



Report Number: JR0001
GMP Ancestor: Letty Blacklock (GMP-009)
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Related Codes: GMP-008, GMP-010, GMP-049, GMP-050, GMP-051

Purpose: To present evidence supporting the identification of Letty, wife of Patrick Hawkins, as Letty Blacklock, daughter of Dick Blacklock and Nelly Winberry.

Discussion:

Letty (GMP-009) is identified in a number of documents as the wife of Patrick Hawkins (GMP-008), with the earliest record being the 1838 Jesuit Slave Census.¹ No mention of her maiden name is found in any documents. The earliest record of her age (30 in 1838) suggests she was born around 1808, however later records of her age put her birth somewhere between 1801 and 1805. The age of her oldest child, Cornelius Hawkins (GMP-010), suggests that she and Patrick Hawkins were married around 1824, when Letty would have been between 16 and 23 years old.

Patrick and Letty Hawkins were enslaved on the Jesuits' White Marsh Farm in Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties, Maryland. Baptismal records of White Marsh Farm contain references to a Litty and a Letty Blacklok. On 3 February 1820 Nancy, daughter of Litty, illegitimate, belonging to White Marsh Farm, was baptized; and 20 September 1822, Letty Blacklok served as godmother of a child named Nelly, daughter of Dic Blacklok and Nelly Winberry.² Nothing further has been found on Nancy, however, the GMP has identified Nelly as Nelly Blacklock (GMP-051), and the mother as Nelly Winberry (GMP-049). Dic Blacklok is not listed on the 1838 census and likely died prior to it being taken.

Patrick and Letty Hawkins, along with their seven children, were purchased in 1838 by Jesse Batey and sent to his plantation on Bayou Maringouin, Iberville Parish, Louisiana.³ Nelly Winberry Blacklock and her daughter, Nelly Blacklock, were purchased by Henry Johnson.⁴ They were initially sent to his plantation on Bayou Maringouin, located next to Batey's plantation, but were transferred a few years later to Johnson's plantation in Ascension Parish, Louisiana, later called Chatham.⁵ Nelly Winberry Blacklock was still living in 1851 when she is listed on Chatham as "Old Nelly."⁶ Her daughter, Nelly Blacklock, sometimes identified as Ellen Black-lock, last appeared in a listing of slaves on Chatham in 1845.⁷ The GMP has found no evidence that the younger Nelly Blacklock ever married or had any children. Therefore, no known descendants are available for DNA test comparison to descendants of Letty.

According to the 1838 Jesuit census, Nelly Winberry Blacklock also had a son named Joseph Blacklock (GMP-050), who had “married off” the Jesuit plantation in Maryland. He is noted in 1839 as having remained at White Marsh with his wife Nancy, who belonged to Mr. Grey.⁸ The GMP has traced descendants of a Joseph Blacklock. The 1921 death certificate of Isabella Randall, born ca. 1848, identifies her parents as Joseph Blacklock and Kittie Hawkins.⁹ Additionally, a Gasaway Blacklock, born about 1835, was found in Montgomery County, Maryland, in 1870, and a Gas Blacklock, born about 1840, was found also in Montgomery County in 1880.¹⁰

Several individuals who claim descent from Joseph Blacklock and Kittie Hawkins have done DNA testing through Ancestry. Their DNA results indicate matches to several GMP-confirmed descendants of Patrick and Letty Hawkins. Some of these matches are as close as the second to third cousin level.

On 26 February 1876, Leddie Hawkins was a witness at the marriage ceremony of Nealie Hawkins to Ellen at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Grosse Tete, Louisiana.¹¹

Letty Hawkins could not be found on the 1878 or 1880 censuses of Iberville Parish and therefore, likely died between 1876 and 1878. No death record could be found.

Conclusion:

The supporting evidence includes: (1) Letty Blacklock’s 1822 sponsorship of Nelly, daughter of Dick Blacklock and Nelly Winberry, at White Marsh; (2) Letty’s approximate 1824 marriage date to Patrick Hawkins; and (3) DNA matches between descendants of Joseph Blacklock and Letty Hawkins. No contradictory evidence has yet been found. Therefore, the GMP has concluded that Letty, wife of Patrick Hawkins, was Letty Blacklock, daughter of Dick Blacklock and Nelly Winberry.

Endnotes:

1. “Census of slaves to be sold in 1838,” Maryland Province Archive (MPA), Oversize Box 4 (WO 112), Booth Family Center for Special Collections, Lauinger Library, Georgetown University, online at the [Georgetown Slavery Archive](#) (GSA63).
2. White Marsh Register, 1818-1833, Box 3, Folder 3, pp. 8 and 54, Maryland Province Collection, Booth Family Center for Special Collections, Georgetown University.
3. Sale by Thomas Mulledy to Jesse Batey, 10 November 1838, Conveyance Book T, pp. 34-35, #24, Iberville Parish Clerk of Court, Plaquemine, La.
4. Sale by Thomas Mulledy to Henry Johnson, 10 November 1838, Conveyance Book T, pp. 35-37, #25, Iberville Parish Clerk of Court, Plaquemine, La.
5. Old Nelly Blacklock and Ellen Blacklock are listed on the sale of half of Chatham Plantation by Henry Johnson to Philip B. Key on 15 February 1844, Conveyance Book 19, p. 7, Ascension Parish Clerk of Court, Donaldsonville, La.

6. Sale of an undivided one-half interest in Chatham Estate from Henry Johnson to John R. Thompson, 27 December 1851, Conveyance Book 22, p. 483, Ascension Parish Clerk of Court, Donaldsonville, La.
7. Sale of an undivided one-half interest in a plantation in Ascension Parish from Philip B. Key to John Ryerss Thompson, 4 June 1845, Conveyance Book 19, p. 265, Ascension Parish Clerk of Court, Donaldsonville, La.
8. Letter from Fr. Grivel to Fr. Lancaster dated 4 May 1839, MPA, Box 66, Folder 1, Booth Family Center for Special Collections, Lauinger Library, Georgetown University, online at the [Georgetown Slavery Archive](#).
9. "District of Columbia Deaths, 1874–1961," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X2VX-25Z>; accessed 30 Oct. 2017), Isabelle Randall, 13 Feb 1921, Brentwood, Maryland, United States; citing reference ID, District Records Center, Washington D.C.; FHL microfilm 2,116,605.
10. 1870 census Montgomery Co., Md., Fourth District, p. 477A, family #432; and 1880 census Montgomery Co., Md., Darnestown (6th) Election District, E.D. 116, p. 395B, family #120.
11. *Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Church Records, Volume 13, 1874-1876* (Baton Rouge: Diocese of Baton Rouge Department of Archives, 1993), p. 276.