

My New DNA Match with Jeffrey Bruce

By Burks Oakley II
2 May 2025

I have been spending a lot of time recently finding descendants of Miles Oakley III (1612-1672) and his wife Mary Browne (1607-1682). This couple were my 8th-great grandparents. Here are links to a number of narratives I have written recently on this topic:

- http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/Oakley-Chr15-Subgroups_17Apr25.pdf
- http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/IolaMayOakley-Descendants_23Apr25.pdf
- http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/BillOakley_28Apr25.pdf
- http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/MargaretAnnOakleyDescendants_29Apr29.pdf
- http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/GailBrockaFenneman_30Apr25.pdf
- http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/BettyFitterman_1May25.pdf

One of the key people in my recent “research” is Kathy Hill Orr, who is known to have the ***Oakley-Browne*** DNA segment on Chromosome 15.

I’ll start this narrative in a slightly different way. I looked at my DNA match with Kathy Hill Orr on the Ancestry.com website. Then I looked at our “Shared DNA Matches”. And then I filtered those matches so that I only would see those matches who had at least one person in their family trees with the surname ***Oakley***. This filtering process turned up three individuals – and first on this list was Jeffrey Bruce:

Filter shared matches

Shared match:

Jeffrey Bruce

Your:

3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed
12 cM
Paternal side

bettyfitterman

Your:

4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed
11 cM
Paternal side

Angel Nicholson

Your:

Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin
11 cM
Paternal side

KathyOrr60's:

Half 3rd cousin 1x removed
22 cM

KathyOrr60's:

Half 3rd cousin 1x removed
27 cM

KathyOrr60's:

1st cousin 1x removed or half
410 cM

1 of 1

Search

Search by

Match name

Enter first or last name or username...

Surname in matches' trees

Oakley

☐ Include similar surnames

Birth location in matches' trees

Enter birth location...

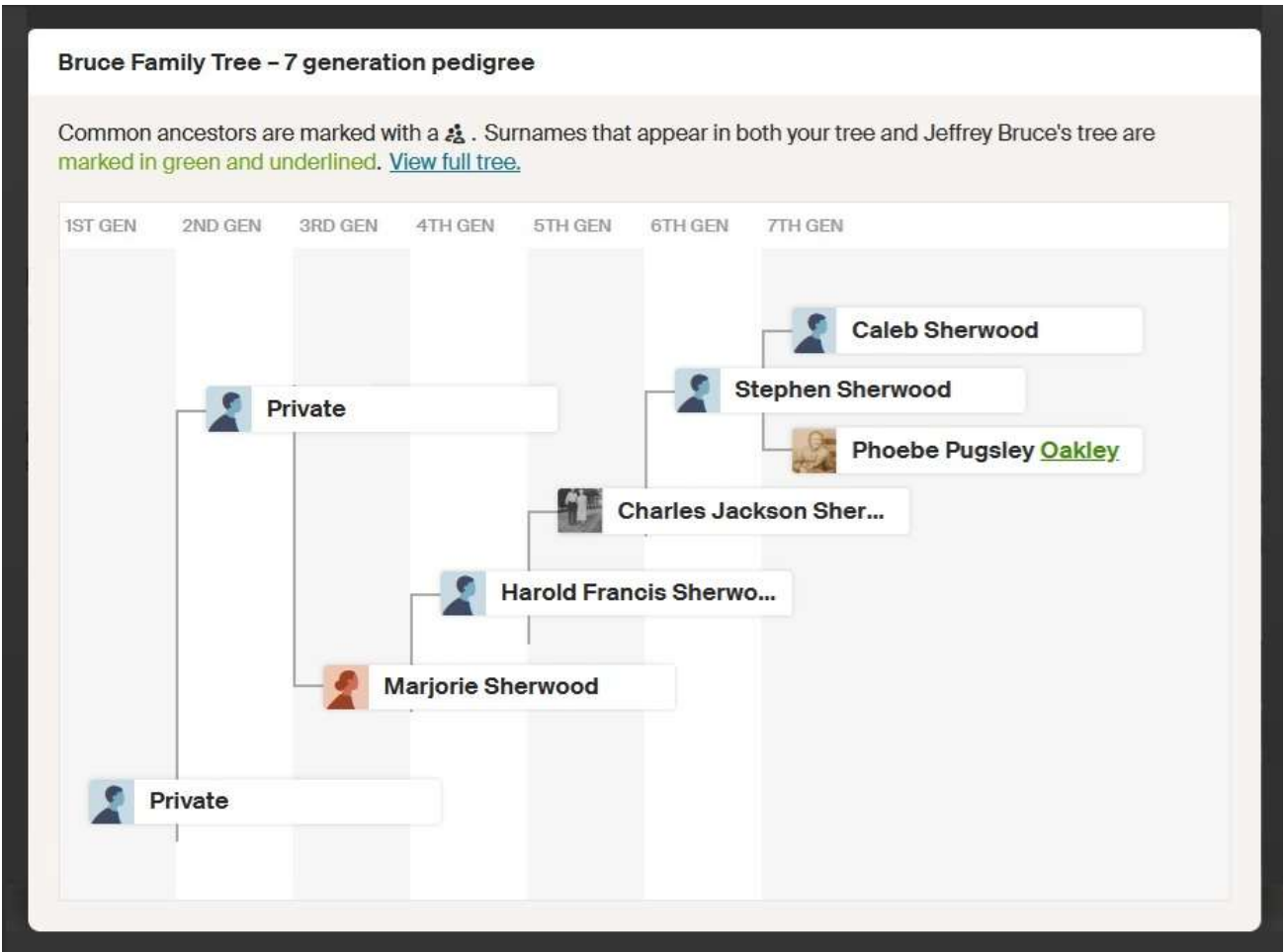
Search

Reset

I have a 12 cM match with Jeffrey, while Kathy has a 22 cM match with Jeffrey.

I then looked at my DNA match with Jeffrey, and then at our “Shared DNA Matches”. I was surprised to see so few of the usual names on this list. But we do have “Shared DNA Matches” with Victoria Vaught and Glenda Sherwood, in addition to Kathy Orr, and they are known ***Oakley-Browne*** descendants.

I went on to look at Jeffrey’s pedigree on Ancestry.com – knowing that he had to have an ***Oakley*** in his tree. And here is his pedigree chart:



Oh my! Jeffrey’s fourth-great grandmother was Phoebe Pugsley Oakley (1766-1854)! That sure is a name I haven’t run across in the past.

Here is Jeffrey’s entry for Phoebe in his family tree:

The image shows a profile for Phoebe Pugsley Oakley within the "Bruce Family Tree - 7 generation pedigree".

Phoebe Pugsley Oakley
Bruce Family Tree

Birth
23 AUG 1766 • Westchester, New York, United States

Death
1854 • Coleta, Whiteside, Illinois, United States

Parents

- Thomas B **OAKLEY** 1739–1821
- Nancy **OAKLEY** 1739–1819

Below the profile, a "Private" label is visible.

Phoebe appears in a number of family trees on Ancestry.com. Here is her profile from the “Zeller Family Tree”:

Zeller Family Tree

Find in tree

lzeller829



Phoebe Pugsley Oakley

BIRTH

23 AUG 1766 • Westchester, New York, United States

DEATH

1854 • Coleta, Whiteside, Illinois, United States

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

Thomas Benjamin Oakley Sr.
1739-1794

Nancy Anne Oakley
1739-1819

Caleb Sherwood
1780-1811

Maria Ellen Sherwood
1794-1892

Stephen W Sherwood
1804-1887

Gilbert Sherwood
1800-1858

Caleb Sherwood
1806-1828

James Sherwood
1802-1871

Phoebe’s father was Pvt. Thomas Benjamin Oakley Sr. (1739-1794):

Perdue Tad Family Tree

Find in tree

Tina Perdue



Pvt Thomas Benjamin Oakley

BIRTH

2 SEP 1739 • Yorktown, Westchester, New York, United States

DEATH

7 JAN 1821 • Mahopac Falls, Putnam, New York, United States

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

Nehemiah Oakley
1712-1800

Susannah Yeomans
1710-1743

Ann Oakley
1739-1819

Phebe Pugsley Oakley
1766-1854

Thomas Oakley
1776-1858

Joseph Oakley
1768-

Ann Oakley
1778-1834

John Oakley
1769-1852

Nancy Oakley
1788-1861

Mary Oakley
1770-1865

Mary OAKLEY
1790-1870

Nehemiah Oakley
1770-1834

Abigail Oakley
1790-1891

Thomas Oakley
1776-1858

David Oakley
1792-

Ann Oakley
1778-1834

James Bainbrigge Oakley
1796-1863

Nancy Oakley
1788-1861

Jemima Oakley
1798-

Mary OAKLEY
1790-1870

Jane Oakley
-1840

Abigail Oakley
1790-1891

This profile clearly shows that Phebe Pugsley Oakley (1766-1819) was the first child of Pvt. Thomas Benjamin Oakley and his wife Ann Oakley (1739-1819). I’m a little suspicious of this profile, since it has a total of 19 children for Thomas and his wife Ann. [Note that some trees on Ancestry.com have Thomas’s wife’s name as Ann, and some have Nancy Ann or Nancy Anne.]

Here is another profile for Pvt. Thomas Benjamin Oakley:

Perdue Tad Family Tree

Find in tree

Tina Perdue

Pvt Thomas Benjamin Oakley

BIRTH

2 SEP 1739 • Yorktown, Westchester, New York, United States

DEATH

7 JAN 1821 • Mahopac Falls, Putnam, New York, United States

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

Nehemiah Oakley
1712–1800

Susannah Yeomans
1710–1743

Ann Oakley
1739–1819

Phebe Pugsley Oakley
1766–1854

Nancy Oakley
1788–1861

Joseph Oakley
1768–

Mary OAKLEY
1790–1870

John Oakley
1769–1852

Abigail Oakley
1790–1891

Mary Oakley
1770–1865

David Oakley
1792–

Nehemiah Oakley
1770–1834

James Bainbrigge Oakley
1796–1863

Thomas Oakley
1776–1858

Jemima Oakley
1798–

Ann Oakley
1778–1834

Jane Oakley
–1840

This one only has fourteen children – still pretty incredible. But the important thing is that Pvt. Thomas Benjamin Oakley was the father of Phebe Pugsley Oakley.

Note that Benjamin’s wife was Ann Oakley (1739-1819), and she really was an ***Oakley*** by birth. Here is a profile for this woman (omitting all of her children except Phebe Pugsley Oakley):

Perdue Tad Family Tree

Find in tree

Tina Perdue

Ann Oakley

BIRTH

2 SEP 1739 • Yonkers, Westchester, New York, USA

DEATH

1819 • Philipstown, New York, USA

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

David William Oakley
1720–1796

Sarah Hunt
1714–1804

Pvt Thomas Benjamin Oakley
1739–1821

Phebe Pugsley Oakley
1766–1854

Ann Oakley’s father was David William Oakley (1720-1796), and he was a son of Miles Oakley VI (1696-1763) and his wife Sarah Tippetts (1700-1800).

Getting back to Pvt. Thomas Benjamin Oakley, his father was Nehemiah Oakley (1712-1800):

Perdue Tad Family Tree

Find in tree

Tina Perdue



Nehemiah Oakley

BIRTH 1712 • Cortlandt, Westchester, New York, USA

DEATH AFT. 1800 • Yorktown, Westchester, New York, USA

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

 Thomas Oakley
1678–1730

 Abigail Farrington

 Susannah Yeomans
1710–1743

 Jemima Oakley
1731–

 Sarah Oakley
1733–

 Mary Oakley
1735–

 Phebe Oakley
1737–

 Pvt Thomas Benjamin Oakley
1739–1821

 Abegail Oakley
1746–1813

 Nehemiah Oakley
1747–1824

 Phebe Oakley
1749–

And Nehemiah’s father was Thomas Oakley (1678-1730):

Perdue Tad Family Tree

Find in tree

Tina Perdue



Thomas Oakley

BIRTH 22 OCT 1678 • Westchester, Westchester, New York, United States

DEATH 26 MAY 1730 • Westchester, Westchester, New York, United States

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

 Miles Oakley

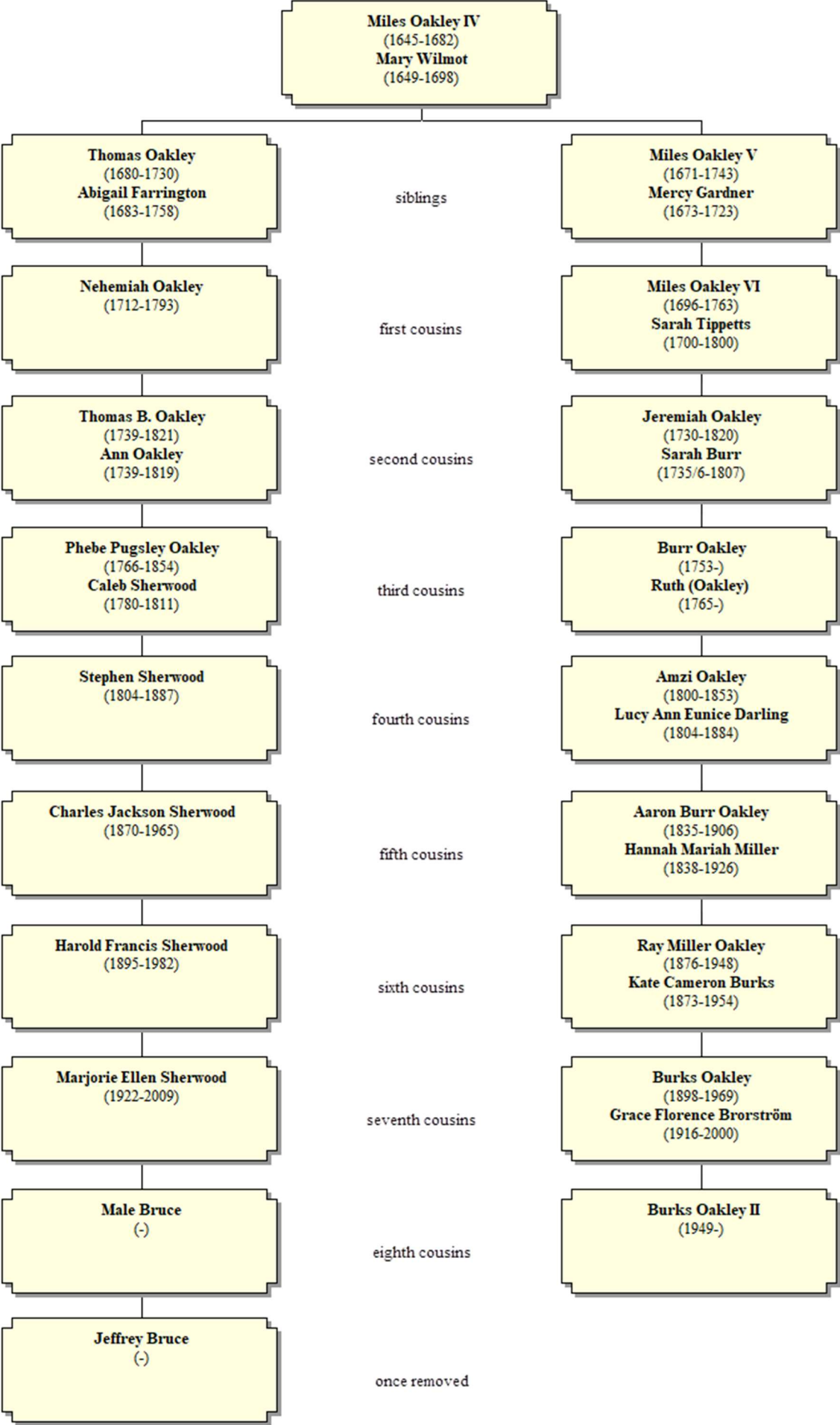
 Mary Wilmot
1650–1682

 Abigail Farrington

 Nehemiah Oakley
1712–1800

And Thomas was a son of Miles Oakley IV (1645-1682) and his wife Mary Wilmot (1649-1698). Bingo! This connects Jeffrey Bruce back to the *Oakley-Browne* couple.

I added Jeffrey’s line to my RootsMagic database, and then created a chart showing how he and I are related:

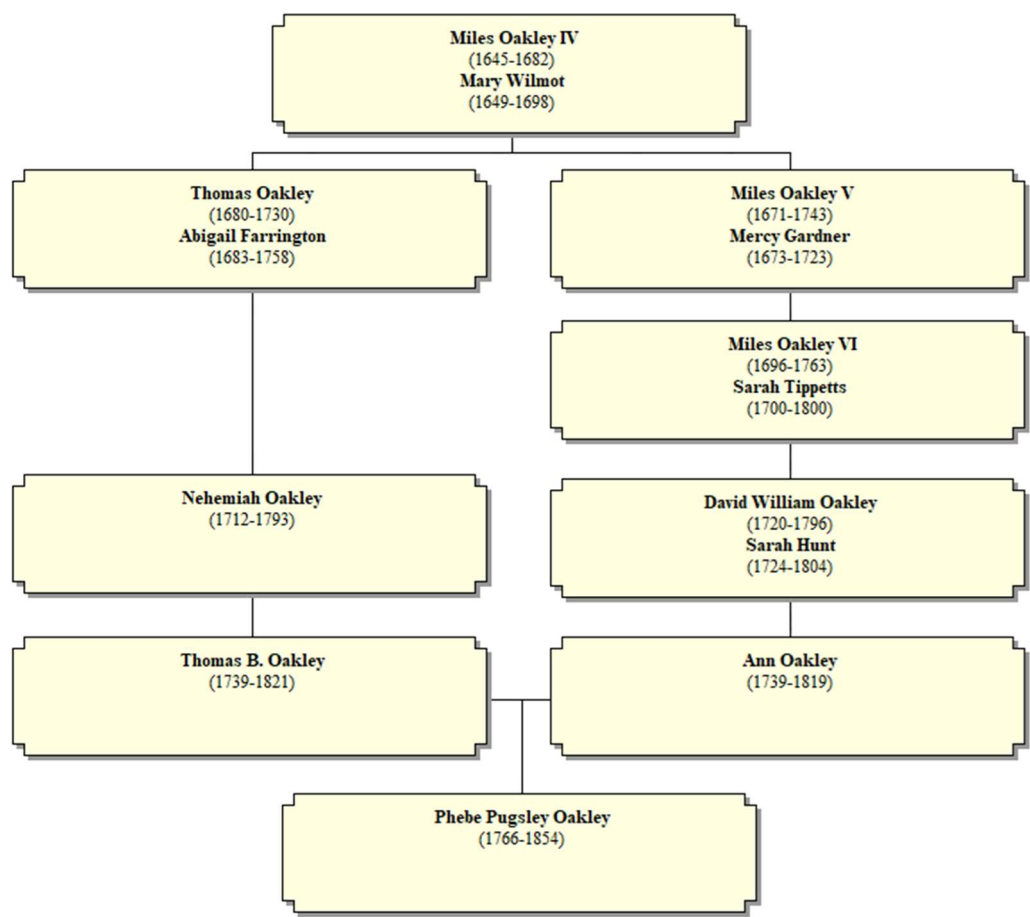


Based on this chart, Jeffrey and I are eighth-cousins once-removed.

In the chart shown above, I used the ancestral line from Phebe Pugsley Oakley that goes back through her father, Pvt. Thomas Benjamin Oakley. Recall that Thomas’ wife was Ann Oakley, and she was a daughter of David William Oakley (1720-1796) and his wife Sarah Hunt (1714-1804).

David William Oakley's parents were Miles Oakley VI (1696-1763) and his wife Sarah Tippetts (1700-1800).

This means that there were two ***Oakley*** lines going back from Phoebe Pugsley Oakley to Miles Oakley IV and his wife Mary Wilmot:

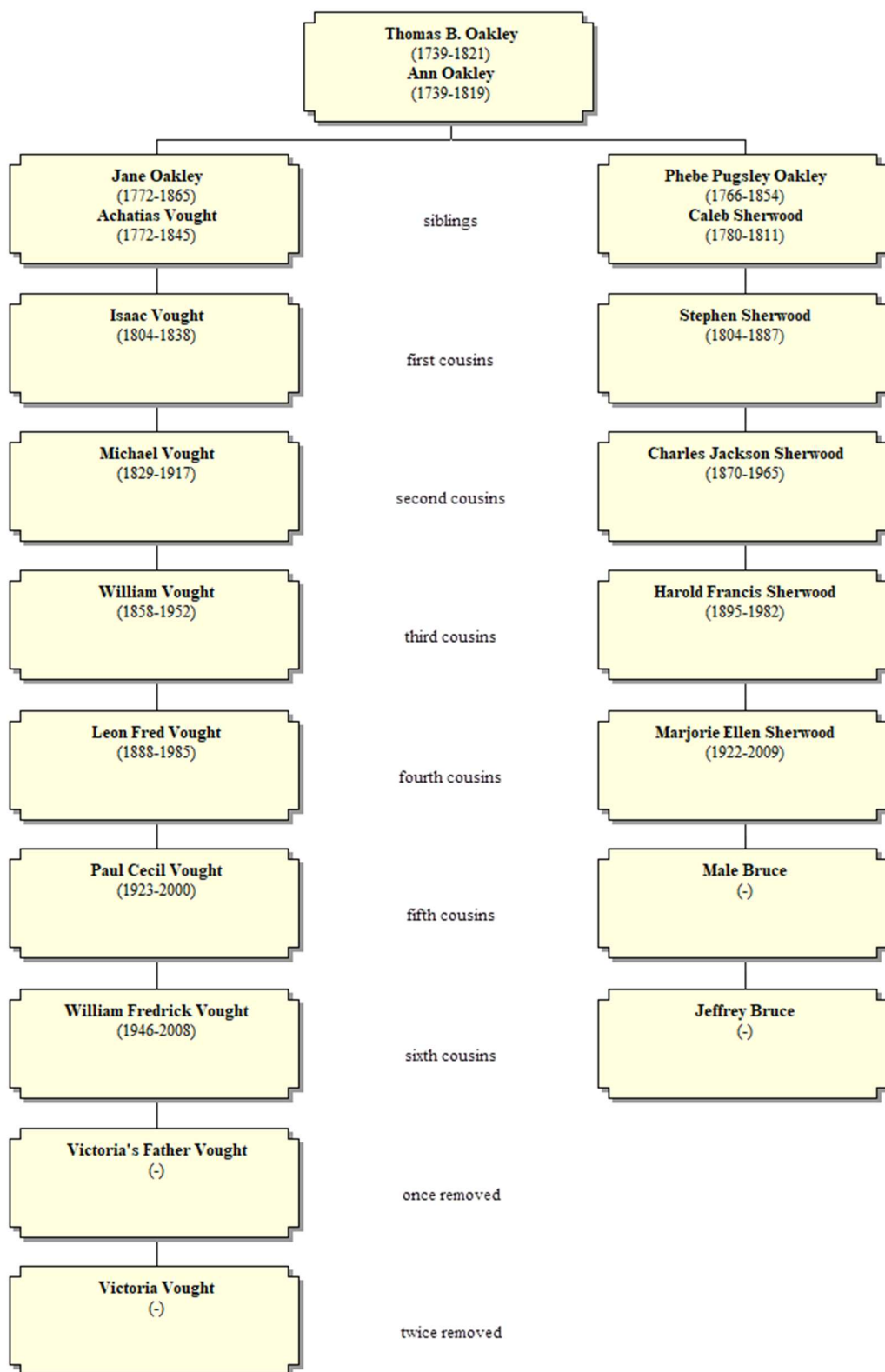


According to this chart, Thomas Benjamin Oakley was a great-grandson of the ***Oakley-Wilmot*** couple, while Thomas's wife Ann Oakley was a second-great granddaughter of the ***Oakley-Wilmot*** couple.

Changing gears now... This past winter, I wrote about my DNA match with Victoria Vought:

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/VictoriaVought_6Jan25.pdf

I remembered that her ***Oakley*** line also goes back to Pvt. Thomas Benjamin Oakley and his wife Ann Oakley. Here is a chart showing how Victoria and Jeffrey are related:



Based on this chart, Victoria and Jeffrey are sixth-cousins twice-removed.

When I looked at my DNA match with Jeffrey on Ancestry.com, I saw that Victoria was one of our “Shared DNA Matches”:

 Victoria Vought	 	Your: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 21 cM Paternal side	Jeffrey Bruce's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 29 cM
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I’m glad to see this finding, since it helps reinforce that our DNA matches really do back to our ***Oakley*** ancestors in Westchester County, New York, in early Colonial times.

One more thought: I'm puzzled that Jeffrey Bruce doesn't have more DNA matches with other known descendants of the **Oakley-Browne** couple. Perhaps he does have lots of matches, but they are too small to show up as "Shared DNA Matches" (must be at least 20 cM). Without a chromosome browser on Ancestry.com, I'll just have to leave this as something to ponder. Or something for the next generation of **Oakley** family genetic genealogists to investigate.

One last thing to add: In researching the various people in this narrative, I found a nice photo of Jeffrey's paternal grandmother, Majorie Ellen Sherwood (1922-2009):



Marjorie and my father, Burks Oakley (1898-1969), were seventh-cousins.