

The Bishop Family in Historical Records

Researched and Written by Elbert Roberts Bishop, Jr.

According to Bishop family tradition, my great grandfather, David Dewart Bishop and his brothers, Andrew, Byrd, and Axom were enslaved on a plantation in Bertie County, North Carolina. After emancipation, they took the last name Bishop, the name of their former slaveholder. Axom took the last name "Kapot." Also enslaved on the plantation were Ellen Walton Bishop, her slave style husband, Wright Cherry, and their daughter, Hannah Ann Cherry.

As the story goes, Wright and Ellen were separated when Ellen slapped the master's son for sexual advances. Her slaveholder sold her at the slave market in Fayetteville to a plantation in either Georgia or Mississippi. Wright was transferred or sold to a plantation in the Powellsville area. At the conclusion of the Civil War, Ellen followed the Union Army for two years to be reunited with her daughter, Hannah. They settled in the Sandy Branch area of Bertie County with other emancipated slaves.

Ellen Bishop later married an unknown (Edward) Hardy, and had a child named Mary Magdalene. Ellen also went by the name Saunders, whose origin is unknown. David Bishop married Hannah Ann Cherry and moved to Rich Square in Northampton County, NC. They and their children, James William, Carrie Lee, Paul Andrew, John Samuel, Mary Pearl Dewart, Barnabas Bryant, Ellen Devolia and Ruby Wilbur Bishop, are Bishop family progenitors. These were the earliest reported members of our Bishop family.¹

I compiled the following information from available internet sources. I indicate some of the areas where more original research is necessary. This research allows us to extend our knowledge of Bishop family members further in time to the early 1800s. It also allows us to compare information in public records to family stories and traditions. I leave it to the reader to draw his or her own conclusions when the two conflict, as they inevitably will.

Samuel Bishop and Ellen Bishop

The 1870 US Census was the first Decennial Census to record emancipated slaves as free citizens. Prior to 1870, censuses of slaveholders and their slaves did not record the slaves by name, unless the slave was over 100 years old. The 1850 and 1860 Slave Schedules recorded slaves by gender, race and age.

¹ Georgia Bishop Whitted, Information on the Family of David & Hannah Bishop Compiled for the 1993 Bishop Family Reunion of Descendants of David & Hannah, June 19-20, 1993 (unpublished).

The 1870 US Census for Roxobel Township in Bertie County, North Carolina² shows a household of African-Americans headed by Saml Bishop, Black male, laborer, age 36 (b.1834). We assume he is the father of David Bishop and his brothers. None of the enumerated household members are able to read or write. Also enumerated in the household are the following individuals:

Ellen Bishop	Black Female	30	b. 1840	Keeping House
Byrd Bishop	Black Male	19	b. 1851	Farm Laborer
David Bishop	Black Male	18	b. 1850	Farm Laborer
Gusto Bishop	Black Male	12	b. 1858	At Home
Hannah Bishop	Black Female	15	b. 1855	At Home
Matilda Bishop	Black Female	14	b. 1856	At Home
Maggie Bishop	Black Female	8	b. 1862	At Home

The names Gusto and Matilda Bishop are not known to descendants of David and Hannah. We do not know their relationship to Samuel Bishop or Ellen Bishop. They may be the children of Ellen Bishop, who in the 1900 and 1910 US Census described herself as the mother of four children, of which two survived (Hannah and Mary Magdalene). We assume that the child Maggie is Mary Magdalene who was later referred to as Mag or Aunt Mag by her relatives. From the birth date of Hannah, 1855, we surmise that Ellen (Walton) Bishop and Wright Cherry married slavery style around that time.

Axom Kapot (Exum Capehart)

According to Bishop family tradition, David Bishop's brother, Axom, took the last name Kapot. He moved to the Scotland Neck area in Halifax County. Enumerated as part of the Biggs family household in the 1870 Census, but immediately preceding the name of Samuel Bishop, is Exum Capehart, Black male, age 23 (b. 1847).³ Georgia Bishop Whitted recalled that the Biggs family was the family with whom Ellen Bishop left her daughter Hannah when Ellen was sold away before the Civil War to another plantation by her slave master.

The 1880 census for Jackson Township, Northampton County, shows Exum Copehart, Black male, age 35, heading a household of five members: his wife, Mariah, Black female, age 35; two daughters, Mariah, Black female, age 11 and Susan, Black female, age 1 month. They had two sons, James, Black male, age

² Tenth Census of the United States; 1870; Census Place: Roxobel, Bertie, North Carolina; Roll: M593_1123; Page: 229B; Image: 471; Family History Library Film: 552622. Unless otherwise noted, the source of US Census data is Ancestry.com [database online]; Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009; Images reproduced by FamilySearch; <http://ancestry.com>. Original sources omitted.

³ Ibid.

9; and Walter, Black male age 6. The occupation of Exum and his wife Mariah is described as domestic servants. Neither is able to read or write.⁴

The 1900 US census for Scotland Neck Township, Halifax County, shows Exum and Mariah “Caphort” and their family, renting a farmhouse, as follows:⁵

Exum Caphort	age 53	b. January 1847	m. 1875	Farmer
Mariah Caphort	age 55	b. May 1845	m. 1875	Day Laborer
Julia	age 15	b. May 1885		
Francis	age 13	b. March 1887		
Willie	age 12	b. January 1888		
Mary	age 6	b. July 1893		

Mariah is the mother of 10 children, eight of whom are living. Julia, Frances and Willie work as farm laborers. The race of the household members is shown as Black.

The 1920 US Census for Conoconan Township, Halifax County, shows Exum and Mariah Caphart, age 70 and 80, respectively; and their household: a widowed daughter, Julia Devereux, age 37; and a son, Walter Smith, single, age 20. The ages listed for Exum and Mariah must be an erroneous reversal. It appears the family shared the household with William and Minerva Pope, farmer and housewife, age 60 and 55, respectively. The race of the household members is Black.⁶

Mariah Capheart died of natural causes at age 75 on July 14, 1920.⁷

Wright Cherry, Civil War Veteran

According to Bishop family tradition, the Bishop family slaveholder separated Wright Cherry and Ellen Walton after Ellen’s insubordination against the master’s son. Wright Cherry was either moved or sold away from the Bishop plantation to the Powellsville area of Bertie County.

The 1870 US Census for Mitchells Township, Bertie County, North Carolina shows Wright “Cherrey,” Black male, age 33 (b. 1837), occupation: farm laborer.

⁴ Eleventh Census of the United States; Year: 1880; Census Place: Jackson, Northampton, North Carolina; Roll T9_975; Family History Film: 1254975; Page: 308.1000; Enumeration District: 184; Image: 0070.

⁵ Thirteenth Census of the United States; Year: 1900; Census Place: Scotland Neck, Halifax, North Carolina; Roll T623_1199; Page: 11B; Enumeration District: 38.

⁶ Fourteenth Census of the United States; Year: 1920; Census Place: Conoconnara, Halifax, North Carolina; Roll 31109_4384776; Page: 7B; Enumeration District: 35; Image: 158.

⁷ Ancestry.com. North Carolina Death Certificates, 1909-1975 [database online]; Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007; Original data: North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics; North Carolina Death Certificates. Microfilm S.123; Rolls 19-242, 280, 313-682, 1040-1297; North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

He resides with Lender Cherrey, Black female, age 18 (b. 1852), occupation: housekeeper. Both are unable to read or write. The disability box on the Census form is checked for Lender Cherrey. Her disability is unspecified.⁸ Mitchells Township is nearby Powellsville in Bertie County.

The name of Wright Cherry's wife is given several different spellings in public records. The universally accepted spelling among Cherry family descendants is "Malinda."

Enumerated in the household immediately preceding Wright and "Lender" Cherrey, is a household headed by Madison Cherrey, Black male, age 39, occupation: farmer. Madison Cherrey owns real estate valued at \$1,500 and personal property valued at \$100. The members of his household are:

Mary E. Cherrey, Black female, age 34 (b. 1836), occupation: keeping house
Juda Cherrey, Black female, age 60 (b. 1810), occupation: keeping house
Harriet Cherrey, Black female, age 35 (b. 1837) occupation: farm laborer
Sarah Cherrey, Black female, age 21 (b. 1849) occupation: farm laborer
Charles Cherrey, Black male, age 5 (b. 1865)
Celia Cherrey, Black female, age 5 (b. 1865)

None of the household members are able to read and write. The disability column on the Census form is checked for all household members with the exception of Charles and Celia Cherrey. Their disabilities are unspecified.⁹ Due to the presence of Juda Cherrey in the household and in Wright "Chearry's" household as "Judia" in the 1880 census as discussed below, we can surmise she is the mother of brothers Madison and Wright Cherry.

Wright Cherry was a Civil War veteran. His military service record, of which two versions survive, indicates he enlisted as a Private at age 25 on March 1, 1864 in the US Colored Troops, 14th Regiment Heavy Artillery, at New Berne, North Carolina. His birthplace is listed as Windsor, North Carolina and his occupation is clerk. Physically, he is described as 5'10", dark complexioned, with gray eyes and black hair. He was appointed Second Sergeant on March 14, 1864. He was promoted to Commissary Sergeant on May 14, 1865. His unit was Company A.

In September 1864, from October 1864 to February 1865, and in April 1865, Wright was on duty as Acting Second Master Sergeant. In May 1865, he transferred from Company A to the Non-Commissioned Staff in Morehead City.¹⁰

⁸ Tenth Census of the United States; Year: 1870; Census Place: Mitchells, Bertie, North Carolina; Roll M593_1123; Page: 214B; Image: 441; Family History Library Film: 552622.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Wright Cherry, 14th U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery, Roll: M1818_279 and M1818_266; Ancestry.com. U.S. Colored Troops Military Service Records, 1861-1865 [database online], 2007.

Wright's Civil War military service is memorialized at the African-American Civil War Memorial, in Washington, DC.¹¹ Wright served in the same regiment as Albert Ashe, the grandfather of Mignonette Roberts Bishop who married David and Hannah's oldest son, James William Bishop, Sr. Albert Ashe served in Company C. Both men, my great, great grandfathers, are memorialized on the Memorial at Plaque Number B-30. Records indicate the 14th Regiment Heavy Artillery fought in the battle of Petersburg, Virginia on March 30, 1865.¹²

The description of Wright Cherry in his military records as having gray eyes echoes in Georgia Bishop Whitted's account of Hannah Cherry Bishop's gray eyes. Georgia remembers gray eyes as a Bishop family trait. It was said that the gray flashed when a Bishop family member became angry.

The 1880 census for Mitchells Township, Bertie County, North Carolina, shows a rather large household headed by Wright "Chearry," Black male, age 41, occupation: farmer. His wife is Melenda, Black female, age 27, occupation: housekeeping.¹³ The members of the household are

Joseph Chearry, Black male, age 9, son
James Chearry, Black male, age 7, son
Harriet Chearry, Black female, age 6, daughter
Sally Chearry, Black female, age 4, daughter
Fannie Chearry, Black female, age 2, daughter
Mary Chearry, Black female, age 6 months in January, daughter
Harriet Chearry, Black female, age 6, daughter
Judia Chearry, Black female, age 70, mother, widowed, works on farm
Elec Eason, Black male, age 76, uncle, widowed, works on farm
Charlie Eason, Black male, nephew, age 14, single, works on farm
George Thompson, Black male, age 27, single, servant, works on farm
Sarah Chearry, Black female, age 30, single, servant, cooking
Celia Chearry, Black female, age 16, single, servant, works on farm

This record indicates Judia Cherry as mother of Wright Cherry. It appears from the presence of an uncle, Elec Eason, that her family name was Eason. The household is blended with children of Wright and Melenda Cherry and the children of Wright Cherry's brother, Madison, who are Harriet, Sarah, and Celia. No indication is made of whether the family members can read or write. What happened to Madison and his wife Mary is a mystery awaiting further research.

In the 1910 US Census for Mitchells Township, Bertie County, North Carolina, Wright Cherry, Black male, age 71, is shown residing with his wife, Melenda,

¹¹ National Park Service. U.S. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ 1880 US Federal Census; Census Place: Mitchells, Bertie, North Carolina; Roll T9_953; Family History Film: 1254953; Page: 229.4000; Enumeration District: 11; Image: 0103.

Black female, age 58. They have been married 39 years (m. 1871). Melenda is the mother of 13 children, of which 10 survive. They own their own farmhouse. The race of both is shown as Mulatto.¹⁴ The household members are:

Wright Cherry, Mulatto male, son, age 16

Tom Cherry, Mulatto male, son, age 15

Mamie Cherry, Mulatto female, granddaughter, age 9

Abner Cherry, Mulatto male, grandson, age 6

Melenda Cherry, Mulatto female, daughter, age 24, public school teacher

Sennery (?) Cherry, Mulatto female, daughter, age 22, public school teacher

Clara Cherry, Mulatto female, daughter, age 18.

The child shown as "Sennery" Cherry is known to Cherry family descendants as "Symera," born in 1888. She gave the name Symera to her daughter.

Everyone in the household was receiving some type of education. Enumerated close by and living together are Wright Cherry's daughters, Sarah and Harriet, single, ages 61 and 69 respectively, occupation: farm laborers. Several other Cherry households are enumerated on the same page. The names of those household members do not correlate with the names of Wright Cherry, Madison Cherry, or their descendants.

The 1920 US Census for Mitchells Township, Bertie County, North Carolina shows a household headed by Wright Cherry, Sr., Mulatto male, age 81, occupation: farmer, owning a farmhouse; married to Melenda, Mulatto female, age 66. Also residing in the house are their son, Wright Cherry, Jr., single, Mulatto male, age 23; and a granddaughter, Mamie, Mulatto female, age 18.¹⁵

Nearby resides Wright and Melenda Cherry's son, Willie, Mulatto male, age 39, occupation: farmer; and his wife Bessie, Mulatto female, age 29. Their children are Helen H., age 10; Annie S., age 8; Fannie E., age 3; and Clinton, age 5 months. An aunt, Harriet, age 77, widowed, also resides with them.

Wright and Malinda Cherry lived long lives. Malinda filed for benefits against his Civil War pension as an invalid on August 6, 1890. She filed for pension benefits as his widow on July 31, 1925.¹⁶ Wright Cherry died on July 25, 1925 at age 87.¹⁷

¹⁴ 1910 US Federal Census; Census Place: Mitchells, Bertie, North Carolina; Roll T624_1098; Page: 9B; Enumeration District: 5; Image: 166.

¹⁵ 1920 US Federal Census; Census Place: Mitchells, Bertie, North Carolina; Roll 1761_4442115; Page: 2A; Enumeration District: 5; Image: 817.

¹⁶ National Archives and Records Administration, Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2000.

¹⁷ Ancestry.com. North Carolina Death Collection, 1908-2004 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2007.

William Wiley Bishop, Slaveholder

Is there evidence in public records to suggest a probable slaveholder of Samuel Bishop and the members of his household? One approach is to compare the surnames of emancipated slaves in the 1970 Federal Census with the surnames of slave holders in the respective county of residence in the Slave Schedules for 1850 and 1860.¹⁸ This approach helps to form a hypothesis about a slave to slave holder relationship. Establishing the link, however, requires research into all the available records of the slave holder.¹⁹

The 1850 U.S. Census Slave Schedules for Bertie County, North Carolina shows a slaveholder, William Bishop, holding a total of 26 slaves, male and female.²⁰ The 1850 U.S. Census Slave Schedules for Northampton County, North Carolina shows William Bishop, holding a total of 29 slaves, male and female, and all black.²¹

The 1860 U.S. Census Slave Schedules for Bertie County, North Carolina shows a slaveholder, William Bishop, holding a total of 26 slaves, male and female, all identified as Black.²² The 1860 U.S. Census Slave Schedule for Northampton County shows William Bishop held a total of 50 slaves, male and female. No color is indicated for any of the enumerated slaves.²³

Stanley Otis Roberts suggested that Samuel Bishop may have been the 25 year old slave listed in the 1860 Slave Census for Bertie County. Similarly, my comparison of probable ages of members of Samuel Bishop's household in the 1870 Census with the 1860 Slave Census for Bertie County may indicate Byrd Bishop as the 10 year old slave. David Bishop might be either of the two children age 7 or two children age 6. Gusto Bishop might be the 2 year old child. We cannot perform the same analysis for Ellen, Hannah or Matilda, because the 1860 Slave Census does not list any female slaves.

Samuel Bishop may be the sixteen year old slave and Ellen may be the 9 year old slave in the 1850 U.S. Census Slave Schedule for William Bishop in Bertie County.

¹⁸ *E.g.*, Tom Blake, transcriber, Bertie County, North Carolina Largest Slaveholders from 1860 Slave Census Schedules and Surname Matches for African Americans on 1870 Census, rootsweb.ancestry.com (June 2003)

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ 1850 U.S. Federal, Census – Bertie County Slave Schedules [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

²¹ 1850 U.S. Federal, Census – Northampton County Slave Schedules [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

²² 1850 U.S. Federal, Census – Bertie County Slave Schedules [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

²³ 1850 U.S. Federal, Census – Bertie County Slave Schedules [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

It was sometimes the practice to double count slaves held by a slave holder in different counties.²⁴ I did not similarly analyze the Slave Schedules of William Bishop in Northampton County, particularly because Samuel Bishop's household resided in Bertie County post emancipation.

A slave holder named William Bishop also held slaves in Georgia and Mississippi. This is interesting because the Bishop family story says that Ellen (Walton) Bishop was sold as a rebellious slave at the slave market in Fayetteville to a plantation in either Georgia or Mississippi.²⁵ A slaveholder named William Bishop held eight slaves in Emmanual County, Georgia in 1860. A female slave with an age approximate to the age Ellen would have been in 1860 does not appear on his slave schedule.²⁶

A slaveholder named William Bishop held two slaves in Simpson County, Mississippi in 1860. This William Bishop is enumerated on the same page with several other slaveholders surnamed Bishop: Elijah, John and Elbert. None of them hold slaves at the approximate age Ellen would have been in 1860. However, a slaveholder named David Bishop is shown holding a 20 year old female slave that might be Ellen.²⁷ I have not yet researched a possible familial relationship between William Wiley Bishop of Bertie and Northampton Counties and the slaveholders surnamed Bishop in Mississippi.

Enumerated immediately beside William Wiley Bishop in the 1860 Slave Census for Bertie County, NC are the slave holdings of William Powell, Joseph H. Hardy and Alanson Capehart. Capehart may be the former slave holder of Exum Capehart, David Bishop's reported brother.

Who was William Wiley Bishop? According to the genealogy research into North Carolina families by Sally Moore Koestler, the slaveholder William Wiley Bishop of Roxobel, North Carolina was born January 13, 1795, the son of Moses Bishop (1751-1815) and his wife Mary "Polly" Griffin (1754-1825) of Bertie County. He was the grandson of William "Billy" Bishop (1698 – 1783) of Halifax County, Virginia. William Wiley Bishop fought in the War of 1812. He died on January 27, 1863 about the time of the first Emancipation Proclamation.

William Wiley Bishop's ancestors were also slave holders. They were descendents of English immigrants who settled first in Virginia, then in North Carolina.

²⁴ Blake, Bertie County, North Carolina Largest Slaveholders from 1860 Slave Census Schedules and Surname Matches for African Americans on 1870 Census, *op. cit.*

²⁵ Whitted, *op. cit.*

²⁶ 1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules Emmanual County, Georgia [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

²⁷ 1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules Simpson County, Mississippi [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004, pp.5 and 6.

The Roxobel family home of William Wiley Bishop, named Oakland, was built around 1825. It was a successor to an earlier homestead on the Roanoke River. In addition to a large plantation house which served as an office and school, the property had many small two and three room houses near the barns, described by descendants as holdovers from slavery days. A picture of the plantation house survives, taken in 1898.

The family maintained a cemetery with two other slave holding families, that of William Powell and Joseph H. Hardy, who married into the Bishop family. The location of the Bishop-Hardy-Powell cemetery is described as 3/4 miles from Roxobel on the highway leading from Roxobel to Kelford and opposite the Roxobel-Kelford School. The school is no longer there.

In the 1860 census, William Wiley Bishop was age 68. His wife Mary, was age 55. The children enumerated in the household were daughters Louisa, Lucy, and Mary; and sons William Junius and George W. In a separate household, the census taker enumerated James Futrell, age 25, occupation: overseer.

Documents provided to the website by William Wiley Bishop's descendants indicate that in 1858, five years before his death, he purchased almost 700 acres of land in adjacent Northampton County, North Carolina, formally known as the Balgra Plantation. The witness to the deed was Alanson Capehart, another slaveholder.

It appears that William Wiley Bishop died intestate (without a will) in 1863. In 1868, the Sheriff of Bertie County divided his property among his heirs. The real property included almost 2,000 acres of land, including some 200 acres of land for the family homestead in Bertie County "from which he departed this life."²⁸

The Bicentennial History of Northampton County lists one of the Northampton County's plantations as the Bishop-Powell plantation.²⁹

In addition to taking the names of their former slaveholders, many freed slaves settled nearby the plantations from which they were emancipated. In the 1870 Census for Roxobel Township, Bertie County, North Carolina, the household headed by our ancestor, Samuel Bishop, is enumerated as household number 204. Very closely preceding our Bishop family household, the surviving descendants of the slaveholder William Wiley Bishop are enumerated at household number 200. Among the survivors of William Wiley Bishop are his widow, Mary, age 65, farmer and head of the household; and their son, William

²⁸ "William Wiley Bishop," Sally's Family Place; Sally Moore Koestler, Webmaster; Copyright 1998 to 2004, <http://www.sallysfamilyplace.com>.

²⁹ E. Carl Witt, Editor, Footprints in Northampton, Northampton County Bicentennial Committee, 1976, page 30.

Junius Bishop, age 33, whose occupation is also shown as farmer.³⁰ This may indicate not only that our Bishop family ancestors resided nearby their former slaveholding family after emancipation, but may have been still living and working on the plantation property.

This raises a question about a story in the Bishop family that when Ellen Walton Bishop was enslaved, she was sold away by her plantation owner because she slapped her master's son for sexual advances. At the close of the Civil War, she followed Union troops for two years from either Georgia or Mississippi back to Roxobel to be reunited with Hannah, her daughter by Wright Cherry. Ellen settled in the Sandy Branch area of Bertie County along with other emancipated slaves.

If William Wiley Bishop was the probable slave holder of Ellen Bishop and Wright Cherry; one of his two sons, William Junius Bishop or George W. Bishop might have been the sexual offender.

Given all she experienced, why would Ellen Bishop be living in 1870 in close proximity to one surviving son, let alone on the plantation of her probable former slaveholder, even though he was deceased by then? Why would David Bishop apparently reside with his family nearby the other son in 1900, as discussed below? My sister, Anita Bishop Johnson, suggested that perhaps Ellen's return to live with Samuel Bishop's household is further evidence of her devotion to Hannah and her family despite her harsh treatment.

We can neither prove nor disprove the story of Ellen Bishop from these records. With three exceptions, I am unable to locate our Bishop family members in the 1880 US Census. The exceptions are Exum Capehart and Wright Cherry, discussed above, and possibly Mary Magdalene Hardy. The 1880 Census for Roxobel Township, Bertie County, North Carolina shows a Mary Hardy, Black female, age 18, occupation: cook/servant, enumerated with the white household of William and Delia Livermore.³¹

The records of the 1890 US census were destroyed by fire. We do not yet know where other Bishop family members lived between 1870 and 1900. Our Bishop household does not show up again in public records until the 1900 Census when they reside in adjacent Northampton County.

Further evidence to indicate William Wiley Bishop might be the probable slaveholder of our Bishop ancestors can be found in the 1900 U.S. Census. After slaveholder William Wiley Bishop died without a will in 1863, the Sheriff of Bertie County divided his property among his heirs in 1868. One of William Wiley

³⁰ Tenth Census of the United States; 1870; Census Place: Roxobel, Bertie, North Carolina; Roll: M593_1123; Page: 229B; Image: 471; *op. cit.*

³¹ Tenth Census of the United States, 1880; Census Place: Roxobel, Bertie, North Carolina; Roll T9_953; Family History Film: 1254953; Page: 243.3000; Enumeration District: 12; Image: 0130.

Bishop's sons, George W. Bishop, is identified as an heir to his father's property.³² The 1870 US Census shows George W. Bishop residing in Roxobel with his family apart from his siblings and widowed mother.³³ Sometime between 1870 and 1900, he moved his family to Rich Square.

George W. Bishop's family is enumerated in the 1900 US Census at household number 16, immediately after the household of David and Hannah Bishop.³⁴ This leads us to speculate that the property George W. Bishop inherited from his father's estate might have been some portion of the land his father owned in Northampton County, identified as the former Balgra Plantation. Could that have been his motivation for moving from Roxobel to Rich Square? Did David Bishop continue his association with his former slaveholding family working as a farm laborer in Rich Square for George W. Bishop?

The evidence described above is strongly suggestive, but circumstantial. The answers to questions about the relationship of David and Hannah to the family of their apparent former slaveholder may lie in a search of the available tax, probate and land records of William Wiley Bishop and his family.

Cherry Family Slaveholders in Bertie County

Is there evidence in public records to suggest a probable slaveholder of Wright Cherry? I recently learned that Cherry family descendants considered Wright Cherry to be a child of his slaveholder.

Wendel White, a great grandson of Wright and Malinda Cherry wrote: "There has always (as long as I remember) been a discussion of Wright's father being the master of the property (not sure I would call it a plantation) where Wright was a slave before the war. The father's name was always mentioned as Solomon Cherry. Anyway, in recent years I came across more specific documents to support this family story. On the Solomon Cherry slave schedule of 1850, the location is in the same area as the present day farm where Wright and Malinda are buried. On the schedule there were two mulatto boys one 9 years and one 11 years old. With 1839 being the most consistently used birth date for Wright I have generally believed that the 11 year old mulatto boy on Solomon Cherry's slave schedule was Wright. While they may have been purchased from another slave owner, I also assumed that since none of the adult women were listed as mulatto, that the two boys were the slave sons of Solomon Cherry.

The Solomon Cherry story has been part of family folklore for a long time and I recall my uncles telling the story since I was a child. They knew the story from

³² "William Wiley Bishop," Sally's Family Place, *op. cit.*

³³ 1870 United States Federal Census; Census Place: Roxobel, Bertie, North Carolina; Roll: M593_1123; Page: 229A; Image: 470; Family History Library Film: 552622.

³⁴ 1900 United States Federal Census; Census Place: Rich Square, Northampton, North Carolina; Roll: T623_1209; Page: 1B; Enumeration District: 73.

their childhood. One aspect of the story that has been clarified in recent research was the idea that Wright ran away to the North to join the Union Army. It's now clear that he joined as the Union Army took a hold in North Carolina and in fact he seems to have served entirely within the state. He may have runaway and it would have taken sometime to get to New Bern but it seems that he never left NC."³⁵

Recently, Darlene Cherry wrote: "I believe Joseph Blount Cherry fathered my great grandfather Wright Cherry, who was a slave. My great grandfather's mother's name was Judie Outlaw. According to the records kept by my great grandfather's daughter, she indicated he was born on a large plantation in Bertie County North Carolina near the Holly Grove Baptist church about twelve miles from Windsor going North on Highway No 13. The plantation consisted of more than one thousand acres. The information contained in her records also mentioned a grist mill."³⁶

Who were Joseph Blount Cherry and Solomon Cherry? According to genealogy research into North Carolina families by Sally Moore Koestler, Joseph Blount Cherry (b. 1816) and Solomon Cherry (b. 1808) were brothers and sons of Captain Solomon Cherry (1755 to 1810) and Mary Walton (abt 1802 to April 24, 1818). Captain Solomon Cherry also had a son, William Walton Cherry (1806 to May 2, 1845), reportedly elected to the North Carolina State legislature. There is some confusion in the history about William Walton Cherry. His dates are also reported as 1780/3 to ca 1809, graduating UNC in 1800, an attorney with an extensive practice, and in the North Carolina legislature from 1804 to 1805. Reportedly, he died at age 27 or 29 of intemperance due to much time spent at the "card table and intoxicating bowl."

Captain Solomon Cherry was a son of Solomon Cherry (1714 to 1777) and Sarah Eley. Captain Solomon Cherry (1714) had a son by a first wife, also named Sarah (last name unknown). Captain Solomon Cherry's half brother was named Cader Cherry (1741, died before 1782). Cader Cherry had a son, Wright Cherry, by his wife, Judith (Judah) Burnett (ca 1735). Captain Solomon Cherry (1714) was the son of William Cherry (1664 to 1737) and Elizabeth (last name unknown). William Cherry was the son of John Cherry (1619 to 1699) of Brey, England and Elizabeth Faithful, of Norfolk County, Virginia. For the sake of brevity, I have not included all siblings born in each generation, whose numbers are legion.

Joseph Blount Cherry was an attorney and farmer. In the 1860 US Federal Census, his real estate was valued at \$9,500. His personal estate was valued at \$48,500. Solomon Cherry is shown with the title "Dr.," but the title is unsourced.

³⁵ Wendel White, Email Message to Elbert Bishop, December 29, 2010.

³⁶ Darlene Cherry, "Joseph Blount Cherry married Sarah Outlaw," GenForum, Genealogy.com, accessed March 13, 2011, <http://www.genforum.com>.

According to data assembled by Sally Koestler, both Joseph and Solomon Cherry married women with the maiden name "Outlaw." Joseph B. Cherry married Sarah Francis Outlaw (b. 1818). They had both a son and grandson named Solomon. Their other children were Joseph O. Cherry (1840) and Emily Cherry (ca 1845). Dr. Solomon Cherry married Janie Outlaw (d. 1849) before 1842. Their children were Mary Janie E. O. Cherry (ca 1847) and William Walton Cherry (ca. 1849).³⁷

The Cherry family represents several generations of slaveholders. The 1860 Federal Slave Register for Bertie County shows four major slave holders surnamed Cherry each holding more than 20 slaves, as follows: Aaron Cherry, 34 slaves; Jos. B. Cherry, 43 slaves; Sol. Cherry, 25 slaves; and Thos. Cherry, 39 slaves. Others surnamed Cherry held fewer than 20 slaves each.³⁸

The 1850 Federal Slave Census for Solomon Cherry showing two mulatto males, age 9 and 11, is discussed above by Wendel White.³⁹ The 1860 Federal Slave Census for Solomon Cherry shows five mulatto males, ages 28, 10 and 6; and two mulatto males age 20.⁴⁰

The 1850 Federal Slave Census for Joseph Blount Cherry shows four mulatto males, ages 10, 8, 1, and 2 months. The race of one male slave, age 10, is obscured by an ink blot.⁴¹ The 1860 Federal Slave Census for Joseph Blount Cherry shows two mulatto males, ages 26 and 11.⁴²

Joseph Blount Cherry, White male lawyer and farmer, age 65 in 1880, was enumerated with his family residing in Winsor Township, Bertie County. He was enumerated with a residence in Windsor in the 1870 Census, as well.⁴³ Unfortunately, the earlier Federal Censuses do not show a residential subdivision

³⁷ "William Wiley Bishop," Sally's Family Place, *op. cit.*

³⁸ Blake, Bertie County, North Carolina Largest Slaveholders from 1860 Slave Census Schedules and Surname Matches for African Americans on 1870 Census, *op. cit.*

³⁹ Ancestry.com. 1850 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules for Bertie County, North Carolina [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

⁴⁰ 1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules for Bertie, North Carolina [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

⁴¹ Ancestry.com. 1850 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules for Bertie County, North Carolina [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

⁴² Ancestry.com. 1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules for Bertie County, North Carolina [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

⁴³ 1870 United States Federal Census [database on-line]; Census Place: Windsor, Bertie, North Carolina; Roll: M593_1123; Page: 267A; Image: 546; Family History Library Film: 552622; and 1880 United States Federal Census [database on-line]; Census Place: Windsor, Bertie, North Carolina; Roll: 953; Family History Film: 1254953; Page: 323D; Enumeration District: 16; Image: 0291.

smaller than Bertie County. Wright Cherry's military records indicate his place of birth as Windsor, North Carolina.⁴⁴

If proximity of post emancipation settlement was an indication of a relationship between former slaves and slaveholders, the 1880 Federal Census records for Mitchell Township, Bertie County, show Wright Cherry enumerated proximate to Solomon Chearry, widowed White male, age 67. Solomon's occupation is farmer. He resides with two daughters, a son and a sister. Both Solomon Cherry and Wright Cherry were enumerated in Census District 11, at households 75 and 84, respectively.⁴⁵

While this information is suggestive, it appears this is about as far as it will take us. The relationship of Wright Cherry to the slave holding Cherry family may lie in a search of the available tax, probate and land records of Joseph Blount Cherry and Solomon Cherry.

David and Hannah Bishop in Rich Square

Sometime between 1870 and 1900, Samuel Bishop passed away. David and Hannah married about 1875. They moved to Rich Square, Northampton County, about 5 miles from Roxobel.

The 1900 U.S. Census for the Town of Rich Square, Northampton County shows a household headed by David Bishop, farmer, age 47, born 1852, owning his own farmhouse. His wife is Hannah Bishop, age 41, born July 1858. Both are able to read and write. They have been married for 25 years, which would place their marriage sometime in 1875. They were about age 22 and 20 when they married. Hannah is the mother of 11 children, of which eight were still living. David and Hannah's children are shown as:

Carrie, female, age 23, born October 1876;
John (Sam), age 15, born March 1889, occupation: farm laborer;
Ellen, age 13, born September 1886;
Paul, age 11, born January 1889
Barnabas, age 9, born April 1891;
Pearle, age 6, born April 1894; and
Ruby, female, age 3, born September 1896.

With the exception of David Bishop, the male members of the household, John, Paul and Barnabas, are erroneously identified as female; although the relationship as sons of David Bishop is correctly listed. Missing from the

⁴⁴ Wright Cherry, 14th U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery, Roll: M1818_266; Ancestry.com. U.S. Colored Troops Military Service Records, 1861-1865 [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.

⁴⁵ 1880 US Federal Census; Census Place: Mitchells, Bertie, North Carolina; Roll T9_953; Family History Film: 1254953; Page: 229.4000; Enumeration District: 11; Image: 0103.

household enumeration is the eldest son, James William Bishop. The racial identification of the members of the household is Black.⁴⁶

The household of David and Hannah was enumerated in the 1900 U.S. Census as household number 15. Enumerated a few households away at household number 11 are Ellen Bishop, age 50, widowed, born April 1850, mother of four children, of which two survive. Also shown is her daughter, Mary Hardy, age 26, born April 1874. The occupation of both women is shown as washer women. They are renting a home.⁴⁷

David Bishop died sometime between 1900 and 1910. I have been unable to locate a death record for him. According to family tradition, he is buried in an unmarked grave at Sandy Branch Missionary Baptist Church in Bertie County.

The 1910 US Census shows our Bishop family residing in Rich Square, North Carolina. Hannah Bishop is widowed. The head of the household is now John Samuel Bishop, age 26, occupation: farmer. Also present in the household are

Paul Andrew, son, age 25, occupation: insurance agent;
Barnabas B., son, age 18, occupation: livery stable laborer;
Pearlie D., daughter, age 15, occupation: home farm laborer;
Rubie W., daughter, age 13, occupation: home farm laborer;
Ellen D. Lassiter, daughter, age 23, widowed, one child, occupation: schoolteacher; and
Catherine E. Lassiter, niece, age 11 months.

The race of each family member is recorded as Mulatto.

Enumerated a few households away are Ellen Bishop, age 63, widowed, renter; and Mary M. Hardy, daughter, age 33, single. Both are employed as laundresses. The race of each is shown as Black. The census enumerator for the 1910 US Census was Giles G. Magett, a friend of David and Hannah and the person from whom it was said David purchased land in Rich Square on which to build a house.⁴⁸

Ellen Bishop died on January 25, 1916. She was buried at Sandy Branch in Bertie County on January 26, 1916. Her death certificate indicates that her father was Bryant Walden, of Bertie County, North Carolina. Her mother's name is unknown.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ Ancestry.com. 1900 United States Federal Census [database online]; Census Place: Rich Square, Northampton, North Carolina; Roll: T623_1209; Page: 1B; Enumeration District: 73.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ Ancestry.com. 1910 United States Federal Census [database online]. Census Place: Rich Square, Northampton, North Carolina; Roll: T624_1125; Page: 1B; Enumeration District: 0083; Image: 823; FHL Number: 1375138.

⁴⁹ Ancestry.com. North Carolina Death Certificates, 1909-1975 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.

Hannah Bishop died on September 4, 1946. She was buried on September 6 at Sandy Branch Church in Roxobel. Hannah's son, Rev. Dr. Paul Andrew Bishop, witnessed his mother's death certificate. He indicated that Hannah's parents were Ellen Walton and Wright Cherry.⁵⁰ Georgia Bishop Whitted maintains that Walden and Walton are the same name, with Walden being the earlier form. She recalls that her father, Rev. Bishop, visited with descendants of Ellen's relatives named Walton. The name Bryant was passed down as the middle name of David and Hannah's son, Barnabas Bryant Bishop, and to Barnabas' grandson, James Bryant Bishop.

Children of David and Hannah and their Descendents

James William Bishop, Sr.: North Carolina marriage records show that James William Bishop, colored, age 25, married Mignonette Roberts, age 23 on September 13, 1905.⁵¹

The 1910 US Census for Rocky Mount, Edgecombe County, North Carolina shows William Bishop, Black male, age 30, occupation: Barber; residing with his wife of four years, Mignonette, Black female, age 28. They are renting a house and have two children, both of whom are living. The children are Ilva, Black female, age 3 and Gardner, Black male, age 1. Also present in the household are Roscoe L. Lassiter, Black male, single, age 29, occupation: Shoemaker and described as a cousin of James William Bishop; two roomers: Samuel Grant, Black male, single, age 27; and Thomas Thompson, Black male, single, age 22. Both roomers are hotel bell men.⁵²

The 1920 US Census for Rocky Mount, Edgecombe County, North Carolina shows Bishop, W. J., head of household, Black male, age 42, owning a home, occupation: Barber. His wife is Mignonette Bishop, Black female, age 37. The children present in the household are

Ilva Bishop	Female	age 13	(b. 1907)	Daughter
Gardner Bishop	Male	age 10	(b. 1910)	Son
Mignonette Bishop	Female	age 8	(b. 1912)	Daughter
David L. Bishop	Male	age 5	(b. 1915)	Son
Billy Bishop	Male	age 4	(b. 1916)	Son
Roberto Bishop	Male	age 17 mos	(b. 1918)	Son

Roberto would be Elbert Roberts, Sr.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ Ancestry.com. North Carolina Marriage Collection, 1741-2004 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.

⁵² Ancestry.com. 1910 United States Federal Census [database online]; Place: Rocky MT Ward 2, Edgecombe, North Carolina; Roll T624_1110; Page: 28B; Enumeration District: 26; Image: 59

Enumerated a few households away is Mignonette Roberts Bishop's sister Lula Roberts Lucas, Mulatto female, age 31, and her husband Erastus Lucas, Black male, age 40. Their children were Irwin, age 7; Edith, age 3, and Mildred, age 7 months. The race of the children is described as Mulatto. Erastus Lucas was a church minister. Also present in the household are two roomers, schoolteachers Nannie Morgan, age 26, and Elizabeth Gilkenson, age 25.

Enumerated in close proximity are names of neighbors on Albemarle Street familiar to Bishop family descendants: Maggie Bullock, occupation: private cook, and her son Joseph; George, occupation: express helper, and Fannie Pugh, and their children, Georgia, Helen and James; John, occupation: drayman, and Ida Hagans, and their children, Ray, Ella, Vertis, Jonnie and Ivanna. All of the neighbors are home owners.⁵³

John Samuel Bishop: The 1920 U.S. Census for the Town of Rich Square, Northampton County shows a household headed by John Samuel Bishop, Mulatto male, age 36, occupation: farmer. His wife is Lillie, Mulatto female, age 27, occupation: high school teacher. Also present in the house are

Hannah, his widowed mother, Mulatto female, age 59;
Pearle M., Mulatto female, age 23, single, occupation: high school teacher;
Rubie W., Mulatto female, age 21, single, occupation: high school teacher;
Catherine, niece, Mulatto female, age 9; and
Mary M. Hardy, aunt, Mulatto female, single, age 50, occupation: private family servant.

Enumerated nearby are high school teachers William and Susie Creecy, ages 40 and 35; and their children Rosie, William, Susan, and George. Also enumerated are farmers Thomas and Blannie Walden, age 33 and 28; and their minor daughters Gwendolyn, Sybil, and Jesse. Another enumerated Walden family is farmers Jonas and Minnie Walden, age 33 and 32; and their minor children Gleason, Wyman and Thelma.⁵⁴

On September 12, 1918, John Sam registered for the World War I draft at age 34. His date of birth is given as March 4, 1884. His physical description is Negro, medium height, dark eyes and dark hair.⁵⁵ John Sam registered for the World War II draft at age 58. His date of birth is shown as March 3, 1884. His

⁵³ Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census [database online] Census Place: Rocky Mount, Edgecombe, North Carolina; Roll 31761_4442127; Page: 23B; Enumeration District: 18; Image: 100.

⁵⁴ Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census [database online] Census Place: Rich Square, Northampton, North Carolina; Roll 31109_4383839; Page: 23A; Enumeration District: 80; Image: 916 and Image: 917.

⁵⁵ Ancestry.com. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917- 1918 [database on-line] Registration Location: Northampton County, North Carolina; Roll 1765693; Draft Board: 0.

place of residence is given as 5th Street, Lloyds Place, Suffolk, Virginia. His employer was the Bourbon Apartments, 116 Clay Street, Suffolk, Virginia.⁵⁶

The 1930 U.S. Census for the Town of Rich Square, Northampton County shows a household headed by John Samuel Bishop, Mulatto male, age 46, occupation: filling station salesman. His wife is Lillie, Mulatto female, age 35, occupation: public high school teacher. Also present in the house are sons John, age 10 (b. 1910); Wadsworth, age 8 (b. 1912); and Norville, age 6 (b. 1914).⁵⁷

Carrie Bishop: Carrie Bishop, age 38 (b. 1882), appears in the 1920 US Census for Baltimore City, Maryland as the wife of John W. Gibbs, Black male, age 54 (b. 1866), occupation: coal yard laborer. John Gibbs' birthplace is shown as North Carolina. Their children are Vernell, age 16 (b. 1904); Edward, age 14 (b. 1906); Marie, age 12 (b. 1908); and Ferdinand, age 10 (b. 1910). All of the children were born in Maryland. The family rents a residence at 203 Henry Court in Baltimore City. The white households enumerated around the family show diverse European origins in England, Russia and Poland. A number of neighbors indicate their spoken language is Jewish. Many Black households have their origins in North Carolina, with some from Jamaica and Cuba.⁵⁸

Carrie Bishop, age 30, also appears in the 1910 US Census for Baltimore City, Maryland as the wife of John W. Gibbs, Black male, age 45, occupation: coal yard laborer. The record shows Carrie and John have been married for eight (m. 1902) years and that she is the mother of four children. Their children are Vernell, age 7; Edward, age 6; Marie, age 4; and Ferdinand, age 9 months. All of the children were born in Maryland. The family rents a residence at 203 Henry Court in Baltimore City. They have a married boarder, Charles Brown, age 53, a laborer born in Maryland.⁵⁹

John W. Gibbs was enumerated in the 1900 US Census for Baltimore City, Maryland as age 33 (b.1866), single, renting a house, occupation: grocery store, residing at 1514 Eastern Avenue. He has a border, William Bowe, Black male single, age 24 (b. 1875), of North Carolina, occupation: laborer.⁶⁰

⁵⁶ Ancestry.com. U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942 [database online]; Roll WW2_2369697; Local Board: Nansemond, Virginia.

⁵⁷ Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census [database online]; Census Place: Rich Square, Northampton, North Carolina; Roll 1710; Page: 5A; Enumeration District: 14; Image: 1004.0.

⁵⁸ Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census [database online], Census Place: Baltimore Ward 3, Baltimore (Independent City), Maryland; Roll: T625_657; Page: 7A; Enumeration District: 38; Image: 979.

⁵⁹ Ancestry.com. 1910 United States Federal Census [database online]; Census Place: Baltimore Ward 3, Baltimore (Independent City), Maryland; Roll: T624_553; Page: 5A; Enumeration District: 0035; Image: 972; FHL Number: 1374566.

⁶⁰ Ancestry.com. 1900 United States Federal Census [database online]; Census Place: Baltimore Ward 4, Baltimore City (Independent City), Maryland; Roll T623_609; Page: 12B; Enumeration District: 56.

Carrie's son, Edward (Eddie) W. Bishop, was enumerated in the 1930 US Census for Baltimore City, Maryland as a married Negro male, age 25 (b. 1905), occupation: steel mill foreman, born in North Carolina. He has been married to his wife Gertrude, Negro female, of New York, age 22 (b. 1908) for three years (m. 1927). Their children are sons Edward, age 2 years seven months; and Robert, age 1 year and one month.⁶¹ According to the Social Security Death Index, Edward was born on August 26, 1904 and died on October 12, 2006 at age 102.⁶²

Carrie's son, Vernell Bishop, was enumerated in the 1930 US Census for Baltimore City, Maryland as married Negro male, age 26 (b. 1904, in North Carolina, occupation: food mixer in a food packing plant). He is married to Rubie (Carter), Negro female, age 24. Their minor children are Vernell Jr., age 4 (b. 1926); Elwood, age 2 (b. 1928); and Douglas, age 1 (b. 1929). They resided at 2632 Boone Street with Vernell's in-laws, Robert and Maggie Carter, age 54 and 49. Robert Carter's occupation was steamship stevedore.⁶³ According to the Social Security Death Index, Vernell was born August 13, 1902 and died in July 1987.⁶⁴

Barnabas Bryant Bishop: My grandfather, Barnabas, registered for the World War I draft at age 26 on June 5, 1917 in Rich Square, South Carolina. His date of birth is given as May 29, 1891. His occupation is self-employed farmer. His physical description is medium height, stout build, with Black hair and Black eyes. His registration card is clipped off in the lower left-hand corner as per the instructions for the registrar to indicate his race is Negro.⁶⁵

According to the US Military Gravesite Records, Barnabas served as a Private in the United States Army in World War I. His service start date was May 18, 1918.⁶⁶

⁶¹ Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census [database online]; Census Place: Baltimore, Baltimore (Independent City), Maryland; Roll: 857; Page: 3B; Enumeration District: 211; Image: 919.0.

⁶² Individual Record for Edward Bishop, Ancestry.com. FamilySearch, U.S. Social Security Death Index [database online]; as of May 1, 2009.

⁶³ Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census [database online]; Census Place: Baltimore, Baltimore (Independent City), Maryland; Roll: 854; Page: 16A; Enumeration District: 563; Image: 191.0.

⁶⁴ Individual Record for Vernell Bishop, Ancestry.com. FamilySearch, U.S. Social Security Death Index [database online]; as of May 1, 2009.

⁶⁵ Ancestry.com. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917- 1918 [database on-line]; Registration Location: Northampton County, North Carolina; Roll: 1765693; Draft Board: 0.

⁶⁶ National Cemetery Administration. U.S. Veterans Gravesites, ca.1775-2006 [database online] Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2006; Original data: National Cemetery Administration Nationwide Gravesite Locator; National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington, D.C.; State Headquarters: Maryland; Microfilm Series: M1939; Microfilm Roll: 5.

After the war, Barnabas appears as Barnibes Bishop as head of household in the 1920 US Census for Baltimore City, Maryland. He is described as a Mulatto male, age 29, born in Kentucky, occupation: laborer in a canning house. His wife is Nannie Bishop, Mulatto female, age 29 (b. 1891), born in West Virginia. Also in the household are Nannie's brothers, James and John Green, single males, age 26 (b. 1894) and 27 (b. 1895), born in West Virginia, occupations: grocery store porter and warf laborer. Their mother, and Barnabas's mother in law, Mary Williams, Black female, widowed, age 60 (b. 1860), born in West Virginia, resides with them. The household also has a lodger, William (sic) Johnson, Black female, single, age 19, born in Massachusetts, occupation: hotel waitress. The household resides at 540 Sanibert Street.⁶⁷ The street no longer exists, but was in the Sandtown neighborhood of Baltimore, near the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Baker Street.

In the 1930 US Census for Baltimore City, Maryland, Barnabas and Nan resided at 1609 Madison Avenue. They were age 38 and 45, respectively. They married at age 28 and 35, respectively, in 1920. Barnabas' occupation is church janitor. Nan's occupation is general caterer. Their two daughters are Nannie, age 9, and Helen, age 4. The race of the household members is Negro.⁶⁸ Helen Bishop is my mother.

At age 48, Barnabas registered for the World War II draft on April 26, 1942. His physical description is 5' 6", weighing 185 pounds. His race is Negro, his complexion is Black. His hair is Black and his eye color is gray. His address is 1508 Baker Street in Baltimore. The residence is within the Baltimore neighborhood known as Sandtown. He lists his sister, Mrs. Pearl Bishop Robinson of 640 Manscoal, as a person who would always know where he is. He lists his employer as A. B. Carwell, 2122 Elsinore Avenue.⁶⁹

According to the US Military Gravesite Records, Barnabas was born on May 29, 1890. He died on March 13, 1963 at age 73. He was buried in Baltimore National Cemetery on March 18, 1963.⁷⁰

Mary Pearl Dewart Bishop Robinson: appears in the 1930 US Federal Census for Baltimore City, Maryland, as Dewart Robinson, the wife of John D. Robinson, of West Virginia, a homeowner with property valued at \$6,000. They reside at 2502 Madison Avenue. John Robinson is age 42 and Pearl is age 32. They

⁶⁷ Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census [database online]; Census Place: Baltimore Ward 17, Baltimore (Independent City), Maryland; Roll 31109_4301029; Page: 10B; Enumeration District: 298; Image: 209.

⁶⁸ Ancestry.com 1930 United States Federal Census [database online]; Census Place: Baltimore Independent City), Maryland; Roll: 858; Page: 11A; Enumeration District: 217; Image: 178.0.

⁶⁹ Ancestry.com, U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942 [database online]; National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington, D.C.; State Headquarters: Maryland; Microfilm Series: M1939; Microfilm Roll: 5.

⁷⁰ National Cemetery Administration, U.S. Veterans Gravesites, ca.1775-2006 [database online], *op. cit.*

were married about 1921 at ages 33 and 23, respectively. John Robinson is employed as a washer in a laundry. Their son is Bishop Robinson, age 3 years and three months (b. 1927). The household has two lodgers, John and Dorothy Lockett, ages 22 and 21, recently married. John Lockett is employed as a laborer in a steel plant.⁷¹

Ellen Devolia Bishop Lassiter Gordon: appears in the 1920 US Federal Census for Elizabeth City, North Carolina, as the wife of Joe Gordon. The family resides on Wilson Avenue. Joe Gordon, age 32, was born in North Carolina (b. 1888). He works as a laborer in a cotton mill. Their four sons are John B., age 5 years and 8 months; Joe H., Jr., age 4 years and 1 month; Roy M., age 2 years and 1 month; and Robert L., age 3 months. The record also shows an adopted daughter, Rachel White, age 14.⁷²

Ellen Devolia Bishop's marriage records show that she married Elijah Lassiter on June 11, 1905. Ellen was age 20 and Elijah was age 22 (b. 1883). Ellen married Joseph Gordon (b. 1885) on October 19, 1913. Both were age 28.⁷³

Paul Andrew Bishop: appears in the 1920 US Federal Census for the Township of Roxobel, Bertie County, North Carolina with his wife Nettie. He is age 30 (b. 1880) employed as a "Preacher of the Gospel." Nettie (b. 1897) is age 23 and employed as a graded school teacher. Their son, Paul A., Jr. is age 1 year and 9 months (b. 1919). Also in the household is Lula Early, hired girl, age 17 (Cook with a private family).

Enumerated immediately after Rev. Bishop are William and Maggie Eason. They reside with their children, William, Josie and Lucille, and a niece and nephew. Could they be part of the family of Wright Cherry's mother and uncle, Judia and Elec Eason?⁷⁴

According to North Carolina Death records, Nettie Askew Bishop died at age 28 on December 29, 1924 from pulmonary tuberculosis.⁷⁵

In the 1930 US Federal Census for the Township of Rich Square, Northampton County, North Carolina, Rev. Bishop (age 40) appears with his wife, Viola (age

⁷¹ Ancestry.com, 1930 United States Federal Census [database online]; Census Place: Baltimore (Independent City), Maryland; Roll 857; Page: 3A; Enumeration District: 206; Image: 672.0.

⁷² Ancestry.com; 1920 United States Federal Census [database online]; Census Place: Elizabeth, Pasquotank, North Carolina; Roll T625_1316; Page: 18A; Enumeration District: 50; Image: 39.

⁷³ Ancestry.com. North Carolina Marriage Collection, 1741-2004 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.

⁷⁴ Ancestry.com, 1920 United States Federal Census [database online]; Census Place: Roxobel, Bertie, North Carolina; Roll T625_1285; Page: 22A; Enumeration District: 6; Image: 905.

⁷⁵ Ancestry.com. North Carolina Death Certificates, 1909-1975 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007. Original data: North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. North Carolina Death Certificates. Microfilm S.123. Rolls 19-242, 280, 313-682, 1040-1297. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

33). They were married about 1926. Both were public school teachers. Their children are shown as Paul, Jr. (age 12); Nettie (age 10), Wendel (age 9) and Georgia (age 3).⁷⁶

⁷⁶ Ancestry.com, 1930 United States Federal Census [database online]; Census Place: Rich Square, Northampton, North Carolina; Roll 1710; Page: 1A; Enumeration District: 14; Image: 996.0.

Our Family DNA: Filling in the Record When the Paper Trail Runs Out⁷⁷

Neither our family oral tradition nor research into public records yielded information about our origins in the African continent. From December 2010 through February 2011, I had my DNA analyzed in an effort to uncover the origins of my parents' lines of descent in the African continent. The testing was performed through African DNA.com.

I subscribed to three types of tests. The Y-DNA test traces the paternal ancestry of males. The Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) test traces the maternal ancestry of males and females. Both tests identify recent shared genetic origins (more than 400 years ago) and deep ancestry (20,000 to 50,000 years ago). Deep ancestry is described as Haplogroups and divided into subclades.

The Haplogroups associated with Y-DNA are the major branches on the Y chromosome tree that have accumulated along different lineages as Y chromosomes are passed from father to son over many generations. All Haplogroups ultimately descend from a single Y chromosome carried by a male that lived in the distant past.

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is passed from mother to daughter along the female line without any influence from fathers. Both men and women can test their mtDNA. The test traces the direct maternal line without any influence from the men along the way. The study of mtDNA is essentially the study of female genetic lines within human populations. Research over the last decade suggests that all the maternal lines ultimately originate from "Mitochondrial Eve" approximately 140,000 years ago in Africa.

Finally, the Population Finder Test identifies biogeographical ancestry. The test considers the totality of genetic inheritance of all grandparents regardless of gender.

Paternal DNA:

The Y-DNA test traces the direct paternal ancestry of males without any influence from women along the way. Only males can test the Y chromosome. The results identify the ethnic and geographic origin of the paternal line. In my case, the paternal line of descent consists of my father, Elbert R Bishop, Sr.; my grandfathers, brothers Barnabas Bishop and James William Bishop; my great-grandfather, David Bishop, and my great-great-grandfather Samuel Bishop.

The test results show my Y-DNA shares common ancestry with the Ibo (Igbo) peoples of Nigeria. The correlation is 2.9%, between significant and highly

⁷⁷ Summarized and adapted from My African DNA Personal Home Page, accessed September 18, 2011, <http://www.africandna.com>.

significant. A correlation over 2% is significant. A correlation over 4% is highly significant.

The Deep Ancestry (Haplogroup E) of my paternal line originated in East Africa some 50,000 years ago. E is the third African Haplogroup. The subclade E1b1a is the most frequent African Haplogroup, originating 20,000 years ago. It represents the spread of the Bantu people 3,000 years ago from East Africa to Central and West Africa.

Maternal DNA:

The test results show my maternal DNA (mtDNA), the line of descent from Helen M. Bishop, shares common ancestry with the following areas in Africa: Sao Tome and Principe, 4.8%; Angola/Cabinda 2.3%, and Sierra Leone, 2.5%. A correlation over 2% is significant. A correlation over 4% is highly significant.

My mtDNA Deep Ancestry Haplogroup is L1b. L1b is part of the L cluster of haplogroups, which has been concretely characterized as representing the original human mitochondrial lineage. Haplogroup L1b is found in Africa. This haplogroup dates to approximately 30,000 years ago, and is detected in highest frequency in north, west, and central Africa.

The Totality of My Genetic Inheritance:

The Population Finder program determines biogeographical ancestry — the story of personal genetic history — by comparing autosomal DNA to a world DNA population database. Autosomal refers to chromosomes other than the sex-determining chromosomes (i.e., the X and Y). This test considers the total biogeographical ancestry of all grandparents and their spouses. Since the biological ancestry of my mother is unknown to us, we are left with a large gap in understanding the genetic ancestry of my siblings and me.

The Population Finder results consist of up to four out of seven associated continental groups. The seven continental groups are based on genetic similarity and do not precisely match geographical continents. For each, the percentage of the genome that matches is indicated. Specific subgroups are shown where possible.

The total biogeographical ancestry of me and my siblings is 50.36% European (Western European: French, Orcadian). Orcadia is part of the British Isles. The margin of error is $\pm 0.42\%$. The balance of our biogeographical ancestry is 49.65% African (West African: Yoruba, Mandenka) the margin of error is $\pm 0.42\%$. A high margin of error would be $\pm 15\%$.

Acknowledgements: This research would not have been possible without the help of cousins Georgia Bishop Whitted, Ruth Iris Owens and Peggy Thomas Templeman, who recorded memories of Bishop family history and encouraged my research. My parents, Elbert R. & Helen M. Bishop, collected an invaluable resource of history and photographs. They attended every family event they could. I am indebted to Stanley Otis Roberts, whose thorough research of the Roberts family history served as a model to emulate. I also appreciate the enthusiasm of my siblings, cousins and friends who were simultaneously encouraging, fascinated and sometimes bored to tears, hearing about our ancestry.

About Elbert Roberts Bishop, Jr.: Elbert and his siblings are children of the late Elbert Roberts and Helen Marie Bishop of Baltimore, Maryland. Elbert is a grandson by adoption of Barnabas Bryant Bishop of Baltimore, Maryland and James William Bishop, of Washington, D.C. Elbert is a great grandson of David and Hannah Ann Cherry Bishop of Rich Square, North Carolina. Elbert is a great, great grandson of Wright Cherry and Ellen Walton Bishop of Bertie County, North Carolina. He is also descended from the Roberts and Ash families of Northampton County, North Carolina.

Elbert is a graduate of Morgan State University (A.B. 1967), the Harvard Law School (J.D., 1970) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.C.P., 1971). He has been an attorney, management consultant and investigator for over forty years. Elbert can be reached at erbishop@verizon.net.