

Chapter 15

Our Spencer-Whitbread Ancestors

[Updated 26 February 2019]

Introduction

During the past few years, I have been using DNA to identify distant cousins who are descendants of the various branches of our “Quincy Oakley” family tree. Through my research, I hope to extend the scale and breadth of my knowledge of our family’s ancestry.

In this narrative,¹ I will discuss how I used DNA analysis at the chromosome level to support the genealogical records that show that a number of my distant cousins and I are all descended from a couple who were born in England over 450 years ago. By extension, all of the “Quincy Oakleys” who are descended from Ray Miller Oakley (1876-1948) and his wife Kate Cameron Burks Oakley (1873-1954) are also descended from this particular couple.

Triangulation on the GEDmatch.com Website

For genetic genealogy, companies such as Ancestry.com and 23andme.com offer genealogical tests of autosomal DNA. These tests are typically performed on the DNA obtained from cells found in a sample of saliva or cells obtained from swabbing the inside of the person’s cheeks. Websites operated by these companies allow individuals to compare their DNA profiles with those of others, but the comparisons on these sites just provide basic information that someone is a close or distant relative. However, the free GEDmatch.com website allows users to upload their DNA profiles (obtained from sites like Ancestry.com and 23andme.com), and then make much more detailed comparisons of the DNA matches with others at the level of individual chromosomes.

One of the tools on the GEDmatch.com site is called “Triangulation” (actually, this tool is only available to “Tier One” members who donate at least \$10/month to support this site). The idea behind triangulation is to identify a group of people

¹ This narrative is a complete re-write of an earlier piece entitled “What I Found Out about our Case Ancestors while Searching my Miller Family DNA Matches”.

who have the same exact matching segment of DNA and who have genealogical records (paper trails, so to speak) that go back to a common ancestor. This approach can help to prove that two or more people are related both genealogically and genetically, and also provide scientific support for the genealogical records.

Put another way, a three-way (or more) match means that all the people share a common ancestor from whom they got that DNA segment. Once they have found the genetic relationship, then they have to identify their common ancestor (which is not always easy).

On the GEDmatch.com website, the triangulation tool looks for three-way matches amongst an individual's closest 300 DNA relatives. As you can imagine, it takes a while for their computer to crunch its way through all these comparisons, which is why this tool is only available to people who donate money to support the site.

I ran the Triangulation tool using my DNA profile on the GEDmatch.com website. In the resulting report, I found that I have a large number of three-way DNA matches with others on Chromosome 8. Each of these three-way matches involves two people who have a segment of DNA that is shared by three people (those two people and me).

The following excerpt from my Triangulation report has a number of columns – the chromosome number (8), the ID number for the first individual, the ID number for the second individual, the size of the matching segment, and a green bar to show where the match is on the chromosome:

8	M597054	M621018	13.5	
8	A968143	M621018	9.1	
8	M597054	A968143	13.6	
8	M597054	F381011	12.3	
8	M597054	F352782	12.3	
8	F381011	F352782	15.8	
8	F381011	M621018	7.8	
8	F352782	M621018	7.8	
8	F381011	A968143	11.9	
8	F352782	A968143	12.4	
8	A219494	M621018	7.7	
8	A219494	A968143	11.9	
8	M597054	A219494	12.2	
8	A219494	F352782	15.7	
8	F381011	A219494	16.1	
8	M621018	A108966	7.4	
8	F381011	A108966	11.0	
8	M597054	A108966	11.0	
8	A219494	A108966	11.3	
8	F352782	A108966	11.3	
8	A968143	A108966	11.5	
8	M852917	A092212	10.8	
8	A092212	M597054	10.8	
8	M852917	M597054	11.3	
8	A092212	A108966	10.4	
8	M852917	A108966	10.4	
8	A092212	A219494	10.8	
8	A092212	A968143	10.8	
8	M852917	A219494	11.2	
8	M852917	A968143	11.7	
8	A092212	F352782	10.6	
8	M852917	F352782	10.6	
8	A092212	F381011	10.6	
8	M852917	F381011	11.1	

Looking at how the green bars align, it is clear that I have a very large number of distant cousins who all have this same segment of DNA on Chromosome 8 – they share the segment with each other and with me. Each row in this report shows a three-way match between two individuals and me – we all have the same exact segment of DNA on Chromosome 8. Note that specific individuals (represented by their ID numbers) appear in several different rows, since they not only match with me, but with a number of the others, and thus each pair (plus me) is reported as a separate three-way match.

People Who Match Both of Two Kits

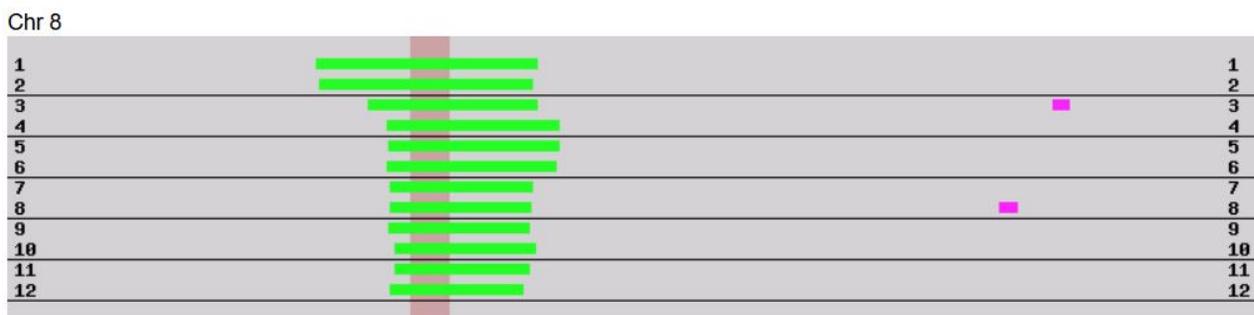
Another analysis (test) on the GEDmatch.com website is called “People who match both of two kits”. This test identifies all the people who match two individuals (sort of a mini-triangulation). As shown in the following graphic, Kit #F352782 is associated with person having the username of **MC Coker*:

8	M597054	A968143	38,457,170	59,286,840	13.6		
8	M597054	F381011	40,062,691	59,242,928	12.3		
8	M597054	F352782	40,062,691	59,286,840	12.3		
8	F381011	F352782	40,062,691	59,242,928	12.3		
8	F381011	M621018	40,147,463	54,648,915	7.8		
8	F352782	M621018	40,147,463	54,648,915	7.8		
8	F381011	A968143	40,147,463	59,026,991	11.9		
8	F352782	A968143	40,147,463	59,419,055	12.4		
8	A219494	M621018	40,173,096	54,648,915	7.7		

I selected **MC Coker* (Kit #F352782) and myself for the “People who match both of two kits” test. I ran the test to see who else shares the same segment of DNA with the two of us (I expected that it would be most of those people in the triangulation graphic above). Here is the result:

People who match both kits, or 1 of 2 kits										
Kit 1: A122463 (Burks Oakley II)										
Kit 2: F352782 (*MC Coker)										
Submit Select 2 or more from 'Select' column, and click this button for additional display and processing options.										
Match	A122463			F352782			Generations Difference	Email	Select	
	Shared	Largest	Gen	Shared	Largest	Gen				
M531907	3587.1	281.5	1.0	26.2	15.8	4.5	3.5	burkso2@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	
A484508	467.3	51.1	2.5	25.0	17.8	4.6	2.1	eidem@comcast.net	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M852917	37.1	25.3	4.3	16.0	10.6	4.9	0.6	sidersn@yahoo.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	
A092212	36.1	25.3	4.3	16.0	10.6	4.9	0.6	sidersn@yahoo.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	
A108966	24.7	11.5	4.6	11.4	11.4	5.1	0.5	cottingham.martha@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	
A968143	20.5	15.1	4.7	12.4	12.4	5.1	0.4	richard-wheeler@comcast.net	<input type="checkbox"/>	
A708647	19.7	19.7	4.8	12.0	12.0	5.1	0.3	amy.leone@aol.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M581598	19.1	19.1	4.8	12.0	12.0	5.1	0.3	jskohut@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M597054	18.1	18.1	4.8	12.8	12.8	5.1	0.3	jmartinsnuok@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	
A579057	16.9	10.3	4.9	10.2	10.2	5.2	0.3	cottingham.martha@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	
T177666	16.8	11.7	4.9	3587.1	281.5	1.0	3.9	mkcwrites@yahoo.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	
T313002	16.2	16.2	4.9	2664.4	164.6	1.2	3.7	mkcwrites@yahoo.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	
A219494	16.1	16.1	4.9	797.1	64.1	2.1	2.8	mkcwrites@yahoo.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	
A949723	12.7	12.7	5.1	11.2	11.2	5.2	0.1	awilliams@callanan.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	
A399841	12.4	12.4	5.1	22.1	22.1	4.7	0.4	ricknglenna74@yahoo.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M391407	11.9	11.9	5.1	11.0	11.0	5.2	0.1	missy.siders@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	
A971116	11.7	11.7	5.1	11.7	11.7	5.1	0.0	sealark76@att.net	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M082009	11.5	11.5	5.1	20.2	13.1	4.7	0.4	nyponen@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	
A027970	10.5	10.5	5.2	20.3	20.3	4.7	0.5	ritabeada@q.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	

I deleted my daughter Amy (Kit #M531907) and my first-cousin once-removed Mark Cameron Eidem (Kit #A484508) from this list, since I know our actual relationships. And then I selected all the others and looked to see who matched both **MC Coker* and me on Chromosome 8 – and it turns out that there were twelve such people in the GEDmatch.com database:



The twelve individuals in this illustration are:

Chr 8

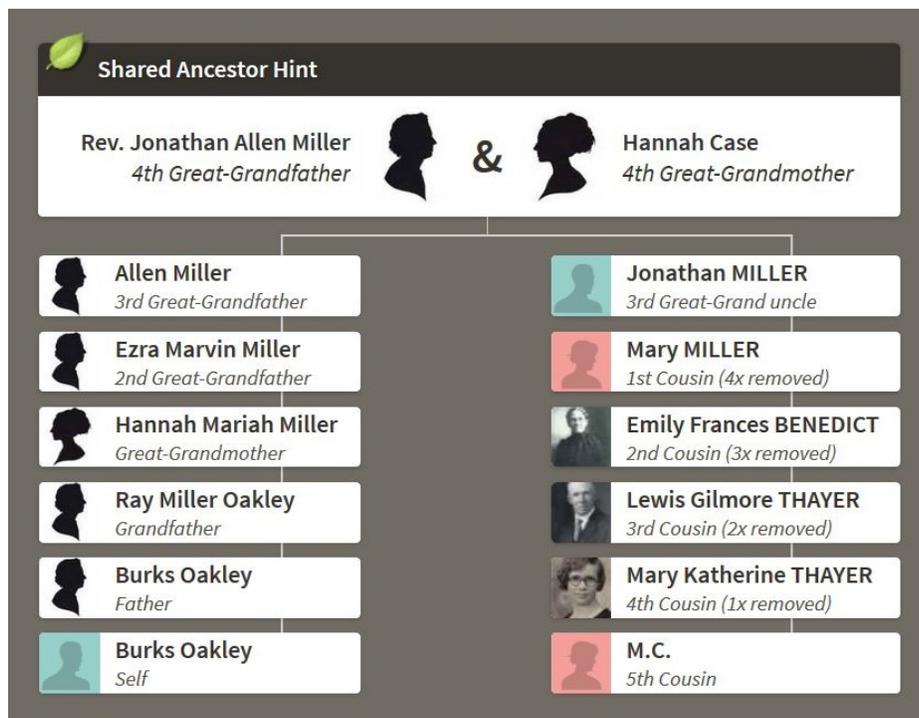
Match ID	Name	Matching segments on Chromosome 8	Overlap with previous match
1	Jennifer Finer (M581598)	30636038 - 59887156 (19.133 cM)	New Root
2	John Martin (M597054)	31037640 - 59284396 (18.0749 cM)	31037640 - 59284396
3	Richard K Wheeler (A968143)	37458311 - 59813840 (15.0514 cM), 128316227 - 130434857 (4.72099 cM)	37458311 - 59284396
4	*GS George (T313002)	40062757 - 62688450 (16.2487 cM)	40062757 - 59813840
5	*A Thayer (A219494)	40174213 - 62684481 (16.1348 cM)	40174213 - 62684481
6	*MC Coker (T030226)	40062757 - 62262562 (15.7851 cM)	40174213 - 62262562
7	*Missy (M391407)	40481325 - 59276535 (11.9321 cM)	40481325 - 59276535
8	William Ross Pumfrey (A108966)	40479052 - 58943035 (11.466 cM), 121249178 - 123556763 (3.07501 cM)	40481325 - 58943035
9	*Spencer Northup (A971116)	40142491 - 58857260 (11.6683 cM)	40479052 - 58857260
10	Nancy Cluff Siders (M852917)	41002734 - 59661239 (11.8362 cM)	41002734 - 58857260
11	*sidersn (A092212)	41002734 - 58877561 (10.8449 cM)	41002734 - 58877561
12	Marie Pumfrey (A579057)	40340911 - 57996512 (10.31 cM)	41002734 - 57996512

At this point, I knew that it was likely that all twelve of these individual and I share a common ancestor. But how to learn who it was? As one leading genetic genealogist, Dr. Blaine Bettinger, summed it up so accurately, “Finding genetic matches is easy, but finding the common ancestor from whom we inherited a segment [of] DNA is very hard.”²

² <http://www.thegeneticgenealogist.com>

Learning More from My DNA Matches

***MC Coker** (Kit #F352782) has her family tree on the GEDmatch.com website. I learned that her name is Marjory Carol Coker (nee George). And I remembered her from one of my “Shared Ancestor Hints” on the Ancestry.com website:



We both are descended from Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller (1742-1846) and his wife Hannah Case (1761-1819). I contacted Marjory’s daughter, Mary Kay Coker, who manages Marjory’s profile on the GEDmatch.com website, and I received the following reply:

mkcwrites

Sep 07, 2015

I’m delighted to hear from you. I’d seen your match pop up at Gedmatch recently. So I was also able to make the connection to the Millers on my maternal side. ...

My mother (MC Coker) shares the most DNA with you, my uncle (*GS George) less, and my aunt none over the default (7 cMs). I got one of my mom’s two segments so I still have some of that as well. ... So far, yours is the only confirmed Miller/Case segment that I have.

Yet another match on Chromosome 8 was with A. Thayer (A219494), who I later learned is Mary Kay's second cousin on her mother's side. So this means that three of the twelve matches involved the **Coker/Thayer** family line back to Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller and his wife Hannah Case; these three matches are with:

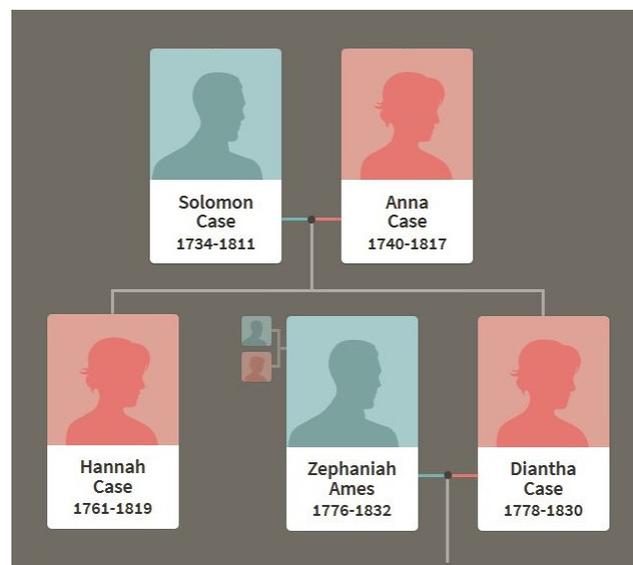
- *MC Coker**
- *GS George**
- *A Thayer**

[In February 2019, I also found that Marjory's sister, Phyllis George Kirkwood (born 1936), also has this segment.]

I next contacted via e-mail the others that we match on Chromosome 8 and inquired if they also were descended from Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller and Hannah Case.

I heard back very quickly from John Martin (Kit #M597054). He informed me that he is descended from Solomon Case (1735-1811) and his wife Anna Case (1740-1817), through their daughter Diantha Case (1778-1826).

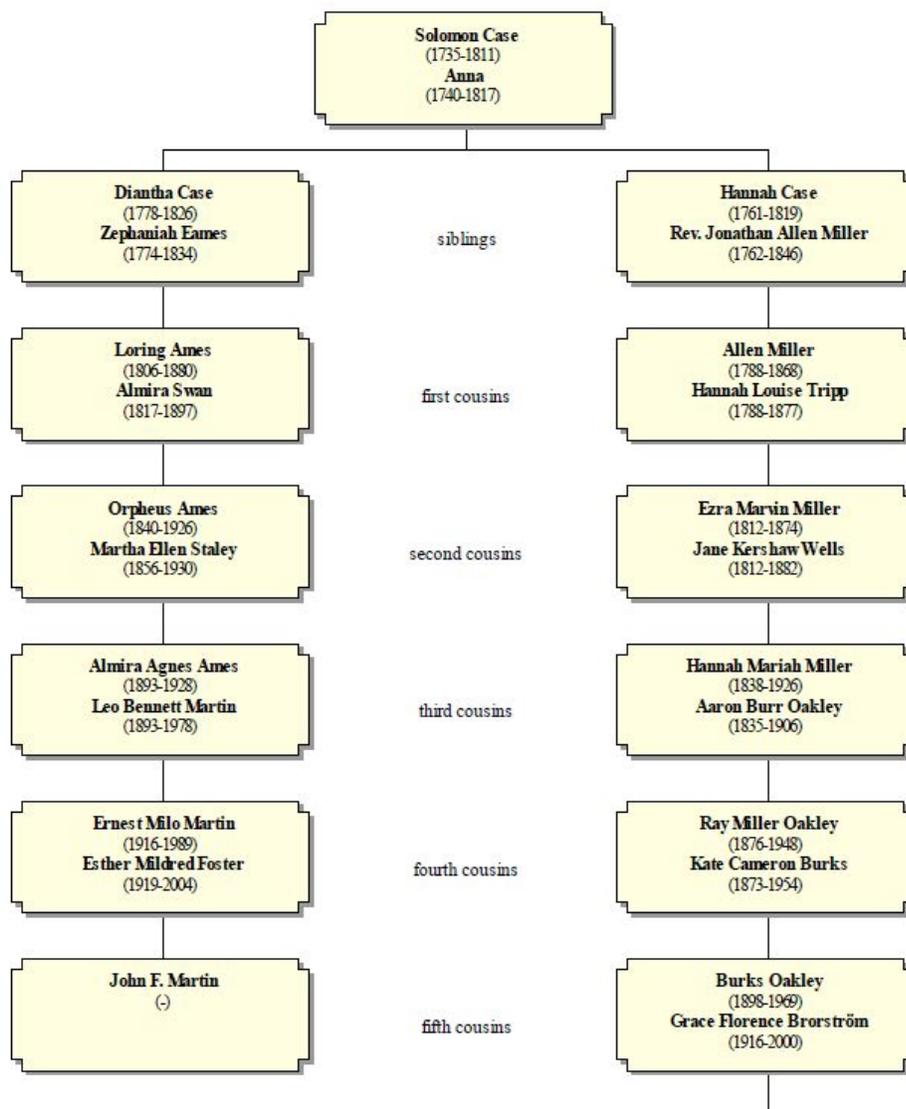
Who the heck was Solomon Case? He certainly doesn't appear in my family tree. I searched for him in family trees on the Ancestry.com website, and I found him in multiple family trees on the Ancestry.com website – here is a screenshot from the Hagler Family Tree:³



³ <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/15539433/>

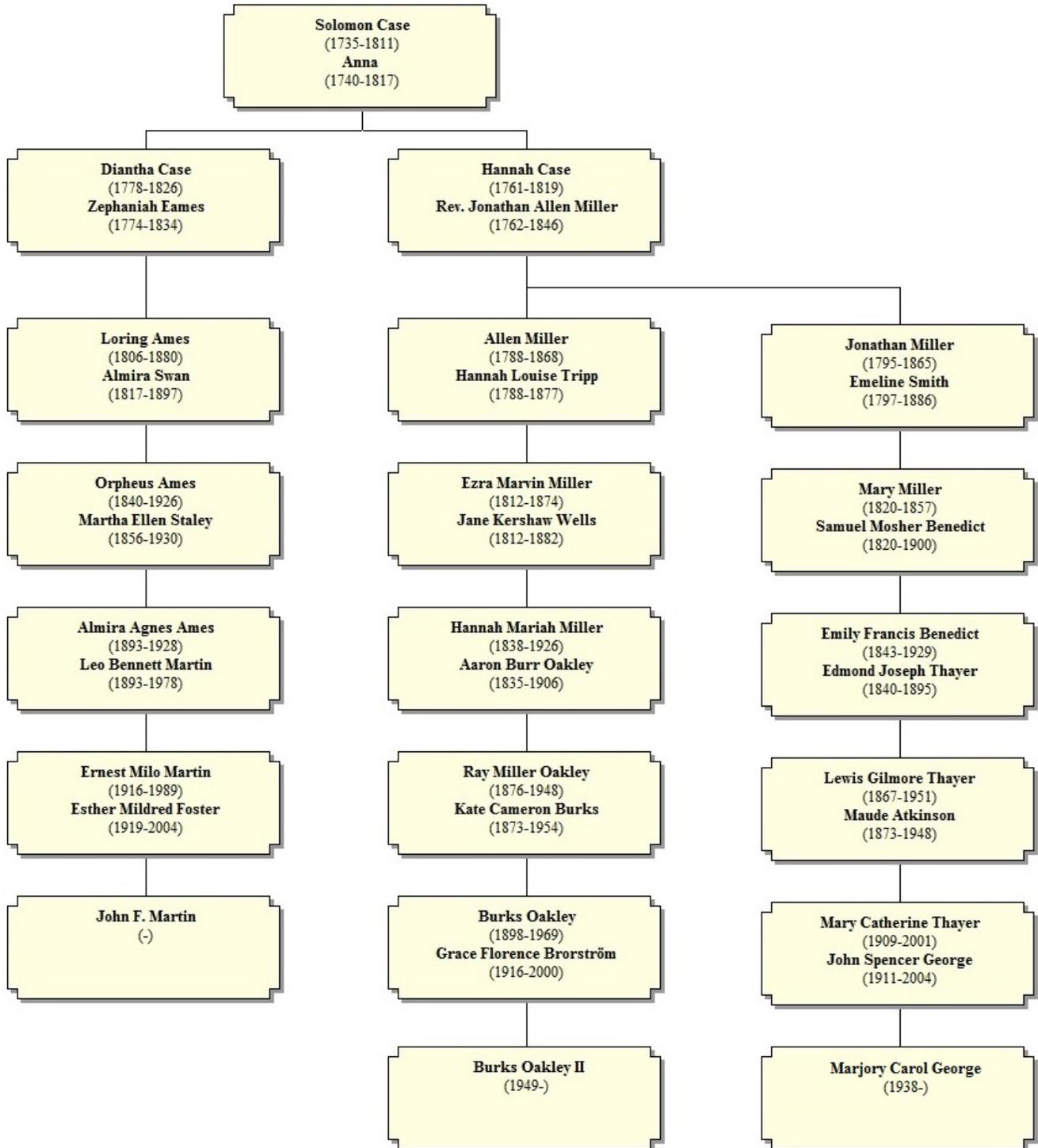
Solomon Case (1735-1811) was Hannah Case's father – and thus he was Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller's father-in-law. So John Martin, Marjory Carol Coker, and I all are descended from Solomon Case and his wife Anna Case, except Marjory Carol Coker and I are descended from their daughter Hannah Case (1761-1819), while John Martin is descended from their younger daughter, Diantha Case (1778-1826). Solomon Case was born on 11 March 1734 in *Simsbury, Connecticut*. Keep that town in mind – it is going to appear again shortly in this narrative.

Here is a relationship chart, showing that John Martin is a 5th-cousin of my father, Burks Oakley (1898-1969):

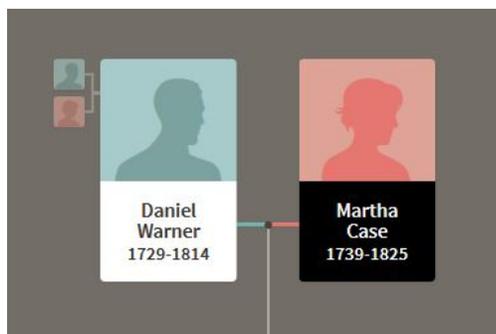


Since John's line goes all the way back to Solomon Case (1735-1811) and his wife Anna Case (1740-1817), I tentatively conclude that our DNA match has to come from the *Case* part of the *Miller-Case* line. The DNA match supports the genealogical record that Marjory Carol Coker, John Martin, and I are all descended

from Solomon Case (1735-1811) and his wife Anna Case (1740-1817). We share a common DNA segment on Chromosome 8, which was passed down through very different lines. Here is a summary diagram:



I next received a reply from Richard K. Wheeler (Kit #A968143), who is another one of the people who shares the same DNA segment on Chromosome 8. Although his family tree on the Ancestry.com website is private, he gave me permission to view it. When I searched for the surname of **Case**, I found that he had but a single **Case** ancestor in his family tree – Martha Case (1739-1825):



And this Martha Case was born in 1739 in **Simsbury, Connecticut!** Recall that Simsbury is the town where Solomon Case was born in 1735. Could they be related?

While Richard Wheeler's family tree on the Ancestry.com website didn't have any of Martha Case's ancestors, it was easy enough to find her in other family trees on that site. The "Criddles and Others" family tree⁴, maintained by Marlin Criddle, traces Martha Case's ancestors for a number of generations.

- Timothy Case (1707-1754)⁵ was the father of Martha Case (1739-1825).
- Richard Case (1669-1746)⁶ was the father of Timothy Case (1707-1754).
- John Case (1616-1703/4) and his wife Sarah Spencer (1636-1691) were the parents of Richard Case (1669-1746). John Case was born in about 1616 in Gravesend, Kent, England, and he died on 21 February 1703 (or 1704), in **Simsbury, Connecticut**. [There it is again – Simsbury, Connecticut.]

⁴ <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/18746262/family>

⁵ <http://person.ancestry.com/tree/18746262/person/705952344/facts>

⁶ <http://person.ancestry.com/tree/18746262/person/705952495/facts>

In examining this part of the **Case** family tree, I found that John Case and his wife Sarah Spencer were the parents of a Joseph Case (1674-1748)⁷. And this Joseph Case was the father of another Joseph Case (1699-1782),⁸ who in turn was the father of Solomon Case and the grandfather of Hannah Case (who married the Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller).

The bottom line is that Richard Wheeler is descended from John Case (1616-1704) and his wife Sarah Spencer (1636-1691) through their son Richard Case (1669-1746), while I am descended from this couple through their younger son, Joseph Case (1674-1748). And this means that the DNA segment that Richard Wheeler and I share had to come from John Case or his wife Sarah Spencer.

John Case was born in Aylesham, Kent, England, in 1616 and he died in Simsbury, Hartford County, Connecticut, in 1704. John immigrated to America, arriving at Newport, Rhode Island, on 3 September 1635. He had come with his brothers, William, Thomas, Solomon and Richard. At the time, he was nineteen years old. The **Case** family in England had made their fortunes by furnishing leather to the armies, being tanners and farmers.⁹

John married Sarah Spencer on 17 August 1656, in Windsor, Connecticut. Sarah was born in 1636 in Boston, Massachusetts, the daughter of William and Agnes Tucker Spencer. John and Sarah were the parents of ten children, six sons and four daughters. In 1669, they moved to Simsbury, Connecticut. John Case was appointed constable for Simsbury, the first in the area. He also represented the town at the General Court in 1670 and several times afterwards. He owned seventeen parcels of land, a corn mill and a saw mill. His inventory showed that he was a man of wealth for his day.

Sarah Spencer Case died in 1691, at the age of 55. John Case then married Elizabeth (Moore) Loomis, the daughter of John Moore. John Case died in 1704 in Simsbury, Connecticut, at age 87. His will was dated 1700 and was a lengthy document of eight pages.

The Alderman Genealogy is more specific about John's early years: "John sailed from Gravesend, England, on September 3, 1635, on the ship *Dorset* and landed at Newport, R.I., but settled in Windsor, Conn. He was a farmer and owner of large acreages of land. He spend some years in Newton on Long Island, but in 1656 he returned to Connecticut and in 1667 settled in Simsbury, formerly known as Masaco."

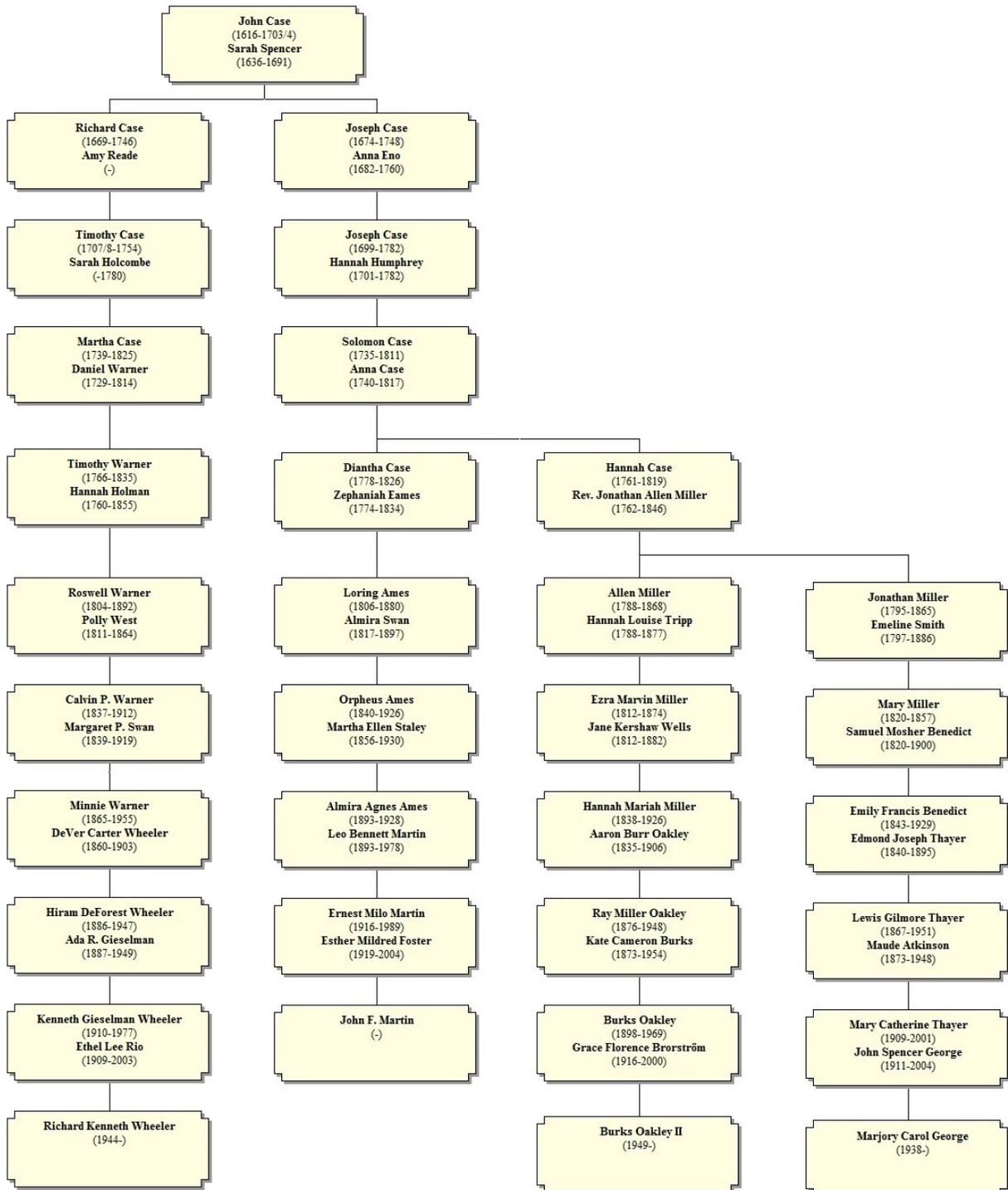
⁷ <http://person.ancestry.com/tree/18746262/person/705952635/facts>

⁸ <http://person.ancestry.com/tree/24916081/person/12473409770/facts>

⁹ <https://www.geni.com/people/John-Case-of-Simsbury/317318220090005983>

A Quick Summary of the Results to this Point

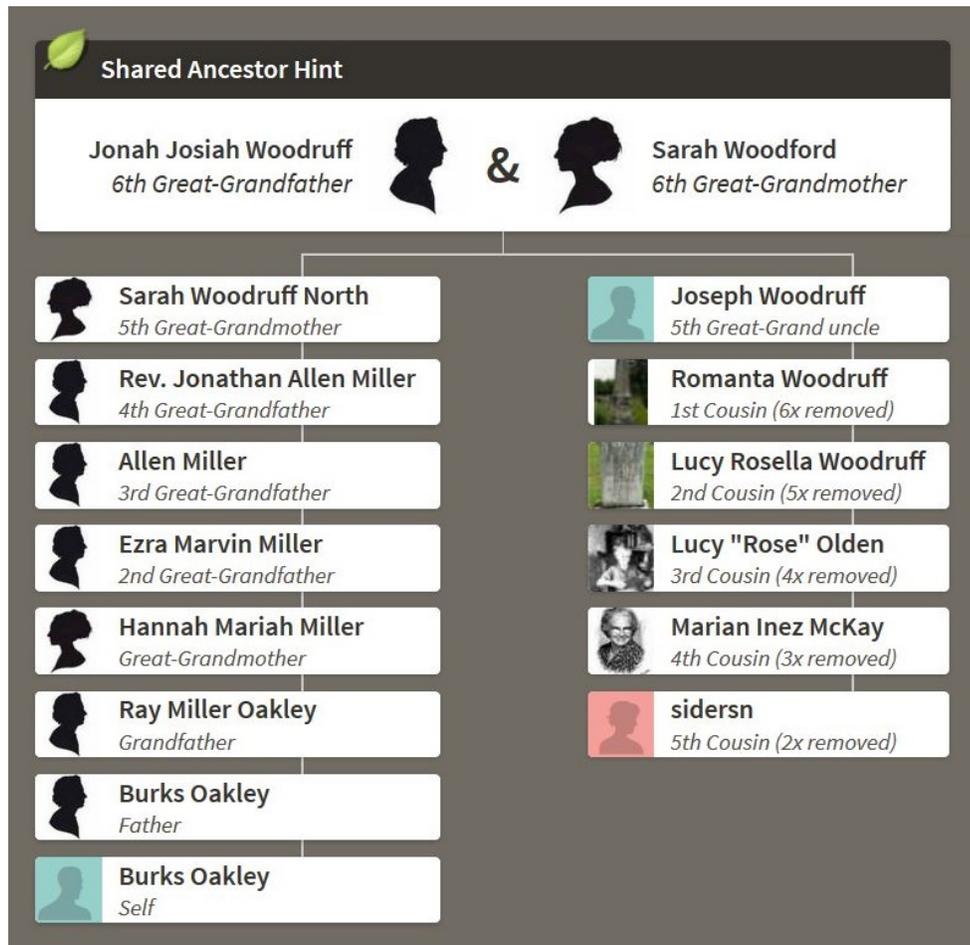
I now have four independent lines with descendants of John Case (1616-1704) and his wife Sarah Spencer (1636-1691), and each of the distant cousins (Marjory Carol Coker and her relatives, John Martin, Richard K. Wheeler, and Burks Oakley II) shares a common segment of DNA on Chromosome 8. The relationships can be summarized in the following diagram:



Moving on to Nancy Cluff Siders

Another DNA match that I share on Chromosome 8 is with Nancy Cluff Siders (Kit #M852917 and Kit #A092212),¹⁰ as well as her daughter, Missy Siders (Kit #M391407). I have known Nancy (virtually, that is) for several years now – we learned that we had a DNA match as soon as I got my first DNA analysis from the 23andme.com website in 2014. I have always known that Nancy is related to me via our **Woodruff-Woodford** ancestors, and she does not have any **Case** ancestors in her family tree. Let me explain.

In addition to the 23andme.com website, Nancy also has her DNA profile on the Ancestry.com website. This site shows that we have a DNA match AND we both are descended from Jonah Josiah Woodruff (1706-1789) and Sarah Woodford (1714-1790); here is our “Shared Ancestor Hint”:



¹⁰ The **M** designation means that the DNA profile came from the 23andMe.com website, while the **A** designation means that the DNA profile came from the Ancestry.com website. These sites use different microarray-based testing procedures, which produce slightly different results, so many people have their DNA tested on both sites.

Since our Most Recent Common Ancestor (abbreviated MRCA) goes back on my **Miller-North-Woodruff/Woodford** line, and not through my **Case-Spencer** line (which goes through Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller's wife, Hannah Case), I was at a loss for how to account for my DNA match on Chromosome 8 with Nancy Cluff Siders. However, when I used the 1:1 comparison tool on the GEDmatch.com website, I found that Nancy and I have common segments of DNA not only on Chromosome 8, but also on Chromosome 2:

Comparing Kit A122463 (Burks Oakley II) and A092212 (*sidersn)

Minimum threshold size to be included in total = 700 SNPs
 Mismatch-bunching Limit = 350 SNPs
 Minimum segment cM to be included in total = 7.0 cM

Chr	Start Location	End Location	Centimorgans (cM)	SNPs
2	174,951,747	207,606,122	25.2	6,169
8	41,002,734	58,877,561	10.8	2,372

Largest segment = 25.2 cM
 Total of segments > 7 cM = 36.1 cM
 Estimated number of generations to MRCA = 4.3

654924 SNPs used for this comparison.

Actually, the DNA match on Chromosome 2 is significantly larger than our match on Chromosome 8 (25.2 cM vs. 10.8 cM). Could it be that we are related in two different ways, with each matching DNA segment coming from a different line?

I contacted Nancy and informed her about my **Case-Spencer** DNA matches on Chromosome 8, and wrote that I was at a loss to see where she fit in. She responded:

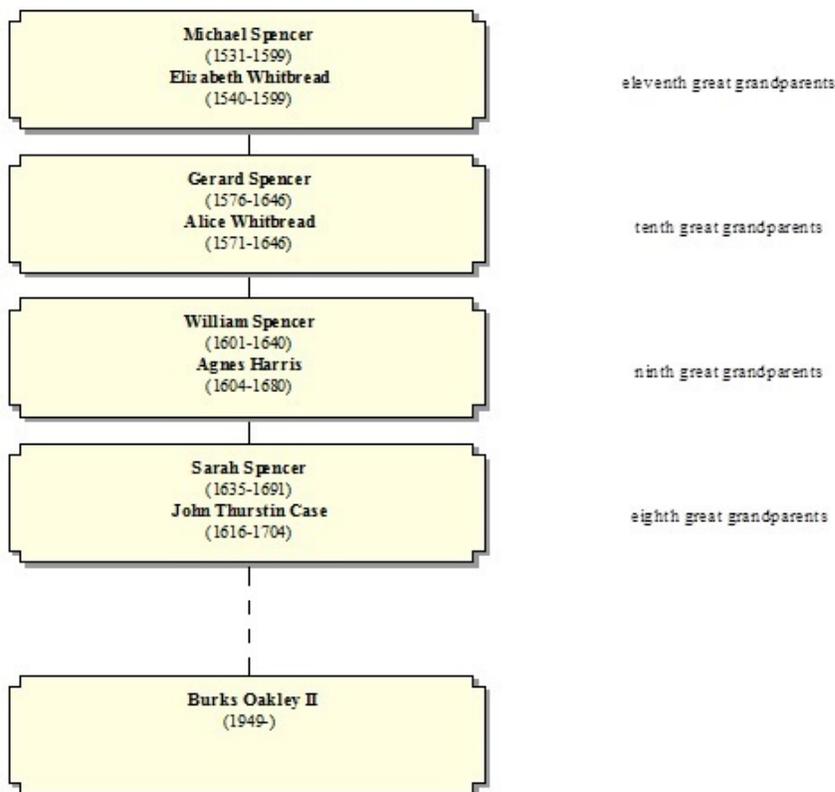
I do have a 6th-great grandmother who was Elizabeth SPENCER (1668-1759), daughter of Thomas SPENCER Jr. (1641-1689), granddaughter of Thomas SPENCER Sr. (1607-1687), great granddaughter of Gerard SPENCER (1576-1646).

How does this **Spencer** line fit with ours? Based on a number of family trees on the Ancestry.com website, Gerard Spencer and Alice Whitbread were the paternal grandparents of Sarah Spencer, and thus they were my 10th-great grandparents.

Gerard (or Gerrard) Spencer (1576-1646) was baptized on May 26, 1576 at St. Mary's Parish, Stotford, Bedfordshire, England. Alice Whitbread (1578-1628) was the daughter of John Lawrence Whitbread and his wife Eleanor Radcliffe Whitbread. Alice Whitbread and Gerard Spencer were married on 10 November

1600 in Upper Gravenhurst, Bedfordshire, England. Four of their sons, namely William, Thomas, Michael, and Gerard immigrated to America after 1630.

Going back one more generation on the **Spencer** line, Gerard's parents were Michael Spencer (1556-1599) and Elizabeth Whitbread (1540-1599), as shown in the following excerpt from my pedigree:



Oh my! Nancy is descended from Gerard Spencer and Alice Whitbread via their son Thomas Spencer (1607-1687) and I am descended from them via their other son William Spencer (1601-1640). This certainly could account for Nancy Cluff Siders having the exact same matching DNA segment on Chromosome 8 as a number of **Case-Spencer** descendants: Marjory Carol Coker and her relatives, Richard Wheeler, John Martin, and me.

At this point, I realized that our larger DNA match on Chromosome 2 most likely could have come from our **Woodruff-Woodford** ancestors, while the smaller DNA match on Chromosome 8 could have come from the **Spencer-Whitbread** line.

Here is a chart showing how Nancy and I are related via our **Spencer-Whitbread** ancestors:



The only problem with this is that autosomal DNA matches are usually only good for about six-eight generations, and here we have thirteen generations. Could this shared segment really come from someone born in the 1570's? That is almost 450 years ago. [I'll have to leave it up to others to answer this question.]

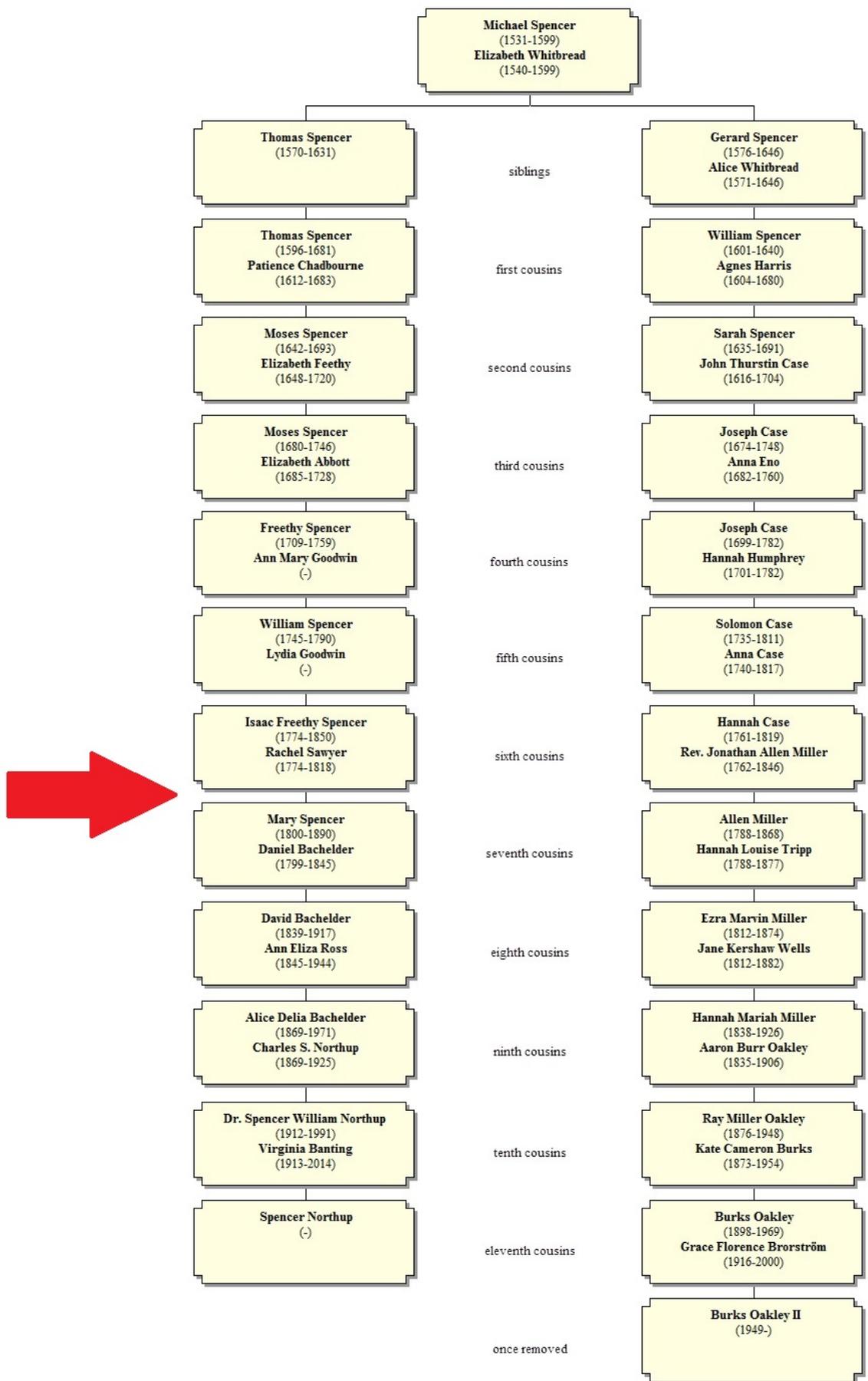
Moving on to Spencer Northup

Another person having the identical matching segment on Chromosome 8 is Spencer Northup. He is part of what I now know is called a “Triangulation Group” (TG); he is one of a number of individuals who share the same DNA segment on Chromosome 8, and thus share a common ancestor. But I digress....

Going back to Spencer Northup – yes, his first name is ***Spencer***. He shares the name with his father, and his father was named after *his* great-grandmother, Mary Spencer (1800-1890), who was born in Waldo County, Maine. Unfortunately, Mary Spencer is a brick wall, and nobody knows anything about her ancestors. However, it is intriguing to think that she came from a long line of ***Spencers***, who also were descended from Gerard Spencer and Alice Whitbread (or even one of *their* ancestors).

I wondered if I could find a branch of our ***Spencer*** family that emigrated from England and settled in Maine. Well, indeed I could. Thomas Spencer (1596-1681) was born in Winchecomb, Gloucestershire, England, he immigrated to America, and he died in Berwick, York County, Maine. I can follow his *ancestors* back to Michael Spencer (1556-1599) and Elizabeth Whitbread (1540-1599), who were the parents of Gerard Spencer, and I can follow his *descendants* to Isaac Freethy Spencer (1774-1830). Isaac was born in York County, Maine, and he died in Gray, Cumberland County, Maine. He married his first wife, Rachel Sawyer (1774-1818) in 1796 in Limington, Maine, and they had children who were born in Maine between the years 1796 and 1807. Recall that Mary Spencer was born in Maine in 1800.

Here is a chart *speculating* how Spencer Northup and I are related. Note that I have absolutely no evidence for the relationship indicated by the big red arrow:



I do know that Spencer Northup and I share the DNA segment on Chromosome 8 that I appear to have inherited from Michael Spencer and Elizabeth Whitbread. And since there is a line of the **Spencer** family that emigrated from England and settled in Maine, and also goes back to this couple, this quite possibly could be Spencer Northup's line. Whether Mary Spencer's father was Isaac Freethy Spencer or one of his **Spencer** brothers, male cousins, uncles, etc., really doesn't matter to me, since they all could be carrying our shared DNA segment.

DNA Evidence that Supports Spencer Northup's Pedigree

As mentioned in the previous section, I hypothesized that Spencer Northup's 2nd-great grandmother, Mary Spencer (1800-1890), was descended from Thomas Spencer (1596-1681), who was born in England and immigrated to Maine. Since Thomas Spencer was descended from my ancestors Michael Spencer and Elizabeth Whitbread, this would account for Spencer Northup and me having the same segment of DNA on Chromosome 8. I shared my hypothesis with Cindy Northup, who is Spencer Northup's wife; Cindy manages his DNA profile on the GEDmatch.com website, and also on the Ancestry.com website.

Cindy added my hypothesized pedigree for Mary Spencer to her "Northup-Banting" family tree¹¹ on the Ancestry.com website, and through her research, she found several more ancestors to fill out this pedigree. In support of this hypothesized line, Cindy discovered that after adding these ancestors to their family tree, Spencer gained a number of new "Shared Ancestor Hints" on the Ancestry.com website. These "Shared Ancestor Hints" show that Spencer Northup has DNA matches with a number of living descendants of people in this hypothetical pedigree. Cindy sent me an e-mail note about all this, which read:

Date: Fri 6/10/2016 12:15 PM

Subject: Great news! DNA shared matches for Mary Spencer's ancestors!

Hi Burks,

You have helped to break through the brick wall of Mary Spencer's lineage! As I think I mentioned in my last email, I added the Spencer names you gave me to Mary Spencer's lineage on Ancestry, in the hope that some DNA Shared Ancestor Matches would appear. They did!! My husband now has DNA matches for Freethy Spencer (Mary's great-grandfather), Moses Spencer and Elizabeth Abbott (her 2nd-great grandparents), and William

¹¹ <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/79479807/family>

Goodwin and his wife Deliverance Taylor, who are the parents of Mary Goodwin, Freethy Spencer's wife. He actually has two family tree matches with the latter couple. So while it is still a matter of speculation as to whether Isaac Freethy Spencer was Mary Spencer's father, we now can be certain that her Spencer line IS the same as yours, going back to the same English Spencer family.

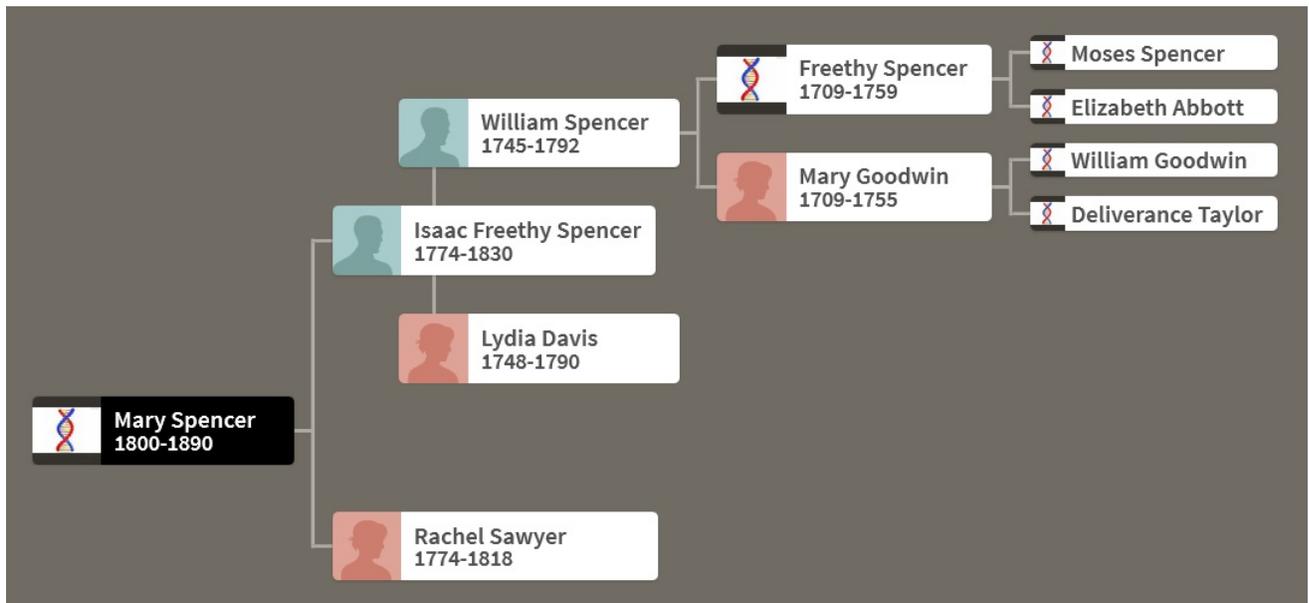
Here is the link to this part of the Northup-Banting family tree, if you would like to view it: <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/79479807/family>

We would never have made this major breakthrough without your help! Thank you SO much for contacting me, and providing the Maine Spencer names!

Warm Regards,

Cindy

Here is the relevant section of their "Northup-Banting" family tree:



The "DNA double-helix" icon next to a number of the people in Spencer Northup's pedigree indicates that he has a DNA match to a living descendant of this person. This new DNA evidence provides strong support of the hypothesis that Spencer Northup is indeed descended from my ancestors Michael Spencer and Elizabeth Whitbread, who lived in England in the late 1500's.

Other Shared DNA Matches on Chromosome 8

As of late February 2019, there are five other individuals on the GEDmatch.com website who have this same DNA segment on Chromosome 8, including Jennifer Finer (M581598), William Ross Pumfrey (A108966), Marie Pumfrey (A579057), Raymond Auclair (A392558), and *LJMBail (A589741).

- Jennifer Finer's family tree on the Ancestry.com website only goes back to about 1800, and her tree includes just 116 people.¹²
- William Ross Pumfrey was adopted at birth and doesn't have a family tree – he and his daughter Marie Pumfrey are using DNA to try to construct a family tree.
- Raymond Auclair has ancestors in New England, including Maine and Connecticut, but no obvious genealogical connections to my family tree.
- Linda Bailey has not responded to my e-mail requests about viewing her family tree.

While these individuals are members of the Triangulation Group (T.G.), I don't have any genealogical evidence showing how we are related. So right now, this is as far as I can take our DNA match on Chromosome 8. Hopefully, other distant ***Spencer-Whitbread*** cousins will add their DNA profiles to the GEDmatch.com website, and new matches on this segment will show up over time.

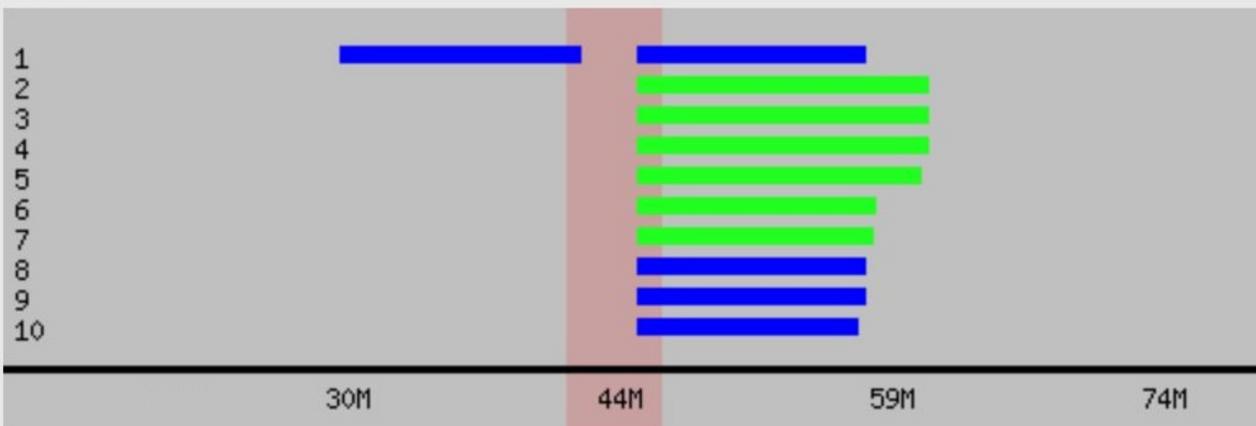
Six Different Lines that go back to Spencer-Whitbread

In this chapter, I have described six different family lines that go back to Michael Spencer (1556-1599) and his wife Elizabeth Whitbread (1540-1599) in England. There is at least one living person in each of these lines that shares a common DNA segment on Chromosome 8. The ten people sharing this segment with me are shown in the following screenshot from the GEDmatch.com website:

¹² Jennifer Kohut Family Tree – <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/84703236/family>

Chr 8

Match ID	Name	Matching segments on Chromosome 8	Overlap with previous match
1	John Martin(M418968)	30918098 - 43791691 (8.157 cM), 46944913 - 59113981 (9.663 cM)	root
2	*A Thayer(A219494)	46944913 - 62498627 (13.519 cM)	46944913 - 59113981
3	*GS George(T313002)	46944913 - 62521927 (13.519 cM)	46944913 - 62498627
4	*PK(T935618)	46944913 - 62521927 (13.519 cM)	46944913 - 62521927
5	*MC Coker(T030226)	46944913 - 62065249 (13.018 cM)	46944913 - 62065249
6	Richard K Wheeler(A968143)	46944913 - 59595411 (10.164 cM)	46944913 - 59595411
7	Nancy Cluff Siders(M852917)	46944913 - 59498685 (10.064 cM)	46944913 - 59498685
8	*Missy(M391407)	46944913 - 59104101 (9.613 cM)	46944913 - 59104101
9	*Colleen U5b2b(M576701)	46944913 - 59104101 (9.613 cM)	46944913 - 59104101
10	*Spencer Northup(A971116)	46944913 - 58694111 (9.062 cM)	46944913 - 58694111

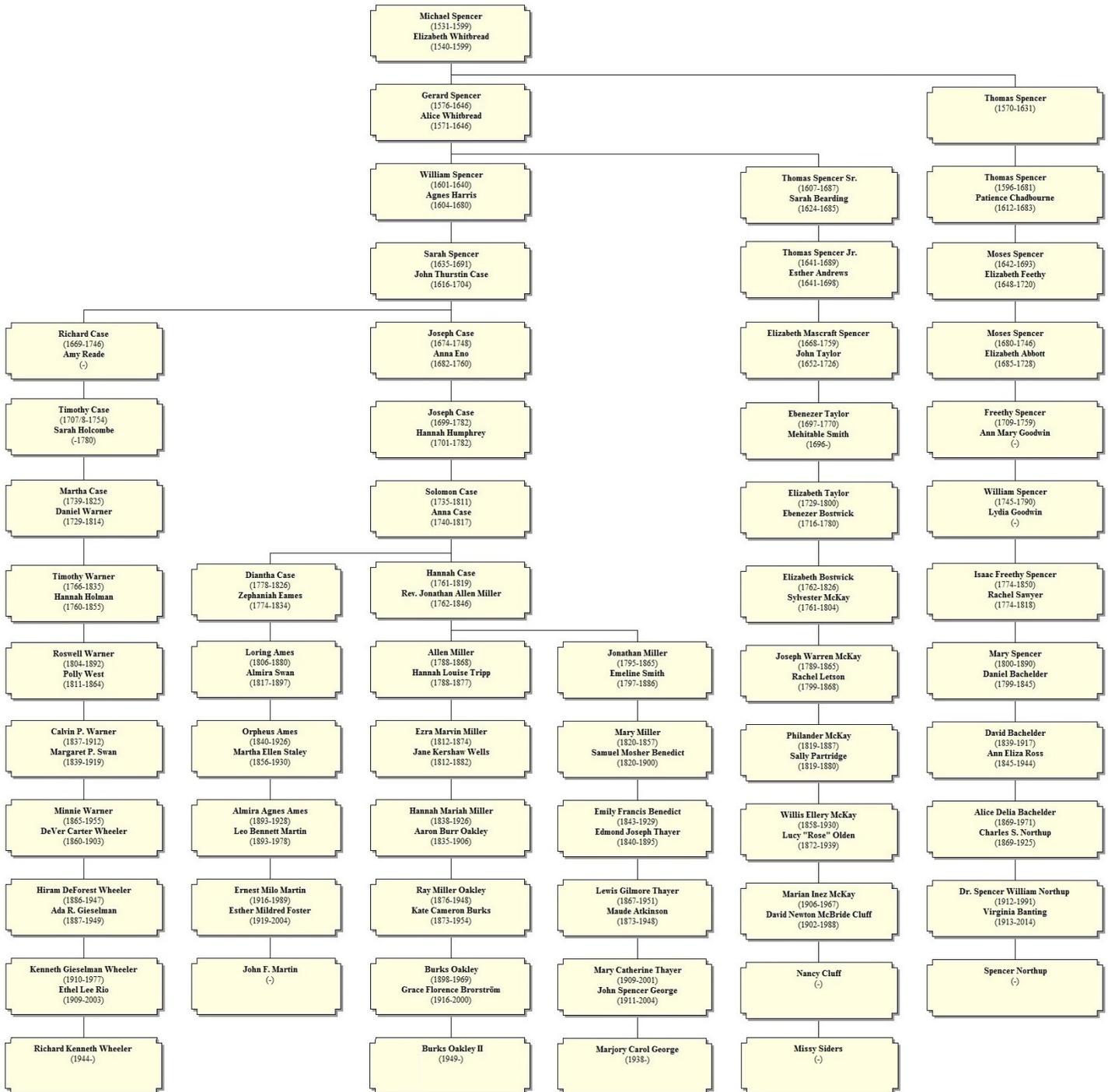


The people who are part of this Triangulation Group include:

- John Martin
- Mary Carol Coker (nee George) and others in her family (A. Thayer, G.S. George, Phyllis George Kirkwood)
- Richard Wheeler
- Nancy Cluff Siders and her daughters Missy Siders and Colleen Siders
- Spencer Northup

Of course, this chart shows where each of these individuals matches me on Chromosome 8, so I'm also a member of this group.

The following chart shows each of these lines, with my line going back to Michael Spencer and his wife Elizabeth Whitbread in the third column:



It is amazing to see how each of these lines split away from my line back to Michael Spencer and his wife Elizabeth Whitbread. Yet the individuals at the end of each of the lines share a segment of DNA. Isn't this remarkable!!

I Got Lucky with this One

I was really fortunate that I still had this DNA segment on Chromosome 8, since my daughter, Amy Oakley, doesn't have this segment, nor does Marjory Carol Coker's daughter, Mary Kay Coker, nor does my first-cousin once-removed Mark Eidem.

Here are the three comparisons with Richard K. Wheeler's profile, showing that Amy, Mark, and Mary Kay don't have any DNA match at all:

Comparing Kit A968143 (Richard K Wheeler) and M383845 (*a-oakley)

Largest segment = 0.0 cM

Total of segments > 7 cM = 0.0 cM

(2155) No shared DNA segments found

645598 SNPs used for this comparison.

Comparing Kit A968143 (Richard K Wheeler) and A484508 (Mark Eidem)

Largest segment = 0.0 cM

Total of segments > 7 cM = 0.0 cM

(2155) No shared DNA segments found

654701 SNPs used for this comparison.

Comparing Kit A968143 (Richard K Wheeler) and F70525 (*Mary K Coker)

Largest segment = 0.0 cM

Total of segments > 7 cM = 0.0 cM

(2155) No shared DNA segments found

651086 SNPs used for this comparison.

The fact that Amy, Mark, and Mary Kay do NOT have the ***Spencer-Whitbread*** DNA segment on Chromosome 8 emphasizes the need to test the DNA of the oldest generation possible (since over generations, DNA becomes "diluted"). And it would be great if my first cousins could submit their DNA to 23andme.com or Ancestry.com for analysis, since I am sure that I also have lost DNA markers that

they carry – which would allow us to find additional links to our family’s ancestral lines.

As an aside, Mark and I both match Mary Kay Coker and her mother on Chromosome 11, which indicates that we have inherited that segment of DNA from other shared ancestors (for example, through the *Miller* line).

Concluding Remarks

I started out with what I believed to be a *Miller-Case* DNA match that went back to the Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller (1762-1846) and his wife Hannah Case (1761-1819). But with each additional DNA match, I extended the source of this DNA segment back in time, so that it eventually went back to Michael Spencer (1556-1599) and his wife Elizabeth Whitbread (1540-1599) in England. How amazing to document this connection with our ancestors who lived in England more than 450 years ago!

Lastly, as a scientist and engineer (my Ph.D. is in biomedical engineering), I am humbled by the knowledge that part of my DNA is part of the DNA that was in the cells of Michael Spencer or Elizabeth Whitbread in the 1500’s in England. This DNA segment has been passed from parent to child in an unbroken pathway for more than 450 years!

Appendix 1: About our Spencer Family in England

The *Spencer* family, from which the “Quincy Oakleys” are descended, is one of Britain’s preeminent aristocratic families. Over time, a number of family members have been made knights, baronets, and peers. Hereditary titles held by the *Spencers* include the dukedom of Marlborough, the earldoms of Sunderland and Spencer, and the Churchill viscountcy.¹³

The origin of the surname *Spencer* can be traced directly to Robert d’Abbetot, who is listed as Robert le Dispenser, a tenant-in-chief of several counties, in the Domesday Book of 1086. Robert was possibly one of the Norman knights who fought alongside William the Conqueror in the defeat of Harold II, King of England, at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. There is little doubt that both Robert

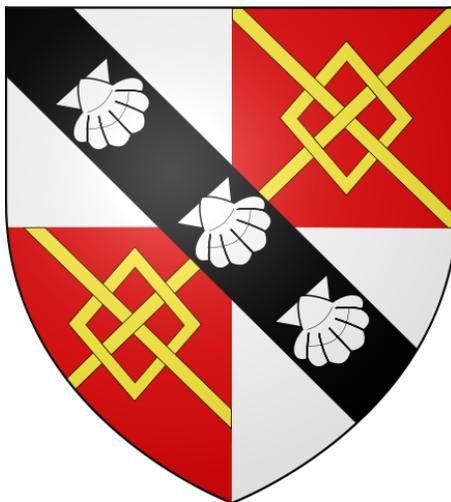
¹³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spencer_family

and his brother Urse came to England at about the time of the Battle of Hastings. They were both beneficiaries of William the Conqueror over the years, and were given titles and substantial land and property – suggesting repayment for some earlier deeds. It is likely that Robert had an official appointment as Royal “Dispencier”, sometimes expressed more grandly as “Royal Steward”, “King’s Steward” or “Lord Steward”. As dispenser of provisions to the King and his household, Robert was known and recorded as Robert le Despencer.¹⁴

Robert’s adopted surname was usually written as Despenser or Dispenser – notably in works such as the Domesday Book of 1086 and the Scottish Ragman Rolls of 1291 and 1296. From 1066 until the 13th century, the occupational name attributed to Robert d’Abbetot existed with numerous spelling and other variations. Eventually both the “le” and “de” that frequently preceded the name were omitted. In 1392, the “s” in the center of the name was discarded and replaced with the “c” seen in the present-day form – **Spencer**.

In the 19th century, the surname **Spencer** become popular as a given name – especially in the more anglicized areas of the United States.¹⁵

Here is one version of the **Spencer** coat of arms:



Coat of Arms of Sir John Spencer of Wormleighton and Althorp, ca. 1595

¹⁴ After the Norman Conquest in 1066, French quickly replaced English in all domains associated with power. French was used at the royal court, by the clergy, the aristocracy, in law courts. But the vast majority of the population continued to speak English. Had the aristocracy and clergy miraculously vanished in 1100, English would have taken over right away. In reality it took until the 14th century for English to slowly supplant French in many of these domains.

¹⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spencer_%28surname%29

An excellent family tree of the **Spencer** family in England goes all the way back to Thurston le Despencer, of London, who was born ca. 1122.¹⁶

The **Spencer** line in England is full of notable people, as you might expect. Examples include:

Edmund Spencer

Edmund Spencer (c. 1552 – 13 January 1599) was an English poet best known for *The Faerie Queene*, an epic poem celebrating – through fantastical allegory – the Tudor dynasty and Elizabeth I. He is recognized as one of the premier craftsmen of Modern English verse in its infancy.

Sir Winston S. Churchill

Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill, MP, PM, was born on 30 November 1874 in Woodstock, Oxford, England, and he died on 24 January 1965 in Bladon, Oxford, England. Sir Winston Churchill was a British statesman who was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955. Churchill was also an officer in the British Army, a historian, a writer, and an artist. He won the Nobel Prize in Literature, and was the first person to be made an honorary citizen of the United States. Churchill was born into the family of the Dukes of Marlborough, a branch of the **Spencer** family.



Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill
1874-1965

¹⁶ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dav4is/ODTs/SPENCER.shtml#SPEN111>

My cousin Hal Oakley would say that Churchill was best known for making his famous “Iron Curtain” speech on 5 March 1946 the campus of Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri.¹⁷ Here is a photo of him making that speech:



Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill speaking at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, on 5 March 1946.

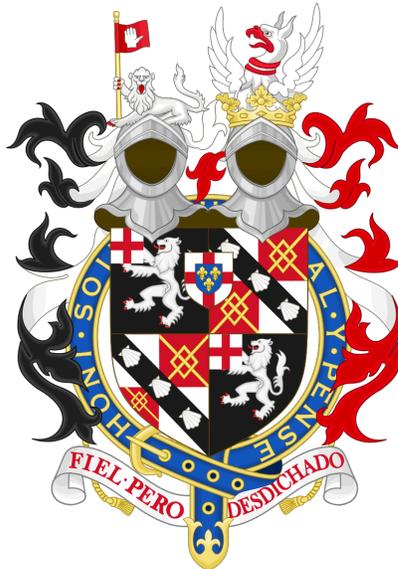
Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill actually was a *Spencer*. Here is how he ended up using the *Churchill* surname.

Charles Spencer, 3rd Earl of Sunderland (1675-1722), was Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, Lord Privy Seal, Secretary of State for both the Northern and Southern Departments, Lord President of the Council, First Lord of the Treasury and a Knight of the Garter. His second wife was Lady Anne Churchill, second daughter of the distinguished soldier John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough (1650-1722).

In 1817, George Spencer, 5th Duke of Marlborough, obtained permission to assume and bear the additional surname of *Churchill* in addition to his own surname of *Spencer*, in order to perpetuate the name of his illustrious great-great-grandfather, John Churchill. At the same time he received Royal License to quarter his paternal arms of *Spencer* with the coat of arms of *Churchill*. The modern Dukes of Marlborough thus originally bore the surname *Spencer*. The double-barrelled (yes, that is what it is called) surname of *Spencer-Churchill*,

¹⁷ A key section of this speech as delivered by Winston Churchill reads: “From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, **an iron curtain** has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia, all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and, in many cases, increasing measure of control from Moscow.”

used since 1817, has remained in the family to this day, though some members have preferred to style themselves merely **Churchill**. Sir Winston Churchill's father was Lord Randolph Henry Spencer-Churchill (1849–1895), a British statesman. But somehow Lord Randolph used the name The Right Honourable Lord Randolph Churchill. And while Sir Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill was really a **Spencer-Churchill**, he just used the surname of **Churchill**. Go figure!



Coat of arms of Sir Winston Spencer-Churchill
Fiel pero desdichado (Spanish for “Faithful but unfortunate”)

Diana, Princess of Wales

Diana, Princess of Wales (1961-1997), was born Diana Frances Spencer. She was the first wife of Charles, Prince of Wales, who is the eldest child and heir apparent of Queen Elizabeth II.

Diana was born into a family of British nobility with royal ancestry as The Honourable Diana Spencer. She was the fourth child and third daughter of John Spencer, Viscount Althorp, and the Honourable Frances Roche. She grew up in Park House, situated on the Sandringham estate, and was educated in England and Switzerland. In 1975, after her father inherited the title of Earl Spencer, she became Lady Diana Spencer.



Diana, Princess of Wales

Of course, this means that her sons, Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, and Prince Henry of Wales, are our **Spencer** relatives, as are Prince William's children, Prince George of Cambridge and Princess Charlotte of Cambridge.

Appendix 2:

Sir Winston S. Churchill and I are descended from the same **Spencer** ancestor, Henry Spencer of Badby (1392-1476).¹⁸ Here is Sir Winston's line:

- CHURCHILL, Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Leonard Spencer, MP, PM b: 30 Nov 1874 Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxford d: 24 Jan 1965 Bladon, Oxford
- CHURCHILL, Rt. Hon. Lord Randolph Henry Spencer, JP, MP b: 13 Feb 1849 Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxford. d: 24 Jan 1895 Bladon, Oxford
- SPENCER-CHURCHILL, John Winston, 7th Duke Marlborough b: 02 Jun 1822 d: 05 Jul 1883
- SPENCER-CHURCHILL, George, 6th Duke Marlborough b: 27 Dec 1793 d: 01 Jul 1857
- SPENCER-CHURCHILL, George, 5th Duke Marlborough b: 06 Mar 1766 d: 05 Mar 1840

¹⁸ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dav4is/ODTs/SPENCER.shtml>

- SPENCER, George, 4th Duke Marlborough b: 26 Jan 1738/39 d: 30 Jan 1817
- SPENCER, Brig. Gen. Charles, 3rd Duke Marlborough b: 22 Oct 1706 d: 28 Oct 1758 Munster, Westphalia
- SPENCER, Charles, 3rd Earl Sunderland b: 1675 d: 19 Apr 1722 Brington, Northampton.
- SPENCER, Robert, 2nd Earl of Sunderland b: 1641 Paris, Seine, FRA d: 28 Sep 1702 Althorp, Nottinghamshire
- SPENCER, Henry, 1st Earl Sunderland b: 23 Nov 1620 Althorp, Nottinghamshire d: 20 Sep 1643 Battle of Newbury, Berkshire
- SPENCER, William, 2nd Baron Spencer b: <04 Jan 1591/92 Althorp, Nottinghamshire d: 19 Dec 1636
- SPENCER, Robert, of Wormleighton Warwickshire b: 1570 d: 25 Oct 1627 Wormleighton, Warwickshire
- SPENCER, John, of Wormleighton Warwickshire b: 1546 d: 09 Jan 1599/00
- SPENSER, High Sheriff Sir John, of Fawsley Nottinghamshire b: 1517 Fawsley, Nottinghamshire d: 08 Nov 1586 Althorp, Nottinghamshire
- SPENCER, Sir William, of Althorpe Nottinghamshire b: ~1500 d: 22 Jun 1532 Fawsley
- SPENCER, Sir John, Knight, of Wormleighton Warwickshire d: 1522
- SPENCER, William, of Radbourne Warwickshire b: ~1444 d: >1485
- SPENCER, John, of Hodnell Warwickshire b: ~1418
- SPENCER, Henry, of Badby Nottinghamshire b: ~1392 d: 1476 Badby, Nottinghamshire

Here is Burks' line (starting with his 10th great-grandfather, Gerard Spencer):

- SPENCER, Gerard (later Jared) bp: 20 May 1576 Stotfold, Bedfordshire d: <May 1646
- SPENCER, Michael, of Edworth Bedfordshire b: 1530-1535 d: 18 Nov 1599 Stotfold, Bedfordshire
- SPENCER, John, of St. George's Parish Edworth b: ~1505 bur: 09 Jun 1588 Edworth, Bedfordshire
- SPENCER, John b: ~1462 Pavenham d: <04 Feb 1531/32 Pavenham
- SPENCER, John b: ~1434 d: >1490
- SPENCER, Robert b: ~1406
- SPENCER, Henry, of Badby Nottinghamshire b: ~1392 d: 1476 Badby, Nottinghamshire

Appendix 3

Diana, Princess of Wales, and I were descended from the same ***Spencer*** ancestor, who happens to be the common ancestor shared by Sir Winston Churchill and I, Henry Spencer of Badby. Here is Diana's line:¹⁹

SPENCER, Diana Frances, Princess of Wales b: 01 Jul 1961 Park House, Sandringham, Norfolk, England d: 31 Aug 1997 Paris, France

SPENCER, Edward John VIII, 8th Earl Spencer b: 24 Jan 1924 England d: 29 Mar 1992 London

SPENCER, Albert Edward John, 7th Earl Spencer b: 23 May 1892 d: 1975

SPENCER, Charles Robert, 6th Earl Spencer b: 30 Oct 1857 d: 26 Sep 1922

SPENCER, Frederick, 4th Earl of Spencer b: 14 Apr 1798 d: 27 Dec 1857

SPENCER, George John, 2nd Earl Spencer b: 01 Sep 1758 d: 10 Nov 1834

¹⁹ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dav4is/ODTs/SPENCER.shtml>

SPENCER, John, 1st Earl Spencer b: 19 Dec 1734 Althorp, Nottinghamshire d: 31 Oct 1783 Bath, SOM

SPENCER, Hon. John, of Althorp, MP b: 13 May 1708 Althorp, Nottinghamshire d: 19 Jun 1746 Wimbledon, SRY

SPENCER, Charles, 3rd Earl Sunderland b: 1675 d: 19 Apr 1722 Brington, Northamptons.

SPENCER, Robert, 2nd Earl of Sunderland b: 1641 Paris, Seine, FRA d: 28 Sep 1702 Althorp, Nottinghamshire

SPENCER, Henry, 1st Earl Sunderland b: 23 Nov 1620 Althorp, Nottinghamshire d: 20 Sep 1643 Battle of Newbury, Berkshire

SPENCER, William, 2nd Baron Spencer b: <04 Jan 1591/92 Althorp, Nottinghamshire d: 19 Dec 1636

SPENCER, Robert, of Wormleighton Warwickshire b: 1570 d: 25 Oct 1627 Wormleighton, Warwickshire

SPENCER, John, of Wormleighton Warwickshire b: 1546 d: 09 Jan 1599/00

SPENSER, High Sheriff Sir John, of Fawsley Nottinghamshire b: 1517 Fawsley, Nottinghamshire d: 08 Nov 1586 Althorp, Nottinghamshire

SPENCER, Sir William, of Althorpe Nottinghamshire b: ~1500 d: 22 Jun 1532 Fawsley

SPENCER, Sir John, Knight, of Wormleighton Warwickshire d: 1522

SPENCER, William, of Radbourne Warwickshire b: ~1444 d: >1485

SPENCER, John, of Hodnell Warwickshire b: ~1418

SPENCER, Henry, of Badby Nottinghamshire b: ~1392 d: 1476 Badby, Nottinghamshire [And Burks is descended from this man.]

In previous narratives, I have described how we are related to Queen Elizabeth II of England through our **Lyon** ancestors²⁰ and through our **Warner** ancestors.²¹ Of course, that means that we also are related to her son Charles, Prince of Wales, as well as Charles' sons, Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, and Prince Henry of Wales. In this narrative, I have shown that through our **Spencer** ancestors, we are related to Diana, Princess of Wales. So this means that the "Quincy Oakleys" are related to both Charles AND Diana, and thus to both the *paternal* and *maternal* lines of Prince William, the future king of England.

²⁰ https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/4632783/OurLyonFamilyAncestry_22Oct15.pdf

²¹ https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/4632783/TheWarnerBranch_1May16.pdf