



Report Number: JR0027
GMP Ancestor: n/a
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Related Codes: GMP-189, GMP-234

Purpose: To summarize research on the Hall and Cutchmore families

Discussion:

Nearly three years prior to the arrival of the GU272 in Louisiana in 1838, a group of 151 enslaved people departed the port of Alexandria, Virginia, in October of 1835, on the brig *Tribune*, and arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana.¹ Two families named Hall and Cuckumber were among them. They are believed to have been enslaved by the Jesuits in Maryland under the name Cutchember and sold to Henry Johnson, who placed them first on his St. James Plantation, then moved them to his Chatham Plantation in Ascension Parish around 1839.

The two families on the *Tribune* were composed of the following ten individuals:

Bazil Hall	23
Len Cuckumber	37
Maria Cuckumber and 5 children	28
Henny	8
Emmet	6
Margaret	4
Mary Ann	3
John	2
Eliza Hall and child	30
Thomas	8 mo.

In Louisiana records, the name Cutchember or Cuckumber became Cutchmore, sometimes Cutchemo. Maria’s maiden name was Crebble, as indicated by the marriage record of her son, William L. Cutchmore.

At Chatham, four more children were born to Len and Maria Cutchmore, three of whom were baptized by the Ascension Catholic priest—Lisa Virginia (born 1839), William Leonard (born 1840), Ophelia or Francis (born 1843), and Camile (born 1846).² Len died sometime before 1866 and

Maria died in 1877 in New Orleans.³

Of the children of Len and Maria, Henrietta Cutchmore had one child by Miles Green (GMP-189)–Basil Green (1847-1914), who married Rebecca Randolph. They had two daughters, but no descendants have been identified. By Felix Brown, Henrietta Cutchmore had one daughter, Henriette Anne Brown, who apparently died in childhood. In 1867, Henrietta Cutchmore married Robert Brown at St. John the Baptist Church in New Orleans.⁴ They do not appear to have had any children.

Emmett and Margaret Cutchmore probably died young. The fourth child, John Cutchmore died in New Orleans in 1907. His death certificate indicates he was a widower, but no wife or children could be identified.⁵

The fifth child, Mary Ann Cutchmore, appears to have been living on Chatham in 1851, but she cannot be positively identified after that date. Likewise, the sixth child, Virginia, was still living in 1851 and may be the same as Virginia Harris living in New Orleans in 1907 when she served as the informant on the death certificate of John Cutchmore. Nothing further has been found on Virginia Harris.

The seventh child, William Leonard Cutchmore, had one daughter, Mary, by Flora Williams. Nothing further is known of Mary Cutchmore. In 1874, William was married in St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in New Orleans to Mary Payton.⁶ It is not known if Mary Payton died or the couple broke up. A woman named Emma Gibson claimed to be William L. Cutchmore's wife in 1906, however, the examiner researching her pension application could find no evidence of a marriage. She and William had six children–Eugenie, Mattie E., Ophelia, William L., Jr., Sylvester, and Viola. Eugenie may have had children, but no living descendants have been identified. The youngest child, Viola Cutchmore, married Henry Palode and moved to Pass Christian, Mississippi. Living descendants have been located, but no one has done a DNA test to date.

Of the eighth and ninth children, Ophelia or Francis appears to have died in 1845.

Camile Cutchman signed a labor contract at Chatham Plantation in 1865, but nothing further is known of him after that date.

Several individuals named Cutchmore (and variations in spelling) are found in the New Orleans records, but who cannot be connected to this family. A woman named Josephine Harrison was married to Henry Harris in 1888. In the birth and death records of her daughter Ida Harris Edwards, she is referred to as Josephine Cutchmore.⁷ Additionally, two infants, Mary Jane Cutchmore and an unnamed Cutchmore child, died in 1891 and 1893 respectively.⁸ A man named Varise/Varisse/Barice Cutchmore, aged 45, died in New Orleans in 1902.⁹ A 13-year-old boy, Harry Cutchmore, died in New Orleans in 1905.¹⁰ Finally, a man named John Cutchmore, aged 47 and single, died in New Orleans in 1920.¹¹

One person with the surname Cutchmore is found among the GU272–William Cutchmore (GMP-234), born circa 1810 and enslaved on the Batey & Thibodaux Plantation in Terrebonne Parish. In Louisiana records, his surname is spelled a variety of ways including Cusha, Cush, Kercherman, and Cutchember. He does not appear to have married or left descendants. It is not known whether or not he was related to the Cutchmore family discussed in this report.

Basile and Eliza Hall had two children. The older was Thomas Hall, born in Maryland in 1837 and was the same as the eight-month-old child listed on the manifest of the *Tribune*. The younger was Charles Frederick Hall, born in 1841 on Chatham Plantation and baptized by the Catholic priest from Ascension Catholic Church in Donaldsonville.¹² Charles Frederick was married in New Orleans in 1873 to Isabella Buttler.¹³ He worked in New Orleans as a marble or stone cutter at least until 1881, when his whereabouts become uncertain. No children of Charles Frederick Hall have been identified.

In March or April of 1863, Thomas Hall enlisted in the Union Army at either New Orleans or Donaldsonville, Louisiana. He served in Company B of the 97th U.S. Colored Infantry. He was discharged in either April of 1866 in Mobile, Alabama, or the fall of 1866 in New Orleans.¹⁴ In his affidavit for a pension dated 6 Dec. 1907 he stated:

I am 75 years of age. I was a slave before the war, having been born in the State of Maryland 75 years ago, not far from the Potomac River, I do not remember the name of the County. There were no Records of the births of slaves in those days and I was never baptized so far as I remember, but my mother often told me that I was christened in St. Thomas Manor, though I have no papers to show it. I have no family Bible. I was a slave of Governor Johnson in Louisiana. All the people who knew me as a slave are now dead. When I enlisted in the Army in 1862 or thereabout I was about 30 years of age. I enlisted at Camp Parapet near the city of New Orleans, Louisiana, and I was discharged at Greenville, New Orleans, Louisiana in the year 1866. I cannot produce witnesses today, to substantiate the fact and I can only refer to my pension Certificate No. 796,970 and to my discharge papers from Company B 97 U.S. Col. Inf. Volunteers. This is all I know and I thereupon affix my mark, in presence of two subscribing witnesses, not being able to write my name being illiterate.

Thomas Hall was first married in 1871 in New Orleans to Louise Walkins.¹⁵ They had no known children. His second wife was Mary Reily, daughter of Irish immigrants, whom he married in 1894 in New Orleans.¹⁶ They had one daughter, Eliza Elizabeth, later known as Mercedes Eliza Hall, born in 1892.¹⁷ Thomas died in New Orleans 31 January 1912.¹⁸ In Mary R. Hall's application for a widow's pension, she stated, "Thomas Hall the soldier was a black man & he said his mother was part Indian & born in Port Tobacco, Md. & his father a full blooded negro born in the West Indies."¹⁹

Thomas and Mary's daughter, Mercedes Eliza Hall, was married in New Orleans in 1920 to James H. Carter, Jr.²⁰ No children have been identified. Mercedes Hall died a widow in New Orleans in

1950.²¹

Endnotes:

1. Slave Manifests of Coastwise Vessels Filed at New Orleans, Louisiana, 1807-1860, citing National Archives microfilm publication M1895.
2. ASC9-143 and 219, and ASC19-80.
3. Orleans Deaths, 1877, vol. 69, p. 358, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
4. Widow's pension application for Henrietta Brown, in pension file of Robert Brown, application no. #837,025, certificate no. 627,817, Case Files of Approved Pension Applications, 1861-1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Record Group 15: Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs; National Archives, Washington, D.C. Note that the marriage record in St. John the Baptist Church could not be located by the Archdiocese of New Orleans Archives.
5. Orleans Deaths, 1907, vol. 142, p. 587, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
6. Certificate of Marriage, William L. Cutchmore to Mary Payton, 17 Dec. 1874, St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, vol. 1, p. 331, Archdiocese of New Orleans, New Orleans, La.
7. Orleans Births, 1892, vol. 104, p. 6, and Orleans Deaths, 1964, vol. 0, #3482, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
8. Orleans Deaths, 1891, vol. 100, p. 6, and 1893, vol. 104, p. 918, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
9. Orleans Deaths, 1902, vol. 27, p. 120, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La., and *New Orleans Daily States*, 6 Apr. 1902.
10. Orleans Deaths, 1905, vol. 135, p. 33, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
11. Orleans Deaths, 1920, vol. 178, p. 944, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
12. *Registre des Baptemes, Mariages, et Enterrements des Personnes de Couleur, 1832-1843*, Ascension Catholic Church, Donaldsonville, La., Volume 9, p. 219.
13. Marriage and bond dated 14 Apr. 1873, New Orleans, Sixth Justice Marriage Licenses, New Orleans Public Library.
14. Declaration of Pension 24 Aug. 1907 and 25 Feb. 1909, in pension file of Thomas Hall, application no. 927, 356, certificate no. 796,970, Case Files of Approved Pension Applications, 1861-1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Record Group 15: Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

15. Orleans Marriages, 1871, vol. 2, p. 149, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
16. Orleans Marriages, 1894, vol. 17, p. 499, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
17. Orleans Births, 1892, vol. 96, p. 1135, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
18. Orleans Deaths, 1912, vol. 154, p. 151, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
19. Testimony of Mary R. Hall, 1 Aug. 1913, in pension file of Mary R. Hall, application no. 980,570, certificate no. 870,317, Case Files of Approved Pension Applications, 1861-1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Record Group 15: Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
20. Orleans Marriages, 1920, vol. 44, p. 328, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
21. Orleans Deaths, 1950, vol. 0, #6602, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.