DNA Studies

In Search Of

GGG-Grandmother, Paulina

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Boulder, CO
19 May 2024

Introduction

Several years ago, I beat the bushes looking for more solid information about my maternal third great-grandmother who was known as Paulina. Here is an article I wrote about that round of research, which was, ultimately, inconclusive. Now, more DNA tests have been taken and more tools are available for analyzing the results. Maybe DNA studies can turn up some new clues about my mysterious Paulina.

For these studies, I am using my own autosomal test results from ancestryDNA as well as their reports about shared DNA, ethnicity, matches, and shared matches. I have exported my test results to FTDNA, My Heritage, and GEDmatch. In addition, I have also taken the test at 23andMe.

Because this article is about DNA studies, I think it's important to explain the tools and methods that I have used in this process. In particular, I think it's also relevant to mention the functionality of ancestryDNA since so much of this study rides on their platform. Regarding ancestryDNA:

- I believe they now have the largest family-matching database of testers. That said, I always have to remind myself that not everybody in the world has taken a DNA test. The current estimate is that 26 million Americans have tested, of a current population of about 342 million. There's a good chance that nobody from the origin family of Paulina has taken the test, or worse, that no descendants from her origin family have survived to present day. In either case, any DNA studies will be fruitless.
- ancestryDNA uses an application they call Timber to weight the shared segments between two testers. Most testers share DNA because they share a common ancestor, however sometimes DNA can be shared by people of the same ethnicity or community. ancestry uses their program and their large database of testers to give less weight to DNA segments they believe are unlikely to have been inherited by a common ancestor. I guess they do this so that users aren't overwhelmed by the number of matches they have, many of which might not be matches coming from a common ancestor, or so they tell us.
- For each match, ancestryDNA reports the total shared DNA and the longest segment, and then gives their estimation for possible relationships between testers. ancestryDNA is really the only company which does *not* provide users access to the complete details of a DNA match, i.e., which specific segments are matching on which specific chromosomes. To get this information, I had to export my test results from ancestry and upload them to FTDNA, My Heritage, and GEDmatch. These latter companies provide all the detailed information associated with each match, and provide a chromosome browser for easier visualization of the data.
- ancestryDNA throws out all matches that share less than 8 cM of DNA because, I guess, they consider it best for most casual users. Even so, I have found valid matches that fall below that threshold, and the only way I know that is by exporting my ancestry test results to another company.
- ancestryDNA is able to sort one's matches between Paternal, Maternal, Both Sides and Unassigned. I have found this function to be generally accurate in its sorting of Paternal and Maternal matches, but I can't vouch for the other categories because I've found matches in each where I know which side the match belongs to.
- ancestryDNA also has a function called ThruLines which uses the family trees linked to testers' DNA results to help determine how testers are related. The problems are a) most testers don't

attach a public tree to their test results, and b) many testers don't have a complete or even accurate tree.

- I took my test with ancestryDNA over 10 years ago now, and I have seen the ethnicity estimates for me and all other matches vary wildly over time. They apparently keep adjusting their algorithm as more testers come into their database – but I really don't trust their ethnicity reports much at all.

Finally, I am a big fan of the DNA Painter site. They offer many tools for DNA studies, and the ones I use most frequently are:

- Shared cM tool – based on reports from users about how much DNA is shared with known relations.
- WATO – What Are the Odds? This tool uses probabilities to investigate how someone might fit into a known family tree based on the amounts of DNA they share with people within that tree. This tool is not exactly intuitive to use, and I can't really say that it's actually helped me to solve any real problems, yet, but I already appreciate how it can provide a different way to approaching brick wall problems. I'm still carving out time to focus on the latest release of this tool to see if it might be able to apply more suggestions for identifying Paulina and her family of origin.
- Chromosome Maps. I find this tool incredibly helpful in keeping track of which testers are related to me via which of my family lines. It is, however, frustrating, because one needs the exact chromosome data from each match in order to paint in on the chromosome map. The majority of my matches are on ancestryDNA, and the majority of those will never upload their results to another site, never mind answer any request to do so. We have a powerful tool that could easily solve a number of problems, but not enough data to put into it. Sigh.

Reviewing Last Research

In the last round of research, I explored the three different surnames associated with Paulina: Vanatta, Nichols, and Lauton/Lawton. Of those surnames, I focused on Vanatta and Van Etten (VE), particularly one Van Etten family group found in early Wayne county, New York:

- Jacob/James VE and wives Janet Loew and Sarah Decker. He died in Lyons, Wayne, NY in 1825! Unconfirmed children were: John, Peter, Daniel, Jane, Margaret, Jacob, Henry, Catherine, and Samuel. Most of these names appear in the censuses and deeds of early Wayne. I believe the Henry VE from this family group lived in Arcadia, Wayne, NY in 1830, just as did Moses Root, father of Charles Wheeler Root, father of our Eliza Jane Root. The Henry VE household definitely included females who would have been around the estimated age of Paulina.

Van Etten Match

Trying to find any DNA match to support the idea that this particular Van Etten family might be the source of Paulina's DNA has been a problem. For one thing, the Search by Surname in Matches' Trees is not easy in this case because of numerous spelling variations of this surname, and the Include Similar Surnames option is really a waste of time. So even when I have the patience to slog through any way, and I am able to locate matches who have some variation of Van Etten in their tree, I can only make

note because, unfortunately, I believe that I have other Dutch DNA in my family which comes from the same areas of New York and New Jersey where Jacob/James VE came from. So that complicates the mission for me, but other researchers without other Dutch influence in their family tree might have better luck.

So for several years now, there's been no identifiable DNA match to back up my theory about Henry VE, until now. One small match from tester Gale Martin has appeared who descends from John Van Etten and Sarah Van Noy, John having been the presumed brother of Henry. Even more interesting is that this tester has several shared matches, some of which I've been trying to figure out for years. And finally, Paul D. Williams, a Coquigne-Root descendant also shares this match. We have progress!

I will point out here that this match has probably been around for awhile, and I just couldn't find it because the shared DNA is only 14 cM and as mentioned, the search function for this surname is difficult at best. Here is the strategy I employed to enable finding such matches:

- The family tree I have attached to my DNA results is one that I created specifically to be seen by other DNA testers, but also by ancestry's ThruLines program. This tree includes the basic skeleton of my family tree on both sides of my family whereas the "real" trees I work from are separate, one for my mother's side and one for my father's side.
- In this special tree attached to my DNA results, I added Henry Van Etten as the father of Paulina Van Etten, and I also added Henry's parents and siblings. I marked Paulina and Henry with comments indicating my speculation and nothing has been proved. I did this knowing that ThruLines and the Common Ancestors functions are simply comparing all the gazillions of public family trees out there. If any of those trees have the same members of the Van Etten group I'm interested in and the owner of that tree is a match to me, then I have found a match candidate to support my idea. I just needed to trick ancestryDNA into using my hypothesis in its family tree comparisons.

So I'm happy to finally have a Van Etten DNA match, but I realize that I might have conjured it by tricking the system. That means there's reason to dig more deeply into the shared matches of Gale Martin while waiting to see if the system produces any more Van Etten matches.

Methodology

So what is the goal of this study? To find DNA matches that can help identify the mother of Eliza Jane Root (EJR) 1837-1908 who married John Baptiste Coquigne (JBC) 1827-1914. EJR's mother's given name was supposedly Paulina.

When faced with thousands of DNA matches, how are we going to find the ones that will help find the family group of Paulina? The first task is to attempt to separate the DNA matches into different family lines, narrowing down as we go.

Custom Groups

ancestryDNA allows us to tag each match so you can begin to see matches grouped together. The custom groups I have created for this study are:

- Coquigne-Root – this group has several matches, anybody who descends from JBC *and* EJR. I know or have figured out how everybody on this list is related to me – they are all 3rd cousins or 3C once or twice removed.
- Coquigne-Only – this group has many fewer matches who descend from one of JBC's siblings or anybody else up the line from JBC, such as an aunt or uncle. This is a small group since JB had only one sister and one brother who survived to adulthood, and the brother is thought not to have had children. Also JB was born in France, and his parents both had many siblings, but I have not traced any of them or their descendants to America in the early 1800s. See Appendix A, Coquigne Matches.
- Root-Only – this group is also fairly small, comprised of matches who descend from siblings of Charles Wheeler Root (EJR's father), or any aunt or uncle of CW Root. See Appendix A, Root Matches.
- Denison-Only – again a smaller group, comprised of matches who descend from siblings of Charles Wheeler Root's mother, Hannah Denison.

It takes a bit of time to go through one's matches and tag them with one of these groups. Search via Thrulines or using the Common Ancestor filter helps – these functions let you easily tag those matches who have attached a family tree to their DNA results. But many testers haven't attached a tree, and/or their trees are private or quite incomplete. Of those testers, their shared DNA should be above 20-30 cM before tagging them with a Star to circle back for later research.

My process for tagging matches for this study goes like this:

- From my ancestryDNA match list, select the group Maternal (Paulina is on my mother's side but she might be on a different side for another tester).
- From the Maternal matches, select Common Ancestors. This is a quick way to review those testers who have attached a family tree to their test results.
- Select Unviewed. This lets me see if any new matches have appeared since the last time I looked.
- For any new (previously unviewed) matches, check the common ancestor, add any notes, and add that match to one or more of the custom groups.

Process of Elimination

For purposes of this study, which is identifying the family of EJ Root's mother, I have to ignore everybody in these four custom groups because they have either Coquigne or Root or Denison DNA, lines that are related to EJR's husband, JB Coquigne, or her father, CW Root. We are looking only for testers who might be descendants from EJR's mother Paulina's side of the family.

Now to see which matches are reported to share DNA with me and my Coquigne-Root relations but have not yet been grouped. My process steps are:

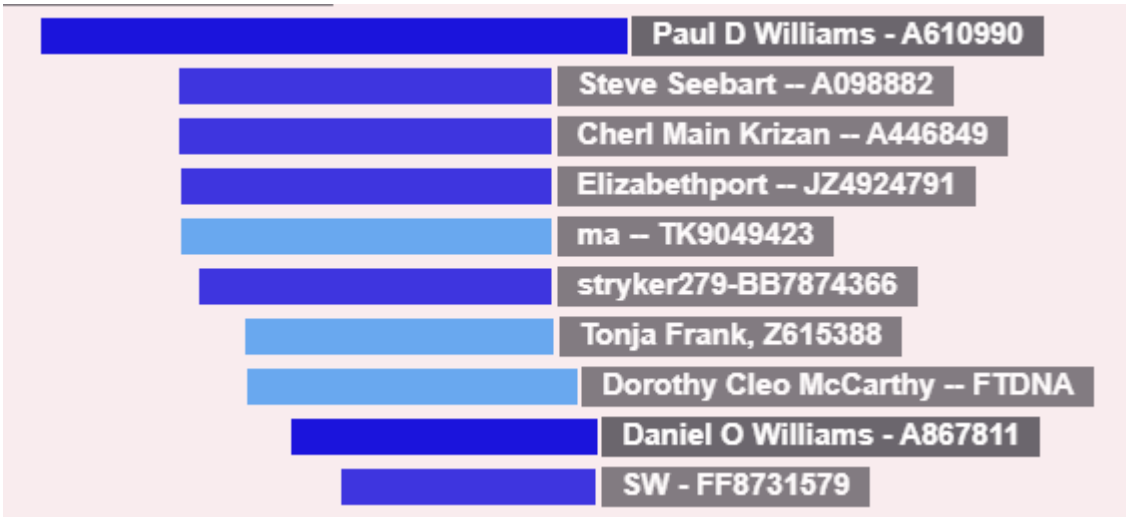
- Refresh my ancestryDNA match list – no filters or custom groups on.
- Turn on the Coquigne-Root group. I should be looking at list of most of the testers who descend from JBC and EJR. The thinking here is that everybody on this list should have inherited some of Paulina's DNA.
- Go down the list of Coquigne-Root matches, and open each match. From the match page, selected Shared Matches. Scroll down the Shared Matches list looking for any match that *has not been assigned to one of the four custom groups yet*. The thinking here is that everybody who has been grouped is related to EJ's husband or her father's side of the family. Anybody who is not grouped is a) a shared match to Coquigne-Root matches and b) not identified with EJ's paternal side, c) then theoretically and thus possibly related to EJ's maternal side.
- If an ungrouped match has no family tree attached or their attached tree is private, one obviously has to move on. However, if the shared cM is fairly high, take note to contact the tester and ask for more information about their family tree.
- If an ungrouped match does have a family tree attached, open it and look for:
    - the surname of Vannatta, Nichols, Lauton. This is not so easy using ancestry's Search – Surname in Matches' Trees function because they don't allow wildcards and their Include Similar Surnames function is all over the place. I have found the fastest method (for me) that answers my immediate question is:
        - Open the shared match's tree
        - Click Find in Tree
        - Click List of All People
        - In the Last Name field enter the first letters of the surname you're looking for. In this case, I enter "nic" or "la" or "van" – in each instance I should pick up all spellings of Nichols, Lauton, or Vanatta if those surnames exist in that tree
    - the residence of directly related individuals, especially those alive from 1800-1840, and especially those in Michigan or New York. (not so easy for New York, lots of families in that state in those years – try to spot western NY towns and counties if possible)
    - add notes to the match with brief description of surnames and place names
    - repeat the process until you get to matches with shared DNA amounts that are too small to consider. Note that I don't really like or trust ancestry's approach to weighting certain segments, so I usually research matches as low as 10 cM and have found some of interest in doing so!
- Now review the ungrouped matches again, trying to note any surname that they all might have in common. In the case of this study, I identified six DNA matches to me who all had the FROST surname. See Appendix A, Frost Matches.
- I started a test tree to build out the ancestry of these Frost matches and found that they all descend from Luke Frost and Mary Kent. See Appendix B, Frost Research.

Analysis

So we have discovered a family group that might be related some how to our mysterious Paulina, but now what? Usually this is a point where the research get stalled because it often depends on communication with other testers, many of whom are unavailable for many reasons. Nevertheless, brick walls don't fall without first trying to use all available resources, which includes human interaction with those connected to our mutual family history. So here we go, trying.

Triangulating Chromosome

In order to study the chromosome data of the Frost matches, I could contact each of the Frost-related testers and ask them to export their results to another platform where we can see more information about how we match, but from my experience there is usually no answer to such a request. However, in this case, one of the six Frost testers had already exported her test results to several of the other platforms, and so I was able to add her match data to the chromosome map I created on DNA Painter. Luckily, I had already painted the matching DNA segments of some known Coquigne and Root testers who have also exported from ancestry or tested elsewhere. Here is a partial view of my chromosome 2 maternal set:



All these segments are triangulating, indicating that I most certainly share with these testers a common ancestor. Of these testers:

- The two Williams testers are known to me, descendants of Louisa Coquigne, a daughter of JB Coquigne and EJ Root.
- Seebart, Krizan, Elizabethport, stryker279, and SW are unknown to me, but they are painted here because they are triangulating on this segment, so there must be a connection. Research is in process which includes reaching out to these testers!
- The light blue segments are Frost-related testers.

If the Frost testers are matching the Williams testers who are Coquigne-Root descendants, *and* we got to the Frost testers by eliminating testers who were Coquigne-Only and Root-Only, then I think we are likely looking at the DNA of Eliza Jane Root's mother, Paulina.

Cross-Checking

Because of the random way in which DNA is passed along, I have found that it's rather key to compare match lists with those whose relationship is known to me. The match variations between related testers are usually surprising. The comparison can be done by:

- asking the tester to share their match list with you, preferably as a collaborator (a Settings option from the DNA home page). Some people don't like doing this, feeling their privacy is in danger. But from my viewpoint, sharing a match list is just that – one is not sharing the actual data from the DNA test, just the list of people who match the tester. This is the quickest way I've found to identify additional testers who might have clues to a certain DNA project like this one.
- asking the tester to check their match list themselves, given the tester names you're looking for. In this case, I corresponded with some known Coquigne-Root testers and gave them the six user names of the Frost testers I recently discovered (see Frost Matches), asking if they had the same or at least some of the same matches.

I started by asking Paul D Williams to share his match list with me, which he did and which has been extremely helpful to this research (thanks, Paul). Paul is my third cousin, once removed, verified by DNA matching. We believe that the ancestors we have in common are John Baptiste (JB) Coquigne and Eliza Jane (EJ) Root. All the Frost matches I have identified also match Paul on his paternal side.

Here are the results of other cross-checking so far:

Tester	**# of Frost Matches**	**Notes**
Paul D. Williams	all 6 matches that I have	descends from Louisa Coquigne and Henry K Spillane
romiclem Dennis LeMieux	none no reply yet	descends from Amelie Coquigne and Franklin Gilbert
EileenEvelyn Jenni Rieck	no reply yet no reply yet	descends from Helen Coquigne and Nathaniel Goodyear
Dusty Wetton N.B.	no reply yet no reply yet	descends from Emily Coquigne and Daniel Brown, DW is match to PDW but not me

The Root-Only Problem

While having access to the match list of Paul D Williams, I also wanted to cross-check that Paul has the same matches that I do in the Coquigne-Only, Root-Only, and Denison-Only custom groups I had identified for this project. I would expect to find that we share at least some of the matches from those custom groups. Here's what I found:

- Paul and I both share one Coquigne-Only match. Then he has one match that I don't, and I have one match that he doesn't, so that's interesting but not really a surprise. It's expected that known cousins get some matches that the other does not.
- I have 13 Root-Only matches from descendants of siblings of CW Root. Paul has none of these matches. A further search among Paul's matches for those with the Root surname in them did not result in any matches that are connected to Moses Root.
- I have four Denison-Only matches from descendants of siblings of Hanna Denison. Again, Paul has none of these matches.

The last two results are a surprise to me, and further verification is needed to find out if other relatives of Paul's have the same results.

I think these results complicate this study of Van Etten and Frost families by presenting a separate but related research question: Could it be that some descendants of JB Coquigne and EJ Root are not Root-related at all? If so, what possible explanation?

The first thing is to review the family group of JBC and EJR. See Appendix C – Coquigne-Root Family Group. As one can see from the birth order of the children of JBC and EJR, my ancestor, Eugene Peter, was the fourth-born child from those Coquigne children we know about. Paul William's ancestor, Louise Coquigne Spillane, was the second-born child. So what does it mean that a descendant of Eugene has Root DNA, but a descendant of Louise does not? The idea occurs to me that Louise had a different biological mother than EJ Root.

To test this idea out, I sent a list of 10 Root-Only matches to the other DNA matches from our Coquigne-Root family group – one descends from the oldest Coquigne, Helen Coquigne Goodyear, and the other descends from the youngest, Millie Coqugine Gilbert. I asked them to check their match lists to see if my Root-Only matches also match them.

The answers returned were:

- from the descendant of the oldest Coquigne, Helen Coquigne Goodyear, No. Like Paul Williams, this tester matches none of the Root-Only matches that I have.
- from the descendant of the youngest, Millie Coquigne Gilbert, the answer was Yes For Some, in fact exactly half, 5 of my 10 Root-Only matches also match this tester.

I have requests out to two more testers, but even without their reply, a pattern I suspect could be emerging. The Coquigne children born before Eugene Peter do not have Root DNA, and the Coquigne children born after Eugene Peter and including him do have Root DNA.

Discussion

This DNA study started by looking for matches related to the family group of Jacob Van Etten and Sarah Decker, this based on my theory that the Plina Vanatta recorded as mother of Eliza Jane Root Coquigne might have been the daughter of Henry Van Etten from this Van Etten-Decker family group. And one small match to this Van Etten family group has finally been located! But one is not enough, especially at the low amount of shared DNA. There's plenty of work to do researching the various shared matches to this one Van Etten match, work I flagged for later. Meanwhile, I wanted to keep this study moving forward.

I then proceeded to group my ancestryDNA matches in the effort to isolate which matches might be pointing to the mother Eliza Jane Root. This process resulted in identifying at least six matches who can clearly be tied to four sons of Luke Frost (1782-1877) and Mary Kent (1791-1865).

In trying to determine how the Frost matches are related, I strongly suspect they are pointing to the DNA of Paulina because:

- The evidence showing the migration of the Coquigne family from France to America makes it all but impossible that the Coquignes and the Frosts were ever connected. That leaves the family line of EJ Root as the source of the Frost DNA matches.
- There are several records of the Luke Frost family in Wayne County, New York between 1830 and 1840. So we know that some members of the Luke Frost family and our Moses Root family were around the same place around the same time.
- Paul Williams also shares the same Frost matches. He is believed to descend from JB Coquigne and EJ Root, like me. In addition, Paul Williams may not have inherited Root DNA, meaning he is not Root-related. If Paul is not Root-related, then the Frost DNA he inherited could not have come from CW Root, which means he got the Frost DNA from Paulina. And if Paul got his Frost DNA from Paulina, most likely so did I.
    - I must note a caveat here because one other Coquigne-Root descendant (romiclem, see the Analysis section, Cross-Checking) does *not* match any of my Frost testers. I don't have an explanation for that, and need to continue this study by contacting more Coquigne-Root descendants.

A New Scenario

So given the DNA evidence, can we piece together a family story that makes any sense? Here is my initial attempt to explain the evidence we have so far:

First, let's think about the idea that Paul Williams is not Root-related. How could that be?

- Paul descends from Louise Coquigne who married Henry Spillane. Louise was JB's second child, born 1 Sep 1855[1] in Mundy, Genesee, MI.
- I descend from Eugene Peter Coquigne who married Nettie Brown. Eugene was JB's fourth child, born 12 Mar 1858[2] in Mundy.

What if JB had a different wife for his first children, but then she died unexpectedly and JB remarried to EJ Root? That is the only scenario I can think of that would explain why Paul does not appear to have Root DNA as I do.

But if Paul is not Root-related *and* Paul and I both share Frost DNA, then we need to consider, once again, EJ's mother, Paulina. Here is a possible scenario:

- Paulina was somehow Frost-related. (see Appendix B for research notes) If we go with my speculation that Paulina was the daughter of Henry Van Etten who was enumerated in Arcadia, Wayne, NY in 1830, then let's imagine that Henry's first wife and Paulina's mother was a Frost. This Frost wife died some time before 1835 when we find a Wayne county deed involving Maria, widow of Abraham Westfall, now married to Henry Van Etten.

1 Birth date from her death certificate.
2 Birth date from his death certificate.

- Some time before 1835 when Paulina married CW Root in Michigan, she had a child from a different man, specifically a daughter. If Paulina married this man, his surname might have been Nichols.
- Paulina brought her first daughter into the marriage with CW Root in 1835 in Michigan. Subsequent to that marriage with CW Root, Paulina had a second daughter, Eliza Jane (EJ), in 1837.
- Sixteen years later, JB Coquigne some how met and married Paulina's first daughter, and they had two or three children before the mother died (maybe even in child birth). Because JB probably already knew EJ and she was already nearby helping, and he liked her too, he subsequently married her after the death of his first wife, and continued to have children with her. So essentially, when JB married EJ, he married the half-sister of his first wife.

I believe all my previous research and speculation about the origins of Paulina are still valid. It's hard to know why JB and EJ would have chosen not to explain this scenario to their older children. We only know that DNA evidence is indicating that Paulina was Frost-related, AND some of her daughter Eliza Jane's descendants got Root DNA and some did not. This scenario could explain this DNA evidence.

So, to summarize what we might have learned about Paulina from this DNA study when combined with the previous research:

- It seems likely that one of Paulina's parents was a Frost or Frost-related.
- Paulina likely had some Dutch origins (Vannatta/Van Etten) as I speculated in my previous research, but now because of her Frost connections, Paulina might have also had ethnic origins that were English, Scandinavian, or German!
- Paulina almost certainly had children with more than one man. Aside from Paulina's multiple surnames suggesting multiple spouses, the DNA also seems to be telling us that each of Paulina's three children had a different father.
- It seems at least possible that Paulina had two daughters who married J.B. Coquigne, one whose father was not CW Root and whose identity is currently not known, and the other, EJ, a daughter of CW Root.
- Paulina had a son named Charles Henry Root, although it seems likely that he was not really Root-related.

Contrary Evidence

Is there any evidence that will prove these new speculations wrong?

- If we definitively find Root-only DNA matches to Paul D. Williams and/or any other of his close relatives, I think that would shoot down the idea that JB might have had two wives who were half-sisters.
    - Note: I widened my search for Root matches to My Heritage. There I found a Root-only match to me, but again, that match is not shared by Paul Williams, who also has his results on My Heritage. So we continue to note that Paul does not seem to have Root DNA.
- I feel like there was some written record of the marriage between JB and EJ, but right now I don't find any scan of such document attached to my tree. If there is a written record (a

marriage record, not the family story) that JB and EJ were in fact married in 1853, I think that would also shoot down my theory.

  - Note: We have a printed invitation to a Golden Wedding Anniversary for Mr. and Mrs. John B. Coquigne on 4 July 1903. It shows a picture of the couple and the years 1853 and 1903. This document cannot be counted as a primary source, but it is evidence that supports the notion that JB and EJ married in 1853.

- Consider other scenarios. What other scenarios might logically explain
  - Paul and I both inherited Frost DNA, AND
  - Paul and I have believed that we both descend from JB Coquigne and EJ Root, AND
  - Paul does not have Root-only DNA but I do.

Other Research To Do

- If JB did have a first wife who died, where was she buried (assuming she died and didn't just run away)? It's possible that she might have been buried on the Coquigne farm without a stone, but I should check the cemetery records where the original Coquignes are buried (Evergreen). When did they buy their family plot and was anybody interred there who we don't recognize?
- Research the match lists of Paul's other relatives and/or ask other Spillane matches to check for Root-only matches.
- Contact the Frost matches and ask them to upload to GEDmatch or other site that provides segment data. Having this information might provide more insights to the DNA analysis I've done here.
- Continue to look for other DNA matches. It's curious not to find any matches that descend from EJ's brother, Charles Henry. Even if his father was not CW, he would still have had Paulina's DNA, presumably. Need to keep an eye out for this issue.

Though seemingly far-fetched, the new scenario explains all the DNA evidence we have found to date. It will be important to continue to collect evidence which could support or refute these new ideas about Paulina's origins.

Appendix A – DNA Research

Here are specifics about the Frost DNA matches referred to in this article. Having determined that the Frost matches probably originate from the Coquigne-Root line, I then looked for matches that were specific to each known line, Coquigne and Root, and which might also be shared with the Frosts. I didn't find any such matches, which has lead me to conclude that the Frost matches must be coming from EJ's mother, Paulina.

Frost Matches

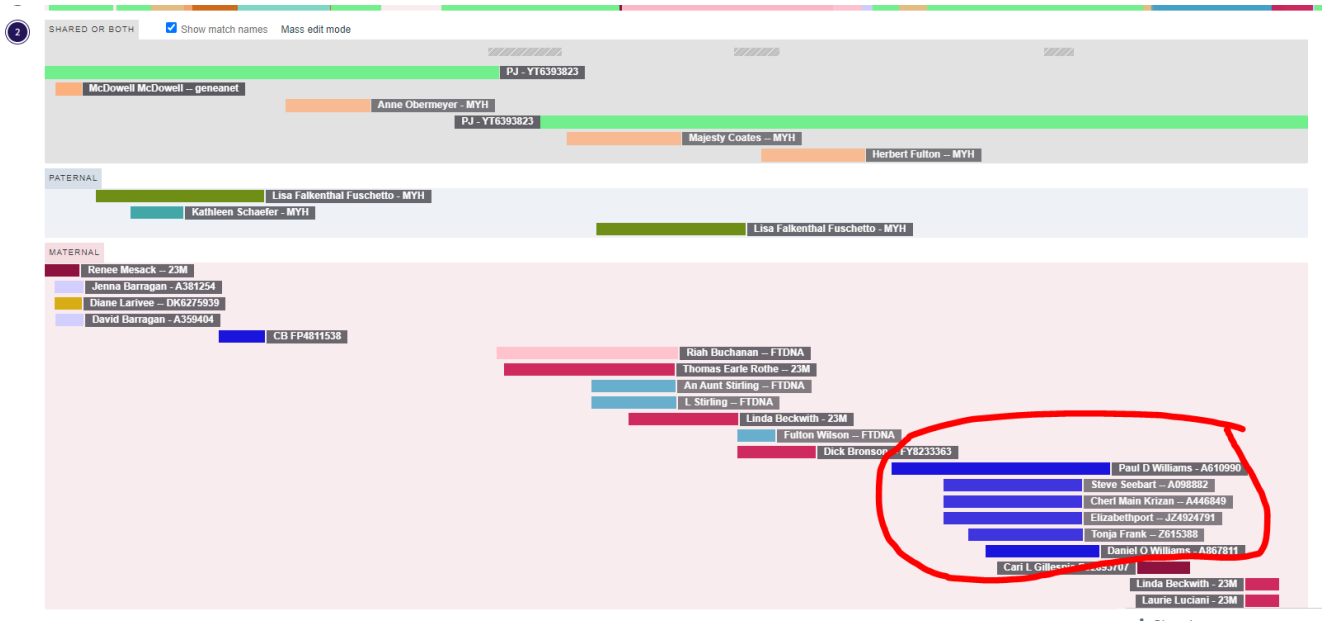
For several years, I've been trying to figure out these DNA matches to me:

- Sarah Rawlings, 22/1, 4-6
- Samantha Visotski, 22/1, 5-8
- Melinda Zeeryp-Michel, 22/1, 4-6
- Linda Cummins, 19/1, 5-8
- Paul Schultz, 19/1
- Tonja Frank, 15/1

All of these people descend from Luke Frost and Mary Kent – more about them in the next appendix.

Of all the shared matches to these Frost testers, the only one I recognize is Kelly Mireles, who descends from Aunt Ernie (Coquigne Waterous), so she and I have Eugene Peter Coquigne and Emmanet Brown as common ancestors.

But then I discovered that Tonja Frank, who also has her results on GEDmatch. Using the triangulation tool there, I discovered that she triangulates on chromosome 2 with me and Paul Williams! Curiously, Paul Williams never appears as a shared match between me and the Frost testers on ancestry.com, and yet checking his match list, he does match them all!

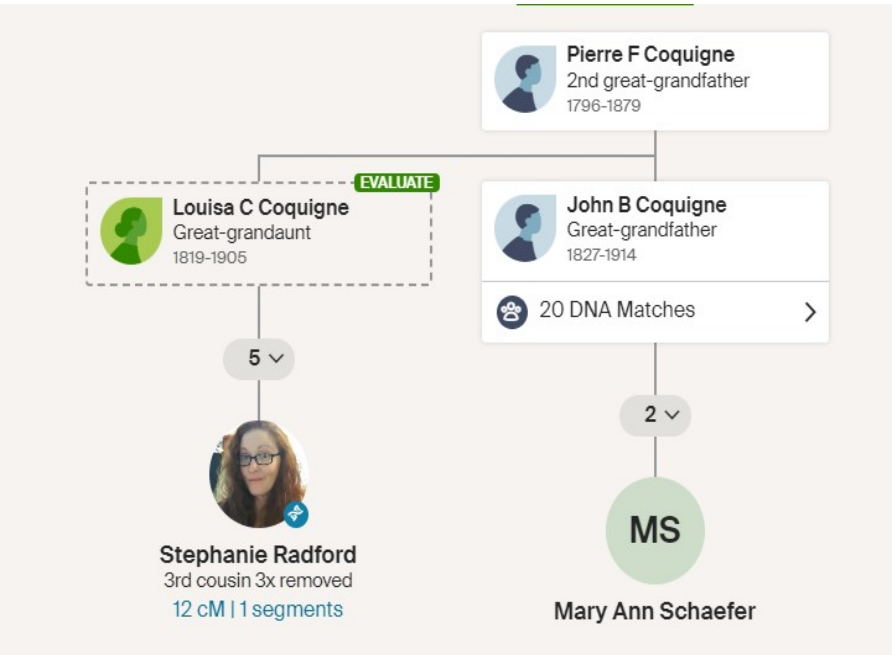


The ancestors I have in common with Paul are JB Coquigne and EJ Root. So if Paul and I share Tonja Frank as a triangulated match, I believe that means I can probably eliminate the Brown side of my tree in trying to figure out this Frost connection. I don't think that Tonja could be Brown-related if she has segments that triangulate with both me and Paul, knowing that Paul is not Brown-related.

Coquigne Matches

When considering **Coquigne-only** matches, I am looking for:

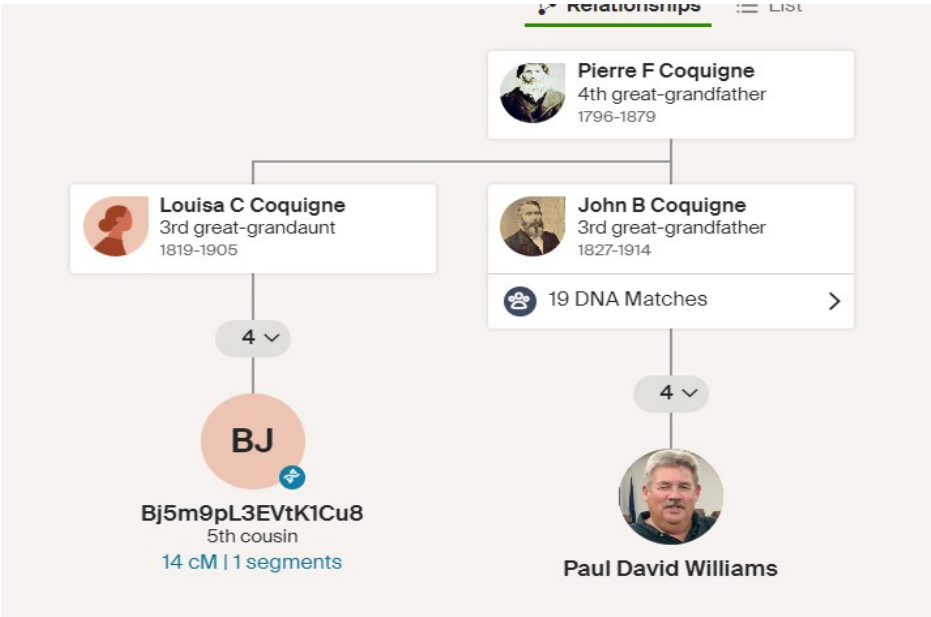
- somebody related to one of Pierre Coquigne's siblings – I have followed a few of those in my tree, but don't know of any DNA matches; maybe check geneanet?
- somebody related to one of JB's siblings, and Louisa Coquigne Larobardiere is the only one I know about who had children who survived. She had many children and I found these descendants:



Note: no shared matches.

Update: as of 5/18/24, Thrulines is no longer showing this match, although she still shows up in my match list noted as having a Common Ancestor. Also a new tester, Bonnie Batchelor, has appeared as a descendant of Louisa Coquigne Larobardier, 10/1 – 10L. Paul Williams also has this match.

Also this:



One shared match to another Coquigne relative.

Note that I do not match Bj5m9pL3EVtK1Cu8 and Paul does not match Stephanie Radford. So that's interesting.

It might be worth contacting these matches to see if they will upload to GEDmatch. Once there, I can add them to my chromosome map, which might be able to show us more.

I don't see how the Frost DNA matches could be coming from the Coquigne side. JB Coquigne was born in France,[3] and I have documented his genealogy in France going back before 1700. All the Frost matches go back to Luke Frost (1782-1877) and Mary Kent (1791-1865), both apparently born in America. Clearly the Frost and Kent families lived in America long before JB was born. JB was three years old when the Coquigne family arrived in America around 1830, and Paulina was born well before that, probably around 1811. There couldn't have been any Coquigne-Frost interaction if the Coquignes didn't come to America until after Paulina was born.

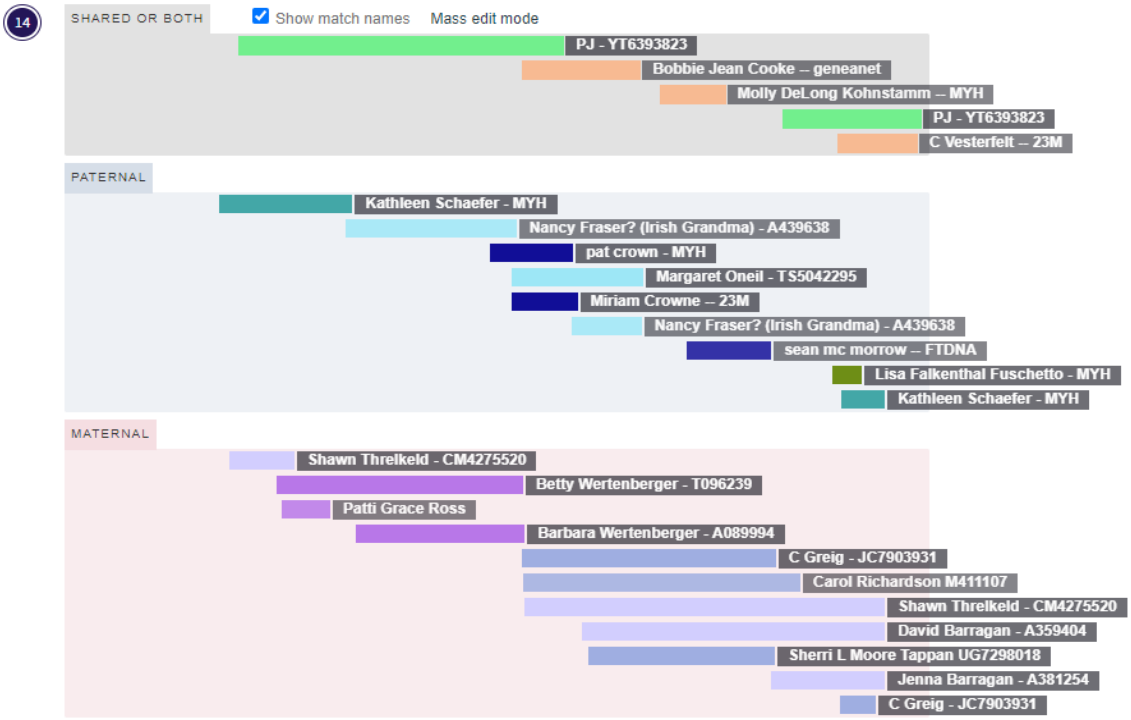
3 I have documentation showing the registration of JB's birth in 1827 in Courcelle, France.

Root Matches

Now for **Root-only** matches. I have identified a few in my chromosome map labeled as Root-Denison.

- C Greig and G Greig, believe they descend from Enos Root, brother of CW Root
- also Sherri L Moore Tappan (she manages Greig tests)
  - NOTE 11/10/22: these testers used to show up on Thrulines, but no more. Sherri's tree is now private, and the Greig matches are gone (!) but these all descend from Enos Root.
  - Another NOTE: there seems to be some differences in surname spelling, Greig or Grieg.

These testers are mapped (for me) on **Chr. 8, 11, and 14** – mostly 14. Curiously Paul Williams does not also match on these segments. Why would that be?



There are other Root-only testers who descend from siblings of CW Root and who match me on ancestry but I can't see any specific DNA data unless they move to GEDmatch or other site with tools:

- Bloom – Zane, Wendell, Brett – also Brenda Hill, cogo13, bbearcarebear, and sleethomas47, these are all descendants of Enos Root [Note that none of these show up on Thrulines]
- JM_Levenson, C.R. (managed by cflanagan8), Lindsay Barnes, and Whitney Rebstock all descend from Henry Dyer Root
- britni casten, appears to descend from Erastus Root, but her tree is now private

I would have to write to these people and ask them to upload to GEDmatch, an exercise that I almost never have any luck with.

Again, it's very curious that Paul does not share *any* of these matches. We need to concentrate on his match list and try to isolate any Root matches.

Also I have found two users on ancestry who descend from Charles Henry Root, brother of our EJ Root. These people would theoretically also have Paulina DNA!

- Joann Green – descends from Orlin Root
- Donald Aleo – descends from Ella Mae Root Moore

Both these users say they have taken the DNA test, and neither is showing up as a match to me or my cousin (barragan) or Paul Williams. I asked both these users to upload to GEDmatch, but so far no reply.

This finding also deserves a red flag. Any descendants of Charles Henry Root should show up as a match to at least some of the many descendants of Eliza Jane Root Coquigne. Were Charles Henry and Eliza Jane not siblings?

Appendix B – Frost Research

Because of a number of DNA matches (see Appendix A, Frost Matches), the Frost family line I have been researching is:

Luke Frost (1782-1877) and Mary Kent (1791-1865)

Luke was apparently born in New Hampshire, the son of a Joshua Frost. Mary has been identified in some genealogies as Mary Campbell. It's not clear where and when they married.

Luke's family was enumerated in Trenton, Oneida, NY in 1820 and 1830, and several of them were enumerated in Sodus, Wayne, NY in 1840. After that, Luke and at least some of his children settled in Crawford county, PA where Luke was enumerated in 1850 and 1870. Luke apparently died in Crawford county in 1877.

Below is a list of children attributed to Luke Frost and Mary Kent. Although I have not found any birth records, some death certificates for the children exist which name Luke and Mary as parents. The lines that include DNA matches are also noted.

Name	Dates	Notes	DNA Match
Mary Ann	b. abt 1811	Conjecture that she married Cregg/Craig	
Isaac	b. abt 1812	md in 1837 in Wayne, NY, where he lived until 1850 moved to Canisteo, NY	
Joshua	b. abt 1819	md in 1836 in Wayne, NY, lived in PA, OH, IA, died in Saginaw, MI	Rawlings, Visotski, Zeeryp-Michel, and Schultz
Lafayette	b. abt 1824	Enumerated in Crawford, PA in 1850, m and 3 ch, nothing else known of him	
Stephen	b. abt 1825	Lived in Crawford, PA, died in Saginaw, 9 ch	Tonja
Luke J	b. abt 1825	Not much known of him; he was likely in Sodus, NY in 1840 and Canisteo in 1855	
Geo. W. (Sr.)	b. abt 1827	Born in Lyons, Wayne, NY, lived in NY, PA, IA, IL, died in IA; later generations lived in Marshalltown, IA (where CW Root was maybe found in 1880).	Tonja
Rowland	b. abt 1829	md in IA, died in MI, 9 ch	
James M.	b. abt 1831	Lived in PA, IL, IA, died in NE	Cummins
Alvin	b. abt 1835	Lived in Crawford county, PA, not much known of him after Civil War	
Andrew J.	b. abt 1838	Lived in PA and IA, then OR where he died, 5 ch	

Name	Dates	Notes	DNA Match
Ruth	b. abt 1840	Enumerated in 1850 Crawford county, PA, nothing else known	
Sally		Named in Frost genealogy, nothing known	
Phebe		Named in Frost genealogy, nothing known	

As for the origins of Luke Frost Sr., most genealogies report that he was the son of Joshua Frost, although I have not found any documentation to confirm that. We do know:

- A Joshua Frost was enumerated in Hinsdale, NH in 1790: 2 M < 16, 2 M > 16, and 3 F. Other men with the surname Frost also enumerated in Hinsdale at that time: Jonathan, Joseph, and two named Benjamin.
- A Joshua Frost was enumerated in Hinsdale, NH in 1800: 1 M < 10, 1 M 10-15, 1 M > 45; 1 F 16-25 and 1 F > 45. He was the only Frost in Hinsdale at this time.

I checked through probate records in Cheshire county, NH, and found no records of a Joshua Frost. Either he moved from Hinsdale before he died, or he did not own property or chattels to go through probate.

Possible Paulina Connections

This research suggests two things about Paulina:

- she was the daughter of Henry Van Etten who was enumerated in 1830 Arcadia, Wayne, NY
- she was Frost-related

If we suspect that Paulina was Frost-related, then how so? The most obvious explanation is that Henry Van Etten was first married to a Frost. According to the 1830 census, the oldest female in Henry VE's household was born around 1795, give or take. So if that female, apparent wife of Henry VE, was born a Frost, who might she have been?

- She was probably *not* a daughter of Luke Frost and Mary Kent. Luke was himself born around 1782, so he probably did not have a legitimate daughter when he was 13 years old.
- She might have been a sister of Luke Sr., a daughter of Joshua Sr. Given the amount of shared DNA that I have with my Frost matches (around 22 cM), there is a 58% chance these testers are in the range of a 5th to 7th cousin.[4] Using the tester Melinda Z-M as an example, I can see that she is the 5th g-granddaughter of Luke Frost. If Luke had a sister who was the mother of Paulina, then I am the 5th g-granddaughter of Luke's sister, making Melinda and me 6th cousins. Makes sense!
- She might have been the daughter of one of Joshua Sr.'s unknown children, which would have made her Luke's niece. In the 1800 census, there were a number of other Frost families in

4 Shared cM Project 4.0 tool V4.

> Cheshire county, NH as well as some in neighboring Windham county, VT, many of which had females under 10 years old. Was one of them named Paulina Frost?

I suppose there a number of other ways Paulina was Frost-related. She could have been a half-sibling and the product of an NPE. Even though we can't confirm the specifics of Paulina's Frost connection, the evidence so far is suggestive that Paulina was very likely the ancestor who passed down Frost DNA to the rest of us.

Appendix C – Coquigne-Root Family Group

This is the family group for John Baptiste Coquigne 1827-1914 and Eliza Jane Root 1837-1908. They couple were said of have married 4 Jul 1853 although we haven't found any record of the marriage.

In addition, the only birth certificate for the children named here is for youngest child, Millie. The birth dates shown here for all the other children come from:

- the Michigan death certificate for that person, includes Helen, Louise, Emily, Eugene, and John
- a family history recorded by Mary Ann Spillane gave the names and dates of Harriet, Charles, and Julia

Coquigne Child	Dates	Notes	DNA Match
Helen C	b 24 May 1854 d 10 Jan 1930	md Nathaniel Goodyear 1872, 3 ch – Mary E, Ida Louise, Walter Samuel	two DNA matches, EileenEvelyn; does NOT have Root-Only matches; Jenni Rieck
Louise "Bee"	b 1 Sep 1855 d 31 Oct 1916	md Henry K Spillane 1876, 12 ch – William Eugene, John Bay, Charles, Ada Louise, Elizabeth Ann, Roy Herman, Charles Henry, George Enos, Mary Ann, Ellen Eliza, Glenn, Benjamin Harrison	several DNA matches, lines of Ada Louise and Benjamin Harrison, includes Paul Williams who does NOT have Root-Only matches [need to check other Spillane testers] from Charles H: Brooks Smith from Geo: P.V. from Roy: Robyn Issac, Shelly Harris, jwingert1958, M.L./ E.L. / R.L. from Benjamin: Thos, Jana Spillane, mickspillanelsd35, and Krista Myers
Emily "Emma"	b 30 Apr 1857 d 5 Oct 1900	md Daniel H Brown 1877, 3 ch – Julia, Clayton, Mildred Emily "Millie"	one DNA match to PDW, Dusty Wetton; DOES have some Root-Only matches (the Blooms); one match to me & pdw: N.B. mg by dan bixby
Eugene Peter	b 12 Mar 1858 d 9 Nov 1930	md Emmanet Brown 1881, 9 ch – unnamed infant, Minnie E, Sepha, Helen Louise, Ernestine Julia, Eliza Jane, Sarah, Joseph Howard, John Brown	this is my line; I have several DNA matches along the line of Aunt Ernie
Harriet	b abt 1861 d 26 Apr 1868		

Coquigne Child	Dates	Notes	DNA Match
Charles H	b Aug 1863 d 30 Aug 1864		
Julia	b 3 Oct 1869 d 28 Feb 1873	twin of John	
John Theodore	b 3 Oct 1869 d 29 Jul 1948	md Jane Emma Curtis 1891, 2 ch – Lillian Emily and Silas Ellsworth	
Amelie “Millie”	b 4 May 1873 d 23 Oct 1957	md Franklin Gilbert 1896, 5 ch – Howard Edward, Helen Emily, Ceclia Amelia, Alma Louise, Gertrude Irene	two matches along this line: romiclem (does NOT have Root-ONLY matches) and Dennis LeMieux (need to check!)