

My New DNA Match with Coy Pepper – A *Miller-Case* Descendant

By Burks Oakley II
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It has been quite a while since I found a new DNA match on Ancestry.com where software on the website was able to identify our common ancestors. Well, on 8 December 2025, I got lucky and learned that I had a new DNA match with a man named Coy Pepper:

Distant Family



coy pepper

Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin

Paternal side

28 cM | < 1% shared DNA

 Public linked tree

4 people

 Common ancestor

Coy and I share 28 cM of DNA, and he is one of my paternal-side DNA matches. Based on family trees on the Ancestry.com website, Coy and I are both descended from Jonathan Allen Miller (1762-1846) and his wife Hannah Case (1761-1819):

How are you and coy pepper related?

Common Ancestors

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

coy pepper could be your 5th cousin 1x removed through:



Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller

4th great-grandfather

1762-1846

View Relationship



Hannah Case

4th great-grandmother

1761-1819

View Relationship

This couple were my fourth-great grandparents. Jonathan Allen Miller was a minister of some type, although I have not been able to find any details about this. He was born in Avon, Connecticut, and he died in Mt. Morris, New York:



Rev. Jonathan Allen Miller

BIRTH 21 JUL 1762 • Avon, Hartford, Connecticut, British America
DEATH 13 MAR 1846 • Mt. Morris, Livingston, New York, United States

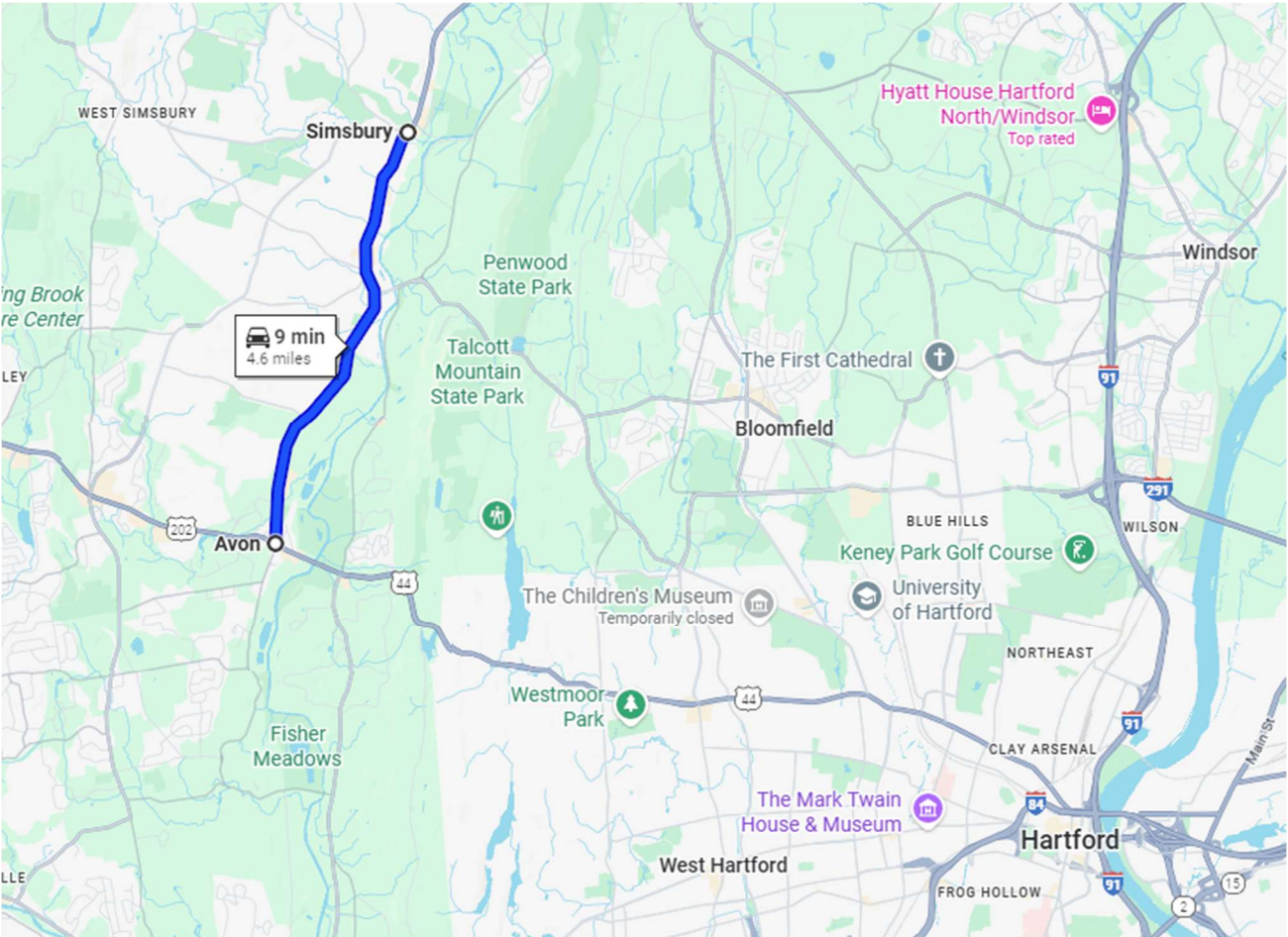
Hannah Case was born in Simsbury, Connecticut, and she also died in Mt. Morris, New York:



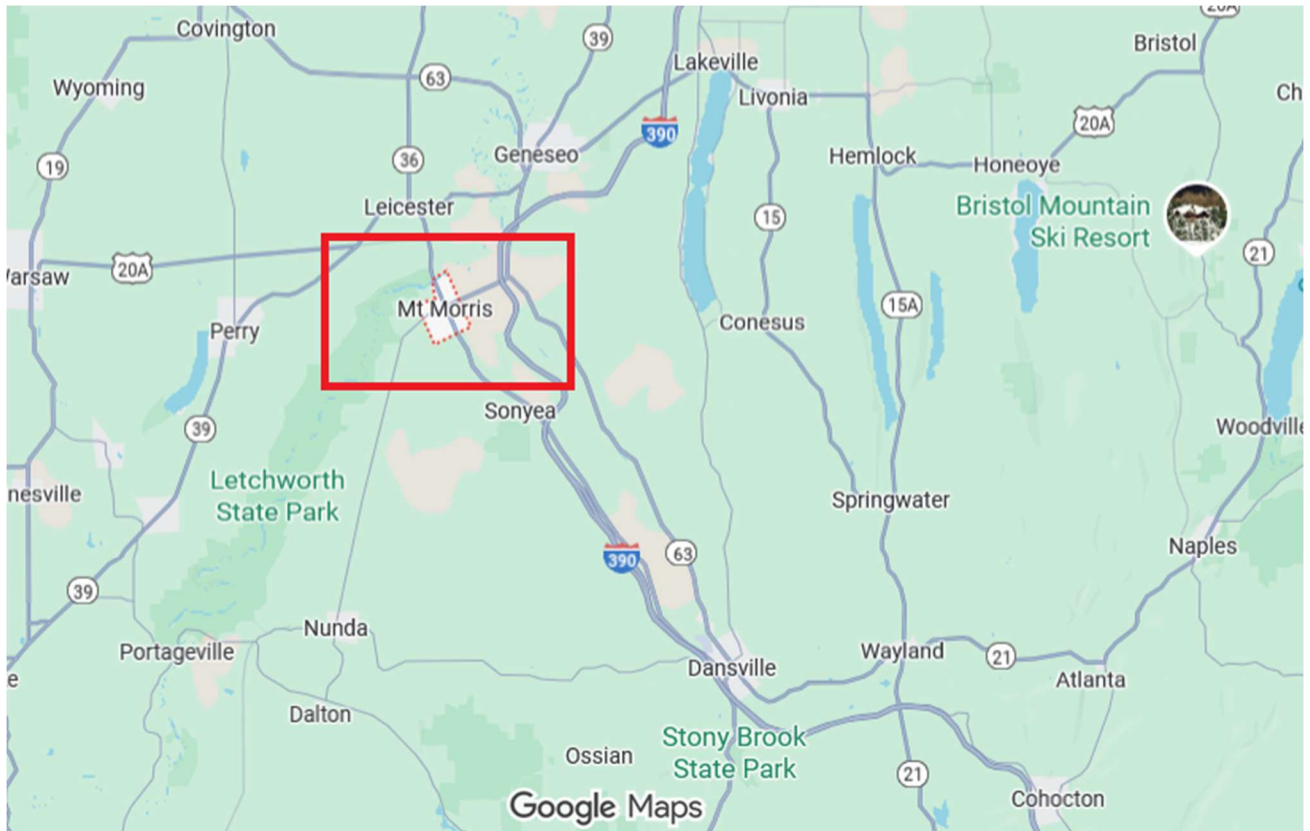
Hannah Case

BIRTH 28 JUN 1761 • Simsbury, Hartford, Connecticut, British America
DEATH 14 SEP 1819 • Mt. Morris, Genesee, New York, United States

Avon and Simsbury are both located west and north of Hartford, Connecticut, and the two towns are less than five miles apart:



Around 1800, a number of **Miller** relatives all moved from Connecticut and Massachusetts to upstate New York, settling on farms near Mt. Morris, New York:



Mt. Morris is located just west of the Finger Lakes region in upstate New York.

Jonathan Allen Miller and his wife Hannah Case are buried in Oakhill Cemetery in Mt. Morris, New York. Here is a photo of their gravestone:

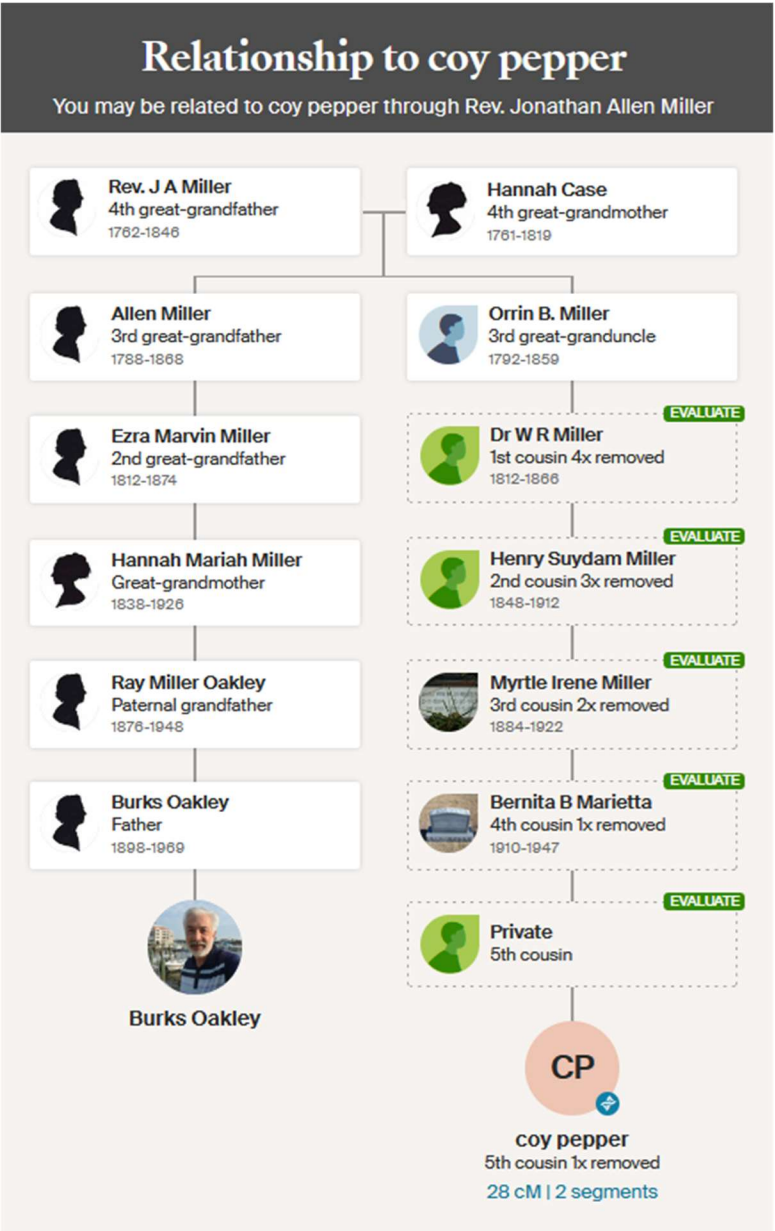


From: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/42238130/jonathan-allen-miller>

I should add that around 1840, the extended **Miller** family made another big move, this time settling in Winnebago County, Illinois (near Rockford). But for whatever reason (most likely old age), Jonathan Allen Miller (at that time a widower) didn't make the move to Illinois with the rest of the family.

But I digress....

Here is a chart showing how Coy Pepper and I are most likely related:



I am descended from the **Miller-Case** couple through their son Allen Miller (1788-1868), while Coy is descended from this couple through their son Orrin B. Miller (1792-1859). Based on this chart, Coy and I are fifth-cousins once-removed.

As an aside, Coy’s ancestor Orrin B. Miller also was a minister, and he preached the sermon at his mother’s funeral in 1819 – see:

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/32-HannahCaseMiller_FuneralSermon.pdf

In the relationship chart shown above, my father’s fourth-cousin was Bernita Belle Marietta (1910-1947). Bernita was Coy Pepper’s paternal grandmother. Here is her profile from the “Marietta Family Tree”, which is owned by Eugene Marietta:

MARIETTA Family Tree

Find in tree

EU eugene_marietta

BERNITA BELLE MARIETTA

BIRTH 30 APR 1910 • VADER, LEWIS COUNTY, WA, USA

DEATH 17 MAR 1947 • RYUS, GRANT COUNTY, KS, USA

Relationships

Spouse and children

Parents

OMER EMERSON MARIETTA

1880-1956

MYRTLE IRENE MILLER

1884-1922

CHARLES VERNON PEPPER

1902-1968

VERNON GRANT PEPPER

1938-1994

Private

Private

Private

Note that after Bernita Belle Marietta married Charles Vernon Pepper, her name became Bernita Belle Pepper. *Groan....*

Note also that in the relationship chart on the previous page, Coy Pepper’s second-great grandfather was Henry Suydam Miller (1848-1912):

Henry Suydam MILLER

BIRTH 27 AUG 1848 • Pennsylvania

DEATH 16 MAY 1912 • Centralia, WA, USA

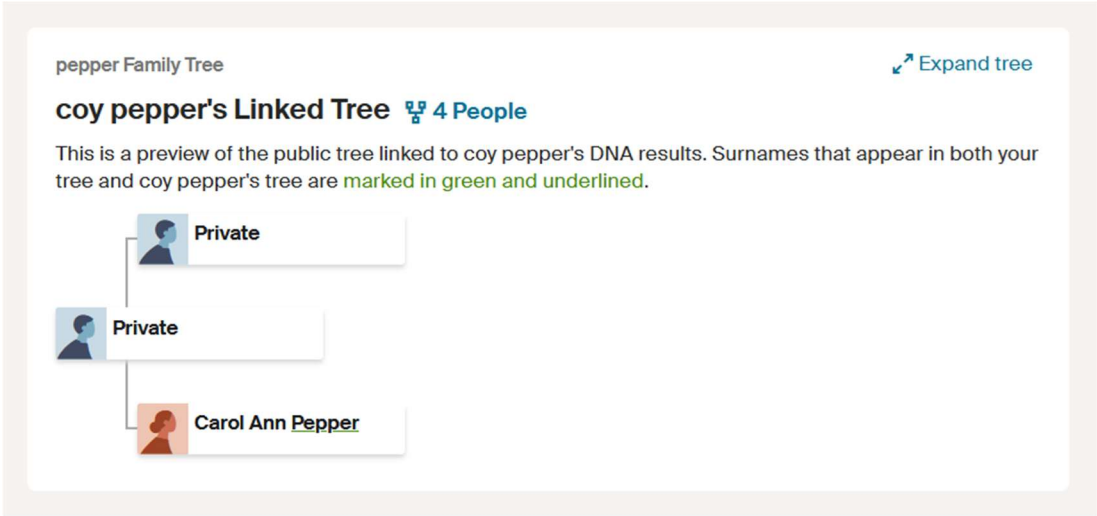
I don’t recall seeing the name “Suydam” previously. I Googled it, and found:

AI Overview

"Suydam" can refer to a surname of Dutch origin meaning "south dam," or it can refer to several notable people, including artist Arthur Suydam, landscape painter James Augustus Suydam, explorer C. Suydam Cutting, and 19th-century intersex person Levi Suydam. It also refers to the Suydam Homestead, a historic house museum in Long Island, and the Suydam Medal awarded by the National Academy of Design.

I looked at various profiles for Henry Suydam Miller on Ancestry.com. I learned that his mother was Cynthia E. Van Anglen (1816-1896), and her mother was Syche Suydam (1776-1844). And I can trace the *Suydam* lineage back to the Netherlands. Son of a gun! It really is a Dutch surname!

I next looked at Coy Pepper’s family tree on the Ancestry.com website:



I was amazed to see that he only has his parents in his pedigree chart – yet software on Ancestry.com was somehow able to construct his ancestral line back to the *Miller-Case* couple Really amazing!

I went on to look at the DNA matches that Coy and I have in common – our so-called “Shared DNA Matches”. Here are several that are the most relevant to this narrative:

Shared match:	Your:	coy pepper's:
Amy Oakley 	Your: Daughter 3,455 cM Both sides	coy pepper's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 27 cM
vadkins9020 	Your: 3rd cousin 1x removed or half 3rd cousin 47 cM Paternal side	coy pepper's: Sister 2,573 cM
We have shared DNA matches with several known Miller descendants. 90...		
A.D. Managed by kawasakii9 	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 10 cM Paternal side	coy pepper's: 2nd cousin or half 1st cousin 1x removed 224 cM
Shared Ancestor Hint going back to the Rev. Jonathan Allen MILLER and h...		
cayennepepper25 	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 10 cM Paternal side	coy pepper's: 1st cousin 1x removed or half 1st cousin 519 cM
TL suggests she is descended from Rev. Jonathan Allen MILLER and Han...		

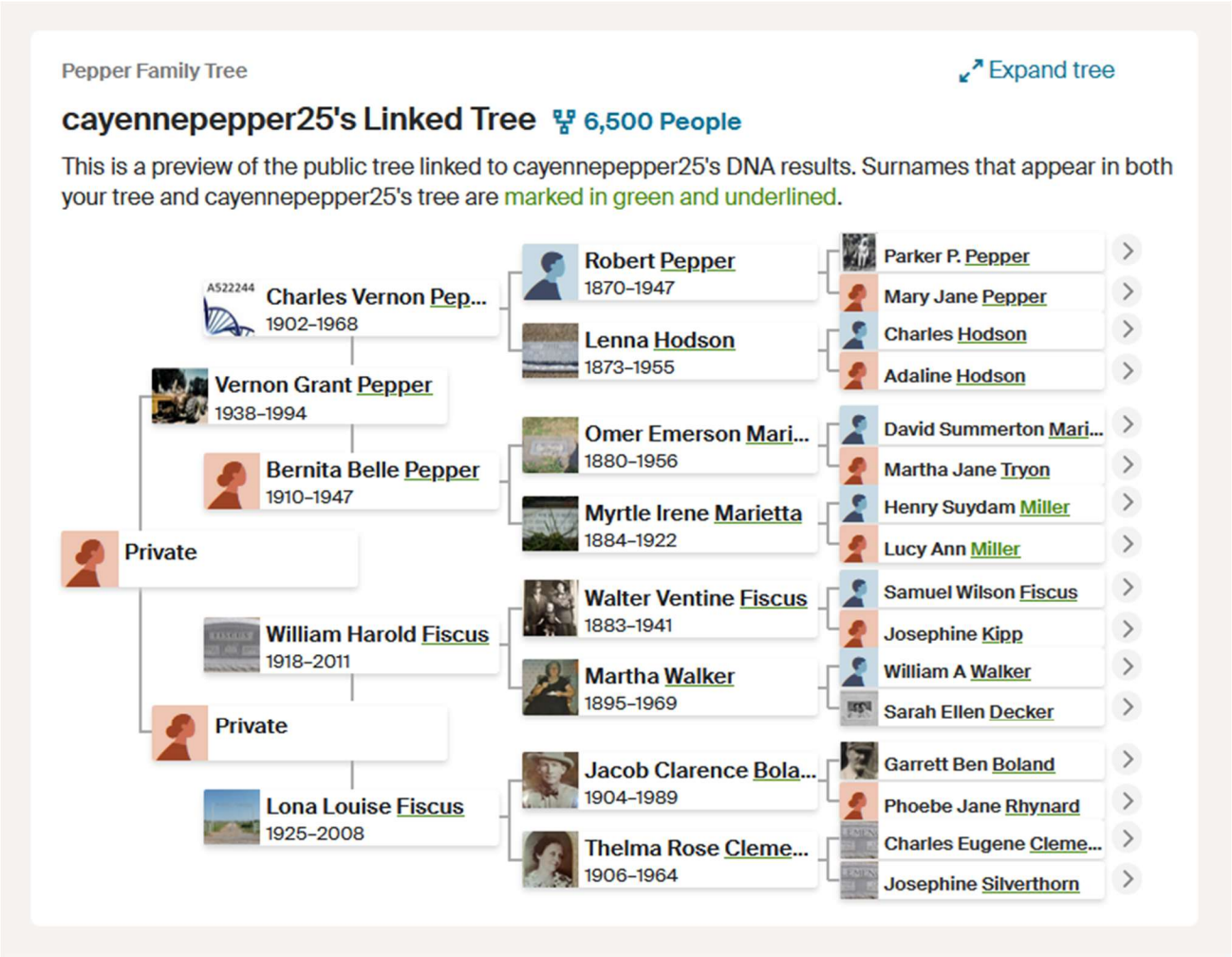
Coy has a 27 cM DNA match with my daughter, Amy. This is pretty amazing, since my DNA match with Coy is 28 cM.

Coy and I also have a DNA match with a woman having the username of *vadkins9020* – and she is Coy’s sister. My notes for my DNA match with this woman mentioned that she has DNA matches with several *Miller* descendants.

Coy and I also have Shared DNA Matches with *A.D.* and *cayennepepper25*. Again, my notes for both of these women indicated that they are descended from the *Miller-Case* couple. The woman with the username *cayennepepper25* was

born a **Pepper** – and based on the size of her DNA match with Coy, they could be as close as first-cousins once-removed.

I went on to look more at **cayennepepper25** – here is her pedigree chart:



cayennepepper25 is a granddaughter of Bernita Belle Pepper (née Marietta). So indeed, she is a close relative of Coy Pepper.

I also looked at the DNA matches that **cayennepepper25** and I have in common. Here are a few that are most relevant:

Shared match:	Your:	cayennepepper25's:
 vadkins9020	Your: 3rd cousin 1x removed or half 3rd cousin 47 cM Paternal side	cayennepepper25's: 1st cousin 1x removed or half 1st cousin 573 cM
 coy pepper	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 28 cM Paternal side	cayennepepper25's: 1st cousin 1x removed or half 1st cousin 519 cM
 A.D. Managed by kawasakii9	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 10 cM Paternal side	cayennepepper25's: 1st cousin 1x removed 363 cM

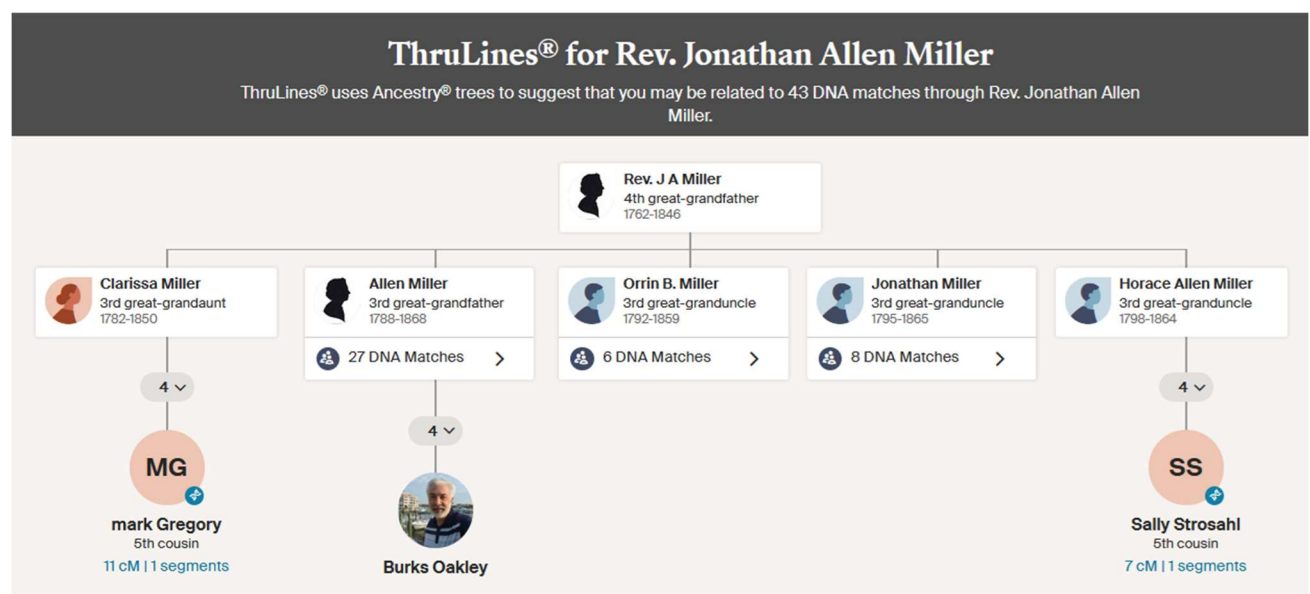
We have shared DNA matches with Coy Pepper and his sister **vadkins9020**, as well as with **A.D.** – and **A.D.** could be a first-cousin once-removed of **cayennepepper25**.

I went on to look at the DNA matches I have in common with Coy's sister, ***vadkins9020*** – here are the most relevant matches:

Shared match:		Your:	vadkins9020's:
 Amy Oakley	  	Your: Daughter 3,455 cM Both sides	vadkins9020's: Half 3rd cousin or 3rd cousin 1x removed 42 cM
 Ronald Miller	 	Your: 3rd cousin 100 cM Paternal side	vadkins9020's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 31 cM
 Karin Brouillette	  	Your: 3rd cousin 1x removed 45 cM Paternal side	vadkins9020's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 25 cM

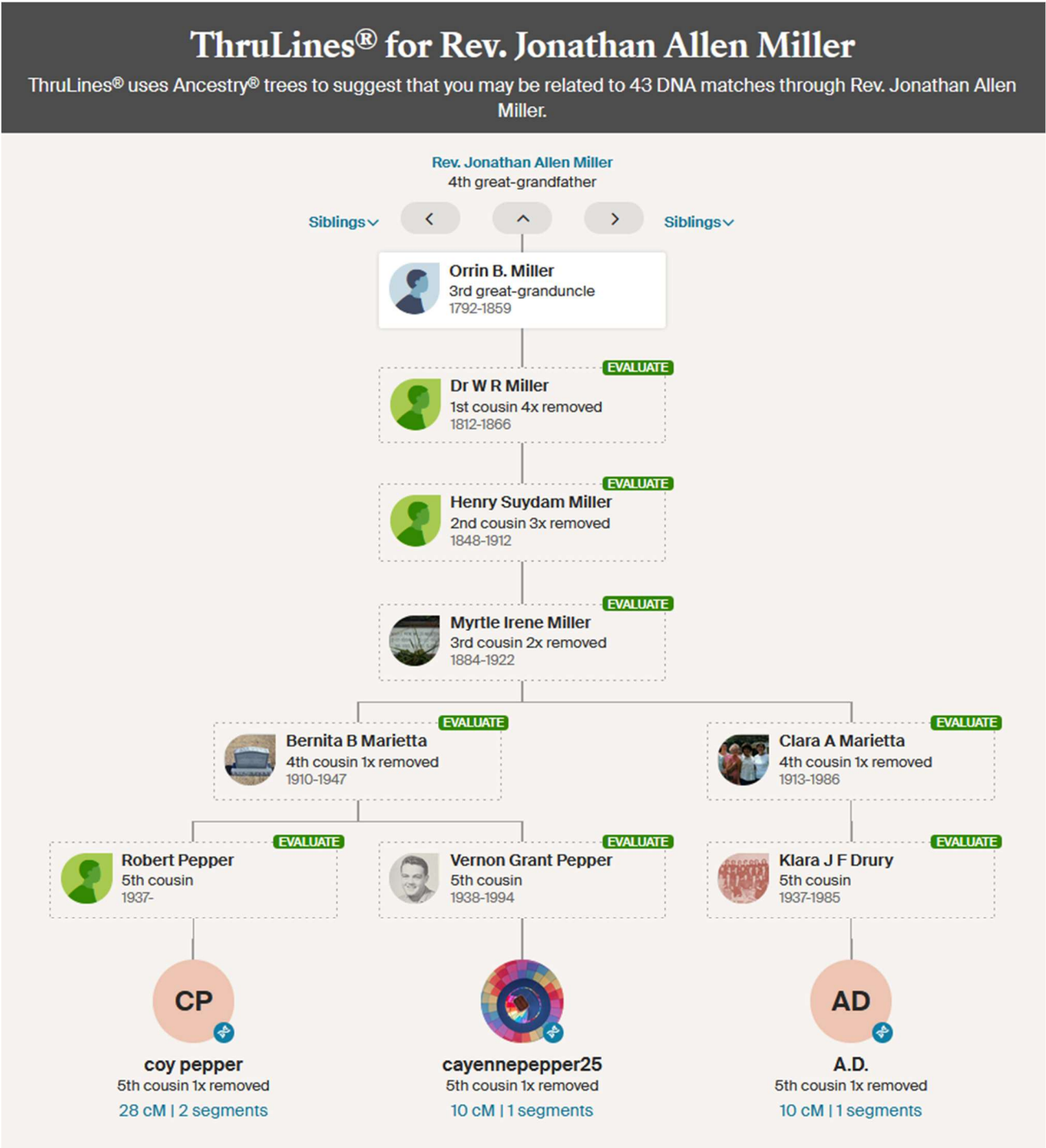
Unfortunately, Ronald Miller does not have his DNA linked to his family tree, but I know from other sources that he is the father of Karin Brouillette (née Miller).

I went on to look at the ThruLines® chart for Jonathan Allen Miller. This chart shows the connections between all of the “Shared DNA Matches” that I have mentioned in this narrative. Here is the ThruLines® chart with all the ancestral lines “closed”:



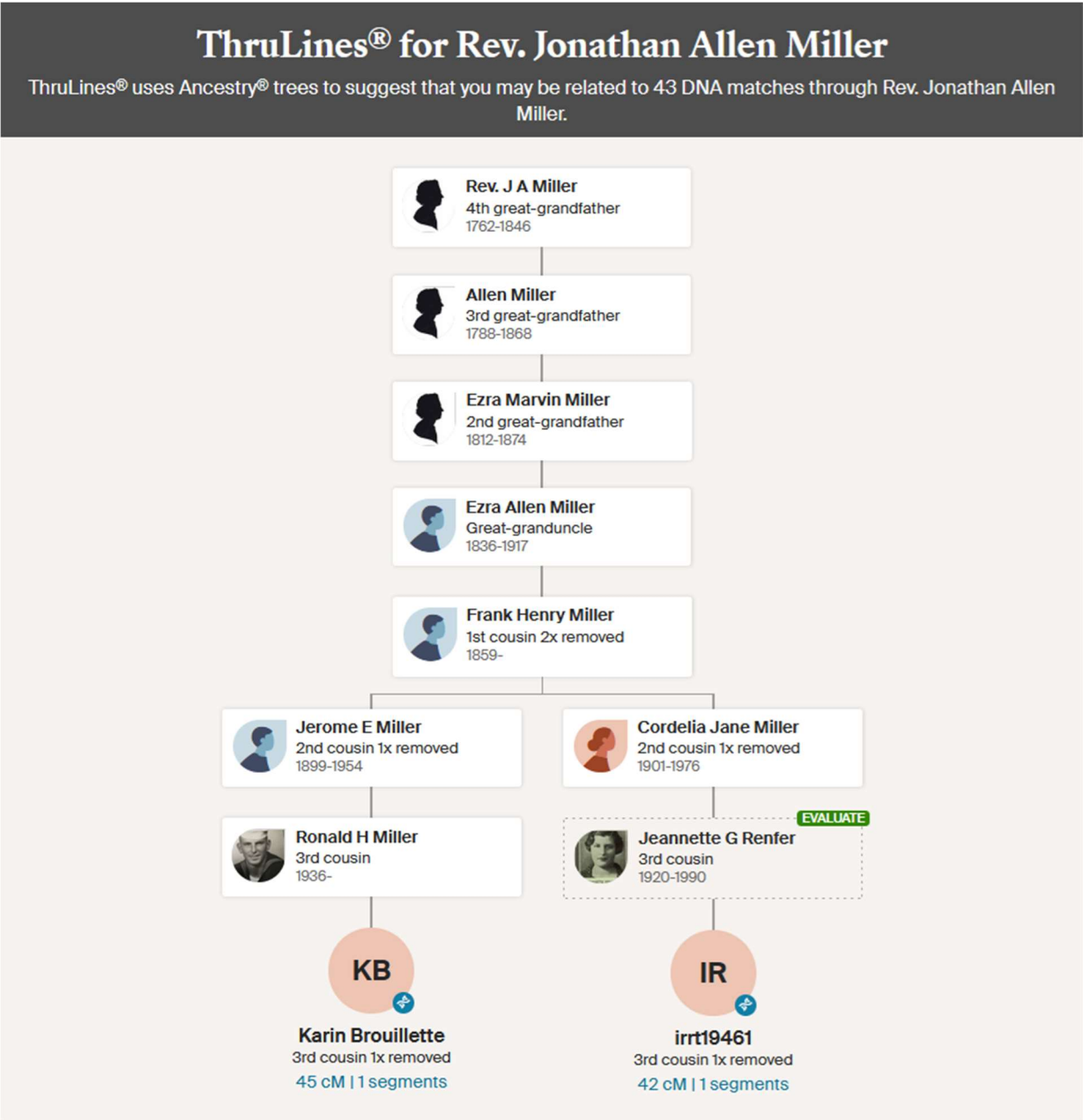
According to this chart, I have DNA matches with forty-three descendants of Jonathan Allen Miller. I should add that my ThruLines® chart for Jonathan Allen Miller's wife, Hannah Case, looks identical to this chart.

Here is the branch of my ThruLines® chart that contains Coy Pepper:



Based on this chart, *cayennepepper25* is Coy's first-cousin, and *A.D.* is Coy's second-cousin. Interestingly, Coy's sister, *vadkins9020*, does not appear in this chart, since her DNA profile is not linked to her family tree.

Here is the branch of the ThruLines® chart showing Karin Brouillette and her father Ronald H. Miller:



Based on this chart, **irrt19461** is Karin’s second-cousin.

Summary:

In this narrative, I began with my new DNA match with Coy Pepper. Coy and I have a 28 cM DNA match, and we both are descended from Jonathan Allen Miller (1762-1846) and his wife Hannah Case (1761-1819). This couple were my fourth-great grandparents.

I also looked at the DNA matches that Coy and I have in common (our “Shared DNA Matches”). And I then looked at the DNA matches that I have in common with these Shared DNA Matches. All of these Shared DNA Matches provide additional support for the relationships shown in the ThruLines® charts for Jonathan Allen Miller and his wife Hannah Case.

Concluding Note:

Hannah Case (1761-1819) was a daughter of Solomon Case (1735-1811) and his wife Anna Case (1740-1817). Solomon and Anna were first-cousins, and I wrote about this branch of the family previously:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/88-DiantheCase.pdf>

I just re-read this narrative, and I was reminded of the fact that Hannah's niece, Ardelia Ames (1804-1864), was one of the first white settlers of Adams County, Illinois, in 1824 (more than 200 years ago now). In the narrative I just referenced about Dianthe Case, I wrote:

Recall that Zephaniah Ames was married to Dianthe Case [Hannah Case's sister], and their daughter was Ardelia Ames. Amazing to see that Zephaniah, his wife Dianthe, and their daughter Ardelia (as well as five other children) moved from the east to Fall Creek Township in Adams County, Illinois, in April of 1824. And that Ardelia Ames married Amos Bancroft there in the winter of 1824-25.