

August 2020 Issue 23

ELLA SPEAKS

For the descendants, loved ones,
family and friends of Ella Bell-Brown

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ELLA BELL-BROWN'S STORY

SUBMITTED BY E ONJA BROWN

E Onja Brown, Morris Brown's daughter, has been busy discovering, documenting and curating details about our matriarch Ella Bell-Brown's life on Ancestry.com. We have many details about her married life, her children and the extended family she was able to cultivate over the years based on our participation in the annual reunion she created. There are several family members who were generous enough to dig deeper and learn more about her lineage a few years ago. But through technology and the web's ability to connect dots more closely, E Onja was able to gather details about Ella's childhood, where she was born, her siblings and the many places her life was lived and how it was shaped.

As a family, we are fortunate to have one another and that is largely because of Ella. She was born in 1885 - just 20 years shy of the 13th Amendment and the abolishment of slavery in 1865. It was not an easy time for Black

ELLA BELL-BROWN'S STORY (cont)

SUBMITTED BY E ONJA BROWN

people or women. The legacy she was able to leave still astonishes me and I am excited to help tell it.

E Onja Brown had the following thoughts to share when she sent Ella Bell-Brown's family record: ***“Grandma Brown (Ella) speaks to me especially when I reflect on my childhood about the times I would be in the kitchen. I can still visualize her making rolls to be put out to rise. I remember the smell of her rolls every now and then, especially when I am near a bakery and bread is made. I hear her stern voice which could also be sweet, too. I loved seeing her smile. And I still miss her.”***

Ella Bell-Brown was born December 28, 1885 in Charleston County, South Carolina to parents Elizabeth Oliver, age 22, and Richard James Bell, age 23. A beautiful brown baby girl, she was the first of her parents' 6 children. I imagine she was a doting big sister and helped her parents with her siblings. In all Ella had 4 sisters, Mary, Alice, Elizabeth and Frosty aka

By early 1906 Ella was 20 years of age and married to Joseph Benjamin Brown, Jr. In October of the same year, Ella gave birth to her first son Morris Edward Brown. The small family resided in Ousley, Lowndes County Georgia. Ella and Joseph would go on to have a total of 7 children - Morris, Richard, John, Alice, Claude, Lily Bell and Joseph C. Brown - they were all born in Georgia.

Elizabeth Oliver, Ella's mother, passed away in the year 1920 at the age of 57. By the year 1922 Ella and Joseph had moved their family a bit over 1,000 miles north to the city of New Brunswick in Middlesex County, New Jersey. In 1930 Ella and Joseph lost their son Richard James Brown at the age of 21. In 1933 Ella's father, Richard James Bell, passed away at the age of 71.

Ella would begin the family tradition of meeting every 3rd Saturday in August to keep up with her growing family in the year 1941. But by February 1957 Ella had lost her sister Alice Bell.

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GRANDMA BROWN SPEAKS TO ME ESPECIALLY WHEN I REFLECT ON MY CHILDHOOD...

Flossie. Sandwiched in the middle of them all was her baby brother Richard James Bell.

When Ella was born she and her family lived in Charleston County, South Carolina. Charleston is the largest city in South Carolina. By the time she was 10 in the early part of 1896 and close to the birth of her sister Elizabeth, Ella, her parents, 2 sisters and brother moved about 65 miles north of Charleston to Georgetown, SC, a smaller community. Two years later in 1898, before the birth of Ella's last sister, Flossie, records show the family moved another 380 miles south to Ousley, Georgia. By the year 1900 Ella was 15 and her family had settled in a town 40 miles away from Ousley in Du Pont, Georgia.

Ella's husband, Joseph Benjamin Brown, was called home 4 years later in 1961. He was 79. Ella lived to be 79 years old. She passed away on October 25, 1965, 24 years after she started the family reunion that we still celebrate today.

Ella Bell-Brown's legacy continues with every breath we all take collectively. It was her will and foresight that affords us the opportunity to know and love one another. We would not be here if it weren't for her.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ANNIVERSARIES

Leslye Lopez graduated from the university of Maryland Global Campus on December 16, 2019. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in English Literature. Leslye is the daughter of C. Roy Epps.

City Guerrier graduated elementary school from the Bronx Charter School for Better Learning on June 23, 2020 earning her diploma. She will begin middle school at Capital Preparatory Bronx Charter School this fall. City is the daughter of Justin and Salian Guerrier.

Myles Williams successfully completed the 12th grade and graduated from Eagles Academy for Young Men in the Bronx, NY on June 29, 2020. He had the 2nd highest score for the U.S. History Regents. He successfully passed five regents exams. Myles will attend Bronx Community College and Americorps. Myles is the son of Malcolm Williams.

Elaina Schlesinger, currently a Certified Professional Medical Coder and Medical Biller, earned the highest grade in her program receiving the title of valedictorian at the completion of her course.

Amya A. White earned her high school diploma from BMC Dufree. She will attend the University of Massachusetts (UMass) at the Boston Campus. She will major in Psychology. She is the granddaughter of Norma White.

Mary Washington's parents lived and contributed to their Brownsville neighborhood in 1958 through the late 1970's. Community Board #16 in Brownsville Brooklyn, New York will co-name Dumont Avenue (between Blake & Mother Gaston Blvd) to Yusef & Dara Iman (**Doris Washington**) Way for their great work of activism in the surrounding community.

Jamel S. Wallace has completed elementary school earning his diploma from Success Academy Prospect Heights. He will attend the Success Academy East Flatbush Middle School in fall 2020. He is the great grandson of Doris Washington.



SEIDAH SABIR & BASSIROU MBAYE TIED THE KNOT ON JUNE 13, 2020.

NAJLA SULUKI & SIDDIQ MUHAMMAD WED ON AUGUST 2, 2020.

VIRGINIA & JOSEPH FORD WILL CELEBRATE THEIR 5TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY ON AUGUST 22, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

birthdays 2019 - 2020

William Epps 50 - October 7

Steven Percy 50 - October 7

Albert (Perry) Brown 95 - Oct 10

Diane Wellington 45 - October 24

Gladys Brown 95 - November 10

Salian Guerrier 40 - November 10

Nichet Epps 25 - December 10

Niam Martin 25 - January 30

Lettecia Brown 40 - February 6

Jayson Epps 15 - February 10

Jordan Epps 10 - February 15

Doris Brown 60 - March 12

Briana Nanton 25 - March 22

Tia Epps 21 - March 30

C'Nedra Moore 16 - April 8

Niani Randall 16 - May 18

Leah Arnold 55 - June 3

Kenneth Jackson 50 - July 23

new leaves

Nasir Isaiah Gomez - Born February 16, 2020 Son of Muriel Dajanah - Great Grandson of Muriel Alston

Cally R. Davis - Born October 20, 2019 Daughter of Nakeema Reeves and Cory Davis - Great Granddaughter of Elaine Jackson

Robin Maxwell Luu Knight - Born June 1, 2019 Son of Ali Knight and Van Lu Knight - Great Grandson of Sylvia Potts



Lelo's Art Studio - owned by Leslye R. Lopez, specializes in handmade face masks, unique cards, stationary, wall art and embellished journal covers. For inquiries please visit www.lelosartstudio.com.

Shatoya and Tyree Wade own and manage the following businesses:

1. Trunk 4 Five, Playdate Adventure LLC - Organizes playdate services for children ages 4 - 10
2. MegaXStreams Streaming Cable - Offers all channels, Sports Packages and Pay Per View with packages starting at \$25
3. APlus Management LLC - Licensed Electrician and Contracting Servicing New York and New Jersey
4. Car Sales

For questions please email: Tswade2011@gmail.com.

Gina Williams owner of **Gina's Vintage Boutique** offers clothing, jewelry and accessories. For more info go to: www.facebook.com/gina.boykin.16

Sheba's Reign - a family company that creates soy wax candles and melts, was created and is run, with love, by Lorraine Sabir. For orders please visit: www.shebasreign.com.

Jasnell Creations - Sharon McMillon creates customized jewelry using various materials - stones, beads, metals and fabrics. You can order jewelry or learn to create for yourself in her workshops. Visit www.jasnellcreations.com/ for more information.

J Nicole Events is an event planning and design boutique for lifestyle events servicing North Carolina and New Jersey. To learn more contact owner Jenell Prince here: www.eventsbyjnicole.com.

Marquis Bankx is a Singer/Rapper/Songwriter. His latest album "Summer of '86", released this year, can be found on all DSP's (Spotify, Apple, Tidal, Youtube and several others). Support his music by searching for him by name, following and streaming. Consider Marquis if you need customized music for your next project and email marquisbankx@gmail.com.

Dog Whistle Tees - created by Byron and Heather Brown, brings awareness to subtle racist terms and actions. The company motto is "Racism isn't always loud, but we still hear it!". Visit our website, www.dwtees.com for more information and to purchase t-shirts.



Walter Hayes Spencer, Jr. (72) Brother to Willie James Spencer
Sunrise: March 17, 1947 Sunset: October 18, 2019 Bradenton, Florida

Lorraine Garvin (74) Mother to Leah, Leslye & Nalik Epps Sunrise:
February 25, 1945 Sunset: November 28, 2019 Rockville, Maryland

Jacqueline Renee Monique Brown (44) Daughter to Stephanie Willis
Sunrise: February 15, 1975 Sunset: January 18, 2020 Bronx, New York

Cleo Spencer Holloway (77) Niece to Mary Brown & Dorothy Spencer
Sunrise: November 25, 1942 Sunset: February 6, 2020 Bradenton,
Florida

Anthony Mapps (59) Son of Cleo Spencer Holloway Sunrise:
December 6, 1960 Sunset: February 17, 2020 Sarasota, Florida

Sylvia Robinson (84) Niece to Mary Brown Sunrise: April 12, 1936
Sunset: March 19, 2020 New York, New York

Barbara Spencer (60) Wife to Keith Spencer Sunrise: October 17, 1959
Sunset: March 20, 2020 Norcross, Georgia

Cheryl Wall (71) Mother to Camara Epps Sunrise: October 29, 1948
Sunset: April 4, 2020 Highland Park, New Jersey

Betty Walters (94) Sister-in-law to Dorothy Spencer Sunrise:
December 24, 1925 Sunset: May 26, 2020 New York, New York

Glenford Wallace (66) Husband to Darlene Wallace, father to Jaron
Wallace Sunrise: November 10, 1953 Sunset: May 31, 2020 Mount
Vernon, New York

Dallas Thomas Spencer (68) Brother to Willie James Spencer Sunrise:
May 28, 1952 Sunset: July 24, 2020 Bradenton, Florida