

My DNA Match with Shannon Wiley (and where it took me)

By Burks Oakley II
21 April 2025

I recently wrote an extensive narrative about my DNA matches with descendants of Miles Oakley (1612-1672) and Mary Browne (1607-1682). This couple were my eighth-great grandparents. See:

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

Much of the work I described in this narrative was based on my DNA match with Rev. Timothy W. Bever. Tim and I have a 45.8 cM DNA match on Chromosome 15, as shown in this screenshot from the GEDmatch.com website:

Comparing Kit A122463 (Burks Oakley II) [Migration - F2 - A] and Kit ZR2798817 (*Tim) [Ancestry]							
Chr	B37 Start Pos'n	B37 End Pos'n	Centimorgans (cM)	SNPs	Segment threshold	Bunch limit	SNP Density Ratio
15	38,992,547	81,179,553	45.8	6,181	208	124	0.28
Largest segment = 45.8 cM							

Based solely on the size of this DNA match, software on Ancestry.com predicts that Tim and I would be third-cousins once-removed. Based on our ancestral lines going back to our Most Recent Common Ancestors – Miles Oakley (1671-1743) and his wife Mercy Gardner (1673-1723) – Tim and I actually are seventh-cousins [see our relationship chart in the Appendix]. In earlier narratives, I have written that this particular DNA segment is a “sticky segment”, and it appears that it is passed from parent to child with little diminution.

In the narrative referenced at the top of this page, I speculated that if Tim and I had a “Shared DNA Match” with anyone on Ancestry.com, then this person would be an **Oakley-Browne** descendant. So I began systematically looking at our Shared DNA Matches. One of these matches was Shannon Wiley:

 Shannon Wiley	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 32 cM Paternal side	Timothy Bever's: Half sister or niece 1,599 cM
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Shannon and I share 32 cM of DNA, while Shannon and Tim share 1,599 cM of DNA. Software on Ancestry.com suggested that Shannon was Tim’s half-sister or niece. I sent Tim an email note and he replied that Shannon was his half-sister.

I looked at my DNA match with Shannon on the Ancestry.com website, and I learned that she has large DNA matches with Tim’s brother John Bever, as well as Tim’s uncle Rev. Howard Bever:

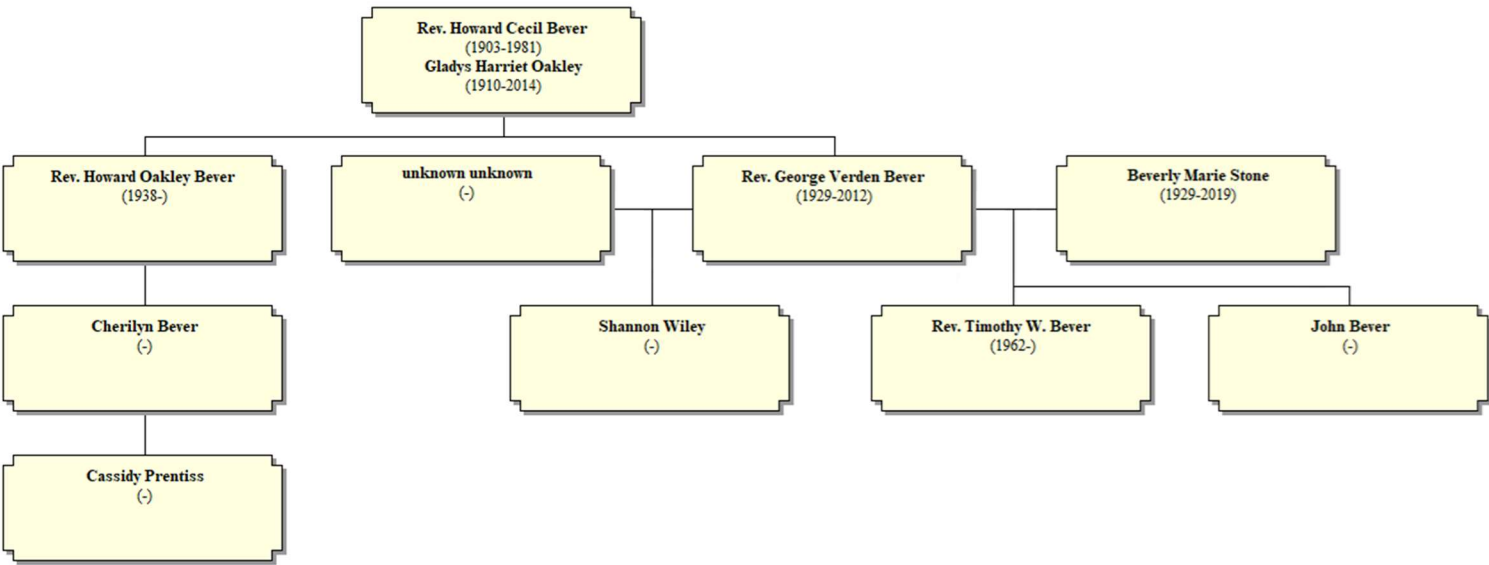
 john Bever	 	Your: Half 3rd cousin or 3rd cousin 1x removed 43 cM Paternal side	Shannon Wiley's: Uncle or half brother 1,990 cM
 Timothy Bever Managed by Marva Gervais	 	Your: 3rd cousin 1x removed or half 3rd cousin 43 cM Paternal side	Shannon Wiley's: Half brother or uncle 1,599 cM
 Howard Bever	 	Your: Half 3rd cousin or 3rd cousin 1x removed 40 cM Paternal side	Shannon Wiley's: Uncle 1,690 cM

I also learned that Shannon has a DNA match with Cassidy Prentiss:

 Cassidy Prentiss	 	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 39 cM Paternal side	Shannon Wiley's: 1st cousin 1x removed or half 1st cousin 487 cM
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Cassidy is a granddaughter of Rev. Howard Oakley Bever.

My knowledge of the **Bever** family allowed me to construct the following relationship chart:



Note that I have DNA matches with Rev. Howard Oakley Bever and his granddaughter Cassidy Prentiss, with the late Rev. George Verden Bever (1929-2012), and Rev. George Bever’s children, Shannon Wiley, Rev. Timothy W. Bever, and John Bever.

Of course, I have these DNA matches with these six individuals because they all are descended from Gladys Harriet Oakley (1910-2014). Gladys was married to Rev. Howard Cecil Bever (1903-1981), and this couple appears in the box at the top of the relationship chart. Gladys was in the same generation as my paternal grandfather, Ray Miller Oakley (1876-1948).

I was amazed to see that Gladys lived to be 104 years old! Here is her obituary from the *Sacramento Bee*:

Gladys Harriet Oakley Bever



Gladys Bever Obituary

Gladys Harriet Bever was called home to God on Thurs., Nov. 6, 2014. Memorial service was Sat., Nov. 22 at Riverside Christian Church in Wichita, KS. Burial will be in Wheatland, CA at a later date. She was born July 30, 1910 at Wheatland, CA to Amasa George Oakley and Harriette Amy Leet Beilby, the 6th of 7 children. In 1928 she married Rev. H. Cecil Bever. A pastor's wife, she served God as youth counselor, church secretary, choir director and women's group leader and officer. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, all of her siblings and son George. She is survived by daughter Gail Gunning, Norman, OK and son Howard Bever, Wichita, KS and many grand, great-grand and great-great-grandchildren. Memorials may be sent to Kansas Christian Home, Legacy of John, in Newton, KS.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sacbee/name/gladys-bever-obituary?id=10904691>

I added her maiden name of ***Oakley*** to this screenshot.

It sounds like she was quite a woman!

Tim Bever posted a photo of Gladys and her husband H. Cecil Baker on Ancestry.com:



Gladys and Cecil on their wedding day.

Tim also posted a photo of “Grandma Gladys” on her 100th birthday:



Gladys appears on the FindAGrave.com website:



MEMORIALS



Gladys Harriet *Oakley* Bever

BIRTH	30 Jul 1910 Wheatland, Yuba County, California, USA
DEATH	6 Nov 2014 (aged 104) Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas, USA
BURIAL	<u>Wheatland Cemetery</u> Wheatland, Yuba County, California, USA Add to Map
MEMORIAL ID	139130164 · View Source

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/139130164/gladys-harriet-bever>

She is buried in the Wheatland Cemetery in Wheatland, Yuba County, California. Interestingly, that is the town where she was born. Wheatland is located less than 40 miles straight north of Sacramento.

There are several generations of Gladys' ***Oakley*** ancestors buried in Wheatland Cemetery. Gladys' father was Amasa George Oakley (1874-1932), and his entry on FindAGrave.com is at:

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/108079375/amasa_george-oakley

Gladys' paternal grandfather was Amasa Wilder Oakley (1826-1895). Here is his entry on FindAGrave.com:



MEMORIALS



Amasa Wilder Oakley

BIRTH

2 Aug 1826
Fort Ticonderoga, Essex County, New York, USA

DEATH

25 Apr 1895 (aged 68)
Wheatland, Yuba County, California, USA

BURIAL

[Wheatland Cemetery](#)
Wheatland, Yuba County, California, USA [Add to Map](#)

PLOT

7 11 2

MEMORIAL ID

108079376 · [View Source](#)

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/108079376/amasa_wilder-oakley

The entries for Amasa George Oakley and his father Amasa Wilder Oakley on FindAGrave.com list the graves of a number of their immediate family members (parents, siblings, children), most of whom are buried in Wheatland Cemetery.

In looking at Amasa Wilder Oakley, I see that he was born in Fort Ticonderoga, New York. What brought him to Yuba County, California? Was he a prospector searching for gold? Did he move to California during the gold rush after 1849?

In the 1860 US Census, he is listed as living in Yuba County and his occupation was “Farmer”:

1860 United States Federal Census for Amasa W Oakley

← California > Yuba > Bear River

Dwelling No.	Family No.	Name	Age	Sex	Color	Occupation	Real Estate	Personal Estate	Birthplace
104	2016	Amasa W Oakley	31	M		Farmer	\$3900	\$500	N.Y.

Did he go to California to search for gold (or silver), and then stay there as a farmer? I wonder if Tim has any information about this.

Concluding Remarks

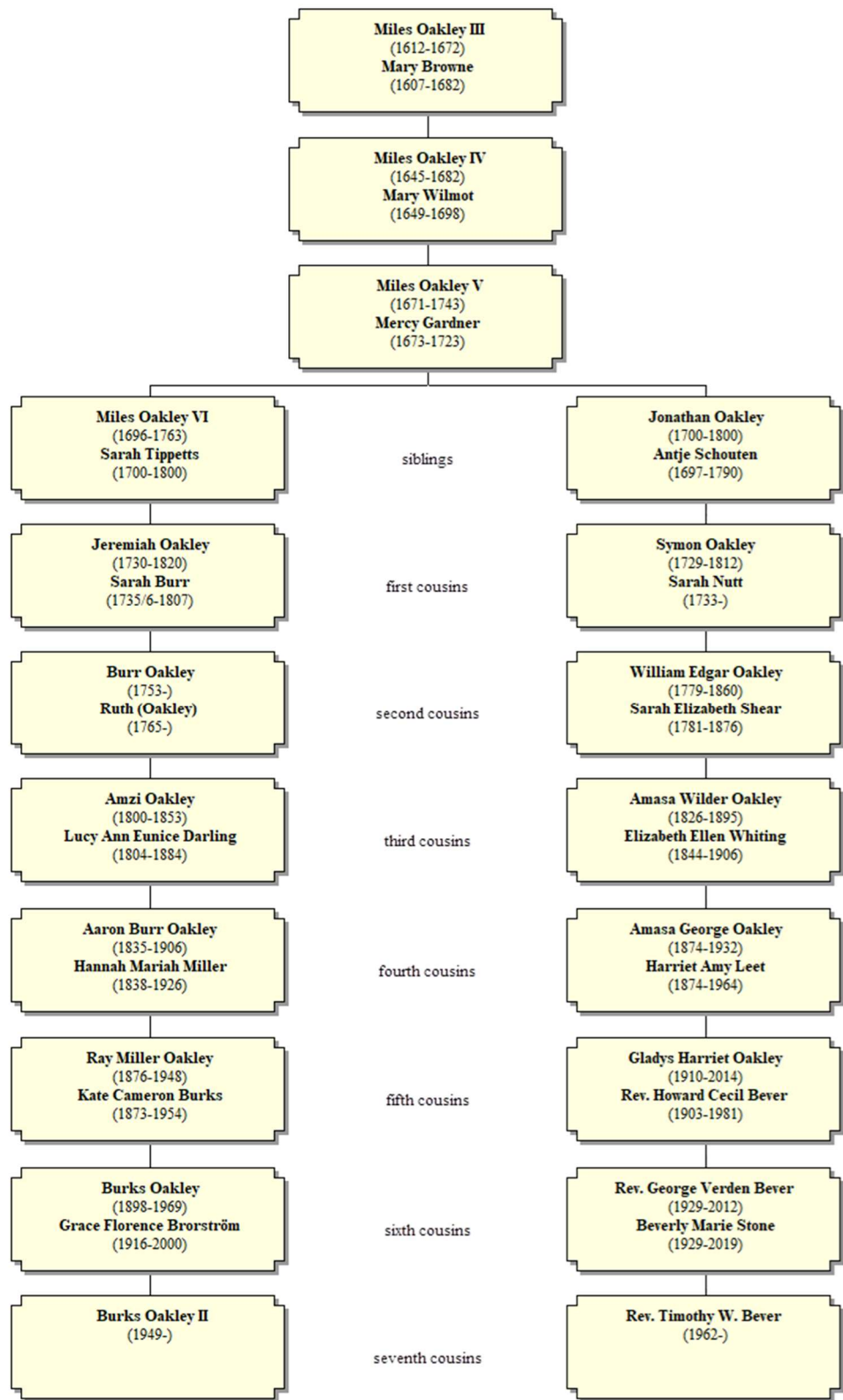
I began this brief narrative by looking at my DNA match with Shannon Wiley. I learned that she is Tim Bever’s half-sister. I now have found that I have DNA matches with Tim, Tim’s brother John, Tim’s half-sister Shannon Wiley, Tim’s uncle Howard Bever, and Howard’s granddaughter Cassidy Prentiss.

I have DNA matches with these people because they all are descended from Gladys Harriet Oakley (1910-2014), who was married to Howard Cecil Bever. I took a major detour in this narrative, and added a lot of material about Gladys, her father, Amasa George Oakley, and her grandfather, Amasa Wilder Oakley.

Amasa Wilder Oakley was born in New York, but moved to Yuba County, California sometime before his early 30’s. I wonder what attracted him to move so far west? And the family obviously put down roots in Yuba County, since Gladys was buried there in 2014, more than 150 years after her grandfather settled there.

Appendix:

Here is a chart showing how Tim Bever and I are related:



We both are descended from Miles Oakley V (1671-1743) and his wife Mercy Gardner (1673-1723). I also have included two more generations of our ***Oakley*** ancestors at the top of the chart.