

# **GGG-Grandmother, Paulina**

## **A New Theory**

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## **Introduction**

Several years ago, I tried to beat the bushes 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, four years later, more DNA tests have been taken and more tools are available for analyzing the results. Maybe there are some new clues about Paulina to be found.

## **DNA Studies**

### **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, I focused on Vanatta and Van Etten (VE), particularly two Van Etten families found in early Wayne county:

- James/Jacob VE and wives Janet Loew and Sarah Decker. He died in Lyons in 1825! Unconfirmed children were: HENRY, John, Peter (Sr), Daniel, Margaret, Jane, Catherine, Samuel and Jacob (among others). Most of these names appear in the censuses and deeds of early Wayne. This Henry VE married a woman named Maria and they lived in Arcadia, Wayne, NY in 1830. Their household definitely included females who would have been around the estimated age of Paulina.
- Cornelius W. VE -- born, 1804, he died in 1836 in Lyons, and Samuel D. Westfall became special gdn to three orphans, John, Margaret, and Henry. This latter Henry is the one who shows up in Wayne censuses and deeds in 1850. I am not at all sure how these two VE lines are connected, but it doesn't seem directly.

Unfortunately, I have not come up with any DNA matches that lead to these Van Etten families, although I have also found that searching for a surname like Van Etten is not easily done in some search engines, never mind including all the spelling variations. There *might* be some matches giving clues along these lines, but so far there aren't any I can recognize.

### **Summarizing New Research**

Meanwhile, I set about trying to separate my DNA matches into different lines in my family tree. During that process, here are some results that took my interest:

- I have identified six DNA matches to me who descend from Luke Frost and Mary Kent. These matches are on my maternal side. One of those matches triangulates on chromosome 2 with me and Paul D. Williams and his relations.<sup>1</sup> See Appendix A, Frost Matches.
- Paul D. Williams is my third cousin, once removed, verified by DNA matching. We believe that the ancestors we have in common are JB Coquigne and EJ Root. All the Frost matches I have identified also match Paul on his paternal side.

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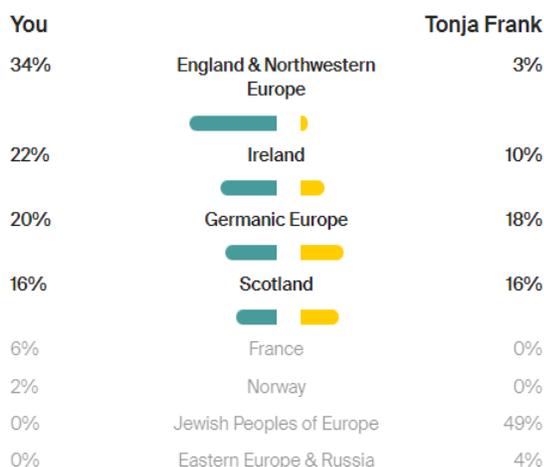
<sup>1</sup> Tonja Frank has her results on GEDmatch, as do me and Paul. I was able to use the triangulation tool on GEDmatch to determine the triangulated segment on chromosome 2.

- So the evidence seems to be suggesting that the Frost DNA matches are somehow related to the Coquigne-Root family line. For various reasons, I don't think the connection is on the Coquigne side, (see Appendix A, Coquigne Matches), so that leaves the Root line or Pauline's line. In trying to isolate the Root line, I discovered that Paul does not appear to have any Root-only matches. I have identified several among my matches (see Appendix A, Root Matches), but I've so far I've not been able to find any for Paul. This could suggest that Paul is not Root-related as we have assumed.
- For those matches who have uploaded to GEDmatch or My Heritage, I've been able to add the DNA segments that align with me to my chromosome map.<sup>2</sup> Those matches include:
  - Tonja Frank, a Frost relation – triangulated match on Chr. 2 with me and Paul Williams.
  - Paul D. Williams and his relations, Coquigne-Root relations – Paul matches me on Chr. 2, 5, 16, and 17, with the longest segment on Chr. 2.
  - Three Root-Only matches – they match me on Chr. 8, 11, and 14, longer segments on Chr. 14.

It would be helpful to see where any of the Frost matches align on the chromosome map.

As an interesting side note, the tester Tonja Frank is half Jewish, so it's possible to more accurately see the breakdown of the other half of her ancestry:

#### Ethnicity Estimates



I find Tonja's ethnicity estimate a bit surprising. If I am looking for Pauline and suspect that Pauline might have been Dutch (maybe Van Etten/Vanatta), an ethnicity which I surmise is lumped into “Northwestern Europe” by ancestry.com, then Tonja doesn't have as much of that ethnicity as I would expect. So hmmm. I'm a bit skeptical about ancestry's ethnicity identifications and estimates, but Tonja's estimate is still interesting to note.

<sup>2</sup> Using tools provided through DNA Painter.

Finally, some notes about possible origins of the Frost surname:

- England and Ireland<sup>3</sup>
- Welsh, Scandinavian, or from German or Swiss Fürst, from surname Forest or Forrest<sup>4</sup> meaning dweller of the forest

If the Frost surname in this case had German origins, that would account for Tonja's German ancestry. It's worth noting, however, that Paul Williams doesn't have much German ancestry, only 3%.

## ***A New Scenario***

So given the DNA evidence, can we piece together a family story that makes any sense? Here is my initial attempt at an explanation:

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<sup>5</sup> in Mundy, Genesee, MI.
- I descend from Eugene Peter Coquigne who married Nettie Brown. Eugene was JB's fourth child, born 12 Mar 1858<sup>6</sup> 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).
- Some time before 1835 when Paulina married CW Root, she had a child from a different man, specifically a daughter.
- Paulina brought her daughter into the marriage with CW Root in 1835 in Michigan. Subsequent to that marriage with Root, Paulina had a second daughter, 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 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. Maybe Paulina was born Vannatta, we still don't know. We only know that DNA evidence is indicating that Paulina was Frost-related, and this scenario explains how Frost DNA was passed down to the descendants of JB Coquigne, and one line inherited Root DNA and the other, apparently, did not.

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3 <https://www.houseofnames.com/frost-family-crest>

4 <https://forebears.io/surnames/frost>

5 Birth date from her death certificate.

6 Birth date from his death certificate.

## ***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 wonder why 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.

## ***Discussion***

So what does all this mean? This round of research comes from 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 the source of those Frost matches, I strongly suspect they are pointing to the DNA of Paulina because:

- Paul Williams also shares the same Frost matches. He is believed to descend from JB Coquigne and EJ Root, like me.
- The evidence showing the migration of the Coquigne family from France to America makes it highly unlikely 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 does not appear to be any DNA evidence connecting Roots and the Frosts. I have several Root-only matches, and none of them are shared matches to the Frost testers. But then we must also consider the historical timeline and localities:
  - EJ Root, daughter of CW Root and Paulina, was born in 1837 and we believe she was probably born in NY, and
  - It's reasonable to think that EJ's birth locale may have been Wayne County, NY where EJ's grandfather, Moses Root, had been living prior to his death in 1832, and
  - It's reasonable to think that at least EJ's mother, Paulina, was also in Wayne County, NY at the time of EJ's birth, and
  - There are several records of the Luke Frost family in Wayne County, New York between 1830 and 1840. So we know the Luke Frost family and our Moses Root family were around the same place around the same time.
- Here is the point where we could still wonder if the Frost DNA is coming from the Root side or Paulina's side. However, when considering the Root side:
  - On the one hand, there is no DNA evidence yet found connecting the Frosts and Roots, and yet the Frosts and the Roots were in the same vicinity of New York around the same time. For all we know, the mother of CW Root might have been a Frost.
  - But then we get to the evidence showing, so far, that 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.

What, if anything, does this tell us about Paulina?

- It seems likely that one of Paulina's parents was a Frost or Frost-related.
- Paulina might still have 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 origins that were English, Scandinavian, or German!

- Paulina almost certainly had children with more than one man. CW Root was one spouse with whom she had children, but there were certainly other relationships, which we know because of Paulina's multiple surnames.
- 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.

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

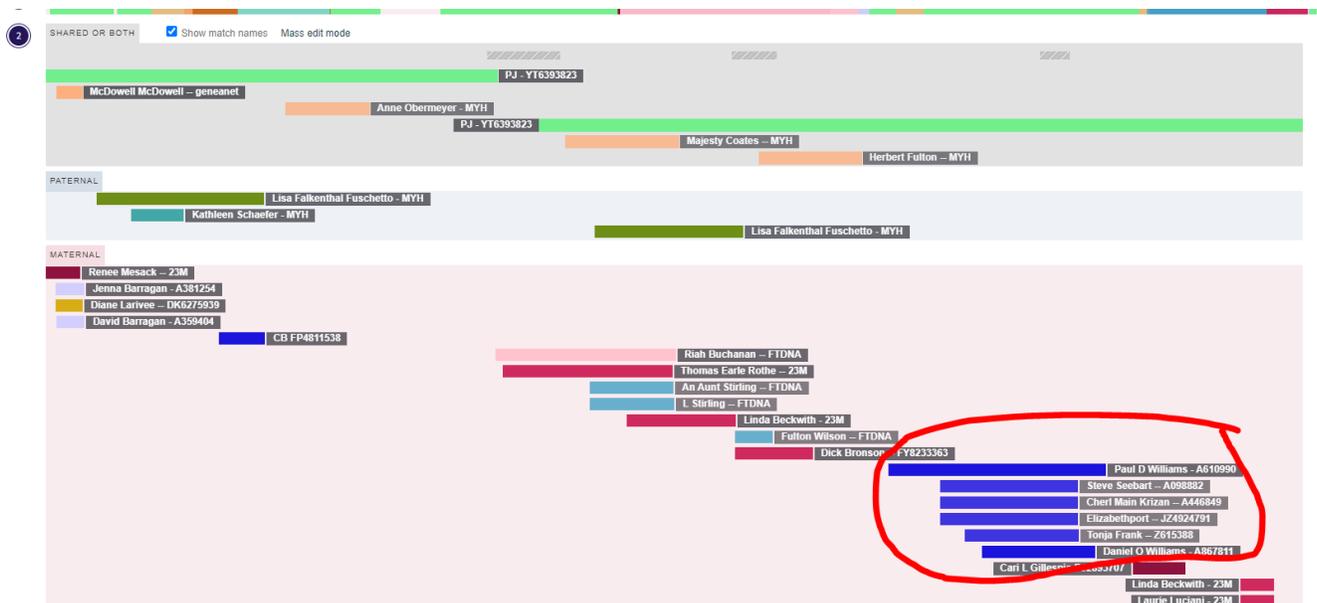
For several years, I've been trying to figure out these DNA matches to me:

- 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!

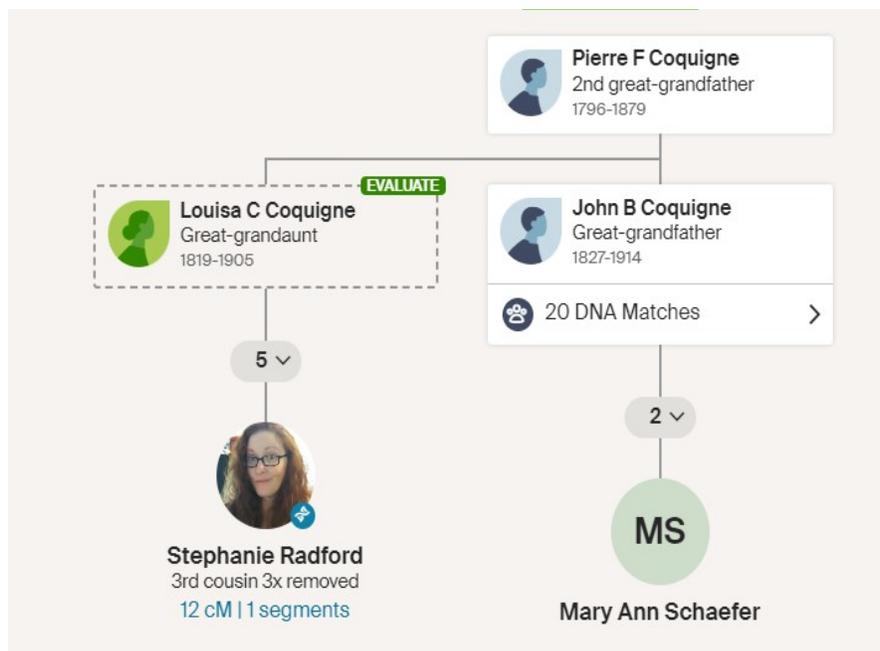


The ancestors I have in common with Paul are JB Coquigne and EJ Root. So if Paul and I share Tonja Frank as a triangulated match, I believe that means I can probably eliminate the Brown side of my tree in trying to figure out this Frost connection. I don't think that Tonja could be Brown-related if she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

## Coquigne Matches

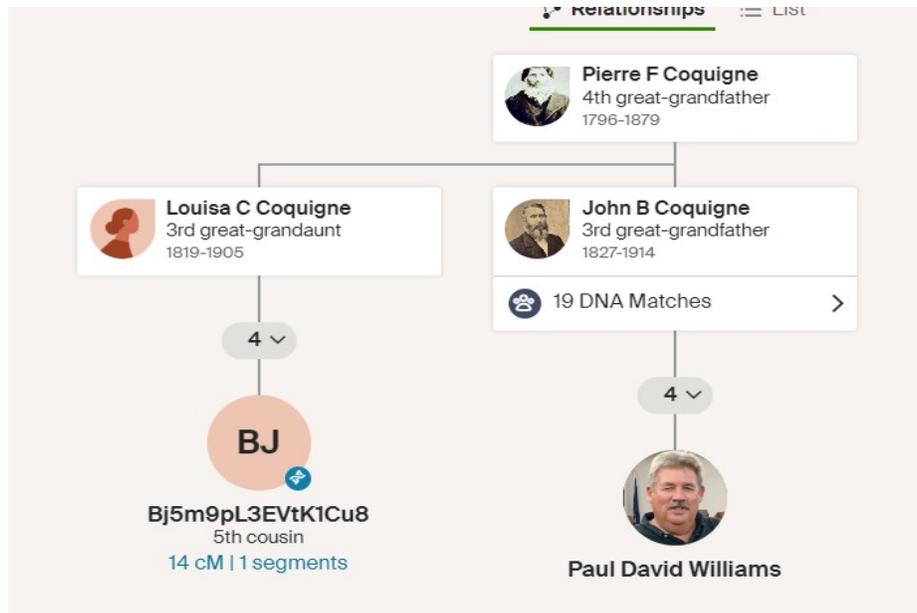
When considering **Coquigne-only** matches, I am looking for:

- 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.

Also this:



One shared match to another Coquigne relative.

Note that I do not match Bj5m9pL3EVtK1Cu8 and Paul does not match Stephanie Radford. 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,<sup>7</sup> 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 Coquignes arrived in America around 1830. It's true that the Coquignes did reside in the vicinity of Wayne county, New York from 1830-1844 (in-laws, Larobardiere, lived in Mexico, Oswego, NY, and Coquignes were thought to have taken work on the Erie Canal), but if Paulina was the carrier of the Frost DNA to our family lines, she was born well before JB.

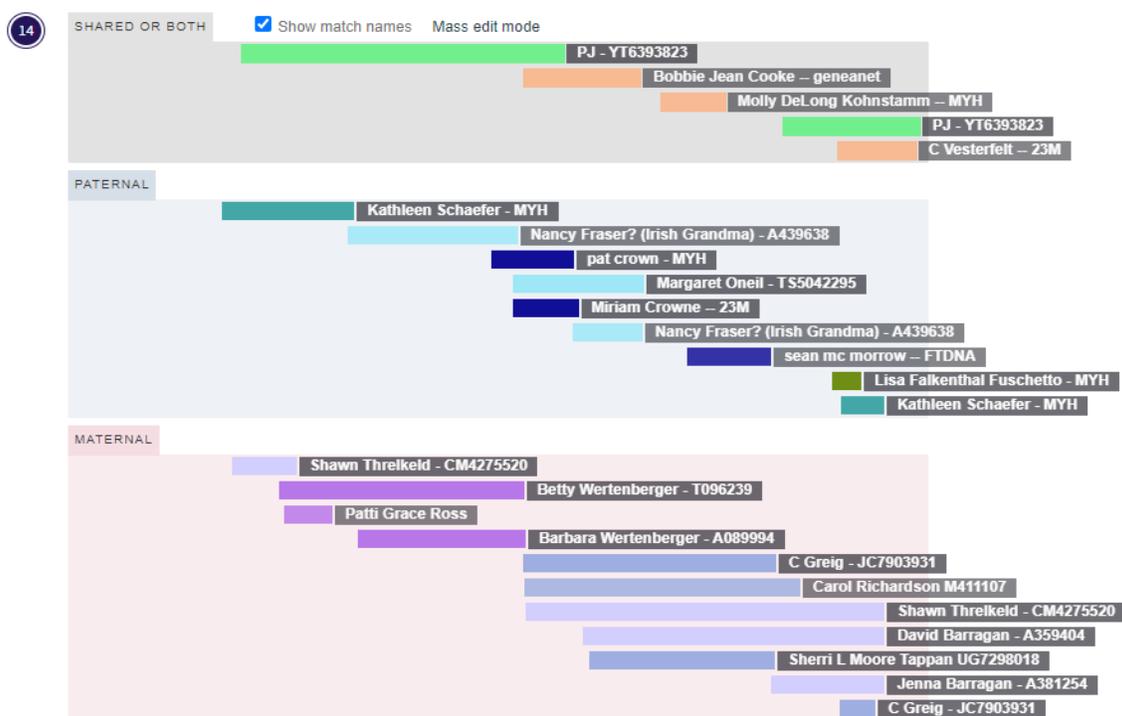
<sup>7</sup> I have documentation showing the registration of JB's birth in 1827 in Courcelle, France.

## 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, bearcarebear, and sleethomas47, these are all descendants of Enos Root [Note that none of these show up on ThruLines]
- JM\_Levenson, C.R., and Lindsay Barnes 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	M. in 1837 in Wayne, NY, where he lived until 1850 moved to Canisteo, NY	
Joshua	b. abt 1819	M. in 1836 in Wayne, NY, lived in PA, OH, IA, died in Saginaw, MI	Rawlings, Visotski, Zeeryp-Michell, 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	M. 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

If we suspect that Paulina was Frost-related, then how so? Estimating that Paulina was born 1805-1815, what are the possibilities?

- She might have been a daughter of Luke Sr. By 1830 census, there were two females 10-14, and two females 15-19 in his household, so either of the older females might have been Paulina. Frost genealogy (undocumented source) records that Luke Frost had daughters named Mary Ann, Sally, Phebe, and Ruth. I found one tree that suggests that Mary Ann married Cregg/Craig and they ended up living in Crawford county, PA – where Luke was in later years. I haven't found any other documentation that tells anything more about daughters of Luke Frost.
- There was a Joseph Frost enumerated in the same place as Luke in 1820 and 1830, but I don't see how he was related to Luke or that he had a female in his household of the right age to be Paulina.
- She might have been a sister of Luke Sr., a daughter of Joshua Sr. The 1790 census of Joshua in Hinsdale, NH does show that he had multiple females in his household, and all have remained unidentified in genealogies of this Frost clan. Luke's birth year is thought to have been 1782, so a female who would have been his sister was also born before 1790. If this was Paulina, she was much older than CW Root.
- She might have been the daughter of one of Joshua Sr.'s unknown children, which would have made her Luke's niece.
- She might have been a granddaughter of Luke. The 1820 enumeration of Luke's household shows: 4 M < 10, 1 M 10-15, 2 F < 10, 1 F 10-15. From the table of Luke's children, we can

account for only 2 males born before 1820, while the 1820 census seems to indicate 5 males born before 1820. If any of the other three survived, they could have had a child to be the right age of Paulina. The same is true of the females. So there is plenty of room here for Paulina to fit into the Frost family in this way.

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.