

Family Locket Genealogists

Moon Research Project

25 April 2022

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this project is to continue the effort to prove direct lineage from the client, Test Taker 1, to her 5th great-grandfather, Captain William Moon, for the purpose of eventually applying to the Daughters of the American Revolution.

LIMITATIONS

- This project was limited to 20 hours for DNA analysis and documentary research.
- DNA analysis was limited to available DNA matches on Ancestry for Test Taker 1.
- Documentary research was limited to online records.
- This many generations back, cM ranges for different relationships overlap significantly, causing difficulty in identifying relationships between Test Taker 1 and her DNA matches based solely on the amount of shared DNA.
- The Shared cM Project has less data for half relationships—a significant component of this project.

RESULTS SUMMARY

- Determined Griggs Moon was not the subject of the Jackson County, Georgia, court file.
- Searched the Georgia Freedmen's Bureau Records with no relevant results.
- Conducted a search of Georgia Legislature records with no relevant results.
- Completed searches of the Court of Ordinary and Inferior Court records 1855-1874 in Jackson County with no relevant results.
- Began a search of the Superior Court records of Jackson County with no relevant results.

- Searched for manuscript collections related to the Moon family with no relevant results.
- Clustered Ancestry DNA matches and determined more work on Ancestry matches is needed to determine whether Robert Moon Sr or one of his sons was Griggs Moon's father.
- Conducted a brief review of 23andMe and MyHeritage matches and determined they could be helpful in future research because of the DNA segment data.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The last project proved that Crawford Moon was the son of Griggs Moon, both who were formerly enslaved. It also proved the ascendancy of Robert Moon (1801)>Robert Moon Sr>William Moon. While DNA suggests a man in the Moon family fathered Griggs Moon, the last project did not successfully identify which man was his father. Three candidates, Robert Moon (1801), his brother William, and their father Robert, were explored.¹

DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

This session began with seeking evidence of a connection between Griggs Moon and the candidates for his father through documentary research.

Griggs Moon Court File

During the last research session, a researcher in Jackson County, Georgia, indicated a large file for Griggs Moon in the 1890s exists. Further discussion revealed that the entries were for younger men of the same name in the years following Griggs' death in 1888.² This file would not be relevant to the current objective of proving Grigg's father.

Georgia Freedmen's Bureau Records

Created in 1865, the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (Freedmen's Bureau) aided the formerly enslaved and refugees through education, health care, food,

¹ Family Locket Genealogists, "Moon Research Project;" prepared for Test Taker 1, 31 Jan 2022; digital copy held by Family Locket Genealogists.

² Christina Harris, tinaharris313@icloud.com, to AKM, email, 8 Mar 2022, "Re: Griggs Moon."

clothing, refugee camps, legalization of marriages, employment, and labor contracts.³ These records can provide valuable information about formerly enslaved ancestors, their relatives, and sometimes connections to their former enslavers.

Entries for Crawford, Griggs, Robert Jr, Robert Sr, and William were sought in the Freedmen's Bureau records kept for Georgia. While some of the records are indexed on FamilySearch, these indexes are incomplete. As a result, searches first used these indexes, then internal indexes and page-by-page searches within the original records as necessary. Only one entry among these records pertained to a person of focus. A freedman named Lyle Randolph filed a complaint against Robert Moon Jr for a third of the crop, an extra patch (presumably of land), and the syrup Robert took from Lyle.⁴ This complaint suggests Lyle worked for Robert Jr but does not shed any light on Robert Jr's possible paternity of Griggs. Crawford and Griggs were not found in the complaint records.⁵ Two freedmen with the surname Moon, Eli and Frank, filed complaints, but any connection to the Moons of interest is unknown.⁶

No one with the surname Moon was discovered in the following collections:

- 1867 Report of Freedmen murdered and assaulted in the sub-district of Athens, Georgia⁷
- Report of the number of Freedmen murdered, assaulted in the sub-District of Athens from January 31 to October 31, 1868⁸

³ FamilySearch Wiki, "African American Freedmen's Bureau Records," (https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/African_American_Freedmen%27s_Bureau_Records : accessed 6 Apr 2022).

⁴ "United States, Freedmen's Bureau, Records of Freedmen's Complaints, 1865-1872," complaint filed by Randolph Lyle against Robert Moon, 1 October 1868, Jackson County, Georgia, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 24 Mar 2022); citing Athens Complaint Book and Cases Tried 1868 vol 2, p. 29-30.

⁵ "United States, Freedmen's Bureau, Records of Freedmen's Complaints, 1865-1872," negative search for Crawford Moon or Griggs Moon in Jackson County, Georgia, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 24 Mar 2022).

⁶ "Registers of complaints, vols. 1-2 (175-176), Apr. 1867-Nov. 1868," image group number 4139657, entry for Eli Moon, 10 May 1867, vol 1, p. 2; 4 Dec 1867, vol 1 p. 21; undated, vol 1, p. 26; 21 Feb 1868, vol 1, p. 43, subordinate field office of Athens, Georgia, images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>: accessed 25 Mar 2022); citing NARA M1903 roll 42. "Register of complaints, volume(174), Feb. 1867-Oct. 1868," image group number 4139656, entry for Dr. Jonas Long vs. John Legg, Calvin Lee, Millige Legg, Charles Harris, Frank Moon, William Sims, subordinate field office of Athens, Georgia, images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>: accessed 25 Mar 2022); citing NARA M1903 roll 42, p. 112-123.

⁷ "1867 Report of Freedmen murdered and assaulted in the sub district of Athens, Georgia," negative search for surname Moon, database, *The Freedmen's Bureau Online* (<https://www.freedmensbureau.com/outrages.htm> : accessed 24 Mar 2022).

⁸ "Report of the number of Freedmen murdered, assaulted in the sub-District of Athens from January 31 to October 31, 1868," negative search for surname Moon, database, *The Freedmen's Bureau Online* (<https://www.freedmensbureau.com/outrages.htm> : accessed 24 Mar 2022).

- Register of land titles issued to freedmen (33) Apr.-Sept. 1865; Unbound miscellaneous papers, 1862-1869 [NARA M798 roll 36]⁹
- United States, Freedmen's Bureau Labor Contracts, Indenture and Apprenticeship Records, 1865-1872¹⁰
- United States, Freedmen's Bureau, Freedmen's Court Records, 1865-1872¹¹
- United States, Freedmen's Bureau Hospital and Medical Records, 1865-1872¹²
- United States, Freedmen's Bureau Ration Records, 1865-1872¹³
 - Register of Freedmen receiving rations and furnished transportation, volume (177), Mar.-Apr. 1867¹⁴
- United States, Freedmen's Bureau Records of Persons and Articles Hired, 1865-1872¹⁵
- United States, Freedman's Bank Records, 1865-1874¹⁶
- Registers of complaints, volume 2 (175-176), Apr. 1867-Nov. 1868¹⁷

Since the search of Freedmen's Bureau records did not yield results relevant to the objective, attention shifted to court records.

Court Records

The court record search from the last session was expanded to 1874 (the year of Robert Jr's death) and to include records without indexes. A search of indexed Georgia Legislature records was also added. The list below summarizes the results.

⁹ "Register of land titles issued to freedmen (33) Apr.-Sept. 1865; Unbound miscellaneous papers, 1862-1869 [NARA M798 roll 36]," digital image group 7676444, negative search for freedmen formerly enslaved by men with the surname Moon, images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 24 Mar 2022).

¹⁰ "United States, Freedmen's Bureau Labor Contracts, Indenture and Apprenticeship Records, 1865-1872," negative search for surname Moon in Jackson County, Georgia, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 24 Mar 2022).

¹¹ "United States, Freedmen's Bureau, Freedmen's Court Records, 1865-1872," negative search for surname Moon in Jackson County, Georgia, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 24 Mar 2022).

¹² "United States, Freedmen's Bureau Hospital and Medical Records, 1865-1872," negative search for surname Moon in Jackson County, Georgia, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 24 Mar 2022).

¹³ "United States, Freedmen's Bureau Ration Records, 1865-1872," negative search for surname Moon in Jackson County, Georgia, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 24 Mar 2022).

¹⁴ "Register of Freedmen receiving rations and furnished transportation, volume (177), Mar.-Apr. 1867," image group number 4139656, negative search for the surname Moon, subordinate field office of Athens, Georgia, images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 25 Mar 2022); citing NARA M1903 roll 42.

¹⁵ "United States, Freedmen's Bureau Records of Persons and Articles Hired, 1865-1872," negative search for surname Moon in Jackson County, Georgia, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 24 Mar 2022).

¹⁶ "United States, Freedman's Bank Records, 1865-1874," negative search for surname Moon in Jackson County, Georgia, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 24 Mar 2022).

¹⁷ "Registers of complaints, vols. 1-2 (175-176), Apr. 1867-Nov. 1868," image group number 4139657, negative search for the surname Moon in volume 2, subordinate field office of Athens, Georgia, images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 25 Mar 2022); citing NARA M1903 roll 42.

- Court of Ordinary of Jackson County
 - Crawford and Griggs were not discovered in the records 1855-1874.¹⁸ It is important to note the spans 1866-1867 and 1871-1872 are not among the records.
 - Robert Moon Jr appeared in the court minutes a few times, but no entries were related to enslaved people.¹⁹
- Inferior Court of Jackson County
 - The search of inferior court minutes was expanded with a search 1855-1874, which yielded no results. It is important to note the records skip from 1862 to 1868.²⁰
- Superior Court of Jackson County
 - Crawford and Griggs were not discovered in the records 1860-August 1872.²¹
 - Robert Moon Jr appeared in the court minutes a few times, but no entries were related to enslaved people.²²
- Georgia Legislature
 - Search for the surname Moon yielded no relevant results.²³

Manuscript Search

Perhaps the Moon family kept records preserved in a manuscript collection that could shed light on Griggs' connection to the family? ArchiveGrid is a helpful search engine for

¹⁸ Jackson County, Georgia court of ordinary "Court of Ordinary minutes, 1855-1904," negative search for Crawford Moon And Griggs Moon 1855-1874; citing *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 26 Jan 2022).

¹⁹ Jackson County, Georgia court of ordinary "Court of Ordinary minutes, 1855-1904," appointment of a commission including Robert Moon, 25 Sep 1855, image 20 of 769; testimony that Robert Moon was the only witness seen to sign the will of Milton Mathews, 3 Nov 1856, image 34 of 769; Robert Moon executor of Josiah S Blaylock, 7 Sep 1857, image 48 of 769; letters of demission for Robert Moon, executor of Josiah Blalock, 10 Jul 1860, image 112 of 769; images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 25 Mar 2022); citing "Minutes 1855-1865," unpaginated. Jackson County, Georgia court of ordinary "Court of Ordinary minutes, 1855-1904," petition of Lucas Moon to have Robert A. Moon appointed as his guardian, June 1869, image 340 of 769, images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 29 Mar 2022); citing "Minutes 1868-1870," unpaginated.

²⁰ Jackson County, Georgia inferior court, "Inferior Court minutes, 1800-1873," negative search for Crawford Moon, Griggs Moon, Robert Moon, and William Moon, 1855-1874, images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 26 Jan 2022); citing Inferior Court Records 1868-1873.

²¹ Jackson County, Georgia superior court "Superior Court minutes, 1801-1904," negative search for Crawford Moon and Griggs Moon 1860-Aug 1872; citing *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 12 Apr 2022).

²² Jackson County, Georgia superior court "Superior Court minutes, 1801-1904," Robert Moon vs. James A. Sledge and John Hopkins, August 1867, image 238 of 670, P. 133-134; Robert Moon vs. Carter King, February 1868, image 263 of 670, p. 502 and 503; Robert Espy vs Jackson Bell, A T Bennett, D L Jarrett, and Robert Moon, February 1868, image 263 of 670, p. 502; citing *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 11 Apr 2022); Minutes, 1860-1876.

²³ "Georgia Legislative Documents," search for surname Moon, County, Georgia's Virtual Library Galileo (http://neptune3.galib.uga.edu/ssp/cgi-bin/ftaccess.cgi?_id=7f000001&db=ZLGL : accessed 6 Apr 2022).

locating such collections. A search for the surname Moon in Jackson County, Georgia yielded one relevant result, a land indenture between Robert Moon (presumably Robert Jr) and his children George M.D. Moon and Susan C. David in 1866.²⁴ A search in the University of Georgia's Archival and Manuscript Collections Finding Aids only yielded a reference to the same document.²⁵ The Digital Library of Georgia had no Moons in a search associated with Jackson County.²⁶ Records kept by the Moons could have ended up elsewhere but are not included in the collections discussed above.

DNA

Ancestry

Since documentary research yielded no more information about Griggs' relationship to the Moon family, DNA was revisited. The last project discussed three white matches descended from Robert Jr—Match 13, Match 14, and Match 15; one white match descended from Robert Jr's brother William—Match 19; and two white matches descended from Robert Sr—Match 21 and Match 20, who are all pictured in Figure 1.²⁷ This handful of matches suggests Griggs was the son of a Moon but does not constitute proof. At the 4th great-grandparent level, there are 64 possible ancestors who could have contributed a DNA segment to a descendant. The discovery of more descendants of these three men among Test Taker 1's matches would provide a stronger case for one of them to be Griggs' father.

²⁴ "Robert Moon Land Indenture, 1866," *ArchiveGrid* (<https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/collection/data/276417022> : accessed 6 Apr 2022); citing MS 679 in the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, The University of Georgia Libraries.

²⁵ "Archival and Manuscript Collections Finding Aids," search for surname Moon, Special Collections Libraries, *University of Georgia* (<https://www.libs.uga.edu/scl/research/collections> : 6 Apr 2022).

²⁶ "Digital Library of Georgia," negative search for surname Moon in Jackson County, *Georgia's Virtual Library Galileo* (<https://dlg.usg.edu/> : accessed 6 Apr 2022).

²⁷ "AncestryDNA Results for Test Taker 1," database report, *AncestryDNA* (<https://ancestry.com/dna/tests/> : accessed 17 Jan 2022), Match 13 sharing <1% DNA (8 cM) across 1 shared segments (largest segment 9 cM), half 4C1R, MRCA Robert Moon Jr; Match 14 sharing <1% DNA (21 cM) across 1 shared segments (largest segment 22 cM), half 4C2R, MRCA Robert Moon Jr; Match 15 sharing <1% DNA (13 cM) across 1 shared segments (largest segment 16 cM), full or half 4C, MRCA Robert Moon Jr; Match 19 sharing <1% DNA (13 cM) across 1 shared segments (largest segment 15 cM), full or half 4C1R, MRCA Robert Moon Sr; Match 21 sharing <1% DNA (12 cM) across 1 shared segments (largest segment 14 cM), full or half 5C, MRCA Robert Moon Sr; Match 20 sharing <1% DNA (13 cM) across 1 shared segments (largest segment 14 cM), full or half 5C1R, MRCA Robert Moon Sr.

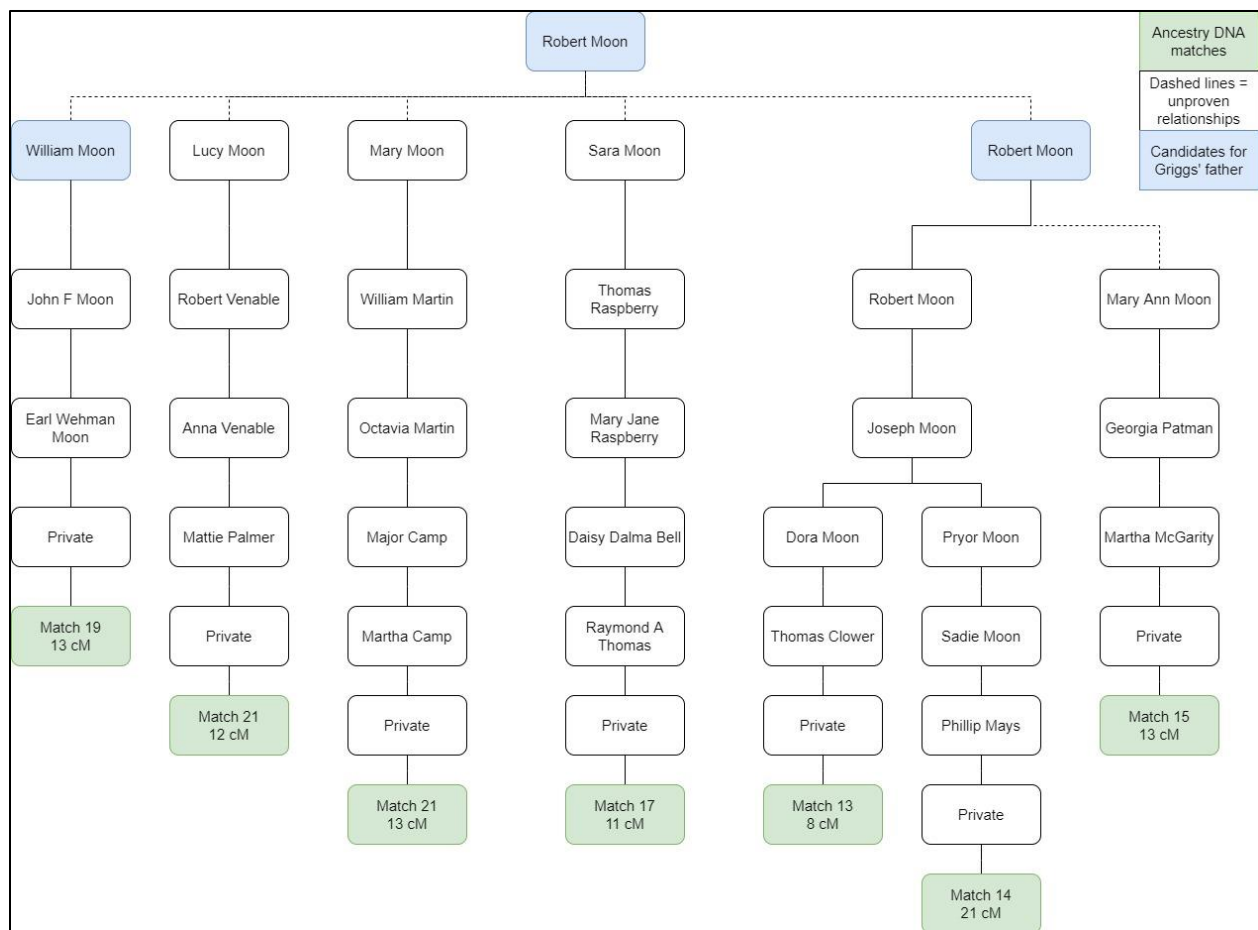


Figure 1. White Descendants of the Moon Family

To possibly discover more matches, Test Taker 1's Ancestry DNA matches were clustered using Gephi. Gephi is a third-party tool used to cluster DNA matches and provides another way of viewing shared DNA matches and how they connect. "Nodes in a network graph represent your DNA matches, and the lines connecting them indicate a shared match to each other. When a group of matches has many connections to each other, they form a cluster."²⁸ A network graph was created using Test Taker 1's Ancestry DNA test with a 20-400 cM range of matches. Figure 2 shows that Test Taker 1 has many matches 20-400 cM, resulting in highly saturated clusters.²⁹ Since this graph includes the other side of Test Taker 1's family, a more focused graph was needed to focus on connections to the Moon side.

²⁸ Robin Wirthlin, "DNA Tools and Methodology," *Research Like a Pro with DNA: A Genealogist's Guide to Finding and Confirming Ancestors with DNA Evidence* (Highland, Utah : Family Locket Books, 2021), 128-130.

²⁹ Ariel Munyer, Network Graph for Test Taker 1 using Gephi, created 24 Mar 2022, Ancestry DNA matches, 20-400 cM.

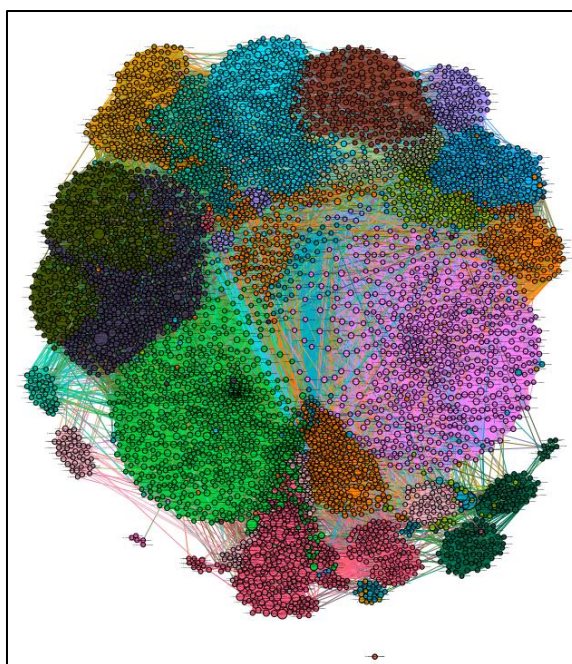


Figure 2. Network Graph of Test Taker 1' Ancestry DNA Matches 20-400 cM

Using known descendants of Griggs Moon, Robert Moon Jr, William Moon, and Robert Moon Sr, who shared DNA above 20 cM, the Moon line clusters were separated, which resulted in Figure 3, a more focused network graph.³⁰ Further analyzing this graph could yield more evidence that Griggs was the son of a Moon man. It is important to note that many of the previously identified matches descended from the three candidates share less than 20 cM of DNA with Test Taker 1, which means they do not appear in this graph. Creating a graph with a lower cM level may be necessary to identify more matches.

Known descendants of Griggs Moon appear in cluster 8 orange. Match 16, an African American match, is a hypothesized descendant of Robert Moon Jr and appears in cluster 7 teal. The only previously discussed white match in this graph is Match 14, a descendant of Robert Moon Jr, who appears in cluster 4 lavender. Since all the known African American matches are clustered in the bottom half of the graph, more white descendants of the Moon family are likely in the clusters in the top half. Analyzing those clusters could lead to the discovery of more descendants of the Moon men, which would strengthen the hypothesis that Griggs was fathered by a Moon man.

³⁰ Ariel Munyer, Network Graph for Test Taker 1 using Gephi, created 24 Mar 2022, Ancestry DNA matches, 20-400 cM, Moon line clusters reclustered.

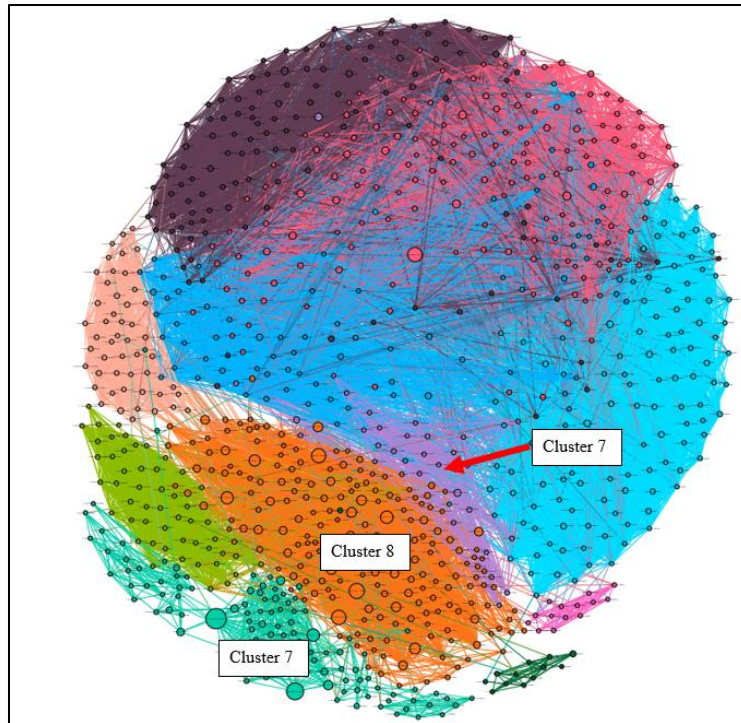


Figure 3. Network Graph of Test Taker 1' Ancestry DNA Matches 20-400 cM, Moon Line Clusters

As discussed in the previous report, it is challenging to use Ancestry DNA matches to prove which Moon man fathered Griggs. Because this many generations back, cM ranges for different relationships overlap significantly, it can be difficult to distinguish exact relationships based on the shared DNA level. For example, fifth cousins share 0-117 cM while fourth cousins, once removed, share 0-126 cM. Both relationships indicate shared fourth great-grandparents, and the range of shared DNA is almost identical. In this case, the analysis is further complicated by half relationships underreported in the Shared cM Project—some half relationships have no data at all.³¹

There is a possibility of ruling Robert Sr in or out as Griggs' father. If Robert Sr fathered Griggs, Test Taker 1 should have no DNA matches that descend from the family of Elizabeth Grimes and/or Elizabeth Pierce (it is unclear if Robert Sr had one or two wives). However, if Robert Jr or William fathered Griggs, Elizabeth was Grigg's grandmother, which should be represented by DNA matches who descended from her family. This will require researching whether Robert Sr had one or two wives.

³¹ Jonny Perl and Blaine Bettinger, "The Shared cM Project 4.0 tool v4," *DNA Painter* (<https://dnainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4> : created 17 June 2020).

Additionally, little is known about the other side of Test Taker 1's family. This means a search for more Moon clusters, or any other relevant clusters, in the general network graph, Figure 1, would have to begin with identifying clusters from the other side of Test Taker 1's family to rule them out.

23andMe and MyHeritage

More analysis likely requires DNA segment data, which is not available on Ancestry but can be found on other sites where Test Taker 1 has tested—23andMe and MyHeritage.

Match 2, a match on Ancestry known to descend from Griggs Moon, also appears on 23andMe. Match 2 and Test Taker 1's "You Have Relatives in Common" list includes some matches who could be white Moon descendants—Match 22, Match 23, Match 24, Match 25, Match 26, and Match 27.³² Further examination of 23andMe matches through clustering could be helpful in future research because 23andMe includes DNA segment data that could help narrow down Moon ancestors.

Test Taker 1's highest matches on MyHeritage have small trees or none to aid in easily identifying how they are related. Clustering of MyHeritage matches would be necessary for future research to determine if there are helpful matches for this project. Like 23andMe, the segment data MyHeritage provides could be helpful to this project.

CONCLUSION

This project successfully continued the objective of seeking to prove direct lineage from the client, Test Taker 1, to her 5th great-grandfather, Captain William Moon. A search of Freedmen's Bureau records, most Jackson County court records, Georgia Legislature records, and a search for manuscripts did not shed more light on the connection between Griggs Moon and the candidates for his father—Robert Moon Jr, William Moon, and Robert Moon Sr. In eliminating these sources, future research can now explore other avenues, especially researching the wives of the Moon men for any clues.

Clustering the Ancestry DNA matches suggests there may be a way in future research to rule Robert Sr in or out as a candidate for Griggs' father. Identifying DNA matches descending from the parents of Robert Sr's wife would eliminate him as a candidate because if Robert Sr.

³² "23andMe DNA Results for Test Taker 1," database report, 23andMe DNA, (<https://23andme.com> : accessed 14 Apr 2022), "You Have Relatives in Common" list, Match 2 sharing 97 cM across 4 shared segments, 3C1R, MRCA Griggs Moon.

fathered Griggs with an enslaved woman, no DNA from his wife would be inherited by Grigg's descendants. On the other hand, if DNA matches do appear from Robert Sr.'s wife/wives, Grigg's father would likely be one of the sons since they inherited DNA from both their mother and father and would pass that on.

There is uncertainty over the identity of Robert Sr's one or two wives Elizabeth Carter Grimes and/or Elizabeth Pierce. To identify matches that could point to this, Test Taker 1's maternal clusters must first be identified to narrow the pool of matches to evaluate.

A review of 23andMe and MyHeritage indicates future research should explore the possibility of using DNA segment data from these two sites to pursue the identification of Griggs' father.

Additional work in the DNA and records can continue the objective of determining if Test Taker 1 is a descendant of Captain William Moon.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- Documentary
 - Research Robert Moon Sr to determine if he had one wife or two—Elizabeth Pierce and/or Elizabeth Grimes.
 - Search Jackson County, Georgia, deeds for Moon transactions. These are indexed and cover the years 1808-1902. The collection is digitized on FamilySearch. [Deeds, 1808-1902; index to deeds, 1796-1904](#)
 - Complete the review of Superior Court of Jackson County records 1815-1874.
 - Identify the Moon FAN club (family, friends, and associates) with a focus on their wives and business associates. Research them completely to locate records that could shed light on this project.
- DNA
 - Further analyze the Moon network graph created from Ancestry DNA matches to identify more white descendants of the Moon men to support the hypothesis that Griggs was fathered by a man in the Moon family. Also, search for descendants of Robert Sr's wife's family to determine if Robert Sr. or one of his sons was Grigg's father.
 - Cluster and analyze matches on 23andMe and MyHeritage to isolate matches with DNA segment data applicable to the project.

- Locate a candidate for Y-DNA testing among descendants of Griggs Moon to determine matches with other Moon descendants. A candidate would need to follow the male-only pattern of Y-DNA inheritance of father to son.
- Expand the coverage of Griggs Moon's DNA by finding other descendants to share their Ancestry DNA match lists or take a DNA test.

Thanks for allowing us to research your family! We look forward to continuing as desired.

AKM / DE

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