

The Madison Family Papers, 1880-1957

H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College
Compiled by: Dr. Gwen Patton, TSTC Archivist

Biography

Parents: Elijah and Frances Madison

**Children: Willie (1870), General (1874), Carrie (1881), George (1885), Arthur (1888-1957), Sylvester (1889), David (1890), Lawrence (1891).
The Madisons reared and cared for 2 nieces and 1 widowed sister.**

The Patriarch Elijah, known as Eli, was born in Alabama in 1839. According to family lore, Eli was a very strong man, physically and intellectually. He had a strong sense of self-worth and self-respect. Stories abound that his slave-master trusted him, yet feared him. Eli was seldom if ever lashed. His slave-master sensed that Eli would just as sure kill him and suffer his own death than to endure any lower level of indignity, given that he was already forced into slavery by law.

At the end of the Civil War (1865), Eli and his wife Frances, along with half-brother Killis Marshall and Gadson Draw and their wives, and his friend Frank Felder, migrated to Hunter Station in Montgomery County (Highway 31). It is rumored that Eli was a "man of means," for he literally took to heart and hand the promise of "40 acres and a mule" when he left the slave plantation.

After a short stretch in Hunter Station, the families moved to the King Hill Community to be closer to town. After a few years, the families, especially the Madisons, had accumulated enough capital to buy a plantation. King Hill offered only small to medium plots of land. The families were ready to move on.

The Flatbush Community, Northeast of King Hill going towards the city of Wetumpka, had several plantations for sale. The families pooled their resources and bought the May's Plantation in 1880. In just

7-10-1964

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At the end of the Civil War (1865) Eli and his wife Frances along with half brother Miles (Daniel) and Gibson (John) and their wives and young son (Frank) migrated to Winter Station in Montgomery County (Highway 31). It is rumored that Eli was "man of means" for he always took in board and board the property of "40 acres and a mule".

The findings were more or less confirmed by a questionnaire about HIV infection and AIDS especially the individuals had been infected through sexual contact. Amongst the individuals who had been infected through sexual contact, the majority of them were male and the majority of them were from the low socio-economic class. The majority of them were from the low socio-economic class. The majority of them were from the low socio-economic class.

The Federal Community Development Bank, New York City, had several plantations for sale. The bank had bought the May's plantation in 1980. In just

2 years, 1882, Eli paid in full to Mr. and Mrs. James and Molly May \$2,380.00, and received a warranty deed for the conveyance of 560 acres of land.

Six of the 10 children were born on the plantation, now renamed the Madison Park Community. The family home where the children were born still stands. Eli built a church, Union AMEZion Chapel, a school and a community center.

The Madison family was a tight-knit unit. Eli imbued in all of his children that there were a part of W. E. B. DuBois' "talented tenth." Education was key, not for self, but as a tool to pass knowledge onto subsequent generations of the family and in the community as a whole. However, the teaching profession was not the only career he stressed. He told his children, "We need doctors, lawyers, scientists, teachers, bishops and every other profession that will uplift the race."

Eli saw no contradictions in the philosophies of Dubois and Booker T. Washington. With the same breath he instructed his children, "And we need farmers, builders, shop owners and businessmen to maintain that standing of the race."

All of his children, girls included, tilled the fields, and his boys labored in the gin house and the mills. The children enlarged and enhanced the park by clearing brush. All the children worked in the store to learn wholesale and retail skills in buying, stocking and selling.

Arthur, the fifth child and birthed in the home, heeded his father's instructions with tenacity. A precocious student, Eli obtained a scholarship for Arthur to attend Bowdoin College in Maine. Upon graduation, Arthur received a scholarship to study law at Columbia University in New York City and earned his degree June 5, 1918. He set up his law practice in Harlem, New York and became legal counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Attorney Madison spent long vacations in his beloved community.

Among Madison spent long years in his beloved community (NACB)

for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and on his law practice in Harlem, New York and became legal counsel University in New York City and earned his degree June 2, 1918. He graduation Arthur received a scholarship to study law at Columbia scholarship for Arthur to attend Howard College in Washington. Upon instructions with respect. A previous student, Eli obtained a

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"And we need farmers, builders, shop owners and businessmen to prosper in Washington. With the same dream he instructed his children Eli saw no contradictions in the philosophies of Blacks and whites and every other profession that will uplift the race." He told his children, "We need doctors, lawyers, scientists, farmers. However, the working profession was not the only career he suggested. Subsequent generations of the family and in the community as a whole. Education was key, not for self, but as a tool to pass knowledge onto children that there were a part of W. E. B. Dubois' "talented tenth."

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While there he established "Citizenship Classes" for adults and youth and encouraged all to register to vote. He married Mary Loveless, sister to the undertaker proprietor, John Henry Loveless. (A school in Montgomery was built and named in his honor in Montgomery in 1936.) The couple had one daughter, Josephine. Mary preceded him in death.

In 1944, Attorney Madison filed a voting rights class-action suit on behalf of Black Montgomerians. Several of the plaintiffs were school teachers. The defendants were county and state officials. When the teachers were threatened with firings, 6 of the teachers told authorities that they had not authorized Madison to bring a suit on their behalf. He was arrested, held in jail on a \$2,500 bail, convicted, fined \$500 and disbarred in the state of Alabama.

Attorney Madison returned to Harlem, New York and resumed his law practice. He was a national "cause celebre" because of his efforts to gain citizenship rights for southern Blacks. Father Divine and his Peace Mission Enterprises had hired Madison as legal counselor in 1931, but in 1945, Father Divine made him, because of his courage to stand up to southern bigots, his personal and financial advisor, managing millions of dollars.

Attorney Madison continued to press for equal rights and opportunities for Black people in general, and specifically for Madison Park Community residents. He filed in Montgomery Probate Court (1944) a petition that restricted ownership and residency in Madison Park to "the (n)egro race in perpetuity." His 1945 attempts to provide sewer and running water, and with \$90,000 in hand, for Madison Park were thwarted by the white authorities.

In the 1950s, Attorney Madison became blind due to glaucoma. His grandson was his companion and guide. In 1957, Arthur fell down a flight of stairs in his Harlem, New York home and died as a result of

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the injuries. Attorney Madison was shipped home to Madison Park, where he is buried in the Family cemetery.
Madison Family Cemetery.

Container List

Family Interviews about the Madison Family and Arthur Madison

Box 1 (#402938)

Interviews conducted by Archivist Gwen Patton with Attorney Madison's daughter, Josephine "Sunshine" Madison Burton, great-nephews Dr. John Winston, MD and William Winston, and great-niece, Dr. Hagalyn Seay Wilson, MD. There are accompanying hand-written notes by Attorney Madison, news articles about his life, family photographs and copies of his degree from Columbia University.

Period (circa 1940-1950s) News articles from Montgomery and Mobile, Alabama, *Pittsburgh Courier*, *Weekly Review*, *Cleveland Post* and *Chicago Defender* covering the **Voting Rights Case and Disbarment**.

Madison Park, comprising of copies of deeds and conveyances, Master's Thesis by Dr. H. Councill Trenhom on the Madison Park Community, news articles about the development and controversy of Madison Park, and A Century of Negro Progress in Montgomery City and County: 1863-1963.

Relatives, Drs. Hagalyn Seay Wilson and John Winston, Attorney Mahala Ashley Dickerson and friend, Father Divine.

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Continued List

Family interviews about the Madison family and Arthur
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Box 1 (0402938)

Interviews conducted by Archivist Green Branch with Attorney

Madison's daughter Josephine "Jo" Madison Burton, great-

nephews Dr. John Winston MD and William Winston, and great-niece

Dr. Hagarin Seay Wilson, MD. There are accompanying hand-written

notes by Attorney Madison, news articles about his life, family

photographs and copies of his degrees from Columbia University.

Period (circa 1940-1950s) News articles from Montgomery and Atlanta

Alabama, Birmingham Journal Weekly Review, Chattanooga News and

Chicago Defender covering the Voting Rights Case and Birmingham

Madison Park, consisting of copies of deeds and correspondence.

Madison's Thesis by Dr. H. C. Smith, Madison on the Madison Park

Community, news articles about the development and community of

Madison Park, and A Century of Negro Progress in Montgomery City

and Montgomery (1883-1902).

Relative, Dr. Hagarin Seay Wilson and John Winston, Attorney

Mahala Asbury Dickerson and friend, friend Dr. Joe.