



Through My Eyes  
presents  
The Man They Called  
Charles Ellick

by  
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and  
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There should never be a time when a family cannot come together, even when there are members no longer with us. We want to keep the memories of our past family members within ourselves as we strive in this present day toward the future. This is the first of the Emma Ellick children to be portrayed, as the others will follow.

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# Introduction

Our ancestors came from Africa, south of the Sahara Desert arriving in the British Colonies. Several of the Africans were sold to an Englishman named Ellick. He owned a rice and cotton plantation in Georgia. The Ellick surname originated from the English countries of Durham and Northumberland. Africans were bought into slavery to work the plantation. And prior to the Civil War, Georgia's slaves accounted for nearly fifty percent of the state's total population.

Georgia bordering the Spanish territory of Florida became the refuge route for many slaves. They would escape and find their way to Florida and freedom. There they coexist with the Seminoles Indian tribe in the Florida Wetlands Everglades as they created settlements in close proximity. These runaway slaves aided the Natives in their resistance against the Spaniards. These descendants of Seminole Natives and escaped slaves became known as Black Seminoles.

Florida remained under Spanish rule until the U.S acquired it through the Transcontinental Treaty in 1821. It was clear that the U.S. wanted the Spaniards out of Florida with its rich resources to continue the expansion of white settlements. And Spain decided that it was not economical to continue investing in Florida. With American settlers' encroachments and protecting its borders

between the United States, Central America, and New Spain, which is now Mexico, triggered their decision. With minimum military presence in Florida, hindered Spain's able to restrain the Seminole warriors from crossing the border and raiding American villages. The U.S. concerns pertain to the routine attacks on farms and the rescuing of slaves from their owners.

With the systematically removing of American Indians from the eastern U.S. underway, the Seminoles along with fugitive slaves resisted the order to move to the new Indian territory. Their resistance erupted in the Second Seminole War<sup>i</sup> with the U.S. in 1835. After seven years of battle, the victorious U.S. government forced many Seminoles to the new territory. Those Seminoles that continued to resist were driven hundreds of miles from their homeland deep into the southern Florida swamplands. The white settlers considered that area a wasteland of no use. Florida later became the 27th state of the union in 1845.

Our connecting ancestors begin in the early 1800s in the swamplands of Florida, where runaway black slaves took shelter with the Seminole Indians. Although of different ethnic origins, both groups shared a fierce desire for independence and the common goal of resisting European intrusions into their homeland.

The ancestors of James Ellick (1865) were part of those refugee slaves who took shelter with the Seminole Indians in the swamplands. Many of the Florida blacks also carried a heritage of mixed blood. Florida became a confederation of culturally diverse peoples through intermarriage and tribal adoption.

After coming of age at seventeen, James along with his female companion left the Florida wetlands bound for Madison, Florida.

## THE MAN THEY CALLED

# Charles Ellick

Charles Ellick (1886) was one of the offspring of the interracial union between James Ellick and Ada, a Seminole native.

Out one evening at a local event in Madison, Charles met



Elizabeth Crump of Perry, FL., a town about thirty-five mile away. They became close friends and eventually married. Elizabeth gave birth to their first child, a daughter named



Mattie in 1906. The city of Madison would also be the home for eight more births.

Charles along with his brothers begin working as day labor traveling south along a route of some two hundred miles picking citrus groves from more than 140 varieties with their last stop near Goldsboro, Florida before returning home. He and his saw the advancements and prosperity that Blacks were having in the town of Goldsboro and they wanted to be a part of it