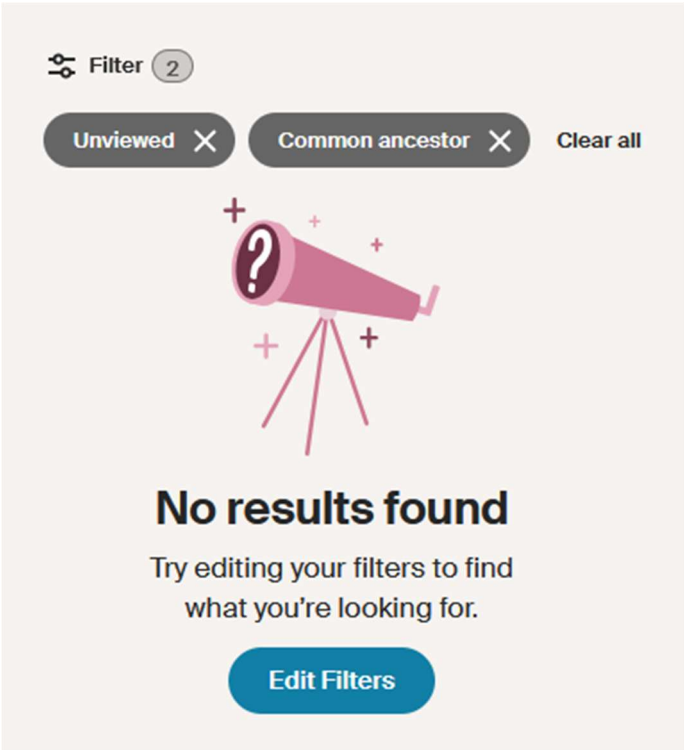


My New DNA Match with Felicity Lynn – Going Back on my *Oakley-Darling* Line

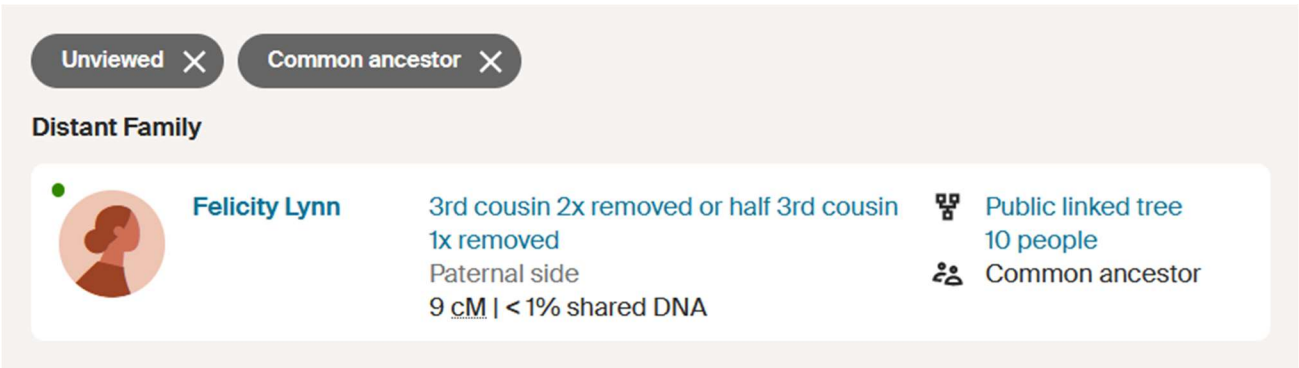
By Burks Oakley II
16 March 2026

I am interested in genetic genealogy – that is, the use of DNA to confirm and to extend my family tree. I make extensive use of the Ancestry.com website in this hobby/pastime/obsession.

When I visit the Ancestry.com website (which is typically daily), I usually view all my DNA matches and then filter them so that I only see those DNA matches that meet two criteria: (1) software on Ancestry.com has identified our common ancestors and (2) I have not viewed the DNA match previously. Most days, this process turns up zero new matches to examine:



But a few days ago, this search turned up my new DNA match with a woman named Felicity Lynn:



Felicity and I share just 9 cM of DNA, so we are likely to be rather distant relatives. My DNA match with Felicity is on my father’s side of my family.

When I looked at my DNA match with Felicity, I learned that she and I are both descended from Samuel Darling (1754-1807) and his wife Lucy Lyon (1760-1836):

How are you and Felicity Lynn related?

Common Ancestors

Samuel Darling

3rd great-grandfather

1754–1807

View Relationship

Lucy Lyon

3rd great-grandmother

1760–1836

View Relationship

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

Felicity Lynn could be your 4th cousin 2x removed through:

This couple were my third-great grandparents, and they lived in Fairfield County, Connecticut. [More about the ***Darling*** family in the Appendix.]

Here is a chart showing how Felicity and I are related:

Relationship to Felicity Lynn

You may be related to Felicity Lynn through Samuel Darling

Samuel Darling

3rd great-grandfather

1754-1807

Lucy Lyon

3rd great-grandmother

1760-1836

Lucy A E Darling

2nd great-grandmother

1804-1884

Samuel Lyon Darling

2nd great-granduncle

1800-1871

Aaron Burr Oakley

Great-grandfather

1835-1906

Rachel Darling

1st cousin 3x removed

1858-1943

Ray Miller Oakley

Paternal grandfather

1876-1948

Lucy Smith

2nd cousin 2x removed

1894-1980

Burks Oakley

Father

1898-1969

Homer Benson Brown

3rd cousin 1x removed

1925-2002

Burks Oakley

Private

4th cousin

Kristopher Manhollan

4th cousin 1x removed

1973-2015

FL

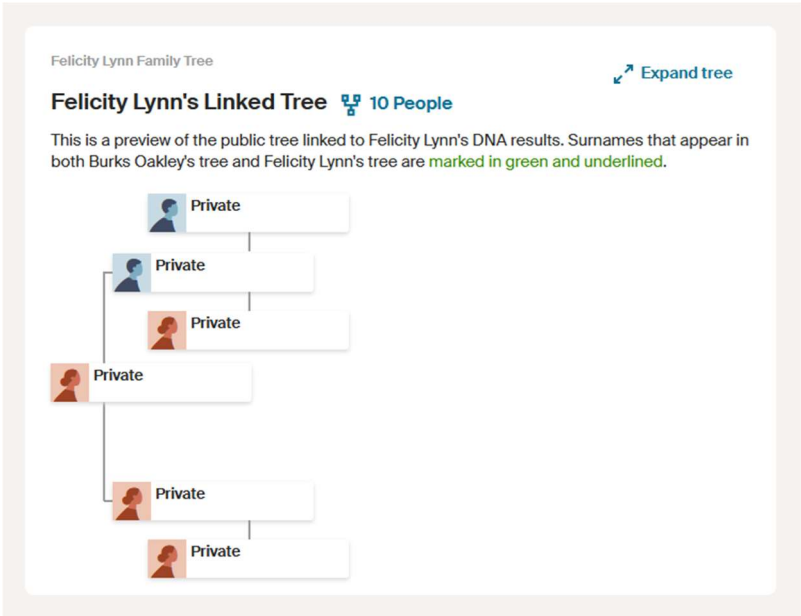
Felicity Lynn

4th cousin 2x removed

9 cM | 1 segments

I am descended from the ***Darling-Lyon*** couple through their daughter Lucy Ann Eunice Darling (1804-1884), while Felicity is descended from this couple through their son Samuel Lyon Darling (1800-1871). Based on this chart, I am a fourth-cousin of Felicity’s paternal grandmother, which means that Felicity and I are fourth-cousins twice-removed.

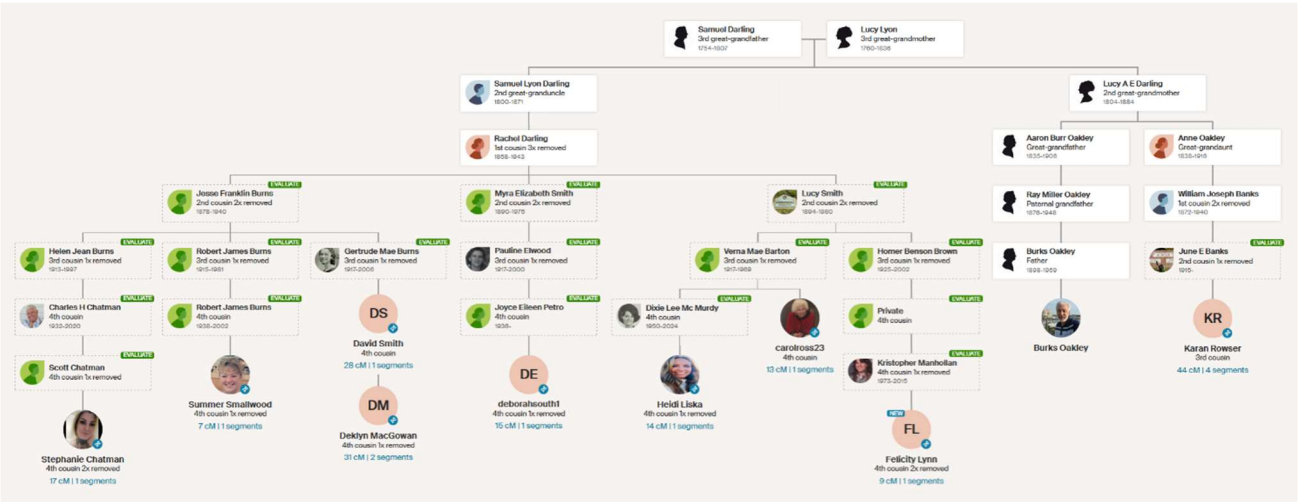
I am always amazed when I see relationship charts like the one on the previous page, since Felicity’s family tree on Ancestry.com only goes back to include three of her four grandparents:



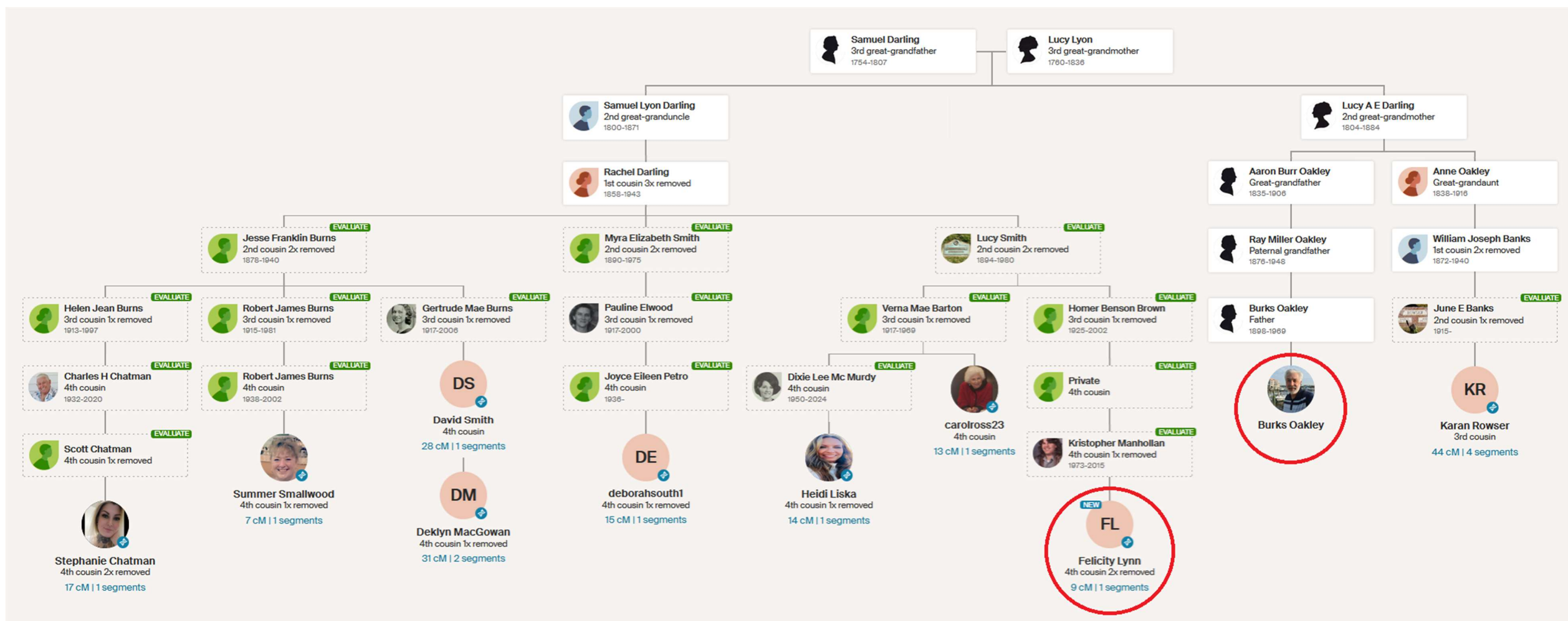
I next looked at the DNA matches that Felicity and I have in common – our so-called “Shared DNA Matches”. Here are eight of these matches where our common ancestors are known:

Shared match:	Your:	Felicity Lynn's:
 Karan Rowser   	Your: 3rd cousin 44 cM Paternal side	Felicity Lynn's: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 20 cM
 Deklyn MacGowan Managed by kmacgowan215   	Your: 4th cousin 1x removed 31 cM Paternal side	Felicity Lynn's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 36 cM
 David Smith Managed by kmacgowan215   	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 28 cM Paternal side	Felicity Lynn's: 2nd cousin 2x removed or half 1st cousin 3x removed 68 cM
 Stephanie Chatman   	Your: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 17 cM Paternal side	Felicity Lynn's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 29 cM
 deborahsouth1   	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 15 cM Paternal side	Felicity Lynn's: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 28 cM
 Heidi Liska   	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 14 cM Paternal side	Felicity Lynn's: Half 2nd cousin 1x removed or 2nd cousin 2x removed 97 cM
 carolross23   	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 13 cM Paternal side	Felicity Lynn's: 2nd cousin 1x removed or half 1st cousin 2x removed 121 cM
 Summer Smallwood   	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 7 cM Paternal side	Felicity Lynn's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 38 cM

I then constructed a new chart, showing how Felicity and I are related to these eight individuals:



This chart is unreadable at this magnification, so I'll show it again in landscape view on the next page:



In this chart, Felicity and I appear inside of the red circles. She and I have DNA matches with (from L to R): Stephanie Chatman, Summer Smallwood, David Smith and his son Deklyn MacGowan, Deborah South, Heidi Liska, Carol Ross, and Karan Rowser. Karan Rowser and I are both descended from Lucy Ann Eunice Darling, while all the others are descended from Samuel Lyon Darling. Of course, Lucy and Samuel were children of the ***Darling-Lyon*** couple at the very top of this chart.

As an aside, it is interesting to see how quickly the ***Darling*** surname disappeared in this branch of my family tree. The eight DNA matches at the left of the chart all are descended from Rachel Darling (1858-1943), while the two at the right are descended from Lucy Ann Eunice Darling. So just like that – poof! No more descendants with the ***Darling*** surname.

Overall, my DNA match with Felicity Lynn provides strong support for the genealogical record. I keep wondering if I'll ever find a DNA match that doesn't support the genealogy (from an adoption or a non-paternal event) – but so far, everything seems to fit.

Scroll down to the Appendix on the next page....

Appendix: Jabez Darling – Samuel Darling’s Father

Samuel Darling’s father was Jabez Darling (1728-1778). That makes Jabez my fourth-great grandfather.

Jabez Darling was killed in the Battle of Wyoming on 3 July 1778. This battle was named after the Wyoming Valley in northeastern Pennsylvania. In case you are wondering, the name Wyoming derives from the Lenape Munsee name *xwé:wamənk*, meaning “at the big river flat”. Presumably this refers to the North Branch of the Susquehanna River, which flows through the Wyoming Valley.

The western state of Wyoming is named after the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania. The state received its name from the United States Congress when the Wyoming Territory was created in 1868.

I won’t try to recap the Battle of Wyoming here – but if you are interested in learning about it, the Wikipedia article is a good place to start:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Wyoming

Here is part of an AI overview from Google

The Battle of Wyoming, also known as the Wyoming Massacre, took place on July 3, 1778, in the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania. It was a lopsided victory for British-allied Loyalists and Iroquois warriors over a smaller force of American Patriot militia.

The encounter became infamous due to reports of brutal atrocities against both combatants and settlers, which, while likely exaggerated for propaganda purposes, served as a powerful rallying cry for the American war effort and prompted a retaliatory campaign.

Key Facts & Participants

Date: July 3, 1778

Location: Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania (near present-day Wilkes-Barre)

British Forces: Approximately 600-1,000 men (often listed as ~574), commanded by Major John Butler, consisting of “Butler’s Rangers” (Loyalists) and Iroquois warriors (primarily Seneca).

American Forces: ~300-400 local militia and regular troops, commanded by Colonel Zebulon Butler and Colonel Nathan Denison

The Wyoming Monument is an American Revolutionary War monument and grave site located in the Borough of Wyoming in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Of course, it commemorates the Battle of Wyoming. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. Here is a photo of the monument from Wikipedia:



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wyoming_Monument

Jabez Darling is listed on the monument among the Patriots who were killed in the battle:



Interestingly, another private who was killed in this battle was Jabez Beers.

<https://youtu.be/UlrBZwlj4mQ>




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The American historical painter, Alonzo Chappel (1828-1887), is best known for paintings depicting personalities and events from the American Revolution and early 19th-century American history. He painted the Battle of Wyoming in 1858, illustrating the chaos and brutality of the fight:



Massacre of Wyoming (Pennsylvania), July 3-4, 1778
Alonzo Chappel, 1858

The original oil painting is in the collection of the Chicago History Museum.