

Chapter 5B

Ancestry ThruLines™ Supporting our Wells/Welles Ancestral Line

25 July 2019

Introduction

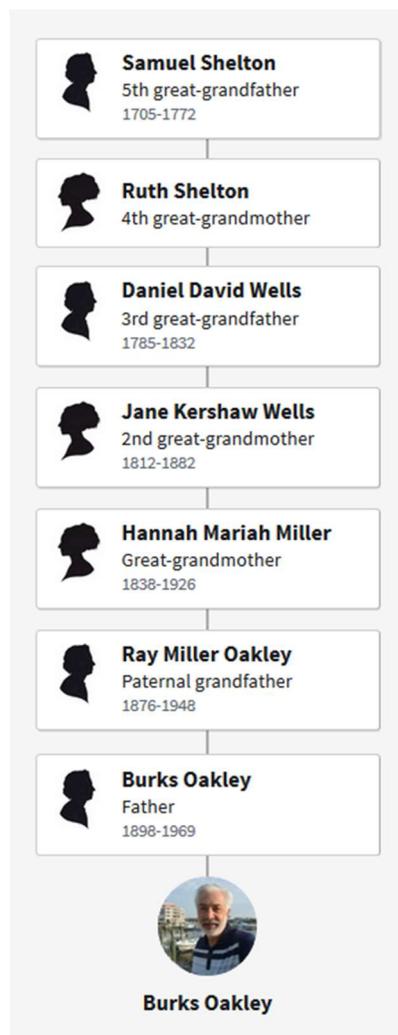
My father was Burks Oakley (1898-1969), and all eight of his great-grandparents came from families that immigrated to colonial America in the 1600's (well, in one case, it was the early 1700's). One of my father's great-grandparents was Jane Kershaw Wells (1812-1882), who was born in Montgomery County, New York, and moved west with her husband's extended family to settle near Rockford, Illinois. My Wells line is shown here:



Jane Kershaw Wells' father was a man named Daniel David Wells (1785-1832). When I first started researching this branch of the family, Daniel David Wells was a "brick wall"; I couldn't find out anything about him. I eventually hypothesized that his father was David Welles (1752-1806), and I found some DNA evidence to support this hypothesis:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/5A-WellsGenealogy.pdf>

David Welles was married to Ruth Shelton (dates unknown), and I also hypothesized that her father was Samuel Shelton (1705-1772). My hypothesized Shelton line is shown here:



With the development of the ThruLines™ software tool on Ancestry.com in the first half of 2019, I decided to go back and re-examine these lines to see if there was any new DNA evidence to support the ancestral lines for Daniel David Wells that I hypothesized earlier.

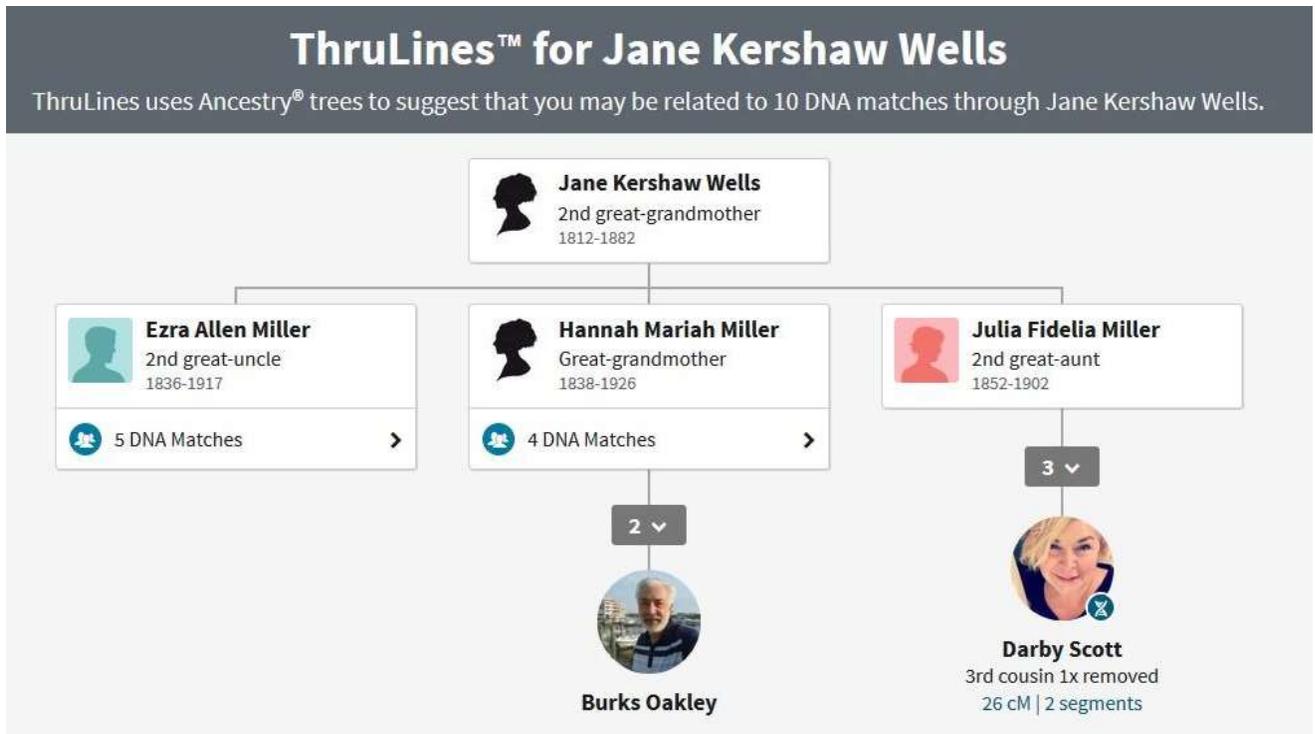
Making this connection is important to me, since the Welles family was quite important in Connecticut in the 1600's, as was the Shelton family (see Chapter 5A).

About ThruLines™

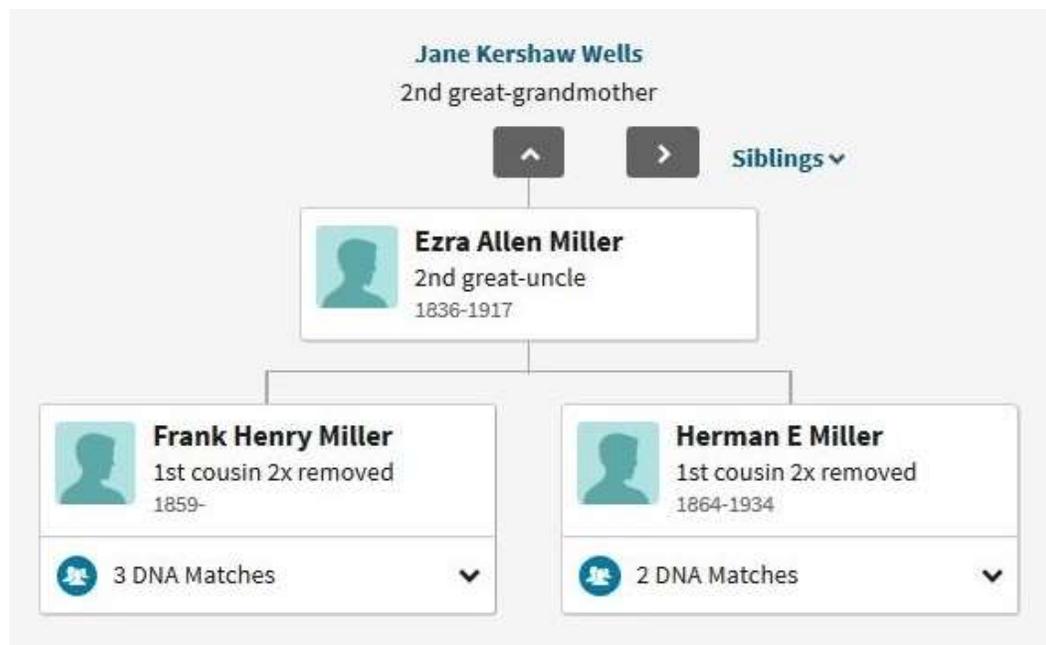
In early 2019, Ancestry.com released a new software tool called ThruLines™. This software first identifies my DNA matches and then searches their family trees (and mine) to determine how we are related. It also searches through all family trees on the Ancestry.com website in an attempt to extend minimal family trees and find possible genealogical connections. It can even scan family trees that are marked "Private", as long as they are searchable. **DISCLAIMER** – The ThruLines™ show suggested relationships that could account for DNA matches between two people. The ThruLines™ are based on family trees on the Ancestry.com website, and these trees might contain errors. The reader should keep in mind that the ThruLines™ are only suggestions and should not be taken as proof of a relationship. So while I will use the terminology that a certain ThruLines™ accounts for my DNA match with someone, it really isn't proof.

Jane Kershaw Wells – My 2nd-Great Grandmother

Here is my ThruLines™ for Jane Kershaw Wells:

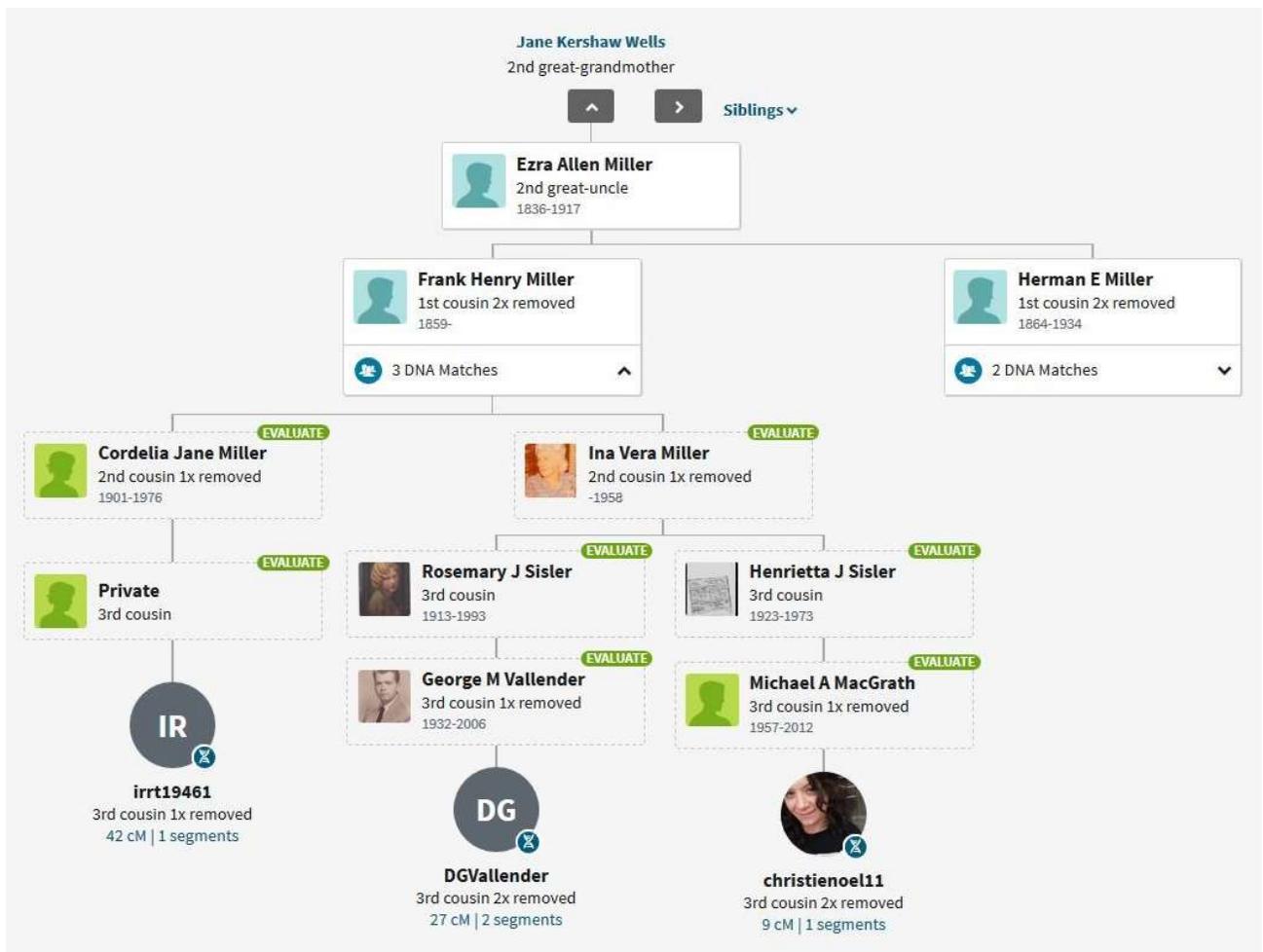


This section shows a DNA match with Darby Scott, who is descended from Jane Kershaw Wells's daughter Julia Fidelia Miller. Expanding the line at the left that goes through Jane's son Ezra Allen Miller gives:



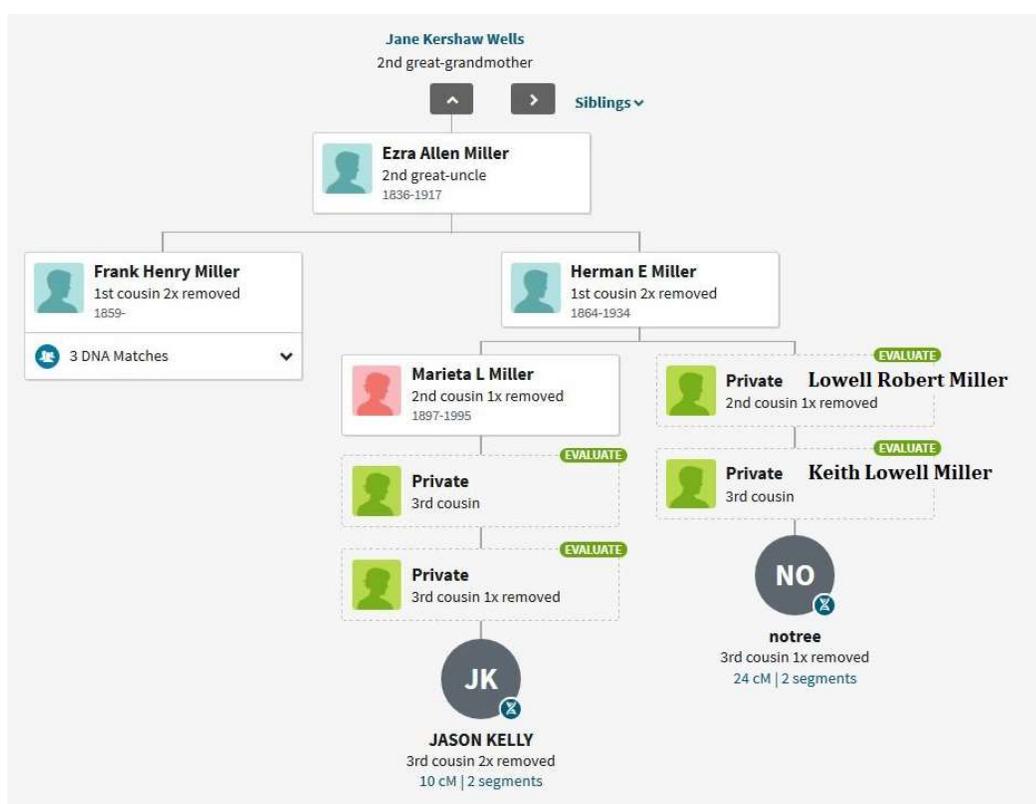
I have three DNA matches with descendants of Frank Henry Miller and two DNA matches with descendants of Herman Ellsworth Miller.

Expanding the Frank Henry Miller line gives:



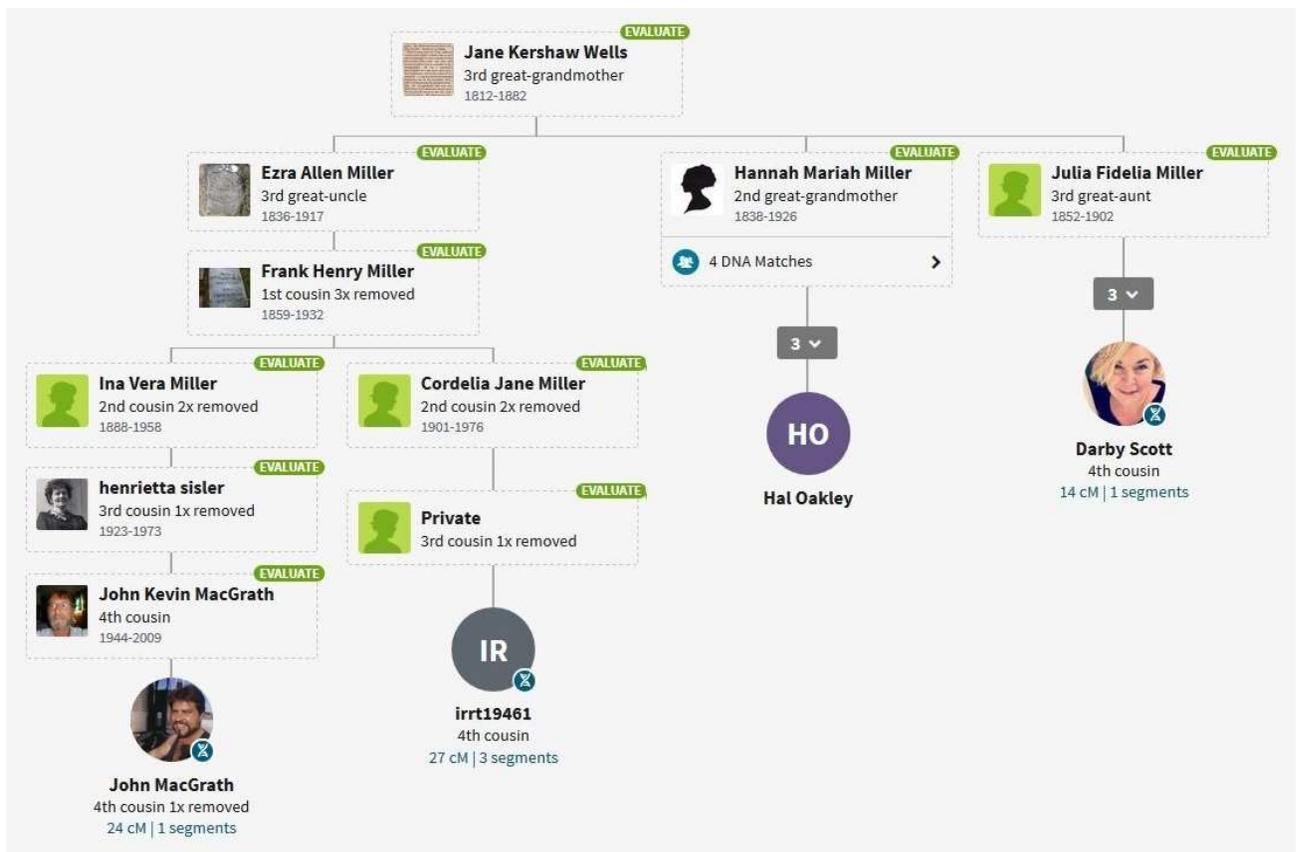
This line accounts for my DNA matches with *irrt19461*, *DGVallender*, and *christienoel11*.

Moving on to the Herman Ellsworth Miller line:



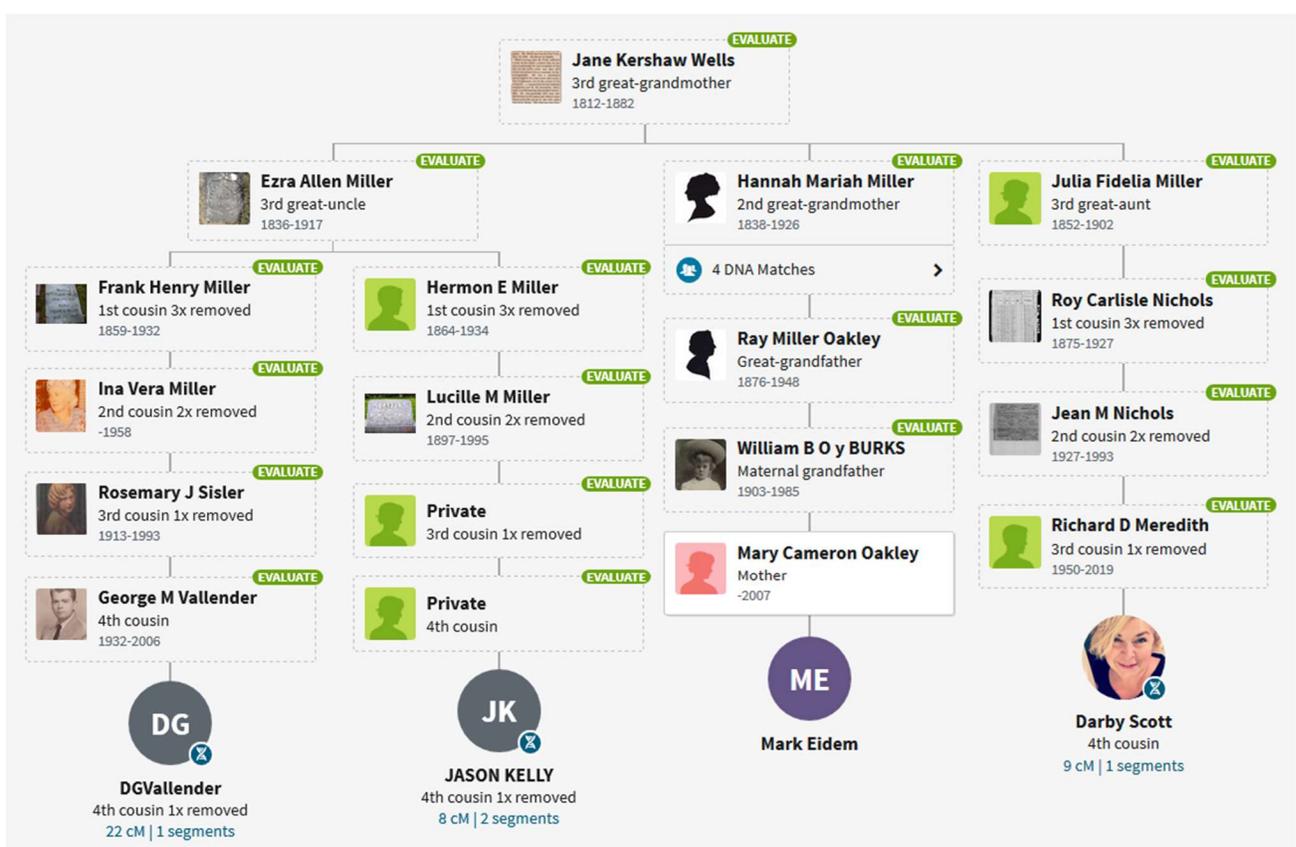
This line accounts for my DNA matches with *Jason Kelly* and *notree* (who was born a Miller).

Since I also have access to the ThruLines™ for my cousins Hal Oakley and Mark Eidem, I decided to look at them as well. Here is Hal's ThruLines™ for Jane Kershaw Wells:



While Hal has two of the DNA matches that I have, he has a new one that I don't have – with **John MacGrath**, who is descended from Jane Kershaw Wells through her son Ezra Allen Miller and his son Frank Henry Miller.

Moving on to view Mark Eidem's ThruLines™ for Jane Kershaw Wells:

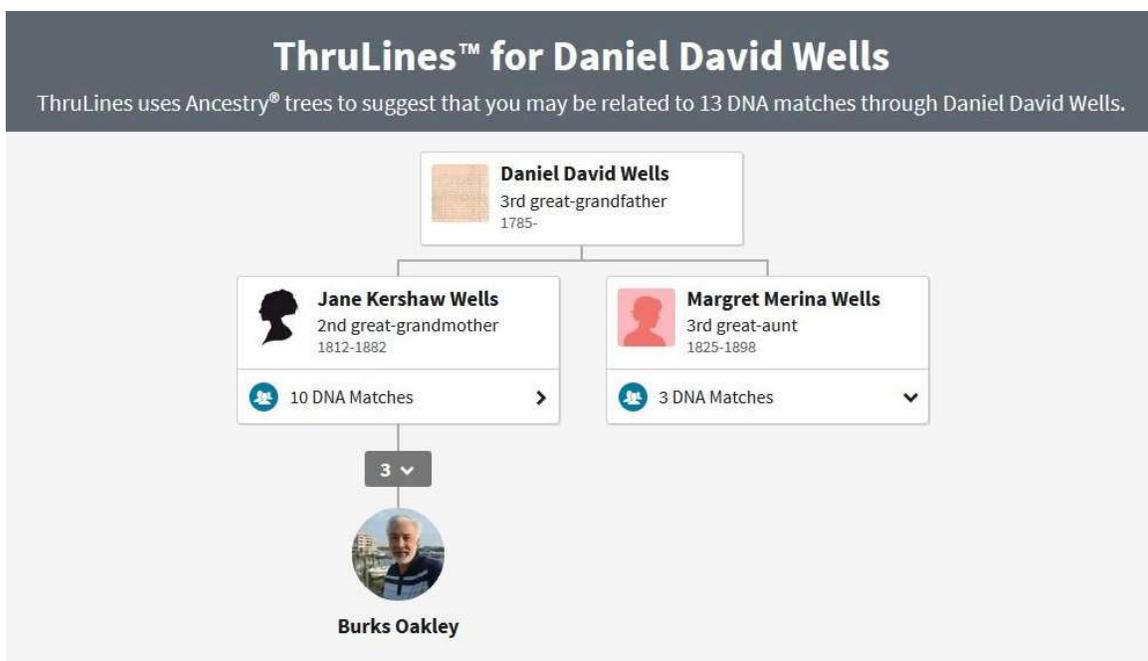


This chart is very busy, but it really doesn't have any new information – that is, it does not have any no new DNA matches. This ThruLines™ accounts for Mark's DNA matches with **DGVallender**, **Jason Kelly**, and **Darby Scott**. Note that Mark only has his mother, Mary Cameron Oakley, in his tree (indicated by the white box). All the other people in this chart came from other family trees on the Ancestry.com website (and was constructed by the ThruLines™ software).

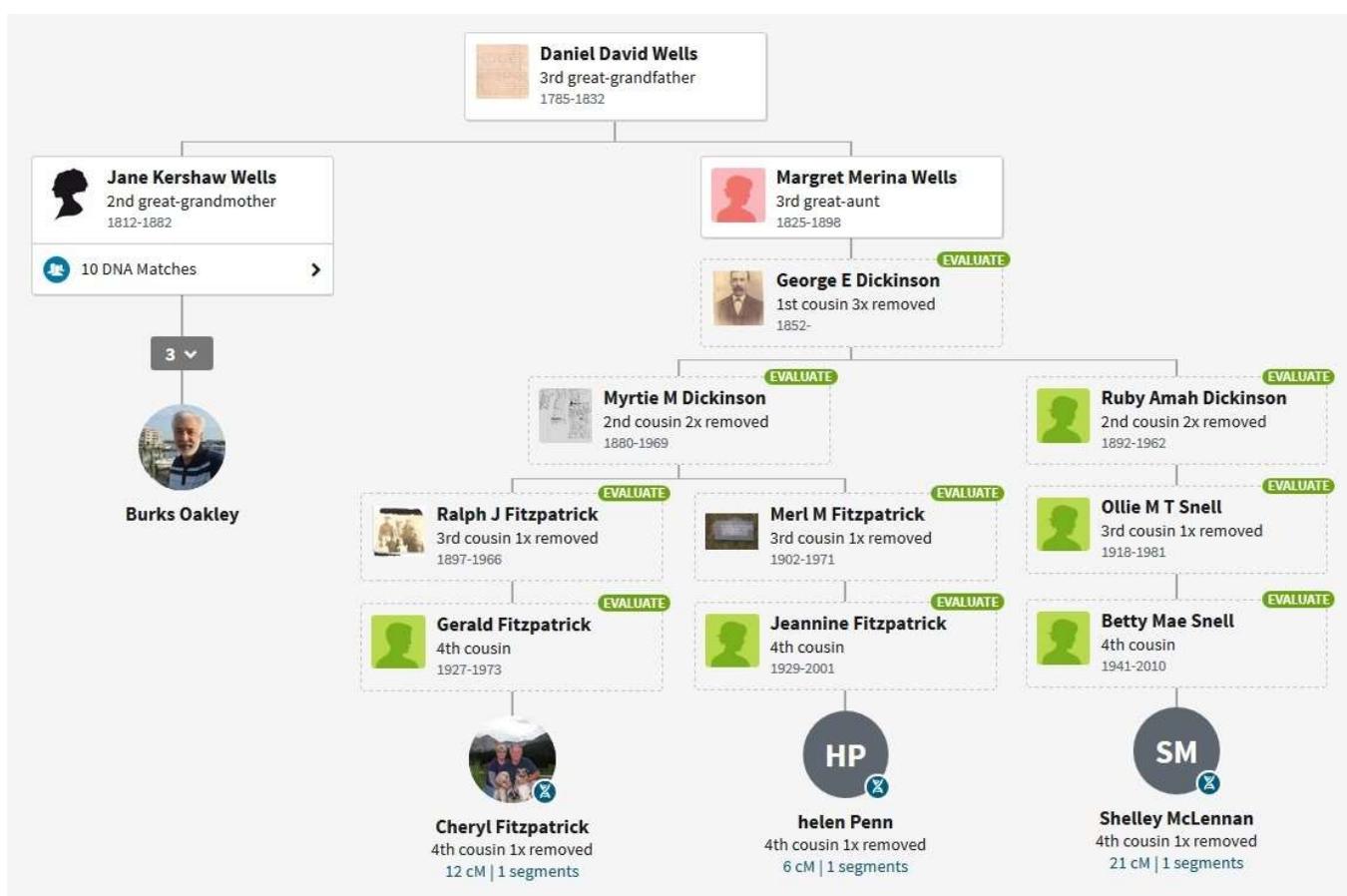
Overall, the ThruLines™ that Hal, Mark, and I have for Jane Kershaw Wells are strong support of the genealogical record that she was my 2nd-great grandmother.

Daniel David Wells – My 3rd-Great Grandfather

Moving back one generation, I get to Daniel David Wells, who was one of my 3rd-great grandfathers:



This chart shows that I have DNA matches with three descendants of Daniel David's daughter Margret Merina Wells. Opening the lines gives:

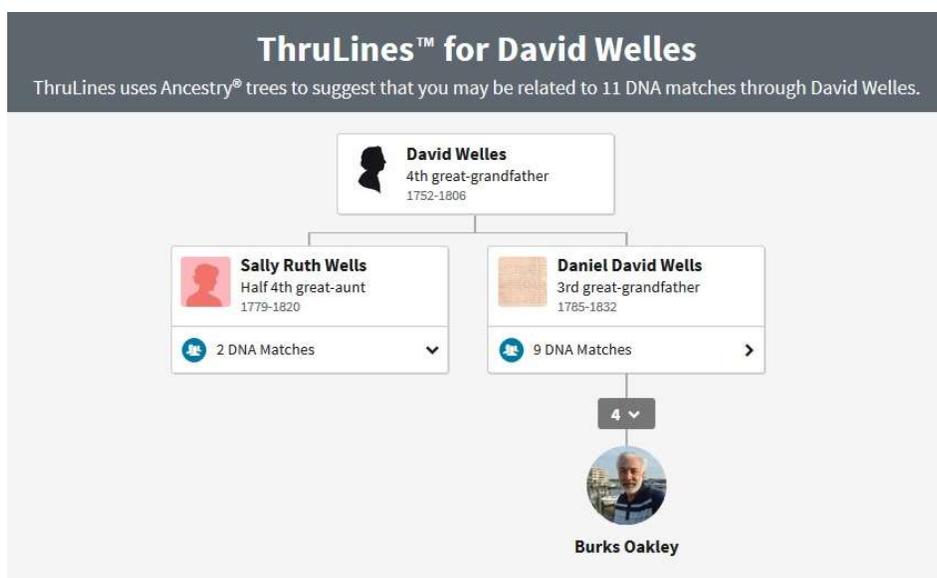


This ThruLines™ accounts for my DNA matches with ***Cheryl Fitzpatrick, helen Penn, and Shelley McLennan.***

I should add that my ThruLines™ for Daniel David Wells' wife, Rosannah Clary, is the same as this. Overall, this ThruLines™ is not surprising, given all of the genealogical evidence that Daniel David Wells was the father of Jane Kershaw Wells.

David Welles – My 4th-Great Grandfather

Moving back one more generation, I get to David Welles (1752-1806). This is the big test, since I have hypothesized that David Welles was the father of Daniel David Wells [See Chapter 5A]. Several years ago, I was unable to find any other family trees on the Ancestry.com website that showed this father-son relationship, but I found a number of DNA matches with distant cousins to support this hypothesized relationship. Here is my ThruLines™ for David Welles:

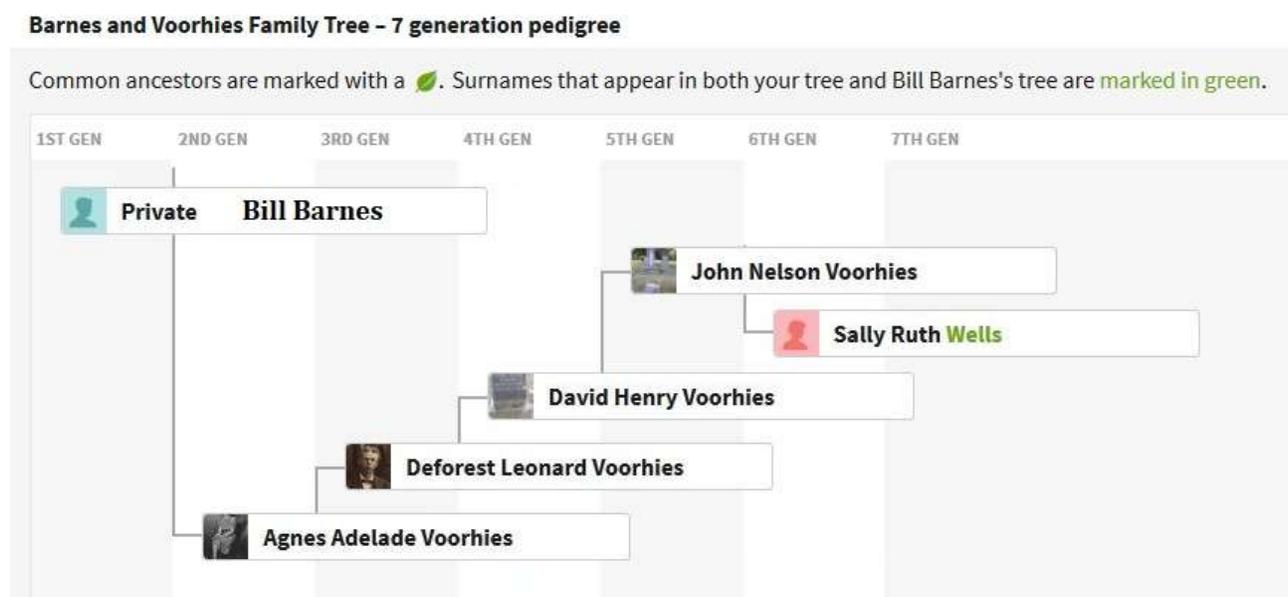


The line at the left goes back to David Welles through his daughter Sally Ruth Welles. Expanding this line gives:



This line account for my DNA matches with two descendants of David Welles – **Bill Barnes** and **Lisa_Thurn1**.

Since it is really important for me to make the father-son connection between David Welles and Daniel David Wells, I want to examine this ThruLines™ in more detail. I'll first look at **Bill Barnes**. His own family tree on Ancestry.com does indeed go back to Sally Ruth Wells:



I already had Sally Ruth Wells in my family tree (as indicated by the white box in the ThruLines™ chart). She appears in other family trees on Ancestry.com; here is her entry in the Rood family tree¹:

Sally Ruth Wells
BIRTH 13 APR 1779 • New Jersey, USA
DEATH 12 AUG 1820 • Montgomery Co., New York

Family

Parents

David Welles
1752-1807

Ruth Shelton

Spouse & Children

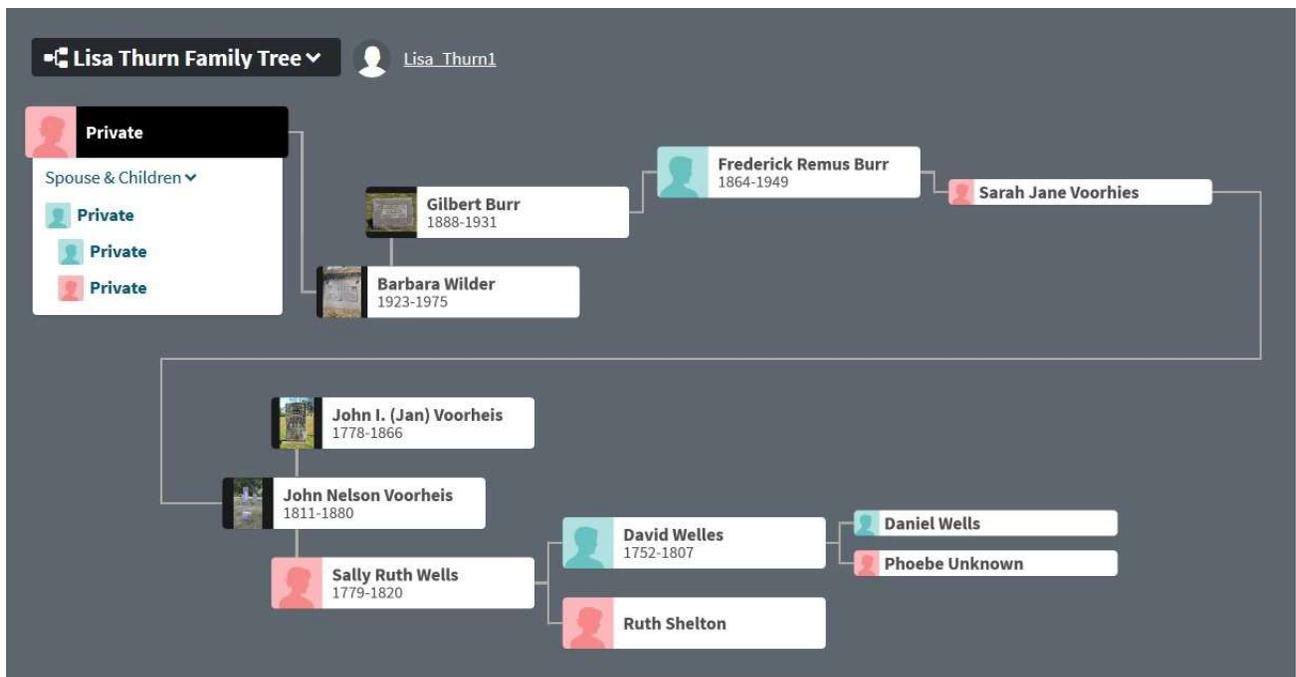
John I. (Jan) Voorheis
1778-1866

John Nelson Voorheis
1811-1880

So the line from David Welles down to **Bill Barnes** looks like it is correct.

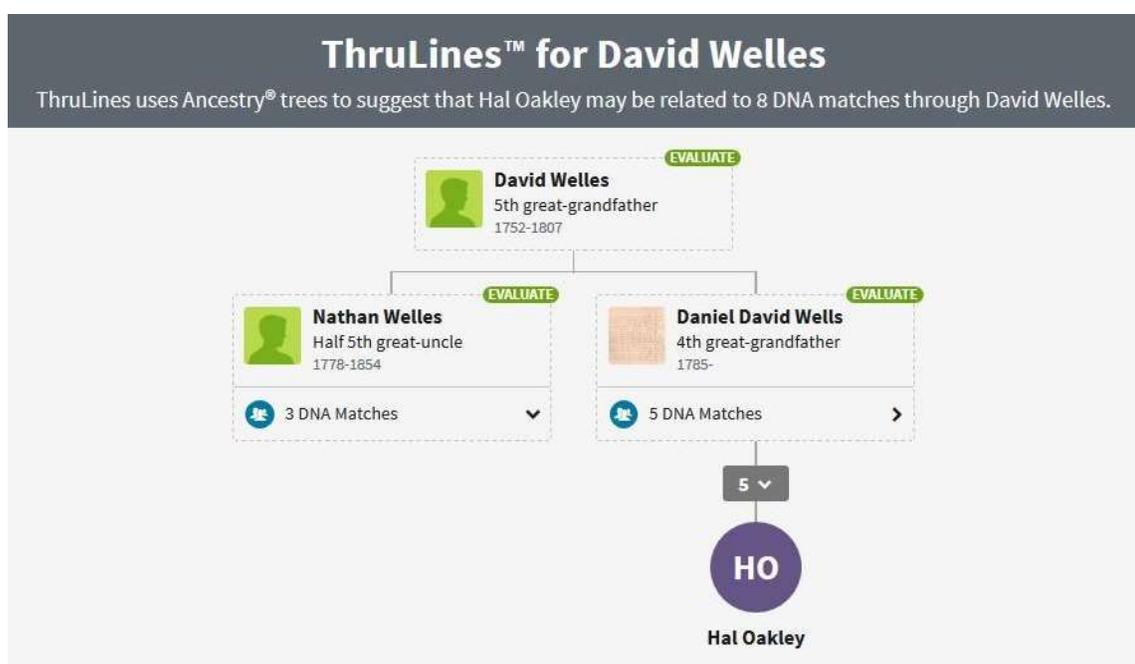
My other DNA match who is descended from David Welles through his daughter Sally Ruth Welles is **Lisa_Thurn1**. I looked at her family tree on Ancestry.com and found that she has a complete line back to David Welles. Here is an edited version of her “Lisa Thurn Family Tree” (Lisa is the person in the upper-left marked “Private”):

¹ <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/32139904/person/202085124924/facts?ssrc=>

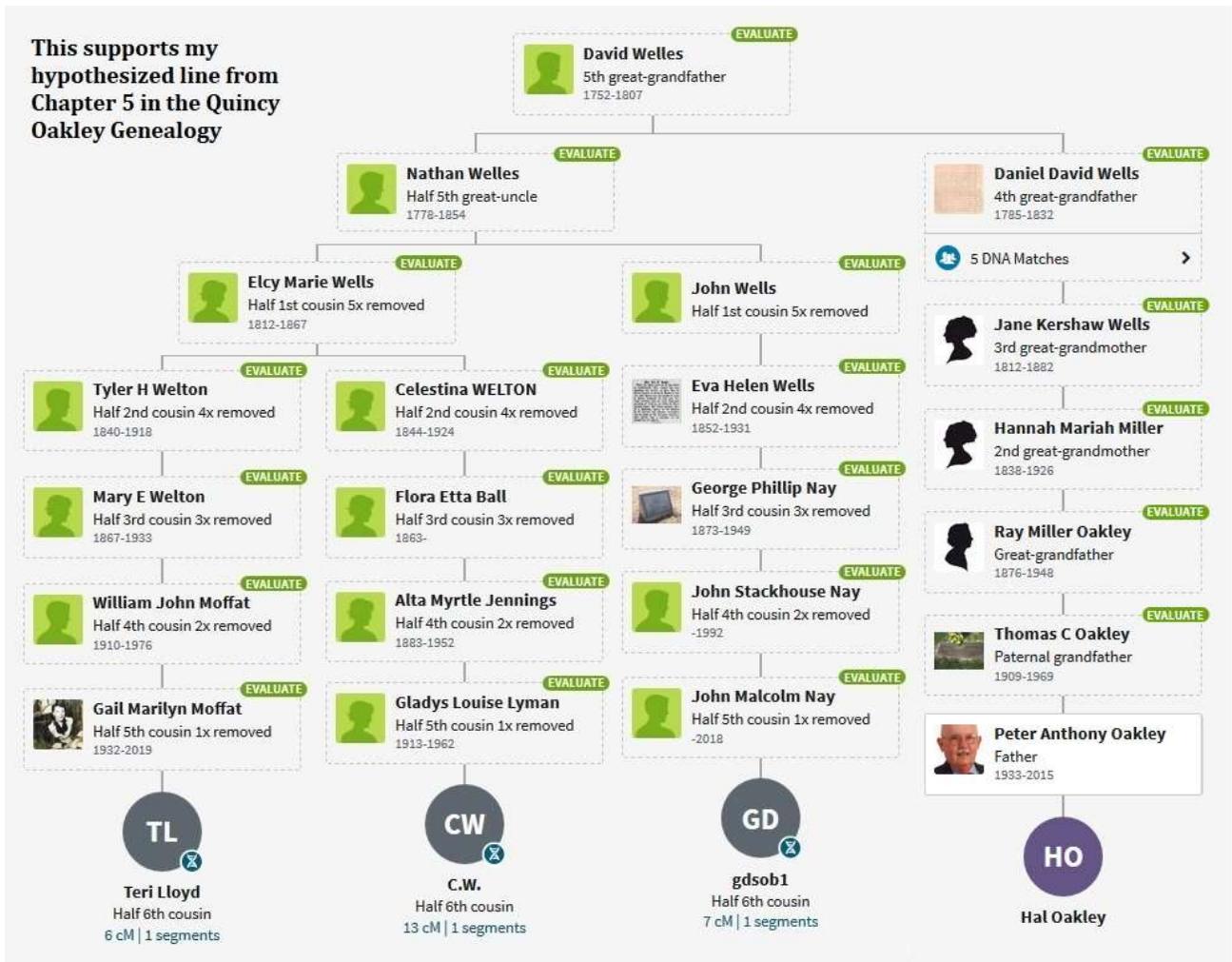


One important point here needs clarification. Lisa's maternal grandfather is shown in this pedigree as Gilbert Burr (1888-1931), but Lisa's mother's surname was Wilder. I contacted Lisa about this discrepancy, and she said that Gilbert Burr (who also appears in some trees as James Gilbert Burr) changed his name to Joseph Gene Wilder before joining the US Army in World War I. The name on his gravestone is Joseph G. Wilder (with a birth year of 1893). His brother was Charles Remus Burr, and interestingly, Lisa's grandmother married Charles after Joseph died.

Since both of my DNA matches with descendants of Sally Ruth Welles have the complete line back to her in their trees, I'm inclined to believe that these genealogical relationships could indeed count for my DNA matches with them. I mentioned that the father-son connection between David Welles and Daniel David Wells is important to verify. I decided to look to see if there were any other DNA connections, so I first looked at Hal's ThruLines™ for David Welles. Note that since Hal is one generation removed from me (his grandfather and my father were brothers), David Welles was Hal's 5th-great grandfather. Here is the ThruLines™:



Hal has a line going through David Welles' son Nathan Welles that I don't have. Here is the entire ThruLines™ with the lines open:



Note that Hal only has his father (Peter Anthony Oakley) is his family tree, so Hal's line back to David Welles was constructed from information in other trees. Hal has three new DNA matches through Nathan Welles that I don't have – with **Teri Lloyd**, **C.W.**, and **gdsob1**.

Was Nathan Welles really a son of David Welles? How did the ThruLines™ make this connection? I clicked on the “Evaluate” button for Nathan Welles, and I learned that multiple family trees have him as the son of David Welles:

Nathan Welles

Nathan Welles may be the son of David Welles. Below is some of the information used to suggest this relationship:

Ancestry Member Trees

40 other member trees identify Nathan Welles as the son of David Welles.

Lewis Westfall Family Tree by Hannah Lewis

6 Records

Aimee's Bio Family Tree by shayopenshaw33

5 Records

Putnam Family Tree by sylveaesmeyer

5 Records

Janeski Family Tree by Kenneth Janeski

3 Records

Alm/Kristiansen/Smith family tree by kathypr

2 Records

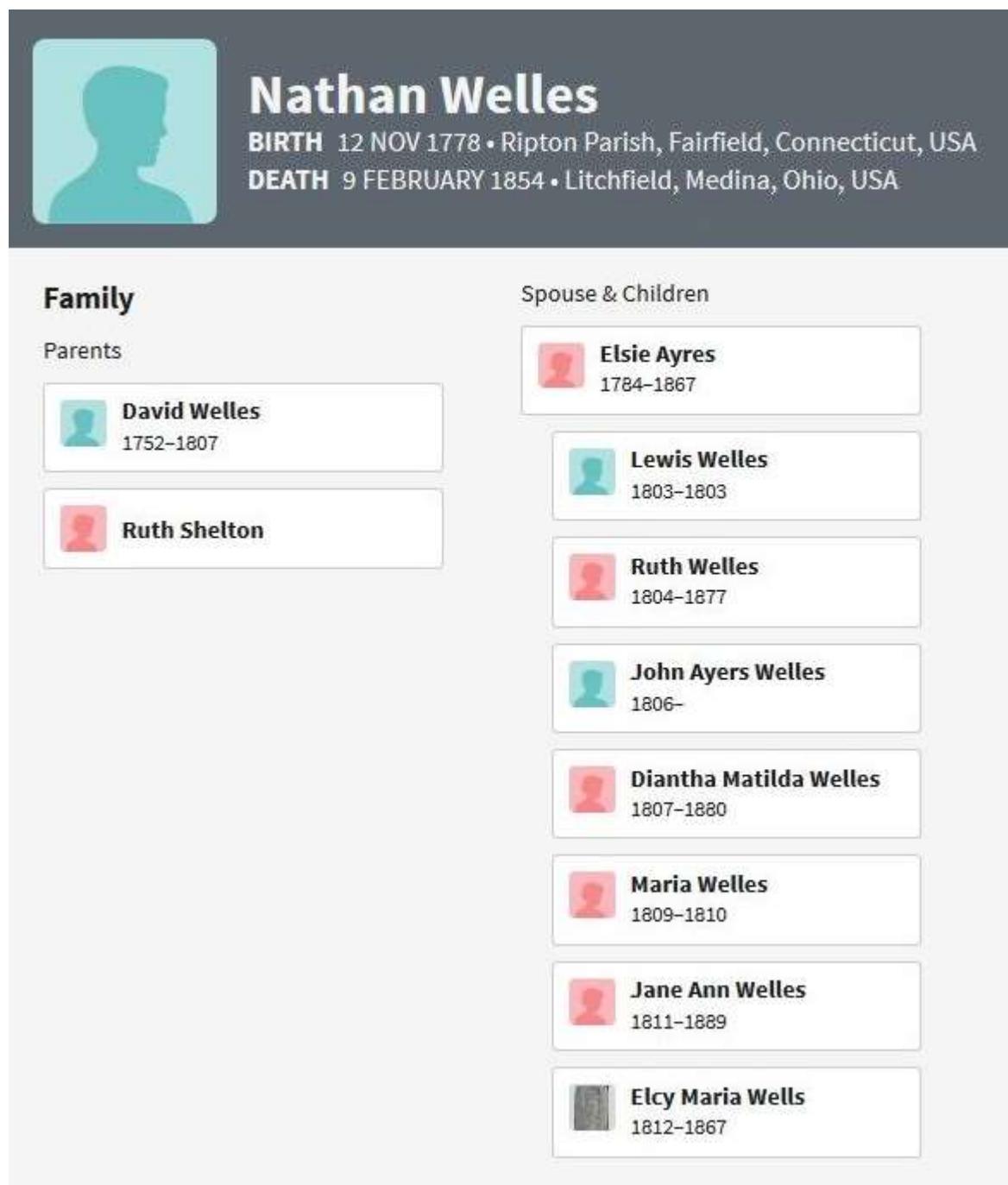
Barbara Kenady family tree by barbara kenady

2 Records

Lewis Holland v4 by realoldone

2 Records

The ThruLines™ to Hal's DNA matches connect through Nathan's children Elcy Marie and John. And sure enough, there are multiple trees that show these children; here is one:



Nathan Welles
BIRTH 12 NOV 1778 • Ripton Parish, Fairfield, Connecticut, USA
DEATH 9 FEBRUARY 1854 • Litchfield, Medina, Ohio, USA

Family

Parents

- David Welles**
1752-1807
- Ruth Shelton**

Spouse & Children

- Elsie Ayres**
1784-1867
- Lewis Welles**
1803-1803
- Ruth Welles**
1804-1877
- John Ayers Welles**
1806-
- Diantha Matilda Welles**
1807-1880
- Maria Welles**
1809-1810
- Jane Ann Welles**
1811-1889
- Elcy Maria Wells**
1812-1867

So there are indeed family trees with multiple records that support part of these lines. What about the rest of these lines?

Teri Lloyd's pedigree on the Ancestry.com website does go back to Elcy Marie Wells. So that checks.

C.W.'s pedigree only goes back to Flora Etta Ball. Then 37 member trees on Ancestry.com identify Flora Etta Ball as the daughter of Celestina Welton, and 45 member trees identify Celestina Welton as the daughter of Elcy Maria Wells. So this line checks.

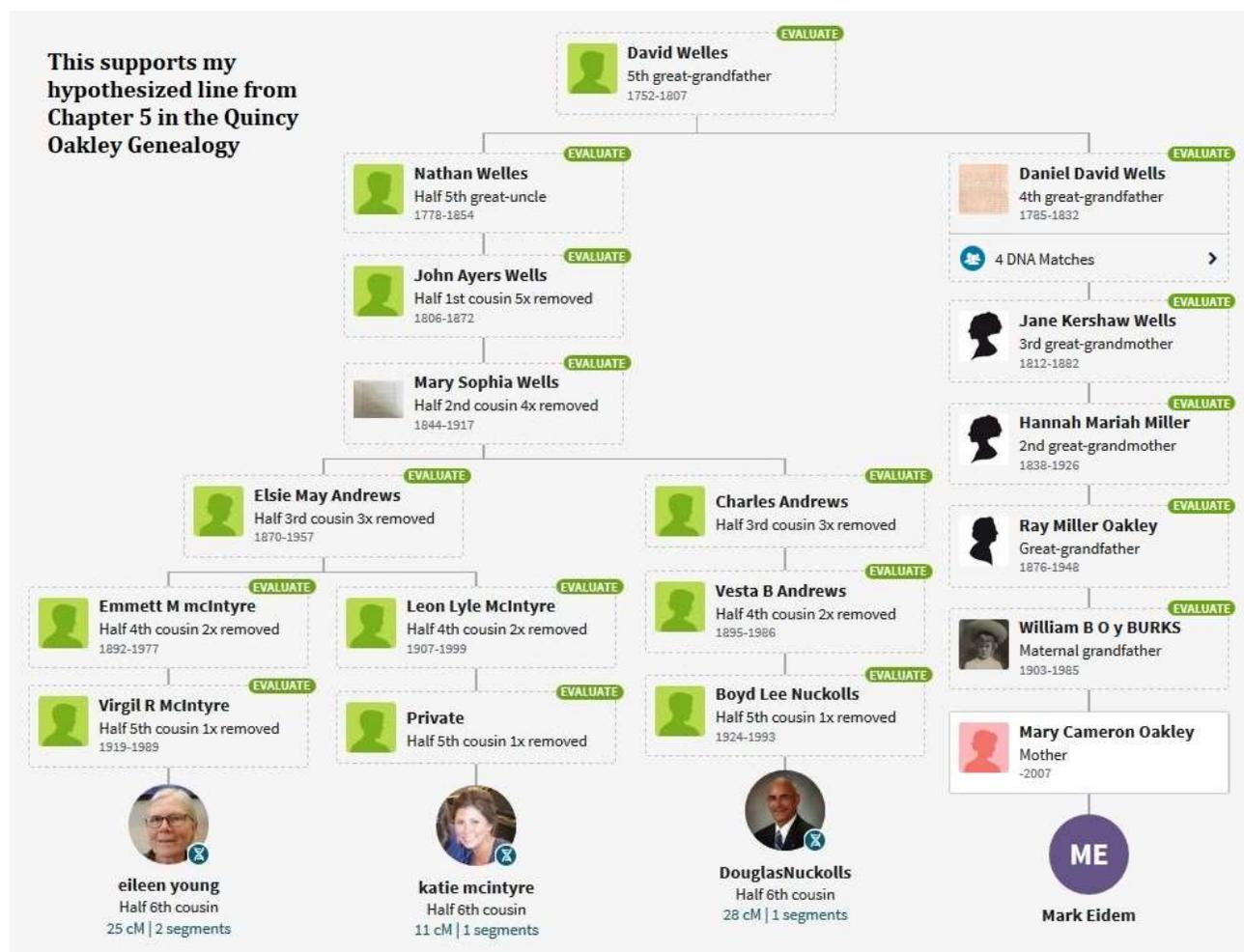
gdsob1's pedigree on Ancestry.com goes back to John Wells, and 23 member trees identify John Wells as the son of Nathan Welles. So this line checks.

Overall, Hal's DNA matches in his ThruLines™ for David Welles provide more evidence about our family's connection to the Welles family of Connecticut.

For completeness, I decided to look at my cousin Mark Eidem's ThruLines™ for David Welles. Mark's grandfather and my father were brothers, so Mark, like Hal, is one generation removed from me. This means that David Welles was Mark's 5th-great grandfather. Here is the ThruLines™:



Mark has three DNA matches with descendants of Nathan Welles. Here is a screenshot of this ThruLines™ with the lines open:



Oh my! Mark has a totally different set of DNA matches than Hal does. And I don't have any matches on the Nathan Welles line. Mark's matches are with *eileen young*, *katie mcintyre*, and *DouglasNuckolls*.

The family tree that **eileen young** has on Ancestry.com only goes to Elsie May Andrews. But then 25 member trees identify Elsie May Andrews as the daughter of Mary Sophia Wells, 13 member trees identify Mary Sophia Wells as the daughter of John Ayers Wells, and 23 other member trees identify John Ayers Wells as the son of Nathan Welles. So this line checks.

The family tree that **katie mcintyre** has on Ancestry.com also only goes back to Elsie May Andrews, but then it is the same as **eileen young's**. They are second-cousins. So her line checks.

The family tree that **Douglas Nuckolls** has on Ancestry.com only goes back to Charles Andrews. But then 26 member trees identify Charles Andrews as the son of Mary Sophia Wells, and then the line is the same as the others.

All this DNA evidence certainly supports the idea that David Welles was the father of Daniel David Wells.

As an aside, there now are other family trees on Ancestry.com (which I hadn't found previously) that have David Welles as the father of Daniel David Wells.

David Welles

David Welles may be the father of Daniel David Wells. Below is some of the information used to suggest this relationship:

Ancestry Member Trees

10 other member trees identify David Welles as the father of Daniel David Wells.

Lusardi Family Tree by pgl57

5 Records

Howarth/Mishler tree by Hope

Leahey

4 Records

Aimee's Bio Family Tree by

shayopenshaw33

3 Records

MMChilds FAMILY TREE by Martha

Abts

2 Records

Here is a specific example:

 **David Welles in the Kerry_**
current
2011-08-13_2011-08-17_20
12-03-09

Tree owner: wainaschofer

B: 31 Mar 1752 · Ripton Parish, Monroe, Fairfield Connecticut
D: 1806 · Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York, USA

 **Records** 0 ▾

 **Photos** 0 ▾

 **Family** ▲

Parents

 **Daniel Welles** 1722-1791

 **Phoebe** 1722-1812

Spouse & Children

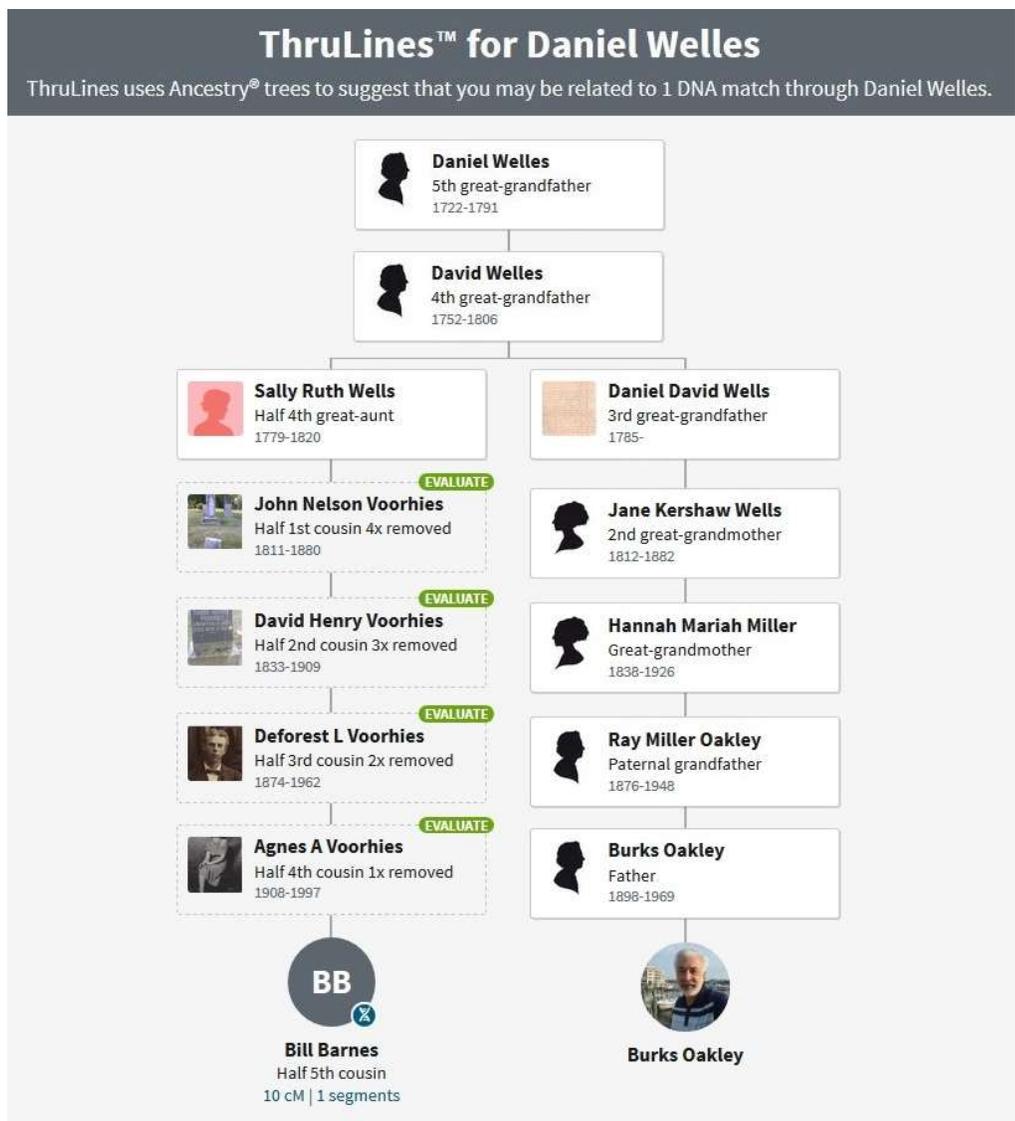
 **Ruth Shelton** 1748-1800

 **Daniel David Wells** 1785-1830

Up to this point, the DNA evidence in the ThruLines™ for our Wells/Welles ancestors are completely consistent with the genealogical record. This is good – there haven't been any surprises.

Daniel Welles – My 5th-Great Grandfather

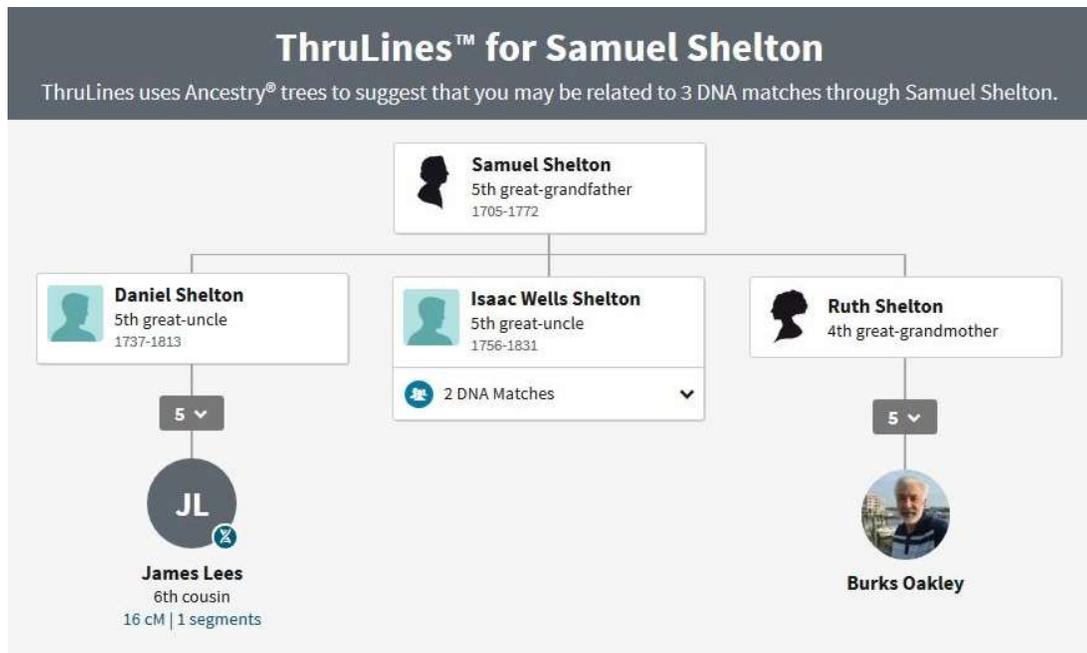
I can go back one more generation on the Welles line – here is the ThruLines™ for Daniel Welles, who was one of my 5th-great grandfathers:



This ThruLines™ doesn't have any new information. And Hal and Mark don't go back that far with their ThruLines™ (the ThruLines™ only go to a person's 5th-great grandparents, and for Hal and Mark, Daniel Welles was their 6th-great grandfather).

Samuel Shelton – My 5th-Great Grandfather

The only person left to look at is Samuel Shelton – another one of my 5th-great grandfathers. I hypothesized that he is the father of Ruth Shelton, who was the wife of Daniel David Wells. I have not been able to find out much about this woman. Here is my ThruLines™ for Samuel Shelton:



Oh my! I have DNA matches going back this far!! Here is the ThruLines™ with all lines expanded:



This ThruLines™ accounts for my DNA matches with **James Lees, Wade Potter,** and **F.C.**

James Lees has a pedigree on Ancestry.com that goes back to Hanna E. Shelton. Then 23 member trees identify Hanna E. Shelton as the daughter of Isaac P. Shelton, and 61 member trees identify Isaac P. Shelton as the son of Daniel Shelton. And Daniel Shelton was already in my tree.

The family tree that **Wade Potter** has on Ancestry.com goes back to Charity Shelton. Then 11 member trees identify Charity Shelton as the daughter of Isaac Wells Shelton. Again, Isaac was in my tree.

F.C.'s tree goes back to Jennette Bartholomae. Then 47 member trees identify Jennette Bartholomae as the daughter of Charity Shelton. And that is the same as the **Wade Potter** line from there.

Again, all this DNA evidence supports my hypothesis from Chapter 5A.

Mark and Hal don't have ThruLines™ that go back this far – since Samuel Shelton was their 6th-great grandfather.

Conclusion

In this narrative, I presented a number of ThruLines™ from the Ancestry.com website that go back on my Wells/Welles line. The ThruLines™ combine DNA matches and family trees, and everything I found in these ThruLines™ is consistent with my Wells/Welles line going back to my 5th-great grandfather Daniel Welles (1722-1791). The ThruLines™ of my cousins Hal Oakley and Mark Eidem are also completely consistent with this Wells/Welles line.

The reason that I am interested in connecting Daniel David Wells to his father David Welles is that David came from a line of Welles that included Thomas Welles (1590-1659), who was born in England and immigrated to Connecticut during the Puritan Great Migration (1620-1640). He eventually became the Governor of the Connecticut Colony. And in England, the Welles line goes all the way back to Lionel (Baron of Hellowe) De Welles, who was born in 1406 in Welle, Lincolnshire, England. If you do a Google search, you will find Lords and Knights of Welles going back to Ragemar, Lord of Welle, Claxby, Withern, etc. (1065 - 1115). So I'm really glad that the DNA evidence supports our connection to this prestigious family!