

Moon/Lyle/Humphries Feb 2023 Research Project

29 May 2023

OBJECTIVE

Continue with DNA analysis and documentary research to prove direct lineage from the client, Laura 1, to her predicted 5th great-grandfather, Captain William Moon, to eventually apply to the Daughters of the American Revolution. This is the 4th phase of a continuing project with the following specific objectives.

- Reconstruct the branches of Robert Moon Sr's white family lines, including descendants, in the client's Ancestry tree to maximize ThruLines suggestions. Continue analysis of the most recent common ancestors for relevant clusters from the network graphs created in the last project.
- Identify the spouse of Robert Sr and build out the lines for her parents and siblings. Determining her surname and close relatives will help evaluate whether any of the client's DNA clusters relate to her family. If matches are discovered along the wife's line, this will point to one of Robert Sr's sons as Griggs' father rather than Robert Sr himself.
- Dedicate 2 hours of research to exploring the Lyle evidence to assess that path to DAR membership.

LIMITATIONS

- This project was limited to 20 hours for DNA analysis and documentary research.
- DNA analysis was restricted to Ancestry autosomal DNA results. Y-DNA and mitochondrial DNA do not apply as neither the client nor her siblings follow the required inheritance patterns.
- Distance from the research locality constrained documentary research to online sources or those which could be requested remotely.
- The dehumanizing effects of slavery significantly challenge African American genealogical research: lack of vital and other records for the enslaved; common transfer of slaves between plantations, often separating families; name changes before and after emancipation; reliance on and accessibility of enslavers' records for evidence, etc.
- DNA can provide direct evidence of shared Ancestry at the generational distances involved in this study but only indirect evidence of the specific relationships between matches.
- DAR requirements currently allow DNA evidence to be submitted for proof of kinship for only the most recent three generations, i.e., the applicant to parents, the applicant's parents to grandparents, and the applicant's grandparents to great-grandparents.¹ Further, a proof argument

¹ Daughters of the American Revolution, "DNA and DAR Applications" (<https://www.dar.org/national-society/genealogy/dna-and-dar-applications> : accessed 30 November 2022).

can be used in place of direct evidence for only one generational link from the ancestor back to the patriot.²

RESULTS SUMMARY

- Constructed and sourced branches of the Robert Moon Sr family in the client's family tree at Ancestry. Researched and identified Carter Grimes, daughter of William Grimes and wife Mildred Drury, as the likely wife of Robert Sr. Built out the associated Grimes lines to maximize ThruLines results. Evaluated ThruLines reports to determine there were no additional white matches through Robert Sr, nor any known matches having the Grimes as common ancestors. For the Moon line, the expanded DNA and documentary evidence lends weight to Robert Sr as the more likely father of Griggs Moon. The data is still inconclusive, and documentary gaps in the Moon generations exceed the DAR restrictions which allows for a proof argument to be submitted for only one generation.
- Constructed and sourced branches of the Dilmus Lyle family in the client's family tree at Ancestry to explore evidence for Mary Lyle's descent from this white, slaveowner family. Reviewed the ensuing ThruLines reports to determine the Lyle line appears to have more evidence to work with in pursuing DAR membership for the client. However, the Lyle line also presents generational documentary gaps that exceed the DAR allowance.
- Retooled and analyzed a DNA network graph for the client. While examining clusters for the Moon and Lyle lineages, two large clusters were identified having the closest and most numerous white DNA matches to the client. Determined DAR-patriot Joseph Humphries, and his wife Rebecca Phelps, as common ancestors for these clusters. Constructed and sourced branches of the Joseph Humphries family in the client's family tree at Ancestry to maximize ThruLines algorithms. Analyzed the resulting ThruLines reports suggesting about 300 matches through Joseph and Rebecca and over 200 matches through their son George.
- Commenced pedigree triangulation and segment analysis for the Humphries matches. Constructed a What are the Odds (WATO) tree to analyze Laura 1's connection to Joseph Humphries. Ran a Hybrid Segment Analysis report for her matches at MyHeritage, 23andMe, and FamilyTreeDNA, discovering several triangulated Humphries segments as well as a quadrangulated segment. Weighed the emerging genetic, geographic, and chronological evidence to determine Laura 1's most likely path of descent: Laura 1 > James Smith > Florence Moon > Laura Stephens > Male Chandler > Nancy Humphries > George Washington Humphries > Joseph Humphries and Rebecca Phelps.
- Counseled with DAR representatives from the Maryland State Society to consider Laura 1's application. Determined a plan for continued DNA and documentary research necessary to produce a preponderance of evidence to include in a future proof argument. Formulated a plan for gathering the necessary vital records and assembling the application.

Note: In historical records, the Humphries surname is variously recorded as Humphreys, Humphrey, Humphry, and so on. The name has been standardized to Humphries for the narrative of this report since this variation was most commonly passed down through the closest associated line to the client.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Prior research projects made considerable progress in examining documentary and DNA evidence for the connection between the client's ancestor, Griggs Moon, and the slaveholding Moon family. Census

² BK, DNA Committee Chair, Maryland State Society NSDAR, phone interview by Melanie Whitt, 12 April 2023, notes held privately, Tualatin, Oregon.

documents, estate records, and oral history provide geographic, chronological, and onomastic evidence of a close, durable association between Griggs, and the Moon family, particularly Robert Moon Jr.³ Though nearly 20 enslaved people owned by the Moon family have been identified by name, research has yet to unearth a pre-emancipation document which directly names Griggs, a multiracial former slave, in connection to the Moon estates.

Genetic evidence supports the connection and indicates the client and five of Griggs' other multiracial descendants share common descent from Robert Moon Sr. Combined, the six test takers matched ten white Moon descendants from six independent lines descending from Robert Sr. Two matches to Robert Jr's descendants were confirmed by two independent lines of descent from Griggs (see figure 1). Though inconclusive, the documentary and DNA evidence lean slightly toward Robert Jr as Griggs' father.

The last research project discovered another possible pathway for the client to DAR membership through the Ancestry of Griggs' wife, Mary Lyle, Laura 1's predicted 2nd great-grandmother. Oral history from the multiracial side of the Moon family contends that Mary Lyle, a former slave, was the multiracial daughter of Dilmus Lyle and an unknown enslaved woman.⁴ This is supported by geographic, chronological, and onomastic evidence in records.⁵ Dilmus Lyle was the son of Maher Shallal Hasby Lyle, a proven Revolutionary War patriot.⁶ Dilmus was also the father of Catherine Reid Lyle, the wife of Robert Moon Jr. This would make an apparent case of two slaveowner families (Moon and Lyle) united by marriage between their white descendants and by marriage between their alleged multiracial slave descendants.

³ Family Locket Genealogists, "Moon August 2022 Research Project," report, 10 January 2023; privately held by the client and researchers.

⁴ Laura 1 to Diana Elder, email, 28 June 2022; privately held by Elder, Highland, Utah. See also Gloria E Moon, "Descendants of Griggs M Moon," compiled genealogy, 28 June 2006, digital copy from client.

⁵ Family Locket Genealogists, "Moon August 2022 Research Project," report, 10 January 2023; privately held by the client and researchers.

⁶ National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Maher Shallal Hasby Lyle, ancestor A072557; database, "Ancestor Search," *Daughters of the American Revolution* (https://services.dar.org/Public/DAR_Research/search_adb/?action=full&p_id=A072557 : accessed 20 April 2023).

FINDINGS & ANALYSIS: MOON LINEAGE

Documentary

As discussed in the previous report, identifying the wife of Robert Moon Sr was a primary goal for this research session. If clusters of DNA matches were discovered along her parent's or siblings' lines, this would point to one of Robert Sr's sons as Griggs' father rather than Robert Sr himself. Online published family trees often list Robert Sr's wife as Carter Grimes, daughter of William Grimes and Mildred Drury. Though no marriage records for Robert Sr and Carter were found, there is significant indirect evidence of their marriage in the estate file for her father, William.

William Grimes died between 29 December 1794, when he signed his will, and 5 January 1795, when his estate inventory was submitted to the Elbert County Court of Ordinary.⁸ His last will and testament named his heirs as wife Mildred, daughters Carter and Betsey, and sons William and Thomas.⁹ His estate file connected the Grimes and Moons in several ways:

- William Moon, presumably Robert Sr's father or brother, witnessed and signed the 1795 estate inventory.
- The inventory, account returns, and guardian returns featured enslaved people by the same name as many of Robert Sr's known slaves (see figures 2 and 3). Table 1 compares the known slaves associated with each of them.
- A 1798 account return filed by the executors specifically revealed that Robert Moon Sr purchased "[one negro woman] named Phillis" for \$200.25 from the Grimes estate (see figure 4). Though Robert Sr bought Phillis, there is no evidence that he bought his other slaves with identical names to William Grimes' slaves. These transactions may have occurred after Thomas came of age and the estate was fully settled. However, if he married Carter, Robert Sr may have had legal right to her property, including the enslaved individuals named in the will or any others she received prior to her father's death.
- The 26 April 1802 testimonial for the estate distribution released the executors and was signed by the heirs of "our father's estate" (see figure 5).¹⁰ The document was signed by William Grimes Jr, then William Jr acting as guardian for minor brother Thomas Grimes, Elizabeth (Betsey) Carter, and her husband William Carter. Noticeably absent is daughter Carter Grimes' signature. However, Robert Moon's mark signature is included with the other heirs. In this era, female heirs had male, legal co-signers, typically their husbands if married. This indirectly suggests Robert Moon, who was certainly not a child of William Grimes, may have signed on behalf of Carter, his inferred wife. The court's copy is all in the same hand and is even marked "copy." Perhaps the scribe unintentionally left off Carter Grimes Moon when the document was copied for the county's records. Alternatively, Carter may have been unavailable to sign due to childbirth or illness. It is possible she had died by then, but this is not likely since the distribution did not reference grandchildren or minor heirs of any deceased children, nor that Robert Sr was signing as a guardian.

⁸ "Georgia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992," Elbert County Inferior [Ordinary] Court, estate file, entry for William Grimes; database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 January 2023), Elbert > Estates, Grogan, Josephine Waller-Guttery Robt, > images 117-161 of 459.

⁹ "Georgia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992," Elbert County Inferior [Ordinary] Court, entry for William Grimes, will, 29 December 1794; database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 January 2023), Elbert > Estates, Grogan, Josephine Waller-Guttery Robt, > images 120-121 of 459. **Document 1**

¹⁰ "Georgia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992," Elbert County Inferior [Ordinary] Court, entry for William Grimes, estate distribution, 26 April 1802; database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 January 2023), Elbert > Estates, Grogan, Josephine Waller-Guttery Robt, > image 160 of 459. **Document 1**

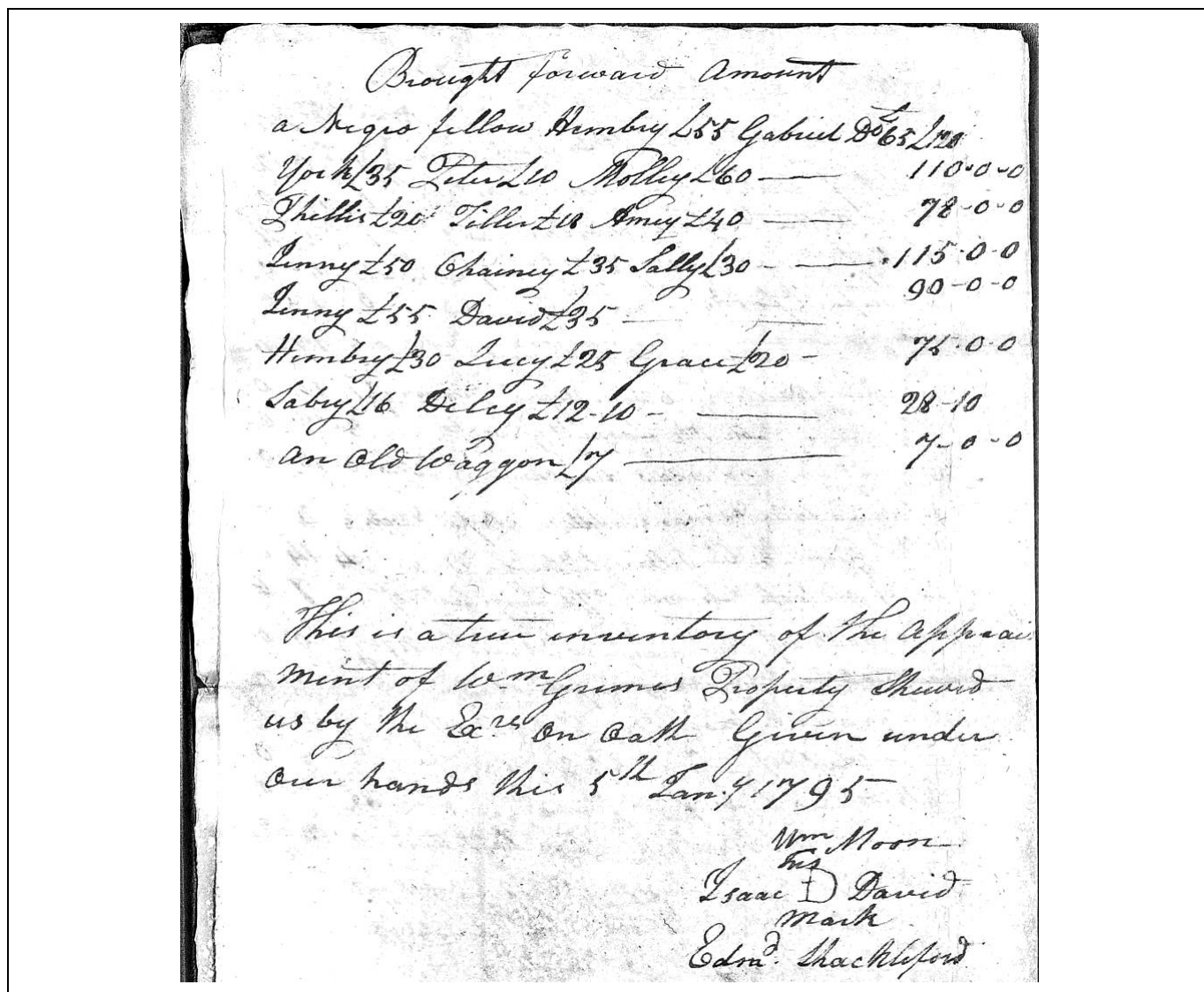


Figure 2. Excerpt from Grimes' 1795 estate inventory naming enslaved individuals¹¹

¹¹ "Georgia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992," Elbert County Inferior [Ordinary] Court, entry for William Grimes estate inventory, 5 January 1795; database with images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 January 2023), Elbert > Estates, Grogan, Josephine Waller-Guttery Robt, > image 157 of 459. **Document 1**

D ^r William Grimes, Guard ⁿ of Tho ^o			
1806	To the Hire 2 Negroes Molly & Mary	45	00
	To the Hire 1 do Boy Armstead	6	25
	To the Hire 1 do Hembry	75	12 1/2
1807	To the Hire 2 Negroes Molly & Mary	\$126	37 1/2
	To the Hire 1 do Boy Armstead	50	00
	To the Hire 1 do Hembry	13	50
		100	25
		\$290	12 1/2

Figure 3. Excerpt of William Grimes Jr's 1806-1807 guardian account return for hiring out brother Thomas' slaves¹²

TABLE 1. ENSLAVED PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH SLAVEOWNERS WILLIAM GRIMES AND ROBERT MOON SR

WILLIAM GRIMES		ROBERT MOON SR	
Same/similar name	Unique name	Same/similar name	Unique name
• Gabriel	• Betty	• Gabriel	• White
• Molley	• Harry	• Molly	• Lee
• Phillis	• Hembry	• Phyllis	• Samuel
• Jinny (1)	• Little Hembry	• Ginny	• Daphne
• Jinny (2)	• York	• Jane	• Rachel
• Jane	• Peter	• Lucy	• Antinett
• Big Jany	• Mary	• Sabrey	• Maly
• Lucy	• Tillie	• Armstead	
• Sabry	• Amy	• Little Armstead	
• Armstead	• Chaincey		
	• Sally		
	• David		
	• Grace		
	• Delcy		

¹² "Georgia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992," Elbert County Inferior [Ordinary] Court, entry for William Grimes, guardian account returns, 1806-1807; database with images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 January 2023), Elbert > Estates, Grogan, Josephine Waller-Guttery Robt, > image 144 of 459. **Document 1**

Source: "Georgia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992," Elbert County Inferior [Ordinary] Court, will and probate, entry for William Grimes; database with images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 20 January 2023), Elbert > Estates, Grogan, Josephine Waller-Guttery Robt, > images 117-161 of 459. **Document 1**

Source: Jackson County, Georgia, Court of Ordinary, *Jackson County Inventory & Appraisements Book A, 1823-1844*, inventory, returns, and distribution of Robert Moon estate, 1824-1840, pp. 110, 118, 119, 277-280; digital images received 8 December 2022 via email from Jackson County Historic Archives, Georgia. See also Family Locket Genealogists, "Moon August 2022 Research Project," report, 10 January 2023; privately held by the client and researchers.

Feb. 28th
1798

By a Negro woman named Amy
Sold & purchased by L^{dn} Willhite \$300
1 Do. named Phillis purchased
by Robt. Moon - - - 200.25
1 horse to L^{dn} Willhite - - - 84.
1 Bid to Do - - - 20
1 Gun to Tho^s B. Scott - - - 7
\$ 611.25

Figure 4. Robert Moon's 1798 purchase of slave Phillis from the estate of William Grimes¹³

¹³ "Georgia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992," Elbert County Inferior [Ordinary] Court, entry for William Grimes, account return, 28 February 1798; database with images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 20 January 2023), Elbert > Estates, Grogan, Josephine Waller-Guttery Robt, > image 150 of 459. **Document 1**

Rec^d in full of our parts from the Executors of our Fathers
 Estate. Tho^s. B. Scott W^m. Harvee & John Wilk^{ts} Who acted
 as Executors Which we Exonerate the said Executors from all
 Claim or Claims & Acquit in full & discharge from
 their Executorship As Witnes our Hands this 26th April
 1802 —

Test
 Tho^s. Meriwether
 Sam^l. Woods
 Reuben Easton

Copy

John Wilk^{ts} Leg^y
 Jⁿ. Wilk^{ts} Qua^{nt} D^y
 William Grimes
 William Grimes Qua^{nt} D^y
 Tho^s. Grimes
 William Carter
 Elizabeth ^{her} Carter
 mark
 Rob^t. Moon

Rec^d of W^m. Tho^s. B. Scott W^m. William Harvee and
 W^m. John Wilk^{ts} the Executors of the Estate of
 William Grimes dec^d. five dollars in full of all open
 Accounts against them April 26th 1802 —

Tho^s. Meriwether

William Carter
 her
 Elizabeth ^{her} Carter
 mark

Copy

Figure 5. 1802 Estate distribution with Robert Moon's name and mark among William Grimes' children and son-in-law¹⁴

¹⁴ "Georgia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992," Elbert County Inferior [Ordinary] Court, estate distribution, 26 April 1802, entry for William Grimes; database with images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 January 2023), Elbert > Estates, Grogan, Josephine Waller-Guttery Robt, > image 160 of 459. **Document 1**

William Grimes' will was the only document found for Carter Grimes. Given that Robert signed among the heirs and apparently owned many of William Grimes' slaves following his death, it is reasonable to infer that Robert Sr was the husband of Carter Grimes. The evidence from Robert Sr's estate records discovered in the last project and that from William Grimes' estate records discovered in this session propelled the descendancy research for their families. This helped identify surnames and lineages to recognize when evaluating DNA matches.

DNA

Drawing a reasonable conclusion that the client descends from distant common ancestors—in this case, the white Moon family—requires identification of extensive DNA matches down as many independent lines of descent from the ancestors as possible. In this research session, DNA analysis sought to build on prior genetic evidence for Moon ancestry and to evaluate which Moon male was the most likely candidate for Griggs' father. This requires increasing the general number of identified white Moon matches and their common ancestors. This session also aimed to determine if any clusters were connected to Robert Sr's proposed wife, Carter Grimes. This DNA investigation proceeded in the following ways:

- By building out and sourcing the branches of Robert Sr and Carter's family in the client's family tree linked in Ancestry to her DNA test results.¹⁵ This maximizes the ThruLines algorithms to detect relevant DNA cousins. This included Robert Sr and Carter's known children, as well as their posterity where possible:
 - William Moon and wife Agnes Venable
 - Sarah R Moon and husband James Millican
 - Robert Moon Jr and wife Catherine Reid Lyle
 - Archibald Moon and wife Eunice Nance
 - Thomas P Moon and wife Mary Worsham
 - Boler G Moon and wife Mary Ann Smith
 - Mary Moon and husband John Alexander Martin
 - Mildred Moon and husband Randolph Wills
 - Lucy Moon and husband Martin Abraham Venable
 - Susan Moon and husband Josiah L Blalock
 - Martha Moon and husband Lewis Pines Eaves
 - Elizabeth Moon and husband John A Haile
 - John Moon

¹⁵ "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 February 2023), "Myers Family Tree," family of Robert Moon Sr., built out and sourced by researcher Melanie Whitt on behalf of client to maximize ThruLines.

- By building out and sourcing the branches of William Grimes and Mildred Drury's family in the client's family tree linked in Ancestry to her DNA test results.¹⁶ This maximizes the ThruLines algorithms to detect relevant DNA cousins. This included William and Mildred's known children, as well as their posterity where possible:
 - Carter Grimes and husband Robert Moon Sr
 - Thomas Miner Grimes and wife Anna Power
 - Elizabeth "Betsey" Grimes and husband William Carter
 - William A Grimes and wife Julia Lassiter
- By retooling Laura 1's DNA network graph to focus on the clusters associated white Moon cousins who share between 15-400 cM (see figure 6 below).¹⁷ A PDF version of the network graph that allows for zooming in on the names of matches will accompany this report.
- By triangulating pedigrees and building trees of further matches in the target clusters.

Unfortunately, building out the branches of Robert Sr and Carter's family has produced no further ThruLines suggestions for white Moon DNA cousins. Nor has construction of the Grimes branches generated any ThruLines suggestions to the Grimes or Drury families beyond those matches who descend from Robert Sr and Carter. Furthermore, deeper examination of the client's network graph has not identified any relevant clusters having William Grimes and Mildred Drury as the common ancestors. In fact, clusters 11 and 4 feature the largest and most numerous white matches along this line of the client's tree (see Figure 6 below), and the clusters reveal a significant connection to a different white Revolutionary War ancestor, Joseph Humphries, who will be discussed later in this report.

¹⁶ "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 February 2023), "Myers Family Tree," family of William Grimes, built out and sourced by researcher Melanie Whitt on behalf of client to maximize ThruLines.

¹⁷ Melanie Whitt, "Network graph for Laura 1, 15-400 cM, subset of paternal matches," *Gephi* (<https://gephi.org/> : accessed 12 May 2023), *AncestryDNA* matches gathered with DNAGedcom, 10 December 2022. **Document 2**

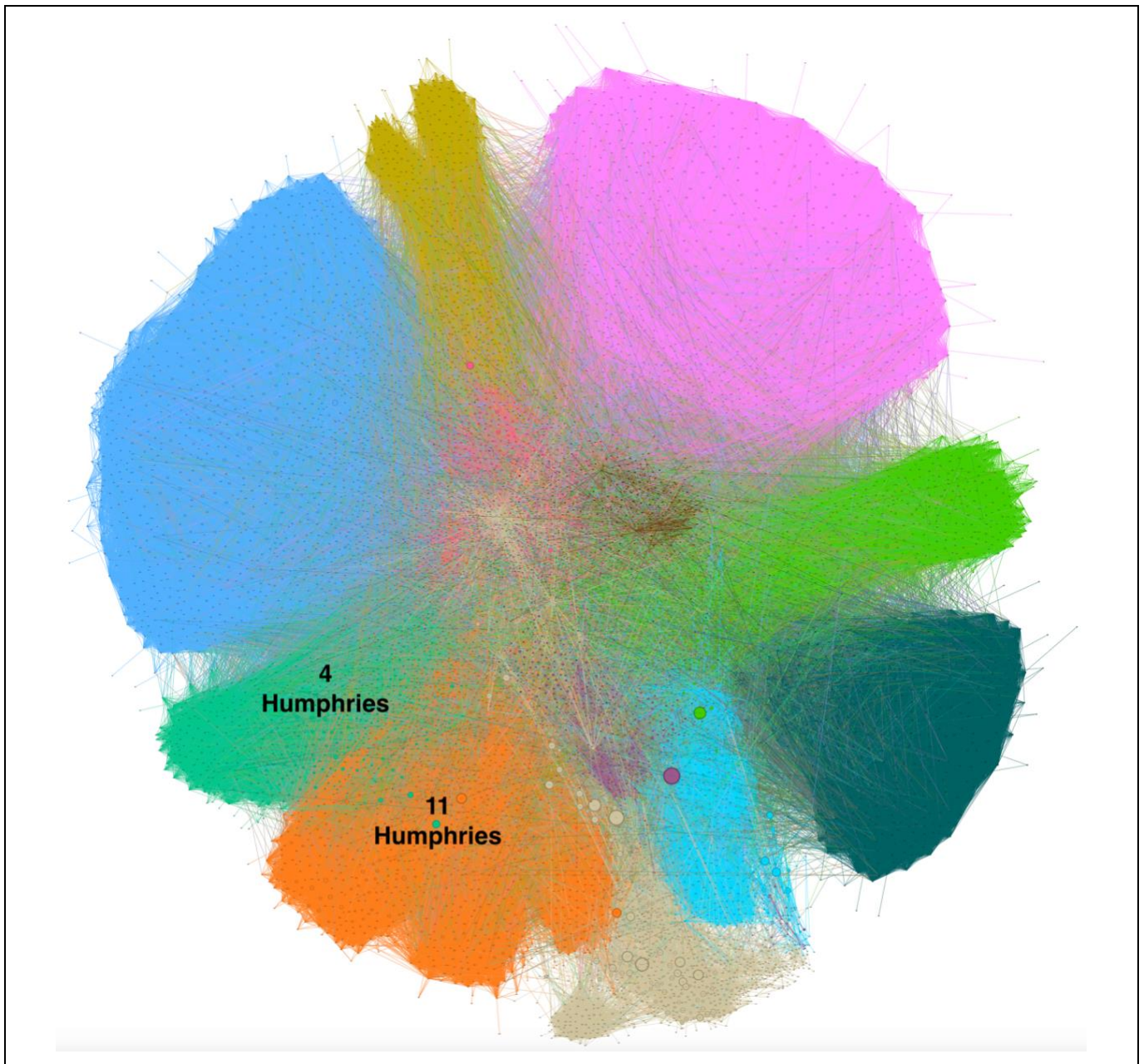


Figure 6. DNA Network Graph for Laura 1, paternal subset, 15-400 cM, highlighting clusters with Humphries descendants¹⁸

At this point in the Moon research, the following considerations indicate that Robert Sr may be the more likely candidate for Griggs' father:

- The general low amounts of DNA shared by the known white Moon matches for all of Robert Sr's lines. This hints at a more distant connection. Notably, the slightly higher number of matches and cM amounts for Robert Jr's descendants may be due to the addition of shared Lyle DNA through his wife Catherine Reid Lyle, predicted half-sister to Griggs' wife, Mary Lyle.
- The same relative number of known white Moon matches down independent lines of descent from Robert Sr. If Robert Jr were the father, a higher ratio of matches would likely emerge down his line

¹⁸ Melanie Whitt, "Network graph for Laura 1, 15-400 cM, subset of paternal matches," *Gephi* (<https://gephi.org/> : accessed 12 May 2023), *AncestryDNA* matches gathered with DNAGedcom, 10 December 2022. **Document 2**

compared to those of his siblings, subject to family sizes and rates of DNA testing in each descendant branch.

- The lack of newly identified white Moon DNA cousins following significant descendancy research, especially for the line of Robert Jr.
- The absence of any discernable Grimes DNA matches or clusters.

This analysis is not definitive. Continued future evaluation of matches could weight the hypothesis with more certainty. As there is presently no direct evidence of Robert Sr's marriages, the indirect evidence for his marriage to Carter does not preclude the existence of another wife. Carter could have died, and Robert Sr could have married a second wife through whom Robert Jr descended. It is possible that further documentary research would unearth more evidence that would better establish any other wives of Robert Sr and provide fresh avenues for genetic and documentary correlation.

One of the greatest difficulties in pursuing the Moon line for DAR application is the lack of direct, documentary evidence for two generational links. In the client's Moon lineage, the kinship between Griggs and the white Moons marks one such generation, and the kinship between Crawford and Griggs makes a second.¹⁹ The DAR accepts a proof argument using indirect evidence to show kinship for only one generation of missing documentation.²⁰

FINDINGS & ANALYSIS: LYLE LINEAGE

Documentary & DNA

A couple of hours of this project were dedicated to an examination of the evidence linking the client to the predicted white ancestors of Griggs' wife, Mary Lyle. In similar fashion to the Moon line, this involved building out and sourcing the family and descendant branches of Dilmus Lyle, son of Maher Shallal Hasby Lyle, a DAR-proven Revolutionary War patriot.²¹ Because Dilmus is Mary Lyle's proposed father, connecting these lines to the client's DNA test-linked Ancestry tree maximizes the ThruLines algorithms to detect relevant DNA cousins.²² This included names of Dilmus' siblings as well as the families of Dilmus' known children:

- Elizabeth Lyle and husband Berryman S Camp
- David James Lyle and wife Nancy A McClesky
- William Alexander Lyle and wife Mary Ann McCane

¹⁹ Family Locket Genealogists, "Moon Research Project," report for Laura 1, 31 January 2022; digital copy held by researchers. See also Family Locket Genealogists, "Moon Research Project," report for Laura 1, 25 April 2022; digital copy held by researchers.

²⁰ BK, DNA Committee Chair, Maryland State Society NSDAR, phone interview by Melanie Whitt, 12 April 2023, notes held privately, Tualatin, Oregon.

²¹ National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Maher Shallal Hasby Lyle, ancestor A072557; database, "Ancestor Search," *Daughters of the American Revolution* (https://services.dar.org/Public/DAR_Research/search_adb/?action=full&p_id=A072557 : accessed 20 April 2023).

²² "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 February 2023), "Myers Family Tree," family of Maher Shallal Hasby Lyle, built out and sourced by researcher Melanie Whitt on behalf of client to maximize ThruLines.

- Thomas Gibson Lyle and wife Artimesia J Wheat
- Catherine Reid Lyle and husband Robert Moon Jr
- Jane B Lyle and husbands Gilbert Pierce Williams and Burke Camp
- Dilmus Reid Lyle and wives Malita Moore and Mary Lee B Glaze

Adding in these Lyle branches generated 32 ThruLines matches to Laura 1 down 7 independent lines of descent from Maher (see Figure 7).²³ All but two of the matches were white descendants. This potentially constitutes three times as many white matches for Laura 1 as with Robert Moon Sr descendants from ThruLines. Of note, Laura 1 reportedly shares DNA with Lyle cousins who descend down every one of Maher's lines for which the DAR has approved members.²⁴ Future documentary research into Mary Lyle may produce pre-emancipation sources connecting her to the Lyles.

On its face, the Lyle lineage presents a stronger DNA case for exploration than the Moon lineage for DAR application. There are some inconsistencies, however. Most of these matches are below 15 cM and thus not included in the retooled network graph for evaluation. Those few matches over 15 cM appear in various clusters. This may be due to a founder effect or multiple relationships between the Lyles, Moons, and Humphries—all Revolutionary War veterans who were among the earliest settlers in Jackson County, Georgia.²⁵ Given Mary's alleged descent from Dilmus, more matches would be expected among his descendants than those of his siblings, subject to relative family sizes and rates of DNA testing in each branch. Though preliminary results do not reflect this, these results may materialize with more in-depth DNA evaluation.

The primary difficulty with the Lyle line—as with the Moon line—is the lack of a direct, documentary connection between Crawford and his parents. This necessitates two proof arguments to connect back to the patriot ancestor, while the DAR will accept a proof argument for only one generational link. While future documentary research may produce a source for Crawford's parents, this has not yet developed with several sessions of research. Fortunately, while evaluating the network graph clusters for the Moon and Lyle lineages, the Joseph Humphries line emerged with stronger potential.

²³ "Laura 1's DNA Matches: ThruLines for Maher Shallel Hasby Lyle," database report, *AncestryDNA* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 March 2023).

²⁴ National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Maher Shallal Hasby Lyle, ancestor A072557; database, "Ancestor Search," *Daughters of the American Revolution* (https://services.dar.org/Public/DAR_Research/search_adb/?action=full&p_id=A072557 : accessed 20 April 2023).

²⁵ *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, "Jackson County" (<https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/counties-cities-neighborhoods/jackson-county/> : accessed 20 April 2023). See also *UC Berkeley UC Museum of Paleontology*, "Understanding Evolution: Bottlenecks and Founder Effects" (<https://evolution.berkeley.edu/bottlenecks-and-founder-effects/> : accessed 2 May 2023). See also *NIH National Human Genome Research Institute*, "Founder Effect" (<https://www.genome.gov/genetics-glossary/Founder-Effect> : accessed 2 May 2023).

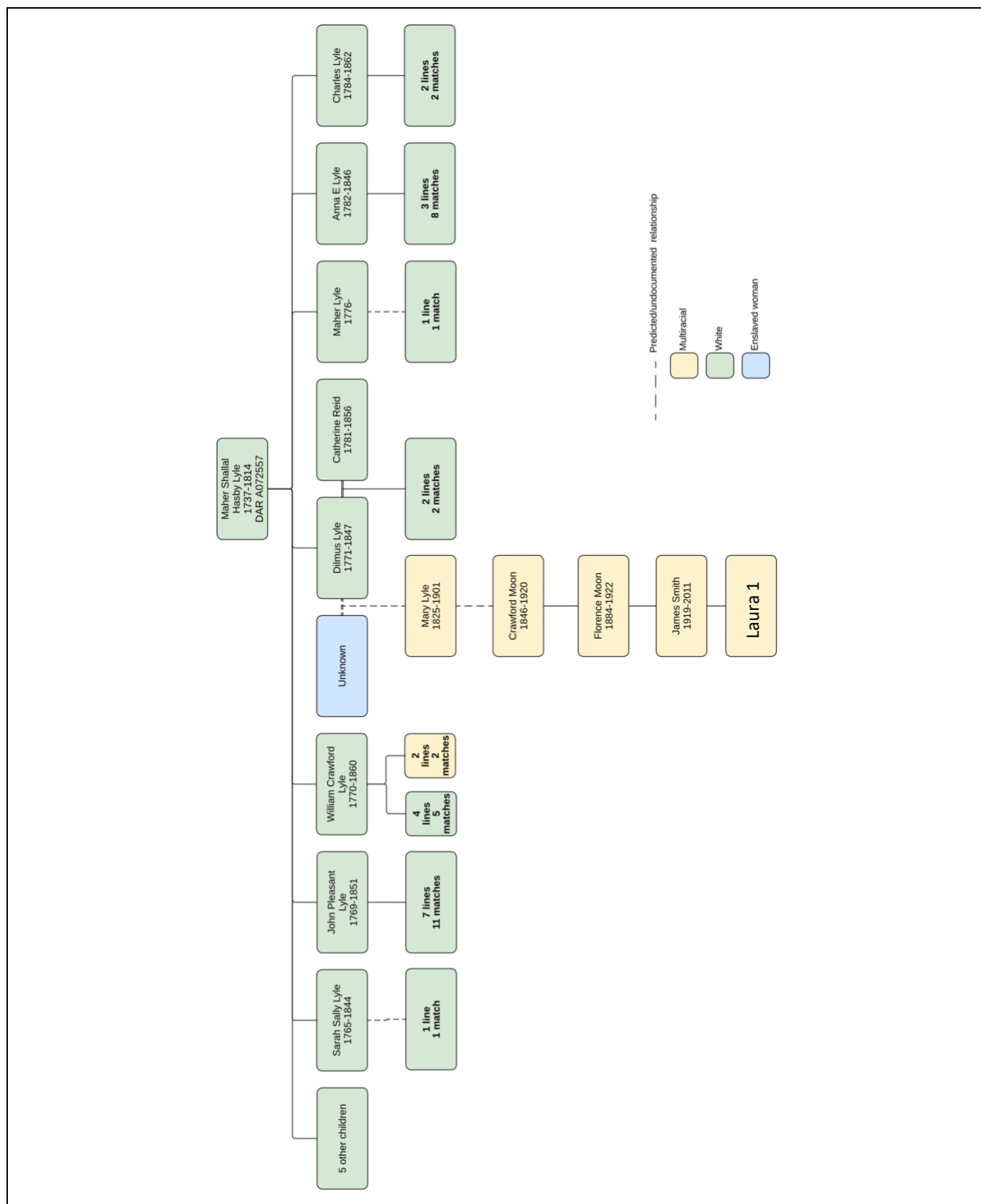


Figure 7. Descendant chart for Maher Lyle highlighting reported lines with matches to Laura 1²⁶

²⁶ "Laura 1's DNA Matches: ThruLines for Maher Shallah Hasby Lyle," database report, *AncestryDNA* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 March 2023).

FINDINGS & ANALYSIS: HUMPHRIES LINEAGE

DNA Network Graph & Pedigree Triangulation

Analysis of Laura 1's network graph based on the Leeds method led to two large clusters that relate to the client's grandmother Florence Moon's side of the family.²⁷ These clusters, numbers 11 and 4 in the network graph in Figure 6 above, feature Laura 1's closest and most numerous white DNA matches. Pedigree triangulation readily determined that Joseph Humphries, a Revolutionary War patriot, and his wife, Rebecca Phelps, were the primary common ancestors of cluster 11.²⁸ Their son George Washington Humphries and his wife, Abigail McDonald, appear to be the primary common ancestors for cluster 4. The process of elimination—based on Leeds clustering and logic—points to Laura, Crawford Moon's second wife, as the ancestor tied to these clusters.²⁹

Laura was a multiracial former slave, enumerated as "mulatto" in the 1880 census along with Crawford.³⁰ She was born about 1850. Thus her father was most likely white, and her mother a slave. Accounting for the highest shared cM amounts and most numerous white matches in the Humphries lines, as well as emerging geographic and chronological evidence discussed later, the client's predicted Humphries connection follows this path: Laura 1 > James Smith > Florence Moon > Laura Stephens > Male Chandler > Nancy Humphries Chandler > George Washington Humphries > Joseph Humphries and Rebecca Phelps.³¹ After adding these relationships to the client's Ancestry tree, ThruLines returned *about 300* predicted matches to Joseph and Rebecca, *about 220* matches through their son George, and about 40 matches through his daughter Nancy.³² Figure 8 displays the predicted pedigree chart of Laura 1's DNA matches connecting her back to Joseph. Based on the robust and growing evidence, research shifted to this Humphries line as the best option for the client's eventual successful admission to the DAR.

²⁷ Dana Leeds, "DNA Color Clustering: The Leeds Method for Easily Visualizing Matches," *Dana Leeds*, posted 23 August 2018, (<https://www.danaleeds.com/dna-color-clustering-the-leeds-method-for-easily-visualizing-matches/> : accessed 28 December 2022).

²⁸ National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Joseph Humphrey, ancestor A059898; database, "Ancestor Search," *Daughters of the American Revolution* (https://services.dar.org/Public/DAR_Research/search_adb/?action=full&p_id=A059898 : accessed 20 April 2023). Note: "The DAR assigns a single standard surname that covers variant spellings of similar surnames. While the surname may appear incorrect, this does not mean it is in error. This spelling system ensures that patriots are not established under more than one spelling."

²⁹ Melanie Whitt, Leeds cluster analysis spreadsheet for Laura 1, *AncestryDNA* matches 60-275 cM, *Google Sheets* (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets> : accessed 23 February 2022).

³⁰ 1880 U.S. Census, Jackson County, Georgia, population schedule, Randolph's District, enumeration district (ED) 56, sheet 562C (stamped), p. 23 (penned), dwelling 208, family 211, Crawford Moon; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6742/images/4240146-00329> : accessed 25 April 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 153.

³¹ "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 January 2023), "Myers Family Tree," family of Joseph Humphries and Rebecca Phelps built out and sourced by researcher Melanie Whitt on behalf of client to maximize ThruLines.

³² "Laura 1's DNA Matches: ThruLines," database reports, *AncestryDNA* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 March 2023).

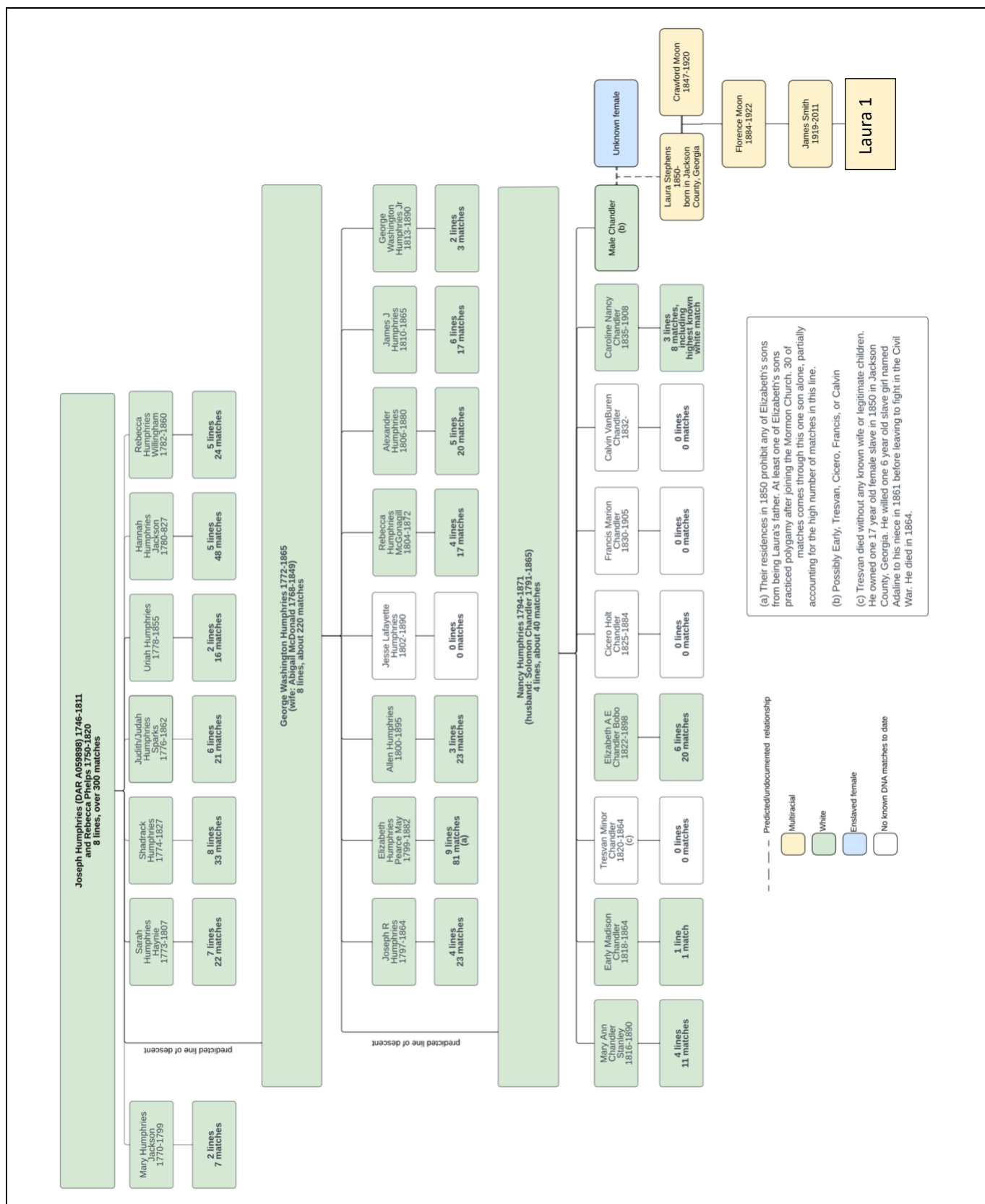


Figure 8. Pedigree chart showing extensive DNA evidence for the client's predicted relationship to Joseph Humphries³³

³³ "Laura 1's DNA Matches: ThruLines," database reports, *AncestryDNA* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 March 2023).

There is no doubt the client descends from Joseph Humphries and Rebecca Phelps. Laura 1's closest white match along this lineage, Humphries 1, shares 166 cM with her across 7 segments. In view of the current, hypothesized relationship path for Laura 1 back to Joseph, Laura 1 and Humphries 1 are 2C2R, and both descend from Joseph's granddaughter Nancy Humphries Chandler. This corresponds with the observed range of DNA shared by 2C2R, though it is higher than one standard deviation above the mean for this relationship at DNA Painter's Shared cM Project.³⁴ Humphries 1 and Laura 1 have no other known shared ancestors.

This significant match helps position Laura 1 in the Humphries tree. A pedigree chart was created using DNA Painter's What Are the Odds (WATO) utility to evaluate the statistical probability for various hypothetical relationship paths for the client back to Joseph Humphries.³⁵ A detail of the WATO tree, still in progress due to the client's numerous Humphries matches, is presented in Figure 9. The WATO report confirms that Laura 1 and Humphries 1's shared 166 cM of DNA makes several scenarios statistically impossible based on current inputs:

- It is impossible that George Washington Humphries fathered a slave (half-sibling to Nancy) who then fathered Laura.
- Likewise, George could not have fathered a slave (male or female) who is the parent of a male slave who then fathered Laura.
- Of George's daughters, only Nancy's line could have produced Laura.

Statistical DNA probabilities maintain that any of George's sons, or any of Nancy's sons, could have fathered Laura. Locating them in time and place assesses the feasibility of impregnating an enslaved woman in or near Jackson County, Georgia, about 1849-1850. Preliminary documentary evidence reveals that George and his six sons—Joseph, Allen, Jesse, Alexander, James, and George Jr—had migrated to Alabama by 1830 and Mississippi by 1840.³⁶ All seven of these Humphries men lived in Lafayette County, Mississippi, in 1850. Nancy Humphries, George's oldest child, had married Solomon Chandler in Jackson County, Georgia, where they remained and raised their family. In 1850, four of her sons—Early, Tresvan, Francis, and Calvin—lived in Subdivision 45 of Jackson County, Georgia, while son Cicero lived in adjacent Clarke County, Georgia. These five Chandler men were in the right place at the right time, rendering them much stronger candidates to be Laura's father.

³⁴ DNA Painter, "The Shared CM Project 4.0 tool v4: 166 cM" (<https://dnainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4/166> : accessed 20 May 2023).

³⁵ "WATO Report for Laura 1," DNA Painter ([private link] : accessed 24 May 2023), What Are the Odds? Tool.

³⁶ "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 January 2023), "Myers Family Tree," family of George Washington Humphries and Abigail McDonald built out and sourced by researcher Melanie Whitt on behalf of client to maximize ThruLines.

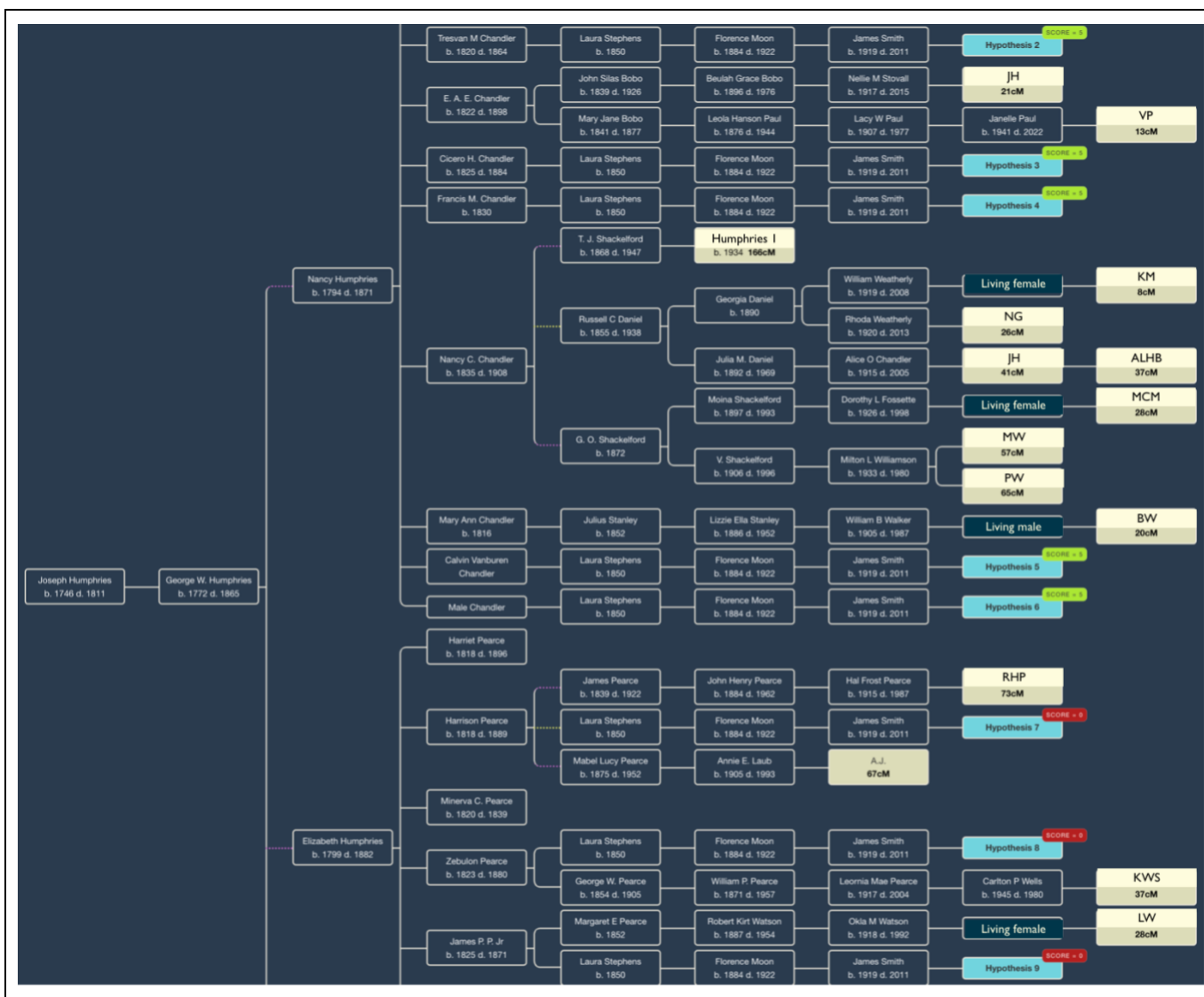


Figure 9. Detail from WATO report showing statistical probabilities for Laura 1's possible relationship paths to Joseph Humphries; "Hypothesis #" indicates Laura 1³⁷

DNA Segment Analysis

DNA segment analysis is quite useful in determining kinship, particularly when indirect documentary evidence for a relationship is scarce and direct evidence non-existent. Segment triangulation occurs when three matches (or more) all share the exact segment of the test taker's same chromosome with one another. Triangulated segments are much more likely to be inherited from a common ancestor. Triangulation of segments shared between Laura's descendants (including Laura 1) and white Humphries descendants can provide substantive proof of common descent from Joseph Humphries. While the AncestryDNA matches discussed above appear in valid clusters in the network graph, AncestryDNA does not make detailed segment data available to its customers. Fortunately, three DNA testing companies

³⁷ "WATO Report for Laura 1," *DNA Painter* ([private link]: accessed 24 May 2023), What Are the Odds? Tool.

where Laura 1 has uploaded her DNA data—MyHeritage, 23andMe, and FamilyTreeDNA—all furnish segment data between matches.

MyHeritage reports true triangulation between matches.³⁸ In an initial exploration of the client's MyHeritage matches and segment data, several triangulated segments were discovered between Laura 1, Laura 3 (her multiracial cousin descending from Florence Moon's sister Mary M Moon), and multiple white Humphries descendants. Furthermore, research identified an instance of quadrangulation between Laura 1 and Laura 3 with two white Humphries matches, Humphries 4 and Humphries 15. The four test takers share with each other the same 10.6 cM segment on Chromosome 1.³⁹ This marks an instance of two descendants in independent lines from Laura exactly matching two white descendants in independent lines from Joseph Humphries (see Figure 10).

Another tool for examining segment data is the Genetic Affairs Hybrid AutoSegment analysis. This tool uses match and segment data from multiple testing companies to create clusters of matches that overlap on the same segments. Triangulation tools can be used with the Hybrid AutoSegment analysis to determine which matches in the cluster will share a common ancestor. A Hybrid AutoSegment analysis was run for the client's matches at 23andMe, MyHeritage, and FamilyTreeDNA (see Figure 11). Using the match and segment information from the MyHeritage triangulated segments discussed above, a preliminary evaluation of the resulting report determined cluster 41 is connected to Joseph Humphries's descendants. This cluster will be the starting point for further segment analysis in the next research phase.

³⁸ *MyHeritage*, "What are triangulated segments in the Chromosome Browser — One-to-many?" (https://www.myheritage.com/help-center?a=What-are-triangulated-segments-in-the-Chromosome-Browser-One-to-many---id--J8oK_vQHSUWyBq_Ad_jYrQ : accessed 23 May 2023).

³⁹ "Shared DNA segments—one-to-many comparison," *MyHeritage* (<https://www.myheritage.com> : accessed 15 May 2023), chromosome browser report for Laura 1, Laura 3, Humphries 15, and Humphries 4.

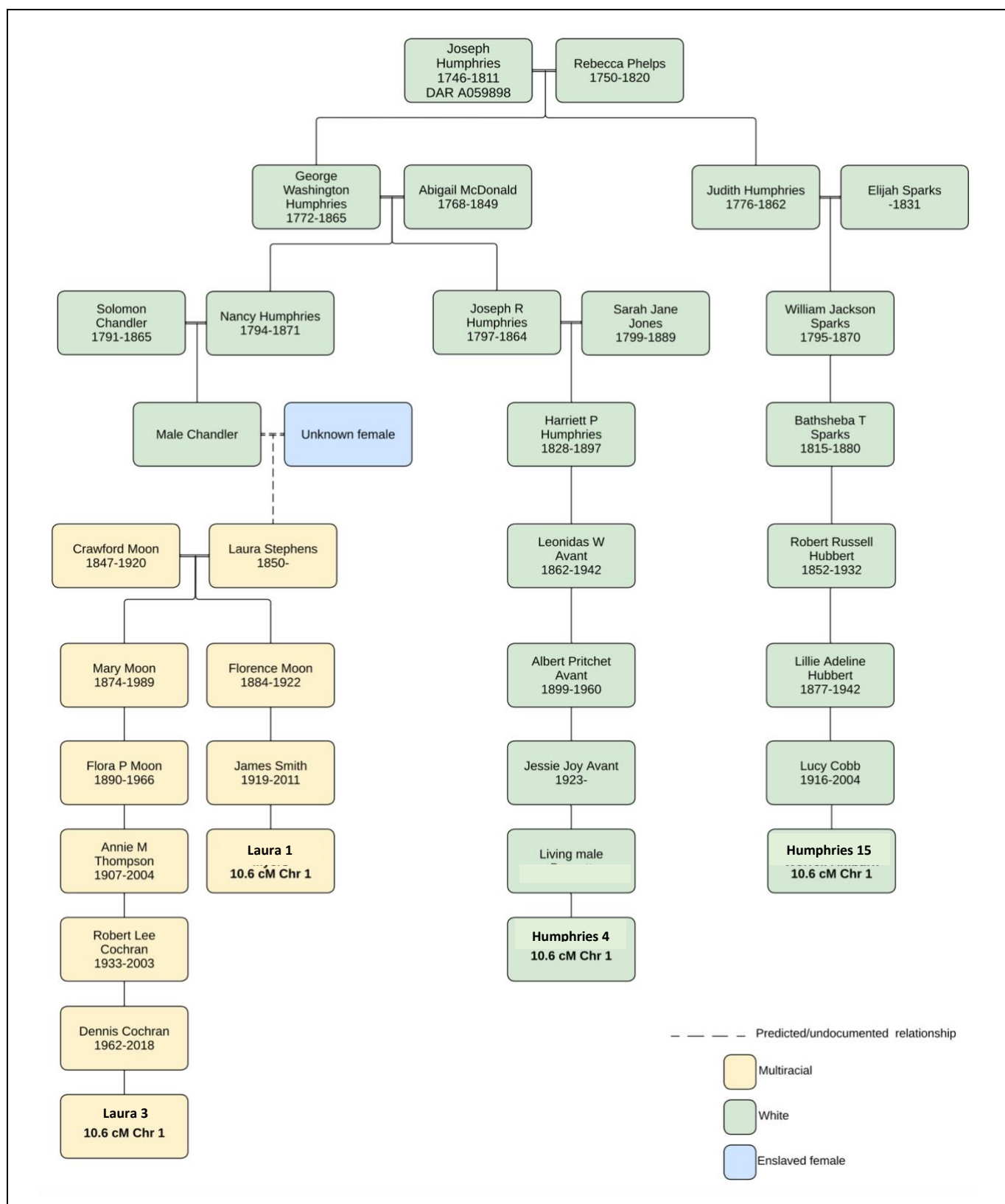
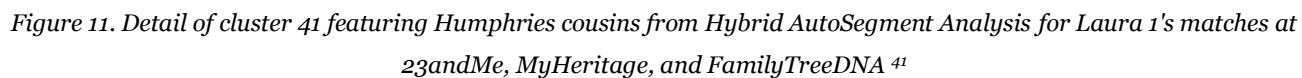


Figure 10. Pedigree chart for two white and two predicted multiracial descendants of Joseph Humphries who quadrangulate on Chromosome 1 over a 10.6 cM segment ⁴⁰

⁴⁰ "Shared DNA segments—one-to-many comparison," *MyHeritage* (<https://www.myheritage.com> : accessed 15 May 2023), chromosome browser report for Laura 1, Laura 3, Humphries 15, and Humphries 4.



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DAR Feedback

Consultation with the Maryland State Society DAR Registrar and the state DNA Committee Chair confirmed that the National Society of the DAR is open to diverse membership. However, the society maintains strict requirements for admission:

- Compile a pedigree chart with direct lineage to the patriot ancestor verified with submission of legal, vital documents for the birth, marriage, and death of the first three generations (four, if possible), starting with the applicant (no death or marriage certificate required for the applicant).
- Beyond the first three generations, other documentary proof may be substituted: censuses, cemetery records or tombstone inscriptions, will or probate records, etc.
- For cases where documents are missing, DNA evidence may be used in the absence of documentary evidence to prove one generational link in the first three relationships (applicant to parent, parent to grandparent, or grandparent to great-grandparent).
- A proof argument with indirect evidence (documentary or DNA) may be submitted for only one generational link to the patriot ancestor.
- Y-DNA may be submitted for a close male relative to the applicant (2C or closer). The male relative must be an exact match to the patriot's Y-DNA at 37 markers.⁴²

The DNA Committee Chair believes the National DAR position on DNA evidence will evolve and feels Laura 1's case is worth a shot if a compelling DNA case can be made. If nothing else, Laura 1's application could help pave the way for others with similar Ancestry to join the DAR. For those descended from enslaved people fathered by the descendants of proven patriots, the DNA requirements will need to be expanded beyond the three-generation restriction to acknowledge the reality and consequences of undocumented relationships between the enslavers and the enslaved.

The DNA Committee Chair counseled to meet the DAR's metrics as best as possible by supplying evidence at so high a statistical probability that Laura 1's connection to the Humphries could not be denied. This would involve identifying triangulated DNA segments for her closest matches and including as many matches down independent lines as possible. Upon her advice, Laura 1's FamilyTreeDNA kit was joined to the DAR's DNA project page. Initial comparison identified a male Humphries match, BJH, who has taken a Y-DNA test.⁴³ He and Laura 1 share 33 cM and are predicted 4C1R. Finding more male autosomal DNA matches like him who might be exact Y-DNA matches to establish patrilineal descendants could help anchor Laura 1's DNA evidence and reinforce her application. The Maryland State Registrar and DNA Committee Chair would like to remain informed of the progress and have

⁴² *Daughters of the American Revolution*, "DNA and DAR Applications" (<https://www.dar.org/national-society/genealogy/dna-and-dar-applications> : accessed 30 November 2022). See also BK, DNA Committee Chair, Maryland State Society NSDAR, to SB, State Registrar, Maryland State Society NSDAR, and Melanie Whitt, 12 April 2023, email held privately, mbwgenealogy@gmail.com, Tualatin, Oregon. See also Debbie Duay, "Researching Your Patriot Ancestor: Module III—Documenting the Lineage" (<http://www.learnwebskills.com/patriot/documentingthelineage.htm> : accessed 12 May 2023). See also HowStuffWorks, "How the Daughters of the American Revolution Works" (<https://people.howstuffworks.com/culture-traditions/genealogy/dar.htm> : accessed 12 May 2023).

⁴³ "Family Finder Matches" for Laura 1, database report, *FamilyTreeDNA* (<https://www.familytreedna.com/my/familyfinder> : accessed 30 April 2023), predicted 2C-4C sharing 33 cM on 1 segment with BJH, match date 29 June 2021, documented 4C1R.

offered their advice along the way. If the case progresses toward application, the State Registrar wants to help Laura 1 get introduced to her local chapter.

MOVING FORWARD

It is anticipated that at least two more phases of research will be necessary to present the most compelling DAR application possible for the client. The first will include extensive documentary research and DNA analysis of the Humphries lineage, Laura's life, and Laura 1's connections back to Laura (and will perhaps require an additional research phase depending on findings). The second will assemble the application and construct a proof argument with a preponderance of DNA evidence and the documentary evidence that emerges.

Documentary Future Research

- Assess the vital records status for Laura 1 (birth), her father James Smith (birth, marriage, and death), her grandmother Florence Moon (birth, marriage, and death), and any such records extant for Laura Stephens Moon. Gather them from the family's possession and online repositories, or order them from the relevant government agencies. Reconcile James' marriage record with the name he went by in other records. Reconcile Florence's death certificate (mother's name listed as Sallie) with the 1880 and 1900 census, which enumerated her mother as Laura.
- Conduct exhaustive research into Laura Stephens. Find her 1870 census enumeration, any record of her marriage to Crawford, a death certificate, and any family held sources for her Ancestry.
- Research the historical record for the family of Nancy Humphries and Solomon Chandler—especially estate and probate records, newspaper accounts, and county archive holdings—to discover evidence for Laura's pre-1865 connection to the family.

DNA Future Research

- Reach out to Laura 1's closest white matches in Ancestry (Humphries 1, DL, RHP, SB, LP, AC, etc.) to invite them to upload their raw DNA data to MyHeritage and/or FTDNA. Also invite Laura 2, Laura 1's 2C1R through Florence Moon's sister Mary M Moon, to transfer his DNA data for analysis.
- Continue to identify as many triangulated segments as possible with these close matches and other Humphries descendants down as many independent lines of descent as possible. Triangulation with these high matches on Humphries DNA segments is vital to Laura 1's DAR application.
- Identify Joseph Humphries closest patrilineal descendants to Laura 1 for Y-DNA testing and comparison.
- Conduct descendancy research for Nancy Humphries Chandler's sons to identify candidate test takers for enhanced atDNA comparison.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the client's goal to join the DAR is supported by the vast genetic and documentary evidence of her connection to three proven Revolutionary War patriots. Though the Moon and Lyle lineages present apparently insurmountable obstacles for a successful application, the third lineage through patriot Joseph Humphries may afford a pioneering path toward membership. The sheer number of matches at Ancestry, in combination with the segment information available at the three other testing companies,

supplies considerable data for evaluation on the Humphries line. Further documentary evidence, direct or indirect, will be essential to complement the DNA evidence for Laura Stephens Moon's descent from Joseph Humphries. Finally, the client's kinship to Laura must be supported with direct evidence from official documents. Along the way, it will require the cooperation of both white and multiracial DNA cousins. Though this effort may not ultimately result in DAR membership for the client, it may help pave the path for other applicants whose formerly enslaved ancestors were fathered by descendants of Revolutionary War patriots.

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

MW / DE

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