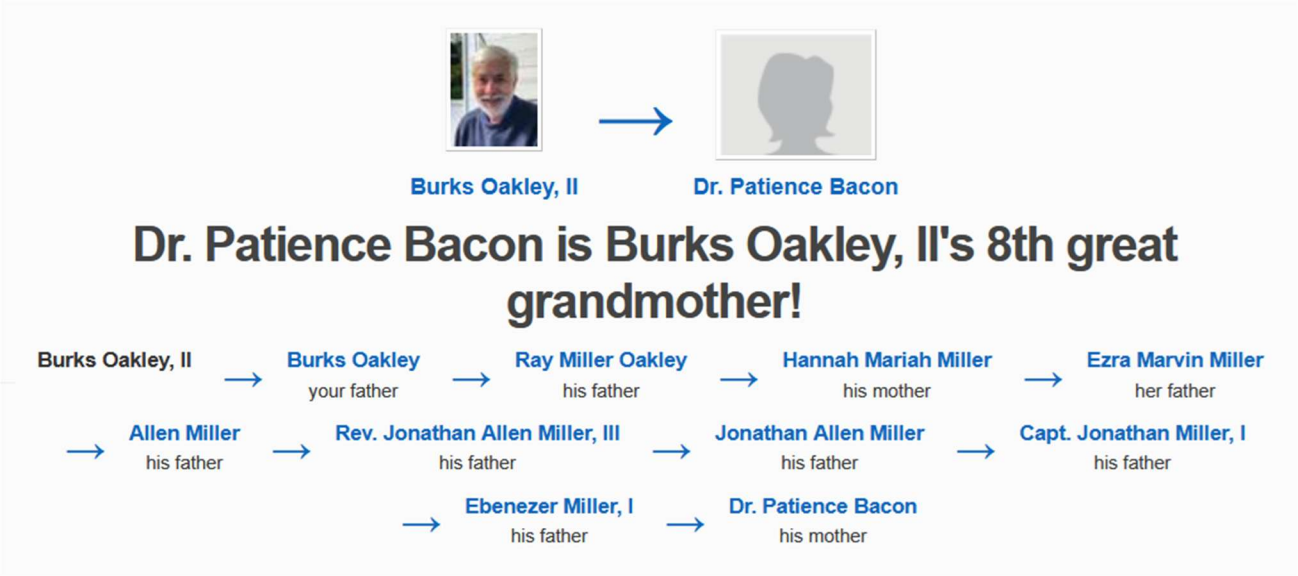


My Ancestral Line Going Back to Dr. Patience Bacon (and perhaps beyond)

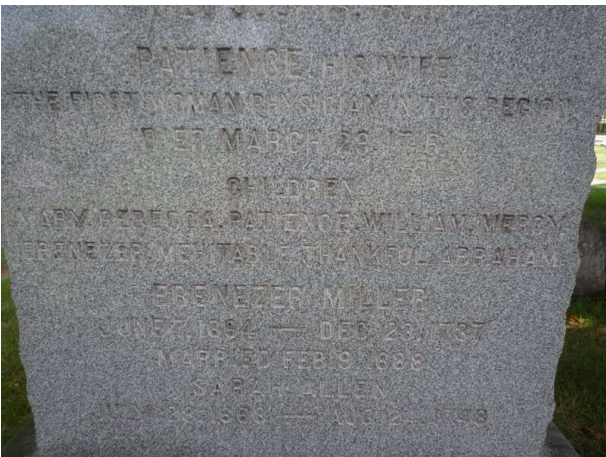
By Burks Oakley II
12 May 2026

Dr. Patience Bacon (1631-1716) was my 8th-great grandmother on my *Miller* ancestral line:



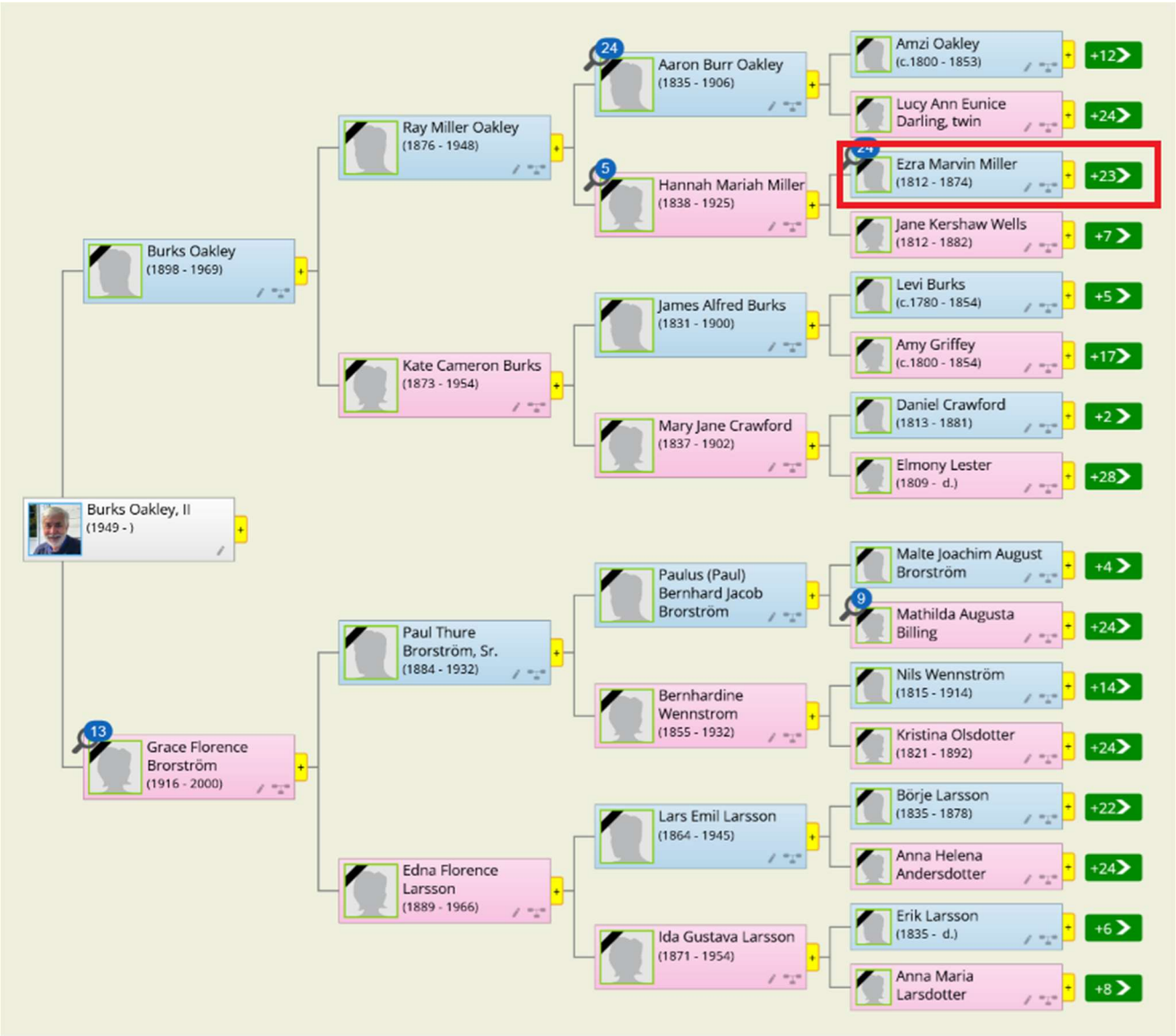
Ever since I was young, I knew that Patience Bacon was the first female physician and surgeon in New England – and perhaps in the colonies.

Patience Bacon was married to William Miller, and in 1654, they were among the founders of Northampton, Massachusetts. I remember that when I was a child, my parents and I visited Northampton, where there is a monument in Bridge Street Cemetery dedicated to the memory of William Miller and his wife Patience Bacon.

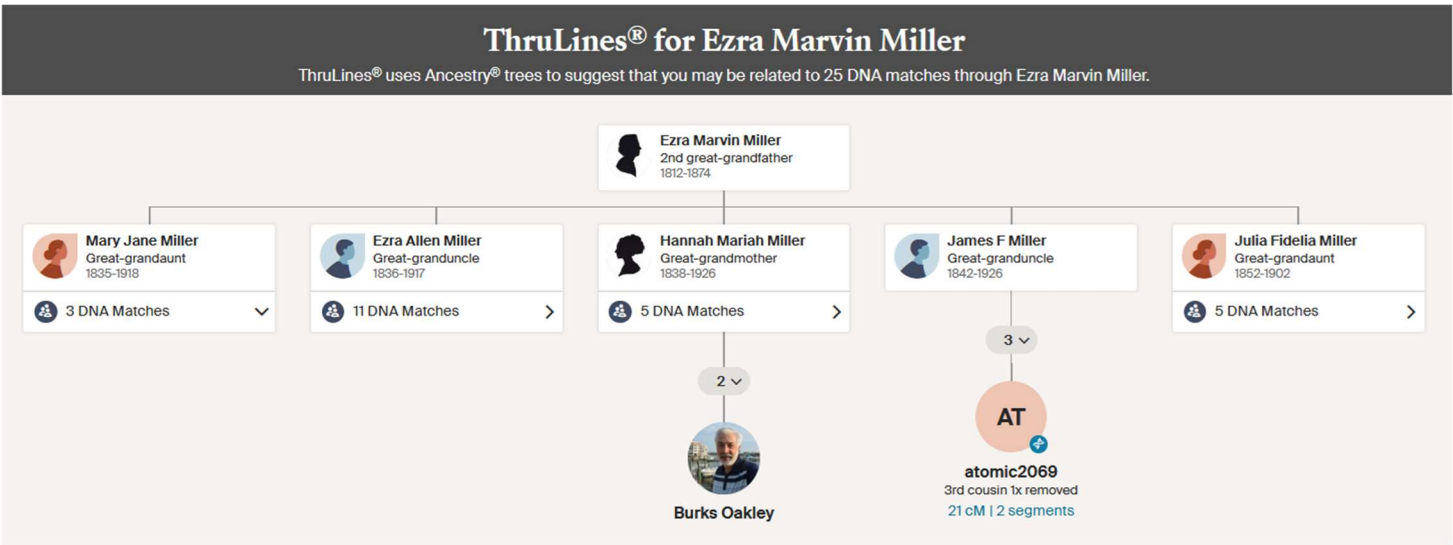


The inscription in the photo at the right reads “Patience his wife – The first woman physician in this region – Died March 29, 1716”.

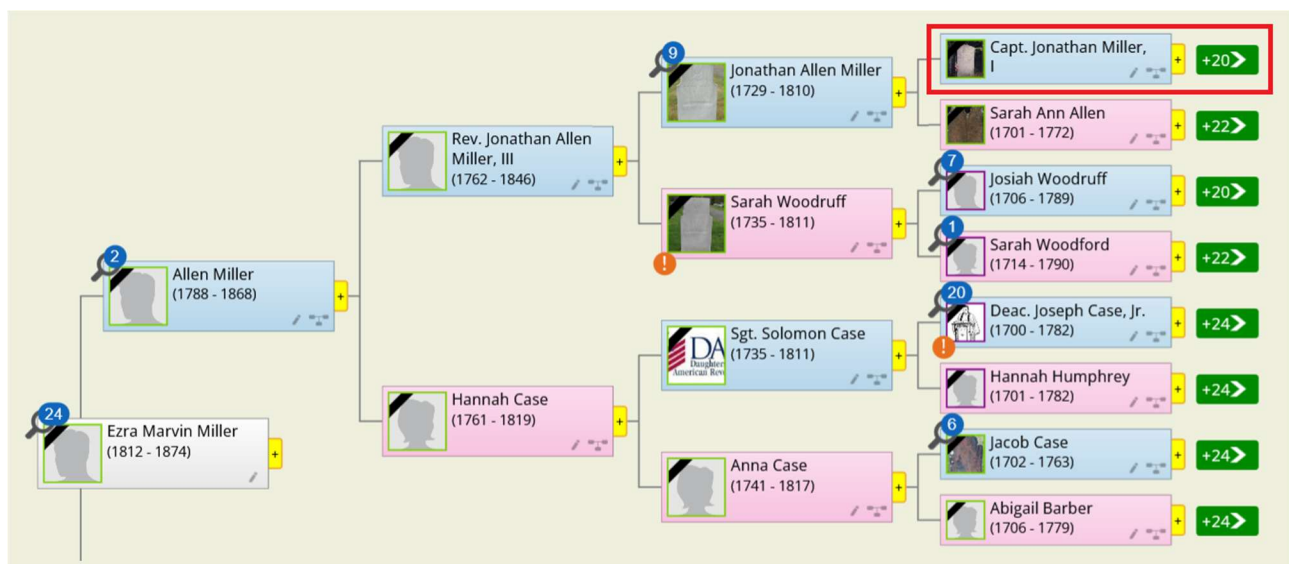
Here is the first part of my line back to Patience Bacon – it goes through my second-great grandfather, Ezra Marvin Miller (1812-1874):



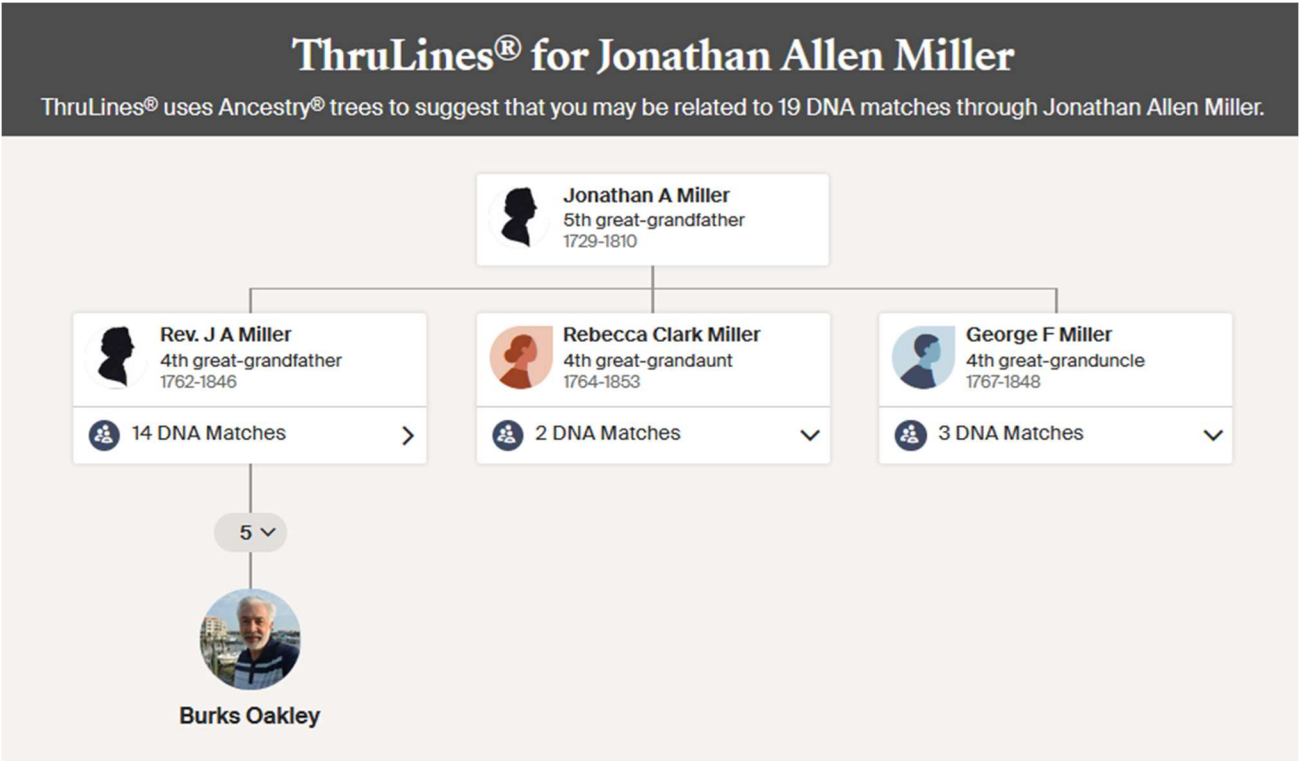
I have DNA matches with twenty-five descendants of Ezra Marvin Miller, as shown in this ThruLines® chart from Ancestry.com:



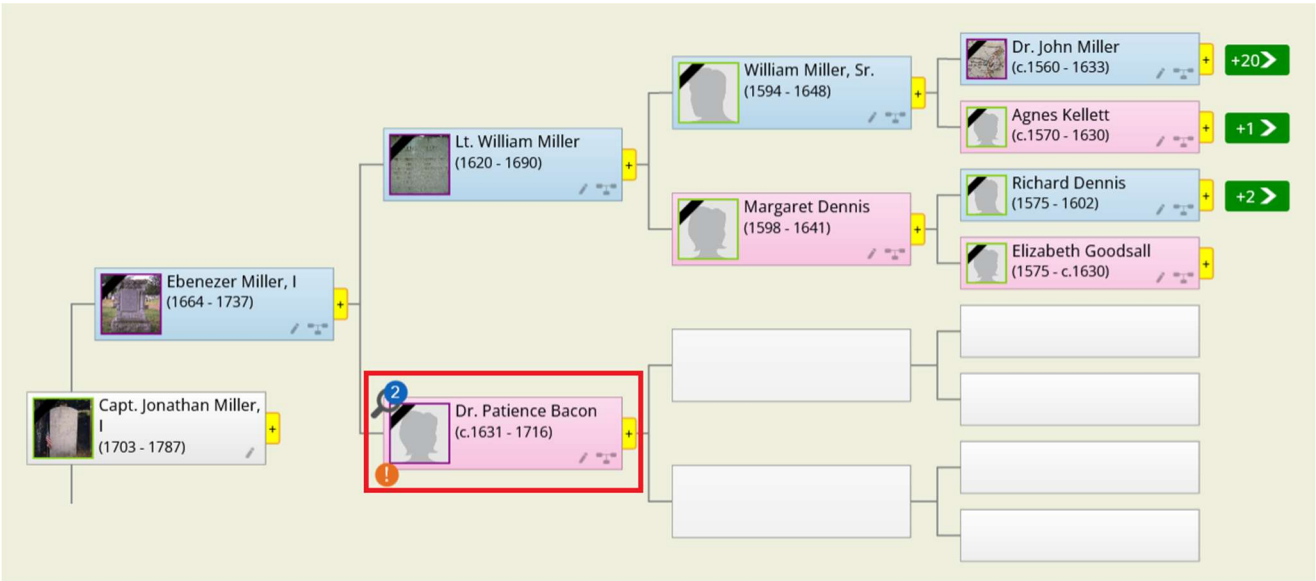
Here is the next part of my line to Patience Bacon – it goes back through a line of **Miller** men to Capt. Jonathan Miller (1703-1787):



Capt. Jonathan Miller’s son was Jonathan Allen Miller (1729-1810), and I have DNA matches with nineteen of his descendants, as shown in this ThruLines® chart:



Finally, here is the line from Capt. Jonathan Miller to his paternal grandmother, Dr. Patience Bacon:



Note that this pedigree chart from Geni.com ends with Patience Bacon – her parents apparently are unknown (or have not been proven beyond a reasonable doubt).

I did a Google search to see what I could find about Patience Bacon. Here is the AI Overview:



who was patience bacon founder of northampton mass



AI ModeAllImagesForumsShoppingVideosNewsMoreTools

 AI Overview

Patience Bacon (c. 1623–1716) was **a pioneering 17th-century settler**, recognized as one of the founders of Northampton, Massachusetts, in 1654 alongside her husband, William Miller Jr.. Known as a prominent healer, she is often cited as one of the first recorded women physicians and surgeons in colonial New England.  Find a Grave +1

Key Details About Patience Bacon:

- Background:** Born in England around 1623, she married William Miller and settled in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.
- Founding of Northampton:** She and her husband were among the early settlers who established Northampton in 1654.
- Profession:** Records identify her as a physician and surgeon.
- Death and Burial:** She died on March 29, 1716, at age 94, and is buried in the [Bridge Street Cemetery](#) in Northampton.  Burks Oakley II +2

She is sometimes referred to as Dr. Patience Bacon Miller.  Find a Grave

As an aside, note that I am listed as one of the references for when she died and where she is buried.

I also looked at Patience Bacon’s profile on the Geni.com website:





Burks Oakley, II
Geni Pro

Dr. Patience Bacon

This is the **Master Profile** for Dr. Patience Bacon.

Curator Note from Erica Howton (4/5/2017):

Parents unproven - not Martha Worchester. Patience (Bacon) Miller was a physician and surgeon, the only doctor serving the towns of Northampton and Northfield. According to Cutter, she was the first and only woman physician of the time in America.

I always find it interesting when the curators on Geni.com add comments like “Parents unproven – not Martha Worchester” – but don’t provide any evidence to support the statement. And, as we will see, hundreds of family trees on the Ancestry.com website (including mine) have Martha Worchester as Patience’s mother.

Here is the profile for Patience Bacon on the Geni.com website:

Dr. Patience Bacon

Gender:

Female

Birth:

circa 1631

Of Ipswich, Essex, England

Death:

November 29, 1716 (80-89)

Northampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts

Place of Burial:

Bridge Street Cemetery, Northampton, Hampshire, Massachusetts, United States

Immediate Family:

Wife of [Lt. William Miller](#)

Mother of [John Miller](#); [Mary Miller](#); [Rebecca Miller](#); [Patience Miller](#); [William Miller](#); [Mary Miller](#); [Ebenezer Miller, I](#); [Mehitable Miller](#); [Mehitable Miller](#); [Thankful Miller](#); [Abraham Miller](#); [Grace Miller](#) and [Mercy Miller](#)

Label:

Married 1643,St Nicholas Parrish

Added by:

[John C. \(Jack\) King](#) on April 15, 2007

Managed by:

[Thomas Edward Shirley](#) and 39 others

Curated by:

[Erica Howton](#)

Going back to my ancestral line back to Patience Bacon, I am descended from her son, Ebenezer Miller (1664-1737).

Patience Bacon appears in a huge number of family trees on the Ancestry.com website:

All Public Member Trees results for Patience Bacon

Patience Bacon found in 1899 trees

View all

Patience Bacon from tree [Jones Family Tree](#)

Birth

1631 Ipswich, Suffolk, England

Marriage

1652

Death

29 Mar 1716 Northampton, Hampshire, Massachusetts, USA

Father

William Bacon (1593-1653)

Mother

Martha Worchester (Born 1600)

Spouse

William Miller (1620-1690)

1373 People

16 Records

39 Sources

Patience BACON Miller found in 12399 trees

View all

Patience BACON Miller from tree [Helon Johnson Family Tree](#)

Birth

1623 London, London, England

Marriage

1655 Northampton, Hampshire, Massachusetts, USA

Residence

USA

Death

29 Mar 1716 Northampton, Hampshire, Massachusetts, USA

Father

William (Immigrant - 1640 Salem, Massachusetts) BACON (1593-1653)

Mother

Isabell Bird Dongwroth Bacon (1608-1703)

Spouse

Lt William Miller (1620-1690)

116254 People

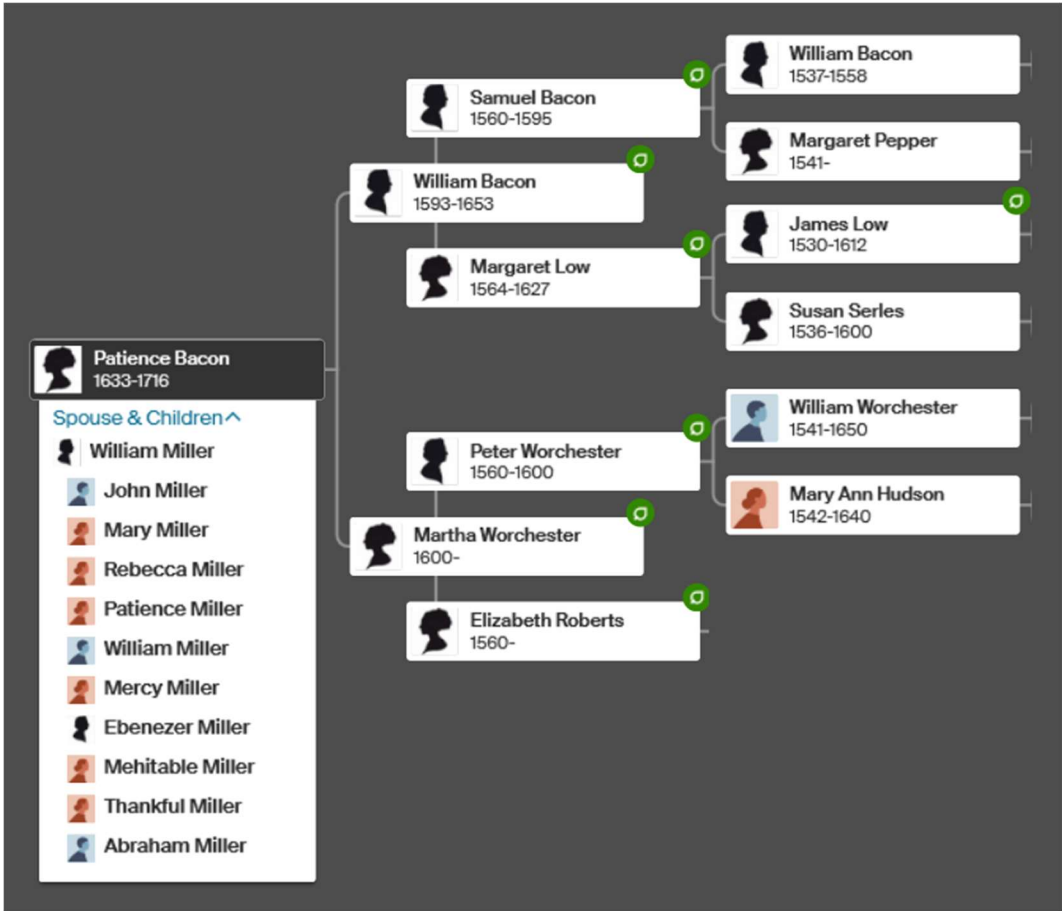
8 Records

15 Sources

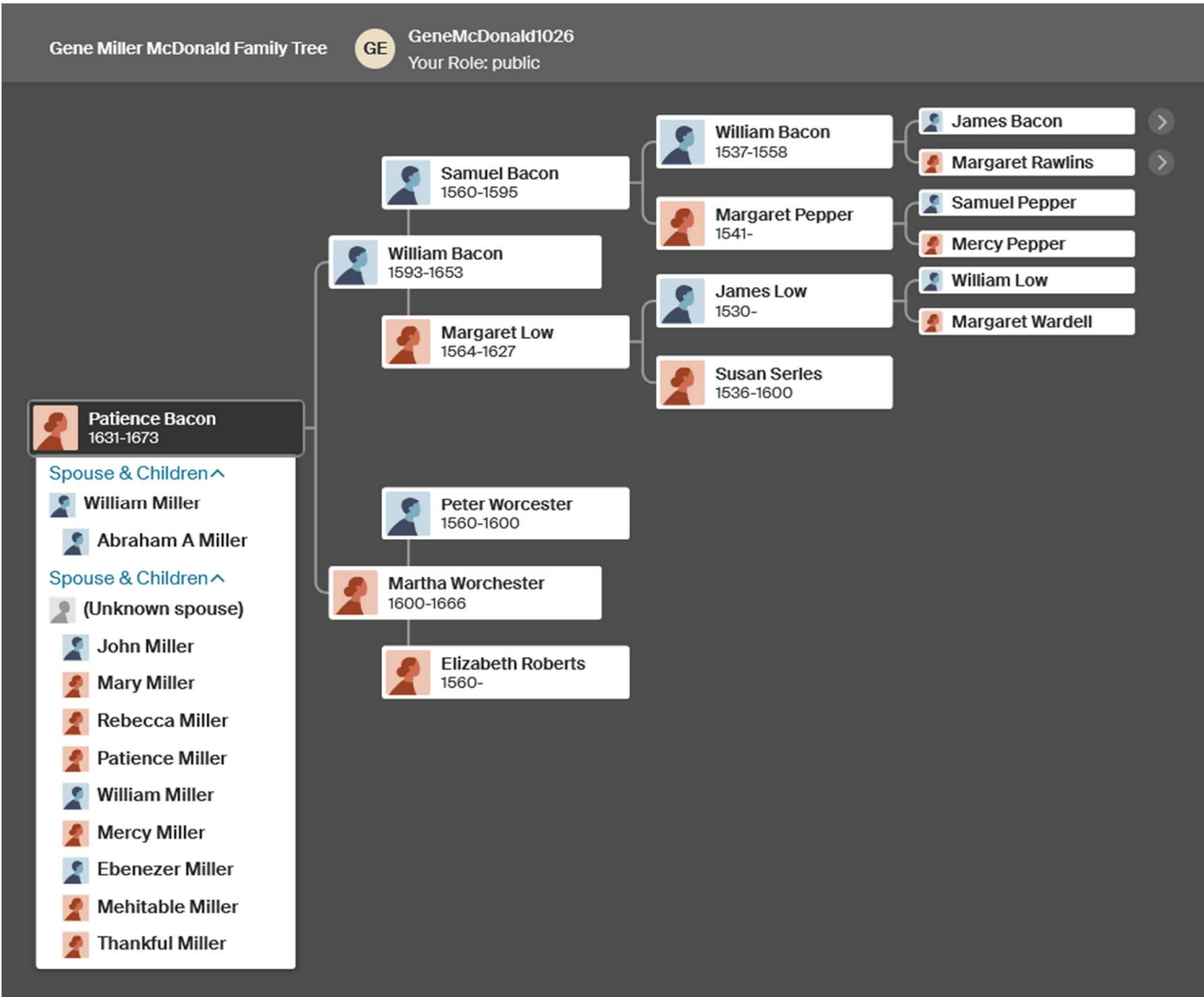
It appears that a number of these trees have her mother being Martha Worchester (born 1600).

These trees also have her father as being William Bacon (1593-1653).

For what it’s worth, here is the pedigree I have for Patience Bacon on Ancestry.com:

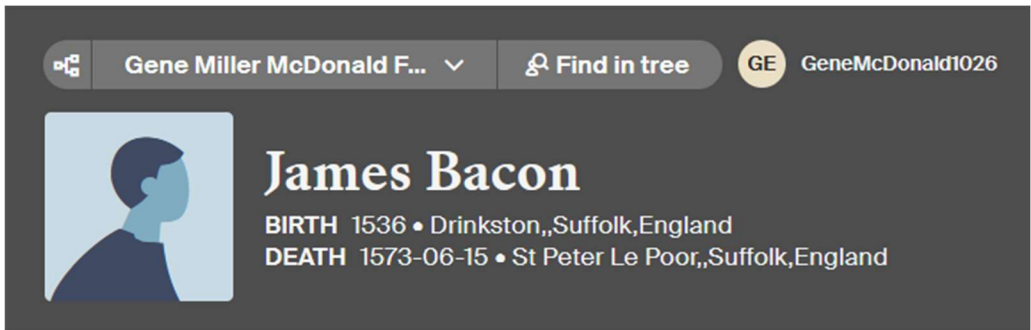


I looked at other family trees on Ancestry.com that had the ancestors of Patience Bacon. Here is what I found in the “Gene Miler McDonald Family Tree”:



I note that Gene Miller (female) came from an uninterrupted line of **Miller** males, which in and of itself is pretty cool. She is descended from William Miller and his wife Patience Bacon. I guess that Gene and I must be something like eighth- or ninth-cousins.¹

Gene’s pedigree traces Patience’s Bacon line back to James Bacon (1536-1573):



Just for fun, I looked at James Bacon on the Geni.com website. Here is his profile:

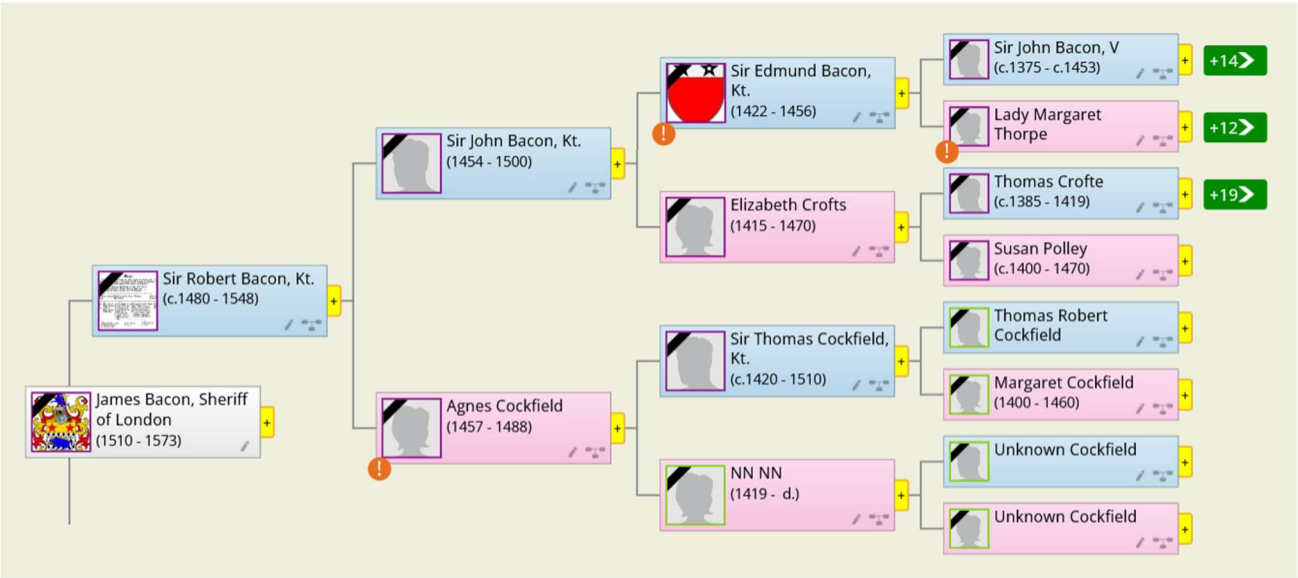


Oh my! James Bacon was the Sheriff of London!

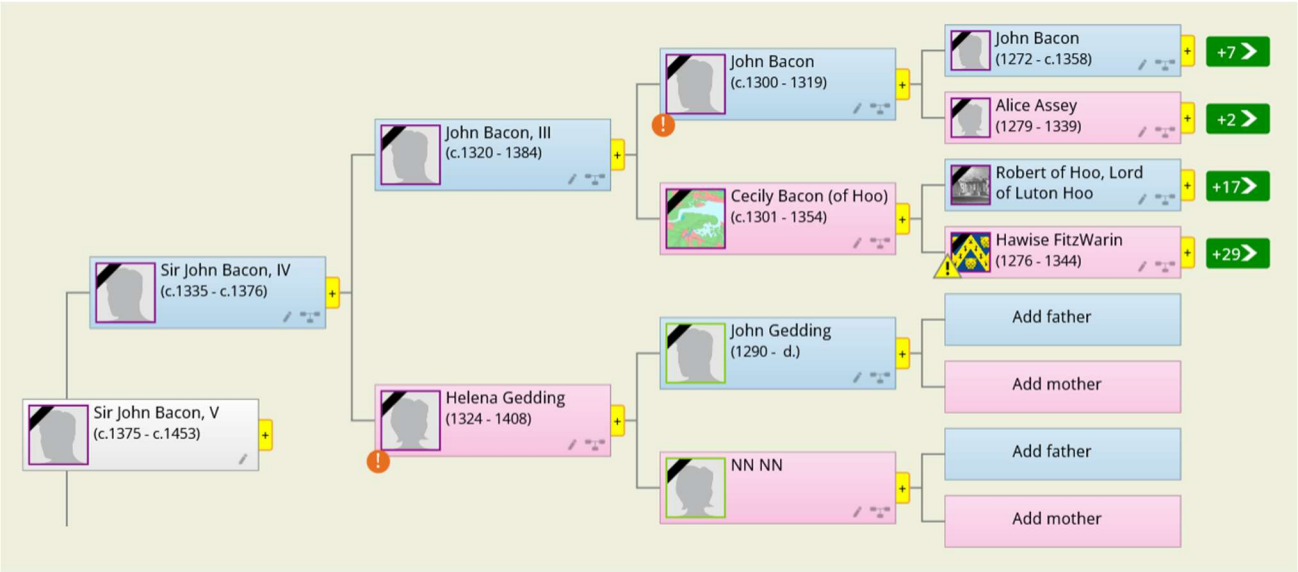
Note that this profile was added by Bruce Haris Bacon, Jr. – who himself comes from a long line of **Bacon** males.

Here is the pedigree from Geni.com for James Bacon, Sheriff of London, going back to his 2nd-great grandfather, Sir John Bacon V (1375-1453):

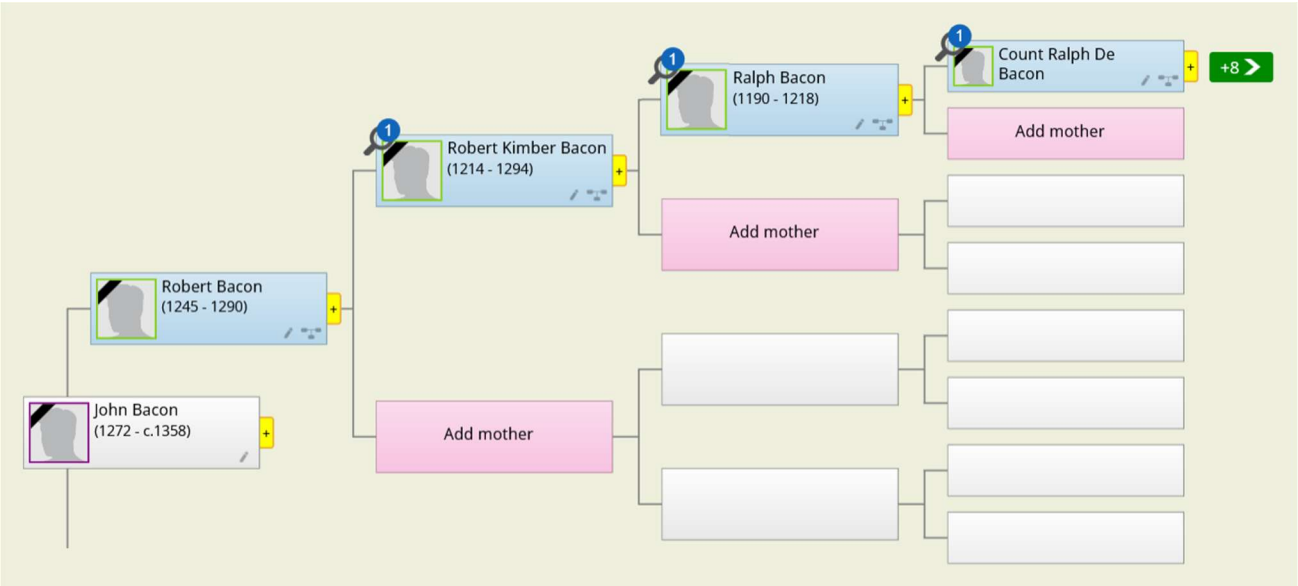
¹ See the Appendix – Gene and I are actually sixth-cousins thrice-removed.



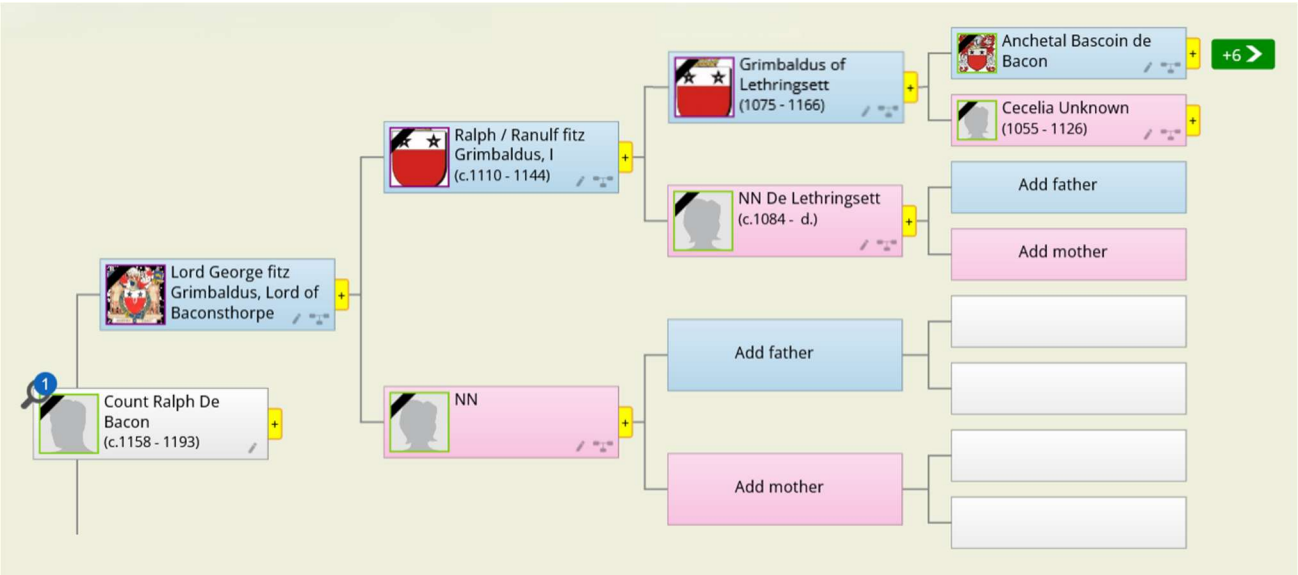
Continuing back, here is the pedigree for Sir John Bacon V going back to his 2nd-great grandfather, John Bacon (1272-1358):



One more – here is the pedigree for John Bacon going back to his 2nd-great grandfather, Count Ralph De Bacon (1158-1193):



Oh, I lied. Here is one more pedigree chart – going back from Count Ralph De Bacon to his 2nd-great grandfather, Anchetal Bascoin de Bacon (1050-1075):



Here is the profile for Anchetal Bascoin de Bacon from Geni.com:



Anchetal Bascoin de Bacon

Gender: Male

Birth: 1050
Baconsthorpe, Norfolk, England (United Kingdom)

Death: 1075 (24-25)
Norfolk, England (United Kingdom)

Immediate Family: Son of [Ranulf de Bacon, II](#) and [wife Bacon](#)
Husband of [Cecelia Unknown](#)
Father of [Grimbaldus of Lethringsett](#)

Added by: [Bruce Harris Bacon, Jr.](#) on April 14, 2008

Note that this man was born in 1050, which was before the Norman Invasion in 1066.

It is interesting that Anchetal Bascoin de Bacon was born in the village of Baconsthorpe, in Norfolk, England. Here is a Google Map showing the location of Baconsthorpe:



As an aside, note that Baconsthorpe is about five miles east of Blakeney, and one of my high-school classmates from Euclid, Ohio, married an Englishman and they live in Blakeney.

Let me now go back to William Bacon, who many think is the father of Patience Bacon. Here is his entry on Geni.com:

geni

HomeTreeFamily ▾Research ▾



Burks Oakley, II ▾
Geni Pro

William Bacon, of St. Nicholas Parish, London

This is the **Master Profile** for William Bacon, of St. Nicholas Parish, London.
Curator Note from Erica Howton (5/22/2025):
This pedigree is tainted by notorious fraudulent genealogist Gustav Anjou.

ADD PHOTO

William Bacon

Gender:Male

Birth:November 19, 1593
St Nicholas, London, England

Death:September 29, 1653 (59)
St Nicholas, London, England

Added by:Colin Caton Carpi on April 22, 2007

Managed by:**Bruce Harris Bacon, Jr.** and 35 others

Curated by:Erica Howton

About

[edit](#) | [history](#)

Did this man exist?

Seen as son of [Samuel Bacon](#) & [Margaret Low](#) without citation. Locations do not match well. Not the same as [William Bacon, of Stretton](#) William Bacon of Stretton, Rutland, England has no connection to William Bacon of St. Nicholas Parish, London. Not the husband of [Martha Worchester, {Fictional}](#) Speculated as father of [Dr. Patience Bacon](#). It is likely her father was a physician.

Martha Worchester was not the wife of William Bacon. Her connection to William Bacon comes from a discredited person who faked genealogies for profit, Gustave Anjou. See also The American Genealogist vol 57, page 105, producing over 150 books in his lifetime, which are still quoted. See also the list at FamilySearch, and surname list at Gustav Anjou, Fraudulent Genealogist.

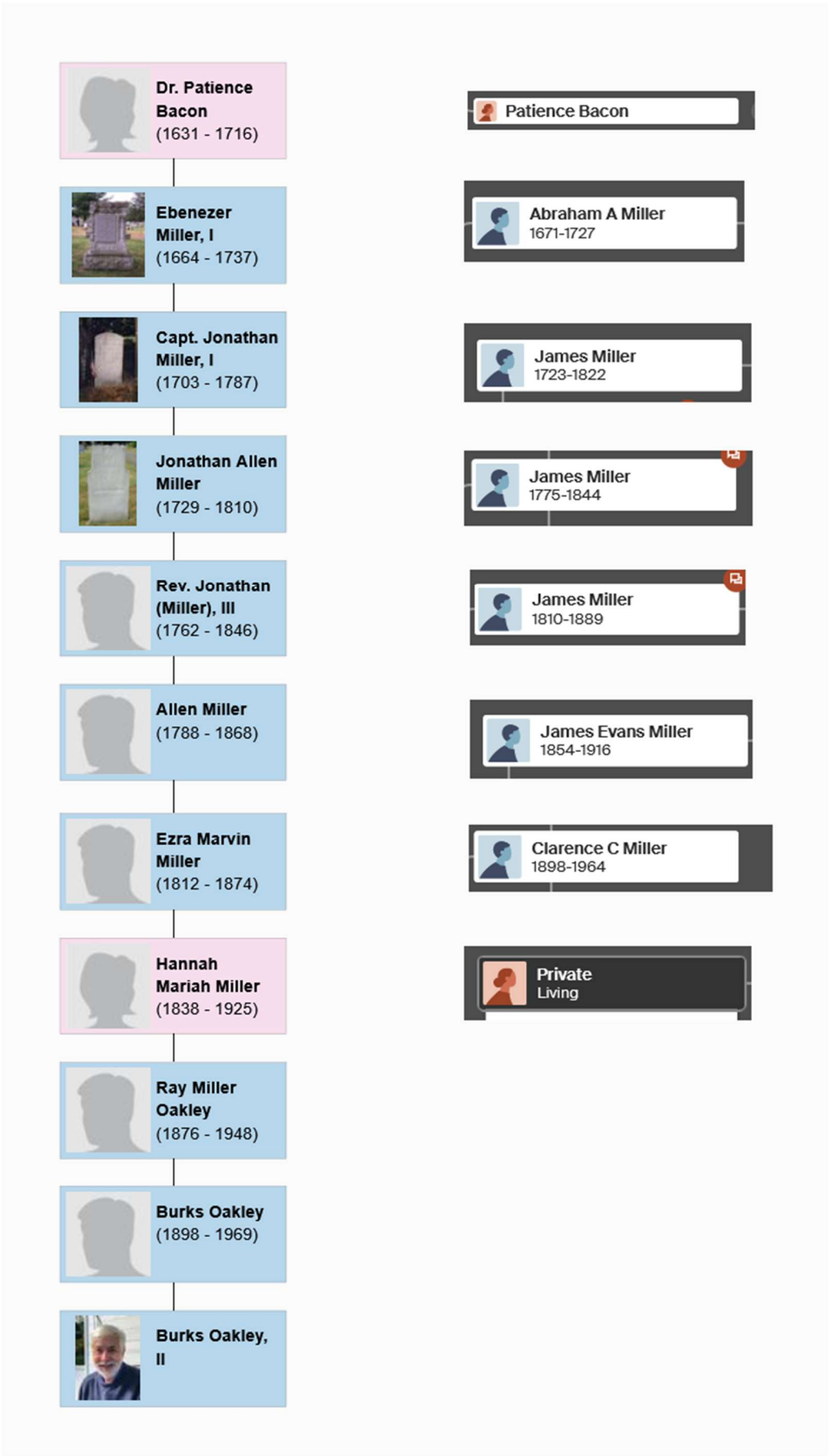
- Women in medicine
- Pioneers
- Patience Miller (1623-1716), appears in records as the only physician and surgeon in Northfield, Connecticut. She is named in "The History of Northfield for 150 years", by Josiah Howard Temple and George Sheldon, Albany, New York, 1875: Page 68 - William Miller was at Ipswich in 1648; was a first settler at Northampton; a tanner by trade. His wife ... Mrs. M. was a skilful physician and surgeon, ... and the only doctor at Northfield during the first two settlements. Patience was born in Ipswich, England and died in Northampton, Connecticut 29 Novrmber 1716. She was the daughter of **William Bacon (1593-1653)** and his wife, **Martha née Worchester (-1666)**.
- From: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_medicine

So there we are! Finally there is an explanation about Martha Worchester (or Worchester) – she was a fictional person created by Gustav Anjou. But I’m not sure that this excludes William Bacon (1593-1653) from being Patience’s father.

And if he was her father, then I can trace my **Bacon** line back to Baconsthorpe, U.K., before the time of the Norman invasion!

Appendix: My Relationship To Gene Miller McDonald

Here is a composite image containing my ancestral line back to Dr. Patience Bacon from the Geni.com website, as well as Gene Miller’s line back to Patience Bacon:



Based on this chart, Gene is a sixth-cousin of my great-grandmother, Hannah Mariah Miller (1838-1925), which means that Gene and I are sixth-cousins thrice-removed. Amazing!