

Chapter 42

Stephen Slane – A Burks Cousin

[Written 28 September 2019]

Introduction

In August 2019, I learned that I had a new DNA match on the Ancestry.com website – and this match is with a man named Stephen Slane. At that time, he was my 11th-largest DNA match; we share 241 cM, and we could be as close as second-cousins. Here is a screenshot from Ancestry.com, which shows some of my second-cousins, including Stephen Slane:

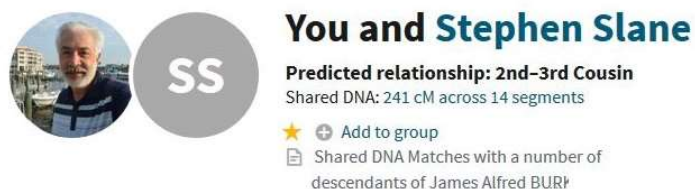
The screenshot shows a section titled "Burks Oakley's DNA Matches" with a search bar and filters. Below are four match entries:

2nd Cousin			
	Hal Oakley 1st-2nd Cousin Shared DNA: 418 cM across 21 segments ⓘ	3 People Common ancestor	★ + Add to group Hal is my first-cousin once-removed. He is a grandson of Thomas C....
	Mark Eidem 1st-2nd Cousin Shared DNA: 418 cM across 18 segments ⓘ	146 People Common ancestor	★ + Add to group This is Mark Cameron Eidem. I was a first-cousin of his mother, Mary...
	David EIDEM 2nd-3rd Cousin Shared DNA: 246 cM across 15 segments ⓘ	No Trees	★ + Add to group David Eidem is Mark Eidem's son - making him my 1C2R. His siste...
	Stephen Slane 2nd-3rd Cousin Shared DNA: 241 cM across 14 segments ⓘ	No Trees	★ + Add to group Shared DNA Matches with a number of descendants of James Alfre...







Who is Stephen Slane? He doesn't have a family tree on Ancestry.com, and I've never heard of him. In this chapter, I will provide the details of how I learned who he is and how we are related.

Finding Out More About Stephen Slane

I first looked at the DNA matches that Stephen Slane and I have in common – a selected set of our “Shared DNA Matches” is shown in the following screenshot:



You and Stephen Slane
Predicted relationship: 2nd-3rd Cousin
Shared DNA: 241 cM across 14 segments
★ + Add to group
📄 Shared DNA Matches with a number of descendants of James Alfred BURK

Trees	Ethnicity	Shared Matches
2nd Cousin		
 Hal Oakley	1st-2nd Cousin Shared DNA: 418 cM across 21 segments ⓘ	👥 3 People Common ancestor ★ + Add to group 📄 Hal is my first-cousin once-removed. He is a grandson of Thomas C....
 Mark Eidem	1st-2nd Cousin Shared DNA: 418 cM across 18 segments ⓘ	👥 146 People Common ancestor ★ + Add to group 📄 This is Mark Cameron Eidem. I was a first-cousin of his mother, Mary...
3rd Cousin		
 Mary Bowers	3rd-4th Cousin Shared DNA: 140 cM across 9 segments ⓘ	🌳 No Trees ★ + Add to group 📄 Mary is the daughter of Mark EIDEM. She is my first-cousin twice-ren...
 nsn94	3rd-4th Cousin Shared DNA: 135 cM across 9 segments ⓘ	👥 2 People ★ + Add to group 📄 His last name is Severn. He is one of my top DNA matches - 135 cM s...
 mikecasconemailcom	3rd-4th Cousin Shared DNA: 106 cM across 8 segments ⓘ	👥 11 People Common ancestor ★ + Add to group 📄 106 centimorgans shared across 8 DNA segments. Shared DNA m...
4th Cousin		
 Donconyers22	4th-6th Cousin Shared DNA: 27 cM across 3 segments ⓘ	👥 243 People Common ancestor ★ + Add to group 📄 Don Conyers showed up in my TL for James Alfred BURKS and Mary ...

The first three shared matches are with my cousins Hal Oakley, Mark Eidem (his mother was an Oakley), and Mary Bowers (Mark’s daughter). So I knew that Stephen is related to me on my father’s side of the family (the Oakley family).

The last three shared matches are with Lloyd Severn (*nsn94*), Mike Cascone (*mikecasconemailcom*), and Don Conyers (*Donconyers22*) – are of these individuals are known to me, and all three of them are are descended from James Alfred Burks. One of James Alfred Burks’s daughters, Kate Cameron Burks, married Ray Miller Oakley. See:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/6B-WilliamBurksThruLines.pdf>

This means that Stephen Slane also has to be a descendant of James Alfred Burks, since if our Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) was farther in the past, Stephen would be a more distant relative than a second-cousin (or perhaps a second-cousin once-removed).

I mentioned that I have never heard about Stephen Slane, but I am well aware that I can't recall the surnames of all my relatives. Therefore, I decided to search the large genealogy folder on my Windows computer for the word "Slane".

OMG!!! The name Slane appeared in the obituary for Paul Dore Burks (1870-1948) – he was an older brother of my paternal grandmother Kate Cameron Burks (1873-1954). Here is the obituary:

San Diego Union article – July 16, 1948
Paul Dore Burks

Funeral services for Paul Dore Burks, former San Diegan who died July 9 while visiting a daughter at Ft. Eustis, Virginia., will be 1 p.m. tomorrow in the Little Church of the Flowers, Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale.

Mr. Burks, born in Quincy, Illinois, 78 years ago was manager of the San Diego offices of the International Correspondence Schools from 1907 to 1917, and was a member of San Diego Lodge of Masons, the Scottish Rite Bodies and Al Bahr Temple of the Shrine. He and his wife, Mrs. Rose Brogle Burks, had been living in Los Angeles several years. He was the father of Mrs. Velma Burks Smith, of La Mesa, and Mrs. Pauline Slane, of Ft. Eustis.

There it is – Pauline Slane – a daughter of Paul Dore Burks, and therefore a granddaughter of James Alfred Burks. When I looked into my RootsMagic database, I was initially confused – I indeed had the daughters of Paul Dore Burks as Velma Margaret Burks (1902-1975) and Pauline Louise Burks (1915-1994), but I had Pauline married to a Leonard James Hackney (1910-1945). And they had a son named Oliver Hackney (birth date unknown). So why was she listed in the obituary as Mrs. Pauline Slane?

Since Pauline was born in 1915, her son Oliver Hackney probably was born sometime between 1935 and 1945 (since her husband Leonard Hackney died in 1945).

What if Pauline remarried after Leonard Hackney died in 1945 – and the new husband was a Mr. Slane? Young Oliver Hackney could have taken his step-father's surname and become Oliver Slane. And he could have had a son Stephen

Slane. That would make Stephen my second-cousin once-removed (2C1R). Recall that Stephen and I share 241 cM of DNA, and 2C1R average a DNA match of 123 cM, with a range of 0-316 cM.

Given this assumption about Stephen Slane fits into the Pauline Burks family:

- James Alfred Burks would be the Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) shared by Stephen and me.
- I know that Paul Dore Burks and Kate Cameron Burks were siblings.
- This means that Pauline Louise Burks (1915-1994) and my father Burks Oakley were first-cousins.
- Pauline's son Oliver Hackney/Slane (born ~1940) and I would be second-cousins.
- Oliver's son Stephen Slane (born ~1965) would be my 2C1R.

Boy, was I wrong!

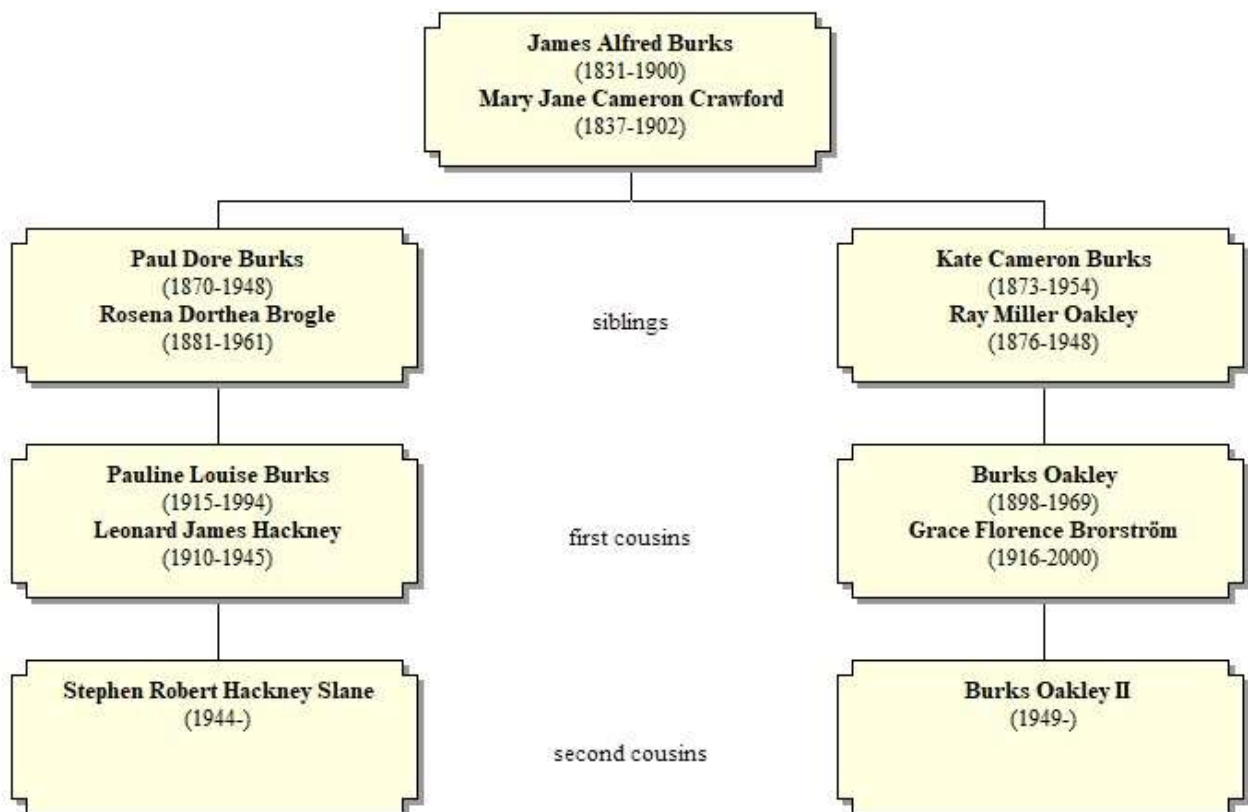
On 16 September 2019, I sent Stephen a message using the message system on the Ancestry.com website:

Stephen - Good afternoon! I have been looking into our DNA match here on Ancestry.com. Based on the shared DNA matches that we have in common, you have to be a Burks family descendant. And given the large size of our DNA match, you probably are my second-cousin (2C) or second-cousin once-removed (2C1R). I just found an obituary for Paul Dore Burks (1870-1948), and the obit mentions his daughter Pauline Slane. Well, she is in my family tree as Pauline Louise Burks (1915-1994); her first husband was Leonard James Hackney (1910-1945) and they had a son named Oliver Hackney. I then found a family tree on Ancestry.com that shows Pauline re-married a Mr. Slane and they had a son Oliver Slane. My guess is that young Oliver was adopted by Mr. Slane and they changed his family name from Hackney to Slane. And Oliver Slane must be your father. That would mean that you and I have a 2C1R relationship, and account for our large DNA match.

I hope to hear back from you sometime soon.

Well, I was close. I received a reply to my message from Stephen's wife Julia Slane, who is the genealogist in the family. It turns out that Pauline Burks and her first husband Leonard Hackney had a second son named Stephen Hackney, who was born on 12 May 1944 (Oliver was several years older). After Leonard Hackney died in 1945, Pauline Burks indeed remarried Robert Slane, who adopted her two sons. Stephen's name then became Stephen Robert Hackney Slane.

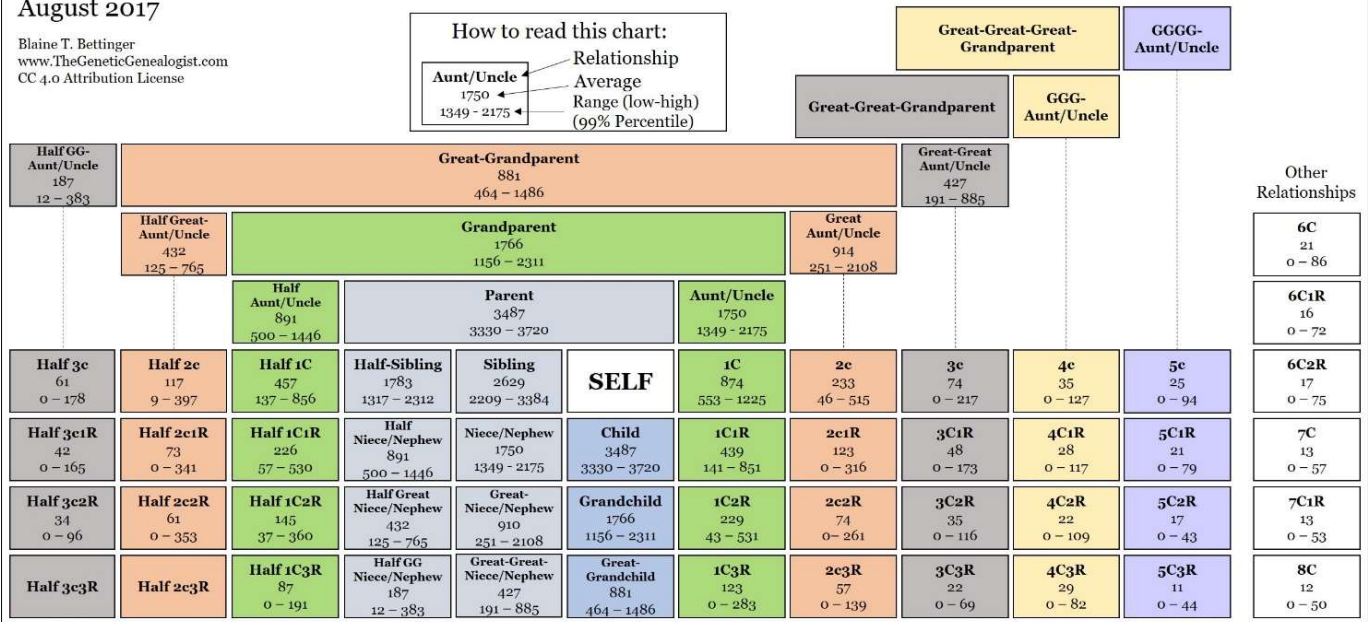
This means that Stephen Slane is a grandson of Paul Dore Burks, and therefore he is my second cousin.



In 2017, the noted genetic genealogist Blaine T. Bettinger published a chart showing the average size of DNA matches for various relationships – here is that chart:

Blaine T. Bettinger
www.TheGeneticGenealogist.com
CC 4.0 Attribution License

How to read this chart:
Relationship
Average
Range (low-high)
(99% Percentile)



Minimum was automatically set to 0 cM for relationships more distant than Half 2C, and averages were determined only for submissions in which DNA was shared

Second cousins (2C) average 233 cM of shared DNA, with a range of 46-515 cM. So my DNA match with Stephen Slane (241 cM) is right on the average for our 2C relationship.

Conclusion

In this short chapter, I have provided details of how I learned who Stephen Slane is. I would like to thank his wife, Julia Slane, for responding to my initial message. It is interesting that Stephen's older brother, Oliver Hackney Slane, was in my RootsMagic database, but Stephen wasn't. This database came to me from my cousin Hal Oakley, and was originally based on my father's genealogical research in the 1950's and 1960's. I have no idea why neither Stephen nor Pauline's second husband appeared this database.

I was really lucky to have a digital copy of Paul Dore Burks' obituary on my computer, which helped me make the connection to Pauline Burks Hackney Slane.

As I am fond of saying, the DNA doesn't lie. My DNA match with Stephen Slane is exactly what is expected for our second-cousin relationship, and Stephen and I have Shared DNA Matches with a number of other Burks descendants.

Appendix

Here is a photo of Stephen and his wife Julia:

