

Chapter 29

Our *Woodruff* and *Woodford* Ancestors

Introduction

For a number of reasons, the ***Miller*** branch of the “Quincy Oakley” family tree stands out in my mind as being remarkable. We can trace our ***Miller*** family ancestors in America back to William Miller (1620-1690) and his wife Patience Bacon (1633-1716). They emigrated from England, and in 1653, they were among the founders of the town of Northampton, Massachusetts; Patience was the first female physician and surgeon in New England (perhaps in America). Their great-grandson Jonathan Allen Miller (aka Jonathan Miller Jr.) served in the Connecticut Line in the Revolutionary War, and his service was listed on my father’s application in 1969 for membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. In the early 1890’s, it was the ***Miller*** family connection that brought Aaron Burr Oakley, his wife Hannah Mariah Miller Oakley, and their son Ray Miller Oakley, to Quincy, Illinois; Ray and Aaron worked for the *Quincy Herald* newspaper, which was owned at the time by Charles L. Miller (Hannah’s brother) and several of Charles’ ***Miller*** cousins. In recognition of the ***Miller*** family heritage, one of my father’s younger brothers was named Allen Miller Oakley.

I have been researching the various branches of the “Quincy Oakley” family tree, trying to fill-in missing lines. Since the ***Miller*** line is special to me, I want to make sure that I have all the various branches associated with the ***Miller*** line as complete as possible. My fifth-great grandfather in the ***Miller*** line was Jonathan Allen Miller (1729-1810). His wife was Sarah Woodruff North (1734-1811), and up until recently, my knowledge of her ancestors was limited to just her parents. I decided to spend some time investigating her branch of our family tree, and this chapter describes what I found, as well as some of my DNA matches with living descendants of her ancestors.

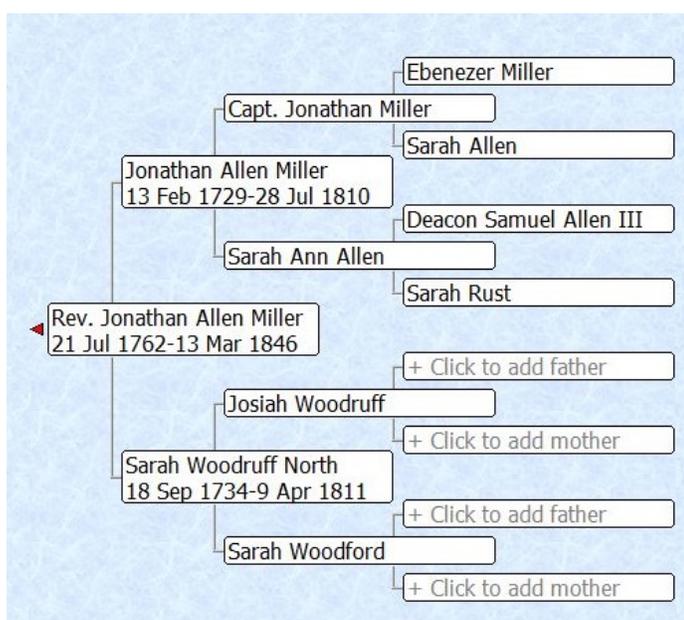
Sarah Woodruff North was born Sarah Woodruff, and she was first married to Joseph North (1730-1761). Shortly after Joseph’s death, the widow Sarah Woodruff North married Jonathan Allen Miller.

Sarah Woodruff’s father was Josiah Woodruff (1706-1789) and her mother was Sarah Woodford (1714-1790). I have to confess that in the past, I have not been able to keep the names ***Woodruff*** and ***Woodford*** separate – I always just lumped

them together as our **Woodruff/Woodford** line. And, as you will soon learn, these two families were quite intermingled in the 1700's in colonial New England.

Filling in the Family Tree

Before I started looking into Sarah Woodruff North's ancestors, my knowledge of her part of the family tree was limited to just her parents, Josiah Woodruff (1706-1789) and Sarah Woodford (1714-1790), as shown in the lower half of this pedigree chart:



This chart was based on my father's genealogical research, as passed on to me by my cousin Harold B. "Hal" Oakley.

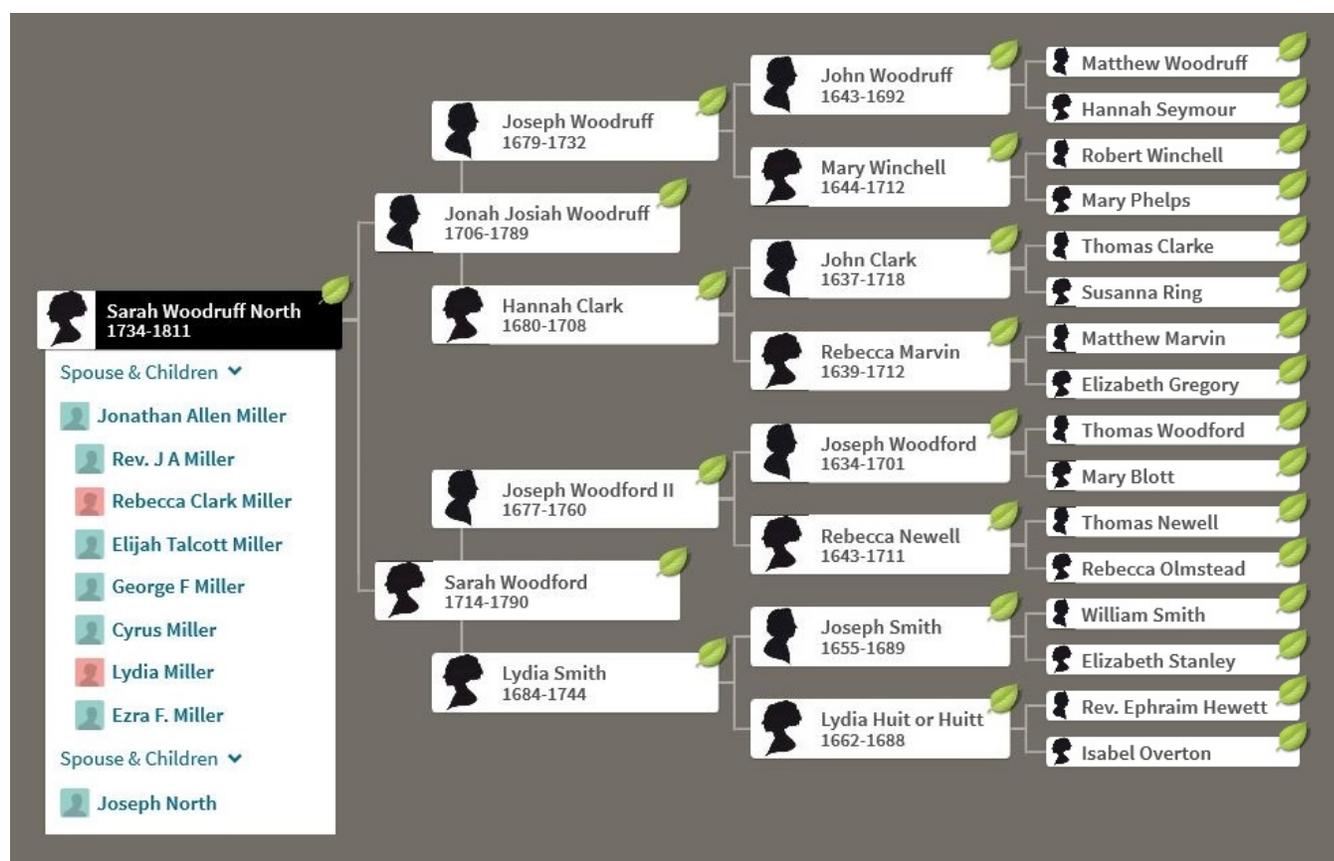
In looking into Sarah Woodruff North's ancestors, I first learned that her father is listed in various family trees on the Ancestry.com website as Josiah Woodruff and also as Jonah Josiah Woodruff – and even as Deacon Josiah Woodruff:

Josiah Woodruff
BIRTH 16 AUG 1706 • Farmington, Hartford, Connecticut, United States
DEATH 8 MAY 1789 • Farmington, Hartford, Connecticut, United States



I'll use Jonah Josiah Woodruff as his name from here on, but his name really might have been just Josiah Woodruff.

It turns out that there are a very large number of family trees on the Ancestry.com website that have detailed family trees for the **Woodruff** and **Woodford** families. Based on these trees, I was able to construct a pedigree for Sarah Woodruff North, showing her direct ancestors:



While this pedigree is complete through her 2nd-great grandparents, I also have found a number of her 3rd-great grandparents (and more). For example, I actually was able to trace Thomas Clarke (1605-1697) back one more generation; his parents were Thomas Clarke (1570-1627) and Rose Kerrich

(1572-1627). In addition, Thomas Woodford (1612-1667) goes back another generation to his parents, Joseph Woodford (1590-1614) and Alice Upton (1590-1619).

This pedigree introduces a number of new surnames into the “Quincy Oakley” family tree, including **Clark (Clarke), Smith, Winchell, Marvin, Newell, Huit (or Hewett), Phelps, Gregory, Blott, Stanley, Overton, and Olmstead**. And I have DNA matches with living descendants of several of the individuals itemized in Sarah Woodruff North’s pedigree. However, since Sarah Woodruff North was my 5th-great grandmother (seven generations removed from me), my ancestors in this part of our family tree are in all likelihood too many generations removed for me to have a large number of DNA matches with their descendants.

Most all of Sarah Woodruff North’s ancestors emigrated from England, and were living in New England in the 1600’s. Many of these families lived in Connecticut, in towns such as Farmington, Hartford, New Haven, and Hartland. Other families lived in Massachusetts, in towns such as Springfield, Roxbury, Northampton, and Plymouth. But certainly Farmington, Connecticut, featured most prominently in the **Woodruff/Woodford** families.

Matthew Woodruff (1612-1682)

In the pedigree chart on the previous page, Matthew Woodruff appears in the upper-right corner. He was the first **Woodruff** to immigrate to America. His family is detailed in a book **Colonial Families of the United States of America, Volume III**, originally published in 1912. This book has been digitized and is available on the Ancestry.com website.¹

¹ <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=48548&h=395374&ssrc=pt&tid=20681829&pid=1022160278&usePUB=true>

Colonial Families of the United States of America

IN WHICH IS GIVEN THE HISTORY, GENEALOGY AND
ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF COLONIAL FAMILIES WHO
SETTLED IN THE AMERICAN COLONIES FROM
THE TIME OF THE SETTLEMENT OF
JAMESTOWN, 13TH MAY, 1607,
TO THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON, 19TH APRIL, 1775

EDITED BY
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MEMBER OF THE
AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY,
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MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME III

The entry for Matthew Woodruff begins on page 620, where it mentions that his father Sir David Woodroffe, who lived in England and was made a Knight in 1603. Sir David Woodruff was married to Lady Lettice Duncombe:

620 COLONIAL FAMILIES OF THE UNITED STATES

SIR DAVID WOODROFFE, of Poyle, was made Knight in 1603. In the State Paper Office there is a bond of David WOODRUFF and others in 1637 petitioning for free liberty to trade in London. *m.* 1611, Lettice DUNCOMBE, dau. of George DUNCOMBE, of Weston, in County Surrey.

ISSUE

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| I. MATTHEW, <i>b.</i> 1612; <i>d.</i> 1682. | v. Robert. |
| II. Thomas. | vi. Nicholas. |
| III. David. | And six daughters. |
| IV. George. | |

MATTHEW WOODRUFF, *b.* 1612; *d.* 1682; came from England with his wife Hannah, and settled at Hartford, Conn. From there he went to Farmington, in 1640-41. He was one of the eighteen proprietors of the town of Farmington in 1672, having been admitted a freeman in 1657. He was a man of considerable wealth for those days. His wife Hannah was admitted to the Church in Farmington, 2d Apr. 1654.

ISSUE

- I. John, *b.* 1643.
- II. Matthew, *b.* 1646.
- III. Hannah, *b.* 1648; *m.* Richard SEYMOUR.
- IV. Elizabeth, *b.* 1651; *m.* 1678, John BRIGHTON, of Northampton.
- V. Mary *b.* Nov. 1654; *d.* yng.
- VI. SAMUEL, *b.* 28th Aug. 1661; *d.* 8th Jan. 1742.

SAMUEL WOODRUFF, *b.* 26th Aug. 1661, in Farmington, Conn.; *d.* 8th Jan. 1742. In 1698 he removed to that part of the town which is now Southington, and was the first white settler there. He was always on good terms with the Indians. *m.* 1686, Rebecca CLARK, *b.* 1662, *d.* 4th Aug. 1737, dau. of John CLARK.

ISSUE

- I. Samuel, *b.* 20th Jan. 1686-87; *m.* 10th July, 1718, Esther BIRD.
- II. Jonathan, *b.* 30th Nov. 1688; *d.* 29th Apr. 1712; *m.* 10th July, 1711, Sarah LANGDON, dau. of Joseph and Rosannah (ROOT) LANGDON.
- III. Rebekah, *b.* 4th Feb. 1690; *m.* 18th Nov. 1714, William SMITH.
- IV. Ruth Clark, *b.* 15th Feb. 1692; *d.* 14th Nov. 1713; *m.* 7th Jan. 1712-13, Nathaniel PORTER.

The narrative for Matthew Woodruff reads:

Matthew Woodruff, b. 1612; d. 1682; came from England with his wife Hannah, and settled at Hartford, Conn. From there he went to Farmington in 1640-41. He was one of the eighteen proprietors of the town of Farmington in 1672, having been admitted a freeman in 1657. He was a man of considerable wealth for those days. His wife Hannah was admitted to the Church in Farmington, 2nd Apr. 1654.

The listing for Matthew Woodruff also includes his first-born son, John (our ancestor), who was born in 1643.

Thomas Woodford (1612-1667)

Now let me jump from the **Woodruff** family to the **Woodford** family, and discuss Thomas Woodford, who was born in 1612 in Lincolnshire, England, and sailed to America on the English ship *William and Francis* in 1632.² This was part of the Puritan Great Migration, which took place largely from 1629 to 1640, when the Puritan crisis in England reached its height. In 1629, King Charles I dissolved Parliament, thus preventing Puritan leaders from working within the system to effect change and leaving them vulnerable to persecution. The Massachusetts Bay Colony, chartered in the same year by a group of moderate Puritans, represented both a refuge and an opportunity for Puritans to establish a “Zion in the wilderness.” During the ten years that followed, over twenty thousand men, women, and children left England to settle permanently in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In 1640, when Parliament was reconvened, attention was redirected from the New World back to the old and migration to New England dropped sharply.

Thomas Woodford settled in 1632 at Roxbury, Massachusetts, where the Rev. John Eliot, the “Apostle to the Indians” and pastor of the church there, made these entries into the church record regarding Thomas and his wife, Mary Blott:

“Thomas Woodforde, a man servant, he came to N.E. in the yeare 1632 & was joyned to the church about halfe a yeare after, he afterwards maryed Mary Blott & removed to Conecticott, & joyned to the church at Hartford.”

Donald L. Jacobus, in his 1952 book on families of the Connecticut River Valley, states that, “it appears that both Thomas and Mary came to America as apprentices in their teens, though Woodford must have been nearly of age, as he

² <http://www.geni.com/projects/Great-Migration-Passenger-of-the-William-Francis-1632/9853>

was made a freeman of Massachusetts Bay at the General Court on 4 March 1634/5”.

As indicated in the Roxbury records, Thomas Woodford left there and removed to Hartford, Connecticut. In 1639, there were entered on the Hartford Town Records “the names of such Inhabitances as were Granted lotts, to haue onely at The Townes Courtesie wth liberty to fetch wood & keepe swine or cowes By proportion on the common.” This is known as the Book of Distribution of Land, and lists those who settled in Hartford before February 1640. The fourth name on the list is “Thomas Woodforde”.

Thomas Woodford’s name is engraved on a monument dedicated to the original proprietors of Hartford, which sits in Hartford’s Ancient Burying Ground. His name is on the south face (second name from the bottom on the left side in this photo):

Recall that Northampton, Massachusetts, was founded in 1653 by a small group of settlers, including our ancestors William Miller and Patience Bacon. Some time between October 1655 and April 1656, our ancestor Thomas Woodford moved his wife and children to Northampton. The Northampton Church was organized 18 June 1661. A Covenant was adopted the same day and the organizing members signed it; Thomas Woodford's name was third on the list.

Thomas Woodford dated his will 26 April 1665. The preamble suggests that he had been ailing for some time. As infirmity began to take hold, the very civic minded Thomas Woodford petitioned the Court on 27 March 1666, and his request was granted:

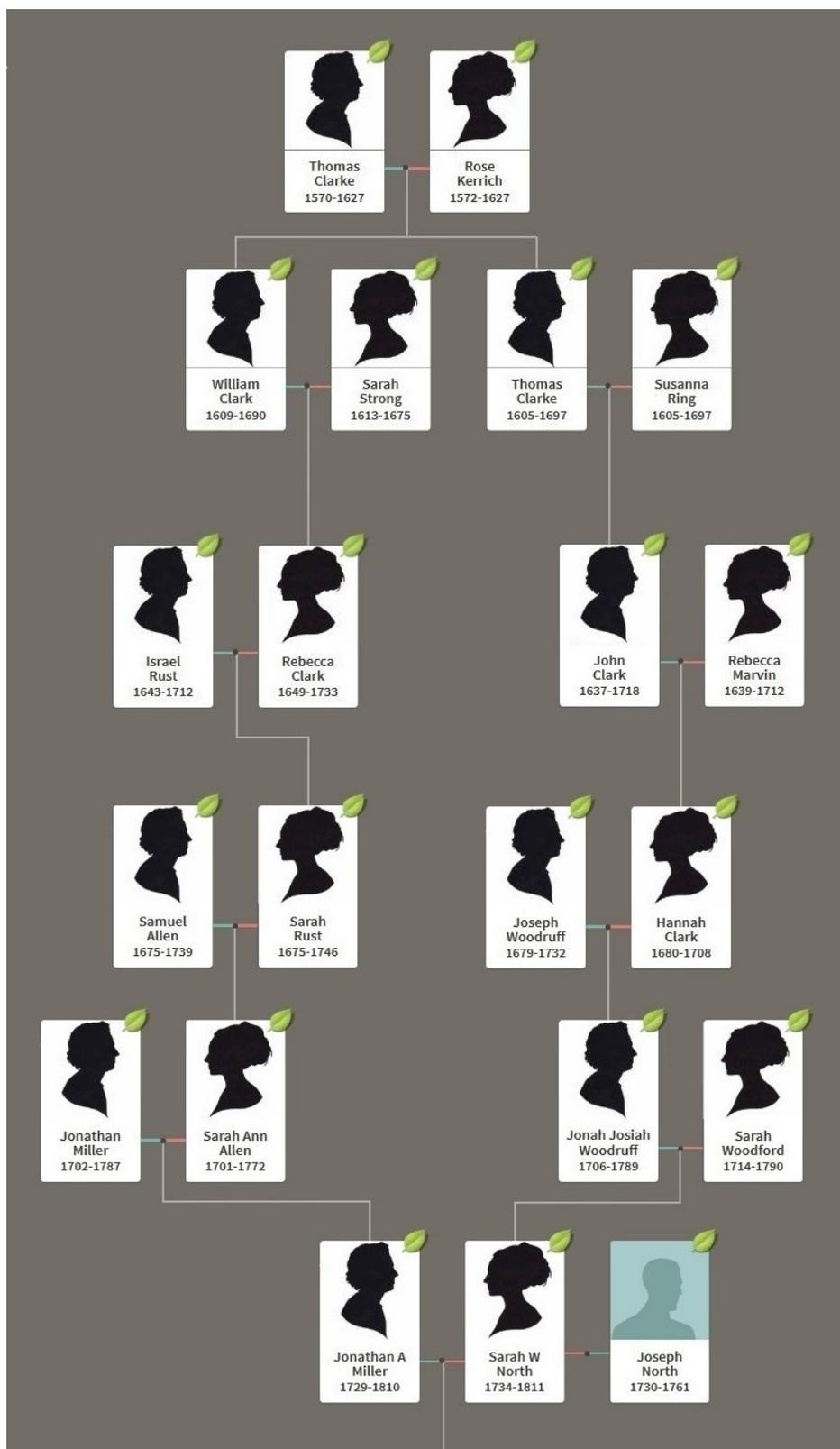
“Thomas Woodford of North H: upon his petition to this Corte was freed from Trayning by reason of his age & weakness.”

He died less than a year later at Northampton, Massachusetts, recorded on 6 March 1667. Twenty days later, Thomas's family presented to the County Court his will, together with an inventory of his estate, which were entered on the records.

Much more about Thomas Woodford and his family is in an appendix at the end of this narrative.

Cousins Marrying - Part I

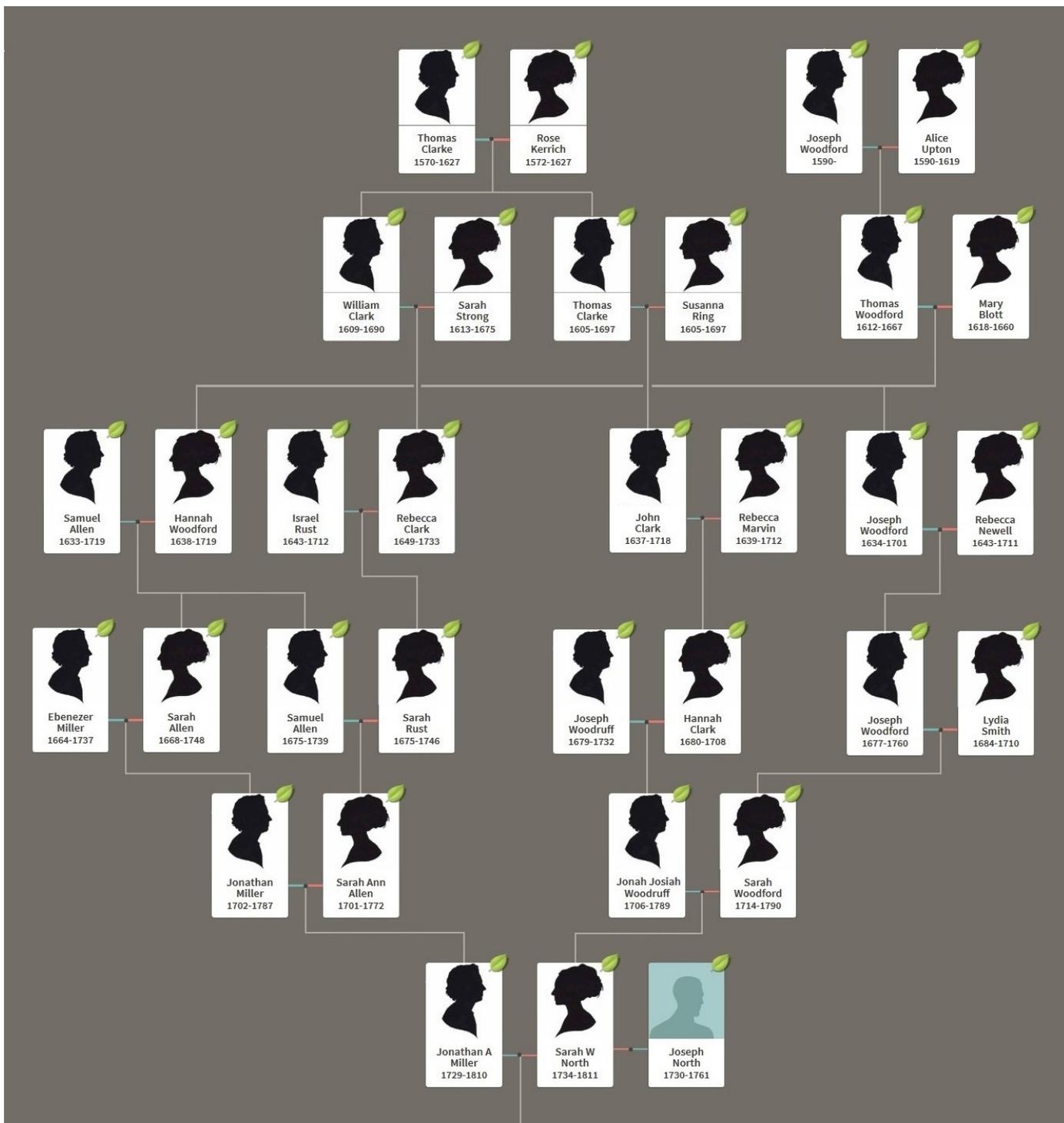
As I was filling in the family tree on the Ancestry.com website, I discovered that Jonathan Allen Miller and his wife Sarah Woodruff North were both descended from Thomas Clarke (1570-1627) and Rose Kerrich (1572-1627), as shown in the following section of our family tree:



Thomas Clarke and Rose Kerrich had two sons, William Clark and Thomas Clarke. Jonathan Allen Miller was William's 2nd-great grandson and Sarah Woodruff North was Thomas' 2nd-great granddaughter. This means that Jonathan Allen

Imagine my surprise when I figured out that Jonathan Allen Miller also was descended from this couple. Thomas Woodford (1612-1667) and Mary Blott (1618-1660) had a son Joseph Woodford (1634-1701) and a daughter Hannah Woodford (1638-1719). Joseph Woodford was Sarah Woodruff North's maternal great-grandfather, while Hannah Woodford was Jonathan Allen Miller's *maternal and paternal* great-grandmother (more about this in the next section). This makes Jonathan Allen Miller and his wife Sarah Woodruff North third-cousins via their **Woodford** family line.

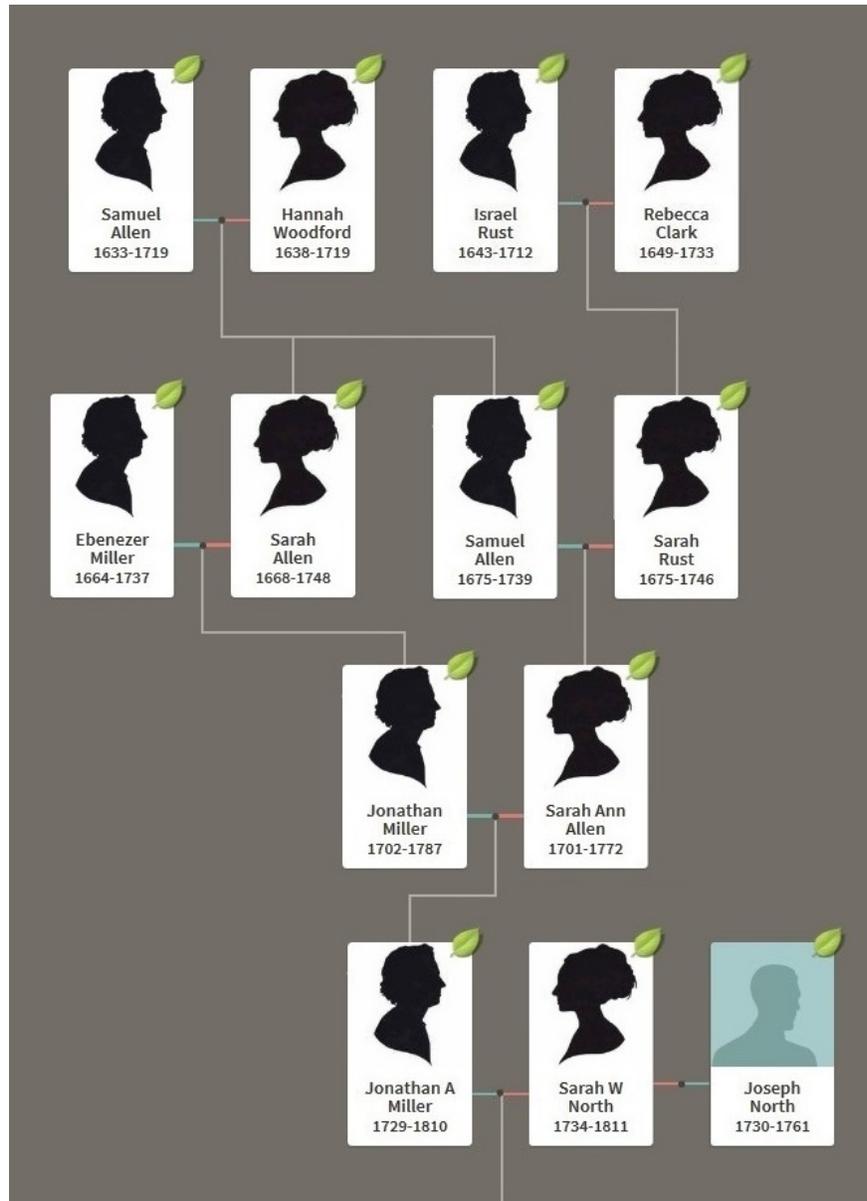
Putting these two family trees together gives:



I find it interesting to see that Jonathan Allen Miller and Sarah Woodruff North were not only distant cousins, but also that they were related through two different family lines – the *Woodruff/Upton* line and the *Clarke/Kerrich* line.

Cousins Marrying - Part III

As mentioned above, Hannah Woodford was Jonathan Allen Miller's great-grandmother on both his mother's side of the family and his father's side of the family. This relationship can be seen in the following section of our family tree:



Samuel Allen (1633-1719) and his wife Hannah Woodford (1638-1719) had a daughter Sarah Allen (1668-1748) and a son Samuel Allen (1675-1739). Sarah Allen married Ebenezer Miller (1664-1737) and they had a son Jonathan Miller (1702-1787). Samuel Allen married Sarah Rust (1675-1746) and they had a daughter Sarah Ann Allen (1701-1772). Of course, this means that Jonathan Miller and Sarah Ann Allen were first cousins; they married in 1727 in

Northampton, Massachusetts. Their son, Jonathan Allen Miller married Sarah Woodruff North.

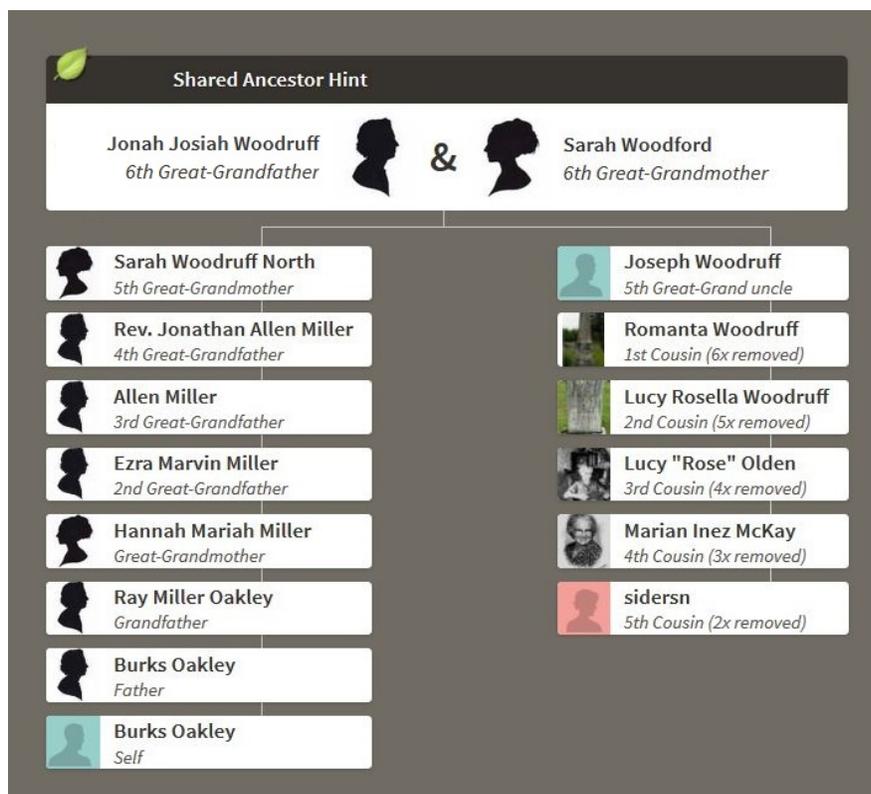
DNA Matches

I have a number of DNA matches on the Ancestry.com website with living descendants of the **Woodruff/Woodford** line. Software on the AncestryDNA website regularly scans my pedigree on the Ancestry.com website for my direct ancestors who also appear in the pedigrees of my DNA matches. If I have an ancestor in common with one of my DNA matches, the site calls it a “Shared Ancestor Hint”, meaning that we both are descended from this same person (or couple). The DNA section of the website has a link summarizing the number of these “Shared Ancestor Hints”

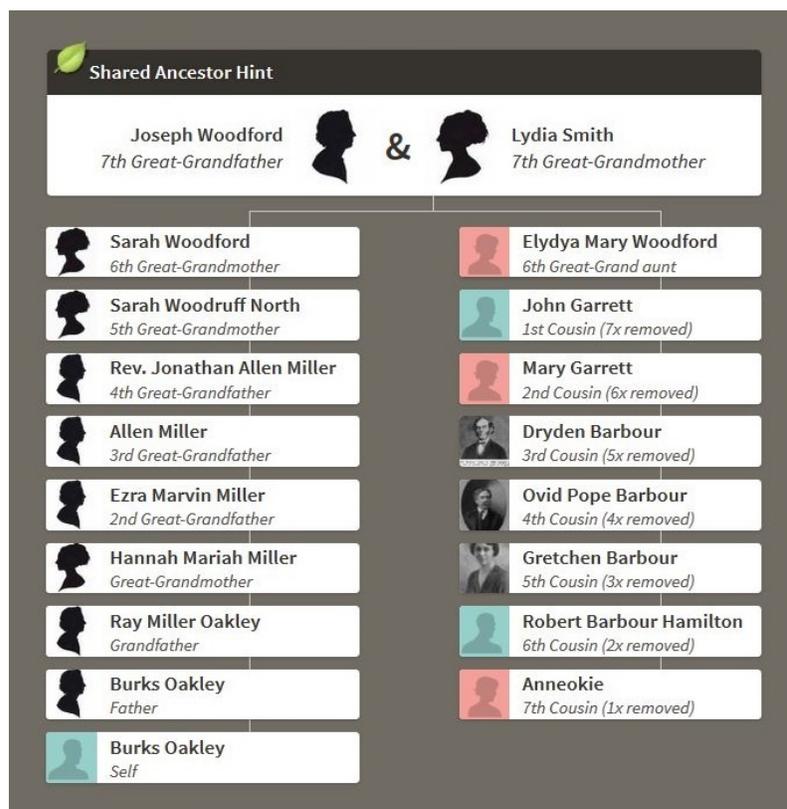


After I added Sarah Woodruff North’s ancestors to my family tree on the Ancestry.com website, I got several more of these “Shared Ancestor Hints”.

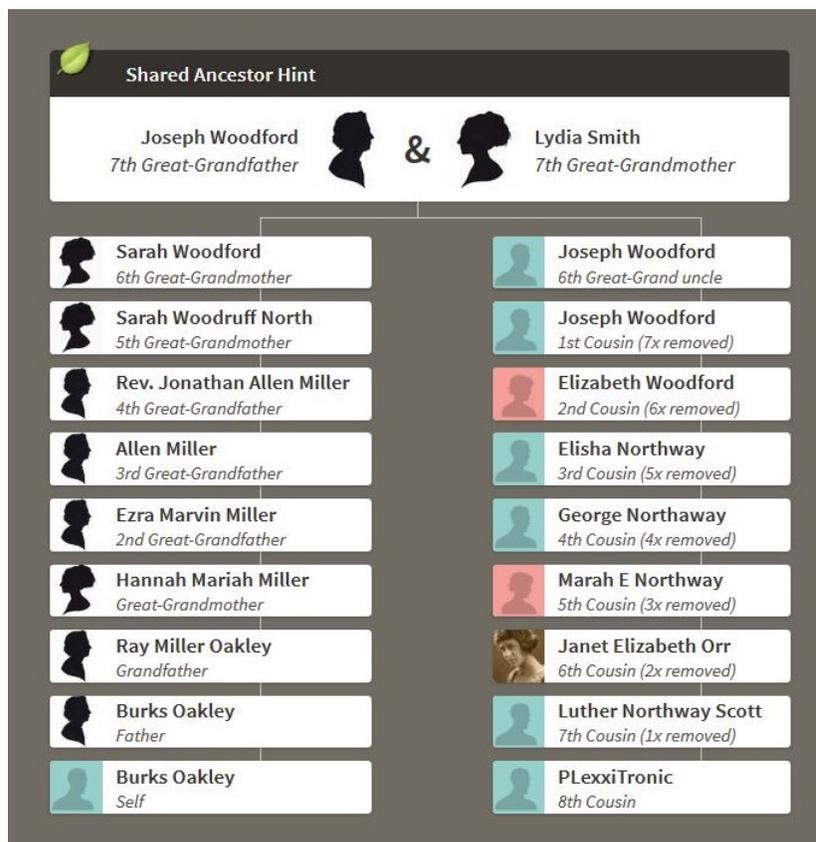
The first “Shared Ancestor Hint” is with a woman having the username of ***sidersn*** (who in real life is Nancy Cluff Siders). We both go back to Jonah Josiah Woodruff and his wife Sarah Woodford:



Another “Shared Ancestor Hint” that I have on the Ancestry.com website is with a woman having the username of **Anneokie** – we both go back to Joseph Woodford and his wife Lydia Smith, as shown in this chart:



The last “Shared Ancestor Hint” is with a man having the username of **PLexxiTronic**, and as with **Anneokie**, we both go back to Joseph Woodford and his wife Lydia Smith:



I also have a number of DNA matches (at least ten) that don’t show up as “Shared Ancestor Hints”, since these hints only go back ten generations. One of my DNA matches is with a man having the username of **J.W.** (administered by MsJackieLea):

The screenshot shows a DNA match profile for a user named "J.W.". The profile includes a star icon, a silhouette icon, and a trash icon. The name "J.W." is displayed in bold, followed by the text "(administered by MsJackieLea)" and "Seattle area - Member since 2002, last logged in today". Below this, a predicted relationship is shown: "Predicted relationship: Distant Cousins" with a possible range of "5th - 8th cousins" and a link to "What does this mean?". A confidence bar is shown with the text "Confidence: Moderate" and an information icon. At the bottom, a document icon is followed by the text "WOODFORD match going back to Joseph WOODFORD and Rebecca NEWELL."

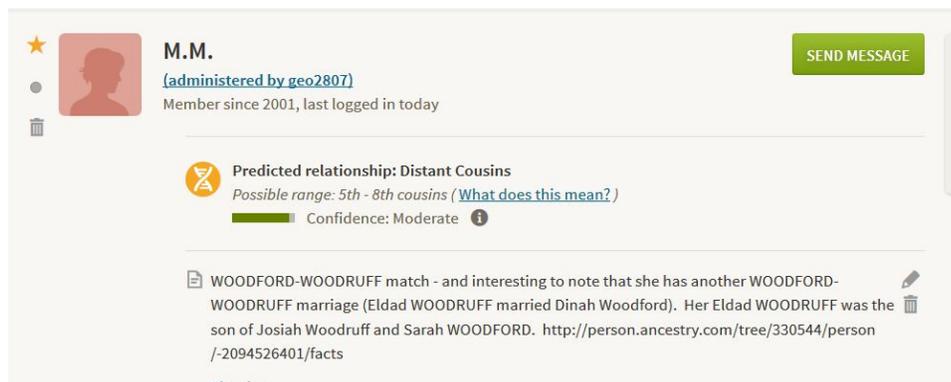
We both go back to Joseph Woodford and his wife Rebecca Newell.
Another DNA match is with **G.G.** (administered by bummer2011):



A screenshot of an AncestryDNA profile for user G.G. The profile includes a star icon, a silhouette placeholder for a profile picture, and a trash icon. The name "G.G." is displayed in bold, followed by "(administered by bummer2011)" in blue text. Below this, it says "Member since 2010, last logged in Jun 28, 2014". A predicted relationship section shows a DNA double helix icon, the text "Predicted relationship: Distant Cousins", and "Possible range: 5th - 8th cousins (What does this mean?)". A green progress bar is shown with the text "Confidence: Moderate" and an information icon. At the bottom, a document icon is followed by the text "Goes back to Joseph WOODFORD and Rebecca NEWELL."

As with **J.W.** (administered by MsJackieLea), we both go back to Joseph Woodford and his wife Rebecca Newell.

The last DNA match I'll include is with a woman having the username of **M.M.** (administered by geo2807):



A screenshot of an AncestryDNA profile for user M.M. The profile includes a star icon, a silhouette placeholder for a profile picture, and a trash icon. The name "M.M." is displayed in bold, followed by "(administered by geo2807)" in blue text. To the right is a green "SEND MESSAGE" button. Below this, it says "Member since 2001, last logged in today". A predicted relationship section shows a DNA double helix icon, the text "Predicted relationship: Distant Cousins", and "Possible range: 5th - 8th cousins (What does this mean?)". A green progress bar is shown with the text "Confidence: Moderate" and an information icon. Below this, a document icon is followed by the text "WOODFORD-WOODRUFF match - and interesting to note that she has another WOODFORD-WOODRUFF marriage (Eldad WOODRUFF married Dinah Woodford). Her Eldad WOODRUFF was the son of Josiah Woodruff and Sarah WOODFORD. http://person.ancestry.com/tree/330544/person/-2094526401/facts".

We both go back to Jonah Josiah Woodruff and his wife Sarah Woodford.

Another Woodruff/Woodford Marriage

I just mentioned my DNA match with a woman having the username of **M.M.** (administered by geo2807). She turned up when I was searching all of my DNA matches on the Ancestry.com website for people having the surname of **Woodruff** in their direct pedigree. However, she also turned up when I was searching for people with the surname of **Woodford** in their direct pedigree.

It turns out that **M.M.** is descended from Eldad Woodruff and his wife Dinah Woodford:

< Direct ancestors with the surname Woodruff



Eldad Woodruff

Vital Events

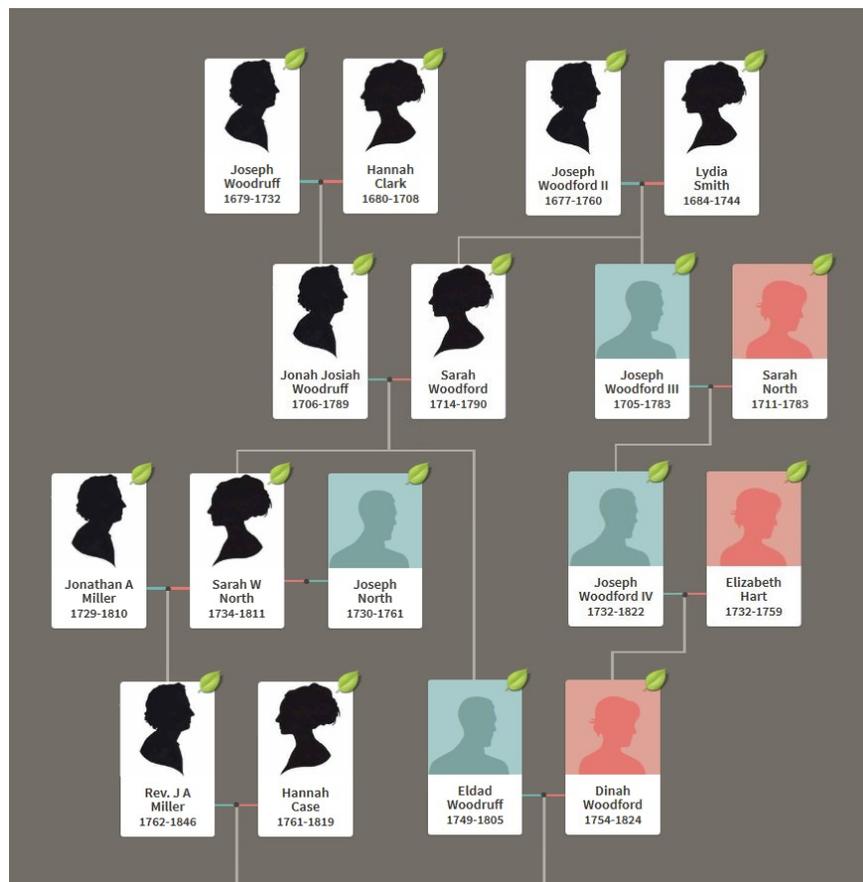
Birth	1749 Farmington, Hartford, Connecticut
Marriage	18 Feb 1773 to Dinah Woodford Northington, Hartford, Connecticut
Death	28 December 1805 Avon, Hartford, Connecticut

Spouse and Children

	Dinah Woodford 1 Mar 1754 - 12 Jun 1824
	Aphek Woodruff 11 Nov 1778 - 28 May 1861

Yes, believe it or not, there was another **Woodruff/Woodford** marriage.

Sarah Woodruff North's parents were Jonah Josiah Woodruff and Sarah Woodford (that was the first **Woodruff/Woodford** marriage). Their son (and Sarah Woodruff North's younger brother), Eldad Woodruff (1749-1805), married Dinah Woodford (1754-1824), who was the granddaughter of Sarah Woodford's older brother, Joseph Woodford III (1705-1783):



So this is another example of a **Woodruff** male marrying a **Woodford** female. Except in this case, the **Woodruff** male's mother was a **Woodford**. Thinking about all these interconnected relationships boggles the mind ...

This is the first time I have seen a generation being skipped – with Eldad Woodruff marrying his uncle's granddaughter. Of course, Eldad Woodruff was fifteen years younger than his sister Sarah Woodruff. And Joseph Woodford III was nine years older than his sister Sarah Woodford. So while the dates all work out, it still is interesting to see someone marry his uncle's granddaughter [or his mother's grand-niece].

As an aside, Eldad and Dinah named their son Aphek. Eldad (Hebrew: אֵלְדָד) was a biblical figure mentioned in the Book of Numbers. Dinah was the daughter of Jacob, the father of twelve sons (and thus the twelve tribes) in the narratives of Genesis. She was born to Leah after Leah had given birth to six sons. And finally, Aphek was a location mentioned by the Hebrew Bible as the scene of a number of battles between the Israelites and the Philistines. But I digress.....

The Woodruff & Woodford Family Crests

For completeness, here are examples of various Family Crests (aka Coat of Arms) for the **Woodruff** and **Woodford** families:



Concluding Remarks

I set out to learn more about our **Woodruff** and **Woodford** ancestors, and I was pleased that I could trace these lines back to immigrants from England: Matthew Woodruff, who first settled in Hartford, Connecticut, and then moved to Farmington, Connecticut, in 1642; and Thomas Woodford, who settled in Roxbury, Massachusetts, in 1632, then was one of the early settlers of Hartford, Connecticut, and then was an early settler of Northampton, Massachusetts (where he undoubtedly was acquainted with William Miller and Patience Bacon).

How wonderful to track yet another branch of our family to the early days of New England!

I was amazed to see that Sarah Woodruff North and her husband Jonathan Allen Miller were distant cousins through both the **Woodruff/Upton** line and the **Clarke/Kerrich** line.

Finally, having DNA matches with living descendants of our **Woodruff** and **Woodford** ancestors is priceless – it really makes all this seem a little more “real”.

[Two appendices follow – the first with information about another **Woodruff** line associated with our family, and the second with more information about Thomas Woodford.]

Appendix I:

Another Woodruff Line associated with the “Quincy Oakleys”

When I was researching Sarah Woodruff North’s ancestors in November 2015, my cousin Hal Oakley mentioned that his paternal grandmother, Mary Susan Sullivan Oakley (1908-1993), had told him that she wondered if she and her husband Thomas Crawford Oakley (1909-1969) were distant cousins via a **Woodruff** family relationship. Her maternal grandmother was Mary Ellen Woodruff (1850-1940).

Hal’s oldest son is named Bennett Woodruff Oakley, with the **Woodruff** name coming from Mary Ellen Woodruff.

Here is what I was able to find about this **Woodruff** line:

- Mary Susan Sullivan (1908-1993) – born in Michigan; died in Quincy, Illinois
- Her mother was Lucille “Lucy” Edget (1881-1951) – born in Michigan; buried in Quincy, Illinois
- Her mother was Mary Ellen Woodruff (1850-1940) – born in Wayne, Michigan
- Her father was Capt. Henry Woodruff Sr. (1813-1897) – born in Seneca Falls, New York; died in Clare, Michigan
- His father was Benjamin Woodruff (1783-1874) – born in Hanover, New Jersey; died in Ann Arbor, Michigan
- His father was Benjamin Woodruff Sr. (1744-1837)³ – born in East Hanover, New Jersey; died in Pittsfield, Michigan
- His father was James Woodruff (1712-1759) – born in Elizabethtown, New Jersey; died in East Hanover, New Jersey
- His father was Benjamin Woodruff (1685-1726) – born in Elizabethtown, New Jersey; died in Elizabethtown, New Jersey

³ Benjamin Woodruff Sr. served in the Revolutionary War, and his name appears in several applications for membership in the Sons of the American Revolution.

- His father was John Woodruff III (1637-1691) – born in Sturry, Kent, England; died in Elizabethtown, New Jersey
- His father was John Woodruffe (1604-1670) – born in Forwich, Kent, England; died in Southampton, Long Island, New York
- His father was John Woodruff (1574-1611) – born in Fordwich, England; died in St. Mary's Parish, Northgate, England
- His father was Robert Woodroffe (1547-1611) – born in Fordwich, Kent, England; died in Fordwich, Kent, England
- His father was William Woodruff (1521-1587) – born in Fordwich, Kent, England; died in Fordwich, Kent, England
- His father was Thomas Woodruff (1508-1552) – born in Fordwich, Kent, England; died in Fordwich, Kent, England

The earliest **Woodruff** ancestors in England that I have for Sarah Woodruff North are:

- Matthew Woodruff (1612-1682) – born in Essex, England; died in Farmington, Connecticut
- His father was Sir David Woodruff (1587-1612) – born in Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England; died in England.

It appears that Mary Susan Sullivan's **Woodruff** line is a completely different **Woodruff** line than the one on the **Oakley/Miller** side of the family. If there is a connection, it is not obvious to me.

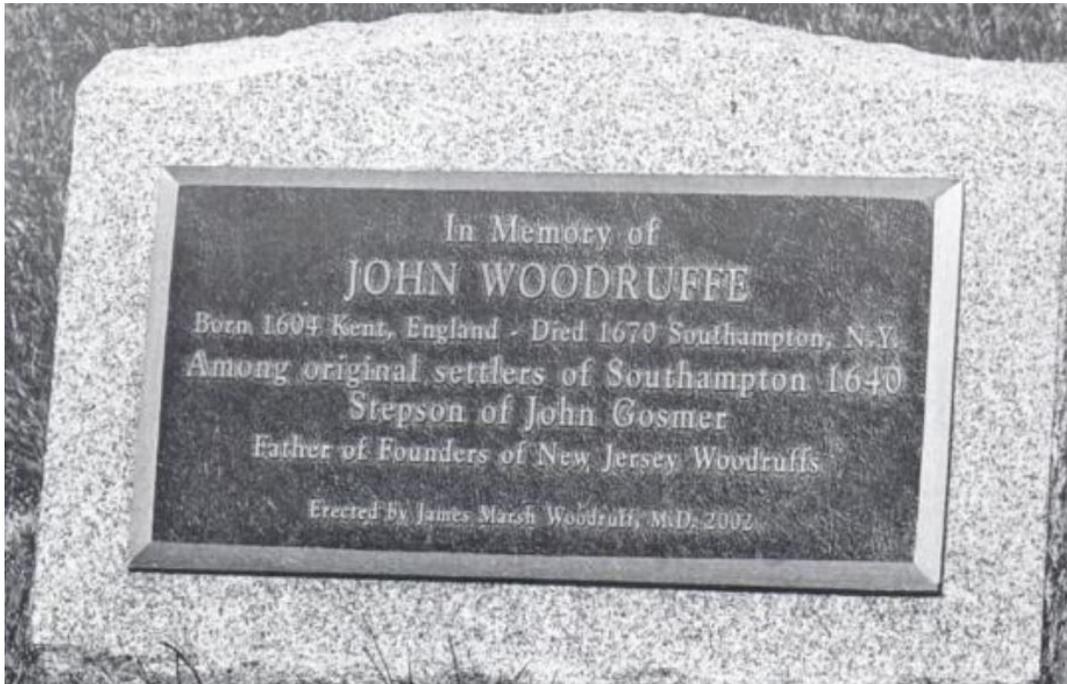
More about Mary Susan Sullivan's Woodruff Line

In Mary Susan Sullivan's line of the **Woodruff** family, John Woodruffe was born in 1604 in Kent, England. In 1640, he was one of the original settlers of Southampton, New York. An interesting narrative about him appears in Maria Woodruff Thompson's writing in ***Genealogical and Personal Memorial of Mercer County, New Jersey***, edited by Francis Bazley Lee (New York and Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1907):

John Woodruff, the first in this country, left Yorkshire, England, under the disastrous reign of Charles I, and came to the colony of Massachusetts Bay in 1638. Some indications point to a connection of his family with that of the Earl of Northumberland, who took up the Presbyterian side in the civil wars. Be that as it may, it is quite probable, like other gentlemen in the train of Governor Winthrop, he was seeking better fortunes as well as religious freedom in the New England beyond the seas. Finding good land scarce, and the Puritan rule as there maintained too strict for his conscience and comfort, he withdrew with a company who sailed out from Lynn, Massachusetts, in their own vessel, as in another "Mayflower," around Cape Cod, past the stormy Point Judith, to a site on the eastern shore of Long Island, which they named Southampton, in remembrance of the seaport whence they embarked for America. ...

John Woodruff married Anne, daughter of John and Elizabeth Gosmer. Of his life in Southampton but little seems to be known. He died there in 1670. He left a will dated May 4, 1670, in which he mentions Anne, his daughter, married to Robert Wooley, and another daughter, Elizabeth, to Ralph (or Richard) Dayton. Soon after the arrival of the first families at Southampton, Long Island, 1640, they were joined by others according to agreement. Previous to embarking from Lynn, Massachusetts, Captain Howe and some others of the same place, among whom were John Gosmer and John Woodruff, purchased of Edward Howell and other owners the vessel in which they were to come to Southampton. The contract bears date March 10, 1640. The names of John Gosmer and John Woodruff are among the forty-six settlers who arrived during the first twelve months. In 1645 Captain Howe transferred his possession here to John Gosmer for £4 payable in wampum, two cows and ten bushels of barley.

In 2002, one of John Woodruffe's descendants erected a plaque in his memory in the Old Southampton Burying Ground in Southampton, New York:



I find it interesting to see that this plaque states that John Woodruffe was the “Father of Founders of New Jersey Woodruffs”. That certainly is consistent with all of the generations in this Woodruff line who lived in New Jersey [being different than the **Woodruff** line living in Connecticut.]

One of the New Jersey **Woodruffs** was Benjamin Woodruff (1744-1837), who served in the Revolutionary War. The Find-A-Grave listing for Benjamin Woodruff includes the following:⁴

Birth: Nov. 26, 1744, Hanover, Morris County, New Jersey
Death: Oct. 8, 183, Washtenaw County, Michigan

Benjamin Woodruff Sr. was the oldest child of James Woodruff and Joanna Mason. He was born in Hanover, New Jersey on November 26, 1744. Little is known of his childhood but records of the Morristown Presbyterian Church noted that on March 2, 1771 at the age of 27 he married Phebe Pierson. She died January 21st 1777 when their third child was less than a year old. The previous year the Revolutionary War had started with the signing of the Declaration of Independence. According to Adjutant General records, Benjamin had enlisted as a drummer in Captain Kean's Company of the Eastern Battalion of the Morris County, New Jersey militia and later served as a Sergeant variously under Captain Jonas Ward, Captain Baily, Captain Timothy Tuttle, and Captain John Deboe, all under the command of

⁴ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=46761689>

a Colonel Thomas. He later served under Jacob Card of the Western Battalion of the militia until the end of the war and took part in battle near Elizabeth Town, New Jersey on December 17, 1776 as well as other engagements. On July 8, 1778, while on active duty, he married Patience Lum who was then 27 years old and they had six children, Hannah, Elizabeth, Benjamin Jr., Obadiah, John and Timothy. Their youngest child, Timothy, was born March 10, 1791 and it is believed Patience died sometime between then and 1804. In 1804, at the age of 60, Benjamin moved with part of his family from Morristown, New Jersey, to Fayetteville (Fayetteville), Seneca County, New York. Thirty-two years later, at the age of 92, he traveled in the back of a wagon to the newly opened Michigan Territory to live with his son Benjamin Jr. in Pittsfield Township of Washtenaw County. He died on October 8, 1837, shortly before his 93rd birthday and was buried in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Benjamin Woodruff Jr. [son of the soldier in the Revolutionary War] was the first settler on land purchased from the general government. He built a house and moved his family into it July 6, 1823. Woodruff Jr. started the first village in Washtenaw County. He was the first justice of the peace, the first postmaster, first sheriff and first mill builder in the county. He came from Ohio to Ypsilanti.

On the first day of June, 1825, the road from Detroit to Chicago was surveyed by the United States commissioners, beyond Woodruff's grove; so the village perished. Woodruff moved to Ypsilanti, where he and his wife died. He was social and accommodating, and made a good landlord. His grave is not marked.

I would imagine that this is how Mary Susan Sullivan's ancestors got to Michigan, where she was born in 1908.

Since Benjamin Woodruff (1744-1837) served in the Revolutionary War, he is the basis for many of his descendants' applications for membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. Here is Frank Barnaby Woodruff's application from 1942:

National Number... 61632

State Number... 3762

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chicago, Illinois, September 15, 1942

TO THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF

THE ILLINOIS SOCIETY
OF THE
NATIONAL SOCIETY
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

I, Frank Barnaby Woodruff being of the age of 39 years hereby apply for membership in this Society by right of lineal descent in the following line from

Benjamin Woodruff who was born in New Jersey on the 28th day of Nov. 17 44 and died in Washtenaw County, Michigan on the 18th day of Oct. 1837 and who assisted in establishing American Independence.

I was born in Chicago County of Cook State of Illinois on the 21st day of October 1903

(1) I am the son of John Barnaby Woodruff born 2/4/1876, died living, and his wife Maude Frances Stewart born 12/6/1879, died living, married 10/9/1901

(2) grandson of Charles Marius Woodruff born 8/18/1851, died 8/17/1932 and his wife Alice Barnaby born 7/12/1854, died living, married 10/9/1873

(3) great-grandson of Charles Woodruff born 2/7/1816, died 4/8/1896 and his wife Mary M. Jones born 7/1/1822, died 1901, married Mich.

(4) great-grandson of Benjamin Woodruff born 7/31/1783, died 2/16/1874 and his wife Frellove Sanford born ... died ... married ...

(5) great-grandson of Benjamin Woodruff born 11/26/1744, died 10/18/1837 and his wife Patience Lum born 9/9/1751, died ... married 7/8/1778

(6) great-grandson of James Woodruff born 9/28/1712, died ... and his wife Joanna born 11/13/1722, died 7/22/1812, married Mass.

(7) great-grandson of ... born ... died ... and his wife ... born ... died ... married ...

and he, the said Benjamin Woodruff (No. 5) is the ancestor who assisted in establishing American Independence, while acting in the capacity of Regimental Quartermaster

W. J. Lamp

Nominated and recommended by the undersigned members of the Society:
Louis H. ...
Cecil R. ...

Signature of applicant, (Name in full)
Frank Barnaby Woodruff
Residence, 9303 S. Damp Avenue, Chicago, Ill.
Bus. 4101 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill.
Occupation, Writer

NOTE: By Constitutional Amendment adopted May 17, 1927, Article III, Section 1, quoted below, was changed so that any man of 18 years of age is eligible to membership. Junior memberships have been abolished entirely.

Applicant affirms his adherence to the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence and his unqualified support of the Constitution of the United States of America, to the end that the inalienable rights of the citizen may be preserved and our ideal representative government perpetuated.

ANCESTOR'S SERVICE

SECTION 1. Any man shall be eligible to membership in the Society who, being of the age of eighteen years or over, and a citizen of good repute in the community, is the lineal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times unflinching in his loyalty to, and rendered active service in, the cause of American Independence, either as an officer, soldier, seaman, marine, militiaman, or minute man, in the armed forces of the Continental Congress, or of any one of the several Colonies or States, or as a signer of the Declaration of Independence; or as a member of a Committee of Safety or Correspondence; or as a member of any Continental, Provincial, or Colonial Congress or Legislature; or as a recognized patriot who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain.—Constitution of National Society S. A. R., Article III, Section 1, adopted June 8, 1867, and as amended.

Membership is based upon one original claim; when the applicant derives eligibility by descent from more than one ancestor, and it is desired to take advantage thereof, separate applications, to be marked "Supplemental Application," should be made in each case and filed with the original.

State fully such documentary or traditional authority as you found the following record upon, and also the residence of ancestors, with dates of birth and death, if known.

By order of the Board of Trustees, May 3, 1911, the recipient of a certificate granted on this application agrees to surrender his certificate upon failure to pay his membership dues, unless his membership shall cease by reason of death or actual disability, to be determined by the Society of which he is a member.

My ancestor's services in assisting in the establishment of American Independence during the War of the Revolution were as follows:

Benjamin Woodruff : - Page 604 - Historical Register Continental Army 1775-1778 -

Heitman - Woodruff, Benjamin: Regimental Quartermaster, 2nd Continental Dragoons,

April 5th, 1777 - discharged January 1st, 1778 - Enlisted early in Revolution and

served in New Jersey troops under Captains James Keen, Jonas Ward, Bayley, Timothy

Tuttle, DeBov, Minard, Gard, and Colonels Jacob Ford, Thomas, Drake, Manson, Spencer,

and Frelinghuysen - Battles of Elizabethtown, Springfield and Aquackonneck -

served until close of war - Upwards of 2 years.

Here is Fremont Woodruff's Sons of the American Revolution application from 1898:

Ortink June 29th 1898

TO THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF

THE MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

I, *Fremont Woodruff*, being of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, to wit, of the age of *forty one*, hereby apply for membership in this Society by right of lineal descent in the following line from *Benjamin Woodruff* who was born in *New Jersey* on the *26th* day of *Nov* 17*44* and died in *Elizabeth New Jersey* on the *29th* day of *Dec* 1809 and who assisted in establishing American Independence.

I was born in *City of Detroit* County of *Wayne* State of *Michigan* on the *14th* day of *February* 1857

I am the son of *Charles Pierson Woodruff* and *Mary Ann Seymour Boyd Woodruff* his wife, and grandson of *Charles Woodruff* and *Sarah Bartlett* his wife, and great-grandson of *Benjamin Woodruff* and *Phoebe Pierson* his wife, and great-great-grandson of *James Woodruff* and *Josanna Mason* his wife, and great-great-great-grandson of *John Woodruff* and *Thomas Woodruff* his wife, and great-great-great-great-grandson of *Edith Wyatt* his wife and he, the said *Benjamin Woodruff* is the ancestor who assisted in establishing American Independence, while acting in the capacity of *private in the regiments of Colonel Elias Dayton*

My ancestor's services in assisting in the establishment of American Independence during the War of the Revolution were as follows:

Participated under Colonel Elias Dayton in the capture of the British ship "Blue Mountain Valley" February 10th 1776. Served with him in the 30th Battalion, first establishment of 1776, and in the 3rd Regiment Second establishment of 1778 of the New Jersey Continental line and all the battles in which that regiment was engaged - Brandywine, Princeton, Trenton in camp at Valley Forge and battle of Monmouth.

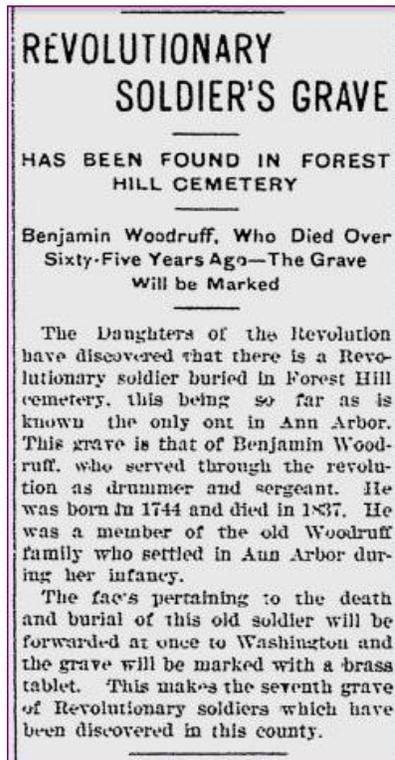
State of New Jersey.
Office of Adjutant General.

Trenton, July 5, 1898.

It is Certified, That the records of this office show that BENJAMIN WOODRUFF served as a Private, Minute Man, in the Morris County New Jersey Militia, during the Revolutionary War.

William F. Stryker
Adjutant General.

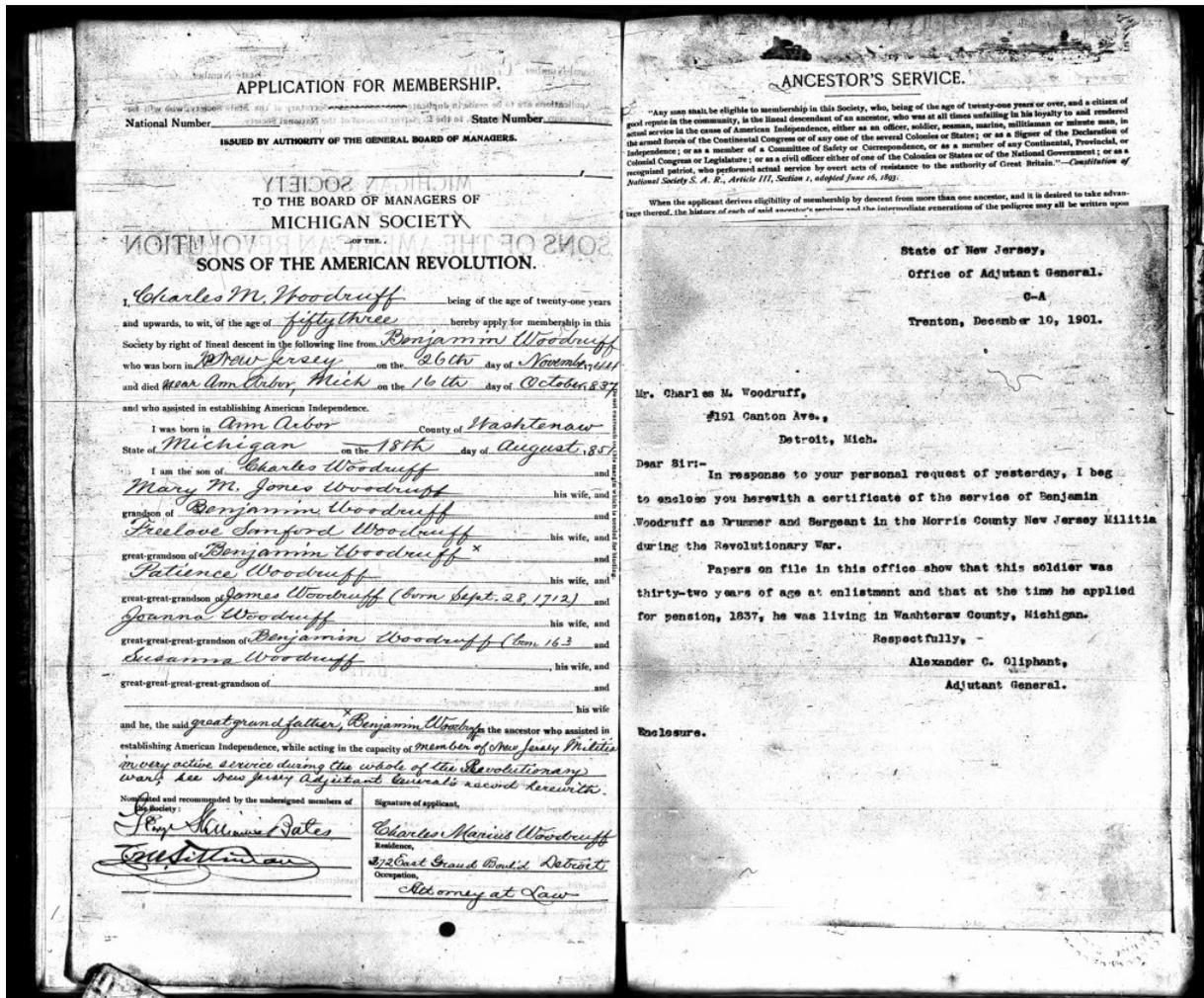
The Find-A-Grave listing for Benjamin Woodruff includes the following article from the Ann Arbor (Michigan) *Argus-Democrat* from 26 December 1902:



Finally, there is an excellent narrative about Benjamin Woodruff's service in the Revolutionary War at:

<http://blackenedroots.com/blog/benjamin-woodruff-revolutionary-soldier/>

It includes the SAR application submitted by Charles Marius Woodruff in 1904:



After detailing Benjamin Woodruff's Revolutionary War service, the applicant makes the following statement (beginning at the bottom of page 5):

The above is from the records of the New Jersey State Adjutant General's Office; My father and uncles, also my grandfather have told me many incidents of my great-grandfather's services and experiences as related to them by himself. Shortly before my great-grandfather's death in 1837 he applied for a pension (see New Jersey Adjutants letter herewith) from Washtenaw County, Mich. The facts concerning his birth (Nov. 26, 1744) and other data on second page of this application are taken from the family bible I have often seen in my grandfather's house, and now in the possession of Mr. William Woodruff at Rockwood, Mich.; as is also the gun my great-grandfather carried during all the Revolutionary war.

What a great item of family history for the descendants of Mary Susan Sullivan Oakley!

Appendix II – More about the Life of Thomas Woodford⁵

Thomas Woodford was born and raised in Lincolnshire, England, and came among the early settlers to Cambridge, Massachusetts.

On the 9th of March 1632, Thomas Woodford walked onto the deck of the English ship “William and Francis,” and set sail for America.

In 1858-60, Samuel G. Drake of Boston, Massachusetts, made investigations in England regarding the “Founders of New England.” He found at the Rolls Office in Chancery Lane, London, a volume entitled: A Booke of Entrie for Passengers by ye Comission, and Souldiers according to the Statutie passing beyond the Seas, begun at Christmas, 1631, and ending at Christmas, 1632. On folio 6 appeared this entry:

ix March 1632. “The names of such Men as are to be transported to New England to be resident there vppon a plantacon, have tendred and taken the oath of allegeance according to the statute, vizt. ...”

Then follow 16 names, the second of which is “Thomas Woodford” and next, “Edmond Wynsloe”.

Under date of 5 June 1632, Governor Winthrop in his History of New England made this entry:

“The William and Francis, Mr. Thomas master, with about sixty passengers, whereof Mr. Welde and old Mr. Batchelor (being aged 71) were, with their families, and many other honest men;all safe, and in health.”

From The History of New England by John Winthrop, ed. James Savage, 1853, vol. 1, pp. 92-93] cited in “Goodwin”:

“The William and Francis from London March the 9th — Mr. Winslow of Plimouth came in the ‘William and Francis’.”

Thomas Woodford settled in 1632 at Roxbury, Massachusetts, where the Rev. John Eliot, the “Apostle to the Indians,” and pastor of the church there, made these entries into the church record regarding Thomas and his wife, Mary Blott.

⁵ <http://josfamilyhistory.com/htm/nickel/griffin/sheldon/woodford/woodford.htm>

“Thomas Woodforde, a man servant, he came to N.E. in the yeare 1632 & was joyned to the church about halfe a yeare after, he afterwards maryed Mary Blott & removed to Conecticott, & joyned to the church at Hartford.”

“Mary Blott a maide servant, she came in the yeare 1632, & was after married to Steward (his title) Thomas Woodford of this church, who after removed to Conecticott to Hartford church, where she lived in christian sort.”

Donald L. Jacobus, in his 1952 book on families of the Connecticut River Valley, states that, “it appears that both Thomas and Mary came to America as apprentices in their ‘teens, though Woodford must have been nearly of age, as he was made a freeman of Massachusetts Bay at the General Court on 4 March 1634/5”.

More research is needed on the term “man servant” and “maide servant” to discover the exact meaning in the 17th century and in the context as recorded by their minister. Though it’s possible, I don’t believe that Mary Blott or Thomas Woodford were servants or apprentices, for Thomas Woodford and Mary Blott's father, Robert, were both on the same list of Freemen made at the Massachusetts General Court on March 4th, 1634/35. A freeman was a citizen entitled to vote and hold public office. Requisite to being a freeman was previous admission to the church. It seems unlikely to me that a servant or apprentice would be awarded the distinction of being a freeman.

According to the Rev. John Eliot, pastor of their church, Thomas Woodford and Mary Blott were married in Roxbury some time after their arrival from England in 1632, possibly between 1632 and 1636. Mary Blott was the daughter of Robert Blott. She was born in England, probably by 1615.

As indicated in the Roxbury records, Thomas Woodford left there and removed to Hartford, Connecticut. In 1639, there were entered on the Hartford Town Records, “the names of such Inhabitances as were Granted lotts, to haue onely at The Townes Courtesie wth liberty to fetch wood & keepe swine or coves By proportion on the common.” This is known as the Book of Distribution of Land, and lists those who settled in Hartford before February 1640. The fourth name on the list is “Thomas Woodforde”.

Our ancestor’s name is etched on a monument dedicated to the Original Proprietors, which sits in Hartford’s Ancient Burying Ground behind the "Center" Church. His name is on the south face.

All Thomas Woodford descendants are eligible to be members of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford, as well as many other honorary societies.

In the agreement made 3 Jan 1639, giving the amount that each person was to receive in the division of lands, Thomas Woodford was to receive six acres. His home-lot was on the west side of the highway, now Front Street.

Over the course of the next several years, Thomas Woodford accumulated several parcels of land. On page 185 of the first volume of Land Records of the town of Hartford, known as the "Book of Distributions", is entered a description of his lands:

"Febr: Anno dom 1639"

"Severall parcells of land in Hertford, vppon the River of Cannecticott belonging to Thom Woodford and his heires forever":

One parcel on which his dwelling house now stands with yards, or gardens, about two acres, on the high way leading from the little river to the North Meadow. This land abutted William Butler's land on the South.

One "parcell lying in the west feild contayninge by Estimacon four acres (more or lesse)", two acres of which were for a house lot on the high way.

On "the 10th off february 1639" Thomas was chosen, with one other, to "Attend the Townsmen", "in such things as they Apoint" and their "principall woork" was to do any special services required by them, such as to give notice of town-meetings, "veiw the ffences About the Comon ffeildes" and to impound all stray animals trespassing.

Under date of 3 Mar 1640, there is:

"An order Conserning Graues" [graves]

"It is ordered that Thomas woodford shall atend the making of Graues for anie Corpes Desesed" to make sure no corpse be laid less than 4 feet deep. No Corpses less than "fower year owld" shall be laid less than five "foote Deepe". None that were above ten shall be "laied les than six foote Deepe".

To continue, he shall “give notice by Ringing the bell, making the grave, and keping of it in Comlie Repaier” so that it “maye be knowne in ffewtewer time whear sutch graues haue bene mad for the leser sort tooe [2] shillings and six pence, for the midell sort 3 shillings for the bigeste sorte three shillings six pence.”

It was “further ordred yt if anie person haue lost anie thing that he desireth showld be Cried in a publick meting he shall paie for Cring of it tooe pence to thomas woodford to be paid before it be Cried and the Crier shall keep a booke of the things yt he crieth”.

A year later appears this entry:

“March 8th 1641”

“It is ordered that if ther bee any stray goodes in any man’s hands” which are not their own, they shall carry them unto Thomas Juggs on the south side, and unto Thomas Woodford on the north side, between now and April 1, or else the goods would be counted as “stoln goods in ther hands”.

In September 1644, the Commissioners of the United Colonies commended to the authorities of the several colonies, the consideration of propositions “conserneing the mayntenaunce of scollers at Cambridge”.

At a session of the General Court of Connecticut, held on 25 October 1644, it was ordered that two men should be appointed in every town within the jurisdiction, who would demand what every family would give, and the money would be gathered and brought “into some roome” in March and this would continue yearly. Thomas Woodford was one of those chosen to collect the rate assessed.

Another nine years, and the General Court of Connecticut, in May of 1653, passed this vote: “Tho: Woodford is freed from watching, during the plesure of the Courte”. I’m not sure to what this pertains, unless it is to fence viewing and watching for stray animals.

Besides lands mentioned earlier, Thomas Woodford also owned:

- Four acres on the east side of the Great River.
- Five acres in the Neck.
- Four acres at Podunk.

- Three pieces of land on the east side of the Great River recorded to him on 2 Mar 1655.
- Seven acres of upland bounding west on the side of the Pines, given to him by the town at some earlier time, but was never recorded on town books until 19 Oct 1655. On this date he made a quick recording, as now he wanted to dispose of his properties preparatory to removing to Northampton, Massachusetts.

And indeed the land records do show that on the 18th and 19th of October, 1655, several parcels of his lands were recorded to various persons as having been bought from Thomas Woodford:

- 18 October 1655: To John Bidwell, 15 acres of lands on the east side of the Great River.
- 19 October 1655: To Nathaniel Ruscoe, the house and home-lot of two acres on Front Street, 5 acres of upland adjoining the Cow-pasture, and 7 acres of land bounding west on the Pines.

Settlement of Northampton, Massachusetts, began in 1653 (including our ancestors William Miller and Patience Bacon). Some time between October 1655 and April 1656, Thomas Woodford moved his wife and children to Northampton.

Trumbull's History of Northampton prints a copy of a petition to the General Court of Massachusetts, dated "Norwottuck alius Northampton Aprill 10, 56" and signed by "William Jeanes William Hurlburt Thomas Woodford"

The document states that, in conformity to a petition of the Northampton inhabitants made the previous year, three men had been given judicial authority for that town. Thomas Woodford was one of the three. This petition of 1656 requests that the three men be continued for another year, asks for the appointment of a Constable, and refers to important matters of the new settlement. It shows that Woodford had become a resident of the town by April of 1656, and was active in public affairs.

At the annual meeting held 8 February 1657/58, he was elected one of the Townsmen.

About a year later, in January of 1658, about 37 of the inhabitants agreed to part with some of their lands with a view toward attracting desirable people to settle in Northampton. One Mr. Mather was chosen to have responsibility for disposing of the said lands to such people as he should "judg behouffull and needful for the

well beeing of the Toune of Northampton". Thirty-seven names follow this document, one of which with the amount of land so given by him was "Tho: Woodford 6 Akers".

Folio 94 of the same volume shows the following:

"The Record of Thomas Woodford his land taken the 8th of first Moneth 59: (60) giuen to him by the towne of Northampton to have And to hould to him and to his heirs and Assignes for euer.

"Impr. his homelott granted to him by the Towne of Northampton which is thus bounded butting vpon the hyway Westrly and vpon the brooke Eastly the flankes bordring against Walter Lee Southrly and Isaac Sheldon Northerly Containeing in estimation two Akers bee it more or less".

The Northampton Church was organized 18 June 1661. A Covenant was adopted the same day and the organizing members signed it. Thomas Woodford's name was third on the list. Mary's name does not appear among the members of this Church.

The date of Mary's death, the place, and her burial site are lost to us, but it is believed that she died before 1662, and prior to Thomas's removal to Northampton. She was certainly not living when her father, Robert Blott, made his will in 1662 as he left money to Mary's children but not to her. Thomas, also, made no provision for Mary in his will in 1665. We can assume only that she died at Northampton, at Hartford, or somewhere in between.

On December 8th, 1663, a committee was appointed "to view the way between Thomas Woodford & Isack Shelden & satisfy Thomas Woodford what is meet." There may have been a question on the property line and this would solve the dispute. In more modern times, Thomas Woodford's land would be located on the east side of the present King Street extending east to Market Street, and next south of Summer Street.

In addition, Woodford owned:

- 2 acres on the west side of King Street
- 5 acres in Great Rainbow, alias Old Rainbow
- 10 acres in the Third Square
- 6-1/4 acres in the Last Division
- 1 acre in the Great Swamp

- 10 acres at Munhan besides other lands.

I find it interesting that I always have thought of William Miller and Patience Bacon as belonging to the group of the earliest settlers of Northampton, Massachusetts. Now I will have to add Thomas Woodford and his wife Mary Blott to this select group.

Thomas Woodford dated his will 26 April 1665. The preamble suggests that he had been ailing for some time.

As infirmity began to take hold, the very civic minded, Thomas Woodford, petitioned the Court on March 27th, 1666, and was granted, his request:

“Thomas Woodford of North H: upon his petition to this Corte was freed from Trayning by reason of his age & weakness.”

He died less than a year later at Northampton, Mass., recorded on March 6, 1667.

Twenty days later Thomas’s family presented to the County Court his will, together with an inventory of his estate, which were entered on the records.

THOMAS WOODFORD'S WILL

“Aprill 26th 1665”

“I Thomas Woodford now liveing by the providence of God in Northampton for sundry cosiderations, being weake in body but yet in good & perfect memory, not knowing but that my death may come suddenly & I haveing had diverse expiencs of it & dayly expecting when it shalbe desireing the Lord to fitt mee for himself & for death when ever it come that I may wth joy & comfort resigne up my Soule into the hands of God my Creator & the Lord Jesus Christ my Redeemer & the holy Ghost my Sanctifyer & comforter to have full comunion wth them in another & better world when this life shalbe noe more: I doe make this my Last will & testamt in manner & forme following, that is to Say —

“After my debts being paid & my funerall expences discharged by mine Executor whom I shall name after, I will yt what soever estate I have eyther given mee by the Town or bought with my money, whether it be house or homelott or the Addition belonging thereto or whatsoever meddow grownd I have besides what I have Sold eyther what I have already in possession or have wright to by gift from ye Towne, as also what So ever estate I have besides in cattle or swine or

household Stuffe, I will yt after my desease it be given to my three daughters, that is to say I give to my daughter Mary & to her children my Eight acre lott next my Son Sheldens lott: I give also to my Daughter Mary my great kettle, only that her two Sisters Hannah & Sarah shall have the use of it till they cann provide one for themselues: I give also to my daughter MARY my Cubbard & my biggest pewter platter & my bedsted whereon I used to lye wth my bolster & one pillow & a paire of sheetes:"

I give also to my Daughter Hannah & to her children half my lott in rayn bow, & half that I have in Munhan & one acre & a rood in ye great Swampe: & also I give to my Daughter Hannah my feather bed I used to lye on & a trundle bedstead & one paire of sheets & one pillow & one pewter platter & my meale trough & my great Chest:

And I give to my Daughter Sara & to her children if shee live to have any children liveing after herself I say I give to her half my lott in rayne & half yt I have in Munhan: I give also to my Daughter Sarah my little chest & box & iron pot wth ye rest of ye small houshold Stuffe:

And for my house & barne & orchard & homelott wth ye addition over the brooke & the allowance for yt in Munhan wch joyne to it I will it be prized according to ye worth of it & that it be devided equally between my three Daughters, but in case my Daughter Sarah should be taken away by Death & have noe children liveing after her that then I will yt what I gave to her be given to her two Sisters Mary & Hannah equally:

I will also yt my Son Isaak Shelden be my Executr & that mr Williams & Henry Cunliffe be my Overseers & witnesses to see this my will fulfilled:

I give also to my Daughter Hannah my new bible: & my other bookes as mr Buttons & Doctor Prestons wth ye rest & mr Bifeilds I give them equally amongst my three Daughters, desireing the Lord that he would give them a heart to make a good use of them:

And that this is also my will I have sett to my hand:

Thomas Woodford

And in case my Son in Law Nehemiah allin doe build anything for his own conveniency of his own charge upon my house lott before my decease I will yt he

shalbe paid to ye worth of it, if he doe not live there himself; That this also is my will witness my hand & seale.

Thomas Woodford:

Witnesses to this Arthur Williams / Henry Cunliffe

An inventory of Thomas's estate was produced, which I do not yet have but will put on the site in the future. The footing of the inventory shows the estate to have been worth £197-19-06, of which £119 were in real estate. Among the items of personal estate were: "A muskett Sword bandaliers belt powder bullets match," all worth £01-10-00.