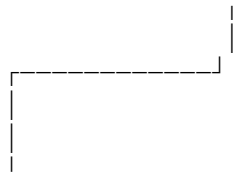


CHAPTER III

THE EAGANS OF CALVERT COUNTY MARYLAND

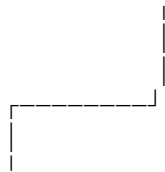
Elizabeth Eagans =



Alexander Eagan
1843-1942

m.
1873

Elizabeth B. Kelker
1851-1920



John Eagan
1888-1953

m.

1921

Hattie B. Palmer
1885-1981

THE EAGANS

Origins

The origins of the African-American Eagans of Calvert County in Southern Maryland are obscure. There is nothing definite in the records as to how they may have obtained their surname or when they or some remote ancestor came to Maryland. More than likely they received the name Eagan from an early slave owner who resided in the county. The surname Egan or Eagan which was chosen by the African-American Eagans has been found with varied spellings in the public record. The earlier spellings were Egins, Iggins, Igens, or Higgins and they probably refer to the same individuals with Eagan or Egans becoming the accepted spelling of those descendants with the surname today.

In 1914, in a very formal letter to the U.S. War Department, Alexander Higgins described in his affidavit the circumstances of his birth in which he stated that

he was born of a slave mother and no record was kept of the birth of slave children that he has ever heard of. His mother died in 1866. His father was a white man and died when applicant was seven years old.¹

No family members recall him ever saying who his father was nor his mother's name. As was often the case of liaisons between a slave owner and his slave, these things were not talked about openly.

A Calvert County family whose lives impacted the African-American Eagans were the Sedwicks. One Thomas Sedwick immigrated to Calvert County in 1670, and was entitled to claim fifty acres of land upon satisfactory completion of his servitude.² Twenty-eight years later in 1698, Thomas had acquired 400 acres of land which was divided among his three sons, Joshua, Elisha, and Joseph; one grandson, Thomas, three daughters, and his wife.³ A later Sedwick, John, was on the 1782 list of Taxables and other Sedwick family members were slave owners from the early 1800's through the 1860's.

The Sedwicks were not large slaveholders as was the case with some Marylanders. A Joshua Sedwick was the owner of ten slaves in 1800.⁴ Joshua Sedwick and James Cook Sedwick owned thirty-four and thirty-five slaves respectively in 1840; while in 1850, James Cook Sedwick is enumerated as owning thirty-four slaves, and a John A. Sedwick is the owner of fourteen slaves.⁵ All of the slaves in James' household in 1850 were black with the exception of two mulatto males, five and two years of age. Subsequent to James' death in 1853,⁶ four of the slaves found in his household in 1850 seem to be the same ones enumerated in his son, John's household in 1860 including the mulatto male who is now fifteen years old. Eight of his former slaves are in the household of his widow, Sarah,⁷ including two mulatto male children twelve and ten years of age.⁸ There is no available probate record which lists the slave property belonging to James Cook Sedwick, but it is logical to conclude that the mulatto children enumerated in the 1850 and 1860 slave schedules are related to the Sedwicks. Two of

the mulatto males are presumed to be Alexander Egan and James Edward Egan, who later fought in the Civil War as members of the United States Colored Troops. This legacy began with the presumed liaison between their mother and James Cook Sedwick.

Since slave surnames generally came from a present or past slave owner and the African-American Egans did not take the Sedwick surname, it is possible that the name Egan came from an earlier slave owner through Alexander Egan's maternal line. An Egan woman may have married a Sedwick male or the early Egans may have sold their slaves to the Sedwicks before they left the county. Because slave families often took the name of an original owner, who may have owned a grandparent, one is led to believe that there is some possible connection to an Egan family in Calvert County, Maryland. This search led to Egan families who were in the area where the African-American Egans lived.

A John Egan and Laughlan Egan were the first white settlers with the surname Egan to be transported to Maryland in 1678.⁹ Later a Barnaby Egan, his wife Henrietta, daughters Henrietta Reeder and Susannah, also their son Thomas Henry, who was born 11 February 1767 were registered as members of Christ Church Parish of Calvert County.¹⁰ Henrietta was a faithful member of the same parish subscribing tobacco in the years 1789, 1792, and 1793. Her son Thomas continued the tradition in 1794 when he subscribed 15 shillings.¹¹ The wealth of Henrietta Egan is obvious as shown by the Tax Assessor in St. Leonard's Creek Hundred in 1782; at the time she owned 1,150 acres of land in Brooke Place Manor, thirteen slaves, five oz. of plate, six horses, and twenty cattle with a total assessment of 2,161 pounds sterling. There was one male over sixteen years of age in the household which could be her son Thomas H., with the number of white inhabitants totaling five. Also in that same year, a Dr. John Egan owned one horse and his tax was ten pounds sterling. In his household there was one male over sixteen years of age with the total white inhabitants being one.¹²

Thomas H. Egan, Henrietta's son was a buyer and seller of property in Calvert County, most of which was located in Brooke Place Manor. Barnaby Egan had died owning a part of Brooke Place Manor and his wife Henrietta Egan had transferred a portion of this to their son, Thomas.¹³ Another record of interest was to Egan's cleared land towards Battle Creek.¹⁴ The Battle Creek area has been associated with the African-American Egans since the 1870's. The birth and death records for a number of them mention Battle Creek as their place of residence. There is no further reference to these early Egan settlers in Calvert County after Thomas' sale of land in 1797. The next appearance of Egans in Calvert County records is in 1870 after the Civil War and they are the African-American Egans.

The years leading up to the Civil War were ones of turmoil and change in the country as well as in Maryland. Those changes were to have a bearing on the lives of the Sedwicks and their slaves as well. There had been much national debate in the

THE EAGANS

country over the moral issue of slavery and when Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as President in March 1861, the most pressing issue facing him was whether the country could survive half-slave and half-free. The South attacked Fort Sumter on 12 April 1861, and there was no question that the country was at war. It soon became apparent that the war was more than just a war to preserve the Union, but a war to emancipate the slaves and a war which questioned whether colored men should be enlisted in the cause for their freedom.

Colored troops were recruited throughout the Northern and Border States, two years into the Civil War, after much soul searching over whether the Negroes were capable of bearing arms. In June 1863, the War Department authorized the recruitment of free blacks in Maryland; slaves were also signed up at this time without official permission, and as news spread of the recruitment of slaves, other slaves started running away to enlist--all of this to the chagrin of the slaveholders.¹⁵ The latter part of October 1863

Lincoln approved implementation of War Department General Order No. 329 which authorized the Bureau of Colored Troops to establish recruiting stations in Maryland, Missouri, and Tennessee, where free blacks and slaves with the master's consent could be enlisted. . . . Loyal masters whose slaves were recruited or consented to their recruitment could receive as much as \$300 in compensation upon filing a deed of manumission. . . .¹⁶

Three Eagan men--two of whom were brothers, and one a close kin from Calvert County, Maryland, all Sedwick slaves, appeared at army recruiting stations in Benedict, Maryland and Fair Haven, Connecticut to aid in the fight for their freedom. Murray Ekins, a twenty-three year old black male with black curly hair enlisted with Co. G, 7th Regiment U.S. Colored Infantry, 24 October 1863 at Benedict, Maryland. His superior officers were impressed with his performance and promoted him to Corporal, 5 November 1863, but he was quickly reduced to ranks 9 December 1863 for incompetency. Mrs. Sarah C. Sedwick, issued the deed of release from slavery, 9 February 1864, having come into possession of Murray, who was her slave for life, by inheritance in July 1853 (presumably from her husband's estate) and was given \$300 compensation.¹⁷

Murray's kinsman, James E. Ekins, the five year old mulatto male in James Cook Sedwick's household in 1850 and the fifteen year old mulatto male in John Sedwick's household in 1860 enlisted with Co. A, 9th Regiment, U.S. Col'd Infantry, 22 October 1863 at Benedict, Maryland. Meanwhile nineteen year old James described as having dark complexion with brown eyes, and black hair was promoted to corporal, 11 November 1863 and was given his deed of release from slavery, 9 February 1864 by John Sedwick, son of Mrs. Sarah C. Sedwick. John received \$300 compensation upon proving that James was his slave for life and he also had come into possession of James by inheritance in July 1853,¹⁸ the date of death of his father, James Cook Sedwick.¹⁹ This appears to be the same James Sedward [sic] who is listed as the father of James Eagan on his death certificate²⁰ and James Sedwick's date of death also coincides with

Alexander Eagan's testimony earlier that his father, a white man died when he was about seven years old. In 1853, Alexander would have been about ten years of age, given his age at enlistment as twenty years old.²¹ Murray was probably not a sibling of Alexander and James, but all three were from the same family of Eagans who resided in Calvert County, Maryland in the 1st Election District beginning with the 1870 census.²² The Sedwicks probably owned other Eagan family members also, but no probate record has been found for James Cook Sedwick because Calvert County records have been lost to fire.

For some reason, Alexander, being a different drummer, did not enlist in Benedict, Maryland as his brother, James and kinsman, Murray. There were a number of opportunities for escape from Maryland and he may have taken advantage of anyone of them. One was in 1861 when federal troops passed through Maryland on their way to Washington--the Negro slaves sought freedom and refuge behind enemy lines.²³ Or he may have escaped to the District of Columbia after the abolition of slavery in that city in April 1862.²⁴ And lastly he may have met one of those earlier army recruiters in 1863 who were unofficially enrolling slaves in the cause of the Union, or else he had run away earlier on his own and somehow made his way to Hamden, Connecticut. In November of 1863, the Connecticut General Assembly authorized the organization of the 29th and 30th U.S. Colored Troops from that State.²⁵

Alexander, a twenty year old farmer described as of black complexion, black hair, and black eyes from Hamden, Connecticut enlisted in the 29th Connecticut Infantry Colored on 19 December 1863, at Fair Haven, Connecticut, and gave his place of birth as Richmond, Virginia. The reference to Richmond, Virginia as his birthplace is mysterious. It may be that he was one of a number of Maryland slaves who had escaped to Union lines in that state as early as 1862, giving as his excuse that he was an escapee from a confederate sympathizer in Richmond, Virginia.²⁶ *He surely did not want anyone at that point to know where he was really from, especially if he was a runaway. Alexander's first experience as a soldier was daily duty with the ordnance department during the winter months of January and February 1864.*²⁷

Alexander and his comrades, William Gordon, Sergeants Watkins and Stevens and other members of the 29th Connecticut Infantry were mustered in 8 Mar 1864, and embarked on what would be a new experience for them, preparing to fight for their and their families' freedom. They went first to Beaufort, South Carolina for training before being ordered to the front lines in Virginia along with the Maryland 7th and 9th, as well as other black regiments.

*Alexander, James, and Murray having grown up on a southern Maryland plantation in Calvert County participated in all of the major battles in Virginia especially in and around Richmond.*²⁸ Murray died of dysentery 31 August 1864 at a base hospital near Richmond, Virginia, and was unofficially reported buried near Lepsey's House, City Point, Virginia. Therefore he was not involved in some of the heaviest fighting which

THE EAGANS

took place later.²⁹ Meanwhile James was promoted from Corporal to Sergeant 26 February 1864 and performed the regular duties of that rank until July 1864 when he was overcome by heat stroke in Benedict, Maryland. "Later he fell down in the ranks at Petersburg, Virginia right after a charge had been made on the rebels." The recurring effects of the heat stroke were to plague him the rest of his life.³⁰

During the summer and fall of 1864, Alexander and James were part of a mass movement of Black troops along the front lines in Virginia. These colored regiments of which Alexander and James were members, were part of regular army units that participated in some of the heaviest fighting of the Civil War at Deep Bottom, the Battle of Chaffin's Farm, and Fort Harrison, the fall of 1864. Chaffin's Farm, a major battleground, at one time was one of the largest and most prosperous farms in Virginia; and it was during this battle that the performance of the Negro troops exceeded all expectations; but they also suffered the heaviest losses.³¹ General Grant was so impressed with the valor of the colored troops who had been fighting as units of other army corps that he organized twenty-two colored regiments into the all black 25th Army Corps in December 1864 as part of his planned spring offensive in Richmond in 1865.³² Alexander's 29th Connecticut and James' 9th Maryland were a part of this 25th corps.

After nearly one and a half years in the service of their country, Alexander and other members of the 29th had participated in many battles as members of the all black 25th corps; and the 29th Connecticut was reportedly the first to enter Richmond after the siege of that city.³³ However, other official sources give the honor to the "black 5th Massachusetts Cavalry."³⁴ The members of the 25th corps were later ordered to Texas for garrison duty along the Texas-Mexican border before being mustered out. Alexander was mustered out 24 October 1865 at Brownsville, Texas. His unit was transported back to New Haven, Connecticut where most of the members were from. Alexander seemed to have made his way back to Calvert County, Maryland where he

first took Rheumatism in 1866 running up and down Chesapeake Bay and at same time had typhoid pneumonia after I got up continued following the water. I have made my living crossing the Atlantic Ocean. . . .³⁵

Meanwhile James and his unit, the 9th Maryland were mustered out at New Orleans, Louisiana, 26 November 1866, after their share of garrison duty in Texas.³⁶ James went back home to his familiar Calvert County on the Chesapeake Bay, married, settled down and became a farmer,³⁷ living near Mrs. Sarah C. Sedwick and her son-in-law Charles Hellen, persons he had known since childhood.³⁸ Mrs. Sedwick's son, John Sedwick, had manumitted him earlier upon his enlistment in the service.³⁹

As newly freed persons, James, Alexander, and another Ekins family member, John seized upon the opportunity to invest their savings in the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company Bank in Baltimore, Maryland. This bank had been set up by the Freedman's Bureau to encourage habits of thrift among the newly freed slaves. Those who had fought in the Civil War made up the largest group of depositors, because many

of them invested their bounty in the Bank. The deposit signatures which are extant, do not give the amount of deposit, but they do show family relationships as depicted in Table I.

TABLE I
FREEDMAN'S SAVINGS AND TRUST COMPANY⁴⁰
Egins Deposits

Deposit No.	Name	Parents	Other
341	James E. Egins	Elizabeth	Mason
970	Alexander Egins		James E Egins, brother
2660	John Egan	Henry, Jane	

Alexander left his home in Calvert County once again, this time to make his

... living crossing the Atlantic Ocean. I went to Aspinwall and there I got the Chraques [sic] fever⁴¹ since that time I have never been well in 1873 I married and have been coasting [sic] in boats up to 10 years ago. Since that have been working as I was able in the bay or at anything I could do and now am unable to do a hard days work on a/c of my rheumatism and cramps in the muscles.

My brother James E. Higgins at Helens Post Office Calvert County, Md. would testify to the above. The above was written by Sam Payne at Pensacola, Fla. This day from a statement made by Alex Higgins and not from any written or printed statement or s----- [sic]. He further declare that his post office address is Pensacola County of Escambia State of Florida. . . .⁴²

Alexander or "Papa" Eagan as his grandchildren called him was "born of a slave mother and a white man" in Calvert County, Maryland near the Chesapeake Bay. He seemed to always have led a life that was associated with water, having always lived in places that were coastal cities. He enlisted in the Civil War at Hamden, Connecticut. At the close of the War, he returned home, and worked on the Chesapeake Bay for awhile, and later became a merchant seaman. While working on vessels that transported lumber out of Milton, Florida, he met and married Elizabeth Kelker, 20 February 1873.⁴³ They later moved to Pensacola, Florida, living at the east end of Wright Street near the Pensacola Bay front where he worked as a Bayman.⁴⁴ After the death of his wife, Elizabeth, he married Mary Ann (Ward) Edwards, a native of Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia who was a retired school teacher from the Escambia County Florida Public Schools.⁴⁵ After making one last visit to Baltimore, Maryland in

THE EAGANS

the 1920's to visit relatives,⁴⁶ they later moved to Los Angeles, California, another coastal city where he died in 1942.⁴⁷ During the course of his life, he acquired many skills from his various jobs such as farming in Calvert County; duty in the Ordnance Department at the beginning of his enlistment in the Armed Services; as a cook on a boat when he was a Merchant Seaman; working on the Bay; a Blacksmith; digging wells which were boarded; and later digging wells with a pipe. He was a staunch member of Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church and served as Chairman of its Deacon Board, although he never learned to read or write.

James, not as adventurous as his brother, Alexander, remained at home pursuing the settled life of a farmer whenever his health permitted.⁴⁸ The effects of the heat stroke which occurred when he was a soldier plagued him the rest of his life. He died in 1906 with no life insurance, and his possessions consisted of one heifer, and two hogs, plus thirty-three acres of land located near Battle Creek, a branch of the Patuxent River in Calvert County, Maryland. Situated on the land was a small house with only the necessary furniture. The house was not worth much with taxes and repairs running about twenty dollars yearly. Two of his eleven children, Bertha M. and Richard S. were minors at the time of his death. His wife, Mary Catherine Locks died 29 April 1924, having out lived her husband by eighteen years. Mary lies buried in an unmarked grave besides her husband in Brooks United Methodist Cemetery, Port Republic Maryland.⁴⁹

At the time of the ninth decennial census of the United States in 1870, other newly freed African-American Eagans were enumerated in the same neighborhood as they were when they were in bondage. The 1870 census does not show family relationships but the supposition is that they were kin with Henry Igin and Jane, who were living in Dwelling #123, presumably being the progenitors of this family line. Virgil Igin was enumerated in Dwelling #165 with John Sedwick. Edward (it has been determined that this is James Edward Egin) Iggins lived in Dwelling #236 next door to the Walter Hellen household. Sarah C. Sedwick,⁵⁰ his mother-in-law, and the widow of James C. Sedwick, is also listed in the Hellen household. The close proximity of Eagan and Sedwick families in 1870 gave rise to the supposition that the Sedwicks owned other African-American Eagans during the antebellum period.

One female head of household, Mary J. Egan was enumerated in the second election district for Calvert County, Maryland, dwelling #179. There were six children in this household ranging in age from fourteen years to seven months. Murray was the youngest and appears to be a twin. The information extracted on these families is listed below:

TABLE II

1870⁵¹ U.S. Census, Calvert County, Maryland
Eagan and Sedwick Families

Dwelling	Name	Age	Sex	Color	Birthplace
1st election district					
#121	Sedwick, John C.	20	M	W	MD
	Sedwick, Harriet	4	F	W	MD
#123	Igins, Henry	70	M	B	MD
	Igins, Jane	65	F	B	MD
	Igins, Georganna	13	F	B	MD
#148	Sedwick, Benjamin	32	M	W	MD
	Sedwick, Aleatha A.	25	F	W	MD
	Sedwick, Susan	5	F	W	MD
	Sedwick, John A.	4	M	W	MD
	Sedwick, Alice D.	3	F	W	MD
	Sedwick, Benjamin	1	M	W	MD
#165	Sedwick, John	36	M	W	MD
	Sedwick, Alice	25	F	W	MD
	Igins, Virgil	29	M	B	MD
#235	Hellen, Charles	35	M	W	MD
	Hellen, Sarah	30	F	W	MD
	Hellen, Aleatha	28	F	W	MD
	Sedwick, Sarah	67	F	W	MD
	Gross, Margaret	28	F	B	MD
	Gross, Samuel	6	M	B	MD
	Gross, Elizabeth	3	F	B	MD
Gross, James	3/12	M	B	MD	
#236	Iggins, Edward	25	M	B	MD
	Iggins, Mary C.	23	F	B	MD
	Iggins, Mary E.	1	F	B	MD
	Iggins, Joseph	3	M	B	MD
2nd election district					
#179	Egans, Mary J.	30	F	B	MD
	Egans, Sarah A.	14	F	B	MD

THE EAGANS

TABLE II (cont.)

Dwelling	Name	Age	Sex	Color	Birthplace
	Egans, Vinah	10	F	B	MD
	Egans, Mary	6	F	B	MD
	Egans, Louisa	3	F	B	MD
	Egans, Matilda	7/12	F	B	MD
	Egans, Murray	7/12	M	B	MD
	Wilson, Sarah	50	F	B	MD

Four Eagan families that appeared in the 1870 enumeration were enumerated in 1880. They were James E. [Edward], Virgil, who is now head of household, and Henry and Jennie (Jane). Some new family heads were Mary, 25 years, Dwelling #22, John, 47 years, Dwelling #242 (this is the same John that made a deposit in the Freedman's Savings Bank), and Georganna, 25 years, Dwelling #274. This census is also the first recognition of James E. Ekins as a mulatto, other than the description in the 1850 and 1860 Slave Schedules cited earlier. Georganna was listed in Henry and Jane's household in 1870 as twelve years of age. A further comparison of the 1870 and 1880 censuses list Henry and Jennie, his wife as pensioners and a 12 year old grandson, Murray as living in Dwelling #343. This Murray seems to be the same one living in Mary J's household in 1870 who was seven months old.

All of the Eagans with the exception of Mary J. or Jane are concentrated in the same district in 1880 as they were in 1870. She is the lone Eagan enumerated in the 2nd election district in 1870, and she is also the only person with the Eagan surname enumerated in Enumeration District #35 in 1880. Jane's son, Murray, the twelve year old listed in Henry and Jennie's household, as their grandson, died in Adelina, Maryland 15 September 1947.⁵² There were no white families with the surname Eagan enumerated in Calvert County in 1870 or in 1880. Table III shows these families as they were enumerated in the 1880 census.

TABLE III

1880⁵³ U.S. Census, Calvert County, Maryland
Eagan Families

Dwelling	Name	Color	Sex	Age	Relationship
Enum. Dist. 33					
#22	Egins, Mary	B	F	25	Servant
	Egins, Lizzie	B	F	4	
	Egins, Gracie	B	F	1	
Enumerated with Geo. P. Ross, servant					

TABLE III (cont.)

Dwelling	Name	Color	Sex	Age	Relationship
#49	Egins, Louisa	B	F	5	
	Enumerated with John Locks, Granddaughter				
#116	Egins, James E.	M	M	35	Head
	Egins, Mary C.		F	33	Wife
	Egins, Mary E.		F	12	Dau
	Egins, Aletha		F	9	Dau
	Egins, Louisa W.		F	6	Dau
	Egins, Maria C.		F	3	Dau
	Egins, Eliza V.		F	2	Dau
	Egins, Joseph A.		M	1	Son
	Egins, John E.		M	7	Son
#235	Egins, Virgil	B	M	35	Head
	Egins, Barbara	B	F	20	wife
	Ireland, Elizabeth	B	F	40	m-in-law
	Ireland, Eliza E.	B	F	15	s-in-law
	Ireland, Charlotte	B	F	25	s-in-law
	Ireland, Lennie	B	F	4	s-in-law
#242	Egins, John	B	M	47	Head
	Egins, Caroline		F	40	Wife
	Gantt, Louis E.		M	4	Fos child
#274	Egins, Georganna	B	F	25	Servant
	Egins, Charles		M		Ser child
	Egins, Eliza		F	1/3	Ser child
	enumerated with John W. Peterson, servant				
#343	Egins, Henry	B	M	78	Pensioner
	Egins, Jennie	B	F	77	" "
	Egins, Murray	B	M	12	Grandson
Enum. Dist. 35					
#251	Egan, Jane	B	F	30	Head
	Egan, Louisa		F	15	Dau
	Egan, Henry		M	8	Son
	Egan, George		M	6	Son

THE EAGANS

There is no evidence from official records as to how the African-American Eagans of Calvert County, Maryland obtained their surname. A family of Eagans were early settlers and slave owners in Calvert County during the eighteenth century. The logical conclusion is that the Eagan surname was passed through Alexander Eagan's maternal line whose ancestor may have been earlier transferred to a Sedwick.

The Sedwick ownership of Eagan slaves is documented in the manumission of James E. and Murray Eagan during the Civil War. Since two African-American families with Igin or Iggins surnames were living in close proximity to Sedwick family members in 1870, and one was enumerated in a Sedwick household, it is surmised that the Sedwicks were owners of other Eagan family members also.

No record can be found that identifies James Cook Sedwick's slaves, but certain assumptions can be made. The two mulatto male slaves, five and ten years of age, enumerated in his household in 1850 are believed to be Alexander and James Eagan, offspring of a liaison between him and one of his female Eagan slaves. This fact is supported by family legend and Alexander's birth affidavit which states that his father was a white man and his mother a Negro slave woman.⁵⁴ James Eagan's death certificate naming his parents as James Sedward [sic] and Elizabeth Eagans also supports this conclusion.⁵⁵

It is reasonable to assume that those persons with the Eagan surname, who were of African-American ancestry, and were born and raised in Calvert County during the antebellum period were related in some manner and Henry Egin and Jane, the eldest family members as shown in the 1870 census are the probable progenitors of this family line.

DESCENDANTS

FIRST GENERATION

1. Henry¹ Egin, born, circa 1800, in Maryland.⁵⁶ He married, Jane, born, circa 1805, in Maryland.⁵⁷

Their probable children:

2 i. John² Egin, born, circa 1823, in Maryland;⁵⁸ died, 12 August 1905, in Calvert County.⁵⁹ He married Caroline.⁶⁰
+ 3 ii. Elizabeth Eagans.
+ 4 iii. Mary Jane Egin.
5 iv. Virgil Egin, born, circa 1841, in Maryland;⁶¹ worked as an oysterman, died 21 April 1902, at the age of sixty at Island Creek.⁶² He married Barbara Ireland.⁶³

- 6 v. Murray Egin, born, circa 1843, in Maryland; died, 31 August 1864, in City Point, Virginia;⁶⁴ burial at Lepsey's House at City Point.
- 7 vi. Georganna Egin, born, circa 1857, in Maryland;⁶⁵ died 3 March 1902 at Baltimore.⁶⁶ She married Joseph G. Gross, 6 February 1890, in Calvert County.⁶⁷

SECOND GENERATION

3. Elizabeth² Egin (*Henry¹*), born, circa 1828, in Maryland; died, 1866, in Port Republic, Maryland.⁶⁸ It is believed that she bore children with her slaveowner, James Cook Sedwick.

Elizabeth's known children were:

- + 8 i. Alexander² Egan.
- + 9 ii. James Edward Egin.

From informed family sources, she was married to someone named Mason, whose identity remains unknown.

4. Mary Jane² Egin (*Henry¹*), born, circa 1840, in Calvert County.⁶⁹

Her children all born in Calvert County were:

- 10 i. Sarah A.³ Egin, born, circa 1856.⁷⁰
- 11 ii. Vinah Egin, born, circa 1860.
- 12 iii. Mary Egin, born, circa 1864.
- 13 iv. Louisa Egin, born, circa 1867. She married Thomas Henson, 1882.⁷¹
- + 14 v. Murray Egin.
- 15 vi. Matilda Egin, born, circa 1870.
- 16 vii. Henry Egin, born, 1872.⁷²
- 17 viii. George Egin, born, 1874. He married Mary E. Jackson, 19 August 1896, at Island Creek.⁷³

THE EAGANS

THIRD GENERATION

8. Alexander³ Eagan (*Elizabeth², Henry¹*),⁷⁴ born, circa 1843, in Prince Frederick, Maryland;⁷⁵ died, 16 March 1942, in Los Angeles, California;⁷⁶ burial, March 1942, in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery, at Los Angeles. He married, first, on 20 February 1873, at Santa Rosa County, Florida, Elizabeth B. Kelker,⁷⁷ daughter of John Kelker and Cecilia Gomez, born, 29 January 1851, in Santa Rosa County;⁷⁸ died, 28 November 1920, at Pensacola, Florida;⁷⁹ baptized, 20 June 1854, at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Pensacola, Florida;⁸⁰ burial in Zion Cemetery. At her baptism, she was baptized as Betsy Kelker. Her certificate reads Elizabeth alias Betsy. She was born April 1851 (according to her baptismal record dated 20 June 1854); her godmother was Mary Robertson. Elizabeth owned a grocery store along with her husband on Twelfth Avenue and Scott Streets, Pensacola. A bag of goodies was always around whenever her grandchildren came to visit. She also served on the Mother's Board of Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church. These were the ladies responsible for serving communion.

The children of Alexander and Elizabeth (Kelker) Eagan were:

- + 18 i. Cecelia⁴ Eagan.
- 19 ii. Sophia Eagan, born, 19 February 1875, in Santa Rosa County;⁸¹ died, 20 January 1962, in Los Angeles, California.⁸² She married, first, Zebulon Elijah, 30 June 1896, at Pensacola.⁸³ She married, second, S. J. Bowles, 3 August 1905, at Pensacola.⁸⁴ She had no children of her own, but raised her sister Cecelia's daughter, Sophie.
- + 20 iii. Josephine Eagan.
- 21 iv. James E. Eagan, born, 10 March 1879, in Santa Rosa County;⁸⁵ died without issue 8 January 1960, at Pensacola;⁸⁶ burial in Pensacola. He married Ella Mae Stanley, 15 February 1915, in Pensacola.⁸⁷
- + 22 v. Mary Jane Eagan.
- 23 vi. Nellie Jatsue Eagan, born, 21 July 1882, in Santa Rosa County;⁸⁸ died, 18 December 1901.⁸⁹ She married George H. Smith, 14 March 1901, at Pensacola.⁹⁰
- + 24 vii. Hattie Eagan.
- 25 viii. Alexander Eagan, born, 19 August 1886, in Pensacola.⁹¹
- + 26 ix. John Eagan.
- 27 x. Lizzie Eagan, born, 1 October 1889, in Pensacola.⁹²
- 28 xi. Julia Eagan, born, 16 January 1891, in Pensacola;⁹³ died, 1983, in Los Angeles, California. She married Dave Craig, 26 February 1919, in Pensacola.⁹⁴
- 29 xii. George Eagan, born, 20 April 1892, in Pensacola;⁹⁵ died without issue 15 Nov 1978, in Pensacola; burial in Pensacola. He married Bessie Barrios, 29 Nov 1916, in Pensacola.⁹⁶
- 30 xiii. Florence Eagan, born, 1909, in Pensacola.

He married, second, Mary Ann (Ward) Edwards, 24 May 1921, in Pensacola;⁹⁷ born in Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia;⁹⁸ died at Los Angeles, California. Her first husband was Evigan Edwards; died 9 September 1907.⁹⁹ It is not known where they were married, but they lived in Pensacola as early as 1872.¹⁰⁰ She was a school teacher.

9. James Edward³ Egans (*Elizabeth², Henry¹*),^{101, 102} born, circa 1845, in Calvert County, Maryland; died, 13 October 1906, at Battle Creek;¹⁰³ burial in Brooks United Methodist Church Cemetery, Port Republic, Maryland. He married on 12 December 1866, at Calvert County,¹⁰⁴ Mary Catherine Locks, daughter of John Locks and Aleatha Brooks, born, circa 1845, in Calvert County; died, 29 April 1924, at Island Creek.¹⁰⁵

Their children were all born at Island Creek in Calvert County:

- | | | |
|------|-------|---|
| 31 | i. | Mary Elizabeth ⁴ Egans, born, 19 September 1868. ¹⁰⁶ She married Daniel Smith. |
| + 32 | ii. | Aletha Egans. |
| 33 | iii. | Louisa W. Egans, born, 8 June 1874. ¹⁰⁷ |
| 34 | iv. | Maria C. Egans, born, 8 April 1877. ¹⁰⁸ |
| 35 | v. | Eliza V. Egans, born, 9 November 1878. ¹⁰⁹ |
| 36 | vi. | Joseph A. Egans, born, 27 February 1880; ¹¹⁰ died, without issue, 1944, at Port Republic; ¹¹¹ burial, Brooks United Methodist Church Cemetery, Port Republic. ¹¹² He married Aurelia, 1909, in Maryland. ¹¹³ |
| 37 | vii. | Cornelia Egans, born, 30 March 1882; ¹¹⁴ married Henry Waters. Cornelia is considered to have married well. She would send for her sisters and help them to get established in Baltimore. Her husband owned Water's Catering service in Baltimore. |
| 38 | viii. | Martha H. Egans, born, 14 December 1883. ¹¹⁵ |
| 39 | ix. | James T. Egans, born, 22 March 1886. ¹¹⁶ |
| + 40 | x. | Bertha Monroe Egans. |
| 41 | xi. | Stephen Egans, born, 12 January 1894; ¹¹⁷ died without issue in Long Island, New York. |

14. Murray³ Egins (*Mary Jane², Henry¹*), born, 1870;¹¹⁸ died, 15 Sep 1947, in Adelina, Maryland.¹¹⁹ He married, first, Elizabeth Ross, 30 Aug 1892, at Brooks Church, in Calvert County.¹²⁰ Miss Grace Bungie of Adelina, Maryland knew Murray Eagan well. He lived right down the road from her on Sheridan Point Road around the corner from Carroll-Western United Methodist Church. "The fact of the matter he used to live here (the house in which she is presently living) but when he lived here, the house was kind of small. Murray was a dark man with straight hair. His mother was Aunt Jane Eagan. . . and he had a half-brother named Henry Eagan."¹²¹ His descendants still live around Carroll-Western United Methodist Church.

Children, all born in Calvert County:

THE EAGANS

- 42 i. Myrtle⁴ Ekins.
- 43 ii. Eddie Ekins; died, March 1978, in Calvert County.
- 44 iii. Viola Ekins married Gilbert Henson, 11 February 1915, at Western Church, Calvert County.¹²²
- 45 iv. William H. Ekins; born 1899; died 22 May 1899.¹²³
- 46 v. Marie Ekins.

He married, second, Julia Jackson, 20 Feb 1938, in Huntingtown, Maryland.¹²⁴

FOURTH GENERATION

18. Cecelia⁴ Eagan (*Alexander³, Elizabeth², Henry¹*),¹²⁵ born, 15 October 1873, in Santa Rosa County;¹²⁶ died 2 April 1918 in Pensacola. She married William Jackson, 11 June 1896, in Pensacola.¹²⁷ Cecilia had a number of children who died early. She is remembered most for taking good care of her children.

Children:

47 i. Corinne⁵ Jackson, born 1 September 1897, in Pensacola; died 30 November 1991, in Pensacola. She married Scott Jones. Corinne was organist and choir member at Christ Episcopal Church at Seville Square early in this century. She was also a community activist who enjoyed working with young people. During the Depression, her home was used for the Works Progress Administration and National Youth Administration training Pensacola youth for jobs. She organized the first Black Girl Scout Troop in Pensacola, convinced the City Council to build the Fricker Recreation Center for young people, and also established Camp Happy Sands, a day camp for children of low income families.

- 48 ii. Alexander Jackson.
- 49 iii. George Jackson.
- 50 iv. William Jackson.
- 51 v. James Jackson, resided, 1992, in Berkshire, Massachusetts.¹²⁸

He married Gladys Nichlen.

- 52 vi. Sophie Jackson. She married Hurdle.
- 53 vii. Joseph Jackson.
- 54 viii. Susan Jackson. She married Carter.

20. Josephine⁴ Eagan (*Alexander², Elizabeth¹*),¹²⁹ born, 21 March 1877, in Santa Rosa County;¹³⁰ died, 24 January 1939.¹³¹ She married Eddie Jones, 22 December 1898, in Pensacola.¹³² A very outgoing person, people thought a lot of her because she was always trying to help somebody.

Children:

- 55 i. Bessie⁵ Jones. She married Mayes.

56 ii. George Jones.

22. Mary Jane⁴ Eagan (*Alexander³, Elizabeth², Henry¹*),¹³³ born, 3 October 1880, in Santa Rosa County;¹³⁴ died, 20 January 1962, in Pensacola.¹³⁵ She married, first, Simund Newman, 21 August 1901, in Pensacola.¹³⁶ She was always at home with her children and grandchildren and enjoyed fishing. Fresh homemade biscuits were a staple in her household for breakfast every morning.

Children:

57 i. Blanche⁵ Newman.

58 ii. Julius Newman.

She married, second, Tom Fair. Children:

59 iii. Salvation Marie Atwood Fair.

60 iv. Estelle Fair.

61 v. Regina Fair.

62 vi. John Fair. Resided, 1992, in Pensacola.¹³⁷ He married Emma

Doris Brooks.

She married, third, John Thomas. Children:

63 vii. Lois Thomas. Resided, 1992, in Pensacola.¹³⁸ She married James Porter.

64 viii. David Thomas.

65 ix. Harold Thomas.

66 x. Mary Edna Thomas. Resided, 1992, in Pensacola.¹³⁹ She married Samuel Lee.

24. Hattie⁴ Eagan (*Alexander³, Elizabeth², Henry¹*), born, 21 March 1884, in Pensacola;¹⁴⁰ died, 14 December 1973, in Pensacola; burial in Pensacola. She married on 14 June 1905, at Pensacola, Walker Mims;¹⁴¹ died, 8 January 1937.¹⁴² According to her daughters, Hattie was a very busy woman who took in laundry to help support the family. In spite of the family's poverty, she kept her children very neat and clean. She enjoyed sewing and cooking. Her daughters remember her making sheets and pillow cases out of yellow domestic. Fishing and crabbing in Pensacola's Bayous was another one of her pleasures. She loved all of her brothers and was especially close to her brother, John.

The children of Hattie (Eagan) Mims and her husband Walker were all born at Pensacola:

THE EAGANS

67 i. Louise⁵ Mims, born, 23 June 1906.¹⁴³ She married J. Marshall, 31 July 1929.¹⁴⁴ Died without issue at Chicago, Illinois.

68 ii. Ethel May Mims, born, 24 May 1908;¹⁴⁵ died, 30 December 1991, in Pensacola; burial, 2 January 1992, in Holy Cross Cemetery. She married John Wingate, 4 August 1926, in Pensacola.¹⁴⁶ Ethel was the proprietor of Wingate's Beach for thirty-five years, a member of the Mother Board of Cathedral of Faith Primitive Baptist Church, and also a member of Grand Lagoon Homemaker's Club.

69 iii. Hazel Mims, born, 4 December 1909;¹⁴⁷ resided 1991 in Chicago, Illinois. She married George A. Parker, 3 February 1940.¹⁴⁸

70 iv. Josephine Mims, born, 12 November 1913;¹⁴⁹ resided, 1991, in Pensacola.¹⁵⁰ She married Willie Steen, 23 September 1931, in Pensacola.¹⁵¹

26. John⁴ Eagan (*Alexander³, Elizabeth², Henry¹*), born, 25 June 1888, at Pensacola;¹⁵² died, 3 November 1953, in Pensacola.¹⁵³ John married twice: (1) on 22 January 1909 at Pensacola, Florida Barnette;¹⁵⁴ divorced;¹⁵⁵ and (2) on 4 June 1921, at Pensacola,¹⁵⁶ he married Hattie Bushrod Palmer, born, 1 March 1885, in Pensacola,¹⁵⁷ daughter of Robert Bush Palmer and Caroline Drake. She died, 13 December 1981, in Pensacola;¹⁵⁸ and was buried 16 December 1981 in St. Michael's Cemetery.¹⁵⁹

John saw service in World War I. He was also a fine carpenter.¹⁶⁰ The beautiful brick bungalow home, he built for his wife on the corner of 12th Avenue and Yonge Streets, Pensacola, Florida, A.D. 1925, was a first for Blacks in that city. Many of his artisan friends who were also black had a hand in the building of this house. Hattie described the house which was undergoing construction and also the successful Transfer business which he owned in a letter to Lillian Oliver, a friend of hers:

2406 N. 12th Ave.
Pensacola, Fla.
Nov. 5, 1925
Dear Lillian,

The contents of your letter made me feel very happy, the very thought of your homecoming. I am sure you will find lots of pleasure working at home with old friends to cheer you. I shall do my very best to help you get work.

Since you are a graduate of a recognized college you will not have to take the examination. Write Cawthorn the state superintendent and get a blank and fill it out and I think send two dollars with it and you will get a five year certificate. State in your letter that you are a graduate and from what school. He will send the blank at once. Tallahassee is his home. I cannot think of his initials just now. If you had told me this during the summer you could have had my work. I was teacher of grade six--salary sixty dollars per month, but I had to resign in September. The stork is going visit me again in the spring. There were a number of vacancies this term so many of the teachers married and some strangers did not come back. The schools seem to be in good condition and I think you would like working here now. Place your application for work now and I feel sure you will be able to get work in the city next term. You can get country work now if

you would like to come down this winter and did not want to be idle. Our business firms here are poor. They pay very little for help I do not think you could find work in that line.

The examinations are held three times a year--February, June and Aug. You do not have to take if you apply for your 5 year certificate on your diploma.

I do wish that you would make up your mind to live home again. My happiness would be complete to see you working here as before.

I am getting along well Johnnie is doing a big transfer business. He has three trucks on the line and four men to help him. He is such a successful business man. And too sweet for words. My home is not completed yet, a little more work inside. They say no home will excel it in the state. I do not know because I have done a very little traveling but it is really swell. Sometimes I have to pinch myself to see if it is really I enjoying all these blessings. Prayers did it all. My little girl is just as sweet a can be. By all means come. Where there is a will--there is a way.

Lovingly yours

Hattie

All join me in love to you--Be it ever so humble
there is no place like home.¹⁶¹

The stork Hattie mentioned that would be visiting her in the Spring was their son, John Palmer Eagan. The sweet little girl mentioned in the letter was their daughter, Del Alexa (Eagan) Jupiter. The home which John built was their residence except for a brief interlude in the 1940's when they lived on the old Baars estate which at the time was owned by Phillip G. Rust and his wife, Eleanor (DuPont) Rust of Wilmington, Delaware. During this time, the former Superintendent of Escambia County Public Schools, J. T. Varnum rented the house from them. Hattie sold their home in 1980 to Norton Del Gallo, Inc. of Pensacola, Florida. The outside was changed from brick to stucco, but the interior was beautifully restored. It is presently used as a medical office for Dr. Arneita Spears, Pensacola, Florida.

In the late 1920's John was largely responsible for laying out Ernol Lodge, the old Baars Estate overlooking Bayou Texar in Pensacola. He eventually was caretaker-manager of the estate under various owners. The original estate has now been broken up into a subdivision.

Hattie Palmer, John's wife, first appears in the 1885 Florida census as a three month old infant in the household of her parents who were living at the time on La Rua and N. 7th Avenue; her seventy year old grandmother, Harriet Berry lived there also.¹⁶²

Upon completion of the eighth grade, she took a teacher's examination and started her teaching career in 1904 and taught until 1925 before the birth of her second

THE EAGANS

child. Some of the schools at which she taught were #22 Barrineau Park, #55 Tate Agriculture, #56 Fort Barrancas, serving as principal one year, #103 J. A. Gibson, and #117 Olive (now Lincoln Park).¹⁶³

Hattie also related that she went to wealthy white homes in the summer and did fine sewing. She was a beautiful seamstress. I still have a lovely handmade dress which she made for her baby sister Roma O'Dee. Her talent for making rag dolls is fondly recalled. The last doll I received one Christmas was a beautiful handmade rag doll which is still in my possession. Mother lived a long and useful life--my cousin, Ethel (Mims) Wingate relates how Mother enjoyed working with girls, teaching them how to embroider, knit and crochet plus the enjoyment of reading, and appreciation of the outdoors. She was an active member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and was President of an integrated prayer group for many years.

The children of Hattie and John born at Pensacola were:

71 i. Del Alexa⁵ Eagan, born, 29 April 1924.¹⁶⁴ She married on 25 December 1946, in Pensacola,¹⁶⁵ Ernest Alvin Jupiter, born 3 February 1921 at Napoleonville, Louisiana, the son of Sam Jupiter and Rosa Walker; died 26 March 1965 at Houston, Texas.

72 ii. John Palmer Eagan, born 19 February 1926. A graduate of Meharry Medical College with a D.D.S. and further study at the University of Illinois in the field of Orthodontia. He resided 1993, Detroit, Michigan.¹⁶⁶

32. Aletha⁴ Egans (*James Edward³ Elizabeth², Henry¹*), born, 5 February 1871.¹⁶⁷ She married William Gray.¹⁶⁸

Children:

73 i. Freddie⁵ Gray.

74 ii. Mary Gray married William Brooks.

75 iii. Minnie Gray.

76 iv. Sadie Gray.

77 v. Ed Gray.

78 vi. Leonard Gray; died 6 August 1993 at Baltimore, Maryland.

79 vii. Peerless Gray; died without issue 1992 at White Plains, New

York.

40. Bertha Monroe⁴ Egans (*James Edward³ Elizabeth², Henry¹*), born, 18 June 1889;¹⁶⁹ died 26 July 1947 in Baltimore¹⁷⁰; she married 29 January 1913 at Baltimore, Amos Hudson Talbot, son of Amos Talbot and Cornelia, who was born 5 February 1888 at West River, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. He died 2 April 1972 at

Baltimore. Amos was a Chief Machinist Mate with the Navy and retired after 32 years of service.¹⁷¹

Their only child was:

80 i. Margarie⁵ Talbot, born 24 June 1914; died 9 April 1976 at Baltimore.¹⁷² She married on 23 December 1944, Powell B. Sheffey. Margarie received a B.S. degree from Morgan State University and taught art for 28 years in the Baltimore Junior and Senior High Schools.

**Freedman's Savings Bank Application
James E. Egin**

THE EAGANS

NOTES AND REFERENCES

¹Alexander Higgins Pension File, C-2494-673, National Archives.

²Liber 16, Folio 37 in Skordas, *The Early Settlers of Maryland: An index to the names of immigrants compiled from records of land patents, 1633-1680*, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 409, in custody of the MD Hall of Records, Annapolis, MD.

³Jane Baldwin, comp., *Maryland Calendar of Wills, Vol. 2, 1685-1702* (Baltimore: Kohn & Pollack, 1906), 163.

⁴1800 U.S. census, Calvert Co., Md., p. 424.

⁵1840 U.S. census Calvert Co., Md., p. 114; 1850 U.S. Census, Calvert Co., (Slave Schedules), pp. 642, 646.

⁶Cemetery Inscription for James C. Sedwick, 22 July 1853, Christ Church Cemetery, Calvert County, Port Republic, Maryland.

⁷Sarah Catherine Turner of Charles Co. Md., third wife of James Cook Sedwick, Christ Church Parish Register, Port Republic, Md., 1839-1902, No. 42, Maryland Hall of Records microfilm 270.

⁸1860 U.S. census, Calvert Co., Md. (Slave Schedules), 1st election district, pp. 15, 19.

⁹Liber 15, Folio 553 in Skordas, 142.

¹⁰Mildred B. O'Brien, *Calvert County, Maryland Family Records, 1670-1929* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1978)

¹¹Norris-Harris Church Register Index, Christ Church Parish, Calvert County, Md. (No. 2), 123, 139, 145, 157, in custody of Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, MD.

¹²Charles F. Stein, *History of Calvert County Maryland* (Calvert County Historical Society, 1960), 350.

¹³F.235--8 Feb 1797 in Ailene W. Hutchins, comp., *Calvert County Maryland Early Land Records* (Dunkirk, MD, 1982), 7, 10, 16, 17, 26, 77.

¹⁴F.150--4 June 1795 in *Ibid.*, 16.

¹⁵Harold T. Pinkett, "A Brothers' Fight for Freedom," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 86 (Spring 1991): 40.

¹⁶*Ibid.*

¹⁷Compiled Service Record, Murray Egins, Co. G, 7th U.S. Colored Inf., Civil War (Union), National Archives.

¹⁸Compiled Service Record, James E. Egin, Co. A, 9th U.S. Colored Inf., Civil War (Union), National Archives.

¹⁹Cemetery Inscription for James C. Sedwick.

²⁰Death Records 1898-1907, Calvert County MD Board of Health, in custody of Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, MD 20209-1, 187.

²¹Alexander Higgins Pension File.

²²1870 U.S. census, Calvert Co., Md. (1st election district), pp. 9, 11, 16.

²³Barbara Fields, *Slavery and Freedom on the Middle Ground: Maryland during the Nineteenth Century* (New Haven: Yale University, 1985), 110.

²⁴*Ibid.*, 111.

²⁵Horatio T. Strother, *The Underground Railroad in Connecticut* (Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 1962), 184-85.

²⁶Fields, *Slavery and Freedom*, 115.

²⁷Compiled Service Record, Alexander Higgins, Co. F, 29th Connecticut Infantry, Colored, Civil War (Union), National Archives.

²⁸Hondon B. Hargrove, *Black Union Soldiers in the Civil War* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., 1988), 83.

²⁹Compiled Service Record, Murray Egin.

³⁰James E. Egin's Pension File, 750975, National Archives.

³¹Hargrove, *Black Union Soldiers*, 186-87.

³²*Ibid.*, 181.

³³*Ibid.*, 83.

³⁴Pinkett, "*Brothers' Fight for Freedom*," 48.

³⁵Alexander Higgins Pension File.

³⁶Compiled Service Record, James E. Egin.

³⁷James E. Egin's Pension File.

³⁸1870 U.S. census Calvert Co., Md., 1st election district, dwelling 235, family 236, p. 16.

³⁹1860 U.S. census, Calvert Co., Md (Slave Schedule), 1st election district, p. 15.

THE EAGANS

⁴⁰Baltimore Freedman's Savings and Trust Signature Registers, National Archives M816 R13. These signature registers along with their personal identification data, including whether an individual served in the Civil War, are very useful in tracing African-American ancestry back to the ante-bellum period.

⁴¹Aspinwall is located on the Isthmus of Panama. Chraqses [sic] Chagres fever is caused by the bite of the sand-fly. It is more often called Panama fever.

⁴²Alexander Higgins Pension File, statement given 5 March 1895.

⁴³Santa Rosa Co., Florida Marriage Book A:77.

⁴⁴Webb's Pensacola Directory, 1885-1886 (New York: Wanton S. Webb, Comp., 1886), 69.

⁴⁵Alexander Higgins Pension File; "Telephone Interview with Bob Fair," 12 July 1990, by Del Jupiter, Bob was living in Pensacola, Florida at the time.

⁴⁶Interview, Bob Fair.

⁴⁷Death Certificate #4066, State of California, Department of Health Services.

⁴⁸George C. McDaniel, *Hearth and Home: Preserving a People's Culture* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1982), 252. CLVT-186, Edward Eagans' House (landowner). Architectural description, black and white prints and slides are on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032.

⁴⁹James E. Eging Pension File.

⁵⁰Cemetery Inscription for Sarah C. Sedwick, March 1881, Christ Church, Port Republic, Md.; Christ Church Parish Register, *Ibid*.

⁵¹1870 U.S. census Calvert Co., Md., 1st election district, pp. 9, 11, 16, and 2nd election district, p. 55.

⁵²Death Certificate #07838, MD Bureau of Vital Statistics.

⁵³1880 U.S. census Calvert Co., Md., 1st election district, E.D. 33, pp. 4, 14, 28, 29, 33, 40 and 2nd election district, E.D. 35, p. 29.

⁵⁴Alexander Higgins Pension File.

⁵⁵Death Records 1898-1907, Calvert County, MD, 187.

⁵⁶1870 U.S. census, Calvert Co., Md., 1st election district, family 123.

⁵⁷*Ibid*.

⁵⁸1880 U.S. census, Calvert Co., Md., 1st election district, E.D. 33, p. 29, family 242, dwelling 242.

⁵⁹Maryland County Death Index, 1904-1913, in custody of MD Hall of Records, Annapolis, MD, Microfilm SR2927, Reel 11, Cre-Eck.

⁶⁰Caroline appears as the wife of John in 1880.

- ⁶¹1870 U.S. census, Calvert Co., Md., 1st election district, p. 9, family 165.
- ⁶²His parents' names were given as Henry Egin and Annie Gross. Death Record 1898-1907, Calvert County MD Board of Health, in custody of MD Hall of Records, Annapolis, MD, 20209-1, 161.
- ⁶³1880 U.S. census, Calvert Co., Md., 1st election district, p. 28, E.D. 33, dwelling 235, family 235; Barbara appears as the wife of Virgil in 1880.
- ⁶⁴Murray Egin, 7th U.S. Colored Troops, Maryland, Civil War (Union), National Archives.
- ⁶⁵Age 13 in 1870. A likely scenario for Georganna's birth mother could be Elizabeth (listed as her sister in the present household). Jane, is possibly too old to have had a child born in 1857.
- ⁶⁶Certificate #45858, Baltimore Md., Department of Vital Statistics.
- ⁶⁷Marriage Record Aug 17, 1887-Feb 16, 1891, Calvert Co., MD Circuit Court, In custody of Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, MD, Microfilm CR42909, 94.
- ⁶⁸Alexander Higgins Pension File.
- ⁶⁹1870 U.S. census Calvert Co., Md., 2nd election district, p. 55A, Family 179.
- ⁷⁰Census: Age 14 in 1870.
- ⁷¹Calvert Co., MD, Births (1910-1914):11.
- ⁷²1880 U.S. census Calvert Co., Md., 2nd election district, E.D. 35, p. 29, dwelling 251.
- ⁷³Calvert Co., MD, Marriage Book (Aug 17, 1887-Feb 16, 1891):94.
- ⁷⁴The name is Eagan but was misspelled when he enlisted in the Civil War, hence on Government records, he is known as Higgins. Other variant spellings are found in the U.S. censuses, i.e. Igen or Iggins. Eagan seemed to be the final spelling by 1900. There is also a memorandum stating that there is no record of his birth because he was born of a slave mother and a white man. His mother died in 1866 and his father died when he was seven years old.
- ⁷⁵"Affidavit" A. Higgins Pension File.
- ⁷⁶Death Certificate #4066, California, Department of Health Services.
- ⁷⁷Santa Rosa Co., Fla., Marriage Book A:77.
- ⁷⁸"Deed of Manumission, F. Christin to Cecilia Kelker and Children," 20 July 1857 (recorded July 1857), Escambia Co., Fla., Deed Book N:48, FHL Microfilm 0932531.
- ⁷⁹Death Certificate #11797, Jacksonville, Fla., State Board of Health.
- ⁸⁰Baptism of Elizabeth alias Betsy, 20 June 1854, No. 164 (1854), St. Michael's Catholic Church, Parish Records Pensacola, Florida, 1811-1956, Reel 1, "Book 3, Baptisms (Negroes 1817-1882)," in custody of Special Collections, John C. Pace Library, University of West Florida, Pensacola.

THE EAGANS

⁸¹Alexander Higgins Pension File.

⁸²Family Bible Record, Hattie Eagan Mims, deceased. *The Holy Bible or the Old and New Testaments containing the Authorized and Revised Versions in Parallel Columns*. Family Pronouncing Edition with Pictorial Illustrations and Aids for Readers and Students. (Cincinnati, OH: Jones Brothers Publishing Co., 1889), owner (1990) Mrs. Ethel Mims Wingate, Pensacola, FL.

⁸³Escambia Co. Marriages, Book O:6.

⁸⁴Escambia Co. Marriages, Book P:325.

⁸⁵Alexander Higgins Pension File.

⁸⁶Family Bible Record, Hattie Eagan Mims.

⁸⁷Escambia Co. Marriages, Book R:528.

⁸⁸Alexander Higgins Pension File.

⁸⁹Family Bible Record, Hattie Eagan Mims.

⁹⁰Escambia Co. Marriages, Book (1896-1907):417.

⁹¹Alexander Higgins Pension File.

⁹²Ibid.

⁹³Alexander Higgins Pension File.

⁹⁴Escambia Co. Marriages, Book T:37.

⁹⁵Alexander Higgins Pension File.

⁹⁶Escambia Co. Marriages, Book S:183.

⁹⁷Escambia Co. Marriages, Book T:513.

⁹⁸Alexander Higgins Pension File.

⁹⁹Probate of Evigan Edwards, Escambia Co. Fla. Circuit Court, Will Book 2:397. Mary Ann, his widow and son Elisha Edwards were sole heirs-at-law. His will proven 26 September 1907 provided that 100.00 be given to Eureka Lodge No. 6 F. A. M., Pensacola, Fla., 100.00 to Mount Zion Baptist Church and 1/2 of the remaining portion of his property to the heirs of his brothers people, at the discretion of his widow. After settlement of debts, Mary Ann was left with 2442.50, declined to allow the bequests and asked permission of the court to allow her to take the whole estate.

¹⁰⁰Escambia Co. Fla., Deeds T:4.

¹⁰¹James E. Egans Pension File, 750975, National Archives.

¹⁰²His parents' names as given on his death certificate were James Sedward and Bettie Eagans. It is believed that Sedward was a misspelling for Sedwick and would be the same James Sedwick whose son John manumitted him in 1863. In the 1870 census for Calvert County, Md., James Eagans is enumerated next door to Sarah Sedwick who is residing in the household of her son-in-law, Charles Hellen.

¹⁰³Death Records 1898-1907, Calvert County Md. Board of Health, in custody of MD Hall of Records, Annapolis, MD, 20209-1, 187.

¹⁰⁴James E. Eging Pension File.

¹⁰⁵Ibid.

¹⁰⁶James E. Eging Pension File; State of Maryland, Certificate of Death, No. 4174.

¹⁰⁷James E. Eging Pension File.

¹⁰⁸Ibid.

¹⁰⁹Ibid.

¹¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹¹Cemetery Inscription, Brooks United Methodist Church, Calvert Co., Md.

¹¹²Brooks United Methodist Church, Port Republic, MD.

¹¹³1910 U.S. Census, Calvert Co., Md., District 1, Precinct 2, E.D. 28, p. 13A, dwelling 240, family 250.

¹¹⁴James E. Eging Pension File.

¹¹⁵Ibid.

¹¹⁶Ibid.

¹¹⁷Ibid.

¹¹⁸1870 U.S. census, Calvert Co., 2nd election district, p.55.

¹¹⁹His parents names were given as Mary Jane Eging and Enoch Kelso. Death Certificate #07837, MD Bureau of Vital Statistics.

¹²⁰Calvert Co., MD, Marriage Book (Aug 17, 1887-Feb 16, 1891):96.

¹²¹"Oral Interview with Miss Grace Bungie," 6 October 1991, by Del Jupiter, recording owned by author, Atlanta, Georgia. (Grace Bungie was living on Sheridan Point Road, Prince Frederick, Maryland).

¹²²Calvert Co., Marriage Book (1912-1944):87.

THE EAGANS

¹²³Calvert County Board of Health CVO453. Death Record 1898-1907, p. 15. Md. Hall of Records 20209-1.

¹²⁴Calvert Co., MD, Marriage Book (1912-1944):84.

¹²⁵Information on her children from Estate of George Higgins Eagan, deceased, Escambia Co., Fla., Circuit Court, Case No: 79-363-CP-03 Div:A.

¹²⁶Alexander Higgins Pension File.

¹²⁷Escambia Co. Marriages, Book O:2.

¹²⁸Swamp Road, Berkshire, MA 01224.

¹²⁹George Higgins Eagan estate.

¹³⁰Alexander Higgins Pension File.

¹³¹Family Bible Record, Hattie Eagan Mims.

¹³²Escambia Co. Marriages, Book O:197.

¹³³George Higgins Eagan estate.

¹³⁴Alexander Higgins Pension File.

¹³⁵Family Bible Record, Hattie Eagan Mims.

¹³⁶Escambia Co. Marriages, Book O:465.

¹³⁷182 W. Burgess Rd, Pensacola, FL 32503.

¹³⁸511 W. Burgess Rd, Pensacola, FL 32503.

¹³⁹3108 N. Spring St, Pensacola, FL 32503.

¹⁴⁰Alexander Higgins Pension File.

¹⁴¹Family Bible Record, Hattie Eagan Mims.

¹⁴²Ibid.

¹⁴³Ibid.

¹⁴⁴Ibid.

¹⁴⁵Ibid.

¹⁴⁶Ibid.

¹⁴⁷Ibid.

¹⁴⁸**Ibid.**

¹⁴⁹**Ibid.**

¹⁵⁰**1221 N. 8th Ave., Pensacola, FL 32503.**

¹⁵¹**Family Bible Record, Hattie Eagan Mims.**

¹⁵²**Alexander Higgins Pension File.**

¹⁵³**Death Certificate #945, Jacksonville, Fla., State Board of Health.**

¹⁵⁴**Escambia Co. Marriages, Book Q:229.**

¹⁵⁵**Escambia Co. Circuit Court, Case 27229-CA-01.**

¹⁵⁶**Marriage Certificate No. 10596, Escambia Co., Fla.**

¹⁵⁷**1885 Florida state census, Escambia Co., p. 315, Line 34.**

¹⁵⁸**Death Certificate, No. 2102, Escambia Co., Fla., Health Department.**

¹⁵⁹**St. Michael's Cemetery, Pensacola, Fla.**

¹⁶⁰**R. L. Carpenter, Pensacola City Directory, 1921 (Pensacola, Florida: R. L. Polk & Co.), 261.**

¹⁶¹**Letter, Hattie Palmer Eagan to Lillian Oliver, 5 November 1925. Original in possession of the writer.**

¹⁶²**1885 Florida state census, Escambia Co., p. 315, Line 34; Webb's Pensacola Directory 1885-1886 (New York: Wooten S. Webb), comp., 1885.**

¹⁶³**Letter from School District of Escambia County Florida, 2 October 1989, in possession of the writer; R. L. Polk & Co., Pensacola Directory 1910 (Jacksonville, FL: R. L. Polk & Co.). In custody of Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.**

¹⁶⁴**Birth Certificate, No. 353, Escambia Co., Fla., Health Department.**

¹⁶⁵**Escambia Co. Marriages, Book 69:74.**

¹⁶⁶**19012 Muirland Street, Detroit, MI 48221.**

¹⁶⁷**James E. Ekins Pension File.**

¹⁶⁸**Calvert Co. Register of Births, 1898-1904, Calvert County, MD Board of Health, CV0452, In custody of Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, MD, Microfilm 20,208-4, p. 98.**

¹⁶⁹**James E. Ekins Pension File.**

¹⁷⁰**Cemetery Inscription, Arbutus Memorial Park, Baltimore, Maryland.**

THE EAGANS

¹⁷¹Information on this family provided by Dr. Carol S. Parham, granddaughter of Bertha Egans Talbot. Carol resides at 10039 Moss Gate Court, Ellicott City, Md., 21043.

¹⁷²Cemetery Inscription, Arbutus Memorial Park, Baltimore, Maryland.