

THE SHEARER~LAWSON FAMILY LEGACY

HONORING OUR ROOTS, CELEBRATING
OUR BRANCHES

JAMES CARDEN, JR.
FAMILY HISTORIAN

INTRODUCTION

The Shearer~Lawson family is of African origin, though the exact date of arrival in America remains unknown. Evidence suggests their ancestors likely originated in Virginia, but much of their early history is undocumented. This report draws from recorded facts and oral histories passed down through generations, some reaching back to the pre-Civil War era.

Our dearly loved family historian, James Carden, Jr. (affectionately known as “Junior”), conducted extensive research using census records, the Genealogical Section of the Birmingham Public Library, and [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). African Americans were first listed by name in the U.S. Census beginning in 1870. Before that, the 1850 and 1860 slave schedules documented only age, gender, and owner, without naming the enslaved. Unfortunately, the 1890 census was destroyed in a fire at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

The Shearer-Lawson lineage traces back to two **Shearer** brothers, Smith Shearer, Jr. and Wash Shearer, sons of Smith Shearer, Sr. Smith Shearer, Jr. was the father of Reuben, Willie, and Ireen (“Rena”), while Wash was their uncle. The family lineage also intertwines with the **Lawson** family through two brothers, Edward and Isom.

DESCENDANT FAMILIES' SURNAMES

Surnames of the female ancestors of the Shearer and Lawson families include: ADAMSON; BALDWIN; BEAVER; BENNETT; BLAKE; BOSE; BRAND; CARDEN; CARSON; CHAPPEL; CLARK; COLLIER; COLLINS; CONWELL; COOPER; CROWELL; CURTIS; DANIELS; DAWSON; DUFF; DUMAS; DYKES; EBERHARDT; EDWARDS; FARROW; FIELDS; FOSTER; FREEMAN; GAINES; GEORGE; GIBBS; GLASPER; GOULSBY; GRANT; GRATTON; GREEN; HAMNER; HAMPTON; HAROLD; HASKINS; HOLLAND; HOLLIS; HOLMES; JACKSON; JARMAN; JOHNSON; JONES; KOEN; KING; LEANO; LEE; LEWIS; LOVE; MARTIN; MATTHEWS; MCCARROLL; MCCLAIN; MCCONICO; MCCUISTON; MILLER; MINTER; MOBLEY; MOORE; NEAL; NELSON; NICHOLS; NUNN; PALIMORE; PRATT; RAMSEY; REECE; REESE; ROBINSON; ROWSER; RUSSELL; SAVAGE; SMITH; SOUTHERN; SPEARS; STOKES; SULLINS; TERRY; THOMAS; TREADWELL; TURNER; ULLAH; VANDERGRIFT; WASHINGTON; WATKINS; WATSON; WITHERSPOON; WEEDEN; WHITE, WILLIAMS AND WILSON.

SHEARER FAMILY ORIGINS

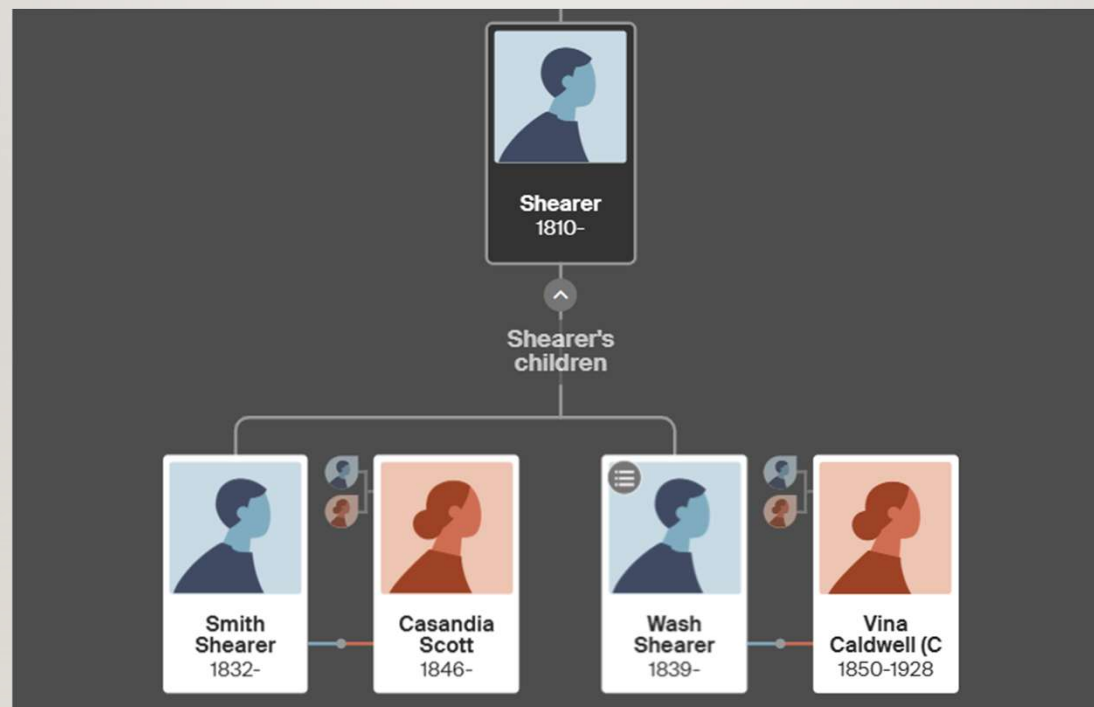
The “Shearer” surname has been traced back to Virginia in approximately 1810 during the time of slavery. The 1880 census identified the name as “Sherrer” and the 1870 census identified the names as “Sherra” and “Sherrah”, pointing out a problem that was noted in the numerous former slave adopted surnames. It appears most former slaves adopted the slave owner’s surname.

The 1870 census was the first to identify slaves or former slaves by name. Census takers often misspelled the names because slaves who were unable to read or write could not verify their information. The Shearer slaves were owned by a slave owner named Shepround.

The origins of the Shearer family were oral accounts by Martin Shearer, Jr. The Shearer family’s history starts with Smith Shearer, born in Prairieville (Demopolis, Marengo County), Alabama, in about 1832. The Shearer descendants still retain 40 acres of land in Demopolis.

Smith and Cassandia were “married” in 1860, and ten children were born, of which 7 were still living in 1900. Reuben and Katie Bell were married in approximately 1887, and five children were born. Reuben was identified as a widower in the 1900 census, and four of the five children were living with him. Reuben and Julia were married in 1901 and did not have any children. Willie and Bettie moved to Uniontown after the 1930 census and nine children were listed in the 1930 Prairieville census: Willie Lee(18), Corine (16), Rebecca (15), Susie (14), Norman (12), Smith (10), Jessie Lee (7), Thomas (3) and Rose (1).

SMITH~LAWSON ORIGINS



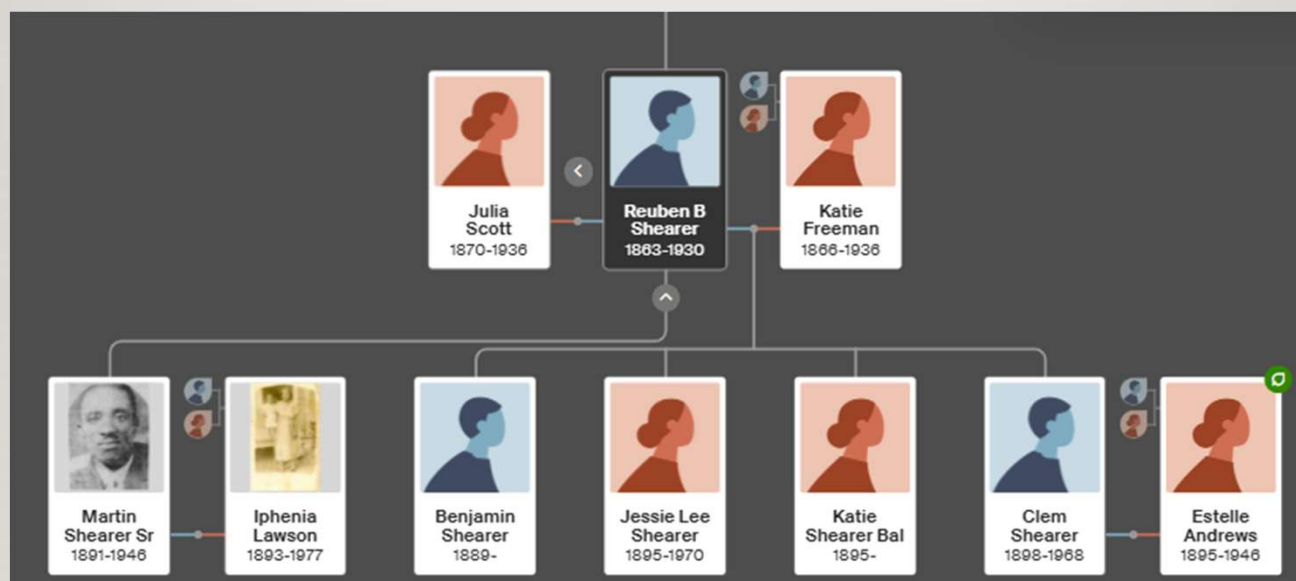
SMITH SHEARER, JR. AND CASANDIA SCOTT

GEN 2 – FOUNDING ROOTS



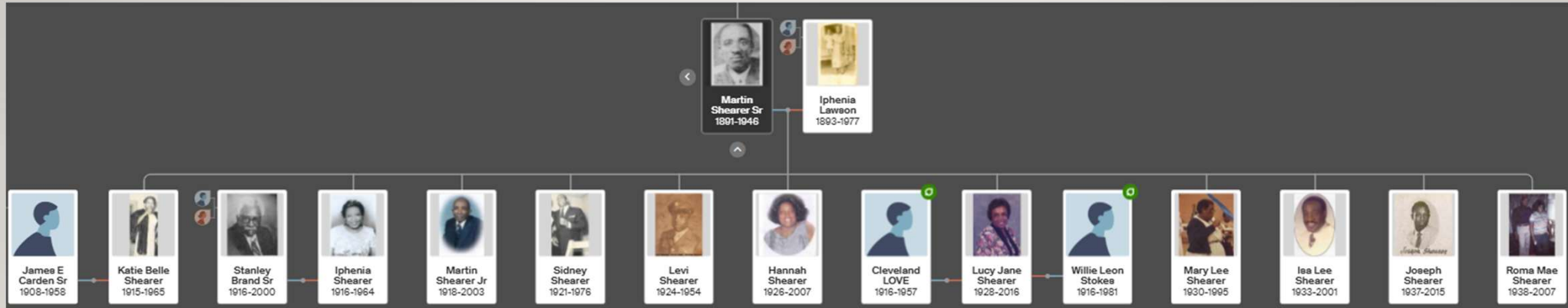
REUBEN SHEARER

SMITH SHEARER – GEN 3



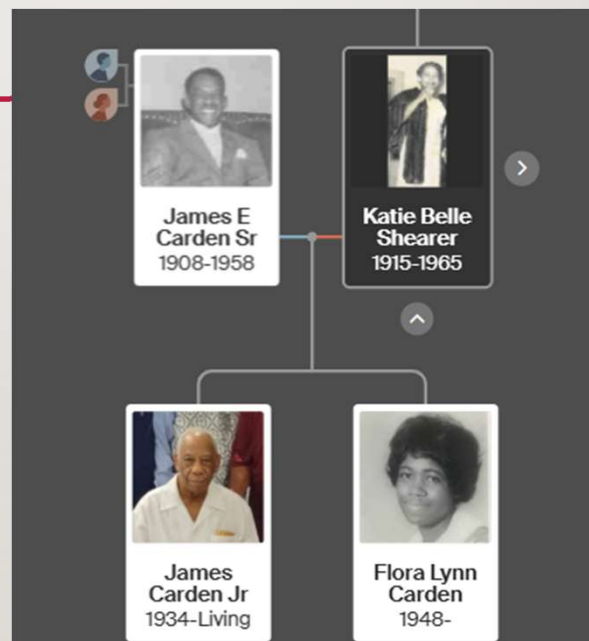
MARTIN SHEARER

REUBEN SHEARER – GEN 4



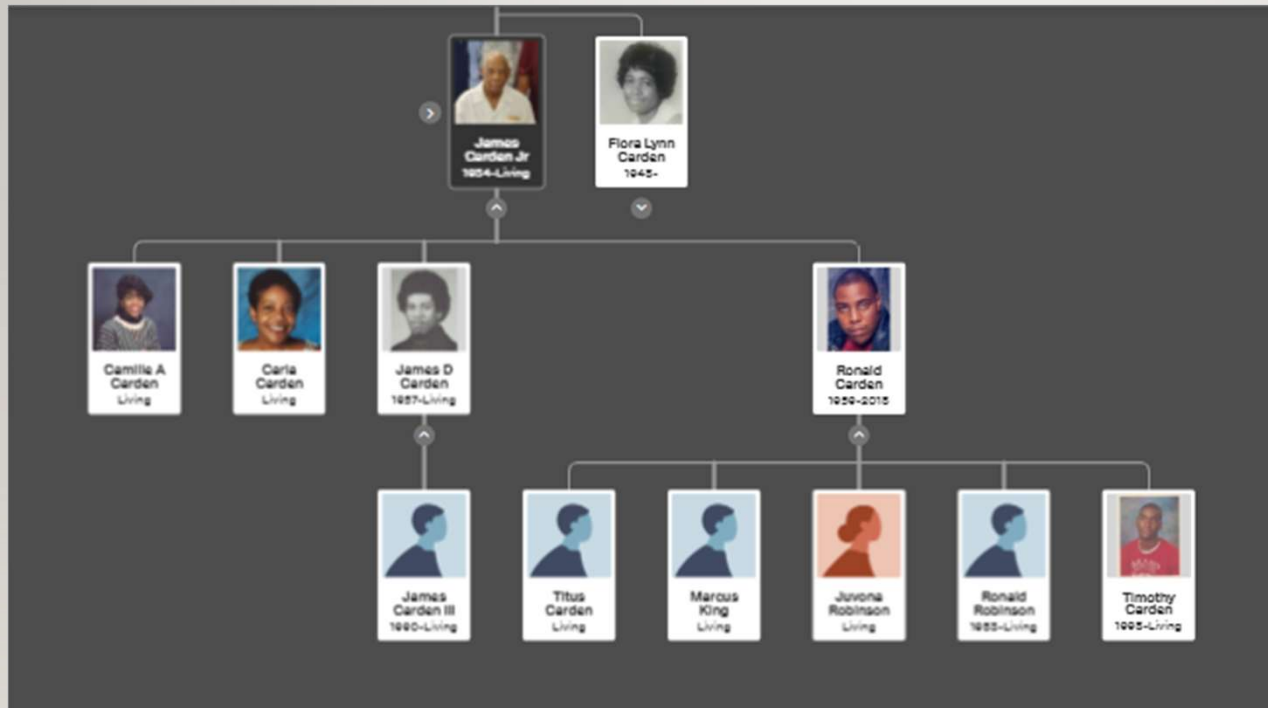
KATIE BELLE SHEARER

MARTIN SHEARER – GEN 5



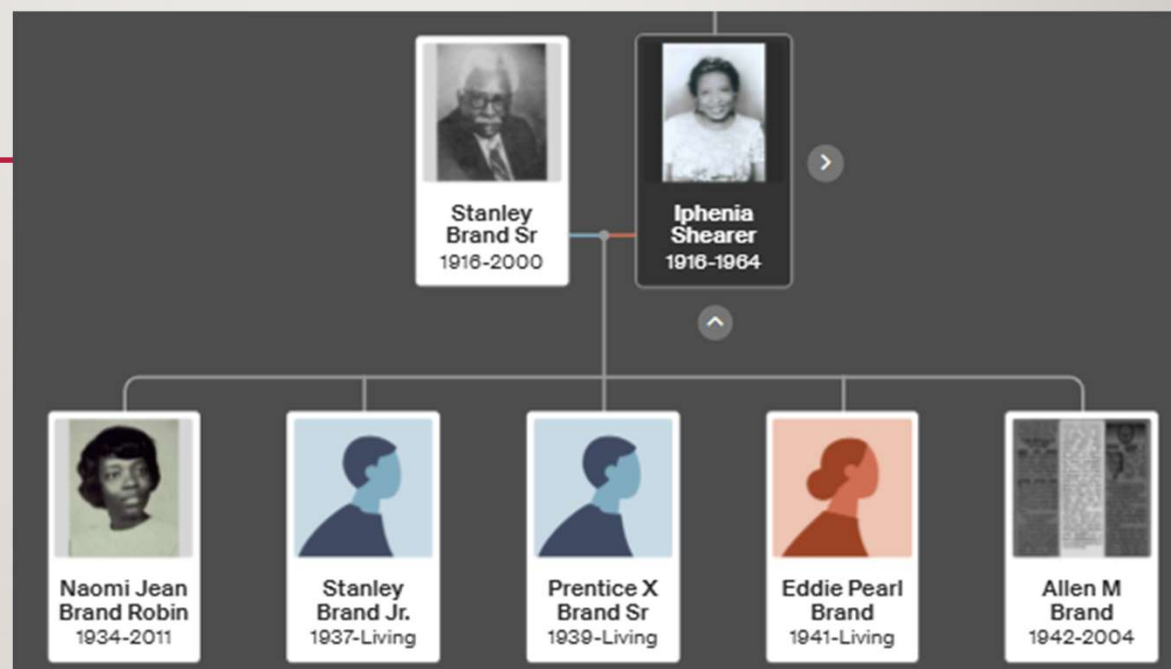
JAMES CARDEN, JR.

KATIE BELLE SHEARER - GEN 6 & 7



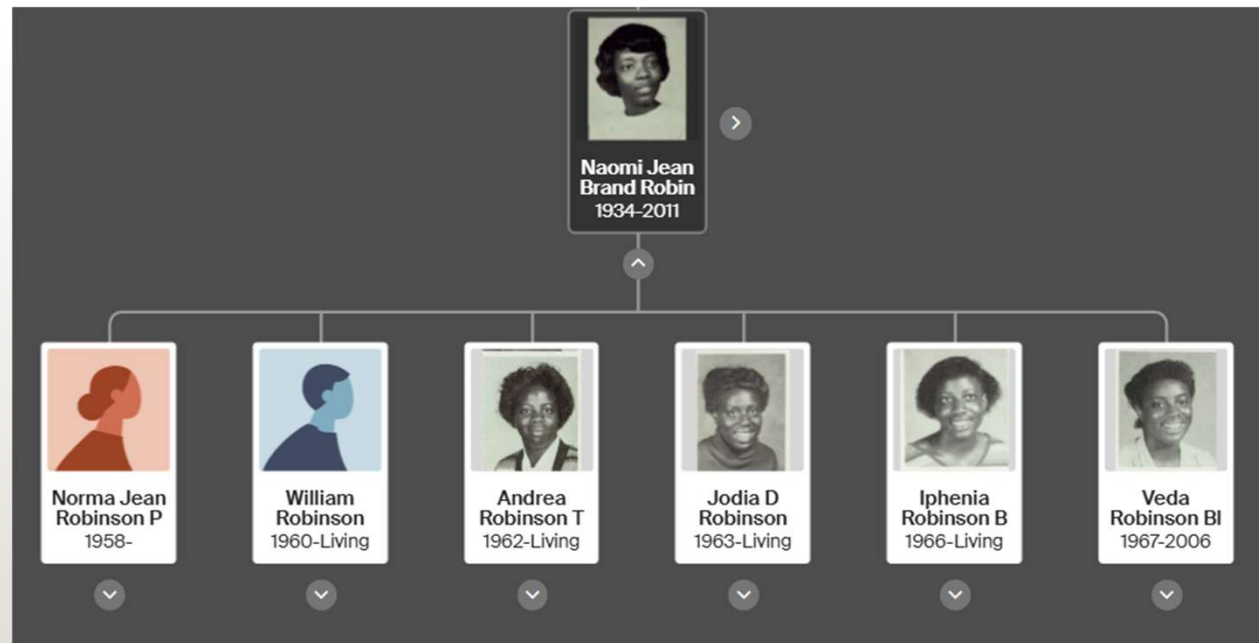
IPHENIA SHEARER

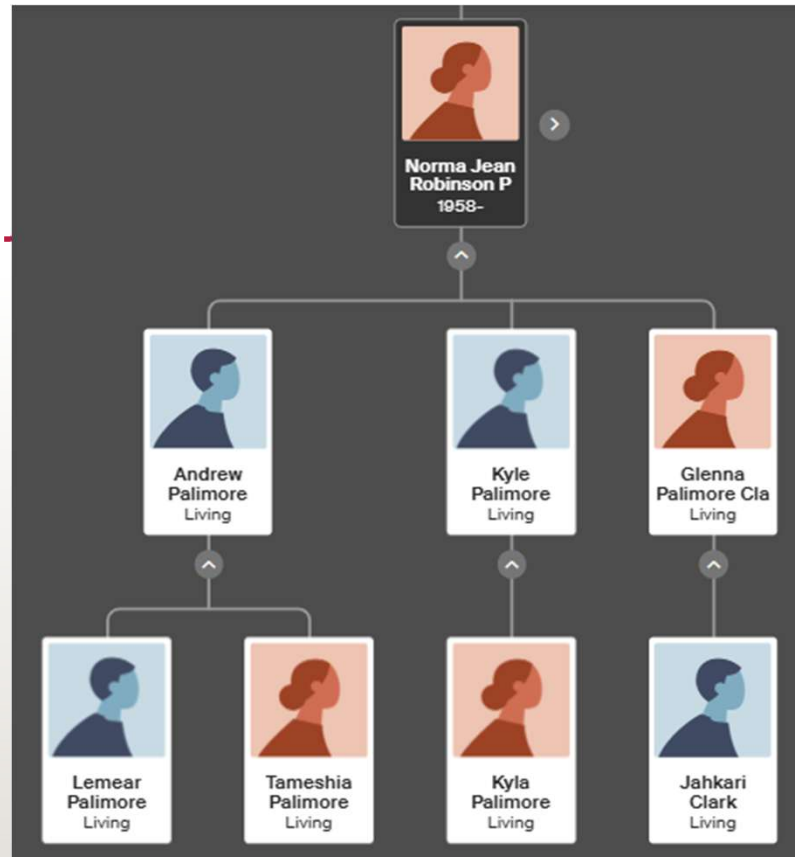
MARTIN SHEARER – GEN 5



NAOMI JEAN BRAND

IPHENIA SHEARER – GEN 6



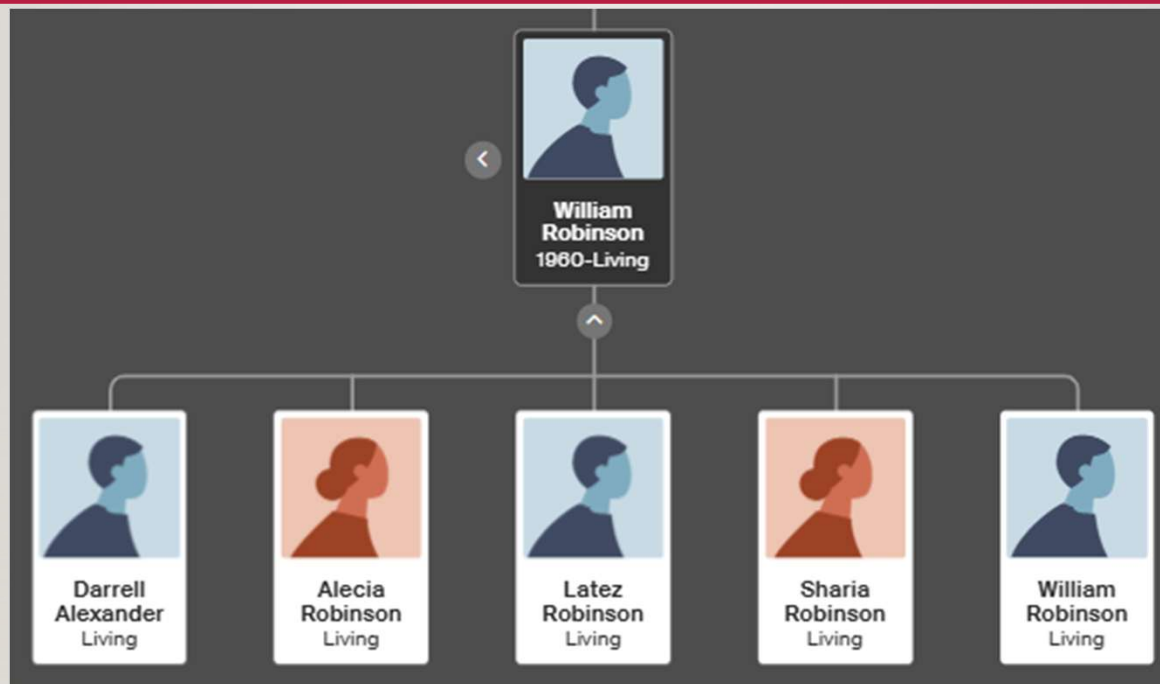


NORMAN JEAN ROBINSON PALIMORE

NAOMI JEAN BRAND – GEN 7 & 8

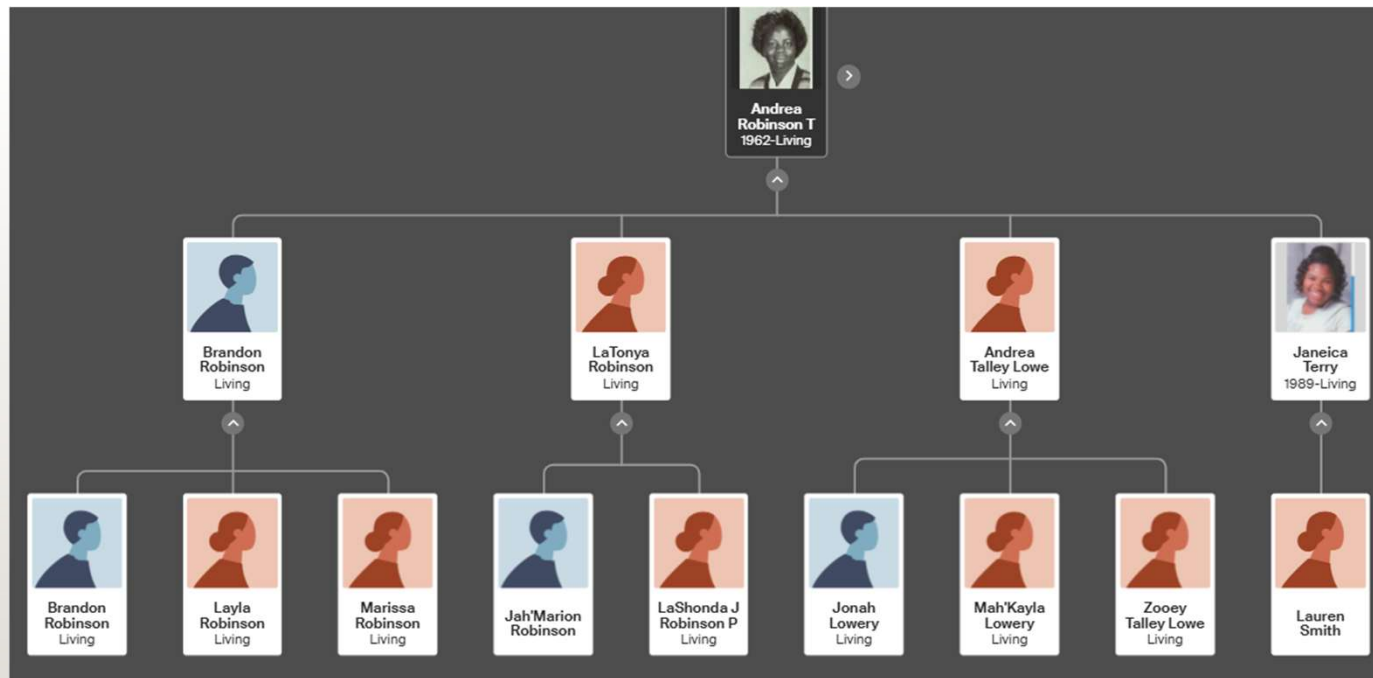
WILLIAM ROBINSON

NAOMI JEAN BRAND – GEN 7



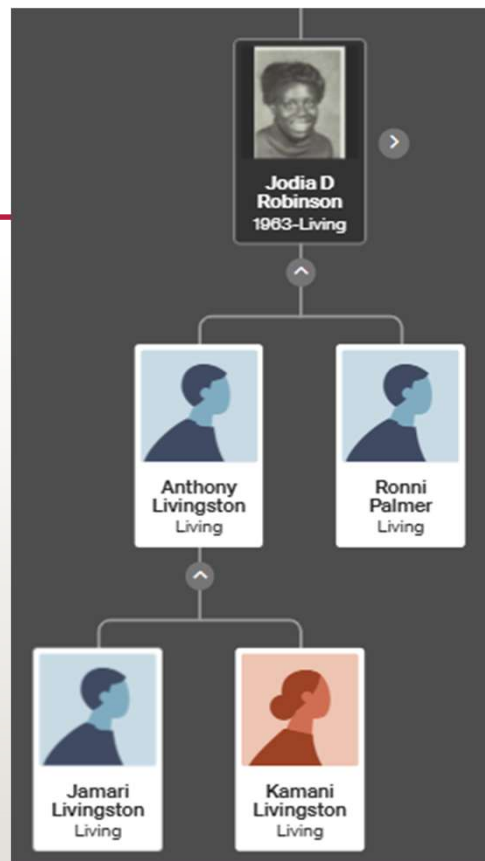
ANDREA ROBINSON TERRY

NAOMI JEAN BRAND – GEN 7



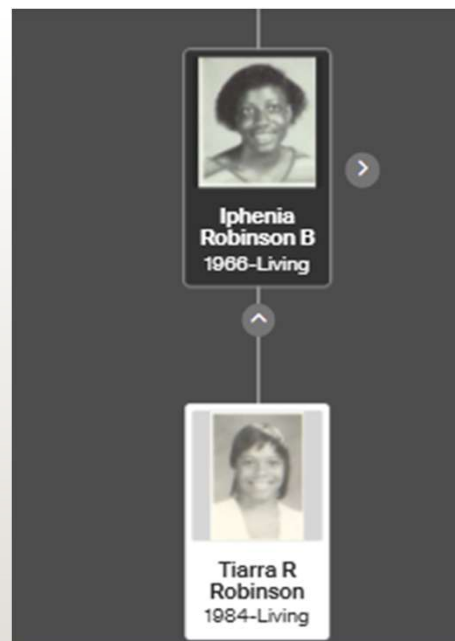
JODIA ROBINSON

NAOMI JEAN BRAND – GEN 7 & 8



IPHENIA ROBINSON BUTLER

NAOMI JEAN BRAND – GEN 7



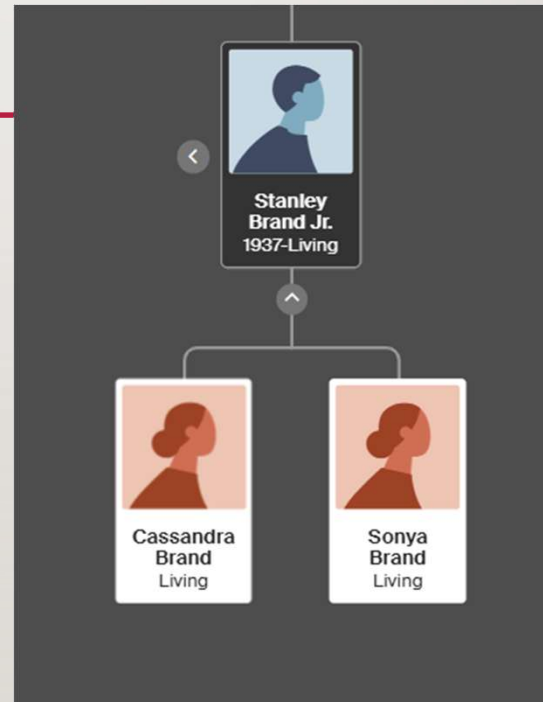
VEDA ROBINSON BLAKE

NAOMI JEAN BRAND – GEN 7



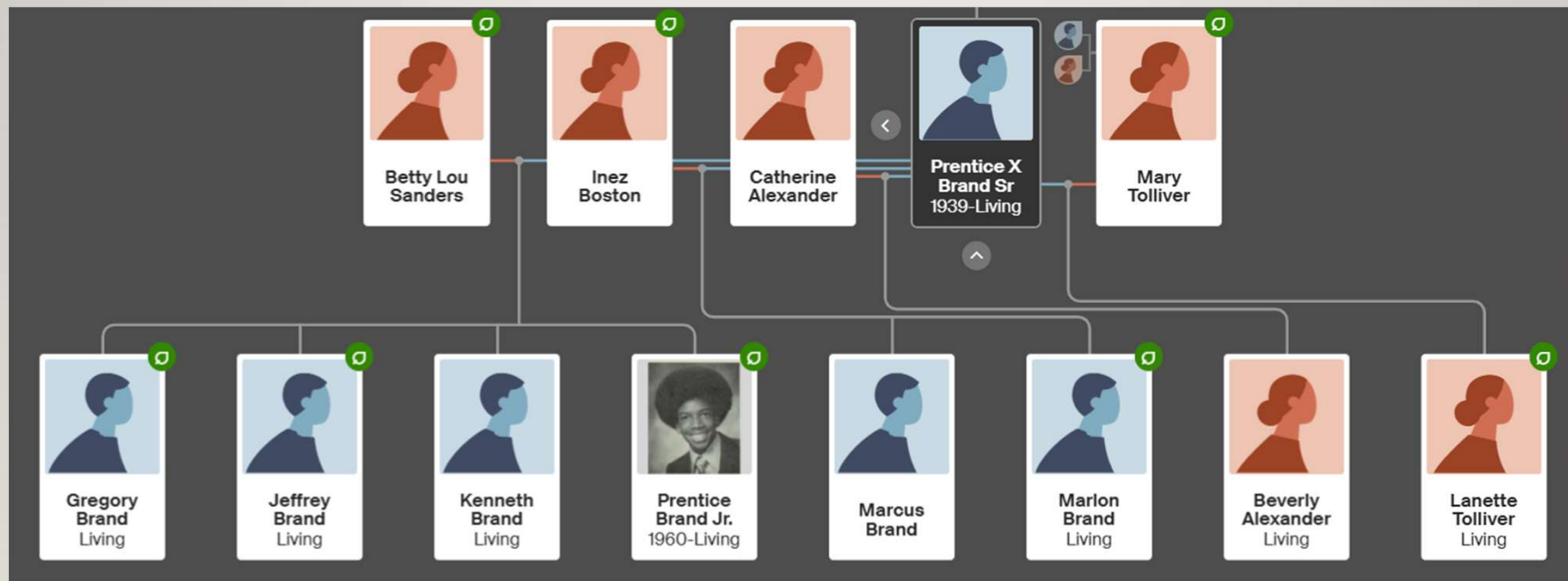
STANLEY BRAND, JR.

IPHENIA SHEARER – GEN 6



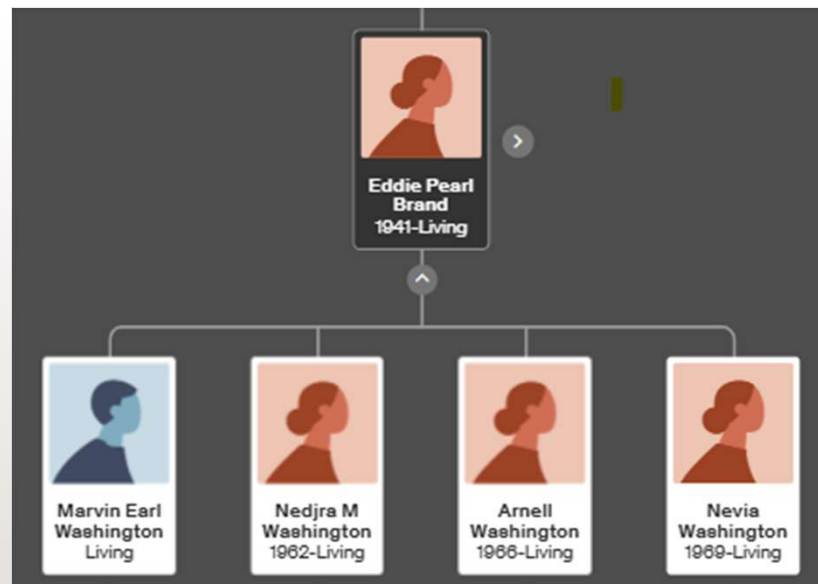
PRENTICE BRAND, SR.

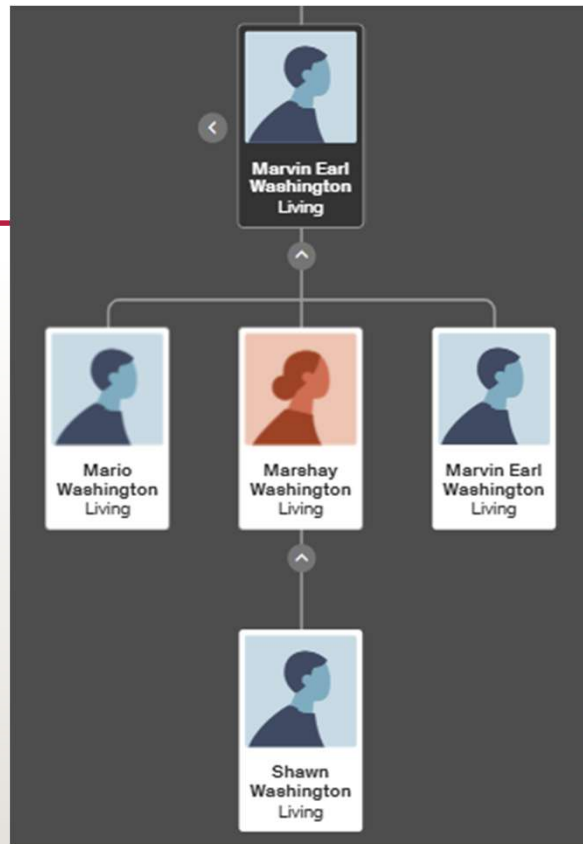
IPHENIA SHEARER – GEN 6



EDDIE PEARL BRAND

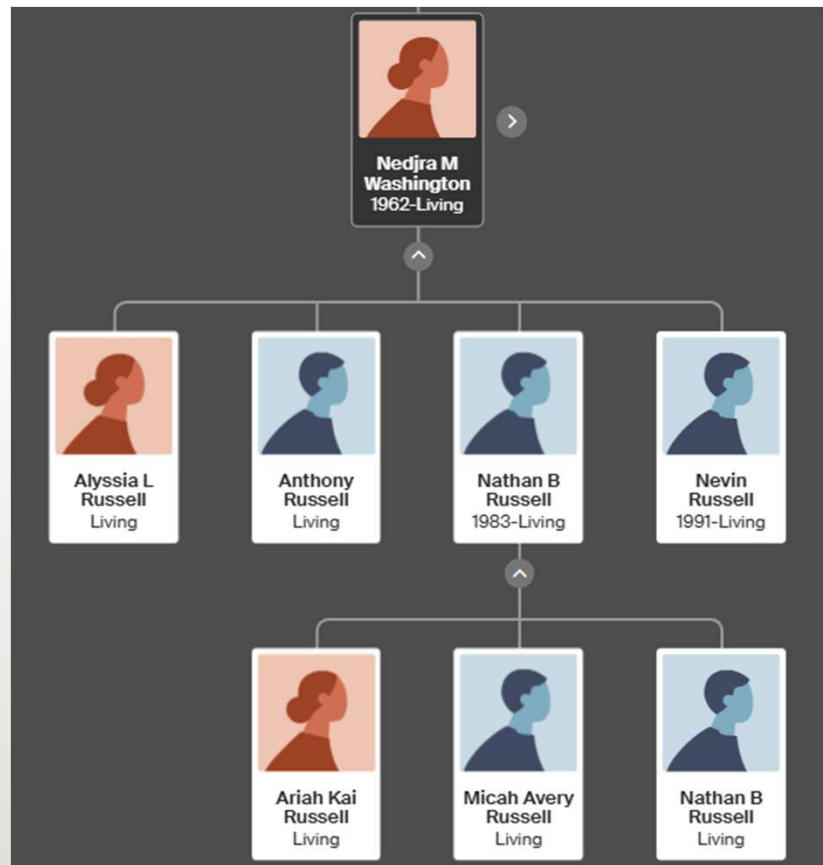
IPHENIA SHEARER – GEN 6





MARVIN EARL WASHINGTON

EDDIE PEARL BRAND – GEN 7 & 8

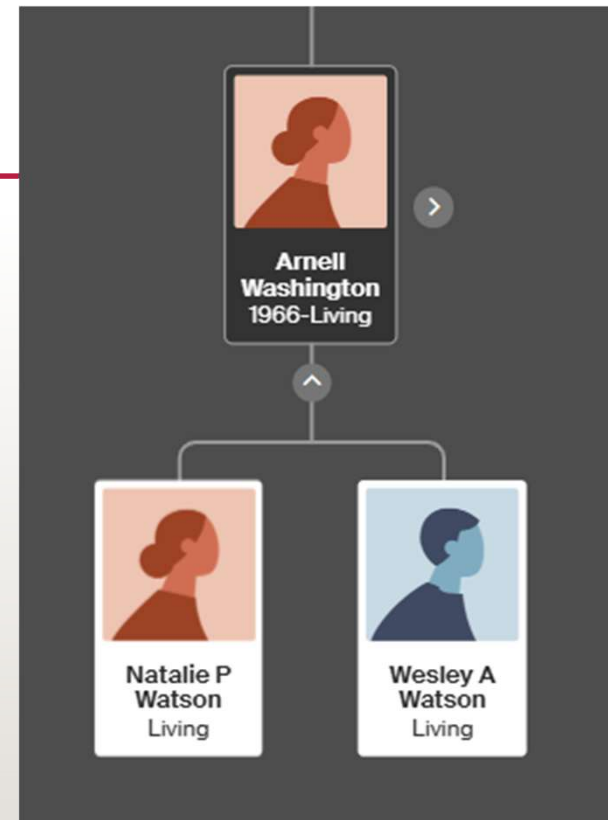


NEDJRA WASHINGTON RUSSELL

EDDIE PEARL BRAND – GEN 7 & 8

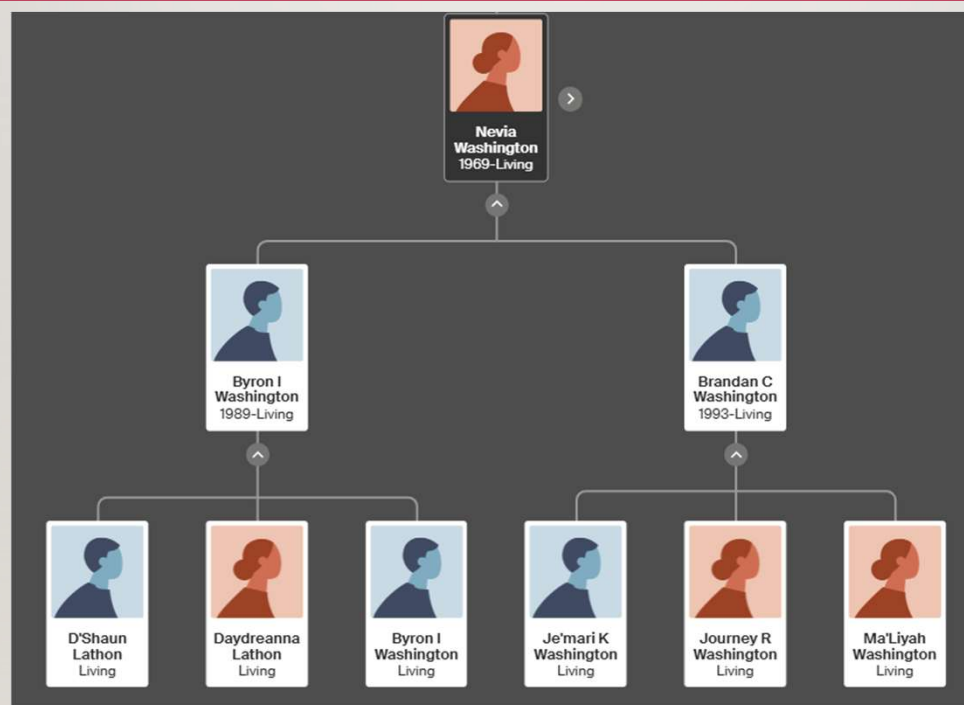
ARNELL WASHINGTON WATSON

EDDIE PEARL BRAND – GEN 7



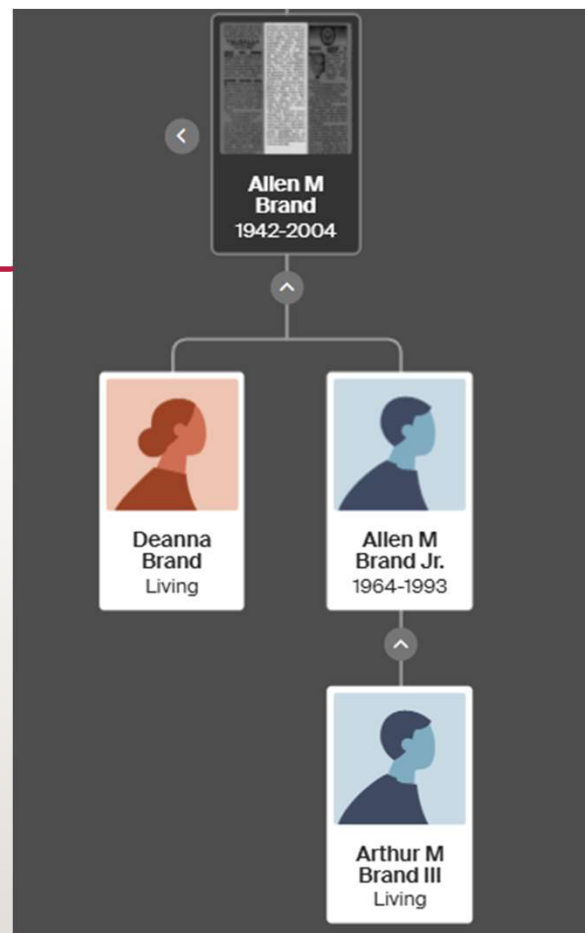
NEVIA WASHINGTON

EDDIE PEARL BRAND – GEN 7 & 8



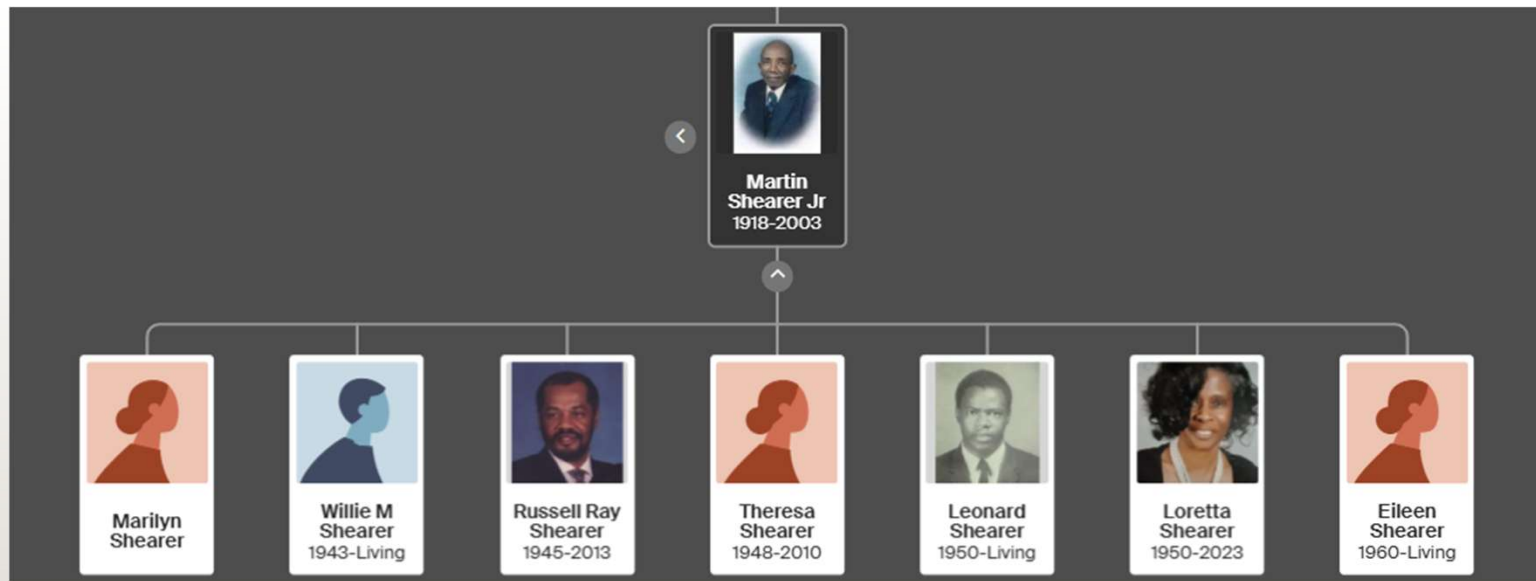
ALLEN BRAND

IPHENIA SHEARER – GEN 6 & 7



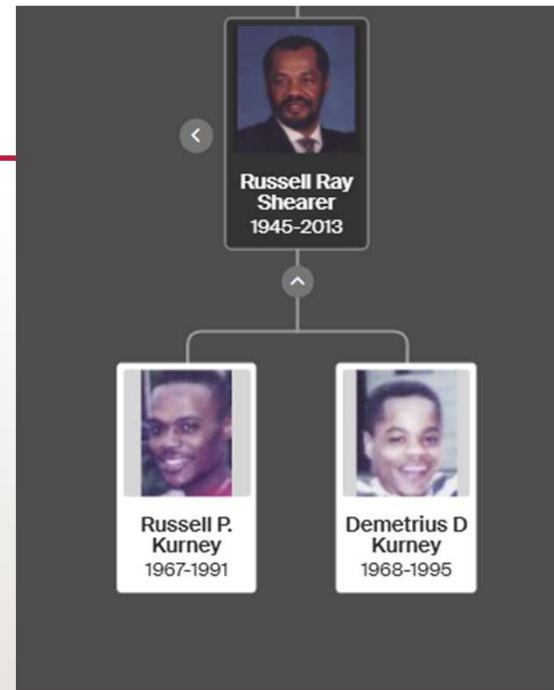
MARTIN SHEARER, JR.

MARTIN SHEARER, SR. – GEN 5



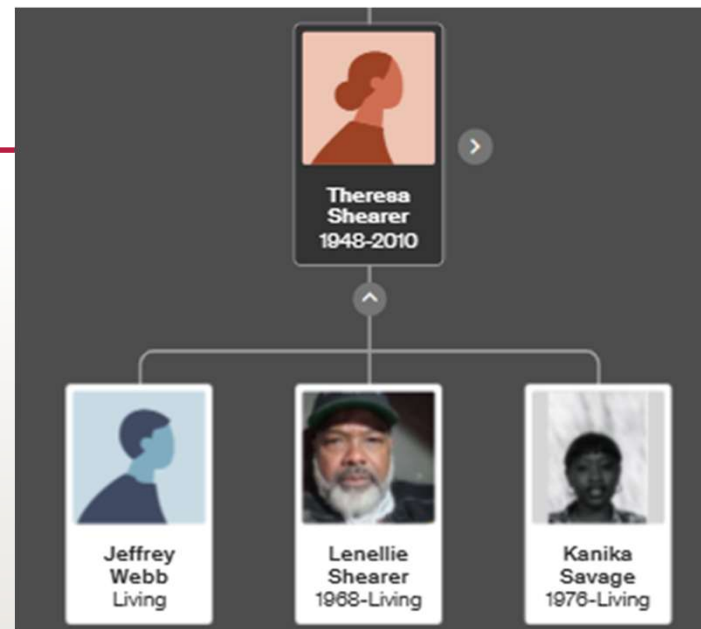
RUSSELL SHEARER

MARTIN SHEARER, JR. – GEN 6



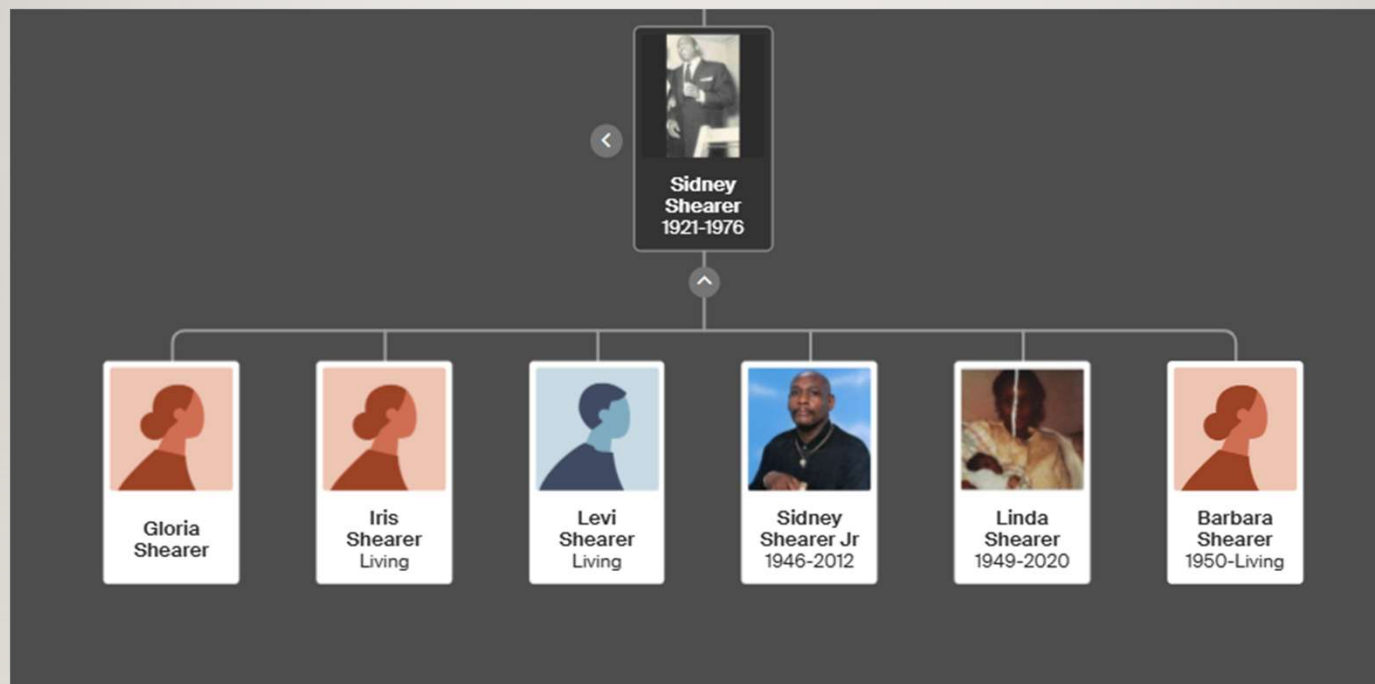
THERESA SHEARER

MARTIN SHEARER, JR. – GEN 6



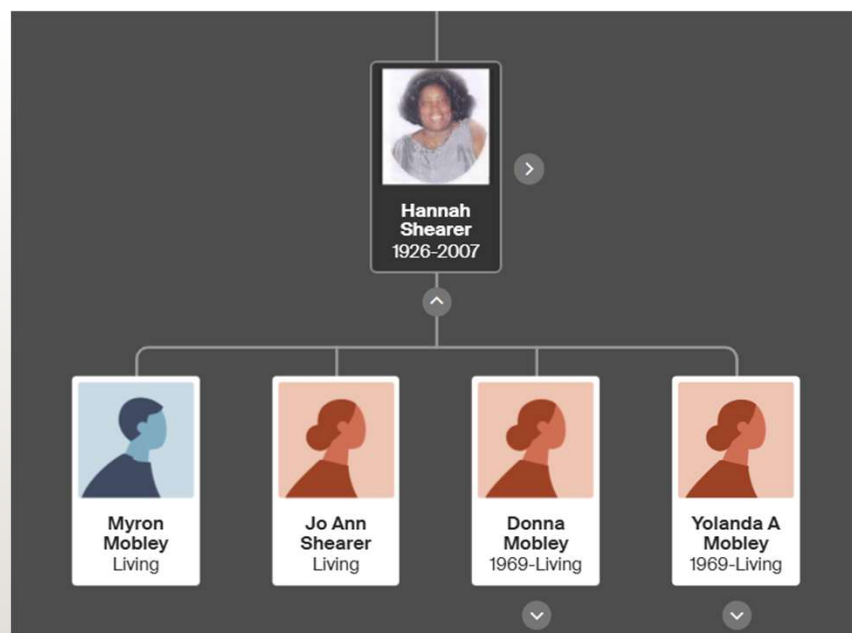
SIDNEY SHEARER

MARTIN SHEARER, SR. – GEN 5



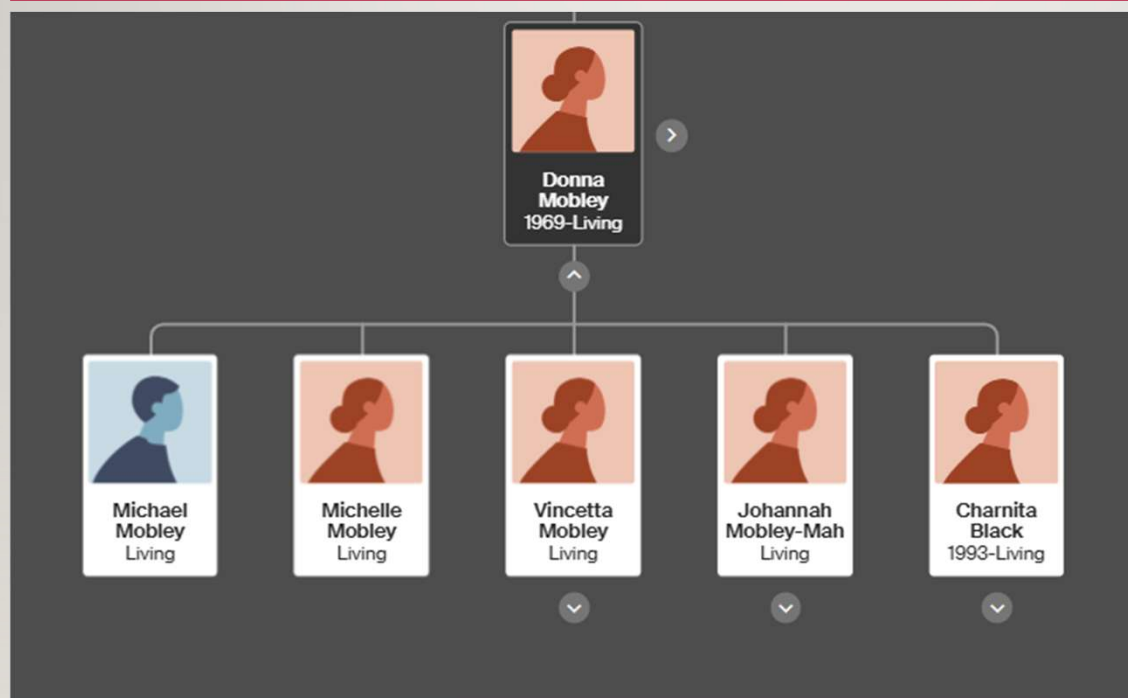
HANNAH SHEARER

MARTIN SHEARER, SR. – GEN 5



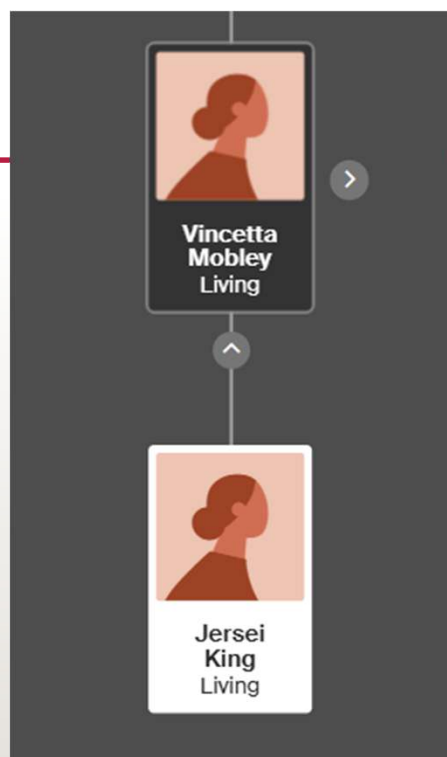
DONNA MOBLEY

HANNAH SHEARER – GEN 6



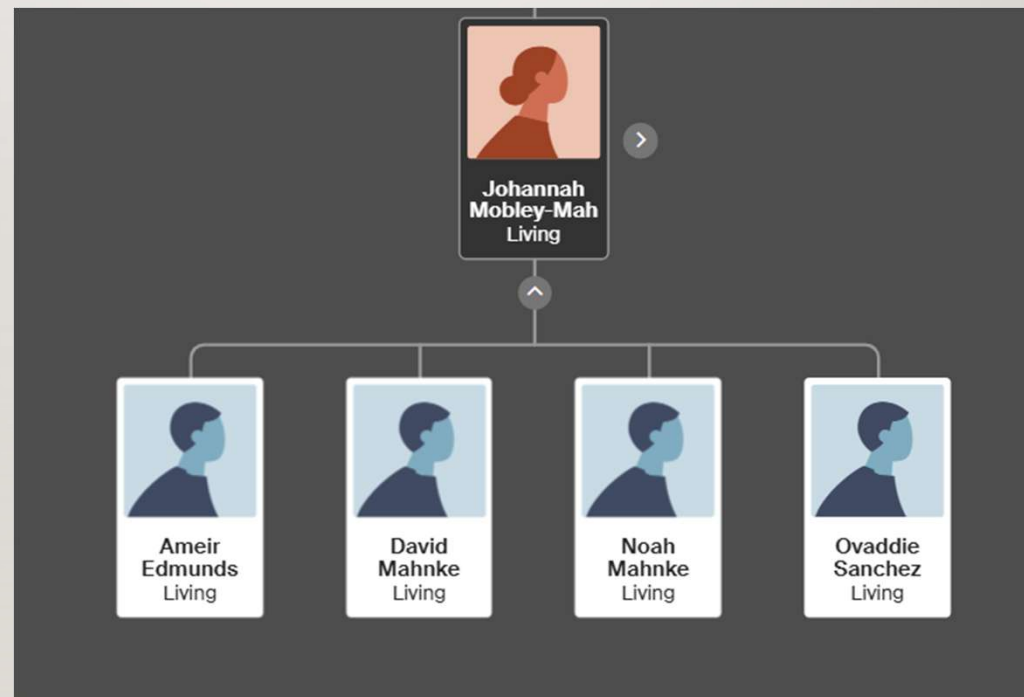
VINCETTA MOBLEY

DONNA MOBLEY – GEN 7



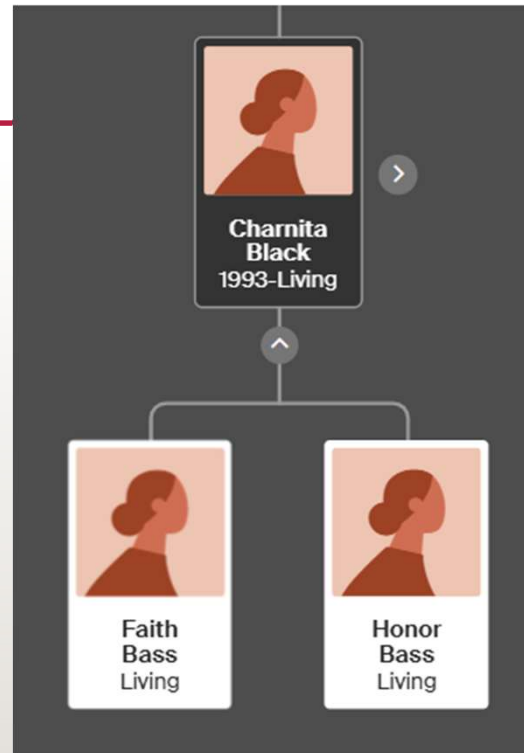
JOHANNAH MAHNKE

DONNA MOBLEY- GEN 7



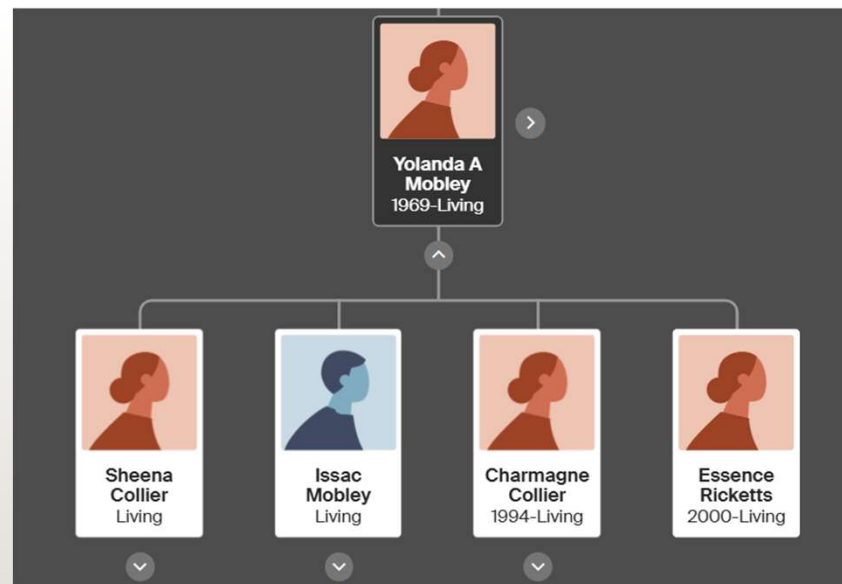
CHARNITA BLACK

DONNA MOBLEY – GEN 7



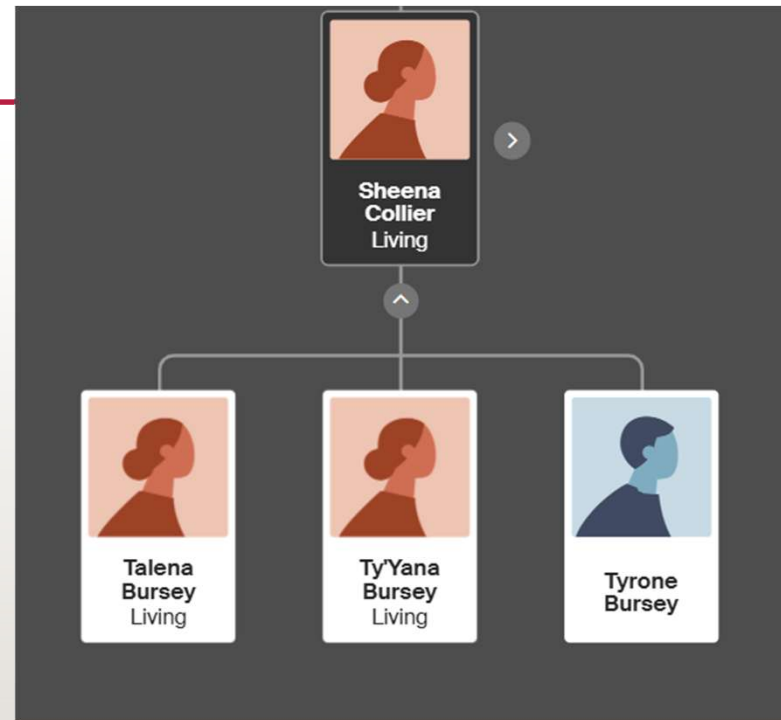
YOLANDA MOBLEY

HANNAH SHEARER – GEN 6



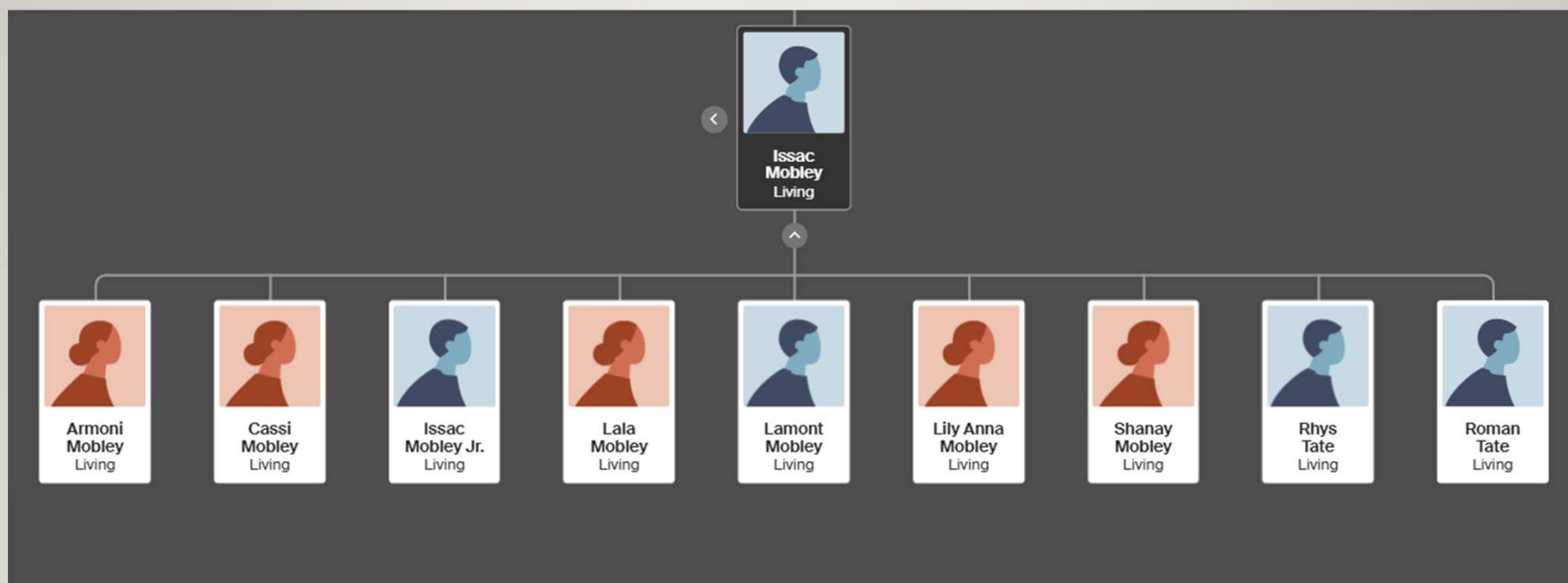
SHEENA COLLIER

YOLANDA MOBLEY – GEN 7



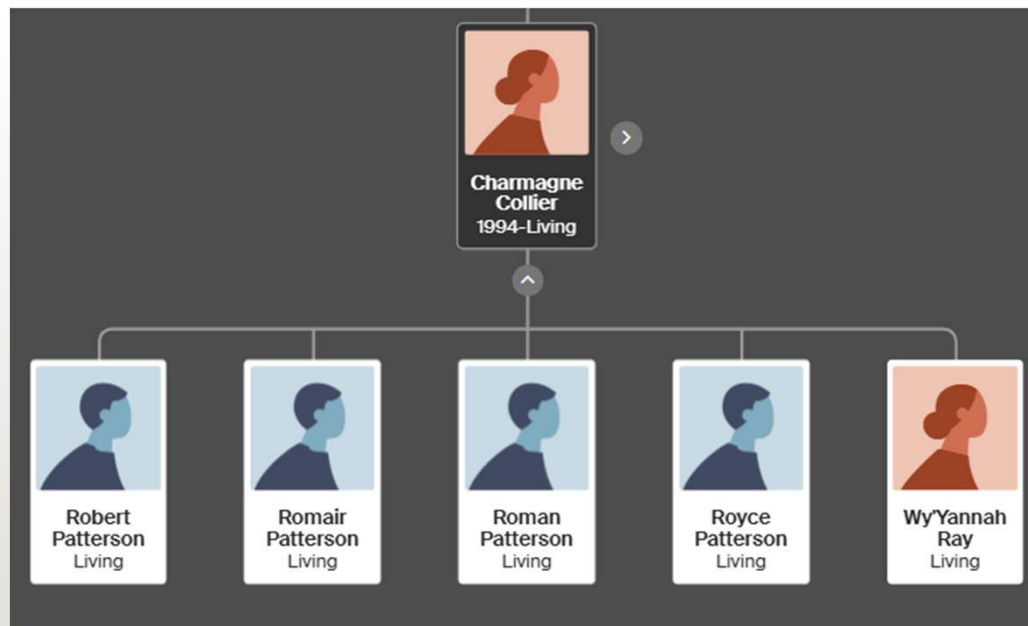
ISSAC MOBLEY

YOLANDA MOBLEY – GEN 7



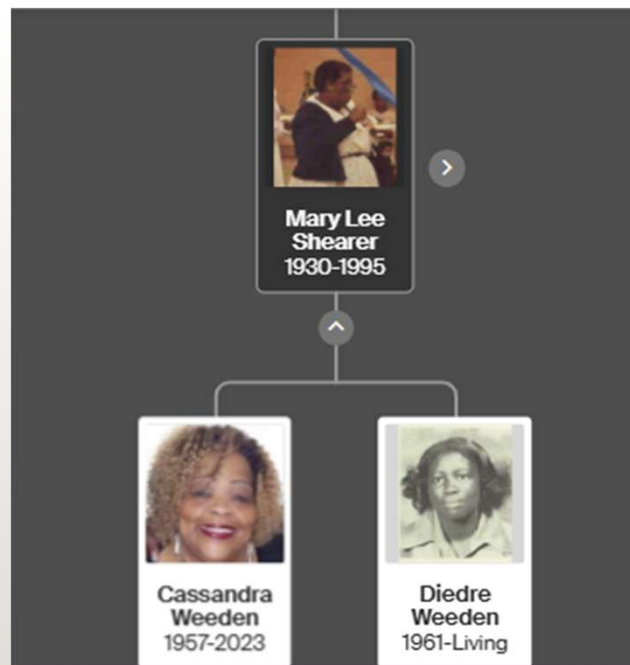
CHARMAGNE COLLIER

YOLANDA MOBLEY – GEN 7



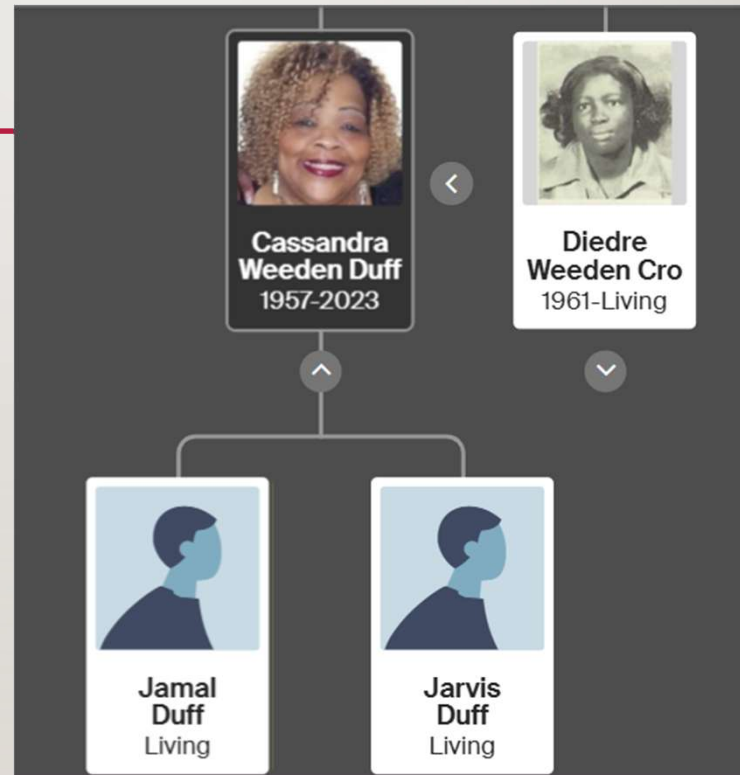
MARY LEE SHEARER

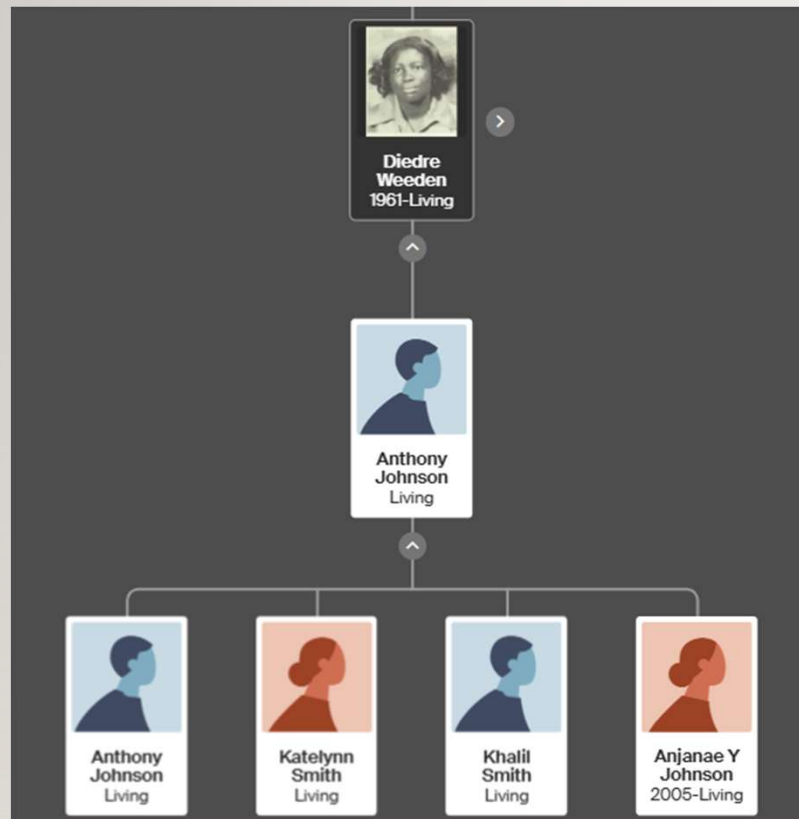
MARTIN SHEARER, SR. – GEN 5



CASSANDRA DUFF

MARY LEE SHEARER – GEN 6



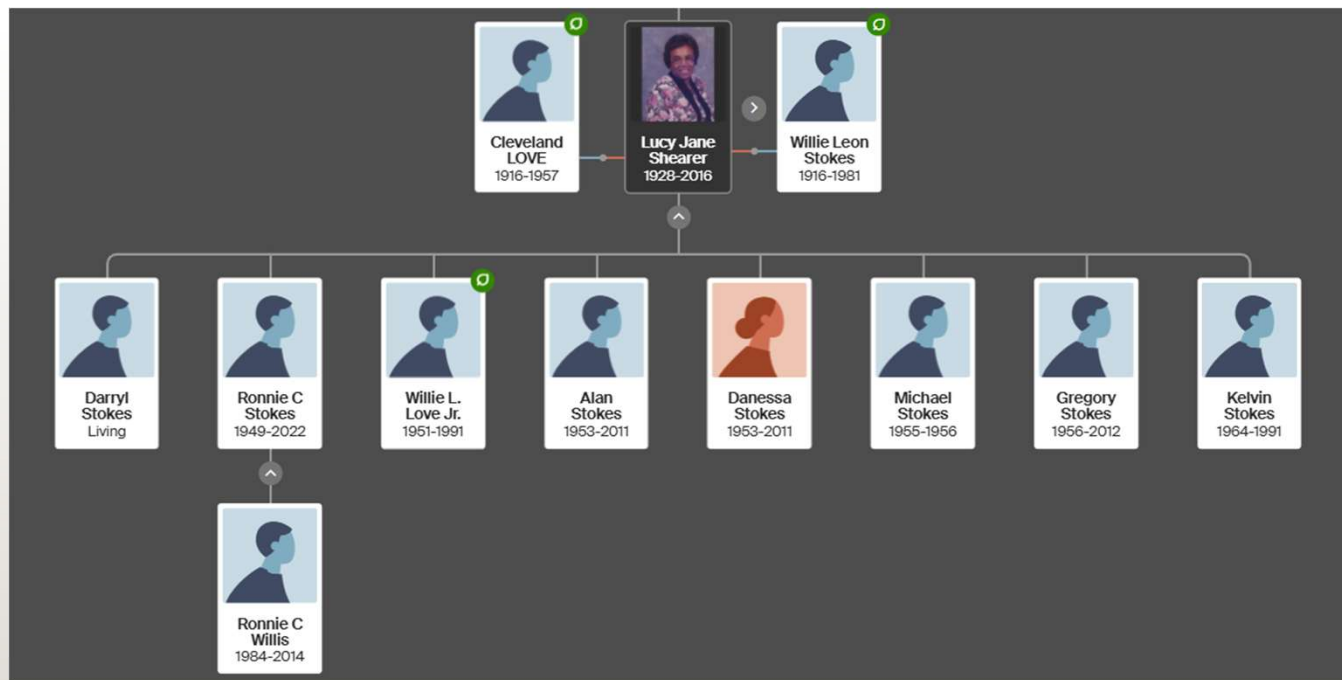


DEIDRE WEEDEN CROWELL

MARY LEE SHEARER – GEN 6 & 7

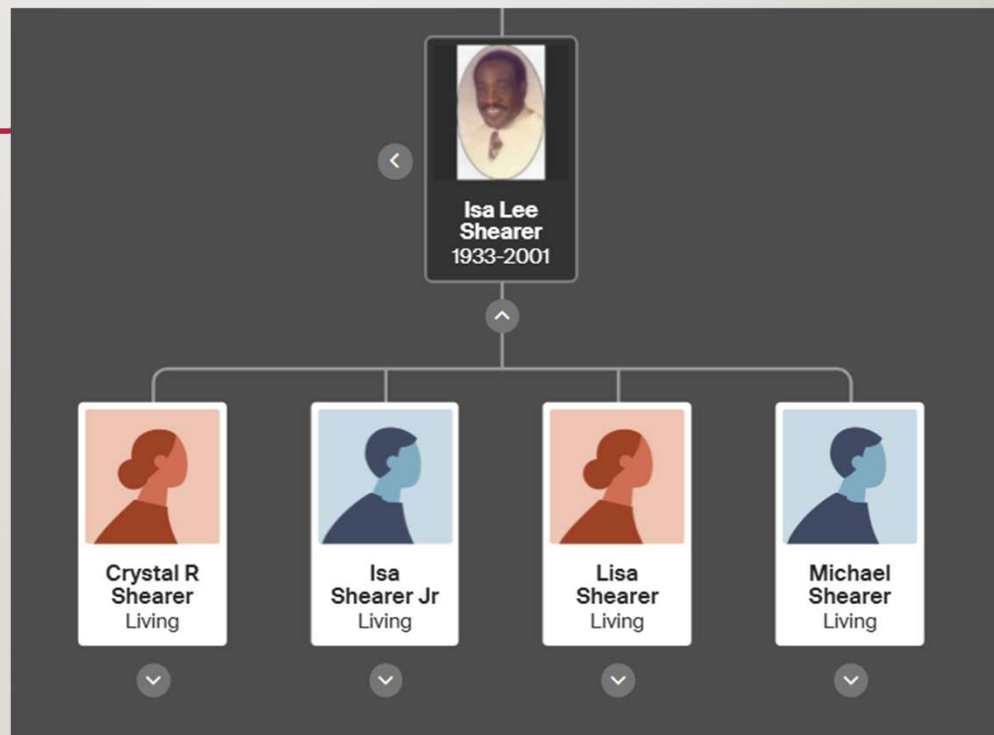
LUCY JANE SHEARER LOVE STOKES

MARTIN SHEARER, SR. – GEN 5



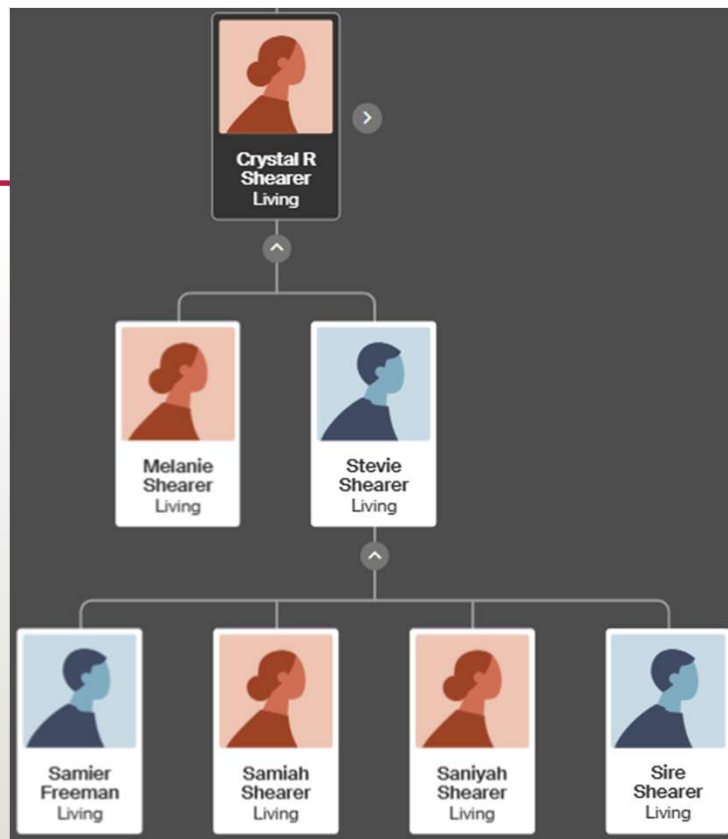
ISA SHEARER, SR.

MARTIN SHEARER, SR. – GEN 5



CRYSTAL SHEARER FREEMAN

ISA SHEARER, SR. – GEN 6 & 7



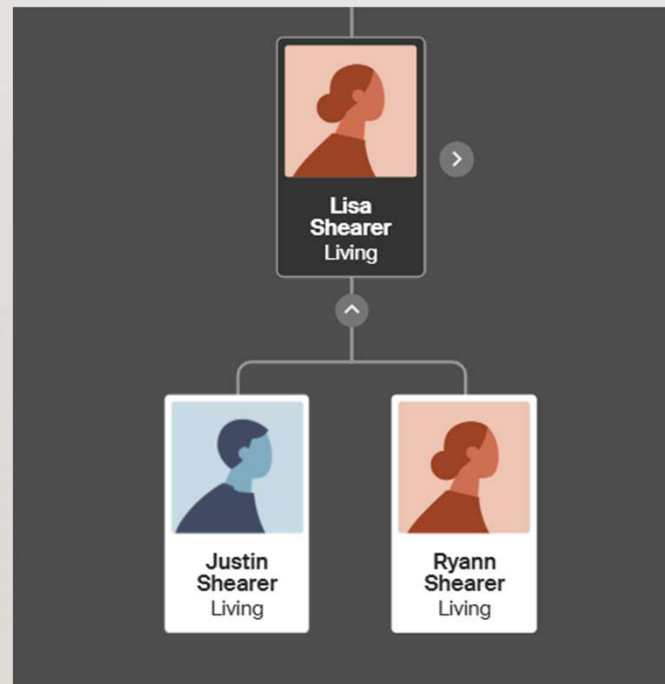
ISA SHEARER, JR.

ISA SHEARER, SR. – GEN 6 & 7



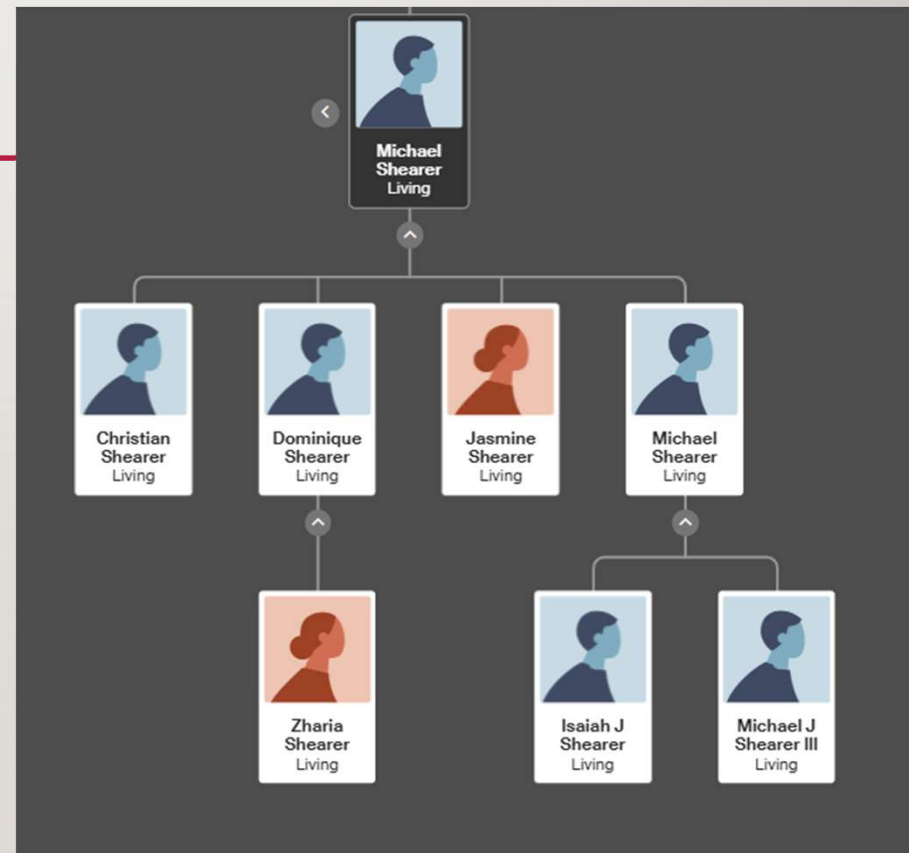
LISA SHEARER

ISA SHEARER, SR. – GEN 7



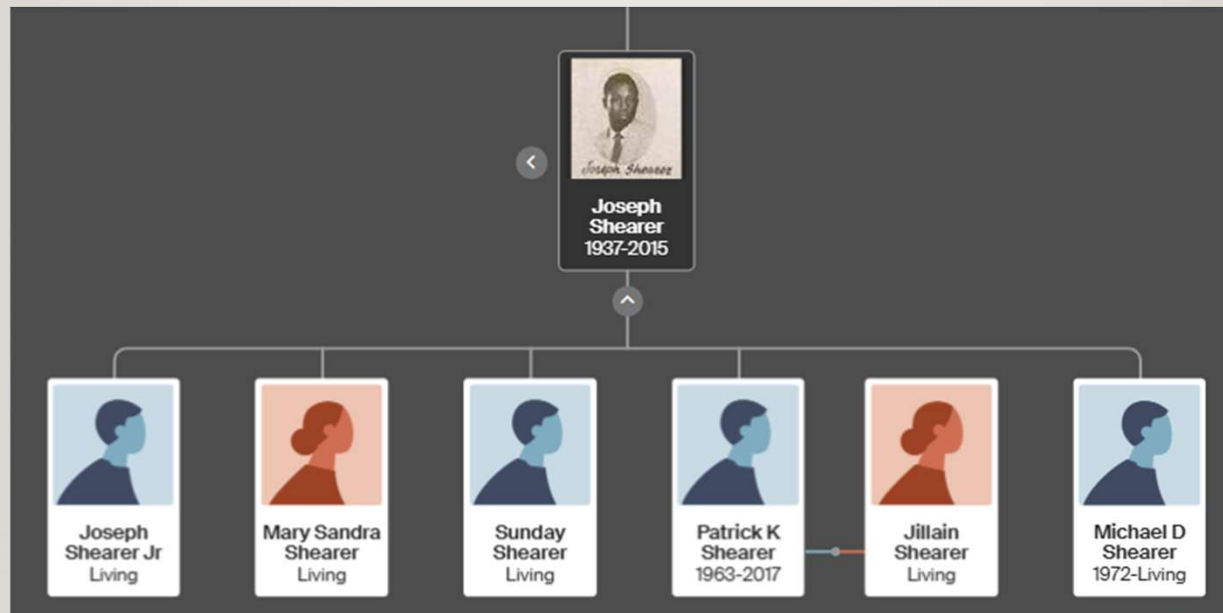
MICHAEL SHEARER, SR.

ISA SHEARER, SR. – GEN 7 & 8



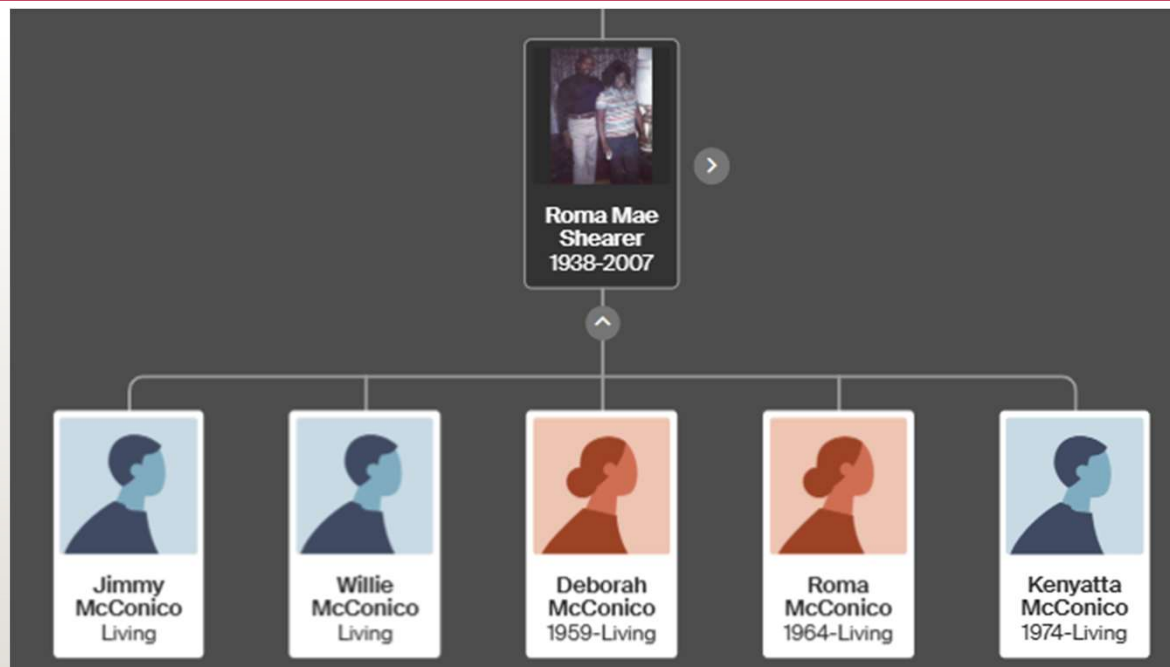
JOSEPH SHEARER

MARTIN SHEARER, SR. – GEN 5



ROMA MAE SHEARER

MARTIN SHEARER, SR. – GEN 5



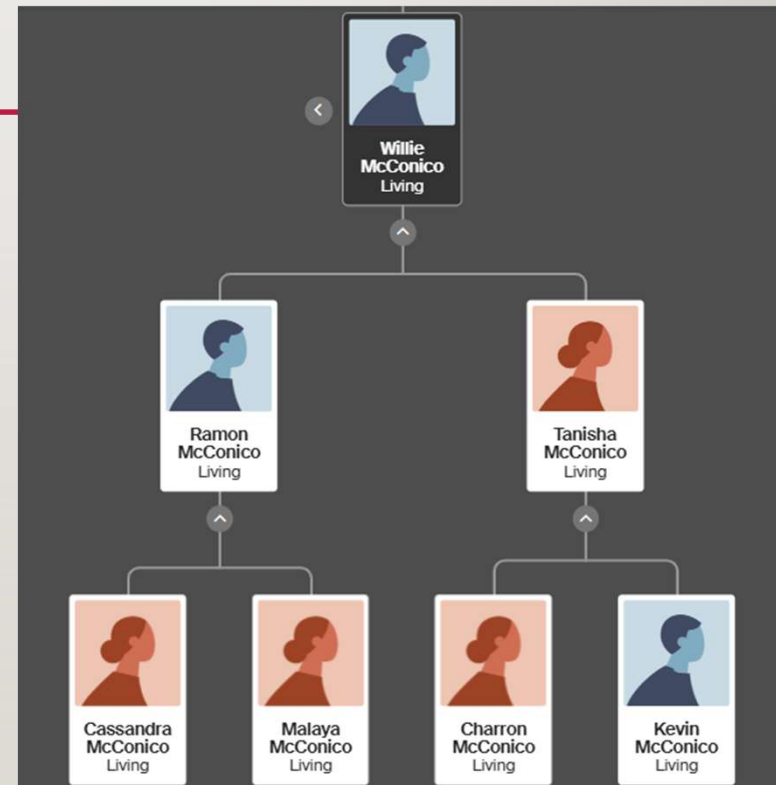
JIMMY MCCONICO

ROMA MAE MCCONICO – GEN 6



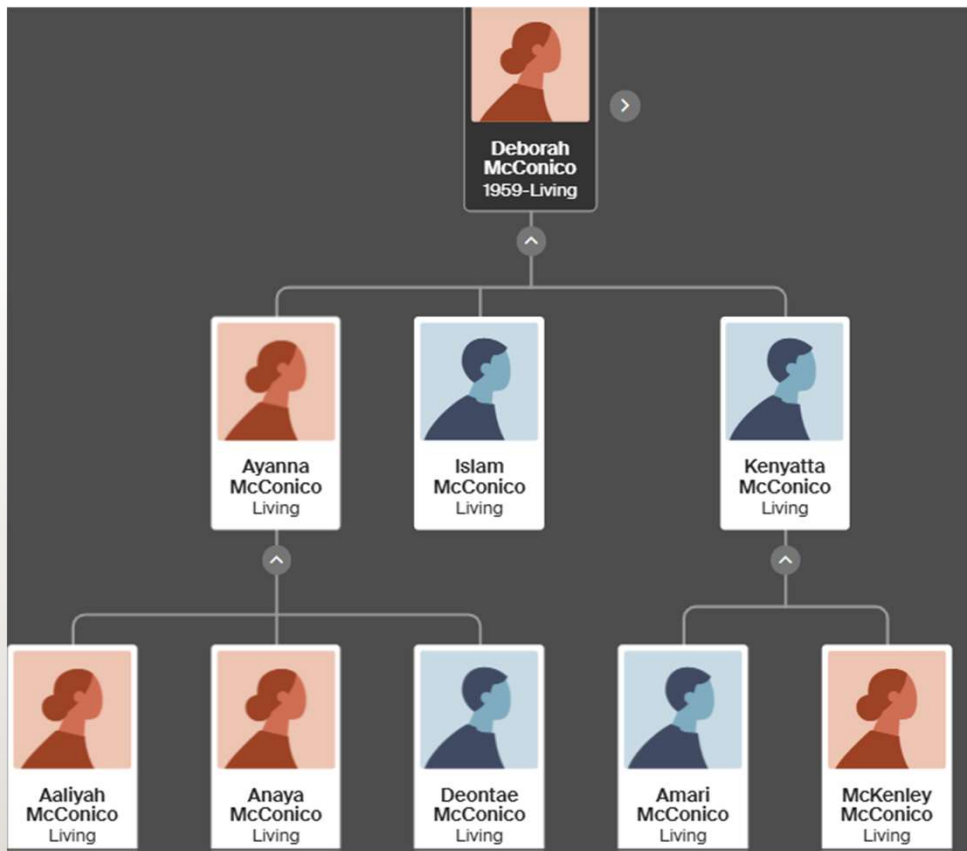
WILLIE MCCONICO

ROMA MAE MCCONICO – GEN 6



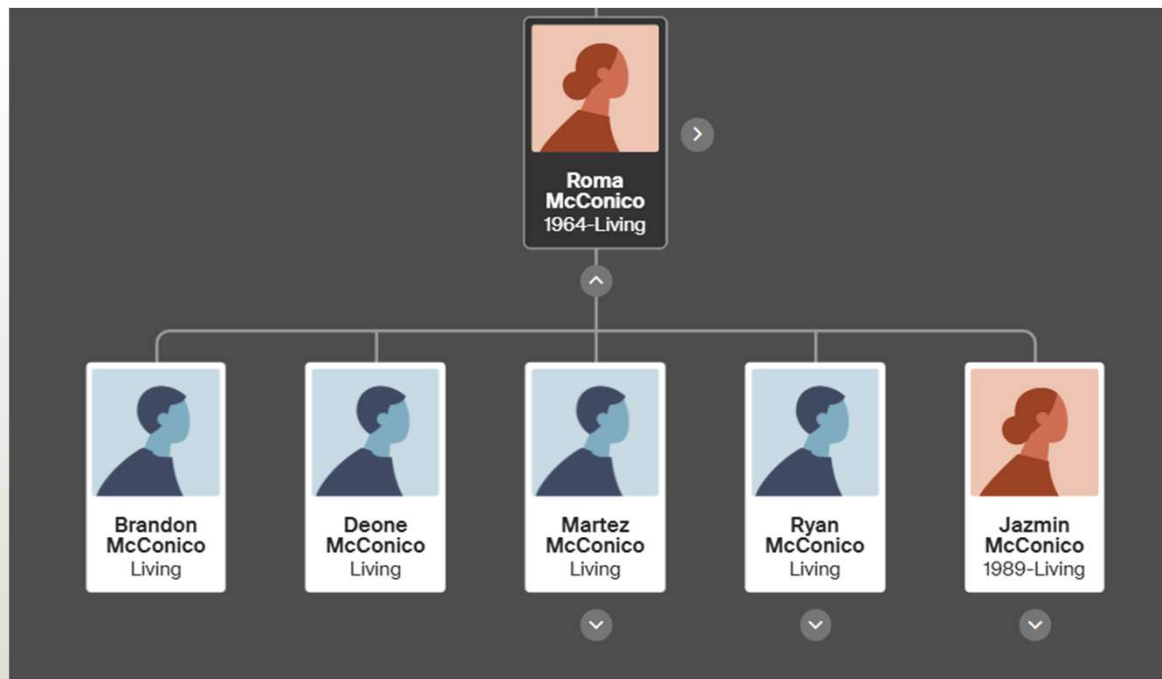
DEBORAH MCCONICO

ROMA MAE MCCONICO – GEN 6 & 7



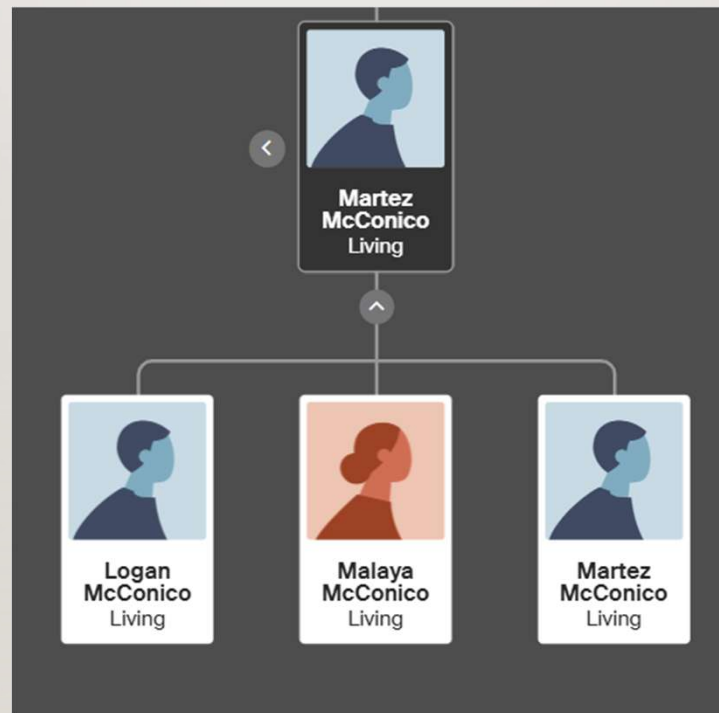
ROMA MCCONICO

ROMA MAE MCCONICO – GEN 6



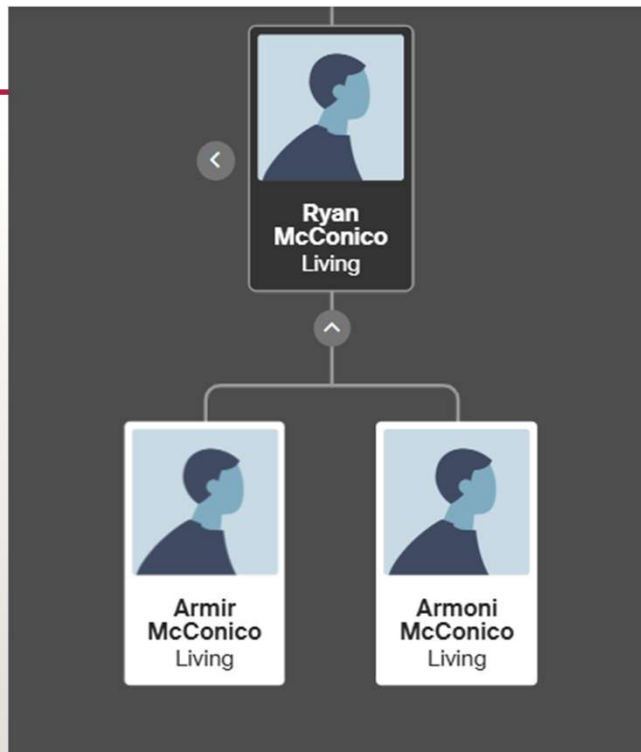
MARTEZ MCCONICO

ROMA MCCONICO – GEN 7



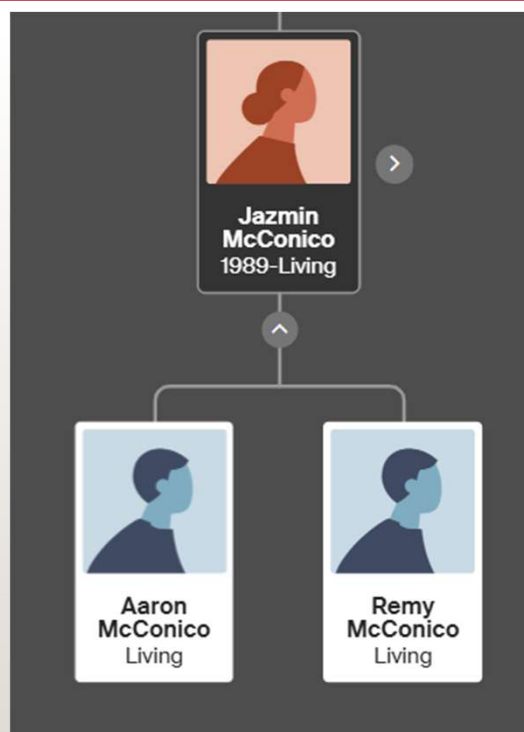
RYAN MCCONICO

ROMA MCCONICO – GEN 7



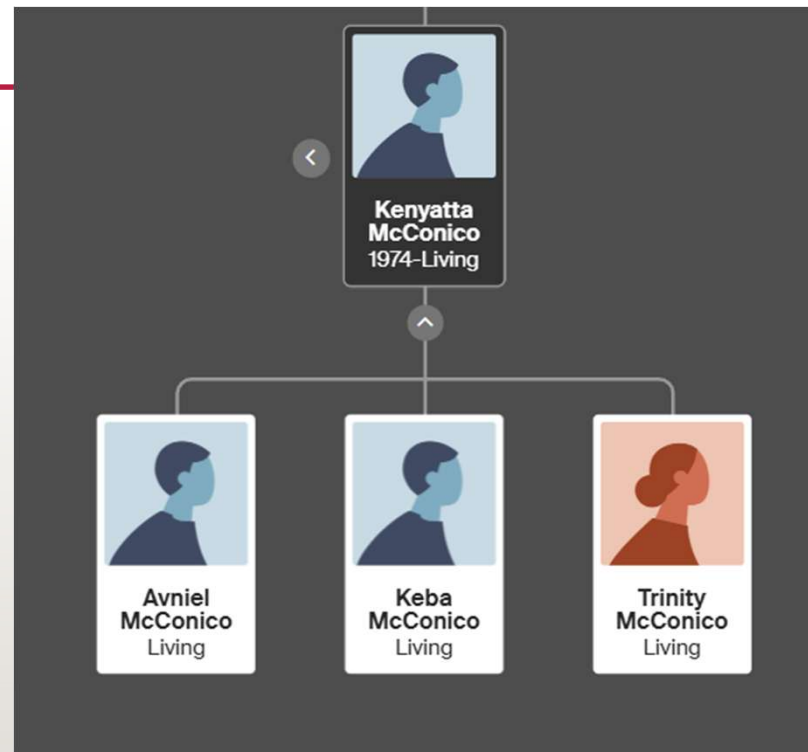
JAZMIN MCCONICO

ROMA MCCONICO – GEN 7



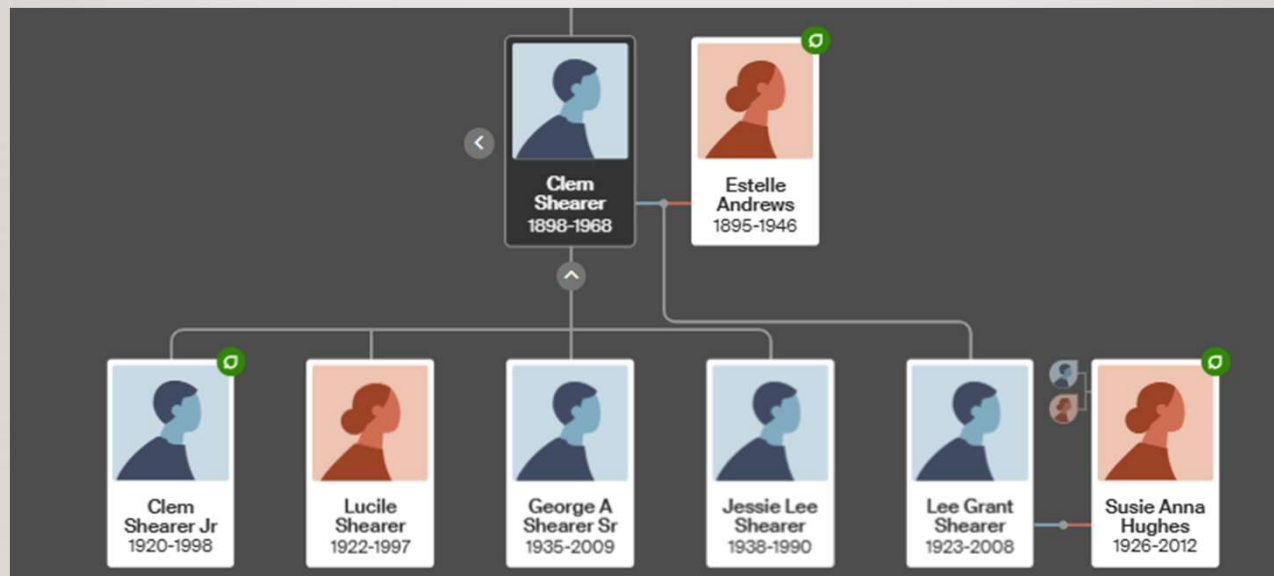
KENYATTA MCCONICO

ROMA MAE MCCONICO – GEN 6



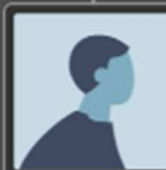
CLEM SHEARER, SR.

REUBEN SHEARER – GEN 5



CLEM SHEARER, JR.

CLEM SHEARER, SR. – GEN 5



**Clem
Shearer Jr**
1920-1998



**Gwendolyn
Shearer**
1954-1998

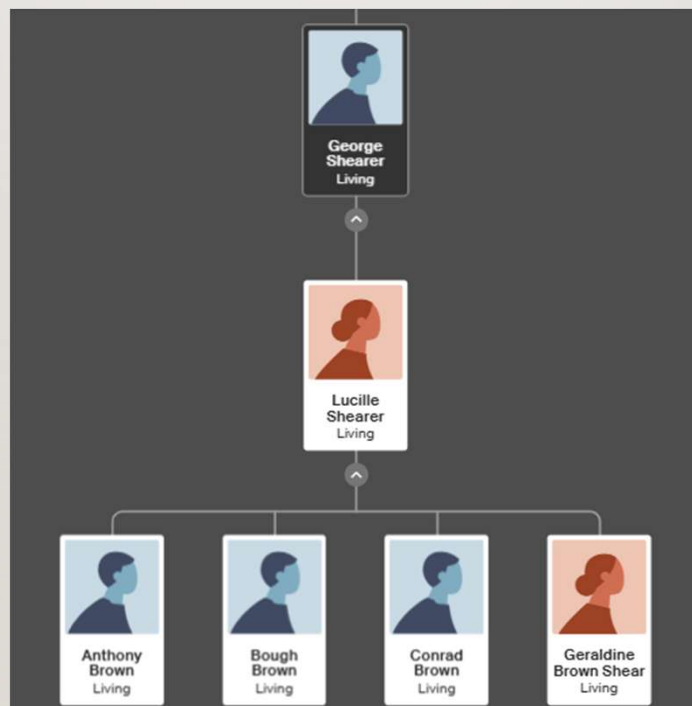
GEORGE SHEARER, SR.

CLEM SHEARER, SR. – GEN 5



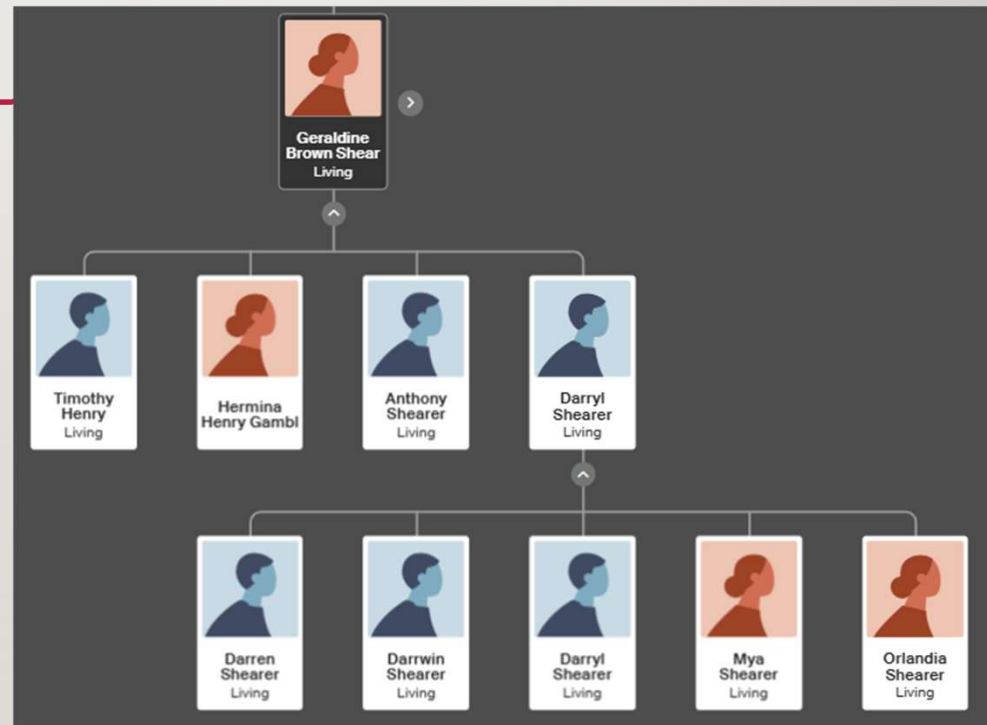
GEORGE SHEARER, JR.

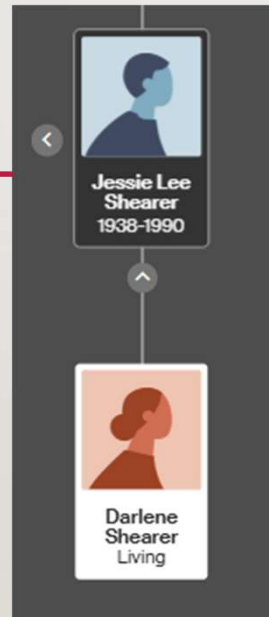
GEORGE SHEARER, SR. – GEN 6 & 7



GERALDINE BROWN SHEARER

GEORGE SHEARER, JR. – GEN 8 & 9



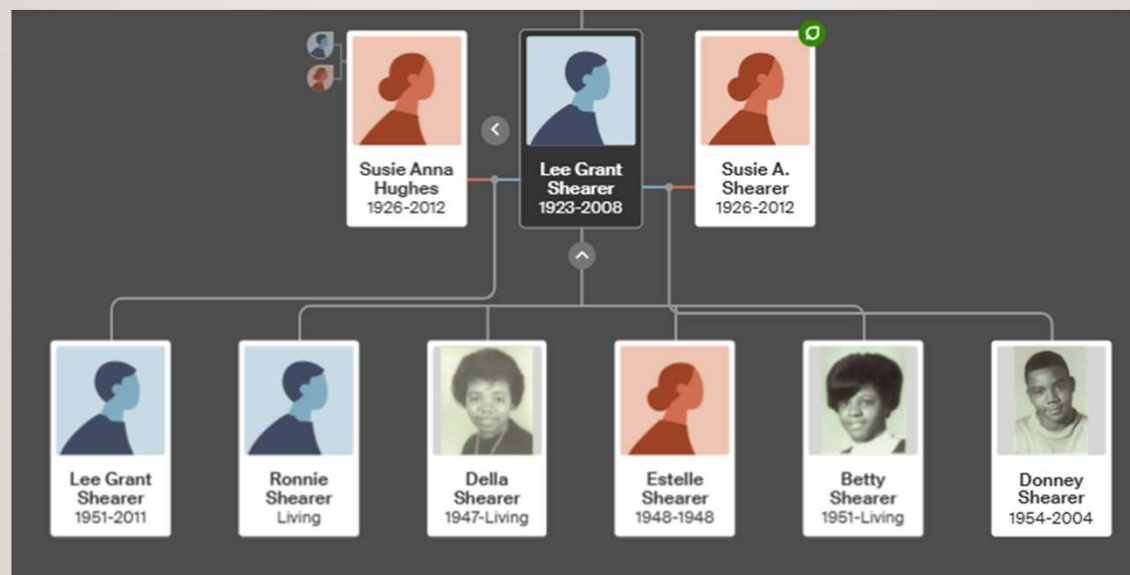


JESSIE LEE SHEARER

CLEM SHEARER, SR. – GEN 5

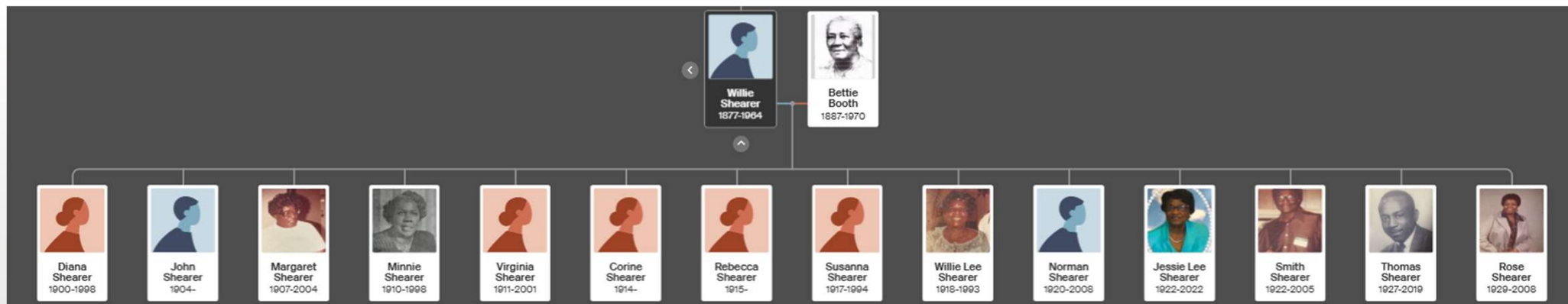
LEE GRANT SHEARER

CLEM SHEARER – GEN 5



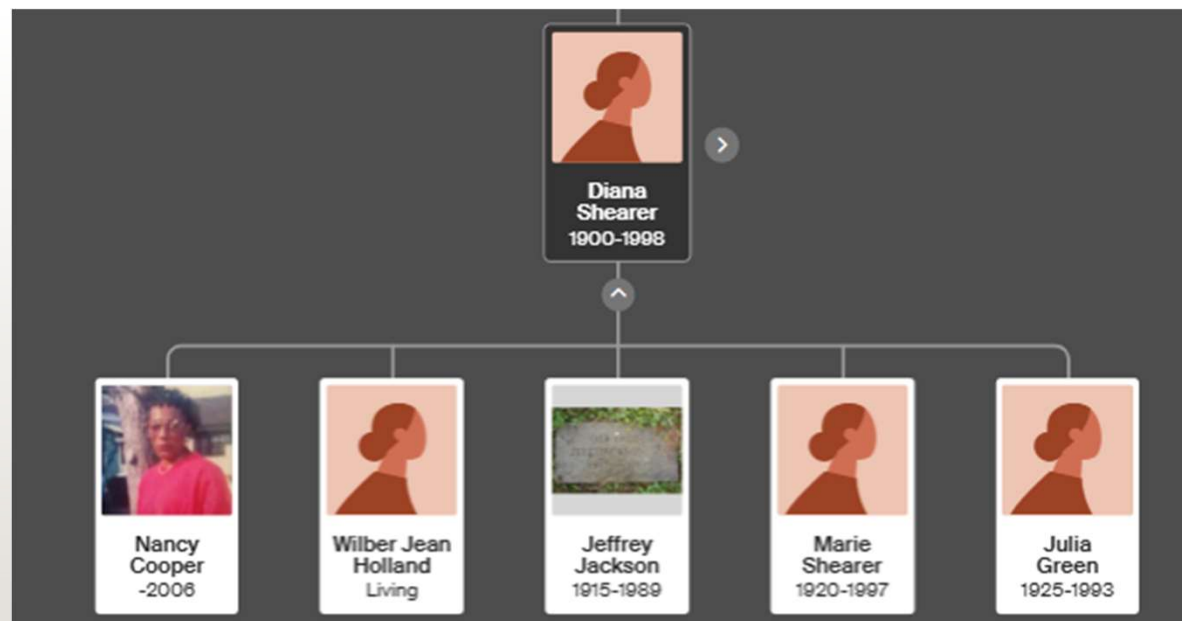
WILLIE SHEARER

SMITH SHEARER – GEN 3



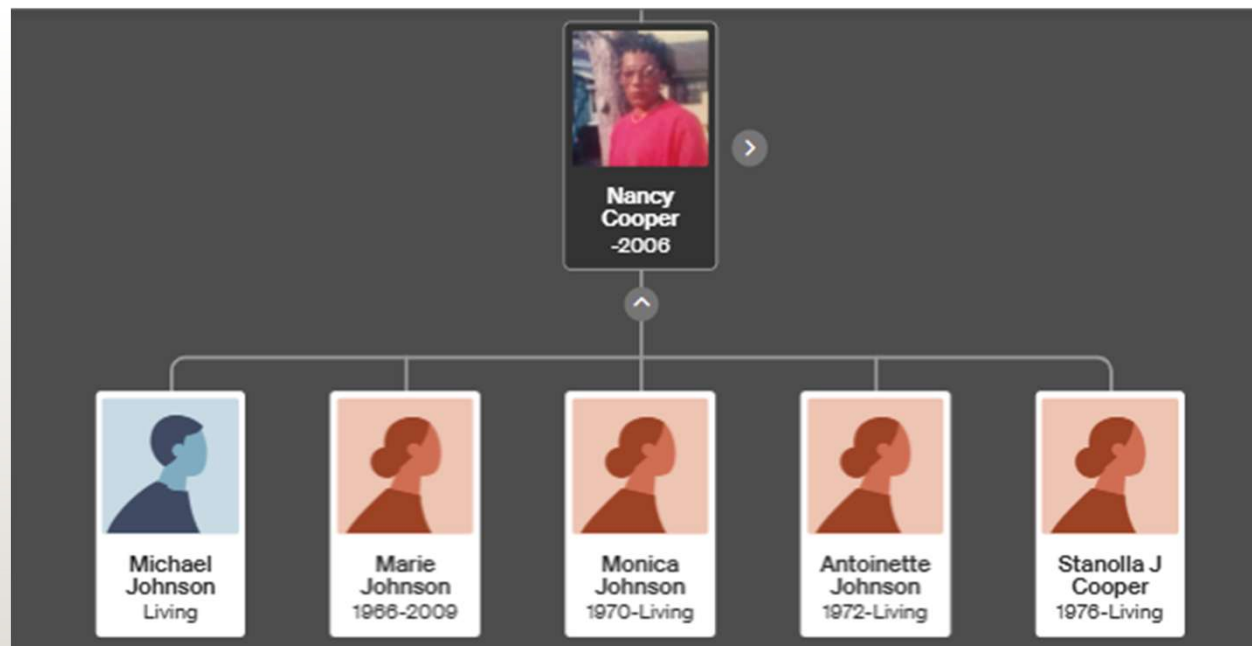
DIANA SHEARER

WILLIE SHEARER – GEN 4



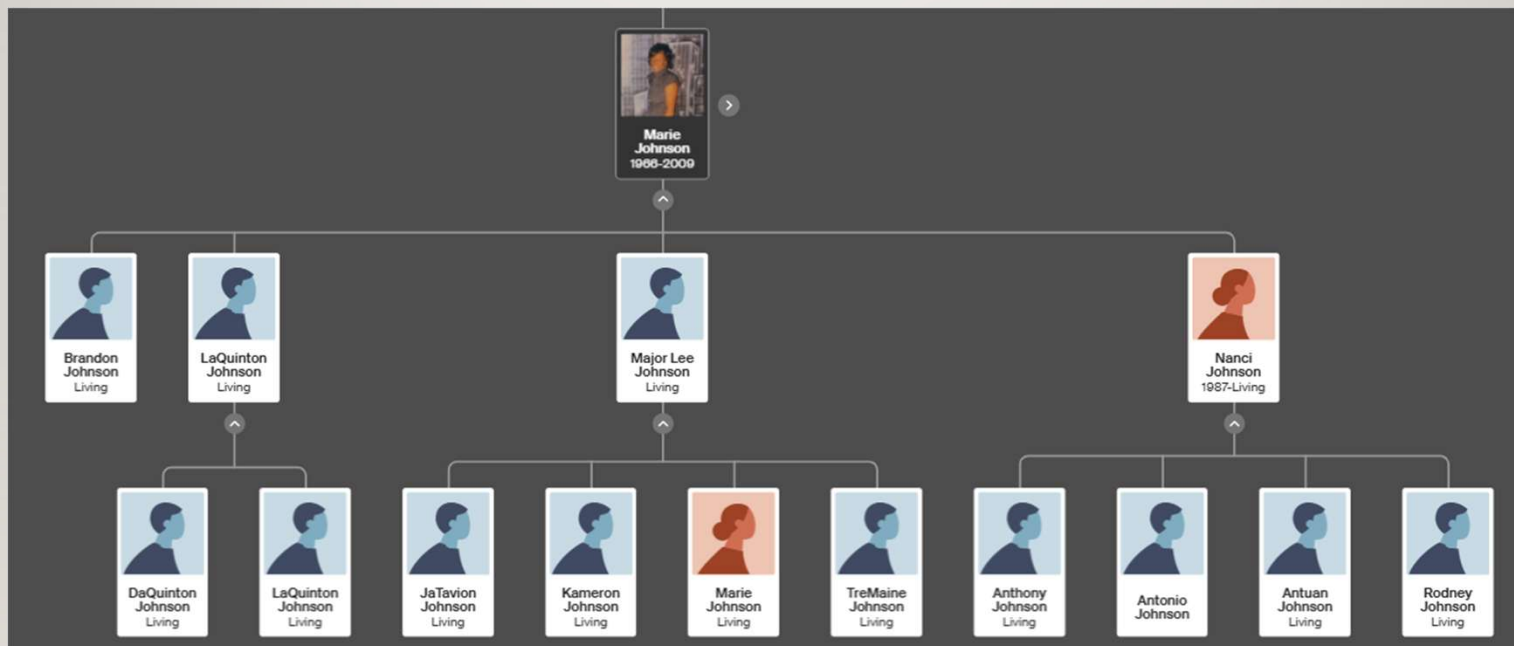
NANCY COOPER

DIANA SHEARER – GEN 5



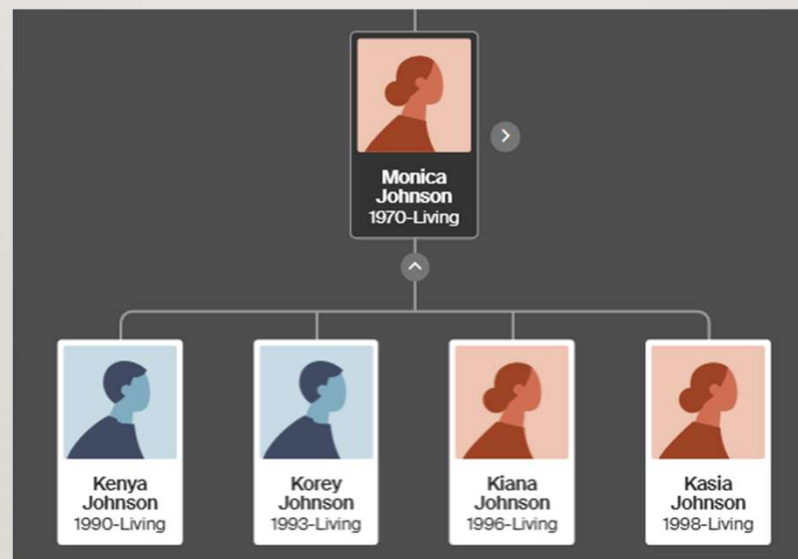
MARIE JOHNSON

NANCY COOPER – GEN 6 & 7



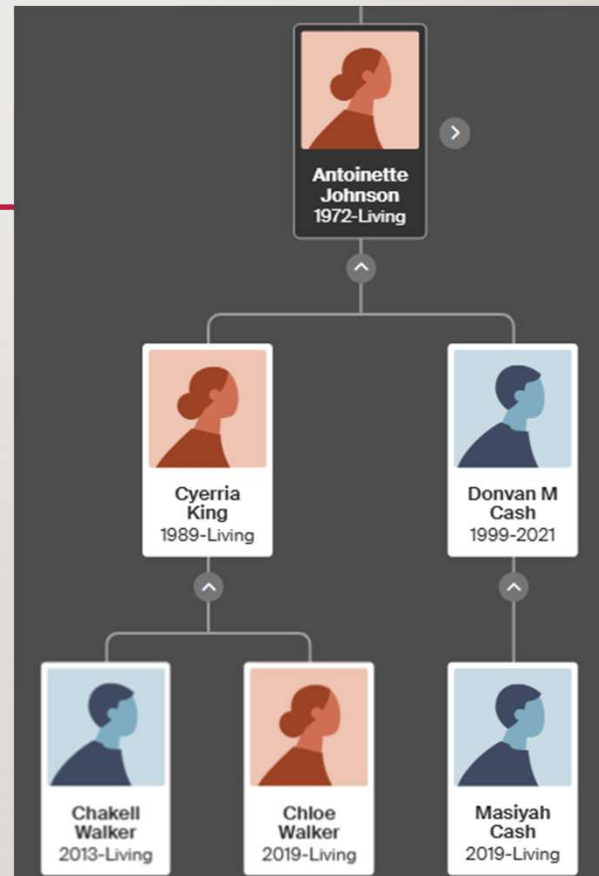
MONICA JOHNSON

NANCY COOPER – GEN 6



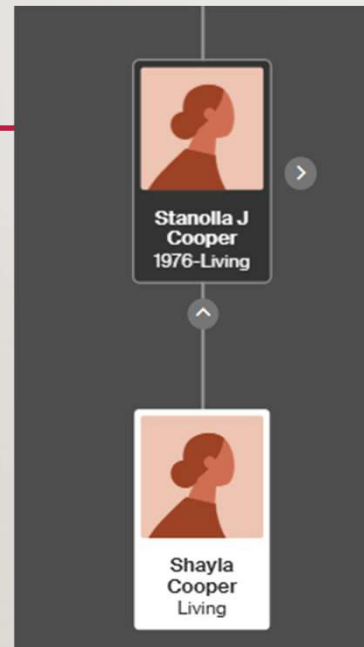
ANTOINETTE JOHNSON

NANCY COOPER – GEN 6 & 7



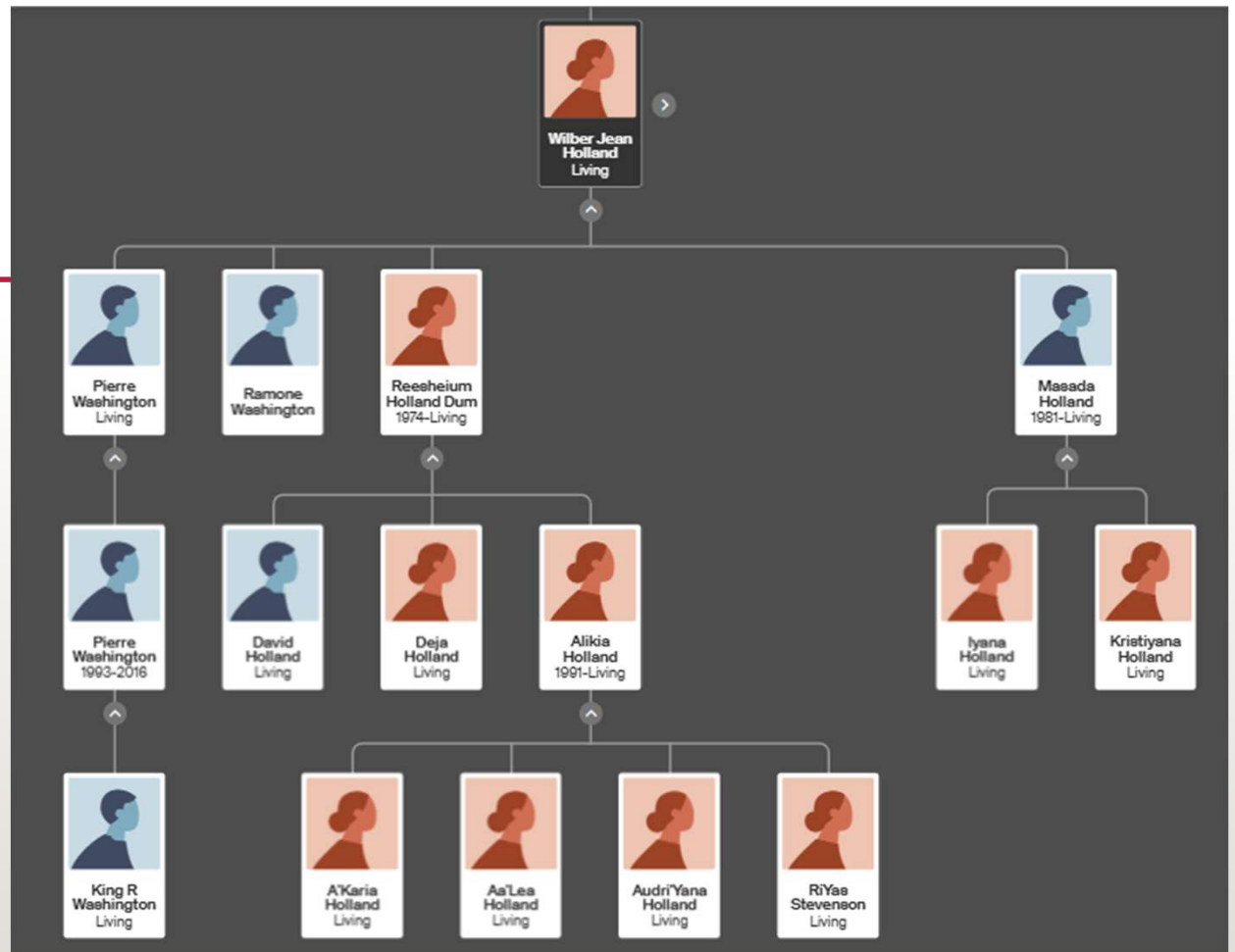
STANOLLA COOPER

NANCY COOPER – GEN 6



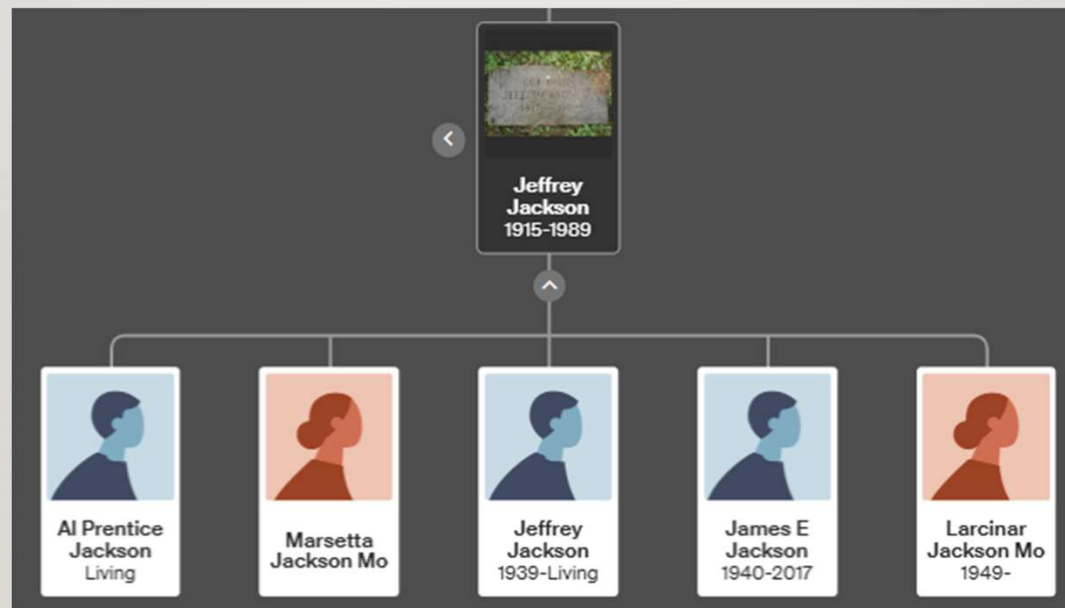
WILBER JEAN HOLLAND

DIANA SHEARER – GEN 5, 6 & 7



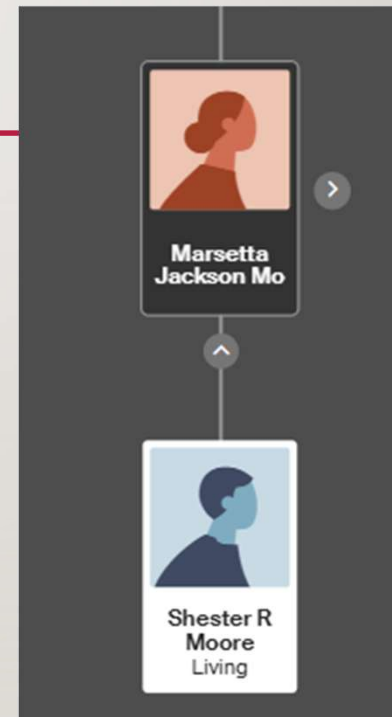
JEFFREY JACKSON, SR.

DIANA SHEARER – GEN 5



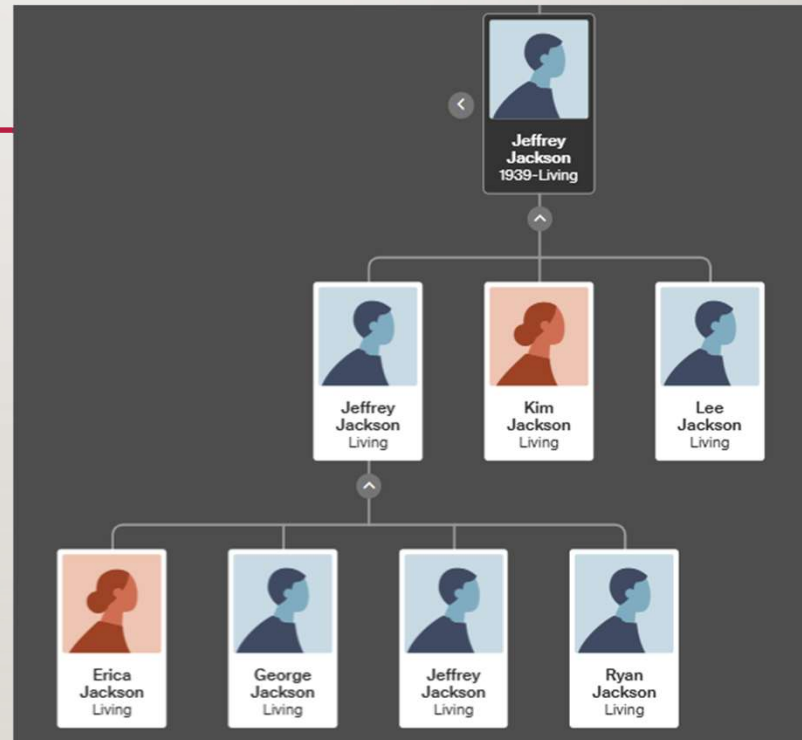
MARSETTA JACKSON MOORE

JEFFREY JACKSON, SR. – GEN 6



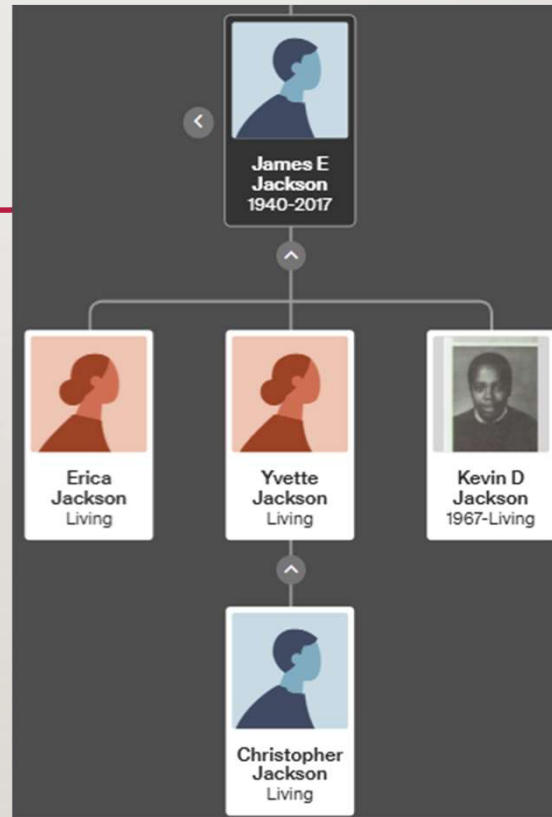
JEFFREY JACKSON, JR.

JEFFREY JACKSON, SR. – GEN 6



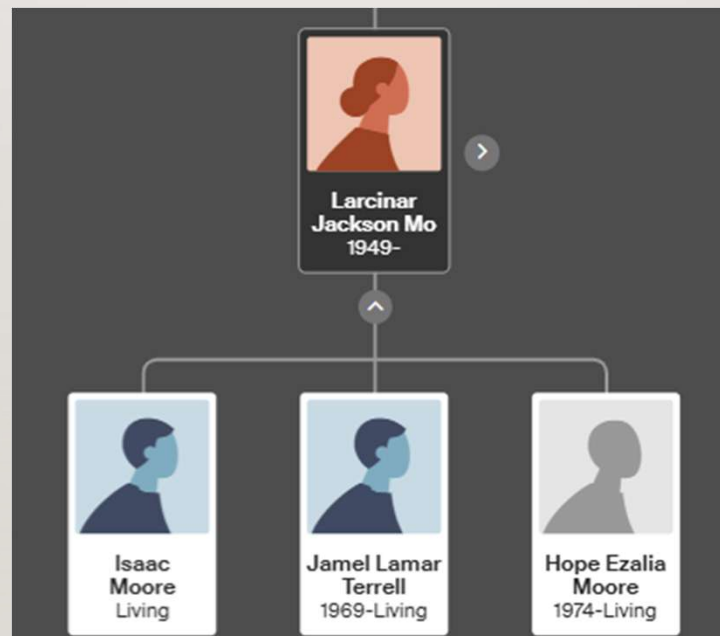
JAMES JACKSON

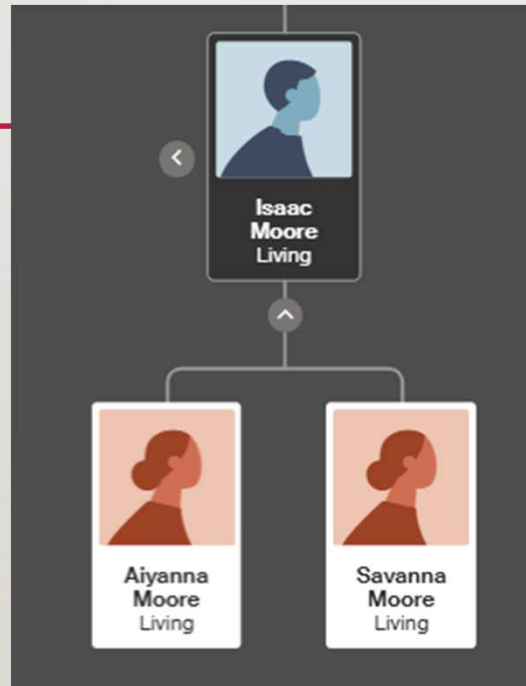
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LARCINAR JACKSON MOORE

JEFFREY JACKSON, SR. – GEN 6



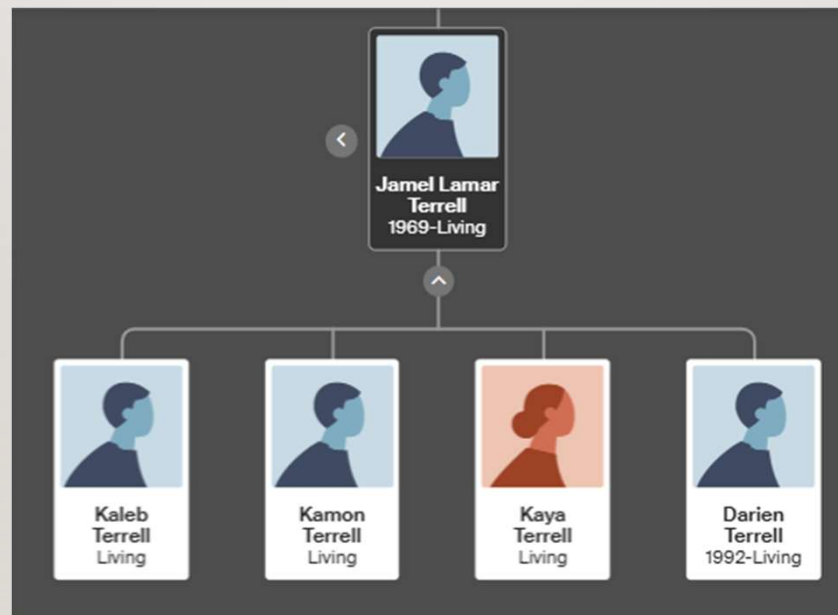


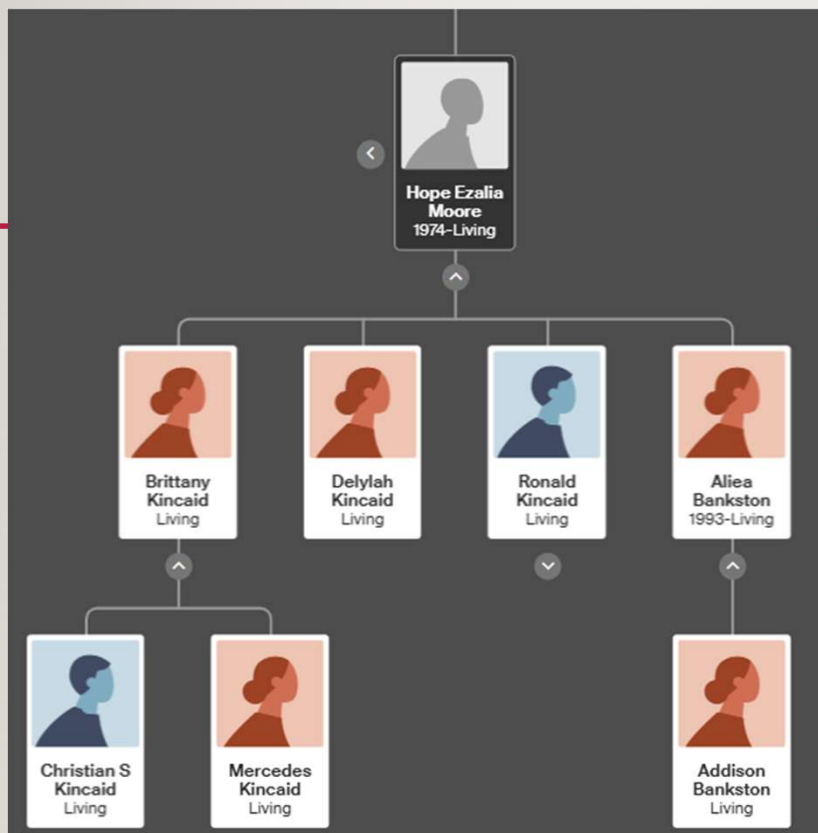
ISAAC MOORE

LARCINAR MOORE – GEN 7

JAMEL LAMAR TERRELL

LARCINAR MOORE – GEN 7



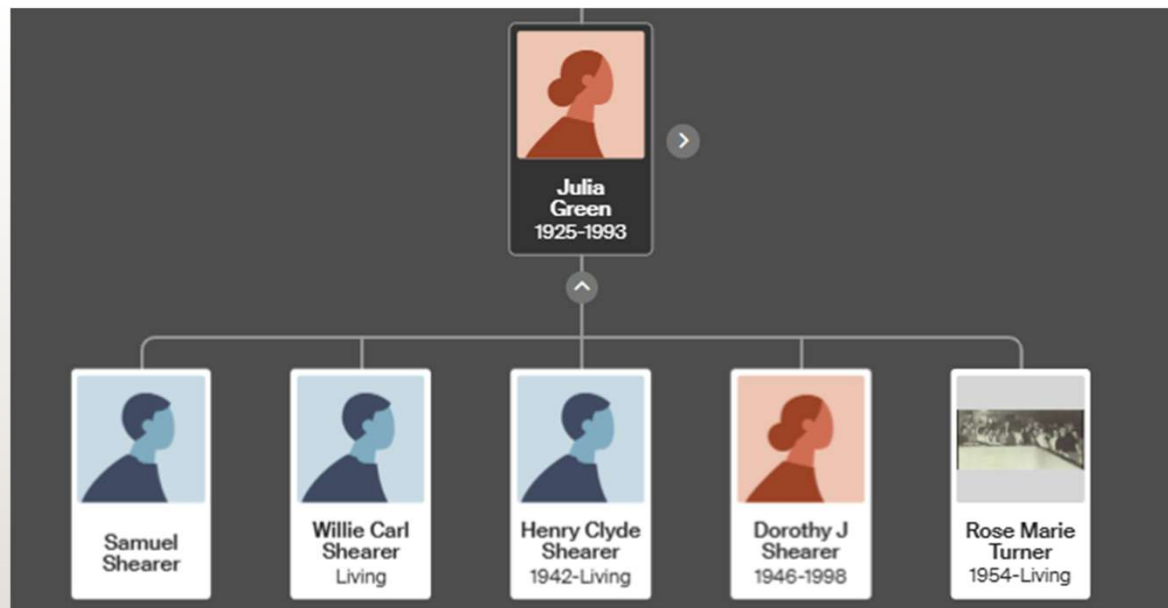


HOPE MOORE

LARCINAR MOORE – GEN 6 & 7

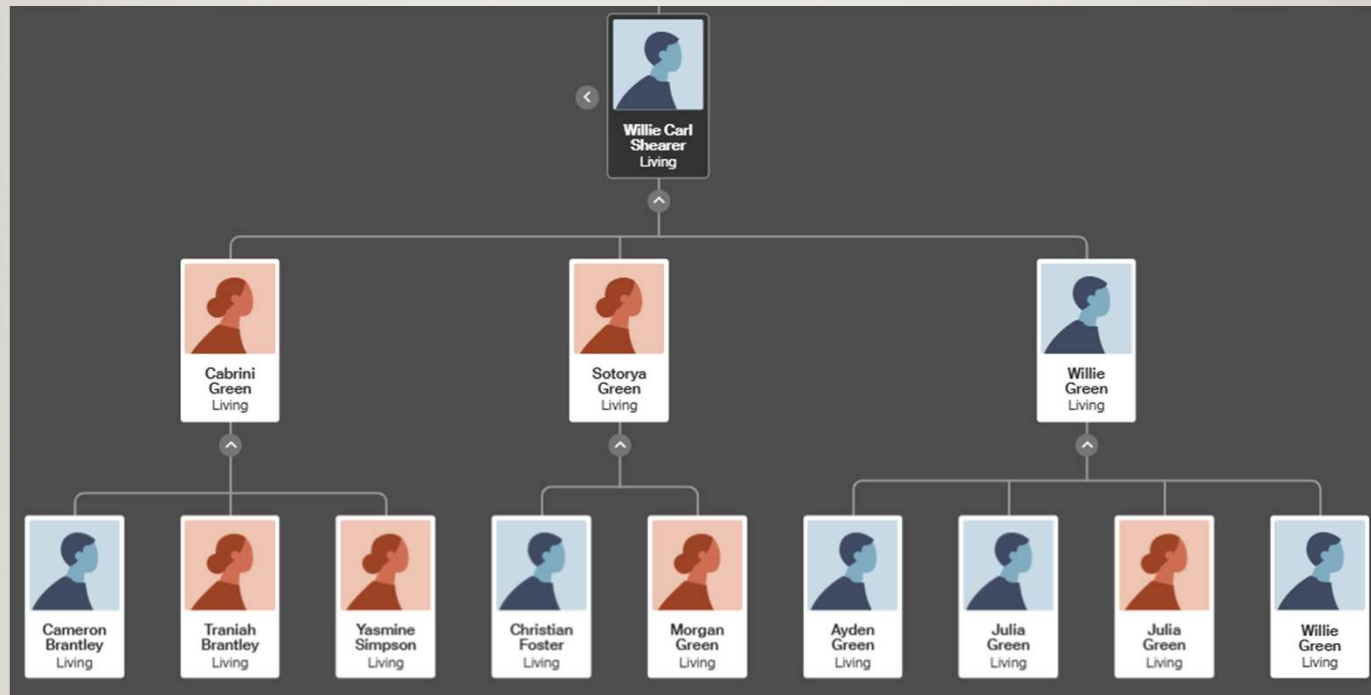
JULIA GREEN

DIANA SHEARER – GEN 5



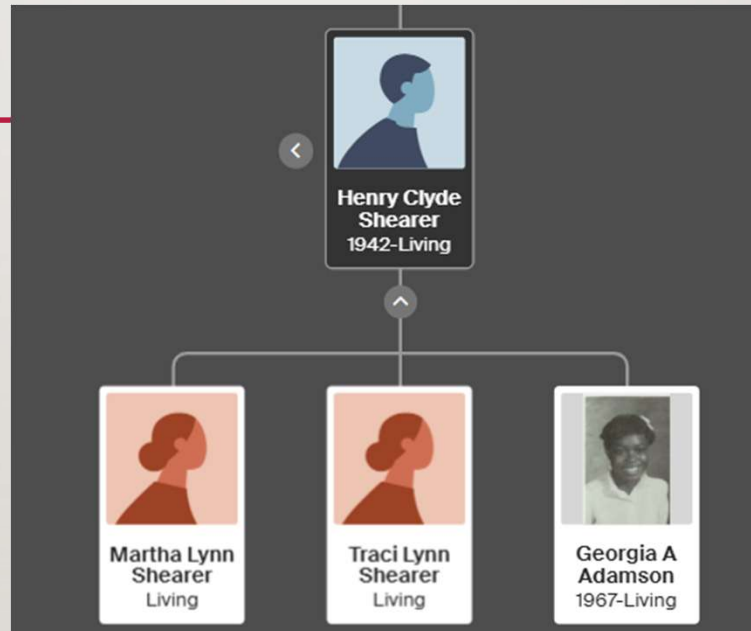
WILLIE CARL SHEARER

JULIA GREEN – GEN 6



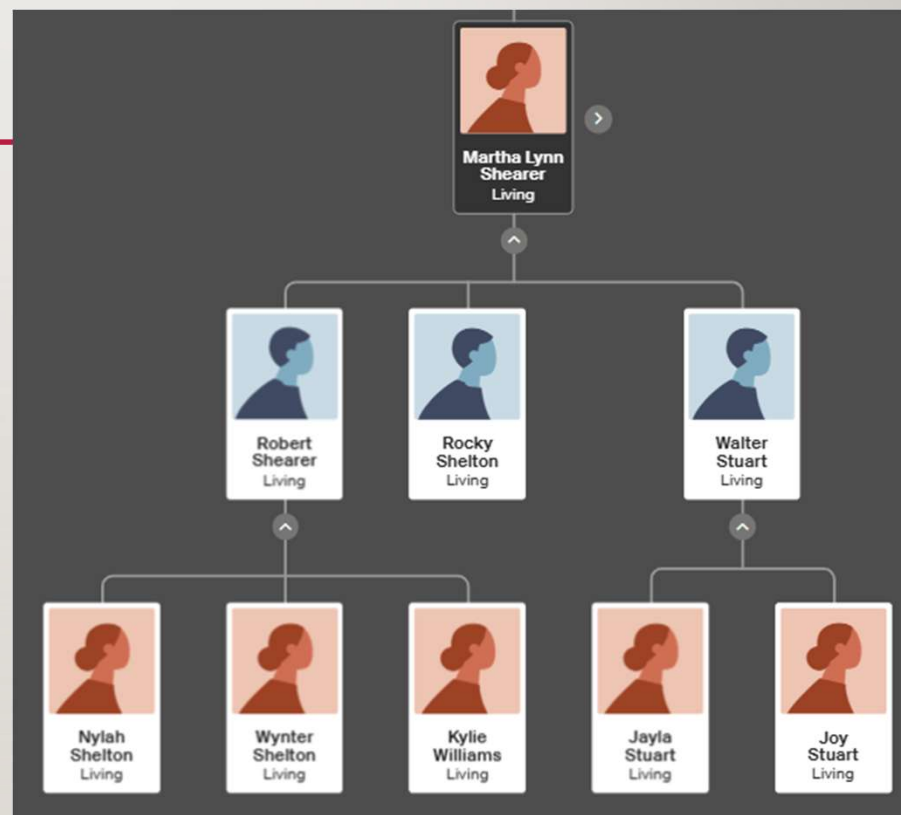
HENRY CLYDE SHEARER

JULIA GREEN – GEN 6



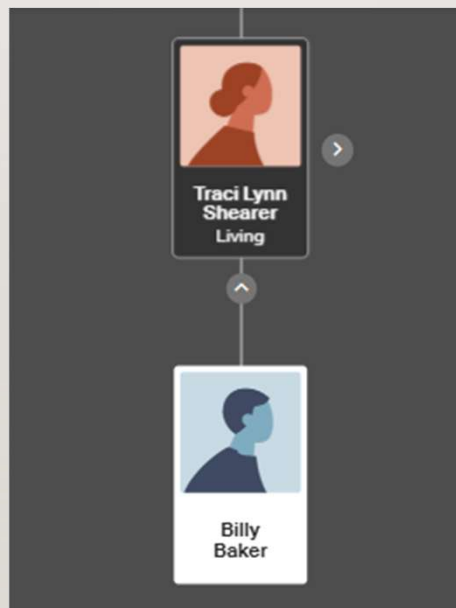
MARTHA LYNN SHEARER

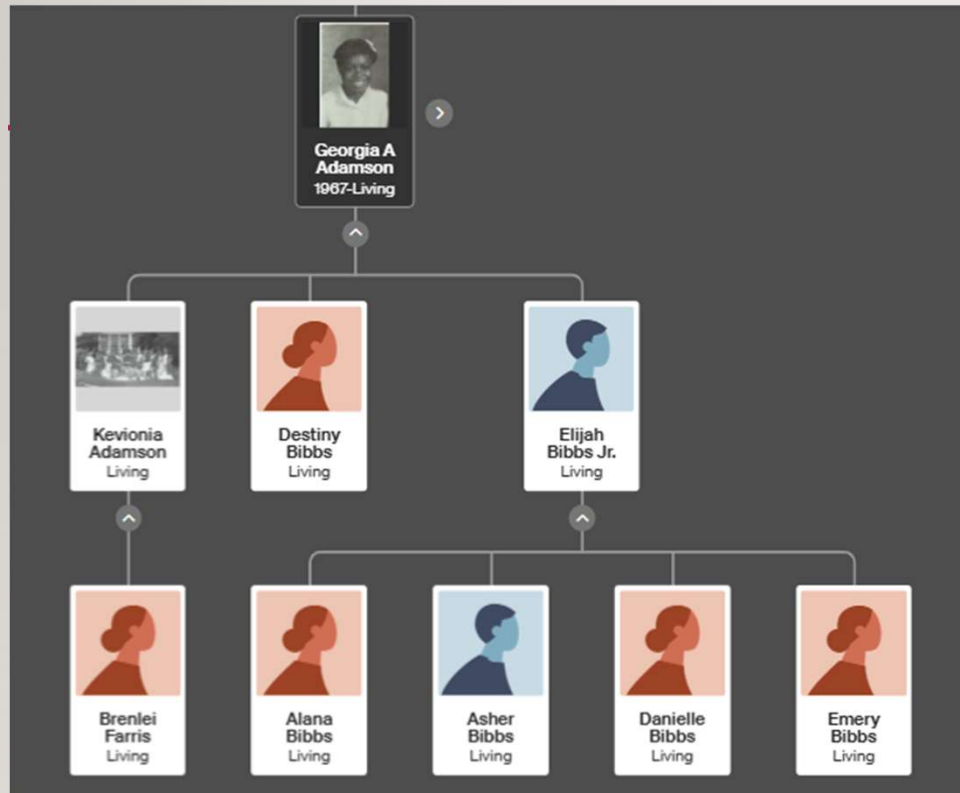
HENRY CLYDE SHEARER – GEN 7 & 8



TRACI LYNN SHEARER

HENRY CLYDE SHEARER – GEN 7



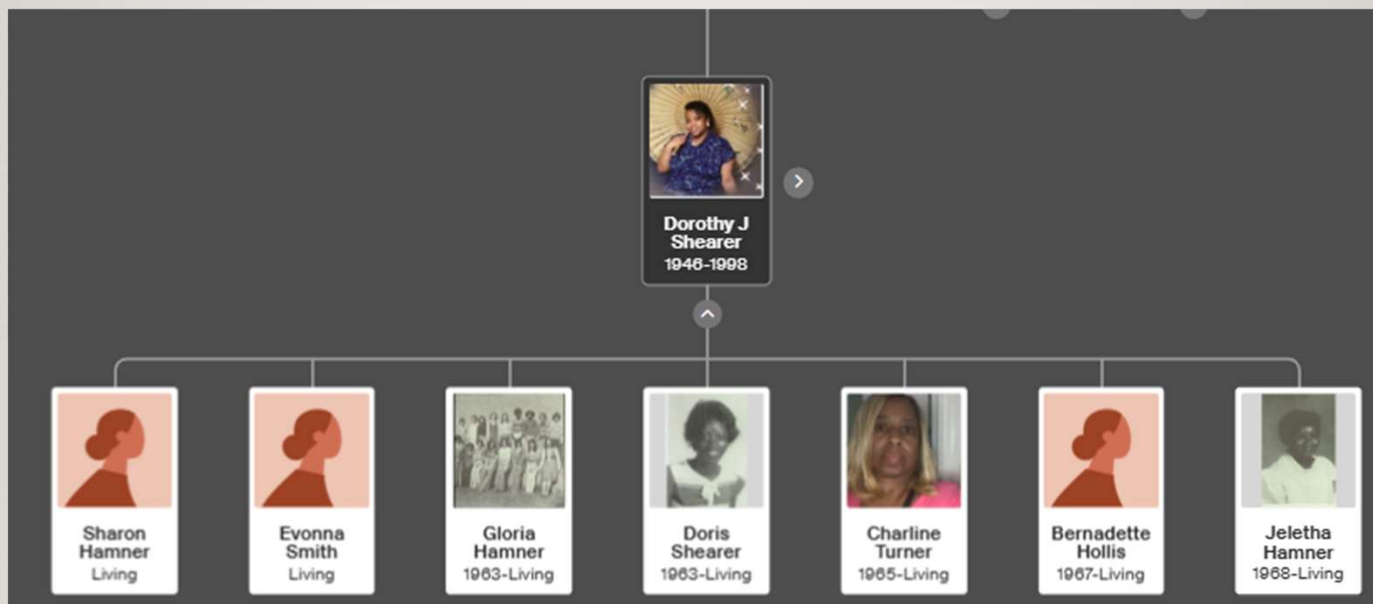


GEORGIA ADAMSON

HENRY CLYDE SHEARER – GEN 7 & 8

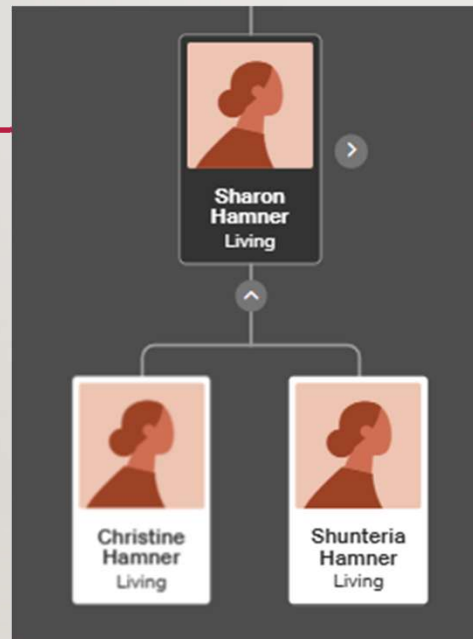
DOROTHY JEAN HAMNER

JULIA GREEN – GEN 5



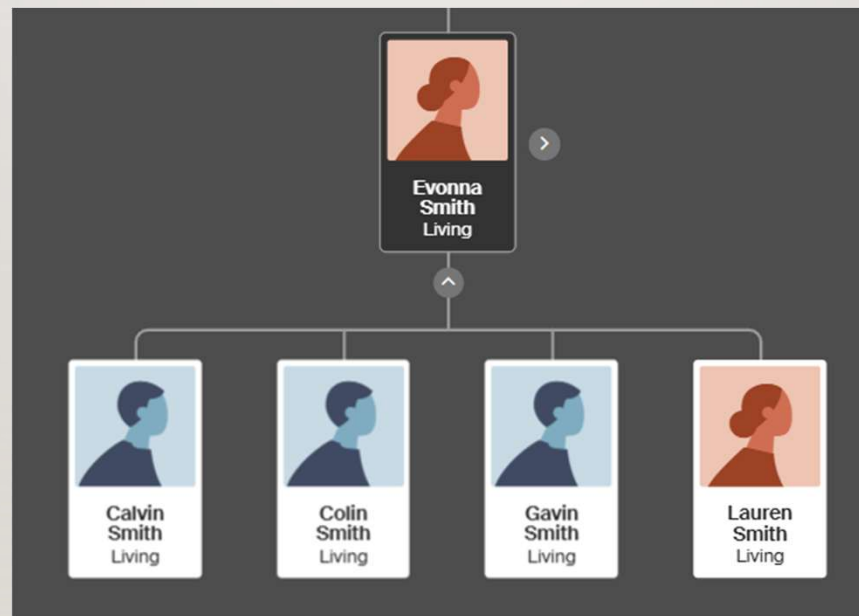
SHARON HAMNER

DOROTHY HAMNER – GEN 6



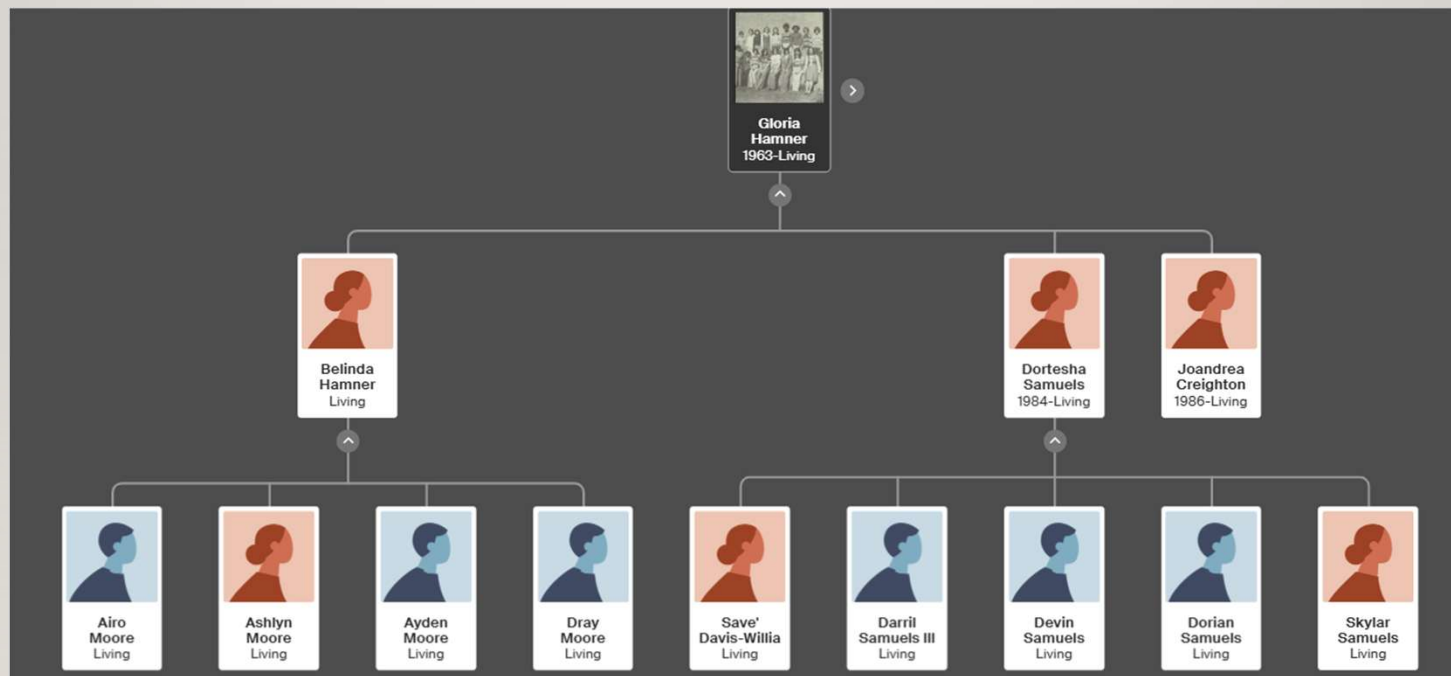
EVONNA SMITH

DOROTHY HAMNER – GEN 6



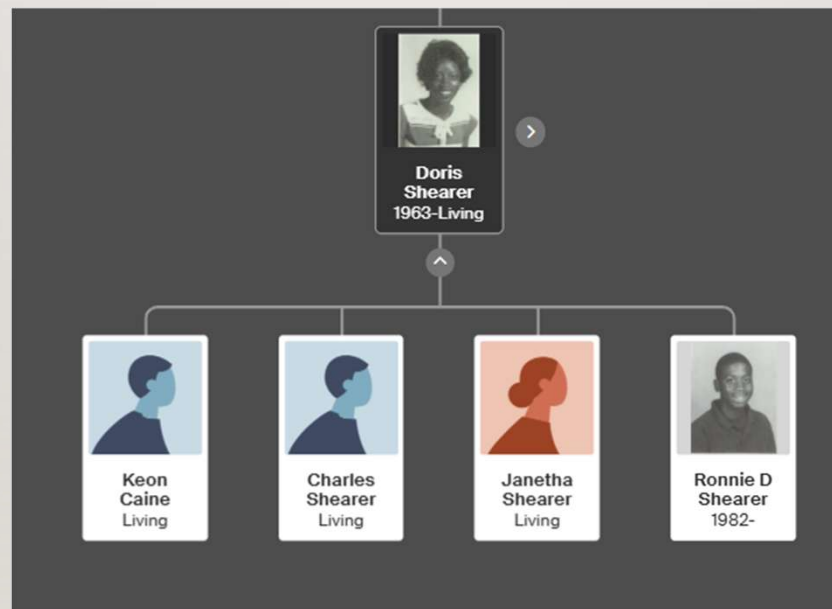
GLORIA HAMNER

DOROTHY HAMNER – GEN 6 & 7



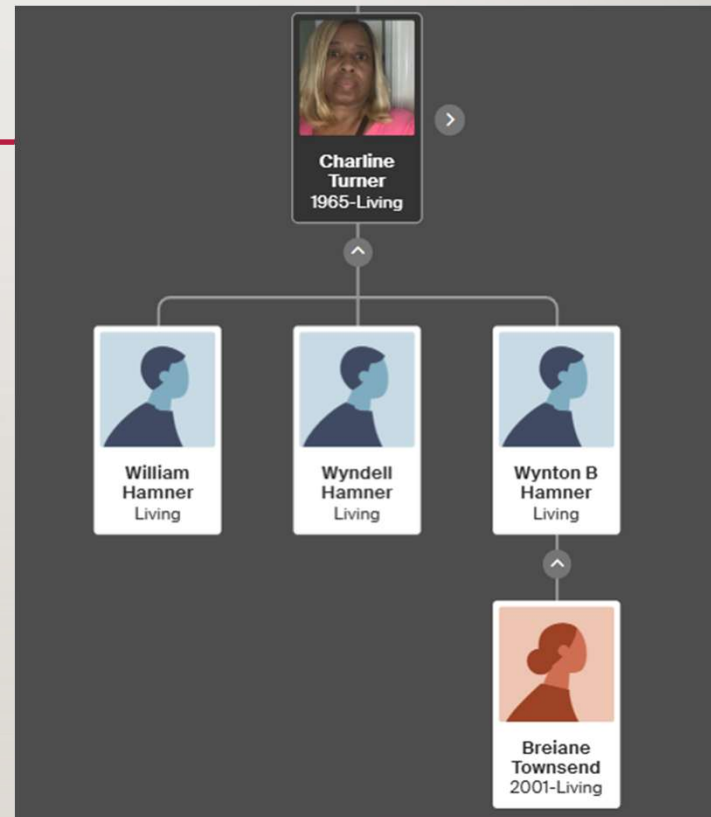
DORIS SHEARER

DOROTHY HAMNER – GEN 6



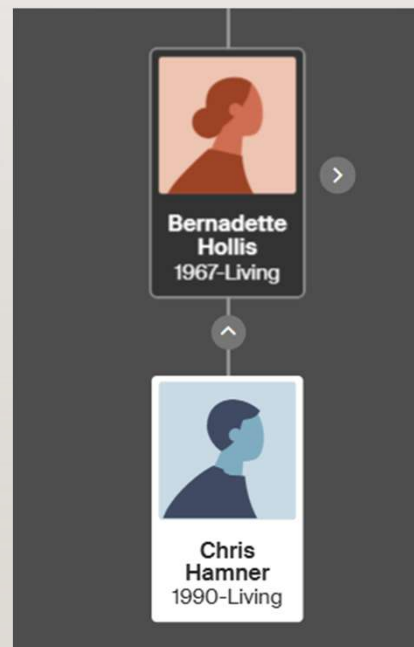
CHARLINE TURNER

DOROTHY HAMNER – GEN 6 & 7



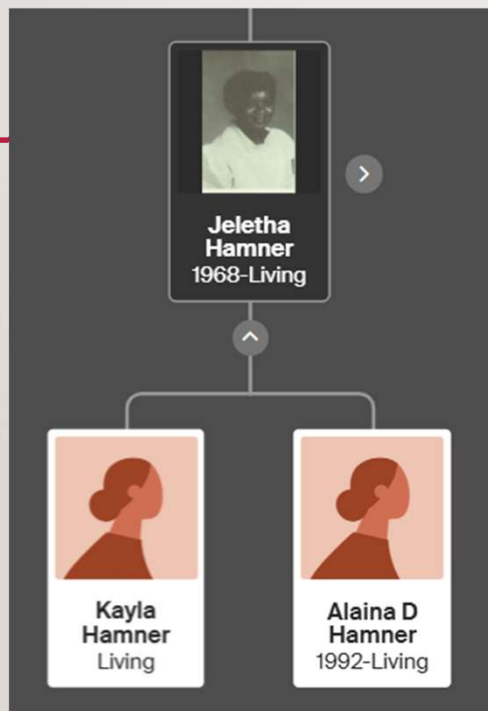
BERNADETTE HOLLIS

DOROTHY HAMNER – GEN 6



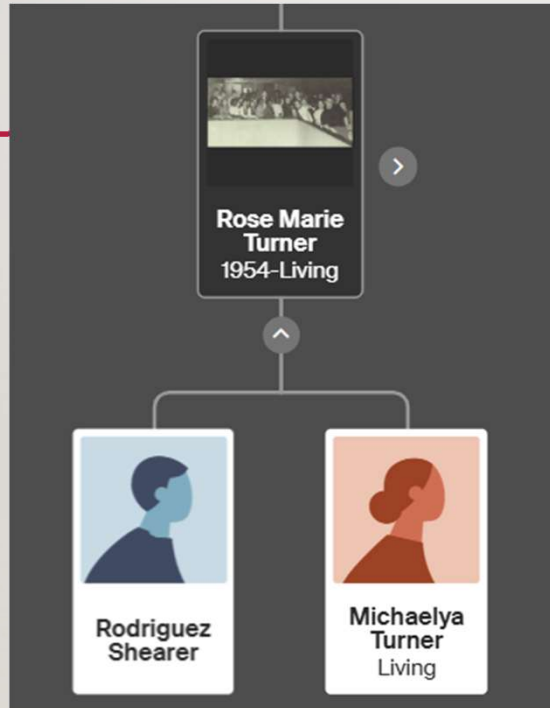
JELETHA HAMNER

DOROTHY HAMNER – GEN 6



ROSE MARIE TURNER

JULIA GREEN – GEN 5



MINNIE SHEARER

WILLIE SHEARER – GEN 4



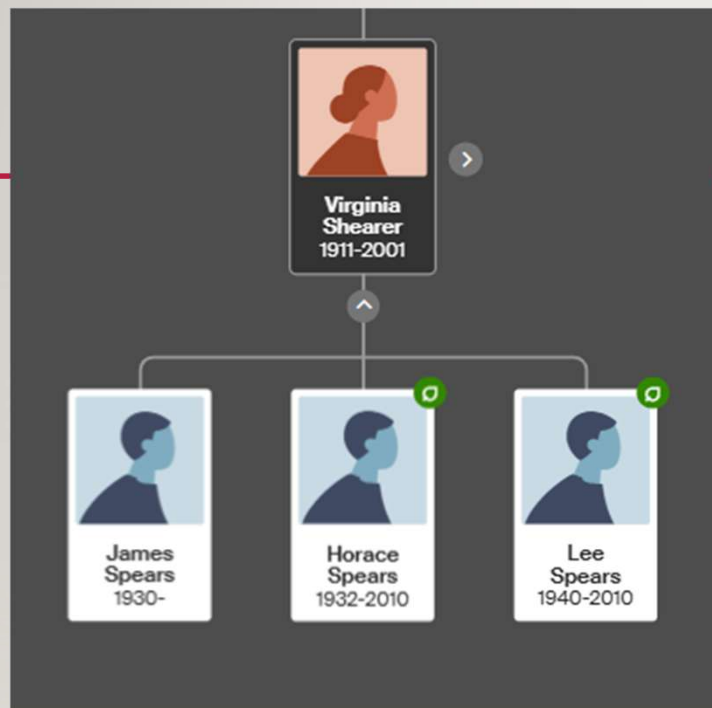
Minnie
Shearer
1910-1998



Evan
Pratt
Living

VIRGINIA SHEARER SPEARS

GEN 4



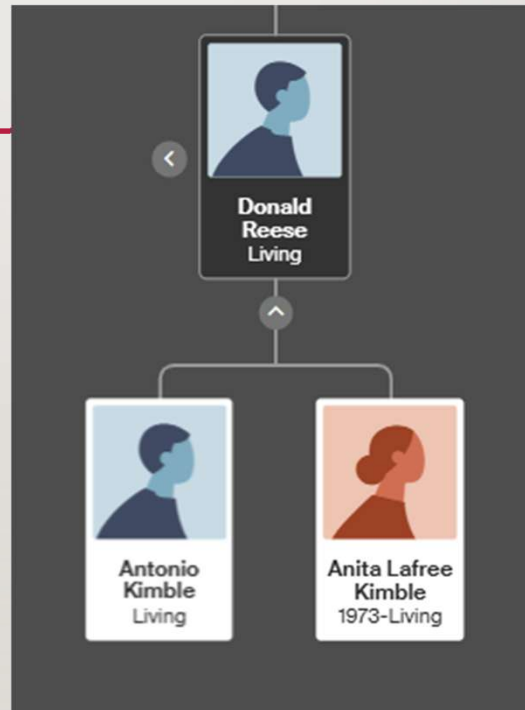
CORINE SHEARER

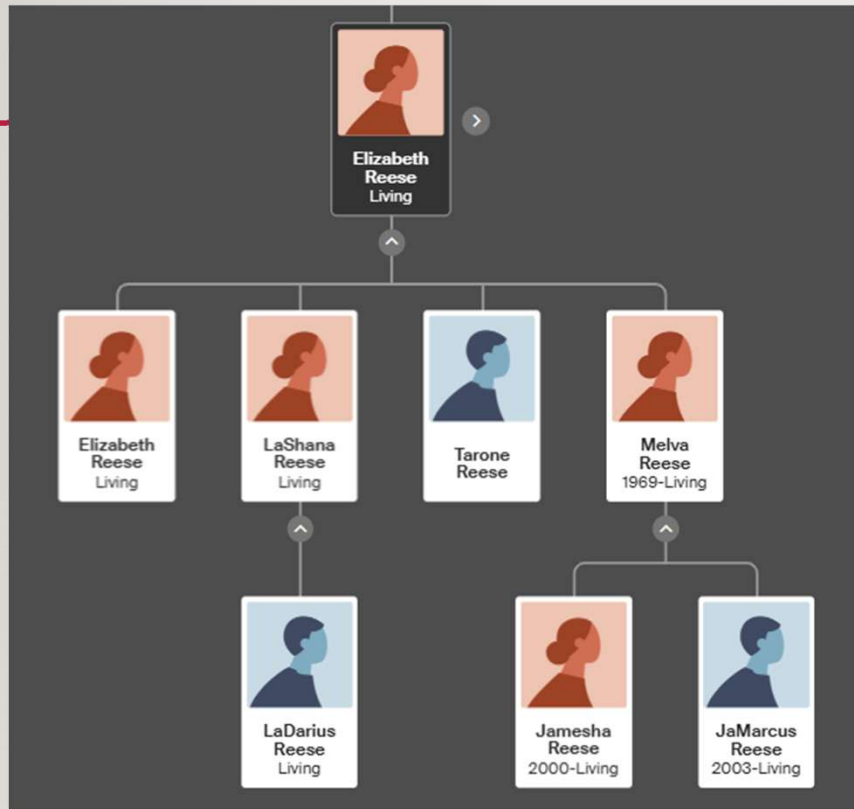
WILLIE SHEARER – GEN 4



DONALD REESE

CORINE SHEARER – GEN 5



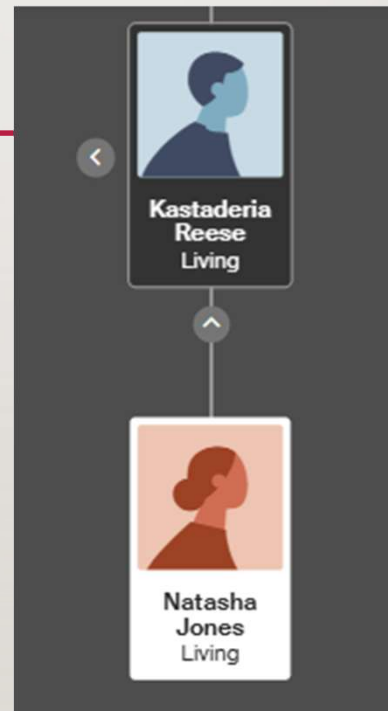


ELIZABETH REESE

CORINE SHEARER – GEN 5 & 6

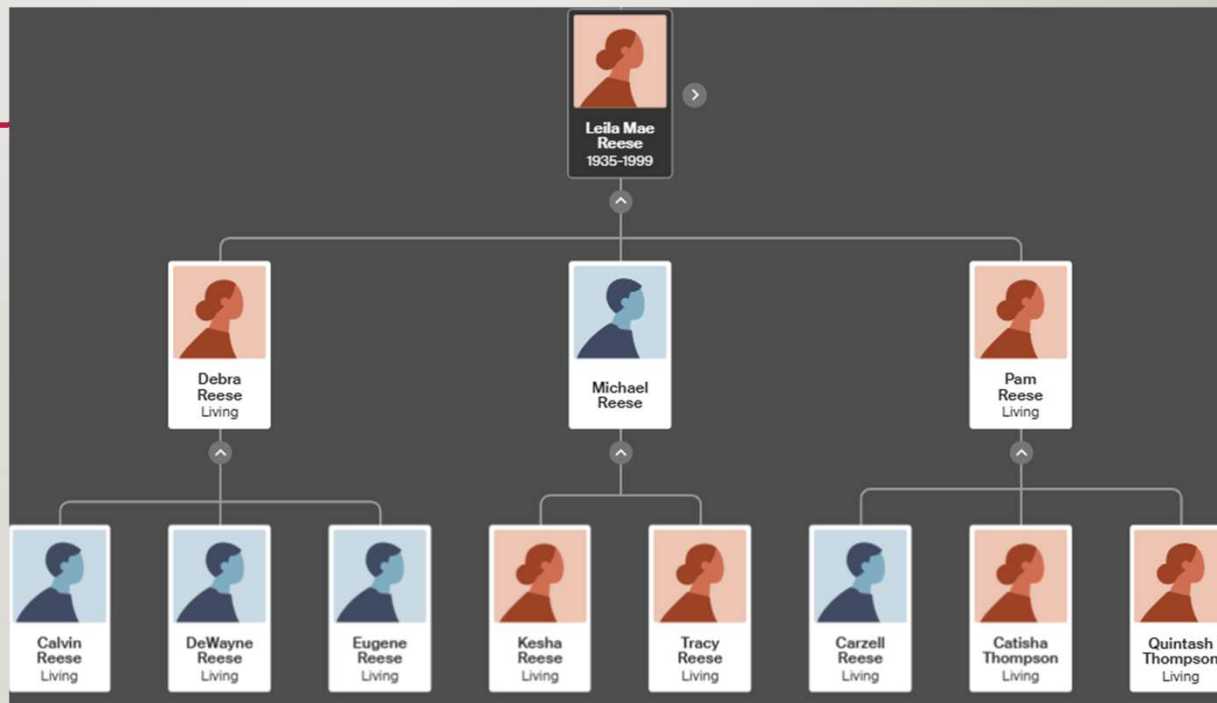
KASTADERIA REESE

CORINE SHEARER – GEN 5



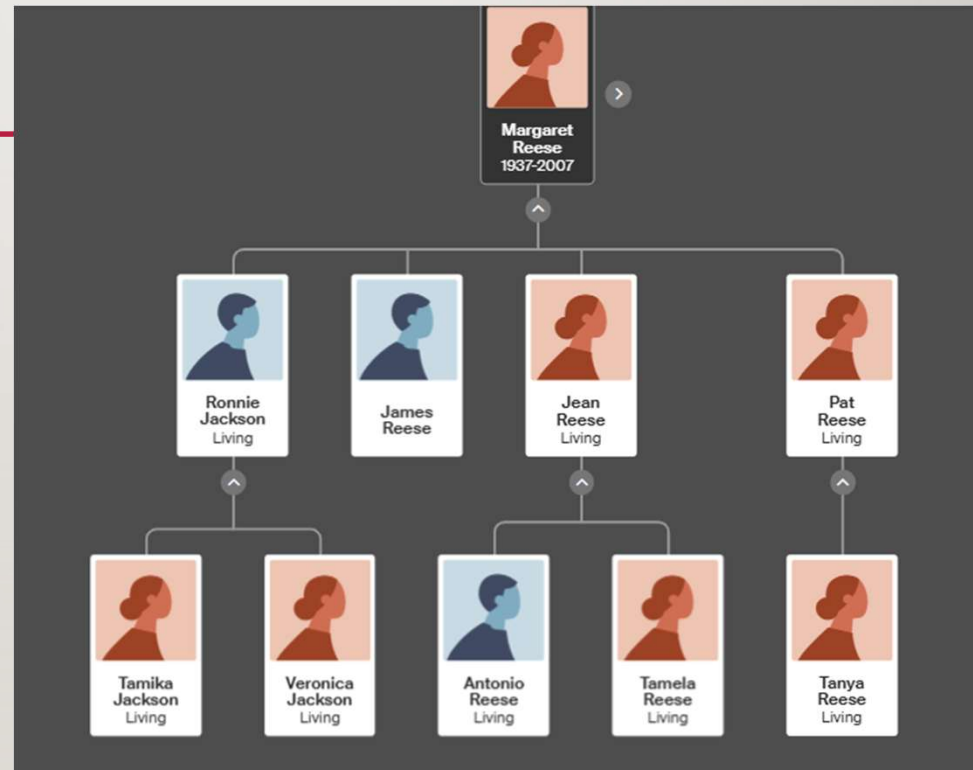
LEILA MAE REESE

CORINE SHEARER – GEN 5 & 6



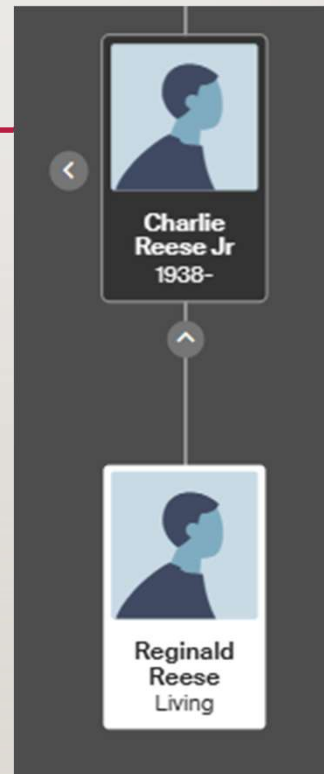
MARGARET REESE

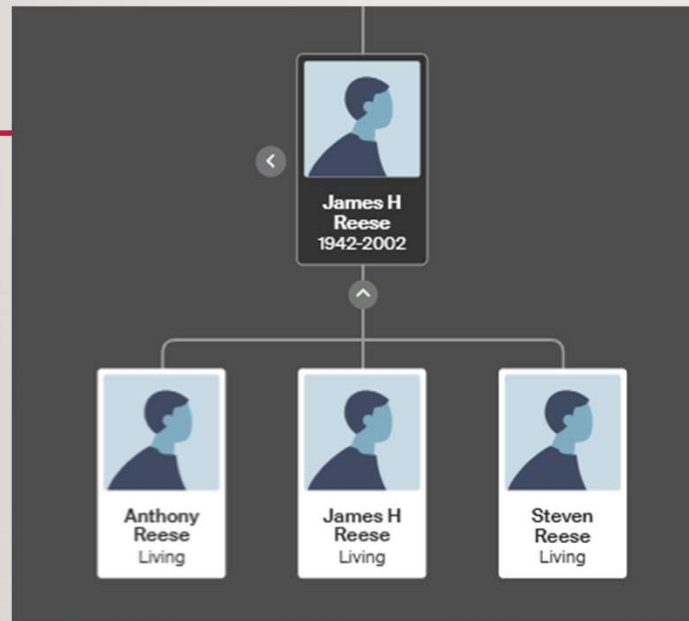
CORINE SHEARER – GEN 5 & 6



CHARLIE REESE, JR.

CORINE SHEARER – GEN 5



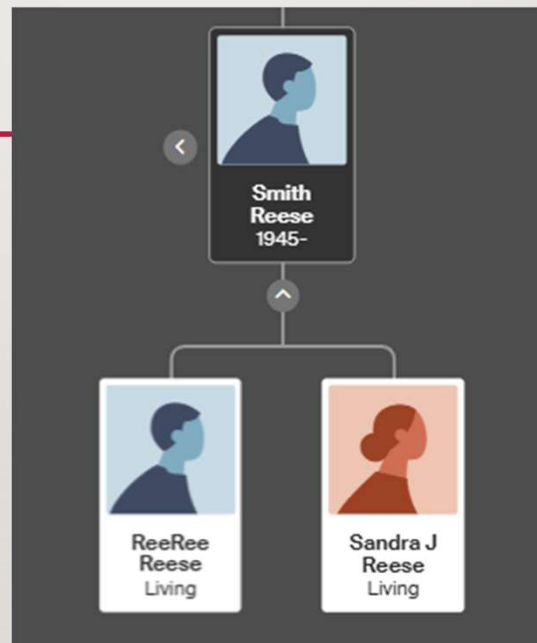


JAMES REESE

CORINE SHEARER – GEN 5

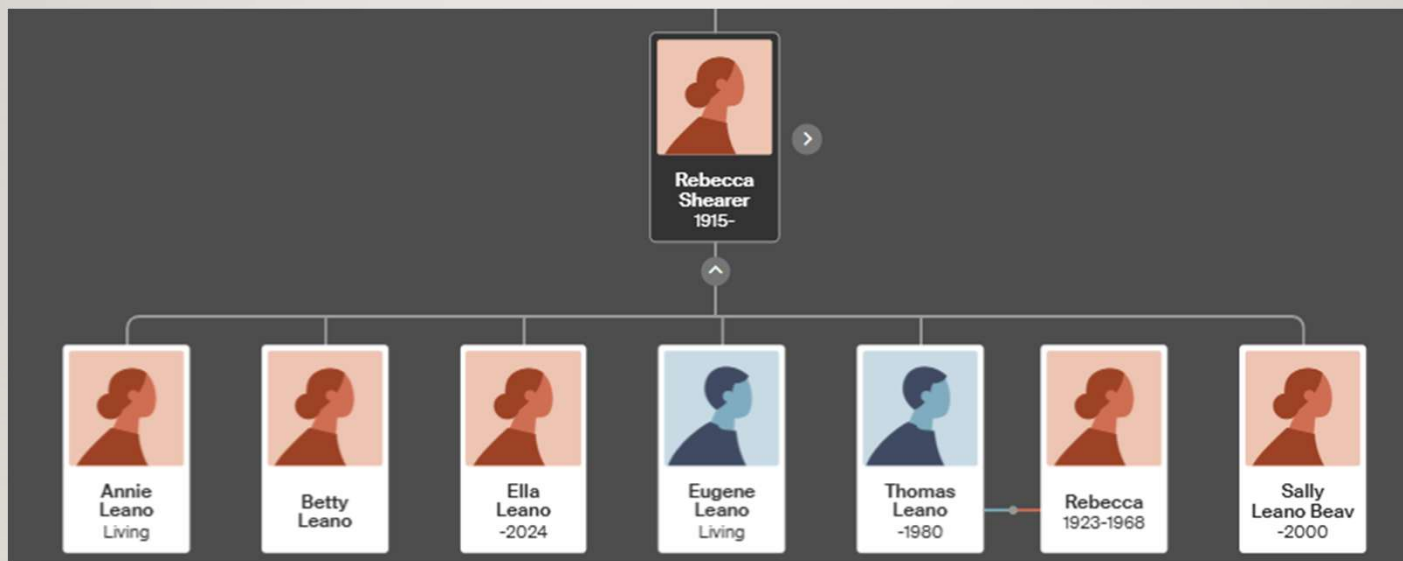
SMITH REESE

CORINE SHEARER – GEN 5



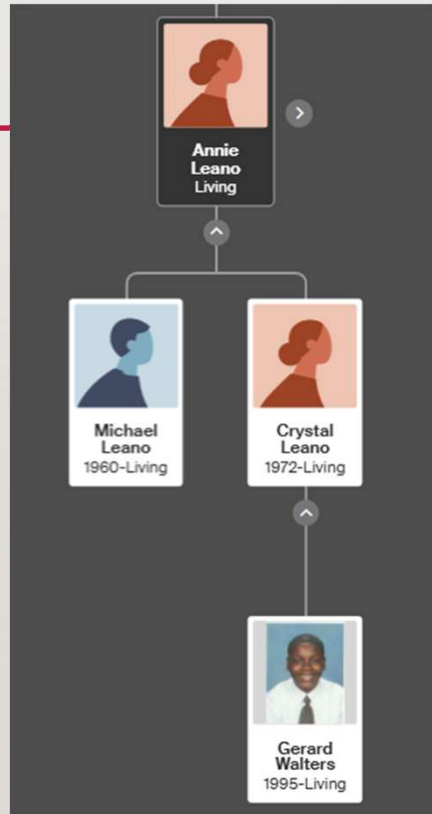
REBECCA SHEARER

WILLIE SHEARER – GEN 4



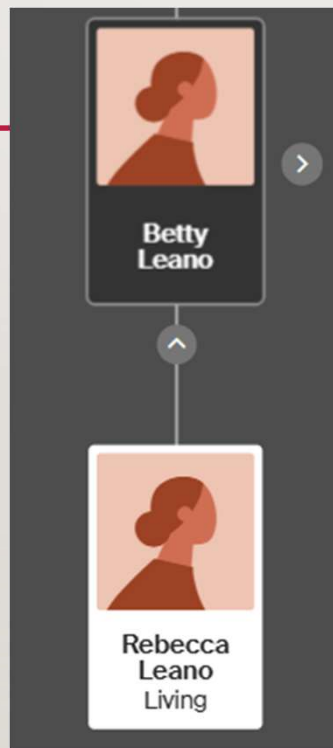
ANNIE LEANO

REBECCA SHEARER – GEN 5 & 6



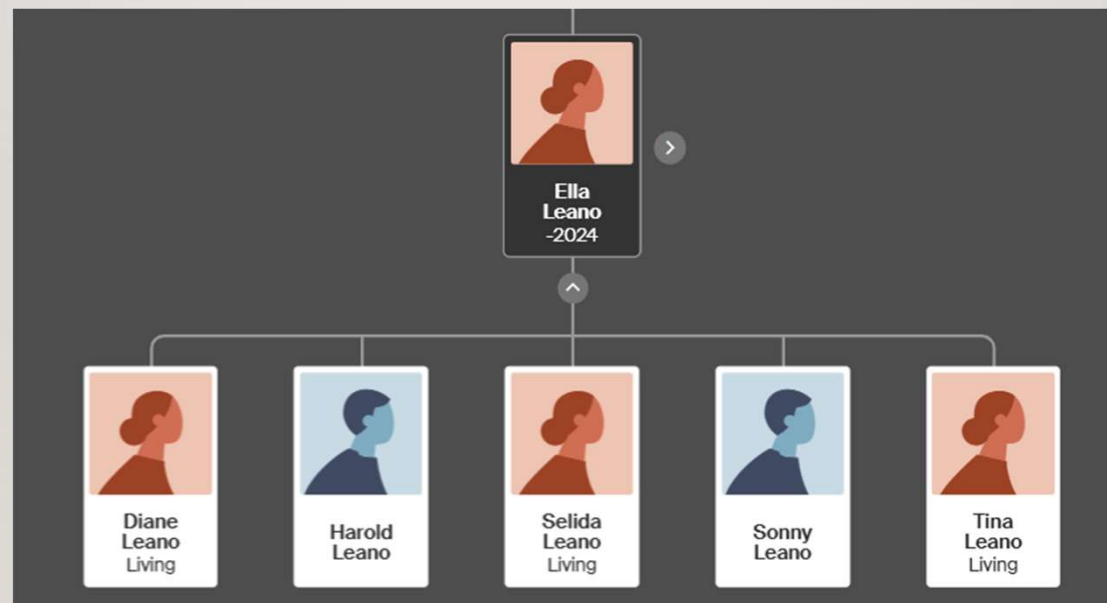
BETTY LEANO

REBECCA SHEARER – GEN 5



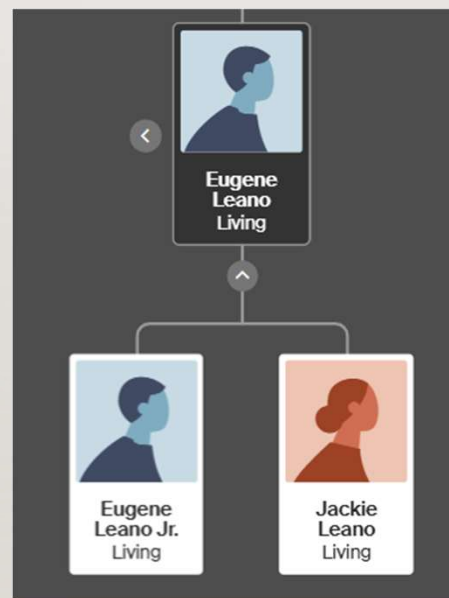
ELLA LEANO

REBECCA SHEARER – GEN 5



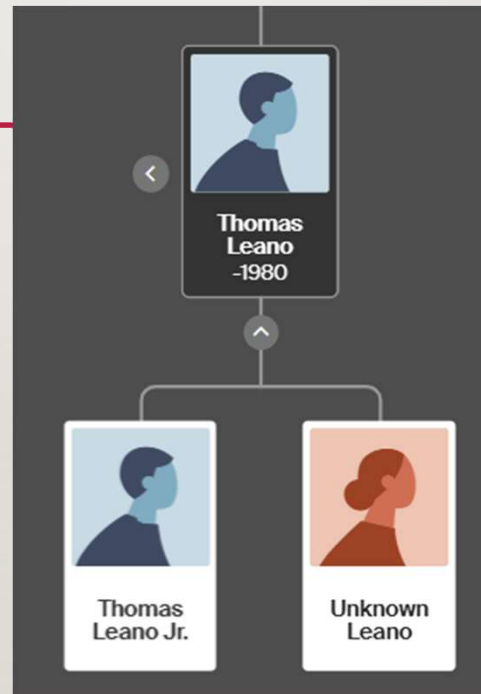
EUGENE LEANO

REBECCA SHEARER – GEN 5



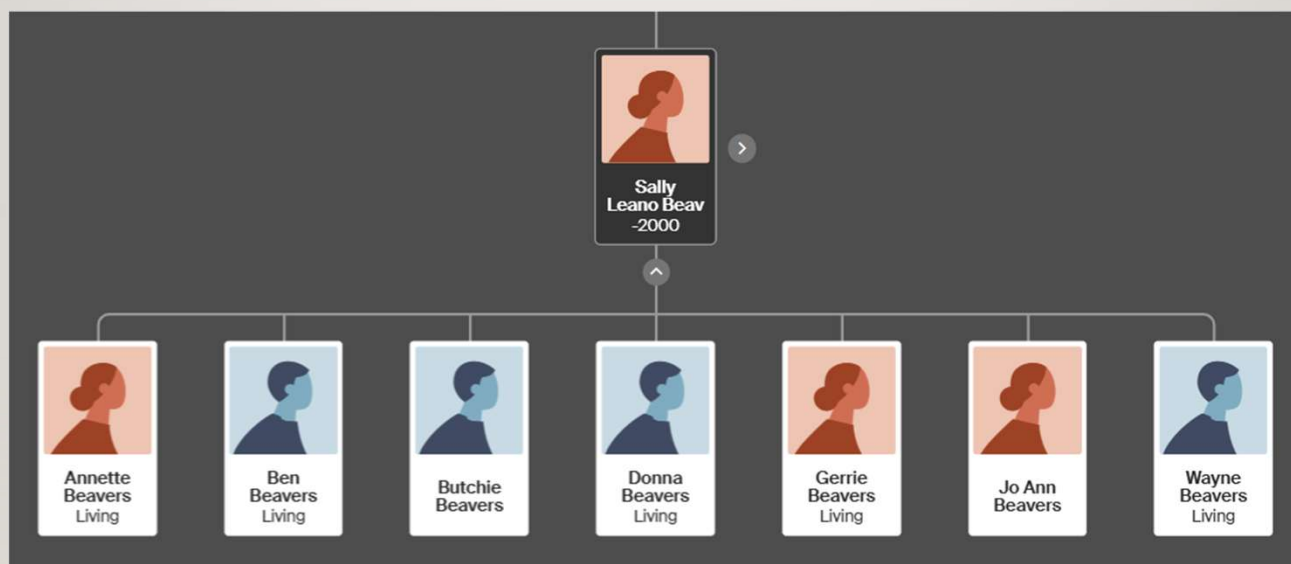
THOMAS LEANO

REBECCA SHEARER – GEN 5



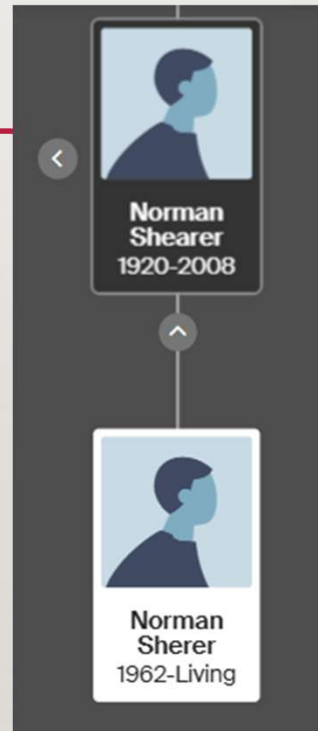
SALLY LEANO BEAVERS

REBECCA SHEARER – GEN 5



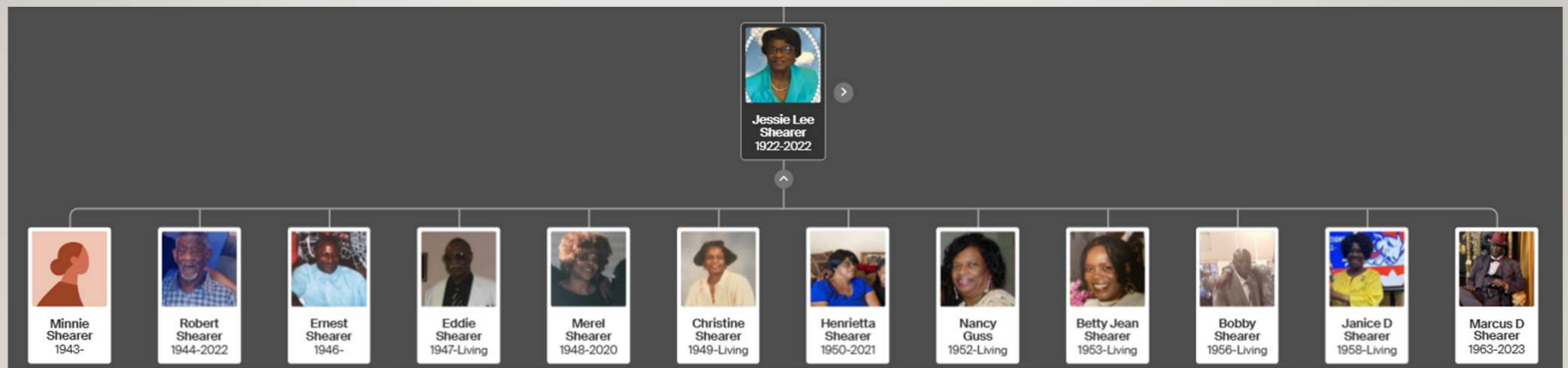
NORMAN SHEARER

WILLIE SHEARER – GEN 4



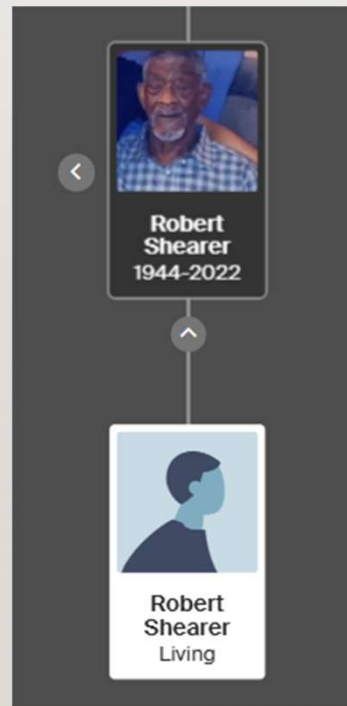
JESSIE LEE SHEARER

WILLIE SHEARER – GEN 4



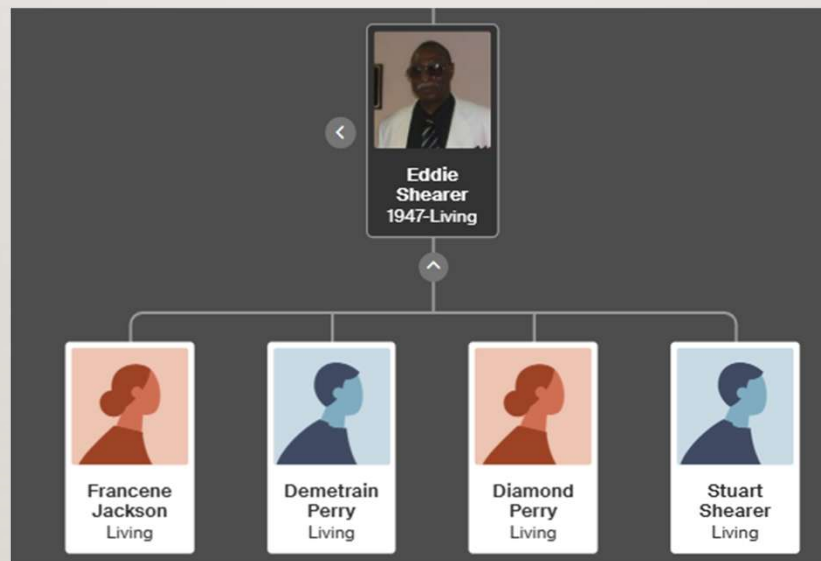
ROBERT SHEARER, SR.

JESSIE LEE SHEARER – GEN 5



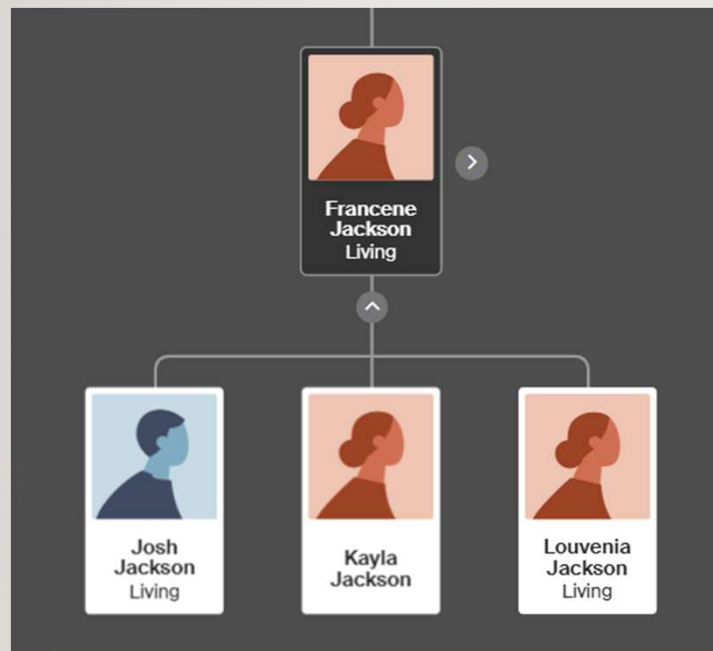
EDDIE SHEARER

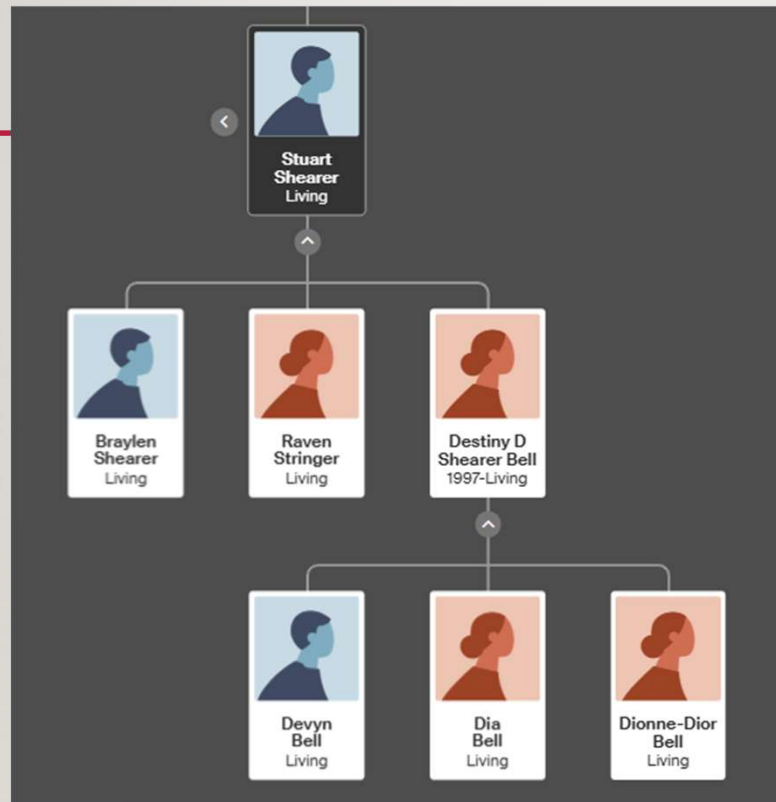
JESSIE LEE SHEARER – GEN 5



FRANCENE JACKSON

EDDIE SHEARER – GEN 6



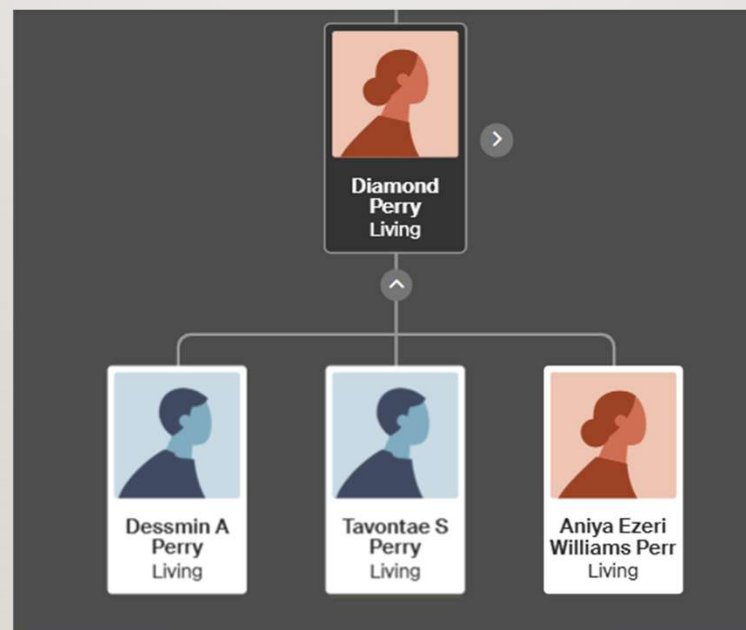


STUART SHEARER

EDDIE SHEARER – GEN 6 & 7

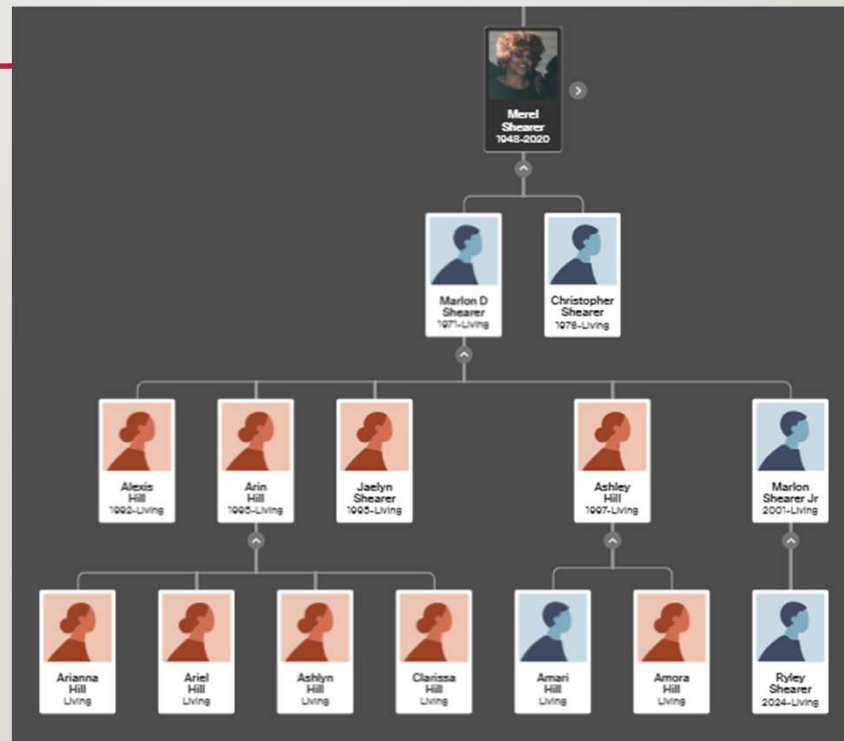
DIAMOND PERRY

EDDIE SHEARER – GEN 6



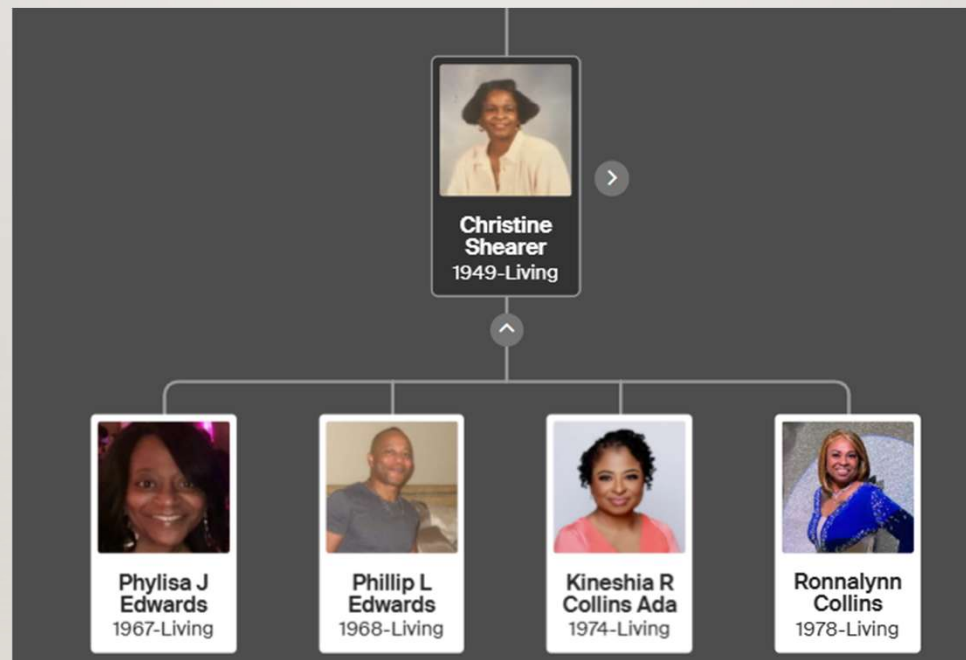
MEREL SHEARER

JESSIE LEE SHEARER – GEN 5, 6 & 7



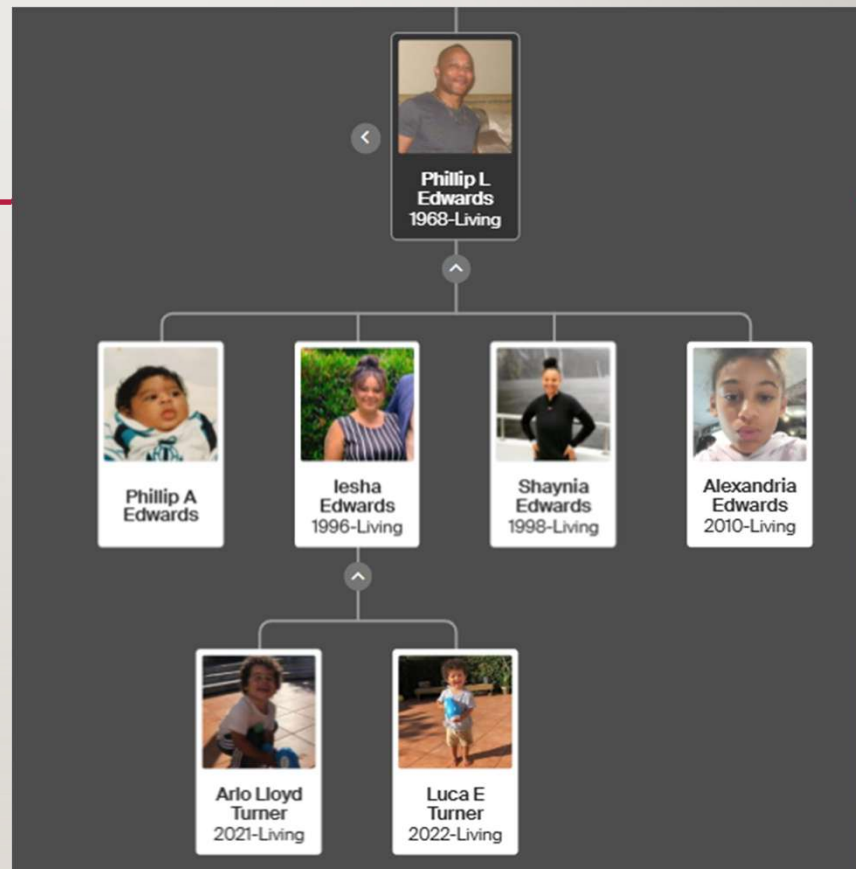
CHRISTINE SHEARER

JESSIE LEE SHEARER – GEN 5



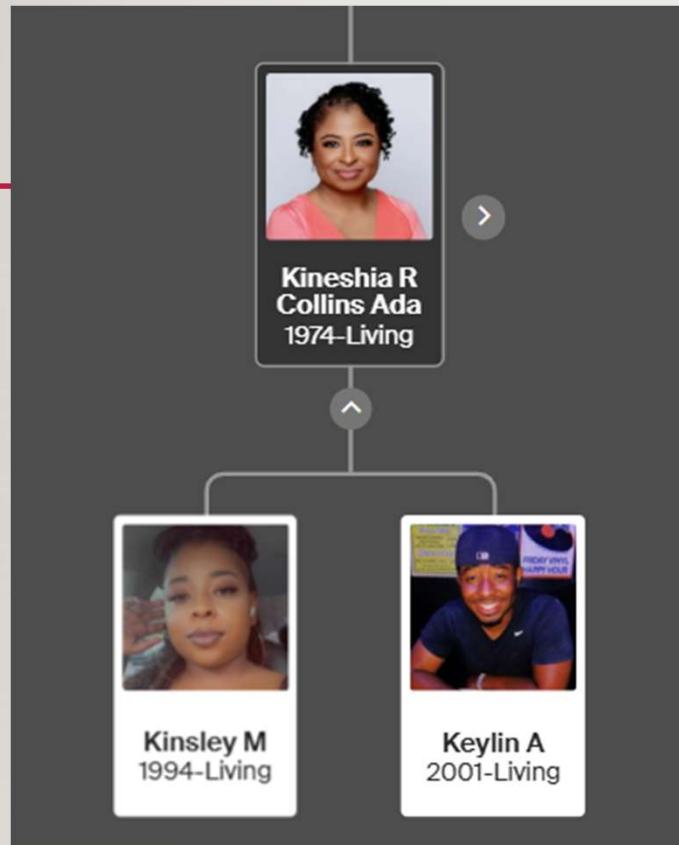
PHILLIP L. EDWARDS

CHRISTINE SHEARER – GEN 6 & 7



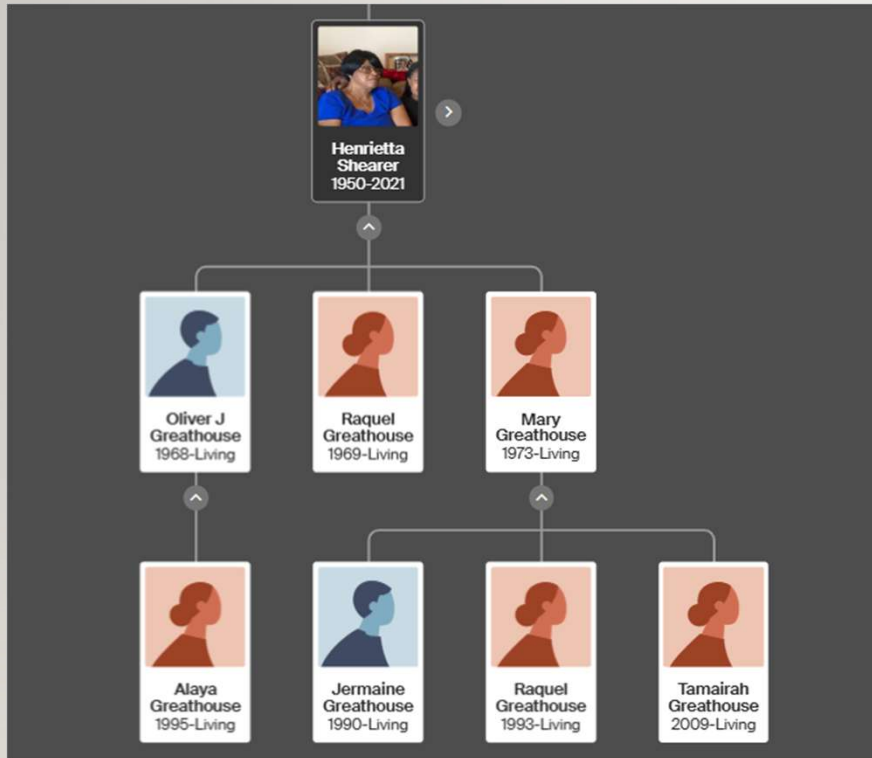
KINESHIA COLLINS ADAMSON

CHRISTINE SHEARER – GEN 6



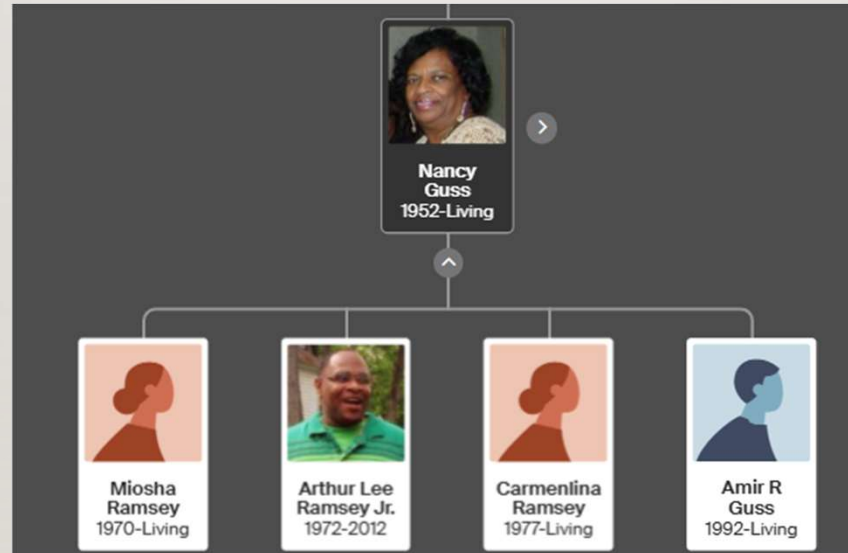
HENRIETTA GREATHOUSE

JESSIE LEE SHEARER – GEN 5 & 6



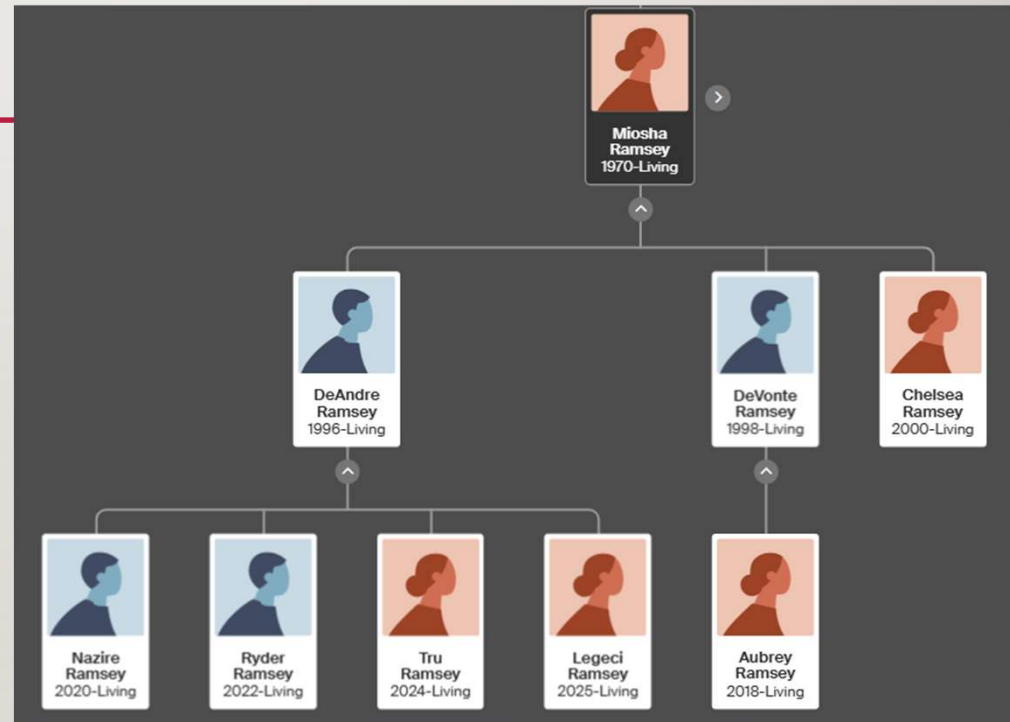
NANCY GUSS

JESSIE LEE SHEARER – GEN 5



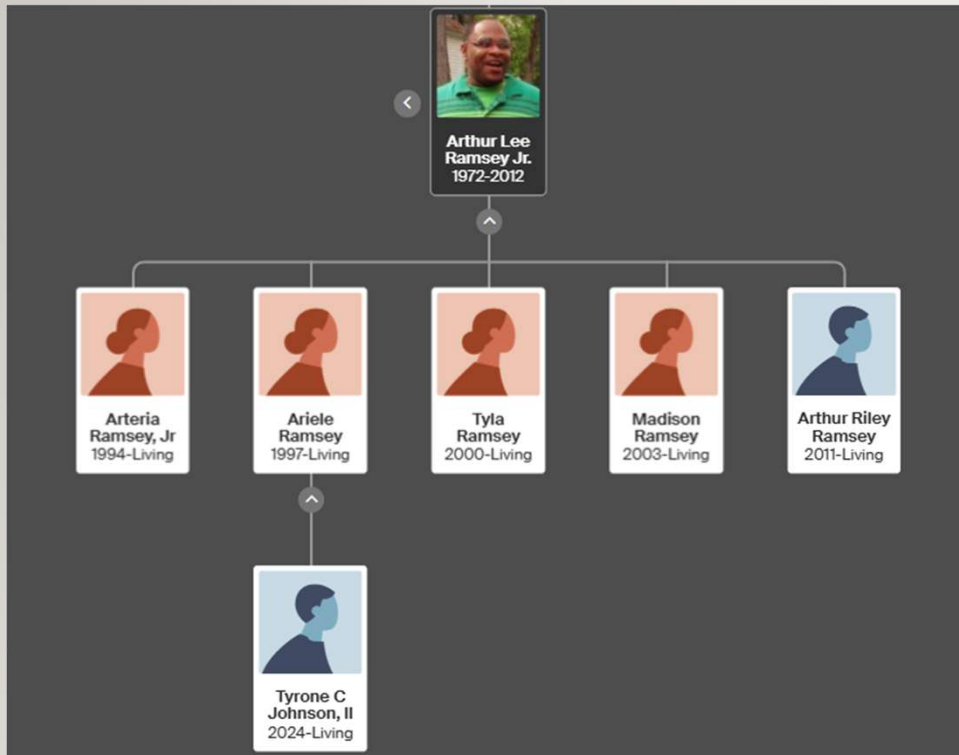
MIOSHA RAMSEY

NANCY GUSS – GEN 6 & 7



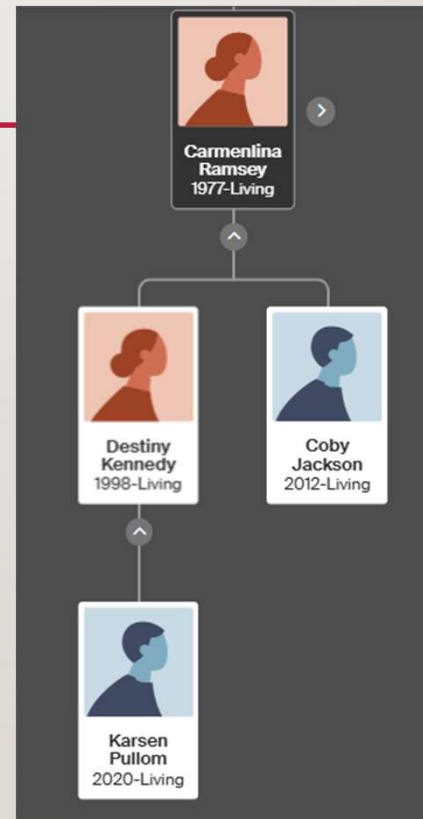
ARTHUR LEE RAMSEY, JR.

NANCY GUSS – GEN 6 & 7



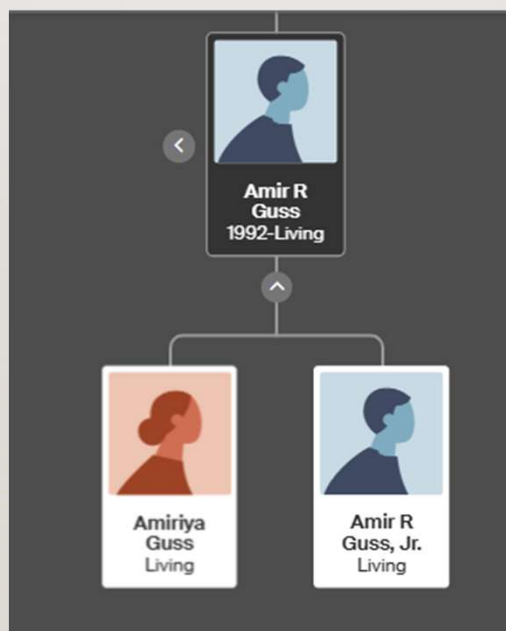
CARMENLINA JACKSON

NANCY GUSS – GEN 6 & 7



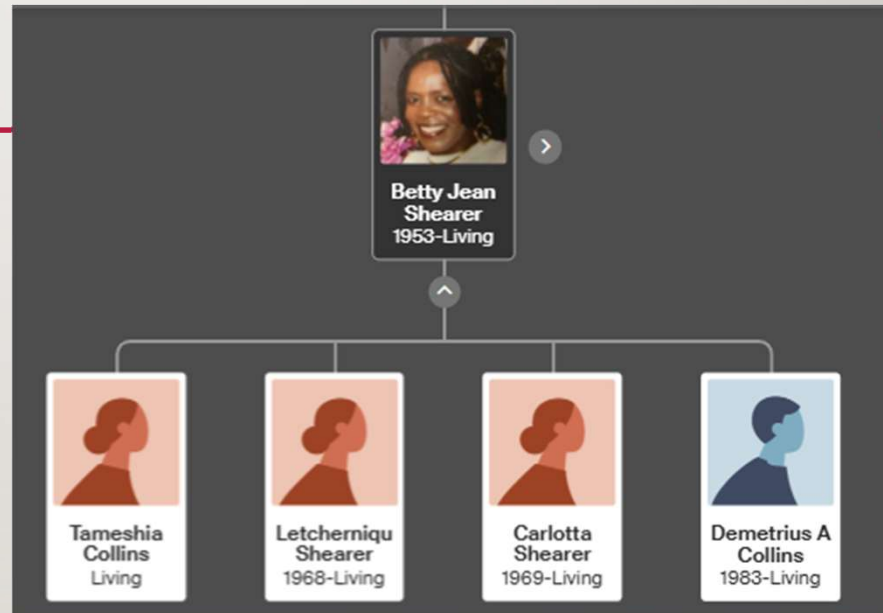
AMIR GUSS

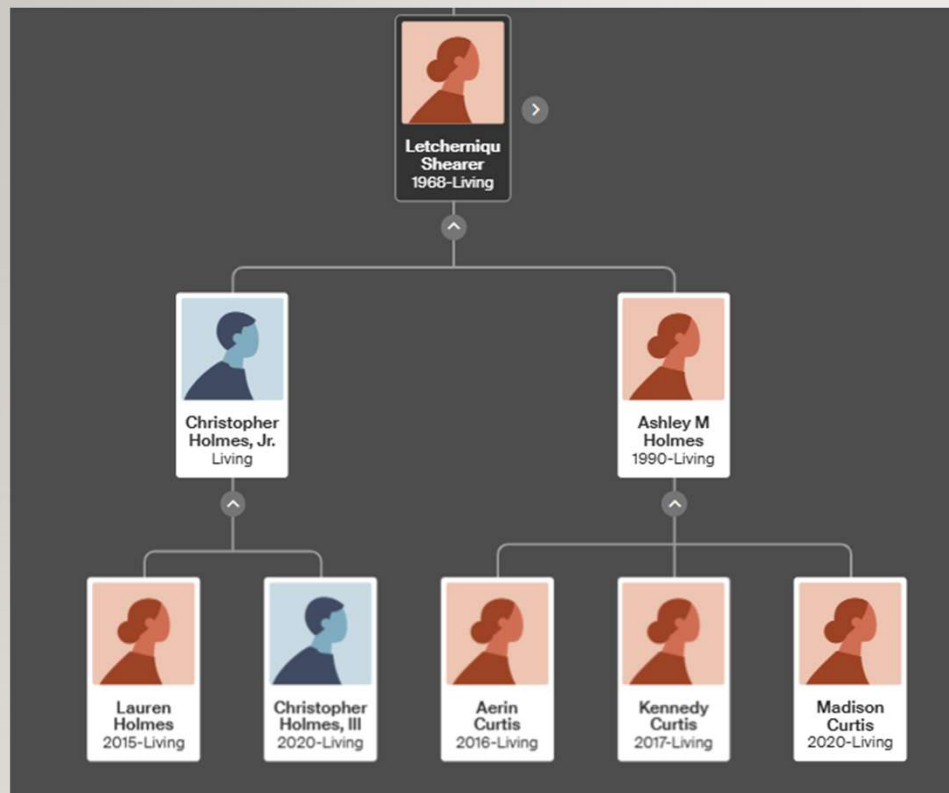
NANCY GUSS – GEN 6



BETTY JEAN COLLINS

JESSIE SHEARER – GEN 5



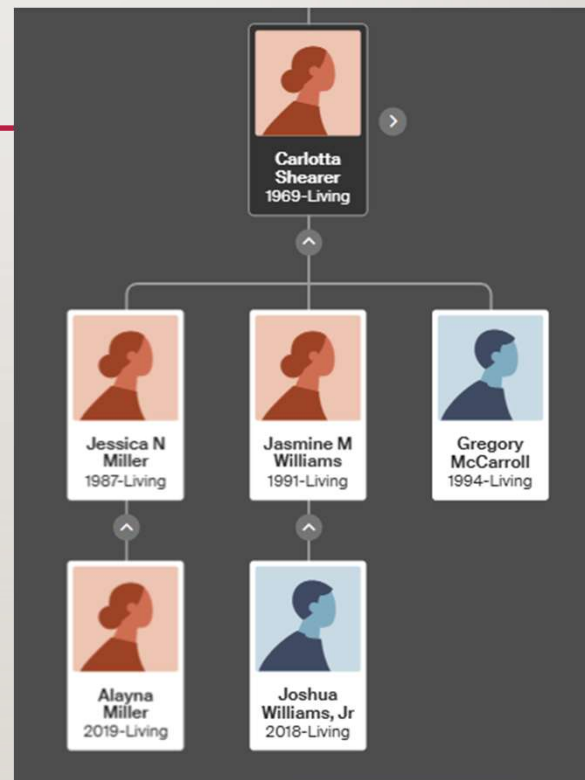


LETCHERNIQUE HOLMES

BETTY COLLINS – GEN 6 & 7

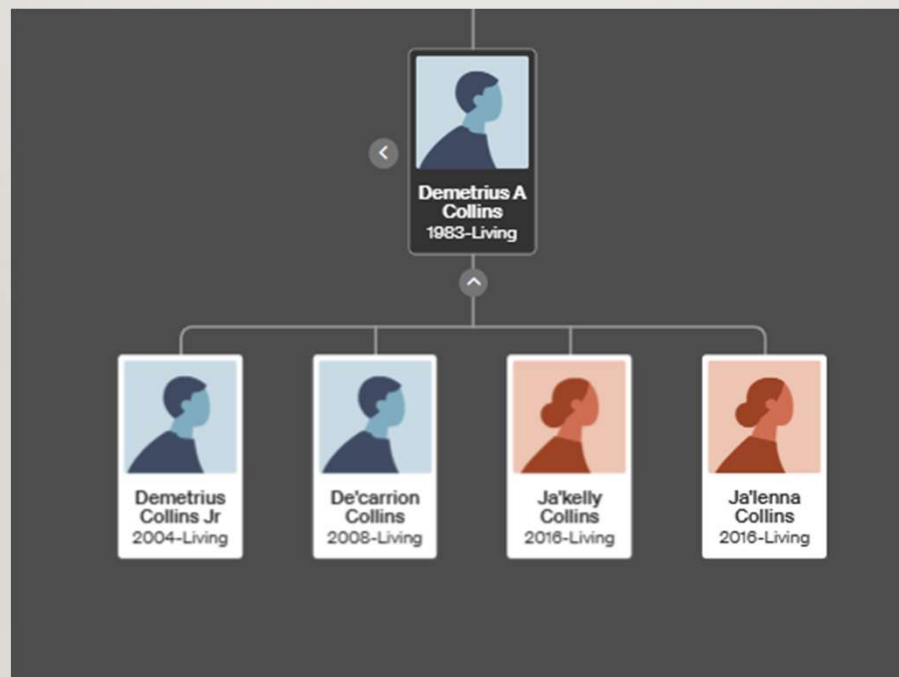
CARLOTTA SHEARER

BETTY COLLINS – GEN 6 & 7



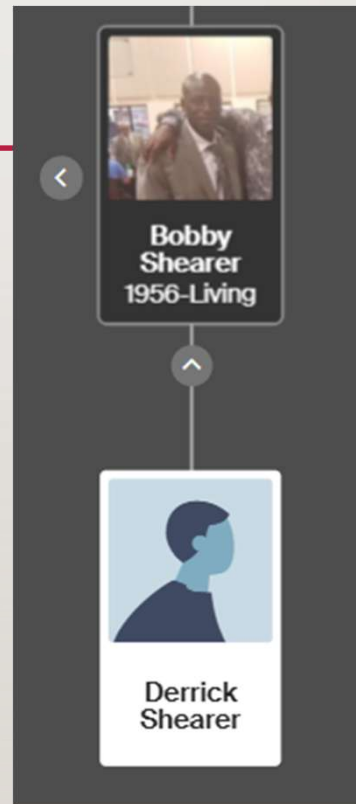
DEMETRIUS A. COLLINS

BETTY COLLINS – GEN 6



BOBBY SHEARER

JESSIE LEE SHEARER – GEN 5



MARCUS D. SHEARER

JESSIE LEE SHEARER – GEN 5



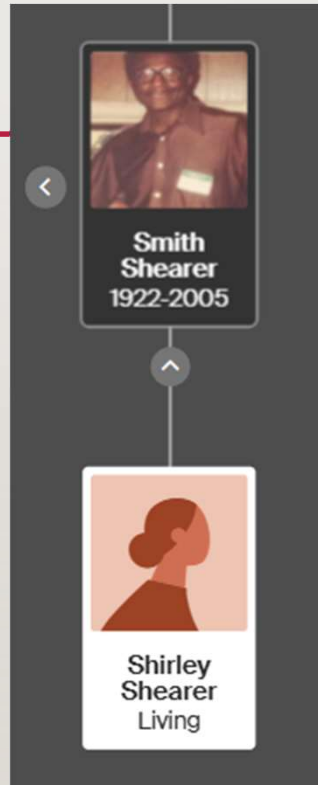
Marcus D
Shearer
1963-2023



Lacy
Curry
Living

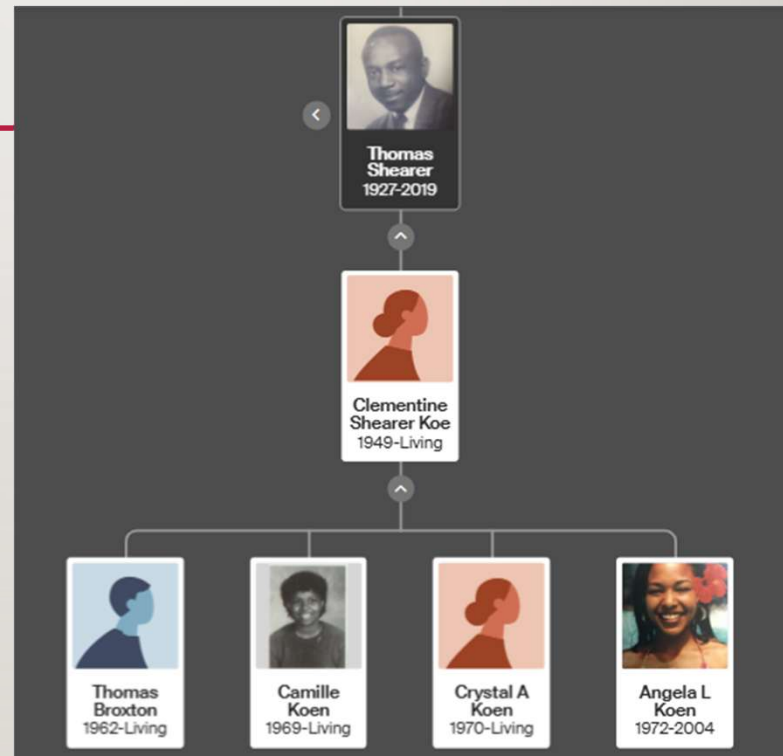
SMITH SHEARER

WILLIE SHEARER – GEN 4



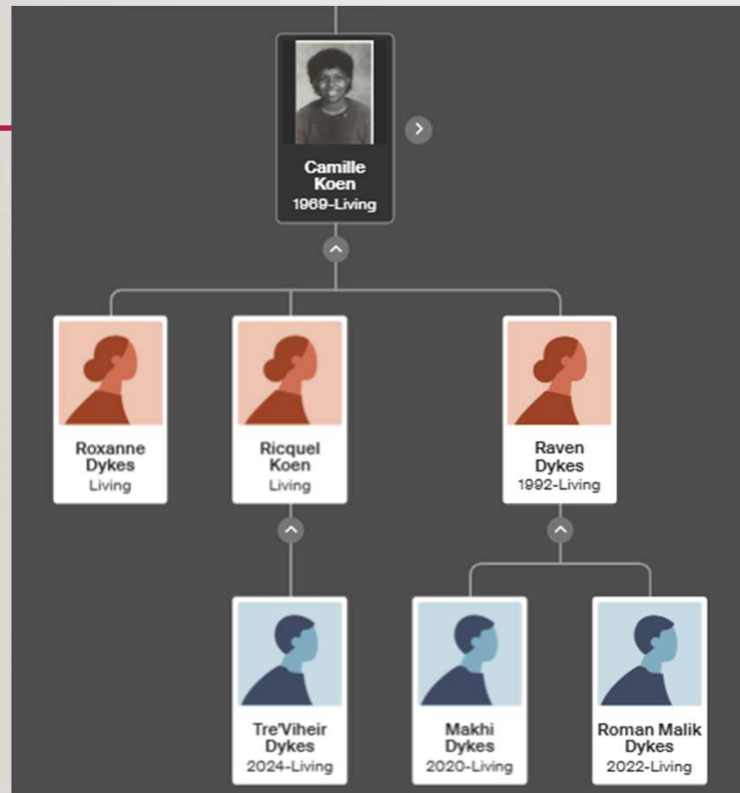
THOMAS SHEARER

WILLIE SHEARER – GEN 4 & 5



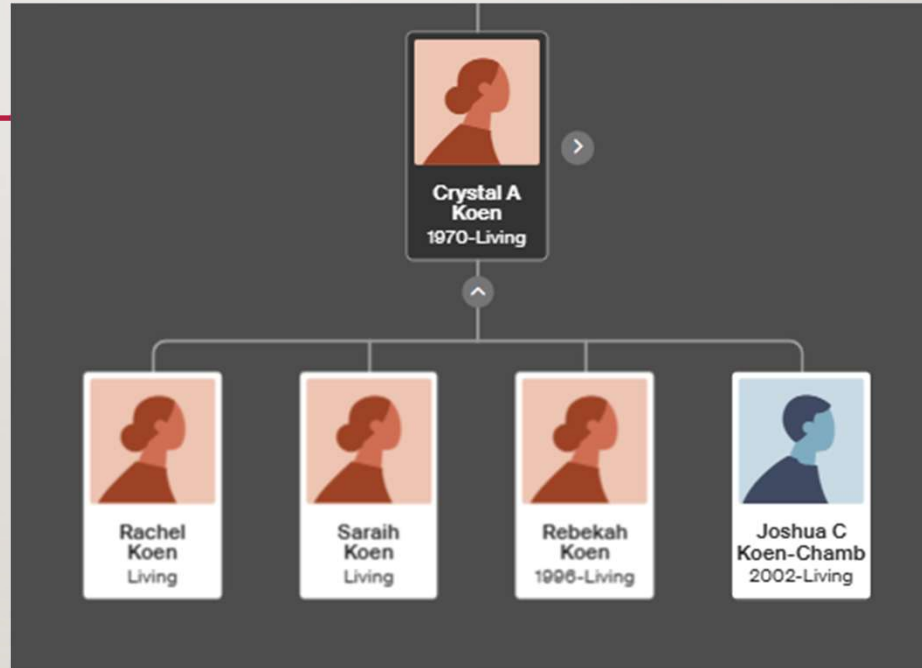
CAMILLE KOEN

CLEMENTINE KOEN – GEN 6



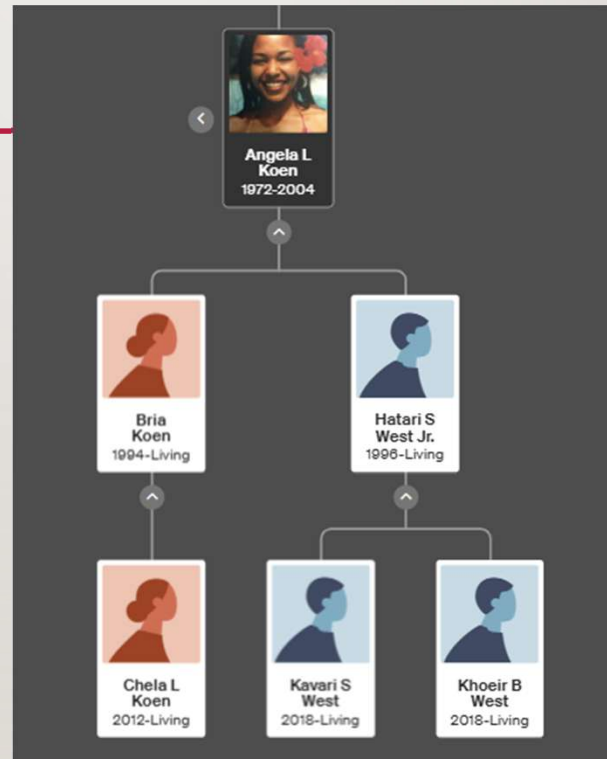
CRYSTAL KOEN

CLEMENTINE KOEN – GEN 6



ANGELA KOEN

CLEMENTINE KOEN – GEN 6 & 7



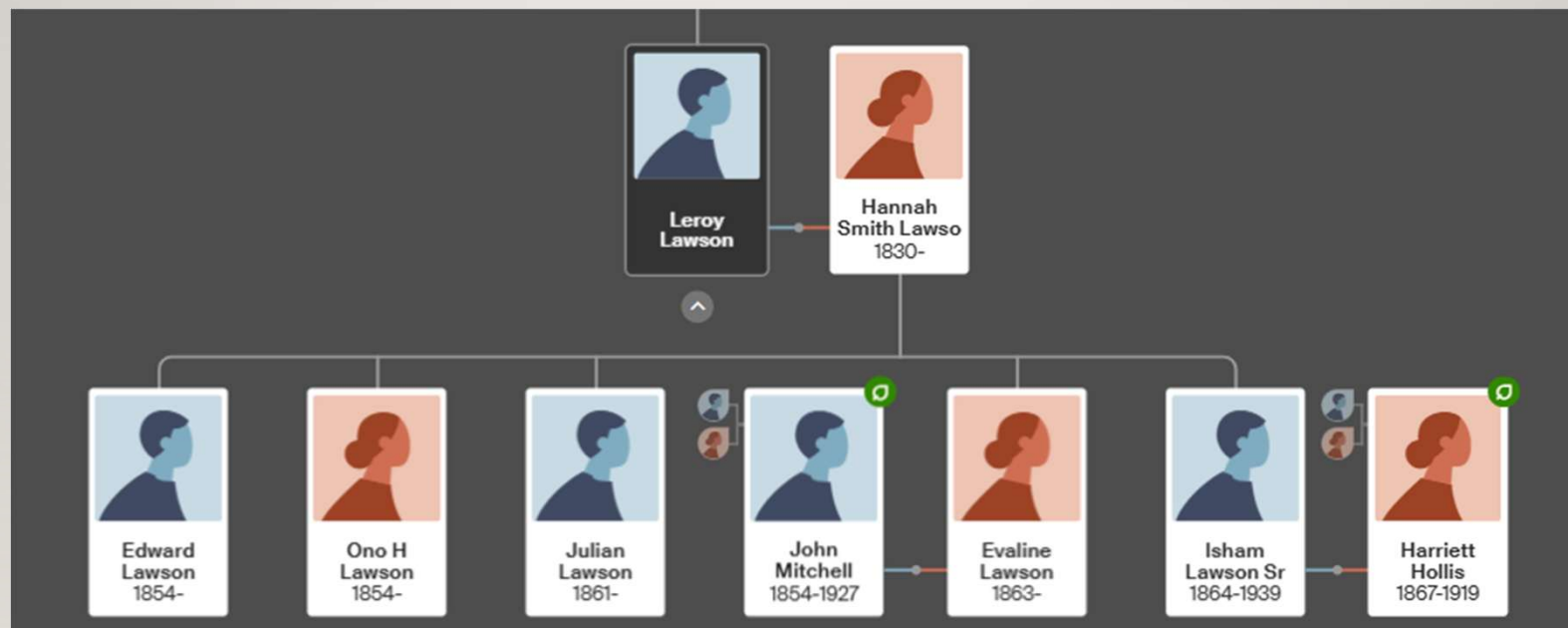
LAWSON FAMILY ORIGINS

The first Lawson family member reported was Isaac Lawson, the great, great-grandfather of the reporter, who was born during slavery in about 1829 in Prairieview (Demopolis, Hale/Marengo County), Alabama. He was freed by the Emancipation Proclamation issued by Abraham Lincoln on September 22, 1862, but was not liberated until after the end of the Civil War on April 9, 1865. Because the slave owner, Thomas Hennessee, would not free his slaves until after the war, Isaac adopted the surname **LAWSON**. The 1850 slave census indicated that Thomas Hennessee owned 6 slaves, 2 females and 6 males, in Marengo County, Alabama. The 1860 census indicated he owned 19 slaves, of whom 13 were male and 9 were female. The Lawson family descendants still retain approximately 3 acres of land in Prairieville near Demopolis.

Isom and Harriet Lawson were married and had 7 children. They also had 3 adopted children, Gloria, Eugene and Charles, in 1910. Edward and Laura (Allen) Lawson had 8 children, of whom 5 were living when the 1910 census was completed. Information on sons Eugene and Mack was not shown because they left for West Virginia at an early age to work in the coal mines.

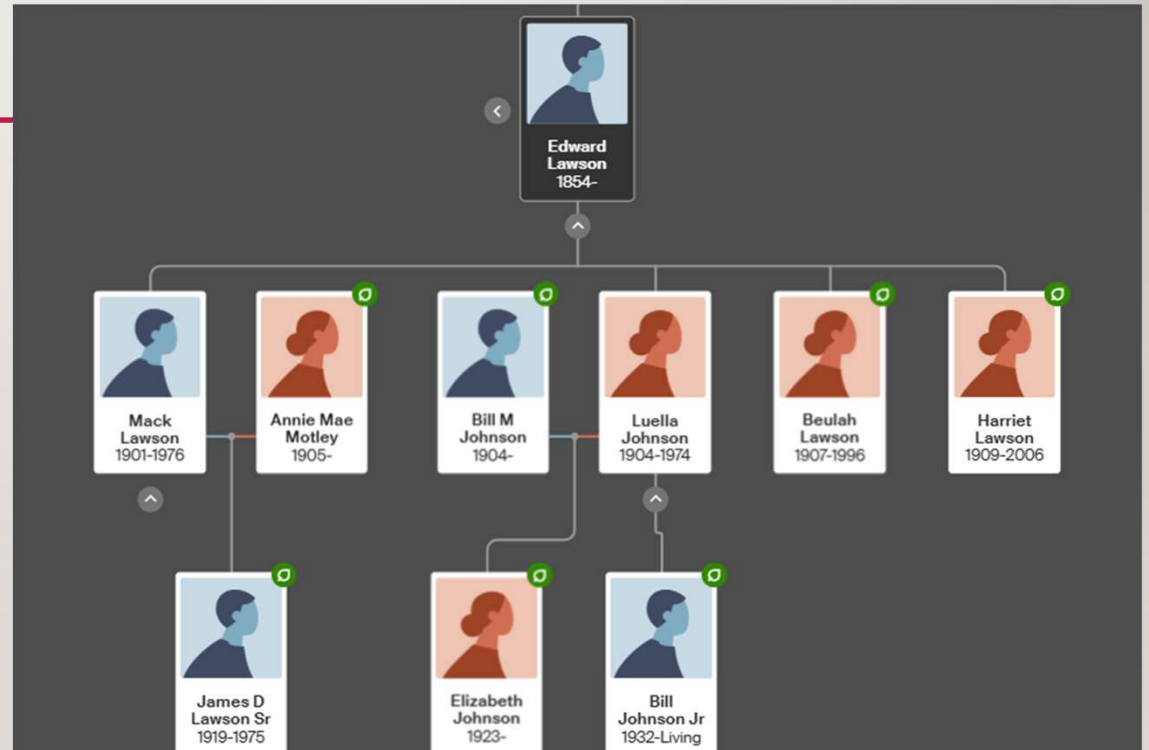
LEROY AND HANNAH LAWSON

GEN I



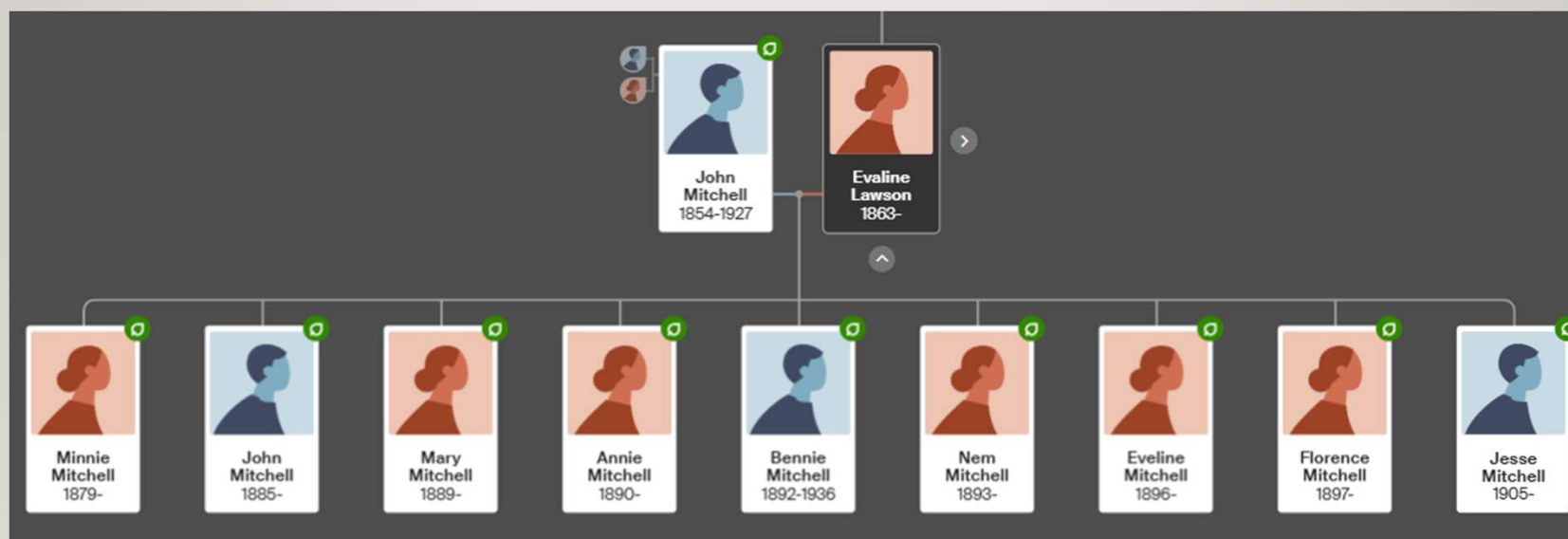
EDWARD LAWSON

ISOM LAWSON, SR. - GEN 2



EVANGELINE LAWSON

ISHAM LAWSON, SR. – GEN 2



ISHAM" LAWSON, SR.

LEROY LAWSON - GEN 2

