Working the Research Plan to Test a Family Story with mtDNA: Part 4

Client: Yvonne Fenster

24 November 2026

Objective

Use mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) to determine whether Ellis Guiles's direct maternal-line ancestor could have contributed to Ellis's Atlantic Northeast (Canada & USA) region. Ellis's maternal great-grandmother, Abbie Blake, was born about 1855 in Mount Pleasant, Charleston County, South Carolina.

Scope & Parameters

- Trace Ellis Guiles's direct maternal line one generation at a time, from Ellis through Freda May Spears and Augusta Whitesides to Abbie Blake.
- Identify Ellis's mtDNA haplogroup and compare it with the Native American haplogroups.
- Compare Ellis's haplogroup with the Bantu expansion and with his African Ancestral Regions as of 9 November 2026.
- Use Ellis's 23andMe Maternal Haplogroup report as the only mtDNA evidence; Ellis tested at 23andMe on 19 February 2013 and never tested at FamilyTreeDNA, which offers full-sequence mtDNA testing.
- Recognize that mtDNA tests only the direct maternal line, so Native American ancestry through Abbie's father or another ancestor cannot be entirely excluded.
- Recognize that only one record names Abbie Blake as Augusta's mother and that the 1880 Minott household remains unresolved.

Results Summary

- **Identified** Freda May Spears as Ellis's mother; the birth certificate names her, no record names a different mother, and the identification is certain.
- **Identified** Augusta Whitesides as Freda's mother; the birth registration names her, no record names a different mother, and the identification is certain.

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- **Identified** Abbie Blake as probably Augusta's mother; only Augusta's 1900 marriage record names her.
- **Determined** that Ellis's maternal haplogroup is L3e3b, an African branch of haplogroup L3e that spread with the Bantu expansion.
- **Eliminated** a Native American direct maternal line as the source of Ellis's Atlantic Northeast (Canada & USA) region, because L3e3b belongs to none of the haplogroups A, B, C, D, and X.
- **Compared** Ellis's haplogroup with his African Ancestral Regions; four regions totaling 6 percent lie in areas the Bantu expansion reached, but a haplogroup cannot confirm any one region.

Background

The objective grew out of family lore that Ellis's great-grandmother, Abbie Blake, was Native American and that her daughter, Augusta Whitesides, played Pocahontas in a traveling circus.

This is Part 4 of my series on Ancestry's 2026 Ancestral Regions update, and it carries out the research plan from Part 3. Part 1, published on 18 October 2026, explained how AncestryDNA turns a DNA test into a list of Ancestral Regions and what changed between the 2025 and 2026 updates.[1] Part 2, published on 1 November 2026, gave five steps for saving, organizing, and analyzing your own Ancestral Regions, using my father, Ellis Guiles, as the example.[2] Part 3, published on 13 November 2026, chose one of Ellis's regions, Atlantic Northeast (Canada & USA), which stood at 3 percent on both 21 October and 9 November 2026, and turned it into a research objective.[3]

Findings & Analysis

Part 3 ended with a five-step research plan, and this post carries that plan out. mtDNA can test the family lore only if each link between Ellis and Abbie holds, so Steps 1 through 3 check those links one generation at a time, from Ellis's mother back through her mother to Abbie. Step 4 identifies Ellis's mtDNA haplogroup, and Step 5 compares that haplogroup with the Native American haplogroups. The post also connects Ellis's haplogroup to the Bantu expansion and to his African regions on Ancestry.

Step 1: Identifying Ellis Guiles's Mother

Seven records name Freda May Spears as Ellis's mother, place Ellis in her household, or link the two through family members (Table 1). The records span from Ellis's birth in 1928 to his death in 2015. Table 1 also lists Ellis's age in each record, the birth range that age implies, and the race and birthplace each record gives.

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[1] Yvonne Fenster, "A Plain-English Guide to Ancestry's 2026 Ancestral Regions Update: Part 1," *FamilyLocket* (https://familylocket.com/a-plain-english-guide-to-ancestrys-2026-ancestral-regions-update-part-1/ : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

[2] Yvonne Fenster, "Step-By-Step Guide to Analyzing Your Ancestral Regions: Part 2," *FamilyLocket* (https://familylocket.com/step-by-step-guide-to-analyzing-your-ancestral-regions-part-2/ : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

[3] Yvonne Fenster, "Turning an Ancestral Region into an Objective and Research Plan: Part 3," *FamilyLocket* (https://familylocket.com/turning-an-ancestral-region-into-an-objective-and-research-plan-part-3/ : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

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Table 1. Records for Step 1: Ellis Guiles's mother.

Record	Age	Implied birth	Mother as named or listed	Race	Birthplace
Birth certificate[4]	—	8 Nov 1928	Freda Spears	—	Providence, RI
1930 census[5]	1	2 Apr 1928–1 Apr 1929	Freda, wife of head	Negro	RI
1940 census[6]	11	2 Apr 1928–1 Apr 1929	Freda, wife of head	White	RI
1950 census[7]	21	Spring 1928–spring 1929	Freda, wife of head	White	RI
Death certificate[8]	86	Apr 1928–Apr 1929	Fredora Spears	White	Providence, RI
Ellis's obituary[9]	86	Apr 1928–Apr 1929	Not named; names siblings Frederick and Louise	—	Providence, RI
Freda's obituary[10]	—	—	Names her son Ellis G. Guiles	—	—

Ellis Guiles's birth certificate names Freda Spears as his mother.[11] Ellis was born on 8 November 1928 in Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island, and the certificate, filed the next day, names Ellis's father as Fred Guiles, age thirty, born in Newport, Newport County, Rhode Island, and Ellis's mother as Freda Spears, age twenty-nine, born in Providence. Rhode Island restricts access to birth records less than one hundred years old to the named person and certain relatives, including children

[4]Providence County, Rhode Island, certificate of birth no. 124 (8 November 1928), Ellis Green Guiles; certified copy issued 6 August 2009, privately held by Yvonne Fenster, [Address For Private Use].

Records spell Freda's given name several ways. Ellis's birth certificate and the 1940 census use Freda. The 1930 and 1950 censuses read "Fridore" and "Fredore," and Ellis's death certificate gives Fredora. This post uses Freda throughout; the footnotes keep the spelling in each record.

[5]1930 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, Providence, Ward 5, enumeration district (ED) 36, p. 2B (penned), dwelling 11, family 22, Frederick D. Guiles household; digital image, "1930 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6224/images/4547307_00104 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

[6]1940 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, Providence, enumeration district (ED) 6-209, p. 11B (penned), Frederick D. Guiles household; digital image, "1940 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2442/images/m-t0627-03779-00453 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

[7]1950 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, East Providence, enumeration district (ED) 1-464, sheet 12, household 134, Frederick D. Guiles household; digital image, "1950 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/62308/images/43290879-Rhode_Island-052695-0013 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

[8]Onondaga County, New York, certificate of death no. 1518 (13 April 2015), Ellis Guiles Sr.; privately held by Yvonne Fenster, [Address For Private Use].

[9]"Ellis Green Guiles, Sr.," *The Post-Standard* (Syracuse, New York), 19 April 2015, page B1, column 3; digital images, *Newspapers.com* (https://www.newspapers.com : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

[10]"Freda M. Guiles," *Providence Journal* (Providence, Rhode Island), 27 May 1987, page P, column 2; photocopy privately held by Yvonne Fenster, [Address For Private Use].

[11]Providence County, Rhode Island, certificate of birth no. 124 (8 November 1928), Ellis Green Guiles; certified copy issued 6 August 2009, privately held by Yvonne Fenster, [Address For Private Use].

and other descendants. Ellis's daughter, a direct descendant, qualified to request the certified copy, which was issued on 6 August 2009.[12]

The 1930, 1940, and 1950 censuses place Ellis in the home of Frederick Sr. and Freda from infancy into adulthood. Frederick D. Guiles Sr. and Freda May Spears married on 12 April 1924 in New York City, New York County, New York, four years before Ellis's birth.[13] The marriage record shows that the couple enumerated in the censuses, Frederick Sr. and Freda, were married before Ellis was born. In 1930, the family lived at 38 Eudora Street in Providence, the address on Ellis's birth certificate, with Ellis's older siblings, Frederick D. Guiles Jr. and Louise E. Guiles.[14] Each census lists Freda as Frederick Sr.'s wife and Ellis as his son.[15] The censuses record each person's relationship only to the head of household, so they do not state Freda's relationship to Ellis, but the 1924 marriage of Frederick Sr. and Freda supports the conclusion that Freda was Ellis's mother.

The three censuses point to a birth in 1928 or early 1929, which agrees with Ellis's birth certificate. The 1930 and 1940 censuses both set census day on 1 April and asked for each person's age at last birthday as of that day, so Ellis's ages of one in 1930 and eleven in 1940 point to a birth from 2 April 1928 to 1 April 1929, a range that includes 8 November 1928.[16] The 1950 census day was also 1 April, but the instructions asked for age at last birthday as of the day of the enumerator's visit, and Ellis's age of twenty-one fits a November 1928 birth for a spring visit.[17]

The records agree on Ellis's birthplace but disagree on his race. Every record that gives a birthplace names Providence or Rhode Island. The 1930 census lists Ellis and Freda as "Negro," while the 1940 and 1950 censuses list both as "White," and Ellis's death certificate also lists him as White. Ellis had

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[12]"Disclosure of records (R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-3-23)," *FindLaw* (https://codes.findlaw.com/ri/title-23-health-and-safety/ri-gen-laws-sect-23-3-23/ : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

"Birth, Death, and Marriage Records (Vital Records)," *Rhode Island Department of Health* (https://health.ri.gov/records/ : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

[13]New York County, New York, certificate and record of marriage no. 11711 (12 April 1924), Frederick D. Guiles and Frieda M. Spear; Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, FHL microfilm 1643124 (viewed 17 May 2016).

[14]1930 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, Providence, Ward 5, enumeration district (ED) 36, p. 2B (penned), dwelling 11, family 22, Frederick D. Guiles household; digital image, "1930 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6224/images/4547307_00104 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

Providence County, Rhode Island, certificate of birth no. 124 (8 November 1928), Ellis Green Guiles; certified copy issued 6 August 2009, privately held by Yvonne Fenster, [Address For Private Use].

[15]1930 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, Providence, Ward 5, enumeration district (ED) 36, p. 2B (penned), dwelling 11, family 22, Frederick D. Guiles household; digital image, "1930 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6224/images/4547307_00104 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

1940 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, Providence, enumeration district (ED) 6-209, p. 11B (penned), Frederick D. Guiles household; digital image, "1940 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2442/images/m-t0627-03779-00453 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

1950 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, East Providence, enumeration district (ED) 1-464, sheet 12, household 134, Frederick D. Guiles household; digital image, "1950 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/62308/images/43290879-Rhode_Island-052695-0013 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

[16]"1930 Census: Enumerator Instructions," *IPUMS USA* (https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1930.shtml: accessed 11 Nov 2026), paragraph 156.

"1940 Census: Instructions to Enumerators," *IPUMS USA* (https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1940.shtml : accessed 11 Nov 2026), paragraph 458.

[17]"1950 Census: Instructions to Enumerators," *IPUMS USA* (https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1950.shtml : accessed 11 Nov 2026), paragraphs 68 and 122.

light skin, and the records describe his race differently from year to year.[18] During a period of racial segregation and discrimination, Ellis likely passed as white when he could, and if Ellis's parents gave the census taker the family's information in 1940 and 1950, they likely made the same choice for the household.

Ellis's death certificate, which records his death on 13 April 2015, names the same parents as Ellis's birth certificate, Frederick Guiles Sr. and Freda Spears, recorded as "Fredora Spears."[19] New York State makes death certificates available for genealogical research after fifty years, and the deceased's immediate family, including a child, may obtain a copy sooner. Ellis's daughter qualified as his child, so the certificate could be requested although Ellis died in 2015.[20] Ellis's wife, Jane (Throckmorton) Guiles, provided the information; Jane did not witness Ellis's birth, so her information about Ellis's parents is secondhand, but it agrees with the birth certificate. Ellis's obituary, published on 19 April 2015, names his brother, Frederick Guiles Jr., and his sister, Louise Guiles, the same two children who appear with Ellis in the 1930 and 1940 censuses.[21] Freda's obituary, published on 27 May 1987, names her sons as Frederick D. Guiles Jr. of East Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island, and Ellis G. Guiles of Syracuse, Onondaga County, New York.[22]

The birth certificate is the strongest record because it names Freda as Ellis's mother and was created at the time of Ellis's birth. The parents' marriage record, the censuses, Ellis's death certificate, and both obituaries were created at different times by different informants, and none names a different mother for Ellis. The one discrepancy is Freda's age: the birth certificate gives it as twenty-nine, two years less than her actual age of thirty-one (Step 2 documents her birth on 21 August 1897), and the 1924 marriage record also understates it by one year. Neither difference affects her identity, because the birth certificate and the marriage record both agree with her birth registration on her Providence birthplace. Freda May Spears was certainly Ellis's mother.

Step 2: Identifying Freda May Spears's Mother

Six records name Augusta Whitesides as Freda's mother or place Freda in Augusta's household (Table 2). The records span from Freda's birth in 1897 to her death in 1987. Table 2 also lists Freda's age in each record, the birth range that age implies, and the race and birthplace each record gives.

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[18] Yvonne Fenster, Personal Knowledge, 11 November 2026.

[19] Onondaga County, New York, certificate of death no. 1518 (13 April 2015), Ellis Guiles Sr.; privately held by Yvonne Fenster, [Address For Private Use].

[20] "Genealogy Records & Resources," *New York State Department of Health* (https://www.health.ny.gov/vital_records/genealogy.htm : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

"Death Certificates," *New York State Department of Health* (https://www.health.ny.gov/vital_records/death.htm : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

[21] "Ellis Green Guiles, Sr.," *The Post-Standard* (Syracuse, New York), 19 April 2015, page B1, column 3; digital images, *Newspapers.com* (https://www.newspapers.com : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

[22] "Freda M. Guiles," *Providence Journal* (Providence, Rhode Island), 27 May 1987, page P, column 2; photocopy privately held by Yvonne Fenster, [Address For Private Use].

Table 2. Records for Step 2: Freda May Spears's mother.

Record	Age	Implied birth	Mother as named or listed	Race	Birthplace
Birth registration[23]	—	21 Aug 1897	Augusta E. Whiteside	Colored	Providence, RI
1900 census[24]	—	Aug 1897 (month and year given)	Augusta, wife of head	Black	RI
1910 census[25]	12	16 Apr 1897–15 Apr 1898	Augusta, wife of head	Mulatto	RI
1920 census[26]	32	2 Jan 1887–1 Jan 1888	Augusta, wife of head	Black	RI
Marriage record[27]	25	13 Apr 1898–12 Apr 1899	Augusta Whiteside (maiden name)	Negro	Providence, RI
Freda's obituary[28]	89	27 May 1897–26 May 1898	Augusta (Whiteside) Spears	—	Providence, RI

Freda's birth registration names Augusta Whitesides as Freda's mother. Freda was born on 21 August 1897 in Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island, and the registration names her parents as "Ellis G. Spear" and "Augusta E. Whiteside."[29] Ellis Spears (b. abt. 1867) and Augusta Whitesides married on 2 September 1900 in New York City, New York County, New York, three years after Freda's birth.[30] The marriage record gives Ellis Spears's residence as 277 Thayer Street in Providence, the same address where the 1900 census lists the family, and identifies the couple in the birth registration and the

[23]Providence County, Rhode Island, birth registration, Freda May Spear, 21 August 1897; database with images, "Rhode Island, U.S., Birth Registrations 1846-1921," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/62824/images/i3718722-00233 : accessed 11 Nov 2026), image 234 of 357.

[24]1900 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, Providence, Ward 2, enumeration district (ED) 13, p. 4B (penned), dwelling 73, family 84, Ellis J. Spears household; imaged, "1900 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4120510_00238 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

The census records Freda's name as Freada M. Spears.

[25]1910 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, enumeration district (ED) 95, p. 9A (penned), dwelling 151, family 189, Ellis G. Speare household; digital image, "1910 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7884/images/4450037_00288 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

The census records Freda's name as Fredora H. Spears.

[26]1920 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, East Providence, enumeration district (ED) 107, p. 16B (penned), dwelling 320, family 353, Ellis G. Spears household; digital image, "1920 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6061/images/4384811_00629 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

The census records Freda's name as Fredora H. Spears and her age as thirty-two. Freda was twenty-two in 1920.

[27]New York County, New York, certificate and record of marriage no. 11711 (12 April 1924), Frederick D. Guiles and Frieda M. Spear; Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, FHL microfilm 1643124 (viewed 17 May 2016).

[28]"Freda M. Guiles," *Providence Journal* (Providence, Rhode Island), 27 May 1987, page P, column 2; photocopy privately held by Yvonne Fenster, [Address For Private Use].

[29]Providence County, Rhode Island, birth registration, Freda May Spear, 21 August 1897; database with images, "Rhode Island, U.S., Birth Registrations 1846-1921," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/62824/images/i3718722-00233 : accessed 11 Nov 2026), image 234 of 357.

[30]New York County, New York, certificate and record of marriage no. 14808 (2 September 1900), Ellis Spears and Augusta E. Whiteside; Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, FHL microfilm 1570437 (viewed 17 May 2016).

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censuses as the two people who married.[31] The marriage came three years after Freda's birth and three months after the 1900 census listed Augusta as Ellis Spears's wife, so the couple lived as husband and wife before they legally married.

The 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses place Freda in Augusta's household. In 1900, Freda lived at 277 Thayer Street in Providence with Ellis Spears, Augusta, and Freda's brother, Joseph; by 1910, the family lived on Woodward Avenue in East Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island, and the 1920 census lists Freda, still single, as a waitress. Each census lists Freda as the head of household's daughter and lists Augusta as his wife.[32] Because Ellis Spears and Augusta lived together as husband and wife, the censuses support the conclusion that Augusta was Freda's mother.

Freda's birth information in the 1900 and 1910 censuses agrees with her birth registration, but her age in the 1920 census and on her marriage record does not. The 1900 census day was 1 June 1900, and the enumerators asked for each person's month and year of birth; the census gives Freda's as August 1897, matching her birth registration.[33] The 1910 census day was 15 April 1910, so Freda's age of twelve points to a birth from 16 April 1897 to 15 April 1898, a range that includes 21 August 1897.[34] The 1920 census day was 1 January 1920, and the census gives her age as thirty-two, which points to a birth in about 1887, ten years too early.[35] The age of thirty-two is likely an enumerator recording error, because the 1900 and 1910 censuses, the birth registration, and the 1924 marriage record all place

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[31]New York County, New York, certificate and record of marriage no. 14808 (2 September 1900), Ellis Spears and Augusta E. Whiteside; Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, FHL microfilm 1570437 (viewed 17 May 2016).

1900 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, Providence, Ward 2, enumeration district (ED) 13, p. 4B (penned), dwelling 73, family 84, Ellis J. Spears household; imaged, "1900 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4120510_00238 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

[32]1900 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, Providence, Ward 2, enumeration district (ED) 13, p. 4B (penned), dwelling 73, family 84, Ellis J. Spears household; imaged, "1900 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4120510_00238 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

1910 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, enumeration district (ED) 95, p. 9A (penned), dwelling 151, family 189, Ellis G. Speare household; digital image, "1910 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7884/images/4450037_00288 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

1920 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, East Providence, enumeration district (ED) 107, p. 16B (penned), dwelling 320, family 353, Ellis G. Spears household; digital image, "1920 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6061/images/4384811_00629 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

[33]1900 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, Providence, Ward 2, enumeration district (ED) 13, p. 4B (penned), dwelling 73, family 84, Ellis J. Spears household; imaged, "1900 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4120510_00238 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

"1900 Census: Instructions to Enumerators," *IPUMS USA* (https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1900.shtml : accessed 11 Nov 2026), paragraphs 94 and 128–132.

[34]1910 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, enumeration district (ED) 95, p. 9A (penned), dwelling 151, family 189, Ellis G. Speare household; digital image, "1910 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7884/images/4450037_00288 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

"1910 Census: Instructions to Enumerators," *IPUMS USA* (https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1910.shtml : accessed 11 Nov 2026), paragraph 110.

[35]1920 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, East Providence, enumeration district (ED) 107, p. 16B (penned), dwelling 320, family 353, Ellis G. Spears household; digital image, "1920 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6061/images/4384811_00629 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

"1920 Census: Instructions to Enumerators," *IPUMS USA* (https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1920.shtml : accessed 11 Nov 2026), paragraph 122.

Freda's birth in the late 1890s. The marriage record gives her age as twenty-five on 12 April 1924, one year less than her actual age of twenty-six, a small difference that does not affect her identity.[36]

The records agree on Freda's birthplace but vary on her race. Every record names Providence or Rhode Island as Freda's birthplace. The records describe Freda as "Colored" in 1897, "Black" in 1900 and 1920, "Mulatto" in 1910, and "Negro" on her 1924 marriage record and in the 1930 census, and the 1940 and 1950 censuses list her as "White," as they do Ellis.[37]

Freda's marriage record and obituary also name Augusta as her mother. As the bride, Freda knew her parents' names firsthand, and the 1924 marriage record gives her mother's maiden name as "Augusta Whiteside."[38] Freda's obituary, published on 27 May 1987, describes her as "a daughter of the late Ellis G. and Augusta (Whiteside) Spears"; the obituary does not name its informant, so its information about Freda's parents is secondhand, but it agrees with the birth registration.[39]

The birth registration is the strongest record, because it names Augusta as Freda's mother and was created at the time of Freda's birth. The 1900 marriage record, the three censuses, Freda's 1924 marriage record, and her obituary agree with the birth registration. The only substantial conflict, Freda's age in the 1920 census, does not affect her identity, because the census lists her by name as Ellis Spears's daughter and, by inference, Augusta's daughter. Augusta Whitesides was certainly Freda May Spears's mother.

Step 3: Identifying Augusta Whitesides's Mother

Six records give information about Augusta Whitesides's birth or parents (Table 3). Only Augusta's marriage record names her mother. Table 3 also lists Augusta's age in each record, the birth range that age implies, and the race and birthplace each record gives.

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[36]New York County, New York, certificate and record of marriage no. 11711 (12 April 1924), Frederick D. Guiles and Frieda M. Spear; Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, FHL microfilm 1643124 (viewed 17 May 2016).

[37]1930 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, Providence, Ward 5, enumeration district (ED) 36, p. 2B (penned), dwelling 11, family 22, Frederick D. Guiles household; digital image, "1930 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6224/images/4547307_00104 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

1940 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, Providence, enumeration district (ED) 6-209, p. 11B (penned), Frederick D. Guiles household; digital image, "1940 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2442/images/m-t0627-03779-00453 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

1950 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, East Providence, enumeration district (ED) 1-464, sheet 12, household 134, Frederick D. Guiles household; digital image, "1950 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/62308/images/43290879-Rhode_Island-052695-0013 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

[38]New York County, New York, certificate and record of marriage no. 11711 (12 April 1924), Frederick D. Guiles and Frieda M. Spear; Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, FHL microfilm 1643124 (viewed 17 May 2016).

[39]"Freda M. Guiles," *Providence Journal* (Providence, Rhode Island), 27 May 1987, page P, column 2; photocopy privately held by Yvonne Fenster, [Address For Private Use].

Table 3. Records for Step 3: Augusta Whitesides's mother.

Record	Age	Implied birth	Mother as named or listed	Race	Birthplace
1900 census[40]	25	2 Jun 1874–1 Jun 1875	Not named	Black	SC
Marriage record[41]	27	3 Sep 1872–2 Sep 1873	Abbie Blake	Mulatto	Mount Pleasant, SC
1905 Rhode Island state census[42]	32	28 Jan 1873 (date given)	Not named	Black	Mount Pleasant, SC
1910 census[43]	37	16 Apr 1872–15 Apr 1873	Not named	Mulatto	SC
1920 census[44]	47	2 Jan 1872–1 Jan 1873	Not named	Black	SC
Death certificate[45]	82	22 Feb 1873 (date given)	Unknown	Colored	New York, NY

Augusta's marriage record names Abbie Blake as her mother. The 1900 certificate lists the bride as "Augusta E. Whiteside," age twenty-seven, "Mulatto," single, born in Mount Pleasant, Charleston County, South Carolina, and names her parents as "John A. Whiteside" and "Abbie Blake."[46] Augusta signed the certificate and, as the bride, had the most direct knowledge of her own mother's name.

The 1905 Rhode Island state census agrees with the marriage record on Augusta's birthplace. The census lists Augusta, recorded as "Augusta Spears," as the wife of the head of household, born on 28 January 1873 in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, and gives Mount Pleasant as the birthplace of both of her parents. The census also reports that Augusta had four children, all living.[47]

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[40]1900 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, Providence, Ward 2, enumeration district (ED) 13, p. 4B (penned), dwelling 73, family 84, Ellis J. Spears household; imaged, "1900 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4120510_00238 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

[41]New York County, New York, certificate and record of marriage no. 14808 (2 September 1900), Ellis Spears and Augusta E. Whiteside; Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, FHL microfilm 1570437 (viewed 17 May 2016).

[42]1905 Rhode Island State Census, Providence Ward 1, E.D. 3, Voting District 1, p. 1965-1967, family 82, Augusta Spears; database with images, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1-159372-310996-51 : accessed 11 May 2016).

[43]1910 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, enumeration district (ED) 95, p. 9A (penned), dwelling 151, family 189, Ellis G. Speare household; digital image, "1910 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7884/images/4450037_00288 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

[44]1920 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, East Providence, enumeration district (ED) 107, p. 16B (penned), dwelling 320, family 353, Ellis G. Spears household; digital image, "1920 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6061/images/4384811_00629 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

[45]Providence County, Rhode Island, certificate of death no. 7170 (3 August 1955), Augusta Whiteside Spears; State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Office of the Secretary of State, Archives Division, Providence (viewed 27 April 2015).

[46]New York County, New York, certificate and record of marriage no. 14808 (2 September 1900), Ellis Spears and Augusta E. Whiteside; Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, FHL microfilm 1570437 (viewed 17 May 2016).

[47]1905 Rhode Island State Census, Providence Ward 1, E.D. 3, Voting District 1, p. 1965-1967, family 82, Augusta Spears; database with images, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1-159372-310996-51 : accessed 11 May 2016).

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Augusta's ages in the other records mostly agree with the 1905 census birth date of 28 January 1873.[48] Augusta's age of twenty-seven on her 2 September 1900 marriage record fits that date, and so does her age of thirty-seven in the 1910 census, taken as of 15 April 1910.[49] The 1920 census gives her age as forty-seven on 1 January 1920, one year more than her actual age of forty-six on that day.[50] The 1900 census gives her age as twenty-five on 1 June 1900, two years less than her actual age of twenty-seven.[51] Census ages often came from whoever answered the door, or even a neighbor, and the 1900 census still lists Augusta with Ellis Spears and Freda at the address on the marriage record.

The records agree on Augusta's birthplace except for her death certificate, and they vary on her race. The marriage record and the 1905 census name Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, and the 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses name South Carolina. The records describe Augusta as "Black," "Mulatto," or "Colored," and no record lists her as White.

Augusta's 1955 death certificate does not name her mother. Augusta died on 3 August 1955 in East Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island. Augusta's daughter, Mary Spears, provided the information, naming Augusta's father as "Whiteside" and her mother as "unknown." The certificate also gives Augusta's birth as 22 February 1873 in New York City, which conflicts with the 1905 census.[52] Mary was born decades after Augusta and had no firsthand knowledge of Augusta's birth or parents, while Augusta supplied her own information on her marriage record, so the marriage record carries more weight.

Three years before Augusta's birth, the 1870 census enumerated Abby Blake, age fifteen, Black, in Christ Church Parish, Charleston County, South Carolina, an area that includes Mount Pleasant.[53] Abby's age at her last birthday, 1 June 1870, suggests a birth about 1855, and she lived with William

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[48]1905 Rhode Island State Census, Providence Ward 1, E.D. 3, Voting District 1, p. 1965-1967, family 82, Augusta Spears; database with images, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1-159372-310996-51 : accessed 11 May 2016).

[49]New York County, New York, certificate and record of marriage no. 14808 (2 September 1900), Ellis Spears and Augusta E. Whiteside; Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, FHL microfilm 1570437 (viewed 17 May 2016).

1910 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, enumeration district (ED) 95, p. 9A (penned), dwelling 151, family 189, Ellis G. Speare household; digital image, "1910 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7884/images/4450037_00288 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

"1910 Census: Instructions to Enumerators," *IPUMS USA* (https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1910.shtml : accessed 11 Nov 2026), paragraph 110.

[50]1920 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, East Providence, enumeration district (ED) 107, p. 16B (penned), dwelling 320, family 353, Ellis G. Spears household; digital image, "1920 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6061/images/4384811_00629 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

"1920 Census: Instructions to Enumerators," *IPUMS USA* (https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1920.shtml : accessed 11 Nov 2026), paragraph 122.

[51]1900 U.S. Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, population schedule, Providence, Ward 2, enumeration district (ED) 13, p. 4B (penned), dwelling 73, family 84, Ellis J. Spears household; imaged, "1900 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4120510_00238 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

"1900 Census: Instructions to Enumerators," *IPUMS USA* (https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1900.shtml : accessed 11 Nov 2026), paragraphs 94 and 132.

[52]Providence County, Rhode Island, certificate of death no. 7170 (3 August 1955), Augusta Whiteside Spears; State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Office of the Secretary of State, Archives Division, Providence (viewed 27 April 2015).

[53]1870 U.S. Census, Charleston County, South Carolina, population schedule, Christ Church, p. 16 (stamped), dwelling 289, family 298, Abby Blake household; imaged, "United States Census, 1870," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7163/images/4275951_00036 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

Blake, age ten, and Peter Blake, age eight.[54] The census taker enumerated Moses Whitesides's household just before Abby's. That household included John Whitesides, age twenty-three, a White planter.[55] Augusta's marriage record names her father as "John A. Whiteside," and the 1870 census places John Whitesides and Abby Blake living next door to each other. Abby is a phonetic variation of Abbie, and Abby's surname, her residence in the Mount Pleasant area, and an age that fits motherhood in 1873 support identifying her as Abbie Blake. DNA evidence not examined here supports John Whitesides as Augusta's father and offers some support for Abbie Blake as her mother.

The 1880 census possibly shows Abbie and Augusta together under a different surname. In Mount Pleasant, the census lists Augusta Minott, age nine, as the daughter of William Minott, age twenty-five, and Abbe Minott, age twenty-four.[56] Abbe's age points to a birth about 1856, close to Abbie Blake's, but Augusta Minott's age points to a birth about 1871, two years before Augusta Whitesides's birth in January 1873. One hypothesis is that William Minott, who was about sixteen when Augusta Whitesides was born, was her stepfather. Research on the Minott household could test whether Abbe Minott was Abbie Blake.

Augusta's marriage record is the only record found so far that names Abbie Blake as Augusta's mother. The 1905 census agrees with it on Augusta's birthplace, the 1870 census places Abby Blake next door to John Whitesides, and the death certificate leaves the mother's name blank rather than naming another woman. Because only one record names Abbie directly and the 1880 household remains unresolved, Abbie Blake was probably Augusta Whitesides's mother. Church records, Freedman's Bank records, and research on the Minott household in Mount Pleasant could strengthen that conclusion.

Step 4: Identifying Ellis Guiles's mtDNA Haplogroup

Ellis tested at 23andMe on 19 February 2013. The 23andMe Maternal Haplogroup report states, "Ellis, your maternal haplogroup is L3e3b."[57] Table 4 traces Ellis's line from that L root to L3e3b.

Table 4. The branches of Ellis's maternal haplogroup, from oldest to youngest.[58]

Branch	Approximate age	Where the branch formed or spread
L	180,000 years	Eastern Africa
L3	65,000 years	Eastern Africa

[54]"1870 Census: Instructions to Assistant Marshals," *IPUMS USA* (https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1870.shtml : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

[55]1870 U.S. Census, Charleston County, South Carolina, population schedule, Christ Church, p. 16 (stamped), dwelling 288, family 289, Moses Whitesides household; imaged, "United States Census, 1870," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7163/images/4275951_00036 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

[56]1880 U.S. Census, Charleston County, South Carolina, population schedule, Mount Pleasant, enumeration district (ED) 79, sheet 29 (stamped), p. 7C (penned), dwelling 51, family 72, William Minott household; imaged, "1880 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6742/images/4244510-00062 : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

"1880 Census: Instructions to Enumerators," *IPUMS USA* (https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1880.shtml : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

[57]"Maternal Haplogroup," *23andMe* (https://you.23andme.com/reports/maternal_haplogroup/ : accessed 11 Nov 2026); Ellis Guiles maternal haplogroup: L3e3b.

[58]"Maternal Haplogroup," *23andMe* (https://you.23andme.com/reports/maternal_haplogroup/ : accessed 11 Nov 2026); Ellis Guiles maternal haplogroup: L3e3b.

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Table 4. The branches of Ellis's maternal haplogroup, from oldest to youngest.[58]		
Branch	**Approximate age**	**Where the branch formed or spread**
L3e	36,000 years	Central or northeastern Africa; later spread with the Bantu expansion
L3e3b	3,500 years	Sub-branch of L3e carried by Ellis's direct maternal line

Each branch in Table 4 traces to Africa, and Ellis's L3e3b is the youngest. L3e3b formed about 3,500 years ago, roughly 140 generations before Ellis was born, and it shares the African origin of L3e.[59] Other sources date the branch differently: FamilyTreeDNA estimates that L3e3b split from L3e3 around 13,000 BCE and that the most recent common ancestor of its tested members lived about 5,150 BCE, while DNAGenics gives about 3,500 to 4,000 years, so the age in Table 4 is one estimate among several.[60] Wikipedia places haplogroup L3 at about 70,000 years old and L3e at about 45,000 years old, compared with 65,000 and 36,000 years in Table 4.[61] The haplogroup is uncommon among 23andMe testers; about one in 1,200 shares it.[62]

L3e, the parent branch of Ellis's L3e3b, spread across Africa with the Bantu expansion.[63] Beginning about 4,000 years ago, farming communities that spoke Bantu languages moved out of a homeland near the present-day border of Nigeria and Cameroon. One group moved east through the central African rainforest toward the Great Lakes and then south into southeastern Africa, while another moved south along the Atlantic side of the continent.[64] Women who carried L3e traveled with these migrants, which helps explain why the branch is common today in central and southeastern Africa.[65] L3e is also common among African Americans and Afro-Brazilians, whose maternal lines reached the Americas through the transatlantic slave trade.[66]

23andMe assigns a haplogroup based on a limited set of mtDNA markers. A full-sequence mtDNA test reads every position in the mtDNA and can place a person on a smaller branch of the tree.

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[59] "Maternal Haplogroup," *23andMe* (https://you.23andme.com/reports/maternal_haplogroup/ : accessed 11 Nov 2026); Ellis Guiles maternal haplogroup: L3e3b.
"mtDNA Haplogroup L3E3B," *DNAGenics* (https://www.dnagenics.com/haplogroups/mtdna/L3E3B : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

[60] "mtDNA Haplogroup L3e3b," *FamilyTreeDNA Discover* (https://discover.familytreedna.com/mtdna/L3e3b/story : accessed 21 Nov 2026).
"mtDNA Haplogroup L3E3B," *DNAGenics* (https://www.dnagenics.com/haplogroups/mtdna/L3E3B : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

[61] "Haplogroup L3," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haplogroup_L3 : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

[62] "Maternal Haplogroup," *23andMe* (https://you.23andme.com/reports/maternal_haplogroup/ : accessed 11 Nov 2026); Ellis Guiles maternal haplogroup: L3e3b.

[63] "mtDNA Haplogroup L3E3B," *DNAGenics* (https://www.dnagenics.com/haplogroups/mtdna/L3E3B : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

[64] "Bantu expansion," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bantu_expansion : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

[65] "Haplogroup L3," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haplogroup_L3 : accessed 21 Nov 2026).
"mtDNA Haplogroup L3E3B," *DNAGenics* (https://www.dnagenics.com/haplogroups/mtdna/L3E3B : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

[66] "Maternal Haplogroup," *23andMe* (https://you.23andme.com/reports/maternal_haplogroup/ : accessed 11 Nov 2026); Ellis Guiles maternal haplogroup: L3e3b.
"Haplogroup L3," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haplogroup_L3 : accessed 21 Nov 2026).
"mtDNA Haplogroup L3E3B," *DNAGenics* (https://www.dnagenics.com/haplogroups/mtdna/L3E3B : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

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Ellis never tested at FamilyTreeDNA, a company that offers full-sequence mtDNA testing, so his 23andMe result is the only mtDNA evidence available for this objective.[67] Ellis's maternal haplogroup is L3e3b, a branch of haplogroup L3e.

Step 5: Comparing Ellis's Haplogroup with Native American Haplogroups

Ellis's L3e3b haplogroup is not a Native American haplogroup. Roberta Estes, a genetic genealogist who studies Native American DNA, explains which haplogroups are proven to be Native American. Estes writes:[68]

> *"Proven Native American haplogroups include portions of haplogroups A, B, C, D, and X. Some haplogroup subgroups, or subclades of the aforementioned haplogroups, are proven to be Native and some are not, resulting in confusion. In other words, everyone in haplogroup A is not Native American, but within haplogroup A, subgroup A2 and downstream haplogroups—such as A2a, A2b, and so forth—are proven to be Native ... No haplogroups other than subgroups of A, B, C, D, and X have been found in ancient remains in the Americas."*

L3e3b belongs to none of the five haplogroups Estes names. L3e3b is an African branch of haplogroup L3e, which spread across sub-Saharan Africa with the Bantu expansion.[69] Ellis's haplogroup therefore does not meet the test for a Native American direct maternal line.

Ellis's mtDNA eliminates a Native American direct maternal line as the source of his Atlantic Northeast (Canada & USA) region. Ellis inherited his mtDNA from Freda, Freda inherited it from Augusta, and Augusta inherited it from her own mother, so every woman in that line certainly carried the African haplogroup L3e3b. The haplogroup does not depend on the name of Augusta's mother; the records name her as Abbie Blake, who was probably Augusta's mother. This result does not support the family story that Abbie was Native American. The mtDNA tests only the direct maternal line, so Native American ancestry through Abbie's father or another ancestor cannot be entirely excluded, and Ellis's 3 percent Atlantic Northeast region either came through another line or reflects the uncertainty of a small region.

Ellis's haplogroup does agree with his Ancestral Regions at the continent and subregion levels. Four of Ellis's 9 November 2026 regions lie in the areas the Bantu expansion reached (Table 5).[70] Figure 1

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[67] "mtDNA Haplogroup L3e3b," *FamilyTreeDNA Discover* (https://discover.familytreedna.com/mtdna/L3e3b/story : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

[68] Roberta Estes, *DNA for Native American Genealogy* (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 2021), 82.

[69] "Haplogroup L3," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haplogroup_L3 : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

"mtDNA Haplogroup L3e3b," *FamilyTreeDNA Discover* (https://discover.familytreedna.com/mtdna/L3e3b/story : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

"mtDNA Haplogroup L3E3B," *DNAGenics* (https://www.dnagenics.com/haplogroups/mtdna/L3E3B : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

[70] "Bantu expansion," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bantu_expansion : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

"Ellis Green Guiles: Ancestral Regions," November 2026, database report, *Ancestry* (https://ancestry.com : accessed 9 Nov 2026).

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places the Bantu routes in Panel A beside Ellis's African regions on his Ancestry Regions page in Panel B. The purple routes in Panel A cross the central and southern African areas where the large regions in Panel B appear, and those areas include the four regions listed in Table 5. The West Africa macro-region in Panel B, a heading on Ellis's Regions page, lies near the Bantu homeland in Panel A, so one hypothesis links it to the same population.[71]

Table 5. Ellis's 9 November 2026 regions in the areas the Bantu expansion reached.[72]

Region	Subregion	9 November 2026
Western Bantu & Forest Peoples	Central Africa	2%
DRC–Luba Peoples	Central Africa	1%
Southern Bantu Peoples	Southern Africa	1%
Zimbabwe	Southern Africa	2%
Total		**6%**

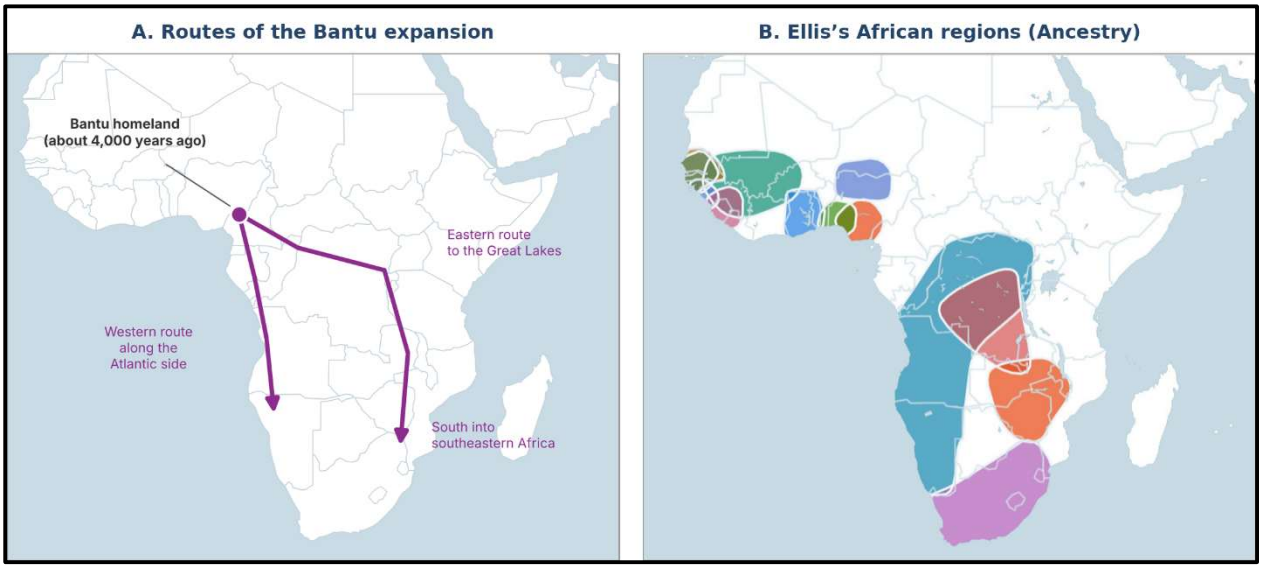

Figure 1. The simplified routes of the Bantu expansion (A) beside Ellis's African regions on his Ancestry Regions page (B). Panel A was drawn for this post over country outlines from Natural Earth, a free, public-domain map dataset.[73]

The four regions in Table 5 fall in the Central Africa and Southern Africa subregions, where the Bantu expansion spread and where L3e is common today.[74] The Bantu homeland lay near present-day Cameroon, at the eastern edge of West Africa, and one hypothesis is that some of the DNA in Ellis's West Africa macro-region (29 percent) comes from the same population, depending on how Bantu

[71] "Bantu expansion," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bantu_expansion : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

[72] "Ellis Green Guiles: Ancestral Regions," November 2026, database report, *Ancestry* (https://ancestry.com : accessed 9 Nov 2026).

[73] "Ellis Green Guiles: Ancestral Regions," November 2026, database report, *Ancestry* (https://ancestry.com : accessed 9 Nov 2026), map of African regions.
Public-domain map dataset, *Natural Earth (*https://www.naturalearthdata.com : accessed 11 Nov 2026).

[74] "Haplogroup L3," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haplogroup_L3 : accessed 21 Nov 2026).
"Bantu expansion," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bantu_expansion : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

speakers spread and mixed with their neighbors.[75] A haplogroup cannot be matched to a specific percentage, because mtDNA follows only one of the many lines that make up Ellis's Ancestral Regions. Ellis's African haplogroup is consistent with his African Ancestral Regions, but it cannot confirm any one region.

Conclusion

The objective was met. Ellis's mtDNA haplogroup, L3e3b, is an African branch of haplogroup L3e and not a Native American haplogroup, so his mtDNA eliminates a Native American direct maternal line as the source of his Atlantic Northeast (Canada & USA) region. The result does not support the family story that Abbie Blake was Native American. The following evidence supports this conclusion:

- Ellis inherited his mtDNA from Freda May Spears, Freda inherited it from Augusta Whitesides, and Augusta inherited it from her own mother, so every woman in that line certainly carried L3e3b.
- Abbie Blake was probably Augusta's mother, but the haplogroup does not depend on the name of Augusta's mother.
- The mtDNA tests only the direct maternal line, so Native American ancestry through Abbie's father or another ancestor cannot be entirely excluded, and Ellis's 3 percent Atlantic Northeast region either came through another line or reflects the uncertainty of a small region.
- Ellis's African haplogroup is consistent with his African Ancestral Regions, but it cannot confirm any one region.

Future Research Suggestions

Based on the findings of this phase, the following steps are recommended to strengthen the identification of Abbie Blake and to test a second family story in Ellis's family tree that might explain his Atlantic Northeast (Canada & USA) region:

- Search church records and Freedman's Bank records in Charleston County, South Carolina, for Abbie Blake to strengthen the conclusion that she was Augusta Whitesides's mother.
- Research the household of William and Abbe Minott in Mount Pleasant, Charleston County, to test whether Abbe Minott was Abbie Blake and whether William Minott was Augusta's stepfather.
- Order a full-sequence mtDNA test, such as the one FamilyTreeDNA offers, for a person who descends from Abbie Blake through an unbroken line of women, to place the haplogroup on a smaller branch than the 23andMe result.
- Review SideView and apply SideView 2.0 in a new research plan to test the second family story.

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[75] "Bantu expansion," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bantu_expansion : accessed 21 Nov 2026).

"Ellis Green Guiles: Ancestral Regions," November 2026, database report, *Ancestry* (https://ancestry.com : accessed 9 Nov 2026).

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