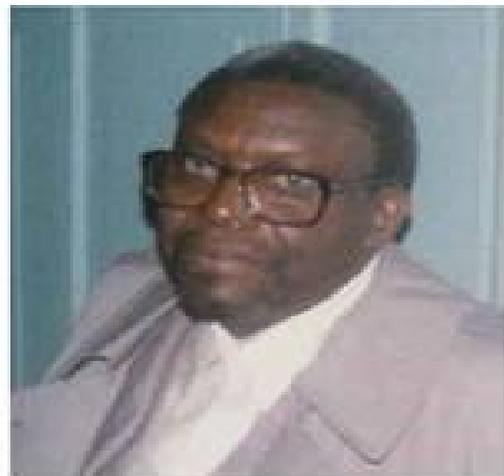


Life Through
Harrom Ellick
“Uncle Puddin”



***New York City,
Our Home through
Uncle Puddin***

Arthur L Hathaway and Rochelle Salako



Through My Eyes

presents

The Hidden Roots of Harrom Ellick

By

Arthur L Hathaway and Rochelle Salako

There should never be a time when a family cannot come together, even when there are members no longer with us. We want to keep the memories of our past family members within ourselves as we strive in this present day toward the future. This is the first of the Emma Ellick children to be portrayed, as the others will follow.

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Visit the author's website at "TheHiddenRoots.com" more writings.

LIFE THROUGH HARROM “PUDDIN” ELLICK



Harrom “Puddin” Ellick was born in Madison, Florida on January 30, 1920 and resided in the state of New York. He was the second youngest of the ten children. His oldest sister Mattie, who acted as his second mom gave him the nickname of “Puddin” when he was a little boy. Puddin left Sanford, Florida in 1942, first staying in Illinois with siblings; James, Lena and Church. He later went to Louisville, Kentucky visiting his sister Emma before heading north.

He then traveled to New Jersey and joined the Army in late 1942 where he served for over three years. After 33 months of military service with duty tours in Africa and Italy, Puddin returned home to Sanford, Florida as a decorated WWII veteran with the ranking of Sergeant.



Puddin rekindled his relationship with Alethia Gray of Sanford. And in March of 1946, Puddin asked John and Lula Gray for permission to take their daughter’s hand in marriage. The couple went to the county courthouse and was united as one.



This started their journey as one which led them north to New York. With the help from his close friend, Steward, Puddin was informed of a company that was hiring in New York City. And with that information, he became employed with the “Lipshutz Diamond Factory” and trained as a diamond finisher. A diamond finisher prepared precious gems for use in jewelry. He worked there from 1947 until retirement in 1981.

The couple bought a house in the New York City borough of Queens within the community called Jamaica. Many people whose jobs were in New York City moved to that community, as it being an especially desirable and a culturally diverse place for residency. Although in the city, they enjoyed the pleasures of country living. Puddin had several fruit trees and a large grape vineyard on the property. They also started a garden which gave them the closeness of Florida living.

They began to furnish their house to make it feel like home. However, a wedding picture was the one thing missing, as none was taking at the courthouse in Sanford. Puddin and Alethia went into town where they rented a bridal gown and tuxedo. They next went to a photographer shop and took wedding pictures. The wedding pictures displaying in the main room completed their home.



Their home became home to family whenever they visit from out of state. Puddin’s oldest sister, Mattie and her daughter, Madelene whom everyone called “Doll” came to live with them in 1958. They helped with the maintenance of the home and outside grounds for close to three years, while Puddin worked long hours in the city. Little Doll loved the game they played in the basement of “how many grapes can you smash”. Stepping in a large barrel of grapes was fun to her and productive for Puddin, as she unknowingly prepared the grapes for wine. Making wine was one of his hobbies along with making homemade whiskey in a complete distillery he had setup.

His spacious basement converted into a complete entertainment center having a large cocktail bar, tables and music box entertained many guest. Hosting many parties, he established a second source of income through the selling of his wine and whiskey to the guest.

However, keeping in contact with family took precedence above everything else. Puddin and his sister, Estella in Sanford Florida, being the two youngest siblings stayed in constant contact with each other. Whenever his brothers James, and Church and sister Lena, all living in St. Anne, Illinois would go home to Florida to visit, Puddin made that special trip south to see all of his family in one place. And during his vacations and any long extended holidays, he would travel to family, either in Florida, Ohio, Kentucky or Illinois.



Standing next to their Uncle Puddin; (l-r) Agnes Banks, Andre Hathaway, Ida Mae Beard, Celoise Roston, Willa Mae Grimes and Sylvester Frazier. (1985)

With Puddin's brothers all living outside the state of Florida, Alford became the oldest male member of the Ellick's in Florida. Alford, the son of James and nephew of Puddin kept his father, uncles and aunties updated on activities within the Ellick family in Florida. Alford would also send his children to visit their uncle Puddin during summer breaks on a regular base, especially Terris and Charles. Not having any children of their own, Puddin and Alethia treated their nephews and nieces as their own.

Puddin, Alethia and their dog Tuffy made another move into a house at 10805 146th Avenue in the Springfield Gardens community. This southeastern neighborhood of the New York City borough of Queens portrayed demographics that favored more of themselves. This property, not far from their previous community covered two lots, giving them ample room for gardens, trees, a small vineyard and of course, Tuffy.

After retirement and with more time on his hands, Puddin's hobby changed from winemaking to art collecting. This new passion of collecting antiques and "one of a kind" items became his pastime.



Being immersed in his new adventure sends him to different neighborhoods and small shops searching for those unique items. His home became a museum of antiques and fine art.

Alethia love for plants evolved into spending quality time outside in her orchard of flowers. Along with the garden, she nurtured exotic plants and flowers. She would take friends and family outside to show the results of laboring with love in her own paradise. She would spend hours in her gardens until her health prevented it.



Alethia was diagnosed with liver cancer that eventually got the best of her. After admission to the Queens General Hospital, Alethia passed on December 7, 1999. Puddin was left with fifty-three years of loving memories and Alethia's two cat companions that shared their home.

Puddin had been diagnosed with congestive heart failure and following a massive heart attack, his health deteriorated rapidly. But family made sure that he was never alone during those times. His nephew Alford of Florida, along with his children Gerald, Charles and Terris; Puddin's nieces, Madeline of Atlanta and Rochelle of Cleveland would make routine visits to New York. Their extended stays provided the care needed for their uncle. Charles eventually moved in with his uncle when it became apparent that he could no longer care for himself.



Puddin passed away on February 2, 2006 while surrounded by family. His nephew Alford handled his personal affairs during that time making sure his uncles' wishes were carried out.

As a veteran of World War II, Sergeant Harrom Ellick was buried with military honors in a plot next to his wife, Alethia at the Calverton National Cemetery in Calverton, New York. The ceremony included the presenting of American flag to the family, which was accepted by Terris Ellick.



Their two favorite cats which had been cremated years earlier were put in the ground with him. The family knew how much Puddin and Alethia loved animals and especially those two that were in an urn sitting in their China cabinet.

The last of Charles and Elizabeth Ellick children is gone. Another generation completed its journey and has passed on the baton. What will you do now that the baton's in your hands? Continue the legacy; using your history as a building block for the future. Continue walking in the future, as you hold hands with the past. History is the tool to help you prepare for the future.

Dedicated to the Eyes of the Family

A Message from the Authors



**Couldn't find a book about our personal history,
so we decided to write one.**

Always putting God first and thanking Him, for without Him none of this would be possible. Secondly, we want to acknowledge all who had contributed to this piece of history. It could not have been done without their continuous dedication toward a common cause.

We are the keepers of our history, so we should be concern about losing our past. Are we in touch with our past? How many generations can we go back with a personal relationship? We should never go so far away from home that we can't get back? We all need to pick up the legacy and continue the journey.

Please go to my website "**TheHiddenRoots.com**" for more on family history and available books.