

Holly Lindsey – A DNA Cousin

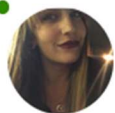
Going Back on my *Miller-Wells* Line

By Burks Oakley II
9 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 just a few days ago, I saw that I had a new DNA match with a woman named Holly Lindsey:

Distant Family



Holly Lindsey

3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin
1x removed
Paternal side
18 cM | < 1% shared DNA

 Public linked tree
9 people

 Common ancestor

Holly and I share 18 cM of DNA, and she is related to me on my father’s side of my family.

I next looked at the ancestors that Holly and I have in common:

How are you and Holly Lindsey related?

Common Ancestors



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

Holly Lindsey could be your 4th cousin 1x removed through:



Daniel David Wells

3rd great-grandfather
1785–1832

[View Relationship](#)



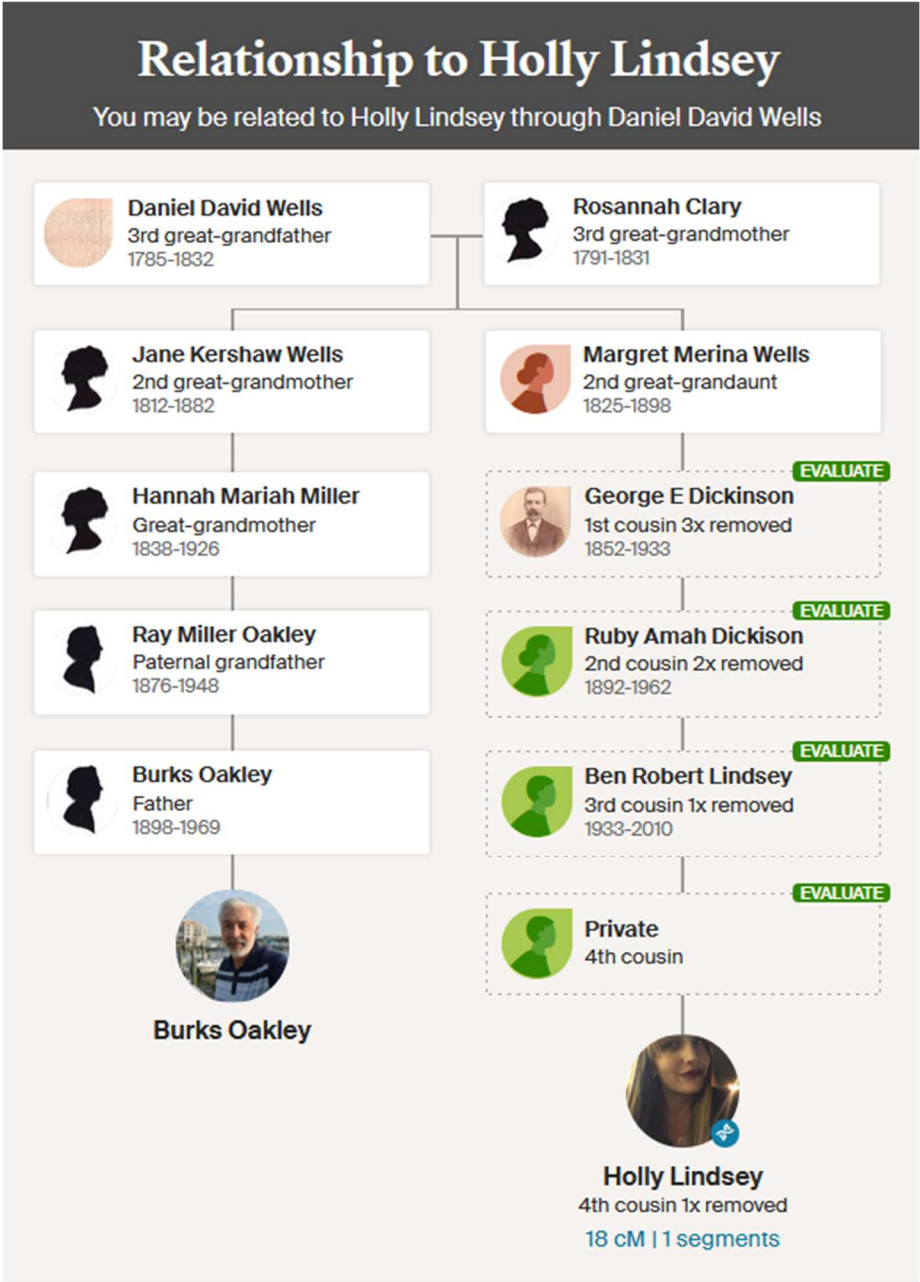
Rosannah Clary

3rd great-grandmother
1791–1831

[View Relationship](#)

Holly and I are both descended from Daniel David Wells (1785-1832) and his wife Rosannah Clary (1791-1831). This couple were my third-great grandparents, and they lived in Montgomery County, New York (between Utica and Schenectady).

I then looked at the chart that software on Ancestry.com automatically created, showing how Holly and I are most likely related:



I am descended from the **Wells-Clary** couple through their daughter, Jane Kershaw Wells (1812-1882), while Holly is descended from this couple through their daughter Margret Merina Wells (1825-1898). According to this chart, I am a fourth-cousin of Holly’s father, meaning that Holly is my fourth-cousin once-removed.

I went on to look at the DNA matches that Holly and I have in common – our so-called “Shared DNA Matches”. Although there are eleven people on this list, I could only figure out how I was related to five of them:

Shared match:	 Your:	 Holly Lindsey's:
 Shawn Baugus   +	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 32 cM Paternal side	Holly Lindsey's: Half 2nd cousin 1x removed or 2nd cousin 2x removed 62 cM
 Shelley McLennan   +	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 21 cM Paternal side	Holly Lindsey's: 2nd cousin 2x removed 118 cM
 Annabelle Saunders   +	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 18 cM Paternal side	Holly Lindsey's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 27 cM
 Cheryl Fitzpatrick   +	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 12 cM Paternal side	Holly Lindsey's: Half 2nd cousin 2x removed or 3rd cousin 1x removed 52 cM
 Daniel Lindsey  +	Your: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 2nd cousin 3x removed 11 cM Paternal side	Holly Lindsey's: Half sister or niece 1,637 cM

Holly and I have “Shared DNA Matches” with Shawn Baugus, Shelley McLennan, Annabelle Saunders, and Cheryl Fitzpatrick. All four of these individuals are also descended from the **Wells-Clary** couple. The fifth individual is Daniel Lindsey, and based on the size of her DNA match with Holly, she could be Holly’s half-sister or niece.

I looked at my DNA match with Daniel Lindsey and then viewed our “Shared DNA Matches”. Four of the individuals on this list also are descended from the **Wells-Clary** couple:

 Gary Lute Managed by julielute   +	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 15 cM Paternal side	Daniel Lindsey's: 2nd cousin 2x removed or half 1st cousin 3x removed 96 cM
 Randi Friend-Norris   +	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 13 cM Paternal side	Daniel Lindsey's: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 20 cM
 bobby Reich   +	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 9 cM Paternal side	Daniel's: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 24 cM
 helen Penn   +	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 6 cM Maternal side	Daniel's: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 2nd cousin 3x removed 21 cM

These four individuals are Gary Lute, Randi-Friend Norris, Bobby Reich, and Helen Penn.

I then looked at my DNA match with Gary Lute, and I learned that he and I have a “Shared DNA Match” with Holli Norris:



Holli Norris



Your:
3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed
16 cM
Paternal side

Gary's:
Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed
28 cM

And finally, I looked at my DNA match with Bobby Reich, and I learned that he and I have a DNA match with his son, Grant Reich:



grant reich

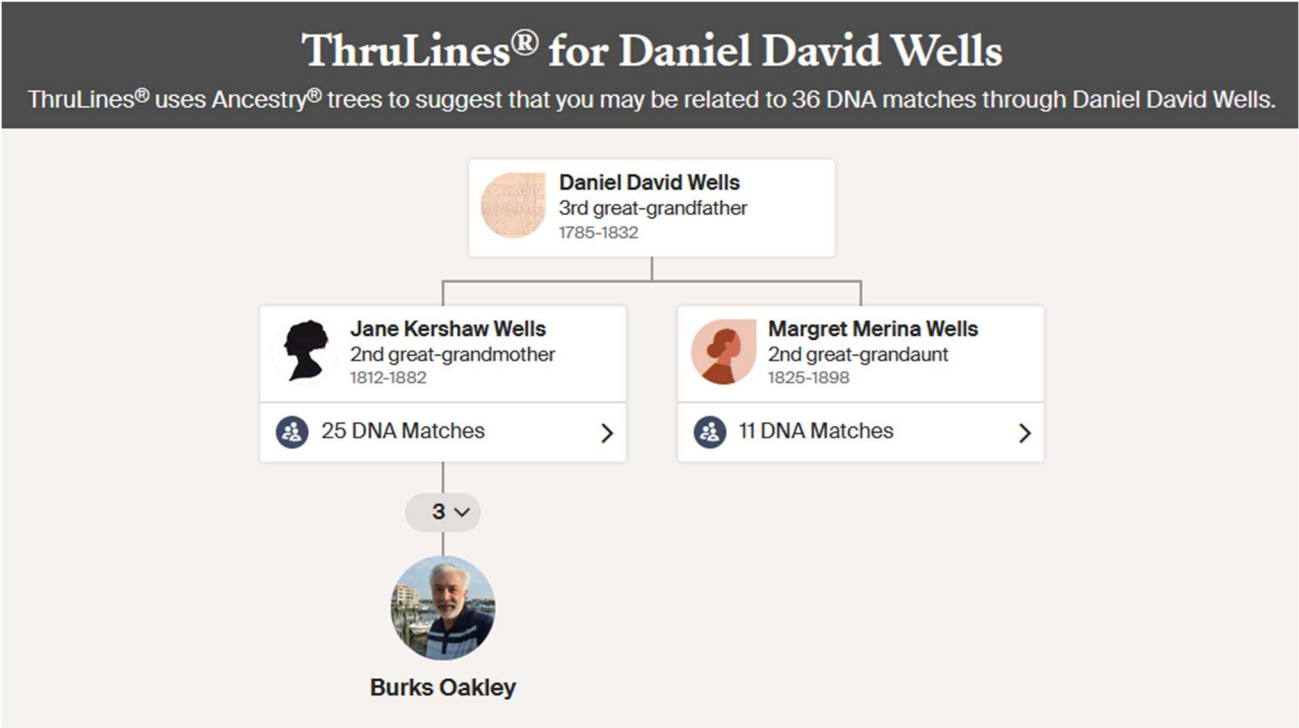


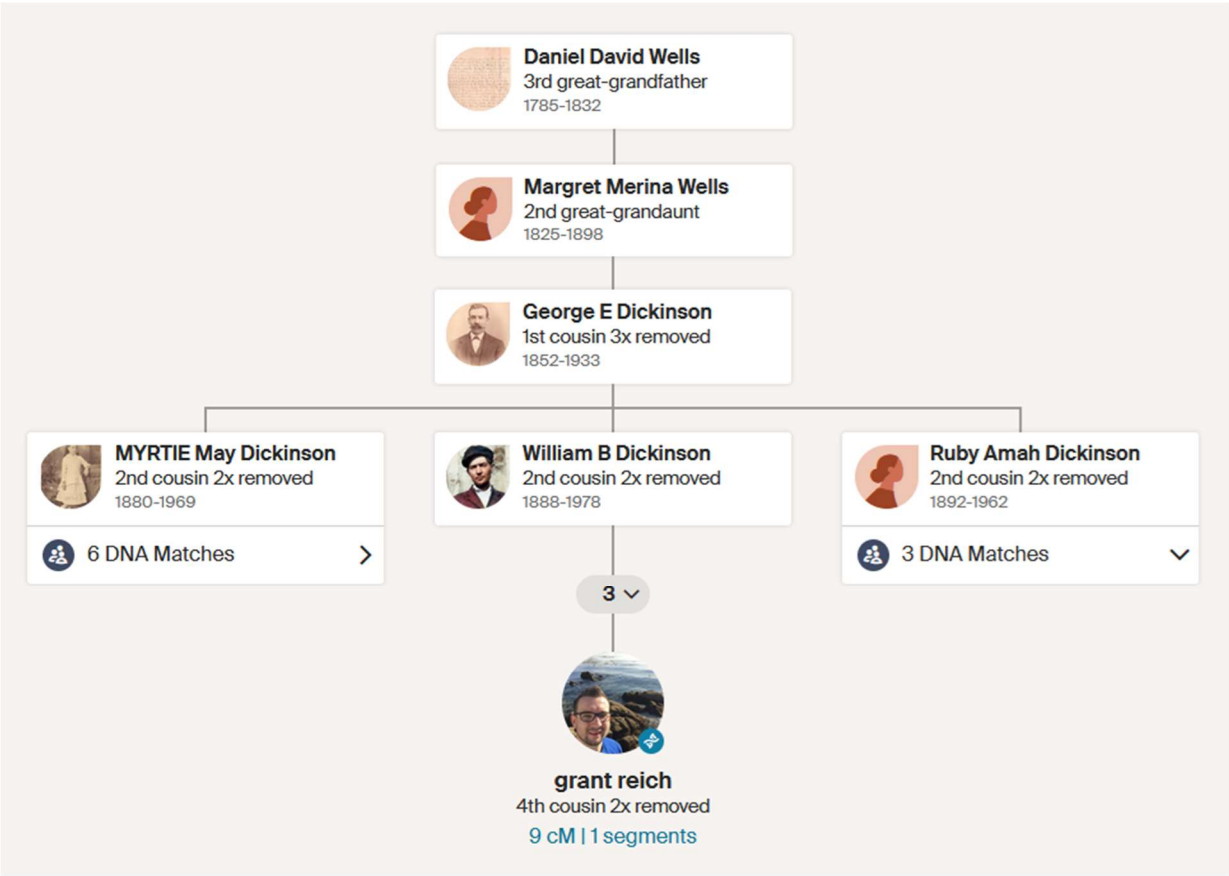
Your:
3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed
9 cM
Paternal side

bobby Reich's:
Son
3,488 cM

Hopefully, all these different DNA matches will make sense shortly.

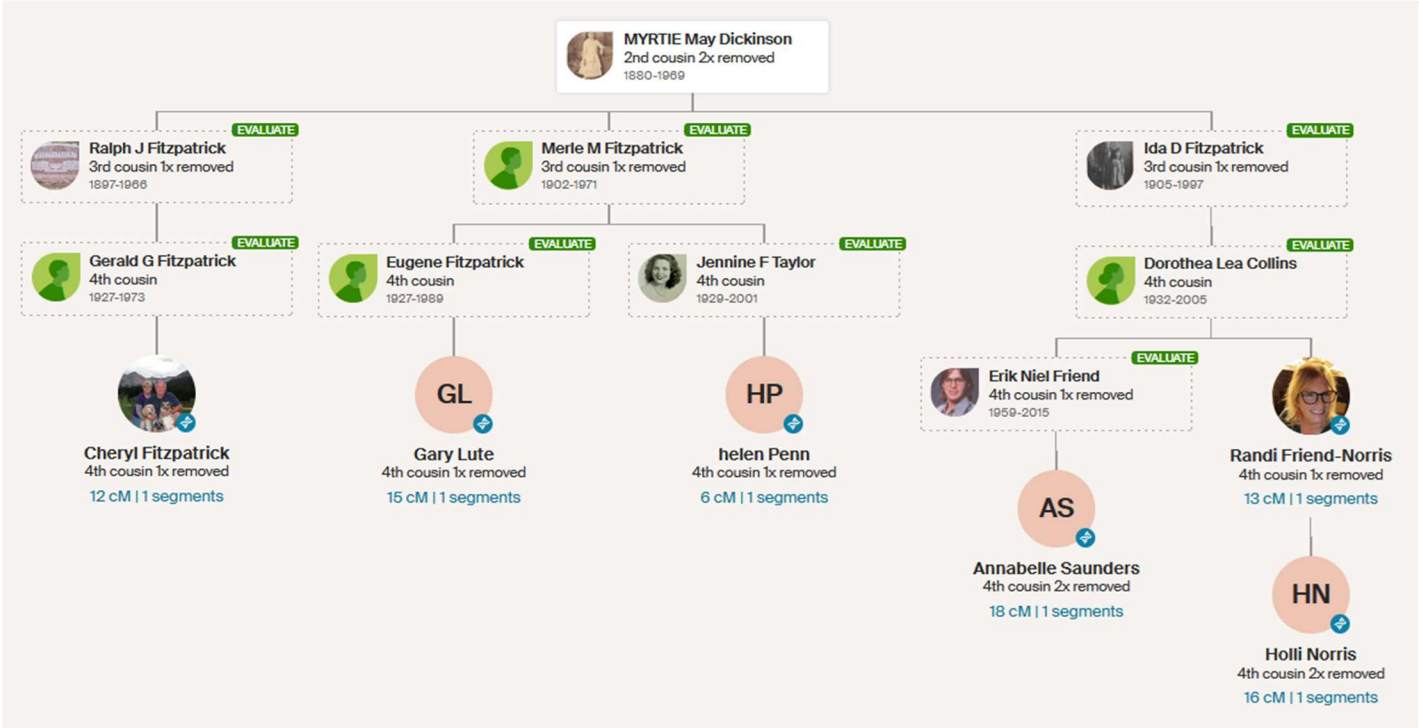
I next looked at my ThruLines® chart for Daniel David Wells:





All eleven of these DNA matches connect back to Margret Merina Wells through her son George Erastus Dickinson (1852-1933).¹

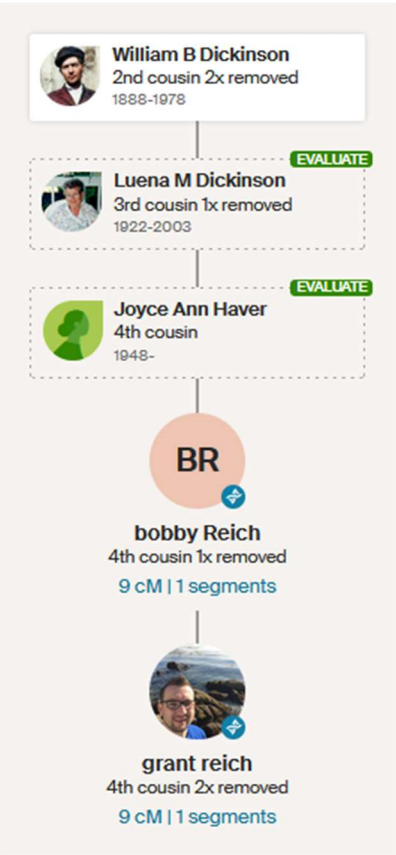
The line at the left in the ThruLines® chart shown above goes back through Myrtie May Dickinson:



This branch includes my DNA matches with Cheryl Fitzpatrick, Gary Lute, Helen Penn, Annabelle Saunders, Randi Friend-Norris, and Holli Norris.

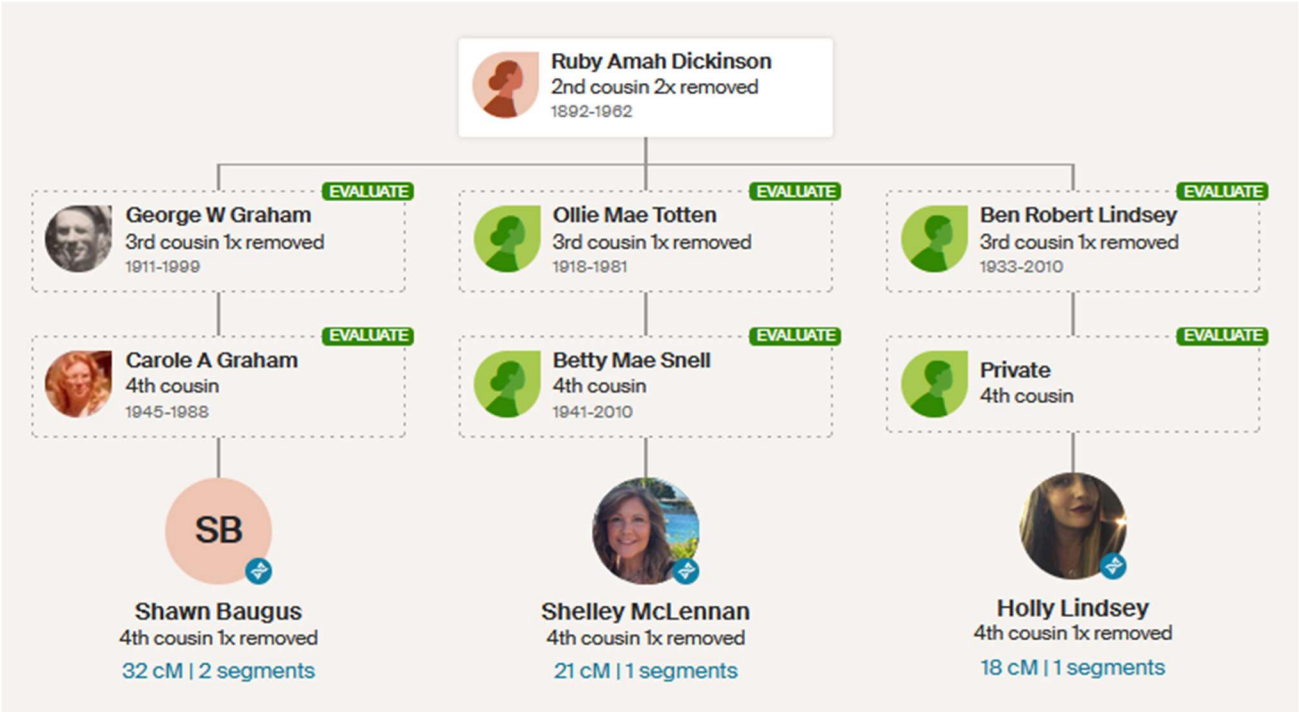
The line in the middle of the ThruLines® chart shown at the top of this page goes back through William B. Dickinson:

¹ Amazing that he lived through the Civil War, World War I, and the Great Depression.



This line includes Bobby Reich and his son Grant Reich.

Finally, the line at the right of the ThruLines® chart shown on the previous page goes back through Ruby Amah Dickinson:



This branch includes my DNA matches with Shawn Baugus, Shelley McLennan, and Holly Lindsey.

Here is a listing of my eleven matches that go back to the *Wells-Clary* couple through their daughter Margret Marina Wells:

ThruLines[®] for Daniel David Wells

ThruLines[®] uses Ancestry[®] trees to suggest that you may be related to 36 DNA matches through Daniel David Wells.

Jane Kershaw Wells Family Line

25 matches

You

Daniel David Wells is your 3rd great-grandfather.

Margret Merina Wells Family Line

11 matches

SB Shawn Baugus	4th-6th cousin 32 cM across 2 segments	4th cousin 1x removed 9
Shelley McLennan	4th-6th cousin 21 cM across 1 segments	4th cousin 1x removed 121
AS Annabelle Saunders	5th-8th cousin 18 cM across 1 segments	4th cousin 2x removed 159
Holly Lindsey	5th-8th cousin 18 cM across 1 segments	4th cousin 1x removed 9
HN Holli Norris	5th-8th cousin 16 cM across 1 segments	4th cousin 2x removed 565
GL Gary Lute	5th-8th cousin 15 cM across 1 segments	4th cousin 1x removed 113
Randi Friend-Norris	5th-8th cousin 13 cM across 1 segments	4th cousin 1x removed 6
Cheryl Fitzpatrick	5th-8th cousin 12 cM across 1 segments	4th cousin 1x removed 1,999
BR bobby Reich	5th-8th cousin 9 cM across 1 segments	4th cousin 1x removed 3
grant reich	5th-8th cousin 9 cM across 1 segments	4th cousin 2x removed 240
HP helen Penn	5th-8th cousin 6 cM across 1 segments	4th cousin 1x removed 49

I showed earlier that many of these individuals have DNA matches with each other (and, of course, I have DNA matches with all of these individuals).

As an example of DNA matches within the group of eleven, Grant Reich is Bobby Reich’s son, so they should have a huge DNA match:

grant reich

Your:

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

9 cM

Paternal side

bobby Reich's:

Son

3,488 cM

Bobby and his son Grant share 3,488 cM of DNA, as expected for their close relationship.

Randi Friend-Norris’ daughter is Holli Norris and Randi’s niece is Annabelle Saunders:

Shared match:	Your:	Randi Friend-Norris's:
 Holli Norris   	Your: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 16 cM Paternal side	Randi's: Daughter 3,483 cM
 Annabelle Saunders   	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 18 cM Paternal side	Randi's: Niece 1,585 cM

Again, based only on the size of Randi’s DNA matches with Holli and Annabelle, Ancestry.com was able to identify their relationships correctly.

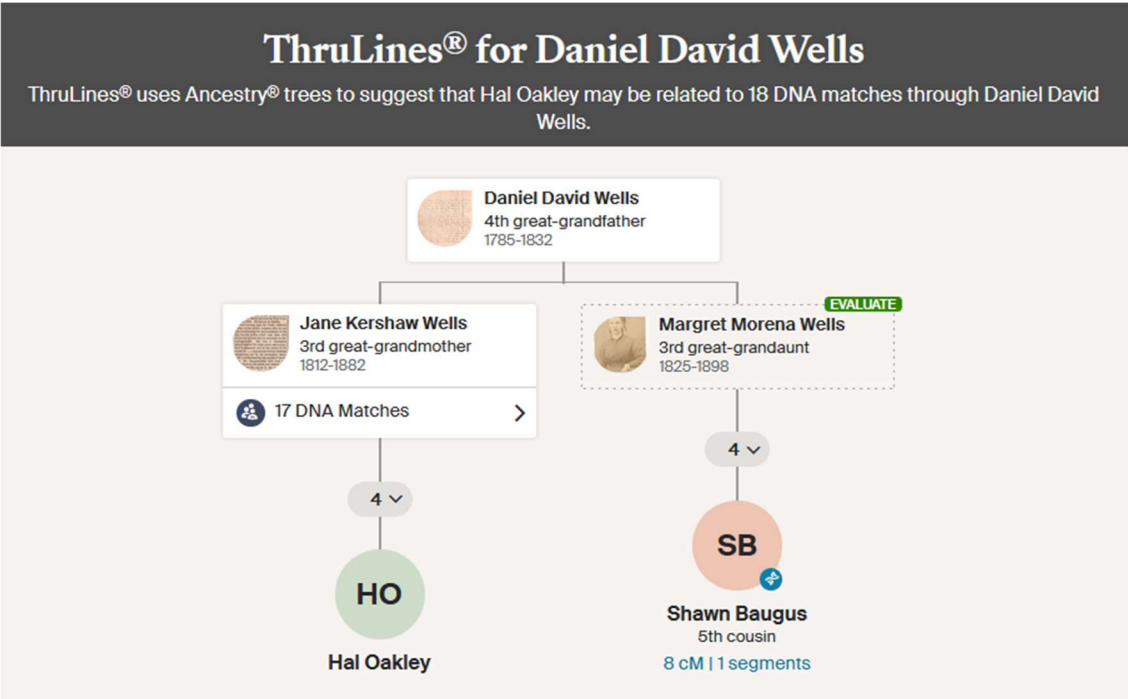
When I was looking at all the “Shared DNA Matches” with the eleven people in this group, I saw that I have a DNA match with Zach Lute, who is Gary Lute’s nephew. And Helen Penn is Gary Lute’s first-cousin:

Shared match:	Your:	Gary Lute's:
 Zach Lute  	Your: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 16 cM Paternal side	Gary Lute's: Nephew 1,745 cM
 helen Penn   	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 6 cM Maternal side	Gary Lute's: 1st cousin or half aunt 888 cM

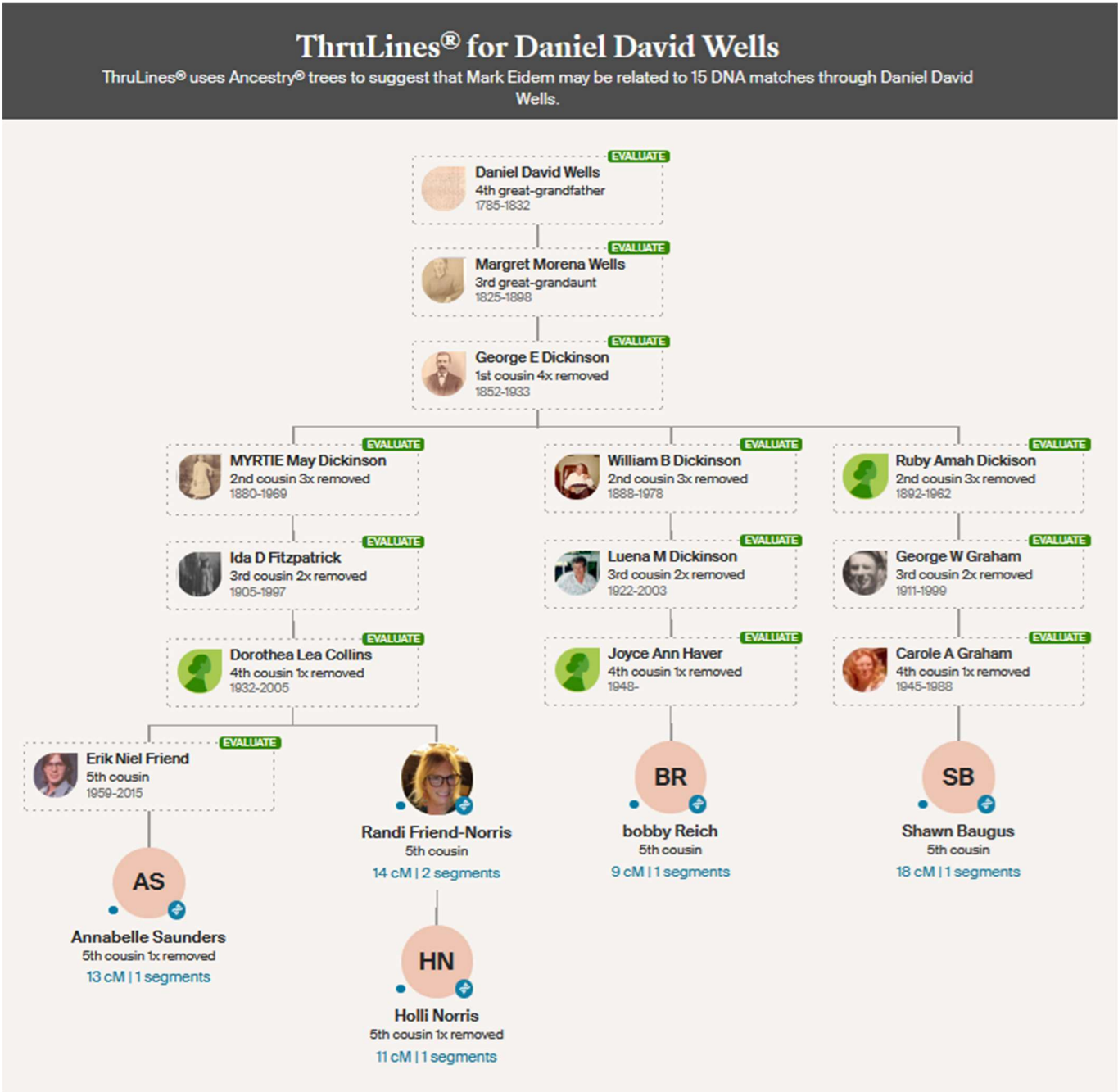
I’m always impressed by the DNA technology on Ancestry.com. It appears that software on Ancestry.com is able to determine the most likely relationship between two people based solely on the size of their DNA matches – and do this amazingly well.

At this point, let me say that all of my DNA matches with the eleven descendants of Margret Merina Wells provide incredibly powerful support for my family tree, which shows that the **Wells-Clary** couple were my third-great grandparents. I always write that “I am interested in genetic genealogy – that is, the use of DNA to confirm and to extend my family tree”. Well, this is an excellent example of how I have used DNA to confirm this branch of my family tree.

Let me now switch gears and look at several of my Quincy **Oakley** relatives. I first looked at my cousin Hal Oakley’s ThruLines® chart for Daniel David Wells. I was really surprised to see that Hal only has a DNA match with a single descendant of Margret Merena Wells – and that is Shawn Baugus:



I also looked at my Quincy *Oakley* cousin Mark Eidem’s ThruLines® chart for Daniel David Wells:



Mark has DNA matches with five descendants of Daniel David Wells, and they all are familiar individuals – Annabelle, Randi, Holli, Bobby, and Shawn.

Cousin Tim Oakley doesn't have a family tree on the Ancestry.com website, so he doesn't have ThruLines® charts for his ancestors. But he does have a DNA match with Shawn Baugus:

Tim Oakley

Summary

Origins

Matches

Traits

Distant Family



Shawn Baugus

4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed

Paternal side

17 cM | < 1% shared DNA



Public linked tree

9 people

As an aside, I note that in both Mark's and Hal's tree, the daughter of David Daniel Wells is listed as Margret Morena Wells, while in my tree, she is Margret Merina Wells. I searched for this woman on Ancestry.com, and she appears in 39 family trees. Here are the first four:

Margret Morena Wells found in 39 trees

Margret Morena Wells from tree Reich-Haver Family Tree

Birth

27 Sep 1825 New York, USA

Father

Daniel David Wells (Born 1785)

Marriage

Aug 1846

Mother

Rosannah Clary (Born 1791)

Residence

1880 Chicago, Cook, Illinois, USA

Spouse

William Berry Dickinson (1827-1910)

Death

2 Feb 1898 Santa Monica, Los Angeles, California, USA

5596 People

2 Records

14 Sources

Margaret Morena Wells from tree David Vallender Family Tree

Birth

26 Sep 1825 Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York, USA

Father

Daniel David Wells (Born 1785)

Marriage

Aug 1846

Mother

Rosannah Clary (Born 1791)

Residence

1860 Fox Lake, Dodge, Wisconsin, USA

Spouse

William Berry Dickinson (1827-1910)

Death

2 Feb 1898 Santa Monica, Los Angeles, California, USA

65277 People

1 Record

9 Sources

Margret Merina Wells from tree Main Family Tree

Birth

27 Sep 1825 New York, USA

Father

Daniel David Wells (Born 1785)

Marriage

Aug 1846

Mother

Rosannah Clary (Born 1791)

Residence

1880 Chicago, Cook, Illinois, USA

Spouse

William Berry Dickinson (1827-1910)

Death

2 Feb 1898 Santa Monica, Los Angeles, California, USA

641 People

1 Record

11 Sources

MARGARET Merina Wells from tree Collinge Family Tree

Birth

26 Sep 1825 New York, USA

Father

Daniel D Wells (Born 1785)

Marriage

Aug 1846

Mother

Rosannah Clary (Born 1791)

Residence

1880 Chicago, Cook, Illinois, USA

Spouse

WILLIAM Berry Dickinson (1827-1910)

Death

2 Feb 1898 Santa Monica, Los Angeles, California, USA

2187 People

1 Record

3 Sources

In the first two, she is Morina, and in the second two, she is Merina. I have no idea which is correct.

Let me conclude with some random musings about the ***Oakley*** family’s early days in Quincy, Illinois.

I note that my great-grandfather, Aaron Burr Oakley (1835-1906), is buried in Rockford, in the ***Miller*** family plot. Also in that plot are his wife Hannah Mariah Miller Oakley (1838-1925) and Hannah’s mother, Jane Kershaw Wells Miller (1812-1882).

I always have thought that Aaron Burr identified more with the ***Miller*** family, so even though he lived his last years in Quincy, he chose to be buried in Rockford in the ***Miller*** family plot.

I note that Hannah, who was a granddaughter of Daniel David Wells and his wife Rosannah Clary, was living in the home of her son-in-law, Ray Miller Oakley, in Quincy, Illinois, at the time of the 1920 US Census:

A handwritten 1920 US Census form. The form is a grid with rows numbered 57 to 65 on the left. The first row (57) is for the head of household, Ray M. Oakley, with address 230 45 44. The second row (58) is for his wife, Kate R. Oakley. The third row (59) is for their daughter, Elizabeth. The fourth row (60) is for their son, William. The fifth row (61) is for their son, Allen. The sixth row (62) is for their son, Thomas. The seventh row (63) is for their daughter, Hannah. The eighth row (64) is for their son, Ray. The ninth row (65) is for Mrs. Hannah Oakley, listed as "Mother-in-law".

57	1			Ray M.	Son		
58	230	45	44	Oakley Ray M	Head	1	P
59				Kate R	Wife		
60				Elizabeth	Son		
61				William	Daughter		
62				Allen	Son		
63				Thomas	Son		
64				Hannah	Son		
65				Oakley Mrs Hannah	Mother-in-law		

Mrs. Hannah Oakley is listed as “Mother-in-law” in the last line.

My father, Burks Oakley, was also listed as living at home.

My father married Isabelle Julie Delphine “Babette” Demouget (1902-1943) in Flint, Michigan, on 7 April 1923. And Hannah Mariah Miller Oakley didn’t die until 9 July 1925. So it is quite likely that Hannah would have met Isabelle when my father brought her to Quincy to meet his family. Hannah was the granddaughter of Daniel David Wells, who was born in 1785. Wouldn’t it be nice to be able to ask my father about this...