

# **THE TWO FAMILIES**

**OF**

**JAMES ELLIS, SR. (1772-1847)**

**A Research Study**

**By**

**John Ellis**

## **Introduction**

It is generally acknowledged: (1) that James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), was born 6 January 1772 Tryon (then Rutherford, now Cleveland) County, North Carolina; (2) that he was the son of Benjamin ELLIS, Sr. (1741-1802), and Rachel (PRESNELL) ELLIS (1743-1817); and (3) that he married first 1793 South Carolina, Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817), born 1773 Ninety-Six District (then Spartanburg District, now Spartanburg County), South Carolina.

It is now believed that James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), married second 3 August 1817 Edwards County, Illinois, Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850), born about 1790 Greenville County, South Carolina; died after 1850, daughter of John Thomas HUNT, Sr. (1757-1822), Revolutionary War Soldier from South Carolina, and Martha (JENKINS) HUNT (1758-1840).

In this research paper, I will attempt to marshal the evidence, such as it is (mostly circumstantial), that James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), was married twice and had two families.

## **Background**

The line behind James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), is fairly well-known, and it is set forth for reference purposes in Appendix 1 attached hereto.

## **Clues to the Two Families of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847)**

Clues to the existence of the two families of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), are provided by the following four (4) essential sources: (1) the

numerous unpublished manuscripts of Dr. John Kenneth ELLIS (1922-2000); (2) the Ellis Surname DNA Project, with concomitant DNA testing under the auspices of Family Tree DNA; (3) an obscure Ellis family history written in 1903 by Paul Hercules ELLIS (1881-1948), a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix 3; and (4) the 1880 United States Federal Census for Union County, Illinois.

1. Dr. John Kenneth Ellis (1922-2000).

Dr. John Kenneth ELLIS (1922-2000) spent over 51 years of his life researching his Ellis family ancestry and other related family lines. As a result of Dr. Ellis's many years of dedicated research, the Ellis family line now is well-established and well-documented from Dr. John Kenneth ELLIS (1922-2000) to James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883). *See*, Appendix 2 attached hereto.

Although Dr. Ellis was able to trace most of his family lines back to the immigrant ancestors and beyond, it was a constant source of embarrassment to him that he only was able to trace his Ellis surname family line back to his second paternal great grandfather, (supposedly) John ELLIS, Sr. For example, in an undated letter to Mrs. Margie Orr (apparently written Summer, 1990), Dr. Ellis wrote:

“...One John Ellis (Sr), my second great grandfather, settled in Edwards Co. I[llinois] sometime prior to 1820 where my great grandfather, James Ellis was born on 23 September 1820. John Ellis, Sr. is said to have married twice. I have neither the names of his two wives, nor the place where the marriages occurred. By his first wife he had at least one son (probably other children) who was also named John (John, Jr.)[.] By his second wife he had other children as follows:

“1. James Ellis, b. 23 Sep 1820, Albion, Edwards Co., I[llinois].

“2. Martha Ellis.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>As set forth more fully hereinbelow, Martha (ELLIS) FIELD (1802-1832) probably was a child of the first marriage of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817); however, Martha (ELLIS)

“3. Mariah Ellis who married a Mr. Crisp either John or Tom Crisp [John CRIST (1838-1925)]. I don’t know whether this marriage took place in Edwards Co. or elsewhere [the marriage took place 10 February 1857 in Knox County, Missouri].

“John Ellis, Jr., by the first wife, was said to have been a very good athlete, especially handball. It is said that the people of Albion took up a purse to bring an Englishman over from England to compete with John Ellis, Jr. Although John Ellis, Jr. won the contest, he died shortly thereafter from pneumonia due to cooling too rapidly.

“According to notes left by one of my late uncles [Paul Hercules ELLIS (1881-1948) (“Uncle Paul”)], John Ellis, Sr. [actually, James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847)] and his family (except his second wife [Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850)], who apparently had died [*sic*]) left Edwards County with the intention of going to Arkansas. This was about 1836. My great grandfather, James Ellis [James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883)], son by the second wife, was married in Union County, Illinois and remained there. I know the history from that point to present, since my grandfather, father, and I were all born in Anna, Union Co., I[llinois].

“I have most all branches of my father’s ancestry documented back to Switzerland, Germany, and Bavaria, but I am at a total loss of where to turn to find the Ellis branch. Old John Ellis, Sr. [actually, James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847)], according to family tradition, came to this country in the 1770[*s*] [*sic*] and ultimately ended upon in an English Settlement in Edwards County....” (Emphasis added.)

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FIELD (1802-1832) appears to have lived, married, and died predominantly in Edwards County, Illinois.

## 2. DNA Testing.

DNA testing now shows that James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), was a descendant of John ELLIS, Sr. (1607-1657), and Elizabeth (MURRELL) ELLIS (Haplogroup I1, Group 1).

Fortunately, the descendants of John ELLIS, Sr. (1607-1657), and Elizabeth (MURRELL) ELLIS are fairly well-known, and as a result, there are only a limited number of known ways in which James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), could be a descendant of John ELLIS, Sr. (1607-1657), and Elizabeth (MURRELL) ELLIS.

Although a simple application of “Ockham’s razor”<sup>2</sup> strongly suggests that the solution presented in this research paper is the correct solution, it should be noted that there are at least three (3) other conceivable ways to explain the ancestry of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883): (a) James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), descends from one of the sons of deceased Thomas ELLIS (1684-1719) (for more information on this very real possibility, *see*, Laura Ellis Lefler, “In Search of the Elusive Parentage of William Ellis” (2007), pp. 2-4); (b) James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), descends from James ELLIS (1633-1686), a brother of John ELLIS, Jr. (1630-1669), and a son of John ELLIS, Sr. (1607-1657), and Elizabeth (MURRELL) ELLIS (indeed, respected Ellis family researcher J. D. Ellis believed that this might be a “[m]ajor [l]ine”); and (c) James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), and John ELLIS, Sr. (1607-1657), only had a common ancestor in England prior to 1607 (although this latter possibility ordinarily might be rejected “out of hand,” the presence of “the English Settlement” in Albion, Edwards County, Illinois, is a potential complication that must be ruled out).

### a. Sons of Deceased Thomas ELLIS (1684-1719).

There is a distinct possibility that James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), might descend from one of the sons of deceased Thomas ELLIS (1684-

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<sup>2</sup>“Ockham's razor” is named after William of Ockham (1287-1347), who was an English Franciscan friar and scholastic philosopher and theologian. It is a principle of parsimony, economy, or succinctness used in logic and problem solving, which states that, among competing hypotheses, the hypothesis with the fewest assumptions should be selected.

1719). This possibility was explored by Laura Ellis Lefler in her excellent 2007 research paper entitled “In Search of the Elusive Parentage of William Ellis”:

“Dr. Eugene Ellis and Barnett Ellis, two excellent researchers who both descend from William Ellis (1704) who married Mary Clarke, suggested that my William Ellis (1745) might have come from their William’s brother, Thomas. William Ellis (1704) had two older brothers, Benjamin (1682) and Thomas (1684). They were the sons of John Ellis born in 1661 in Kent Isle, Maryland. It is assumed that family members began dying after a smallpox epidemic ravaged Maryland. Thomas Ellis (1684) who was living with his young family in Kent County, Delaware died in February of 1719 leaving a wife and three children, James, William, and Jane. Within a month, Thomas’s father, John (1661) died in neighboring, Kent County, Maryland. Both Thomas and his father had written their wills on the same day, 1 February 1719. Thomas was dead before 27 February of the same year. He left all his possessions to his wife, Rachel. John (1661) died before March 17, 1719. He left the majority of his vast land holdings in Maryland to his son, Benjamin. On October 26, 1721 Benjamin Ellis made his will in Kent County, Maryland. His will was probated August 14, 1722. According to the research of deceased J.D. Ellis, Benjamin may have succumbed to smallpox as well, along with his daughter, Anne. The only surviving male member of the family from the generation of Thomas is William Ellis (1704), the youngest brother who becomes the heir of Benjamin’s property as well as everything that had been left to Benjamin from their father, John....” *See, id.*, pp. 2-3.

In her 2007 research paper, Ms. Lefler’s eventual thesis (not unlike the present thesis) was that her ancestor, William ELLIS, Jr. (1738-1808), was the son of William ELLIS, Sr. (1704-1761), and Mary Jane (CLARKE) ELLIS (1707-1781); however, in her research paper, Ms. Lefler perceptively noted that either of the two sons of deceased Thomas ELLIS (1684-1719),

i.e., either William ELLIS, Sr. (1701- ), or James ELLIS, Sr. (1705- ), could be the father of her ancestor, William ELLIS, Jr. (1738-1808).<sup>3</sup>

Initially, I assumed that Uncle Paul was correct, and that the name of the father of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), was John ELLIS, and not James ELLIS. Consequently, I thought that James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), might descend from James ELLIS, Sr. (1705- ), one of the two sons of deceased Thomas ELLIS (1684-1719); however, for the reasons set forth in this research paper, I now believe that James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), descends from William ELLIS, Sr. (1704-1761), and Mary Jane (CLARKE) ELLIS (1707-1781).

b. Descendants of James Ellis (1633-1686).

There is a possibility that James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), might descend from James ELLIS (1633-1686), a brother of John ELLIS, Jr. (1630-1669), and a son of John ELLIS, Sr. (1607-1657), and Elizabeth (MURRELL) ELLIS; indeed, respected Ellis family researcher J. D. Ellis believed that this might be a “[m]ajor [l]ine.” Very little is known about James ELLIS (1663-1686), so this possibility cannot definitively be ruled out; however, for the reasons set forth in this research paper, I now believe that James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), is descended from William ELLIS, Sr. (1704-1761), and Mary Jane (CLARKE) ELLIS (1707-1781).

c. “The English Settlement.”

Albion, Edwards County, Illinois, is known as “the English Settlement,” because in 1818, shortly after the conclusion of the War of 1812, George FLOWER (1780-1862) and Morris BIRKBECK (1764-1825),<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>In her research paper, Ms. Lefler refers to her ancestor, William ELLIS, Jr. (1738-1808), as William ELLIS (1745); to William ELLIS, Sr. (1701- ), the deceased son of Thomas ELLIS (1684-1719), as William Ellis (1704- ); and to James ELLIS, Sr. (1705- ), the deceased son of Thomas ELLIS (1684-1719), as James Ellis (1706).

<sup>4</sup>In 1824, Edward COLES (1786-1868), the second Governor of Illinois and an old acquaintance, appointed Morris BIRKBECK (1764-1825), Secretary of State of Illinois. However, Morris BIRKBECK (1764-1825) only served

both Englishmen, brought over to America from England and Wales more than 200 English settlers to live in Albion, Edwards County, Illinois. Uncle Paul may have believed (mistakenly) that James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), was one of these early English settlers to Albion, Edwards County, Illinois.

At this time, there basically were two different groups of settlers in Albion, Edwards County, Illinois: (1) the English immigrants; and (2) the “frontiersmen” or the “backwoodsmen,” as the English called them, who “were artists with an axe,” and who “had a training in handling the axe and opening farms, and from experience, bestowing their labor in the most appropriate manner, which the Englishmen, from their inexperience, often did not.” See, Edwards County Historical Society, *A History of Edwards County, Illinois, Volume One, 1980* (Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1980), pp. 5-6.

James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and his family were of the second group of settlers, which included the Birks, Hunt, Hogan, Martin, and Lane families, who were “all natives of the southern states,” mostly “from Tennessee or Kentucky.” See, *id.*, p. 5.

Furthermore, James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), does not appear on any list of the 200 English settlers brought over to America from England and Wales to live in Albion, Edwards County, Illinois.

Therefore, for all practical purposes, the possibility that James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), and John ELLIS, Sr. (1607-1657), only had a common ancestor in England prior to 1607 may be ruled out.

3. Paul Hercules ELLIS (1881-1948).

Paul Hercules ELLIS (1881-1948) (“Uncle Paul”) was the long-time Clerk of Union County Illinois (1926-1947). In 1903 he wrote “A History of the Ellis Family,” a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix 3.

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for three months as Secretary of State of Illinois, because the pro-slavery majority in the Illinois State Senate refused to confirm his appointment.

Initially, it should be acknowledged that this branch of the Ellis family owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Uncle Paul for compiling his 1903 history of the Ellis family; otherwise, very little would be known of the history of this branch of the Ellis family.

Although Uncle Paul got many things right in his 1903 history, it would appear that he also got a few things wrong. The primary thing that Uncle Paul seemingly got wrong in his 1903 history was the name of the father of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883). Contrary to Uncle Paul's 1903 history, it now is believed that the name of the father of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883) was not John ELLIS, Sr.; rather, it was James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847).

Judging from his 1903 history, Uncle Paul did not know very much about his own first paternal great grandfather, James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847). Besides not knowing the correct name of his first paternal great grandfather, Uncle Paul did not know the name of either of the two wives of his first paternal great grandfather, including the name of his own first paternal great grandmother. It should be remembered that Uncle Paul's own grandfather, James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), who undoubtedly knew the correct name of his father, as well as the names of his father's two wives, died in 1883, only two years after Uncle Paul was born.

Ignoring for a moment Uncle Paul's erroneous denomination of the father of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), as John ELLIS, rather than James ELLIS, Uncle Paul's 1903 "A History of the Ellis Family" provides the following three (3) crucial clues to an understanding of the ancestry of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883): (a) the father of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), "was married twice"; (b) the father of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), "was a wood workman"; and (c) the father of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), "decided to move to Arkansas."

a. The Father of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), "Was Married Twice."

Uncle Paul's statement, that the father of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), "was married twice," provides an important clue to the ancestry of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883). At the risk of "getting ahead of the story," and for reference purposes only, the two putative families of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), are listed briefly in Appendix 4.



b. The Father of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), “Was a Wood Workman.”

Uncle Paul’s statement, that the father of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), “was a wood workman,” provides an important clue to the ancestry of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883).

In his 1903 manuscript, Uncle Paul states:

“John Ellis was a wood workman, cabinet maker. He made looms, spinning wheels, furniture of all kinds, horse powered mills and etc. In those days they didn’t have the large iron foundries and steel construction works, and everything had to be made from wood or if iron was to be used the construction was very crude. A wheelright was very much in demand in those days. There was such a great demand for the work that Mr. Ellis would be gone sometimes a couple of weeks or even a month working at his trade before returning home....” See, Appendix 3 attached hereto.

It is significant that the father of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), was a “wood workman [and] cabinet maker,” who “made looms, spinning wheels, furniture of all kinds, horse powered mills and etc.,” and a “wheelright,” because, John ELLIS III (1661-1719), Benjamin ELLIS (1682-1722), Thomas ELLIS (1684-1719), and William ELLIS (1704-1761) were all carpenters by trade.

According to J. D. Ellis, “[e]arly on in his relatively short life of 58 years, [John ELLIS III (1661-1719)] learned the Carpentry trade, and taught these skills to his sons Benjamin [Benjamin ELLIS (1682-1722)], Thomas [Thomas ELLIS (1684-1719)] and William [William ELLIS (1704-1761)]. It is not known whether his father, [John ELLIS, Jr. (1630-1669)], was a carpenter by trade or not.” See, J. D. Ellis, *The John Ellis Family of Kent Isle, Maryland* (unpublished manuscript), p. 9.

According to Isaac Barnett Ellis, “[William ELLIS (1704-1761)] was a [c]arpenter by trade, like his father and [half-]brother [Benjamin ELLIS (1682-1722)]. One of his landmark structures was[] St. Andrew[‘]s Chapel in Sudlersville, Queen Anne’s County, which was completed in 1730 for a

[f]ee of 21,000 lbs. of tobacco.” See, Isaac Barnett Ellis, *Ellis and Related Families* (Pittsburg, Kansas: Self-Published Manuscript, 1996), p. 66.

Benjamin ELLIS, Jr. (1763-1851), the brother of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), also was a carpenter by trade. See, Wm. S. Bryan and Robert Rose, *A History of the Pioneer Families of Missouri* (St. Louis, Missouri: Bryan, Brand & Co., 1876), p. 256, which states that Benjamin ELLIS, Jr. (1763-1851) “was a wheelwright and chair maker, and also had a hand-mill.” See, Appendix 5 attached hereto.

c. The Father of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), “Decided to Move to Arkansas.

Uncle Paul’s statement, that the father of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), “decided to move to Arkansas,” provides an important clue to the ancestry of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883).

In his 1903 manuscript, Uncle Paul states:

“Shortly after John Ellis, Jr.’s death, John Ellis, Sr. and his family having decided that the country around Albion [*sic*] was becoming too thickly settled, decided to move to Arkansas. That was in the year 1836. He got as far that year as one mile southeast of Anna, (Illinois) and remained there until the next spring when he continued his journey onward. James Ellis [James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883)], a son by his second wife [Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850)], had been learning the tanner’s trade from [Drake Harris RENDLEMAN, Sr. (1801-1887)] in Jonesboro, Ill. (Union County). He remained to finish learning the trade and was afterwards to join his father, but the thread of romance was too strong. He had met a Miss Knight (Matilda) [Matilda (KNIGHT) ELLIS (1823-1847)] whom he afterwards married....

“A few years later James Ellis [James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883)] married Louisa Rendleman [Louisa Amanda (RENDLEMAN) ELLIS (1830-1908)] 1848 [4 March 1848 Jonesboro, Union County, Illinois]....” See, Appendix 3 attached hereto.

As set forth more fully hereinbelow, it will be shown that, in about 1836, James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), removed with his second family from Wayne County, Illinois, to Searcy County, Arkansas, where he lived with his second family until about 1847; and that he died in Searcy County, Arkansas, in about 1847.

4. 1880 United States Federal Census for Union County, Illinois.

In the 1880 United States Federal Census for Union County, Illinois, James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), told the census taker that he was born in Illinois, and that his father, James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), was born in North Carolina. This information is believed to be correct. James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), was born 23 September 1820 near Albion, Edwards County, Illinois; and James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), was born 6 January 1772 in North Carolina, and not in England, as suggested by Uncle Paul.

However, James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), apparently also told the census taker (census takers sometimes make mistakes and transcription errors) that his mother, Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850), was born in Kentucky (*sic*). This information is believed to be incorrect. Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850) was born about 1790 in Greenville County, South Carolina, and not in Kentucky. If ever there were any doubt about the place of birth of Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS--there is none--then that doubt readily is dispelled by the 1850 United States Federal Census for Searcy County, Arkansas, in which Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850) herself told the census taker that she was born in South Carolina. This information is believed to be correct. Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850) was born about 1790 in Greenville County, South Carolina.

**An Itinerary of the Life of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847)**

An itinerary of the life of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), now may be limned, as follows:

It is known that James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), was born in 1772 in Tryon County, North Carolina; that he lived in Tryon County, North Carolina, from about 1772 to about 1786; that he removed from Tryon County, North Carolina, to Greenville County, South Carolina, in 1786; that he lived in Greenville County, South Carolina, from about 1786 to about 1798; that he removed from Greenville County, South Carolina, to Smith

(now Trousdale) County, Tennessee, in about 1798; that he lived in Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee, from about 1798 to about 1813 or 1815; that he probably travelled with his brother, Benjamin ELLIS, Jr. (1763-1851), and his brother's family, from Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee, to South Bear Creek, Montgomery County, Missouri, in either 1813 or 1815; that he probably brought his first family to Albion, Edwards County, Illinois, sometime prior to 1817, maybe as early as 1813 or 1815; that he married his second wife, Mary "Polly" (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850) in Edwards County, Illinois, on 3 August 1817; that he purchased quarter section 75 of the "district of 100 quarter sections" in Albion, Edwards County, Illinois, from Morris BIRKBECK (1764-1825) in 1818; that he resided with his (mostly second) family in quarter section 75 of the "district of 100 quarter sections," supposedly from about 1818 to December 31, 1826, but actually from about 1818 to about 1825; that in 1819 he probably took most of his first family to reside with his brother, Benjamin ELLIS, Jr. (1763-1851), in South Bear Creek, Montgomery County, Missouri; that he resided with his (mostly second) family in Bonpas Township, Edwards County, Illinois, from about 1825 to about 1827; that he and his eldest son John ELLIS (1795-1826), from his first marriage with Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817), appear in the 1825 State Census for Edwards County, Illinois, residing next door to each other (as families numbers 191 and 192, respectively), in Bonpas Township, Edwards County, Illinois, sometime between 3 July 1825 and November 25, 1825; that around 1827 he removed with his second family from Bonpas Township, Edwards County, Illinois, to Wayne County, Illinois, where he lived until about 1836; that in about 1836 he removed from Wayne County, Illinois, to Searcy County, Arkansas, where he lived with his second family until about 1847; and that he died in Searcy County, Arkansas, in about 1847.

More specifically, the following facts may be adduced with respect to the life of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847):

1. James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), was born 6 January 1772 in Tryon County, North Carolina. He married first Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817) about 1793. *See*, Isaac Barnett Ellis, *Ellis and Related Families* (Pittsburg, Kansas: Self-Published Manuscript, 1996), pp. 71-72.

2. James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), lived in Tryon County, North Carolina, from about 1772 to about 1786; and in Greenville County, South Carolina, from about 1786 to about 1798. *See, id.*, p. 68, quoting "[d]ata for

Benjamin and children from ECN [Ellis Cousins Newsletter], Winter 92, pg[.] 11, Summer 92, pg. 54, and letter from Mrs. Francis Ellis, T[ennessee]” (“In 1765 Benjamin [Benjamin ELLIS, Sr. (1741-1802)] sold his property in Rowan C[ounty], N[orth] C[arolina] (Deed Bk. 6, pg. 167-168) and moved his family to old Tryon C[ounty], N[orth] C[arolina]. Then in 1786 Benjamin moved a little farther west purchasing property in Greenville C[ounty], S[outh] C[arolina] in 1786 (Greenville Co., SC Deed Bk. A, pg. 38)).

3. In about 1798, James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), moved from Greenville County, South Carolina, to Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee. *See, id.*, p. 69, quoting “[d]ata for Benjamin and children from ECN [Ellis Cousins Newsletter], Winter 92, pg[.] 11, Summer 92, pg. 54, and letter from Mrs. Francis Ellis, T[ennessee]” (“Between 1795-1798 the families were selling their S[outh] C[arolina] property and moved to an area of Sumner [and] Smith Counties in T[ennessee].”).

4. James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), lived in Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee, from about 1798 to about 1813 or 1815. The 1810 Illinois State Census for Gallatin (later Edwards) County, Illinois, does not show a single “Ellis” family residing in Gallatin (later Edwards) County, Illinois.

5. It is believed that James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), travelled with his brother, Benjamin ELLIS, Jr. (1763-1851), and his brother’s family, from Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee, to South Bear Creek, Montgomery County, Missouri, in either 1813 or 1815. *See, Appendix 5, Unknown, Excerpt of History of Clay and Platte Counties, Missouri* (St. Louis, Missouri: National Historical Company, 1885), History of Platte County, pp. 886-887 (“[B]enjamin Ellis [(1763-1851)], a native of North Carolina, married there Miss Sarah Copeland [(1770-1850)], of the same State, and in an early day the family settled in Smith county, Tenn. In 1813 they came from there to Montgomery county, Mo., and were among the first five families to locate in this vicinity. This was indeed in the primitive days of the history of Missouri, ... Benj. Ellis finally took up his location in Texas county, Mo., where he died in his ninety seventh year, in about 1848....”) (emphasis added); Appendix 6, Wm. S. Bryan and Robert Rose, *Excerpt of A History of the Pioneer Families of Missouri* (St. Louis, Missouri: Bryan, Brand & Co., 1876), Montgomery County, p. 256 (“Benjamin Ellis [(1763-

1851)] settled on South Bear creek in 1815. He was a wheelwright and chair maker, and also had a hand-mill. He had ten children.”) (emphasis added).

6. James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), married second 3 August 1817 Edwards County, Illinois, Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850). *See*, Jordan Dodd, *Illinois Mariages to 1850* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 1997).

7. James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), probably brought his first family to Albion, Edwards County, Illinois, sometime prior to 1817, maybe as early as 1813 or 1815, because he married his second wife, Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850), in Edwards County, Illinois, on 3 August 1817. *See, id.*

The 1818 Illinois State Census for Gallatin (later Edwards) County, Illinois, shows a “James Ellis” residing in Gallatin (later Edwards) County, Illinois (as family number 190). Likewise, the 1820 Illinois State Census for Edwards County, Illinois, and the 1820 United States Federal Census for Edwards County, Illinois, both show a “James Ellis” residing in Edwards County, Illinois.

8. James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and his family were among the earliest settlers in the “district of 100 quarter sections,” purchasing quarter section 75 of the “district of 100 quarter sections” from Morris BIRKBECK (1764-1825) in Albion, Edwards County, Illinois, in 1818. *See*, Edwards County Historical Society, *A History of Edwards County, Illinois, Volume One, 1980* (Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1980), p. 20.

From 1817 to December 31, 1829, William HALL meticulously maintained a “Table of Population in the District [of 100 quarter sections].” *See, id.*, pp. 18-24.

9. Beginning in 1818, and from December 31, 1822, to December 31, 1826, James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and his family appear in quarter section 75 (which was 1/2 mile square on each side, with an area of 1/4 square mile, or 160 acres, comprising the southeast 1/4 of section 8 or 18 of the “district of 25 sections,” depending on how the 25 sections were counted). *See, id.*, pp. 20-23. Both the “district of 25 sections” and the resulting “district of 100 quarter sections” were located about one mile west of Albion, Edwards County, Illinois.

James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and his family are shown in the “Table of Population in the District [of 100 quarter sections]” each year from December 31, 1822, to December 31, 1826; and are not shown in the “Table of Population in the District [of 100 quarter sections]” each year from December 31, 1827, to December 31, 1829. *See, id.*, pp. 20-23.

10. James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), resided with his (mostly second) family in quarter section 75 of the “district of 100 quarter sections,” supposedly from about 1818 to December 31, 1826, but actually from about 1818 to about 1825. *See, id.*, pp. 20-23.

11. In 1819, James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), apparently took most of his first family to reside with his brother, Benjamin ELLIS, Jr. (1763-1851), in South Bear Creek, Montgomery County, Missouri. *See*, Appendix 6, Wm. S. Bryan and Robert Rose, *Excerpt of A History of the Pioneer Families of Missouri* (St. Louis, Missouri: Bryan, Brand & Co., 1876), Montgomery County, p. 256 (“James Ellis settled on Bear creek in 1819. He married Elizabeth Bowen, and they had six children--Edmund, Benjamin, Leeper, William, Fanny, and Martha.”<sup>5</sup> (emphasis added)).

12. James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), resided with his (mostly second) family in Bonpas Township, Edwards County, Illinois, from about 1825 to about 1827. *See*, Edwards County Historical Society, *A History of Edwards County, Illinois, Volume One, 1980* (Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1980), pp. 20-23; 1825 Illinois State Census for Edwards County, Illinois.

13. James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and his eldest son, John ELLIS (1795-1826), from his first marriage with Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817), appear in the 1825 State Census for Edwards County, Illinois, residing next door to each other (as families numbers 191 and 192, respectively), in Bonpas Township, Edwards County, Illinois, sometime between 3 July 1825 and November 25, 1825. *See*, 1825 Illinois State Census for Edwards County, Illinois.

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<sup>5</sup>As previously mentioned, Martha (ELLIS) FIELD (1802-1832) probably was a child of the first marriage of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817); however, as will be explained in greater detail later, Martha (ELLIS) FIELD (1802-1832) appears to have lived, married, and died predominantly in Edwards County, Illinois.

More specifically, the 1825 State Census for Edwards County, Illinois, shows that James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), was living in Bonpas Township, Edwards County, Illinois, sometime between 3 July 1825, the “Census Date,” and 25 November 1825, when Henry J. Mills, Commissioner, subscribed the 1825 State Census for Edwards County, Illinois.

Thus, it is believed that, in about 1825, James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), relocated with his (mostly) second family from quarter section 75 of the “district of 100 quarter sections” of Albion, Edwards County, Illinois, to Bonpas Township, Edwards (then Lawrence, now Richland) County, Illinois, around 1825, where they remained until about 1827.

14. Around 1827, James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), removed with his second family from Bonpas Township, Edwards County, Illinois, to Wayne County, Illinois (located adjacent to, and immediately to the west of, Edwards County, Illinois), where they remained until about 1836.

James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and his second family are found in the 1830 United States Federal Census in Wayne County, Illinois, living near Harmon HORN (1794-1880),<sup>6</sup> the sheriff of Wayne County, Illinois. *See*, 1830 United States Federal Census for Wayne County, Illinois.

15. James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), lived with his second family in Wayne County, Illinois, until about 1836, when he removed with his second family from Wayne County, Illinois, to Searcy County, Arkansas. *See*, Paul Hercules Ellis, “A History of the Ellis Family” (1903).

16. James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), first appears in the 1839 Tax List for Searcy County, Arkansas. *See*, Arkansas History Commission, *Tax Records, 1839-1843 1847, 1850-1851, 1853-1856, 1858, 1862, 1865-1866*,

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<sup>6</sup>Harmon HORN (1794-1880) married 30 August 1814 Madison County, Arkansas, Margaret “Peggy” (BIRKS) ELLIS (1799-1831), the sister of Sarah (BIRKS) ELLIS (1801-1870), who married first 20 March 1819 Edwards County, Illinois, John ELLIS (1795-1826), the eldest son of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), by his first wife, Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817).



*Searcy County, Arkansas* (Little Rock, Arkansas: Arkansas History Commission, 1968).

17. James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), is listed with his family in the 1840 United States Federal Census for Searcy County, Arkansas, living next door to Harmon HORN (1794-1880), the former sheriff of Wayne County, Illinois, and his son, Howell HORN (1820-1905).<sup>7</sup> *See*, 1840 United States Federal Census for Searcy County, Arkansas; 1840 Arkansas State Census for Searcy County, Arkansas.

18. Sometime between 1836 and 1847, James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), is believed to have visited his father, James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), in Arkansas. In his Summer, 1990, letter to Mrs. Margie Orr, Dr. Ellis wrote:

“...As I recall, years ago one of my aunts said that [James ELLIS, Sr.’s (1772-1847), son, [James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883)], my grandfather, went once to A[rkansas] to visit his father, [James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847)].”

19. In 1847, James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), died in Searcy County, Arkansas. Since he last appears in the 1847 Tax List for Searcy County, Arkansas, *see*, Arkansas History Commission, Tax Records, 1839-1843 1847, 1850-1851, 1853-1856, 1858, 1862, 1865-1866, Searcy County, Arkansas (Little Rock, Arkansas: Arkansas History Commission, 1968); and since he does not appear in either the 1850 United States Federal Census for Searcy County, Arkansas, or in the 1850 Arkansas State Census for Searcy County, Arkansas, James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), is believed to have died in 1847 in Searcy County, Arkansas.

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<sup>7</sup>Christopher Columbus HORN (1840-1928), the son of Howell HORN (1820-1905), and the grandson of Harmon HORN (1794-1880), married, as his second wife, 15 November 1869 Marshall, Searcy County, Arkansas, Martha Jane (ELLIS) HORN (1850-1917), the daughter of Jefferson ELLIS (1825-1859) and Charlotte “Lottie” (BEGLEY) ELLIS (1821-1920), and the granddaughter of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and his second wife, Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850).

### **Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850)**

The belief that James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), died in 1847 in Searcy County, Arkansas, is strengthened by information contained in the 1850 United States Federal Census for Searcy County, Arkansas. Shortly after the death of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), in Searcy County, Arkansas, in 1847, his second wife, Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850), is to be found in the 1850 United States Federal Census for Searcy County, Arkansas, living in Wiley’s Cove, Searcy County, Arkansas, in the household of her daughter, Nancy (ELLIS) LANE (1823- ), and her son-in-law, Daniel LANE (1817-1888), together with her daughter, Elizabeth (ELLIS) CARROLTON (1821-1880), and her granddaughter, Missouri C. CARROLTON (1847- ).

In addition, shortly after the death of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), in Searcy County, Arkansas, in 1847, his youngest child, Mariah (ELLIS) CRIST (1831-1904), by his second wife, Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850), is to be found in the 1850 United States Federal Census for Searcy County, Arkansas, living in Wiley’s Cove, Searcy County, Arkansas, in the household of “Marcus P. Hogan” [Marcus Preston HOGAN (1817-1897)], whose niece, Amanda Carline (SANDERS) ELLIS (1839-1928), married 1 January 1862 Leslie, Searcy County, Arkansas, James Houston ELLIS (1843-1928), the son of Jefferson ELLIS (1825-1859) and Charlotte “Lottie” (BEGLEY) ELLIS (1821-1920), and the grandson of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850).

Of potentially great significance is the fact that the 1850 United States Federal Census for Searcy County, Arkansas, also shows that there is a “John Bowin,” aged 17 years, living in the household of “Marcus P. Hogan.” This “John Bowin” is thought to be related somehow to Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817), the first wife of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847).

The seminal conclusions to be drawn from this evidence are that James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), died in 1847 in Searcy County, Arkansas; and that his second wife was, indeed, Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850).

### **John ELLIS (1795-1826)**

John ELLIS (1795-1826) most likely was the oldest child of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817). As far as I am aware, John ELLIS (1795-1826) is not listed as a child of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817) by any other Ellis family researcher; however, his inclusion as a child of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817) is suggested by Uncle Paul's 1903 "A History of the Ellis Family."

John ELLIS (1795-1826) probably was born about 1795 in Greenville County, South Carolina. After all, there is a huge gap between the marriage of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817) in 1793 and the birth of Edward (*sic*) ELLIS (1797- ) in 1797.<sup>8</sup>

The 1825 State Census of Edwards County, Illinois, shows James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and his eldest son John ELLIS (1795-1826), from his first marriage with Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817), residing next door to each other (as families numbers 191 and 192, respectively) in Bonpas Township, Edwards County, Illinois, sometime between 3 July 1825, the "Census Date," and 25 November 1825, when Henry J. Mills, Commissioner, subscribed the 1825 State Census for Edwards County, Illinois. *See*, 1825 Illinois State Census for Edwards County, Illinois.

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<sup>8</sup>Edward (*sic*) ELLIS (1797- ) usually is listed (incorrectly, I believe) as the first child of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817). I believe that Edward (*sic*) ELLIS (1797- ) actually was Edmund ELLIS (1809- ), and that he probably was born about 1809 in Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee. If I am correct in this belief, then, under the "traditional listing" of the children of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817), Willis ELLIS (1799- ), who probably was born about 1799 in Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee, would become the first child of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817). Thus, under the "traditional listing," there should be an even greater gap (indeed, a six (6) year gap) between the marriage of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817) in 1793 and the birth of Willis ELLIS (1799- ) in 1799.

In his 1903 “A History of the Ellis Family,” Uncle Paul relates the following anecdote, pertaining to the untimely death of John ELLIS (1795-1826):

“There is not much known about the children from his [James ELLIS, Sr.’s, (1772-1847)] first wife. One child, John Ellis, Jr. [John ELLIS (1795-1826)] was a great athlete. He was very good at boxing, wrestling and in fact all the athletic sports. He was very fond of handball. He was quite superior in the science of the game to his opponents in Albion so the people there made up a purse to challenge a man to come over from England to compete with John Ellis, Jr. A special court was made for the game. A brick wall several feet high and several yards long was made and special rackets were permitted to be used. The object of the game was to return the ball from the first bounce against the wall either hard or otherwise just so it bounced within the stated limits of the court. The contestants were very thinly clothed as the game was quite strenuous. The contest lasted for several hours until finally the Englishman had to submit to the local contestant. The attendants on the Englishman quickly wrapped him in a blanket and administered stimulants. John Ellis being a local man, the conditions being somewhat adverse to what we are used to today, was permitted to care for himself. He, being somewhat fatigued sat down on a bench nearby and cooling too quickly contracted pneumonia and died a few days later. John Ellis, Jr. resembled his father very much. On several occasions after he had become grown he was mistaken for John Ellis, Sr.” *See*, Appendix 3 attached hereto.

John ELLIS (1795-1826) died between 3 July 1825, the “Census Date” of the 1825 State Census for Bonpas Township, Edwards County, Illinois, and 15 June 1826, when his widow, Sarah (BIRKS) ELLIS (1801-1870), remarried Drewry or Drury MARTIN (1797-1869). *See*, Jordan Dodd, *Illinois Mariages to 1850* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 1997).

Thus, if Uncle Paul is correct, the putative handball or racquetball match also occurred in Albion, Edwards County, Illinois, sometime between 3 July 1825 and 15 June 1826.

Nothing more is known of the 1825/1826 handball or racquetball match in Albion, Edwards County, Illinois; however, Dr. John K. ELLIS, Sr. (1922-2000), did receive a letter dated January 6, 1986, from Mrs. Lois Jean Goodson, Secretary of the Edwards County Historical Society, Post Office Box 205, 212 West Main Street, Albion, Illinois, 62806, as follows:

“...As to the athletic event, I shall have to check at the historical society for early newspaper for that date. This is an area of time that the newspapers are sketchy. We have some but not all in sequence. Will write later as to what I find.”

There is no record that Mrs. Goodson ever followed up with Dr. Ellis; however, it is still possible that the Edwards County Historical Society may have an early newspaper of the 1825/1826 handball or racquetball match (maybe even “in sequence”).

The seminal conclusion that we draw from this evidence is that John ELLIS (1795-1826) most likely was the youngest child of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817).

### **Martha (ELLIS) FIELD (1802-1832)**

Most researchers believe that Martha (ELLIS) FIELD (1802-1832) was a child of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and his first wife, Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773- ). *See*, Isaac Barnett Ellis, *Ellis and Related Families* (Pittsburg, Kansas: Self-Published Manuscript, 1996), pp. 71-72.

As noted above, Dr. John Kenneth ELLIS (1922-2000) believed that Martha (ELLIS) FIELD (1802-1832) was a child of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and his second wife, Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850). *See also*, Billie Snead Webb, *Randleman, Rendleman, Rintelman Reunion 1981* (Corvallis, Oregon: 1983), p. 155 (“James [James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883)], Mariah [Mariah (ELLIS) CRIST (1831-1904)] (who married John Crisp [John CRIST (1838-1925)], an architect in Columbia, M[issouri]), and Martha [Martha (ELLIS) FIELD (1802-1832)], were children of John Ellis’ [James ELLIS, Sr.’s (1772-1847),] second marriage.”) (emphasis added).

However, nobody seems to know what happened to Martha (ELLIS) FIELD (1802-1832).

Martha (ELLIS) FIELD (1802-1832) probably was a child of the first marriage of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817). See, Appendix 6, Wm. S. Bryan and Robert Rose, *Excerpt of A History of the Pioneer Families of Missouri* (St. Louis, Missouri: Bryan, Brand & Co., 1876), Montgomery County, p. 256 (“James Ellis settled on Bear creek in 1819. He married Elizabeth Bowen, and they had six children--Edmund, Benjamin, Leeper, William, Fanny, and Martha.” (emphasis added)).

However, Martha (ELLIS) FIELD (1802-1832) appears to have lived, married, and died predominantly in Edwards County, Illinois. Martha (ELLIS) FIELD (1802-1832) most likely was born 1802 Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee. Unlike most of her brothers--who in 1819 went to reside with Benjamin ELLIS, Jr. (1763-1851), the brother of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), in South Bear Creek, Montgomery County, Missouri--Martha (ELLIS) FIELD (1802-1832) appears to have remained behind with her father, James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and her oldest brother, John ELLIS (1795-1826), in Albion, Edwards County, Illinois.

Martha (ELLIS) FIELD (1802-1832) married, as his first wife, 3 March 1825, Edwards County, Illinois (by Moses Michels, J.P.), Richard FIELD (1778-1860), born about 1778 England; died September 1859 Edwards County, Illinois (of old age). It is believed that Martha (ELLIS) FIELD (1802-1832) died prematurely (perhaps in childbirth) at some time prior to 13 December 1832, because Richard FIELD (1778-1860) married second 13 December 1832 Edwards County, Illinois, Elizabeth (LAMBERT) FIELD (1771-1860).

The seminal conclusion that to be drawn from this evidence is that, although Martha (ELLIS) FIELD (1802-1832) most likely was a child of the first marriage of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817), she, nevertheless, was well-known to the second family of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850), because she appears to have lived, married, and died predominantly in Edwards County, Illinois.

### **Mariah (ELLIS) CRIST (1831-1904)**

Mariah (ELLIS) CRIST (1831-1904), born May 1831 Wayne County, Illinois; died 1900/1904 Columbia, Boone County, Missouri, was the

youngest child of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1773-1817).

As previously noted, Mariah (ELLIS) CRIST (1831-1904) is to be found in the 1850 United States Federal Census for Searcy County, Arkansas, living in Wiley’s Cove, Searcy County, Arkansas, in the household of “Marcus P. Hogan” [Marcus Preston HOGAN (1817-1897)], whose niece, Amanda Carline (SANDERS) ELLIS (1839-1928), married 1 January 1862 Leslie, Searcy County, Arkansas, James Houston ELLIS (1843-1928), the son of Jefferson ELLIS (1825-1859) and Charlotte “Lottie” (BEGLEY) ELLIS (1821-1920), and the grandson of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850).

Mariah (ELLIS) CRIST (1831-1904) married 10 February 1857 Knox County, Missouri, John CRIST (1838-1925), an architect, contractor, and builder by trade, born 6 December 1838 Higginsport, Brown County, Ohio; died 21 February 1925 Columbia, Boone County, Missouri, son of John Elias CRIST (1805-1860), and Sarah (NEE?) CRIST (1810- ).

In his 1903 “A History of the Ellis Family,” Uncle Paul relates the following information concerning the life of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883):

“Shortly after John Ellis, Jr.’s [John ELLIS’s (1795-1826)] death, John Ellis, Sr. [James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847)] and his family having decided that the country around Albion [Wayne County, Illinois] was becoming too thickly settled, decided to move to Arkansas. That was in the year 1836. He got as far that year as one mile southeast of Anna, (Illinois) and remained there until the next spring when he continued his journey onward. James Ellis [James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883)], a son by his second wife, [Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850)], had been learning the tanner’s trade from [Drake Harris Rendleman, Sr.] in Jonesboro, Ill. (Union County). He remained to finish learning the trade and was afterwards to join his father, but the thread of romance was too strong. He had met a Miss Knight (Matilda) [Matilda (KNIGHT) ELLIS (1823-1847)] whom he afterwards married. Two children were born to them, Catherine [Catherine Marie (ELLIS) MUSGRAVE (1845-1906)] and Thomas [Thomas ELLIS (1847-1851)]. The mother died at Thomas’s birth. He

[Thomas ELLIS (1847-1851)] was taken by Rhedymyers, but only lived to be four years old. Catherine Ellis married Richard Musgraves [Richard U. MUSGRAVE (1841-1914)].....” See, Appendix 3 attached hereto.

Although Uncle Paul states that Thomas ELLIS (1847-1851) was “taken by Rhedymyers,” this may not be entirely correct. In an undated letter from Phyllis Ruth (ELLIS) IMHOFF (1919-2012), the following statement is attributed to Maude Mae “Aunt Maude” ELLIS (1892-1987), the granddaughter of James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883):

“Aunt Maude said she doesn’t know anything about John Ellis [(1795-1826)] in Albion. She knew about John Crisp [John CRIST (1838-1925)] but she didn’t know who[m] he married [John CRIST (1838-1925), married, as his first wife, Mariah (ELLIS) CRIST (1831-1904), the first paternal great aunt of Aunt Maude].

“My G[reat] [*sic*] Grandfather [James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883)] had two children[:] Catherine & Tom. Catherine was reared by her father [James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883)]. Tom was reared by Tom Crisp [John CRIST (1838-1925)] in Columbia, [Boone County,] Missouri.” (Emphasis added.)

Thus, it would appear that, although Thomas ELLIS (1847-1851) initially may have been “taken by Rhedymyers,” he actually was reared by John CRIST (1838-1925) and Mariah (ELLIS) CRIST (1831-1904), his own uncle and aunt.

It is known that, from December 29, 1882, to January 5, 1883, John CRIST (1838-1925) and Mariah (ELLIS) CRIST (1831-1904) travelled from Columbia, Boone County, Missouri, to Anna, Union County, Illinois, to visit James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), shortly before he died 9 December 1883 Anna, Union County, Illinois. See, *Missouri Statesman*, 29 December 1882, p. 3, col. 2 (“[John Crist] and his wife left for Illinois.”); *Columbia Statesman*, 5 January 1883, p. 3, col. 1 (“[John Crist] and wife return from Ill.”).

The seminal conclusion to be drawn from this evidence is that Mariah (ELLIS) CRIST (1831-1904), the youngest daughter of James ELLIS, Sr.



(1772-1847), and his second wife, Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850), had some sort of connection to Missouri, because, shortly after the death of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), in 1847 in Searcy County, Arkansas, Mariah (ELLIS) CRIST (1831-1904) was found in the 1850 United States Federal Census for Searcy County, Arkansas, living with relatives in Wiley’s Cove, Searcy County, Arkansas; and then less than seven years later, Mariah (ELLIS) CRIST (1831-1904) married 10 February 1857 Knox County, Missouri, John CRIST (1838-1925).

It should be noted that James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), named his first son Thomas ELLIS (1847-1851). This circumstance suggests the possibility that James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), might descend from one of the sons of deceased Thomas ELLIS (1684-1719).

### **Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885)**

Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885) supposedly was the oldest child of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and his first wife, Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817). In fact, many researchers show Frances “Fanny” ELLIS (1819-1885), born 13 June 1819 Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee; died 12 October 1885; married (supposedly) 1847, as his second wife, David ELLIS (1811-1855), her first cousin, born 2 July 1811 Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee; died 29 June 1855 Big Spring, Montgomery County, Missouri; buried Ellis Burial Ground, Ellis Farm, Big Spring, Montgomery County, Missouri, son of Benjamin ELLIS, Jr. (1763-1851), and Sarah (COPELAND) ELLIS (1770-1850), and grandson of Benjamin ELLIS, Sr. (1741-1802), and Rachel (PRESNELL) ELLIS (1743-1817).

I believe that Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885), may well have been the youngest child of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850). James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS were married 3 August 1817 Edwards County, Illinois (by Gervase Heazleton, J.P.); therefore, Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817) presumably was dead on or before 3 August 1817.

Unfortunately, there is very little primary source information available for Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885). Although many researchers show that she was born 13 June 1819 Smith (now Trousdale)

County, Tennessee, I do not know upon what authority this birth date and place are based. Perhaps this information derives from a Bible record, but I do not know the source for this information.

Although she occasionally is difficult to locate, Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885) appears consecutively in the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 United States Federal Censuses for Montgomery County, Missouri. In each of these four consecutive censuses, and for a period of thirty years, Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885) consistently reported her age to the census taker reflecting her birth date in 1819/1820. Consequently, Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885) probably was born 13 June 1819 in accordance with the prevailing view.

In addition, in 1850, 1860, and 1880, Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885) told the census taker that she was born in Tennessee. This seems unequivocal enough; however, in 1870, she reportedly told the census taker that she was born in Missouri; and in 1880 she reportedly told the census taker that both her mother and her father were born in Tennessee, as well. It is likely that the census taker simply made a mistake in 1870, because there are three other household members with reported birth places in Missouri. However, James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), was born in North Carolina, and not in Tennessee. Although it is true that James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), lived in Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee, from about 1798 to about 1813 or 1815, he most assuredly was not born there. Likewise, both Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817) and Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850) were born in South Carolina, and not in Tennessee. Therefore, the census information with respect to the place of birth of Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885) is probably wrong. Even though Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885) supposedly told the census taker in 1850, 1860, and 1880 that she was born in Tennessee, this information is suspect, because she also told the census taker in 1880 that both her mother and her father were born in Tennessee, as well, which information probably is untrue.

In any event, three years after the death of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), in 1847 in Searcy County, Arkansas, Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885), appears in the 1850 United States Federal Census for Montgomery County, Missouri, living in the household of her brother (or half-brother) Benjamin ELLIS, Jr. (1805-1881), and his wife, Catherine

“Kitty” (MCGARVIN) ELLIS (1809-1881).<sup>9</sup> It is possible that, like her sister (or half-sister) Mariah (ELLIS) CRIST (1831-1904), Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885) resided with James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), in 1847 in Searcy County, Arkansas, and then relocated to Montgomery County, Missouri, at some time prior to 1850.

It should be noted that, in the same 1850 United States Federal Census for Montgomery County, Missouri, in which Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885) appears, living in the household of her brother (or half-brother) Benjamin ELLIS, Jr. (1805-1881), and his wife, Catherine “Kitty” (MCGARVIN) ELLIS (1809-1881), there also appears, living in the same household, an unidentified “James Ellis,” who is listed immediately above Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885). This unidentified “James Ellis” reportedly told the census taker that he was born in 1817/1818 in Tennessee (just as Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885) reportedly told the census taker that she was born in 1819/1820 in Tennessee). This unidentified “James Ellis” most likely is either a brother (or a half-brother) of Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885); or else, he is the first husband of Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885). After all, Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885) had a predilection for marrying close relatives, in that her husband (or her second husband) David ELLIS (1811-1855) was her first cousin. This unidentified “James Ellis” was not James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), who appears consecutively in the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 United States Federal Censuses for Union County, Illinois.

If, on the one hand, this unidentified “James Ellis” was the first husband of Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885), then I am uncertain of his identity. If, on the other hand, this unidentified “James Ellis” was the brother of Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885), then

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<sup>9</sup>It should be noted that Catherine “Kitty” (MCGARVIN) ELLIS (1809-1881) was the sister of Sarah Elizabeth (MCGARVIN) ELLIS (1812-1842); that Sarah Elizabeth (MCGARVIN) ELLIS (1812-1842) was the first wife of David ELLIS (1811-1855); that Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885) married (supposedly) 1847, as his second wife, David ELLIS (1811-1855), her first cousin; and that David ELLIS (1811-1855) is shown (widowed) in the 1850 United States Federal Census for Montgomery County, Missouri (as family number 738) living near Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885) (as family number 736).

this circumstance might adversely impact the thesis that James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), had two wives. This is because James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), already had a son, James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), whose existence is well-documented. Although I am reluctant to make a bigamist of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), I do note that James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), was something of a “travelling salesman,” who was “away from home for long periods of time.” As such, it is entirely conceivable that, not only did James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), have two wives, but that he also had two separate families, possibly at one and the same time: one family in Montgomery County, Missouri, and one family in Edwards County, Illinois (and later in Wayne County, Illinois, and later in Searcy County, Arkansas).

In his 1903 “A History of the Ellis Family,” Uncle Paul noted:

“...A wheelright was very much in demand in those days. There was such a great demand for the work that Mr. Ellis [James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847)] would be gone sometimes a couple of weeks or even a month working at his trade before returning home.

“Mr. Ellis was a very industrious man. When he was home he would spend the evenings in making buttons from shells and etc., also constructing other articles that were much in demand.” See, Appendix 3 attached hereto.

The seminal conclusions to be drawn from this evidence are that Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885) most likely was the youngest child of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and his second wife, Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850), rather than the oldest child of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and his first wife, Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817); that Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885) probably was born 13 June 1819 Albion, Edwards County, Illinois, rather than Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee; and that Frances “Fanny” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1819-1885) may have had either a brother (or a half-brother) named “James Ellis,” who was born in 1817/1818 in Tennessee (or Illinois).

## **CONCLUSION**

I believe that James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), had two families. More specifically, I believe that James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), married first 1793

South Carolina, Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817); and that James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), married second 3 August 1817 Edwards County, Illinois, Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850).

The evidence supporting this belief is entirely circumstantial. I admittedly do not have any primary source evidence to support this belief. However, when taken together, the circumstantial evidence for the two wives of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), is compelling.

If I am correct, then this would be the most progress that has been made on this Ellis family line in over 110 years, ever since Paul Hercules ELLIS (1881-1948) authored his 1903 “A History of the Ellis Family.”

## APPENDIX 1

### The Line Behind James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847)

The line behind James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), is fairly well-known, and it generally runs, as follows:

John ELLIS, Sr. (1607-1657), immigrant and progenitor of our Ellis family in America (emigrated 27 August 1642 from Yorkshire, England, to Nansemond River, Upper Norfolk County, Virginia), born 1607 Yorkshire, England; died about 1657 Anne Arundel County, Maryland; married 18 November 1629 Kent County, England, Elizabeth (MURRELL) ELLIS, daughter of Gregory MURRELL and Unknown (NEE?) MURRELL.

John ELLIS, Jr. (1630-1669), born about 1630 Yorkshire, England; died after 1 October 1668 (will written)/before 6 November 1669 (will probated) Kent County, Maryland; married second about 1660 Kent County, Maryland, Elizabeth (JOANES) ELLIS (1639-1668), born 1639 England; died 1665/1668 Kent County, Maryland, daughter of James JOANES (1610- ) and Mary (NEE?) JOANES (1612- ).

John ELLIS III (1661-1719), a carpenter by trade,<sup>10</sup> born 29 July 1661 Kent County, Maryland; died before 17 March

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<sup>10</sup>J. D. Ellis, *The John Ellis Family of Kent Isle, Maryland* (unpublished manuscript), p. 9, states:

“Early on in his relatively short life of 58 years, [John ELLIS III (1661-1719)] learned the Carpentry trade, and taught these skills to his sons Benjamin, Thomas and William. It is not known whether his father, [John ELLIS, Jr. (1630-1669)], was a carpenter by trade or not. [John ELLIS III (1661-1719)] may have acquired his carpentry training from John Griffith (his first guardian) or, from other individuals associated with Michael Miller. There is one sure bet that [John ELLIS III (1661-1719)] did not learn his tradesman carpentry skills from his guardian, the lawyer and gentleman, Michael Miller. [John ELLIS III (1661-1719)], son of the Quaker, [John ELLIS, Jr.

1718/1719 St. Paul's Parish, Kent County, Maryland; buried Christ Church Cemetery, St. Paul's Parish, Kent County, Maryland; married second 2 April 1703 St. Paul's Parish, Kent County, Maryland, Margaret Elizabeth "Mary" (COFFIN) ELLIS (1680-1718), born 1680 Kent County, Maryland, died after 1718 St. Paul's Parish, Kent County, Maryland.

William ELLIS (1704-1761), a carpenter by trade,<sup>11</sup> born 12 August 1704 Sewall's Branch, Kent County, Maryland; died 28 December 1761 Deep River, Rowan County, North Carolina; married 1727 Sewall's Branch, Kent County, Maryland, Mary Jane (CLARKE) ELLIS (1707-1781), born 10 May 1707 Kent County, Maryland; died 1781 Orange County, North Carolina, daughter of John Henry CLARKE, Jr. (1681-1759) and Rebecca (JOANES) CLARKE.

Benjamin ELLIS, Sr. (1741-1802), born 19 September 1741 Kent County, Maryland; died 1802 Hartsville, Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee; married 1761 Anson County, North Carolina, Rachel (PRESNELL) ELLIS (1743-1817), born 1743 Brunswick County, Virginia; died 1808/1817 Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee, daughter of Jacob Willis PRESNELL (1714-1800) and Martha (SPENCER) PRESNELL (1720-1800).

James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847).

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(1630-1669)], did embrace the Faith of the Church of England, probably due to the early actions of his Guardian, Michael Miller.”

<sup>11</sup>Isaac Barnett Ellis, *Ellis and Related Families* (Pittsburg, Kansas: Self-Published Manuscript, 1996), p. 66, states:

“[William ELLIS (1704-1761)] was a [c]arpenter by trade, like his father and brother [Benjamin ELLIS (1682-1722)]. One of his landmark structures was[] St. Andrew[‘]s Chapel in Sudlersville, Queen Anne’s County, which was completed in 1730 for a [f]ee of 21,000 lbs. of tobacco.”

The above-described line behind James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), finds support in the following two (2) carefully researched manuscripts: (1) J. D. Ellis, *The John Ellis Family of Kent Isle, Maryland* (unpublished manuscript); and (2) Isaac Barnett Ellis, *Ellis and Related Families* (Pittsburg, Kansas: Self-Published Manuscript, 1996). Although Ellis family researchers may disagree with various portions of the above-listed line, it is believed that this line is adequate as a background for the current purpose of investigating the two families of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847).



## APPENDIX 1

### The Line Behind Dr. John Kenneth ELLIS (1922-2000)

From the unpublished manuscripts of Dr. John Kenneth ELLIS (1922-2000), the established Ellis family line from James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), to Dr. John Kenneth Ellis (1920-2000) is, as follows:

James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883), born 23 September 1820 Albion, Edwards County, Illinois; died 9 December 1883 Anna, Union County, Illinois; buried December 1883 Casper Cemetery, Anna, Union County, Illinois; married second 4 March 1848 Jonesboro, Union County, Illinois, Louisa Amanda (RENDLEMAN) ELLIS (1830-1908), born 30 January 1830 Jonesboro, Union County, Illinois; died 9 February 1908 Anna, Union County, Illinois; buried 11 February 1908 beside her husband, Casper Cemetery, Anna, Union County, Illinois, daughter of Drake Harris RENDLEMAN, Sr. (1801-1887), and Catherine "Katy" (HUNSAKER) RENDLEMAN (1813-1905).

Calvin ELLIS (1856-1934), a farmer by trade, Director of Anna Shipping Association, President of Casper Cemetery Association, and Director of the Ellis School, born 6 February 1856 Anna, Union County, Illinois; died 18 May 1934 Anna, Union County, Illinois; buried Ellis Plot, Casper Cemetery, Anna, Union County, Illinois; married 4 March 1879 Anna, Union County, Illinois, Elizabeth "Lizzie" (HARTLINE) ELLIS (1863-1906), born 13 April 1863 Anna, Union County, Illinois; died 12 January 1906 Anna, Union County, Illinois; buried beside her husband, Ellis Plot, Casper Cemetery, Anna, Union County, Illinois, daughter of Caleb HARTLINE (1814-1870) and Julia Ann (CARTER) HARTLINE (1824-1897).

Charles Earl ELLIS (1886-1956), born 24 January 1886 Anna, Union County, Illinois; died 17 September 1956 Carbondale, Jackson County, Illinois; buried Oakland Cemetery, Carbondale, Jackson County, Illinois; married 8 January 1908 Jonesboro, Union County, Illinois, Myrtle Helen (BROWN) ELLIS (1888-1981), born 1 January 1888 Jonesboro, Union County, Illinois; died 11 July 1981 Carbondale, Jackson

County, Illinois; buried beside her husband, Oakland Cemetery, Carbondale, Jackson County, Illinois, daughter of James Egbert BROWN (1856-1897) and Alice Frances (TRIPP) BROWN (1861-1935).

Dr. John Kenneth ELLIS (1922-2000).

### **APPENDIX 3**

#### **History of the Ellis Family (1903)**

**By Paul H. Ellis (1881-1948)**

“A HISTORY OF THE ELLIS FAMILY.

“John Ellis came from England about the last part of the eighteenth century. It is not known where he first located when he arrived in this country but within a short time afterwards he located at Albion, Illinois. He was married twice. His last wife was of Scotch descent.

“John Ellis was a wood workman, cabinet maker. He made looms, spinning wheels, furniture of all kinds, horse powered mills and etc. In those days they didn't have the large iron foundries and steel construction works, and everything had to be made from wood or if iron was to be used the construction was very crude. A wheelright was very much in demand in those days. There was such a great demand for the work that Mr. Ellis would be gone sometimes a couple of weeks or even a month working at his trade before returning home.

“Mr. Ellis was a very industrious man. When he was home he would spend the evenings in making buttons from shells and etc., also constructing other articles that were much in demand. He was somewhat conservative in his speech, but when he did speak his ideas were well put which all went to show that his mind had not been void of deep thinking.

“There is not much known about the children from his first wife. One child, John Ellis, Jr. was a great athlete. He was very good at boxing, wrestling and in fact all the athletic sports. He was very fond of handball. He was quite superior in the science of the game to his opponents in Albion so the people there made up a purse to challenge a man to come over from England to compete with John Ellis, Jr. A special court was made for the game. A brick wall several feet high and several yards long was made and special rackets were permitted to be used. The object of the game was to return the ball from the first bounce against the wall either hard or otherwise just so it bounced within the stated limits of the court. The contestants were very thinly clothed as the game was quite strenuous. The contest lasted for several hours until finally the Englishman had to submit to the local

contestant. The attendants on the Englishman quickly wrapped him in a blanket and administered stimulants. John Ellis being a local man, the conditions being somewhat adverse to what we are used to today, was permitted to care for himself. He, being somewhat fatigued sat down on a bench nearby and cooling too quickly contracted pneumonia and died a few days later. John Ellis, Jr. resembled his father very much. On several occasions after he had become grown he was mistaken for John Ellis, Sr.

“Shortly after John Ellis, Jr.’s death, John Ellis, Sr. and his family having decided that the country around Albion was becoming too thickly settled, decided to move to Arkansas. That was in the year 1836. He got as far that year as one mile southeast of Anna, (Illinois) and remained there until the next spring when he continued his journey onward. James Ellis, a son by his second wife, had been learning the tanner’s trade from [Drake Harris Rendleman, Sr.] in Jonesboro, Ill. (Union County). He remained to finish learning the trade and was afterwards to join his father, but the thread of romance was too strong. He had met a Miss Knight (Matilda) whom he afterwards married. Two children were born to them, Catherine and Thomas. The mother died at Thomas’s birth. He was taken by Rhedymyers, but only lived to be four years old. Catherine Ellis married Richard Musgraves. She died from a stroke of paralysis in 190[6]. They had five children in order, Mary, Walter, Willis, Louie, and Ira.

“A few years later James Ellis married Louisa Rendleman. 1848. At that time he was living 1 mile northwest of Jonesboro. Two years later he sold the farm he lived on and bought a place from John Hartline place which was 1½ miles north of Anna (Illinois) and joined the Anna State Hospital grounds. While he lived on the old Rhinehart place James Ellis farmed and worked at the tanning business. After he bought the Hartline place he farmed and teamed. A few years later he bought 80 acres joining Grassy lake 1½ miles north of Willard’s Landing.

“Eight children were born to James Ellis by his second wife. Charles Ellis married Emma Hammonds and lived at Cobden, Ill. He was a blacksmith. Four children were born to them. Four girls, (1) May married Loch Leyerle. They have six children. Ellis, Cleta, Lizzie, Addie, Clara, and Walter. (2) Addie has three children, Beulah, Barbara, and [Anna Mae]. Addie married George Pauly. (3) Louisa married David Wells. Lives at Mt. View, Okla. They have three children, Charles, Margaret, and Birdie. (4)

Augusta married Will Lyterback. Live at Merced, Cal. They have three children, Zelma, Robert, and Dorothy May.

“Melinda Ellis married Will Wiloughby. Lived in Anna, Ill. They have nine children. (1) Ernest, (2) Harry, (3) Ford, (4) Bertha, (5) Ralph, (6) Paul, (7) Edith, (8) Frank. Melinda Willoughby died Feb. 1918

“Calvin Ellis married Lizzie Hartline. Lives at Anna, Ill. Twelve children were born to them.

“Paul Hercules born July 26 1881. Married Edith Tripp. Live at Jonesboro, Ill. Have one child Helen.

“Frank Scott was born Aug. 4 1882, married Bessie Davie. Lives at Ware, Ill. Have five children. Elnora, Samuel, Mildred, Margaret, and Nell Louise.

“Fannie Ellis was born Aug 29, 1883. Married Cheney Gear. Lives at Jonesboro, Ill. Have four children. Cleta, Mary, Ruth, and Ellis. Fannie lives on the place where Great Grandma Catherine Hunsaker Rendleman was born and raised.

“Sidney Minnie was born Oct. 17, 1884. Married Harry L. Hartman. Lives in E. St. Louis, Ill. Charles E. Ellis was born Jan. 24, 1886. Married Myrtle Brown. Live at Anna, Ill. They have six children, Charline, Calvin, Robert, Jean, Phyllis Ruth, and John.

“Claude E. was born June 9, 1887. Married Nonah Rinehart. Lives at Reynoldsville, Ill. Have three children. Maude, Lucille and Calvin.

“Anna Louise was born Jan. 26, 1889.

“Maude Mae was born Aug. 15, 1892.

“Nell Grace was born June 24, 1894.

“George J. was born June 27, 1899.

“James Caleb was born June 27, 1899.

“Eva, the oldest child, was born Feb. 23, 1880. Died Aug. 19, 1881.

“Lizzie Ellis died Jan. 12, 1906.

“Flora Ellis married Jeff Cassel. Live in Walter, Okla. Have six children. Minnie, Mayme, John, Ben, Ione, and Arthur.

“James Ellis married Martha Heileg. Live at Jonesboro, Ill. Have four children. Opal who married Geo. Bartruff. Merrill who married Dennis Howeinstein; Zola who married Curtis Hunsaker, and Hazel who is not married.

“John Ellis married Mame Stewart. Lives in Muskogee, Okla. Have two children. Ida who married Earl Catchem, and Goldie who married Ellis Gossitt.”<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup>In 1993, Dr. John K. Ellis (1922-2000) appended the following footnote to History of the Ellis Family (1903) by Paul H. Ellis (1881-1948):

“Paul H. Ellis, our uncle and our father's oldest brother, wrote the original history of the family in 1903. Based upon the above dates of births, deaths, etc., this history was revised between the years 1922, the date of birth of John K. Ellis, and 1926, the date of the birth of Gerald V. Ellis, whose name does not appear above as the seventh son of Charles E. Ellis, our father.”

## APPENDIX 4

### **The Two Families of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847)**

James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), born 6 January 1772 Tryon (then Rutherford, now Cleveland) County, North Carolina; died 1847 Searcy County, Arkansas; married first 1793 South Carolina, Elizabeth BOWEN (1773-1817); married second 3 August 1817 Edwards County, Illinois, Mary “Polly” HUNT (1790-1850).

Elizabeth BOWEN (1773-1817),<sup>13</sup> born 1773 Ninety-Six District (then Spartanburg District, then Spartanburg County), South Carolina.

Mary “Polly” HUNT (1790-1850), born about 1790 Greenville County, South Carolina; died after 1850, daughter of John Thomas HUNT, Sr. (1757-1822), Revolutionary War Soldier from South Carolina, and Martha (JENKINS) HUNT (1758-1840).

Children of James ELLIS, Sr., and Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS:

1. John ELLIS (1795-1826), born about 1795 Greenville County, South Carolina; died between 3 July 1825 and 15 June 1826 Bonpas Township, Edwards (then Lawrence, now Richland) County, Illinois; married 20 March 1819 Edwards County, Illinois (by John Depew, J.P.), as her first husband,<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup>It is likely that Elizabeth (BOWEN) ELLIS (1773-1817) died before 3 August 1817 Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee, because James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), married second 3 August 1817 Edwards County, Illinois, Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-1850).

<sup>14</sup>Sarah (BIRKS) ELLIS (1801-1870), married second 15 June 1826 Edwards County, Illinois (by Joel Churchill, J.P.), as his second wife, Drewry or Drury MARTIN (1797-1869), born 17 November 1797 South Carolina; died 11 January 1869 Logan County, Illinois; buried January 1869 Lake Bank Cemetery, Logan County, Illinois. Drewry or Drury MARTIN

Sarah (BIRKS) ELLIS (1801-1870), born 27 February 1801 Georgia; died 9 December 1870 Laenna Township, Logan County, Illinois; buried December 1870 Lake Bank Cemetery, Logan County, Illinois, daughter of Richard BIRKS (1764-1839) and Cynthia (MCCRACKEN) BIRKS (1769-1819).

2. Willis ELLIS (1799- ), born 1799 Sumner (then Smith, now Trousdale) County, Tennessee.

3. Martha ELLIS (1802-1832), born 1802 Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee, died before 13 December 1832 Edwards County, Illinois; married 3 March 1825 Edwards County, Illinois (by Moses Michels, J.P.), as his first wife,<sup>15</sup> Richard FIELD (1778-1860), born about 1778 England; died September 1860 Edwards County, Illinois.

4. Benjamin ELLIS (1805-1881), born 29 May 1805 Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee; died 23 August 1881 near Readsville, Callaway County, Missouri; buried August 1881 Bethel United Methodist Church Cemetery, Readsville, Callaway County, Missouri; married 30 May 1829 Montgomery County, Missouri, Catharine “Kitty” (MCGARVIN) ELLIS (1809-1881), born 3 December 1809 Ohio; died 20 July 1881 Callaway County, Missouri; buried July 1881 Bethel United Methodist Church Cemetery, Readsville, Callaway County, Missouri, daughter of Dennis MCGARVIN, Sr. (1776-1849), and Sarah (CROW) MCGARVIN (1783-1858).

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(1797-1869) married first Sarah “Sally” (RAMSEY) MARTIN (1790-1824), born 1790 Virginia; died 1824 Bonpas Township, Edwards County, Illinois.

<sup>15</sup>Richard FIELD (1778-1860), married second 13 December 1832 Edwards County, Illinois, Elizabeth (LAMBERT) FIELD (1771-1860), born 1771/1780; died after 1860.



5. Edmund ELLIS (1809 - ),<sup>16</sup> born about 1809 Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee; married Elizabeth (HORTON) ELLIS (1810-1850), born before 1810; died about 1850, daughter of Anthony HORTON (1780-1846) and Christina (MOORE) ELLIS (1785-1825).

6. Eliphas “Leeper” ELLIS (1813-1891), born 24 December 1813 Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee; died 22 December 1891 Moniteau County, Missouri; buried December 1891 Gamble Cemetery, High Point, Moniteau County, Missouri; married about 1842 Montgomery County, Missouri, Grace “Gracie” (ELLIS) ELLIS (1826-1896), his first cousin, once removed, born 26 January 1826 Sumner County, Tennessee; died 10 March 1896 High Point, Moniteau County, Missouri; buried March 1896 Gamble Cemetery, High Point, Moniteau County, Missouri, daughter of John Willis ELLIS (1795-1863) and Rhoda Ann (JOHNSON) ELLIS (1795-1834); granddaughter of Benjamin ELLIS, Jr. (1763-1851), and Sarah (COPELAND) ELLIS (1770-1850); and first great granddaughter of Benjamin ELLIS, Sr. (1741-1802), and Rachel (PRESNELL) ELLIS (1743-1817).

7. Frances “Fanny” ELLIS (1819-1885), born 13 June 1819 Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee;<sup>17</sup> died 12

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<sup>16</sup>Many researchers show Edmund ELLIS (1809- ), born about 1809 Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee, as Edward ELLIS (1797- ), born about 1797 North Carolina. This listing is believed to be wrong for the following two reasons: (1) When carefully examined, the 1850 United States Federal Census for Montgomery County, Missouri, lists “Edmun” ELLIS, born about 1809 Tennessee; and (2) Wm. S. Bryan and Robert Rose, *A History of the Pioneer Families of Missouri* (St. Louis, Missouri: Bryan, Brand & Co., 1876), p. 256 (emphasis added), list the children of “James Ellis” and “Elizabeth Bowen” as “Edmund, Benjamin, Leeper, William, Fanny, and Martha.”

<sup>17</sup>Many researchers show Frances “Fanny” ELLIS (1819-1885) as born 13 June 1819 Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee. Since Frances “Fanny” ELLIS (1819-1885) probably was the daughter of James ELLIS, Sr. (1772-1847), and his second wife, Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS (1790-

October 1885; married 1847, as his second wife,<sup>18</sup> David ELLIS (1811-1855), her first cousin, born 2 July 1811 Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee; died 29 June 1855 Big Spring, Montgomery County, Missouri; buried Ellis Burial Ground, Ellis Farm, Big Spring, Montgomery County, Missouri, son of Benjamin ELLIS, Jr. (1763-1851), and Sarah (COPELAND) ELLIS (1770-1850), and grandson of Benjamin ELLIS, Sr. (1741-1802), and Rachel (PRESNELL) ELLIS (1743-1817).

Children of James ELLIS, Sr., and Mary “Polly” (HUNT) ELLIS:

8. **James ELLIS, Jr. (1820-1883)**, born 23 September 1820 Albion, Edwards County, Illinois; died 9 December 1883 Anna, Union County, Illinois; buried December 1883 Casper Cemetery, Anna, Union County, Illinois; married first 31 August 1843 Union County, Illinois, Matilda (KNIGHT) ELLIS (1823-1847), born about 1823; died about 1847 Union County, Illinois; married second 4 March 1848 Jonesboro, Union County, Illinois, Louisa Amanda (RENDLEMAN) ELLIS (1830-1908),<sup>19</sup> born 30 January 1830 Jonesboro, Union County, Illinois; died 9 February 1908 Anna, Union County, Illinois; buried 11 February 1908 beside her husband, Casper Cemetery, Anna, Union County, Illinois, daughter of Drake

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1850), Frances “Fanny” ELLIS (1819-1885) probably was born 13 Jun 1819 Albion, Edwards County, Illinois, and not Smith (now Trousdale) County, Tennessee.

<sup>18</sup>David ELLIS (1811-1855), married first 1831 Montgomery County, Missouri, Sarah Elizabeth (MCGARVIN) ELLIS (1812-1842), born 1812; died 11 July 1842 Montgomery County, Missouri; daughter of Dennis MCGARVIN, Sr. (1776-1849), and Sarah (CROW) MCGARVIN (1783-1858), and sister of Catharine “Kitty” (MCGARVIN) ELLIS (1809-1881), who married Benjamin ELLIS (1805-1881).

<sup>19</sup>See, biographical sketch of LOUISA AMANDA RENDLEMAN (1830) in Billie Snead Webb, *Randleman, Rendleman, Rintelman Reunion 1981* (Corvallis, Oregon: 1983), pp. 153-54.

Harris RENDLEMAN, Sr. (1801-1887), and Catherine “Katy” (HUNSAKER) RENDLEMAN (1813-1905).

9. Elizabeth ELLIS (1821-1880), born 1821 Albion, Edwards County, Illinois; died after 1880; married first William CARROLTON (1821-1853), born 1821 Illinois; died before 1853 Perry County, Arkansas; married second about 1853 Avery KING (1793-1860), born 28 June 1793 Bedford County, Virginia; died 1860 Searcy County, Arkansas.

10. Nancy ELLIS (1823- ), born 1823 Albion, Edwards County, Illinois; died Arkansas; married 1839 Daniel LANE (1817-1888), born 1817 North Carolina; died 16 October 1888 Arkansas, son of Elias LANE (1779-1870) and Mary Martha (GREEN) LANE (1790-1865).

11. Jefferson ELLIS (1825-1859), born 1825 Albion, Edwards County, Illinois; died 1859 Wiley’s Cove, Searcy County, Arkansas; married 1840 Charlotte “Lottie” (BEGLEY) ELLIS (1821-1920),<sup>20</sup> born 1821 Morgan County, Tennessee; died 29 March 1920 Leslie, Searcy County, Arkansas, daughter of Henry BEGLEY III (1800-1880) and Sophia (DOWDY) BEGLEY (1802-1870).

12. William ELLIS (1827- ), born 1827 Wayne County, Illinois; died Wiley’s Cove, Searcy County, Arkansas; married Delilah Kesiah (BEGLEY) ELLIS (1832- ),<sup>21</sup> born 1832, daughter of Henry BEGLEY III (1800-1880) and Sophia (DOWDY) BEGLEY (1802-1870).

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<sup>20</sup>Charlotte “Lottie” (BEGLEY) ELLIS (1821-1920) was the sister of Delilah Kesiah (BEGLEY) ELLIS (1832- ), who married William ELLIS (1827- ). In other words, these two BEGLEY sisters married two ELLIS brothers.

<sup>21</sup>Delilah Kesiah (BEGLEY) ELLIS (1832- ) was the sister of Charlotte “Lottie” (BEGLEY) ELLIS (1821-1920), who married Jefferson ELLIS (1825-1859). In other words, these two BEGLEY sisters married two ELLIS brothers.

13. Mariah ELLIS (1831-1904), born May 1831 Wayne County, Illinois; died 1900/1904 (probably Columbia, Boone County, Missouri); married 10 February 1857, as his first wife,<sup>22</sup> John CRIST (1838-1925), an architect, contractor, and builder by trade, born 6 December 1838 Higginsport, Brown County, Ohio; died 21 February 1925 Columbia, Boone County, Missouri, son of John Elias CRIST (1805-1860), and Sarah (NEE?) CRIST (1810- ).

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<sup>22</sup>After the death of Mariah (ELLIS) CRIST (1831-1904), John CRIST (1838-1925) married second, as her second husband, Virginia S. (JAMES) (COLE) CRIST (1853-1928), born 2 May 1853 Virginia; died 7 July 1928 Cedar City, Boone County, Missouri, daughter of Isaac Lafayette JAMES (1825- ) and Harriet E. (CARTER) JAMES (1830- ). Virginia S. (JAMES) (COLE) CRIST (1853-1928) married first February 1870 Putnam County, Indiana, William A. COLE (1851-1881), born 1851 Indiana; died 1881 Boone County, Missouri.

## **APPENDIX 5**

### **Excerpt of**

### **History of Clay and Platte Counties, Missouri**

**By Unknown (St. Louis, Missouri: National Historical Company, 1885)**

### **History of Platte County**

“DOCTOR ELLIS

“(Farmer and Stock-raiser, Section 13, Post-office, Waldron).

“Prominent among the old and time-honored citizens of Platte county, whose names deserve to be handed down to future generations as worthy of more than a passing memory, is Doctor Ellis, the subject of the present sketch. For nearly half a century he has been a resident of the county, and has contributed very materially to the advancement of its agricultural and public interests. His father, Benjamin Ellis [(1763-1851)], a native of North Carolina, married there Miss Sarah Copeland [(1770-1850)], of the same State, and in an early day the family settled in Smith county, Tenn. In 1813 they came from there to Montgomery county, Mo., and were among the first five families to locate in this vicinity. This was indeed in the primitive days of the history of Missouri, and to Mr. Ellis many, many changes are visible which have been wrought almost before his very eyes. Benj. Ellis finally took up his location in Texas county, Mo., where he died in his ninety

seventh year, in about 1848. In his family of children were eight sons and five daughters who reached years of maturity, but only Doctor and a brother, now in California, are now living. The former was born in Smith county, Tenn., May 4, 1810, and was brought by his parents to Montgomery county, this State, when but three years old. There his youth and early manhood were spent, and there, too, he married August 20, 1834, Miss Josephine Timberlake, daughter of Broaddus and Susan Timberlake, among the earliest settlers from Kentucky; she was born in Madison county and came to Missouri when 13 years of age. After his marriage Mr. Ellis remained in Montgomery county only one year, then residing in Lafayette county for two years. In the spring of 1837 he came to Platte county and the spring following moved upon the farm which now constitutes his present homestead. He entered the original tract and has added to it from time to time until it now contains 236 acres, all under fence. On the farm are eight living springs which never freeze, and in addition are 2,000 apple trees, besides small fruits. Mr. Ellis was a participant in the Mexican War, being a teamster. He and his wife have been blessed by Heaven with 10 children, viz.: Susannah, who died whilst the wife of S. C. Morrow; Sallie Ann, wife of Perry C. Cavaner; Sophia, wife of Jackson Brink; Josephine, wife of D. A. McKinzie; Robert, married in DeKalb county; B. F., of this county;

William, in Wyandotte county, Kan.; John W., in Platte; Mary J., now Mrs. James Waldron, of Fort Smith, Ark. One child is deceased, Senior D., who died when three years old. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis are members of the M. E. Church South. They are well respected residents of this county.” *See*, *History of Clay and Platte Counties, Missouri*, pp. 886-887 (emphasis added).

## **APPENDIX 6**

**Excerpt of**

**A History of the Pioneer Families of Missouri**

**By Wm. S. Bryan and Robert Rose (St. Louis,  
Missouri: Bryan, Brand & Co., 1876)**

**Montgomery County**

“ELLIS.--Benjamin Ellis settled on South Bear creek in 1815. He was a wheelwright and chair maker, and also had a hand-mill. He had ten children.--James Ellis settled on Bear creek in 1819. He married Elizabeth Bowen, and they had six children--Edmund, Benjamin, Leeper, William, Fanny, and Martha. Benjamin married Catharine McGarvin, and now lives in Callaway county.” See, *A History of the Pioneer Families of Missouri*, p. 256 (emphasis added).