

Chapter 56

My Ancestral Lines Going Back to Sir William Champernon

[Originally written 8 August 2020]

Introduction

I have started using the Geni.com website to expand my knowledge of my family tree. Geni.com has what they call the “World Family Tree”. Unlike Ancestry.com, where everyone has their own complete (or incomplete) family tree, Geni.com is having its users collaboratively build just a single family tree. On Ancestry.com, there can be one thousand or more duplicate entries for the same person – and these entries often have conflicting information. On Geni.com, there should only be one entry on the entire website for any given person. Individual users on Geni.com can add their ancestral lines until they connect with people already in the World Family Tree. And then their lines immediately become part of this enormous family tree. As of early August 2020, there are over 147 million individuals in the World Family Tree – see:

<https://www.geni.com/worldfamilytree>

Over the past year, I have added various lines from my family tree to Geni.com, and then connected these lines to individuals already in the World Family Tree.

A few months ago, I was using the Geni.com website to help my cousin Don Baker with his genealogy. To make a long story short, I learned that I am descended from Capt. George Lamberton (1604-1646), who was an English immigrant. He was lost at sea, and this event was memorialized by Longfellow in his poem “Phantom Ship”. See Appendix B at:

http://www.burksoakley.com/genealogy/DEB-JohnPettit_22Jun20.pdf

I wanted to expand on Capt. Lamberton in this chapter. Unfortunately, I got distracted and I went in a totally unexpected direction. And if you want to know more, you’ll have to read on.

Going Back on Capt. Lamberton’s Ancestral Lines

I started by looking at Capt. George Lamberton’s ancestry on Geni.com. Here is his profile:



George Lamberton

Birth: 1604
St. Mary's Whitechapel, London, Middlesex, England

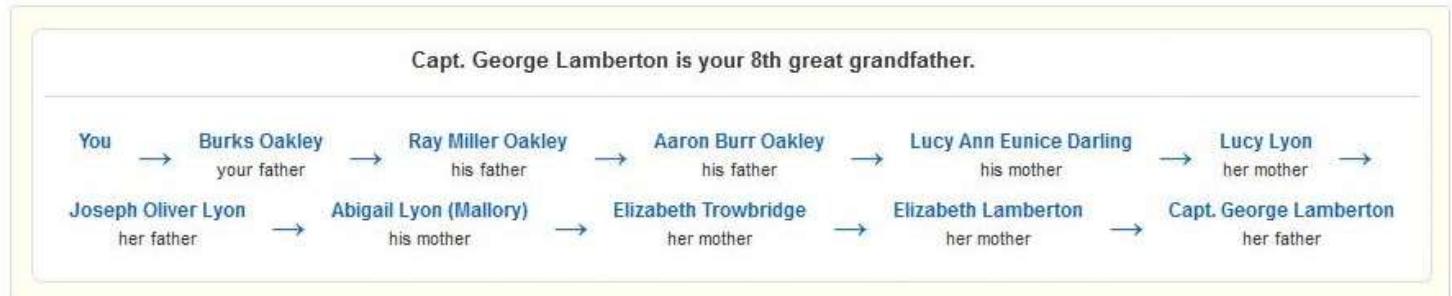
Death: 1646 (41-42)
North Atlantic Ocean (Lost at sea aboard the ship "Fellowship", immortalized by Longfellow in his poem "Phantom Ship".)

Immediate Family: Son of Christopher Lamberton and Mary Denis
Husband of Mercy Lamberton and Margaret Lewen
Father of Patience Lamberton; Elizabeth Lamberton; Hannah Lamberton; Hope Lamberton; Deliverance Lamberton and 3 others

<https://www.geni.com/people/Capt-George-Lamberton/6000000002975671995>

He immigrated from England and settled in West Haven, Connecticut. He was a ship's captain, and as I noted above, he was lost at sea when he was in his early 40's.

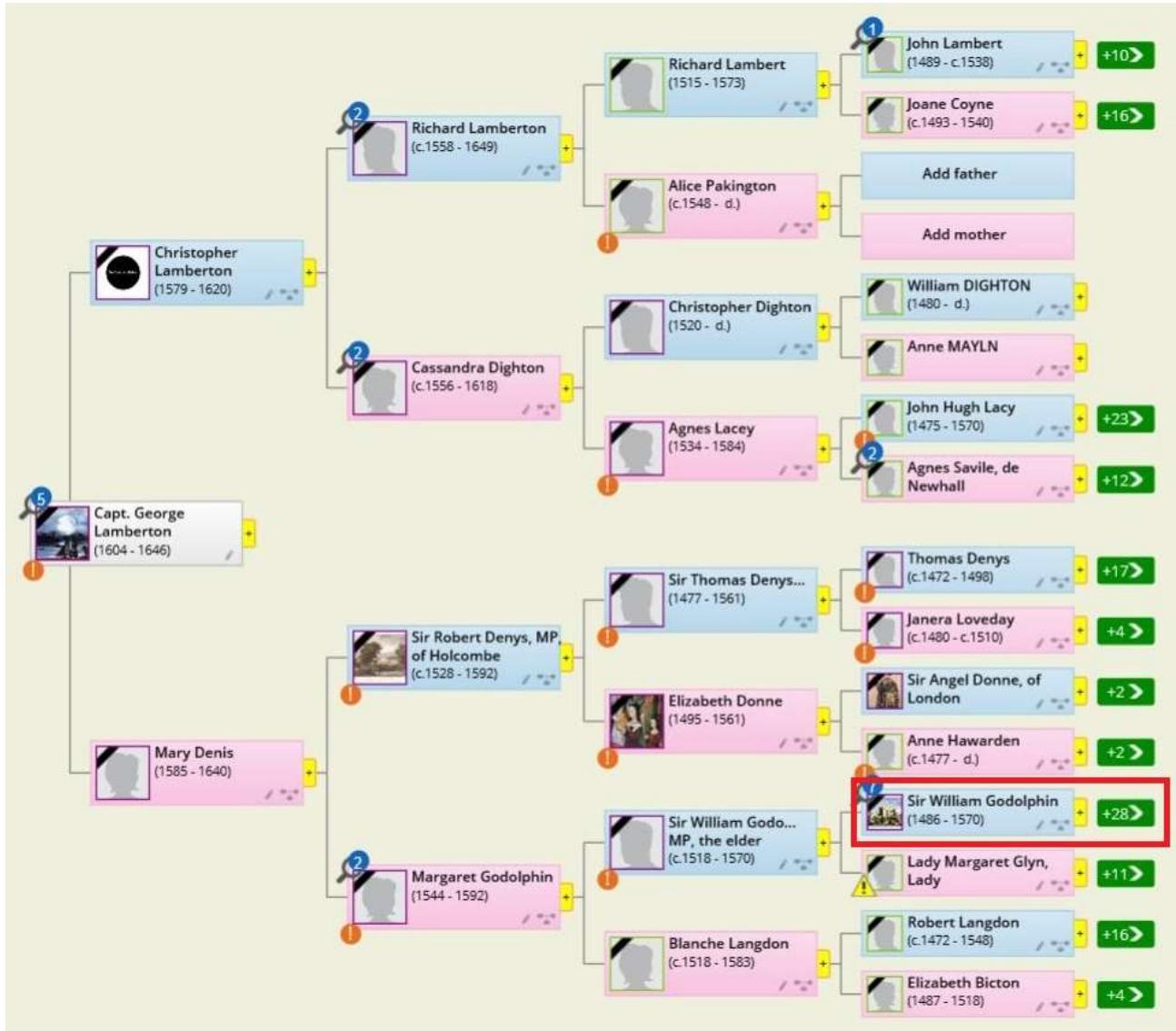
Here is my line back to Capt. George Lamberton:



He was my 8th-great grandfather.

I wondered how far back I could go on any of his lines on Geni.com. And I wondered if he had any “interesting” ancestors.

Here is his pedigree:



This is nice to see! Capt. George Lamberton has a number of 2nd-great grandparents (right-most column) who have a significant number of ancestors in the World Family Tree on Geni.com (the number in the little green box is the number of “new” ancestors on the next screen – the maximum is +30 with this screen resolution). Of course, all of the people in this chart are MY ancestors, as well.

In this pedigree, Sir William Godolphin (1486-1570) has the largest number of ancestors in the green boxes – a +28. So I followed his line:



Once again, this is a very complete pedigree. And I saw that Jane Basset (1372-1403) had the largest number of “new” ancestors on the next screen – a +29. So I next followed her line:



That got me to her 2nd-great grandparents, with lots and lots more ancestors still to go. I wondered how many generations her 2nd-great grandparents were back from me, so I picked one at random – Sir William Champernon, Knight. This turned out to be a fortuitous choice! Here is his profile:

Sir William de Champernon, Knight

Gender:	Male
Birth:	1234
	Iffracombe, Devonshire, England
Death:	February 21, 1304 (69-70)
	Tywardreath, St Austell, Cornwall, England
Place of Burial:	Cornwall, England, United Kingdom
Immediate Family:	Son of Sir Henry de Champernon and Dionisia English Husband of Joan de Ferrers Father of Reginald de Champernon; Henry de Champernon; Dionisia Champernon; John de Champernon; Margaret Champernou; and William de Champernon

I learned that Sir William was my 20th-great grandfather:



I looked at the details of the line from me back to Sir William:



Oh no! This is another one of those cases where Geni.com displays the “shortest blood relationship” between two people – which in this case is NOT my line back through Capt. George Lamberton. This line goes back through my Trowbridge ancestors. So I obviously have (at least) two different lines back to Sir William.

To see my path back to Sir William that goes through Capt. George Lamberton, I first looked at my line back to Capt. George Lamberton:

Capt. George Lamberton is your 8th great grandfather.



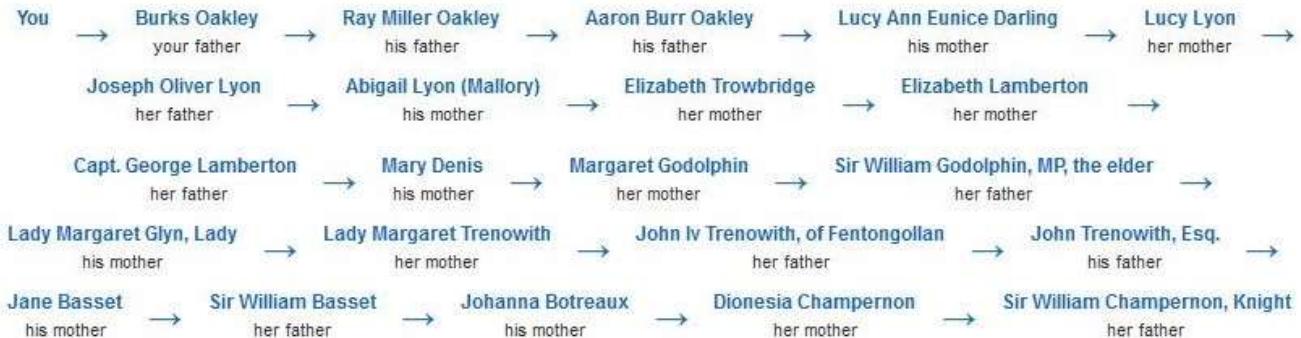
I then looked at the line from Capt. George Lamberton back to Sir William:

Sir William Champnnon, Knight is Capt. George Lamberton's 10th great grandfather.



This line goes through Sir William Godolphin and Jane Basset, so I know that this is the line I followed through the pedigree charts to get back to Sir William. With a little cutting-and-pasting, I was able to connect both of these lines together:

Sir William Champnnon, Knight is your 20th great grandfather.



Interesting! Sir William is also my 20th-great grandfather on the line going through Capt. George Lamberton. No idea why Geni.com decided to show the Trowbridge line instead of the Lamberton line.

I should say that calculating these lines involves a “walk” through the World Family Tree, and it must require a great deal of computer power and time (not to mention amazing programming). So once Geni.com finds a pathway between two people, it saves it in a database, so that it won’t have to compute it again. And it just saves a single “shortest” path.

Here are the two lines side-by-side:



Note that William Trowbridge and Elizabeth Lamberton (the daughter of Capt. George Lamberton) were husband and wife, so both lines become the same starting with their daughter Elizabeth Trowbridge (1632-1716), who was my 6th-great grandmother. I note that the lines go through Lucy Lyon and her daughter Lucy Ann Eunice Darling in Fairfield County, Connecticut. I saw this same type of “convergence” of ancestral lines with my lines going back to King Edward I – see:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/50-MyLines-to-KingEdward.pdf>

In the case of King Edward I, I had twelve lines back to him, and four went through Fairfield County, Connecticut. I naturally wondered if I would have other lines going back to Sir William in addition to the two that I found up to here. And since I am self-quarantining due to the coronavirus pandemic, I have lots of time to search for additional lines.

Searching for Lines Going Back to Sir William Champernon

I didn't know a way other than “brute force” to find other pathways back to Sir William. I went to Sir William's profile on Geni.com and clicked on the green “push pin” so that all relationships would be relative to him:

[View other profiles to see their relationship to Sir William Champernon, Knight.](#)

[Click the push pin again to reset them to yourself.](#)



I thought it would be good to work my way through my ancestors in a systematic way. I started with Lucy Ann Eunice Darling, who was my 2nd-great grandmother. I then looked at each of her great-grandparents, who were my 5th-great grandparents. These people are shown in the right-hand column of the pedigree shown below:

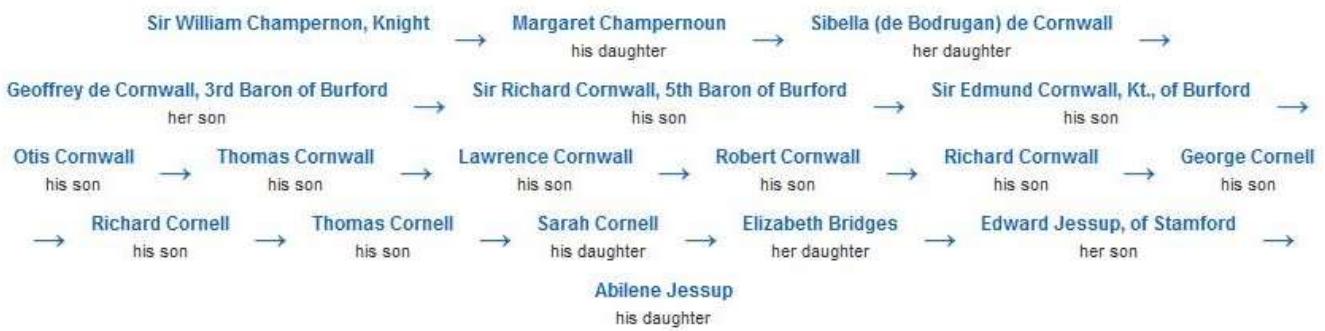


I found out that both Abilene Jessup (1696-?) and Ephraim Sanford (1708-1761) were descended from Sir William. Abilene was Sir William's 15th-great granddaughter:

Abilene Jessup is Sir William Champignon, Knight's 15th great granddaughter.

Here is the line from Sir William to Abilene Jessup:

Abilene Jessup is Sir William Champernon, Knight's 15th great granddaughter.

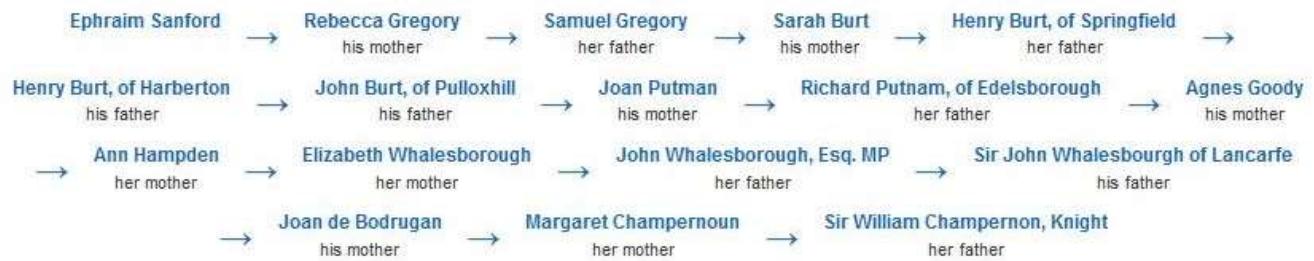


Ephraim Sanford was Sir William's 14th-great grandson:

Ephraim Sanford is Sir William Champernon, Knight's 14th great grandson. <

Here is the line from Ephraim Sanford back to Sir William:

Sir William Champernon, Knight is Ephraim Sanford's 14th great grandfather.



I tried others in that generation, as well as a few others in the next generation back, but I didn't find any additional lines going to Sir William.

Here is a summary of the lines connecting through Abilene Jessup and Ephraim Sanford:

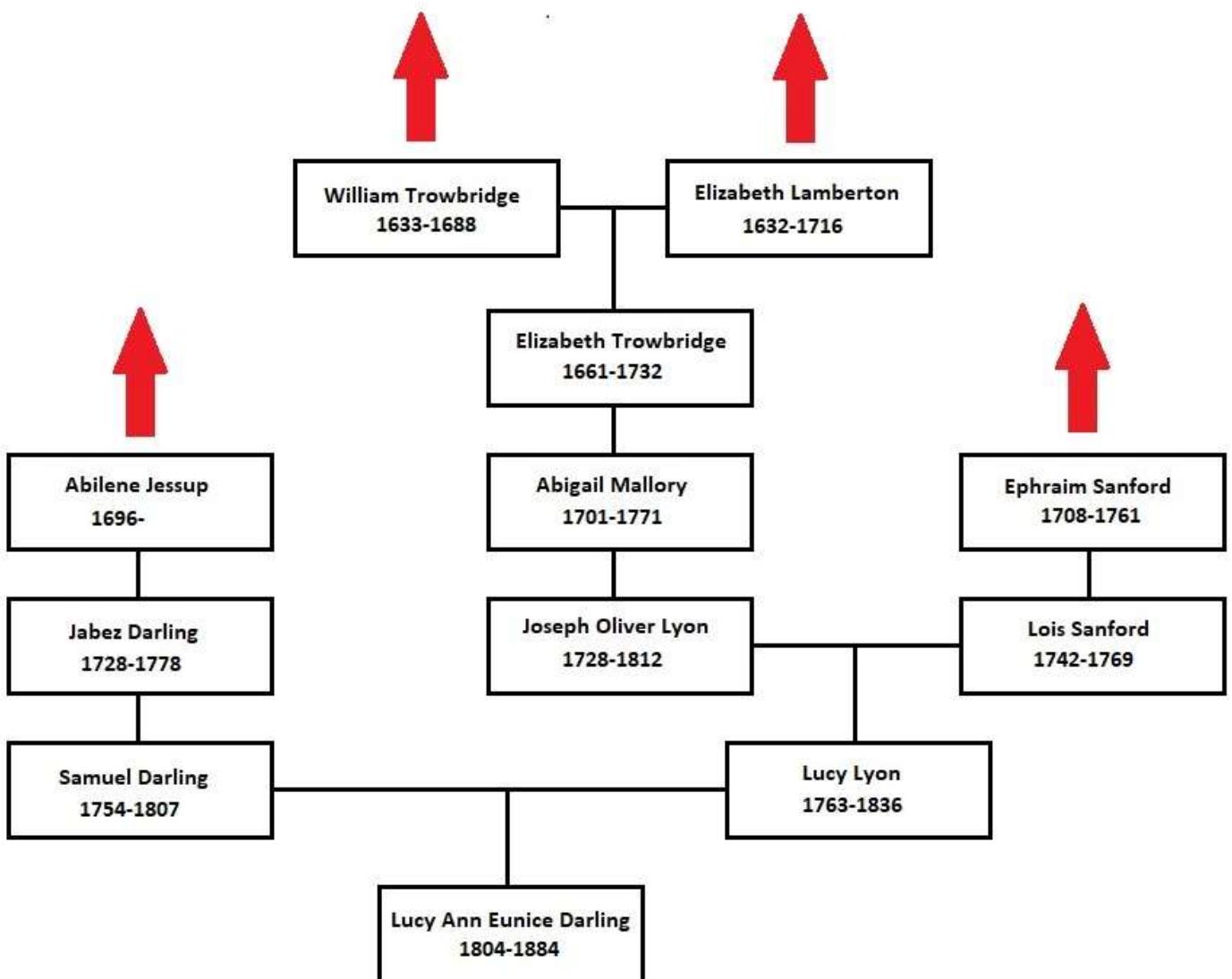


I now have FOUR distinct lines going back to Sir William. All four of these lines go through Lucy Ann Eunice Darling, who lived her entire life in Fairfield County, Connecticut.

These four lines are shown side-by-side on the next page:



I realize that all this is probably a little confusing – keeping track of the lines going back to Sir William. Here is a chart showing the relationships:



The red arrows represent ancestral lines going back to Sir William. At the top of the chart are the lines going back through William Trowbridge and his wife Elizabeth Lamberton (her father was Capt. George Lamberton). At the left is the line going back through Abilene Jessup. And at the right is the line going back through Ephraim Sanford.

Hopefully this make things a little clearer. William Trowbridge and his wife Elizabeth Lamberton each had separate lines back to Sir William. Overall, three of the four lines go through Lucy Lyon, while the fourth line goes through her husband Samuel Darling. All four of these lines come together in Lucy Ann Eunice Darling – my 2nd-great grandmother.

I then moved on to look at my other 2nd-great grandparents to see if any of them were descended from Sir William:

- Amzi Oakley – just a cousin relationship
- Elmony Lester – just a cousin relationship
- Amy Griffey – just a cousin relationship
- Jane Kershaw Wells – no blood relationship

And then I got to Ezra Marvin Miller – YES! Ezra Marvin Miller was Sir William's 17th-great grandson.

Ezra Marvin Miller is Sir William Champignon, Knight's 17th great grandson.

Here is the line from Sir William to Ezra Marvin Miller:



This line goes through Sgt. Solomon Case (1735-1811), who was my 5th-great grandfather. I'll call this the Sgt. Solomon Case line.

Just like I did with Lucy Ann Eunice Darling, I wanted to check if there were additional lines going back through other of Ezra Marvin Miller's ancestors (Geni only displays the one shortest line). I decided to look at my other 5th-great grandparents on Ezra Marvin Miller's line. Here is a pedigree chart for Ezra Marvin Miller:



My 5th-great grandparents appear in the right-hand column of this chart.

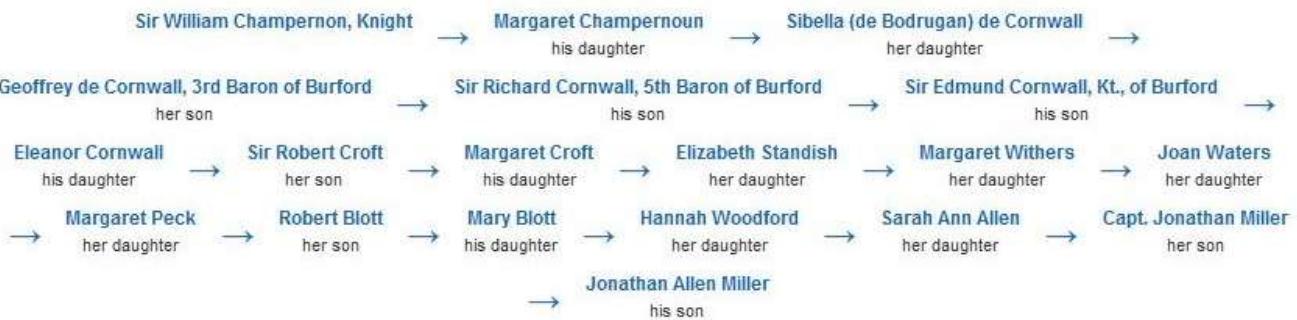
Right away, I learned that Jonathan Allen Miller is Sir William's 16th-great grandson:

Jonathan Allen Miller is Sir William Champernon, Knight's 16th great grandson.



Here is the line from Sir William to Jonathan Allen Miller:

Jonathan Allen Miller is Sir William Champernon, Knight's 16th great grandson.



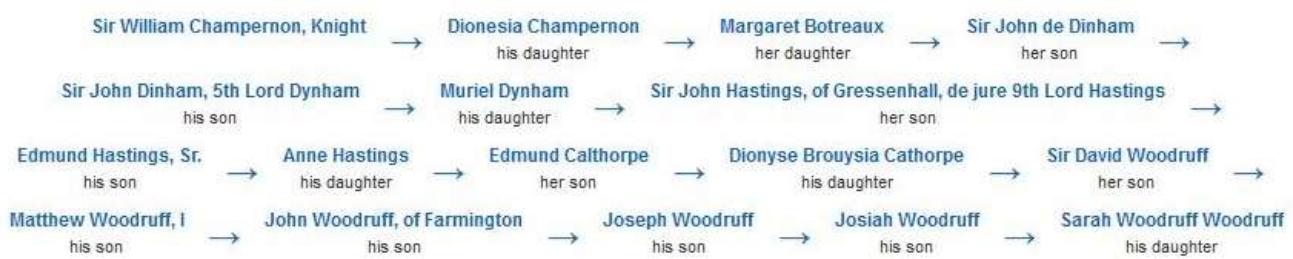
I next learned that Jonathan's wife, Sarah Woodruff, was Sir William's 14th-great granddaughter:

Sarah Woodruff is Sir William Champernon, Knight's 14th great granddaughter.



Here is the line from Sir William down to Sarah Woodruff:

Sarah Woodruff is Sir William Champernon, Knight's 14th great granddaughter.



Oh my! Here we see both the husband and the wife are descended from Sir William. Here is a summary of their two lines:



Jonathan Allen Miller and Sarah Woodruff are indeed two generations apart on their lines back to Sir William, since Jonathan was Sir William's 16th-great grandson, while Sarah was his 14th-great granddaughter. Of course, this also means that Jonathan and his wife Sarah were distant cousins.

These are two new lines that I haven't seen previously – I'll call them the Jonathan Allen Miller line and the Sarah Woodruff line. I now have a total of seven lines back to Sir William. Four of the lines went through Lucy Ann Eunice Darling, and now three lines go through Allen Miller (the father of Ezra Marvin Miller):



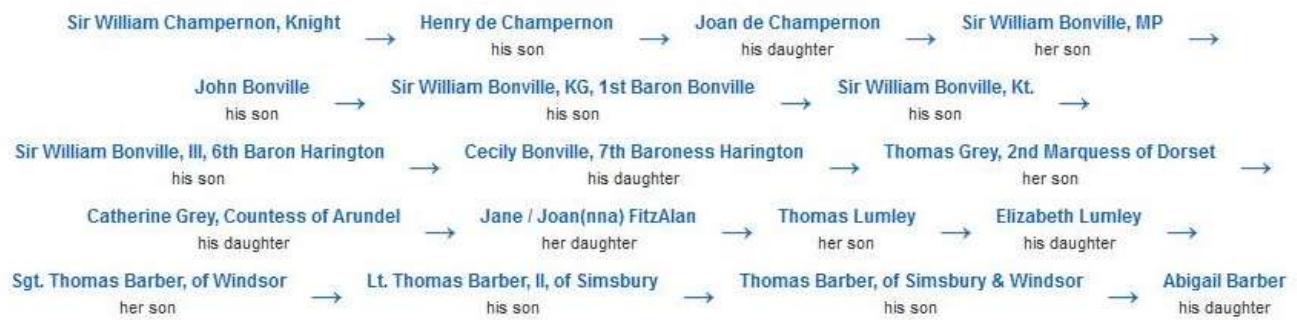
I didn't find any lines involving other 5th-great grandparents on the Ezra Marvin Miller line. I decided to go back one more generation and look at some of my 6th-great grandparents.

Abigail Barber was the grandmother of Hannah Case (who appears in the Sgt. Solomon Case line). I learned that Abigail Barber is Sir William's 15th-great granddaughter:

Abigail Barber is Sir William Champernon, Knight's 15th great granddaughter. <

Here is the line from Sir William down to Abigail Barber:

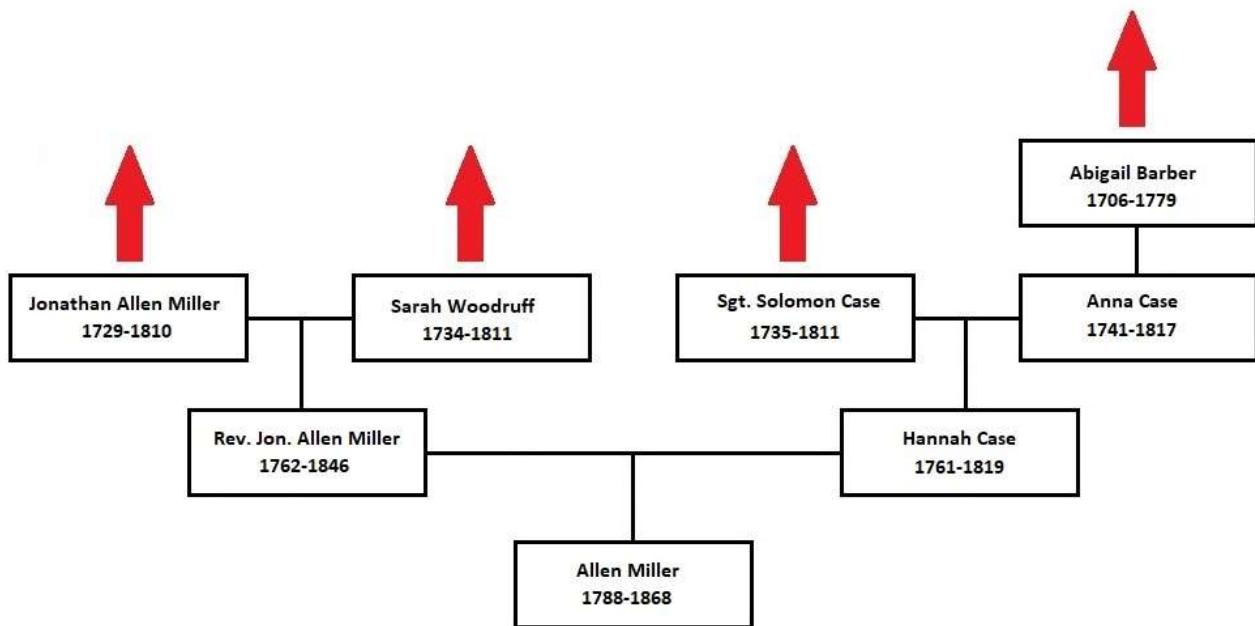
Abigail Barber is Sir William Champernon, Knight's 15th great granddaughter.



Oh my! This is yet another new line that I hadn't seen previously – I'll call it the Abigail Barber line. I'll add it to the other three lines going through Ezra Marvin Miller:



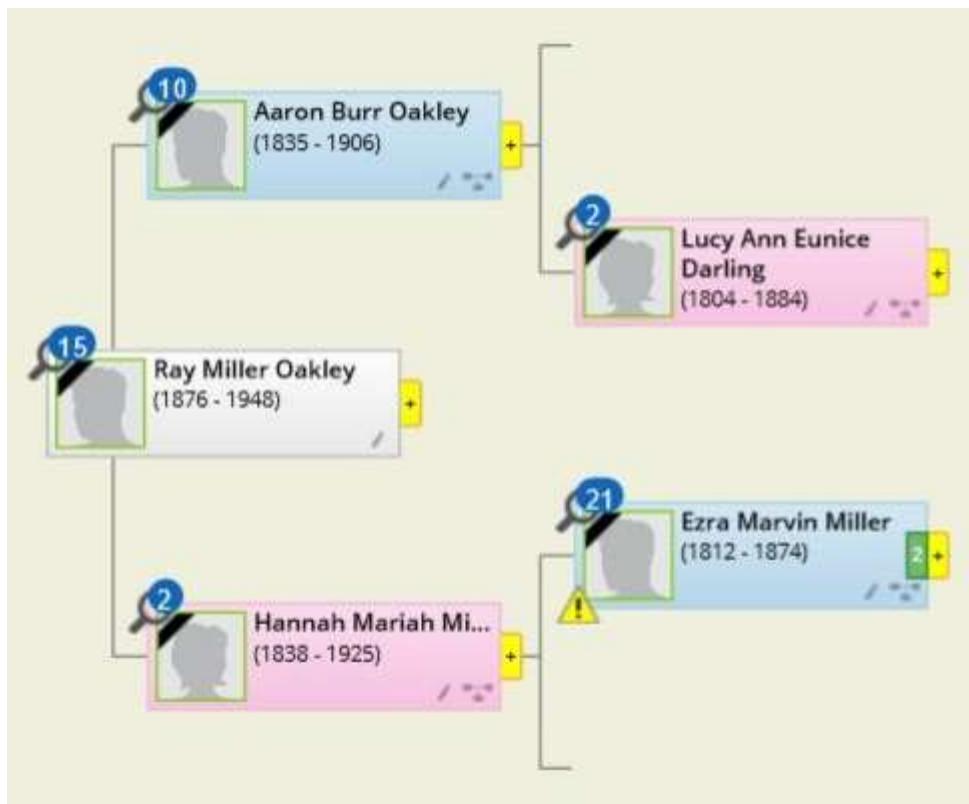
At this point, I think that viewing the relevant part of the family tree might be helpful. There are four lines going back to Sir William from Allen Miller (and his son Ezra Marvin Miller).



The line at the left goes through Jonathan Allen Miller. A separate line goes back through his wife Sarah Woodruff. Another line goes back through Sgt. Solomon Case, and finally a fourth line that goes back through Abigail Barber.

Connecting the Two Families

I've shown that Lucy Ann Eunice Darling had four different ancestral lines back to Sir William Champernon, and that Ezra Marvin Miller also had four different ancestral lines back to Sir William. These eight lines were brought together in my paternal grandfather, Ray Miller Oakley (1876-1948). Here is his pedigree chart:



Ray's paternal grandmother was Lucy Ann Eunice Darling, while his maternal grandfather was Ezra Marvin Miller. Since Ray was my paternal grandfather, I share all eight of his ancestral lines back to Sir William.

Summary

In this narrative, I followed an ancestral line on Geni.com going back from my 8th-great grandfather, Capt. George Lamberton. I ended up taking a specific line back to Sir William Champernon, Knight (1234-1304). I learned that I have multiple lines going back to Sir William. Four of these lines go back through my 2nd-great grandmother Lucy Ann Eunice Darling, while the other four lines go back through my 2nd-great grandfather Ezra Marvin Miller. I find it amazing to be able to follow eight ancestral lines back to a Knight who lived in the Middle Ages!

Appendix

As I was researching this narrative, I found a lot more information about the ancestors on my Miller line. Since this material is rather convoluted (and thus potentially confusing), I decided to put it in an appendix. Feel free to skip reading this, although it does have some great information about some of my Miller ancestors.

Here are some of the other things I found.

Looking at my 5th-great grandparents on the Ezra Marvin Miller line, I learned that Anna Case is Sir William's 14th-great granddaughter:

Anna Case is Sir William Champernon, Knight's 14th great granddaughter.

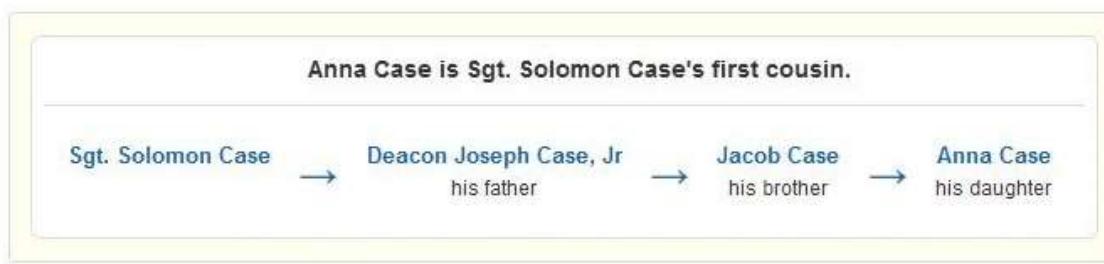
Here is the line from Sir William down to Anna Case:



The original line that I found for Ezra Marvin Miller went through Anna's husband, Sgt. Solomon Case. At this point, let me show the lines involving this couple:



Woah! These lines are almost identical. And it shows that Solomon Case and Anna Case had the same grandfather. Did first-cousins marry here? Yes.



Solomon and Anna were indeed first-cousins. So the line for Anna Case is really one that I had seen previously – it definitely is not a new line. It is the “Sgt. Solomon Case” line described in the main text.

Capt. Jonathan Miller was the father of Jonathan Allen Miller, and he appeared in the “Jonathan Allen Miller” line back to Sir William. I checked Jonathan Allen Miller’s mother, Sarah Allen, and I learned that she was Sir William’s 15th-great granddaughter:

Sarah Allen is Sir William Champernon, Knight's 15th great granddaughter. ↩

Here is the line from Sir William down to Sarah Allen:



This line is almost identical to the Jonathan Allen Miller line that I viewed previously. Here are the two lines side-by-side:



How were Capt. Jonathan Miller and Sarah Allen related? They were first cousins!



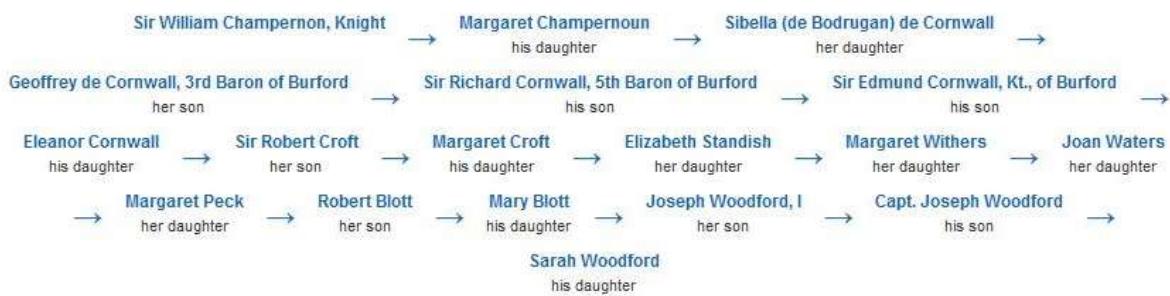
Oh my! I don't think I knew this before. What I thought was a "new" line going through Sarah Allen is really the "Jonathan Allen Miller" line I already knew about – all the way from Sir William down to Hannah Woodford.

With Sarah Woodruff, her father Josiah Woodruff was in the line. So I wanted to check her mother, Sarah Woodford. Sarah Woodford was Sir William's 15th-great granddaughter:



Here is the line from Sir William down to Sarah Woodford:

Sarah Woodford is Sir William Champernon, Knight's 15th great granddaughter.



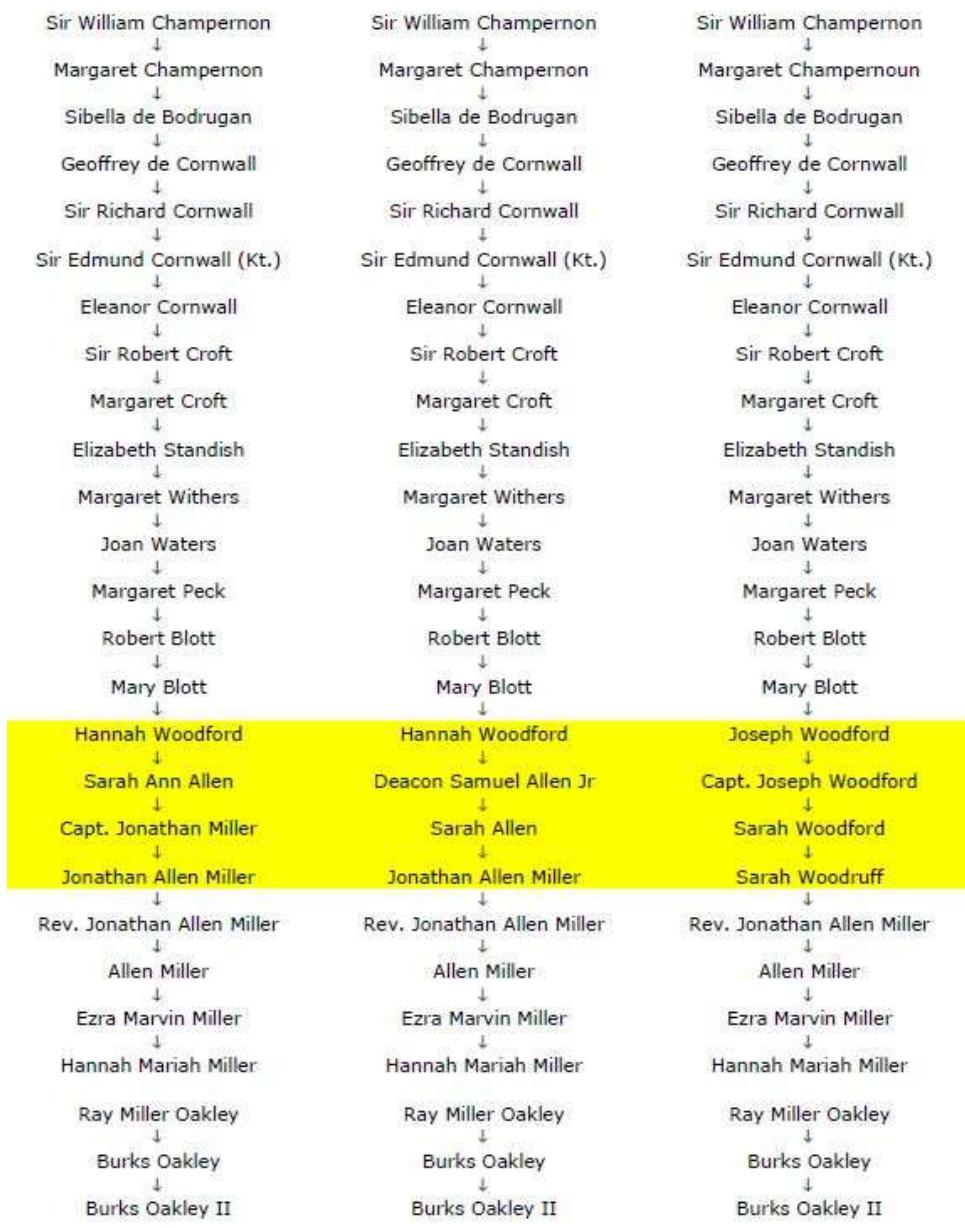
This is just like the “Jonathan Allen Miller” line. Again, there must be some relationship between Capt. Jonathan Miller and Sarah Woodford.

Capt. Jonathan Miller is Sarah Woodford's second cousin.



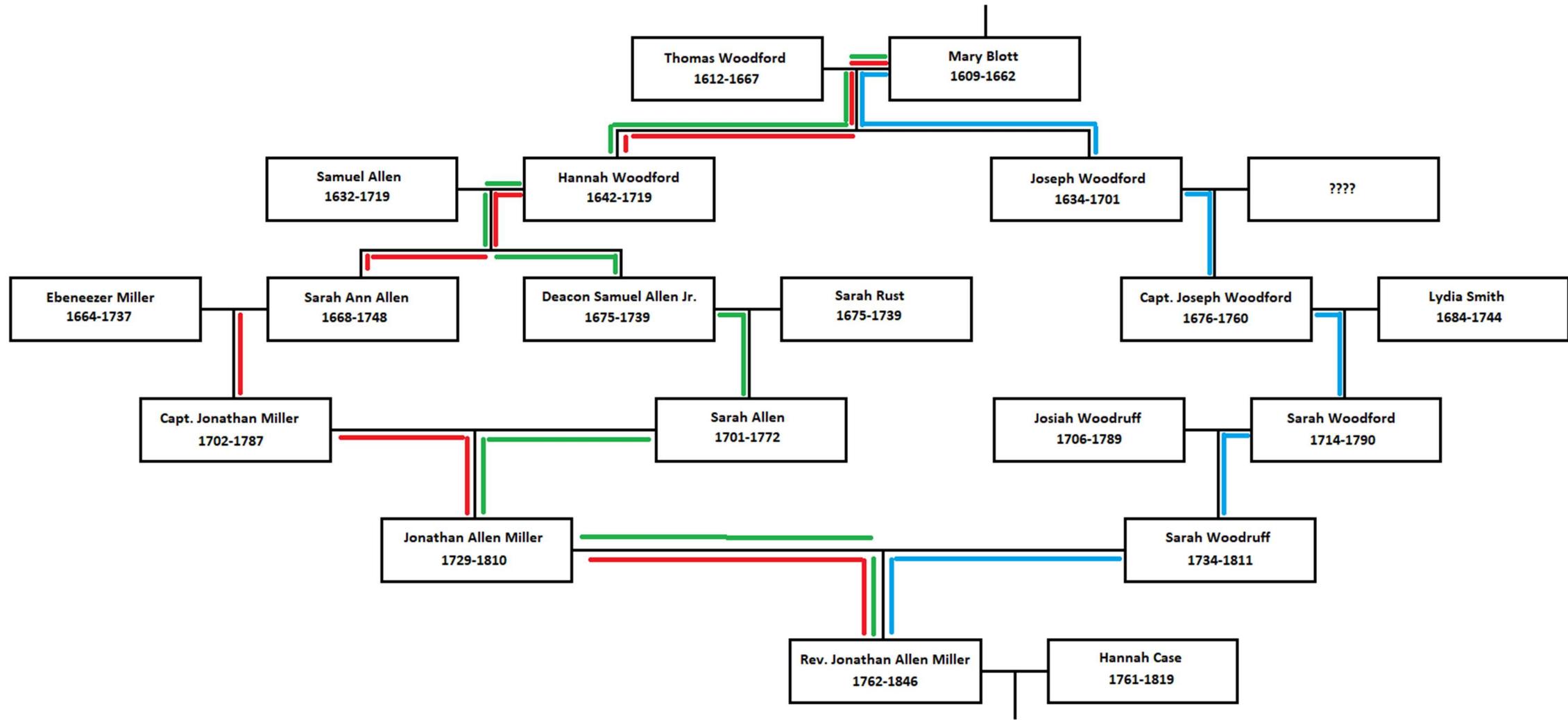
Ahah! They were second-cousins.

Let me see if I can make some sense out of this. I found lines going back from Jonathan Allen Miller, Sarah Allen, and Sarah Woodford – and these lines were essentially identical. Here they are side-by-side:



All three of these lines back to Sir William go through Mary Blott.

The relevant part of the family tree is shown on the next page in landscape view:



On the left side of the chart, I can trace a line (in red) from Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller to his father Jonathan Allen Miller to his father Capt. Jonathan Miller to his mother Sarah Ann Allen to her mother Hannah Woodford to her mother Mary Blott. This is part of the Jonathan Allen Miller line.

I also can trace a line (in green) from Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller to his father Jonathan Allen Miller to his mother Sarah Allen to her father Deacon Samuel Allen Jr. to his mother Hannah Woodford to her mother Mary Blott. This is the Sarah Allen line.

The third line is at the right (in blue) and goes from Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller to his mother Sarah Woodruff to her mother Sarah Woodford to her father Capt. Joseph Woodford to his father Joseph Woodford to his mother Mary Blott. This is what I called the Sarah Woodruff line.

But these are essentially the same lines. They start with Mary Blott and go down to Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller. After all of this, it is just one single line back to Sir William.

I note that in the family tree shown on the previous page, Capt. Jonathan Miller married his first-cousin Sarah Allen:



In addition, Jonathan Allen Miller married his third-cousin, Sarah Woodruff:



So while it at first appeared to me that there were three lines back to Sir William, all these lines are essentially the same and go through Mary Blott.

At the bottom of the family tree on the previous page is Hannah Case, and she had her own line back to Sir William. That is the one I have called the Sgt. Solomon Case line.

The interesting thing about this is that I didn't previously know about cousins marrying in this branch of the family.