

Our Outlaw Thirteen



ca. 1920 Paul, Arabella, Ellis, Osceola, Young, Hattie
Sarah, Johnson, Lamonica
Clothield, Leonard & Lillian Outlaw

**Let them be remembered forever
Let them be alive forever
Let their voices be heard forever
Let our people know them forever**

HOME... Where Our Story Began



Johnson
Hanford
Outlaw

Although our most familiar **Outlaw/Gandy** family memories center around the modest brown bungalow home on **Garnett Place in Evanston**, our Outlaw-Gandy story really began near the gently rolling farmlands outside **Starkville, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi**.

Without a doubt ancestor **Johnson Hanford Outlaw**, the handsome, distinguished looking son of seamstress **Morning Outlaw**, united in marriage with Miss **Virginia (Jenny) Gandy**, daughter of **John and Sarah Gandy** on Wednesday, **December 3, 1873**. From that day forward, Outlaw descendents of Johnson and Jenny have continued to live, work and worship together.

Their union yielded a baker's dozen of children, affectionately known as the "**Outlaw Thirteen**." Drawing upon their strong family ties, twelve siblings did more than survive the post Civil War era. They thrived as **entrepreneurs, professional educators, government workers, civic leaders, and homemakers** despite the residual conditions of inequity that prevailed.

Their story truly represents our beginning.

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The Outlaw-Gandy Family



Johnson Hanford Outlaw

Born/Died: **August, 1851 Starkville, MS ~ January 4, 1930 Evanston, IL**
Parents: **Morning Outlaw and probably Samuel Mills Meek**
Siblings: **Harrison, Arabella, Ellis, Hanithan**
Occupations: **Farmer, Livery Service Owner, Burial Society (Insurance) Preacher**



Virginia (Jenny) Gandy Outlaw

Born/Died: **Jan 10, 1853 Starkville, MS ~ May 30, 1920 Evanston, IL**
Her Parents: **Sarah and John Gandy**
Siblings: **Horace, Charlie, Dinah, Augusta, John, Lucy**

“The Outlaw Thirteen”

Children:	Hezekiah “Heze” Harrison Outlaw	1874 ~ 1939
	“Buddy” Paul Outlaw	1875 ~ 1926
	Arabella “Big Annie” Outlaw	1876 ~ 1943
	Irene Outlaw	(Arabella's twin sister died in infancy)
	“Young” Johnson Outlaw	1878 ~ 1952
	Lamonia “Punch” Outlaw McFarland	1879 ~ 1971
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	Clothield “Teel” Lucille Outlaw Holmes	1895 ~ 1986

“Inheriting the Fruits ofOur Forefather’s Labor”

- *Lamonia Outlaw McFarland*

To understand how our story began, just for a moment, imagine rural, southern Mississippi life during the early 1850’s when Johnson and Jenny were born.



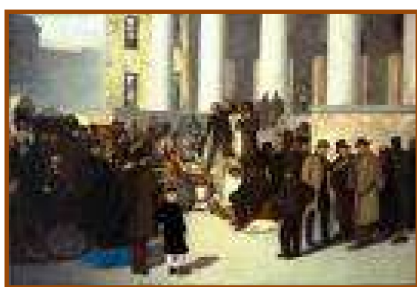
The “Cedars”

DA Outlaw Family Plantation
Oktibbeha County, Starkville, MS

For certain, Johnson’s youthful days were spent on a vast 1600+ acre plantation created from near wilderness in the 1830’s by young **Dorsey Alexander Outlaw**, orphaned son of the wealthy and politically prominent Askews and Outlaws from Hertford, North Carolina. Dorsey left Princeton University when he became of age in 1831 choosing to migrate south with his stepfather/cousin David Outlaw Askew shortly after the Mississippi Territory opened. By all accounts, Dorsey prospered quite well.

The 1870 Census lists **Johnson Outlaw** as a resident in Starkville. Before then, thirteen year old Johnson appears on a **“Freedmen’s Labor Contract”** dated August 1865 and signed by owner D.A. Outlaw as “contract labor bound to work on the plantation for “clothing, food of good quality and sufficient quantity, good and sufficient quarters...kind and humane treatment.”

Johnson's mulatto mother, **Morning Outlaw**, born in North Carolina circa 1833, appears on the same plantation Labor Contract and 1870 US Census.⁴ As a seamstress, Morning would have labored inside the plantation manor house "where silks, cottons and woolens were hand woven and sewn into fine clothing." On the same census her household included mulattos **Harrison, Johnson, Arabella, Hanithan, and Ellis**, all born in Mississippi. Family historian Ellis Outlaw "Uncle Bud" asserts that Johnson's family also included twin half-brothers who left Mississippi.



Artistic Rendering
St. Louis Slave Auction

As for **Virginia Gandy's** early days, we have little documentation but stories of her mother are quite intriguing. "Uncle Bud" often told the story that his grandmother **Sarah Gandy**, alleged daughter of a captured Sudanese African prince, was sold in 1833 "from the steps of the St. Louis Courthouse to a farmer named "Gandy".

Another grandson, Dr. John M. Gandy, wrote that "**Ed Gandy, a kindly old man by all accounts**" **bought Sarah**, first took her back home to South Carolina and then to Alabama for a brief time before ultimately settling in Mississippi after 1837.

For a factual historical accounting of our Gandys, however, we can rely on public records. According to land surveys, **the Outlaw and Gandy plantations were nearly adjacent to each other just outside Starkville.** Historical documents do confirm that widowed slave owner Mary Gandy (Ed's mother) had migrated from South Carolina to Mississippi with her daughter Harriet and son-in-law Thomas Watt.

From the 1859 Oktibbeha County Probate Court⁷ records regarding the estate of **Mary Elizabeth (Means) Gandy**, we know for sure that son Edward served as Executor. He was authorized to liquidate her assets including slaves named **“John, Sarah, Horace, Dinah, Charley, Jenny, John and Augustus...”** *and the hogs as well*) at auction to the highest bidder. Thus, we can establish Virginia’s presence as a child in Starkville.



Oktibbeha County Courthouse
Starkville, MS

By the 1870 US Census, Jenny Gandy’s half siblings **Horace and Charley Gandy** resided next to Dorsey Outlaw’s heirs near their sister **Dinah Gandy**. So we can easily imagine that Johnson and Jenny must have been “neighbors” during their courtship. A large leather bound book **“Colored Marriage Bonds,”** archived and accessible at the Starkville County Clerk’s office documents the lawful **marriage of Johnson Outlaw and Jenny Gandy on December 3, 1873.**

On the 1880 US Census⁸, Johnson and Jenny’s young family consisted of first born **Hezekiah followed by Arabella, Paul, “Young” Johnson and baby Morning, aka Lamoniam.** Sadly, Arabella’s twin sister (Irene) did not survive infancy. Family history records along with later census reports confirm that the births of **Sarah, Ellis, Hattie, Osceola, Leonard, Lillian and Clothfield** rounded out the family.

“Every Road of Life That’s Worth the Going, Lies Up a Hill” - *Ellis Simmons Outlaw*

Although listed as “**farm laborer**” on the 1880 US Census, Johnson may have already set his sights on a better life for himself and his family.

Candid historical accounts of the post civil war period in Mississippi provide disheartening glimpses into the lives of former slaves. As freedmen, they could legally marry, send their children to school, choose where to live, open bank accounts, acquire credit and be compensated for their labor. Yet, for most, sharecropping provided inadequate subsistence and little chance to gain independent prosperity.



Train Depot **West Point, MS**

According to Uncle Bud’s 1979⁸ recorded interviews, “Papa” abandoned his Starkville farming career around 1884 choosing to live in **West Point, MS** where his only **sister Arabella Outlaw** had moved with mail clerk husband **Caesar Simmons**, formerly a Justice of the Peace in Starkville. Frequently thought to be “white,” Bud reported that Papa moved about easily in all communities.

In West Point “Papa” transformed himself into a businessman, operating a **mail and baggage transfer service** for the US Post Office, two large hotels, and the three railroad lines that culminated there. The 1900 US Census as well as Clay County Courthouse land records confirm that the Outlaws had purchased

acreage from the former **Brame Plantation** property. Their home was relatively close to the **Mobile and Ohio Railroad Depot** and the **Mary Holmes Seminary** nearby where their daughters studied at finishing school. The Ministerial Institute, a local school, operated from the family's church, **Mt. Herman M.B. Church** were also within walking distance.

“Uncle Bud” humbly boasted that West Pointers considered the **Outlaws to be “just about the finest family”** in the community. Well before 1910 Mississippi Tax records indicate that **Johnson Outlaw** paid “personal property taxes” on his wagon, horse, and a *piano* showing some definite signs of prosperity. Vintage family photos proudly show their well groomed children, too. In 1903 **Jenny and brother Gus Gandy** transferred interest in a 200 acre plot of land in Starkville to their brother **John Gandy, Jr.** for a mere \$5.

Religion consistently played a significant role in everyday Outlaw family life. At the Outlaw Plantation owners **“Deacon” Dorsey and wife Clara** regularly taught Sunday school from their rear porch for slave children. Even without benefit of divinity training, Uncle Bud reports that Papa was an ordained minister. In 1927's son **Hez, “The Fighting Outlaw”**, addressed a photo postcard mailed from the San Pablo Laguna Philippines to his father as **“Rev. JHO.”** Residing just around the corner from the

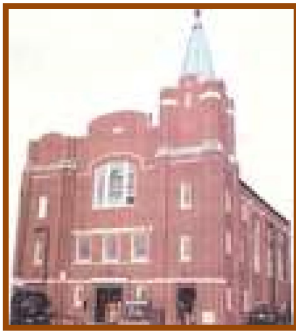


Hez's 1927 Christmas Postcard to “Rev JHO”

family's church, Mt. Hermon Baptist Church, Jenny was said to supplement her regular church attendance with evening prayer meetings at the family home.

Moving On...

According to oral histories sometime around 1916-1917, **Johnson overheard a disturbing private conversation among the West Point's citizenry prompting him to hastily take leave of Mississippi.** Although some say that Johnson and son-in-law John Spencer were considered "uppity" for operating their own insurance business, no clear explanation for their departure exists.



**Second Baptist Church
Evanston, IL**

First, the **Outlaw and Spencer women and children** moved north where Johnson's sister **Arabella Outlaw Simmons Shanks** (widowed and later remarried) had migrated living with her daughter **Lamonia Simmons Gayles**. Arabella's son-in-law Rev. Benjamin Gayles had pastored at Evanston's Second Baptist Church from 1900 thru 1912. After leaving briefly, the Gayles returned to Evanston.

On the 1914-15 City Directory **sisters Arabella, Sarah and Hattie Outlaw resided in the Gayles household.** Not too long thereafter, Johnson and son in-law John stealthily left their Burial Society business in West Point to board a train north determined to reunite with their wives and children in Illinois.

Evanston, an Illinois suburb of Chicago become home to several other Outlaw-Gandy family members. **US Census records and City Directories** from the first decades of the 1900's reveal how closely connected and interdependent the family remained. Jenny's brother **Augusta Gandy and his wife Fanny**, who had also migrated from Starkville to West Point, moved to Evanston where several of their offspring had relocated in the 1920's.

The families also shared housing among family members and multiple generations creating very close cousin connections. As another example, **Jessie Gandy**, granddaughter of Jenny's brother John, came from Mississippi with the Outlaws. After marriage, her family eventually settled in Chicago to raise her daughter **Patricia Pride**.

Meanwhile in the **Philippine Islands**, son **Hezekiah** raised his family with full knowledge of their stateside family. By writing letters and exchanging photos the "first cousins" maintained relationships and cultural awareness. In fact, the **Chicago Defender newspaper archives include a letter from Hezekiah's grandson, Hezekiah** (born and raised in the Philippines) which was addressed to "My Dear Uncle Bud!"



St. Paul Cathedral
San Pablo Philippines

“Find Out What Your Gift Is, Then Pursue It with Everything You Have” — *Ellis Simmons Outlaw*

Despite their humble beginnings, **Johnson and Jenny were able to instill strong work ethic and provide education for the children.** In the early days the sons attended school but worked in the family business, as porters in local stores such as **Cochran's** and for the three railroads in West Point. Eventually each Outlaw son established his own independent career. The Outlaw daughters attended the newly opened **Mary Holmes Seminary School for Girls** and throughout their adult lives distinguished themselves as mothers, sisters, aunts and professional women.

Outlaw Brothers...Making Their Mark

As shown in historical documents **each of the five Outlaw sons resided in St. Louis** during the late 1890's and later.



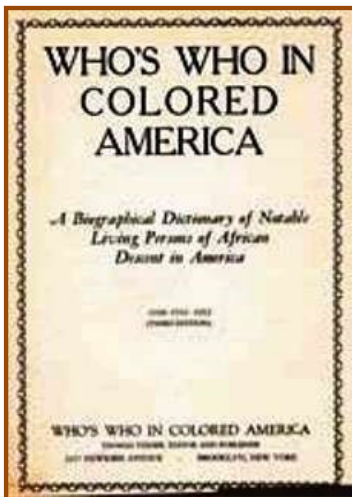
St. Louis, MO Train Depot

Eldest son **Hezekiah** was the first to seek a better life leaving Mississippi working first for a railroad firm and later attending medical school and Washington College in St. Louis. By 1899 Hezekiah had enlisted in the Army from the famed Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War. Discharge papers from the Army Hospital Corp. describe Hezekiah's character rating as excellent. "Hez" made the **Philippine Islands** his home, raising his family, serving as the first **Principal at the San Pablo Central School** and later gaining prosperity as owner of a **Coconut Plantation** as well as the **Franklin Baker** processing plant.

According to the **1897 St. Louis City Directory** **Paul and Heze** lived in a rooming house near the St. Louis train depot. Paul's occupation is shown as "stripper" while Heze is listed as a porter. Reportedly **Young (Johnson)** attended Tuskegee Institute briefly but was unhappy there. By 1910, **Paul, and Young** lived together in St. Louis while younger brother **Leonard** attended school.

By the time of **1917 US Military WWI Draft Registration**, Young and Paul had already established the **Outlaw Moving Company**, a moving and express service which operated for 37 years. As businessmen, they realized enough

prosperity as to purchase one of the first ‘funny looking motorized wagons’ in St. Louis as the automotive era emerged.



“**Uncle Bud**” (Ellis) may have lived the most adventurous life. Forced to leave grade school temporarily to work in his father’s express business, he later was relentless in his pursuit of an education. According to newspaper clippings, “Bud“ worked as a **shoe shine boy (but only for one day), as a Pullman Porter on the railroad, mined gold in Mexico, worked in the oil business,** and married twice before ultimately uniting with beloved Hazel, his “Goddess.” Ellis earned a degree from **Iowa’s Oskaloosa College** and studied law thru the Chicago Correspondence School of Law. After practicing

law for over 50 years, this “Outlaw” even had the audacity to run for **Magistrate Judge at the age of 91!** His professional accomplishments were recognized in the 1940 “**Who’s Who in Colored America.**”

Leonard lived a notable life as well. After his youthful days as a porter, this “rich” Outlaw uncle operating from the south side of Chicago “owned” the **Great Northern Realty Company**, operated *Party Cab Company* a “jitney” cab business within Chicago’s underserved “Black Belt” communities, served as **President of the South Shore Community Center.** Leonard and wife Grace, who later distinguished herself with Red Cross in Australia, made their home in a large mansion on S. Vincennes Street on Chicago’s South Side. Leonard and fellow investors had the foresight to establish black owned and operated **Douglas National Bank** which unfortunately met its demise during the Great Depression.

“Not to Seem... But to Be”

- Motto: *Mary Holmes Seminary for Girls*



Mary Holmes Seminary
....

The **Outlaw sisters** were comparably talented, intelligent and accomplished. Although usually genteel in their demeanor, the ladies were determinedly made their own destiny. Along the way, these ladies learned the importance of property ownership and never, ever lost sight of the value of education.

Uncle Bud reported that **Lamonia (Punch)** attended the Ministerial Institute and under protest completed her studies at Mary Holmes Seminary, taught school briefly, married widower **Charles McFarland** and soon headed west to Oklahoma City with their young family. Described in a Ralph Ellison biography as “one who taught militant racial pride, she professed proudly **“...I am an American” entitled to inherit the fruits of our forefathers’** labor. Widely recognized as an educator and civil rights advocate, the **McFarland Branch YWCA (Oklahoma City)** still stands in recognition of her contributions.

After settling safely in Illinois, the remaining **six Outlaw sisters worked together to establish comfortable lives on the “North Shore”** of Chicago. Although previously qualified to teach in the south, **Sarah and Osceola humbly accepted the only employment offered - domestic work in affluent homes.** From the US Census Records and local directories, we find the sisters sharing housing on Dodge Avenue and Ayars Place (Garnett Place).



By saving money and pooling resources, they helped each other become home owners in the early 1920's. **"Big Annie" (Arabella)** was the first to purchase a home in Evanston. At one time she shared her home with widowed daughter **Winifred Green** and her four children. They innocently called their grandmother "Dan" instead of "Gran". Arabella's youngest daughter **Ruth and husband Robert Macklin** (a local baseball star), **rounded** out the household.

"Sister" (Hattie) though traveling between Chicago and New York with Chicago's prominent Shedd "Aquarium" family, owned multiple homes on Garnett Place, eventually sharing ownership of our beloved brown "1022" bungalow home with sisters **Sarah (Hun), Clothield (Teel) and niece Winifred Green**. At one time Sister operated a laundry service from Garnett's habitually damp and creepy basement.

"Auntie Hun" (Sarah) never married but applied her nurturing skills to nearly all of the children who ever resided or visited Garnett Place. Evanston's City Directories indicate that she worked and lived in private homes as well. Although she and Aunt "Punch" were particularly close all of their lives, Sarah would not allow anyone to call her by the nickname "Judy." **Hun was devout in her religious beliefs even dispensing her own juice and crackers "kiddy communion"** from her pew to her young nieces and nephews who has not yet been baptized!

Osceola and husband John J. Spencer, active in civil rights and politics, sent all nine children to college, and dared to graduate from nursing school at the age of 60. On behalf of her husband, she fought for the rights of the non-unionized **Pullman Porters**. An advocate in the schools for all the Outlaw and Green children, she was someone to be reckoned with. Somehow Oscie and John Spencer's children attended prominent universities such as **Howard, University of Chicago, Northwestern U and Radcliffe College**. Their

children were required to read every evening, whether they could actually “read” or not! A shrewd investor, Oscie **owned multiple properties on Garnett Place** which she converted to rooming houses.

Lilly and “Teel” both retired after long careers in government. Lillian earned a degree from **Langston University as well as a Masters degree in Social Work from Northwestern University.** She retired from a statewide management position. Although all the Outlaw sisters were active members at **Mt. Zion Baptist Church** often it seemed that Teel devotedly “ran” the church, singlehandedly, serving as church secretary.



**Mt. Zion Baptist Church,
Evanston, IL**

Staying In Touch

In later years, the patriarch Uncle Bud orchestrated family conference calls from St. Louis keeping the Oklahoma, St. Louis and the Evanston Outlaws in frequent contact. On Garnett Place the **Outlaw sisters**, along with other progressive women on the block such as Mrs. Lessie Smith and Mrs. Josephine Robinson, reigned over Garnett Place. Often they relayed polite as well as a few cryptic messages up and down the block utilizing the Green and Spencer children as unpaid, unsuspecting verbal couriers.

Uncle Bud and Aunt Punch were family “gatekeepers” who faithfully held family conference calls and interacted with Hez’s offspring thru correspondence, exchanging photos...and opening their homes to the Philippine family who came to the states. And **Hez’s descendents honored our Outlaws by passing our family names** (Jennie, Paul, Leonard, Ellis, Clothield, Young, Caesar, Hazel, Grace, Oscie, Gayles.)

At Rest

When **Jenny died in 1920**, all of the children (except Hezekiah still residing in the Philippines) gathered for a somber-faced family portrait outside the porch at 1016 Garnett Place in Evanston. By the time of Johnson's death in 1930, 1022 Garnett had become the family home.



Sunset Memorial Lawns
Northbrook, Illinois

Johnson and Jenny Outlaw along with offspring Arabella, Sarah, Hattie, Osceola, Lillie, Leonard and Clothield are buried at **Sunset Memorial Lawns Cemetery in Northbrook, IL**. Brothers Young, Paul and Ellis Outlaw are buried at **Washington Park Cemetery in St. Louis**. Lamonia is interred in **Trice Hill Cemetery Oklahoma City**, and Hezekiah rests

in the **Philippines**.

In Perspective

Johnson and Jenny's descendents continue to **“Inherit the Fruits of their Forefather's Labors.”** Although many prospered in material ways, we maintain the intellectual, spiritual, and family values that guide Outlaw-Gandy families still today.

For some the modest brown shingled bungalow in Evanston symbolizes that legacy. Year after year no less than seven generations have gathered there from across the country and even across the ocean ensuring that the Outlaw-Gandy connections endure generation after generation.

“The Outlaw Thirteen”

Our Cherished Collection of Vintage Photos



**“Papa”, Ellis & a Gandy Lady
West Point, MS, c. 1888**



**Hattie or Sarah, Osceola, Lillian & Clothield Outlaw
West Point, MS, c. 1900**



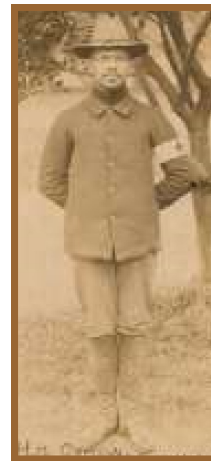
**Clothield & Leonard Outlaw
West Point, MS, c. 1900**



**Lamonia Outlaw McFarland
& Sara Virginia Outlaw**



**“Papa“, Young, Ellis, & Leonard Outlaw
Evanston, IL, c. 1918**



**Medic Hezekiah Outlaw
Philippines, 1899-1902**



**Clothield Outlaw,
West Point, MS**

Cherished Vintage Photos



**Clothfield, Lillian, Leonard, Sara, "Papa",
Arabella, Young, Hattie, Ellis & Osceola Outlaw, c. 1920's**

Our Outlaw Thirteen

Hezekiah Harrison Outlaw

1874 Starkville, MS ~ August 1939 San Pablo, Philippine Islands

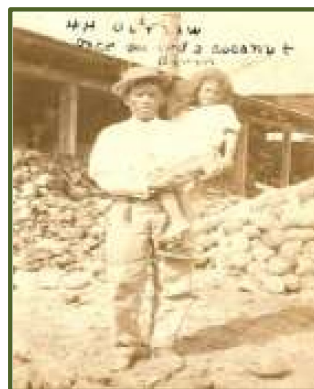
Married: Alice Story, Carmen Del Rivera, Antonia Dayrit

Children: Leonard H, Leonard E, Young, Rexford,
Lorraine, Hezekiah, Salud, Paul & Ellis Outlaw



After leaving West Point, **Hezekiah** studied medicine in St. Louis. In 1899 he joined the **Army Medical Corp** in the aftermath of the Spanish American War. His military service led him from Mexico to the Philippine Islands where he settled down, married and raised seven children.

A prosperous businessman, Hezekiah was Principal of **San Paulo Central School**, owned a **coconut plantation** and the **Franklin Baker factory**. Although Hez never once returned stateside, “Hez” and his children remained connected with the Outlaw clan thru photos and letters sent back to the USA.



Hezekiah Harrison Outlaw Descendents



**Leonard, Young
and Rexford Outlaw**



**Standing: Lorraine and sons, Young, Rex, Spouse, Salud, Pau
Herminia, Jane, Tracy, xxx, Dexter, Jennifer, Hazel**



**Hezekiah's
Grandchildren**



Hezekiah, Jr.



**Standing: Salud, Antonia Dayrit Outlaw
Ellis, Lorraine and Paul Outlaw**



Salud Outlaw



**Rexford Outlaw
in Costume**



Jenny Pearl

Arabella Outlaw

April, 1876 Starkville, MS ~ February 1943 Evanston, IL

Children: Winifred Outlaw Green & Ruth Outlaw Macklin



Named for her father's beloved only sister, **Arabella** completed her schooling in Mississippi but left to fulfill a career of domestic service. Fondly nicknamed "**Big Annie**", she became the first Outlaw to own property in Evanston.

Arabella had a twin sister who died sometime in infancy. As the oldest daughter, she was given the name of her father's only known sister, Arabella Outlaw Simmons.

In 1910, Arabella resided in Oklahoma City with the Gerson family not far from her sister Lamonica McFarland. During that time, her children remained in West Point with grandparents Johnson and Virginia. When the family reunited in Evanston, Illinois daughters Ruth and Winifred lived at home with their mother. By 1920 Arabella was self employed as a clerk/cook.

Arabella Outlaw Descendents



Ruth Macklin



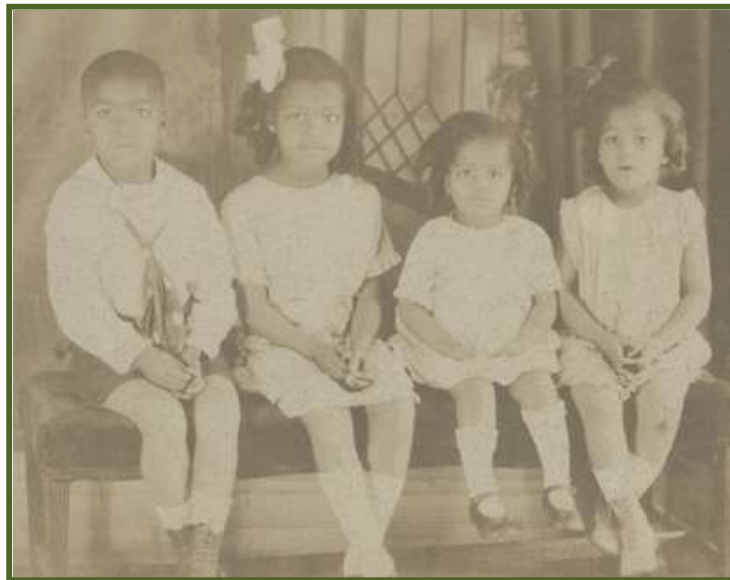
Winifred Green



Ruth Macklin



Winifred Green



Fred, Louise, Ruth and Dorothy Green



Winifred Green

“Buddy” Paul Outlaw

May, 1875 Starkville, MS ~ December, 1926 St. Louis, MO

Married: Rebecca Morton



Often skipping school, “Buddy” **Paul** could be found by Papa Outlaw’s side on the delivery wagon in West Point. He simply preferred working to schooling. In the family business, Johnson and sons contracted to pickup and deliver goods, packages and luggage to and from the West Point train depots servicing the 3 railroads.

Although 1899 St. Louis City Directory lists Paul as a “stripper” living where he had migrated with his brother Hezekiah, Paul had worked as a Pullman Porter for a time before joining brother Young as the proprietors of **Outlaw Brothers Moving Company**.

On the US WWI Draft Registration Card Paul listed his occupation as a mover. He married a widow, Rebecca Morton, on August 29, 1918. Identified as over 6’ tall, Paul could truly be described as “tall, dark and handsome.”



The Outlaw Brothers

Young Johnson Outlaw

April 1878 Starkville, MS ~ December 1952 St. Louis, MO

Married: Augusta Freeman



Young parlayed his intelligence and integrity from humble work as a stock boy in West Point, MS, to Pullman Porter and ultimately proprietor of Outlaw Brothers Moving known throughout St. Louis for its “motorized” wagons.

While employed at the Cochran’s Grocery Store in West Point, Young supervised three porters; he later worked as the head clerk for a colored man who owned several stores in Oklahoma and Mississippi.

“Uncle Young” attended Tuskegee Institute briefly but soon opted to seek his fortune as an entrepreneur. Young married Augusta Freeman on November 3, 1905.



Lamonia Carolyn Outlaw McFarland

December 1879 Starkville, MS ~ May 1971 Oklahoma, OK

Married: Charles McFarland

Children: Wardell, Charles & Lettie Mae (Stepchildren)
Jennie Lou & Augusta McFarland



“Aunt Punch” attended West Point’s Ministerial Institute, graduated from Mary Holmes Seminary, and taught school before she married widower Charles McFarland and moved to Oklahoma with three young children from his first marriage to the late Emma Mae Trice. Today the Oklahoma City McFarland **Branch YWCA** honors her excellence as a gifted educator, staunch civil rights activist and community leader.

Along with our own family, she “imbued” students such as writer Ralph Ellison, with knowledge of our complex racial identity and solid pride in our unique “Americanness.”



Lamonia Carolyn Outlaw McFarland Descendents



Jennie Lou McFarland



**Augusta Pearl "Baby"
McFarland**



Jennie Lou & Clarence Pollard



Wardell, Lettie & Buddy McFarland



CW & "Baby" Morgan

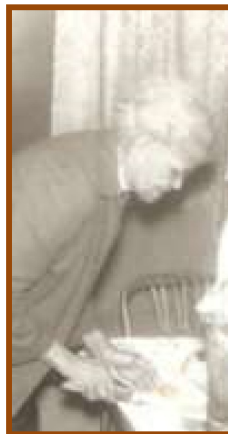
Sarah Virginia Outlaw

March 1881 Starkville, MS ~ May 1973 Evanston, IL



Our much beloved “Super Nanny” must have nurtured every Outlaw niece and nephew at one time or another. A humble, soft spoken and gentle woman, in her youth **“Auntie Hun”** taught college classes in Mississippi after graduating from Mary Holmes Seminary.

A gifted and nurturing caregiver, Auntie Hun patiently taught manners, the alphabet, numbers, the Ten Commandments and more to the youth in our family. She found a silver lining in every cloud; she taught us that we had descended from African royalty, a princess and that we were obliged to behave accordingly. Although engaged at one time, she never married. Deeply devout, she faithfully shunned the Christmas season commercialism never opening a single cherished gift until her March birthday.



Hattie Ciscera Outlaw Dunn

December 1885 Starkville, MS ~ May 1965 Evanston, IL

Married: George Dunn



For years, “**Sister**” traveled between Chicago and New York in service to Chicago’s prominent Shedd (Aquarium) family. Utilizing her financial acumen, Sister knew the value of investing in real estate.

She was the original owner of 1022 Garnett Place, where she also operated a laundry service from the basement of the home. The Dunns resided in New York as well as Illinois



Ellis Simmons Outlaw

November 1883 Starkville, MS ~ May 1982 St. Louis, MO

Married: Dolorea Sanchez, Unknown, and Hazel Selvey



A self-taught lawyer who ran for public office at the age of 91, “**Uncle Bud**” earned recognition for his stellar career in “Who’s Who Among Colored People.”

When his father became ill for a short time, Bud was forced to leave school which dashed his plans to attend an Ivy League College as cousin John Gandy had done. But Bud never let that deter him from achieving his long term goals. His experiences included gold mining in Mexico, teaching Spanish, and Pullman portering.

With a penchant for storytelling, Bud mesmerized all with the extraordinary history of the Outlaws and Gandys. Actively involved in his Church and community, Bud mentored the entire family, inspiring generations to pursue careers in law.



Osceola Luella Outlaw Spencer

January 1888 West Point, MS ~ February 1979 North Chicago, IL

Married: John Julian Spencer
Children: John, Sara, Lamonia, Grace, Warren, Helen, Bertha, Clothield & Paul Spencer



Seemingly omniscient and infamously outspoken, “**Oscie**” challenged *all* to reach the highest goals imaginable. Oscie and husband give all nine children the chance for an education by attending prestigious HBCU, Ivy League or Big Ten colleges.

A former school teacher, staunch Civil Rights advocate and activist, Oscie spent her time supporting the Pullman Porters, the YMCA, Foster School PTA as President, local politicians and other charities in lieu of the “traditional” women’s roles of her era.



John, Mayme, Clothield, Frank & Osceola Spencer



Osceola Luella Outlaw Spencer Descendents



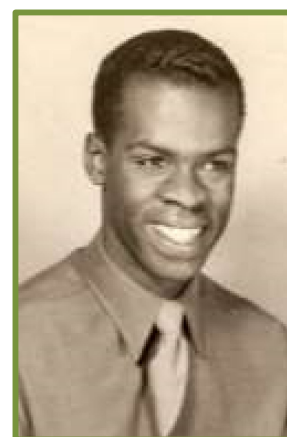
Atty John J. Spencer



Atty Sarah S. Ashmore



Atty Marguerite S. Hines



Dr. Warren F. Spencer



Grace S. McAllister



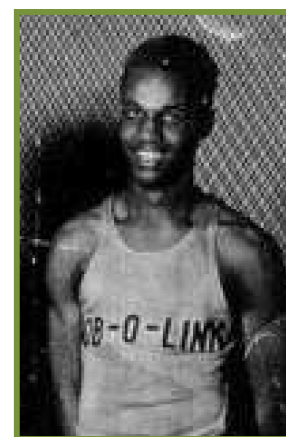
Helen S. Davis



Bertha S. Murray



Clothfield Spencer



Paul O. Spencer

Leonard G. Outlaw

April 1890 West Point, MS ~ July 1940 Evanston, IL
Married: Grace Carlton October 1920 Indiana



Leonard achieved tremendous financial success as owner of Chicago's Party Cab Company and a Southside Bank. Both charming and handsome, **"Uncle Leonard"** generously shared the fruits of his labor (mansion, chauffeured car, and servants) making him a favorite with his nieces and nephews. Along with many other entrepreneurs, the 1930's stock market crash greatly diminished his personal fortunes.

Leonard and wife Grace were well known in Chicago Social Circles where he operated a Party Cab, a "Jitney"cab Company, owned property and served as President of the South Shore Community Center. Even after Leonard's death, the Chicago Defender reported stories of Grace's service in Australia as Assistant Club Manager for the Red Cross during WWII.



Grace and Leonard Outlaw
with Arabella Outlaw Shanks

Lillian Bertha Outlaw Banks Witt

April 1892 West Point, MS ~ December 1973 Evanston, IL

Married: Gerald Banks, Sr., Deacon James Witt

Children: Gerald Banks, Jr.



With a degree from Langston University and a Master's Degree from Northwestern University, **Aunt Lilly** committed herself to a lifetime of service. By the time she retired from her position as Director and Supervisor at Chicago State Hospital, she had already established sterling credentials as a community youth volunteer for Girl Scouts, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, "BYPU" and the local YMCA.

Lillian raised a son Jerry Banks, Jr. Later she married Deacon James Witt and dedicated her time to his care and support.



Clothield Lucille Outlaw Thomas Holmes

May 1895 West Point, MS ~ January 1986 Evanston, IL

Married: William Thomas, Raymond Thomas, John Holmes, Sr.

Children: John Holmes, Jr. (Stepson)



Beloved as the baby of the family, the French name Clothield was given her by Hezekiah, the “brother she never knew”, has passed down through every generation born in the 1900’s.

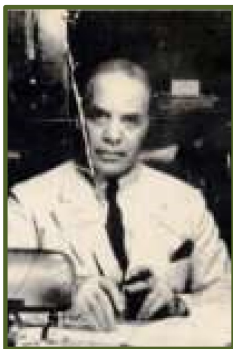
Affectionate, sentimental, *and* a bit flirtatious, **Aunt Teel**, carried family members, (grownups, kids, and her girlfriends, too) across the country to celebrate nearly every special occasion that occurred in our family. Even with her government career and busy role as church secretary never kept “Aunt Teel” away.

Clothield’s childhood friendship with Dr. Tarkington lasted throughout their lifetimes. Although she never bore any children of her own, Teel and John Holmes, Jr. developed a steadfast mother-son relationship that extended to his children Anita and Michael Holmes.

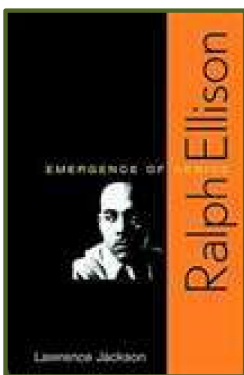


Historical Sketches of Our Outlaw-Gandy Ancestors

Tracing the Outlaw-Gandy history revealed insights into the family's experiences from several previously unknown sources. **Uncle Bud, Aunt Punch and cousin John M. Gandy recorded our “legacy” in a variety of published materials.** Thru interviews, a book, and an autobiography, these priceless firsthand accounts of the Outlaws and Gandys personalize our ancestors' lives and stories.



First, the Interviews...Tucked away in a battered cardboard shoebox filled with assorted cassettes were the **priceless 1979 recorded interviews with “Uncle Bud.”** **Hearing the voices of Bertha Murray with Aunt Teel and Frank Spencer** in the background created quite a memorable moment. Often speaking in sentence fragments, the Outlaw-Gandy patriarch responded to the questions posed with determination. Interspersed with random commentary from sister Clothield, these “conversations” poignantly reflect the family's pride.



Next, the Book...Another unexpected glimpse into the family legacy was discovered when **cousin Philip Murray found Lamonica McFarland's name in the Lawrence Jackson biography of Ralph Ellison.** Aided by cousin **Ceedy Morgan**, Professor Jackson utilized family memoirs to research and confirm Aunt Punch's profound influence on Ellison. Like Ellison's book, “The Invisible Man”, Aunt Punch's words provide inspiration and a very relevant perspective that is still meaningful today.



Then, the Autobiography... Throughout the years, the Outlaws have spoken of cousin **John M. Gandy, President of Virginia State University, where John J. Spencer, II, Sara Spencer (Ashmore) and Helen Spencer (Davis)** attended college during his tenure. Thru a chance Internet exchange with Gandy connected **Mary Elliott** of Washington, DC, John M. Gandy's unpublished autobiography was forwarded for our collection.

Reading this paper **allows glimpses into character, values and physical appearance of John and Sarah Gandy.** Cousin John also describes how Ed Gandy, the plantation owner's son and father of Jenny's half-brothers Horace and Charles, bought and brought Sarah to South Carolina and Mississippi. Equally important, however, this paper documents the economic and living conditions for former slaves following the Civil War as well as John's own personal quest for higher education.

His autobiography reflects the prevailing living conditions of post civil war Mississippi Negroes with passion and poetic elegance. His own life reflected his intellectual achievements as an exemplary student and professional educator. Remarkably he attended Colgate College briefly during the later 1800's

What Aunt Punch Taught Us... and Ralph Ellison, Too

*Excerpt from "Ralph Ellison: The Emergence of Genius"
by Professor Lawrence Jackson*



“Mrs. Lamonia McFarland taught the youngsters [notably Ralph Ellison, author of “The Invisible Man”] about the New Negro Movement and as her former students recall, militant race pride. McFarland hailed from Mississippi where both of her grandfathers had been Europeans...Out of this complex experience determined that ***“I am not an African since I am many generations removed from my African born ancestry, born in America of a mixed blood parentage...I am an American.”***”

McFarland imbued the youngsters with a complex understanding of their racial identity that included ***solid pride regarding the “Americanness” of their experience. She taught that they were to inherit the fruits of their forefather’s labor.***”

John Gandy b. 1815

Excerpt from the unpublished Autobiography of **John M. Gandy**

"I have vivid recollections of my step-grandfather... **[John Gandy] was a stern, relentless man who seldom smiled. Of powerful build, he was a hard worker and a harder task master.** By dearth of self-denying application and sheer determination in the face of tremendous odds, he amassed a considerable amount of real estate in Oktibbeha County, all of which was willed to his own children at his death. Horace, my father and Charlie, my uncle, both children of his wife [**Sarah Gandy**]...were not recognized in the will."

Edward U. Gandy*

Excerpt from the unpublished Autobiography of **John M. Gandy**

"A kindly old man, from all accounts, **Ed Gandy settled first in Columbia, South Carolina, where he brought my grandmother, Sarah,** to serve his as "house girl." In about 1835, the two moved to a farm near Mobile, Alabama, and when Mississippi was opened to statehood in 1837, he migrated to Oktibbeha County of the latter state. Ed Gandy seems to have been sufficiently satisfied with his household without a legal wife. So far as I know, my father, **Horace and my Uncle Charlie** were the only children of the union **of Sarah and Ed Gandy.**"



Horace & Mary Goodwin Gandy

Ed Gandy fathered Horace & Charlie Gandy

* Born in Columbia, SC, **Edward U. Gandy** was the son of **Mary Elizabeth Means Gandy and E. Uriah Gandy**, who drowned in 1826. Widow Mary moved to Starkville, MS c. 1837 living with daughter **Harriett Watts' family**. After Mary died intestate in 1859, Ed became executor of her estate. During the Civil War, Ed joined the Confederacy but died from illness in Tennessee while still in service.

"Home....Where Our Story Began" Page 39

What We Do Know For Sure...

Our ability to identify our ancestors before John and Sarah Gandy and Morning Outlaw still depends on connecting Outlaws and Gandys that we can never meet. Embedded in the wills, correspondence, records and histories of *their* owners are the rest of the answers we crave. And so, our research must continue.

By taking advantages of advances in genetic testing, we do have definitive reports confirming the ancestral origins of our Outlaw-Gandy-Spencer forefathers and mothers:



Maternal Mitochondrial mtDNA Test Results

Sarah Gandy (b. 1820)

Northern/Central Africa

Haplogroup "**L3e2b**"

Sarah Spencer Coleman

Central Africa

Haplogroup "**L2c**"

Paternal Y Chromosome DNA Test Results

John Gandy (b. 1815)

European/Scandanavian/Germanic

Haplogroup "**I1**"

Johnson Outlaw(b.1851)

Western European/English/Irish

Haplogroup "**R1b**"

Franklin Spencer(b. 1856)

Western European/English/Irish

Haplogroup "**R1b**"

Using Ancestry.com, actual DNA results have opened communications with several matching Haplogroup R1B and I1 researchers. Our Gandy line connects with the Catlett and Stuart families with near exact matching; similarly with advanced DNA testing, the Franklin Spencer line closely matches Park Denny's DNA. Our research to determine when and where how these genes connect continues collaboratively. More significantly, though, our Outlaw DNA research has yielded an analytically justified Outlaw-Meek paternity connection.

John and Sarah Gandy

Initially, the majority of our Outlaw Gandy research related to Johnson and Jenny's direct descendents. When internet based networking provide connections to the South Carolina and Mississippi based Gandy descendents, multiple family historical records "introduced" us to John, Sarah and Ed Gandy.

As the Gandy family matriarch, **Sarah Gandy** along with husband **John** inspired multiple generations of their descendents by the example they set. Consistently rising above the challenges that life presented, especially the inequities during slavery as well as the post Civil War period, they established land ownership while diligently raising their family.

Fortunately, grandsons **Ellis S. Outlaw** and **John M. Gandy** each with distinct memories of both John and Sarah have preserved their observations for the benefit of future generations. Their words vividly paint descriptive pictures of not only John and Sarah's physical appearances, but their character and values as well.

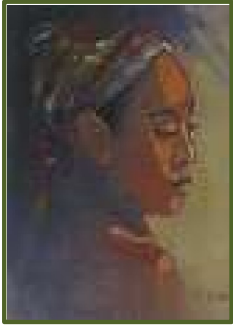
Although much has been discovered about their lives, official government documents provide basic historical knowledge. For example, the handwritten **1859 Probate Court records for Mary Gandy's estate** establish her ownership of the family as well as the composition of the John and Sarah's immediate family. In part, the court order specifies "*It is thereupon ordered, adjudged & decreed and his Hon D Ames Judge does hereby order, adjudge & decree that the said administrator proceed to **sell said slaves mentioned in said petition viz John, Sarah, Horace, Dinah, Charley, Ellen, Jenny, John, Augustus,** Katy, Emma, Tom, Henry, Caroline, Joshua, Ned, Reubin, and infant Rodah...*"

On the **US 1880 Oktibbeha County Census records, John and Sarah Gandy are found** living with only daughter Lucy at home but living in close proximity to their grown and married offspring. County Courthouse records confirm that **John and Sarah Gandy owned at least 200 acres of land.** As late as 1881 when both were well into sixty years of age, they acquired additional acreage.

Even though courthouse fires destroyed many estate records, **their offspring apparently did inherit property** as noted in John M. Gandy's papers. One particular deed shows that siblings Virginia (Jenny) Gandy Outlaw and Augusta Gandy sold their 1/7 interest in 200 acres to their brother John Gandy, Jr.

Most likely ***John and Sarah Gandy* are interred in unmarked graves in the privately owned Gandy Cemetery** on that very same property. Only a few graves are identified with markers. Nearby several homes remain owned and occupied by Gandy descendents over 130 years later.

The Sarah Gandy Legacy



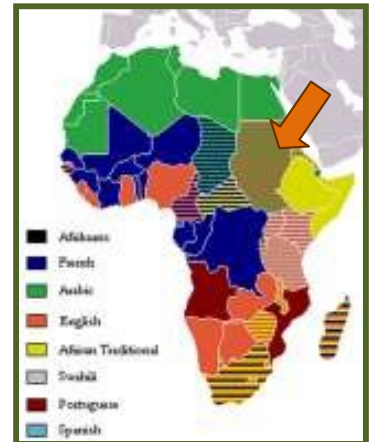
Born: 1820 Sudan, Africa

Heritage: Dinka Tribe DNA L32ae Haplogroup

“So beautifully blue-black” ...a Sudanese princess stolen while at play; later sold in 1833 from the St. Louis Courthouse to a farmer named Gandy...

With definitive maternal DNA genetic analysis, we know that **Sarah Gandy’s ancestral roots originated in North Eastern Africa.** US Census records note South Carolina as her place of birth but oral family histories indicate otherwise. Based on the oft told recollections of her Outlaw grandchildren, Sarah was “stolen” against her will while at play. According to their accounts, even as an adult her strong will defied dominance by other persons.

Attorney Ellis Outlaw often told the story that his grandmother, Sarah Gandy, allegedly the daughter of a captured African prince, was sold in 1833 “from the steps of the St. Louis Courthouse to a farmer named Gandy...My **grandmother was a Sudanese princess, Sarah...**She was beautifully blue black...She was married to John Gandy, a real white mulatto. Grandfather [John] was an itinerant man who traveled thru sold chickens and eggs. He sent her to church every Sunday...He took her back and bought her a mule; he sent her to church every Sunday but he didn’t go.”



Sudan: A country of Arabic/Muslim & English traditions

Although we cannot trace Sarah’s path to America, history defines Sudan as a collection of independent kingdoms and principalities until 1820 when Egypt conquered the region and united the disparate territories. Egypt continued to hold the area until a revolt in 1885. As the slavers promoted their trade, she may have crossed thru the Mediterranean before completing her passage safely to America.

Grandson **Dr. John M. Gandy** wrote in his unpublished autobiography that “**Ed Gandy, a kindly old man by all accounts**” **bought Sarah**, first took her back home to South Carolina and then to

Alabama for a brief time before ultimately settling in Mississippi in 1837.” As was the case with many slave women, **Sarah served as “house girl” for unmarried Ed and ultimately bore two sons** by him who were later raised by Sarah and husband John.

Elaborating further John M wrote, “My grandmother, ***Sarah Gandy, was a bulky dark woman who stood more than six feet in height. She was vigorous, determined and thrifty. There was little that a man could do that was beyond her powers.***



**Home of Mary Gandy Gladden
Columbia, SC**

In the same autobiography John later recounts her influence on his behavior noting that:



“In spite of the resourcefulness, an accident of which my father often spoke, greatly curtailed her activities. It seems that while driving the mule and buggy to Starkville, the animal bolted and even her strength could not hold him. She was thrown to the ground and the buggy overturned. Because of inadequate medical attention, her broken collar bone was never properly set: she was a virtual cripple for the rest of her life. “

Her courage and determination did not suffer, however, and the strength of her character enabled her to live her remaining days with considerable influence on the "young generation coming on."

The John Gandy Legacy

Born: 1815 Tennessee
Heritage: Paternal DNA I1 Haplogroup
Western European/ Scandinavian DNA

According to the census reports **John Gandy was born in 1815** possibly in Tennessee and wife **Sarah was born in 1820** in South Carolina. Recent **paternal DNA tests trace John's lineage to Europe** with the strong possibility of Scandinavian or Germanic influences. These results suggest that



John's "Gandy" surname with its English and Irish origins may have been a name that he took from his former owner Mary Means Gandy of Columbia, SC. Other online family histories mention that some German immigrants had truncated their last names to Gandy after arriving in America. Regardless of its origin, John and Sarah's descendents claim the Gandy surname with respect.

"I have vivid recollections of my step-grandfather.... *[John Gandy] was a stern, relentless man who seldom smiled. Of powerful build, he was a hard worker and a harder task master.* By dearth of self-denying application and sheer determination in the face of tremendous odds, **he amassed a considerable amount of real estate in**

Oktibbeha County, all of which was willed to his own children at his death. Horace, my father and Charlie, my uncle, both children of his wife [**Sarah Gandy**]... were not recognized in the will."

Based on the 1900 Census records, John married a second wife named Jane ca.1896. At least one Gandy cousin recalls being told about the second marriage.

Our Gandy Land Legacy

Based on Oktibbeha County Court records, **John and Sarah Gandy owned at least 200 acres of land.** As late as 1881 when both were well into sixty years of age, they acquired additional acreage. Even though courthouse fires destroyed many estate records, **their offspring apparently did inherit property** as noted in John M. Gandy's papers.

One particular deed shows that siblings Virginia (Jenny) Gandy Outlaw and Augusta Gandy sold their 1/7 interest in 200 acres to their brother John Gandy, Jr. Most likely **John and Sarah Gandy are interred in the private Gandy Cemetery** outside Starkville on that very same property. Only a few graves are identified with markers. Nearby several homes and property are still owned by Gandy descendants over 130 years later.



John and Sarah Gandy are likely interred in unmarked graves at the private **Gandy Cemetery** outside Starkville on property they purchased in the 1880's; only a few graves are identified with markers. Their son, John and wife Rebecca kept the property in tact throughout their lifetimes. In 1949 they deeded the land in parcels to offspring and their descendants.



What We Still Don't Know...

Despite the good fortune of finding so much documentation, intriguing questions about our lineage still remain unanswered. If **Morning Outlaw was born in North Carolina, where is her birth family?** Did **Sarah Gandy actually arrive on a slave ship?** Was she a captured **Sudanese princess?** How did **John Gandy get from Virginia to Tennessee to Mississippi?** **Who was Johnson's father? What happened to the rest of his siblings?**

Numerous accounts indicate **Dorsey Outlaw's relationship with Johnson was probably more binding than any plantation labor contract** could document. **Ellis Outlaw has been quoted in newsprint saying that "his father [Johnson Outlaw] was the son of a slave woman and a white man named Outlaw** whose family traced its lineage back to the days of Mary Queen of Scots".

As the only adult male named Outlaw living in Oktibbeha County on the 1850 Federal Census, **"DA Outlaw" certainly was in the right place at the right time to be Johnson's father.** And DAO's own European family history is consistent with Uncle Bud's explanation. More surprisingly, as recent as 2005, some 150 years afterwards, a Starkville historian unwittingly whispered to a bus full of Gandy cousins that the "plantation owner's son, Johnson, was run out of town for marrying a black woman!"

We still don't know "the truth." **Could Johnson's unforgettably striking physical resemblance to Dorsey Outlaw's only "legitimate" son Dorsey William, serve as a visual DNA paternity test?** Perhaps Johnson and Dorsey were related but not as father and son. **Was Johnson "white" but passing for mulatto like his "sister" Arabella?** We will never know the "whole truth."

The Dorsey Alexander Outlaw Family

....An Untold Outlaw Story

For Outlaw-Gandy descendents, perhaps the most relevant recollection of plantation owner Dorsey Outlaw was published in a 1977 St. Louis Dispatch interview with “Uncle Bud” who said, “*Old man Outlaw treated my father like a son.*” That relationship with Johnson Hanford Outlaw alone binds Dorsey Alexander Outlaw and his plantation home with our Outlaw-Gandy family legacy forever.

Dorsey (“Dossie”) Alexander Outlaw was a pioneering founder of Oktibbeha County, MS traveling there by covered wagon shortly after the land treaty with the Native American Indians had been signed. Built in 1836 by skilled slave labor, his “historic antebellum plantation mansion still reigns over a 183-acre estate dotted with forests, rolling pastureland and fishing ponds.”



Dorsey Outlaw Descendents & Neighbors on the Cedars Plantation Front Steps

Dorsey Alexander Outlaw’s name never appears in the most familiar Outlaw and Askew genealogy reports. Even today, uncertainty exists about which George Outlaw from Hertford County is his father. With expert guidance from Mississippi State’s gifted librarian Mattie Sink, first hand stories recorded in Oktibbeha as well as several well documented accounts archived across the nation were consolidated to tell quite a bit of his story.

Regarded as shrewd and genuinely pious, this “pedigreed” **Outlaw allegedly descended from Englishmen named “Outler” who fled to Virginia**

during the 1700's later settling in North Carolina. Based on family records, Dossie's father, politician, devout Baptist leader and later US Congressman, **George Outlaw married Mary (Polly) Askew**, heiress to father Aaron's 3,000 acre estate, in 1809. His mother later married her cousin, David Outlaw Askew. And Dorsey became an orphan following his father's death.

The Mitchell Library at Mississippi State University has archived a comprehensive unpublished biography titled ***"Dossey Outlaw: Portrait of a Pioneer."*** Utilizing Outlaw family interviews and private records, the papers specifically identifies Outlaw's parents. It mentions that he attended **Princeton University** where their archived handwritten records then confirm DAO's home residence as Pitch Landing, NC noting his arrival in 1831 and that he departed the same year per the request of his guardian. **North Carolina Orphan Account Records tie everything together referencing George Outlaw as Dorsey's father, listing expenses from Princeton expenses and confirming David Outlaw Askew as legal guardian.**



After leaving school and migrating south, the biography explains that Dorsey built his home in Mississippi. Utilizing slave craftsmen from North Carolina, he constructed a classic home on **property acquired by a Presidential land grant before and returning to North Carolina in 1935 to marry Clara Eliza Harris, a cousin.** As customary within wealthy families during the times, intermarriages among kinfolk were a means of preserving assets and social status. Like his stepfather/guardian, Dorsey's wife also shared both DAO's Outlaw and Askew



lineage. Genealogical charts show that his descendents continued this “kissin’ cousin” tradition throughout the 1900’s.

Apparently, those who knew Outlaw personally regarded him with the highest esteem. He was known for his business acumen, humility, reverence to God, and integrity.

“The Diary of Samuel Meeks”, unpublished but archived at Duke University recounts four years of everyday living for Meeks who resided with the Outlaws while teaching at the local privately funded school. In his words, “Mr. O and his family are one of those, that are but seldom met with, in the world, so much devoted to the accumulation of wealth *and* the restraint of selfishness. They are plain...presenting fine and good specimens of the true American character.”

During the turmoil following the Civil War, fifty-four year old Dorsey Outlaw humbly requested a formal US Presidential Pardon to avert federal confiscation of twenty-thousand dollars in assets. Believing that his estate would be totally liquidated, his petition mentions that he had formally expressed his opposition to the Confederacy’s secession in a letter to then President Lincoln, that he still had a wife and four children to support and **offered to “contribute as is all in his power to the maintenance of peace and good order.”**

By 1870, Dorsey succumbed to sudden illness and passed away. For years, no local historical documentation marked his passing. Then in 2009, **the University of Texas (Austin) American Center for History acquired the long sought after DA Outlaw 1839 Family Bible for its Natchez Collection.**



**Dorsey Outlaw's
Family Bible**

A rare original, though yellowed and wrinkled, 1870 newspaper obituary written by T E Sellers eulogizes Dorsey.

“Deacon Outlaw was truly a great and good man and his death is truly a public calamity. All those elements of character which adorn and ennoble our race were combined in him...As a neighbor he had the esteem of all. As a husband and father he was dearly beloved... He possessed in eminent degree the three great cardinal virtues.. integrity, prudence and benevolence.”

Although genealogically overlooked, Dorsey kept true to his family ties. He welcomed many other kinfolk from North Carolina, including half brother Napoleon Askew. Along with Dorsey, wife Clara, several children plus other family members are buried in the Outlaw Plantation private cemetery.

As Johnson Outlaw did indeed have the fortune to spend his early childhood under the watchful eye of Dorsey Alexander Outlaw, his upbringing seems to reflect the same love of family, abiding faith in God, integrity and kindness of his “father” figure.

Our Outlaw-Meeks Connection

Despite Uncle Bud's assertion that Dorsey Outlaw was a nurturing ancestor of Johnson Outlaw, we cannot ignore that ***Johnson's paternal DNA matches the ancestors of Samuel Mills Meek***, teacher who resided in Outlaw's home from 1851 to 1854. When asked, Uncle Bud acknowledged but emphatically denied the rumor that Meek was Johnson's father. Still we can neither deny the striking physical resemblance between DOA's only son and our own Johnson. Undoubtedly there is more to discover.

Samuel Mills Meek, a distinguished scholar, Civil War officer, practicing attorney, writer, orator and politician, migrated to Columbus, MS after leaving the Outlaw Plantation. He married a former Lt. Governor's daughter, and resided at Wysteria Plantation home. As physicians, professors and politicians, Meek's father and siblings were considerably educated and prominent. Consequently, multiple southern university Special Collections libraries house archival Meek photos, letters and family history.



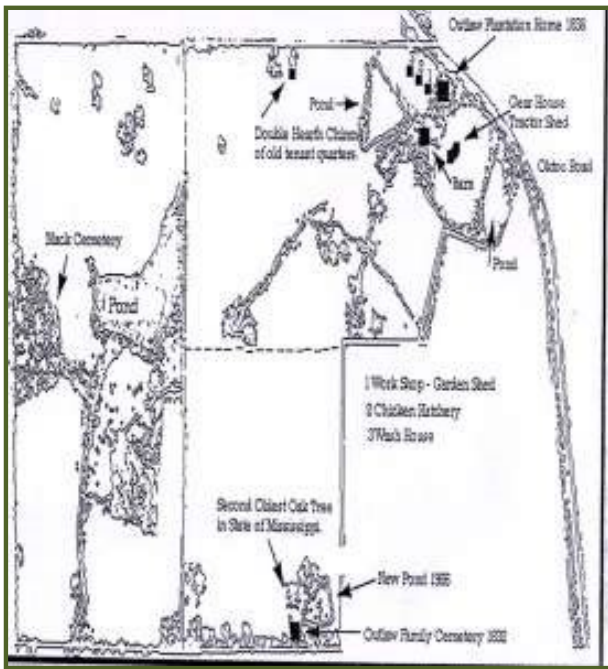
Samuel Mills Meek surrounded by children

Ironically, **Meek connects to our Outlaw-Gandy family in multiple ways**. His personal 1851-854 diary chronicles meeting Mary Mean Gandy's son-in-law including Colonel Gladden at the home of the Thomas Watts family. And, we have to consider that Meek may have fathered Arabella Outlaw Simmons Shanks's with a member of Dorsey Outlaw's family. (According to Teel and Hun, Arabella was actually "white" but was raised by Johnson's mother as a mulatto.) The "timing" of her birth coincides with Meek's presence at the plantation. And it seems extremely coincidental that Meek's own mother named Arabella died unexpectedly during his tenure as a teacher in Starkville.

The Places Where Our Stories Began

Dorsey Alexander Outlaw Plantation

Oktibbeha County, Starkville, MS



Outlaw Plantation aka “The Cedars”

The property features four ponds, the chimneyed remains of the old tenant quarters, the state’s second oldest Oak tree, slave burial grounds and the private Outlaw Family cemetery. Current Owner: **Erin Scanlon**

Recognized for its significance on the **National Register of Historical Places** in 2002, Colonial and Greek revival style architecture prevails in Outlaw’s frontier home.

Specific architectural highlights include seven hand-carved fireplace mantles, ornate early 20th century electric light fixtures, early 19th century hardware, and hand poured glass.

Although Outlaw owned well over 100 slaves, he opposed the Southern States’ secession from the Union and boldly expressed his opinion in writing to President Abraham Lincoln.

In the late 1980’s, a son-in-law sold the land and furnishings inherited by his late wife Ada Outlaw Page, “out of the family.”

Clay County, West Point, MS

Downtown West Point, M & O Railroad, West Point Hotel

Based on 1910 Census records and courthouse records, Johnson and Jenny owned property **near the Brame Plantation property** on the outskirts of



West Point within walking distance to **Mt. Herman Baptist Church, the M & O Train Depot and not too far from Mary Holmes Seminary.**



The **Outlaw Livery business serviced the hotels, stores and the US Post Office.** With a piano listed as “taxable personal property” on historical Mississippi tax records, their home surely was large enough to house the family comfortably. With Gus Gandy operating his own construction business nearby and Arabella Outlaw Simmons in the area, the extended family remained connected.



Mary Holmes Seminary undoubtedly served to shape the Outlaw daughters producing three teachers for sure. The Outlaw girls were proud of their association with the school often saying that no one can take a good education from you. They lived it and they proved it. Sadly, the school **closed in 2005 after serving deserving students for 113 years.** Fortunately, the school’s

records have been archived in Philadelphia.



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