Biographical sketch of composer Jacob Henry Ellis (Revised September 2018)

Researched and written by Bill Gill

This biographical sketch of Jacob Henry Ellis is a complete revision of the previous sketch I had posted. In the previous sketch I had encountered many conflicting findings that painted a very confusing picture of the life of Jacob Henry Ellis. Then in July of 2018 I received an email from the granddaughter of Emanuel Ellis providing information that served to clarify all the confusion. In a nutshell, the story of the composer Jacob Henry Ellis is a "Tale of Two Brothers". The actual composer named Jacob Henry Ellis died from tuberculosis in February 1899 at the age of 28 after composing and publishing around 24 pieces. After his death his younger brother Emanuel, who was an equally talented composer, composed and published all the remaining pieces through 1924 that exist today, ascribing "Jacob Henry Ellis" as the composer rather than using his own name. According to his wife Hattie, he did this to honor his late brother. So there are actually two sets of Jacob Henry Ellis compositions. Those that were composed through 1899 by the actual Jacob Henry Ellis, and all of the post-1899 pieces that were composed by Emanuel "Jacob Henry" Ellis. Emanuel's main occupation however was that of a sheet music salesman and this is what perhaps created the greatest source of confusion in trying to research Jacob Henry Ellis. Not only did Emanuel ascribe Jacob's name to his compositions but he also used the name "Jacob Henry Ellis" or "Jake" as his professional name as a sheet music salesman. Numerous articles from around 1900 to his death in 1930 that appear in the trade publications such as The Music Trade Review report "Jacob Henry Ellis" doing this or that and in the process unintentionally created confusion by not making it clear that there were two brothers using the same name.

The Ellis Family

Nathan Ellis (Father) Born January 10, 1841 Died June 13, 1910
Celia Ellis (Mother) Born December 24, 1847 Died June 14, 1940
Jacob Henry Ellis (Son) Born December 10, 1870 Died February 28, 1899
Emanuel Ellis (Son) Born July 29, 1872 Died October 25, 1930
Isadore/Israel Ellis (Son) Born August 31, 1874 Died January 28, 1899
Isaac Ellis (Son) Born August 1, 1876 Died April 14, 1932
Mabel Ellis Heymann (Daughter) Born October 20, 1879 Died October 30, 1954
Edyth Ellis (Daughter) Born July 7, 1886 Died April 16, 1905

Early life in Kingston, New York

Brothers Jacob Henry and Emanuel Ellis were both born and grew up in Kingston. Their father Nathan was a clothing merchant. He and his wife Celia were both German Jewish immigrants. According to the 1900 census, Nathan immigrated in 1857 and Celia in 1858. Other than being listed in the Kingston City Directory as a clothing merchant, there's very little information about Nathan. One interesting fact comes from a July 29, 1911 Oakland Tribune newspaper article published a year after his death. The subject of the article is his daughter Mabel's son Jeffrey. It reads in part "Although only six years old he is a talented pianist and his parents intend that he shall become a professional. His mother was a daughter of Nathan Ellis and he inherits his love for music. Mrs. Heymann's brothers, Jacob Henry Ellis and Emanuel Ellis were both talented musicians." This information suggests that Nathan was the driving force behind his children's study of music. However, I have not found anything at all, at least online, about whether Nathan was actually a musician or just enjoyed listening to music. Nathan's love of music may also provide a clue concerning Jacob Henry's first published composition in 1884 titled Ulster Academy March. It was dedicated to his sister Mabel and according to a line on the cover was "Published for the Author by T. B. HARMS & CO. 819 BROADWAY." Works such as these are usually referred as a "Vanity press" with a very limited amount of printed copies. Fortunately a digitized copy of the work is available online from the Library of Congress. Jacob Henry would have only been about 13 years old at the time so Nathan almost certainly would have paid for the printing. There is little information about the mother Celia other than that Emanuel told his wife Hattie that his mother would make him practice the piano. Another thing that Emanuel told his wife Hattie was that while young he would play piano on the river boats. This is supported by various entries in the Kingston City Directory of the 1890's listing both Jacob Henry and Emanuel as musicians. The City Directory was a way to advertise one's services. Kingston is located along the Hudson River 91 miles north of New York City and in browsing through the digitized Kingston area newspapers of the 1890's one can find ads for the landing schedules of the river steamers. So it wouldn't have been at all out of the ordinary that both Jacob Henry and Emanuel would have been employed to entertain the passengers. Later on in his sheet music sales career, he would demonstrate songs in music stores.

Life after leaving Kingston

It is difficult to track the whereabouts of Jacob Henry during the 1890's due to the 1890 Federal Census being lost and his being already dead by the time of the 1900 census. In the case of

Emanuel however, for the 1900 census taken on June 1, he is shown still living at home with his family in Kingston. But by September of that year an article in the Music Trade Review announces that he had hired on to Willis Woodward & Co. in New York City. Around 1902 Emanuel went to work for the Enterprise Music Co. subsidiary of the A. H. Goetting Co and continued to live in New York. Then sometime around 1905 his remaining family moved from Kingston N. Y. to Boston, Mass. The reason for this move is not known. Apparently Emanuel remained in New York City during this move but did eventually did move to Boston himself. Several articles in the Kingston Daily Freeman help to pinpoint when this happened. A May 1908 article states he was visiting Kingston from his home in New York City and another article from July 1909 states he was again visiting Kingston but this time from his home in Boston. So it was sometime between May 1908 and July 1909 that he made the move from New York City to Boston. The move is confirmed by the 1910 census showing Nathan, Celia, Emanuel, and Isaac living in Boston Ward 21, Suffolk, Mass. He may have requested a transfer with the Goetting Company so he could be close to his ailing father. His father died on June 23, 1910 (less than two months after the census was taken) and his death certificate states he had been ill for at least 3 years. (Chro. Interstitial Nephritis Myocarditis 3 yrs). It appears Emanuel was still living in Boston in 1915 as composer Abe Olman dedicated his Valse Ellis to him in that year. (Dedicated to J. H. Ellis, Boston, Mass.) The Boston City Directory lists him as a salesman and living there through 1916. In August of 1919 he was reported in the Music Trade Review as living in New York and working for the Goetting subsidiary Enterprise Music Supply Co. In 1920 the founder of the A. H. Goetting Co. Col. August H. Goetting died and his company was auctioned off. From 1920 to his death in 1930 Emanuel worked for the Sam Fox Publishing Co. in Cleveland, Ohio but maintained his residence in New York City.

One day in the mid 1920's while travelling on the train in his capacity as a sheet music salesman covering the western region for Sam Fox, he met a lady from Minneapolis named Hattie Osterman who later became his wife.

Emanuel died in Cleveland on October 25, 1930 while at work for the Sam Fox Co. He was in a streetcar on his way to a client when he suffered a heart attack. He was 58 years old and was buried in Montrepose Cemetery in Kingston, NY.

Hattie Osterman Ellis and her family

Hattie Osterman was born on June 3, 1888 in Colorado to Joseph and Amelia (David) Osterman. She had two younger sisters named Helen and Tessie. As was customary for girls during that period of time they stayed at home with their mother taking care of domestic chores. One day in the mid 1920's while riding on a train she met Emanuel Ellis. His job as a sheet music salesman required him to travel a lot and at this point in time his territory was the western United States. Hattie's daughter Jean Ellis Minter shares this story.

Hattie had gone by herself to visit a friend in San Francisco. On the way, she met some other young ladies but didn't start out with them. One day they went to breakfast without her, so she was sitting alone across from Emanuel Ellis. He started to flirt with her, and she told him "I'm a nice Jewish girl and don't do this." He then told her, "I'm a nice Jewish boy, so it's all right."

Hattie told Jean that "Manny" was very charming. By the time the train reached the end of the line Emanuel and Hattie had decided to get married but didn't do it right away because each was too afraid to tell their mother. They eventually got married at her family's house in Minneapolis. No wedding photos were taken. The family is not quite sure on the exact dates involved but the best that they can discern is that the meeting on the train must have been in early 1926 and the wedding date was shortly before an Oct. 2, 1926 article from the *Music Trade Review* stating that they were recently married and were on their honeymoon. Emanuel was at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg on August 16, 1927 when their daughter Jean Edyth Ellis was born in Minneapolis. Her middle name was that of Emanuel's younger sister who died at a young age in 1905. The 1930 census taken on April 27th shows the three of them living on Pinehurst Ave. in Manhattan. When Emanuel was not on the road, the family lived in New York City, but when he was, Hattie and Jean would return to Minneapolis.

After Emanuel's death, Hattie and Jean remained permanently in Minneapolis. Jean married Irwin "Bud" Minter (Feb. 20, 1924-July 17, 1995) on Jan. 6, 1948 and their children are Jo Ann Minter Newton (Glen) b. 1948, David b. 1951, and Charles (Chuck) b. 1956.

After Jean no Jonger Lived at home Hattie worked at Green's Jewellov at 5th and Nicollet in

After Jean no longer lived at home, Hattie worked at Green's Jewelry at 5th and Nicollet in downtown Minneapolis. Hattie died on Dec. 6, 1978 in Minneapolis.

Joseph Louis Osterman (Apr. 26, 1855 in Amsterdam – June 17, 1930), Hattie's father, came over from Amsterdam with his parents when he was three years old. He was a clothing merchant who owned a very successful clothing store called Misfit Clothing Parlors at 241 Nicollet Avenue in downtown Minneapolis. He sold clothing that he'd bought from other clothing stores whose clients declined to purchase clothes they'd ordered because they didn't fit right. He sold the store shortly before he died to an unknown buyer who kept it going for a while after his death. Joseph brought the family to Minneapolis shortly after 1900 most likely because they had relatives (on the David side) who lived in St. Paul. Previously they had lived in Colorado and Chautauqua, NY. Around 1902 Joseph bought a house built in the 1890's at 2716 Fremont Avenue in Minneapolis. The house remained in the family until it was sold in 2017. The deed is currently held by Chuck Minter, one of Jean Ellis Minter's son's. It's the house where Hattie and Emanuel Ellis were married in 1926 as well as where their daughter Jean was married to Irwin "Bud" Minter in 1948.

Joseph had trouble with his right ear, so he always sat on the left side at Temple Israel in Minneapolis so he could hear better. (This must be the left side as seen from the front.) The family sat there as a tradition even after he died, until Jean brought her fiancé Bud Minter with her and the bench cracked loudly under his weight. He was 6' 4-1/2" tall.

- Louis Osterman, Joseph younger brother, one of 12 children, started Osterman Jewelry.
 It is still in business in the Twin Cities.
- Hattie's sister Helen (Dec. 4, 1889 in Newcastle, Co.-Aug. 28, 1979) worked in a factory.
 She married Philip Osterman (abt 1882-Aug. 27, 1954), Joseph's younger brother.
 Because they were cousins, they couldn't get married in Minnesota, even though both

were beyond child-bearing age. They travelled to Rhode Island, which allowed cousins to marry if they were Jewish.

- Hattie's other sister, Tessie (Nov. 7, 1893 in Denver, Co-Jan. 21, 1981) never married.
 She earned a BA in Education from the University of Minnesota and did graduate work at Colombia University but returned to Minneapolis before finishing her master's because she was homesick and missed her sisters. She worked as an elementary school teacher. Tessie was the only member of her family to drive an automobile, starting in the 1930's.
- Hattie's mother Amelia (Sept. 1, 1859-Apr. 2, 1942) was born Amelia David. Her parents Harrison (born before Sept. 1, 1822-Sept. 1, 1879) and Theresa (nee Alexander, (born before Nov. 1, 1820- Nov. 9, 1892) sailed from Germany to the United States when Amelia was a few months old. They waited until she was born before sailing. Amelia's brothers were David (b. 1853) and Ike who were older than she, and Ray, who was younger.

The biographical information in this sketch about Emanuel "Jacob Henry" Ellis came from discussions that Jean Ellis Minter and her daughter Jo Ann had with Hattie and her sisters over the years. It is information with an authenticity that would have been difficult if not impossible to glean from mere documents such as census reports.













A. H. GOETTING

In writing a biographical sketch of Emanuel it is important to know something about the A. H. Goetting Company and its subsidiaries New York Music Supply Co., Enterprise Music Supply Co., and Coupon Music Co. This company was his employer for a period of around 18 years from about 1902 to the company's demise in 1920. Emanuel is most often associated with the Enterprise subsidiary. Goetting was a music jobbing service. They were the middle men between the publishers and the music buyers. Their specialty was the rapid and widespread distribution and promotion of the sheet music. The idea was for them to be the one and only source that a music store or dealer needed to fulfill all their sheet music needs. Prior to working at Goetting, Emanuel had worked for Willis Woodward & Co. from around 1900 to 1902. Most likely it was his befriending of Maurice Richmond that led to his decision to sign on with Goetting as they became lifelong friends. In an online video, Maurice's grandson tells the story of Maurice being a young newspaper boy with Col. Goetting being one of his customers and that Col. Goetting was impressed enough with him to offer him a job in his company. A June 28, 1947 story in The Billboard reports Maurice celebrating 50 years in the business beginning in 1897 when he joined the Coupon Music Co. in Cambridge, Mass. and then in 1900 being appointed manager of the Enterprise Music Supply Corp., the subsidiary that Emanuel eventually worked for. Upon Col. Goetting's death in 1920 an investigation found irregularities in the company's finances and it was eventually auctioned off at a very low amount. After Goetting's demise Emanuel went to work for the Sam Fox Publishing Co. in Cleveland, Ohio where he worked until his death in 1930.

MTR Vol. 46 No. 11 P. 19 March 14, 1908

A. H. GOETTING

A. H. GOETTING, 30-32 Wabash Avenue, Chirago.

NEW YORK MUSIC SUPPLY CO., 17 East 18th Street, New York City.

ENTERPRISE MUSIC SUPPLY CO., 26 West 26th Street, New York City.

COUPON MUSIC CO., 128A Tremost Street, Boston, Mass.

A. H. GOETTING, 111 Yonge Street, Prosinto, Ost.

TO THE RETAILER:

THE KEYNOTE OF OUR SUCCESS IS THE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE GAINED

Place your orders with the old reliable house established in 1877.

AND WE WILL DO THE REST

Our Stock-Always up to date.

Every Order, large or small, receives the same careful attention and is shipped the day

Our Prices - Are the lowest, as we positively will not be undersold.

AN ACCOUNT WITH US IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

Because we have confidence in our methods and believe that we can do the same for you as we have done for others.

Ask for Our Monthly Bargain List. It will Save You

M-O-N-E-Y

We only sell to the legitimate trade and not to the Ton-Gont Stores Regular Music Dealers Will Appreciate This Fact. MTR Vol. 53 No. 5 P. 45 Aug. 5, 1911

A. H. GOETTING MUSIC JOBBING SERVICE

Why don't you, Mr. Dealer, buy ALL YOUR MUSIC FROM ONE SOURCE?

No matter what music is wanted or how many copies, simply send ONE ORDER to us, and the music will be shipped to you on the day your order is received.

music will be snipped to be the LOWEST, our prices are guaranteed to be the LOWEST, as we won't be undersold by anyone. Send for our Monthly Bargain List (free) and join the circle of money-making music dealers.

A. H. GOETTING Springfield, Mass.

A. H. Goetting, 258-260 Wabash Ave., Chicago, New York Music Supply Co., 1358 Broadway, N. Y. Enterprise Music Supply Co., 149 W. 36th St., N. Y. Coupon Music Co., 611 Washington St., Boston. A. H. Goetting, 148 Yonge St., Toronto, Can.

DEATH OF AUGUST H. GOETTING

Prominent Music Publisher and Jobber of Springfield, Mass., Passes Away in Sixtyfourth Year—A Leading Figure in Politics

Springfield, Mass., October 4.—Col. August H. Goetting, one of the prominent figures in the music publishing and sheet music jobbing trade of the country, died at his home here yesterday morning of heart trouble. Col. Goetting was



Col. August H. Goetting

born in New York in 1856, and came to Springfield in the early 80's, where he engaged in the music jobbing business, in which he met with unusual success. In the course of years he branched out and secured control of concerns in the sheet music field in New York and other cities, and more recently became engaged indirectly in the talking machine business.

Despite the demands of his business Col. Goetting found time to engage in politics to a considerable extent, and in 1913 was candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts, being defeated for that office. He was also for several years chairman of the Republican State Committee.

LOOKING INTO GOETTING AFFAIRS

E. C. Mills Visits Springfield, Mass., in Interest of Publishers Holding Claims

E. C. Mills, chairman of the board of directors of the Music Publishers' Protective Association, recently returned from a trip to Springfield, Mass., in an endeavor to gather information that would lead to the straightening out of the many claims of music publishers against the estate of the late A. H. Goetting, who was proprietor of the Enterprise Music Supply Co. and who resided in Springfield.

Mr. Mills' report to the music men upon his return was not the least encouraging, although the Goetting estate was rated at over a million dollars and was popularly supposed to be over two million. It has been found that there are over \$700,000 in claims against the estate. There is at present a rumor to the effect that a number of publishers are interested in purchasing the Enterprise Music Supply Co. and if they succeed in obtaining the business it will be operated under the jurisdiction of the Music Publishers' Protective Association, with Maurice Richmond, former general manager of the company, acting in like capacity under the new regime.

MTR Vol. 72 No. 3 P. 24 Jan. 15, 1921

CROWN CO. BUYS ENTERPRISE CO.

The Crown Music Co. purchased the business of the Enterprise Music Supply Co. on Thursday of this week at a public auction held at 330 Amsterdam avenue, under the supervision of John M. P. Thatcher, temporary administrator of the estate of A. H. Goetting. The purchase price was \$20,100, and included the entire stock, good will, fixtures and lease of the Enterprise Co.

One of the best sources of information on Emanuel are from the trade publications such as the *Music Trade Review* (MTR) and the *Presto-Times* which are available online from the International Arcade Museum. They open a window into his duties as a sheet music salesman, his personality, and a few of his non-music interests. A few of the articles contain examples of the humor and slang of the day. Many if not all of the articles about Emanuel were written by his close friend and publisher Maurice Richmond.

MTR Vol. 31 No. 12 P. 22 Sept. 22, 1900

E. H. Ellis, the well known composer of "Remus Takes the Cake," "Bonnie Briar Bush," "Whoa Gee Whiz" and many others, has gone into partnership with Willis Woodward, 842 Broadway, N. Y.

Mr. Ellis, besides being a talented musician, is a clever business man, and with his able assistance one can foresee increased prosperity for the firm of Willis Woodward & Co. Miss Josephine Sabel is singing two publications of this house, "Tis Always You" and "I Saw You When You First Come In," with much success. The sales have been large.



Maurice Richmond

MTR Vol. 72 No. 5 P. 60 Jan. 29, 1921

ELLIS WITH SAM FOX PUB. CO.

"Smiling Jake" to Cover Territory East of Cleveland for Publishing House—Was Formerly With Enterprise Music Supply Co.

Jacob Henry Ellis, who is familiarly known throughout the trade as "Smiling Jake," former traveling representative for the Enterprise Music Supply Co., has joined the sales staff of the Sam Fox Pub. Co., according to a recent announcement of Sam Fox, head of that organization.

Mr. Ellis has had long experience with the trade covering practically every State in the Union, and is particularly adapted to the New England territory. According to present plans he will cover all territory east of Cleveland, O. He is now on his way to the home office of the Sam Fox Pub. Co., where he will become thoroughly acquainted with the Fox methods.

MTR Vol. 41 No. 17 P. 41 Oct. 28, 1905

RECORDS FOR NOVEMBER, 1903.

New Edison Gold Moulded Records.

NEW VICTOR RECORDS.

MTR Vol. 69 No. 6 P. 42 Aug. 9, 1919

JAKE ELLIS BACK FROM VACATION

Traveling Representative of the Enterprise Music Supply Co. Ready for Fall Campaign

Jake Ellis, traveling representative of the En- terprise Music Supply Co., has just returned to



Jake Ellis
the New York office of the company after a
vacation spent in Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Mr. Ellis, who is about to start on his fall trip visiting the trade, is one of the most popular salesmen in the music publishing field. He is a man of magnetic personality and he has an inimitable smile, which at times is described

by those in the trade who know him as the "Jake Ellis smile." His motto is "Service," and he impresses upon the trade, despite the fact that he appears to be a music salesman, that primarily his desire is to sell service.

Mr. Ellis is very enthusiastic over the outlook for sheet music during the coming fall and states he feels both publishers and dealers, as well as the whole music industry, are to undergo a period of great prosperity.

> MTR Vol. 78 No. 18 P.50 May 2, 1924

New J. H. Ellis Number

Jacob Henry Ellis, traveling representative for the Sam Fox Publishing Co. and composer of "Drum Major March," is also the author of a new work, entitled "The Trumpeter." MTR Vol. 73 No. 13 P. 56 Sept. 24, 1921

FOX CO. PLANS FALL CAMPAIGN

Prior to the completion of plans for the Fall campaign on the firm's catalog, the Sam Fox Publishing Co., of Cleveland, O., brought together the traveling representatives of the firm,



Frank Pallma, Jr., and Jake Ellis
Frank Pallma, Jr., sometimes referred to as the
"Pocket Edition," who represents the West, and
J. E. Ellis, or "Kewpie," the Eastern representative. Thus East and West have met. The boys
are now on the road, and, according to reports of
their activities, the Sam Fox catalog is being enthusiastically received everywhere.

MTR Vol. 81 No. 5 P. 25 Aug. 1, 1925

San Francisco Visitors

Some recent visitors to San Francisco were Jacob Henry Ellis of the Sam Fox Music Co. of Cleveland, Charles Warfel, traveling for Hinds, Hayden & Eldridge, and Carl Yaeger of the John Church Co. of Cincinnati. They were all here in the interests of their firms. Nick Lang of the B. F. Wood Co., of Boston, will be in town shortly to see the trade and renew old acquaintanceships.

MTR Vol. 80 No. 26 P. 49 June 27, 1925

"Smiling Jake" Ellis Off on Transcontinental Tour

Popular Traveler for Sam Fox Music Publishing Co. Making Trip to Coast and Will See Hollywood at First Hand

Jacob Henry Ellis, traveling representative for the Sam Fox Publishing Co., of Cleveland and New York, who is known to the Eastern music trade as "Smiling Jake," has achieved a



Jacob Ellis

long-desired ambition and is en route on his first transcontinental tour. The trip will take about six weeks and will include Pacific Coast territory and will give him an opportunity of checking up on all the stories he has heard of the beautiful West.

While it is true that Jake has always wanted to go to the Pacific Coast, it has been inferred on numerous occasions that his real mecca was Hollywood. It seems as though during the course of his many years' activity in the East one of Mr. Ellis's duties has been the encouraging of the playing of Sam Fox publications by orchestras in photoplay houses. In conjunction with this work, it was necessary for him to sit through the showing of many pictures in which Hollywood is designated as a sort of modern paradise.

Mr. Ellis, previous to his departure, went on a diet and took a course in physical training whereby he reduced his avoirdupois some thirty pounds. Before he looked like a "Fat papa," now he looks like ready money. Either of these attributes are said to be desirable in Hollywood.

MTR Vol. 77 No. 25 P. 40 Dec. 22, 1923

JAKE ELLIS TO LEAVE ON TRIP

Will Place Before Trade Several New Issues of Sam Fox Publishing Co.

Jake Ellis, traveling representative for the Sam Fox Publishing Co., New York, who has, been spending several weeks in New York, will leave on a trade trip shortly after the holi-



days. He is now preparing plans to place before the trade several new Fox issues and the co-operative pro-gram arranged by that house for their exploitation. These numbers will in-clude "Hurdy Gurdy Blues," the

new vocal number,
" "Nights in the "Just One Kiss," Woods," "Maid of the West" and other active factors of the catalog.

At first glance some of the trade will fail to recognize "Jake." In recent weeks he has lost much weight. In comparison with the carlier months of this year, he would make an ideal picture of "before and after taking." In endeavoring to locate the reason for this change none of the usual causes seem to answer and swears he is not in love.

He has not really been the same since the day, several years ago, when he played third base in a baseball game between dealers and publishers. A hotliner from a publisher's bat, coming in the direction of "Jake" at that time caused him to do an interpretative dance, the results of which he has hardly outlived. This development of his aesthetic side seems not to have diminished his sales ability, as his reports show he has been hitting 100 per cent ever since. With his loss of weight he seems more am-bitious than ever and dealers who do not care to respond in full measure better play golf during his visit to their city on his coming trip.

MTR Vol. 82 No. 7 P. 47 Feb. 11, 1926 (In Detroit)

Jake Ellis on the Scene Again

While walking through the lobby of the Statler Hotel upon my arrival, I met dear old Jake and we had breakfast together, we had lunch together, and we had dinner together. I couldn't resist the opportunity, after having been in the same organization with this famous traveler for nearly twenty years. I was thankful that the various buyers in town gave me any time at all. They were all saving the time and orders for Ellis. You know the Sam Fox catalog is so large, with such a varied type of good selling material, that it is hardly expected that the music buyers would have any time to give anyone else while Jake was on the scene. How Jake did plead with me to stay over the weekend! But, being a strong believer in working on a positive schedule, the Michigan Central Night Owl carried me on to that famous city by the lake called "The Windy Town"-Chicago.

MTR Vol. 80 No.4 P. 148 Jan. 24, 1925

Jacob Henry Ellis to Go on Long Trip

Sam Fox Representative, Well Known as a Composer, to Visit Leading Trade Centers

Jacob Henry Ellis, traveling representative for the Sam Fox Publishing Co., Cleveland, O., who has been spending the past few weeks in the New York offices of the company, will shortly leave on an extended trade trip.

Mr. Ellis, besides being one of the best-known traveling salesmen in the country, is also a composer of note. At the present time his "In Autumn Time" is having an active sale. This number, while not new, shows the carmarks of being revived in a most substantial manner. The publishers have found it necessary to reissue it.

Besides the above, Mr. Ellis is also the writer of "Drum Major March," "Trumpeteer March" and "Autumn Leaves," a reverie.

> MTR Vol. 83 No. 14 P. 33 Oct. 2, 1926

Jacob Henry Ellis, Pacific Coast representative of Sam Fox, who was recently married, spent several days of his honeymoon in Portland, and while there was entertained by Louis Mack, sheet music dealer, who has his department in the Wiley B. Allen store, and who is doing a nice volume of business.

> Presto-Times 1929 2229 June 15, 1929

SHEET MUSIC DEALERS

The following officers of the National Association of Sheet Music Dealers have been elected to serve for the ensuing year:

President, Robert T. Stanton, Lyon & Healy, Chicago, Ill.; vice-president, John Harden, Harden Music Co., Springfield, Mass.; secretary-treasurer, Thomas J. Donlan, New York, N. Y.

Directors for the coming year will be: Harold B. Adams, Lima, Ohio; E. Grant Ege, Kansas City, Mo.; Jacob H. Ellis, New York city, N. Y.; Wm. M. Gamble, Chicago, Ill.; J. Elmer Harvey, Detroit, Mich.; Chas. W. Homeyer, Boston, Mass.; Wm. Jacobs, New York, N. Y.; Wm. B. Levis, Rochester, N. Y.; Edward P. Little, San Francisco, Cal.; Holmes R. Maddock, Toronto, Canada; S. Ernest Philpitt, Miami, Fla.; J. M. Priaulx, New York, N. Y.; Paul A. Schmidtt, Minneapolis, Minn.; Oliver Shattinger, St. Louis, Mo.; Otto P. Schroeder, Flushing, N. Y.

MTR Vol. 82 No. 5 P.46 Jan. 30, 1926 (In Philadelphia)

Jake Ellis in Town

The Sam Fox representative, Jacob Henry Ellis, whom I have called "Jake" for more than two decades, was in town calling on the trade and everyone was glad to see him. Jake was booking large orders for the Sam Fox sheet music and standard editions, school series, orchestra folios and popular publications. Their two biggest sellers in the East are "Nola" and "Out of the Dusk." We spent the evening together, very pleasantly, talking of old times. Jake surely had a "hot" time. It seems, in the excitement of meeting me, he stuck the wrong end of his eigar in his mouth. Jake smokes quite a lot and I hope he won't make that mistake too often. Jake always has a lot of good stories to tell and they are all fit for publication. Here's one he told me. It seems there was a wealthy business man, well advanced in years, who was complaining of ill health. His friends advised him to see a certain specialist who through the aid of a particular serum could rejuvenate him. The morning after the successful operation, the nurse found him crying in bed. She asked him what the trouble was and he said: "I just noticed the clock-it's almost ten, and I'm late for school."

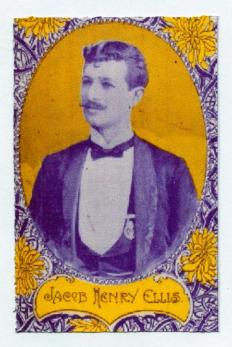
MTR Vol. 89 No. 11 P. 7 Nov. 1930

Jacob Henry Ellis Dies in Cleveland

Jacob Henry Ellis, one of the most popular members of the general sheet music trade and a veteran in the industry, died in Cleveland on October 24. Mr. Ellis, who for some years past has represented the Sam Fox Publishing Co.,

has spent over thirty years in the trade, in his early days with A. H. Goetting, the well-known jobber, of Springfield, Mass. He was in his fitties and was born in Kingston, N. Y., though his home for many years has been in New York City. He had a host of friends among the dealer's in all sections of the country among whom his passing has caused deep regret.

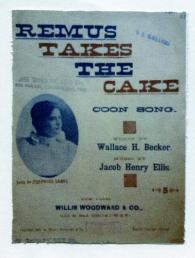
JACOB HENRY ELLIS



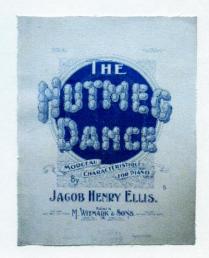
This photo is almost certainly that of the actual Jacob Henry Ellis as it was published in 1898 during his lifetime. It appears on a generic cover listing nine of his works published by Howley, Haviland & Co.











Jacob Henry Ellis list of compositions

Instrumental

Title and date: Ulster Academy March, 1884

Publisher: T. B. Harms & Co. Dedication: To Mabel Ellis

Title and date: Shenandoah March, 1894

Publisher: Willis Woodward & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: The Countersign, 1896 **Publisher:** Willis Woodward & Co.

Dedication: To my friend Capt. Robert F. Tomkins. N.G.N.Y. of Kingston, N.Y.

Title and date: Remus Takes the Cake, 1896

Publisher: Willis Woodward & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: The Bonnie Brier Bush, 1897

Publisher: Willis Woodward & Co.

Dedication: Alice E. Becker, Kingston N.Y.

Title and date: Dinah's Jubilee, 1897 **Publisher:** Howley, Haviland & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: The Boulevard Lancers, 1897

Publisher: Howley, Haviland & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: Hannah's Promenade, 1897

Publisher: Willis Woodward & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: Under the Palms: Gavotte, 1897

Publisher: Howley, Haviland & Co.

Dedication: Very Rev. Edwin M. Sweeney, V.F. Pastor of Joseph's Church, Kingston, N.Y.

Title and date: The Nutmeg Dance, 1897

Publisher: M. Witmark & Sons

Dedication: None

Title and date: Carnation Waltzes, 1898 **Publisher:** Howley, Haviland & Co.

Dedication: To my friend Prof. Ferdinand C. Amend, Kingston, N. Y.

Title and date: The Daffodil Waltzes, 1898

Publisher: Howley, Haviland & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: Dance of the Peasants, 1898

Publisher: Howley, Haviland & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: Dance of the Sailors, 1898

Publisher: Howley, Haviland & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: Dance of the Midgets, 1898

Publisher: Howley, Haviland & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: The Gallant Drum Major, 1898

Publisher: Howley, Haviland & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: Happy Little Nigs, 1899 Publisher: Howley, Haviland & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: Magnolia Gavotte, 1899 **Publisher:** Howley, Haviland & Co.

Dedication: None

Vocal

Title and date: Willie Pells, 1893 **Words by:** Wallace H. Becker **Publisher:** Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: The Man Who's Got The Cash, 1893

Words by: Wallace H. Becker Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: Remus Takes The Cake: Coon Song, 1897

Words by: Wallace H. Becker Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: None

Emanuel "Jacob Henry" Ellis list of compositions

Instrumental

Title and date: Whoa! Gee Whiz, 1900 **Publisher:** Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: Sen'imental Sal, 1900 **Publisher:** Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: Prom Waltzes, 1900 Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: To the College Student and his best girl

Title and date: Hoop-La, 1901 Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: Under the American Eagle, 1902

Publisher: C.W. Hutchins **Dedication:** None

Title and date: Love's Greeting Waltz, ca 1903/04

Publisher: Unknown- possibly Vinton Music (advertised on the title page of Spliven's Corners, no copy yet located)

Dedication: Unknown

Title and date: Moon Moths, 1903

Publisher: C.W. Hutchins

Dedication: To Mr. Louis W. Fickett

Title and date: Beautiful Venice Waltzes, 1903

Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: To R.W. Simpson, Bangor Me.

Title and date: Smiles and Tears, 1903

Publisher: C.W. Hutchins

Dedication: To Charles Edward Nelson, Lowell, Mass.

Title and date: The Drummer Boy of '76, 1903

Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: Flowers and Palms, 1903 **Publisher:** Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: To Mr. A.W. Skinner, Waterbury, Conn.

Title and date: Dancing in the Starlight, 1903 (orchestral arrangement only located)

Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: Unknown

Title and date: Egyptian Review, 1903 Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: To Miss Mabel Silverman, Boston, Mass.

Title and date: Sweet Slumber, ca 1903/04

Publisher: Unknown (listed in the Library of Congress Catalog of Copyright Entries, copy not yet located)

Dedication: Unknown

Title and date: Dance of the Merry Millers, 1904

Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: To Toby and Wm. Butler, Auburn, N.Y.

Title and date: Beauty and Chivalry Waltzes, 1904

Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: To B. Claude Stouch, York, Pa.

Title and date: Forward March, 1904 Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: To Mrs. Etta L. Vickery, Lewiston, Me.

Title and date: Chicken on the Fence, 1905 Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co. Dedication: John W. Knox, Nashua, N.Y.

Title and date: Autumn Leaves, 1905

Publisher: W. Hutchins

Dedication: To Mr. Glenmore N. Snyder, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Title and date: Spliven's Corners, 1905 **Publisher:** Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To Miss Florence Alma Wilbur, Hartford, Conn.

Title and date: The Last Call, 1905

Publisher: Chas. K. Harris

Dedication: None

Title and date: Frog Frolics, 1906 **Publisher:** Victor Kremer Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: Song of the Robin, 1906 Publisher: Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To J. Frank Beal, Brockton, Mass.

Title and date: National Echoes (medley of patriotic airs), 1906

Publisher: Empire Music Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: The Rose of California, 1907

Publisher: Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To Mr. Victor Eckland, Reading Pa.

Title and date: In Rank and File, 1908 **Publisher:** Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To My Esteemed Friend J. Harry Davis, Elmira, N.Y.

Title and date: Jack in the Box, 1909

Publisher: Sam Fox Pub. Co.

Dedication: To Mrs. S. J. Rearden, Little Falls, N.Y.

Title and date: Sound of the Bugle, 1910

Publisher: Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To my esteemed friend Geo. B Allen, Albany, N.Y.

Title and date: Spirit of the U.S.A., 1911

Publisher: Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To Miss Mabel Miller, Troy, N.Y.

Title and date: General Delivery, 1911 **Publisher:** Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To my friend John F. Sauter, Amsterdam, N.Y.

Title and date: On the Gridiron, 1911 **Publisher:** Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To my friend Clarence W. Burr, Syracuse, N.Y.

Title and date: Sweet Remembrance, 1911

Publisher: Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To Mr. J. I. Rubin, Boston, Mass.

Title and date: The Charge, 1913 **Publisher:** Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Wentworth, Waterville, Me.

Title and date: Echoes of Love, 1914 Publisher: Geo. W. Meyer Music Co.

Dedication: To Bessie M. Solomon, Rochester, N.Y.

Title and date: The Mohawk Trail, 1917

Publisher: No publisher listed

Dedication: To H. Edward Rice, Bangor, Me.

Title and date: The Drum Major, 1921

Publisher: Sam Fox Pub. Co

Dedication: None

Title and date: The Trumpeter, 1924

Publisher: Sam Fox Pub. Co.

Dedication: To my dear friend Clinton W. Graffam, Portland, Maine

Vocal

Title and date: Keep a Light in the Window for Me, 1907

Words by: Joseph Mittenthal Publisher: Empire Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To my esteemed friend E. Howard Clark, Westerly, R. i.

Title and date: In Autumn Time, 1913 **Words by:** Arthur E. Bucknam **Publisher:** Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To our friend Joseph T. Sayward, Portland, Me.

Title and date: In the Haven of My Heart, 1914

Words by: Arthur E. Bucknam Publisher: Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To Miss Ida M. Stewart, Portland, Me.

Title and date: The Path That Leads to You, 1914

Words by: Arthur E. Bucknam Publisher: Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To Miss Bessie H. Goss, Syracuse, N.Y.

Title and date: When Mem'ry Brings the Light of Other Days, 1914

Words by: Arthur E. Bucknam Publisher: Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To Miss Georgia Eaton, Watertown, N.Y.

Title and date: The Little Road That Leads Back Home, 1915

Words by: Arthur E. Bucknam Publisher: Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To Mr. L. E. Durfee, Pittsfield, Mass.

Title and date: When It's Twilight Neath the Old New England Hills, 1915

Words by: Arthur E. Bucknam Publisher: Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To Miss Mary A. Everill, Geneva, N.Y.

Title and date: Rose of the Prairie Land, 1915

Words by: Arthur E. Bucknam Publisher: Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To Miss Corinne Lavalle, Haverhill, Mass.

Title and date: You Can't Forget Your Mother When the Heart Turns Home, 1915

Words by: Arthur E. Bucknam
Publisher: Vinton Music Pub. Co.
Dedication: To My Mother Mrs. C. Ellis

Title and date: in the Dawn of Another Day, 1917

Words by: Arthur E. Bucknam Publisher: Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: To Claude D. Pierce, Elmira, N.Y.

Title and date: There is Still a Golden Future, Little Girl, 1917

Words by: Arthur E. Bucknam Publisher: : Vinton Music Pub. Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: When the Robin Calls It's Mate, 1918 (co-written with Benjamin Richmond)

Words by: Chas. E. Casey

Publisher: Cadillac Music Co.

Dedication: To Miss Lulu Gotthelf

Title and date: | Hear Your Voice in the Shadows, 1918

Words by: Effie Cutler Coombs Publisher: Richmond Publisher

Dedication: To Miss Rita B. Gibson, Portland, Me.

Title and date: In Tulip Time, 1918 Words by: Arthur E. Bucknam Publisher: Richmond Publisher

Dedication: To Mae L. Hersey, Lewiston, Me.

Title and date: Never to Part Again, 1919 (co-written with Benjamin Richmond)

Words by: Ben Baer

Publisher: Richmond Publisher

Dedication: None

Title and date: When I Dream in the Moonlight of You, 1919

Words by: Wm. Phillips

Publisher: Richmond Publisher

Dedication: To my friend Joseph Manley Brelsford, Zanesville, Ohio

Title and date: The Vesper Bells Are Ringing, 1920

Words by: Robert F. Roden

Publisher: United States Publishing Co.

Dedication: To my dear friends Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph G. Volkwein, Pittsburgh, Pa.

As E. H. Ellison

Title and date: The Song I Heard One Sunday Morn, 1901

Words by: Robert H. Brennen Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: In the Corner Where I Love to Sit and Dream, 1901

Words by: J. H. Guernsey

Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: My Lady Fair Words by: Robert H. Brennen Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: Mary Dear Don't Worry, 1901

Words by: Robert H. Brennen Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co.

Dedication: None

Title and date: Dis Little Pickaninny Can't Dance No More, 1902

Words by: W. W. Wilward

Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co. **Dedication:** To Benjamin Richmond

Title and date: Among the Valleys of New England, 1902

Words by: Henry B. Ingram

Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co. **Dedication:** To Mr. B. F. Keith

Title and date: Papa and Mama Don't Speak Any More, 1902

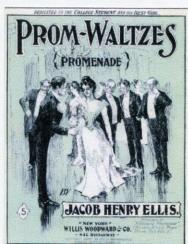
Words by: Robert H. Brennen Publisher: Willis, Woodward & Co.

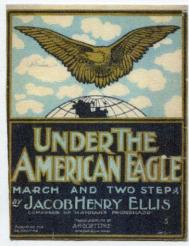
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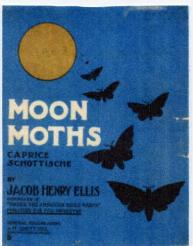
Emanuel "Jacob Henry" Ellis Instrumental Covers

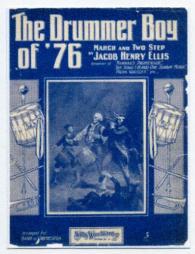


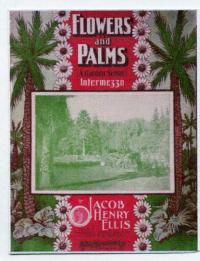


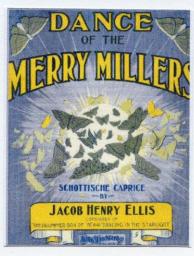


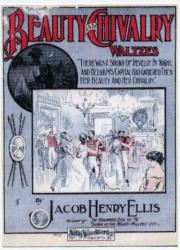










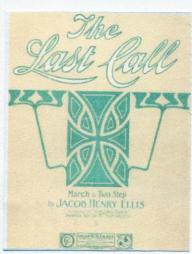


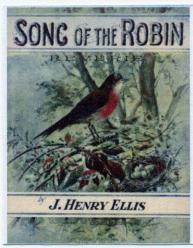
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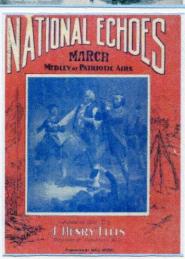


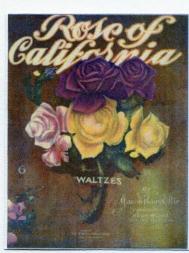








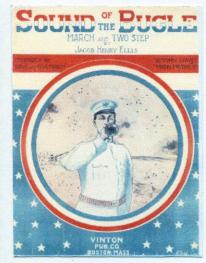






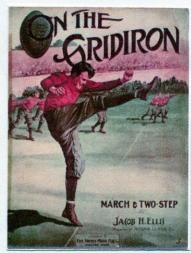


Emanuel "Jacob Henry" Ellis Instrumental Covers

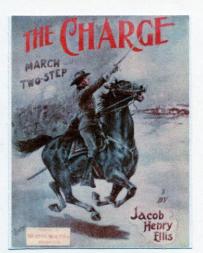


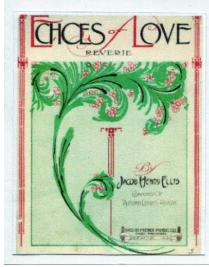


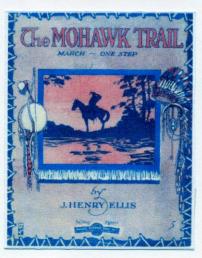


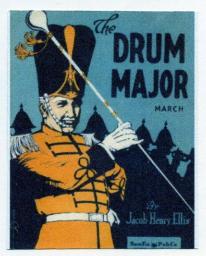




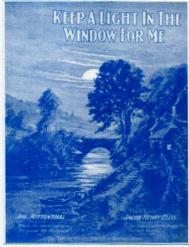


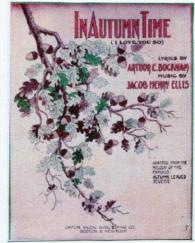






Emanuel "Jacob Henry" Ellis Vocal Covers



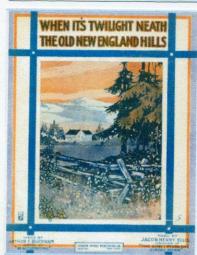








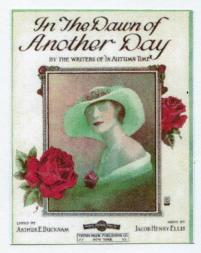








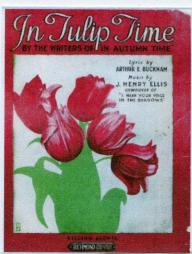
Emanuel "Jacob Henry" Ellis Vocal Covers



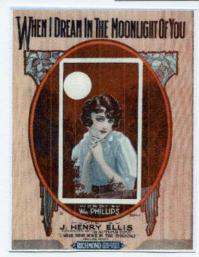


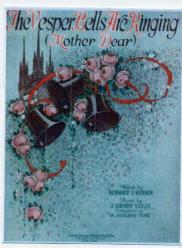












THE E. H. ELLISON VOCAL NUMBERS

In 1901 and 1902 while employed by Willis Woodward & Co., Emanuel Ellis along with four different lyricists published some vocal numbers. I have located seven of them. There may or may not have been more than seven. Emanuel's given name was E. H. Ellis but for some reason he decided to use the pseudonym of "E. H. Ellison". There is no doubt that Emanuel was the composer though. An entry in the 1930 Catalog of Copyright Entries confirms this by explicitly stating that E. H. Ellison is a "pseud. of J. H. Ellis", who in turn was actually Emanuel Ellis. In this particular case another composer was copyrighting a derivative of *The Song I Heard One Sunday Morn*.

Song (The) I heard one Sunday morn; cornet solo, by E. H. Ellison [pseud. of J. H. Ellis], arr. by Paul de Ville; military band. © Jacob Henry Ellis, New York, as author of music. R 8551, Mar. 27, 1930. 281

Interestingly, *The Song I Heard One Sunday Morn* seems to have been the most popular of the seven as more copies seem to be in circulation and it was even recorded on the Edison Amberol label in 1909. The recording can be heard online courtesy of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The seven pieces are:

The Song I Heard One Sunday Morn, 1901, words by Robert H. Brennen.

Mary Dear Don't Worry, 1901, words by Robert H. Brennen.

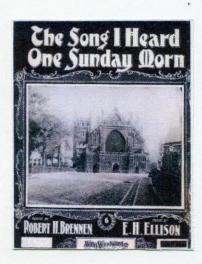
My Lady Fair, 1901, words by Robert H. Brennen.

In The Corner Where I Love To Sit And Dream, 1901, words by J. H. Gurensey.

Dis Little Pickanniny Can't Dance No More, 1902, words by W. W. Wilward.

Papa And Mama Don't Speak Any More, 1902, words by Robert H. Brennen.

Among the Valleys of New England, 1902, words by Henry B. Ingram.



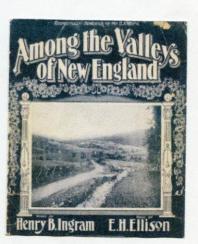






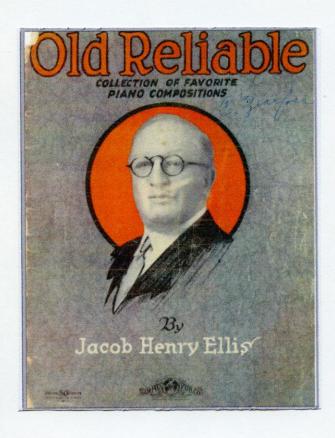


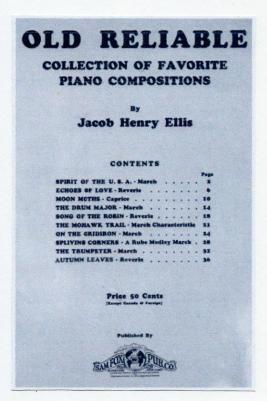




Old Reliable

This folio was published without a copyright date but is usually listed as being ca. 1927. The publisher was Sam Fox Publishing Co., Emanuel's employer. It is not known if Emanuel suggested the folio to his publisher or perhaps if his publisher asked him to compile it. At any rate, all of the works contained in it had previously been published separately with unique covers between 1903 and 1924. Currently all but one are in the public domain with *The Trumpeter* entering public domain on 1/1/2020.





Works dedicated to Emanuel "Jacob Henry" Ellis

Two works by other composers are known to have been dedicated to Emanuel. The first, from 1908, is a schottische titled *Always Happy* by Benjamin Richmond. The title reflects Emanuel's sunny disposition and features his photo on the cover. Benjamin was the older brother of publisher Maurice Richmond and like Emanuel, was both a composer and a sheet music salesman for Enterprise Music Supply. The second, from 1915, was a waltz by Abe Olman titled *Valse Ellis*.

