Chapter 37

My DNA Matches with Quincy Oakleys

[updated 23 February 2019]

Introduction

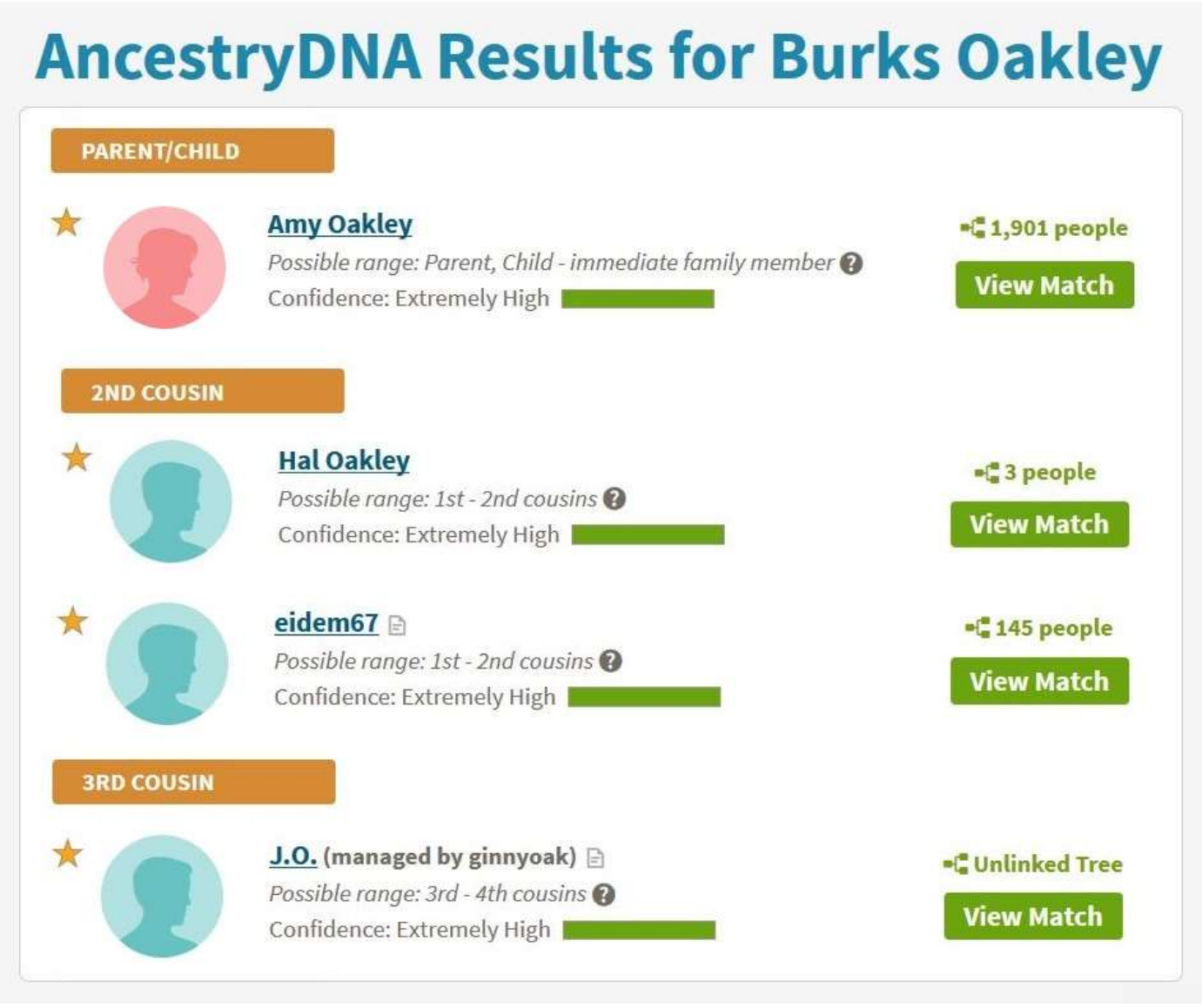
I am very interested in genetic genealogy – that is, using DNA analysis to confirm and to extend my family tree. I have my DNA profile on the Ancestry.com website, and I regularly go to this website to examine my new DNA matches – this site now has DNA profiles from over ten million individuals, with many new profiles being added daily. I currently have DNA matches with over 1000 individuals who are likely to be my fourth-cousins or closer (based on the sizes of the DNA matches that I have with them):

My father's parents, Ray Miller Oakley (1876-1948) and his wife Kate Cameron Burks (1873-1954), were the first generation of the Oakley family to settle in Quincy, Illinois, and to raise their children there. Multiple generations of the descendants of Ray and Kate have their roots in Quincy, and while descendants of

this couple now live literally from coast-to-coast, I refer to the extended group of Oakley descendants as the "Quincy Oakleys". In this chapter, I will document my DNA matches with the Quincy Oakleys who have submitted their DNA to Ancestry.com.

DNA Matches with Quincy Oakleys

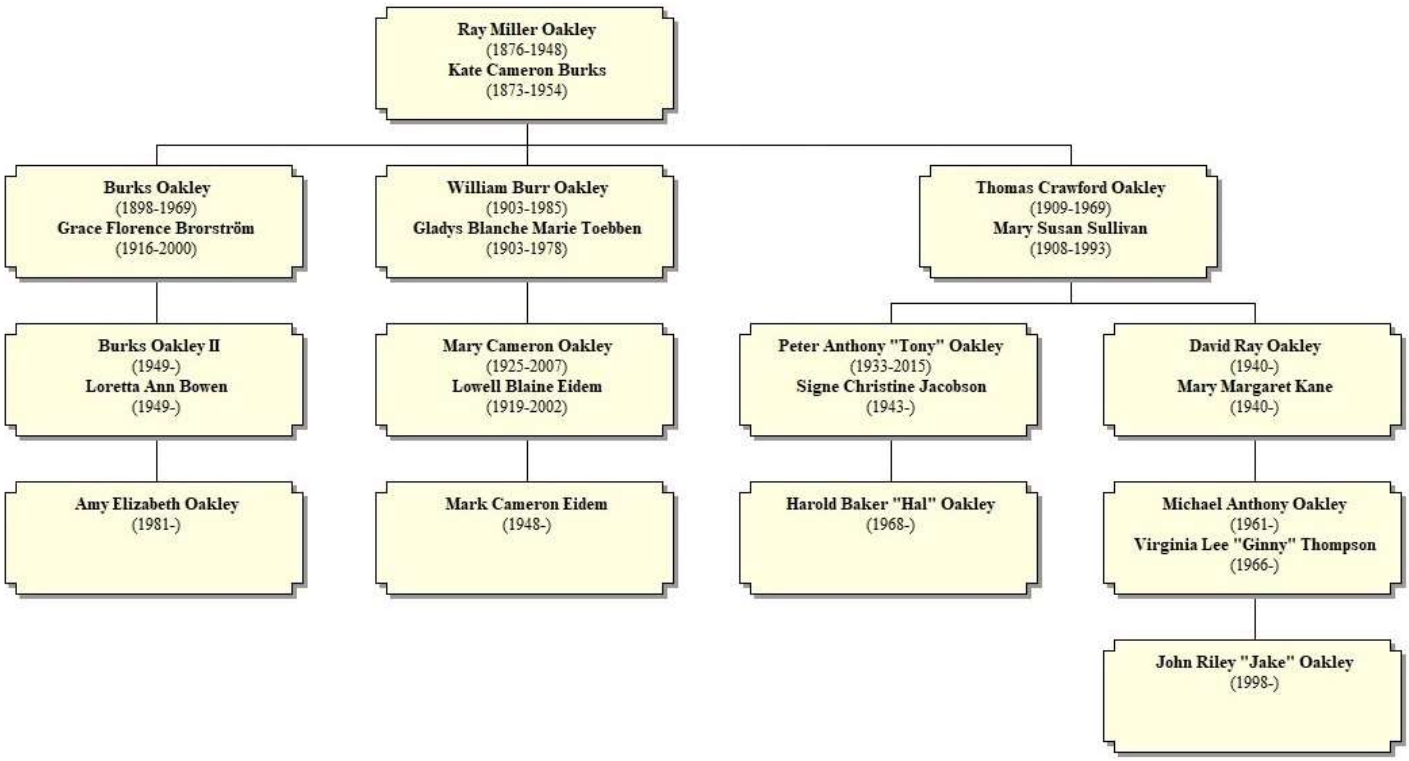
I am aware of just four Quincy Oakleys (besides myself) who have had their DNA tested on Ancestry.com. They are shown in the following screenshot:



These DNA matches are listed in order of size, from largest to smallest. My largest DNA match is with my younger daughter, Amy Oakley. At the level estimated to be a

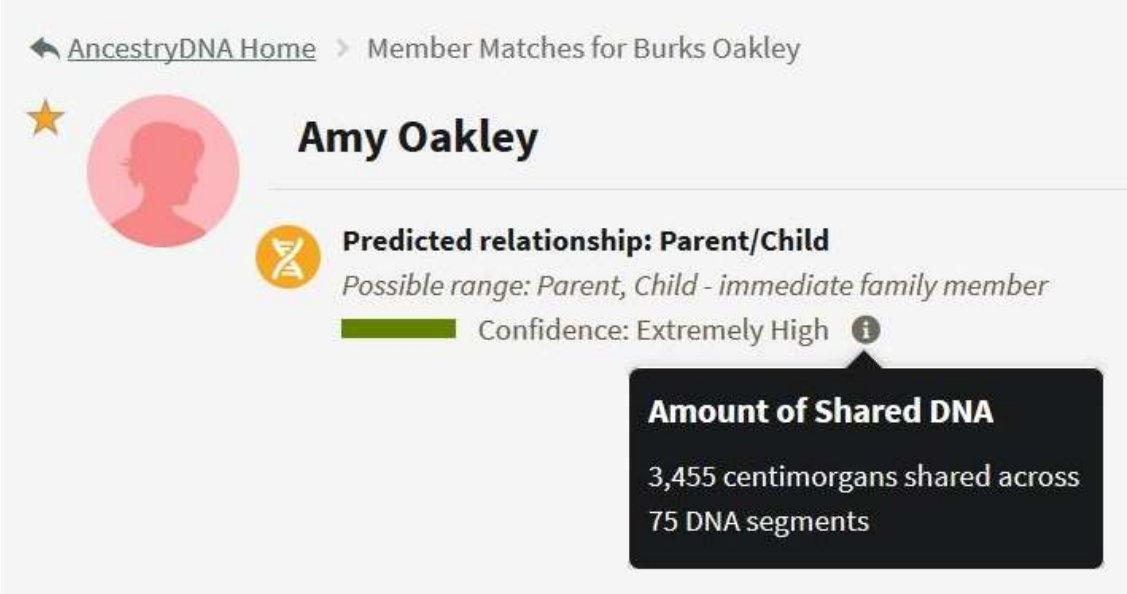
second-cousin, I have DNA matches with Hal Oakley and Mark Eidem (***eidem67***). Finally, at the level estimated to be a third-cousin, I have a DNA match with John R. "Jake" Oakley (***J.O.***). Note that Ancestry.com estimates that Hal and Mark are related to me as second-cousins, and these estimates are based on the size of our DNA matches. So while Ancestry.com estimates that Hal and Mark are my second-cousins, it predicts that we could be anywhere from first- to second-cousins. The same holds true for the estimated relationship I have with Jake – Ancestry.com predicts that we are third-cousins, but provides a range of third- to fourth-cousins. In fact, for my match with Jake, the site states "Our analysis of your DNA predicts that this person you match with is probably your third cousin. The exact relationship however could vary. It could be a second cousin once removed, or perhaps a fourth cousin."

Actually, Mark is the son of my first-cousin Mary Cameron Oakley Eidem (1925-2007), so he is my first-cousin once-removed. Hal is the son of my first-cousin Peter Anthony "Tony" Oakley (1933-2015), so he also is my first-cousin once-removed. Jake is a grandson of my first-cousin David Ray Oakley (1940-), making him my first-cousin twice-removed. These relationships are shown in the following chart:



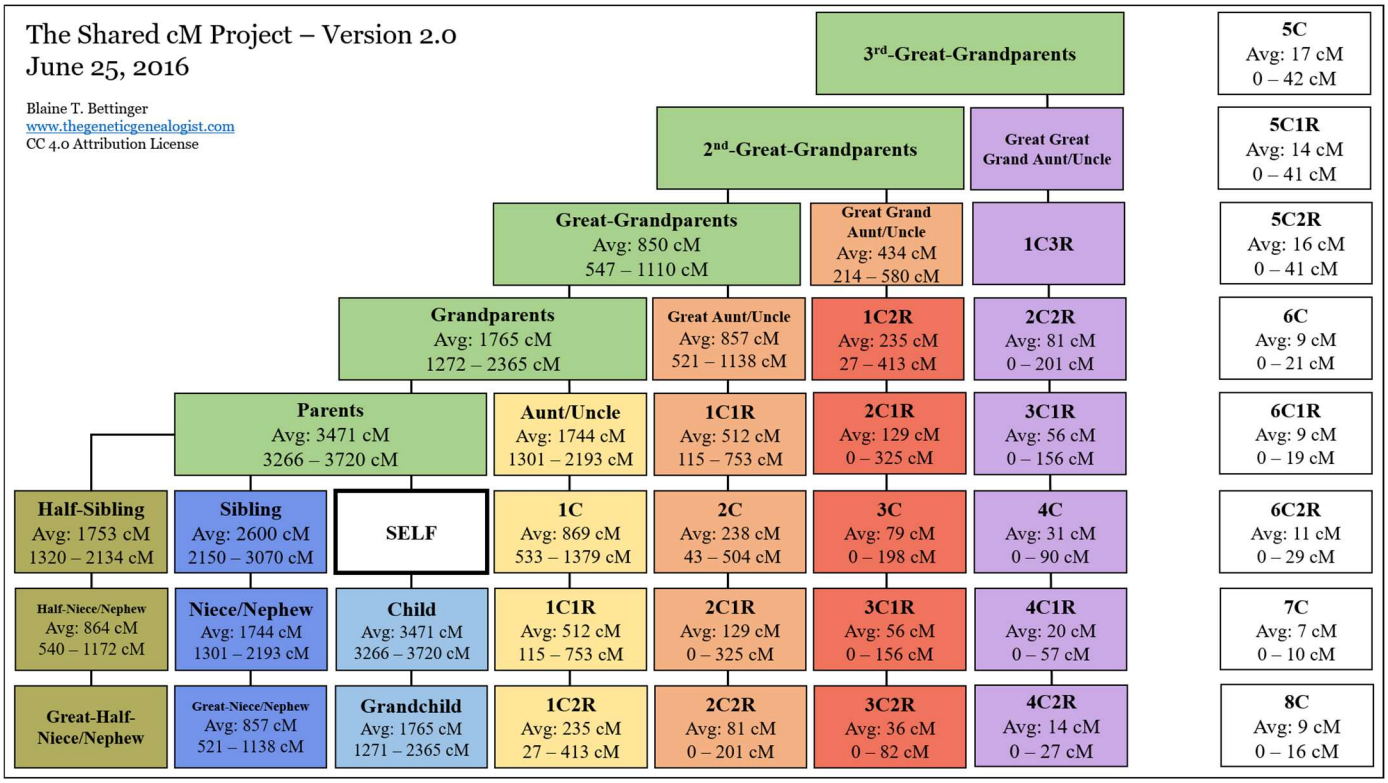
Details of my DNA Matches with the Quincy Oakleys

In the following section, I will present some details about my DNA matches with the Quincy Oakleys. Recall that my largest DNA match is with my daughter Amy Oakley, as shown in the following screenshot:



Amy and I share 3,455 centiMorgans of DNA across 75 DNA segments. As I have mentioned elsewhere, a centiMorgan (abbreviated cM) is a measure of the length of a matching segment of DNA. Very roughly, one centiMorgan corresponds to one-million base pairs.

In 2016, the noted genetic genealogist Blaine T. Bettinger published the results of a study in which he looked at the amount of DNA shared between two people having known relationships. These results are summarized in the following chart:

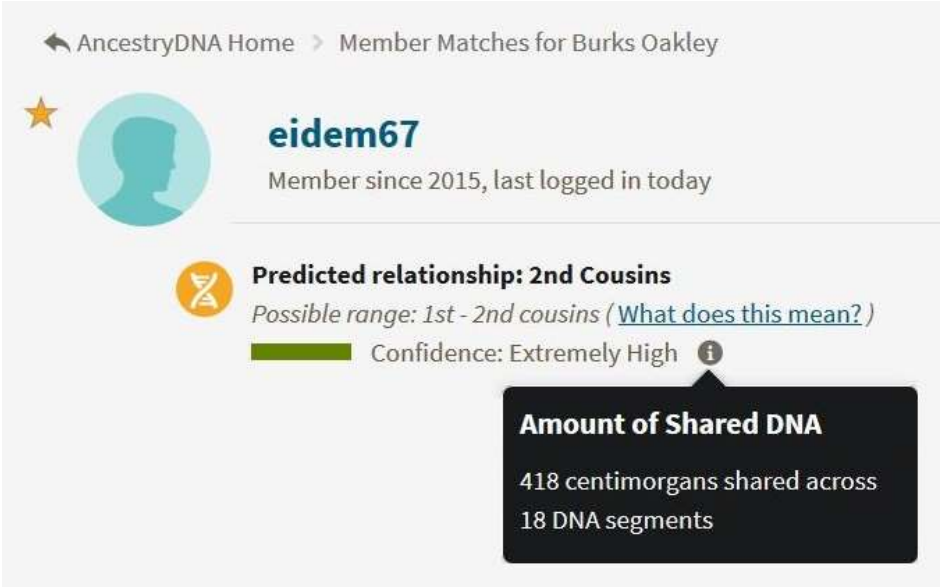


Based on the results shown in this chart, a parent and child on average share 3,471 cM of shared DNA, with a range of 3,266 to 3,720 cM. My DNA match with Amy (3,455 cM) is amazingly close to the average expected for our father-daughter relationship.

I next looked at my DNA match with Hal – and here is what I found:

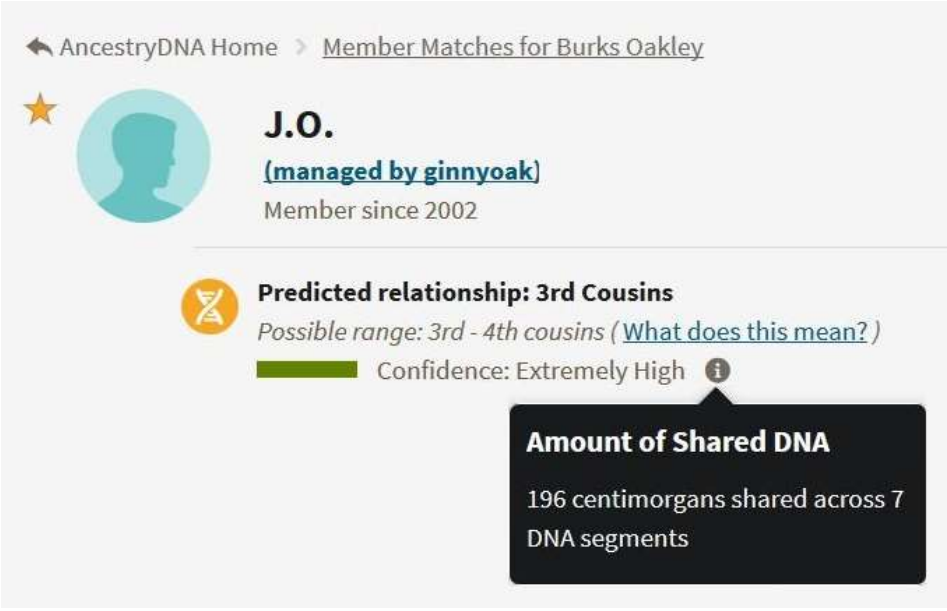
Hal and I share 418 cM across 21 DNA segments. The 2016 Bettinger study found that first-cousins once-removed (1C1R) average 512 cM of shared DNA, with a range of 115 to 753 cM. So my DNA match with Hal (418 cM) is slightly below average in size, but well within the observed range.

My DNA match with Mark Eidem (***eidem67***) is shown in the following screenshot:



Interestingly, Mark and I share 418 cM of DNA, exactly the size of my match with Hal.

The next DNA match I examined is with Jake:



Jake and I share 196 cM across 7 DNA segments. First-cousins twice-removed (1C2R) average 236 cM of shared DNA, with a range of 27 to 413 cM. So my DNA match with Jake is slightly lower than average, but not by much.

Just for fun, I looked at Amy's DNA match with Hal, as shown in the following screenshot.

Amy and Hal share 110 cM across 6 DNA segments. They are second-cousins (2C), and the 2016 Bettinger study found that 2C average 238 cM, with a range of 43 to 504 cM. Again, the size of the DNA match between Amy and Hal is somewhat below average, but well within the observed range.

As an aside, it is interesting to see that Hal and I share 418 cM of DNA, but just a generation later, Hal and Amy only share 110 cM. To me, this illustrates just how quickly DNA gets "diluted", since a child receives one-half of his/her DNA from each parent.

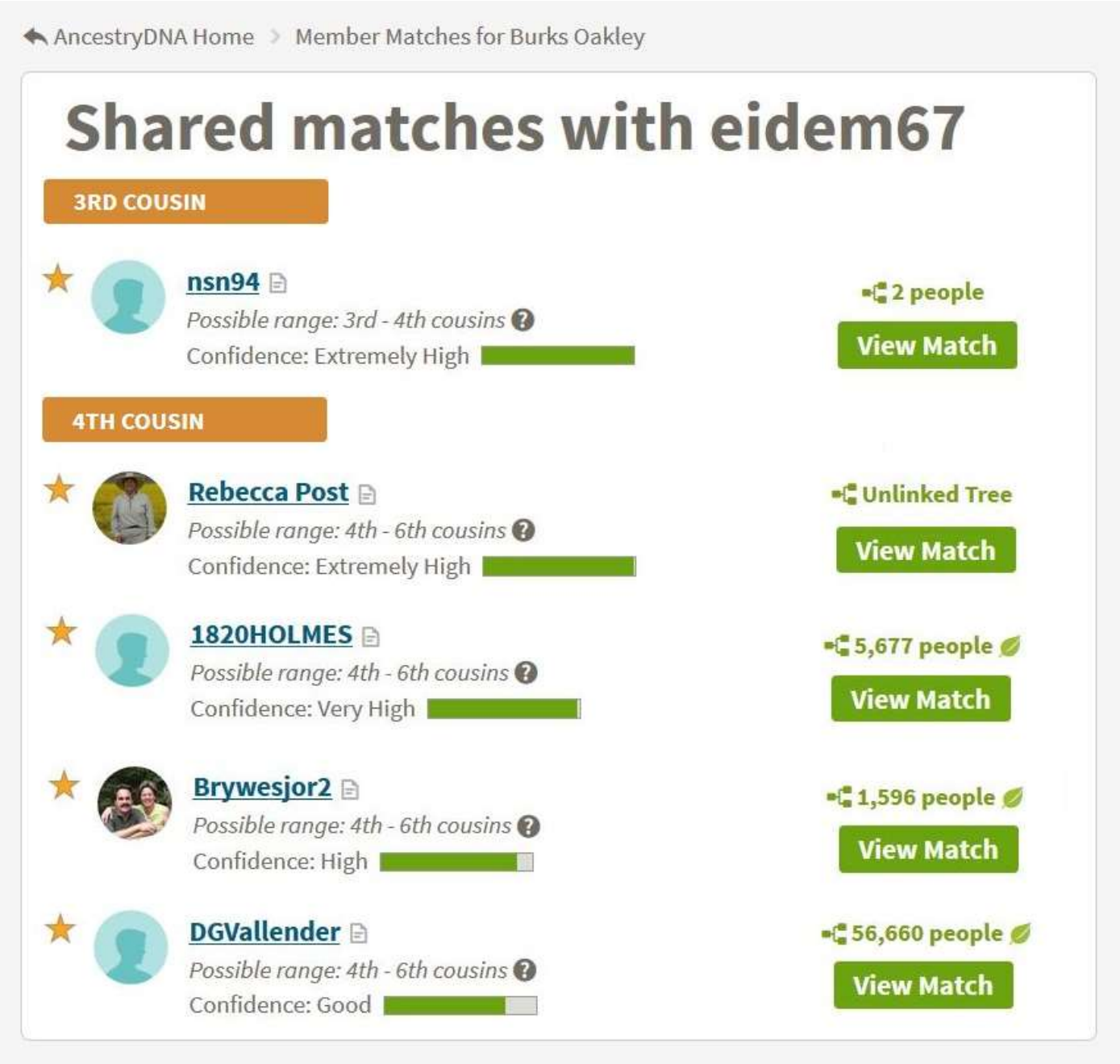
Finally, I looked at Amy's match with Jake, since they are the most distant relatives among the Quincy Oakleys who have had their DNA tested on Ancestry.com – they are second-cousins once-removed (2C1R).

Amy and Jake share 71 cM across 7 DNA segments. The 2016 Bettinger study found that 2C1R average 129 cM of shared DNA, with a range of 0 to 325 cM. So Amy's match with Jake is somewhat smaller than average, but well within the observed range.

Shared DNA Matches with my Quincy Oakley Cousins

To take up some additional space in this chapter, I will briefly touch on one other feature of the Ancestry.com website, and that is Shared DNA Matches. The list of "Shared Matches" shows DNA matches that an individual and one of their DNA matches have in common. If persons A and B have a DNA match, and if they both match person C, it is likely that all three of these individuals share a common ancestor.

The following screenshot shows my Shared DNA Matches with Mark Eidem (***eidem67***):



Examining these "Shared Matches" is often helpful in establishing how I am related to others in the Ancestry.com database. In the example shown above for the DNA matches that I share with Mark, I know my relationship with each of these individuals.

nsn94 is a man with the last name of Severn. He is a grandson of Lola Lisle Burks (1867-1942), and therefore a great-grandson of James Alfred Burks (1831-1900) and Mary Jane Cameron Crawford (1837-1902). He is my second-cousin.

Rebecca Post is a great-granddaughter of Lola Lisle Burks (1867-1942), and therefore a great-great-granddaughter of James Alfred Burks (1831-1900) and Mary Jane Cameron Crawford (1837-1902). She is my second-cousin once-removed.

1820HOLMES is a man named Dave Darling, and he is descended from Samuel Darling (1754-1807) and his wife Lucy Lyon (1760-). This couple's daughter, Lucy Ann Eunice Darling (1804-1884), married Amzi Oakley, and they were my second-great grandparents. Dave and I are fourth-cousins.

brywesjor2 is a man named Dick Wolfe. He and I both are descended from our sixth-great grandparents, Joseph Mosher and Lydia Taber. Lydia is an important ancestor of the "Quincy Oakleys", since she was a granddaughter and great-granddaughter of three Pilgrims who came to America on the *Mayflower* in 1620 and thus she is one of our family's links in our path back to the *Mayflower*.

DGVallender is a man named David G. Vallender. We both are descended from my second-great grandparents Ezra Marvin Miller (1812-1874) and his wife Jane Kershaw Wells (1812-1882). David is my third-cousin twice-removed.

These five individuals are just a sample of the DNA matches that Mark and I have in common. I find it amazing that Mark and I share DNA matches with so many of our distant cousins from so many different branches of our family tree.

Summary

In this short chapter, I have presented some of the details about my DNA matches with the four Quincy Oakleys who have had their DNA tested on the Ancestry.com website. These individuals are Amy Oakley, Hal Oakley, Mark Eidem, and John Riley "Jake" Oakley.

My DNA matches with each of these individuals are well within the ranges found in the 2016 Bettinger study, and these matches provide strong support for our family tree.

I'll conclude this chapter with the observation that I'm actually surprised that so few of the Quincy Oakleys have submitted their DNA to Ancestry.com. It would sure be nice to see additional family members here soon.