

Conversation with Marcus Howard's G Granddaughter Patrice via Ancestry

Jim Edson

July 3, 2023

Hello James, I have a question about my maternal 2nd great grandparent, Sarah, b. abt. 1839 in England and d. 27 Aug 1897 in Windsor, Essex, Ontario, Canada. I have been researching my family tree here at Ancestry for almost, 20 years and have not been able to discover my grandma's maiden name. How did you come by the surname, Hoyle?

Kind regards,
Patrice

July 16, 2023

Hoyle was a guess based on someone living in the Howard household after her death. I now believe it was Nelson supported by her son's middle name. I have changed it in my tree.

Marcus Nelson Howard is my grandson's GGG Grandfather.

(Jim)

July 22, 2023

Thank you for answering my email. Please excuse my late reply, I was on a much needed vacation in Maui, HI.

Marcus, "Mark", as he was called, married a Susan Frances Dunn, 19 Nov 1896 in Windsor, but they had no children together. We always believed that he married her to get to the USA. He had two daughters with his 2nd wife, my great grandma Myrtle Southers Russell Howard. Mark and Myrtle's daughter, Charlotte Howard Gordon was my maternal grandmother and her sister Bernice Howard, married twice and had two children with her first husband, Percy Crawford.

If Marcus Nelson "Mark" Howard is your grandson's 3rd great grandfather, then your grandson and I are related. How so, thru which of my relatives named? How wonderful? My mother's side of the family has been a BEAR to research. Hard to fine family member's info on her side.

I forgot to add that, Charlotte only had one child, my 83 year old mother, Myrtle named after her grandmother, Charlotte's mom, Myrtle

Southers Russell Howard. Also it makes sense that, perhaps Sarah's maiden name was Nelson. I must now begin to research that possibility. Thank you for that!

(Patrice)

July 23, 2023

Patrice,

Thank you for your note. If Mark and Susan didn't have any children, then Susan's descendants – including my grandson – would not have a direct relation to you or your family.

In fact, I now believe she may not have any direct descendants. The daughters I previously believed were from her marriage to Mark, must have been step-daughters she gained from her second marriage.

I had been a bit confused by the 1900 US Census which showed her and Mark living – alone – in Detroit. By my previous information, they would have had two daughters listed with them. It also shows that Susan had 1 child born to her, but none living. Perhaps, they did have a child.

I think you have helped me clear up some family history. If you see any flaws in my analysis, please let me know.

I'm sorry I haven't helped you with your family.

Best regards, James

James,

Thank you and yes, you are absolutely right. Susan Frances Dunn Howard Relker Shelton had no progeny at all. She married three men. Her second husband was Charles Wallace Relker, married 14 Mar 1904 in Galeburg, Knox, IL. Susan was listed as a widow on the 1910 US Census, with the surname Relker. Her third husband, Andrew James Shelton's first wife was, Dicie A Copley. They were married 20 Oct 1889 in Webster County, MO. Dicie is the mother of Shelton's first two children, James Thomas Shelton and Bessie Shelton. I see that you already have named, Shelton's second wife, Lelia Newton, who is the mother of the three daughters, Kathryn, Iris and Lucile, even though the Census records indicate that Susan is the mother of the three daughters. We know differently, based on the paper trail. DNA confirmation is the only thing that would shine a different light on the matter.

James, you have been a great help to me by simply indicating that

Mark's mother Susan's maiden name could be the middle name given to Mark by Sarah and Bone.

My father's direct line is, Haplogroup I-Z138 which is from Northern Europe, family surname, Fesmire and Mom's is M18 which is Native American. Mom and I have had our Mitochondrial DNA fully sequenced at Family Tree DNA. So yes, it has been an uphill battle to discover family, especially Mom's, due to diverse family backgrounds found on both sides, which are African, European, Middle Eastern and Asian, also thru slavery and free people of color, but it has been very rewarding and FUN!!

Thank you again and take care,

Patrice