How do I know if I’m related to the GU272?

Here are some clues that you might be related to the 272 enslaved people sold by Georgetown University and the Maryland Jesuits to southern Louisiana in 1838:

- Your family is black or mixed race, with ties to slavery.
- Your family is Roman Catholic, or used to be Catholic.
- Your family has historic ties to southern Maryland, especially:
  - St. Mary’s County (particularly St. Mary’s City or St. Inigoes, MD)
  - Charles County (particularly Port Tobacco, MD)
  - Howard or Baltimore Counties (particularly Woodstock or Granite, MD)
  - Prince George’s County
- Your family has historic ties to southern Louisiana, especially:
  - Iberville Parish (particularly Maringouin or White Castle, LA).
  - Ascension Parish (particularly Donaldsonville or Smoke Bend, LA).
  - Terrebonne Parish (particularly Houma, Thibodaux, Raceland or Gray, LA)
  - St. Landry Parish (particularly Grand Coteau, LA).
- You’ve had some success researching your family tree, but get stuck in the 1830s.
- Family lore says:
  - Your ancestors came from Maryland, Baltimore or “Up North”.
  - Your ancestors came to Louisiana on a ship called the Katherine Jackson.
  - Your ancestors were owned by the Jesuits or Catholic priests.
- You have ancestors with one or more of the following last names (the more the better):
  - Anderson (Henderson)
  - Barns (Barney)
  - Blacklock
  - Blair
  - Brown
  - Butler
  - Campbell
  - Contee
  - Coyles
  - Creble
  - Cutchmore (Cutchamore, Cutchmo, Cuckumber, Cush, Cotchman)
  - Digges (Diggs, Digs)
  - Dorsey (Dorsy)
  - Eaglin
  - Ford
  - Gough
  - Greenlief (Greenleaf, Green)
  - Hall
  - Harris
  - Hawkins
  - Hill
  - Jones
  - Johnson
  - Kelly
  - Kercheman (see also Cutchmore)
  - Langley
  - Mahoney
  - Mason
  - Merick (Merrick)
  - Noland (Nolanty, Nolin)
  - Plowden
  - Queen
  - Riley
  - Scott
  - Sweeton (Sweden)
  - Ware
  - West
  - Wilton
  - Yorkshire
These are just clues -- not rigid tests or requirements.

You don’t have to check all of these boxes. But the more boxes you can check, the more likely it is that you are a descendant of the GU272; and the easier it will be for the GMP to establish and document that fact for you and your family.

What should I do next?

If you think you might be related to the GU272, please contact the Georgetown Memory Project.

Our website is located at www.georgetownmemoryproject.org. You can email us directly at joinGMP@gmail.com.

Please send us an email telling us:
  
  • Your name.
  • How we can reach you.
  • Why you think you might be related to the GU272.

We’ll be happy to receive whatever family information you are willing to share with us. At no charge whatsoever, we’ll let you know if we can establish a connection between your family and the GU272 at this time.

If we can’t establish a connection today, you are welcome to check back with us in the future. Our databases are growing rapidly, and we add new information all the time.

*****