Oakley Family DNA Matches with Frank Paton (Going back on the *Miller* branch of our family tree)

By Burks Oakley II 1 January 2025

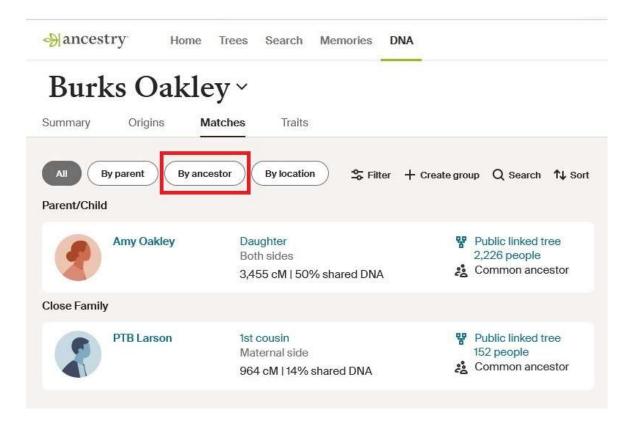
I almost always start my genealogy/DNA narratives by writing "I am interested in genetic genealogy – that is, the use of autosomal DNA to confirm and to extend my family tree." Well, in <u>this</u> narrative, I'll show how a new DNA match both confirmed AND extended my family tree (and by extension, the family tree of the Quincy *Oakley* family).

In the fall of 2024, the good folks at Ancestry.com changed the layout of the way in which an individual's DNA matches are displayed. My initial thoughts were "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". And several months later, they are still asking for feedback about the new design (which is not very user-friendly):

Have feedback on the new DNA match list? We'd love to hear from you! Submit feedback

I thought (incorrectly) that as part of the new design, they had taken away direct access to an individual's ThruLines®.

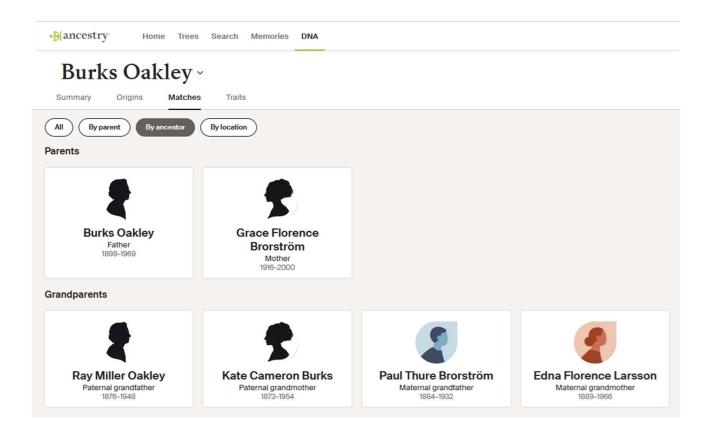
I was looking for new DNA matches on the Ancestry.com website a few days ago, and I began by displaying my DNA matches in order of decreasing size (here are just the first two):



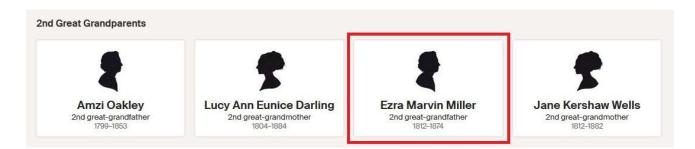
I noticed that there was a button labelled "By ancestor" – I really didn't know what this button did, so I clicked on it. Interestingly, that brought up a new page showing links to my ThruLines® charts for all of my ancestors (back to my 128

fifth-great grandparents) – these links connect to my DNA matches that are descended from each of my ancestors – hence "By ancestor".

The first two generations (my parents and my grandparents) are shown in the following screenshot:



For some unknown reason, I scrolled down the page listing all my direct ancestors and I clicked on the button for one of my second-great grandfathers, Ezra Marvin Miller (1812-1874):



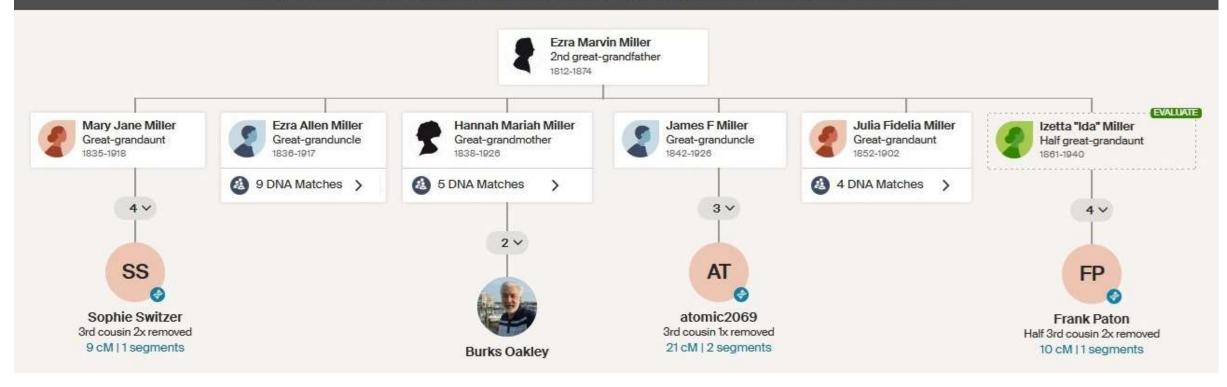
Of course, that action brought up my ThruLines® chart for Grandpa Ezra:



This chart is shown in landscape view on the next page:

ThruLines® for Ezra Marvin Miller

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 22 DNA matches through Ezra Marvin Miller.



This chart shows that I have 22 DNA matches with descendants of Ezra Marvin Miller. These matches connect back to Ezra through six of his children. Going from left to right, his first five children appear in solid white boxes, meaning that these people already are in my family tree on Ancestry. Importantly, the sixth child at the far right of the chart, Izetta "Ida" Miller (1861-1940), appears inside a dotted rectangle, meaning that she is NOT in my family tree. And she is listed as a "half" relationship, meaning that she had a different mother than Ezra's other children in this chart.

In 2017, I wrote a narrative about how the *Oakley* family got to Quincy:

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/10-HowTheOakleyFamilyGotToQuincy.pdf

In this narrative, I mentioned that Ezra Marvin Miller was married twice. I wrote:

Ezra Marvin Miller had twelve children – eight with his first wife, Jane Kershaw Wells, and four with his second wife, Louisa. His second wife (born in 1834) was only one year older than his first daughter (born in 1835). Ezra Marvin Miller died in 1874 at the age of 62, when his 12th child was only 4 years old.

Was Izetta one of the four children from his second marriage? I searched the "Genealogy" folder on my Windows 11 computer for "Izetta" – I figured that I wouldn't have too many individuals in that folder with the name "Izetta". That search turned up a *Miller* family document (a Word file) that was given to me many years ago by one of my *Miller* cousins who lives in Portland, Oregon. This document included the following text:

Ezra married (2) Louisa about 1856. Louisa was born in 1834 in Pennsylvania.

No information has heen found about this lady. It is assumed that she and her four children continued to reside in Indianapolis after her husband's death.

Ezra and Louisa had the following children:

- 420 F ix. Alice Miller was born in 1857 in Indiana.
- 421 F x. Izetta Miller was born in 1860 in Illinois.
- 422 M xi. Arthur Miller was born in 1867 in Illinois.
- 423 F xii. Ada Miller was born in Feb 1870 in Indianapolis, Marion, IN.

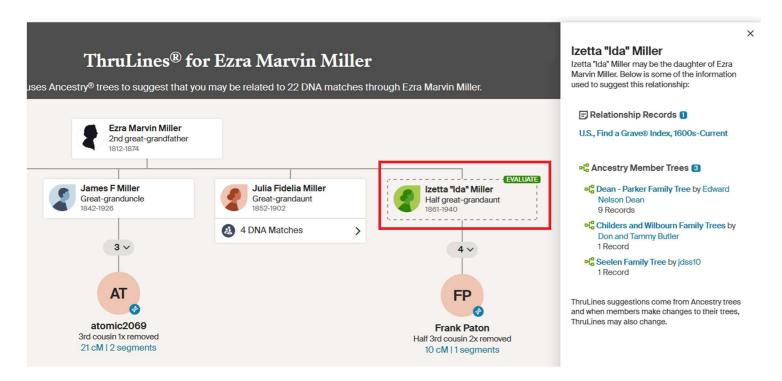
Yesssss! The information in this Word file is consistent with the ThruLines® chart. Izetta Miller was indeed a daughter from Ezra's second marriage.

Now let me go back to the ThruLines® chart for Ezra Marvin Miller:

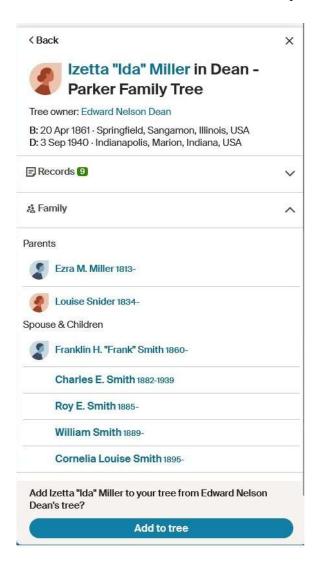


Just to be thorough, I decided to see the evidence that Ancestry.com used to connect Izetta Miller to her father, Ezra Marvin Miller. I clicked on the green

"Evaluate" button in the box with Izetta – and that brought up a pop-up window, as shown at the right of the following screenshot:

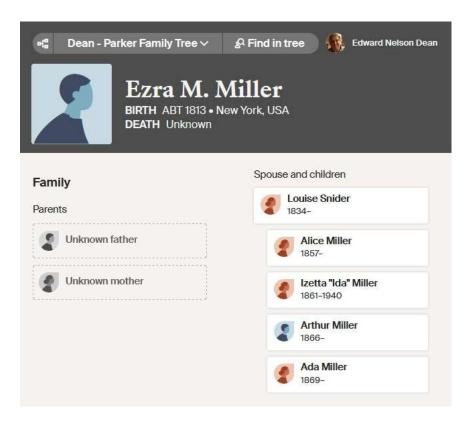


The pop-up window shows that there are just three family trees on the Ancestry.com website that show the relationship between Ezra Marvin Miller and Izetta Miller. The first one is the "Dean-Parker Family Tree":



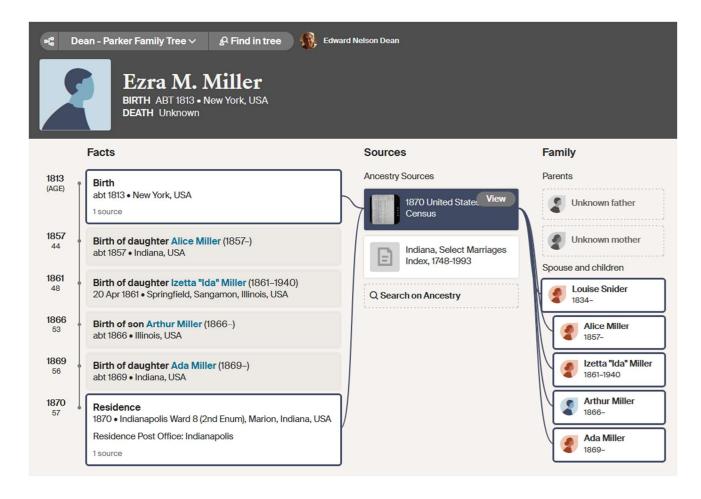
This tree has Izetta as the daughter of Ezra Marvin Miller and his second wife, Louise Snider (born 1834) – this is the first time I have seen her last name. And the *Miller* family document had her name as Louisa, but Louise is close enough for me. Since Izetta's fourth child had the middle name Louise, my guess is that Ezra Marvin Miller's second wife was Louise, not Louisa.

I then looked at the entry for Ezra Marvin Miller in the "Dean-Parker Family Tree":

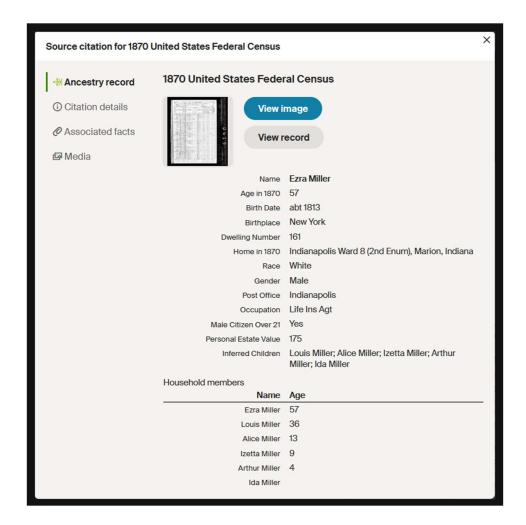


Oh my! This profile only has Ezra's second wife, Louise Snider. It is completely missing his first wife, Jane Kershaw Wells, and his eight children from his first marriage. Well, this is typical of family trees on Ancestry.com. It is most likely that the owner of this tree, Edward Nelson Dean, has little interest in Ezra Marvin Miller.

While I was looking at the profile for Ezra Marvin Miller in the "Dean-Parker Family Tree", I clicked on one of the "Sources" – in this case, the 1870 US Census. As shown in the following screenshot, the census is the source for Ezra Marvin Miller's birth year, his residence in 1870, and the birth years of his second wife and four children:



Here is the information from the census record:



And here is the actual census record itself:

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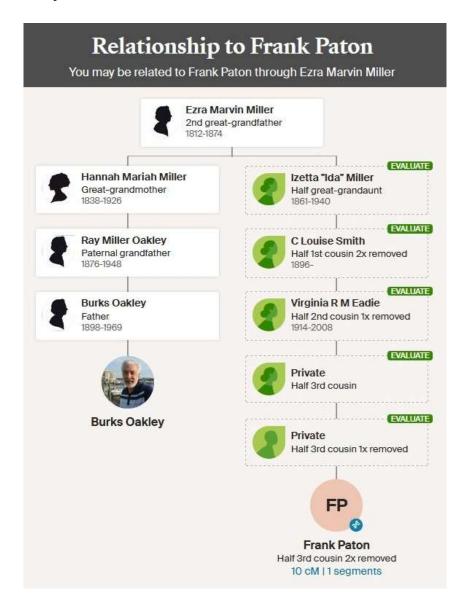
I can see that Ezra Marvin Miller's wife's name might be Louise or Louisa. And note that Ezra's occupation was listed as "Life Insurance Agent".

I went back to the ThruLines® chart for Ezra Marvin Miller:



The line at the right goes from Ezra Marvin Miller down through his daughter Izetta, and eventually connects to a man named Frank Paton.

I next looked at my DNA match with Frank Paton:



According to this chart, Frank is my "half third-cousin twice-removed". I'm sure that my first-cousin once-removed Tim Oakley would really enjoy explaining this genealogical relationship! But I'll go ahead and do it for him....

The "half" relationship comes from the fact that Frank and I are descended from different wives of Ezra Marvin Miller. I was a (half) third-cousin of Frank's paternal grandmother – and Frank is two generations removed from that – hence a "third cousin twice-removed". And add in the "half" relationship.

Frank and I have just a 10 cM DNA match. In 2020, the noted genetic genealogist Blaine T. Bettinger published the results of his research showing the amount of DNA shared between two people with a known genealogical connection. Here is what he found for half third-cousins twice-removed (Half 3C2R):



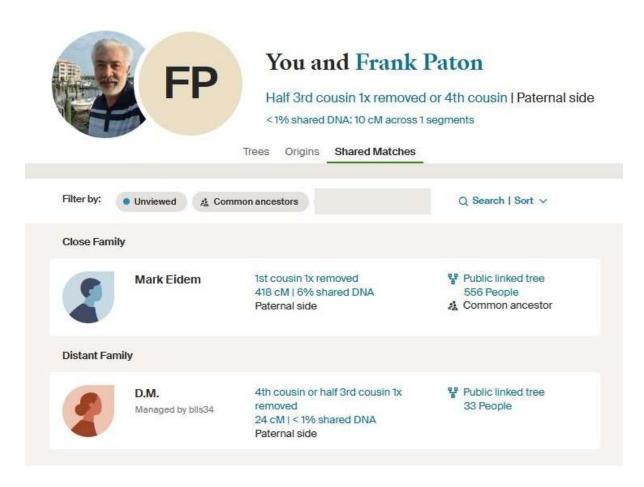
Half 3C2R on average share 27 cM, with a range of 0-78 cM. So my DNA match with Frank (10 cM) is smaller than average.

At this point, I felt good that I had a new DNA match with someone who was descended from Ezra Marvin Miller through his daughter Izetta. But could I find any other evidence to support this?

I went on to see if Frank Paton and I had any "Shared DNA Matches". I reasoned that if we did have shared matches with *Miller* descendants, that would support our genealogical connection.

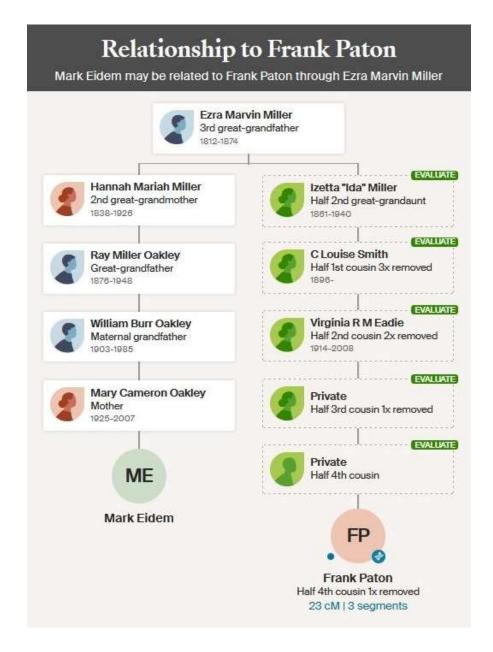
Recall that in order to be on the list of "Shared DNA Matches" on Ancestry.com, an individual has to have DNA matches with both Frank and me that are at least 20 cM in size. This requirement limits the number of people on the list.

Here is a screenshot showing the DNA matches that I share with Frank (our "Shared DNA Matches"):



We only have "Shared DNA Matches" with Mark Eidem and a woman with the username of **D.M.**

Mark Eidem is obvious – he is my first-cousin once-removed. His mother was my first-cousin, Mary Cameron Oakley (married name Eidem). Here is a chart showing how Mark and Frank are related:



I find it interesting that Mark is another generation removed from me, yet he has a 23 cM DNA match with Frank. Recall that my DNA match with Frank was just 10 cM. Such are the random ways in which autosomal DNA is inherited.

The other "Shared DNA Match" that Frank and I have is with a woman having the username of **D.M.** Unfortunately, she only has a limited family tree on Ancestry.com, and this tree doesn't show a connection to our **Miller** family. I next looked at my DNA match with **D.M.**, and then looked at <u>our</u> shared matches.

OMG! I hit the jackpot with this one! *D.M.* and I have 32 shared DNA matches. Individuals on this list include Hal Oakley, Ronald Miller (no tree, but matches lots of *Miller* descendants), Carolyn Krebbs (descended from Allen Miller and his wife Hannah Louise Tripp – they were the parents of Ezra Marvin Miller), Anthony Eaton (descended from Allen Miller and his wife Hannah Louise Tripp), Linda Gemberling (descended from Allen Miller and his wife Hannah Louise Tripp), and *atomic2069* (descended from Ezra Marvin Miller and his first wife Jane Kershaw Wells). *D.M.* most certainly is a *Miller* descendant, and since Frank and I both have DNA matches with her that are at least 20 cM in size, this helps support the idea that my DNA match with Frank is through our *Miller* ancestors.

I saw that Hal Oakley is on the list of my "Shared DNA Matches" with **D.M.** It turns out that Hal also has a DNA match with Frank Paton. Here is a chart showing how they are related:

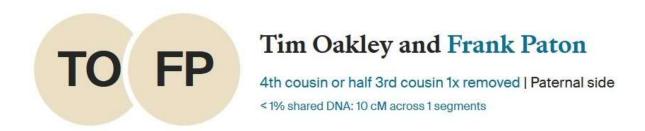


Hal has just a 10 cM DNA match with Frank. Hal and Frank have a Shared DNA Match with Mark Eidem. And also with Sandra Baker, who is descended from Allen Miller and his wife Hannah Louise Tripp (Ezra Marvin Miller's parents).

And Hal and Sandra have shared DNA matches with David Capps (a *Miller* descendant) and Jim Eaton (descended from Allen Miller and Hannah Louise Tripp).

So it seems like all of us are one big happy *Miller* clan!

For completeness, I looked to see if Tim Oakley (my first-cousin once-removed) has a DNA match with Frank Paton:



Yes, he does. Tim and Frank have a 10 cM DNA match. Any they have "Shared DNA Matches" with Mark Eidem and Peter Lamar. I saw the name Peter Lamar in several other lists of Shared DNA Matches, but I didn't look at him, since he doesn't have a family tree on Ancestry.com.

But Peter has to be a *Miller* descendant, since Tim and Peter have 26 "Shared DNA Matches", including Josh Oakley (Mike Oakley's son), Hal Oakley and his son Allen, Ronald Miller, Carolyn Krebs (descended from Allen Miller and Hannah Louise Tripp), and Karin Brouillette (private family tree, but she has DNA matches with a huge number of *Miller* descendants). Since Cousin Tim doesn't have a family tree on Ancestry.com, it is difficult to see how some of his DNA matches are related to him.

Going back, I see that Hal has a large 40 cM DNA match with Peter Lamar:



And, as you would expect, they have a long list of "Shared DNA Matches", and many of the individuals on this list are known *Miller* descendants.

Finally, Sullivan Oakley also has a DNA match with Frank Paton:



Sullivan is Ralph Oakley's younger daughter, and Ralph is in the same generation as Hal. So it appears that Sullivan and Frank are (half) fifth-cousins.

Interestingly, Sullivan's list of "Shared DNA Matches" with Frank consists only of Mark Eidem.

The only member of the *Quincy Oakley* family who doesn't have a DNA match with Frank Paton is my daughter, Amy Oakley.

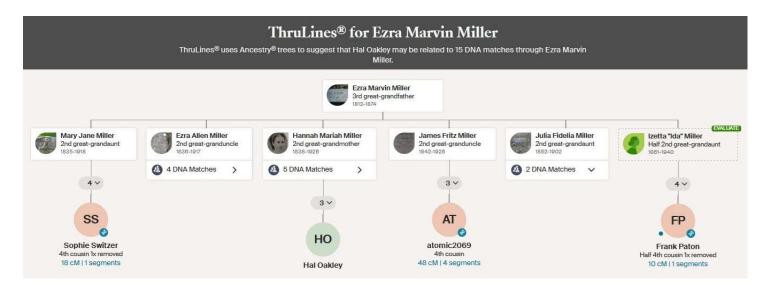
Mark, Hal, and I are the only *Oakley* descendants whose DNA I have access to on Ancestry.com who also have family trees on Ancestry.com. Tim doesn't have a family tree on Ancestry.com, Sullivan's tree is not linked to her DNA, and I don't have access to Allen's DNA. Well, I do have access to my daughter Amy's DNA on Ancestry.com, but she won't have any more *Oakley* or *Miller* DNA matches than I do – and as I just noted, she has fewer *Miller* DNA matches than I do.

Since I have access to the DNA "tests" for both Mark and Hal, I decided to look at their ThruLines® charts for Ezra Marvin Miller. Here is Mark's:



Mark has ten DNA matches with descendants of Ezra Marvin Miller. Interestingly, he doesn't have any DNA matches with anyone that I don't already match. No new lines – which is somewhat disappointing. I was hoping for more.

Moving on to Hal's ThruLines® for Ezra Marvin Miller:



Hal has DNA matches with 15 descendants of Ezra Marvin Miller. When I examined these matches, I found that Hal has DNA matches with two individuals that I don't have – John MacGrath and Britney Horton. Both of these people are descended from Ezra Marvin Miller through his son Ezra Allen Miller (1836-1917).

Here is the branch of Hal's ThruLines® chart showing these additional DNA matches:

ThruLines® for Ezra Marvin Miller ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that Hal Oakley may be related to 15 DNA matches through Ezra Marvin Ezra Marvin Miller 3rd great-grandfather Ezra Allen Miller 2nd great-granduncle **EVALUATE** EVALUATE Frank Henry Miller Hermon E Miller Allen Fayette Mille 1st cousin 3x removed 1st cousin 3x removed 1st cousin 3x removed 1859-1932 1864-1934 EVALUATE EVALUATE EVALUATE Ina V M Sislar Cordelia Jane Miller Marietta L Miller Chester Fav Miller 2nd cousin 2x removed 2nd cousin 2x removed 1901-1978 EVALUATE Henrietta J Sisler Jeannette G Renfer Lowell Robert Capps Private 3rd cousin 1x removed EVALUATE John Kevin MacGrath Private DC IR 4th cousin irrt19461 **Douglas Capps** 7 cM | 1 segments 27 cM I 3 segments BH Britney Horton John MacGrath 4th cousin 1x removed 4th cousin 1x removed 10 cM | 1 segments 24 cM | 1 segments

John MacGrath appears in the lower-left corner of this chart, while Britney Horton appears in the lower-right corner.

Overall, Mark, Hal, and I have DNA matches with 24 descendants of Ezra Marvin Miller.

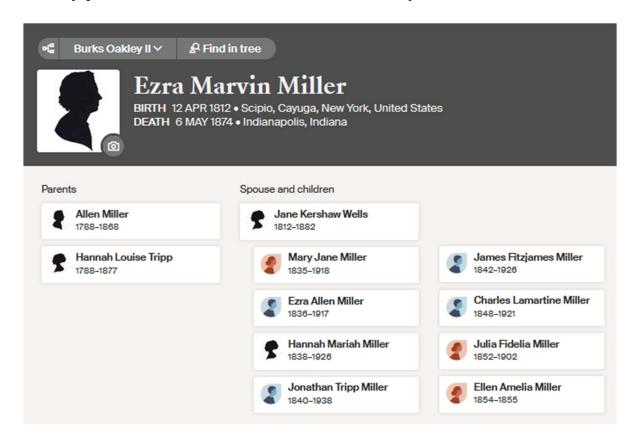
At this point, I think I've done all I can do with DNA and genealogy related to Ezra Marvin Miller.

My DNA match with Frank Paton is the first that I know of with a descendant of Ezra Marvin Miller and his second wife, Louisa (Louise) Snider. And it isn't just me that has a DNA match with Frank Paton – most of the members of the *Quincy Oakley* family who have their DNA profiles on Ancestry.com have DNA matches with him – Mark Eidem, Hal Oakley, Allen Oakley, Tim Oakley, and Sullivan Oakley.

Ezra Marvin Miller was the father of Charles L. Miller (1848-1921), who was one of three newspapermen from Rockford, Illinois, who bought the Quincy *Daily Herald* in 1891. This subsequently led to Ezra's grandson, Ray Miller Oakley (1876-1948), moving to Quincy – and the rest, as they say, is history.

Afterthought:

Here is my profile for Ezra Marvin Miller on Ancestry.com:



This profile only shows his eight children from his first marriage – I'll have to add the four children from his second marriage when I have time. I note that I have DNA matches with descendants of five of his eight children from his first marriage:



Ezra's daughter Ellen Amelia Miller (1854-1855) died as a very young child¹, so she certainly didn't have any descendants.

What about Jonathan Tripp Miller? What about Charles Lamartine Miller? None of the members of the *Quincy Oakley* clan on Ancestry.com have DNA matches with descendants of these two sons of Ezra Marvin Miller.

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/5A-WellsGenealogy.pdf

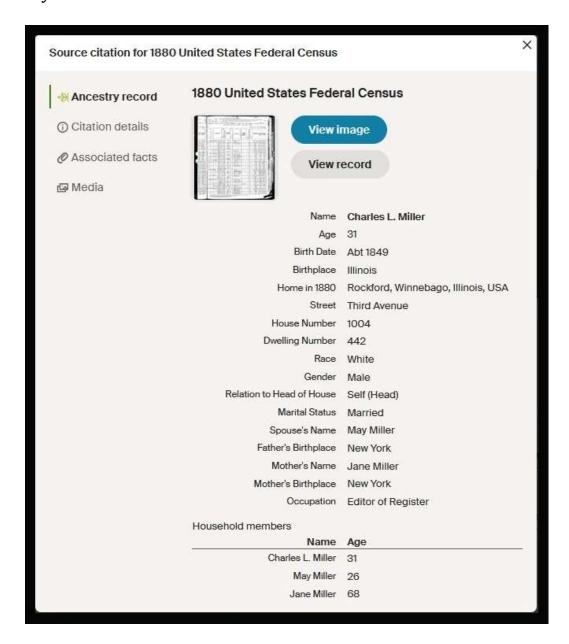
¹ In an earlier narrative, I wrote about Ezra Marvin Miller and his first wife: "Their 13-month old daughter Ellen Amelia died in 1855, and this could have impacted their marriage (since Ezra left his first wife shortly after that)." See:

I know that Jonathan married and had children. It appears that Charles Lamartine Miller and his wife didn't have any children.

The same goes for Ezra Marvin Miller's second family. We have DNA matches with Frank Paton, who connects back to Ezra Marvin Miller through his daughter Izetta Miller. But what about the other three children from Ezra's second marriage? Did they marry and have children and grandchildren? I'll have to look into all this if I ever get bored.

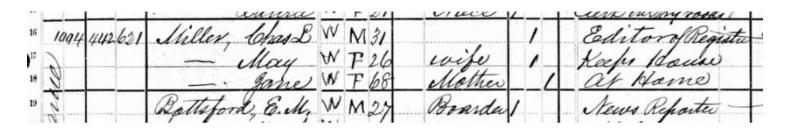
More About Charles Lamartine Miller:

I'm now pretty sure that Charles Lamartine Miller didn't have any children. Here is his entry in the 1880 U.S. Census:



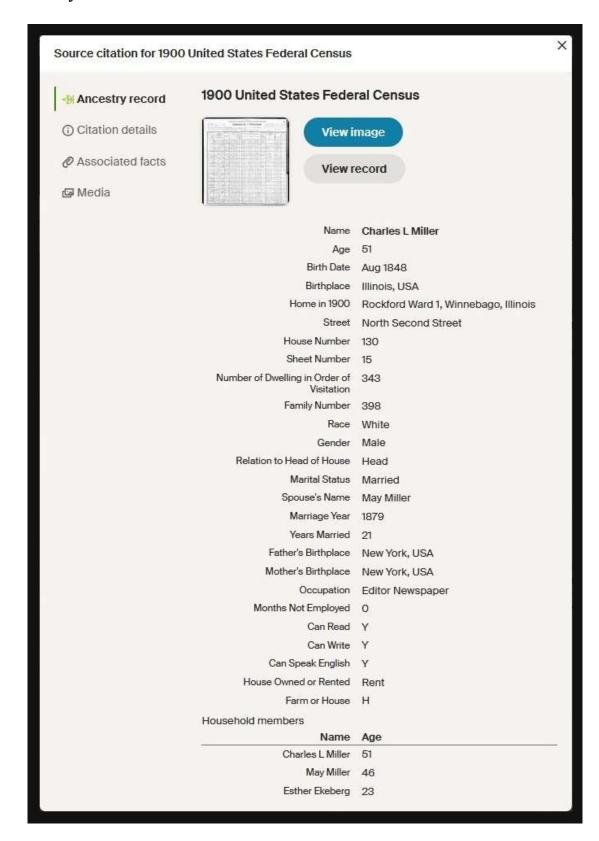
At this time, Charles was 31 years old and his wife May was 26 years old. I have her name in my family tree as Agnes May Wilson (1854-1944), but I guess she went by "May". The census also shows that "Jane Miller" was living with them – this was Jane Kershaw Wells (married name *Miller*). Note that Charles and May did not have any children at the time of the census.

Here is the original record:



Note that Charles is listed as the Editor of the *Register* (a Rockford newspaper), his wife May "keeps house", and Jane was his mother. The surprising thing to me is that E.M. Botsford was also living in their home – he is listed as a "Boarder" and he was working as a "News Reporter" (at the Rockford *Register*). Of course, Edmund M. Botsford was one of the three Rockford newspapermen (along with Charles L. Miller and Hedley H. Eaton) who bought the *Quincy Daily Herald* in 1891.

Fast forward 20 years, and Charles L. Miller appears in the 1900 U.S. Census – living in Rockford. I guess that he had already left Quincy and returned to Rockford by that time.



Once again, he is listed as the editor of a newspaper. By this time, Charles was 51 years old and his wife "May" was 46 years old. Again, no mention of any children.

Here is the original record from the 1900 U.S. Census:



This is unreadable, so I'll show it in landscape mode on the next page:

- Mas	1900 United States Federal Census for Charles L Miller Illinois > Winnebago > Rockford Ward 01 > District 0130											
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The only surprise here is that the third member of the household was Esther Ekeberg, whose occupation was "Servant". At the time of the census, she was 23 years old. Note that she was born in Illinois, but both her parents were born in Sweden. How cool that Charles had a Swedish-American live-in servant less than half his age!

In the center of this record are two columns, which are labelled "Children Born" and "Children Living". On the line for Charles' wife May, both entries are "0". So Now I know that Charles L. Miller and his wife Agnes May Miller (née Wilson) didn't have any children, which explains the absence of DNA matches going back to Ezra Marvin Miller through his son Charles.