

## Chapter 28

### The *Warner* Branch of the “Quincy Oakley” Family

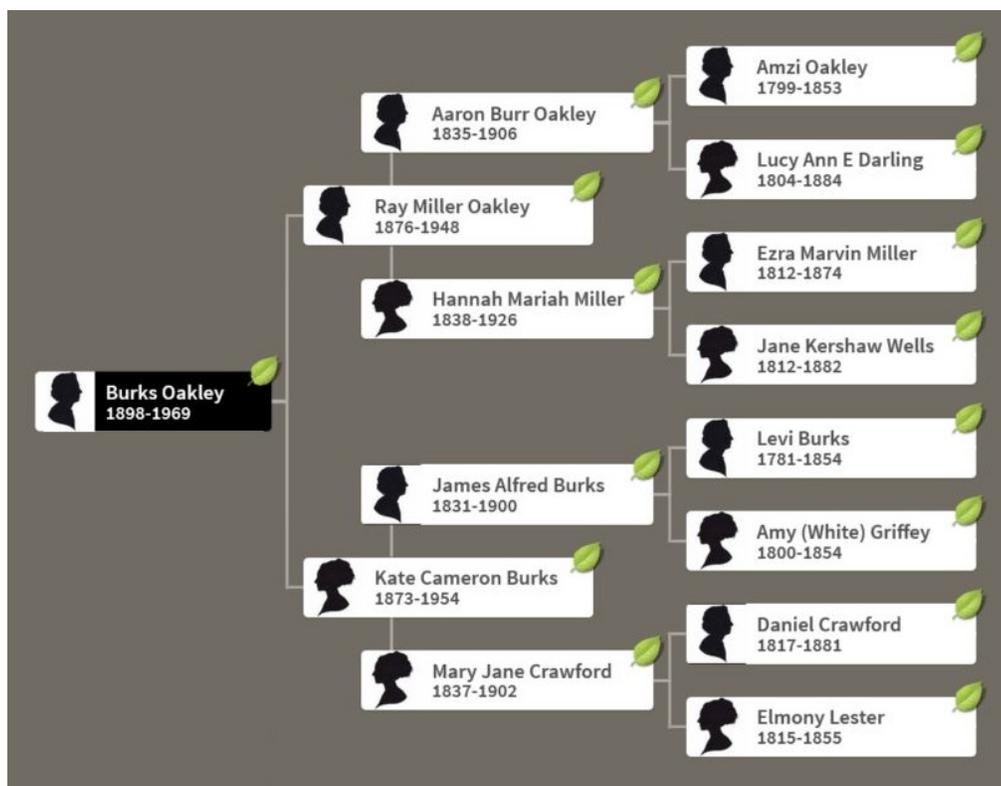
[Updated 28 February 2019]

#### ***Introduction***

In the 1890's, Ray Miller Oakley (1876-1948) and his wife Kate Cameron Burks (1873-1954) were the first generation of our ***Oakley*** family to put down roots in Quincy, Illinois. Their five children – Burks, Elisabeth, William, Allen, and Thomas – were the first generation of ***Oakleys*** to be born and raised in Quincy. And now, 120+ years later, multiple generations of descendants of Ray and Kate continue to reside in Quincy, while other descendants of this couple now live throughout the United States – literally from coast-to-coast. Collectively, all of the descendants of Ray and Kate comprise what I have termed the “Quincy Oakleys”.

Through my genealogical research, I have found that the five children of Ray and Kate had the distinction of having seven out of eight of their great-grandparents descend from families that had immigrated to America in the 1600's, while their eighth great-grandparent was descended from a family that immigrated to America in the 1700's. The ancestors of the “Quincy Oakleys” have been in America for an incredibly long time!

By means of review, here is my father's pedigree (although you could substitute Bill or Elisabeth or Allen or Tom for Burks), showing his two parents, four grandparents, and eight great-grandparents:



Armed with a knowledge of all eight of the families represented by Ray and Kate’s grandparents, we now see that half of these family lines (represented by Ray Miller Oakley’s four grandparents) go back to families that immigrated to New England – **Oakley, Darling, Miller, and Wells** – and intersected with many of the families that settled in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts, such as **Burr, Lyon, Mosher, and Tripp**. The other half of these eight family lines (represented by Kate Cameron Burks’ four grandparents) go back to families that immigrated to Virginia – **Burks, Griffey, Crawford, and Lester**. It is worth noting that all eight of these families came to America from England, Ireland, and Scotland.<sup>1</sup>

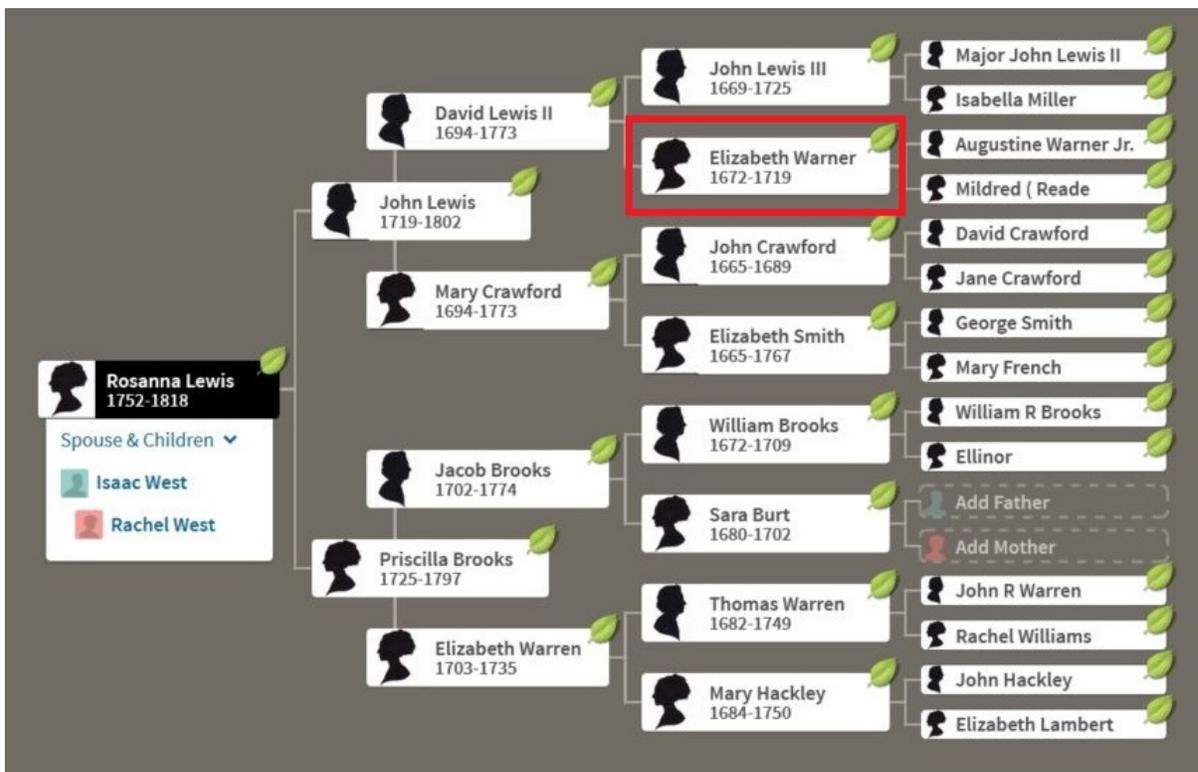
As part of my research into the families represented by my father’s eight great-grandparents (that is, Ray’s four grandparents and Kate’s four grandparents), I have been examining each of these different lines, trying to go back as far as possible for each and every ancestor in these pedigrees. A great deal is known about many early immigrant families, and often one of our individual ancestors appears in tens or even hundreds of family trees on the Ancestry.com website. So as time permits, I am examining the oldest individuals in all of the family lines, and seeing if I can identify additional generations of their ancestors to add to our family tree.

<sup>1</sup> Which would explain why Ancestry.com found, based on an analysis of my autosomal DNA, that my genetic make-up is 48% from Great Britain. My mother’s four grandparents all were born in Sweden.

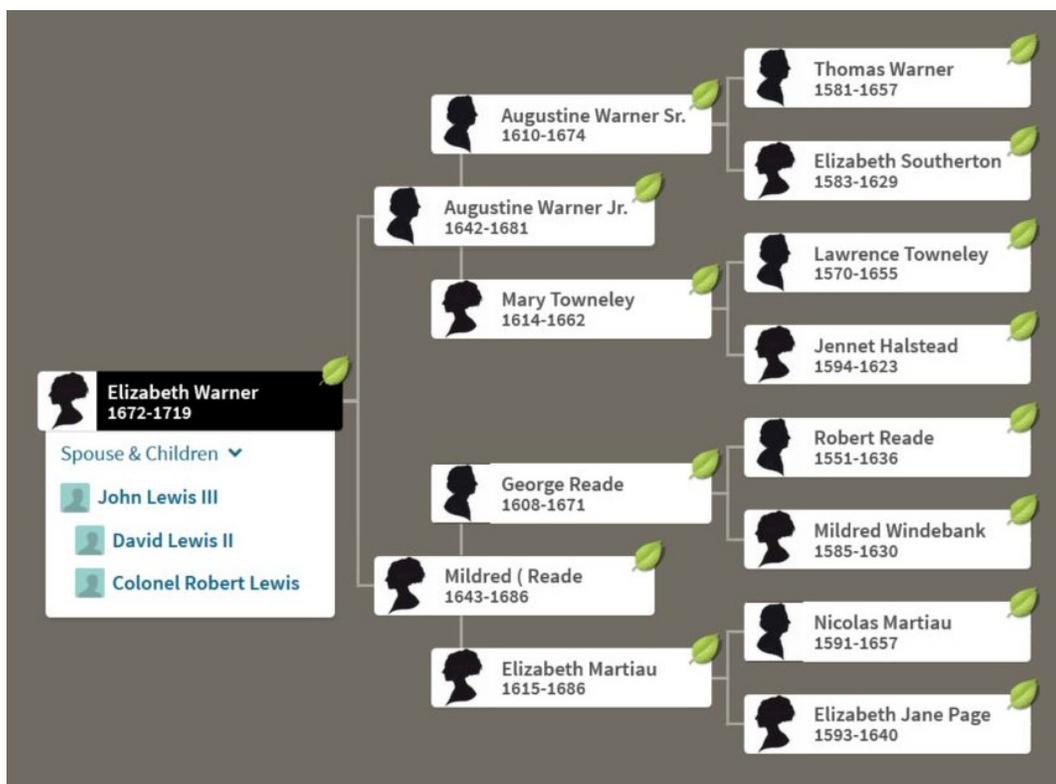
One of the family lines I identified recently was that of Kate Cameron Burks' maternal grandmother, Elmony Lester (1815-1855). Elmony's maternal grandmother was Rosanna Lewis (1752-1818). When I started to research Rosanna Lewis' pedigree, I discovered a truly remarkable family amongst the set of her ancestors, and this family connects the "Quincy Oakleys" to a number of famous individuals in our nation's past. The remainder of this narrative deals with this "truly remarkable family".

### *Rosanna Lewis' Pedigree*

Rosanna Lewis (1752-1818) appears in a number of family trees on the Ancestry.com website, so it was rather straightforward (albeit time-consuming) to construct her pedigree, going back to all of her eight great-grandparents and all but two of her 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandparents:



Actually, a number of the lines in this pedigree go back even further. I want to focus on Elizabeth Warner (1672-1719), who was the mother of Rosanna Lewis' paternal grandfather, David Lewis II (1694-1773). Elizabeth is shown in the red rectangle in the pedigree above. I was able to find multiple generations of Elizabeth Warner's pedigree, going back to her eight great-grandparents, who all were born in the 1500's:



As I started to add all of these individuals to my family tree on the Ancestry.com website, I was struck by the fact that the immigrant Augustine Warner Sr. (1610-1674) died at Warner Hall, in Gloucester County, Virginia, and then both his son, Augustine Warner Jr. (1642-1681), and his granddaughter, Elizabeth Warner (1672-1719), were born and died at Warner Hall.



**Augustine Warner**  
 BIRTH 10 NOV 1610 • Hoveton/Norwich, Norfolk, England  
 DEATH 24 DEC 1674 • Warner Hall, Gloucester County, Virginia

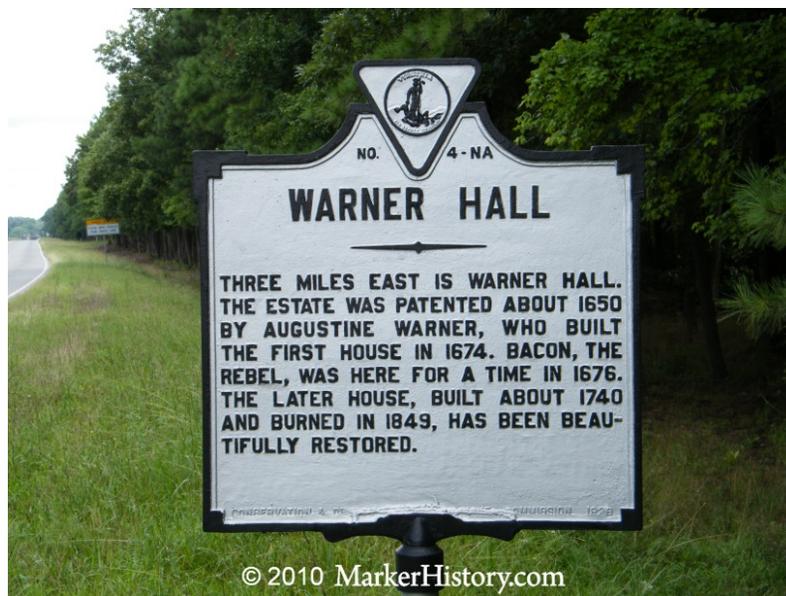


**Augustine Warner Jr.**  
 BIRTH 3 JUN 1642 • Warner Hall, Gloucester County, Virginia  
 DEATH 19 JUN 1681 • Warner Hall, Gloucester County, Virginia



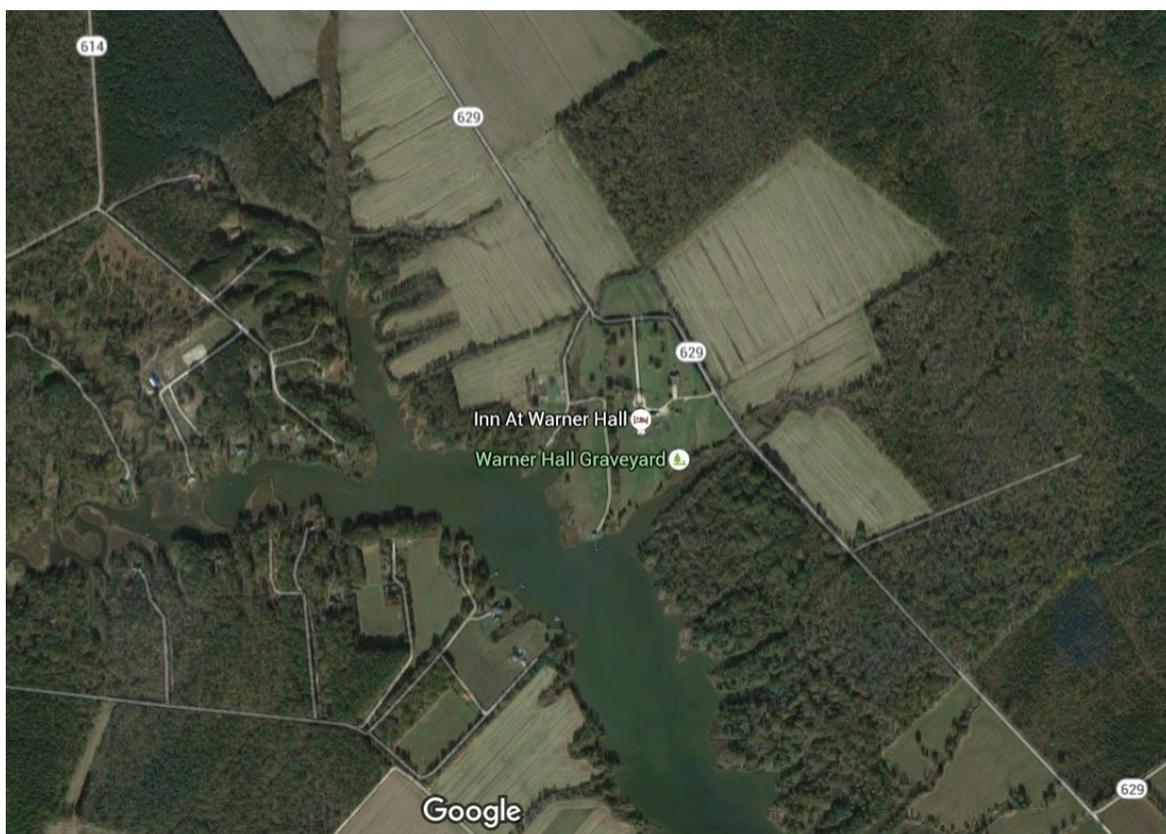
**Elizabeth Warner**  
 BIRTH 24 NOV 1672 • Warner Hall, Abington Parish, Gloucester, Virginia  
 DEATH 5 FEB 1719 • Warner Hall, Abington Parish, Gloucester, Virginia

I found it intriguing that an immigrant (who happens to be my 9<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather) apparently had a place named after him. So I did a Google search using the terms “Warner Hall Gloucester Virginia” (no quotes), and I found that Warner Hall is a spectacular Virginia plantation along the Severn River,<sup>2</sup> dating back to the mid-1600’s:



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<sup>2</sup> The Severn River is a 2-mile-long tidal river in Virginia. It is a tributary of Mobjack Bay, which is an arm of Chesapeake Bay.



Satellite image of Warner Hall, courtesy of Google Maps

So it appears that my 9<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather, Augustine Warner Sr., could have been an important person in Virginia during colonial times. And he was – read on!!

### ***The Warner Family of Colonial Virginia***

Google is a wonderful genealogical tool. To learn about Augustine Warner Sr., I simply Googled him, and that led me to the next wonderful genealogical tool, *Wikipedia*. The *Wikipedia* article about my 9<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather<sup>3</sup> includes the following information (edited for clarity):

Augustine Warner Sr. (November 28, 1610 – December 26, 1674) was born in Norwich, Norfolk, England, to Thomas Warner and Elizabeth Sotherton (also spelled Southerton). The progenitor [don't you just love that word] of a prominent colonial family, Warner arrived in Virginia in 1628 at the age of seventeen, one of a group of thirty-four settlers brought in by Adam

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<sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustine\\_Warner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustine_Warner)

Thoroughgood. His first land acquisition came seven years later, when he patented 250 acres.



Augustine Warner Sr. (1610-1674)

Continuing the typical pattern of 17<sup>th</sup>-century success in colonial Virginia as a merchant, landowner, and politician, he rose through the hierarchy to become a member of the House of Burgesses in 1652, and then in 1659, a member of the King's Council, which he held until his death. About 1657, he moved across the York River to Gloucester County, where he settled and built the first house at Warner Hall.

Augustine Warner died in 1674, at age sixty-three, and was succeeded at Warner Hall by his only son, Augustine Warner Jr. (1642-1681). After his English education in London and at Cambridge, the younger Warner returned to Virginia, and by 1666 became a member of the House of Burgesses, and then Speaker of the House in 1676. In 1677, he took his seat on the King's Council, but his career was cut short by his early death in 1681 at the age of thirty-nine.

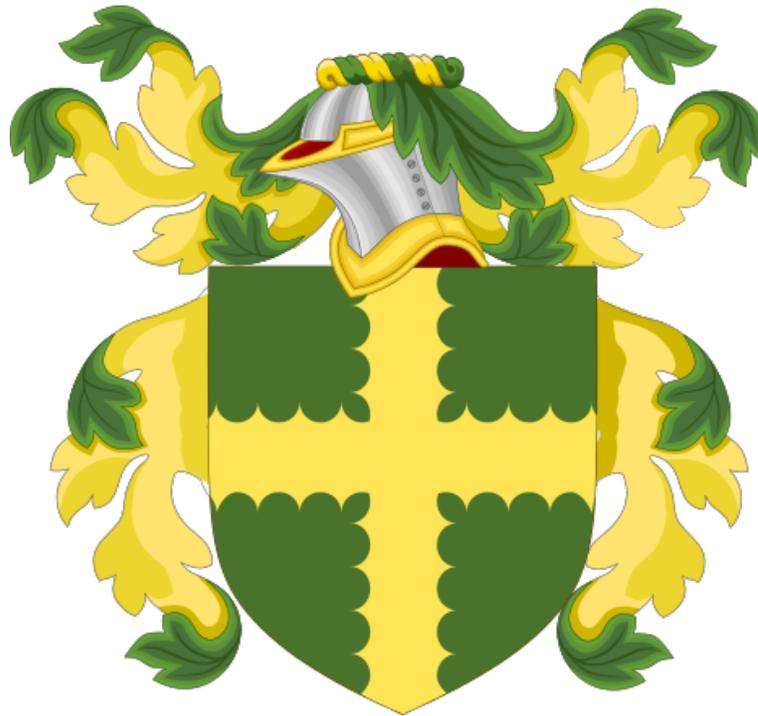
Besides his son, Augustine Sr. had at least two daughters. One married David Cant, and the other, Sarah, married Lawrence Towneley.

It is recorded that Augustine Jr. had three sons, all of whom died unmarried, and three daughters, who inherited the **Warner** property and left many descendants. The three daughters were named Mary, Mildred, and Elizabeth (our ancestor).

Elizabeth Warner married John Lewis in about 1691, and kept the Warner Hall house itself in the division of the **Warner** properties after the brothers' deaths. Elizabeth and John Lewis were the grandparents of Fielding Lewis,<sup>4</sup> who first married George Washington's cousin, Catharine Washington, and after her death, he married George Washington's sister, Betty Washington; both women were grandchildren of Mildred Warner.

Warner Hall stayed in the eldest male line of the **Lewis** family, through a succession of eldest sons named Warner Lewis,<sup>5</sup> until 1834, when it was finally sold by a daughter of the last of them, another Elizabeth Lewis. Warner Hall is still known by this name, and the **Lewis** descendants became known as the Warner Hall Lewises.

Here is Augustine Warner Sr.'s Coat of Arms:



How amazing to find this connection to the **Warner** family of Colonial Virginia!

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<sup>4</sup> Fielding Lewis was a Colonel during the American Revolutionary War; his father was John Lewis and his mother was Frances Fielding, so of course he was named Fielding Lewis.

<sup>5</sup> Once again, a surname (Warner) was used as a first name. Like Burks Oakley, Bennett Oakley, and Oakley Bunce.

## **Warner Hall**

The present day Warner Hall operates as a bed-and-breakfast, and the grounds are available for weddings and other events.<sup>6</sup> Here is a description from the WarnerHall.com website:<sup>7</sup>

Ideally situated at the head of the Severn River in Gloucester County, the manor house at Warner Hall stands on a neck of land that has been occupied and built upon continually from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. Referred to as “Austin’s Desire” in the 1642-land patent, the original six hundred-acre plantation site was established by Augustine Warner as a “land grant” from the British Crown. Augustine Warner received the acreage in exchange for bringing twelve settlers across the Atlantic Ocean to the Jamestown Settlement, a colony desperately in need of manpower to survive in the New World. [See *Appendix I* for the wording of the land patent.]

The two families associated with the property from this early period until well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the *Warners* and the *Lewis*s, were among the most prominent families in Colonial Virginia. Over the years, Warner Hall Plantation thrived, as did the descendants of Augustine Warner Sr.

Warner Hall is also significant for the part it played in the drama of Bacon’s rebellion, one of the most important events in early Virginia history. After leading a 1676 rebellion against the British governor and burning Jamestown, Bacon retreated to Warner Hall Plantation. At the time, Augustine Warner Jr., who was Speaker of the House of Burgesses and a member of the King’s Council, was in residence and very likely agitated that his plantation was taken over by opponents of the Crown.

Today, Warner Hall consists of a Colonial Revival manor house (circa 1900) which was rebuilt on the earlier 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century foundation. Like the previous structures at Warner Hall, all of which indicated the prominence of their owners, the Colonial Revival core is a grand architectural gesture. The original 17<sup>th</sup> century west wing dependency (the plantation schoolroom and tutor’s quarters) has been completely restored and offers a rare glimpse into the past. Historic outbuildings include 18<sup>th</sup> century brick stables, a dairy barn and smokehouse. The *Warner-Lewis* family graveyard, maintained by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.warnerhall.com/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.warnerhall.com/historic-virginia-bed-and-breakfast-inn/>

Antiquities, offers a remarkable collection of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century tombstones.

Here are two photos of the *Warner-Lewis* family graveyard:



A photo of Augustine Warner Sr.'s gravestone and the inscription on it can be found in *Appendix II*.

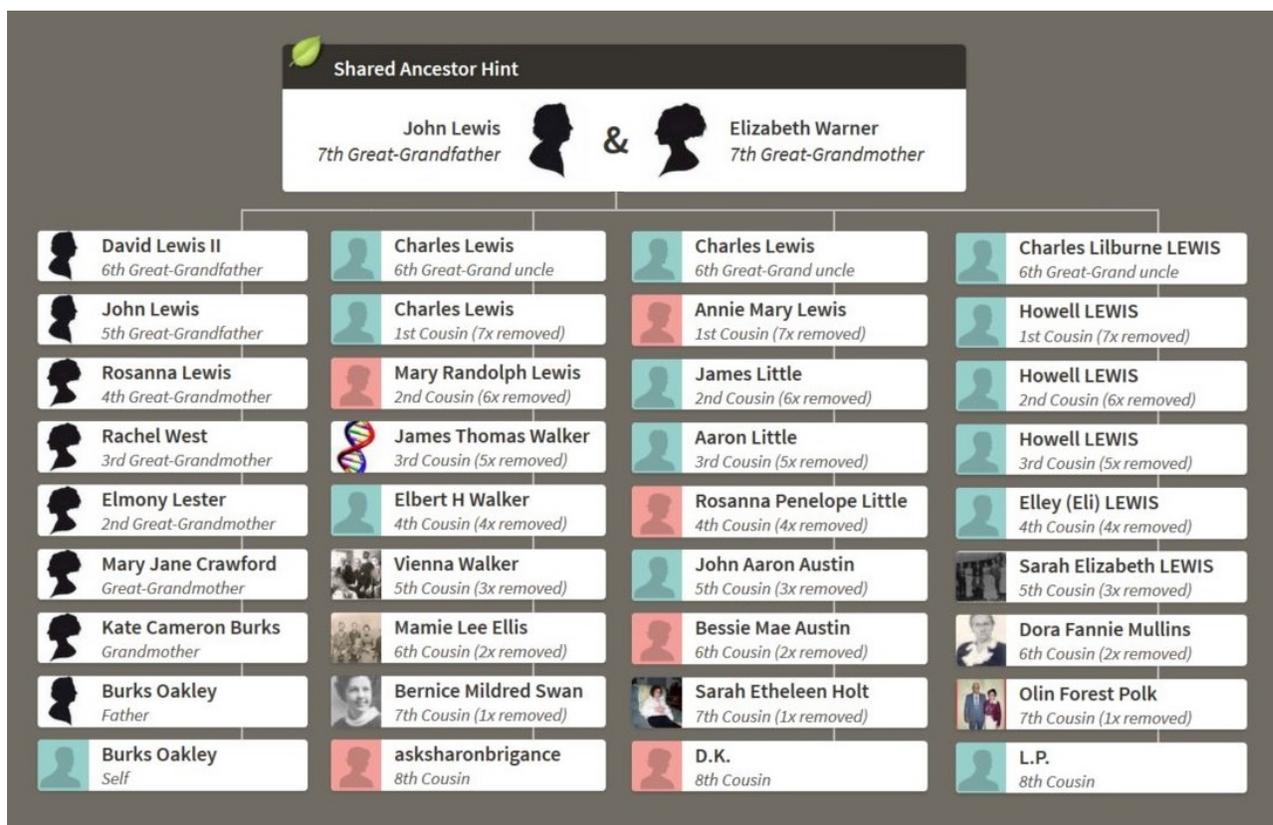
As an aside, one can only imagine that the *Warner-Lewis* family owned a large number of slaves to work on the Warner Hall Plantation.

### *DNA Relationships*

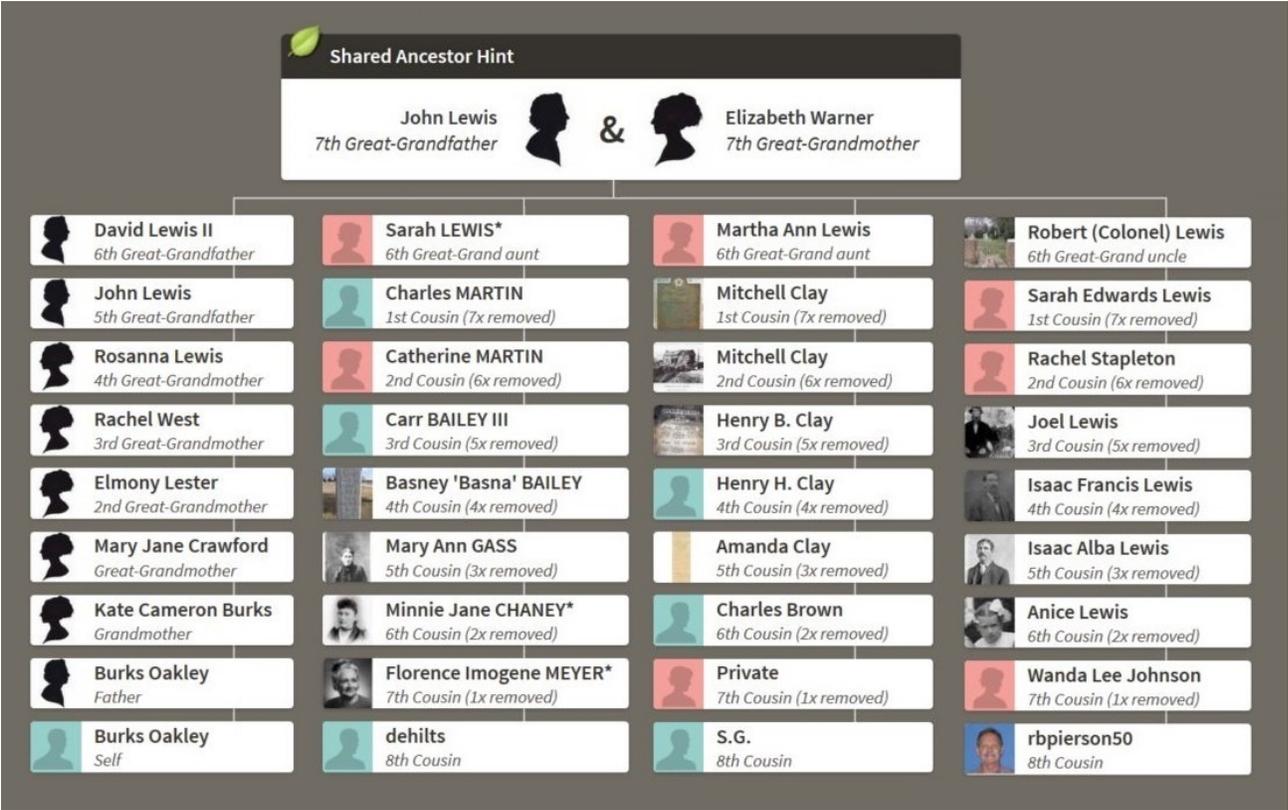
You didn't think that I could write a narrative about our "Quincy Oakley" ancestors without mentioning DNA, did you? It turns out that shortly after I added Rosanna Lewis' pedigree to my family tree on the Ancestry.com website, I found that I had fourteen new "Shared Ancestor Hints" on this site. Recall that a

“Shared Ancestor Hint” means that one of my DNA matches and I have the same couple (or just an individual) in each of our family trees. These “Shared Ancestor Hints” help to support the genealogical records.

Interestingly, ten of these “Shared Ancestor Hints” go back to Elizabeth Warner and her husband John Lewis, the first generation of the **Warner-Lewis** family. The first three “Shared Ancestor Hints” go back to John Lewis and Elizabeth Warner through their son Charles Lewis:



The “Quincy Oakleys” are descended from their son David Lewis II. The next three “Shared Ancestor Hints” go back to John Lewis and Elizabeth Warner through their daughters Sarah and Martha Ann, as well as their son Robert:

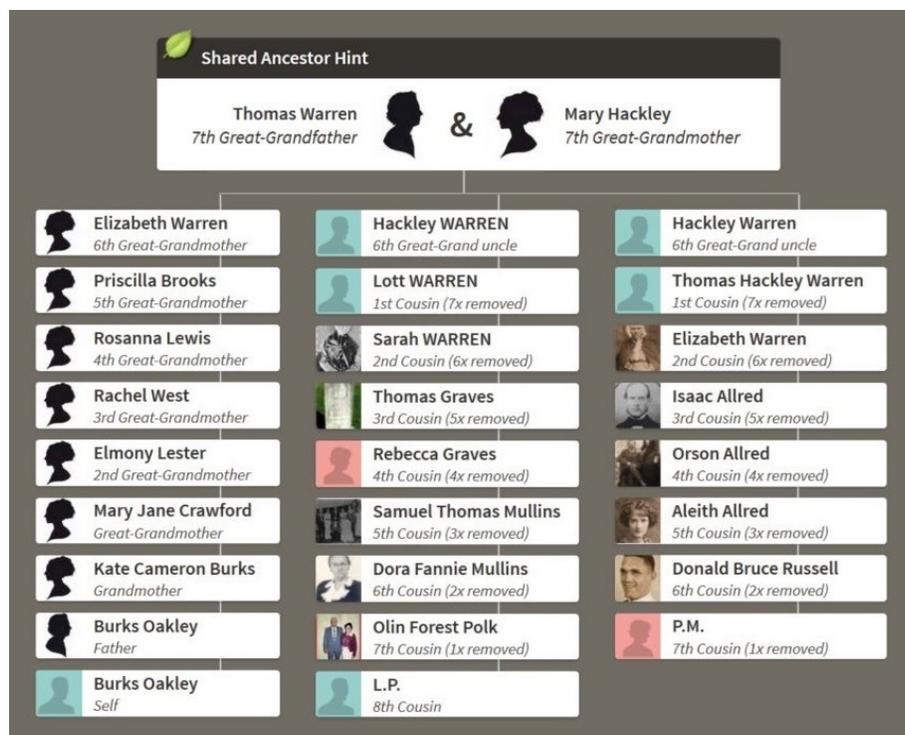
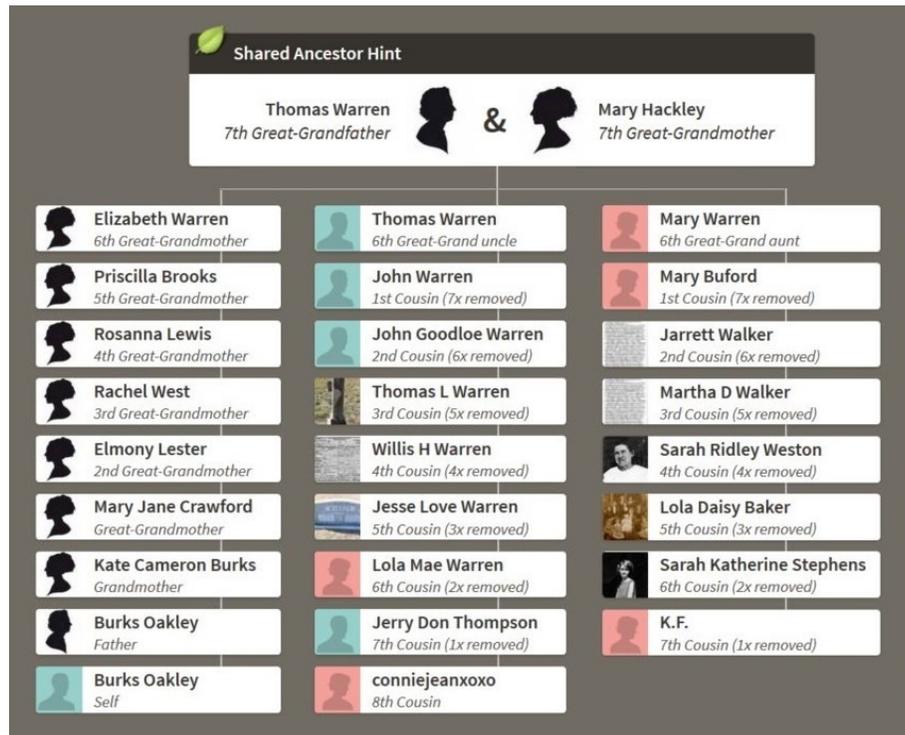


The last three “Shared Ancestor Hints” go back to this couple through their daughter Martha and their son Charles:



While I have a tenth “Shared Ancestor Hint” going back to John Lewis and Elizabeth Warner, it looks like Steven Gallagher has two copies of his DNA profile on the site (one under his own name, one under *S.G.*).

The remaining four “Shared Ancestor Hints” from Rosanna Lewis’ ancestors are on her maternal side, going back to Thomas Warren and his wife Mary Hackley:

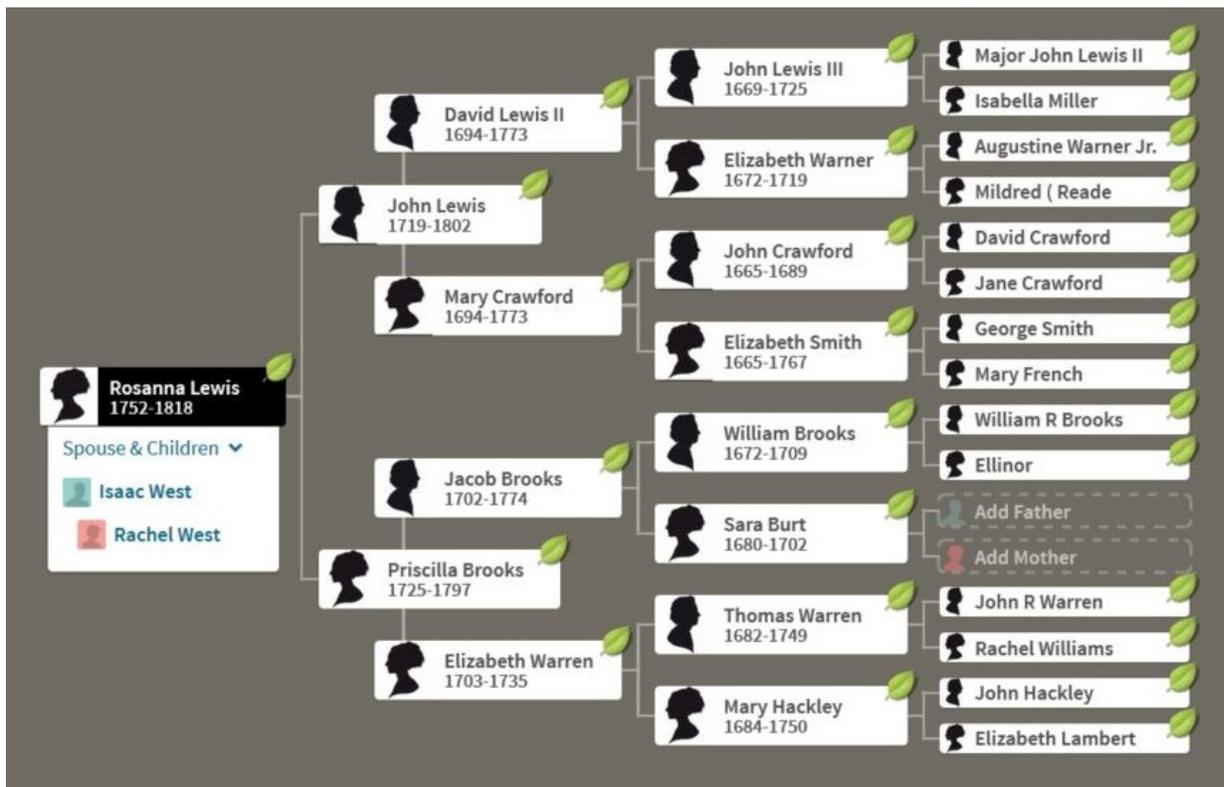


In the previous chart, note that Thomas Warren and Mary Hackley named their son Hackley Warren. Where have we seen this before... And what do you think his nickname was? Hack?

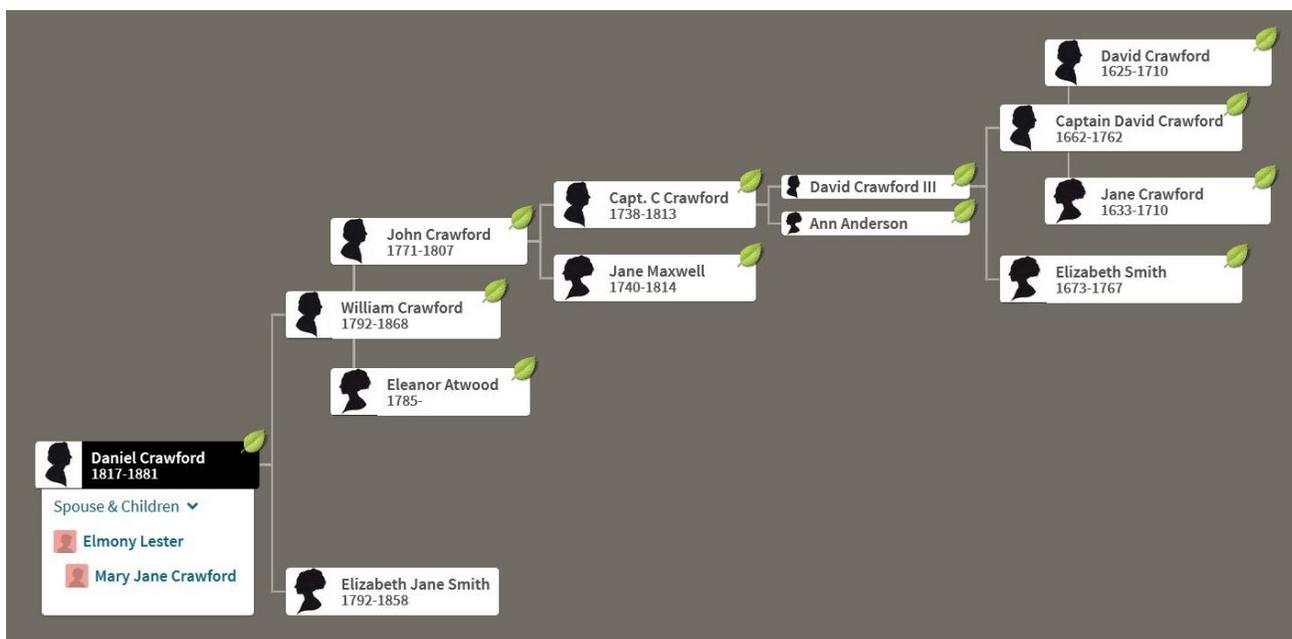
Overall, my DNA matches with living descendants of John Lewis and Elizabeth Warner support our “Quincy Oakley” connection with the **Lewis-Warner** family. And my DNA matches with living descendants of Thomas Warren and Mary Hackley provide additional support for Elmony Lester’s maternal line.

### **The Crawford Connection**

Note that the pedigree for Rosanna Lewis includes David Crawford (1625-1710) and his wife Jane Crawford (1633-1710).

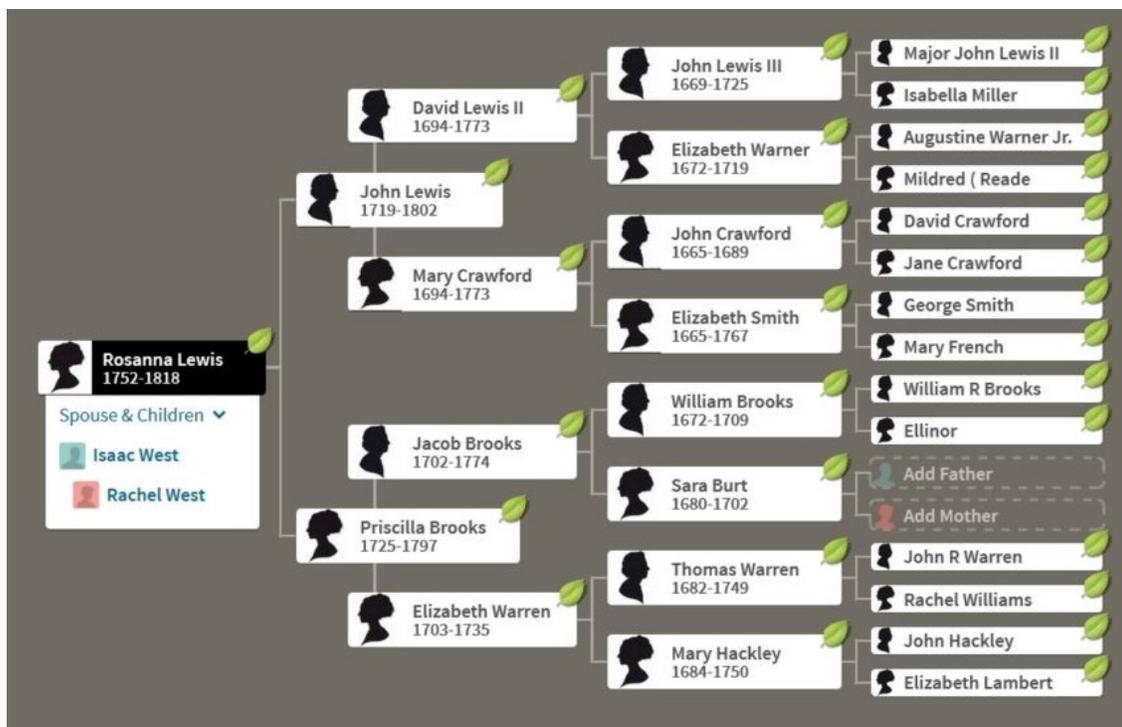


David Crawford, who emigrated from Kilbernie, Ayrshire, Scotland, appeared prominently in my narrative about our **Crawford** ancestors. It turns out that David’s granddaughter, Mary Crawford (1694-1773), married Elizabeth Warner’s son, David Lewis II (1694-1773). So now the “Quincy Oakleys” have two branches of the family tree that go back to David Crawford. The first line goes back from Kate Cameron Burks’ mother, Mary Jane Crawford (1837-1902); this line goes to David Crawford through his son, Capt. David Crawford (1662-1762):



Recall that Mary Jane Crawford (shown in the lower-left of the pedigree above) married James Alfred Burks, and they both are buried in Quincy.

The second line back to David Crawford is through Rosanna Lewis:

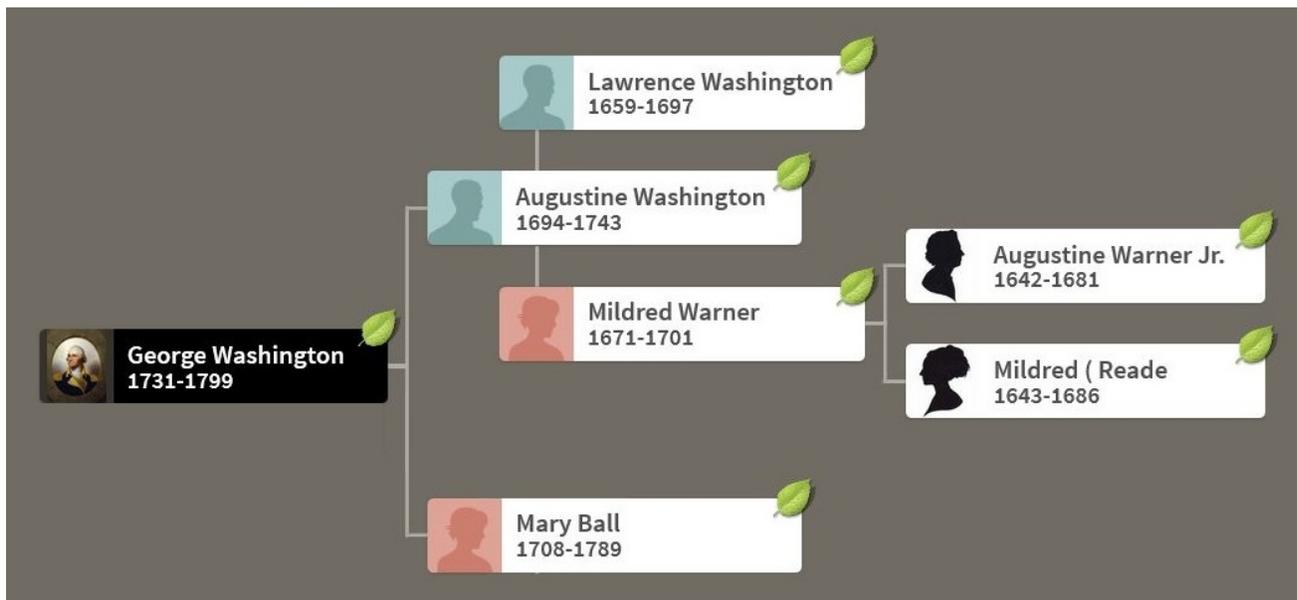


This line goes back to David Crawford through his son John Crawford (1665-1689). As an aside, Capt. David Crawford (1662-1762) lived to age 100, while his younger brother John Crawford (1665-1689), died at age 24. Go figure!

And in case you are wondering, yes, these people are the same David Crawford and Jane Crawford who were killed by Indians in 1710. “As an elderly man in 1710, David Crawford was killed by members of the Pamunkey Indians in New Kent County, Virginia.”<sup>8</sup>

### ***President George Washington***

Recall that Augustine Warner Jr. had three sons who died without offspring [note that the genealogical term for this is DSP, which stands for *Decessit Sine Prole*, the Latin for Died Without Issue]. Augustine Jr. also had three daughters, Mary, Mildred, and Elizabeth (our ancestor). His daughter Mildred (1671-1701) married Lawrence Washington, and they named their son Augustine Washington. And Augustine Washington was the father of George Washington:

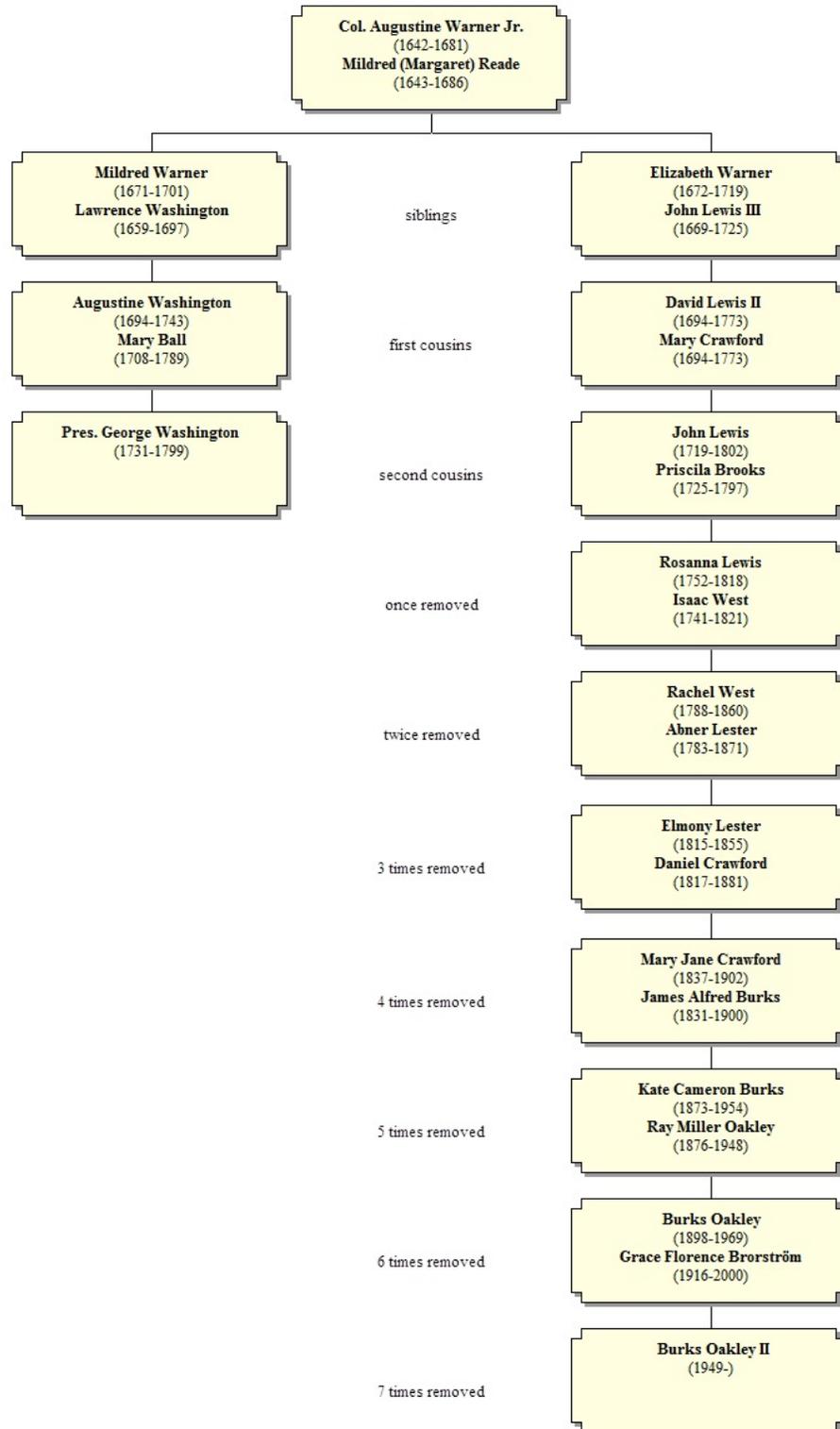


Of course, George Washington was the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War, the first President of the United States (1789-1797), and one of the “Founding Fathers” of the United States. He presided over the convention that drafted the current United States Constitution and during his lifetime was called the “father of his country”.

George Washington frequent visited his grandparents at the Warner Hall plantation.

<sup>8</sup> [https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/4632783/Crawford Family Heritage 19Aug15.pdf](https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/4632783/Crawford%20Family%20Heritage%2019Aug15.pdf)

And this means that we are related to George Washington! Here is a chart showing how I am related to him:



George Washington and I are second cousins, seven-times removed.

Here is a painting of Cousin George:



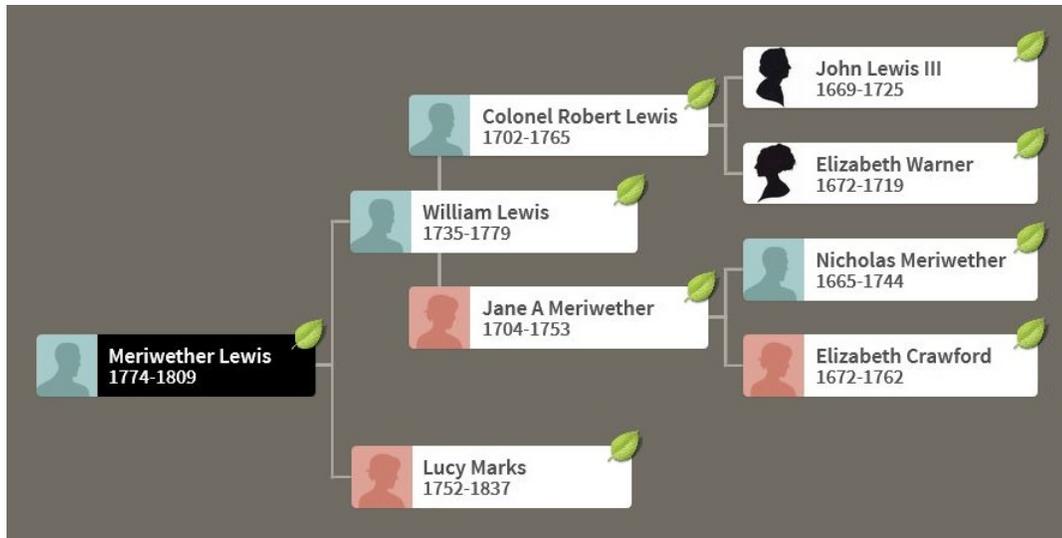
George Washington by Rembrandt Peale, oil on canvas.  
National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution.

In the ***Introduction*** to this narrative, I wrote that the ancestors of the “Quincy Oakleys” have been in America for a very long time. George Washington provides the perfect example of this, since his 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandfather, Augustine Warner Sr., immigrated to Virginia in 1628, more than one-hundred years before George was born. And 1628 was just eight years after the Pilgrims came to America on the *Mayflower*.

And the story only gets better....

## ***Meriwether Lewis***

Augustine Warner Jr. had three sons and three daughters. As mentioned above, one of the daughters, Mildred, was George Washington's paternal grandmother. Recall that the "Quincy Oakleys" are descended from another daughter, Elizabeth, who married John Lewis III (1669-1725). John and Elizabeth had a son named Robert Lewis (1702-1765), who married Jane Meriwether (1704-1753); one of Robert and Jane's grandsons was Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809):



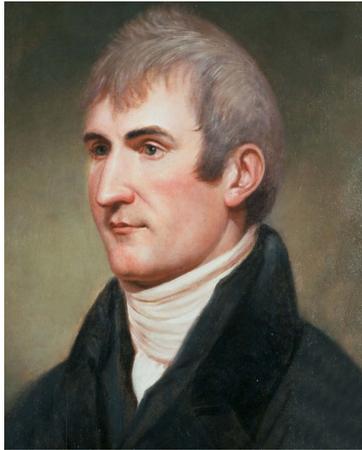
Meriwether Lewis was an American explorer, soldier, politician, and public administrator, best known for his role as the co-leader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806), also known as the Corps of Discovery. Their mission was to explore the territory of the Louisiana Purchase, establish trade with the natives near the Missouri River, and claim the Pacific Northwest and Oregon Country for the United States. They also collected scientific data, and information on indigenous nations. President Thomas Jefferson appointed him Governor of Upper Louisiana in 1806. He died of gunshot wounds in what was either a murder or suicide, in 1809.

All the readers of my previous narratives who were paying careful attention will immediately recall that when I wrote about the ***Crawford*** family, I mentioned Meriwether Lewis. Here is an excerpt:<sup>9</sup>

David Crawford and his wife Jane had eight children; the fourth child, born in 1662, was David Crawford II (our ancestor). As an aside, their daughter Elizabeth (born in 1672) married Nicholas Meriwether of New Kent County; Elizabeth and Nicholas were the great-grandparents of Meriwether

<sup>9</sup> [https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/4632783/Crawford Family Heritage 19Aug15.pdf](https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/4632783/Crawford%20Family%20Heritage%2019Aug15.pdf)

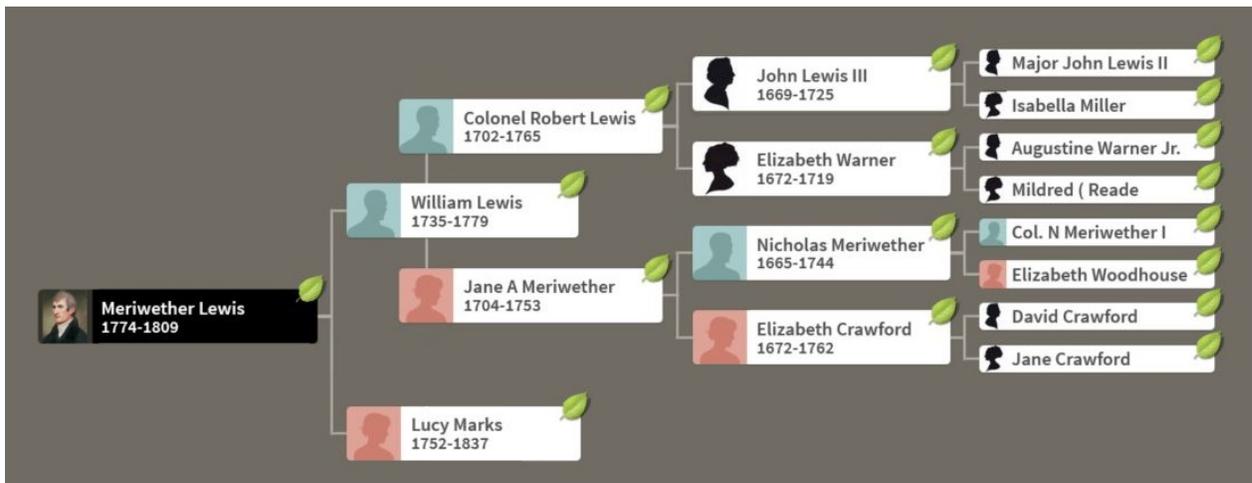
Lewis (of Lewis and Clark fame). In 1693, David Crawford deeded his 400 acre Assaquin Plantation to his grandson William Meriwether. Four years later, he gave his grandson David Meriwether 200 acres of land in St. Paul's Parish. So once again in our extended family, we have Meriwether Lewis having two last names (like Burks Oakley or Bennett Oakley or Oakley Bunce).



Meriwether Lewis

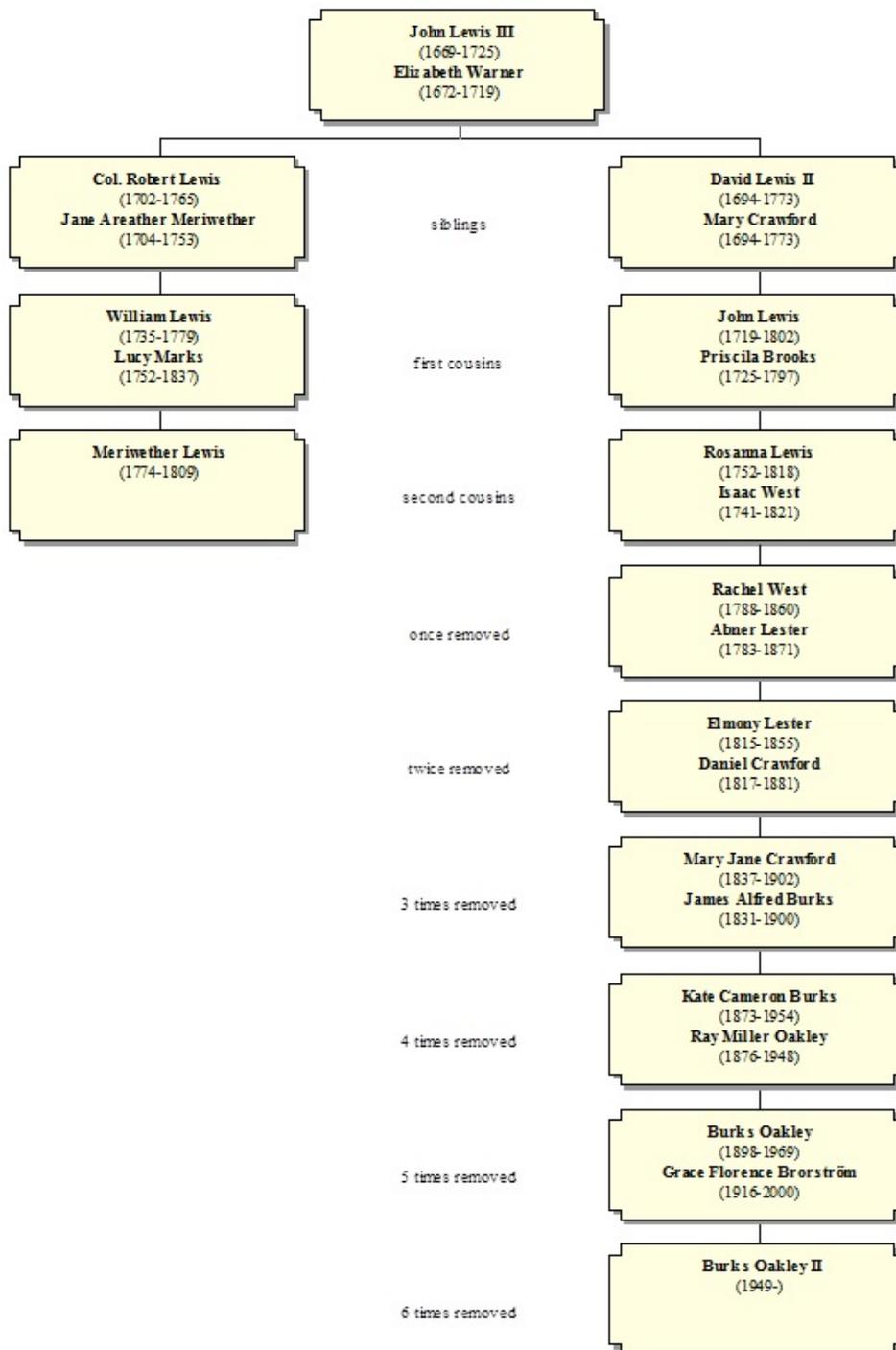
Portrait by Charles Willson Peale  
(1741 - 1827)

So this means that we actually have TWO separate connections to Meriwether Lewis – through the **Lewis-Warner** line and through the **Crawford** line. The following pedigree shows both of these lines:



As shown in the pedigree above, Meriwether Lewis' father was William Lewis (1735-1779). William's paternal grandparents were Elizabeth Warner and John Lewis. And his maternal great-grandparents were David and Jane Crawford. We have a separate line going back to the **Crawfords** and to the **Lewis-Warner** line, making us twice related to Meriwether Lewis.

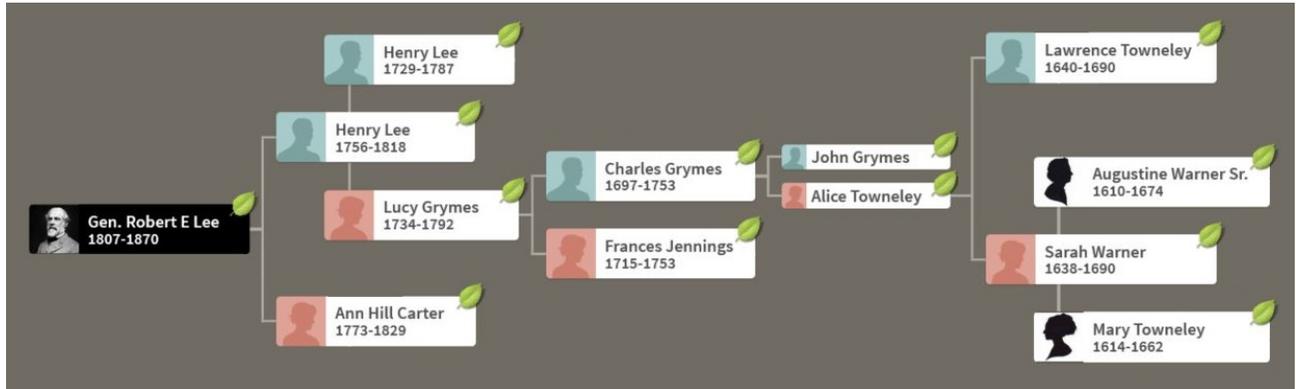
Going back on the **Lewis-Warner** line, my relationship with Meriwether Lewis is that of a second-cousin, six-times removed, as shown in the following chart:



But wait, it gets even better....

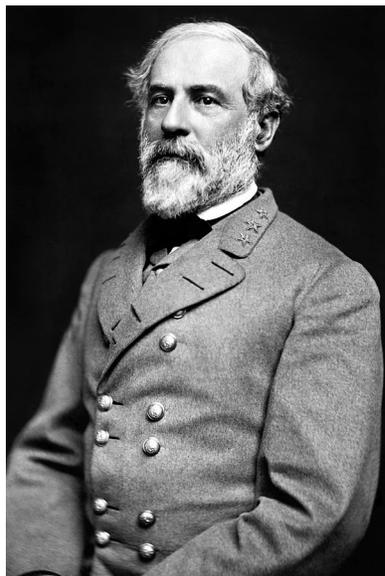
## ***Gen. Robert E. Lee***

Our ancestors, Augustine Warner Sr. and his wife Mary Towneley, were the 4<sup>th</sup>-great grandparents of General Robert E. Lee. Here is an excerpt from Robert E. Lee's pedigree:



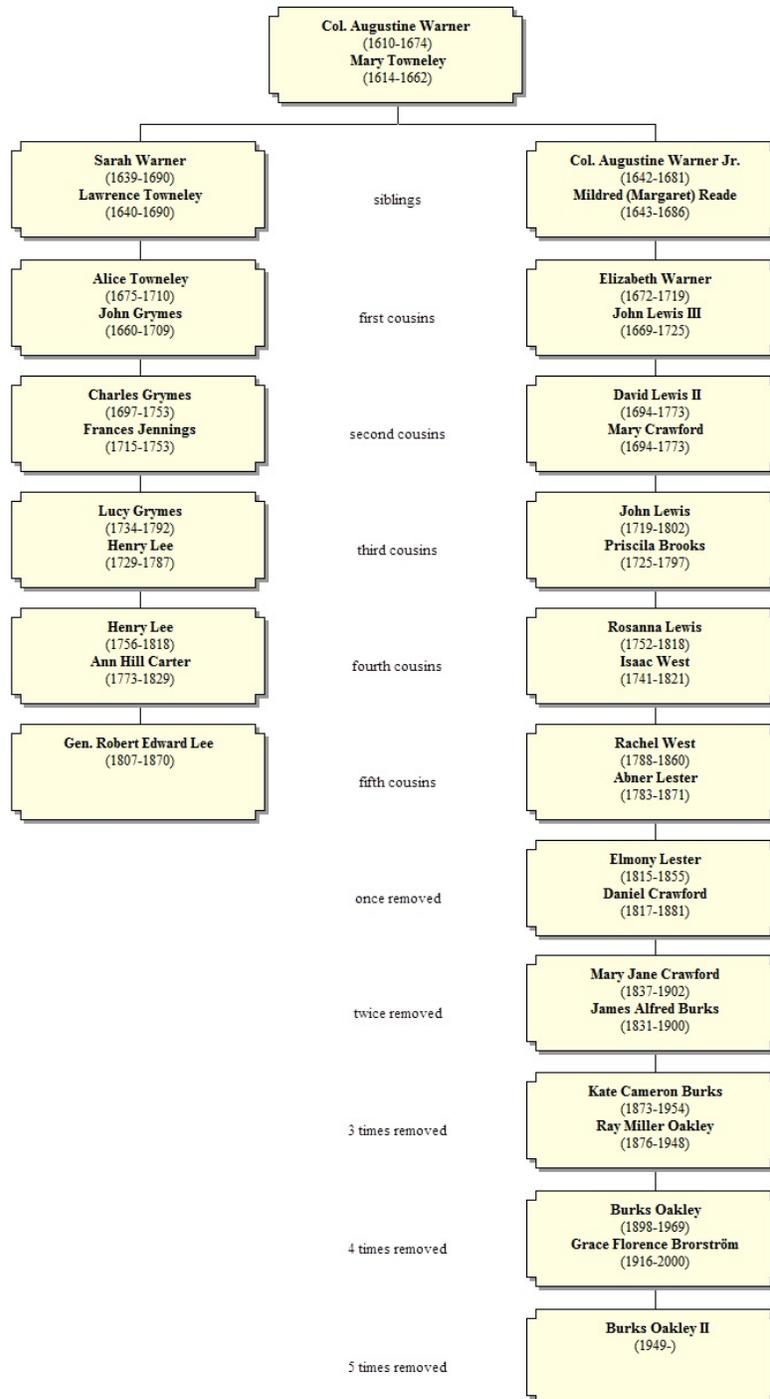
Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870) was an American general known for commanding the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia in the American Civil War from 1862 until his surrender in 1865. The son of Revolutionary War officer Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee III, Lee was a top graduate of the United States Military Academy and an exceptional officer and military engineer in the United States Army for 32 years. During this time, he served throughout the United States, distinguished himself during the Mexican-American War, served as Superintendent of the United States Military Academy, and married Mary Custis.

Here is a photo of Gen. Robert E. Lee:



Julian Vannerson's photograph of Robert E. Lee in March 1864

The “Quincy Oakleys” are descended from Augustine Warner Sr. and his wife Mary Towneley through their son Augustine Warner Jr. And that means, of course, that we are related to Gen. Robert E. Lee. As shown in the following chart, Robert E. Lee and I are fifth-cousins, five-times removed:

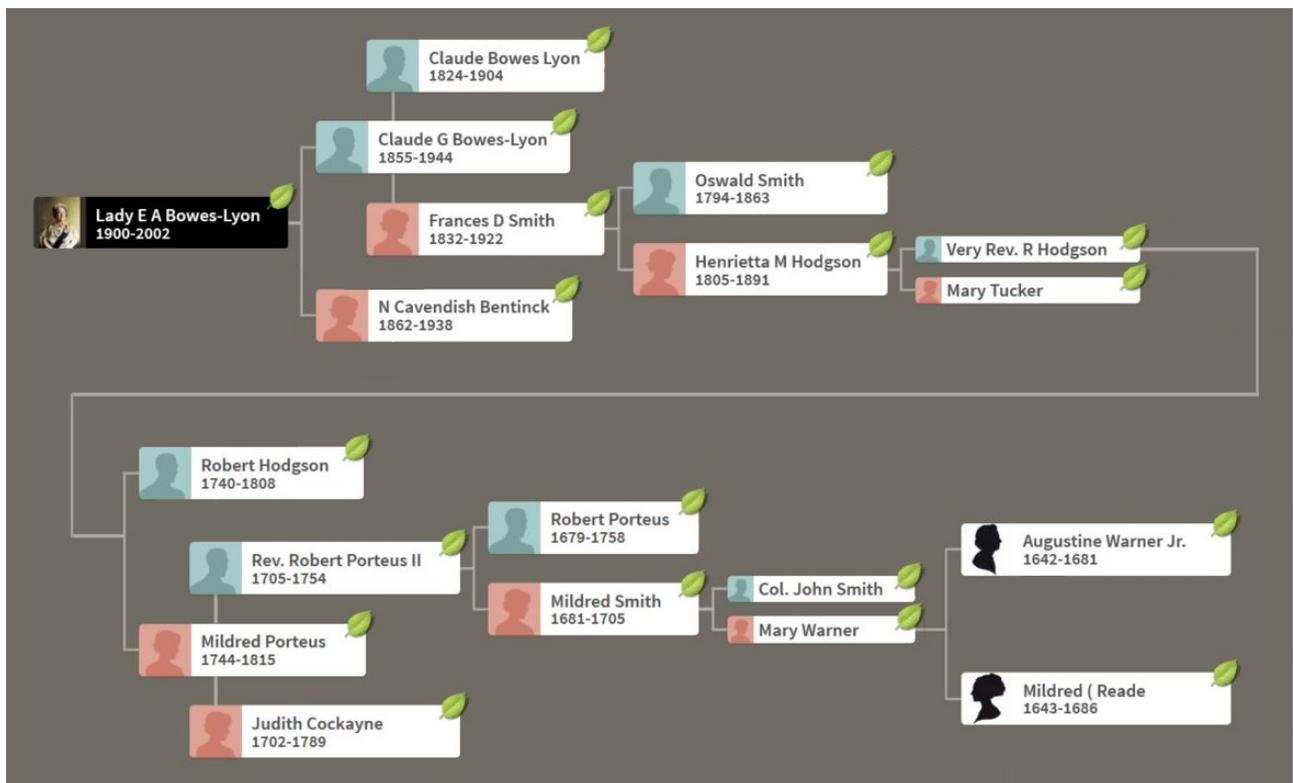


And just when you think you have seen everything....

## Queen Elizabeth II

Queen Elizabeth II, the current monarch of England, is a direct descendent of Augustine Warner Sr. through the **Bowes-Lyon** family and Claude Bowes-Lyon, the Earl of Strathmore. In England, Warner Hall is referred to as “The home of the Queen’s American ancestors”. Really – I’m not making this up!

Recall that Augustine Warner Jr. and his wife Mildred Reade had three sons and three daughters. The third daughter, Mary Warner, married Col. John Smith in 1680. John Smith was from Purton, Gloucester County, Virginia. John Smith and Mary Warner were the ancestors of Queen Elizabeth II through the **Bowes-Lyon** ancestry of the late Queen Elizabeth (known more widely as the Queen Mother), who was born Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. The following excerpt from the Queen Mother’s pedigree shows that Augustine Warner Jr. and his wife Mildred Reade were the Queen Mother’s 7<sup>th</sup>-great grandparents:

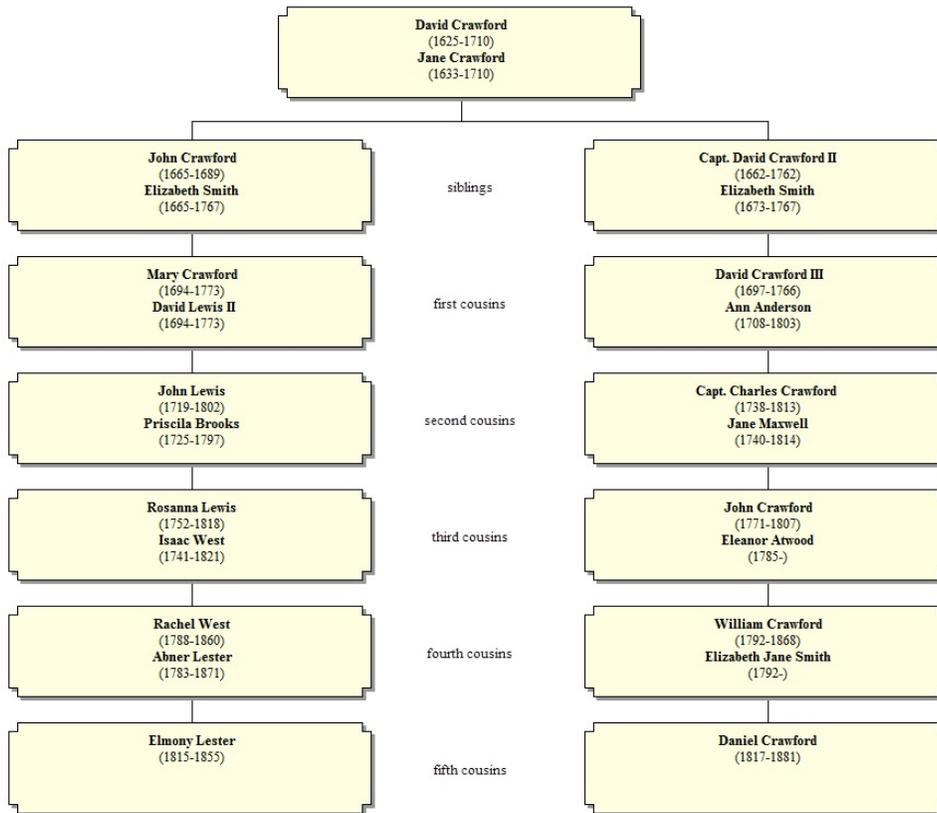


This is our SECOND connection to Queen Elizabeth! Recall that the “Quincy Oakleys” are descended from the **Lyon** family in Scotland, and we are related to the Queen of England through that line, as well. [See Chapter 27.]



## ***Elmony Lester and Daniel Crawford***

Daniel Crawford (1817-1881) and Elmony Lester (1815-1855) were my 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandparents. Both of these individuals were descended from David Crawford (1625-1710) and his wife Jane Crawford (1633-1710). In fact, David Crawford and his wife Jane Crawford were the 4<sup>th</sup>-great grandparents of Daniel Crawford, and they also were the 4<sup>th</sup>-great grandparents of Elmony Lester. So when Daniel Crawford married Elmony Lester in 1836 in Montgomery County, Virginia, it was a marriage between 5<sup>th</sup>-cousins, as shown in this chart:



I wonder if they knew about this relationship....

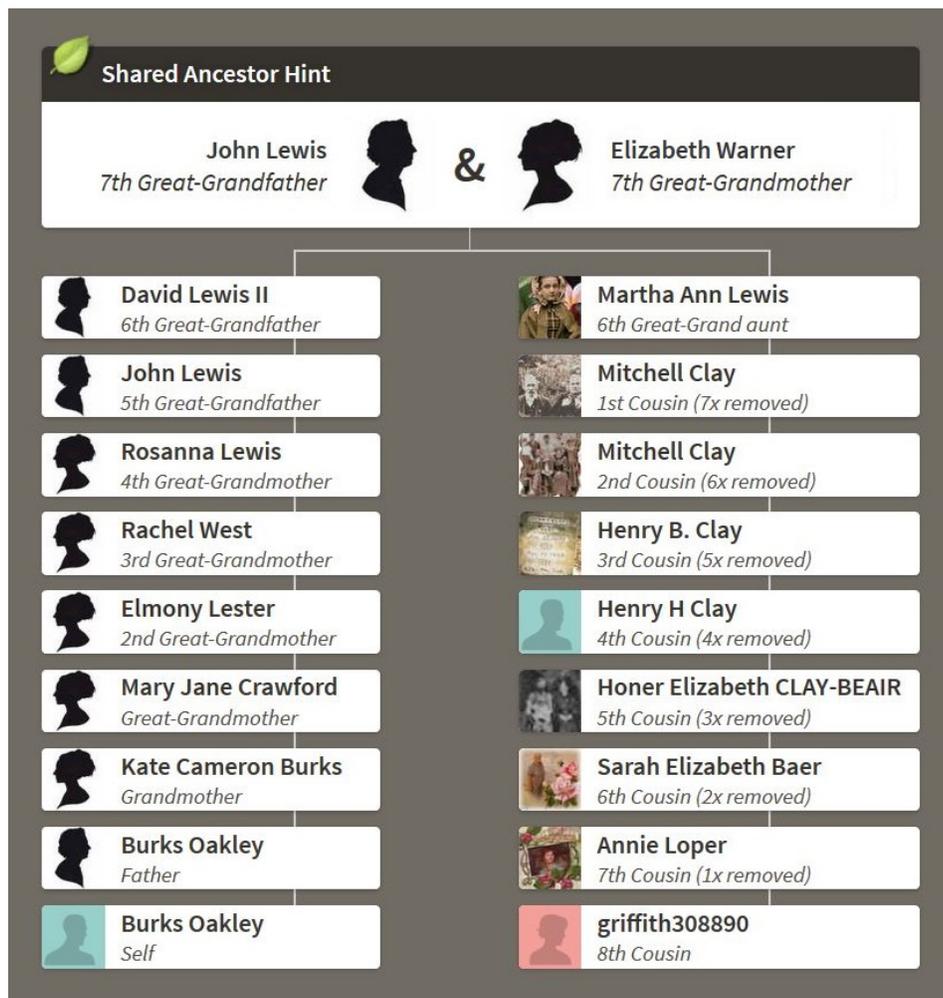
### ***Concluding Remarks***

Who would have thought that working on extending the “Quincy Oakley” family tree into the past would have uncovered our relationship to the ***Warner*** family. And what a family it was, giving us connections to President George Washington, Gen. Robert E. Lee, Meriwether Lewis (of the Corps of Discovery), and Queen Elizabeth II.

In wrapping this up, I want to go back to what I wrote in the *Introduction*, since this is something I never fully appreciated before. Ray Miller Oakley's four grandparents go back to families that immigrated to New England – *Oakley, Darling, Miller*, and *Wells*, while Kate Cameron Burks' four grandparents go back to families that immigrated to Virginia – *Burks, Griffey, Crawford*, and *Lester* (and now *Warner* and *Lewis*). I had not grasped how separate the *Burks* and *Oakley* sides of the “Quincy Oakley” family were in Colonial America. So while all eight of the families represented by Ray and Kate's grandparents have been in America for a very long time, they lived in separate parts of the country, and presumably had very different life experiences.

## Addendum

Since writing this narrative, I learned that I have yet one more “Shared Ancestor Hint” going back to John Lewis (1669-1725) and Elizabeth Warner (1672-1719). This DNA match is with a woman having the username of **griffith308890** on the Ancestry.com website. Her family tree on this site is private; after I learned that we have a DNA match and that we share a common couple in our pedigrees, I sent her a message requesting access to her family tree so that I could see how we are related. And, after she granted me access to her tree, I learned that we both go back to John Lewis and Elizabeth Warner.



This provides additional genetic support for the genealogical records.



## ***Appendix II***

Inscription on Augustine Warner Sr.'s tombstone:

Augustine Warner Deceased  
ye 24th of December 1674,  
Aged 63 Yeares 2 Mth 26Ds.  
Tho dead whilest most men live he canot dy  
His name will live fresh in their memory  
True worth is highly shown in liveing well  
When future ages of his power shall tell.



### **Appendix III**

The following is from *The Queen's American Ancestors*,<sup>11</sup> by Hector Bolitho. [Edited for clarity and consistency.]

When Queen Elizabeth II visited Virginia in October 1957, there was one episode overlooked in the brilliant celebrations; she was given an oil painting – no more than a copy, of a copy, of a portrait by Sir Godfrey Kneller. But it was of her American ancestor, Augustine Warner Jr., and it adds a surprising face to the immense collection of portraits of the Queen's forbears whose roots were otherwise still in Britain or Europe.

Mr. Anthony Wagner, of the *Richmond Herald*, was the first to trace this remarkable link that relates Queen Elizabeth, through a **Bowes-Lyon** marriage, back to both George Washington and General Robert E. Lee. As Mr. Wagner wrote, "It is somewhat ironical that among Washington's nearest of kin now living, should be numbered the Queen of Great Britain".

The first Augustine Warner must have been a gentleman of some importance. In Virginia, he built a fine house on an arm of the Severn River, which flows into the York River and then into Chesapeake Bay. Augustine Warner prospered; he became a Colonel of the Militia, a Justice, and a Burgess in the General Assembly. He sent his only son, Augustine Jr., back to England to be educated, for it was the habit with these southerners to cling to their Englishness, while the emigrants to the northern states tried to mould a separate American character, and forget the land of their nativity.

Augustine Jr. also became a public man; when he returned to Virginia, with his English education, he prospered and was elected Burgess for Gloucester County, then Speaker to the House. He was a gallant ancestor for any family tree. As soon as Nathaniel Bacon began his armed rebellion against the royal governor, in 1676, Warner led troops against him, in the King's name. There is a record of him returning to Warner Hall after the rebellion was quelled: he was described as "a rather thorough Royalist . . . an honest, worthy Person and most Loyall sufferer by the Late Rebels; who was plundered as much as any, and yet speaks as little of his losses, tho' they were very greate".

The life of these 17<sup>th</sup> Century planters on the Tidewater of Virginia was comfortable and almost elegant. There was still danger from a chance savage arrow, for the Indians were not yet all subdued. But the houses of the

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.bigballoonmusic.com/goddardreagan/TheQueensAmericanAncestors.htm>

prosperous settlers from England were set in splendid gardens; they were furnished with libraries and treasures brought across the Atlantic and served by numerous Negro slaves. Many of the houses remain, in 20<sup>th</sup> century Virginia, alienated from the less tranquil Yankee north and preferring the ghosts of what was, to the realism of the rest of America.

Mary Warner, married to John Smith, remained in Virginia, but their daughter, Mildred, brought the blood back to England; she was the wife of Robert Porteus, another Virginian planter and a member of “His Majesty’s Council or Upper House or Legislature in that Province”. His house on the Tidewater had the nice name of Newbottle. Robert Porteus was married in 1700 and he stayed in Virginia until 1720, long enough for Mildred to present him with the first of his big brood of nineteen children.

By 1720, the pattern of life in this part of Virginia had changed. From the early vicissitudes of the Jamestown colony had emerged a small landed aristocracy, of families like the Warners, the Smiths and the ancestors of Robert Porteus. But the hinterland was now being opened up by new settlers, and there were three times as many Negroes as there had been at the beginning of the century. Small farmers and planters interfered with the patriarchal pattern in which Robert Porteus had been brought up, so he decided to emigrate to England, with his family, “quitting a situation so perfectly independent and comfortable” so that his children could have “better instruction” at English schools. [Note: This was the “reverse migration” that I mentioned in the main narrative.]

Robert Porteus settled in England with his family, first at York and then at Ripon. He was buried in the south aisle of the Cathedral and his white marble memorial, high on the wall, tells us, in an amiable flow of words, the details of his life:

Near this Place are deposited the Remains of ROBERT PORTEUS ESQR. A native of Virginia, & a Member of His Majesty’s Council or upper House of Legislature in that Province. From thence he removed to England, and resided first at York, afterwards in this town, where he died August 8, 1758, Aged 79 years.

With the return of Robert Porteus, a new theme came into the history of the relationship between Virginia and England. He was an absentee landlord and the victim of “negligence or dishonesty” on the part of his agents who sent him, as he complained, “little more than a fourth part of what ought to have been his real income”. But he remained in England and when his first wife died, he was married again, to another Virginian – Elizabeth Jennings. They produced a second family, including one remarkable son – the eighteenth of the brood of

nineteen. He was Beilby Porteus, the scholar and poet who became Bishop of Leicester and then, in 1787, Bishop of London. The vigorous blood enlivened by the generations in Virginia had not become pale: Beilby Porteus was a belligerent leader in the ecclesiastical changes of his time; he was an ardent evangelist, a supporter of Sunday schools, and was strong-willed enough to turn against the source of his family fortunes in his fight to abolish slavery. [Note: This supports the notion that the **Warners** owned slaves on the Warner Hall Plantation.]

The important son, who belongs to the theme of this story, leading to the **Bowes-Lyon** family, had been born in Virginia in 1705. He was named Robert, after his father, and he also went into the Church, but more modestly than his younger half-brother.

Robert Porteus had been admitted to Cambridge University in 1725; in 1736, when he was thirty-one years old, he married Judith, daughter of Thomas Cockayne, whose family had been lords of the manor for 300 years. Here the story loses its colonial flavor and becomes quietly English. Within the park of Thomas Cockayne was the little church of St. John the Baptist, with its Flemish carvings, to which Robert Porteus was appointed rector.

From then, through four modest generations, we come to the marriage of importance. The Reverend Robert Porteus had named his daughter Mildred, and she married Robert Hodgson of Congleton, in the County of Chester. Their daughter, Frances Dora, married Claude Lyon-Bowes – later **Bowes-Lyon** – 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Strathmore, in 1853.

Thus we come, through nine generations, from Augustine Warner Sr., the English immigrant, to his descendant, married to Lord Strathmore when Queen Victoria had been on the throne for sixteen years. The Queen's notions about the marriages of her children were to change soon after this; there came a time when, disgusted by the jealousies and intrigues of princes in Europe, she encouraged a different fate for her family, she wrote that "Money without goodness or affection was useless" and that "a young lady of the nobility, well brought up," was far better as a wife for one of her sons than "an unsuitable princess".

The pattern of alliance was being formed, quietly: in 1855, the 14<sup>th</sup> Earl of Strathmore was born and in 1881, he married a daughter of the Rev. Charles William Frederick Cavendish-Bentinek. They were the parents of Queen Elizabeth, later the Queen Mother, whose marriage to the Duke of York, in 1923, infused the monarchy with a power of character and graciousness that has enriched it into our own time.