

## **Peter Gewgaw (Dugas?), father of Mary Dugau Coyer (1824-1918)**

The person listed as Peter Gewgaw in the 1820 and 1830 census records for Orwell, Vermont is likely the father of Mary Dugau, who married Moses Coyer (1821-1893) son of Frank Coyer (François Caillé dit Biscornet) and Madeleine Tremblay.

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 census 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 1918.

Peter Gewgaw was listed in the 1820 and 1830 census records for Orwell, Vt. The name is very hard to read in the 1830 census record. The first letter looks like a "D"; but if you look at how the census record for the name "George" is written on the same page, you can see that the first two letters of Peter's last name are "Ge".

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 Dewgaw, or Dugaw. One possibility would be the name Dugas. One family tree thinks it might have been Goguet dit Goyer.

There was a William Dewgaw, born in Vermont about 1820, who married Mary Nichols; and moved to Ohio. I suspect he may have been the son of Peter Gewgaw, since I have strong DNA matches to two of his descendants. His son, William Dewgaw (1845-1920), married Catherine Janette Morrill and Prudence Maria Foote.

I think the only way it could be determined which French Canadian family Peter Gewgaw came from would be if a male descendant does Y-DNA testing.

Y-DNA testing is available at familytreedna.com . Here is a short description of Y-DNA tests.

<https://www.familytreedna.com/products/y-dna>

A really good tutorial about Y-DNA testing that I found is here, especially Lessons 3 and 4:

<https://sites.google.com/site/wheatonsurname/home>.

The Y-37 test (\$119) would probably be enough to establish whether the Dewgaw line comes from the Dugas French line, or some other line.

Familytreedna.com computes the genetic distance between Y-DNA kits, based on the number of differences. A perfect match on all 37 markers tested in a Y-37 kit would mean a 95% probability of having a common male ancestor within 10 generations.

There are Surname Projects at familytreedna.com that you can join for free, where the project manager will group Y-DNA kits that are closely related, and list the earliest known ancestors for that group.

There is a Dugas Surname project at familytreedna.com, that would allow you to compare Y-DNA to other project participants in the Dugas line. Here is a link to that:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/dugas/about>

If you select DNA results, at the left of the screen, then select Colorized Chart, you will see how the project managers have grouped results for those that have similar Y-DNA patterns, showing which family group they belong to, based on the earliest known ancestors of each group. Only the kit number of the project participant is shown, to keep the Y-DNA results anonymous.

There is one Dugas family that traces its line back to Abraham Dugas, born about 1616, who was born in France and emigrated to Quebec. He married Marguerite Doucet in 1647 in Quebec. See <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Dugas-62>.

Another Dugas family that emigrated to Quebec was originally spelled Ducas, is Jean Ducas dit Labreche, born in 1708 in France:

<https://dugas.weebly.com/index.html>

But since we are not sure if Dewgaw came from the name Dugas, there are also other projects that might be helpful that include multiple French names, such as this one:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/frenchheritage/surnames>

Even without joining a group, familytreedna.com will show the closest Y-DNA matches to the Y-DNA kit submitted, and display any ancestry information that they

have contributed. Some list their earliest known ancestor, and some include a family tree.