



Mr. Sumner Fairfield Bell, Sr.
1886-1936



Mrs. Alice Ransom Bell
1888-1966

Forty-third Annual



Bell-Ransom Family Reunion

OCCONEECHEE NECK HOME SITE

Jackson, North Carolina

— AND —

KIRKWOOD ADAMS COMMUNITY CENTER

1100 Hamilton Street

Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina

AUGUST 6-8, 2021

*Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic,
the 43rd Bell-Ransom Family Reunion was held virtually.*

Program

WELCOME	Beatrice Gardner
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.....	Bell-Ransom Cousins
SCRIPTURE	Freida-Peele Wellman
PRAYER.....	Louis Bell
THE OCCASION	Melvin Branch
MUSICAL SELECTION	Joyce Douglas
MEMORIAL TRIBUTE.....	Margaret B. Hawkins, Jeanette B. Richardson, and Sandra B. Rosser

REMINISCING AND SHARING MEMORIES

That Inspire Us to Continue the Legacy

Memories of Who They Were by Linda Strickland

Acknowledgement of Senior Honorees and Centennials by Erika Person

Memories of Church and an Abiding Faith by Claudia Anyaso

Memories of a Strong Work Ethic and a Legacy of Entrepreneurship by Terry Bell

Memories of School and Educational Excellence by Tonita Dozier

Announcement of Scholarship Recipients by Evelyn Dawson

Memories of Farm Life and Sharing the Fruits of the Land by David Bell, Sr.

Sharing Memories of Military Service by Ralph Bell, Sr.

Sharing Memories of Community Participation and Public Service by Fred Belfield

Sharing Ways to Preserve our Family History

MUSICAL SELECTION

CLOSING Roger Cheek

This program outline guided a virtual reunion via Zoom hosted by Jacqueline Bell Pyatt and Linda Strickland.



The Forty-Third Annual Bell-Ransom Family Reunion
We Honor our Heritage by Continuing the Family Legacy.

WELCOME

Michelle Boone Pass, the daughter of Mary Jenkins Boone and the late Miland "Mike" Boone, graduated in December 2020 with a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Urban Education from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where she is a faculty member in the Department of Biological Sciences. Dr. Pass received her BS Degree in Biological Sciences from NC State University and her MS Degree in Biology from NC A&T State University. Her graduate work at NC A&T was in Microbiology.

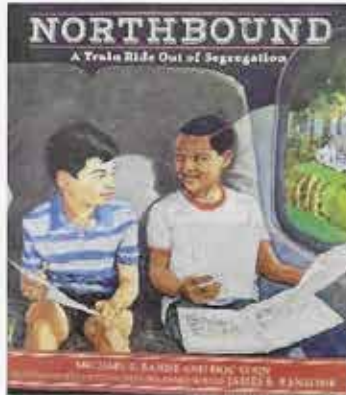


Pamela Cheek, wife of Ulrich Cheek was pictured among the 30+ women who have reached the designation of sales director with Mary Kay Cosmetics as independent entrepreneurs.



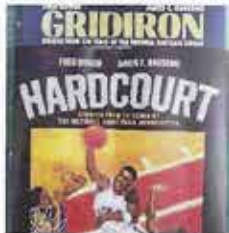
Barbara Joy Tillman, daughter of Dr. Otis Tillman and Mrs. Audrey Boone Tillman, introduced then Vice President Elect Kamala Harris at a get-out-the-vote in Columbus, Georgia in January. She is the granddaughter of Barbara Harris Boone and the late Clarence Boone.

We are who we are because of who they were.



James Ransome's book, *Northbound: A Train Ride Out of Segregation* written by

Michael S. Bandy and Eric Stein and illustrated by Ransome appeared in the December 22 edition of *The New York Times* Book Review feature "Five Picture Books About Civil Rights." In the fall of 2020,



James' work was featured at Barrett Art Center in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. The busy Ransome illustrated the cover of *Hardcourt*, a new book on NBA greats. In the spring of

2021, James appeared on the PBS program *Places to Love with Samantha Brown*. The segment featured Duchess County, New York. **James Earl Ransome's** illustrations are in a group exhibition entitled *Picture the Dream, the Story of the Civil Rights Movement Through Children's Books*. Ransome has also illustrated the book *Kindred* by Octavia E. Butler. James Ransome even found time to earn a Master of Fine Arts Degree from Wesley University in January 2021.



tablets needed for remote learning classes.

A "Dr. Zoom for Learning" grant was a welcome 2020 Christmas gift for **Margaret Hawkins McGee** and students in her Pre-K class at Everetts Elementary S.T.E.M. Academy in Roanoke Rapids. The grant made it possible for the students to have the Fire 7

Anna Ruth Jones was featured in the May edition of *Durham Magazine* and in the May 20 edition of *The Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald*. Both articles laud her work in researching and producing the award-winning documentary "Chairman Jones" about her father, James Jones, the first African American Chair of the Northampton Board of Education.



Deborah Hill was featured as the Washington Football Team's 12th Woman during the 2020 football season on local Fox 5 and NBC4 television programs. Deborah is an avid fan and supporter of the Washington

Football Team. Deborah lives in Landover, Md. She is the daughter of Willie Hill and Maxine Bell Hill.



Catherine Bell and nephew Jeffrey Silver arrive at a dinner party hosted by Valencia Turnage and Margaret McGee at the Roanoke Rapids home of Valencia Turnage. Family and friends joined in the celebration of Catherine's June 8th birthday.

We are who we are because of who they were.



Serenity Ellis celebrates ending her first year at University of North Carolina Greensboro on the Chancellor's List as an all- A student.

Serenity enters her second year of college in the fall as a senior because of credits earned at NCCU Early College High School. A Bell-Ransom Scholarship recipient, Serenity has also been awarded a \$3,000 Spartan Scholarship.

Patricia Anyaso was inducted into Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in May. Patricia has relocated to Florida and accepted a new position as head of Ransom Everglades High School. Patricia is the daughter of Drs. Victor and Claudia Anyaso and granddaughter of the late Waverly and Louise Rawles.



Jeanette Richardson celebrated her 78th birthday on April 9 by helping to deliver food to families in Northampton County. Jeanette participated in the Halifax/Northampton 13th Juneteenth Celebration on June 19th sponsored by the

Garysburg Volunteer Public Library. The virtual Juneteenth program had the theme of **Healers**.



Toni Rawls Darden is a member of the 2021. UNC Cheer and Dance Squad.



TSgt Talisa M. Bell has been selected to be promoted to Master Sergeant in the United States Air Force. Talisa is the daughter of Michael Bell.



Mrs. Geraldine Clark (red corsage) celebrated her 101st birthday on May 4th at a dinner party hosted by Catherine Bell at her home in Garysburg. Mrs. Clark is shown

with her sister, Viola Boone, who celebrated her 96th birthday on March 30th, and her grandniece, Margaret McGee.

Ralph Bell, Sr. continues his advocacy for and support of veterans. He participated in the VFW Fourth of July parade in Harve de Grace, Maryland.

We are who we are because of who they were.



Mrs. Almeda Carroll celebrated her **101st birthday** in April. She is shown with granddaughter, **Erika Person** of Bowie, Md.

Cheyanne Mulligan of Bowie, Maryland celebrated her 21st birthday in South Beach Miami, May 5 with her aunt Erika Person and friends. Cheyanne is the granddaughter of the late Dement, Sr. and Sonya Person.



Kelsi Bell is all dressed and ready to attend her Timber Creek High School senior prom. The 2021 honor graduate is headed to Drexel University in the fall. Kelsi is the daughter of Douglas Bell, III and Kelly Bell of Erial, New Jersey.

The Bell-Ransom Family Reunion Poster Displays were featured in the June 2021 edition of **Reunions Magazine**. View the article at www.reunionsmag.com



Victor and Claudia Anyaso are shown on their August 28, 1971, wedding day in Washington, D.C. They will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 28. Claudia is a retired US Senior Foreign Service Officer and Victor a retired attorney. They have lived and raised their four children in Nigeria, Haiti, Niger and Washington, D.C. where the couple now resides.

Margaret McGee celebrated her June 24th birthday with dinner at Ruth Chris Steak House in Raleigh and a weekend get-a-way with sister, Val Turnage, Cousin Cheryl Bell, and other girlfriends.



Warren Keith Bell and Diane Bell shared their January 17, 1990, photograph in celebration of their 31st wedding anniversary. The couple reside in Roanoke Rapids.

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John "Chew" Green, Jr. performed in the 2021 Inauguration Gospel Concert on January 20. The concert was part of activities to celebrate the inauguration of President Joseph Biden. John is the son of Rev. John Green, Sr. of Weldon.



Maxine Bell Hill and Willie Hill of Greenbelt, Md. celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary on April 19th. Maxine is the daughter of the late Sumner F. Bell, Jr., and Maxine Mills Bell.

Cheryl Lynn Bell

volunteered with *The Big Pop-Up* in November providing meals, household products, and baby items to a thousand Raleigh area families. Cheryl is employed with the North Carolina Department of Corrections. She is the daughter of Clarence S. Bell, Sr.



Terry Bell continues to excel as an Independent Sales Director with Mary Kay Cosmetics. During the past year, Terry participated in several Mary Kay events including *Rock the Red*

Virtual, the 2021 Massive Recognition Dinner with the Mary Kay National Sales Director and Magic Family and *The Leadership Conference for Sales Directors*. Terry was featured in the end-of-the year 2020 *Applause Magazine*. Terry is also a Tupper Ware Product sales representative. In addition, Terry is a public servant. She celebrated 20 years with the State of North Carolina with 7 years with the NC Department of Agriculture on June 30, the last two years serving as EEO consultant. Terry was recommended by coworker, Cooperative Council board member Ron Fish, to serve on the Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee for the NC Cooperative Council. Terry is one of several inaugural members of the DEI committee. It is a volunteer role to ensure equity and inclusion in the council's reach. The Cooperative Council of NC (CCNC.coop) is an association of cooperatives that is its voice, and it organizes events for members to increase cross industry opportunities to educate, promote, and connect the cooperative movement.



The Rev. Jerryl Moody and First Lady Meshall Moody of Washington, D.C. celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary

April 9. Rev. Moody is pastor of Israel Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.

Randy Pyatt of Bryans Road, Md. has accepted a sales consultant position with Waldorf Ford in Waldorf, Md. Randy can be reached at 301-466-7935 to discuss your auto needs.



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Alexis Douglas is working with Adidas and doing consulting with Black owned businesses in Greensboro. Alexis is the daughter of Lennon and Kimberly Douglas of Rural Hall, N.C., and granddaughter of Sandra Bell Rosser. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=+GMHZKSieR60>



Carole Strickland of Berkley, California was featured in an episode of *Andrew Zimmern's Bizarre Foods: Delicious Destinations Season 10 Episode 13: San Francisco Bites*. Carole had a cameo part in this episode. In June, Carole visited her parents, Bill and Linda Strickland, in

Durham before joining friends for a vacation in Cancun and Cozumel, Mexico.

Julius Tillery, UNC graduate and owner of **Black Cotton** was interviewed by the North Carolina Farm Bureau in February at his studio and business in the Garysburg Community Center.



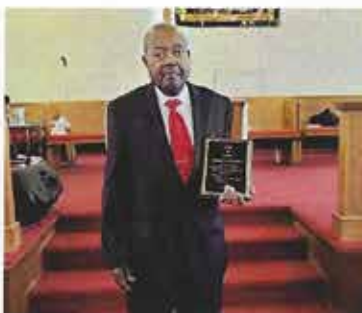
Quincy Hawkins and Margaret Bell Hawkins will celebrate their 62nd wedding anniversary on August 15th. Quincy is a retired law enforcement officer and Margaret is a retired educator. They are the parents of three

and grandparents of five. Margaret and Quincy reside in Weldon.



Florine Bell gave the prayer at the 19th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Virtual Celebration sponsored by the Littleton, N.C. Oak Grove Baptist Church Promised Land Ministry and the Piney Grove Baptist Church

Promised Land Ministry of Halifax on January 18. Guest speaker was the Honorable G.K. Butterfield, U.S. Congressman, 1st Congressional District of North Carolina. **Rev. Bell is active in Ella Baker Day.** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Ella Baker Educational Project of NC could not celebrate the Annual Ella Baker Day on April 15th. Ella Baker was an outstanding Civil Rights advocate born in Norfolk, VA, on December 13, 1903; however, she grew up in Littleton, NC, from age seven. She was Shaw University's Valedictorian of the class of 1927. Baker assisted 1st Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, Walter White, Dr. Martin L. King Jr., Rosa Parks, Fanny Hamer, and many other civil-rights advocates. She spearheaded sit-in movement protests during the 1960s, as well as voter education/registration projects. She was NAACP organizer and Field Secretary for (50+) years. She passed away on her 83rd birthday December 13, 1986. **Rev. Florine Bell** had an article published in the *Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald*, February 8, for Black History Month. The article featured Dr. James A. Tinsley. Dr. Tinsley, Sr. 1882 - 1961 is the first known African American physician in Halifax County. RRDAILYHERALD.COM **Rev. Bell** also worked with the *Underground Railroad Harriett Tubman-Journey to Freedom Exhibit* which opened on March 3 until April 18 at the State Historic Halifax Site.



Louis Belfield of Edenton celebrated his 83rd birthday with family and friends. Louis is an active member of his community and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

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The Edward Cheek House Museum was decorated for the 2020 Christmas holidays by Mrs. Christina Gregory, Roanoke Rapids City Councilwoman, Mrs. Sandra Bryant, Mrs. Nancy Mueller, and Rev. Florine Bell. The house is presently owned by Mr. David Birdsong, who is a retired educator of the Halifax County Schools and a passionate preserver of Edward Cheek's history. The Bell ancestors, beginning with Edward Cheek, was one of the early (1900s) owners of the house and the first declared African American U.S. Postmaster in the township of Halifax, NC. His sister, Gillie Cheek Bell, also resided in the house with him for a brief time during the quarantine of the (1918-1922) Spanish Flu Pandemic, H1N1. Her husband, David Crockett Bell, succumbed in (1918) to the dreaded disease.



African American Healers Virtual Juneteenth Freedom Jubilee Celebration 2021

sponsored by the Garysburg Volunteer Public Library was held on June 19. This was the 13th Northampton/ Halifax Juneteenth celebration and the first as a Federal Holiday. Several family members including Dr. Beverly Underdue, Jeanette Bell Richardson, and Terry Bell participated in the program.



Alfonzo L. Branch, Jr. has been promoted to Master Sergeant E8 and was selected to be a Warrant Officer. Alfonzo is the son of Alfonzo L. Branch Sr. and grandson of Melvin L. Branch.



(Photo: Courtesy of Equifax)

Equifax names Audrey Boone Tillman to board of directors Audrey is the daughter of the late Clarence "Nick" Boone and his wife Barbara, and the granddaughter of the late

James Wesley and Bettie Ransom Boone. See full story at: <https://www.theatlantavoices.com/articles/equifax-names-audrey-boone-tillman-to-board-of-directors/>.

Pernell Edwards was featured on CW22 Productions Television *Community Matters* program in Raleigh on February 15. Pernell is an honor graduate of Shaw University and cofounder and CEO of Goombay a social and sports fundraising operation. See on [YOUTUBE.COM](https://www.youtube.com). Community Matters: Social Sports and Fundraising w/Pernell Edwards.

Jadyn Robinson, grandson of Kathy Moody, was recognized as an honor roll student at Chaloner Middle School in Roanoke Rapids.

Bell-Ransom Scholars



Kelsey Bell graduated from Timber Creek High school in New Jersey. Kelsey will attend Drexel University in Philadelphia. Kelsey is the daughter of Douglas Bell, III and Kelly Bell.

Aaron Hunter graduated from Roanoke Rapids High School in the Class of 2021. He will attend East Carolina University in Greenville. Aaron is the son of Sabrina Hunter and grandson of Martha Paige.



Javieon Palmer graduated from Claxton High School, Claxton, Georgia on May 22, 2021. He will attend Georgia Southern University in the fall. Javieon is the nephew of Bill and Linda Strickland.



Chemeka Williams was awarded her Doctorate in Organizational and Leadership Management in 2020.

Ryan Walker graduated Jordan High School in Durham and is headed to University of North Carolina NC Pembroke. Ryan is the grandson of Louis Belfield.

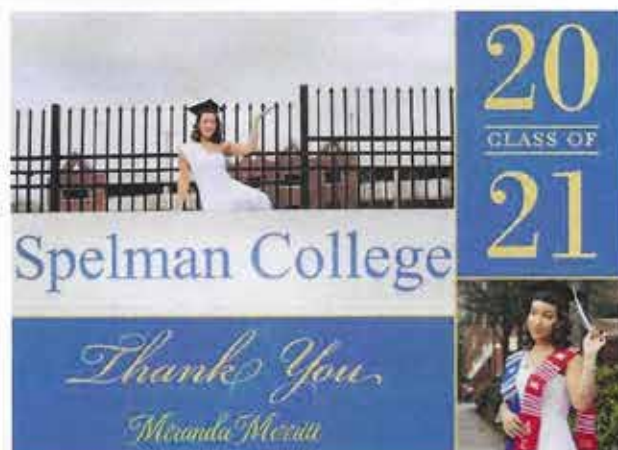


La-Tia Hunter of Roanoke Rapids graduated from Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy in the Class of 2021. She plans to attend Pitt County Community College.

Naseyah Williams graduated from JD Clements Early College in Durham, May 27, 2021. Naseyah is the daughter of Dr. Chemeka Turner Williams.



Nacyiah Williams, daughter of Dr. Chemeka Turner Williams graduated from JD Clements Early College May 27, 2021.



Miranda Jordan Merritt earned her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Spelman College. Commencement was May 16. Miranda began courses in Engineering at Georgia Tech, where she is studying to complete a dual degree in Biology-Engineering. Miranda is the granddaughter of the late Lindsey and Betty Jordan Merritt and the great-granddaughter of the late Henry and Sally Ransom Jordan.

Ricky T. Norwood, Jr. of Emporia, Va. graduated from Virginia State University in the Class of 2021 with a Bachelor of Arts in History. Ricky is the grandson of Ann Rawls.



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Cary T. Bell of Long Beach, California poses for his first day of "At Home School" picture. Cary is the son of Cary and Anisa Bell of Long Beach, California.



Skylar Gregg-Lewis and Randall Gregg-Lewis, twins of Attorney Dorothy Lewis, celebrated their 4th birthday on June 5th with a family dinner party at the Rocky Mount home of their grandparents, Dr. Arthur Lewis and Yvonne Lewis.

Madelyn Bell turned 11 May 20. She is an outstanding player in the Roanoke Valley Softball League. Madelyn was voted MVP of the championship game May 22. Madelyn is also a member of Girl Scouts and placed third in cookies sales with the Northampton/Halifax Girl Scouts. Madelyn is the daughter of Tim and Amanda Bell and granddaughter of Michael Bell.



Summer Wells turned 1 on December 3rd. Summer is the daughter of Donovan and Donisha Wells and granddaughter of Cheryl Bell. The family resides in Raleigh.



RJ and Sophia Pyatt accompanied their grandmother, Patricia Honig, on a weekend trip to Chincoteague, Va. June 5. Others on the trip were RJ and Sophia's mother, Emily Pyatt and their aunt, Janice McKenney. Sophia participated in the Dance Depot of Waldorf Dance Recital in June. RJ and Sophia attended Cousins Camp in Seattle in July. The twins enter 5th grade in the fall.



Joydan Wellman ended the school year as an "A" honor student at Wilson Preparatory Academy. Joydan is highly active in school activities. She is shown here ready to represent her school in a cheer competition held in Greensboro in March. Joydan enters her junior year at Wilson Preparatory Academy in September. Joydan is the granddaughter of Freida Peele-Wellman.

We are who we are because of who they were.



Robert and Heather Lockhart of Baton Rouge, Louisiana have announced the birth of a baby boy, **Logan Andrew Lockhart**, born May 27. Big brother, Jackson, Uncle Kyle

Lockhart, and Grandmother, Terry Bell are incredibly happy to have the addition to the family.



Niko Owens, son of Ivey Owens of Charlotte, turned 1 on July 10th and celebrated with family. Niko is the grandson of Wanda Owens and great-grandson of the late Douglas Bell and Beatrice Ivey Bell.

Emma Smith announced the birth of new granddaughter, Ava.



Jaxson Jasir Bell celebrated his 2nd birthday on July 29. Jaxson is the son of Jamel and Juanita Bell, grandson of Denise McGee and Michael and Bonita Bell and great-grandson of the late Sumner Bell, Jr and Maxine Bell.



Jarrett Olin Caldwell and Mesa Lewchalermwong announce the birth of a son, Jarrett Ramsey Caldwell. He is called Ramsey and was born in Washington, D.C. November 5, 2020, weighing 7 lbs. 12 oz. Little Ramsey is the grandson of the late Marilyn Bell Caldwell M.D.



Makayla Aubrey Wellman was born November 8, 2020, to parents Shelly McGriff and Jamaal Wellman. The proud grandparent is Freda Peele-Wellman.



Ava Gardner celebrated her 1st birthday on October 23 with her family. Ava is the daughter of Dr. Brion and Tala Gardner, sister of Aric and Taylor Gardner and granddaughter of Beatrice Gardner.

Aric (6 on June 9) and Taylor (4 on May 16) Gardner celebrated their

birthdays Memorial Day weekend with a huge Blue and Red Team themed party with family and friends at their Dunn Loring, Va. home. Aric and Taylor are the sons of Dr. Brion Gardner and Tala Gardner and grandsons of Beatrice Bell Gardner.





In Memory of Mrs. Lucille Rawles Hardy

"Everyone can be great. Because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mrs. Lucille Hardy was great because she served. During her long life, she was an anchor for her family, an advisor to members of her generation, a mentor for the young, a model of dignity, style, and grace for the entire community.

Mrs. Lucille Hardy served Roanoke Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in many ways from sharing her musical talent to speaking at countless funerals and programs during her many years of membership.

Mrs. Lucille Hardy had a heart full of grace. She was known for her kindness and charity. She made every effort to visit the sick and was a source of comfort for those grieving.

Mrs. Lucille Hardy had a soul generated by love. She loved everyone. That was a sentiment that she expressed just recently. She met you with the warmest of greetings. She had a smile and a hug for all. She could make you laugh with one of her stories about life. She could make you cry when she sang a song that evoked memories of a love one.

Mrs. Lucille Hardy lived to the age of 101. She lived to see change in every facet of life and she was able to change with the times. Mrs. Lucille Hardy's life is as an example of how one can stay young at heart, mentally alert and nimble of body for a century. Mrs. Lucille Hardy was great, she served with a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love. For her support, her service, and her love, we honored her as a Bell-Ransom Family Reunion Honoree. Mrs. Lucille Hardy will be missed. May she rest in peace.



In Memoriam

Mrs. Sonya Person of Bowie, Maryland; mother of Erika Person and widow of the late Dement Person.

Mr. Raymond Harris of Norfolk, Virginia; cousin of Catherine R. Bell.

Carrie Johnson of Roanoke Rapids; daughter of the late Clarence Rawls.

Zoe Rogers of Gwynedd, Penna.; sister-in-law of Douglas Bell, III.

Gwendolyn Pittman of Charlotte; niece of Geraldine P. Clark and Viola P. Boone.

Mrs. Gertrude Hawkins of Warrenton; sister-in-law of Quincy and Margaret Hawkins.

Mrs. Lemile Bell Lockhart of Roanoke Rapids, daughter of the late Richard and Nannie Bett Bell.

Joyce Ellis Fleming of Roanoke Rapids; cousin of Jeanette Bell Richardson.

Mrs. Ruth Hillard 107 of Weldon, cousin of Jasper Jones.

Mr. Jessie Davis of Ahoskie; brother of Waverly Davis and nephew of James Branch.

Woodrow W. Harding of Garysburg; friend of the family.

Robert Jones of Washington, DC; brother-in-law of Janice Bell.

Alberta Benjamin Greene of Weldon; wife of James Greene, Jr. and cousin of Hazel B. Bell.

Tressie Rascoe Minor of Gaston, friend of family and sister-in-law of Emily Tillery.

Dr. Elie Bracey of Roanoke Rapids, former Weldon High School Principal, and friend of the family

Mrs. Alean B. Jacobs of Seaboard, former educator, and friend of the family.

Joe Jenkins of Roanoke Rapids, uncle of Sonya Jenkins.

Marc Gladden of Baltimore, Md.; son of the late Elzee and Jesse Gladden and brother of Lisa Gladden.

Winfred Ross Snell of Roanoke Rapids; husband of Cora Snell and cousin of Jeanette Bell Richardson and family.

Durwin Douglas of Upper Marlboro, Md., son of Sandra Bell Rosser.

Mrs. Lucille Hardy of Jackson, wife of the late Elmer Hardy.

Veronica Turner Lewis of Hampton, Va. Cousin of Florine Bell.

William A. Kendall of Roanoke Rapids; son of Mary Ellen Green Kendall.

Joseph L C Johnson of Raleigh; son of the late Joseph and Mary Johnson of Occoneechee Neck.

Mother Lucille Cheek of Tillery, wife of the late Bishop William Cheek, Sr.

Deaconess Veatrice Ramsey Harris of Roanoke Rapids, wife of Jonathan Harris

Justine B. Benjamin of Jackson; daughter of the late Ethel Benjamin and the late Major Benjamin and cousin of Hazel Bell

Mrs. Bessie Greene of Weldon; wife of the late James Greene Sr.

Mr. Rodney Arrington of Newark, N.J.; nephew of the late Bishop William Cheek.



"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but all of them also that love his appearing."

II Timothy 4:6-8

We are who we are because of who they were.



Mrs. Nannie Mason Ransom

Wife of Douglas Ransom

Joe, Alice, Sallie, Douglas, Jr., Thomas, Samuel, Emma, Betty

Douglas and Nannie were married on December 23, 1885, in the living room of the Ransom home. Joe Ransom, son of General Matt W. Ransom served as best man.

After living on the Ransom plantation (between Jackson and Garysburg on what is now U.S. 158), Douglas moved to the Occoee Neck area to serve as overseer of the Ransom farm. Douglas and Nannie were the proud parents of eight children: Joe, Alice, Sallie, Douglas, Jr., Samuel, Tommy, Emma and Betty.

Children of Douglas and Nannie Mason Ransom



Alice Ransom Bell



Sallie Ransom Jordan



Emma Ransom Jordan



Betty Ransom Boone



Douglas Ransom, Jr.



Samuel Ransom



Thomas Ransom



Joe Ransom



The Family of Sumner Fairfield & Alice Ransom Bell



David Crockett Bell



Geneva Bell Gee



Thomas Bell, Sr.



Sumner Bell, Jr.



Douglas Bell, Jr.



Louis Bell



Jack Ransom Bell



Alice Bell Odom



Gillie Bell Branch



Barbara Bell Jones

On August 11, 1979, the vision of Gillie Bell Branch became a reality when along with her husband, James, and her siblings, Geneva Gee, and husband Lawrence Gee; Alice Odom and husband David Odom; Barbara Jones and husband Jasper Jones, Sumner Bell and wife Maxine Bell; brother Jack Bell; and sisters-in-laws Ozette Bell (Thomas), Virginia Bell (Louis) and Beatrice Bell (Douglas), relatives and friends of the Bell-Ransom family gathered for a reunion sponsored by the children and grandchildren of Sumner F. Bell, Sr., and Alice Ransom Bell. That reunion was planned to reminisce, get acquainted with relatives and friends, pay tribute to the deceased, to honor their aunts and uncles and to learn about their heritage. Over the years, the reunion has been expanded to include all members of the family tree. Sumner and Alice Bell instilled in their children an abiding faith, a strong work ethic, pursuit of excellence and a dedication to service. That tradition continues. We are who we are because of who they were. In remembrance and celebration, we continue the legacy.



The Bell-Ransom Family



Deeply Rooted in Love



2019 Reunion Photograph by Ralph Bell, Sr.

The Bell-Ransom Family Tree



GROWING AND THRIVING

BELL

Anderson
Archer
Cheek
Clanton
Ivory
Jenkins

King
Pierce
Pittman
Strickland
Scott
Vincent

RANSOM

Boone
Bracey
Cochran
Copeland
Freeman
Garner
Jordan
Long

Mason
Mitchell
Rawles
Summerell
Vassor
Walker
Wyche

