My DNA Matches with Iola May Oakley's Descendants

By Burks Oakley II 23 April 2025

I recently wrote a rather detailed analysis of my DNA match with Rev. Timothy W. Bever. Some important points to note:

- Using the chromosome browser on GEDmatch.com, I have shown that I have a 45.7 cM DNA match with Tim on Chromosome 15.
- Tim and I are both descended from Miles Oakley V (1671-1743) and his wife Mercy Gardner (1673-1773). This couple lived in Westchester County, New York.
- Tim and I share part of the DNA segment on Chromosome 15 with a number of others who are descendants of our *Oakley-Gardner* ancestors.
- Tim and I also share part of the DNA segment on Chromosome 15 with descendants of the <u>parents</u> of Miles Oakley V and even descendants of the <u>grandparents</u> of Miles Oakley V. His grandparents were Miles Oakley III (1612-1672) and Mary Browne (1607-1682). This couple were from Saffron Walden, England, and they immigrated to America in the mid-1600's.
- I have termed the DNA segment on Chromosome 15 the *Oakley-Browne* segment.

My detailed narrative about all of this is on my personal website at:

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

In that narrative, I speculated that if Tim Bever and I have a "Shared DNA Match" with anyone on the Ancestry.com website, then that person would almost certainly be a descendant of the *Oakley-Browne* couple. I put this idea to the test in my narrative from 17 April 2025, and it seemed to hold true.

In the following narrative, I will detail several others (well, more than several) for whom this is true.

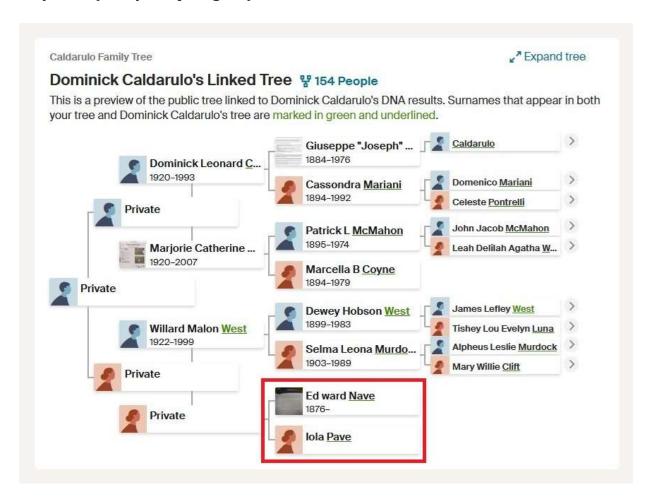
A few days ago, I looked at my "Shared DNA Matches" with Tim Bever on Ancestry.com. One of these matches was with Dominick Caldarulo:





Your: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 25 cM Paternal side Timothy Bever's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 28 cM Dominick has a 25 cM match with me and a 28 cM match with Tim.

I looked at my match with Dominick on Ancestry.com, and I jumped right to his family tree (really his pedigree):

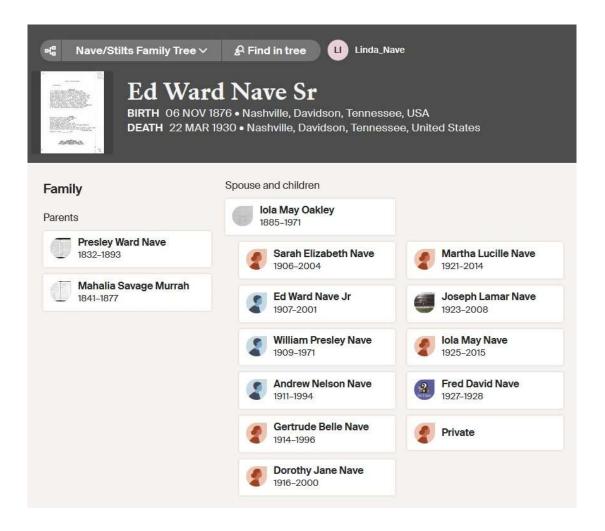


I immediately focused on the parents of Dominick's maternal grandmother. This couple appears in the red box in the pedigree chart shown above. One of my distant cousins who has the *Oakley-Browne* DNA segment on Chromosome 15 is Kathy Hill Orr, and Kathy's grandparents were Edward Ward Nave and Iola May Oakley. Since the names "Nave" and "Iola" are not all that common, I thought that Dominick's great-grandparents might really be Edward Ward Nave and Iola May Oakley.

Dominick's family tree has a profile for "Ed ward Nave", who was born on 6 November 1876:

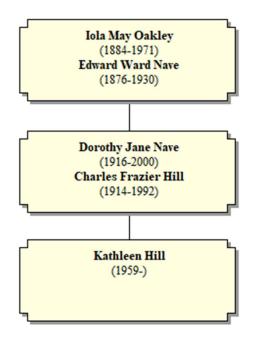


A more complete profile for this man appears in Linda Nave's "Nave/Stilts Family Tree:



This profile has Ed Ward Nave's wife as being Iola May Oakley. And it has the same date of birth for Ed as in Dominick's tree.

I went back and looked at Kathy Hill Orr's family tree – her mother was Dorothy Jane Nave (1916-2000), who appears in the profile shown above. Dorothy's ancestral line back to Iola May Oakley and Edward Ward Nave is shown in the following chart:

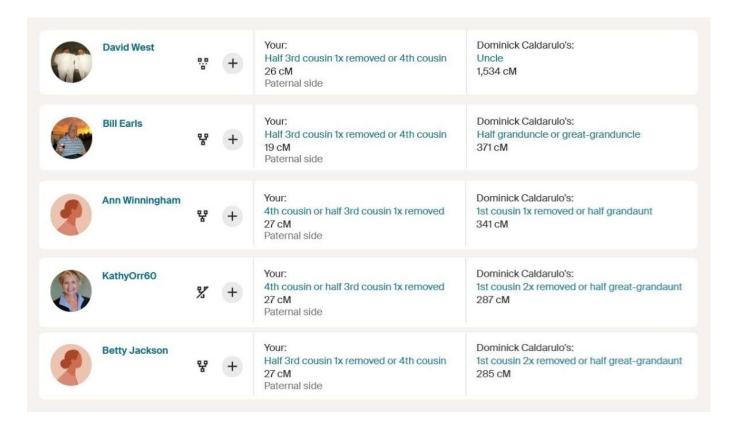


At this point, I should show that Iola May Oakley is indeed descended from the *Oakley-Browne* couple. So here is a chart showing this relationship:



Since Iola May Oakley and I are descendants of the *Oakley-Browne* couple, and since Dominick is descended from the Iola May Oakley, these genealogical relationships could account for my DNA match with Dominick.

I next looked at my DNA match with Dominick, and then I examined our "Shared DNA Matches". Since I have a "Pro" subscription to Ancestry.com, I was able to sort our shared matches from Dominick's perspective, from largest to smallest. Here are his top five:



Our largest shared DNA Matches (from Dominick's perspective) are David West and Bill Earls. And then the next three are Ann Winningham, Kathy Hill Orr, and Betty Jackson. Ann and Betty are Kathy's sisters, so it is easy to place them in the branch of the *Oakley* family tree with Iola May Oakley's descendants.

I looked at Bill Earls in my narrative of 17 April 2025 (referenced on the first page of this document). Here is how Bill and I both match Tim Bever:

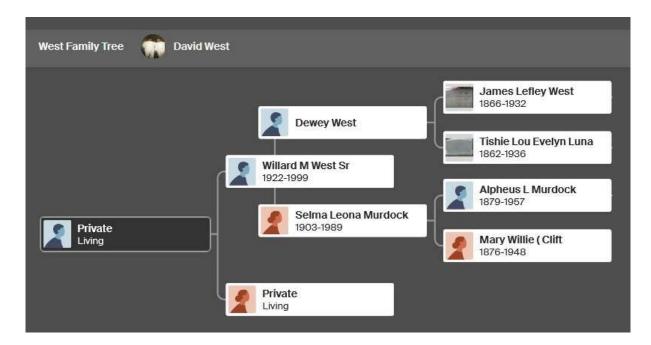


Bill has an extensive family tree, with 6,154 people. As shown in the lower-left corner of Bill's pedigree chart, his mother was Gertrude Belle Nave (1914-1996) and his maternal grandmother was Iola Mai Oakley (1885-1971):



Gertrude Belle Nave (1914-1996) was a sister of Kathy Hill Orr's mother, Dorothy Jane Nave (1916-2000). Now I know exactly how Bill Earls fits into this branch of the *Oakley* family tree.

This just leaves David West. Here is the first part of his pedigree chart:

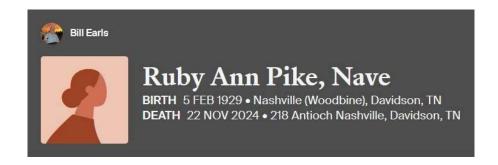


David's father was Willard Mahlon West (1922-1999) and his mother is listed as "Private – Living". I searched for Willard M. West on the Ancestry.com website. Here is one of his profiles:

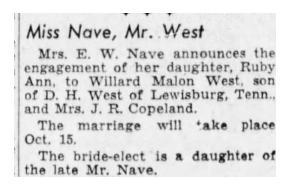


Son of a gun! Willard was married to Ruby A. Nave (1929-2024). And Ruby was one of the daughters of Iola May Oakley. Therefore, Ruby was a sister of Kathy's mother, Dorothy Jane Nave.

According to the profile in Bill Earls family tree, Ruby died on 22 November 2024:



As an aside, here is a copy of the announcement of Ruby and Willard's engagement:

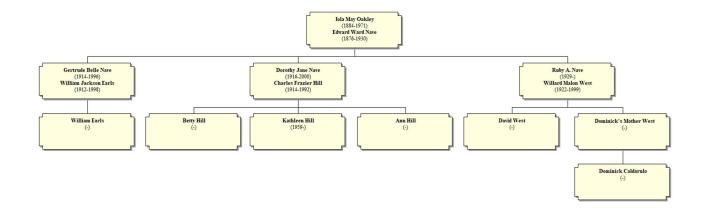


But I digress....

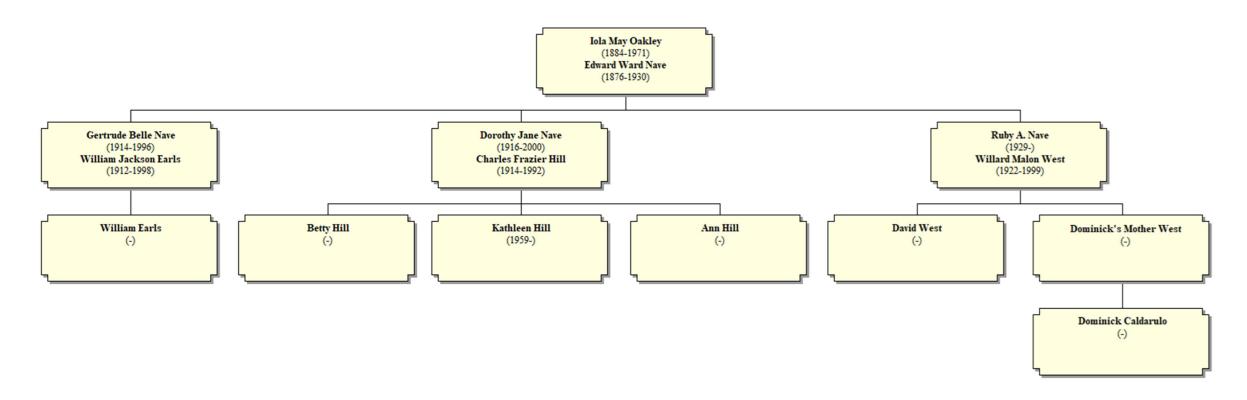
Now I have enough information to build a small relationship chart showing the descendants of Iola May Oakley (married name Nave) with whom I have DNA matches. This chart will include Kathy Hill Orr and her sisters Betty Hill Jackson and Ann Hill Winningham, Bill Earls, David West, and Dominick Caldarulo.

- Kathy, Betty, and Ann are daughters of Dorothy Jane Nave (married name Hill), and Dorothy was a daughter of Iola May Oakley.
- Bill Earls is a son of Gertrude Belle Nave (married name Earls), who also was a daughter of Iola May Oakley.
- David West is a son of Ruby Nave (married name West), who was the youngest child of Iola May Oakley and her husband Edward Ward Nave.
- Dominick Caldarulo is a grandson of Willard Malon West and his wife Ruby Nave. Dominick's mother was a daughter of this couple.

So here is the chart I came up with:



This relationship chart is shown in Landscape View on the next page:



Based on this chart, Bill Earls and David West are first-cousins of Kathy Hill and her two sisters. David West is Dominick Caldarulo's uncle. Bill Earls, Betty, Kathleen (Kathy), and Ann are all first-cousins of Dominick's mother, so they are first-cousins once-removed to Dominick.

Does the DNA support this?

Well, confirming Kathy's sisters is straightforward:



In 2020, the noted genetic genealogist Blaine T. Bettinger posted the results of his research into the amount of DNA shared by people of known genealogical relationships. He found that siblings on average shared 2,613 cM, with a range of 1,613-3,488. Kathy's large DNA matches with her sisters (2,786 cM and 2,712 cM) are just above the average for siblings.

Similarly, David West and Bill Earls show up as Kathy's first-cousins with 863 cM and 825 cM matches, respectively, with Kathy:



Bettinger found that first-cousins on average share 866 cM, with a range of 396-1397 cM. Wow, Kathy's DNA matches with David and Bill are right on the average.

Dominick is a little more problematic.



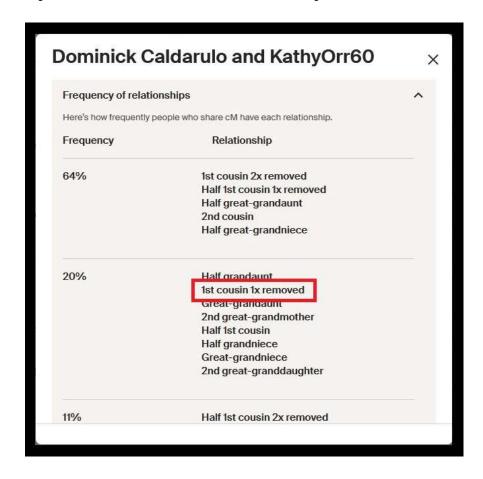
Dominick's match with Kathy is 287 cM, and software on Ancestry.com predicts that he is Kathy's first-cousin twice-removed. But my chart has him as a first-cousin once-removed.

I looked at Kathy's other sisters (Betty, Ann):



The size of Ann's DNA match with Dominick (341 cM) is in the range of first-cousins once-removed. But Dominick's match with Kathy is smaller (287 cM), so there is a greater probability of them having a more distant relationship than they actually do.

I looked at the probabilities of various relationships for Dominick and Kathy:



A first-cousin twice-removed relationship has a 64% probability, while a first-cousin once-removed relationship has a 20% probability. A 20% probability means that one-in-five times, two people with a 287 cM match are really first-cousins once-removed (or an equivalent amount of separation).

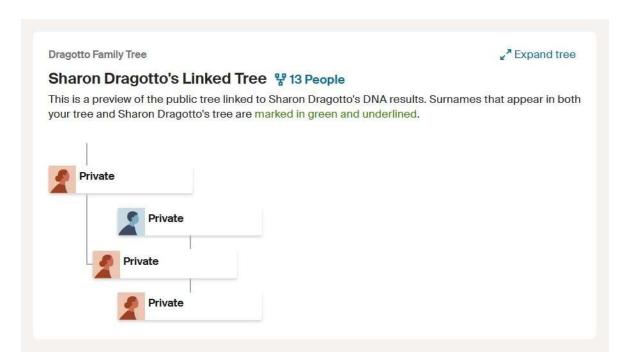
And just when I thought I was done with this branch of the *Oakley* family....

In looking at my "Shared DNA Matches" with Kathy Hill Orr, I sorted them in descending order from Kathy's perspective. I was totally surprised when I saw her DNA match with Sharon Dragotto:

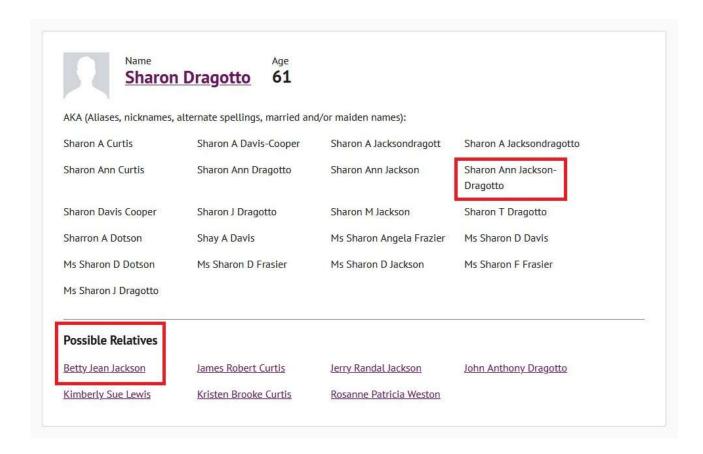


Sharon and Kathy share 2,104 cM and they could be half-sisters or aunt-niece.

I next looked at Sharon's family tree:

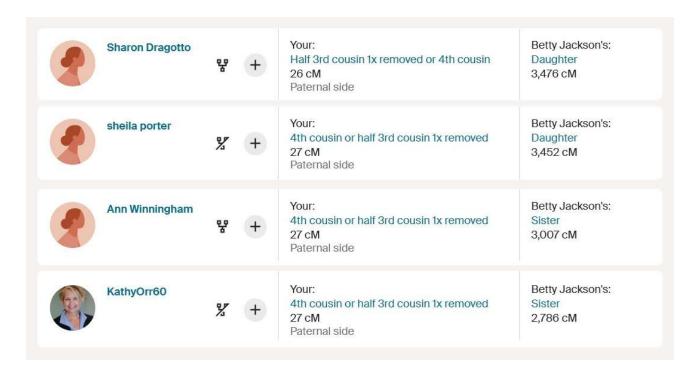


This chart doesn't tell me anything. So I Googled her, and here is one of the "hits":



Oh my, one of her names is Sharon Ann Jackson-Dragotto and one of her possible relatives is Betty Jean Jackson – this Betty Jackson has to be Kathy Hill Orr's sister.

I then looked at my DNA match with Betty Jackson and then looked at our "Shared DNA Matches", sorted from Betty's perspective from largest to smallest. Here are the top matches:



Bingo! Sharon Dragotto is Betty Jackson's daughter. And another of Betty's daughters is Sheila Porter.

So now I can add Sharon and Sheila to my relationship chart showing this branch of the extended *Oakley* family.

But wait, I'm not done yet!

I wondered if Ann Hill Winningham had a child with a DNA profile on Ancestry.com. So I looked at my DNA match with Ann and looked at our "Shared DNA Matches" from her perspective (largest to smallest). Although I didn't find anyone with a relationship as close as a child, I did find Ann's DNA match with Leslie Maher:



The size of Ann's match with Leslie indicates that they could be first-cousins once-removed.

So I looked at my DNA match with Leslie, and then our top "Shared DNA Matches" from her perspective. What do you think I found?

Scroll down...

Go on to the next page...



OMG! Bill Earls is Leslie's father!

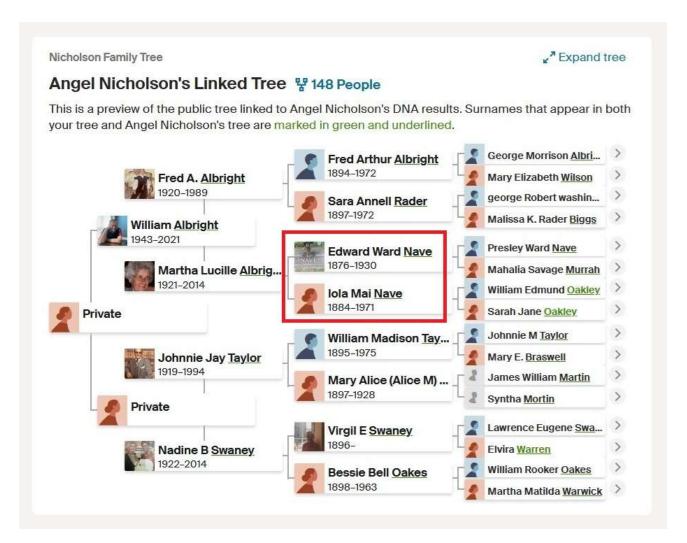
Phew! I'm overwhelmed by this. Not because of all my DNA matches with this branch of the extended *Oakley* family – but because all of these people undoubtedly have the *Oakley-Browne* DNA segment that goes back to England in the early 1600's!!!!

Of course, I had to go on and look at my "Shared DNA Matches" with Leslie Maher. One of her top matches that I didn't recognize was Angel Nicholson:



Angel and Leslie could be second-cousins.

I next looked at Angel's family tree (her pedigree):



Oh my! Angel's great-grandparents were Edward Ward Nave and Iola Mai Oakley (married name Nave). And Angel is descended from Martha Lucille Nave (1921-2014) – yet another daughter of the *Nave-Oakley* couple.

I looked at the top "Shared DNA Matches" from Angel's perspective. One of the matches was with Bill Oakley:

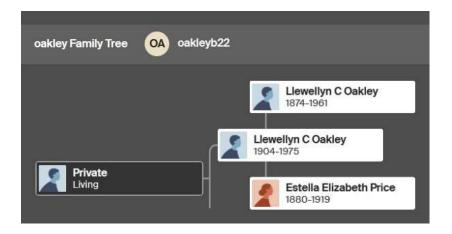


I looked at my DNA match with Bill Oakley and then sorted our "Shared DNA Matches" from Bill's perspective. One of the top matches was with Kathy Hill Orr:

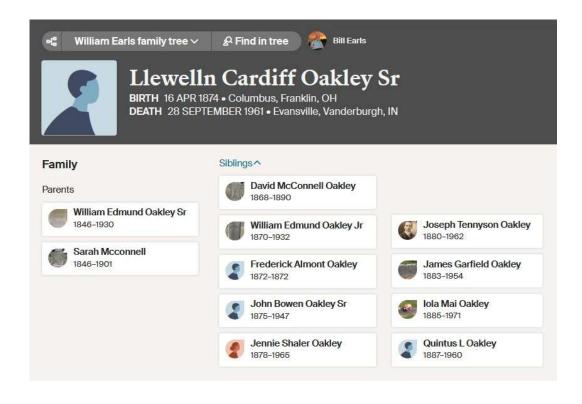


Based on the size of their match, Bill and Kathy could be as close as secondcousins.

I looked at Bill's pedigree:



Bill is descended from Llewellyn Cardiff Oakley (1874-1961). And Llewelyn was a brother of Iola May Oakley, as shown in the following profile, which is from Bill Earls' tree:

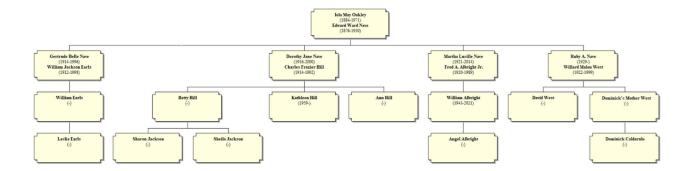


Note that this chart shows Llewelln's siblings, not his children. So while Llewelln most likely has the *Oakley-Browne* segment, this narrative is about the descendants of Iola May Oakley, so I won't deal with him at this time.

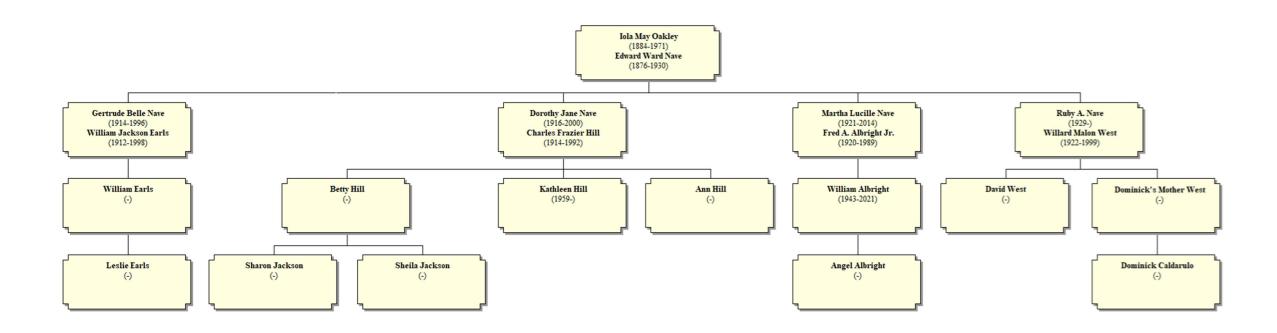
At this point, I need to add all the new people to the relationship chart.

- Sharon Dragotto is Betty Hill Jackson's daughter. I'll refer to her as Sharon Jackson.
- Sheila Porter is Betty Hill Jackson's daughter. I'll refer to her as Sheila Jackson.
- Leslie Maher is Bill Earls' daughter. I'll refer to her as Leslie Earls.
- Angel Nicholson's paternal grandmother was Martha Lucille Nave, and she was another daughter of the *Nave-Oakley* couple. Angel's mother married William Albright, so I'll refer to Angel as Angel Albright.

Here is the revised chart:



I'll show this chart on the next page in landscape view:



In the relationship chart on the previous page, I have DNA matches with:

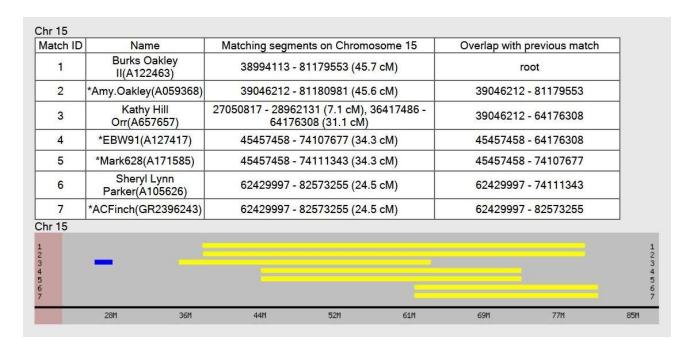
- Bill Earls
- Leslie Earls Maher
- Betty Hill Jackson
- Sharon Jackson
- Sheila Jackson
- Kathy Hill Orr
- Ann Hill Winningham
- Angel Albright Nicholson
- David West
- Dominick Caldarulo

Changing gears now.....

The GEDmatch.com website lets users upload their DNA profiles from any of the major testing companies and then use software tools on the website to examine their DNA matches. For example, the "One-to-One Autosomal DNA Comparison" tool found that Kathy Hill Orr and I have a 26.1 cM DNA match on Chromosome 15:

| 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 |

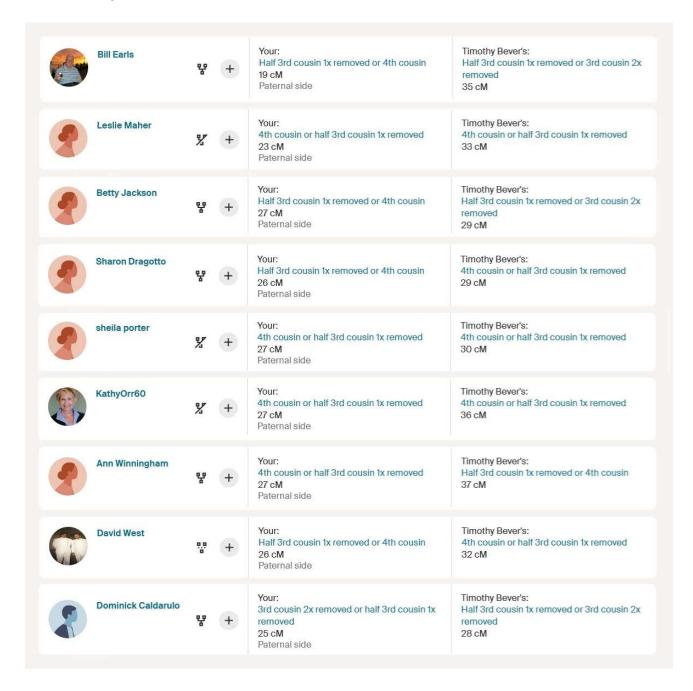
Other software tools on GEDmatch let users see how multiple people match each other. Here is a screenshot showing how seven people match Tim Bever on Chromosome 15:



The top part of this screenshot shows numerical data about where on the chromosome each person matches Tim Bever, while the bottom part of this screenshot displays the numerical data in a bar chart. Tim's segment is not shown, but it can be inferred to extend from the left end of the left-most yellow bar to the right end of the right-most yellow bar (plus a match with the small blue bar).

The people in this comparison are myself and my daughter Amy, Kathy Hill Orr, Elizabeth Workman and her father Mark Workman, and Sheryl Lynn Parker and her son Austin Finch. All of these people are descended from the *Oakley-Browne* couple who immigrated to America in the mid-1600's.

It would be great if all the descendants of Iola May Oakley discussed in this narrative had their DNA on GEDmatch, so we could make similar comparisons. In the absence of that, I'll see how everyone compares with Tim Bever and myself on Ancestry.com:



Everyone discussed in this narrative except Angel Albright Nicholson has a "Shared DNA Match" with Timothy Bever and me.

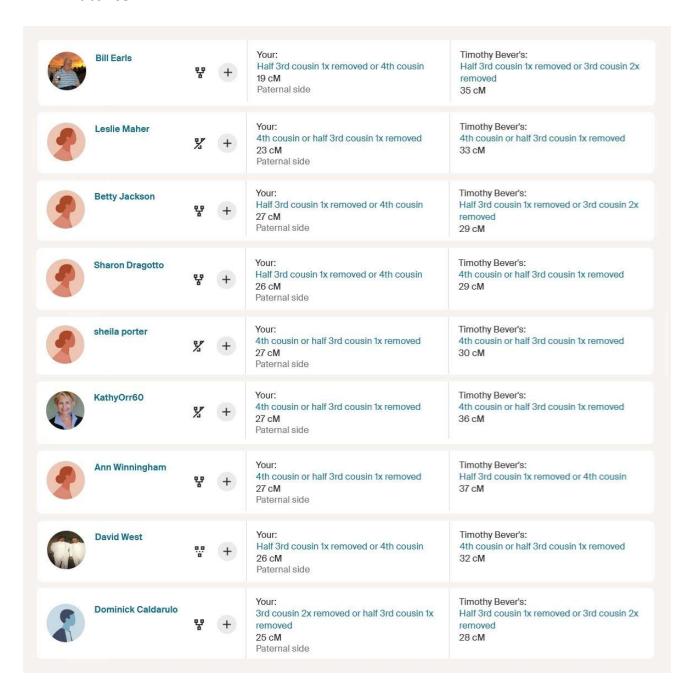
My DNA match with Angel is just 11 cM:



You and Angel Nicholson

Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin | Paternal side < 1% shared DNA: 11 cM across 1 segments

It is possible that Tim's DNA match with Angel is too small to appear our list of "Shared DNA Matches", since matches have to be at least 20 cM to be on this list. For fun, I looked at my DNA match with Angel, and then I looked at our "Shared DNA Matches":



As one might expect, Angel has DNA matches with everyone mentioned in this narrative.

Concluding Remarks

I think that it is absolutely amazing that in the past, I was able to use GEDmatch.com to show that I have DNA matches on Chromosome 15 with a group of people who all can trace their ancestral lines back to Miles Oakley III (1612-1672) and his wife Mary Browne (1607-1682). I discussed these DNA matches in an earlier narrative:

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

Kathy Hill Orr is one of the people in this rather select group of people.

Now I find that <u>ten</u> individuals who are descendants of Iola May Oakley (1884-1971) all appear to have the *Oakley-Browne* DNA segment. All but one of them have "Shared DNA Matches" with Tim Bever and me. Since I only share one DNA

segment with Tim, and since our common ancestors are so many generations back into the past – well, the only logical explanation is that all ten of the descendants of Iola May Oakley mentioned in this narrative also have the *Oakley-Browne* DNA segment.

I think that it is incredible that this one branch of the *Oakley* family has so many people who have the *Oakley-Browne* segment. In my branch of the family, it is just my daughter Amy and me who have this segment. None of my "*Quincy Oakley*" cousins¹ have this segment. Since Iola May Oakley lived all her adult life in Nashville, Tennessee, I'll have to call her branch of the family tree my "*Nashville Oakley*" cousins.

I should note that in Tim Bever's family, Tim, his brother John, his uncle Howard, and Howard's granddaughter Cassidy all appear to have the *Oakley-Browne* segment. But that doesn't come close to the ten members of the *Nashville Oakley* family.

It would be fantastic if the individuals mentioned in this narrative (the *Nashville Oakleys*) could upload their DNA profiles to the free GEDmatch.com website, so that we could verify that the DNA matches really are on Chromosome 15. To encourage this, I would be glad to send a \$100 gift card to anyone or give a \$100 donation to the charity of their choice if they upload their DNA to GEDmatch. I can easily send detailed instructions and the entire process should only take ten or fifteen minutes.

 $^{^1}$ My branch of the Oakley family has its roots in Quincy, Illinois, so I refer to this branch as the *Quincy Oakleys*.