

# **Identification of the Source of African Ancestry in Descendants of Daniel and Elizabeth (Windecker) Young**

## **Introduction**

After the introduction of whole genomic testing circa 2000, the author and his research associate Thomas M. Nelson observed that many relatives displayed one or more small fragments of African ancestry on various chromosomes. The one thing that all these individuals had in common is descent from Sgt. Daniel Young (1755-1836) and wife Elizabeth Windecker (1763-1829), the daughter of Pvt. Henry Windecker and Dorothy. Further testing demonstrated that while members of this lineage typically show some African ancestry, those of other Young lines such as that of Daniel's brothers Lt. John Young and Pvt. Henry Young do not (and as well, the genealogy is well established as to the Youngs being 100% Palatine German) – leading to the conclusion that Elizabeth Windecker is the source of this ancestry. Since the ancestry of Pvt. Henry Windecker is well documented, and again 100% Palatine German, it seems likely that his wife Dorothy brought African heritage to the family.

In the present study, we will explore the findings of African segments on the chromosomes of Elizabeth (Windecker) Young's descendants. Then the genealogy of Dorothy, the wife of Pvt. Henry Windecker, will be examined in detail in the attempt to locate the African ancestor.

## **Genetic Testing Evidence: Autosomal and X - Chromosome**

23andMe uses over half a million SNP (single nucleotide polymorphism) markers with modern chip technology and this represents a major step forward in personal genomics testing for ancestry. The other major player in the field, Ancestry dot com, unfortunately does not provide any way to explore the specific location of "ethnic segments", or even to identify ancestry below 2%. Since we are examining heritage from ancestors born likely well before 1770, 2% of for example African ancestry is highly unlikely to be found in many if any descendants alive today.

In the analysis to follow we will explore the autosomal data (22 pairs of autosomes), and that for the X chromosome) which experience meiosis (recombination) with each generation. Due to meiosis, any segment that may have survived from Dorothy Windecker's grandmother would be expected to be small – less than 10 Mb in length, or 7 cM in genetic distance. However, exceptions occur such that some descendants will have zero detectable (by an array of methods) segments or markers from Dorothy, and other members of the extended family could have (by chance) inherited fairly lengthy haplotype blocks (segments). The probability of inheriting these African or other segments from Dorothy should be increased in those for whom Dorothy is an ancestor via two or more lines (via cousin marriages).

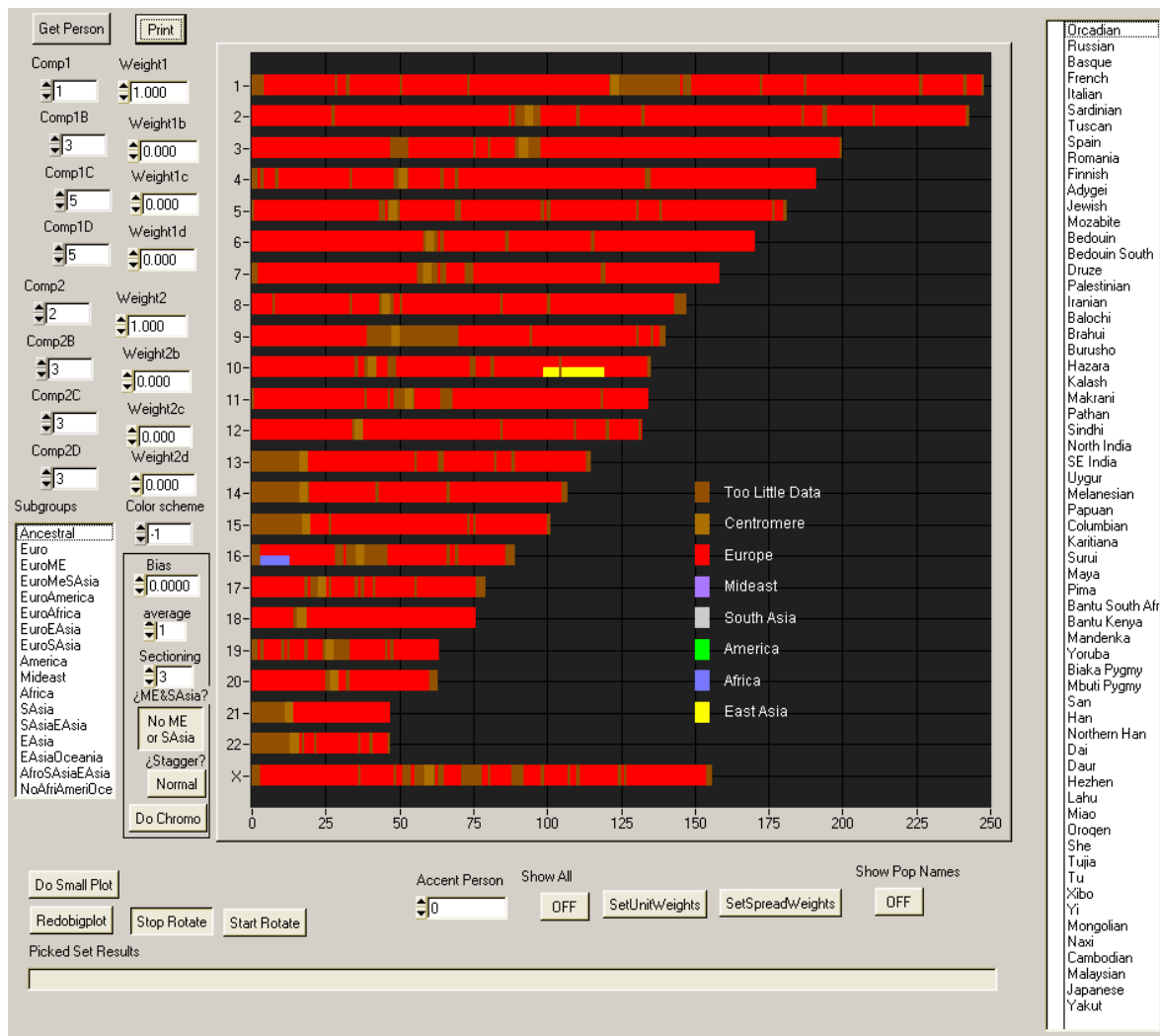
We will first explore the data from tests other than 23andMe, leaving the latter for more detailed analysis at the end of this section.

# 1) Dr. Doug McDonald's Segment Test

23andMe's early "Ancestry Painting" tool results will not be discussed here since they are, from today's standards, rather "primitive", using only 3 ancestral categories, and supplanted by more sophisticated updates in 2012 and 2020. Here follows a diagram generated by Dr. McDonald using a large number of new reference samples, classified into broader categories (but with Mid East and South Asian removed since all Europeans tend to express some percentage of each).

All of the following are descendants of Sgt. Daniel Young and Elizabeth Windecker:

## a) **David Faux** –

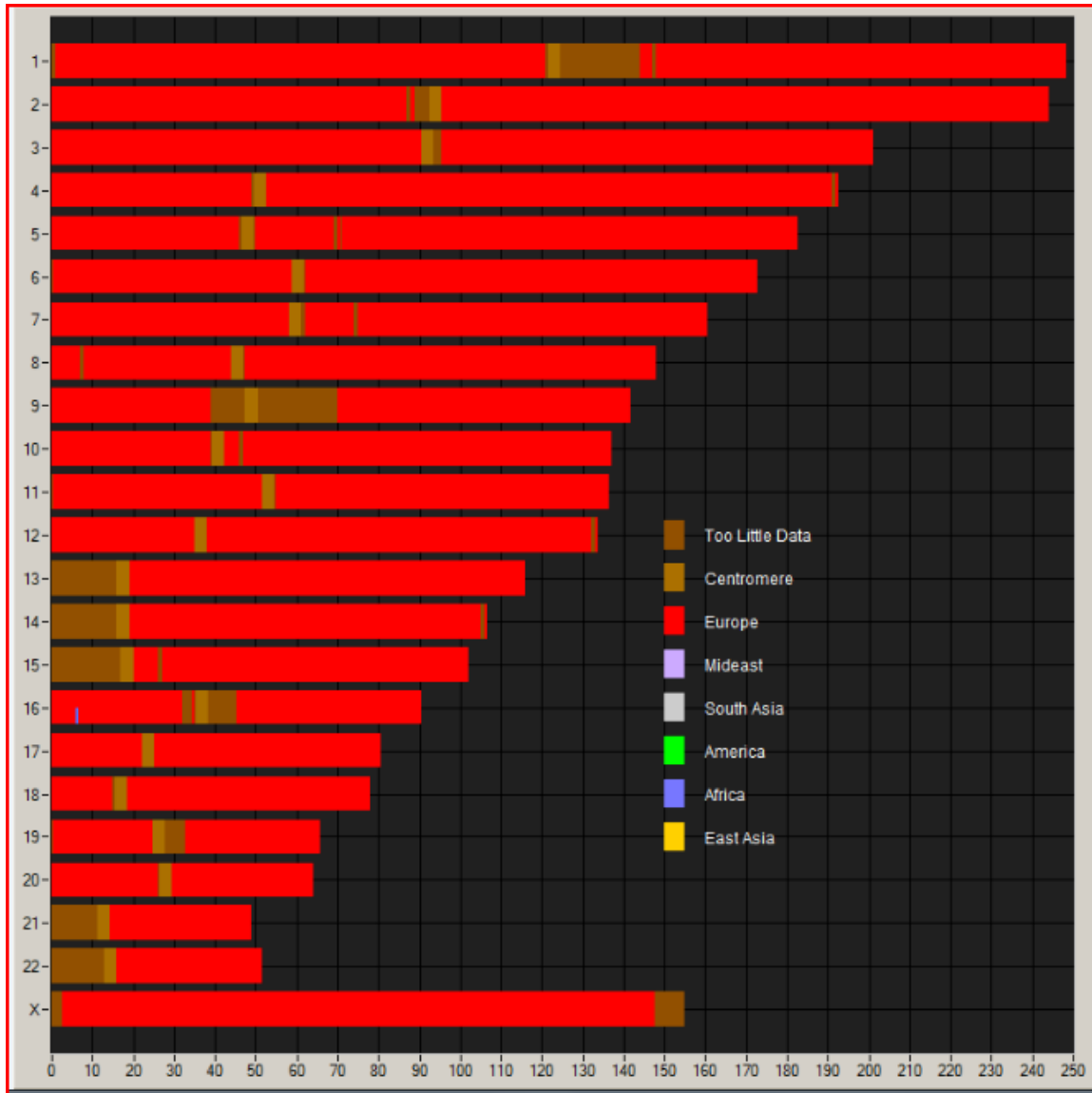


Although this data was generated with a lower confidence interval than might be warranted, the block in deep blue (African) situated not far from the telomere (about positions 3 Mb to 10 Mb – so circa 7 Mb in length) may have some significance since it is cross validated

with new testing by the Eurogenes Project. Also, Dale Williamson matches his nephew, David on this segment.

The following is the segment analysis of Jackie Yorke, the first cousin of David Faux.

b) Jackie Yorke –

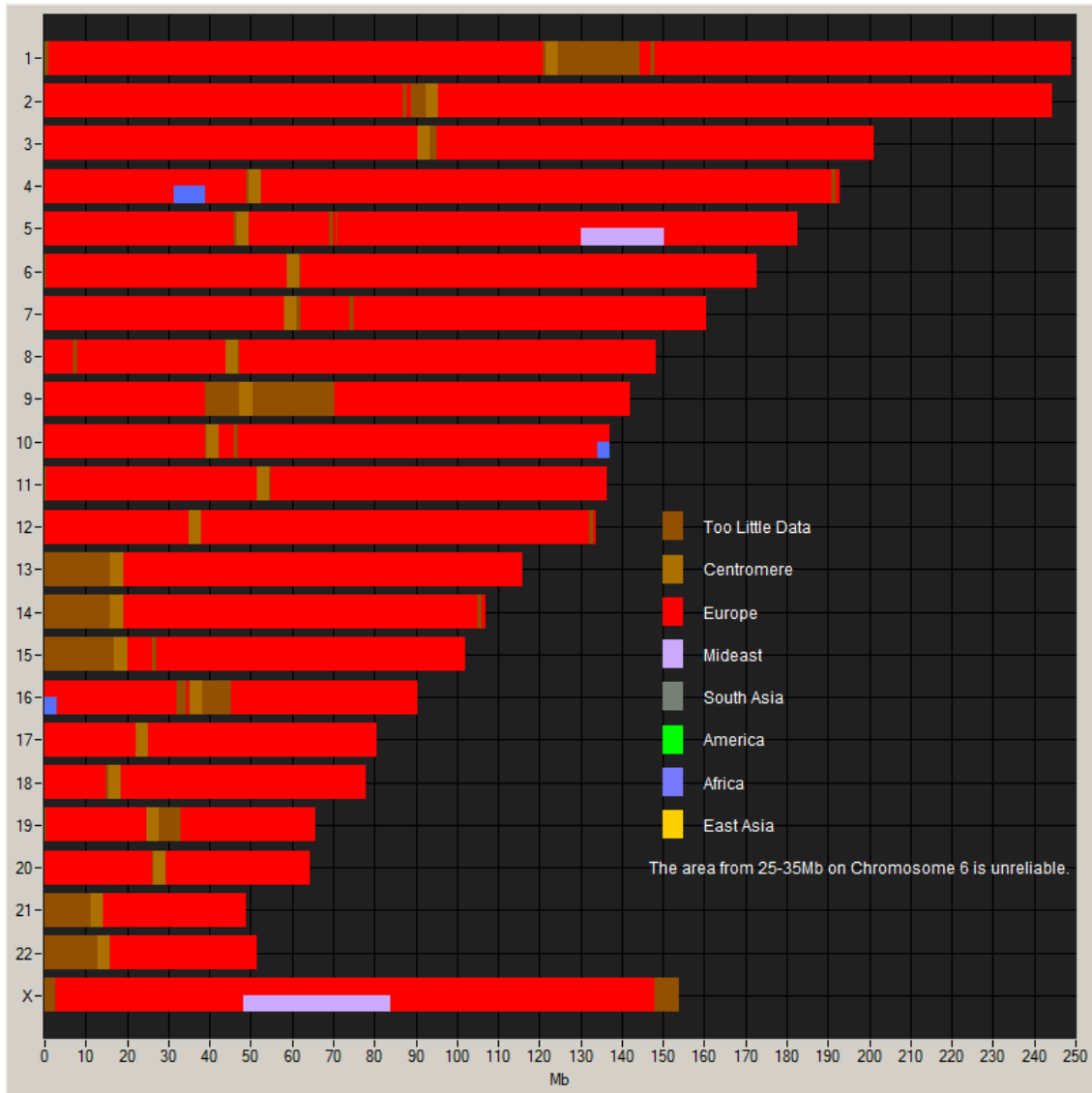


Upon close inspection, a small blue sliver can be seen on chromosome 16 at the end of the blue section of that of her cousin David Faux whose segment extends to whole extent between the end of the chromosome to approximately the location seen for Jackie. Referring to Family Inheritance Advanced in 23andMe, David and Jackie do not share the area from the tip of the chromosome to 3 Mb, but do share from this point across most of the rest of the chromosome. Thus one can conclude that likely the African region in David

must extend to about 5 or 6 Mb total, giving a finer resolution of the size of the African segment.

c) **Jane Pullin** –

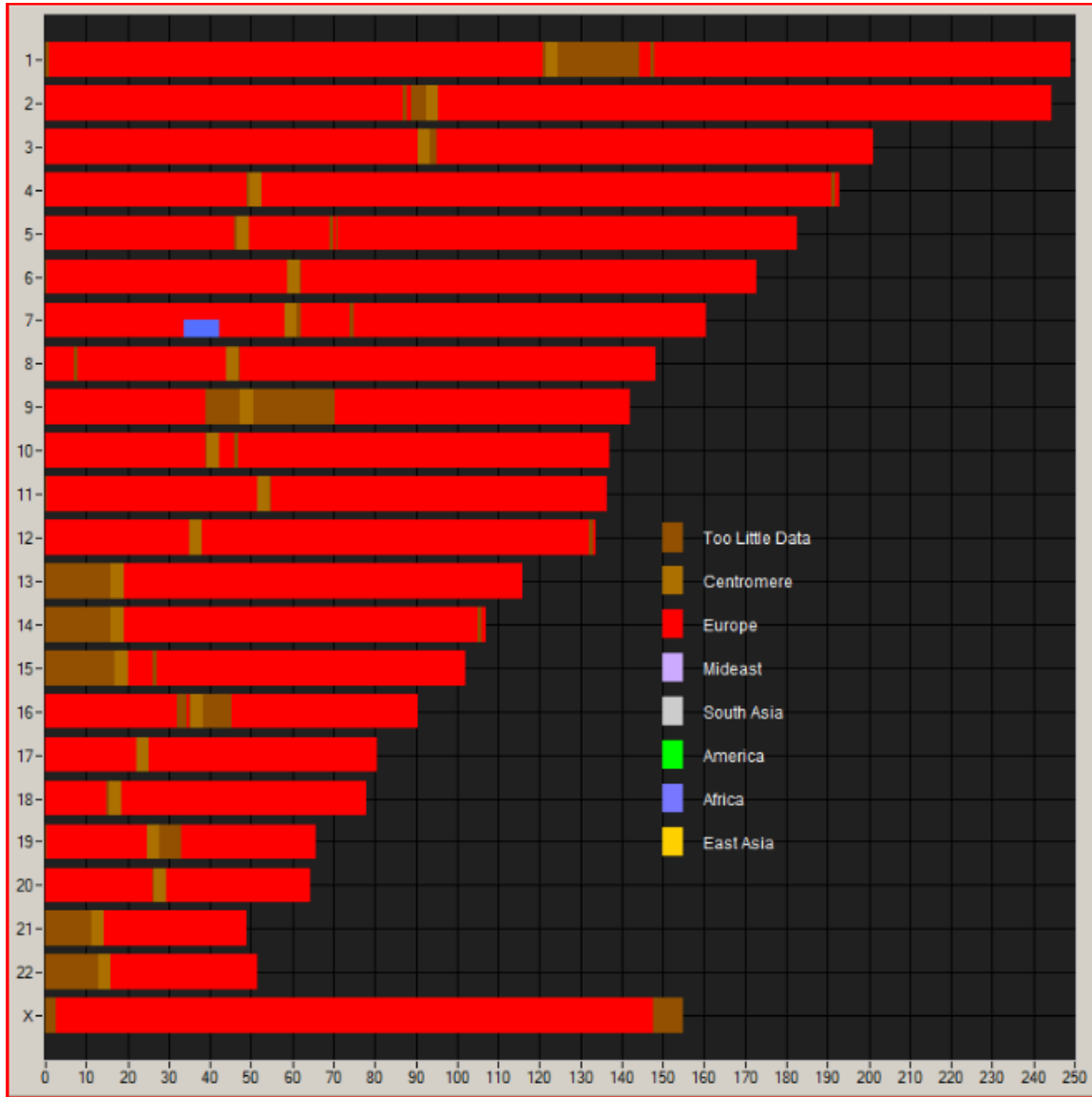
It is noteworthy, and perhaps diagnostic, that Jane Pullin has, in addition to African segments on chromosomes 4 and 10, an African segment in the same location of chromosome 16 as the author, although too small to register as a match with the author on the “Relative Finder” at this location. However the visual will tell the story via comparison with the author’s segment diagram from Dr. McDonald:



What is important to note is that here we have matching segments in individuals descended from two different children of Elizabeth Windecker Young, David from Henry Young and George Young; Jane from Priscilla (Young) Sipes.

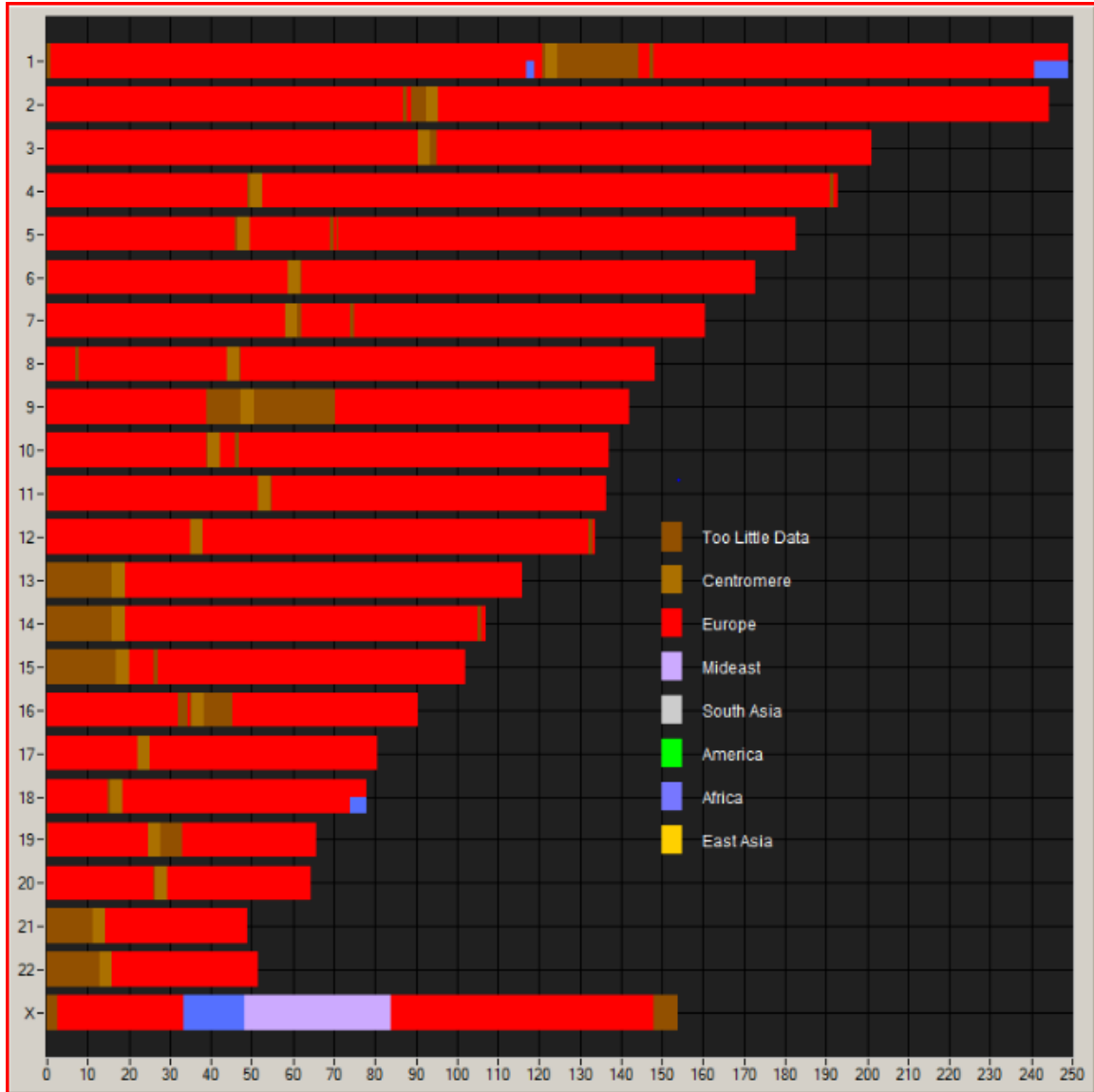
Mike Young, another descendant of Dorothy (Windecker) Young, has a notable segment on chromosome 7.

d) **Mike Young** –



The individual closest to the early generations of the Young – Windecker family is Robert Nelson. If he does not show any African on the McDonald segment testing, then the above findings are most likely anomalies. Hence the prediction is that he show the most quantitative influence in the form of African ancestry. Also it will be important to rule out the paternal Nelson line leaving only the Hines – Young maternal side. Hence it would be ideal to have a segment on the X chromosome which comes only from the maternal side. Here are the results, received 11 April 2011.

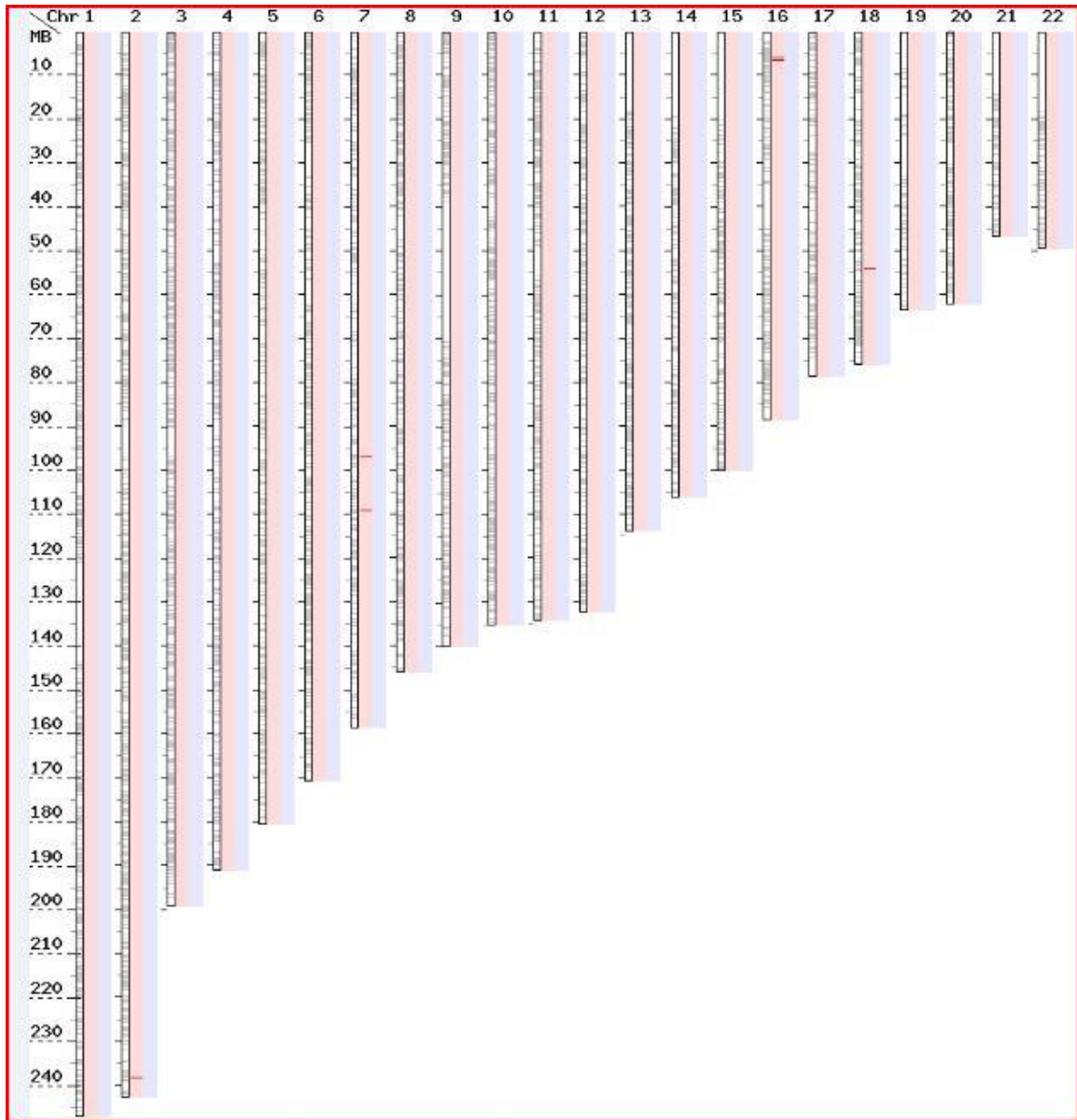
e) Robert Nelson –



As is clearly evident, the most “impressive” segment is the circa 15 Mb African block on the X chromosome. This indicates that the African heritage came from Robert’s mother’s family, and links into the African findings in other descendants of Sgt. Daniel Young and Elizabeth Windecker. Robert is a descendant of Elizabeth Windecker via sons George and Frederick.

**2) Eurogenes: Test of Heterozygosity – markers and Regions not Typically Found in Northwestern Europeans Using RHH Mosaic and PC-MDS**

a) David Faux: The developer of the Eurogenes Project indicated that he was dissatisfied with the program ADMIXTURE in that it could not differentiate between ancient matches (identical by state) and those more recent (identical by descent), nor does it pick up significant smaller segments, nor does it place the minority ancestry on a map of the chromosomes. Thus a white American who obtained zero of a category such as Sub-Saharan African using admixture tests, may have undetected recent ancestry from this group.



To address this issue the author used a tool called RHHCounter/RHHMapper and used the following data source:

I put together a data set of over 350 samples that showed less than 2% West Eurasian influence in ADMIXTURE analyses, and clustered in or very near Europe on MDS plots. I then let RHHcounter search these samples for genotypes with less than 0.005% frequency amongst them. The samples originating from North of the Alps and Carpathians scored 5-15 heterozygote hits each, usually widely dispersed around the genome. However, in a few Americans of North European descent, the heterozygotes took the form of small segments. His rationale is employed in the new study of McGinnis et al., 2010. The evidence shown in this paper is that frequently a person who is largely Caucasian will be classified as 100% European when this is not true. They demonstrated that their measure is able to detect African and sometimes Asian segments that are entirely missed by the types of programs used by 23andMe and decodeme. The average northwestern European will have from 5 to 8 little hash marks scattered about the genome. What becomes more significant if they begin to cluster, and then it may indicate a segment from a non - western European source (most probably African, but not necessarily so). The display of David Faux is seen above.

A close cluster of two hash marks can be seen here. A genetic genealogist on the 23andMe blog developed a program to specify the location of the marks. Here they are situated between position 6118977 and 6507624 Mb from the telomere of the p end of chromosome 16. The identifying rs numbers and the population data from the dbSNP database are:

Rs7198193 (position 6118977 Mb) = David's genotype here is AG. 100% of Europeans and Asians have an AA allele motif, and 16% of Africans have the G allele (either AG or GG). Hence only Africans in this database have a G allele in dbSNP or SPSmart.

Rs17140439 (position 6507624 Mb) = David's genotype is CT. 100% of Europeans have the C allele so have the CC motif. Only 6% of Asians and 40% of Africans have the T allele (TC or TT). Thus the probability here says that David's T allele came from an African source, but Asian is also possible.

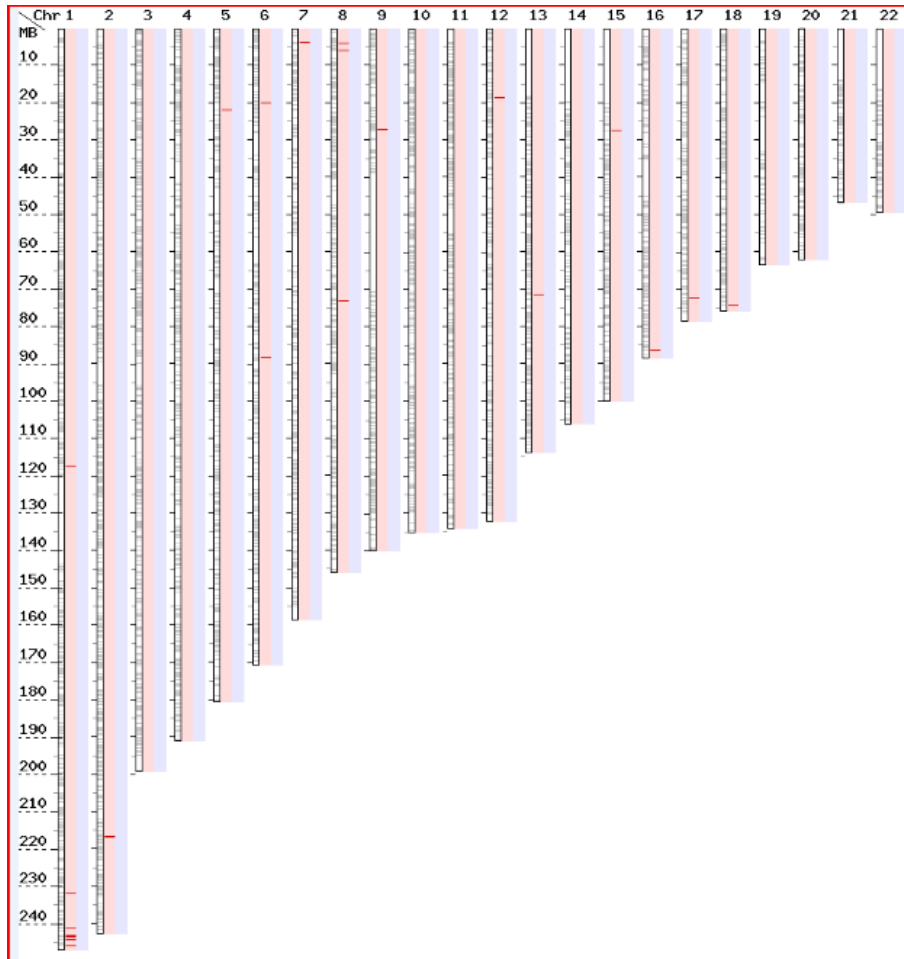
Gene	Position	SNP	Versions	Genotypes
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">A2BP1</a>	6118977	rs7198193	A or G	AG David Faux AA Lilly Mendel (Mom) AA Greg Mendel (Dad)

Sample Ascertainment				Genotype Detail <small>NEW</small>				Alleles	
Population	Individual Group	Chrom. Sample Cnt.	Source	A/A	A/G	G/G	HWP	A	G
<a href="#">HapMap-CEU</a>	European	120	IG	1.000				1.000	
<a href="#">HapMap-HCB</a>	Asian	90	IG	1.000				1.000	
<a href="#">HapMap-JPT</a>	Asian	90	IG	1.000				1.000	
<a href="#">HapMap-YRI</a>	Sub-Saharan African	120	IG	0.767	0.200	0.033	0.317	0.867	0.133
<a href="#">pilot_1_YRI</a>		50	AF					0.860	0.140



This motif comes from the author's mother's side of the family (as would be required to support the above hypothesis) since his Uncle Dale matches him on the block between 3000000 to 7000000 Mb on chromosome 16, and he has the same two heterozygous non-European alleles. Also, while one concern noted by McGinnis et al. is the possibility that the rare heterozygote marker(s) could represent genotyping errors, this is not the case here since both the author and his uncle have precisely the same RHH alleles.

b) Robert Nelson:



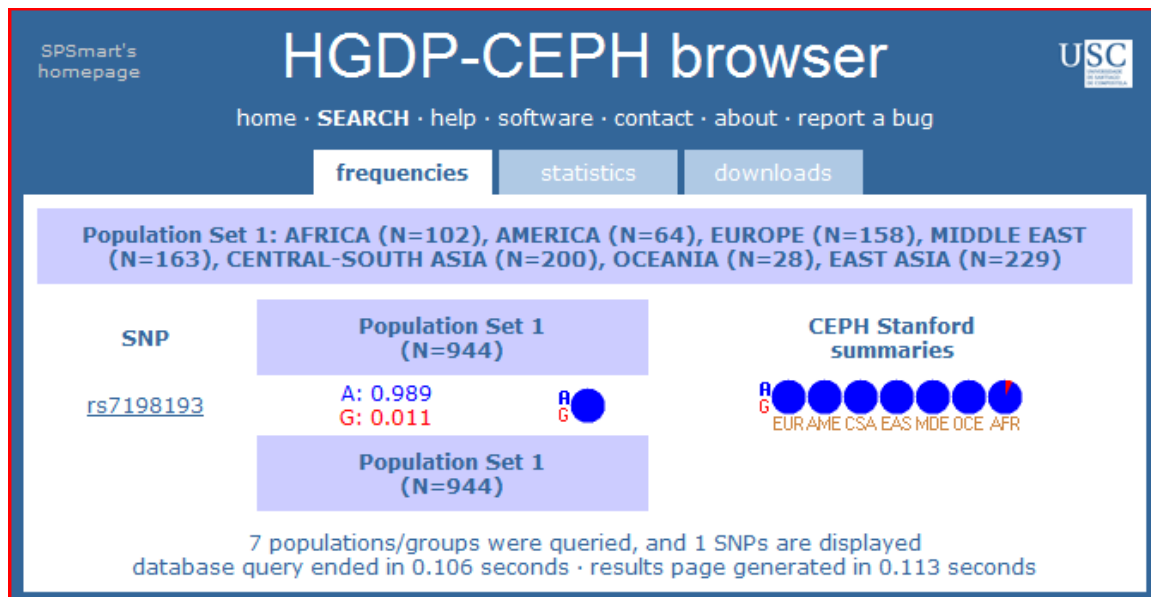
Recently DavidW included Robert Nelson in his study, and recently provided a mosaic chart showing African – related HET SNPs in Europeans. Here follows Bob's chart:

It is evident that there is an African segment at the tip of chromosome 1, in precisely the same location as that flagged as African by 23andMe's Ancestry Painting as African – offering cross validation of the initial finding.

While Bob’s nephew Tom Nelson could not be tested with this tool due to the fact that having close kin in the same test procedure will skew the data. Since Tom matches his uncle at this location, one may assume that he would have a similar mosaic.

Returning to the specifics of the analysis of the findings of David Faux, the genetic evidence is restricted in terms of interpretation by the number of reference groups. This is a situation where an examination of history of the times can assist. At the period relating to the earliest days of the slave trade, most who came into Dutch hands were via the Portuguese who “tapped into” the “available” Mbundu, a Bantu people residing in what is today Angola, for captives. They were “shipped out” via the port of Luanda. This is the most likely place of origin of at least some of the African ancestors of Dorothy, the mother of Elizabeth Windecker’s.

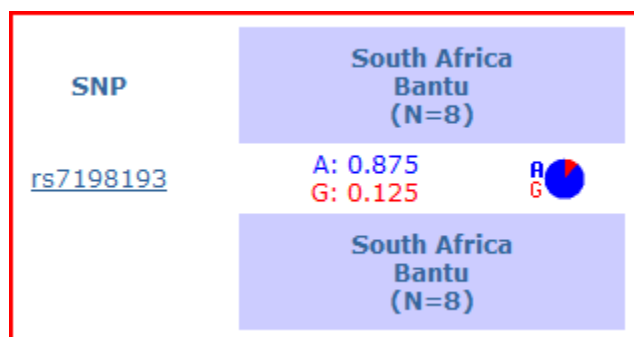
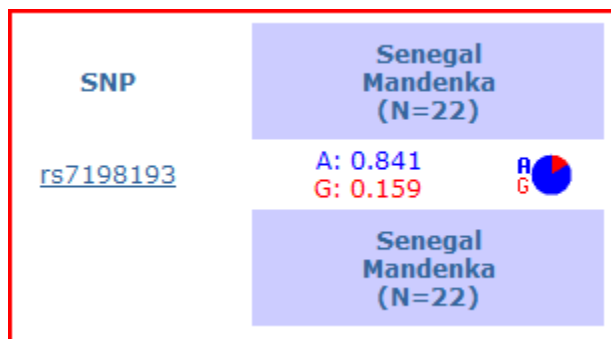
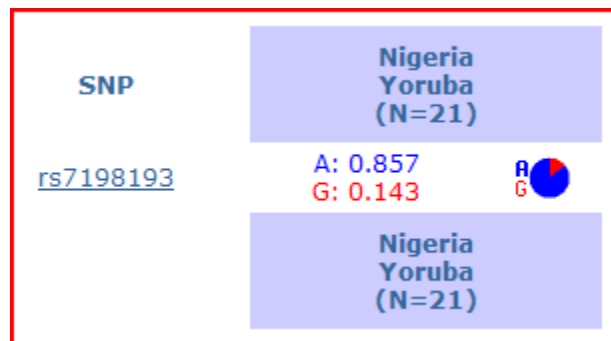
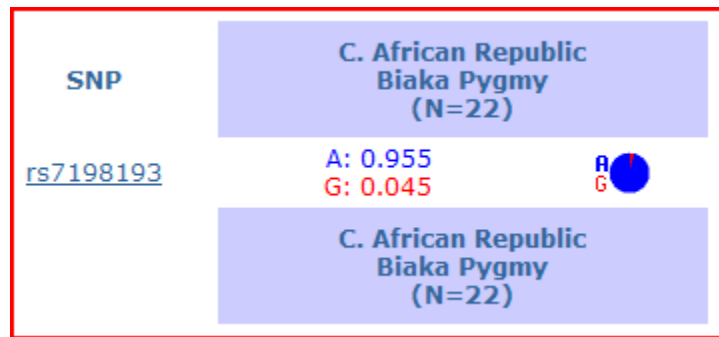
### 3) Individual Ancestral Informative SNP Analysis



As seen above, for the allele G for SNP rs7198193, only Africans have been shown to have this version. The following African groups were tested for this SNP:

- AFRICA**
  - C. African Republic - Biaka Pygmy
  - D. R. of Congo - Mbuti Pygmy
  - Kenya - Bantu
  - Namibia - San
  - Nigeria - Yoruba
  - Senegal - Mandenka
  - South Africa - Bantu

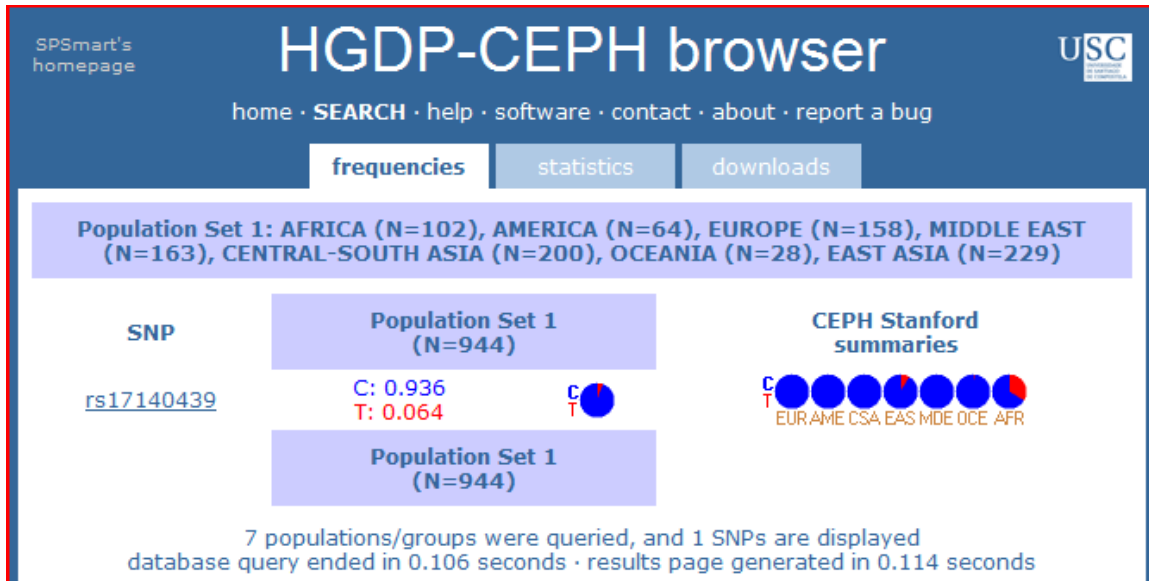
The following groups showed above zero percentages:



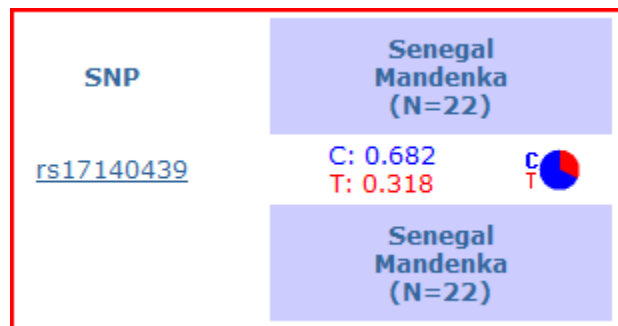
It is clear that the G allele is found only among the Bantu peoples of Sub – Saharan African (note, many more groups have been tested since this finding), in the western part of the Continent (e.g., not among the Kenyans of East Africa). This finding is somewhat unusual in that generally a marker will be seen at low levels in more than one location (Continent)

such as African and a small percentage in Asia (but for example not in Europe). Here the sole location across the world sampled to date where the G allele is seen in Africa. This in effect makes rs7198193 an AIM or ancestral informative marker akin to the Duffy-Null allele found almost exclusively in Africa and areas immediately adjacent to the tropical parts of the Continent. However the G allele here seems to be even more ethnogeographically specific, being confined to the Bantu peoples of Sub-Saharan Africa. This makes it a somewhat unique marker. However, this description also characterizes rs1721896 and rs11971652, separated by about 12 Mb on chromosome 7. This is a segment that 23andMe in their most recent (2020) iteration of Ancestry Composition, designate as “North African” – long after the initial version of this manuscript was composed.

The second SNP is also almost exclusively African (a much more typical scenario), with the exception of a small percentage of, in this case, East Asians, but the African percentages are much higher for this allele not found in other populations as seen below:



Most African groups have about the same percentage, so the Mankenka example will be shown here:



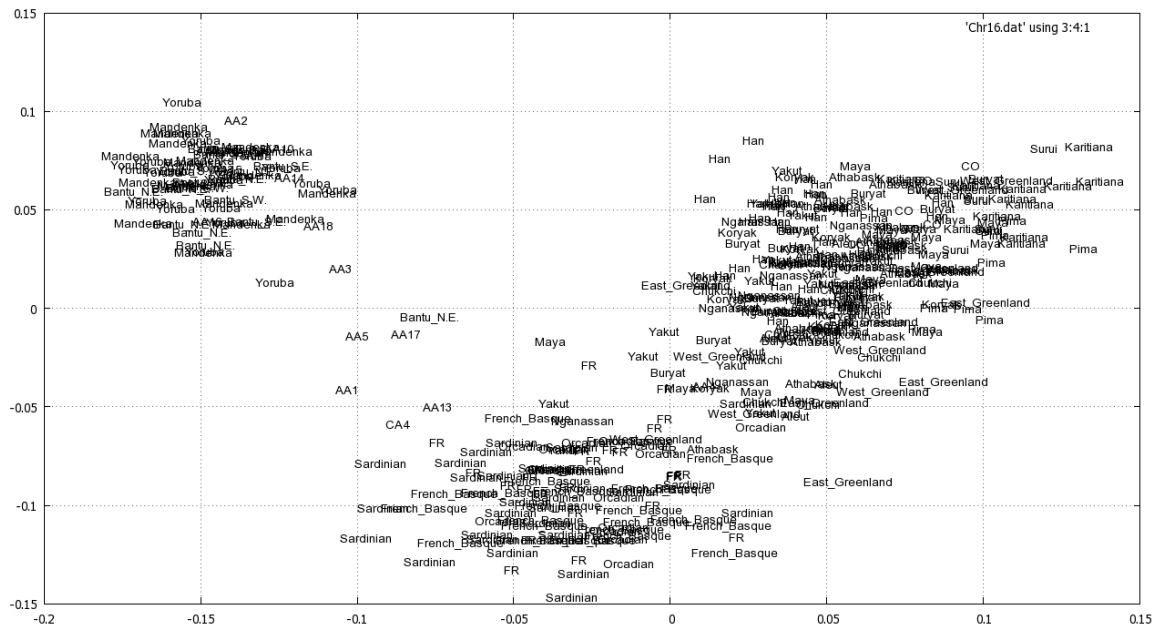
The following information may hint at the origin of the haploblock seen in David Faux and his uncle Dale Williamson:

Mandenka of West Africa, Senegal where this sample was obtained, and 11 surrounding countries. *A significant part of the African-Americans in North America descended from Mandinka people ..... During the 16th, 17th and 18th century as many as third were sold into slavery to Americas, through capture in conflict* (Wikipedia).

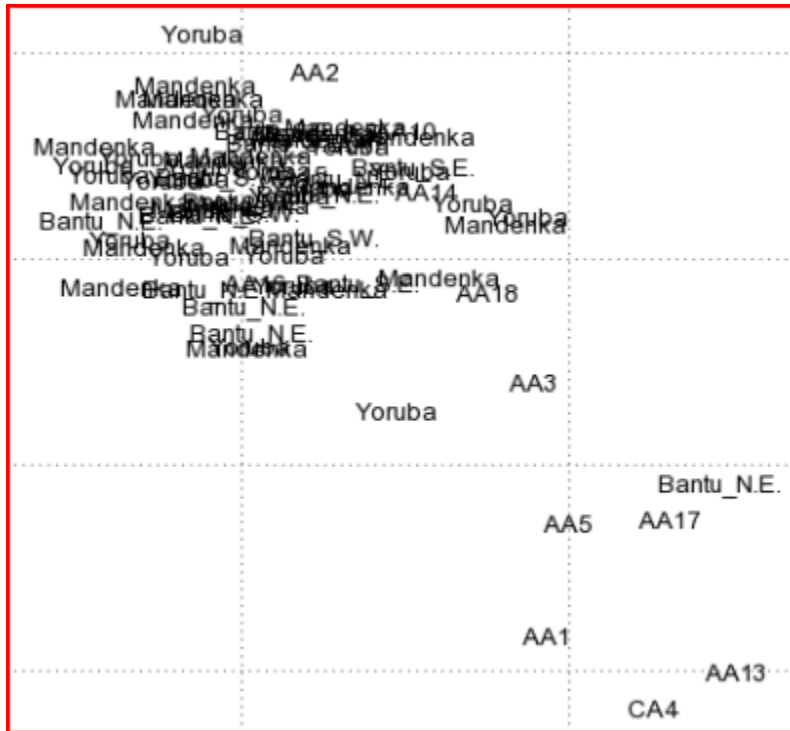
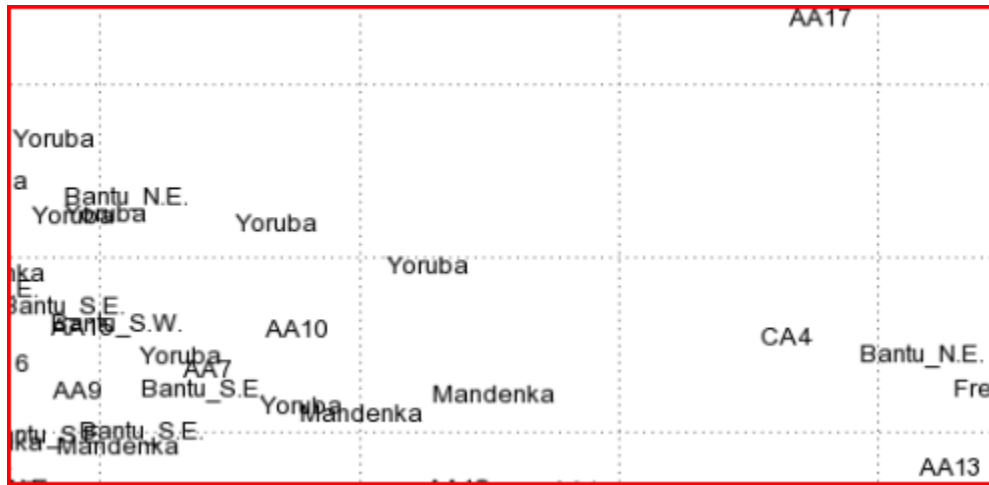
Subsequent to the above RHH analysis, DavidW provided a broader mosaic with a slightly reduced criteria as to how “rare” is defined (0.005% in the European sample). Here an array of other informative SNPs emerged, all with a very high probability of being African. Although some regions “seemed” to suggest African, once again the above area at the telomere of chromosome 16 was the best candidate. DavidW included the SNPs between position 5,575,804 and 7,675,034 Mb. This constitutes a block of 2,099,239 Mb in length. This amounts to only 0.0007% of the author’s genome. If Eva (Claasz) Pickert was his ancestor, then the amount of African contribution genealogical would be 1/1024 (taking into account the fact that she was half African and that she would be represented in two ancestral lines. This amounts to 0.00098% which is extraordinarily similar to the genetic finding.

4) **Multidimensional Scaling / Principal Components Analysis**

Multidimensional scaling charts show the relationship of this segment to all of the others in the reference group. Here follows the complete cluster view. The author is CA4:

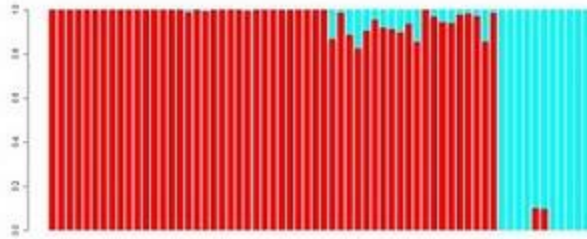


Here it can be seen that the Africans all cluster in the top left corner, with the East Asians and the Native Americans to the top right, and the Europeans to the bottom center. Close up views follow.



The reason why the author's icon does not fall within the deepest part of the African cluster is because of my father's European half of this segment so there is a pull towards Europe.

The nearest neighbors of the author are an African American (expected since they likely have a European and an African strand at this segment, and a Bantu from Kenya, with other African Americans nearby. Clearly the center of gravity of pull is toward Europe. While it may seem odd that a Bantu from East Africa is present in this environment, recent testing of this group has shown that two individuals have noteworthy Caucasian ancestry shown below and so one also likely has a European strand on Chromosome 16:



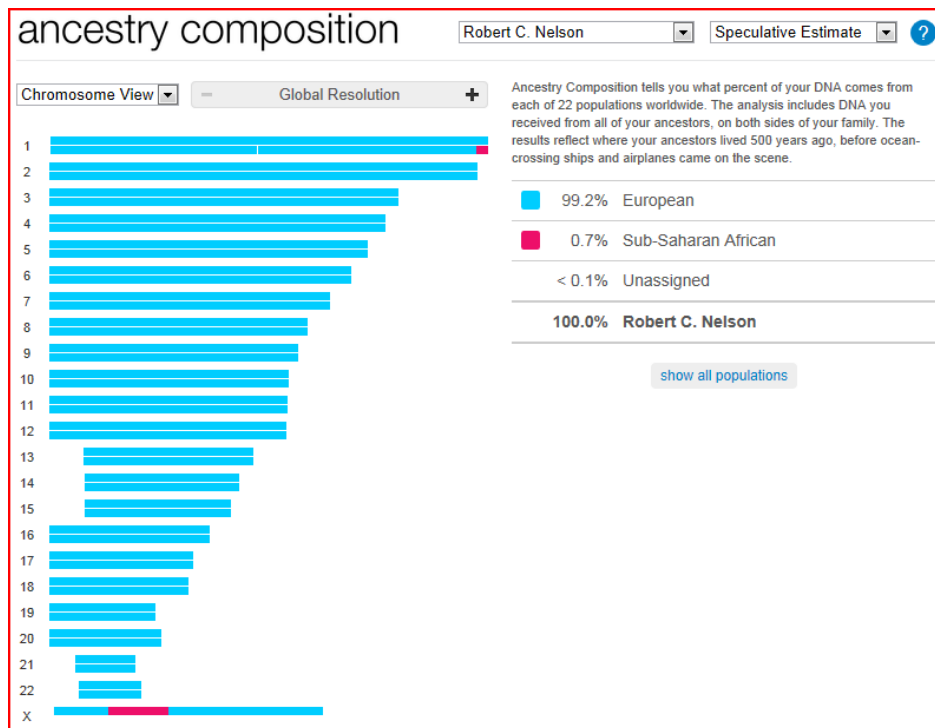
The red blocks to the right among the entirely blue color bars show two of the HGDP-CEPF Bantu from Kenya samples have considerable Caucasian admixture ([Dienekes Blog](#)). It seems likely that one of them appears near the icon of the author.

Also the block is being “pulled” toward (or from) the Mandenka. At some point in time it will be possible to “phase” the data, separating the chromosomal contributions of the mother and the father, and at this point the individual with a non-European block such as the author will likely fall within the tight African cluster. [Click here](#) for a further detailed exploration of this work.

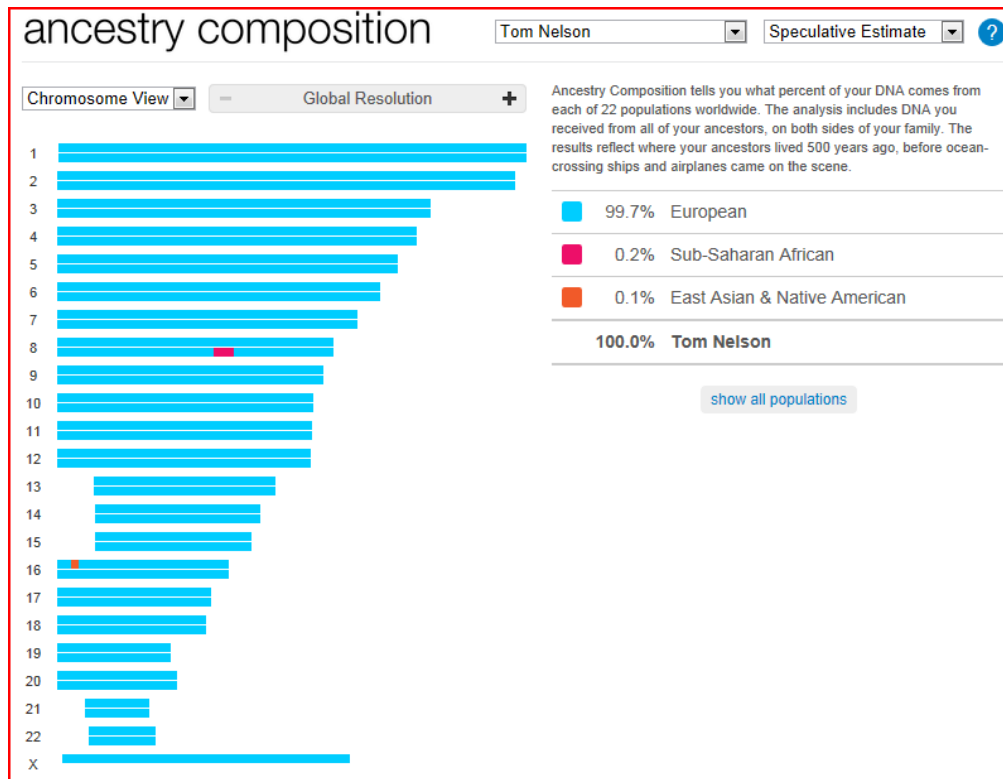
### 5) Ancestry Composition - 2012

In December 2012, 23andMe replaced its Ancestry Painting with a more sophisticated admixture test known as Ancestry Composition. What follows below is the AC paintings of descendants of Elizabeth Windecker using this new feature:

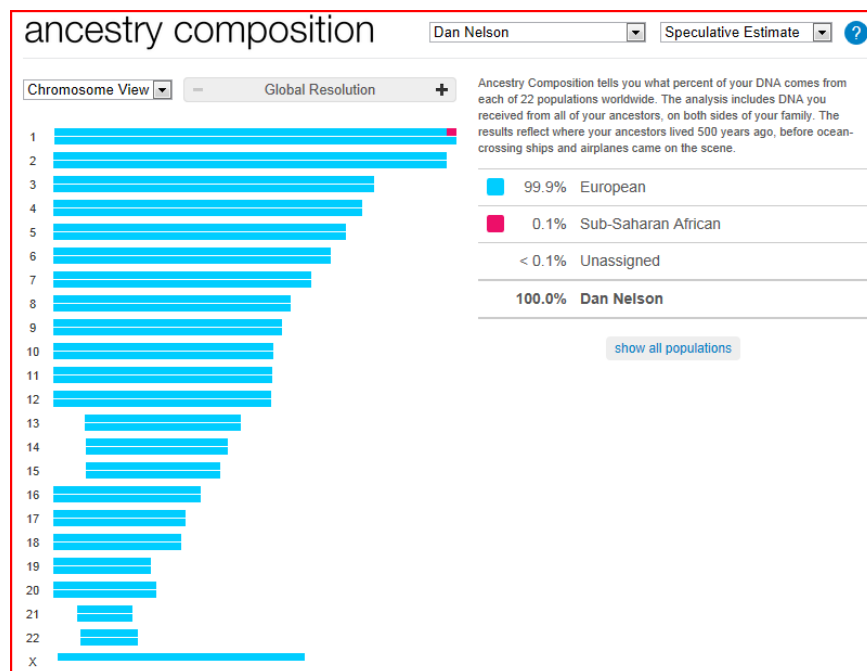
#### Robert Nelson:



## Tom Nelson:

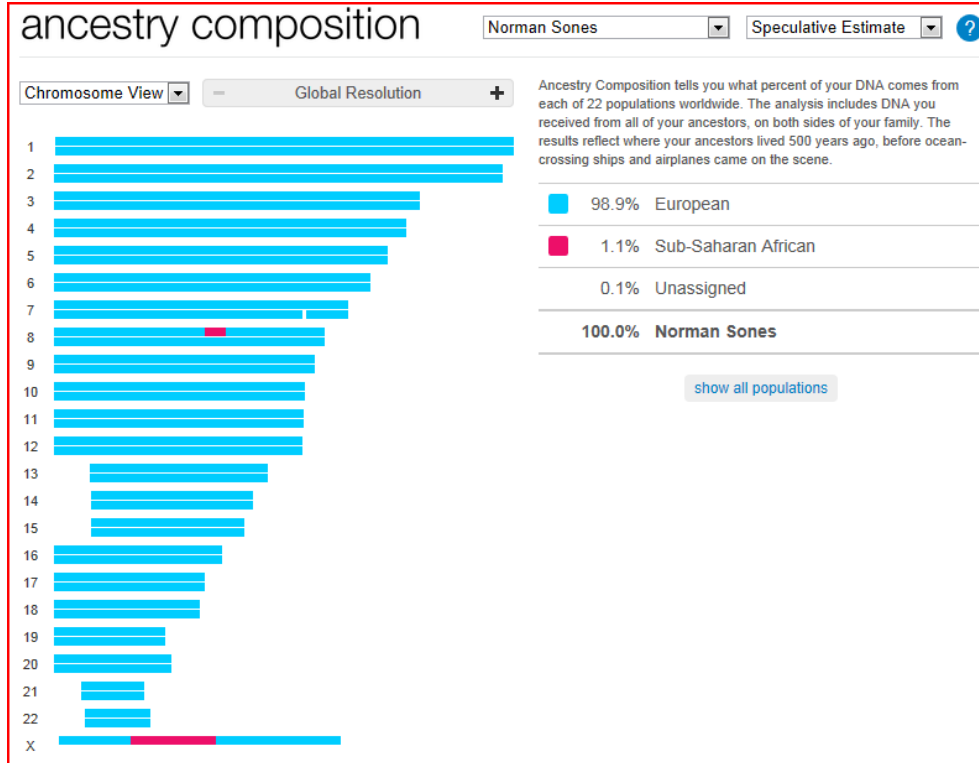


## Dan Nelson: (First Cousin to Tom Nelson)

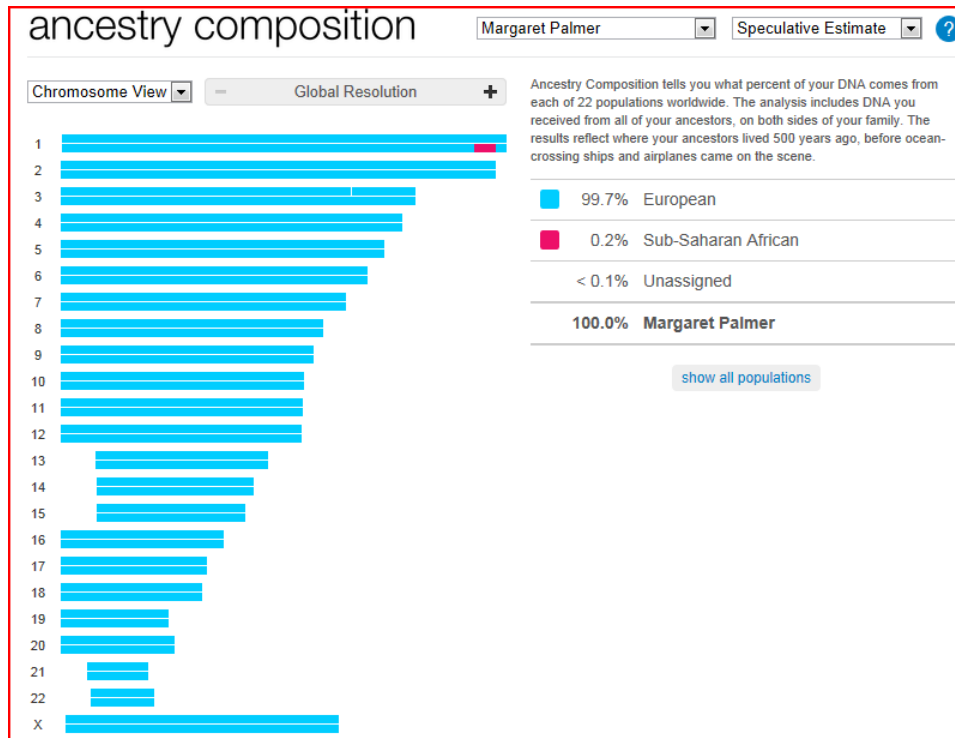




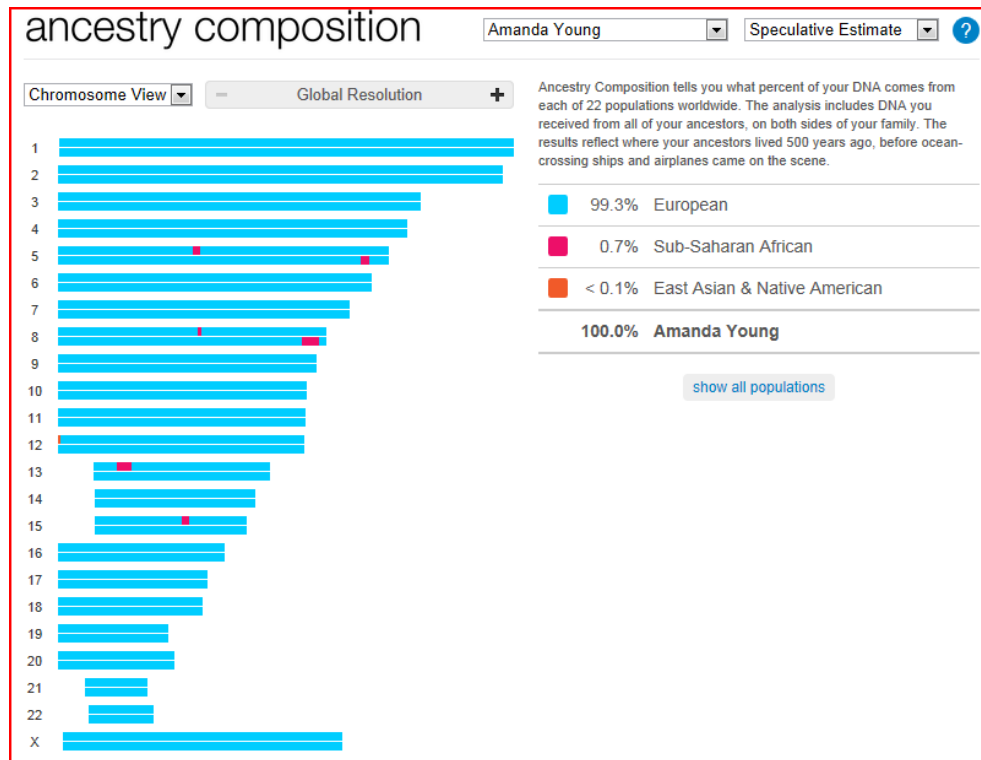
## Norman Sones: (First Cousin Once Removed to Robert Nelson)



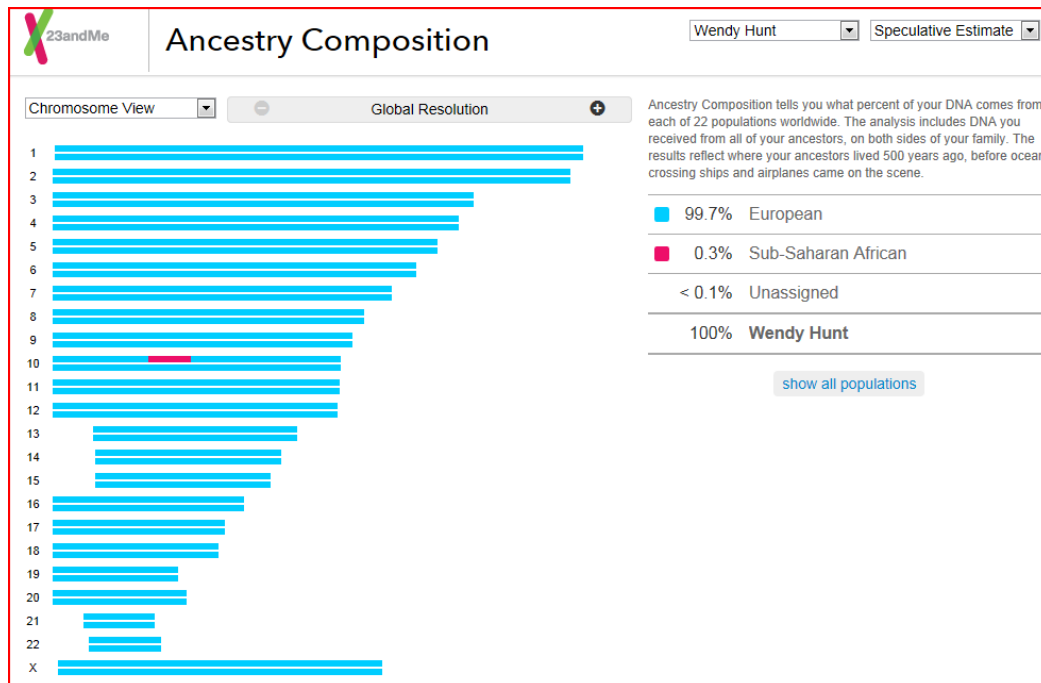
## Margaret Palmer:



## Amanda Young:



## Wendy Hunt (half second cousin once removed to Robert Nelson)



**Others:**

In checking the paintings of David Faux, first cousin Jackie Yorke, second cousin Ken Lenz, as well as Jane Pullin, all have African segments noted with this new tool from 23andMe. Ken Young, Mike Young, Dale Williamson and Richard Pullin, however, did not show African here.

**6) Ancestry Composition - 2020**

Another update, using considerably more reference samples, was calculated for each 23andMe customer. Presumably the results offer more precision. Looking only at the results relating to the African Continent, some representative examples are included.

Descendants of **George Young** son of Elizabeth (Windecker) Young:

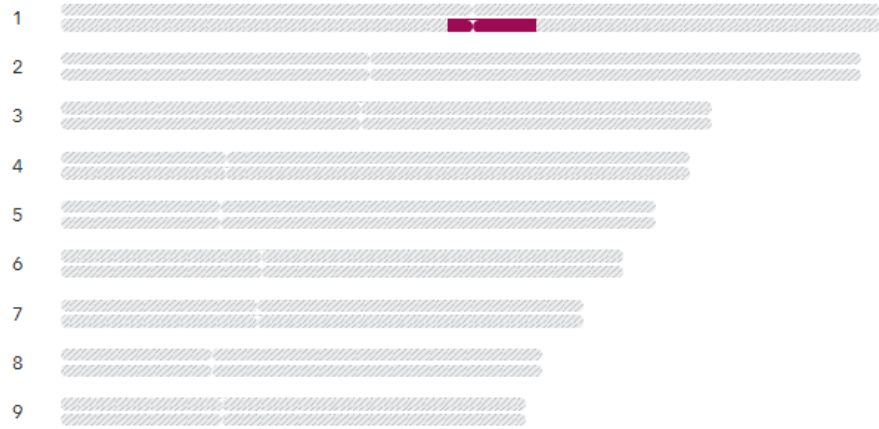
**Robert Nelson:**

<b>Sub-Saharan African</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
● Congolese & Southern East African	0.8%
● Angolan & Congolese	0.8%
● West African	0.5%
● Nigerian	0.5%
<b>Western Asian &amp; North African</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
● Arab, Egyptian & Levantine	0.5%
● Levantine	0.5%

Angolan and Congolese



Nigerian



North African - Levant



David Faux:

<b>Western Asian &amp; North African</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
● North African	0.5% >
<b>Trace Ancestry</b>	<b>0.3%</b> v



The segment shown above encompasses the two “non – European” SNPs that were displayed in the HET rare allele testing described earlier – positioned at 96,804,183 and 108,999,448 Mb situated within the above segment. However at the moment the origin of this segment is in question. It does not appear to have been inherited via the maternal side so it will be “put on the shelf” for the present.

Robert C. Nelson is also a descendant of Frederick Young; and David Faux is also a descendant of Henry Young.

In order to have some confidence in the African geographical distributions shown for descendants of Elizabeth (Windecker) Young, it will be important to seek data from children other than George Young, the ancestor in common for Robert C. Nelson and David Faux.

**Jane Pullin:**

Descendant of **Priscilla (Young) Sipes:**

Trace Ancestry	0.1%
We detected traces of the following populations in your DNA. Read more about trace ancestry <a href="#">in the FAQ.</a>	
● Angolan & Congolese	0.1%

**Amanda Young:**

Descendant of **James Fleming Young:**

**Trace Ancestry** 0.6% ^

We detected traces of the following populations in your DNA. Read more about trace ancestry [in the FAQ](#).

- Broadly Sub-Saharan African 0.3% v
- Senegambian & Guinean 0.2% >
- Sudanese 0.1% >

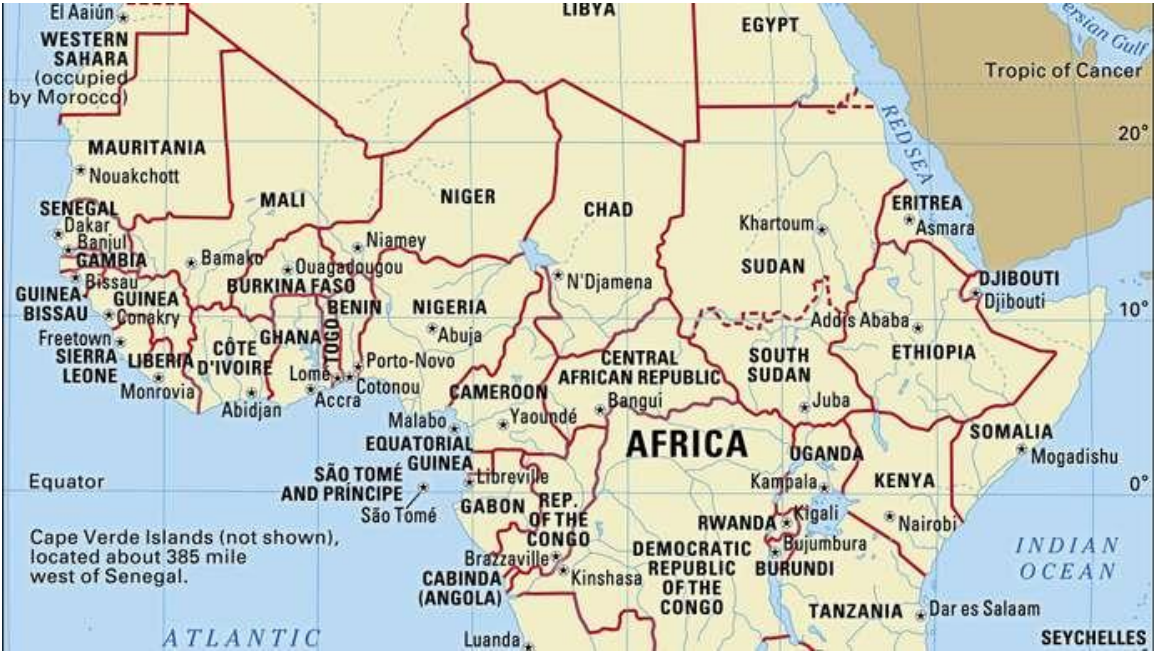
**Margaret Palmer:**

Descendant of **Frederick Young:**

**Trace Ancestry** 0.3% ^

We detected traces of the following populations in your DNA. Read more about trace ancestry [in the FAQ](#).

- Angolan & Congolese 0.2% >
- Southern Indian Subgroup 0.1% >



**Genetic Conclusions:** Based on the genetic evidence it would appear that the African ancestor(s) had their origins in the West Africa, from two clusters:

- 1) South: Angola and the Congo.
- 2) North: Senegal, Gambia and Ghana as well as North Africa.

With respect to North Africa, *While the presence of Islam [Arabs] in West Africa dates back to eighth century, the spread of the faith in regions that are now the modern states of Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and Nigeria, was in actuality, a gradual and complex process. Much of what we know about the early history of West Africa comes from medieval accounts written by Arab and North African geographers and historians* (Margari Hill, “The Spread of Islam in West Africa: Containment, Mixing, and Reform from the Eighth to the Twentieth Century”, Stanford University, 2009, p.1).

### **Genealogical Evidence**

Since the 1980s the present author has maintained that while there is no solid evidence, there were a number of hints that suggested that Pvt. Henry Windecker of Butler’s Rangers married Dorothy Pickard (Pickert), both of Canajoharie, prior to moving to the Wilkes Barre area of Pennsylvania in 1770.

- 1) Number of African descendant candidates – There is only one free African individual noted for the period of circa 1760 (when Henry Windecker married Dorothy). She was Evighe (Eva) Claesen Pickert (circa 1680 – 1767) who resided in the Canajoharie District from at least 1753 to her death in 1767. She lived on the River flats near Little Falls and the Canajoharie Indian Village and settlements. Eva was a probable grandmother of Dorothy.
- 2) Family of Eva Pickert – Eva Claesen’s (likely born about 1682) parent’s names are unknown, although her father was likely a Nicholas (Claes) due to use of Dutch patronymic naming practices of the time. She was residing in Schenectady at the time of her marriage (12 November 1698, Albany) to Bartolomew Pickard (Pickert), son of Bartholomew Pickard and Dorothy, who was baptized 18 September 1676, St. Martins, Leistershire, England. Bart and Eva had four children, baptized at Schenectady or Albany:
  - a) Bartholomew bp. 9 January 1700 Schenectady, married 3 August 1722 Schenectady (he of Schoharie) Anna Catharina.
  - b) Nicholas bp. 23 February 1701 Schenectady, married 1722 Anna Barbara Weiser.
  - c) Dorothy bp. 28 July 1703 Schenectady, married circa 1725 Jan Pieterse Mabie.
  - d) Rachel bp. 29 January 1707 Albany, married circa 1730 Thomas Davey.
  - e) Gertrude bp. 2 January 1710 Albany. The present author has not been able to locate this document using two transcripts of the Albany records.



The only likely parent of Dorothy Windecker would be Nicholas (there is less evidence that her parent was Dorothy who married Jan Pieterse Mabie), this based on all the available historical records relating to the Mohawk Valley – which are admittedly few and far between.

To build a case in such instances it is imperative to locate circumstantial evidence that, when added up, is clear and convincing, and on balance of probabilities can be accepted as true.

- 3) Family of Nicholas Pickert – Nicholas Pickert, baptized 23 February 1701 Schenectady, married Anna Barbara Weiser, daughter of Johann Conrad Weiser and Anna Magdalena Ubelin in 1722. Internet sources typically note (although this is not terribly convincing since there are never any sources) that the couple had seven children. The number and order of the children is largely guesswork. It makes sense that Nicholas would name a daughter Dorothy after his sister and grandmother:
  - a) John Pickert born about 1723 married Anna Rosina Countryman.
  - b) William Henry Pickert born about 1725 married Elizabeth Wintermute. He died 1804, Four Mile Creek, Niagara, Ontario,
  - c) Conrad Weiser Pickert born 5 March 1727 married June 1751 Anna Margaretha Walrath.
  - d) Bartholomew Pickert born 5 March 1727 (twin) married Maria Catharina.
  - e) Jacobus James Pickert born about 1730 married Gertrude Hostman
  - f) Rachel Pickert born 29 October 1733 married Johannes Countryman.
  - g) Leah Pickert married Frederick Smith.
  - h) Eva Pickert married Conrad Windecker
  - i) Dorothy Pickert born about 1741 married Henry Windecker
  
- 4) Association (Residence and Marriage) between the Pickert and Windecker families in New York – It is well established that in the Colonial era of Upstate New York, particularly among the Palatine German families, among whom the Pickert's were associated, certain marriage conventions were typical. Bartholomew was even listed in 1712 as one of the “distressed Palatines”, and in 1723 was among the first to take up a Palatine grant in the Mohawk Valley – at Stone Arabia. Here marriage was often determined by proximity and by others who married into the same families. In other words it was typical for the children in one family to marry the children in adjoining families, often brothers marrying neighbor's daughters (for example). Naming patterns (especially when family names are rare such as Leah in a Palatine community) are extremely important in making linkages based on circumstantial evidence. While the first three children, John, William and Conrad resided nearby in what became Minden Township or at least adjoining Patents in Canajoharie, the latter 6 all resided on the Windecker Tract (actually the Windecker, Countryman and Leib Patent), known as “Dutchtown”, near Minden and Little Falls in the Canajoharie District. Some, including Henry Windecker, also had land on the adjoining Van Horne Patent, and typically the lots abutted each

other. An exploration of the land and militia records (Captain Jacob Klock's Company) for 1763 and the tax records for 1766 show the following in relation to those residing on the Windecker Patent:

- a) Jacobus Pickert and Gertrude Windecker were granted Lot 2 (later surveyed as Lot 3, by the latter's father Hartmann Windecker on 28 March 1754, but sold their interest to Frederick Blank in 1765, whereupon they appear to have become (temporarily) tenants on the lands of this kinsman of both of them, Henry Windecker (see g below).
- b) Thomas Deby (Davey) married Rachel Pickert (sister of Nicholas, daughter of Bartholomew Pickert and Eva Claessen) resided as tenants on Lot 4.
- c) Eva (daughter of Nicholas Pickert) married Conrad Windecker (son of George) resided on Lot 5B as owners.
- d) Bartholomew Pickert "Jr." (likely the son of Nicholas) also resided on Lot 5B as tenant.
- e) George Countryman (mother was Maria Windecker, sister of George, Conrad, and Gertrude) resided as owner on Lot 6A.
- f) Frederick Smith married Leah Pickert (daughter of Nicholas) resided as tenants on Lot 6A.
- g) Henry Windecker and Dorothy Pickert resided as owners on Lot 7A. However on 13 January 1767 Henry mortgaged property he owned in the Van Horne Patent, specifically Lot 4 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> allotment which fronted the Mohawk River.
- h) Jacobus (James) Pickert (son of Nicholas) who married Gertrude Windecker (sister of George and Conrad) resided as a tenant on Henry's property Lot 7A.

The records for lands immediately adjacent to the Windecker Tract, on the Van Horne Patent including the islands and flats of the Mohawk River near the Mohawk Canajoharie Castle include:

- i) Jacob Haberman (if Jacob Hosterman was a sponsor of the baptism of a child of Henry Windecker in Pennsylvania). His wife Barbara could have been another child of Nicholas Pickert. Then four individuals before,
- j) John Pickard (eldest son of Nicholas), on 29 January 1767, mortgaged Lot 7 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Allotment (close to Henry Windecker's property) of the Van Horne Patent, as well as Lots 5 and 8 in the 4<sup>th</sup> Allotment (immediately above the Jacobus Mabee property).
- k) Joseph Mabee and Johan Joost Schuyler, then two individuals before,
- l) Jacobus Mabee. On the 1764 map of the Van Horne Patent he held Lot 8 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Allotment (very close to Henry Windecker's property).
- m) Bartholomew Mabee, then 6 persons before,
- n) William Pickert (son of Nicholas Pickert), who, along with Henry Windecker and Frederick Smith, resided in Pennsylvania at the time of the Revolution and came to Ontario, then 3 persons before,
- o) Johann Countryman who married Rachel Pickert (daughter of Nicholas).

- 5) Association between Pickert and Windecker families in Pennsylvania – In 1770 a number of Mohawk Valley families moved to the Wilkes Barre area of Pennsylvania. On 17 June 1770 a list was composed on all the settlers of the five townships then being surveyed within the Susquehanna Company Purchase of Connecticut. On the list of 3 October 1772 Henry Windecker was a signator, but not William Pickard or Frederick Smith. Among those who left and later associated with one another in Ontario were Henry Windecker and Nicholas Phillips (whose importance will be seen later), and his proposed brothers in law Frederick Smith, and William Pickert. In addition nephews Nicholas (son of Conrad) and John (son of Jacobus) were residing in the same township as Windecker in 1777, but appear to have returned to the Mohawk Valley and surrounds.

Henry appears to have resided in or near Penn Township (Snyder County – then Westmorland) where he attended the Salem Lutheran Church in 1774. In the tax lists of August 1776 for the districts of Westmoreland County, William Pickard was residing in the North District (Exeter and Providence), and both Frederick Smith and Henry Windecker were living in the North District (“Up the River”), later Westmoreland County. Nicholas and John Pickert were young and likely tenants living with their uncles. However in June 1777, while Frederick Smith is still on the list in the same location, neither William Pickard nor Henry Windecker are anywhere to be found. They had left to join Butler’s Rangers.

Also Nicholas Pickard and his cousin John Pickard, proposed nephews to Henry Windecker, as well as William Pickard and Frederick Smith, were living there in 1777, although their names did not appear on the tax lists since they were likely tenants. However both are found in the Committee of Safety Records for that year. On 7 March 1777, Nicholas Pickard of Wyoming sent a letter to his cousin John Pickard residing in Penn Township, alerting him to an Indian raid that was in the offing. The Committee of Safety got a hold of the letter and examined the said John who, on 17 April, reported the following:

*He saith, that he went up the river, some time about last Christmas, from Middletown to Wyoming, in a boat, and at Wyoming he met with the aforesaid **Nicholas Pickard**, his own cousin, and that they two went by land about twenty miles further up the river, to a place called Tankhannock, to see some friends, and being in the house of a certain **Nicholas Phillips**, he, the said Phillips, told his cousin and him that the Indians had told him they would come down, and cut off all against this spring, or as soon as they got their orders; and that they would in particular strike upon the Mohawk river and the waters of the Susquehannough.....*

Nicholas Pickard was also brought before the Committee and:

*confesseth, that he is in connection with the ministerial troops at Niagara*

and was thus sent to prison in Philadelphia in May of 1778 (pension application of Adam Wisner who transported Pickard to Philadelphia).

The two cousins are most likely Nicholas (born 1752) son of Conrad Pickard (son of Nicholas); and John (born 1760) the son of Jacobus Pickard (son of Nicholas).

There was a further connection with Nicholas Phillips noted above in that at Machiche Quebec, 2 July 1781, Elizabeth Phillips and Dorothy Windecker, “wives of men in Butler’s Rangers”, petitioned the British Government to be allowed to join their husbands at Niagara. Elizabeth was the wife of Nicholas Phillips noted in two places above. It appears that “Nicholas Phillips Jr.” born 17 April 1732 near Schoharie, was the son of Claes Philip bp. Albany 5 May 1700 “of the Mohax contray” to Philip Philipse de Moor. In a 1679 court case Philip the Moor and two other “Negroes” (Claes and Jacob) were tried for the theft of a sliver thimble. He later owned land in the 1680s and 1690s at “The Willows” above Schenectady toward Schoharie (near the original lands of Sir William Johnson) as Philip Philipson de Moor (Burke, 1991) who married a Dutch woman Elizabeth Gansevoort. Hence, Nicholas Phillips of Butler’s Rangers would have been the son of a “Mulatto” – and perhaps related in some way to Dorothy Windecker’s grandmother.

To repeat, at the conclusion of the War, Henry, Frederick and William moved to the Niagara Region in Ontario; but Nicholas and John Pickert, despite their original Loyalist leanings, appear to have returned to the Mohawk Valley.

Others with the rare surname Pickard who were residing in the Susquehanna Settlement, in addition to William, were also Benjamin, and James (his two sons who served in Butler’s Rangers). Hence it seems possible and perhaps likely that Henry Windecker and a brother in law residing on the Windecker Tract, and another residing a short distance away on the Van Horne Patent, all packed up and moved to Pennsylvania at about the same time; and left to join Butler’s Rangers and ultimately move to Ontario, about the same time.

6) Association between the Pickert and Windecker families in Ontario - On 11 August 1786 Henrick Windecker Late of Susquehanna River in Northumberland County in Pennsylvania “but now of Niagara” submitted a claim for losses. William Pickard and Frederick Smith late of the same place and also now of Niagara declared that they were familiar with the property of Windecker and attested to the veracity of what he claimed. Their certificate also said that they were late of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania (NAC, A.O. 13, Vol. 57). William Pickard and Frederick Smith were the proposed brothers in law to Henry Windecker. As noted before, typically on documents such as these (and baptismal records) the individuals are close relatives.

Similarly William Pickard submitted his claim (undated) for losses wherein he noted not only property in Westmoreland Pennsylvania (where he was residing at the time of the

War), but also land in Tryon County (Canajoharie District) consisting of islands in the Mohawk River and 3 acres on the River bank which he had purchased from (by land exchange) Jacob and Philip Skyler, but which was then in the possession of his (Pickard's) nephew. He and his two sons served in Butler's Rangers. Frederick Smith also submitted a declaration here confirming what Pickert claimed (Proceedings of Loyalist Commissioners, Montreal, 1787, Vol. XX, Claim 815 – Second Report of the Bureau of Archives for the Province of Ontario, by Alexander Fraser, Part II).

Lewis Mabie was born about 1739 (according to his tombstone from the McAfee Cemetery in Bertie Township), had a daughter Dorothy, and died in Black Rock, Niagara, Ontario. He was first cousin to Dorothy Pickert, wife of Henry Windecker who held the lease to the Black Rock ferry in the 1790s, and also had lands in the Bertie Township area of Niagara. He served in Peter Ten Broeck's unit of Butler's Rangers during the Revolution (as did Henry Windecker). It is known that neighbors and kin tended to serve in the same unit, so this association may be significant. Here it is proposed that he is first cousin to Dorothy Windecker via his mother Dorothy Pickert, wife of Jan Pieterse Mabie.

The genealogical evidence above is far from conclusive, however when blended with the genetics findings, it lends weight to the circumstantial evidence such that taken as a whole the data is reasonably clear and convincing that Dorothy, with wife of Henry Windecker, was born Dorothy Pickert, the granddaughter of Eva (Claesen) Pickert, a Mulatto woman. However, it is important to examine the historical data that indicates that Eva Pickert was a "Mulatto".

#### Historical Evidence as to Eva (Claessen) Pickert's African Ancestry:

The hypothesis, based on genetic findings of a small percentage of African ancestry in at least three descendants of Henry and Dorothy Windecker, and the circumstantial genealogical evidence noted above, is that the wife of Pvt. Henry Windecker was Dorothy Pickert and that she was of African descent.

Dorothy would have been the granddaughter of Eve (Classen) Pickert, who frustrated Sir William Johnson by selling liquor to the Indians of Canajoharie and allegedly attempting to scam them out of their land. On 17 February 1761 the secretary to Sir William Johnson noted that, *an old Mulatto Woman named Eve Pickerd waited on Sir William with a Deed of gift (for a parcel of low, and wooded land containing about 1100 acres) which she had, which was dated last September, and which Sir William discovered had been executed only two days ago, by three Indians whom she called to her house, & whom she, and her Grandson (who sell liquor) had made drunk, & then prevailed on them to sign the Deed, without having a License from the Governour, or President (JP, Vol. 10, p.220).* Two days later Johnson himself wrote to Cadwallader Colden and noted his concerns about, *Ury Klock, & one Eve Pickard a Mullatto Woman living on the Flatts of Canajoharie (JP, Vol. 3, p.339).* As to the meaning of the word Mullato at this time and at this place, Singer 2008 described a typical description in an advertisement relating to, *escaped Africans.* According to "The New York Gazette" of July 24, 1758, "Runaway from Ida Meyer on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June last, a Mulatto wench named Ohnech, but goes by the name Hannah and

*pretends to be free ..... And speaks both English and Dutch very well. Singer comments as follows: The enslaved woman is a 'Mulatto', or person of mixed race. One of her parents or grandparents, probably her father or paternal grandfather, was White (p.55).*

This evidence is virtually unassailable, however there is not one single genealogy of the family on the Internet which mentions the African connection. The most conservative versions look at the surname of Eva written at the time of her marriage to Bartholomew Pickard. *Classez* and variants such as *Claessen* simply means child of *Claes* which is a nickname for *Nicholas*.

One family researcher alludes to the family being “Black Dutch”, a term which has multiple meanings fraught with imprecision. Occasionally it refers to tri-racial individuals, but as often simply a swarthy complected person such as a Portuguese or Moor, and even Germans with swarthy skin tone. However this is the closest that the present author has seen any family member acknowledge the “Mulatto” designation for Eva by Sir William Johnson – it seems to be simply ignored.

The denial shown by genealogists, who are often descendants of Eva, is not shared by academics: For example Conyers (2003) compared Eve to a Seneca who had one African parent and one Seneca parent. As to Sun Fish, *The Sun Fish stands as an example of one who oscillated between identities – sometimes a Seneca warrior, husband, and father; at other times a free mulatto spy, informant, and cattle trader. His particular identity was dictated by his needs and the needs of others with whom he was in contact within a given situation* (p. 91). In relation to Eva, Conyers stated that, *The attitude of the Indians toward race on New York's frontier is further demonstrated in the case of Eve Pickard, considered by the English to be a mulatto. Pickard, like Sun Fish, was multi-lingual. She interacted regularly with the Mohawk and spoke their language. In a land dispute between the Canajoharie Indians and Pickard, she was denounced not as a mulatto, but as white* (Hart, 1994: 24-26). *These Mohawk apparently defined whiteness, as late as the 1760s, not in biological but rather in behavioral terms. In attempting to bilk Indians of their land, Pickard was behaving as white people did, and therefore she was white. This reveals nothing of how Eve Pickard thought of herself any more than it is known whether the Sun Fish thought of himself as a Seneca or a mulatto* (p. 270).

It is of course possible that her surname does come from her father, one *Claes*, but while he could have been African, it is more likely she had an African mother. In exploring the records relating to Schenectady around the time of the birth of Eva we find one *Claes*, the “slave of Gerrit Bancker”. In 1679, one year before the birth of Eva, was put on trial in Schenectady for the theft of silver. This material had allegedly transported to Albany with the help of one *Jacob*, the slave of *Sweer Teunissen van Velsen* (Burke, 1991).

The most recent attempt to determine Eva's parentage is Morgan (2010), who also provides a detailed biographical study. [Click here](#) to view this academic paper published in New York History.

Further biographical and historical information can be found by [clicking here](#).

### The Most Persuasive Interpretation of the Evidence as to Eva's Ancestry:

Hence some researchers posit that her father was one Nicolas Classez, a shadowy figure in Schenectady at the time. Others may look to any slave with the name Nicholas living in Schenectady circa 1682 as a father of Eva (although it was infinitely more likely that she had a White father and Black mother). Still others seem to go all out, finding a Claes Lourens Van der Volgen born 1650 Purmerend, Holland who married Marytje Teunisse Swart born circa 1663 Schenectady and so through both lines provides a lengthy genealogy back to the 1500s in Holland and Norway. Considering that this couple are supposed to have been married in 1684 in Schenectady, this would make it at least possible to "fit" Eva in before or after the marriage – considering that she was married in 1698. Other genealogists provide a different mother for Eva, one Gertrude Van Petten who was a witness at the baptism of Eva's daughter Dorothy Pickard in 1703 in Schenectady. She was undoubtedly the Gertrude Claes Fredericksen Van Petten, born 1692, who married Claes Lourens Van der Voglen junior, who was born about 1687 – impossible to be parents of Eva. So where does the African parent fit into all this?

It is quite possible that Eva was an elder daughter of Claes Fredericksen Van Petten who was a slave owner in Schenectady and may have fathered a child with one of the African woman in the family.

Eva's Mother: After considering all the evidence, the best interpretation is that the mother of Eva was a slave of Nicolaes Frederickse Van Petten (born 1641 Petten Noord-Holland; died 1728 Schenectady). It is known that he was a slave owner, although there is no record of the number. A document records that in 1682 he purchased a Black known as Jan. He would doubtless have had a house servant, probably young circa 1682 when Eva was born. She was likely the mother of Eva who would take the name of her mother's paramour / owner as her surname. Since Eva spoke Mohawk, living close to and trading with the Mohawks of Canajoharie (and bilking them out of their land) she likely learned it early in life. It is likely that her mother was a captive of the Mohawks and brought north from the land of the Catawba (the bitter enemies of the Mohawk) as a young girl. She probably lived with them for a number of years before she was "exchanged" by them with Claes F. Van Petten. She would have learned the language in that time and there is someone in later records who fits the bill perfectly as Eva's possible mother. In 1745 (e.g., see 9 Oct. 1745, DRCHNY, Vol. 6, p. 295) there was a crisis where the Mohawks were all in a lather because Johannes and Aaron, Mohawk chiefs who stayed with Andries Van Petten (the son of the above Claes) reported that the latter told them that the White people of Albany were planning to come and eradicate them from Ft. Hunter. The source of the information was supposedly Andries and also his "negro wench" (the Century Cyclopedia of 1889 defines this term as, "a colored woman of any age; a negress or mulatress, especially one in service") who gave the report. It was alleged that the "negro wench" spoke Mohawk and was able to translate from Dutch to Mohawk and Mohawk to Dutch for Johannes and Aaron who understood Dutch but could not speak it. It is likely that when the father Claes died, his son Andries inherited Eva's mother who may have had her freedom but by then was comfortable in the Van Petten household (some things we will never know).

In the attempt to do better than “Negro Wench” in terms of a name, it is possible to turn to circumstantial evidence that is clear from naming practices used at the time. Here the first son born to Bartholomew and Eva was born in 1700 and named Bartholomew after Bart’s father and himself. The second son was born in 1701 and named Nicholas after Eva’s father. The first daughter Dorothy was born in 1703 and was named after Bart’s mother (as was frequently the practice of the time). The second daughter, born in 1707 and named Rachael, was likely given the name of Eva’s mother. So it is not stretching things too far to see Eva’s mother’s name as Rachael.

### **Genealogical and Overall Conclusions:**

The genealogical record points to Dorothy, wife of Henry Windecker, being the daughter of Nicholas Pickert and Anna Barbara Weiser. Assuming that the Census of Niagara of 1783 age for Dorothy is correct then she was born in 1742/3. This would make Dorothy the sibling or first cousin to a great many individuals residing on the Windecker Tract and the Van Horne Patent, the two locations where Henry Windecker possessed land and resided before leaving for Pennsylvania in 1770. If correct, then as with Henry Windecker, his wife Dorothy’s brother William Pickert, her brother in law Frederick Smith, and first cousin, Lewis Mabie, also joined Butler’s Rangers, and came to permanently reside in Niagara Ontario.

The evidence of the genetic, genealogical (admittedly much of it circumstantial) and historical data appear to point toward Eva Pickard being a half African mulatto and the grandmother of Dorothy Pickard, the wife of Henry Windecker – parents of Elizabeth who married Sgt. Daniel Young of Butler’s Rangers and progenitor of a very large extended family (let alone the large numbers of other branches leading from Bartholomew and Eva).

It is important, in the eyes of this genealogist and descendant via two lines, to attempt to use all available sources to set the record straight. It is very unfortunate that so few (known) descendants of Eva (Clausen) Pickard have tested with 23andMe. However, there are many Pickard descendants who tested at Ancestry dot com, and who have a public family tree as seen by the numerous matches with Robert C. Nelson. Using the ThruLines tool, which displays matches back to all 5<sup>th</sup> great grandparents, we see that in addition to the expected matches to descendants of his ancestor Dorothy (Pickard) Windecker and husband Henry Windecker (149), he has DNA matches to descendants of all of the other children of Nicholas Pickard and Barbara (Weiser) Pickard, with the exception of Conrad Pickard. Specifically, in terms of number of matches, William (6), John (2), Bartholomew (3), Leah (1), Jacobus (6), and Rachel (11). The author also has many such matches, but not as many as his grandmother’s half second cousin, Robert C. Nelson (both of us having two branches of our family trees extending back to Eva Clausen Pickard).

Robert is two generations closer to the African ancestor than the author and many other relatives, so is the “perfect” candidate. Although these matches tend to confirm the Pickard connection, beyond that they are of limited use since there is no way to see if these Ancestry



dot com matches have African segments (and none would have 2% plus African ancestry from an ancestor born in the mid - 1600s).

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