

Final Report for Explorers Club Flag #50 Expedition

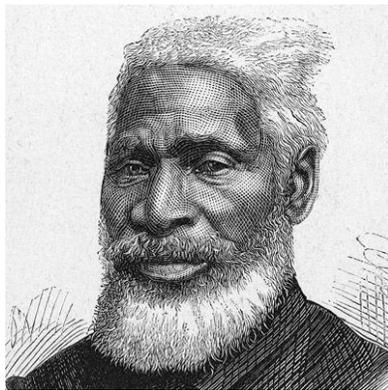
# Documenting the Real Hero of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*: Reverend Josiah Henson

## Genealogy, History and Archaeology of the Henson Clan

by

Lew Toulmin, PhD, FRGS, FN '04

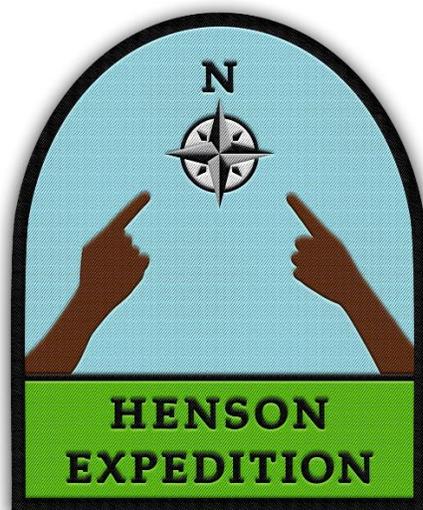
Silver Spring, Montgomery County, Maryland; May 2021



Reverend Josiah Henson



Explorer Matthew Alexander Henson





Display on the rear of the completed Reverend Josiah Henson Museum, with Explorers Club Flag #50, an image of Josiah Henson, the Henson Expedition logo, and the author.

## Introduction

This report has the following sections:

- Background
- Relevant Previous Work
- Goals of the Expedition
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Appendices:

1. Maps of the Museum Area
2. Images of the New Henson Museum
3. Previous Excavation and Historical Images
4. Images on Stamps of Josiah and Matthew Henson
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9. First-Ever Genealogical Research Report on the Henson Clan.

## Background

Josiah Henson was born into slavery in about 1796 in Charles County, Maryland. He was sold at age nine in 1805 to a plantation in Montgomery County, Maryland. At first he served obediently as a slave to his master, Isaac Riley, and thus eventually became a trusted member of the household. This situation continued until Riley sent Henson and his relatives and friends “down the river” to Kentucky. Henson lived in Kentucky for three years, was appalled at conditions there and elsewhere in the South, which were even worse than he had experienced in Maryland. Henson began preparations to try to buy his freedom. His enslaver Riley at first agreed to this, but then tricked Henson and reneged on the promise.

In 1830, Josiah Henson and his wife and four children escaped from Kentucky, walked 600 miles through dangerous country and subject to recapture, with Henson carrying two of his very young children on his back the whole way, and reached Canada. (A full-family escape like this was extremely rare.) Later he served on the Underground Railroad as a conductor, bringing 118 runaway slaves to freedom. In 1849 he wrote his detailed autobiography, which described life on the Montgomery County plantation and the terrible realities of slavery in Maryland and Kentucky. This non-fiction work was a major source for Harriet Beecher Stowe in 1852, in writing her classic *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. This best-selling novel (the most popular book in America at the time, after the Bible) was credited by President Abraham Lincoln with encouraging the Abolitionist movement and with helping to trigger the Civil War and end slavery. When pro-slavery forces protested that the treatment of enslaved persons shown in her novel were too harsh, she specifically cited Henson’s non-fiction book as an important factual source of her material, in her 1853 publication *The Key to Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.

In Ontario, Canada, Henson founded a town called Dawn for runaway slaves. Henson learned to read as an adult, became a Methodist minister, served as an officer in the Canadian Army militia in the 1837

Canadian Rebellion, captured a rebel ship, traveled to England to exhibit his lumbermill products at the Great Exhibition of 1851 (where he was the only black exhibitor) and met three times with Queen Victoria.

A museum dedicated to Henson was built in Ontario after his death in 1883. The Canadian government has designated Josiah Henson as a “Canadian of National Historic Significance” and issued a stamp with his image on it, to honor him. (See an image of this in the Appendices.) He was the first black person to be so honored in Canada.

The Henson plantation site in Montgomery County, Maryland is the only remaining place in the United States where a standing structure directly related to Josiah Henson’s life exists and can be visited by the public. The Riley/Henson house and its attached log kitchen is on the National Register of Historic Places, due to its irreplaceable cultural, material and aesthetic value. Thus publicizing it is important to cultural resource management at a national level.

Montgomery County Parks has undertaken extensive excavations inside the historic kitchen/slave hut-cabin, and has found the floor level (about three feet below present ground level) and related artifacts that can be dated to the time of Josiah Henson’s occupation. However, it appears that this structure served as a kitchen in his time, and although he was forced to sleep on its floor sometimes, the cluster of slave cabins behind the main house, where Henson actually lived most of the time, has yet to be found, despite some trenching and excavations. This cluster was described in Henson’s autobiography, but unfortunately he did not pinpoint the exact location. Also, it is clear that Henson’s mother was buried somewhere in this vicinity, but this and other slave graves have yet to be found. Therefore, much excavation work still needs to be done to complete the project.

Matthew Alexander Henson, the great Arctic explorer, co-discoverer of the North Pole, and member of The Explorers Club, has been rumored to be related to Reverend Josiah Henson. However, no convincing, well-researched proof has been found to date linking the two men genealogically. Various websites and genealogical on-line discussion boards assert that Josiah was the great-grand uncle of Matthew, but no proofs are provided. Cassandra Michaud, archaeological director of the project to build the new Henson Museum, states that one of the most common questions she receives is whether the two men are related. (Matthew Henson is rather well known in Montgomery County, and a walking/biking trail and linear park in the County is named after him.) Furthermore, no intensive genealogical work has ever been done to document the Henson clan as a whole.

## Relevant Previous Work

Previous major relevant work in this area includes the following in chronological order, including items done or driven by the Henson Museum archaeologist, Cassandra Michaud, RPA, and the biography of Josiah Henson by written by historian Jamie F. Kuhns of Montgomery County Parks:

- Reverend Josiah Henson, *The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave, Now an Inhabitant of Canada, as Narrated by Himself* (Boston: A.D. Phelps, 1849).
- Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (Cleveland: Jewett and Co., 1852).
- Harriet Beecher Stowe, *A Key to Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (Boston: Jewett and Co., 1853).
- Reverend Josiah Henson, *Truth Stranger Than Fiction: Father Henson’s Story of His Own Life* (Boston: John P. Jewett & Company, 1858).

- Reverend Josiah Henson, *Uncle Tom's Story of His Life: An Autobiography of the Rev. Josiah Henson* (London: Christian Age Office, 1876) (an updated and rewritten version of the 1849 and 1858 books, with a preface by Harriet Beecher Stowe, reprint from 2019).
- Reverend Josiah Henson, *An Autobiography of the Rev. Josiah Henson ("Uncle Tom")*, (London, Ontario: Schuyler, Smith, 1881; reprint by Dover, 2003).
- Bradley Robinson with Matthew Alexander Henson, *Dark Companion* (USA: McBride, 1947).
- Peter Meyler, *Broken Shackles* (Toronto: Natural Heritage, 2001).
- S. Allen Counter, *North Pole Legacy* (Montpelier, VT: Invisible Cities, 2001).
- Maryann Weidt, *Matthew Henson* (Minneapolis: Hampton-Brown, 2002).
- "Slavery's Local Legacy: Parks and Planning Acquires...Josiah Henson Home..." February 21, 2006, at: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2006/feb/21/slaverys-local-legacy/>
- Montgomery County Department of Parks, NCPPC, *Historic Structure Report for the Riley Farm/Josiah Henson Site* (Silver Spring, MD: Montgomery County Government, 2009).
- Montgomery County Department of Parks, NCPPC, *Josiah Henson Special Park Master Plan* (Silver Spring, MD: Montgomery County Government, December 2, 2010).
- Cassandra Michaud, "The Dig: Josiah Henson Archaeological Park," presentation to Archaeology in the Community, November 2014, at: <http://www.archaeologyincommunity.com/the-dig-josiah-henson-archaeological-park/>
- "Time Team America: The Search for Josiah Henson," March 2015, at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OSR2noiPv8>
- "Henson Family of the District of Columbia," 2015, at: <https://www.ancestry.com/boards/surnames.henson/56.68.70.119.305.979.1/mb.ashx>
- Claudia Herrera Hudson, "Matthew Henson," July 12, 2015, at: [https://myhero.com/Matthew\\_Henson](https://myhero.com/Matthew_Henson)
- Cassandra Michaud, "Revisiting Josiah Henson's Role in Maryland History," Society for Historical Archaeology national conference, January 2016, Washington, DC.
- "Josiah Henson Leadership Conference: Heritage and History," March 2016, at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FUZumbJdGs>
- Jamie F. Kuhns, *Sharp Flashes of Lightning Come from Black Clouds* (Silver Spring, MD: M-NCPPC, 2018).
- Jared A. Brock, *The Road to Dawn* (New York: Hachette, 2019)
- Cassandra Michaud, "Making Space for Archaeology: Digital Public Interpretation at the Josiah Henson Site and Museum," April 2019, Social Justice Day in Art History and Archaeology.
- Edna Troiano, *Uncle Tom's Journey from Maryland to Canada* (Charleston: History Press, 2019).
- Cassandra Michaud, "The Archaeology of Josiah Henson Park," February 2021, Preservation Rockville, on-line presentation.

## Goals of the Expedition

The Henson family is a fascinating and very important family in US and Canadian history. The family includes Reverend Josiah Henson, a man born enslaved who escaped with his family to Canada, wrote an autobiography which helped to spark the Civil War and end slavery; the first man to and co-discoverer of the North Pole, Matthew Alexander Henson; a modern distinguished attorney, James E. Henson, Sr.; and a well-known actress, Taraji P. Henson, among others.

This expedition was planned in the summer, fall and winter of 2019 and the Flag was authorized in September of 2020. The goals of the expedition were to:

1. Support the creation and content for the new Josiah Henson Museum in the Park
2. Undertake archaeological excavations at the Josiah Henson Park in Montgomery County, Maryland, to identify and excavate the cabin (or cabins) where Josiah Henson lived in slavery, which he had described in his four autobiographies
3. Undertake the first-ever genealogical research effort focused on the Henson clan.

## **Accomplishments of the Expedition**

The accomplishments of the effort were as follows:

Creation and content for the Museum. In the summer of 2020 it was anticipated that the ribbon cutting and formal opening of the Josiah Henson Museum would be held in December 2020, and the ribbon cutting date was set for December 5, 2020. Unfortunately, the pandemic first resulted in planning of both events as “virtual,” and then the County took the decision to postpone both events. In late April 2021 a very limited “soft” opening was allowed, in which a few people could schedule tours of the Museum, following rigid anti-Covid protocols. But the Museum is still not really open to the public in the usual way, as of May 2021. Despite these limitations, the Expedition was able to support the new Museum in the following ways:

1. Helped organize a virtual talk about Josiah Henson and the new Museum for Montgomery County Parks lead archaeologist Cassandra Michaud, which was given at the DigVentures DigNation Archaeology Weekend, based in the UK and attended virtually by hundreds of participants from all over the world.
2. Donated funds to the Archeology Society of Maryland, earmarked to pay for archaeological excavations at the Henson Museum site in the future.
3. Volunteered to serve on the Museum advisory board or “friends of the Museum” board.
4. Developed new and surprising historical material on Reverend Josiah Henson. For example, the Expedition was able to show that one of the two toddlers that Henson carried on his back for 600 miles during his grueling 1830 escape to freedom from Kentucky to Canada was a girl. All previous historians and biographers had asserted that all four children involved in the Henson family escape were boys.
5. Provided a summary handout on the genealogy of the Henson clan, to be provided to Museum visitors upon request.
6. Volunteered to provide future lectures and brown bag lunches on the Henson history and genealogy at the Museum.
7. Provided copies gratis to the Museum of the substantial (134-page) Henson genealogical report (a copy of which is provided in the Appendices of this final expedition report).
8. Offered to provide genealogical and historical research assistance to Henson clan members.
9. Provided copies of the genealogical/historical report to various relevant repositories, libraries and Henson descendants, listed below.
10. Offered a conceptual plan for drawing Henson descendants closer to the Museum by involving them in a DNA/Genealogy project.

11. Developed contact information for various certain and possible Henson descendants, for use in future Museum functions and Henson family reunions.
12. Obtained additional Henson genealogical information after the report was published, for possible use in future activities.

Excavations: the effort was planned in the summer, fall and winter of 2019, and a Flag applied for on 29 July 2020. The Flag was authorized in September 2020 and Flag #50 was delivered to me on 13 September 2020. At the point the application was submitted and the Flag was authorized, it was anticipated that by December the Covid-19 pandemic would be under control, or at least would be under control by the spring of 2021, so that excavations could get underway. Unfortunately, Covid-19 spiked in the fall of 2020 and winter of 2020-21, and new Montgomery County government rules did not allow volunteers to undertake archaeological (or any other) field or even lab efforts during the winter of 2020-21 and the spring of 2021. (And as of this writing, in May 2021, these rules have not been relaxed and it appears that they will not be relaxed for months.) Therefore the planned archaeological excavations and lab efforts were not undertaken. It is anticipated that excavations will occur in the future, after the pandemic is over. Since the archaeological efforts were not undertaken, the name of the expedition was changed from “Excavating” to “Documenting the Real Hero of Uncle Tom’s Cabin: Reverend Josiah Henson,” with the short title being “The Henson Expedition.”

Genealogical research. The Expedition was successful in undertaking this task, which involved over 500 hours of research and writing. This was feasible and successful, despite Covid-related closures of most courthouses, museums, libraries and Family Research Centers. The result was the 134-page, first-ever documentation on the genealogy of the Henson clan, which is contained in one of the Appendices to this expedition report, and was also made available to the public and widely disseminated in February and March 2021, as a separate document.

A summary of the highlights of the Expedition genealogical and historical findings is as follows:

- Presenting and proving a relationship from a modern distinguished attorney and “Living Legend of Alexandria, Virginia,” James E. Henson, Sr., back to explorer Matthew Alexander Henson, the co-discoverer of the North Pole. This relation is: James is the half-grandnephew of Matthew.
- Identifying the previously unknown first wife (Mary Claire (later Washington)) of Matthew’s father, Lemuel Henson, and identifying the likely correct (and previously unidentified) family for Matthew when he was a child in the key 1870 US Census for Nanjemoy, Charles County, Maryland.
- Presenting and partially proving a relationship from a famous modern actress, Taraji P. Henson, back to Matthew Alexander Henson; namely: Taraji may well be the great-great-grand niece of Matthew.
- Documenting two descents from siblings of Matthew Alexander Henson to the near present in the US, and correcting an apparent error in one of these previously asserted descent lines.
- Discovering a mysterious possible (but not proven) and previously unknown child and descent in the US from Matthew Alexander Henson and his first wife Eva Flint – a marriage thought to be childless.

- Proposing a new timeline for the confusing early years of Matthew Henson, identifying a likely new birth date for him, and proposing that he ran away to sea later than asserted in some biographies.
- Identifying a possible (but unproven) link from Matthew Alexander Henson up to Reverend Josiah Henson via the previously unknown Paul Henson, asserted brother of Rev. Josiah Henson and asserted father of Lemuel Henson (who was the proven father of Matthew Alexander Henson).
- Analyzing the destination in the South to which Reverend Josiah Henson's father was tragically "sold down the river," and showing that it is unlikely that he was actually sent to Alabama, as stated by Rev. Henson in his autobiographies, and as asserted by his biographers.
- Providing fuller genealogical documentation for the parents, siblings, wives and children of Reverend Henson, and estimating his birth year as between 1796 and 1799.
- Showing that Nancy "Burford" was not the second wife of Rev. Josiah Henson, as asserted in some on-line family trees. The Burfords are shown to be an entirely separate, white, family.
- Developing a reasonable scenario for the mysterious appearance of three Tituses in Rev. Henson's household in Dawn, Ontario in 1871. This is that they are Lucinda Gamble Titus, daughter of Nancy (wife of Rev. Henson) who had married James Titus, and Lucinda's two children by James Titus.
- Showing that: of the four children on the famous 1830 escape, at least one carried on Henson's back was a female toddler, likely Celia, contrary to previous assertions that all children were male; the escape lasted exactly 41 days; and the family achieved an amazing average mileage of 14.6 to 16.2 miles per day, or more than the 8-13 miles per day of US Army troops marching in the Civil War!
- Providing seven detailed, new, expanded or better documented descents from Reverend Henson, via his son Tom, son Josiah, son Isaac, daughter Elizabeth (two descents), and his probable brother James down to the present or near-present.
- Presenting numerous family tree charts from the report or from family members.
- Supplying hundreds of detailed proof items to support the genealogical assertions made.
- Estimating that the descendants of Josiah Henson's parents alive today number in the thousands.

The genealogical report on the Henson clan, titled "Genealogical Descents from Reverend Josiah Henson and Explorer Matthew Alexander Henson," was distributed to various relatives, researchers and repositories, to allow for public access, including the following:

Organizations:

- The New England Historic Genealogical Society library (the most prestigious genealogical research society)
- LDS FamilySearch Research Library, Salt Lake City, Utah (the largest genealogical repository in the US and likely the world)
- Allen County, Indiana (in Fort Wayne) Public Library, Genealogy Division (one of the largest genealogical libraries)
- Daviess County, Kentucky Public Library (the county from which Josiah Henson escaped slavery)
- Academia.edu (a major academic on-line database)

- The Internet Archive (a major Internet repository)
- The Library of the Maryland Center for History and Culture
- The Explorers Club library
- Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site, Dawn, Ontario Heritage Trust
- Charles County Historical Society (county of the birthplace of Josiah and Matthew Henson)
- Montgomery County History (the county historical society)
- Underground Railroad Museum Library/Belmont Mansion, Philadelphia
- The Enoch Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland, Digital Maryland Project
- Etc.

#### Researchers and Others:

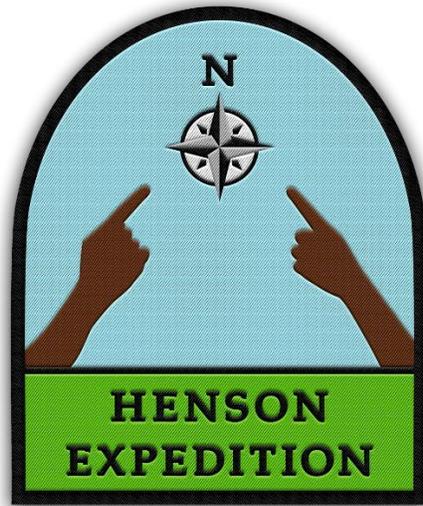
- Jamie Kuhns, the historian for the Montgomery County, Maryland Parks and Josiah Henson Museum, and biographer of Josiah Henson
- Cassandra Michaud, the lead archaeologist for the Montgomery County, Maryland Parks and Josiah Henson Museum
- Imani Haynes, education program manager for the Josiah Henson Museum, Montgomery County, Maryland
- Heather Bouslog, archaeologist, Montgomery County, Maryland Parks
- Jared A. Brock, Henson biographer and researcher
- Edna Troiano, Josiah Henson researcher and author
- Julia King, Josiah Henson researcher and author
- J.R. Harris, Chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness Committee of The Explorers Club
- Andrew Fulmer, PhD, of The Explorers Club
- Paul Bollwerk, Archeology Society of Maryland

#### Relatives:

- Robert Dorsey, Henson family descendant
- Barbara Carter, Josiah Henson descendant
- Gayle Carter Salisbury, Josiah Henson descendant
- Sallie Kersey, Josiah Henson descendant
- Cathy Lambkin, Josiah Henson descendant
- Rick Lambkin, Josiah Henson descendant, and wife Jenn Lambkin
- Roslin Anthony, possible Josiah Henson descendant
- Mari Johnson, possible Josiah Henson descendant
- Charita Gray, possible Henson descendant
- Lola C. Toney, possible Henson descendant
- Marla C. Majett, possible Henson descendant
- Susan Brindza, sister-in-law of a Canadian Henson descendant
- Debbie Brooks, possible Henson descendant
- Janice Crawford, possible Henson descendant
- Saundra Brown, possible Henson descendant
- Allison Willis, possible Henson descendant
- Jeane Guy, possible Henson relative

- James Henson of Alexandria (partial draft shared in 2020).

The logo of the Expedition, presented on the front cover of this report and below, captures the essence of the Expedition. It shows the arms and hands of Rev. Josiah Henson and explorer Matthew Alexander Henson, both pointing to the north star, the symbol and guide to freedom for Rev. Henson, and the goal of Matthew Henson's North Pole discovery efforts.



## Members of the Effort

The only Explorers Club member in the effort was me, Llewellyn "Lew" Toulmin, PhD, FRGS, FN '04.

Other contributors included:

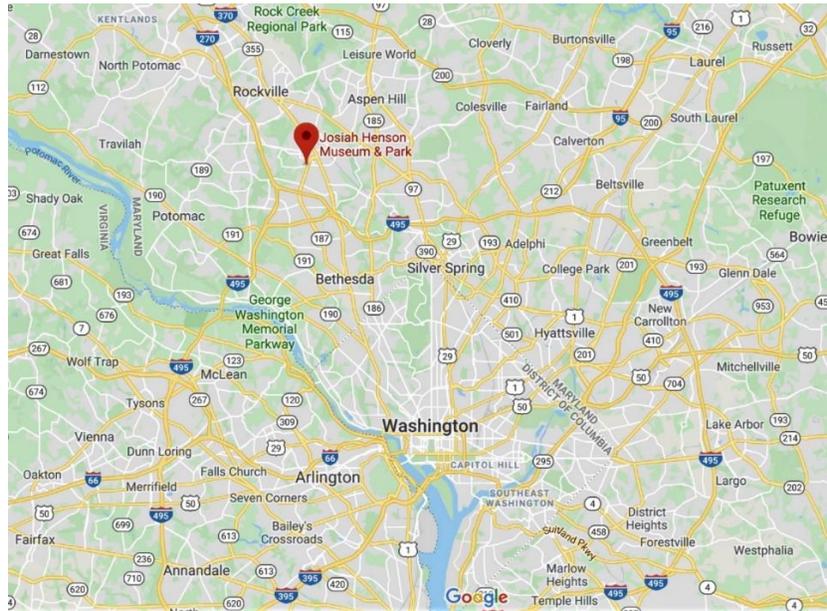
- Cassandra Michaud, RPA, Chief Archaeologist, Montgomery County Parks, who reviewed the report and attempted to plan excavations and the Museum opening (and was key in getting the Museum conceived and built).
- Jamie Kuhns, Historian, Montgomery County Parks, who reviewed the report, provided numerous comments, and provided documents and her excellent book on Henson (and was also key in the creation of the Museum).
- Gayle Carter Salisbury, a Josiah Henson descendant, who provided printed and handwritten Henson family trees and other materials.

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The report Appendices are presented below.

# Appendix 1

## Maps of the Museum Area



Josiah Henson site in Montgomery County, Maryland, north of Washington, DC.



A Google Earth view of the Josiah Henson park location, once a rural 3500-acre farm, now a suburban neighborhood

## Appendix 2

### Images of the New Henson Museum

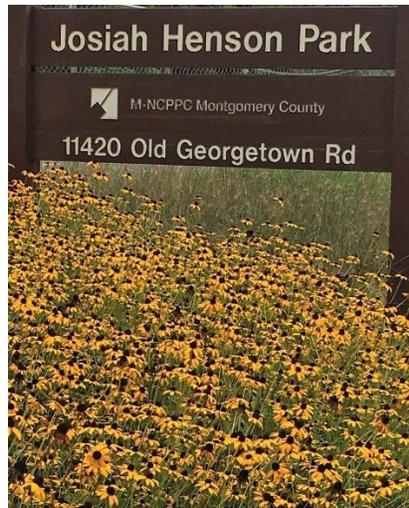
(Note on photo credits: LT = Low Toulmin; MCP = Montgomery County Parks)



View of the slave-owner Riley house (left) and the kitchen (right), formerly a hut/cabin where enslaved persons worked, cooked and sometimes slept (MCP)



Henson slave cabin (left) before Museum construction (MCP)



Entrance sign to the Henson Park (LT)



Lew Toulmin and Flag 50 at the Henson Park and new Museum (LT)



The new Henson Museum under construction, fall 2020, with Flag #50 (LT)



Flag 50 and Henson slave kitchen/cabin, right, during Museum construction. The polo shirt logo is of a Montgomery County Parks volunteer (in this case in archaeological lab work). (LT)



Henson slave cabin during Museum construction (LT)





House interior during Museum construction (MCP)



The new Museum after construction was finished (Jan. 2021; LT)



The Riley House (left) and Henson kitchen/slave quarters (right), with the new Henson Museum in the distance in the far left, after construction (Jan. 2021, LT)

# PRESERVING THE RILEY-BOLTEN HOUSE

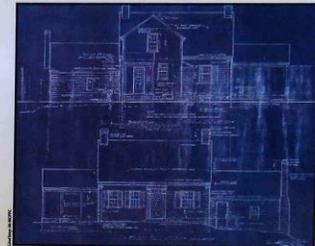
*"When you came out of the kitchen, or the log cabin, then you went up some steps on to a porch . . . into the sitting room."*  
 —FRANCES MACE HANSBROUGH, 2007



**W**HEN DEVELOPER MORTON LUCHS purchased land to build the surrounding Luxmanor subdivision in the early 1930s, he intentionally let the Riley House stand. In the midst of new brick homes on half-acre lots, the 1800s farm house became a focal point. William and Levina Bolten bought the property and made renovations to update the house in the Colonial Revival style. In 2011, Montgomery Parks nominated the Riley-Bolten House to the National Register of Historic Places.

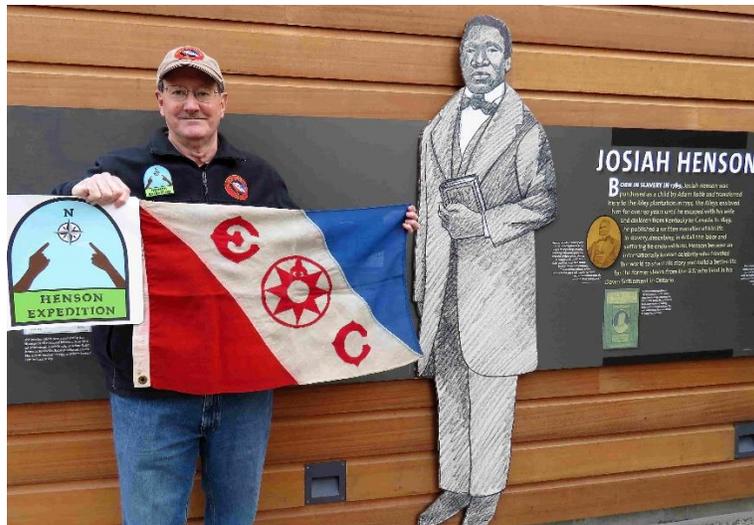


In 1919, the property included "a quaint home, with mossy shingles, log kitchen, rough, stout chimneys and a very old-fashioned air. It sits far back from the west side of the road."



The appearance of the house today is largely due to Lorenzo Winslow. Despite his credentials as President Franklin Roosevelt's White House architect, Winslow took on smaller residential projects like this one, modernizing and adding to the historic house.

Display in front of the Riley house (LT)

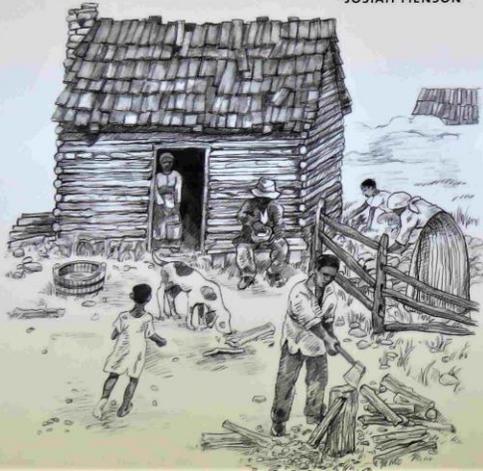


Display on the rear of the completed Museum, with Flag 50, an image of Josiah Henson, the Henson Expedition logo, and the author (LT)

## LIFE IN THE SLAVE QUARTERS

*"We lodged in log huts, and on the bare ground.... Our beds were collections of straw and old rags, thrown down in the corners and boxed in with boards; a single blanket the only covering."*

—JOSIAH HENSON



**B**ASED ON HENSON'S RECOLLECTION, "In a single room were huddled, like cattle, ten or a dozen persons." By 1825, there were at least three simple log structures with dirt floors that sheltered nearly 22 enslaved people. Such conditions did not ensure proper hygiene or privacy. After a long day of work, the enslaved retreated to their quarters to eat humble meals of "corn-meal and salted herrings" supplemented with vegetables from their own gardens.



Henson described how the enslaved tended "the little piece of ground... called a truck-patch" much like the fenced area shown here. They planted foods that grew quickly and could be easily boiled in a pot or roasted in the coals of a small fire.



This 1864 illustration shows how enslaved families in the Upper South congregated at the end of the day in their sparsely furnished quarters.

Museum display re slave life in Henson's time (LT)



Flag 50, Henson Expedition logo, and the author in front of the Henson log cabin/kitchen, on the floor of which Josiah Henson was sometimes forced to sleep as a slave, before he escaped to freedom in Canada (LT)

# THE RILEY PLANTATION

**T**HIS ILLUSTRATION IMAGINES what the property looked like 200 years ago when Josiah Henson was enslaved here. The Riley House was positioned on a hill above Old Georgetown Road. A number of outbuildings were scattered around the property to house enslaved people, shelter livestock, and store goods. To the west and north, a series of fields stretched as far as the eye could see.



Display at the Museum showing the notional location of slave quarters and overseer's house, where Josiah Henson likely lived. These structures have not yet been located. (LT)



Image from the twelve minute film in the Museum about Henson's life, showing the sale of Josiah's enslaved mother (LT)



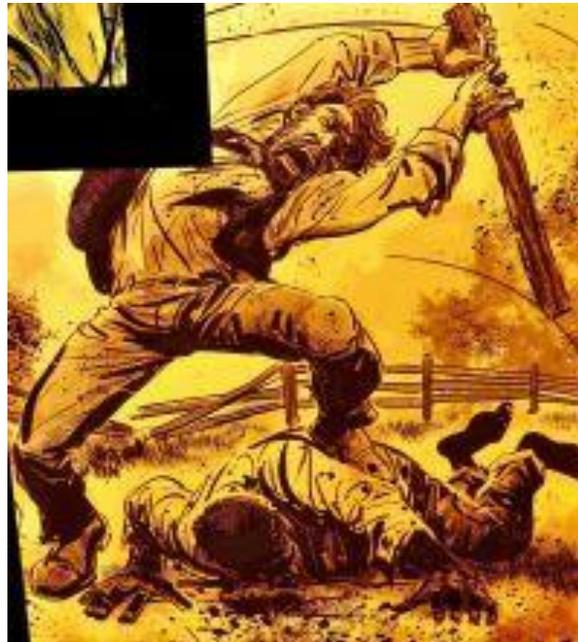
Image from the film showing the Henson family 1830 escape route from Kentucky to Canada (LT)



Image from the Museum showing Rev. Henson meeting Queen Victoria (LT)



Volunteers from the Montgomery Parks Archaeology Lab who have worked on processing artifacts from the Henson site, touring the Henson Museum (LT)



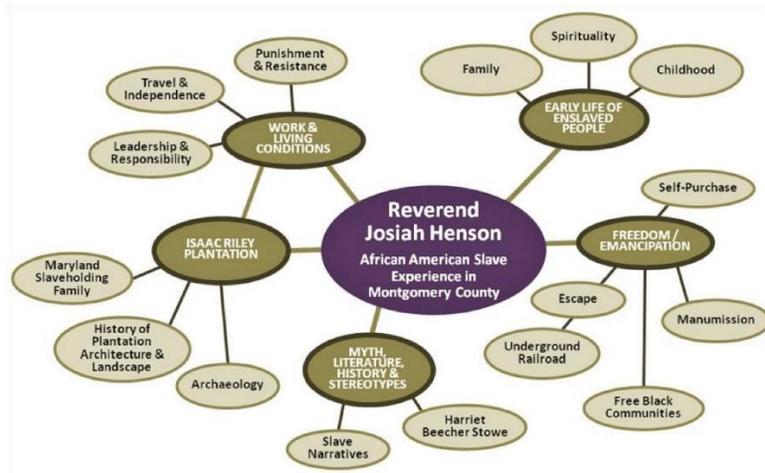
Dramatic sketches portray the life of Henson throughout the Museum. Here Henson at age 20 is beaten by a white overseer, was permanently injured, and was never able to lift his arms above his shoulders again. (LT)



Colorful and informative presentations convey the Henson story; here the connections between British royalty (namely Queens Victoria and Elizabeth II) and Henson and his story are explored. (LT)



Behind the Museum is the fenced off area marking one of the sites where archaeological digging will begin again after the Covid pandemic is over. (LT)



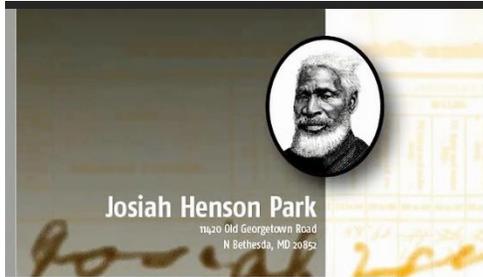
Themes and topics covered in the new Josiah Henson Museum (MCP)

Joey Lampl, Manager and Architectural Historian  
 Shirly Spicer, Museum Manager  
 Cassandra Michaud, Archaeologist  
 Samantha Schron, Project Manager  
 Jamie Kuhns, Historian

Lux Manor Citizens  
 Henson Family  
 Eileen Emmett  
 Josiah Henson Advisory Committee

prou design, llc  
 ZIS  
 Mark Thorne and Imani Haynes  
 Parks Volunteers ASM members  
 THE OTTERY GROUP

Key persons and organizations involved in creating the Henson Museum (from the DigVentures briefing done by archaeologist Cassandra Michaud (CM), 2020)



**MUSEUM RIBBON CUTTING  
DECEMBER 5, 2020**



**MUSEUM PUBLIC OPENING  
DECEMBER 11, 2020**

Thanks to:

Montgomery Parks Staff  
Joey Lampl, Jamie Kuhns, Shirl Spicer, Samantha Schron, Jessica Brannock,  
Heather Bouslog, Eileen Emmett

Matthew Palus, Ph.D., The Ottery Group

Montgomery Parks Archaeology Volunteers

ASM Mid-Potomac Chapter Members

Proun Design

Ziger/Snead Architects

MAC Lab staff  
Tricia Samford, Ph.D., Ed Chaney, Nichole Doub, Sara Rivers-Cofield,  
Francis Lukezic

The Museum opening was scheduled for December 2020, but this was postponed due to Covid-19 (CM)

## Appendix 3

### Previous Excavation and Historical Images



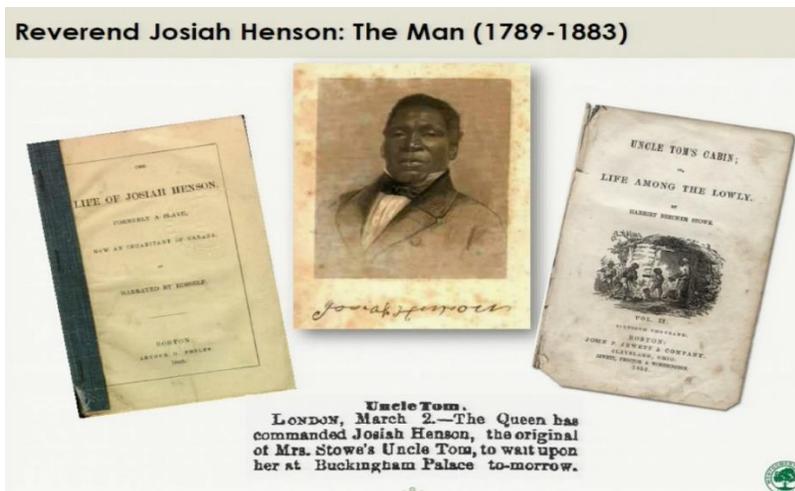
Archaeological investigation and tree ring dating showed that although this kitchen structure was built in 1850, after Josiah Henson escaped, the original “filthy, smelly” floor of his kitchen and occasional living space did exist, about 3 feet below the current floor level. The excavation took place inside the wooden framework; this photo was taken in 2017, before the dig reached the Henson floor level. (MCP)



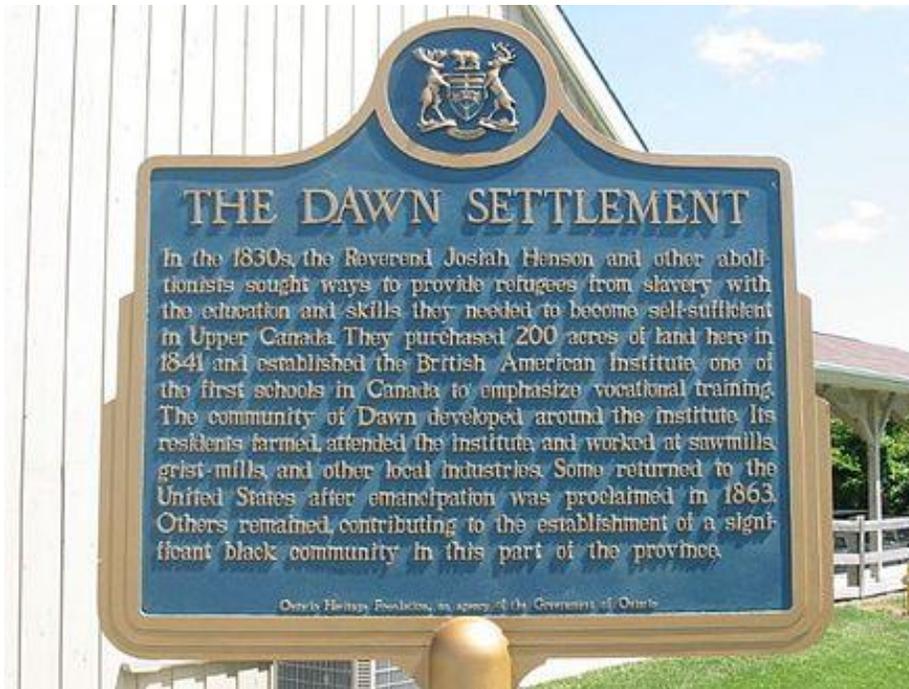
Limited excavations to date at the Henson site outside the house and cabin have not yet discovered the key cluster of slave cabins where Josiah Henson lived most of the time. (MCP)



Archaeologist Cassandra Michaud (left) shows officials of the Maryland Historical Trust excavations in the Josiah Henson Park, spring 2018 (MHT)



Left: one of the four autobiographies written by Josiah Henson; Right: *Uncle Tom's Cabin*;  
 Top: image of Henson with his signature;  
 Bottom: announcement that Josiah Henson would be received by Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace.  
 (from Jamie Kuhns lecture on Henson, 2019)

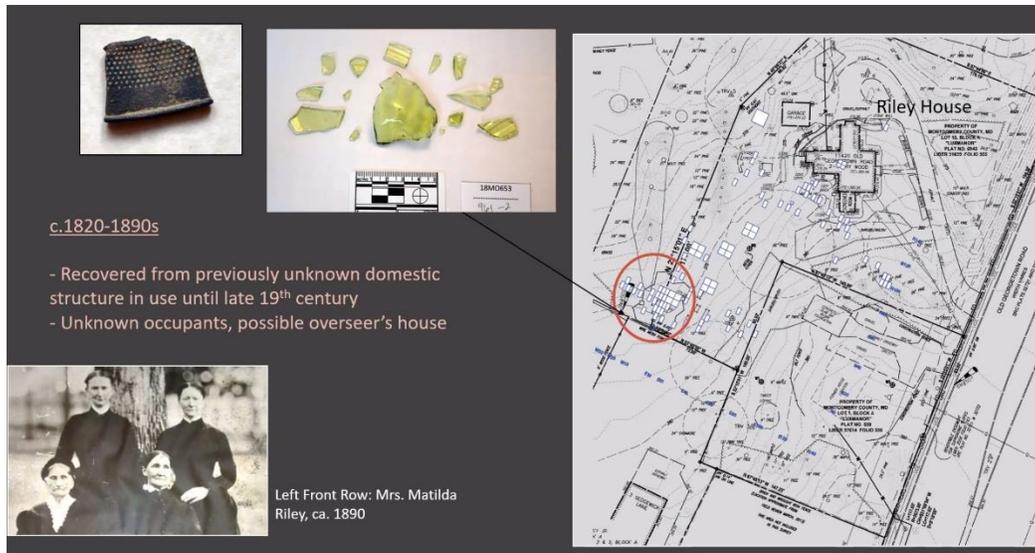


Historic marker in Ontario at the Dawn settlement and training school established by Josiah Henson.



Josiah Henson, his wife Charlotte and their four children escaping to Canada (from the Josiah Henson Museum in Ontario).

The present report proved that one of the toddlers on Josiah's back was a girl, likely Celia Henson, contrary to the assertion of previous biographers that all four children were male.



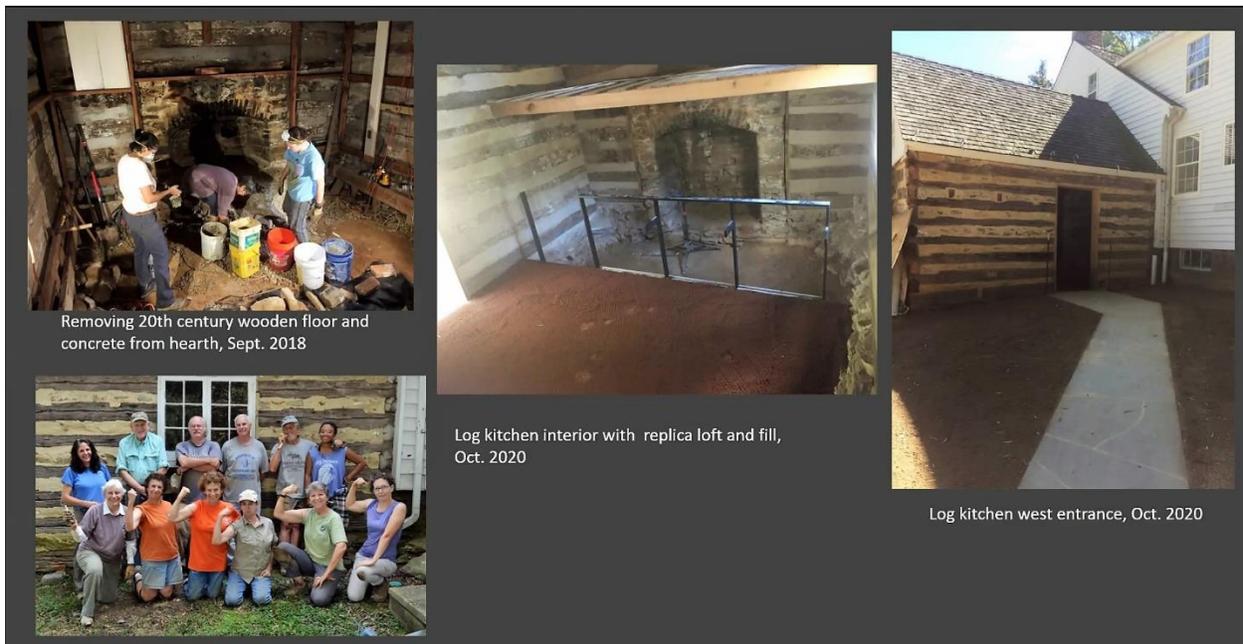
Recovered items from the Henson site; plan of the area, right  
 (from the DigVentures briefing by archaeologist Cassandra Michaud (CM), 2020)



Part of iron cooking pot recovered at Henson site (CM)



Items found in excavations at the Henson plantation (CM)



Images of Henson slave cabin excavations, interior and exterior (CM)



"Aunt Betty"  
Image of freed slave and cook,  
c.1915, NY Public Library



Freed slave in Georgia, c. 1880, GWU

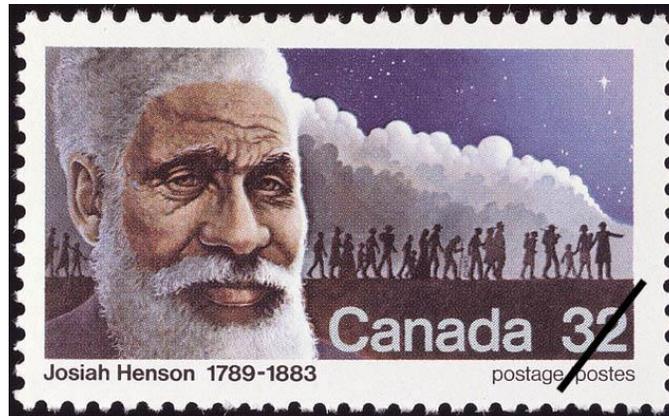


Mrs. Bolten in Log Kitchen after renovation in 1939

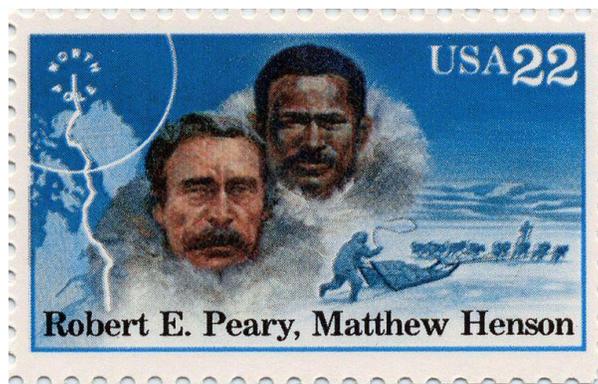
### Images of enslaved Americans and their living conditions (CM)

## Appendix 4

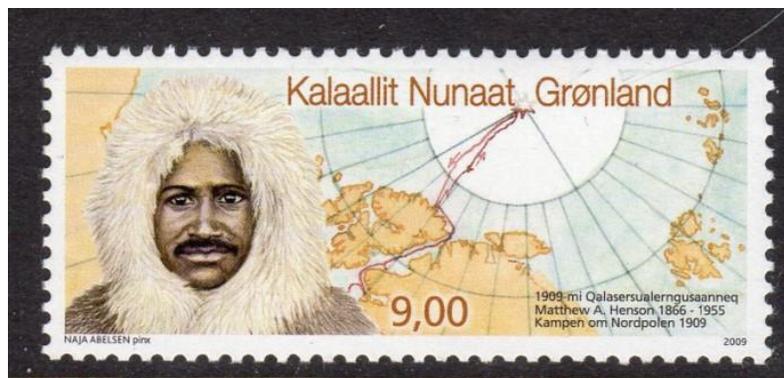
### Images on Stamps of Josiah and Matthew Henson



Canadian stamp honoring Josiah Henson, who founded a community of runaway slaves in Canada, and eventually died in Ontario, Canada. This was the first Canadian stamp ever issued which honored a black person.



US stamp featuring Matthew Henson and Robert Peary.



Greenland Post stamp featuring Matthew Henson.

## Appendix 5 Flag 50 Award Letter

### THE EXPLORERS CLUB



September 13, 2020

Llewellyn M. Toulmin Ph.D.  
13108 Hutchinson Way  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20906-5947

Re: Excavating the Real Hero of "Uncle Tom's Cabin"

Dear Dr. Toulmin,

On behalf of the Flag and Honors Committee, I am pleased to inform you that the Board of Directors has approved the award of The Explorers Club Flag to you and your expeditions. The Flag represents an impressive history of courage and accomplishment. It has been carried by our members to the Moon, to the depths of the ocean, and around the globe. It is both an honor and a privilege to receive this special recognition. Congratulations.

Please confirm in writing the address where we may send the flag. Should you have any special instructions, please notify us as soon as possible.

Both Emerald Nash, at Headquarters, and I stand ready to answer any questions you may have regarding the flag award and subsequent flag expedition report.

We wish you every success on your expedition and look forward to learning more about your accomplishments upon your return.

Best regards,

Bob Atwater  
Vice President for Flag and Honors

46 East Seventieth Street, New York, NY 10021  
Tel: (212) 628-8383 Fax: (212) 288-4449  
[www.explorers.org](http://www.explorers.org)

**Award of Flag 50**  
**Llewellyn M. Toulmin, FN '04**  
***King Saint Oswald's First Monastery***  
***on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne***  
**August 2, 2019 to October 31, 2019**

The Explorers Club Flag is a symbol of courage and fidelity. The award of the flag is a significant accomplishment. Since 1918, the flag has been carried to all of the Earth's continents, as well as under the sea and into the stars. To date, 850 explorers have carried the flag on over 1450 expeditions. A select handful of the 222 Explorers Club flags have been framed and now decorate the Club house in New York. These include flags carried by Roy Chapman Andrews, Bob Bartlett, Thor Heyerdahl, Naomi Uemura, and miniature flags carried aboard the Apollo 8 and Apollo 15.

Your expedition will now become part of the rich history attached to this flag. Earlier expeditions include:

Carveth Wells	1932	Geographic Society of Chicago Expedition to Caucasus
Carveth Wells	1950	Geographic Society of Chicago to Finland, Thailand & Kashmir
Carveth Wells	1952	S. E. Asia
Carveth Wells	1953	S. E. Asia
Donald C. Johanson	1992	Anthropological & Geological Res'n at Hadar "Lucy" site, Ethiopia
Robert W. Schmieder	1992	The Farallon Islands Expedition
Tim Cole	1994	Earthwinds Transglobal Balloon Flight Exp.
Robin Rodriguez	1996	Primitive Tribes of the Omo River Valley in Southern Ethiopia
John Loret	1998	The 1998 Interdisciplinary Expedition to Easter Island
Taran Davies	1999	The Caucasus Expedition
Andrzej Cisewski/Zdzislaw Ryn	2001	Easter Island 2001/Juan Fernandez Island 2001
Michael J. Manyak	2002	Survey of Proposed Langoue-Ivindo Natl. Park
Gregory Kovacs	2003	Liancabur Expedition 2003
Michael Clark Hilton	2004	The Roggeveen Expedition
John Loret	2005	Easter Island Archaeology
Kristine Stewart	2006	Sustainable harvest of the African cherry on Mt. Oku, Cameroon
Kenneth M. Kamler, M.D.	2007	Robotic Surgery in Zero-Gravity Flight
Jo Anne Van Tilburg, Ph.D.	2011	Easter Island Statue Project
Bertrand Piccard, M.D.	2012	Solar Impulse Destination Morocco with Solar Powered Airplane
Jason B.R.M. Schoonover	2012	Archaeology of the River Kwai
Bertrand Piccard & Andre Borschberg	2013	Solar Impulse Across America
Frederik Paulsen, Ph.D.	2014	Altai Mountain Expedition
Bertrand Piccard & Andre Borschberg	2015	First Round-the-World Solar Flight
David Mackay	2019	Virgin Galactic Research Space Flight

You can take pride in joining this illustrious group and in your broader membership and participation in exploration.

Flag 50, which was awarded to Lew Toulmin for the Lindisfarne Expedition, was also awarded for the Henson Expedition. Note that this Flag has been into space, and was on the first flight around the world of a solar-powered plane.



Richard C. Wiese (left), President of The Explorers Club, Lew Toulmin (center), returning Flag #50 at the Lowell Thomas dinner in the fall of 2019 after completion of the Lindisfarne Expedition, and Bob Atwater (right), Chair of the Flag and Honors Committee of The Explorers Club. Flag 50 was also awarded for the Henson Expedition. The Toulmin medals are for the modern Knights Templar (the red cross) and membership medals in various heritage/lineage/genealogical organizations (both expeditions involved genealogical research, documentation and publications). The breast star below the medals is for previously serving as the President of the Hereditary Order of the Families of the Presidents and First Ladies of America, an organization for descendants and relatives of US Presidents and First Ladies.

# Appendix 6

## Lifetime List of Toulmin Expeditions

### List of Projects & Expeditions in Archaeology/Anthropology/History of Llewellyn M. Toulmin, PhD, FRGS, FRSA, KTJ, FN '04

#### Expedition/Project & Organization; Date; Supervisor

1. Expedition through the jungles of eastern Haiti and north to The Citadel of Henri Christophe at Cap-Haitien; Toulmin family exped.; 1959; Harry Toulmin
2. Expedition to the outlying temples of Angkor Wat, Cambodia; Toulmin family exped.; 1964; Harry Toulmin
3. Expedition to Philmont Scout Ranch; BSA; 1966; Scoutmaster
4. Circumnavigation of Lake Victoria, east Africa; self; 1969; L. M. Toulmin
5. Exploration of Lake Tana and the Source of the Blue Nile, Ethiopia; Toulmin family exped.; 1969; Harry Toulmin
6. Expedition to the North Cape and the land of the Saami; University College of North. Wales; 1970; L. M. Toulmin
7. Sailing exped. to St. Vincent and the Grenadines; *Canadian Chartering* magazine; 1976; CC editor
8. Evaluation of emergency preparedness of nine Caribbean islands; US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance; 1985; OFDA Director
9. Investigation into the real story of "The Bridge on the River Kwai," Kanchanaburi, Thailand; *Army-Navy-Air Force Times*; 1992; Editor
10. Lessons learned from Hurricane Andrew, Miami-Dade County, FL; American Society for Public Administration; 1993; ASPA and Booz-Allen-Hamilton
11. Tomb of Nefertari, Valley of the Queens, Egypt; *International Travel News*; 1995; ITN Editor
12. The real story of "Out of Africa" and Isak Dinesen, Kenya; *International Travel News*; 1997; ITN Editor
13. The world's newest country – Timor Leste – and its first First Lady; *ITN*; 1999; ITN Editor
14. The lady leg-rowers of Lake Inle, Myanmar, the temples of Bagan, and the falsification of millions of Burmese genealogical records; *ITN* and *Paddler Magazine*; 2000; Editors
15. Brigantine *Soren Larsen*, Fiji to Vanuatu; *ITN*; 2001; ITN Editor
16. Japanese Sgt. Yokoi fights World War II for 28 years in a hole on Guam; *ITN*; 2002, ITN Editor
17. Voyage before the mast on the liberated slave ship *Amistad*, St. Petersburg, FL to Mobile, AL; *ITN*; 2002; ITN Editor
18. Irish National Tall Ship *Jeannie Johnston*, Charleston, SC to Baltimore, MD; *ITN* and *The Montgomery Sentinel*; 2003; Editors
19. History, scandals and genealogy of Pitcairn Island; *ITN* and *The Providence Journal*; 2003; Editors
20. The real story of *Robinson Crusoe*; *ITN*; 2003; ITN Editor
21. Tracing sites and locations of Brian Boru, High King of All Ireland in the year 1000; *ITN*; 2005; ITN Editor

22. Investigation of the WW II dog tag lost on Kiriwina Island, Papua New Guinea, by Sgt. Raymond Brett of the US Army; *Military* magazine; 2006; Editor
23. Search for/find/documentation of the missing town of Washington Court House, AL; Univ. of S. Alabama Archaeology Dept. (USAAD); 2007; Bonnie Gums; **(TEC (The Explorers Club) Flag #24)**
24. Search for the grave of Judge Harry Toulmin, near Milry, AL; USAAD; 2008; Bonnie Gums
25. Aviation Archaeology Search and research (AAS) for missing TEC Medalist Steve Fossett and his Bellanca; SW Nevada; Ad hoc group formed by members of The Explorers Club; 2008; Robert E. Hyman
26. AAS for P-51-D of WW II WASP Gertrude Tompkins in Santa Monica Bay, CA; Missing Aircraft Search Team (MAST); 2009; Robert E. Hyman, L. M. Toulmin
27. AAS for N2700Q near Sedona, AZ; MAST; 2009; Chris Killian
28. AAS for F9F USMC Cougar in Flathead Lake, MT; MAST; 2010; L. M. Toulmin
29. AAS for N222TB in Oregon; MAST and Portland Police Bureau; 2010; Sheriff Tim Evinger
30. AAS for N650RV in Grand Canyon, Arizona; MAST, National Park Service and Coconino Sheriff's Office; 2011; Chris Killian
31. Search for missing Canadians Albert & Rita Chretien in NV, OR and WA; MAST & Royal Canadian Mounted Police; 2011; Sheriff Tim Evinger
32. AAS for N174BH near Lake Superior, MN; MAST and St. Louis MN SAR team; 2012; L. M. Toulmin
33. Search for Revolutionary Plantation & Battlefield of Gen. Andrew Williamson and writing his first biography; SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) & Royal Geographical Society; 2012; Dr. Jonathan Leader, SC State Archaeologist **(TEC Flag #132)**
34. AAS for 1958 MK-15 H-bomb of B-47 USAF Stratojet near Tybee Island, GA; MAST; 2012; L. M. Toulmin
35. AAS for N26837 in Mt. Antelope Refuge, OR; MAST and Oregon State Police; 2012; Sheriff Tim Evinger
36. Search for the Site of the 1813 Battle of the Burnt Corn, AL; USAAD; 2012; Dr. Greg Waselkov
37. Search for the Site of Fort Claiborne, AL; USAAD; 2012; Dr. Greg Waselkov
38. Documentation of crashed F41-U Corsair of Lt. John E. Date, Jr., USMC on N. Ambae, New Hebrides (now the Republic of Vanuatu), and Pig-killing chief promotion ritual ceremony on E. Ambae; 2013; L. M. Toulmin **(TEC Flag #101)**
39. Interviewing the youngest land divers in Vanuatu, on Pentecost island; *Island Life*; 2013; L. M. Toulmin
40. Wala Island, Vanuatu – a secondary inspiration for “Bali Hai”?; *Island Life*; 2013; L. M. Toulmin
41. Documenting the tribe that worships Prince Philip as a god, on Tanna island, Vanuatu; *Montgomery Sentinel*; 2014; L. M. Toulmin
42. Search for Jim Thompson, “Silk King of Thailand,” in the Cameron Highlands of N. Central Malaysia; *Montgomery Sentinel*; 2014; L. M. Toulmin
43. Documenting the John Frum cargo cult, Tanna island, Vanuatu; *Montgomery Sentinel*; 2014; L. M. Toulmin
44. AAS for N222TB, Oregon coast (part 2); MAST and the BBC; 2015; L. M. Toulmin
45. Documentation of the Female Chiefs of Vanuatu; *Asia-Pacific Journal of Research*; 2016; L. M. Toulmin; **(TEC Flag #101)**
46. Geo-location of Buddha Cave of Jim Thompson; N. Central Thailand; *Journal of Spelean History*; 2016; L. M. Toulmin

47. Search for missing biologist “Forest” Gan in the high jungle of the Cameron Highlands, Malaysia; Family request; 2016; L. M. Toulmin
48. Excavating Old Colonial Mobile (1702-1712), AL; USAAD; 2016; Dr. Greg Waselkov
49. Archaeological excavations of sites possibly related to the disappearance of Amelia Earhart, Nikumaroro island, Republic of Kiribati; MAST, National Geographic Society, TIGHAR; 2017; Dr. Tom King
50. Archaeological excavation of pre-historic Native American canal, Orange Beach, AL; USAAD; 2018; Dr. Greg Waselkov
51. Excavation, archaeological lab work, historical & genealogical analysis of Old St. Stephens, AL (former Territorial Capital); USAAD; 2018-9; George Shorter **(TEC Flag #25)**
52. AAS for missing aircraft C-FESN, NE of Revelstoke, BC; 2018; MAST; L. M. Toulmin
53. Research re 1944 WW II disappearance case of UC-64 Norseman US Army Air Force a/c with band leader Glenn Miller on board, in the English Channel; TIGHAR; 2018; Ric Gillespie
54. Search (part 2) for Revolutionary Plantation & Battlefield of Gen. Andrew Williamson; 2019; ad hoc group of archaeologists and historians; L. M. Toulmin
55. Archaeological lab work re the real “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” of Josiah Henson (the biography and “book that sparked the Civil War”), Montgomery County, MD; Montgomery County Parks Archaeology Division; 2019; Heather Bouslog
56. Excavation, search and genealogical analysis re the missing monastery of King St. Oswald on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, Northumberland, England; DigVentures & Durham University Archaeology Dept.; 2019; Johanna Ungemach & Dr. David Petts **(TEC Flag #50)**
57. Excavation and genealogical/historical research on the Henson clan, including Rev. Josiah Henson and explorer Matthew Alexander Henson; 2020-2021; **(TEC Flag #50)**

#### **PLANNED AND ANTICIPATED EXPEDITIONS:**

58. Excavation of Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire, England and search for the missing banqueting hall of Queen Elizabeth I; DigVentures; postponed due to Covid; **TEC Flag** authorized
59. Excavation of King John’s Palace at Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire, England; Mercian Archaeological Services; postponed due to Covid; **TEC Flag** authorized; now scheduled for summer 2021
60. Excavation of the first Roman settlement north of the Humber River, East Yorkshire, England; DigVentures, scheduled for summer 2021; **TEC Flag** applied for
61. Excavation and search for the missing monastery of King St. Oswald on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, Northumberland, England; DigVentures & Durham University Archaeology Dept.; follow-up to previous 2019 Flag expedition; scheduled for summer of 2021, **TEC Flag** applied for
62. Excavations at the Overseer’s Cabin site at President Madison’s Montpelier plantation, tentatively scheduled for October 2021
63. Search for the enslaved blacksmiths at President Madison’s Montpelier plantation; scheduled for November 2021
64. Excavation of the real King Solomon’s Mines, southern Israel; possible for December 2021.

## Appendix 7

### Biography of 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 39 years in 30 developing countries and the US in public administration reform, telecommunications policy and management analysis, and traveled to 147 of the 196 countries on Earth.

Lew has 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 a Fellow of The Explorers Club, and has carried the Flag of the Explorers Club seven times in expeditions in archaeology and anthropology to Vanuatu, England, Alabama, Maryland and South Carolina, and led or participated in various other archaeological expeditions to Thailand, Malaysia, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Honduras and numerous US states. Many of his expeditions have involved 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, and has worked on cleaning and sorting artifacts from the Josiah Henson house site. He holds certificates in field archaeology and forensic anthropology.

Lew is a great admirer of explorer Matthew Alexander Henson and Reverend Josiah Henson.

Lew’s website is [www.themosttraveled.com](http://www.themosttraveled.com), and on that site the page “Adventures in Genealogy” provides popular and academic articles he has written about that topic, while the sections “New Land Adventures” and “Finding Lost Airplanes” provide articles and documents on those topics.

## Appendix 8

### Receipt of the Henson Research Report by the NEHGS

(The NEHGS is the most prestigious and well-regarded genealogical research society in the US.)



February 5, 2021

Dear Dr. Toulmin,

On behalf of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, I acknowledge your generous donation of you our genealogy report on the Henson family, *Genealogical Descents from Reverend Josiah Henson and Explorer Matthew Henson*. We are always pleased to acquire records which contribute toward the Society's mission to "advance the study of family history in America and beyond through our scholarship and collections".

Your willingness to donate this material is greatly appreciated by NEHGS and the scholars who use our resources.

Sincerely,

*Judith Lucey*

Judith Lucey  
Senior Archivist  
617-226-1223  
jlucey@nehgs.org

## Appendix 9

### First-Ever Genealogical Research Report on the Henson Clan

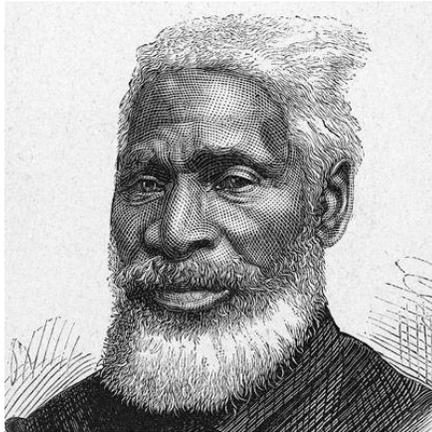
Below is the final genealogical report on the Henson clan, developed by the author. This report was made available in a separate, stand-alone form to various genealogical repositories, as described earlier in this expedition report. It can be downloaded gratis in this form from Academia.edu, or by request from [LewToulmin@aol.com](mailto:LewToulmin@aol.com), and will be available for free download on my website [www.themosttraveled.com](http://www.themosttraveled.com) in late 2021.

# **Genealogical Descents from Reverend Josiah Henson and Explorer Matthew Alexander Henson**

by

**Llewellyn “Lew” Toulmin, PhD, FRGS, FRSA, FN ‘04**

Silver Spring, Montgomery County, Maryland  
February 2021



Reverend Josiah Henson



Explorer Matthew Alexander Henson

## Executive Summary

This report provides the first ever intensive genealogical examination of the Henson clan, focused on Reverend Josiah Henson and explorer Matthew Alexander Henson, and their possible relations and provable descents. Highlights of this report include the following:

- Presenting and proving a relationship from a modern distinguished attorney and “Living Legend of Alexandria, Virginia,” James E. Henson, Sr., back to explorer Matthew Alexander Henson, the co-discoverer of the North Pole. This relation is: James is the half-grandnephew of Matthew.
- Identifying the previously unknown first wife (Mary Claire, later Washington) of Matthew’s father, Lemuel Henson, and identifying the likely correct (and previously unidentified) family for Matthew when he was a child in the key 1870 US Census for Nanjemoy, Charles County, Maryland.
- Presenting and partially proving a relationship from a famous modern actress, Taraji P. Henson, back to Matthew Alexander Henson; namely: Taraji may well be the great-great-grand niece of Matthew.
- Documenting two descents from siblings of Matthew Alexander Henson to the near present in the US, and correcting an apparent error in one of these previously asserted descent lines.
- Discovering a mysterious possible (but not proven) and previously unknown child and descent in the US from Matthew Alexander Henson and his first wife Eva Flint – a marriage thought to be childless.
- Proposing a new timeline for the confusing early years of Matthew Henson, identifying a likely new birth date for him, and proposing that he ran away to sea later than asserted in some biographies.
- Identifying a possible (but unproven) link from Matthew Alexander Henson up to Reverend Josiah Henson via the previously unknown Paul Henson, asserted brother of Rev. Josiah Henson and asserted father of Lemuel Henson (who was the proven father of Matthew Alexander Henson).
- Analyzing the destination in the South to which Reverend Josiah Henson’s father was tragically “sold down the river,” and showing that it is unlikely that he was actually sent to Alabama, as stated by Reverend Henson in his autobiographies, and as asserted by his biographers.
- Providing fuller genealogical documentation for the parents, siblings, wives and children of Reverend Henson, and estimating his birth year as between 1796 and 1799.
- Showing that Nancy “Burford” was not the second wife of Rev. Josiah Henson, as asserted in some on-line family trees. The Burfords are proven to be an entirely separate, white, family.
- Developing a reasonable scenario for the mysterious appearance of three Tituses in Rev. Henson’s household in Dawn, Ontario in 1871. This is that they are Lucinda Gamble Titus, daughter of Nancy (wife of Rev. Henson) who had married James Titus, and Lucinda’s two children by James Titus.
- Showing that: of the four children on the famous 1830 escape, at least one carried on Henson’s back was a female toddler, likely Celia, contrary to assertions that the children were all male; the escape lasted exactly 41 days; and the family achieved an amazing average mileage of 14.6 to 16.2 miles per day, or more than the 8-13 miles per day of US Army troops marching in the Civil War!
- Providing seven detailed, new, expanded or better documented descents from Reverend Henson, via his son Tom, son Josiah, son Isaac, daughter Elizabeth (two descents), and his probable brother James, down to the present or near-present.
- Providing over a dozen Henson family tree charts illustrating the report findings and showing large asserted family trees compiled by Henson clan members.
- Supplying hundreds of detailed proof items to support the genealogical assertions made.
- Estimating that the descendants of Josiah Henson’s parents alive today, number in the thousands.

## Introduction and Overview

The Henson family is a fascinating and very important family in US and Canadian history. The family includes Reverend Josiah Henson, a man born enslaved who escaped with his family to Canada and wrote an autobiography which helped to spark the Civil War and end slavery; Matthew Alexander Henson, the first man to the North Pole; James E. Henson, Sr, a modern distinguished attorney and “Living Legend,” and Taraji P. Henson, a well-known film star, among others.

Researching the genealogy of such a family is a pleasure, but is also challenging, due to the difficulties of finding early documentary records for African-Americans during the slavery period and even afterwards. Because of the challenges encountered, this can only be considered a preliminary report, since some linkages were not provable to high genealogical standards with records available on-line. (Research was also hampered by the closure of virtually all libraries, courthouses and Family Research Centers, due to the Covid 19 crisis.) It is hoped that future research, documentation, DNA evidence and other items may fill in the remaining gaps in this report. Corrections, comments and additions are welcome.

Also, this report only analyzes a segment of the enormous Henson family genealogy. Various Henson family charts (see Appendix B) shows scores of individuals arranged in numerous lines. Only some of these lines are documented or expanded here. And a section below calculates that possibly thousands of persons alive today are descended from Josiah Henson’s parents – only some of these persons are covered in this report.

The major contributions of this report are as follows:

- Presenting and proving a line from a modern distinguished attorney and “Living Legend of Alexandria, Virginia” – James E. Henson, Sr. -- back to explorer Matthew Alexander Henson.
- Identifying the previously unknown first wife of Matthew’s father, Lemuel Henson, and identifying the likely correct (and previously unidentified) family for Matthew when he was a child in the crucial 1870 US Census for Nanjemoy, Charles Co., Maryland.
- Presenting and partially proving a line from a famous modern actress – Taraji P. Henson -- back to Matthew Alexander Henson.
- Documenting two descents from siblings of Matthew Alexander Henson to the near present, and correcting an apparent error in one of these previously asserted descent lines.
- Discovering a mysterious possible (but not proven) and previously unknown descent from Matthew Henson in the US, involving his first wife Eva Flint – a marriage thought to be childless.
- Proposing a new timeline for the confusing early years of Matthew Henson.
- Identifying a possible (but unproven) link from Matthew Henson up to Reverend Josiah Henson.
- Analyzing genealogical challenges re Matthew’s father Lemuel, and the common but likely error of identifying carpenter Lemuel Henson of Washington, DC as the father of Matthew.
- Analyzing the destination in the South to which Reverend Josiah Henson’s father was tragically “sold down the river” – and showing that Alabama was not a likely destination.
- Providing fuller genealogical documentation for the parents, siblings, wives and children of Reverend Henson, and for his dates.
- Showing that Nancy “Burford” was not the name of the second wife of Josiah Henson.

- Developing a reasonable scenario for the mysterious appearance of three Tituses in Rev. Henson’s household in Dawn in 1871. This is that they are Lucinda Gamble Titus, daughter of Nancy (wife of Rev. Henson) who had married James Titus, and Lucinda’s two Titus children.
- Analyzing which four children of Rev. Henson were on the famous escape from Kentucky to Canada in 1830, calculating exactly how many days the escape lasted, and what the impressive daily mileage achieved was in this incredibly difficult and dangerous journey.
- Providing seven detailed, new, expanded or better documented descents from Reverend Henson, via his son Tom, son Josiah, son Isaac, daughter Elizabeth (two descents), and his probable brother James.
- Supplying hundreds of detailed proof items to support the genealogical assertions made throughout the report.
- Providing an estimate of how many descendants of Josiah Henson’s parents are alive today – probably in the thousands.

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 by the reader to be confirmed to a high standard of proof. The most important linkage points in each bullet point set of evidentiary items are underlined.

Most genealogical articles and report 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 primary 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.

Abbreviations used in this report include the following:

- |               |   |             |         |
|---------------|---|-------------|---------|
| <b>a.k.a.</b> | also known as   | <b>abt.</b> | about   |
| <b>aft.</b>   | after   | <b>b.</b>   | born    |
| <b>bef.</b>   | before  | <b>c.</b>   | circa   |
| <b>d.</b>     | died  | <b>n.d.</b> | no date |
| <b>?</b>      | unreadable or unclear original document or transcription. |             |         |

## Dedication

This report is dedicated to James E. Henson, Sr., Esq. of Alexandria, Virginia, who greatly assisted in proving his line to Matthew Alexander Henson and providing a possible linkage to Rev. Josiah Henson. Mr. Henson was named as a “Living Legend” of Alexandria, Virginia and had a long and distinguished career in the US Air Force and as a human rights attorney. Sadly, he died in December, 2020, as this report was being completed. But his life was a testament to the strength and accomplishments of the Henson clan.

## Acknowledgements

Many thanks are due to Jamie Kuhns and Cassandra Michaud of the Montgomery County Parks for encouraging me to take on this project (and providing materials), which started with just one question: “Is there a genealogical relationship between Reverend Josiah Henson and Matthew Alexander Henson?” – but became so fascinating that it expanded into trying to answer many other questions. Thanks again are due to Jamie Kuhns for her review of the manuscript, which improved it. Thanks are also due to Heather Bouslog of Montgomery County Parks and to the many volunteers who have worked on the Josiah Henson site excavation and lab analysis. I also want to acknowledge the assistance of Lacey Flint, librarian and archivist of The Explorers Club in New York City, who provided the Club’s material on its distinguished member, Matthew Alexander Henson. I also wish to thank the many Henson family member researchers who posted findings and trees on-line, and author Edna Troiano, who provided me with leads. Of course my main thanks must go to Josiah Henson and Matthew Alexander Henson themselves, for living such amazing and courageous lives, an inspiration to us all.

## Sections of this Report

This report has the following sections, proceeding back in time (like most genealogical analyses):

- Relationship of James E. Henson, Sr. to Matthew Alexander Henson
- Relationship of Taraji P. Henson to Matthew Alexander Henson
- Genealogical Timeline for Matthew Henson
- A Possible Descent in the US from Matthew Alexander Henson
- Descents in the US from Siblings of Matthew Alexander Henson
- Challenges in Tracing Lemuel Henson
- Relationship of Matthew Alexander Henson to Josiah Henson
- Parents, Dates, Escape Analysis, Siblings, Wives and Children of Josiah Henson
- Which Children Were on the Escape to Canada?
- Where Was Josiah Henson’s Father Sent?
- A Descent from Josiah Henson via Thomas Henson to the Palmer Family
- A New Descent from James Henson, Probable Brother of Josiah Henson, to the Barnes Family
- Documenting a Known Descent from Josiah Henson via the Nevels-Cobb Line
- Documenting a Descent from Josiah Henson’s Daughter Elizabeth to the Harrison Family

- A Descent from Josiah Henson via Elizabeth Henson Thomas to the Dixon Family
- A Descent from Rev. Henson via Isaac Henson to Harold Henson
- A New Descent from Rev. Josiah Henson via son Josiah to the Hicks Family
- How Many Hensons?
- Biographical Information on the Author
- Annex A: Selected Original Documents relating to Matthew Henson and The Explorers Club
- Annex B: Various Henson Family Trees
- Annex C: Affidavit by William A. Diggs, 1988
- Annex D: Will of Rev. Josiah Henson
- Annex E: Story about the Henson Canadian Stamp and Family.

## Relationship of James E. Henson, Sr. to Matthew Alexander Henson

This section links distinguished attorney and a designated “Living Legend of Alexandria, Virginia,” James Ellis Henson, Sr., Esq., to explorer Matthew Alexander Henson. James Henson attended events commemorating Matthew Alexander Henson, and traveled to remote parts of northern Greenland to meet with explorer Henson’s descendants there.



James E. Henson, Sr.

**Assertion:** James Ellis Henson, Sr., Esq. was born 23 October 1936 in Alexandria, VA in Alexandria Hospital and married to Elsie Ardene Valentine Henson. He died 13 December 2020 in Alexandria, Virginia. He had numerous living descendants including various great-grandchildren, and even two great-great-grandchildren!

Proofs:

- Alexandria VA birth record, certificate number 1936037650, shows that James E. Henson was born 23 October 1936 in Alexandria Hospital (“Virginia Birth Records, 1912-2015, Delayed Birth Records”).
- Alexandria VA Marriage Records show James E. Henson, 20, son of Clarence McGuire and Catherine Henson, marrying on 8 May 1957 to Mellinee D. Rust, 17, daughter of Louis C. Turner and Bertha Rust.
- US Public Records Index, 1950-93, Vol. 1 shows James E. Henson residing in Ellicott City, MD in 1995, with birth year of 1936.
- Ibid., showing Henson living in Alexandria, VA in 1990, with birth year of 1936.
- In “Living Legends of Alexandria: James Henson,” at AlexandriaLegends.org, 2019, Henson states the birth location and names of his parents, and that he was “raised in a single parent household.”
- Statement of James E. Henson, Sr. in phone interviews with Lew Toulmin, May and July 2020, says that his parents were not married; and that he has numerous children, grandchildren, some great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.
- Char McCargo Bah, “Standing on Historical Land: James E. Henson, Esq.,” *Alexandria Gazette Packet*, 2 July 2020, states that James E. Henson is married to Elsie Ardene Henson.

- Jacques Kelly, "James E. Henson, Sr., Retired Howard County Human Rights Office Chief, Dies," *The Baltimore Sun*, 22 December 2020, online at: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/obituaries/bs-md-ob-james-henson-20201222-gzrwta5lfnbrnc2kr6n35sxcgu-story.html>. This story describes his career, family and descendants, including: "his wife of 44 years, E. Ardene Valentine," and "a son, James E. Henson, Jr. of Richmond, Virginia; five daughters, Kayla Henson, Deborah Henson and Sharon Henson of Alexandria, Valerie Henson-Ford of Arlington, Virginia and Nicole Walker of Grovetown, Georgia; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren." The article states that James was 84 when he died of congestive heart failure and cancer.

**Assertion:** James Ellis Henson, Sr. was the child of Catherine Virginia Henson and Clarence McGuire, and took his mother's last name. Catherine Henson and Clarence McGuire had a liaison in 1934-6+.

Proofs:

- 1940 US Census, Alexandria VA, 1437 Duke St., Alexandria, shows Catherine V. "Hanson," age 31, single, b. in MD, cook and house maid, with 7<sup>th</sup> grade education; with married sister and head of household Agnes M. Bates, 37, and Agnes' nephew James E. "Hanson," 3, all black. Catherine worked 50 weeks in the previous year, earning \$450.
- 1920 US Census, Pomomkey, Charles Co., MD, shows Catherine "Hanson," age 11, born in MD, with sister Agnes, age 14, and brother Charles, age 8, all black.
- Death certificate of Charles Ronald Henson at Alexandria Hospital, VA, age 1 year, 1 month and 19 days, born 11/12/34, died 1/1/36 of pneumonia, male colored infant, father Clarence McGuire, born in Alexandria, VA and mother Catherine Henson (not McGuire), born in Charles Co., MD.
- "Living Legends..." *ibid.*
- Statement of James E. Henson, Sr., *ibid.*
- June 2020 phone call between Lew Toulmin and James E. Henson, Sr.; James stated that his mother's middle initial "V" stood for Virginia.
- Jacques Kelly, *ibid.*, states that James E. Henson's parents were Clarence McGuire and Catherine Henson.

**Assertion:** Catherine Virginia Henson was born 15 July 1908 in MD and died 24 September 1987 in Alexandria, VA or Ellicott City, MD. Clarence McGuire was born 19 December 1904 in VA and died 19 November 1968 in Alexandria, VA.

Proofs:

- Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007, Ancestry.com, death cert. no. 06728, shows Catherine V. Henson, b. 15 July 1908, d. 24 September 1987
- Social Security Death Index shows Catherine V. Henson, b. 15 July 1908, d. 24 September 1987, last residence in Ellicott City, Howard Co., MD
- Find-a-Grave shows headstone of Catherine V. Henson, b. 15 July 1908, d. 24 September 1987, buried in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Alexandria, VA
- 1910 US Census for Anne Arundel Co., MD, shows Catherine "L" (?) Henson, age 4, b. in MD, with both parents b. in MD, mulatto, grand-daughter of Elizabeth Henson, age 49, b. in MD, head of household, black, widowed, mother of 4 children with 3 of them living, with both

parents b. in MD. (**NOTE:** it is not clear if this is the correct family, since some elements do not match, and the actual migration path seems to be from Charles County to Alexandria.)

- 1930 US Census for Baltimore, MD shows Catherine Henson, 23, married (?) at age 16, head of household, chambermaid, black, born in MD with both parents b. in MD; with two daughters: Dorothy Henson, 7, and Alene Henson, 2. (**NOTE:** it is not clear if this is the correct family since the migration path seems to be from Charles County to Alexandria.)
- World War II Draft Card for Clarence McGuire shows b. 19 December 1904, black male, with sister Eleanor McGuire, with Clarence at 310 Woodson Court, Alexandria, VA.
- Death Certificate for Clarence McGuire (no middle name) shows he was b. 19 December 1904 in VA and d. 19 November 1968 of cardiac arrest in Alexandria, VA, at Alexandria Hospital; was Negro, a wall scraper, never married, with parents Rubin McGuire and Susie Skelton.
- 1940 and 1920 US Censuses, *ibid.*

**Assertion:** Catherine Virginia Henson and sister (Mary) Agnes Bates (b. 4 August 1905 in Charles Co., MD, d. 27 April 1995 in Alexandria, VA) were the daughters of Bailey Henson and his wife Marie Chase, who married in 1905.

Proofs:

- Social Security Applications and Claims Index, shows Mary Agnes Bates (also shown in the same record as a.k.a. Agnes Bates); black female, born 4 August 1905 in Charles Co., MD, died 27 April 1995, with father Bailey Henson and mother Marie Chase.
- Social Security Death Index, shows Agnes Bates, born 4 August 1905 in Charles Co., MD, died 27 April 1995, with last residence in Alexandria, VA.
- Find-a-Grave, shows Mary Agnes Bates, born 4 August 1905, died 27 April 1995, buried in St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery, Alexandria, VA.
- 1940 and 1920 US Censuses, *ibid.* (showed that Agnes Bates was the sister of Catherine Henson).
- Email from James E. Henson to Lew Toulmin, 17 May 2020, states that the children of Bailey Henson and wife "Maria" were Catherine V. Henson, Agnes Henson, and Charles Henson, while the children of Bailey and a prior wife were Willie, George and Bernard Henson.

**Assertion:** Bailey Henson, born July 1857, also previously married (before 1890) to Rosena (Rose) Brown, and had a son Bernard Lemuel Henson, b. 14 February 1890 in Charles Co., MD, d. January 1938, and had other children, also. Rosena died before 1900.

Proofs:

- Social Security Applications and Claims Index shows Bernard Lemuel Henson, b. 14 February 1890 in Charles Co., MD, son of Bailey Henson and Rosena Brown; with the claim dated January 1938. (Note: this Bernard Lemuel Henson apparently went by "Lemuel (or Lenuel) Henson" as shown in the 1940 US Census for Kings, New York, age 50, born in MD, clerk at the area's Army Supply Base, with wife Ida, 46, black, b. in Washington, DC; and also as shown by NYC Marriage Index 1866-1937, in which "Lemuel Henson" is marrying Ida Scott on 11 May 1921, certificate 21219.)
- US Census for 1900 for Nanjemoy, Charles Co., MD, shows Bailey Henson, age 42, black, farm laborer, widowed, born July 1857 in MD, can read and write; with sons Harry Henson, 16,

laborer; Tony Henson, 14, laborer (!); Burnard [likely Bernard] Henson, 10, Willie [likely William] Henson, 8, Alphonga Henson, 6, and George Henson, 6. Everyone in the family was black, all born in MD with both parents b. in MD.

- US Census for 1870 for Nanjemoy, Charles Co., MD shows “B. Hanson,” (apparently Bailey Henson) age 12, mulatto male, b. in MD, with apparent sister “H. A. Hanson,” 9, mulatto female; both living in the household of “H. Washington,” 30, farmer, mulatto male, and “M. Washington,” 32, mulatto female.
- Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007, shows Bailey Henson married to Rose Brown, with son George Walter Henson, black male, b. 7 April 1896, apparently in Charles Co., MD (transcription is unclear). Record date is apparently September 1943, when George Walter Henson died or filed for benefits.

**Assertion:** Bailey Henson married (about 1905) also to Ann Marie Chase, b. c. 1872, and had children. Bailey likely died between 1910 and 1920, probably in Maryland.

Proofs:

- US Census for 1910 for Charles Co. MD, shows “Baley” Henson, 52 (son-in-law of head of household Fannie Chase). He was b. in MD with both parents b. in MD, laborer, and married for the second time 5 years before the Census. Fannie Chase is listed as a female mulatto, 78, widowed, with 10 children, of whom 2 are still alive, she was born in MD with both parents b. in MD. Ann M. [Chase] Henson is listed as a daughter of Fannie Chase, and is a female mulatto, 38, (b. c. 1872) married for the first time 5 years before the Census, with 2 children of whom both are alive, b. in MD and with both parents b. in MD. The two children of Ann and Bailey (Baley) are Virginia M. Henson, 7, and Margaret, 1.5, both mulatto grand-daughters of Fannie. George Henson, 16, mulatto, laborer, is also listed in the household, and is evidently the same George Henson who was in this household in 1900, and is the child of Bailey Henson and Rosena “Rose” Brown.
- US Census for 1920 for Charles Co., MD, Marbury area, shows Mary C. Henson, 46, b. c. 1874 in MD, mulatto female, widowed, able to read and write, with both parents b. in MD. She is listed as the mother-in-law of the head of this household, Robert Toyer (Foyer?), 33, black male. (If this is the correct Ann Mary Chase Henson, then this means that her husband Bailey Henson died between 1910 and 1920. In any case, no plausible Bailey (or similar spellings) seems to show up in the 1920 Census, so it appears he is deceased by then. The location that Mary C. Henson is living is described as on the road from Marbury to Mason’s Springs. This area is about 15 miles NNE of the Nanjemoy, Charles County area.)

**Assertion:** Bailey Henson was the son of Lemuel Henson and Lemuel’s first wife, Mary Claire (Henson) (later Washington), and Lemuel was also the father of North Pole discoverer and explorer Matthew Alexander Henson by Caroline Waters. Bailey and Matthew were therefore half-brothers. Matthew was born 8 August 1866 (or 1865) in Charles Co., MD.

Proofs:

- Statement by James E. Henson, phone conversation with Lew Toulmin, May 2020, asserting that Bailey Henson and Matthew Alexander Henson were half-brothers.

- Matthew Alexander Henson, *A Negro Explorer at the North Pole* (New York: Frederick A. Stokes, 1912), pp. xvii and 3 (obtained from the Gutenberg Project) states that he was born 8 August 1866 in Charles County, MD, “on the Potomac River.” In the book *Dark Companion* that Matthew co-wrote with Bradley Robinson ((USA: McBride and Co., 1947) p. 18), he states that his father was Lemuel Henson. (**NOTE:** elsewhere in this report it is discussed that the 1866 date may be 1865, not 1866.) *Dark Companion*, *ibid.*, and Maryann N. Weidt, *Matthew Henson* (Minneapolis: Hampton-Brown, 2002) p. 7, make it clear that both Matthew and his parents were born free, and lived a hard life as sharecroppers. (Assuming this is true, and assuming that there is a genealogical connection between Matthew and Rev. Henson, it is not clear when and how the Hensons in that connection line were freed, since Rev. Henson and his family were of course enslaved.)
- Affadavit dated 6 April 1988, signed by historian William A. Diggs, witnessed by Agnes Bates and Elsie A. Henson. (See the Annexes.) This sworn affidavit states that Diggs was b. 31 November 1918 in Charles Co., MD, and that, “Around 1934, I met with William Washington; I was a teenager and he was in his sixties. During discussions about his family, he told me that he and Bailey Henson were half- brothers. Also he said that Bailey Henson was a half-brother to Matthew Henson.” Diggs also states that, “Lemuel, Willie, Thomas, James and Margaret Washington also told me the same thing, that Bailey Henson was their half-brother and that Bailey was the half-brother of Matthew Henson.” The affidavit also states that, “William, Lemuel, Willie, Thomas, James and Margaret Washington are the children of Mary Claire Henson Washington.” Note that Agnes Bates is the woman listed earlier as the daughter of Bailey Henson and Marie Clair, and Agnes was born 4 August 1905 in Charles Co., MD, and died 27 April 1995. Hence she was alive and 82 at the time she signed the affidavit. The William Washington who stated he was the half brother of Lemuel Henson is apparently the William Washington who is shown in the 1870 US Census for Cross Roads, Charles Co., MD as a 2 year old mulatto male, son of “W” and “A” Washington; in the 1880 Census for Nanjemoy, Charles Co. as a 12 year old, son of Wesley Washington, 46, and Alberta, 41; and in the 1900 Census for Nanjemoy as b. in MD in March 1870. On that same Census page appears Lemuel (or “Lamuel”) Washington, b. in MD in September 1875, who is described in the affidavit as the half-brother of Matthew Henson. Attorney James E. Henson, Sr. states that the Matthew Henson referred to in the affidavit was explorer Matthew Alexander Henson, and that historian Diggs understood that to be the correct reference. (Affidavit original in the possession of James E. Henson, Sr., copy provided to Lew Toulmin; emphasis added.)
- Also on that same page in the 1900 US Census for Nanjemoy, Charles Co., MD appears Mary Washington, 60, b. in 1840 (month is blank), widowed black female. She is listed as having 17 children (!), of whom 9 are living in 1900; and has the same listing with the same number of children (17 and 9) in the 1910 Census for Cross Roads, Charles County. She appears again in the 1920 Census for Cross Roads, Charles County as Mary C. Washington, 82, widowed black female. She is almost certainly the Mary Washington listed in the 1870 Census for Nanjemoy as “M. Washington, 32” married to H. or “A. Washington” (likely Alex Washington), with a child “B. Hanson, 12,” (likely Bailey Henson from a previous marriage). She is also shown as Mary Washington in the 1880 Census for Nanjemoy as 40, black female, married to Alex Washington, 43, with children including William, 11, Thomas, 9, Margaret, 7, and James, 2. (This William is the person interviewed in the 1988 affidavit.) These latter children are all names mentioned in

the affidavit, all born between 1869 and 1878, and thus all feasible half-siblings of Matthew Alexander Henson. Therefore, as shown by the affidavit, the link between the two families is very likely Mary Claire Henson Washington. The scenario is as follows: she was born circa 1838; married Lemuel Henson as his (previously unknown) first wife, when she was about 17, around 1855; then had a son Bailey Henson by Lemuel about 1857/8, then divorced or separated from Lemuel soon thereafter, by 1861. Then Mary had time to marry Alex Washington around 1864, and have a daughter (Jane Washington) by him in 1866. She then went on to have the Washington sons (listed previously) and Margaret, all mentioned in the affidavit as half-siblings of Matthew Henson. Meanwhile Lemuel, separated or divorced from Mary in about 1861, had time to move on to marry Caroline Waters in about 1862, and have “R. Henson” in 1863, “M. Henson” (Matthew Alexander Henson) in 1865, “M. Henson” in 1867, and “E. Henson” in 1869, as recorded in the 1870 Census for Charles County. Of course all this is a bit speculative, but it does fit the available facts.

- The fact that Bailey Henson had a proven son Bernard **Lemuel** Henson, and that this person sometimes went by the name Lemuel (a fairly unusual name), is an indicator that this name might be a family name, honoring Lemuel Henson, possible father of Bailey Henson and possible grandfather of Bernard Lemuel Henson (and also father of Matthew Alexander Henson).
- Lemuel Henson married for the third and last time to Nellie (no last name cited); this marriage occurred very shortly after the death of Matthew’s mother, when “he was two,” in 1868 (*Dark Companion*, *ibid.*, pp. 18-20).

**Note:** the linkage above (Bailey to Matthew as half-brothers via father Lemuel Henson) could certainly use additional documentation, but the affidavit plays a key role in bridging the gap, and the line does seem to fit the facts. The connection is therefore deemed proven to a reasonable if not high standard, given the challenges of research in this time and place.

**Assertions:** Matthew Alexander Henson was born 8 August 1866 [but see later discussion] in Charles County, MD. His parents were Lemuel Henson and Caroline Waters. Matthew died 9 March 1955 in the Bronx, NY, and on 6 April 1988 was re-buried at Arlington National Cemetery, in Arlington, VA. He married first to Eva Helen Flint in April 1891 in Philadelphia, PA. They divorced in 1897 with no certain issue. (But see the later section for a possible descent.) Matthew had a liaison in 1906 with the Inuit woman Akatingwah (no last name) in Greenland, and fathered a son Anaukaq Henson, his only proven child; this child has descendants still living in Greenland (hence these are the only proven direct descendants of Matthew).



Akatingwah with Anaukaq Henson on her back

He married second to Lucy J. Ross (daughter of Mediator Ross and Susan Randolph) on 5 September 1907 in Manhattan, New York City. She was born about 1880 (or 1883-4) in Maryland and died 12 March 1968 in Manhattan, NYC, without issue. In April 1988 she was re-buried along with Matthew in Arlington National Cemetery.

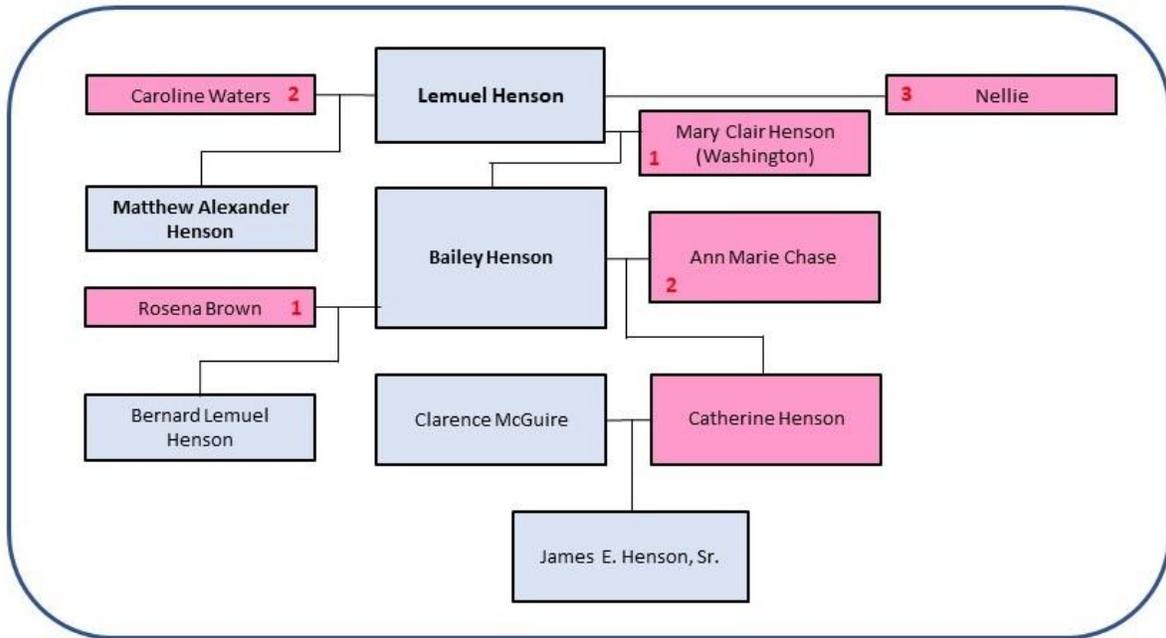
Proofs:

- Matthew Alexander Henson, signed typewritten letter sent by him to the Secretary of The Explorers Club dated 1 December 1953, supplying membership information, states that Henson’s birth date is 8 August 1866, with the location being Charles Co., MD. The address of

Henson on this letter is 246 West 150<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC. (Source: The Explorers Club archives; see Annex A.)

- Matthew Alexander Henson, *A Negro Explorer at the North Pole* (New York: Frederick A. Stokes, 1912), pp. xvii and 3 (obtained from the Gutenberg Project) states that he was born 8 August 1866 in Charles County, MD, “on the Potomac River.”
- Find-a-Grave.com states that Matthew Alexander Henson was born 8 August 1866 in Nanjemoy, Charles Co., MD and died 9 March 1955 in the Bronx, NY, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery (a photo of the substantial monument is provided on the site).
- Marriage Index for Philadelphia, PA states that Eva Helen Flint married Matthew Alexander Henson in that city in 1891, marriage license no. 42297.
- Wikipedia states that Matthew married Eva Flint in 1891 and divorced in 1897.
- S. Allen Counter, *North Pole Legacy* (Montpelier, VT: Invisible Cities Press, 2001), pp. 55 and 61, states that Eva Flint was 22, from a conservative black Philadelphia family, when she and Matthew met in September 1890, that they courted for several months, secured a marriage license from the Philadelphia Orphan’s Court on 13 April 1891, married three days later (hence 16 April 1891), and divorced in 1897.
- The liaison of Matthew with Inuit woman Akatingwah in Greenland, and their resulting son Anaukaq Henson, and numerous descendants, is described and documented in Counter, *ibid.*, particularly in pp. 13-48. (**NOTE:** This present analysis has not independently reviewed or evaluated the Greenland line asserted by Counter, but here is relying on his research and book as a proof.)
- FamilySearch.org shows NYC Marriage Records for Matthew Henson, 40, b. c. 1867 in Washington, DC (!), male, single, black, with parents Lemuel Henson and Caroline Waters; marrying Lucy Jane Ross on 5 September 1907 in Manhattan. She is listed as 27, b. c. 1880 in NYC, black single female, with parents Mediator Ross and Susan Randolph.
- Find-a-Grave.com lists Lucy Ross Henson as born in 1888, died on 12 March 1968 in Manhattan, and interred in Arlington National Cemetery beside Matthew Alexander Henson; a photo of the gravesite is provided.
- NY Extracted Marriage Index shows Matthew Henson marrying Lucy J. Ross on 5 September 1907 in Manhattan, certificate no. 22771.
- NY State Census of 1915 shows Lucy Henson age 31 (hence born about 1884) and husband Matthew Henson age 48, living in the Bronx; he is a Clerk at the Customs House.
- US Census for 1920 for the Bronx, NY, shows Matthew A. Henson, age 53, born in New York (!?), with both parents born in MD; and Lucy Henson, age 37 (hence born about 1883), born in Maryland, with her mother born in Virginia and her father born in New York. Lucy’s mother Susan Ross, age 65, widowed, born in Virginia, is also living in the household.
- The re-burial in Arlington National Cemetery is described in this source: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Notable-Graves/Explorers/Matthew-Henson>.

The graphic below presents the main line discussed above.



Based on this overall analysis, the following persons are all reasonably proven to be related to explorer Matthew Alexander Henson (the relationship is as descendants of half-brothers and half-sisters of Matthew):

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century attorney James E. Henson, Sr. of Alexandria, VA and his numerous descendants. Attorney James E. Henson, Sr. is the half-grandnephew of explorer Matthew Henson. (James is the grandson of the half-brother of Matthew Henson. This relationship is also sometimes called a “half-great-nephew.”)
- Other descendants of Bailey Henson, including descendants of his son Bailey Lemuel Henson
- Other descendants of Mary Claire by her marriage to Lemuel Henson
- Descendants (if any) of Lemuel and his third wife Nellie.

Lemuel Henson and Caroline Waters Henson apparently had children together other than Matthew Alexander Henson – recall the interpretation (if correct) that their children included the girls: “R. Henson” b. in 1863, “M. Henson,” b. in 1867, and “E. Henson,” b. in 1869, as recorded in the 1870 Census for Charles County. Thus those persons are full (not half) siblings of Matthew Alexander Henson, and if this analysis is correct, then all their descendants are great, great....nieces and nephews of explorer Matthew Henson.

The descendants of the union of Marie Claire (Henson) and Alex Washington are in a different position. From the affidavit it is evident that they considered themselves to be half-brothers or half-sisters of Matthew Alexander Henson. But technically they are not, because neither of their parents was a parent of Matthew. It would be more accurate to describe them as step-brothers and step-sisters of Matthew. They could still claim this familial relationship to him.

Altogether, this analysis shows a large pool of persons possibly living today, many of whom likely are completely unaware of their relationship to a great explorer.

Note that James E. Henson, Sr. had in his possession a family chart showing a linkage from him up to Lemuel, to Lemuel's asserted father (the previously unknown Paul Henson), and thence to Paul Henson's asserted brother, Reverend Josiah Henson. This relationship will be discussed and the chart shown in a later section below, on the siblings of Reverend Henson.

## Relationship of Taraji Henson to Matthew Alexander Henson

This section attempts to link Taraji Henson to explorer Matthew Henson. Ms. Henson is a distinguished and award-winning modern actress, in *Hustle & Flow* (2005), *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* (2008), *Hidden Figures* (2016), etc., and author of a best-selling autobiography, *Around the Way Girl* (2016).



Taraji P. Henson

**Assertion:** Actress Taraji Penda Henson was born in 1970 in Washington, DC. Her father was Boris Lawrence Henson, a metal fabricator, and her mother was Bernice Gordon Henson. Her parents divorced when Taraji was two, in about 1972. (By the way, Taraji means "hope" and Penda means "love" in Swahili.)

Proofs:

- Biography.com (see <https://www.biography.com/actor/taraji-henson#synopsis>) states that Taraji Henson was born in DC in 1970, names her father Boris Henson and mother Bernice Gordon Henson, and says her parents divorced when she was two.
- Wikipedia states that the mother of Taraji Penda Henson is Bernice Gordon Henson, a corporate manager at Woodward & Lothrop department store, and Taraji's father is Boris Lawrence Henson, a janitor and metal fabricator. This site also gives the translations for Taraji's names, and states that she has said that "North Pole explorer Matthew Henson is the brother of my great-great-grandfather."



- Mike Batie, "'Hidden Figures' Actress Taraji P. Henson's Great-Great Uncle Was First to Reach the North Pole," *Hollywood Ancestry*, at <https://www.hollywoodancestry.com/post/hidden-figures-actress-taraji-p-henson-s-great-great-uncle-was-first-to-reach-the-north-pole>. This source gives a terse family tree for Taraji, as follows: Taraji Penda Henson, b. 1970, had a father Boris Lawrence Henson, b. 1948, who had a father Russell H. Henson, b. 1918, who had a father James Francis Henson, b. 1882, who had a father Joseph Henson, b. 1850, who had a father Lemuel Henson, b. c. 1832 and a brother Matthew Alexander Henson, b. 1866. No sources or other details are provided. (This section of this report attempts to document that line.)
- US Public Records Index, shows Taraji P. Henson with birth year of 1970, living in Washington, DC in 1996.
- Ancestry.com, US School Yearbooks, shows Taraji Henson, b. about 1970 in the 1987 yearbook for Oxon Hill High School in Maryland, and has a picture (shown).

**Assertion:** Boris Lawrence Henson, father of Taraji Henson, was born 12 January 1948 in Washington, DC and died 19 February 2006 in Prince Georges Co., MD. Taraji's mother Bernice Gordon was born in 1949.

Proofs:

- US Social Security Death Index, states that Boris L. Henson was born 12 January 1948 and died 19 February 2006, with last residence in Prince Georges Co., MD.
- US Social Security Applications and Claims Index shows Boris Lawrence Henson, black male, b. 12 January 1948 in Washington, DC and d. 19 February 2006.
- Find-a-Grave states that Boris Lawrence Henson was born 12 January 1948 in Washington, DC and died 19 February 2006 in Prince Georges Co., MD, and is buried at the Maryland Veteran's Cemetery in Cheltenham, Prince Georges Co., MD.
- US Public Records Index shows Bernice Gordon Henson living in Glenn Dale, MD in 1996, b. in 1949.

**Assertion:** the father of Boris Lawrence Henson was Russell H. Henson, b. 26 July 1918 in Muck Hok, PA and d. 18 November 2004 in Nanjemoy, Charles Co., MD; and Boris' mother was Mary Madelene Thomas, b. 26 February 1918 in Washington, DC. Russell and Mary married on 8 October 1939 in Washington, DC, and Mary Madeline Thomas Henson died 10 June 1992. Mary's parents were Charles H. Thomas and Clara Taylor.

Proofs:

- Veterans BIRLS Death Files states that Russell Henson was b. 26 July 1918 and d. 18 November 2004, and that he enlisted from 4 May 1944 to 15 December 1945.
- US Veteran's Gravesites, states that Russell Henson, b. 26 July 1918, d. 18 November 2004 at age 86, and is buried in Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery in MD, and was a PFC in the US Marine Corps.
- Find-a-Grave photo of headstone in Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery shows PFC Russell Henson, USMC, b. 26 July 1918, d. 18 November 2004, with wife Madeline Thomas Henson, b. 26 February 1918 and d. 10 June 1992.
- World War II Draft Registration Card shows Russell Henson, b. 26 July 1918 in Muck Hok, PA, Negro male, living in Washington, DC, with mother Mrs. Bunell Henson also living in Washington, DC.
- SS Death Index shows Russell Henson b. 26 July 1918, d. 18 Nov. 2004, with last residence of Nanjemoy, Charles Co., MD.
- US Census for 1940 for Washington, DC shows Russell Henson, 21, b. abt. 1919 in PA, married to Madaline M. Henson, 23. The rest of the household is the large Thomas family. Russell Henson is a deliveryman, black male, with a first year of high school education.
- US Census for 1930 for Washington, DC shows Russell Henson, 12, b. abt. 1918 in PA, with both parents b. in MD, Negro male, with mother Beula Henson, 38, Negro female, and various relatives.
- District of Columbia Marriage Records show Russell Henson, age 21, marrying Mary Madelene Thompson [sic, should be Thomas, apparent error by clerk], 22, on 8 October 1939 in DC.
- Washington, DC City Directory for 1933 shows Russell Henson living with Madeline M. Henson in SW Washington.
- US Social Security Applications and Claims shows Madaline Thomas Henson, black female, b. 26 February 1918 in DC and d. 10 June 1992, with parents Charles H. Thomas and Clara Taylor.
- Assertion by Henson Family Tree (on Ancestry.com) that the father of Boris Lawrence Henson was Russell H. Henson.

**NOTE:** The link in the bullet points above from Boris Lawrence Henson to his asserted father Russell H. Henson should have more documentation to meet a high standard of proof.

**Assertion:** Russell Henson was the son of James Francis Henson, b. 5 October 1881 in Charles Co., MD, d. February 1940, and Bueuell (or Beulah, Bunie, Beula or other similar names or nicknames) Craig Henson. They married 4 August 1916 in Washington, DC. Beulah was the daughter of William S. Craig, b. c. 1854 in MD.

Proofs:

- DC Compiled Marriages Index shows James F. Henson, single black male, 32, b. 1884 in Nanjemoy, MD and Buenell Henson, 24, b. 1892 in Nanjemoy, MD, widowed, marrying on 4 August 1916 in Washington, DC.
- US Census for 1930 for Washington, DC shows Russell Henson, 12, b. abt. 1918 in PA, with both parents b. in MD, Negro male, with mother Beula Henson, 38, Negro female and various relatives.
- US Census for 1920 for Cross Roads, Charles Co., MD shows James F. Henson, 37, b. c. 1883 in MD, with both parents b. in MD, black male, “tember” (timber?) laborer. He is married to Beanna V. Henson, 27, black female, b. in MD with both parents b. in MD. James and Beanna own their home “free,” not mortgaged. In the household are various children including Russell Henson, black male, age 1, b. in PA, with both parents b. in MD.
- US Census for 1910 for Charles Co., MD shows “Bunie” Henson, born in MD with both parents b. in MD, black female age 19, married with 2 children of whom 1 is living, and she has been married for 2 years; Bunie is the daughter of William S. Craig, black male farmer, 54, b. in MD with both parents b. in MD. He has been married for 35 years.
- Find-a-Grave shows a headstone for Buenell Craig Henson, b. 8 June 1889, d. 2 May 1989 (aged 99) buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, Nanjemoy, Charles Co., MD.
- World War II Draft Registration Card for 17 October 1940 shows Russell Henson, b. 26 July 1918 in Muck Hok, PA, Negro male, living in Washington, DC, with mother Mrs. Bunell Henson also living in Washington, DC. Russell is 5’ 7” and 150 pounds, with a “scare [sic; scar?] on left side of forehead.”
- Social Security Applications and Claims Index shows James Francis Henson, b. 5 October 1881 in Charles Co., MD, d. February 1940, black male, with parents Joseph Henson and Jane Gaynor.

**Assertion:** James Francis Henson was the son of Joseph Henson, b. about 1850 in MD, d. aft. 1920, and Jane Gaynor (a.k.a. Mary Jane Gainer), b. May 1849 in MD; they married about 1871-4, probably in MD.

Proofs:

- Social Security Applications and Claims Index shows James Francis Henson, b. 5 October 1881 in Charles Co., MD, d. February 1940, black male, with parents Joseph Henson and Jane Gaynor. Date on the record is February 1940.
- Social Security Applications and Claims Index shows Joseph Henson with spouse Mary J. Gainer and child Eva Henson Reed, b. 22 February 1890 in Charles Co., MD; record is dated February 1939.

- US Census for 1920 for Cross Roads, Charles Co., MD shows Joseph Henson, 70, b. c. 1850 in MD, black male farmer, with mother and father both b. in MD; married to Mary A. Henson, 62, black female, b. c. 1858 in MD with mother and father both b. in MD. Joseph and his wife own their home, with no mortgage. Also in the household among others is daughter Eva Henson Reed, 29, black female, married.
- US Census for 1910 for Cross Roads, Charles Co., MD shows Joseph Henson, 60, b. c. 1850 in MD, black male farmer, with mother and father both b. in MD; married to Mary J. Henson, 58, black female, b. c. 1852 in MD with mother and father both b. in MD. Joseph and his wife were married 39 years previously, hence in abt. 1871. Also in the household among others are Eva Henson Dent, 26, black female, married.
- US Census for 1900 for Nanjemoy, Charles Co., MD shows Joseph Henson, 50, born in 1850 in MD, black male laborer, with mother and father both b. in MD; married to Mary Jane Henson, 51, black female, b. May 1849 in MD with mother and father both b. in MD. Joseph and his wife were married 26 years before the Census, hence in abt. 1874. Mary Jane Henson has had 9 children, of whom 4 are living. Also in the household among others are Eva Henson, 10, b. in 1890, black female.
- US Census for 1880 for Nanjemoy, Charles Co., MD shows Joe “Hanson,” 35, b. c. 1855 in MD, black male whitewasher, with mother and father both b. in MD; married to Jane “Hanson,” 35, black female, b. c. 1855, in MD with mother and father both b. in MD.
- US Census for 1870 for Washington, DC, Ward 5, shows Joseph Henson, 24, b. c. 1846 in MD, oysterman, personal estate value \$200, living in a one-person household. **NOTE:** it is not certain that this is the correct Joseph Henson, since he is living in DC, not MD, and there is no linking information to other known family members.

**Assertion:** Joseph Henson was the half-brother of explorer Matthew Alexander Henson; they had a common father of Lemuel Henson, but different mothers.

Proofs:

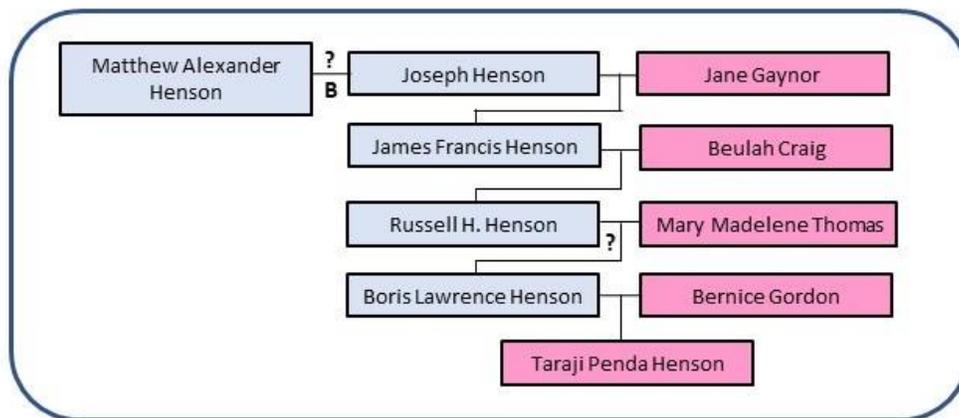
- Taraji P. Henson statement that Matthew Henson “was the brother of my great-great grandfather. Matthew would send him letters about his travels while out on his expeditions. Somebody in the family had all this great correspondence until one day when their apartment was robbed and the letters were lost, probably thrown away like trash.” See: <https://www.hollywoodancestry.com/post/hidden-figures-actress-taraji-p-henson-s-great-great-uncle-was-first-to-reach-the-north-pole>. This article states that Joseph Henson was Taraji’s great-great-grandfather, that the Henson family hailed from Nanjemoy, Charles County, Maryland, a very small community where the Henson family lived for generations.
- Taraji P. Henson stated in a Tweet on 7 February 2019 that, “My dear friend Danny Glover narrated Jared Brock’s documentary “Redeeming Uncle Tom,” which will premiere on 200+ PBS stations for Black History Month. It’s about my incredible ancestor Josiah Henson!!!”
- *Black in Time Enterprises* states that Matthew Henson “is believed to be the brother of the great, great, grandfather of actress Taraji P. Henson” and also Matthew is “the great grand nephew of Josiah Henson, the famous runaway slave and author...” (March 9, 2019 Facebook posting; no proofs supplied).
- The US Census for 1870 for Duffield, District 3, Charles Co., MD shows Joseph Hanson, 9, black male b. in MD, with his apparent brother or half-brother Thomas Hanson, 12, mulatto male, b. in MD. They are living in the household of Darbey Chunn, 60, mulatto male, and A. Leanah

Chunn, 48, black female. Duffield is apparently about 14 miles NE of Nanjemoy. Perhaps this Joseph is the Joseph who later appears in Nanjemoy, and he and his relative Thomas had been farmed out to the Chunn family at the time of the 1870 Census. “Farmed out” is possibly correct, because there is a family of Hansons (Hensons?) in Nanjemoy in 1870 who may be the family of Joseph and Thomas, and who may be their father and mother Lemuel Henson and Caroline Waters Henson, and the family of Matthew Alexander Henson. As discussed earlier and in more detail in the section below on the time line for Matthew, this 19 Aug 1870 Census family has “L. Hanson” (Lemuel Henson?), 29, black male, farm laborer; “C. Hanson” (Caroline Henson?), 29, mulatto female; and “M. Hanson” age 5 (Matthew Henson?), black male (and three sisters). So perhaps Matthew’s elder brothers or half brothers Joseph and Thomas were sent away from this Hanson (Henson?) family to the Chunn family to be raised and do work.

- Mike Batie, *ibid*.

**NOTE:** The bullet points immediately above are not fully satisfactory genealogical proofs of the relationship between Joseph Henson and explorer Matthew Henson. That does not necessarily mean that the relationship did not exist. It may just mean that more paper, DNA or other evidence needs to be amassed in order to meet a high genealogical standard. See the section below on the challenges of identifying Lemuel Henson, father of Matthew Alexander Henson.

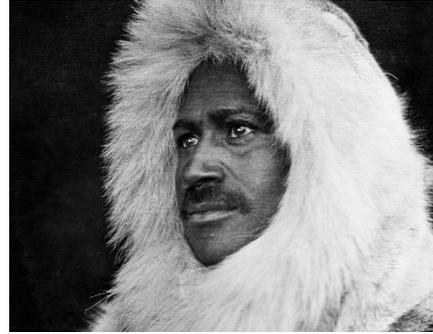
The graphic below summarizes the asserted line above.



The “? B” above means that this brother or half-brother relationship needs additional documentation; similarly, the “?” above means that additional documentation is desirable for the link from Russell H. Henson to Boris Lawrence Henson. If this line could be more fully documented, it would mean that (as claimed) Taraji P. Henson is the great-grand-niece of Matthew Alexander Henson.

## Genealogical Timeline for Matthew Henson

This timeline first provides the different, sometimes conflicting sources re his genealogical timeline, then second proposes an early timeline for his life that is most sensible and fits the available facts. This timeline is important, because it impacts which documents to trust, where to look for additional proofs, and our understanding of Matthew Henson's life.



Matthew Alexander Henson

### Sourced Timeline

August 8, 1866:

Matthew Henson is born in Charles Co. MD (Bradley Robinson with Matthew Henson, *Dark Companion: the Story of Matthew Henson* (Robert McBride and Co., 1947) (hereinafter called "DC,") p. 18). Although this 1866 date is generally published, on the marriage license issued 13 April 1891 in Philadelphia, PA to Henson and Eva Flint, his birth date is listed as 8 August 1868, not 1866 (Counter, op cit., p. 243).

In Matthew Alexander Henson, *A Negro Explorer at the North Pole* (New York: Frederick A. Stokes, 1912), pp. xvii and 3 (hereinafter called *MAH*; obtained from the Gutenberg Project), Henson states that he was born 8 August 1866 in Charles County, MD, "on the Potomac River, about forty-four miles below Washington, DC." (Note however that there is some possible doubt about the exactitude of that birth date, especially given the different date cited in his first marriage license.) In *MAH*, *ibid.*, he states that his parents were both free born, that is mother was partly white, and that she died when Matthew was seven years old.

Matthew's father was Lemuel Henson and his mother was Caroline Waters (from NYC marriage certificate of MH and Lucy Ross, in 1907). Note that DC, *ibid.*, states that "there was a local rumor that Lemuel was a close relative of Josiah Henson...but no one could accurately say there was a blood tie between Lemuel and Josiah" (DC, pp. 18-19).

1867:

The Henson family, including Matthew and his mother, move to "a poor section of Georgetown," District of Columbia, to escape possible KKK violence in southern Maryland (Michael Gilman, *Matthew Henson* (New York: Chelsea House, 1988), p.17). (But see contradictory dates below.) In *MAH*, he states that the move to "Washington, DC" was "at an early age" (Georgetown was a town older than the District of Columbia, and was considered separate from Washington City for some time.)

1868:

MH's mother Caroline Waters Henson dies, she is 2nd wife of Lemuel Henson (*Dark Companion*, p. 18). First wife not known. Total progeny from 3 marriages: 2 girls, 4 boys, not named (*ibid.*). This death apparently occurs in Charles County, MD or Georgetown, then a small town adjacent to "Washington City." However, Gilman, *Matthew Henson*, p. 18, states that "Henson's mother died when he was seven years old," which would be in about 1873. (Hence she would be alive for the 1870 US Census, presumably in Washington, DC or Georgetown – or still in Maryland?) *MAH* also states that Matthew's mother died when he "was seven years old."

c.1869-9:

Lemuel Henson remarries, to Nellie, a “widowed neighbor” (DC, p. 18). This marriage apparently took place in Charles County, MD or in the District of Columbia.

c.1869-70:

Lemuel, Nellie and family move from a log cabin to a two story frame house (DC, *ibid.*, p. 19), apparently in the District of Columbia – or still in Charles County?

24 June 1870:

US Census in Washington, DC records a “Lemuel Henson, carpenter, aged 38, black male, living with Margaret, black female aged 27, and children Anna M (age 11) Ann L (5) and Evelina (2). Matthew is not listed. It is not clear if this is Matthew’s family (because where is Nellie and Matthew? Is he with an uncle?). Since “Lemuell” and Margaret Tinker Henson have a male child in DC on 7 August 1876, and Lemuel should be dead by this date (see below), it appears that this Lemuell/Margaret union is not the MH family. Lemuel Henson, carpenter, appears for many years in DC as a carpenter and laborer, in city directories, more evidence that this is not the Lemuel Henson father of MH. (See the section later in this report on the challenges of tracing Lemuel Henson.)

21 July 1870:

US Census of Nottingham District, Prince Georges Co., MD (in the Washington, DC area) shows “Nelly Henson, 35 year-old black female keeping house” with Sophia (12) and John E. (4). This may be MH’s abusive step-mother, although this would contradict the status of the family immediately below, in which wife Caroline is apparently still alive. And in the PG County family, where are Matthew, Lemuel, and the brood of other children?

19 Aug 1870:

US Census for 1<sup>st</sup> District, “Nanjemty,” (Nanjemoy) Charles County, MD, shows a Henson family, as L. “Hanson”, 29 year old black male, farm laborer; C. Hanson, 29, mulatto female; R. Hanson, 7, black female; M. Hanson, 5, black male; M. Hanson, 3, black female; E. Hanson, 1, black female. This is likely Matthew Henson, five years old, with father Lemuel and mother Caroline. However, this family has three girls and one boy, not two girls and four boys, as reported by MH in *Dark Companion* (p. 18). Another small piece of evidence pointing to this family being correct is that C. (Caroline?) Hanson/Henson is mulatto, not black, and Matthew Henson stated in *MAH*, *ibid.*, that his mother was partly white. (Note that if this family and dates are correct, then possibly the correct birthdate for Matthew is about 8 August 1865, not 1866.) (As noted previously in this report, it is possible though certainly not proven that Joseph and Thomas Hanson (Henson?) were farmed out from the L. (Lemuel?) Hanson/Henson family of Nanjemoy, to the Chunn family in Duffield, Charles County, at the time of the 1870 Census.)

c. 1872-1878:

MH attends grades 1-6 in Washington, DC; that is the extent of his formal education (Jeri Ferris, *Arctic Explorer: The Story of Matthew Henson* (Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 1989) p. 11). *MAH* states that

after his mother died when he was seven, he was “taken in charge by my uncle, who sent me to school, the ‘N Street School,’ which I attended for over six years.”

The “N Street School” is very likely the “M Street School,” which was founded in 1870 and later became the famous and well-regarded Dunbar High School. See the Wikipedia entry for “Dunbar High School” and the Dunbar Alumni site <https://daf-dc.org/about/dunbar-history>. This latter entry makes it clear that school was founded in 1870, was for a long period the only school for black children in DC or even the region, that it moved several times, and was called the M Street School from 1891, and was re-located to a larger facility on N Street from 1916, when it was re-named after Paul Lawrence Dunbar. Because of these name changes, moves and addresses (including an address on N Street), it is quite understandable that Henson would call it the N Street School.

c. 1874:

Lemuel Henson, father of MH dies of a “rupture” “three years” before MH decides to run away from home (DC, p. 20) (Therefore, if this date is correct, then no records after this date can refer to Lemuel, father of MH.) However, Gilman, *Matthew Henson*, *ibid*, pp. 17-18, states that Henson “was orphaned” when he was 13, which would be in about 1879. This source also states that soon after the death of MH’s mother, his father sent him to stay with an uncle (unnamed) living nearby.

c. late 1877:

“a few months after his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday” MH runs away from abuser Nellie and home (DC, p. 20)

c. early-mid 1878:

MH stays with Janey Moore, not a relative, for “nine months” (DC, p. 23).

c. autumn 1878:

MH joins the sailing ship *Katie Hines* in Baltimore, under Capt. James Childs “at age 12” (DC, pp. 16, 26).

**OR**

fall of 1879:

MH walks 40 miles to the port of Baltimore to find adventure and joins the *Katie Hines* (Gilman, *Matthew Henson*, p. 19), **OR**

c. 1880:

MH joins the three-masted sailing ship *Katie Hines* “at age 14” (Jeri Ferris, *ibid.*, p. 10)

c. 1880-85:

MH sails the world aboard the *Katie Hines* for five years, and is informally but extensively educated by Capt. Childs (*Arctic Explorer*, p. 11) (Gilman, p. 107, states these voyaging dates are 1879-1883, and the destinations were China, Japan, Africa and the Russian Arctic sea.)

Dec. 1883 (or 1885?):

Capt. Childs gets sick on passage from Jamaica to Baltimore, dies on board the *Katie Hines*, and is buried at sea (Gilman, *Matthew Henson*, p. 20).

c. 1884-1885:

Capt. Childs dies at sea, MH returns to Baltimore (*Arctic Explorer*, p. 11)

Spring 1887: Sam Steinmetz, boss of MH at a NYC hat and furrier store, introduces MH to Robert Peary, and recommends MH for the job of “valet” on Peary’s upcoming expedition to Nicaragua. (DC, pp. 55-59)

Nov. 1887:

MH accompanies Robert Peary to Nicaragua, and quickly transitions from valet to a valuable assistant and chain man on Peary’s survey team.

April 1891:

MH marries Eva Helen Flint in Philadelphia (“Biography: Matthew Henson,” see <https://www.biography.com/explorer/matthew-henson>); also see Philadelphia Marriage database, on Ancestry.com

1891-2:

MH accompanies Peary on an expedition to Greenland. (DC, pp. 61-69)

1897:

MH divorces Eva Flint, and had no issue (Wikipedia) (but see later discussion)

1905:

MH appears in Manhattan in NY State Census (Ancestry.com)

1906:

MH apparently took as his “country (informal) wife” the Inuit woman Akatingwah, and fathered a son Anauakaq, his only child; this child had descendants (S. Allen Counter, *ibid.*, pp. 16-50).

5 Sept 1907:

MH marries Lucy J. Ross in Manhattan, NYC, per NYC marriage certificate described earlier; (<https://www.preceden.com/timelines/299417-matthew-henson-timeline>), no issue. Her parents are Mediator Ross and Susan Randolph. MH birthplace given on the certificate as Washington, DC and his age as 40. Also, Gilman, *Matthew Henson*, p. 87.

6 April 1909:

Matthew Henson reaches the North Pole, 45 minutes ahead of Commander Robert Peary, while scouting ahead for Peary and the team. Counter, *op. cit.*, pp. 68-69, 189-209. Counter provides very convincing arguments in a detailed analysis that the team did indeed reach the Pole, contrary to various detractors and skeptics over the years.

Oct 14, 1937:

MH inducted into The Explorers Club as a life member (Associated Press Name Index Card d/b, Ancestry.com) (Note that this honor was actually as an Honorary Member, which is an award given to only 20 persons at a time, and is much more significant than the ordinary term in most societies of “honorary member.” Such Honorary Members pay no dues, and have a life membership.)

1954:

Matthew and Lucy Henson are received at the White House by President Eisenhower (Gilman, *Matthew Henson*, p. 104; see photo.)



March 9, 1955:

MH dies in the Bronx, NYC. Later his remains and those of Lucy are moved to Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA. Per <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Notable-Graves/Explorers/Matthew-Henson> and

<http://www.enra.dk/gen/tngarne/getperson.php?personID=I6809&tree=Arne1>, this move happened on 6 April 1988. Full military honors were given at the re-internment, and a substantial monument erected.

### Proposed Early Timeline

Trying to unravel the early years of Matthew Henson, the following dates and actions may be more reasonable and best fit the available facts:

- c. August 1865 (not '66): Matthew Henson is born in Charles Co., Maryland. This reflects the 1870 Census, immediately below, and makes him a more reasonable year older when he later runs off to sea. It also changes the very exact birthdate cited by Henson himself, later in life, but the exactitude of this date seems somewhat questionable, given the difficult circumstances of his birth and early life.
- 19 Aug 1870: The Henson family, with Lemuel and Caroline still alive, is recorded in the US Census in Nanjemoy, Charles Co., Maryland (this is the family recorded as L. “Hanson” (probably Lemuel Henson, 29, black male, farm laborer), C. “Hanson” (probably Caroline Henson, black female), and five year old M. “Hanson” (probably Matthew Henson). Also shown are R. Hanson, 7, black female, M. Hanson, 3, black female, and E. Hanson, 1, black female. (As mentioned earlier, perhaps the other boys in this family were farmed out to other households when the Census taker arrived.)
- c. 1872: Caroline Henson dies in MD when her son Matthew is 7 years old (not 2)

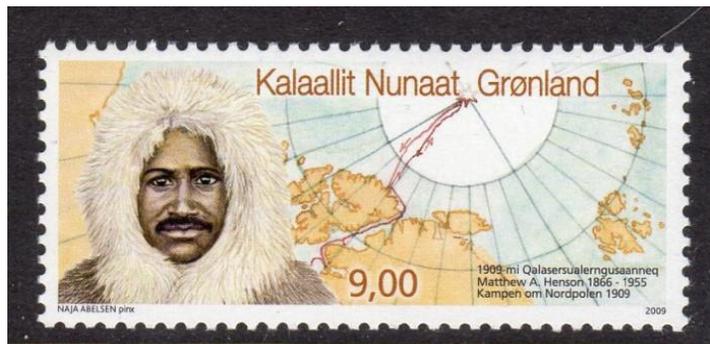
- c. later in 1872: Lemuel Henson and his children move to Georgetown, in what is now the District of Columbia, and he marries Nellie, a widow
- c. 1872-8: Matthew attends the M Street School in DC (from 7 to 13 years old) (these years are more reasonable for him to attend school than some much earlier years, especially since this school, the only one in the area for black children, was not established until 1870)
- c. 1875: Lemuel Henson, father of Matthew, dies of a “rupture” when Matthew is 10. Nellie is abusive towards Matthew.
- c. 1878-9: Matthew leaves home, works for “Aunt” Janey (not really a relative) for 9 months, at about age 13-14.
- c. 1879-80: Matthew walks to Baltimore, meets Captain James Childs, joins the crew of the *Katie Hines*, at about age 14-15 (this age is much more reasonable than “at age 12” (DC, pp. 16, 26). (Of course cabin boys in this period did join ships at an early age, but given the extensive training and skills acquired by MH on board, it seems more reasonable that he left the ship at 19 or so.)
- c. 1880-85: Matthew sails to many ports around the world on the *Katie Hines*, while he is aged 15-19/20, and learns navigation and many other skills.

## A Possible Descent in the US from Matthew Alexander Henson

All biographies of Matthew Alexander Henson state that he either had no issue, or that his only issue was in Greenland, or they do not address the question, and thus imply that he had no children in the US.

However, there seems to be one possible piece of evidence that he in fact had a child (or stepchild?) in the US, by his first wife, Eva Helen Flint -- or that she had an illegitimate child who partially bore Matthew’s name. Recall that he married her in April 1891 in Philadelphia, after some time spent in courting, and they divorced in 1897.

This evidence is in the Social Security Application and Claims Index for Matthew William Henson, Jr., b. 15 June 1893 in Germantown (part of Philadelphia), PA, whose father is listed as Matthew W. Henson and mother as Eva Flint. Now this could well be just a coincidence. And of course the Matthew **W**. Henson in both names does not match the correct name of Matthew **A**. Henson. But minor errors and transcription errors like this do happen, and it would be surprising that a Matthew Henson could have a



Matthew Henson on a Greenland Stamp

child by an Eva Flint in the short time that they were married, in Philadelphia, and that it not be the couple we are interested in.

Exploring this a bit further, there is evidence that the explorer Matthew had not yet moved his residence away from Philadelphia. This is shown by a stiff, short letter that Eva wrote to Robert Peary in June, 1896, from her address (and apparently the joint Matthew/Eva address, since they were still married) at 1240 Rodman St., Philadelphia (near the center of the city). She is demanding to know if Peary and Matthew are leaving for the Arctic shortly. (For the content of the letter, see Counter, *ibid.*, p. 61.)

Another possible if odd explanation is that perhaps Eva had a child by another man, and named the child partially after Matthew and partially after the biological father. (Or perhaps Eva did not know which man was the father?) Counter, *ibid.*, p. 61, states that “Henson later accused his wife of infidelity in his absence” during this period. And he was gone on long expeditions during this time. Counter states that their relationship became very bitter, that she and her family “accused him of negligence,” and Henson wrote Peary on 5 April 1897 that he would like to stay “in Greenland for five or ten years...anything to get away from this town.”

Perhaps further research or documentation will reveal the truth of the parentage of Matthew William Henson, Jr. It is evident that he was a real and active person. Tracing his life and descent (on the chance that he is a “real” explorer Matthew Henson biological descendant), we can assert the following items:

**Assertion:** Matthew William Henson, Jr., was b. in Germantown, Philadelphia, PA on 15 June 1893 (or perhaps 15 June 1891) and d. 11 January 1947, and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. He married on 12 May 1915 in Washington, DC to Annie May Walker Lee, b. 23 December 1895 in Dawille (?; likely Danville), VA (with father Amos Walker and mother Rosa Lee). Annie d. 7 March 1950, and is also buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Matthew and Annie had a child Thelma Bernice Henson, b. 10 November 1926 in Manhattan, NY. Matthew’s father was Matthew W. Henson (or just possibly explorer Matthew Alexander Henson) and his mother was Eva Flint. Eva Flint was b. in February 1871 in VA, married to explorer Matthew Alexander Henson in September 1890, divorced in 1897, and she d. after 1900.

Proofs:

- US Census for Philadelphia, PA for 1900 shows Eva Flint, b. February 1871 in VA, black female, housemaid/servant, able to read and write, both parents b. in VA, living in a household of five Flints. She is listed as sister of the head of household William Flint, b. December 1858 in VA, black male, steward, both parents b. in VA. The household is living near “Pulaski.” This is evidently Pulaski Avenue, a street in the neighborhood of Germantown, Philadelphia, which was where Eva’s family (i.e. the Eva that for certain married explorer Matthew) was originally from. The evidence points to this being the correct Eva Flint. If so, she has apparently dropped her Henson surname after the 1897 divorce.
- S. Allen Counter, *ibid.*, pp. 55 and 61, states that Eva Flint was 22, from a conservative black Philadelphia family, when she met Matthew Alexander Henson in September 1890, that they courted for several months, secured a marriage license from the Philadelphia Orphan’s Court on 13 April 1891, married three days later, and divorced in 1897.
- Social Security Application and Claims Index shows Matthew William Henson, Jr., b. 15 June 1893 in Germantown (part of Philadelphia), PA, black male, with father Matthew W. Henson and

mother Eva Flint. The record notes that in May 1937 the name was listed as MATTHEW WILLIAM HENSON, JR.

- Find-a-Grave shows Matthew W. Henson b. 15 June 1893, d. 11 January 1947; he is buried Arlington National Cemetery in Section 25, Site 2001.
- Find-a-Grave shows Annie Henson, d. 7 March 1950, spouse Matthew W. Henson; she is buried Arlington National Cemetery in Section 25, Site 2001.
- US Veterans Gravesites index shows Matthew W. Henson, 53, b. 15 January 1893, d. 11 January 1947, buried in Arlington National Cemetery, PVT, Co. C. 368<sup>th</sup> Infantry, US Army, WW I.
- US Army Transport Service, Passenger Lists for the ship *George Washington*, 15 June 1918, shows Matthew W. Henson, Bugler, of Company C, 368<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 92<sup>nd</sup> Division, US Army. His emergency contact is Annie Henson, wife, located at 1633 V St., NW, DC. This military transport ship is departing Hoboken, NJ, apparently for France.
- District of Columbia Compiled Marriage List shows Annie May Lee married on 12 May 1915 to Matthew Henson.
- US Social Security Applications and Claims Index shows Annie May Walker Henson b. 23 December 1895 in Dawille (? , likely Danville) VA, black female, with parents Amos Walker and mother Rosa Lee.
- World War I Draft Registration Card list shows Matthew W. Henson, Jr., 25, b. 15 June 1891 in Germantown, PA, residing in Washington, DC, Negro married male, chauffeur for the Famous Taxi Service, described as short, slender, with black hair and brown eyes.
- World War II Draft Registration Card list shows Matthew W. Henson, Jr., b. 15 June 1893 in Germantown, PA; residing at 218 P Street NW, DC, with his family contact being Annie M. Henson of the same address; and his employer being Gallinger Hospital at 19<sup>th</sup> and C Streets, SW, DC. Matthew is a Negro male, 5'4" and 143 pounds, with brown eyes, black and grey hair, and dark brown complexion.
- US Census for Manhattan, New York for 1930 shows Matthew Henson, 36, b. c. 1894 in PA, black male, washer in a garage, with father b. in Maryland and mother b. in VA. Also in the household are Anna Henson, 35, b. c. 1895, black female, wife of Matthew, with both parents b. in VA; and Thelma Henson, 3, b. c. 1927 in NY, daughter of Matthew and Anna, with father b. in PA and mother b. in VA.
- US Census for Washington, DC for 1940 shows Matthew Henson, Jr., 46, Negro male, lodger, b. in PA, attendant in a W.P.A. hospital, 5<sup>th</sup> grade education, \$936 income in the last year. Matthew's wife is Annie Henson, 44, Negro female, b. in VA, 5<sup>th</sup> grade education. Other members of the household are: Thelma Henson, Negro female, 13, b. in NY, 5<sup>th</sup> grade education, daughter of lodger Matthew; Eva Henson, Negro female, 9, b. in NY, no education, daughter of lodger Matthew; Matthew Henson III, Negro male, 6, b. in DC, no education, son of lodger Matthew; and Marian Henson, Negro female, 2, b. in DC, no education, daughter of lodger Matthew.
- New York, NY Birth Index shows Thelma B. Henson, b. 10 November 1926 in Manhattan, NY.

**Assertion:** Thelma Bernice Henson, b. 10 November 1926 in Manhattan, NY (daughter of Matthew Henson, Jr. and Annie May Walker Henson), married on 9 August 1942 in DC to James Thomas Ingram, b. 11 April 1923 at Charlotte, NC, d. 17 April 1982.

- New York, NY Birth Index for Thelma B. Henson, *ibid*.

- US Census for Washington, DC for 1940 for Matthew Henson, Jr., *ibid.* (with daughter Thelma)
- US Census for Manhattan, New York for 1930 for Matthew Henson, *ibid.* (with daughter Thelma)
- District of Columbia Compiled Marriage List for Annie May Lee, *ibid.*
- DC Marriage Index shows Thelma Bernice Henson, 18, b. c. 1924, married on 9 August 1942 in DC to James Thomas Ingram, 19, b. c. 1923.
- World War II Draft Cards, James Thomas Ingram, 19, b. 11 April 1923 at Charlotte, NC, Negro male; his family contact is John Henry Ingram, working at the War Department.
- US Department of Veteran's Affairs BIRLS Death File, shows James Ingram, b. 11 April 1923, d. 17 April 1982, US Army, enlisted 6 November 1945, released 20 February 1947.

**Assertion:** Marian (or Marion) Ann Henson, b. 8 September 1937 in DC (daughter of Matthew Henson, Jr. and Annie May Walker Henson), d. 30 December 1962, and married Roy Linwood Porter, b. 12 May 1936 in DC and d. 26 July 1987 in DC. They are both buried in Arlington National Cemetery. They had at least one child, Tracie Lacomus Porter, b. 19 March 1960 in DC, d. 18 September 2008, probably in Hyattsville, MD) and she married on 23 August 1991 in Fairfax Co., VA to Freeman Percel Stackhouse, 52, b. 17 June 1939 in SC, d. 10 February 1998 in Fairfax, VA.

Proofs:

- US Census for Washington, DC for 1940 for Matthew Henson, Jr., *ibid.* (shows Matthew with young daughter Marian, 2 years old.)
- US Veterans' Gravesites index shows Marion Henson Porter, 25, b. 8 September 1937, d. 30 December 1962, with relative Roy Linwood Porter, buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He served in the US Navy Reserve.
- Find-a-Grave shows Marion Henson Porter, b. 8 September 1937, d. 30 September 1962, buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Section 43, Site 2036.
- Find-a-Grave shows Roy Linwood Porter, b. 12 May 1936, d. 26 July 1987, buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Section 43, Site 2036.
- US Department of Veterans' Affairs BIRLS Death List shows Roy Porter, b. 12 May 1936, d. 26 July 1987, died of natural causes, enlisted in the US Navy on 24 September 1954 and was released 24 September 1958.
- Virginia Marriage Records for Tracie Lacomus Porter show Marion Ann Henson with husband Roy Linwood Porter as the parents of Tracie Lacomus Porter, 31, b. 19 March 1960 in DC, black female, 1<sup>st</sup> marriage, 12<sup>th</sup> grade education; marrying on 23 August 1991 in Fairfax Co., VA to Freeman Percel Stackhouse, 52, b. 17 June 1939 in SC, black male, 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage, divorced, 10<sup>th</sup> grade education, with parents Alonzo Stackhouse and Idell Fullard.
- Website <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?n=tracie-l-porter-stackhouse&pid=117930955> states that Tracie L. Porter-Stackhouse d. 18 September 2008, apparently in Hyattsville, MD, and is the mother of surviving Stacy, Tony, Marcus, Porsha, Freeman, Jr., Gail, and Jaqueline Stackhouse, and has a sister Bernadette Philpott.
- Virginia Death Records show Freeman P. Stackhouse d. 10 February 1998 in Fairfax, VA.

**NOTE:** The above assertion, although it is quite possible, is not completely proven to high genealogical standards, in that the link from the adult Marion Henson described above, up to the claimed father Matthew William Henson, Jr., could use additional documentation.

**Assertion:** Matthew William Henson III, b. c. 1934 in DC, d. January 1967 in Palm Beach, FL (son of Matthew William Henson, Jr. and Annie May Walker Henson) married Genevieve Leonora Whitlock and had at least two children, Antonio Henson, b. 7 February 1961 in Washington, DC and Ollie Henson, b. 15 May 1958 in Washington, DC.

- US Census for Washington, DC for 1940 shows Matthew Henson, Jr., *ibid.* (with young Matthew Henson III)
- US Census for Florida Death Index shows Matthew William Henson III, d. January 1967 in Palm Beach, FL, black male.
- Virginia Marriage Records for Loudon Co., VA show Antonio Henson (no middle name), 25, b 7 February 1961 in Washington, DC, son of Matthew William Henson and Genevieve Leonora Whitlock, black male; marrying on 12 July 1986 with Mary Ann Basil, 23, b. 8 December 1962 in VA, black female, daughter of Henry Melvin Basil and Richetta Louise Crawford,.
- Virginia Marriage Records for Prince William Co., VA show Ollie Henson (no middle name), 24, b. 15 May 1958 in Washington, DC, son of Matthew Alexander (! sic?) Henson and Genevieve Leonora Whitlock, black male; marrying on 14 May 1983 with Denise Alfredia Long, 20, b. 19 February 1963 in VA, black female, daughter of James Edward Long and Neville Letisha Cox.
- Virginia Divorce Records for Loudon Co., VA show Dinise Alfredia Long, b. 19 February 1963 in VA, black, 12<sup>th</sup> grade education, 1<sup>st</sup> marriage; being divorced from Ollie Henson, b. 15 May 1958 in Washington, DC, black, 12<sup>th</sup> grade education; marriage date 14 May 1984; after a 1 year separation; divorce entered 14 April 1993.

Note the surprising fact that immediately above, the name of the husband of Genevieve is Matthew Alexander Henson, not Matthew William Henson. This is perhaps another small indication that the correct ancestor of this line was explorer Matthew Alexander Henson.

**Assertion:** Matthew William Henson (IV), b. 30 September 1955 in DC and d. 30 July 1981, is another possible son of Matthew William Henson III and Genevieve Leonora Whitlock.

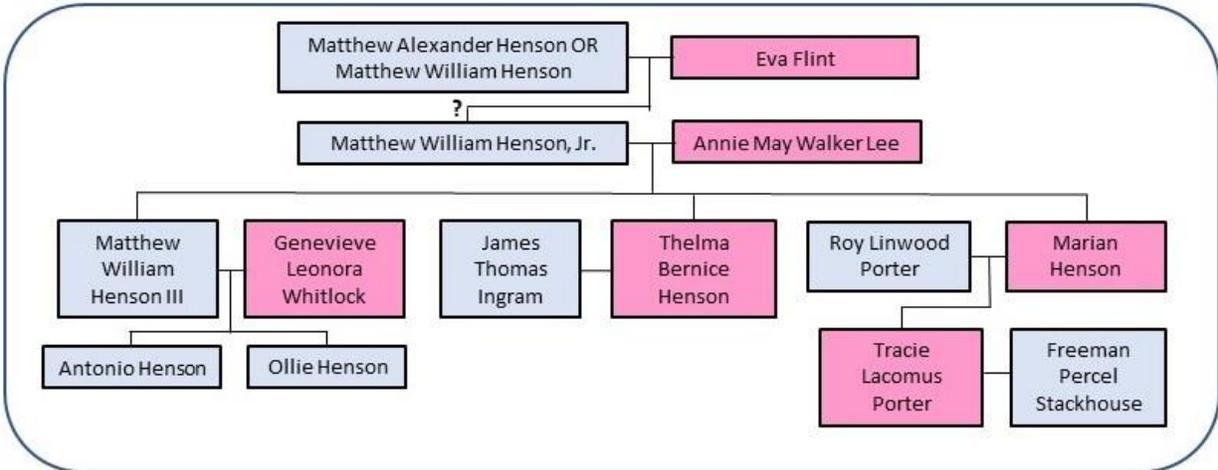
Proofs:

- Social Security Applications and Claims Index shows Matthew William Henson, b. 30 Sept 1955 in Washington, DC, d. July 1981, black male.
- Social Security Death Index shows Matthew Henson, b. 30 September 1955, d. July 1981.
- US Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File shows Matthew Henson, b. 30 September 1955, d. 30 July 1981; he enlisted in the US Army on 29 August 1974 and was released 22 April 1976.

**NOTE:** The above assertion, although possible, is not yet proven to high genealogical standards, in that the link from Matthew IV (?) up to Matthew III is not fully documented.

The entire line above, if proven, would stretch from the 1860s to the present, and would represent a remarkable new development.

The graphic below shows the major elements of the line above, which is speculative at this point, as indicated by the question mark.



## Descents in the US from the Siblings of Matthew Alexander Henson

There are asserted descents from the siblings of Matthew Alexander Henson. The main source for these is Professor S. Allen Counter, *ibid.*, pp. 38, 39, 108, 109, 240, 241. He says that:

In a 1947 [newspaper] interview, Matthew Henson stated that his only living relatives were his sister (Eliza Henson Carter) and her children (including Virginia Carter Brannum, who died at age 93 in 1999), living in Washington, DC. Audrey Mebane is the daughter of Virginia Carter Brannum. My research shows that he visited his sister in Washington, DC on numerous occasions. Matthew Henson also had a brother from Maryland who moved to the Boston area, where he is survived by his great-niece, Olive Henson Fulton. Their consanguinity with Matthew Henson has been extensively documented.

Counter also stated that Matthew Alexander Henson had a brother David Henson, who moved from Washington, DC to Boston; that David had a son George Henson, who had five children including Olive Henson Fulton.

The website [www.matthewhenson.com](http://www.matthewhenson.com) asserts that Lemuel and Caroline Henson had the following children: Matthew Alexander Henson, S. Henson, female, b. 1864; M. Henson, female, b. 1898; and Eliza Henson, female, b. 1870. Eliza had a grand-daughter Audrey Mebane, living in Washington, DC.

On that website, also see the 17 June 2003 letter from Professor Counter re the only Matthew Henson relatives in the US that he had identified.

Examining these statements, we can extract and expand and attempt to document the following assertions re two lines.



Henson Monument,  
Arlington National Cemetery

## The Carter-Brannum-Mebane Line

**Assertion:** Matthew Alexander Henson had a sister Eliza Henson Carter, b. May 1870 in VA. She married James Carter in about 1892, he was b. February 1860 in VA, d. between 1910 and 1920.

Proofs:

- S. Allen Counter, *ibid.* cites a statement by explorer Matthew Alexander Henson in a 1947 newspaper interview that he had a sister Eliza Henson Carter. (**NOTE:** The original newspaper article has not been located.)
- US Census for 1900 for Washington, DC shows James Carter, head of household, 40, b. February 1860, black male, married 8 years, b. in VA and both parents b. in VA; Liza Carter, 30, wife, b. May 1870, black female, married 8 years (hence married about 1892), b. in VA with father b. in VA and mother b. in MD. Also in the household are sons Ernest, 7, b. June 1892, b. in DC; Robert, 5, b. February 1895, b. in DC; Newton, 2, b. March 1898, b. in DC; and James, 9/10 of a year, b. August 1899, b. in DC. All four sons had their father and mother both born in Virginia.
- US Census for 1910 for Washington, DC shows James Carter, 44, head of household, black male, married only once for 13 years, b. in VA, with both parents b. in VA, street laborer, not able to read or write; Eliza Carter, 34, black female, married only once for 13 years, with 6 children, not able to read or write, laundress, b. in MD with both parents b. in MD. Also in the household are sons Ernest, 17, single; Robert, 15; Newton, 10; James, 9; LeRoy, 6; and Virginia, 4. All of the children were born in DC, with their father born in Virginia and mother in Maryland.
- US Census for 1920 for Washington, DC shows Elizabeth Carter, 50, black female, widowed, head of household, not able to read or write, laundress, b. in MD with both parents b. in MD. Also in the household are Elizabeth's sons Ernest, 30, single, bricklayer; Clifton, 24, married (? , hard to read), clerk; and Marshall, 20, single, clerk. All three sons were born in DC, with their father b. in DC and mother b. in MD.

**NOTE:** more information on the Matthew to Eliza link and parents would be desirable. But Matthew's assertion is strong enough to rate this as reasonably proven.

**Assertion:** Eliza Henson Carter and James Carter had children, including Virginia Carter b. 23 September 1905 and d. 6 February 1999 in Washington, DC. Virginia Carter married Ralph Brannum in DC on 10 July 1939. He was b. 15 December 1902 and d. "in the 1950s," likely in Washington, DC.

- S. Allen Counter, *ibid.* cites statement in a 1947 newspaper by Matthew Henson that he had a sister Eliza Henson Carter and she had a daughter Virginia Carter Brannum. Counter states Virginia was 93 when she d. in 1999 in Washington, DC.
- Obituary Daily Times Index for Virginia Brannum shows an obituary published 11 February 1999.
- US Census for 1910 for Washington, DC, *ibid.* (shows James Carter and Eliza Carter with daughter Virginia Carter)
- DC Marriage Records show Virginia Carter, 32, b. c. 1907, married on 10 July 1939 to Ralph Brannum, 36, b. c. 1903.
- World War II Draft Cards show Ralph Brannum, 39, b. 15 December 1902, black male, resident of DC, 5'3", 165 pounds, with family contact Virginia Brannum. (However, his WW I Draft Card shows a b. date of 15 December 1900.)

- US Social Security Death Index shows Virginia C. Brannum, b. 23 September 1905 and d. 6 February 1999, with last residence in Washington, DC.
- US Social Security Applications and Claims Index shows Virginia Carter, with spouse Ralph Brannum and child Irma Carter Davis (Irma Carter Brannum). Irma is a black female, b. 6 July 1925 and d. 15 July 1997.
- US Census for Washington, DC for 1940 shows Ralph Brannum (incorrectly transcribed as “Brannon” throughout the record in the computerized version but correct in the original document), 33, b. in DC, 4<sup>th</sup> grade education, Negro male, truck driver doing his own hauling; with wife Virginia Brannum/Brannon, 32, b. in DC, education through the second year of high school, Negro female, single, domestic worker; daughter Audrey, 17, b. in DC, 6<sup>th</sup> grade education, Negro female, single; daughter Irma, 14, b. in DC, 5<sup>th</sup> grade education, Negro female, single; and Eliza Carter, 52, b. in MD, widowed, mother-in-law of Ralph, no education, Negro female.
- *Washington Post* obituaries online for 12 February 1999 shows Virginia C. Brannum, 93, d. in Washington, DC at the Washington Nursing Facility. Text is: “Virginia C. Brannum, Clerk: Virginia C. Brannum, 93, a former clerk at St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home in Hyattsville, died of colon cancer Feb. 6 at the Washington Nursing Facility. Mrs. Brannum was a lifelong Washington resident. She worked 25 years at St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home before retiring in the 1970s. She was a member of Epiphany Catholic Church in Washington. Her husband, Ralph Brannum, died in the 1950s. Survivors include one daughter, Audrey C. Mebane of Washington; seven grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and 22 great-great-grandchildren.” See: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1999/02/12/obituaries/e8c68a5e-9fdd-425f-8b14-fedc3fb79acd/>

**Assertion:** Virginia Carter and Ralph Brannum had children, including Audrey C. Brannum, b. 23 March 1923 in DC, d. 10 December 2010 at Ft. Washington, Prince Georges Co., MD. Audrey married Joseph Roberts Mebane, b. 5 March 1921 in Carroll Co., MD, d. July 1985 in Washington, DC, and had numerous descendants, including Jill Mebane, Genise Stancil, and various grand-children and great-grand-children.

Proofs:

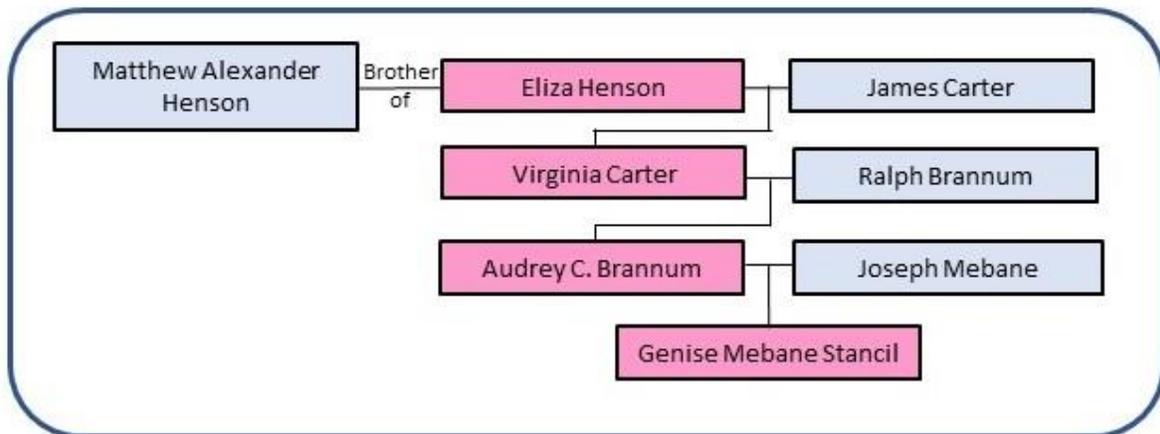
- US Cemetery and Funeral Home Collection shows Audrey C. Mebane, female, 87, b. 23 March 1923 in DC and d. at Fort Washington, MD on 10 December 2010, with children Diane C. Savoy and Brenda K. Smith.
- Newspapers.com Obituaries Index for Baltimore, MD, shows Audrey Mebane, female, with spouse Joseph R. Mebane, d. c. 1985, with sibling Ladys [Gladys?] Combs and children Genise Stancil and Jill Mebane (from *The Baltimore Sun*, 14 July 1985, p. 29).
- US WW II Draft Cards shows Joseph Roberts Mebane, b. 5 March 1921 in Carroll Co., MD, Negro male, 5’7”, 140 pounds, with family contact Velma Mebane, at 1101 E. Arlington Ave., Baltimore, dated 14 February 1942.
- Virginia Marriage Records for 1985 for Richmond, VA show Jill Deneane Mebane, 25, b. in 1960 in Washington, DC, black female, first marriage, with father Joseph Roberts Mebane and mother Lila Annette Waddy, marrying on 22 November 1985 to Wallace Edana Townsend, 30, of Pennsylvania. (**NOTE:** since this record shows that Jill Mebane was not the daughter of Audrey Henson Mebane, that means that Jill is not in the Henson blood- and DNA-line, and hence will

not be shown in the summary chart below. It is assumed that Genise Stancil is the biological daughter of Audrey (per the newspaper report listed above), but that is not proven for certain and more documentation is desirable.)

- US High School Yearbooks for McKinley Technical High School for 1963 shows Genise Mebane, 16, b. c. 1947.
- US Social Security Death Index shows Audrey C. Mebane, b. 23 March 1923, d. 10 December 2010 at Fort Washington, Prince Georges Co., MD.
- US Census for Washington, DC for 1940, *ibid.* (shows Audrey daughter of Virginia, daughter of Eliza).
- US Social Security Death Index shows Joseph Mebane, b. 5 March 1921, d. July 1985, with last residence in Washington, DC.
- Counter statement, *ibid.*
- Website <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?n=audrey-c-mebane&pid=147146922&fhid=2356> states that Audrey C. Mebane died 10 December 2010, and lists descendants Brenda K. (William) Smith and Diane C. (Roland) Savoy, plus six grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

**NOTE:** The bullets above need a more documented link from the adult Audrey to her mother Virginia.

The graphic below presents the line discussed above. As mentioned above, more details on Genise Mebane Stancil are highly desirable.



As presented above, Genise is the great-grandniece of explorer Matthew Alexander Henson.

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### The David Henson—Earl Henson—Olive Fulton-Henson Line

Recall that Professor Counter of Harvard asserted the following line:

**Assertion 1:** Matthew Alexander Henson had a brother David Henson, living in Boston, who had George Henson, who had five children including Olive Henson Fulton.

**NOTE:** This line above, asserted by Counter (ibid., see especially p. 39) could not be proven and appears to be partially incorrect. The correct two assertions are show below, with proofs.

**Assertion A:** Matthew Alexander Henson had a brother David J. Henson, b. February 1863 in Washington, DC, who moved to Boston, married in 1885 to Maude Irene Briscoe, b. September 1868 in Washington, DC, d. 9 May 1904 in Boston, MA, and had Earl Augustine Henson, b. 27 March 1894 in Boston MA, d. 29 June 1970 in Boston, MA.

Proofs:

- Counter (ibid., p. 39) states that Olive Henson Fulton said her grandfather was David Henson, and that she visited her “great uncle Matt” (brother of David) several times at his home in New York, and that he would describe his adventures with the Eskimos in Greenland and his expedition to the North Pole.
- US Census for Washington, DC for 1880 shows David Henson, 15, b. c. 1865 in DC, black male, apprenticed to a barber, with both parents (not shown) b. in MD; he is in a large family and is apparently the grandson of matriarch Elizabeth Brent, 79, widowed black female, b. in MD with both parents b. in MD. (This is likely the correct David but this is not certain.)
- US Census for Boston, MA for 1900 shows David J. Henson, 37, b. February 1863 in Washington, DC, both his parents b. in DC, janitor, can read and write; married in 1885 to Maude I. Henson, 31, b. September 1868 in Washington, DC, black female, mother of 12 children (!) of whom 4 are now living, can read and write; the family is residing on N. Anderson St. in Ward 8. Children listed include: Pearl A. Henson, “son, black male” (!), 6, b. March 1894 in MA, both parents b. in DC; Florence G. Henson, 5, b. April 1895 in MA, black female, both parents b. in DC; May Henson, 0/12 (?), b. May 1900 in MA, black female, both parents b. in DC. Also in the household are two “boarders,” apparently unrelated. Note: the oddity of a boy named “Pearl” is apparently explained below in the Massachusetts Marriage Records, which shows “**Earl A. Henson**” as the son of David and Maude Henson. The Census taker likely misheard the name. Ironically, Earl “Pearl” A. Henson later married a woman named – Pearl!
- Massachusetts Town and Vital Records for Boston for 27 March 1894 show David and Maud Henson having a child with only the last name “Henson,” (apparently no first name has been chosen yet, or the infant did not survive). The parents were both born in Washington, DC, and live at 86 W. Cedar St. David Henson is a waiter. The location of birth is McLean St. (apparently a hospital at that location) and the delivering physician is J. Perkins.
- Massachusetts Death Records for Boston, MA for 1898 show Amy Henson, age 0 (zero) (in the transcription; original shows 9 months old) black female, d. on 1 September 1898 of diarrhea, resident of Rainisford Isle (?), MA, with father David J. Henson and mother Maud I. Briscoe, both b. in Washington, DC.
- Boston, MA Death Records for 1902 show David J. Henson and Maud I. Bricoe (sic? Could be Bricoo or Bricco), both b. in Washington, DC, having a child Edward Henson, black, who died at 26 days old, of pneumonia, on 16 January 1902.
- Massachusetts Death Records, City of Boston for 1904, shows Maud I. Henson, 35, d. aged 35 years and 1 day in Boston on 9 May 1904, b. in Washington, DC, colored female, housewife, maiden name Briscoe, cause of death pneumonia for 5 days, place of burial Mt. Benedict;

husband's name David T. (sic) Henson; father Henry T. Briscoe b. in MD; mother' name Ellen (unknown).

- Massachusetts Death Records, City of Boston for 1904, shows May Irene Henson, 4 years and 13 days old, d. on 11 June 1904 of cerebral meningitis and cardiac exhaustion, black single female, resident of Haverhill, Boston, b. in Boston, father David J. Henson and mother Maude Irene Briscoe, both b. in Washington, DC. Informant is David J. Henson of West Street.
- New Hampshire Marriage and Divorce Records for 1917 show Earl A. Henson of Boston, 23, of Boston, MA, a soldier, with parents David J. Henson, 53, of New London, CT, waiter, b. in Washington, DC and Maude Irene Henson, 45, residence is "dead"?, "dece'd" (almost illegible), b. in Washington, DC; marrying on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, 1917 by a Justice of the Peace in Dover, NH to Pearl A. Desmond, 19, of Boston, b. in Nova Scotia, with parents John J. Desmond, 40, residing in NYC, chauffer, b. in NS (apparently Nova Scotia) and Sophia (?) M. Desmond, 41, residing in Boston, b. in NS. All parties are of the "Col" race. This is the first marriage for both Earl and Pearl.
- Find-a-Grave shows the grave of Earl A. Henson, b. 27 March 1894, d. 29 June 1970 in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Boston, MA. A photo of the grave is provided.

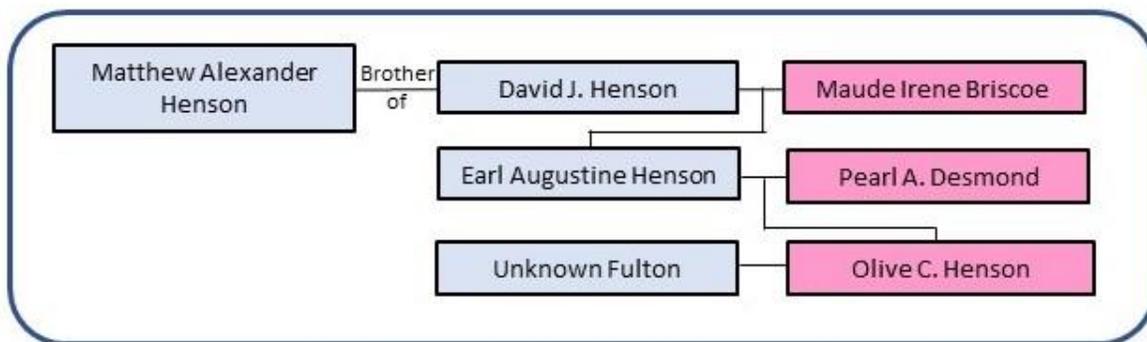
**Assertion B:** Earl Augustine Henson, b. March 1894 in MA, d. 29 June 1970 in Boston, MA, married on 23 April 1917 in Dover, NH, to Pearl A. Desmond, b. c. 1898 in Nova Scotia, d. 9 March 1964 in Boston; and had children (among others) Olive C. Henson, b. 13 May 1927 in MA, d. 10 November 2011 in MA. Olive married (unknown) Fulton.

Proofs:

- New Hampshire Marriage and Divorce Records for Earl A. Henson, *ibid*.
- US Census for Boston, MA for 1940 shows Earl A. Henson, 43, b. in MA, Negro male, attended 3<sup>rd</sup> yr. of high school, laborer at WPA sewer construction project, worked 49 weeks last year and was paid \$667; married to Pearl (or Peark? or Pearle?) Henson, 40, b. in Nova Scotia, Negro female, attended 1<sup>st</sup> yr. of high school; with children: Earle H. Henson, 19, b. in MA, kitchen helper, Negro male; Olive C. Henson, 12, b. in MA, attended 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Negro female; and Paul C. Henson, 10, b. in MA, attended 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Negro male.
- US World War II Draft Card Index shows Earl Augustine Henson, b. 27 March 1894 in Boston, MA, living in Boston, with family contact Olive Henson, working at the Boston Navy Yard. Earl is a Negro male, 5'5", 130 pounds.
- The City Directory for Boston, MA for 1892 shows David Henson, waiter, home at 12 Strong pl.
- Newspapers.com Obituaries Index shows Earl A. Henson, father of Olive Fulton, a.k.a. Olive Henson. The listing is from the *Boston Globe* of Tuesday, 30 June 1970, p. 30.
- Newspapers.com Obituaries Index shows Pearl H. Henson, resident of Scituate, MA, d. 9 March 1964, with spouse Earl A. Henson, and Pearl is the mother of Paul C. Henson, Earl H. Henson, and Olive Fulton. The listing is from the *Boston Globe* of Tuesday, 10 March 1964, p. 23.
- US Social Security Applications shows Paul C. Henson, b. 31 October 1929, d. 1 September 2004, and the SSDI adds that his last residence was in Honolulu, Hawaii. The US Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLs Death Index shows the same dates and states he was in the US Air Force. (Note: no issue for Paul Henson could be found on line.)

- US Social Security Applications shows Earl Harvey Henson, black male, b. 21 May 1920 in Boston, MA, d. 12 May 2006, with father Earl A. Henson and mother Pearl H. Desmond.
- US Obituary Collection shows Earl Harvey Henson, 85, male, b. c. 1921 in Boston, resident of Malden, MA but d. in New Port Richey, FL on 12 May 2006, with spouse Joanne, child Martha Henson, and sibling Olive Henson. Publication is the *Tampa Bay Times*, p. 148, of 14 May 2006, published in St. Petersburg, FL.
- *Tampa Bay Times* states that Earl Harvey Henson, 85, of New Port Richey, FL, d. 12 May 2006, b. in Boston, MA and came to New Port Richie 27 years ago from Malden, MA. He was a Lieutenant in the City of Boston Fire Department and a WW II veteran. He was a past commander of the AmVets, and was survived by his wife of 56 years, Josephine Joanne “Joie” Henson, daughter Martha Henson of Los Angeles, CA, sister Olive Henson of Boston, MA and several nieces and nephews. A son (hard to read), possibly Earl Henson II, died previously. See: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/tampabaytimes/obituary.aspx?n=earl-henson&pid=17807203>
- *Tampa Bay Times*, 2 January 2013, online, states Josephine Henson, of New Port Richey, FL, d. 29 December 2012, and is survived by daughter, Martha, past President of the AmVets Auxillery (sic), service at St. Stephens Church. See the following: <https://www.tampabay.com/archive/2013/01/02/obituaries/>
- World War II Draft Cards for Young Men shows Earl Harvey Henson, 25, b. 21 May 1920 in Boston, resident of Boston, MA, Negro male, 5’8.5” and 160 pounds, with wife Josephine Henson, 221 W. Springfield St.
- US Social Security Death Index shows Olive C. Fulton, b. 13 May 1927, d. 10 November 2011 in MA.
- Bronx Co., NY Divorce and Civil Cases Index, shows Olive Henson Fulton filing a civil suit on 2 February 1988 against the Woodlawn Cemetery Company.
- US City Directory for Boston, MA for 1957 shows Olive C. Henson, “wkr City Hosp” living at home at “10 Intervale, Rox” (Roxbury, MA?), with Paul Henson and Pearl Henson living at the same address.
- US City Directory for Boston, MA for 1977 shows “Fulton-Hensom, Olive C., clk, V A Hospital h [house] 622 W Park St. (D).”
- Boston City Directory for 1981 shows “Fulton-Hensom, Olive C.” living at 622 Park St., Dorchester Center. At the same address is: “Lee Eug S.” presumably Eugene S. Lee.

**NOTE:** The above line has good proofs from David Henson down to Olive Henson, but the link from David over to his asserted brother Matthew Alexander Henson could use additional proofs and details re their parentage. (Consider the possibility that the relationship was only as half-brothers, not brothers.) However, given the personal testimony of Olive in visiting her great-uncle Matt, this line can be considered proven to a reasonable standard. (Also, finding the full name and details of the husband of Olive C. Henson would be highly desirable; on-line resources did not provide more information.) The graphic below presents this line.



The relationship of Olive C. Henson to Matthew Alexander Henson is that she is likely (but not certain) to be the grandniece of Matthew.

The next section will deal with issues in finding and tracing Lemuel Henson, the asserted father of David and Matthew Henson.

### Challenges in Tracing Lemuel Henson

Tracing Lemuel Henson, father of explorer Matthew Alexander Henson, is very challenging. Recall that the best primary evidence we have on him is:

- The New York City marriage certificate of Matthew Henson and Lucy Jane Ross, in 1907, which states that Matthew's father was Lemuel Henson and his mother was Caroline Waters. No dates of birth/death or other details for these two persons are given.
- Matthew's statement in *Dark Companion*, *ibid.*, p. 18, (written in 1947) that he "could not remember his mother, for she had died in 1868, when he was two years old... she had been the second wife of Lemuel Henson..." and Lemuel quickly remarried to Nellie, his widowed neighbor. The name of the first wife was unknown to Matthew.

Also recall from the earlier timeline discussion for Matthew Henson that at some point Lemuel moved from Charles County, MD to Washington, DC, Georgetown, or that area, and died of a rupture when Matthew was still young. I postulate that this occurred in 1875, probably in DC. I also postulate that Lemuel was alive in 1870 for the Census in Charles County, MD, and is recorded as "L. Hanson." (See the earlier discussion.)

Previous researchers and relatives who have posted trees on the Internet have often identified Lemuel Henson of Washington, DC, who appears in the 1870 Census for that jurisdiction, as the target person. For example, the Kersey Family Tree on Ancestry.com identifies Lemuel (father of Matthew) as born in 1832 in Maryland, using as sources the 1870 DC Census, and also the 1880 DC Census (hence asserting that the correct Lemuel was alive in 1880). There are 52 other similar family trees on Ancestry which use these sources, many of which assert that Lemuel was born in 1832 (or 1836, with no sources cited), and lived in Washington, DC for the 1870 and sometimes was alive for the 1880 Census.

The attractions of this argument are:

- The name is correct and the spelling of the often misspelled "Henson" is correct.

- The name Lemuel is relatively rare.
- The Lemuel Henson in the two Censuses is black, and was born in Maryland.
- His birth year, often cited as 1832, is quite plausible for fathering Matthew around 1865-6, when Lemuel was 33-34.

Unfortunately, there is a serious problem with this person. A reasonably convincing case can be made that this Lemuel Henson cannot be the father of Matthew, because if we are to believe Matthew's own statements, his father died of a rupture when Matthew was young. The exact year is not clear, but certainly Lemuel died before Matthew ran off to sea in about 1874-80.

Presented below are pieces of evidence in chronological order, that all seem to refer to the Lemuel Henson born in Maryland in 1832, who appears in most family trees.

In summary, what we see below is the life history of a black man, Lemuel Henson, born in Maryland, who comes to Washington, DC before 1867 (and hence probably too early to be the father of Matthew who is still back in Maryland), then he works as a carpenter and later a wheelwright in DC. He has a family, with wife Margaret (probably Margaret Tinker), has various children, appears in numerous DC City Directories from 1867 to 1908, then dies before 1908, and even appears posthumously in the City Directory for that year, with his wife Margaret, who is still alive. In 1891 and 1894 another Lemuel Henson appears simultaneously in the DC City Directories, listed as a laborer.

The evidence re this Lemuel Henson is presented below, in chronological order:

- The City Directory for Washington, DC for 1867 shows a Lemuel Henson, "(c)" [meaning "colored"], carpenter, at "h ½ e r O south."
- FamilySearch.org Freedman's Bureau Military Correspondence for DC shows a letter dated 16 October 1867 from the Assistant Quartermaster, directing that 250 feet of hemlock boards be sold to Lemuel Henson.
- US Census for Washington, DC for 1870 records a Lemuel Henson, 38, b. c. 1832 in MD, carpenter, black male, living east of 7<sup>th</sup> Street, cannot read or write; wife Margaret, 27, b. c. 1843 in MD, black female, cannot read or write; and children Anna M (age 11), b. in MD; Ann L (5), b. in DC; and Evelina (2), b. in DC.
- The City Directory for Washington, DC for 1874 shows a Lemuel Henson, laborer, at 5<sup>th</sup> nr. 1<sup>st</sup> SE. (See the discussion below re this entry.)
- Familysearch.org DC Deaths shows Lena Morris, b. 4 March 1874 in DC, female, domestic, living at 737 Navy Place SE, DC, d. 5 November 1928 in DC, buried at Rosemont Cemetery, with parents Lemuel Henson, b. in MD, and mother Margaret Tinker, b. in MD, with spouse Banks Morris.
- DC Select Births and FamilySearch.org DC Births show "Lemull" and Margaret Tinker Henson having a "col'd" male child (unnamed) in DC on 7 August 1876. Both parents are b. in MD.
- The City Directory for DC for 1879 shows Lemuel Henson, carpenter, in Hillsdale. (Hillsdale is apparently in SE DC, on the south side of the Anacostia River, across from Ft. McNair, and near the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site.)
- US Census for Washington, DC for 1880 records a Samuel (Lemuel?) Henson, 44, b. c. 1836 in MD, carpenter, black male, living off Sumner Avenue, cannot read or write, with father and mother both b. in MD; wife Margaret, 35, b. c. 1845 in MD, black female, cannot read or write,

with father and mother both b. in MD; and children Lavinia [this could be Ann L from 10 years previously], (14), b. in DC with both parents b. in MD; Evelina (12), b. in DC with both parents b. in MD; William Joseph (8), b. in DC with both parents b. in MD; Alexander Henson (6), b. in DC with both parents b. in MD, George A. (3), b. in DC with both parents b. in MD; Samuel C, b. June 1879 in DC with both parents b. in MD; and Cyrene (2), b. in DC with both parents b. in MD. [This is almost certainly the same family as shown earlier in the 1870 Census, since in both cases the first name is similar, the last name is identical, the wife in both is named Margaret, one of the children is name Evelina and her birth dates match exactly, both the man and wife were born in Maryland, both are living in DC, and in both cases the man (Samuel/Lemuel) is a carpenter.]

- The City Directory for DC for 1886 shows Lemuel Henson, carpenter, on Sumner Avenue.
- The City Directory for DC for 1887 shows Lemuel Henson, carpenter, in Hillsdale.
- The City Directory for DC for 1888 shows Lemuel Henson, carpenter, in Hillsdale.
- The City Directory for DC for 1889 shows Lemuel Henson, carpenter, in Hillsdale.
- The City Directory for DC for 1890 shows Lemuel Henson, residence at 907 NJ Ave. SE.
- The City Directory for DC for 1891 shows Lemuel Henson, residence at 905 1st SE, and also shows Lemuel Henson, laborer, residence at 1210 1<sup>st</sup> SE.
- The City Directory for DC for 1892 shows Lemuel Henson, carpenter, in Hillsdale.
- The City Directory for DC for 1894 shows Lemuel Henson, carpenter, in Hillsdale and next to that listing is Lemuel Henson, laborer, living at 308 K St. SW.
- The City Directory for DC for 1895 shows Lemuel Henson, wheelwright, in Hillsdale.
- [A search of the US Census for DC in 1900 for Lemuel (or Samuel) Henson (or Hanson) did not reveal any plausible person.]
- The City Directory for DC for 1908 shows Lemuel Henson, 2801 Dunbarton Ave., NW.
- [A search of the US Census for DC in 1910 for Lemuel (or Samuel) Henson (or Hanson) did not reveal any plausible person.]
- The City Directory for DC for 1913 shows Margaret Henson, widow of Lemuel Henson, living at 38 Sumner.

Hence the evidence above seems to show that this carpenter Lemuel Henson lives much too long to be the father of Matthew Henson, since that target Lemuel Henson died roughly 35 years before this long-lived Lemuel.

Note, however, that the DC City Directory for 1874 lists a Lemuel Henson as a laborer, not as a carpenter (or wheelwright), which is the listing elsewhere, except where there is a dual listing of a laborer and a carpenter. Perhaps this laborer is the correct Lemuel Henson, since he is living in DC, and this is the right period, and he has not yet died before the 1880 Census? But if so, then where is Lemuel Henson the carpenter in the Directory? (By the way, there is no Lemuel “Hanson,” carpenter, listed in this Directory.) The question is unresolved.

One other plausible Lemuel is Lemuel “Hanson,” born about 1830 in Maryland, who appears in the 1880 Census, as follows:



Henson Trail in Montgomery County, MD

- US Census for Middletown, Charles Co., MD for 1880 shows Lemuel “Hanson,” 50, b. about 1830 in MD, black male, single, farm hand; with mother Harriet Hanson, 70, b. c. 1810 in MD, black female, keeping house, widowed; and grandson George Hanson, 9, b. c. 1871 in MD, black male. All three persons have both parents b. in MD, and none can read and write.

The issue with this person is that the correct Lemuel should have been dead by 1880, and should have moved away from Charles County, to Georgetown/DC, by the time of this Census.

Similarly, there is a “Len Hanson” with wife “Nellie Hanson” shown in the 1880 Census for Nanjemoy, MD. He is 41, black, a farmer and she is 24, mulatto, and their children are Rosalee, 15, Maynard, 14, Lysa, 12, Madison (male), 11, Joseph, 2 and Chapeleur, 10/12ths. All members of the household were b. in MD and all their parents were b. in MD. This family is attractive in that a Nellie is present and a Nellie was known to be the third wife of Lemuel; that Len could be Lemuel; and the family is black/mulatto and located in Nanjemoy. However, as in the case immediately above, the correct Lemuel should be dead by 1880, and Nellie and her children should be located in DC or nearby, not in Nanjemoy, MD.

In the search for Lemuel Henson, a page-by-page review was undertaken of the 1850 Hill Top, Charles County, MD and 1860 Nanjemoy, Charles County, MD to try to locate a plausible Henson, “Hanson” or other similar targets that might be helpful. Nothing was found.

Based on the available evidence, I argue that the “correct” Lemuel Henson sadly generated a very small paper trail, and that is limited to the statements of his son Matthew, and to the US Census for 1870 for Nanjemoy in Charles County, showing him listed as “L. Hanson” with wife “C. Hanson” (Caroline) and son “M. Hanson” (Matthew). This “L” Lemuel moved to DC after the 1870 Census, and generated no trace findable to date, before the 1880 Census, because he had died before 1880, likely in DC/Georgetown.

## **Relationship of Matthew Alexander Henson to Josiah Henson**

As high an authority as the United States Senate has asserted that there is a genealogical relationship between explorer Matthew Alexander Henson and Reverend Josiah Henson. Senate Resolution 553 of 2008, introduced by Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland, congratulated Charles County on its 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and stated that:

Whereas Josiah Henson escaped slavery and fled from Charles County to Canada, where he wrote his autobiography, a narrative that later inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe’s famous novel *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*; [and] Whereas Josiah Henson’s grandnephew, Matthew Henson, left Charles County farmland to become an Arctic explorer, venturing to the North Pole and going on to receive international acclaim... (*Congressional Record – Senate*, V. 154, Pt. 6, p. 7782, 6 May 2008, emphasis added.)

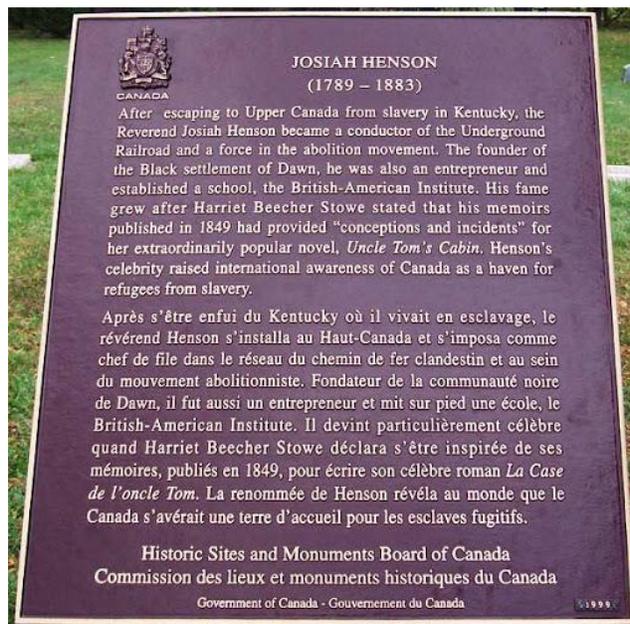
Similarly, *Black in Time Enterprises* states that explorer Matthew Henson “was the great, grand-nephew of Josiah Henson, the famous runaway slave...” (March 9, 2019 Facebook posting; no proofs or line supplied).

On the other hand, Bradley Robinson, author of *Dark Companion: the Story of Matthew Henson*, written with Matthew Henson, states (pp. 18-19) that:

There was a rumor that Josiah was a close relative of Lemuel’s [father of Matthew Henson]...but no-one accurately could say there was a blood tie between Lemuel and Josiah.

Determining such a link would be fascinating genealogically and would be of great interest to The Explorers Club, of which Matthew Henson was a distinguished member. No one has formally examined this question, but it one that is very frequently asked in Montgomery County, Maryland, which is building a museum to honor Reverend Josiah Henson, at the site where he was enslaved for many years; and which is also the location of the Matthew Henson State Park and trail.

One possible link between the two is possibly asserted in a hand-drawn line on the “Working Draft of the Henson Family Tree, Courtesy of the M-NCPPC,” as follows: Reverend Josiah Henson had a brother James Henson, b. 1799 in MD; James had a son Charles Henson, b. 1823 in MD; and Charles had a son George, b. 1854 in Annapolis, MD. This latter date of 1854 would get the line down close to the time of Matthew Henson, who was born about 1865-6. This section analyzes these assertions, to see if this line could intersect with the ancestry of Matthew Henson.



**Assertion:** Reverend Josiah Henson had a brother James Henson, b. c. 1799 in Charles Co., MD.

Proofs:

- James is likely older than Josiah, since before the 1805 sale in which Josiah was sold, his family consisted of his mother and “three girls and three boys, of which I was the youngest” (Rebecca Webster, et al., *In Search of Josiah Henson’s Birthplace* (St. Mary’s City, MD: St. Mary’s College, 2017, p. 21). From his account of his early life, in which the first major incident is the flogging of Josiah’s father “in Charles County, Maryland” (Josiah Henson, *Uncle Tom’s Story of His Life* (Madison and Adams Press, 2019), p. 13), it is reasonable to assume that James was born in Charles Co., MD.
- Josiah’s mother and “her young family of six children” (less the father, who had been sold away after the flogging incident) lived on the McPherson estate for “two or three years,” until McPherson drowned and Josiah was sold away in 1805. (Henson, *Uncle Tom’s Story*, *ibid.*, pp. 14-15.) At that point or soon after he likely was forcibly moved to Montgomery County, Maryland. So it appears that his asserted brother James would have remained behind in Charles County in 1805. Henson does not mention his brother James in his public writings, and it is not clear what happened to him after 1805. It seems likely that if Josiah, who rescued “one hundred and eighteen human beings” from slavery (Henson, *Uncle Tom’s Story*, *ibid.*, pp. 56), had rescued his brother from slavery before the civil war, that he would have mentioned it in his several autobiographies. Therefore if James joined Josiah in Canada, it seems likely that it was after the Civil War.
- The US Census for 1830 for Baltimore, MD, Ward 5, shows a James Henson in a household with 2 free colored males aged 36-54; 1 free colored female aged 36-54; and 1 free colored female

under 10 years old. It seems unlikely – but possible -- that this person could be “our” James, since the Baltimore James Henson is free in 1830, and the Charles County James was enslaved from birth.

- US Census for 1860 for Baltimore, MD, Ward 5, shows James Henson, 60, b. c. 1800, black male, a porter, with wife Amelia, 58, black female; neither can read or write. Again, it seems unlikely that this free couple are the target couple, but it is possible.
- The City Directory for Baltimore, MD for 1863 shows three persons named James Henson, a brickmaker, a waiter and a laborer. It is unclear if these men are free blacks, or white.
- City and Area Directories list, for Ontario, Kent Co. Gazetteer, 1865, shows a James Henson.
- Canadian Census for 1861 for Ontario, Kent Co., Harwich area shows James Henson, 57, b. c. 1804 in the US, laborer; Addy (or Atha?), 50, b. c. 1815 in the US, married woman, and had at least six children: Mary Jane Henson, 14, b. c. 1847 in the US, Topiter (sic? Jupiter?), 11, b. c. 1850 in the US (unclear if this person is male or female, he/she is marked as both!); Olars (sic? Oliver?), 8, b. c. 1853 in the US; Katherine, 6, b. c. 1855, b. in UC (meaning Upper Canada); Charles P. (or B.?), 3, b. c. 1858 in UC; and Margaret, 1, b. c. 1860 in UC. All the children are described as “child,” meaning child of the head of household, James. All household members are listed as “W Meth,” meaning Wesleyan Methodist. This family seems quite likely to be the correct one. The family head has the correct name, the family origin in the US and race are right, the religion is right, and the Harwich area is close to or overlaps with Josiah’s Dawn settlement. Note the birth locations and dates of the children; this supports a theory that James and his family lived as slaves in the US until they were able to escape Maryland in about 1854, just before the birth of their child Katherine in Canada.
- Voter List of Ontario, Kent Co., Harwich area for 1861 shows a James Henson. (Black males in Canada were allowed to vote beginning with the abolition of slavery on 1 August 1834, although some were prevented from doing so in various locations. See <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/black-voting-rights>.)
- Kent County, Ontario Directory and Gazetteer of 1865 shows a James Henson.
- FamilySearch.com Canadian Census for 1871 for Ontario, Kent Co., Chatham Township, shows James Henson, 65, b. c. 1806 in the US, “African” (black) male, farmer, other Methodist. (This individual’s age, name, race, religion, birth country and location near Reverend Henson all point to this James Henson being the brother of Josiah, but do not prove it.). His wife is Atty Henson, 56, b. c. 1815 in the US, “African” (black) female, United Methodist. In their household is Ambrose Dudley, 60, black male, b. in the US. Trying to match the 1861 and 1871 families, we see that the name of the head of household matches exactly, the wife’s name is very similar and her birth dates match exactly, James’ birth years are close, the county is the same, the religion matches fairly well, and the race is the same. So it is clear this 1871 family is the same as the one in 1861. (Note that if Josiah Henson only had older brothers and sisters, then a person born in 1806 is not likely to be a sibling of Rev. Henson, since all sources agree he was born before 1800.)
- “Working Draft of the Henson Family Tree, Courtesy of the M-NCPPC,” *ibid*.
- Jamie Kuhns, historian for Montgomery County, MD Parks, raises a possible problem with the James Henson living in Ontario, in her book *Sharp Flashes of Lightning Come From Black Clouds: The Life of Josiah Henson* (Silver Spring, MD: M-NCPPC, 2018) p. 170. Her analysis shows that there was another person living in Ontario named James Henson, whose original slave name was entirely different, and who was not related to the Henson clan. This may be the James Henson shown in the 1871 Census.

**NOTE:** As discussed earlier, the linkage from Reverend Josiah Henson to his asserted brother James needs to be strengthened with more documentation to be considered as proven. Another possible problem is the surprising age of wife Atta Henson, who apparently had had a child in about 1860, just before the 1861 Census, at the age of 49. Any yet another problem is the issue raised by Kuhns, above.

**Assertion:** James Henson had a son Charles Henson, b. 1823 in MD.

Proofs:

- Canadian Census for 1861 for Ontario, Kent Co., Harwich, *ibid.*, shows that James and Atty Henson had a child Charles, b. in 1858 in Canada (as well as other children). However, this person's birth date does not match the desired date of 1823, and is too late to intersect with a line descending to Matthew Alexander Henson, born only about 7 years later, in 1865-66.
- US Census for 1850 for Anne Arundel Co., District 3, MD, shows Charles Henson, 25, b. abt. 1825, black male, b. in MD for Anne Arundel Co., in a household with no other Hensons or apparent relatives. This person is a possibility, and matches the desired date fairly closely, but there is apparently no proof that this person is descended from Josiah Henson.

**Assertion:** Charles Henson had a son George Henson, b. 1854 in Annapolis, MD.

Proofs:

- US Census for 1870 for Anne Arundel Co., MD shows Charles Henson, 47, b. abt. 1823, black male farm laborer, with wife Mary Henson, 32, and children George, 16 (hence born about 1854) farm laborer; Charles, 14; Ann, 12; Elizabeth, 6; John, 5; and Samuel, 3; all persons in the household are black, born in MD. This family seems to be the one advocated as relevant by the M-NCPPC chart. This Charles Henson is likely the one identified in the previous bullet points as Charles b. in 1825, in the 1850 Census for Anne Arundel County.
- US Census for 1860 for Anne Arundel Co., MD, District 3, shows Charles Henson, 5, b. c. 1855, black male, with apparent mother Elizabeth Henson, 26, black female, farm hand, cannot read and write. Charles has siblings Elizabeth, 13; James, 7; Ezikiel, 3; and Jane, 1, all black.
- US Census for 1860 for Anne Arundel Co., MD, District 3, shows Charles Henson, 13, b. c. 1847, black male, farm laborer, in a household with no other Hensons, headed by white male physician William Revell.

Unfortunately, all of these three possibilities have issues. Both of the last two were probably born too late to father Lemuel, the father of explorer Matthew Alexander Henson, or even one be one of his half brothers.

The first Charles to George family above has several issues: first, the line comes down to too late a date; second, there is no evidence that this family is linked to the Lemuel/Matthew line; and third, the target Lemuel/Matthew line is based in Charles County, Montgomery County and the District of Columbia, not Anne Arundel County. (Although to be fair that is not far away, and is possible.)

Hence this line from the M-NCPPC chart does not appear to be fruitful, with the present evidence in hand.

For a link to exist from Josiah Henson to Matthew Henson, the timing has to be something along the lines of this:

- Josiah Henson was b. c. 1797, and had an elder brother “Alpha” b. (say) c. 1795.
- “Alpha” at age 46, had a son Lemuel Henson, b. c. 1841 (who appears in the 1870 Census for Charles County, MD as “L. Hanson,” age 29). This Lemuel became the father of explorer Matthew Alexander Henson.

**OR**

- Josiah Henson was b. c. 1797, and had an elder brother “Beta” b. (say) c. 1785
- “Beta” at age 27 had a son “Delta” b. c. 1812
- “Delta” at age 29 had a son Lemuel Henson, b. c. 1841 (who appears in the 1870 Census for Charles County, MD as “L. Hanson,” age 29). And of course this was the father of explorer Matthew Henson.

Proving a line like this will be difficult, since the father of Lemuel and some of the brothers of Josiah and their sons are elusive. The brothers of Josiah and their sons who have been identified to date do not match up with the two timelines and linkages outlined immediately above.

Several family trees on Ancestry.com (e.g. the Robert Dorsey Family Tree, the Kersey Family Tree, the Grinnage-Mosely Family Tree, etc.) assert that Lemuel Henson, born in 1832 in Maryland (and father of explorer Matthew Alexander Henson) is another son of Mason, father of Rev. Josiah Henson (and thus Rev. Henson and Lemuel Henson are brothers). This does not make sense, since by 1832 Mason had been exiled to the South from Maryland by many years, was likely deceased, and would not have been able to father Lemuel hundreds of miles away.

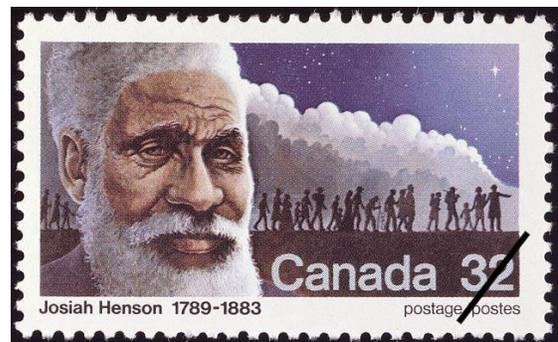
As mentioned earlier, an asserted line exists from Lemuel Henson up one generation to Lemuel’s uncle, Reverend Josiah Henson. This line will be discussed below, under the siblings of Reverend Henson.

A possible way forward would be for a concerted effort to be undertaken by all proven or asserted descendants of Josiah and Matthew to take commercial DNA tests using one commercial company, form a family DNA group, and then compare their paper trails with their DNA results. This has helped other similar families wishing to establish their connections, although of course results are not guaranteed.

**Parents, Dates, Escape Analysis, Siblings, Wives and Children of Josiah Henson**

**Parents of Josiah Henson**

Various sites and sources state that the father of Reverend Josiah Henson was “Mason.” Note that the name “Josiah Henson” was a name given to Josiah by his slave master and owner Dr. Josiah McPherson, who named Josiah after himself, and added the name Henson after one of his [McPherson’s] uncles who was an officer in the Revolutionary War (Rev. Henson, *Uncle Tom’s Story...*, *ibid.*, p. 14, and Edna M. Troiano, *Uncle Tom’s Journey from Maryland to Canada: The Life of Josiah Henson* (Charleston, DC: The History Press, 2019) pp. 18-19. So Mason likely would have had no last name.



Rev. Henson was the first black person honored on a Canadian stamp

Unfortunately, a review of available on-line genealogical information could not locate any paper trail trace of Mason. Kuhns (ibid., pp. 2, 17), states that descendants of Josiah assert that Mason is the correct name, and that it seems possible that both Mason and his partner came from Africa. (Kuhns notes (comment on this ms.) that the Africa assertion was made by James Lobb, Rev. Henson's editor.)

Of course lack of a paper trail is not proof that the assertion re Mason is incorrect. Unfortunately, Josiah Henson himself does not name his mother or father in his autobiographies, and only names his male children in his last autobiography, as: Tom, the eldest; Isaac, second son; Josiah (Jr.), third son; Peter, fourth son; and four un-named daughters (*Autobiography...*, ibid., pp. 198-99.)

Biographer Jared A. Brock, after extensive research, named Josiah's father as Mason, apparently for narrative purposes, but then stated that, "We don't know for sure what Josiah's parents' names were. Josiah's mother's name was likely Celia, and his father may have been named Mason." His information shows that Celia was 50 in 1805, and hence was born in about 1755 (likely in Maryland). See Jared A. Brock, *The Road to Dawn: Josiah Henson and the Story that Sparked the Civil War* (New York: Public Affairs—Hachette Group, 2018) pp. 1-7. Rev. Henson and Charlotte had a daughter named Celia, so that child could well have been named after her grandmother.

Kuhns, ibid., p. 22, states that many Henson descendants feel that the correct name of Mason's spouse was Ella, and some family trees on Ancestry.com agree with this assertion. (Of course both could be correct, in that "Ella" could be a nickname derived from "Celia.")

Josiah Henson, *Autobiography of Josiah Henson, An Inspiration for Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom* (Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 2003), p. 161, states that near the plantation house in Montgomery County where he was enslaved was "a little collection of mounds, slightly raised above the surrounding level...and there, a little removed from the others, was that of my poor, deal old slave mother." Brock, ibid., states that Celia died before Josiah returned to Maryland from Kentucky, hence about 1828. Since she had been born in about 1755, she was probably about 73 years old.

Brock states, ibid., p. 241, that Celia's grave is located near the Riley house in Montgomery County, MD, now the Josiah Henson Museum and park, and that Josiah visited her grave in 1878. (However, it is unclear whether the grave is within the small park boundaries.)

I think we can conclude that Celia "Ella" is very likely the name of Josiah's mother, that she was b. c. 1755 in MD, d. c. 1828 in what is now Rockville, Montgomery Co., MD, on or near what is now the Henson Museum and park location, and is buried in that area. Mason is probably the name of Josiah's father, but Mason's birth and death dates and other details of his life are sadly not known.

### **Dates for Reverend Josiah Henson**

Rev. Henson states repeatedly in his autobiographies that his birth date was 15 June 1789. However, Brock notes (ibid., p. 5) that that exact date may have been a "printing typo" in an early autobiography, and that "research shows that Josiah may have been off as many as ten years" in his statement of his birthday, since slaves' birthdays were "rarely recorded and certainly not celebrated." Researcher Edna Troiano (ibid., pp. 20-25 and 159), agrees and says that "the date of 1789 is clearly incorrect" due to conflicts with land purchases by slave owner Francis Newman. She seems to lean toward using the date in Josiah Henson's manumission papers, which "lists his age as thirty in March 1829" and hence would

yield a more reasonable birth year of 1798 (or 1799); and she lists 1798 as the birth date in her “Chronology of Henson’s Life” (ibid., p. 159). She also (ibid., pp. 21-22) cites Josiah’s autobiographies and excavations undertaken by Dr. Julia King of St. Mary’s College, and says that “it is likely that [Henson] was born at La Grange” plantation, near Port Tobacco, Charles County, Maryland.

Contradicting this date and supporting the usual birth year of about 1789 is the statement in Henson, *Autobiography...*, ibid., p. 162, but written about him in the third person, that, “When our readers reflect that he is in his ninety-first year, and that for forty-two years he was a slave...” The escape was in 1830, so 1830 minus 42 equals 1788. Similarly, the Canadian Censuses for 1871 and 1891 (presented in detail later in this report) both show Josiah Henson stating that he was 82 and 92 years old respectively, hence born in 1789.

Kuhns, ibid., pp. 21-23, states that the sale of Josiah Henson as a child, where he was torn away from most of his family and sent to Montgomery County, MD, was in 1805 and likely took place in Charles County, MD near Port Tobacco. She shows the June 1805 inventory which lists “one negro boy Sye” as 9 years old, owned by Dr. Josiah McPherson – hence born in 1796. The 1805 sale means that it is probable that Josiah lived in Montgomery County from 1805 until he left for Kentucky in 1825. Kuhns also states, ibid., pp. 71-2, that Henson stayed in Kentucky for three years, hence 1825-1828.

Various researchers all agree that Reverend Henson died at Dawn settlement, Kent County, Ontario on 5 May 1883. This date is confirmed by his grave marker; see a photo at:

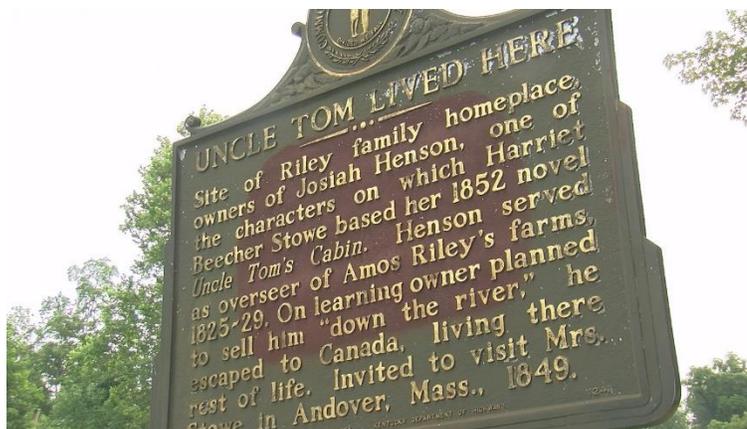
[http://ckcemeteries.ca/cpg15x/displayimage.php?album=122&pid=5862#top\\_display\\_media](http://ckcemeteries.ca/cpg15x/displayimage.php?album=122&pid=5862#top_display_media)

An important date for Josiah Henson was the date he became a Canadian citizen. Kuhns, ibid., pp. viii and 1, states that this date was before 1849. No other citizenship or documentary evidence was locatable in this present effort.

Based on the information above, the key genealogical dates and locations proposed here are: Reverend Josiah Henson, b. 1796-99 at La Grange plantation, Charles County, MD, sold in Montgomery County, MD in 1805 and lived in that county until 1825, thence in Kentucky and traveling until he escaped to Canada in 1830. He died 5 May 1883 at Dawn, Kent County, Ontario, Canada.

### **Analysis of the Henson Family Escape**

After traveling back and forth to Maryland in 1829 and down to New Orleans and back to Kentucky (apparently arriving on July 10, 1830; see Troiano, pp. 58-64 and 75), Josiah resolved to escape. That escape to Canada took from mid-September to 28 October 1830 (Henson, *Autobiography...*, p. 69 and Troiano, pp. 75-82). Henson, *Autobiography...*, ibid., p. 61, states that the escape began on a “moonless” “Saturday” night in “mid-September” at 9 pm. Examining the calendar for September 1830, the only



Historical marker in Daviess Co., Kentucky re Josiah Henson

purely moonless night was Thursday, September 16. But September 18, Saturday, would have been almost moonless. (On September 4<sup>th</sup> the moon was almost full, on the 11<sup>th</sup> it was about half full, and on the 25<sup>th</sup> it was again half full.) Hence it is fairly certain that the escape took place from September 18 to October 28, 1830. This is a duration of 41 days, not counting the first day but counting the last. Dividing 600 miles traveled divided by 41 yields 14.6 miles per day (traveling for much of the journey at night!), a very impressive rate of progress for such a difficult trip with four small children in the party. (They did get one 30-mile lift in a wagon.) Consider that a standard day's march for fit Roman legion recruits was 20 Roman miles, or 18.4 modern statute miles, marching over well-made roads (Wikipedia, citing Vegetius, under "Loaded March"). Or consider that US Army troops on the march in the Civil War generally averaged only 8 to 13 miles per day! (See <https://www.civilwarmed.org/quick-facts/onthego/>)

Note that this calculation assumes that the family took no rest days -- the Henson autobiographies seem to imply that they made steady progress, except for a possible rest period in Cincinnati. (*The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave...*, *ibid.*, p. 66 states that "we were kindly received and entertained for several days" in Cincinnati.) If we assume that the family rested for four days, then the mileage on the travel days would of course be even higher, at about  $600/37 = 16.2$  miles per day! This is quite astounding.

### **Siblings of Josiah Henson**

Turning to the siblings, unfortunately Reverend Henson did not name any of his siblings in his will (which of course is understandable, since they likely all pre-deceased him) or apparently in his other papers. Kuhns, *ibid.*, p. 2, states that Josiah had five siblings, but (p. 10) had three sisters and three brothers. (See immediately below for Henson's writing on this point.)

An interesting and important question for establishing the birth years of Rev. Henson's siblings is whether or not they were all older than he was. In his early autobiography, *The Life of Josiah, Formerly a Slave* (Bedford, MA: Applewood Books, n.d., first published in Boston: Arthur D. Phelps, 1849), p. 6, Henson states that, "My mother and her young family of three girls and three boys, of which I was the youngest..." (emphasis added). This is very clear.

However, the corresponding sentence in *Uncle Tom's Story of His Life*, *ibid.*, p. 14, and in *Autobiography of Josiah Henson*, *ibid.*, p. 17, is that, "For two or three years my mother and her young family of six had resided on the doctor's estate...." There is no mention of Henson being the "youngest." Was this a correction of an earlier mis-statement, or just a stylistic change with no intent to make a correction? The matter is unresolved. So it seems likely but not completely certain that Josiah's siblings were all older than he.

Re these siblings, the following documentary evidence is available on particular individuals.

### **John Henson**

- Brock, *ibid.*, pp. 10, 11, 141, states that Dr. McPherson's posthumous slave auction inventory of 9 April 1805 shows "Sye" (the nickname of Josiah Henson), estimated age of 9, thus b. c. 1796 (not 1785) being sold, along with brother John, 12 (thus b. c. 1793, likely in Charles Co., MD), as well as likely mother Celia, 50 (thus b. c. 1755, probably in MD). (A handwritten slave pass from slave-owner Amos Riley dated 23 August 1827 shows that a nickname for Josiah was in fact "Si";

see *ibid.*, p. 143. Also note that Mrs. Riley calls Josiah “Si” when he visited her late in life (Josiah Henson, *Autobiography...ibid.*, p. 160.)

- Troiano, *ibid.*, pp. 110, 111, 160, states that Josiah freed his brother John in 1858 from the Beall-Dawson plantation in Montgomery County, MD, where John had been enslaved since possibly 1805. Troiano states that John’s freedom was purchased for \$250, and that John Henson lived in Dawn, Ontario, Canada near Josiah for the next fifteen years. She adds that, “John’s eldest son lived in New Jersey, where his family worked on a dairy farm. Troiano continues, stating that three years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued (thus in about 1866), the son traveled to Dawn and brought his father John back to New Jersey.
- The *Lowell Daily Citizen* of Lowell, MA states in 1858 that, “Father Henson, better known as “Uncle Tom,” has succeeded in purchasing from slavery his only brother John, who has a wife and three children yet in bondage. Uncle Tom and John are at Boston raising money to purchase the rest of the family.”
- Kuhns, *ibid.*, pp. 27, 102, 184 states that John Henson lived in slavery for a time in Montgomery County, MD, and was freed by manumission by his brother Josiah. “According to the Beall-Dawson House Museum, Jane Beall manumitted John Henson in 1850 for \$250” (*ibid.*, p. 184) but that two other sources give later dates of 1858 or 1861 for this happy event.
- The 1861 Canadian Census for Ontario, Kent Co., shows John Henson, 70, (thus b. c. 1791) b. in the US, “Baptist” (sic?), colored, apparently unmarried, and apparently cannot read or write (the Census mark is not completely clear). Beside him in the Census is Peter Henson, 21, farmer, colored (discussed later; this is the son of Reverend Josiah Henson).
- The 1871 Canadian Census for Ontario, Bothwell, Camden shows John Henson, 86, (thus b. c. 1785) in the US, “African,” (black), farmer, Methodist – British Episcopal. He is living in the same household as Josiah Henson, 82 and Nancy Henson, 51, Thomas Henson, 17, and three people surnamed Titus (these are likely the relatives brought to the family by Nancy; see discussion below). **NOTE:** This record, if it is right in showing that John the brother is still in Canada in 1871, contradicts Troiano above.
- Josiah Henson, in his last autobiography, *Uncle Tom’s Story of His Life* (London: John Lobb, 1876, sourced at <https://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/henson/henson.html>) pp. 153-155, states that he raised \$550 to pay to free his brother John in Maryland, that John came to Baltimore, thence to Boston, where the two brothers re-united, and traveled to Canada. There Josiah “kept him [John] in my home for 15 years.” Then John’s eldest son (un-named) came to visit after being freed by the Emancipation Proclamation. Three years later, hence around 1866-7, the son returned to take his father John to New Jersey, to live with the son’s mother and brothers on a dairy farm in New Jersey, where they worked as “hired servants receiving excellent wages” and the son is the dairy’s “headman.” Josiah states that “my brother is now ninety-one years of age, and is the only living relative I have, excepting my wife and children.” The last autobiography was published in 1876 and could have been written in 1875. 1875 minus 91 equals about 1784 as the birth year for John. Recall that the two Censuses above gave a birth year of either 1791 or 1785. From the autobiographical account, it appears very likely that John Henson died in New Jersey, before the 1880 Census, in which he does not appear. However, no certain death information was located.
- Kuhns, *ibid.*, pp. 135-6, shows John Henson as a brother of Josiah Henson and son of Mason and Celila, on a large Henson family tree chart.

Turning to the possible descendants of John Henson, who ended his days in New Jersey, we find the following items:

- *The Daily Times* of New Brunswick, NJ has two sequential stories, dates unclear, either 16-17 March 1900 or more likely 16-17 March 1899, stating that Josiah Henson has died at his home at 148 New Street, New Brunswick; that he was the “most prominent colored man residing in the city,” that he “was the nephew of Josiah Henson...of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*,” that he “resembled” the “famous character,” that he “was born a slave in Maryland 78 years ago” (hence b. c. 1821), that he “lived in Baltimore for many years and when the Emancipation Proclamation was made he came to this state with a family named McCale, located on a farm across the river,” that “later he came to this city and has resided here for 30 years, being employed as a gardener by several prominent families and also as a janitor,” that he was a member and steward of the Zion AME Church and a “sincere and honest Christian,” that he was the church choir leader, that he had been a member in Baltimore of the Lebanon Lodge of colored Odd Fellows, and that the funeral is to be held at the Zion AME Church and that he was interred in Elmwood Cemetery. The articles also state that he is survived by a “widow and one brother, Thomas Henson who lives at Raritan Landing.” (Note that no surviving children are mentioned.) (A review of *The Daily Times* showed a number of references over the years to Josiah Henson as a great leader of his church, choir and community.) (A search on FindaGrave in Elmwood Cemetery in New Brunswick, which has been 80 percent documented, could not find a grave for Josiah Henson.)
- US Census for North Brunswick, Middlesex Co., NJ shows the McCall clan, consisting of two households, headed by James McCall, 80, b. c. 1790 in Ireland, white male, value of real estate \$2000 (a very substantial sum); with wife Margaret McCall, 85, b. c. 1785 in Ireland, white female (can read but cannot write), James McCall, 27, b. c. 1843 in Ireland, white male, laborer; Mary McCall, 26, b. c. 1844 in Ireland; and children Lizzie McCall, 5, b. in NJ, James McCall, 4, b. in NJ, Margaret McCall, 8/12, b. in NJ. (This seems likely to be the “McCale” family referenced in the news article above. There are two other possible candidates in the 1870 Census: Hugh McCol (or McCole) with wife Ellen, in South Amboy, NJ, with real estate worth \$1200; or less likely, John McCale with wife Kezia and child Esther, in Newark, with no real estate holdings. The 1870 Census is key because in 1899 two sources stated that Josiah Henson came to NJ with the McCale family “30 years ago.” All of the persons noted in this bullet point are white. The real estate holdings are important because Rev. Henson said that his brother and nephew went to New Jersey to work on a dairy farm, presumably substantial enough to need an overseer and staff.)
- US Census for Baltimore, MD for 1870 shows Josiah “Hinson,” 40, b. c. 1830 in MD, black male, waiter in a hotel; Thomas “Hinson,” 34, b. c. 1836 in MD, black male, waiter in a family (?), and Amelia “Hinson,” 35, b. c. 1835 in MD, black female, with three youth under 20 surnamed Smith in the same household. (It is extremely likely that Josiah and Thomas are the Henson/Hanson brothers shown immediately below in the 1880 Census; it is not clear whether Amelia is a wife, sister or other.)
- US Census for New Brunswick, Middlesex Co., NJ for 1880 shows brothers Josiah “Hanson,” 52, b. c. 1828 in MD, black laborer, with both parents b. in MD; with wife Harriet “Hanson,” 39, b. c. 1841 in NJ, black, with both parents b. in NJ; and Thomas “Hanson,” 46, b. c. 1834 in MD, brother of Josiah, with both parents b. in MD.

- New Jersey Census for 1885 for Raritan, Middlesex Co., shows Thomas “Hanson,” age 20 to 60, colored male, living in the Crowell (?) household.
- New Brunswick NJ City Directory for 1886 shows Josiah Henson, gardener living in a house at 98 New St.
- New Brunswick NJ City Directory for 1897 shows Josiah Henson, gardener and Thomas Henson, farmer, living at the same address, a house at 148 New St.
- New Brunswick NJ City Directory for 1899 shows Josiah Henson, gardener and Thomas Henson, farmer, living at the same address, a house at 148 New St.
- New Jersey Deaths and Burials Index shows Josiah Henson, d. 16 March 1899 in New Brunswick, Middlesex, New Jersey, b. c. 1827 in the US, age 72 years 3 months. He is described as a black laborer, married, male, a resident of NJ for 30 years, with mother and father both b. in the US.
- New Jersey Wills and Probate Records for Middlesex Co., show the will of Josiah Henson, dated 9 February 1900, resident of the City of New Brunswick, Co. of Middlesex, giving all his property to his wife Harriet M. Henson, and making her his executrix. No other relatives are mentioned.
- US Census for New Brunswick, NJ for 1900 shows Harriet M. Henson, 55, b. November 1844 in NJ, black female, widowed, 2 children born but none living at this time, with both parents b. in NJ, washerwoman, residing at 148 New St., living with niece Viola Peleton, 33, b. July 1866 in NJ, single black female, with father b. in VA and mother b. in NJ.
- New Brunswick, NJ City Directory for 1906 shows Harriet M. Henson, widow of Josiah Henson, living in a house at 148 New St.
- US Census for North Brunswick, Middlesex Co., NJ for 1910, City Alms House, shows John T. Henson as an inmate, 60, (b. c. 1850 in MD), single black male, with both parents b. in MD, able to read and write. (This may be the correct John Henson, but his b. date does not match the Censuses listed earlier very well.)

In summary, it is certain that John Henson (of Kent County, Ontario in 1871) was the elder brother of Reverend Josiah Henson. He was born about 1784-1793 in Maryland, likely Charles County, lived in Montgomery County, MD until about 1858, lived in Kent County, Ontario for about fifteen years, at least until 1871 (when he appears in the Canadian Census), then removed with his son to New Jersey, where he was 91 in about 1875, and probably died in New Jersey before 1880.

In New Jersey one of the sons of John Henson was Josiah Henson, b. c. 1821, likely in Montgomery Co., MD and d. 16 March 1899 in New Brunswick, NJ, married to Harriet M. Henson, b. November 1841 in NJ and d. aft. 1906. They had two children but it is not clear if those children survived to adulthood. The other son was Thomas Henson, b. c. 1834 likely in Montgomery Co., MD and d. aft. 1899, likely in NJ, single and apparently with no issue.

It is not clear from the existing records if there was another son of John Henson, nor which son went to Ontario to bring John Henson back to New Jersey.

#### **Isaac Henson (and his son, another Josiah)**

- The printed “Working Draft of the Henson Family Tree, Courtesy of the M-NCPPC” shows the father of Reverend Josiah Henson as Mason, his mother as Celia, and his brothers as John and James. A handwritten note on the Tree says another brother of Reverend Josiah is “possibly Isaac, minister, b. 1796, married Hannah...”

- Following up on this assertion, the US Census for 1870 for Haddon, Camden, NJ shows Isaac Henson, 74, (hence b. c. 1796) black male, “Preacher,” b. in MD, value of estate \$300, able to read and write, with wife Hannah Henson, 74, black female, keeping house, b. in NJ, able to read and write. In the household, likely a son, is Josiah Henson, 40, (hence b. c. 1830) black male, farm laborer, b. in NJ, able to read and write. (Note that this Josiah Henson can be distinguished from the JH choir leader discussed immediately above, because this Josiah was born in NJ, not in MD.)
- This family is clearly the same family shown in the earlier US Census for 1850 for Newton, Camden, NJ, which shows Isaac Henson, 48, black male, “Methodist Clergyman,” value of real estate \$400, b. in PA (?), with wife Hannah Henson, 50, b. in NJ. In the same dwelling but listed as a separate family is Josiah Henson, 25 (hence b. c. 1825), black male, laborer, b. in NJ, apparent wife Jane Henson, 25, black female, b. in DE, with apparent daughter Charlotte Ann Henson, 4, black female, b. in NJ. (Note that this Reverend Isaac Henson (b. c. 1796-1802, d. after 1870), cannot be the same Reverend Isaac Henson, son of Reverend Josiah Henson, who was about 10 years old (b. c. 1820) when he was on the escape to Canada in 1830, and who died at age 37 in about 1857 after training in London.)
- US Civil War Draft Registrations Records for June 1863 for Camden and other counties show Josiah Henson, 36, b. c. 1827, Colored laborer, b. in NJ, subject to possible military duty.

Another family which might possibly be related to the target Henson line is shown below.

- US Census for 1880 for Center, Camden, NJ shows Josiah Henson, 48, b. c. 1832 in NJ, black laborer, with father b. in NC (?) and mother in NJ; with wife Cathren Henson, 43; and children Namon D. Henson, 6, male, Isaac A. Henson, 9/12, b. August 1880. Cathren and her children are all b. in NJ with their parents all b. in NJ.
- The New Jersey State Census for 1885 for Haddon Ward Township, Camden, NJ shows a household of Hensons that is very likely the same family as listed immediately above (note especially the unusual son’s name of “Namon” or “Naman”). Unfortunately this Census does not give exact ages, only broad ranges. The household includes Josiah Henson, age range 20-60, Lucinda Henson, 20-60, Naman (?) Henson, 5-20, Irvin Henson, 5 and under, Isaac Henson, 5 and under, and William H. Montier, 5-20. All are “colored.” (Note that this line was traced via Naamon Daniel Henson and Naamen Daniel Henson, Jr. down to the latter’s death in Philadelphia, PA on 6 March 1958, but it appeared that the line did not continue to the present, so it will not be presented in detail here.)
- New Jersey Birth and Christenings Index show Namon D. Henson, male, b. 19 May 1874 in Haddon Township, Camden, NJ, with father Josiah Henson and mother Catharine Henson.

Summarizing these findings, it appears that Rev. Isaac Henson b. c. 1796 in MD (or PA?) may be another brother of Rev. Josiah Henson. There is no definitive proof, unfortunately. There is no explanation of how Isaac, born in slavery, made it to New Jersey and was a free man living there as a preacher by 1850. Perhaps he was another heroic escaped slave, whose tale needs to be told.

The family of Josiah and Cathren Henson, discussed immediately above, may be genealogically related to the target Henson clan, but this seems fairly unlikely, since there is no Maryland or Ontario connection.

### James Henson

- Canadian Census for 1861 for Ontario, Kent Co. shows James Henson, 57, (hence b. c. 1804) b. in the US, laborer; Addy (or Atha?), b. c. 1815 in the US, married woman, and had at least six children: Mary Jane Henson, b. c. 1857 in the US, Topiter (sic? Jupiter?), b. c. 1860 in the US (unclear if this person is male or female, he/she is marked as both!); Olars (sic? Oliver?), b. c. 1863 in the US; Katherine, b. c. 1865, b. in UC (meaning Upper Canada); Charles P. (or B.), b. c. 1868 in UC; and Margaret, b. c. 1870 in UC. All the children are described as “child,” meaning child of the head of household, James. All household members are listed as “W Meth,” meaning Wesleyan Methodist.
- Canadian Census for Ontario, Kent Co., Chatham Division, for 1871 shows James Henson, male, 65 (hence b. about 1806), b. in the United States, of Wesleyan Methodist religion, “African,” (black), farmer, married, over 20 and unable to read, and over 20 and unable to write, and also Atty Henson, female, 56 (hence b. c. 1815), b. in the United States, of United Methodist religion, “African,” (black), no occupation listed, married, over 20 and able to read, but over 20 and unable to write. Also in the household is Ambrose Dudley, 60, male, b. in the United States, of United Methodist religion, “African,” (black), laborer, unmarried, over 20 and able to read, and over 20 and able to write. (From this it appears almost certain that James and Atty are married to each other; their relation if any to Ambrose is not clear.)
- Kuhns, *ibid.*, pp. 135-6, shows James Henson as a brother of Josiah Henson and son of Mason and Celila, on a large Henson family tree chart.
- Kuhns, p. 130, notes that another James “Jim” Henson who was actually unrelated to the Henson clan was living in Ontario.
- Brock, *ibid.*, p. 193, states that “Josiah’s younger brother...James, eventually made his way to Dawn...and is buried in a cemetery on the 9<sup>th</sup> Concession in Chatham Township.” (But did Josiah have any younger brothers?) (Brock does not source this assertion.)
- This statement by Brock is partially supported by the Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid, which shows James Henson buried in the Negro (abandoned) cemetery in Kent County, Chatham-Gore Twp., reference number KT-649-4. No dates or other information is supplied. See: <http://ocfa.islandnet.com/ocfa-search.php>

The evidence above supports the possibility (but not proof) that this James Henson (b. c. 1804-6, probably in Charles Co., MD, later residing in 1871 in Kent Co., MD, death date unknown, death location Dawn, Kent County, Ontario), is a brother of Rev. Josiah Henson. Further details on his life, and especially his death date, are highly desirable.

### Paul Henson

As mentioned earlier, a physically large but not detailed hand-drawn family chart (see photo) for modern attorney James E. Henson, Sr. of Alexandria, VA, shows that he is descended from Lemuel Henson, whose father was Paul Henson, and Paul was a brother of Reverend Josiah Henson. (The chart

also shows Bailey and Matthew as brothers, when the evidence is that they are half-brothers.) James E. Henson's assertion of descent from Matthew Alexander Henson and Rev. Josiah Henson was stated in *The Baltimore Sun* (Clarence Page, "History Contradicts Uncle Tom Smear," 24 February 2006, at: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-2006-02-24-0602240178-story.html>).

No proof or other information is included on the chart, and no information on Paul Henson, b. c. 1770-95 in Maryland could be found using on-line sources. It is not clear who developed the chart. This relation is tantalizing and hopeful, but is as yet unproven. (As discussed earlier, the line from James E. Henson, Sr. up to Lemuel Henson is proven.)

Other siblings are not yet provable or even identifiable, although they clearly existed.



Henson Family Chart showing Paul as father of Lemuel and brother of Josiah. (courtesy of James E. Henson, Sr.)

### Wives of Reverend Josiah Henson

Rev. Henson had two wives, Charlotte and Nancy. Subsections below on this topic are:

- Charlotte Henson
- Nancy Henson
- The Nancy Burford Question
- The Titus Children.

**Charlotte Henson.** Kuhns, *ibid.*, pp. 2, 60, states that Charlotte was Josiah's first wife, her full name was Charlotte "Lottie" Elizabeth Stevenson, that they met at a religious revival in Montgomery County, MD, married there in 1821, and she died in 1852. Kuhns notes that this marriage was "not recognized by law" since they were enslaved, but that they were considered to be man and wife in the US and in Canada, where she died in Kent Co., Ontario. It seems very likely but not absolutely certain that Charlotte was born in Montgomery County, Maryland. (Troiano, *ibid.*, p. 37, states that Charlotte was "enslaved at Williamsburg, a nearby plantation" in Montgomery County when she met Josiah, and Kuhns (in a comment on this manuscript), states that Charlotte was enslaved at Williamsburgh plantation in Montgomery County. But it is conceivable that Charlotte was born elsewhere and then brought to Montgomery County, where she met Josiah.)

The State of Michigan Certificate of Death for Julia Ann Henson Wheeler (daughter of Charlotte) shows that she died in Flint city, Genesee Co., MI (but is buried in Dresden, Ontario) on 22 May 1913, was female, colored, widowed, housewife, b. 18 February 1840 in Chatham, Ontario, Canada, was 73 years, 3 months and 4 days old when she died, and had parents Josiah Henson, b. in MD, and Charlotte Stevenson, b. in MD. The informant is Charlotte Henson Richey, of Flint, Michigan.

Troiano, (*ibid.*, pp. 37, 108, 159, 160) states that Josiah married Charlotte (no last name) when he was 22, and she was enslaved on a nearby plantation. She also implies (*ibid.*, p. 108) that Charlotte Henson died c. October 1852, in Dawn, Kent Co., Ontario, after an illness of several weeks.

The *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. XI, states that Josiah married Charlotte about 1811, that she died in October 1852, that they had at least 12 children. See:

[http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/henson\\_josiah\\_11E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/henson_josiah_11E.html).

Kuhns agrees with the *Dictionary*, and the Henson tree (*ibid.*, pp. 135-6) shows Charlotte b. c. 1811 in Maryland (possibly Rockville, Montgomery County) and d. 1854 in Canada.

However, if we assume that Josiah was really born about 1798, then the *Dictionary* marriage date becomes infeasible – Josiah would not have married at age 13. If we postulate that Josiah was in fact born about 1798, and hence married Charlotte in about 1820 (when he was 22), and that Charlotte was somewhat younger than he was, then perhaps she was born about 1801.

This birth and marriage date would work with the births of her first child. As will be discussed later, this report will estimate that firstborn Tom Henson was born in 1820 (Kuhns, pp. 135-6 estimates 1823, not far off). We know that this couple of Josiah and Charlotte was very fertile, with at least 12 children total, so having a baby very shortly after marriage seems reasonable.

In summary, it appears reasonable (but not proven) to state that Charlotte “Lottie” Elizabeth Stevenson was b. c. 1801, probably in Montgomery County, MD; married in about 1820-1 in Montgomery Co., MD to Josiah Henson, and died in about October 1852 in Dawn, Kent Co., Ontario, Canada.

**Nancy Henson.** Kuhns’ research (*ibid.*, p. 2, 103, 134) showed that Rev. Henson’s second wife was Nancy Ridgely Gambriel, a free woman of color and widow of Peter Gambriel. Kuhns states that she was originally from Baltimore (and hence presumably born there), was a resident of Boston when they met, and had the following children by previous marriages: Lucinda Titus, b. 1830 (who had a daughter Mary Clement), Rebecca, b. 1834, and Peter, b. 1837. She had also had another son, John Gambriel, who apparently died and did not move to Canada with his mother. (Note that some Henson descendants on Ancestry.com trees, and other sources, spell “Gambriel” as “Gamble.”)

Various proofs and details are available re Nancy Ridgely Gambriel Henson, as follows:

Proofs:

- Henson, *Autobiography*, *ibid.*, p. 142-43, states that his second wife (unnamed) was a “widow, an estimable woman, one who had been a faithful teacher in a Sunday school, and quite a mother in the church to which she belonged. She had been brought up by a Quaker lady in Baltimore, and had received a good education in the ordinary branches. Her mother had been a slave, but was such a superior laundress that she earned enough to buy her freedom...” Henson adds that she also bought her husband’s freedom, and that she had a daughter who traveled widely “around the world.”
- Henson, *ibid.*, also states that his second wife had one son and two daughters (by her previous marriage) and that the couple were “married in Boston by our bishop.” He says that, “she has made me an excellent wife... my cup runneth over with God’s mercies.”

- *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. XI, *ibid.*, states Josiah married second, in about 1856, to Mrs. Nancy Gamble (sic), a free black widow.
- Troiano (*ibid.*, p. 108, 110) states that Charlotte Henson died c. October 1852, after an illness of several weeks, and that Josiah then married Nancy Gamble (sic) c. 1856 in Boston, by a bishop.
- Ontario, Canada Deaths and Deaths Overseas, for Kent Co., Ontario shows Nancy Henson, 69, widow (hence b. c. 1819), Methodist Episcopal, d. 11 November 1888 in Camden and Gore.
- Canadian Census for 1871 for Ontario, Bothwell, Camden shows Josiah Henson, 82, b. in the US, religion Methodist B. E. [British Episcopal], "African" [black], farmer, married, able to read and write, with Nancy Henson, 51 (hence b. c. 1820), also b. in the US, religion Methodist B. E. [British Episcopal], "African" [black], farmer, married, able to read and write. In the same household are John Henson, 86, with all the same entries except he is marked as "over 20 and unable to read and write;" Lucinda Titus, 30; Elizabeth Titus; Matilda Titus, 7; and Thomas Henson, 17. (**NOTE:** It is not absolutely clear where the last name Titus for these children comes from; see the subsection below. Also the "3" in the "30" for Lucinda's age is unclear.)
- Canadian Census for 1881 for Ontario, Bothwell, Camden shows Josiah Henson, 92, b. in the US, religion M. E. [Methodist Episcopal], "African" [black], farmer, married, able to read and write, with Nancy Henson, 61 (hence b. c. 1820), also b. in the US, religion M. E. [Methodist Episcopal], "African" [black], farmer, married, able to read and write.
- Ontario Canada Marriages show Peter Gambriel, 51 (hence b. in 1842), resident of Camden, Kent Co., Ontario, b. in Boston, MA, widower, farmer, with parents Peter Gambriel and Nancy Gambriel, marrying in 1893 to Emma [Brown] Davis (Dairs?), 26, resident of Dresden, Ontario, b. in Co. Halton, Ontario, widow, with parents John Brown and Matilda Brown.
- Michigan Death Records for Detroit, Wayne Co., MI show Peter Gambriel, d. 9 June 1913, male, colored, widower, b. 3 October 1831 in MA, USA, with father Peter Gambriel, birthplace unknown, and mother Nancy Ridgely, b. in MD, USA.

The information above points to a birth year of 1819 or 1820, likely in Baltimore, MD, for Nancy. Using the 1820 figure, that means that Nancy Gamble was about 36 when she married Josiah Henson in c. 1856 (1856-1820 = 36) in Boston, MA. Although she could have had children at that age, she apparently did not. All the children of Josiah found in this analysis were born before the death of Charlotte Stevenson Henson in 1852, and all were her children. Nancy d. 11 November 1888 in Camden and Gore, Ontario, Canada.

**The Nancy Burford Question.** There are a substantial number of family trees on Ancestry.com that assert that the "Nancy" who married Josiah Henson was Nancy "Burford," and that the couple lived in or at least were married in Missouri. Researching this yields the following items:

- Find-a-Grave states that the full name of Nancy Henson (wife of Rev. Josiah Henson) was Nancy Ridgely Burford Gambrel Henson, but **NOTE:** does not provide proofs for these details.
- US Census for 1820 for Tennessee, Sumner Co., Gallatin, shows Josiah "Hinson," as head of a household of eight members, all free whites.
- Missouri Marriage Records for Ripley for 1840 shows Josiah Henson marrying Nancy Oaks on 10 June 1840.
- US Census for 1850 for Missouri, Madison Co., shows Josiah (or Josias) Henson, 35, hence b. c. 1815, b. in TN, farmer, with household members Nancy Henson, 25, b. in TN, Mary J. Henson, 8,

Julia A. Henson, 6, Francis M. Henson, 4, and Lucinda C. Henson, 2. All the children are b. in MO. All members of the household are apparently white, since no there is no mark in race column.

- US General Land Office Records for Missouri for 1859 shows Josiah Henson buying 80 acres of land in Jackson, Madison Co., MO on 1 September 1859.
- US Census for 1860 for Missouri, Iron Co. Arcadia, shows Joseph (or Josiah?) Henson, 49, hence b. c. 1811, b. in TN, farmer, with household members Nancy Henson, 37, b. in TN, Sarah J. Henson, 18, Marian Henson (male), 12, Julia A. Henson, 16, Caroline Henson, 10, Missouri Henson, 7, Narcissa Henson, 5, and Artimisa Henson, 1. All the children are b. in MO. All members of the household are apparently white, since no there is no mark in race column. This is almost certainly the same family as shown above in the 1850 Census.
- Missouri Marriage Records, 1805-2002, show Josiah Henson marrying Mrs. Nancy Burford, both of Iron County, Missouri, on 6 November 1865.

**NOTE:** It seems clear that this clan of Hensons is not the same as that of Rev. Josiah Henson of Dawn. This group of Hensons originated in Tennessee, moved to Missouri and is white. There is no identifiable connection to the Hensons of Maryland, Kentucky and Canada. Re the marriages of Josiah and two Nancys above, it is clear that these are not the correct Nancy, since Rev. Henson himself states that he married his second wife (Nancy) “in Boston, Massachusetts” and were married by a bishop. Troiano (*ibid.*, p. 110) shows that the date for the second marriage of Rev. Henson was 1856, not 1840 or 1865.

Hence we can ignore the Missouri marriages and data, and drop the name “Burford” as a married name of the second wife of Rev. Henson.

Thus the correct genealogical information is that: Nancy Ridgely was b. likely in Baltimore, MD c. 1819/20, married first to Peter Gambriel (or Gamble), then in 1856 in Boston, MA married to Josiah Henson, moved to Dawn, Ontario, and d. 11 November 1888 in Dawn, Camden and Gore, Ontario, Canada.

**The Titus Children.** A puzzle re Nancy Henson is the group of Titus children that she brought to Dawn with her. The draft Henson tree chart (Kuhns, *ibid.*, pp. 135-6) shows the Titus children being the product of the marriage of Nancy Ridgely Gambriel (later Henson) and Peter Gambriel (b. 1778 in Anne Arundel Co., MD and d. 7 February 1845). But in that case these children should all have the last name of Gambriel. If they are the product of an earlier marriage by Nancy to an unknown Titus, then that would explain it. But no analysts seem to allege such a union. What is going on? Consider the following evidence:

- The draft Henson tree chart (Kuhns, *ibid.*) shows the children as Lucinda, b. 1830 in PA; Peter, b. 1837 in MA; John, b. 1838 in MA, d. 1857 in MA; and Rebecca, b. 1839 in MA and d. 1918 in MI; and shows that all are the product of the union of Peter Gambriel and Nancy Ridgely.
- The later MNPPC chart with handwritten notes, *ibid.*, states that Peter Gambriel had a first wife Mary Gray, gives somewhat different dates for some of the Gambriel children, and adds several children, but still has all children as products of the marriage of Peter Gambriel and Nancy Ridgely.
- Directory for Boston, Suffolk, MA for 1829 shows Peter Gambrel, male laborer, person of color, near Lexington Street, Boston.

- US Census for Boston, Suffolk, MA for 1840 shows Peter Gamble with a household of five “free colored people,” including 1 male aged 36-55 (likely Peter himself), 1 male under 10, 1 female 24-36, and 2 females under 10.
- Massachusetts Town and Vital Records, for Boston for 1845, shows Peter “Gambol,” 42, colored, d. 7 February 1845 (hence b. c. 1803) in Boston of an accident. (**NOTE:** there is not enough detail to be sure this is the correct person. The typed and the original versions are available and were reviewed; neither show any family information.)
- US Census for Boston, Suffolk, MA for 1850 shows Lucinda Gamble, 14 (hence b. c. 1836), female, in a large household with no apparent relatives. (This is either not the correct person, or this Lucinda is a double counting in 1850 of the Lucinda immediately below. Double counts in a Census are not uncommon.)
- US Census for Boston, Suffolk, MA for 1850 shows Nancy Gambell, 34, b. in MA; Lucinda Gambell, 15, (hence b. c. 1835) b. in PA; John Gambell, 12, b. in MA; Rebecca, 11, b. in MA; and Peter Gambell, 8, (hence b. c. 1842) b. in MA. All are listed as mulatto.
- Massachusetts State Census for 1855 for Boston, Suffolk Co., shows Nancy Gambell, 39, (hence b. c. 1816), mulatto, b. in MD, Lucinda, 20, black, Rebecca, 16, mulatto, Peter, 13, black, Mary E. Clement, 8/12, black. All except Nancy are listed as b. in MA.
- The US Census for Boston, Suffolk Co., MA for 1860 shows James Titus, 27, (hence b. c. 1833) b. in Nova Scotia, waiter; Lucinda Titus, 23, b. in PA; Elizabeth Titus, 5, b. in MA; and Mary Titus, 43, (hence b. c. 1817) b. in Nova Scotia. All are described as mulatto.
- Massachusetts Death Records for 1863 show James H. Titus, 14 days old, colored, resident of and died in Boston, died of convulsions, with father James Titus, b. in Nova Scotia, and mother Lucinda Titus, b. in Philadelphia, PA.
- US Civil War Draft Registrations for Boston, Suffolk Co., MA for June 1863 show James Titus, 34, male, colored, laborer, b. in “N.S.” (Nova Scotia), living on Anderson St.
- Massachusetts State Census for 1865 for Boston, Suffolk, MA shows James Titus, 34, (hence b. c. 1831) b. in NS (Nova Scotia), married, waiter; Lucinda Titus, 20, b. in PA; Mary E. Titus, 10, b. in “Ms” (? hard to read, Massachusetts?); Matilda Titus, 1. b. in “Ms.” (Note the discussion below where it is postulated that Lucinda’s implied b. year of 1845 is incorrect here.)
- US Census for 1870 for Boston, MA shows James Titus, 38 (hence b. c. 1832), black male, waiter, b. in [illegible] VA? VT? NS?, unable to read and write]. Living apparently in a large boarding house with no relatives.
- Boston City Directory for 1883 shows James Titus, waiter, living in rooms (possibly a boarding house) at 13 Winchester, in Boston.
- Massachusetts Death Records for 1867 shows Nancy Titus, 63 (hence b. c. 1804), b. in Nova Scotia, colored, widowed, d. of cancer 29 March 1867 in Boston.
- Canadian Census for 1871 for Kent Co., Ontario shows [Rev.] Josiah Henson, 82, with [wife] Nancy Henson, 51, and other household members Lucinda Titus, 30, (hence b. in 1841), Elizabeth Titus, 16, (hence b. c. 1855), Matilda Titus, 7, with all of these persons born in the US, and with the Tituses clearly all marked with that last name. The last member of the household is Thomas Henson, 17, b. in Ontario.
- Canadian Census for 1871 for Camden, Bothwell, Ontario shows Peter Gambрил, 28 (hence b. c. 1843), b. in the US, farmer, married, B. E. Methodist; with apparent wife Adeline Gambрил, 27, b. in Ontario, married, B. E. Methodist; and apparent daughter Victoria, 9, b. in Ontario, B. E.

Methodist, going to school. (If one assumes that Victoria was b. shortly after the marriage, then the marriage likely took place c. 1862, when Peter was 19 and Adeline was 18. This marriage likely took place in Ontario.)

- Canadian Census for 1891 for Camden, Bothwell, Ontario shows Lucinda Titus, 56, (hence b. in 1835), b. in the US, widowed, “S” for sister of the head of household (Peter Gambрил), Methodist, with both parents b. in the US; Peter Gambрил, 49, (hence b. in 1842), b. in the US, married, Methodist, farmer, with both parents b. in the US; and Adaline Gambрил, 48, b. in Ontario, married, wife of the head of household (Peter Gambрил), Methodist, with father b. in the US and mother b. in Ontario.
- Michigan Death Records for Detroit, Wayne Co., MI for 1919 show Mary Elizabeth [Titus] Kennedy, 58, b. 14 October 1860 in Boston, MA, female, black, married, d. 31 January 1919, lived in Detroit for the last 43 years, with father James Titus, b. in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and mother Lucile (sic) Gamble (sic), b. in Boston, MA. (This would appear to be Mary Elizabeth Titus, who lived for a time in the household of Rev. Josiah Henson, but was listed in the 1871 Canadian Census (above) as Elizabeth Titus, b. in 1855.)
- Ontario Canada Marriages show Peter Gambрил, 51, (hence b. c. 1842) resident of Camden, Kent Co., Ontario, b. in Boston, MA, widower, farmer, with parents Peter Gambрил and Nancy Gambрил, marrying in 1893 to Emma [Brown] Davis (Dairs?), 26, resident of Dresden, Ontario, b. in Co. Halton, Ontario, widow, with parents John Brown and Matilda Brown.
- Michigan Death Records show Peter Gambрил, 71, b. c. 1841, d. 9 June 1913 in Nankin, Wayne Co., MI, colored, with father Peter Gambрил and mother Nancy Gambрил. (Original document not available, only a transcription.)
- Michigan Death Index shows Peter Gambрил, 71, b. c. 1842, d. 9 June 1913 in Nankin for Eloise, Wayne Co., MI, colored, expressman, widowed, with father Peter Gambрил and mother Nancy Gambрил. (Transcription states “b. in Miss” but this is likely an error, and should be “Mass.”) (Original document not available, only a transcription.)

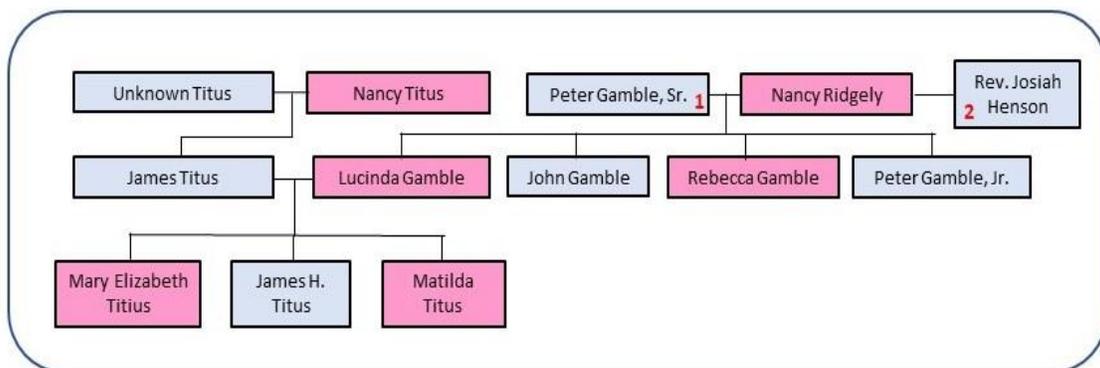
The evidence above supports the following scenario:

1. Nancy, maiden name unknown, was born in about 1804 in Nova Scotia, and married \_\_\_\_\_ [unknown] Titus; and they had a child James Titus, b. c. 1833 in Nova Scotia.
2. James Titus married Lucinda Gamble/Gambрил, b. c. 1835 in Philadelphia, PA. (This birth date relies on the 1891 Canada Census above, and assumes the other sources place her birth date too late. This is important, because this means that Lucinda is old enough to be the mother, not the sister, of Mary Elizabeth, b. 1855 (OR, more likely, b. 14 October 1860 in Boston, MA), James, b. 1863, and Matilda Titus, b. 1864. If Lucinda was b. in 1841, then she would have been only 14 when she had Mary Elizabeth in 1855 – possible but unlikely. If Mary Elizabeth was b. in October 1860 and her mother Lucinda was b. in 1835, then Lucinda had Mary Elizabeth at the age of 25 – very reasonable.) After her marriage, Lucinda Gamble of course became Lucinda Titus in subsequent records.
3. Lucinda Gamble (Titus) had a brother Peter Gamble, Jr. The common father of Peter Jr. and Lucinda was Peter Gamble/Gambрил, Sr., (b. 1778 in Anne Arundel Co., MD, and d. 7 February

1845, per the Henson family chart in Kuhns, *ibid.*, pp. 135-6. The death date is derived from Kuhns and from the MA death register for Peter “Gambol,” presented above).

4. Peter Gamble, Jr. was b. in Boston, MA in 1842, three years before his father’s death. Peter Gamble, Jr. lived in Ontario for a considerable period, appearing in the 1871 and 1891 Ontario, Canada Censuses. He d. 9 June 1913 in Nankin for Eloise, Wayne Co., MI (per the Michigan death records above). He married Adeline \_\_\_\_\_ in about 1862 and married Emma Davis in 1893.
5. Peter Gamble, Sr. had married Nancy Ridgely, perhaps about 1835, when she was about 20. The couple produced first produced a daughter, Lucinda Gamble, b. c. 1835. Per the 1850 US Census, they then had a son, John Gamble, b. c. 1838, then Rebecca, b. c. 1839, and Peter Gamble, Jr., b. c. 1841. Sadly, Peter Gamble, Sr. died shortly thereafter, on 7 February 1845. (Hence he does not appear in the 1850 Census for this Boston family.)
6. Nancy Ridgely Gamble subsequently married Rev. Josiah Henson, in Boston, in about 1856, and moved to Dawn, Ontario with him.
7. Meantime, James Titus, after having children Mary Elizabeth, James H., and Matilda, with his wife Lucinda Gamble Titus, separated from Lucinda in about 1864-1870. Lucinda Gamble Titus and her surviving children Mary Elizabeth Titus and Matilda Titus moved to Ontario, Canada to live near Lucinda’s brother, Peter Gamble, Jr., and with the well-regarded Rev. Josiah Henson and his wife Nancy Ridgely Gamble Henson, Lucinda’s mother. This move happened in time for the 1871 Canadian Census, where the Tituses appear, living with Rev. Henson and Nancy Ridgely Gamble/Gambril Henson.
8. Whew!

An objection that could be raised to this is Rev. Henson’s statement (*Autobiography*, *ibid.*, p. 142) that his second wife “had one son and two daughters.” Examining the US Census for 1850 and Massachusetts Census for 1855 (above) we can see that Nancy Gamble produced more children than that. But there are various explanations: first, some of the children may not have survived through the date in about 1875 when those words were written. Second, not all of the children may have moved to Canada, and that may be what Rev. Henson is referring to. Third, recall that Rev. Henson apparently dictated his autobiographies and had them read back to him. Errors or summarizations could creep in this way. The scenario above should not be considered to be proven to a high degree of certainty. But it does appear to fit the facts. The graphic below presents this proposed tree.



## Children of Reverend Josiah Henson

Re the children of Josiah Henson, the following evidence can be assembled, starting with general information, then followed by the findable children, in approximate chronological order of birth. A summary of conclusions is provided below, at the end of the section.

**General Information Re the Children.** The following items cover several of the children of Josiah and Charlotte Henson.

- Reverend Henson states (in his *The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave...*) *ibid.*, pp. 5, 27, that he was born in 1789 and married about age 22, and implies that his children were all born after that date – or about 1801. (As analyzed in Webster, *ibid.*, pp. 20-22), the birth date may be off by some years, perhaps even by a decade, and are more likely to be around 1796-99.) His birth location was likely the Grange, near Port Tobacco, Charles County, MD (Webster, *ibid.*, p. 22). He was sold on 9 April 1805 and apparently forced to re-locate to Montgomery County, MD, soon after that (Webster, *ibid.*, p. 20). Before the 1805 sale, Josiah's family consisted of his mother (likely Celia), and "three girls and three boys, of which I was the youngest" (Webster, *ibid.*, p. 21).
- The will of Josiah Henson "of the Gore of Camden in the county of Kent," 2 May 1883, states that his children at the time include: Julia (Henson) Wheeler, wife of William Wheeler; Peter Henson; Josiah Henson; and daughters Mrs. Clay, Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Kersey.
- Kuhns, *ibid.*, p. 2, states that Rev. Josiah Henson fathered 12 children, of whom 8 survived to maturity, acquired 3 step-children from his second wife Nancy, and that six years before his death had 44 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. She also states (*ibid.*, p. 133) that Josiah and Charlotte had the following children: Tom, Isaac, Josiah, Peter, "Celia"/Cecilia, Jane, Charlotte Matilda, Elizabeth, and John.
- The M-NCPPC chart, *ibid.*, states that the children of Josiah Henson are: Tom, Isaac, Celia (Mary), Josiah M., Charlotte Matilda, Elizabeth, Peter James, and Julia Ann.

**Thomas Henson.** Evidence re this child is as follows:

- Reverend Josiah Henson reached Canada on 28 October 1830 (Josiah Henson, *The Life...* *ibid.*, p. 74, Brock, *ibid.*, p. 103). He then worked for a farmer Hibbard for three years (Henson, *The Life...* *ibid.*, p. 77; Brock, *ibid.*, p. 106). Hence this was about 1830-33. Apparently near the end of this period Hibbard paid for Josiah's "eldest son Tom" to have two quarters of education, such that Tom learned to read. Tom was twelve at the time. (Henson, *ibid.*, pp. 79-81.) Therefore, subtracting 12 from about 1833 gives a birth year for Tom (Thomas) of about 1821. (Brock appears to think that this date should be somewhat earlier, about 1818.) Since Josiah was in Kentucky from April 1825 to September 1830, and before that was in Maryland, it appears that Tom was born in Maryland.
- Reverend Henson, in his *Uncle Tom's Story of His Life*, *ibid.*, pp. 197-8, states that, "My eldest son, Tom, went to California and I think was killed in the Civil War there, for I have not heard from him since he enlisted."
- Troiano, *ibid.*, p. 136, states that Tom, "who lived in California, enlisted on an armed battleship in San Francisco." (**NOTE:** no source is provided, although clearly the main source is pp. 177 and 198 of Henson, *Uncle Tom's Story*, *ibid.* A search on-line for military records for Tom or Thomas

Henson was not successful, nor was a search for general genealogical records in California. A reading of the history of the US Navy's California squadron during the Civil War (see <https://www.militarymuseum.org/Pac%20Sqdn.html>) showed that the only apparent deaths in action suffered by this squadron were during the Battle of the Shimonoseki Strait in July 1863, when Japanese forces fired on the USS *Wyoming*, in an effort to "keep out the barbarians." Three sailors and one Marine were killed, and a review of the list of killed and wounded showed that none were named Henson. See *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion* (Washington, DC: Government Print Office, 1895; retrieved from Google Books) pp. 398-99. Of course Tom Henson could have died in an accident or disease at sea or on shore.) Brock (ibid., p. 201) describes this disappearance similarly, stating the Tom signed on to a "man-of-war in San Francisco."

- FamilySearch.org shows a "Thomas Hinson" who was a private in E Company, 30<sup>th</sup> US Colored Troops (USCT), who on 11 April 1864 transferred to the Navy in Baltimore, MD. Unfortunately, there is no proof that this is the correct Thomas Henson, and the location is not in San Francisco.
- FamilySearch.org also shows the widow of "Thomas Hinson" of the USCT, Harriet Hinson, who applied for a pension on 27 March 1865, and a minor B. L. Tyler who applied for a pension on 9 November 1868.
- The M-NCPPC chart, ibid., shows Tom (Thomas) Henson as b. 1823, Montgomery Co., MD, d. bet. 1861 and 1865, possibly in CA.

**Isaac Henson.** Evidence re this child is as follows:

- Henson, ibid., says that "Isaac, my second son, was a clever and godly lad. He was educated in a school in London for many years through the kindness of my London friends. He married, was ordained as a Wesleyan minister, and preached for about fifteen years. He died when only thirty-seven, and was universally beloved." Note it is not clear whether this son died in Britain after being educated there, or returned to the US to preach.
- Some on-line Ancestry.com trees such as the Wray Ufford Family Tree assert that Isaac Henson, son of Rev. Josiah Henson, was b. in Port Tobacco, MD in 1823 and d. in London, England in 1860. But the present review of on-line materials, including British records, could not find proofs of these assertions. It does make sense that since Isaac is the "second son," that he must have been born in Maryland, since the second boy on the 1830 escape was old enough to walk all the way to Canada. (Brock, ibid., p. 87, estimates that Isaac was 10 during the escape, hence was born in Maryland in about 1820.)
- Canadian Census for Camden and Gore, Ontario for 1861 shows Isaac J. Henson, owning 20 acres, none of which were under cultivation. (This is an agricultural census, with no demographic information.) This may be the correct Isaac, although if "our" Isaac was in fact born in 1820 and died at age 37, then he should be dead by 1857 and should not appear in this 1861 Census.
- The M-NCPPC chart, ibid., shows Rev. Isaac Henson as b. 1825, Montgomery Co., MD, d. as: "deceased."

**Charlotte Matilda Henson Clay Richie.** Evidence re this child is as follows:

- Reverend Josiah Henson's will, ibid., mentions "Mrs. Clay" as a daughter and beneficiary.

- State of Michigan Death Certificate show Mrs. Matilda (Henson) Ritchie, residing at Genesee County Farm in Genesee County Hospital, Burton Township, Genesee Co., MI for the last 13 years when she died on 14 March 1923, of chronic arteriosclerosis. This document states that Matilda was b. on 7 March 1825 in Kentucky, that her father was Josiah Henson (b. in MD), mother unknown, that Matilda is widowed, colored, female, 98 years (!) and 7 days old, and her (deceased) husband was Everett Richie. Matilda was buried on 17 March 1923 in the City Cemetery of Flint, MI. The death certificate respondent is Bert Kersey, of 516 Detroit St., Ann Arbor, MI.
- Find-a-Grave shows Matilda Richie with the same birth and death dates as above.
- City Directory for Flint, MI for 1916 shows Matilda Richie, widow of Evert Richie, “bds” (boarders?) at 604 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, presumably the same couple, but does not give their ages or birth locations.
- Canadian Census for Camden, Bothwell, Ontario for 1871 shows Isaac Clay, 54, b. in the US, “African,” farmer, Methodist B.E., married to Matilda Clay, 40, b. in Ontario, “African,” Methodist B.E., with several children.
- Michigan Death Record for Isaac Clay, 58, b. 1814 in MD, black male, married, laborer, d. 14 October 1872 in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI of smallpox.
- Canadian Census for 1891 for Camden, Bothwell, Ontario shows Charlotte M. (Matilda?) Richie, 59, (hence b. in 1832) b. in Ontario, Canada, with both her parents b. in the US; wife of Ernest (?) L. Richey, 60, b. in the US, with both parents b. in the US.
- M-NCPPC chart, *ibid.*, shows Charlotte Matilda Henson marrying both Isaac Clay and Ernest Richie.
- Kuhns, *ibid.*, p. 134, states that Charlotte likely attended Oberlin college in 1846-7.
- The M-NCPPC chart, *ibid.*, shows Charlotte Matilda as b. 27 March 1832, Canada, d. poss. In MI.

**Celia Jane Henson Kersey.** Evidence re this child is as follows:

- The will of Reverend Henson, *ibid.*, names Mrs. Kersey as a daughter and beneficiary.
- Death Certificates for Kent Co., Ontario show Celia Jane Kersey d. 17 January 1901, in Kent Co., Ontario, age 74, (hence born in 1827), living at 16 S. Livingston Ave., Dresden, Ontario, widowed, painter, Methodist, died of cancer. The certificate states that Celia was born in Kentucky, USA.
- FamilySearch.org Death Certificates (the original document) for Kent Co., Ontario show Celia Jane Kersey d. 17 January 1901, in Kent Co., Ontario, age 74.5, (hence b. c. 1826), in Kentucky USA, painter, widowed, Methodist, resident of 16 S. Livingston Ave., died of cancer, which she has had for 45 (!) years.
- Henson Family Cemetery in Chatham-Kent, Ontario, has a website (*ibid.*) showing a photo of a gravestone for Cecilia Jane Kersey, d. 17 January 1901, at age 74 years, 8 (?) months. (Hence b. c. 1826.)
- FamilySearch.org Register of Marriages for Kent Co., Ontario for 1859 shows Elisha Kersey, bridegroom, 33, of Camden, Ontario, b. in the US, with parents Ephairah (?) and Rebecca Kersey, marrying on 8 December 1859 in Dresden to bride Jane Christee (?), 32, of Camden, b. in the US, with parents Josiah and Charlotte Henson. (Evidently Jane Henson had a previous marriage to a Mr. Christee. A search for this person found several Christees but none who could be proven to be the husband.)

- Canadian Census for 1861 for Gore, Kent Co., Canada West shows Jane “Karsey,” 34, b. 1827 in the US, married. She is listed in a household with Elisha Karsey, 37, (evidently her husband), and apparent children: Anthony Karsey, 16, John Karsey, 14, and Solon Karsey, 11. All in the household are “colored” and are of the “E. M.” religion (Episcopal Methodist).
- Canadian Census for 1871 for Chatham, Ontario shows Jane “Cursey,” 46, b. c. 1825 in the US, married, with husband Elisha, 46, b. in the US, farmer; and children Anthony, 23, and Solon (male), 20. Also in the household is Victoria Richardson, 16 (relationship unclear). All in the household are “Meth E” – Methodist Episcopal – and “African” and all are shown as b. in the US, except Victoria, who is listed as “O” for Ontario.
- Canadian Census for 1881 for Dresden, Bothwell, Ontario, Canada, shows “Cecilia Jane Kirsey,” 54, b. 1827 in the USA, female, “African” (black), religion: BMEC (British Methodist Episcopal Church). Also in the household are Edora Meloina Henson, 12, black female, Alice Jane Henson, 10, “African” female, and Harris B. Carscallen, 42, b. 1839 in Ontario, male, married, Canadian Presbyterian, origin is “English” (not “African”), merchant. (Note: the original page is illegible; this information relies on the printed transcription). Note that this household is on the same page and is apparently next door to the household described earlier of Josiah M. Henson, 52, Mary Jane Henson, 48, Francis G. Henson, 18 and William A. Henson, 7.
- The M-NCPPC chart, *ibid.*, shows Celia as b. 1827, Owensboro, KY, d. 17 January 1901, Canada.
- The Henson Family Tree chart (see the Appendix) does not list a Celia Henson as a daughter of Rev. Henson, and only lists a Mary Jane Henson, who married Elisha Kersey.

**Josiah Henson, Jr.** Evidence re this child is as follows:

- The will of Reverend Henson, *ibid.*, names Josiah as his son and a beneficiary.
- Henson, *Uncle Tom’s Story*, *ibid.*, states that his namesake son Josiah wanted to become a bootmaker, and moved to Michigan. For a full, lengthy quote and description, see the section on Josiah M. Henson, below.
- Michigan Death Records, shows Josiah Henson, b. 1829 in KY, d. 15 May 1891 in Adrian, Lenawee, MI, with parents Josiah Henson and Lattie Henson. (For a detailed account of Josiah’s tragic death, see the section later in this report.)
- The US Census for 1860 for Jackson Ward 3, Jackson, MI shows Josiah Henson, age 30, b. abt. 1830 in Canada, black, a whitewasher, with a household including Mary J. Henson, 26, also b. in Canada.
- The US Census for 1870 for Adrian, Ward 3, Lenawee, MI shows Josiah Henson, age 42, b. abt. 1828 in Virginia (?), black male, a whitewasher, with a household including Mary Henson, 37, black female b. in Canada, Frank [probably Francis] Henson, 6, black male, b. in GA or LA (?), and Myra Butler, 16, black female, servant.
- The Canadian Census for 1881 for Dresden, Bothwell, Ontario transcription shows Josiah M. Henson, age 52, b. 1829 in the USA, “African” (Black) male, BMEC (British Methodist Episcopal Church) religion, farmer, with household of Mary Jane Henson, 48, Francis G. Henson, 18, and William A. Henson, 7.
- The M-NCPPC chart, *ibid.*, shows Josiah M. Henson as b. 1828, Daviess Co., KY, d. 15 May 1891, Adrian, MI.

**Elizabeth Henson Thomas.** Evidence re this child is as follows:

- The will of Rev. Henson names "Mrs. Thomas" as a daughter and beneficiary.
- Death Certificate for Houghton Co., MI for 1904 shows Elizabeth Thomas d. on 16 July 1904 of dysentery, b. 15<sup>th</sup> (or 13<sup>th</sup>) February 1834 in Canada. She is a female, widow, colored, housekeeper, 70 years, 5 months and 3 days old, married at 20 (but the husband is un-named), had 11 children (!) of whom 8 are living, her father was Josiah Henson (b. in the US) and her mother is unknown. She was buried in Dresden, Ontario, Canada on 20 July 1904 and the respondent is A. R. Richey.
- Canadian Census for 1871 for Camden, Bothwell, Ontario shows Elizabeth Thomas, 37, b. c. 1834 in Ontario, "African" female, Methodist, married to William Thomas, 44, b. c. 1827, in the US, "African" male, Methodist, engineer; with children: Julia Anne Thomas, 16, Nancy Thomas, 14, Jane Thomas, 13, William Henson Thomas, 10, "Oliv" (Olive) Thomas, 9, Mardsellia Thomas, 6, Elizabeth A. Thomas, 4, and Mary C. Thomas, 1. All the children are born in Canada, "African," and Methodist B.E.
- Canadian Census for 1901 for Dresden, Bothwell, Ontario show Elizabeth Thomas, 67, b. 13 February 1834 in Canada, "African" (black), widowed, Methodist, can read and write, head of household; with grandchildren Mable Kersy, 14, b. 18 May 1887 in Ontario, "African" (black) female, Methodist, can read and write and William Kersy, 10, "African" (black) male, b. c. 21 March 1891 in Ontario; and an apparently unrelated lodger, Harriet Lyons, 84, b. 14 February 1814 in KY, "African" (black) female, Methodist, widowed, immigrated to Canada in 1853, can read and write.
- Ontario, Middlesex Marriages show Minnie Harrison, 32, b. in Dresden, Methodist, widow, with parents William Thomas and Elizabeth Henson, marrying on 15 March 1907 to Louis P. Prisby, 21, b. in Dresden.
- Ontario Canada Marriages for Kent Co. for 1899 for Elizabeth Thomas shows her as wife of William Thomas and mother of Effielister Thomas, 26, of Dresden, Ontario, b. in Dresden, single, marrying in 1899 (no specific date provided) to George Wilson, 57, resident of Dresden but b. in GA, USA, widower, lecturer (sic?), with parents Thomas Wilson and Mary Bush. (Note that Effielister Thomas is not shown on the NCPPP chart, *ibid.*)
- Ontario Canada Marriages for Dresden, Ontario shows George Wilson marrying on 12 May 1898 to Effielister Thomas.
- Ontario Canada Marriages for Kent Co. for 1877 shows Elizabeth Thomas as wife of William Thomas and mother of Maletta Jane Thomas, 19, of Dresden, Ontario, b. in Dresden, "W" for widow (!), Methodist, marrying 25 June 1877 in Dresden to William Simpson, 20, resident of Dresden but b. in OH, USA, bachelor, farmer.
- Michigan Death Records show Julia Anna Thomas Lawson, 58, b. in 1853 in Dresden, Canada, colored, d. 25 January 1912 in Flint, Genesee Co., MI, with parents William Thomas and Eliza Thomas.
- Kuhns, *ibid.*, p. 134, states that Elizabeth likely attended Oberlin college in 1862-6.
- The M-NCPPC chart, *ibid.*, shows Elizabeth Henson as b. 13 February 1834, Canada, d. 16 July 1904, Houghton, MI.

**Peter Henson.** Evidence re this child is as follows:

- Henson, *ibid.*, states that: “My fourth son, Peter, is a farmer, looks after my farm, and stays with me.”
- Reverend Henson’s will, *ibid.*, lists son Peter Henson as a beneficiary.
- Canada Census for Gore, Kent, Canada West for 1861 shows Peter Henson, 21, b. c. 1840 in UC (Upper Canada), Baptist, farmer.
- The Canada Census of 1881 for Camden, Kent, Ontario shows Josiah Henson, 92, “African,” b. in the US; with Nancy Henson, 61, “African,” b. in the US; Peter, 35, “African,” (hence b. c. 1846), b. in Ont. (Ontario); and Josiah, 45, “African,” b. in the US. All are Methodist Episcopalian.
- Ancestry.com Ontario, Canada Marriage Registers show Peter Henson, with parents Josiah Henson and Charlotte Henson, marrying in Kent Co., Ontario on 7 September 1866 to Elizabeth Goens, 22, b. c. 1844 in PA, with father Eli Goens and mother Susan Goens. (Note that this transcript does not give a birth year, date or place for Peter Henson, nor his middle initial, nor the original image. The FamilySearch site, immediately below, provides a better transcription and a link to the very clear original.)
- FamilySearch.org Ontario, Canada Marriage Registers show Peter J. Henson, 26, b. c. 1840 in Colchester (Canada), resident of Dresden, with parents Josiah Henson and Charlotte Henson, marrying in Kent Co., Ontario on 7 September 1866 to Elizabeth Ann Goens, 22, b. c. 1844 in PA, resident of Chatham, with father Eli Goens and mother Susan Goens. (The link to the original image, with the most information, is: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS7D-16DJ?i=76&cc=2568642&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQ2CB-ZCRF>)
- The CanadaGenWeb’s Cemetery Project for the Henson Burial Ground Cemetery in Kent Co., Ontario shows Peter G.(?) Henson, with dates of 1836-1891 (age 55). See: <http://geneofun.on.ca/cems/ON/ONKNT11663#cem>. (Note however, that the CKCemeteries transcribers disagree with these dates, and state that the death date was in 1861, on May 26, and the photo is fairly clear on an age at death of 55 (or 56). See [http://ckcemeteries.ca/cpg15x/displayimage.php?album=122&pid=5864#top\\_display\\_media](http://ckcemeteries.ca/cpg15x/displayimage.php?album=122&pid=5864#top_display_media) From the style and appearance of the tombstone, it is probable that the 1891 date is correct. Therefore this is likely to be the Peter Henson who was the son of Rev. Josiah Henson.
- The Sallie Kersey family tree on Ancestry.com shows photo of tombstone of “Elisabeth A., Wife of Peter J. Henson, Died May 27, 1872, Aged 27 years.” (Hence b. c. 1845; see photo.)
- The M-NCPPC chart, *ibid.*, shows Peter James Henson as b. 1836, Colchester, Ontario, d. 1891, Ontario.



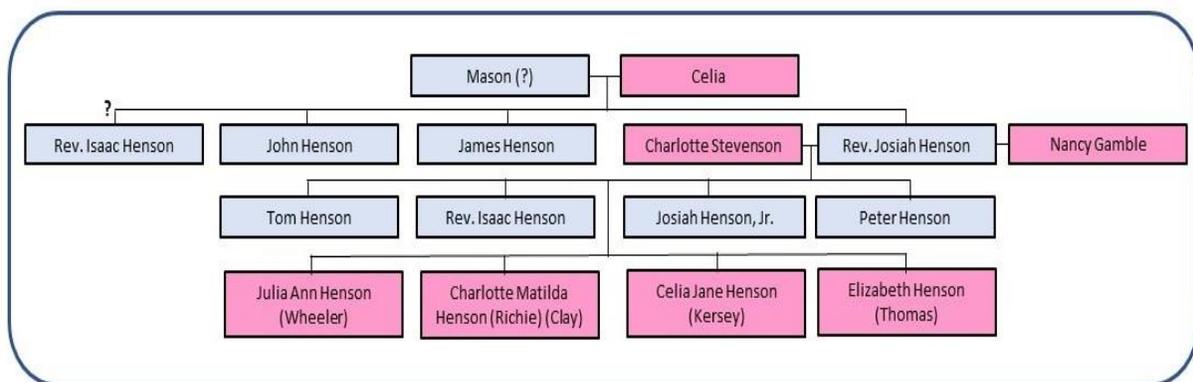
**Julia Ann Henson Wheeler.** Evidence re this child is as follows:

- The will of Reverend Henson, *ibid.*, names Julia Wheeler, wife of William Wheeler, as a daughter and beneficiary.
- Canadian Census for 1861 for Gore, Kent Co., Ontario shows Julia A. Wheeler, 24 (hence b. c. 1837), b. in Upper Canada, married, E. Methodist. Beside her in this listing is William Wheeler, 37, farmer, b. in the US, E. Methodist; and John C. Wheeler, 5, b. in Upper Canada, E. Methodist (!). All are listed as “colored.”

- Canadian Census for 1891 for Dresden, Bothwell, Ontario shows Julia Anne Wheeler, 54, b. in Ontario, widowed, with both parents b. in the US, sister of the head of household. Other persons in the large household include: Jane Kersey, head of household, 65, widowed, b. in the US, with both parents b. in the US; Martha Kersey, 7, great niece, b. in Ontario with both parents b. in Ontario; Peter Henson, 50, brother, married, general laborer, b. in Ontario with both parents b. in the US; Marianne Henson, 78, married, sister in law, b. in Quebec, with both parents b. in England; Thomas Henson, 5, nephew, b. in Ontario, with father b. in Ontario and mother b. in Quebec; and Harper Henson, 10/12, nephew, b. in Ontario, b. in Ontario and mother b. in Quebec. All household members are listed as Methodists.
- State of Michigan Certificate of Death for Julia Ann Henson Wheeler shows that she died in Flint city, Genesse Co., MI (but is buried in Dresden, Ontario) on 22 May 1913, was female, colored, widowed, housewife, b. 18 February 1840 in Chatham, Ontario, Canada, was 73 years, 3 months and 4 days old when she died, and had parents Josiah Henson, b. in MD, and Charlotte Stevenson, b. in MD. The informant is Charlotte Henson Richey, of Flint, Michigan.
- The Henson Family Cemetery in Chatham-Kent, Ontario website shows William Wheeler, d. 25 May 1888, age 64 years, 5 months. See: [http://ckcemeteries.ca/cpg15x/displayimage.php?album=122&pid=6258#top\\_display\\_media](http://ckcemeteries.ca/cpg15x/displayimage.php?album=122&pid=6258#top_display_media).
- The M-NCPPC chart, *ibid.*, shows Julia Ann Henson as b. 18 February 1840, Ontario, d. 22 May 1913, Flint, MI.

There are almost certainly other children of Rev. Henson that have not yet been enumerated here, who were likely born early in his stay in Canada but did not survive as long as the eight listed above, or perhaps were born in Maryland but did not survive long or were sold away; but these eight are the ones findable to date.

The graphic below summarizes the discussion above of the parents, siblings and children of Reverend Josiah Henson.



Summarizing the information above narratively, with dates, yields the following, in approximate birth order (but see the next discussion re birth locations and orders for some children on the escape):

1. Tom (Thomas) Henson was b. c. 1818-20 in MD, d. c. 1861-6, possibly in California.

2. Rev. Isaac Henson, b. c. 1820-3 in MD, d. c. 1857-62, likely in England or Kent Co., Ontario, Canada.
3. Charlotte Matilda Henson Clay Richie, b. c. 7 March 1825 in Daviess Co., KY, d. 14 March 1923, Burton Twp., Genesee Co., MI.
4. Celia/Cecilia Jane Henson Kersey, b. c. 1827 in Daviess Co., KY, d. 17 January 1901, Kent Co., Ontario, Canada.
5. Josiah Henson, Jr. (a.k.a. Josiah M. Henson), b. c. 1828-30 in KY, d. 15 May 1891, Adrian, Lenawee Co., MI.
6. Elizabeth Henson Thomas, b. 13 February 1834 in Canada (likely Ontario), d. 16 July 1904 in Houghton Co., MI.
7. Peter Henson, b. c. 1836-40 in Colchester, Ontario, d. c. 1891 in Dresden, Kent Co., Ontario.
8. Julia Ann Henson Wheeler, 18 February 1840 in Chatham, Ontario, d. 22 May 1913 in Flint, Genesee Co., MI (and buried in Dresden, Ontario, Canada).

### Which Children Were on the Escape to Canada?

One of the most amazing escapes from slavery in US history was the one led by Josiah Henson, when in 1830 he successfully led his family from Kentucky to Canada, through dangerous territory filled with vicious “slave catchers.” Henson describes in his autobiographies the fact that he brought his wife Charlotte and four children with him, and carried his two youngest children on his back for at least 600 miles. In his writings he does not name the children. There appears to be a consensus among previous writers as to which children participated. However, this present genealogical analysis raises some questions about the correctness of that consensus. The bullet points below lay out the previous writings.

- Brock (*ibid.*, p. 87) names the following sons of Josiah as participating in the escape from Kentucky to Canada in 1830: “Josiah and Charlotte had four boys... Tom, age twelve...Isaac, age ten, Josiah, Jr., three and Peter, two.” Thus the birth dates for the boys, per Brock, is about Tom: 1818; Isaac: 1820; Josiah, Jr.: 1827; Peter: 1828. Obviously, all of these birth dates are before the 1830 escape.
- Troiano, *ibid.*, p. 76, generally agrees with Brock, and states that the children involved in the 1830 escape were: Peter, 2, Josiah, 3, Isaac and the eldest, Tom (the latter two ages are not given).
- Josiah Henson, in his *Truth Stranger Than Fiction: Father Henson’s Story of His Own Life* (electronic edition, from <https://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/henson58/henson58.html>, originally Boston: John P. Jewett, 1858) p. 106, states that the two youngest of his four children on the escape were three and two years old, but does not name them. He only names Tom, age twelve at the time of learning to read (*ibid.*, pp. 132-135). Importantly, he never says that all the children were boys. He always says that they were “children.” At one point (Henson, *Uncle Tom’s Story...*, *ibid.*, p. 42, he states that, “...with my babes on my back...my wife was aiding the other two children...I was plodding a little ahead of my wife and the boys...” when his wife collapsed. A fast reading of this might make the reader think that all the children are boys. But the “boys” reference is to the two boys walking behind with their mother. The sex of the “babes on my back” is not made clear. Similarly, on page 40, *ibid.*, Henson states that, “...we trudged

on...as fast as the...feebleness of my wife and boys would allow.” But the “boys” are the two older boys trudging along – the sex of the children on Josiah’s back is not made clear.

Turning to evidence re which children were born before 1830 and thus were on the escape to Canada, the relevant evidence is presented below. Let us first examine those children who can clearly be eliminated from consideration:

- The State of Michigan Certificate of Death for Julia Ann Henson Wheeler shows that she died in Flint city, Genesee Co., MI on 22 May 1913 and was born on 18 February 1840 in Chatham, Ontario, Canada.
- Death Certificate for Houghton Co., MI for 1904 shows Elizabeth Thomas died on 16 July 1904 of dysentery, b. 15<sup>th</sup> (or 13<sup>th</sup>) February 1834 in Canada.
- Canadian Census for 1901 for Dresden, Bothwell, Ontario show Elizabeth [Henson] Thomas, 67, born 13 February 1834 in Canada.

Hence Julia Ann Henson and Elizabeth Henson Thomas could not have participated in the escape.

Two children clearly were on the escape. These were the “two boys” who trudded behind their parents, all the way from Kentucky to Canada. These were Tom Henson and Isaac Henson, as demonstrated by this evidence:

- The statement by Rev. Henson that Tom Henson was his “eldest son.” (See the detailed discussion previously about Tom Henson as a proven son of Rev. Henson.)
- The analysis presented previously that Tom Henson was taught to read “at age twelve” in Canada, and hence was born in about 1818-20, in Maryland, well before the escape.
- The statement by Rev. Henson presented earlier that: “Isaac, my second son, was a clever and godly lad.”
- The analysis by Brock that Isaac Henson was born in about 1820, in Maryland, and was about 10 years old on the escape – and thus capable of walking to Canada.

Turning now to the children in dispute, consider the following pieces of evidence, on a person-by-person basis.

#### **Peter Henson on the Escape?**

- FamilySearch.org Ontario, Canada Marriage Registers, *ibid.*, show Peter J. Henson, 26, b. c. 1840 in Colchester (Canada).
- Rev. Henson states that: “My fourth son, Peter, is a farmer, looks after my farm, and stays with me” in Canada. A son born that late in the sequence is obviously less likely to have been born in time to be on the 1830 escape.
- Canada Census for Gore, Kent, Canada West for 1861 shows Peter Henson, 21, b. c. 1840 in UC (Upper Canada).
- The Canada Census of 1881 for Camden, Kent, Ontario shows Josiah Henson, 92, b. in the US; and Peter Henson, 35, (hence b. c. 1846), b. in Ont. (Ontario).
- Canadian Census for 1891 for Dresden, Bothwell, Ontario shows Julia Anne Wheeler, 54, b. in Ontario, and Peter Henson, 50, (hence b. c. 1841), brother of Julia, b. in Ontario with both parents b. in the US.

The evidence here supports a conclusion that Peter was born in Colchester, Canada in 1840, but possibly as late as 1846, and was not on the escape, contrary to the analysis of Brock and Troiano.

### **Josiah Henson, Jr. on the Escape?**

- The Canada Census of 1881 for Camden, Kent, Ontario shows Josiah Henson, 92, b. in the US; and Josiah, 45, (hence b. in 1836), b. in the US. (But if Josiah, Jr. was born in 1836, he could not have been born in the US!)
- Michigan Death Records, shows Josiah Henson, b. 1829 in KY, d. 15 May 1891 in Adrian, Lenawee, MI, with parents Josiah Henson and Lattie Henson.
- The US Census for 1860 for Jackson Ward 3, Jackson, MI shows Josiah Henson, age 30, b. abt. 1830 in Canada.
- The US Census for 1870 for Adrian, Ward 3, Lenawee, MI shows Josiah Henson, age 42, b. abt. 1828 in Virginia.
- The Canadian Census for 1881 for Dresden, Bothwell, Ontario transcription shows Josiah M. Henson, age 52, b. 1829 in the USA.
- Kuhns, *ibid.*, p. 91, states that Josiah, Jr. as an adult said that he was only one year old when he was on the escape, but that he recounted how he was carried on the back of his father during the trek from Kentucky to Canada.

The above evidence is all over the place with regard to the birth date of Josiah, Jr. He was born in Virginia, Kentucky, the US and Canada (!), and his birth dates range from 1828 to 1836. No conclusion can be drawn here, but reasonable doubt has certainly been raised. This doubt raises questions about the assertions by Brock and Troiano that Josiah, Jr. was involved in the escape. The story he told as an adult could be true, but it could also be just a great story.

### **Charlotte Matilda Henson Richie on the Escape?**

- Michigan Death Records death certificate for Mrs. Matilda (Henson) Ritchie states that Matilda was b. on 7 March 1825 in Kentucky, that her father was Josiah Henson (b. in MD).
- Find-a-Grave shows Matilda Richie b. 17 March 1825 and d. 14 March 1923 in Flint, Genesee, MI.
- Canadian Census for 1891 for Camden, Bothwell, Ontario shows a Charlotte M. (Matilda?) Richie, 59, (hence b. in 1832, after the 1830 escape) b. in Ontario, Canada, with both her parents b. in the US.
- Canadian Census for 1871 for Camden, Bothwell, Ontario, shows Isaac Clay, 54, b. in the US, married to Matilda Clay, 40, (hence b. c. 1831), b. in Ontario.

So the death certificate and Find-a-Grave seem to give good evidence that Charlotte Matilda was on the escape. There is a problem with the date cited, however. This date is: born on 7 March 1825. It is clear from Josiah's own writing that he departed Maryland in February 1825 and arrived in Kentucky in mid-April 1825. Hence if that date is right, then Matilda was born en route – surely a dangerous and difficult event that Josiah would have mentioned. And if she was five years old during the escape to Canada in 1830, she would have been too large to be carried 600 miles on Josiah's back. (A typical five-year-old girl would likely weigh 35-45 pounds.; Kuhns, *ibid.*, p. 183, states that the escape was 600 miles long.)

So, it seems possible that Matilda was born in Kentucky about 1828, was the two-year-old on Josiah's back, or that she was born in Canada after the escape. The matter is certainly up for debate, and it seems likely that she was not on the escape.

### **Celia Jane Henson Kersey on the Escape?**

Consider the following:

- Death Certificates for Kent Co., Ontario show Celia Jane Kersey d. 17 January 1901, in Kent Co., Ontario, age 74, born in 1827, in Kentucky. (Ancestry.com)
- FamilySearch.org Death Certificates, *ibid.* (the original document) for Kent Co., Ontario show Celia Jane Kersey d. 17 January 1901, in Kent Co., Ontario, age 74.5, (hence born c. 1826), in Kentucky USA.
- Henson Family Cemetery in Chatham-Kent, Ontario, has a website (*ibid.*) showing a photo for Cecilia Jane Kersey, d. 17 January 1901, at age 74 years, 8 (?) months. (Hence b. c. 1826.)
- Canadian Census for 1861 for Gore, Kent Co., Canada West shows Jane "Karsey," 34, b. 1827 in the US, married, E. Methodist.
- Canadian Census for 1871 for Chatham, Ontario shows Jane "Cursey," 46, b. c. 1825 in the US, married, with husband Elisha, 46, b. in the US.
- Canadian Census for 1881 for Dresden, Bothwell, Ontario, Canada, shows "Cecilia Jane Kirsey," 54, b. 1827 in the USA.
- Canadian Census for 1891 for Dresden, Bothwell, Ontario shows Jane Kersey, head of household, 65, (hence b. c. 1826), widowed, b. in the US, with both parents b. in the US.
- Review of the M-NCPPC chart shows dates consistent with Celia being born before the escape and hence being carried on the back of Josiah during the escape (Kuhns, *ibid.*, pp. 135-6).

So all the evidence above points to Celia Jane Henson being born in Kentucky about 1825-7, and hence was carried on the back of Josiah Henson as he and his family made their daring escape from slavery to freedom in Canada.

Support for the idea that one of the escaping children was a girl is the appearance of one of the small children on the back of Josiah Henson in the old drawing of the escape, sourced from the Josiah Henson site in Canada, who looks more like a girl than a boy!

In summary, the following children all have at least some evidence showing they were on the dramatic 1830 escape to Canada:

- Tom Henson (certain; one of the boys who walked)
- Isaac Henson (certain; one of the boys who walked)
- Josiah Henson, Jr. (probable but not absolutely certain, possibly carried on his father's back)
- Peter Henson (in dispute, not likely)



- Charlotte Matilda Henson (later Ritchie, later Clay) (in dispute)
- Celia Jane Henson (later Kersey) (almost certain).

## Where Was Josiah Henson's Father Sent?

Before turning to a number of descents from Reverend Henson down to the present or near-present, we should analyze one more mystery associated with his astounding life – namely, where was his father sent or sold to, after the terrible incident where the father was whipped and had his ear cut off.

Reviewing previous writers on this topic yields the following:

- Troiano, *ibid.*, pp. 26, states that, according to Reverend Henson, Francis Newman “sold Henson’s father to a son in Alabama, and Josiah and his mother never heard from him again. However, Newman’s only son had a plantation in Louisiana, so that was probably Henson’s father’s destination.” (This latter assertion is footnoted to Webster, et al., immediately below.)
- Webster, *ibid.*, p. 1, states that, “Henson’s father was...sold by Mr. N [Newman] to his son in Louisiana...” (This assertion is not footnoted or detailed, but seems to cite Henson’s own autobiographies, although those point to Alabama.)
- Brock, *ibid.*, p. 7, states that once Henson’s father’s wounds had healed, “he was sent to Newman’s son in the South.”
- *The Journal of Negro History* (Vol. III, January 1918, No. 1, pp. 1-2) states that, “Henson’s father was sold to a planter in Alabama, and his relatives never heard of him again.”
- Kuhns, *ibid.*, pp. 2, 19, 172, states that Henson’s father was “sold down South” and “tragically, Henson’s father was sold soon after to a plantation in Alabama.” In an endnote she quotes an unpublished biographical sketch by Julia Tallach McKinley in the Library of Congress’s Carter Woodson papers, which stated that Henson’s father, “maddened by cruelties, made his escape, and was heard of no more.”
- *Wikipedia* states that, “His father was later sold to someone in Alabama.”

Reverend Henson himself stated somewhat different things about this event:

- In *Uncle Tom’s Story...*, *ibid.*, p. 13, he said, “So off he was sent to Alabama.”
- In *The Life of Josiah Henson...*, *ibid.*, pp. 5-6, he stated that, “Mr. N. determined to sell him. He accordingly parted with him, not long after, to his son, who lived in Alabama...[and] after the sale of my father by N., and his leaving Maryland for Alabama...” He also states (p. 5) that this happened when Josiah was “the age of three or four years.” (It is important that Josiah himself names “Mr. N.” [Newman] as the owner who caused this exile; see below.)
- In the *Autobiography of Josiah Henson...*, *ibid.*, p. 15, he again states, “So off he was sent to Alabama” and “the great day will reveal all.”

Note that the first and third Henson books do not mention Josiah’s age at the time of the incident.

In analyzing the destination, key items are the estimated date of the incident and hence who was the owner; the state of the state of Alabama at the time; and the relevant family involved – Craik or Newman.

But first we must quickly deal with the possibility of an escape. The only source alleging an actual escape is McKinley, and it is not clear what the source of this allegation is. On the other hand, Henson himself is clear that his father did not escape, and it seems reasonable to believe him. (Kuhns, note re this ms., states that perhaps McKinley meant the word “escape” to refer to the father’s initial flight from the scene of the incident, not to a real escape from the county, state or country.)

**The Date of the Incident.** None of the documents cited above give a date for the incident in question.

If we believe that Henson is correct in stating his birth date was 15 June 1789 in Charles County, and that the terrible whipping and sale/exile of his father was his earliest memory, at the age stated in one autobiography of three to four, then that would give a date for the exile of his father of about 1792-3.

However, if we ignore the stated birth date, and rely on the statement that after his father was sent away, “two or three years” passed at McPherson’s, and then McPherson died, and assume that the 1805 sale of “Sye” took place then, and that “Sye” was Josiah Henson, then we can subtract two or three years from 1805, yielding about 1802-3 for the whipping and exile.

This is important, because the date determines who the actual owner of Henson’s father was. Troiano, *ibid.*, pp. 16-18 states that James Craik built La Grange in 1756, that it became the property of his son William Craik in 1796, and that Francis Newman began buying land in Charles County in 1796, and added other land until he owned over 1000 acres, including La Grange. She states (*ibid.*, p. 17) that William Craik sold La Grange to Francis Newman on 13 November 1798.

Warren (*ibid.*, p. 17) states that Newman recorded a deed in November 1798, on a sale of the La Grange property from William Craik, but that Newman may have been living on the property for some time before the recordation.

Hence if the exile took place in 1792-3 (or up to 1796), then the owner of Josiah’s father was James Craik. If the incident happened in 1796 to some time in 1798, then the owner was William Craik. And if the incident happened from 1798 onwards, the owner was Francis Newman.

James E. Henson, Sr. stated (phone call with Lew Toulmin, July 2020) that Francis Newman’s brother held a plantation in Huntsville, AL at the right time for the exile, and that the Newman family still holds reunions in the Huntsville area, and may have information on their early plantation holdings.

The author of the Newman Family Tree (at: <http://www.newman-family-tree.net/Francis-Newman.html#josiahhenson>) asserts that Josiah Henson and his parents were likely owned not by the Newmans, but by the Craiks, due to Henson’s stated birth year of 1789.

Josiah Henson insisted that the man who sent his father South was Francis Newman. But he also always insisted that he, Josiah, was born 15 June 1789. It seems fair to examine all three owners as the possible owners who forced the exile. Let us first analyze Alabama as a possible destination, since Henson himself and other writers usually point to that state.

**The State of the State of Alabama.** Assume that the terrible whipping and sale down South incident took place some time between 1792 (1789 plus 3 years old) and 1803 (1805 minus 2 years with McPherson). What was the state of the state of Alabama during that time? Was it a feasible, likely destination for Josiah’s father to be sent to? In a word, no. First of all, the word “Alabama” was not really used for the area until 1817. (Of course, Henson could have been referring to Alabama as a term

in use at the time he was writing.) Secondly, there was extremely limited white settlement in the area in the target period.

According to the *Encyclopedia of Alabama*:

The Territorial Period, 1798-1805: The young United States acquired the British claims to all lands east of the Mississippi River, including present-day Alabama, as part of the 1783 Treaty of Paris that ended the American Revolution. The U.S. Congress, in April 1798, created the Mississippi Territory out of lands north of the 31st parallel formerly claimed by the colony of Georgia. By 1804, the territory possessed two white settlements, St. Stephens on the lower Tombigbee River and Natchez on the lower Mississippi. The Territory's boundaries included: Spanish Florida to the south, the Mississippi River to the west, the state of Tennessee to the north, and to the east, Georgia, which had grudgingly relinquished its claims to the area in 1802. No sooner had the territory been formed than questions over its division arose. Under pressure from white southerners desiring to see two slave states emerge, Congress created the Alabama Territory out of the eastern half of the Mississippi Territory on March 3, 1817. (Emphasis added.)

Natchez, mentioned above, is in what is now the state of Mississippi, not in Alabama.

My study and excavation of St. Stephens, the only white settlement mentioned above in what is now Alabama, showed that in 1789 it was a small hamlet and Spanish fort, was turned over to the US in 1799, began expanding slowly between 1806 and 1811 due to the construction of the Federal Road coming in from the East, and only really expanded when St. Stephens was made the Territorial Capital in 1817. (Llewellyn Toulmin, *Old St. Stephens: Where Alabama Began, Explorers Club Flag Expedition, Flag No. 25* (Silver Spring, MD: privately printed report, May 2019, available on Academia.edu or at [www.themosttraveled.com](http://www.themosttraveled.com)) p. 4.) Although Judge Harry Toulmin (my fourth great-grandfather) had arrived in the area in 1805 to provide some limited Federal presence, what is now Alabama was mostly wilderness, dominated by Native Americans, with very few white settlers.

The only exception was along the Gulf Coast, which had been settled at Old Mobile in 1702 by the French, moved to new Mobile in 1711, transferred to the British in 1763 and was then under Spanish control from 1780 to 1813. It seems unlikely that any of the possible owners or brothers of owners of Josiah Henson's father would have had a plantation in Spanish-controlled Alabama, although it is possible.

Similarly, Huntsville, Alabama and its surrounding area did not really begin to have American settlers until 1808, when "Madison County was created by the Governor of the Mississippi Territory" and when in "1811 the [Federal] land office was moved from Nashville to Huntsville" (see the following site: <https://www.madisoncountyal.gov/government/about-your-county/history>).

Since all the relevant dates are too late, Alabama seems unlikely to have been the destination for Josiah Henson's father's exile, despite Josiah Henson's own writings.

**The Craik Family.** The Mount Vernon Digital Library states that James Craik was b. in Kirkbean, County Kirkcudbright, Scotland in July 1730, served in the British Army at Braddock's Defeat, was the Physician General of the Continental Army, became George Washington's doctor and was present at Washington's deathbed. James Craik died in Alexandria VA in 1814. (See the following: <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/james-craik/>.) Dr.

James Craik had three daughters and four sons, namely William Craik (b. 1761 in Port Tobacco, MD, d. bef. 1814 in Stafford Co., VA), George Washington Craik (b. 1774 in Fairfax Co., VA and d. 1808 in Fairfax Co., VA), James Craik (b. bef. 1763 in Charles Co., MD and d. aft. 1792 in Charles Co. MD) and Adam Craik (b. aft. 1764 in Charles Co., MD and d. 1792 in Charles Co., MD.) (See: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Craik-264>; <https://bioguideretro.congress.gov/Home/MemberDetails?memIndex=C000863>); [https://www.wikiwand.com/en/William\\_Craik\\_\(politician\)](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/William_Craik_(politician)), and <https://colonial-settlers-md-va.us/getperson.php?personID=I039238&tree=Tree1>. **Note:** the asserted family trees were not independently proven in this analysis.)

A review of the on-line short biographies and birth and death locations revealed no connections between these persons and Louisiana or Alabama. Hence it appears unlikely that the Craiks had any plantation in the South that was the destination for Josiah's father, and that any Newman family farms or plantations in the South were the more likely destination. (Also importantly, Josiah Henson names "Mr. N" as his owner at this time.)

**The Newman Family.** Francis Newman was b. 1759 in Leicestershire, England and d. 1818 in Port Tobacco, MD (according to <http://www.newman-family-tree.net/Francis-Newman.html>; not independently verified). According to that same family tree, he had three wives, and his sons who survived to adulthood were: Jean Elisabeth Francois Georges Newman, a.k.a. Captain Francis Newman, John Francis Newman, and Francis Hollis Newman. Examining each separately, we find the following:

Captain Francis Newman was b. in France in 1786 and d. in New Orleans, LA in 1851, per the Newman Family Tree. (The death date is confirmed on Ancestry.com by a notice in *The Daily Picayune* of New Orleans. See the photo from Lance Key on Ancestry.) He became an Lieutenant of artillery in the US Army on 25 January 1803 in Fredericktown, MD (Ancestry.com, US Army Register of Enlistments). The very detailed account of his army career on the right side of this enlistment paper is rather confused, in that he was assigned to Capt. Cooper's Company in New Orleans per order of 22 February 1803, but appears to be "present near Port Tobacco, MD" by 14 March 1803. (How did he get back so fast?) Later living in New Orleans, he married twice and participated in repulsing the British in 1814. Thus it is conceivable (barely) that Newman could have arrived in Louisiana in March 1803, owned a house, plantation or land in Louisiana, or otherwise been in a position to receive Josiah's father, within the time window of 1792—1803.

John Francis Newman was b. 1800-1802 in Port Tobacco, MD, per the Newman Family Tree and the Carreras-Fontenette tree on Ancestry.com. He is shown in a Huntsville, Madison Co., AL resident's list for 1819 (per Ancestry.com census equivalents). He married Nelly C. Rose in Madison Co., AL on 11 October 1824 (per Ancestry.com AL marriage records), and his first child was b. in AL in 1825 (Elizabeth Francis Green, b. 10 September 1825 per Find-a-Grave). He reportedly served in the Civil War on the



"Grandpa Newman"  
(Captain) Jean Elisabeth Francois Georges (Francis) Newman  
1786 - 1851  
Married: Barbara Antonia Ronquillo a cousin from a  
Spanish creole family Ronquillo y Solis

Confederate side and died after the war. All this shows an Alabama connection, but too late to have owned land in Huntsville or anywhere in Alabama to have been relevant to the exile of Josiah's father.

Francis Hollis Newman was, according to the Newman Family Tree, b. c. 1805 and d. c. 1870. He was a medical doctor and moved to Huntsville, AL in 1828. The 1850 US Census shows him in Huntsville, age 48, b. in MD, a medical doctor, with a large family. But because of his birth date of c. 1802-5, he was born at the end of the target time window and could not have been an adult in a position to receive Josiah's father in 1792-1803.

In conclusion, it appears possible although not likely that Captain Francis Newman (b. in France), son of Francis Newman (b. in England) could have received Josiah Henson's father in Louisiana in about 1803. Louisiana land and plantation records to help support this theory were not available on-line.

The possibility must be considered that Josiah Henson's father was simply and sadly sold South to an unknown destination not connected with the Craik or Newman families, and hence all trace of him is likely lost.

We now turn to a series of descents from Josiah Henson, and a descent from one of his brothers. Each will proceed with the familiar pattern of an assertion, various proofs, another assertion, and so on.

## **A Descent from Josiah Henson via Thomas Henson to the Palmer Family**

This descent goes from Rev. Henson's birth in the late 1700s down to 1925, covering four generations via Rev. Henson's firstborn son, Tom.

**Assertion:** Rev. Josiah Henson and Charlotte Stevenson had a son Thomas "Tom" Henson, b. 1823 in Montgomery Co., MD, d. c. 1861-6, possibly in CA, who married or liaised with (likely beginning between 1850 and 1852 in Ontario, Canada) Margaret "Maria" Stump, b. c. 1830 in New Bedford, MA, d. 20 December 1910 in Chicago, IL. Thomas and "Maria" had a son, Thomas J. Henson, b. December 1853 in Dresden, Ontario, d. 29 October 1918 in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI. (Thomas and Maria also had another child, Margaret "Maggie" Henson, and that line will be discussed at the end of this section.)

Proofs:

- For dates and linkages for Rev. Henson, wife Nancy and son Tom, see the earlier section.
- Canadian Census for 1871 for Ontario, Bothwell, Camden shows Josiah Henson, 82, b. c. 1789, b. in the US, religion Methodist B. E. [British Episcopal], "African" [black], farmer, married, able to read and write, with Nancy Henson, 51 (hence b. c. 1820), also b. in the US, religion Methodist B. E. [British Episcopal], "African" [black], farmer, married, able to read and write. In the same household are John Henson, 86, with all the same entries except he is marked as "over 20 and unable to read and write;" Lucinda Titus, 30; Elizabeth Titus; Matilda Titus, 7; and Thomas Henson, 17 (hence b. c. 1854). (This Thomas Henson is not the son of Rev. Henson, since that Thomas died or disappeared during the Civil War. Rather, due to the b. year, it is reasonably clear that this is Thomas J. Henson, b. 25 December 1853 whose death certificate information is presented below. This Thomas is the grandson of Rev. Henson.)

- FamilySearch.org Canadian Census for 1861 for Gore, Kent Co., Ontario shows Maria H. Stump, 31 (hence b. c. 1830), b. in the US, single, religion of “E. M.” (Episcopal Methodist). (**NOTE:** This Census date of 1861, showing Maria as “single,” is 8 years after the birth of the child Thomas J. Henson, described below. This could be a different Maria, or the child was born before the marriage ceremony, or the marriage/liaison was never made official, or a clerical error. No marriage certificate was found. A reasonable conclusion is that this is the correct Maria, that she was married to or had a liaison with Tom Henson (b. 1823) in Ontario beginning in 1850-2, when she was about 20, and had a son Thomas J. Henson in 1853.)
- FamilySearch.org Illinois, Cook County Deaths for 1910, shows “Mariah Henson, 81, d. 20 December 1910 in Chicago, widowed, white (?) female, b. c. 1829 in MA, living at 1708 Dearborn St., buried at Mt. Glenwood. Respondent is Thomas Henson.
- FamilySearch.org Illinois, Cook County Deaths for 1910, shows “Mariah Henson, 81, d. 20 December 1910 in Chicago, IL, widowed, black female, b. c. 1829 in MA, living at 1708 Dearborn St., buried at Mt. Glenwood. Respondent is Francis Henson, spouse is Charles S. Jackson. (Note: this seems to be the identical record to the one immediately above, except that Mariah is listed as black and has a husband Charles S. Jackson – yet she does not have the last name of Jackson. The original record was not available online to resolve these anomalies.)
- Michigan Death Records for 1918 show Thomas J. Henson, 64 years, 10 months, 4 days old, b. 25 December 1853 in Dresden, Ontario, d. 29 October 1918 in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI of a ureamic coma; black, male, married, cook on board a steam navigation vessel; wife Hattie E. Henson; father Thomas Henson, b. in Hagerstown, MD, mother Maria Stump of New Bedford, MA. Informant is Mrs. Maggie Palmer. Place of burial is Woodmere.
- Detroit City Directory for 1873 shows Maria B. Henson, widow of Thomas Henson, “h” (home?) at 499 Beaubien, Detroit.
- Detroit City Directory for 1885 shows Maria Henson, widow of Thomas Henson, “bds” (boards) at 627 Beaubien, Detroit.
- Detroit City Directory for 1887 shows Maria B. Henson, widow of Thomas Henson, “bds” (boards) at 498 Beaubien, Detroit.
- The M-NCPPC chart, *ibid.*, has the following information (generally without citing sources): Tom Henson, b. 1823 in Montgomery Co., MD, d. 1861-5 in CA; married Margaret “Maria” Stump, b. New Bedford, MA, and had children Thomas Jefferson Henson, b. 25 December 1853, d. 28 October 1918 in MI, and Margaret Henson, b. 1861, d. 26 July 1921 in MI. Margaret married John E. Palmer, b. 1847 in DC, and had Anna E. Palmer, b. 1879 in MI. Thomas Jefferson Henson married Hattie, b. 1879 in Canada, and had Stella Henson, b. 1879 in Saginaw, MI. (Note: this section generally follows this line, adds some people and facts, and provides proofs.)

**Assertion:** Thomas J. Henson married on 28 May 1879 in Saginaw, MI to Harriet Butler, b. March 1861 in English Canada, likely d. after 1942 in Muskegon, MI. Thomas and Harriet Henson had a child, Florence L. Henson, b. August 1880 in Detroit, Wayne, MI; in 1900 Florence married George H. Green who d. before 1910. They had one unidentified child together. Florence then married and divorced George Milton.

Proofs:

- Saginaw MI Marriage Records for 1879 show Thomas J. Henson, 25, b. in Dresden, Ontario, marrying on 28 May 1879, Harriet E. Butter, 18, b. in Dresden, Ontario, both listed as Negro. Witnesses are William Sutton (Dutton?) of Clio, MI and Nancy M. Thomas of Saginaw, MI. (Note: in the next marriage record of the same event the last name is Butler, not Butter.)
- Michigan Marriage Records for 1879 show Thomas J. Henson, 25, b. c. 1854, marrying in Saginaw, MI on 28 May 1879 to Harriet E. Butler, 18, b. c. 1861. (We will assume here that the more common name of “Butler” is correct.)
- Washington, DC City Directory for 1891 shows Harriet Henson, widow of Thomas Henson, living at 230 3<sup>rd</sup> SW.
- US Census for Detroit, Wayne Co., MI for 1900 shows Thomas Henson, 46, b. December 1853 in MI, black male, resident of Ward 3 in Detroit, cook, can read and write, father b. in MD and mother b. in English Canada; married 21 years (hence married in 1879); married to Harriet Henson, 39, b. March 1861 in English Canada, black female, married 21 years (hence married in 1869), mother of 3 children, 1 of whom is living, can read and write, father b. in MD and mother b. in English Canada; Florence Henson, 19, b. August 1880 in MI, black single female, housework helper, father b. in MI and mother b. in English Canada.
- US Census for Sault St. Marie, Chippewa Co., MI for 1910 shows Thomas J. Henson, 53, (hence b. c. 1857) black male, only one marriage for 29 years, immigrated to the US in 1878, now a naturalized US citizen, b. in English Canada, father b. in the US and mother in English Canada, cook in a hotel, can read and write, renting a house; with wife Harriet E. Henson, 48, black female, only one marriage for 29 years, 3 children of which 1 is living, immigrated to the US in 1883, b. in English Canada, father b. in Maryland and mother in Ohio, can read and write. The household also has three boarders, apparently unrelated to the Hensons.
- Ontario, Canada Marriages for Essex Co. for 1900 shows Florence L. Henson, 19 (hence b. c. 1881), b. in Detroit, MI, spinster, with parents Thomas Henson and Harriet Butler; marrying in Windsor on 16 November 1900 to George H. Green, 19, of Detroit, MI, bachelor, student, with parents John Green and Minerva Oliver (?); the bride and groom are both Methodists.
- US Census for Oakland, Pontiac, MI for 1910 shows Florence Green, 28 (hence b. c. 1882) mulatto female, widowed, hotel cook, can read and write, with 1 child born and that child still alive (but not shown in the household), b. in MI with father b. in KY and mother b. in Canada; beside her in the list is George Green, 61, white, male, widowed [quite possibly the father-in-law of Florence].
- Michigan Marriage Records for 1918 show Florence Green [Florence Henson Green] 37, black female, resident of Detroit, MI, and b. in MI, with father Thomas [Henson] and mother Harriette Butler, married once previously, marrying on 11 September 1918 in Detroit to George Milton, 34, black male, laborer, resident of Detroit and b. in PA, not previously married, with parents Richard Milton and Rose Simone.
- US Census for Detroit, Wayne Co., MI for 1920 shows George A. Milton, 36, b. in PA, janitor in an auto factory, black male, married, able to read and write, father b. in NC and mother b. in Canada; and wife Florence L. Milton, 38, b. in MI, black female, able to read and write, parents b. in Canada.

- Michigan Divorce Records for 1922 show Florence L. Milton [formerly Florence Henson Green], who married on 11 September 1918, is divorcing George A. Milton on 2 October 1922, for non-support.
- Muskegon, MI City Directory for 1942 shows Harriet Henson, widow of Thomas J. Henson, living at r863 Cedar (“r” may mean “rear”). (No death certificate or obituary for Harriet was obtained, hence her d. year is only: after 1942, likely in Muskegon, MI – where this appears to be the correct person, 81 years old.)

**Assertion:** Thomas J. Henson and Harriet Butler had at least one other child: Stella Henson, b. 20 September 1879 in Saginaw, Michigan, b. 20 September 1879 in Saginaw, Michigan, d. 22 April 1881 in Jackson-Wayne, MI.

Proofs:

- Michigan Births and Christening Index for 1879 shows Stella Henson b. 20 September 1879 in Saginaw, Michigan, with father Thomas J. Henson and mother Hattie Henson.
- The US Census for Saginaw, Saginaw Co., MI for 1880 shows Thomas Henson, 25, b. c. 1855, b. in Canada, male mulatto, married to Hattie Henson, 19, mulatto female, mother’s name Nancy Henson, 52, b. in Canada, and Stella Henson, 9/12, b. September 1879, in MI, mulatto female.
- Michigan Death Records for 1881 show Stella Henson, d. 22 April 1881 in Jackson-Wayne, MI, at age 1 year, 7 months, 1 day of “infl. of lungs”; b. in MI; with parents Thomas Hudson and Hattie Hudson (sic; “Hudson” must be a clerical error, since “Henson” is the name of the decedent Stella.)
- M-NCPPC chart, *ibid*.

**Assertion:** Thomas Henson and Margaret “Maria” Stump had another child (mentioned at the start of this section), Margaret Henson, b. March 1856 in Dresden, Ontario, d. 26 July 1921 in Detroit, MI. On 20 December 1876 in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI. On 20 December 1876 in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI, Margaret Henson married John E. Palmer, b. 1 July 1846 in Washington, DC, d. 4 February 1925 in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI, and had a child, Anna E. Palmer, b. abt. 1879 in MI, d. aft. 1899 (could be much later, no documentation found), likely in MI. Margaret Henson and John E. Palmer also had a child, Evelyn Palmer, b. 20 April 1879 in MI, d. 2 September 1913 in Chicago, IL; she died single and apparently without issue.

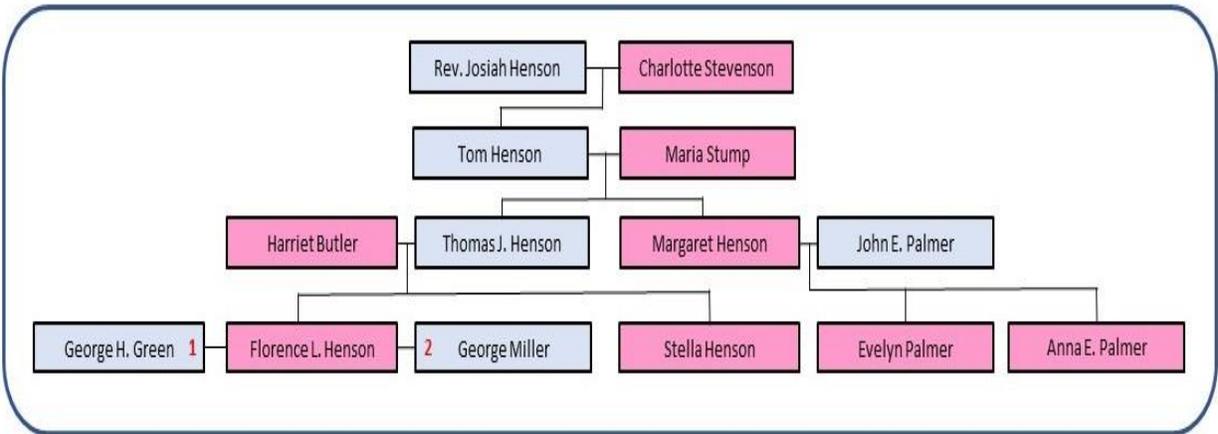
Proofs:

- Michigan Marriage Records for 1876 show Margaret J. Hendson [Henson], 20, b. c. 1856 in Dresden (hard to read), Ontario, black female; marrying on 20 December 1876 in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI to John E. Palmer, 30, b. c. 1846 in Washington, DC, resident of Detroit, cook.
- US Census for Detroit, Wayne Co., MI for 1880 shows Margareth (sic) J. Palmer, 24, b. abt. 1856 in Canada, resident of Detroit, female mulatto, married, father from MD and mother from MA, keeping house; married to John E. Palmer, 33, b. abt. 1847 in Washington, DC, resident of Detroit, mulatto, cook, father and mother b. in MD; daughter Anna E. Palmer, 1, b. abt. 1879 in MI, father b. in DC, mother b. in Canada; Maria Henson [mother of Margaret Henson Palmer], 50, b. abt. 1830 in MA, black female, widowed, father b. in NC, mother b. in NY.
- FamilySearch.org US Census for Chicago, Cook Co., IL for 1900 shows Maria “Hanson,” 69, b. October 1830, black female, widowed, head of household, with 5 children born of whom 2 are

living, b. in MA, with father b. in NC and mother b. in NY. In the household is daughter Maggie Palmer, 44, black female, widowed, with 1 child born and 1 child living, b. March 1856 in English Canada, with father b. in MD and mother in MA. Also in the household is Evelyn (or Elylyn or Ebelyn) Palmer, 21, black female, single, grand-daughter of Maria Henson, b. April (?) 1879 in MI, father b. in Washington, DC and mother b. in English Canada. (Note: the fact that Evelyn Palmer's father is b. in DC means that he was almost certainly John E. Palmer.) (Also note: this Census shows Maggie Palmer as widowed, but the 1920 Census, below, shows John Palmer as still alive. Likely the "Wd" is a clerical error.)

- FamilySearch.org US Census for Chicago Ward 1, Cook Co., IL for 1910 shows Henry Lewis, 57, head of household, black male, laborer on a railroad, second marriage, married 10 years in this marriage, b. in KY with both parents b. in KY, cannot read and write; wife Maggie Lewis, black female, 54, second marriage, married 10 years in this marriage, had one child, and that child is still alive; Maggie was b. in English Canada and her father was in MD and her mother in MA. She immigrated to the US in 1892, and can read and write. Also in the household is Eva Palmer, step-daughter of head of household Henry Lewis, she is 31, black female, single, no children, b. in MI, with father b. in DC and mother b. in English Canada. She can read and write. Also in the household is Maria Henson, 81, mother-in-law of the head of household Henry Lewis, black female, widowed, had 6 children of whom 2 are living, b. in MA, with father b. in NC and mother b. in NY. (Comparing Maggie Lewis in this record with Maggie Palmer in the previous Census record makes it clear that this is the same person. Also, it is clear that Eva Palmer in this record is the same person as Evelyn Palmer in the previous record.)
- US Census for Detroit, Wayne Co., MI for 1920 shows John E. Palmer, 73, b. abt. 1847 in DC, resident of Detroit, black male, married to Maggie Palmer, 63, b. abt. 1857 in Canada, black female, mother b. in MD and father b. in MA, able to read and write.
- Michigan Death Records for 1921 show Margaret [Henson] Palmer, 60, b. 1861 in Dresden, Ontario, d. 26 July 1921 in Detroit of malignant jaundice, black female, housewife, married to John Palmer; father of Margaret is Thomas Henson, b. in KY, mother is Maria Stump, b. location unknown. Informant is William Henson Thomas. Burial place is Woodmere.
- Michigan Death Records for Detroit, Wayne Co. show John Palmer, age 78 years, 7 months, 3 days, b. 1 July 1846 in Washington, DC, d. 4 February 1925, in Detroit. Palmer is described as a black male, laborer, widowed, died of aortic regurgitation, wife unknown. Father is Henry Palmer, b. in MD, and mother is Sarah Ross of Washington, DC. (Note: it is unclear how this John Palmer could be married to Margaret Palmer in 1880, then she is "widowed" in 1900, then she is married to Henry Lewis in 1910, then apparently married again to John Palmer in 1920!)
- Detroit City Directory for 1898 shows Annie Palmer, waiter, living in rooms at 14 Chester Ave.
- Detroit City Directory for 1899 shows Annie Palmer, domestic, living at 80 Henry.
- FamilySearch.org Death Records for Illinois, Cook Co., Chicago for 1913 shows Evelyn Palmer, 34, d. 2 September 1913 in Chicago, b. 20 April 1879 in MI, age 34 years, 4 months, 13 days at death, single, black female, American, domestic, resident at 1708 Dearborn St., father John Palmer, b. in DC, and mother Maggie Henson, b. in Canada. Cemetery is Mt. Glenwood.
- M-NCPPC chart, *ibid*.

The graphic below shows this line:



## A New Descent from James Henson, Probable Brother of Josiah Henson, to the Barnes Family

**Assertion:** Reverend Josiah Henson had a brother, James Henson, b. c. 1806 in the US (likely Charles Co., MD) and d. aft. 1891 (likely in Kent Co., Ontario, Canada), who married Addy (or Atha), b. c. 1815 in the USA, and had at least six children: Mary Jane Henson, b. c. 1847 in the US; Topit (sic?), b. c. 1850; Olars (sic?), b. c. 1853; Katherine, b. c. 1855; Charles, b. c. 1858; and Margaret, b. c. 1860.

Proofs:

- City and Area Directories list, for Ontario, Kent Co. Directory, Village of Dresden, 1880, shows Josiah Henson, farmer, (col'd), res. s.w. part of village.
- Find-a-Grave shows Rev. Josiah Henson, b. 15 June 1789 in Charles Co., MD, d. 5 May 1883 in Dresden, Chatham-Kent Co., Ontario, Canada, with picture of large tombstone.
- *Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography* shows Josiah Henson, b. 15 June 1787 in Port Tobacco, Charles Co., MD, d. in Dresden, Kent Co., Ontario in 1881 (sic but incorrect).
- City and Area Directories list, for Ontario, Kent Co. Gazetteer, 1865, shows James Henson.
- Canadian Census for 1861 for Ontario, Kent Co. shows James Henson, 57, b. c. 1804 in the US, laborer; Addy (or Atha?), 50, b. c. 1815 in the US, married woman, and had at least six children: Mary Jane Henson, 14, b. c. 1847 in the US, Topiter (sic? Jupiter?), 11, b. c. 1850 in the US (unclear if this person is male or female, he/she is marked as both!); Olars (sic? Oliver?), 8, b. c. 1853 in the US; Katherine, 6, b. c. 1855, b. in UC (meaning Upper Canada); Charles P., 3, b. c. 1858 in UC; and Margaret M., 1, b. c. 1860 in UC. All the children are described as "child," meaning child of the head of household, James. All household members are listed as W Meth, meaning Wesleyan Methodist, and are listed as mulatto. (Note: from the birth years it is clear this family emigrated from the US to Canada in about 1854.)
- FamilySearch.com Canadian Census for 1871 for Ontario, Kent Co., Chatham Township, shows James Henson, 65, b. c. 1806 in the US, "African" (black) male, farmer, other Methodist. (This individual's age, name, race, religion, birth country and location near Reverend Henson all point to this James Henson being the brother of Josiah, but do not prove it.). His wife is Atty Henson, 56, b. c. 1815 in the US, "African" (black) female, United Methodist. In their household is Ambrose Dudley, 60, black male, b. in the US.
- "Working Draft of the Henson Family Tree, Courtesy of the M-NCPPC," *ibid*.

**NOTE:** As discussed earlier, the linkage from Reverend Josiah Henson to his asserted brother James could be strengthened with more documentation.

**NOTE on another “James Henson”:** Kuhns, *ibid.*, p. 170 , warns that there is another “James Henson” (real name Charlie Chance) resident in Ontario that is not actually a Henson at all, had changed his name, and is not related to the Henson clan. She states (comment on this ms.) that the “James Henson of the book *Broken Shackles* was born to Sam and Peggy Chance on a plantation near Baltimore. James lived in Owen Sound, Ontario, that is about 283 kilometers away from Dresden (a 4 hour drive). He was married to Catherine. They died in Cinnaminson, NJ, he on 11/8/1891 and she on 11/11/1894.”)

A review of *Broken Shackles* (at <https://books.google.com/books?id=svhWSxnaWKwC&sitesec=reviews>) asserts the same facts and adds that James Henson/Charley Chance shows up in the 1871 and 1881 Canadian Census in Owen Sound, and also in a 1927 Owen Sound newspaper article describing his return to the US. (There is a James Henson in the transcription of the 1881 Census (original illegible) for Owen Sound, Grey North, Ontario, b. in 1799 in the USA, widowed, English, Methodist Episcopal, laborer; and in the 1871 Census (transcription and original) for the same location, 60 years old, b. in 1811 in the US, African (black), widowed, laborer. And on FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com there is a shown a Catharine Henson, d. 11 November 1894 in Cinnaminson, Burlington Co., NJ, 90 years old, b. in the USA. (Oddly, no James Henson/Hensen as asserted above could be found dying in Burlington Co., NY in 1891 on Ancestry or FamilySearch.)

The book itself (Peter Meyler, ed., *Broken Shackles: Old Man Henson from Slavery to Freedom* (Toronto: Natural Heritage Books, 2007) pp. 8, 11, 12, 137-139, 157, 159, 205) shows that Charley Chance (b. c. 1798 in slavery on the Croxall/Crocksell Plantation near Baltimore, MD to enslaved parents Sam and Peggy Chance) changed his name to a “freedom name” of James “Jim” “Old Man” Henson when he escaped to Pennsylvania in about 1828. He fled to Canada soon after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law in 1850, staying first in Toronto, then in Artemisia Township, then in nearby Owen Sound, Grey County, in northern Ontario. There is no indication that Chance/Henson spent any time anywhere near Dawn, Ontario, which is in what is now Chatham-Kent County, far south of Owen Sound, Grey County, Ontario.

Hence it seems clear that this James Henson/Charley Chance is quite separate from the James Henson shown in the bullet points above, in the 1871 Census, living in Chatham Township, Kent Co., Ontario -- and probable brother of Rev. Josiah Henson.

**Assertion:** Mary Jane Henson on 27 November 1868 in Chatham, Kent Co., Canada married Jonas Henry Crosby, b. 26 October 1843 in the US, d. aft. 1901, probably in Ontario, and had a child Gertrude Crosby, b. c. 1886 in Ontario, Canada, d. 10 March 1913 in Chatham, Ontario.

Proofs:

- Ontario, Canada Marriages for Chatham Township, Kent Co., Ontario shows [Mary Jane Henson](#), 23, marrying on 27 November 1868 to [Henry Crosby](#), son of William and Susan Crosby.
- Canadian Census for Chatham, Kent Co., Ontario for 1871 shows [Mary Jane Crosby](#), 24, black female, b. c. 1847 in the US, Methodist; married to [Jonas H. Crosby](#), 26, black male, b. c. 1845 in the US, Methodist Episcopalian, farmer; with child James H. Crosby, 1, b. c. 1870, black male.

- Canadian Census for Chatham, Bothwell, Kent Co., Ontario for 1891 shows Jonas Crosby, 48, b. c. 1843 in the US, Methodist, farmer, married to Mary Crosby, 41, b. c. 1850 in the US, Methodist, with children James Crosby, 21, Eliza Crosby, 18, and Gertrude Crosby, 5 (hence b. c. 1886); with all the children b. in Ontario.
- Canadian Census for Chatham, Kent Co., Ontario for 1901 shows Johnas H. Crosby, 57, b. 26 October 1843 in the US, religion is "P Breth," farmer; immigrated to Canada in 1854; married to Mary Jane Crosby, 53, b. 7 June 1847 in the US, religion is "P Breth," immigrated to Canada in 1854; both are "African" (black).
- Ontario, Canada Deaths for Kent Co., Chatham Twp. for 1913 shows Gertrude Cross d. 10 March 1913 of carcinoma, age 28 years and 8 months, female, housewife, married, with mother Mary Henson and father Henson (? Henry) Crosby; informant James E. Cross.

**Assertion:** Gertrude Crosby married in about 1901, probably in Ontario, to Edward Cross, b. 1882 in Ontario, d. (probably) 1964 in Saskatchewan, and had Geneva Isabella Cross, b. 17 February 1902 in Kent Co., Ontario, Canada, d. aft. November 1967, probably in Windsor, Ontario.

Proofs:

- Border Crossings from US to Ontario, Canada for April 1912 show Edward Cross, 30, farmer, has \$350 on him; wife Gertrude Cross, 27, daughter Geneva Cross, 10, son Clarence Cross, 9, son James Cross, 6, and son Charles Cross, 2. All in the family are b. in Canada and are citizens of Canada, and all are taking a ferry from Pontiac, MI on their way to Chatham, Ontario.
- Ontario, Canada Births index shows Geneva Isabella Cross, b. 17 February 1902 in Kent Co., Ontario, Canada, with parents Edward James Cross and Gertrude Crosby. This index is derived from an unusual document, a Province of Ontario Statement of Birth, filed 26 March 1952, 50 years after the birth. It shows the cited information and also states that both parents are deceased, that Edward was a Canadian labourer of "Spanish racial origin," b. in Ontario; that Gertrude was a Canadian housewife, b. in Ontario, of "African racial origin," who had the child Geneva when Gertrude was 16 years old, and that Gertrude had not had any previous children. The medical practitioner or nurse in attendance at the birth is listed as Wennie Milburn.
- Canada Census for 1921 for Chatham, Kent Co. shows Edward Cross, 40, Negro male, b. in Ontario with father b. in Spain and mother b. in Ontario, citizen of Canada, Methodist, able to read and write, teamster; wife Hazel Cross, 28, Negro female, b. in USA with both parents b. in USA, emigrated to Canada in 1900, now a citizen of Canada, Methodist, can read and write; with sons Edward, 12, Negro male, b. in Ontario with father b. in Ontario and mother b. in USA, Canadian citizen; and Charles, 9, Negro male, b. in USA, with father b. in Ontario and mother b. in USA. (Note: since Edward's first wife Gertrude died in 1913, Hazel is his second wife. Both these boys listed here are apparently the children of Edward and Gertrude.)
- Find-a-Grave shows Edward J. Cross b. 1880 in Ontario, d. 1964 in Saskatchewan, buried at Spiritwood Cemetery, North Battleford Census Div. (**NOTE:** it is not certain that this is the correct person.)



Louis Milburn

**Assertion:** Geneva Isabella Cross married on 28 June 1924 in Essex, Ontario to Louis (or Lewis) Milburn, b. 24 September 1902 in Isabella Co., MI, d. 24 November

1967 in Windsor, Ontario, and had a daughter Mary Glynne Milburn, b. 5 May 1927 in Windsor, Ontario, d. 1 January 1996 in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI.

Proofs:

- Ontario, Canada Marriages show Geneva Cross, female, Methodist, 22, b. c. 1902 in Chatham, Ontario, married on 28 June 1924 in Essex, Ontario to Lewis Milburn, male, Methodist, cement finisher, 22, b. c. 1902 in the USA; with Geneva's parents being Edward Cross and Gertrude Crosby, and Lewis' parents being Hugh Milburn and Virginia Jefferson.
- US Social Security Applications and Claims Index shows Geneva Cross with spouse Louis B. Milburn and child Glynne Mary Barnes (no date on the record).
- US Social Security Applications and Claims Index shows Geneva Cross with spouse Louis B. Milburn and child Lewis Hugh Milburn, b. 24 February 1929 in Windsor, Canada, d. February 1992.
- Detroit Border Crossings and Passenger and Crew Lists shows Louis B. Milburn, male, "nationality: African," b. c. 1902 in Isabella Co., MI, arriving in Detroit from Canada on 3 November 1927; wife: Geneva.
- Detroit Border Crossings and Passenger and Crew Lists shows Louis B. Milburn, 43, male, "nationality: African," b. 24 September 1902 in MI, arriving in Detroit from Canada on 7 October 1945.
- Newspapers.com Obituary Index shows Louis Milburn, 65, b. 1902, d. 24 November 1967 in Windsor, Ontario, with wife Geneva, children (or relatives?) Ann Marie, Emmett Barnes, Dorothy White, Donald E. K., and siblings Blanch Olbey and Dorothy Talbot.
- Michigan Death Index shows Mary Glynne Shi (?) [Milburn] Barnes, b. 5 May 1927, with last residence and death location in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI on 1 January 1996.

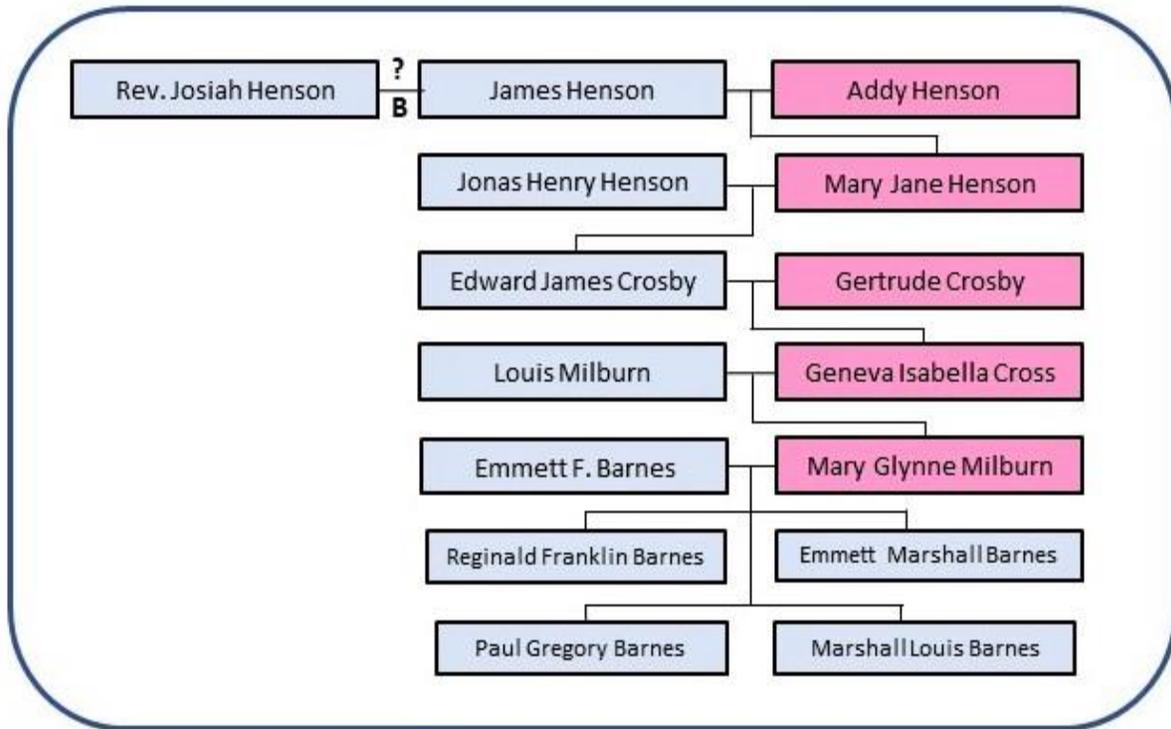
**Assertion:** Mary Glynne Milburn married Emmett F. Barnes, b. 8 August 1923 in MS, d. 4 July 1999 in Detroit, MI; and had four children: Reginald Franklin Barnes, b. 1952; Marshall Louis Barnes, b. c. 1954 in MI, d. 15 August 2012 in Windsor, Ontario, Canada; Emmett Marshall Barnes, b. c. 1958; and Paul Gregory Barnes.

Proofs:

- US Social Security Applications and Claims Index shows Glynne Mary Barnes, a.k.a. Glynne Mary Milburn, female, black, b. 5 May 1927 in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, d. 1 January 1996 with father Louis B. Milburn and mother Geneva Cross.
- Michigan Death Index shows Mary Glynne Shi (?) Barnes, b. 5 May 1927, with last residence and death location in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI on 1 January 1996.
- US Public Records Index shows Mary G. Barnes, b. 5 May 1927, residence in Detroit, MI (no date on this record).
- Newspapers.com Obituary Index shows Mary Glynne Barnes, female, resident of Windsor, Ontario, d. in Detroit, MI on 1 January 1996, spouse Emmett Barnes, siblings Dorothy White and Donald Milburn, and sons Reginald Franklin Barnes, Michael Louis Barnes, Emmett Marshall Barnes, and Paul Gregory Barnes.

- US Social Security Death Index shows Emmett F. Barnes b. 8 August 1923 in MS, d. 4 July 1999 in Detroit, MI.
- US Dept. of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File shows Emmett Barnes, b. 8 August 1923, d. 4 July 1999, served in the US Army 19 March 1943 to 30 October 1947.
- US Public Records Index shows Emmett Barnes as a resident of Romulus, MI in 2001. (This is the son of Mary and Emmett.)
- Ohio Marriage Abstracts shows Emmett M. Barnes, 39, b. c. 1958, residence: out of state, “times married: 1”; spouses’ name Sandra M. Morgan, 26, b. c. 1971, residence: out of state; marriage date 3 July 1997 in Lucas Co., OH.
- US Public Records Index shows Paul Barnes resident in Detroit, MI in 1995. This appears to be the correct person (Paul Gregory Barnes, son of Mary Glynn Barnes). (**NOTE:** there is Paul Gregory Barnes shown in the California Death Index and in Find-a-Grave as b. 9. April 1956 in FL, d. 22 September 1990 in San Diego, CA. But the mother’s maiden name is listed as Hrenchir (sic?), and the Detroit resident Paul Barnes was still alive in 1995, so this California Barnes is evidently not the target person.)
- US School Yearbooks index shows Reginald Barnes, 16, b. abt. 1970, attending Mumford High School in Detroit, MI.
- Nevada Marriage Index for Clark Co. shows Reginald Franklin Barnes marrying on 11 September 1992 to Lynette Marie Hamilton; with the marriage performed by a “Religious celebrant.”
- US Public Records Index shows Reginald F. Barnes, b. 1952, resident of Detroit, MI in 1995.
- US Public Records Index shows Reginald F. Barnes resident of Detroit, MI in 2002.
- Newspapers.com Obituary Index shows and obituary in *The Windsor Star* of 4 January 1996 for Reginald Franklin Barnes, with mother Mary Glynne Barnes.
- Newspapers.com Obituary Index shows Michael Louis Barnes, b. c. 1954 in MI, d. in Windsor, Ontario, Canada at age 58 on 15 August 2012, with an obituary date of 22 August 2012 in *The Windsor Star*.

The figure below shows in summary form the line described in this section. The “? B” notation means that this Brother relationship is not fully proven.



## Documenting a Known Descent from Josiah Henson via the Nevels-Cobb Line

This section draws on the M-NCPPC chart, *ibid.*, and Henson family on-line trees (particularly the Ancestry.com Stark Family Tree by Lisa Johnson) to describe a descent from Reverend Josiah Henson to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, following the Henson-Nevels-Cobb line. Along the way additional proofs and documentation will be supplied, beyond that presented in the inspiration sources.

**Assertion:** Reverend Josiah Henson and his wife Charlotte Stevenson Henson had a daughter Elizabeth Henson, b. February 1834 in Canada (probably Ontario), and d. 16 July 1904 in Flint, MI. In about 1854 she married William Thomas, b. 1821-7 in VA and d. 15 February 1887, Dresden, Kent Co., Ontario. They had children, among others Olive Thomas (later Nevels), b. 14 May 1864 in Dresden, Kent Co., Ontario, and d. 16 July 1923 in Middlesex Co., Ontario.



Josiah Henson Park in Montgomery County, MD

Proofs:

- Canadian Census for 1871 for Camden, Bothwell, Ontario shows Elizabeth Thomas, 37, b. c. 1834 in Ontario, “African” female, Methodist, married to William Thomas, 44, b. c. 1827, in the US, “African” male, Methodist, engineer; with children: Julia Anne Thomas, 16, Nancy Thomas, 14, Jane Thomas, 13, William Henson Thomas, 10, “Oliv” (Olive) Thomas, 9, Mardsellia Thomas, 6, Elizabeth A. Thomas, 4, and Mary C. Thomas, 1. All the children are born in Canada, “African,”

and Methodist B.E. On the previous page in the Census, and clearly nearby, are Josiah Henson, 82, (Reverend Henson) and his wife Nancy Henson, 51. (With a first child of 16 at age 37, it is reasonable to assume that Elizabeth married at about 21, in about 1854. Note that the 1891 Census shows Elizabeth Thomas, widowed, at age 57, hence William Thomas is deceased by then; this is confirmed by the death statement immediately below.)

- Ontario, Canada Deaths for Kent Co., Ontario shows William Thomas, 60, d. 15 February 1887 of inflammation of the bowills (sic), in Dresden; farmer, Methodist, b. in the US (in about 1827, subtracting 1887 minus 60).
- Canadian Census for 1901 for Dresden, Bothwell, Ontario show Elizabeth Thomas, 67, b. 13 February 1834 in Canada, “African” (black), widowed, Methodist, can read and write, head of household; with grandchildren Mable Kersy, 14, b. 18 May 1887 in Ontario, “African” (black) female, Methodist, can read and write and William Kersy, 10, “African” (black) male, b. c. 21 March 1891 in Ontario; and an apparently unrelated lodger, Harriet Lyons, 84, b. 14 February 1814 in KY, “African” (black) female, Methodist, widowed, immigrated to Canada in 1853, can read and write.
- The will of Josiah Henson “of the Gore of Camden in the county of Kent,” 2 May 1883, states that his children at the time include: Julia (Henson) Wheeler, wife of William Wheeler; Peter Henson; Josiah Henson; and daughters Mrs. Clay, Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Kersey.
- Ontario, Canada Marriages show Elizabeth Thomas and husband William Thomas as parents of Nancy Thomas, 24, b. c. 1856, of Camden, Canada, marrying Levi Christopher Harrison, 23, on 25 November 1880 in Kent Co.
- Death Certificate for Houghton Co., MI for 1904 shows Elizabeth Thomas d. on 16 July 1904 of dysentery, b. 15<sup>th</sup> (or 13<sup>th</sup>) February 1834 in Canada. She is a female, widow, colored, housekeeper, 70 years, 5 months and 3 days old, married at 20 (but the husband is un-named), had 11 children of whom 8 are living, her father was Josiah Henson (b. in the US) and her mother is unknown. She was buried in Dresden, Ontario, Canada on 20 July 1904 and the respondent is A. R. Richey.
- Michigan Deaths and Burials Index shows Elizabeth Henson Thomas, 70, b. c. 1834 in Canada, d. 16 July 1904 in Houghton Co., MI, widowed, father Josiah Henson. Elizabeth is listed as “white,” which from the available evidence is a clerical error.
- Ontario, Middlesex Marriages show Minnie Harrison, 32, b. in Dresden, Methodist, widow, with parents William Thomas and Elizabeth Henson, marrying on 15 March 1907 to Louis P. Prisby, 21, b. in Dresden. (The two ages were checked on the original document, and are correct.)
- Ontario Canada Deaths and Deaths Overseas for Middlesex Co., Ontario, Canada, show Olive “Nevils,” d. of carcinoma on 16 July 1923, age 59 years, 2 months, 2 days old, (hence b. 14 May 1864) in Dresden, Negro, housewife, married, with parents William Thomas, b. in VA, and Elizabeth Henson, b. in Ontario. The respondent is Ezekiel Nevels (sic), husband.
- The “Descendants of Josiah Henson” chart in Kuhns, *ibid.*, pp. 136-7, shows Olive Thomas, b. 1864 in Dresden, Canada, d. 23 July 1923, Dresden, Canada, married to Ezekiel Nevels, b. December 1868, d. 8 October 1941, Ontario, Canada.



Ezekiel Miller Nevels

**Assertion:** Olive Thomas married in about 1886-7, probably in Ontario, to Ezekiel Miller Nevells, b. 22 December 1869 in Ontario, d. 8 October 1941 in Ekfrid, Middlesex, Ontario, and had among others Myrtle Olive Nevells, b. 6 May 1900 in Ontario, d. 4 April 1952 in Windsor, Ontario. (Note: photos in this section are from the Stark Family Tree, Ancestry.com.)

Proofs:

- Ontario Canada Deaths for Olive Nevils (sic) and husband Ezekiel Nevells, *ibid*.
- Ontario Canada Deaths for Ezekiel Nevells, 71 and 9 months, Negro, widowed, farmer, b. 22 December 1869 in Ontario, d. 8 October 1948 in Ekfrid, Middlesex, Ontario, with father Louis Elwels (Nevells?) b. in the US, and Mary Ann Elwels (Rivers? Nevells? Almost illegible), b. in Hamilton, Ontario. Death caused by brain hemorrhage from accident.
- Michigan Marriage Records show Mary Madeline (Nevells) Dean, 50, b. c. 1899, b. in Carodoc Township, Ontario, colored, with parents Olive Thomas and Ezekiel Miller Nevells, marrying to George McCaughan on 21 May 1949 in Oakland Co., MI.
- Canada Census for Ekfrid, Middlesex West, Ontario for 1911 shows Ezekiel Nevells, 42, b. December 1868 in Ontario, of Canadian nationality, Negro, LDS religion (Latter Day Saints), can read and write, farmer, employer not an employee; with wife "Oliva" B. Nevells, 45, b. May 1866 in Ontario, of Canadian nationality, Negro, LDS religion (Latter Day Saints), can read and write. In the household are the children Kenneth A. Nevells, 21, b. July 1887, Fanny E. Nevells, 19, b. March 1892, Madline M. Nevells, 13, b. December 1897, O. Myrtle Nevells, 11, b. May 1900, William E. Nevells, 8, b. January 1903; and mother Mary A. Nevells, 76, b. April 1835. All the household is of Canadian nationality, b. in Ontario, Negro, can read and right, of the LDS religion. (Note: from the birth year of the oldest child, 1887 we can estimate that the marriage likely occurred about 1886-7, when Olive was 19-20.)
- Canada Census for Ekfrid, Middlesex West, Ontario for 1921 shows Ezekiel "Nevills," (Nevells), 52, b. Ontario, of Canadian nationality, Negro, with both parents b. in the USA, LDS religion (Latter Day Saints), can read and write, farmer with his own farm; with wife Olive (incorrectly transcribed as "Alive") "Nevilles" (Nevells), 52, b. Ontario, of Canadian nationality, Negro, with both parents b. in Ontario, LDS religion (Latter Day Saints), cannot read and write. In the household are daughter Myrtle "Nevilles" (Nevells), 21; and son William "Nevilles" (Nevells), 18, both of Canadian nationality, both children b. in Ontario with both parents b. in Ontario, both children are Negro and can read and write, and both are of LDS religion.
- Headstone in Windsor, Ontario shows the names of Alfred William Jones, b. 26 May 1892, d. 30 August 1969, and Myrtle Olive (Nevells) Jones, b. 6 May 1900, d. 4 April 1952.



Olive Thomas Nevells

**Assertion:** Myrtle Olive Nevells on 21 November 1934 at Chatham, Ontario married Alfred William Jones, b. 26 May 1892 in Chatham, Ontario, d. 30 August 1969 in Windsor, Ontario; they had Myrtle Alfreda Jones, b. 8 May 1940 in London, Ontario, d. 11 September 2005 in Mt. Clemens, MI.

Proofs:

- Ontario Canada Marriages show Myrtle Olive Nevels, 34, b. Caradoc Township, Ontario, spinster, Latter Day Saints adherent, with father Ezekiel Nevels and mother Olive Thomas; marrying on 24 November 1934 in Chatham, Kent Co., Ontario to Alfred William Jones, 42, b. in Chatham, Kent Co., Ontario, bachelor, Baptist, porter, with father Albin Jones and mother Mary Smith.
- Detroit Border Crossings and Passenger and Crew Lists for 1917 shows Myrtle Nevels, 17, b. Muncey, Canada, "African black," from Longwood, Ontario, with father Ezekiel Nevels, with uncle A. R. Richie, 5' 2", houseworker, never before in the US, \$10 shown, arriving in Detroit on the SS *Ossifrudge* on 22 August 1917, never arrested, tax status CDC. Document dated 23 August 1917.
- Detroit Border Crossings and Passenger and Crew Lists for 1943 shows Myrtle Olive Jones, 43, b. 6 May 1900 in Caradoc, Ontario, of English nationality, arriving in Detroit from Canada on 19 December 1943.
- Headstone in Windsor, Ontario shows the names of Alfred William Jones, b. 26 May 1892, d. 30 August 1969, and Myrtle Olive (Nevels) Jones, b. 6 May 1900, d. 4 April 1952.
- Certificate of Marriage, photo on Ancestry.com, provided by Lisa Johnson, shows Alfred William Jones married to Myrtle Olive Nevels on 21 November 1934 at Chatham, Ontario.



Myrtle Olive Nevels Jones

**Assertion:** Myrtle Alfreda Jones married on 10 January 1957 in Highland Park, Wayne Co., MI to Jerome Brooks Cobb, b. c. 1936 in MI, and had four children: Sharman Cobb-Davenport, Tia Cobb, Jerome Cobb, and Shawn Cobb.

Proofs:

- US Census for Romeo, Macomb Co., MI for 1940 shows Jerome Cobb, 3, b. c. 1937 in MI, Negro, grandson of head of household Eliza Brooks, 62, Negro, widow.
- Detroit Border Crossings for 1943 show Myrtle Alfreda Jones, 3, b. 8 May 1940, from Windsor, Ontario, Negro, Canadian nationality, admitted to the US October 1943.
- US Yearbook Index shows Jerome B. Cobb, 16, b. c. 1939, attending Pershing High School in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI in 1955.
- US Public Records Index shows Jerome B. Cobb, b. in 1936, with various residences in Romeo, MI and Harrison Township, MI in 1993-1995.
- Obituary in the *Romeo Observer*, 14 September 2005, p. 2-A, shows Myrtle Alfreda Cobb, 65, d. 11 September 2005 at Martha T. Berry Medical Care Facility in Mt. Clemens, MI. The article states she was "born 8 May 1940 in London, Ontario, the daughter of Alfred and Myrtle (Nevels) Jones. On January 10, 1957 she married Jerome Brooks Cobb in Highland Park." It also states that she was a lifetime member of the Reorganized Jesus Christ Church of Ladder [sic] Day Saints....She is survived by her husband Jerome, of Romeo [MI], two daughters, Sharman Cobb-



Myrtle Alfreda Jones  
(later Cobb)

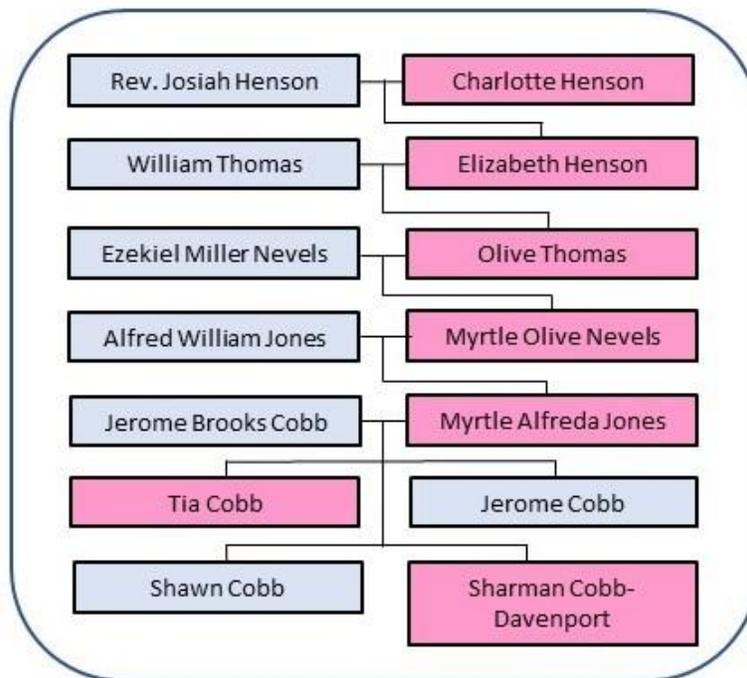
Davenport of Rochester Hills and Tia Cobb of Harper Woods, two sons, Jerome (Margaret) Cobb of Warren and Shawn (Karen) Cobb of Harrison Township; a sister, Erie Stark of Windsor, Ontario, and nine grandchildren.” (Article is on Ancestry.com, presented by Lisa Johnson.)

- US Public Records Index shows Sharman Cobb-Davenport, b. c. 1958, living in Mt. Clemens, MI in 1996.
- MyLife shows Tia Cobb, 57, b. c. 1962, current resident of Harper Wood, MI.
- Spokeo shows Jerome Brooks Cobb, 83, current resident of Rochester, MI.
- Spokeo shows Jerome A. Cobb, 30, resident of Romeo, MI.



Jerome Brooks Cobb

The graphic below summarizes the line above.



## Documenting a Descent from Josiah Henson’s Daughter Elizabeth to the Harrison Family

This section draws on the Ancestry.com Stark Family Tree by Lisa Johnson (see Annex B), and provides documentation and an extension of a line shown on that tree. That line is a descent from Reverend Josiah Henson to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, via his daughter Elizabeth, down to the Harrison family. En route numerous proofs will be supplied.

**Assertion:** Reverend Josiah Henson and his wife Charlotte Stevenson Henson had a daughter Elizabeth Henson, b. February 1834 in Canada (probably Ontario), and d. 16 July 1904 in Flint, MI. In about 1854 she married William Thomas, b. 1821-7 in VA and d. 15 February 1887 in Dresden, Kent Co., Ontario.

They had children, among others Nancy Thomas (later Harrison), b. December 1857 in Dresden, Kent Co., Ontario, Canada and d. between 1910 and 1920, likely in Jackson Co., MI.

Proofs:

- Canadian Census for 1871 for Camden, Bothwell, Ontario shows Elizabeth Thomas, 37, b. c. 1834 in Ontario, "African" female, Methodist, married to William Thomas, 44, b. c. 1827, in the US, "African" male, Methodist, engineer; with children: Julia Anne Thomas, 16, Nancy Thomas, 14 (hence b. c. 1857), Jane Thomas, 13, William Henson Thomas, 10, "Oliv" (Olive) Thomas, 9, Mardsellia Thomas, 6, Elizabeth A. Thomas, 4, and Mary C. Thomas, 1. All the children are born in Canada, "African," and Methodist B.E. On the previous page in the Census, and clearly nearby, are Josiah Henson, 82, (Reverend Henson) and his wife Nancy Henson, 51. (With a first child of 16 at age 37, it is reasonable to assume that Elizabeth married at about 21, in about 1854.)
- Ontario, Canada Marriages for 1880 show Elizabeth Thomas and husband William Thomas as parents of Nancy Thomas, 24, b. c. 1856, of Camden, Canada, marrying Levi Christopher Harrison, 23, on 25 November 1880 in Kent Co., Ontario.
- The will of Josiah Henson "of the Gore of Camden in the county of Kent," 2 May 1883, states that his children at the time include: Julia (Henson) Wheeler, wife of William Wheeler; Peter Henson; Josiah Henson; and daughters Mrs. Clay, Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Kersey.
- Ontario, Canada Deaths for Kent Co., Ontario for 1887 shows William Thomas, 60, d. 15 February 1887 of inflammation of the bowills (sic), in Dresden; farmer, Methodist, b. in the US (in about 1827, subtracting 1887 minus 60).
- US Census for Jackson Co., MI for 1900 shows Levi Harrison, 40, b. March 1860 in MI, black male, day laborer, father b. in KY, mother b. in English Canada, can read and write, married 20 years to Nancy Harrison, 42, b. December 1857 in English Canada, black female, had 8 children of whom 7 are alive, day laborer, father b. in VA and mother b. in OH, immigrated to the US in 1882, can read and write; and children: Eva, 17, b. February 1883 in MI, Bertha, 13, b. March 1882 in Canada, Gertrude, 11, b. April 1889 in Canada, Hattie, 8, b. November 1891 in Canada, Christopher Harrison, 5, b. March 1895 in Canada, and Mary, 2, b. December 1897 in Canada.
- Canadian Census for 1901 for Dresden, Bothwell, Ontario show Elizabeth Thomas, 67, b. 13 February 1834 in Canada, "African" (black), widowed, Methodist, can read and write, head of household; with grandchildren Mable Kersy, 14, b. 18 May 1887 in Ontario, "African" (black) female, Methodist, can read and write and William Kersy, 10, "African" (black) male, b. c. 21 March 1891 in Ontario; and an apparently unrelated lodger, Harriet Lyons, 84, b. 14 February 1814 in KY, "African" (black) female, Methodist, widowed, immigrated to Canada in 1853, can read and write.
- Death Certificate for Houghton Co., MI for 1904 shows Elizabeth Thomas, d. on 16 July 1904 of dysentery, b. 15<sup>th</sup> (or 13<sup>th</sup>) February 1834 in Canada. She is a female, widow, colored, housekeeper, 70 years, 5 months and 3 days old, married at 20 (but the husband is un-named), had 11 children of whom 8 are living, her father was Josiah Henson (b. in the US) and her mother is unknown. She was buried in Dresden, Ontario, Canada on 20 July 1904 and the respondent is A. R. Richey.

- Michigan Deaths and Burials Index for 1904 shows Elizabeth Henson Thomas, 70, b. c. 1834 in Canada, d. 16 July 1904 in Houghton Co., MI, widowed, father Josiah Henson. (Elizabeth is listed as “white,” which from the available evidence is a clerical error.)
- US Census for Jackson Co., MI for 1910 shows Levi Harrison, 54, b. in English Canada, black male, on his first marriage, married 31 years, night watchman in a factory block, can read and write, father b. in KY, mother b. in English Canada, with wife Nancy Harrison (incorrectly transcribed as Hanison), 55, black female, b. in English Canada, married 31 years, on her first marriage, had 8 children of whom 7 are alive, father b. in KY, mother b. in English Canada, can read and write, with children Gertrude, 22, Iris, 15, and Mary, 11. (Note that Nancy Thomas Harrison is alive as of 1910, but will not be listed in the 1920 Census below.)
- US Census for Detroit, Wayne Co., MI for 1920 shows Levi Harrison, 65, black male, widowed, b. in MI, father and mother both b. in TX, can read and write, living as father-in-law in household of three other persons, headed by Dallas Loving, 37, black male, with wife Nancy Loving, 31, black female and daughter Bernadine Loving, 3, black female. (Note: Levi is shown as black here and as white in the death certificate immediately below. Nancy Loving is Nancy Harrison Loving, and she and daughter Bernadine are the Henson-Harrison line carriers. Since Levi is widowed at this point, that means that his wife Nancy Thomas Harrison died before this date.)
- Michigan Death Records for Detroit, Wayne Co. for 1925, shows Levi Harrison, 65 years, 2 months, 18 days old, b. 15 March 1860 in Ypsilanti, MI, d. 3 June 1925 in Detroit of pulmonary tuberculosis, widowed, white (!), stone mason, buried in Ann Arbor, MI, with deceased wife Nancy Thomas.
- Michigan Death Records for Detroit, Wayne Co. for 1937 show Marion Troy, 37, d. 21 December 1937, with husband Archin (?) Troy and parents Nancy Thomas b. in Dresden (mis-transcribed as “Sweden”) Ontario and Levi Harrison, b. in Ypsilanti, MI.
- The “Descendants of Josiah Henson” chart in Kuhns, *ibid.*, pp. 136-7, shows Nancy Thomas, daughter of Elizabeth Henson and William Thomas, marrying Levi Harrison.
- The Henson Family Tree by Lisa Johnson (see Annex B) shows Josiah Henson marrying Nancy, having a daughter Elizabeth who married William Thomas. They had a daughter Nancy Thomas who married Levi Harrison, and they had Christopher Fred Harrison. He married Emma Jackson and had Christopher Mario (Marion?) Harrison. He married Mary Elizabeth Johnson. (This line has no dates or proofs attached or referenced. It is this line that is being followed and documented here.)

**Assertion:** Nancy Thomas married on 25 November 1880 in Kent Co., Ontario to Levi C. Harrison, b. 15 March 1860 in Ypsilanti, MI and d. 3 June 1925 in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI, and had Christopher Frederick Harrison, b. 1 March 1895 (or 1898) in Kent Co., Ontario, Canada and d. after 1942, likely in Jackson, MI.

Proofs:

- Ontario, Canada Marriages for 1880, *ibid.*, showing Nancy Thomas marrying Levi Harrison.
- Ontario, Kent Co., Birth Records for 1895 show Christopher Frederick Harrison, male, b. 1 March 1895, with father Levi C. Harrison, laborer in Dresden, Ontario, and mother Nancy Thomas. (Note: some family trees and Ancestry’s transcription show Christopher’s full name as Christopher Frederick Haring Harrison. This is possible but is more likely a mis-transcription of

the crumpled edge of the birth record here, where the original shows a possible “Harring” but it seems more likely to just be the last name of “Harrison.” Possibly the “ing” is writing from the reverse of the page.)

- World War II Draft Cards for Detroit, Wayne Co., MI show Christopher Frederick Harrison, 43, b. 1 March 1898 in Jackson, MI, Negro male, 5’7”, 154 pounds, scar on right wrist, employed by Chrysler Corp., with family contact Harriet Patterson. Card dated 16 February 1942. (This is the last confirmed, correct trace of this person.)

**Assertion:** Christopher Frederick Harrison married in Detroit to Emma Jackson, b. c. 1893 in NC and d., and had Christopher Marion Harrison, b. 30 May 1921 (or 1922) in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI, d. 25 February 1964 in Grand Rapids, Kent Co., MI, who married in Detroit, MI on 15 February 1947 to Mary E. Johnson, b. 20 March 1928 in Hamtramck, MI, d. 24 April 1989 in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI. Christopher and Mary had a son, Garret L. Harrison, b. 13 September 1956, d. 13 November 2010 in Grand Rapids, MI.

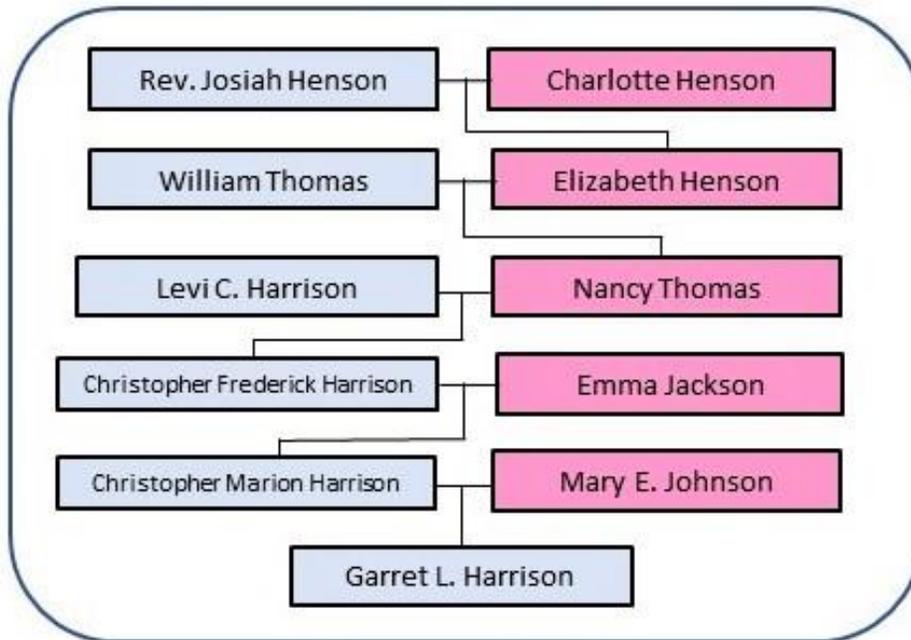
Proofs:

- Michigan Marriage Records for Detroit, Wayne Co., show Christopher N. (? M) Harrison, 25, b. c. 1922 in Detroit, black male, with parents Christopher Harrison and Emma Jackson, marrying in Detroit on 15 February 1947 to Mary E. Johnson, 18, b. c. 1929 in Hamtramck, MI, black female, with father Daniel Johnson and mother Emma Talley.
- World War I Draft Cards show Christopher Harrison, 21, b. 1 March 1896 in MI, single, resident of Detroit, MI as of 4 June 1917.
- Michigan Marriage Records for 1918 show Frederick Harrison, 22, b. c. 1896 in MI, black, conductor, with father Line (? Levi) Harrison and mother “ary” (? Could be Mary or Nancy) Thomas, marrying in Detroit on 19 July 1918 to Emma Jackson, 19, b. in NC, black, nurse, with father Charles Jackson and mother “arina” (?) Evans. No previous marriage for either Frederick or Emma. (**NOTE:** because the name “Christopher” does not appear for the groom, and his parent’s names are questionable, this document alone is not sufficient proof of the marriage of the correct couple.)
- Michigan Death Records for Detroit, Wayne Co., MI for 1918 show Chris Harrison and Emma Jackson Harrison as the parents of Richard Frederick Harrison, male, age 0, black, d. 29 October 1918.
- US Census for Detroit, Wayne Co., MI for 1920 shows Christopher Harrison, 24, b. in MI, black male, molder in a factory, both parents b. in MI; married to Emma Harrison, 27, b. in NC, black female, father b. in US and mother b. in NY.
- World War II Draft Cards show Christopher M. Harrison, Jr., 20, b. 30 May 1921 in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI, black male, unemployed, scar on left wrist, with family contact Christopher M. Harrison, Sr., at their same residence of 955 Tenn. St.
- Michigan Death Records for Detroit, Wayne Co. for 1931 show Emma Harrison, 28 years, 5 months, 12 days old, b. 28 December 1902 in Winston-Salem, NC, d. 9 June 1931 in Detroit, of pulmonary tuberculosis, colored female, married, with husband Christopher Harrison, father Wallace Jackson, b. in York Co., SC and mother Hannah Evans, b. in KY. (Note: this record

matches fairly well with the 1918 marriage record above, and hence is almost certainly the correct person.)

- Find-a-Grave shows Christopher M. Harrison, b. 30 May 1922, d. 25 February 1964 in Grand Rapids, Kent Co., MI, buried in Oak Hill Cemetery. Grave marker shows he was a Corporal in the 316 Base Unit, AAF (Army Air Force) in WW II.
- US Public Records Index shows Garret L. Harrison, b. 1956, residing in Grand Rapids, MI in 1992.
- Find-a-Grave shows Mary E. Harrison, b. 20 March 1928, d. 24 April 1989, buried in Oakhill Cemetery, Grand Rapids, MI.
- Michigan Death Records show Mary E. Harrison, b. 20 March 1928, d. 24 April 1989, resident of and died in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI.
- US Social Security Death Index shows Garret L. Harrison, b. 13 September 1956, d. 13 November 2010.
- Ivy K. Gillespie Memorial Chapel in Grand Rapids, MI, website shows Garret L. Harrison, b. 13 September 1956, d. 13 November 2010 in Grand Rapids, and includes photo of him. See: <https://ikgillespie.com/book-of-memories/606173/Garret-Harrison/obituary.php>. (Note: no children of Garret L. Harrison could be identified.)

The graphic below summarizes this line.



### A Descent from Josiah Henson via Elizabeth Henson Thomas to the Dixon Family

This section documents another descent from Rev. Josiah Henson via his daughter Elizabeth. Only a few elements of this line are shown on the NCPPP chart and its handwritten notes cited earlier, where this line stops in 1855. Here the line is extended and proven for 150 years further.

**Assertion:** Reverend Josiah Henson and his wife Charlotte Stevenson Henson had a daughter Elizabeth Henson, b. February 1834 in Canada, and d. 16 July 1904 in Flint, MI. In about 1854 she married William Thomas, b. 1821-7 in VA and d. 15 February 1887, Dresden, Kent Co., Ontario. They had children, among others Julia Ann Thomas, b. 27 July 1853 in Dresden, Ontario, Canada, d. 25 January 1912 in Flint, MI.

Proofs:

- Canadian Census for 1871 for Camden, Bothwell, Ontario shows Elizabeth Thomas, 37, b. c. 1834 in Ontario, “African” female, Methodist, married to William Thomas, 44, b. c. 1827, in the US, “African” male, Methodist, engineer; with children: Julia Anne Thomas, 16, (hence b. c. 1855), Nancy Thomas, 14, Jane Thomas, 13, William Henson Thomas, 10, “Oliv” (Olive) Thomas, 9, Mardsellia Thomas, 6, Elizabeth A. Thomas, 4, and Mary C. Thomas, 1. All the children are born in Canada, “African,” and Methodist B.E. On the previous page in the Census, and clearly nearby, are Josiah Henson, 82, (Reverend Henson) and his wife Nancy Henson, 51. (With a first child of 16 at age 37, it is reasonable to assume that Elizabeth married at about 21, in about 1854. Note that the 1891 Census shows Elizabeth Thomas, widowed, at age 57, hence Thomas is deceased by then.)
- Canadian Census for 1901 for Dresden, Bothwell, Ontario shows Elizabeth Thomas, 67, b. 13 February 1834 in Canada, “African” (black), widowed, Methodist, can read and write, head of household; with grandchildren Mable Kersy, 14, b. 18 May 1887 in Ontario, “African” (black) female, Methodist, can read and write and William Kersy, 10, “African” (black) male, b. c. 21 March 1891 in Ontario; and an apparently unrelated lodger, Harriet Lyons, 84, b. 14 February 1814 in KY, “African” (black) female, Methodist, widowed, immigrated to Canada in 1853, can read and write.
- The will of Josiah Henson “of the Gore of Camden in the county of Kent,” 2 May 1883, states that his children at the time include: Julia (Henson) Wheeler, wife of William Wheeler; Peter Henson; Josiah Henson; and daughters Mrs. Clay, Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Kersey.
- Death Certificate for Houghton Co., MI for 1904 shows Elizabeth Thomas d. on 16 July 1904 of dysentery, b. 15<sup>th</sup> (or 13<sup>th</sup>) February 1834 in Canada. She is a female, widow, colored, housekeeper, 70 years, 5 months and 3 days old, married at 20 (but the husband is un-named), had 11 children of whom 8 are living, her father was Josiah Henson (b. in the US) and her mother is unknown. She was buried in Dresden, Ontario, Canada on 20 July 1904 and the respondent is A. R. Richey.
- Michigan Deaths and Burials Index shows Elizabeth Henson Thomas, 70, b. c. 1834 in Canada, d. 16 July 1904 in Houghton Co., MI, widowed, father Josiah Henson. Elizabeth is listed as “white.” (Note that this may be a clerical error, or it may be that persons in this line from here on down are sometimes able to register as white on various documents.)
- Ontario, Canada Deaths for Kent Co., Ontario shows William Thomas, 60, d. 15 February 1887 of inflammation of the bowills (sic), in Dresden; farmer, Methodist, b. in the US (in about 1827, subtracting 1887 minus 60).
- Michigan Death Records for Flint, Genesee Co., MI show Julia Anne Lawson, female, colored, widowed, b. 27 July 1853 in Dresden, Ontario, Canada, d. 25 January 1912 in Flint, MI; father is William Thomas, b. in KY, mother is Eliza Henson, b. in Canada; informant is Anthony A. Kersey of Flint, MI.

**Assertion:** Julia Ann Thomas married before 1876, likely in Ontario, to Adam Alexander Lawson, b. 4 May 1846 in Brockville, Ontario, d. 28 May 1829 in Parry Sound, Ontario, and had Willa Enna Lawson, b. 1872 in Parry Sound, Ontario, d. 1968 in Toronto, Ontario.

Proofs:

- Ontario, Canada Marriages for 1892 show Julia Ann Lawson and Adam Alex Lawson as parents of Willa Enna Lawson, 17, b. c. 1875 in Parry Sound, Ontario, Methodist; Willa Enna Lawson is marrying on 1 November 1892 in Simcoe, Ontario to Walter Samuel Dixon, 25, b. c. 1867 in Wellington, CT, Ontario, bachelor, sailor, Methodist, with parents Christopher Dixon and Jane Dixon.
- Canada Census for Ontario, Parry Sound for 1891 shows Adam Lawson, 46, (hence b. c. 1845), married, head of household, b. in Ontario but both parents b. in Ireland (!), lighthousekeeper (!); Julia Lawson, 44, (hence b. c. 1847), wife of head of household, father b. in Ontario and mother b. in the US; Willa Lawson, 14, “male son” of head of household (clerical error); Robert Lawson, 15, son. All household members are born in Ontario, and all are “C. Meth” religion. Willa and Robert have both parents b. in Ontario. (Note that Adam Lawson, with Irish parents, is very likely white, and hence descendants in this line are likely of mixed race ancestry and sometimes register as white or “Irish” on various documents.) (Note also that no marriage certificate and date for Adam and Julia could be found; but subtracting the age of Robert (15) from this Census date of 1891 yields an estimate of a marriage before 1876. That would make Julia 29 or younger at her marriage year, a reasonable estimate.
- Canadian Civil Servants List for 1886 shows Adam Alexander Lawson, Lighthouse Keeper (!) at Parry Sound, Ontario, salary of \$450, “date thereof” (apparently date appointed to rank of light keeper): 1 November 1881, date of birth 4 May 1846, date of first appointment: 1 November 1881.
- Ontario, Canada Deaths for 1929 shows Adam Lawson, 84, (hence b. c. 1845), b. in Brockville, Ontario, racial origin: Irish, married, d. 28 May 1929 in the House of Refuge, Parry Sound, Ontario, of cerebritis, laborer; father: Alexander Lawson, b. in Dublin, Ireland, mother: Sarah Maxwell, b. in Ireland.
- Canada Voters Lists for 1949 show Mrs. Wila Dixon, (sic) housewife, apparently living alone in Broadview, Ontario.
- Find-a-Grave photo of tombstone of “Willa Dixon, 1872-1968 and her daughter Ethel Maughan, 1902-1978;” submitted by d\_boyd 1, from Prospect Cemetery, Toronto, Canada.

**Assertion:** Willa Enna Lawson married on 1 November 1892 in Simcoe, Ontario to Walter Samuel Dixon, b. c. 1867 in Wellington County, Ontario, d. 15 February 1913 at Carling Township on Georgian Bay; and had various children including twins: Geraldine Rose Dixon, b. 4 June 1911 in Toronto, Canada, , d. 4 January 1912 in Parry Sound, Ontario; and Gerald Rosare Dixon, b. 4 June 1911 in Toronto, Canada, death date unknown.

Proofs:

- Ontario, Canada Marriages for 1 November 1892, *ibid.*, showing Willa Enna Lawson marrying Walter Samuel Dixon.

- US Border Crossings from Canada for the Port of Detroit for 24 August 1908 show Willa Dixon, 38, (hence b. c. 1870) of Parry Sound, Ontario, female, widowed, laborer, 4'10", of "Irish race or people," with good health, able to read and write, never in prison, not deformed, not a polygamist (!), and not an anarchist (!). Last permanent address is Amherstburg (?), Ontario, and father is shown as Thomas (?) Dixon, Parry Sound, Ontario. Apparently travelling with her as a family is: Mary Dixon, 12, Violet Dixon, 10, Ethel Dixon, 5, Henry Dixon, 4, Delbert Dixon, 2, and Willa Dixon, 2 months.
- US Border Crossings from Canada for Buffalo, NY show Willa Enna Dixon, 46, (hence b. c. 1877), female, practical nurse, resident of Toronto, Canada, nationality: Canadian, race: English; crossing on 24 December 1923, father Adam Lawson of Parry Sound, Ontario, complexion: fair (!); eyes: gray; 5'0".
- Canada Census for Toronto East, Ontario for 1921 shows Willa Dixon, 44, widowed, living in 5 room stone/brick structure rented for \$35/month, b. in Canada, char woman (?), income \$120 last year, unemployed 40 weeks; Gerald Dixon, 15, b. c. 1906, son; Delbert Dixon, 13, son, and Henry Dixon, 19, son. All were b. in Canada with their parents b. in Canada, and all are Canadian nationals. All are also Methodists. All except Gerald can read and write; he can read but not write.
- Ontario, Canada Births for Parry Sound for 1904 shows Violet Dixon declaring on 7 July 1931 that she is the sister of Henry Edward Francis Dixon, is six years his senior, was present at his birth on 11 February 1904, and that their common parents were Walter Dixon, fisherman, and Willa Lawson.
- Ontario, Canada Deaths for 1913 for Parry Sound, Ontario shows Walter Samuel Dixon, 46, male, fisherman, married, d. 15 February 1913 at Carling Township on Georgian Bay, of burning, b. c. 1867 in Wellington County, Ontario. Father was Christopher Dixon and mother was Jane Taylor. Informant is Joseph Dixon.
- New York State Census for Kings Co., Brooklyn for 1925 shows Willa Dixon, 48, (hence b. c. 1877), white female, housekeeper, b. in Canada, alien, lived 2 years in the US, head of household, apparently running a large boarding house with various unrelated lodgers, and son Delbert Dixon, 17, white male, painter, b. in Canada, alien, 2 years living in the US, all living at 155 Herkimer (?) Street.
- Honolulu, Hawaii Passenger and Crew Lists show Gerald G. (? Letter unreadable) Dixon, 23 (hence b. c. 1911), single male, b. in Canada, Canadian citizen, lived in Canada before coming to the US, last arrival in the US in 1934 in Honolulu, "race or people: Irish," chauffeur, able to read and write; sailing on 29 November 1934 from Honolulu, T.H. (Territory of Hawaii) on the *Empress of Japan*, bound for Victoria and Vancouver, Canada. This list is for passengers, not crew, hence Dixon is a passenger.
- Ontario, Canada Marriages for 1936 show Willa Lawson and Walter Dixon (b. in Parry Sound, Ontario) as the parents of Ethel Lillian Dixon, 32, divorcee, b. in Parry Sound, Ontario, who is marrying in Toronto on 26 March 1936 to John Watson Maughan, 38, bachelor, laborer, b. in Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, with parents George Maughan and Mary Watson. The bride and groom can both read and write.

- Ontario, Canada Births for York Co., Toronto for 1911 show two side-by-side birth certificates, for Geraldine Rose Dixon and Gerald Rosare Dixon, both b. 4 June 1911, b. with parents Walter Dixon, sailor, and mother Willa Lawson. Parents married in Midland (?) in 1892. Each child marked as “Twin.”
- Find-a-Grave shows Geraldine Rose Dixon, d. 4 January 1912, “daughter of Walter & Willa Dixon,” buried at Hillcrest Cemetery in Parry Sound, Ontario. Photo of gravestone is provided (see photo here).
- Ontario, Canada, Toronto Trust Cemeteries, Prospect Cemetery, shows Geraldine Dixon, 6, b. c. 1912 in Canada, d. 23 October 1918 in Toronto of pneumonia, ground owner Albert Dixon. (**Note:** this is apparently a different person from the Geraldine Rose Dixon shown immediately above.)
- **Assertion:** Gerald Rosair Dixon married on 11 September 1934 in Toronto, Ontario to Mae Eva Frances Burleigh, b. 27 April 1915 in Naples, NY, d. 2 December 1999 in Toronto, Ontario. The couple had children Gerald Rosare Dixon, Jr., b. c. 1937, d. 3 July 2003 in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and Roy Ronald Dixon, b. c. 1941, d. c. 1999 in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada. Roy Ronald Dixon married Anita Rohrer, b. 1937, apparently still alive in 2020.

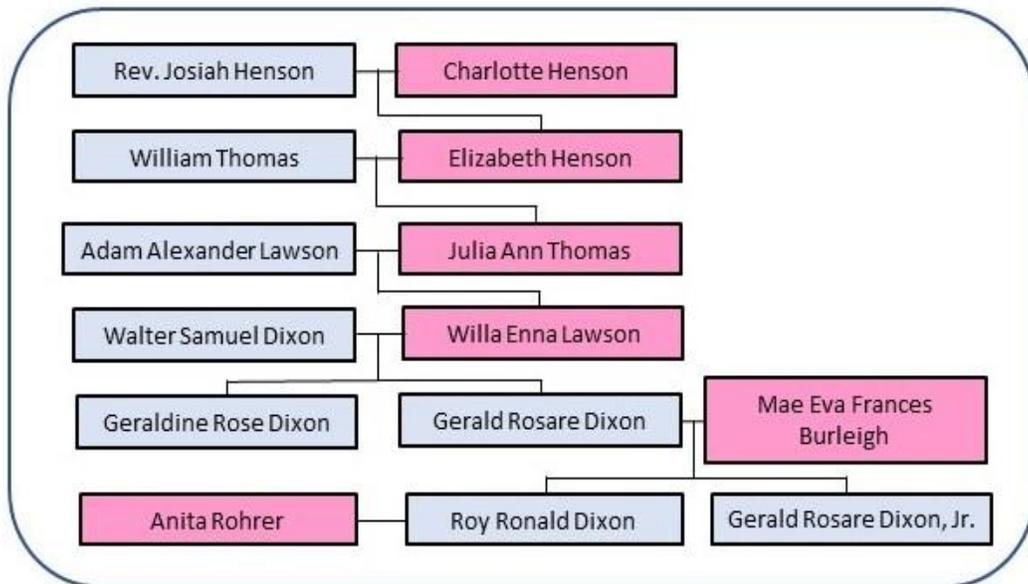


#### Proofs:

- US Border Crossings from Canada to US for Port of Niagara Falls, NY for 21 June 1933 shows Gerald R. Dixon, 22, (hence b. c. 1911) laborer, b. in Toronto, Canada, 5' 6.5," medium complexion, grey eyes, brown hair; sister is Mrs. Wainwright in Toronto. Mother is Mrs. W. E. Dixon [Willa Enna Dixon] of Brooklyn, NY. Gerald is being rejected (!) for admission by Canadian authorities and forced to return to the US. Explanation is: “Claims to have entered at Upper Bridge in April telling the Inspector he was only going to look at the Falls for an hour, then after four hours changed his mind and hitchhiked to Brooklyn to see his mother. Has been doing odd jobs since.”
- Ontario Canada Marriages for Toronto for 1934 shows Gerald Rosair Dixon, 23, bachelor, waiter, Methodist, b. in Toronto, Ontario, with parents Walter Dixon and Willa Lawson; marrying on 11 September 1934 in Toronto to Mae Eva Frances Burleigh, 19, spinster, factory worker, Baptist, with parents Roy Burleigh and Anne Dean.
- New York State Birth Index shows Eva M. F. Burley, b. 27 April 1915 in Naples, NY.
- Obituary Daily Times Index shows Eva Dixon, d. 2 December 1999 in Toronto, ON.
- Obituary Daily Times Index shows Gerald R. Dixon, [Jr.] 66, b. c. 1937, d. 3 July 2003 in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.
- Canadian Phone and Address Index shows Roy Dixon living in Oshawa, Ontario in 1997.
- Obituary Daily Times Index shows Ronald Roy Dixon, 58, b. c. 1941, d. c. 1999 in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada.
- Find-a-Grave shows R. Ronald Dixon, b. 1940, d. 1999, buried in Mt. Lawn Memorial Gardens, Durham Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada. Grave photo shows R. Ronald Dixon on the same tablet as Anita Rohrer, b. 1937, no d. date.

- *The Ottawa Journal*, 1 June 1962, Marriage Notices, p. 25, shows Claude Gerald Dixon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Dixon of Ottawa, marrying Victoria Margaret Ploeg, daughter of “W O 1” (Warrant Officer 1<sup>st</sup> class?) and Mrs. W. C. H. Ploeg of Fredericton, New Brunswick, on 20 June 1962 in Church of St. Thomas the Apostle in Ottawa. (Note that it is not certain that Claude is the son of the correct Gerald Dixon, but it appears likely.)
- An obituary for Roy Augustus Dixon, b. 19 January 1941, d. 26 May 2017 in Oshawa, Ontario suggests that he may be a brother of Roy Donald Dixon and Gerald Rosair Dixon, above. The obituary states that his brother’s “Gilbert and Ronald” pre-deceased him, and lists other siblings, and various children, grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Unfortunately, it was not possible to prove the needed linkage with the on-line sources available. See: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/oshawa-on/roy-dixon-7428013>

The graphic below summarizes the line above. Because Claude Gerald Dixon and Roy Augustus Dixon, immediately above, are possible but not proven, they will not be included in the graphic.



## A Descent from Reverend Josiah Henson via Isaac Henson to Harold Henson

This section documents another descent from Rev. Josiah Henson, this time via son Isaac Henson, who was on the escape to Canada. Here we will see that the persons in the line return to the US, and eventually end up in New York City. This line is also partially inspired by the NCPPP chart and its handwritten notes cited earlier, but documents that line in more depth, and extends it somewhat.

**Assertion:** Rev. Josiah Henson and his wife Charlotte had a son Isaac Henson, who married Harriet Akey, (or Akay or Ray), b. 1839 in MI, d. aft. 1871, and had a son “Willis” William Moxley Henson, b. 5 April

1859 in Canada, d. 1 August 1913 in Detroit; and another son Isaac C. Henson, b. c. 1870 in Canada, d. aft. 1924, probably in NJ.

Proofs:

- For evidence on Rev. Henson, wife Charlotte, and son Isaac, see the earlier discussion.
- Michigan Death Records for Detroit, Wayne Co., show "Willis" Morley Henson, 54, colored married male, b. 5 April 1859 in Canada, d. 1 August 1913 in Detroit of a cerebral hemorrhage, waiter, father is Isaac Henson, b. in KY, and mother is Harriet Aray (sic?), b. in MI. Respondent is Sarah Henson of Detroit.
- Brock, *ibid.*, p. 87, who estimates that Isaac Henson was 10 during the escape from Canada, hence was born in Maryland in 1820.
- Rev. Josiah Henson, *ibid.*, says that "Isaac, my second son, was a clever and godly lad. He was educated in a school in London for many years through the kindness of my London friends. He married, was ordained as a Wesleyan minister, and preached for about fifteen years. He died when only thirty-seven, and was universally beloved."
- Canadian Census for Camden and Gore, Ontario for 1861 shows Isaac J. Henson, owning 20 acres, none of which were under cultivation. (This is an agricultural census, with no demographic information. This may be the correct Isaac, although if "our" Isaac was in fact born in 1820 and died at age 37, then he should be dead by 1857 and should not appear in this 1861 Census. He could have perhaps been born a few years later, or Rev. Henson number of "37" could be off by a bit. Peter Henson appears on the same Census page.)
- Michigan Marriage Records show Isaac C. Henson, 54, b. c. 1870 in Canada, black male, watchman, one previous marriage, with parents Isaac Henson and Harriet Ray (sic?) marrying in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI on 10 March 1924 to Grace Tribble, 42, black female, b. in IN, no previous marriage.
- Michigan Marriage Records, Saginaw Co., show Isaac C. Henson, 21, b. c. 1861 in Canada, mulatto male, laborer, marrying in Saginaw, MI on 28 August 1882 to Clara L. Brown, 33, mulatto female, b. in MI. (Race listed as "white" on the Ancestry.com transcript, but clearly "M" for mulatto on the original document.)
- FamilySearch.org Canadian Census for 1871 for Camden, Bothwell, Ontario shows William Henson, 15 (or 13) (hence b. c. 1856), "African" male, b. in Ontario, Church of England. Also in the household are James Akay, 66, b. in the US, Church of England, "Dutch," farmer, Harriet Scott, 32, b. c. 1839 in the US, Church of England, "Dutch;" and Charles Henson, 9, b. in Ontario, Church of England, "African." (Note: it seems very likely that this "Harriet Scott" is Harriet Akay Henson, living with her father James Akay, who has remarried a Mr. Scott after the death of Isaac Henson, and that the two children here (William and Charles) are the sons of Harriet Akay Henson and Isaac Henson. This implies that Harriet lived past 1871 and was using the last name Scott after that date. A search for Mr. Scott and for the remarriage or death of Harriet Scott was undertaken, and various possibilities identified, but no probables.)
- The "Descendants of Josiah Henson" chart in Kuhns, *ibid.*, pp. 136-7, shows Isaac Henson, b. 1825 in Montgomery Co., MD, married to Harriet Akey, b. 1839, d. possibly 1876, with son William Moxley Henson, b. 1858.

**Assertion:** William “Willis” Moxley Henson, b. 5 April 1859 in Canada d. 1 August 1913 in Detroit, married on 21 November 1883 in St. Clair Co., MI to Sarah E. Hatfield, b. c. 1859 in Ontario and had a son Harold Hatfield Henson, b. 5 November 1890 in MI, d. aft. 1940, probably in NYC.

Proofs:

- Michigan Marriage Records show William M. Henson, 25, resident in Detroit, MI, b. in Ontario, cook, marrying on 21 November 1883 in St. Clair Co., MI to Sarah E. Hatfield, 24, resident in East Saginaw, MI, b. in Ontario. (**NOTE:** the record here shows both parties as “white” (and everyone on the page is so marked), but given the Census information and other data that match, it seems reasonable to assume that this was a clerical error.)
- US Census for Detroit, Wayne Co., MI for 1910 shows William Henson, 52, b. in Canada, mulatto male, married for 26 years, father b. in KY, mother b. in MI, waiter with a caterer, able to read and write, house renter; wife Sarah E. Henson, 51, b. in Canada (but American citizen), mulatto female, married for 26 years, one child born and one child alive, both parents b. in PA, able to read and write. Other members of the household are son Harold Henson, 19, b. in MI, mulatto male, parents both b. in Canada, musician in an orchestra, able to read and write.
- Michigan Death Records for Detroit, Wayne Co., show “Willis” Morley Henson, 54, colored married male, b. 5 April 1859 in Canada d. 1 August 1913 in Detroit of a cerebral hemorrhage, waiter, father is Isaac Henson, b. in KY, and mother is Harriet Aray (sic?), b. in MI. Respondent is Sarah Henson of Detroit.
- WW II Draft Registration Cards show Harold Hatfield Henson, 51, b. 5 November 1890 in MI, Negro male, 5’ 8”, 160 pounds, unemployed musician, contact person Bessie L. Henson. Card dated 27 April 1942.

**Assertion:** Harold Hatfield Henson married Bessie Logan, b. c. 1895 in KY, d. aft. 1940, and had a son Harold Eugene Henson, b. 24 October 1915 in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI, d. 6 October 1992 in Teaneck, NJ.

Proofs:

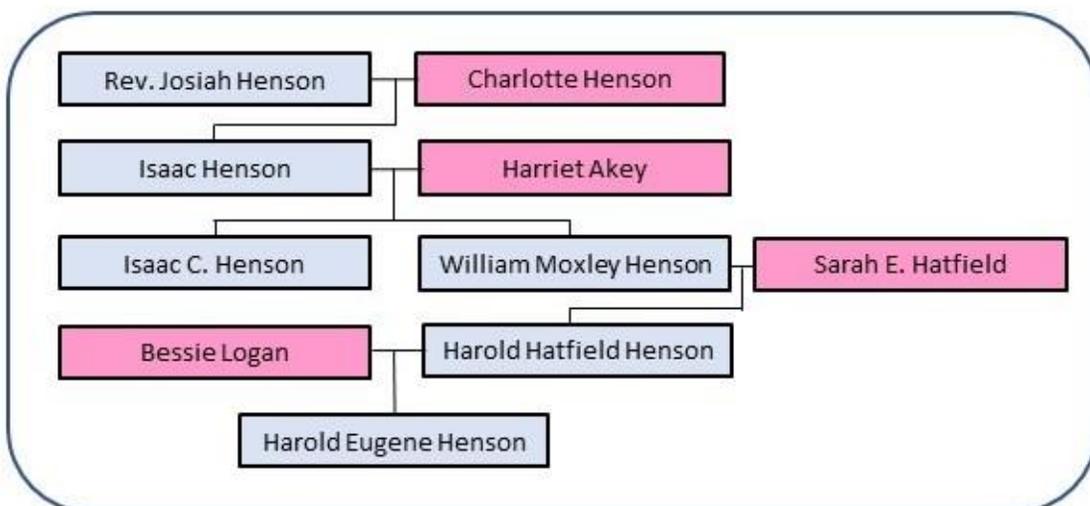
- Michigan Marriage Records show Harold Henson, 24, resident of Detroit, b. in MI, musician, father is William Henson, mother is Sarah (? partly legible) Hatfield; marrying on 15 January 1915 in Detroit to Bessie Logan, 20, b. in KY, (her parents’ names not provided). Both parties marked as white by ditto marks (everyone on the page is marked that way), but from all the other information present it is clear that this is the correct black couple). No previous marriage for either partner. One witness is Sarah Henson.
- US Census for Detroit, Wayne Co., MI for 1920 shows Harold Henson, 29, b. in MI, mulatto male, married, both parents b. in Canada, musician in an orchestra, able to read and write; wife Bessie Henson, 25, b. in KY mulatto female, married, both parents b. in KY. Other members of the household are son Harold Henson, 1 and 1/12 (or 4 and 1/12), b. in MI, mulatto male, father b. in MI and mother b. in KY; Sarah Henson, 59, mother (of Harold Henson, 29), mulatto female, widow, immigrated to the US in 1885, papers for citizenship submitted, able to read and write, b. in Canada with both parents b. in Canada.
- US Census for NYC for 1940 shows Harold Henson, 48, b. in MI, Negro male, 3<sup>rd</sup> year of high school education, resided in NYC in 1935, 26 weeks duration of unemployment, seeking work, worked 28 weeks in 1939, income \$602 in last year, musician in an orchestra. Wife Bessie

Henson is 44, Negro female, b. in KY, 4<sup>th</sup> year of high school, resided in NYC in 1935, not seeking work, no income last year. Son is Harold Henson, 24, b. in MI, Negro male, single, 3<sup>rd</sup> year of high school education, resided in NYC in 1935, motion picture operator, industry: "N. Y. A. Project" (sic? likely National Youth Administration, an FDR New Deal program), in govt. work, worked 52 weeks in 1939, \$264 in income in last year. Mother is Sarah Henson, 80, widow, b. in French Canada, 5<sup>th</sup> grade education, citizenship is "having first papers" (sic?), resided in NYC in 1935, not seeking work, no income last year.

- US Social Security Applications and Claims Index shows Harold Eugene Henson, male, black, b. 24 October 1915 in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI, d. 6 October 1992, with parents Harold Henson and Bessie Logan.
- US Social Security Death Index show Harold Henson, gives SS number, b. 24 October 1915, d. 6 October 1992, last residence Teaneck, Bergen Co., NJ.
- Find-a-Grave shows Harold E. Henson, b. 24 October 1915, d. 6 October 1992, buried in Brig. Gen. William Doyle Veterans Cemetery, Arnetown, Burlington Co., NJ. Photo of marker provided on the site.
- US WW II Draft Cards shows Harold Eugene Henson, 24, Negro male, 5'6", 206 pounds, b. 24 October 1915 in Detroit, MI, registered on 16 October 1940 in NYC, employed by Harlem Tuberculosis and Health Asso., next of kin: mother Mrs. Bessie Logan Henson.
- US Dept. of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File shows Harold Henson, b. 24 October 1915, d. 6 October 1992, served in the US Army 28 March 1941 to 12 December 1945.



The graphic below summarizes the line above.



## A New Descent from Rev. Josiah Henson via son Josiah to the Hicks Family

This section lays out a documented descent from Rev. Josiah Henson to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It appears that this complete line has not been discovered or presented before, and that there may be modern, living descendants of this line who are not aware that they are descendants of Reverend Josiah Henson.

**Assertion:** Reverend Josiah Henson was born 15 June 1789 in Charles Co., MD to enslaved parents. (As noted previously, this date is more likely in the late 1790s.) He married first to a slave, Charlotte (no last name, or last name of Stevenson) about 1820-1 in Montgomery Co., MD and she died c. October 1852 in Ontario, Canada, having had at least twelve children, about eight of whom survived. Josiah married second to Mrs. Nancy Ridgely Gambriel (or Gamble), a free black widow; she was b. about 1819 in the USA and d. 11 November 1888 in Camden and Gore, Kent Co., Ontario, Canada. Josiah d. 5 May 1883 in Dresden, Ontario, Canada.



Reverend Josiah Henson and second wife Nancy Gamble or Gambriel

### Proofs:

- *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. XI documents the above assertions, except for the birth and death of Nancy Gamble. See: [http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/henson\\_josiah\\_11E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/henson_josiah_11E.html)
- Troiano, (ibid., p. 108, 159, 160) states that Josiah married Charlotte (no last name) c. 1820, when he was 22, and she was enslaved on a nearby plantation. Troiano also states that Charlotte Henson died c. October 1852, after an illness of several weeks, and that Josiah then married Nancy Gamble c. 1856.
- Ontario, Canada Deaths and Deaths Overseas, for Kent Co., Ontario shows Nancy Henson, 69, widow (hence b. c. 1819), Methodist Episcopal, d. 11 November 1888 in Camden and Gore.
- Find-a-Grave states that the full name of Nancy Henson was Nancy Ridgely Burford Gambrel Henson, but does provide proofs for these details.
- Missouri Marriage Records, 1805-2002, show Josiah Henson marrying Mrs. Nancy Burford, both of Iron County, Missouri on 6 November 1865. (**NOTE:** it is not clear if this is correct couple, especially since the location is far from Canada, but it seems possible, and partly supports the Find-a-Grave assertion. This date contradicts Troiano's date for the marriage of 1856, above; it also contradicts Troiano's statement that the couple "were married by a bishop in Boston" (ibid., p. 110.))
- Canadian Census for 1871 for Ontario, Bothwell, Camden shows Josiah Henson, 82, b. in the US, religion Methodist B. E. [British Episcopal], "African" [black], farmer, married, able to read and write, with Nancy Henson, 51, also b. in the US, religion Methodist B. E. [British Episcopal], "African" [black], farmer, married, able to read and write. In the same household are John Henson, 86, with all the same entries except he is marked as "over 20 and unable to read and write," Lucinda Titus, 30; Elizabeth Titus; Matilda Titus, 7; and Thomas Henson, 17. In the next household visited (likely next door) is Peter and Elizabeth Henson and their children, all from the US. (Note that the Thomas Henson shown here is not the son of Reverend Henson, since he is too young, and son Tom had disappeared in California or in the Civil War by this date.)

- Canadian Census for 1881 for Ontario, Bothwell, Camden shows Josiah Henson, 92, b. in the US, religion M. E. [Methodist Episcopal], "African" [black], farmer, married, able to read and write, with Nancy Henson, 61, also b. in the US, religion M. E. [Methodist Episcopal], "African" [black], farmer, married, able to read and write. Also in the household are Peter, 35 and Josiah, 45 (hence b. c. 1836).
- City and Area Directories list, for Ontario, Kent Co. Directory, Village of Dresden, 1880, shows Josiah Henson, farmer, (col'd), res. s.w. part of village.
- Find-a-Grave shows Rev. Josiah Henson, b. 15 June 1789 in Charles Co., MD, d. 5 May 1883 in Dresden, Chatham-Kent Co., Ontario, Canada, with picture of large tombstone.
- *Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography* shows Josiah Henson, b. 15 June 1787 in Port Tobacco, Charles Co., MD, d. in Dresden, Kent Co., Ontario in 1881 (sic but incorrect).
- US and Canada Passenger and Immigration Lists Index shows Josiah Henson, 82, b. c. 1789, arriving in Ontario in 1871.

Note from the proof above that Nancy Gamble was about 37 when she married Josiah Henson in c. 1856 (1856-1819 = 37). Although she perhaps could have had children at that age, she apparently did not. All the children of Josiah found in this analysis were born before the death of Charlotte Stevenson Henson in 1852, and all were her children.

**Assertion:** Reverend Josiah Henson and "Lattie" (Charlotte, or "Lottie") Henson had a son Josiah M. Henson, b. 1827-9 in Daviess Co., KY, d. 15 May 1891 in Adrian, Lenawee, MI (gored by a bull!); he married Mary Butler about 1850-2 in OH, she was b. prob. January 1833 in Ontario, Canada and d. 9 May 1903 in Columbus, OH.

Proofs:

- The last will and testament of Rev. Josiah Henson, dated 2 May 1883, made in Gore, Camden, Kent Co., Ontario, Canada, states that he gives "to my son Josiah Henson one hundred dollars in cash." (Typescript version of will, available at: <http://hensonnevelsfamily.com/2012/08/15/last-will-and-testament-of-josiah-henson/>.)
- Josiah Henson, *The Life of Josiah Henson*, *ibid.*, pp. 27, that "when I was about twenty-two years of age, I married a very efficient, and for a slave, a very well-taught girl, belonging to a neighboring family, reputed to be pious and kind, whom I first met at the chapel I attended; and during nearly forty years that have since elapsed, I have had no reason to regret the connection, but many, to rejoice in it, and be grateful for it. She has borne me twelve children, eight of whom survive, and promise to be the comfort of my declining years." His autobiography does not mention the names of his wife or children, except Tom, "my eldest boy" who (unusually) was taught to "read fluently and well" at the age of twelve (*ibid.*, pp. 79-82). Josiah states (*ibid.*, p. 74) that during his escape with wife and family to freedom he arrived in Canada "on the morning of 28<sup>th</sup> of October, 1830." Hence his children born after that date were born in Canada.
- Michigan Death Records, shows Josiah Henson, b. 1829 in KY, d. 15 May 1891 in Adrian, Lenawee, MI, with parents Josiah Henson and Lattie Henson. (**NOTE:** this record shows Josiah Henson (junior) dying in 1891 at age 62, but records his race as "white." Given the other evidence available, e.g. the correct names of the parents, and the evidence that the correct Josiah Henson was resident in Adrian, it seems clear that this Josiah was in fact the son of Rev.

Josiah Henson, and this “white” statement is a clerical error, or perhaps Josiah Henson (junior) was passing as white. Also see the newspaper obituary at the end of this section.)

- Find-a-Grave for Josiah M. Henson, shows him buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Adrian, Lenawee Co., MI in block 23, lot 41. The entry states b. 1828 in Owensboro, Daviess Co., KY, d. 15 May 1891 in Adrian, Lenawee Co., MI, and also states: “Third son of Josiah Henson and wife Charlotte. Husband of Mary Jane Butler, father of Francis Greenburg [Henson] and William Austin Henson.” **NOTE**, however that there is no headstone pictured, only a lot, and it is not clear where this information came from. Find-a-Grave shows a similar entry for wife Mary Jane Butler in the same cemetery and lot, b. January 1833 in Ontario, Canada, d. 9 May 1903 in Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio.
- *Adrian, Michigan Weekly Times and Expositor*, May 1?, 1891, gives a description of the death of Josiah M. Henson, and states that he was the son of Reverend Josiah Henson of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* fame. See the full account at the end of these bullet points.
- The US Census for 1860 for Jackson Ward 3, Jackson, MI shows Josiah Henson, age 30, b. abt. 1830 in Canada (?), black, a whitewasher, with a household including Mary J. Henson, 26, also b. in Canada.
- The US Census for 1870 for Adrian, Ward 3, Lenawee, MI shows Josiah Henson, age 42, b. abt. 1828 in Virginia (?), black male, a whitewasher, with a household including Mary Henson, 37, black female b. in Canada, Frank [probably Francis] Henson, 6, black male, b. in GA or LA (?), and Myra Butler, 16, black female, servant.
- The Canadian Census for 1881 for Dresden, Bothwell, Ontario transcription shows Josiah M. Henson, age 52, b. 1829 in the USA, “African (Black)” male, BMEC (British Methodist Episcopal Church) religion, farmer, with household of Mary Jane Henson, 48, Francis G. Henson, 18, and William A. Henson, 7 [?; the document is very faint and the transcription may be erroneous]. **NOTE:** This document seems to double count Josiah Henson, Jr., in that he shows up here and on a different page in the same year, as a 45 year old, beside brother Peter. (This page was described in the previous group of proofs.) The Census takers for each page were different people, and the surveys were possibly done on different days of the two separate households (one headed by Josiah Sr. and one by Josiah, Jr.). So it seems likely that in questioning the occupants, an inadvertent error was made.
- The City Directory for Adrian, MI for 1870 shows Josiah M. Henson (col.) [colored], Mason, “res. w.s. Charles” (likely residence on the west side of Charles street).
- The City Directory for Columbus, OH for 1901 shows Mary J. Henson, widow of Josiah M. Henson, living at 240 N. Champion Ave.
- The Ontario, Canada Deaths and Deaths Overseas index shows Francis Greenburg Henson, male, 19, yeoman, b. in the USA, Methodist, son of Josiah M. Henson (yeoman of Dresden, Ontario), d. on 27 March 1882. (Likely this son had no issue.)
- Ancestry.com, Ohio County Marriage Records, shows Josiah M. Henson marrying Mary Butler, with child Will [likely William] A. Henson. There is no date, and no explanation for why there is a child listed in a marriage record.
- Kuhns, *ibid.* p. 183, states that Josiah M. Henson is described as a “descendant of Mrs. Stowe’s ‘Uncle Tom’” in an article in the *Detroit Plaindealer*, 29 May 1891.

- The “Descendants of Josiah Henson” chart in Kuhns, *ibid.*, pp. 136-7, shows Josiah M. Henson, Jr., b. 1828 in Daviess Co., KY, married to Mary Jane Butler, b. January 1833 in Canada, d. 9 May 1903, Franklin Co., OH; with son Francis “Frank” G. Henson, b. 1863 in the US, d. 1882.

*The Road to Dawn* (*ibid.*, p. 243) gives a short biography of Josiah Henson, Jr., stating that:

Josiah’s third son Josiah, Jr. worked on the family farm until he married at age twenty-two and moved to Michigan, where he bought land near an antislavery college. He worked as a shoemaker in the winter and as a lather and plasterer when the weather warmed. Like his father, Josiah was an avid horticulturist; he cultivated a large variety of fruit trees. Josiah was proud to note in his memoir that his son’s property was worth “several thousand dollars,” giving him the modern power of a millionaire.

Henson, *Uncle Tom’s...*, *ibid.*, pp. 198-9, gives this account of his namesake son:

My third son, Josiah, was very anxious to learn the shoemaker's trade, but I persuaded him to help me on my farm. At twenty-two he married a very capable young woman, and then he said, "I am determined now to have my own way, father; I've tried to stick to the farm, but I can't do so any longer; I know I can make my way." He left Canada, and went to Jackson, Michigan, where there was a great prejudice against employing coloured young men in the shoe-business. He found an English boot and shoe-maker there who agreed to teach him. He was bound to him for two years.

His young wife was a good washer and ironer, and she went out to work by the day, and obtained excellent wages, and the young people were very happy. At the end of the two years his master said to me, "Young Josiah Henson is a clever fellow. He can make as good a boot as his master." My son then went to Adrian, where there was an anti-slavery college. He bought a couple of lots of ground in time. He worked at his trade during the winter, and in the spring went out to do lathing, plastering, and hanging paper in the houses of some of the best people. He was very fond of horticulture, and has cultivated a great variety of fruit trees. He has continued to do well, and now has property worth several thousand dollars.

The *Adrian Weekly Times and Expositor* describes the tragic death of Josiah M. Henson:

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Obituary of Josiah M. Henson- 1891

**GORED TO DEATH**

Josiah Henson Meets Death in His Door Yard.  
An Infuriated Bull Pierces His Body Through.  
He Lingers But Three Hours.

Between 8 and 9 o'clock Friday morning Mr. Josiah Henson, whose residence stands immediately in the rear of Dr. Owen's late house, on Winter Street, went to the stable to lead out a part Jersey bull, which belonged to him, and which he was keeping in a stable in the rear of his house.

Shortly after getting him out of the stable door, the animal was seen to throw his head, and knock Mr. Henson to the ground. He lay motionless, as if stunned and the brute was seen to plunge his horns into the prostrate body of his owner.

Mr. Owen, son of the late doctor, and another gentleman ran to the rescue and secured the animal, which was soon tied up.

Mr. Henson was carried into the house and medical assistance summoned. It was found that one horn had entered the lower part of the body on the left side, passing clear through and entering the right thigh. His wounds were dressed, and he was made as comfortable as possible, but it was plain from the first that he could not survive. Death came at 11:30.

Mr. Henson was a man about 70 years of age, and had lived an honored citizen of Adrian for many years. He was a colored man, and a credit to his race. His history was worthy of note, the claim being made that he was the son of the original Uncle Tom, of Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous story.

*Adrian, Michigan Weekly Times and Expositor*, May 1?, 1891. (Source: Josiah Henson Family Facebook page, posting on 2 April 2009 by Kim Warrek Runkel.)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Assertion:** Josiah M. Henson and Mary Jane Butler had a child William Austin Henson, b. 4 July 1873 or 1879 in Adrian, MI, d. 31 December 1950 in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI, who on 26 January 1903 in Columbus, Franklin Co., OH married Amelia G. Whittaker, b. 3 July 1875 in Virginia, d. 4 October 1911 in Columbus, OH.

Proofs:

- Franklin Co., OH Probate Court Records for 26 January 1903 show Will A. Henson, b. 4 July 1879 in Adrian, MI, a musician residing in Columbus, OH, with father Josiah M. Henson and mother Mary Butler, with no previous wife. Will A. Henson is marrying Amelia G. Whittaker, b. 3 July 1875 in Virginia, residing in Columbus, OH, with father John Whittaker and mother Susan Hummbel (?; only party readable), and she (Amelia) was not married, widowed or divorced previously.
- Ancestry.com, Columbus, OH, Green Lawn Cemetery Index shows Amelia Whittaker “(col)” Henson, (“(col)” likely means “colored”), b. 1873, age at death 38, d. 4 October 1911, with father John Whittaker.
- Find-a-Grave for Columbus, OH, Green Lawn Cemetery shows Amelia Whittaker Henson, b. 1873, d. 4 October 1911. This entry also states that she was the daughter of John Whittaker and wife of William Austin Henson, and mother of William Henson, Jr., Marion Henson, and Mildred Henson. **NOTE:** There is no gravestone, only a gravesite, and it is not clear what the source of this latter information is.
- Newspapers.com summary of Obituary Index, obituary date in *The Washington Herald* of 7 October 1911 shows Amelia Whittaker Henson, d. 1911 in Washington, DC, with spouse William

A. "Hen-on" (sic). Obituary mentions surviving husband William A. Henson and three children, and states that she was a native of Columbus, OH.

- US Census for 1910 for Columbus, OH, shows Wm. Henson, 35, mulatto male, married 7 years in this first marriage, musician in an orchestra, b. in MI with both parents born in KY; with wife Amelia Henson, 35, mulatto female, married 7 years in this first marriage, with 3 children of whom 3 are living, b. in VA with both parents b. in VA. The three children are in the household: Wm., 6, mulatto male, b. in OH; Marion, 5, female, b. in OH; and Mildred, mulatto female, 1, b. in OH. All three children have their father shown b. in MI and their mother b. in VA.
- OK, wait for it: the US Census for 1910 for Newport News, VA, 2000 miles away, shows what is clearly the same family! (This is actually fairly common. In 1910 two famous people who were double-counted were author Jack London and composer George M. Cohen. Famous persons double-counted in other censuses include Charles Lindbergh, Thomas Edison, Robert E. Lee, Mark Twain, etc. See [http://www.rootdig.com/famous\\_two.html](http://www.rootdig.com/famous_two.html). In the current case, it appears likely that the family moved to Newport News or was visiting, during the period of the Census operations.) The details of this family, which differ a bit from the Columbus family, but which clearly refer to the same household, are: W. A. Henson, 37, black male, married 8 years in this first marriage, b. in English Canada, with both parents b. in English Canada, a musician; with wife Amelia Henson, 33, black female, married 8 years in this first marriage, with 3 children of whom 3 are living, b. in VA with both parents b. in VA. The three children in the household are William W. Henson, 6, black male, b. in MI, with father b. in English Canada and mother b. in VA, Marion, 4, black female, b. in Columbus, OH, with father b. in English Canada and mother b. in VA; Margrett, 1 and 6/12, black female, b. in Columbus, OH, with father b. in English Canada and mother b. in VA.
- US Census for 1920 for Detroit, Wayne Co., MI, shows William Henson, 47, black male, widowed, musician at a training academy, b. in Michigan, with his father b. in KY and mother b. in Canada. In the household is Marion Henson, 14, black female, single, b. in OH, with father b. in MI and mother b. in KY; and Mildred Henson, 11, black female, single, b. in OH, with father b. in MI and mother b. in KY.
- Social Security Applications and Claims Index shows William Austin Henson, black male, b. 4 July 1873 in Adrian, MI, with date of record as June 1938, with parents Josiah M. Henson and Mary Butler. [This is apparently not the death date, since see the two proofs immediately below; it is probably the date of application for benefits.]
- Michigan Death Records shows William Henson born 4 July 1872 in Adrian, MI, widowed, black male, d. 31 December 1950 in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI.
- FamilySearch.org US Census for 1940 for Detroit, Wayne Co., MI shows William A. Henson, 66, b. abt. 1874 in MI, black male, janitor, resident in Detroit, widowed [hence he could not have died in 1938]
- World War I Draft Registration Card for William Austin Henson shows him b. 4 July 1873, living in Detroit, MI, Negro male, medium height and slim build, with nearest relative Wm. Henson, Jr.
- Ohio County Marriage Records, *ibid.*
- The Canadian Census for 1881 for Dresden, *ibid.*
- Find-a-Grave for Josiah M. Henson, *ibid.*
- The "Descendants of Josiah Henson" chart in Kuhns, *ibid.*

**Assertion:** William Austin Henson and Amelia G. Whittaker had a child, William Henson Jr., b. 30 May 1903 in MI, d. 1 November 1980 in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI, married to Ada Elizabeth Alston, b. 9 August 1910 in the Bronx, NY, d. 14 August 1999 in Lompoc, CA. The couple (William Henson Jr. and Ada Alston) married 16 January 1929 in Wayne Co., MI but divorced on 18 July 1946 in Wayne Co. They had four daughters: Jaqueline [Henson] Perrieo, Barbara [Henson] Mullens (later Cooley), Ruth [Henson] Hicks and Elizabeth A. [Henson] Hatcher, and those daughters had numerous descendants into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Proofs:

- The City Directory for 1928 for Detroit shows Ada Alston, elevator operator at the J. L. Hudson department store; she was living at 5699 Woodrow Ave., Detroit. This is likely the 18-year-old who will very shortly marry William Henson; see immediately below.
- US Census for 1930 for Detroit, Wayne Co., MI shows William Henson, 25, b. abt. 1905 in MI, black male, commercial artist, with father born in MI and mother b. in OH, married abt. 1928 to Ada Henson, 20, black female, b. abt. 1910 in NY, with father born in NC and mother in GA. Apparent child of this couple is Barbara Henson, 6/12, black female, b. in MI, with father b. in TN (?) and mother b. in NY.
- US Census for 1940 for Detroit, Wayne Co., MI shows Ada Henson, 30, b. abt. 1910 in NY, black female, waitress in a department store, 7<sup>th</sup> grade education; wife of William Henson, 37, b. in NY [apparent clerical error, should be MI], artist with the W.P.A. (Works Projects Administration, a New Deal agency established by President Roosevelt), with children Barbara Henson, 11, Ruth Henson, 4, and Jaquiline Henson, 3, all born in MI.
- Michigan Divorce Records, shows William Henson, 43, b. abt. 1903, married 16 January 1929 in Wayne Co., MI to Ada Henson, and divorcing Ada on 18 July 1946.
- Michigan Death Index shows William Henson, b. 30 May 1903, d. 1 November 1980, residing in Detroit and deceased there.
- US Social Security Death Index shows William Henson, b. 30 May 1903, d. 1 November 1980, last benefit paid in Detroit but last residence in Belton, Bell Co., TX.
- Find-a-Grave for Columbus, OH, Green Lawn Cemetery for Amelia Whittaker Henson, *ibid*.
- *Detroit Free Press*, 6 November 1980, p. 64, states deceased William W. Henson, 77, prominent black commercial artist, is buried in Mt. Clemens cemetery in Detroit, and is survived by four daughters: Jaqueline [Henson] Perrieo, Barbara [Henson] Mullens, Ruth [Henson] Hicks and Elizabeth [Henson] Hatcher, and their numerous descendants.
- *The Lompoc Record*, 17 August 1999, shows Ada E. Roberts, 89, female, b. 9 August 1910 in NYC, d. 14 August 1999 in Lompoc, with parents William Alston and Mary Reynolds Alston, and children Barbara D. Cooley, Ruth L. Hicks, Elizabeth A. Hatcher, and Jacqueline Perreo.
- The Ancestry.com Henson Family Tree states (**NOTE:** without underlying documentary proofs, but evidently with personal knowledge) that: Ada Henson is Ada Elizabeth Alston Henson, b. 9 August 1910 in NYC, d. 14 August 1999 in Lompoc, CA; that Jaquiline Henson is Jacqueline Ada Henson, b. 2 June 1937 in Detroit, MI; and that William W. and Ada Henson had four children.
- US Social Security Applications and Claims Index shows Ada E. Roberts, b. 9 August 1910, d. 14 August 1999; this is apparently Ada Elizabeth Alston Henson, who later married a Roberts.
- Similarly, the Social Security Death Index shows Ada E. Roberts, b. 9 August 1910, d. 14 August 1999, with death in Lompoc, CA.

- Ancestry.com Public Records Index shows Ruth Hicks, b. 1939, living in Detroit, MI on Longwood Ave. (no date)
- Ibid., shows Ruth L. Hicks b. 1 May 1936, living in Lompoc, CA in 1993.
- Ibid., shows Elizabeth A. Hatcher, b. 6 August 1944, living in Lompoc, CA (no date).
- Ibid., shows Dr. Elizabeth A. Hatcher, b. 6 August 1944, living in Lompoc, CA in 1992 and 1994, and then later in Dallas, TX.
- City Directory for 1974 and for 1976, Lompoc, CA, shows Ruth L. Hicks and Robert B. Hicks, retired.
- Ancestry.com Newspapers Obituaries shows *The Lompoc Record*, 17 August 1999, with Barbara D. Cooley, deceased, with mother Ada E. Roberts. This is very likely Barbara D. Henson Mullens Cooley.
- New York, NY Birth Index shows Ada E. Alston b. 9 August 1910 in the Bronx, certificate 6772.
- World War I Draft Registration Card for William Austin Henson, *ibid.*
- US Census for 1910 for Columbus, OH, *ibid.*

**Assertion:** Ruth Henson, daughter of William Henson Jr. and Ada Elizabeth Alston, was b. 1936 in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI, and in about 1955 married Robert B. Hicks, Jr., b. 28 December 1931 in Detroit, Wayne Co., MI, with parents Robert and Mary Hicks. He d. 25 August 2005 in Lompoc, CA at the age of 74 and was survived by his wife Ruth and others (see below).

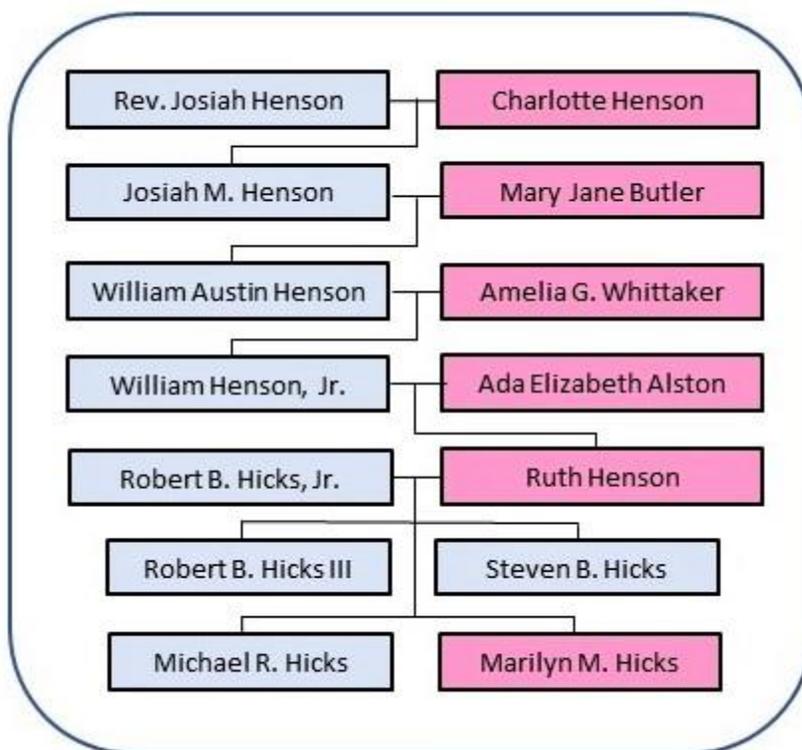
Proofs:

- A detailed obituary from August 2006 for Robert B. Hicks at <https://www.starbucklind.com/obituary/58628> provides a photo and states the above dates, parents and “marriage of 50 years” to Ruth, who survived him. He was trained as a communications technician in 1952, rose to Staff Sergeant in the US Air Force, and retired in 1973 from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Their surviving children were: Robert B. Hicks III of Tucson, AZ; Steven B. Hicks of Phoenix, AZ; Michael R. Hicks of Phoenix, AZ; Marilyn M. Hicks of Phoenix, AZ; and their grandchildren included Robert Hicks of Paris, CA; Jazzmine Hicks of Los Angeles, CA; Camille L. Hicks of Lompoc, CA; and a great-granddaughter is Tamia Jade Hicks of Los Angeles, CA. He was also survived by sister-in-law Elizabeth Hatcher of Lompoc, CA.
- *The Lompoc Record*, 17 August 1999, *ibid.*
- *Detroit Free Press*, 6 November 1980, *ibid.*
- US Census for 1940 for Detroit, Wayne Co., MI, *ibid.*

The descent above has apparently only been partly presented before. The printed “Working Draft of the Henson Family Tree, Courtesy of the M-NCPPC” shows Rev. Henson having a son Josiah M. Henson, Jr., with two children: Francis “Frank” G. Henson and Willam G. Henson, Sr. The present research has been able to extend and document that line considerably.

The line above, from Reverend Henson down to the present, has a few minor issues with a few individual citations, but these types of issues are commonly encountered in a long line. The overall wealth of information and overlapping proofs give a high level of genealogical confidence to the assertion that this line is correct.

A graphic presentation of this line is shown below.



## How Many Hensons?

This detailed review of parts of the Henson family raises the interesting question, how many Hensons and Henson descendants are alive today? Of course to accurately answer this question would require a massive genealogical effort, probably several person-years of research, or (even better), God-like powers to identify all the different lines and persons involved.

But economists and policy analysts tackle more difficult questions than this every day with modelling, estimations, and assumptions. We can do the same here. First let us define terms, then lay out assumptions.

### Definitions

Here we will define a “Henson” as anyone who is genetically descended from the progenitors, Mason and Celia, regardless of whether or not their last name is Henson. Included will be persons who are half-brother/sisters and half cousins of each other, but who still have genetic material that is traceable to Mason/Celia. For example, we know from the earlier discussion that Charlotte Matilda Henson was a grand-daughter of Mason/Celia, and that she married at least twice, to Isaac Clay and to Ernest Richie. So all her descendants from both marriages would be counted here. But, if Isaac Clay married, say Jane

Doe after he married Charlotte, the descendants of that union would not be included here, since they would have no Henson genetic material.

## Assumptions

In studying this family, it appears that the family members, on average, tend to marry early, sometimes marry more than once, and sometimes have large families. (Some people in the tree had 8-12 children or more, with 17 being the highest number found to date!) However, in the early generations disease and other causes reduced the survival rates of the children. A surprising number of known Henson descendants lived a long time, into their 70s, 80s and occasionally even longer. We will assume therefore that each generation is only about 22 years long, that a number of people in each generation marry at least twice, that some families in each generation are large, but that some members of each generation have no issue, and that a high percentage of descendants born in the last three generations are still alive.

We can now proceed with a generation by generation estimation.

## Estimations by Generation

Generation 1: 1767-1796

Assume that Mason and Celia are the correct people, and that they have no siblings which will be counted in this model. They are the progenitors we are interested in. Assume Mason was b. c. 1767 (Josiah Henson's assumed b. date minus 30 years), and this particular generation is 30 years long. Hence there are 2 people in this generation, and they of course are deceased as of 2020.

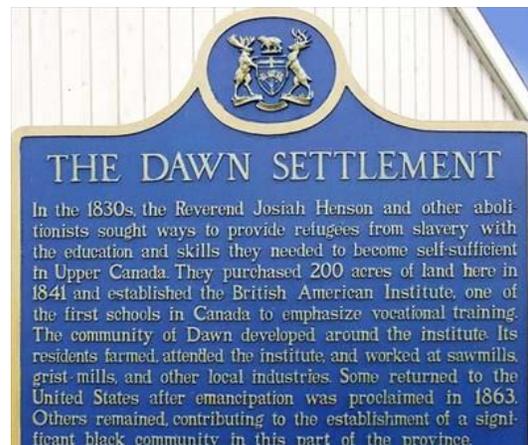
Generation 2: 1797-1819

Josiah Henson reportedly had three sisters and two brothers, plus himself, living as Celia's children on Newman's farm (Troiano, *ibid.*, p. 18). Hence 6 persons in this generation. Assume 1 had no issue, leaving 5, and none remarried. Thus there are 5 persons here passing their Henson heritage to the next generation (and of course all are deceased now).

Generation 3: 1820-1842

We start with the 5 persons, now becoming parents, from the previous generation.

We know that Josiah had a large family, of about 9 or more children, all of whom are counted in this 3<sup>rd</sup> generation, and all of whom apparently had issue. At least one of these married twice, hence adding 1 person. Of the 4 other people in the previous generation who still need to be accounted for (these are siblings of Rev. Henson), we will assume that 3 had issue of 3 children each, or 9 total, none re-married, and 1 had no issue. So the total in this generation is  $9+1+9 = 19$ . But assume 2 of these 19 did not



The Dawn Settlement of Josiah Henson in Ontario

survive to have issue. Hence only 17 are productive in the next generation. (All are dead now; we will assume below that the last three generations (1935-present in 2020) had a 75% survival rate through 2020.)

#### Generation 4: 1843-1865

We start with 17 persons, now parents, in the previous generation who are handing down Henson heritage.

Assume that 2 had no issue, leaving 15. Of these, assume 2 remarried once, adding 2, hence now 15 again. Of these, assume that 14 of the 15 had 3 children each, or 42. Assume one had a large family of 10. Hence this generation has 42+10 or 52 children potentially handing down Henson heritage to the next generation, but assume that 10% died too young to have children, leaving 47.

#### Generation 5: 1866-1888

We start with the 47 new parents from above.

Assume 10%, or 5, lived through adulthood but had no issue, leaving 42. Assume 7% or 3 remarried once, adding 3, hence now 45. Assume 1 remarried twice and had issue, adding 1. Assume two families of these 45 parents had 7 children each, not 3, adding 14 children. Assume the rest of the parents (45-2), or 43, had 3 children each, or 129. Hence the sum of children is (129+14 = 143), but then assume 10% died too young to have children, leaving 129 potentially productive parents.

#### Generation 6: 1889-1911

Start with 129 parents.

Assume 10% lived to adulthood but had no issue, leaving 116. Assume 7% or 8 remarried once, yielding 124. Assume 6 more remarried again, adding 6, leaving 130 parents. Re children, assume 4%, or 5, had large families of 6 each, adding 30 children, and the rest (125) had 3 children each, or 375. Thus the children here total 30+375, or 405, but assume 10% died too young to have their own children, leaving 365 potentially productive parents for the next generation.

#### Generation 7: 1912-1934

Start with 365 parents.

Assume 10% lived to adulthood but had no issue, leaving 329. Assume 7% or 23 remarried once, yielding 352. Assume 10 more remarried again, adding 10, leaving 362 parents. Re children, assume 4%, or 14, had large families of 6 each, adding 88 children, and the rest of the parents (348) had 3 children each, or 1044. Thus the children here total 88+1044, or 1132, but assume 10% died too young to have their own children, leaving 1019 potentially productive parents for the next generation.

#### Generation 8: 1935-1957

Start with 1019 parents.

Assume 10% lived to adulthood but had no issue, leaving 917. Assume 7% or 64 remarried once, yielding 981. Assume 3.5% remarried again, adding 34, leaving 1015 parents. Re children, assume 4% of parents, or 40, had large families of 6 each, adding 240 children, and the rest of the parents (974) had

2.5 children each, or 2436. (Assume that beginning with this generation the number of children produced per couple goes down somewhat.) Thus the children here total  $240+2436 = 2676$ , but assume 10% died too young to have their own children, leaving 2408 potentially productive parents for the next generation.

#### Generation 9: 1958-1980

Start with 2408 parents.

Assume 10% lived to adulthood but had no issue, leaving 2168. Assume 7% or 152 remarried once, yielding 2320. Assume 3.5% remarried again, adding 81, leaving 2401 parents. Re children, assume 4% of parents, or 96, had large families of 6 each, adding 574 children, and the rest of the parents (2305) had 2.5 children each, or 5763. Thus the children here total  $574+5763 = 6337$ , but assume 10% died too young to have their own children, leaving 5703 potentially productive parents for the next generation.

#### Generation 10: 1981-2003

Start with 5703 parents.

Assume 10% lived to adulthood but had no issue, leaving 5133. Assume 7% or 359 remarried once, yielding 5492. Assume 3.5% remarried again, adding 192, leaving 5684 parents. Re children, assume 4% of parents, or 227, had large families of 6 each, adding 1362 children, and the rest of the parents (5457) had 2.5 children each, or 13642. Thus the children here total  $1362+13642 = 15004$ , but assume 10% died too young to have their own children, leaving 13503 potentially productive parents for the next generation.

#### Generation 11: 2004—to the present

Start with 13503 parents. However, the generation 11 cycle actually goes through the year 2026, not 2020, so we need to adjust this figure downwards by  $6/22$  or 27%, leaving 9857 parents.

Assume 10% live to adulthood but had no issue, leaving 8871. Assume 7% or 621 remarried once, yielding 9491. Assume 3.5% remarried again, adding 332, leaving 9823 parents. Re children, assume 4% of parents, or 393, had large families of 6 each, adding 2358 children, and the rest of the parents (9430) had 2.5 children each, or 23575. Thus the children here total  $2358+23575 = 25933$ , but assume 10% died young, leaving 23,340 persons alive in this generation.

Assume that 75% of generations 11, 10, 9 and 8 are still alive in 2020. (This goes back to children of Generation 8, born between 1935 and 1957, and probably is an underestimate of the survival rate of recent generations.) Then the calculation for the number of Henson descendants alive today is:  $75\% \times (2408+5703+13503+23340 = 44954) = 33,716$  !!!

That's a lot of genealogy!

This number may seem very high, but it illustrates what Albert Einstein called "the most powerful force in the universe," namely the power of compound interest. The drivers here are the fact that many generations have elapsed since the progenitors started the family, and the "interest rate" is high because the number of children per parent Henson has been between 3.0 and 2.5 for all those generations. Early deaths, adults not getting married, and other factors have not affected that massive

force much. Another driver is that Rev. Josiah Henson had a large family early on, and that effect rippled through the succeeding generations.

Of course all this is very speculative indeed, but I think it is reasonable based on these calculations to guesstimate that between 10,000 and 40,000 Henson descendants are alive today.

## **Biographical 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 and management analysis.

Lew has 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 a Fellow of The Explorers Club, and has led seven Explorers Club Flag Expeditions in archaeology and anthropology to Vanuatu, England, Alabama and South Carolina, and led or participated in various other archaeological expeditions to Thailand, Malaysia, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Honduras and numerous US states. Many of his expeditions have involved 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, and has worked on cleaning and sorting artifacts from the Josiah Henson house site.

Lew is a great admirer of explorer Matthew Alexander Henson and Reverend Josiah Henson.

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.

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

#end#

V7, Final

**Annex A:**

**Selected Original Documents Relating to  
Matthew Henson and The Explorers Club**

This annex presents the following items relating to Matthew Alexander Henson and The Explorers Club, courtesy of the Club's librarian and archivist:

- A signed letter from Henson to the Club giving his birth date, place and full name, for the Club's records.
- A signed letter from Henson to the Club with thanks for financial assistance in meeting his high medical bills, and saying that this help "added a good many years to my life." (Matthew Henson did not benefit financially from his amazing exploits, and this payment of \$649 – a very large sum at the time – helped him considerably.)
- A speech given by Averell Harriman in 1953 on the occasion of the presentation of a bust of Matthew Alexander Henson to The Explorers Club, under the auspices of the NAACP. (W. Averell Harriman was Secretary of Commerce, Governor of New York, coordinated the implementation of the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe after World War II, and negotiated the partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty under President John F. Kennedy.)

246 West 150th Street  
New York 39, N.Y.  
December 1, 1953

Mr. Daniel D. Streeter, Secretary  
The Explorers Club  
10 West 72nd Street  
New York 23, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Streeter:

The following information is what you requested  
in your letter of November 9th.

Full name	Matthew Alexander Henson
Born	August 8, 1866
Birthplace	Charles County, Maryland

Sincerely,

*Matthew A. Henson*

246 West 150th Street  
New York 30, N.Y.  
August 20, 1949

Commander Carlin L. Brinkley  
Assistant Treasurer  
The Explorers Club  
10 West 72nd Street  
New York 23, N.Y.

Dear Commander Brinkley:

Please express my deep appreciation to the members of the Explorers Club for their check of \$649.73 the balance of their contribution to me.

It has defrayed my doctor's and eye specialist bills and I feel added a good many more years to my life.

I can never repay them for all their kindnesses and liberality to me and assure you I am extremely grateful.

Sincerely yours,

*Matthew A. Newson*

Address of W. Averell Harriman,  
former Director of Mutual Security,  
at unveiling of bust of Matthew A.  
Henson, Arctic explorer, February  
9, 1953 at 20 West 40th Street,  
under auspices of National Association  
for the Advancement of  
Colored People.

Not for release until  
6 p.m., Monday, February  
9, 1953

"The Going and Getting Forward"

We meet here today under the auspices of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to honor a distinguished American. When we pay tribute to Matthew A. Henson, we not only express our appreciation of his heroic exploits in the discovery of the North Pole and his other contributions to Arctic exploration. We also recognize the symbolic quality of his extraordinary career from cabin-boy to blacksmith to that of expert in the Eskimo language and customs, as aide, companion and friend of Commodore Peary for some twenty years. It was Peary who said of him that he was "the most nearly indispensable man" with whom he had been associated.

When the founders of the NAACP were creating their organization forty-four years ago, they did not realize that at the same time-- thousands of miles away in the northern wastes--Matthew Henson was giving life and meaning to one of the major precepts on which their organization was being established, namely, the capacity of the Negro to meet the test of merit in free and open competition.

On that April day in 1909, when with Commodore Peary and four Eskimos Matthew Henson stood on the top of the world, a place never before reached by human beings, his name was unknown to the American people. In the succeeding years, however, his achievements have been widely acclaimed, and among other things, have won for him membership in the Explorers Club.

---

Mr. Henson is a Negro. He was chosen by Commodore Peary to go to the Pole with him not because of, nor in spite of, his race. But rather, as Commander Donald P. Macmillan, a member of the expedition, says in his foreward to Bradley Robinson's book, Dark Companion, he was selected "because he was a better man than any of us." Out of the entire superlative company Peary had brought with him, he selected Matthew Henson to accompany him in the final desperate dash to the North Pole. And there at the northernmost point in the world, racial lines were obliterated.

In your own book, Mr. Henson, you remark that when you were making the last grueling journey of 130 miles to the North Pole, your "thoughts were on the going and getting forward, and nothing else." When I read that passage the other night, I could not help but think that, at this time, when freedom is under such ruthless attack, what a first-rate maxim your words are for inspiring those who cherish our democracy-- how splendid it would be if all of us focussed our thoughts "on the going and getting forward, and nothing else."

Surely, ladies and gentlemen, it is appropriate that we should honor a man who has so dramatically and consistently exemplified an underlying aim of the organization which has brought us together today. Fundamentally, it seems to me, that what the Negro asks of his country is the opportunity to complete on an equal basis with his fellow Americans. This is the opportunity which Peary gave to Matthew Henson. This is the opportunity we want for every American. This is the opportunity which every American should--and must--have.

Many Americans of good will have been working hard and long toward the time when every citizen is guaranteed equality of opportunity as a right, irrespective of race, color, religion or national origin. The

task of eradicating discriminatory practices, based on such grounds, is not just a group problem. It is a national problem which exists in every community. We know that such practices are not only morally offensive; they are also economically wasteful. To the extent that we deprive any group of full participation in our national life, we deprive ourselves of the benefits of the highest skills and productive abilities its members may possess or develop. Today, when we are facing the peril of the Communist drive for world dominion, we can less than ever run the risk of such losses; for we need all the skill power, all the will power, all the mind power, all the material power and all the good will among free men that we can summon forth. Moreover, in our role as leaders of the free world community, we must remember that the peoples of other countries in large degree measure our very capacity for leadership by what we do here at home in the field of human rights.

In this respect, in the forty-four years since the discovery of the North Pole, we have come a long way. Segregation, for example, is on the way out in our armed forces. Members of minority groups today attend universities to which, back in 1909, few dared dream they would be admitted in such numbers. They occupy official positions of a kind that were then unthinkable. They are employed by industry and hold honored places in professional pursuits from which they were then largely excluded. All this is progress--very genuine and heartening progress--but all too much remains to be done.

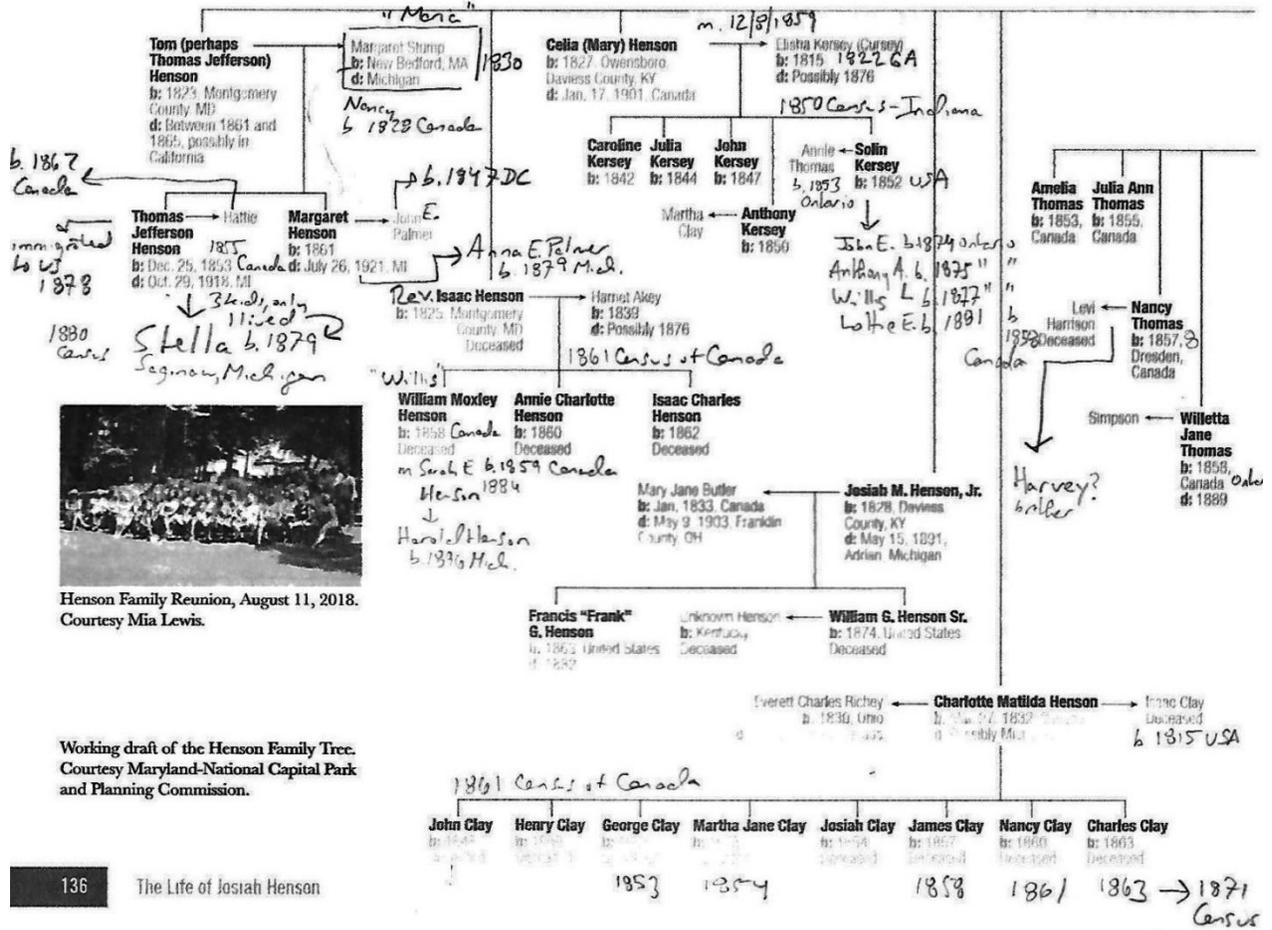
In the work ahead, it is men like you, Mr. Henson, who have pioneered the path, who strengthen our determination to enable more and more Americans to have the opportunity to demonstrate, as you have, their ability to meet the test of merit.

I therefore consider it a special privilege to present to the

Explorers Club, through its distinguished president, Dr. Edward M. Weyer, on behalf of the NAACP, this splendid bust of you, Mr. Henson. This bust will remain in the Explorers Club as permanent testimony to all that your life has symbolized. This bust has been sculptored by John LaFarge--and made possible by the generosity of a donor who, out of his characteristic modesty, insists (against our preferences) on remaining anonymous. Our best wishes go with you, Matthew Henson; even as our best hopes are linked with what you represent.

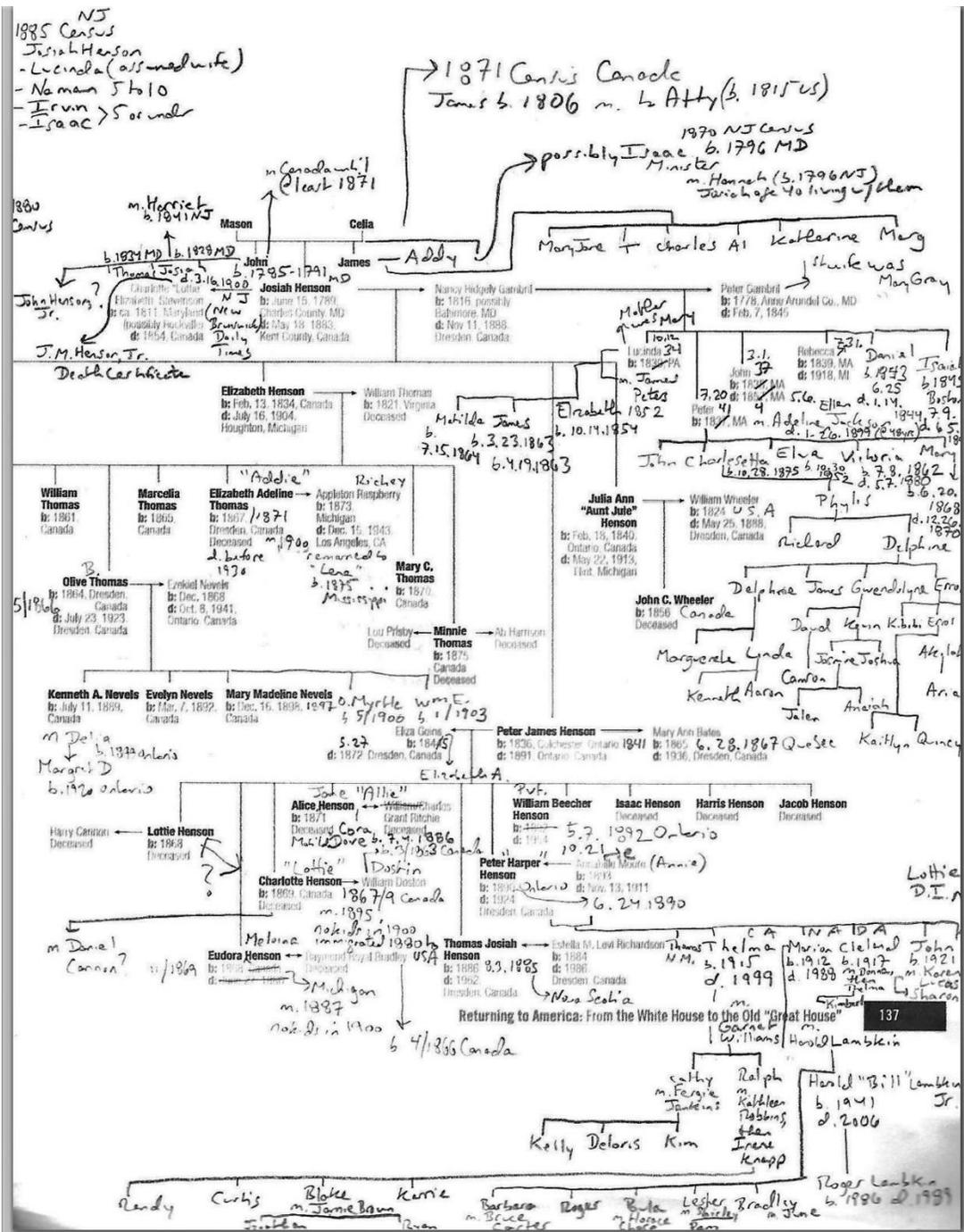
# Annex B: Various Henson Family Trees

## Descendants of Josiah Henson



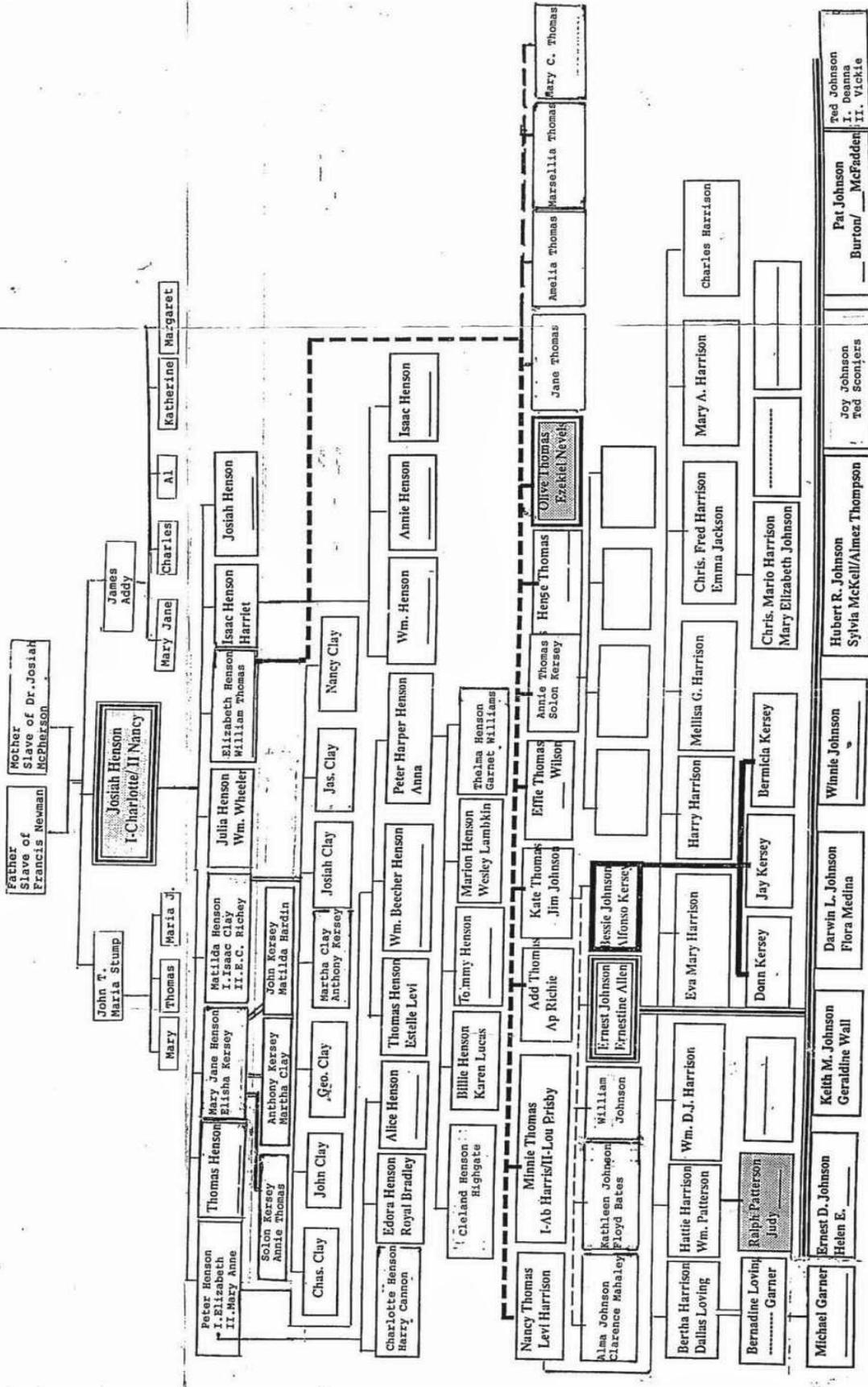
Henson Family Reunion, August 11, 2018. Courtesy Mia Lewis.

Working draft of the Henson Family Tree. Courtesy Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.



The previous two pages were provided by Jamie F. Kuhns, historian for the Montgomery Parks in Maryland. The printed portions are from her book, *Sharp Flashes of Lightning Come from Dark Clouds: The Life of Josiah Henson*. The handwritten annotations were made later, based on subsequent research.

# HENSON FAMILY TREE



The chart on the previous page is from Lisa Johnson, on the Stark Family Tree gallery, on Ancestry.com, submitted on 13 November 2017. There are no proofs or sources directly attached to the chart. It is not clear when the chart was developed, but probably in the typewriter era, before the development of computer graphics. The chart is terrifically detailed, but the current report (which only covers a small part of this chart) disagrees with some items presented here. For example, the chart shows John T. Henson, brother of Rev. Josiah Henson, marrying Maria Stump. This Henson clan report shows that Maria Stump was the wife of Thomas Henson, the son of Rev. Henson.



The chart on the previous page is (according to Gail Salisbury, daughter of Barbara Carter, both Rev. Henson descendants) a family tree created by Walter Dean, Henson descendant, from Detroit, now deceased. He was the family genealogist for his branch of the Hensons, who descended from Rev. Henson's daughter Elizabeth. The tree was supplied by Gail Salisbury in August 2020. Note that this chart is an extension of the chart previously presented.





The handwritten charts on the previous two pages were provided in August 2020 by Gail Salisbury, a Rev. Henson descendant. She stated in the accompanying email that the "handwritten family tree [is] from my Grandmother, Marion Henson Lambkin [and] shows only 2 siblings of Josiah."

Note that on page 2 of the handwritten chart (on the previous page), on the lower left and left side that Marion Henson married Harold Lambkin, and they had Barbara Lambkin who married Bruce Carter, and they had three daughters: "Gaye," Cathy and Susan Carter. "Gaye" is apparently Gayle Carter Salisbury, who supplied this chart.

\*\*\*\*\*

It is hoped that this report will inspire other researchers to explore and document the charts shown in the previous pages, and also expand on the lines presented here. Note that the printed and handwritten charts presented on the previous pages have not been verified by this report, except to the extent that proof items were shown for some lines of descent, in the main body of this report.

**Annex C**  
**Affidavit of William A. Diggs, 1988**

Transmittal note:

June 6, 2020  
Lew:  
I appreciate our friendship  
and I admire your adventurous  
spirit and accomplishments -  
you will find enclosed, the  
affidavit (April 6, 1988) signed by  
African American historian, William  
A. Diggs and the "Keeper of a flame"  
article (March 17, 1987) by John  
Sherwood, Journal Staff Writer.  
God Bless you and family!  
Jim Henson

Affidavit

April 6, 1988

I William A. Diggs, Route 2, Box 8,  
Indian Head, Maryland 20640. being  
-duly sworn, depose and say:-

1. that I was born on December 31, 1918 in Chicoman  
Maryland (Charles County)
  2. that in 1979, I retired as a teacher from the  
Maryland School System with 41 years service.  
I have lived in Charles County all my life.
  3. around 1934, I met Mrs William Washington.  
I was a teenager and he was in his sixties.
  4. during discussions about his family, he  
told me that he and Bailey Henson were  
half brothers. Also he told me that Bailey  
Henson was a half-brother to Matthew Henson.
  5. Lemuel, Willie, Thomas, James and  
Margaret Washington also told me the  
same thing, that Bailey Henson was their  
half brother and that Bailey was the half  
brother of Matthew Henson.
  6. William, Lemuel, Willie, Thomas, James and  
Margaret Washington are the children of Mary Eliza Henson <sup>Washington</sup>.
- I solemnly affirm under the penalties of  
perjury that the contents of the foregoing  
affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge  
information and belief.

Witnesses:

Agnese Bates

Ellie A. Henson

William A. Diggs  
WILLIAM A. DIGGS

## Annex D

### Will of Rev. Josiah Henson

Will

I Josiah Henson of the Gore of Camden in the county of Kent do hereby declare this to be my last will and testament, and hereby revoke all former wills and testamentary dispositions made by me.

I will and direct that my just debts, funeral and testamentary expenses shall be paid by my executors hereafter mentioned as soon as may be after my decease.

I give and devise to my daughter Julia Wheeler wife of William part of Lot Number Three in the fourth concession of said Gore of Camden being in the northwest corner of said lot and lying between the River Road, the line between third and fourth concession and a small ditch running across said corner containing about two and a half acres.

I give and bequeath to my wife Nancy Henson all my household furniture and effects--one cow, one of the black mares and the buggy and harness and the annual payment hereinafter mentioned, upon condition however that she shall release all rights of dower in my estate.

I give and bequeath to my son Peter my gold watch and chain and one half of the proceeds of my <sup>Hambletonian</sup> stallion called "John" when sold.

I give devise and bequeath to Charles Livingston, Anthony Johnston, Walter Hawkins, and William Price, as my trustees and their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns all my real and personal property of whatever nature or kind and whatsoever situate, except what I may otherwise dispose of by this my will and any codicil thereto, in trust to sell and dispose of the same to the best advantage and as soon after my decease as my said trustees should <sup>deem</sup> advisable. (decem)

And I direct that my said trustees and the survivors shall out of the proceeds of such sale, pay to my son Peter one half of the price obtained for my said stallion, to my grandsons Thomas Henson and James Clay one hundred dollars <sup>each</sup> in cash, to Matilda Titus one hundred dollars in cash. To my son Josiah Henson one hundred dollars in cash. To my daughters Mrs. Clay and Mrs. Thomas two hundred dollars each, one half thereof on sale of my said estate and the balance in one year thereafter. To my grandsons Charles Henson and William Henson one hundred dollars in cash. To the British Episcopal Methodist Church of Dresden one hundred dollars in cash. I further will and direct that my said trustees and the survivors therein shall invest the balance of the proceeds of the sale of my real and personal estate remaining after the payments above mentioned in such way as may to them seem best and of the income yearly arising therefrom should pay to my said wife annually during her widowhood three sevenths of such income. To my daughter Mrs. Kersey two sevenths of such income. And to my son Peter Henson two sevenths of said yearly in come during their natural

life.

Upon the death or marriage of my said wife the proportion of income payable to her shall thereafter be divided equally between my son Peter and my daughter Mrs. Kersey and be paid to them annually during their natural lives.

Upon the death of said wife and said son Peter Henson and my daughter Mrs. Kersey and their survivors, the proceeds of my estate shall be divided equally between my daughter Mrs. Wheeler or her heirs and the heirs of my said son Peter and daughter Mrs. Kersey, such heirs to take the share which their parent *would be entitled* to if living.

And I appoint my said trustees Executors of this my will. In witness whereof I hereunto set my mark and seal this second day of May 1883.

The above will transcription was sourced from: <http://hensonnevelsfamily.com/2012/08/15/last-will-and-testament-of-josiah-henson/> No original was findable on-line.

## Annex E

### Story about the Henson Canadian Stamp and Family

The story below is from 1983. Note that it shows a number of Henson descendants.



Chatham Bureau

Marion Lambkin of Dresden, MP Maurice Bossy (L — Kent) and Andre Ouellet, federal minister responsible for the Canada Post Corp., unveiled a stamp Friday to commemorate Rev. Josiah Henson. Lambkin is Henson's great-granddaughter.

### Rites for Henson bittersweet Death takes kin of 'Uncle Tom' hero

By Al Chater  
Chatham Bureau

DRESDEN—William Henson was looking forward to attending a ceremony here Friday to mark the official unveiling of a new Canadian postage stamp commemorating his famous great-grandfather.

But the Dresden resident died of lung cancer Wednesday at age 62 in a sad twist of fate which resulted in his burial being held at the same site as the stamp ceremony and only two hours after it ended.

"He planned on it (watching the ceremony)," said his sister, Marion Lambkin, 71, who unveiled the new Rev. Josiah Henson stamp with Andre Ouellet, the federal government minister responsible for the Canada Post Corp.

The stamp went on sale Friday — 20 million will be issued — and is the first to commemorate a black Canadian. "He's worthy of this honor," Ouellet told more than 300 persons, most of whom were area school children crowding a tent for the ceremony at the Uncle Tom's Cabin Museum.

Josiah Henson died May 5, 1883, at age 93. His courage, compassion and achievements provided much of the material for Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel Uncle Tom's Cabin, published in 1852.

The Methodist preacher was born a slave in Maryland. In 1830, he came to Canada where he continued preaching and acted as leader of other escaped blacks. He founded a settlement and school near Dresden.

"It makes me feel very proud," said Lambkin of the stamp, which depicts a portrait of her great-grandfather in the foreground of a group of slaves heading for the underground railroad to freedom. "I think people in the whole black community

The death of Henson's great-grandson leaves only three direct descendants — Lambkin, Tom Henson, 59, and Thelma Williams, 68, all of Dresden. The burial at the same site as Josiah Henson's grave was the first there since 1968, when Lambkin's husband was buried.

Williams said her brother, a retired railroad porter, talked constantly of how he looked forward to attending the ceremony until only two days before his death. He entered St. Joseph's Hospital in Chatham on Aug. 28 with chest pains.

Lambkin's son Bill, 42, of London, said the entire family had been gearing up for the ceremony and noted the untimely death added a touch of sadness to what was to have been a joyous occasion.

Much of the credit for the Henson stamp went to Dresden Reeve Tony Stranak, who first suggested the idea three years ago. MP Maurice Bossy (L — Kent) helped bring Stranak's idea to fruition.

Federal Judge Rene Marin of Ottawa, chairman of the board of directors for Canada Post Corp., said about 600 requests for commemorative stamps are made each year. Only about 18 different types making up about 30 new stamps are issued each year, but the choice of Henson as a subject was an easy one because he is "unique," said Marin. The book Uncle Tom's Cabin, for which Henson was the inspiration, helped startle the world and contribute to the overthrow of slavery, he said.

Local historian Dorothy Shadd-Shreve of North Buxton told the crowd Uncle Tom's Cabin has sold more copies than any other book except the Bible. She said Henson was conductor of the underground railroad on two occasions.

A special sales outlet was set up at the museum for Friday only to sell first-day covers of the stamp. Canada Post retail sales specialist Colin Cross of London said more than 5,000 stamps were sold. About 18 million of the 32-cent stamps are

#end of Henson genealogy report#

#AND END OF HENSON FLAG EXPEDITION FINAL REPORT#