

My New England Ancestry Goes Back to a Famous Englishman who Immigrated to America in 1630

By Burks Oakley II
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I regularly visit the Ancestry.com website to look for new DNA matches. I am especially interested in those matches where software on the website is able to identify the ancestors that a DNA match and I have in common. When I find a new DNA match where our common ancestors are known – well, I never know where the subsequent investigation is going to take me. And this narrative is about one of my more interesting excursions back into my genealogical past that I have taken recently. Stay tuned!

A few days ago, I learned that I had a new DNA match on Ancestry.com with Linda Shoemaker:

Unviewed

Common ancestor

Distant Family



Linda Shoemaker

4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed

Paternal side

9 cM | < 1% shared DNA

 Public linked tree

 2,536 people

 Common ancestor

Linda and I share just 9 cM of DNA, so we are likely to be very distant relatives. In fact, we both are descended from Nathan Lyon (1703-1757) and his wife Abigail Mallory (1701-1779):

How are you and Linda Shoemaker related?

Common Ancestors

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

Linda Shoemaker could be your 6th cousin through:



Nathan Lyon

5th great-grandfather

1703–1757

View Relationship



Abigail Mallory

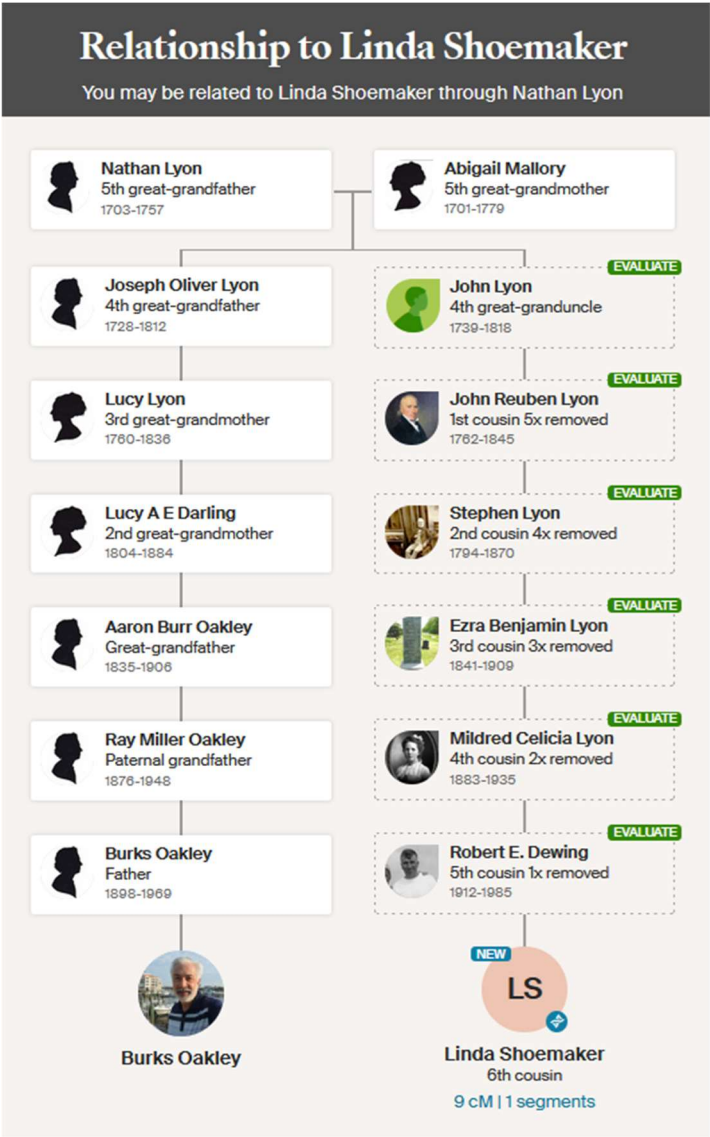
5th great-grandmother

1701–1779

View Relationship

The *Lyon-Mallory* couple were my fifth-great grandparents.

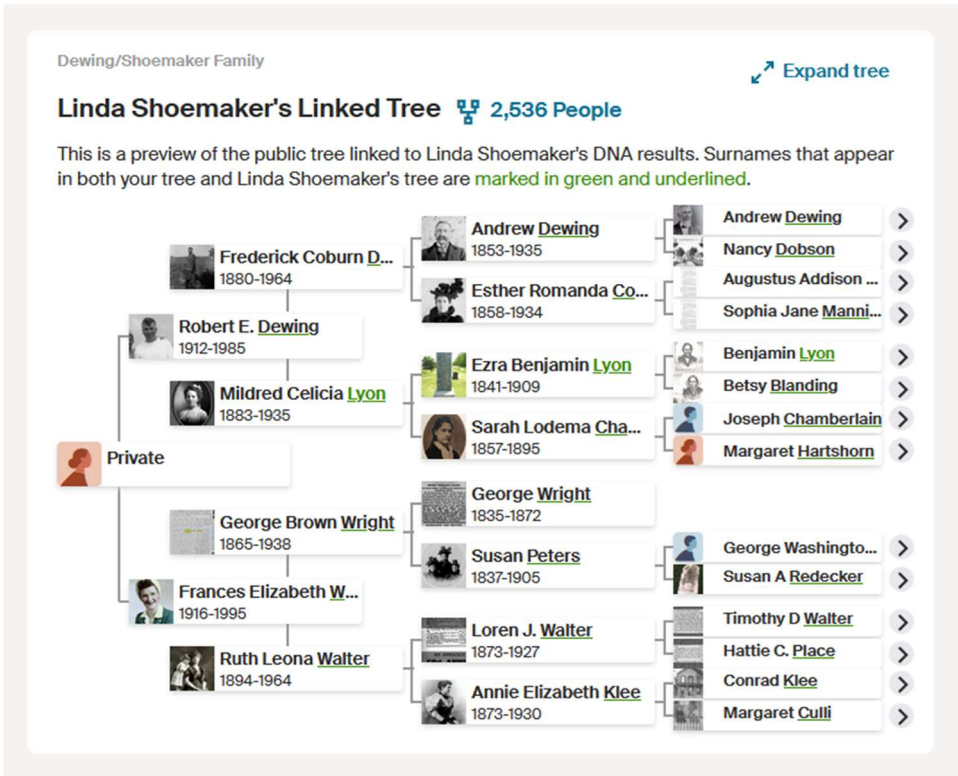
I next looked at the chart showing how Linda and I are most likely to be related:



I am descended from the **Lyon-Mallory** couple through their son, Joseph Oliver Lyon (1728-1812), while Linda is descended from this couple through their son John Lyon (1739-1818). Based on this chart, Linda and I are sixth-cousins.

Note that Linda comes from a long line of **Lyon** males (what a great alliteration – “long line of **Lyon**”), which ended with the birth of her paternal grandmother, Mildred Celicia Lyon (1883-1935).

Linda has a rather large family tree on Ancestry.com. Here is her pedigree:



Since Linda’s father was a **Dewing**, I guessed that her married name was Linda Dewing Shoemaker. When I Googled this name, one of the “hits” was to an article about her life – see:

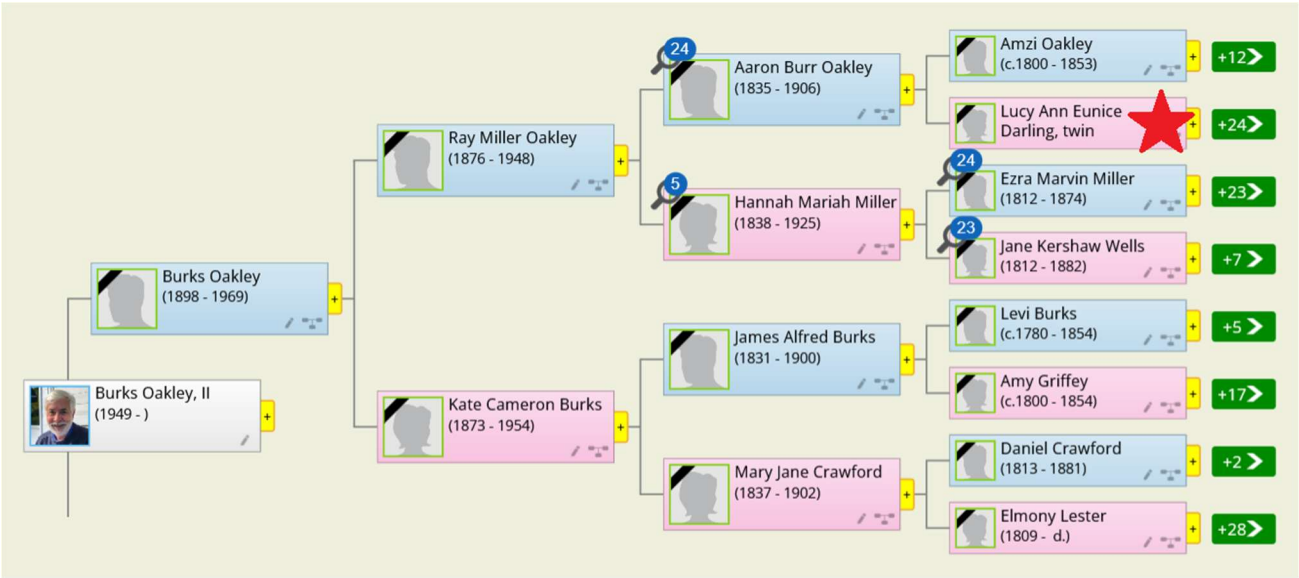
<http://mytownagreatplacetolive.com/senior-citizens-linda-dewing-shoemaker/>

The article included a photo of her when she became a nurse in 1962:

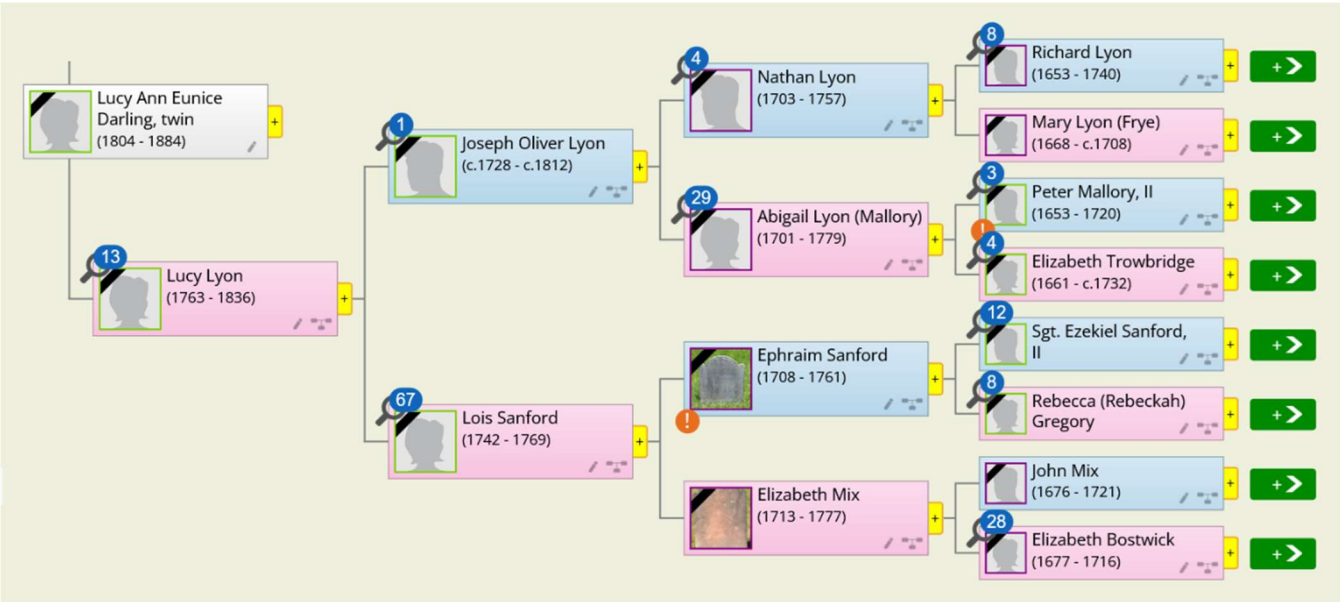


At this point, my “excursion” into my past took an interesting turn. I went to the Geni.com website and looked at my ancestral line back to Nathan Lyon – remember, Linda and I are both descended from Nathan Lyon (and his wife, Abigail Mallory).

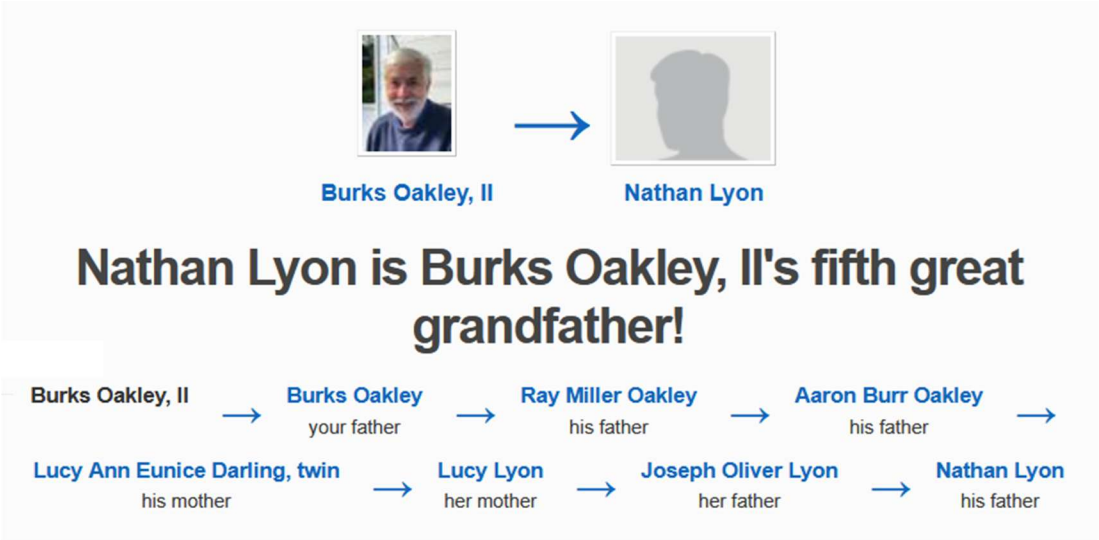
Here is a screenshot from Geni.com, showing the first part of my line back to Nathan Lyon. This first part goes back to my second-great grandmother, Lucy Ann Eunice Darling (1804-1884), who is marked with a red star in this chart:



And here is the next part of my ancestral line, going from Lucy Ann Eunice Darling back to Nathan Lyon (1703-1757):



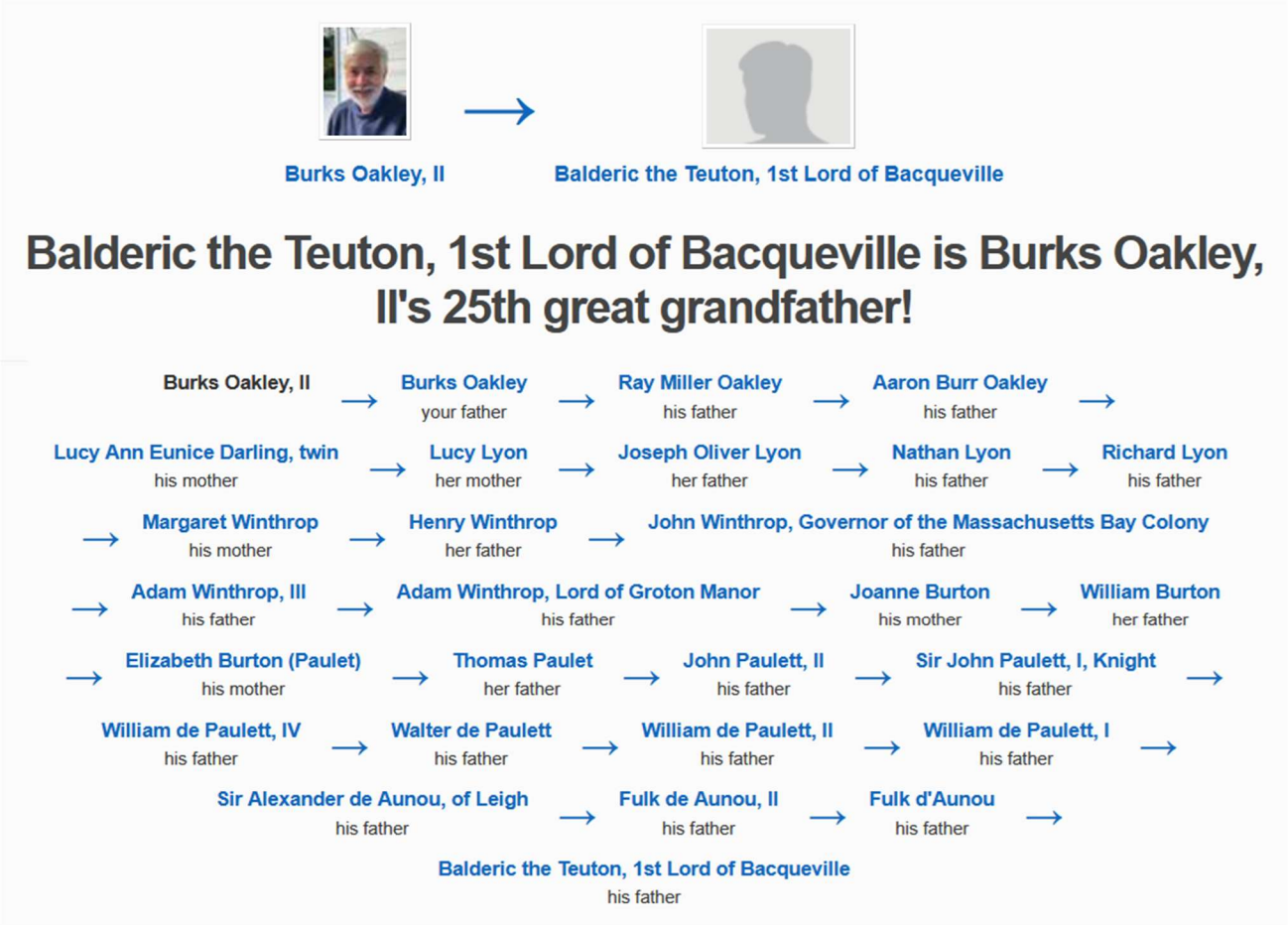
My line back to Nathan Lyon on Geni.com can be summarized as:



This ancestral line is in complete agreement with the same line on Ancestry.com.

Just for fun, I wanted to see how far back I could go with Nathan Lyon’s ancestors on Geni.com.

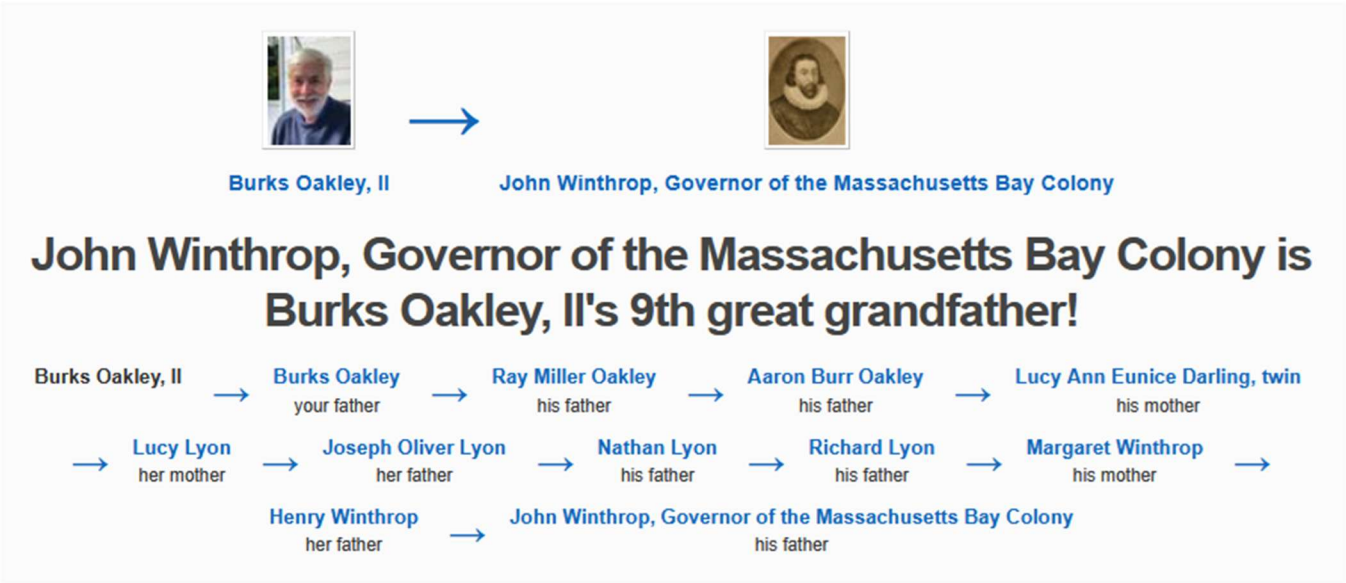
I was amazed to see that I could go back to my 25th-great grandfather, Balderic the Teuton, 1st Lord of Bacqueville:



My ancestral line back to Balderic goes through John Winthrop, Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony:



Oh my! John Winthrop was a very important person for his time. Here is another view showing my ancestral line back to my ninth-great grandfather, John Winthrop:



Here is the start of the Wikipedia article about John Winthrop:

John Winthrop

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

John Winthrop (January 12, 1588^[a] – March 26, 1649) was an English **Puritan** lawyer and a leading figure in the founding of the **Massachusetts Bay Colony**, the second major settlement in **New England** following **Plymouth Colony**. Winthrop led the first large wave of colonists from England in 1630 and served as governor for 12 of the colony's first 20 years. His writings and vision of the colony as a Puritan "**city upon a hill**" dominated New England colonial development, influencing the governments and religions of neighboring colonies in addition to those of Massachusetts.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Winthrop

In 1630 (just ten years after the *Mayflower* arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts), John Winthrop led a large group of Puritans on eleven ships from England to Massachusetts. In fact, the ships were called the *Winthrop Fleet*:

Winthrop Fleet

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Winthrop Fleet** was a group of 11 ships led by **John Winthrop** out of a total of 17^{[1][2]} funded by the **Massachusetts Bay Company** which together carried between 700 and 1,000 **Puritans** plus livestock and provisions from England to **New England** over the summer of 1630, during the first period of the **Great Migration**.



Arrival of the Winthrop Colony, by **William Halsall**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winthrop_Fleet

Not knowing much about history, I wondered where the *Winthrop Fleet* landed. Google AI provided the following:



where did the winthrop fleet land



AI Overview

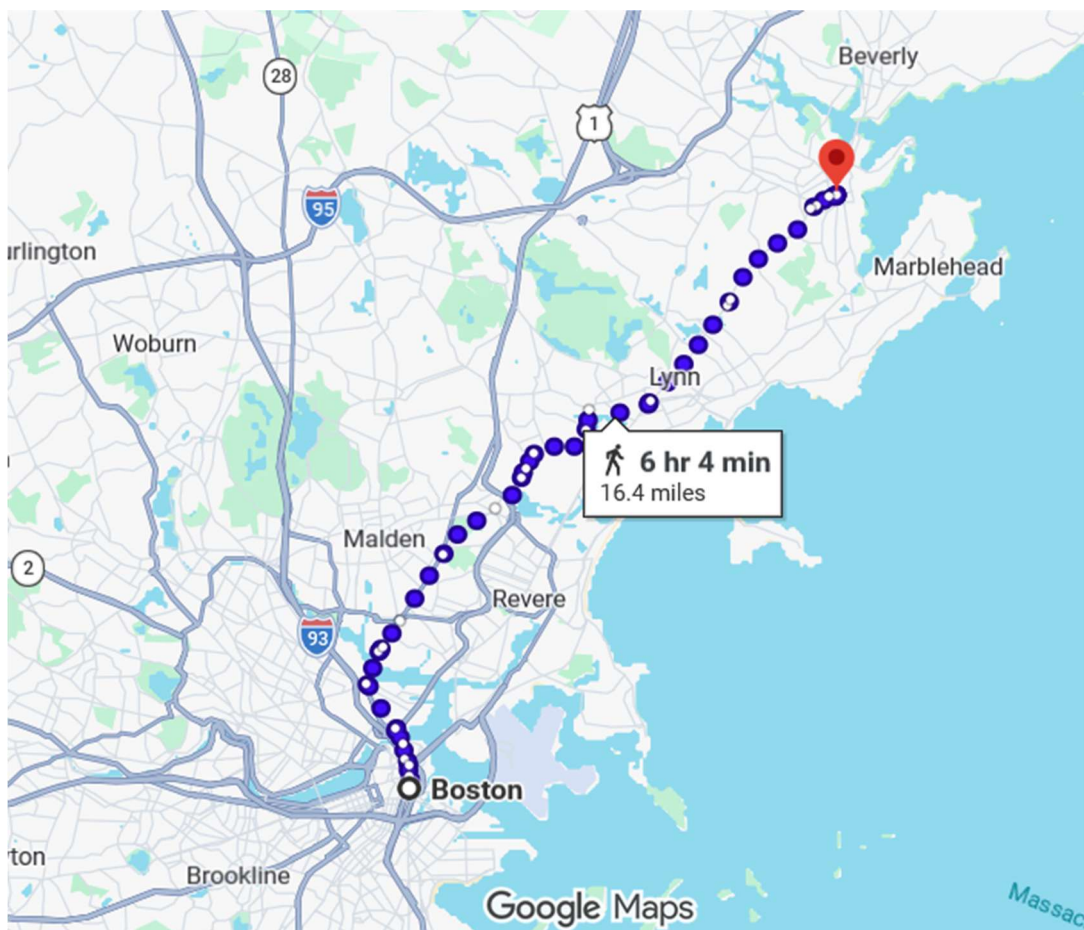
The Winthrop Fleet landed in **Salem, Massachusetts**, in June 1630. The flagship *Arbella* arrived first on June 12-13, 1630, followed by other vessels through July. While some settlers remained in Salem, many relocated soon after to found settlements at Charlestown and Boston.



Key Details About the Arrival:

- **Location:** The fleet arrived at Salem harbor, with many settlers eventually settling in Boston, Watertown, and other areas of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.
- **The Fleet:** It was a group of 11 ships carrying roughly 700 to 1,000 Puritan colonists.
- **Arrival Date:** The first ships reached Salem on June 12 and 13, 1630, with others arriving throughout the month of July.
- **Initial Actions:** Upon landing, the colonists sought to settle, with John Winthrop recording that they started visiting the area to find a place for their "sittinge downe".

The fleet landed in Salem, but many settlers relocated to Boston. And not know much about Massachusetts geography, here is a Google Map showing the locations of Salem (in the upper-right) and Boston:



Here is a little more information about the Puritans who immigrated to Massachusetts starting in 1630:

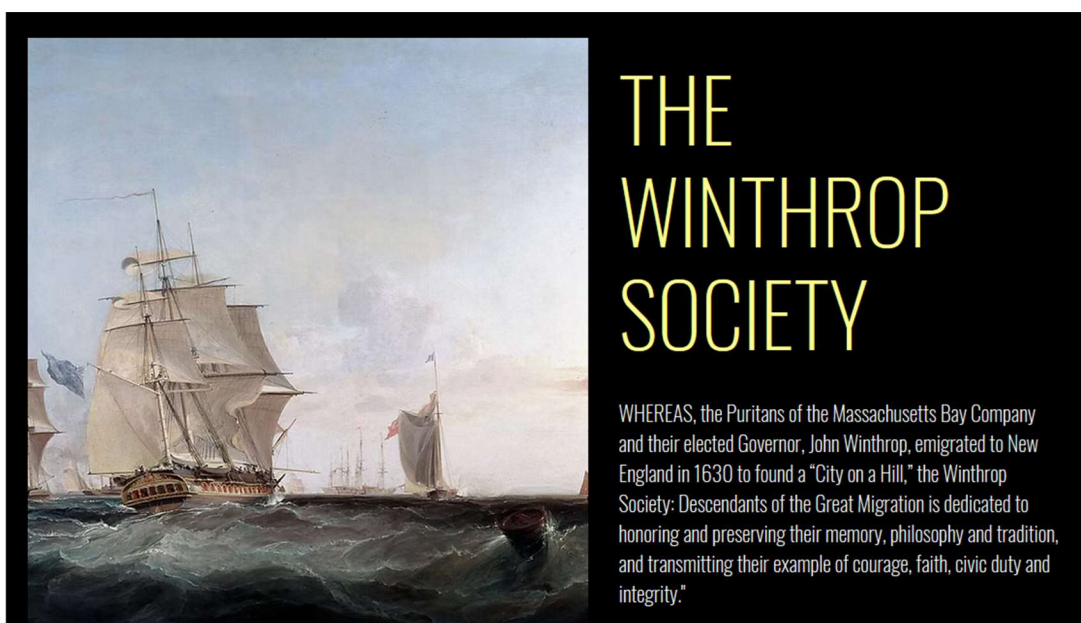
◆ AI Overview

The Puritans who followed the Mayflower (1620) were a much larger group of non-separatist English Protestants, led by John Winthrop, who arrived in 1630 to establish the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Unlike the Separatist Pilgrims, they aimed to reform the Church of England from within by establishing a "city on a hill". Over 20,000 migrated between 1629 and 1640, creating the Great Migration.

Key Details About Subsequent Puritan Migration:

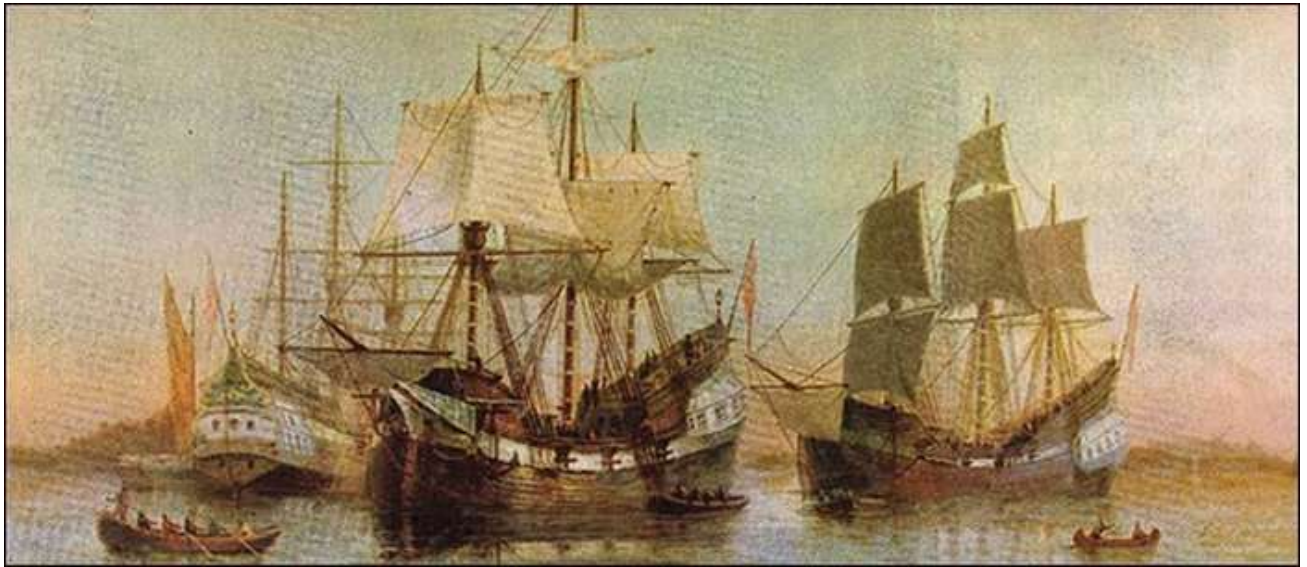
- **The Massachusetts Bay Colony (1630):** Led by John Winthrop on the ship *Arbella*, this group settled Boston and Salem, establishing a large, strict Puritan commonwealth.
- **The Great Migration (1629–1640):** Roughly 15,000 to 20,000 Puritans moved to New England, driven by persecution under King Charles I and Archbishop Laud.
- **Key Leaders:** Prominent figures included John Winthrop, John Cotton, and Roger Williams.
- **Key Differences:** While the 1620 "Pilgrims" (Separatists) believed the Church of England was beyond repair, the later Puritans intended to remain part of it but practice in a "pure" way.
- **Early Plymouth Reinforcements:** Shortly after the *Mayflower*, other ships arrived at Plymouth, including the *Fortune* (1621), and the *Anne & Little James* (1623).

As I was searching online for information about John Winthrop, I learned that there is even a Winthrop Society:



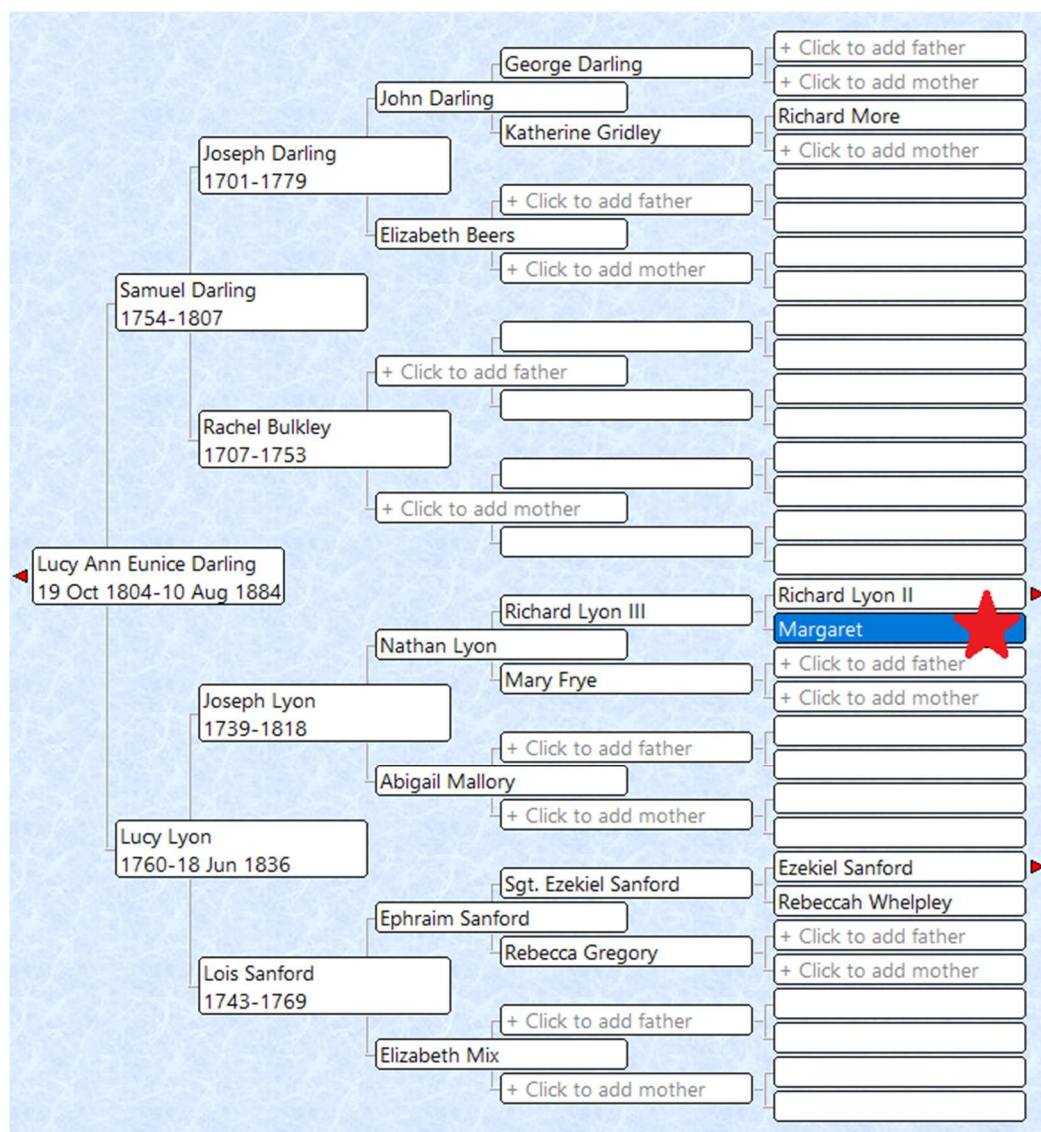
<https://www.winthropsociety.com/>

Here is a painting of the *Winthrop Fleet* arriving in Boston harbor:



Arrival of Winthrop's Company in Boston Harbor (1630) by William Formby Halsall. William Halsall was a famous maritime painter. Interestingly, he died in 1919 in **Winthrop**, Massachusetts (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winthrop,_Massachusetts)

At this point, I was kicking myself – why didn't I know about my connection to John Winthrop before? I looked at my RootsMagic database on my notebook computer, which I try to keep up-to-date with my direct ancestors. Here is the branch of my family tree in this database that goes back from Lucy Ann Eunice Darling:



Note that when this line got to the grandparents of Nathan Lyon, they were listed as Richard Lyon II and his wife Margaret (indicated by the red star). AND I HAD NO LAST NAME FOR MARGARET!

From Geni.com, I now know that this woman was Margaret Winthrop (1629-1705):



Margaret Winthrop Lyon

Gender:

Female

Birth:

March 12, 1629
Cornhill, London, Middlesex, England (United Kingdom)

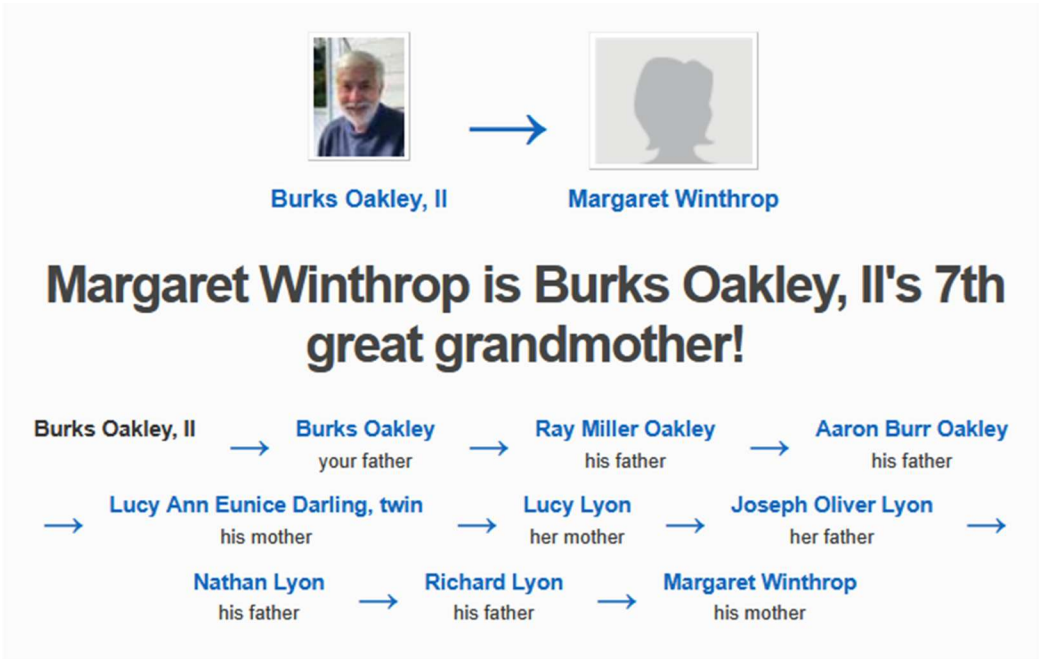
Death:

March 23, 1705 (76)
Connecticut Colony

Immediate Family:

Daughter of [Henry Winthrop](#) and [Elizabeth Fones](#)
Wife of [Richard Lyon](#), of Fairfield and [Richard Lyon](#)
Mother of [Moses Lyon](#); [Richard Lyon](#); [Elizabeth Rolandson](#); [Hannah Lyon](#); [William Lyon](#); [Sgt. Samuel Lyon](#); [Joseph Lyon](#); [Abigail Lyon](#); [Hester Lyon](#) and [Elizabeth Lyon](#)« less
Sister of [Martha Johanna Winthrop](#)
Half sister of [Martha Johanna Winthrop](#); [Elizabeth Feake](#); [Hannah Feake](#); [Robert Feake](#); [Sarah Feake](#) and 3 others

Margaret Winthrop was my seventh-great grandmother:



And, of course, Margaret’s paternal grandfather was John Winthrop:



At this point, I thought to myself that all this *Winthrop* stuff was pretty cool to discover. Certainly not what I was expecting when I first saw my DNA match with Linda Shoemaker.

I want to make sure that I really hadn't known about my connection to John Winthrop previously. So I searched my computer for "Winthrop". And I was amazed to see that one of the files containing this word was a scan of a book from 1902:

INTRODUCTION.

BETWEEN the years 1630 and 1640, three Puritans—heads of families—set sail for the New World, then, above everything else, attracting the attention of the bold and daring in every country of Europe. The first of these to arrive in this country was Jehu Burr. He came with Winthrop's famous fleet in 1630, and on his arrival settled in Roxbury, Mass. Thence he accompanied William Pynchon to the founding of Springfield, and eventually settled at Fairfield, Ct., where his descendants became the firmest pillars of the old colonial structure, and prominent in both civil and military affairs.

And this book was about the *Burr* family, and the introduction mentioned that Jehu Burr came to New England "with Winthrop's famous fleet in 1630". Here is the title page from that book:

A GENERAL HISTORY OF THE BURR FAMILY

WITH A GENEALOGICAL RECORD FROM 1193 TO 1902

BY

CHARLES BURR TODD

AUTHOR OF "LIFE AND LETTERS OF JOEL BARLOW," "STORY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK,"
"STORY OF WASHINGTON," ETC.

"He only deserves to be remembered by posterity who treasures up
and preserves the history of his ancestors."—EDMUND BURKE.

FOURTH EDITION

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR

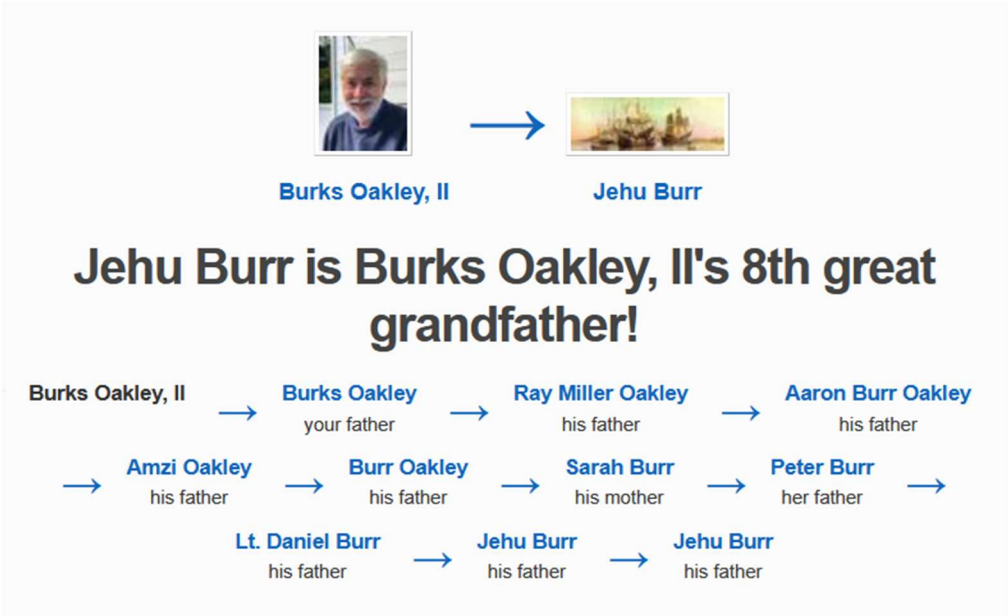
BY

The Knickerbocker Press

NEW YORK

1902

Jehu Burr was my eighth-great grandfather – here is my ancestral line from Geni.com:



And here is Jehu Burr’s profile from Geni.com:



Jehu Burr

Gender: Male

Birth: circa 1602
England

Death: 1672 (65-74)
Fairfield, Fairfield County, Connecticut Colony, Colonial America

Place of Burial: Old Burying Ground, Fairfield, Fairfield County, Connecticut, United States

Immediate Family: Husband of [wife of Jehu Burr](#)
Father of [Jehu Burr](#); [Elizabeth Burr](#); [Major John Burr, of Norwalk](#); [Nathaniel Burr](#) and [Daniel Burr, of Fairfield](#)

Jehu Burr was born around 1600 in England. He emigrated in 1630 in the Winthrop Fleet. On his arrival in America he settled in Roxbury, Massachusetts where he was made a freeman on 18 May 1631. In 1633 he served on a committee with William Pynchon, the Colony Treasurer. In 1636 he went with Pynchon to Springfield. He was appointed Collector for the Connecticut Colony. He was Deputy for Springfield to the Connecticut Legislature in April 1638 and September 1641. Soon after 1641 he removed to Fairfield. He was a Deputy to the Connecticut Legislature for Fairfield in September 1645 and April 1646. He was a carpenter.

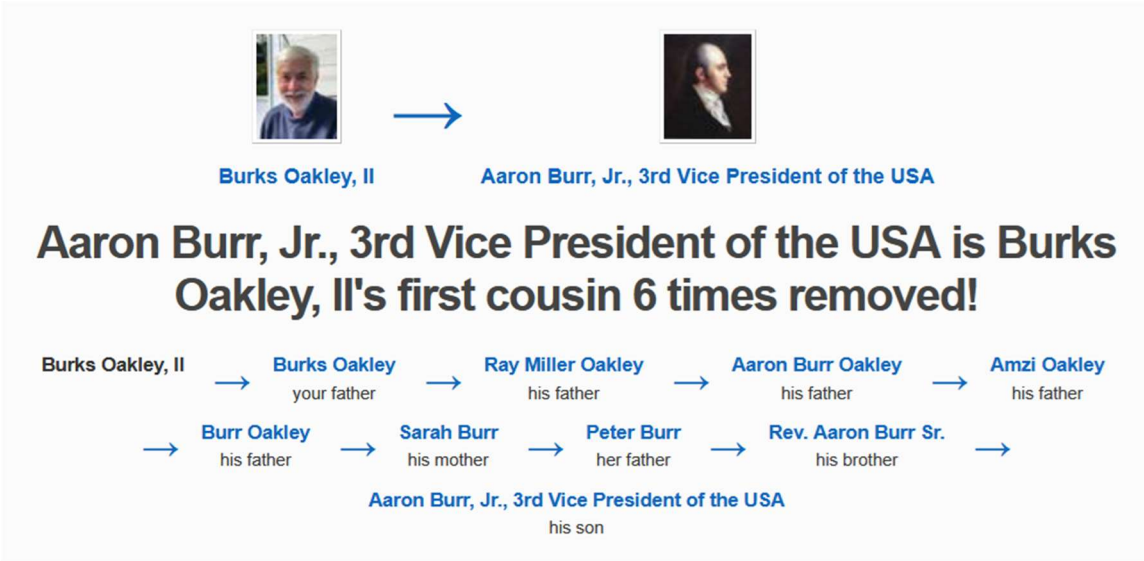
Jehu married Miss Cable and they had six children. All of these children married and had families. Among the descendants one finds many individuals who were leaders in military, political, and human affairs. Their monuments can be found in the Old Burying Ground of Fairfield and other cemeteries in surrounding towns.

Note that the image used with his profile is of the *Winthrop Fleet*.

As an aside, I should add that Jehu Burr was a second-great grandfather of Aaron Burr, the third Vice President of the United States:



And this means that Aaron Burr was my first-cousin, six times removed:



If this is too complicated, just keep in mind that my fourth-great grandmother, Sarah Burr, was a first-cousin of Aaron Burr.

In searching for information about Jehu Burr and the Winthrop Fleet, I learned that he is listed in the Wikipedia article about the *Winthrop Fleet*:

Other passengers of historical significance include:

•

Stephen Bachiler, founder of Hampton, New Hampshire^[11]

•

Simon Bradstreet and his wife Anne Bradstreet

•

Jehu Burr, ancestor of Aaron Burr

•

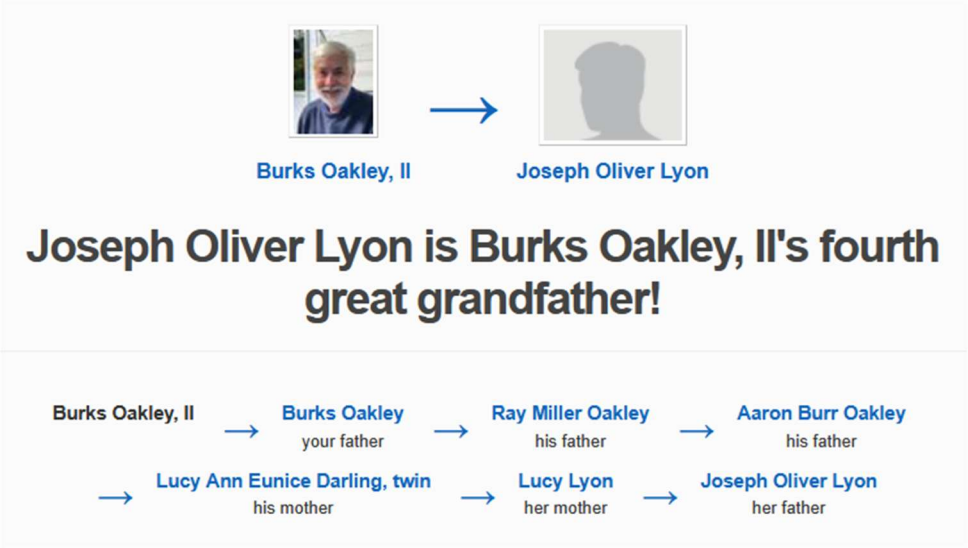
Samuel Cole, purveyor of the first tavern in the new world

•

Edward Convers

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winthrop_Fleet

Now let me return to my **Lyon** line. Recall that this narrative began with my DNA match with Linda Shoemaker, and she and I are both descended from Nathan Lyon (1703-1757) and his wife Abigail Mallory (1701-1779). I am descended from their son, Joseph Oliver Lyon (1728-1812):



Joseph Oliver Lyon was my fourth-great grandfather.

Joseph Oliver Lyon

Gender: Male

Birth: circa 1728
Redding, Fairfield County, CT, United States

Death: circa November 09, 1812 (75-92)
Long Reach, Kingston, New Brunswick, Canada

Immediate Family: Son of [Nathan Lyon](#) and [Abigail Lyon \(Mallory\)](#)
Husband of [Lois Sanford](#) and [Sarah Jane Bulkley](#)
Father of [Augustus Lyon](#); [Lucy Lyon](#) and [Jane Lyon](#)
Brother of [Abigail Lyon](#); [Nathan Lyon](#); [Henry Lyon, Esq](#); [Peter "Lieutenant" Lyon, Sr.](#); [Elizabeth "Betty" Lyon](#) and 5 others

Managed by: [Burks Oakley, II](#) and 6 others

Note that I am one of the managers of this profile on Geni.com!

More importantly, note that Joseph Oliver Lyon was born in Redding, Connecticut, but he died in Kingston, New Brunswick, Canada. He was a Loyalist during the Revolutionary War. He was captured, held prisoner, released in a prisoner exchange in 1778, and eventually settled in New Brunswick, Canada:

About

Joseph was a United Empire Loyalist during the American Revolution and served in General Browne's Prince of Wales American Volunteers. He scouted for the British on the Danbury Raid and participated in other campaigns. In that year he was captured by the Rebels, held prisoner and exchanged 1778. He removed from Long Island NY on the British ship the "Union" in 1783 along with his brother, Captain John Lyon, and their families.

Settled in Kings County, New Brunswick, Canada.

He married his second wife, Sarah Jane Bulkely, in Connecticut in 1770 and she came to Canada with him.

Summary: In this rather lengthy narrative, I began with my new DNA match with Linda Shoemaker. Linda and I are both descended from Nathan Lyon (1703-1757) and his wife Abigail Mallory (1701-1779); this couple were my fifth-great grandparents.

While looking at my ancestral line back to Nathan Lyon on the Geni.com website, I learned that John Winthrop, who was the first Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, was Nathan Lyon's second-great grandfather. That makes John Winthrop my ninth-great grandfather.

John Winthrop was widely-known for leading the *Winthrop Fleet* in 1630, as the initial surge of the Great Migration.¹ And he also contributed significantly to the early days of settling colonial America.

I also learned that Jehu Burr, who was my eighth-great grandfather, came to America on the *Winthrop Fleet*. Of course, Jehu Burr was a second-great grandfather of Aaron Burr, the third Vice President of the United States.

¹ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puritan_migration_to_New_England_\(1620-1640\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puritan_migration_to_New_England_(1620-1640))