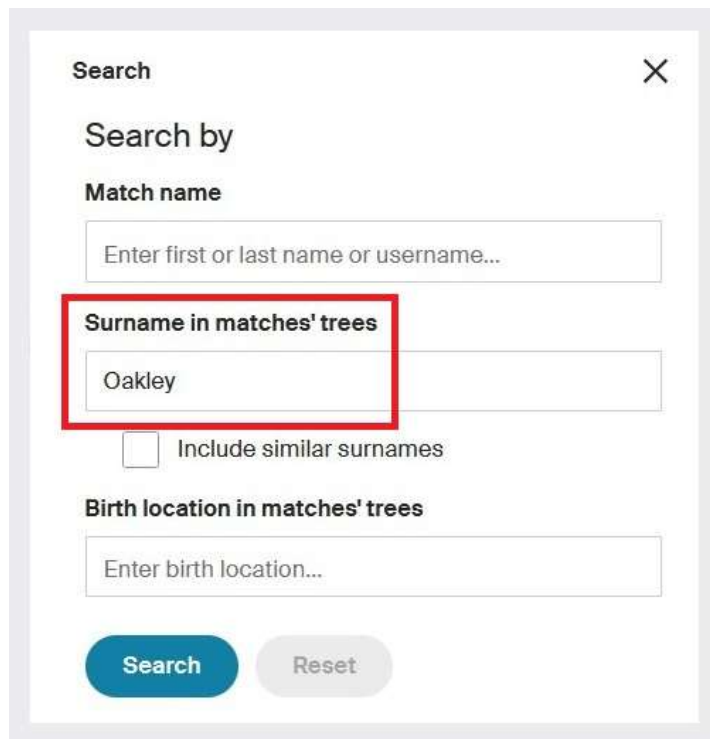


My New DNA Match with Joyce Purdy – Our Common Ancestors Go Back to the Early 1600's

By Burks Oakley II
13 April 2025

On 7 April 2025, I went to the Ancestry.com website and I searched my DNA matches (now more than 55,000) for all those people who have someone in their family trees with the surname of ***Oakley***:



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

This search produced a lot of “hits”, and I scrolled down through the list of individuals until I got to someone whose name I didn’t recognize – and that person was Joyce Purdy:

Burks Oakley ▾

SummaryOrigins**Matches**Traits

AllBy parentBy ancestorBy locationFilter+ Create groupSearch 1Sort

Distant Family

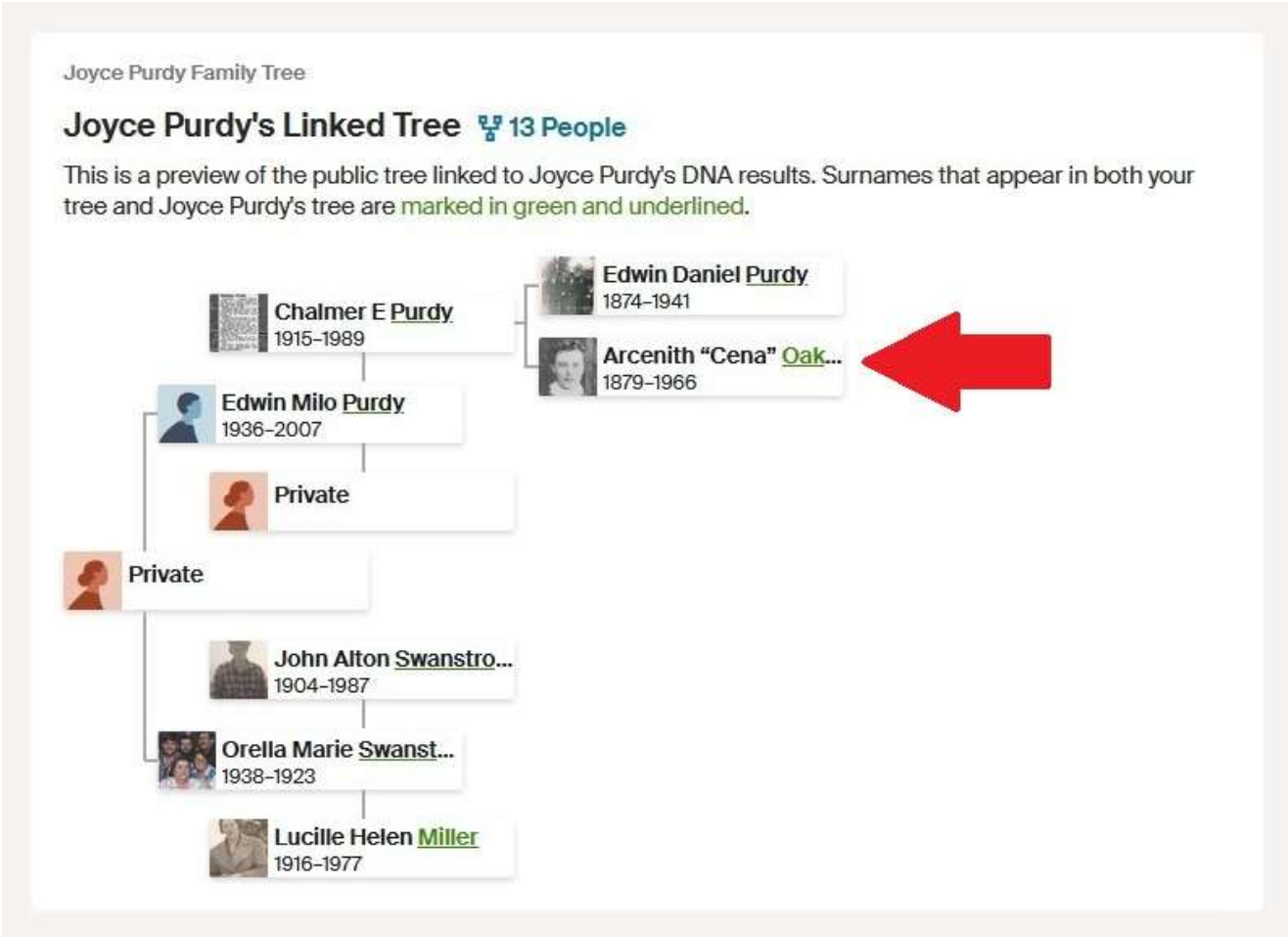
**Joyce Purdy**

4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed
Paternal side
21 cM | < 1% shared DNA

 Public linked tree
13 people

Joyce and I share 21 cM of DNA, and based solely on the size of this DNA match, we are likely to be something like fourth-cousins. Her family tree has just thirteen people in it, and at least one of them has to be an ***Oakley***.

I next looked at Joyce’s family tree (actually her pedigree chart):



Joyce’s paternal grandfather’s mother was Arcenith “Cena” Oakley (1879-1966). Cena Oakley is certainly someone that I hadn’t encountered previously in looking at my ***Oakley*** family genealogy.

I immediately looked at the profile for Arcenith “Cena” Oakley in Joyce’s tree:

Joyce Purdy Family Tree

Find in tree

JP

Joyce Purdy

Arcenith “Cena” Oakley

BIRTH

27 SEP 1879 • Greenfield, Monroe, Wisconsin, USA

DEATH

7 MAY 1966 • Beloit, Rock, Wisconsin, USA

Family

Parents

Unknown father

Unknown mother

Spouse and children

Edwin Daniel Purdy

1874-1941

Chalmer E Purdy

1915-1989

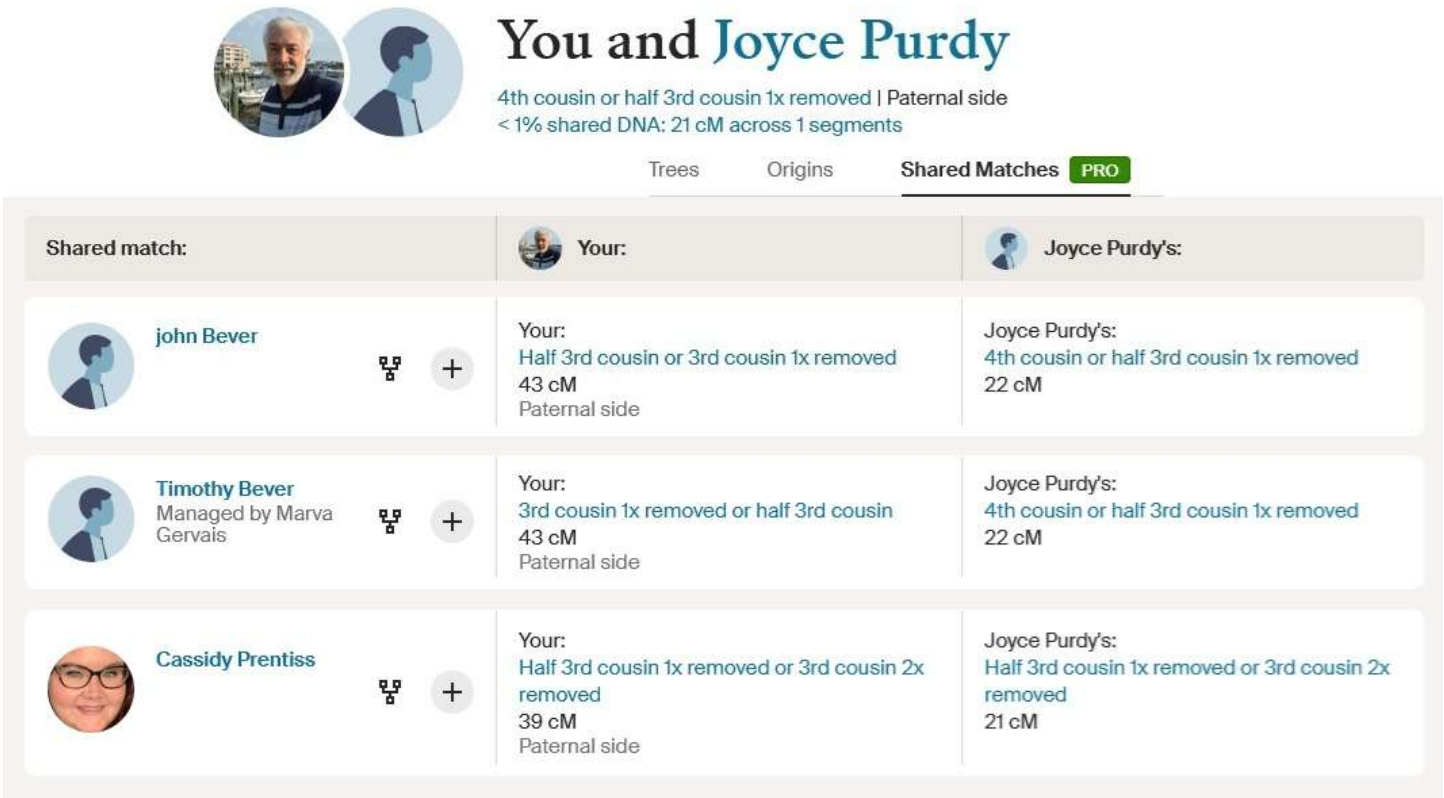
This profile shows that Arcenith’s parents are unknown (to Joyce). It also shows that Arcenith was married to Edwin Daniel Purdy (1874-1941), and as a couple, they had a son Chalmer E. Purdy (1915-1989). Based on Joyce’s pedigree chart (above), Chalmer was her paternal grandfather.

In the screenshot shown above, I edited out some of the information for clarity. Here is some of the deleted information:



Arcenith “Cena” Oakley married Edwin Daniel Purdy in 1898, when she was 18 years old. She had her son Chalmer E. Purdy in 1915, when she was 35 years old. I wondered if she had any other children before her son Chalmer.

I had never heard of Arcenith “Cena” Oakley, and I naturally wondered how she (and her great-granddaughter Joyce Purdy) fit into our **Oakley** family (if at all). I know that a great deal of information can be gained by looking at the DNA matches that Joyce and I have in common – our so-called “Shared DNA Matches”. So I went on to look at our Shared DNA Matches:



OMG! Joyce is an **Oakley** descendant and she has DNA matches with members of the **Bever** family – John Bever, Timothy Bever, and Cassidy Prentiss (Cassidy is a granddaughter of Howard Oakley Bever, and Howard is Timothy Bever’s uncle).

These matches with the **Bever** family are extremely important, since I know that my DNA match with them goes all the way back to Miles Oakley (1645-1682) and his wife Mary Wilmot (1649-1698). I have written about this DNA match previously:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/14A-DeepTriangulationConfirmsOurOakleyLineage.pdf>

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/14B-Triangulation-Chr.15.pdf>

It is likely that this match goes back one more generation, to Miles Oakley (1612-1672) and his wife Mary Browne (1607-1682) – this is based on my DNA match with Sheryl Finch:

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/SherylFinch-DNA-match_18Dec24.pdf

Using the chromosome browser on the GEDmatch.com website, I know that my DNA match with **Bever** family members is on Chromosome 15. And I know that there are other descendants of the **Oakley-Browne** couple who have part of this DNA segment on Chromosome 15. I refer to this group of people as a “triangulation group” (read the first PDF listed above to understand why).

I looked at other DNA matches that Joyce Purdy and I share. These shared matches include:

 A.B. Managed by Donald Baird		Your: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 33 cM Paternal side	Joyce Purdy's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 24 cM
 rjtrana50		Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 33 cM Paternal side	Joyce Purdy's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 23 cM
 Austin Finch Managed by sherylfinch		Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 21 cM Paternal side	Joyce Purdy's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 25 cM
 sherylfinch		Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 18 cM Paternal side	Joyce Purdy's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 22 cM
 melissa oakley		Your: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 17 cM Paternal side	Joyce Purdy's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 20 cM
 Anne Ely Wain		Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 9 cM Paternal side	Joyce Purdy's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 20 cM

I can trace the ancestry of each of these people back to the **Oakley-Browne** couple. And those people who have their DNA on GEDmatch.com (Jeani Trana, Austin Finch, Sheryl Finch, and Anne Ely Wain) all have the matching DNA segment on Chromosome 15.

At this point, I started screaming in delight, since I was 99.9% sure that I had found another descendant of the ***Oakley-Browne*** couple. And this means that I was 99.9% sure that I would be able to trace Arcenith “Cena” Oakley’s ancestral line back to the ***Oakley-Browne*** couple.

I searched on the Ancestry.com website for another profile for Arcenith “Cena” Oakley. She appears in the “Woodard Family Tree”:

Woodard Family Tree

Find in tree

jksgjs006



Arcenith “Cena” Oakley

BIRTH 27 SEP 1879 • Greenfield, Monroe, Wisconsin, USA

DEATH 7 MAY 1966 • Beloit, Rock, Wisconsin, USA

Family

Parents

Nehemiah Myron Oakley
1834–1917

Fannie Helena Woodard
1835–1921

Spouse and children

Edwin Daniel Purdy
1874–1941

Bernard Purdy
1899–1899

Charles Glen Purdy
1900–1953

Lyman Augustus Purdy
1902–1980

Cleora Gladys “Ora” Purdy
1904–1990

Mildred Marie Purdy
1912–1998

Chalmer Eugene Purdy
1915–1989

Kenneth Edwin Purdy
1920–1945

Cena’s father was Nehemiah Myron Oakley (1834-1917). And as I suspected, Cena had five children before she had her son Chalmer in 1915.

Nehemiah is also in the “Woodard Family Tree”:

Woodard Family Tree

Find in tree

jksgjs006



Nehemiah Myron Oakley

BIRTH 19 AUG 1834 • Oppenheim Twp, Montgomery Co, NY

DEATH 15 DEC 1917 • Tunnel City, Greenfield Twp., Monroe Co., WI

Family

Parents

Edward Oakley
1810–1847

Polly Ware
1810–1857

Spouse and children

Fannie Helena Woodard
1835–1921

Alice Oakley
1855–

Wellington A. Oakley
1862–1946

Emma Oakley
1857–1912

Oscar Lorenzo Oakley
1863–1938

Sarah Jane Oakley
1858–1882

Armina “Minnie” Oakley
1866–1945

Fannie Alveretta Oakley
1859–1938

Elveretta Oakley
1873–1873

Mary Elizabeth Oakley
1860–1929

Arcenith “Cena” Oakley
1879–1966

Nehemiah’s father was Edward Oakley (1810-1847), and Nehemiah’s wife was Fannie Helena Woodard (1835-1921). I guess that is why these ***Oakley*** family members are in the ***Woodard*** family tree.

I had to do a new search for Edward Oakley. I found a good profile for him in the “Gilzeans of New Spynie...” family tree:

Gilzeans of New Spynie/... ▾

Find in tree

SGilzean

Edward Oakley

BIRTH 1810 • New York, United States

DEATH 1 MAR 1847 • Oxford, Ontario, Canada

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

Cornelius Oakley

1790–1815

Sophia Jane Wardwell

1790–

Polly Wire

1810–1857

Charity Oakley

1832–1903

Nehemiah Myron Oakley

1834–1917

Charles Oakley

1836–1853

Mary Elizabeth Oakley

1838–1912

Phoebe Jane Oakley

1847–1851

Edward’s father was Cornelius Oakley (1790-1815). And Cornelius appears in the “Matzke” family tree:

Matzke ▾

Find in tree

RM Robert Matzke

Cornelius Oakley

BIRTH 1790 • Yonkers, New York, USA

DEATH 07 SEP 1857 • buried Trinity Cemetary

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

Moses Hunt Oakley

1745–1801

Dorcas Tippetts Warner

1752–1812

Sophia Jane Richardson

1792–1868

Edward Oakley

1810–1847

William Richardson Oakley

1817–

Sophia Dorcas Oakley

1819–1862

Cornelius Oakley Jr

1824–1904

George MacReady Oakley

1825–1903

Hobart Oakley

1838–1891

Cornelius was born in Yonkers, Westchester County, New York, which is where my branch of the ***Oakley*** family lived for many generations.

Cornelius’ father was Moses Hunt Oakley (1745-1801), and his profile can be found in the “Perello Family Tree”:

Perello Family Tree

Find in tree

MPMichelle Perello



Moses Hunt Oakley

BIRTH

JULY 28 1745 • mile square, Yonkers, Westchester, New York, USA

DEATH

SEPT. 30 1801 • Bloomingdale, New York City, New York, USA

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

David Oakley Esq- Judge
1720-1796

Sarah Hunt
1725-1804

DORCAS TIPPETTS WARNER
1741-1812

Jesse Oakley
1768-1847

James Oakley
1770-1853

Richard Oakley
1773-1792

Mary Oakley
1778-

David Oakley
1778-1806

Moses Oakley
1781-1795

CHARLES OAKLEY
1786-1884

Elizabeth Mary Oakley
1788-1868

Cornelius Oakley Sr
1790-1857

Miles Oakley
1792-

Richard Oakley
1793-1862

Moses Hunt Oakley’s father was David Oakley (1720-1796), and David’s profile can be found in the “Oakley Project Group 1 Family Tree”, which is owned by Richard Hunsaker:

Oakley Project Group 1 F...

Find in tree

Richard Hunsaker
Your role: Contributor



David Oakley

BIRTH

25 MAR 1720 • Throggs Neck, Westchester, New York, United States

DEATH

25 NOV 1796 • Miles Square, Westchester, New York, USA

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

Miles Oakley III
1696-1763

Sarah Tippetts
1700-1800

Sarah Hunt
1725-1804

Moses Hunt Oakley
1745-1801

David Oakley Jr
1750-1829

Mary Oakley
1753-1814

Martha Oakley
1755-

Sarah Oakley
1755-

Rachel Oakley
1756-1815

Joan or Jane Oakley
1756-1813

Hannah Oakley
1759-1782

Susannah Oakley
1765-1814

I should add that Richard Hunsaker is the manager of the “Oakley Y-DNA Project” on FamilyTreeDNA.com.

David Oakley’s parents were Miles Oakley (1696-1763) and Sarah Tippetts (1700-1800), and this couple were my fifth-great grandparents. Of course, Joyce Purdy and I have the same ***Oakley*** ancestral line going back from there – all the way to Miles Oakley (1612-1672) and his wife Mary Browne (1607-1682).

YESSSSSSS!!!! Joyce Purdy is indeed descended from the Westchester ***Oakleys*** through her great-grandmother Arcenith “Cena” Oakley. And the fact that she has DNA matches with so many people in the “triangulation group” makes me 99.9% certain that she has the ***Oakley-Browne*** segment on Chromosome 15.

Now I just have to contact Joyce and ask her to put her DNA profile on the free GEDmatch.com website.