

By Pete Hurrey

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following article is based solely on an exclusive two-hour interview between TheBAYNET.com and John Edison, Sr., Aunt Alice Gaskin and attorney, Kevin J. McDevitt on Monday, Dec. 22. During that interview, certain allegations of wrong doing by authorities were brought by family members. What is presented here is an encapsulation of that interview. TBN takes no position on what was said during the interview. None of the information provided for in the article is corroborated as fact as of this writing.

One hundred, fifty four days after John Edison, Jr. was spirited from his home in hand cuffs and entombed in the bowels of the St. Mary's County jail as an adult for charges of rape, assault and sexual abuse, a jury found the 16-year-old child not guilty on all charges. On Dec. 19 at 3:15 p.m., Edison's jury took less than an hour to deliberate and to exonerate the jailed youth.



Alice Gaskin stuck with John Edison, Jr. through every step of the process.

Alice Gaskin tells the tale of her nephew's plight holding back tears and anger. Her story is difficult to hear. During the two-hour interview Gaskin alleges many curious events which took place from the time of John's arrest through the ordeal of hearing after hearing, and finally a trial that saw multiple states attorneys and at least three judges from two different court jurisdictions blindly moving ahead with an adult trial with a possible 51 years worth of prison time hanging in the balance.

Allegedly that was the case even after the Department of Juvenile Justice ruled that the youth should be handled by juvenile authorities. Gaskin stated that nothing seemed to matter to those prosecuting her nephew, even though John Edison, Jr. repeatedly maintained his innocence.

"He turned down a plea bargain that would have seen him go free in four months," said Gaskin. She maintained that her nephew told prosecutors that the "... plea would have been good for someone that had done the crime, but I didn't do this, I am innocent and will not take a plea."

There were allegations of invalid warrants and searches, hearings derailed by perjury and misstatements, states attorney misconduct and over zealous prosecution.



When John Edison Jr. was released the whole family rejoiced.

According to John Edison, Jr.'s attorney, Kevin J. McDevitt there were delays in crucial discovery of evidence throughout the process, much of which would prove exculpatory. The material evidence in question was all disclosed as part of the four day trial that concluded on Dec. 19.



John Edison, Sr.

John Edison, Sr., who at one time led the family in a picketing protest in front of the court house in an effort to have his son released, stated that his son was somehow injured during his incarceration with a laceration over his eye that required stitches and suffered from a concussion. Now that John Edison, Jr. is finally released, he now has a half inch wide scar across his back that was not there when he entered the jail, four months before his release.

John Edison, Jr. now having been found not guilty on all charges, faces a daunting challenge to put his young life back in order. According to his father, "We have received a number of things from Great Mills High School already and will be meeting with people at the Board of Education as soon as the winter break is over."

The family is now rallied around John Edison, Jr. and will do whatever it takes to make the young man whole again after losing four months of his life to the process. "He was going to be a junior this year, but we're working with the schools to help us figure out how to get him back on track," said John Edison, Sr. "The school has been extremely helpful to us."

"John was stronger than all of us throughout this whole thing," said Gaskin. She indicated that just when the family had pretty much given up hope in the middle of the process, that it was John Edison, Jr. that held the family together. "I received a call from John one night after another hearing was refused. He said, 'Don't worry, I will be home for Christmas.'"

It turns out that the young man was correct; home for Christmas and free. Time will tell what lingering effect the ordeal will have on the young man in the long term. Now, at least he is home with his family and can take comfort in their undying support.



Upon hearing the verdict, Edison's family were all smiles waiting for his release.

Some of the pictures included in this article were taken by Trevor Bothwell and used herein with grateful permission. To see more please visit his Web site at [http://bothwell.typepad.com/whos\\_your\\_nanny/](http://bothwell.typepad.com/whos_your_nanny/).

TBN covered this [story](#) originally here.

