

INFORMATION ON THE FAMILY OF DAVID & HANNAH

BISHOP

Compiled for the 1993 Bishop Family Reunion of Descendants of David & Hannah

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CONTENTS

PREFACE

BRIEF HISTORY

CHILDREN OF HANNAH & DAVID (ORDER OF BIRTH AND DEATH)

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF DAVID & HANNAH'S FAMILY

BIOGRAPHIES OF:

DAVID DEWART BISHOP

HANNAH ANN CHERRY

BISHOP CARRIE LEE BISHOP

JAMES WILLIAM BISHOP

JOHN SAM BISHOP

ELLEN BISHOP GORDON

PAUL ANDREW BISHOP

BARNABAS BISHOP

PEARL BISHOP ROBINSON

RUBY BISHOP SCOTT

KATHERINE LASSITER FLOOD

ELLEN WALTON CHERRY HARDY

WRIGHT CHERRY

MARY MAGDALENE HARDY

DAVID & HANNAH ' S DESCENDANTS & THEIR SPOUSES

THANKS

PREFACE

This booklet is a short, biographical sketch of David and Hannah Bishop (the patriarch/matriarch of the family), their children (with mention of their grandchildren) and Hannah's family. It is written for the benefit of the grandchildren to refresh their memory of the Bishop heritage and for the benefit of the great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and future generations to inform them of their heritage. Perhaps, it can be kept and added to the family album, as a legacy for members of the family in years to come.

Most of the information is factual and corroborated by direct descendants. Some of the narratives told have been passed on as family truths and anecdotes. The early family had a unique sense of humor and loved to relate humorous tales with great exaggeration and personality. Some of these have been included here. Please feel free to add any information you have.

We hope that all this information will be read by the descendants, discussed and kept as a memento of this 1993 Family Reunion.

BRIEF FAMILY HISTORY

Hannah and David Bishop were born during the last years of slavery on plantations in the Roxobel township in Bertie County, North Carolina. After they were freed, David's family took the last name of their plantation owner, as did many slaves, and became known as Bishop - hence the name of David Dewart Bishop. During his teens, David left the area and went to Baltimore with his two brothers, Andrew and Byrd Bishop. Hannah stayed and moved into the black settlement area of Roxobel called Sandy Branch because of a nearby branch of water that was sandy. In this area was the black church, a small school, a small store, the railroad and small, shanty homes of former slaves.

When David returned from Baltimore, he courted and married Hannah. They continued to live and work in Roxobel. Two of their children, Carrie and William, were born there. In 1874, they had saved enough to move six miles away to the town of Rich Square in Northampton County, North Carolina. It was a larger township and offered more possibilities. Soon after arriving with his family, David opened his barber shop on the south side of the crossroads in the center of town. There he cut hair, shaved men, shined boots & shoes, and talked and planned politics with white and black citizens. He had been trained to cut hair for the whites on the plantation.

Hannah worked for the Weaver family and helped her mother and half-sister wash clothes, clean men's suits, and maintain the small white hotel near the crossroad on the Jackson Road. They lived in a rented two-story house a few yards from the hotel. This is the area in which they raised their family. Hannah bore six additional children - John, Ellen, Paul, Barnabas, Pearl and Ruby. Hannah and Dave lived the rest of their lives in Rich Square, never going more than 60 miles from this township. David died at an early age, leaving Hannah with eight young children. She never remarried, but with the help of her God, her mother (who was also a widow), her single half-sister, and her children, Hannah was able to rear all of them to become successful, educated, respected adults. She lived to see that accomplished and died at the age of 90.

CHILDREN OF DAVID & HANNAH
ORDER OF THEIR BIRTH AND
DEATH

BIRTH	NAME	DEATH
1st	Carrie Lee Bishop	1st
2n	James William	2nd
3rd	John Sam Bishop	6th
4th	Ellen Devolia Bishop Lassiter Gordon	4th
5th	Paul Andrew Bishop	5th
6th	Bryant Barnabas Bishop	7th
7th	Pearl Mary Dewart Bishop Robinson	3rd
8th	Ruby Wilbur Bishop Scott	8th

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF DAVID & HANNAH'S FAMILY

- Great love of family and concern for each other
- Great respect for their mother - they responded quickly whenever she spoke, and her word was law.
- All called their mother "Muddie" for "Ma Dear" throughout their lives.
- Encouraged to help each other. Each son assigned to protect and care for a particular sister. Paired for life by their mother: Bill with Carrie; John Sam with Ellen; Barnabas with Pearl; and Paul with Ruby.
- All believed in education and being prepared to do a specific job in life.
- All instilled with respect for God and religion.
- All instilled with good manners and respect for their elders and each other.
- When they went out to social events, they went together, and one brother was put in charge to hold the lantern and see that all returned together.
- The boys were always encouraged to work at early ages and play some sport like baseball. They were very good at it.
- The girls were all taught to sew, mend, cook, wash and iron, sing and play the piano. They were considered "special" and must do better than work in White homes.
- Family was poor but proud - determined - stubborn - short-tempered - and independent.
- Men all believed they were handsome and God's gift to women.
- All very determined to be somebody at whatever they did and do it better than anyone.
- You were a Bishop and supposed to do well.

- All the children were physically attractive. Their skin color ranged from the mahogany tones of David to the honey tones of Hannah. The women were 5 feet to 5 feet, 7 inches. The men averaged 6 ft and taller. They all had thick, beautiful hair, and the men never grew bald as they aged. One major characteristic from David was the large nose. One major characteristic from Hannah was the light ring around the pupil of the eye which expands in anger. Another Hannah trait is the appearance of small, light spots on the skin and small moles that spread as one gets older.
- Strong determination and a tendency to speak out.
- They were all very civic-minded, especially where their race was concerned, and always willing to lend a hand. Very good at organizing.
- They feared very few men and truly believed they could overcome or "lick" almost anything.
- Don't hide any bad news from them. They preferred to know all the facts and handle the situation the best way they could.
- Many of these characteristics can also be seen in later generations. Have you seen them in yourself or your Bishop relatives?

THIS IS OUR HERITAGE. A STRONG FAMILY TO BE PROUD OF AND HAPPY TO BE A PART OF.

DAVID DEWART BISHOP

David Dewart was born into slavery during its last years on the Bishop plantation in Roxobel, North Carolina. He had three brothers: Byrd, Axom and Andrew. They all took the last name of their plantation owner - Bishop. Byrd Bishop went north after slavery and was not heard of again. He was said to have had a family (a wife and several sons) living in upstate New York. Andrew Bishop was a gambler on the river boat. He never married and was eventually killed on the boat. Axom moved to the Scotland Neck area, changed his name to Axom Kapot and was not heard from again.

David Bishop learned to read, write and do arithmetic. He was taught to be a barber, but only allowed to cut hair and shave white folks. He had severe asthma all his life. He went north after the Civil War as a teenager on the boat to Baltimore, MD. He stayed as a barber for a while, but he yearned for Hannah, whom he knew on the Bishop plantation. He returned to Roxobel and married Hannah.

David was a tall, six-foot man, who loved to discuss and argue his point of view. He was considered very intelligent and worldly for his time. He made friends easily but had a strong stubborn streak.

In 1874, he moved Hannah and their two small children (Carrie and Bill) to Rich Square. There, David opened a barber shop near the center of town and continued to have White customers. This became a very popular place for the men of Rich Square. David Bishop was selected as Mayor before the town incorporated in 1883 and was Chairman of the Republican Party in Rich Square. This is recorded in the North Carolina Archives. Most of the town meetings were held in his shop.

His gift of speech and persuasiveness made him very successful in politics. Hannah would relate how, after a political meeting, he would return home and pour a bag of money into her apron to be counted by the children, used or stored. He loved to brag about his children's abilities. They could always do better than anyone else in his mind.

Many tales are told about his drinking habits, for it was well known that he daily imbibed. He kept his "Demi-John" jug on the floor by the head of his bed. That jug is still in the family. One tale talks about how David was walking home alone from his shop one night, after drinking with his friends. As he staggered along, he heard a

noise and looked back. He thought he saw the devil behind him and started running down the dirt road, hollering "Hannah, Hannah - open the door! Ole devil's after me!!!" He fell into the house onto the floor. Hannah looked out the door, her pistol in her hand. It turned out to be one of David's friends, staggering home too.

Another time, under the same circumstances, David thought he saw a "H'aint" (ghost) rising up from a hole in the ground. It turned out to be a white cow in a pasture he passed. And so, the tales go on and on. Whenever the situation got stressful, he would grunt "Whew!" under his breath and go on and deal with it. Have you ever done or seen a Bishop relative do that? That's Dave Dewart coming through!

Dave Dewart and his good friend, Giles Majette, helped establish the First Baptist Church for Coloreds and the town's first colored grade school in that church. He was a strong believer in education and independence.

He suffered for many years from stomach problems and may have originated the Bishop "nervous stomach", that seems to clench up anytime a Bishop is about to go into a difficult situation. David is thought to have died from cancer of the stomach in his early 50's. He died before he could see his children grow to maturity, leaving Hannah with eight children, ranging in age from 2 to 16 years of age.

HANNAH ANN CHERRY BISHOP

Hannah was born on the Bishop plantation in Roxobel, North Carolina to Ellen Walton and Wright Cherry. She was their only child. Both of her parents were forced to leave her, just before the end of slavery - Ellen sold away to Mississippi or Georgia and Wright to the Winton/Powellville, NC area. Hannah waited at the plantation for her mother to return. When she did, they moved to the Sandy Branch area near the township of Roxobel. When "Dave" returned from "up North", they courted for a short time and married in Roxobel. Their first two children, Carrie and William, were born there. Then, Hannah and Dave moved to Rich Square, where John Sam, Ellen, Paul, Barnabas, Pearl and Ruby were born. Hannah's mother, Ellen, and her half-sister, "Mag" Hardy, moved there later.

During this time, Hannah stayed at home, raised the children and helped her mother at the town hotel, four doors away near the center of town on the Jackson road. After her husband David's death, Hannah continued to help her mother at the hotel. Her sister, Mag, moved in with her to help with the children. Together, they operated a laundry/cleaning business. Hannah also worked for the Weaver family and as janitor of the white Methodist Church. The children helped also with various jobs. She managed to educate all eight of her children.

Hannah was a tiny woman about 5 ft. tall and weighing about 90 pounds. She was very fair skinned with long, naturally straight hair and gray eyes. She was quiet most of the time, but very feisty at other times. She used to shake her finger and say, "I's a little rooster, but I flutters, so don't try me". She always kept a loaded pistol by her bed and was said to be able to use it.

She loved to grow plants and work in her garden. One of her greatest joys in later years was her orchard of fruit and nut trees (peach, apple, pear, walnut & pecan) at the back of her house. Her grape arbor was on a rectangle trellis large enough for children to play under and older children to court under. She had all kinds of unusual flowering shrubs in her front yard that her children had given her - rose bushes, Sweet Bessy bushes and a lilac bush that made everything smell so nice in the spring. On her front porch was an array of potted plants she tended carefully.

Hannah always wore long skirts or dresses and high-topped shoes with her traditional black and white gingham apron. She attended church regularly and

generally wore a long black suit or black and white dress. She seldom wore other colors and never bright colors. She often said "No" to her children, when they tried to get her to change. She would say, "Mag wears enough of that for the both of us". Her straight hair was always neatly combed and arranged in a big ball at the nape of her neck. She loved to dip snuff. "Three Thistle Strong" was her favorite brand.

When her daughter-in-law, "Vi" (Viola Bishop) was learning to drive in 1928, Hannah was the only woman who would ride with her while she learned. From then on, Hannah and "Vi" would ride on short trips almost every day during summer months.

She never forgot her roots in Roxobel. She never moved her membership from Sandy Branch Church, although her husband and children were active in First Baptist Church in Rich Square. Her son Paul became the Pastor of both churches. Hannah attended service at Sandy Branch each third Sunday of the month and she went to all funerals. She was eventually buried there at her request. She never went more than 50 miles from home, no matter what the situation. If there was trouble or concern, she would send a younger, responsible member of the family and then wait patiently for someone to come back and tell her what's going on.

Along with her family, she bought land from the Majette family and built a house in the section of town near the Rich Square Institute (now W.S. Creecy School). Her new home was down the lane from this school that offered Grades 1-12 for Black children. When Ruby and Paul took over the care of the homeplace, they were able to modernize the home with electricity, indoor plumbing, and a heating system - but Hannah would not allow it in her room. She maintained a fireplace, kerosene lamps and a feather tick mattress on a big bed until her death. She had two rocking chairs, one in her room and one on the front porch, and no one sat in them without permission. Hannah kept many other families and singles in her home, until they could locate in their own place, like the Creecy family when Professor Creecy arrived to be principal of Rich Square Institute or visiting preachers at the church.

She loved to see her children and grandchildren perform at singing, speaking oratorically or performing in plays. She always attended anything they were in at the church or school, but you had to perform it at her house again, if you did well. She was extremely proud of her children. In her later years, she would recite daily what they had become in life, beginning with the phrase, "Who woulda thought my child is

doing" (this or that). She loved to sit and rock with a smile on her face, while Ruby or "Vi" would tell her of some new accomplishment.

She died in 1946 at the age of 90 after she had a cerebral stroke, while on her knees saying her prayers. She lived for a week in a coma, as each of her children rushed home to be at her bedside. From slavery, through Civil War, Reconstruction, the Depression, World War I, and World War II, she lived a simple, hardworking, dignified life - always inspiring her children and grandchildren to do their best. She never remarried, but kept God and her family as her focal point in her life. She always told her children to love and care for each other and to always provide a home and care for her sister "Mag", because she had helped Hannah make it through.

CARRIE LEE BISHOP

Carrie was born in the Sandy Branch section of Roxobel, North Carolina. She was the first of eight children. She was small and petite instature like her mother. She attended First Baptist Church in Rich Square, after her family moved there. She graduated from Rich Square Institute and attended Shaw University in Raleigh, N. C. She was one of the first woman in Rich Square to attend that college. She moved to Baltimore, Maryland. She had four children: Eddie Bishop, Ferdinand Bishop, Vernell Bishop and Rita Bishop.

Her granddaughter, Breezy Bishop, became a very successful girls' basketball coach with many championships to her credit. She was an assistant coach in the 1992 Olympics and was featured in a news story on television in 1992. Her influence on her players has been typical of the Hannah-David tradition, helping and caring for others. She is now in the NCAA Hall of Fame for Basketball Coaches.

Her grandson, Vernell Jr., spent 22 years in the Navy and became a Chief Machinist Mate. He has sailed around the world many times. Another grandson, Douglas Fairbanks, after time in the Army, graduated from Morgan State University and became a teacher of Social Studies in the Baltimore area until retirement. Another grandson, Robert (Eddie's son), became a medical doctor after duty in the Navy.

JAMES WILLIAM BISHOP (BILL)

James William Bishop Sr., affectionately called "Bill" and "Uncle Bill", was the oldest son and the second child born to David and Hannah. He was born in the Sandy Branch area of Roxobel. He moved with his parents to Rich Square as a very young child and was educated there. He was taught barbering by his father at an early age and helped at his shop. When his father died, he helped his mother with the children and with finances.

In 1905, he married Mignonette Roberts Bishop (Nettie). They had seven children: Iva Bishop Thomas Sanders, Mignonette Bishop Rainey (Mig), Gardner L. Bishop, David L. Bishop, James William Bishop Jr. (Billy), and Elbert Robert Bishop (Rob).

In 1908, they moved the family to Kinston, NC, then to Asheville, NC, then Rocky Mount, N.C, and finally in 1930 to Washington, DC. Bill maintained a business in each location and his wife, who attended Kittrell College in Kittrell, NC, taught elementary school in Nash County for twenty years. In Washington, Bill was barber for many Congressional and elite politicians and businessmen near Capitol Hill, until his health failed. He always visited Hannah each year until her death.

All his children continued through higher education. Two of his sons, James Jr. and Elbert, became outstanding educators in Washington and Baltimore. His son, Gardner, a barber, became an outstanding civic leader in DC. He was founder and organizer of the Consolidated Parents Group, Inc. which played a key role in the case before the Supreme Court that resulted in desegregating public school systems in 1954.

Grandchildren also carry on the tradition. Gardner's daughter, Judine Bishop Johnson, received her PhD in Education and became an administrator in the DC public school system. She also received the position of Elderman in the Presbyterian Church. Iva's daughter, Peggy T. Templeman, is Founder and Program Coordinator for the "Youth Enrichment Support Services" Program (YESS). Iva's daughter, Ruth Iris Owens, is coordinator for this year's reunion of the current generations of the Bishop family. Iva's grandson, Gordon Nolan Owens, became a professional dancer and appeared on Broadway in "Chorus Line", "Miss Saigon" and "Dream Girl". James Jr's son, James Dodson Bishop, became a lawyer in DC.

Bill and Nettie were faithful members of St. Marks AME Church, while in North Carolina, and continued their membership in the historic Metropolitan AME Church in Washington DC, where two of their children - Mignonette and James, Jr - continue to worship. James Sr (Bill) died January 16, 1947 and his wife, Mignonette (Nettie), died on February 26, 1974.

JOHN SAM BISHOP

John Sam was the second son, the third child, and the first child born in Rich Square. He was educated at Rich Square Institute and held many odd jobs, such as plowing with a mule and storekeeper, to help the family. He became a teacher and married Lillian Morris, also a teacher from Rich Square. They had three sons: John Vernard Bishop (Vernard), Lowell Wadsworth Bishop (Buddy) of Newark, NJ and Morris Norvell Bishop (Cute) of Milford, CT.

John Sam and family lived in Rich Square, Woodland and Scotland Neck, North Carolina until 1934. They moved to Suffolk, Virginia in 1934. John Sam and Lillian remained there until their death. John Sam was a great bass singer and sang in the Senior Choirs at both First Baptist in Rich Square and East End Baptist Church in Suffolk, VA. He was a Deacon in both churches also.

As a handsome young man, he owned a sporty horse and buggy, which he later sold and bought a Model T Ford. He had to put hot water in the car to get it started. He was principal of the Woodland Elementary School in 1926. While there, John Sam directed the building of a new school facility under the Rosenwald Fund.

His sons remember many stories about their family. Once when they were 3, 5, and 7, they decided to walk from Woodland to Rich Square (six miles) to see their Dad, who was running a store in Rich Square. They knew their Dad would give them some treat, because whenever they went someplace special, he was always giving them extra money, even after their mother had already given them some. They didn't tell their mother that they were going; they just started walking down the road. They saw some Gypsies coming toward them, so they ran deep into the woods to hide, because everybody knew back then that "Gypsies liked to steal children". Of course, they got lost. Fortunately, a friend of their Dad's saw them and took them to Reverend Hart's house nearby. Reverend Hart drove them to their father in Rich Square. Their Dad took them to Grandma Hannah's until he could get off work. Meanwhile, their Mama didn't know where her children were. When they got home, they were sent to their room to go to bed. When their father came in to whip them, which he seldom did, he had to chase them from bed to bed and from under the bed. He couldn't catch them, so he became disgusted and left the room, saying "Forget it!".

John Sam was a tall, handsome man of a gentle nature, who was always willing to help. He had many friends and continually spoke out against black folk acting foolish, ignorant and backwards. He was a dignified, civic-minded, religious man and believed this was best for our people. One of his many sayings was "Life is like a mouse-trap: those that are out want to get in; those in want to get out; none are satisfied".

His sons, Vernard and Wadsworth, became businessmen in West Virginia, Washington, DC and Newark N. J. Morris became an educator in Milford, Connecticut. His granddaughter, Susan Whetstone, was an Assistant to the President of Yale University and City Manager for New Haven, CT. She is now head of the Recycling Plant in the New Haven area. Other granddaughters: Barbara Sherman is a teacher in Raleigh, NC and Betsy Miller is a Probation Officer in Atlanta, GA. Grandsons: Robert Bishop is a sales manager in California and Lowell Bishop is an engineer with C&P Telephone. Again, the descendants carry on the Bishop tradition of excellence.

ELLEN DEVOLIA BISHOP LASSITER GORDON

Ellen Bishop was the second daughter and fourth child born to Hannah and David in 1887. She was educated at Rich Square Institute and Elizabeth City State College in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. She became an elementary school teacher, working at several of the local schools. She married Mr. Elijah Lassiter from Severn, NC and they had one daughter, Katherine Ercell Lassiter. Mr. Lassiter died while Katherine was young, so Ellen and Katherine returned to Hannah in Rich Square. Hannah kept and raised Katherine as her own daughter, since she was her first granddaughter.

Later, Ellen married Mr. Joseph Leonard Gordon and moved to his farm near Elizabeth City. Their four boys were born there - John Bishop Gordon, Joseph Gordon, Roy Gordon, and Robert Gordon (Tiny). When her husband died, she returned to Rich Square with her young sons and remained there in the home that she and her sons built.

Ellen was a very attractive, honey-complexioned woman, who always wore her hair in a chin-length "bob". She loved to sew, making clothes for her mother, her sister and herself. She was a great singer, with a loud voice like her grandmother Ellen, after whom she was named. She loved to play the piano and organ and composed many songs. She directed many church choirs and was also organist for several churches. She was also the principal of Potecasi Elementary School until her retirement. Then she worked as store manager in the family's G & B Dry Goods Company Store, until her death in 1954.

She instilled her strength of purpose in her children as well. She was the first person in the community to send her deaf and mute son, Roy, to a special school in Raleigh, where he could be educated and learn a trade. He became an excellent shoe repairman in Rich Square.

Her oldest son, John Bishop Gordon, became an outstanding Pastor and civic leader in Richmond, Virginia. Ellen loved to visit his church and sing. She loved to tell how he could preach and how wonderful her grandchildren were. They all carried on the tradition and became outstanding citizens. John B. Gordon, Jr was an executive with C & P Telephone; Thurman W. Gordon is chief engineer for Lindel Union Carbide Corp; Vernon W. Gordon is software engineer for Federal Systems at IBM, and Ethel Gordon Davis is a social worker and real estate agent.

Her second son, Joseph Gordon, established a successful funeral business in Rich Square. In the late 1970's, he became the first black Councilman elected in Rich Square since Reconstruction. He acted as Mayor for two years, until a new mayor could be elected, since he did not want the job. He returned to his position of Councilman. After his death his wife, Elizabeth, and their son, Joseph, continued the funeral business.

Ellen was a strong, determined and independent woman. Like her mother, despite deaths and obstacles, Ellen raised her family and survived as a beautiful black woman.

PAUL ANDREW BISHOP

Paul was the fifth child of Hannah and David and the third son. He was born in Rich Square on February 14, 1889. He was often called "Shephard" by his mother, who often said she saw a special light when he was born. She knew he would be a preacher and that was why she named him Paul Andrew after the two apostles. Sure enough, he became a preacher and her pastor at Sandy Branch Church. He was educated at Rich Square Institute, Roanoke Institute, Virginia Union University and Shaw University.

He married Nettie Geraldine Askew, a teacher from Winton, NC in 1915. They lived in Roxobel, NC where he was principal of the Roxobel Elementary School and pastor of Sandy Branch Baptist Church. During his administration, a new eight-room brick school with an auditorium was built and grades were elevated to go from first through seventh. A band and a dynamic baseball team were organized. Paul became coach and manager, for he and his brothers had been very good players when they were growing up. In fact, Paul's favorite position was catcher.

He and Nettie had four children: Kenneth, Paul Andrew Bishop, Jr. (P.A.), Nettie Geraldine Bishop (Chick), and David Wendell Bishop (Wendell). After his wife's death, he returned to Rich Square. He continued to be principal at Roxobel. He was also pastor of five churches: First Baptist in Rich Square, Sandy Branch in Roxobel, Zoar Baptist in Pendleton, Second Baptist in Potecasi and New Haven Baptist in Murfreesboro. He pastored these five churches for the rest of his life.

In 1925 he married Viola Treava Taylor, a Howard University graduate from Washington DC, who came to Rich Square Institute to teach mathematics. Together, they built the first modern brick home in Rich Square. It had eight rooms and was later expanded to thirteen rooms. To this marriage was born Georgia Ellen Bishop.

Although he had many requests to pastor churches in large cities, Paul believed his work was to be accomplished by helping his own people in the rural area around his home. Paul became an outstanding leader. He was President of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina for 18 years. This was the largest organization of Baptists in the state. For two years, he was also President of the

Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention, the largest black Baptist missionary organization in the US. He was First Vice President of the National Baptist Convention in the US; Organizer and President of the tri-county Lott Carey Conference; Chairman of the Trustee Board of Shaw University; member of Trustee Board of Oxford, NC Orphanage: Endowment Secretary of the Order of Love and Charity; Organizer and Chairman of the G&B Dry Goods Company; Organizer and Chairman of the Bishop Burial Association; Organizer and Chairman of the Roanoke-Chowan Credit Union; Organizer of the first black public library with a bookmobile serving the Northampton County area, AND he built and managed the largest business complex for blacks in four surrounding counties. Like a self-contained shopping mall, the building housed several local black-owned businesses: a barber shop, a dry-goods store, a beauty parlor, a funeral parlor and embalming business, offices, a cafe, and a large meeting room that hosted the second Bishop family reunion.

Paul lived next door to his mother. He had helped her and other members of the family purchase the land from the Majette family and build family homes. After he moved next door with his family, he would walk over to her house every Sunday or Monday evening to see if Hannah had everything she needed for the week. All his adult life, he never let her want for anything. He always told her she had worked hard enough in her life and he would make sure her days left would be happy.

He also made sure, at "Muddie's" request, that Ruby, Ellen and Katherine, who lived with Hannah, were college-educated and had teaching jobs. He even assisted Ellen with her sons, after their father's death. He bought a small farm, again at his mother's request, so that all nine grandsons living in the two homes would have something to do. Needless to say, the farm failed because the young teens played more than they worked. He helped all those young men become strong adults, though.

Paul was very influential with all races. It was said by both Blacks and Whites that had integration come during his lifetime in North Carolina he would have been governor of the state. To illustrate this, Governor Kerr Scott was a friend of his. They served on several boards together before Scott became governor. The Governor was to speak in Rich Square at a rally outside the White high school. The committee decided to follow custom and segregate the Blacks, although they had asked Paul to sit on the platform and give the prayer. He refused to attend because of this policy. He wrote the committee a letter and sent a copy to the Governor, because most of his votes in Northampton County came from the black community.

The Governor refused to come unless this was changed. The policy was changed. When the Governor arrived in his caravan, he stopped at Paul's office and took him to the rally with him. Hannah was very, very proud and pleased, although she could not attend.

Like his brothers, Paul was a tall, handsome man with a quiet but positive demeanor. He spoke with power, intelligence and commitment and feared no one. He was a natural leader who was sought after because he got things done. If there was no way, he created one. He helped many people, especially from his five congregations, receive an education, buy homes and farms and become strong individuals.

He traveled a lot. If he found ideas that would benefit his community, he brought those ideas back and implemented them. During his adult lifetime, Northampton County had more black schools and more independent black home and farm owners than any other county in North Carolina. He constantly preached, "We as a race must become independent, educated people who own where we live, if we are to be ready for the new day". He was a big influence in preparing his children for it.

His son, "P.A.", was the first certified cosmetologist embalmer in the northeastern area of North Carolina. He graduated from the mostly-white Gupton Jones School of Embalming in Tennessee, second in his class. He was often asked by both races to reconstruct faces of dead loved ones. All he needed was a picture.

Paul's other son, David Wendell, was the first Black in Rich Square to receive the PhD degree in history. He became a full professor at North Carolina Central University. He is an acknowledged historian, writer and lecturer. He is a member of many historical associations throughout the United States and was appointed to the Committee to Evaluate Colleges and Universities in the southeastern area of the US.

Paul's oldest daughter, "Chick", overcame a childhood bout with rheumatic fever that left her with a damaged heart; moved to New York City with her husband, Bill Majette; and raised two sons, while helping to direct a nursery school.

Paul's youngest daughter, Georgia, was the only child to graduate from Paul's alma mater -Shaw University. She married Charles Whitted and moved to Washington,

DC where she sued the Library of Congress for racial discrimination in a court case that set a precedent, opening many doors for Black workers at the Library. She is now one of the first woman deacons at Metropolitan Baptist Church in DC.

Moreover, Paul's grandchildren continue the tradition. His oldest granddaughter, Gerry Whitted Jangha, became the first Black to receive the prestigious Procter and Gamble four-year scholarship to Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. She is now Chief Financial Officer and Board member of an international management consulting firm. Her sister, Treava Whitted Burgess, became an Administrative Assistant to US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, travelling around the world several times as part of his personal staff. Later, she became Administrative Assistant to President Jimmy Carter and President Ronald Reagan, working directly in the White House in the Office of Domestic Affairs. She ended her government career working for the US House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee. Another granddaughter, Dianne Bishop Russell, is an educator in the Rocky Mount NC school system. A grandson, Charles Strudwyck Whitted, is an officer in the US Air Force.

Paul's commitment to family and race has inspired each generation to do their best and achieve new heights. He died of cancer on November 28, 1958, having become a very successful preacher, educator, businessman, civic leader, husband, father and son. His wife of over thirty years, Viola Taylor Bishop, assisted him in every way. She was a strong, intelligent, independent woman who taught high school students for more than forty years. Together she and Paul built a very comfortable way of life during segregation and helped many others achieve the same. She was ninety-nine and lived in Silver Spring, Maryland with her daughter, Georgia, until her death in 1997. She was the last of that generation of Hannah and David's children.

BRYANT BARNABAS BISHOP

Bryant Barnabas, or "Bess" as he was called, was born in Rich Square as the youngest son and the sixth child. Like his brothers, he worked at odd jobs at an early age to help Hannah with expenses. Like his father, he suffered with asthma most of his life, so his sports activities were limited. He was strong-willed and had that "quick Bishop temper". As a boy, he loved to fight and Hannah often disciplined him for it, making him get his own switch which "better not break".

There are many family stories about "Bess" and his "doings". As boys, he and Paul had a Billy goat named "Ole Bill" that they used to pull a small laundry cart for Hannah and Mag. They trained this goat to dance and butt people whenever they whistled a certain way. When they wanted to make small money, they would take him to a store and let him dance. But if they were in a fight and losing, they would whistle for the goat to help out. He would disperse the fight immediately. Bess fought in World War I and was the first in the family to go abroad. His army helmet was a prized possession of his mother all her life. It was kept in the parlor.

He moved to Baltimore, Maryland and married Annie (Nan) Jones. They adopted and raised two girls: Annie (Little Nan) Bishop and Helen Marie Bishop. After Nan's death, "Bess" moved in with his daughter, Helen, her husband, Elbert "Rob" Bishop and his beloved grandchildren. He remained there until his death.

Again, the grandchildren continue the tradition. Rob and Helen's son, Elbert, became a lawyer in Washington DC. Their daughter, Helen Bishop Jenkins, became a lawyer in Houston, Texas. Another daughter, Karen Bishop, recently received a Master's degree in Fine Arts from Yale University and became a noted actress.

PEARL MARY DEWART BISHOP ROBINSON

Pearl was born in Rich Square in 1898, as the seventh child and third girl. Her disposition all her life was sweet and flirtatious. She was always smiling with a gift for talking softly and in a southern drawl. She loved to talk but very quietly. She was educated at Rich Square Institute and Elizabeth City State Normal School. She was a teacher in North Carolina and moved to Maryland near Baltimore to teach in a larger school. She met John Thomas Robinson and married him in Baltimore. They had two sons, Bishop Lee Robinson and Alan Guttmacher Robinson. These two sons were her greatest loves.

She became a housewife until World War II. Then she worked in Edwards Arsenal Defense Factory in Baltimore. She joined Union Baptist Church in Baltimore and was active in many organizations and social clubs.

Pearl was the most fashionable dresser of all the sisters. She loved and possessed many uniquely-designed hats and dresses with very high-heeled shoes and matching fancy jewelry (sets of earrings, bracelets, necklaces, pins, etc). She always wore a wide colored streak in her lovely hair, sometimes red or purple or grey. She was a striking sight. Every summer she would bring her two sons to Rich Square for a long visit with her mother and family and show all the latest styles.

Her son, Bishop Robinson, became the first Black Police Chief of Baltimore and was the first Black Commissioner of Corrections for the state of Maryland. He has been honored for serving these offices with great dignity, accomplishment and innovation. Her other son, Alan, and his son, Denard, operate a taxi-limousine service out of Baltimore-Washington International Airport. Unfortunately, Pearl died in 1949, before she could see any of her children's accomplishments. If possible, however, she is with them in spirit all the way, for she really loved her family. Upon her request at her death, she was buried next to her mother in Roxobel, NC at Sandy Branch Church.

RUBY WILBUR BISHOP SCOTT

Ruby was born in Rich Square in 1900 as the eighth child, fourth girl and baby of the children. She was educated at Rich Square Institute and Elizabeth City State College in Elizabeth City, N. C. At an early age, she was taught darning by her Aunt Mag. She was excellent at darning men's suits for cigarette burns and other clothes, making her talent in great demand. She and Pearl grew up as constant companions during their youth. She married James Matthew Scott of Rich Square, but after a while they separated and later divorced.

"Aunt Boo" and "Boo" were her favorite pet names, given to her by her niece - Georgia - who as a baby was trying to say "Boo-bie". She was active in her church, First Baptist of Rich Square, where her brother Paul was her pastor. She was Sunday School teacher for Young Adult Ladies and sang loud alto in the Senior Choir until her illness. She always said she was the only sister who could not play the piano or dance.

Ruby also was a teacher. She was selected as Outstanding Elementary Teacher in Northampton County in the late 1960' s. She was principal and sixth grade teacher at Zoar Elementary School in Pendleton, N. C. She became the fifth-grade teacher at Creecy School in Rich Square and remained there, living a short distance from the school until her retirement. She always kept in touch with her many students throughout their lives.

"Boo" was medium-size with thick, long hair, which she wore in very fashionable styles. Like her sisters, she loved beautiful clothes, hats and especially furs. She loved to shop in big towns/cities, often getting Katherine or "Vi" to take her to towns nearby. Loving to travel, she often visited Pearl in Baltimore or other family members in the northern cities.

She was very devoted to her mother, sisters, brothers and their families. She would always assist them in some way, if they were ill or in need. While she believed in help-outs, she did not condone hand-outs and would strongly chastise a family member, if she felt they were just sitting around feeling sorry for themselves.

She lived in and maintained the homeplace, when her mother and aunt became too old to do so. Ruby was always modernizing it in some way, yet she honored her mother's wishes and left Muddie's room as Muddie wanted it. Always involved in the lives of her nieces and nephews, she liked to make sure they were behaving themselves. Her home was constantly open for visits from family members. She loved to grow all kinds of flowers like her mother and loved to collect things.

In later years, Ruby is especially remembered for having a sharp tongue, and she always spoke her mind, whether you liked it or not. She was strong-willed, determined, and independent; but she was also devoted to her family. She loved to laugh and tease and enjoyed good jokes. She kept up with all the family, during the good and bad times, and tried to attend every family event she was invited to.

She died in 1987, the last of David and Hannah's children. Her dependability and love of family made her a constant influence in the family tradition.

KATHERINE ERCELL LASSITER FLOOD

Katherine Ercell, or "Kat" as she was called by the family, was the first granddaughter of David and Hannah. She was the daughter of Ellen Bishop and Elijah Lassiter. After her father died when she was a small girl, she moved with her mother to her grandma Hannah's home in Rich Square. She was reared by her grandmother and lived with her all her adult life until she was married. When her mother remarried and moved away, she remained with "Muddie" as she called her.

Kat was also educated at Rich Square Institute and Elizabeth City State College. She received her master's degree in Elementary Education from Columbia University in New York City by attending the University's summer courses. She taught the sixth grade at Jackson Elementary School in Jackson, North Carolina for over thirty years. In later years, she taught at the Creecy School in Rich Square. She was very active in the First Baptist Church of Rich Square, where her Uncle Paul was Pastor. She was soloist in the Senior Choir and played the piano for the Children's Choir. She also taught Sunday School and belonged to many church organizations.

Kat married Roy Flood of Rich Square and together they built a pretty pink house with an all-pink interior. They also had a pink car. Pink was her favorite color. Kat's husband, Roy, still lives in the pink house.

Kat was small in stature and always had a beautiful smile and a big heart. She dearly loved "Muddie" and was a constant companion to Ruby whom she considered a big sister, instead of an aunt. All the family considered Kat Hannah's youngest daughter. She died in the 1950's.

ELLEN WALTON CHERRY HARDY

Ellen Walton was born into slavery on the Bishop plantation in Roxobel, N. C. We do not know anything about her early childhood and youth in slavery. We do know the following facts as told or experienced by Hannah and Mag.

Ellen was married slavery-style to Wright Cherry. They had one child, Hannah Ann, while they were together. Ellen was said to be strong-willed and a very good worker. When Hannah was a young girl, Ellen slapped the master's son for sexual advances. This was an unforgivable offense that slaves could be put to death for. However, because she was such a good worker and it was more profitable, Ellen was immediately sent to the Fayetteville, N. C. slave auction and sold to a plantation owner in Georgia or Mississippi as a "rebellious" slave. Before leaving, she told Hannah to stay in that area until she returned.

When Wright Cherry returned from the fields, he was told that Ellen had been taken away. He rebelled also and was sold or left the plantation. He was not allowed to take Hannah with him or to return to that plantation.

Ellen stayed in the South until near the end of the Civil War. She walked for three summers, following the army, until she reached the Sandy Branch area of Roxobel. This was a settlement of freed and escaped slaves. There were small shanty dwellings in a thickly wooded area near a stretch of water that was sandy. Many blacks from the area lived there until they could move on. Ellen found Hannah and together they lived there until Ellen married Mr. Hardy.

Ellen and Mr. Hardy had one daughter together, Mary Magdalene, who was said to have been born the year General Lee surrendered. Hannah lived with them until she married David Bishop and moved to Rich Square. Ellen moved with "Mag" to Rich Square after Mr. Hardy died. She got a job as the housekeeper, maid and cook for the White hotel in Rich Square.

Ellen was such a strong personality that many thought she ran the hotel. She was nut-brown in complexion, stout, with a full, thick head of hair and wide hips, that female Bishop descendants grudgingly attribute to her. When Hannah's husband Dave Dewart died, Ellen helped Hannah raise the children. Ellen was a great singer with a strong voice. She was said to make the church come alive when she led a song. She died in Rich Square but, like Hannah, David and Mag, she was buried at Sandy Branch.

WRIGHT CHERRY

Wright Cherry was born during slavery somewhere in the Hertford County area of North Carolina. We know that many of his family roots are from Powellsville, North Carolina.

He was said to be part Cherokee Indian, part White and part Black. His grandchildren described him as a tall, slim man with long, white hair, who looked like a White man. He was said to be intelligent and determined, with a strong will of his own.

During slavery, no slave could legally marry; so, it was common for slaves to have a different spouse at each plantation they resided on. This was the case with Wright. While he was on the Bishop plantation in Roxobel, he was the husband of Ellen Walton. During this time, Hannah Ann Cherry was born to them; she was their only child.

Wright was said to have been sold four times for a rebellious nature and may have had other families in each location prior to Roxobel. It was said that when Ellen was sent away, he was in the fields working. When Wright heard about Ellen, he left the fields and returned to the big house in great anger. It is not clear if he was sold or if he left the plantation, since this was during the Civil War. We do know he returned to the Powellsville-Winton area.

After the War, he legally married a lady there and had another family. Although he lived out the rest of his life in that area, he would visit Hannah and her family several times a year until his death around 1927. Hannah kept in touch with her half-sisters in Ahoskie and Winton until her death.

MARY MAGDALENE HARDY

Mary Magdalene or "Mag" was the half-sister of Hannah. She was the daughter of Ellen Saunders and Mr. Hardy. She was born in Roxobel the year that General Lee surrendered. She was reared in the Sandy Branch area with Hannah and their mother, Ellen. She was a member of Sandy Branch Baptist Church. After her father died, she and her mother moved to Rich Square to be with Hannah and get better work. She could read and write and was excellent at sewing, darning, and cleaning special linen and cotton tablecloths and men's clothing with gas and steam. Mag and Hannah ran a sort of laundry-cleaners out of their home. Hannah's children would help by delivering clothes, etc.

Mag was a short, nutbrown-skinned woman, who loved pretty, bright clothing, hats and jewelry. In her later years, she wore wigs to cover her thinning hair. She suffered with severe foot, leg and hand cramps but would often use this to get her way by moaning, groaning and even yelling. After her mother's death, she moved in with Hannah to help with the family and run their laundry-cleaning business. She remained in that home the rest of her life.

Although Mag had many beaux, she never married and was very proud of her independence. Mag loved to read the paper aloud and discuss what she had read. She would always keep candy at the foot of her bed and give it to all the children and grandchildren. Like Hannah, she dipped snuff, but was not as particular about the brand.

Unlike Hannah, she moved her church membership to First Baptist Church in Rich Square, where her nephew Paul continued to be her pastor. She was very active in her church as organizer and President of the Sunshine Band (a children's club) and Sunday School teacher for small children. She would collect all the children she could find in the neighborhood and march them off to Sunday School every Sunday morning and then return them to their homes afterwards. Hannah instructed her children to "always take care of Mag, 'cause she helped me to take care of you". After Hannah's death, Mag remained in the family home being cared for by Ruby, Katherine and Paul. Upon her death in 1952 she was returned to Roxobel to be buried with her beloved sister "Shannah", as she called her.

DAVID & HANNAH'S DESCENDANTS & THEIR SPOUSES

I. CARRIE LEE BISHOP

3 Sons - 1 Daughter

1. Eddie Bishop Clara Bishop
 - a. Robert Bishop
 - b. Dorothy Bishop

2. Rita Bishop (information unknown)

3. Ferdinand Bishop (information unknown)

4. Vernell Bishop Ruby Ann Carter
 - a. Vernell Bishop, Jr.
 - 1) Robert Bishop
 - b. Elwood Bishop
 - c. Douglas Fairbanks Bishop
 - d. Breezy Bishop

II. JAMES WILLIAM BISHOP (Bill)

2 Daughters - 4 Sons

1. Iva Helen Bishop Thomas Sanders
 - a. Percy Thomas, Jr.
 - b. Ruth Iris Thomas Owens
 - c. Peggy Thomas Templeman

2. Mignonette Bishop Rainey (Mig)
 - a. Donald Rainey
 - b. Inez Jacquelyn Wilkerson
 - c. Hettie Hall (Patsy)

3. Gardner L. Bishop
 - a. Judine Bishop Johnson
 - b. Anita (Betty) Bishop Harley
 - c. Gardner Bishop, Jr

MIGNONETE ROBERTS (Nettie)

Percy E. Thomas, Sr.
Theophilus Sanders

Harvey F. Rainey

Ethel Crutchfield

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 4. James William Bishop, Jr. | Jane Dodson |
| a. William Robert Bishop | |
| b. James Dodson Bishop | |
| 5. David Lee Bishop | Clementine Edwards |
| a. David Edward Bishop | |
| b. Olivia Bishop Robertson | |
| 6. Elbert R. Bishop, Sr. (Rob) | Helen Marie Bishop |
| a. Elbert Roberts Bishop, Jr. | |
| b. Helen Bishop Jenkins | |
| c. Karen Angela Ellis | |
| d. Anita Jane Bishop Johnson | |
| e. James Bryant Bishop | |

a. JOHN SAM BISHOP	LILLIAN MORRIS
<i>3 Sons</i>	

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. John Vernard Bishop | Sarah Butler
Sylvia Rideout |
| a. LaVerne Bishop Purnell | |
| 2. Lowell Wadsworth Bishop (Buddy) | Elizabeth Finnie |
| a. Paula Bishop Washington | |
| b. Lowell W. Bishop, Jr. | |
| 3. Morris Norvell Bishop | Rosemary E. Scipio |
| a. Susan Bishop Whetstone | |
| b. Barbara Bishop Sherman | |
| c. Robert Bishop | |
| d. Patti Bishop Lavine | |
| e. Betsy Bishop Miller | |

III. ELLENDEVOLIA BISHOP LASSITER GORDON

ELIJAH LASSITER
JOSEPH L. GORDON

1 Daughter - 4 Sons

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Katherine Lassiter Flood | Roy Flood |
| 2. John Bishop Gordon (Bud) | Thelma Mae Busbee |
| a. Ethel Gordon Davis | |
| b. John Bishop Gordon,
Jr. | |
| c. Thurman Gordon | |
| d. Vernon Gordon | |

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Joseph Gordon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Joseph Gordon, Jr. 4. Roy Gordon (Baby Boy) 5. Robert Gordon (Tiny) | <p>Elizabeth Jones</p> |
|--|------------------------|

IV. PAUL ANDREW BISHOP

NETTIE ASKEW
VIOLA TREAVA TAYLOR

3 Sons - 2 Daughters

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kenneth Bishop
 2. Paul Andrew Bishop, Jr <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Kenneth Andrew Bishop b. David Lewis Bishop c. George Verdell Bishop d. Paul Andrew Bishop, III e. Dianne Bishop Russell f. Ronald Bishop g. Jacquelyn Bishop Boyce (Jackie)
 3. Nettie Geraldine Bishop Majette <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Leonard Majette, Jr b. Winston Majette
 4. David Wendell Bishop
 5. Georgia Ellen Bishop Whitted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Gerry Whitted Jangha b. Treava Whitted Burgess c. Charles Strudwyck Whitted | <p>Genora Tann</p>
<p>Leonard Majette</p>
<p>Wilhelmina Williams</p>
<p>Charles S. Whitted</p> |
|---|---|

VI. BRYANT BARNABAS BISHOP

ANNIE JONES (Nan)

2 Girls

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nannie Bishop (Little Nannie) 2. Helen Marie Bishop | <p>Elbert R. Bishop, Sr. (Rob)</p> |
|---|------------------------------------|

VII. PEARL MARY DEWART BISHOP ROBINSON JOHN T. ROBINSON (Johnny)

2 Sons

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bishop Lee Robinson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bishop Lee Robinson, Jr. | <p>Ruthie Robinson</p> |
|---|------------------------|

2. Alan Guttmacher Robinson
 - a. Alan Lee Robinson
 - b. Sandra "Poo" Robinson
 - c. Denard Eugene Robinson

Shirley Mae Bradford

VIII. RUBY WILBUR BISHOP SCOTT

JAMES MATTHEW SCOTT

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Ethel G. Davis for data on Ellen Gordon

Helen Bishop for data on Barnabas Bishop

Bishop Robinson for data on Pearl Bishop Robinson

Alan Robinson for data on Pearl Bishop Robinson

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Lovingly,

Georgia Ellen Bishop Whitted