

# My New DNA Match with James Hourigan

By Burks Oakley II  
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I recently looked at my new DNA matches on the Ancestry.com website. I filtered my matches so that I only saw those matches I had not viewed previously (“unviewed”) and where software on the website was able to identify common ancestors. One of these new matches was with a man named James Hourigan:

Burks Oakley's DNA Matches

All matchesBy parentBy ancestorBy location

Filter by:UnviewedCommon ancestors

SearchSort

Distant Family

James Hourigan

5th – 8th Cousin  
16 cM | < 1% shared DNA  
Paternal side

Public linked tree  
3 People  
Common ancestor

James and I have a small 16 cM DNA match, which probably means that we are rather distant cousins.

I went on to look at our common ancestors:

How are you and James Hourigan related?

Common Ancestors

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

James Hourigan could be your 6th cousin through:

Job Tripp

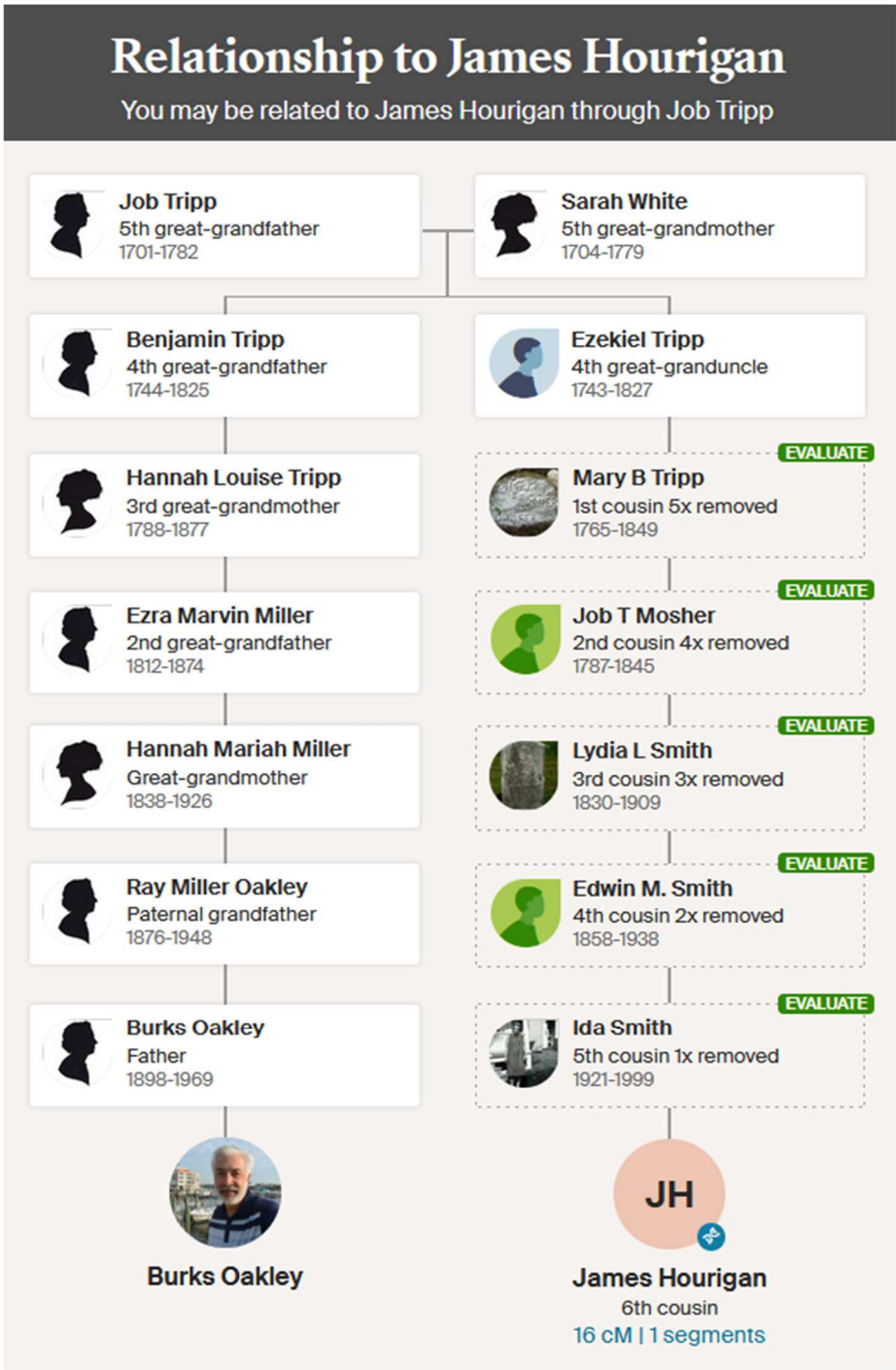
5th great-grandfather  
1701-1782  
View Relationship

Sarah White

5th great-grandmother  
1704-1779  
View Relationship

According to Ancestry.com, James and I are sixth-cousins and we both are descended from Job Tripp (1701-1782) and his wife Sarah White (1704-1779).

Here is a chart that shows the details of how we are related to each other:



I am descended from the Tripp-White couple through their son Benjamin Tripp (1744-1825), while James is descended from this couple through their son Ezekiel Tripp (1743-1827). Amazing to see that our DNA relationship goes back to a couple born in the first few years of the 1700’s.

Note that my ancestral line back to the Tripp-White couple goes through the **Miller** family to the **Tripp** family – with much of this line solidly in New England.

I next looked to see if we had any “Shared DNA Matches”. Recall that Ancestry.com only includes a person on the list of “Shared Matches” if they have DNA matches with both James and me that are at least 20 cM in size. This requirement limits the number of people on the “Shared Matches” list.

Here is a graphic showing a subset of our “Shared Matches” where the common ancestors are known:



# You and James Hourigan

5th – 8th Cousin | Paternal side  
< 1% shared DNA: 16 cM across 1 segments

Trees Ethnicity **Shared Matches**

Filter by: 

Unviewed

Common ancestors

Search | Sort

Distant Family



Mary Greeney

4th – 6th Cousin  
29 cM | < 1% shared DNA  
Paternal side

Public linked tree  
19 People

Common ancestor

We only have a single person in this group, and that is a woman named Mary Greeney. I have a 29 cM DNA match with Mary.

I went on to look at the ancestors that Mary and I have in common:

How are you and Mary Greeney related?

**Common Ancestors**

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

Mary Greeney could be your 6th cousin through:



Job Tripp

5th great-grandfather

1701–1782

View Relationship



Sarah White

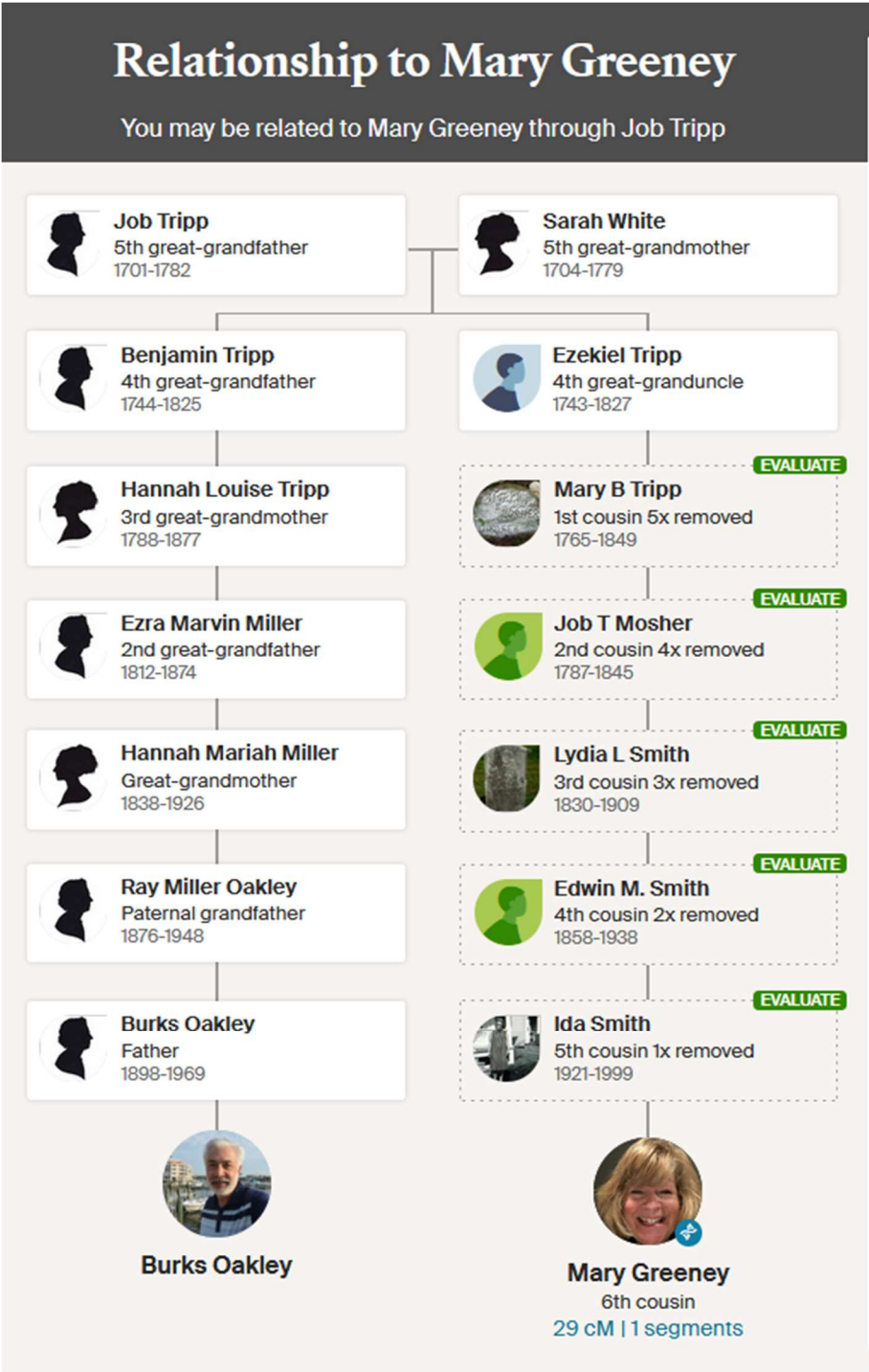
5th great-grandmother

1704–1779

View Relationship

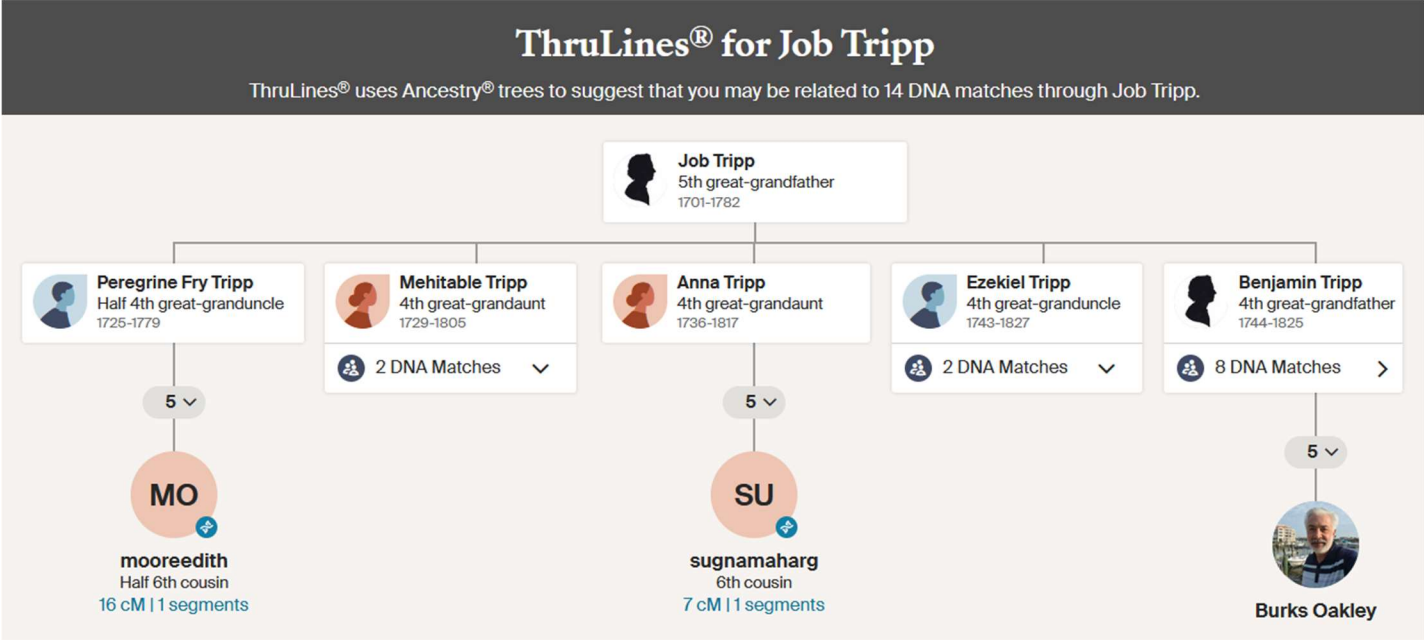
We both are descended from the Tripp-White couple. And, like James Hourigan, Mary and I are sixth-cousins.

When I looked at the chart showing how Mary and I are related, I had to look twice – it was essentially identical to the relationship chart for James:



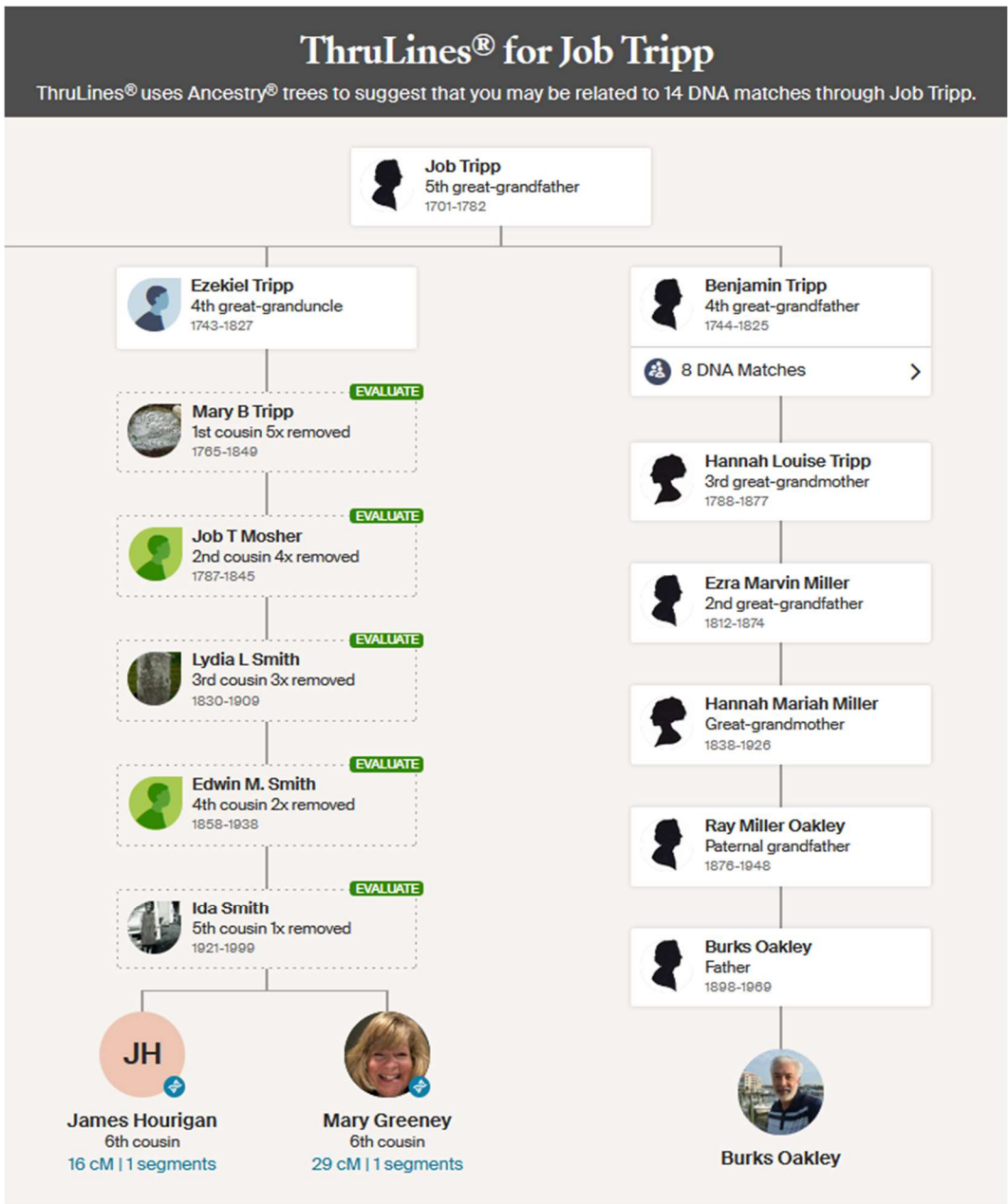
It appeared to me that Mary and James are siblings, even though they have different last names.

I went on to look at my ThruLines® chart for Job Tripp. Here is the chart with all the lines closed:



According to this chart, I have DNA matches with 14 descendants of Job Tripp. I should add that my ThruLines® chart for Job’s wife, Sarah White, is essentially the same as the chart for Job Tripp, except it is missing the line to Peregrine Fry Tripp at the left. Note that in the chart shown above, Peregrine’s line at the left is listed as a “half” line, since a number of family trees on Ancestry.com list Sarah White as Sarah Weeden. So the software on Ancestry.com “thought” that Peregrine Fry Tripp had a different mother than his siblings.

At any rate, here is a part of my ThruLines® chart for Job Tripp, with the two lines at the right open:



This shows that indeed, James Hourigan and Mary Greeney are brother and sister. So **Greeney** must be Mary’s married name, and her birth name had to have been **Hourigan**.

Indeed, when I Googled “Mary Hourigan Greeney” (without the quotes), I found her entry on LinkedIn:





**Mary Elizabeth Hourigan/Greeney**  
Vice President/COMMUNITY AND EVENT COORDINATOR at  
Oswego County Federal Credit Union  
Oswego County, New York, United States  
207 followers · 206 connections

 **Oswego County Federal Credit Union**

 **OSWEGO PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL/SUNY Oswego**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mary-elizabeth-hourigan-greeney-021a9a60>

I was surprised to see that I have a 29 cM DNA match with Mary, since we are sixth-cousins (I thought that this size was too large for such a distant relationship). But when I looked at the Bettinger data from 2020, he found that sixth-cousins on average share 18 cM of DNA, with a range of 0-71 cM:

$$\begin{array}{c} 6C \\ 18 \\ 0 - 71 \end{array}$$

So my DNA matches with the Hourigan siblings are well within the average range.

Now I can get to the fun part. I'll switch and show my ancestral lines from the Geni.com website. Here is my line back to Job Tripp (listed on Geni.com as Judge Job Tripp Jr.):



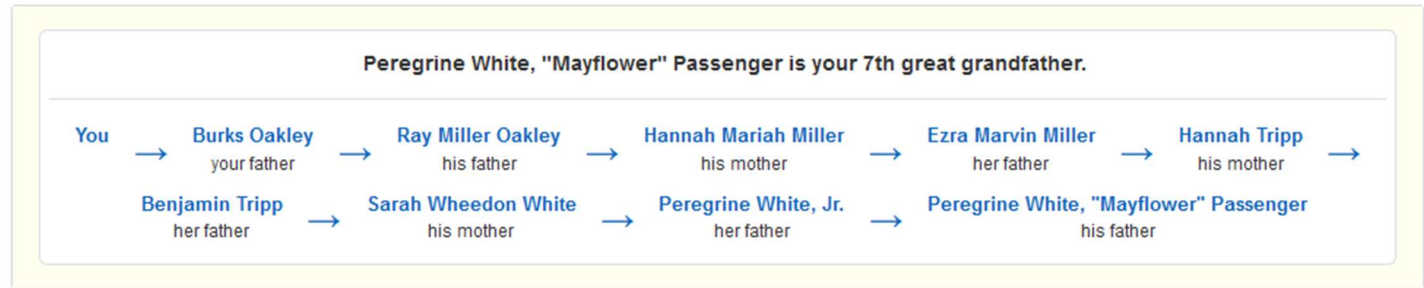
Geni.com correctly has him listed as my fifth-great grandfather.

Here is my line back to Job Tripp's wife, Sarah White (listed on Geni.com as Sarah Weeden White):



Again, Geni.com correctly has her listed as my fifth-great grandmother.

The fun part with this is that Sarah White was a granddaughter of Peregrine White, who was the first child born in the New World on the *Mayflower*:



The story about Peregrine White is fascinating to me – see:

<http://mayflowerhistory.com/white-peregrine>

I have written about this line in the past:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/18-HannahLouiseTripp&theMayflowerBranch.pdf>

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/19-More-about-our-Tripp-Family-Heritage.pdf>

But all this is always nice for me to review.

Now my new DNA matches with James Hourigan and his sister Mary Hourigan Greeney take me all the way back to a granddaughter of Peregrine White. Priceless! As an aside, I wonder if James and Mary know about their ancestral line back to the *Mayflower*....

Oh, and in case anyone is wondering, none of my **Oakley** cousins who have their DNA profiles on Ancestry.com (Hal, Mark, Sullivan, Tim) have DNA matches with James or Mary.