

My DNA Match with Mary Helen Choate (and how it helped to verify a branch of my family tree)

By Burks Oakley II
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I recently wrote a narrative about the “Enhanced” Shared DNA Matches tool that is part of the Pro Tools set on Ancestry.com. See:

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/DavidSmith_14Jul26.pdf

In that narrative, I showed how a set of shared DNA matches could be used to verify a branch of my family tree.

The approach that I used in that narrative was quite informative, so I decided to see if I could replicate it with another branch of my family tree. And that is what this narrative is all about.

I began by looking at my DNA matches with descendants of Ezra Marvin Miller (1812-1874). Ezra was my second-great grandfather. Here is my ThruLines® chart for Ezra Marvin Miller:



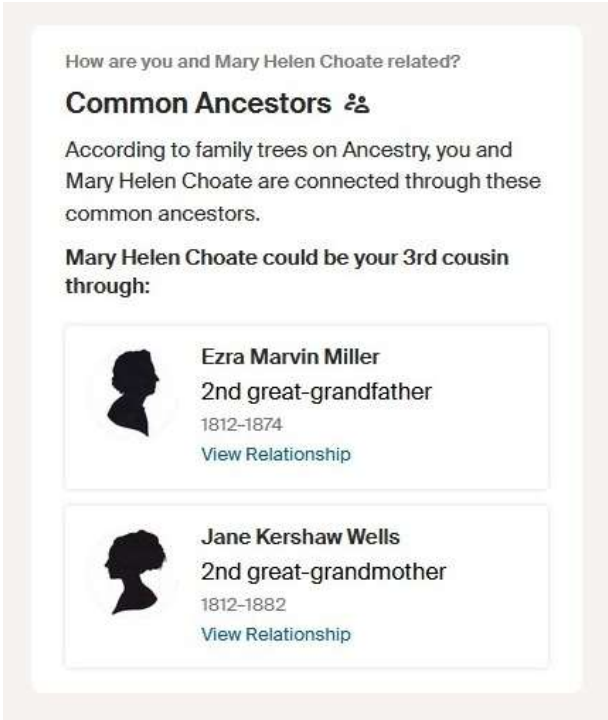
I have DNA matches with 25 descendants of Ezra Marvin Miller.

I spent 30 minutes or so looking through these DNA matches, and I ended up selecting my DNA match with Mary Helen Choate. Here is the branch of my ThruLines® chart for Ezra Marvin Miller that connects to Mary Helen:



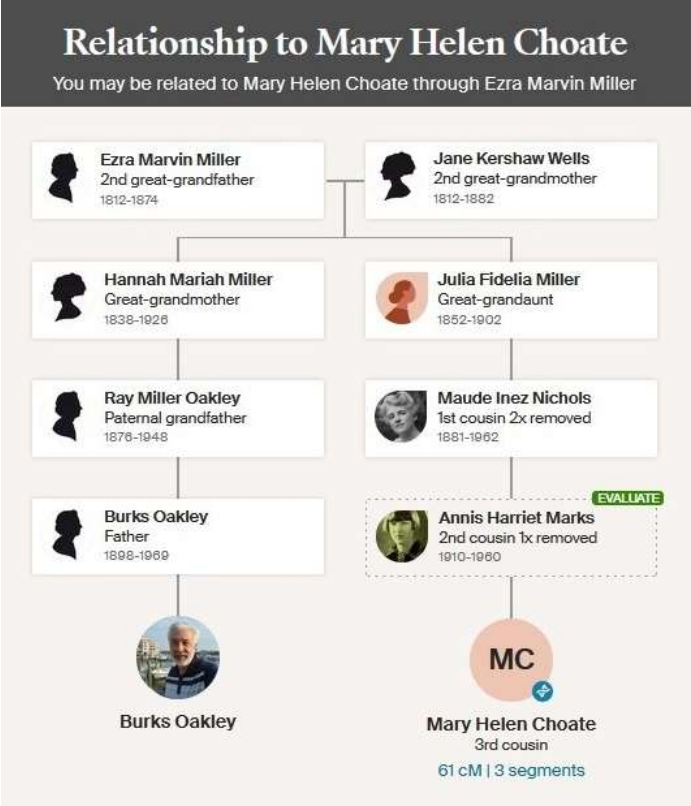
Mary Helen is descended from Ezra Marvin Miller through his daughter Julia Fidelia Miller (1852-1902).

I started from scratch with my DNA match with Mary Helen. Here are our common ancestors:



We both are descended from Ezra Marvin Miller and his wife Jane Kershaw Wells.

Here is a chart from Ancestry.com showing how Mary Helen and I are most likely related:



According to this chart, Mary Helen and I are third cousins. We share 61 cM of DNA.

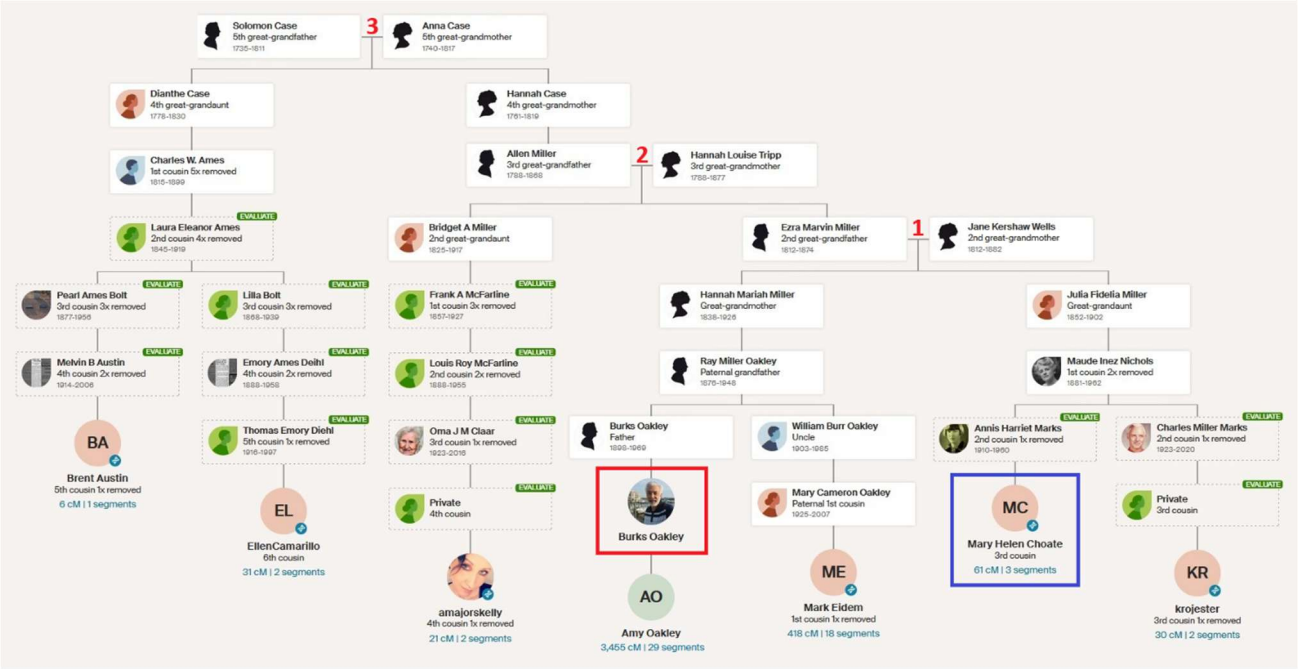
I next looked at the DNA matches that Mary Helen and I have in common – our so-called “Shared DNA Matches”. It turns out that we have 126 shared matches, which is way too many to display in any meaningful way.

I filtered the 126 shared matches so that I only saw those matches where Mary Helen and I have known common ancestors. That trimmed the list to seventeen shared matches. Here are six of the seventeen:

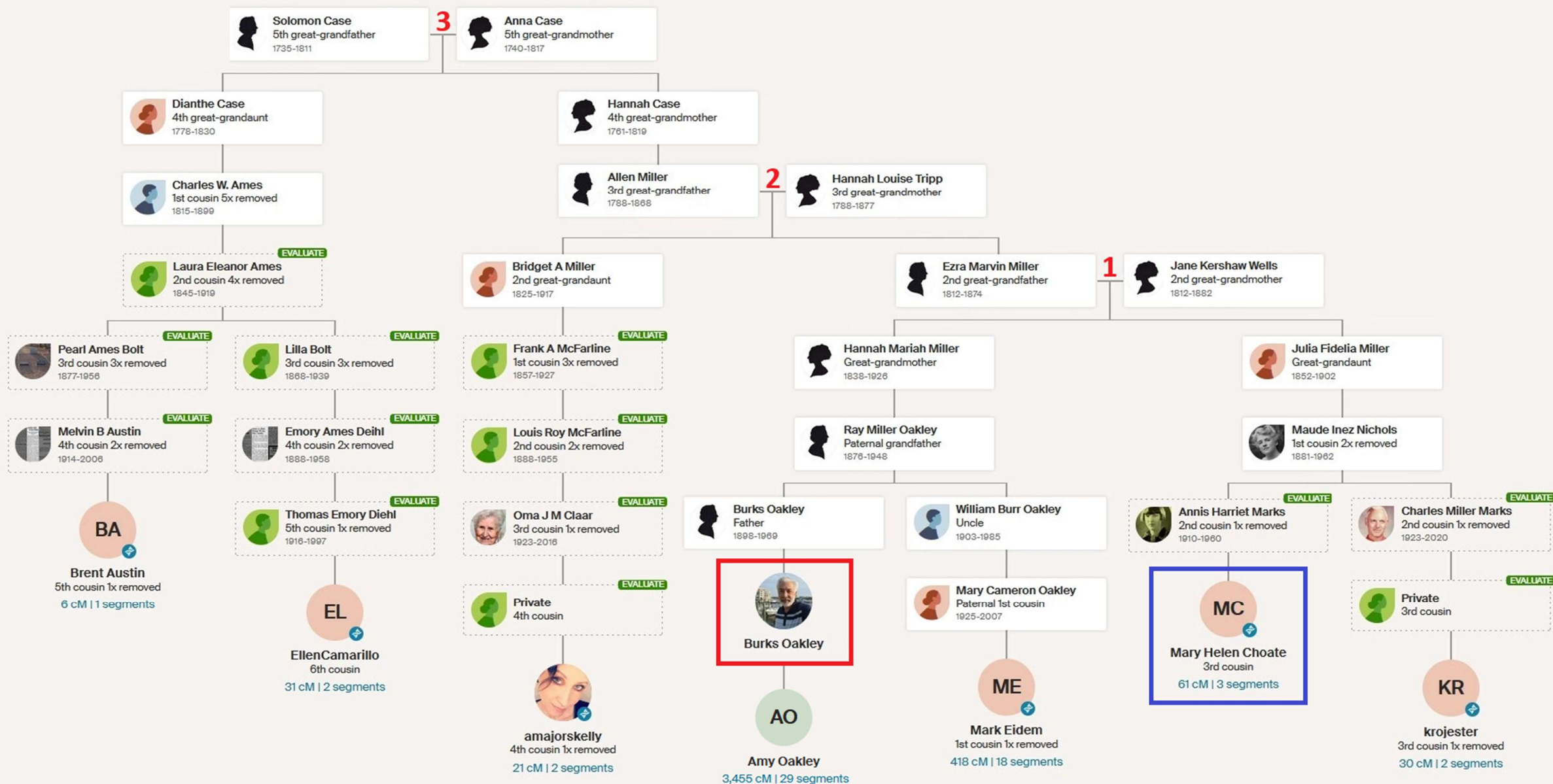
Common ancestor ✕ Clear all		
Shared match:	Your:	Mary Helen Choate's:
Amy Oakley 28 100 +	Your: Daughter 3,455 cM Both sides	Mary's: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 2nd cousin 3x removed 34 cM
Mark Eidem 28 100 +	Your: 1st cousin 1x removed 418 cM Paternal side	Mary's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 26 cM
This is Mark Cameron Eidem. I was a first-cousin of his mother, Mary Cam...		
EllenCamarillo 28 100 +	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 31 cM Paternal side	Mary's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 29 cM
Descended from Solomon CASE and Anna CASE. 29Mar19.		
krojester 28 100 +	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 30 cM Paternal side	Mary's: 1st cousin 1x removed 493 cM
TL suggests s/he is descended from Ezra Marvin Miller and Jane Kershaw...		
amajorskelly 28 100 +	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 21 cM Paternal side	Mary's: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 26 cM
TL suggests she is descended from Allen Miller and Hannah Louise Tripp. ...		
Brent Austin 28 100 +	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 6 cM Maternal side	Mary's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 24 cM
Descended from Solomon Case and Anna Case. 22Apr19.		

These matches are with Amy Oakley (my daughter), Mark Eidem (my first-cousin once-removed), Ellen Camarillo, *krojester*, *amajorskelly*, and Brent Austin.

I then created a relationship chart, showing how Mary Helen and I are related to the six of them:



This chart is difficult to view at this magnification, so I will show it in landscape view on the next page:



In this relationship chart, I am in the red rectangle and Mary Helen is in the indigo rectangle. Both of us are descended from Ezra Marvin Miller and his wife Jane Kershaw Wells – labelled in red as Couple #1. The right half of the chart also shows my first-cousin once-removed, Mark Eidem, and Mary Helen’s first-cousin once-removed, *krojester*.

To the left of me in this chart is *amajorskelly*. She is descended from Allen Miller and his wife Hannah Louise Tripp – labelled in red as Couple #2.

And at the lower-left of the chart are Brent Austin and Ellen Camarillo. They are descended from Solomon Case and his wife Anna Case – labelled in red as Couple #3.

Of course, Mary Helen and I, and all of our shared DNA matches, also are descended from the *Case-Case* couple. And if you don’t remember, yes, they were first-cousins – see:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/16-CaseSpencer-DNA-matches.pdf>

Note that the relationship chart on the previous page could have a handful more people; they appear as shared DNA matches, but they don’t show up as having common ancestors. Mary Helen and I have shared DNA matches with Amanda Mervin and Mary Bowers:

 AmandaMervin	 +	Your: 1st cousin 2x removed 325 cM Paternal side	Mary's: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 2nd cousin 3x removed 28 cM
 One of Anney Oakley's daughters was Amy Ellender Wright. She married a ...			
 Mary Bowers	 +	Your: 1st cousin 2x removed 140 cM Paternal side	Mary's: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 2nd cousin 3x removed 21 cM
 Mary is the daughter of Mark EIDEM. She is my first-cousin twice-removed...			

Amanda is a great-granddaughter of my uncle Allen Miller Oakley, but her DNA profile is not linked to her family tree. Mary is Mark Eidem’s daughter, but for some reason, software on Ancestry.com is unable to determine how we are related.



A puzzle, for sure!

Mary Helen and I also have shared DNA matches with her son, Ken Choate, and her daughter, Julia Martinroe:

Shared match:		Your:	Mary Helen Choate's:
 Ken Choate  	Your: Half 3rd cousin or 3rd cousin 1x removed 48 cM Both sides	Mary's: Son 3,486 cM	
 He is the son of Mary Helen Choate, who is descended from Ezra Marvin ...			
 Julia Martinroe  	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 35 cM Unassigned	Mary's: Daughter 3,477 cM	
 She is a daughter of Mary Helen Choate, who is descended from Ezra Mar...			

Ken doesn't have a family tree on Ancestry.com, and Julia's tree is private (and also not linked to her DNA profile).

As an aside, Mary Helen's DNA profile on Ancestry.com is managed by her daughter, Julia Martinroe:



You and Mary Helen Choate

Mary Helen Choate's test is managed by: [Julia Martinroe](#)

Half 2nd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin | Unassigned

< 1% shared DNA: 61 cM across 3 segments

But I digress....

As I was reviewing all of this, I found that I had omitted the shared DNA match that Mary Helen and I have with Sandra Barker:

Common ancestor

✕

Clear all

Shared match:	 Your:	 Mary Helen Choate's:
 Sandra Barker  Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 8 cM Paternal side	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 8 cM Paternal side	Mary's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 25 cM
 ThruLines suggests she is descended from Allen MILLER and Hannah Lo...		

Sandra also is descended from Allen Miller and his wife Hannah Louise Tripp:

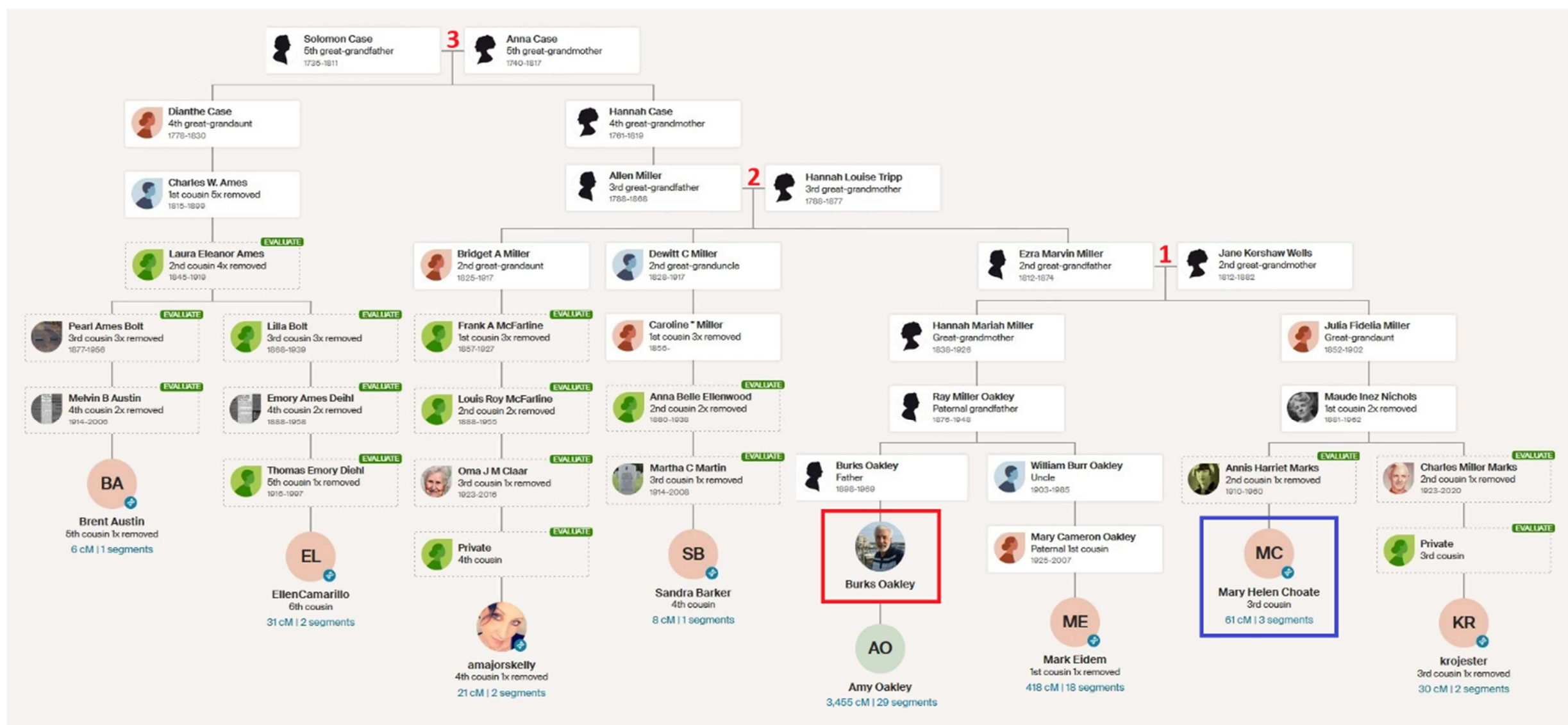


This just adds another line from Allen Miller and his wife Hannah Louise Tripp.

Here is the relationship chart, edited to include Sandra Barker:



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



When viewing this revised chart, Sandra appears just to my left.

Let me again emphasize that Mary Helen Choate and I have shared DNA matches with all seven of the people at the ends of the ancestral lines:

- Brent Austin
- Ellen Camarillo
- *amajorskelly*
- Sandra Barker
- Amy Oakley
- Mark Eidem
- *krojester*

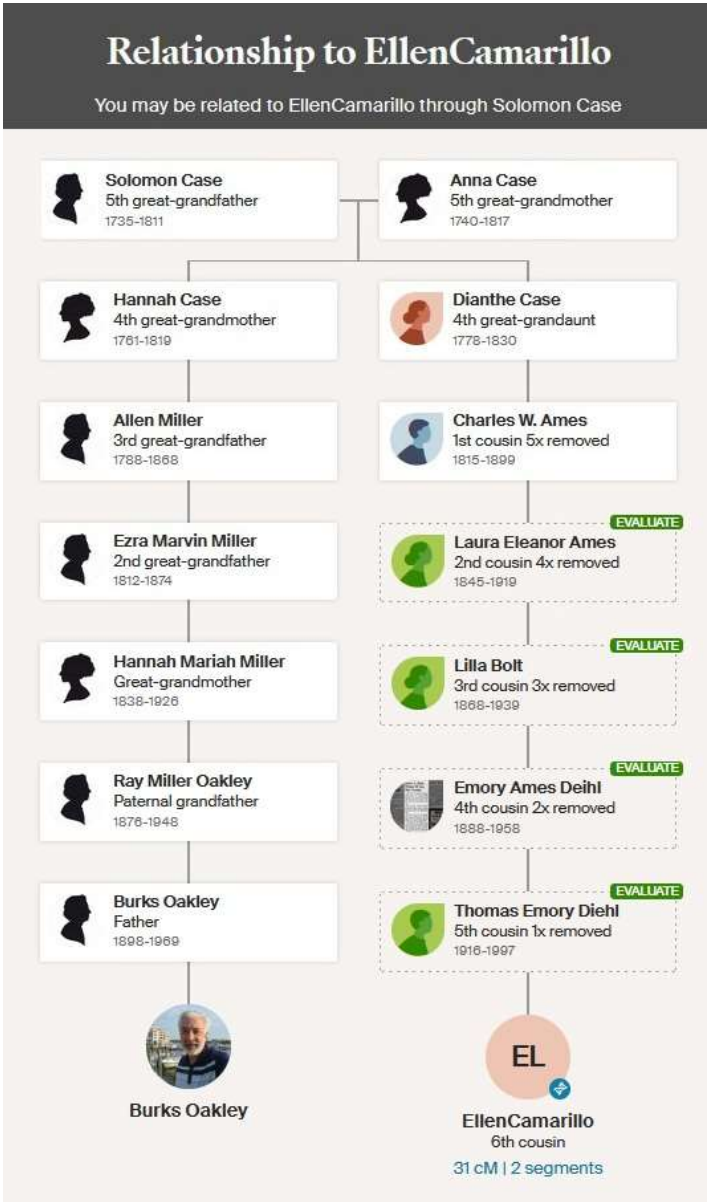
To me, these shared DNA matches provide solid support for the genealogical record. I should add that this doesn’t mean that we all have the same segment of DNA on the same chromosome. It just means that these seven people have a DNA match with Mary Helen and also with me. [This is why we need a chromosome browser on Ancestry.com.]

Mary Helen and I have another six shared DNA matches with descendants of Ezra Marvin Miller and his wife Jane Kershaw Wells:

Common ancestor X		
Shared match:	Your:	Mary Helen Choate's:
irrt19461 	Your: 3rd cousin 1x removed 42 cM Paternal side	Mary's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 27 cM
 Descended from Ezra Marvin Miller & Jane Kershaw Wells. Her maternal g...		
Darby Scott 	Your: 3rd cousin 1x removed 26 cM Paternal side	Mary's: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 40 cM
 She is descended from Ezra Marvin Miller & Jane Kershaw Wells. 25.8 cen...		
atomic2069 	Your: 3rd cousin 1x removed 21 cM Paternal side	Mary's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 28 cM
 TL suggests she is descended from Ezra Marvin MILLER and Jane Kersha...		
Douglas Capps 	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 17 cM Paternal side	Mary's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 23 cM
 Douglas Capps - descended from the Miller line - goes back to Ezra Marvi...		
gay nichols 	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 9 cM Paternal side	Mary's: 2nd cousin 1x removed or half 2nd cousin 116 cM
 TL suggests she is descended from Ezra Marvin Miller and Jane Kershaw ...		
Angela Larson Managed by 4045larson 	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 9 cM Paternal side	Mary's: Half 2nd cousin 2x removed or 3rd cousin 1x removed 59 cM
 Angela is descended from Ezra Marvin Miller and his wife Jane Kershaw W...		

I have omitted these six people from the overall relationship chart – just too many people to fit onto one chart.

As I think about all of this, I now have multiple ways to verify a branch of my family tree. If I want to look at Solomon Case and his wife Anna Case (two of my fifth-great grandparents), I can find single DNA matches that go back to this couple – for example, my DNA match with Ellen Camarillo:

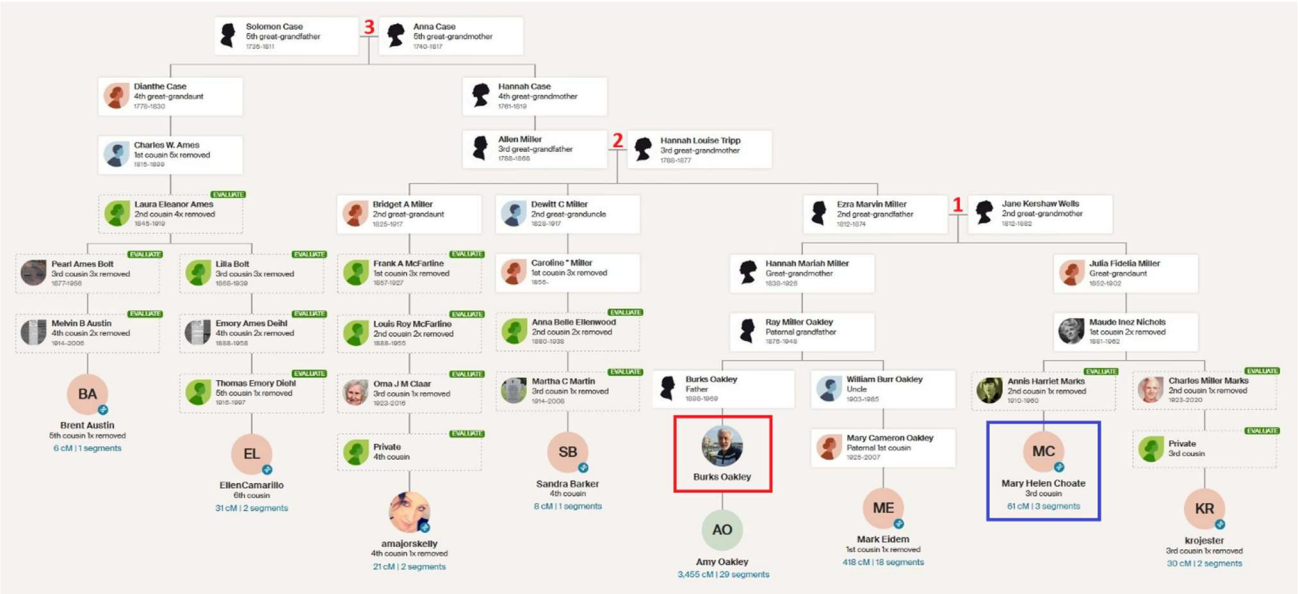


And then I can go deeper into the ancestral line by looking at my ThruLines® chart for Solomon Case:



I have 37 DNA matches with his descendants. More support for my ancestral line back to Solomon Case.

And now, by using the “Enhanced” Shared DNA Matches tool that is part of the Pro Tools set on Ancestry.com, I have yet another way to verify a branch (or several branches) of my family tree. The combined relationship chart discussed in this narrative is a good example of this:



Mary Helen Choate and I have “Shared DNA Matches” with the seven people in this chart – and four of us are descended from Ezra Marvin Miller and his wife Jane Kershaw Wells, six of us are descended from Allen Miller and his wife Hannah Louise Tripp, and all nine of us are descended from Solomon Case and his wife Anna Case. This approach provides a different type of support for the ancestral lines – since it shows connections over multiple generations.

This approach might only work when I have a large number of shared DNA matches with one of my DNA matches, but when it works, it seems pretty powerful.

Appendix: Amy Lorene Majors-Kelly

One of the shared DNA matches included in this narrative was with a woman having the username of *amajorskelly* on Ancestry.com. Here is her profile:



amajorskelly

Clarksville, Montgomery, Tennessee, USA
Age: 40-49

B.S. in Psychology US Army Veteran
Motorcycle enthusiast

Speaks
English

Joined 15 Mar 2020	Last active Over a year ago
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Family History Experience
Beginner
Researches once a week

I wondered what her real name was, so I Googled her.



majors-kelly clarksville tn

X | Microphone | Camera | Search

AI Mode | **All** | Images | Maps | Forums | Videos | Shopping | More | Tools



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Amy Lorene Majors-Kelly Obituary Apr 29, 2024

Apr 29, 2024 — Amy Lorene Majors-Kelly, age 44, of Clarksville, TN, passed away on April 29, 2024. She was born on August 17, 1979, in Council Bluffs, IA to Donald and Becke ...





Clarksville Now

<https://clarksvillenow.com> › Local › Obituaries

Amy Lorene Majors-Kelly - ClarksvilleNow.com

May 3, 2024 — Amy Lorene Majors-Kelly, age 44, of Clarksville, TN, passed away on April 29, 2024. She was born on August 17, 1979, in Council Bluffs, IA to Donald and Becke ...

Oh no! Amy Lorene Majors-Kelly passed away at the age of 44 on April 29, 2024. So sorry to see this....