

ELLISON FAMILY REUNION

2005

Carolinian Hotel
Columbia, South Carolina

August 4-7, 2005



Descendents of Mack and Sarah Ellison

**"FAMILY UNITY BRINGS
STRENGTH"**

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for
brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Psalms 133:1

A Family Reunion Prayer

Help us to realize, Father, that all members of this family are first of all Your heirs. Let us see each other as we truly are, instead of as we may have seen one another in the past.

Sometimes it seems easier to be loving and understanding to strangers than to family, for we are not emotionally involved with strangers. Oh, Father, let us not be blinded to truth by our emotions! Help us to see one another at this family gathering as You see us.

Fill our hearts with Your divine love, Father, that You may express through us and send out messages of harmony, goodwill and understanding.

Bless this reunion of family members – this gathering of free spiritual beings!

Amen



Greetings family members:

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to the 2005 Ellison Family Reunion. Thank you so very much for joining me here this weekend. I thank God for the privilege He has given us to be together as a family.

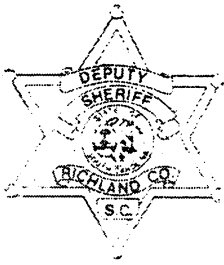
As the generations grow farther apart, let them be brought together with the memory of the loved ones who were once with us, but now live only in our memories.

I pray that God will strengthen the bond of relationships as we face the future, but always keep with us our ties of the past.

I ask that you please obey all rules and be safe. Thank you for your support and your cooperation. Enjoy!

It is of God's mercy that we are not consumed.

*Mamie Ricks
Coordinator*



Richland County Sheriff's Department

LEON L. LOTT, JR.
Sheriff

GREETINGS AND WELCOME TO THE ELLISON FAMILY UPON THE OCCASION OF YOUR REUNION IN COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA ON AUGUST 4 – 7, 2005!

I am privileged to welcome each of you to Columbia to renew old acquaintances, meet new family members and to remember those who are no longer with you on Earth.

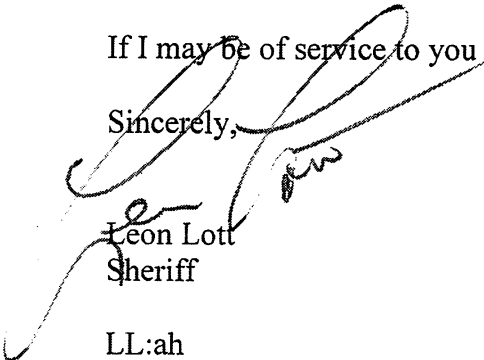
The breakdown of the family is often noted as the reason for many of the social problems we all now encounter, and it is good to see that the family unit is very important to the members of the Ellison family.

Since we all face many complex issues in many different relationships today, I would like to impart to you the importance of loving and forgiving, as documented in Colossians 3: 12 and 13:

*Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved,
put on tender mercies, kindness, humility,
meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one
another, and forgiving one another, if any one
has a complaint against another; even as Christ
forgave you, so you also must do.*

If I may be of service to you at any time, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Leon Lott
Sheriff

LL:ah

Schedule of Events

Thursday, August 4, 2005

6:00pm – 10:00pm
Registration and Reception
Hospitality Suite

Friday, August 5, 2005

9:00am – 10:00am
Breakfast

10:00am – 12:00noon
Late Registration
Hospitality Suite

1:00pm – 7:00pm
Picnic

Weston Lake at Fort Jackson

8:00pm – 10:00pm
Games/Movies
Hospitality Suite

Saturday, August 6, 2005

9:00am – 10:00am
Breakfast

10:00am – 5:00pm
On Your Own Activities
Bowling, Skating, Edventure,
Shopping, Movies, Historical Site in
Stateburg (Sumter), and etc.

10:00am
Executive Board Meeting
Hospitality Suite

5:00pm – 7:00pm
Family Portrait
Hospitality Suite

7:00pm – 9:00pm
Banquet

9:00pm – 12:00midnight
Family Dance

Sunday, August 7, 2005

8:30am – 9:45am
Breakfast

10:00am – 10:30am
Sermonett

12:00noon
Check-out Time

11:00am – 2:00pm
Worship Service
Rehoboth United Church of
Jesus Christ (Apostolic)
1912 Cushman Drive
Columbia, SC

Ellison Family Reunion

Banquet Programmé

Saturday, August 6, 2005

7:00pm

Mrs. Mamie Ricks – Mistress of Ceremony

Welcome.....Mrs. Mamie Ricks

*Response.....Mrs. Travis Osaghae
Abingdon, Md.*

*GreetingsChief Deputy Hubert Harrell
Richland County Sheriff's Department*

The Occasion.....Mrs. Vivian Powe

Family Prayer and Blessing of Food.....Mr. James Stevenson

*~~Dinner~~
(Buffet)*

Tribute to the Deceased.....Lighting of Candles

Introduction of Speaker.....Ms. Tasia Stevenson

Song.....South Carolina Reunion Choir

*Speaker.....C. L. "Josh" Lorick, Jr.
Pastor, Rehoboth United Church of Jesus Christ*

*Special Recognitions and Presentations.....Mrs. Trudy Stevenson and
Ms. RoyAnn Gaither*

*Closing Remarks.....Mr. Marwin Ellison
President, Executive Board*

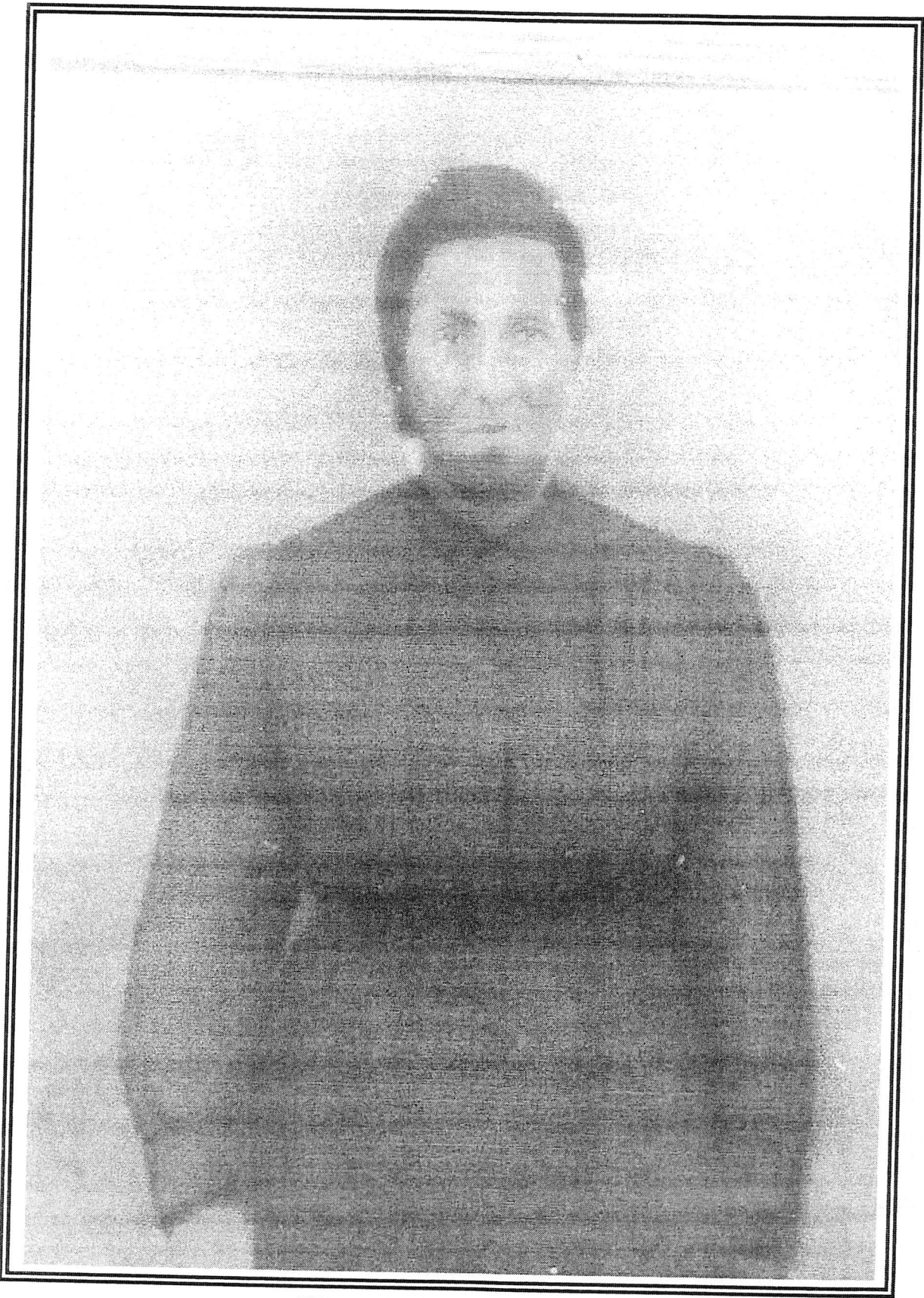
*Family Dance
9:00pm – 12:00midnight*



The Family Tree

**I think that I shall never see
The finish of a family tree.
As it forever seems to grow
From roots that started long ago
Way back in ancient history times,
In foreign land and distant climes.
From them grew trunk and branching limb,
That dated back to times so dim.
One seldom knows exactly when
The parents met and married then,
Nor when the twigs began to grow
With odd named children row on row ...
Though verse like this is made by me,
The end's in sight as you can see.
'Tis not the same with family trees
that grow and grow through centuries!**

(Author unknown)



Sara Ellison
Wife of Mack Ellison

The Ellison Family (Descendents of Mack and Sara Ellison) NOTE: m. - Married (d) - Deceased

Mack Ellison m. Sara

From this union, Mack and Sara were blessed with 14 children:

Robert, Rose, Roxanna, Mamie, Preston, Sr., Ida, P. D., Young, Mack, Carrie, Guss, Rebecca, Willie and Eugenia.

Robert Ellison

Rose Ellison (d) m. John Moore (d)

This union was blessed with 1 child.

Carrie m. Luke Samuel
 -Calvin m. Carmencita
 -Margaret m. Henry Boyd
 -Carol m. Floyd Felton
 -Barbara m. Ronald Jenkins
 -Stephen m. Dorothy
 -Jonathan m. Mary
 -Gregory m. Barbara

Rosanna "Roxie" Ellison Trapp

m. Howard --This union was blessed with 16 children.

Heywood
 Issac
 Rebecca
 Howard
 Ada
 Joseph
 Mary
 Estelle m. John Hazelwood
 Sarah m. Joseph Stewart
 -Evelyn
 --Erin (d)
 --Justin
 -Joseph
 -Melvin m. Rosetta Davenport
 --Christopher
 --Melonie
 --Marcus
 -James (d)
 --Ishfor
 --Jeremy
 -George
 --George
 --Matthew
 -Sarah
 John Trapp
 Beulah Trapp
 Rosa Trapp
 Leila Trapp

Lila m. Hezekiah Alston (d)

-Therese
 --Richard
 *Miracle
 -Cynthia m. Barry Rock
 --Nikisha
 -Harold m. Elizabeth
 --Tyronie Alston
 --Terry Alston
 -Howard
 -Brian

Mamie Ellison

Charles Ellison
 -Sabrina Jamison

Preston Ellison, Sr. (1887-1979)

m. Willie Johnson (1892-1968)

This union was blessed with 14 children.

Maxie (d), Sr. m. Canzell (d)

Johnny M.
 -Annie E. (d)
 -Willie Henry (d)
 -James Franklin (d)
 -Rosia Lee (d)

Preston, Jr. (d) m. Emily (d)

-Wilhelmina m. David Desaine
 --Joretha Evans m. Erwin
 *Nicole
 *Erwin, Jr.
 --Christine

-Henry J. m. Dolores

--Marc
 *Nallah

--Nina
 *Jasmine

*Athena
 *Trey

--Dawn

-Preston Ellison III (d)

--JoAnne

--Patrice

William H. Ellison (d) m. Ella (d)

-Boysie (d)

--Beverly

--Boysie, Jr.

-William, Jr. (d)

--Darren

--Keith

--Terry (d)

-Marvin

--Jasmine

-Travis m. Osa Osaghae

--Ise

--Idia

Mamie(d) m. Robert Stevenson(d)

-Robert "Bobby" m. Mary

--Wayne m. Geraldine

*Wayne, Jr.

*Chantz

--Kathy

*Justin

*Jason

--Shelia

--Kelvin

*Laurance

-Bessie M. m. Curtis Woodard, Sr.

--Curtis, Jr.

*Shacor

*Curtis III

--Steven

*Kenya

*Elijah

-John Henry

--Darlene m. Papa Son

*Robert

*Jared

-Shirley (d) m. Robert Milling

--Lillian m. Lucius Sampson

*Antwan

--Natasha

--Nytazia

*Asa

--Arterius

--Ariell

--Robbie Ann

*Arja

--Derius

*Ashley

--Robert Fitzgerald

--Sherrie

*Jameika

*Lazia

*Ashanti

-Joseph m. Ruth

--Quinten m. Tanika

*Quier

*Quiara

*Quaya

--Michael

*Nyla

*Myaa

--Joseph

*Zaniyah

*Angel

--Tineshia

*Jarrell

--Shawn

-James m. Martha

--James, Jr.

*Rasun

--Dana

--Markisha

-George (d)

--Marshall

*Keniqua

--Kimberly m. Dontae

-Vivian Powe

--Darrell, Jr.

*Darrell III

--Shatima

-Mary m. Alfred Jackson

--Reginald

--TeKisha m. Russell

*Te'Shauna

*Brianna

*Kyanna

*KaVanah

--Denitra

*Aijah

-Eddie

-Kenneth m. Trudy

--Taisa

--Kendra

-Mamie m. Willie Ricks

--Keitrick

*Keimauri

*Naiguri

--Crystal

--Bryson

-Willie

--Marcus

--Maya

Robert "RD" (d) m. Sarah

-Sarah Frames

-Thelma Ellison (d)

-Judy Vanessa

--Michael (Nneke)

--Shanna

-David (d)

-Daniel (d)

-Michael Joseph

Ida Ellison

P. D. Ellison

Mack Ellison

Mildred

Carrie Ellison

Rebecca Ellison

Willie Ellison

Eugenia (d) m. Jim Broome (d)

This union was blessed with 13 children.

Sarah (d) m. John Irby (d)

-Johnnie Mae (d) m. John Martin

--Eric (d)

*Alexis

--Nyla

--Frederick

*Adrienne

--Clifford m. Cindy

*Courtney

*Celeste

*Darrin

--Terri m. Troy

--Odessa m. Ivey

--Quincey m.

*Markenia

*Joy

*Clayton

*Erica

-Abraham

-Daisy

-Louise

-Robbie

Jessie

-Rosa m. Hugh Boyd

-Betty m. Robert Williams

Nathaniel

James Louis m. Bessie

-Gwen

-James II

-Timothy

-James III

Mamie (d)

-James

-Beverly

Marie

Rosie

Myrtle

Louise

Mack

James Benjamin

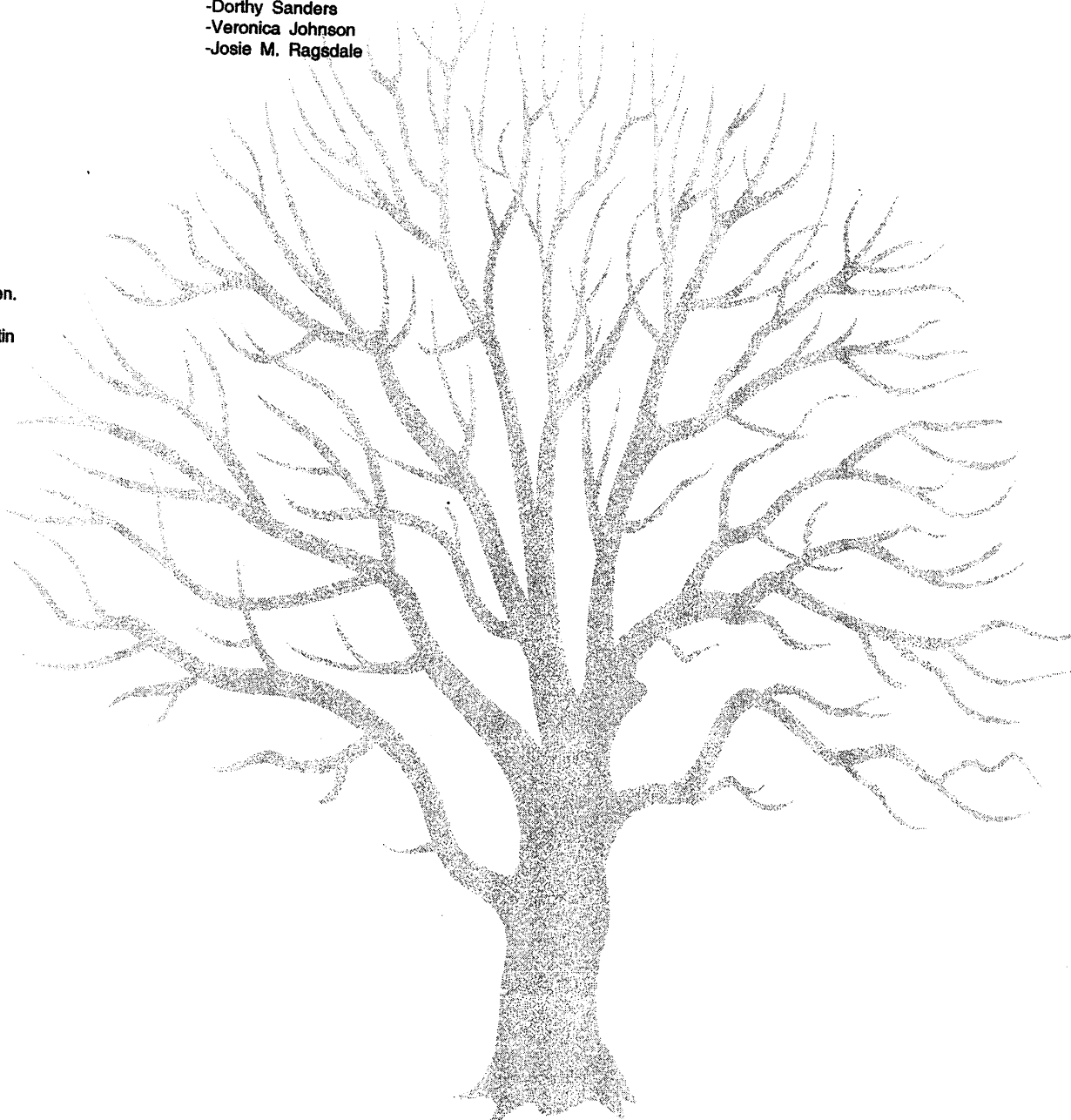
3 children names I do not have.

more of Eugenia grandchildren

-Dorothy Sanders

-Veronica Johnson

-Josie M. Ragsdale





Preston Ellison, Sr.
December 1887 - September 4, 1979;
and wife, Willie Johnson Ellison
March 16, 1892 - July 22, 1968;
14 children were added to this union



Rebecca Ellison Shields
Daughter of Mack and Sara



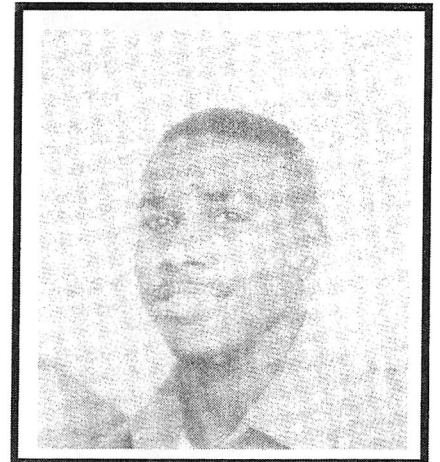
Left to Right: Douglas Ellison; Victoria Moore; Ellison, Leroy Ellison, Sr.;
Willie Mae Shelly; Robert "RD" Ellison; and Mamie "Sister" Ellison Stevenson



Mamie Ellison Stevenson
December 21, 1917 - May 28, 1999
and husband,
Robert L. Stevenson
March 7 - August, 1968



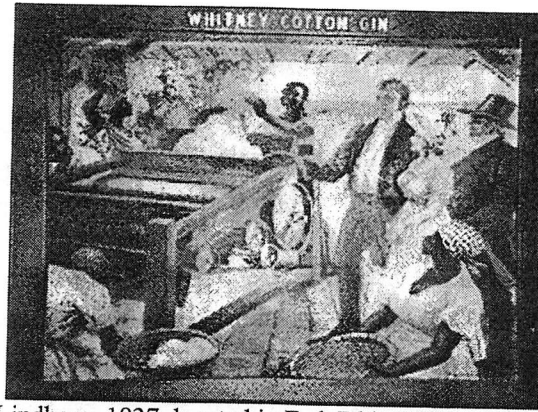
Shirley Ann Stevenson Milling
March 13, 1943 - April 18, 1994



George Wardell Stevenson
November 7, 1948 - July 7,

William Ellison: Master of His Own Life

by Alejandra Gonzalez



["Whitney Cotton Gin" by Thorsten H. F. Lindberg, 1937, located in Fed. Bldg./US Courthouse; Milwaukee, WI, from Fine Arts Forum]

The name William Ellison may not echo in our minds as the hero in a historical war or as a man who profoundly changed American lives. The reason his acknowledgment does not imitate that of George Washington or Benjamin Franklin is not because he represented a cause but represented a culture. William Ellison characterized the many faces and families that were known as the free colored people or better known as the mulatto elite. These people were those that bought their freedom but since they were not white also bought the resentment of the white community. In other words, they were no longer slaves but remained slaves of society due to their race. Ellison and his life were not only effected by the impact of the prejudice of the white man but by the hatred of the black one. Because to be a mulatto, a person mixed with black and white blood, was to be a person unstable of their freedom and in every second of their life their mind and body ticked with this certain uneasiness. That uneasiness that represented the line between freedom and slavery. Ellison, a man of intelligence and wisdom, lived on the edge of this uneasiness and therefore lived a life without certainty of his own freedom, just like a quarter of a million more mulattos did. Therefore, his significance in history represents the unheard of lives of many mulattos who lived in tremendous insecurity of their freedom during the early to late eighteen hundreds. Whose lives were not easy to start or even keep stable because they happened to live during the deep resentment of blacks and mulattos from non-white people in the south. William Ellison portrays the story of a man who lived in confusing times and still succeeded despite the difficulties the south brought to his family and to his entire race, the mulatto elite.

His name used to be April, a slave owned by a master named Ellison. April, who at the age of twelve, was taught the trade of apprenticeship by his master. Little did April know that a learning a trade like this would change his entire life. April succeeded to buy his freedom (by working "overtime") from his master on June 8, 1816. At age twenty-six, April Ellison became a free colored person. With freedom on one hand and the skill of a master gin maker on the other, he wasted no time on becoming just that, a free skilled man.

The very first thing he did is change his slave name of April to William. And it was then when the man William Ellison began his life, though, as we will see, was staggered by many obstacles due to his race, the success of his trade and political and social racism the many mulattos faced during this time.

Ellison settled in Stateburg, South Carolina, in a small district named Sumter District. He began his career by making gin repairs to those in need, which was in great need around this time. Soon afterwards, without hesitation, he bought his wife and daughter from slavery. Matilda and their daughter Eliza Ann immediately came to live with Ellison in Stateburg. Soon his family grew, he had three boys by the names of Henry, William Jr., and Reuben.

was a slave, it was he who worked as a house slave, who usually got the chance to educate himself and who was most frequently chosen to learn the trades.⁴ The black slave himself felt a particular pulsating drop of jealousy toward his "brother" simply because he was on the lighter side.

Hatred from the white man was just as evil, though their ways were more strongly heard than those of the black man. The white race had complete and irreversible freedom and that led to power. They wanted no such other person to hold equal power, especially if they had black blood in them. And so it was them who used their power to try to get rid of such opposition. To the white man it was not a pretty nor perfect picture to have a colored person as a free person. Their solution was the set of laws that asked for proof to their freedom. Though the proof was selective and fastidious, it did not affect Ellison nor his family. However, many of his friends and kinfolk were stuck in the panic. This was just another way of displaying the greed many whites shared to affirm their idea of superiority.

It was not an easy concept to accept, that is, one day a mulatto was free and the next they were a slave. Through all this unstableness and turbulence, they still managed to keep their hope and spirit high. As freemen, the mulattoes formed separate societies within their communities where they existed in numbers large enough to permit it.⁵ Such societies were named The Humane Brotherhood, The Friendly Moralist Society and the Brown Fellowship Society, which was the most prestigious and most of Ellisons friends were a part of. The unity of freedmen had to remain strong because both enemies sandwiching them in the middle ground were creating pressure. Pressure that was shrinking their middle ground in to almost nothing just because they had that clear and visible sign: their skin.

And because of their skin, their freedom was, one way or the other, attached to that visible characteristic. This simple trait mark of the mulattoes was the constant reminder to the white man that someone else was capable of being free. They could not accept the fact that blacks, light or licorice, could share the same status of freedom. Such selfish thinking like this led a man by the name of James Eason to introduced a bill. This bill would enormously attack the mulatto elite and literally drop an atomic bomb on them. It called for the abolishing of all colored freedmen by bringing them into the black hole of slavery. It also called for the impossibility of ever earning a living of their own and ever acquiring a true employment position at all. The deeply dreaded bill therefore called for the terminating of all mulatto-related businesses. Which cruelly included Ellison's very own gin-making shop. The free colored people of this time saw this bill as the hands of the white man slowly choking them to death.

As powerful and strong they tried to create themselves in their organizations, the freedmen forged together to eliminate their fears brought by the bill and to fight it with their pride. They were not going to let themselves be choked. The bill itself was carrying the huge support of white working men, mechanical contractors and legislation itself. Their opposition was not easy to defeat. But not a red blood cell in their light-skinned bodies ever knew of quitting. Hence, the Committee of the Colored Population sought help from a man named John Harleston Read, Jr. It was his strategy of presenting the tax book from which documentation of the every property-owing freedmen would be revealed. Those documents alone would show the tremendous and the impressive property holdings that freedmen had accomplished. It would show that the bill was not just suppressing men of color but suppressing real men of high working ethic.

Yet, the freedmen did not stop there. Some free mulatto leaders went fighting further by organizing a counter petition. Besides the signatures that were included by the freedman, signatures from their supporters of the aristocratic circle were also included. Impressive names of some of the most respectable citizens were seen in this counter petition. Through this, the mulatto elite and freedmen hoped to find some salvation in their massive effort to fight the bill.

Magnificently, their effort granted them their freedom. The horrendous bill did not pass. Eason's bill was an example of another attempt to fulfill the white man's strive to remain free. They did not, in the least, take into

1 Michael P. Johnson and James L. Roark, *Black Masters* (New York: W.W Norton & Company, 1984) 25. 2
 Michael P. Johnson and James L. Roark, *Black Masters* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1984) 79-80. 3
 Michael P. Johnson and James L. Roark, *Black Masters* (New York: W.W Norton & Company, 1984) 162. 4
 Edward Byron Reuter, *The Mulatto in the United States* (New York: Johnson Reprint Corporation, 1970) 174. 5
 Edward Byron Reuter, *The Mulatto in the United States* (New York: Johnson Reprint Corporation, 1970) 340. 6
 Elizabeth B. Clark, "Pain, Sympathy, and the Culture of Rights," *The Journal of American History*, 82 (1995):
 490-491. 7 Jeffers, Jim. "Hum 310" Success and the Values in the US.. [http://orca.csudh.edu/~jjeffers/-
 courses/success-syll.html](http://orca.csudh.edu/~jjeffers/-courses/success-syll.html). (19 Apr. 1996).

Bibliography:

Clark, Elizabeth B. "Pain, Sympathy, and the Culture of Rights." *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 82, 2 (1995): 490-491.

Dobersztyn, Dawn. "Gin helped to expand cotton industry," <http://www.cris.com/~Pgarber/gin.html> (19 April 1996).

Jeffers, Jim. "Hum 310: Success and the Values in the US." <http://orca.csudh.edu/~jjeffers/courses/success-syll.html> (19 April 1996).

Johnson, Michael P. and James L. Roark. *Black Masters*. New York: W.W Norton & Company, 1984.

Reuter, Edward Byron. *The Mulatto in the United States*. New York: Johnson Reprint Corporation, 1970.

This paper was written May 1, 1996 by Alejandra Gonzalez for American Civilization 17 taught by Steven Schoenherr at the University of San Diego. For more information send e-mail to agl@acusd.edu

Tommy Ellison & The Singing Stars

Tommy Ellison & The Singing Stars



Going To See My Friend

When one speaks of Quartet Legends it is absolutely impossible not to mention the name of Tommy Ellison. Having traveled with some of the greatest groups in quartet history Tommy is one of the most loved artists on the circuit today. Though it was not until the 1970s that The Five Singing Stars grabbed the attention of the masses these Legendary Gentlemen have been making music for many more years. In this their newest release The Singing Stars once again have managed to reshape their sound and add yet another dimension of arrangements and styles.

From the very beginning of this recording the listener knows that this is not the same old Tommy Ellison. The project opens with the title cut "Going To See My Friend". This selection is a gentle ballad handled with great care in classic Tommy croon mode. Set to the sound of a gentle acoustic guitar the listener is forced to listen to each and every word in this selection. One notices immediately that this is not just another predictable quartet ballad with endless vamps. In fact this selection is a perfect testament to what outside songwriters can do for groups with longstanding traditions of producing a

those Bible readers realize the importance of these few words. The other major selection on this project is the Holy Ghost filled solo "Amazing Grace". As Tommy tells of his Grandmother in classic preacher fashion he squeals and squalls his way through one of the worlds most beloved hymns.

I give Tommy Ellison & The Singing Stars "Going To See My Friend" a 9 out of 10. The only thing that takes away from this project is the secular Chi-Lite sounding "Don't Leave Me Jesus" which is literally a remake of their 1972 hit "Oh Girl" with Jesus substituted for Girl. It parallels a secular selection just a little to closely for this gospel music critic.

Gloryland Home

Acknowledgements

We, the 2005 Ellison Family Reunion Committee members would like to acknowledge and extend our heartfelt appreciation to those listed below for their support, donations, and contributions in helping to make this reunion the success that it was. We thank you; we love you! May God continue to bless you.

Chick-fil-A
Chiles & Chiles Studio
Columbia Convention Center & Visitors Bureau
Cracker Barrel Old Country Store
Cromer's
EdVenture
Home Depot of Edgewood, Maryland
Krispy Kreme Doughnuts
Lifeway Christian Bookstore
P&B Promotionals
Richland County Sheriff's Department
SC Parks, Recreation and Tourism
The Carolinian Hotel
The Happy Booksellers
The Right Choice
Wesson Lake - Fort Jackson, South Carolina
WFMV Gospel 95.3 Radio Station
WIS Television – Channel 10

Ellison Directory

A

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Adams, Mamie Mrs.
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Archie, Larry Mr.
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Armstrong, Gary Mr.
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B

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Columbia, SC 29224

C

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Charlotte, NC 28277

Cooke, Bryan Mr.
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Cooke, Isaiah Mr.
P. O. Box 24956
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DuBard, Bernice Mrs.
315 Erie Street
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Meadows, TX 77477

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Ellison, Garnett Mr.
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West Memphis, AR 72301

Ellison, Glenn Mr.
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Ellison, Henry Mr.
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Ellison, James Mr.
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Ellison, JoAnn Ms.
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Joseph, Mildred E. Ms.
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Mamaroneck, NY 10543

K

L

Lemmelle, Karen Ms.
7312B Peddlestone Drive
Charlotte, NC 28212

Lucas, Sarah Mrs.
2335 Ervin Street
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M

Manning, Louise Ms.
3307 Woodripple
Baltimore, MD 21207

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Hopkins, SC 29061

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Winnsboro, SC 29180

Martin, Quincey V. Mr.
P. O. Box 1036
Winnsboro, SC 29180

Martin, Robbie R. Ms.
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Baltimore, MD 21229

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Words of Thanks

*Thank you so much for not allowing the
"ordinary" to do.*

*Thank you for making this reunion special
because of your presence.*

*Thank you for honoring our roots, branches,
stems and leaves by being
loving, peaceful, kind and forgiving.*

Thank you for unity; unity brings strength.

*We love you,
The 2005 Ellison Family Reunion Committee*

*Sandra Clifton
Roy Ann Gaither
Vivian Powe
Mamie Ricks
Erudy Stevenson*