

# Who Were the Biological Parents of Grace Clay Hyatt (a.k.a. Adrienne Young)

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**Date:** 10 February 2020

**To:** Dena Caylor

## **Background Summary:**

The client's mother, Grace Clay Hyatt (a.k.a. Adrienne Young) was born either 29 March or 8 April 1906 in the Union Park Maternity Home at 1522 Carroll Avenue in Chicago, Illinois.<sup>1</sup> At two days old, "she was taken from her mother and placed in the home of Lyman B. and Lillian Childs." There she was given the name "Adrienne Childs."<sup>2</sup> Sometime later, the Childs family abandoned her at a "foundling home." There she was discovered by Herbert Howard Hyatt and his wife, Abigail "Abbie" Clay Hyatt. Apparently Grace/Adrienne was a very sickly baby and the Hyatts were advised not to take her. However, they ignored this advice and informally adopted her as "Grace Clay Hyatt."<sup>3</sup> In the 1910 census, she is listed as Grace Hyatt, age four, daughter of Herbert H. and Abbie C. Hyatt.<sup>4</sup> They raised her to adulthood at their home in Joliet, Illinois. An adoption process seems to have been under way around 1922 because Grace "signed adoption papers about age 16."<sup>5</sup> However, Grace always maintained that she was never legally adopted by the Hyatts.<sup>6</sup> Immediately after Herbert Hyatt's funeral in 1940, Grace left permanently and the Hyatt family never heard from her again.<sup>7</sup> Grace married Ralph Bernard Young 2 August 1941 in Chicago.<sup>8</sup> They had two children but divorced around 1945. She never remarried and went by the name Adrienne Young the rest of her life.<sup>9</sup> She died 8 March 1975 in Honolulu, Hawaii.<sup>10</sup>

Grace apparently spent her whole life wanting to know who her biological parents were. According to her daughter, when Grace was a young child she received a few visits from some mysterious lady who wanted her picture taken with her and who wrote some letters to her. She wasn't sure who this person was and always felt the Hyatts were "keeping something from her." Eventually she concluded that the Childs family must be her birth family, which is why she went by the name "Adrienne" in later years.<sup>11</sup> According to Herbert's nephew, Clarence Hyatt, "HHH [Herbert Howard Hyatt] reported, 28 July 1940, her [Grace's] 'mother's name was Flynn; her father was a German.'"<sup>12</sup> Apparently this information did not make it to Grace. Was the mysterious woman the birth mother? Was her name Flynn? No birth certificate was ever found for Grace. There was no state registration of births in Illinois

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1. Hawaii Department of Health, death certificate 151-1975-001045 (1975), Adrienne Grace Young; State of Hawaii Department of Health, Honolulu. She generally used 8 April 1906 as her birth date throughout her life but there was no birth certificate. According to the Hyatt family, her birth date may have been as early as 29 March 1906. For that, and the name of the maternity home, see Clarence E. Hyatt notes on Grace Clay Hyatt 1940, privately held by Michael A. Grootendorst, Blaine, Washington.

2. Clarence Hyatt notes.

3. Dena Caylor, interview by Michael A. Grootendorst, 10 January 2013, notes privately held by interviewer, Blaine, Washington, 2013.

4. 1910 U.S. Census, Will Co., Illinois, population schedule, Joliet, enumeration district 174, page 16A, household of Herbert H. Hyatt; image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 January 2020), citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 334.

5. Clarence Hyatt notes.

6. Dena Caylor, interview, 10 January 2013.

7. Edmond P. Hyatt, interview by Michael A. Grootendorst, 7 January 2013, notes privately held by interviewer, Blaine, Washington, 2013.

8. "Cook County, Illinois Marriage Index, 1930-1960, marriage of Ralph B. Young and Grace Hyatt, 2 August 1941; *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 January 2020).

9. Dena Caylor, interview, 10 January 2013.

10. Hawaii death certificate 151-1975-001045 (1975), Adrienne Grace Young.

11. Dena Caylor, interview, 10 January 2013.

12. Edmond P. Hyatt, "Descendants of Frederick Wetzel Hyatt and Elizabeth Phillips" (Orem, Utah, 2004), 11.

before 1916 and county registrations of birth were not yet universal. No adoption record is accessible. The Illinois Children's Aid Society, which is supposed to have had information on children in the foundling homes, had no file on her.<sup>13</sup> And finally, the Union Park Maternity Home at 1522 Carroll Avenue, run by a Dr. Charles S. Wood, ceased to exist long ago and no records of their activities were found.<sup>14</sup>

### **Objective:**

The client's research objective is to identify the biological parents of her mother, Grace Clay Hyatt (a.k.a. Adrienne Childs). Since a reasonably exhaustive search for documentary evidence was conducted and came up empty-handed, DNA evidence must be sought in order to answer the research question. The client has submitted her DNA to the *AncestryDNA* database and received thousands of matches, including many close matches. An analysis of these should allow her to achieve her goal. *AncestryDNA*'s ethnicity report might also be helpful. In addition, the client's granddaughter has also done a mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) test with *FamilyTreeDNA*. Since she is in the direct female line of Grace and her birth mother, this might also provide some clues or confirmation.

### **Research Findings:**

The human genetic code is composed of 23 pairs of chromosomes. One of each pair comes from our father and one from our mother. Because of this, *AncestryDNA* is able to separate our genetic matches according to parent. All the researcher has to do is to identify which parent (parent 1 or parent 2) is the paternal and which is the maternal. In most cases, including the client's, it is easy to do this. Her paternal family is well known, making it obvious which matches are related through her father. Once we have identified one group as paternal, the other can be identified as maternal. By looking at a few of the family trees attached to those maternal matches, and then using the "shared matches" feature, we should be able to group those matches into smaller clusters. These represent those related through Grace's father and those related through her mother. Going down the list of matches, we should be able to identify further, smaller clusters corresponding to each of Grace's grandparents. When we do this with her closest matches, three main clusters become apparent:

1. Descendants of James Henry Lewis (1874-1942), an English born Methodist minister who lived several years in Evanston, Illinois, ten miles north of Chicago.
2. Descendants of Daniel Cole and his wives, Ann and Elizabeth Newman (1807-1853). They were from England. Although Ann died young, Daniel and Elizabeth settled in Northfield, Illinois, about four miles northwest of Evanston around 1850.<sup>15</sup>
3. Descendants of August Kozmin (1826-1908) and his brother Julius Kozmin (1823-1909), post-Civil War immigrants to northern Cook County, Illinois from the area of Rettkewicz (Redkowice), Pomerania, Germany (now Poland).<sup>16</sup>

From this, we know that Grace was closely related to James Henry Lewis, Daniel Cole and the Kozmins. None of the Lewis cluster overlaps with the Cole or Kozmin clusters. But a number of the closest Cole matches are indeed related to the Kozmins. This tells us that one of Grace's parents was a Lewis and one was related to both the Coles and the Kozmins. This fits the *AncestryDNA* ethnicity report. According to their analysis, the client shows 17% eastern European descent, all from her mother's side.<sup>17</sup> This tells us that one of Grace's parents was of at least half eastern European ancestry and that Grace's daughter inherited a larger than average percentage of DNA from that particular great-grandparent.<sup>18</sup>

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13. Illinois Children's Home and Aid, letter, 12 April 2013, privately held by Michael A. Grootendorst, Blaine, Washington.

14. For a sample of one of their old advertisements, see: E.E. Dorr M.D., ed., *Iowa Medical Journal, Volume 16, Issue 3* (Des Moines, Iowa: Iowa State Medical Society, 1909), 22; digital images, *Google Books* (<http://books.google.com> : accessed 10 January 2020). Many others can be found online.

15. Michael A. Grootendorst, "The Cole Lineage of Grace Clay Hyatt," privately held by author, 2020.

16. "AncestryDNA Results for Dena Caylor," database report, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed January 2020).

17. "AncestryDNA Results for Dena Caylor," ethnicity report, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed January 2020).

18. A person inherits an average of 12.5% of their DNA from any particular great-grandparent. But the further back you go, the more this can vary.



If Grace was the daughter of JHL, most of these matches would be half 1<sup>st</sup> cousins (H1C) to the client. Most of these cM numbers could easily fit with either a half first cousin or a second cousin relationship. 169 is very low and might suggest a second cousin relationship, making Grace a daughter of one of JHL's brothers. On the other hand, 543, in the case of Frank Lewis, would be extremely high for a second cousin relationship, although not impossible. The combination of this latter figure, the fact that the other centiMorgan numbers also lean towards a half-second cousin relationship, and all the other evidence laid out above, strongly suggests that James Henry Lewis was Grace's birth father.

*Who Was Grace's Mother?*

We know that Grace's mother must have been a daughter of either George S. Cole and Julia Leonhardt or Joseph H. Cole and Mathilde Leonhardt. Altogether, nine young women fit this description:

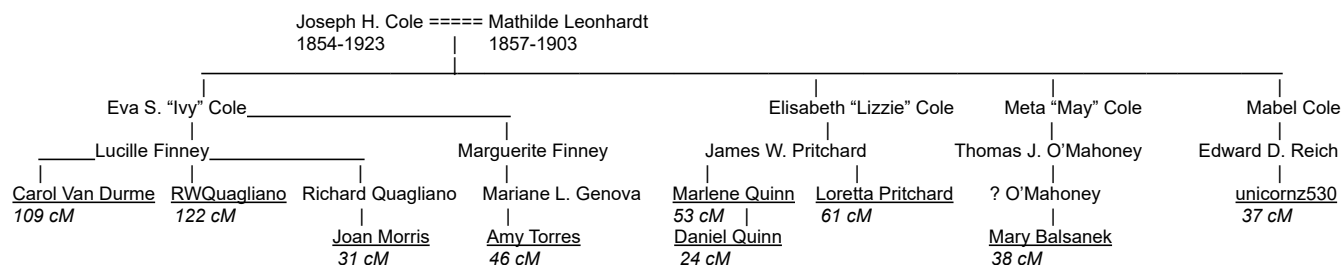
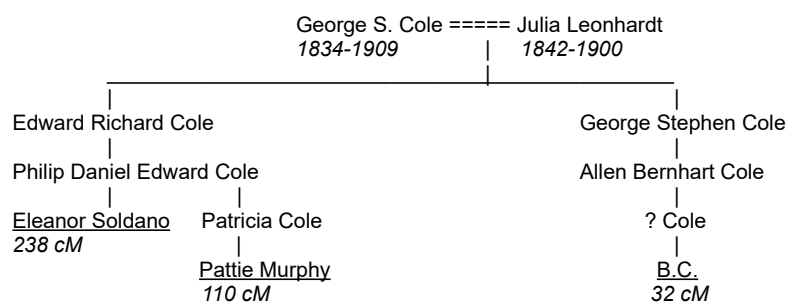
<b>George S. Cole &amp; Julia Leonhardt</b>	<b>Joseph H. Cole &amp; Mathilde Leonhardt</b>
<u>Elizabeth</u> (1870-1909), married John Arthur Smith Bailey in 1892, lived in Highland Park, Illinois	<u>Grace Corilla</u> (1877-1948), married Henry Lundberg in 1894, lived in Chicago
<u>Ella C.</u> (1872-1947), never married, lived in Northbrook, Illinois	<u>Eva Stella "Ivy"</u> (1880-1959), married Charles Pagni (Finney) in 1914, lived in Chicago
<u>Lulu P.</u> (1874-1937), never married, lived in Northbrook, Illinois	<u>Elisabeth Albertine Maria "Lizzie"</u> (1882-1911), married William Pritchard in 1905, lived in Chicago
<u>Lillie May</u> (1879-1906), never married, lived in Northbrook, Illinois	<u>Meta Maria Margaretha "May"</u> (1885-1933), married Lawrence O'Mahoney in 1905, lived in Chicago
	<u>Mabel Hazel</u> (1897-1971), married Edward Ernest Reich in 1917, lived in Chicago

In order to use DNA to narrow down the possibilities, the following must be kept in mind. We should see higher amounts of shared DNA from the descendants of Grace's grandparents when compare to the descendants of her great uncle and aunt. However, this situation is more complicated than usual. George and Joseph were technically half-brothers. They had different mothers. Daniel Cole first married Ann Newman, who gave birth to George. Years later, he was married to Ann's sister Elizabeth Newman, who gave birth to Joseph.<sup>26</sup> So George and Joseph, who are twenty years apart, are sort of "three quarter" siblings, genetically half way between full and half siblings. To make matters even more complicated, Julia and Mathilde were probably sisters, although this has not been proven. They had the same maiden name. They were both born in the same village in Pomerania. Both of their descendants show a close genetic connection with the Kozmin (Cosmen) family, who also came from the same village in Pomerania. The Kozmin connection has to be through Julia and Mathilde. Finally, Mathilde's mother, Wilhelmina Leonhardt, who was born around 1816, was definitely old enough to be Julia's mother as well, even though Julia and Mathilde were fifteen years apart.<sup>27</sup> If we make the assumption that these two were full sisters, then the great-grandchildren of one of the couples should share, on average, 7/512 (1.367% or 95-100 cM) of their DNA, with the great-grandchildren of the other couple. The great-grandchildren of only one of these couples, however, would simply be second-cousins of each other and share, on average, about 1/32 (3.125% or 218-225 cM) of their DNA. In other words, among the descendants of the non-ancestral couple, the average shared centiMorgan count should be only 7/16, a little less than half of what it is among the closer related descendants of the ancestral couple. Of course, the more DNA matches we have, the easier it is to know what the average is. So what does the data show?

26. Michael A. Grootendorst, "The Cole Lineage of Grace Clay Hyatt," privately held by author, 2020.

27. "Hamburg, Passenger Lists, 1850-1934," passenger list for ship Ariadne, Wilhelmina Leonhardt family, departed Hamburg, Germany 19 May 1873; image, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 18 January 2020).

The following charts show how the client's relevant DNA matches descend from both couples:



With this data available, we can go back to our list of possibilities and see if they work. Beginning with Joseph and Mathilde's daughters, Grace Corilla Cole is out because she was married and pregnant with her sixth child Lillian at the time of young Grace's birth.<sup>28</sup> Lizzie, May and Mabel are out because the shared centiMorgan numbers of their descendants are way too low for such a close genetic relationship with the client. Mabel was also too young to have a baby in 1906. The only remote possibility among Joseph's daughters is Ivy, who was known as Ivy Finney most of her life. Is this the lady that Herbert Hyatt remembered as Flynn? She might very well be, but she is almost certainly not Grace's birth mother. Ivy was single in 1905/1906, and the shared cM numbers of her descendants are a lot higher, but they are still extremely low for half first cousins and half-first cousins once removed.

Under George and Julia's descendants we see a couple cM figures far more in line with second cousin relationships. In fact, their great-granddaughter Eleanor has almost twice as much shared DNA as the closest match among Joseph and Mathilde's descendants. This indicates that Grace's birth mother was almost certainly one of their daughters. Elizabeth is unlikely because she was married at the time of Grace's birth and up until her death in 1909. Looking at genetic evidence alone, there is no way of determining which of the three remaining, Ella, Lulu or Lillie May gave birth to Grace.

### *Circumstantial Evidence Points Toward Lillie*

There is some circumstantial evidence which suggests Lillie May Cole might be the birth mother of Grace. Lillie died at age 26 on 14 June 1906 of pernicious anemia.<sup>29</sup> This was only two months after the birth of Grace. At the time, pernicious anemia was always fatal and, given the nature of the disease, it is certain that Lillie was in declining health for months. This means that the disease would almost certainly have affected the developing baby, which could explain why Grace was so sickly as an infant. Also, Lillie's declining health and death could also explain why James Henry Lewis did not endanger his first marriage with the much older Lillie St. John by running away with the younger

28. "Cook County, Illinois, U.S., Birth Certificates Index, 1871-1922," birth of Lillian Ruth Lundberg, 13 July 1906, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 November 2017).

29. Illinois State Board of Health, death certificate of Lillie May Cole, copy emailed by Janet Rogers ([rogers1031@aol.com](mailto:rogers1031@aol.com)) 24 November 2017, digital copy held by Michael A. Grootendorst, 2017.

Lillie Cole. Instead, this would wait four years, at which time he finally did leave his first wife for the younger woman, Ruby Theo Shaw.

Another thing possible pointing to Lillie is the fact that Lulu and Ella lived for decades as spinsters after the birth of Grace. If either one of them was the mother, why didn't they show more interest in the child? They never had husbands or families of their own and they were already in their thirties. It's strange that they wouldn't have kept their own baby or at least showed some interest later on. Of course, this can and does happen but it seems that a mother's sickness and impending death is a better explanation for why a woman over 26 years old would give away her baby.

Another interesting fact is that, as mentioned above, Miss Cole's double first cousin, Grace, who lived in Chicago, gave birth to a daughter named Lillian on 13 July 1906, only a month after the death of her cousin, Lillie.<sup>30</sup> The name was obviously not a coincidence.<sup>31</sup> But could it also be that three months earlier, Lillie Cole had had a baby and named her Grace? We can't know for sure. If so, it could be that when Herbert and Abbie Hyatt came upon baby Grace at the foundling home, they merely used the name she had been given at birth. It would have been a sad irony if Grace had abandoned a name she may very well have got from her birth mother *in the very effort to connect with her true origins!*<sup>32</sup>

It is certainly possible that Lillie went to the big city of Chicago to receive help from her relatives there, namely, Grace Lundberg and Ivy Finney. It could be that Ivy Finney was in fact the woman who visited and wrote to Grace as a child. Herbert, when passing the information to his nephew Clarence Hyatt just before his death, may have misremembered the name as Flynn. As for the father being a German, this too may have been an old man's distorted memory of a long ago conversation. Both Lillie and Ivy did grow up in German speaking communities. Perhaps Mr. Hyatt assumed the father was from her community.

### **Conclusion:**

The combination of DNA and traditional genealogical evidence makes it extremely likely that James Henry Lewis was Grace's biological father and that one of George and Julia (Leonhardt) Cole's daughters was the biological mother. Circumstantial evidence suggests that Lillie May Cole may have been this mother, although it cannot be proven at this time. Proving this would require a currently inaccessible adoption record or some obscure old letter which will probably never see the light of day. Similarly, the exact circumstance of the relationship between James Henry Lewis and Miss Cole will also, barring some miraculous discovery, probably never be known.

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30. "Cook County, Illinois, U.S., Birth Certificates Index, 1871-1922," birth of Lillian Ruth Lundberg, 13 July 1906; *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 January 2020).

31. Although many Ancestry family trees list her as "Lillian May Cole," a document has not yet been found showing this as her name. It may indeed have been "Lillian" but until there is proof, she will continue to be referred to as "Lillie."

32. "Adrienne" was merely a name given to her by the Childs family. Evidently, after abandoning Grace, whom they had adopted as "Adrienne," they then either adopted or gave birth to another daughter they named Adrienne. A two year old "Adrienne Childs" lived in the home of the widowed Lillian Childs in 1910, the same census that shows that Grace Hyatt, age four, lived in Joliet in the household of Herbert H. Hyatt. 1910 U.S. Census, Cook Co., Illinois, pop. sch., Chicago Ward 26, ED 1121, p. 8B, fam. 170, household of Lillian M. Childs; image, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 November 2017), citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 271.