21 Jan 1916, p10; 21 July 1916, p5; 17 Oct 1916, p7; 20 Oct 1916, p7; 4 Dec 1916, p5; 19 June 1917, p8; 13 July 1917, p3; 16 July 1917, p3].

***20.17

When Walter Tull, attending officer's training at Gailles, visited Edward in Glasgow, he was photographed in the garden of the Warnock family home beside their sister Cissie, who was also living with the Warnocks. Edward was slightly-built, and may not have met the minimum height requirement for enlisted men. As an older (29 in 1917), physically small but highly-qualified medical professional, his value was probably judged to be greater treating the civilian population, whose need continued in wartime.

***20.18

Walter Tull had planned to make Glasgow his home after the war, as remembered by his family in later years, as he would have been playing for Rangers as their first black player, had he survived the war. Walter had worshipped at Claremont St Methodist Chapel (now demolished, but near Edward's dental surgery in St Vincent St), while he visited Glasgow, and his name was on its war memorial. He was killed in 1918, but Walter was not the only brother whom Edward lost in the Great War. William Stephen Palmer Tull (born in 1882), the eldest of the children, was a sapper in the Royal Engineers. A married man with his own family, he was still suffering the effects of a gas attack when he died of tuberculosis in 1920, and the link with his war injuries is acknowledged by his official, military-issue headstone, bearing the insignia of his regiment. [Sources: Rangers signing information about Walter Tull, courtesy of Colin Lobban and Sandy Tyrie, Scottish Football Museum, Hampden, personal communication; Phil Vasili, biographer of W Tull, personal communication; 'William Stephen Palmer Tull', Biographical notes by Geoffrey Gillon, at www.findagrave.com; 'William S P Tull', *England &*

Wales, Free Birth Index, 1837-1915, and England & Wales, Death Index, 1916-2007, at www.ancestry.co.uk].

***20.19

Edward Tull-Warnock continued to work in Glasgow and Girvan as a respected dentist, championship golfer and guest at of James Bowie at Rangers football matches. No less than seven members of his extended family became dentists, including his adopted cousin Benjamina Aitken, one of Scotland's earliest female Licentiates in Dental Surgery. His sister Cissie lived until 1967, when she died at her nephew's home in Monifieth, outside Dundee. [Sources: Statutory Register of Deaths, at www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk; Dr Mike Gow, 'Dental Roots, Part 1: The Aitkens', *Dentistry Scotland*, February 2011; 'Dental Roots, Part 2: The Warnocks and Tulls', *Dentistry Scotland*, April 2011; 'Dental Roots, Part 3: The Gows', *Dentistry Scotland*, June 2011. Many thanks to Dr Mike Gow, David Mason and Phil Vasili for their generous assistance while writing this article. Dr Gow, The Berkeley Clinic, Glasgow, is an Executive member of The Henry Noble History of Dentistry Research Group].

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