

The Denna & Estella Strickland Story

Lost—But Not Forgotten!

RECONCILING PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



157 BOB SMITH ROAD
SHARPSBURG, GEORGIA
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022

OCTOBER 17, 1932

Ninety years ago, 52-year-old Denna Strickland and her daughter, 25-year-old Estella Strickland, were killed in their home by a law enforcement officer. Denna and her husband, Ector Strickland, a successful farmer, had raised nine children together, including Estella, in the family home in Coweta County.

Bailiff Sam Thompson arrived at the Strickland home on October 17, 1932, accompanied by civilians Cecil Hunter and Theo McDonald, in search of M.C. Strickland, son of Denna and Ector. Two days prior, Thompson had threatened to arrest M.C. and Ector if they did not pay \$3 for damages allegedly caused in an automobile accident. The Stricklands had repaired the damage, but Thompson still searched the house and threatened to make arrests. When Denna and Estella protested, Thompson started shooting, killing Denna and Estella in the hallway of their home. Fourteen-year-old Onelious Strickland was shot in the chest and survived.

The deaths of Denna and Estella Strickland sparked widely attended protests and extensive coverage by the *Atlanta Daily World* and, for a time, they captured the attention of the NAACP. Yet no one was ever held accountable for the killings. Thompson and the two white civilians who accompanied him later claimed they acted in self-defense after the women attacked them with an axe and a gun, which witnesses Onelious and Bufford Strickland both denied.



It was reported that Thompson went before a judge on unspecified charges in November 1932 and was released. Ninety years later, we come together to honor and remember Denna and Estella Strickland and to continue the pursuit of truth and justice.

**THANK YOU FOR COMMEMORATING
THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DENNA AND ESTELLA STRICKLAND**

THE STRICKLAND FAMILY

CIVIL RIGHTS & RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROJECT AT NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW



PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL/MUSICAL SELECTION

WELCOME

Joe Pope

OPENING PRAYER

Semone Brooks

MUSICAL SELECTION

Jackie Foster

REMARKS BY CRRJ

Katie Sandson, Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project

THE DENNA & ESTELLA STRICKLAND INVESTIGATION

Dakotah Kennedy, Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project

REMARKS BY THE STRICKLAND FAMILY

Tammy Saunders

William Hill

Josie S. Bailey

POEM OF DEDICATION

Andy Foster

BENEDICTION

Semone Brooks

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PROGRAM, PLEASE JOIN THE FAMILY FOR A VIEWING OF THE STRICKLAND FAMILY GRAVESITES AT MOUNT CALVARY CEMETERY ON BEAR CREEK ROAD IN MORELAND, GA.

—But Not Forgotten!

TWO of the Stricklands, mother and daughter, lie today in coffins beneath the surface of the earth. They paid with their lives for the possession of brown faces.

Although nevermore will the greyhaired mother speak loving words to her husband and the nine children she brought into the world, although nevermore will her daughter's eyes flash with the fire and joy of youth at some innocent pleasure, memory of these two women should last until our dying days.

These two women are martyrs.

Their death should awaken every decent white person and every Negro to the disgrace in official places to which this section of the nation is drifting.

Negro men have been killed by police for practically no cause at all—and nothing has been done. It is natural that they should become both hardened and bolder. And if they murder innocent women and are never brought to justice, it will lead to wanton shooting of whites. The result is natural.

You organizations and individuals who want to see fairplay and Dixie elevated to a place in civilization on par with other parts of the nation:

Will you let this atrocity near Newnan go unfought—so that others may do as this officer has done?

Negroes, have you enough manhood to carry this case to court and prosecute it to the full extent of your ability?

Will the murder of these two brown women fire us to action, or shall we do naught but talk among ourselves and pave the way for more slayings of Negro women any time and anywhere?

WE REMEMBER

DENNA STRICKLAND
ECTOR STRICKLAND
ESTELLA STRICKLAND
JULIUS STRICKLAND
JOHN STRICKLAND
MC STRICKLAND
OPHELIA STRICKLAND
ONELIOUS STRICKLAND
BUFORD STRICKLAND
WILLIE STRICKLAND
JOSEPH STRICKLAND