

Chapter 26

Our Beers Family Ancestry

Introduction

In an earlier narrative about our shared “Quincy Oakley” genealogy, I wrote about the ***Darling*** family, and how the “Quincy Oakleys” are descended from George Darling (1614-1693), the Scottish prisoner. Briefly, George (a Scotsman) was captured by Cromwell’s English troops at the Battle of Dunbar in 1650, and was sold as an indentured servant to the people who ran the Lynn Ironworks in Lynn, Massachusetts. Essentially, he was forced to immigrate to New England. After his eight years of servitude concluded, he became a freeman. He married and raised a family, and continued to live in Essex County, Massachusetts. One of his sons, John Darling Sr. (1657-1719), from whom the “Quincy Oakleys” are descended, moved to Fairfield County, Connecticut, where his descendants lived for many generations. John Sr.’s 2nd-great-granddaughter, Lucy Ann Eunice Darling (1804-1884), married Amzi Oakley (1799-1853), thus bringing together the ***Darling*** and ***Oakley*** families.

John Darling Sr.

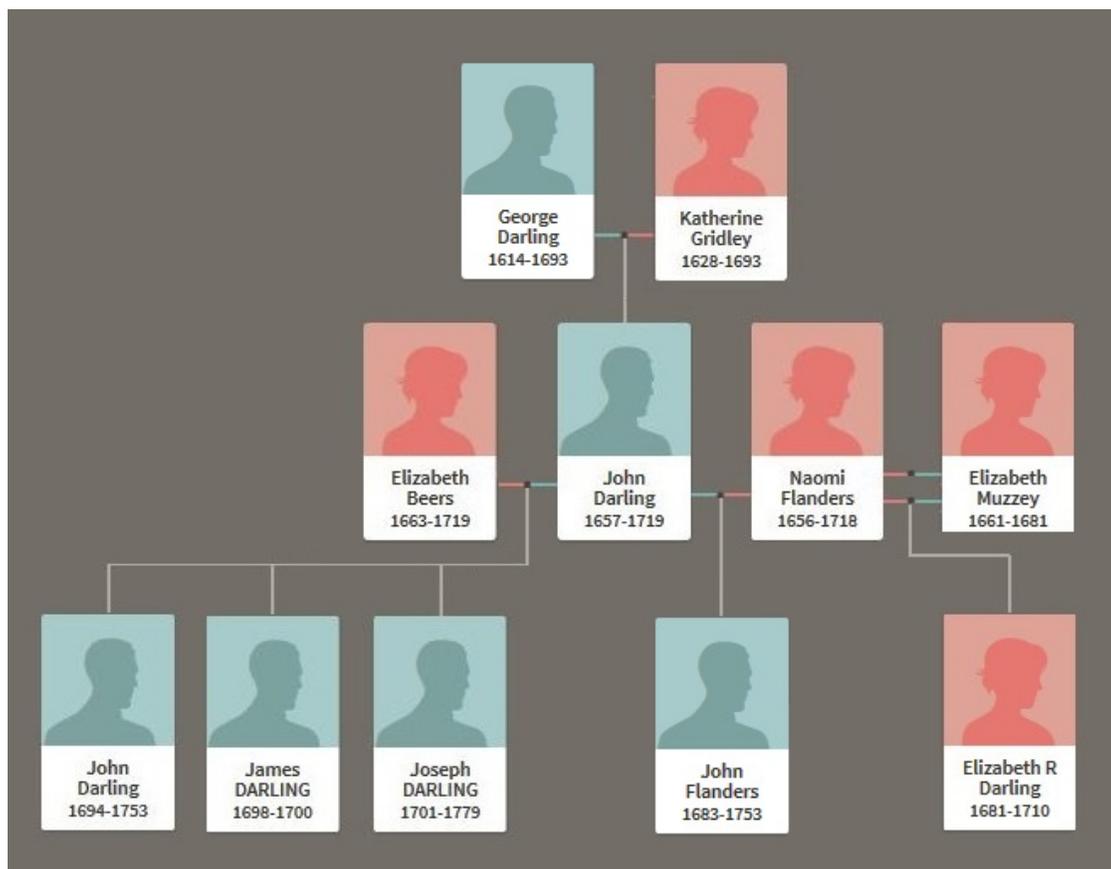
In my earlier narrative about our ***Darling*** family ancestors, I wrote that John Darling Sr. (1657-1719) married Elizabeth Muzzey (1661-1681), and that the “Quincy Oakleys” were descended from that couple. However, in recent weeks, I keep running into family trees that show John Darling being married to Elizabeth Beers (1663-1719). So I looked into this in greater detail, and I found that John Darling Sr. actually had three different wives – Elizabeth Muzzy, Naomi Flanders, and Elizabeth Beers. Well, that isn’t exactly true...

John’s first wife was indeed Elizabeth Muzzey, and together they had a daughter named Elizabeth Rebecca Darling, who was born in 1681 in Essex County, Massachusetts. However, Elizabeth Muzzey died at the age of 20 on 2 May 1681, most likely in childbirth.

In his grief, John Darling Sr. took up with Naomi Flanders, and their illegitimate son John Flanders was born on 4 February 1683/84 in Salisbury, Essex County, Massachusetts. Writing about Naomi Flanders, “She was summoned to court to

acknowledge that her child was illegitimate on 29 April 1684.”^{1 2} Oh my, such a scandal!!

In 1688, John Darling Sr. married Elizabeth Beers in Fairfield, Connecticut,³ and the “Quincy Oakleys” are descended from this couple through their son John Darling (1694-1753). Here is a family tree showing all these relationships (some of the children of John Darling Sr. and Elizabeth Beers are omitted for clarity):



It has taken me a while to get to the point – and that is that the “Quincy Oakleys” are descended from Elizabeth Beers. So in the narrative that follows, I will discuss Elizabeth Beers’ ancestors, since they really are our **Beers** family ancestors.

¹ <http://genealogy.theroyfamily.com/p1979.htm>

² Dunbar, Edith Flanders. *The Flanders Family from Europe to America*. Rutland, Vermont: The Tuttle Publishing Company, 1935.

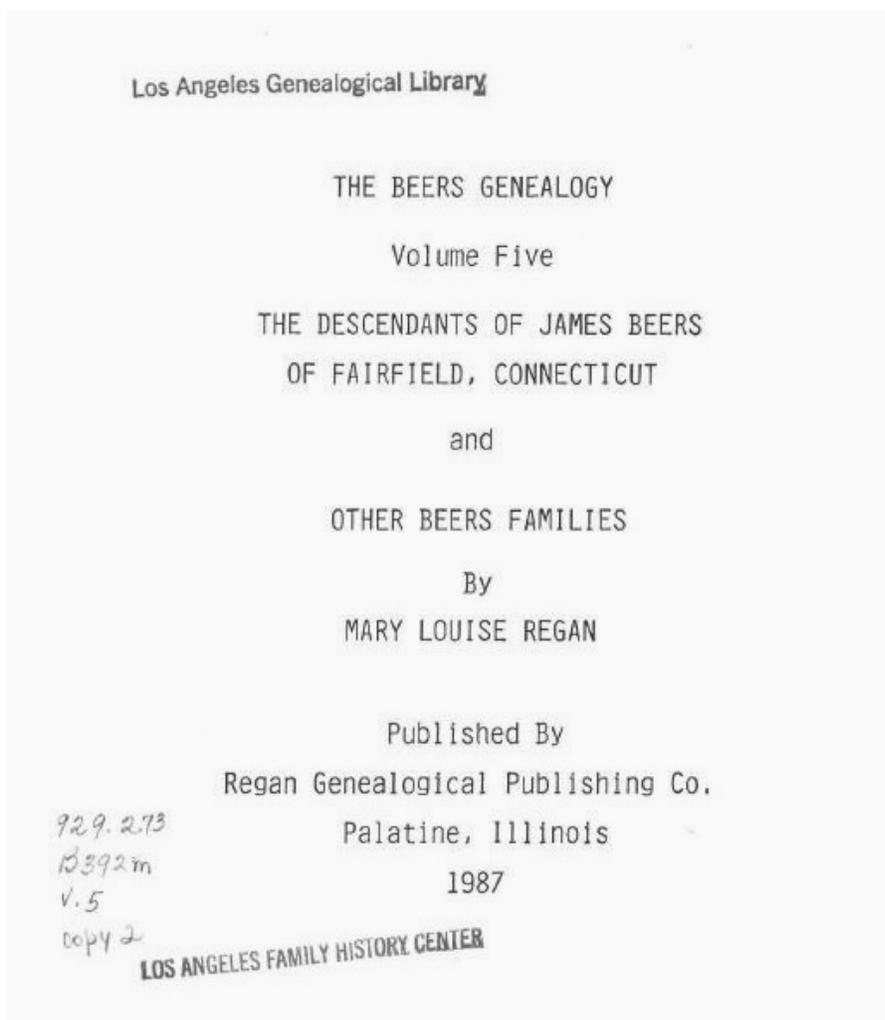
³ One can imagine that John Darling Sr. was forced to leave Essex County, Massachusetts, after fathering an illegitimate son with Naomi Flanders.

The Beers Family in America

Elizabeth Beers was born in 1663 in Fairfield, Connecticut – she was a member of the first generation of her line of the **Beers** family to be born in America. She died on 11 February 1719 in Fairfield, Connecticut. She was the daughter of James Beers and Martha Barlow.

James Beers (Elizabeth's father) was born in 1628 in Gravesend, Kent, England. He immigrated to Connecticut, settling in Fairfield. He died on 28 November 1698. His **Beers** family ancestors can be traced back a number of generations in England.

I was amazed to find that there is a six-volume set of books entitled ***The Beers Genealogy***, and volume 5 is all about James Beers and his descendants in Fairfield, Connecticut.



The entire six-volume set has been digitized and is available [online](#).

Here is an excerpt from the *Introduction* to Volume 5:

THE DESCENDANTS OF JAMES BEERS

OF FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT

James Beers was an early settler of Fairfield, appearing there perhaps as early as 1644. Nothing appears to be known of him before that date - not his date of birth, the name of his parents, the time of his emigration, or his place of residence in the colonies prior to his arrival in Fairfield. He was surely an Englishman; had he been otherwise the very difference would have been noted.

Judging by the birthdates of his grandchildren, for not even his marriage date nor the birthdates of his children are known, he was probably born in England in the 1620's. He would have been a young man when he first appeared in Fairfield, if indeed he did arrive as early as 1644, the date given by Elizabeth Schenck, the Fairfield historian. Giving the list of those who arrived that year from Concord, MA with the Rev. John Jones, she added that several others arrived that same year from other towns, and she included James Beers on the second list.

He was probably married in Fairfield in the mid 1650's and his children born there in the following ten years.

New Haven Town Records indicate that he was a witness in a case there on 17 Oct. 1650. Jacobus, the Fairfield genealogist, records the purchase of land in Fairfield by James Beers from George Squire on 27 Apr. 1659. From that time onward his life is easier to follow.

1. JAMES¹ BEERS, b. England, possibly in the 1620's; d. Fairfield, Fairfield Co., CT Nov. 1694 [his will dated the 14th of that month and proved on the 28th]; m. MARTHA BARLOW, dau. of John Barlow, who died Fairfield in Feb. or Mar. 1698.

One item of some interest in the life of James that was not noted above is that he was on the petit jury for the Fairfield witchcraft trials in 1692.

In his will, on the date noted above, James Beers appointed his son Joseph as executor and left to his wife Martha the use of his homelot,

The family of Elizabeth Beers and John Darling are described on pages 7 and 8 of volume 5:

- v. ELIZABETH, b.c. 166_ ; m. JOHN DARLING of Fairfield, who d. by 11 Feb. 1718/9 when adm. was granted to his son John.
- Ch. - surn. Darling:
1. Hannah, b.c. 1689; d. Ffld. 20 Oct. 1774; m. 17 Apr. 1709, Richard Whitney, b. 18 Apr. 1687, s. of John and Elizabeth (Smith) Whitney.
Ch. - surn. Whitney:
 - (1)Elijah, b. 16 Apr. 1710; d. Norwalk before 1741; m. 6 July 1734, Rebecca Seymour, dau. of John Seymour.
 - (2)Samuel, b. 5 Oct. 1712; d. Greenfield 20 Feb. 1796; m. (1) 14 May 1740, Amy Northrup, b. 9 Nov. 1722, d. 22 Nov. 1788, dau. of William and Johanna Northrup; m. (2) Sarah (Williams) Middlebrook, b. 10 Aug. 1720, dau. of David and Dorothy (Sturges) Williams and widow of Joseph Middlebrook, Jr.
 - (3)Richard, b. 1 Sep. 1715; m. at Stratfield 4 Dec. 1750, Experience Beardsley, b. 26 Feb. 1724/5, d. 11 July 1780, dau. of John Beardsley.
 - (4)John, b. 17 Jan. 1719/20; d. at Branford 29 Mar. 1805; m. there 19 Jan. 1750/1, Deborah Smith.
 - (5)Daniel, b. 24 Apr. 1723; d. Stratford; m. at Greenwich 7 Nov. 1745, Hannah Clawson.
 2. Martha, m. John Bradley, b.c. 1693, d. Greenfield 5 Dec. 1773, s. of John and Hannah (Sherwood) Bradley; no known children.
 3. John, bp. 24 Mar. 1694/5; m. Abilene Jessup, bp. 13 Sep. 1696, dau. of Edward and Elizabeth (Hide) Jessup; Jacobus places him in Patterson, NY in 1760.
Ch. - surn. Darling:
 - (1)John, Ensign of the Regt. of Foot in the Cape Breton Expedition in Feb. 1745. The administration of his estate was granted to his father in 1750.
 - (2)James
 - (3)David, m. 14 Dec. 1756, Sarah Morehouse, b. 24 Oct. 1733, dau. of Jehu and Lavinia (Monroe) Morehouse.
 - (4)Jabez, m. at Wilton Dec. 1753, _____.
 - (5)Elizabeth, bp. 28 Mar. 1730; m. 1 Mar. 1748/9, Nathan Guire, s. of Luke and Mary (Adams) Guire.
 - (6)Sarah, bp. Redding 23 July 1738.
 4. James, bp. 17 Apr. 1698.
 5. Joseph, bp. 29 June 1701; m. ?
Ch. - surn. Darling:
 - (1)Rachel, b. 28 Jan. 1728/9; m. 10 Dec. 1746, Benjamin Sturges, b. 17 Dec. 1726, d. Redding c. 1805, s. of Benjamin and Sarah (Adams) Sturges.
 - (2)Hannah, bp. 25 July 1731.
 - (3)Grace, bp. 6 Jan. 1733/4.
 - (4)Eunice, bp. 25 Jan. 1736; m. 25 May 1757, Joseph Dikeman.
 - (5)Benjamin, bp. 15 Apr. 1738.
 - (6)Martha, bp. 11 Jan. 1741; m. at Redding 29 May 1778, Austin Baxter.
 - (7)Joseph, bp. 17 Oct. 1743; d. Ridgefield 1780; m. Mary _____.
 - (8)Mary, bp. 7 May 1749; d. Redding 5 Nov. 1773; m. 12 Mar. 1767, Joseph Meeker, b. 11 July 1745, d. Redding 1777, s. of David and Sarah (Johnson) Meeker.
 6. Benjamin, bp. 28 Feb. 1702/3; d. Ridgefield 1788; m. 6 Jan. 1725/6, Mary Hide, b. 8 Oct. 1705, dau. of John and Rachel (Rumsey) Hide.

Various branches of the **Beers** family also are detailed in the book ***History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield***, compiled and edited by Donald Lines Jacobus, for the Eunice Dennie Burr Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Fairfield, Connecticut, 1932-35.⁴ Elizabeth Beers and her husband John Darling Sr. appear in James Beers' will on page 58 of volume 1:

58 *HISTORY AND GENEALOGY OF*

Will 14 Nov. 1694, proved 28 Nov. 1694; wife Martha; son Joseph; daus. Martha wife of Joseph Bulkley, Deborah wife of Samuel Hull, and Elizabeth wife of John Darling; children of son James dec'd (only David named).

Will of Martha Beers, 22 Feb. 1697/8, proved 27 Mar. 1698; son John Darling; daus. Martha Bulkley, Deborah Hull, Elizabeth Darling.

Children :

- +James.
Martha, m. Joseph Bulkley.
Deborah, m. Samuel Hull.
- +Joseph.
Elizabeth, m. John Darling.

Putting all of this information together, along with a number of family trees on the Ancestry.com website, allowed me to construct our **Beers** family tree, showing one generation of James Beers' ancestors in England:

⁴ <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/43068?availability=Family%20History%20Library>



With the addition of the **Beers** family, we now have another branch of the “Quincy Oakley” family that goes back to New England in the 1600’s.

Beers Family Coat of Arms

There are several different versions of the **Beers** family coat of arms (aka family crest):



Note that the family name includes **Beers**, **de Beer**, and even **Beer**.

Here are some additional versions of the **Beers** family coat of arms (jk):



My DNA Matches who are Beers Family Descendants

Once I knew that the “Quincy Oakleys” are descended from the **Beers** family, I searched through my DNA matches on the Ancestry.com website for people who have ancestors with the surname of **Beers** in their family trees (I’m sure that most of the readers of this treatise just knew that I would eventually get around to discussing my DNA matches...). I ended up with a list of ten such matches. However, several of them had private family trees, which I was unable to view.

Of the matches that I was able to view, the first one was with a woman having the username of **vidale83**:

★  **vidale83** 
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins 
Confidence: Very High 
Last logged in Jun 16, 2015  1132 people 

Her oldest **Beers** family ancestor was Joel Beers (1759-1801):



Joel Beers

Vital Events (3 of 3 timeline events)	
Birth	1759 Stratford, Fairfield, Connecticut
Marriage	1785 to Phoebe Osborn Stratford, Fairchild, Connecticut
Death	11 Sep 1801 Stratford, Fairfield, Connecticut

The good news is that he lived his entire life in Fairfield County, Connecticut, which is where our branch of the **Beers** family (the descendants of James Beers) lived in the 1600's. I was able to trace Joel Beers' ancestors:⁵

- Joel Beers (1759-1801)
- Barnabas Beers (1720-1807)
- Josiah Beers (1693-1763)
- Barnabas Beers (1658-1714)
- Anthony Beers (1620-1679)
- James Beers (1595-1635) & Hester Bere (1599-1635) – and these folks were our ancestors.

Note that Anthony Beers (1620-1679) was the topic of three volumes of the six-volume set about the **Beers** family in America written by Mary Louise Regan:

- vol. 2. – The descendants of Anthony Beers of Fairfield, Connecticut through his son, John
- vol. 3. – The descendants of Anthony Beers of Fairfield, Connecticut through his son, Ephraim; containing a report on her search for the English ancestry of Anthony Beers by Josephine Wakeman Beers
- vol. 4. – The descendants of Anthony Beers of Fairfield, Connecticut through his son Barnabas

It is amazing to see that the MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestors) shared by **vidale83** and I were James Beers (1595-1635) and his wife Hester Bere (1599-1635).

⁵ <http://person.ancestry.com/tree/5128530/person/-1449764420/facts>

My next DNA match was with a woman with the username of **C.O.** (administered by DanPillsbury1963):



A screenshot of a DNA match profile. On the left is a red silhouette of a person's head and shoulders. To its right, the name "C.O." is displayed in blue, followed by "(administered by DanPillsbury1963)" in grey. Below the name, it says "Possible range: 5th - 8th cousins" with a question mark icon, and "Confidence: Good" with a green progress bar. At the bottom, it says "Last logged in Oct 14, 2015". To the right of the profile, it says "2716 people" with a green icon, and a green button labeled "VIEW MATCH".

Her **Beers** line only went back to Abigail Beers (1769-1796):

Direct ancestors with the surname Beers



A screenshot of a box titled "Direct ancestors with the surname Beers". Inside the box, it says "From C.O. : Oleksiw Family Tree (1)". Below that, the name "Abigail Beers" is listed in blue. Underneath, it says "B: 1769 in Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut" and "D: 19 Apr 1796 in Westchester, New York".

Like the previous match with **vidale83**, Abigail Beers was born in Fairfield County, Connecticut, which certainly increased the possibility of a shared **Beers** ancestor. The *Woodrow Edward Bliss, Jr.-1* family tree⁶ on the Ancestry.com website has the **Beers** line for **C.O.**:

- Abigail Beers (1769-1796)
- Moses Beers (1730-1798)
- Anthony Beers (1700-1784)
- Ephraim Beers (1648-1720)
- Anthony Beers (1620-1679)
- James Beers (1595-1635) & Hester Bere (1599-1635) – and these folks were our ancestors.

So once again I have a DNA match going all the way back to our MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestors) of James Beers (1595-1635) and Hester Bere (1599-1635).

⁶ <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/32398022/family?cfpid=20474453272>

My next DNA match with a **Beers** descendant was with a woman having the username of **bpyle**:



A screenshot of a DNA match profile. On the left is a red silhouette icon of a person's head and shoulders. To its right is the username 'bpyle' with a document icon. Below the username, it says 'Possible range: 5th - 8th cousins' with a question mark icon. Underneath that is 'Confidence: Good' followed by a green progress bar. At the bottom left of the profile area, it says 'Last logged in Oct 13, 2015'. To the right of the profile area, there is a green icon of a group of people and the text '6713 people'. Below that is a green button with the text 'VIEW MATCH'.

She goes back to Sarah Beers (1715-1760):



A screenshot of a genealogical profile for Sarah Beers. At the top left is a red silhouette icon of a person's head and shoulders. To its right is the name 'Sarah Beers'. Below the name is a table of vital events. The table has three rows: Birth, Marriage, and Death. Each row has a date and a location.

Vital Events (4 of 6 timeline events)	
Birth	Jan 1715 Fairfield, Fairfield County, Connecticut
Marriage	Abt 1734 to David Bulkley Fairfield, Fairfield, CT
Death	Bef 11 May 1760 Fairfield, Fairfield, CT

and this is getting redundant, since Sarah lived her entire life in Fairfield County, Connecticut. The Bailey Family Tree⁷ has the complete **Beers** line for **bpyle**:

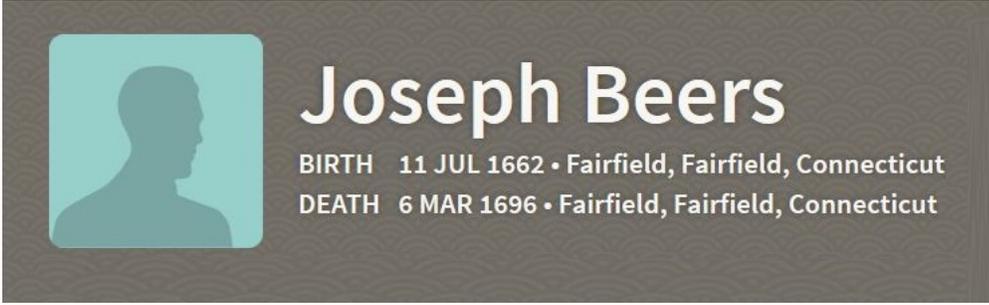
- Sarah Beers (1715-1760)
- Joseph Beers (1688-1772)
- Joseph Beers (1662-1696)
- James Beers (1628-1698) & Martha Barlow (1632-1698) – our common ancestors

Joseph Beers (1662-1696) was the brother of our Elizabeth Beers (1663-1719), who married John Darling Sr.

As an aside, it is amazing to see that we have yet another branch of the “Quincy Oakley” family living in Fairfield, Connecticut, in the 1600’s. I’ve always thought of Fairfield as the home of the **Oakley** family, and now we can add yet one more branch of our family tree to this location.

⁷ <http://person.ancestry.com/tree/68530915/person/40301942821/facts>

Here is one of the entries from the Ancestry.com website for Sarah Beer's grandfather Joseph Beers, who lived his entire life in Fairfield, Connecticut:



Joseph Beers
BIRTH 11 JUL 1662 • Fairfield, Fairfield, Connecticut
DEATH 6 MAR 1696 • Fairfield, Fairfield, Connecticut

My next DNA match with a **Beers** descendant was with a man having the username of **rbe1652**:



  [rbe1652](#) 
Possible range: 5th - 8th cousins 
Confidence: Good 
Last logged in Sep 30, 2015  5081 people [VIEW MATCH](#)

He is descended from Sarah Beers (1639-1724):

Direct ancestors with the surname Beers

From rbe1652 : Eaton - Nichols (1)

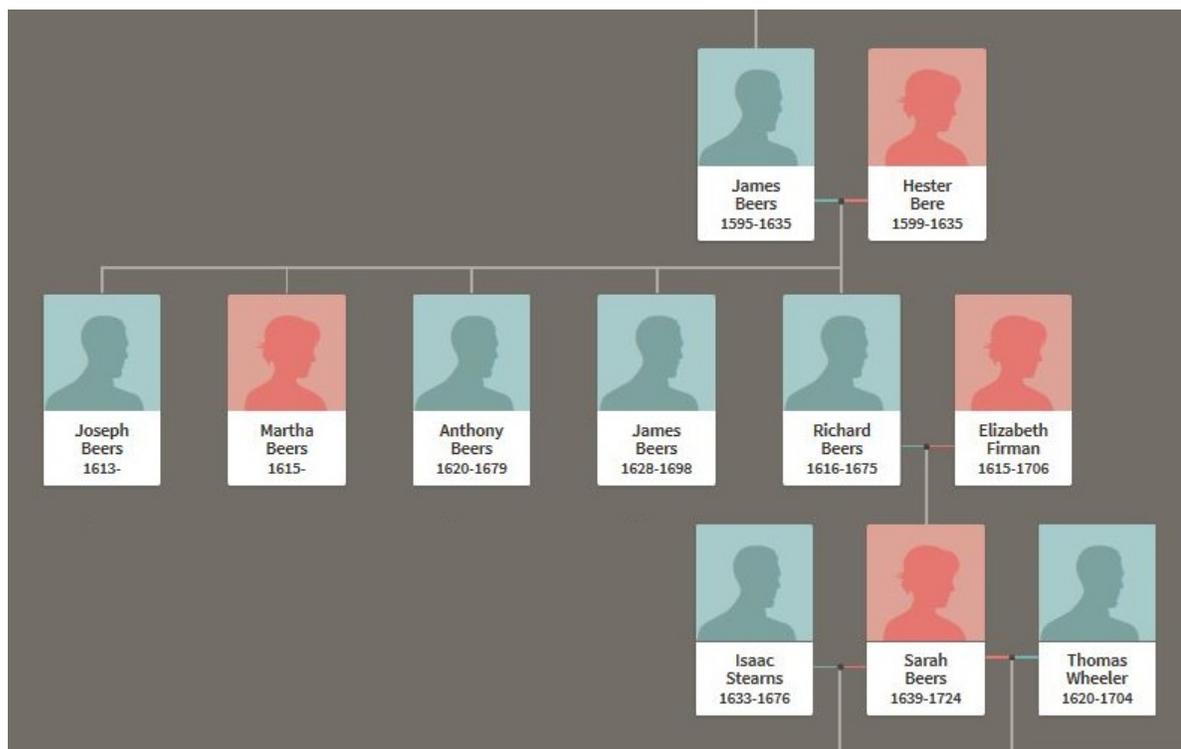
Sarah Beers

B: 05 Dec 1639 in Lexington, Middlesex, Massachusetts

D: 24 Jan 1724 in Concord, Middlesex, Massachusetts

At last, a **Beers** who didn't live in Fairfield County, Connecticut!

Sarah Beers and her ancestors are found in the Ossenfort/Wheeler Family Tree⁸ on the Ancestry.com website:



So **rbe1652** goes back to James Beers (1595-1635) & Hester Bere (1599-1635), and these folks were our ancestors.

My next DNA match with a **Beers** family descendant was with a man having the username of **1820HOLMES**:

4TH COUSIN

★  **1820HOLMES** 

Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins 

Confidence: Extremely High 

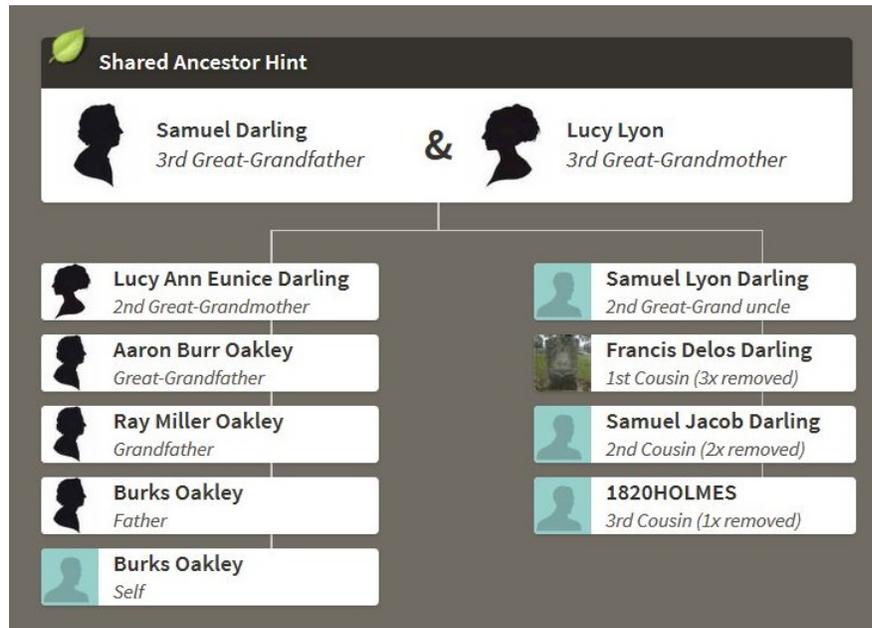
Last logged in Oct 5, 2015

 3963 people

 [VIEW MATCH](#)

If you have carefully read my previous narratives about our **Darling** family ancestors, you will recall that he and I are 4th cousins through the **Darling** line. We both can trace our roots to Samuel Darling and his wife Lucy Lyon:

⁸ <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/17146528/family>



Since Samuel Darling was descended from John Darling and Elizabeth Beers, it is pretty obvious that **1820HOLMES** and I would have common **Beers** ancestors.

My last DNA match with a **Beers** family descendent is with a man having the username of **gcwil57**:

gcwil57

Possible range: 5th - 8th cousins

Confidence: High

Last logged in Sep 19, 2015

666 people

VIEW MATCH

He goes back to Jonathan Beers (1789-1868), but he doesn't have any information about Jonathan other than when he was born and when he died:

Direct ancestors with the surname Beers

From gcwil57 : wilson (gcwil57) (2)

Jonathan Beers

B: 22 May 1789

D: 20 Oct. 1868

Fortunately, Jonathan and his **Beers'** family ancestors appear in **Bklynjohn's** Campbell Family Tree⁹ on the Ancestry.com website:

- Jonathan Beers (1789-1868)
- Edmund Beers (1768-1843) – born & died in Fairfield County, Connecticut
- Daniel Beers (1735-1820)
- Ephraim Beers (1688-1759)
- Ephraim Beers (1648-1720)
- Anthony Beers (1620-1676)
- James Beers (1595-1635) and his wife Hester Bere (1599-1635) – and these folks were our ancestors

Note that Anthony Beers (1620-1676) was the brother of our ancestor James Bears (1628-1698). As I mentioned above, Anthony's line through his son, Ephraim, is the topic of an entire book in the six-volume set about the **Beers** family in America written by Mary Louise Regan:

- vol. 3. – The descendants of Anthony Beers of Fairfield, Connecticut through his son, Ephraim; containing a report on her search for the English ancestry of Anthony Beers by Josephine Wakeman Beers

Concluding Remarks

I now have found and described yet another branch of the “Quincy Oakley” family – the **Beers** – that lived in Fairfield County, Connecticut, in the mid-1600's. I find it amazing that people wrote entire books about the various families in our family tree – Allen, Burr, Case, Crawford, Darling, Lyon, etc. And to have **SIX** volumes about the early **Beers** family in America is priceless!

Cheers to the *Beers!*



⁹ <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/5485754/family>

Addendum

When I was first researching the **Darling** family that lived in Fairfield, Connecticut, I exchanged a number of e-mails with Suzanne Darling, who appears to be an authoritative source for **Darling** family history. In one of her e-mail notes (dated 15 August 2015), she wrote:

I think that you and I may have different parentages for Samuel born 1754. You mention that he had a sister named Eunice. That would make him the son of Joseph and Rachel (Bulkley) Darling. I realize that this has been accepted by many who have researched the Darling name. However, Joseph Darling sold and bequeathed land to three sons, Benjamin, Joseph and Jonathan, and there is never any mention of a son named Samuel. Additionally, his wife, Rachel, was born in 1707 and would have been 47 when Samuel was born. It is possible but rather unlikely since her last child, Mary, was baptized in 1749. I have concluded that Samuel was the son of Jabez Darling, who was the son of Joseph's brother John.

As I was reading Volume 5 of **The Beers Genealogy**, which deals with James Beers and his descendants in Fairfield, Connecticut, I noticed that Jabez Darling was mentioned in the discussion of Elizabeth Beers on pages 7 and 8:

v. ELIZABETH, b.c. 166_ ; m. JOHN DARLING of Fairfield, who d. by 11 Feb. 1718/9 when adm. was granted to his son John.
Ch. - surn. Darling:

[edited]

3. John, bp. 24 Mar. 1694/5; m. Abilene Jessup, bp. 13 Sep. 1696, dau. of Edward and Elizabeth (Hide) Jessup. Jacobus places him in Patterson, NY in 1760.

Ch. - surn. Darling:

(1) John, Ensign of the Regt. of Foot in the Cape Breton Expedition in Feb. 1745. The administration of his estate was granted to his father in 1750.

(2) James

(3) David, m. 14 Dec. 1756, Sarah Morehouse, b. 24 Oct. 1733, dau. of Jehu and Lavinia (Monroe) Morehouse.



(4) Jabez, m. at Wilton Dec. 1753, ____.

(5) Elizabeth, bp. 28 Mar. 1730; m. 1 Mar. 1748/9, Nathan Guire, s. of Luke and Mary (Adams) Guire.

(6) Sarah, bp. Redding 23 July 1738.

The listing for Jabez states that he was married in 1753, which certainly would fit with him being the father of Samuel Darling (our ancestor), who was born in 1754. So I now have updated this branch of my **Darling** family tree to reflect this revised information from Suzanne Darling.