

International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies Conference
St. Louis, MO
August 14, 2024

Seeking Justice For.....

Celia

The arc of the moral universe will bend toward justice—but only if we pull it.

Celia's Story

Celia, a Callaway County, Missouri enslaved woman, was executed for the murder of her sexually abusive owner, Robert Newsom on December 21, 1855.

In Missouri in 1855, it was a crime “to take any woman unlawfully against her will and by force, menace or duress, compel her to...be defiled,” allowing women to argue self-defense in resisting such assaults.

However, the Missouri high court ruled enslaved women did not have such a right.

Original Portrait Credit:

Solomon Thurman Jr.

Digital Photo Credit:

Lance O. Thurman.

It is not enough to desire justice; we must actively work together towards its realization.



The "Justice for Celia Coalition"

is an alliance of Descendants, Fulton MO Community Leaders, Artists, Celia Historians, and other Missouri/US Stakeholders actively seeking to honor and vindicate Celia.



Today's Agenda:

- **Celia's Short Life**
 - Dr. Nichol Allen, Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri
- **The Fate of Celia's Daughters/ Celia's Descendants**
 - Pamela Westbrooks-Hodge, 2nd Great Granddaughter of Celia & Robert Newsom
- **White Descendants Perspective**
 - Nancy Fogle-Compos, 4th Great Granddaughter of Robert Newsom & Elizabeth Gwinn Newsom
- **Celia Portrait Journey**
 - Solomon Thurman Jr., Art Historian
- **The 5pt Plan to Honor & Vindicate Celia & Support Opportunities**
 - Pamela Westbrooks-Hodge
- **Celia Resources**

Celia's Short Life

By Dr. Nichol Allen, Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri

Disclosure

Today, our discussion delves into profound and challenging subjects, including our state's unsettling history, sensitive matters, and the tragic loss of life.

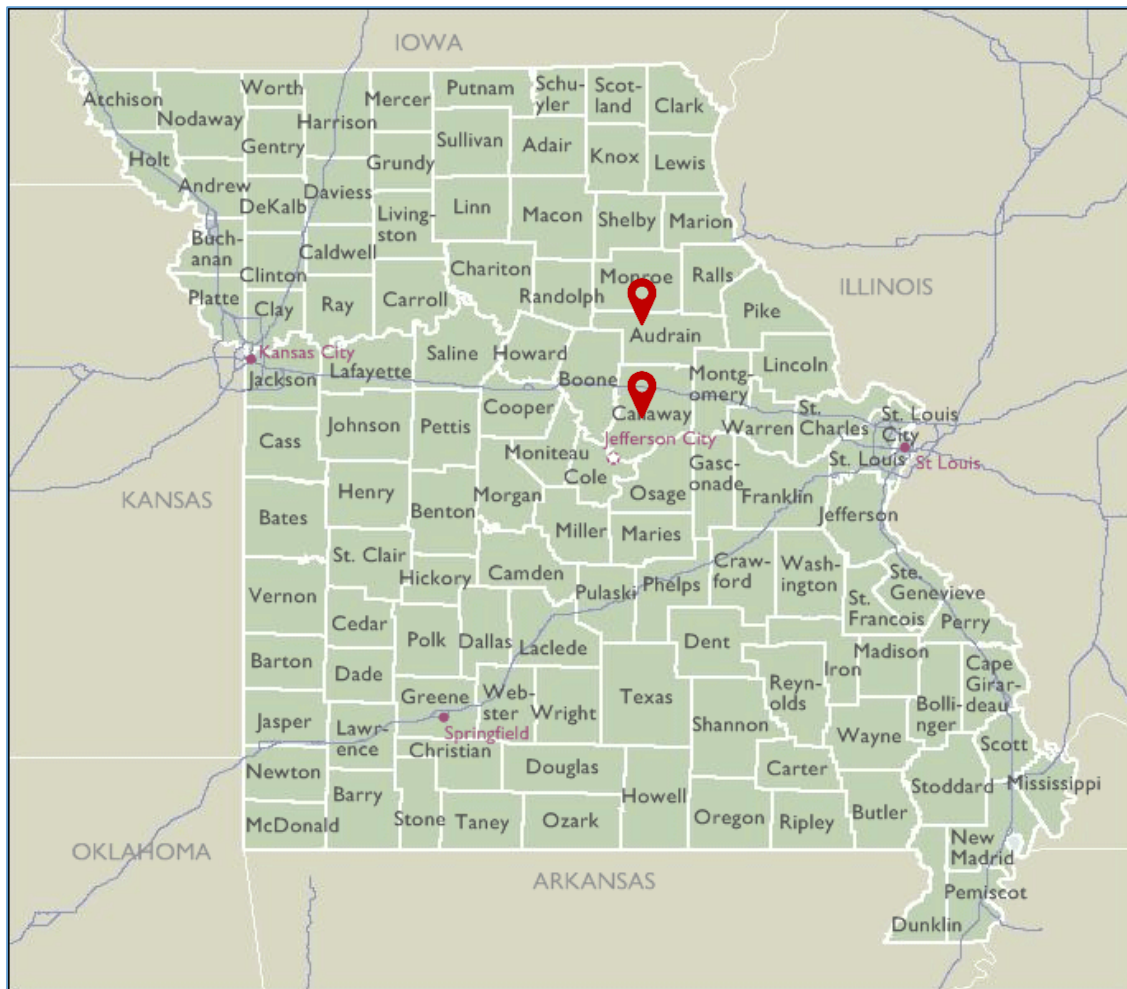
We will be discussing topics such as rape, human bondage, and murder. We recognize these discussions may evoke a spectrum of emotions and reactions. If you feel uneasy or prefer not to participate in this dialogue, we will understand if you need to excuse yourself.

Who was Celia?

A young woman, a victim of sexual exploitation and chattel slavery, and a mother of 2 daughters. Celia's story permeates various aspects of society, including literature, film, television, music, social media, historical accounts, oral traditions, artwork, monuments, museums, and educational curricula. Additionally, her impact might be felt through activism, political discourse, cultural events, and community commemorations.



Newsom Connection



Newsom owned 800 acres of land and livestock that included horses, milk cows, beef cattle, hogs, sheep, and two oxen. Like the majority of Callaway County farmers, Newsom also owned slaves-five male slaves as of 1850.

Robert Newsom purchased Celia in 1850 in Audrain County. She was just 14 years old. “The journey back to his home in Fulton would have covered approximately forty miles and required at least a day’s ride each way.”



June 23, 1855: The Crime

Celia raised the stick, “about as large as the upper part of a Windsor chair, but not so long,” and struck her master hard over the head. Newsom groaned and “sunk down on a stool or towards the floor.” Celia clubbed Newsom over the head a second time, killing him.



The Search

Under pressure, George revealed he believed Newsom's last walk was toward Celia's cabin, leading investigators to suspect foul play there. When Newsom's body wasn't found in Celia's cabin, Powell and others confronted her in the Newsom home kitchen.

Missouri v. Celia, the Slave

Warrant for Inquest

State of Missouri }
County of Callaway } p5
To Mr. J. Powell, Robt. Baldwin & John
L. Gray Esqrs. You are hereby com-
manded all excuses and delays being set aside
personally to be and appear before the under-
signed Justice of the Peace within and for the
township of Cedar in the County of Callaway
at the house of Robert Newson in Juntura
township in said County forthwith then
and there to testify on the trial of a case
wherein the State of Missouri is Plaintiff and
Celia a black is defendant on the part of the
Plaintiff and her of fact not at your peril
Given under my hand this 25th day of
June A.D. 1855 — D. W. Hyde J.P.



“We the jury find the defendant guilty of murder in the first degree.”

We the jury find the defendant guilty of murder in the first degree

W. J. Selby
Foreman

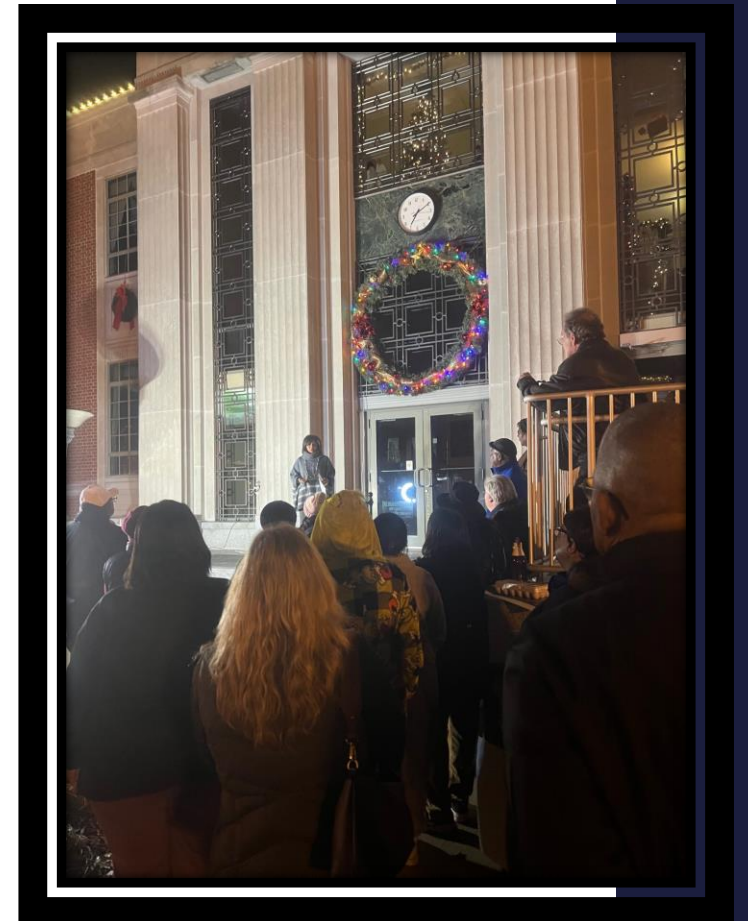
Epilogue: But not the End

Fulton Telegraph, January 4, 1856

Fulton, Missouri, December 21, 2023

HANGING A NEGRESS.—CELIA, a negress, who has been under sentence of death since the 14th of October, for the murder of her master, ROBT. NEWSOME, in June last, was executed near this place on the 21st ult. The evening previous to her execution, and while under the gallows, she made what she said was a full confession of the crime. She has, at various times, implicated several persons; but, by her dying confession, all of them are exonerated from any participation in the murder. She said that on the evening of the occurrence she procured a large, stout stick, (much larger and heavier than that before described by her,) and took a position behind the door, leaving it slightly ajar; that her master came to the cabin, pushed the door open and entered; as soon as he entered she struck him with the stick, felling him to the ground. She did not, at first, intend to kill him, but she said, "as soon as I struck him the Devil got into me, and I struck him with the stick until he was dead, and then rolled him in the fire and burnt him up." She denied that any one assisted her, or aided or abetted in any way. She was hung at 2½ o'clock, on Friday, 21st of December last. Thus has closed one of the most horrible tragedies ever enacted in our county.
—*Fulton (Mo.) Telegraph, Jan. 4*

Celia was interviewed in her cell the night before her execution, maintaining that she acted alone. She was hanged at 2:30 P.M. on December 21, 1855. She was just 19 years old.



The Fate of Celia's Daughters: Celia's Descendants

By Pamela Westbrooks-Hodge

2nd Great Granddaughter of Celia and Robert Newsom

The Fate of Vina (Vina) and Jennie (Jane)

Sold on September 5, 1856 in Fulton, MO

- Per Robert Newsom's probate records, the girls are sold for \$495.50

Vicki (Vine/Vina)

- Fate unknown

Jennie (Jane) Newsom Broadwater (1854-1903)

- Per court records, Celia states Jennie's father is Robert Newsom
- Jennie is purchased by Guy Broadwater of Fulton, MO and is assumed to be the unnamed mulatto 6-year-old female in Guy's 1860 slave census.

Final annual settlement of Hugh
Linches & Davis heirs on records
of the estate of Robert Newsom
made with the County Court of
Callaway County at its August
term A.D. 1856
Said amount
To amt of Insultion filed Sept
5th 1855 -

To amt of sale bill
Sept 2nd 1855
To amt of Report of
dated 19 Aug 1856.
To amt cash rec'd
pasture for close of
To amt of sale of
due Dec 1st 1855 -

To amt Sale of 2
(Vina & Jane) due Sep
Credit by
Debiter 121 Printed by
" " 2 For Wain
" " 3 Saml Martin
" " 4 Sheriff Day
" " 5 B Nieland
" " 6 Martin & Robinson
" " 7 Carter Craig
To keeping 2 lillo ofshan
negro children 5 months
To cash paid for harvesting
the crop of 1855 before
admit
To Services for harvesting
same time & having crop
To wintering a bull



Jennie Broadwater Newsom

Birth 2 Oct 1854 • Fulton, Callaway, Missouri, USA

Death 18 Feb 1903 • St. Louis, Missouri

Records 10

1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules

Other: Guy L Broadwater

Birth: 1854

Residence: 1860 District 18, Callaway, Missouri, USA

Missouri, U.S., Marriage Records, 1805-2002

Missouri, U.S., Death Records, 1850-1931

1900 United States Federal Census

Missouri, U.S., Compiled Marriage Index, 1766-1983

Missouri, U.S., Death Certificates, 1910-1969

Page No. 25
 SCHEDULE 2.—Slave Inhabitants in District No 18. in the County of Callaway State
 of Missouri, enumerated by me, on the 15th day of Sept, 1860. John Berry Ass't Marshal.

1	NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	DESCRIPTION.				Deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	No. of Slave houses.	NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	DESCRIPTION.				Deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	No. of Slave houses.
		Number of Slaves.	Age.	Sex.	Color.				Number of Slaves.	Age.	Sex.	Color.		
1														
2	Samuel Malley	1	33	M	M		1	Wm. W. Robinson	1	33	F	B.		
3		1	33	F	M				1	32	"	"		
4		1	11	M	B.				1	35	M	"		
5		1	8	"	M				1	15	"	"		
6		1	5	"	B.				1	10	"	"		
7	M. J. Scott.	1	3	"	M		1	Peggy C. Batte	1	11	"	"		
8	Saml H. Allen	1	14	"	B.				1	9	F	"		
9	John R. Rutherford	1	45	"	"				1	50	M	"		
10		1	30	F	M				1	52	F	"		
11		1	10	M	B.				1	25	M	"		
12		1	8	"	"				1	18	"	"		
13		1	6	"	"					7	F	"		
14	George Nichols	1	2	"	"				1	21	M	"		
15		1	14	M	M				1	1	F	"		
16	Guy L. Broadwater	1	14	M	M				1	30	F	M		
17		1	6	"	B.				1	13	M	M		
18		1	2	"	"				1	10	M	M		
19		1	19	F	"				1	7	F	B.		
20		1	37	F	"				1	6	"	"		
21	Simon Clark	1	9	M	"				1	4	M	M		
22		1	7	"	"				1	6 1/2	F	"		
23		1	6	F	M				1	11	"	B.		
24		1	1	M	"				1	53	M	"		
25		1	29	F	"				1	47	F	"		
26		1	15	"	B.				1	25	"	M		
27		1	10	M	"				1	11	"	B.		
28		1	8	F	"									
29		1	50	F	"									
30	Josiah Harrison													
31														
32														

Mulatto 6-year-old Presumed to be Jennie Newsom Broadwater in Guy Broadwater's 1860 Slave Census Records

Source: 1860 Census Slave Schedule for Guy L. Broadwater in Fulton, Missouri

The Marriage of Jennie Newsom Broadwater to George Lewis of Boonville, MO

Lewis
St. Louis, Mo, Aug. 23^d 1870. This is to certify that I united in the holy bonds of matrimony
on the day and year above mentioned: Mr. George Lewis of St. Louis and Miss Jennie
Broadwater of Fulton, Mo. S. P. Anderson, Mo. J.
filed & recorded Aug. 24. 1870. Julius Conrad Preacher.

DNA Evidence

ThruLines® for Col. Robert Newsom (SH)

A ThruLines diagram for Col. Robert Newsom (SH). It shows a vertical line of descent from a green silhouette icon to a green circle labeled 'CT' (Casondra Turner). The line is labeled with the number '4' and a dropdown arrow. Two dashed boxes branch off to the left, each containing a silhouette icon and an 'EVALUATE' button. The top box is for Col. R N (SH), 4th great-grandfather, 1789-1855. The bottom box is for Jennie B Newsom, 3rd great-grandmother, 1854-1903.

Col. R N (SH)
4th great-grandfather
1789-1855

Jennie B Newsom
3rd great-grandmother
1854-1903

CT
Casondra Turner

Col. Robert Newsom (SH)
4th great-grandfather

A snippet of a family tree for Col. Robert Newsom (SH). It shows a vertical line of descent from a grey arrow pointing up to a grey arrow pointing down. The line is labeled with the number '3' and a dropdown arrow. Two dashed boxes branch off to the left, each containing a silhouette icon and an 'EVALUATE' button. The top box is for Ruth Ann Newsom, Half 3rd great-grandaunt, 1821-1886. The bottom box is for Robinette Langley, Half 1st cousin 4x removed, 1845-1931. Below the line is a circular profile picture of Brian Leidy, Half 5th cousin, 17 cM | 1 segments.

Ruth Ann Newsom
Half 3rd great-grandaunt
1821-1886

Robinette Langley
Half 1st cousin 4x removed
1845-1931

Brian Leidy
Half 5th cousin
17 cM | 1 segments

You and M.W.
M.W.'s test is managed by: MelvinCandicePNW

5th – 8th Cousin | Paternal side
< 1% shared DNA: 8 cM across 1 segments

Connect to tree Message
Edit Relationship

Add to group Add note

Trees Ethnicity **Shared Matches**

Filters Search | Sort

Distant Family

A match profile for Pamela Westbrook-Hodge. It shows a circular profile picture, her name, relationship (4th – 6th Cousin), shared DNA (33 cM | < 1% shared DNA), and side (Paternal side). It also mentions a public linked tree with 76 people. Below the profile is a question 'Do you recognize them?' with 'Yes' and 'Learn more' buttons.

Pamela Westbrook-Hodge
4th – 6th Cousin
33 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Paternal side
Public linked tree 76 People

Do you recognize them?
Yes Learn more

A match profile for Pamela Westbrook-Hodge. It shows a circular profile picture with a camera icon and the letters 'CT', her name, relationship (4th – 6th Cousin), shared DNA (33 cM across 3 segments), and side (Paternal side). It also includes buttons for 'Connect to tree', 'Message', and 'Edit Relationship', and options to 'Add to group' and 'Add note'. Below the profile is a question 'Do you recognize them?' with 'Yes' and 'Learn more' buttons.

You and Pamela Westbrook-Hodge
4th – 6th Cousin | Paternal side
< 1% shared DNA: 33 cM across 3 segments

Connect to tree Message
Edit Relationship

Add to group Add note

Trees Ethnicity **Shared Matches**

Filters Search | Sort

Parent/Child

Allen Turner

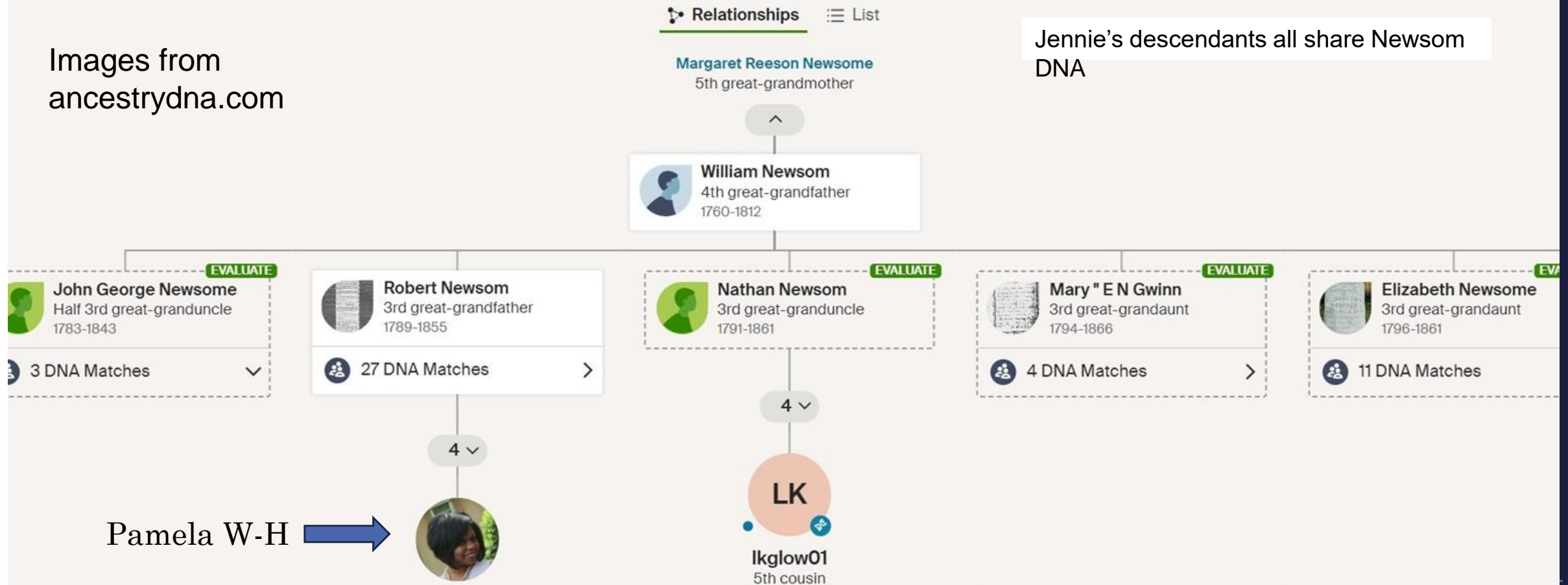
DNA Evidence

Pamela Westbrook-Hodge Newsom DNA connections

ThruLines[®] for Margaret Reeson Newsome

ThruLines[®] uses Ancestry[®] trees to suggest that you may be related to 76 DNA matches through Margaret Reeson Newsome.

Images from
ancestrydna.com



Putting the pieces together-So how do we know that the Jennie Newsom Broadwater Lewis of St. Louis (1854-1903) was Celia and Robert Newsom's child Jennie (Jane) born in Fulton in 1854 –and also the mulatto 6-year-old female on Guy Broadwater's slave census?

Frank Lewis 1871-1942	Arthur Lewis 1873-1931	Guy Lewis 1874-1882	Woodruff Lewis 1878-1937	Charles Lewis 1880-1960	Clara Lewis 1881-1962	Edgar P. Lewis 1884-1888	Virginia Lewis 1887-1951	Julia Lewis 1889-1948	George Lewis Jr. 1894-1958
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Jennie & George Lewis' Children

1. In court records, Celia attests that Robert Newsom is Jennie's Father.
2. On Jennie and George's 1870 marriage license, she lists her name as Jennie Broadwater of Fulton, MO and she is 16 years old. 10 years prior, a 6-year-old mulatto female is found in Guy Broadwater's slave census.
3. In the 1900 Census, Jennie attests to giving birth to 13 children in St. Louis from 1871 to 1894. 10 are listed above. Jennie named one of her son's **Guy** for the man who raised her, Guy Broadwater.
4. Jennie Newsom Broadwater Lewis passed the oral history of her parentage and Fulton, Missouri origins down to her children and grandchildren. On numerous records, (i.e. George Jr.'s death certificate, Jennie's maiden name is listed as "Newsom".
5. Finally, all biological African American descendants of Jennie's children, share Newsom DNA with current living European American descendants of Robert Newsom and descendants of Robert Newsom's siblings.



The Lewis Family circa 1915
Photo from Tabitha Goggins' personal collection, courtesy of Allen Turner
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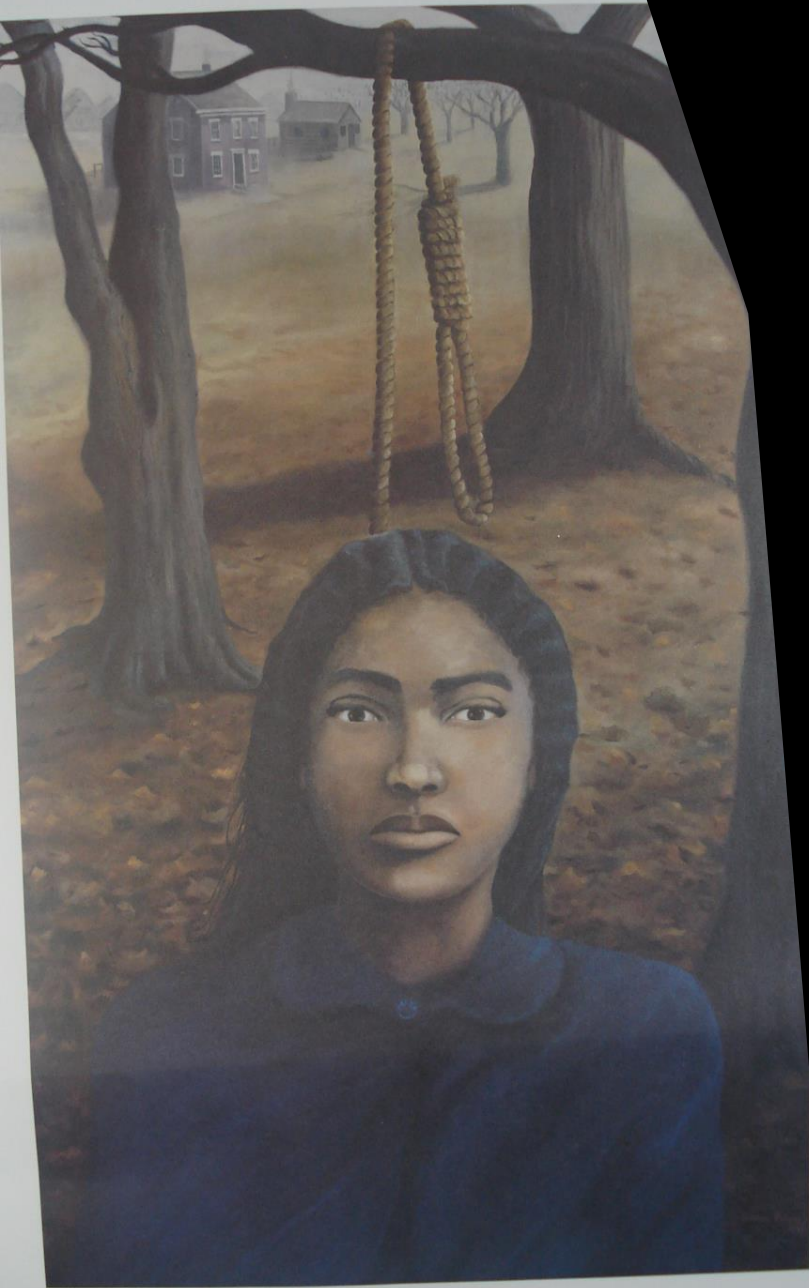
Continuing the Journey...



A White Descendants' Perspective

By Nancy Fogle-Compos

4th Great Granddaughter of Robert Newsom & Elizabeth Gwinn Newsom



SOLOMON THURMAN © 1995

CELIA
(1836-1858)

PORTRAIT JOURNEY

THE FACE OF CELIA

Presented by,
SOLOMON THURMAN,
JR,
Celia Portrait Artist



Margaret Bush Wilson, Celia Champion



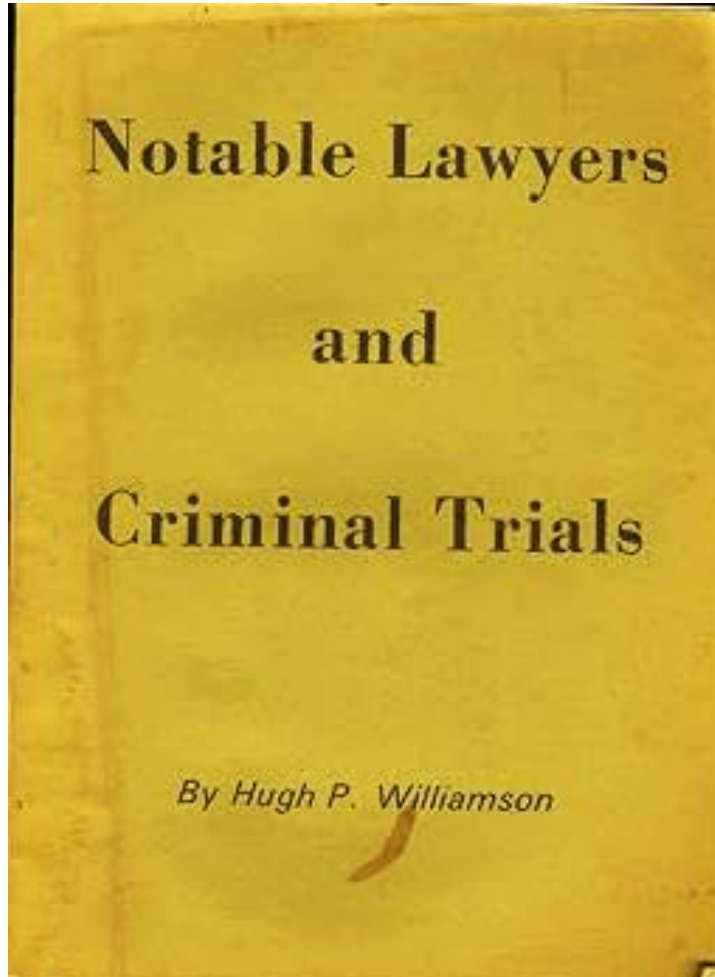
Margaret Bush Wilson
01/31/1919 – 08/11/2009

“Quite by chance, in 1940, I stumbled on an account of the fate of CELIA during my first year of law school.

This account of a young slave girl, pregnant with her master's child, who killed him and was hanged in 1855 on the Courthouse steps in Fulton, Missouri, was haunting.

At the time I remember saying to myself "Nothing that happens to me can compare with what this teen-aged girl endured". That was the moment when she became my heroine and she will continue to be to the end of my days. No picture of Celia has been found. But, in 1992 I commissioned, Artist Solomon Thurman to paint a portrait of CELIA from his imagination and her life story.’

Celia Portrait Journey Research Sources



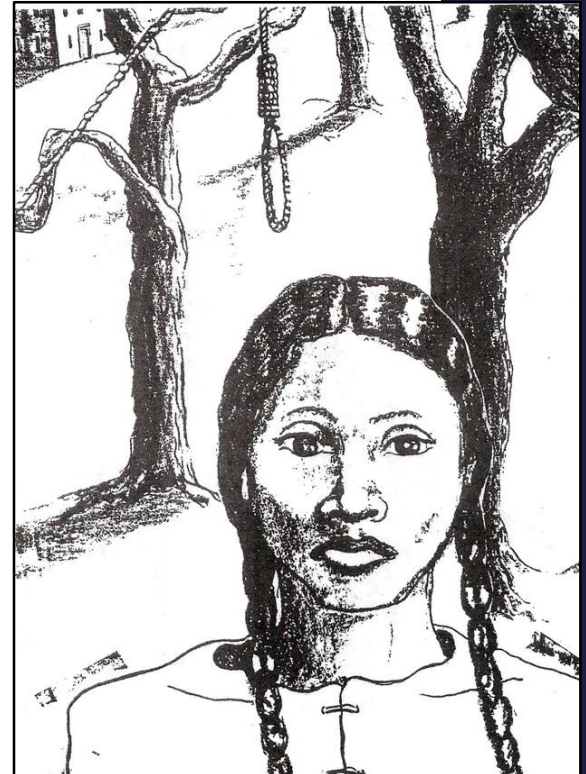
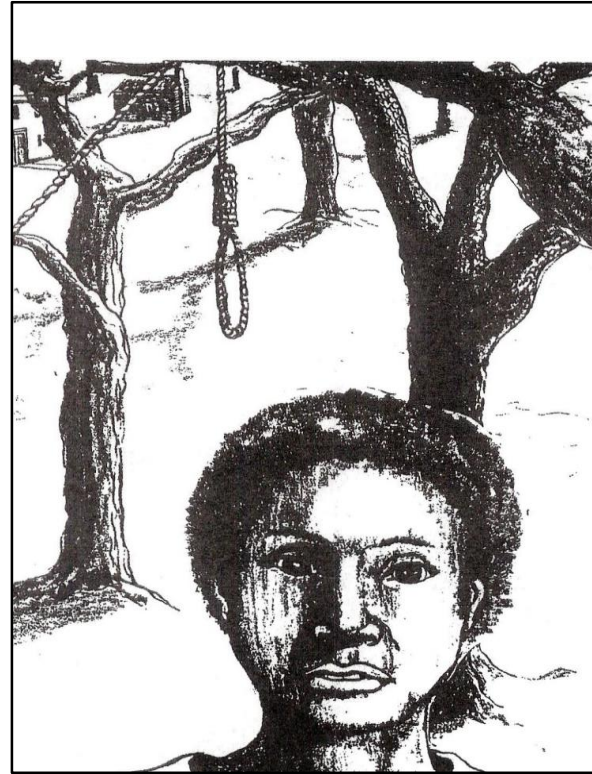
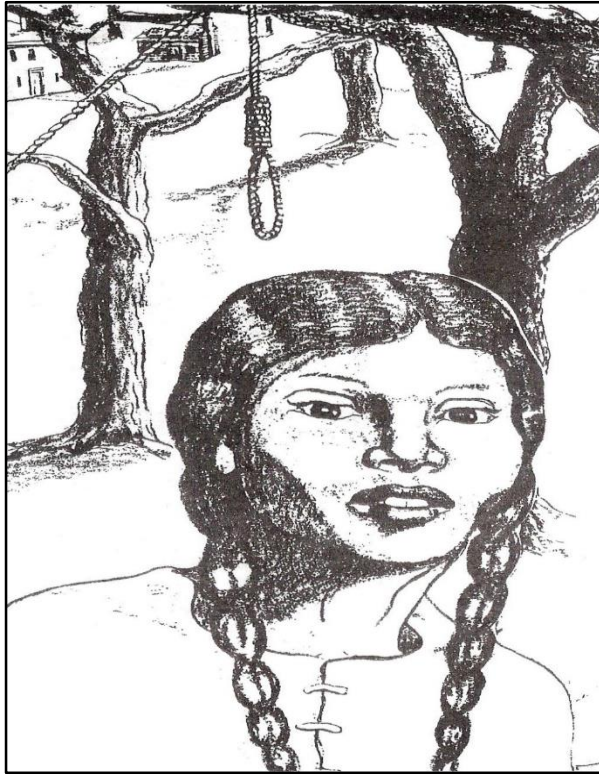
Newspaper Publications:

- **Laurel Boeckman; State Historical Society of Missouri**
- **Mercantile Library of St. Louis Missouri**
- **Earl Davis, Court Clerk, Callaway County, Court House, Fulton, Missouri** The State of Missouri VS. Celia, A Slave

Special thanks to Celia's descendants, who shared their family history

- Marthenia Bates
- Carmen Strickland
- Virginia Strickland Coleman

The Faces of Celia



Final version inspired by a Photo of Celia's Granddaughter

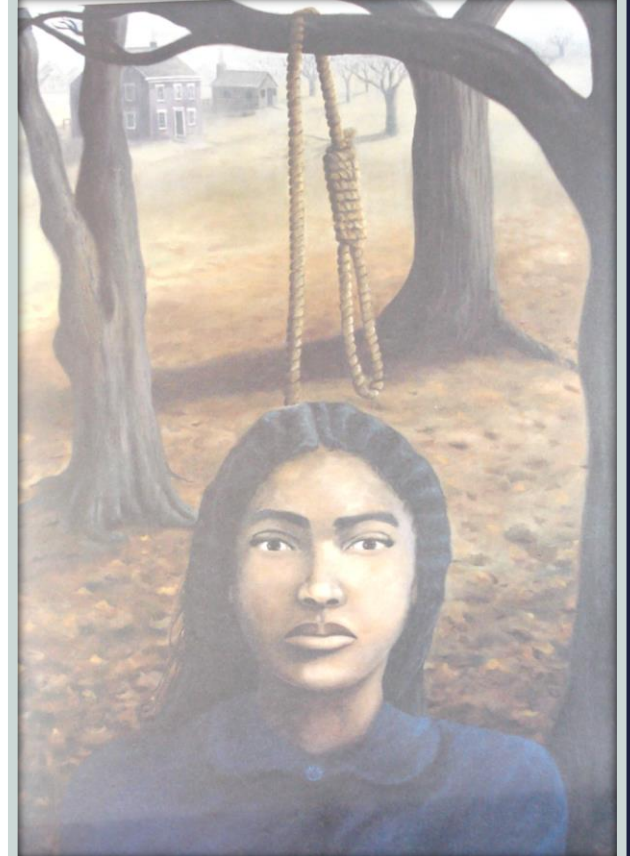
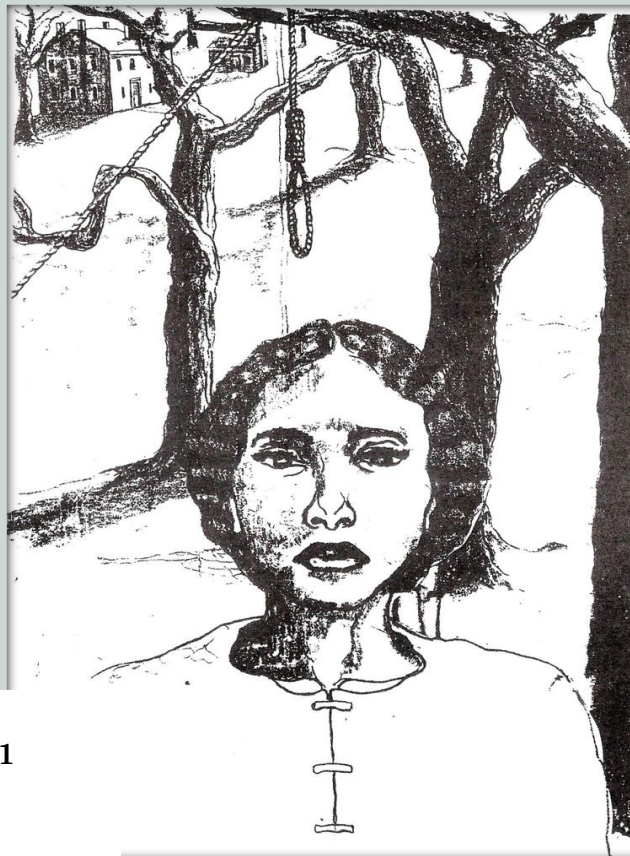
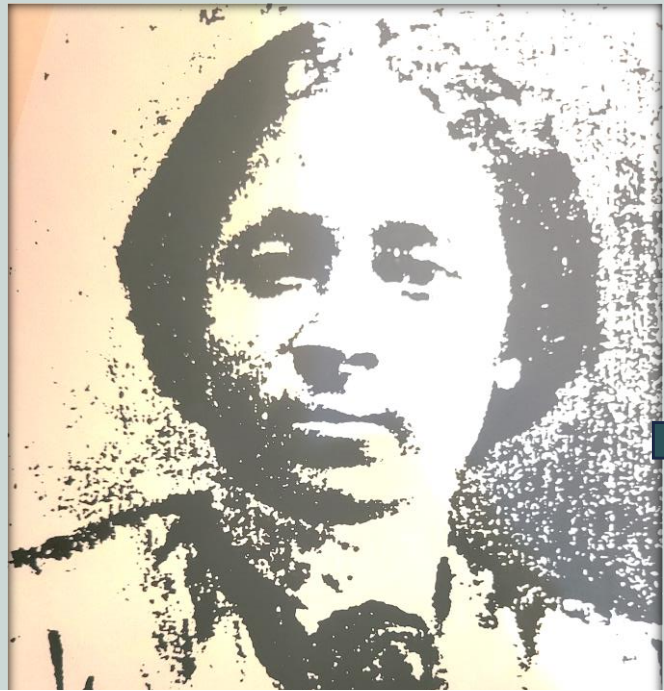


Photo of Celia's Granddaughter (Clara or Virginia?)
Cropped from the Lewis Family Photo circa 1915- see slide 21
From the personal collection of Marthenia Bates,
courtesy of Solomon Thurman
DO NOT REPRODUCE OR USE WITHOUT PERMISSION



Modern Day Justice for Celia The 5 Pt Plan



By Pamela Westbrooks-Hodge, 2nd Great Granddaughter of
Celia and Robert Newsom



The 5 Point Celia Vindication Plan



**Secure Pardon for
Celia from the
Missouri Governor**



**Place Celia
Museum Exhibits**

- Kingdom of Callaway Museum
- Missouri History Museum



**Erect a Celia
Monument**

Fulton & St. Louis



**Pass Humanity
Education
Legislation**

Celia Senate Bills:

[SB 1446](#)

[SB 1512](#)



**Establish &
Mature the Celia
Newsom
Legacy
Foundation**

April 20, 2024, Celia Event at the Missouri History Museum!



[Click Here for PBS News Coverage!](#)



July 2023, Coalition Visit at the Kingdom of Callaway County Historical Society & Research Center



April 19, 2024, Coalition visit with Mayor Myers, Courtney & Doris!



April 2, 2024, Celia Senate Bill Hearing!

Missourinet

CURRENT NEWS SHOW ME TODAY STATE AGENCY PRESS

MISSOURI SENATE CONSIDERS EDUCATION BILL ABOUT PREJUDICE AND 'DEHUMANIZATION'

by Anthony Morabith | Apr 17, 2024

[Click Here for News Article!](#)



How to Support the Celia 5 Point Plan!



Donate to the Celia Newsom Legacy Foundation to help fund the monuments, museum exhibits, Celia history curriculum development, and operational expenses to launch the foundation.

Online:



Scan me!

Make checks payable to:

The Celia Newsom Legacy
Foundation

1. **Scan the QR code**

2. **Or go to:**

https://stl.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=6544 or

• **Go to** www.stlgives.org

- Click on “Give Today” in the top right corner
- Click on “Make A Donation”
- In the “Search Funds” type Celia, then click on the fund name when it pops up

**O
R**

Mail to:

The Celia Newsom Legacy
Foundation
301 Court Street, PO Box # 313
Fulton, MO 65251

Parting Thoughts

- We extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Alisa Warren and International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies for inviting us to share Celia's story!
- Celia's story of sexual exploitation during enslavement (*antebellum human trafficking*) is unfortunately the shared and often unspoken narrative of enslaved people of African descent in this country.
- We encourage you to honor them by bringing light to their stories of courage and perseverance.
- In doing so, we draw strength from their resilience, and help each other examine the world with greater insight and compassion for each other.

Contact Us....



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Nancy Fogle-Compos	fogle.compos@gmail.com 816-824-4670	Coalition Research Leader
Dr. Nichol Allen	Nichol.Allen@westminster-mo.edu 618-520-6990	Legislative Action/Museum Exhibit Committee
Solomon Thurman, Jr.	Solomon@10thstreetgallery.com 314-276-7656	Museum Exhibit & Monument Committee

Additional Celia Resources

- “Celia A Slave”, Melton McLaurin, 1991: <https://shop.shsmo.org/celia-a-slave-a-true-story-by-melton-a-mclaurin/>
- **State Historical Society of Missouri / African American Experience in Missouri Lecture Series/ #SAYHERNAME: BLACK WOMEN AND STATE VIOLENCE IN THE CASE OF MISSOURI V. CELIA, A SLAVE** <https://shsmo.org/lecture-series/african-american-experience/lecture-2>
- **The Legal Significance of the Celia Court Case:** <https://www.encyclopedia.com/law/law-magazines/state-missouri-v-celia-slave-1855>
- **Want to place Celia’s case in historical context?** This timeline situates the trial in the context of **Missouri’s African American** history, [here](#).
- **Missouri Digital History** provides a high-quality digital version of the Celia trial documents. Go back to the original sources and find new details about the case [here](#).
- **Solomon Thurman’s Celia Project-** Discover this fascinating project created by St. Louis-based Art Historian, **Solomon Thurman**. Commissioned by attorney and activist Margaret Bush Wilson, Thurman combed public archives, studied family photographs, and drew upon his artist’s inspiration to create a portrait of Celia. Have a look at Thurman’s final portrait and the related children’s book [here](#).

Additional Celia/Missouri Enslavement Resources

- **Famous Trials** at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law & Professor Douglas O. Linder feature the Celia case, including the original trial court documents. Explore this site [here](#).
- **PBS and its Slavery and the Making of America** feature the Celia case inviting viewers to “be the judge.” Test your own conclusions [here](#).
- **Celia, sexual violence during slavery and the legal status of enslaved women** <https://irwg.umich.edu/news/celia-project>
- **Wikipedia** includes a biographical entry Celia’s lead defense attorney [John Jameson](#).
- The **Equal Justice Initiative** includes the Celia case on its racial justice timeline, [here](#).
- **For a comparison and contrast of Celia descendants and Robert Newsom descendants:** https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340653858_Descendants_of_Celia_and_Robert_Newsom_Speak
- **The State Historical Society of Missouri African American Experience Research Guide:** <https://shsmo.org/research/guides/african-american>
- [US & Missouri Sundown Towns](#)

QUESTIONS

