

Fairfield County Genealogy Society

Research Library

Research Log

(4)

Member: ___ Yes (priority), No Position in-line: ___ / ___ / ___

Surname(s): ELLISON Target: ___ / ___ / ___

Started: ___ / ___ / ___ Ready to File Completed: 4 / 7 / 15

Start research using Request, Family Group & Pedigree Sheets
Check off each item as research is completed

fair

- **BookCat (Online Card Catalog)**
 - Key in surname being researched
 - FB = Family Books
 - FF = Family Files
 - VF = Vertical Files
 - VF Church = Vertical Files labeled Churches
 - VF Fairfield = Vertical Files labeled Fairfield
 - VF Plats = Vertical Files labeled Plats
 - VF Wills = Vertical Files labeled Wills

- **Computer with Large TV Screen**
 - Check ICON labeled Research Room
 - African American Folder
 - Books Folder
 - CDs Folder
 - Church Cemeteries Folder
 - Family Books Section Folder
 - Family Researched Files Folder (also check Master List Spreadsheet)
 - Funeral Homes Folder
 - Maps, Map Information Folders
 - Obits Folder
 - Plats Folder
 - Wills Folder
 - Check Online Research Sources Folder
 - Other web resources available, like USC Libraries, etc.

- **Main Room – Southwest Corner**
 - Local Church History & Denominational Church History
 - Deeds
 - Wills
 - Equity Court
 - Cemeteries
 - Birth Scrapbook
 - Marriage Notices & Scrapbook
 - Death Notices & Scrapbook

Genealogy Resource Library

From: SABRINA JAMISON [detangers@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 4:52 AM
To: fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net
Subject: African american schools

Hello,

Can you tell me how I find a listing of African american/american indian schools listed in 1880-1900?

Looking for children of Charles Ellison, 1880.

Thanks Sabrina

Genealogy Resource Library

From: Genealogy Resource Library [fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 1:06 PM
To: 'SABRINA JAMISON'
Subject: RE: African American schools
Attachments: Fairfield County Colored Training School District 14.jpg; Nazareth Colored School District 12.jpg; New Hope Colored School District 7.jpg; New Zion School District 5.jpg; Rock Hill Colored School District 11.jpg; Shiloh Colored School District 18.jpg; St.Peters Colored School District 15.jpg; WhiteHall Colored School District 11.jpg; Old Schools in Fairfield County.doc; 1868Constitution.htm; Digital History.htm; Education in South Carolina An Overview.htm; Joseph Hayne Rainey.htm; Rosenwald Schools Initiative.htm; South Carolina - African Americans - A New Constitution in 1868.htm; workspace.htm; UP FROM SLAVERY.doc; John Benjamin Glenn 1855-1892.JPG; John Benjamin Glenn School 1966.JPG; John Benjamin Glenn School 2013.JPG; William Ellison former slave.doc; William Ellison former slave.doc; Charles Ellison 1880 Census.pdf

Hello Sabrina,

I was not able to find much on Charles Ellison, except the 1880 census.
Many researchers run into brick walls because of the 1890 census not being available.
Charles would have been 41 in the 1900 census so it is hard to find or know you have the correct person.
If you know of this family and can give information 1940 census back as far as you can go; I may be able to help.
Also included is the information about the early schools in Fairfield County.
Also included is other Ellison information in our files.

Hope this helps.....

Eddie

Eddie Killian
FCGS-Fairfield County Genealogy Society, President
Fairfield County Genealogy Resource Library & Archives Research Volunteer

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Fairfield County Genealogy Society

Mail: Fairfield County Genealogy Society
P.O. Box 93
Winnsboro, SC 29180-0093
Library: 2nd Floor of the Fairfield County Museum
231 South Congress Street
Winnsboro, SC
Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 10:00AM-5:00PM; (Lunch 12:30PM-1:30PM)
Friday 10:00AM-1:00PM
Monday or Saturday by appointment only
Volunteer staffed, please call before coming
Phone: (803) 635-9811
Fax: (803) 815-9811

Email: <mailto:fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net>
Website: <http://www.fairfieldgenealogical.org>
Meeting Date: Normally 3rd Thursday of the Month (usually at
museum)

Please check web site announcement page for latest details
<http://www.fairfieldgenealogical.org/announcements.htm>

Projects: Research Library, Abandoned Cemeteries, DNA, Social Media, Community
Outreach
Officers: Please check web site officers page

<http://www.fairfieldgenealogical.org/officers.htm>

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Genealogy Resource Library

From: scanner.cbesc@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 12:35 PM
To: fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net
Subject: Fairfield County Genealogy Research Resource Library
Attachments: image2015-04-07-123517.pdf

Scanned Information

#I- 3-6, 2007

TIME MACHINE



ELLISON BIRTHDAY PARTY, CIRCA 1930'S, RE-RUN

This picture was taken in the back yard of Mr. and Mrs. S.D. Ellison's home at 218 S. Garden Street, Winnsboro at a birthday party for one of the Ellison daughters, Kate or Rebecca. The photo may be dated before 1932. Some of the people in the photos are not identified completely. Pictured left to right back row are (First name unknown) Mackey; Joe "Cootie" Beckham; Joan Fayssoux; Joe "Bo" Heustess; Lib Heustess (Aiken); Rebecca Ellison (Thurmond); Connie Haynes (Cowan); Jane Broome (Stevens); Agnes Bristow; Marion Kirkland; Elise Heustess (Williams); Lucy Brown Davis (Coleman) and Francis Davis (Haslett). Front row: John Beckham; John Haynes; John Harden; Kate Ellison; Fredericka Kirkland; Mary Byrd Rutledge; William Heustess; Talmadge Haynes; John Heustess and Mickey Douglas (Wallace).

Got an old family photo or photo of Fairfield/Winnsboro/Ridgeway or other community people or events? Send it to us and maybe you'll see it in the Time Machine. All photos will be gently copied and the originals returned to you safe and sound. Please include as much info about the photo as you can.

William Ellison, Jr.

In 1800 the South Carolina legislature had set out in detail the procedures for manumission. To end the practice of freeing unruly slaves of "bad or depraved" character and those who "from age or infirmity" were incapacitated, the state required that an owner testify under oath to the good character of the slave he sought to free. Also required was evidence of the slave's "ability to gain a livelihood in an honest way." On June 8, 1816, William Ellison of Fairfield County appeared before a magistrate (with five local freeholders as supporting witnesses) to gain permission to free his slave, April, who was at the time 26 years of age. April was William Ellison, Jr. of Sumter County.

At birth, William Ellison, Jr. was given the name of "April." It was a popular practice among slaves of the period to name a child after the day or month of his or her birth. It is known that between the years 1800 and 1802 April was owned by a white slave-owner named William Ellison, son of Robert Ellison of Fairfield County in South Carolina. It is not documented as to who his owner was before that time. It can only be assumed that William Ellison, a planter of Fairfield district was either the father or the brother of William Ellison, Jr., freedman of Sumter County. April had his name changed to William Ellison by the courts, obviously in honor of William Ellison of Fairfield.

At the age of 10, William "April" Ellison was apprenticed and he was trained as a cotton gin builder and repairer. He spent six years training as a blacksmith and carpenter and he also learned how to read, write, cipher and to do basic bookkeeping. Since there are no records showing the purchase of April (later William Ellison of Sumter) by William Ellison of Fairfield, it is unknown as to how long April was owned by William Ellison. It is known that William Ellison of Fairfield inherited a large estate from his father Robert, and that the slaves of the estate, named in the will were left to his siblings. It is possible that Robert Ellison gave several slaves to his son before his death, so they would not have needed to have been mentioned in his will. William owned several slaves according to the census records. Both Robert and William were of an age to have been able to be the father of April.

April was trained as a machinist and he became a well known cotton gin maker. Upon receiving his freedom he decided to pursue his expertise in Sumter County,

South Carolina where found an eager market for his trade. He is well known for perfecting the cotton gin invented by Eli Whitney.

In 1816, April, now known as William Ellison, Jr. arrived in Stateburg where he initially hired slave workers from their local owners. By 1820 he had purchased two adult males to work in his shop. On June 20, 1820, April appeared in the Sumter District courthouse in Sumterville. Described in court papers submitted by his attorney as a “freed yellow man of about 29 years of age,” he requested a name change because it “would yet greatly advance his interest as a tradesman.” A new name would also “save him and his children from degradation and contempt which the minds of some do and will attach to the name April.” Because “of the kindness” of his former master and as a “Mark of gratitude and respect for him” April asked that his name be changed to William Ellison. His request was granted.

The Ellison family joined the Episcopalian Church of the Holy Cross in Stateburg and on August 6, 1824, William Ellis was the first black to install a family bench on the first floor of the church, among those of the other wealthy families of Stateburg. The poor whites and the other black church members, free and slave, sat in the balcony of the church.

Gradually, Ellison built up a small empire, purchasing slaves in increasing numbers as the years passed. He became one of South Carolina's major cotton gin manufacturers and sold his machines as far away as Mississippi. He regularly advertised his cotton gins in newspapers across the state. His ads may be found in historic copies of the Black River Watchman, the Sumter Southern Whig, and the Camden Gazette.

By 1830, he owned four slaves who assisted him in his business. He then began to acquire land and even more slaves. In 1838 Ellison purchased 54.5 acres adjoining his original acreage from former South Carolina Governor Stephen Decater Miller. Ellison and his family moved into a large home on the property. (The house had been known as Miller House but became known as Ellison House.) As his business grew, so did his wealth and by 1840, Ellison owned 12 slaves. His sons, who lived in homes on the property, owned an additional nine slaves. By the early 1840s, he was one of the most prosperous men in the area. By the year 1850, he was the owner of 386 acres of land and 37 slaves. The workers on Ellison's plantation produced 35 bales of cotton that year.

In 1852, Ellison purchased Keith Hill and Hickory Hill Plantations which increased his land holdings to over 1,000 acres. By 1860 William Ellison was South Carolina's largest Negro slaveowner and in the entire state, only five percent of the people owned as much real estate as did William Ellison. His wealth was 15 times greater than that of the state's average for whites. Ellison also owned more slaves than did 99% of the South's slaveholders.

When War Between the States broke out in 1861, William Ellison, Jr. was one of the staunchest supporters of the Confederacy. His grandson joined a Confederate Artillery Unit, and William turned his plantation over from cotton cash crop production to farming foodstuff for the Confederacy.

William Ellison, Jr. died on 5 December 1861, at the age of 71 and per his wishes, his family continued to actively support the Confederacy throughout the war. Aside from producing corn, fodder, bacon, corn shucks, and cotton for the Confederate Army, they contributed vast amounts of money, paid \$5000 in taxes, and invested a good portion of their fortune into Confederate Bonds which were worthless at the end of the war.

William Ellison, Jr. had died with an estate appraised at \$43,500, consisting of 70 slaves. His will stated that his estate should pass into the joint hands of his daughter and his two surviving sons. He bequeathed \$500 to a slave daughter he had sold. At his death he was one in the top 10% of the wealthiest people in all of South Carolina, was in the top 5% of land ownership, and he was the third largest slave owner in the entire state.

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