

My Ancestral Lines to Edmund Crouchback – Connecting My Great-Grandparents Aaron Burr Oakley and Hannah Mariah Miller

By Burks Oakley II
3 May 2026

On my father's side of the family, I had two very different groups of ancestors. My **Oakley-Miller** ancestors immigrated from England and settled in New England. My **Burks-Crawford** ancestors immigrated from Scotland and Ireland and settled in Virginia. My sense is that these two groups of people led very different lives (Puritans vs. Southerners). These two branches on the paternal side of my family tree came together when Ray Miller Oakley (1876-1948) married Kate Cameron Burks (1873-1954) in Quincy, Illinois, in 1897.

Since King Charles III (of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) was in the USA this past week, I've spent time looking at my ancestors who were English royalty. So that means that I focused on my **Oakley-Miller** line. My most recent narrative is on my personal website at:

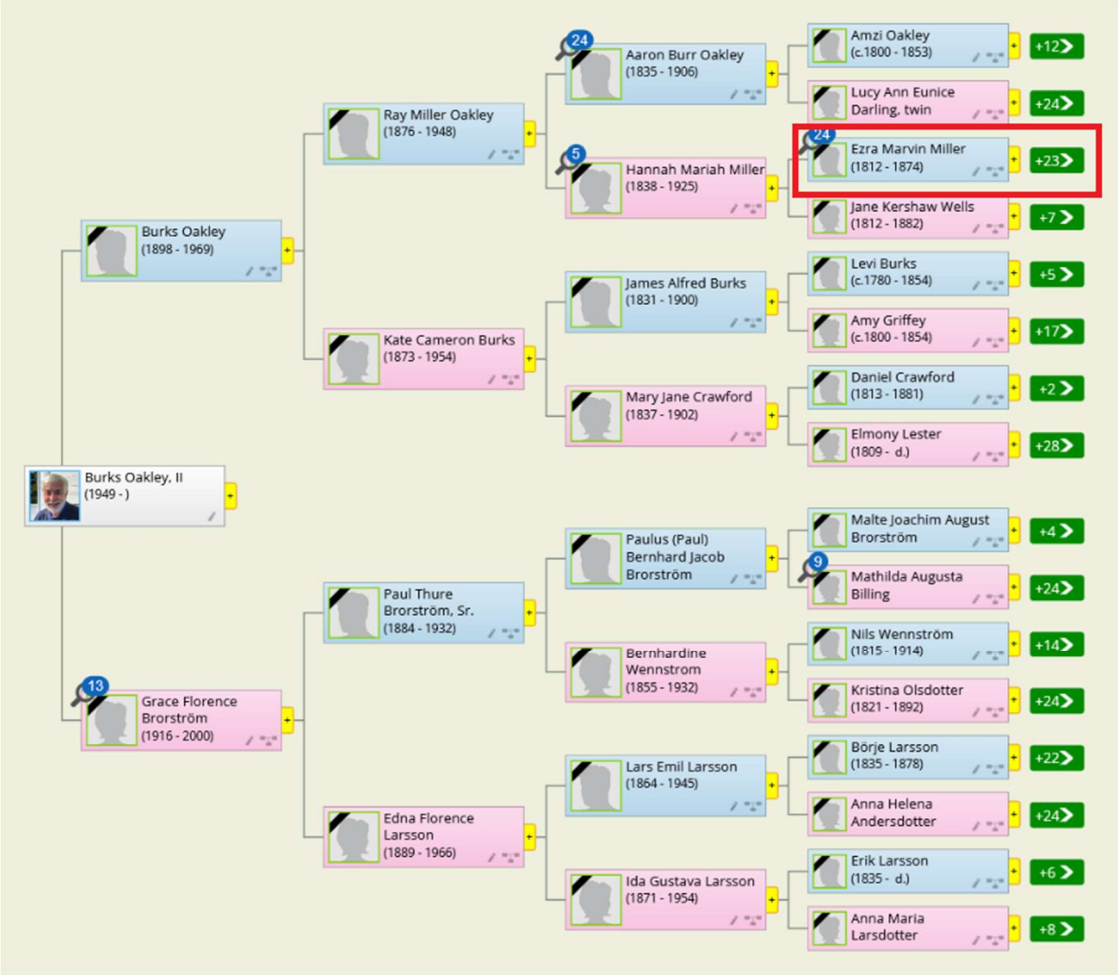
http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/WilliamConyers_30Apr26.pdf

That narrative ended with something about being descended from Eleanor of Aquitaine. I'll eventually get to her in this narrative, but by different ancestral lines.

I have to admit that I had no idea where I was going when I started writing the present narrative. I kept finding more and more interesting things to include. I must have changed the focus of this narrative a half dozen times or more. And I ended up learning things about our **Oakley-Miller** family that I never would have imagined. So let's get started.

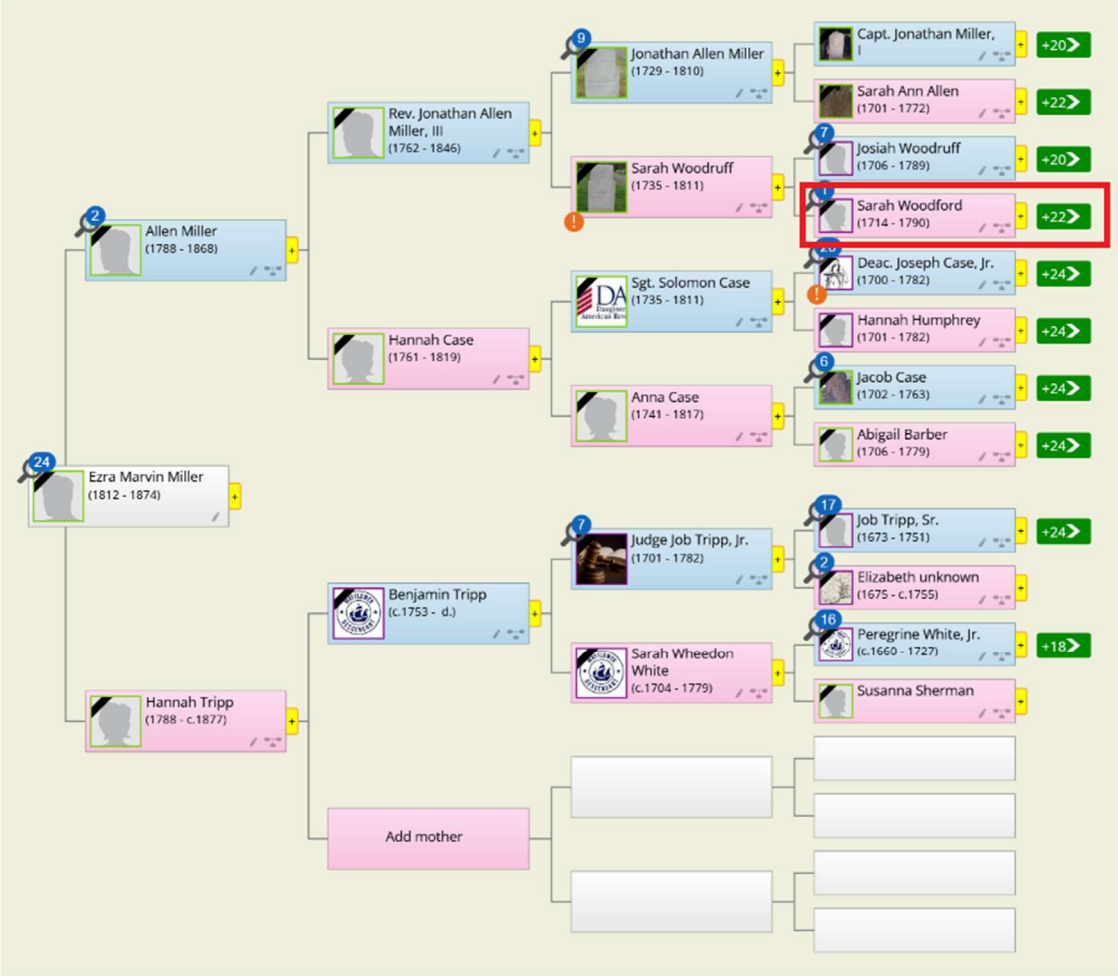
A few days ago, I viewed my family tree on the Geni.com website, and I went back on my **Oakley-Miller** line until I found something interesting (or at least something that I thought was interesting).

Here is my ancestral line back to my 2nd-great grandfather, Ezra Marvin Miller (1812-1874):

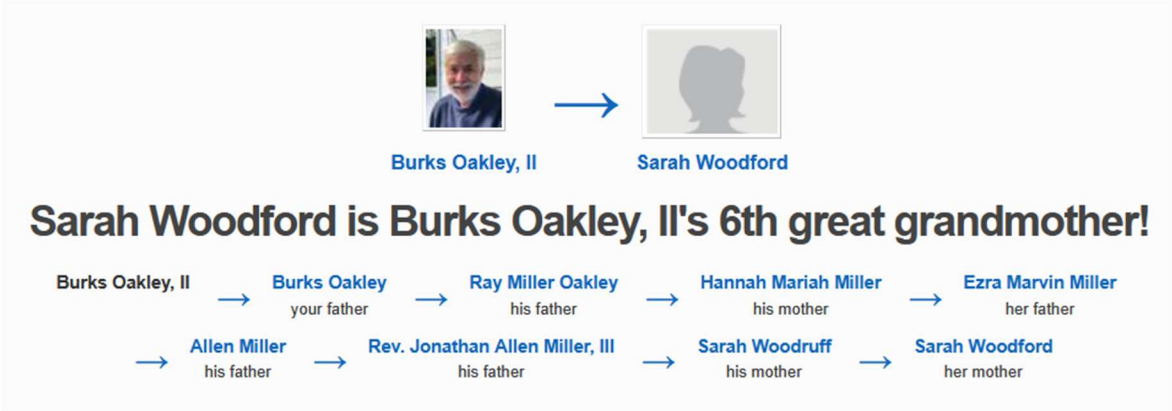


Ezra is in the red rectangle at the upper-right of this chart.

Then I viewed my line from Ezra Marvin Miller back to Sarah Woodford (1714-1790):



Sarah Woodford appears in the red rectangle at the upper-right of this chart. If you are counting, Sarah Woodford was my 6th-great grandmother:



I mentioned that this branch of my family tree lived in New England, and Sarah Woodford is certainly a good example of this. Here is her profile from Geni.com:

Sarah Woodford

Gender: Female

Birth: June 04, 1714
Farmington, Hartford County, Connecticut Colony

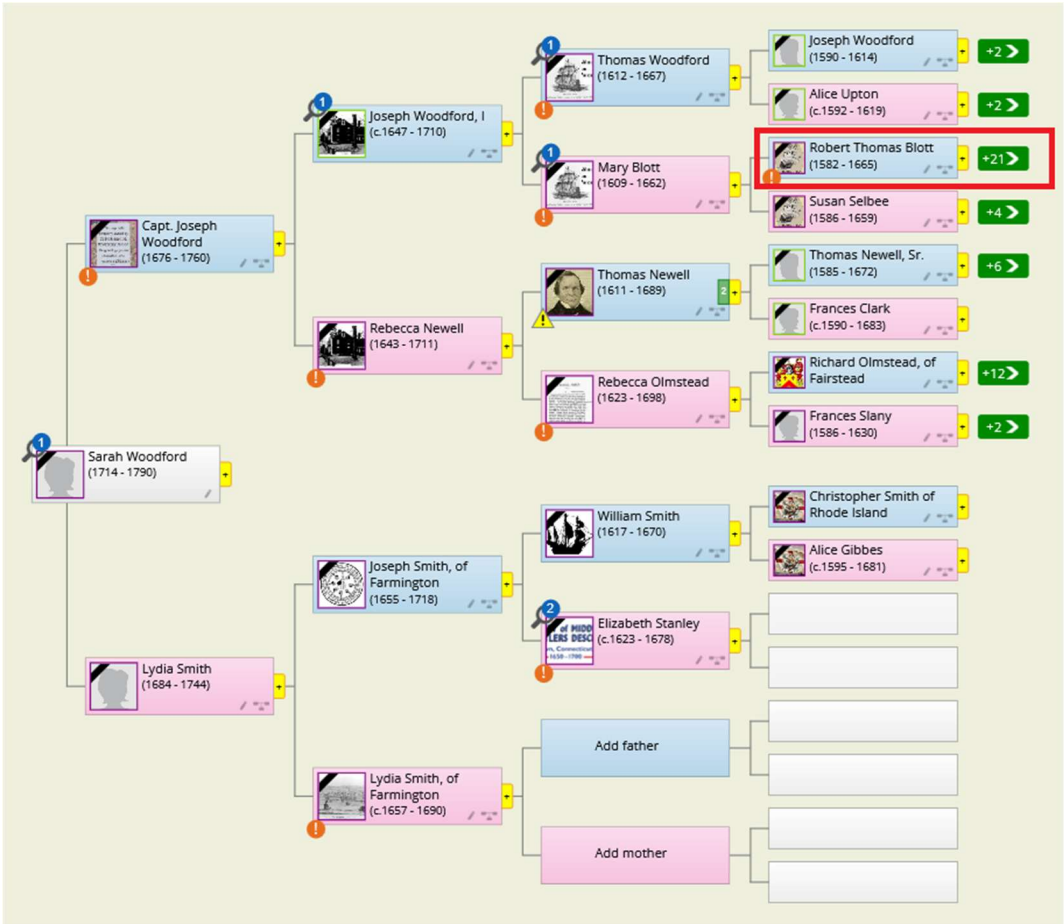
Death: November 28, 1790 (76)
Farmington, Hartford County, Connecticut, United States

Place of Burial: Hartford, Connecticut, United States

Immediate Family: Daughter of [Capt. Joseph Woodford](#) and [Lydia Smith](#)
Wife of [Josiah Woodruff](#)
Mother of [Sarah Woodruff](#); [Appleton Woodruff](#); [Elisha Woodruff](#); [Phebe Woodruff](#); [Lydia Woodruff](#) and 5 others
Sister of [Lydia Woodford](#); [Sgt. Joseph Woodford, III](#); [Elizabeth Woodford](#); [Mary Woodford](#); [Samuel Woodford](#) and 6 others

It appears that she lived her entire life in Farmington, Connecticut; this town is southwest of Hartford, in the Farmington River Valley.

Continuing on, here is my line from Sarah Woodford back to her 2nd-great grandfather, Robert Thomas Blott (1582-1665):



Robert Thomas Blott appears in the red rectangle at the upper-right of this chart. In all honesty, I had no idea about this man – the **Blott** surname doesn't mean anything to me. I just checked the RootsMagic database on my Windows PC, and I don't have an entry for Robert Thomas Blott – this line ends with his daughter, Mary Blott (1609-1662).

It turns out that Robert Thomas Blott was a Puritan who immigrated to America in 1634 as part of the Great Migration. His daughter Mary immigrated (as a single woman) two years earlier, in 1632. Here is the profile for Robert Thomas Blott from Geni.com:



Robert Thomas Blott

Gender:

Male

Birth:

January 11, 1582
Waltham, Essex, England

Death:

March 21, 1665 (83)
Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts Bay Colony, British Colonial America

Immediate Family:

Son of [John Blott](#) and [Margaret Peck](#)
Husband of [Susan Selbee](#)
Father of [Mary Blott](#); [John Green Cloth Blott](#); [Elizabeth Green? Green Tosier Blott](#); [Robert Blott](#); [Ann Blott](#) and 9 others
Brother of [William Blott](#); [John Blott](#); [Elizabeth Blott](#); [Mary Blott](#); [Alice Blott](#) and 5 others
Half brother of [Ursula Blott](#)

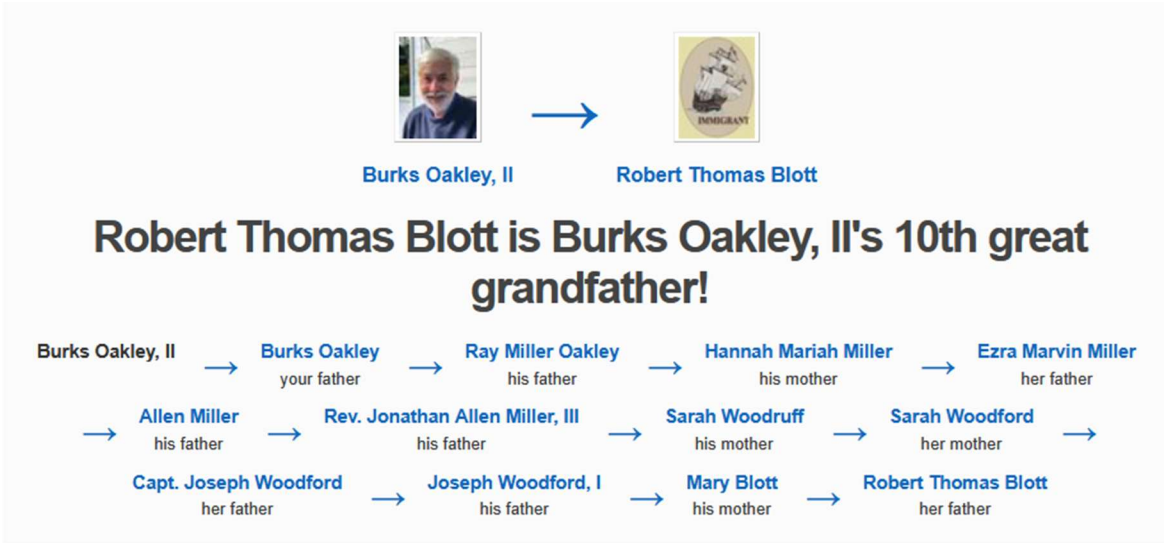
<https://www.geni.com/people/Robert-Blott/6000000004993261714>

There is a really good source of information about Mary Blott online:

<https://ancestorbios.blogspot.com/2025/09/maid-servant-in-colonial-massachusetts.html>

Well worth reading!

If I have counted correctly, Mary Blott was my 9th-great grandmother. Of course, this means that her father, Robert Thomas Blott, was my 10th-great grandfather:

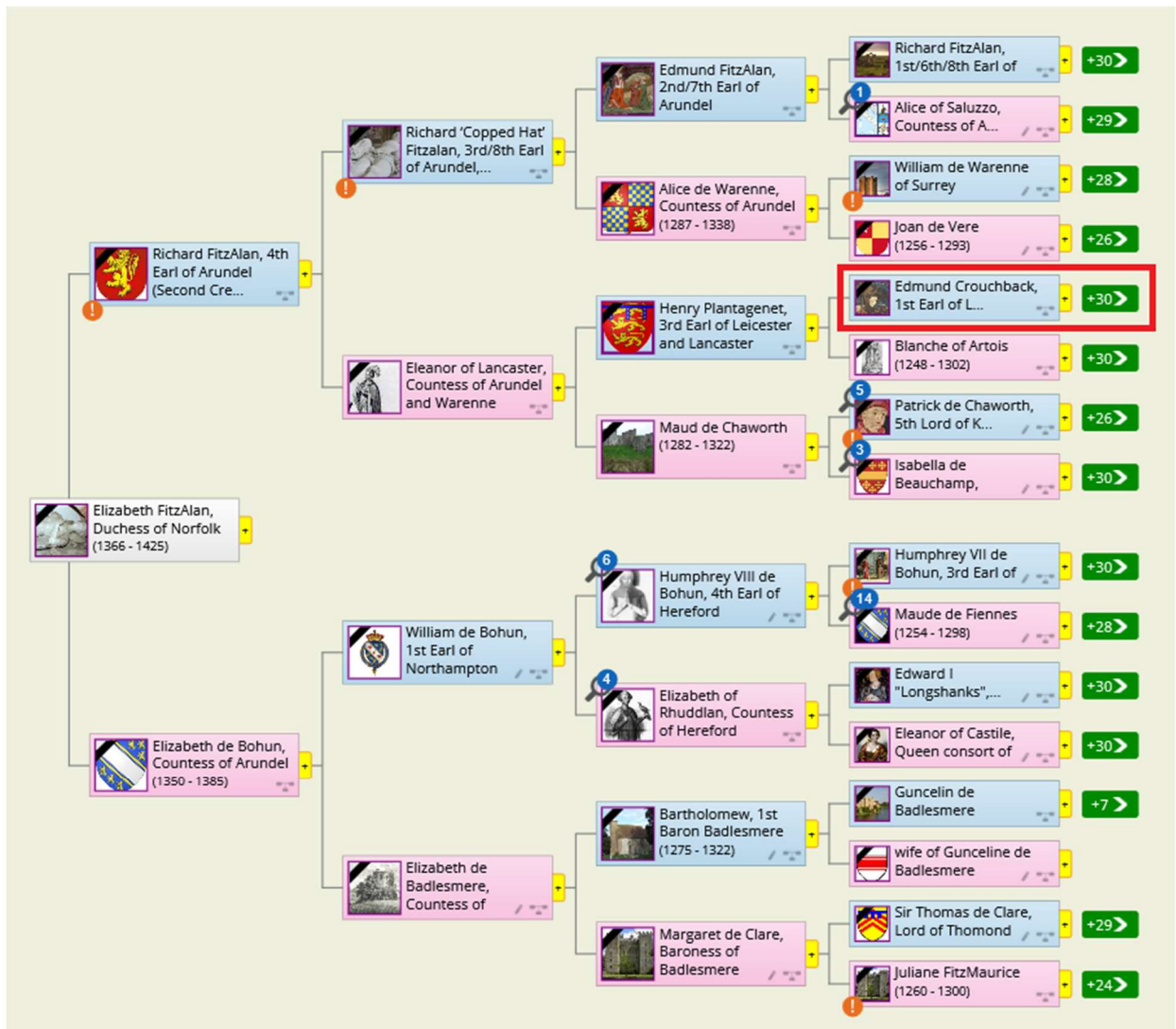


I then followed my ancestral line from Robert Thomas Blott to Sir John Leake of Sutton (1458-1529):

Oh my! Where should I begin? It looks like Sir John had a number of really important ancestors – they had titles such as K.G. (Knight of the Garter), Kt. (Knight), MP (Member of Parliament), Baron, Baroness, Sir, titular King of Mann, and Duchess of Norfolk.

This last person was Elizabeth FitzAlan, Dutchess of Norfolk (1366-1425), and she seemed as good a choice to follow as any. She is in the red rectangle in the lower-right of the chart shown on the previous page. If you are counting, Elizabeth FitzAlan was my 18th-great grandmother. And note that she is a “30”, meaning that all sixteen of her 2nd-great grandparents are known.

Here is the pedigree chart for Elizabeth FitzAlan:

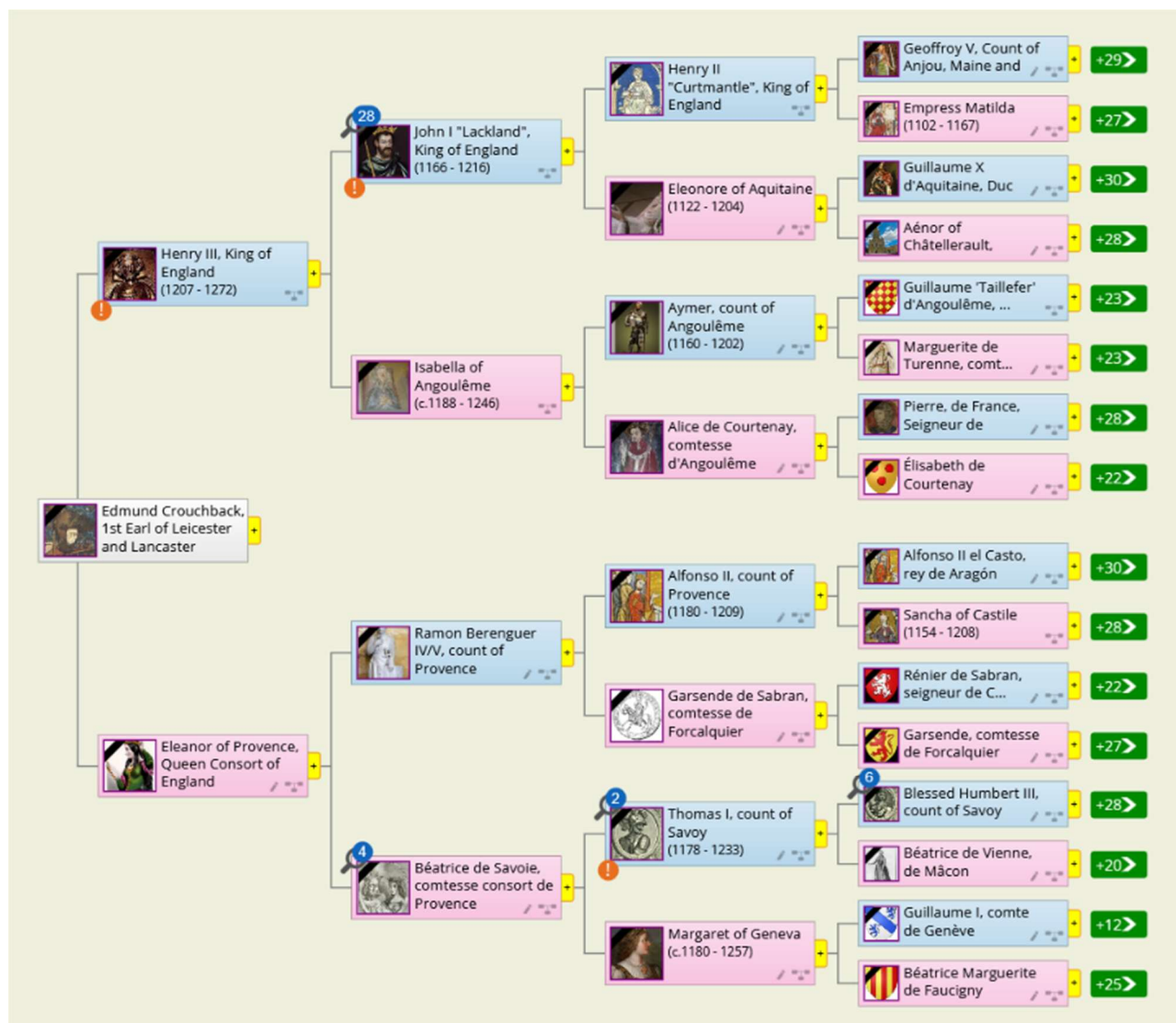


One of Elizabeth's 2nd-great grandfathers was Edmund Crouchback, First Earl of Leicester and Lancaster (1245-1296), and Edmund is a "30". He appears in the red rectangle in this pedigree chart.

So now I've gotten to my 22nd-great grandfather (on the line I've been following), and he also is a "30" (and, of course, this means that I can go a number more generations back into the past).

Note that another one of Elizabeth's 2nd-great grandfathers was King Edward I "Longshanks". But I'll go with Edmund Crouchback, 1st Earl of Leicester and Lancaster.

Here is the pedigree chart for Edmund Crouchback:



Edmund's paternal line is full of English Kings and other nobility! Now we are back to the 1100's. And the amazing thing about all this is that ALL of these people are my ancestors!!

Edmund Crouchback's father was Henry III, King of England. Why wasn't Edmund his successor? There must have been an older brother. And in fact, that older brother was King Edward I "Longshanks". So this is pretty cool – Edmund Crouchback was the son of a King of England, as well as a younger brother of a King of England.²

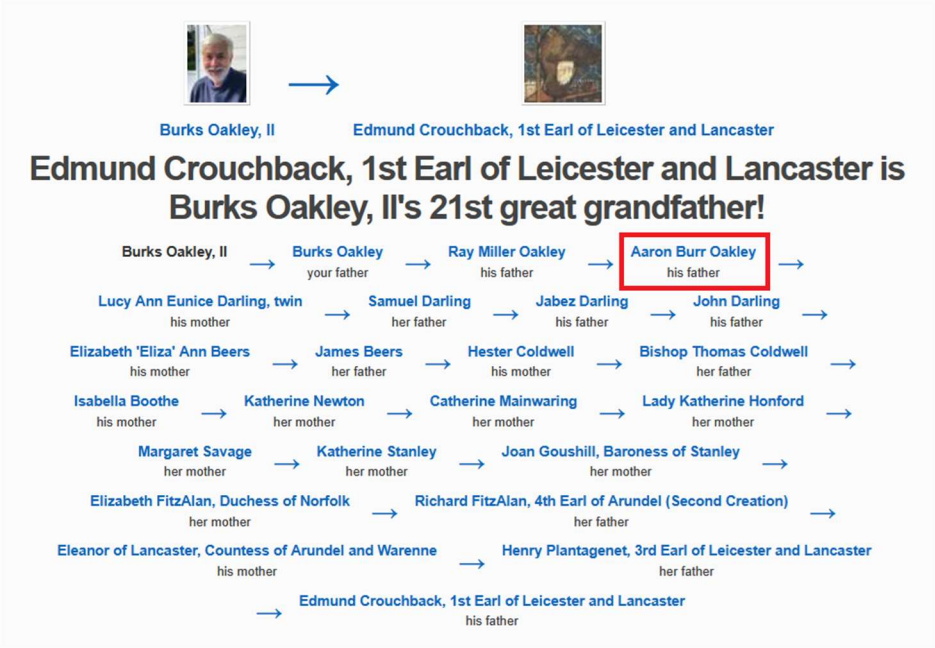
At this point, I stopped and reviewed my ancestral line back to Edmund Crouchback. But when I did this, I saw a very different ancestral line than the one I took to get to this man.

What do you think I found?

Scroll down...

Go on to the next page...

² No comparisons with Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, please...



To review, the line I took to get back to Edmund Crouchback went through Ezra Marvin Miller, Robert Thomas Blott, Sir John Leake of Sutton, and Elizabeth FitzAlan. But the ancestral line shown above is nowhere near like that one. In fact, this line doesn't even go through Ezra Marvin Miller; it goes through Aaron Burr Oakley.

Wow! I have one line back to Edmund Crouchback through my *Miller* family, and I have a different line through my *Oakley* family.

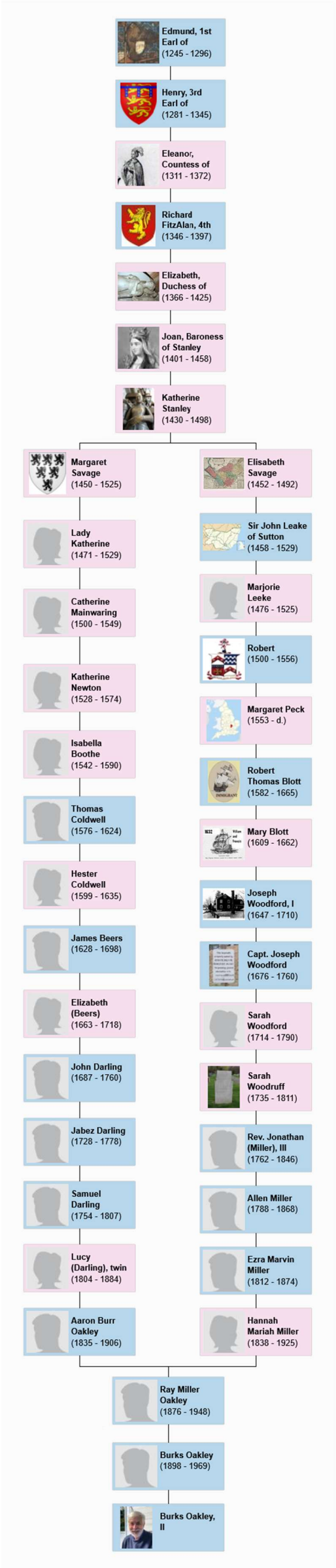
This certainly reminds me of looking at my twelve ancestral lines back to King Edward I of England:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/50-MyLines-to-KingEdward.pdf>

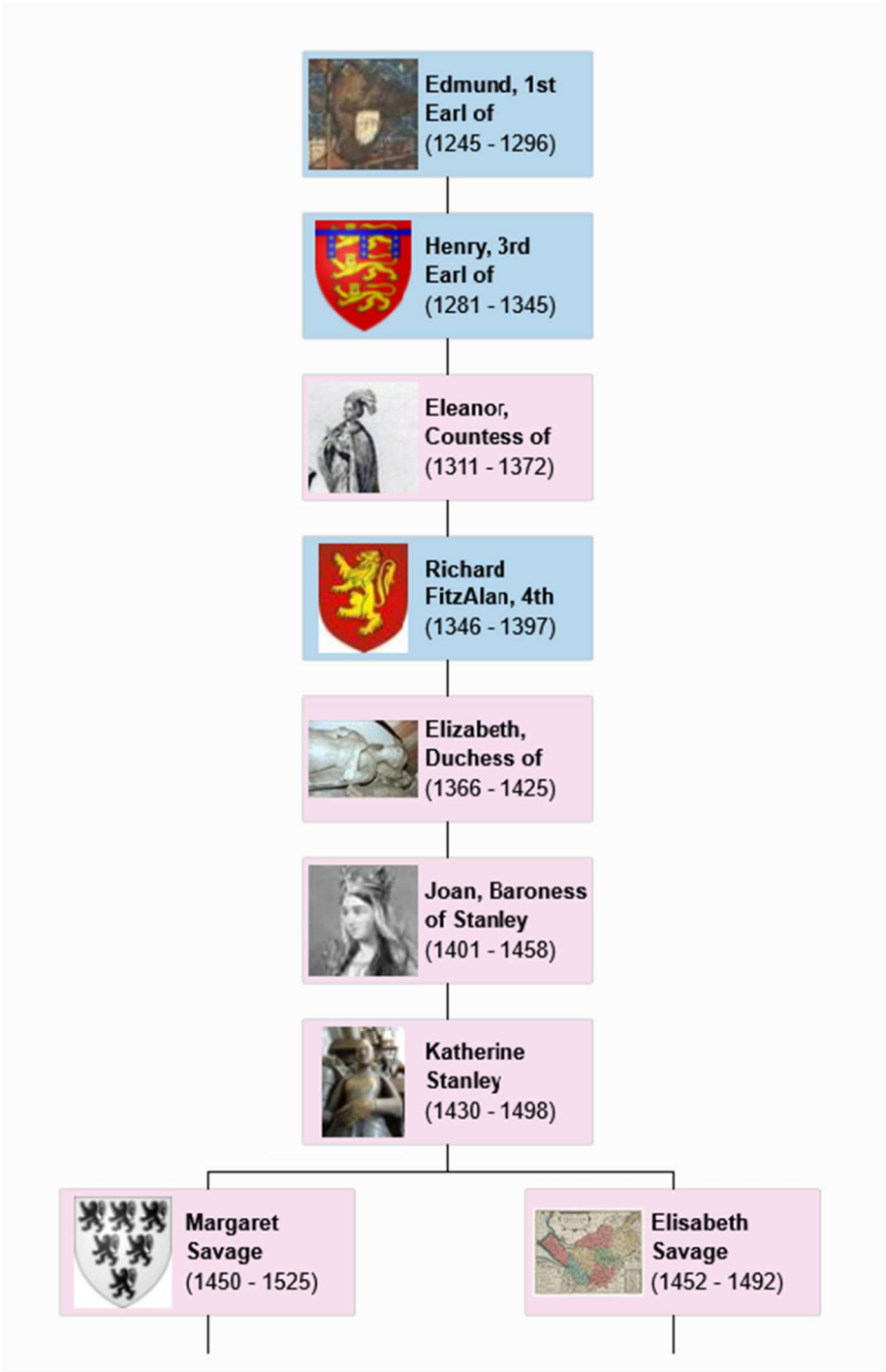
I spent a couple of hours trying to figure this out. And here is what I came up with.

I have at least two ancestral lines going back to Edmund Crouchback. I originally got to Edmund Crouchback by following my *Miller* line, going back through Hannah Mariah Miller and her father Ezra Marvin Miller. But Geni.com always shows the shortest ancestral line, and that is my line back through Aaron Burr Oakley, who was Hannah's husband. OMG! This means that Aaron and Hannah were distant cousins.

I finally was able to construct a chart showing all of this:

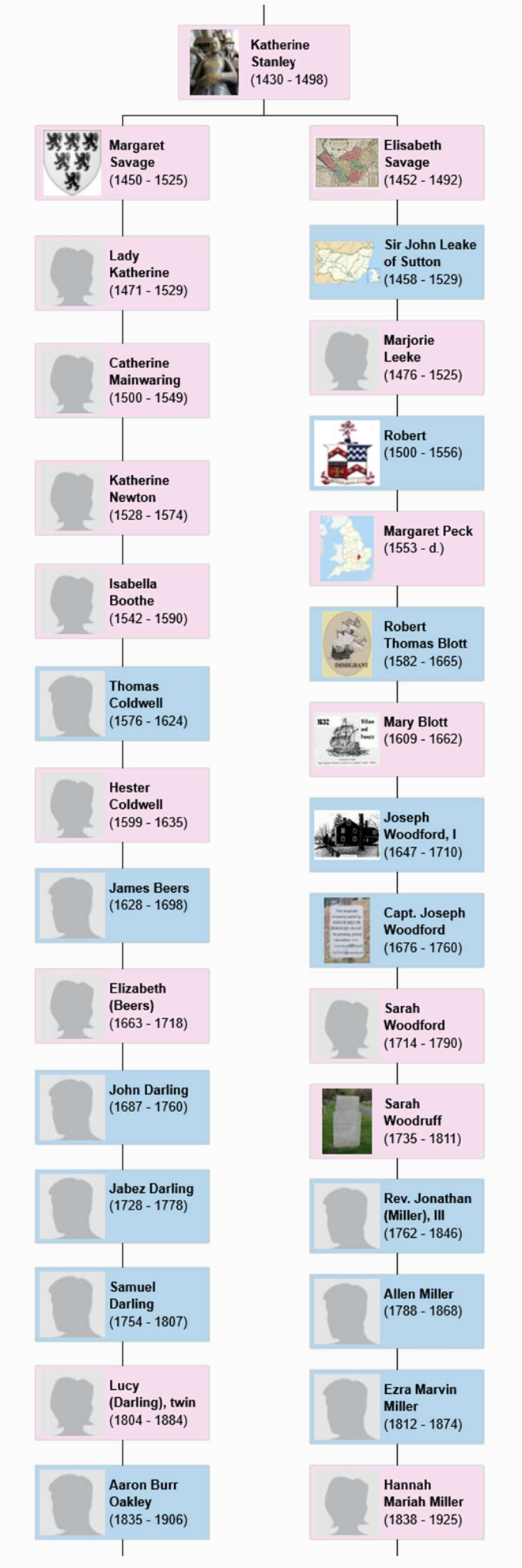


Let me break this chart into several pieces. Here is the top of the chart:



In both the ***Oakley*** and the ***Miller*** lines, the first seven generations down from Edmund Crouchback are the same. But then Katherine Stanley (married name ***Savage***) had two daughters – Margaret and Elisabeth. Aaron Burr Oakley was descended from Margaret and Hannah Mariah Miller was descended from Elisabeth. Of course, this means that Aaron and Hannah were distant cousins.

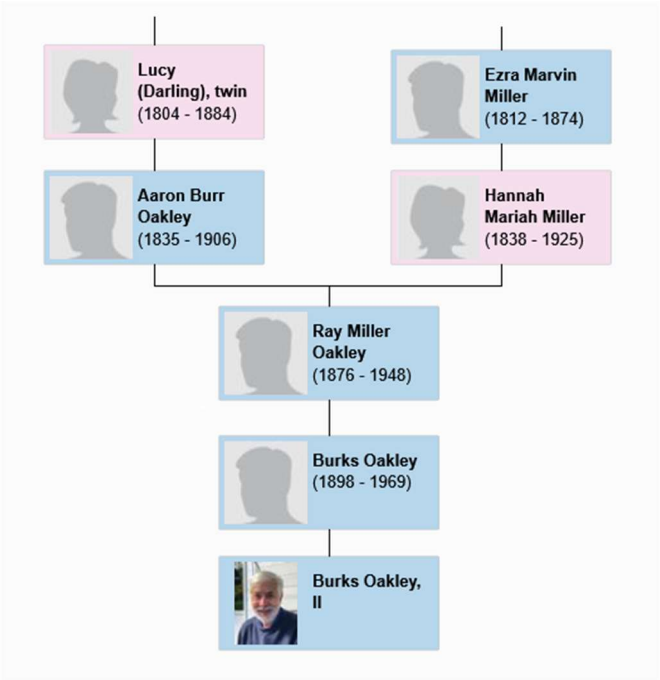
Continuing on, here are the lines going down from Margaret and Elisabeth:



Note that Hannah’s line (on the right) goes back through Ezra Marvin Miller, Sarah Woodruff, Robert Thomas Blott, and Sir John Leake of Sutton.

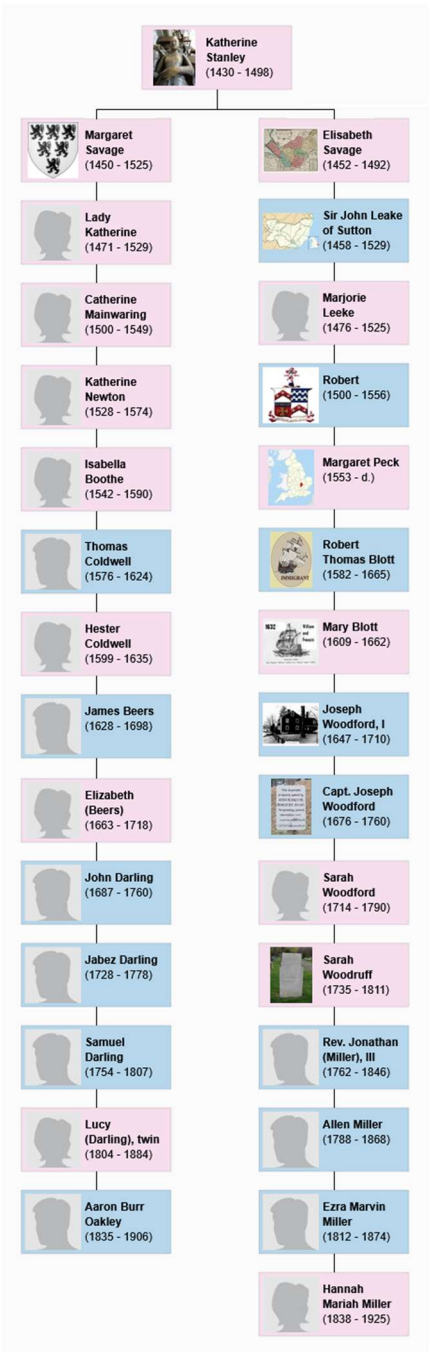
Note also that these two lines are off by one generation. There is one more generation between Hannah Mariah Miller and Katherine Stanley than there is between Aaron Burr Oakley and Katherine Stanley. Since the ***Oakley*** line is shorter, that is the line that Geni.com displayed.

Finally, here is the bottom part of the chart:



This part of the chart shows the ***Oakley*** and ***Miller*** lines coming together in my paternal grandfather, Ray Miller Oakley.

Here is another chart showing how Ray and Hannah were related:

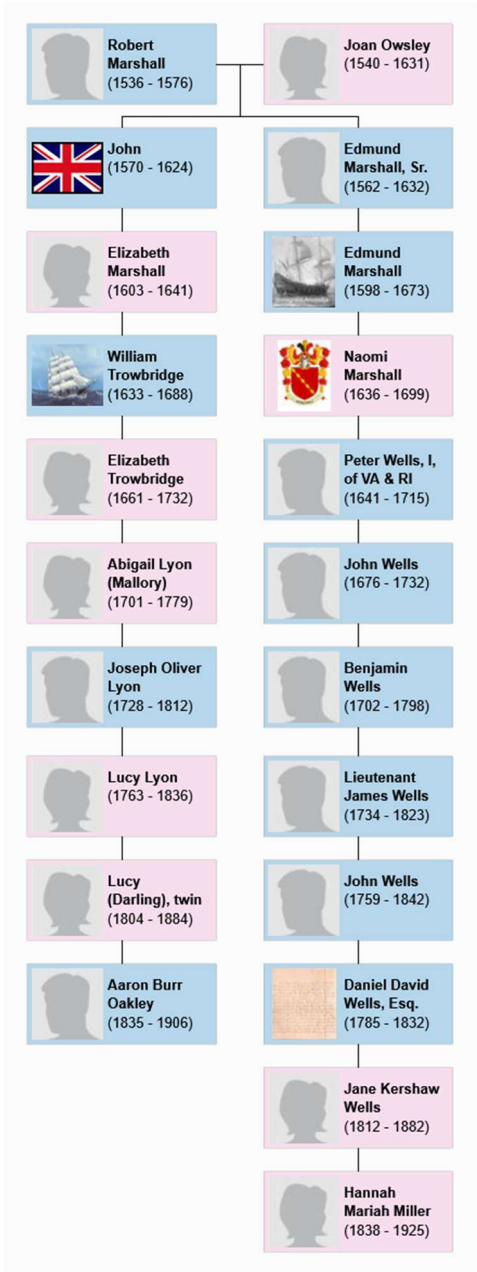


According to my count, Aaron and Hannah were 13th-cousins once-removed. Phew!

Having figured this out, I wondered if Geni.com would come up with the same relationship. So I looked to see how Aaron and Hannah were related – and the result really surprised me.



Oh my! Aaron and Hannah are also related in a completely different way!!



Aaron and Hannah both were descended from Robert Marshall (1536-1576) and Jane Owsley (1540-1631). On these ancestral lines, Aaron and Hannah were 8th-cousins twice-removed. Amazing!

I should add that I am somewhat puzzled by this line, since I have a very different ancestral line going back from Daniel David Wells (1785-1832). And I have a number of DNA matches on Ancestry.com that support my version of the ancestral line. I'll certainly have to look into this when I have time.

Returning to my ancestral lines going back to Edmund Crouchback, I started thinking that I should have more than just the two lines. Recall that I have twelve distinct lines going back to King Edward I. So I started looking at some of my other ancestors whose families had immigrated from England and settled in New England.

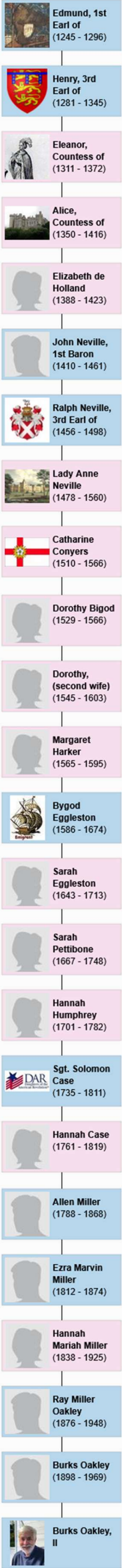
I hit paydirt when I looked at Hannah Case (1761-1819):



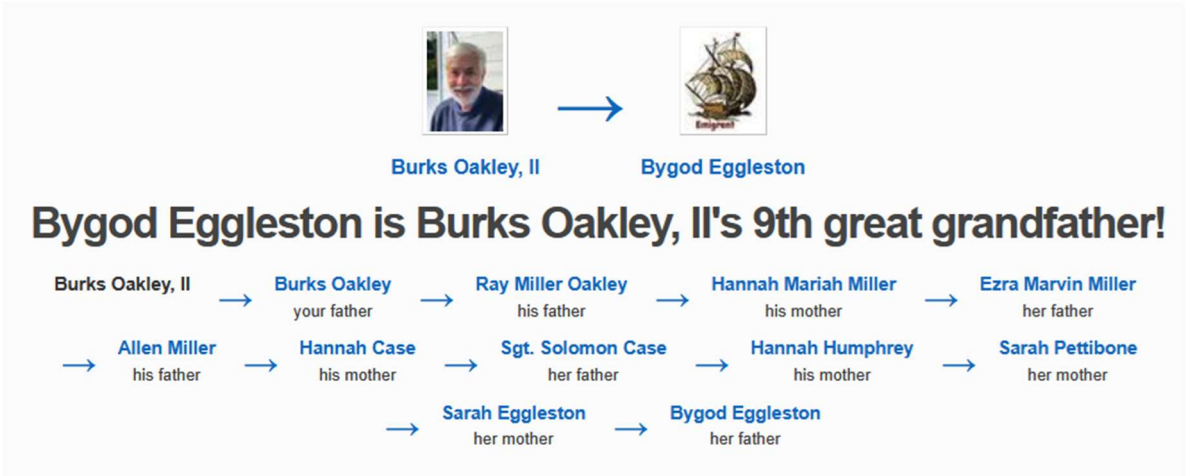
Here is my line back to Hannah Case:



Putting this information together, I was able to construct the following chart:



In looking at this line, I had Sarah Eggleston (1643-1713) in the RootsMagic database on my Windows computer, but I didn't have her father, Bygod Eggleston (1586-1674), or any of his ancestors.



Bygod Eggleston was my 9th-great grandfather, and an English immigrant.



Bygod Eggleston

Gender: Male

Birth: February 20, 1586
Settrington, East Riding of Yorkshire, England

Death: September 01, 1674 (88)
Windsor, Hartford County, Connecticut Colony

Place of Burial: Palisado Cemetery, Windsor, Hartford County, Connecticut, United States

Immediate Family: Son of James Eggleston and Margaret Harker
Husband of Bygod Eggleston's 1st wife and Bygod Eggleston's 2nd wife
Father of James Eggleston; Mary Eggleston; James Eggleston, of Windsor; John Eggleston; Samuel Eggleston; Mary Eggleston; Thomas Eggleston; Sarah Eggleston; Rebecca Eggleston; Abigail Eggleston; Joseph Eggleston, Sr. and Benjamin Eggleston« less
Brother of Simeon Eggleston; Dorothy Eggleston; Elizabeth Eggleston; Jane Eggleston; Juliana Eggleston and 4 others

Another immigrant who eventually settled in the Hartford, Connecticut, area.

This immediately brought up a few questions in my mind:

- What kind of name is Bygod?
- When did he immigrate to America?

So of course, I Googled “man’s name bygod” – and what do you think I found?

Go on to the next page...

Google

man's name bygod

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AI Overview

"Bygod" (or Bigod/Bigot) is a historic surname of Norman origin, often associated with a prominent 12th-13th century family in England (Earls of Norfolk). Another historical figure, Bigod Eggleston (1586–1674), was a notable American colonist. It is also occasionally used in literary or religious contexts to mean one named by or for God, sometimes spelled Bigod.

Key Associations with Bygod/Bigod:

- **The Bigod Family:** A powerful Anglo-Norman noble family, with prominent members including Roger Bigod, 2nd Earl of Norfolk, and Hugh Bigod, 3rd Earl of Norfolk.
- **Bigod Eggleston:** A New England colonist known for his long life, whose given name "Bigod" was likely chosen to honor the noble family in Yorkshire.
- **Usage Context:** While rare, the surname was derived from the Norman French "bigot," and often recorded in Medieval England as Bygod, Bigot, or Bigode.

My goodness! It turns out that Bygod (Bigod) Eggleston was a well-known New England colonist! And looking at the ancestral line back from Bygod Eggleston to Edmund Crouchback, I see that one of Bygod's great-grandmothers was Dorothy Bigod (1529-1566). So this sure fits.

Since Bigod Eggleston was apparently a prominent figure in Windsor, Connecticut, the Windsor Historical Society has a nice write-up about him. See:

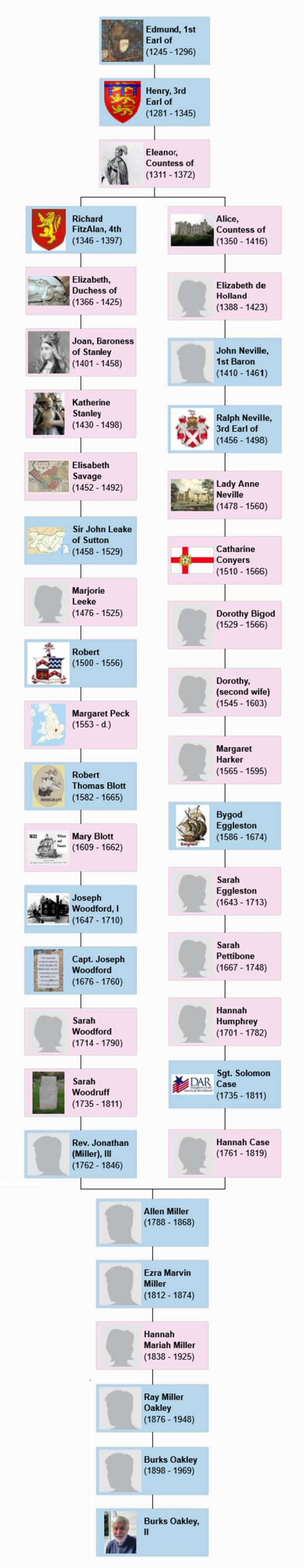
<https://windsorhistoricalsociety.org/founders-series-bigod-eggleston/>

He immigrated in 1630 as part of the Great Migration, and he first settled in Massachusetts. Then at some time, he moved to Windsor, Connecticut.

Here is an interesting excerpt from the write-up:

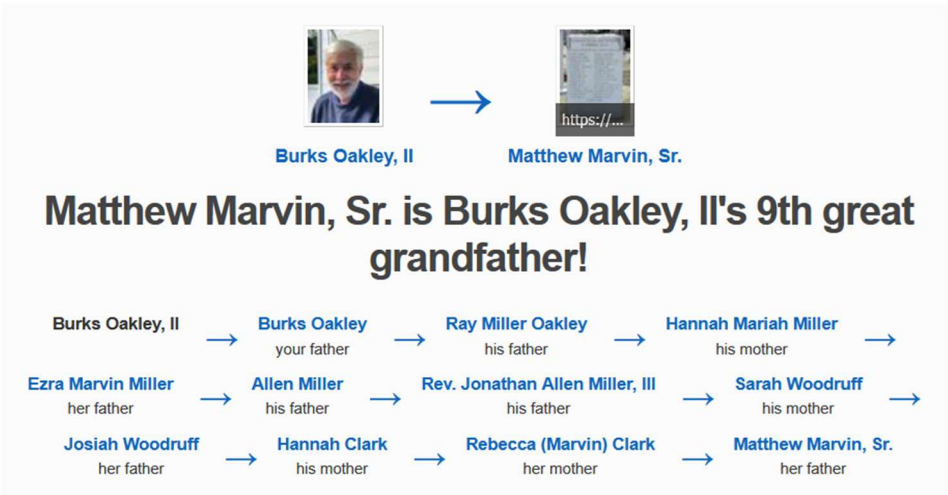
One estimate suggests that Bigod Eggleston is the ancestor of more than 12 million Americans. Some of those Americans are also descended from the wife he tried to give away. Aside from that one court incident, Bigod exemplified the American dream and the Puritan work ethic, amassing wealth he could pass on to his family and continuing to work for as long as he could.

I next compared the "Hannah Case" line with the *Miller* line that I had originally found:

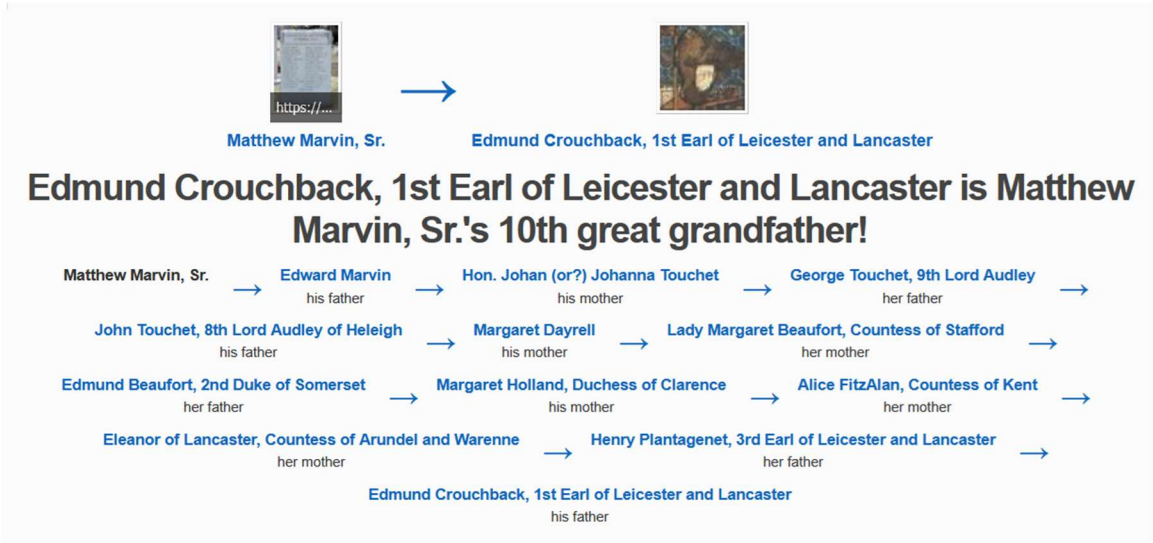


These two lines are on the **Miller** side of my family – going back through Hannah Mariah Miller and her father Ezra Marvin Miller.

I also found that I have an ancestral line going back to Edmund Crouchback through my 9th-great grandfather, Matthew Marvin Sr. (1600-1678). Here is my line back to Matthew:



And here is Matthew’s line back to Edmund Crouchback:

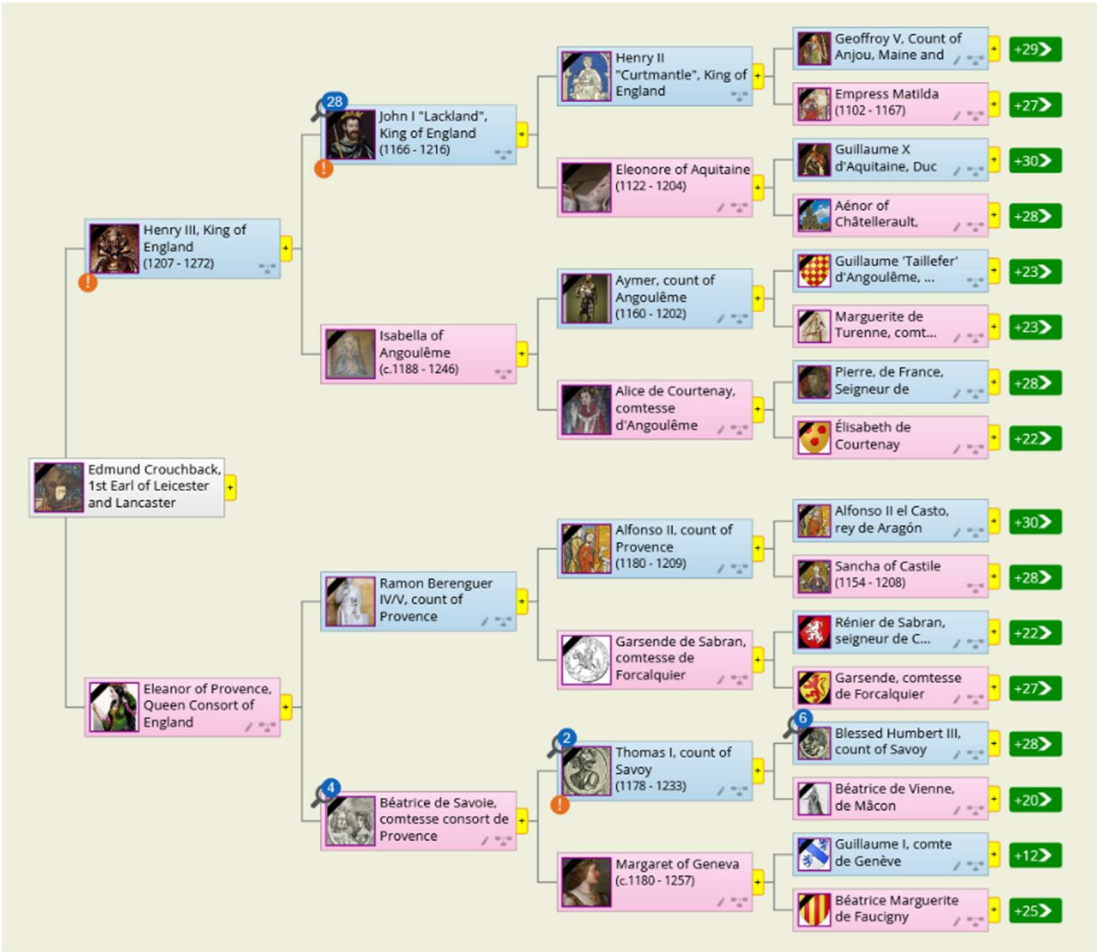


As one might expect, Matthew Marvin Sr. came to America in 1635 as part of the Great Migration.

I’m sure I could find more lines going back to Edmund Crouchback through my New England ancestors, if I only had the patience to do so.

At this point, I realized that I really got sidetracked as I looked into this – it would appear that I can’t keep focused on any single topic – but in reality, I just find all of it extremely interesting.

At any rate, I started this narrative by tracing my **Miller** ancestral line back to Edmund Crouchback – and I saw that he had some incredibly interesting ancestors (of course, HIS ancestors are MY ancestors). Here again is Edmund’s pedigree chart:



I guess I could spend another ten pages or more discussing his ancestors, but I'll spare everyone that agony. But let me just say that Edmund's father was King Henry III, his paternal grandfather was King John I "Lackland". And King John's parents were King Henry II "Curtmantle" and Eleanor of Aquitaine.

And remember that Eleanor of Aquitaine (1122-1204) was Queen of France from 1137 to 1152 as the wife of King Louis VII, and Queen of England from 1154 to 1189 as the wife of King Henry II.

What an incredible set of ancestors I have!!

And that is where I'm going to leave this narrative.

Having written that, I found lots more about several of my ancestral lines while working on this narrative. I'll come back to some of these new findings in a subsequent narrative.