

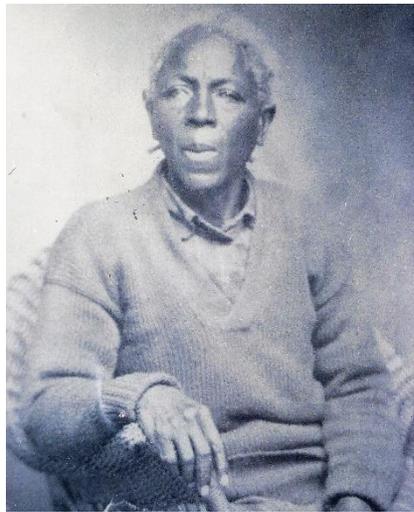
# **The Crear/McCrear Lines: Genealogical Descents from Africa and the Slave Ship *Clotilda* to the Present**

by

**Llewellyn (Lew) Toulmin, PhD, FRGS, FN '04**

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**Matilda McCrear (Crear),  
*Clotilda* Survivor**

This report has the following sections:

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- Methodology
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  - Annex 3: Interview with John (Johnny) Crear
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## Introduction

This report, requested by the *Clotilda* Descendants Association, traces a seven-generation genealogical African-American line of descent from Africa to the present. This line focuses on descendants of Gracie McCrear (a.k.a. Crear or Craigher) and her daughter Matilda McCrear (or Crear), and in later generations, the family of John (Johnny) Crear. Matilda was a heroic woman of the “Tarkar” cultural group or Yoruba tribe, born in about 1858 in the area of what is now Benin or Nigeria, who was captured at about age two, sold into slavery, and transported in 1860 on the last slave ship to arrive in the United States – the infamous *Clotilda*.

Matilda had 14 children, of whom 10 survived. She lived until 1940, having endured capture, many members of her village (likely including her father) being slaughtered by Kingdom of Dahomey warriors, being ripped away from her family and village, the misery of a trans-Atlantic crossing under horrible conditions in a slave ship, intentional scuttling and burning of the ship, slavery, attempted escape, recapture after being chased by dogs, living through the Civil War, working in the fields at or before age twelve, statutory and likely forcible rape, giving birth at the age of fourteen, the death of four of her children, the oppressive sharecropper system, World War I, the Great Depression (which hit her county in Alabama especially hard), the discriminatory Jim Crow era, and the frightening runup to World War II. She received no pension or any other compensation for all these injustices, although she bravely requested a small payment at age 72. When she died in poverty and unrecognized, with no obituary, at about age 82 in 1940, she was the last living survivor of the *Clotilda*. Yet her life shows tremendous courage, grit and resilience, and her story – and her descendants who are fortunate to be related to such an amazing woman -- deserve to be documented and celebrated.

This report provides information on her line of descent, and supplies data on persons off the main line, so that other relatives can link into this line and prove their descent from Gracie and Matilda McCrear/Crear and the *Clotilda*.

## Methodology

This report attempts to prove the asserted line to high genealogical standards. In the analyses below, the most important items are the proven linkages between one generation and another, and the proven marriage/liaison linkage between the asserted parents of a child. Dates and locations of birth, death and marriage are also important, but it is understandable that in difficult circumstances and early periods not all dates and locations may be exact or even available.

If a key linkage is deemed to be weak in terms of proof, then a **NOTE** (in bold type) will be inserted. Such a note does not necessarily mean that the link did not exist, it may just mean that at present, insufficient proof (paper trail, testimony, affidavit, DNA, etc.) has been amassed to make a confident assertion. If no **NOTE** is inserted, then the linkage and assertions are deemed to be at least reasonably proven, and if numerous overlapping and confirming proofs are present, then the assertion can be judged to be confirmed to a high standard. The key linkages in sets of evidentiary items are underlined; in general, non-underlined items do not appear on the charts for reasons of space, but are still viable and should be considered proven.

Most genealogical articles and reports only cite sources briefly, and do not list all the information provided by each source. Here, since the tracing of the links, dates, places, etc. is challenging, all the relevant information provided by each source is shown, so that the reader can see and evaluate the quality of the information and does not have to obtain the original sources. Biographical information (e.g., occupation, income, religion) obtained from the sources is presented here, for interest but also because such items can also help establish proof of linkages. (For example, if John Smith is, say, a carpenter and a Wesleyan Methodist in Record A and also in Record B, then the chances that the two Records point to the same John Smith are markedly increased.)

The site for obtaining the original sources in this report is Ancestry.com, unless otherwise specified. This source has dramatically improved in scope and depth over the last decade, but of course is not truly comprehensive. This research effort was somewhat hampered by the closure of libraries, courthouses, Family Research Centers and various repositories during the Covid-19 pandemic. And in a document with numerous assertions and statements, some errors are almost inevitable. Corrections and suggestions are welcome and can be sent to the author at LewToulmin@aol.com.

This report focuses mainly on tracing one blood line down to the present, and does not document in detail the descendants of all the many siblings of the main line persons. These siblings are often mentioned in the proof items, especially US Census records, but are not usually further discussed here. Further research to fill out those lines is encouraged, to discover other descendants of Gracie and Matilda McCrear/Crear and the *Clotilda*.

Persons in the discussion below who are known or likely to be alive in 2021 are **highlighted in yellow** the first time they are mentioned, so that they may be traced and informed of their descent from Matilda and Gracie McCrear/Crear and the *Clotilda*, and their eligibility for membership in the *Clotilda* Descendants Association. It is possible that some of these persons do not know of this historic connection and heritage.

For privacy reasons, the names but not the birth dates of living descendants and relatives are provided here.

I wish to thank John (Johnny) Crear of Selma, Alabama for his very substantial help in expanding this family tree. With his remarkable memory and substantial family research, he was a major source of information on his descendants and relatives.

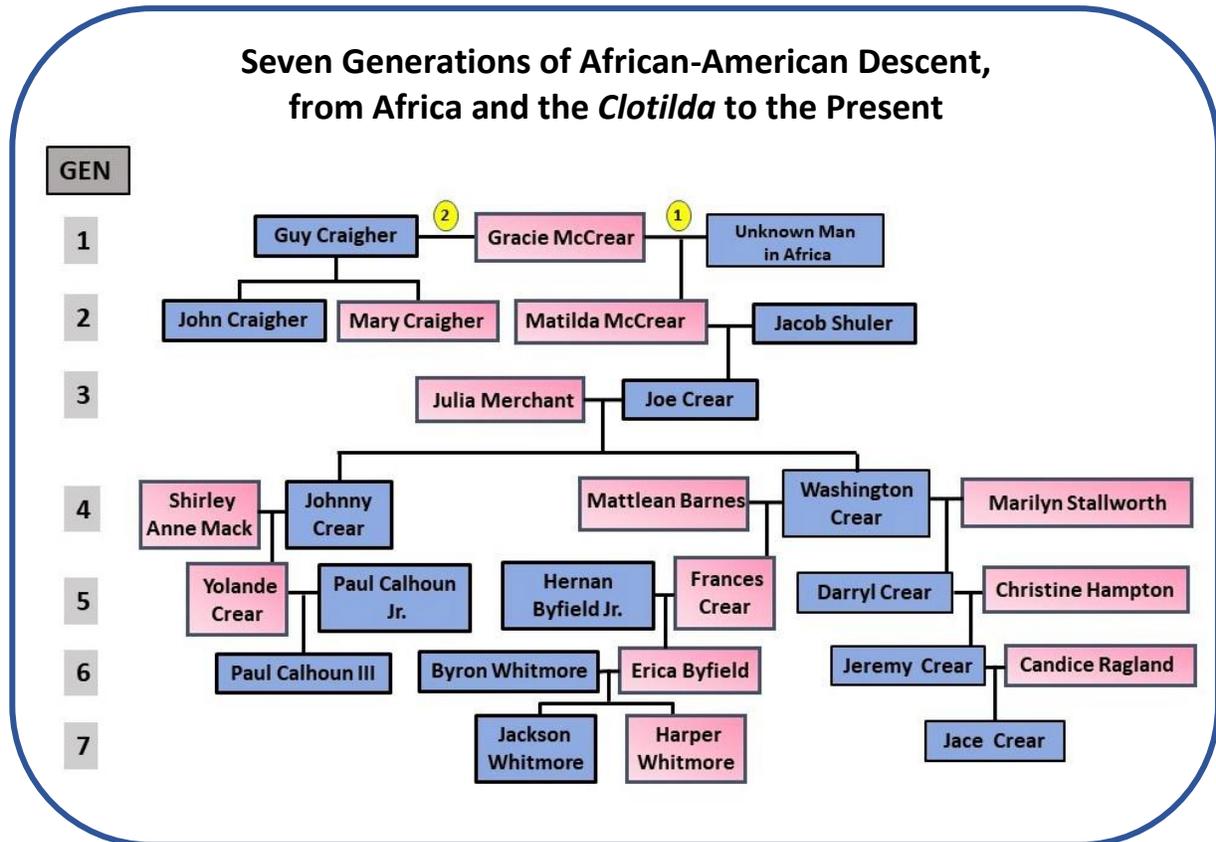
This report was requested by Mr. Darron Patterson, President of the *Clotilda* Descendants Association, and is being submitted to the Association (and to various genealogical repositories and libraries), but any errors are my own. It is a privilege and an honor to be able to undertake such important research. I anticipate writing other similar reports on other lines of *Clotilda* and Africatown descent.

Abbreviations used in this report include the following:

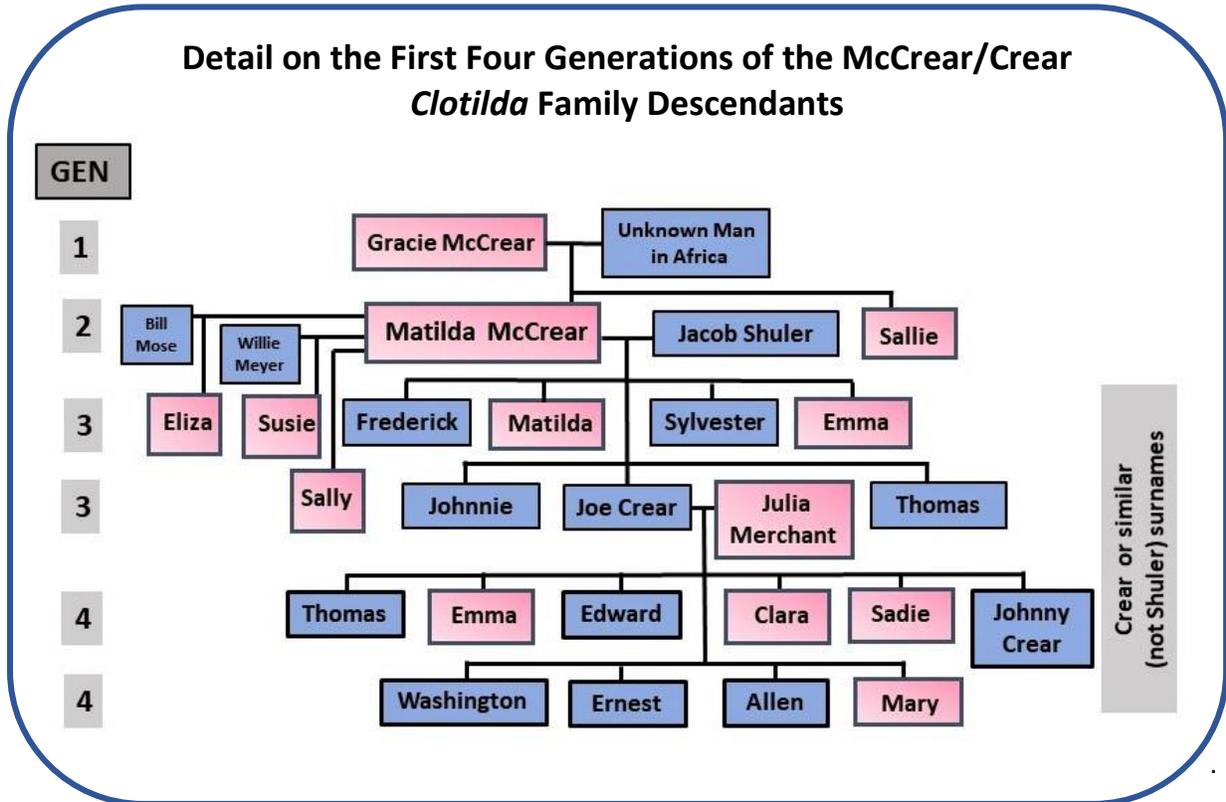
- |               |               |             |            |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| <b>abt.</b>   | about         | <b>aft.</b> | after      |
| <b>a.k.a.</b> | also known as | <b>b.</b>   | born       |
| <b>bef.</b>   | before        | <b>c.</b>   | circa      |
| <b>d.</b>     | died          | <b>d.c.</b> | died circa |

## Summary Chart

The chart below summarizes the assertions and proofs of the longest main lines in the subsequent section; the longest lines cover seven generations. Men are shown in blue, women in pink.



The chart below provides more detail for the first four generations of the family, showing the known surviving children and siblings. Note that none of the descendants of Jacob Shuler, Bill Mose or Willie Meyer took their father's name; all took the surname of Crear, McCrear, or some other variation of Matilda McCrear's (Crear's) last name. Also note that Sally McCrear in Generation 3 is shown with no father, since her father (a partner of Matilda McCrear/Crear) is uncertain.



For other detailed charts, covering the descendants of Johnny (John) Crear and Shirley Ann Mack, and of Washington Crear and his two spouses, down through generations 5, 6 and 7, see Annex 4.

# Assertions and Proofs

## Generation #1

### Assertion:

Gracie McCrear (a.k.a. Crear or Craigher) was born in Africa, c. 1819 or 1832, likely in or near what is now Benin or Nigeria, and was captured by warriors of the Kingdom of Dahomey and transported on the last slave ship *Clotilda* in July 1860 to Mobile, Alabama, USA. She d. in December 1879 at about age 47/48 or 60 in Dallas Co., Alabama. She had daughters Matilda (a.k.a. Tilda or Tildy) and Sallie, two other daughters (names unknown), sold away in America, and two sons (names unknown) left behind in Africa. These children were fathered by an unknown man in Africa (or possibly a man named Osie). In Alabama Gracie formed a relationship with Guy Crear, who became the step-father of Matilda, and Gracie and Guy had two children together, John and Mary. Guy was b. in “Africa-Guinea” (exact location uncertain) in about 1830, was also a captive on the *Clotilda*, and d. bef. 1879, likely in Dallas Co., Alabama.

### Proofs:

Hannah Durkin, “Uncovering the Hidden Lives of the Last *Clotilda* Survivor Matilda McCrear and her Family,” *Slavery and Abolition*, Vol. 41, No. 3, 19 March 2020. This article states that Gracie had four daughters who were transported on the *Clotilda* with her, including the youngest, Matilda, that two (unnamed) daughters were quickly sold away upon arrival in Alabama, and that Gracie was forcibly paired with Guy, another slave from the *Clotilda*, who was from a different part of Africa, possibly Guinea. (**NOTE:** The modern country of Guinea is so far from Benin that it seems likely that the word “Guinea” (used in the 1870 Census record immediately below) is just a rough descriptor.)

### Journey of *Clotilda* slave ship, 1860



Natalie S. Robertson, in *The Slave Ship Clotilda and the Making of AfricaTown, USA* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 2008), pp. 103-130, explored the origins of Cudjo Lewis and other *Clotilda* captives, and concluded that many came from west or central Nigeria. She states that the term “Tarkar” refers to a cultural cluster that some of the captives exhibited, and concluded that some may have come from the Ataka/Attakar village in the Takad Chiefdom area of southern Kaduna province in Nigeria. She notes, p. 132, that the facial markings (cicatrices) of the *Clotilda* captives indicated they came from the Attakar, Kaninkon, Jaba, Bache, Gwari and Chamba peoples. On p. 114 Robertson presents a 2004 photo of Sati Baba, who has a cicatrice running from above his left nostril diagonally down his cheek, and has links to the Kaninkon and Jaba tribes in Nigeria. This marking seems to resemble the diagonal tribal mark on Matilda McCrear’s face; see the article in the Annexes.

US Census for 1870 for Liberty Hill, Athens, Dallas, Alabama, states that Gracie Craigher, 38, is a black female farm laborer, b. in Africa, with both parents foreign born, cannot read or write, with spouse Guy

Craigher, 40 (hence b. c. 1830) black farm laborer, b. in “Africa-Guinea,” and black children Tilda, (Matilda) 16, farm laborer, cannot read and write, John, 5, and Mary Craigher, 3; with all the children having foreign-born parents. (Note that John and Mary must be the children of Gracie and Guy, since they were born in 1865 or later; of course their descendants are also *Clotilda* descendants. Durkin, *ibid.*, agrees that John and Mary are the children of Guy and Gracie.)

US Census for 1880 for Liberty Hill, Dallas, Alabama, shows Gracie Creagh, 60, mother, black female, indigent, widowed. (However, her name and information has a line through it on the original. This is likely because she died in December 1879 (see the Mortality Schedule immediately below) , and the Census was taken on 2 June 1880. Thus the Census taker likely received information that she was alive and countable, but then crossed out her name when it became clear that she had passed on. Note that the term “widowed” means that her husband Guy died, apparently in Dallas County, before 1879/80.) Other persons in this family (with no line through them) are: Matilda Creagh, 22, single black female farm laborer b. in Africa with both parents b. in Africa; with children Eliza Creagh, 8, mulatto female, b. in Alabama, with father b. in Alabama and mother b. in Africa; Sally, 4, mulatto female, b. in Alabama, with father b. in Alabama and mother b. in Africa; Winnie, 11/12 (b. in June 1879) [apparently “Winnie” was a nickname for Susie], mulatto female, b. in Alabama, with father b. in Alabama and mother b. in Africa.

US Federal Census Mortality Schedules for Liberty Hill Beat, Dallas Co., Alabama, shows Gracie Creagh, black female, widowed, d. aged 60 in December 1879, b. in Africa with both parents b. in Africa. Record states that she has been in the US only 15 years, this seems to be an error or perhaps an intentional misstatement by the recorder (since it was apparently local government policy to minimize evidence of illegal slave-running from Africa).

Sylviane A. Diouf, “The Last Slave Ship Survivor and Her Descendants Identified,” *National Geographic*, 27 March 2020, available at: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/last-slave-ship-survivor-descendants-identified>. Provides biographical information on Gracie, Matilda, and their descendants, photos of many, and identifies Bob Mose, a white man, as the first partner of Matilda, who possibly forcibly raped her when she was 14 and thus fathered her first child. [Note the Diouf does not provide proof re “Bob Mose,” and the death record of Matilda’s daughter Eliza says her father was “Bill Mose.” See the proof item later in this paper.]

**NOTE:** Sylviane A. Diouf argues that Gracie was not 60 when she died, that she “only looked 60,” but that she was actually 47 or 48, as indicated by the 1870 Census above. This matter is unresolved.

(For the reference to “Osie” as the possible spouse of Gracie and mother of Matilda, see the proof below re the death information for Matilda McCrear.)

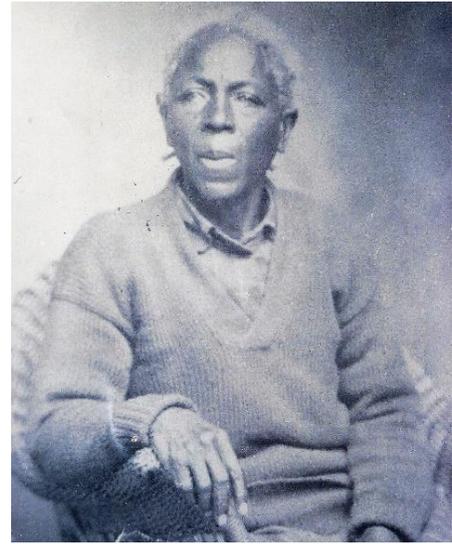
Sylviane A. Diouf, *Dreams of Africa in Alabama: The Slave Ship Clotilda and the Story of the Last Africans Brought to America* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007) – this detailed book provides extensive information on *Clotilda* descendants found through 2007, describes the history of Africatown, and provides (p. 6) a useful list of the known descendants of the *Clotilda*. However, since Matilda McCrear was “discovered” after 2007, she and her genealogy are not mentioned.

John (Johnnie) Crear phone interview with Lew Toulmin, 12 October 2021; John states he has no information on the name of the husband of Gracie in Africa. See Annex 3.

## Generation #2

### Assertion:

Matilda (a.k.a. Àbáké (“Loved by All” in Yoruba), Tillie, Tildy or Tilda) McCrear (a.k.a. Creagh, Creah, Crear, McCreary) was born in 1857 or 1858 in west Africa, was the last survivor of the slave ship *Clotilda*, had three children in Athens, Alabama: Eliza, fathered by Bill Mose, Susie (a.k.a. “Winnie”) fathered by Willie Meyer, and Sally, father unknown. In about 1879 she moved to Martin Station, Alabama, and entered into a long-term common-law relationship with Jacob Schuler, a white German immigrant, possibly Jewish or more likely Lutheran. They had seven children together over 17 years; these were: Frederick, Matilda (d. young), Sylvester, Emma, Johnnie, Joe (Joseph), and Thomas. Matilda had 14 children in total, 10 of whom survived, and her first child was born when Matilda was 14. Matilda died 13 January 1940 in Selma, Dallas County, Alabama at about age 83, and was buried in Martin’s Station Cemetery, Alabama.



Matilda McCrear

Jacob Shuler was likely b. in Wurttemberg, Germany 18 February 1848, immigrated to the US in 1865, was elected a Constable in Dallas County in 1892 and died apparently in the 1920s in Dallas County or possibly Etowah County, Alabama.

Matilda’s full sister Sallie was b. in Africa in March 1850, was also on the *Clotilda*, married in Alabama likely to John Walker bef. 1870, and was widowed and living in Dallas Co., Alabama by 1880. She was living alone by 1900 as Sally Walker in Martin’s Precinct 7, Dallas Co. She died in Dallas County several years before 1931. She apparently had a son, William Walker, b. c. 1867 in Alabama, by John Walker, who was b. c. 1848 in Alabama.

### Proofs:

Hannah Durkin, *ibid*. This article states that Matilda was born in 1857/8 in west Africa, of the “Tarkar” tribe (likely a part of the Yoruba people), and died in 1940; and that Sallie was ten (hence b.c. 1850) and Matilda only two when they were captured in Africa. Durkin states that Jacob Shuler died likely in the 1920s, was one of only four German-born white men in Dallas County in June 1900, and was the only reasonable candidate for the father of Matilda’s children from that period. Durkin also states that Jacob was likely Jewish, given that “Shuler” means “Talmudic scholar” and that “Jacob” was one of the patriarchs of the Jewish faith – hence the descendants of Jacob and Matilda have some German – Jewish heritage. [Note that descendant Johnny Crear doubts that assertion, based on his research.] Durkin also states that Matilda began working in the fields of Alabama at (or before) age 12, by 1870, and that she died in the house of her youngest daughter, Emma Hollins, in Green Street in Selma.

Becky Little, “A Survivor of the Last Slave Ship Lived Until 1940,” *History.com News*, 7 April 2020.

Obtained at: <https://www.history.com/news/last-slave-ship-survivor-matilda-maccrear>. This article describes Matilda’s life, gives her African name of Àbáké, lists her partners and numbers of children, states that her initial motherhood at 14 may have been the result of forcible rape (and was of course also statutory rape by modern standards), and that her last name evolved from her slave master’s of

Creagh (he was named “Memorable Walker Creagh”) to McCrear, her preferred new last name that she created. The article also states that Matilda was of the Yoruba tribe, as indicated by the distinctive tribal scars on her face, and that she was captured by the warriors of the Kingdom of Dahomey and sold into slavery aboard the *Clotilda* at Ouidah, in present-day Benin.

Octavia (“O.S.”) Wynn, “Woman Survivor of Last Slave Ship, Erect and Vigorous at Advanced Age, Walks Fifteen Miles for Gov’T Help,” *Selma Times-Journal*, December 20, 1931, p. 11. This 1000-word article provides the only contemporary biographical information on Matilda. (See the Annexes for the full article.) This article states that Matilda’s “sister Sallie Walker” died on a plantation near Selma a few years before 1931.

Sylviane A. Diouf, “The Last Slave Ship Survivor...,” *ibid.* (**NOTE:** this author states that Bob Mose was the first partner of Matilda – this should likely be “Bill Mose.”)

Belinda Mallasasime, “New Reports Identify the Actual Last Slave Ship Survivor,” 28 January 2021, at <https://historyofyesterday.com/new-reports-identify-the-actual-last-slave-ship-survivor-deea4fea2190>. This article gives the Yoruba meaning of Matilda’s original name; states that Matilda and her sister Sallie tried to escape from slave-owner Creagh’s plantation; and notes that Matilda managed to survive capture, the *Clotilda*, slavery, the Civil War, World War I, the Great Depression, and the runup to World War II.

Alabama Deaths, FamilySearch, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JDYL-K4C>, for Matilda Crear. This states that she resided at 1704 Green St., Selma, Dallas County, Alabama, was born in NC in 1894, d. in 1940 in Selma, was buried at Martin Station, Alabama. She was single, colored, American, doing housework, with her father Osie Craig and mother Gracie Crear, both born in NC. Note that this death statement had no mention of Africa or a birth date before the Civil War. Durkin argues that this death information was deliberately altered to conceal the fact that Matilda was born in Africa. **NOTE:** This appears to be the only mention of “Osie,” or “Osie Craig” and this and the late date and incorrect birth locations cast some substantial doubt on this asserted name; hence it is not used in this report.

US Census for 1870 for Athens Beat, Post Office Liberty Hill, Dallas Co., Alabama, shows Sallie Walker, 20, black female, keeping house, cannot read and write, b. in Alabama; with inferred husband John Walker, 22, black male, farm laborer, b. in Alabama, cannot read and write; and inferred son William Walker, 3, black male, b. in Alabama. (Note that the statement “b. in Alabama” raises some doubt that this is the correct Sallie Walker. However, research shows that only one other black Sally/Sallie Walker appears in the 1870 Census for Dallas County, and that person (married to Green Walker) was actually b. in Tennessee, where she eventually returned – even though her Census record alleges she was b. in Alabama! Census takers apparently were not too careful about birth locations.)

US Census for 1880 for Liberty Hill, Dallas Co., Alabama, *ibid.*

Lutheran Baptism Record for Evangelische Kirche Dürrwangen, Durwangen, Wurttemberg, Germany for 20 February 1848 shows Jacob Shuler baptised on that date, b. on 18 February 1848, with parents Jacob Shuler and Maria Eva Dider Shuler. **NOTE:** This seems the likely but not absolutely certain correct record.

US Census for 1880 for Martins, Dallas Co., Alabama, shows J. Jake Schuler, (full name might be John Jacob Shuler), 30, white single male farmer, b. in “Werttemberg” (?), likely Wurttemberg, Ger (Germany),

with both parents b. in "Werttemberg." [This is likely the Kingdom of Wurttemberg (1806-1918), now part of the state of Baden-Wurttemberg. The town of Wurttemberg is NE of Stuttgart.]

US Census for 1880 for Liberty Hill Beat, Dallas Co., Alabama, shows Sally Walker, 26, black widowed female farm laborer, b. in Africa, with both parents b. in Africa; cannot read or write.

US Census for 1900, for Alabama, Dallas, Martins, shows Matilda Creah, 41, black female, single, b. in Africa in March 1869, with both parents b. in Africa, head of household, farmer, having had 14 children, 10 of whom are living, cannot read or write, can speak English, renting. In a different handwriting on the original record is written in that she immigrated in 1880 and has been in the US 20 years; this appears to be an error or later falsification of the record. Children listed here, all with last name of Creah, all black, all single, all b. in Alabama, with mother b. in Africa and father b. in Germany, are: Frederick, b. April 1881; Matilda, b. August 1885; Sylvester, b. March 1888; Emma, b. June 1890; Johnie, b. April 1893; Joseph, b. August 1896; and Thomas, b. December 1897.

Alabama Civil Appointments for Dallas Co., Alabama, 1 August 1892 shows Jacob Shuler elected as a Constable for Precinct 7.

Marriage Records for Dallas Co., Alabama for 31 December 1899 show Abram Kennedy marrying Sue Creah. (**NOTE:** this is almost certainly Susie/Sue/Winnie Crear; see the 1920 death notice below.)

US Census for 1900, for Alabama, Dallas, Martins, shows Sally Walker, 50, black single female farm laborer, b. in Africa in March 1850, with both parents b. in Africa; cannot read or write; renting. States that Sally immigrated to the US in 1875, and has been in the country 25 years, but this is clearly an error or misstatement.

US Census for 1900, for Alabama, Dallas, Martins, shows Jacob Schuler, 51, white single male farmer, b. in Germany in July 1848, immigrated in 1865, with both parents b. in Germany.

US Census for 1910, for Alabama, Dallas, Martins, shows Jacob Shaler, 61, white male farmer, b. in Germany, naturalized citizen, immigrated in 1865, with both parents b. in Germany.

US Census for 1920 for Alabama, Dallas, Martin, shows "Josh" (almost illegible, looks likely to be "Jacob") Shuler, 71, b.c. 1849, single white male, b. in Germany, with both parents b. in Germany, native tongue of German, immigrated to the US in 1865, naturalized citizen, living on Linden Road.

Selma City Directory for 1920, p. 329, shows Sallie Walker, widowed, domestic (servant), living at 403 Sylvan. (**NOTE:** It is not certain that this is the correct person, but it seems likely.)

Alabama Death Index for 1920 for Mobile, Mobile Co., Alabama shows Susie Kennedy d. 3 March 1920 at age 40, b.c. 1880, with father Willie Meyer and mother Matilda Crear.

Alabama Death Index shows John Shuler, d. 10 July 1922 in Etowah Co., Alabama. (**NOTE:** This is possibly Jacob Shuler of Dallas County, since Jacob's full name may have been John Jacob Shuler. But Etowah County is about 140 miles NE of Selma, there is no birth information in this record, and no proof of German ancestry. Hence this is a possible hit only. [Descendant Johnny Crear doubts that Jacob's first name was John, based on the birth record for Jacob Shuler he has found in Germany.]

Find-a-Grave Index shows Matilda Creah/McCrear b. 12 October 1858, d. 13 January 1940 in Selma, Dallas, Alabama and buried in Martins Station Cemetery.

US Death Index for Alabama shows Matilda Crear, d. 13 January 1940 in Dallas Co., Alabama.

John Crear interview, *ibid.*, gives the names and some dates of the 10 surviving children of Matilda; see Annex 3.

### Generation #3

#### Assertions:

Matilda Crear and Jacob Shuler had a son Thomas Crear, b. 7 December 1896, d. 14 October 1957 in Birmingham, Alabama. They also had a son Joe (Joseph) Crear (or Creagh), b. August 1896 (or 1892) and d. 16 August 1955 in Selma, Alabama. Matilda Crear and Bill Mose had a liaison and had a daughter Eliza McCrear, b.c. 1872 in Alabama, d. 26 November 1928 in Eleanor, Dallas Co., Alabama. Matilda and Willie Meyer had a daughter Susie (or Sue or "Winnie") Crear (or Creah), b.c. 1875 and died 3 March 1920 in Mobile, Mobile Co., Alabama.



Joe Crear (1892-1955)

#### Proofs:

Alabama Marriage Records for Dallas County, 22 September 1888, show Eliza McCrear (Colored) marrying Jim Jackson.

FamilySearch Alabama Deaths at: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:J6Z2-8HX>; states that Matilda Crear and Jacob Shuler had a son Thomas Crear, b. c. 1895 and d. 1957 in Birmingham, Alabama.

Alabama Deaths and Burials Index shows Thomas Crear b. c. 1895 and d. 14 October 1957 at age 62 in Birmingham, Alabama, with parents Jacob Shuler and Matilda Crear.

FamilySearch US Veterans Administration records at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS18-JRJT?cc=2968245&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQPZ2-WLWP>; states that Private Thomas Crear of Martin Station, AL, was b. 12-7-96 and d. 10-14-57, and served in the US Army from 9-26-18 to 1-18-19.

US Census for 1900, *ibid.*, for Matilda Creah and Thomas Creah.

US Census for 1910, Mobile Ward 7, Mobile Co., Alabama, shows Susie Kenedy, 35, b.c. 1875, black married female, laundress, father and mother b. in Alabama, able to read and write, with 7 children born of which 4 are alive; with spouse Abram Kenedy, 35, black married male, furniture worker, b. in Alabama, cannot read or write; daughter Salleen Kenedy, 8; son Earnest Kenedy, 5; son Leroy Kenedy, 3; and daughter Jemese Kenedy, 1. All the family is black, and is b. in Alabama, as are all their parents.

Alabama Death Notice, *ibid.*, for Susie (Crear) Kennedy death in Mobile in 1920; showing father was Willie Meyer and mother was Matilda Crear.

US Census for 1920 for Alabama, Dallas, Martins, shows Tom McCrear (McCrear), 23, married black male farmer, b. in Alabama, with father b. in Germany and speaking German, and mother from Alabama; with

wife Clara, 23, b. in Alabama with both parents b. in Alabama; and Tom's mother "Tula" (almost illegible, likely "Tilda" for Matilda), 55, single black female, able to read but not write, (supposedly) b. in Alabama but with both parents b. in Africa and speaking "African," no occupation (hence apparently temporarily retired from farm work).

Alabama Deaths and Burials Index shows Lizie [Eliza][McCrear] Jackson, 58, b.c. 1870, d. 26 November 1928 in Eleanor, Dallas Co., Alabama, married to Jim Jackson, with parents Tilda Crear and Bill Mose.

FamilySearch US Census for 1930 for Alabama, Dallas, Martins, shows Tom McCraigh, 45, Negro male farmer, married at age 20, did not attend school, unable to read or write, b. in Alabama with both parents b. in Alabama; wife Clara, 44, Negro female keeping house, did not attend school, unable to read or write, b. in Alabama with both parents b. in Alabama; son Joe, 7, Negro male, attending school, cannot read or write; daughter Liza, 6, Negro female, not attending school; son James, 5, Negro male; and daughter Eva, 2 1/12, Negro female (all children b. in Alabama with both parents b. in Alabama). Note that this record also shows five other people in the same household, all with the last name of Milhous [Milhouse?]. This group begins with Christine Milhous[e], listed as "sister." She is listed as 22 (hence b.c. 1908), Negro single female farm laborer, b. in Alabama with both parents b. in Alabama, cannot read or write. Her children are: Edward, 10, Herbert, 8, Ausie (a female), 3 11/12, and Rosa, 1 10/12, all black, all b. in Alabama with both parents b. in Alabama. [Descendant Johnny Crear states in an email of 16 October 2021 that has a respondent Eva Berry, the 94-year-old daughter of Thomas Crear [McCraigh in the 1930 Census] and Clara Wormly [Wormley in some records], and Eva is still alive in 2021 [and is thus is the 2.5-year-old listed in this 1930 Census]. Eva states that Christine is the sister of Clara Wormly. She is not the sister of head of household Tom. Parenthetically, this means that Eva and any of her descendants are also Clotilda descendants.] This Census record is difficult to find via normal Ancestry and FamilySearch search engines, but is accessible at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GR77-94GX?i=17&cc=1810731%26personaUrl%3D%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3A3X1M-WN2&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3A3X1M-53Z>

US Census for 1940 for Alabama, Dallas, Selma, shows Joe Creagh, black male, 48, b. in Alabama, a butcher, earnings of \$440 that year; with wife Julia, black female, 39, b. in Alabama; with children, all black, all b. in Alabama: Emma, 24, Wash (a male; likely a nickname for "Washington"), 14, Ernest, 12, Allen, 9, Mary, 6, Johnnie, 3, and Joe, 2 (the latter listed as a grandson).

Alabama Deaths and Burials shows Joe Crear, b. 1892, d. 16 August 1955 in Selma, Dallas, Alabama at age 63, with his father born in Dallas Co., Alabama. (This should actually show his father as born in Germany.)

John Crear interview, *ibid.*, discusses the parentage of Matilda's daughters Eliza, Sally and Susie; see Annex 3.

## Generation #4

### Assertions:

Thomas Crear married Clara Wormley and had a daughter Eliza McCreary b. 9-20-24 in Dallas Co., Alabama, d. July 1983 in Birmingham, Jefferson, Alabama.

They also had a son, Joe Crear, b. 25 December 1921 in Selma, Alabama, who on 4 October 1943 m. Josephine Traylor in Jefferson Co., Alabama. She was b. 15 October 1925 (or 9 September 1924) with parents Jim (or William) Traylor and Emma Brown, and died 23 June 2000. Joe Crear d. 22 July 1992.



Johnny Crear in Selma in 2020

Joe/Joseph Creagh (b. 1892, son of Matilda and Jacob), m. to Julia Merchant, b. 1901, and they had a son **Johnny (or John) Crear**, b.c. 1935-9 in Selma, Alabama and still alive in Selma at about 84 as of 2021.

Joseph and Julia also had a son “Wash” or Washington Crear, who was b. 16 February 1925 at Martin Station, Alabama, d. 28 January 2003 in Cincinnati, Ohio; and who married first (and later divorced) Mattlean Barnes on 31 March 1947, and second married in 1955 to Marilyn L. Stallworth, b. c. 1932, d. 1 November 2018 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Joseph and Julia also had a son Ernest F. Crear, b.c. 1931 who on 29 April 1950 in Hamilton Co., Ohio married Christine McKinney, b.c. 1931.

Joseph and Julia had a daughter Clara Crear, b.c. 1919, who on 6 August 1945 in Jefferson Co., Alabama married Raymond Chestnut, b.c. 1902.

Joseph and Julia also had children: Thomas, Emma, Edward, Sadie, Allen, and Mary.

Susie Crear and Abram Kennedy (or Kenedy) had children: Sallee Kenedy, b.c. 1902, Earnest Kenedy, b.c. 1905, Leroy Kenedy, b.c. 1907, and James Kennedy, b.c. 1909.

Eliza McCrear and Jim Jackson had children: Mary E. Jackson, b. June 1890, Charlotte Jackson, b. July 1892, and daughter Alma Jackson, b. December 1895; all b. in Alabama.

### Proofs:

Alabama Marriage Records for Jefferson Co. Alabama, show Eliza McCrear, colored, with parents Thomas McCrear and Clara Wormley, married 22 May 1942 in Jefferson Co., Alabama to Willie Sanders, colored, b. 10-5-21 in Tuscaloosa, AL, with parents Isiah Sanders and Maria Thomas. Eliza’s residence is 1305 36<sup>th</sup> Way N, Birmingham. Both marriage partners were under 18, so both fathers had to sign a permission section. On the original document the name “Eliza Creah” is changed in different writing to “Eliza McCrear” and the name “Thomas Creah” is similarly changed to “Thomas McCrear.”

US Census for 1900 for Martins, Dallas Co., Alabama, shows “Elza” Jackson, 26, married black female farm laborer, b. April 1874, father b. in Alabama and mother b. in Africa with 3 children born, all of which are living, cannot read or write; with spouse Jim Jackson, 30, black male farmer, b. March 1870 in Alabama, father b. in Virginia and mother b. in Alabama, can read and write; daughter Mary E. Jackson,

9, b. June 1890; daughter Charlotte Jackson, 7, b. July 1892 ; and daughter Alma Jackson, 4, b. Dec. 1895. All the children are black, b. in Alabama, with both parents b. in Alabama.

Alabama Marriage Records show Joe Crear, b. 12-25-21, colored, resident of Birmingham, Alabama, in the US Army, with parents Thomas Crear and Clara Wormly (sic), who on 4 October 1943 m. Josephine Traylor in Jefferson Co., Alabama. Record states she was b. 15 October 1925 with parents Jim Traylor and Emma Brown.

US Veterans BIRLs database shows Joe Crear, b. 20 December 1921, d. 22 July 1992, enlisted in the US Army 14 December 1942 and was discharged 20 December 1945.

US Social Security Applications show Julia Merchant as the spouse of Joe Crear, with their child Allen Merchant Crear, black male, b. Martin Station, Alabama on 20 October 1929 and d. 28 December 1988.

US Social Security Applications shows Joe Crear, black, b. 2 December 1919 in Selma, Alabama, d. July 1992; with parents Thomas Crear and Clara Wormley.

Social Security Death Index shows Eliza Sanders b. 2 September 1924, d. July 1983, resident of Birmingham, Jefferson, Alabama.



**Joe Crear (left, father of Johnny), Joe's brother Edward, and Joe's wife Julia in 1954**

Newcastle University, England, Press Release, "The Remarkable Life of Matilda McCrear," 25 March 2020, online at: <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/press/articles/latest/2020/03/matildamccrear/>. States that Johnny Crear of Selma, Alabama is the grandson of Matilda McCrear of the *Clotilda*, that he was 83 and alive as of 2020, and gives biographical information on Matilda McCrear.

Durkin, op. cit., p. 19, states that Johnny Crear was an employee in the administration office of the hospital where civil rights marchers in Selma were brought in for medical treatment.

Obits.al.com shows that Willie Raymond Sanders, Sr., 88, died 13 May 2010, as reported by *The Birmingham News*. See: <https://obits.al.com/us/obituaries/birmingham/name/willie-sanders-obituary?pid=142960867>.

US Social Security Applications and Claims Index shows Josephine Traylor (later Westbrook, later White), black female, b. 9 September 1924 in Birmingham, Jefferson, Alabama, and d. 23 June 2000; with parents William Traylor and Emma Brown.

US Census for 1940, *ibid*.

US WW II Young Men Card Index shows Washington Crear, black male, 18, b. 18 February 1925 in Martin Station, Selma, Alabama, with next of kin Julia Crear in Selma.

US Social Security Death Index shows Washington Crear, b. 16 February 1925, d. 28 January 2003, last residence in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Find-a-Grave shows Washington Crear gravestone in Oak Hill Cemetery, Glendale, Hamilton Co., Ohio, with dates 1925-2003, and with the name Marilyn L. Crear, 1932-2018. Narrative states Washington is the son of Joseph Crear and Julia Merchant, and spouse of Marilyn L. Stallworth. States that children of Washington and Marilyn are: Frederick H. Crear, 1956-1991; Daryl W. Crear, 1956-2018; and Anthony B. Crear, 1966-1971.

"Washington Crear," obituary in *The Cincinnati Inquirer*, 27 January 2003, p. 14, shows Washington Crear, d. 24 January 2003, age 77. Children listed are: Daryl, Marion, Conrad and Frances Crear, Minelda Hatchett, and Cheryl Simmons. (**NOTE:** Cheryl is not listed by John Crear, *ibid.*, or other sources.)

Alabama Marriage Records show Clara Clear, b.c. 1919, daughter of Joe and Julia Crear, marrying with Raymond Chestnut, b.c. 1903, on 6 August 1945 in Jefferson Co., Alabama.

Ohio Marriage Records show Ernest F. Clear, b.c. 1931, daughter of Joe Crear and Julia Merchant, marrying with Christine McKinney, b.c. 1931, on 29 April 1950 in Hamilton Co., Ohio.

Ohio Birth Index shows Marilyn L. Crear, maiden name Stallworth, b. in Alabama, married to Washington Crear and having child Anthony Barnard Crear, b. 18 January 1966 in Ohio.

"Marilyn Crear," Obituary in *The Cincinnati Inquirer*, 7 November 2018, p. A23. States she was 86, hence b.c. 1932.

John Crear interview, *ibid.*, outlines the people in this generation, including all the children of Joe Crear and Julia Merchant; see Annex 3.

## Generation #5

### Assertions:

Eliza McCrear and Willie Sanders had a child Willie Raymond Sanders, Jr., black male, b. 27 June 1942 in Birmingham Junction, Alabama, d. 18 November 2001 in Alabama.

Johnny (John) Crear (b. c. 1935-9) married Shirley Anne Mack, b.c. 1937-9, and they had a daughter Yolande Marie Crear, b.c. 1961-2, who married Paul Raymond Calhoun, Jr., b.c. 1964-5, on 2 September 1989 in Selma, Alabama; both still alive in 2021. As of 2021, Johnny Crear had nine grandchildren, and he and his wife Shirley are still alive and living in Selma.

Johnny (John) and Shirley also had the following children: Anthony Maurice Crear, who married Brenda Bibb; Michael Edmund Crear, who married LaRitza Lynn Wright (as of 2021 they had no children); Walter E. Crear, who married Edrice Monika Harmon; and Renette Elizabeth Crear, who married and later divorced Cedric Mahaffey.

Washington Crear and his first wife Mattlean Barnes had the following children: Frances Augusta Crear, who married Hernan Rodolfo Byfield, Jr. of Yorba Linda, California in 1979 in Clark Co., Nevada; Menelda Jean Crear (later Bell) of Los Angeles, California; Conrad Crear (now deceased, who married Janice Marshall and lived in Pensacola, Florida); and Marion Crear (now deceased, a male, of Macon, Georgia).

Washington Crear and his second wife Marilyn L. Stallworth had a child Daryl W. Crear, b.c. 1957. Daryl married Cristi (Christine Hampton) Crear in about 1979, divorced her on 3 March 1981 after two years of marriage, and re-married her on 24 July 1983, all in Hamilton Co., Ohio. Daryl d. 29 May 2018 in Ohio.

Christine was b. 9 March 1957 in Ohio.

Washington Crear and his second wife Marilyn L. Stallworth also had the following children (in addition to Daryl): Frederick H. Crear, b.c. 1958, d. 4 September 1991 in Atlanta, Georgia; and Anthony Bernard Crear, b. 18 January 1966 in Ohio, d. bef. 27 July 1971 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

### Proofs:

Social Security Applications and Claims, states Eliza McCrear and Willie Sanders had a child Willie Raymond Sanders, Jr., black male, b. 27 June 1942 in Birmingham Junction, Alabama, d. 18 November 2001 in Alabama.

Ohio Birth Index shows Anthony Barnard Crear, b. 18 January 1966 in Ohio, with parents Washington and Marilyn L. Crear.

"Anthony Bernard Crear," Obituary in *The Cincinnati Inquirer*, 27 July 1971, p. 23, shows parents Mr. and Mrs. Washington Crear, brothers Daryl and Frederick, and grandmother Mrs. Julia Crear.

Nevada Marriage Index for Clark Co. shows Frances Augusta Crear marrying Hernan Rodolfo Byfield, Jr., on 1 September 1979 and again (oddly) on 23 January 1981.



**Yolande Crear &  
Raymond Calhoun**

US Newspapers Marriage Index shows Johnny Crear, resident in 1989 in Selma, with child Yolande Marie Crear (and her sister Renette E. Crear) with Yolande marrying on 2 September 1989 to Lt. Paul Raymond Calhoun, Jr., USAF, b.c. 1964.

Clustrmaps.com shows Shirley A. Crear, 82, living in Selma, Alabama in 2021, with John Crear at the same address.

*The Selma Times-Journal* of 1 October 1989, p. 14, shows Yolande Marie Crear marrying Paul Raymond Calhoun, Jr. at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Selma, Alabama, and states that the bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Crear of Selma. Sister of the bride Renette E. Crear of Selma was the maid of honor.

Sylviane A. Diouf, *ibid.*, states that Johnny Crear of Selma has nine grandchildren (not named in her work).

*Selma Times-Journal*, 23 January 2005, p. 3, states that Johnny and Shirley Crear are Catholic parishioners, he is an ex-Xavier football player, and she has been an organist at St. Elizabeth's church since 1963.

Ohio Marriage Abstracts show Daryl W. Crear married to Cristi (Christine (Hampton) Crear 20 June 1981 and 24 July 1983, and divorced 3 March 1981 after two years of marriage; all in Hamilton Co., Ohio.

US Public Records Index shows Christine Crear, b. 9 March 1957, residing in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1989.

Ohio Death Records shows Daryl W. Crear, black male, 61, high school graduate, supervisor in waste disposal, b. 24 August 1956 in Ohio, d. 29 May 2018 in Ohio.

Newspapers.com, obituary of Frederick H. Crear, 33, in *The Atlanta Constitution* of 6 September 1991, shows Frederick d. 4 September 1991 in Atlanta, Georgia. The article states that Frederick's parents were Washington Crear and Marilyn L. Stallworth, and that Frederick had the following siblings: brother Daryl Crear and his wife Marilyn of Cincinnati, Ohio; brother Conrad Crear and his wife Janice, who then resided in Pensacola; his brother Marion Crear of Macon, Georgia; his sister Frances Crear Byfield of Yorba Linda, California; and her sister Jean Crear Bell of Los Angeles, California. [NOTE: according to information from John Crear, *ibid.*, some of these "siblings" are actually half-siblings.]



**Yolande Crear  
Calhoun**

Searchpeoplefree.com shows Paul Calhoun, abt. 57, with spouse Yolande M. Calhoun, abt. 59, living together in Stone Mountain, Georgia in 2021.

Searchpeoplefree.com shows Michael E. Crear and Laritz Lynn Crear living in Pensacola, Florida.

John Crear interview, *ibid.*, outlines the people in this generation; see Annex 3.

## Generation #6

### Assertions:

Yolande Marie Crear and Paul Raymond Calhoun, Jr. had a son Paul Raymond Calhoun, III. He married Kate Elizabeth Kidwell; as of 2021 they have no children. Yolande and Paul also had a daughter Kayla Calhoun, unmarried with no children as of 2021.

Frances Augusta Crear and Hernan Rodolfo Byfield, Jr. had a daughter, Erica Byfield, who married Byron Whitmore in 2016.

Daryl W. Crear and Christine Hampton had a son Donnell Eugene Crear b.c. 1983 in Ohio. Donnell was alive as of 2020. He married in 2015 to Akira Ann Sudderth (now Sudderth-Crear); as of 2021 they had no children.

Daryl W. Crear and Christine Hampton also had a son Jeremy A. Crear, who married Candice C. Ragland.

Anthony Maurice Crear and Brenda Bibb had children Brian Crear and Tayla Crear.

Walter E. Crear and Edrice Monika Harmon had children Lorin Janae Crear, Kristin Denise Crear, and Walter Alexander Crear.

Renette Elizabeth Crear and Cedric Mahaffey, while married, had children: Breanna Mahaffey and Joshua Mahaffey.

**Proofs:**

Ohio Birth Index shows Daryl Washington Crear and Christine Hampton (Crear) had a son Donnell Eugene Crear in 1983 in Ohio.

Registry.theknot.com shows Donnell Crear marrying Akira Sudderth in 2015, apparently on or about 19<sup>th</sup> of September.

Registry.theknot.com shows Erica Byfield marrying Byron Whitmore in 2016, apparently on or about 15<sup>th</sup> October.

Bizapedia shows the firm Sunbelt Packaging Co. of Smyrna, Georgia, with principals Donnell Eugene Crear and Akira Ann Sudderth-Crear.

Index to Public Records shows Donnell Eugene Crear b.c. 1983 living in Smyrna, Georgia as of 2020.



**Akira Sudderth-Crear**

Clustermaps.com shows Donnell Eugene Crear, abt. 38, living in Westland, Michigan in 2021.

[www.searchpeoplefree.com](http://www.searchpeoplefree.com) shows Jeremy A. Crear and Candice C. Ragland in Cincinnati, Ohio in 2021.

The website <https://patents.justia.com/inventor/donnell-eugene-crear> and other sites show Donnell Eugene Crear filing for several patents in Additive Manufacturing Systems. (NOTE: it is not certain that this is the same person as in this genealogical line, but it seems very likely given the birth dates.

John Crear interview, *ibid.*, outlines the people in this generation; see Annex 3.

John (Johnny) Crear email to Lew Toulmin of 14 October 2021 provides information on the correct names of five living Crear descendants.

**Donnell Crear**  
in the U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-1999

Detail	Source
Name:	Donnell Crear
Estimated Age:	16
Birth Year:	abt 1982
Yearbook Date:	1998
School:	Princeton High School
School Location:	Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

**Generation # 7**

**Assertions:**

Byron Whitmore and Erica Byfield had children **Jackson Whitmore** (a male) and **Harper Whitmore** (female), both young children as of 2021.

Jeremy Crear and Candice Ragland had a child **Jace Crear** (male, a small child as of 2021).

**Proofs:**

John Crear interview, *ibid.*, outlines the people in this generation; see Annex 3.

John Crear email, *ibid.*

## Annex 1:

Selma Times-Journal, December 20, 1931, p. 11, article on Matilda/Tildy McCrear (Crear)

**WOMAN SURVIVOR OF LAST SLAVE SHIP,  
ERECT AND VIGOROUS AT ADVANCED AGE,  
WALKS FIFTEEN MILES FOR GOV'T HELP**

**Tildy McCrear, 72, Visits Selma To Investigate Stories Of  
Federal Bounty, And Tho' None Obtained, She  
Remains Well Pleased With Life**

BY O. S. WYNN

An old African woman sat in the Court House corridor, patiently waiting her turn to see the Probate Judge.

She had come to ask about some money—some one had told her that the government was taking care of everybody, these days—and she had walked 15 miles from a plantation to Selma, in the heart of the Black Belt, to find out from the supreme authority that she knew just what the tantalizing tales meant.

Her name was Tildy McCrear. Her age, 72, and she bore the mark of an African tribe on her left cheek which even old Father Time himself had been unable wholly to camouflage with wrinkles and sagging lines. Clear and distinct, the crow-foot sprung from the left nostril to descend toward the lip, and to spread both to the middle and upper cheek in the tell-tale tribal mark.

**Proud of Symbol**

Tildy pointed to the symbol with pride. It was the crowning proof of her contention, already firmly established, that she was a pure-blooded African who had come to America aboard the last slave ship to smuggle in a cargo of negroes. She believed it might be proof that Uncle Sam would call for, in granting her the "bonus" which she firmly believed would fall to her share. Two of her grandsons talked of the World War soldiers bonus. Tildy believed that being snatched from her home in Africa, while yet an infant, called for a little reimbursement, but she could not, or would not, make this ancient claim vocal to the Judge.

Her visit was animated also to combat recent newspaper publicity given her old friend, Cudjo Lewis of Plateau, Ala., erroneously termed the last living slave from the Clothilde's famous cargo of blacks, Tildy emphatically denied the statement. Together with Sallie Smith, another African woman, who lives at Bogue Chitto, Dallas County, she has talked over the events of that momentous trip with Uncle Cudjo, who remembered them both as small children among the crowd of captives who were herded aboard the Clothilde. A visit to Plateau, to talk with Uncle Cudjo, is one of the great events in Tildy's life, for he represents to her a link with her childhood.

**Captured When Baby**

Tildy was a baby two years old when the Tarkers tribe to which her mother, Gracie, belonged, was practically annihilated by the savage Dahomeys, who killed the aged and sold the young to slave traders on the west coast of Africa. And when the two master Clothilde sailed, with 109 slaves between her decks, Tildy and her sister Sallie Walker, who was then ten years old, and who died in Dallas County several years ago, were among the terrified little blacks who clung to their mother, Gracie, whimpering softly for hours at a time in the dark hold. Sallie had five tribal marks on her face, because she was older, and the crow-

Cudjo in connection with a benefit performance tendered him by friends at Plateau in all probability had given rise to the rumors of money to be distributed among native Africans, she chuckled softly.

"I don't spec I needs anything more'n I got", she comfortably conceded, as she thanked the Judge with grand courtesy.



Gracie, whimpering softly for hours at a time in the dark hold. Sallie had five tribal marks on her face, because she was older, and the crow-feet showed plainly to the day of her death.

Two of Gracie's sons were left in Africa. She never knew what became of them. Two other children, both girls, older than Sallie and Tildy, also were unaccounted for after they reached America. Gracie saw the bottles of her nephew, and a fellow villager's son carried from the hold to be thrown into the sea when they fell victim to an illness.

#### Early Events Hazy

Tildy cannot recall any of those events of 1859 leading up to the smuggled landing in Alabama of the 109 slaves of that last cargo to reach America, but she remembers the stories from her mother. She has a distinct recollection, however, of attempting to run away from her new master, Memorable White Frost Creagh, a wealthy planter of Flatwoods, to whom Gracie and Guy, her new found mate on the voyage, and her two children fell in the sale. Tildy was hardly more than three, but with her older sister she escaped to the swamp near the negro quarters and was absent several hours before the overseer's dogs scented them out.

She learned English rapidly, but Gracie and Guy never learned more than a few phrases, and Tildy became their interpreter. When they traded at the store, kept by a Mr. McDonald, Tildy stated their needs. Two yards of calico; a plug of tobacco, some snuff, and meat and meal; soon Gracie could master the simple transaction, but she relied greatly on the sign language to the end, to make her meaning clear.

#### Thrifty Farmer

Endurance, and a natural aptitude for agriculture inherited from the Tarkar tribe, made Tildy a thrifty farmer. She reared ten of the fourteen "head of chillun" born to her. She never took a husband, and she laughs lightly if the question of marriage is introduced. Now, hale and hearty at 72, she hoes cotton for long hours on the Atkins plantation at Martin Station where her "baby boy", Thomas McCrear, plows for her.

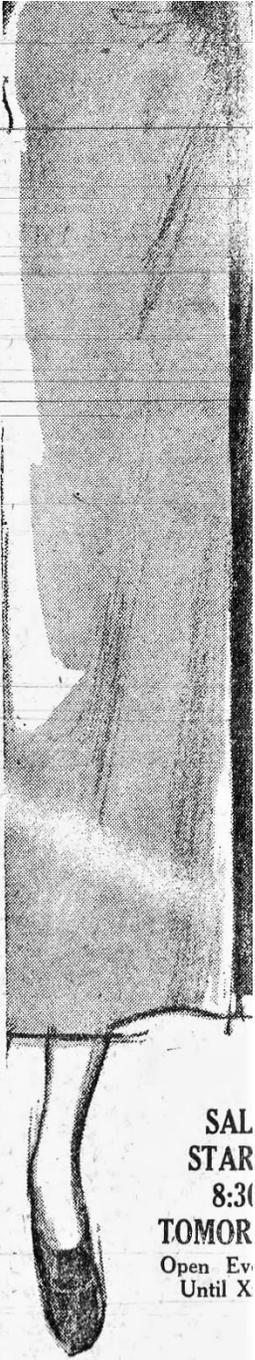
Like many negroes of the Black Belt, Tildy adopted the name of her ante-bellum master, but she put the impress of her own personality upon it. Named Memorable White Frost Creagh, because he was born on the morning of a memorable white frost in Alabama, her master became known as Mem Creagh. The name was elided by Tildy when she called herself Tildy McCrear. The spelling is her own, but she believes that she bears the name of her old master.

She has visited the scene at which she debarked as a baby from the dark and evil smelling Clothilde. Nearby is a creosote plant, and a lighthouse is not far distant. Dabney plantation, which once was the landmark here, is merely a name.

#### Stride Still Vigorous

Erect, at 72, she walks with a vigorous stride. Her kinky hair is almost white and is plaited in small tufts and tied with bright colored string in the style favored by negroes a half century ago, and now rarely seen. Her voice is low and husky, but clear. Age shows most in her eyes, which have the flecked, yellowed whites, and the burned-out looking pupil of the aged negro, yet her chocolate brown skin is firm and smooth.

Tildy has vigor and spirit in spite of her years, and she has a diplomatic streak, as well. When the Probate Judge explained that newspaper publicity recently given Uncle



SAL  
STAR  
8:30  
TOMOR  
Open Ev  
Until X

NO APPROVALS  
EXCHANGES

## Annex 2: Information on Possible Memberships in Lineage Organizations

Lineage and heritage organizations celebrate the family heritage of their members, and encourage research into genealogy and history. A fairly comprehensive list of such organizations is available at [http://www.hereditary.us/about\\_hsc.htm](http://www.hereditary.us/about_hsc.htm). There are several such organizations which persons discussed in this report or their descendants may qualify for, as follows:

- Clotilda Descendants Association: This society is open to men, women and children who descend from the approximately 110 persons enslaved and held captive on the schooner *Clotilda*, the last illegal slave ship to reach US shores, which departed the Bight of Benin in West Africa, and arrived in Mobile Bay, Alabama in 1860. See: <https://theclotildastory.com/>.



- Sons and Daughters of the United States Middle Passage: This society is open to men and women 18 or older whose African-American ancestors were enslaved or held in indentured servitude in colonial and ante-bellum years, up through December 1865. See: <https://sdusmp.org/join/>.
- Order of the First World War: This society is open to descendants of men or women who served in the military in World War I, or who served in a support capacity such as the Red Cross. For example, living descendants of Private Thomas Crear of Martin Station, AL, who was born in 1896 and died in 1957, and who served in the US Army in 1918 and 1919, would qualify. See: <https://www.orderfirstworldwar.com/>.



- Sons and Daughters of World War II Veterans: This society is open to descendants of persons who served in WW II through 31 December 1946. Some persons in the descents discussed in this report may qualify. For example, living descendants of Joe Crear, b. 20 December 1921, d. 22 July 1992, who served in the US Army in WW II, would qualify. See: <https://www.pacificwarmuseum.org/join-give/society-sons-daughters>.



### **Annex 3: Interview with John (Johnny) Crear**

This document summarizes the phone interview conducted 12 October 2021 between Lew Toulmin and John Crear of Selma, Alabama, with corrections and additions from an email of 16 October 2021. John Crear is deemed to be a reliable primary source, since he was reporting on his immediate family, has an excellent memory, and has done extensive family research. Points covered were as follows (points 1-9 were comments on the draft report submitted to him; the later points reflect a large family tree that was hand drawn during the phone conversation, reflecting each generation):

1. Thomas McCrear, son of Matilda, apparently sometimes went by McCrear, McCreary, and sometimes Crear.
2. Thomas McCrear was sometimes known as “Uncle Punch.”
3. Sylvester McCrear was b. c. 1880.
4. Biographers state that Matilda McCrear “died in poverty.” Yet John Crear’s father Joe Crear did well in life, by operating a grocery store. John wonders where the money to buy this grocery store came from, and speculates that it came from the asset distribution of the estate of Jacob Shuler, Joe’s father, who may have left money to Joe. John says that “Eva,” still alive and in her 90s, asserts this is the case.
5. Darryl Crear and Christine Hampton were married on 5 August 1998 in Cincinnati, Ohio.
6. John Crear’s wife is not Shirley Anderson. Her correct maiden name is Shirley Anne Mack.
7. The daughter of John Crear is not Yolanda, she is Yolande.
8. John Crear’s father was always known as Joe Crear, not Joseph Crear.
9. John Crear was always known as Johnny Crear during his adult life. Then he found his birth certificate, which showed “Johnnie” as his first name. He then got that changed legally to Johnny Crear, to match his actual usage.
10. John Crear thinks that Matilda and Gracie were likely from Benin, not Nigeria.
11. John Crear does not know and does not have an opinion as to the name of the husband in Africa of Gracie, the progenitor of the line.
12. John Crear does not know and does not have an opinion as to the last name that Gracie preferred. He notes that in the 1870 Census her name is Creagh.
13. Matilda McCrear had seven surviving children by Jacob Shuler. Jacob Shuler was not named John Jacob Shuler. John Crear has found a birth or baptism record listed in Werttemberg, Germany for Jacob Shuler, b. 18 February 1848, with father Jacob Shuler and mother Maria Eva Dider. [See the proofs in the main section.] The baptism of son Jacob Shuler was done in a Lutheran church, therefore assertions that son Jacob was Jewish seem unfounded. John Crear established that there was no other Jacob Shuler in that church’s baptismal book for 1848.
14. The seven children that Matilda had by Jacob Shuler were Frederick; Matilda (who apparently died early, by 1900-1910, since she does not appear in any later records); Sylvester, b. c. 1880; Emma; Johnnie; Joe (possibly formally known as Joseph; the father of respondent John/Johnny Crear); and Thomas.
15. The three children that Matilda had prior to her relationship with Jacob Shuler are more confusing and less certain. John Crear’s best estimate, based on his research including death

certificates, is that: Eliza Crear was b.c. 1872 and was the child of Matilda McCrear and Bill Mose; that Susie Crear was b.c. 1879 as the child of Matilda McCrear and Willie Meyer; and that Sally Crear was b.c. 1876 as the child of Matilda McCrear and an unknown man, [possibly Willie Meyer, Bill Mose, or another party?].

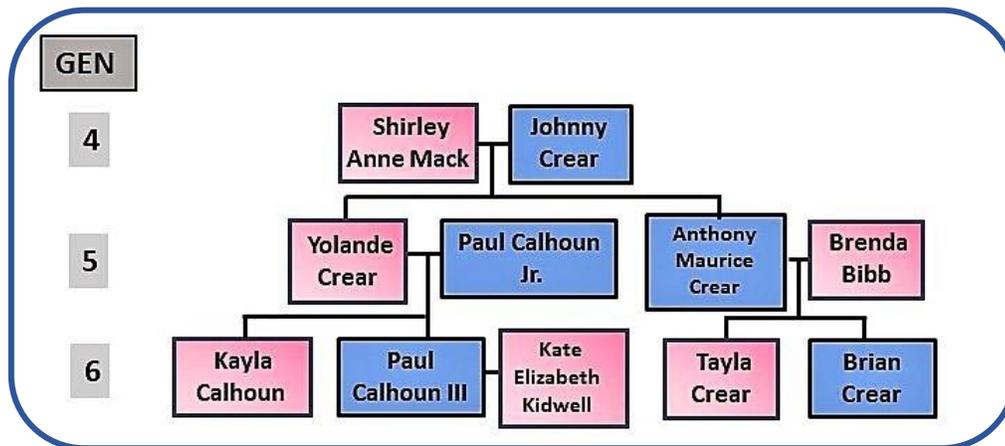
16. Bill Mose may have had a liaison with Matilda McCrear.
17. Joe (Joseph) McCrear (or Crear) and Julia Merchant had the following children: Thomas Crear; Emma Crear; Edward Crear; Clara Crear; Sadie Crear; Johnny (John) Crear; Washington (“Wash”) Crear; Ernest Crear; Allen Crear; and Mary Crear.
18. Washington Crear married first to Mattlean Barnes on 31 March 1947, divorced, and then married second in 1955 to Marilyn Stallworth.
19. Johnny (John) Crear and Shirley Anne Mack married and had children: Yolande Crear who married Paul Calhoun, Jr.; Anthony Maurice Crear; Michael Edmund Crear; Walter E. Crear; and Renette Elizabeth Crear.
20. Washington Crear and Mattlean Barnes had four children before the couple divorced: Frances Crear (a female), who married Hernan Byfield, Menelda Jean Crear; Conrad Crear (now deceased) who married Janice Marshall; Marion Crear (male, now deceased).
21. Washington Crear and Marilyn Stallworth had the following children: Darryl Crear; Anthony Crear; Frederick Crear.
22. Yolande Crear and Paul Calhoun, Jr. had the following two children: Kayla Calhoun (unmarried and no children as of 2021); and Paul Calhoun III, who married Kate Elizabeth Kidwell; they have no children as of 2021).
23. Frances Crear and Hernan Byfield had Erica Byfield, who married Byron Whitmore. Erica and Byron had Jackson Whitmore (a male) and Harper Whitmore (a female); both are young children as of 2021.
24. Darryl Crear and Christine Hampton had the following children: Donnell E. Crear, who married Akira Sudderth, and had no children as of 2021; and Jeremy Crear, who married Candice Ragland. Jeremy and Candice had Jace Crear (a small male child as of 2021).
25. Anthony Maurice Crear married Brenda Bibb and had Brian Crear and Tayla Crear (a female).
26. Michael Edmund Crear married LaRitza Wright and had no children as of 2021.
27. Walter E. Crear married Edrice Monika Harmon and had Lorin Janae Crear; Kristin Denise Crear; and Walter Alexander Crear.
28. Renette Elizabeth Crear married and later divorced Cedric Mahaffey. While married they had Breanna Renae Mahaffey and Joshua Rashad Mahaffey.

## Annex 4: Additional Genealogical Charts

Note that not all persons mentioned in the main text of this report are shown in the report's charts; for example, some spouses and children of persons mentioned in the assertions and proofs are not on the charts, for reasons of space.

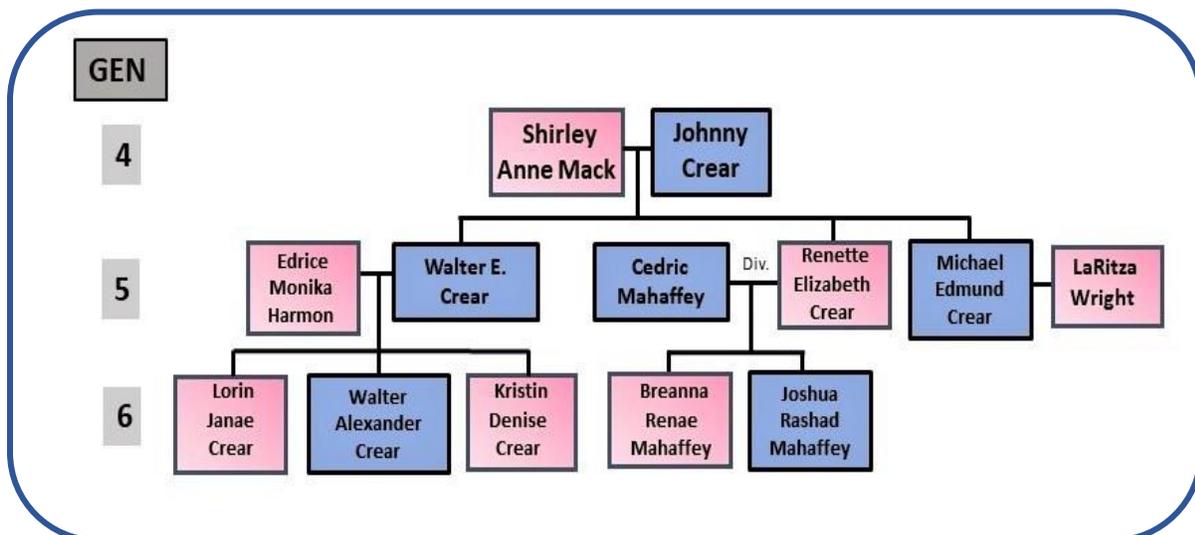
The first chart below presents the first half of the descendants of Johnny and Shirley Crear.

### Descendants of Johnny Crear (Part 1)

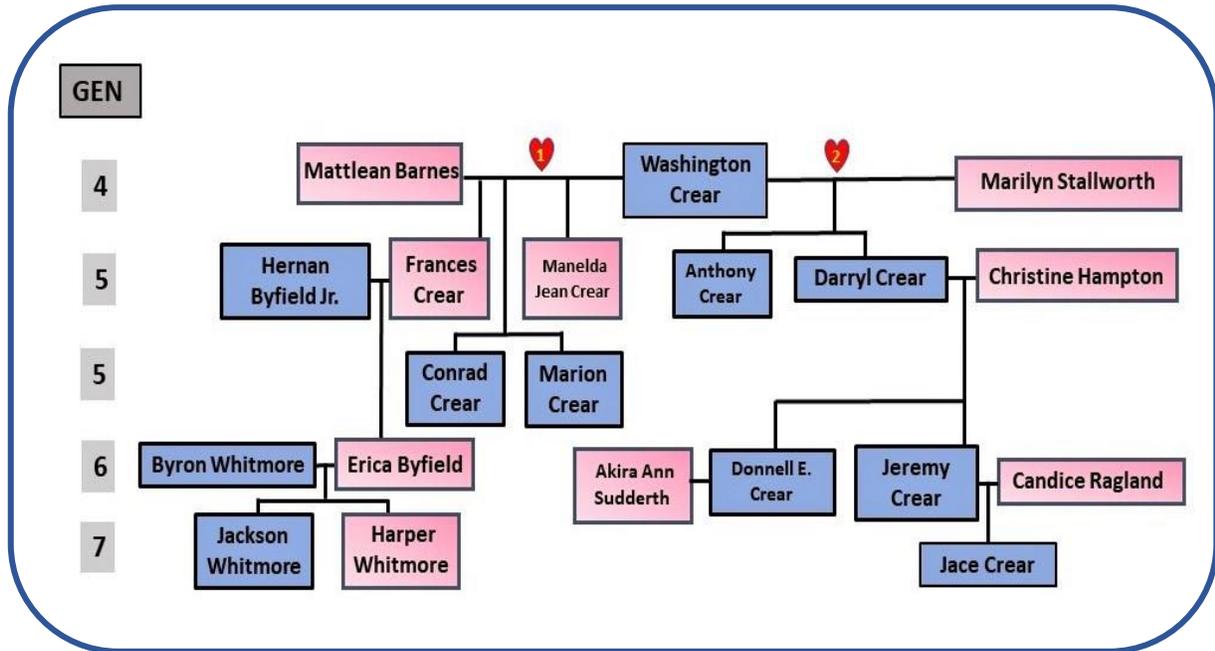


The second chart below presents the second half of the descendants of Johnny and Shirley Crear. The "Div." between Cedric Mahaffey and Renette Crear means that they were married and produced two children, but are now divorced.

### Descendants of Johnny Crear (Part 2)



## Descendants of Washington Crear



## **Annex 5: Information on the Author**

Llewellyn “Lew” Toulmin holds a PhD in public administration and economics from American University in Washington, DC, an MPA from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University, and a BA in sociology, anthropology and political science from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. He worked for over 40 years in 30 developing countries and the US in public administration reform, telecommunications policy, disaster response and management analysis. For three of those years he served as a senior policy advisor in e-government in the Prime Minister’s Office of the Republic of Vanuatu, sponsored by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs.

Lew has over twenty years of experience in genealogy, is a member of over 40 genealogical and lineage societies, and was the President of the Hereditary Order of the Families of the Presidents and First Ladies of America, and Governor-General of the Hereditary Order of the Descendants of the Loyalists and Patriots of the American Revolution. He has published in various professional and academic journals in the areas of history, genealogy, exploration, emergency management and public administration, and is the author of the non-fiction book *The Most Traveled Man on Earth*. He is the author of the first genealogical study of the Henson clan, focused on Reverend Josiah Henson, the heroic inspiration for *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, and on explorer Matthew Alexander Henson, co-discoverer of the North Pole and the first black member of The Explorers Club. This resulted in a 134-page report on the Henson family’s genealogy – available on Academia.edu.

Lew is a Fellow of The Explorers Club and carried the Flag of the Club on ten expeditions in archaeology and anthropology to Vanuatu, England, Alabama, Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina, and led or participated in other anthropological and archaeological expeditions to Thailand, Malaysia, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Honduras and various US states. Most of his expeditions have involved extensive genealogical and historical research. He is the research director of the private Missing Aircraft Search Team, a Knight of the Sovereign and Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (the modern Knights Templar), a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. He volunteers at the University of South Alabama Archaeology Lab and at the Montgomery Parks Archaeology Division.

Lew’s website is [www.themosttraveled.com](http://www.themosttraveled.com), and the page on that site “Adventures in Genealogy” provides popular and academic articles he has written about that topic. His “Travel Tales” columns regularly appear in Montgomery Community Media (the county on-line newspaper) at: <https://www.mymcmedia.org/category/access-voices/local-blogs/travel-tales/>.

Corrections to or comments on this report are welcome and can be submitted to [LewToulmin@aol.com](mailto:LewToulmin@aol.com).

**#end of report#**