

Anthony Monroe Weiss and Ellen Sledge

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After I did my DNA test on Ancestry I was contacted by C.S. who thought we had shared ancestry. A little bit of research showed that indeed we did. We are fourth cousins. She (C.S.) is a great-great-granddaughter of Abraham Weiss, the brother of Babette Weiss Boscowitz, who is my great-great-grandmother.

The following is primarily based on what C.S. wrote, as well as what I dug up. C.S. is a professor of political science at a university in New York City.

The third son of Abraham and Rachel, namely Anthony Monroe Weiss (1856-1926), had 5 sons with Ellen Sledge (1855-1926). What C.S. did not originally tell me was that Anthony Monroe and Ellen did not and could not marry. Ellen was listed as black, or mulatto, and thus too were all of their offspring. The sons all took the family name of Weiss.

From C.S. in answer to some questions: "Anthony Monroe Weiss ran a store in the tiny town of Demopolis, Alabama, and that is where Ellen Sledge lived. She was the daughter of a slave named Martha and one of her enslaver's sons, Leven A. Sledge. The relationship between Anthony and Ellen seemed to have been consensual, but of course, they could never marry because it was the Deep South after all and that kind of marriage didn't happen. Anthony Monroe Weiss set up his sons in various lines of work so they could earn a living. My grandfather, Gus Weiss, sold insurance; his brother, Ed, ran a funeral home; and two other brothers, Leven and Walter (my grandfather's twin brothers), ran little shops in town. At some point, Anthony left Demopolis and moved to Mobile. I have been told that once Ellen went to visit him in Mobile and he asked how she was doing, to which she replied, "I'm fine. My sons are taking care of me." That says a lot about her.

I once asked my grandfather to tell me about his father and he didn't answer my question at all. I took his silence to indicate mixed emotions because Anthony Monroe Weiss left his mother, and my grandfather was very close to his mother. When she got sick near the end of her life, he brought her from Alabama up to Detroit so she could get better health care up North."

These 5 sons were born between 1881 and 1888. In late 1888 or early 1889, Anthony Monroe returned to Mobile, Alabama. In 1889 he married Alice Forcheimer who was born in Mobile, and whose family were also German Jews. Unfortunately she died within 3 years of their marriage. From what I can determine, Anthony Monroe (known as A.M.) never remarried. He is buried, as is much of his family, in the Springhill Avenue Temple Cemetery in Mobile. Only two of Anthony Monroe's siblings married. I do not know if any of their descendants are alive today.

However there are many, many descendants from the Weiss-Sledge relationship.

They have family reunions, see
<https://sites.google.com/site/weisssledge/>
The next reunion will be in August, 2025, in Washington, D.C.

Allan