

Chapter 80

My Ancestral Lines to Bolesław the Brave, King of Poland

[originally written 30 July 2021]

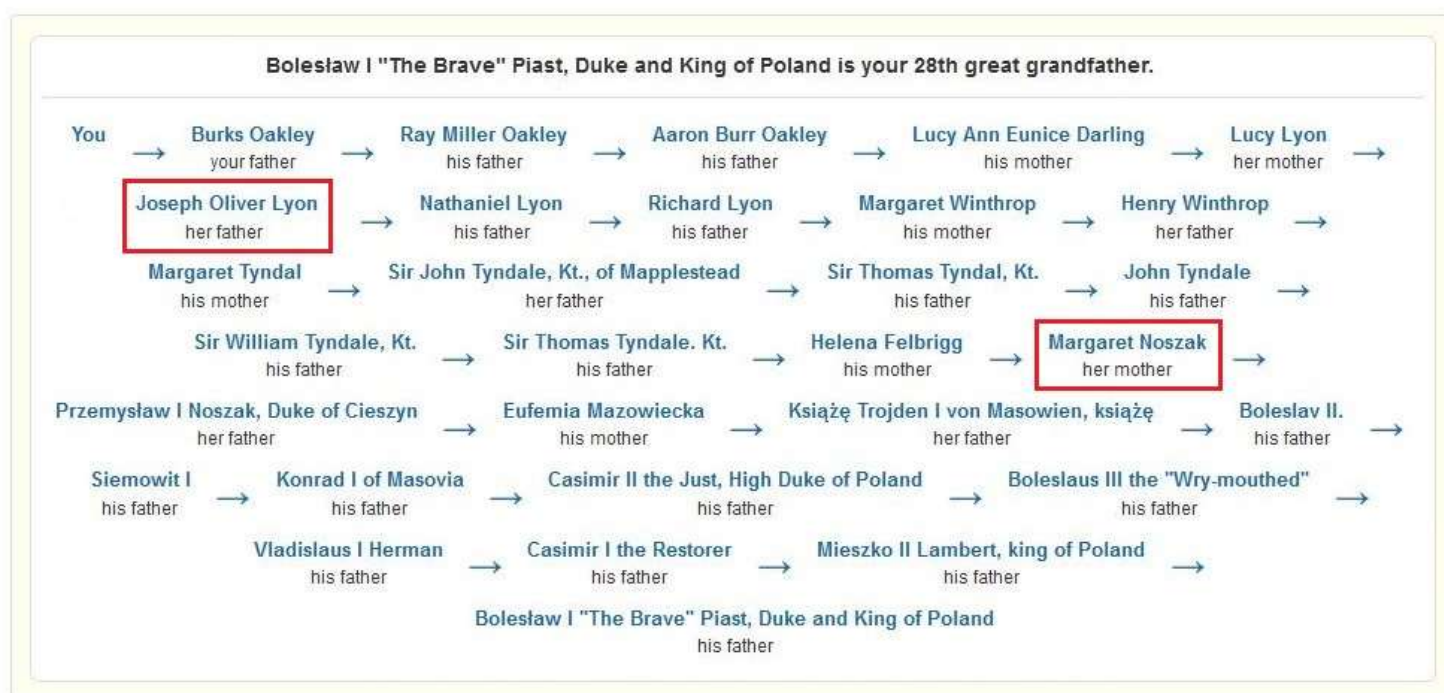
Introduction

In Chapter 76, I wrote that I had only found one single line back to my ancestors from Poland. But I wasn't one-hundred percent sure that I didn't have other lines, so as I was finishing up that narrative, I decided to look more thoroughly for additional lines going back to my Polish ancestors. [I assume that you will have read Chapter 76 before going on to this chapter.]

The last Polish ancestor I had researched while writing Chapter 76 was Bolesław the Brave (967-1025), so by a quirk of fate (and/or serendipity), I looked to see if I had other ancestral lines back to Bolesław. And that is what this chapter is all about.

Bolesław the Brave

Bolesław was my 28th-great grandfather:



My ancestral line to Bolesław is on the **Oakley** side of my family and goes back through my 4th-great grandfather Joseph Oliver Lyon (1728-1812). A key person in this line is Margaret Noszak (1367-1416), who was born in Poland and immigrated to England, where she married an English knight. Margaret provided the connection back to Poland, and generations of Polish nobility.

Here is the profile for Bolesław on the Geni.com website:



Bolesław I "The Brave" of Poland Piast, Duke and King of Poland

Polish: król Bolesław I Chrobry, Duke and King of Poland, Czech: král Boleslav I. Chrabrý, Duke and King of Poland, German: König Bolesław I. der Tapfere, Duke and King of Poland

Gender:	Male
Birth:	967 Poznań, Poznań, Wielkopolskie, Poland
Death:	June 17, 1025 (57-58) Gniezno, Gniezno, Wielkopolskie, Poland
Place of Burial:	Bazylika archikatedralna Świętych Apostołów Piotra i Pawła, Poznań, Poznań, Wielkopolskie, Poland
Immediate Family:	Son of Mieszko I and Doubravka of Bohemia Husband of Judith of Hungary ; Emnilda Słowiańska and Oda of Meissen Father of duke Bezprym ; N.N. Bolesławówna ; N.N. Bolesławówna ; Regelinda ; Mieszko II Lambert , king of Poland and 3 others Brother of Świętosława «Gunhilda» Mieszkówna Half brother of NN Piast ; Mieszko Mieszkowic and prince Lambert Mieszkowic Piast

There is an extensive article about Bolesław on the Wikipedia website. Here is a short excerpt:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boles%C5%82aw_I_the_Brave

[I suggest you go to the Wikipedia article to hear how his name is pronounced in Polish.]

Bolesław the Brave (967 - 17 June 1025), less often known as Bolesław the Great, was Duke of Poland from 992 to 1025, and the first King of Poland in 1025. He was also Duke of Bohemia between 1003 and 1004 as Boleslaus IV.

Bolesław I was a remarkable politician, strategist, and statesman. He not only turned Poland into a country comparable to older western monarchies, but he raised it to the front rank of European states. Bolesław conducted successful military campaigns in the west, south and east. He consolidated Polish lands and conquered territories outside the borders of modern-day Poland, including Slovakia, Moravia, Red Ruthenia, Meissen, Lusatia, and Bohemia. He was a powerful mediator in Central European affairs. Finally, as the culmination of his reign, in 1025 he had himself crowned King of Poland. He was the first Polish ruler to receive the title of rex (Latin: "king").

He was an able administrator who established the "Prince's Law" and built many forts, churches, monasteries and bridges. He introduced the first Polish monetary unit, the grzywna, divided into 240 denarii, and minted his own coinage. ***Bolesław I is widely considered one of Poland's most capable and accomplished Piast rulers.*** [My emphasis.]

Here is a painting of Bolesław from the Wikipedia entry:




Looking for Other Lines Back to Bolesław

The Geni.com website makes it very straightforward to find the relationship between two people in the “World Family Tree”. As an example, I went to the entry for Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the USA:

Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the USA

Relationships are currently displayed relative to Abraham Lincoln. Click the push pin to reset them to yourself.

View other profiles to see their relationship to Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the USA. Click the push pin again to reset them to yourself. 

Note the green “push pin” icon in the lower right of this screenshot. Clicking that push pin will toggle between viewing how a person is related to Abraham Lincoln or how s/he is related to me. Leaving it set for Lincoln, I then went to the profile for my mother, Grace Florence Brorström (1916-2000):

 Shortest in-law relationship

Grace Florence Brorström is Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the USA's wife's aunt's husband's mother's husband's nephew's wife's first cousin thrice removed's wife.

Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the USA → Mary Todd Lincoln, First Lady (his wife) → [show 13 relatives](#) → Burks Oakley (her son) →

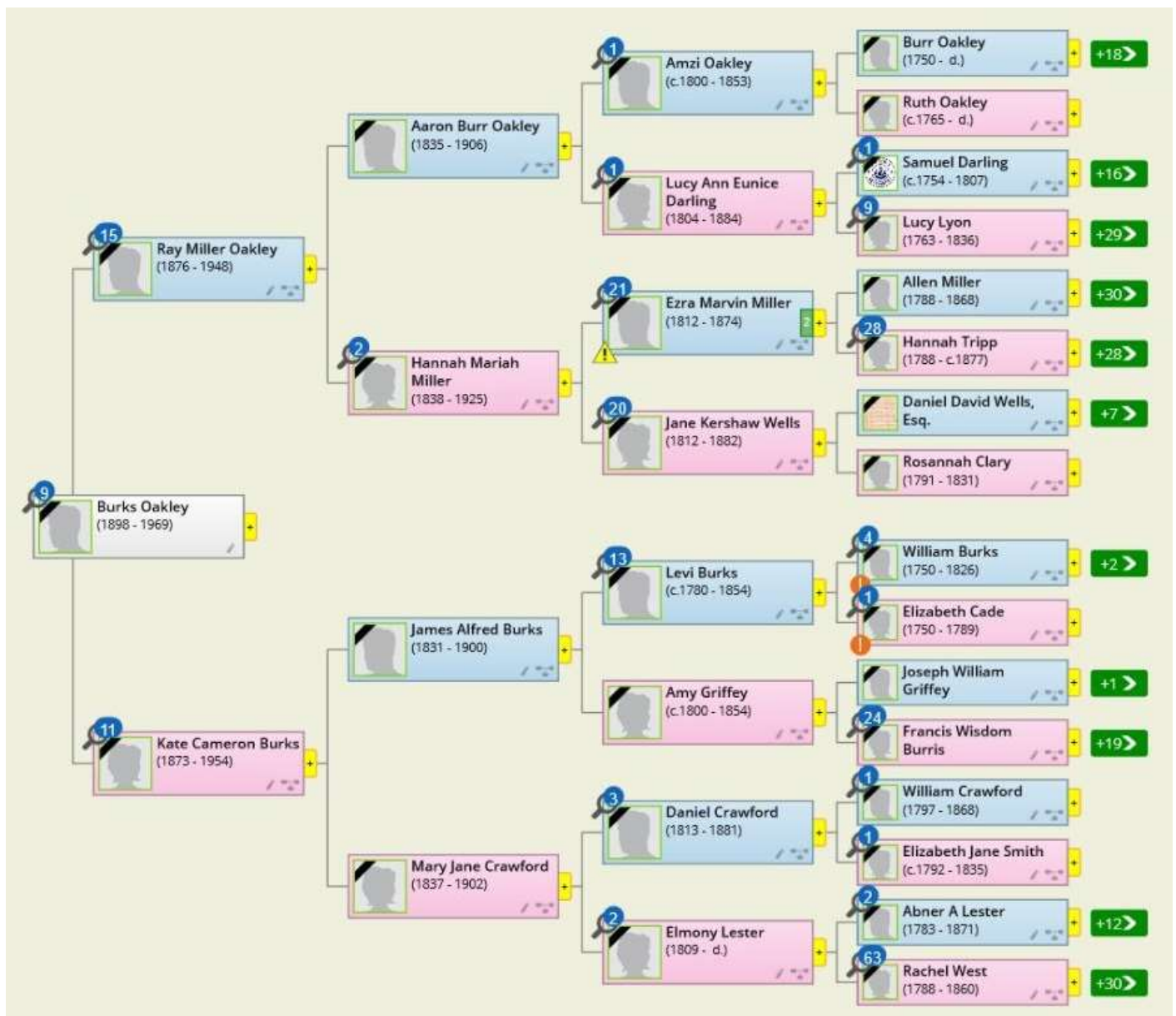
Grace Florence Brorström (his wife)

No blood relationship was found.

The page displayed the “shortest in-law relationship” and the “shortest blood relationship”. In this case, Geni.com did not find a “blood relationship” between

Abraham Lincoln and my mother (which isn't surprising, given that she was 100% of Swedish ancestry).

I decided to work my way through my direct ancestors on my father's side of the family and see if any of them were descended from Bolesław. Here is my father's pedigree:



I navigated to the profile for Bolesław and clicked on the green "push pin" so that all relationships would be relative to Bolesław. Then I went to the profile for my paternal grandfather, Ray Miller Oakley (1876-1948):



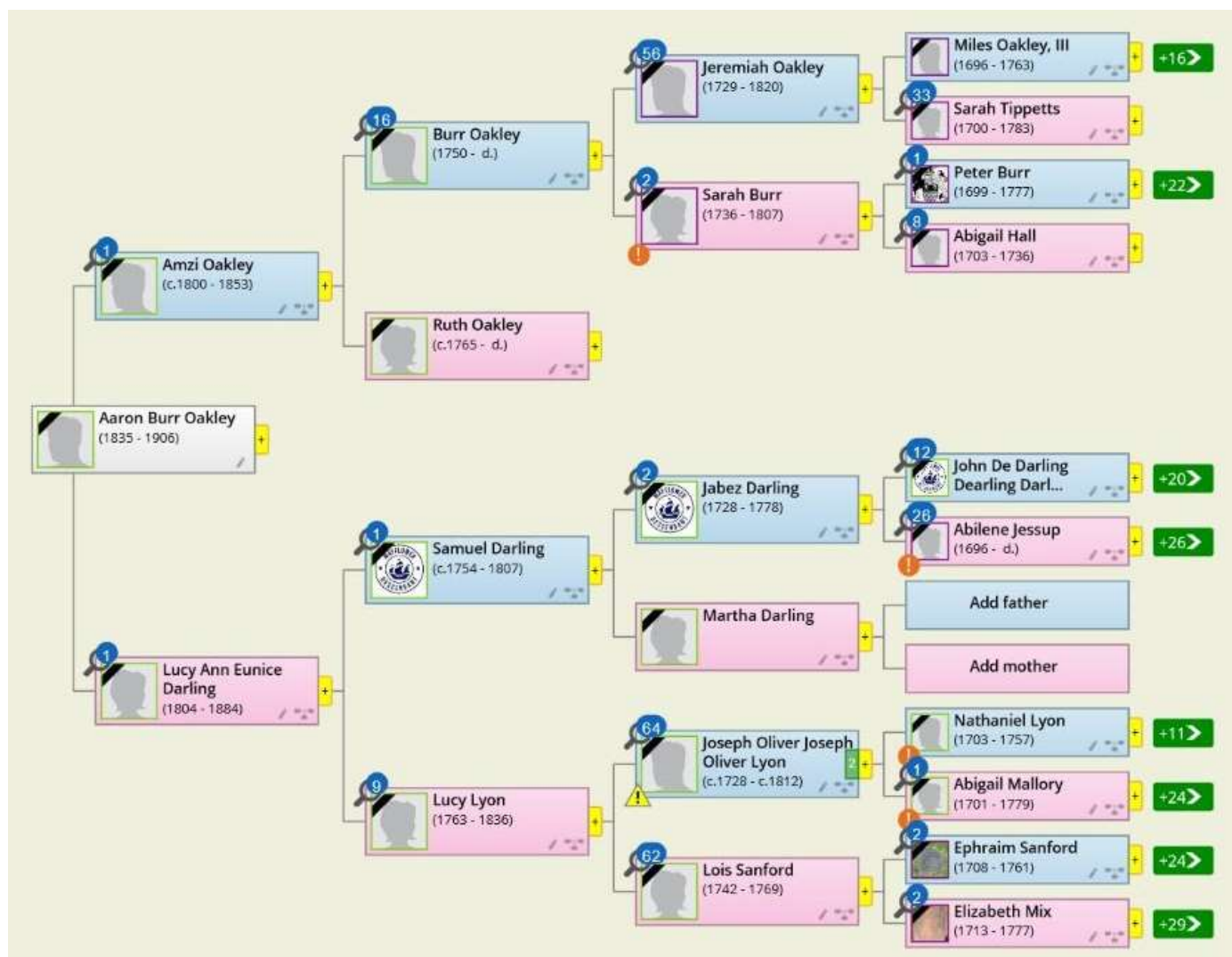
Of course, this is the line I have shown previously (although perhaps in the reverse order). This line goes through my great-grandfather Aaron Burr Oakley.

Let me return to Aaron Burr Oakley. His line back to Bolesław (shown on the previous page) went through his mother, Lucy Darling. So I looked at his father, Amzi Oakley:



Amzi Oakley also was descended from Bolesław – and this is yet another line from me back to Bolesław. This ancestral line goes through Amzi's paternal grandmother, Sarah Burr, and Sarah's father Peter Burr.

I wanted to make sure I had covered all of Aaron Burr Oakley's ancestors – here is his pedigree:

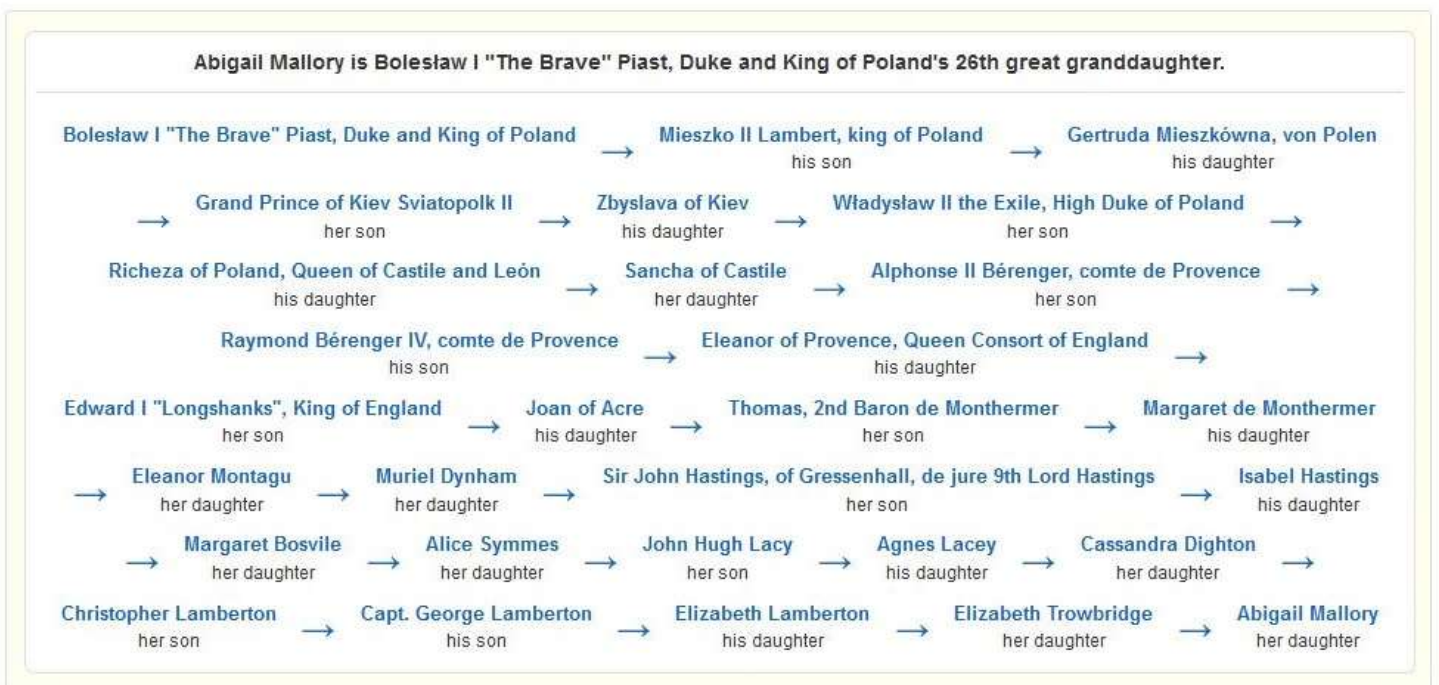


I next looked at Samuel Darling:



This is yet another ancestral line back to Bolesław. Amazing!

The first line I showed (going back from Ray Miller Oakley) went through Joseph Oliver Lyon and then through his father Nathaniel Lyon. So I next looked at Joseph's mother, Abigail Mallory:



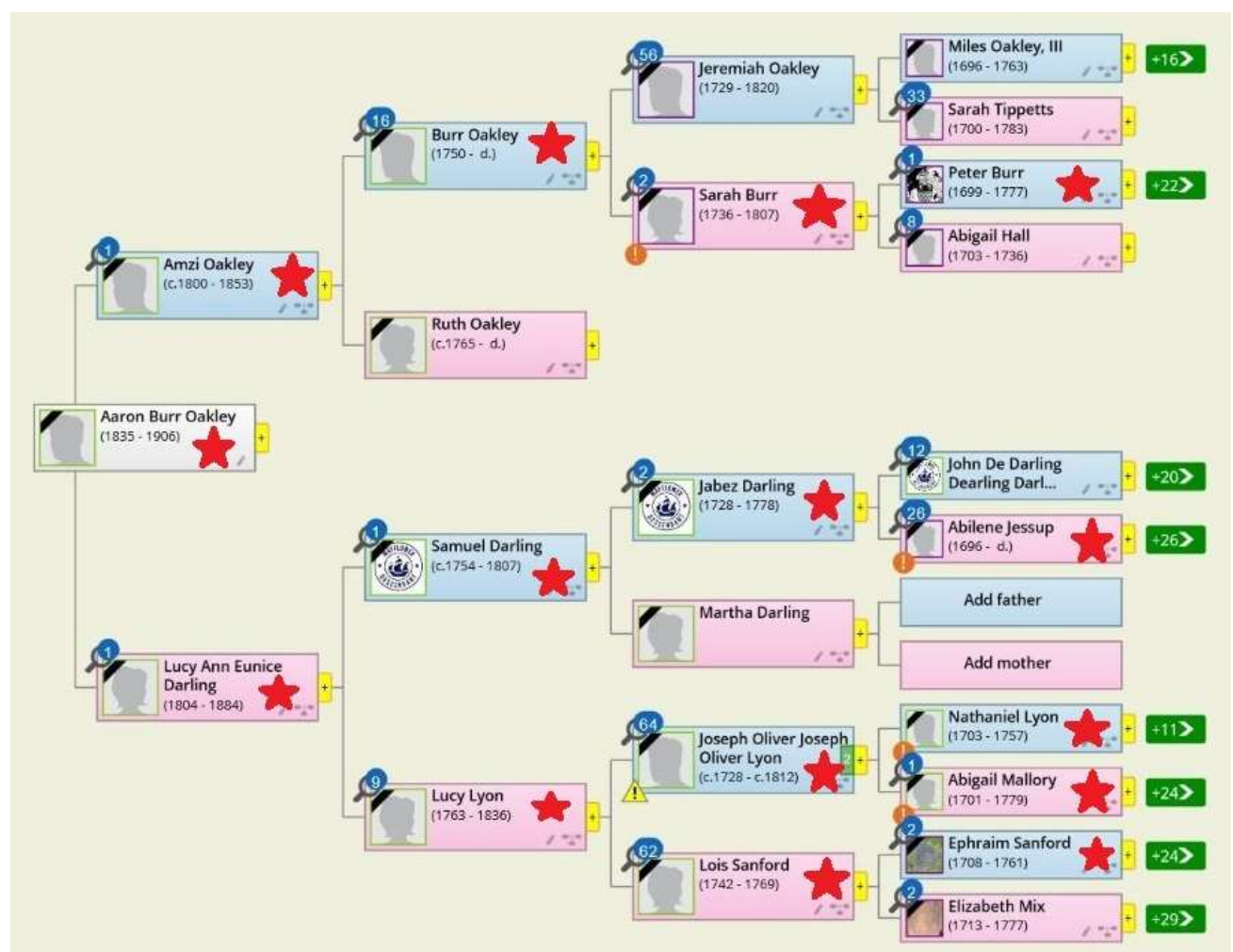
This is yet another line (from me) back to Bolesław. Note that this line goes back through Edward I "Longshanks", King of England.

Since the line back through Lucy Lyon went through her father, Joseph Oliver Lyon, I next looked at her mother, Lois Sanford:



This is yet another distinct line back to Bolesław.

At this point, I thought I should pause and look at all my **Oakley** ancestors with lines back to Bolesław. Here is the pedigree chart for my great-grandfather Aaron Burr Oakley – and I have added a red star to each person who is descended from Bolesław:

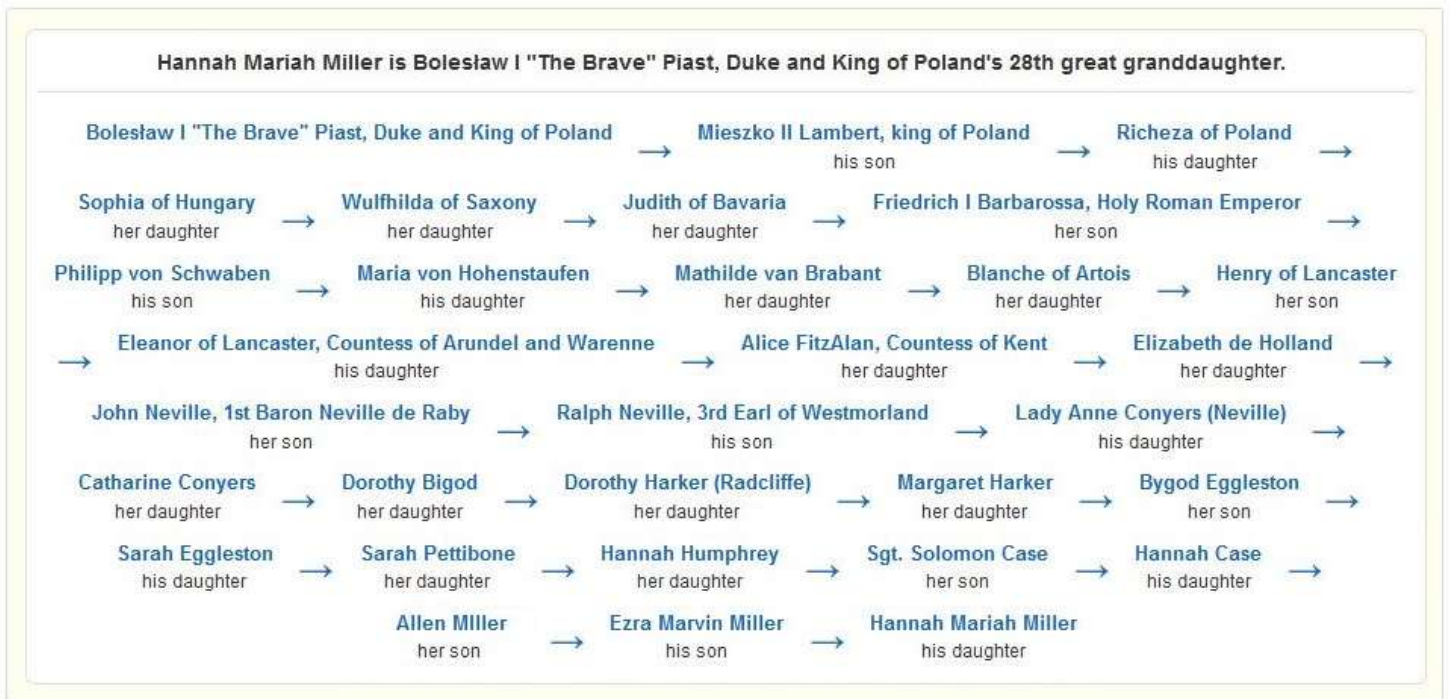


In all, I have five distinct lines going back to Boleslaw – these lines go through the five people having red stars at the far-right of this pedigree chart. All of these lines go back from me through my paternal grandfather, Ray Miller Oakley, and his father, Aaron Burr Oakley.

I next moved on to look at Ray Miller Oakley's maternal lines. Ray's mother was Hannah Mariah Miller (1838-1925). Here is her pedigree chart:



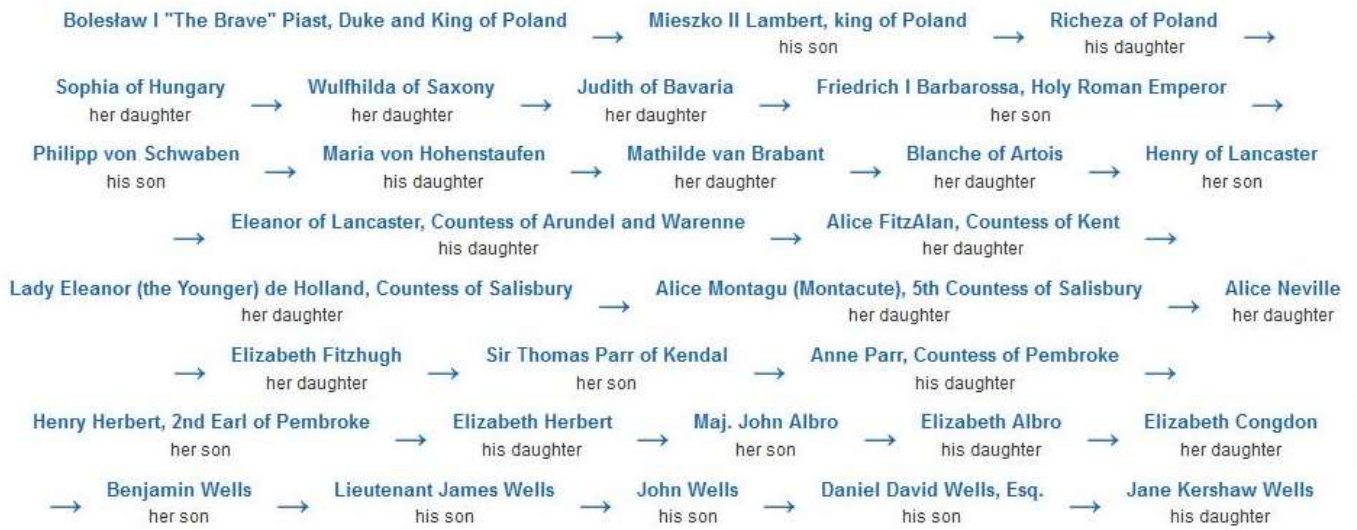
I started with Hannah Mariah Miller herself:



Oh my! This is a completely different line back to Bolesław that I never saw previously. And since Aaron Burr Oakley and his wife Hannah Mariah Miller were both descended from Bolesław, they were very distant cousins.

The line back from Hannah Mariah Miller goes through her father, Ezra Marvin Miller. I next looked at Ezra's wife, Jane Kershaw Wells:

Jane Kershaw Wells is Bolesław I "The Brave" Piast, Duke and King of Poland's 27th great granddaughter.

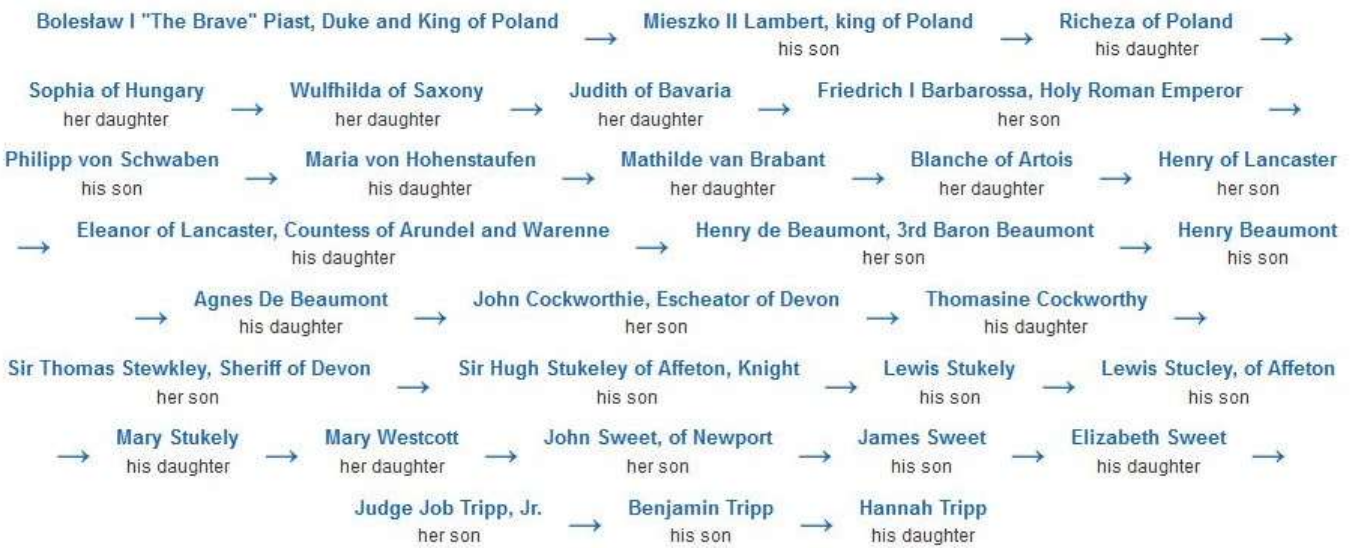


Wow! Another line back to Bolesław! Like the previous line, it goes back through Friedrich I Barbarossa, Holy Roman Emperor (1122-1190). For more, see:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_I,_Holy_Roman_Emperor

Ezra Marvin Miller's line went through his father, Allen Miller. So I next looked at Allen Miller's wife, Hannah Louise Tripp:

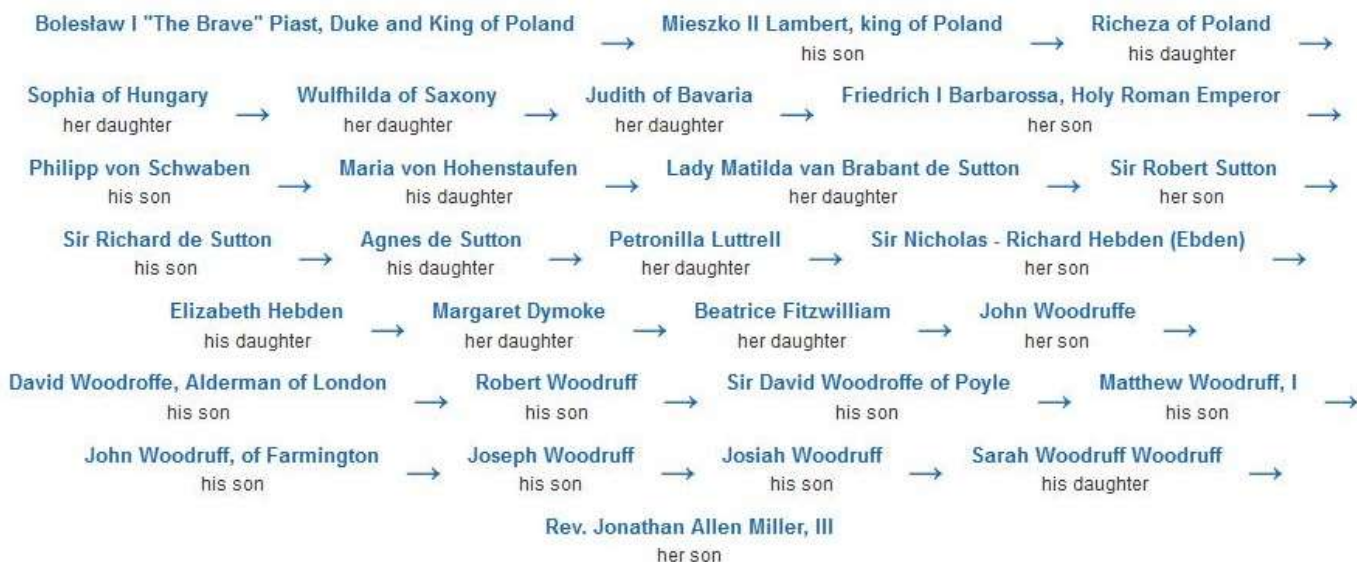
Hannah Tripp is Bolesław I "The Brave" Piast, Duke and King of Poland's 27th great granddaughter.



Of course – yet another line back to Bolesław! This line includes new ancestors that I've never seen in the past.

The Allen Miller line went through his mother, Hannah Case. I next look at Hannah's husband, Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller III:

Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller, III is Bolesław I "The Brave" Piast, Duke and King of Poland's 25th great grandson.



Yet another line – and this one goes back through Sarah Woodruff.

Let me now summarize the ancestral lines going back from Hannah Mariah Miller. Once again, I have added a red star to each of my ancestors who are descended from Bolesław:



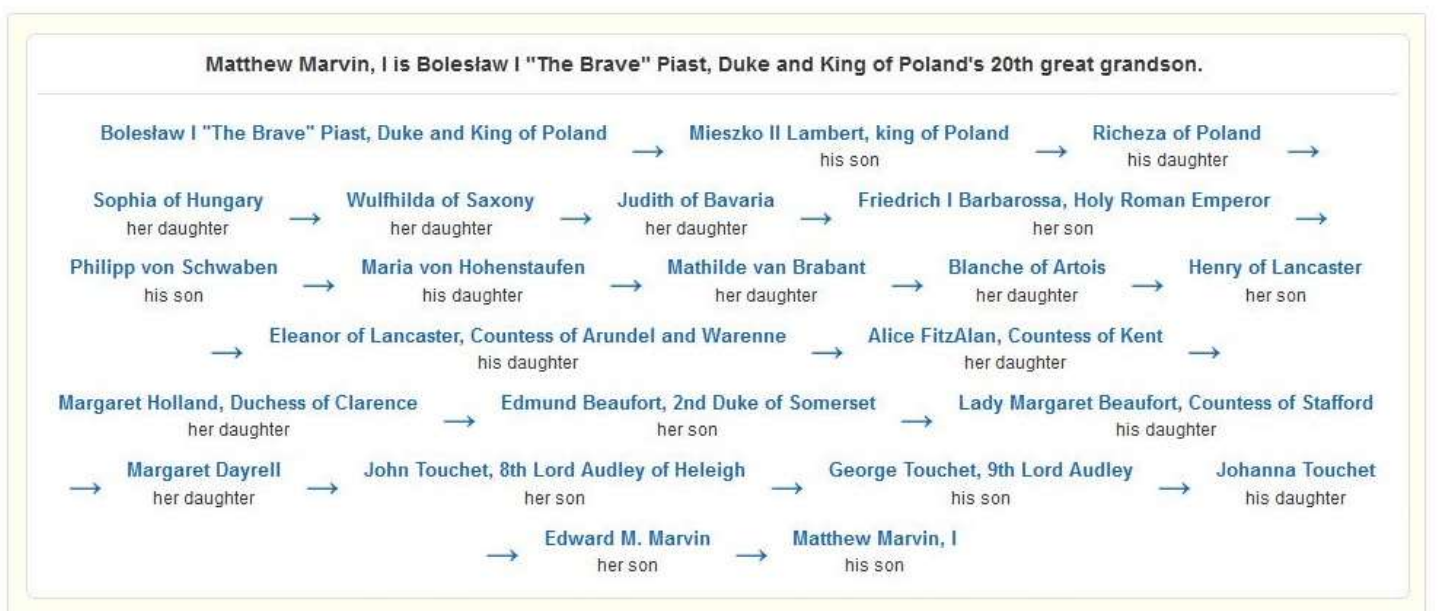
There are four ancestral lines back to Bolesław, represented by my four ancestors at the far-right of this pedigree chart. These lines all go back through my grandfather Ray Miller Oakley and my great-grandmother Hannah Mariah Miller.

Up to this point, I have found a total of nine lines back to Bolesław that go through Ray Miller Oakley.

I spent a little more time looking at even earlier generations of ancestors on the **Oakley** side of my family. In a very random search, I did find that my 9th-great grandfather, Matthew Marvin, was descended from Bolesław. Here is my line back to Matthew Marvin:



Here is the line from Matthew Marvin back to Bolesław:

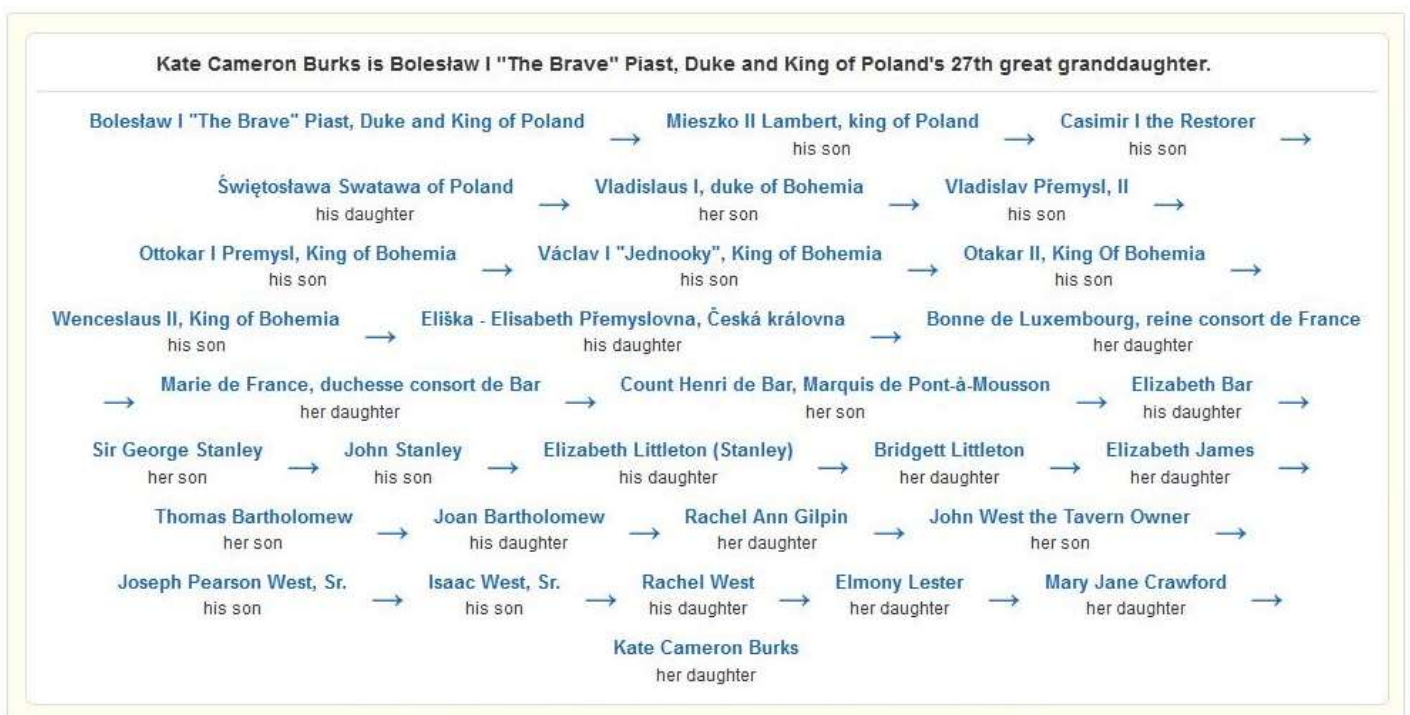


This is a new line that I hadn't seen before, although it does overlap some with the other lines. This is the tenth distinct line going back to Bolesław on the **Oakley** side of my family.

Now let me move on to the **Burks** side of my family. My paternal grandmother was Kate Cameron Burks (1873-1954) – here is her pedigree chart:



I'll start with Kate Cameron Burks herself:



Kate's line back to Bolesław goes through her mother Mary Jane Crawford, then her mother Elmony Lester, and then her mother Rachel West.

Since Kate's line goes through her mother, I'll next look at Kate's father, James A. Burks:

James Alfred Burks is Bolesław I "The Brave" Piast, Duke and King of Poland's 28th great grandson.



Yet another ancestral line back to Bolesław! I note that this line goes through Joan Beaufort, Queen of Scots.

Kate Cameron Burks' line back to Bolesław went through Rachel West and Rachel's father Isaac West Sr. So I next looked at Rachel's mother, Rosanna Lewis:

Rosanna Lewis is Bolesław I "The Brave" Piast, Duke and King of Poland's 25th great granddaughter.



Amazing! Yest another line back to Bolesław.

In all, I found three new lines on the **Burks** side of my family. These lines are summarized in the following pedigree chart for Kate Cameron Burks. As I have done previously, each of my ancestors who is descended from Bolesław is marked with a red star:



There are three ancestral lines back to Bolesław, represented by my three ancestors at the far-right of this pedigree chart. These lines all go back through my grandmother Kate Cameron Burks.

For some unknown reason, I decided to go back a few more generations.

Here is a pedigree chart for Elmony Lester:



I looked through all of my ancestors in this part of my family tree. I learned that Jane Owen is descended from Bolesław through her father John Owen, High Sheriff:



Jane Owen's mother was Hannah Maris, and she also was descended from Boleslaw:



The addition of these two lines means that there are a total of four lines going back to Bolesław that go through Elmony Lester. Once again, all of his descendants are marked with a red star:



Adding in the single line through James Alfred Burks, and I have five ancestral lines back to Bolesław on the **Burks** side of my family. This is in addition to the ten lines back to Bolesław on the **Oakley** side of my family.

Why are there so many lines back to Bolesław?

Bolesław was the King of Poland and appears to have had extensive connections to European nobility. And in the Middle Ages, European nobility inter-married. See:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_intermarriage

Here are the first thirteen generations of descent from Bolesław in Hannah Maris' line:

1. Bolesław
2. Mieszko II Lambert, King of Poland
3. Richeza of Poland
4. Sophia of Hungary
5. Wulfhilda of Saxony
6. Judith of Bavaria
7. Friedrich I Barbarossa, Holy Roman Emperor
8. Philipp von Schwaben
9. Maria von Hohenstaufen
10. Mathilde van Brabant
11. Blanche of Artois
12. Henry of Lancaster
13. Eleanor of Lancaster, Countess of Arundel and Warenne
14. Richard FitzAlan, 11th Earl of Arundel

Just looking at the names of the initial generations, it is clear that these folks were nobility – involving Poland, Hungary, Saxony, and Bavaria.

Let's skip down to Maria von Hohenstaufen, who was Bolesław's 6th-great granddaughter:

Maria von Hohenstaufen, Duchess of Brabant (1201-1235) was a member of the powerful Hohenstaufen dynasty. She is also known as Maria of Swabia. She was the third daughter of Philip of Swabia and Irene Angelina of Byzantium. Her husband was Henry II, Duke of Brabant. Her paternal grandparents were Frederick I, Holy Roman Emperor and Beatrice I, Countess of Burgundy. Her maternal grandparents were Byzantine Emperor Isaac II Angelos and his first wife Herina Tornikaina.

Blanche of Artois was Maria's granddaughter:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blanche_of_Artois

Blanche of Artois (1248-1302) was a member of the Capetian House of Artois who, as queen dowager, held regency over the Kingdom of Navarre and the County of Champagne. She was queen of Navarre and countess of Champagne and Brie during her marriage to Henry I of Navarre. After his death she became regent in the name of their infant daughter, Joan I. She passed on the regency of Navarre to Philip III of France, her cousin and her daughter's prospective father-in-law, but retained the administration of Champagne. She later shared the government of Champagne with her second husband, Edmund Crouchback, until her daughter reached the age of majority.

In 1276, in Paris, Blanche became the second wife of Edmund Crouchback, brother of King Edward I of England. The marriage was orchestrated by the dowager queen of France Margaret of Provence, who wished to secure a wealthy bride for her nephew. Edmund joined Blanche in administering Champagne and Brie. Edmund and Blanche had four children: Mary, who died young, Thomas, Henry and John.

Henry, 3rd Earl of Lancaster, was Blanche's son:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry,_3rd_Earl_of_Lancaster

Henry, 3rd Earl of Leicester and Lancaster (1281-1345) was a grandson of King Henry III (1216–1272) of England and was one of the principals behind the deposition of King Edward II (1307–1327), his first cousin.

This is a great example of how an Englishman came to have Polish ancestors. A number of generations of Bolesław's descendants were clearly European nobility, and it seems that marriages were arranged between nobility in various European countries. In this particular line, Blanche of Artois was French, and the dowager queen of France, Margaret of Provence, arranged for her to marry an Englishman. And one of her sons, Henry, became the 3rd Earl of Lancaster.

Hannah Maris' ancestors then remained in England until Margaret Smith (1568-1650) immigrated from England to Maryland. Margaret was Bolesław's 19th great-granddaughter.

As an aside, I'm sure that we know about Bolesław's descendants, at least for the first ten or fifteen generations, only because they were European nobility. There just wouldn't be any records going back that far for common folks.

I thought that I should look at a few more lines. Here are the initial generations for the ancestral line from Bolesław down to Amzi Oakley:

1. Bolesław
2. Mieszko II Lambert
3. Richeza of Poland
4. Sophia of Hungary
5. Wulfhilda of Saxony
6. Judith of Bavaria
7. Friedrich I Barbarossa, Holy Roman Emperor
8. Philipp von Schwaben
9. Maria von Hohenstaufen
10. Lady Matilda van Brabant de Sutton
11. Sir Robert Sutton
12. Sir Richard de Sutton
13. John de Sutton, Lord of Dudley Castle

This line is the same as the previous one down to Maria von Hohenstaufen. It then goes to Lady Matilda van Brabant de Sutton and then her son Sir Robert Sutton.

I note that the entry for Marie/Maria von Hohenstaufen on Geni.com includes "Sometime before 22 August 1215, she married Henry II, Duke of Brabant in Brabant (present-day Belgium). Marie was his first wife. They had six children,

and through them, *Marie is the ancestress of every royal house in Europe* [my emphasis].” Once again, I see that there was a lot of intermarriage between nobility throughout Europe. More about Marie at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie_of_Hohenstaufen

Marie’s daughter Matilda married Sir William de Sutton and that brought the family line to England.

The line from Bolesław down to Elizabeth Trowbridge and her daughter Abigail Mallory is quite interesting. Here are the initial generations:

1. Bolesław
2. Mieszko II Lambert
3. Gertruda Mieszkówna, von Polen
4. Grand Prince of Kiev Sviatopolk II
5. Zbyslava of Kiev
6. Władysław II the Exile, High Duke of Poland
7. Richeza of Poland, Queen of Castile and Leon
8. Sancha of Castile
9. Alphonse II Bérenger, comte de Provence
10. Raymond Bérenger IV, comte de Provence
11. Eleanor of Provence, Queen Consort of England
12. Edward I “Longshanks”, King of England

This line begins in Poland, then jumps to Russia, then back to Poland, then to Spain, then to France, and finally to England. Eleanor of Provence was born in France, but then went to England, where she became the wife of King Henry III of England. She was the mother of King Edward I “Longshanks” of England. More about Eleanor at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eleanor_of_Provence

Note that I have twelve ancestral lines back to King Edward I – see Chapter 50 at:

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

I guess that this means that all twelve of those lines also go back to Bolesław – meaning that I’ve seriously under-estimated the number of ancestral lines I have connecting me back to Bolesław!

And on that note, I’ll bring this chapter to a close.

Summary

In this chapter, I used Geni.com to document fifteen ancestral lines connecting me back to Bolesław the Brave, King of Poland. Ten of these lines are on the **Oakley** side of my family and five of these lines are on the **Burks** side of my family. All of these lines involve descendants of Bolesław who eventually immigrated from continental Europe to England, and then English descendants who immigrated to America. Just a few weeks ago, I didn’t know that I had any ancestral lines going back to Poland, and now it is difficult to find one of my

ancestors who is not descended from Bolesław [I say that a little “tongue-in-cheek”.]

My ancestral lines back to Bolesław illustrate how European nobility intermarried in the Middle Ages. I was able to show how several lines ended up moving from continental Europe to England. And, of course, I wouldn't know about my ancestors from twenty-five or more generations ago unless they were nobility. Pretty cool aspect of my genealogy, for sure!

Appendix

I was surprised to find that so many of my ancestors on my father's side of my family were descended from Bolesław, King of Poland. And to think that a few weeks ago, I didn't know that I had any Polish ancestors.

In looking for examples of individuals on Geni.com who were NOT descended from Bolesław, I first thought of George Washington, the first President of the United States. It turns out that he also was descended from Bolesław:



George Washington was Bolesław's 23rd-great grandson.

I next tried Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States:



Wouldn't you know it?! Abraham Lincoln also is descended from Bolesław, and much of his ancestral line overlaps with mine – going through Margaret Noszak and even several generations of the Tyndale family.


I then thought of Michael Stangel, who is the General Manager of Geni.com – and one of my former students in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Oops! Michael also is descended from Bolesław:

Mike Stangel is Boleslaw I "The Brave" Piast, Duke and King of Poland's 31st great grandson.



Michael Stangel is Boleslaw's 31st-great grandson.

Finally, I tried Donald J. Trump:

Donald J. Trump, 45th President of the USA is connected to Boleslaw I "The Brave" Piast, Duke and King of Poland. 

No in-law relationship was found.

No blood relationship was found.

At last! Someone who is NOT descended from Boleslaw.