

EDWARDS FAMILY Genealogy and DNA Research

By Melvin J. Collier, great-great grandson of Prince Edwards, melvincollier@yahoo.com

I. Pre-Civil War Genealogy Research

E DWARDS history goes deep! According to family elders and Dr. Jeffrey O. Green Ogbar, the first Edwards in our family was **LUKE EDWARDS**, who was an enslaved African brought to America from Africa, possibly around 1800. Tired, weak, and hungry from a long, dreadful voyage across the Atlantic Ocean in the belly of a slave ship, he would go on to have many descendants in America and in Canada. Although "Luke" was his given name, the elders told the late Rev. Dr. Sidney D. Edwards Sr. (1910-1986), a grandson of Luke's son, Jerry Edwards, that his African birth name was **OGBAR OGUMBA**. This epic conversation between the elders and Dr. Edwards occurred around 1970, several years before Alex Haley's *Roots* aired on television in January 1977. The Edwards family and Alex Haley's family had something grand in common – the survival of the African name of one of the ancestors. This was rare. Luke was obviously very proud of his African origins. Dr. Edwards also recorded the following details from those family elders:

- Luke often told his family about how he was captured and brought to America. Family elders claimed that Luke was disembarked off a slave ship in the state of Virginia.
- Luke told his family that his father back in Africa talked a lot about the Red Sea and the Ethiopian Empire, also known as Abyssinia. Family elders believed that Luke may have been from Ethiopia. However, the history of the transatlantic slave trade doesn't support that claim.
- Luke had a high-pitched voice and never let up during a conversation.
- Luke told his family how the slave-owner would let him count the newborn pigs, and he would secretly retain two pigs to feed his family.
- Luke married and had a number of children with his wife. Her name was reported as "Reedia," but a preponderance of genealogical evidence has found that her name was **Lucy**.
- Luke was said to have been a "brush harbor" deacon after slavery.
- Luke was blessed with good health and a strong body.

Since Luke was not found in the 1870 census, he may have died between 1865 and 1870 in Panola County. Genealogy research has also found that he was born around 1790. Ogbar was probably transported to America from West Africa shortly before the transatlantic slave trade was banned on January 1, 1808. Based solely on his name, which is great linguistic evidence, there is a strong possibility that he was from the **Igbo people** of the Niger River Delta region, which is in the present-day nation of **Nigeria**. The Igbo people are native to southeastern Nigeria. In December 2016, I probed several Africans in Ghana about his name, since family members initially assessed that he was an Akan from the Gold Coast (Ghana). But Ghanaians solidly pointed to the Igbo people as being the origin of the name. In fact, Igbo Chief Okorie Mba of Asaga Ohafia, Nigeria was very familiar with the name, and he communicated the following compelling evidence:

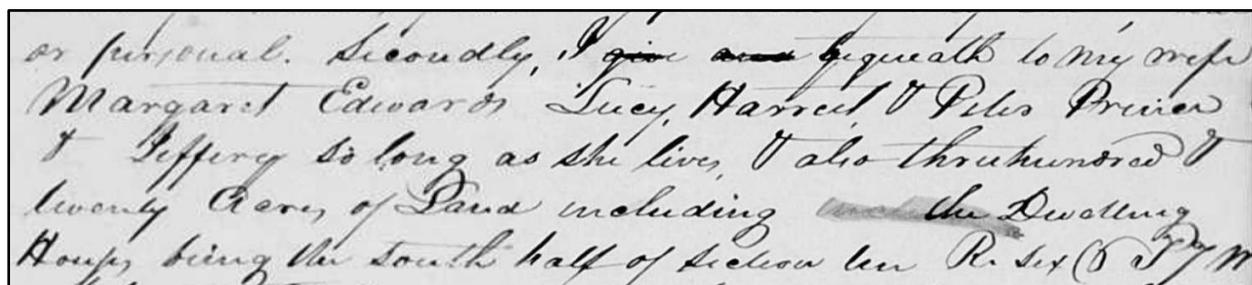
There are two meanings of the name: (1) As a place, it means town or village; (2) the name Mba means the braggart, big mouth, admonisher, showoff, backer or bouncer of the family.... or a fighter. **Ogu Mba**

means righteousness of a town. **Ogba** as a name is rampant in my village. It is a short cut to the name Ogbanta, which used to be an honorary name given to a great hunter. For example, Ogba Anu means animal shooter. Ogba Agu means lion shooter. Ogbu Agu means lion killer. Ogba (r) means shooter. Ogbu (h) means killer. The correct name should be Ogba as in Mba. The (r) and (h) were added by colonial masters for easier pronunciation. Please note that the O will have a dot under.

When researching enslaved ancestors, one has to also thoroughly research the slave-owner and his family to garner ancestral information. Genealogy research has revealed that the slave-owner was William Edwards Sr., who was born in 1780, in either North Carolina or Georgia. Per the 1880 census, his son, William Jr., reported Georgia as his father's birthplace. By 1810, William Sr. settled in Stewart (now Henry) County, Tennessee. The 1830 census reported that he had 19 slaves in Tennessee that year, who were transported to Panola County, Mississippi by 1837. William first appear in the Panola County, Mississippi tax rolls in 1837. Based on oral history, DNA technology, and a preponderance of evidence from genealogy research findings, their children likely included the following:

- **LUKE EDWARDS JR.**, born c. 1817, in Stewart (now Henry) County, Tennessee
- **JEFFERSON "JEFFERY / JEFF" EDWARDS**, born c. 1822, in Henry County, Tennessee
- **JOHN "JACK" EDWARDS**, born c. 1825, in Henry County, Tennessee
- **PRINCE EDWARDS**, born c. 1830, in Henry County, Tennessee
- **HARRIET EDWARDS WILBOURN**, born c. 1832, in Henry County, Tennessee
- **PETER EDWARDS**, born c. 1835, in Henry County, Tennessee
- **JERRY EDWARDS**, born c. 1837, in Panola County, Mississippi or Tennessee
- **YORK "YOKE" EDWARDS**, born c. 1839, in Panola County, Mississippi
- **MONROE EDWARDS**, born c. 1840, in Panola County, Mississippi
- **DAVID EDWARDS**, born c. 1843, in Panola County, Mississippi (*may have been a grandson*)

When William Sr. died in 1855, he left all of his slaves to his son, Dr. William Edwards Jr. He had bequeathed the following five slaves to his wife, Margaret, per his 1850 will, but she passed away before him in 1852. Therefore, William Jr. gained possession of all of them. The 1860 Panola County Slave Schedule reported that William Jr. owned 49 slaves.



or personal. Secondly, I give and bequeath to my wife Margaret Edwards, **LUCY, HARRIET, PETER, PRINCE, and JEFFERY** so long as she lives, and also three hundred and twenty acres of land including the Dwelling House, being the south half of Section ten Range Six...."

William Edwards Sr. wrote his will on Nov. 14, 1850, and he included the following, "... Secondly, I give and bequeath to my wife Margaret Edwards, **LUCY, HARRIET, PETER, PRINCE, and JEFFERY** so long as she lives, and also three hundred and twenty acres of land including the dwelling house being the south half of Section Ten Range Six...."

On October 3, 1850, a month before he wrote his will, the census taker recorded in the 1850 Panola County Slave Schedule that William Sr. owned 29 slaves. Unfortunately, enslaved people under the age of 100 were distinguished only by their age, sex, and color in that special census. The two oldest enslaved African Americans on his plantation were a 60-year-old male and a 53-year-old female. Those two people were likely Luke and Lucy. Luckily, the cruelties of slavery didn't dismantle their family, and they were surrounded by scores of children and grandchildren during and after slavery.

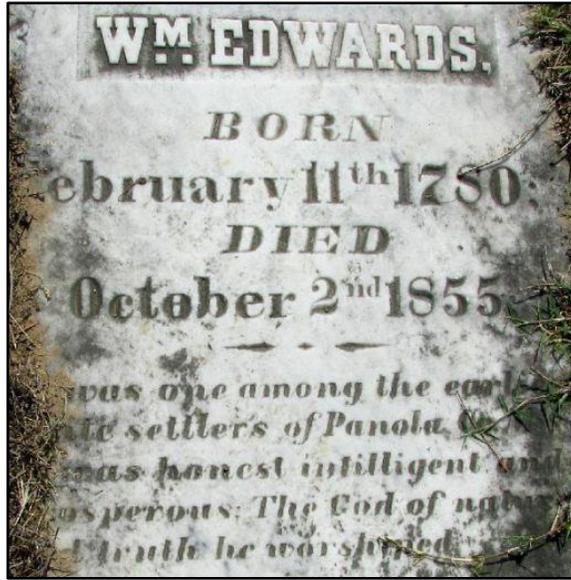
Five years later, William Edwards Sr. died on October 2, 1855, at the age of 75. Subsequently, an inventory of his estate was taken on December 15, 1855, as state laws required. The inventory recorded the names of 30 slaves who were part of his estate, since enslaved African Americans were considered "property," like hogs, cattle, and household furniture, due to the inhumane laws of the land. Luke was appraised last and given a value of \$150. Despite the inhumanity of placing a monetary value on human beings, Luke's "value," albeit low, seems to corroborate the oral history that he was strong with good health, even at the age of around 65. Most enslaved men over the age of 50 were valued at zero. Lucy was valued at zero. Other than family records, this is presently the only record that documented Luke's existence.

One Negro man a Slave name	Luke	aged 65	\$ 850 00
One " " " "	Jack	" "	1000 00
One " " " "	Jerry	" "	1100 00
One	Prince		1000 00
One	Jack		1000 00
One	Peter		1100 00
One	Harry		850 00
One	Jefferson		1000 00
One	Henry		1100 00
One	Edie		1000 00
One	Momoe		450 00
One " woman "	Fishy		850 00
One	Ginny		600 00
One	Harriet		600 00
One	Harriet & child		1000 00
One	Sapronia		800 00
One	Sam		500 00
One	Mary		750 00
One	Catherine		750 00
One " child	Petsy		600 00
One	Patsy		450 00
One	Ann		350 00
One woman	Milly & two children		1000 00
One girl	Eddy		250 00
One	Nancy		250 00
One woman	Becky		250 00
One "	Lucy	← LUCY	000 00
One Boy	Dave		450 00
			20100 00
Brought forward			20100 00
One Negro Boy named	Ben		\$ 350 00
One	Luke	← LUKE SR.	150 00

The Slave Inventory from William Edwards' Estate, December 15, 1855, Panola County, Mississippi

Moze for Jerry	in order	1.00
"	" Jack	1.25
"	" Jeffrey	1.00
"	" Bank	.62
"	" Prince	.38
"	" Luke	2.25
"	" Harry	.50

From William Edwards' estate record, his son Dr. William Edwards Jr. allocated "moze" for **JERRY, JACK, JEFFREY, YORK, PRINCE, LUKE, HARRY**, dated July 2, 1856. Moze may have been deer hide, possibly used to make clothing, shoes, etc.



William Edwards' gravestone at Fredonia Church Cemetery, Panola County, Mississippi



On May 28, 2016, over 20 descendants of Peter and Prince Edwards stood on the land where William Edwards' plantation was located, six miles east of Como, Mississippi on Simon Chapel Road, and paid homage to our ancestors who lived and labored on this land during slavery, since c. 1837, when they were brought to Panola County, Mississippi from Tennessee.



II. Post-Civil War Genealogy Research

E DWARDS by the dozens lived near Sledge, Mississippi, as well as near Como and Sardis. Sometime before 1900, Peter Edwards and his family and three nephews migrated further westward, from six miles east of Como, in northeastern Panola County, to northwestern Panola County, fifteen miles southwest of Como. **The 1900 Panola County census** shows that many Edwards lived within the rural Pleasant Grove community, very near the Panola-Quitman County line. According to Cousin Mary Cherry, the Peter Edwards family resided north of the town of Sledge.

If you could go back in time, back to June 16, 1900, the day the census taker visited, you will find the household of Jeff & Annie Edwards with their children, John Lloyd, Jefferson, Isaac, Walter, Drusilla, and Thomas. Then, a short distance away, there's the household of Patrick & Mahalia Edwards with their young children: Priscilla, L. E., and Julius. Patrick's nieces, Lou Ella & Rosa Diggs, presumably the daughters of his sister, Mary Edwards Diggs, are in his household. Then, next door, is the household of Isaac & Fannie Edwards with their children, David, Ransom, Mary Ann, Bettie, Paralee, Joe Nathan, John, and Anna. Then, two doors down, there's elder Peter & Catherine Edwards with the remaining children in their house: Lucy, Jerry, Paul, Silas, Moses, Katie, and three grandchildren, Freddie, Ollie, and Gordon. Then nearby, there's the household of Peter Jr. & May Dora Edwards. Peter's son, Henry, his wife Sweety, and their young children, Dempsey, Eddie, John, and Sweety, were near but in Quitman County closer to Sledge.



Just a stone's throw away, there's the household of George & Mary Ann Edwards with the following children: Willie, Ora, Ellen, and George Jr. Nearby, there's the household of Sidney & Addie Edwards with a daughter, Ira Lee. Next door were Prince Jr. & Missouri Edwards with their children, James, Rose, May Frances, and Joe Ella. Peter's nephews, Sidney, Prince Jr., and George Edwards, had followed him to the Sledge area. Sidney appears to have been the son of York Edwards, while Prince Jr. was the son of Prince Edwards. The parents of George Edwards are unknown at this time. There was a cluster of over 50 Edwards who were all living in the same vicinity near Sledge, while the rest of the family remained near Como, Sardis, and Senatobia. In 1900, many Edwards still resided within a short distance from where William Edwards' plantation was located. When Oklahoma became a state on November 16, 1907, most of Peter Edwards' children began to migrate to the Wewoka and Lima areas of Seminole County and the Wellston area of Lincoln County for better opportunities.

THE NEXT GENERATION OF EDWARDS

Birth years are approximated based on reported ages in the censuses.

LUKE EDWARDS JR. – born c. 1817 in Tennessee

- Luke Jr. was found in the 1870, 1880, and 1900 Panola County censuses. His wife was named Jane, who was also enslaved on the Edwards plantation.
- Luke Jr. and his family remained in Panola County (Como). He died between 1900 and 1910.
- Children of Luke found in the censuses: **Patsy Edwards Bradley (1848)**, **Annie Edwards (1849)**, **Eady Edwards Cole (1850-1924)**, **George Edwards (1856)**, **Rebecca Edwards (1857)**, **Henry Edwards (1858)**, **Jerome Edwards (1861)**.

In the 1880 Panola County census for Luke Jr., his father's birthplace was reported as "**unknown**," and Georgia was reported as being his mother's birthplace. He (or someone) reported Tennessee as his birthplace. These birthplaces are accurate. Presumably the oldest child, Luke Jr. was in the presence of his parents for many years, and Luke Sr. (Ogbar Ogumba) was said to have been a talker. Therefore, I believe the reporting of "unknown" as his father's birthplace serves as circumstantial evidence that Luke Sr. was indeed born in Africa, but Luke Jr. did not know exactly where. At that time, Africa had not been invaded and colonized by European powers and had not been divided into present-day nations like Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Senegal, Mali, Liberia, etc. The "Scramble for Africa" began in 1881.

JEFFERSON "JEFFERY / JEFF" EDWARDS – born c. 1822 in Tennessee

- Jeff was found in the 1870 and 1880 Panola County censuses. His wife was named Eliza.
- No children were found in his household in the censuses.

JOHN "JACK" EDWARDS – born c. 1825 in Tennessee

- Jack was found in the 1870 and 1880 Panola County censuses. His wife was named Saphronia. She was also enslaved on the Edwards plantation.
- No children were found in his household in the censuses.
- A nephew named **Barge Edwards (1856)** was residing with them in 1880. The parents of Barge are presently unknown.

PRINCE EDWARDS – born c. 1830 in Tennessee

- Prince was found in the 1870 and 1880 Panola County censuses. His wife after slavery was named Leanna.
- Prince and his family remained in Panola County (Como).
- Prince's son, Prince Jr., followed his uncle, Peter Edwards, to Sledge, Mississippi.
- Children of Prince Sr. found in the censuses: **Sarah Partee Reed (1852-1923)**, **Square Partee Sr. (1858-1912)**, **Harriet "Hattie" Edwards Whiting (1866)**, **Prince Edwards Jr. (1869)**, **Leanna Edwards (1871)**, **Bly Edwards (1873-1940)**, **Jeff Edwards (1874-1956)**, **Viney Edwards Whiting (1875)**, **Ella F. Edwards (1878)**, **Miles B. Edwards Sr. (1879)**.

Prince Edwards had at least two children by Polly Partee, namely Sarah Partee Reed and Square Partee Sr., who were enslaved on the nearby Squire B. Partee plantation, where Polly was the head cook. Squire Partee was a former son-in-law of William Edwards Sr. These two children are confirmed by DNA and oral history. Polly Partee also had sons named **Judge Partee (1854)** and **Johnny Partee (1864)**. Since Prince was the father of Sarah and Square, I speculate that he was also the father of Judge and Johnny.

HARRIET EDWARDS WILBOURN – born c. 1832 in Tennessee

- Harriet was found in the 1870 Panola County census and the 1880 Lafayette County census. Her husband was Mingo Wilbourn. The Wilbourn plantation was near the Edwards plantation.
- Children of Harriet found in the censuses: **Calline Wilbourn (1852), Luke Wilbourn (1855), Susie Wilbourn (1860), Mingo Wilbourn Jr. (1863), Sally Wilbourn Liggins (1865), Jennie Wilbourn (1867), William "Billie" Wilbourn (1869), Ann Wilbourn (1872), Irvin Wilbourn (1874).**

PETER EDWARDS – born c. 1835 in Tennessee

- Peter was found in the 1870, 1880, and 1900 Panola County censuses. His first wife was named Louisa, with whom he had at least seven children. He then married Catherine Jones on February 14, 1874 in Panola County, and he had six additional children.
- Peter and his family relocated to the Sledge, Mississippi area before 1900.
- Children of Peter found in the censuses: **Isaac Edwards (1859), Patrick Edwards (1863-1919), John Edwards (1865), Jeff Edwards (1866-1951), Peter Edwards (1868), Mary Edwards Diggs (1871), Henry Edwards (1873), Lucy Edwards Gordon Boone (1878-1942), Jerry Edwards (1879-1967), Paul Edwards (1881), Silas Edwards (1882-1960), Moses Edwards (1883-1941), Katie Edwards Rogers Sumlin (1887-1940).**

Most of Peter Edwards' children migrated to Oklahoma by 1915. His wife, Catherine, also went to Oklahoma. Per the 1910 census, she was enumerated in the household of her son, Moses, who was residing in Sapulpa, Creek County, Oklahoma when the census was taken. Catherine was recorded as being a widow. Therefore, Peter died sometime between 1900 and 1910. It is not known if he died in Mississippi or Oklahoma. His grandson, Jefferson D. Edwards (son of Jeff), migrated to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in 1910.

JERRY EDWARDS – born c. 1837 in Mississippi or Tennessee

- Jerry was found in the 1870 and 1880 Panola County censuses. His wife was Rebecca Pratcher.
- Jerry and his family remained in Panola County (Como). He died before 1900.
- Children of Jerry found in the censuses: **John G. Edwards (1869), Monroe Edwards (1871), Joseph Edwards (1875), David Edwards (1876), Emmaretta "Emma" Edwards Lockett (1878), Henrietta Edwards (1878), William Peter Edwards (1879-1960), Ed Edwards (1885-1973), Virginia Edwards Lyons (1887).**

YORK "YOKE" EDWARDS – born c. 1839 in Mississippi

- York was found in the 1880 and 1900 Panola County censuses. His wife was Mahalia. He also married Fannie Tart in 1889.
- York and his family remained in Panola County (Sardis). He died after 1900.
- York's son, Sidney, followed his uncle, Peter Edwards, to Sledge, Mississippi.
- Children of York found in the censuses: **Newton Edwards (1865), James Edwards (1868-1928), Sidney Edwards (1873), Alice Edwards (1877), Henry Edwards (1878), Olivia Edwards (1881), Lula Edwards (1884), Commodore Edwards (1886), George Edwards (1892).**

MONROE EDWARDS – born c. 1840 in Mississippi

- Monroe was found in the 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1910 Panola County censuses. His wife was Annie McKinney.
- Monroe and his family remained in Panola County (Como). He died after 1910.
- Children of Monroe found in the censuses: **Council Edwards (1866), William Edwards (1868), Jerry Edwards (1870-1950), Robert Edwards (1874), George Edwards (1878), Beulah Jane Edwards (1879), Tom Edwards (1881).**



III. The Ogbar Ogumba / Luke Edwards DNA Project

EDWARDS DNA analysis revealed a lot. The Y chromosome is passed down almost unchanged from father to son. Y-DNA genetic markers can trace the father-to-son genetic code back scores of generations to a specific region or people in the world. Therefore, the **Ogbar Ogumba / Luke Edwards DNA Project** was implemented in August 2015, to learn more about our ancestry. We used the DNA company called Family Tree DNA, the most reputable DNA company for Y-DNA testing. Their Y-DNA 67-marker test was recommended for this project. Four Edwards males were tested. They and their Edwards lineage include the following:

- (1) Prince Edwards > Square Partee > Jessie Partee Sr. > Jessie Partee Jr. > **ALBERT EDWARDS**
- (2) Peter Edwards > Moses Edwards > Cornelius Edwards Sr. > **CORNELIUS EDWARDS JR.**
- (3) Peter Edwards > Jeff Edwards > John Lloyd Edwards > Rev. John T. Edwards > **JAMES EDWARDS**
- (4) Jerry Edwards > Ed Edwards > **THE LATE CARUTHERS EDWARDS**

HAPLOGROUP ASSIGNMENT

Special sections on the Y chromosome determine a male's Y haplogroup, which reveals the origins of his patrilineal ancestor. A haplogroup is a **genetic population of people** who share a common ancestor on the patrilineal or matrilineal line. Haplogroups pertain to a single line of descent, usually dating back thousands of years. Haplogroups are assigned letters of the alphabet, and refinements consist of additional number and letter combinations. Albert, Cornelius, James, and Caruthers Edwards all received the haplogroup **E-M2**. Haplogroup **E** is an African lineage. Geneticists believe that this haplogroup dispersed south from northern Africa with the Bantu agricultural expansion. **E** is the most common among African Americans. It is a diverse haplogroup and is found throughout Africa today.

EDWARDS Y-DNA ANALYSIS

Albert, Cornelius, and James Edwards are considered a Y-DNA match. More DNA testing and analysis were needed for Caruthers Edwards. However, he passed away on October 17, 2015, at the age of 102. Albert, James, and Cornelius match each other at 67 markers at a genetic distance of 2. Genetic distance is a mathematical calculation of how many times mutations happened in their Y-chromosome between two men since their common ancestor, whether that common ancestor is known or not. A DNA consultation team concluded that Albert Edwards, a direct male descendant of Prince, and James & Cornelius Edwards, who are direct male descendants of Peter, all descend from the same male ancestor – the father of Prince and Peter. For 67-marker results, FTDNA states that a genetic distance of 1 or 2 between two men who share the same surname (or a variant) indicates a close relationship. Very few people achieve this close level of a match.

AUTOSOMAL DNA ANALYSIS

Autosomal DNA is DNA that is inherited from the autosomal chromosomes that came from **both parents**. In conjunction with genealogy research, autosomal DNA tests can be used to confirm family relationships and ancestors. As of June 1, 2017, over 30 Edwards have taken an autosomal DNA test, from either 23andMe, Ancestry.com, or Family Tree DNA. Seven great-grandchildren of Peter Edwards and four great-grandchildren of Prince Edwards have taken an autosomal DNA test. The two sets are full third cousins because their great-grandfathers were full brothers. Therefore, the DNA matching between these two groups is additional proof that Prince Edwards and Peter Edwards were full brothers. The two groups are DNA matches to each other in the 2nd to 4th cousin range, from 22 cM, to as high as 181 cM. See second chart below. This first chart below helps to comprehend the frequency of DNA matching between first to fourth cousins. Beyond third cousins, everyone won't share DNA with each other but are still related; they just inherited different chromosome segments from the same common ancestor(s).

Relationship to You	The Chances of Being a DNA Match	Average Amount of Shared DNA (cM)
1st Cousin <i>(common grandparents)</i>	100%	850
2nd Cousin <i>(common great-grandparents)</i>	> 99%	213
3rd Cousin <i>(common great-great-grandparents)</i>	> 90%	53
4th Cousin <i>(common third-great-grandparents)</i>	> 50%	13

Source: International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG) and Family Tree DNA.

DNA Sharing Amounts (cM) Between the Great-Grandchildren of Prince Edwards and Peter Edwards

These values represent the amount of identical DNA they inherited from the parents of Prince and Peter Edwards, namely Luke and Lucy Edwards, their great-great grandparents.

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN OF PETER EDWARDS	GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN OF PRINCE EDWARDS			
	Versia Reed Collier	Eartha Reed Campbell	John Reed Sr.	Armentha Reed Puryear
Brian (Keith) Edwards	181	51	144	104
Elmer Edwards	38	89	65	67
Earl Brown	107	128	105	47
Dennis Sumlin	78	76	65	87
Cornelius Edwards Jr.	131	71	60	71
Michael Boyd Sr.	49	114	22	63
Joyce Sumlin Davis	48	72	57	23

- (1) *Keith Edwards and Cornelius Edwards Jr. are grandsons of Peter's son, Moses. Elmer Edwards is a grandson of Peter's son, Jeff. Earl Brown is a grandson of Peter's son, Patrick. Dennis Sumlin, Michael Boyd, and Joyce Sumlin Davis are grandchildren of Peter's daughter, Katie.*
- (2) *Versia Collier, Eartha Campbell, and John Reed are children of Simpson Reed. Armentha Reed Puryear is a daughter of Pleas Reed. Simpson Reed and Pleas Reed were sons of Prince Edwards' daughter, Sarah Reed.*

DNA REVEALS GRANDMA LUCY EDWARDS' ORIGINS



Definitive conclusions can be drawn when multiple people from one family take an autosomal DNA test. Chromosome segments can be compared, in a process called triangulation. DNA triangulation is the comparing of matching DNA segments of multiple family members in one family to other DNA matches of unknown relations on a chromosome browser, in order to detect if everyone match each other and on the same chromosome segment(s). If so, everyone descend from a common ancestor(s). AncestryDNA does not provide a chromosome browser, and many family members have uploaded their DNA raw data files to a free, online program called GEDmatch.com. This has allowed me to determine more about our family history, specifically the origins of Lucy.

Comparing the reported birthplaces in the censuses, I observed that some of Lucy's children reported Georgia as being their mother's birthplace. Luke Edwards Jr., presumably the oldest, consistently reported Georgia as his mother's birthplace in 1880 and 1900. The white Edwards lived in Georgia for a while, before migrating to Tennessee by 1810. Exactly how William Edwards Sr. acquired his slaves is unknown. He could have purchased Lucy from a slave dealer in Georgia, or from someone's estate sale, or he could have inherited her from his father or his wife's father. However Lucy came to be enslaved by William Sr., one thing is for certain – she was permanently separated from her own family. Her family ties were forever broken in northern Georgia, but she passed down her DNA that would help to determine something about her origins.

Remarkably, DNA has revealed a strong connection to former Ware slaves from **Madison County, Georgia**. The white Wares had migrated to Georgia from Amherst County, Virginia and likely had transported slaves to Georgia with them. Multiple Edwards descendants of both Peter and Prince all share a recognizable amount of DNA (10 to 43 cM) on the same chromosomes with the following five DNA cousins:

- **Tracey Johnson** – her great-great-great grandfather was Jordan Ware of Rome, Floyd County, Georgia. He had been enslaved by Edward Ware & Sarah Penn Ware of Madison County, and later Floyd County.
- **LaTricia Ransom** – her great-great-great grandfather was Clark Ware of Tallapoosa County, Alabama. He was born in Georgia. Clark had likely been enslaved by Phillip Ware, who had moved to Alabama from Madison County, Georgia, taking Clark and other slaves with him.
- **Kent Strong** – his great-great-grandfather was also Clark Ware of Tallapoosa County, Alabama.
- **Cleveland Payne** – his great-great grandfather was Richard Ware, who was also from Tallapoosa County, Alabama. His parents were also born in Georgia.
- **Steven Lee** – his great-great grandmother was Gabriella Penn of Amherst County, Virginia. In addition to sharing DNA with four Edwards descendants, Steven also matches LaTricia Ransom on the same chromosome segment. This means that everyone descends from a common Virginia ancestor.

These DNA matches strongly indicate that Lucy's family origins likely go back to **Amherst County, Virginia**. By a forced migration, one or both of her parents were likely transported to Madison County, Georgia by the Ware or Penn family before 1800. She was undoubtedly born around 1797, in that area of northern Georgia, northeast of Athens, before she became enslaved by William Edwards Sr., who took her to Stewart County, Tennessee and then to Panola County, Mississippi. She was a survivor!

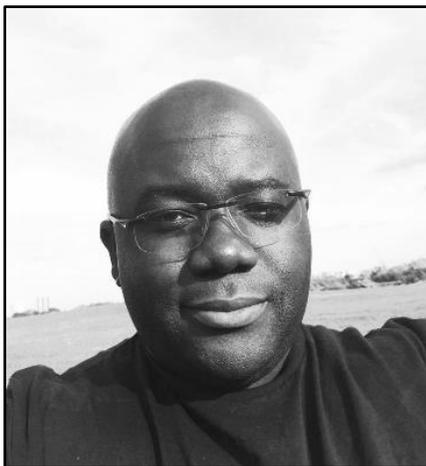
OUR AFRICAN ROOTS ACCORDING TO DNA

GHANA



An African male from Ghana is a 12-marker Y-DNA match. He noted his tribal origins as Nzima, an Akan sub-group. **However, geneticists do not consider 12 markers enough to make a definitive conclusion about a family's African origins.** Shannon Christmas stated, "The connection to Ghana is only at the 12-marker level; if I saw that at the 37-marker level, then I would find the Ghana connection more conclusive." A 37-marker match represents a 95% probability of having a common ancestor within the last 300 years. However, the name Ogbar Ogumba points to present-day **NIGERIA** as likely being Luke's origins. More research will be done to add to the body of evidence.

On the other hand, autosomal DNA tests have confirmed the Gold Coast (Ghana) as being one of our ancestral homelands. The connection is likely from Luke's wife, Lucy. DNA findings strongly indicate that one or both of her parents were likely from Amherst County, Virginia who were brought to northern Georgia. However, one can plausibly assert that Lucy may have had African grandparents who were brought to America or the Caribbean from different parts of West Africa, including the Gold Coast, and disembarked in Virginia.



Mark Kweku Folson of London, England is a DNA match to three Edwards descendants, Dr. Leroy Frazier, a great-great-great grandson of Prince Edwards, and Cornelius Edwards & Dennis Sumlin, who are great-grandsons of Peter Edwards. Kweku matches them on the exact same spot on their chromosome 9, where Leroy, Dennis, and Cornelius match each other. Therefore, all four of them descend from a common African ancestor. Since the common ancestors between Leroy, Dennis, and Cornelius are the parents of Peter and Prince, this means that Kweku is related via Luke or Lucy, likely from a close ancestor of Lucy. Kweku's late parents were originally from Ghana and were from the **Akan** ethnic group. His family roots are from Elmina and Cape Coast, Ghana, in the Central Region of south Ghana.

MADAGASCAR

Additionally, autosomal DNA results have confirmed ancestry to Madagascar. Comparing the matching DNA segments in 23andMe between family members revealed that most of the Edwards DNA testers carry South Asian DNA that came from one of the parents of Peter and Prince, most likely via Lucy.

To be more specific, three matching chromosome segments between Peter's great-grandson, Keith Edwards, and three of Prince Edwards' descendants were on sections where South Asian DNA exists. In other words, Keith matches John Reed on chromosome 2, from point 209 to 216 Mbp (6.3 cM). Both have South Asian DNA in this section of their chromosome 2.

Keith matches Armentha Reed Puryear on chromosome 7, from point 3 to 20 Mbp (30.7 cM). They both have South Asian DNA in this section of their chromosome 7. Also, Keith matches Versia Reed Collier and Eartha Reed Campbell on chromosome 10, from point 122 to 127 Mbp (11.5 cM). All three of them possess South Asian DNA in this section of their chromosome 10. This clearly indicates that they all inherited their South Asian DNA from a common ancestor.



What does this mean? How does having South Asian and/or Southeast Asian DNA tell us something about our African roots?



Geneticists assert that South Asian and Southeast Asian DNA is a great indicator that an ancestor was from Madagascar. The **Malagasy people** of Madagascar descend from ancestors from Africa and Asia, specifically Borneo. Less than 5 percent of enslaved Africans imported into North America were from Madagascar. Historian David Eltis asserts that Africans from Madagascar would likely have arrived shortly before 1722. The Transatlantic Slave Trade Database indicates the following seven ships that transported a total of 1,922 enslaved Africans from Madagascar to

Virginia: an unnamed one in 1686; *Mercury* on Feb. 21, 1719; *Prince Eugene* on Feb. 27, 1719, *Rebecca* on May 18, 1720 and July 13, 1720; and the *Gascoigne* and *Henriette* in 1721. One of Lucy's ancestors may have been on one of those ships.

In *Exchanging Our Country Mark*, Michael Gomez wrote about the connection between "Madagascar Negroes" to Virginia. Gomez describes how those Africans were "yellowish" in complexion and had hair like a "Madagascar's." Sources note that many of the Malagasy people possessed light skin and facial features very akin to people in Southeast Asia and Indonesia. Many others possessed darker skin and curly hair. These Malagasy Africans transmitted South Asian and/or Southeast Asian DNA to their descendants. Today, there are more than 20 ethnic groups among the Malagasy people, from the Indonesian-looking Merina people in the highlands to Arabic Antemoro people on the eastern coast.