

Chapter 79

Julie Freeman – An Oakley Relative

[originally written 8 June 2021]

Introduction

I am using DNA on the Ancestry.com website to confirm and to extend my family tree. Several times each week, I look to see if I have any new DNA matches on this site; 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. It is possible to list one's matches "by date", with the newest matches appearing first, so that is what I usually do.

New DNA Match with Julie Freeman

This past week, I decided to scroll down through my list of DNA matches with known common ancestors (sorted "by date"). I wanted to make sure that I hadn't missed any matches. I guess I must have missed at least one – since I saw that I had a new DNA match with a woman named Julie Freeman, and it was more than three-months old:

The screenshot shows the 'DNA Matches' section of the Ancestry.com website. The title 'Burks Oakley's DNA Matches' is at the top. Below it are navigation links for 'List' (which is selected) and 'Map'. There are also filter options: 'Unviewed' (selected), 'Common ancestors' (disabled), and a search bar with 'Search | Sort' dropdown. A button labeled 'More than 3 months ago' is visible. Below these are match details for Julie Freeman: her photo (with a small blue dot indicating unviewed status), her name 'JULIE FREEMAN', her relationship '5th – 8th Cousin', and the shared DNA information '14 cM | < 1% shared DNA'. To the right, there are links for 'Public linked tree', '36 People', and 'Common ancestor'.

The little blue dot next to Julie's photo indicates that I had not previously viewed this match.

I next went on to view our common ancestor (or ancestors):

How are you and JULIE FREEMAN related?

Common Ancestors

According to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect you and JULIE FREEMAN. View a common ancestor to see the relationship path that connects you.

JULIE FREEMAN could be your 3rd cousin 2x removed through:



Amzi Oakley

2nd great-grandfather

1799-1853

[View Relationship](#)



Lucy Ann Eunice Darling

2nd great-grandmother

1804-1884

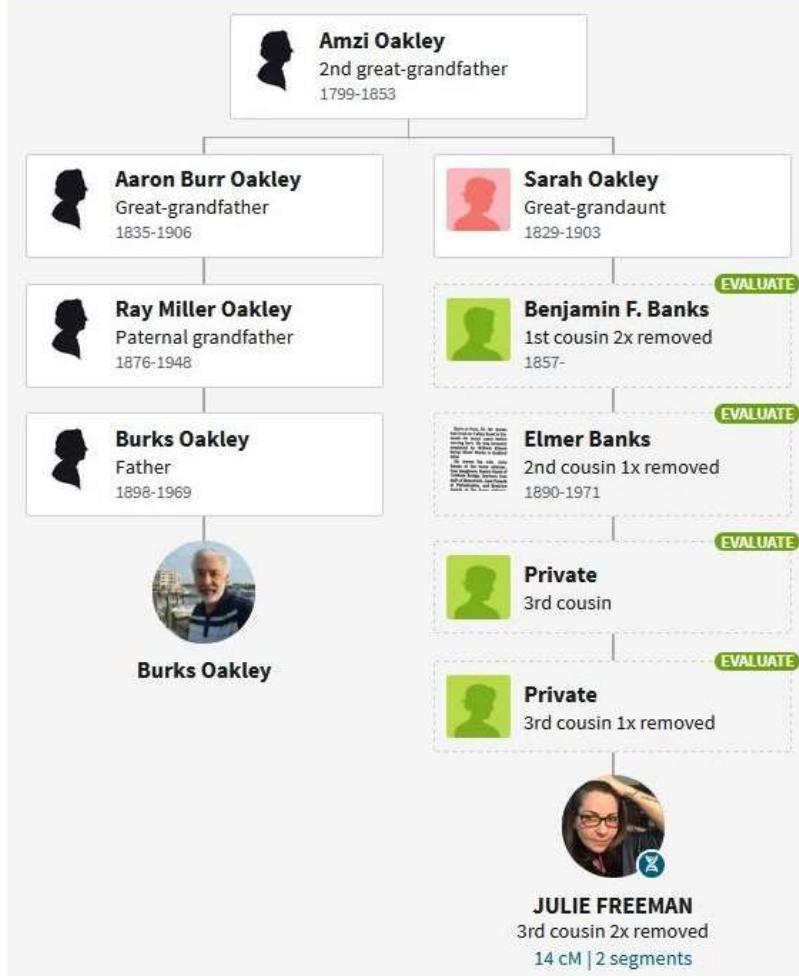
[View Relationship](#)

According to various family trees on the Ancestry.com website, Julie and I are both descended from Amzi Oakley (1799-1853) and his wife Lucy Ann Eunice Darling (1804-1884), who were my second-great grandparents. It was nice to find another DNA match with a descendant of this couple, since up until this new match with Julie, I only had eight DNA matches with their descendants (unlike the **Burks** side of my family, where I have DNA matches with 34 descendants of my 2nd-great grandfather Levi Burks, and DNA matches with 134 descendants of Levi's father).

I next looked at the chart showing how Julie and I are related:

Relationship to JULIE FREEMAN

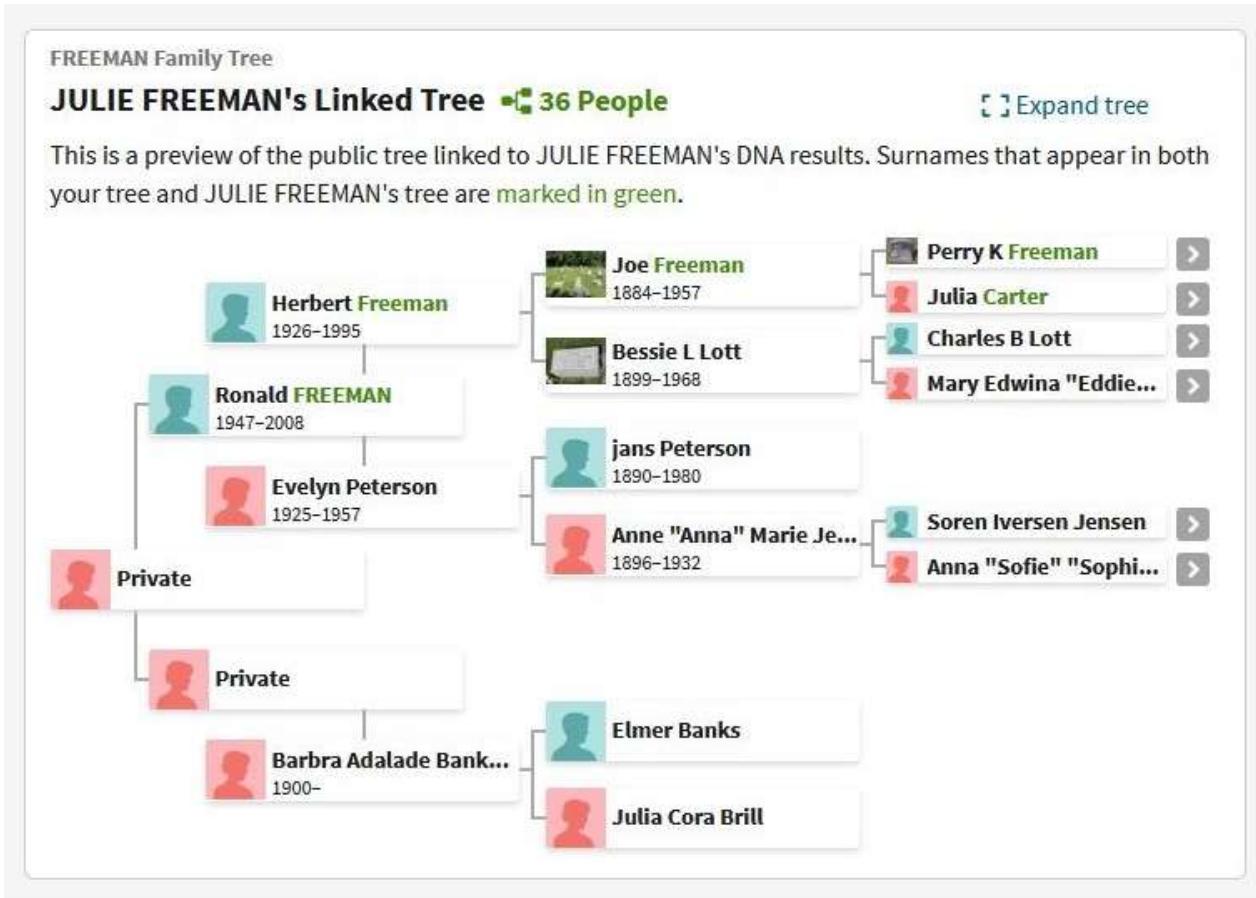
You may be related to JULIE FREEMAN through Amzi Oakley



I am descended from Amzi Oakley thorough his son Aaron Burr Oakley (1835-1906), while Julie is descended from Amzi Oakley through his daughter Sarah Oakley (1829-1903). According to this chart, I am a third-cousin of Julie's maternal grandmother, which means that Julie is my third-cousin twice-removed (3C2R).

The relationship chart for Lucy Ann Eunice Darling looks identical to the chart for Amzi Oakley (with Lucy substituted for Amzi, of course).

I looked at Julie's pedigree chart on the Ancestry.com website:



On the line back to Amzi Oakley and Lucy Darling, she only has her mother, her maternal grandmother (Barbra/Barbara Adalade/Adelaide Banks), and her great-grandfather Elmer Banks. This means that software on the website used other family trees to find the ancestral line from Elmer Banks back to the Oakley-Darling couple.

The relationship chart on the previous page shows that Elmer's father was Benjamin F. Banks, and Benjamin was a son of Sarah Oakley. The **Banks** surname certainly piqued my curiosity, since several other of my DNA matches with descendants of Amzi Oakley go back through Joseph Banks and Josophine Banks (brother and sister). I'll come back to this later.

I next looked at the DNA matches that I share with Julie Freeman. Here is a screenshot that I edited to show just those matches where common ancestors are known:



You and JULIE FREEMAN

5th – 8th Cousin

< 1% shared DNA: 14 cM across 2 segments

Trees Ethnicity Shared Matches

Filter by: Unviewed

Common ancestors

Search | Sort ▾

Close Family



Hal Oakley

1st – 2nd Cousin

418 cM | 6% shared DNA

Public linked tree

346 People

Common ancestor

Distant Family



Karan Rowser

4th – 6th Cousin

44 cM | < 1% shared DNA

Private linked tree

10 People

Common ancestor



Florence Monah...

4th – 6th Cousin

22 cM | < 1% shared DNA

Unlinked Tree



K.M.

Managed by Florence

Monahan

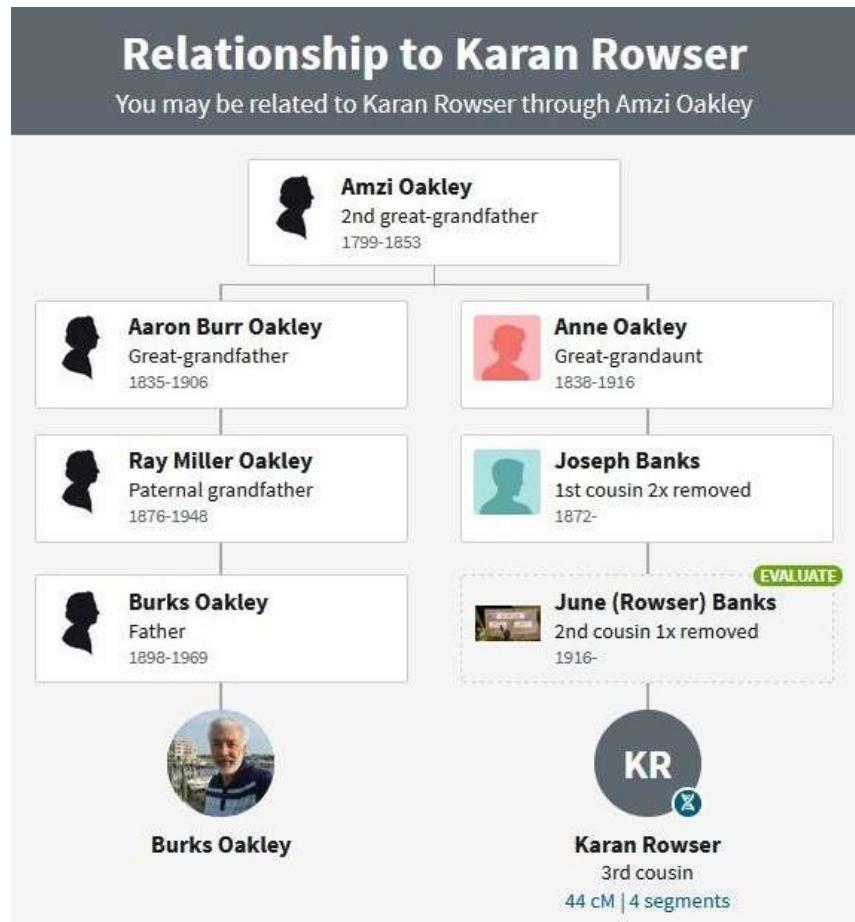
4th – 6th Cousin

21 cM | < 1% shared DNA

Unlinked Tree

Interesting to see that my cousin Hal Oakley (1C1R) also has a match with Julie.

Julie and I also match with Karan Rowser. Here is a chart showing how Karan and I are related:



Karan's mother was June Rowser (née Banks), and she is descended from Amzi Oakley and Lucy Darling through their daughter Anne Oakley.

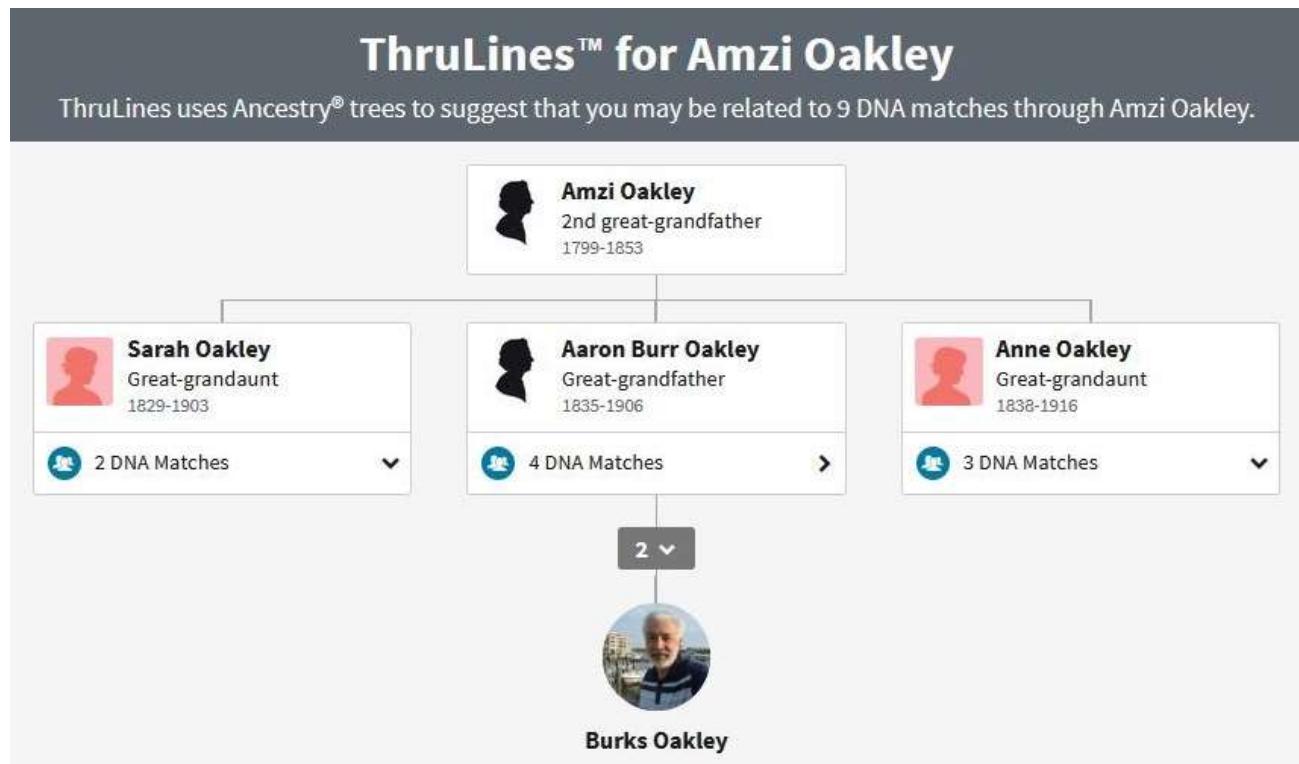
Going back to the Shared DNA Matches with Julie Freeman, we also both match Florence Monahan and **K.M.** (whose profile Florence manages – perhaps her son). I include this because Florence's mother was Jeanette Louise Banks (1924-2003), Jeanette's father was Lloyd P. Banks (1901-1990), Lloyd's father was Benjamin F. Banks (born 1857), and Benjamin's parents were Alba Oyster Banks and Sarah Oakley. [I found this information by manually searching family trees on Ancestry.com. Since Florence Monahan's DNA profile is not linked to her family tree, software on Ancestry.com is unable to connect her back to Amzi Oakley and his wife Lucy Darling.]

Overall, Julie and I share DNA matches with four individuals who are descendants of Amzi Oakley and Lucy Darling. These shared DNA matches certainly provide additional evidence that Julie and I have a DNA match because we both are descended from this Oakley-Darling couple.

ThruLines™ for Amzi Oakley and Lucy Darling

ThruLines™ charts are created automatically by software on the Ancestry.com website. These charts provide a good visual representation of how a set of an individual's DNA matches all are descended from a single ancestor.

Here is my ThruLines™ for Amzi Oakley (all the ThruLines™ charts for Lucy Darling look the same as those for Amzi). This chart shows that I have DNA matches with nine individuals who are descended from Amzi Oakley. In this chart, all of the lines are closed:

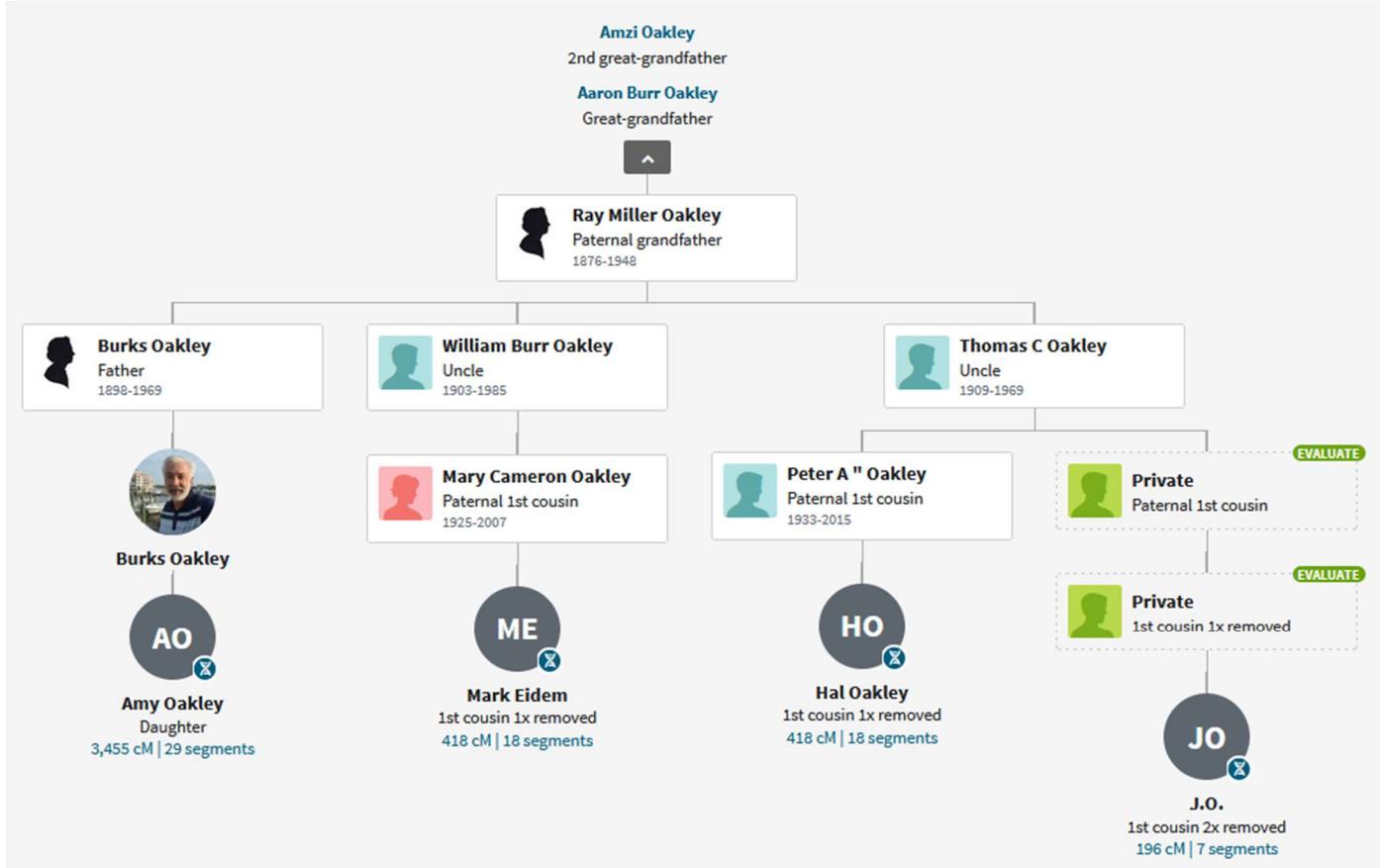


Of course, these charts are based on family trees on the Ancestry.com website, and these family trees are notorious for having significant errors. So while the ThruLines™ charts provide a good starting point for additional research, they should not be considered definitive.

Here is my ThruLines™ chart with the line through Aaron Burr Oakley opened:

ThruLines™ for Amzi Oakley

ThruLines uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 9 DNA matches through Amzi Oakley.



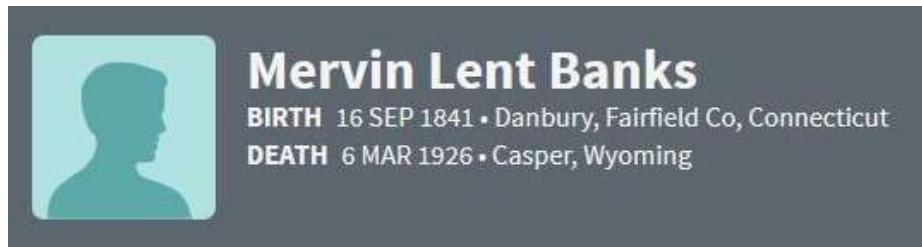
This chart shows my DNA matches with Amy Oakley (my daughter), Mark Eidem, Hal Oakley, and **J.O.**, who is a great-grandson of my uncle Thomas Crawford Oakley (1909-1969). [Too bad that more of my **Oakley** relatives don't have their DNA on Ancestry.com.]

Here is my ThruLines™ chart for Amzi Oakley with the line through Anne Oakley (1838-1916) opened:

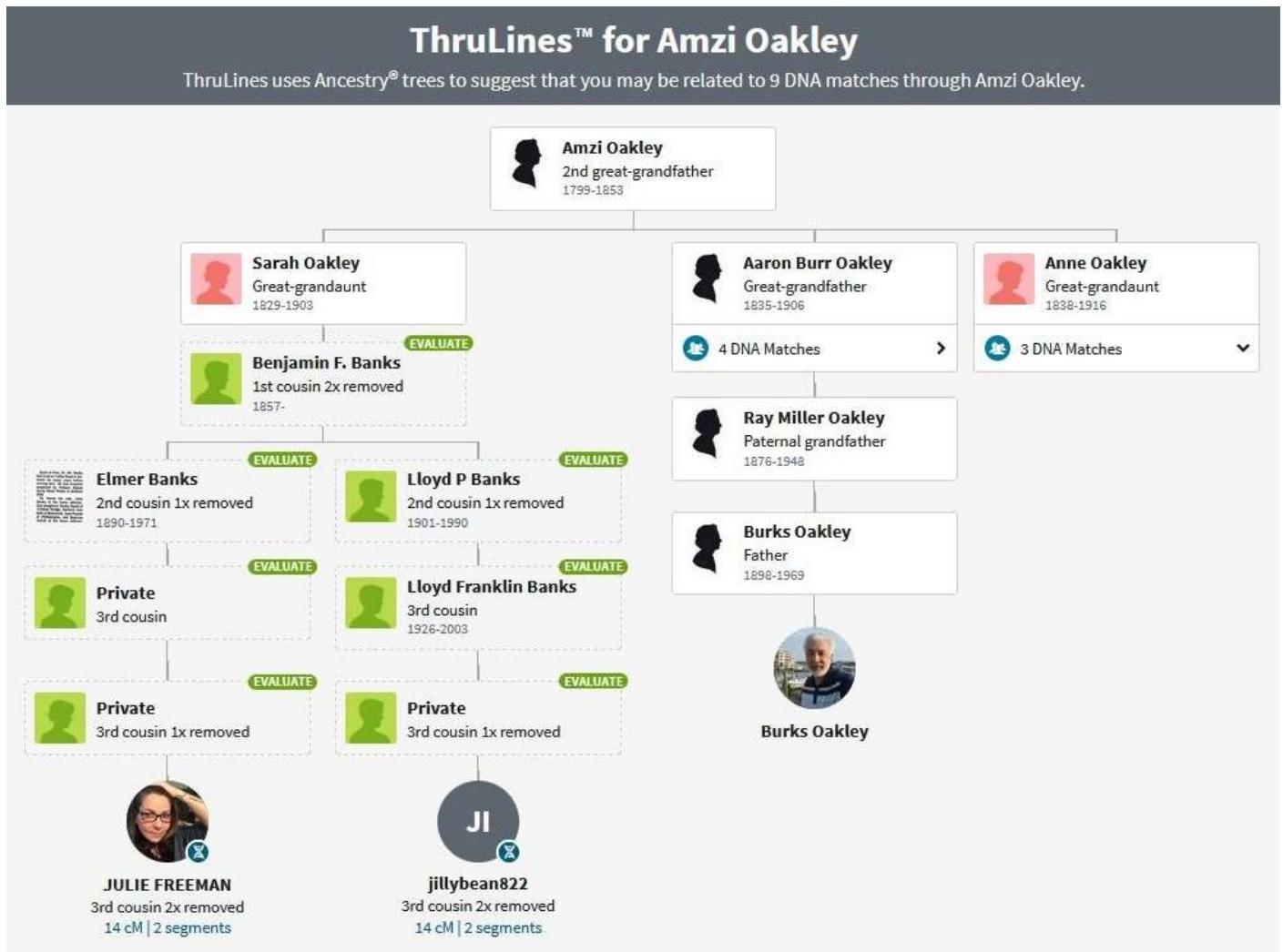


This branch of the chart is well-known to me. I have met Kathy Wolfe (née Struck) personally, and she has interacted with my cousin Hal Oakley regarding our **Oakley** family genealogy.

This line additionally shows that Anne Oakley must have married a man with the surname of **Banks**, since her two children in the chart are Joseph Banks and Josophine Banks. In fact, her husband was Mervin Lent Banks (1841-1926):



Finally, here my ThruLines™ chart with the line through Sarah Oakley opened:



This line is completely new to me; it shows my DNA match with Julie Freeman, as well as another match with a woman having the username of **jillybean822**. This branch of the chart shows that Sarah Oakley also must have married a man with the surname of **Banks**, since her son was Benjamin F. Banks (born 1857). And following the line down to **jillybean822**, her maiden name must have been **Banks**.

This is puzzling! How is it that there are **Banks** ancestors in both Anne's and Sarah's lines? In fact, it now is apparent that ALL of my DNA matches with descendants of Amzi Oakley (outside my immediate **Oakley** family) are with people in ancestral lines that have the surname **Banks**. Hmm.... What does this mean?

I decided to look at Benjamin F. Banks; he appears in fifteen different family trees on Ancestry.com – here are the first four entries:

Benjamin F. Banks found in 15 public trees

Benjamin F. Banks from tree Thomas:Burdette Family Tree

Birth	Jul 1857 Illinois, USA	Father	Alba Oysterbanks (1809-1886)
Marriage	1886	Mother	Sarah Maria Oakley (1829-1903)
46450 People 0 Records 1 Source		Spouse	T Eva Dickens (Born 1862)

Benjamin F. Banks from tree Hopkins Family Tree

Birth	Jul 1857 Illinois, USA	Father	Alba O. Banks (1809-1886)
Marriage	1886	Mother	Sarah Oakley (1829-1903)
Residence	1900 Lewisboro, Westchester, New York, USA	Spouse	T Eva Dickens (Born 1862)
179 People 3 Records 4 Sources			

Benjamin F. Banks from tree Shannel

Birth	Jul 1857 Illinois, USA	Father	Alba Oysterbanks (1809-1886)
Marriage	1886	Mother	Sarah Maria Oakley (1829-1903)
302 People 0 Records 0 Sources		Spouse	T Eva Dickens (Born 1862)

Benjamin F. Banks from tree Bankses

Birth	1857 Illinois, USA	Father	Alba O. Banks (1809-1886)
		Mother	Sarah Oakley (1829-1903)
		Spouse	Eva F. Dickens (Born 1862)
82120 People 0 Records 0 Sources			

Sure enough, he is the son of Sarah Maria Oakley and her husband Alba O. Banks (1809-1886). I note that Alba's name is sometimes seen as Alba Oysterbanks.

I went on to look at Alba O. Banks:

Hopkins Family Tree Tree search tinman3634



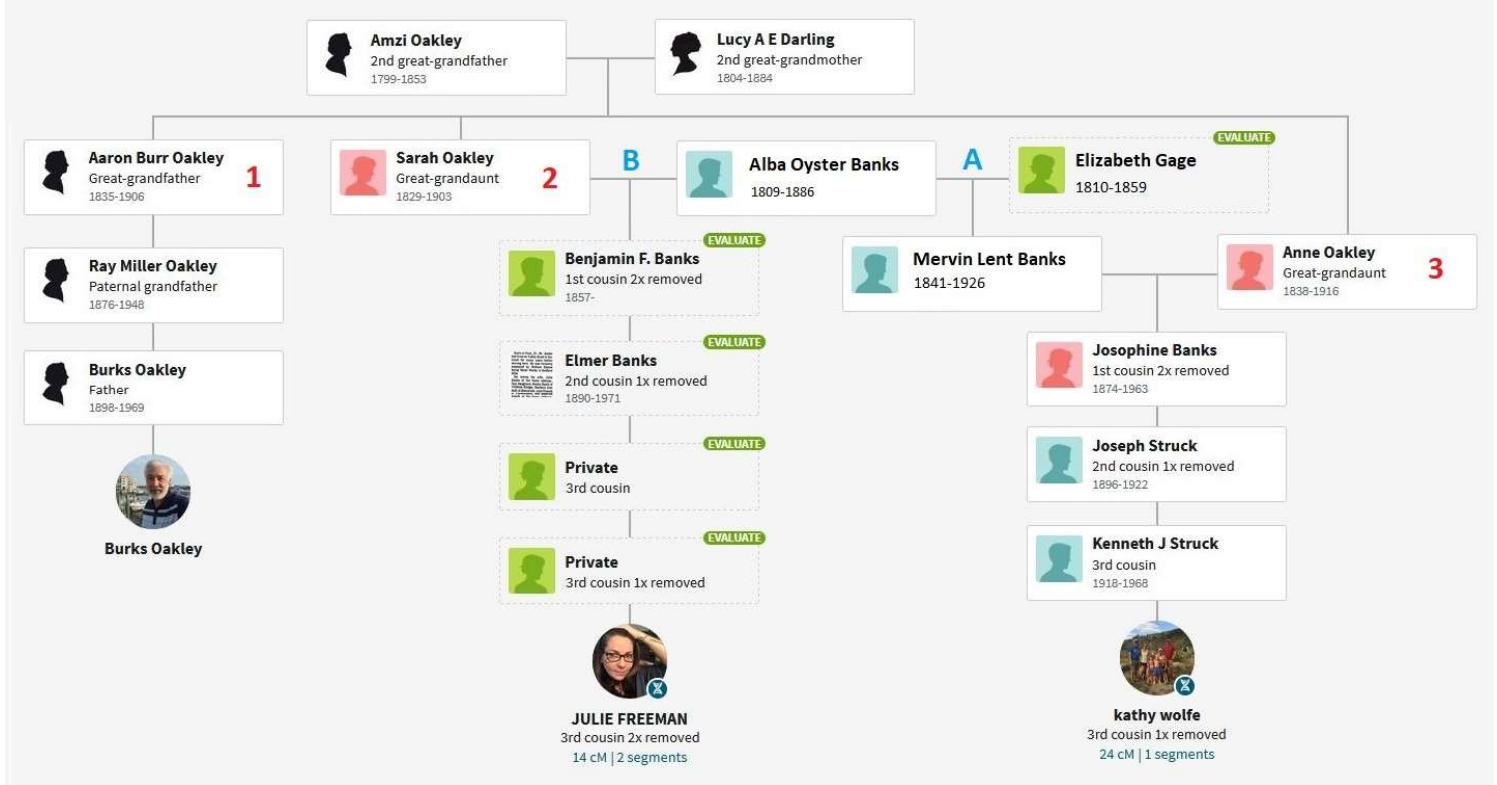
Alba O. Banks

BIRTH 15 OCT 1809 • Danbury, Connecticut
DEATH 22 APR 1886 • Bethel, Connecticut

Family	Spouse & Children	Spouse & Children
Parents	Elizabeth Gage 1810-1859	Sarah Oakley 1829-1903
Unknown father	Mervin Lent Banks 1841-1926	Josephine V Banks 1850-
Unknown mother	William L Banks	Benjamin F. Banks 1857-
	Joseph A Banks	Marion Howard Banks 1859-1930
	Catharine E Banks	

Oh my! Alba O. Banks had two marriages! His first wife was Elizabeth Gage (1810-1859), and his second wife was Sarah Oakley. And Kathy Wolfe's ancestor Mervin Lent Banks was a son from Alba's first marriage, while Julie Freeman's ancestor Benjamin F. Banks was a son from Alba's second marriage. Sarah Oakley was Alba's second wife and she was twenty years younger than he was.

Here is a chart that shows all this:



Amzi Oakley and his wife Lucy Ann Eunice Darling are at the top of this chart. Their three children are labelled with red numbers: 1 – Aaron Burr Oakley, 2 – Sarah Oakley, and 3 – Anne Oakley.

Alba Oyster Banks appears in the upper-middle, immediately below Lucy Darling. His two marriages are labelled with blue letters: A – Elizabeth Gage, B – Sarah Oakley.

Now all this becomes clear to me. Alba O. Banks married Sarah Oakley, and Alba's son Mervin Lent Banks (from his first marriage) married Sarah Oakley's sister Anne.

There are other ways to say this:

- Anne married Sarah's husband's son from his first marriage.
- Amzi and Lucy had one daughter who married Alba Banks AND another daughter who married Alba's son from his first marriage.
- Amzi Oakley was Alba's father-in-law and Amzi was also Alba's son's father-in-law.
- A father and son married two sisters.

And because of this, all of my DNA matches with descendants of Amzi Oakley (except for my immediate **Oakley** family) are with people descended from Alba Oyster Banks.

Going Back to Lucy Darling's Parents

Amzi Oakley's wife was Lucy Ann Eunice Darling. Lucy's parents were Samuel Darling (1754-1807) and Lucy Lyon (1760-1836), and I have DNA matches with a number of descendants of this couple. One is a woman having the username on Ancestry.com of ***madmelicious***, and I wrote about her in an earlier narrative about my ***Darling*** relatives:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/4A-DarlingGenealogy.pdf>

In looking at my Shared DNA Matches with Kathy Wolfe (née Struck), I learned that these matches include Debra Banks (she has to be a descendant of Alba O. Banks) and ***madmelicious***, as shown in the following screenshot:

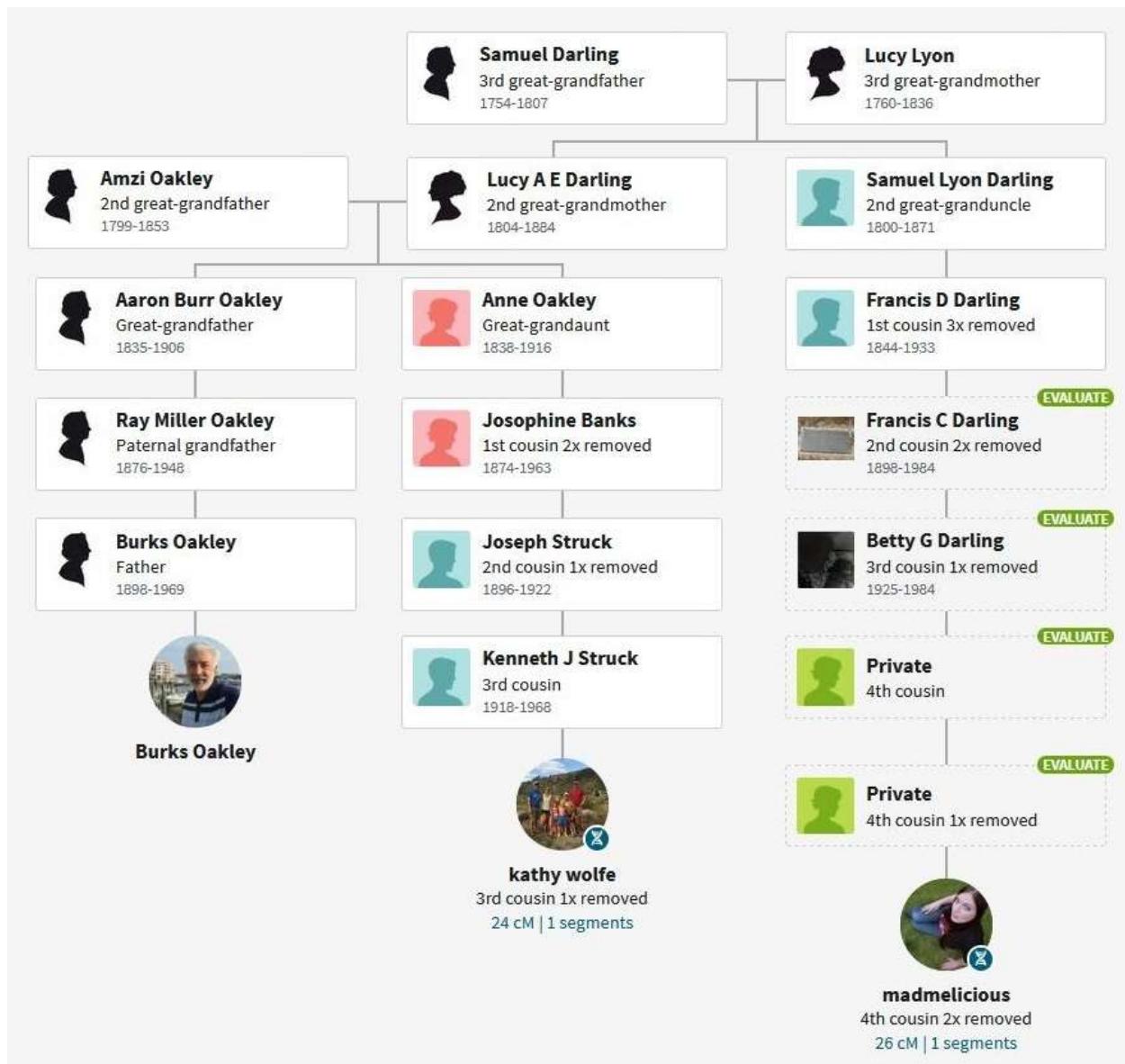
The screenshot shows a DNA match profile for "You and kathy wolfe". It displays two circular profile pictures: one of a man with a beard and one of a group of people outdoors. Below the profiles, the text reads "You and kathy wolfe", "4th – 6th Cousin", and "< 1% shared DNA: 24 cM across 1 segments".

Below this, there is a navigation bar with tabs: "Trees", "Ethnicity", and "Shared Matches" (which is underlined). There are also filter options: "Unviewed" (selected), "Common ancestors", and a search bar.

The main content area is titled "Distant Family" and lists two matches:

- Debra Banks**: 4th – 6th Cousin, 35 cM | < 1% shared DNA. Status: Unlinked Tree.
- madmelicious**: 4th – 6th Cousin, 26 cM | < 1% shared DNA. Status: Public linked tree (2,045 People), Common ancestor.

I constructed a chart to show how Kathy Wolfe, ***madmelicious***, and I are all descended from the Samuel Darling and his wife Lucy Lyon:



Note that in order for Kathy to have a DNA match with **madmelicious**, their common ancestors have to be the Darling-Lyon couple – and this match doesn't involve an **Oakley** line in any way.

Cleaning Up a Few Odds and Ends

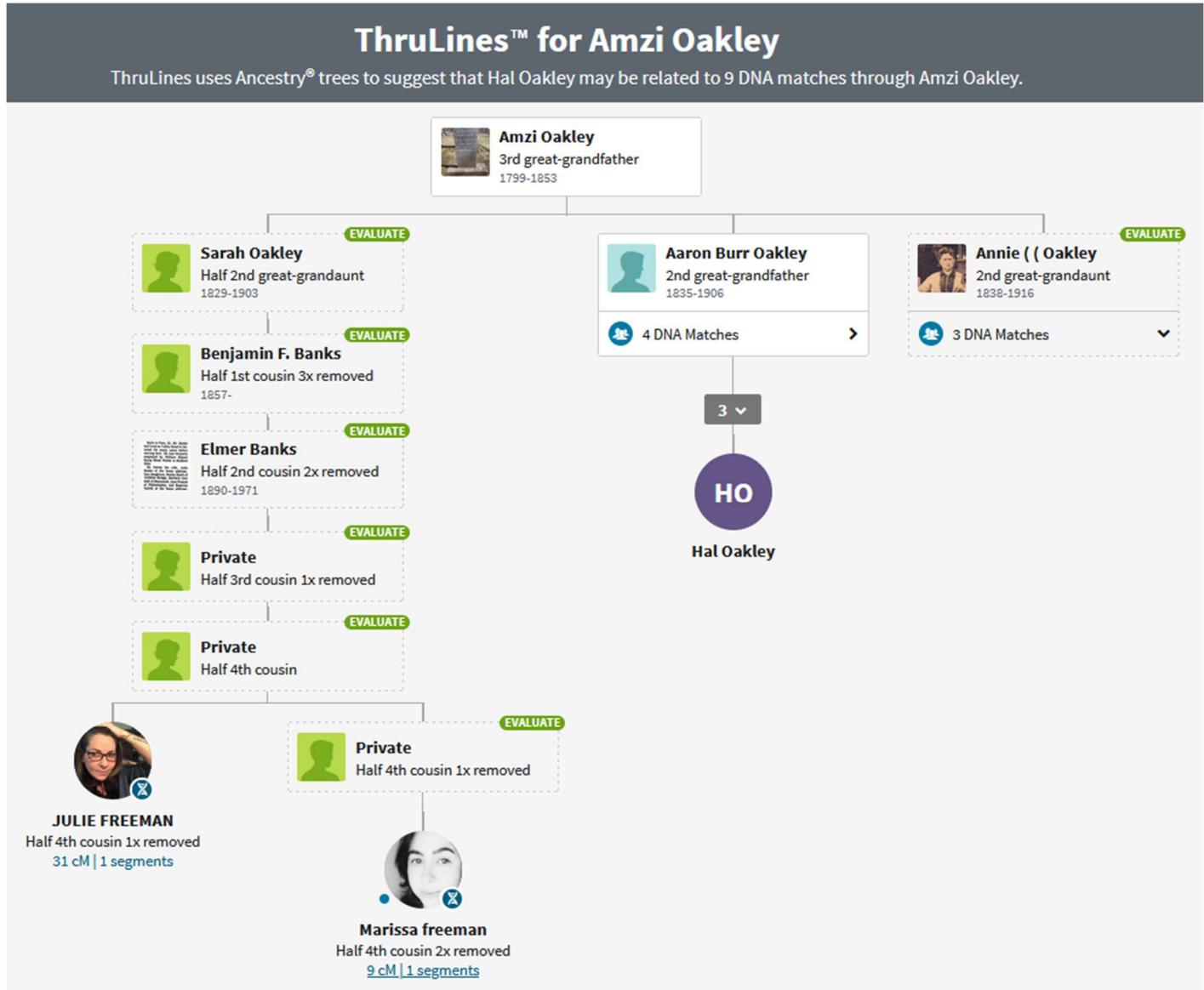
1. Hal Oakley

My cousin Hal Oakley has a DNA match with Julie Freeman:



In fact, Hal has a much larger DNA match with Julie (31 cM) than I do (14 cM).

When I looked at Hal's ThruLines™ for Amzi Oakley, I learned that Hal also has a DNA match with Julie Freeman's niece, Marissa Freeman:



Hal and Marissa Freeman have a Shared DNA Match with Karan Rowser:

Hal Oakley and Marissa freeman

5th – 8th Cousin
< 1% shared DNA: 9 cM across 1 segments

Trees Ethnicity Shared Matches

Filter by: Unviewed Common ancestors

Search | Sort ▾

Distant Family

 Karan Rowser	4th – 6th Cousin 34 cM < 1% shared DNA	 Private linked tree 10 People  Common ancestor
 JULIE FREEMAN.	4th – 6th Cousin 31 cM < 1% shared DNA	 Public linked tree 36 People  Common ancestor

Recall that Karan Rowser is descended from Amzi's daughter Anne Oakley.

In spending countless hours looking at all these various relationships, I learned that Hal and Karan have a Shared DNA Match with **J.O.** (Mike Oakley's son John), as well as with Brett Struck. Amazing to see all these DNA linkages!

2. *jillybean822*

Recall that a woman with the username of **jillybean822** appeared in my ThruLines™ for Amzi Oakley. Her paternal grandfather was Lloyd F. Banks (1926-2003), so her maiden name was **Banks**. Unfortunately, looking at various aspects of my DNA match with her didn't add any new information. As an aside, she and I have a Shared DNA Match with Debra Banks, but Debra doesn't have a family tree on Ancestry.com and she didn't respond to the message I sent her on the Ancestry.com website.

Earlier in this narrative I mentioned that Julie Freeman and I have a Shared DNA Match with Florence Monahan. Florence's mother was Jeanette Louise Banks (1924-2003) and Jeanette's father was Lloyd P. Banks (1901-1990), who is the great-grandfather of **jillybean822** in the ThruLines™ chart connecting to Amzi through his daughter Sarah Oakley. So clearly Florence Monahan is a close relative of **jillybean822**.

3. *RootsMagic*

I have a version of my family tree on the Ancestry.com website. I also have my family tree in a RootsMagic database – this database built on my father's genealogical research, as well as my cousin Hal's. When I looked at my entry for Amzi Oakley, I was reminded of the fact that that Amzi and his wife Lucy had seven children:

Father:						
Amzi Oakley						
b: abt 1800, Redding, Fairfield Co, CT						
m: 6 Jan 1824, Stratford, Fairfield Co., Connecticut						
d: 12 Oct 1853, Redding, Fairfield Co, CT						
Mother:						
Lucy Ann Eunice Darling						
b: 19 Oct 1804, Easton, Fairfield County, Connecticut						
d: 10 Aug 1884, Bethel (Grassy Plains), Connecticut						
Children	Sex	Born	Birth Place	Died	Death Place	Relation
1 William Burr Oakley	M	8 Jan 1825				birth
2 Sarah Maria Oakley	F	6 Aug 1827				birth
3 Edwin Curtis Oakley	M	13 Dec 1830	Redding Connecticut	21 Apr 1900	Bethel, Connecticut	birth
4 Mary Elizabeth Oakley	F	2 Feb 1833				birth
5 Aaron Burr Oakley	M	8 Aug 1835	Redding, Connecticut	22 Apr 1906	Quincy, Illinois	birth
6 Anne "Annie" Oakley	F	13 Mar 1838	Redding, Fairfield Co., Connecticut	18 Nov 1916	Lowden, Farmington Twnshp, Cedar Co., Iowa	birth
7 Martha Louina Oakley	F	30 Oct 1844	Redding, Fairfield Co., Connecticut	12 Mar 1893		birth
+ Click to add a child						

Given all these children, I'm surprised that I don't have more DNA matches with their descendants.

Summary

In this narrative, I presented various aspects of my new DNA match with Julie Freeman. We both are descended from Amzi Oakley (1799-1853) and his wife Lucy Ann Eunice Darling (dates), who were my second-great grandparents. I am descended from Amzi and Lucy thorough their son Aaron Burr Oakley (1835-1906), while Julie is descended from Amzi and Lucy through their daughter Sarah Oakley (1829-1903). Julie is my third-cousin twice-removed (3C2R). Our Shared DNA Matches provide additional evidence to support the idea that our DNA match is because we both are descended from Amzi Oakley and his wife Lucy Ann Eunice Darling.

In looking at my ThruLines™ chart for Amzi Oakley and Lucy Darling, I found that ALL of my DNA matches (outside the immediate **Oakley** family) go back to this Oakley-Darling couple through lines carrying the **Banks** surname. I learned that their daughter Sarah Oakley married Alba Oyster Banks and their daughter Anne Oakley married Alba's son from his first marriage. And that is how I have two **Banks** lines connecting to my DNA matches with descendants of the Oakley-Darling couple.

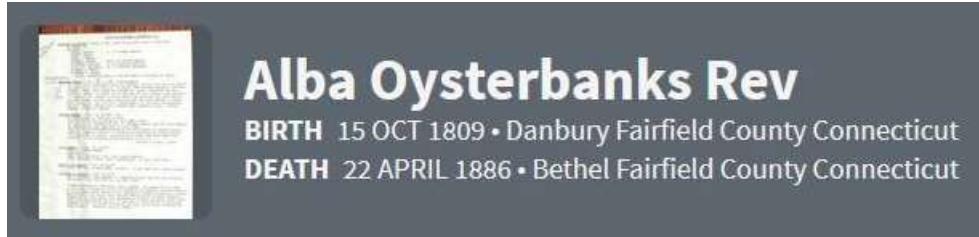
I also looked at several other of my DNA matches and constructed various charts to show how we all are related. Overall, the DNA evidence provides strong support for the genealogy represented by this branch of my family tree.

[Appendix A is on the next page.]

Appendix A – The Oysterbanks Surname

As I was looking into my new DNA match with Julie Freeman, I kept running into the **Oysterbanks** surname. I don't think that I had encountered this surname previously. Where did it come from? How did it get shortened to Banks?

Recall that Alba Oysterbanks lived in Fairfield County, Connecticut.



I looked on the geni.com website and found Isaac Oysterbanks (born ca. 1725 in Fairfield, Connecticut).

<https://www.geni.com/people/Isaac-Oysterbanks/6000000012319467753>

My guess is that Isaac was part of the same **Oysterbanks** clan as Alba. According to geni.com, Isaac was the son of Johann Jacob Heisterbach (born circa 1706 in Niederbieber, Preussen, and immigrated to Connecticut).

<https://www.geni.com/people/Johann-Oysterbanks/6000000012270473602>

This page states:

OYSTERBANKS is likely the English transliteration (not translation) of HEISTERBACH. The name in later generations was shortened to O'Banks, O. Banks, and Banks. The founder of this family was a Palatine German.

This has to be it! Just so you don't have to Google this word, **transliteration** is the process of transferring a word from the alphabet of one language to another. It changes the letters from the word's original alphabet to similar-sounding letters in a different one. Unlike a translation, which tells you the meaning of a word that's written in another language, a transliteration gives you an idea of how the word is pronounced by putting it in a familiar alphabet.

I did more searching on Ancestry.com and I found a more complete **Oysterbanks** line for Alba Oysterbanks. Here is the line going back from Alba to the German immigrant:

Alba Oysterbanks (1809-1886)

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/26370220/person/13526610249/facts>

Abraham Oysterbanks (1782-1851)

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/26370220/person/13516118033/facts>

Moses Oysterbanks (1762-1838)

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/26370220/person/13512739443/facts>

Isaac Oysterbanks (1729-1775)

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/37333228/person/140014037820/facts>

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/71925373/person/36485952813/facts>

And that finally gets us to the German immigrant with the ***Heisterbach*** surname:

Johan Jacob Heisterbach (1706-1763)

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/71925373/person/36486199983/facts>