

My New DNA Match with Debra Stuart (and where it took me)

By Burks Oakley II
10 May 2025

I recently have been spending a lot of time looking at my DNA matches on the Ancestry.com website who (I believe) are descendants of my eighth-great grandparents, Miles Oakley (1612-1672) and his wife Mary Browne (1607-1682). In many of my recent narratives, I have started with individuals who are my “Shared DNA Matches” with Kathy Hill Orr, who is an **Oakley-Browne** descendant. In this narrative, however, I am going to start with one of my “Shared DNA Matches” with Shannon Wiley. Recall that Shannon is Rev. Timothy W. Bever’s half-sister, and a number of **Oakley-Browne** descendants have DNA matches with Tim (as well as Kathy Hill Orr) on Chromosome 15. In fact, I think of Tim as the “gold standard” for the **Oakley-Browne** DNA segment, since his segment seems to be the largest and the largest number of **Oakley-Browne** descendants match with him.

I first looked at my DNA match with Shannon Wiley, and then I looked at our “Shared DNA Matches”. One of these matches was a woman named Debra Stuart:

 Debra Stuart	+	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 20 cM Paternal side	Shannon Wiley's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 20 cM
---	--------------	--	--

I viewed my DNA match with Debra, and since I have a “Pro” membership on Ancestry.com, I viewed our “Shared DNA Matches” from Debra’s perspective (from largest to smallest). Here are our top three matches:

 Sarah Boone-Witham	+	Your: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 19 cM Paternal side	Debra Stuart's: Daughter 3,448 cM
 estuart_mcdonald	+	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 20 cM Paternal side	Debra Stuart's: Sister 2,511 cM
 Margaret Zuccaro nee Stanton	+	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 20 cM Paternal side	Debra Stuart's: 1st cousin or half aunt 915 cM

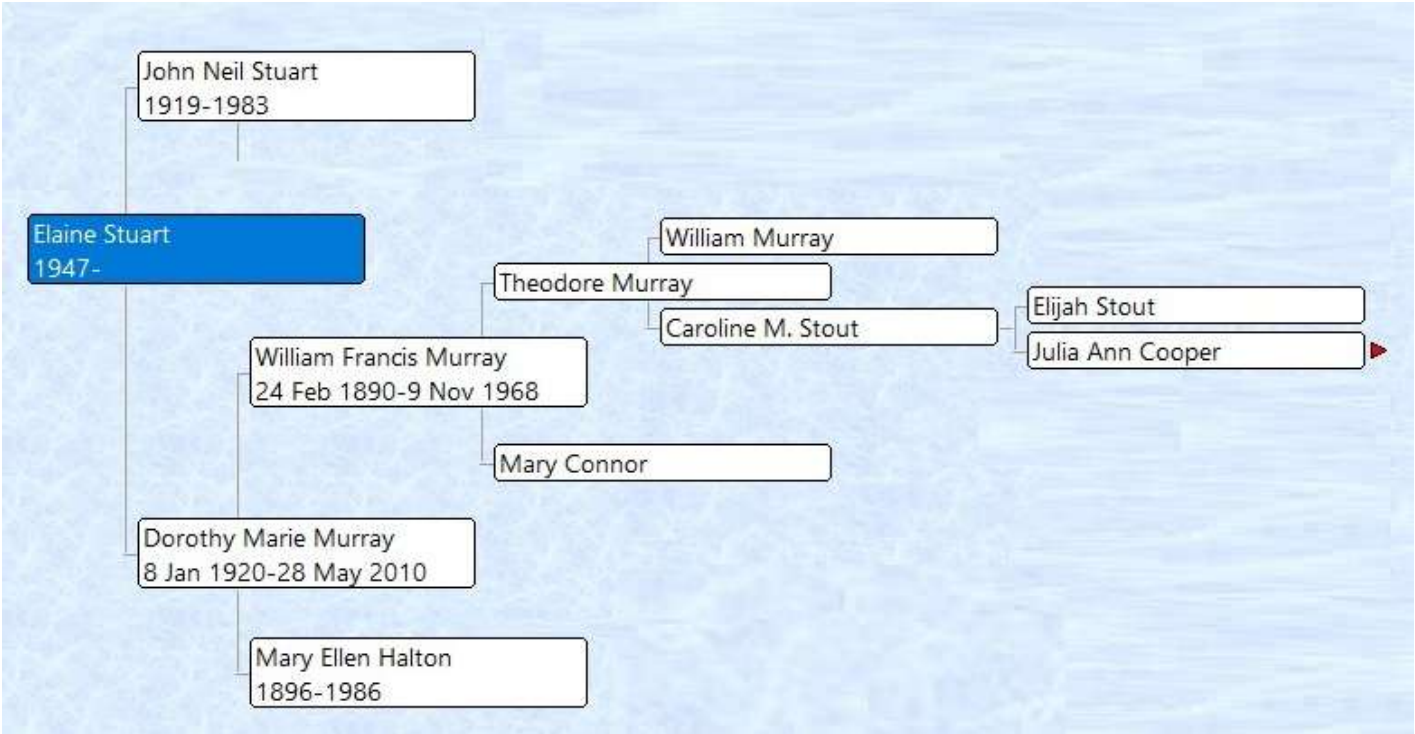
Debra’s largest DNA match is with her daughter, Sarah Boone-Witham.

Debra’s second-largest match is with her sister, **estuart_mcdonald**. This woman is Elaine Stuart McDonald, and she has her DNA on GEDmatch.com – and I know

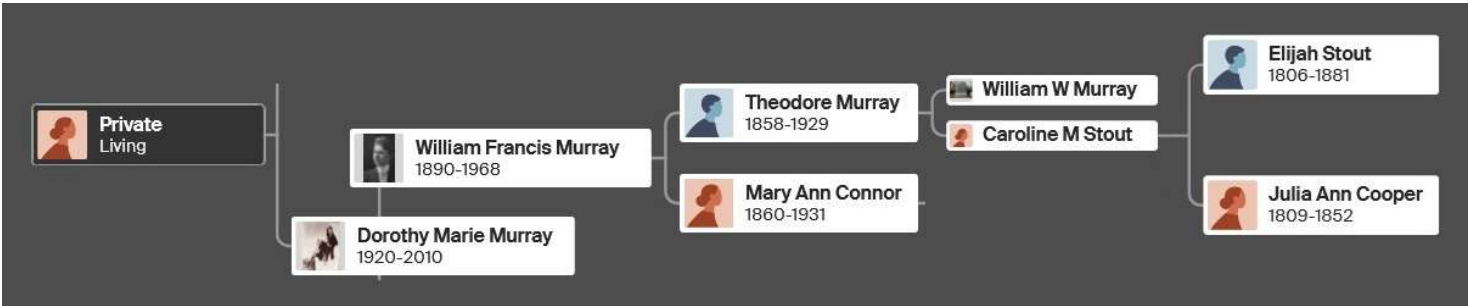
that she has a DNA match with Tim Bever and other ***Oakley-Browne*** descendants on Chromosome 15. I have her family tree in my RootsMagic database on my computer and I know that our common ancestors are Miles Oakley VI (1696-1763) and his wife Sarah Tippetts (1700-1800). And Miles Oakley VI was a great-grandson of the ***Oakley-Browne*** couple.

Going back to the screenshot at the bottom of the previous page, Debra’s third-largest shared match is with her first-cousin, Margaret Zuccaro née Stanton.

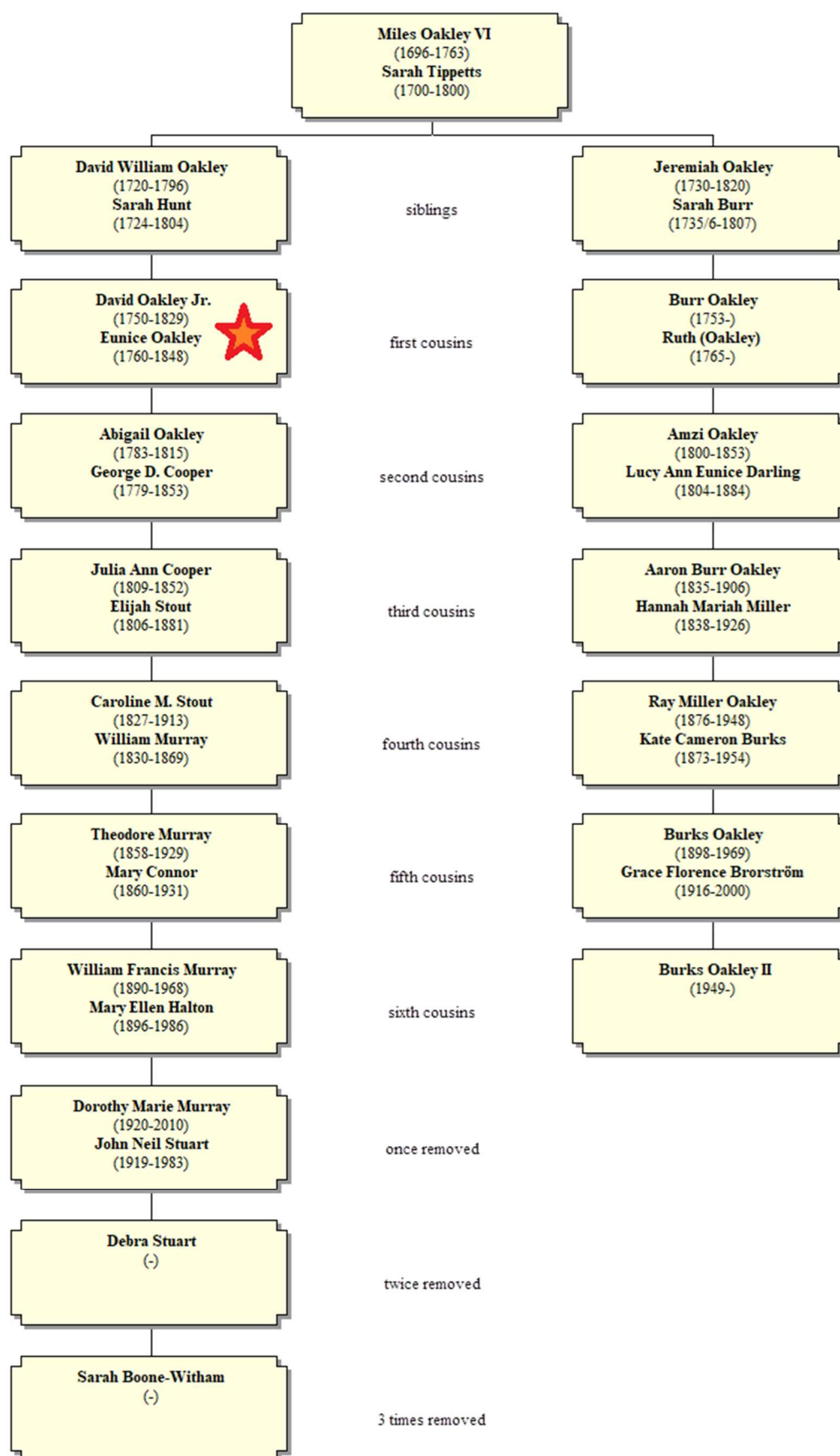
Debra Stuart is Elaine Stuart’s sister, so I didn’t have to do anything to find Debra’s line back to the ***Oakley*** family – it has to be the same as Elaine’s. Here is part of Elaine’s family tree from my RootsMagic database:



Elaine’s ancestral line goes back to Julia Ann Cooper (1809-1852). And this is the exact ancestral line that Debra has in her family tree on Ancestry.com:



Since I already had the line from Julia Ann Cooper back to our common ***Oakley*** ancestors, I added Debra and her daughter to my RootsMagic database, and created a chart showing how we are related:

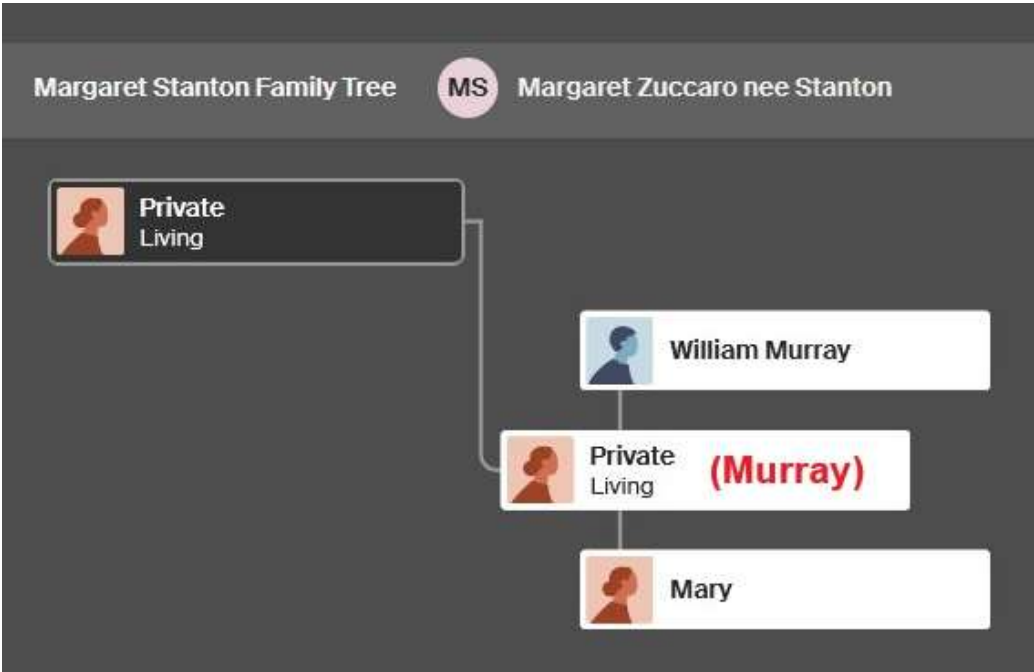


Based on this chart, Debra Stuart and I are sixth-cousins twice-removed. Note that the line from Julia Ann Cooper to our common ancestors goes back through David Oakley Jr. (1750-1829) and his wife Eunice Oakley (1760-1848) – this is the couple designated with the red star in the chart above. Recall that David and Eunice were “double first-cousins” who married. See:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/33-DoubleFirstCousinsOakleyFamily.pdf>

In the chart shown above, I used David Oakley Jr.’s father to connect to the *Oakley-Tippetts* couple. But I could also have used Eunice Oakley’s father.

I mentioned that one of the largest “Shared DNA Matches” that Debra and I have is Margaret Zuccaro née Stanton. Here is part of Margaret’s pedigree:



Margaret’s mother must have had the maiden name of **Murray**, since Margaret’s maternal grandfather was William Murray.

Debra Stuart’s and Elaine Stuart’s mother was Dorothy Marie Murray (1920-2010), and their maternal grandfather was William Francis Murray (1890-1968).

Since Margaret is a first-cousin of Debra and Elaine, it appears that Margaret’s mother (a **Murray**) was a sister of Dorothy Marie Murray. Bear with me here – I’m trying to figure out how all these folks are related.

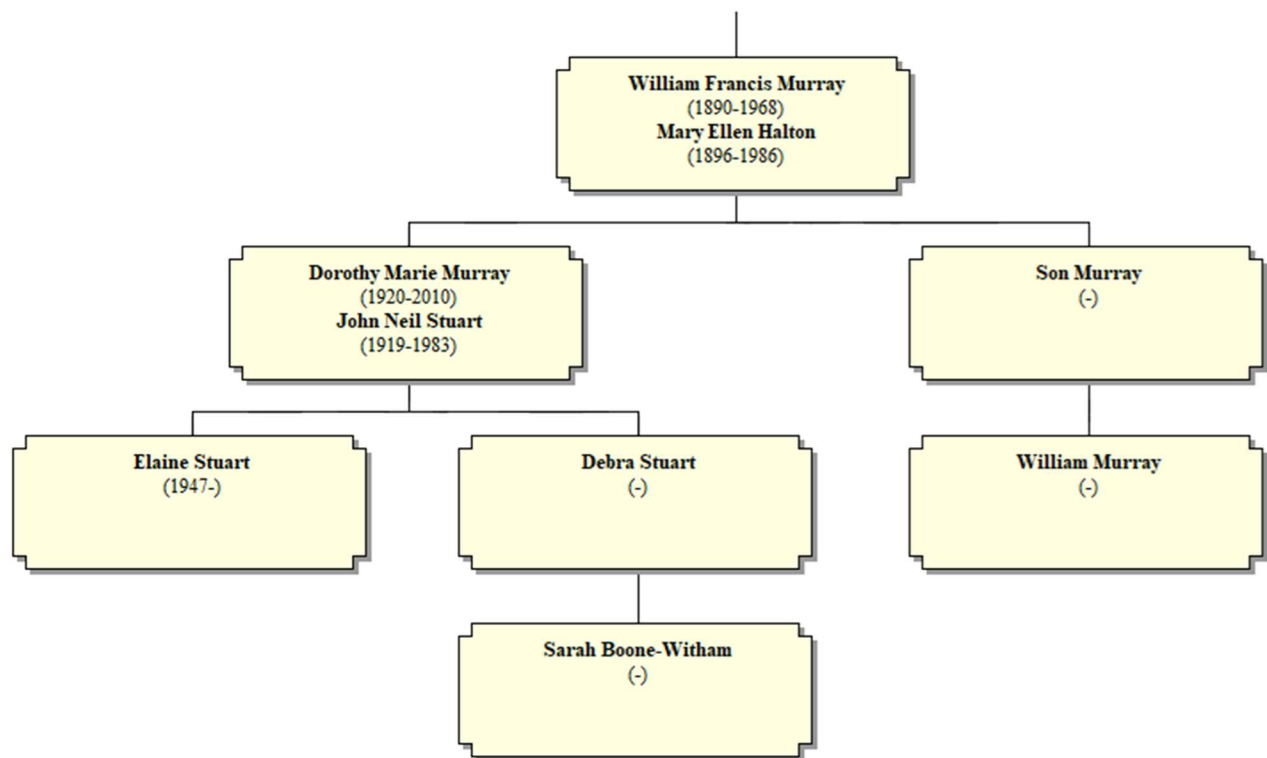
I also looked at my DNA match with Elaine Stuart McDonald. Here are our top four “Shared DNA Matches” from Elaine’s perspective:

 Debra Stuart	 	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 20 cM Paternal side	estuart_mcdonald's: Sister 2,511 cM
 Sarah Boone-Witham	 	Your: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 19 cM Paternal side	estuart_mcdonald's: Niece 1,802 cM
 Margaret Zuccaro nee Stanton	 	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 20 cM Paternal side	estuart_mcdonald's: 1st cousin 1,004 cM
 William Murray	 	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 20 cM Paternal side	estuart_mcdonald's: 1st cousin 730 cM

The top three are Debra Stuart, Sarah Boone-Witham (Debra’s daughter), and Margaret Zuccaro née Stanton (Debra’s and Elaine’s first-cousin). Fourth on the list was William Murray, who also is predicted to be a first-cousin of Elaine. Since

William Murray carries the **Murray** surname, his father must have been a **Murray** – and a son of William Francis Murray (1890-1968).

I put all this information into a family relationship chart:



At the top of this chart is William Francis Murray (1890-1968). Based on the chart showing how Debra and I are related (a few pages back), William Francis Murray was my sixth-cousin.

William and his wife Mary had a daughter, Dorothy Marie Murray, and a son (unknown first name, but his surname was **Murray**).

Dorothy and her husband John Neil Stuart had two daughters, Elaine and Debra.

Debra has a daughter Sarah Boone-Witham.

William Francis Murray’s son (at the right of the chart) had a son named William Murray.

I have DNA matches with Elaine, Debra, Sarah, and William.

Based on this chart, Sarah is William Murray’s first-cousin once-removed. And that is what the DNA predicts:

 Sarah Boone-Witham	Your: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 19 cM Paternal side	William Murray's: 1st cousin 1x removed 498 cM
---	---	---

I looked at my DNA match with William Murray and then looked at our “Shared DNA Matches”. I was quite happy to see that one of them was Timothy Bever:

Timothy Bever

Managed by Marva Gervais

Your:

3rd cousin 1x removed or half 3rd cousin

43 cM

Paternal side

William Murray's:

4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed

24 cM

I did a Google search on “Dorothy Marie Murray Stuart Obituary” (no quotes). This search turned up:

Google

dorothy marie murray stuart obituary

All

Images

News

Short videos

Videos

Shopping

Forums

More

Tools

A.F. Crow & Son Funeral Home, Inc.

https://www.afcrowfh.com › obituaries › dorothy-stuart

Dorothy Stuart Obituary May 28, 2010

Dorothy M. Stuart 90 of Glasgow, KY died Friday, May 28, 2010 at the NHC Healthcare Facility in Glasgow. She was born in New York City the daughter of the ...

Find a Grave

https://www.findagrave.com › memorial › dorothy-mar...

Dorothy Marie Murray Stuart (1920-2010) - Memorials

Dorothy M. Stuart 90 of Glasgow, KY died Friday, May 28, 2010 at the NHC Healthcare Facility in Glasgow. She was born in New York City the daughter of the late ...

Missing: obituary

Show results with: obituary

Here is her obituary:

June 2, 2010

Dorothy M. Stuart 90 of Glasgow, KY died Friday, May 28, 2010 at the NHC Healthcare Facility in Glasgow. She was born in New York City the daughter of the late William and Mary Halton Murray.

Mrs. Stuart was a singer and was once the opening act for Jackie Gleason and was the first runner-up in the 1938 New York World's Fair beauty pageant. She had entertained at many venues including the State Lake Theater in Chicago and the USO shows where she met her husband, the late Dr. John N. Stuart. While a homemaker, she worked with her husband who was a local Chiropractor in Glasgow for many years until their move to Galveston, TX in 1977. After her husband's death, she returned to Glasgow in 2001. She was a KY Colonel and a member of St. Helen's Catholic Church in Glasgow.

Survivors include her eight children, Regina Hart (Myles) of East Lyme, CT, Brill Stuart of Santé Fe, TX, Elaine McDonald (Mike) of Lexington, KY, John Stuart II (Karen) of Vanderpool, TX, Jesse Stuart (Sheila) of Reeds Springs, MO, Debra Stuart of Louisville, Howard Stuart (Shannon) of Glasgow and Evelyn Squire (Joseph) of Corvallis, OR; 14 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren; 2 sisters Jean Connor of Hilo, HI and Edith Stanton of Scottsdale, AZ and a brother Richard Murray of Sunset Beach, NC. A brother, Billy Murray preceded her in death.

Funeral services will be 10:00am Thursday, June 3, 2010 at St. Helen's Catholic Church. Burial will be in the Houston National Cemetery in Houston, TX.

And here is her entry on the FindAGrave.com website:



MEMORIALS

CEMETERIES

FAMOUS

CONTRIBUTE



Photo added by [Ted Butler](#)

Dorothy Marie *Murray* Stuart

BIRTH

8 Jan 1920

New York, New York County, New York, USA

DEATH

28 May 2010 (aged 90)

Glasgow, Barren County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL

[Houston National Cemetery](#)

Houston, Harris County, Texas, USA

PLOT

Section I, Site 1719

MEMORIAL ID

53141023 · [View Source](#)

Wow! It sounds like Dorothy was quite a successful person!

Concluding remarks: I have found a small family group where the close relatives all have the **Oakley-Browne** DNA segment. The four individuals in this group and I have “Shared DNA Matches” with a number of **Oakley-Browne** descendants.

This finding is really nice – and it makes me wonder why nobody else in the **Quincy Oakley** family except my daughter and I have the **Oakley-Browne** segment. Why did it vanish after so many generations?