



# The Untold History of the Bullock Family

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## Abstract

Southern Legacies: The Descendants Project is a class oriented around conducting ethnographic research on victims of racial violence in North Carolina. In particular, we focused on the history of the Bullock family who lived in Warren County, N.C. in the early 20th century. All in all, our class is built around history, remembrance, and a commitment to anti-racist social change.

## Objective

Our group's overarching objective was to find descendants of Subet/Susie Bullock and Martha/Margaret Bullock. Once we found their descendants, the ultimate goal was to get into contact with those who were living so that we could interview them. These interviews would offer valuable insight about the descendant's personal experience living in a country defined by racial injustice.

## Methods & Process

In order to conduct and record our research, we utilized the search engine *FamilySearch* and the online family tree maker site *Family Echo*. Through the careful analysis of birth and death certificates, marriage certificates, and newspaper clippings, we were able to piece together a significant portion of Subet and Martha Bullock's personal and descendant history. Beyond our own genealogical research, we also got into contact with a living member of the Bullock family in hopes of conducting an interview. Even though we were able to secure her contact information and establish an interview time, the descendant was unable to follow through for private reasons. This setback in the process of unveiling a rich and unreported history was definitely demoralizing, but we used this failure to redirect our focus to expanding the family tree instead of dwelling on it.

## Results

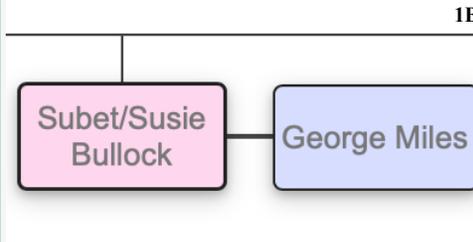
### (1) Subet/Susie Bullock & Family

**1A**



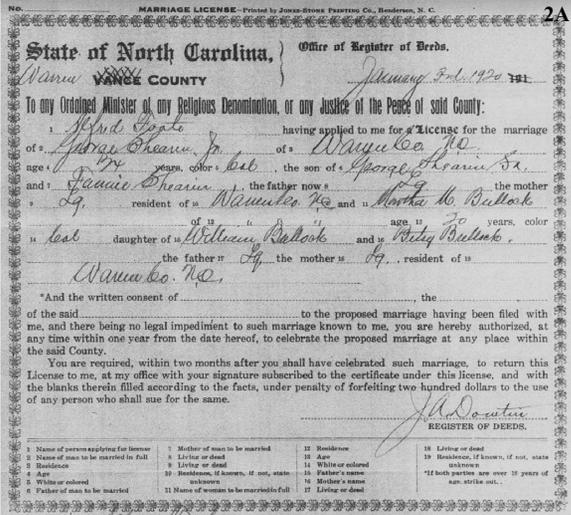
SUSIE E. MILES  
ZPB  
"Sus"  
Dunbar High School, Washington, D.C.  
EDUCATION  
Economics Club.

**1B**

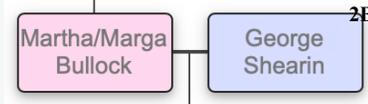


### (2) Martha Bullock & Family

**2A**

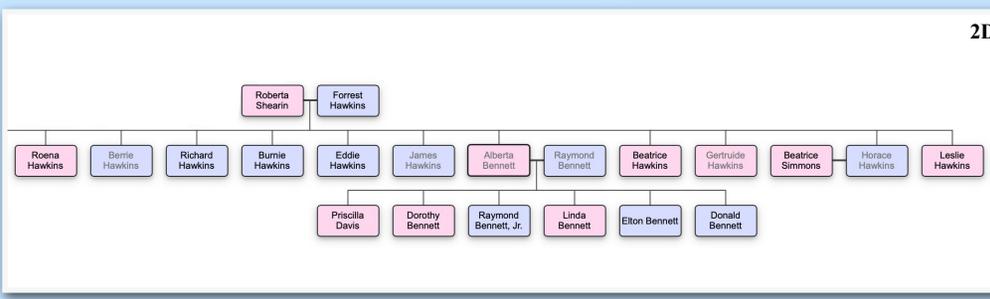


**2B**



**2C**





## Summary of Results

The results on the left showcase our most significant findings from our research.

**1A:** This artifact is the first photograph that has ever been found of Subet "Susie" E. Miles. From a 1931 edition of *The Bison* newspaper, we learned that Susie attended Howard University, was a member of the Zeta Phi Beta chapter, and attended Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C.

**1B:** Though we weren't able to find a marriage certificate, family Bible listings of the Bullock family revealed that on January 24, 1924, a 19-year-old Susie E. Bullock married George W. Miles in D.C. To confirm this, we also found that the 1930 census for D.C. included Susie E. Miles and George W. Miles. Even after extensive searching, we concluded that the couple did not have any children.

**2A:** This artifact is a marriage certificate between Martha Bullock and George Shearin, who wed on January 3rd, 1920 in North Carolina.

**2B:** This artifact is simply a depiction of the 2A marriage certificate as seen on the *Family Echo* family tree we've been constructing.

**2C:** This artifact is a photograph of Alberta Hawkins Bennett, one of the granddaughters of Martha Bullock and George Shearin. Born on July 6th, 1939, she passed away on March 25th, 2011 after bearing six children with her husband Raymond Bennett. The birth years of these children range from 1958-1973, and we were able to successfully get into contact with one of them, that being Elton Bennett.

**2D:** Of the eight children we found for Martha Bullock and George Shearin, their daughter Roberta produced the largest extension to the family tree. Together with Forrest Hawkins, they had 14 children (not all are pictured in the artifact). 2C pictures one of these 14 children, Alberta Hawkins Bennett, as aforementioned. Given our determination to confirm if any of Alberta's children are still alive, we have had little time to research the marriages and descendants of the other 13 children. However, we have confirmed the marriage of Horace Hawkins to Beatrice Simmons on February 5th, 1966 based on a Virginia marriage certificate.

## Conclusions

As our research comes to a close, we can confidently conclude that these two sisters, Subet and Martha Bullock, persevered through the challenges of their ancestral and direct history of racial terror to expand their family's legacy into modern day. These two women may be gone, but their story lives on as we and the future ANTH 370 classes continue to uncover the history that deserves to be told.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Professor Glenn Hinson for advising our team on this project, helping us find potential descendant interviewees, and being a source of great and commendable wisdom for us and the entire class.