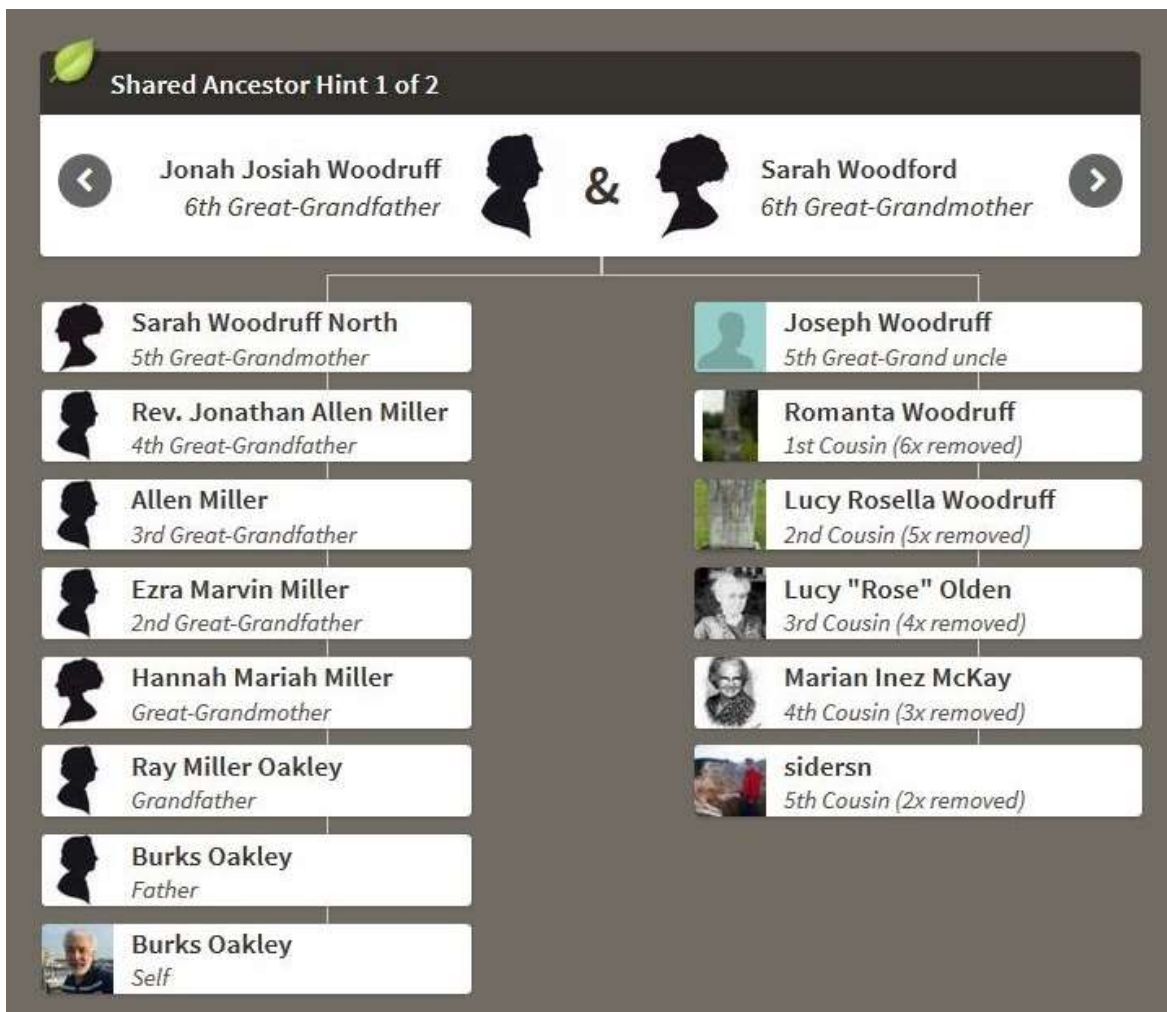


Chapter 36

DNA Triangulation on our *Woodruff-Woodford* Ancestors

In Chapter 29, I discussed our Woodruff-Woodford ancestors, including Jonah Josiah Woodruff (1706-1789) and his wife Sarah Woodford (1714-1790). For several years, I have known that I have a DNA match with Nancy Cluff Siders, and that we both are descended from this couple. Since we have a DNA match and a common pair of ancestors, the Ancestry.com website produced the following Shared Ancestor Hint:



Recall that Nancy Cluff Siders has the Spencer-Whitbread segment on Chromosome 8 (as discussed in Chapter 15), and we both are descended from Gerard Spencer (1576-1646) and his wife Alice Whitbread (1578-1628).

So is Ancestry.com mistaken? Does our DNA match really come from the Woodruff-Woodford couple, or is it from the Spencer-Whitbread couple?

In examining my DNA match with Nancy, I found that we actually have two DNA matches – one on Chromosome 2 and the other on Chromosome 8:

Comparing Kit A122463 (Burks Oakley II) and M852917 (Nancy Cluff Siders)			
Chr.	Start location	End Location	centiMorgans (cM)
2	174,958,535	207,582,617	25.2
8	41,002,734	58,877,561	10.8
Estimated number of generations to MRCA = 4.2			

I know that the matching segment on Chromosome 8 is from the Spencer-Whitbread couple. So could it be that the matching segment on Chromosome 2 comes from the Woodruff-Woodford couple?

In order to keep the reader in suspense for a little while longer, let me digress and show that my daughter Amy also has the segment matching Nancy on Chromosome 2:

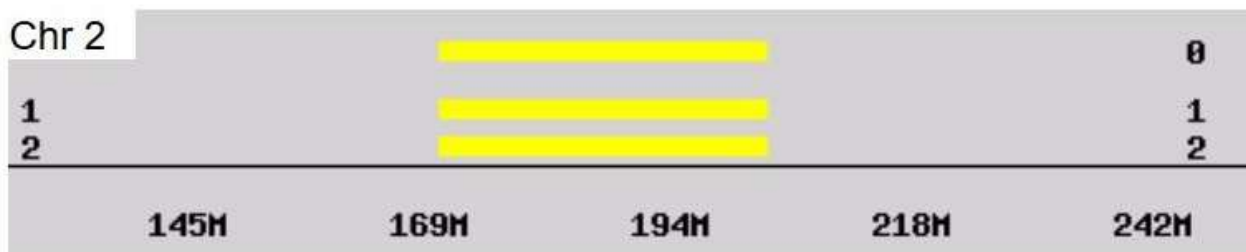
Comparing Kit A059368 (*Amy.Oakley) and M852917 (Nancy Cluff Siders)			
Chr.	Start location	End Location	centiMorgans (cM)
2	174,631,799	207,582,617	25.6
Estimated number of generations to MRCA = 4.6			

And for completeness, I would like to show that Nancy's daughter Colleen also has this segment matching me on Chromosome 2, as well as the Spencer-Whitbread segment on Chromosome 8:

Comparing Kit A122463 (Burks Oakley II) and M576701 (*Colleen U5b2b)			
Chr.	Start location	End Location	centiMorgans (cM)
2	174,754,040	207,598,380	25.5
8	40,481,325	59,266,655	11.9
Estimated number of generations to MRCA = 4.3			

Interestingly, Nancy’s other daughter, Missy, only has the matching segment on Chromosome 8.

Here is a figure showing how Nancy and her daughter Colleen match me on Chromosome 2:



Row 0-Burks, 1-Nancy, and 2-Colleen

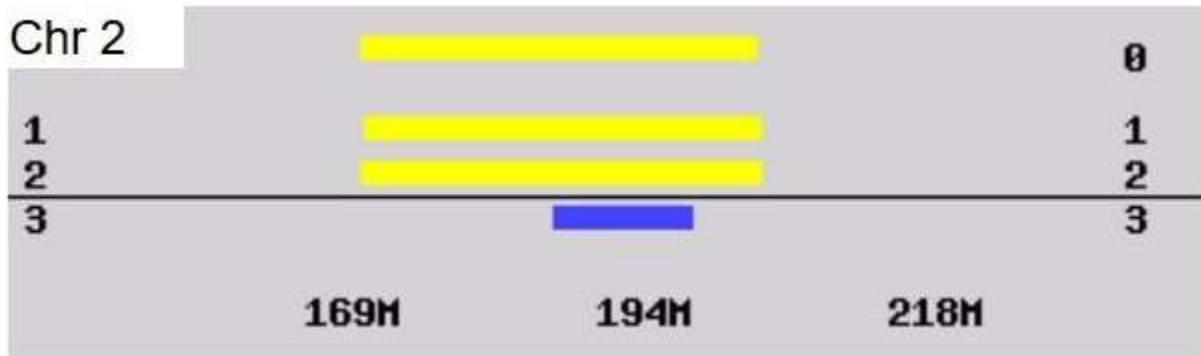
It turns out that several other people match Burks and Nancy (and Amy and Colleen) on Chromosome 2. One of these people is J. Anthony Norris (1944-), who goes by the nickname of “Tony”. The following table has details of the DNA match on Chromosome 2 between Tony and me:

Comparing Kit A122463 (Burks Oakley II) and M120224 (Tony Norris)			
Chr.	Start location	End Location	centiMorgans (cM)
2	190,688,996	204,801,842	10.7
Estimated number of generations to MRCA = 5.2			

And the next table has the details of the match between Nancy and Tony:

Comparing Kit M852917 (Nancy Cluff Siders) and M120224 (Tony Norris)			
Chr.	Start location	End Location	centiMorgans (cM)
2	190,688,996	204,784,347	10.7
Estimated number of generations to MRCA = 5.2			

Here is a figure showing how Amy, Tony, and I match Colleen on Chromosome 2:



Row 0-Colleen, 1-Burks, 2-Amy, and 3-Tony

While the size of Tony's matching segment is smaller than the others, at 10.7 cM it is still significant.

So the \$64,000 question is – is Tony also descended from the Woodruff-Woodford couple?

Scroll down

Keep scrolling

You're almost there

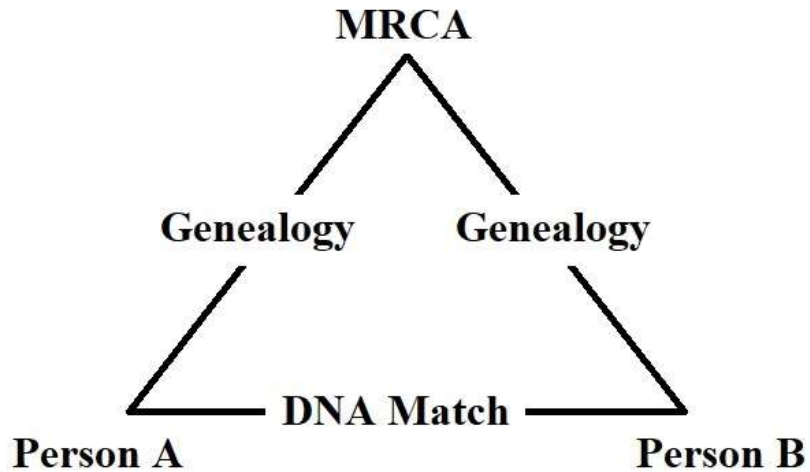
Yes!!! Tony has his DNA profile on the Ancestry.com website, and the software on this site generated the following Shared Ancestor Hint:



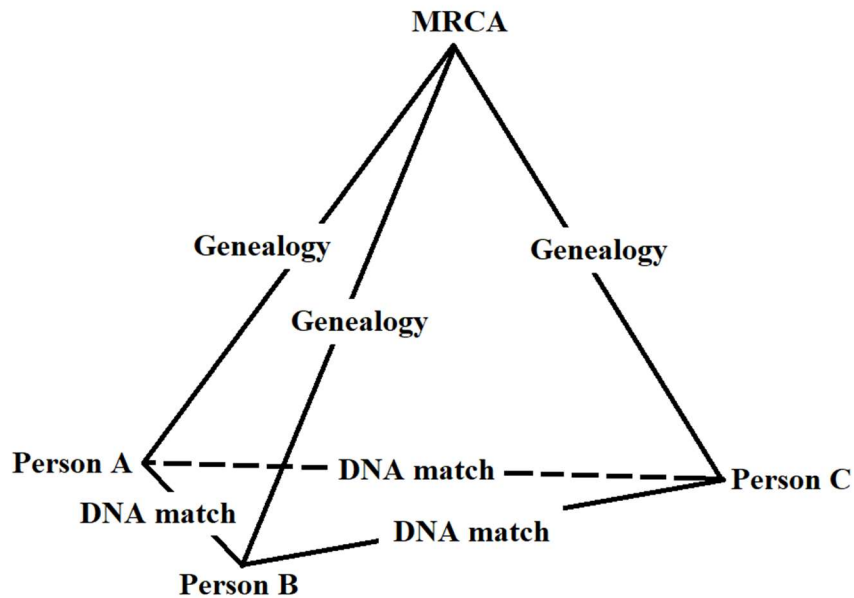
Tony is descended from Jonah Josiah Woodruff (1706-1789) and his wife Sarah Woodford (1714-1790) through their son Josiah Woodruff (1743-1810), while I am descended from this couple through their daughter Sarah Woodruff North (1734-1811).¹

Recall the term “triangulation”, which is shown graphically in the following diagram:

¹ Her maiden name was Woodruff, and she first was married to a Mr. North before marrying Jonathan Allen Miller.

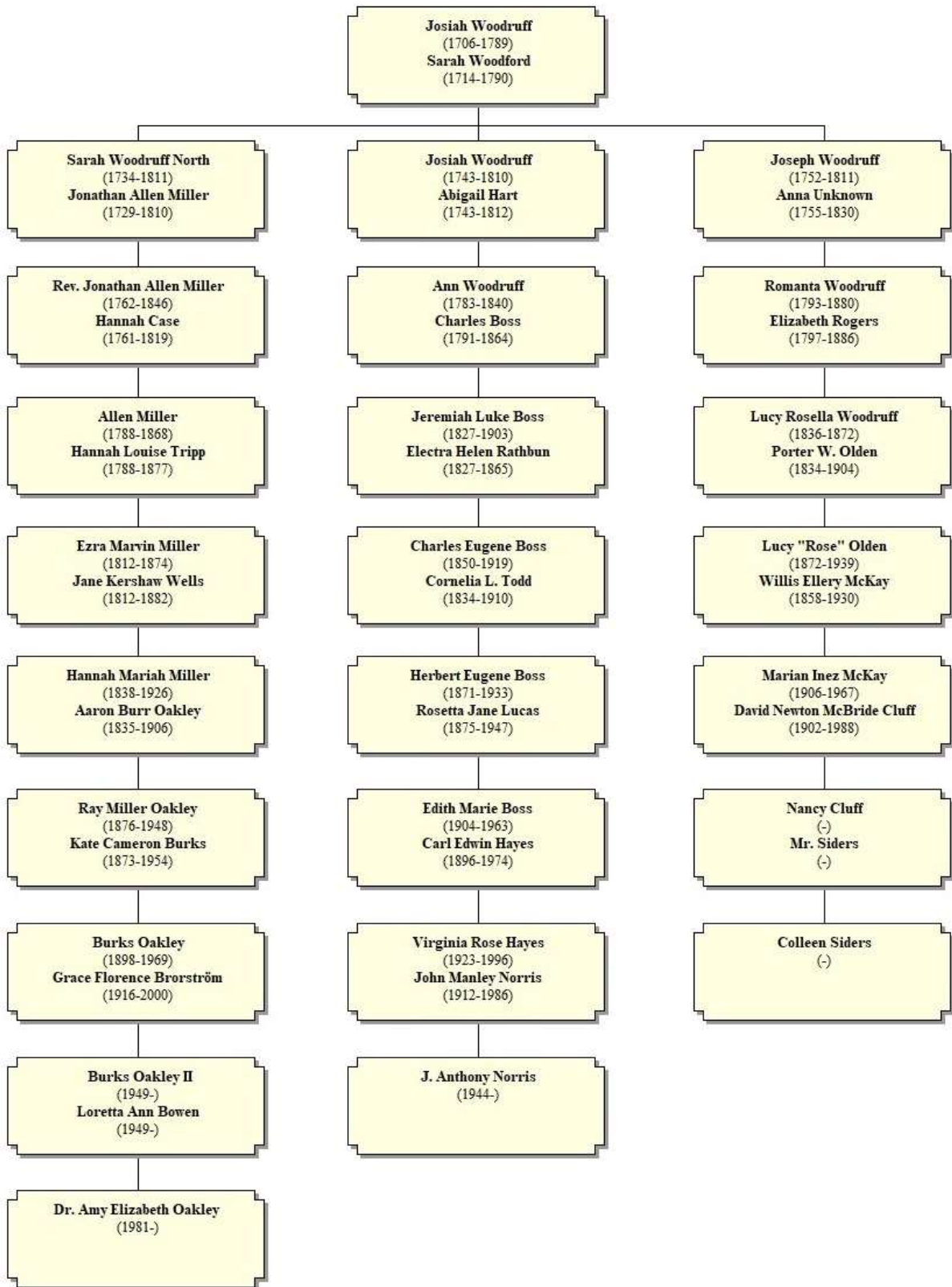


In genetic genealogy, Person A has a DNA match with Person B, and they both have genealogical records that go back to the same Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA). But what you really need is Person C, who shares the DNA match and the MRCA.



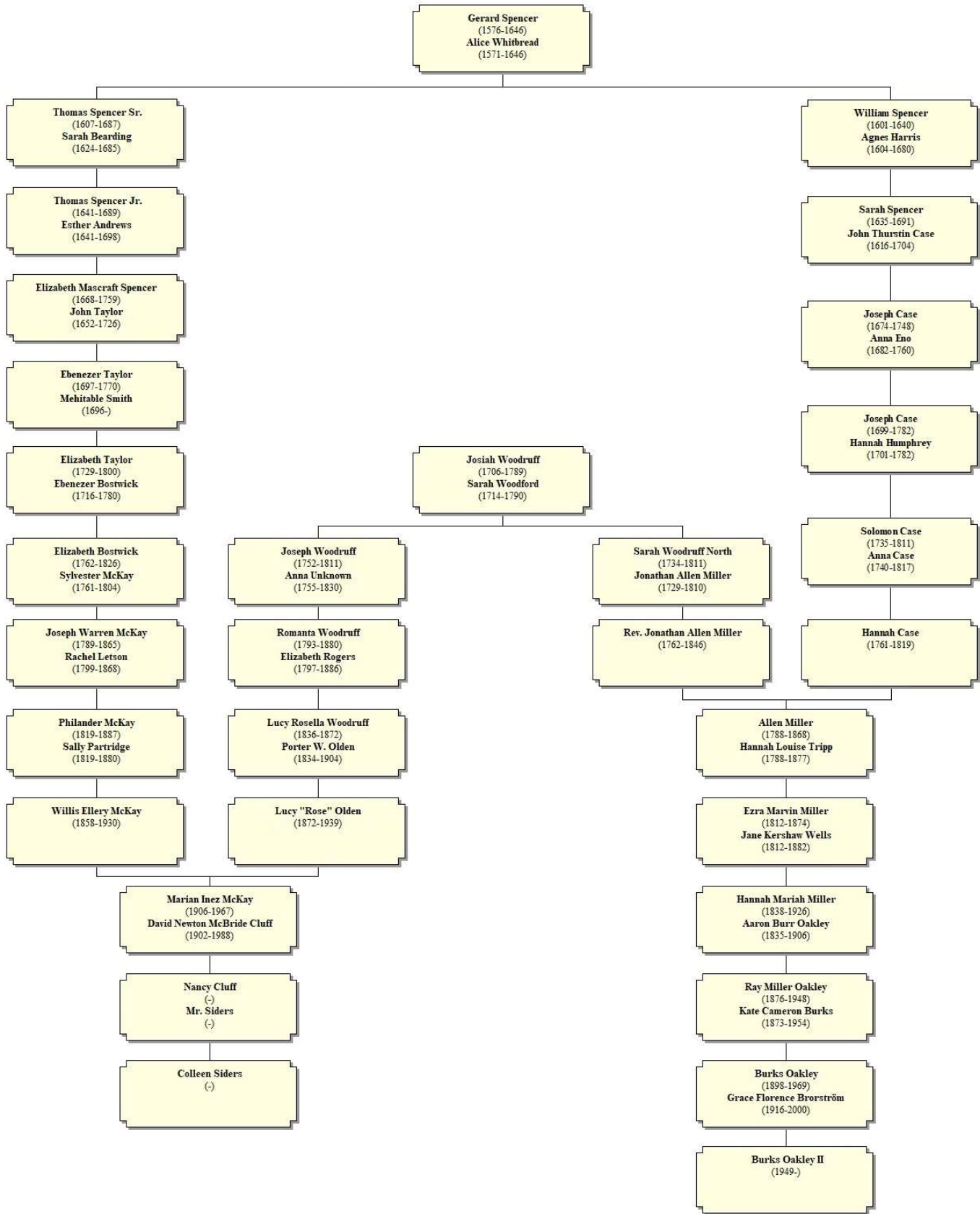
And this is what we now have, with Nancy, Tony, and me!

The following chart shows the three family lines going back to Jonah Josiah Woodruff (1706-1789) and his wife Sarah Woodford (1714-1790):



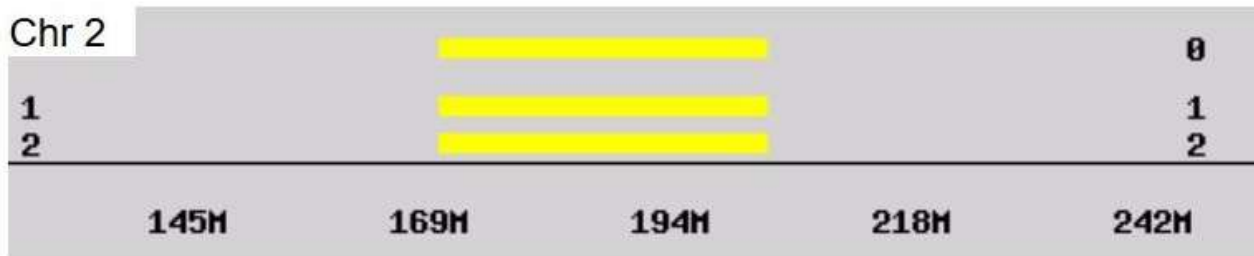
Most significantly, Nancy, Colleen, Tony, Amy, and I all share the same DNA segment on Chromosome 2.

Finally, I would like to come back to the fact that Nancy and I have two separate DNA matches – one on Chromosome 2, the other on Chromosome 8. In Chapter 15, I documented that our match on Chromosome 8 goes back to Gerard Spencer (1576-1646) and his wife Alice Whitbread (1578-1628). And now, I have documented that our match on Chromosome 2 goes back to Jonah Josiah Woodruff (1706-1789) and his wife Sarah Woodford (1714-1790). So Nancy and I have two separate sets of ancestors, as shown in the following chart:

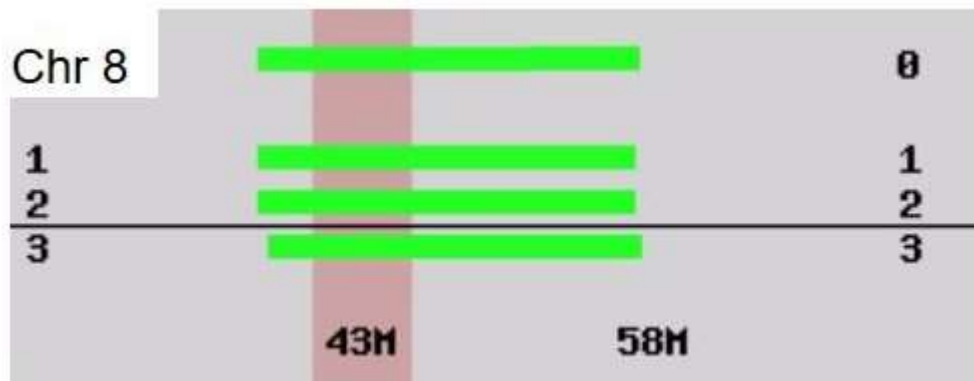


Nancy (and Colleen) and I have a Woodruff-Woodford DNA match on Chromosome 2 and a Spencer-Whitbread match on Chromosome 8. I find it really amazing that both these segments have been passed down for so many generations.

Here are figures showing the two matches:



Row 0-Burks, 1-Nancy, and 2-Colleen



Row 0-Burks, 1-Colleen, 2-Missy, and 3-Nancy