From the Roots of a Tree:
The Genealogy of Martin Luther King, Jr.
1860 Census
Penfield, Greene County, Georgia

The slave owner of Willis Williams, William Nelson Williams, was enumerated on the 1860 census living in Penfield, Greene County, Georgia. William, his family, and slaves lived on the Williams Plantation in Penfield.
Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Great-Grandfather, Willis Williams, was enumerated on the 1860 Census as a slave of William Nelson Williams in Greene County, Georgia. The slave schedules did not name individual slaves, but listed the age and gender. Willis Williams is shown as fifty-five years old at the time of this census.
Willis Williams

- Slave on Williams Plantation in Penfield, Greene County, Georgia
- He was a minister
- Willis, his wife, Creecy, and the family of William Nelson, all attended Shiloh Baptist Church in Penfield before the Civil War; Shiloh Baptist considered both slaves and whites as members of their church
- After the abolition of slavery, the Williams family stayed in Greene County farming, until the death of Willis Williams in 1874
Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Great-Grandparents, Willis and Crescencis Williams, were farmers in Penfield, GA in 1870 and their five children lived with them.
Rev. Adam Daniel (A.D.) Williams

• Son of Willis and Creecy Williams, and Grandfather of Martin Luther King, Jr.

• A.D. and his mother left the Williams Plantation after his father’s death in 1874

• He attended Atlanta Baptist College (later named Morehouse College) and graduated in May 1898

• He was the second pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta

• A.D. Williams was the organizer and 1st President of the Atlanta Chapter of the NAACP
A. D. Williams, his twin sister Eve, and their mother Creecy, moved to Skull Shoals in Greene County, Georgia after Willis died. They worked there as laborers on a farm.
On 29 October 1899, Martin Luther King, Jr.’s grandparents, A. D. Williams and Jennie Celeste Parks were married. The 1900 census shows A. D. and Jennie living in Atlanta at 18 Randolph Street. A. D. is listed as being a clergyman.
1910 Census
Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia

Martin Luther King, Jr.’s grandparents, A. D. and Jennie, and their daughter Alberta Christine, are shown on the 1910 census as living at 383 Auburn Avenue in Atlanta.
Alberta Christine Williams

- Mother of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Attended high school at Spelman Seminary in Atlanta
- Enrolled in the Hampton Normal and Industrial Institute in Hampton, Virginia, and received her teaching certificate in March of 1924
- She founded and trained the Ebenezer Baptist Church choir; organized and was president of the Ebenezer Women’s Council from 1950 to 1962; and was the organist in the church from 1932 to 1972
Martin Luther King, Jr.’s grandparents, A. D. and Jennie Williams, and their daughter Alberta, lived at 383 Auburn Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia in 1920.
The Parks Family

Jim Long
b. about 1842/44, VA
d. after 1880, Henry Co., GA

Jane Linsey
b. about 1855, Henry Co., GA
d. after 1880, Henry Co., GA

Willis Williams
b. about 1810, Penfield, GA
d. 1874, Penfield, GA

Lucrecia “Creecy” Daniel
b. about 1840, GA

William Parks
b. about 1825, GA

Fannie
b. about 1829, GA

Rev. Adam Daniel Williams
b. 2 Jan 1863, Penfield, GA
m. 29 Oct 1899, Fulton Co., GA
d. 21 Mar 1931, Atlanta, GA

Jenny Celeste Parks
b. Apr 1873, Atlanta, GA
d. 18 May 1941, Atlanta, GA

Alberta Christine Williams
b. 13 Sep 1903, Atlanta, GA
d. 30 Jun 1974, Atlanta, GA

Martin Luther “Daddy” King, Sr.
(born Michael L. King)
b. 19 Dec 1897, Stockbridge, GA
m. 25 Nov 1926, Atlanta, GA
d. 11 Nov 1984, Atlanta, GA

Delia Linsey
b. Jul 1875, Henry Co., GA
d. 27 May 1924, Stockbridge, GA

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
(born Michael L. King, Jr.)
b. 15 Jan 1929, Atlanta, GA
m. 18 Jun 1953, Marion, AL
d. 4 Apr 1968, Memphis, TN

Coretta Scott
b. 27 Apr 1927, Heiberger, AL
d. 30 Jan 2006, Mexico

Jim Long
b. Dec 1864, Ohio
m. 20 Aug 1895, Stockbridge, GA
d. 17 Nov 1933, Stockbridge, GA

Delia Linsey
b. Jul 1875, Henry Co., GA
d. 27 May 1924, Stockbridge, GA

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Martin Luther King, Jr.’s great-grandparents, William and Frances “Fannie” Parks, were farm laborers in Cross Roads, Cherokee County, Georgia in 1870.
By 1880, the Parks family had moved to Atlanta, where William worked as a carpenter to support his large family.
1900 Census
Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia

William and Fannie Parks lived on Harris Street in Atlanta in 1900.
William and Fannie Parks

- Not much is known about Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Great-Grandparents
- The only information about William and Fannie Parks is what can be gathered from census records
Jennie Celeste Parks

- Jennie was one of 13 children
- Her father was a carpenter in Atlanta
- Jennie was the Grandmother of Martin Luther King, Jr., and was called “Mama” by her family
- She was the president of Ebenezer’s Women’s Missionary Society

- At the age of fifteen, she attended Spelman Seminary in Atlanta
The Linsey Family

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**William Parks**
b. about 1825, GA

**Fannie**
b. about 1829, GA
Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Great-Grandmother, Jane Linsey, lived in Henry County, Georgia with her son, William, in 1870.
Jane Linsey lived in Henry County, Georgia in 1880 with her five children. Delia Linsey was only five years old.
Jim Long and Jane Linsey

- Not much is known about Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Great-Grandparents
- The only information about Jim Long and Jane Linsey is what can be gathered from census records
Delia Linsey

- Grandmother of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Her father, Jim Long, was a former slave
- She had nine children with her husband, James King
- She attended Floyd Chapel Baptist Church in Stockbridge, Georgia with her children
By 1900, Jane Linsey and six of her children lived together in Ellenwood, Georgia. Delia Linsey was married to James King by this time and also lived in Ellenwood.
# 1900 Census

Ellenwood, Clayton County, Georgia

In 1900, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Grandparents, James and Delia King, lived in Ellenwood, Georgia with their three children. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s father, Mike, was two years old in 1900. James was a day laborer.
1910 Census
Stockbridge, Henry County, Georgia

The King family lived at Jonesboro and Covington Road in Stockbridge in Henry County, Georgia. By 1910, James and Delia King had seven children.
James Albert King

- Grandfather of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- James and his wife, Delia, were sharecroppers
- He worked at the rock quarry in Stockbridge for a while
- He and his family moved throughout Henry and Clayton Counties until they finally settled in Stockbridge, Georgia
On February 12, 1970, an article was published in a Henry County newspaper, The *Weekly-Advertiser*, that talked about the King family working on farmland in Stockbridge in Henry County, Georgia. The land was owned by Rosa Lee Smith, who owned large landholdings in Henry County. On this map, the green shaded areas are where Rosa Lee Smith’s farmland was located in Stockbridge.
Martin Luther “Daddy” King, Sr.

- He was born Michael L. King, but he changed both his and his son’s names later to Martin Luther King; he was also known by many as “Daddy King”
- He was the son of sharecroppers and became a country preacher when he grew older
- Michael received his degree from Morehouse College in 1930
- Martin, Sr. became the minister of Ebenezer Baptist Church after the death of his father-in-law in 1931
- Martin Luther King, Sr. resigned from Ebenezer Baptist Church after the death of his wife, Alberta, in 1974
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s father (born Michael King) registered for the draft in Stockbridge, Henry County, Georgia on 12 September 1918. He was 18 years old and listed his mother as his nearest relative.
1920 Census
Stockbridge, Henry County, Georgia

Martin Luther King, Jr.’s grandparents, James and Delia King, still lived in Stockbridge in 1920. Martin Luther King, Sr. had already moved to Atlanta.
In 1930, Martin Luther King, Jr. lived with his parents, Martin Luther, Sr. and Alberta, his Great Aunt Ida, and his cousin Joel at 501 Auburn Avenue in Atlanta. This was the house he and his siblings were born in and also where they grew up.
501 Auburn Avenue

This was the house that the King family lived in on the 1930 Census, as well as the birth home of Martin Luther King, Jr. and his two siblings.
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Graduate of Morehouse College, class of 1948
- He was a leader of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States
- He was a minister at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta with his father
- Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on 4 April 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee
Draft Registration Card for Martin Luther King, Jr.,
23 January 1947

Martin Luther King, Jr. registered for the draft on 23 January 1947 in Atlanta, Georgia. He was a student at Morehouse College and lived with his parents at 193 Boulevard.
Sources and Further Reading

- Draft Registration Card for Martin Luther King, Jr.; Records of the Selective Service System, 1940-, Record Group 147; National Archives and Records Administration – Southeast Region (Atlanta).
- Draft Registration Card for Michael King; Records of the Selective Service System (World War I), Record Group 163; National Archives and Records Administration – Southeast Region (Atlanta).
- *Martin Luther King, Jr.: “Portraits of Outstanding Americans of Negro Origin Painted by Two Women Artists”*: Collection H: Harmon Foundation Collection, 1922 – 1967; Still Picture Records Section, Special Media Archives Services Division (NWCS-S), National Archives at College Park, MD. [Online version on April 13, 2009, available through the online catalog at http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/].
- Morehouse College Web Site. Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia. [Online version available at http://www.morehouse.edu/]
- Morehouse King Collection. Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia. [Online version available at http://www.morehouse.edu/kingcollection/background.html].
Sources and Further Reading

• Photographs of Randolph Street, Harris Street, Boulevard, Auburn Avenue, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Morehouse College, Spelman College, and the tree background on Slides 2, 3, 14, 20, and 26, courtesy of Ashley Judy.


• Spelman College Web Site. Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia. http://www.spelman.edu/.

• Stockbridge Map on Slide 30, drawn by Ashley Judy.


• United States Federal Census Records, 1860-1930; Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives and Records Administration - Southeast Region (Atlanta).