

# Humphries July 2023 Research Project

2 November 2023

## OBJECTIVE

Continue with DNA analysis and documentary research to prove direct lineage from the client, Laura 1, to her estimated 3rd great-grandfather, Joseph Humphries, for the purpose of eventually applying to the Daughters of the American Revolution. This phase comprised the following specific objectives:

- Formulate a plan for onsite research in Georgia repositories into the multiracial ancestral lineages of the client's formerly enslaved ancestors in Jackson County: Laura Stephens, Mary Lyle, and Griggs Moon. Emphasize research into the client's connection through Laura to the slave-owning Humphries family in support of the client's goal of applying to the DAR.
- Contact key Humphries DNA matches to determine family-held information and invite them to transfer their raw DNA data to MyHeritage for segment analysis.
- Conduct documentary research for Laura Stephens and the Humphries family, focusing on the George Washington Humphries (1772-1865) branch of the family in Jackson County, Georgia.

## LIMITATIONS

- This project was limited to 20 hours for planning, DNA analysis, and documentary research.
- African American genealogical research is significantly challenged by the dehumanizing effects of slavery: lack of vital and other records for the enslaved; common transfer of slaves between plantations, often separating families; name changes before and after emancipation; reliance on and accessibility of enslavers' records for evidence, and so on.
- At the generational distances involved in this study, DNA can provide direct evidence of shared ancestry but only indirect evidence of the specific relationships between matches.

## RESULTS SUMMARY

- Formulated and presented to the client an in-depth plan for onsite research in Georgia repositories for the Humphries, Lyle, and Moon lineages of the client's formerly enslaved, multiracial ancestors in Jackson County, Georgia. The 17-page plan synthesized key information to foster productive research in onsite holdings in the Jackson County area. It provided background information, locality research and maps, DAR application requirements, a survey of the client's status for DAR documentation, a guide for pre-1865 research subjects and repositories, and tips for successful in-person research.
- Contacted Laura 1's highest white DNA matches along her Humphries lineage at Ancestry and FamilyTreeDNA and invited them to share family information and transfer their raw DNA data to MyHeritage. Facilitated the participation of one of Laura 1's most essential matches, Humphries 1, who shares the highest amount of DNA of all her white matches at Ancestry.

- Performed pedigree triangulation and identified triangulated segments to gather evidence for Laura 1's biological connection to the Humphries family. Added identified matches to the What Are the Odds pedigree chart started in the last research session to refine the tool's statistical probability for various hypothetical relationship paths for the client back to Joseph Humphries based on shared amounts of DNA with Humphries cousins. Currently, Alexander Humphries and George Washington Humphries carry the highest odds of being Laura Stephens' father.
- Conducted documentary research for Laura Stephens Moon and the Humphries and Chandler men in the area of Jackson County, Georgia, across relevant record sets to identify direct or indirect evidence of a connection between the former slave and her predicted enslavers: censuses, marriage records, death records, Freedmen's bureau records, slave schedules, newspapers, estate records, wills, court records, and deeds. Though no record has identified Laura in affiliation with them, the report suggests many avenues of expanding the documentary investigation in onsite repositories in Georgia, in collections outside of Georgia, and into further members of the Humphries FAN club.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The 1880 U.S. Census is the earliest known record pertaining to Laura Stephens, the client's great-grandmother.<sup>1</sup> Enumerating her as an adult with her husband, Crawford Moon, it documented Laura's birth around 1856 in Georgia, as well as their residence in Randolph's militia district 248 in Jackson County, Georgia. Her declared race was "M[ulatto]" in contrast to other individuals listed as "B[lack]" on the same census page. Laura's only other known census appearance was in 1900. It also captured her household with Crawford, again documenting her birthplace as Georgia but in September 1850.<sup>2</sup> Laura's maiden name has been variously recorded as Stephens and Hosch.<sup>3</sup>

There is no known oral history about Laura's paternity; however, the client's extensive DNA matches to hundreds of white Humphries descendants along this lineage suggest Laura's European ancestry came through the family of George Washington Humphries, a slave-owning former resident of Jackson County, Georgia.<sup>4</sup> To date, research has not discovered any slavery-era or post-emancipation documents directly connecting Laura to the Humphries family. George was the son of Joseph Humphries, a proven Revolutionary War patriot.<sup>5</sup> Based on substantial DNA evidence and the Daughters of the American

<sup>1</sup> 1880 U.S. Census, Jackson County, Georgia, population schedule, Randolph's District 248, enumeration district (ED) 56, sheet 562C (stamped), p. 23 (penned), dwelling 208, family 211, Crawford Moon; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6742/images/4240146-00329> : accessed 12 August 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 153.

<sup>2</sup> 1900 U.S. Census, Jackson County, Georgia, population schedule, Chandler, enumeration district (ED) 85, sheet 13A (penned), p. 79 (stamped), dwelling 240, family 243, Crofford W Moon; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 July 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 206.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Social Security Administration, "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/13327632:60901> : accessed 15 August 2023), entry for Carrie Moon Armstrong, SSN 257019736. See also Gloria E Moon, "Descendants of Griggs M Moon," compiled genealogy, 28 June 2006, digital copy from client. Note: The Hosch surname was likely a reference to Crawford's presumed subsequent wife, Florence Ramsey Hosch Moon.

<sup>4</sup> "Laura 1's DNA Matches: ThruLines," database report, *AncestryDNA* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 July 2023).

<sup>5</sup> National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Joseph Humphrey, ancestor A059898; database, "Ancestor Search," *Daughters of the American Revolution* ([https://services.dar.org/Public/DAR\\_Research/search\\_adb/?action=full&p\\_id=A059898](https://services.dar.org/Public/DAR_Research/search_adb/?action=full&p_id=A059898) : accessed 20 April 2023).

(DAR) application requirements, the client's Humphries connection affords the best evidence for potential DAR membership.<sup>6</sup>

The DAR maintains strict requirements for admission:

- Compile a pedigree chart with direct lineage to the patriot ancestor verified with submission of legal, vital documents for the birth, marriage, and death of the first three generations (four, if possible), starting with the applicant (no death or marriage certificate required for the applicant).
- Beyond the first three generations, other documentary proof showing kinship between generations may be substituted: censuses, cemetery records or tombstone inscriptions, will or probate records, etc.
- For cases where documents are missing, autosomal DNA evidence may be used in the absence of documentary evidence to prove one generational link in the first three relationships (applicant to parent, parent to grandparent, or grandparent to great-grandparent).
- A proof argument with indirect evidence (documentary or DNA) may be submitted for only one generational link back to the patriot ancestor.
- Y-DNA may be submitted for a close male relative to the applicant (2C or closer). The male relative must be an exact match to the patriot's Y-DNA at 37 markers.<sup>7</sup>

In the slave generation (great-grandparent to 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandparent), there is a gap in the documentary record for the kinship between Laura Stephens and her white father. It is at this generation that the one allowed proof argument must be submitted for the client's Humphries lineage. This proof argument will be based largely on DNA segment analysis and any circumstantial documentary evidence connecting Laura to the Humphries. Given that the DAR officially accepts autosomal DNA evidence only up to the great-grandparent level, any application submitted on behalf of the client will be a pioneering effort by asking them to consider the merits of the evidence for applicants whose formerly enslaved ancestors were fathered by descendants of Revolutionary War patriots.

Maryland State DAR representatives advised meeting the DAR's DNA metrics as best as possible by identifying large, triangulated segments down as many independent lines of descent as possible from Joseph Humphries.<sup>8</sup> In addition to extensive match identification and pedigree triangulation, the last phase of research began to identify triangulated DNA segments for Laura 1's closest white Humphries

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<sup>6</sup> *National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution*, "Genealogical Guidelines Part Two: Completing the Application" (<https://www.dar.org/sites/default/files/members/darnet/forms/RGG-4001.pdf> : accessed 16 August 2023).

<sup>7</sup> *National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution*, "DNA and DAR Applications" (<https://www.dar.org/national-society/genealogy/dna-and-dar-applications> : accessed 30 November 2022). See also *National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution*, "Genealogical Guidelines Part Two: Completing the Application" (<https://www.dar.org/sites/default/files/members/darnet/forms/RGG-4001.pdf> : accessed 16 August 2023). See also Bliss Kaye, DNA Committee Chair, Maryland State Society NSDAR, to Sue Brenchley, State Registrar, Maryland State Society NSDAR, and Melanie Whitt, 12 April 2023, email held privately, mbwgenealogy@gmail.com, Tualatin, Oregon. See also Debbie Duay, "Researching Your Patriot Ancestor: Module III—Documenting the Lineage" (<http://www.learnwebskills.com/patriot/documentingthelineage.htm> : accessed 12 May 2023). See also HowStuffWorks, "How the Daughters of the American Revolution Works" (<https://people.howstuffworks.com/culture-traditions/genealogy/dar.htm> : accessed 12 May 2023).

<sup>8</sup> Bliss Kaye, DNA Committee Chair, Maryland State Society NSDAR, to Sue Brenchley, State Registrar, Maryland State Society NSDAR, and Melanie Whitt, 12 April 2023, email held privately, mbwgenealogy@gmail.com, Tualatin, Oregon.

matches in the MyHeritage database.<sup>9</sup> It was readily recognized that contact needed to be made with Laura 1's higher cM, white DNA matches in the Ancestry database to invite them to transfer their results to MyHeritage for segment analysis.

GEORGIA ONSITE RESEARCH PLAN

Per the client's request, an extensive research plan was created for relevant Georgia repositories that may hold documents pertaining to the Humphries, Lyle, or Moon families. The resulting 17-page plan synthesized key information to foster productive research in onsite holdings in the Jackson County area.<sup>10</sup> It provided background information, locality research and maps, DAR application requirements, a survey of Laura 1's status for DAR documentation, a guide for pre-1865 research subjects and repositories, and tips for successful in-person research. Figure 1 presents a detail from the research plan that was submitted to the client in mid-August 2023.

Sources and Repositories

Table 2 identifies types of sources for slave owners that may provide evidence for slaves, as well as repositories in Jackson County, Georgia, and the surrounding area that house collections of these sources. It also lists two churches associated with Laura 1's formerly enslaved ancestors whose archives may hold records pertaining to them. Ancestry, FamilySearch, Georgia Archives, and other organizations have published many online collections for Jackson County. Table 2 highlights onsite repositories that hold collections that have not been published (or not fully published) online.

Table 2: Slave Owner Sources and Repositories in the Jackson County area

Slave Owner Sources with Possible Evidence of Slaves	Featured Repositories	Featured Collections
Probate records: wills, inventories, estate accounts, final distributions	Jackson County Historic Archives	Court of Ordinary Records
	Georgia Archives	Jackson County Probate Court records
	University of Georgia Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library	Georgia county records, 1813-1873, ms862
Family records: bibles, diaries, correspondence, compiled family histories	Jackson County Historic Archives	
	Jackson County Historical Society	

Figure 1. Detail from August 2023 Georgia Research Plan

The first three generations from the client back to Laura must be linked with direct evidence from documents that state the relationships. As a reminder, the table below reproduces Table 1—focused on

<sup>9</sup> Family Locket Genealogists, “Moon/Lyle/Humphries Feb 2023 Research Project,” report, 29 May 2023; privately held by the client and researchers.  
<sup>10</sup> Family Locket Genealogists, “August 2023 Georgia Research Plan,” report, 16 August 2023; privately held by the client and researchers.

the Humphries lineage—from the research plan. This table surveys the status of Laura 1's required DAR documentation for her potential membership application. A green background indicates the document is already published by an online genealogy website (Ancestry, FamilySearch, etc.) or is in the client's possession. A yellow background reflects documents that are available for order from an issuing government entity or may be in possession of another family member. Birth, marriage, and death cells without any background color means the vital records may not have been created by the government. These should still be sought by the client at the respective county vital records office just to be sure. In many cases—particularly for vital records created within standard privacy protection periods—local governments will only release such documentation to next of kin or direct descendants.

- Pennsylvania birth and death certificates from 1906 on: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/certificates/Pages/Vital%20Records.aspx>
- Sonoma County, California, death certificates: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/administrative-support-and-fiscal-services/clerk-recorder-assessor-registrar-of-voters/clerk-recorder/vital-records/death-certificates#online>
- Georgia Department of Public Health for records dating from January 1919 on: <https://dph.georgia.gov/VitalRecords>
- Pre-1919 Fulton County, Georgia, birth certificates: <https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/inside-fulton-county/fulton-county-departments/board-of-health/public-health/birth-and-death-certificates>
- Pre-1919 Walton County, Georgia, birth certificates: <https://dph.georgia.gov/locations/walton-county-vital-records>
- Jackson County, Georgia, Vital Records: <https://www.jacksoncountygov.com/318/Vital-Records>
- Barrow County, Georgia, Vital Records from 1915 on<sup>11</sup>: <https://dph.georgia.gov/locations/barrow-county-probate-court>

Table 1: Survey of Laura 1's Required DAR Documentation

1 <sup>st</sup> Generation				
Name	Birth	Marriage	Death	Other/Notes
Laura 1	Redacted	N/A	N/A	N/A
Redacted	Redacted	N/A	N/A	N/A
2 <sup>nd</sup> Generation				
Name	Birth	Marriage	Death	Other/Notes
James Smith	Redacted	Redacted	Redacted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church record of baptism/birth if needed?</li> </ul>

<sup>11</sup> FamilySearch Wiki, "Barrow County, Georgia Genealogy" ([https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Barrow\\_County\\_Georgia\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Barrow_County_Georgia_Genealogy) : accessed 12 August 2023). See also Cheryl Chasin, "Jackson County, Georgia, History: Militia Districts" (<https://jacksoncoga.oldmtnlady.com/history/> : accessed 12 August 2023). **Note:** Crawford Moon and wife Laura Stephens Moon have not been found in the 1910 census. Their residence in Chandler militia district 246 in Jackson County in 1900 is the last known residence for Laura. Barrow County was created in 1914 from parts of Jackson, Gwinett, and Walton Counties, and it absorbed Chandler militia district 246. Laura died before 1920 and may have been living in Barrow County or Jackson County at the time of her death.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Name verification from WWII draft/enlistment affidavit signed by his older brother</li></ul>
Redacted	Redacted		Redacted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Church record of baptism/birth if needed?</li></ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Generation				
Name	Birth	Marriage	Death	Other/Notes
Florence Moon	About April 1884 Jackson County, GA	11 Aug 1901 Walton County, GA	4 Oct 1922 Bethlehem, Barrow County, GA (reconcile "Sallie" as mom's given name)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Church record of baptism/birth if civil birth certificate not available</li><li>1880 and 1900 census showing Florence's birth into Crawford and Laura's household</li><li>Death/marriage certificates of siblings showing Laura Stephens name as mother</li></ul>
Tobie Bernard Smith	About Feb 1877 Cutoff District, Walton, GA		2 Apr 1935 South Fayette, Allegheny, PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Church record of baptism/birth if civil birth certificate not available</li><li>1880 and 1900 censuses showing Tobie in Bill Smith and August Ann Culbreath household</li></ul>
4 <sup>th</sup> Generation				
Name	Birth	Marriage	Death	Other/Notes
Laura Sallie Stephens  Possible given name variation: Sarah  Reported maiden surname variations: <b>Stephens, Stevens, Stevenson, Strickland, Hosch</b>	Sep 1850 Georgia (1900 US Census, which shows kinship to Florence)	1873 (per 1900 US census in Chandler district 246)	Between 1910 1920 (per 1900 US census and widowed Crawford's 1920 US census record)  Jackson County? Barrow County?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Humphries or Stephens or Moon family bible?</li><li>Humphries family/estate records?</li><li>Church record of birth/baptism or marriage?</li><li>Civil death record available?</li></ul>



				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1870 US census?</li> </ul>
Crawford Moon	Aug 1847 Georgia (1900 US census, which shows kinship to Florence)		12 Jun 1920 Milledgeville, Baldwin, GA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moon family bible or church record of birth/baptism or marriage?</li> </ul>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Generation</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Birth</b>	<b>Marriage</b>	<b>Death</b>	<b>Other/Notes</b>
Unknown slave woman (Laura's mother)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listed in civil death record for Laura? (none found to date)</li> <li>1870 Census enumeration with Laura?</li> </ul>
Humphries male (Laura's father), currently predicted to be Alexander Humphries or George Washington Humphries				

## HUMPHRIES DNA MATCHES

### Transferring DNA to MyHeritage

DNA segment analysis is quite useful in determining kinship, particularly when indirect documentary evidence for a relationship is scarce and direct evidence non-existent. Segment triangulation occurs when three matches (or more) all share the exact same segment of the same chromosome with one another. Triangulated segments are more likely to be inherited from a common ancestor. Laura 1's highest known DNA matches with white Humphries descendants are found in the Ancestry database. However, Ancestry does not supply detailed segment information in its database, nor does the company provide advanced DNA analysis tools.

MyHeritage has advanced chromosome tools that automatically identify true segment triangulation, facilitating discovery of these segments.<sup>12</sup> One primary objective of this research project was to invite key autosomal DNA matches within the Ancestry database to upload their raw DNA data to the MyHeritage

<sup>12</sup> MyHeritage, "What are triangulated segments in the Chromosome Browser — One-to-many?" ([https://www.myheritage.com/help-center?a=What-are-triangulated-segments-in-the-Chromosome-Browser-One-to-many---id--J8oK\\_vQHSUWyBq\\_Ad\\_jYrQ](https://www.myheritage.com/help-center?a=What-are-triangulated-segments-in-the-Chromosome-Browser-One-to-many---id--J8oK_vQHSUWyBq_Ad_jYrQ) : accessed 17 October 2023).

database. Laura 1's matches at FamilyTreeDNA and 23andMe were also examined to identify relevant candidates for transfer to MyHeritage since comparing all of these matches in that database would be more efficient and effective.

The criteria for contacting matches centered on white Humphries descendants sharing minimum threshold amounts of DNA. Most of these white matches' connections to the Humphries were known and already established with solid documentary evidence. Large matches along this lineage whose exact descent was unknown were included, too, since it would probably be straightforward to establish their path back to the Humphries. Table 2 (Ancestry) and Table 3 (FamilyTreeDNA) present an overview of those contacted and the current status of participation. No high-cM DNA matches along this Humphries lineage were identified at 23andMe.

*Table 2. Ancestry DNA Matches Contacted*

Ancestry Match	Username	Shared cM w/ Laura 1	Transferred to MyHeritage?
Humphries 1		166 cM	Yes
Humphries 2		124 cM	
		92 cM	
		75 cM	Yes
		75 cM	
		74 cM	
		73 cM	
		73 cM	
		71 cM	
		68 cM	
		67 cM	
		65 cM	Yes
		65 cM	
		65 cM	
		61 cM	
		61 cM	Yes
		60 cM	
		59 cM	
		58 cM	
		57 cM	



	54 cM	
	53 cM	
	53 cM	
	52 cM	

*Table 3. FamilyTreeDNA Matches Contacted*

FamilyTreeDNA Match	Email	Shared cM w/ Laura 1	Transferred to MyHeritage?
		68 cM	
		62 cM	
		54 cM	Yes
		54 cM	
		50 cM	
		40 cM	
		39 cM	Yes
		39 cM	
		38 cM	
		37 cM	
		33 cM	
		33 cM	
		32 cM	

Though a relatively small number of Humphries matches have transferred their DNA data to MyHeritage, the excellent news is the closest white Humphries cousin, Humphries 1, transferred her results. A follow-up letter has been mailed to Humphries 2, re-inviting her to participate at MyHeritage. As the second highest match among Laura 1's known white Humphries cousins, segment analysis of Humphries 2's DNA would be a significant addition to the genetic evidence for Laura 1's descent from the Humphries family. Early segment analysis at MyHeritage has identified dozens of triangulated segments—and some quadrangulated segments—between the client and her Humphries matches. Segment analysis will continue in the next phase of research.

## Current WATO Prediction

This research session continued tree triangulation and adding matches to the pedigree chart started in the last session using DNA Painter's What Are the Odds (WATO) tool.<sup>13</sup> The tool evaluates the statistical probability for various hypothetical relationship paths for the client back to Joseph Humphries based on the amount of shared DNA between Laura 1 and her Humphries matches, as well as their descent from Joseph. Though WATO works best for predicting close relationship paths, it is quite useful in distant relationships for ruling out statistically impossible relationships. As Laura 1's higher cM matches are identified and added, WATO refines the predicted relationship paths.

With the DNA matches added during this research session, Laura 1's WATO tree currently predicts that Alexander Humphries and then his father, George Washington Humphries, are the two most likely candidates to be Laura's father—about 1,000 times more likely than George's other sons.<sup>14</sup> A detail of the WATO tree, still in progress, is presented in Figure 2, and the client can explore the WATO tree using the link in the footnote. Laura 1's potential positions in the Humphries tree are marked by the "Hypothesis" labels. Predictions at these genetic distances are probabilities, not proof, and thus must be supported by documentary evidence.

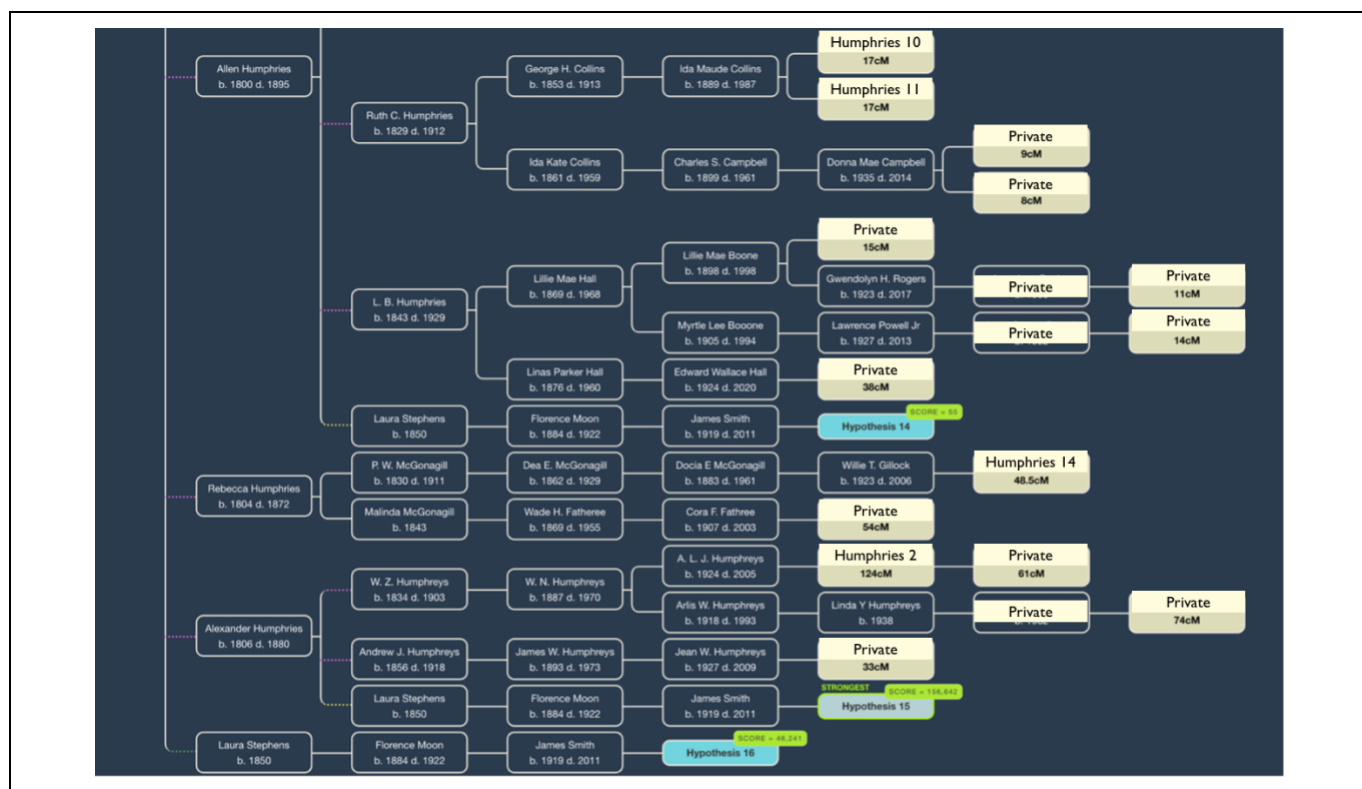


Figure 2. Detail from WATO report showing statistical probabilities for Laura 1's possible relationship paths to Joseph Humphries; "Hypothesis #" indicates Laura 1's<sup>15</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Family Locket Genealogists, "Moon/Lyle/Humphries Feb 2023 Research Project," report, 29 May 2023; privately held by the client and researchers.

<sup>14</sup> "WATO Report for Laura 1," *DNA Painter* ([private link]: accessed 19 October 2023), What Are the Odds? Tool.

<sup>15</sup> "WATO Report for Laura 1," *DNA Painter* ([private link]: accessed 19 October 2023), What Are the Odds? Tool.

## DOCUMENTARY FINDINGS & ANALYSIS

### Laura Stephens Moon

The documentary trail for Laura Stephens Moon is sparse, and this research session did not produce any further contemporary records obviously related to Laura. Searches for direct records about her were informed by surname evidence gleaned from an investigation into Laura's known children as part of reasonably exhaustive research. Three marriage records discovered for her children documented her surname differently: Laura **Stevens**, from daughter Minnie's 1943 marriage; Laura **Stevenson**, from son Amos's 1926 marriage record; and Laura **Strickland**, from son Golden's 1917 marriage record.<sup>16</sup> These records predict her surname was likely some version of Stephens, as already referenced from daughter Carrie's SSA record. The Strickland name is an outlier and may have been misremembered or mistakenly recorded. Conversely, it might indicate a marriage prior to Crawford. Regardless, it should be considered, given the limited documentary evidence for Laura.

A special focus for records directly pertaining to Laura was placed on those that may have been created before her earliest known record, the 1880 census enumeration. Most of the searches did not produce relevant results. Negative searches for Laura were conducted across a variety of record collections:

- Census: 1870 and 1910, the two missing enumerations from those likely in her lifetime
- Marriage: about 1873, searched for in Jackson County and surrounding counties 1870-1880
- Death: 1900-1920 in Jackson County and surrounding counties<sup>17</sup>
- Obituaries and other articles: 1910-1920 in online Georgia newspapers
- Freedmen's Bureau records in Georgia

See the research log accompanying this report for more details. These sources represent the most likely records to contain evidence about her as a black woman in post-emancipation Georgia.

Worth noting, one 1870 census record was located pertaining to a Laura Stephens, born about 1851 and living in the household of 65-year-old Clara Stephens in Madison, Morgan County, Georgia, along

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<sup>16</sup> Wood County, Ohio, "Ohio, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1774-1993," 1943-1945, entry for Minnie Smith and Willie J Howard, no. 180, 23 February 1943; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61378/images/TH-1-18863-73254-52?pid=1503422339> : accessed 1 August 2023); citing records from various Ohio County Courthouses. See also Wayne County, Michigan, "Michigan, U.S., Marriage Records, 1867-1952," Part 18, Certificates 1926-1946, entry for Amos R Moon and Elnora Gant, no. 314377, 8 July 1926; digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9093/images/41326\\_341667-01146?pid=1202683672](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9093/images/41326_341667-01146?pid=1202683672) : accessed 1 August 2023); citing Michigan Department of Community Health, Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics, 82 Wayne 007420-010729, Film 233. See also Hamilton County, Ohio, "Ohio, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1774-1993," 1917, entry for Golden Moon and Gussie Marrett, no. 58, 12 November 1917; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61378/images/TH-266-13192-4353-60?pid=287027> : accessed 1 August 2023); citing records from various Ohio County Courthouses.

<sup>17</sup> **Note:** Georgia did not mandate counties to keep vital records until 1919, with general compliance for births by 1928 and deaths by 1922. See *FamilySearch Wiki*, "Georgia Vital Records" ([https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Georgia\\_Vital\\_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Georgia_Vital_Records) : accessed 19 October 2023).

with a male infant born in March of that year.<sup>18</sup> There is no known direct connection between this Laura Stephens and the subject Laura, and the evidence is fairly inconclusive at this point:

- The name and age correlate between the two Lauras
- Laura of 1870 Madison was documented as "B[lack]" on the same page as others designated as "M[ulatto]" while, conversely, Laura Moon was documented in 1880 as "M[ulatto]" on the same page as others designated as "B[lack]"
- Madison is about 40 miles south of Randolph's district in Jackson County, where Laura was enumerated in 1880 with Crawford, and there is no known association with Morgan County for either the Crawford & Laura Moon family or the Humphries family.
- The unnamed infant male does not readily correlate with any individuals in Laura Moon's 1880 census, but he could have died young.

Further research into Clara Stephens, head of the 1870 household, did not produce any other documents, though her given name was noted to keep in mind while researching slaves connected to white Humphries estates. On a similar note, an 1870 census enumeration for one Laura Strickland, a black 24-year-old woman living in Athens, Clarke County, Georgia, identified a less-likely candidate for the subject Laura, yet one whose FAN club should be considered when researching Humphries estate records.<sup>19</sup>

#### **Humphries Family Records before Emancipation**

##### *Slave Schedules*

All known sources for Laura Stephens Moon indicate she was born in Georgia. Since neither George Washington Humphries nor his sons lived in Georgia in 1850, circumstances must be considered to resolve this geographic conflict. George and all of his sons resided in Lafayette County, Mississippi, in 1850, about 400 miles west of Jackson County, Georgia. It is possible that Laura was actually born in Mississippi on one of their estates and was subsequently taken to Georgia at a young age, where she was sold, traded, or given to a family member. It is also possible her pregnant mother may have been sold, traded, or taken to Georgia before Laura was born.

Alternatively, any of the Humphries men could have fathered Laura on a visit back to Jackson County. George's daughter Nancy Humphries Chandler and her family remained in Jackson County and the surrounding area, as well as other extended members of the Humphries family. Laura may have been associated with any of the Chandler estates. It is also possible she was the daughter of a slave owned by a close friend of the Humphries or Humphries-Chandlers families in the Jackson County area.

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<sup>18</sup> 1870 U.S. Census, Morgan County, Georgia, population schedule, Madison, p. 77 (penned), dwelling 612, family 612, Clara Stephens; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3S3HT-6L99-5Q1?i=78> : accessed 27 July 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 167.

<sup>19</sup> 1870 U.S. Census, Clarke County, Georgia, population schedule, Athens, p. 79 (penned), p. 376A (stamped), dwelling 470, family 483, Alfred Kenny; digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7163/images/4263439\\_00425?src=&backlabel=Return&pId=2898834](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7163/images/4263439_00425?src=&backlabel=Return&pId=2898834) : accessed 25 September 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 143.

There are many candidates for Laura among the slaves owned by the Humphries and the Chandlers in the 1850 and 1860 U.S. census slave schedules. A survey of slave ownership in 1850 and 1860 for George Washington Humphries and his sons can be found in Table 4. The table notes their residences, the value of any real estate or personal estate, the number of slaves owned, and the recorded ages and races of female slaves. Candidates for Laura have been highlighted in bold lettering based on a range of +/- 6 years centered around an 1850 birth year. Table 5 presents the same information for Nancy Humphries Chandler's family.

Table 4. Slave ownership analysis for Humphries men, slave candidates for Laura in bold

Name of Humphries male	1850 Census		1860 Census		Comments
	Residence, real estate value & total slaves	Enslaved females, age & race as recorded	Residence, real estate value, personal estate value & total slaves	Enslaved females, age & race as recorded	
George W Sr.	Lafayette Co., Mississippi \$1,000 3 total slaves	19 B	Lafayette Co., Mississippi \$2,500 \$6,000 6 total slaves	35 B <b>15 M[ulatto]</b>	1850: no candidates for Laura 1860: 1 multiracial candidate for Laura
Joseph R	Lafayette Co., Mississippi \$3,500 13 total slaves	34 B, 30 B, 26 B, 25 B, <b>4 B</b>	Caldwell Co., Texas \$5,000 \$23,250 16 total slaves	35 B, 33 B, 30 B, <b>6 B</b> , 4 B, 2 B, 1 B	1850: 1 candidate for Laura 1860: 1 candidate for Laura
Allen	Lafayette Co., Mississippi \$12,000 9 total slaves	34 B, 24 B, 25 B, <b>5 B, 4 B, 2 B</b>	Lafayette Co., Mississippi \$1,800 \$14,000 14 total slaves	44 B, 36 B, 35 B, <b>14 B, 13 B, 13 B,</b> <b>10 M[ulatto],</b> <b>5 M[ulatto], 5 B,</b> 1 B	1850: 3 candidates for Laura 1860: 6 candidates (2 multiracial) for Laura
Jesse L	Lafayette Co., Mississippi \$1,400 9 total slaves	25 B, 25 B, 9 B, 8 B, <b>3 B, 1 B</b>	Lafayette Co., Mississippi \$6,500 \$12,650 11 total slaves	35 B, 19 M[ulatto], <b>14 B</b> , 35 B, 18 M[ulatto]	1850: 3 candidates for Laura 1860: 1 candidate for Laura
Alexander	Lafayette Co., Mississippi \$550 0 slaves	None known	Lavaca, Texas \$0 \$0 0 slaves	None known	Alexander's 2 <sup>nd</sup> wife, Margaret, owns \$1500 of real estate and \$800 of personal estate; neither of them are in the slave schedule
James J	Lafayette Co., Mississippi \$1,000 3 total slaves	11 B, <b>3 B</b>	Guadalupe Co., Texas \$2,360 \$5,150 2 total slaves	20 B	1850: 1 candidate for Laura 1860: no candidates for Laura

George W Jr.	Lafayette Co., Mississippi \$2,000 7 total slaves	25 B, 20 B, 11 B, <b>6/12 B (6 mos.)</b>	Lafayette Co., Mississippi \$6,000 \$12,300 13 total slaves	35 B, 22 B, 22 B, <b>11 B, 8 B, 1 B</b>	1850: 1 candidate for Laura  1860: 2 candidates for Laura
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"1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7668/> : accessed 19 October 2023), negative search for Alexander Humph\*, A Humph\*, Umph\*, in Lavaca County, Texas.

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1860 U.S. Census, Guadalupe County, Texas, slave schedule, p. 9 (penned), p. 401 (stamped), James Humphries owner; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/92321359:7668> : accessed 14 October 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1310.

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Note: Also see the 1850 and 1860 Census population schedule enumerations for each of these men attached to their profiles in the client's *Ancestry* tree. See "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 14 October 2023), "Myers Family Tree," family of George Washington Humphries (1772-1865) built out and sourced by researcher Melanie Whitt on behalf of client.



Table 5. Slave ownership analysis for Humphries-Chandler men in Georgia, slave candidates for Laura in bold

Name of Chandler male	1850 Census		1860 Census		Comments
	Residence, real estate value & total slaves	Enslaved females, age & race	Residence, real estate value, personal estate value & total slaves	Enslaved females, age & race	
Solomon (husband of Nancy Humphries, their sons' enumerations follow in the rows below)	Jackson Co., Georgia \$4,000 24 total slaves	44 B, 38 B, 27 B, 23 B, 20 B, 16 B, 13 B, 11 B, 10 B, <b>6 B, 3 B, 7/12 B (7 mos.),</b> 16 B, <b>4 B</b> , 9 B, <b>3 B</b>	Jackson Co., Georgia \$4,000 \$13,750 24 total slaves	45 B, 36 B, 30 B, 30 B, <b>15 B, 15 B, 10 B, 9 B, 8 B, 7 B</b> , 2 B, 4 B	1850: 5 candidates for Laura 1860: 6 candidates for Laura In 1860, Solomon also employed 3 slaves owned by daughter Caroline; none are candidates for Laura
Early M	w/ Solomon \$65 None	None known	Athens, Clarke Co., Georgia \$1,200 \$4,800 5 total slaves	23 B, <b>6 B</b>	1850: no candidates for Laura 1860: 1 candidate for Laura
Tresvan M	Jackson Co., Georgia \$900 1 slave	17 B	Jackson Co., Georgia \$2,000 \$3,040 1 slave	4 B	1850: no candidates for Laura 1860: 1 candidate for Laura
Cicero H	Athens, Clarke Co., Georgia \$ — None	None known	Atlanta, Fulton Co., Georgia \$ — \$ — 10 total slaves	30 B, 21 M[ulatto], 19 B, 17 B	1850: no candidates for Laura 1860: no candidates for Laura
Francis M	Jackson Co., Georgia \$ — None	None known	w/ Solomon in Jackson Co. \$ — \$ — None	None known	1850: no candidates for Laura 1860: no candidates for Laura
Calvin V	w/ Solomon \$ — None	None known	Not known	None known	1850: no candidates for Laura 1860: no candidates for Laura

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1860 U.S. Census, Jackson County, Georgia, slave schedule, Clarksborough district, page 1 (penned), page 356 (stamped), Solomon Chandler owner; digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7668/images/gam653\\_147-0215?pId=90201440](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7668/images/gam653_147-0215?pId=90201440)) : accessed 19 September 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M653.

1860 U.S. Census, Clarke County, Georgia, slave schedule, Athens, page 72 (penned), E M Chandler owner; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/92556903:7668>) : accessed 19 September 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 144.

1850 U.S. Census, Jackson County, Georgia, slave schedule, Subdivision 45, p. 979 (penned), Tresvant Chandler owner; digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8055/images/GAM432\\_91-0477?pId=92464743](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8055/images/GAM432_91-0477?pId=92464743)) : accessed 14 October 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 91.

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"1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7668/>) : accessed 19 October 2023), negative search for Francis Chandler, F Chandler, F M Chandler, Calvin Chandler, C V Chandler, C Chandler, in Jackson County and surrounding counties, Georgia.

Note: Also see the 1850 and 1860 Census population schedule enumerations for each of these men attached to their profiles in the client's *Ancestry* tree. See "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 14 October 2023), "Myers Family Tree," family of George Washington Humphries (1772-1865) built out and sourced by researcher Melanie Whitt on behalf of client.

From these 1850 and 1860 snapshots, it is clear the Humphries and Humphries-Chandler men were prolific enslavers. If the slave schedules are accurate, they collectively enslaved 14 black women in 1850 whose ages generally correlate with Laura's approximate age. In 1860, they collectively enslaved 18 black women (3 of them listed as multiracial, like Laura in the 1880 census) who are candidates for Laura. However, if Laura's alleged Sep 1850 birth per her 1900 census enumeration is correct, she would not have been included in the 1850 slave schedule as of the 1 June 1850 census date.<sup>20</sup>

For these candidates for Laura, it is necessary to keep geography in mind. If Laura was conceived or born on a Humphries estate in Mississippi by 1850 and then taken to Georgia soon thereafter, any of the 1850 candidates could reasonably be Laura. However, all known documents for Laura stated she was born in Georgia, and only the Humphries-Chandler slaveowners were in Georgia in 1850 and 1860. If she was in fact born there and remained enslaved there until 1865, only the enslaved women in the Humphries-Chandler households in Georgia would be likely candidates for Laura. At Solomon's death in early 1865, he was enslaving at least 32 total individuals, 8 more than were enumerated in his 1860 slave schedule. Research turned to identifying the names of women enslaved by the Humphries and Humphries-Chandler families to determine if Laura was among them.

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<sup>20</sup> *Ancestry*, "1850 U.S. Federal Census-Slave Schedules: About" (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8055/>) : accessed 22 October 2023).

### Other Slavery-era Documents near Jackson County, Georgia

To date, research has not discovered a slavery-era record naming Laura in connection with the Humphries or Humphries-Chandler families. Reasonably, pre-1865 documentary research began with source collections in or near Jackson County, Georgia, the location where Laura was first documented. The accompanying research log provides details for these negative searches in the records examined. In summary, no slave named Laura or Sallie (as she was listed in Florence Moon's death record) was found in a thorough investigation of various Georgia sources:

- Wills & estate inventories for Chandler family members
- Jackson County Superior Court Records index (currently only available online through 1825)<sup>21</sup>
- Georgia newspapers
- Deeds for Jackson County and Walton County from 1843-1870.<sup>22</sup>

Table 6 records the discovered names of all known slaves affiliated with the Humphries-Chandler family in Georgia to date.

*Table 6. Known slaves affiliated with the Humphries-Chandler family*

Name of Enslaver	Names of the Enslaved	Citation
Solomon Chandler (husband of Nancy Humphries)	Harriett and 2 children	Jackson County, Georgia, Court of Ordinary, inventory and appraisal of Solomon Chandler estate, 17 January 1865, pp.795-796; digital images received 12 September 2023 via email from Jackson County Historic Archives, Georgia, items from Box 101, folder "Solomon Chandler."
	Apling	
	James	
	Jane and child	
	Wesley	Jackson County, Georgia, Court of Ordinary, "Wills, Vol. A-C, 1796-1814, 1860-1919," entry for Solomon Chandler, will date 29 April 1854, probate date 9 January 1865, Book B, pp. 98-99; digital images, "Georgia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992," Ancestry ( <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8635/images/005765010_00185?pid=490738">https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8635/images/005765010_00185?pid=490738</a> : accessed 19 September 2023); citing Jackson County Court of Ordinary records.
	Lucinda and 4 children	
	William	
	Newton	
	Richmond	
	Robert	
	Charity	
	Ann	
	Mary	
	Clementine	
	Floyd	
	Charlotte and children	

<sup>21</sup> Jackson County Superior Court Records, ms68, Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, 1786-1825, negative search for relevant Humphries or Chandler cases naming slaves; catalog index, The University of Georgia Libraries (<https://sclfind.libs.uga.edu/sclfind/view?docId=ead/ms68.xml&doc.view=print:chunk.id=> : accessed 15 September 2023). See also Tina Harris, Jackson County Historical Society (Georgia), to Melanie Whitt, 15 September 2023, email held privately, mbwgenealogy@gmail.com, Tualatin, Oregon.

<sup>22</sup> **Note:** Georgia counties are subdivided into smaller political jurisdictions called militia districts. The Humphries and Chandlers, as well as Laura and her descendants, most often lived in militia districts near the juncture where Jackson, Walton, and Gwinnett counties met in the mid-1800s. Unfortunately, the Gwinnett County courthouse burned in 1871, destroying nearly all records prior to this date, including valuable deeds. See Family Locket Genealogists, "August 2023 Georgia Research Plan," report, 16 August 2023; privately held by the client and researchers. See also *FamilySearch Wiki*, "Gwinnett County, Georgia Genealogy" ([https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Gwinnett\\_County\\_Georgia\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Gwinnett_County_Georgia_Genealogy) : accessed 13 September 2023).

	Vina (Vinn?) Richard Harrison Mariah and child Jerry John Patty	
Early Madison Chandler (son of Solomon Chandler and Nancy Humphries)	Mariole and her sons John and Warren	Superior Court, Jackson County, Georgia, "Deeds, 1808-1902; index to deeds, 1796-1904," Deeds, Vol. P-Q 1858-1870, slave sale, Early M Chandler to James C Stanley, 6 May 1859, p. 150 of Vol. P; digital images, <i>FamilySearch</i> ( <a href="https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLX-L72P?i=112&amp;cat=228627">https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLX-L72P?i=112&amp;cat=228627</a> : accessed 12 September 2023), FSL DGS 8192595, image 113 of 679.
Tresvan Minor Chandler (son of Solomon Chandler and Nancy Humphries)	Adaline	Jackson County, Georgia, Court of Ordinary, "Wills 1860-1919 vol A-C," entry for Tresvan M Chandler, 29 October 1861, p. 85; digital images, "Georgia Probate Records, 1742-1990," <i>FamilySearch</i> ( <a href="https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L93R-X4W6?i=177">https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L93R-X4W6?i=177</a> : accessed 19 September 2023), FSL DGS 5765010, image 178 of 678.

## CONCLUSION

This research session made good progress toward the client's research goals. It formulated a thorough research plan for exploring repositories in Georgia that may hold relevant, onsite collections for her Humphries, Lyle, and Moon ancestors. The client's biological descent from the Humphries family has been strengthened with continued DNA analysis and segment triangulation, thanks to the participation of several of her white Humphries DNA matches and pedigree triangulation of key matches. Reflecting common experiences with African-American genealogical research, documentary evidence for Laura's connection to the Humphries family remains elusive despite the extensive review of relevant pre- and post-emancipation collections in this research session. The lack of documentary evidence will require another project phase prior to assembling her DAR application. Further documentary evidence—direct or indirect—between Laura and the Humphries will be essential to complement the DNA evidence for Laura's descent from Joseph Humphries in order to present the most compelling DAR application possible.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

### DNA

- Continue communication with key white Humphries matches, inviting them to transfer DNA results to MyHeritage. Follow up with Humphries 2. Seek family-held information that may name Humphries/Chandler slaves.
- Continue identifying triangulated DNA segments for the client's Humphries line. Invite Laura 2, the client's multiracial 2C1R through Florence Moon's sister Mary Moon, to transfer his DNA data to MyHeritage for analysis and quadrangulation with white Humphries matches. Since he

descended down an independent line from the client, quadrangulated matches with Laura 2 would help anchor the Humphries matches to Laura's lineage for the DAR proof argument.

- Refine WATO tree predictions by adding further DNA matches identified through pedigree triangulation. Focus on added matches sharing 50 cM or more for more accurate analysis.

#### Documentary

- In light of the possibility that Laura may have been born in Mississippi and then sold, traded, or brought back to Georgia, conduct documentary research on Humphries estate records, probate records, and deeds in non-Georgia locations to locate any mentions of slaves. Special focus should be made on Lafayette County, Mississippi, collections.
- Discover availability of area newspapers for Lafayette County, Mississippi. Examine issues to discern any mentions of Humphries slaves. Ask for local librarian help or hire a local researcher if microfilms or editions are available only onsite.
- Extend research into the estates of George Washington Humphries' other daughters and sons-in-law: Elizabeth Humphries and husbands John Perry Pearce & John F May, and Rebecca Humphries and husband William Washington McGonagill. As close members of George's FAN club, they may have been Laura's enslavers.
- Extend research into the estates of Nancy Humphries and Solomon Chandler's daughters and sons-in-law: Mary Ann Green Chandler and husband James Calvin Stanley, Elizabeth Abitha Emeline Chandler and husband Willis Bobo, and Nancy Caroline Chandler and husbands William C Daniel & Charles William Shackelford. As close members of George's FAN club, they may have been Laura's enslavers.
- Expand newspaper research by examining the newspaper holdings in the Athens-Clarke County Heritage Room of the Athens Regional Library System. Work with a librarian or hire a local researcher.
- Hire a researcher to examine onsite repositories identified in the August 2023 Georgia Research Plan, which accompanied this research project.
- Hire a researcher in Georgia to review the remaining Jackson County Superior Court Records at UGA's Hargrett Library Special Collections. Though these have been indexed through 1832 by the Jackson County Historical Society, it will take their volunteers a while to reach Laura's slavery timeline (about 1850-1865). There is no guarantee that Laura was mentioned in these records, but combing through them is essential in reasonably exhaustive research for formerly enslaved research subjects.

Thanks for allowing us to research your family! We look forward to continuing as desired.

MW / DE

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