INTRODUCTION

It was actually about thirty-eight years ago that I learned of the existence of twenty-three letters written to his wife Elizabeth by my kinsman Josiah Robert Peele Ellis, a well-to-do planter who lived in Wilson County, North Carolina, about a mile northwest of Stantonsburg, where the road forks in the respective directions of Black Creek and Wilson. At that time I made copies of the letters and also of the information recorded in the family Bible.

J. R. P. Ellis was born on July 11, 1821, in what was then Edgecombe County, and was the only child of Lewis Ellis by his first wife, Mary Peele, daughter and only heir of Robert Peele VI of the distinguished old Quaker family. His father later married a young widow named Zilla (Morris) Simms who bore him an additional ten children. The family lived comfortably and the boys were educated at Hopewell Academy which numbered their father among its founders and trustees. Lewis Ellis died in 1854, and the Wilson County Census of 1860 estimated the real and personal wealth of his eldest son at $6,630 (well over $100,000 at 1977 values).

Josiah Ellis was apparently drafted for military service through some official inadvertence, but was too proud not to join his friends and relations who were already serving in Company C, 43rd North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A. Leaving at home his wife and ten children whose ages extended from seventeen years to ten months, he is recorded as having reported for enrollment at Camp Holmes on November 23, 1863. The last surviving Company Muster Roll, that of July and August, 1864, found him on active duty, but we know from other sources that he received a fatal wound late in September and died in October, 1864, at Lincoln Military Hospital in Washington,

201792

D. C.

The Forty-Third Regiment contained ten Companies, including C from Wilson County and E from Edgecombe County. Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas C. Kenan would become a prominent citizens of Wilson after the war, while Surgeon William T. Brewer was already living in the vicinity of Black Creek in 1860. Adjutant Drury Lacy, Jr., was a son of the Reverend Drury Lacy who served as Chaplain of General Military Hospital No. 2 at Wilson during the Civil War.

Josiah Ellis reached the Forty-Third just in time to participate in the action against Meade's Army at Mine Run on November 26, 1863. The Federals retreated north of the Rapidan River, and both armies built and settled into their winter quarters. However, Ellis's Regiment was detached and sent to eastern North Carolina as a part of Hoke's Brigade, Pickett's Division. Their first action was to drive the Yankees back to New Bern from their position at Bachelor's Creek Bridge.

Being unable to have any success against the main enemy works at New Bern, they marched to Kinston and remained for several weeks before going to Plymouth, and, assisted by the ram Albemarle, participating in the attacks of April 18-20, 1864, that culminated in the surrender of the Town and the withdrawal of the enemy flotilla. The next engagements occurred on the afternoon of May 2 and the morning of May 3 about nine miles from Washington (North Carolina), and "the enemy were forced back in a running fight within sight of the town."

Before Washington could be taken, their Brigade was ordered to go immediately to Kinston and thence to Petersburg. The 43rd was the first Regiment to arrive there and was sent immediately into the weakly manned

entrenchments in front of the City, facing General Butler's threat. After the other troops arrived, they participated in rapid movements over a distance of about thirty miles from south of Petersburg to north of Richmond, concluding with a violent attack upon the Federals at Drewry's Bluff at daylight on May 16, 1864.

Having captured a battery and helped to drive the fleeing enemy to Bermuda Hundred, the 43rd Regiment was ordered to march to Drewry's Bluff and to proceed by boat to Richmond and by rail to Milford Station, in the direction of Fredericksburg, where they detrained and marched to the vicinity of Spottsylvania Court House by the night of May 21, again embodied into the Army of Northern Virginia. After over sixty miles of hard marching, they confronted the Federal forces near Hanover Junction on May 23, but Company C saw little action.

The enemy withdrew about nightfall, and the entire Confederate force began an advance towards Richmond that was broken by light skirmishes on May 31 and June 1, the Battle of Gaines's Mill on June 2, and the sharp Battle of Cold Harbor on June 3, after which they camped for ten days at Gaines's Mill before receiving orders to continue to Lynchburg, which they reached on June 18. The enemy withdrew without offering battle, and the pursuit involved only light skirmishing at Liberty, at Buford's Gap on June 20, and Salem the next day. On June 23 they continued towards the Potomac River, reaching Staunton on June 27 and Harper's Ferry on July 4, which they occupied amid considerable skirmishing on July 5, followed by a battle in the rear of Maryland Heights on July 6, 1864.

Passing through Crampton's Gap, the Confederate forces reached Frederick on July 9 and drove General Lew Wallace's Division from its position on the Monocacy River. The next day they started towards Washington and reached

Fort Stevens at midday of July 11, "within sight of the dome of the Federal Capitol." After some sharp fighting and the arrival of two fresh enemy corps, they withdrew on the night of July 12 and crossed the Potomac River near Leesburg on July 14. "Thus, within thirty days the army of which the Forty-Third composed a part had marched about five hundred miles and taken part in not less than twelve battles and skirmishes, in most of which the enemy were defeated with severe losses."

Followed by Union troops, they crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains at Snicker's Gap on July 17, 1864. Turning upon their pursuers near Snicker's Ford, they inflicted fairly heavy losses by driving them into the Shenandoah River. Having moved towards Strasburg on July 19, they arrived at Fisher's Hill the next day. On July 24 they assisted in the attack upon the enemy at Kernstown and the pursuit across the Potomac River for some distance into Maryland. Involved almost daily in marching and counter-marching, the Regiment took part in battles at Winchester on August 17, Charlestown on August 21, Smithfield on August 29, Bunker's Hill on September 3, (second) Winchester on September 19, and Fisher's Hill on September 22.

Since the Confederate forces were defeated in the last engagement and forced to retreat up the Valley of Virginia as far as Waynesboro before receiving sufficient reinforcements to stop their pursurers, it appears almost certain that Josiah Robert Poole Ellis received his subsequently fatal wound and was among the men captured on September 22, 1864. Between October 1 and 13 the Forty-Third Regiment slowly worked its way down the Valley and back to Fisher's Hill. On the night of October 18 they moved to the left rear of the Federal Camp at Cedar Creek, upon which they made a successful attack the next morning; but increasing enemy strength forced them to withdraw in the afternoon and to retreat under pressure back to their old position at New Market.

The successful repulse of a foray by a considerable body of Union cavalry near there about November 22, 1864, terminated the noted "Valley Campaign" of 1864.

Hugh Buckner Johnston

Wilson, North Carolina

May 20, 1977

(1)

[Undated, at late in 1863, probably just prior to his leaving for Virginia]

[To his wife][1]

I was glad to hear that Cole[2] and Tomy[3] got home safe. If any of you come, you will have to get a pass to come over the bridge. Direct your letters to J. R. P. Ellis, Kinston,[4] 43 Regt., Co. C, Hoke's Brigade,[5] Pickett's Division.[6] I also desire your prayers. Your affectionate husband until death.

J. R. P. ELLIS

P. S. They have stopped the daily mail. The mail only comes Monday and Thursday.

(2)

Camp near Moden Ford,[7] Dec. 4/63

Dear Wife and Children:

Having a favorable opportunity I will endeavor to drop you a few lines to let you know I am still living. I left Kinston on Sunday, the 22nd of November. I was sent to Goldsboro and then to Raleigh, and then to Camp Holmes[8] and was enrolled. They told me that I had to go to Lee's Army[9] or Bragg's,[10] so I am with the 43 Regt. with Rufus[11] and Edwin Amerson.[12] I got to this Company last Thursday night at 11 o'clock. We left Orange Court House[13] about sunset and walked about 15 miles. I had been there about 30 minutes when we received orders to march, so we had to start and march 7 or 8 miles. We were then marched in a line of battle and remained there until day. And then we started and marched until about 9 o'clock and then we met the Yankees and throwed in a line of battle.

And then in about ten minutes the sharpshooters were firing. They kept up shooting until night, and then we fell back some 2 or 3 miles and went to throwing up breastworks, and if you ever saw poor fellows work, then was the time.

About sunrise the sharpshooters were sent out again. I was sent with them and by the time we got to our post we saw the Yanks coming, and in about 5 minutes they were shooting us and the bullets were coming whistling. In about 10 minutes a ball struck a man in the face, and I had to help tote him off the field with the balls striking all around me. Two struck a man that was on my side a-touching me. There is no use in telling you about being scared, for it will scare the most of the time. We got our breastworks done and I felt tolerable easy under the circumstances. We lay there 4 days a-waiting for the Yank to advance on us, but on the 4 night they left us and we started after them, but I did not want to catch them much, so we ran them over the Rapidan[14] and then we turned back and marched some 8 or 10 miles and struck up camp and stayed all night, so we started back to our old camp. I help bury a dead man this morning.

I received your letter that you send me my A. J. Ellis[15] and was glad to hear that you and children were well excepts colds, and still hope that you are still enjoying the same blessing. You said something about hiring Eas and Emily.[16] You can do as you please, but I think you had better hire them if they don't ask too much for them. You had better try to make support if you can. Encourage the children to be smart and saving and careful, for you and they are left dependent on your own exertions for a living, and I sincerely hope you will do well.

I must come to a close.

J. R. P. ELLIS

The Camp of the 43rd Dec. 9th 1863

Dear Wife and Children:

This may inform you and family that I am very unwell though I am up. I have a very heavy cold and cnugh. I have to lie out and take the weather as it comes. We have no shelter at all to protect us. I have to drill 4 hours a day. Cooking and drilling take all our time. We have to tote our wood nearly a half-mile. It is very cold here now, and I suffer with cold a-nights. I have not cover enough to keep me warm. I have as much as I can tote, and in fact more if I have to march much, so don't send me any clothes or cover. I got a permit to go and see the boys in Staton's[17] old Co. I am with the boys now. They all seem glad to see me and it makes me feel proud to see so many of my old friends. The boys are all well here.

You have no idea how badly I want to see you and the children. I would give all the money you have got just to be with you and if I could stay and not be troubled, but that time has passed, I am afraid.. Lieut. Killet[18] wants Wyatt Lynch[19] to bring him a qt. of the old peach brandy. You can let him have it, and T. Barnes[20] wants a qt., too. You can send it, also, and send me a qt. by Wyatt if he will bring it. They want it for Christmas. They will pay me for it.

Thomas Mumford[21] wants a ½ bushel of potatoes. Send them if you can by anybody. Write as soon as this comes to hand. Don't put it off a minute, for I want to hear from you once a week without fail. I must come to a close as Tom wants to send some in this letter, so nothing more, only I remain yours as ever.

J. R. P. ELLIS

Thomas Mumford sends his best respects to all and wants you to write to him. He says the letter that was sent to you was written to Bedy[22] and they made a mistake and backed it to you, so that is the way the mistake was made. He wants you to forgive him for it. Nothing more.

THO. MUMFORD

(4)

Camp of the 43rRegt. N. C. State Troops

Sunday Dec. 13th/63

Dear Wife & Children:

I received your letter this morning. I cannot express the joy and comfort it affored me to hear from you and the children and to hear that you and the family were well. This leaves me well except a cold and cough. Bettie, I know that you were troubled when you heard of my misfortune, but thereis no use to grieve about it. I am certain that somebody was the cause of it or else they would have conscribed nearly all the Company. They singled out a few of us and let the rest stay. But maybe it is all for the best, for I am among a heap of mighty good boys here. I heard more cussing in the Company at Kinston in one day than I have heard since I have been in camp in Va. I hardly ever hear an oath here. The boys have been very kind to me since I have been here, particularly Rufus and Edwin Amerson. The night I got to camp they had all drawn their 2 days' rations ready to march, and the provisions had been sent back so we could not draw any at all.

Rufus and Edwin divided their rations with me. If it had not been for them I should have suffered. I shall never forget the boys for their kindness to me,

and it may be that I can do something for them to pay them for their kindness.

I have seen a good many of my old acquaintances since I have been here. They all seem to be surprised at seeing me here, and if the boys had their way I should go home. The officers have been mighty kind to me and Capt. Barnes[23] seems to hate it mighty bad. He said he would send me home if he had his way and let me stay there. Betty, there is no chance to get a furlough, for there are men in this Company that have never had a furlough since they have been in service, so you know they will come before me, so there is no chance for me. You said you wanted to hire Lewis.[24] I think you had better hire him if you can, and hire Eas and Em if you can. I don't know what to say about the price, or at least I want you to hire enough to have all the land that lay out, and the orchard anyhow, if not the graveyard piece. I would have that field where the tar trough is sowed in small grain where it is strong enough to bring it. I want to know where you sowed rye. Hire Lewis if you can. You had better get W. Barnes,[25] Edwin Barnes,[26] and I. U. Amerson[27] to assist you in hiring the negroes and instruct you about your business. I am in hopes they will take some interest in my business. You must do like you did by the wheat. If you want Lewis give whatever they ask, so hire him anyway, but don't be in too big a hurry about it. Try to find out what she asks for him and let me know. Betty, you must be saving with your corn for I know it is scarce. You must encourage the boys and try to get them to work, for they haven't got me to provide for them now. Betsy, I am in hope you will get along and make a plenty to live on and pay your expenses. Willie,[28] now is the time for you and Bob[29] to show your smartness. Just show the folks that you can work. It will be the making of you for life. You are doing right to send the children to school. Send them all you can spare.

You said you reckoned I wanted to hear something about Tobe.[30] You know

that "pap" as he calls me always wants to hear from him. Tell him that I dreamed of hugging and kissing him last Friday night and "pap" was mighty uneasy about him. You must bake him some cakes and let "pap's" boy have some just when we wants them. Tell him that "pap" will come home some time to see him if he lives, but he don't know when. Give my respects to all the neighbors and inquiring friends.

Nothing more at present, only I remain yours truly.

J. R. P. ELLIS

To Betty Ellis. Write soon and give me all the news. I like to have forgot: send me some stamps in your next letter for I cannot get any here. I cannot pay for this letter. You must send me some pepper by Lynch and send me and Killet some brandy.

(5)

Camp of the 43rd Regt. N. C.

December 21st 1863

Dear Wife & Children:

I received your kind letter on the 16th of Inst., but could not answer it until this morning on account of the duty I have to perform and the bad weather. We have had several very cold days and right smart rain, and consequently being exposed to the weather I can write only in good weather. I know you think long of the time, for I know you want to hear from me every day or two, for I know I think very long of the time if I don't get a letter every week, but I am in hopes you will excuse me as my chance is so bad and write me regularly if I do not to you.

I am sorry for poor little Martha,[31] for I know the toothache is bad enough

for grown folks, let alone a poor little child. Tell all the little children that pappy said howdy. Hug and kiss them for me, for you don't know how badly I want to see you and the children. I would give more to see you and my poor little babies than anything in this world, but it is out of the question, for I don't expect to see you all soon if ever in this troublesome world, but I will live in hopes that I shall see you all again some time.

Betsy, I am now on the banks of the Rapidan on picket. I can see the Yankees whenever I look across the River, and hear their drums beating while I am writing to you. I stayed here last night in the cold, and I expect to have to stay tonight. It is mighty cold here now and looks like snowing, but that is what the boys want to see. They say if it would snow we could have a little rest.

You wrote to know what to do about selling that barrel of brandy. I would not sell it yet, for you don't need the money. I don't want you to retail it out. I just wanted you to send me and Killet 3 qts. for Christmas and keep the balance until you hear from me. Betsy, you can hire Eas and Em if you think you can make them work, for they are worth $75 Dollars. I reckon if times keep like they are now you can hire Lewis if you can. Betsy, I want you to pay Penny[32] and Susan Edmondson[33] for their negroes, and also pay Stephen Woodard[34] a note that he holds against me, or get somebody to do it for you. Betsy, I don't want you to expose yourself too much and lay yourself up, but I think you had better try to carry on the farm about like I did. If you don't, you will have to sell some of the stock, if you don't have to anyway. Betsy, be saving with the corn, for now is the time to commence saving it, and be saving with the cow feed.

Betsy, I can't think of anything else now as I know of nothing that would be any profit to you, so good-bye until you hear from your husband again. Write soon and let me hear all the news.

J. R. P. ELLIS

Send me some stamps.

(6)

Camp of 43 Regn. Jan. 3rd 1864

Dear Wife and Children:

I read both of your letters. One came to hand last Monday dated Dec. 24, and the other one Thursday 31st. They both found me well except a cold. I was glad to hear from you and the family and to hear that you were all well, and I still live in hopes that you are all enjoying good health. I haven't written to you since last Monday was a week ago. I know that you think long of the time, but Betsy, I haven't got the chance to write when I want to, though I am in hopes that I shall have a better chance from now for we have moved in winter quarters.

Betsy, we had a sorry Christmas. I did not have my brandy to drink and but very little to eat. The night before Christmas we received a despatch that the Yankees were advancing in a heavy force, so consequently we received orders to be ready to march in a moment's notice, so we had to lie with our equipage where we could lay our hands on it an any time. But the night passed away until daybreak Christmas morning, when we were called out and fall in ranks ready to march. We remained in ranks a short time and then we were ordered to stack our arms but not pull off our knapsacks, or cartridge boxes. So we remained all day in that fix until about sunset we were ordered down on the river on picket, where we stayed until Saturday about 1 o'clock. We were then relieved, so you can guess how I spent Christmas.

We then started for our winter quarters, where I am now. We had to march some 12 or 15 miles. Betsy, I never was so nearly broken down in my life. We

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got to our camps about one hour in the night. Then it commenced raining and it rained 2 days and nights off and on, so we had a bad time of it you may depend. Tuesday I worked all day for the Cap.,[35] so on Wednesday I went to work on me a house. Thursday it rained all day, but it did not stop me from work for I had to stay in the rain anyway, so I worked with all my might. Betsy, I have done as hard a week's work as ever I did in my life, so I am nearly broken down but I have got my house so I can live in it and keep dry and and warm in the day time. I am not done with it yet. When I get it done it will be very comfortable.

Betsy, I think you had better take your little family of children and come and live with me. Betsy, you say you want to see me very bad. I know you do, but that is out of the question for there is no chance for me to come home, so it is not worth while to think about it. I am in hopes you will do the the best you can and provide for my poor little children the best you can, and in the meantime take care of yourself. Betsy, you must do the best you can about hiring somebody to work. Hire Lewis if you want to and pay for him when you hire him. If Mrs. Whitley[36] will have the pay, maybe you can get him a little lower. Get Wash Barnes[37] or Mr. Amerson[38] to assist you if you can about hiring someone to work for you, for I can't assist you as I know of, so I am in hopes that some of the neighbors will assist and instruct you how to farm.

Betsy, I want to know how many hogs you fattened, how many barrels of corn and how many potatoes you had, and how many sows and pigs and shoats, and if you will have cow feed enough &c. Betsy, you must be sparing with meat and corn. I only get ½ of a pound a day and I have missed drawing 3 days this week, so that left me 3/4 of a pound a week. I get one pound of flour a day, but we miss drawing flour some days. It is pretty close living but I have made

out not to suffer much yet. I am afraid we shall have to live on a heap less yet if the war continues much longer.

Betsy, I had a rarity this morning for breakfast. I had some coffee and sugar. I thought of you when I was drinking it and wished you had it to drink for your breakfast. We have been drawing sugar and coffee this week, and if I keep drawing it I am going to send you some coffee. We draw a spoonful apiece a day, and I am going to save mine and send it to you. I had rather you had it to drink than to drink it myself. Betsy you can let Jane Rogers[39] have that sow and pigs, for I reckon you have got more than you can feed. You can get somebody to tell you what she is worth.

Tell Mr. Barnes and Amerson that I am very much obliged to them for assisting you about the pork. Betsy, you may keep the cloth for I don't need it here for I can't tote many clothes here. Keep them for me until I come home or let the boys have it if they need it. I think you and Kato[40] have been smart since I left a-getting cloth. Betsy, I am afraid you do attend to your loom too much and neglect the out of door business. You must attend to the farm as well as the loom. Betsy, you wanted to know how they broke up the Co. at Kinston. I cannot tell you, for I do not know, though I think somebody was the cause of it.

James Woodard[41] left here last Monday and I sent the carpet sack by him and also 1 pair of cloth shoes and 1 pair of drawers and 1 shirt and 1 bottle. I drew the clothes at Raleigh. Don't send me any clothes until I write for some. I want you to quit whipping my boy and let him eat in my place and be in my place. I want you to bake my boy some cakes and let him have a plenty of them to eat. I dream about being in the neighborhood nearly every night and being with the children, but when I awake I am a long way from you and my baby. I am in hopes that you will get along well. It is dark and I must come to a close, so good-bye by dear wife and children until you hear from

your affectionate husband again.

J. R. P. ELLIS

(7)

Camp of the 43 Regt.

Jan. 6th/64

Dear Wife,

I received your box and its contents last night about 8 o'clock, and I will assure you that I was well pleased with my Christmas present, for it came in a good time, for I had just eaten up all the rations I had and I did not have enough. I was just talking about being at home and having good things &c when the news came to me that the boxes had come to the wagon again, so I pitched off through the snow and fell in a clay-hole and wrenched my foot, but I am much obliged to you for it anyway, for it has been a great friend to me.

Betsy, I never found yours until this evening just at night. Betty, there is a letter on the way for you. I have written all the news in that, so I shall write you a short letter this time. Send me some more to eat when it is convenient. Betty, I should be mighty glad to see you and my children, but it is out of the question. I would like to know how the horses look, and cows, and stock generally. Willie fixed my box splendidly. I want the children to write to me and let me know how they amount on learning. I wrote Mr. Barnes a letter a few days back. I want you all to write soon. I must come to a close as it is getting dark.

Nothing more, only I remain your loving husband,

J. R. P. ELLIS

Camp of the 43rd, Daniel's Brigade[42]

January 19th 1864

My loving wife,

I read your welcome letter of the 13th instant. It reached me on the 27th. I was sorry to hear that my two little babies were sick, but I am in hopes that they are both well by this time or before now. I was glad to hear that you and the rest of the family were well. I am in hopes that this will find you and family enjoying the best of health, and I am in hopes that you all still enjoy good health while I am absent from you. Betsy, you did right in hiring Lewis, notwithstanding you had to pay a big price for him. You must feed him less and make him work more and try to make him earn the money. He will be worth more to you than anybody else you could have hired, if he will be.

Betsy, I want you and the boys to do the best you can with the farm and get Mr. Amerson and Mr. Barnes to tell you what is the best to do and how to get along with your business and sow oats. If you have not got enough seed oats, you had better get some, I reckon. I wanted to know when you sowed your rye, but you never have written to me in what field. I am in hopes you can make to eat and pay expenses. If you do, you will do mighty well. Betsy, you say you have paid out $700 Dollars and it is all the money I left for you to spend and it is all you have got. Betsy, I don't understand this. I thought I left about 16 or 17 hundred Dollars in Confederate money and 11 bonds one hundred Dollars each and 230 Dollars in bank bills, and if seven hundred Dollars has taken it all I do not know what to think. It seems to me you ought to have some 9 or 10 hundred Dollars in Confederate money now, besides the bonds, and if you have used it for anything you want and need, and if you have not got any besides the bonds, use them or sell the brandy, for 20 gallons

get money enough for you to use a while.

Betsy, I want you to explain this money matter in your next letter and let me know how it is. Betsy, I want you to get somebody to take those bonds and get the interest paid on them. Mr. Ed Barnes or Wash Barnes will take them for you and get someone that is going to Raleigh to get the interest for you. T. Mumford is going home and you may let Willie come with him if you are a-mind to. Let him bring something to eat, for it is scarce here. Let him take some in a bag so he can tote it. A box will be too much trouble. I would be glad if you could pay Stephen Woodard the note he holds against me if it ain't paid. Tell Tobe howdy and kiss him for pap. I recd. the 25 Dollars sent by A. J. Ellis to Kinston.

I remain as ever,

J. R. P. ELLIS

(9)

Garysburg[43] 43 Reg. N. C. Troops

January 26th 1864.

Dear wife,

I recd. your letter last night about 9 o'clock in the night, and also the sack of victuals you sent by Mr. Hinson.[44] It found me as well as common, and I hope these few lines will soon reach you and find you and the children all well. Betty, I am still at Garysburg, as I wrote in my other letter, but I do not know how long I shall stay here. I may stay here several days, and I may leave before night, and I have no idea when we shall go. There are several rumors in camp, as always is. Some say we are going to Raleigh,[45] and some to Wilmington,[46] and some to Goldsboro.[47] Betty, you can let the boys come with Mr. Amerson if he comes. Let them take something to eat with them, as it is scarce in camp. Betty, it is not much trouble to come to camp

as long as we stay here. They can leave Wilson[48] at 3 o'clock and get here at nine in the night. Betty, if I had a-known that your brother Willie[49] had a-been about O. C. House,[50] I could have found him if I could have known what Regt. and a-known what letter his Co. was, but I have left Va. and I don't care if I never go back any more as long as the war lasts, though I should be glad to see Willie, Write me all the news in the neighborhood. Back your letter to Garysburg, N. C., 43 Reg., Co. C.

I remain your loving husband,

J. R. P. ELLIS

(10)

Camp of the 43rd Feb. 6, 1864

Dear Betty,

This leaves me well as to health, but I am tired from my long march and fighting. I am in hopes that these few lines will soon reach you and find you and children all well and in good spirits. Betty, I know you want to hear from me mighty bad after you heard where we were going to, for I know you have heard before now. Betty, I will tell something about my travel after I left Bob. We marched about 6 miles below Kinston and camped. Next morning we started and went down in 4 or 5 miles of the Yankees. We were ordered there to camp and have no noise or fire. We stayed here until after dark. About 12 o'clock that night we started and marched on until about 3 o'clock in the morning. We met the Yankees and the firing commenced and we fought until day. The battle lasted about 5 hours. We charged the Yankees and they gave ground and ran and we after them. We took a good many prisoners and horses and some artillery and negroes and a good many things too tedious to mention. The battle took place at Batchelor's Creek.[51] We went in sight of Newbern,[52] but we did

not try to go any further. We lay 2 nights in sight of Newbern. The Yanks did not trouble us, only bombed us some, but then they only killed 11 men. Betty, at this place I saw several dead, the most I had seen since I passed recently through Wilson.

I want you to write how Bob got home and Tom Amerson,[53] all the news in the neighborhood, &c. Betty, I must reprove you for saying I do not ever want to see you. I had rather see you and my children than anything in this world. So I shall come to a close by remaining your affectionate husband.

J. R. P. ELLIS

Lieut. Killet requested me to let you know that he was not killed.

(11)

Feb. 14th 1864

Kinston, N. C.

Dear Wife and Children;

I received your kind and affectionate letter last night while I was sitting by my fire eating my supper. I reckoned you would like to know what my supper was; well, I can tell you what it was. It was a piece of cold-water bread and not enough of that, although I was mighty thankful for that. Betty, I was getting very uneasy before I reed. that letter from you, for it had been over a fortnight since I had heard from you. I wrote you a letter last Saturday. I wrote you the most of the news in that letter, so I have no news to write in this.

I was very glad to hear you were all well. This leaves me well as common. Betty, I am going to try to get back to Capt. Croom's Co.[54] I have employed a lawyer to try to get me back. He says he thinks he can get me back, and that is what I want with the money I wrote for in my other letter. Don't

send it in a letter. Send it by some of the boys, or come and fetch it yourself Betty, don't say anything about this, for I am afraid that I shall fail to get out, but I am in hopes that I shall not fail. I expect it will cost me one hundred dollars if I succeed in getting out, and if I fail it will cost me 25 Dollars, if not more.

Betty, I received your letter that gave a statement of the money you have got. There was not as much money as I expected and more bonds, so I must have been mistaken about it. You say that they have commenced on your barrel of brandy and they will drink it up. If they will have it, make them pay you 25 Dollars per qt., for that is what I should have to pay if I were to get any. Brandy is selling for 2 Dollars per drink here. Betty, I saw 13 men hung yesterday; there have been 20 hung since we got back from New Bern. Give all my inquiring friends my respects and tell them to remember me in their prayers.

J. R. P. ELLIS

(12)

Kinston, N. C.

Feb. 15th 1864

Dear Betty,

I write to let you know that I have not heard from you since I passed Wilson, and I am getting uneasy for I want to hear from you and the children. I wrote to you last Saturday and have not heard from you yet. I am camped about 2 miles from Kinston on the other side of the river about 1 mile from the bridge. I am well as common, and I hope this finds you and all the family well and doing well. I have no news to write to you. I wrote all the news in my other letter. We had a right smart fight with the Yanks at Batchelor's Creek. We ran them

and went in sight of Newbern and lay there two days and nights.

I have seen 7 deserters hung since I came to Kinston. They hung 2 last Friday was a week ago, 5 yesterday. Rufus, Edwin, and Walker[55] are well, and they don't get any letters either. I reckon we shall stay here awhile, as all the troops have moved from here except our Brigade. It is rumored that we shall move over the river today, but we can hear anything in camps but the truth. I should be glad to have my clothes that I sent home from Wilson. Betty, you can do as you please about coming to see me. It is a bad chance for a woman in camps, but you can make out somehow, I reckon. I should be glad to see you and all my children, but I can not tell when that time will come.

If you come, I want you to bring me 25 Dollars, for I have a special use for it. If you don't come, let Willie or Bob come and bring me some money & something to eat. If Mr. Anderson[56] comes, you might come with him or take one of the boys with you. I want to know how Bob made out in getting home. Let Billy[57] come and see me. I want to see Toby, too, and all the rest of the children. You might come in the buggy if you want to. If you do, you bring something to feed the horse, and a plenty, too.

I remain as ever,

J. R. P. ELLIS

(13)

Kinston, N. C.

Feb. 27th 1864

My dear wife & children,

I received your kind and affectionate letter last night. I was glad

to hear that you and the children arrived home safely and found all well and doing well. These few lines leave me well except a bad cold and cough. Betty, we have 4 sick men in our Co. now. Edwin Amerson is sick with the pneumonia. I wrote to his father yesterday about his being sick. You may tell him that he is no better today at 12 o'clock. You may both get your letters Monday. If you do, let him know that he is no better Saturday at one o'clock. I never slept any last night to do me any good. I am detailed to help nurse the sick.

Betsy, I am glad that you enjoyed yourself so well while you were in camp with me. I am in hopes you will come to see me again some time. Betsy, I had rather have your company than anyone else in this world, but I can't say that I enjoyed myself as well as you did. When I though how soon we had to part, maybe never to meet again, it took all my joy away. Betsy, if I could have stayed with you like you could with me, I would not have left you as soon as you left me. I am not satisfied about it yet, but maybe it was the best, but if I had you and the children back, you should not have left me so soon as you did, if I could have helped it.

I must close, as the mail is going out and have not time to write any more. I am your loving husband as ever,

J. R. P. ELLIS

I wish I could come and stay with you.

(14)

Camp of the 43rd N. C. Troops

Kinston, N. C.

[March, 1864]

My dear Wife and Children:

I received your agreeable favour a few days ago and was happy to hear

that you were all well. This leaves me well except a bad cough and sore throat. I am in hopes you all continue to remain well, for that is a great blessing on this earth. Betsy, I should be glad to see you and the children, but don't know when the time will come, but I live in hopes that the time is not far distant when I shall come home and see you all once more. Betsy, I have no news to write to you this time. The sick are mending and they will all go home in a few days. Tell Bedy[58] that I have the praise of being a splendid nurse. Tell her that I have got the praise of being one of the smartest men in camp by all that don't know me, so you see I [have] got their eyes feathered.

J. R. P. ELLIS

(15)

Camp of the 43rd Redg. N. C. Troops

March 17th/64

Mrs. Betty Ellis

My Dear Wife,

I seat myself to drop a few lines to inform you that I am as well as common this morning, but I have been very sick ever since Willie & I left until now. The Dr.[59] gave me fifteen grains of Calomel and that cured me. Betsy, I have been looking for a letter from you until I have gotten impatient and uneasy about home, for I wrote last Monday was a week ago. I have been waiting to hear from that before I wrote any more. Betsy, I want to see you all very badly, but I don't know when I shall come home, but I am in hopes I shall come sometime.

I have no news to write to you. We are camped at the same place, yet

it is rumored that the Yankees are at Core Creek,[60] which is about 16 miles below here. I want to know how Willie and Joseph[61] made out in getting home. I have heard from Edwin Amerson since he got home. Rufus got a letter from Charity[62] [on] Tuesday night. We heard that Edwin got left at Goldwboro, and we were uneasy about Ed until Rufus received that letter. I want you to write to me about your business, your tar, and your farm. I think the boys and négroes have been smart from what I can hear. I am glad to hear that they [are] getting along so well. It [is] a great deal of satisfaction to me to think they are trying to make something for their Mother and Sisters to live on. Tell Willie and Bob and Betty[63] and Joseph that I send my respects to them all, and also send Katherine[64] my respects for her industry. Tell Mary[65] she must be smart and raise me a heap of chickens against I come home. Tell Sally[66] I haven't forgotten her. She must help Mary raise some chickens. Tell Tobe howdy and tell him Pap wants to kiss him. Tell Mart[67] to wear her bonnet and she shall be pap's gal. Tell Frank[68] to suck his titty.

Rufus Amerson is unwell today with the headache. He is up on duty. I must close. Good-bye, Betsy.

J. R. P. ELLIS

(16)

Kinston, N. C. April 12th 1864

My dear Wife:

Your very welcome and interesting letter of the 6th came to hand in due time and found me well except the boils on my hand and wrist. They are better, but not so I can write much yet. From the best information I can get, Willie will have to go into service between this time and the 1st of May, either in the Provost Guard or regular service. I understand that those who do not go

by that time are to be conscripted. I wish you to see Washington Barnes and know of him how it is &c. If Willie does have to go, I want him & you to have choice of coming here or going to the Provost-Guard. He can come down to see me about it if he wishes to &c. If he should come here, I think I could get a 30 (Thirty) days' furlough, but I don't want that to influence him at all.

I have no news, so I will close & remain as ever your affectionate husband.

J. R. P. ELLIS

(17)

Plymouth[69] April 20th 1864

Mrs. Betty Ellis

Dear Wife-------

I now take the pleasure of dropping a short letter to inform you where I am and how I am getting along. My health is very good, with the exception of my hand that is improving. We have taken Plymouth. We had a very hard fight. They fought us for 4 days before they would surrender the place. I was not in the fight. I was excused on the account of my hand. All your acquaintances in this Company came out all right. Gray Ellis[70] is slightly wounded in the thigh. Willie Ellis[71] is slightly wounded in the shoulder. William Ellis[72] is all right. E. E. Bailey[73] is all right. We are now some 4 miles from Plymouth on picket. We are having a very easy time to what we have had for the last week. I want you to write to me what they have done with Willie. I want you to write soon & give me all the news. Direct your letter to Tarboro.[74] I close hoping to hear from you soon.

JOSIAH ELLIS

P. S. You can say to N. J. Walker's wife[75] that he arrived safe to his command

just in time to be in the fight, but he came out safe & is well.

J. R. P. ELLIS

(18)

Raleigh Friday May 13th 1864

My dear Wife:

As I am going to leave the hospital, I write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along. I am not well but I am mending very fast and should if I could get anything to eat. I should be glad to come home to get something good to eat, for I haven't had anything fit to eat in some time. I sincerely hope these few lines will soon reach you and find you and the children all well and doing well. I was in hopes that I should have got a letter from you before I left here, but I shall not. You don't know how badly I want to hear from you all. I haven't heard from you since I left Kinston. I want to hear from Willie. I want to know if he is at home or in the service. Write me how you are getting along with your business.

My Regiment is in Va. about Petersburg,[76] they say, so I'm going to look for it. I have got to go by Greensboro[77] to get to my Regiment. If I knew where Nancy[78] lived, I would go to see her if it is not too far from the Town. I would be glad if you would write me Nancy's Post Office and let me know if you ever hear from her. Betty, I would be mighty glad to see you, but I don't know when the time will come, not soon I am afraid. If I could only sit with you one hour it would be a heap of satisfaction to me. I am going to send you a tract and a card. I want you to get Kate[79] to read them for you.

I must close. May God bless you and sustain you in all your trials and troubles, is your affectionate husband's prayer. Write soon. Direct your letters to the Regiment, not to Petersburg & Richmond.[80]

J. R. P. ELLIS

(19)

Danville,[81] Va. May 17th 1864

Dear Wife & Children:

I rec'd your kind and interesting letter last evening, which was dated the 11th of May. I am now at Danville, Va., at the Wayside Hospital. I am on my way to my Regiment, but it seems as if I am cut off from my command by the Yankees. I shall leave here in a short time. They are going to put us in a South Carolina Regiment and send us on to meet the Yankees. I was mighty glad to hear from you all, for I was uneasy about home. I can't tell you where to direct your letter, for I don't know where I am going. I don't know when I shall get to my regiment. I can't tell where W. A. Ellis[82] nor H. G. Ellis[83] nor Willie Ellis are. I left them near Washington,[84] N. C. I want you to quit working out of doors. I want to see you mighty bad.

I am with G. May,[85] Mrs. Barnes's[86] brother. He stays at this hospital. He has been very kind to me and treated me with a great deal of respect. He says if I could get anybody to assist me, I could get out of service. He says that Congress has passed a law to clear all that have 8 children, and if I could get some influential man to attend to it for me, I could get out. I wrote to Wash Barnes about it. See I. U. Amerson and get him to say something to J. Wilkinson[87] about it, and to look into it for me if he pleases. G. May says that they are getting out in Alabama.

Bettie, they are knocking off one-third of the $5.00 Dollars bills. You can't pass one anywhere until they deduct one-third. I left the blanket and things at Kinston with Capt. Croom.[88] You might get Alfred Ellis to bring them for you if he has not left. I am not very well this morning, but I shall leave. I see a heap of Yanks prisoners here. I don't know what they are doing about Richmond. We can't hear a word from there. Give all my children my respect and tell them I have not forgotten them. I was sorry to hear you were so diarrhoeaed, and that Sally and Mart are sick. I stayed at Greensboro one night; it was last Saturday night. If I could have found out where Nancy lived, I would have gone to see her to have got something to eat, for I don't get much. I have got no money to buy me anything to eat, so I go hungry many a time. You need not send me any money. If I could get to the Regiment, I have got money owing to me; one hundred dollars or more.

J. R. P. ELLIS

Write soon to the Regiment.

(20)

Richmond, Va. May 23rd 1864

Mrs. Bettie Ellis

My Dear Wife:

This may inform you that I am in Richmond at this time, on my way to my Co. I left Danville last Wednesday and arrived at Richmond last evening. I expect to leave here in the morning to look for my Regiment. I have have left from the hospital ever since the 13th, and if I had known what I

know now, I would have gone home, but I didn't know until it was too late. When I wrote you, I expected to leave that day, but I couldn't and it was a fine thing on my part I didn't for the train I should have left on broke through a bridge and killed 9 men and crippled seven more. I passed them the next day. My Regiment was at Hanover Junction[89] the last I heard from them. They were in a hard fight last Thursday morning; they charged the Yanks' breastworks. I have seen one man that was in the fight, but he could not tell me anything about my Company or who was hurt, only Lieut. Killet. He said there were about sixty (60) killed and wounded in the Regiment.

Lee has fallen back within 20 miles of Richmond. We have had some hard fighting around Richmond, and there is a heap more to do yet, ever who lives to see it. We have lost a heap of men killed and wounded. I passed by the Reg. that A. Bagly,[90] T. Ellis,[91] Thadeus Whitley,[92] and Frank[93] are in, but they were in the battle field and I could not see them. I should have been glad to have seen them, for you don't know how much good it does me to see anybody from my neighborhood. They seem nearer to me than they ever did.

If you see Mr. Amerson, you may tell him his boys are all well so far as I know. Tell him I saw G. Wasdon[94] yesterday and he was well. I also saw Marion Johnson[95] and he was well. He told me that Charity Page[96] was married to J. Vick.[97] This leaves me well as common, and I hope this will find you and family all well. I want to hear from you as soon as this comes to hand. Direct your letters to Richmond, Va. Let me have all the news, so nothing more at present, only I remain as ever,

Your affectionate husband,

J. R. P. ELLIS

Richmond, Va. June 5th 1864

Dear Wife and Children:

I received your letter this morning and was glad to hear that you and children were all well. I am not very well, though I am doing duty. It is hard times here; we are all broken down marching. We have no rest time at all, night or day. We are all mighty dirty. Some of the boys have not changed clothes since we left Kinston. Some of the boys are nearly naked. We are about 12 miles from Richmond. We have been fighting ever since last Monday nearly all the time, and I see no prospect of it stopping soon. I am mighty tired of the War. Our Regiment went in a fight last Monday evening. We were marching out from our breastworks and attacked the enemy. We fought them three or four hours. We had a hot time of it. I came out safe, though there was a heap of boys killed and wounded. Our Company fared the best of any in the Regiment. We lost one killed and one wounded. Cofield Ellis[98] was killed. All the neighborhood boys came out safe. When we got out of the fight, the roll was called and there were 82 missing out of the Regiment. Thursday we went in again and had hot times again. I got struck on the shoulder slighty. The ball went through my blanket and made 8 holes in it.

They are fighthing below me. It is regular business here, just like going to plowing in the summer time. I want it to stop mighty bad. When I got to the Regiment, I got all the letters you had written to me. You stated in one that J. Wilson[99] said I could get a detail to stay at home. If I could get one, I would give all the pork I could spare, but I don't see any chance. I don't know how to go to work about getting it, and I haven't anybody to help me. I would give all I have got to be out of this War so I could come home and stay with you all. I was sorry to hear of W. A. Ellis's death. Write soon.

Your affectionate Husband,

J. R. P. ELLIS

Let me know if Willie is at home.

(22)

Camp of the 43rd

Wednesday 8th June 1864

Dear Wife:

As we are in camp today, I will drop you a few lines to let you know that I am up but not well. We have been marching and fighting and throwing up breastworks for protection until we are all worn out. I am in hopes that we shall have a little rest for a few days, as Grant[100] has gone down under the protection of his gunboats. Time is quiet along the lines today. We are in the rear today. I am afraid the Yankees are not whipped yet. I want to see you mighty bad. I am glad to hear that you are getting along so well with your business. I don't want you to work so hard; you will make yourself sick. I want to know if the orchard is full of fruit. I want to know how you are off for money. N. Walker,[101] R. Amerson, J. Rogers,[102] and M. G. Little[103] are all well. I want you to let me hear from Uncle Bryant[104] and Aunt Milly.[105] I want to hear from them mighty bad. I want to know what was the news from W. Spears[106] when he sent you that letter. Thomas Mumford and Bob Jones[107] are well. I see them nearly every day; I have seen them today. I expect we shall have to move before long. You have no idea how badly I want to see you all. I want you to write to me every chance you get, for I want to hear from you. I want to see all the children. Tell Toby howdy for me, Bettie, I am worn out. I sincerely hope these lines will find you well and all the family.

I shall close. I remain as ever,

. Your affectionate Husband,

J. R. P. ELLIS

I should be glad to be at home to eat some greens.

(23)

Camp of the 43rd

June 16, 1864

My dear Wife:

I reckon you will be surprised when you hear from me & where I am. Bettie, we are now about one hundred (100) miles from Richmond. We left Richmond Monday morning about 2 o'clock, and we have been marching ever since. We are near Charlottesville.[108] I have no idea where we are going, unless we are going to Yankeedom on a raid. Bettie, I am broken down, and sick but I have to go. I think if we don't stop and rest it will kill a heap of us. We were broken down before we left Richmond. I heard some of the boys say they had rather be dead than go through with the hardship. Some of the boys faint and fall on the road. If one falls out, he is punished for it.

I received your letter last Sunday and thought I would answer it on the road, and I haven't had the chance to write before now. I was glad to hear from you and hear that you and family were all well. I am sorry that Willie had to leave. I don't know how you will get along with your apples. I am in hopes he will get to come home on his detail yet. I want you to write to me once a week and direct your letters to the same place as before. I will write as often as I can get the chance to send off, and I am afraid that won't be often.

Tell Uriah[109] that Rufus is along, but he is broken down like the rest, and he has got so he cannot see in the night. You may tell Mrs. Walker that Mr. Walker is as well as could be expected. J. Hinson and John Rogers are well. I must close as it is nearly dark. I hope this will find you all well and doing well.

J. R. P. ELLIS

(24)

New Market,[110] Va.

Oct. 22, 1864

Mrs. J. R. Ellis:

I heard from your husband directly by a man from my Regiment who had been exchanged and saw your husband two days after I left him. He was then at the Lincoln Hospital, Washington City. He was perfectly unconscious of everything. He was expected to die every hour. I do not think there is any doubt about his death as I stated to you in a previous letter, though I hope he recovered, but from the nature of his wound, it would be almost impossible or at least not probable.

Respectfully,

W. T. BREWER[111]

Surgeon 43rd Regt., N. C.

FOOTNOTES

[1]The wife of Josiah Robert Peele Ellis was Elizabeth Holland (October 20, 1824-December 26, 1895).

[2] Cole is believed to have been an Ellis slave.

[3]Tomy is believed to have been an Ellis slave.

[4]Kinston, North Carolina, lies on the north side of the Neuse River, seventy-eight miles S. E. of Raleigh, and is the seat of Lenoir County.

[5]Hoke's Brigade was commanded after January 17, 1863, by Brigadier-General Robert Frederick Hoke (May 27, 1837-July 3, 1912), of North Carolina.

[6]Pickett's Division was commanded after October 10, 1862, by Major-General George Edward Pickett (January 28, 1825-July 30, 1875).

[7]Moden Ford referred to Morton's Ford on the Rapidan River, about eight miles south of Culpeper Court House. A sharp military engagement took place there on February 6, 1864.

[8]Camp Holmes was a training and staging area several miles north of Fredericksburg in Stafford County, Virginia.

[9]Lee's Army was commanded after June 14, 1861, by the incomparable Major-General Robert Edward Lee (January 19, 1807-October 12, 1870).

[10]Bragg's Army was commanded after September 12, 1861, by Major-General Braxton Bragg (March 22, 1817-September 27, 1876), of North Carolina.

[11]Rufus Amerson (born 1843) was a son of Isaac Uriah Amerson and wife Matilda Barnes of Wilson County. On February 15, 1862, at the age of eighteen, he was enlisted at Stantonsburg by Captain James S. Woodard in Company C, 43rd N. C. State Troops Regiment, C. S. A. On April 2, 1862, he was mustered into Confederate service at Camp Mangum by Colonel Robert C. Hill. The Company Muster Roll for January and February 1864 found him "Absent, On furlough of indulgence."

[12]Edwin Amerson (born 1845) was a son of Isaac Uriah Amerson and wife Matilda Barnes of Wilson County. On May 1, 1863, he was enlisted at Hookerton in Greene County by L. D. Killett. On May 15, 1864, he was admitted to General Hospital No. 9 at Richmond. On May 23 he was transferred to Pettigrew Hospital No. 13 in Raleigh, and on June 10 to General Hospital No. 2 at Wilson. The Company Muster Roll for January and February, 1865, found him still "Absent, Detailed Hospital Wilson," from Company C, 43rd North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A.

[13]Orange Court House, Virginia, is about twenty miles N. E. of Charlottesville and forty miles west of Fredericksburg.

[14]The Rapidan River is about three miles N. W. of Orange (Court House), the seat of Orange County, Virginia.

[15]Alfred J. Ellis (born December 16, 1818) was a son of Elisha and Temperance Ellis of Wilson County.

[16]Eas (Eason) and Emily are believed to have been Edmundson slaves.

[17]Staton was perhaps James B. Staton (born 1826) of Company I, 75th N. C. (7th Confederate Cavalry) Regiment, C. S. A.

[18]Leuren D. Killet served as First Lieutenant of Company C, 43rd N. C. State Troops Regiment, C. S. A. He was apparently from Sampson County, having enlisted on February 28, 1862, with a promotion on January 31, 1863.

[19]Wyatt Lynch (born 1830) was a highly regarded free black of Wilson County. He followed the trade of plasterer and brickmason.

[20]This was probably Thomas Barnes who was enlisted at Black Creek on May 12, 1862, at the age of twenty-eight, by Captain James S. Woodard, in Company C, 43rd North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A. In April 1863 he was "Detached sick, Camp Kinston," and in February 1864 "Detailed to recruit." On March 25, 1865, he was captured near Petersburg, Virginia, and was forwarded to Point Lookout Military Prison in Maryland, from which he was released after taking the Oath of Allegiance on June 23, 1865.

[21]Thomas Mumford (born 1836) enlisted on May 29, 1861, in Company D, 2nd N. C. State Troops Regiment, C. S. A. He was captured on April 6, 1865, and imprisoned at Point Lookout Maryland until his release on June 29, 1865.

[22]This was Obedience Grimes, a younger half-sister of Ellis's wife. She was born in 1835 and married William H. Spiers (born 1834) about 1867.

[23]Captain Ruffin Barnes (see Note 35).

[24]Lewis was a slave belonging to Mrs. Edwin Gray Whitley of Wilson County.

[25]Washington Barnes (see Note 37).

[26]Edwin Barnes (October 10, 1816-December 13, 1885) was a son of Archelaus Barnes and wife Penelope Dickinson. He was a wealthy planter and his handsome Ante-Bellum home is still owned by a descendant who lives in Wilson, North Carolina.

[27]Isaac Uriah Amerson (born 1816) was a son of Isaac Amerson and wife Delana Woodard. He was a prominent farmer in the Saratoga area of Wilson County, North Carolina.

[28]Willie (Wiley) Marcellus Ellis (March 16, 1847-March 26, 1929), a son of J. R. P. Ellis, never married. He was in later life a bookkeeper in Wilson, North Carolina.

[29]Edwin Robert Ellis, son of J. R. P. Ellis, was born on December 21, 1849. He married (1) Mary Renfrow and (2) Jane Renfrow.

[30]Tobe (or Toby) was the lifelong nickname of John Thomas Ellis, (October 8, 1858-June 12, 1935), a son of J. R. P. Ellis. On December 22, 1880, he married Zilphia Olivia Bryant of Black Creek, North Carolina.

[31]Martha Adealia Ellis (January 4, 1861-August 23, 1882) was a daughter of J. R. P. Ellis. On September 21, 1881 she married Lorenzo Daniel Shelton of Wilson County, North Carolina.

[32]Penelope Edmundson (September 16, 1831-May 29, 1920) was a daughter of Wright Edmundson and wife Susanna Dickinson. She married Joel A. Tynes of Wilson, North Carolina, on November 1, 1870.

[33]Susan Wright Edmundson (November 8, 1834-October 8, 1928) was a daughter of Wright Edmundson and wife Susanna Dickinson. On December 3, 1866, she married Dr. William Thomas Brewer (1832-December 30, 1870) who is discussed in Note 111.

[34]Dr. Stephen Woodard (February 15, 1827-January 20, 1897) was a son of Stephen Woodard and wife Mary Simms. He was both a physician and a wealthy planter, and his children were numbered among the most prominent citizens of Wilson, North Carolina.

[35]Captain Ruffin H. Barnes, son of Elias Barnes and wife Zilpha Thompson of Wilson County, was born in 1836 and died in a Federal hospital on December 24, 1864, as the result of wounds received at Charlestown, West Virginia. On January 31, 1862, he had been advanced to the rank of Captain of Company C, 43rd N. C. State Troops Regiment, C. S. A.

[36]Mrs. Edwin Gray Whitley (born 1818) was the wife of a well-to-do planter in Stantonsburg Township of Wilson County.

[37]Washington Barnes (born February 10, 1818) was a son of Archelaus Barnes and wife Penelope Dickinson. He was a wealthy planter in the Saratoga area of Wilson County, North Carolina.

[38]See Note 27.

[39]Jane Ellis (born 1825) married on April 29, 1844, Calvin Rogers of Edgecombe (now Wilson County). He was born in 1817 and died about 1852, leaving two sons.

[40]This Kato was an Ellis slave, but Captain Ruffin also had a trusted slave named Cato.

[41]The Rev. James Simms Woodard (February 22, 1833-May 3, 1912), a son of William Woodard and wife Elizabeth Simms, was also a licensed lawyer in Wilson County. He served as Captain of Company C, 43rd N. C. State Troops Regiment, from February 28, 1862 to January 31, 1863.

[42]Daniel's Brigade was commanded after September 1, 1862, by Brigadier-General Junius Daniel (June 27, 1828-May 13, 1864), of North Carolina.

[43]Garysburg, on the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, was near Camp Clarendon, an important training center for the eastern part of North Carolina.

[44]Josiah Hinson, aged nineteen, was enlisted at Stantonsburg on February 15, 1862, by Captain James S. Woodard. He was mustered into Confederate service at Camp Mangum on April 2 as a private in Company C, 43rd North Carolina State Troops Regiment. The Company Muster Roll for September and October 1864 found him "Absent wounded and in hospital." On April 6, 1865, he was captured at Burksville, being forwarded to Point Lookout Military Prison from which he was released, after taking the Oath of Allegiance, on June 13, 1865.

[45]Raleigh is the Capitol of North Carolina and also the seat of Wake County.

[46]Wilmington, North Carolina, was the southern terminus of the notable Wilmington and Weldon Rail Road. It lies on the west side of the Cape Fear River about twenty-two miles north of Fort Fisher.

[47]Goldsboro, North Carolina, was the point where the Wilmington to Weldon and the Beaufort to Charlotte Rail Roads crossed. A Confederate Hospital was also located there.

[48]Wilson, North Carolina, was on the Wilmington and Weldon Rail Road and was also the location of a Confederate General Hospital.

[49]Willie was Wiley Grimes, a younger half-brother of Ellis's wife Elizabeth.

[50]Orange Court House, the same as Note 13.

[51]Batchelor's Creek flows northward into Neuse River about eight miles west of New Bern, and a successful attack was made upon the Federal forces there on February 1, 1864.

[52]New Bern, North Carolina, lies in the fork of the Trent and Neuse Rivers and is the seat of Craven County. On March 14, 1862, it was occupied by Federal troops who held it until the end of the Civil War.

[53]Thomas Amerson (born 1847) was another son of Ellis's neighbor and friend, Isaac Uriah Amerson.

[54]Captain Allen G. Croom of Greene County commanded Company E, 61st North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A.

[55]See Note 101.

[56]Thomas Anderson (born 1821) was living in Black Creek Township of Wilson County in 1870 with wife Martha and nine children.

[57]Billy was William Gray Ellis (December 15, 1851-May 24, 1889), a son of J. R. P. Ellis. On October 10, 1888, he married Mary Amanda Gardner whose second husband was "Sheriff Ed" Farmer (July 1, 1851-September 11, 1914) of Wilson County, North Carolina.

[58]See Note 22.

[59]Presumably Dr. William Thomas Brewer (see Note 111).

[60]Core Creek is about sixteen miles southeast of Kinston.

[61]Joseph Spencer Ellis (June 26, 1854-April 30, 1928), a son of J. R. P. Ellis, married Carrie Deal Shelton (born 1862) of Wilson County on September 29, 1878.

[62]Charity Amerson (born 1840) was a daughter of Isaac Uriah Amerson and wife Matilda Barnes of Stantonsburg Township in Wilson County.

[63]Sarah Elizabeth Ellis (see Note 66) was usually called "Sally" since her mother was always called "Betty." Granny Hill (MEC)

[64]Catherine Louvenia Ellis (March 9, 1846-May 13, 1918), a daughter of J. R. P. Ellis, married John Warren Johnson of Wilson County on December 31, 1867.

[65]Mary Virginia Ellis, a daughter of J. R. P. Ellis, was born on June 26, 1854, and died on September 2, 1946. On May 3, 1874, she married Fillmore Archer Whitley.

[66]Sarah Elizabeth "Sally" Ellis (October 10, 1856-December 16, 1936), a daughter of J. R. P. Ellis, was married (1) on January 10, 1877, to William Daniel Shelton, and (2) on December 12, 1882, to David Baker Hill, also a native of Edgecombe County. My Granny Hill (M.E.C.)

[67]Martha Ellis was identified in Note 31.

[68]Benjamin Franklin Ellis, a son of J. R. P. Ellis, was born on January 9, 1863, and died in Wilson County on February 15, 1920. He married Georgiana Phelps who died on January 13, 1921.

[69]Plymouth, North Carolina, lies on the south side of Roanoke River and is the seat of Washington County which is bounded on the north by Albemarle Sound. It was captured by Federal troops on April 20, 1864.

[70]Henry Gray Ellis (born July 22, 1841) was a half-brother of J. R. P. Ellis. On February 26, 1862, at Wilson, he was enlisted by Captain James S. Woodard. He became a Sergeant on December 26, 1862, and was transferred from Company C, 43rd, to Company I, 35th North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A., of Ramseur's Brigade, on May 11, 1863.

Another Gray Ellis (born 1834) also served in Company C, 43rd North Carolina State Troops Regiment. He was enlisted by Van B. Sharpe at Old Sparta on March 5 and was mustered into service at Camp Mangum on April 2 1862. On April 7, 1865, he was admitted with a wound in the left shoulder

to the Confederate General Military Hospital at Danville, Virginia, from which he was "furloughed for sixty days" on April 9, (the news of Lee's surrender not having yet reached the hospital).

[71]Wilie Ellis (born in 1838) was a son of _____ and Axy Ellis of Wilson County.

[72]William Ellis (born 1837) was a son of James Ellis and wife Penelope Baker. On February 20, 1862, he was enlisted at Wilson by Captain James S. Woodard. On April 2, 1862, he was mustered into the Confederate service by Colonel Robert H. Hill as a private in Company C, 43rd North Carolina State Troops Regiment. December of 1862 found him "On guard at Camp near D. [Drewry's] Bluff." On May 16, 1864, he was received at General Military Hospital No. 9, at Richmond, Virginia. During July and August he was "Absent In hospital, Wilson, N. C." On April 3, 1865, he was captured in one of the Confederate Hospitals in Richmond, receiving a parole on April 21 and being listed in the Jackson Military Hospital as late as May 28, 1865.

[73]Edwin E. Bailey (born 1839), son of _____ and Ady Bailey of Wilson County. On January 9, 1862, he enlisted in Company A, 51st North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A.

[74]Tarboro, North Carolina, lies on Tar River and is the county seat of Edgecombe County. In 1862 a Wayside Hospital was established there for the care of sick or wounded soldiers.

[75]Noah Jefferson Walker (born in 1832) and wife Polly (born 1839) were listed in the Wilson County Census of 1860. On February 15, 1862, he was enlisted by Captain James S. Woodard at Stantonsburg in Company C, 43rd North Carolina State Troops Regiment, and was mustered into Confederate service at Camp Mangum on April 2. On July 12, 1864, he was wounded by a minie ball in the joint of his right knee at Fort Stevens, captured, and sent to Campbell Hospital where amputation above the wound took place on July 15. On May 2, 1865, he was sent to Lincoln General Hospital in Washington, from which he was released on July 5 after taking the Oath of Allegiance. On July 6, 1865, he was admitted to the General Military Hospital at Petersburg, at which he received further treatment before returning to Stantonsburg, North Carolina.

[76]Petersburg, Virginia, is on the Appomattox River about twenty-miles south of Richmond.

[77]Greensboro, North Carolina, is the seat of Guilford County and lies fifty miles northeast of Salisbury and seventy-eight miles west of Raleigh.

[78]Nancy has not been identified but was apparently a friend or kinsman who had married and moved to the vicinity of Greensboro, North Carolina.

[79]See Note 64.

[80]Richmond became the Capitol of the Confederacy and is still the Capitol of the State of Virginia.

[81]Danville, Virginia, lies about four miles north of the North Carolina boundary on the railroad line from Greensboro to Lynchburg.

[82]William Anderson Ellis (May 28, 1834-May 20, 1864) was a half-brother of J. R. P. Ellis. He became Captain of Company I, 35th North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A., and was killed at the Battle of Drewry's Bluff.

[83]See Note 70.

[84]Washington, North Carolina, lies on the north side of Pamlico River and is the seat of Beaufort County. It was occupied by Federal Troops from March 1862 until April 1864.

[85]G. May was from a Pitt County family that had moved to Alabama.

[86]This was Adelia F. May (born 1828), wife of Washington Barnes (see Note 37).

[87]John W. Wilkinson (born 1818) was a wealthy merchant residing in southeastern Wilson County.

[88]See Note 54.

[89]Hanover Junction, Virginia, was the seat of Hanover County and lay on the railroad about sixteen miles north of Richmond.

[90]Alvin Bagly (born 1830) married Elizabeth Applewhite on February 5, 1852. After the Civil War he was a prominent farmer and a Justice of the Peace in Stantonsburg Township of Wilson County. He was originally from Wayne County, and during the War he was First Lieutenant of Company K, 66th North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A.

[91]Thomas Warren Ellis (born September 10, 1839) was a half-brother of J. R. P. Ellis.

[92]James Thadeus Whitley (born 1842) was a son of Edwin Gray Whitley and wife Elizabeth Gorman of Wilson County. On January 9, 1862, he enlisted in Company A, 51st North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A.

[93]Frank Whitley (born 1844) was a son of Edwin Gray Whitley and wife Elizabeth Gorman of Wilson County. On January 2, 1862, Benjamin F. Whitley enlisted in Company A, 51st North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A. On December 31, 1891, he married Minnie L. Hardy of Lenoir County.

[94]G. Wasdon of Green County was a private in Company A, 3rd North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A. He was captured at Chancellorsville on May 3 and paroled at Old Capitol Prison on May 19, 1863.

[95]Marion Johnson probably refers to Francis M. Johnson of Wayne County who served in Company D, 2nd North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A. until detailed for hospital duty on February 28, 1863.

[96]Charity Page (born in 1837) was the widow of Irvin Jackson Page (born 1830) who enlisted from Wilson County on May 14, 1862, in Company D, 2nd North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A., and died on March 13, 1863.

[97]Josiah J. B. Vick (born in 1835) enlisted from Wilson County on June 10, 1861. From April 1, 1862, until September 19, 1863, he served as Captain of Company E, 19th North Carolina State Troops (2nd Cavalry) Regiment, C. S. A.

[98]Cofield Ellis (born 1839) was a son of James Ellis and wife Penelope Baker. On April 18, 1862, he enlisted at Wilson under Captain James S. Woodard as a private in Company C, 43rd State Troops Regiment, C. S. A. Because of "Chronic Reheumatism," he was detailed to General Hospital No. 24 at Richmond from September 16, 1863, until December 2, 1863. The Company Muster Roll for January and February 1864 stated that he had been "Furloughed by Board of Ex."

[99]J. Wilson was probably an inadvertent reference to John Wilkinson (see Note 87).

[100]Ulysses Simpson Grant (April 27, 1822-July 23, 1885) became General in Chief of the United States Army on March 12, 1864.

[101]Refer to Note 75.

[102]John W. Rogers (born 1843) was the youngest son of Willie Rogers and wife Olive Wasdon of Wilson County. On February 15, 1862, at Stantonsburg, he was enlisted by Captain James S. Woodard in Company C, 43rd North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A. On April 2, 1862, he was mustered into Confederate service at Camp Mangum, but no other details have been found.

[103]Michael Gray Little was a son of Bryant Little and wife Mildred Ellis. According to an instrument dated December 26, 1848 (recorded in Wilson County Deed Book 25, p. 59), Bryant Little was a son of John Little and a brother of Eason Little who had recently died in Texas.

[104]Bryant Little, son of John Little, had married Mildred Ellis, daughter of Elisha and Charity Ellis, and sister of Lewis Ellis who was the father of J. R. P. Ellis.

[105]Milly (See Note 104).

[106]William H. Spiers was J. R. P. Ellis's brother-in-law (see Note 22).

[107]Emma Eliza Ellis (born December 14, 1830), half-sister of J. R. P. Ellis, married Roderick Jones (born 1830) on February 1, 1854.

[108]Charlottesville, Virginia, is the seat of Albemarle County and lies seventy miles northwest of Richmond.

[109]See Note 27.

[110]New Market, Virginia, is in the southern corner of Shenandoah County and about eighteen miles northeast of Harrisonburg.

[111]Dr. William Thomas Brewer of Wilson County entered Confederate service as Second Lieutenant of Company C, 43rd North Carolina State Troops Regiment, but was commissioned Assistant Surgeon of the Regiment on April 15, 1862, and Surgeon on February 2, 1863. In 1870 he was practicing medicine in Black Creek, North Carolina.

ADDENDA

On December 2, 1848, Josiah R. P. Ellis and Lewis Ellis of Edgecombe County sold to Washington Barnes for $45.00 three acres of the Ellis home-place adjoining said Barnes; witnessed by David Jordan and R. W. Edmundson. (Edgecombe County, Deed Book 25, p. 99).

James W. Ellis of Company C, 43rd North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A., was paroled at Goldsboro in 1865, not long after Lee's Surrender.

Wiley Amerson (born in 1828) enlisted at Camp Raleigh on January 13, 1863, in Company C, 43rd North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A. The Muster Roll of October 1863 found him on "Provost Guard." He was killed at the Battle of Drewry's Bluff on May 16, 1864.

Theophilus Barnes (born in 1833) was enlisted at Wilson on April 12, 1862, by Captain James S. Woodard as a private in Company C, 43rd North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A. He was wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg and was admitted to Chimborazo Hospital No. 3 at Richmond on July 20, 1863. On August 13 he was sent to Winder Hospital (also at Richmond), from which he was "Furloughed....for 30 days" on August 22. His Company Muster Roll for that period described him as "Absent, Wounded, & in hospital at Richmond." On August 30, 1863, he was attached as a nurse to General Military Hospital No. 2 at Wilson, North Carolina. The Company Muster Rolls through October of 1864 found him still "Absent, Detailed at Wilson Hospital." He returned to active service in his Company in November and was paroled at Goldsboro sometime after Lee's Surrender.

THE HILL FAMILY

John and Penelope came from Sussex County Virginia to found the Hill family in Southwestern Edgecombe County on January 10, 1795.

THEIR CHILDREN

Burrell, born 1790 and died 1846

William

Peoples

Rhoda Hill Braswell (wife of Benjamin Braswell)

Children of Burrell (and [maybe!] Mariah Sheborn) and Nancy Long (born 1808) married July 8, 1834, in Edgecombe County. daughter of John Long, Sr., and wife Mary "Polly" Armstrong of Edgecombe County but formerly from Sussex County, Va.

John Burrell Hill was born 1836

L. R Hill was born 1839

Asbury "Peter" Hill was born 1843

Pernette Hill was born 1845

Elbert Hill was born 1847

Children of Peoples and Nancy Hill

John Hill, born 1838

Marcus Hill

Nathaniel Hill

Tabitha Hill

Fielding Hill

Greenberry Hill

McDuffy Hill

Margs Hill

Thomas G. Hill

John W. Hill) These could be of
Hardy F. Hill) another family.

Asa Hill, born 1821; died about 1892
(married Rebecca in 1840)

Children of Asa and Rebecca Hill

He married Oct. 29, 1840, Edgecombe County, Rebecca Hill

Isaac Hill born 1841

David Baker Hill born January 25, 1843

(There were others, I think.)

Children of David Baker and Sarah Ellis Shelton Hill

David Graham Hill was born March 14 1884; died March

Guy Livingston Hill was born August 16, 1885; died October

Oliver Goldsmith Hill was born January 14, 1887; died September 1907

Lizzie Hill was born December 9, 1888

Orpha A. Hill was born September 24, 1890

Ruth Mantz Hill

Martha R Hill was born April 1 1, 1893

Howey A. Hill was born September 18, 1871 (son of David Baker Hill by former marriage; died 1950)

Willie L Shelton was born March 21, 1878 (son of Sarah Ellis Shelton Hill by former marriage)

John Hill, Great Great Grandfather

Peoples Hill, Great Grandfather

Asa Hill, Grandfather

David Baker Hill, Father

Lizzie Hill Cox

September 7, 1959

Ellis Family

Family Names from the Lewis Ellis Bible
(Begun about July 30, 1830) (Some dated earlier)

Lewis Ellis, son of Elisha and Charity Ellis, born May 8, 1794

Mary Peele, daughter of Robert and Esther Peele, born February 1800

Lewis Ellis and Mary Peele married August 10, 1820

J.R.P. Ellis, son of Lewis and Mary Peele Ellis, born June 11, 1821

- - - - - - - - - - - -

Step-children of Lewis Ellis

Elizabeth Simms, daughter of Robert and Zellah Morris Simms, born April 23, 1820

Barnes Simms, son of Robert and Zellah Simms, born February 22, 1822

Martha Simms, daughter of Robert and Zellah Simms, born December 21, 1823
(Martha Simms married into the Deans family)

***

Edwin Jerry Perry, son of Thomas and Calista Perry, born January 10, 1880

- - - - - - - - - -

Deaths of the above

Thomas Perry died August 18, 1904

Priscilla -

Thomas R. Perry died December 29, 1904

Calista Caroline Perry died May 1, 1907

Edwin J. Perry died August 30, 1917

Fannie Perry died August 12, 1959

(These names were copied August 31, 1959, and some rearranged from that in the Bible for ~~the~~ convenience by Elizabeth Hill Cox)

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FIRST MARRIAGE

Thomas Perry (born August 8, 1812) married Temperance Dawson (born Nov. 25, 1812)

Kinsey Wyman Winstead (born April 20, 1833, died December 25, 1881) married Martha White Perry (born Dec. 16, 1842, died Sept. 11, 1895) June 9, 1864

Martha White Perry was half sister to Fannie Perry

Zell Winstead)
Clee Winstead)
Giles Winstead, Sr.) These must be children of Kinsey Wyman Winstead and Martha White Perry Winstead
Mrs. B. S. Garris)

- - - - - - - - - - - - - -

John Westley Ellis died July 25, 1835

Ages of the children of Roderick and Emma Eliza Ellis Jones (This was Uncle Ricky Jones)

Elvira Susanna Jones was born December 5, 1854

Mary Frances Jones was born July 19, 1856

William A. Jones was born April 13, 1859

Roderick H. Jones was born April 5, 1863

Lonny Jones, son of Ricky Jones, died December 1893

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Josiah Robert Peele Ellis, the only child of Lewis Ellis and wife, Mary, who was the daughter of Robert and Esther Peele of the well-known Quaker family.

Elizabeth Grimes Ellis, wife of J. R. P. Ellis, was born October 24, 1824.

Brothers and sisters of Elizabeth Grimes Ellis: Wiley Grimes
"Beadie" Grimes (Obedience, I believe) Spears
Nellie Grimes, wife of H.V.Joyner

(This information from old letters written to Betsey Ellis)

Births of the Children of J. R. P. and Elizabeth G. Ellis

Catherine Louvenia Ellis was born March 9, 1846

Wiley Marselus Ellis was born March 16, 1847

Lewis Franklin Ellis was born September 27, 1848

Edwin Robert Ellis was born December 21, 1849

William Gray Ellis was born December 15, 1851

Mary Virginia Ellis) Twins were born June 26, 1854
Joseph Spencer Ellis)

Sarah Elizabeth Ellis was born October 10, 1856

John Thomas Ellis (Tobe) was born October 8, 1858

Martha Adealia Ellis was born January 4, 1861

Benjamin Franklin Ellis was born January 9, 1863

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

MARRIAGES OF THE ABOVE CHILDREN

Catherine L. and John Warren Johnson, December 31, 1867

E. Robert and Mary Renfrow, January 3, 1871
E. Robert and Jane Renfrow - (second wife)

Mary Virginia and P. A. Whitley, May 3, 1874

Sarah Elizabeth and William Daniel Shelton, January 10, 1877 – Grannie

Joseph S. Ellis and Carrie D. Shelton, September 29, 1878

Martha A. Ellis and L. D. Shelton, September 21, 1881

John Thomas Ellis and Elivia Bryant

Benjamin Franklin Ellis and Georgana Phelps

William Gray Ellis and Mollie Gardner

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

DEATHS COPIED FROM J. R. P. ELLIS BIBLE

Lewis Franklin Ellis died January 1859

John W. Johnson, husband of Catherine L. Ellis, died October 13, 1875

Mary Renfrow Ellis, wife of E. R. Ellis, died March 27, 1876

William Daniel Shelton, husband of Sarah E. Ellis, died December 21, 1878

Martha Adealia Ellis, wife of L. D. Shelton, died August 23, 1882

Elizabeth Grimes Ellis (born Oct. 20, 1824) died December 26, 1895

Catherine L. Ellis Johnson died May 13, 1918

Wiley M. Ellis died March 26, 1929

Sarah Elizabeth (Shelton) Hill died December 16, 1936 Grannie

E. Robert Ellis died September 21, 1909

John Thomas Ellis

Benjamin Franklin Ellis

Mary Virginia Whitley died September 2, 1946

William Gray Ellis

Jane Renfrow Ellis, second wife of E. R. Ellis, died -

GRANDCHILDREN OF J. R. P. ELLIS AND BETSY G. ELLIS

Mary V. Ellis Whitley and P. A. Whitley

Claude Whitley - Mamie Barnes
Virginia "Jennie" Whitley - Bedford Brown
Sallie Whitley - Hinnant
Frank Whitley - Sallie Whitley (no kin)
Edwin Whitley - Verner Dixon
Millard Whitley - Mary Lee Hayes
W. G. "Bill" Whitley - Lillie Webb
Mary Whitley - Fickling

E. Robert Ellis and Mary Renfrow Ellis

Mattie Ellis Gardner

E. Robert Ellis and Jane Renfrow Ellis (second wife)

Mary Ellis Hunt
= = Jennie Ellis Wright

Catherine Ellis Johnson and John Warren Johnson

J. R. Johnson "Leb"
Bett Johnson - Harrison Hill
Walter Johnson - Lottie Hunt
Maud Johnson —— 105 years old still living

J. S. Ellis and Carrie Shelton Ellis

Addie Ellis McGowan
Albert Ellis - Clyde Jolly
Mable Ellis Newberry
Collier Ellis
Paul Ellis
Lillian Ellis Sisk
Mildred Ellis

Benjamin Franklin Ellis and Georgana Phelps Ellis

Carl Ellis
Bertie Ellis
Leona Ellis
Maggie Ellis
Joe Ellis
Earl Ellis
Edgar Ellis
Lewis Ellis
Charlie Ellis
4 others

J. T. Ellis (Tobe) and Olivia Bryant Ellis

Lafayette Ellis
R. P. (Bob) Ellis - Ella Broughton
J. T. Ellis, Jr. (Jack) - Ethel
William Gray Ellis (Bill) - Mary Fields

Sarah E. Ellis Shelton and W. D. Shelton & Sarah E. Ellis Shelton Hill and D.B. Hill (2nd marriage)

W. L. Shelton - Eva Moore

David G. Hill - Irene Darden
Guy L. Hill - Lizzie Bragg
Oliver G. Hill
Lizzie Hill - William Cox
Orpha Hill - J. L. Edwards — My parents - Martha E. Croom
Ruth -
Martha Hill - T. W. Batts

NC Rebuilding the Vincent - Commonwealth
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Brickhouse, a farmer living in the Columbia locality; Ephraim E., who is engaged in agricultural operations near Columbia; and John S., engaged in merchandising in the same locality.

Jerry Brickhouse was given the benefits of attendance at the public schools of Tyrrell County and a private school at Columbia, and was brought up as a farmer's son. Following the death of his father much of the work of the home place devolved upon his young shoulders, and he remained on the home place and assisted in its operation until 1895. In the meanwhile he had fitted himself as a teacher, and for ten years taught in the public schools of Tyrrell County, at the same time engaging in farming on his property, which was situated seven and one-half miles east of Columbia. In addition he was identified with the fishing industry until he was elected clerk of the Superior Court of Tyrrell County, a position which he still retains. His term of four years began in 1922, on December 4 of which year he took office, and his official record has been an excellent one. Mr. Brickhouse's offices are situated in the courthouse, and his own home is a comfortable one and situated on Main Street. He is a democrat in his political affiliation and has long been prominent in the ranks of his party. For more than a quarter of a century, from 1895 until 1922, he served very capably as justice of the peace. Mr. Brickhouse is a member of the Missionary Baptist Church, near Columbia, and chairman of the Board of Deacons, as well as a member of the Board of Trustees. During the World war he assisted in the work of the Selective Draft Board of Tyrrell County and in numerous ways contributed to the success of American arms.

On April 24, 1895, in Tyrrell County, Mr. Brickhouse was united in marriage with Miss Ella McKimmey, a daughter of William C. and Priscilla (Brickhouse) McKimmey, the latter of whom resides with Mr. Brickhouse, while the former died in Tyrrell County, where for some years he had been a substantial agriculturist.

HON. DAVID GRAHAM HILL. This country is the home of the self-made man. Here the poor boy stands as good, if not a better, chance than his rich associates to advance to the high places, and his character is developed by the struggle he is forced to make. In the older countries birth and the accidents of fortune play a more important part than here, and yet due credit is always given to those who are able to rise above their surroundings, and of their own accord make a place in the world for themselves. The records of the country show that in the majority of cases the worthwhile men are those who have had to fight for their places; who have had to work and struggle step by step, for it is a recognized fact that what comes easily is not appreciated. The man who gains his education bit by bit, working between whiles to earn the money to carry him a step further along the path of knowledge, retains and appreciates what he learns as no one whose expenses are paid for him can. It is the same way in business life. The young man who begins at the bottom and works his way up advances further and faster than he who is given a position through influence or wealth. Such is the case with Hon. David Graham Hill, mayor of Stantonsburg, whose life has been filled with hard work, and who is now enjoying some of the fruits of faithfulness and upright living.

Mayor Hill was born on a farm adjacent to Stantonsburg, Wilson County, North Carolina, March 14, 1884, a son of David Baker Hill, and grandson of Asa Hill, who was born in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, in 1816, and died in Stantonsburg in 1892. A planter of note in Edgecombe County, Asa Hill spent the greater part of his life in that part of the state, only coming to Stantonsburg in his later years. The Hill family is one of the old ones of this country, and well-known in the South.

David Baker Hill was born in Edgecombe County, January 25, 1843, and he died on his farm April 25, 1905. Reared in Edgecombe County, he married there his first wife, and was there engaged in farming until 1878, when he moved to Stantonsburg and bought his farm that adjoined it on the east, and he continued to operate this property until his death, and he also conducted a country general store on his farm for thirty years. The democratic party had in him a faithful supporter. He was a member of Joseph Warren Lodge Number 92, A. F. and A. M., of Stantonsburg. During the war between the states he served as a member of Company E, Forty-third North Carolina Infantry, and was in the army during the last three years of the war. At the battle of Gettysburg he was wounded, but recovered from his injury and rejoined his regiment. He first married a Miss Daughtridge, who was born in Edgecombe County, and died in Stantonsburg. They had one child born to them, namely: Bowey A., who resides in Wilson, and is in the employ of C. Woodard Company, wholesale grocers. After the death of his first wife David Baker Hill married Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth (Ellis) Shelton, who was born in Stantonsburg, October 10, 1856. She survives her husband and resides in Stantonsburg. The following children were born to them: Mayor Hill, who was the first-born; Guy, who resides in Stantonsburg, a bookkeeper; Oliver G., who died at the age of seventeen years; Lizzie, who resides at 210 Daniel Street, Wilson, North Carolina, the wife of William Cox, salesman for the Barnes-Harrell Company, wholesale grocers; Orpha A., who resides in Greene County, North Carolina, the wife of John Lee Edwards, treasurer of Greene County, and a substantial farmer of that region; Ruth Wantz, who died at the age of eighteen months; and Martha V., who resides in Stantonsburg, North Carolina, the wife of Thomas W. Batts, a farmer, and commissioner of Stantonsburg. Mrs. Hill had one child, William Daniel Shelton, by her first marriage, and he is now residing near Stantonsburg, a farmer and commissioner of Wilson County.

David Graham Hill attended the rural schools until he was twelve years old, but from then had to work on the farm and in the store owned by his father. When the latter died he took charge of the home farm, and conducted it for five years. Inheriting a portion of this farm, he assisted to make valuable, but sold it and went into the retail grocery business in Stantonsburg, and continued to operate this business until January 1, 1915, when he began operating the municipal electric plant of Stantonsburg. On January 1, 1917, he changed his occupation, at that time becoming a member of the selling force of J. M. Burnett, merchant, of Sims, North Carolina, and continued to hold that position until January 1, 1920, when he entered the McGowen Furniture Company of Stantonsburg, in which he maintained an interest and served as secretary of the company until February 18, 1923. Since then he has been a tailoring salesman with the Arthur Nash Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, and cover-

Wilson, Greene, Wayne and Duplin counties. His offices are in the Masonic Building on Main Street, Stantonsburg. He is unmarried and resides with his mother on Yelverton Street. Ever since he cast his first vote Mr. Hill has been active in the local democratic party. He served for several years as a justice of the peace, and was elected mayor of Stantonsburg in May, 1924, for a term of two years, and is giving his home city a businesslike administration and promoting its interests in every way within his power. He is a member of the local Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and is one of the stewards of the church. A Mason, he belongs to Joseph Warren Lodge Number 92, A. F. and A. M., of which he is a past master. In business life Mr. Hill is sagacious, alert and reliable, and as a public official he is honorable, prompt and true to every responsibility. He is deeply interested in all that pertains to modern advancement and improvement, and determined to keep his city abreast of others of its size. A friend to churches and public schools, he has always worked hard in their behalf, and Stantonsburg is proud of its record along these lines. His charities are many, although the majority of them are not made public, for Mayor Hill is not one to extol his own virtues or benevolences, and he is always glad to lend a helping hand to those less fortunate than himself, his own early struggles making him sympathetic and understanding.

WILLIAM CHRISTIAN MANNING. To some individuals are granted diversified talents which they have the ability to utilize for the benefit not only of themselves but humanity at large. With a broader field in which to labor such men can direct their efforts in more directions and therefore reach men in every avenue of life's activity. Coming into closer touch with such, their own sympathies are broadened, their scope of usefulness widened and their own characters strengthened. Working steadfastly toward humanitarian ends, such men become the best and most valuable adjuncts which their communities may possess. In this class undoubtedly stands William Christian Manning, of Williamston, publisher of the Enterprise, and who as president of the North Carolina Christian Missionary Convention is at the head of the Christian Church in the state of North Carolina.

Mr. Manning was born near Jamesville, Martin County, North Carolina, February 3, 1871, and is a son of Hon. John W. and Sarah M. (Daniel) Manning. The original Manning ancestor came to America from England during Colonial times and took up his home in North Carolina, where his descendants have reached high places in business, the professions, politics and military and civil life. John Manning, the grandfather of William C. Manning, was born near Jamesville, where he spent his entire life, confining his activities to his extensive operations as a planter. He married Elizabeth Manning, who was born and died near Jamesville.

John W. Manning was born December 18, 1842, near Jamesville, and was about eighteen years of age at the outbreak of the war between the states. He first enlisted in the cavalry of the Confederate army, and when his first term of enlistment expired re-enlisted as a member of the Seventeenth Regiment, North Carolina Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war, his military record being an excellent one and including faithful performance of duty at all times and bravery in some of the hardest-fought engagements of the great sectional struggle. He returned to his home July 4, 1865, and married Sarah M. Daniel, who was born September 18, 1841, near Jamesville, and died on the home plantation November 24, 1900. She was a daughter of William and Sallie (Roberson) Daniel, both of whom died on the old Daniel plantation, which had been in the Daniel family for more than 200 years. The grandparents were thrifty, hard-working, God-fearing people, worthy of the respect in which they were held, caring for their fields and carrying on with slave labor the operations on the old plantation eight miles south of Jamesville. An ancestor of Mr. Manning on the Daniel side was a Revolutionary soldier, who, upon hearing of the outbreak of the American colonies from the mother country, made such haste to join the patriot army that he did not have time to make a regular will. He therefore made a verbal will, which is the only one of the non-cupative, or "not written," recorded in Martin County.

Shortly after his marriage John W. Manning bought the home plantation, situated seven miles south of Jamesville, and that property continued to be his home until his death, December 24, 1903. He was a man of industry, a skilled planter and a good manager, and was able to accumulate a gratifying competency, being known as one of the substantial men of his locality. He was a democrat in his political allegiance and prominent in his party and in public life, representing Martin County in the session of 1887 in the General Assembly. He also was a stalwart supporter of the Christian Church, and a consistent member of the Knights of Honor. He and his wife were the parents of three sons: Asa J., a former educator and now clergyman of the Christian Church at Williamston; William Christian, of this review; and Joseph E., who owns and operates the home plantation and is also engaged in the insurance business.

William Christian Manning received a rural school education in Martin County and was reared on the home farm, in the cultivation of which he assisted until he was twenty-eight years of age. From 1898 until 1908 he served in the capacity of registrar of deeds of Martin County, and in the latter year became by purchase owner and publisher of the Enterprise newspaper of Williamston, which he has continued to edit and publish with success. The Enterprise, which was established in 1899, is a democratic organ, and has a large circulation in Martin and the surrounding counties. The modern plant and offices are located at the corner of Main and Smithwick streets, at Williamston, where Mr. Manning also conducts a first-class job printing establishment. He gives his readers a clean, wholesome, reliable and interesting newspaper, with pertinent editorials, local matter and world news, and has gained advertising support on the part of merchants and professional men. He is the owner of an attractive home on Haughton Street. He has contributed to the upbuilding and progress of the community the Williamston Telephone Company, which he founded in 1900, and of which he is still the manager, although he sold it to the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company in 1926. Politically Mr. Manning is a democrat. He was reared in the faith of the Christian Church, and is now president of the North Carolina Christian Missionary Convention, which automatically places him at the head of the Christian Church in the state. He is likewise a member of the Board of Trustees