

My New DNA Match with Gail V. Fenneman (née Brocka)

By Burks Oakley II
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I recently have been spending a lot of time looking into my DNA matches who are descended from Miles Oakley III (1612-1672) and his wife Mary Browne (1607-1682). This couple were my eighth-great grandparents. I have written several narratives about my findings – see:

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/Oakley-Chr15-Subgroups_17Apr25.pdf

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/IolaMayOakley-Descendants_23Apr25.pdf

In these narratives, one of the key people is Kathy Hill Orr. Kathy is descended from the **Oakley-Browne** couple, and she and I only have a single matching segment of DNA. This segment is 26.1 cM and it is on Chromosome 15:

Comparing Kit A122463 (Burks Oakley II) [Migration - F2 - A] and Kit A657657 (Kathy Hill Orr) [Migration - F2 - A]							
Chr	B37 Start Pos'n	B37 End Pos'n	Centimorgans (cM)	SNPs	Segment threshold	Bunch limit	SNP Density Ratio
15	39,003,409	64,239,941	26.1	5,869	223	134	0.43
Largest segment = 26.1 cM							

Kathy and I do not share any other segments that are 6 cM or larger. Kathy and I share this segment on Chromosome 15 with a number of other descendants of the **Oakley-Browne** couple.

An interesting aspect of these DNA matches is that they go back so many generations. Typically, autosomal DNA matches are “diluted” with each successive generation. But our segment on Chromosome 15 seems to be a “sticky segment” that is passed from parent-to-child with little change.

The ancestors that Kathy Hill Orr and I have in common are Miles Oakley V (1671-1743) and his wife Mercy Gardner (1673-1723). This Miles Oakley was a grandson of the **Oakley-Browne** couple. Since our common ancestors are so far back in the past, and since I only share the one single segment with Kathy, I have stated that if Kathy and I have a “Shared DNA Match” with someone on the Ancestry.com website, then this individual must be a descendant of the **Oakley-Browne** couple and have part of our matching DNA segment on Chromosome 15.

As I reflect on this claim, I realize that it is not likely to hold true. Let’s say that Kathy has a DNA match with a **Burks** family descendant named Samuel Burks on Chromosome 3 (this is all hypothetical). Let’s assume that I also have a DNA match with Samuel Burks, but it is on Chromosome 4. So it would appear that

Kathy and I have a “Shared DNA Match” with Samuel Burks – but this would not mean that he has the **Oakley-Browne** segment on Chromosome 15.

I guess I can say that if this third person also matches others who are known to have the **Oakley-Browne** segment on Chromosome 15, then it would greatly increase the probability that he or she is an **Oakley-Browne** descendant.

As an aside, this is why Ancestry.com needs to have a “Chromosome Browser”, like the one on the GEDmatch.com website.

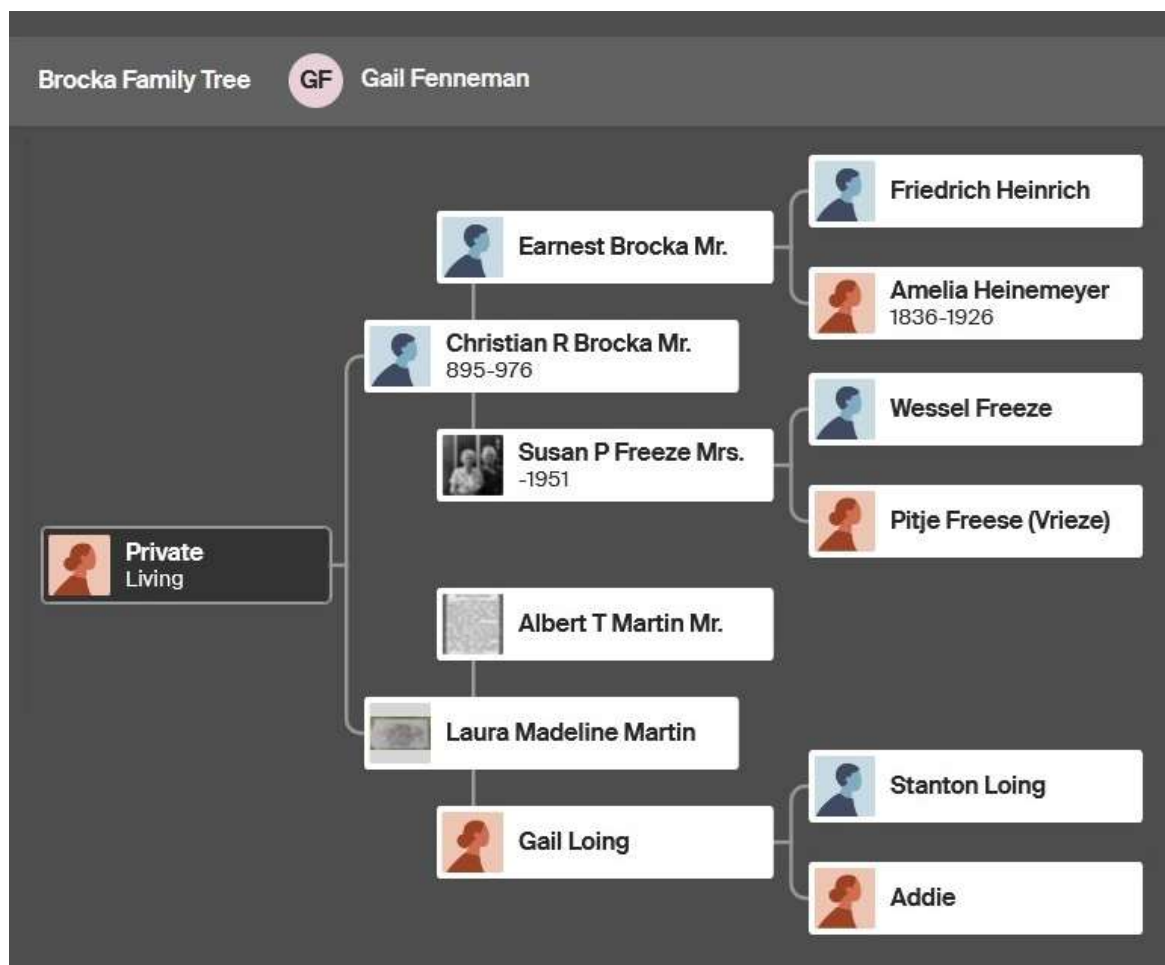
I have been spending time looking through my “Shared DNA Matches” with Kathy Hill Orr on the Ancestry.com website. Unfortunately, a number of these individuals have family trees that just aren’t at all useful, such as this one:



But if I look at enough of the “Shared DNA Matches” I have with Kathy Hill Orr, I feel pretty confident that I’ll find at least a few more **Oakley-Browne** descendants. And this narrative is about one such person – Gail Fenneman:

 Gail Fenneman	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 11 cM Paternal side	KathyOrr60's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 36 cM
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Gail and I have an 11 cM DNA match, while Gail and Kathy have a 36 cM DNA match. Here is Gail’s pedigree chart:



According to this pedigree chart, Gail's father was Christian Robert Brocka (1895-1977). That means that her maiden name was probably Gail Brocka. But other than that, there really is not much to go on in Gail's pedigree chart – most of the entries are lacking dates and places. Based on the family surnames in this chart, I thought that my best chance of finding an ***Oakley*** connection would be going back from one of her maternal grandmother's parents in the lower-right of the chart. Would I get lucky???

I looked at Gail's entry for Stanton Loing – it only had that he died in Allison, Butler County, Iowa. I searched other family trees on Ancestry.com for this man.

And guess what?

Keep guessing.....

Scroll down.....

Go on to the next page.....

Stanton H. Lowing’s wife was Adeline “Addie” L. Oakley (1844-1923):

Bangle & Bishop Family ...

Find in tree

BangleBishopBooks

Stanton H Loing Jr

BIRTH

OCT 1841 • Illinois, USA

DEATH

18 JAN 1903 • Allison, Butler, Iowa, USA

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

Stanton H Loing

1788–1868

Artemisia Bloss

1797–1871

Spouse and children

Adeline (Addie) Oakley

1844–1923

Jennie Loing

1865–1955

Emma E Loing

1868–1957

Gail Loing

1876–1924

Bingo! Here is Adeline’s profile from the “Elizabeth Brink Family Tree”:

Elizabeth Brink Family Tr...

Find in tree

MA marlin133

Adeline (Addie) L Oakley

BIRTH

MAY 1844 • Illinois, United States

DEATH

26 AUG 1923 • Allison, Butler County, Iowa, United States

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

Abraham (Abram) Oakley

1802–1886

Susan Tittrington Therington

1804–1886

Spouse and children

Stanton H Loing

1843–1903

Jennie Loing

1865–1955

Emma G Loing

1868–1957

Gail Loing

1876–1924

According to this profile, Adeline’s nickname was “Addie”, and “Addie” is the name that appears in Gail Fenneman’s pedigree chart.

At this point, I was 99% certain that I would be able to find Addie’s ancestral line back to the ***Oakley-Browne*** couple.

The profile shown above has Addie’s father as Abraham (Abram) Oakley (1802-1886). He appears in multiple family trees on the Ancestry.com website – here is one example:

Abraham (Abram) Oakley

BIRTH

18 JAN 1802 • Schaghticoke, Rensselaer, New York, United States

DEATH

21 FEB 1886 • Lawler, Chickasaw, Iowa, United States

According to multiple trees on Ancestry.com, Abraham’s father was William Edgar Oakley (1780-1860):

Angela Ashley Family Tree

Find in tree

Angela Monroe



William Edgar Oakley

BIRTH AUG 15 1780 • Connecticut, USA

DEATH 17 FEBRUARY 1860 • Ohio, United States of America

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

Simon Oakley
1729-1812

Sarah Nutt
1733-

Sarah Elizabeth (Betsy) Shear
1781-1876

Margaret Oakley
1801-1886

Abraham Oakley
1802-1886

Phoebe Ann Oakley Armstead
1804-1875

Elizabeth Oakley Taylor
1807-1875

Ann Mariah Oakley
1808-1828

William R Oakley
1811-1862

John B. Oakley
1813-1813

Sarah Caroline Oakley Lott
1814-1880

George William Oakley
1818-1864

David Oakley
1820-1895

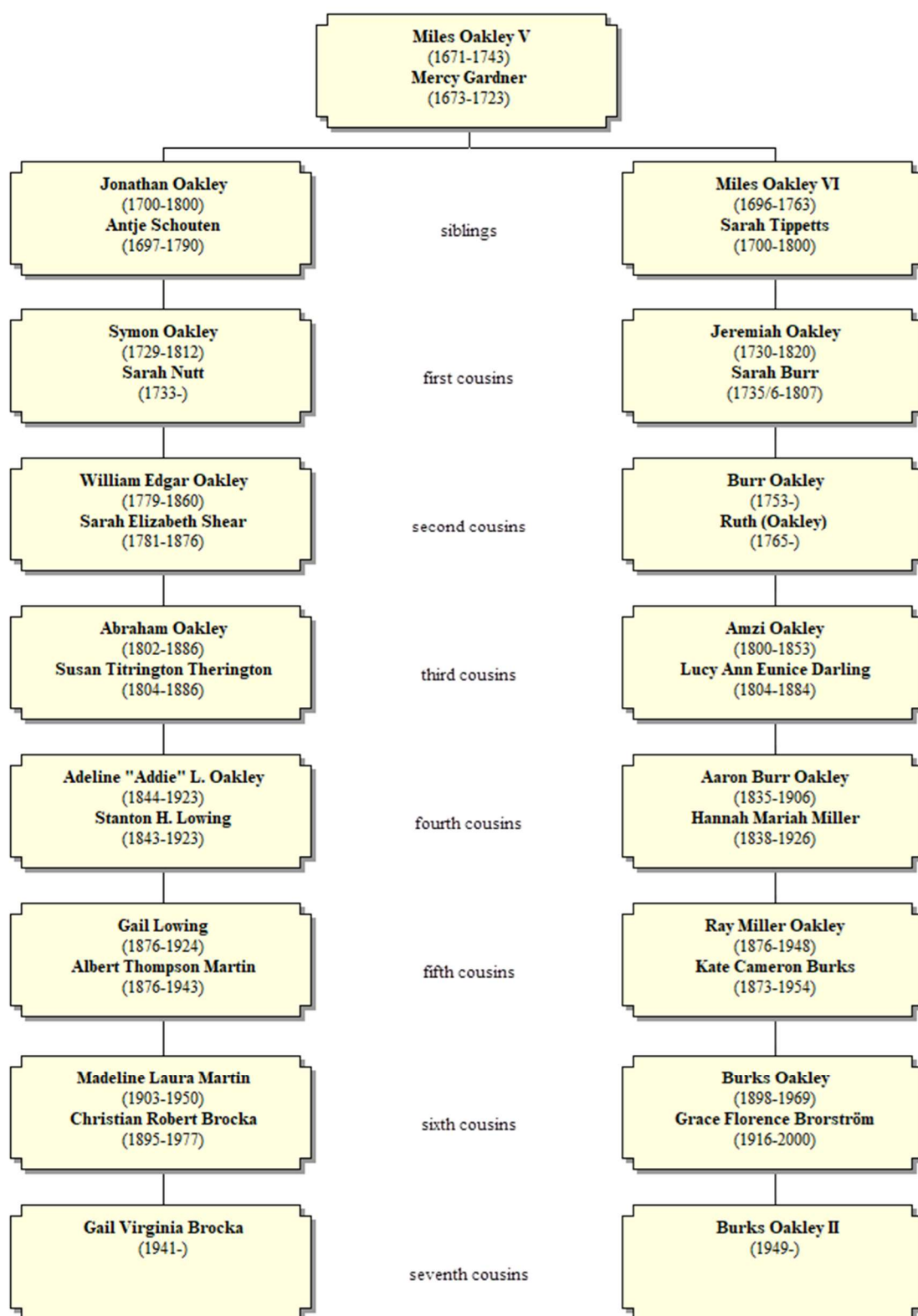
Claricia Oakley Mansfield
1824-1915

Amasa Wilder Oakley
1826-1895

I can indeed trace William Edgar Oakley’s ancestral line back to the ***Oakley-Browne*** couple.

I should note that William Edgar Oakley was a direct ancestor of Kathy Hill Orr, and also a direct ancestor of Rev. Timothy W. Bever. Of course, Kathy and Tim both have the ***Oakley-Browne*** DNA segment on Chromosome 15.

Since William Edgar Oakley was already in my RootsMagic database, I added Gail Brocka’s line back to William Edgar Oakley. I then was able to create a chart showing how Gail and I are related:



Gail and I are both descended from Miles Oakley V and his wife Mercy Gardner. This couple were my sixth-great grandparents. Gail is descended from this couple through their son Jonathan Oakley (1700-1800), while I am descended from this couple through their son Miles Oakley VI (1696-1763). Based on this chart, Gail and I are seventh-cousins.

I should add that a number of Google searches gave me Gail's middle name (Virginia) and her birth year (1941). I also found a newspaper article when she and her husband Glenn Fenneman celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2022:

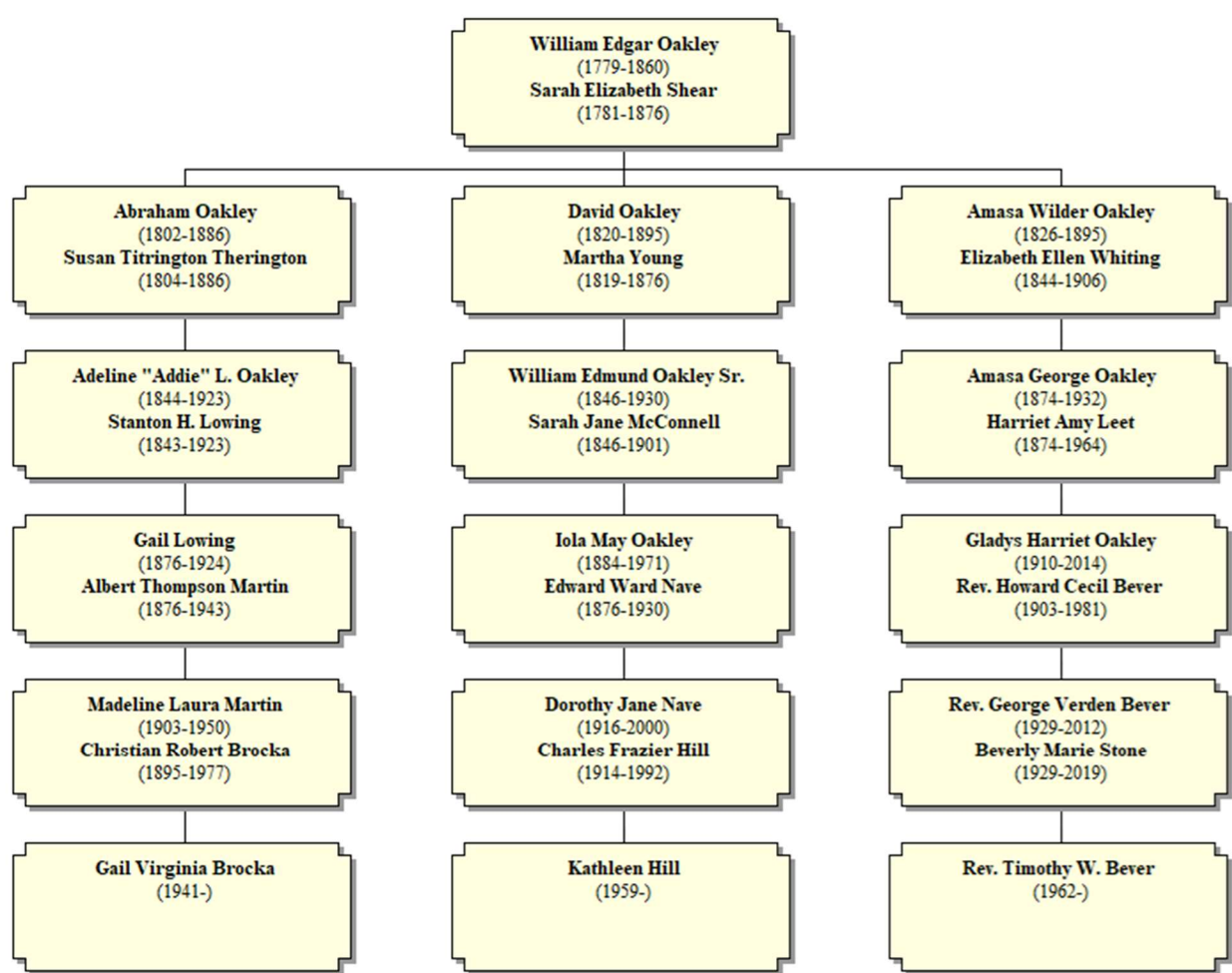
Fenneman/60

WAVERLY — Glenn and Gail (Brocka) Fenneman celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 28.

They were married July 28, 1962, at the Congregational Church in Allison. He is a retired mathematics professor from Wartburg College, and she is a retired kindergarten teacher from Waverly-Shell Rock Schools.

They are the parents of two children, Gretchen (Kurt) DeVore of Clarksville, IA, and Laura (Jeremy) Sessler of Denver, IA. There are seven grandchildren.

Once I had Gail in my RootsMagic database, I went on to create a chart showing how Gail, Kathy Hill Orr, and Tim Bever are related to each other:



I note that all three of them are descended from William Edgar Oakley (1779-1860) and his wife Sarah Elizabeth Shear (1781-1876). And they are descended from different children of this couple who were born in 1802, 1820, and 1826. Wow – that is a long time span to be having children! But going back to the profile for William Edgar Oakley a few pages back, I see that he and his wife had twelve children from 1801 to 1826. Double wow!

At this point, I had to address the possibility that Gail and I have a different matching DNA segment than do Gail and Kathy. I looked at my DNA match with

Gail, and then I looked at our “Shared DNA Matches”. Prominent on this list were Tim Bever and his brother John Bever:

 john Bever	 	Your: Half 3rd cousin or 3rd cousin 1x removed 43 cM Paternal side	Gail Fenneman's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 28 cM
 Timothy Bever Managed by Marva Gervais	 	Your: 3rd cousin 1x removed or half 3rd cousin 43 cM Paternal side	Gail Fenneman's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 28 cM

I think that these shared matches support the idea that Gale Fenneman (née Brocka) has the **Oakley-Browne** DNA segment on Chromosome 15.

To sum up, I have been looking at my DNA match with Kathy Hill Orr on Ancestry.com, and then looking at our “Shared DNA Matches”. I think that it is likely (but not certain) that if someone is on our list of “Shared DNA Matches”, then that person will be a descendant of my eighth-great grandparents, Miles Oakley III (1612-1672) and his wife Mary Browne (1607-1682). Certainly Gail Fenneman (née Brocka) is an example of this. It will be interesting to see if I find someone who has DNA matches with Kathy and me who is NOT an **Oakley-Browne** descendant. Stay tuned!