

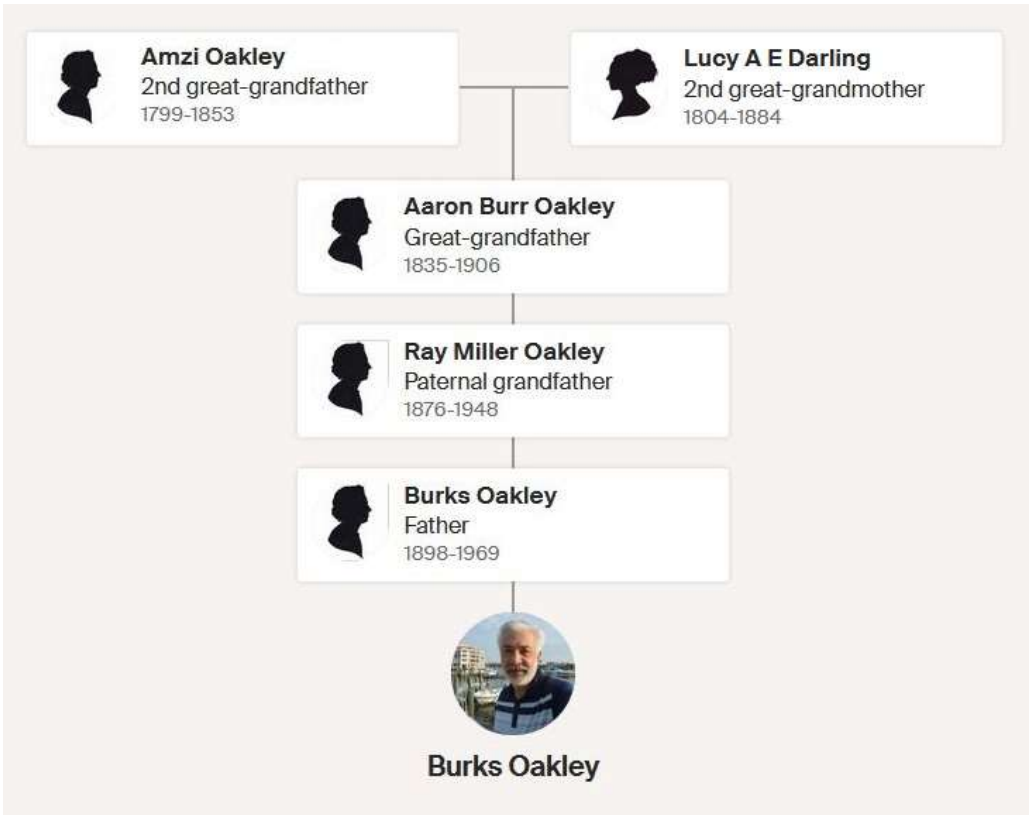
Chapter 90

Some Interesting Facts about Two of my Great-Grandaunts Going Back on my *Oakley* Line

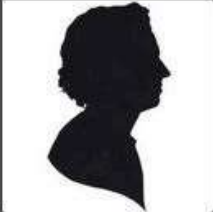
[originally written 27 June 2022]

Introduction

On my *Oakley* ancestral line, I am descended from Amzi Oakley (1799-1853) and his wife Lucy Ann Eunice Darling (1804-1884). This couple were my 2nd-great grandparents, as shown in the following chart:



Amzi and Lucy lived most of their lives in Fairfield County, Connecticut:



Amzi Oakley
BIRTH 9 JUL 1799 • Dutchess County, New York
DEATH 12 OCT 1853 • Redding, Connecticut



Lucy Ann Eunice Darling
BIRTH 19 OCT 1804 • Easton, Fairfield County, Connecticut
DEATH 10 AUG 1884 • Bethel (Grassy Plains), Connecticut

(Although Lucy spent some time in Iowa – see below).

Amzi appears in a family tree on Ancestry.com that is owned by Richard Hunsaker, who is the manager of the ***Oakley*** Y-DNA group on FamilyTreeDNA.com:

Oakley Project Group 1F... ▾Tree search



Richard Hunsaker
Your role: Contributor



Amzi Oakley

BIRTH 9 JUL 1799 • Dutchess County, New York
DEATH 12 OCT 1853 • Redding, Connecticut

Family

Parents

Burr Oakley
1753–

Ruth
1765–

Spouse and children

Lucy Ann Eunice Darling
1804–1884

William Burr Oakley
1825–

Sarah Maria Oakley
1827–

Sarah Oakley
1829–1903

Edwin Curtis Oakley
1830–1900

Mary Elizabeth Oakley
1833–

Aaron Burr Oakley
1835–1906

Anne Oakley
1838–1916

Martha Louina Oakley
1844–1893

According to this profile, Amzi and Lucy had eight children, although my father’s genealogy shows that they had seven children – my father’s family tree doesn’t have Sarah Oakley (1829-1903). I’m not sure if Sarah Maria is the same person as Sarah – my guess is that they are the same person.

As an aside, I note that Amzi and Lucy had a son named William Burr Oakley, who was born in 1825, and that is the exact name of one of my father’s brothers – William Burr Oakley (1903-1985). Recall that Amzi’s paternal grandmother was Sarah Burr (1735-1807) – and Sarah was a first-cousin of Aaron Burr, the third vice-president of the United States. And, of course, Amzi’s father was Burr Oakley, and another one of Amzi’s sons was Aaron Burr Oakley. But I digress...

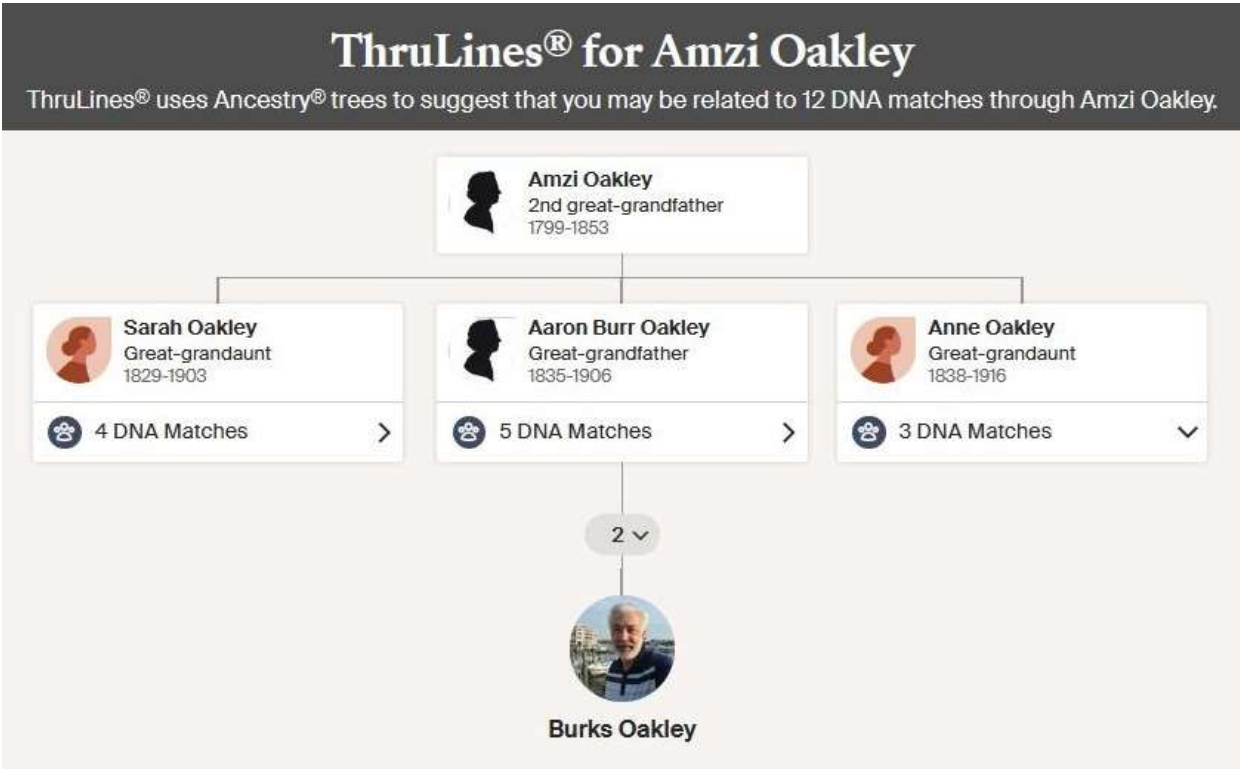
My DNA Matches with the descendants of Amzi and Lucy

Several weeks ago, my mind wandered and for whatever reason, I wondered how many DNA matches I currently had with descendants of Amzi Oakley and his wife Lucy Darling. I had previously looked into this topic in June 2021, when I saw my new DNA match with Julie Freeman on Ancestry.com:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/79-JulieFreeman.pdf>

At that time, I had nine DNA matches with descendants of Amzi and Lucy. I wondered if the number had gone up in the last 1+ year.

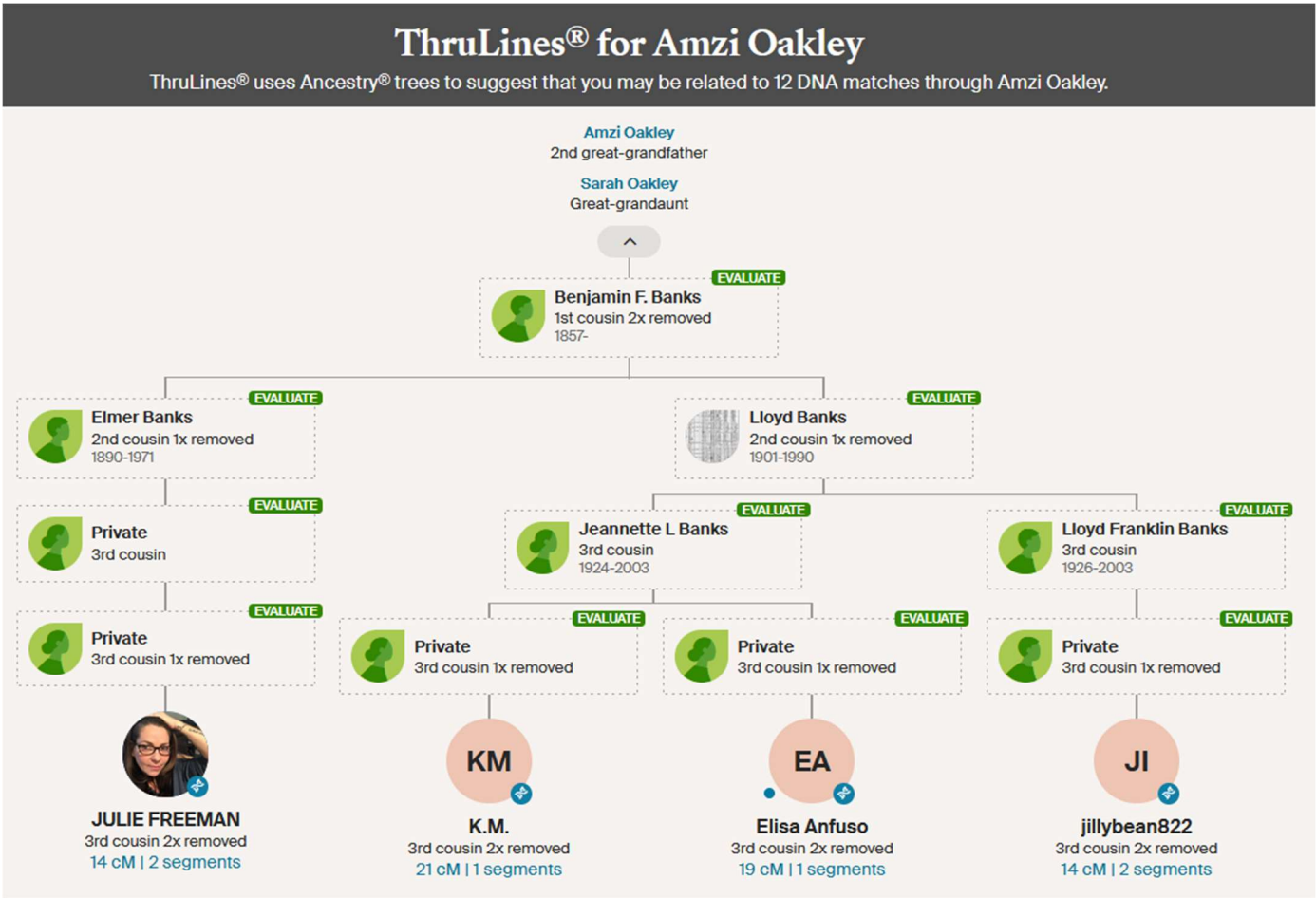
I looked at my ThruLines™ charts for Amzi and for Lucy on Ancestry.com. Here is the ThruLines™ chart for Amzi:



The chart for Lucy is identical to this one, with Lucy substituted for Amzi at the top of the chart.

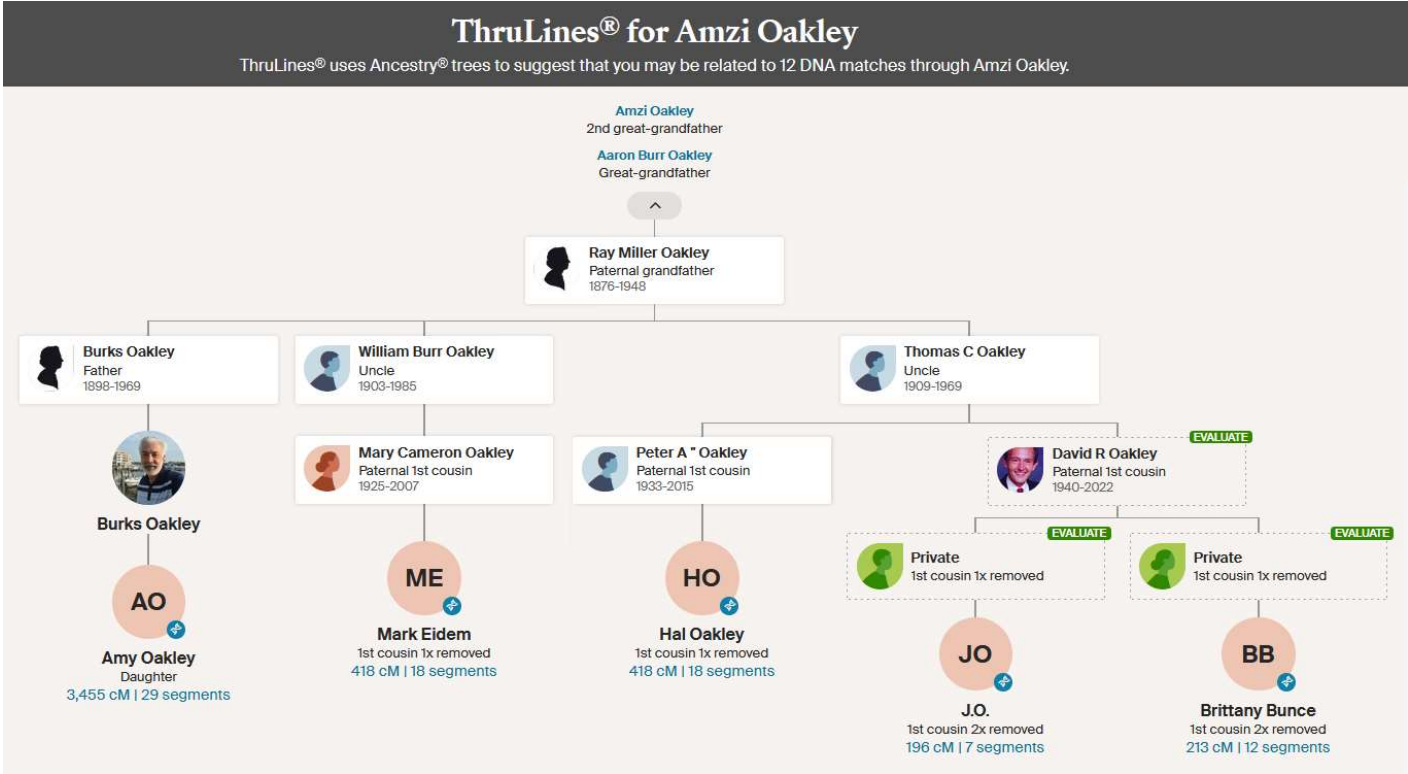
I now have twelve DNA matches with the descendants of Amzi and Lucy, which isn't a huge number, compared with some of my other ancestral lines. I have four DNA matches with descendants of their daughter Sarah Oakley, five DNA matches with descendants of their son Aaron Burr Oakley, and three DNA matches with descendants of their daughter Anne Oakley.

Here is the branch of my ThruLines™ chart going back through Sarah Oakley:



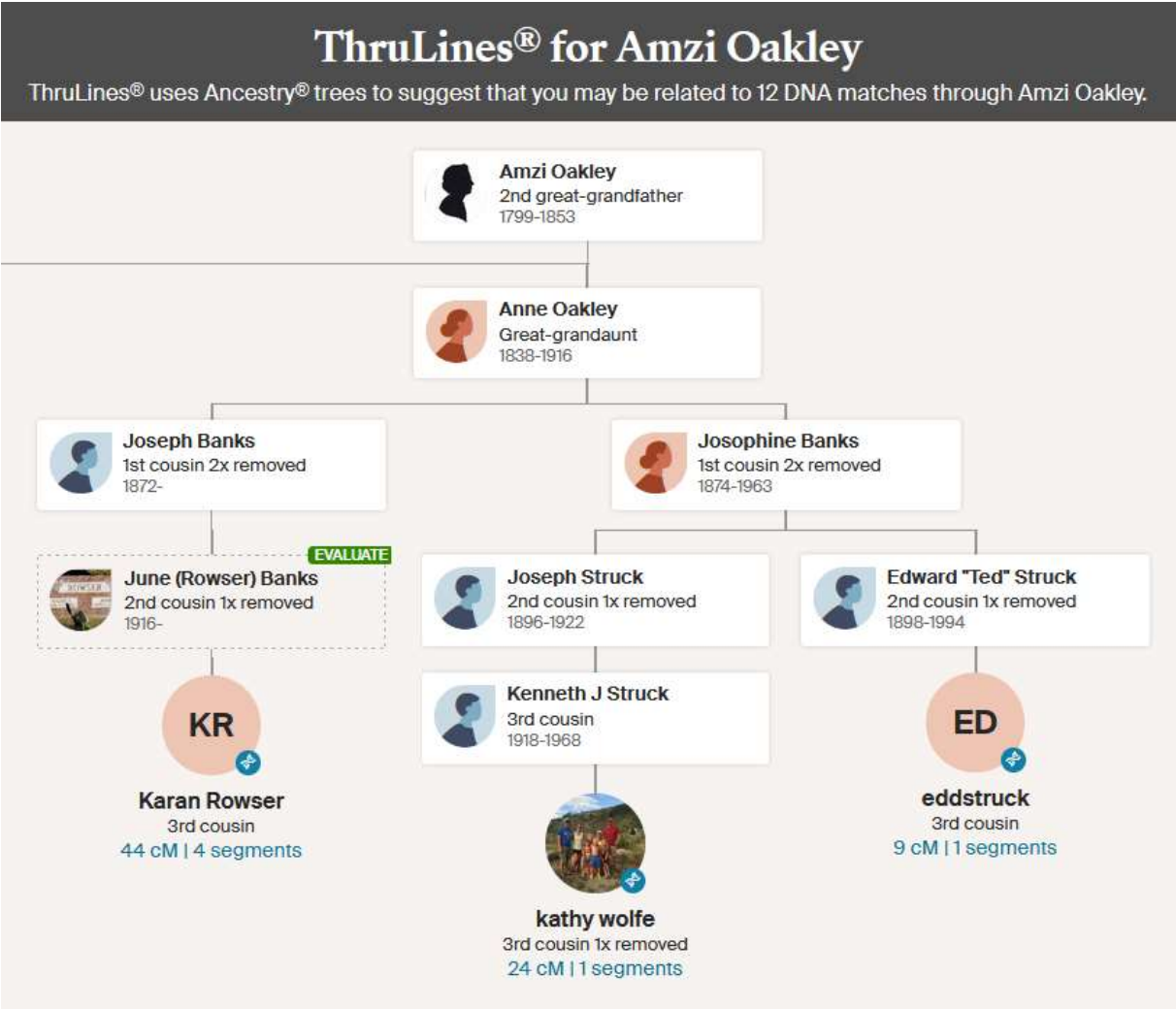
This branch of the chart picks up my DNA matches with Julie Freeman, K.M., Elisa Anfuso, and jillybean822. All four of these DNA matches go back through Sarah’s son Benjamin Banks.

Here is the branch of my ThruLines™ chart going back through Aaron Burr Oakley:



This line picks up my DNA matches with my close relatives – Amy Oakley, Mark Eidem, Hal Oakley, John Oakley, and Brittany Bunce.

Here is the branch of my ThruLines™ chart going back through Anne Oakley:



This part of the chart picks up my DNA matches with Karan Rowser, Kathy Wolfe (née Struck), and eddstruck. Kathy is well-known to our family; I have met her in person on one of my visits to Florida and my cousin Hal Oakley and I have both communicated with her about our **Oakley** family genealogy.

The DNA matches in this branch of the ThruLines™ chart go back through Anne Oakley’s children Joseph Banks and Josophine Banks.

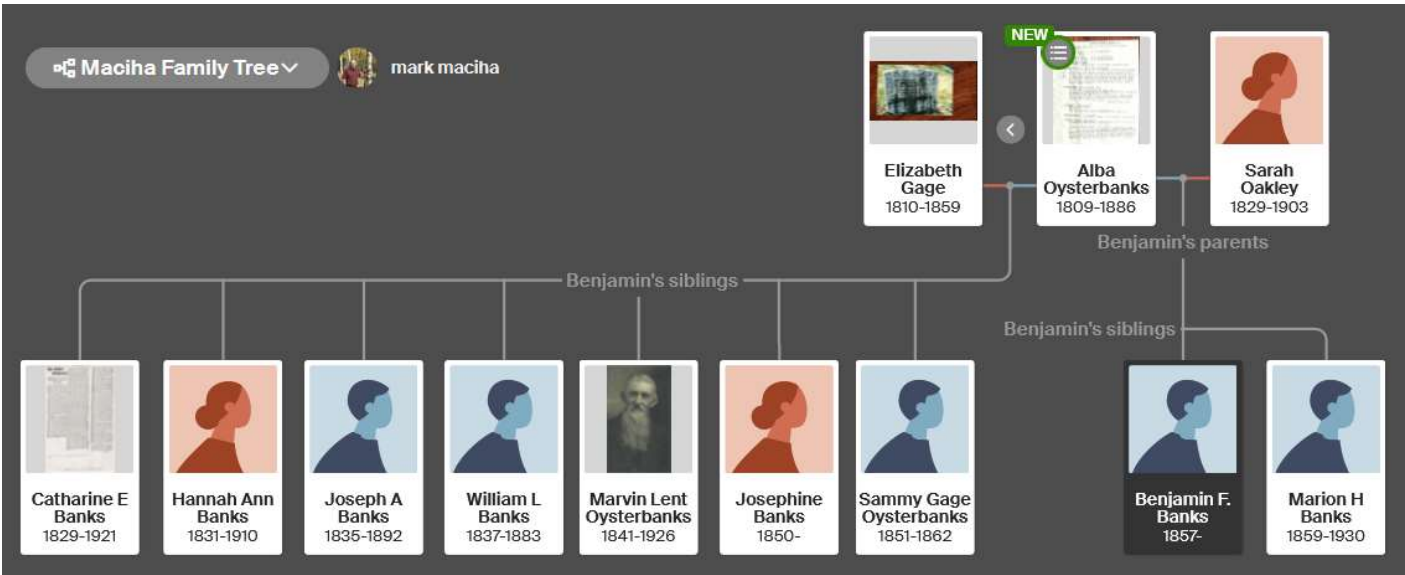
In my earlier narrative about my DNA match with Julie Freeman, I mentioned that Sarah and Anne had both married men with the surname of **Banks**, and in fact, I discovered that they were father and son.

I now have a little more information about all this. Read on!

Sarah and Anne

Sarah and Anne Oakley were two daughters of Amzi Oakley and his wife Lucy Darling. I should note that Sarah and Anne were the siblings of my great-grandfather, Aaron Burr Oakley, and thus they were my great-grandaunts. Yes, that really is what they are called.

Recall that I have four DNA matches with descendants of Sarah Oakley, and all go through her son Benjamin Banks. Sarah and her son Benjamin appear in a family tree on Ancestry.com that is owned by Mark Maciha:



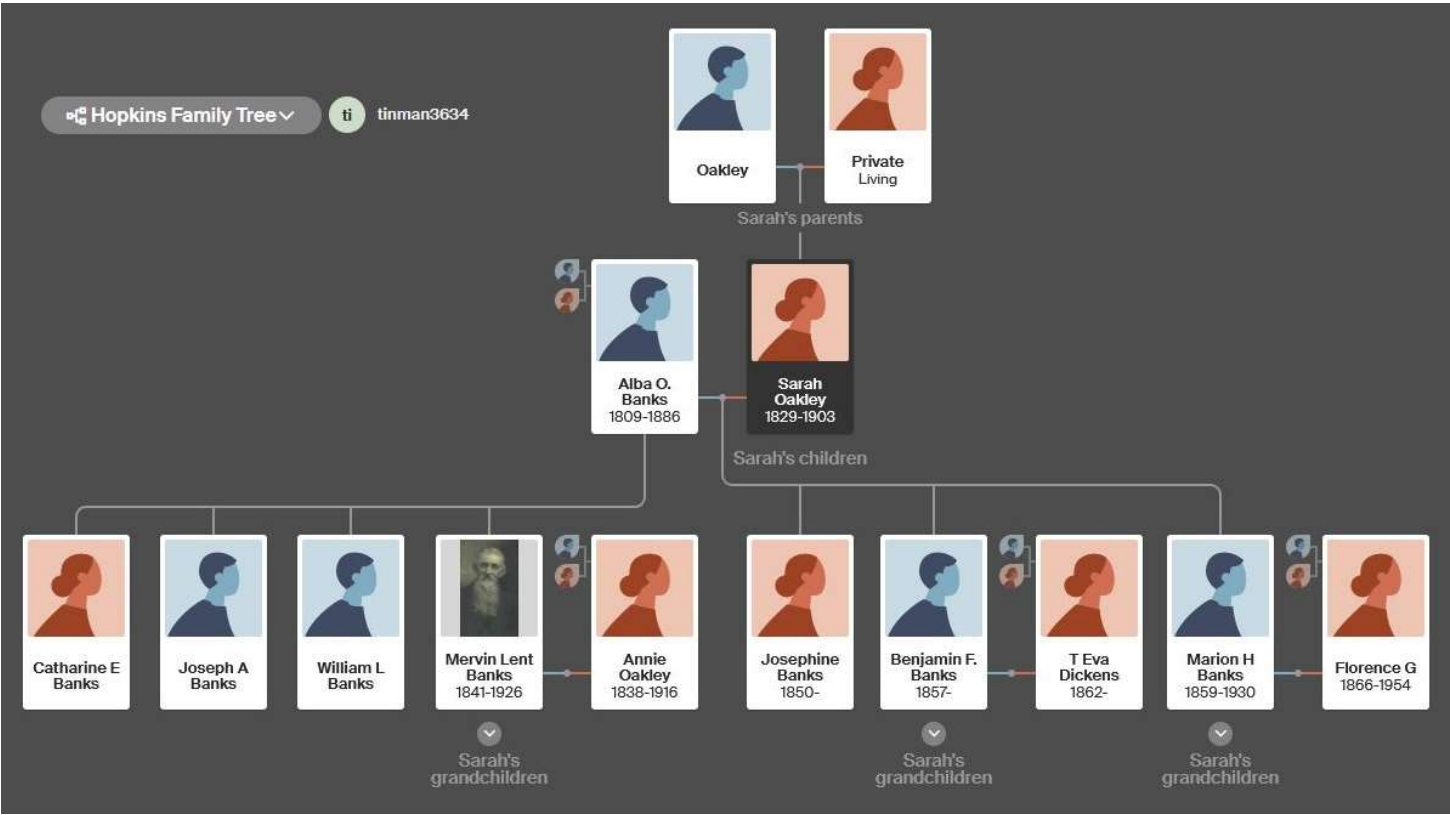
Sarah was the second wife of a man named Alba Oysterbanks (1809-1886), who also appears in various family trees on Ancestry.com as Alba Oyster Banks or Alba O'Banks or Alba O. Banks. I'll come back to the origin of the name **Oysterbanks** later in this narrative. At any rate, I'll refer to him as Alba O. Banks, since Alba and Sarah's son was Benjamin F. Banks. In looking at the chart shown above, Alba married a much younger woman (Sarah) as his second wife.

Now let me look at Sarah Oakley's younger sister, Anne Oakley. Anne appears in the family tree owned by rayhbanks:

Recall that I have DNA matches with descendants of Mervin’s children Joseph and Josephine (or Josophine).

Mervin Lent Banks was born in Fairfield County, Connecticut – and he died in Casper, Wyoming. I bet it would be really interesting to learn how and why he moved from the east coast to central Wyoming. Maybe Kathy Wolfe knows.

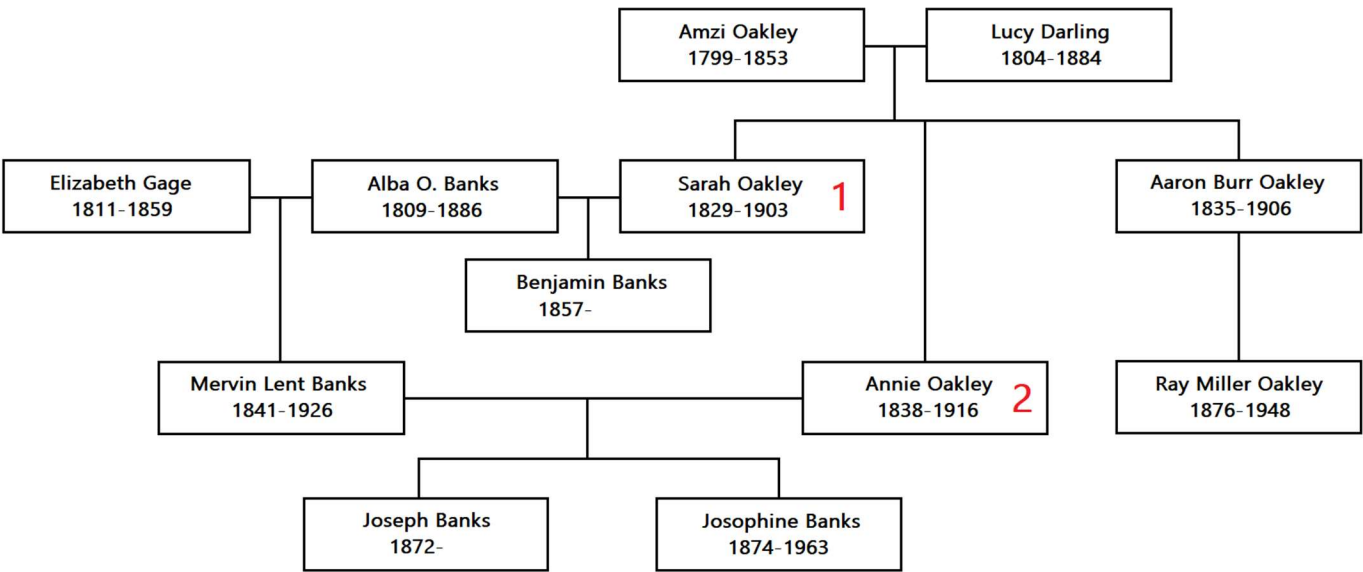
The Hopkins Family Tree, which is owned by tinman3634, shows both Sarah Oakley and Annie Oakley:



Sarah’s parents (Amzi and Lucy) are shown at the top of the chart. Their daughter Sarah was married to Alba O. Banks, while Sarah’s younger sister Annie was married to Alba’s son Mervin Lent Banks. I wonder which couple got married first... I’ll have to look into this!

Putting All This Together

The relationships I have described in this chapter are shown in the following chart:



Amzi and Lucy appear at the very top of the chart. Their children included two daughters, Sarah (red #1) and Anne (red #2), as well as their son Aaron Burr Oakley (at the upper right).

Alba’s first wife Elizabeth Gage is at the upper left, and a child of this marriage was Mervin Lent Banks. And Mervin married Anne Oakley (red #2).

Alba’s second wife was Sarah Oakley (red #1), and their son was Benjamin Banks.

Looking just at Anne Oakley, I see that Alba O. Banks was her father-in-law (through her marriage to Alba’s son Mervin Lent Banks), but he also was her brother-in-law (since he was the husband of her sister Sarah).

Looking at Anne’s children (Joseph and Josophine), Alba O. Banks was their grandfather (through their father Mervin Lent Banks), but he also was their uncle (he was married to their mother’s sister).

Some important dates on this chart include:

- Alba’s first marriage – his son Mervin Lent Banks was born in 1841.
- Alba’s second marriage to Sarah Oakley – their son Benjamin Banks was born in 1857. Note that Sarah was 20 years younger than Alba.
- Anne’s son Joseph Banks was born in 1872.

My guess is that Sarah married Alba first, and then at a later time, her younger sister Anne married Alba’s son Mervin. I’ll get back to this.

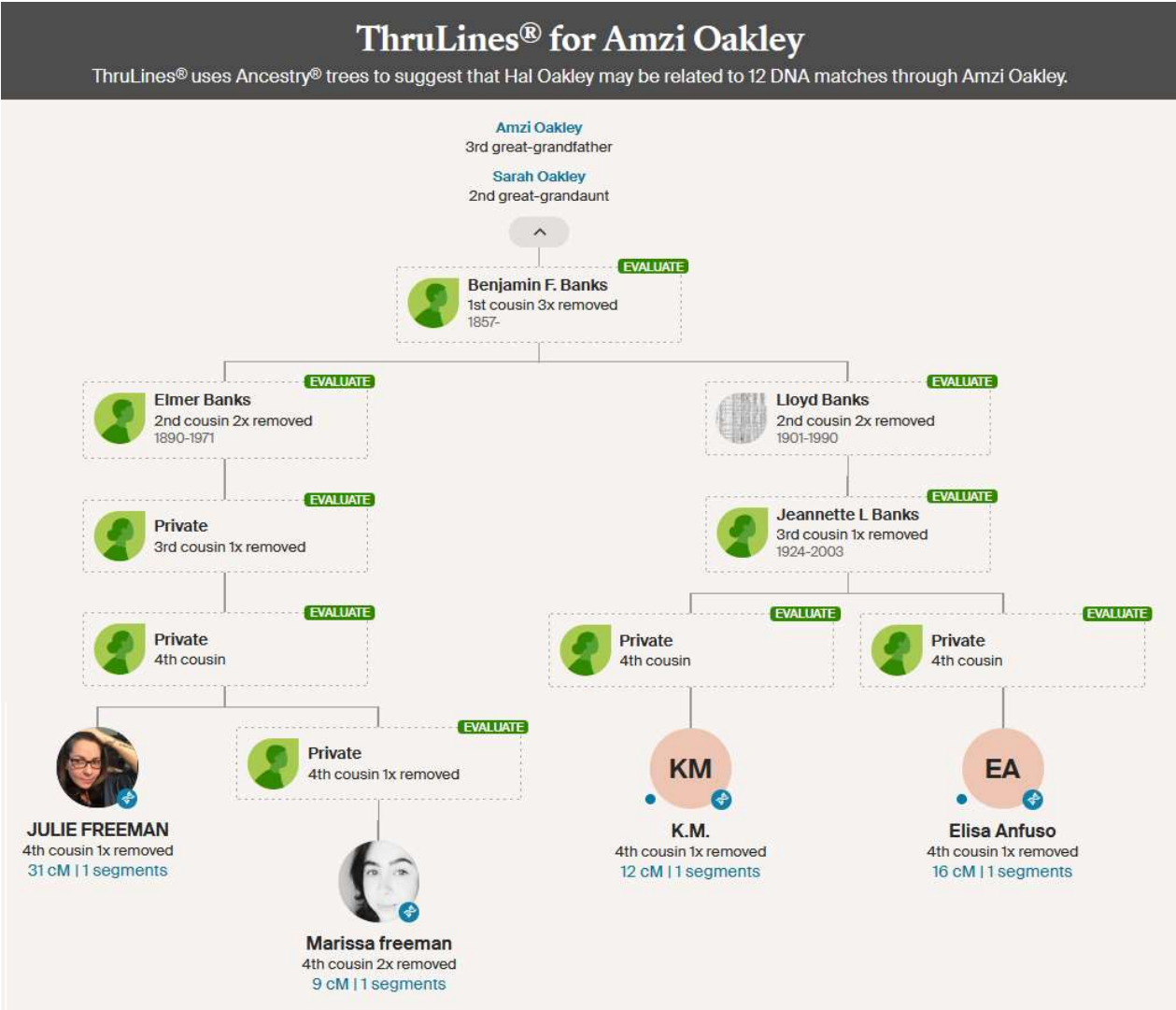
Other DNA Matches with Descendants of Amzi Oakley and Lucy Darling

Since I also have access to the DNA matches of my ***Oakley*** cousins Hal Oakley and Mark Eidem, I went on to look at their ThruLines™ charts for Amzi Oakley and Lucy Darling. I’ll just show the charts for Amzi, but keep in mind that the charts for Lucy are identical.

Here is Hal’s ThruLines™ charts for Amzi:

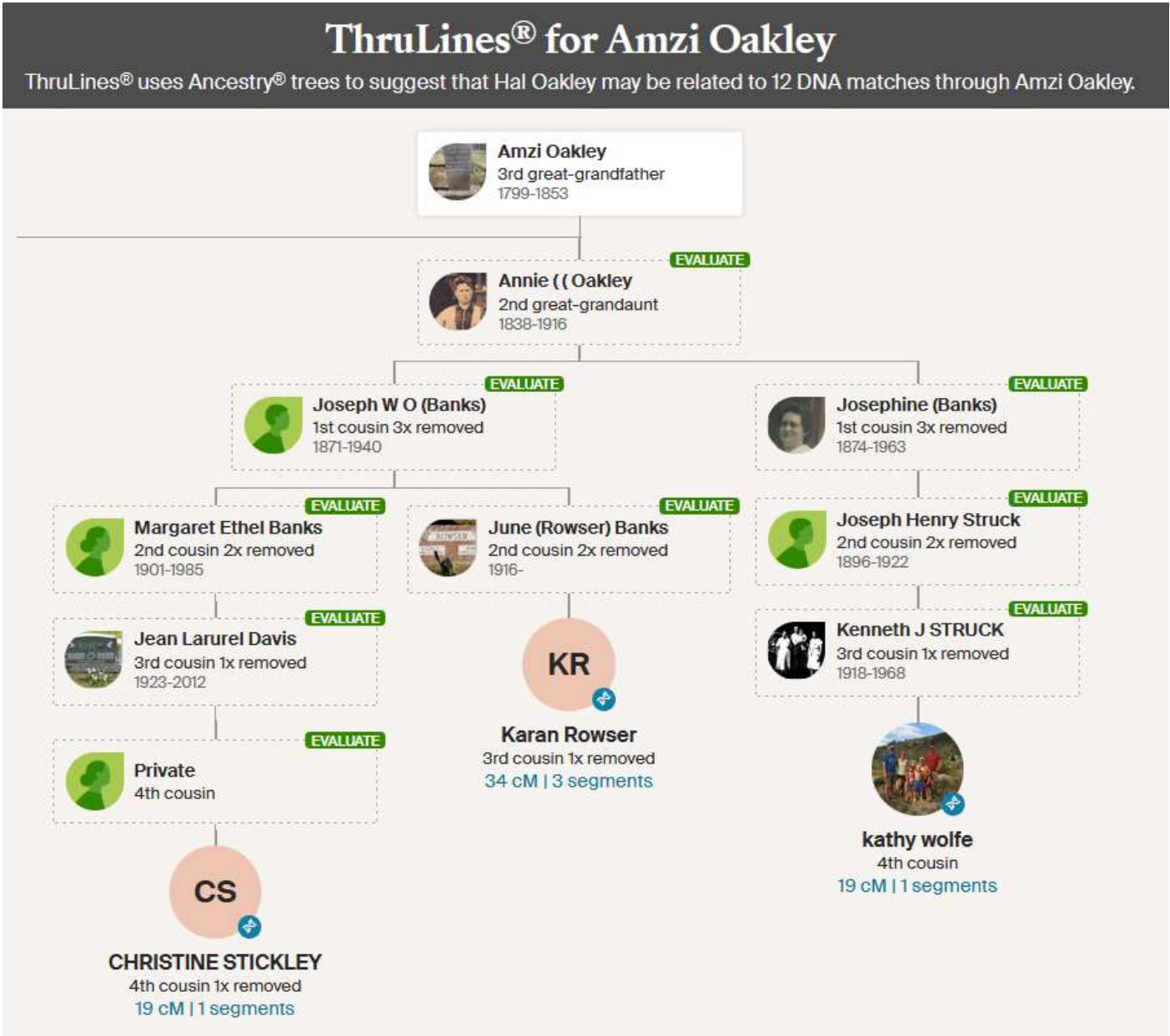


Hal has DNA matches with twelve descendants of Amzi Oakley, and like me, these matches connect back to Amzi through his children Sarah, Aaron, and Annie. The five matches through Aaron are the same group that I have. The DNA matches through Sarah are shown here:



These matches all connect back through Sarah’s son Benjamin Banks and include a new match (that I don’t have) with Julie Freeman’s niece Marissa Freeman.

The DNA matches through Annie are shown in the following ThruLines™ chart:



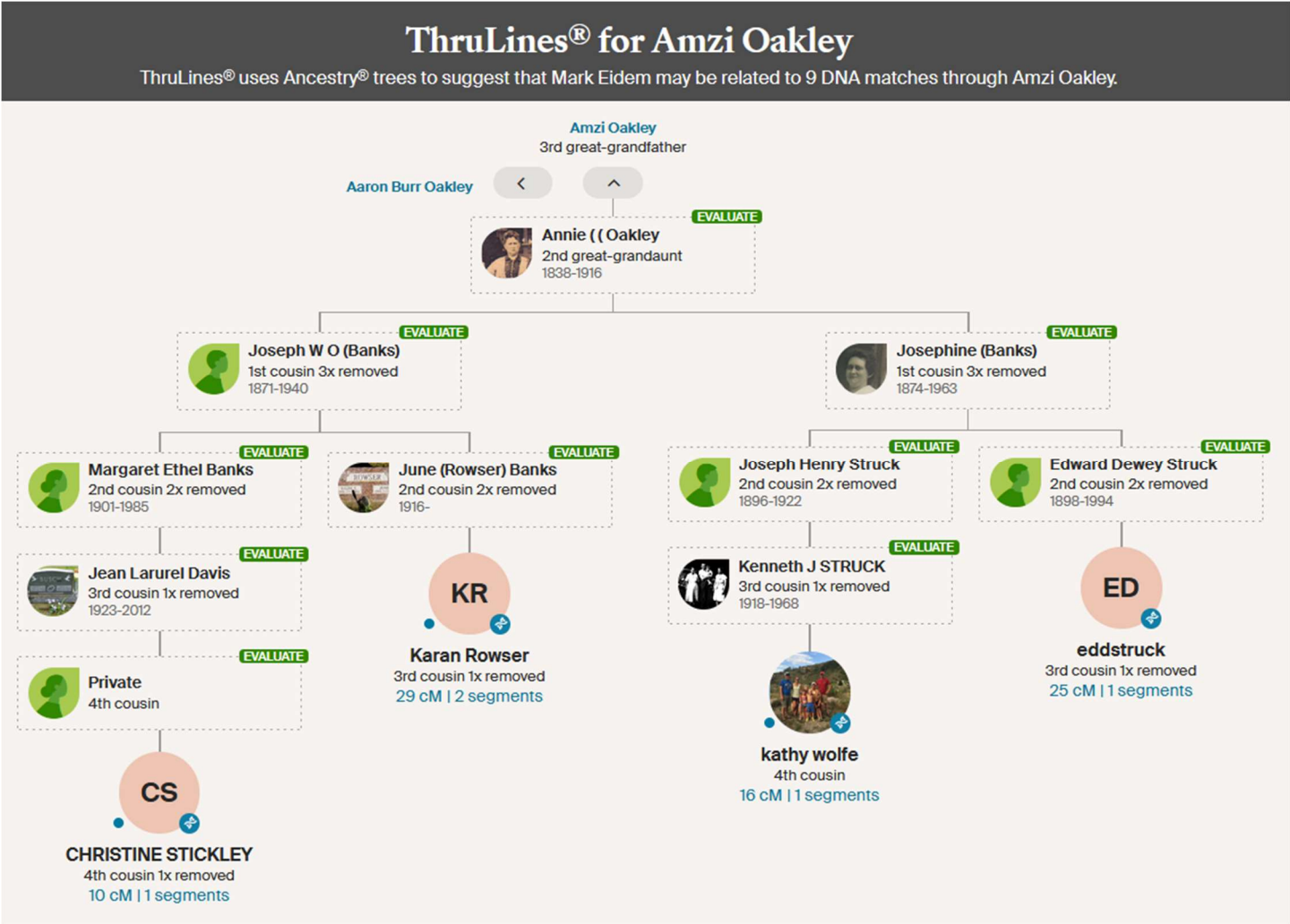
Hal has a new match (that I don’t have) with Christine Stickley.

Here is Mark’s overall ThruLines™ chart for Amzi Oakley:



Wow! Mark only has nine DNA matches with descendants of Amzi Oakley, and none of these matches connect back through Sarah Oakley. Mark does have the same group of five DNA matches going back through Aaron Burr Oakley that Hal and I also share.

Here are Mark’s DNA matches connecting back through Annie:



Like Hal, Mark also has a DNA match with Christine Stickley.

Keep in mind that Hal and Mark are one more generation removed from Amzi and his wife Lucy than I am. It is interesting to see that they have several DNA matches with Amzi’s and Lucy’s descendants that I don’t have.

Origin of the Oysterbanks Surname

I went back on the paternal line for Alba Oyster Banks. Alba’s father was Abraham Oysterbanks (1782-1851). Abraham’s father was Moses Oysterbanks (1762-1838). Moses appears on Geni.com as Moses Oysterbanks Ysterbanks, Sr.¹ Moses’ father was Isaac Oysterbanks (1729-1775). Isaac’s father was a Prussian immigrant named Johan Jacob Heisterbach (1706-1763).

So it appears that Heisterbach became Oysterbanks when Johan Jacob immigrated to America. And with Alba it became Alba Oyster Banks. And with Alba’s children, it was just Banks.

Interestingly, several members of the **Oysterbanks** family appear in the book *History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield*, Volume I, compiled and edited by Donald Lines Jacobus. Here is one of the entries:

¹ <https://www.geni.com/people/Moses-Oysterbanks-Sr/6000000032417490231>

1855 ae. 75-5-20 (g. s.). Children, bapt. Fairfield: Peter-Burr, bapt. 13 Mar. 1803; Marietta, bapt. 7 Oct. 1804.
 Jeremiah, b. 30 Apr. 1779, d. 12 Dec. 1845 ae. 66 yrs. 7 mos. (Bible rec.); m. 18 Nov. 1807, Maria Shelton, dau. of Rev. Philo and Lucy, b. 4 Jan. 1787.*
 Peter, b. 10 Jan. 1782; m. Mar. 1804, ———. Mrs. Peter B. Sturges d. at Fairfield, Apr. 1836. David, son of Peter and Clarina, bapt. 15 May 1805.

27. Sturges, John, s. of John, 3d.

He d. abt. 1779; m. Sarah Fanton, dau. of Jonathan. She m. (2) 4 Nov. 1781, Ebenezer Redfield.

Inv. 11 May 1779.

On 16 Jan. 1794, John Thorp and Ruth his wife, and Joshua Oysterbanks and wife Sarah, of Bedford, Westchester County, N. Y., and Samuel Downs and Elizabeth his wife of Salem, Westchester County, conveyed to Banks Morehouse of Weston all right in Wilton land, and acquitted him of all claims. [Norwalk Deeds.]

Children:

Sarah, m. at Westport, 11 Jan. 1778, Joshua Oysterbanks.

Elizabeth, m. at Westport, 2 Feb. 1784, Samuel Downs.

Jane, b. [18 Jan. 1763], d. at Weston, 3 Feb. 1789 ae. 26 yrs. 16 days (g. s.); m. at Westport, 5 Aug. 1784, Banks Morehouse.

Ruth, m. at Westport, 8 Dec. 1785, John Thorp, of Weston.

There is More to this Story – The Big Move West

While I would like to end this chapter here, I think that there is more to the story. Let me begin with Annie Oakley – here is part of her profile from Kathy Struck Wolfe's family tree on Ancestry.com:



Recall that Annie first was married to a man having the surname of Paddock, and then she was married to Mervin Lent Banks. Annie died in Lowden, Cedar County, Iowa. I recall exchanging several e-mails with Kathy Wolfe about this, since Aaron Burr Oakley and his wife Hannah Mariah Miller had moved to Mechanicsville, Cedar County, Iowa – and Mechanicsville is just 18 miles west of Lowden on the present-day US 30:



In fact, Aaron Burr Oakley and his wife Hannah Oakley appear in the 1870 US Census as living in Mechanicsville:

1870 United States Federal Census



[View image](#)
[View record](#)

Name A B Oakley

Age in 1870 35

Birth Date 1835

Birthplace Connecticut

Dwelling Number 51

Home in 1870 Mechanicsville, Cedar, Iowa

Race White

Gender Male

Post Office Mechanicsville

Occupation Clerk in Drug Store

Male Citizen Over 21 Yes

Personal Estate Value 700

Inferred Spouse Hannah Oakley

Household members	Name	Age
	A B Oakley	35
	Hannah Oakley	31

I wonder if Annie’s time in Lowden overlapped with her brother’s Aaron Burr’s time in Mechanicsville....

I next looked at the 1870 US Census for Alba O. Banks:

1870 United States Federal Census



[View image](#)
[View record](#)

Name

Alba Banks

Age in 1870

59

Birth Date

1811

Birthplace

Connecticut

Dwelling Number

79

Home in 1870

Lowden, Cedar, Iowa

Race

White

Gender

Male

Post Office

Lowden

Occupation

Clergyman

Male Citizen Over 21

Yes

Personal Estate Value

500

Real Estate Value

700

Inferred Spouse

Sarah M Banks

Household members

Name	Age
Alba Banks	59
Sarah M Banks	42
Mervin L Banks	30
Benjamin F Banks	13
Howard M Banks	10

Oh my! Alba Banks and his wife Sarah Banks (née Oakley) were living in Lowden, Iowa, in 1870, along with their children Benjamin F. Banks (age 13) and Howard M. Banks (age 10). The fifth member of the household was Mervin L. Banks (age 30) – Alba’s son from his first marriage.

So now we have Sarah and her family living 18 miles down the road from her brother Aaron Burr and his wife in Cedar County, Iowa. In 1870!

I next looked at Alba Banks and his wife Sarah Banks (née Oakley) in the 1860 US Census:

1860 United States Federal Census



View image

View record

Name

Sarah Banks

Age

32

Birth Year

1828

Gender

Female

Race

White

Birth Place

Connecticut

Home in 1860

Springfield, Cedar, Iowa

Post Office

London

Dwelling Number

426

Family Number

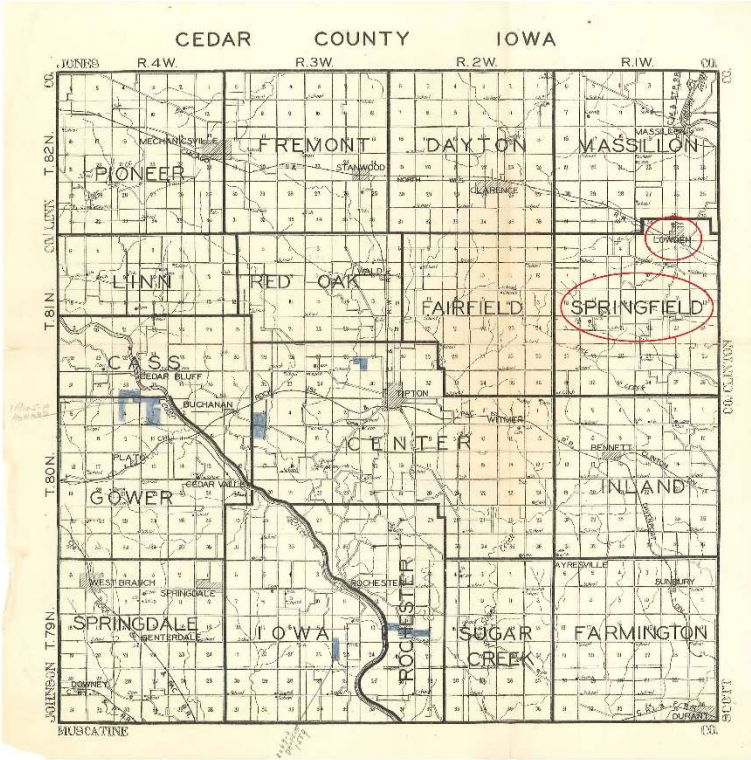
431

Household members

Name	Age
A Banks	50
Sarah Banks	32
Josephine V Banks	10
Benjamin F Banks	
Howard Banks	11/12

Amazing! They were living in Springfield Township, Cedar County, Iowa, in 1860. The family included Alba (age 50) and Sarah (age 32), their two children Benjamin (who was age 7) and Howard (age 11 months), and Josephine V. Banks (calculated to be age 10), who was the youngest child from Alba’s first marriage.

Springfield Township actually encompasses Lowden, Iowa, as shown in the following township map from the University of Iowa library:



I went back and reviewed what I had written about Lucy Ann Eunice Darling way back in Chapter 4 – see:

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

After Amzi died in 1853, his widow Lucy Ann Eunice Darling Oakley lived with her younger daughters. Recall that their son Aaron Burr Oakley moved west and lived with his wife Hannah Mariah Miller Oakley in Mechanicsville, Cedar County, Iowa. Well, Aaron’s sister, Martha, also moved to Mechanicsville. In the 1870 US Census, Lucy Oakley (age 65) was living in Mechanicsville with her daughter, Martha (age 25), and Martha’s husband H.O. Mitchel (age 28). In the 1880 US Census, Lucy Oakley (age 75) appeared in Lowden, Cedar County, Iowa, living with daughter Ann and Ann’s husband M.L. Banks. I note that Lowden, Iowa, is 18 miles east of Mechanicsville, Iowa, on US 30. Ray Miller Oakley was born in Mechanicsville in 1876, so my guess is that Grandmother Lucy Darling Oakley saw her little grandson Ray Oakley somewhere in Cedar County, Iowa.

Wow! I had forgotten about Martha – so I found her record in the 1870 US Census:

1870 United States Federal Census



View image

View record

Name

Martha Mitchel

Age in 1870

25

Birth Date

1845

Birthplace

Connecticut

Dwelling Number

76

Home in 1870

Mechanicsville, Cedar, Iowa

Race

White

Gender

Female

Post Office

Mechanicsville

Occupation

Keeping House

Inferred Spouse

H O Mitchel

Inferred Children

Mary O Mitchel; Hattie Mitchel; John W Mitchel; Claude Mitchel

Household members

Name	Age
Lucy Oakley	65
H O Mitchel	28
Martha Mitchel	25
Mary O Mitchel	8
Hattie Mitchel	5
John W Mitchel	3
Claude Mitchel	

Sure enough! By 1870, Martha Mitchel (née Oakley) had moved to Mechanicsville, Iowa, with her husband and three children – and with her mother Lucy Oakley (née Darling).

So where was Annie Oakley in 1860 and 1870?

In the 1860 US Census, Anne was going by the name “Anna Paddock”. She was 22 years old and living in Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut:

1860 United States Federal Census



[View image](#)
[View record](#)

Name

Anna Padock

Age

22

Birth Year

1838

Gender

Female

Race

White

Birth Place

Connecticut

Home in 1860

Norwalk, Fairfield, Connecticut

Post Office

Norwalk

Dwelling Number

699

Family Number

894

Household members

Name	Age
Lucy Oakley	56
Anna Padock	22
Martha L Oakley	
Jas W Padock	3/12

Anna’s mother Lucy (age 56) was living with her, as was Anna’s sister Martha L. Oakley. According to Richard Hunsaker's profile of Amzi Oakley, Martha Louina Oakley was the youngest child of Amzi and Lucy, and was born in 1844, so she would have been about 16 years old at the time of the 1860 US Census. But where was Mr. Paddock?

In the 1885 Iowa State Census, she was going by the name “Annie Banks”. She was married to Mervin Lent Banks and living in Lowden, Iowa. There were three children living in their household - Sarah (age 19), Joseph (age 14), and Josephine (age 10):

Iowa, State Census Collection, 1836-1925



[View image](#)
[View record](#)

Name

Annie Banks

Age

47

Birth Year

1838

Birth Place

Connecticut

Residence Date

1885

Residence Place

Lowden, Cedar, Iowa, USA

Gender

Female

Marital Status

Married

Neighbors

[View others on page](#)

Household members

Name	Age
Annie Banks	47
M L Banks	46
Sarah Banks	19
Joseph Banks	14
Josephine Banks	10

According to the timeline on Kathy Wolfe’s profile for Annie Banks, Annie’s daughter Sarah was born Sarah Paddock. Sometime when Sarah was quite young, Mr. Paddock must have died. Annie then married Mervin Lent Banks, and they had children Joseph and Josephine. Recall that Hal, Mark, and I have DNA matches with descendants of Joseph and Josephine.

Here is part of the timeline for Annie Banks, as it appears in Kathy Wolfe’s family tree on Ancestry.com:

1860

21

Birth of son [Jas W. Paddock](#) (1860–)
1860 • Connecticut

1860

22

Marriage
1860 • CT
 [Paddock](#)

1860

22

Residence
1860 • Norwalk, Fairfield, Connecticut, USA

1866

27

Birth of daughter [Sarah Paddock](#) (1866–)
1866 • Connecticut

1870

32

Marriage
16 NOV 1870 • Lowden, Farmington Twn, Cedar Co, Ia
 [Mervin Lent Banks](#)
(1841–1926)

1872

33

Birth of son [William Joseph Banks](#) (1872–1940)
abt 1872 • Iowa

1874

35

Birth of daughter [Josephine Catherine E Kate \(Struck\) Banks](#) (1874–1963)
28 FEB 1874 • Lowden, Springfield Twn, Cedar Co, Ia

In the 1870 US Census, Mervin Lent Banks was living in Lowden, Iowa, in his father's household. His father had remarried by that time – to Sarah Oakley. So Sarah was Mervin's step-mother and living in the same household.

It would seem that sometime after Sarah Paddock was born in 1866, Mr. Paddock died (or moved out). This left Annie with two small children. Somehow, through her family connections to the **Banks** family in Lowden, Annie must have moved to Lowden with her two small children, and subsequently married Mervin Lent Banks. Her sister Sarah had previously married Mervin's father, Alba O. Banks. And Annie's brother Aaron Burr Oakley was living in nearby Mechanicsville, Iowa, as was Annie's sister Martha and her mother Lucy.

None of this answers the question of whose idea it was to move to Iowa. It would appear that this move was done in stages, since Alba and his second wife Sarah had their son Benjamin in Illinois.

While I like to think that I have all this correct, I've undoubtedly made some mistakes somewhere. If Kathy Wolfe and/or Hal Oakley would like to point out any errors, I would be glad to fix them.

Final Thoughts

Life was tough back in the days of Amzi Oakley and his wife Lucy Darling. Amzi died at the age of 54 from typhoid fever. Alba O. Banks' first wife died, and Annie Oakley's first husband died – in both cases, leaving the surviving spouse with young children. Extended families lived together – for example, Lucy lived with her daughters and their families after Amzi died. And family connections helped everyone get through as best as they could, which is why we had Annie marrying her sister's father-in-law. Interesting to think how different life is now.

Summary

In this chapter, I described my DNA matches with the descendants of Amzi Oakley and his wife Lucy Darling. This couple were my 2nd-great grandparents. I learned that these DNA matches connect back to Amzi and Lucy through their son Aaron Burr Oakley (my ancestor), as well as two of their daughters – Sarah and Anne (or Anna or Annie). Sarah and Anne both had married men with the surname **Banks**. It turns out that Sarah married Alba O. Banks, while Anne married Mervin Lent Banks, who was Alba's son from his first marriage.

I also showed how a number of the children of Amzi Oakley and his wife Lucy Darling moved west to Cedar County, Iowa. And I provided a rough outline of how Sarah could have played matchmaker for her step-son, Mervin Lent Banks, and her recently-widowed sister, Annie.

Appendix – Amzi Oakley’s Grave in Redding, Connecticut

Amzi Oakley is buried in the Isaac Hamilton Cemetery in Redding, Connecticut. This cemetery is also called the Lonetown Cemetery, since it is located at 171 Lonetown Road.

One of my father’s hobbies was genealogy, and on one of our family trips to visit my maternal grandmother in Westchester County, NY, we went to Redding so that my father could search for Amzi’s grave.

We found the gravestone, but it was lying down and broken into two parts. My father hired someone to repair it. I have visited there twice in the past five years, and it still is standing.

