

ONE  
FAMILY,  
ONE  
LOVE.



THE PENICK'S  
1ST FAMILY REUNION

June 30, 2018

Belle Isle Park  
Detroit, Michigan

# THE COMMITTEE

## *First cousins*

Jerome Penick

Quinstell Penick

Valerie Black

Linda Veronica Lowry-Driscoll

Cynthia Studdard Caldwell

## *Special thanks to*

Jovanni Neblett-Blackmon

Junice Studdard

Andre (Dre) Black- Chef

Tamara Caldwell

Jasmin Núñez-Green

Christopher L. Williams

Gary Black

Anacka Lowry

**We would like to thank the entire Detroit family members for graciously and with such class and excellence hosting our 1st Penick's Family Reunion. Everyone put so much love, prayer, thought, effort, creativity selfless time into making this weekend one of the BEST EVER. Much love... we are forever grateful.**

# INTRODUCTION

## Welcome to our 1st Penick's Family Reunion!

We are all so proud and honored to be a part of such a beautiful, intelligent, talented and spiritual family.

This small family history journal was put together so that our present and future generations will have somewhere to go and learn about their family roots. It may also be able to answer some questions and explain a few or many of the similarities that we all probably have in common.

We are very grateful and excited about what God has in store for each one of us! We pray that you find this journal rewarding, interesting, enlightening and informative!

We are looking forward to more years of celebrating life together.

*family bond... family love... family unity*



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Our Great-grandparents

Our Grandparents

Our Parents (in age or birth order)

There are 30 First Cousins

Our Children & Grandchildren

Family Memories

*family bond.. family love.. family unity*

# OUR GREAT-GRANDPARENTS

## The Penick's

Great-grandfather  
(unknown)

Great-grandmother  
(born into slavery)  
Emma

*They had  
5 children.*

Willie  
Virgil Senior —  
Our Grandfather\*  
Moses  
Eken (Ekie)  
Nealie



*They had  
12 children.*

## The Tandy's

Buster  
Prince  
Alfonzo  
Frank  
William  
Mae Joyce  
Sadie —  
Our Grandmother\*  
(5 names unknown,  
1 died an infant)



Great-grandfather  
James Tandy



Great-grandmother  
Willie Mae  
Prince-Tandy

## OUR GRANDFATHER – VIRGIL PENICK, SR.



Virgil Penick, Sr. was born in Penickstown, KY which was a slave plantation to an unknown father and mother Emma on November 15, 1900. He was the second of five children. He was from the Blackfoot Indian Tribe. He could sing and was very artistic in many areas. He loved to cook and loved beans and apple pie. As a little boy, he worked on a tobacco farm. His parents owned cattle and property. When he became older, he became interested in masonry work. When he was a teen, he would catch the train from Kentucky to Cleveland, Ohio to learn the Stone Masonry Trade. He started dating our grandmother (Anacka, a.k.a. Sadie) and they married at an early age. Around 1920, they moved to Allentown, Kentucky.

While dating and after marriage, our grandmother said that he would come home on weekends, sharp as a tack with his chocolate brown skin. He had a horse and buggy and would pick up his girlfriend; later wife and go on long rides. Virgil (granddaddy aka Papa Penick) was a very kind hearted, easy going man. He loved to laugh and joke and was a great story teller. His personality would change when he would have too much to drink.

His masonry work was so exceptional and creative, that he was known for his craftsmanship all over Louisville, Kentucky and the surrounding cities. It's been told that we can see the newspaper articles of his outstanding work in the Louisville Times or Courier Journal Newspaper. Although he owned his own masonry business, a law firm wanted to incorporate his work so he would have his construction and masonry business on a much larger scale as a black man in the 20s and 30s. It was also told that he declined the offer, but we don't know why.

One of his younger brothers, Ekie worked at the famous Church Hill Downs Race Track in Louisville, Kentucky for a man named Mr. Pucket. Uncle Ekie walked, fed and maybe rode the horse. Our grandfather was very proud of his little brother.

He also had a cousin named Charlie Box and he played the piano as a rag time musician. He played with Louie Armstrong and many other guests. He was very close to his cousin and very proud of him also.

## OUR GRANDMOTHER – ANACKA EVELINA TANDY-PENICK



Anacka Evelina Tandy-Penick known as Sadie, was the youngest of twelve children. Born to James Tandy and Willie Mae Prince on March 18, 1902 in Allensville, Kentucky; a Native American Indian from the Iroquois tribe. She was very sweet and privileged little girl. All of her siblings went to or finished college; including her. Our grandmother, Sadie (Mama Penick) went to one of the first black colleges in Louisville, Kentucky. She didn't finish school because she fell in love with her teenage sweetheart, Virgil Penick, Sr. They were married in 1920. From that union, 7 beautiful babies were born. Her parents were very wealthy and very strict with their family values. They believed strongly in having a Christian home and educating all of their children. Many of her sisters and brothers were doctors, school teachers or business owners.

Mama Penick or Grandma as she was so fondly called by her grandchildren was a Bible scholar and she practiced what she preached. She would often say, "Don't do dirt for dirt or spite for spite... turn the other cheek." She had a very humble spirit and was loved by many. She was a multi-talented woman who taught her children her skills. She taught by example and all 7 of her children received her pattern that was give to them through excellence.

She was a wonderful seamstress, sewing by hand, sewing machine, crochet, knitting and embroidery. She was known for her beautiful colorful handmade quilts that were often seen on her bed and the beds of her children and grandchildren.

She was very skillful and frugal by canning her foods, making jams and preserves. She made homemade soap out of lard\*. Sadie was an excellent cook.

By having 7 children; 2 boys and 5 girls, she taught each one of them how to appreciate and use their gifts and creativity that God has given them. Fortunately, all 7 of them had very similar qualities and gifts that they too, passed down to their children.

Sadie did domestic work for two Jewish families. The Cohnes and the Glands. They would give her clothes and she would make quilts out of them. They would give her leftover (extra) food and she would make gourmet meals for her family. She worked rain or shine for \$6.00 and bus fare.



\*lard: fat from the abdomen of a pig

# OUR PARENTS



*Virgil and Sadie*

*had 7 children.*

MOSES, JESSIE MAE, ARENTA,  
EMMA, VIRGIL JR., WILLIE BELL,  
QUEEN ESTHER

*family bond... family love... family unity*





## Moses Penick, Sr. (Uncle Moses)

1st born

Married to Bertha

*They had 2 children.*

Mosetta, Eric

He was the "ELDER" of the 7 siblings, he honored that role and took that position very seriously.

**HE LOVED HIS FAMILY.** He believed in keeping the families close and would do anything for his them. Moses was a devout Jehovah Witness for years until his passing.

Moses was a collector of antiques and his home was tastefully decorated and full of them. He loved gardening and had one of the prettiest back yards you ever wanted to see. He was a mile mannered and kind man who was very clean, neat and loved divine order. He worked for DPW Detroit Water Department for many years until retirement. Moses who was called Mose for short was named after his Father's brother.





# Jessie Mae's

## GRANDCHILDREN & GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

### From Junice

#### ◆ Grandchildren:

James Roy Neblett II (Jamie)

Jovanni Renee Neblett-Blackmon (Evan)

#### ◆◆ Great-grandchildren:

##### From Jovanni

Joshua Blackmon

Elyse Renee Blackmon

### From Cynthia

#### ◆ Grandchildren:

Rubel Unel Caldwell III

Christa Syreeta Caldwell-Pretlow (Thomas)

Roman Edward Caldwell (Tamara)

Caniya Farris Caldwell-Williams (Chris)

#### ◆◆ Great-grandchildren:

##### From Rubel Unel

Taylor Caldwell

Israel Caldwell

Awesome Caldwell

Jordan Caldwell

Helena Caldwell

##### From Christa

Christian Caldwell-Sykes

Hannah Caldwell-Pretlow

##### From Roman

Jaydon Caldwell

J'mauri Irvin

Jonathan Caldwell

Janiya Caldwell

Jada Caldwell

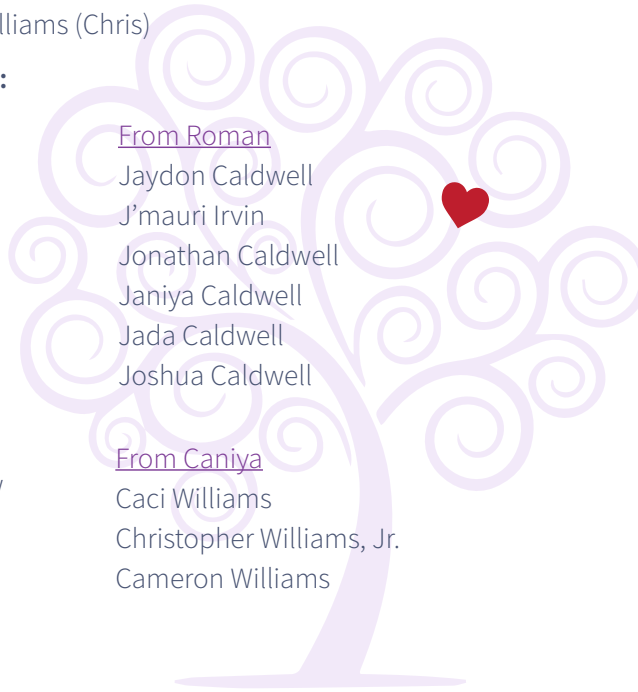
Joshua Caldwell

##### From Caniya

Caci Williams

Christopher Williams, Jr.

Cameron Williams





## Jesse Mae Penick-Studdard

2nd born

Married to Edward Studdard III

*They had 3 children.*

Dorethea (passed at 6mths.), Junice Studdard-Neblett,  
Cynthia Studdard-Caldwell

- 6 grandchildren
- 16 great grandchildren

Jessie Mae (March 24, 1925-August 23, 2006) was a class act, a true renaissance woman. She was very gifted and ahead of her time in style, fashion, design in both interior and exterior. She was the oldest of the five girls and she adored her four sisters and two brothers.

Jessie Mae was a milliner. She had extraordinary skills at sewing, knitting and crocheting. She enjoyed decorating her home and landscaping her yard with beautiful stones and plants. In her quiet, sweet and humble way, her talents definitely made room for her.

She had a love for people and treated them the way she wanted to be treated. She would do anything for her family. Her compassion, grace, class and style has truly been passed down through out her family. She always desired to aim high and do her best.

Jessie worked in a factory until retirement and did domestic work for extra income. She was a Sunday school teacher and decorator for her church, Mount Lebanon Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

Jessie Mae went back to Aaron's Trade School in Louisville, Kentucky to finish the 11 and 12th grades of high school. She received her high school diploma at the age of about 38 years old and then attended the University of Louisville for one year until her oldest daughter, Junice started her first year of college. She didn't complete college because she use the time and money to put her daughters through school.



*Arenta's*  
GRANDCHILDREN & GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

**Renee Penny Miles**

◆ **Grandchildren:**

Natasha Thomas  
Leroy Evans  
Ezra Hool

◆◆ **Great-grandchildren:**

<u>Natasha Thomas</u>	<u>Leroy Evans (Daisha)</u>
Jonazana Thomas	Delvion Evans
Jovell Williams	Sedarius Evans
Javon Williams	Gabrielle Evans



**“You never know how strong you are until  
being strong is the only choice you have”**



## Arenta Penick-Miles

3rd born

Married to Lavelle Miles

*They had 1 child.*

Renee Penny Miles

- 3 grandchildren
- 6 great grandchildren

Arenta Penick-Miles was born May 30, 1927. She passed on April 20, 2007. She was born in Allensville, Kentucky to the late Sadie And Virgil Penick. She married Lavelle Miles on August 20, 1949 in Louisville, Kentucky. She was a great mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She was a very talented lady who loved cooking, sewing, and doing hair. She was a devoted woman of God and a member of Burnette Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan.

Because of Arenta's love for kids; Granny Arenta fostered many children for 40 years. As well as sponsored a little girl for years with her picture posted on her desk. Arenta had a big beautiful smile and a heart of gold.



# Emma's

## GRANDCHILDREN & GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

### From Dwayne

#### ◆ Grandchildren:

Andre Black  
Delfon Black

### From Marvin Inving Jr.

#### ◆ Grandchildren:

Marvin Irvin Black II  
Khary Black  
Nikia Black  
Brittany

### From Glenn

#### ◆ Grandchildren:

Yuvonka Black  
Glenn Black, Jr.

### From Gary

#### ◆ Grandchildren:

Kim Stafford (Darryl)  
Tuwanna Edwards (Marvin)  
Emmanuel Black (Autumn)  
Gary Black, Jr.  
Bree Black

### From Valerie

#### ◆ Grandchildren:

Setra Cooper Allix  
Shalanya Cooper  
Shamar Cooper

#### ◆◆ Great-grandchildren:

##### From Kim

Darrell Jr, Donte, Aaliya

##### From Tuwanna

Kamera, Renauld, Marion

##### From Emmanuel

Rose

##### From Gary Jr

Gary III, Mariah

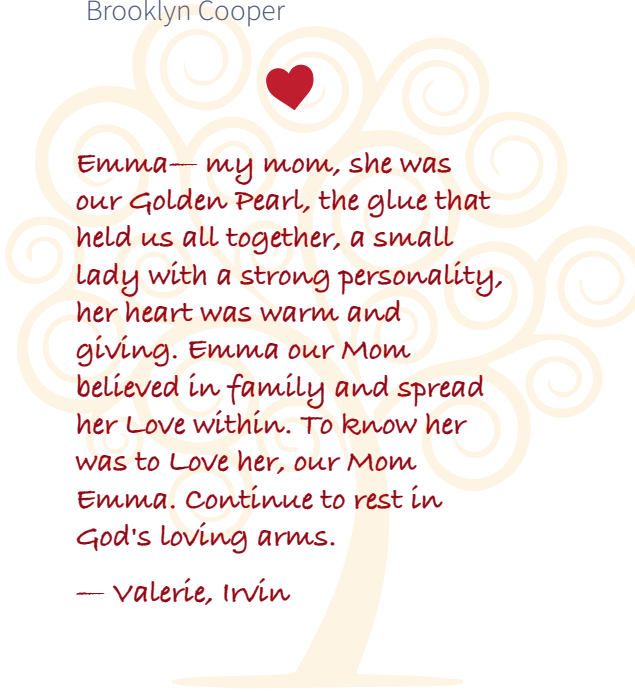
##### From Bree

Bayley, LaShawn

#### ◆◆◆ Great-great grandchildren:

##### From Somonte Cooper (Jessica)

Malachi Cooper, Elijah Cooper,  
Brooklyn Cooper



*Emma— my mom, she was our Golden Pearl, the glue that held us all together, a small lady with a strong personality, her heart was warm and giving. Emma our Mom believed in family and spread her Love within. To know her was to Love her, our Mom Emma. Continue to rest in God's loving arms.*

*— Valerie, Irvin*



## Emma Penick-Black

4th born

Married to Marvin Black, Sr.

*5 children.*

Dwayne, Marvin, Glenn, Gary, Valerie

- 15 grandchildren
- 14 great-granchildren
- 3 great great-granchildren

Emma Cornelis Black was born February 24, 1930, in Louisville Kentucky. Emma was one of 7 children. Although she was born in Kentucky, she later moved to Michigan where she married. Emma loved Jesus first, then her family which included, her husband Marvin Black and her 5 children, Dwayne Black, Marvin Black JR, Glenn Black, Gary Black, and her one and only daughter Valerie Black. She worked for General Motors for 30 years before retiring. Emma was a small woman standing only 5'4 or as she would say 5'5, but was strong as someone 7 feet tall. Although she was blessed with many things in life, what she loved most was family and the simple things that life had blessed her with. One example is the passion she had for a tree she had planted in her yard. The tree would blossom every year in the spring with beautiful colors of lavender. This tree was called a Lilac tree. The Lilac tree would smell of the most beautiful smell every spring and Emma loved it. She also enjoyed gardening, she would have her son to tilt the dirt in the yard as she prepared her garden for the season. She would often say she felt closer to God in the yard, as she smelled her tree and touch the soil. Emma had such a great sense of humor that would keep everyone laughing. It was such a joy being in her presence. She could take the most serious statement and make it into something funny. However, don't let her humor fool you....she was just feisty enough to let you know when she meant business, while always reminding you of how much she cared. Emma also cared much about her home, making it comfortable for her family, alone with her husband Marvin, they provided a wonderful home. Emma hobbies were her house, shopping, and tending to her yard. Her family.... her family was her passion. Emma was a great wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt, and a hard worker.

Love,  
Your Son, Gary.



# Virgil Jr.'s

## GRANDCHILDREN & GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

### ◆ Grandchildren:

#### From Michael

Michael Green  
David Virgil Penick  
Eva Pe

#### From Virgil III

Deborah Lewis  
Tewonia Lewisnick

#### From Curtis

Tamiko George

#### From Melodie

Maurice Smith (deceased)  
Michelle Geeter (Lorenzo)  
Ashia

#### From Quinstella

Kevona Penick  
Jacinta McConnell (Lamont)  
Kenneth Penick (deceased)

#### From Nathaniel

Shaniqua Penick  
Nathaniel Penick, Jr

### ◆◆ Great-grandchildren:

#### From Deborah Lewis

DeOnte  
Jason  
Delaina – Ja'Ceon

#### From Tewonda Lewis

D'Metrece Malone  
Sha'vonia Malone  
Marshalai  
Marshall

#### From Tamiko George

Everette, Myran, Ashia  
Danielle – 4 grands:  
Aveah, Everette Jr., Ariana, Giovanni

#### From Mabelle & Lorenzon Geeter

Lorenzo, LaShal, Legenda

#### From Ashia Penick

Demarco, Bryanna, Giovanni, Brooke

#### From Kevona

KeAndre, Quinstella, DeShan, Xavier

#### From Jacinta & Lamont Mc Conell

Kevona, China

#### From Kenneth Penick (deceased)

Samya, Nijah, Javeon





## Virgil Penick Jr. (Bubba)

5th born

### *6 children.*

Michael (Juanita), Virgil III, Curtis, Melodie,  
Quinstella, Nathaniel (Naita)

- 14 grandchildren
- 27 great grandchildren

Virgil Penick Jr: was born February 16, 1932 in Allensville, Kentucky. God called him home on April 1, 1991. (April fools day)

My father was a Veteran of the United States Air Force, serving during the Korean War. He was baptist and most of his life he worked as a welder. He was a very smart man. He love to cook and clean. He was funny, always had something funny to say. He was tough on my brothers. I remember when my oldest brother was younger he was getting chased home from school. My father got tired of Michael running home from school. He made Michael go back out there and fight them, that day Michael beat them boys up. After that my father made a punching bag out of rocks and made Michael punch it everyday. Michael's hands were bloody but he got use to that bag, it toughened his hands and he never had to worry about anybody else chasing him home. Daddy taugh Michael how to box, he took boxing lessons, and became good at it. My father taugh my brothers about working on cars, how to fix outlets, electrical wires. My father taugh us girls (who he was over protective of) about boys: bad & good. My father was a godly man he knew about his Bible. My father could quote many scripture. He loved my mother, I use to watch them slow dance. His favorite song was Misty Blue. He would sing that song to her. I used to love our father & daughter talks. He would teach us how to slow dance, not to let the boys get to close. He would crack jokes on my brothers especially the baby boy Nate. They would go back & forth! I have to say Nate had nothing on our daddy. My father loved a clean house, clean clothes and his car clean. We learned so much from him. As a man, he was a great father that loved his wife (my mother). Daddy was big on family, he would always say family come first no matter. Daddy say watch each other backs out there. Don't allow other people to talk about your family. My daddy was loving all the way up to the day the lord called him home. I miss him, just to hear his voice to hear him say i love you baby. Or you're so pretty you look just like your mother, but you act like me...I would just laugh. —RIP Daddy



# Willie Bell's

## GRANDCHILDREN & GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

### ◆ Grandchildren:

#### **From Darice**

Laketia Graham  
Ashley Harris

#### **From Robert Jr.**

Anton  
Adrian  
Alex Low

#### **From Terry**

Terry Lowry, Jr.  
Chris Lowry  
Justin Lowry

#### **From Linda (Johney)**

Marcus (stepson)  
Kim (step daughter)  
Johney

#### **From Anacka**

Alana  
Nicholas

#### **From Calvin**

McKenzie  
Madison  
MeKiv  
Tyler  
Carter

#### **From Tonya**

Asia Lee  
Noel  
Taylor  
Kennedy

### ◆◆ Great-grandchildren:

#### From Laketia

Zhane Graham  
Tquez Sims  
Ayanna Sims  
Asuja Sims  
Jeremiah Sims

#### From Ashley

Anaja  
Autumn  
Leton McNelly

#### From Adrian

Kameron Lowry  
Tyler Lowry  
Baliee Lowry

#### From Marcus

Little Marcus

#### From Kim

Antonio  
Amoni  
Kameron

#### From Johney

Johney Driscoll  
Braxton

#### From Alana

Aston

#### From McKenzie

Mason Lowry





## Willie Bell (BB) Penick-Lowry

6th born

Married to Robert Lee Lowry, Sr.

*9 children.*

Darice Lowry Campbell, Robert (Bobby) Lee Lowry Jr.,  
Teresa Lowry, Terry Lowry, Linda Lowry Driscoll,  
Anacka Lowry, Calvin Lowry, Tonya Lowry-Woods (Karl),  
Kenyarda Lowry

- 22 grandchildren
- 19 great grandchildren

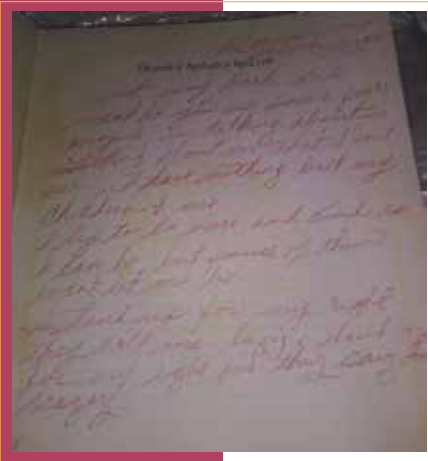
Willie Bell Penick-Lowry was born February 15th 1934 in Louisville, KY. She was the 6th child of 7 to the late Virgil and Sadie Penick. Willie was nick name BB because she was Sadie little BUSY BEE and always into something. Willie Bell met and marry Robert Lee Lowry Senior in 1955 and moved too Detroit 1956. 9 kids were born through this unity. Darice, Robert Jr, Teresa, Terry Sr, Linda, Anacka, Calvin, Tonya and Kenyarda.

Willie had many of talents. She was a great artist, strong writer, amazing seamstress, phenomenal cook, and the most awesome mother. She had a heart of gold and never met a stranger. She made friend with everyone she met. BB, love to keep her hair laid, clothes intact with her head up with pride. She made sure her kids follow her in the same direction.

Willie Bell worked as a steel processor at Great lake steel to provide for her and her children. Working that hard labor never stopped her from displaying the women that she was.

*“Look way back  
and what do you see;  
Some poor people is  
talking about me.  
That I don't see;  
I have have nothing  
but my children and me.  
I stand up for my rights,  
They call me lazy;  
Standing for my rights  
and they say I'm crazy.”*

*By Willie Bell.*





# Queenie's

## GRANDCHILDREN & GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

### From Jerome

#### ◆ Grandchildren:

Anthony Williams  
Franklin Scott-Pennick  
Dolton Ethan Roy-Penick

### From Gregory

#### ◆ Grandchildren:

Gregory Sanders  
Scharonda Sanders

### From James

#### ◆ Grandchildren:

Ja'Vonna Goldsberry

#### ◆◆ Great-grandchildren:

##### From Anthony

Secentry Youold  
Melody Youold

##### From Scharonda

Sha'Niya Sanders  
Sariah Sanders  
Tierra Chatman

##### From Ja'Vonna

Wayne Woods II  
Keyon Woods  
Jay'Vion Woods  
Jeremy Livers  
Dion Woods, III  
Kyrie Ardis

#### ◆◆◆ Great-great grandchildren:

##### From Wayne Woods II

Wayne Woods III  
GI'DAH Mallone





## Queen Esther Penick (Queenie)

7th born

### *3 children.*

Jerome, Gregory , James

- 5 grandchildren
- 12 great granchildre
- 2 great great granchildrenn

Queenie, as most of us called her, was a beautiful chocolate queen. She was born on May 25, 1937 and passed away peacefully June 2012. She was the youngest of seven children from the union of Virgil Sr. and Anacka (Sadie).

Queen Esther was a very talented and beautiful woman inside and out. She, like her other four sisters and two brothers had a heart of gold and would help anyone if she could. She attended Louisville's all black school back then called Central High. She worked at Louisville's Courier Journal News. Queenie was an excellent cook and artist. She could sew and sang.

She loved her boys and was a stern disciplinarian. She had very beautiful penmanship. She loved learning and taught her sons the basic skills of life. She was very transparent and used her mistakes as a learning tool, to help and better others. She was a leader in her own way and was highly respected by her friends. She was an advocate about higher learning and did not play when it came to her children's education. One thing that stood out about her was that she was very clean and neat. Her home was spotless and good food was always being cooked.

# FAMILY BUSINESSES & ENTREPRENEURS





— FINALLY FAMILY —

WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE *true*.

WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE *honest*.

WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE *just*.

WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE *pure*.

WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE *lovely*.

WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE OF GOOD REPORT;  
IF THERE BE ANY VIRTUE, AND IF THERE  
BE ANY PRAISE THINK ON THESE THINGS...

**Philippians 4:8**

*God Bless you...*

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN...  
THE PENICK FAMILY GENERATIONS

THE PENICKS  
ONE &  
FAMILY,  
ONE  
LOVE.