

THE BEACH FAMILY

Ellie Montford Beach (1880-1944) was the youngest son of Henry Miller Beach (1833-1903) and Clara Maxwell (1838-1915). He married into the Askew family in about 1910 when he wed my grandfather's sister, Birdie Ethelda-- "Big Sister" or "Bird" as she was known to her immediate family.

Montford and Birdie had three children: Mariella (1920), Albert Askew (1924), and William Henry (1929).

In the 1910 census, just before she was married, Birdie Askew's occupation was enumerated as "music teacher." Her musical ability must certainly have passed down to her son Albert Askew Beach because he left little Bartow, Florida when he was quite young, went to New York City, and by 1954 became a quite well-known song writer. Do you remember these lyrics ?...



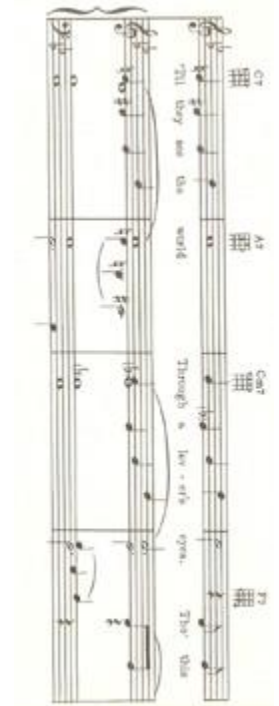
I wish you bluebirds in the spring
To give your heart a song to sing
And then a kiss
But more than this
I wish you love

And in July a lemonade
To cool you in some leafy glade
I wish you health
And more than wealth
I wish you love

My breaking heart and I agree
That you and I could never be
So with my best, my very best
I set you free

I wish you shelter from the storm
A cozy fire to keep you warm
But most of all
When snowflakes fall
I wish you love

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But most of all
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I wish you love



Albert's song, "I Wish you Love," has appeared on over 70 albums and has been sung by dozens of famous artists including Natalie Cole, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Barbara Streisand, etc.

Henry Miller Beach began life as farm boy, and attended country schools in Henry County, Alabama until he was sixteen years old. He taught a country school one winter and then was educated for the ministry. After his father Amzi's death around 1850, he and his mother went to Quincy, Florida, and in 1855, Henry went to Bainbridge, Georgia where he was elected bookkeeper for a mercantile company, for which he worked until 1860. He was then elected probate judge, and held that office until the reconstruction days of 1868. He then became a cotton buyer and moved to Columbia, Alabama about 1880, where he continued buying cotton and engaged in general merchandising as well. He set up a market on Columbia's Main Street and became one of the city's most successful businessmen

Henry's father was **Amzi Beach** (1807- ca.1848). Amzi was born and raised in New Jersey and attended Princeton University. He graduated with the Class of 1829. He arrived in Florida around 1835 before statehood, practiced law and served as mayor of thriving St. Joseph until the disastrous yellow fever epidemic about 1841. He lost a fortune in West Florida railroad investments and arrived in Columbia, Alabama about 1842. He taught school at the Columbia Institute in Columbia/Abbeville, Alabama until his death before 1850.