

Joel Ellis (1784-1871) Family Record

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 2001

Jerry Long copied the following on 24 Nov 1986 from a transcription by Harry D. Tinsley of the Joel Ellis family bible. Mr. Tinsley, of No Creek, Ohio County, KY, made his listing about 1960. The bible was then in the possession of Mrs. Tiny Yeiser Ellis (1887-1963), who resided near Beda, in Ohio County, KY. She was the widow of Samuel Hill Ellis (1881-1955) and they had no children. Mr. Tinsley thought that when Mrs. Ellis died the bible was sold at the estate sale. Mr. Ellis received the bible from his father, Alexander Campbell Ellis (1842-1904). Sam Ellis' grandfather, Joel Ellis (1784-1871) originally began the family record in the bible. The last recorded date in the bible was in 1907.

Marriages:

Joel Ellis & Polly Smith was married 25 October 1806.
Lydia Ellis was married 6 November 1828.
Elizabeth Ellis was married 28 September 1830.
Jane Ellis was married 27 December 1831.
Samuel Ellis was married 11 October 1841.
Joel Ellis & Jane H. Mason was married 3 August 1841.
My father & mother marriage, John Ellis & Sarah Parrish, 2 October 1770.
A. C. Ellis & Mary E. Hill was married 31 March 1868.
C. H. Ellis & Bettie A. Waller was married 1 July 1869.
E. P. Ellis & Robert Hays was married 19 March 1872.

Births:

Joel Ellis was born 24 November 1784.
Polly Ellis was born 16 November 1788.
Jane Ellis, his 2nd wife, was born 15 January 1811.
Lydia Ellis was born 5 December 1807.
Elizabeth Ellis was born 27 December 1809.
Jane Ellis was born 19 January 1812.
William Ellis was born 26 April 1814.
Sarah Ellis was born 5 February 1817.
Nancy P. Ellis was born 15 September 1819.
Samuel Ellis was born 18 November 1821.
Joel D. Ellis was born 13 April 1824.
Robert Lewis Ellis was born 9 September 1826.
John James Ellis was born 28 May 1829.
Henry Clay Ellis was born 10 November 1831.
Edward B. Ellis was born 19 June 1835.
My second family by second wife:
Alexander C. Ellis was born 27 July 1842.

Charles H. Ellis was born 18 January 1844.
Elvira P. Ellis was born 2 November 1847.
Joseph M. Ellis was born 26 September 1849.

My father's family record:

John Ellis, my father, was born 29 January 1749.
Sarah Ellis, my mother, was born 20 April 1751.
Polly Ellis was born 29 August 1772.
William Ellis was born 6 April 1774.
James Ellis was born 5 June 1776.
John Ellis was born 3 June 1778.
David Ellis was born 27 March 1780.
Elizabeth Ellis was born 27 June 1782.
Henry Ellis was born 17 November 1786.
Robert Ellis was born 4 August 1789.
Parrish Ellis was born 21 July 1791.
Timoth Ellis was born 25 November 1792.

A. C. & Mary E. Ellis family:

Gerret Fitzhugh Ellis was born Sunday, 17 January 1869.
Bennett Stevens Ellis was born Sunday, 27 November 1870.
Pearla Ellis was born Tuesday, 23 January 1872.
Charles H. Ellis was born Sunday, 27 July 1873.
Alexander Everett Ellis was born Sunday, 16 June 1875.
Warren Ernest Ellis was born Sunday, 16 June 1875.
Blanton Howard Ellis was born 20 July 1877.
Z. Wayne Ellis was born 6 February 1880.
Samuel Hill Ellis was born 29 June 1881.

Deaths:

Elizabeth Ellis departed this life 22 October 1831.
Sarah Ellis departed this life 12 April 1835.
Polly, consort of Joel Ellis, departed this life 21 February 1841 in her 53rd year.
Joel D. Ellis departed this life in New Orleans 24 June 1846.
Samuel Ellis departed this life 21 October 1846.
Lydia Ellis, my daughter, departed this life 11 February 1849.
William Ellis departed this life 4 October 1854.
Edward B. Blanton, my son-in-law, departed this life 6 February 1835(?).
Joseph M. Ellis departed this life 18 February 1873 at 10 p.m.
Charles H. Ellis departed this life 22 February 1873 between the hours of 11 & 12 a.m.
Robert L. Ellis departed this life 7 August 1873.
Edward B. Ellis departed this life 20 September 1877 at 9 a.m.
Jane Ellis McLean departed this life 21 June 1899.
Nancy Ellis Craig departed this life 27 June 1899.
Gerret Fitzhugh Ellis departed this life 6 April 1883 at 6 p.m.
Elvira P. Hays, nee Ellis, departed this life 12 July 1888.
Pearla Ellis departed this life 12 June 1890.
My father, mother, brothers & sisters:

John Ellis departed this life 15 January 1794.
Sarah Ellis departed this life 1 February 1794.
Polly Thomas departed this life 20 March 1794.
Parrish Ellis departed this life 30 November 1795.
James Ellis departed this life 16 December 1800.
William Ellis departed this life 12 December 1812.
David Ellis departed this life 4 January 1821.
Timoth Ellis departed this life 6 July 1813.
Robert Ellis departed this life 15 November 1840.
Henry Ellis departed this life 13 June 1854.
Elizabeth Harrison departed this life 29 May 1863.
Joel Ellis departed this life 31 August 1871.
Jane H., consort of Joel Ellis, departed this life 24 January 1882 at 8 a.m.
Alexander C. Ellis departed this life 25 March 1905 at 11 p.m.
John James Ellis departed this life in Los Angeles, Cal. 4 September 1907.

Additional notes by Jerry Long:

In the book, Kentucky: A History of the State (Battle, Perrin & Kniffin, c1885, p948), it is stated that Joel Ellis was born 17 Nov 1784 in what is now Fayette County, KY [his family bible & his grave stone has his birth date as Nov 24th]. His father, “John Ellis, came to Kentucky about 1780, and located near the present site of Lexington, where he died January 15, 1794”. Members of the Ellis and Parrish families were among the Baptist exodus of families from Spotsylvania County, VA, known as the “Traveling Church”, that migrated to the Bluegrass region of Kentucky beginning in 1779 [see: “The Register”, KY Historical Society, Vol.79, No.3, Summer 1981, pp240-265]. John Ellis was a son of William Ellis & Elizabeth Chew. William’s will, recorded in Spotsylvania County, VA in 1766 [see Virginia County Records, Volume 1: Spotsylvania County, 1721-1800, Crozier, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, 1971, p23], named the following children – John, Hezekiah, William, Mary (Proctor), Elizabeth (Hawkins), Ann (O’Neal) & Agnes Ellis. William (1705-1766) is reported to be the son of Hezekiah Ellis, whose will was recorded in Middlesex County, VA in 1726 [see “The Virginia Genealogist”, Vol.5, 1961, p107]. Sarah Parrish, wife of John Ellis, was named in her father, Joel Parrish’s will that was recorded in 1791 in Spotsylvania County, VA [see Crozier, p47 & 287].

James Tandy Ellis, the noted Kentucky poet, author and journalist, was a great-great-grandson of the Kentucky pioneer John Ellis. The biography Rambo Flats: A Sketch of the Life, Military Service and Literary Achievements of James Tandy Ellis (1868-1942) [by Willard Rouse Jillson, Perry Publishing Co., Frankfort, KY, 1957, pp21-22], reports that John Ellis “emigrated to the west over the Wilderness Trail with a party about 1780”. He received land grants in Fayette County in 1782 and 1785, and died there in 1794. In a bible in James Tandy Ellis’ family it was written that John’s great-grandfather, John Ellis, was born in Wales in 1661 and came to Virginia with the first supply of emigrants about 1685. David Ellis, the great-grandfather of James Tandy Ellis, died in Bourbon County, KY on 4 Jan 1821. He had married Nancy Clarkson in the same

county on 2 May 1800. According to the History of Sangamon County, Illinois [Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago, 1881, p930] “Henry Ellis was born November 17, 1786 near Lexington, Kentucky. His father, John Ellis, was born January 29, 1749, and married October 2, 1770, to Sarah Parrish, who was born April 20, 1757. They moved from Virginia to Kentucky. The family is of Welch extraction.” Henry Ellis married Martha Marshall Yates in Gallatin County, KY on 29 Jan 1807 and he died 13 June 1854 in Sangamon County, IL.

Joel Ellis (1784-1871) resided in Fayette, Gallatin & Henry Counties, KY, before moving to Ohio County, KY about 1839. In a family sketch in Kentucky: History of the State (1885, p948) it was written that Joel Ellis “was a man of great force of character, and held many responsible positions of trust among which were those of magistrate and sheriff of Gallatin County”, KY. In Gallatin County he married his first wife, Polly, daughter of James Smith, in October 1806. Their journey to Ohio County was by flatboat down the Ohio River. In their new home they lived on a farm about two miles north of Hartford, along the Hartford – Hardinsburg Road (now Highway 69). It was in the vicinity of where in recent years the Lilly store was on Highway 69 near its intersection with the Hamlin Chapel Road. Not long after making their new home his wife, Polly, died. She was buried in the nearby Milton Taylor Cemetery, on the Hamlin Chapel Road, a short distance off of 69. Her monument there bears the inscription Polly, consort of Joel Ellis, born 16 Nov 1788, married 23 Oct 1806, embraced the Christian religion in Nov 1817, and departed this life Feb 21 on Lord’s day 1841 in the 53rd year of her age and died in hope of a blest Immortal City. Joel married his second wife, Jane Henderson Mason, in Ohio County on 3 Aug 1841. A native of Breckinridge County, KY, she was the daughter of John Henderson Mason & Elizabeth Jackson.

Joel Ellis was a farmer and stock raiser. He was a slave owner. The 1860 Ohio County Slave Schedule reports him as owning nine blacks. He suffered heavy financial losses due to the loss of his slaves during the Civil War. Three years following the war his political sentiments were poignantly expressed when he wrote in his will “I have given my children by my first wife as much as I was able to do for them, probably I may have given some of them more had it not been for the dreadful war and the Abolishist and now it is out of my power.” The underlining of the word emphasizes the depth of his emotions toward the Abolitionist. His will was written on 14 March 1868 and was recorded in Ohio County Will book D, p72, on 2 Oct 1871. He died on 31 Aug 1871 and was buried by his first wife in the Milton Taylor Cemetery. His second wife was buried by him upon her death on 24 Jan 1882.

Twelve children were born to Joel Ellis & his first wife, Polly Smith. They were: Lydia (1807-1849), wife of James Blanton (md. 6 Nov 1828 Gallatin Co., KY); Elizabeth (1809-1831), wife of Edward B. Blanton (md. 28 Sep 1830); Jane (1812-1899), wife of Levi McCann (md. 27 Dec 1831 Gallatin Co., KY); William (1814-1854), married Adaline Fant (2 Nov 1835 Gallatin Co., KY); Sarah (1817-1835); Nancy P. (1819-1899), wife of Isiah Craig, she died in Ohio Co., KY, where she was buried in the Craig family cemetery; Samuel (1821-1846), married in 1841; Joel D. (1824-1846), died in New Orleans, LA; Robert Lewis (1826-1873), married Mary Helen Smith (md. 15 May 1851

Ohio Co., KY), he died in Ohio Co., KY, where he was buried in the Craig family Cemetery; John James (1829-1907), died in Los Angeles, CA; Henry Clay (1831-), in 1882 was living in Joplin, MO; & Edward B. (1835-1877).

Joel Ellis had four more children by his second wife, Jane H. Mason. They were: Alexander Campbell (1842-1905), married Mrs. Mary Elizabeth (Stevens) Hill (1868 Ohio Co., KY), he died in Ohio Co., KY, where he was buried in the Alexander Cemetery; Charles Henderson (1844-1873), married Bettie Allen Waller (1 July 1869 Union Co., KY), he is buried in the Milton Taylor Cemetery in Ohio Co., KY; Elvira P. (1847-1888), wife of John Robert Hayes (md. 19 Mar 1872 Ohio Co., KY), she died at Knottsville in Daviess Co., KY & was buried in Cates Cemetery, Whitesville, KY; & Joseph Mason (1849-1873), died single, & was buried in the Milton Taylor Cemetery, Ohio Co., KY. Alexander Campbell Ellis' son, Charles Henry Ellis (1873-1935), served as mayor of Sturgis, KY & as the president of the Kentucky Bankers Association; and a grandson, Charles Rowland Ellis (1904-1986), served as the mayor of Hartford, KY.

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