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Mary Marguerite Dugau or Gewgaw, wife of Moses Coyer (Caillé)

I believe I have found the father of Mary, wife of Moses Coyer (1824-aft. 1860). Moses Coyer was the father of Sophronia Coyer, who was the mother of my grandfather, Roy Eldon Perry (1889-1969). I discovered that Moses had been born Joseph Moïse Caillé dit Biscornet. His parents were François Caillé dit Biscornet and Madeleine Tremblay. I have 74 DNA matches to descendants of this couple, many of them through the brothers and sisters of Moses. There is a document about the Caillé line called "My Ancestry: The Perry-Coyer Line" stored at cpuworks.com/ancestry/.

Mary was also called Margaret, as seen in an 1870 census record (Weybridge, VT). It is likely that her full name was Mary Margaret, or Marie Marguerite; it was common in French Roman Catholic families for the first name to be Marie, after the Virgin Mary.

There were some conflicting clues about Mary's maiden name. The 1860 census record shows someone who was probably Mary's mother living with Moses and Mary, Eliza Gewgaw, age 80, making her date of birth about 1780. That record says that Mary was born in Vermont, and her mother, Eliza Gewgaw, was born in Canada.

Mary's death certificate says she was born in Orwell, Vermont, on June 17, 1824. Her parents' names were not known. She died June 7th, 1918, several weeks after having fallen and broken her leg. The marriage certificate (in Ferrisburgh, VT) of her daughter Emma (who married Henry Buzzell), gives her mother's last name as Dugau.

Peter Gewgaw was listed in the 1820 and 1830 census records for Orwell, Vt. This must be Mary's father. The 1820 census record shows one male age 45 or over; 2 males under age 10; 1 male age 10-15; 1 female under age 10; and one female age 26-44. The 1830 census for Peter Gewgaw shows 1 male age 10-14; 1 male age 60-69; 1 female age 5-9; and one female age 40-49. It seems likely that the female age 5-9 was Mary, born in 1824. Apparently Peter was quite a bit older than his wife, being born between 1760 and 1770. Eliza was born around 1780. Perhaps it was a second marriage for Peter.

Gewgaw was apparently an Anglicized version of a French name, which their children sometimes began with a "D" instead of a "G". I think we will never know for sure what French family he came from, unless a male descendant gets a Y-DNA analysis done. Of course, Peter's first name was likely Pierre.

I have DNA matches to people who spell their names, or their ancestor's name from this family, as Dugaw. One possibility would be the name Dugas.

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One tree at Ancestry.com came up with another interesting possibility: Goguet dit ("called") Goyer. That theory interests me because it might help explain the confusion about whether the name starts with a "D" or a "G".

It is hard to understand how this name could have been so badly, and so consistently, mangled. Peter's name is shown as Gewgaw in 2 census records; and his widow Eliza's last name is shown as Gewgaw, when she was living with her daughter Mary and her husband Moses Coyer. It is likely that neither of them knew how to write. I'm wondering if they had their name written somewhere, and the census taker copied it.

I have DNA matches with several people who list the name Dugaw in their ancestry, with ancestors in the area of Vermont. There was a Henry Dugaw (1824-1916) who was born in Belcher, Vt. His parents were "Gload" (Claude?) Dugas (1774-1865) and Sally Dunton. Gload Dugas is buried in Worcester, VT. So this family may have been related to Peter Geegaw.

There was a name that appears to be Charles Gowgaw who is listed in the 1840 census in Brandon, Rutland County, VT., not far from Orwell. The name comes up as "Gowgna" in the search. He is a male, age 30-39, living with a female, age 20-29. There was a Joseph Gawgau or Gewgaw, age 20-30, listed in the 1840 census for Morrystown, Lamoille, VT. The name is difficult to read and comes up as Joseph "Gangan" when you search the census records.

I also have DNA matches with two people from a Dewgaw family. These matches are quite strong, indicating we might be fourth cousins; but the amount of shared DNA inherited is an unreliable indicator of the closeness of a relationship. They trace their line back to William Dewgaw, born about 1820 in Vermont, who married Mary Nichols. His son, William Walter Dewgaw (1845-1920), born in Ohio, married Catherine Janette Morill, and Prudence Maria Foote.

I think this William Dewgaw, born in 1820, may have been the son of Peter Gewgaw. In the 1820 census record for Orwell, Vt, Peter Geegaw had three sons under the age of 10. In the 1830 census record, Peter Geegaw has one son, age 10-14. I think one of these sons is William. In the 1820 census record for Orwell, a Jacob Nichols is listed. Perhaps that is the family of Mary Nichols, who married William Dewgaw.

There was a Peter Dugaw, born in 1802 or 1804, in New York or Vermont (1870 and 1880 census records) who married Mary Labonty, and moved to Lesueur MN. He had children Annis (1842) and Daniel (1841). I have a DNA match to a descendant of his. Perhaps he was a son of Peter Geegaw. Or he could have been from the other line of Dugaws in the Vermont area.

There was also a Moses Dugaw (c. 1821-1893) a shoemaker, who married Philomene Thelma Pocket. He lived in Wallingford, Vt. Another one who could be

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from either of these two lines of Dugaw or Dewgaws. His children included Mary, Lewis, and Israel.

There are at least two separate lines of the Dugas family in Quebec. Here is a link that mentions these two lines: <https://dugas.weebly.com>

One Dugas line in Quebec starts with the immigrants Abraham Dugas (1668-1698) and Marie Doucette (1634-1686).

Another starts with Jean Ducas (1657-1758) and Marie Charlotte Vandangdaigue dit Gatbois, from Beauport, France. These families are later called Dugas, LaBreche, Degon, Labrash, and Dugaw. Because I have several DNA matches whose names are Dugaw and Dewgaw, I suspect that Pierre Geegaw was from this line; but this is not certain.

Jean Ducas was a soldier. He received a plot of land from the Sulpicians in 1710 in the parish of Saint Laurent on the island of Montreal.

There is a record of a rejected U.S. Revolutionary War pension for Peter Gewgaw, which is annotated "or Leucaw". Perhaps military service was a tradition in his family.