

Chapter 39

My DNA Match with Brett M. Struck – An Oakley Relative

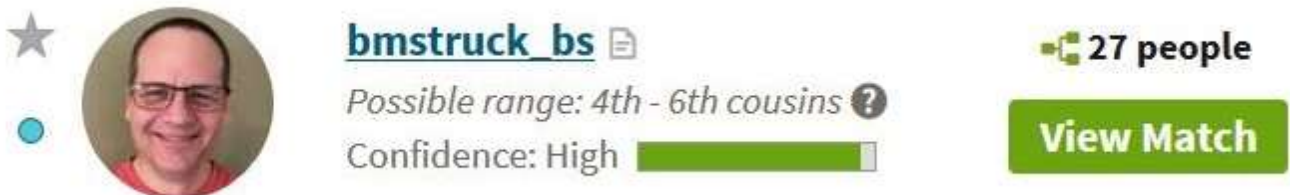
[Updated 17 October 2018]

Introduction

One of my interests is genetic genealogy. For a number of years now, I have been using DNA analysis on the Ancestry.com website to expand and confirm my family tree. Several times each week, I look at my top DNA matches on Ancestry.com to see if new matches have been added. Some days I get lucky, and Saturday, 22 September 2018, was one of those days. This short narrative describes what I learned that day.

*My DNA match with **bmstruck_bs***


The DNA matches on the Ancestry.com website are listed in order of decreasing size (from largest to smallest). When I looked at my DNA matches on 22 September 2018, I found that I had a new DNA match appearing in #63 place (that is, it was my 63rd largest match at the time). This DNA match was with a man having the username of **bmstruck_bs**. As an aside, I can readily spot new matches on the Ancestry.com website that I have not previously seen because they are indicated with a blue dot:






The screenshot shows a DNA match profile for the user **bmstruck_bs**. On the left, there is a grey star icon and a small blue dot. Next to it is a circular profile picture of a man with glasses. To the right of the profile picture, the username **bmstruck_bs** is displayed in blue, followed by a document icon. Below the username, the text "Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins" is shown with a question mark icon. Underneath that, it says "Confidence: High" followed by a green progress bar that is nearly full. To the right of the profile information, there is a green icon of a group of people and the text "27 people". At the bottom right, there is a green button with the text "View Match".

I looked at my DNA match with **bmstruck_bs** in more detail:

← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Burks Oakley

★  **bmstruck_bs**
Member since 2018

 **Predicted relationship: 4th Cousins**
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins ([What does this mean?](#))

 Confidence: High 

Amount of Shared DNA

42 centimorgans shared across 3 DNA segments

I learned that we share 42 cM on three DNA segments [recall that a centiMorgan, abbreviated cM, is a measure of the size of a DNA match; one cM is approximately one-million base pairs in length]. Based on the size of this match, Ancestry.com suggested that we could be anywhere from 4th to 6th-cousins.




I next looked at our Shared DNA Matches – that is, the people in the Ancestry.com database who we both match. These people are highly likely to have an ancestor in common with **bmstruck_bs** and me.

← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Burks Oakley




[Pedigree and Surnames](#) | [Shared Matches](#) | [Map and Locations](#)

Shared matches with bmstruck_bs






PARENT/CHILD

★  **Amy Oakley** - 1,901 people
Possible range: Parent, Child - immediate family member 
Confidence: Extremely High  View Match

2ND COUSIN

★  **Hal Oakley** - 3 people
Possible range: 1st - 2nd cousins 
Confidence: Extremely High  View Match

4TH COUSIN

★  **rjtrana50**  - 43 people 
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins 
Confidence: High  View Match

I learned that **bmstruck_bs** and I have shared DNA matches with my daughter Amy Oakley, my first-cousin once-removed Hal Oakley, and a woman having the username of **rjtrana50**. Some time ago, I learned that **rjtrana50** is Elizabeth Jean Wright (aka Jeani Trana), and she is descended from my fifth-great grandparents, Miles Oakley (1696-1763) and his wife and Sarah Tippetts (dates unknown).

Based on these shared DNA matches, I realized that **bmstruck_bs** has to be an Oakley descendant. It always is nice to find another Oakley relative!

Finally, I looked at the family tree that **bmstruck_bs** has on the Ancestry.com website:



I learned that his father was Stephen Lynn Struck (1950-2007) and his paternal grandfather was Donald R. Struck (1919-1975). I inferred that **bmstruck_bs** is a man with the surname of Struck (and presumably his name is B. M. Struck).

But wait! In the past, I have corresponded with Kathy Wolfe (born Kathleen Louise Struck) about Oakley genealogy. Actually, Hal Oakley was in contact with Kathy Wolfe first – and for all I know, my father was in contact with her before that.

Kathy Struck is descended from Amzi Oakley (1800-1853) and his wife Lucy Darling (1804-1884) via their daughter Annie Oakley (1838-1916). Annie was a younger sister of my great-grandfather Aaron Burr Oakley (1835-1906).

Kathy Struck appears in Hal Oakley's book about Allen Oakley:

Annie Oakley
(one of Aaron's sisters)

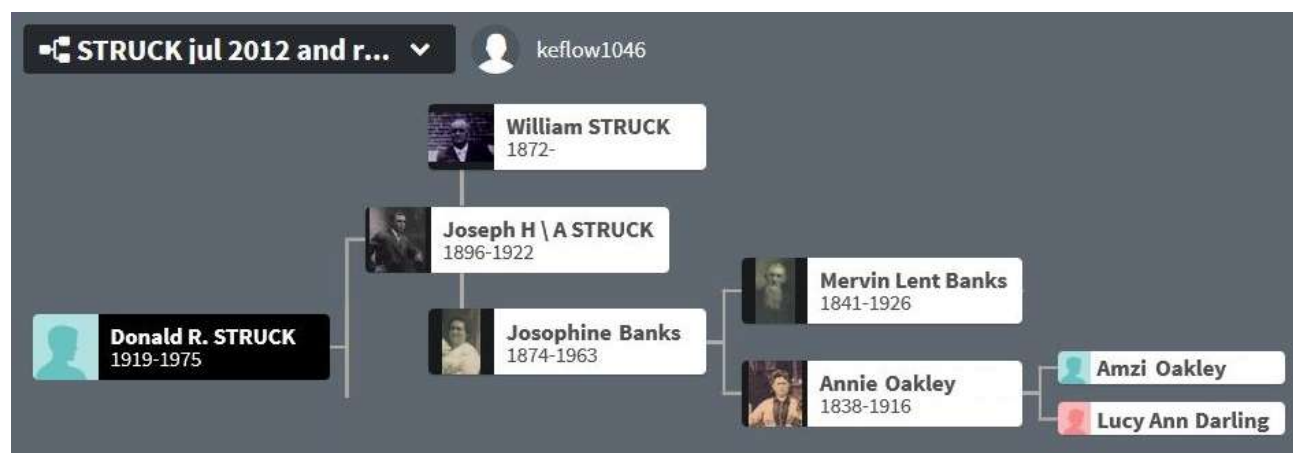
- b. March 13, 1838 in Redding, Connecticut
- m. November 16, 1870 in Lowden, Iowa, to Mervin Lent Banks
(b. September 16, 1841 in Danbury, Connecticut; d. March 6, 1926 in Casper, Wyoming)
- d. November 18, 1916 in Lowden, Iowa

From this sister of Aaron descends Kathleen (Struck) Wolfe who lives in Davenport, Iowa, and has corresponded with Hal Oakley about the Amzi Oakley family.

So the Struck family name is quite familiar to me in the context of the descendants of Amzi Oakley and his wife Lucy Darling.

At this point, I figured that I was onto something interesting – a DNA match with a man having the username of **bmstruck_bs**, who has to be an Oakley descendant (due to the shared DNA match with Jeani Trana); the Struck name isn't all that common, so **bmstruck_bs** and Kathy Struck Wolfe must be related. Wouldn't it be cool if **bmstruck_bs** is also a descendant of Amzi Oakley and Lucy Darling!

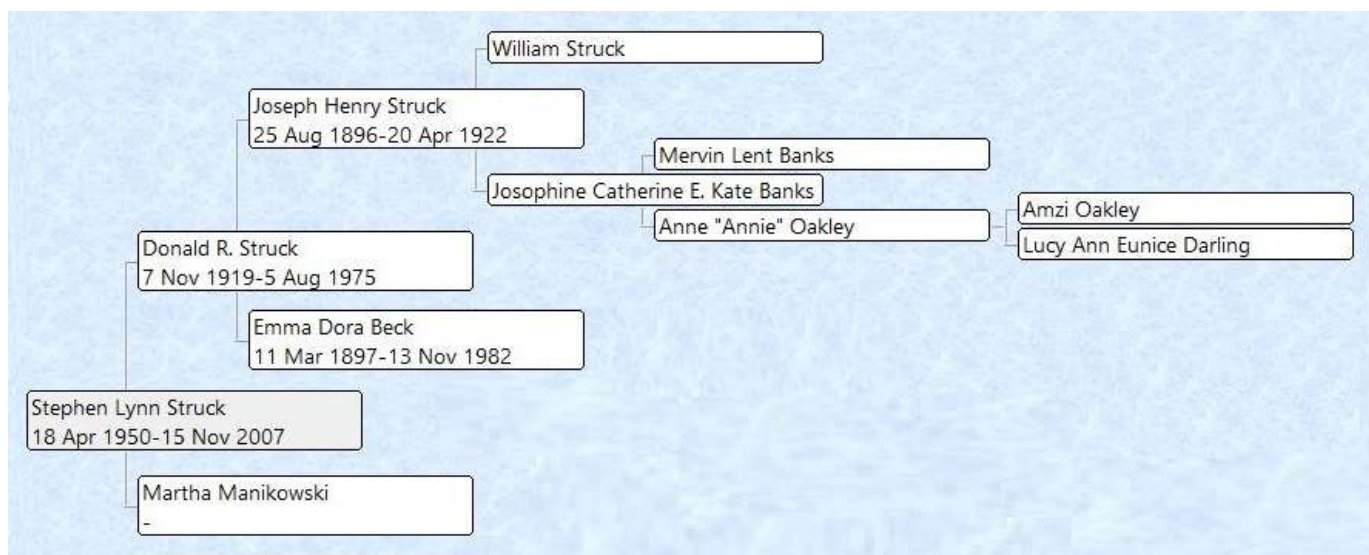
bmstruck_bs has a family tree that shows that his paternal grandfather was Donald R. Struck (1919-1975). But nothing past that. However, Donald R. Struck appears in other family trees on Ancestry.com – including Kathy Wolfe's tree:



OMG – Donald R. Struck (1919-1975) is indeed descended from Amzi Oakley and his wife Lucy Darling.

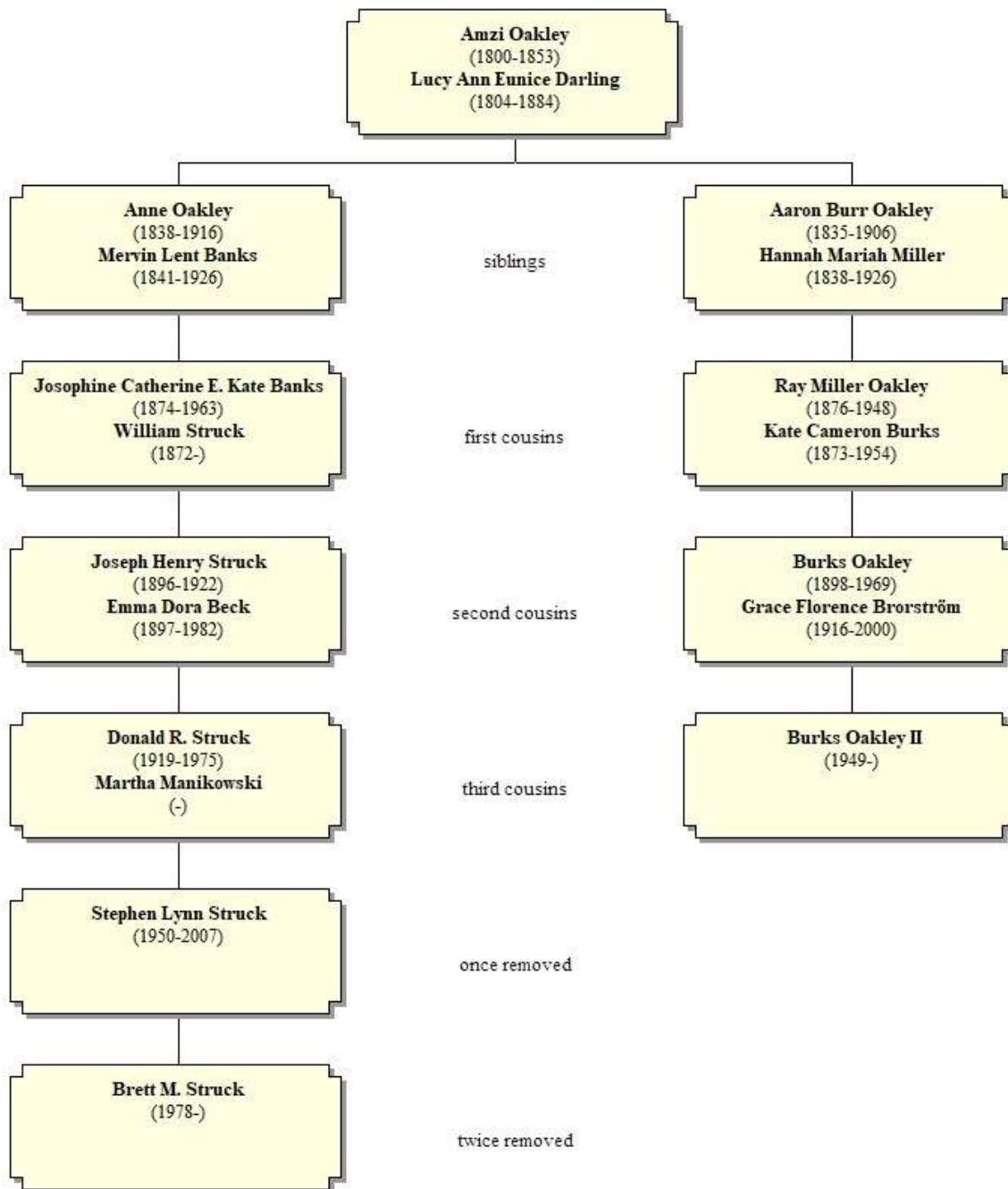
I searched for “bmstruck” on the web, and I found a Brett Struck (born 18 April 1978) living in Omaha, Nebraska. He certainly is the correct age to be a son of Stephen Lynn Struck (1950-2007). My guess is that Brett Struck is **bmstruck_bs** on Ancestry.com.

I then decided to add Brett’s line to the family tree that I have in a RootsMagic database on my Windows PC. While I am always adding to this family tree, it was originally based on my father’s genealogy research, supplemented by Hal Oakley’s research. In fact, Hal sent me a digital file with this family tree a number of years ago, which I imported into RootsMagic. I was completely surprised when I saw that this branch of the Struck family was already in my family tree! Presumably Hal had added it through his correspondence with Kathy Wolfe:



This part of the family tree shows that Brett’s father Stephen Lynn Struck (1950-2007) was descended from Amzi and Lucy. Amazing!

Assuming that Brett really is Stephen’s son, my relationship with Brett is shown in the following chart:



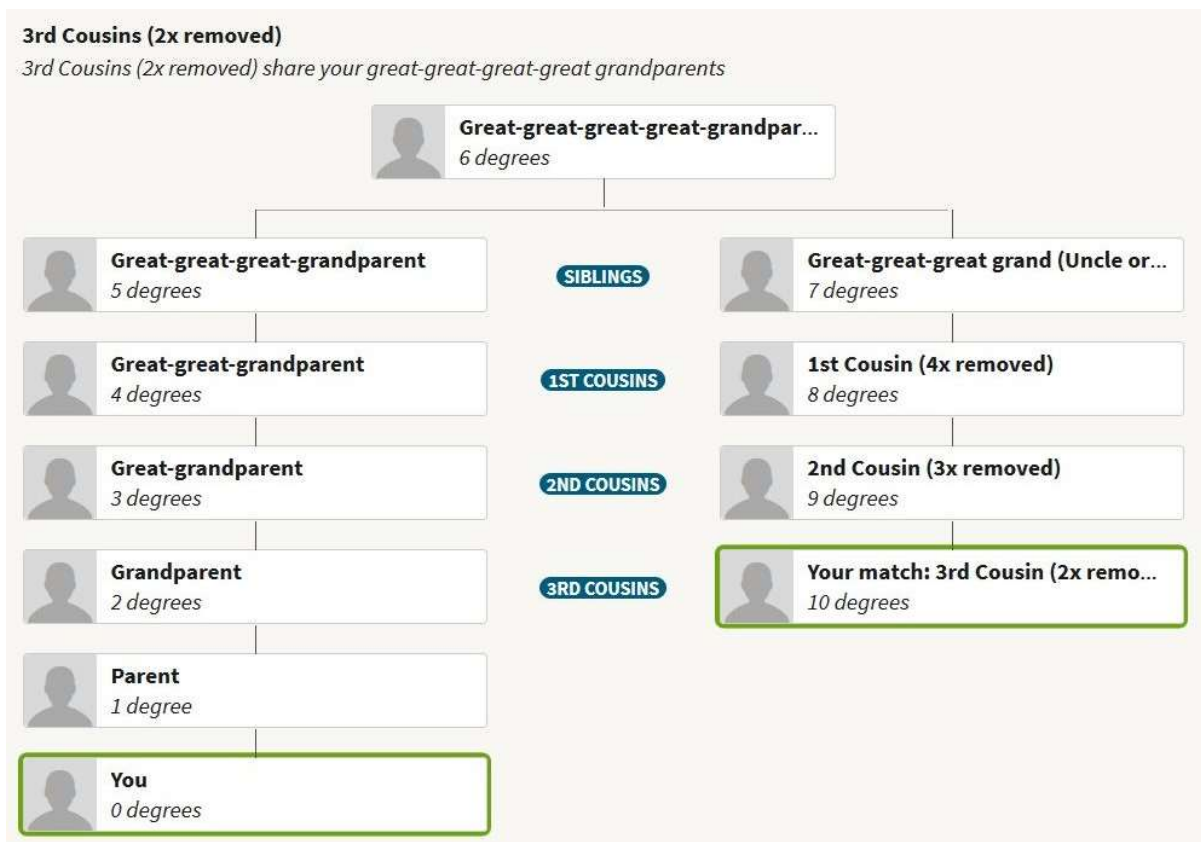
Brett and I are third-cousins twice-removed (3C2R). According to the study published in 2016 by the noted genetic genealogist Blaine Bettinger, 3C2R average 36 cM of shared DNA, with a range of 0-82 cM. My match with Brett is 42 cM, so it is right in the exact range for a 3C2R relationship.

Based on the size of my DNA match with Brett, Ancestry.com predicted that he and I could be 4th-6th cousins. But DNA really doesn't know about distant cousin

relationships. Fourth cousins share third-great grandparents (and 10 degrees of separation):

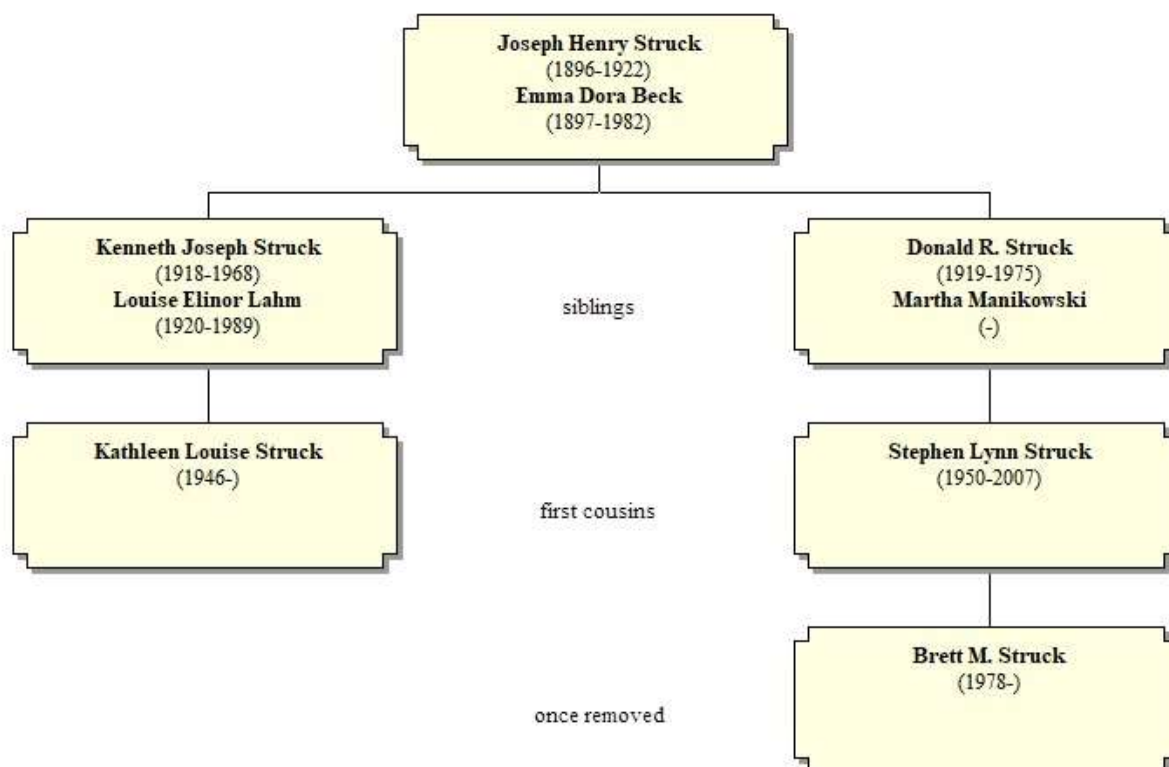


But there are other relationships that have 10 degrees of separation, such as 3C2R:



So the size of our DNA match is exactly what is expected for 10 degrees of separation.

Assuming that **bmstruck_bs** is Brett Struck, this means that Brett Struck is related to Kathy Struck Wolfe as shown in the following chart:



They are first-cousins, once-removed.

Conclusion

In this chapter, I have described the details of my DNA match with a man having a username of **bmstruck_bs** on Ancestry.com, who I believe is Brett Struck. I have his e-mail and hope to contact him soon.

Based on my research, Brett and I are third-cousins twice-removed. And we both are descended from my 2nd-great grandparents, Amzi Oakley (1800-1853) and Lucy Ann Eunice Darling (1804-1884).

Brett and I share our DNA match with Hal Oakley, which is nice to see, given Hal's previous interactions with Kathy Struck Wolfe. We also share this DNA match with Jeani Trana, who is another Oakley descendant.

In this case, the genetics certainly confirm the genealogy!