

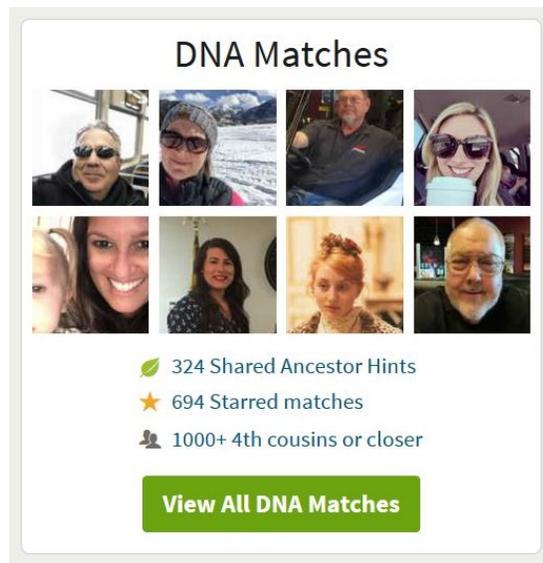
Chapter 41

Brenda Klennert Coleman and Timothy W. Bever – New DNA Matches with Oakley Descendants

[Updated 26 February 2019]

Introduction

I am very interested in genetic genealogy – that is, using DNA analysis on sites such as Ancestry.com and 23andme.com to confirm and to extend my family tree. As of February 2019, I have DNA matches on Ancestry.com with over 1000 individuals who are estimated to be my fourth-cousins or closer:



I previously have written about DNA matches with distant Oakley relatives, who all are descended from Miles Oakley (1671-1743) and his wife Mercy Gardner (1673-1773) – for example, see:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/14-DeepTriangulationConfirmsOurOakleyLineage.pdf>

Recently, I revisited the Ancestry.com website to see if any new Oakley relatives had turned up, and this short narrative presents two new lines of my Oakley family tree.

Finding New Oakley Relatives

I searched my DNA matches on Ancestry.com for people having the surname Oakley in their family trees. This search turned up many of my Oakley relatives that I already knew and have written about – my top matches (in descending order of size) were:

1. Amy Oakley (my younger daughter)
2. Hal Oakley
3. Mark Eidem
4. Mark Workman
5. Elizabeth Workman
6. Jeanni Trana
7. Kathy Orr
8. Kathy Wolfe
9. Jeannine Burks (a Burks relative, but she has one Oakley from the 1600's in her family tree)

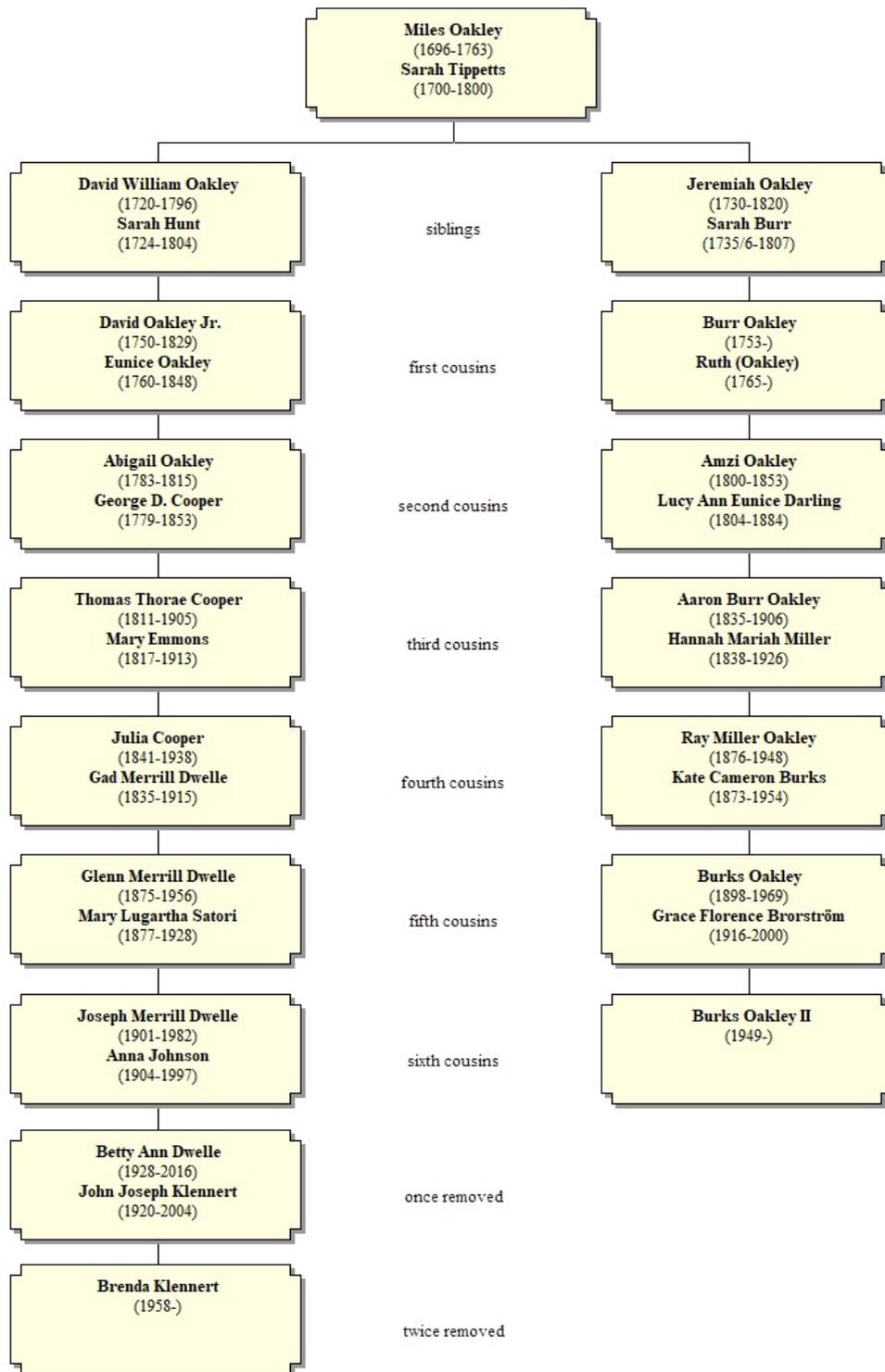
Again, I know all nine of these individuals, as well as how we are related. My 10th match was with a woman named Brenda Coleman, about whom I knew nothing. Well, it turns out that we share not only the Oakley surname in our family trees, but also the Tippetts surname:

Brenda Coleman's tree 711 people

SHARED SURNAMES
Direct ancestor surnames that appear in both
Brenda Coleman's tree and **Burks Oakley's tree**

Oakley Tippetts

In looking at her family tree, I learned that she is descended from Miles Oakley (1696-1763) and his wife Sarah Tippetts (1700-1800), and they were my 5th-great grandparents. I also learned that Brenda's birth name was Brenda Klennert. The following chart shows how Brenda and I are related:



Brenda and I are sixth-cousins, twice-removed (6C2R).

I next examined my DNA match with her:

← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Burks Oakley

Brenda Coleman
Lake City, Minnesota - Member since 2014, last logged in yesterday

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

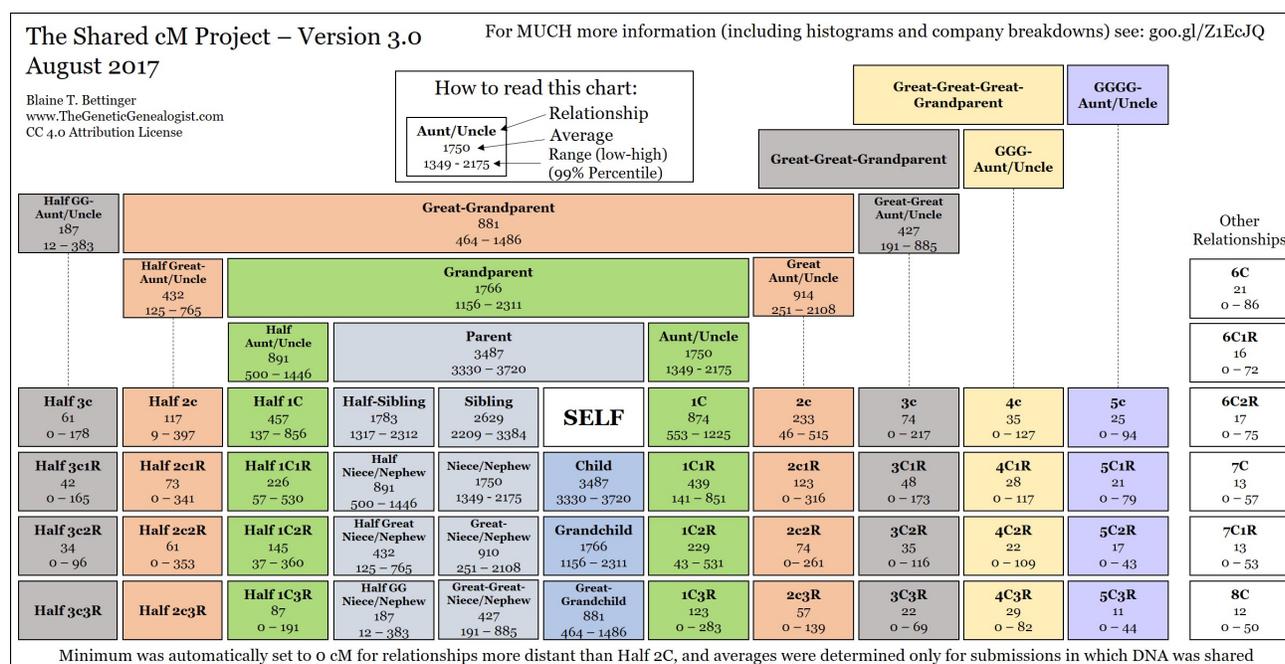
Confidence: Good

Amount of Shared DNA

21.4 centimorgans shared across
1 DNA segment

We share 21.4 cM on a single DNA segment.

In 2017, the noted genetic genealogist Blaine T. Bettinger published a chart with the results of his research, showing the expected size of a DNA match for people with known relationships.



As shown at the right side of this chart, 6C2R average 11 cM, with a range of 0 to 75 cM. So my match with Brenda (21.4 cM) is above average in size, but well within the range observed by Bettinger.

How cool to see that I have a DNA match with another distant Oakley cousin!

My Shared DNA Matches with Brenda Coleman

I then looked at a feature on Ancestry.com that is called “Shared DNA Matches”. I have a number of shared matches with Brenda, and I know them to be Oakley relatives (including Mark Workman, Elizabeth Workman, and Jeani Trana). But we also share matches with three men having the surname of Bever:

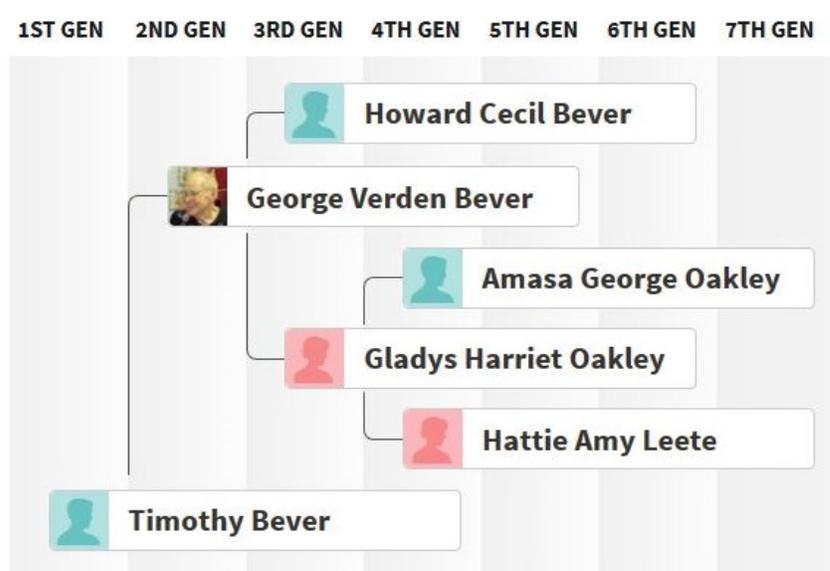
← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Burks Oakley

Shared matches with Brenda Coleman

4TH COUSIN

- ★ [John Bever](#) **No Trees**
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins
Confidence: High
[View Match](#)
- ★ [Timothy Bever](#) **178 people**
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins
Confidence: High
[View Match](#)
- ★ [Howard Bever](#) **Unlinked Tree**
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins
Confidence: High
[View Match](#)

John Bever does not have a family tree on Ancestry.com. Howard Bever has a small family tree, which shows that his mother was Gladys Harriet Oakley (1910-2004). Timothy Bever has a larger family tree, and it shows that his paternal grandmother was Gladys Harriet Oakley, and that Harriet’s father was Amasa George Oakley (1874-1932):



Timothy's father was George Verden Bever (1929-2012), so it appears that Howard Bever is Timothy's uncle. In fact, the family shows up in the 1940 US Census, living in Gridley, California (north of Sacramento):

George V Bever in the 1940 Census

Age	10, born abt 1930	
Birthplace	California	
Gender	Male	
Race	White	
Home in 1940	430 Ohio Gridley, Butte, California	
Household Members	Age	
Head	H Cecil Bever	37
Wife	Gladys H Bever	29
Son	George V Bever	10
Son	Howard O Bever	1

Amasa George Oakley (1874-1932) appears in several family trees on Ancestry.com

Amasa George Oakley

Birth 07 JAN 1874 • Wheatland, Yuba, California, USA

Death 07 MAR 1932 • Marysville, Yuba, California, USA

These family trees allowed me to follow Amasa George Oakley's line back to....

Drum roll, please

... to Miles Oakley (1671-1743) and his wife Mercy Gardner (1673-1773):



As shown in this chart, Timothy Bever and I are seventh-cousins (7C). I next looked at our DNA match – we share 43 cM on a single segment:

← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Burks Oakley

★  **Timothy Bever**
Member since 2007, last logged in yesterday

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

 Confidence: High 

Amount of Shared DNA
43 centimorgans shared across 1 DNA segment

Bettinger's 2017 study found that 7C average 13 cM, with a range of 0 to 57 cM. So my match with Tim (43 cM) is well-above average, but still within the range reported by Bettinger.

I also have larger-than-average DNA matches with John Bever (43 cM across two DNA segments) and with Howard Bever (40 cM across two DNA segments).

The Bever family provides yet another branch of my family tree, going back to Miles Oakley and Mercy Gardner.

I also looked at the DNA matches that I share with Timothy Bever:

← AncestryDNA Home > Member Matches for Burks Oakley

Shared matches with Timothy Bever

PARENT/CHILD

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

4TH COUSIN

★  **bmstruck_bs** 
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins
Confidence: High   27 people 

★  **M.W. (managed by LMW621)** 
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins
Confidence: High   8,152 people 

★  **E.W. (managed by LMW621)** 
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins
Confidence: High   8,152 people 

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

★  **KathyOrr60** 
Possible range: 4th - 6th cousins
Confidence: Good   2,791 people 

Not surprisingly, Timothy Bever is related to a number of known Oakley descendants, including Brett Struck, Mark Workman, Elizabeth Workman, Jeani Trana, and Kathy Hill Orr. [Note – After writing this chapter, I went back and edited Chapter 14 to include Timothy Bever.]

Being Fooled by Sticky Segments

In 2018, the noted author and blogger Mercedes Brons wrote a short blog posting entitled “Does a Long DNA Segment Always Mean a Recent Ancestor?”¹ She discussed “how we can be fooled by the size of shared DNA segments – especially with more distant cousins”. She wrote:

Many genetic genealogists like to call DNA segments that remain about the same size as they pass through the generations “sticky DNA segments”. Sometimes, the segment is sticky in just one line, and other times the segment is just as sticky with other descendants on other lines descended from the same common ancestor. The reason that these segments can confuse us is that we use the amount of shared DNA and the size of the DNA segments to estimate our relationship to our matches, and when segments get passed down “intact”, or almost intact, it can seem as if the MRCA is more recent than they really are.

This appears to be what is going on with the DNA match that my daughter Amy and I have with Timothy Bever. According to GEDmatch.com, my match with Timothy is 45.7 cM, while my daughter Amy's match with him is 45.6 cM.

Conclusion

In this chapter, I have described how I used DNA matches on the Ancestry.com website to find two new Oakley lines. The first was with Brenda Kennert Coleman, and the second was with the Bever family – Howard, John, and Timothy.

Brenda is descended from Miles Oakley (1696-1763) and his wife Sarah Tippetts (1700-1800). Brenda and I are sixth-cousins twice-removed, and our DNA match of 21.4 cM on a single DNA segment is within the range observed in the Bettinger study.

¹ <https://whoareyoumadeof.com/blog/2018/05/30/does-a-long-dna-segment-always-mean-a-recent-ancestor/>

Howard Bever and Timothy Bever (and presumably John Bever) are descended from Miles Oakley (1671-1743) and his wife Mercy Gardner (1673-1773). Timothy and I are seventh-cousins, and our DNA match of 43 cM on a single DNA segment is way too large for a 7C relationship. So hopefully I can contact Timothy and we can look into our DNA match in greater detail.

Appendix

A chart showing the relationships between the various Oakley lines described in this narrative is shown on the next page. A higher-resolution version of this chart is on my website (note that you should be able to zoom in on this chart when viewed in a browser):

http://www.burksoakley.com/genealogy/OverallChart-OakleyLines_20Feb19.pdf

