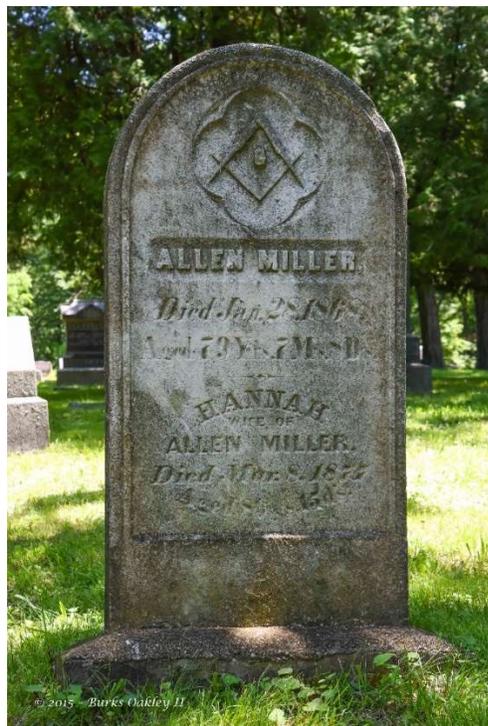


Chapter 22

Descendants of Allen Miller and Hannah Louise Tripp - DNA Evidence Confirming our Ancestry

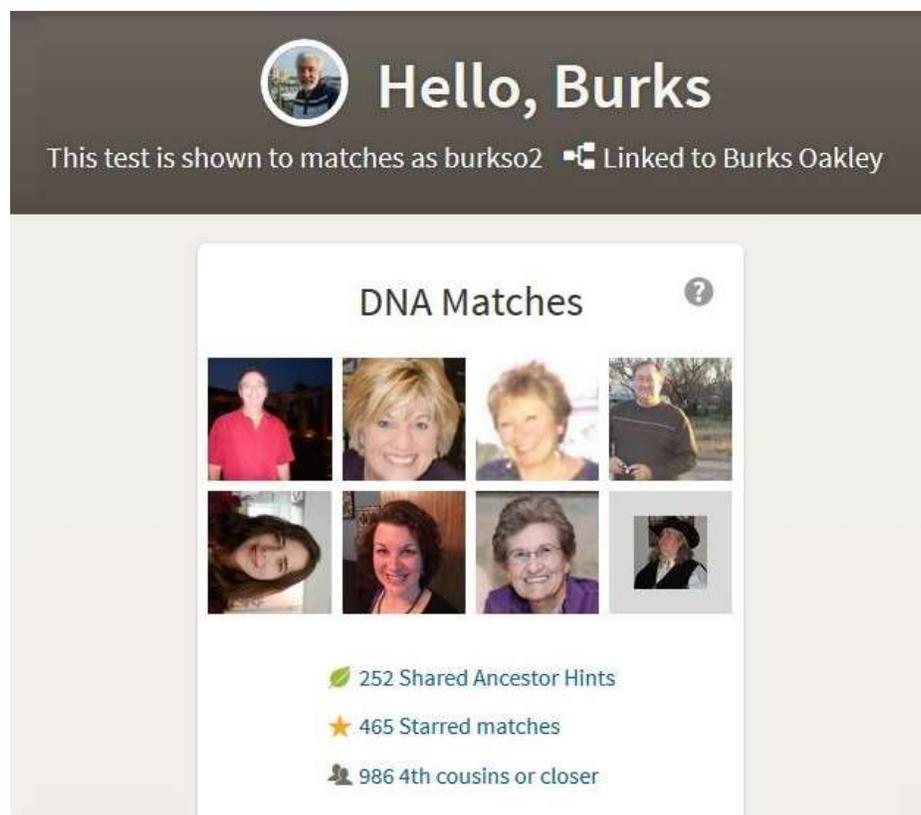
I previously have written about my 3rd-great-grandparents, Allen Miller (1788-1868) and his wife Hannah Louise Tripp (1788-1877). Through Allen Miller, I can trace my ancestry back to the English immigrants William Miller Jr. (1620-1690) and his wife Patience Bacon (1633-1716), who were among the founders of Northampton, Massachusetts, in 1654. Patience Bacon was the first woman physician and surgeon in New England, and possibly in America. Allen Miller's mother, Hannah Case (1761-1819), was descended from the Spencer family in England, which means that I am related to Lady Diana Spencer and to Sir Winston Spencer-Churchill. Through Hannah Louise Tripp, I can trace my ancestors to six Pilgrims who came to America in 1620 on the *Mayflower*.

Allen Miller and his wife Hannah Louise Tripp moved west from upstate New York in ~1840, and settled on land in Winnebago County, Illinois, just south of Rockford. They are buried in New Milford Cemetery in New Milford, Winnebago County, Illinois. Here is a photo of their gravestone:



The “Quincy Oakleys” are descended from Allen Miller and his wife Hannah Louise Tripp through their son Ezra Marvin Miller (1812-1874), and Ezra’s daughter Hannah Mariah Miller (1838-1926). Hannah married Aaron Burr Oakley (1835-1906) in 1858, and in 1891, they became the first generation of the Oakley family to live in Quincy, Illinois.

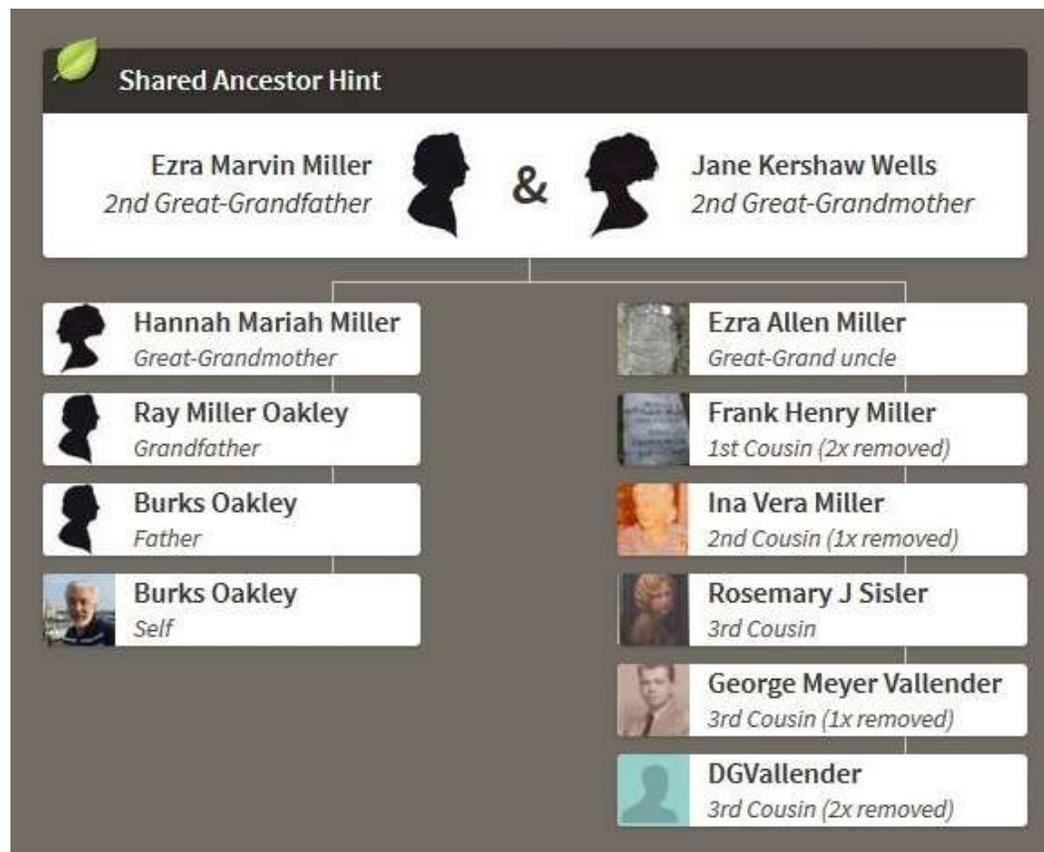
Given my interest in genetic genealogy, I visit the Ancestry.com website daily, in order to learn if I have any new DNA matches (that is, living people with whom I share a common segment of DNA). Since Ancestry.com is adding so many new DNA profiles every day, my number of “4th cousins or closer” seems to go up by two or three every day. As of 7 September 2017, I had 986 matches listed as “4th cousins or closer”:



The screenshot shows the Ancestry.com interface for a user named Burks. At the top, there is a circular profile picture of a man and the text "Hello, Burks". Below this, it says "This test is shown to matches as burks02" and "Linked to Burks Oakley". The main section is titled "DNA Matches" and features a grid of eight profile pictures of various individuals. Below the grid, there are three statistics: "252 Shared Ancestor Hints" with a leaf icon, "465 Starred matches" with a star icon, and "986 4th cousins or closer" with a group of people icon.

Unfortunately, not very many of these new DNA matches have their family trees on Ancestry.com, so it is really frustrating to find these new DNA matches, but then discover that I have no idea how we might be related. However, occasionally I do find a new DNA match who has a detailed family tree online, which shows how we are related. In such a case, Ancestry.com automatically produces what they call a “Shared Ancestor Hint”, showing how my DNA match and I are both descended from a common ancestor.

Recently (7 September 2017), I found that I had a new Shared Ancestor Hint with a man having the username of **DGVallender** (I later found that his name was David G. Vallender, and he lives in Raleigh, North Carolina). Here is a screenshot from the Ancestry.com website, showing our Shared Ancestor Hint:



DGVallender and I both are descended from Ezra Marvin Miller (1812-1874) and his wife Jane Kershaw Wells (1812-1882). **DGVallender** is descended from their son Ezra Allen Miller (1836-1917), while I am descended from their daughter Hannah Mariah Miller (1838-1926). Of course, **DGVallender** and I share all the ancestors on the Miller and Wells lines who came before Ezra Marvin Miller and Jane Kershaw Wells.

Based on the Shared Ancestor Hint shown above, **DGVallender** is my third-cousin, twice-removed (that is, his grandmother and I were third -cousins).

My DNA matches on the Ancestry.com website are displayed in order of the size of the DNA match. My largest DNA match, of course, is with my daughter, Amy Oakley. And somewhere down the line, **DGVallender** appears as a “4th cousin”, as shown in the following screenshot:

AncestryDNA Results for Burks Oakley

Sort by: Relationship | Date < 1 of 6 >

Filters HINTS NEW STARRED 🔔 SEARCH MATCHES

PARENT/CHILD

★

Amy Oakley (managed by burkso2)

Possible range: Parent, Child - immediate family member ?

Confidence: Extremely High

1,898 people 🌿

VIEW MATCH

4TH COUSIN

★

DGVallender 📄

Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins ?

Confidence: Good

Last logged in Sep 6, 2017

41,911 people 🌿

VIEW MATCH

Of course, he is a third-cousin, twice-removed, but that is within the range for a DNA match between fourth-cousins. In fact, we share 27.3 centiMorgans (cM) of DNA, as shown in the following screenshot:

← AncestryDNA home > Member Matches for Burks Oakley

★

DGVallender

Member since 2014, last logged in yesterday

SEND MESSAGE

🧬 **Predicted relationship: 4th Cousins**

Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins (What does this mean?)

Confidence: Good 📄

📄 Shared Ancestors shared across 2 📄 **Amount of Shared DNA** 📄 **27.3 centimorgans shared across 2 DNA segments** 📄 **What does this mean?**

PEDIGREE AND SURNAMINES
SHARED MATCHES
MAP AND LOCATIONS

This is within the expected size range for our relationship as third-cousins, twice-removed. Now comes the interesting part – drum roll, please.... Ancestry.com also has a feature that shows who else in their DNA database matches two people who have a DNA match – this is called “Shared Matches”.

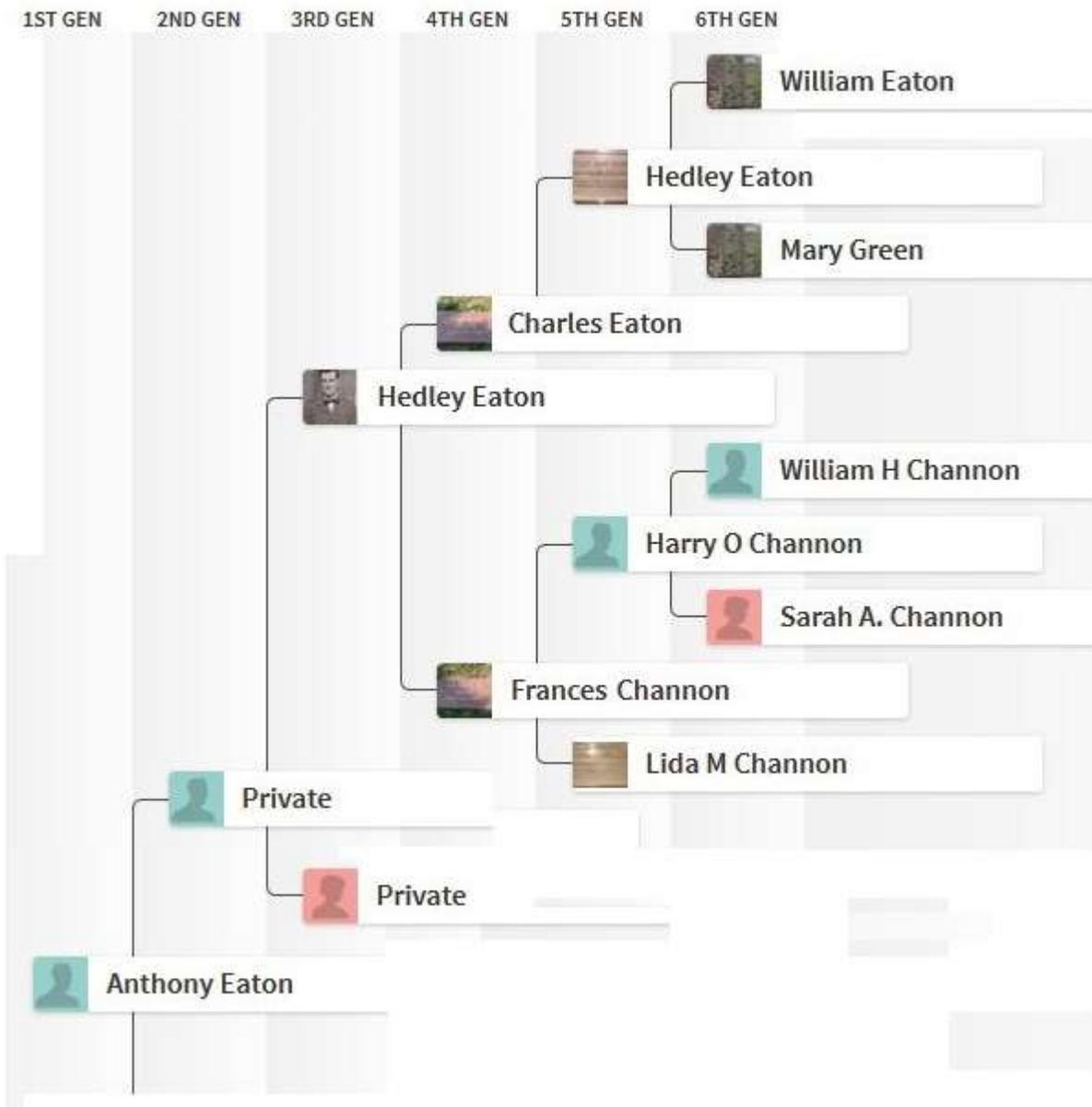
Interestingly, when I looked to see who else matches **DGVallender** and me, I found the following two people: Mark Eidem (username **eidem67**) and Anthony Eaton.

The screenshot shows the 'Shared matches with DGVallender' page on AncestryDNA. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'PEDIGREE AND SURNAMES', 'SHARED MATCHES', and 'MAP AND LOCATIONS'. The main heading is 'Shared matches with DGVallender'. Below this, there is a 'Sort by' dropdown set to 'Relationship' and a 'Date' option. A 'Filters' section includes 'HINTS', 'NEW', and 'STARRED' buttons, along with a 'SEARCH MATCHES' button. The matches are categorized by relationship type. The first category is '2ND COUSIN', featuring a match with the username 'eidem67'. This match is marked with a star and has a 'VIEW MATCH' button. It shows '62 people' in a shared segment and a 'Confidence: Extremely High' bar. The second category is '4TH COUSIN', featuring a match with the name 'Anthony Eaton'. This match is also marked with a star and has a 'VIEW MATCH' button. It shows '501 people' in a shared segment and a 'Confidence: Good' bar. Both matches include the text 'Last logged in today' and 'Last logged in yesterday' respectively.

Mark Eidem (b. 1948) is a son of my first-cousin, Mary Cameron Oakley (1925-2007). So it is not at all surprising that Mark would share the same DNA segment with **DGVallender** and me – since he is a “Quincy Oakley”.

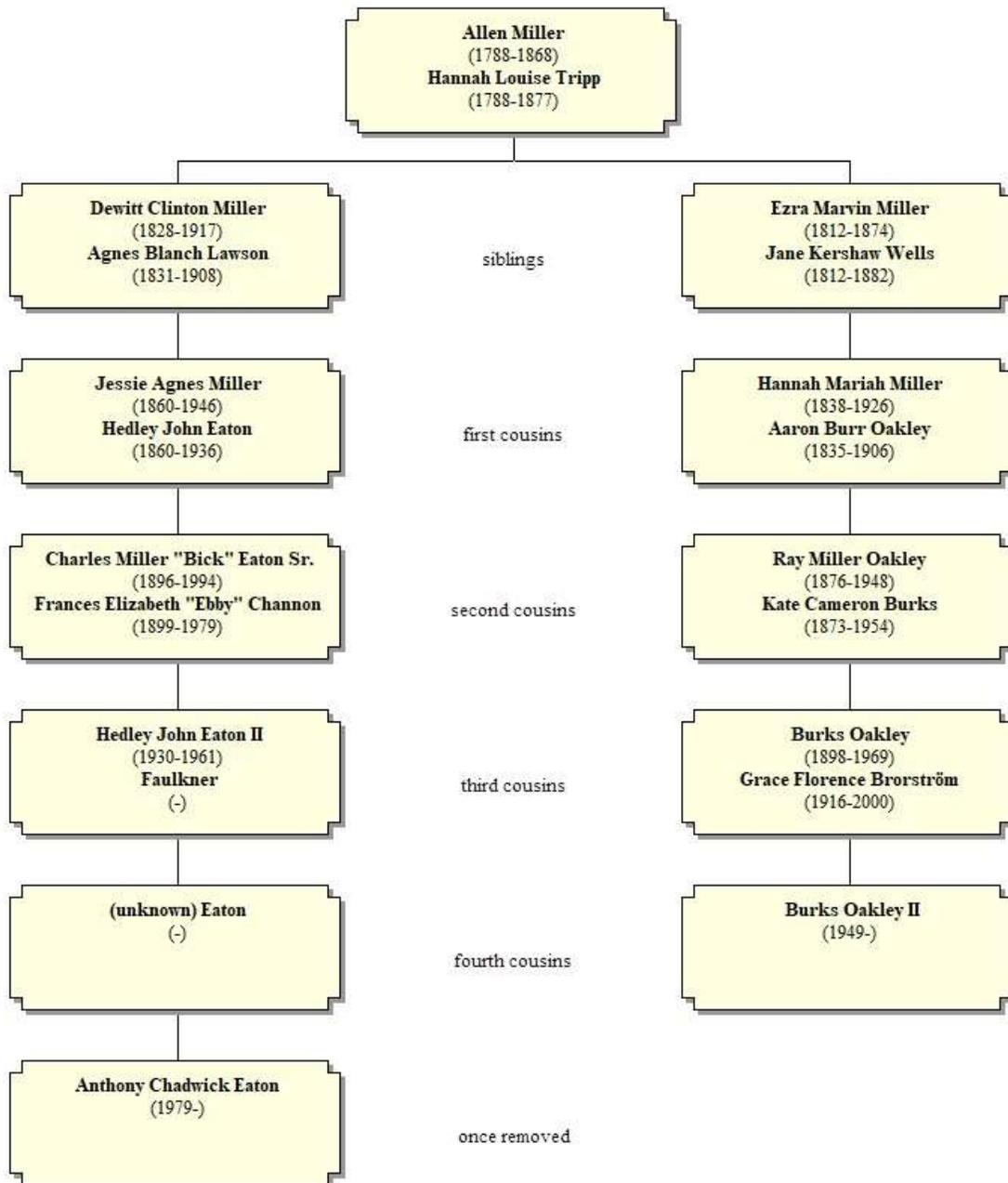
But the real surprise to me was the shared DNA match with Anthony Eaton – since the Eaton surname is familiar to the Quincy Oakleys. In fact, I have written how in 1891, the *Quincy Daily Herald* newspaper was acquired by three experienced newspapermen from Rockford -- Charles L. Miller (Hannah Maria Miller’s younger brother), Edmund Miller Botsford, and Hedley H. Eaton. Hedley H. Eaton had married one of Allen Miller’s granddaughters (Jessie Agnes Miller) – so like the Oakleys, the Eatons married into the Miller family. So the Eatons are descended from the same Miller line as the Quincy Oakleys.

Here is Anthony Eaton’s family tree from Ancestry.com:



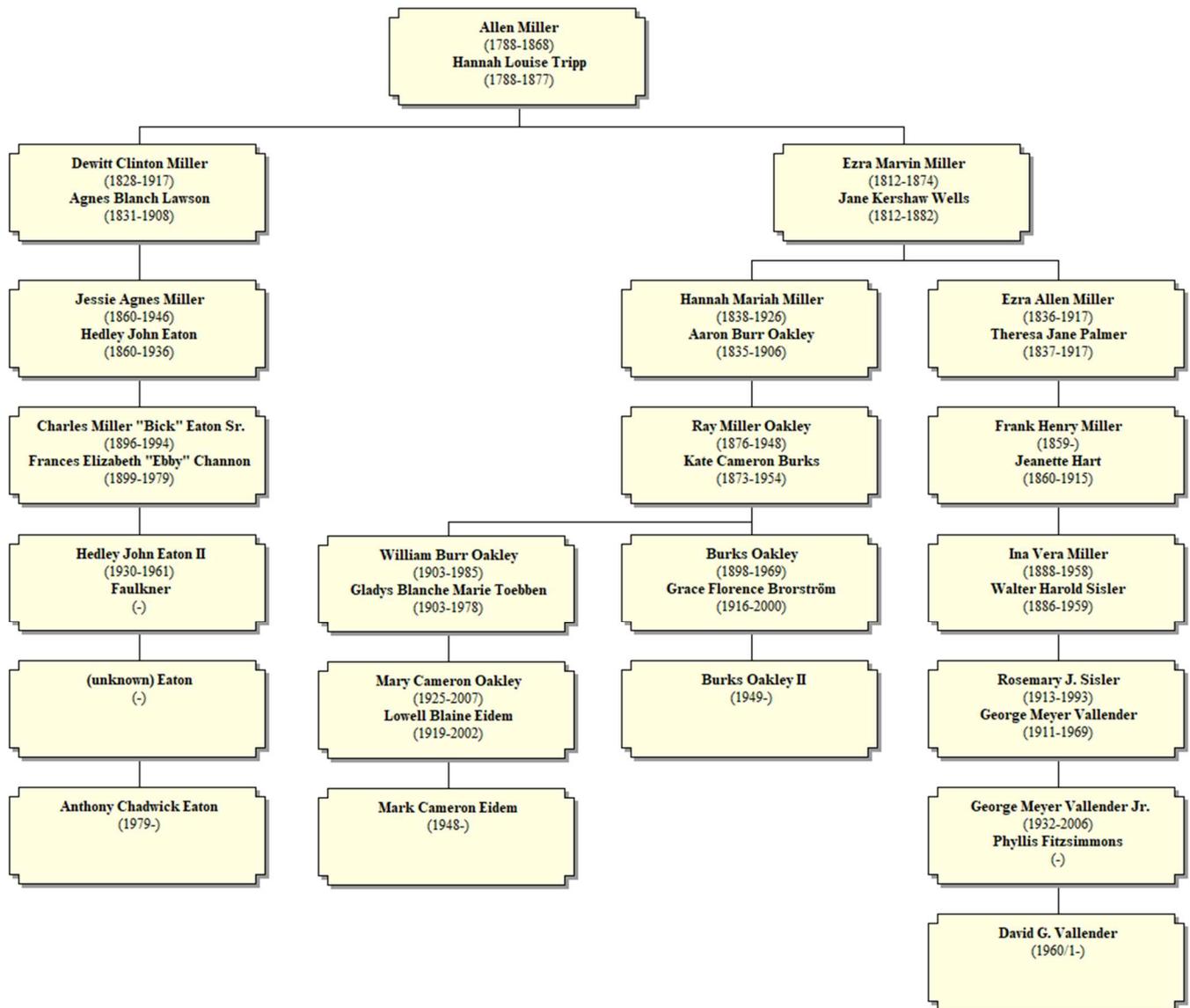
Note that this family tree doesn't have Charles Eaton's maternal line. Charles Eaton's mother was Jessie Agnes Miller (1860-1946) – a granddaughter of Allen Miller and his wife Hannah Louise Tripp. The fact that Anthony Eaton is also descended from this couple would account for the DNA match that I share with both him AND with David Vallender.

My relationship with Anthony is shown in the following chart:



So Anthony Eaton and I are fourth-cousins, once-removed. But since he doesn't have the Miller line on his family tree, Ancestry doesn't provide a Shared Ancestor Hint.

Overall, the family relationships that I have described in this narrative can be summarized in the following chart:



How cool is it that Anthony Eaton, Mark Eidem, David Vallender, and I all share a common segment of DNA, which had to have come from Allen Miller or his wife Hannah Louise Tripp.

These DNA matches are solid evidence that the Quincy Oakleys really are descended from Allen Miller and Hannah Louise Tripp. I love it when the genetics (DNA) confirm the genealogy!