

Why Does Burks Use the Terminology *Oakley-Browne* DNA Segment?

By Burks Oakley II
15 May 2025

I'll skip the introduction in this narrative, because it just would be like all the other ones about my DNA relatives who have the *Oakley-Browne* DNA segment on Chromosome 15. See:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/Oakley-Chr-15.html>

Wait a minute!! Why do you call it the *Oakley-Browne* DNA segment?

That is an excellent question. When I first started using the free GEDmatch.com website in 2017, I learned that I had a handful of DNA matches on Chromosome 15, and all of us were descended from Miles Oakley V (1671-1743) and his wife, Mercy Gardner (1673-1773). So not knowing any better, I referred to this DNA segment as the *Oakley-Gardner* segment.

Let me show how this came about. Early on, I learned that I have a DNA match with Kathy Hill Orr on GEDmatch.com.

Comparing Kit A122463 (Burks Oakley II) [Migration - F2 - A] and Kit A657657 (Kathy Hill Orr) [Migration - F2 - A]							
Chr	B37 Start Pos'n	B37 End Pos'n	Centimorgans (cM)	SNPs	Segment threshold	Bunch limit	SNP Density Ratio
15	39,003,409	64,239,941	26.1	5,869	223	134	0.43
Largest segment = 26.1 cM							

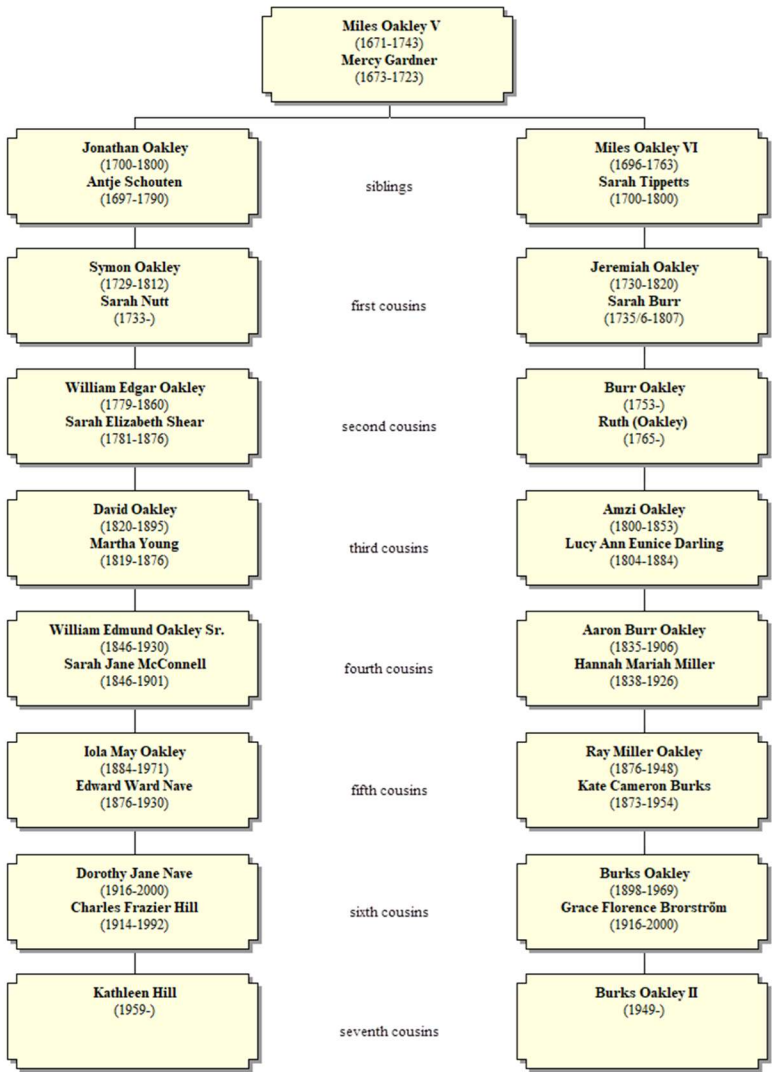
We share 26.1 cM on Chromosome 15. And it is worth noting that we share 5,869 SNPs in this match.

An AI overview from Google:

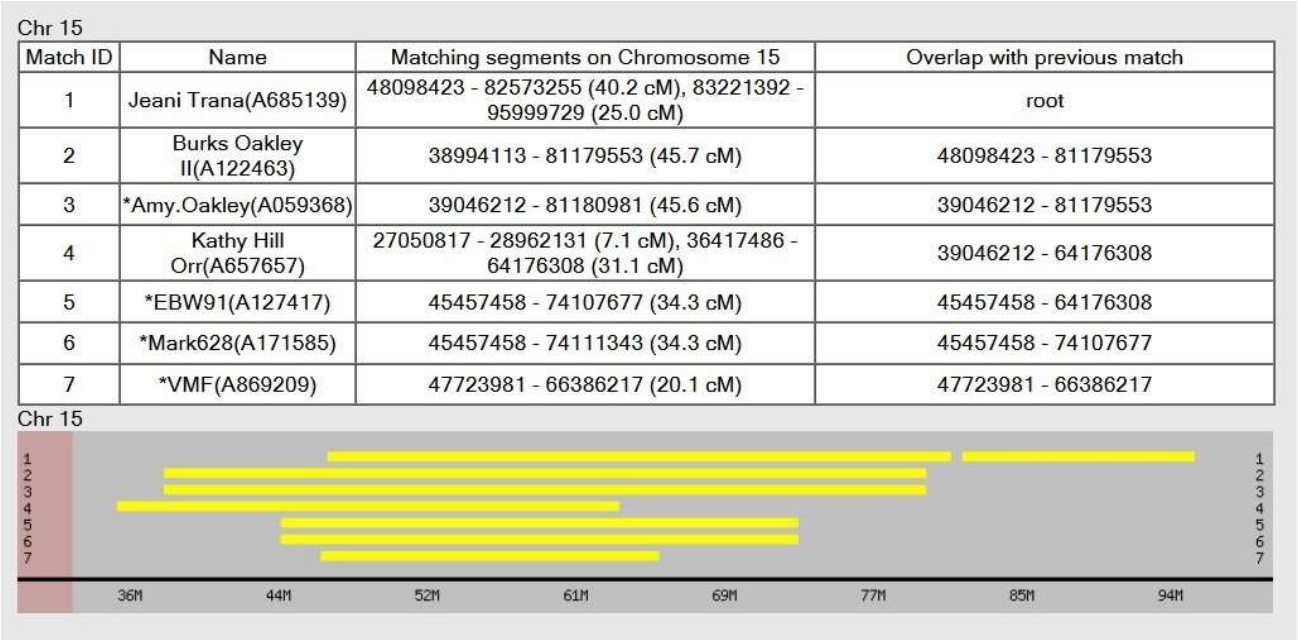
A DNA match is typically considered significant when a long, consecutive string of matching SNPs (Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms) is found. A general guideline is that a match should be at least 700 SNPs or 7 centiMorgans (cM) long to be considered a reliable indication of a shared genetic ancestry.

The DNA match I have with Kathy (26.1 cM and 5,869 SNPs) is really solid. It also is outside the “pile-up” regions on Chromosome 15 (I’ll write more about this in the near future). The bottom line is that I am confident that this is a valid DNA match and not some type of artifact.

Here is a chart showing how Kathy and I are related:



Kathy and I are both descended from Miles Oakley V (1671-1743) and his wife, Mercy Gardner (1673-1773). If Kathy were the only person to have this DNA segment and this genealogical relationship, it wouldn't be too noteworthy. But I was able to show that other descendants of the ***Oakley-Gardner*** couple also have this same DNA segment on Chromosome 15. Here is an example:



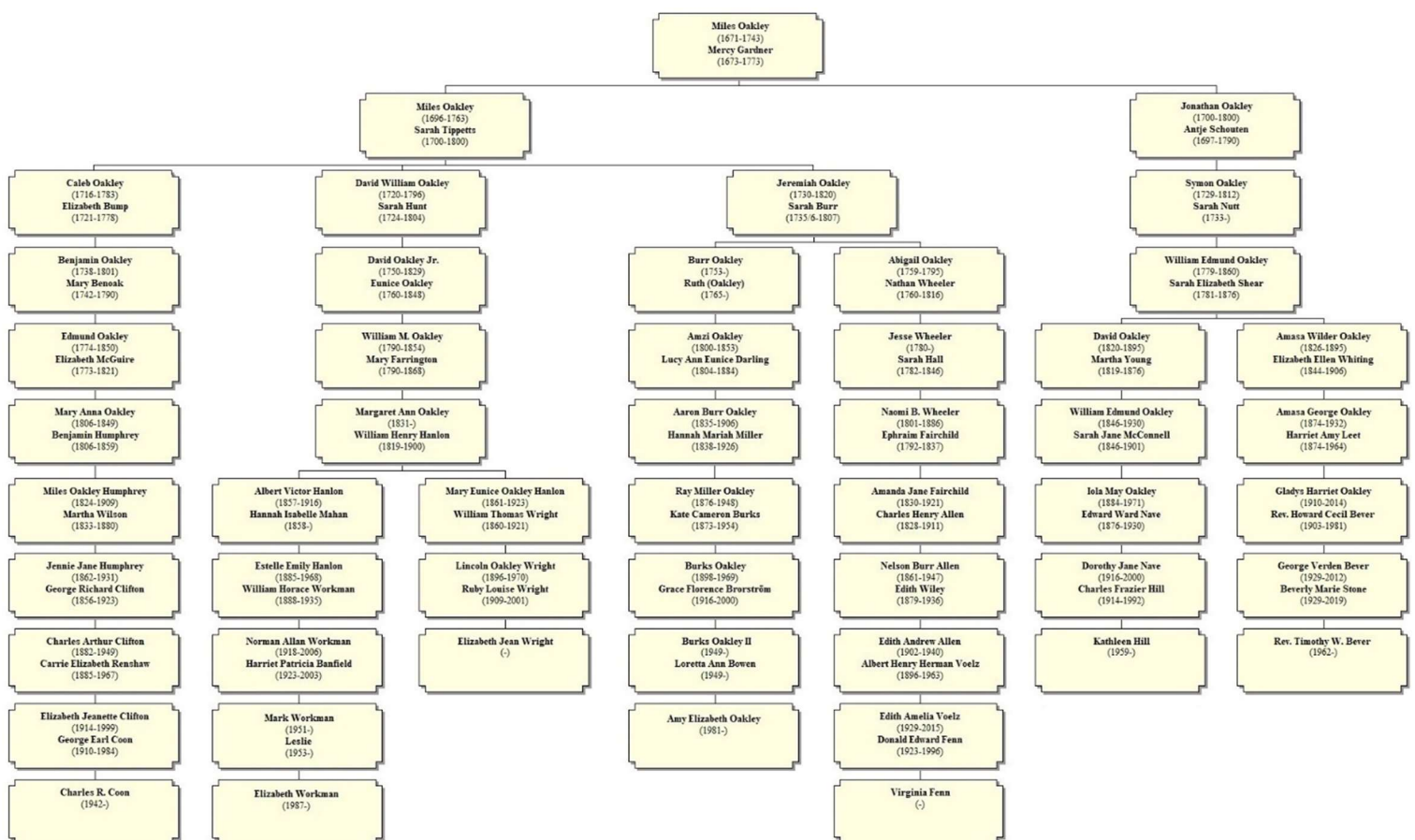
This screenshot shows how seven people match Tim Bever on Chromosome 15. These people are Jeani Trana, myself, my daughter Amy, Kathy Hill Orr, Elizabeth Workman and her father Mark Workman, and Virginia Fenn (VMF, aka Ginny Fossa). Tim Bever was selected for this comparison, since he appears to have the largest DNA segment on Chromosome 15.

The table at the top of this screenshot shows numerical data for the position along the chromosome where the match with Tim is found, and the yellow bars at the bottom of the screenshot show the numerical data in the form of a bar graph.

Tim's DNA segment is not shown in the bar graph, but it can be inferred to go from the left-most end to the right-most end of the yellow bars.

The yellow color of the bars indicates that the DNA matches are in the range of 20-50 cM.

All of the people who have the matching DNA segment on Chromosome 15 are descended from the ***Oakley-Gardner*** couple, as shown in the following relationship chart:



Charles R. Coon, who is shown at the lower-left of this chart, passed away several years ago, and his DNA is no longer on GEDmatch.com – so he didn't appear in the screenshot on the previous page. But he did appear in the screenshot from 2019 (not shown).

The important thing to note is that the people on the previous page who have the matching DNA segment on Chromosome 15 all are descended from the **Oakley-Gardner** couple. So for several years, I called this the **Oakley-Gardner** segment.

Then I found that I shared the ***Oakley-Gardner*** DNA segment with Anne Ely Wain. Except Anne is descended from Miles Oakley IV (1645-1682) and his wife Mary Wilmot (1649-1698) – the parents of Miles Oakley V. This pushed all the matches back one more generation. And so for a short time, I changed my terminology and called it the ***Oakley-Wilmot*** segment.

Then I found that I have DNA matches with Sheryl Finch (née Parker) and her son Austin Finch. And I was amazed to find that Sheryl and Austin are descended from Miles Oakley III (1612-1672) and his wife Mary Browne (1607-1682). And

they were the parents of Miles Oakley IV. Miles Oakley III and his wife Mary Browne were my eighth-great grandparents. So once again, I changed my terminology, so that I now am calling it the **Oakley-Browne** segment.

Sheryl Parker Finch’s line back to the **Oakley-Browne** couple goes through Mary Ida Lemonds (1868-1950), and I subsequently found that I had DNA matches with a total of nine descendants of Mary Ida Lemonds:

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/DescendantsOfMaryIdaLemonds_9May25.pdf

Up until now, the ancestral line going back through Mary Ida Lemonds was the only line where our common ancestors were the **Oakley-Browne** couple.

I kept thinking that it would be nice to have a second line to help support the idea that this segment goes back to the **Oakley-Browne** couple. And that is what this narrative is all about.

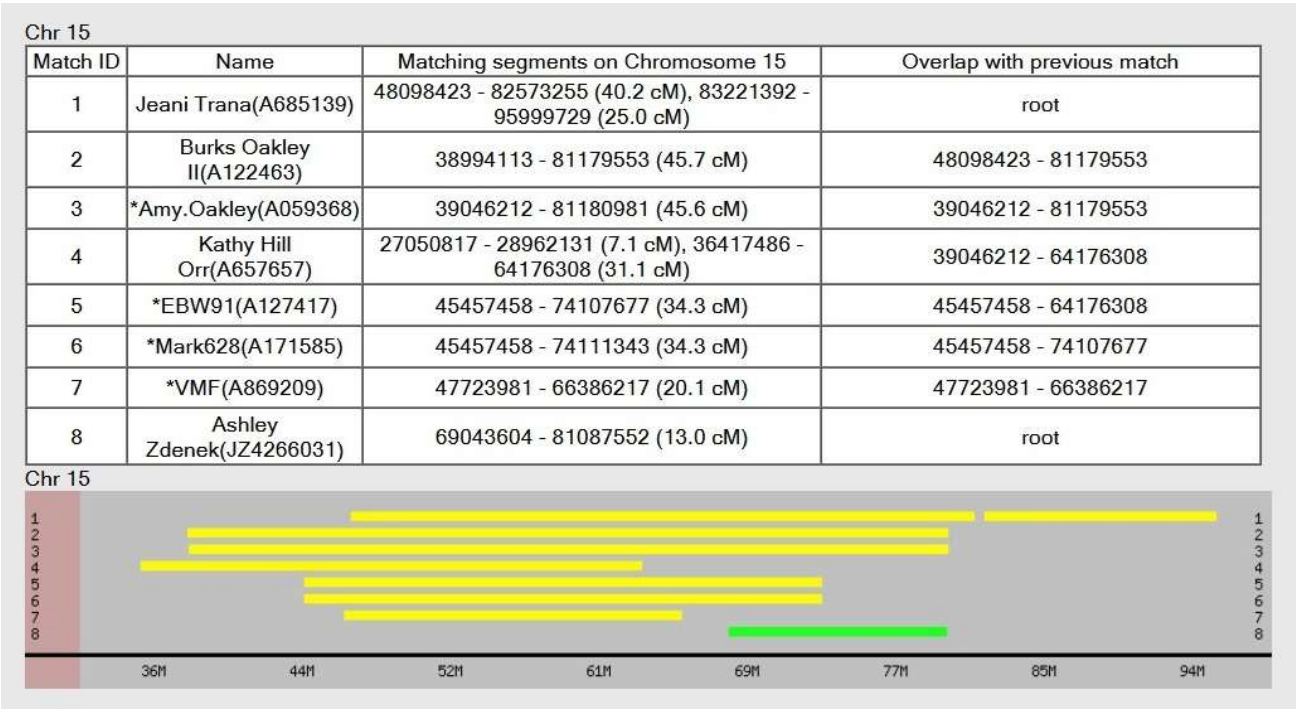
One of the people who has the **Oakley-Browne** DNA segment on Chromosome 15 is Ashley Zdenek. I wrote about my DNA match with her last fall – see:

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/AshleyZdenek_20Oct24.pdf

Ashley and I share 12.9 cM and 1,608 SNPs, as shown in the screenshot from the GEDmatch.com website:

Comparing Kit A122463 (Burks Oakley II) [Migration - F2 - A] and Kit TX3307904 (Ashley M Zdenek) [Ancestry]							
Chr	B37 Start Pos'n	B37 End Pos'n	Centimorgans (cM)	SNPs	Segment threshold	Bunch limit	SNP Density Ratio
15	69,094,639	81,077,055	12.9	1,608	211	127	0.27
Largest segment = 12.9 cM							

Here is Ashley added to the earlier group:



This screenshot shows where eight people have a DNA match with Tim Bever on Chromosome 15. Ashley is in line 8, and hers is the green bar in the bar graph. A green bar indicates that the DNA match is in the range of 10-20 cM.

Note that although Ashley matches several of the people in this group, she does not match Kathy Hill Orr (line 4) or Virginia Fenn (Ginny Fossa, line 7). I wrote about how there appear to be subgroups within the **Oakley-Browne** descendants who have DNA matches with Tim Bever on Chromosome 15 – see:

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/Oakley-Chr15-Subgroups_17Apr25.pdf

Ashley is descended from Miles Oakley VI (1696-1763) and his wife Sarah Tippetts (1700-1800).

I recently was looking for additional people on Ancestry.com who matched known **Oakley-Browne** descendants. When I looked at my “Shared DNA Matches” with Ashley, one of them was Melissa Oakley:

 melissa oakley	 	Your: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 17 cM Paternal side	Ashley Zdenek's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 30 cM
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I then looked at my DNA match with Melissa, and then I looked at our “Shared DNA Matches”. Here are some of them:

 goinbroke2	  	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 26 cM Paternal side	melissa oakley's: 1st cousin 3x removed 125 cM
 Scott Wachlin	 	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 21 cM Paternal side	melissa oakley's: Half 2nd cousin 1x removed or 2nd cousin 2x removed 61 cM

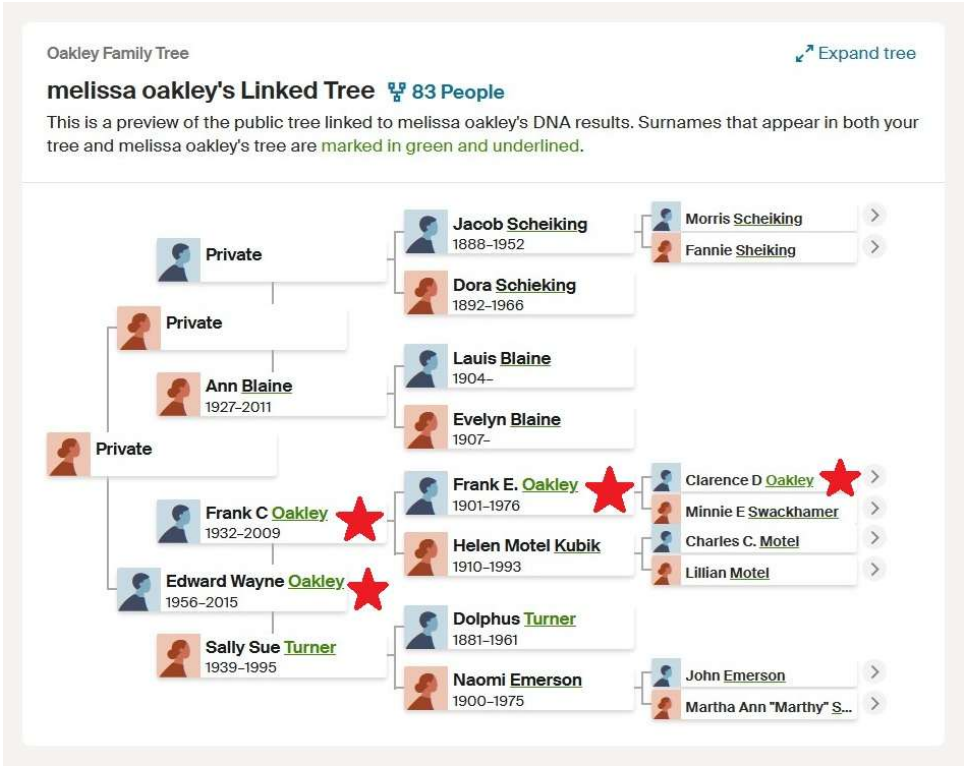
The man with the username **goinbroke2** is Clifford Wachlin, and he is Scott Wachlin’s father.

 Joyce Purdy	 	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 21 cM Paternal side	melissa oakley's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 20 cM
 A.B. Managed by Donald Baird	 	Your: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 33 cM Paternal side	melissa oakley's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 21 cM

A.B. is Andrew Baird.

All of these matches are known to be **Oakley-Browne** descendants. Interesting to see that Melissa’s matches with the **Wachlins** are somewhat larger than her other matches. I wonder if they are related in two separate ways.

Of course, I next looked at Melissa’s pedigree chart on Ancestry.com:



I added a red star to each of her ***Oakley*** ancestors in this chart. I have to admit that I haven’t seen these names before.

Here is Melissa’s profile for her great-grandfather Clarence D. Oakley (1866-1924):

Lockwood Family Tree

Find in tree

RO robinbirch0188



Henry De Groot Oakley

BIRTH 18 MAY 1818 • Flatlands, Kings, New York, USA
DEATH 8 MAY 1906 • Highland Park, Middlesex, New Jersey

Family

Parents

 **Ezra Oakley**
1788–1879

 **Elizabeth Degroot**
1795–1885

Spouse and children

 **Mary E**
1819–1882

 **James C Oakley**
1840–

 **Mary L Oakley**
1848–

 **Sarah Oakley**
1842–

 **Madeline Della Oakley**
1850–1896

 **Henry Edgar Oakley**
1843–1926

 **William Ezra Oakley**
1852–1878

 **Mary Elizabeth OAKLEY**
1847–1901

 **Clarence D Oakley**
1867–

Melissa’s profile for Henry DeGroot Oakley has a different wife and several different children:

Spouse and children

 **Cathrine Jannette Rackett Oakley**
1837–1898

 **Justine Oakley**
1858–1859

 **George H. Oakley**
1860–1918

 **Louisa Oakley**
1862–1906

 **Theodore Oakley**
1863–

 **Fredrick Perts Oakley**
1864–1917

 **Clarence D Oakley**
1866–1924

 **Irving W. Oakley**
1869–1875

 **Edith May Oakley**
1871–

But all trees I examined showed that Henry DeGroot Oakley’s father was Ezra Oakley (1788-1879). Here is Ezra’s profile from the “Julia Anne Neville Tree”:

Julia Anne Neville Tree

Find in tree

Pioneer10



Ezra Oakley

BIRTH 10 APRIL 1788 • Huntington, Suffolk, Long Island, New York, United States
DEATH 29 JANUARY 1879 • Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah, United States

Family

Parents



Eliphalet Oakley
1759-1841



Elizabeth CARPENTER
1738-1820

Spouse and children



Elizabeth DeGROOT
1795-1885



Henry DeGroot Oakley
1818-1906



John DeGroot OAKLEY
1819-1890



Mary Ann DeGroot Oakley
1826-1911



James DeGroot Oakley
1828-1915



Margaret DeGroot Oakley
1835-1933

Ezra’s father was Eliphalet¹ Oakley (1759-1841). Here is Eliphalet’s profile from the “Julia Anne Neville” tree:

Julia Anne Neville Tree

Find in tree

Pioneer10



Eliphalet Oakley

BIRTH 31 MAY 1759 • Hempstead, Queens, Province of New York
DEATH 20 APR 1841 • Babylon, Suffolk, New York, United States

Family

Parents



James Oakley
1710-1764



Margaret Hendrickson
1714-1764

Spouse and children



Elizabeth CARPENTER
1738-1820



Ezra Oakley
1788-1879



Nathaniel Oakley
1796-1868

Eliphalet Oakley’s father was James Oakley (1710-1764):

¹ (AI Summary) Eliphalet is a Hebrew masculine name meaning “God is release” or “God delivers me”. It is also the name of several historical figures, including Eliphalet Remington (founder of Remington Arms) and Eliphalet Nott (long-time president of Union College). The name also appears in the Bible as the name of a son of King David.

Julia Anne Neville Tree

Find in tree

Pioneer10



James Oakley

BIRTH

1710 • Hempstead, Queens, Province of New York

DEATH

1764 • Hempstead, Queens, Province of New York

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

Nathaniel Oakley
1678–1733

Ead Burtis
1678–1732

Margaret Hendrickson
1714–1764

Nathaniel OAKLEY
1735–1811

Hepzibah OAKLEY
1737–1760

James OAKLEY
1740–1807

Elizabeth Oakley
1743–1830

Henry Oakley
1750–1841

Esther Oakley
1752–1795

Samuel OAKLEY
1755–1835

Esther Or Hester Oakley
1757–1807

Eliphalet Oakley
1759–1841

James Oakley’s father was Nathaniel Oakley (1678-1733):

Julia Anne Neville Tree

Find in tree

Pioneer10



Nathaniel Oakley

BIRTH

1678 • Hempstead, Queens, New York Colony

DEATH

24 JAN 1733 • Foster's Meadow, Hempstead, Queens, Province of New York

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

Thomas Oakley
1640–1709

Sarah Whitehead
1644–1694

Ead Burtis
1678–1732

Daniel Oakley
1705–1734

James Oakley
1710–1764

Mary Oakley
1712–

Nathaniel 2 OAKLEY
1717–1800

Nathaniel Oakley’s father was Thomas Oakley (1640-1709):

Stemmle/Oakley - Haga...

Find in tree

Robert Stemmle

Captain Thomas Oakley

BIRTH 1640 • Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts Bay Colony

DEATH JAN. 1709 • Jamaica, Queens, New York Colony

Family

Parents

Miles Oakley III

1612-1672

Mary Brown

1607-1682

Spouse and children

Sarah Whitehead

1644-1689

Elizabeth Oakley

1665-1714

Nathaniel Oakley Sr.

1678-1733

Daniel Oakley

1666-1733

Hepsibah Oakley

1681-1753

Mary Sarah Oakley

1671-1730

Thomas Oakley

1688-1760

David Oakley Sr.

1675-1733

Patience Oakley

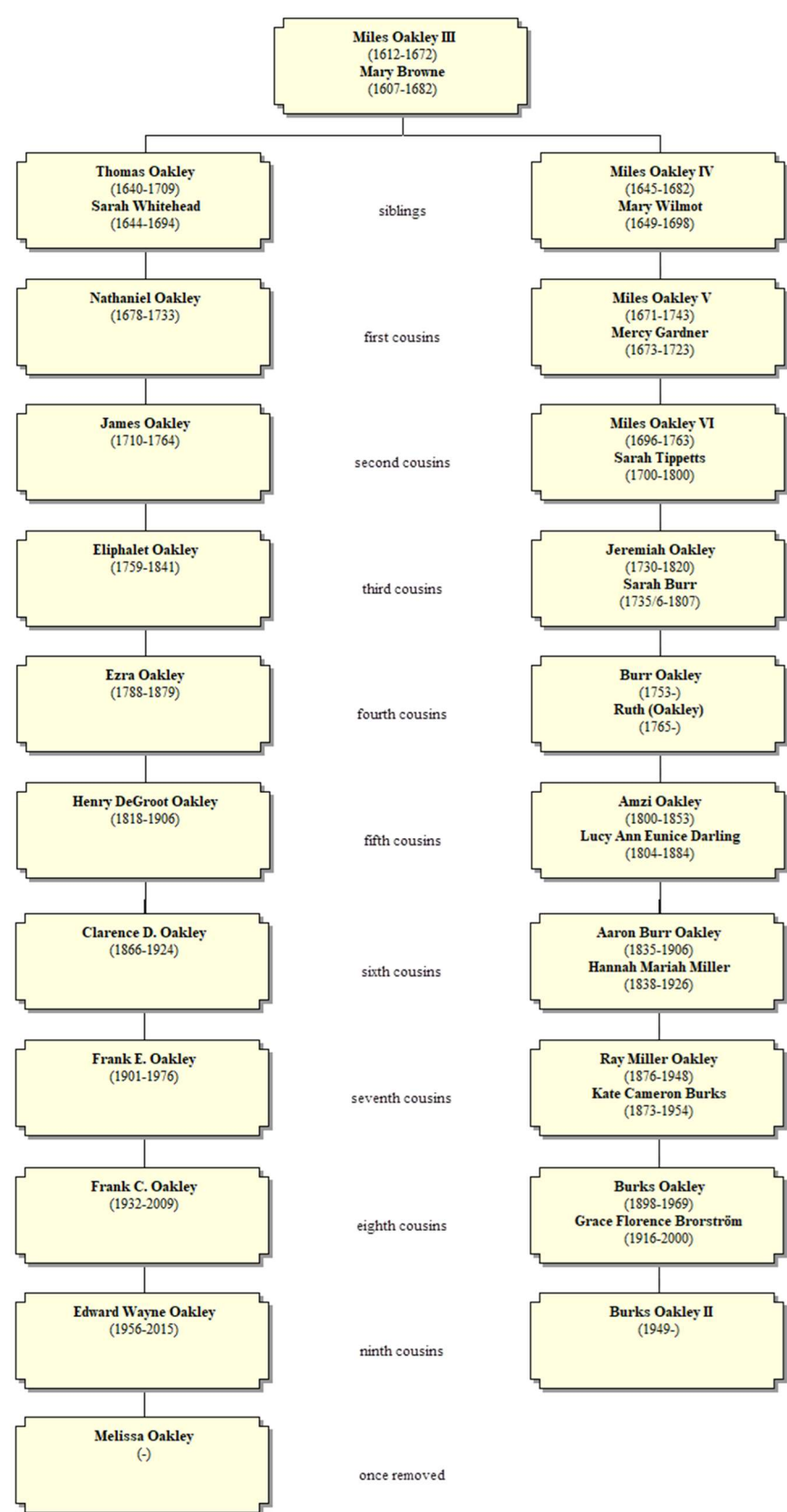
1689-

And we finally get to Miles Oakley III and his wife Mary Browne, who were the parents of Capt. Thomas Oakley!!!

Wow! Now we have another ancestral line going back to the ***Oakley-Browne*** couple. This is nice to see!

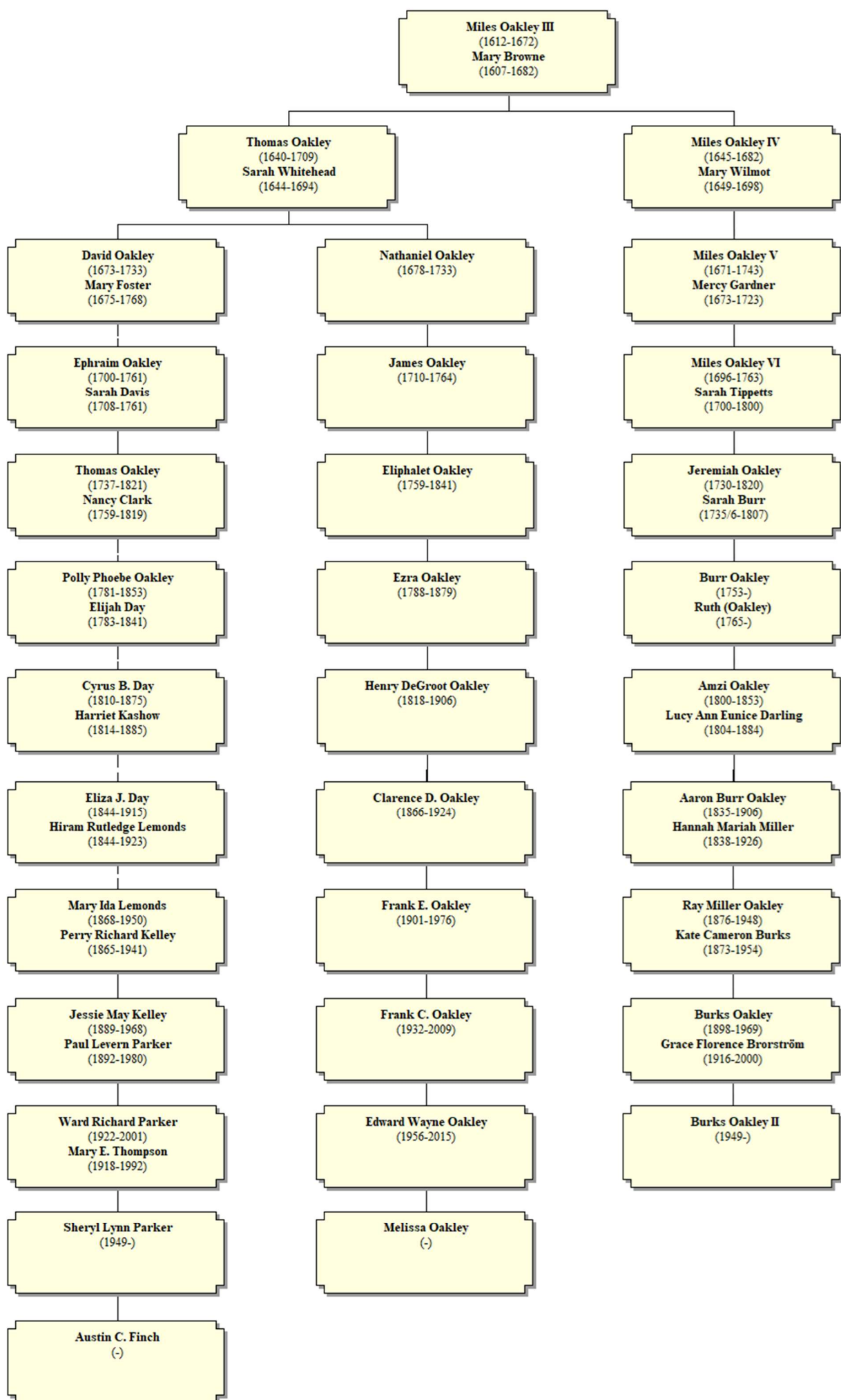
I added Melissa’s ancestral line to my RootsMagic database. I didn’t have Nathaniel Oakley as a grandson of the ***Oakley-Browne*** couple, so this line is entirely new to me.

I then created a chart showing how Melissa and I are related:



Based on this chart, Melissa and I are ninth-cousins once-removed. And we both come from separate unbroken lines of ***Oakley*** males. Amazing!

Since Sheryl Finch (née Parker) and her son Austin Finch are also descended from the ***Oakley-Browne*** couple, I added their ancestral line to the relationship chart shown above. And here is that chart:



And this is probably as good a place as any to stop.