

The Sun Sets for Charles Ellick Wheeler.



***But when the morning comes,
our memories will still rise.***

Arthur L Hathaway and Rochelle Salako



Through My Eyes

presents

The Hidden Roots
of
Charles Ellick Wheeler

by

Arthur L Hathaway

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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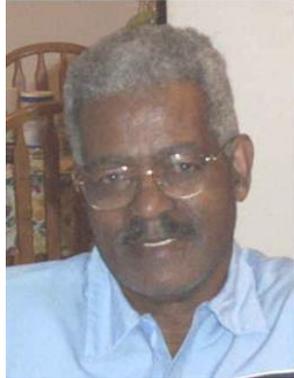
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Visit the author's website at "TheHiddenRoots.com" more writings.

LIFE THROUGH CHARLES ELLICK WHEELER



Charles Ellick Wheeler was born on January 1, 1931 to the late McKenneth Wheeler and Emma Ellick. He was the third of seven children. His family moved from Sanford, Florida to Louisville Kentucky, then in 1946 to Cleveland Ohio.

Becoming of working age, he learned many skills needed to master different jobs. His working knowledge kept him employed. Being the oldest boy, his order of responsibilities always put his mother first, then family. Charles met Ann Sadler and was married in 1947 as both were at the rightful age of sixteen. They contributed to the caring of Charles younger sisters, Agnes, Ida Mae and Willa Mae. He worked at the “Sharp Chemical Solutions Company” in Cleveland for many years.



After his divorce with Ann, Charles married Nettie Pointer. They had one child together; Ellick, as Nettie had three other children from her previous marriage; Roosevelt, Linda and Robin. Charles became the head of household for his family of six, along with supporting his ex-wife financially. With the passing of his mother in 1956, his priorities changed to his family first.

Charles decided to move to Louisville to give his family a fresh start and to be closer to his sister, Dorothy. Initially, he went along and stayed with his sister’s family until he found work. After becoming established, Charles went back to Cleveland in 1962 and returned with his family. Nettie’s

oldest daughter, Linda stayed in Cleveland with her father's family. So just the five, moved to Kentucky in a house on 10th Street near central Louisville.

Upon finding a better job with the General Electric Company and because of this work ethic, he was promoted to Foreman. Nettie also worked at GE as a line inspector. Together, they provided the extra income needed to move the family from the inner-city to the suburbs of Newburg. In 1969 they made another move to a Louisville upscale community called Okolona. They were the first Black family to move in that area. Charles was admired for being ambitious and not setting limits on himself.

His work ethic and support is something that his oldest son, Roosevelt recalls. He remember him saying "I may first see a job that I think can't be done, then I look beyond the "can't" to get it done". He mentored Roosevelt as a student on how to work hard and get things done right. This is something that a person can carry through life, no matter what the situation is.

In 1973, Charles and Nettie were divorced. He moved back to Cleveland two months before his daughter Robin gave birth to her first son, LaJuane. Robin had mentioned that her dad went to buy a pack of cigarettes and never returned. She was always a daddy's girl and was devastated of her sudden life change. During those times children were usually not informed when parents were divorced. Charles remarried his ex-wife Ann as an attempt for a new start. However, he stayed in touch with his Louisville family through his daughter.



Robin married her son's father in 1976 and they had a daughter, Vanisha. Their marriage ended in 1988. Charles returned to Louisville after divorcing Ann and moved in with Robin to help out with his grand children while she attended nursing school. After Robin's graduation in 1990, he went to work at Tri City in Louisville. He eventually moved in with his second wife, Nettie and remarried in 1991.



He joined the Jehovah Witness Church and attended on a regular basis. He continued working full time until suffering a stroke in 1994. Unfortunately, he no longer could work at Tri City after his stroke due to signs of dementia. However, that did not stop him from finding work at the Cintas Laundry Company. Even after being involved in a car accident that put him on disability, he still managed to work part time.

Robin and her children moved to Atlanta in 1995 to be close to her brother, Roosevelt. They decided to make Atlanta their home. A tragic accident took Vanisha's life on Nov. 26, 1995 when she was hit by a car while coming home from work. The memories of her daughter's death were too much for Robin to stay in Atlanta. She and her son moved back to Louisville with her mom and dad till the end of 1996.

Charles and Nettie were supportive in helping Robin continue life without her daughter. There were times when Robin wanted to end her life, which put Charles back into God's word through the Bible to find support for him and her. This turmoil help Charles understand that he needed more than just his strength to get his little girl through this situation. He knew that only God could supply the needs to get them through this. In 2002, Charles renewed his relationship with Christ and joined the "Original Church of God". He started back to studying the Bible as his guide for life.

Nettie passed away in 2005 from kidney cancer and buried in Atlanta near her granddaughter, as that was her wish. Charles began to show signs of second degree dementia as he became more forgetful. He had to move in with Robin and her husband, but after a period of time he was moved to an assisted living facility. However, due to the advancement of the dementia, he was moved to a nursing home in 2011 which was one of the hardest thing Robin and the family had to do. His baby girl, Robin would visit him at least every other day. She worked at the faculty so she could ensure he was properly taken care of.

In April of 2017 Charles' health began to fail rapidly. He did not want Robin to worry, so he would tell her that he was ok. Charles health had gotten to the point that he could no longer feed himself. Robin would come in on some mornings during work just to feed him breakfast. One morning while she was feeding him, he looked at her and said "you're tired, you go home and I'm going home".

Robin knew he did not have much time left so she called her brothers so they could come and be with him. He was not able to talk to them, but Robin got near him as he opened his eyes and was trying to say something. Robin leaned over closer and his lips were poke out as he kissed her cheek several times and smiled. Charles was telling his family good bye.

On his last day, Robin whispered to him that she would be ok. She repeated to him that she loved him dearly and will always miss him. He leaned up looked towards the window and said

“mama, mama, mama”. He knew his mom was waiting for him. Robin watched her father peacefully take his last breath on May 3 at 9:30 a.m. as he went home to be with Emma.



Agnes Banks, Ida Mae Beard, Charles Wheeler, Willa Mae Grimes

Dedicated to the Eyes of the Family

A Message from the Authors



**Couldn't find a book about our personal history,
so we decided to write one.**

Always putting God first and thanking Him, for without Him none of this would be possible. Secondly, we want to acknowledge all who had contributed to this piece of history. It could not have been done without their continuous dedication toward a common cause.

We are the keepers of our history, so we should be concern about losing our past. Are we in touch with our past? How many generations can we go back with a personal relationship? We should never go so far away from home that we can't get back? We all need to pick up the legacy and continue the journey.

Please go to my website "**TheHiddenRoots.com**" for more on family history and available books.