



Report Number: JR0028

GMP Ancestor: n/a

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Date: 17 October 2022

Related Codes: GMP-246

Purpose: To present evidence confirming Daniel Mahoney as a GU272 descendant

Introduction:

A pension record for a Daniel Mahoney residing in Louisiana was found in the National Archives. In his application he indicated he was born in 1837 in St. Mary's County, Maryland, baptized in the Catholic Church, and that his former owner was named Col. Joe Harris. This report presents evidence supporting the conclusion that Daniel Mahoney was the son of Gabe Mahoney (GMP-246), who remained in Maryland after the 1838 Jesuit slave sale and was sold to Col. Joseph Harris by the Jesuits in 1839.

Discussion:

Gabe Mahoney (GMP-246) was one of the Jesuit enslaved who remained in Maryland after the 1838 sale because he was married to a woman not enslaved by the Jesuits. In 1839, the Jesuits sold Gabe to Col. Joseph Harris.¹ Known as "Colonel" Joseph Harris, he served as Clerk of Court of St. Mary's County, Maryland, for nearly a half century. He was born in 1773 and died in 1855 at the home of his son in Charles County, Maryland.²

An 1851 Maryland tax assessment for Joseph Harris indicates he owned Gabe, a blacksmith, Eliza his wife, and her two children who are not named. Elsewhere in this tax assessment are the names of four enslaved children belonging to Joseph Harris. Their names and ages as of 1841 were Robert Mahoney (age 6), James Mahoney (age 4), Daniel Mahoney (age 2), and Louisa (presumably Mahoney) (age illegible). Their parents are not identified in this document. The younger Mahoneys were received by Joseph Harris's son-in-law, George Forbes, who also received land on Medley's Neck.³ In 1858, B.G. Harris reported to the taxing authority that Gabe was dead.⁴

In 1903, a Daniel Mahoney applied for a pension for his service in the Union Army during the Civil War. In his application, he stated that his former owner was Col. Joe Harris who was a colonel in the Mexican War of 1846. Daniel stated that he was born 15 October 1837 in St. Mary's County,

Maryland, and believed he was baptized as an infant in the Catholic Church in that county in “The Ladies Chapel.” Our Lady’s Chapel, today known as Our Lady’s Church, is located at Medley’s Neck near the Harris family land.

In another pension document, Daniel Mahoney indicated he was born in “Lemontown,” likely Leonardtown, the county seat of St. Mary’s County. Daniel based this information from what his father told him.⁵ As he would have been around 21 when Gabe died, Daniel was certainly old enough to have learned this information directly from his father.

Daniel Mahoney further testified that he was married in 1858 in Maryland to Martha Riley and was brought to Louisiana as a slave. He does not identify his slave holder in Louisiana. He was in New Orleans in 1864 when he enlisted in Company A, 1st Regiment United States Colored Infantry (later Company I, 96th Regiment, U.S.C.I.) and was discharged a year later in 1865. After discharge, he resided in New Orleans for 13 years, then removed to Bayou Salé and Berwick, Louisiana, in St. Mary Parish. His first wife, Martha Riley died in Plaquemines Parish (located below New Orleans) in 1866. He married his second wife, Matilda Taylor, in 1868 in Plaquemines Parish and they had two children, Susanna (born 1869) and Lizzie (born 1870).

Dan Mahoney (age 30), a farm hand born in Louisiana, Matilda Mahoney (age 21), and two children, Mary (age 4) and Susan (age 2) are found on the 1870 census in Ouachita Parish.⁶ This would appear to be the same family even though Ouachita Parish is located in North Louisiana around 200 miles north of New Orleans. Based on the age of Mary, she may have been Daniel’s child by his first wife, whom he indicated in his pension filing had died in 1866.

Daniel Mahoney could not be located on the 1880 census, but his wife Matilda may be the same as Millie Riley (age 35) living in St. Mary Parish with her daughter, Elizabeth Mahoney (age 6).⁷ Daughters Susan and Mary could not be located in 1880 and likely died young. According to the 1910 census, Matilda had given birth to two children, only one of whom was living at the time.

In 1900, Daniel and Matilda Mahoney were living alone in St. Mary Parish. The census indicates that Daniel was born in August of 1846 in Maryland and that both of his parents were born in Maryland. He and Matilda had been married 36 years (married circa 1864).⁸ Finally, Daniel and Matilda Mahony are found on the 1910 census in St. Mary Parish. Once again, the census indicates that Daniel and his parents were born in Maryland.⁹

Nearly ten years after first applying for a pension, Daniel Mahoney was granted \$20 per month commencing 19 July 1912, which was increased to \$24 commencing 15 October 1912.

Matilda Mahoney died 9 April 1916 at Berwick, Louisiana. Her death certificate indicates that she was born circa 1848 in Rapides Parish and that her father was Frank Taylor.¹⁰ Daniel died seven months later as a result of drowning. The informant on his death certificate, R.E. Todd of Berwick, did not know Daniel’s parents’ names or where he was born.¹¹ The notice of his death reported in the local newspaper was as follows:

The body of Dan Mahoney an aged colored man of this city was found at Little Wax Saturday. The old man disappeared Tuesday and no one knew what had become of him. The supposition is that he fell from the Mercantile warf where several person remembered seeing him that day. His wife aunt Matilda as she was known around town died several weeks ago and the old fellow has not been the same since, claiming that whenever he went she followed him, this has caused the belief that perhaps he committed suicide.¹²

The St. Mary Parish Police Jury reimbursed Todd \$12 for burying Dan Mahoney.¹³

Daniel and Matilda Mahoney's daughter, Elizabeth or Lizzie Mahoney, is the only child known to have grown to adulthood. She was married in St. Mary Parish in 1886 to James Roberson.¹⁴ They had two daughters, Alice and Florence, who sometimes appear in the records under the surname Robinson. Alice Robinson married in 1905 in St. Mary Parish Steven Carr.¹⁵ They had one daughter, Iona, who married, but apparently had no children. Florence Robinson married Willis Messiah and lived in Texas. One of her descendants did an Ancestry DNA test and was found to be a DNA match to several descendants of Gabe Mahoney's siblings, some as close as the 4-6 cousin level.

Conclusion:

The following is a summary of the key elements supporting the identification of Daniel Mahoney in Louisiana as the son of Gabe Mahoney (GMP-246) of Maryland:

- Daniel Mahoney indicated on his pension application that his former owner was Col. Joe Harris. The Jesuits sold Gabe Mahoney to Col. Joseph Harris in 1839.
- Daniel Mahoney indicated he was born in 1837 in St. Mary's County and baptized in the Catholic Church. A tax assessment for Joseph Harris lists a child named Daniel Mahoney who was born circa 1839.
- The 1900 and 1910 censuses indicate that Daniel Mahoney and his parents were born in Maryland.
- A descendant of Daniel Mahoney has DNA matches to numerous descendants of Gabe Mahoney's siblings.

Endnotes:

1. Fr. Carberry Identifies Ten St. Inigoes Slaves Who Were Not Sold to Louisiana in 1838, St. Mary's County Levy Court (Assessment Papers), 1831-1838, C1529-9, Maryland State Archives (MSA), online at Georgetown Slavery Archive, GSA291.

2. George Forbes, "Joseph Harris of 'Ellenborough,'" *Maryland Historical Magazine*, vol. XXXI, no. 4, Dec. 1936, pp. 333-337.
3. St. Mary's County, Board of County Commissioners (Assessment papers), 1839-1927, Maryland State Archives, C1525-13.
4. Sworn statement of B.G. Harris, 16 Apr. 1858, St. Mary's County, Board of County Commissioners (Assessment Papers), 1838-1927; MSA C1525-20.
5. Pension file of Daniel Mahoney, Application #1,293,335 and Certificate #1,065,951, 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.
6. 1870 U.S. census, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, pop. sched., Ward 2, Log Town, p. 33B (stamped), family #131, citing National Archives microfilm publication M593.
7. 1880 U.S. census, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, pop. sched., Pattersonville, Enumeration District 171, p. 289B (stamped), family #12, citing National Archives microfilm publication T9.
8. 1900 U.S. census, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, pop. sched., Enumeration District 83, p. 209B (stamped), family #736, citing National Archives microfilm publication T623.
9. 1910 U.S. census, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, pop. sched., Enumeration District 99, p. 192B (stamped), family #58, citing National Archives microfilm publication T624.
10. Statewide Deaths, 1916, vol. 9, #4447, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
11. Statewide Deaths, 1916, vol. 23, #11632, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.
12. *The Morgan City Daily Review*, Morgan City, La., 13 Nov. 1916.
13. *The St. Mary Banner*, Franklin, La., 9 Dec. 1916.
14. Donald J. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records, Church and Civil Records, Volume XVII (1885-1886)* (Cecilia: n.p., 1978), p. 404.
15. Donald J. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records, Church and Civil Records, Volume XXXVII (1905)* (Rayne: Hebert Publications, 1992), p. 646.