



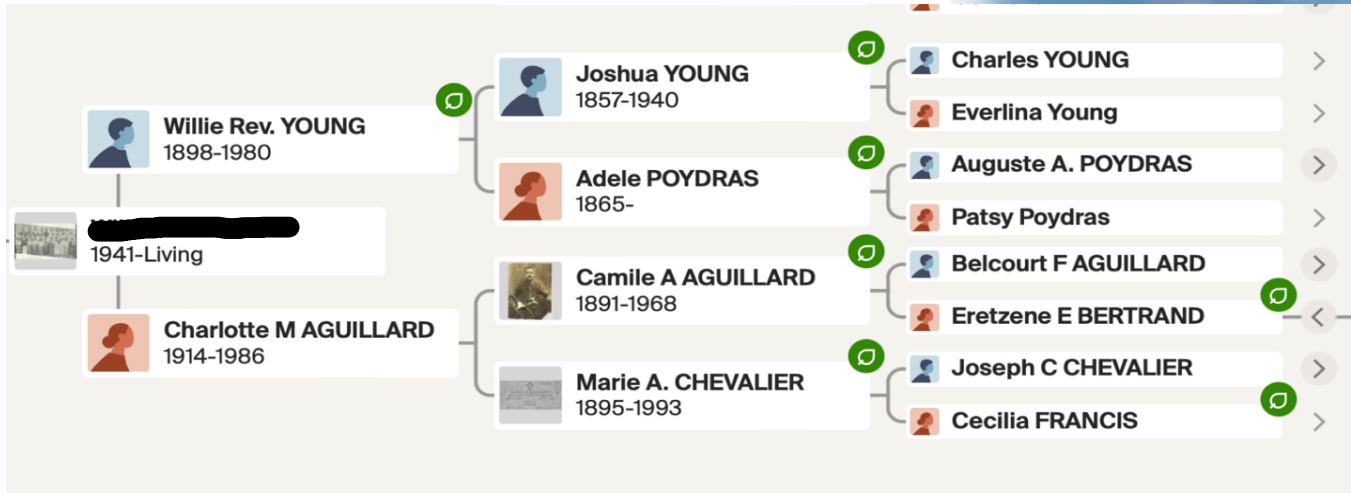
Sunflower Genealogy Society Newsletter



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A Gift for a Friend

Kim Gunyou



My good friend and former coworker, Char, has two daughters with her husband, and their younger one is graduating this summer from college. Their family is black, and her daughter is dating a nice young man who is white. Her girls don't know their family history like many of her Scandinavian friends do, living in suburban Minneapolis. My friend's mom is still alive. They are loving, spiritual, smart people who are super-fashionable and fun to be around. My friend's daughters are similar and trained in dance all their lives. One is now a cheerleader for the Minnesota Timberwolves basketball team. A part-time job, it is a rigorous yet fun thing to do. My friend was one of the first Minnesota Vikings cheerleaders, I wonder if DNA for cheerleading is a thing?

I still see my friend when I'm in Minnesota. She would do anything for anyone, and at work she was my right hand for many of the studies on which I worked. She is justifiably rising in the ranks in our healthcare research department.

After asking her permission, I'd looked into her side of her family a year or two ago, but stopped when I hit some roadblocks and got distracted with other things. I won't say I hit brick walls because I didn't work much beyond ancestry.com.

Well, I've gone past Ancestry now, venturing into the Freedmen's Bureau, the Slave Schedules of the Census, documents housed at the Smithsonian, the National Archives, and various libraries.

Charlotte Marguarete was named after her maternal grandmother. There is a rich French background, as both of her parents were born in New Orleans. One interesting character is her mother's maternal grandfather that Char barely remembers, as he died when she was quite young: Camile Antoine Aguillard (1891-1968).



This fellow was a light-skinned black man who she said passed for white at his job as a carpenter at plantations and jobs around New Orleans. (If you haven't seen the Netflix movie, "Passing," this explains the practice.) His father was a cigarmaker and later a fisherman on Lake Ponchartrain. His paternal grandparents were free people of color (fmc=free man of color, fwc=free woman of color). They were usually "mulatto" on the census. His maternal grandfather, Osévio Bertrand, was a Cuban cigarmaker.

Camile's common-law wife was Marie Chevalier, whose family had white, French-speaking landowners, as well as black and "mulatto" relatives on the censuses prior to the Civil War.

Interestingly, Marie's 2nd great-grandaunt below appears to have owned slaves.



Camile and Marie's daughter, the original Charlotte Marguarete, was married to Willie Young, a cement factory laborer in New Orleans, born in 1898.

In contrast to Camile's New Orleans family heritage, Willie's father, Joshua, was born in Mississippi, and her mother, Adele Poydras, in Louisiana. In 1870, a young Joshua lived in Baton Rouge with his father, Charles, two siblings, and a domestic servant that I thought might be a wife, and they appeared to live on a plantation. They were harder to trace. I delved into slave records and found a Charles Young, same age, same Mississippi birthplace, as Joshua's father. This Charles was born in Woodville, Mississippi, where incidentally, Jefferson Davis had a plantation called Rosemont. Charles' former owner was listed as Hugh Connell, a cotton planter from a family of plantation owners. After Charles' three children were born in MS, Hugh Connell and his portion of the family moved themselves and their slaves to West Feliciana, near Baton Rouge, to a new plantation after the start of the Civil War.

I found that Charles' wife's name had been "Everlina Young" on a state archive of Louisiana Deaths for his son, Hampton. (Hampton Hall was an historic mansion that Hugh Connell built from 1825-1832 in Woodville, MS. I could imagine that the home's name influenced Charles and Everlina's name choice for Hampton, born in 1856.). Eliza Young had likely been a domestic servant, probably for someone else, but helping Charles with his children as well.

After 1870, neither Charles nor Eliza can be found in subsequent censuses. There were so many crimes against freedmen after the war that there is an entire handwritten volume for each Freedmen's Bureau office called "Murders and Outrages." Many freedmen were killed, the perpetrators almost never being arrested. The "outrages" were non-deadly shootings or beatings of men and women, often with "300 lashes." This archive is difficult reading. I could imagine something like that or, of course, a very innocuous fate, such as illness, to cause Charles to die in his 40's. The working conditions as paid laborers (for \$4-10/month) after the War were spelled out in some documents, and it was still very harsh work.

Joshua, my friend's grandfather, and his wife Adele, owned a farm by 1940, when he was 83. One of 14 children, Joshua lived less than a mile from what is now Willie Mae's Scotch House in the Tremé area of New Orleans. I wonder if my friend, Char's, mother knows that. Her name is Willie Mae and she just turned 82 this year. I think I'll ask her.

That's just ¼ of my friend's grandparents. I can't wait to write down the rest and give it all to her daughters.

"Friends come and go, but relatives tend to accumulate." – Unknown

MyHeritage Library Edition Updates

Remember to access MyHeritage Library Edition from our Sunflower Genealogy Website



New Military Records from the United Kingdom!

Do you have ancestors that served in the British military? We are pleased to announce that we've added nearly half a million new military records from the United Kingdom. Here are some of our new collections:

[UK, WWI, 5th London General Hospital, 1917](#)

[UK, Ireland Army Census, 1911](#)

[UK, Worldwide Army Census, 1911](#)

[UK, Rolls of Honour, 1914-1920](#)

[UK, Highland Light Infantry Chronicle – Index 1908-1920](#)

[UK, The Times – Index of Casualties, 1914](#)

[UK, Princess Mary's Gift Box POW list, 1914](#)

[UK, University Rolls of Honour, 1914-1918](#)

Looking for a New Webmaster

Kathryn Smith will be resigning at the end of the year. If you are interested in becoming our new webmaster, please contact any board member.

Kathryn will be available for training.

The advertisement features a light orange background with a large, stylized white shape on the right side. In the top left corner, there is a logo for 'LEGACY FAMILY TREE WEBINARS' with a blue and orange icon. Below the logo, the text reads: 'Webtember: All Genealogy. All September Long.' Underneath this, it says: 'Join live for all four Fridays in September. 30 live and pre-recorded FREE webinars in all.' A prominent orange button with white text says 'Register now'. At the bottom left, the website 'www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com/webtember' is listed. In the bottom right corner, the MyHeritage logo is visible. The background is decorated with icons: a DNA double helix, a portrait of a woman, a portrait of a man, and a family tree diagram.