

'ALL Bicknells' Ancestry tree project report – July 2024

Scope:

To review and amend the records held in the ['All Bicknells'](#) family tree in the Ancestry website.
To provide a valuable reference tool for the whole family to use.

Background:

Following the re-formation of the Bicknell Association in January 2021 a number of established Bicknell genealogy experts pooled their countless years of painstaking research into one worldwide Bicknell Family tree.



Thomas Williams Bicknell

**(B:6 September 1834 Barrington, Bristol, RI, United States
D:6 October 1925 Providence, Providence, RI, United States**

Algernon Sidney Bicknell

**(B: 9 October 1832 Herne Hill, Surrey, England.
D:26 October 1911 Brighton, Sussex, England)**



A little over 20 years ago, I entered the data of the 2000+ records contained in the two major genealogy publications from [Thomas. W. Bicknell](#), [Phyllis Bicknell Carroll's – 1981 Supplement](#) along with observations made by Sidney Algernon Bicknell in his book – [The Five Pedigrees](#). The result spawned the beginnings of the 'All Bicknells' tree in Ancestry, first recorded in the Family Tree Maker software.

Phyllis Bicknell

B:13 November 1928 Meriden, CT., USA



In addition, significant contributions were made by **Bobby Coray, Marcus Bicknell, Lisa Junkins, Susanne Mori, and Sewzi von Shorthausen**. With much gratitude to the other members of the Bicknell Genealogy team, many updates have been added over the last 3 years.

However... due to the complexity of the data and the somewhat limited Ancestry tools, the merging of over 45,000 entries resulted in thousands of anomalies. As a reference for the Bicknell family the quality of records was far from ideal. And so, in February 2024, The Bicknell Association agreed to use funds, generously given by our 'Donors and Fellows', to enable a clean-up of the Ancestry tree.

We would really appreciate any contribution you may be able make, so please consider donating here - [Join the Fellowship](#). A regular \$ or £ per month via PayPal , can provide a stable platform to continue the work of the Association. Thank you.

Project overview

Goal: To review the errors inherent in the 'ALL Bicknells' Ancestry tree, in 4 phases. Backup files were taken prior to each editorial session.

Phase 1: To reduce the number of records, leaving a core focused on the Bicknell name (The Male line). The scope would retain the Female spouse, her parents, her siblings, and the children of the marriage. However, any further expansion of the family line into non-Bicknell descendants are removed. Nothing is lost (Deleted) as data can be re-established by using the search options within Ancestry.com

Phase 2: To carefully merge duplicated individuals, identifiable using citations, available with Ancestry.

Phase 3: To process errors (children born before their parent's puberty or they were too old, multiple or missing mothers, shown on a census record before their birth, contradicting birth or death records, etc, etc)

Phase 4: Finally, it's back to a labour of love and the ongoing genealogy research required to **work through the remaining 'hints'**, as evident in the Ancestry.com website. This has been and will be voluntary work, over many years, by the Bicknell Genealogy Team, to accept or reject the citations indicated by Ancestry.com



Amongst the 4000 images already attached to the Ancestry record there are fabulous Newspaper cuttings. *What could you discover about your past?*

Project report summary

During the period from 1st Feb to 24th Jul 2024, a total of 304.75 hours were invested in processing the Ancestry data. You can see the tree at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/tree/174857682>

	People			
	Total	Added	Merged	Removed
Before	47443	0	0	0
After	23976	60	1159	23447
+ or -		+60	1159	-23447

The table on the left shows the number of individuals in ALL Bicknells before this work and the number afterwards."

	Hints			
	*Total	Accepted	Ignored	Undecided
Before	23577	0	0	0
After	149309	721	115	10
+ or -		+721	115	10

The table on the right shows the number of hints from Ancestry.com in ALL Bicknells before this work and the number afterwards.

*Note: As each person in the tree is accessed, Ancestry is triggered into looking for Hints, and then adds them to the record. Hence, during the project, the number of Hints has increased. Having access nearly all 100% of the records we now expect the number of Hints to stabilize around 150k. The high volume of hints generated by Ancestry is good news as, over time and as each Hint is reviewed, the quality and validity of the record gains in accuracy. This will leave us with more certainty that the tree truly reflects the past.

As an exciting bonus, whilst processing the Hints we may also attach Photos of the individual or such things as Newspaper extracts, adding exciting insights into our past family members.





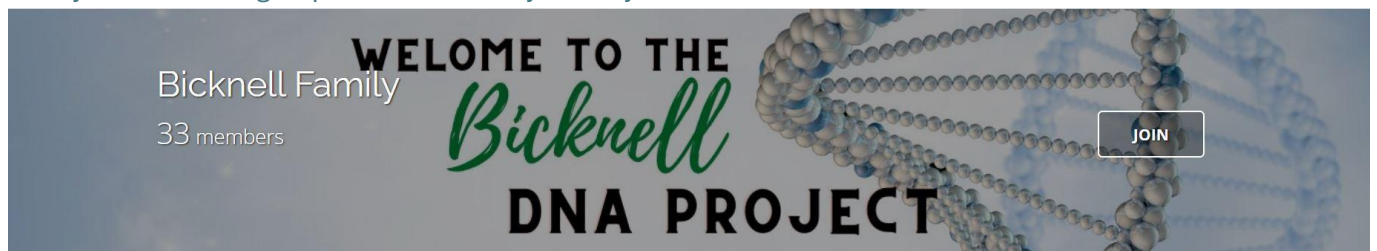
We can also help to locate the resting place of your ancestors.

Ongoing work.

- The ALL Bicknells tree will be re-opened with read-only access to anyone having an Ancestry account. To gain access, Send an email requesting access to research@bicknell.net, providing either your Ancestry Nickname or preferred email address, and If you have an Ancestry account, then you will be given authorisation to open the ALL Bicknells tree with read-only access.
- The Bicknell Genealogy Team will resume their voluntary work on the data, giving their time freely to improve on the quality of the data and further enhance the tree integrity.
- Over time, the 150k+ hints to be checked and verified and that could take a while! 😞 However in processing the Hints we may also attach Photos of the individual or such things as Newspaper extracts, adding exciting insights into our past family members.
- Further detail will be added as it is presented by members of the Bicknell community. Simply send all that you know (along with documented citations, e.g. birth/death/marriage certificates, photos, etc) to research@bicknell.net. There it will be picked up and processed by one of our team of genealogy experts.
- The Bicknell Genealogy Team can answer requests for information, or their own lineage, within reason. Simply post a request to: research@bicknell.net.

The Y DNA project.

The Bicknell Association has also invested in a project to identify the Parental line of the Bicknell Family. With 32 men having tested already, this work can be aligned with the records held in the Ancestry tree to give additional information on family ties, The YDNA project can be found here - familytreedna.com/groups/bicknell-family/activity-feed



Summary & conclusion

The Bicknell Association is excited to be able to present a valuable reference for the family to use. Although far from complete and without doubt requiring many more years of research, we believe what we have is close to accurate and a worthwhile testament to the dedication of a small group of determined genealogists, both past and present. To this team we remain eternally grateful.

With warmest regards to you all -

Derek Bicknell, President of The Bicknell Association. del@bicknell.net

Footnote:

This report is a big step forward in the work of The Bicknell Association work on our genealogy; the efforts of a few provide excellent data to the benefit of all Bicknells. Interested in your roots? Got family data and photos to add? We are all interested to share stories on our excellent Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2364011029>, on our web site <https://bicknell.net> and on our occasional emails.

As a family we are lucky to have a few key individuals willing to give their time and expertise. The research has been led by Del Bicknell who is well known to Bicknells on both sides of the Atlantic; The Bicknell Association has deployed some its funds to enable Del to put other work aside and concentrate for over 300 hours on making the Ancestry.com information more accurate and more usable. When you go into Ancestry yourself now and access “ALL Bicknells” you will see data about your own branch of the family is clear enough that you will be encouraged to refresh data, add new family members and add media like photos to the database.

From Marcus Bicknell, Vice-President of The Bicknell Association, August 2024