



Report Number: JR0029
GMP Ancestor: n/a
Prepared by: Judy Riffel
Date: 10 November 2022
Related Codes: GMP-086, GMP-089

Purpose: To summarize research on Charlotte Rayborn

Discussion:

Numerous descendants of Charlotte Rayborn were found to have significant DNA matches to GU272 descendants, particularly those descended from Edward Taylor (GMP-089). Edward Taylor is known to have had a sister named Charlotte of the same approximate age of Charlotte Rayborn. Considerable research was done to try and determine if Charlotte Rayborn and Charlotte Taylor were the same person.

Charlotte Rayborn

Charlotte Rayborn first appears on the U.S. census in 1870 in Covington County, Miss. She is listed as Sharlott Raborn (age 26), born in Louisiana, the apparent wife of Creer Raborn (age 36), born in Mississippi. Six children ranging in age from 15 to two years, all born in Mississippi, are in the household. Two white Raborn households, one headed by John and the other by M.A. (female) are in the vicinity.¹

By 1880, the Rayborn family had moved to Pike County, Miss., roughly 50 miles southwest of Covington County. Pike County is on the border with the Louisiana Parishes of Tangipahoa and Washington. This census lists the household of C. Raiborn (age 49), his wife, Charlotte (age 40), and their six children ranging in age from 16 to three years. Charlotte is listed as born in Maryland as were both of her parents.²

In 1900, the family is found once again in Pike County. The census indicates that Crear Rayborn was born Oct. 1831 and his wife Shilot in Jan. 1835. They had been married 46 years (married circa 1854) and Shilot had given birth to 14 children, nine of whom were living. Their youngest child, Lilley (age 19), is listed in the household with them. Shilot was born in Maryland, but her parents' place of birth is indicated as "Un" for unknown.³

Finally, in 1910, Charlotte Raiborn is listed as head of household in Pike County. She was a widow, age 75, born in Maryland, father born in Maryland, and mother born in the United States. Her

daughter, Lilley, and grandson, William Raiborn, were living in the household.⁴

Charlotte Rayborn cannot be located on the 1920 census, however, she is known to still be alive. She died 13 June 1929 in Leggett, Pike County, Miss. Her death certificate identifies her as the widow of Creer Rayborn, age 100, and born in Maryland. The informant, Dan Magee of Barto, Miss., did not know the names of Charlotte's father or mother. She was buried in Caston Cemetery the same day.⁵ Dan Magee was married to Ida, who was likely one of Charlotte Rayborn's granddaughters.

Creer and Charlotte Rayborn's slaveholder was identified as Mark Rayborn (1791-1864). His probate papers include his will dated 26 March 1860 in which he bequeathed as follows:

*... It is my will and desire that after the death of my wife or the happening of either of the Events, provided for in the preceding items[,] my negroes shall go to my children and Grand children as follows. . . Thomas Rayborn shall have negro man Creeor[,] William Raborn shall have negro woman Charlotte[,] Eliza Rayborn shall have negro girl Anne to her and the heirs of her body, Calvin Rayborn shall have negro boy Jordan[,] Samantha Ann Raborn shall have negro boy Elbert to her and the heirs of her body. . .*⁶

Mark Rayborn died in May of 1864 and his estate was inventoried and appraised on 13 May 1865. Included were:

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| <i>1 Negro man Creer aged 30 years</i> | <i>1200.00</i> |
| <i>1 Negro Boy Jordan aged 7 years</i> | <i>500.00</i> |
| <i>1 Negro Boy Elbert aged 5 years</i> | <i>400.00</i> |
| <i>1 Negro Child Marck aged 1½ years</i> | <i>150.00</i> |
| <i>1 Negro Woman Sharlot aged 28 years</i> | <i>900.00</i> |
| <i>1 Negro Girl Ann aged 10 years</i> | <i>650.00</i> ⁷ |

New Orleans Notarial Archive conveyance indexes for the time period 1850-1855 were searched for Rayborn as a buyer of Charlotte. Only one purchase was found for a William Reyborn (Christy, vol. 64, p. 728), but it was not for an enslaved woman named Charlotte. It should be noted that not all Notarial Archives indexes are available online. Others must be searched in person. New Orleans conveyance records for the time period 1850-1854 were also searched and no purchases by Rayborn were found. Time and resources did not permit a search of any other Louisiana or Mississippi conveyance records. Furthermore, Mark Rayborn could have acquired Charlotte in a private sale that was not recorded.

Ten of Charlotte and Creer's 14 children have been identified. They were: Ann, Jordan, Elbert, Mack, Mary Jane, David, Sarah, Susan, Samantha, and Lilley. The death certificate of only one has been located. Mary Jane Lee died 17 Dec. 1915 in Holmesville, Pike County, Miss. Her parents are identified as Crear Rayborn, born in Pike County, and Charlott (not known), born in Pike County.⁸

Charlotte Taylor

Edward Taylor (GMP-089) identified Charlotte Taylor as one of his siblings. He took out two advertisements in 1885 and 1889 searching for his family, from whom he was separated in Maryland. He wrote:

I wish to inquire for my brother and sister; my father's name was Moses Taylor; my mother's name Eliza Taylor. We were born in Prince George county, Maryland. Father and mother left us these--four boys and one girl--and went off I don't know where. My brothers' names are Reverda Taylor, Noble Taylor and William Taylor; my name is Edward Taylor and my sister's name is Charlotte Taylor. Address me in care of Rev. C.A. Taylor, Musson postoffice, Iberville parish, La.

I wish to inquire for my people. My father's name was Moses Taylor, my mother's Eliza Taylor. When I saw them last it was in Prince George Co., Md. I had four brothers and one sister. My eldest brother's name was Revida Taylor; the next was Noble Taylor. I am the next; my name is Edward Taylor and Anatha William Taylor. My sister's name was Charlotte Taylor. We were all seperated [sic] long before the war. Address Edward Taylor, Musson P.O., La.⁹

Charlotte is not listed on the 1838 Jesuit Slave Census with the other four children of Eliza Dorsey (GMP-086), but was likely born shortly after it was taken. Eliza Dorsey's husband, Moses Taylor, was enslaved by Joseph Evans. In March of 1842, Evans advertised a \$100 reward for the return of Moses Taylor. Additionally, Evans noted that Moses had a wife named Eliza, belonging to a Mr. Clarke residing about eight miles from his house, who had also run away.¹⁰ Edward Taylor was shipped on 21 Feb. 1846 from Baltimore to New Orleans on the *General Pinckney*.¹¹ Charlotte apparently remained with Joseph Evans, as on 4 Dec. 1849, a negro girl named Charlotte was sold from the estate of Joseph Evans to T.P. Gantt for \$500.¹² The 10 July 1855 inventory of Thos. P. Gantt's estate does not list an enslaved girl named Charlotte.¹³ No disposition of Charlotte by Gantt before his death or by his estate after his death could be located in the records of Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Nothing could be found on Edward Taylor's brothers, Reverdy, Noble Moses, or William.

DNA Matches

Numerous descendants of Charlotte Rayborn have done a DNA test with Ancestry, the closest (MP) being a great granddaughter Charlotte through her son Jordan Rayborn. The closest descendants of Edward Taylor to have done the test are two granddaughters (DD and LA), daughters of Charlie Henry Taylor, Sr., and Maria Lula Taylor respectively. Assuming that Edward Taylor and Charlotte Raborn were siblings, MP would be a second cousin once removed of DD and LA. MP and DD share 67 centiMorgans (cM) of DNA, suggesting third to fourth cousins, while MP and LA share 27 cM, suggesting fourth to sixth cousins. MP also shares considerable DNA with other GU272 descendants not only of Edward Taylor, but other GU272 Ancestors, particularly those from the Jesuits' White Marsh Farm, where Eliza Dorsey was enslaved.

While most of the descendants of Charlotte Rayborn who tested on Ancestry were descendants of her son, Jordan Rayborn, at least two other descendants of her son, Elbert Rayborn, were found to be DNA matches to DD and LA. TC was a match to DD at 19 cM and D was a match to DD at 14 cM and LA at 11 cM. Therefore, this rules out the match possibly being through Jordan Rayborn's wife's family.

Conclusion:

Charlotte Rayborn's age varies significantly from record to record. The earliest estimated year of birth is 1829, from her death certificate indicating that she was 100 years old (likely an exaggeration) and the latest is 1844, from the 1870 census. The earliest and possibly most reliable record is the 1865 appraisal of Mark Rayborn's estate indicating a year of birth of around 1837. These dates are all within an acceptable range for Charlotte Taylor who is believed to have been born around 1838 or 1839.

All but one census indicates that Charlotte was born in Maryland. The 1870 census indicates she was born in Louisiana, which suggests that she could have been purchased in Louisiana.

The documentary trail for Charlotte Taylor ends with the December 1849 sale of Charlotte from the estate of Joseph Evans to T.P. Gantt. Charlotte Rayborn appears in Mississippi as early as 1854 when she was married to Creer Rayborn around 1854 (1900 census). This gap of about four or five years is sufficient time for Charlotte to have been shipped out of Maryland and sent to the slave market in New Orleans. No record of her arrival in New Orleans has been found.

No records in Mississippi indicate a maiden name for Charlotte. In those where Rayborn is not given as her surname, the informant indicated her maiden name was unknown.

Although the DNA matches between descendants of Charlotte Rayborn and Edward Taylor are compelling, insufficient documentary evidence has been found to conclude that Charlotte Rayborn and Charlotte Taylor were the same person. In spite of the considerable amount of time spent on this research, numerous records, particularly those in Mississippi, were inaccessible at the time the research was conducted. As a result, a reasonably exhaustive search could not be achieved.

Endnotes:

1. 1870 U.S. census, Covington County, Mississippi, pop. sched., Watts Beat 1, p. 390A-B (stamped), family #575, citing National Archives microfilm publication M593.
2. 1880 U.S. census, Pike County, Mississippi, pop. sched., 1st District, Beat 1, Enumeration District 31, p. 347B (stamped), family # 265, citing National Archives microfilm publication T9.

3. 1900 U.S. census, Pike County, Mississippi, pop. sched., Beat 1, Enumeration District 105, p. 36A (stamped), family #49, citing National Archives microfilm publication T623.
4. 1910 U.S. census, Pike County, Mississippi, pop. sched., Beat 1, Enumeration District 94, p. 2A (stamped), family #27, citing National Archives microfilm publication T624.
5. Death certificate of Charlotte Rayborn, 13 June 1929, Mississippi State Board of Health, #14476, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.
6. Covington County, Mississippi, Probate Court, Court Records, vol. 3, p. 594, accessed on FamilySearch.org.
7. Ibid., p. 622.
8. Death certificate of Mary Jane Lee, 17 Dec. 1915, Mississippi State Board of Health, #25618, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.
9. *Southwestern Christian Advocate*, New Orleans, La., 17 Sept. 1885 and 21 Feb. 1889
10. *American and Commercial Daily Advertiser*, Baltimore, MD, 15 Mar. 1842.
11. Slave Manifests of Coastwise Vessels Filed at New Orleans, Louisiana, 1807-1860, citing National Archives microfilm publication M1895.
12. Anne Arundel County, MD, Inventories, BEG1 70:93, accessed on FamilySearch.org.
13. Anne Arundel County, MD, Probate Records, 1751-1966, Accounts of sale, T2552/C27-24, BEG2 71:281 & 282, accessed on FamilySearch.org.