

Chapter 66

Anna Mosher, My Fourth-Great Grandmother

(and will the real Anna Mosher please stand up?)

[originally written 19 September 2020]

Introduction

I am very interested in genetic genealogy – that is, using DNA to confirm and to extend my family tree. With the coronavirus pandemic, I'm spending most of my time at home in voluntary isolation, so that gives me lots of time to work on my family tree. Several times each week, I look to see if I have any new DNA matches on Ancestry.com; however, I'm really only interested in those matches where the software on the website is able to identify an ancestor (or ancestors) that a DNA match and I have in common.

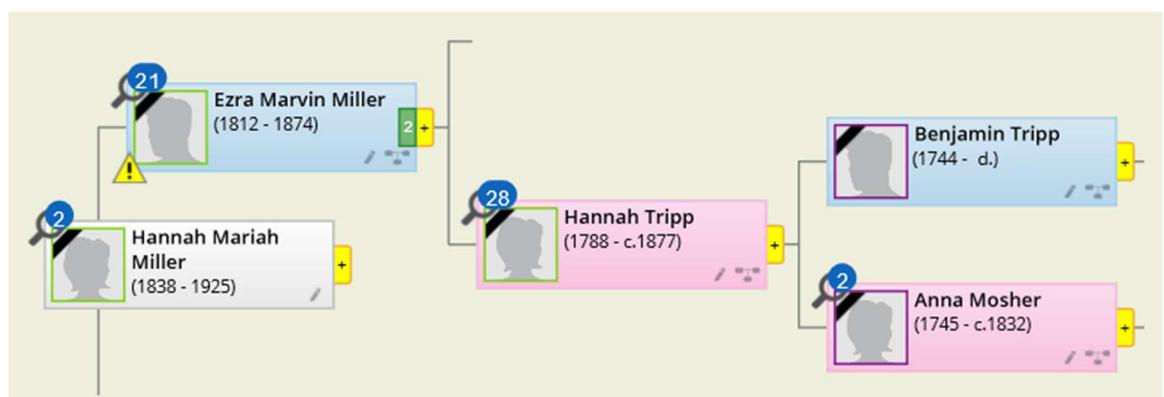
In this narrative, I'll discuss a new DNA match with someone who supposedly is descended from my fourth-great grandmother, Anna Mosher (1745-1832).

My Line to Anna Mosher

I thought that I should begin with my ancestral line going back to Anna Mosher. Here is the first part of this line, going from me back to my great-grandmother Hannah Mariah Miller (1838-1925) – this is from the Geni.com website:



And now the rest of the line, going from Hannah back to Anna Mosher (1745-1832):



Anna was my fourth-great grandmother, and she is going to be the central person in this narrative. For completeness, I left in Anna Mosher's husband, Benjamin Tripp (born 1744), in the above pedigree, since he will also play an important part in this narrative.

New DNA Match with John Nelson

This past week, I saw that I had a new DNA match with a man named John Nelson:



The screenshot shows the 'Burks Oakley's DNA Matches' interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'List' and 'Map'. Below that, a 'Filter by:' section includes 'Unviewed' (selected) and 'Common ancestors'. A search bar and 'Sort' dropdown are also visible. The main content area is titled 'Last 7 days' and features a match for John Nelson. The match is identified as a '5th-8th Cousin' with 'Shared DNA: 11 cM across 2 segments'. To the right, it indicates '32 People' and 'Common ancestor'. A small blue dot next to John Nelson's profile picture indicates it is an unviewed match.

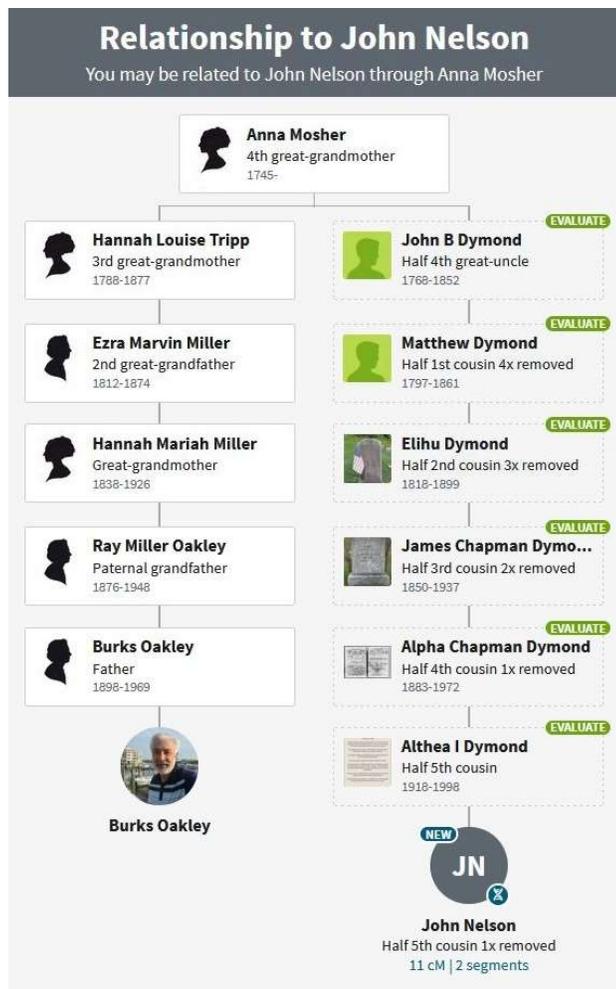
The blue dot indicates that I had not viewed this match previously. I looked to see who our common ancestors were:



The screenshot shows a pop-up window titled 'How are you and John Nelson related?'. It highlights 'Common Ancestors' with a green leaf icon. The text explains that according to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect you and John Nelson. It states 'John Nelson could be your half 5th cousin 1x removed through:'. Below this, a card for 'Anna Mosher' is shown, identifying her as the '4th great-grandmother' with the dates '1745-' and a 'View Relationship' link.

According to the software on Ancestry.com, we both are descended from Anna Mosher – but not her husband. This typically occurs when a woman has children with her first husband, and then the first husband dies and she remarries and has additional children with her second husband. As a result of this, two people with a DNA match can be descended from the same woman, but from her two different husbands.

Here is a chart showing one possible way that John and I could be related:



I am descended from Anna Mosher through her daughter Hannah Louise Tripp (1788-1877), while apparently John Nelson is descended from her through her son John B. Dymond (1768-1852). Wow! John was twenty years older than Hannah. And since John Dymond and Hannah Tripp had different last names, it is clear that Anna must have had two husbands – or did she?

Anna Mosher

Anna Mosher appears in numerous family trees on the Ancestry.com website. Here is her entry in the “Franz Family Tree”, which is owned by *ronandnancyhinz*:¹

¹ I have a DNA match with Nancy Franz (married name Hinz), and we both are descended from a common *Tripp* ancestor.

This entry shows my third-great grandmother, Hannah Louise Tripp (1788-1877). Recall that Hannah appears in the chart showing how John Nelson and I could be related.

Here is another entry for Anna Mosher – this one is from the “Ratchford/Turner Family Tree”, which is owned by *SSchmidt64*:

The screenshot shows a family tree entry for Anna Mosher. At the top, the tree name "Ratchford/Turner Fam..." and a search icon are visible. The user "SSchmidt64" is logged in. The entry for Anna Mosher includes a thumbnail of a document, her name, and her birth and death information: BIRTH 25 AUG 1745 - Dartmouth, Bristol, Massachusetts, United States; DEATH 1832 - Woodstock, Ulster, New York, United States. Below this, the "Family" section lists her parents: James Mosher (1704-1783) and Sarah Davol (1709-1783). The "Spouse & Children" section lists her husband, Matthew Dymond (1740-1839), and their ten children: John Dymond (1768-1852), William Dymond (1772-1862), Henry Dimond (1772-1865), Margaretha Dymond (1773-1850), Matthew Dymond JR (1775-1862), Charles Tripp Dymond (1777-1840), Abel Diamond (1785-), Mary Dymond (1787-1860), Isaac Dymond (1791-1872), and Phebe Dymond (1793-1872).

Oh my! This appears to be the same Anna Mosher, with the same parents, as well as the same birth/death dates and locations as in the previous entry. But this version has her married to Matthew Dymond (1740-1839), and together they had ten children, including John Nelson’s ancestor John Dymond. Interesting that one of the children is named Charles Tripp Dymond (1777-1840) – and Charles Tripp (1777-1840) appeared in the previous entry for Anna Mosher.

I kept looking at family trees with Anna Mosher, and I even found the “Wessels Pelligra” family tree”, which is owned by *pelligra2*:

The screenshot shows a family tree entry for Anna Mosher from the "Wessels Pelligra" family tree. At the top, the tree name "Wessels Pelligra" and a search icon are visible. The user "pelligra2" is logged in. The entry for Anna Mosher includes a silhouette icon, her name, and her birth and death information: BIRTH 25 AUG 1745 - Dartmouth, Bristol, MA, USA; DEATH 1832 - Woodstock, Ulster, NY, USA. Below this, the "Family" section lists her parents: James Mosher (1704-1783) and Sarah Davol (1709-1783). The "Spouse & Children" section lists her husband, Matthew Dymond (1740-1839), and their ten children: John B Dymond (1768-1852), William Dymond (1772-1862), Margaretha Dymond (1773-1850), Charles Tripp Dymond (1777-1840), Abel Diamond (1785-), Henry Dymond (1789-1865), Isaac Dymond (1791-1872), Phoebe Dymond (1793-1872), Benjamin Tripp (1744-1825), Mercy Tripp (1774-1848), Charles Tripp (1777-1840), and Hannah Louise Tripp (1788-1877).

Oh my! This family tree has BOTH husbands and BOTH sets of children. And the dates all overlap – it appears that Anna Mosher had a child with each of her husbands in 1777. Something is really screwed up here.

As an aside, these findings emphasize that the family trees on Ancestry.com are full of errors, and anything found on Ancestry.com has to be thoroughly vetted. At this point, it is difficult for me to see how John Nelson and I are both descended from my fourth-great grandmother Anna Mosher.

I also looked at Anna Mosher on the Geni.com website – here is her profile:

Anna Mosher

Gender: Female

Birth: August 25, 1745
Dartmouth, Bristol County, Province of Massachusetts

Death: circa 1832 (82-91)
Woodstock, Ulster County, New York, United States

Place of Burial: same

Immediate Family: Daughter of James Mosier and Sarah Davol
Wife of Matthew Dymond, Sr. and Benjamin Tripp
Mother of John B. Dymond, Sr.; William Dymond; Margaretha / Margaret Dymond; Matthew Dymond, Jr.; John Henry Dymond; Isaac Dymond; Phebe Dymond; Mary Dymond and Hannah Tripp < less

This entry also shows her as “Wife of Matthew Dymond Sr. and Benjamin Tripp”. Recall that unlike Ancestry.com, where there are hundreds of different entries for a given person, Geni.com only has a single entry for each person in its “World Family Tree”. It seems that this profile on Geni.com propagates the error from Ancestry.com (if this really is an error).

I continued to search Ancestry.com for Anna Mosher. I’m not sure of the search parameters I used, but I somehow encountered a set of results where she has a different pair of parents – William John Mosher (1715-1758) and Margaret Margaretha Wood (1719-1758), and her name is “Anne” Mosher:

All Public Member Trees results for Anna Mosher

Results 1-20 of 60,832

Anne Mosher found in **169 trees** [View all](#)

Anne Mosher from tree Lesley Jeanne Mosher family tree

Birth	25 Aug 1745 Dartmouth, Bristol, Massachusetts, USA	Father	William John Mosher (1715-1758)
Marriage	29 Mar 1769 Exeter, Washington, Rhode Island, USA	Mother	Margaret Margaretha Wood (1719-1758)
Death	1832 Woodstock, Ulster, New York, USA	Spouse	Benjamin Tripp (1744-1825)

82337 People **4 Records** **11 Sources**

This result allowed me to refine my search – looking for “Anne” Mosher with this new set of parents. The revised search turned up a number of family trees with an “Anne” Mosher, born in Dutchess County, New York, having parents William Mosher and Margaret Wood, and husband Matthew Diamond (not Dymond):

Anne Mosher found in 186 trees

Anne Mosher from tree [Hugh Mosher Family Tree](#)

Birth 1753 Beekman, Dutchess, New York, USA

Father **William Mosher** (Born 1715)

Mother **Margaret Wood** (Born 1719)

Spouse **Mathew Diamond**

329 People 2 Records 2 Sources

Anne Mosher from tree [Sarah Feb 2018](#)

Birth 1753

Father **William Mosher** (Born 1715)

Mother **Margaret Wood** (Born 1719)

Spouse **Mathew Diamond**

6419 People 0 Records 0 Sources

Anne Mosher from tree [Sarah Updated Aug 2017](#)

Birth 1753

Father **William Mosher** (Born 1715)

Mother **Margaret Wood** (Born 1719)

Spouse **Mathew Diamond**

4756 People 0 Records 0 Sources

Anne Mosher from tree [Family Genealogy Cheryl Roy](#)

Birth 1753

Father **William Mosher** (Born 1715)

Mother **Margaret Wood** (Born 1719)

Spouse **Mathew Diamond**

11585 People 0 Records 1 Source

I next searched for William Mosher (born 1715), who was married to Margaret Wood (born 1719):

All Public Member Trees results for John William Mosher

Results 1-20 of 60,833

John William Mosher found in 1933 trees [View all](#)

John William Mosher from tree [Rowley Family Tree](#)

Birth 13 Aug 1715 Dartmouth, Bristol, Massachusetts, USA

Marriage 12 Nov 1740 Groton, Middlesex, Massachusetts, USA

Death 13 Jan 1774 Pepperell, Middlesex, Massachusetts, USA

Father **James Mosher** (1675-1768)

Mother **Mary Davol** (1675-1727)

Spouse **Margaret Wood** (1719-1758)

2722 People 3 Records 21 Sources

Hot dang! This guy is in 1933 trees on Ancestry.com. Here is one entry:

McNeil Family Tree [Tree Search](#) MARILYN STEWART -EVANS

John (William) Mosher

BIRTH 13 AUG 1715 • Dartmouth, Bristol, Massachusetts, USA

DEATH 13 JAN 1774 • Pepperell, Middlesex, Massachusetts

[Common DNA Ancestor](#) [DNA Connection](#)

Family

Parents

- James Mosher** 1675-1768
- Mary Davol** 1675-1727

Spouse & Children

- Margaret Wood** 1719-1758
- Silas Mosher** 1736-1774
- James Mosher** 1752-1828
- Rhoda "Rhody" Mosher** 1740-1833
- Anne Mosher** 1753-1828
- Sarah Mosher** 1744-1745
- William Mosher** 1757-1833
- David Mosher** 1747-1832
- Josiah Mosher** 1757-1846
- Jonathan Mosher** 1748-1812
- Margaret Mosher** 1757-1811
- Timothy Mosher** 1750-1833

This John (William) Mosher has a daughter Anne Mosher (1753-1828).

That same family tree (the “McNeil Family Tree” owned by Marilyn Stewart-Evans) has the following entry for Anne Mosher:

The screenshot shows a profile for Anne Mosher on Ancestry.com. The profile header includes the name "Anne Mosher", her birth date "1753" in Dartmouth, Bristol County, Massachusetts, USA, and her death date "28 NOV 1828" in Woodstock, Ulster, New York, United States. Below the header, the "Family" section lists her parents: John (William) Mosher (1715-1774) and Margaret Wood (1719-1758). The "Spouse & Children" section lists her husband, Matthew Dymond (1740-1839), and their children: John B. Dymond (1768-1852), Mary Dymond (1770-1860), William Dymond (1771-1862), Henry Dymond (1772-1865), Margaretha Dymond (1773-1850), and Matthew Dymond (1775-1862). Other children listed are Abel Diamond (1785-1840), Mary Dymond (1787-1856), Henry Dymond (1789-1865), Isaac Dymond (1791-1872), and Phoebe Dymond (1793-1872).

And this Anne Mosher married Matthew Dymond, and their first-born son was John B. Dymond (who appears to be John Nelson’s ancestor). At this point, I was willing to believe that there were two different women with the name Anna/Anne Mosher, and that a large number of family trees on Ancestry.com have them confused.

WikiTree to the Rescue

I did a Google search on “Anna Mosher born 1745” (no quotes). Two of the results are shown here:

The screenshot shows a Google search for "anna mosher born 1745". The search results page displays "About 363,000 results (0.53 seconds)". The first result is from www.wikitree.com, titled "Anne (Mosher) Tripp (1745-1832) | WikiTree FREE Family Tree". The snippet for this result reads: "Oct 31, 2017 - **Biography.** Anna was born Aug. 25, 1745 at Dartmouth, Massachusetts, the daughter of James Mosher and Sarah Davol. She married ...". The second result is also from www.wikitree.com, titled "Anne (Mosher) Dymond (abt.1753-1832) | WikiTree FREE ...". The snippet for this result reads: "Dec 1, 2019 - Anne "Anna" Dymond formerly Mosher. Born about 1753 ... Anne Mosher was born about 1753, daughter of William Mosher and Margaret Wood. Rejected matches > Anna Moser (1745-) > Anne (Mosher) Tripp (1745-1832).".

Wow! This is certainly interesting! These search results point to two different women named Anne Mosher. One of them married a **Tripp**, the other married a **Dymond**. That is consistent with what I just found on Ancestry.com.

Here are these pages from WikiTree:

https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Mosher-251

 **WikiTree**
Where genealogists collaborate

Anne (Mosher) Tripp (1745 - 1832)

Anne Tripp formerly **Mosher**

Born **25 Aug 1745** in **Dartmouth, Bristol, Massachusetts** ?
Daughter of [James Mosher](#) and [Sarah \(Daval\) Mosher](#)
Sister of [Eunice \(Mosher\) Brownell](#), [Gideon Mosher](#), [Ichabod Mosher](#), [Peter Mosher](#) and [Benjamin Mosher](#)
Wife of [Benjamin Tripp](#) — married 29 Mar 1769 in Exeter, Washington, Rhode Island ?
[children unknown]
Died **1832** in **Woodstock, Ulster, New York, United States**

Biography

Anna was born Aug. 25, 1745 at Dartmouth, Massachusetts, the daughter of [James Mosher](#) and [Sarah Davol](#).^[1]

She married [Benjamin Tripp](#), son of [Job Tripp](#) and [Sarah Weeden](#), on March 29, 1769 at Exeter, Washington, Rhode Island.

Her husband Benjamin passed away by August, 25, 1825, when his will was proved.^[2]

In the will of Benjamin Tripp Sr. of Galway, Saratoga, New York, dated on June 23, 1822, he names:

- wife (unnamed)
- daughters Elizabeth Gage, Sarah Tripp, Betsey Freeman, Biget Hampsted, Anna Bennett, Phebe Higgson, Hannah Miller, Ruth Tripp
- two sons Charles and William
- Betsey Higgson, daughter of John and Phebe Higgson
- Sally Freeman, daughter of Jacob and Betsey Freeman
- Caroline Bennett, daughter of Abile and Anna Bennett
- Benjamin, son of Allen and Hannah Miller
- Job, Eunice, Caroden Tripp, children of son Benjamin deceased^[2]

Ann passed away about 1832.

https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Mosher-890

 **WikiTree**
Where genealogists collaborate

Anne (Mosher) Dymond (abt. 1753 - 1832)

Anne "Anna" Dymond formerly **Mosher**

Born **about 1753** in **Beekman, Dutchess County, Province of New York** ?
Daughter of [William Mosher](#) and [Margaret \(Wood\) Mosher](#)
Sister of [Silas Mosher](#), [Jonathan Mosher](#), [James Mosher](#), [William Mosher](#) and [Margaret \(Mosher\) Hoag](#)
Wife of [Matthew Dymond Sr.](#) — married about 1766 in Pawling, Dutchess, New York ?
Mother of [John B. Dymond](#), [Henry Dymond](#), [Margaretha \(Dymond\) Montross](#), [William Dymond](#) and [Isaac Dymond](#)
Died **1832** in **Woodstock, Ulster, New York, United States** ?

 This profile is part of the [Dymond Name Study](#).

Biography

Anne Mosher was born about 1753, daughter of [William Mosher](#) and [Margaret Wood](#).^[1]

Anne Mosher married Matthew Dymond (Diamend) of New Hackensack.^[2] about 1770. Matthew was born between 1748-50 at Beekman, Dutchess, New York, and is thought to be the son of Johannes Diamond.^[1]

Matthew is said to have died at Woodstock, New York in 1839, aged 99 years.^[1]

[For nine children see V. 4: p. 318^[1]]

The Anne Mosher who married Matthew Dymond Sr. is the daughter of William Mosher and Margaret Wood. Recall that this was one of the various scenarios on Ancestry.com.

The Most Likely Scenario

After seeing all of the conflicting information on the Ancestry.com website (and on Geni.com), I now am fairly sure that there are two different women having the name Anna/Anne Mosher – one (my ancestor) married Benjamin Tripp, while the other (John Nelson’s ancestor) married Matthew Dymond Sr.

Here is the line for the **Dymond** branch (again from the “McNeil Family Tree”):

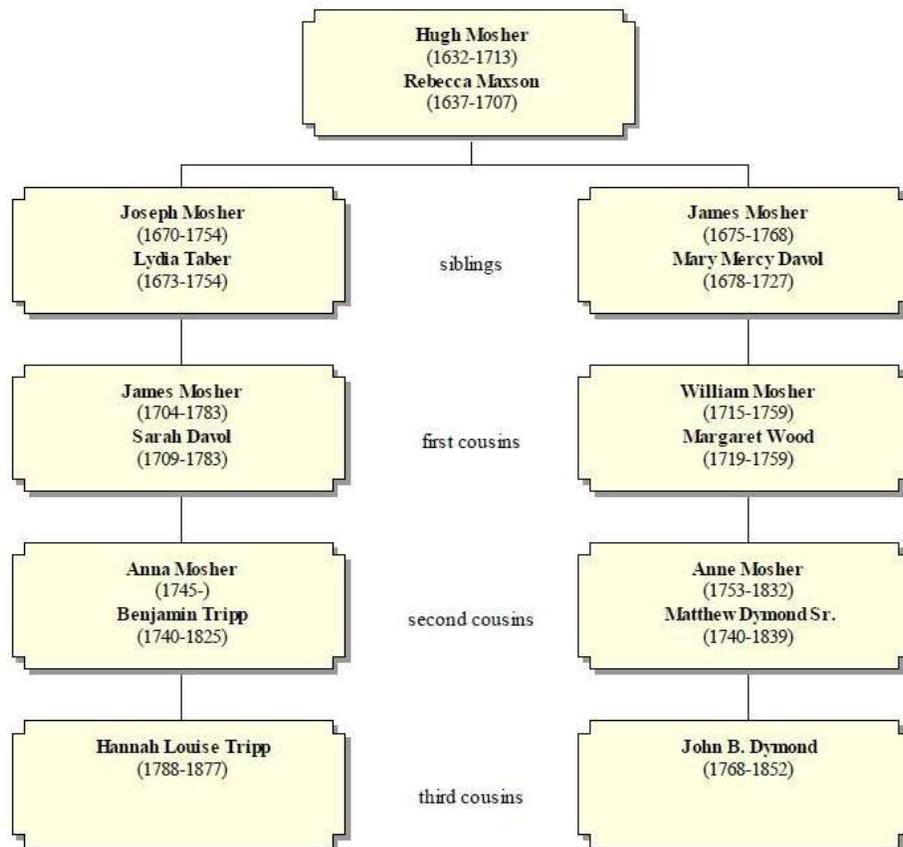


Here is Hannah Louise Tripp’s pedigree from my family tree:



Comparing these two pedigrees, I see that they both go back to Hugh Mosher (1632-1713) and his wife Rebecca Maxson (1637-1707).

I entered the **Dymond** line into my RootsMagic database, and printed a chart showing how Hannah Louise Tripp and John Dymond are related:



According to this chart, Hannah and John were third-cousins.

In looking at the two pedigree charts on the previous page, I saw that both lines went back to an ancestor with the surname *Davol*. In the *Dymond* line, the *Davol* ancestor was Mary Davol. Mary Marcy Davol appears in 3798 different trees on Ancestry.com:

All Public Member Trees results for Mary Davol

Results 1-20 of 222,717

Mary Marcy Davol found in **3798 trees** [View all](#)

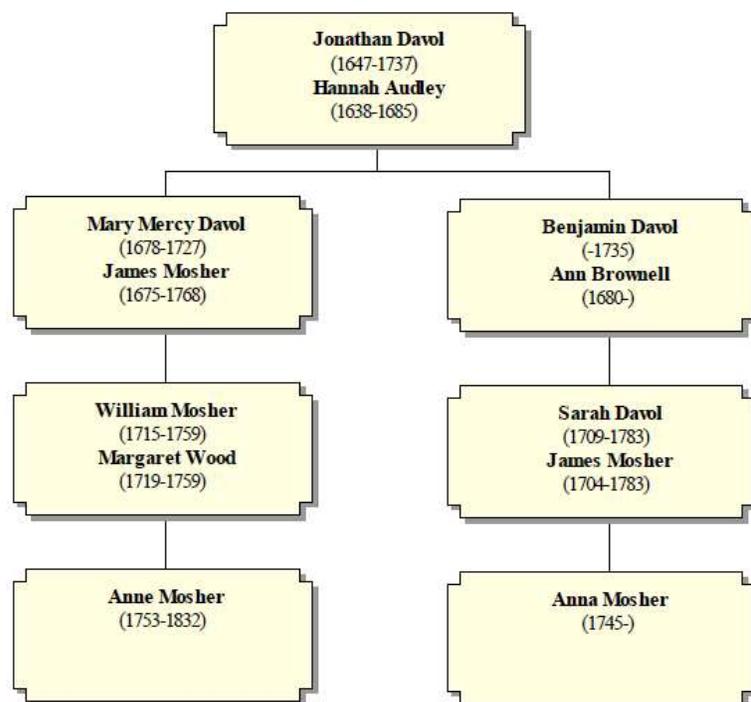
Mary Marcy Davol from tree Golish Family Tree

Birth	16 Nov 1690 Dartmouth, Bristol, Massachusetts, USA	Father	Jonathan Davol (1647-1739)
		Mother	Hannah Audley (1643-1715)
Marriage	6 May 1714 Dartmouth, Bristol, Massachusetts, USA	Spouse	James Mosher (1675-1768)
Death	1727 Beekman, Dutchess, New York, USA		

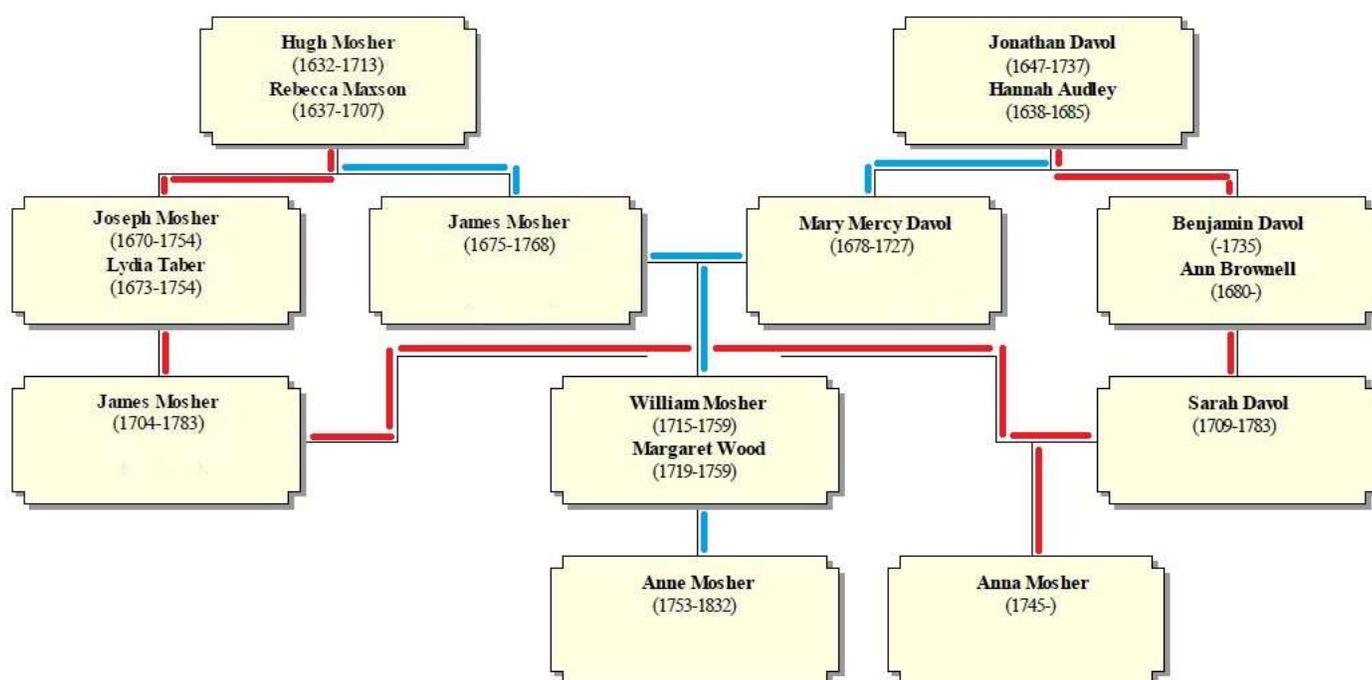
5202 People 6 Records 13 Sources

Her parents were Jonathan Davol (1647-1739) and Hannah Audley (1643-1715), and this couple were Hannah Louise Tripp's second-great grandparents. So now I see that the two Anna/Anne Mosher women also shared a set of Davol-Audley ancestors.

I added Mary Davol's parents to my RootsMagic database, and printed a chart showing how the Anna/Anne women are descended from the Davol-Audley couple:



Now I see that Anne/Anna had two sets of great-grandparents in common, as shown in the following chart:



This chart is somewhat confusing, and I couldn't figure out how to simplify it. At the left is the Mosher-Maxson couple and their sons Joseph Mosher and James Mosher. At the right is the Davol-Audley couple and their children Mary Mercy Davol and Benjamin Davol.

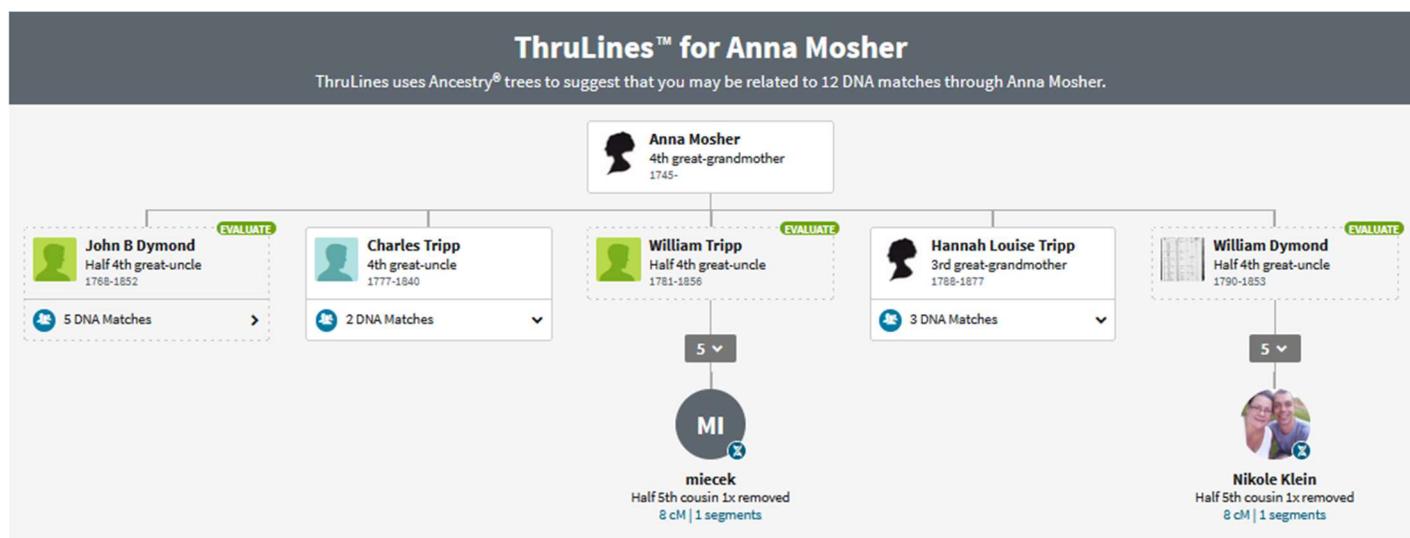
In the center of the chart (follow the **blue** lines), James Mosher married Mary Mercy Davol, and they had a son William Mosher and a granddaughter Anne Mosher.

At the left, Joseph Mosher had a son James, and at the right, Benjamin Davol had a daughter Sarah Davol (follow the **red** lines). They married and had a daughter Anna Mosher.

Another way to think about this is to look at the James Mosher-Mary Mercy Davol couple in the center. Their nephew James Mosher and their niece Sarah Davol married. So lots of family connections here, for sure.

ThruLines™ for Anna Mosher

Ancestry.com has a feature called ThruLines™, which are charts showing how a person might be related to his/her DNA matches through a common ancestor. The ThruLines™ charts are based on the information in family trees on Ancestry.com. Here is my ThruLines™ for Anna Mosher:



Note that this chart includes my DNA matches with five descendants of John B. Dymond (at the far left) and one descendant of William Dymond (at the far right).

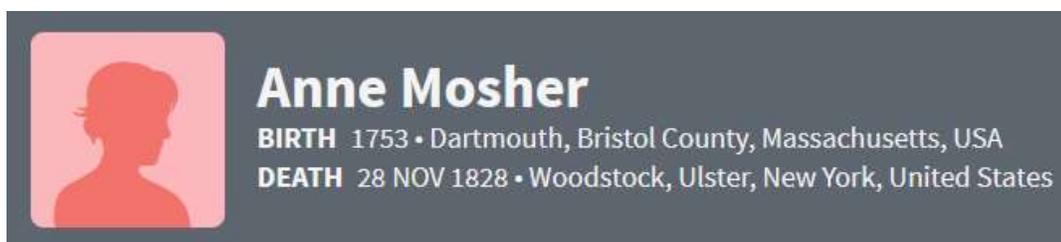
Since ThruLines™ are based on family trees on the Ancestry.com website, and since I now know that many of these trees have serious errors regarding the two women named Anne/Anna Mosher, I believe that the **Dymond** lines in this chart are in error.

But that isn't to say that the six DNA matches in this chart on the **Dymond** lines are not related to me through the Anne/Anna Mosher women. I now believe that these two women are both descended from the Mosher-Maxson couple and also from the Davol-Audley couple. The relationships between these two women could indeed account for my DNA matches with these six people – just not in the way suggested by Ancestry.com.

One Loose End

I'm pretty sure that I have gotten all this correct. But one lingering question remains, and that relates to the two women – Anne Mosher and Anna Mosher – how did they both end up in Woodstock, Ulster County, New York?

Here is the entry for Anne (the wife of Matthew Dymond) from the "McNeil Family Tree":



Here is Anna (my ancestor, the wife of Benjamin Tripp) from the "Franz Family Tree":



Is this another example where one woman has been mistaken for the other one? Or since they were related, did a number of families all make the move to live near one another?

In looking at the “Franz Family Tree” (owned by *ronandnancyhinz*), I see that a number of **Tripp** and **Mosher** family members moved from Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts to upstate New York.

I do know that the Tripp-Mosher couple (my ancestors) did move to upstate New York. Benjamin Tripp died in 1825 in Saratoga, New York. His daughter, Hannah Louise Tripp, married Allen Miller in 1810 in Galway, Saratoga County, New York, and they lived in Scipio, Cayuga County, New York, and Portage, Livingston County, New York, before making the big move west to Winnebago County, Illinois, around 1839.

Perhaps I’ll never know the answer to this nagging question, but I’m not going to lose any sleep over it.

Summary

In this narrative, I examined a new DNA match that I have with a man named John Nelson. Software on the Ancestry.com website suggested that we both are descended from my fourth-great grandmother, Anna Mosher (1745-1832) – and that I am descended from her through her daughter Hannah Louise Tripp, while John is descended from her through her son John Dymond.

I went to great lengths to show how entries for Anna Mosher in family trees on Ancestry.com contain significant errors. At the end of a lot of searching, I discovered that there was a woman named Anne Mosher (1743-1828), who was married to Matthew Dymond. Both Anna Mosher and Anne Mosher were descended from Hugh Mosher (1632-1713) and his wife Rebecca Maxson (1637-1707). In addition, they both were descended from Jonathan Davol (1647-1739) and Hannah Audley (1643-1715).

The common ancestors in the two lines going back from Anne/Anna Mosher could account for the DNA match that I have with John Nelson.

The “take-home message” here is that family trees on Ancestry.com, and the ThruLines™ that are based on these trees, are just a starting point for additional research – they definitely shouldn’t be taken as proof of a relationship.