

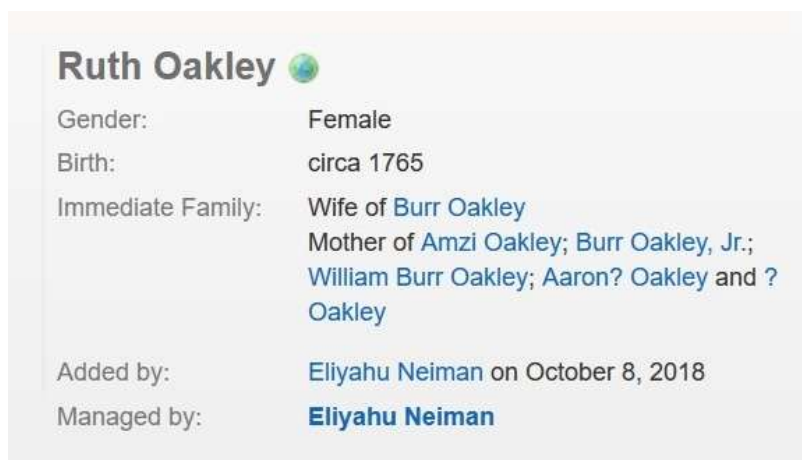
My New DNA Match with Bridget Boss

By Burks Oakley II
7 March 2025

Burr Oakley (1775-1870) was my third-great grandfather. In January 2025, I wrote a narrative about Burr Oakley's wife:

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/BurrOakleyFamily_23Jan25.pdf

There is no good agreement online who Burr Oakley's wife actually was. The family tree that my father had in the 1960's listed this woman as "Ruth", and her last name was unknown. In the "World Family Tree" on Geni.com, she is still listed as "Ruth":



In the January '25 narrative I wrote, I detailed all the family trees that have Burr's wife as Mary Jane Higgins (1770-1807). I changed the entry for Burr's wife in my family tree on Ancestry.com to be Mary Jane Higgins. I also changed the entry in my cousin Hal Oakley's family tree. These changes led to five new DNA matches in my ThruLines® chart for Mary Jane Higgins, and three new DNA matches in Hal's ThruLines® chart for this woman. These results gave me hope that I finally had identified Burr Oakley's wife.

Fast forward another six weeks or so.

When software on the Ancestry.com website identifies a parent for a person in someone's tree, it suggests who this person is – and the suggestion appears right on the tree. For example, here are suggestions I have for the parents of Mary Browne (my eighth-great grandmother) – and even two of her grandparents:



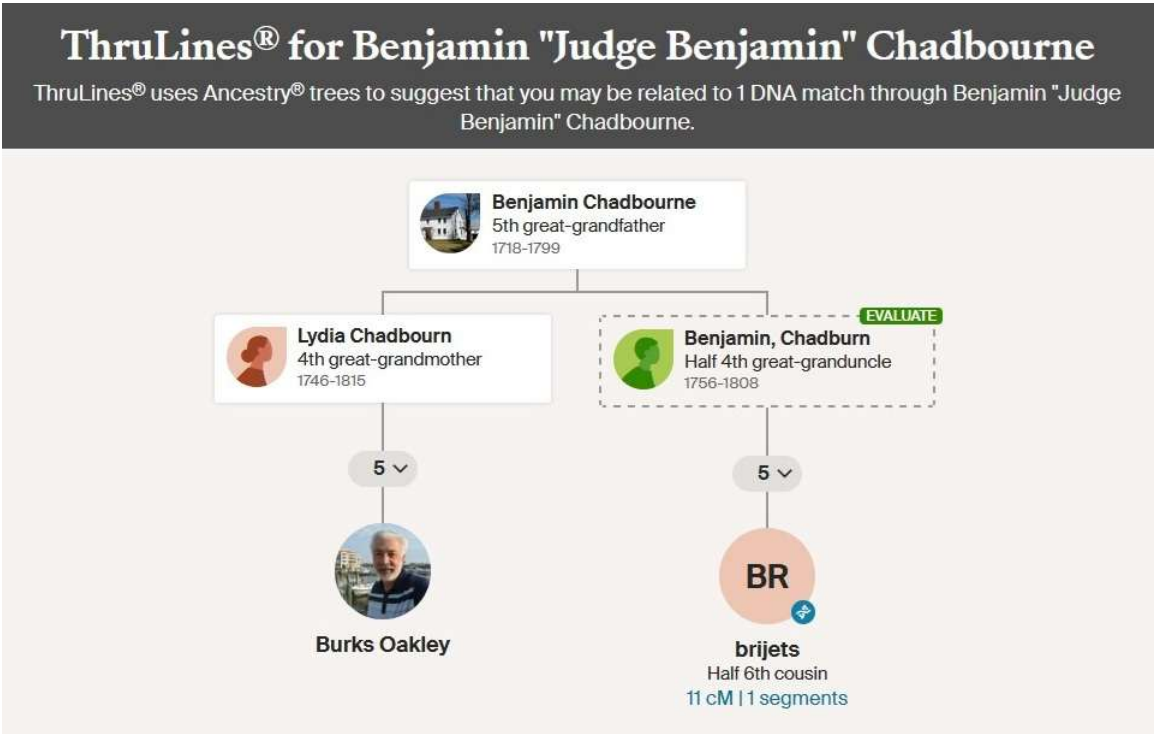
At some time after I added Mary Jane Higgins as Burr Oakley’s wife, Ancestry.com suggested both her parents and all four of her grandparents, and I added them all to my family tree:



In particular, I added Lydia Chadbourn as Mary Jane’s mother, and Benjamin Chadbourne as Mary Jane’s maternal grandfather.

A few days later, I looked at my ThruLines® charts for these new individuals (they were my fourth-great and fifth-great grandparents).

I was amazed to see my ThruLines® chart for Benjamin Chadbourne:



In my hypothetical line back through Burr Oakley’s wife Mary Jane Higgins, I go back to Benjamin Chadbourne through his daughter Lydia Chadbourn. And now I have a DNA match with a new person having the username of **brijets**, who goes back to Benjamin Chadbourne through his son Benjamin Chadburn Jr.

Oh my! This is an interesting development. If true, it certainly supports the hypothesis that Burr’s wife was Mary Jane Higgins.

If it were only that simple.....

Here is a chart showing how **brijets** and I could be related:



Based on this chart, *brijets* and I are half sixth-cousins. Note that the line back from *brijets* goes through her paternal grandfather, Kenneth R. Boss (1919-1984).

Here is *brijets*' pedigree from her tree on Ancestry.com:



Oh my! She lists her paternal grandfather as Jacobus Snel. Hmmm.....

This is certainly different than the chart that the ThruLines® software produced.

In the pedigree chart shown on the previous page, the “home” person is Bridget Mary Boss – so from now on, I will refer to *brijet* as Bridget M. Boss.

I looked at all the information on Bridget’s profile on Ancestry.com. Here is some information about her paternal grandmother:



Bridget’s father, David Kenneth Boss, was born in 1947. Bridget’s parents were divorced in 1949, when young David was still one year old. Bridget’s mother remarried in 1959 – and her second husband was Jacobus Johannes Snel.

I searched the Ancestry.com website for information about Jacobus – here is his profile from the family tree owned by *blart*:



Jacobus’ first wife died in 1958, and we know he remarried Bridget’s mother in 1959.

Note that Jacobus’ parents were Hendrik G. Snel and Rosetta Elizabeth Voorman, and they were both born in The Netherlands and immigrated to America.

When Bridget’s father, David Kenneth Boss, married in 1970, he listed his father as Jacobus Snel:

New Hampshire, U.S., Marriage Records, 1700-1971 for David Kenneth Boss
1970 > 06501-07000

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

70- 6778

STATE REG. NUMBER

SEE INSTRUCTIONS FOR
FILLING IN THIS FORM

GROOM

1. GROOM—NAME
FIRST MIDDLE LAST
David Kenneth Boss

2. RESIDENCE—STATE COUNTY CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION
Illinois Cook Chicago

3. STREET AND NUMBER
2428 Grant

4. STATE OF BIRTH (IF NOT IN U.S.A. NAME COUNTRY) DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)
New Hampshire May 14, 1947

5. FATHER—NAME STATE OF BIRTH (IF NOT IN U.S.A. NAME COUNTRY) MOTHER—MAIDEN NAME STATE OF BIRTH (IF NOT IN U.S.A. NAME COUNTRY)
Jacobus Snel Boss N.J. Shirley Louise Hodgkins Conn.

BRIDE

1. BRIDE—NAME
FIRST MIDDLE LAST MAIDEN NAME (IF DIFFERENT)
Donna May Arnold Lauriat

2. RESIDENCE—STATE COUNTY CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION
New Hampshire Hillsborough Goffstown

3. STREET AND NUMBER
Parker Station

4. STATE OF BIRTH (IF NOT IN U.S.A. NAME COUNTRY) DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)
New Hampshire Aug. 6, 1947

5. FATHER—NAME STATE OF BIRTH (IF NOT IN U.S.A. NAME COUNTRY) MOTHER—MAIDEN NAME STATE OF BIRTH (IF NOT IN U.S.A. NAME COUNTRY)
Edward Albert Lauriat Mass. Ruth Marion Turnbull Colorado

APPLICANT

1. APPLICANT—SIGNATURE DATE SIGNED (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)
David K. Boss Aug. 31, 1970

2. APPLICANT—SIGNATURE DATE SIGNED (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)
Donna M. Arnold Aug. 31, 1970

INTENTIONS

Notice of the intention of marriage between the persons above named was entered with me, and was recorded by me, the 31 st day of August, 19 70

BLOOD TEST

Physician's statements and the record of blood tests, as required by law, were received by me on August 31, 19 70

Waivers: Five Day ☒ Blood Test ☐
Age: Bride ☐ Groom ☐

This Certificate issued Aug. 31, 19 70

CLERK'S SIGNATURE George T. Arnold
CLERK OF Goffstown, New Hampshire

OFFICIANT

1. OFFICIANT—SIGNATURE
Reverend William H. Stone

2. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION ADDRESS—CITY OR TOWN STATE
Ordained Minister R.F.D. #2 Goffstown New Hampshire 03045

3. CITY OR TOWN CLERK DATE RECEIVED BY CITY OR TOWN CLERK (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)
George T. Arnold SEP 9 1970

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

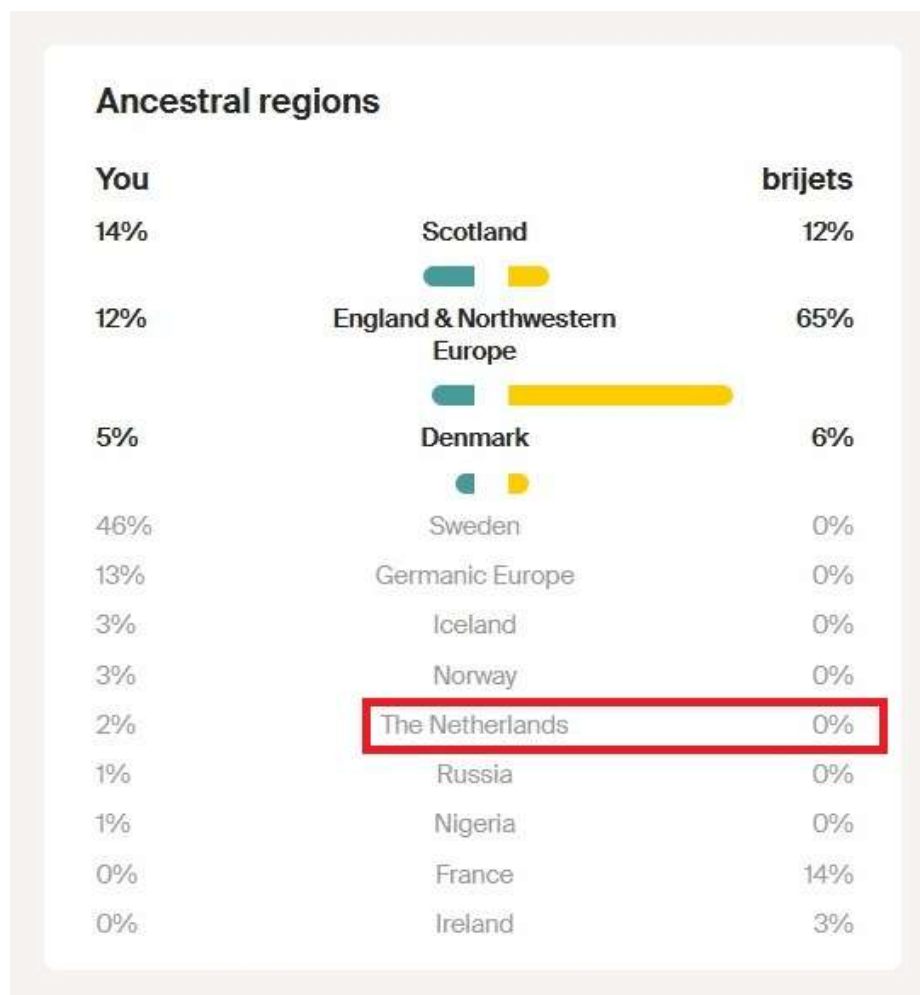
GROOM

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WHITE NEGRO AMERICAN INDIAN ETC. (SPECIFY)
White

2. NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE
1st

3. IF PREVIOUSLY MARRIED
LAST MARRIAGE ENDED BY—
DEATH, DIVORCE, OR ANNULMENT (SPECIFY)
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4. EDUCATION—SPECIFY HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED
EDUCATIONARY HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE
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Note that Bridget does not have any ethnicity from The Netherlands. And recall that Jacobus Johannes Snel's parents were both from The Netherlands. If Jacobus was really Bridget's paternal grandfather, then she would have to have significant ethnicity from The Netherlands.

I conclude that the ancestral line from Bridget back to Benjamin Chadbourne does indeed go through her paternal grandfather, Kenneth R. Boss.

OK, where are we now? I changed Burr Oakley's wife from Ruth Unknown to Mary Jane Higgins. That led to five new DNA matches in the ThruLines® chart for Mary Jane. I wrote about that in January '25:

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/BurrOakleyFamily_23Jan25.pdf

By adding Mary Jane to my family tree, software on Ancestry.com suggested that I add Mary Jane's two parents and four grandparents. Her maternal grandfather was Benjamin Chadbourne. And now my ThruLines® chart for Benjamin Chadborne (my fifth-great grandfather) includes my DNA match with Bridget Boss.

Although I had some uncertainty about Bridget's line back to Benjamin Chadbourne, I'm reasonably convinced that the ancestral line through her paternal grandfather, Kenneth R. Boss, is correct.

My DNA match with Bridget Boss is another bit of evidence that Burr Oakley's wife was Mary Jane Higgins.

Appendix A: Benjamin Chadbourne

For now, I am going with the version of my family tree that has Mary Jane Higgins as the wife of Burr Oakley, and Mary Jane’s paternal grandparents as Benjamin Chadbourne and Sarah Heard.

Here is a profile of Benjamin Chadbourne from the family tree on Ancestry.com owned by *CarolinaWaterway*:

Brooks Family Tree_2011...Find in treeCACarolinaWaterway



Benjamin L Chadbourne Hon, Judge, (Maj General)

BIRTH 23 JUL 1718 • Berwick, York, Maine, USA

DEATH 16 MAR 1799 • Berwick, York, Maine, USA

Family

Parents

William Chadbourn or Chadbourne1683-1759

Mary E Nason1689-1737

Spouse and children

Sarah Heard1722-1750

James Heard Chadbourne1743-1743

Polly Chadbourne1744-1774

Martha Chadbourne1744-1834

Lydia Chadbourne1746-1815

Sarah "Sally" Chadbourne1748-1773

Spouse and children

Mary Chesley1726-1778

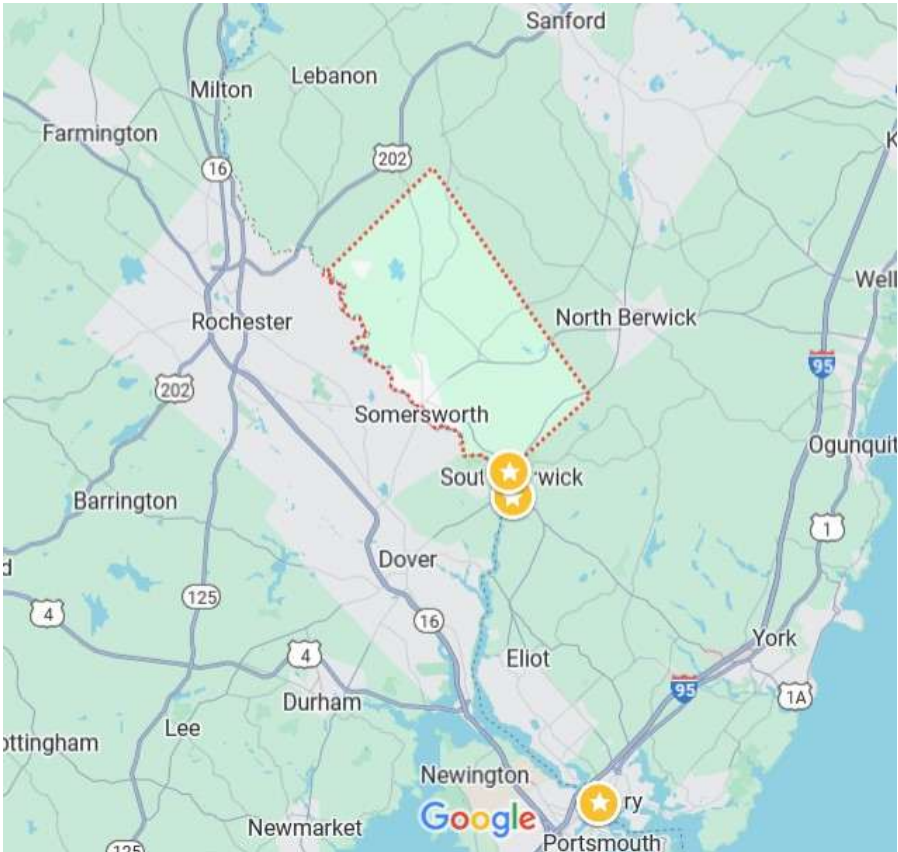
Jonathan Chesley Chadbourne1752-1799

Mary Agnes "Molly" Chadbourne1754-1774

Benjamin Chadbourne1756-1808

George Chadbourne1764-1764

Benjamin lived his entire life in Berwick, Maine, which is in far southern Maine, separated from New Hampshire by the Salmon Falls River. I visited South Berwick when I first became interested in DNA and genealogy. Here is a Google Map showing the location of Berwick:



The stars on the map must be left over from when I visited there – since one of them is the historical society in South Berwick.

I mentioned my *Spencer* cousins who lived in South Berwick in my narrative about our *Spencer* ancestors:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/15-OurSpencer-WhitbreadAncestors.pdf>

But this appendix is about Benjamin Chadbourne – he was quite a person!

There is a wonderful article about him on the website of the Old Berwick Historical Society:

<https://www.oldberwick.org/history-articles/people/18th-century/judge-benjamin-chadbourn-17181799.html>

Judge Benjamin Chadbourne (1718-1799)



The house of Judge Benjamin Chadbourne still stands today at the corner of Vine and Liberty Streets in South Berwick and is part of South Berwick Historic District.

During the year of 1643, a wealthy Englishman, Humphrey Chadbourne, bought from the Native Americans a large stretch of land comprising the confluence of the Great Works and Salmon Falls Rivers. The deed between Chadbourne and Sachem Rowls is said to be one of the oldest deeds in the United States. Chadbourne's father, William, had arrived in 1634 with Thomas Spencer and constructed one of the first waterpower sawmills in North America. The remains of

Humphrey Chadbourne's homestead were discovered in 1995 and have been the focus of an Old Berwick Historical Society archaeology project, with artifacts on display at the Counting House.

On June 12, 1770, the great-grandson of Humphrey Chadbourne, Benjamin, built this house. Benjamin Chadbourne (1718-1799) had served in Sir William Pepperrell's expedition against Louisbourg in 1745, and later became a judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He represented the Berwicks in the Massachusetts Congress from 1756-1771, and was a member of the Governor's Council.

The judge is said to have been a wealthy aristocratic type who loved to give lavish parties. In 1791 Benjamin gave ten acres of land and a sum of money to initiate the founding of Berwick Academy, today the oldest school in Maine, and served as its first president. He also sent elm trees from his property to his friend, John Hancock, to plant on Boston Common.

The Chadbourne House, still occupied by descendants of the original Chadbournes, is considered to have been one of the best-built frame houses of its time. The cellar floor, originally a dirt floor, now cement, has a foundation made of stone. The cellar houses a huge chimney in its center and is enclosed with a brick archway. Each chimney interior wall measures 64 inches wide, large enough to serve five separate fireplaces providing ample heat throughout the house.

The main fireplace, largest in the house, is eight feet wide and contains a Dutch beehive shaped oven. Hot coals from the fireplace were placed into the Dutch oven daily for baking.

The main house has eight rooms. The interior walls are solid plank. Many of the doors are double cross ("Christian") doors. As well as beautiful paneling, every corner flaunts a six-inch by six-inch floor-to-ceiling molding. Several rooms contain Indian shutters, which slide in front of the windowpanes inside the windows. A replica of the *Viola Repard*, which sailed from New York commanded by Horace P. Smith, the father of the previous owner of the house, is displayed in the keeping room adjacent to the kitchen area.

The main stairway curves upward with two landings and a hand carved banister. The second floor displays ornate ceiling moldings, wainscoting and original wide pine floorboards.

The ell was renovated in the spring of 1992 and maintains the integrity of the structure. Brick walls (pumpkin brick) were exposed, beaded wainscoting was recreated, and door and window styles are in keeping with the style and function of the colonial period. The family room restoration was completed in June of 2002. The wood wainscoting was removed, resurfaced and refinished. Shelving and cupboards were built utilizing 150-year-old wood found stored in the barn. The barn/carriage house was restored in 2013, incorporating a 2 car garage and the Jefferson Atwood Smith barn room.

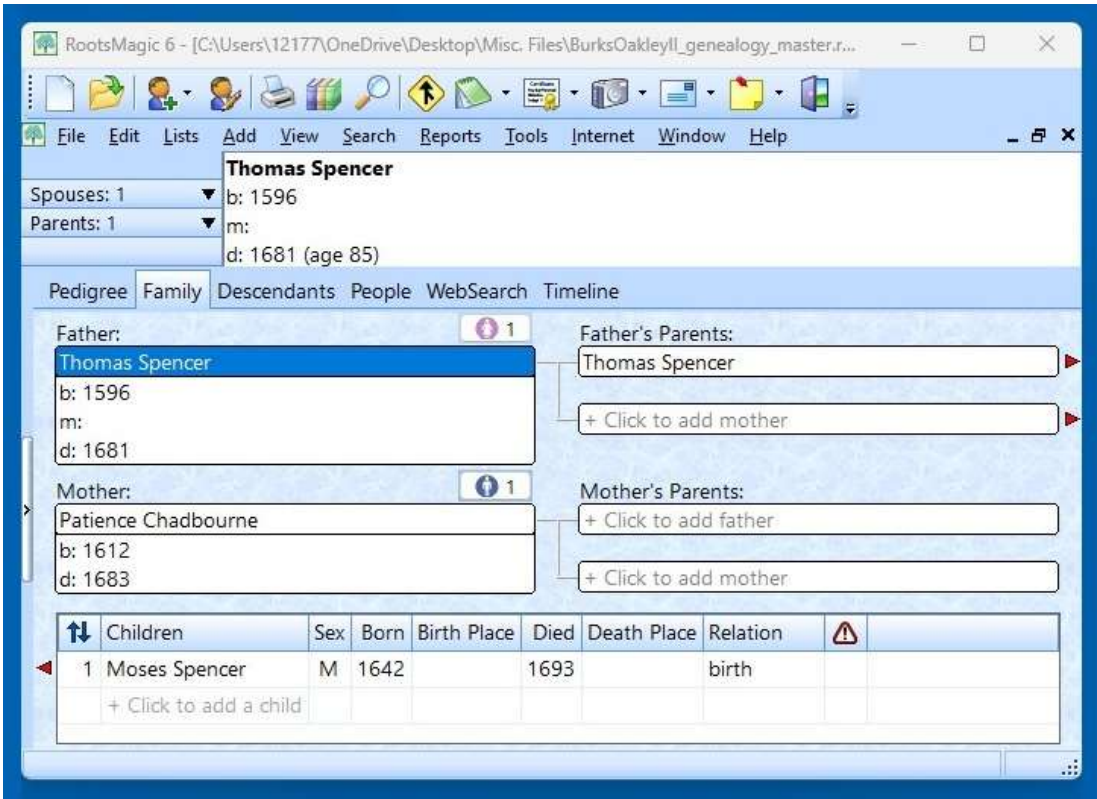
The Chadbourne House remained within the family for 150 years after its construction, and then was owned by Judge Benjamin Greene for a very short period of time. Next, Richard Davis and Abram Gilpatrick operated a tinsmith shop on the property. When the partnership ended, Gilpatrick moved an early ell from this house to the land next door where it is still standing. The well serves as a divider between the two properties. The Chadbourne House was subsequently owned by Davis' daughter, Louise B. Davis, her niece, Florence Mary Smith Stevens, and Mrs. Stevens' cousin, Freeman J. Smith, father of the present owner, Virginia Smith Alterio, who is a descendant of Patience Chadbourn, sister to Humphrey Chadbourne. As mentioned earlier, their father, William, and Thomas Spencer arrived in 1634 and operated the earliest waterpower mill in North America.

-- Written in 2014 by Marc and Virginia Smith Alterio

Pretty cool if he really is my fifth-great grandfather!

Oh, and if you read the article on the previous page, you would have seen “Chadbourne’s father, William, had arrived in 1634 with Thomas Spencer and constructed one of the first waterpower sawmills in North America.” Of course, Thomas Spencer was one of our distant *Spencer* relatives. Imagine that – a *Spencer* relative who knew a *Chadbourne* relative.

And when I looked in my RootsMagic database, I saw that a *Spencer* married a *Chadbourne*:



How cool is this!!