



Report Number: JR0016
GMP Ancestor: Martha Queen (GMP-046)
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Related Codes: GMP-040, GMP-041, GMP-042, GMP-043, GMP-044, GMP-045, GMP-047, GMP-048, GMP-062, GMP-068

Purpose: To present evidence supporting the identification of Martha Beattie Johnson as Martha Queen (GMP-046)

Introduction:

Several descendants of a woman named Cora Mickens (1896-1947) of Terrebonne Parish were found to share a significant amount of DNA with numerous confirmed GU272 descendants. Cora Mickens' tree was researched and the ancestor most likely to have been one of the GU272 Ancestors was determined to be her maternal grandmother, a woman named Martha, born ca. 1830, wife of Samuel Johnson.

Two women named Martha are found among the GU272 Ancestors in Terrebonne Parish, both named Martha Queen. The first Martha Queen (GMP-068) was the daughter of a free man of color named James Queen and his wife, Harriet (GMP-062). Martha is believed to be one of three children whom their father secreted to Baltimore prior to the 1838 Jesuit slave sale.¹ Martha (10), daughter of Harriet, is also noted on the 1838 Jesuit Slave Census as having run away.² Furthermore, Jesse Batey's purchase document lists Martha (12) as one of five slaves who were not on board the *Uncas* when it departed Alexandria, Virginia, for Louisiana in June of 1838.³ This Martha is not known to have ever arrived in Louisiana and is not believed to be the same person as Martha Beattie Johnson.

The second Martha Queen (GMP-046) was the daughter of Charles Queen (GMP-040) and Sally (GMP-041). The 1838 Jesuit Slave Census gives her age as five, as does Jesse Batey's purchase document. Her six known siblings were Nancy (GMP-042), Margaret (GMP-043), David (GMP-044), Eliza (GMP-045), Thomas (GMP-047), and Sarah Anne (GMP-048). This family, with the exclusion of Eliza, was sent to Louisiana and placed on the Batey & Thibodaux Plantation in Terrebonne Parish. This report presents evidence supporting the identification of this Martha Queen as Martha, wife first of Ben Beattie, second of Samuel Johnson, and grandmother of Cora Mickens.

Discussion:

Martha Queen (GMP-046)

Martha Queen (GMP-046) was born in March of 1832 and baptized at the age of two weeks on 25 March 1832 at the Jesuit's White Marsh Farm.⁴ Her mother was identified as Sally, belonging to the Society of Jesus. As mentioned, she was age five when enumerated on the 1838 Jesuit Slave Census and age five when purchased by Jesse Batey and sent to his plantation in Terrebonne Parish. The next record of her is dated 1847 when she is listed as Martha (14) on the 1847 mortgage by Batey's partner, Henry Claiborne Thibodaux.⁵ When Batey died in January of 1851, Martha (19) was listed on his inventory and estimated at \$700. In April of 1851, she was sold to Henry Michel Thibodaux (brother of Henry Claiborne Thibodaux) for \$820. This is the last confirmed record of Martha Queen. When Henry Michel Thibodaux died in March of 1861, his inventory was taken shortly afterwards and Martha was not listed among his slaves.⁶ No sale by Thibodaux of an enslaved woman named Martha was found in Terrebonne Parish.

Martha Johnson

Martha, wife of Samuel Johnson, is first found on the 1880 census in Ward 1 of Terrebonne Parish, the location of the former Batey & Thibodaux Plantation. She cannot be located on the 1870 census, however, a number of the Terrebonne Parish GU272Ancestors and their descendants cannot be located on the 1870 Terrebonne Parish census.

A marriage record dated 5 June 1875 between Samuel Johnson and Martha Beattie was found in Lafourche Parish. Parents are not identified in the record. Witnesses to this ceremony were Hanible Washington and Amy Washington.

Martha and Samuel Johnson can be found on the 1880, 1900, and 1910 censuses in Terrebonne Parish. In 1880, Martha and Samuel were living in Ward 1 (E.D. 185, p. 216A, family #270). The household consisted of the following:

Saml. Johnson	55	head	b. Virginia, parents b. Virginia
Martha Johnson	50	wife	b. Louisiana, parents b. Virginia
Washington Johnson	29	stepson	
Emely Johnson	12	stepdaughter	
Benjamin Johnson	10	stepson	

In 1900, the family was again found in Ward 1 of Terrebonne Parish (E.D. 66, p. 12A, family #228) as follows:

Sam Johnson	b. Mar. 1834 in Maryland, parents b. in Maryland
Martha Johnson	b. [blank] in Maryland, age not stated, parents b. in Maryland
Noland Otter	b. Feb. 1895, grandson

Mamie Otar	b. [blank], age 9, granddaughter
William Barcas	b. Mar. 1826, boarder

Additional information provided on the 1900 census is that Martha and Samuel had been married 18 years (married ca. 1882 as opposed to 1875 per the marriage record) and that Martha had given birth to ten children, three of whom were living.

The last census on which Martha Johnson was found is the 1910 census of Ward 2 of Terrebonne Parish (E.D. 102, p. 44A, family #154). The household consisted of:

Sam B. Johnson	70	b. Maryland, parents b. Maryland
Martha Johnson	69	b. Maryland, parents b. Maryland
Mamie Otar	20	uncle-in-law, but identified as female
Martha Rockwoot	20	granddaughter
Nolan Johnson	16	grandson

This census indicates that it was a second marriage for both Sam and Martha and that Martha had three living children. The number of children she had given birth to is not stated.

Neither Martha nor her husband Samuel Johnson can be located on the 1920 census. A death certificate was found for a Martha Johnson who died in Terrebonne Parish in 1915. It indicated she was born 1 October 1830 in Macon, Virginia, to parents who were unknown to the informant, E.C. Wallis.⁷ This woman was determined to be the wife of Shedrick Johnson, who was age 75 in 1910, and living in Ward 8 of Terrebonne Parish (E.D. 110, p. 205A, family #528). No death record for Martha, wife of Samuel Johnson, was found in Louisiana. Both Martha and Samuel are presumed to have died between 1910 and 1920.

Four of Martha Johnson's ten children can be identified. Three of them were living in her household in 1880, Washington (b. ca. 1851), Emely (b. ca. 1868), and Benjamin (b. ca. 1870). Although all were listed under the surname Johnson, they were identified as Samuel Johnson's stepchildren. The father of Washington and Emely could not be determined, nor could either be found after 1900.

Benjamin was identified as Benjamin Beattie, Jr. In 1895, a criminal suit regarding the break in of a corn crib owned by Ben Beatty and Sam Johnson was instituted in Lafourche Parish, a neighboring parish.⁸ In 1900, Ben Beattie was living in Ward 1 of Terrebonne Parish and listed on the same census page as Louisa Walker, daughter of Harriett Rockwood, Ben's sister (see below). Ben Beattie, Jr., died in New Orleans in 1926, at the age of 53. His death certificate identified his father as Ben Beattie.⁹ A descendant of Ben Beattie, Jr., was found on Ancestry. His DNA matched several descendants of Cora Mickens, daughter of Harriett (Beattie) Rockwood, including a third cousin who matched at the third to fourth cousin DNA level (80 centiMorgans). This descendant also matched several other confirmed descendants of the Queen, Hawkins, and other GU272 families. Additionally, he matched a descendant of Tom Queen, who has not yet been confirmed as a GU272 descendant, but who may be the son of Thomas Queen (GMP-047), son of Charles

Queen (GMP-040) and Sally (GMP-041). (See report JR0006 for more information.)

Records suggest that the two grandchildren who were living in Samuel and Martha Johnson's household in 1900 were Samuel's grandchildren from a wife prior to Martha. In 1900, they are listed as Noland and Mamie Otar. In 1910, Mannie Otar (20), female, is identified as uncle-in-law (sic), and Nolan Johnson (16) is listed as grandson. Two records were found for a Nolan Johnson. A 1946 marriage record identified his parents as Samuel Johnson and Mary Goldsten, and a 1947 death certificate identified them as Samuel Johnson and Mary Verrett.¹⁰

Martha Beattie Johnson's Daughter Harriett Beattie

The presence of granddaughter Martha "Rockwoot" in Martha Johnson's household in 1910 pointed to a fourth child of Martha Johnson—Harriett. In 1900, Harriett Rockwood was living in Ward 1 of Terrebonne Parish (E.D. 66, p. 10A, family #187). Although listed as being married 25 years, Harriett's husband was not listed in the household. Additionally, she had given birth to eight children, seven of whom were living, and six of whom (five girls and one boy) were living with her. The household was as follows:

Harriett Rockwood	b. Aug. 1861 in Louisiana, father b. Louisiana, mother b. Maryland
Lizzie Rockwood	b. Nov. 1882
Robert Rockwood	b. Feb. 1884
Martha Rockwood	b. May 1885
Edna Lashbrook	b. Nov. 1889
Emma Mickens	b. Oct. 1893
Cora Mickens	b. Feb. 1896

In 1900, Harriett's oldest daughter, Louisa Rockwood, was listed on the same census page as her mother. She had married Lemuel Walker in 1895 and they had three children at that time. Harriett's eighth child who died prior to 1900 cannot be identified.

Vital records for Harriett's seven known children provide the following names of their parents:

	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Father</u>	<u>Mother</u>
Louisa Rockwood	1878	Charles Rockford	Martha Rockford ¹¹
Lizzie Rockwood	1880	Chas. Rockwood	Martha Gayton ¹²
Robert Rockwood	1884	Charly Rockward	Harriette Beatie ¹³
Martha Rockwood	1885	Charley Rockwood	Harriet Beattee ¹⁴
Edna Lashbrook	1889	Charlie Lashbrook	Harriet Lashbrook ¹⁵
		Nate Mickens	Cora "Lovie" Mickens ¹⁶
Emma Mickens	1893	Nathan Mickens	Harriet Rockward ¹⁷
Cora Mickens	1896	Nathan Mickens	Lova ¹⁸
		Nathan Mickens	don't know ¹⁹

The identification of the two oldest children's mother as Martha Rockford or Gayton rather than Harriett raises a few questions. Could Harriett have been their stepmother? DNA suggests otherwise. Although Lizzie apparently had no children, a descendant of Louisa Rockwood tested and was found to match numerous descendants of Cora Mickens, Harriett's youngest daughter. This included a second cousin once removed whose DNA matched at the third to fourth cousin level (105 centiMorgans). The identification of Martha Rockford/Gayton as their mother is, therefore, likely an informant error. Harriett appears to have died or disappeared sometime between 1900 and 1910, and her youngest children were scattered in other households. As a result, Louisa's son (the informant on his mother's death certificate) may have confused his grandmother and great grandmother's first names. As discussed below, the surname Gaiters (possibly a variation of Gayton) was an alternate surname for Rockwood. In comparison, the name Harriette Beatie was given on Robert's death certificate by his half sister, Emma Mickens, who was a more reliable source than one of Harriett's grandsons.

The identification of two of the younger children's mother as a woman named Lovie or Lova, rather than Harriett, is also puzzling. At her marriage, Cora Mickens identified her mother as Lovie, and Edna Lashbrook Rector's funeral program identified her mother as Cora "Lova" Mickens. In the latter case, the person who provided the information likely confused Edna's sister's name, Cora, for her mother's real name. According to family members, Cora's nickname was "Vag." Harriett's nickname, therefore, was likely Lovie or Lova. On the 1880 census of Ward 1 of Terrebonne Parish is found the household of Chs. Rockwood (25) and Lovinia (20), his wife. Lovinia is approximately the same age as Harriett, and Harriett cannot otherwise be located on the 1880 census. The only conflicting information is that Harriett's oldest daughter, Louisa Rockwood, born circa 1878 according to the 1900 census, is not listed in the household. Perhaps Louisa's age was overstated, or she was being cared for in another household in 1880.

The father of at least three of Harriett's children can be identified as Charles Rockwood, Jr., son of Charles Rockwood, Sr., (a.k.a. Charles Gaiters) and Louise Hawkins.²⁰ As previously mentioned, Charles Rockwood, Jr. (25), was found living in Ward 1 of Terrebonne Parish in 1880 with his wife Lovinia (20) believed to be Harriett Beattie (E.D. 185, p. 216A, family #277). In 1900, he was not enumerated in the household with Harriett nor could he be found living elsewhere. No marriage record between Charles Rockwood and Harriett could be found. Only two marriage records were found for a Charles Rockwood—one to Frozine Thibodaux (1893) and one to Mary Faniel (1899). Parents were not identified in either record.²¹ In 1910, Charles Rockwood (50) was reportedly married to a woman named Caroline and living in Houma (E.D. 103, p. 186B, family #368). Charles Rockwood, Jr., died in Houma in 1923.²²

The father of Harriett's fifth child, Edna, is listed on her marriage record as Charlie Lashbrook, who may have been a white man. No marriage record between him and Harriett could be found.

The father of Harriett's two youngest children was Nathan Mickens. No marriage record between Nathan Mickens and Harriett could be found either. In 1910, both Emma and Cora were living in separate households in Houma. Emma Mickens (15) was listed as the adopted daughter of Liza Terry living in the household of Robert and Mary Edmond (Terrebonne, Ward 3, E.D. 104, p. 208B,

family #362), and Cora Mickens (14) was living in the household of her brother-in-law and sister, Oliver and Lizzie Ruffins (Terrebonne Ward 1, E.D. 100, p. 8B, family #33).

The father of Harriett is not identified in any records, but based on her brother's name (Benjamin Beattie, Jr.), he was likely named Benjamin Beattie, Sr. The Freedmen's Bureau circa 1866 Register of Black Persons lists a Ben Baty (44), former owner T.W. Ellis of Magnolia Plantation, current employer Robert W. Binnie. Also found on this register is Martha, age 47, former owner T.W. Ellis of Magnolia Plantation, and current employer R.W. Bennie.²³ Magnolia Grove Plantation was located on Bayou Terrebonne in the immediate vicinity of the former Batey & Thibodaux Plantation in Upper Terrebonne Parish. This Ben Baty (born ca. 1822) is a likely age for a spouse of Martha Queen (b. 1832), however, the woman named Martha listed on the same plantation is about 13 years older than Martha Queen. Ben Beattie is not found on the 1870 census, but Benjamin Beatty is assessed for the poll tax in Upper Terrebonne Parish in 1870.²⁴ Ben Baty/Beattie cannot be located in any subsequent records.

According to Robert Rockwood's death certificate, his mother, "Harriette Beatie," was born on Waubin (sic) Plantation. Prior to 1885, Wauban Plantation was known as Magnolia Grove. It was located at Shriever, Louisiana, just north of the former Batey & Thibodaux Plantation. An early owner was Lemuel Tanner, a partner in a land scheme among Jesse Batey, Henry Claiborne Thibodaux, Henry Michel Thibodaux, and Miles Taylor.²⁵ Tanner's wife, Celeste Belanger, was also a maternal aunt of the two Thibodaux men. After Tanner's death in 1843, Celeste retained ownership of Magnolia Grove until 1864. As previously mentioned, Martha Queen's last documented owner was Henry Michel Thibodaux, who purchased her from the Batey estate in 1851. Martha, however, was not listed among Thibodaux's slaves in his 1861 inventory. Conveyance and probate records in the Terrebonne Parish Clerk of Court's office were checked and no mortgage or inventory of the slaves of Celeste Belanger, Widow Tanner, were found. Likewise, no purchases by her of an enslaved woman named Martha between 1851 and 1864 were found. It should be noted, however, that slaves were often bought and sold in private unrecorded transactions. A transaction between a nephew and aunt might not have been recorded.

Connecting Clues

The final pieces of evidence supporting the assumption that Martha Queen (GMP-046) was Martha, wife of Benjamin Beattie and later Samuel Johnson, involve familial connections between descendants of Martha Johnson and descendants of siblings of Martha Queen. These connections include documentary evidence, oral family history, and DNA evidence.

In 1913, sisters Sarah and Zenobia Crozier, two granddaughters of Nancy Queen (GMP-042), sister of Martha Queen (GMP-046), were witnesses at the wedding of Edna Lashbrook, granddaughter of Martha Johnson, in New Orleans. If Martha Beattie Johnson was indeed Martha Queen, then Sarah and Zenobia would have been second cousins to Edna Lashbrook.

Between 1915 and 1920, Zenobia and her husband, Joseph J. Robichaux, moved to Chicago, and between 1920 and 1930, Edna Lashbrook moved to Chicago. Edna Lashbrook Rector died there at the age of 103. A granddaughter of Zenobia remembered her well, and according to her, Zenobia considered Edna family. Other than Martha, no family connections could be found between these descendants of Nancy Queen and descendants of Martha Beattie Johnson.

The DNA evidence is also compelling. Numerous descendants of Martha Beattie Johnson match a known descendant of Nancy Queen (GMP-042) and some match a descendant of Delia Queen (GMP-019), who may be another sibling. Finally, descendants of Martha Beattie Johnson match numerous GU272 descendants who were enslaved on the Maringouin and Ascension Parish plantations in Louisiana as well as at least one who remained in Maryland.

Additional Evidence

Two pieces additional evidence were reviewed. A witness at the 1875 marriage of Samuel Johnson and Martha Beattie was Hannibal Washington. “Anibal” Washington is listed on the 1890 Veteran’s Schedule of the U.S. Census in Ward 1 of Terrebonne Parish. He served in Company F, 10th Louisiana Regiment. A pension record was found for his widow, Amy, and reviewed. No references to Samuel Johnson were found.²⁶

The pension file of a Samuel Johnson who served in Company F, 10th Louisiana Heavy Artillery, was examined to see if he was the same Samuel Johnson who married Martha Beattie, but he was a different person.²⁷ Additionally, Samuel Johnson is not listed on the 1890 Veteran’s Schedule.

No other additional evidence has come to light.

Conclusion:

The following is a summary of the key elements supporting the identification of Martha Johnson as Martha Queen (GMP-046):

- The ages of Martha Queen (born 1832) and Martha Beattie Johnson (born ca. 1830-1831) are within a year or two of each other.
- Martha Queen was born in Maryland. Two censuses on which Martha Beattie Johnson appear indicate she was born in Maryland. The third indicates she was born in Louisiana, possibly a default location made by the census taker.
- In 1880 and 1900, Martha Beattie Johnson was living in Ward 1 of Terrebonne Parish, the location of the Batey & Thibodaux Plantation on which Martha Queen was enslaved until 1851. Martha cannot be located on the 1870 census, but many of the GU272 Ancestors and their descendants living in Terrebonne Parish cannot

be located on this census.

- Martha Beattie Johnson's daughter, Harriett Beattie, was born circa 1861 on Waubun Plantation (formerly Magnolia Grove), which had previously been owned by Lemuel Tanner, a business partner of Jesse Batey, Henry Claiborne Thibodaux, Henry Michel Thibodaux, and Miles Taylor. At the time of Harriett's birth, it was owned by Tanner's widow, Celeste Belanger, maternal aunt of the two Thibodaux brothers. Henry Michel Thibodaux was the last documented owner of Martha Queen in 1851.
- Harriett's father was a man named Benjamin Beattie who had been enslaved on Magnolia Plantation, also located near the Batey & Thibodaux Plantation. Benjamin Beattie was about eight to ten years older than Martha Beattie Johnson and a likely age to have fathered at least two of her children.
- Two granddaughters of Nancy Queen (GMP-042) were witnesses at the wedding of one of Martha Beattie Johnson's daughters. Nancy and Martha Queen were sisters.
- A granddaughter of Martha Beattie Johnson, Edna Lashbrook Rector, was well known to descendants of Nancy Queen, and the family considered her a relative.
- Descendants of Martha Beattie Johnson are DNA matches to descendants of Nancy Queen at a level consistent with the assumed paper trail. They also match many other confirmed GU272 descendants from Maringouin, Ascension, and Maryland. No explanation for these DNA matches other than through GU272 ancestors could be found.

Endnotes:

1. Fr. Grivel, Georgetown College, to Fr. Lancaster, 6 Nov. 1838, Maryland Province Archives (MPA), Box 66, Folder 3, Booth Family Center for Special Collection, Georgetown University, online at the [Georgetown Slavery Archive](#) (GSA146).
2. "Census of slaves to be sold in 1838," MPA, Oversize Box 4 (WO 112), Booth Family Center for Special Collections, Lauinger Library, Georgetown University, online at the [Georgetown Slave Archive](#) (GSA63).
3. Sale by Thomas F. Mulledy to Jesse Beaty (sic), 6 July 1839, Conveyance Book H, p. 293, #2643, Terrebonne Parish Clerk of Court, Houma, La.
4. White Marsh Register, 1818-1833, p. 104 [unpaginated]; Box 3, Folder 3, Maryland Province Collection, Booth Family Center for Special Collections, Lauinger Library, Georgetown University.

5. Mortgage by Henry Claiborne Thibodaux of half of Batey & Thibodaux Plantation to Bank of Louisiana, 5 April 1847, William Christy, vol. 5, pp. 401-406, New Orleans Notarial Archives, New Orleans, La.
6. Inventory of estate of Henry Michel Thibodaux, 19 March 1861, Civil Suit #3429, Terrebonne Parish Clerk of Court, Houma, La.
7. Death certificate of Martha Johnson, Statewide Deaths, 1915, vol. 19, #23509, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
8. Lafourche Parish Database, Nicholls State University Archives, Thibodaux, La.
9. Death certificate of Ben Beattie, Jr., Orleans Deaths, 1923, vol. 193, p. 908, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
10. *South Louisiana Vital Family Records*, vol. 16, 1946 (Houma: Terrebonne Genealogical Society, 2013), and death certificate of Noland Johnson, Orleans Deaths, 1947, vol. 22, p. 1114, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
11. Death certificate of Louisa Rockford Walker, Statewide Deaths, 1916, vol. 19, #9744, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
12. Death certificate of Lizzie Walker, Orleans Deaths, 1928, vol. 196, p. 753, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
13. Death certificate of Robert Rockward, Statewide Deaths, 1920, vol. 17, #811, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
14. Death certificate of Martha Rockwood, Orleans Deaths, 1930, vol. 201, p. 276, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
15. Marriage certificate of Edna Lashbrook to Robert Williams, Orleans Marriages, 1913, vol. 35, p. 846, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
16. Obituary of Edna Williams Rector, 4 Oct. 1993, Brookins Funeral Home, Chicago, IL
17. Death certificate of Emma Antoine, Statewide Deaths, 1961, vol. 12, #598, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
18. Marriage certificate of Robert Walker and Cora Mickens, *South Louisiana Vital and Family Records*, vol. 4, pp. 171 and 255.
19. Death certificate of Cora Mickens Verrett, Statewide Deaths, 1947, vol. 10, #570, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
20. Probate of Charles Rockwood, Probate #725; and marriage of Charles Gaiters and Louise Hawkins, 23 April 1871, Marriage Book 10, p. 12, Terrebonne Parish Clerk of Court, Houma,

La.

21. Donald J. Hebert, *South Louisiana Records, Church and Civil Records of Lafourche–Terrebonne Parishes*, vol. 9 (1891-1895), p. 457, and vol. 10 (1896-1899), p. 456.
22. Death certificate of Charley Rockawad, *Statewide Deaths, 1923*, vol. 35, #14590, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
23. Ca. 1866 Registers of Black Persons, Records of the Field Offices for the State of Louisiana, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1863-1872, National Archives microfilm publication M1905.
24. 1870 Terrebonne Parish Tax Assessment Roll, Reel 58, Box 521, First Floor Vault, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
25. Agreement dated 5 December 1835, Conveyance Book G, pp. 292-293, Terrebonne Parish Clerk of Court, Houma, La.
26. Pension file of Amy Washington, Application #551,203, Certificate #490,315, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
27. Pension file of Samuel Johnson, Application #925,673, Certificate #815,795, National Archives, Washington, D.C.