

Dwelle Descendants with the Oakley-Browne DNA Segment on Chromosome 15

By Burks Oakley II
11 May 2025

I have been spending a lot of time recently finding my DNA matches with descendants of Miles Oakley III (1612-1672) and his wife Mary Browne (1607-1682). This couple were my 8th-great grandparents. I have a segment of DNA on Chromosome 15 that appears to have come from this couple, and I share this **Oakley-Browne** segment with a large number of other people who are descended from this couple.

Here is a webpage with links to a number of narratives I have written recently on this topic:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/Oakley-Chr-15.html>

One of the key people in my recent “research” is Kathy Hill Orr, who is known to have the **Oakley-Browne** DNA segment on Chromosome 15. As I have done in a number of narratives, I started with my DNA match with Kathy on the Ancestry.com website. I then looked at our “Shared DNA Matches”. One of my “Shared DNA Matches” with Kathy is a man having the username of **mtmiller22**:

 mtmiller22		Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 31 cM Paternal side	KathyOrr60's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 22 cM
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I share 31 cM with **mtmiller22**, while Kathy shares 22 cM with **mtmiller22**.

mtmiller22 and I have shared DNA matches with all the usual **Oakley-Browne** descendants (read some of the previous narratives to learn who these people are).

 John Bever		Your: Half 3rd cousin or 3rd cousin 1x removed 43 cM Paternal side	mtmiller22's: Half 3rd cousin or 3rd cousin 1x removed 44 cM
 Timothy Bever Managed by Marva Gervais		Your: 3rd cousin 1x removed or half 3rd cousin 43 cM Paternal side	mtmiller22's: Half 3rd cousin or 3rd cousin 1x removed 43 cM

 Cassidy Prentiss	 	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 39 cM Paternal side	mtmiller22's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 31 cM
 Donald Baird	 	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 38 cM Paternal side	mtmiller22's: Half 3rd cousin or 3rd cousin 1x removed 41 cM
 rjtrana50	  	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 33 cM Paternal side	mtmiller22's: 3rd cousin 1x removed or half 3rd cousin 58 cM
 Shannon Wiley	 	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 32 cM Paternal side	mtmiller22's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 33 cM
 M.W. Managed by LMW621	 	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 34 cM Paternal side	mtmiller22's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 37 cM
 A.B. Managed by Donald Baird	 	Your: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 33 cM Paternal side	mtmiller22's: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 39 cM
 E.W. Managed by LMW621	 	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 33 cM Paternal side	mtmiller22's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 28 cM

I have discussed my DNA matches with these people *ad nauseum* in my recent narratives, so I won't rehash here how (1) they have the ***Oakley-Browne*** DNA segment on Chromosome 15 and (2) they all have ancestral lines back to the ***Oakley-Browne*** couple, who lived in England in the early 1600's, and immigrated to America in the mid-1600's.

mtmiller22's family tree has just himself, his wife, and their three children, so it was no help at all in figuring out how he and I are related:



mtmiller22's top shared matches are his two children – his daughter Brooke and his son Kyle:

 Brooke Amyx		Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 18 cM Paternal side	mtmiller22's: Daughter 3,444 cM
 kyle387316		Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 26 cM Paternal side	mtmiller22's: Son 3,421 cM

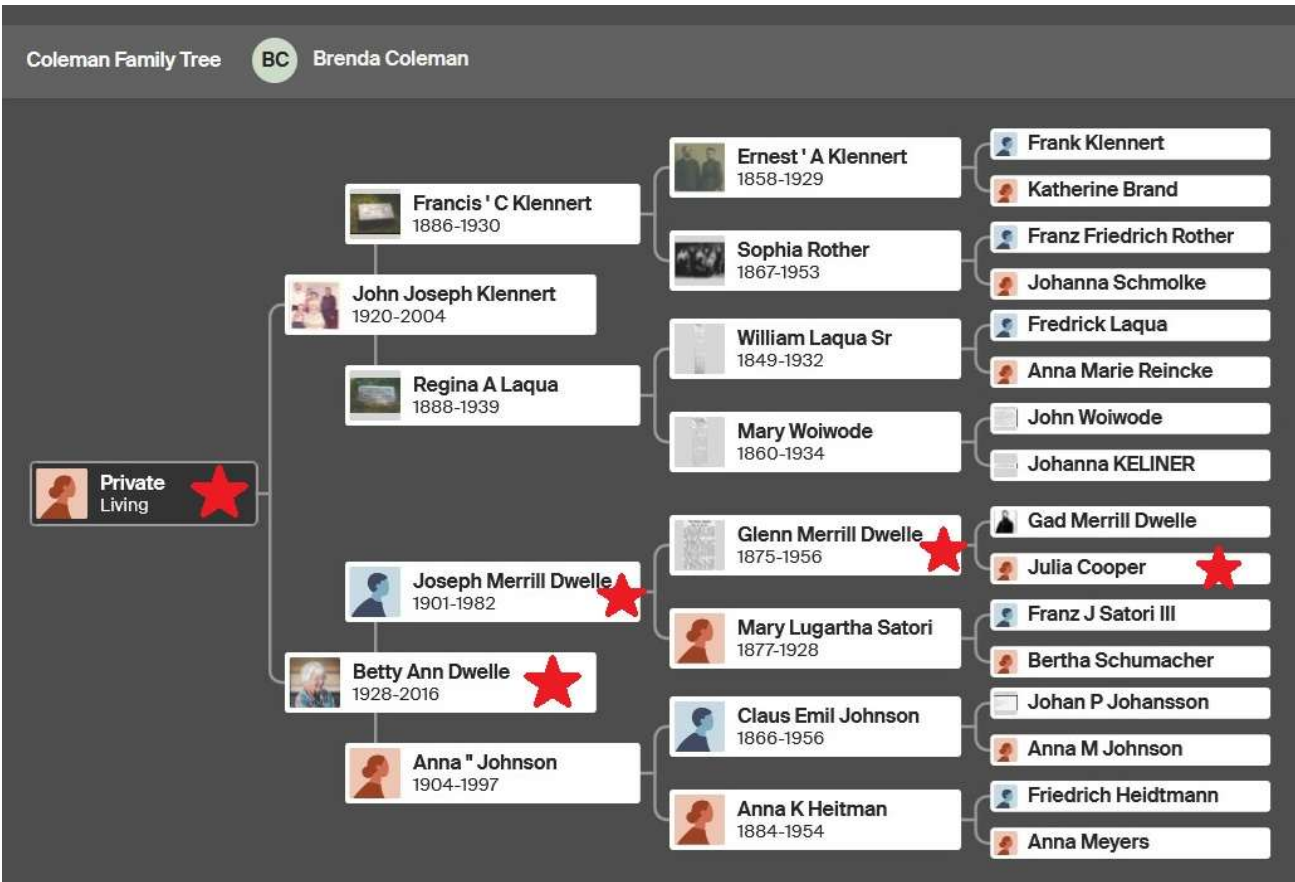
One of his next largest DNA matches is Brenda Coleman (née Klennert). I know that she is an **Oakley-Browne** descendant with the matching segment on Chromosome 15:

 Brenda Coleman		Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 21 cM Paternal side	mtmiller22's: 1st cousin 1x removed or half 1st cousin 401 cM
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Brenda and **mtmiller22** share 401 cM of DNA. I wrote about my DNA match with Brenda earlier:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/41-NewOakleyRelatives.pdf>

Here is Brenda's pedigree chart:



I put a red star on her ancestors who are on her ancestral line going back to the **Oakley-Browne** couple. This line goes through Betty Ann Dwelle (1928-2016), Joseph Merrill Dwelle (1901-1982), Glenn Merrill Dwelle (1875-1956), and Julia Cooper (1841-1938).

Since I couldn't figure out who **mtmiller22** was, and since Brenda has a 401 cM match with him, I sent an email to Brenda asking her if she knew who **mtmiller22** was. She replied with a guess, but then she contacted **mtmiller22** directly. On the evening of 5 May 2025, she sent me an email with the text of **mtmiller22**'s reply to her query:

Hi Brenda, That would not be me and I don't recognize those names. However, my maternal grandmother was Florence Dwelle from Lake City, MN, and her Dwelle lineage goes back to the 1600's in Massachusetts. She married Harold Dirks and they raised their family in Olivia, MN. My Mom, Mary Dirks Miller, was the oldest. I'm guessing that somewhere along the line we connect as relatives. I would need to dig out my Dwelle family tree which may take a bit of time, but I'll do that and see if I can find the connection. All the best, Mark Miller.

This was really helpful information. **mtmiller22** is Mark Miller in real life. All I had to do was find Mark's maternal grandmother, Florence Dwelle, who married Harold Dirks. And that was easy – I just did a search on the Ancestry.com website:

Florence Lucille Dwelle (Dwelley) found in 25 trees

View all

Florence Lucille Dwelle (Dwelley) from tree

VANDER BRUG Family Tree

Birth	15 Jun 1903 Lake City, Wabasha, Minnesota, USA	Father	Glenn Merrill Dwelle (Dwelley) (1875-1956)
Marriage	16 Oct 1925 Wabasha, Wabasha, Minnesota, USA	Mother	Mary Lugatha Satori (1877-1928)
		Spouse	Harold Milton Dirks (1898-1996)
Residence	1963 Minnesota, USA		
Death	1 Sep 1979 Hennepin, Minnesota, USA		

92165 People

9 Records

9 Sources

Florence Lucille Dwelle (1903-1979) married Harold Milton Dirks (1898-1996). Florence was the daughter of Glenn Merrill Dwelle (1875-1956). Here is a profile for Glenn:

Miller Family Tree

Find in tree

BF Beth f



Glenn Merrill Dwelle

BIRTH 03 MAR 1875 • Lake City, Wabasha, Minnesota

DEATH 16 MAR 1956 • Wabasha, Minnesota

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

Gad Merrill Dwelle
1835-1915

Julia O Cooper
1841-1938

Mary L Satori
1877-1928

Joseph Merrill Dwelle
1901-1982

Florence Lucille Dwelle
1903-1979

Bertha Mary Dwelle
1906-

Margaret Julia Dwelle
1909-1999

Oh my! Brenda's maternal grandfather, Joseph Merrill Dwelle (1901-1982), was a brother of Mark's maternal grandmother, Florence Lucille Dwelle (1903-1979)! So that is how Brenda and Mark are related.

I next looked at the profile for Florence Lucille Dwelle in the “Vander Brug Family Tree” on Ancestry.com:

VANDER BRUG Family Tr...Find in treeKVkvanderbrug



Florence Lucille Dwelle (Dwelley)

BIRTH 15 JUNE 1903 • Lake City, Wabasha, Minnesota, USA

DEATH 1 SEPTEMBER 1979 • Hennepin County, Minnesota, USA

Family

Parents

Spouse and children

This profile shows that Florence Lucille Dwelle married Harold Milton Dirks. Mark’s mother was Mary Amelia Dirks (1927-2017). She was the oldest of seven children born to the **Dirks-Dwelle** couple. I next looked at her profile:

VANDER BRUG Family Tr...Find in treeKVkvanderbrug



Mary Amelia Dirks

BIRTH 16 APRIL 1927 • Olivia, Renville, Minnesota USA

DEATH 7 OCTOBER 2017 • Eden Prairie, Hennepin, Minnesota, USA

Family

Parents

Spouse

Yesssss! Mary Amelia Dirks married Jerrold Thomsen Miller (1929-2009). And this couple were Mark’s parents. Which is why Mark’s surname is **Miller**. I note that this profile doesn’t have any children for the **Miller-Dirks** couple.

Here is another profile for Mary Amelia Dirks (using her married name of Mary Amelia Miller):

Miller Family Tree

Find in tree

BF Beth f

Mary Amelia Miller

BIRTH 1927 • MN

DEATH 2017 • Eden Prairie, Hennepin, Minnesota, USA

Family

Parents

Harold Milton Dirks

1898–1996

Florence Lucille Dwelle

1903–1979

Spouse and children

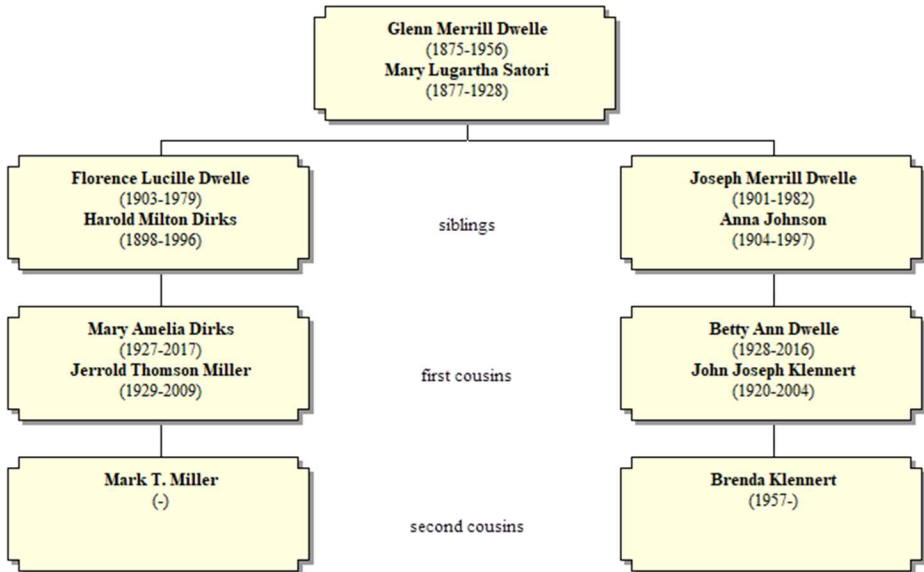
Jerrold Thomsen Miller

1929–2009

Private

This profile shows that they had at least one son (which would be Mark Miller).

I added Mark’s line to my RootsMagic database, and created a chart showing how Mark and Brenda are related:



According to this chart, Mark and Brenda are second-cousins.

Based on the size of the DNA match that Mark has with Brenda (401 cM), Ancestry.com predicted that they would be first-cousins once-removed (1C1R):

Brenda Coleman

+

Your:

4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed

21 cM

Paternal side

mtmiller22's:

1st cousin 1x removed or half 1st cousin

401 cM

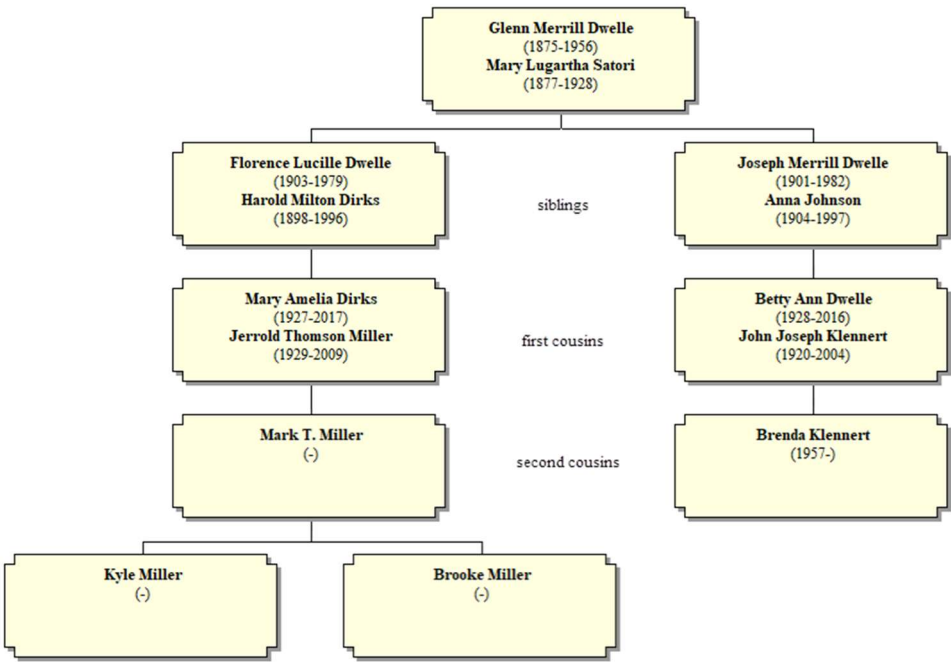
I went to the website for the “Shared cM Project”¹ and looked at the probabilities for various relationships for people sharing 401 cM. Here is the result:

¹ <https://dnapainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4>

75%	Great-Great-Aunt / Uncle			
	Half Great-Aunt / Uncle	Half 1C	1C1R	
	Half Great-Niece / Nephew			
	Great-Great-Niece / Nephew			
25%	Half GG-Niece / Nephew †			
	Half GG-Aunt / Uncle †	2C	Half 1C1R	1C2R
~ 0%	** Great-Aunt / Uncle 1C			
	Great-Niece / Nephew			

While a first-cousin once-removed (1C1R) relationship has a 75% probability, a second-cousin (2C) relationship has a 25% probability. So their second-cousin match from the genealogical record is reasonable for the size of their DNA match.

I went on to add Mark’s children, Brooke and Kyle, to my RootsMagic database. Here is another relationship chart:



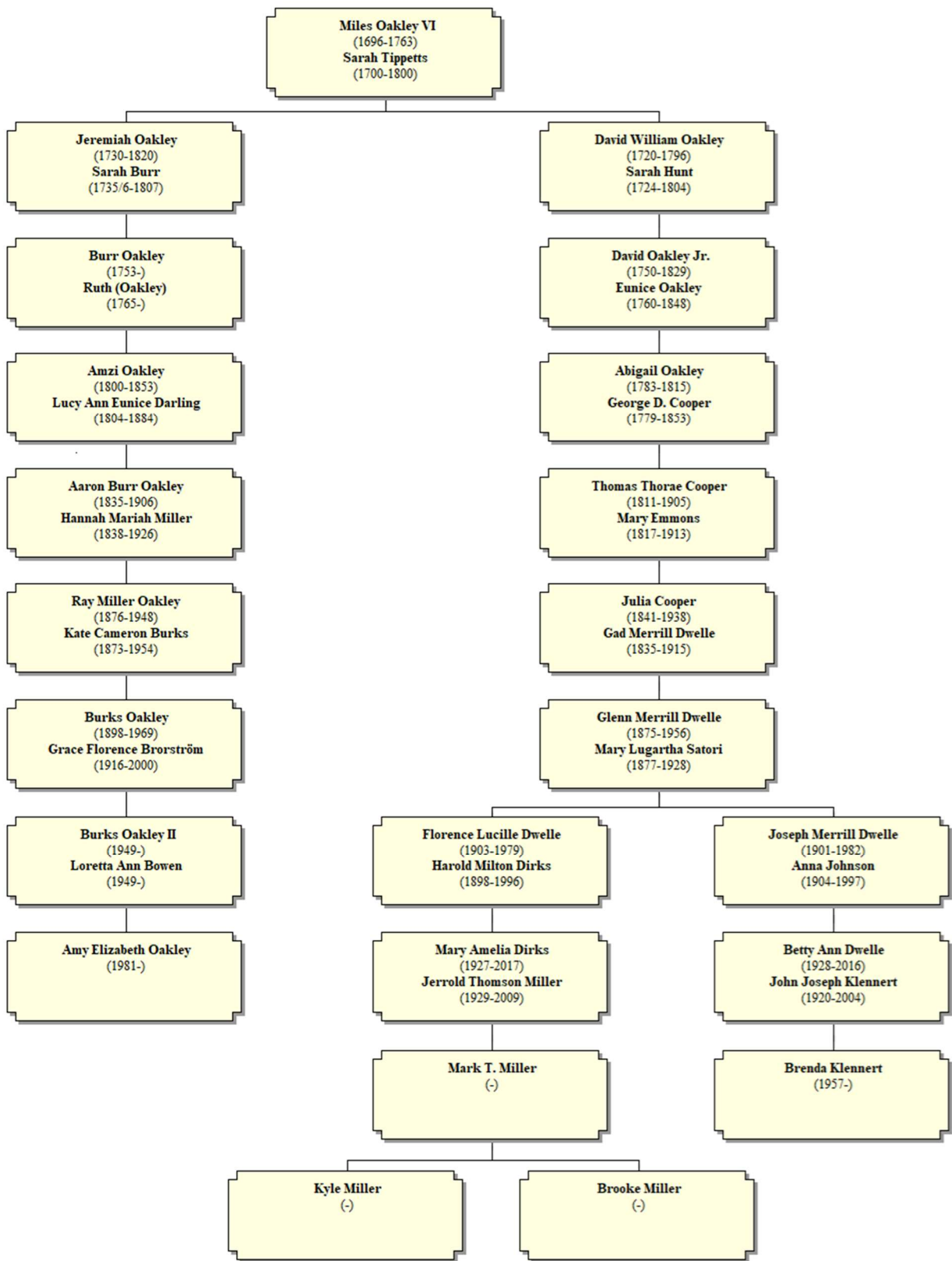
Since Brenda and Mark are second-cousins, Brenda is a second-cousin once-removed to Kyle and Brooke.

Here is what Ancestry.com predicted, based solely on the size of the DNA matches that Brenda has with Kyle and Brooke:

 kyle387316		Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 26 cM Paternal side	Brenda Coleman's: 2nd cousin or half 1st cousin 1x removed 274 cM
 Brooke Amyx		Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 18 cM Paternal side	Brenda Coleman's: 2nd cousin 1x removed 202 cM

Note that Brenda’s match with Kyle is 274 cM, while Brenda’s match with Brooke is 202 cM. Using the smaller match, Ancestry.com predicts correctly that Brenda and Brooke are second-cousins once-removed. But using the larger match, Ancestry.com predicts that Brenda and Kyle are second-cousins. This result emphasizes the random way that autosomal DNA is inherited.

I went on and created an overall relationship chart:



This chart shows how we all are descended from Miles Oakley VI (1796-1763) and Sarah Tippetts (1700-1800). Miles VI was a great-grandson of the **Oakley-Browne** couple. And six of the people in this chart have had their DNA tested and appear to have the **Oakley-Browne** segment on Chromosome 15 – myself, my daughter Amy, Mark Miller and his children Kyle and Brooke, and Brenda Coleman (née Klennert).

There is one more person to discuss, and that is Ryan Dirks. Remember him?

Ryan showed up as a “Shared DNA Match” with both Brenda and Mark:



Ryan Dirks



Your:

Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed

9 cM

Paternal side

Brenda Coleman's:

2nd cousin

204 cM



Ryan Dirks



Your:

Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed

9 cM

Paternal side

mtmiller22's:

1st cousin 1x removed

413 cM

Ryan has a 413 cM match with Mark and a 204 cM match with Brenda, so it looks like Ryan and Mark are more closely related than Ryan and Brenda.

Ryan and I have “Shared DNA Matches” with all the usual people who have the ***Oakley-Browne*** DNA segment on Chromosome 15.

Mark’s mother was Mary Amelia Dirks (1927-2017), and she was a ***Dwelle*** descendant. Mary Amelia had six brothers:

VANDER BRUG Family Tr...

Find in tree

KV kvanderbrug



Florence Lucille Dwelle (Dwelley)

BIRTH 15 JUNE 1903 • Lake City, Wabasha, Minnesota, USA

DEATH 1 SEPTEMBER 1979 • Hennepin County, Minnesota, USA

Family

Parents



Glenn Merrill Dwelle (Dwelley)

1875–1956



Mary Lugatha Satori

1877–1928

Spouse and children



Harold Milton Dirks

1898–1996



Mary Amelia Dirks

1927–2017



Benjamin Harold Dirks

1929–2012



Robert Dwelle Dirks

1932–2008



William Milton Dirks

1934–2019



Private



Private



Private

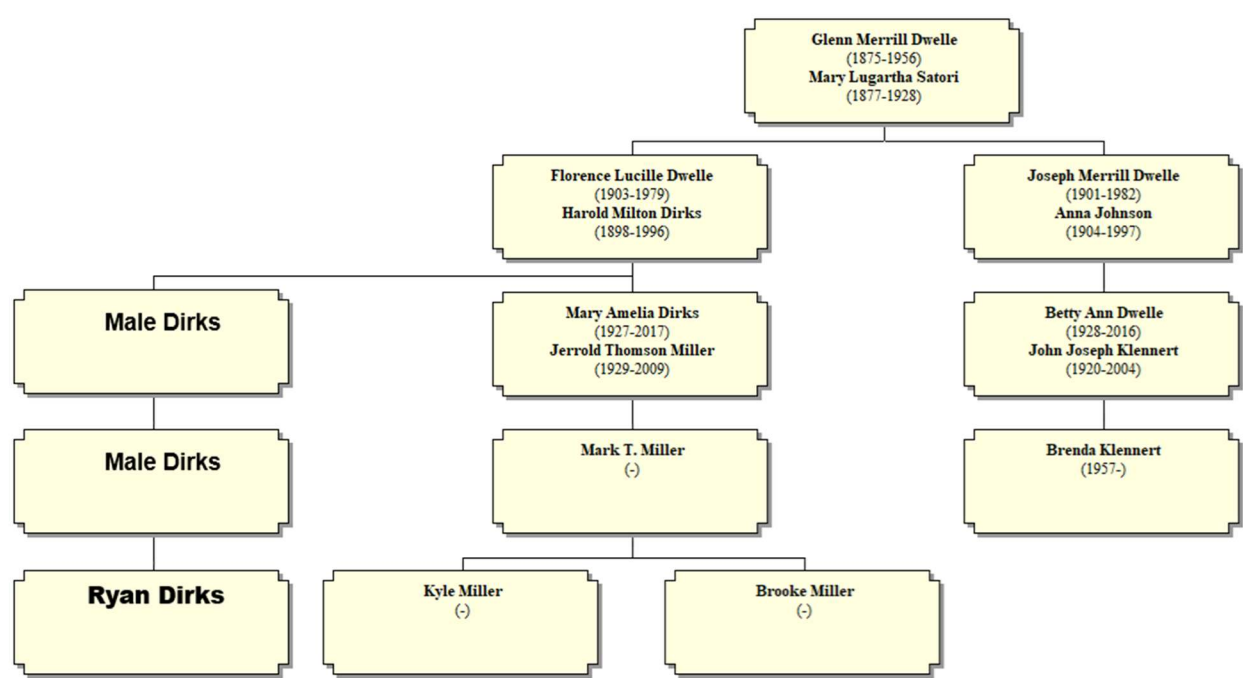
The grandson of one of her brothers would have the surname of ***Dirks*** and be one generation closer to Mark than to Brenda.

Who is Ryan Dirks? Does Mark Miller know him?

I decided to give it one more try. Here are Ryan’s top “Shared DNA Matches” with me from his perspective:

 mtmiller22	 +	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 31 cM Paternal side	Ryan Dirks's: 1st cousin 1x removed or half granduncle 413 cM
 kyle387316	 +	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 26 cM Paternal side	Ryan Dirks's: 2nd cousin or half 1st cousin 1x removed 248 cM
 Brooke Amyx	 +	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 18 cM Paternal side	Ryan Dirks's: 2nd cousin or half 1st cousin 1x removed 227 cM
 Brenda Coleman	 +	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 21 cM Paternal side	Ryan Dirks's: 1st cousin 2x removed or 2nd cousin 204 cM

And here is my guess at where Ryan Dirks fits into the family:



I hope to learn more about this sometime soon.

Summary: In this narrative, I began with my DNA match with *mtmiller22*. With the help of my distant cousin Brenda Coleman (née Klennert), I learned that this man was Mark Miller. I also have DNA matches with Mark’s children, Kyle and Brooke. I was able to construct a small family tree showing how these four people are related to each other. They all are descendants of Glenn Merrill Dwelle (1875-1956), who was a fifth-cousin of my father, Burks Oakley (1898-1969).

I also have a DNA match with Ryan Dirks, who is a close relative of Mark Miller. I constructed a hypothetical family tree showing how Ryan might be related to the others.

Based on the “Shared DNA Matches” that I have with the five *Dwelle* descendants mentioned in this narrative, I have every reason to believe that they all have the *Oakley-Browne* DNA segment on Chromosome 15. And this in and of itself is an incredibly noteworthy finding, in that this DNA segment goes back to Miles

Oakley III (1612-1672) and his wife Mary Browne (1607-1682). This couple were born in Saffron Walden, England, in the early 1600's and immigrated to America in the mid-1600's.