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The Family History of Sheryl M. Patterson-Coulibaly

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The Family History of

Sheryl M. Patterson-Coulibaly

24 April 2016

Sheryl Patterson-Coulibaly authored this family history as part of the course requirements for HIST 550/700 Your Family in History offered online in Spring 2016 and was submitted to the Pittsburg State University [Digital Commons](#). Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments: Sheryl_marteisha@yahoo.com

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List of Direct Line Family Members

Generation One

A1. Sheryl Marteisha Patterson-Coulibaly (1983-)

A2. Piergagnon Zoumana Coulibaly (1984-)

Generation Two

A1a. Annette Jackson (1963-)

A1b. Samuel Patterson (1964)

Generation Three

A1a1. Joyce Jackson (1946)

A1a2. William Bradwell (unk-unk)

A1b1. unk

A1b2. unk

Generation Four

A1a1a. Elmira Belford Jackson (1924-2011)

A1a1b. Lester Jackson (1927-1979)

A1a2a. unk

A1a2b. unk

A1b1a. unk

A1b1b. unk

A1b2a. unk

A1b2b. unk

Generation Five

A1a1a1. Mattie Galloway Belford

A1a1a2. David Belford

A1a1b1. unk

A1a1b2. unk

A1a2a1. unk

A1a2a2. unk

A1a2b1. unk

A1a2b2. unk

A1b1a1. unk

A1b1a2. unk

A1b1b1. unk

A1b1b2. unk

A1b2a1. unk

A1b2a2. unk

A1b2b1. unk

A1b2b2. unk

GENERATION ONE

Sheryl Marteisha Patterson (1983-), was born in Tallahassee Memorial Hospital in Tallahassee, Florida to Samuel Patterson (1964-) and Annette Jackson (1963-). Sheryl was born at 10:06am and was 6 pounds and 15 ounces. Because Annette's pregnancy was 3 weeks overdue, her water had to be broken to induce labor. Labor took 30 minutes, but Sheryl was born naturally and healthy. Sheryl's parents were never married and separated shortly after her birth. She would not see her father again until she was in her mid-20s.

As a child, Sheryl was incredibly smart and advanced. She began walking at 10 months old and learned to read to herself at three years old. Although she was advanced, she was considered a good child who was simply curious. Sheryl was also extremely talkative, enjoyed having her hair fixed in large curls, and loved to play dress up in her mother and grandmother's fancy shoes. In 1985 Annette had a son Armel Smith, followed by a final son in 1987, Rodericus Harris.

Age three was a very eventful year for Sheryl. Sheryl nearly drowned at her aunt and uncle's home accidentally one summer day. Their home had two stories, a basement, and a pool. Certain children in the family would often gather there to socialize with one another. The first time Sheryl saw the movie Nightmare on Elm Street, she was in the basement with her cousin T.J (1977), and his friends. T.J.'s mom, Sheryl's aunt specifically said Sheryl was not allowed to participate in the viewing because she was too young and it would scare her. But the children did not listen and they allowed her to

watch it anyway. Sheryl could not sleep alone for a week after watching that movie.

Like any other year, T.J. invited a few friends over for an end of the school year pool party. Sheryl was there to spend the weekend with the family. At the pool party, she wore a blue one piece swimsuit with silver tassels on the front. T.J. had taken Sheryl out into the pool many times on different occasions, ensuring that she stayed afloat. This particular time, T.J. took Sheryl out, but did not pay attention to her as closely. This could have been because he was socializing with his friends. Either way, Sheryl sunk to the bottom of the pool. Irene (1948), T.J.'s mom, jumped into the pool with all of her clothes on to save her. They sold that house a few months later to avoid this happening ever again. It is because of this experience, that Sheryl never learned to swim and often avoids getting in pools.¹

It was also at the age of 3 that Sheryl began to be repeatedly molested by a family member. This devastated her and caused her personality to begin to change into a more withdrawn and introverted person. Sheryl would not actually tell anyone in her family what happened to her until her mid-20s.

While Sheryl was born in Tallahassee, Florida, she and her family resided in the nearby small town of Quincy. She attended Stewart Street Elementary School for pre-kindergarten. It was there that she

¹ T.J. and Sheryl remember the story completely different. Sheryl remembers the story as told above. T.J. does not remember taking Sheryl in the pool. He remembers her falling into the pool while no one was watching. Irene does not know how Sheryl ended up in the pool at all. But she does remember jumping into the pool to save Sheryl.

was labeled gifted. The teachers wanted her mother to agree to move her to the next grade level, but her mother refused preferring that she remain with students her own age. Her mother unenrolled her from the school and kept her home until the following school year. While at home for that year, Sheryl continued to read daily and practice writing her letters and numbers. Sheryl also spent a lot of time with her great grandmother and great aunt while her mother worked. She often watched The Price is Right and Family Feud with her aunt. This would be followed by CBS soap operas, The Young and the Restless, The Bold and the Beautiful, As the World Turns, and The Guiding Light. In the evening, they would all watch Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy, followed by the evening news. To this day, Sheryl watches Jeopardy nearly every night and The Young and the Restless when she can catch it during the summer. She has even watched the Young and the Restless in the Ivory Coast in French.

After that year, Sheryl was enrolled in George W. Monroe Elementary School for kindergarten. Again, the faculty wanted Sheryl to be moved to the next grade, and again, her mother refused. Later, Sheryl would view her mother's refusal to take the schools advice as a ridiculous decision. Perhaps Annette did not fully understand what positive experiences would have been given to her daughter had she allowed her to move up a grade. Perhaps Sheryl would have moved up a grade and would have found the work too advanced. Either way, it was at George W. Monroe that Sheryl was able to make friends with several young people who she would remain friends with for many years.

While in elementary school Sheryl was on the safety patrol, was a student helper, excelled in the accelerated reader program, and joined the Girls Scouts of America. Unfortunately, her mother worked a lot and did not have time to support her in these activities. She spent most evenings with her great-grandmother Elmira Belford Jackson (1926-2011). Elmira lived in a modest home about a mile from Sheryl. Elmira did not own a car and could not drive, so she walked most places. However, because Annette was a single mother and worked a lot, Elmira lived with Sheryl and her two brothers during the school week. On the weekends, Sheryl and her siblings would walk with Elmira to her home with her older sister Rosebud (1922-2002) and older brother Roosevelt (1924-1999).

Weekends, Food, and Family

Weekends were always exciting at Elmira's house. Sheryl enjoyed having an acre of land to ride her bike across and several trees which bore fruit and nuts. She was also free to sit and read for long periods of time as she did not have any chores when she was with Elmira. Weekends were filled with food and family. Saturday mornings would begin at 6:30am when Elmira's younger brother Joseph (1928-2009) would come to visit for breakfast. Joseph was a brick layer and would often employ many of the men in the family. He would also employ the women at times, but he never paid the women the same wage as the

men even though they were responsible for the same duties.² Elmira always made pancakes and sausage for breakfast on Saturdays. Roosevelt never ate. He would complain the food upset his stomach. For many years he was an alcoholic. The family did not speak of his condition at all. Generally, he was tolerated, and eventually he got sober.

Often on Saturdays, Elmira would make brownies for whomever was available to eat them. Sheryl loved to help Elmira bake brownies because she always let her lick the spoon and the bowl. Elmira was also responsible for cooking Saturday's lunch. She almost always prepared perlow rice, which was simply rice and chicken cooked together in one pot. Sheryl disliked perlow rice and would avoid eating it as often as possible. Family members would come by around lunch time to eat and leave with a large country crock butter bowl full of brownies. Elmira only had one rule, you must bring your country crock bowl back to get brownies next week. If one did not have their bowl, he or she did not receive any brownies. On birthdays and special occasions, Elmira would make what she called the Chocolate Pancake. This was a large brownie in a deep pan. This brownie sometimes had pecans if there were any on her tree. Finally, the brownie was topped with a thick layer of chocolate frosting.

² One summer, during Sheryl's high school years, she told her uncle he was misogynistic for refusing to pay women the same as men. She also told him it was unfair that he did not allow her to go out to the home sites to work. Sheryl was the nearly free secretary. Her only responsibilities were to answer the phone, take messages, and make sure the phone lines remained clear. Joseph did not have an official office. When people wanted to contact him and contract him for a job, they called Elmira's home. Joseph always said he was semi-retired and worked when he felt like it.

Rosebud would usually make Saturday dinner, which the entire family would come over to eat. Saturday dinner routinely consisted of fried chicken and biscuits. Rosebud also smoked cigarettes, Winston Light 100s. She would always smoke while she cooked. Often, Sheryl would joke to her siblings that the biscuits were very good because she saw the long train of cigarette ashes fall into the dough. This, of course, was not true at all. But it usually worked her brothers up into fits of giggles and hiccups. Sometimes Sheryl would find herself scolded for making her brother Armel laugh too hard. Armel was diagnosed with asthma at an early age. Sheryl was also diagnosed with asthma, but grew out of it as the years went along. Armel did not.

Sundays were always reserved for church. As a young child through her teen years, Sheryl would attend Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church on 2nd and 4th Sundays and Antioch Missionary Baptist Church on 1st and 3rd Sundays with Elmira. At Mt. Zion, Elmira was the head usher. Rosebud was a mother of the church and sang in the choir. Joseph was the head deacon and a trustee of the church. Sheryl was in the youth choir and her brothers served on the youth usher board.

Each Sunday, everyone in the house would wake up for breakfast around 7am. Breakfast usually consisted of grits and sausage. Joseph would come to the house and pick up Sheryl and her brothers for Sunday School. Rosebud would often be left behind because she was not dressed and ready to leave when Joseph arrived. Each Sunday when Joseph was ready to leave for Sunday School he would say, "And they that were ready, went in." This is a reference to the parable of the 10 virgins in book of Matthew 25:10. Everyone knew this was his signal that he

was leaving and anyone riding with him at this time should get into his pickup truck. He would drop off Sheryl and her brothers at the church and give the opening prayer.

Sunday School began at 9:30am. Joseph would then go back to the house and pick up a very furious Rosebud. He would make a third trip back to the house at the close of Sunday to pick up Elmira for the 11:00am service. The distance between the house and the church was only about 3 miles. At the end of the service, Elmira and Rosebud would ride in the cab of the pickup truck, while the children rode in the bed of the truck.

Sunday dinner usually consisted of several large dishes and would last for the remainder of the day. While the entire family, immediate and distant, would participate in most meals on the weekends, the family literally opened up their doors to the neighborhood. Elmira would invite everyone over for a hot meal. Strangers would leave as friends and friends always had a grand time.

When Sheryl was in 7th grade, her mother stopped allowing her and her brothers to attend Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church with the rest of the family, and drove them to church with her instead. The pastor of Mt. Zion had been found guilty of drug trafficking and Annette no longer trusted the leadership of the church.³ The name of the new church Sheryl and her brothers attended was Miracle Temple Church of

³ As reported in the Orlando Sentinel "Preacher Pleads Not Guilty on Drug-dealing Charges," *Orlando Sentinel*, 20 October, 1995, accessed 21 April, 2016, http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/1995-10-20/news/9510190934_1_crack-cocaine-tallahassee-charged-with-dealing. It should be noted that this preacher is now out of prison and is ministering again. Since his release, he has developed a program that targets at risk young men.

God in Christ. This church was a lot different from what they were used to. Miracle Temple was loud and the members often found themselves on the floor of the church. Sheryl would later learn that these people were filled with the Holy Ghost, but these behaviors baffled her. Sundays at Miracle Temple were long days. Sunday School began at 10:00am. The main service began at 11:30am and seemed to stretch on all day. Finally, there was an evening service at 6:30pm which Sheryl and her brothers were expected to attend.

While Mt. Zion's congregation was a bit conservative, Miracle Temple was extremely conservative. Sheryl, suddenly, could not wear her very long hair down and free. She was forced to wear her hair in a severe bun or a pony tail most days. It was also no longer acceptable for her to wear pants or dresses which may show her legs. She could not wear open toe shoes or heels. Most jewelry was also forbidden. Sheryl complained to Elmira about the strict rules and begged to come back to her regular church, but her mother would not allow it. Once Sheryl entered college, she stopped attending Miracle Temple and found her own church under the Primitive Baptist umbrella. Eventually, however, Sheryl would leave Christianity entirely for a different religion as she found most of the pastors immoral and hypocritical.

During the 1995-1996 school year, Annette moved to Tallahassee. Sheryl and her brothers were allowed to live with Elmira full time so that they could continue the school year at their respective schools. Once the school year finished, Sheryl and her brothers remained with Elmira for the summer. The summer Olympics were held in Atlanta that year. The family spent many hours cheering on the United States during

many different matches that were televised. It was during this Olympic Games, Sheryl fell in love with gymnastics. Ironically, she would go on to teach the son of one of the Bulgarian Olympic gymnasts from the Atlanta games. At the end of the summer of 1996, Sheryl and her siblings moved to a housing projects in Tallahassee to live with their mother.

The following school year, Sheryl enrolled in Augusta Raa Middle School. She did not excel. This was the first time she was exposed to white people, and people outside of her tight knit community in general. She felt as if her teachers looked down on her because she was clearly poor and transferred into the school from a poor country town. While she managed to earn grades well enough for her to be promoted to the 9th grade, her self-esteem and confidence suffered greatly. In high school, Sheryl was known as a painfully shy girl who tried her best to be invisible. It was not until she met Rod Durham in English class, her freshman year at Leon High School, did she begin to revert back to her curious nature.

While Sheryl was able to finally thrive, her brothers were not adjusting as well. Armel was retained twice in middle school. He repeated grades 6th and 8th. Later it was discovered that he had an undiagnosed learning disability. Rodericus sought refuge in the church. While all of the children were forced to attend church nightly, Rodericus actually enjoyed it. By this time, Sheryl was singing in the adult church choir, the school chorus, and a traveling gospel choir. Armel played football for the middle and high school when his grades allowed him eligibility. While all of the children

managed to cope with their feelings of leaving their home, their mother did not seem to notice the severe depression her daughter exhibited. Elmira, once again, came to live with the family during the week. With Elmira in the home, things seemed to be happier.

Growing Up in Quincy, Florida

Quincy, Florida is located in the northern portion of the state of Florida in Gadsden County. According to the 2010 census, there are 6,975 residents.⁴ Sheryl's family has lived in this county for seven generations. Sheryl's grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-great grandmothers all worked at on tobacco farms in Quincy. Quincy was once famous for adapting a form of a hybrid tobacco leaf, which is known as the Florida Wrapper.

Although Quincy is located in Florida, it is located in Northern Florida. This means Quincy has more characteristics which would resemble Alabama or Georgia than Southern Florida. Residents enjoy hot humid summers, and short mild to cold, winters. Because Quincy, Florida is a small town, most of the residents are either related or know each other very well. Sheryl lived on the same street as several relatives growing up. Living so close in proximity to each other fostered a different sort of family bond that one may not have if family members live farther away.

On weekends and during the summer, Sheryl would often walk with her great-grandmother Elmira to visit Elmira's siblings. Everyone

⁴ Wikipedia. "Quincy, Florida." Accessed 22 January, 2016. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quincy,_Florida.

lived within a 3 block radius of each other. Children were also allowed to visit friends freely. Often at the end of the day, one would hear parents standing on their porch yelling for their children to return home. Sheryl and her friends would often run to the top of the road and jump on the back of pickup trucks. Once they reached the store about a half of a mile away, they would jump off. They would go inside the store, and return home in the same manner. The speed limit throughout the city is only 25 miles per hour.

Quincy is also known for its early investors in Coca-Cola. It is rumored, there are several secret millionaires living in the rural town. This rumor has been difficult to verify, but it is known that quite a few residents invest in Coke stock in 1919 for about \$40 a share.

Love and Marriage

After undergraduate school, Sheryl got a job at Verizon Wireless as a Customer Care Representative in Tallahassee. She was then transferred and promoted to Customer Service and Operations manager in New York, New York. One day as she was leaving her office, she bumped into a stranger on the street. Sheryl had a bad habit of texting and walking. She did not apologize to the stranger, but she told him he should watch where he was going. When he apologized, she commented on his accent. They continued a conversation on the street for several minutes before Sheryl told the young man she had to go because she wanted to watch the new Andrew Jackson documentary on PBS later that evening. The stranger, Piergagnon (1984), said he too wanted to watch the show, but did not have a television. After calling to ensure her

roommate was home, Sheryl invited Piergagnon over to watch the documentary with her. They married 6 weeks later, August, 2010.

Religion and Family Values

In Figure 8.2 "Denominations of Protestant Adults", Fischer and Hout divide adults into several categories of Christianity based on denominations. The authors provide 22 different denominations including nondenominational. The chart is further divided into categories of liberal, moderate, and conservative. The totals are tallied by percentages, with Baptist (other than Southern), noted as the largest denomination.

Sheryl Patterson grew up in a small town surrounded by family in a community deeply devoted to religion. As a child and into adulthood she attended services throughout the town with different family members daily. She spent most of her religious time at the following churches: Miracle Temple Church of God in Christ, Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church,⁵ and Antioch Primitive Baptist Church. Occasionally she attended services at Tanner Chapel African Methodist Church.

In 2001 Sheryl started college at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. Although it was in the same vicinity as her family, she ceased to attend church with them. She joined St. Mary

⁵ State Library & Archives of Florida. "Florida Memory." Accessed 22 February 2016. <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/249292>. This church was founded by Sheryl's Great-great grandfather in 1915.

Primitive Baptist Church, but later she left the religion altogether. While Sheryl no longer attends church, several members of her family still attends. Many family members remain faithful to the churches Sheryl grew up attending, but as many members married and moved away, denominations have also changed throughout the family.⁶

⁶ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 190.

GENERATION TWO

A1a. Annette Jackson (1963-)

A1b. Samuel Patterson (1964-)

Annette (1963) was born in Quincy, Florida to Joyce Jackson and William Bradwell. Her parents never married, and she did not know her father very well. Her father died while she was fairly young. Annette would have three children, Sheryl (1983), Armel (1985) and Rodericus (1987).

GENERATION THREE

A1a1. Joyce Jackson (1907-1941)

A1a2. William Bradwell (unk-unk)

A1b1. unk

A1b2. Unk

Joyce Ann Jackson was born in July of 1946 to Elmira Belford Jackson (1926-2011) and Lester Jackson (1927-1979). Joyce grew up in the small town of Quincy Florida. Her mother was a domestic worker for several white families in the area and her father worked as a dry cleaner and clothes presser. As a baby, Joyce was nicknamed Pat by a family member. When asked why she decided Joyce should be called Pat,

the aunt responded "she looks like a Pat!"⁷ When Joyce was three her parents separated, but the couple did not divorce. Joyce, her mother, and her sister Irene (1948) went to live with her grandparents.⁸

Joyce's grandfather was a preacher and her grandmother was a farm worker. Joyce's mother would eventually marry again, however, Joyce lived most of her childhood on Erie street in her grandparents' home.

Joyce attended school in Quincy, Florida. She attended Steven's High School during segregation. While Joyce's mother spent a lot of time interacting with white people in a domestic capacity, Joyce had very little opportunity to do so.⁹ While in school, church, and within her community Joyce was surrounded by people of color. This was not abnormal as the town of Quincy Florida, was and remains racially divided by the railroad tracks.

As a child, Joyce learned to enjoy sports as she was raised around mostly men. Joyce's favorite sport is football. As a grandmother, she would watch her grandsons playing NFL Madden on the Nintendo game system. Joyce would often dictate which plays her grandsons were allowed to run, much to their dismay. Joyce's favorite college football team is the Florida State Seminoles. Although Joyce did not attend Florida State University, it was well known that her

⁷ This story was told to Sheryl by her Great Grandmother Elmira as a child and is recounted now as a memory.

⁸ Joyce Jackson (retired accountant) in discussion with the author, April 2016. Joyce was so young when these events happened, she did not remember much about the time. Joyce did mention that she lived in St. Petersburg as a baby with her parents, but her sister was born in Quincy.

⁹ Irene Jackson Gaines (retired principal) in discussion with the author, April 2016. A well-known family story involves Joyce's sister Irene and the racial discrimination she was subjected to as a young lady attempting to buy a soda at a soda fountain shop in town.

children or grandchildren were not allowed to attend the University of Florida, the direct rival of Florida State University. Recently, Joyce has learned the rules of soccer as a way to bond with Sheryl's husband Piergagnon (1984).

As a young adult, Joyce attended church regularly as was the expectation within her family. However, at the age of 17 she became pregnant with her first child, a daughter, Annette (1963). The father of her daughter, William was a distant cousin and opted not to marry Joyce. This daughter would go on to have a daughter of her own, Sheryl (1983). Because of Joyce's predicament, she never finished high school.

Joyce left school and went to work various jobs to provide for her child. Four years later, Joyce once again found herself pregnant with a daughter Sharron (1967). Still unmarried, she took her children to Orlando to live. After some time, she returned her children to Quincy to live with her mother Elmira and went back to Orlando. For many years it was believed that Annette and Sharron shared the same father. It wasn't until the early 2000s that Sharron found out that she had a different father and he was alive. Joyce never married.

While living in Orlando, Joyce found work as a maid in various hotels. As she was working in one particular hotel, the staff decided to organize and demand better working wages and conditions. The hotel refused. The entire maid staff quit. Joyce, at the time, was living with her cousin Barbara, Barbara's husband, and their children. Joyce knew she could not return home and tell her cousin that she was unemployed with two children in Quincy she had to provide for. As luck

would have it, one of the maids heard a new hotel was opening in the same vicinity. The entire maid staff went to the new hotel that same day, and were hired. Joyce noted this was a very scary time because she was not sure if she would quickly find work again. She only knew that it was very important for the staff to stick together in their decision to quit.¹⁰

After some time, Joyce decided to follow her father to California. She lived in Los Angeles for 2 years with her father's family. While in California, she worked for a publishing company where she bound books. During this time, she sent money to her children very often, but did not have the opportunity to visit them often. This distance would eventually cause a rift in the relationship between Joyce and her daughters.¹¹ Sharron does not consider Joyce to be her mother because she did not raise her and Annette only calls Joyce when she wants to guilt Joyce into giving her money. Joyce, however, does have a very close relationship with her granddaughter Sheryl.

After two years, Joyce moved back to Orlando from California. It was at this time that Joyce enrolled at Seminole Community College. Although Joyce did not have a high school diploma, she was allowed to take a general knowledge test. Upon passing the general knowledge test, Joyce was admitted into the community college. Joyce received an associate's degree in business administration in 1991. It took Joyce

¹⁰ Joyce Jackson (retired accountant) in discussion with the author, April 2016.

¹¹ Annette Jackson (medical assistant) in discussion with the author, March 2016

nearly 10 years to complete this degree. Often, she took classes one at a time and sometimes took semesters off. The company she worked for at the time, NCR, paid for her classes. At NCR Joyce was an electronic tester for the company. Upon completion of this degree, she began taking classes at the University of Central Florida. Because Joyce had already received an associate's degree, UCF did not ask for proof of a high school diploma. She has yet to finish her bachelors in finance. She does, however, often take free courses at the community college in technology.

Joyce would eventually find work at the bank SouthTrust as a temporary accountant. Joyce worked for South Trust through the temp agency for so long, the bank employees forgot she was a temp and sent her to an official employee meeting as the department expert at the corporate office. Upon her arrival, the human resources official informed Joyce she needed her employee number because she could not find her in the system. When Joyce informed human resources she was a temp, the human resources manager was so impressed she was hired as a full time employee. It is because of Joyce's educational and work experience that she proudly tells anyone she is a self-made woman. Eventually South Trust would be purchased by Wells Fargo. It was from Wells Fargo bank that Joyce retired. Before Joyce retired, she would often be summoned to federal court as an expert witness in many bank fraud and wire fraud cases.

Since retirement, Joyce has lived a quiet but fulfilling life enjoying her friends and family. Often, Joyce will spend the day with her friends from church at the movie theatre. She also enjoys taking

girls road trips. Beyond that, Joyce teaches her family members about making sound financial decisions. Because Joyce and her granddaughter enjoy such a great relationship, every Saturday morning Joyce and Sheryl speak on the phone. Often, the two speak about financial investments, budgets, and large purchases. Joyce also spends every Thanksgiving with Sheryl and Piergagnon at their home.

Early in life, Joyce was baptized and joined church. Joyce still spends a considerable amount of her free time serving in the church. Like her mother, Elmira, Joyce is an usher. Joyce also finds joy in helping her church peers. This often involves driving friends with failing eyesight to doctors' appointments, picking up ladies for church, or even taking the ladies grocery shopping.

GENERATION FOUR

A1a1a. Elmira Belford Jackson (1924-2011)

A1a1b. Lester Jackson (1927-1979)

A1a2a. unk

A1a2b. unk

A1b1a. unk

A1b1b. unk

A1b2a. unk

A1b2b. unk

Elmira Belford Jackson was born in Quincy, Florida in 1924. She had nine brothers and sisters, but only five of those brothers and sisters were her mother's children. The other three children did not live in the home with Elmira and her parents even though their mother died while the children were fairly young.¹² Among Elmira's siblings was a set of twins, Joseph and Josephine. Josephine died around age 3 of

¹² "Florida State Census, 1945," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/MNXD-M3L> : accessed 13 April 2016), Elmira Belford, Quincy, Gadsden, Florida; citing line 5, State Archives, Tallahassee; FHL microfilm 2,425,190.

pneumonia.¹³ Elmira's mother was a farm worker on a tobacco farm and her father was a local preacher.

Elmira never graduated from high school. When she was in 11th grade, her sister Rosebud was accepted to Spelman College of nursing in Atlanta. Rosebud was working as a maid to prominent family in town. Upon telling the family she was leaving, Rosebud suggested her sister take over as their maid. Elmira would work for that family for over 50 years.

In 1946, Elmira married Lester Jackson(1927-1979).¹⁴ The couple had two children Joyce who was called Pat, and Irene who was called Rene. Eventually, Elmira and Lester would separate and Lester would move to California. Elmira and her children would move back home with her parents. Eventually, Elmira would marry Ted Jackson. Oddly enough, Elmira never divorced Lester, so technically she had two husbands at one time.

Elmira spent her life trying to instill a sense of education in her children and grandchildren. Often she would tell them they could be

¹³ Until recently, no one in the Belford family knew where Josephine is buried. It is the goal of the family to physically find the plot and possibly move her to the family plot.

"Florida Deaths, 1877-1939," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/FP31-7SM> : accessed 13 April 2016), Josephine Belford, 15 Nov 1932; citing Quincy, Gadsden, Florida, reference cn 16901; FHL microfilm 2,135,490.

¹⁴ Upon inspection of the marriage license, and birth records of Elmira and Lester's first child, it is apparent that Elmira was already 5 months pregnant at the time of this wedding. It is interesting to note, her father the preacher did not marry the couple, but her mother was the official witness.

"Florida Marriages, 1830-1993", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/QKH4-8CWG> : accessed 13 April 2016), Lester Jackson and Elmira V Belford, 1946.

anything they wanted to be if they tried hard enough. While she herself never attended college, she ensure that her children had the desire to do so.

Elmira's younger daughter, Irene, attended Florida A&M University and became a teacher. While attending school, Elmira would often visit Irene. In her older years Elmira grew to love the university, particularly the band known as the Marching 100. She would attend the homecoming game yearly well into her golden years and enjoy the marching band and drum majors. At her funeral, the drum majors attended in their uniforms as a sign of respect for her.

According to the family and neighbors, everyone knew Elmira as Granny. She often babysat children for free and fed anyone in the neighborhood who needed a meal. She was beloved by many. As she aged, she developed Alzheimer's disease and did not remember many of the people she came to know and love.

From this union, Elmira and Lester had two children, 4 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.