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CASE STUDY

Deep Roots in Azpeitia: A Proven Line to 1691 — and One Honest Hypothesis

This case study shows what deep parish-register research looks like when it is done link by link: six generations proven by baptisms that name both parents — and a final connection that the evidence does not yet prove, graded openly instead of smoothed over.

The question

The researcher's great-great-grandmother was **María Errazti** of Cuba — her second surname unknown, and no Cuban record yet found that names her parents. The Errazti family is rooted in Azpeitia, Gipuzkoa, in the Basque Country. Could she be found there?

The proven line

Every link below rests on a parish baptism or marriage in Azpeitia (spelling variants *Errazti/Errasti* searched both ways, as the family itself used both):

- Ignacio Errazti Seguirola × Francisca Urdampilleta Arregui — married 28 August 1691, Azpeitia
- Miguel Errazti Urdapilleta — baptized 25 January 1696 (the founders' eldest son)
- Domingo Errazti Yraola — born 1726
- Manuel Juaquin Errazti Aranguren — born 1750
- Domingo Errazti Beristain — baptized 15 September 1772; married Manuela Cathalina Ybarguren Ocariz, 4 February 1811, Errezil
- Juan José Errazti Ybarguren — baptized 22 January 1827; married Maria Josefa Plazaola Azcune
- María Ygnacia Errazti Plazaola — baptized 28 August 1857, Soreasu parish, Azpeitia; the founders' fifth great-granddaughter

Grade: Proven — every link a parish record naming the parents

A candidate by elimination

María Ygnacia's sister María Jesus is ruled out — she died in Azpeitia on 21 December 1893. A same-name death in 1889 belongs to an older namesake baptized in 1816. María Ygnacia herself has **no marriage and no death record anywhere in Gipuzkoa**: after her 1857 baptism she disappears from the Spanish records — exactly the trace an emigrant to Cuba would leave.

DNA support — suggestive, not proof

A documented great-grandnephew of María Ygnacia shares 20 cM of DNA with the researcher. If she is the right woman, the two men are third cousins — and 20 cM fits that relationship. DNA here corroborates the paper trail; it does not replace it.

The honest caveat

She would have been about fifteen when Juan Francisco Galatas Errazti was born in Artemisa in 1872 — young, though not impossible for the era. And the one record that would settle everything, the couple's ~1871 Artemisa marriage naming her parents, has not been located: Artemisa's parish registers were never digitized. So the case stands exactly here:

Her lineage: Proven · Her identity as the researcher's great-great-grandmother: Hypothesis

That distinction — between what the records prove and what they only suggest — is the standard every client report is held to.