

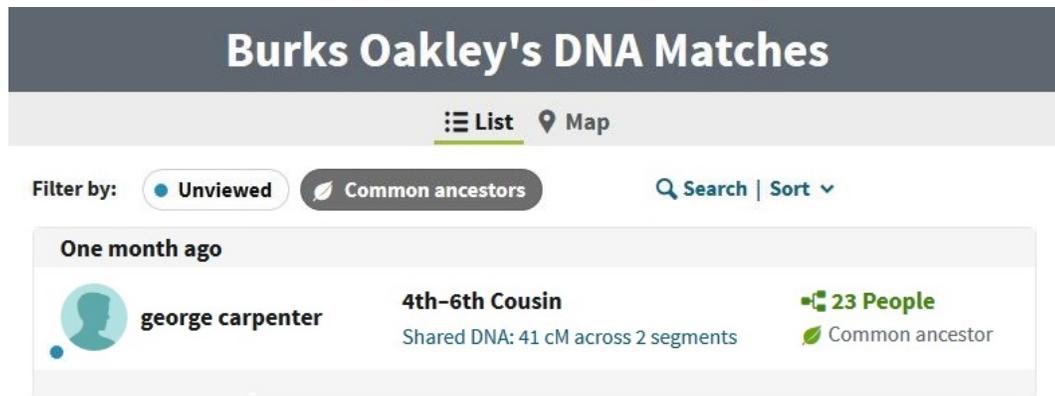
Chapter 45

George Carpenter – A Burks Family Relative

[29 April 2020]

Introduction

For the past several years, I have been using DNA on Ancestry.com to confirm and to extend my family tree. Late last September, I was contacted by a man named George Carpenter via the Ancestry.com message system. George lives in Yuba City, Sutter County, California, and he informed me that he had Burks family ancestors who made the big move west from Missouri to Sutter County, California, at the end of the 1800's. Apparently, George had found me by searching for Burks family descendants on the Ancestry.com website. George and I exchanged several e-mails and phone calls at that time. Last month, he turned up as one of my DNA matches on Ancestry.com:



George and I share 41 cM of DNA on two segments, and based on the size of this match, we could be as close as fourth-cousins.

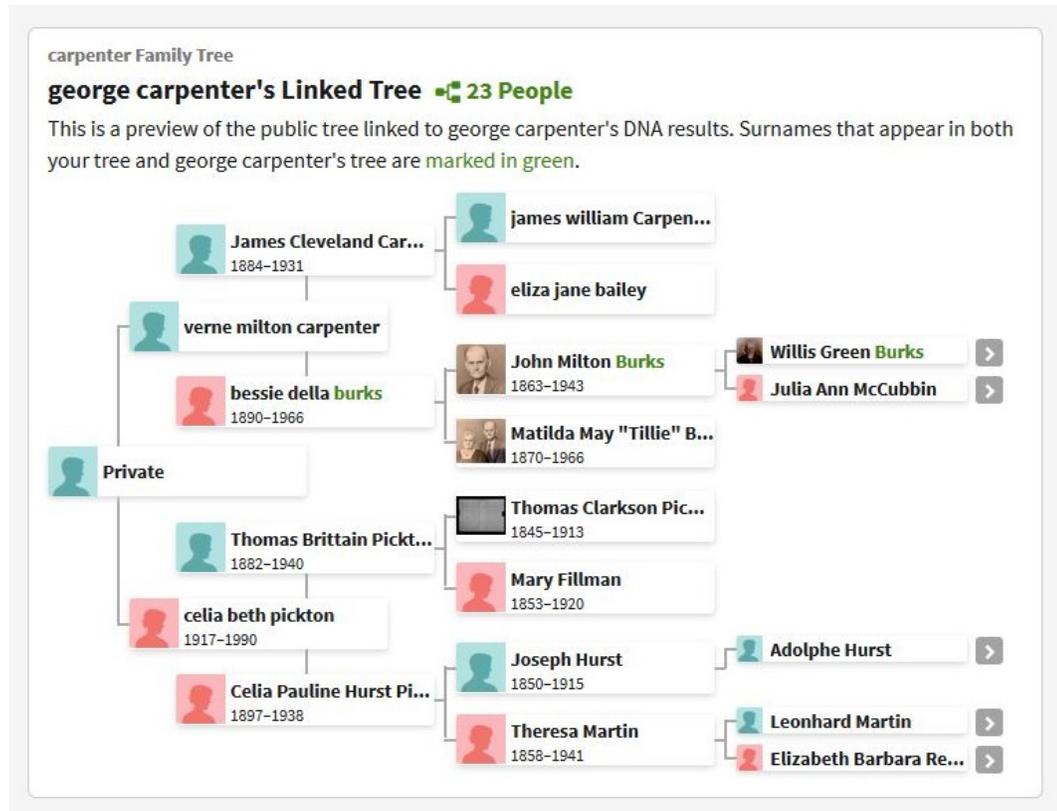
More About George Carpenter and his Burks Ancestors

According to Ancestry.com, George and I both are descended from William Burks (1740-1830) and his wife Elizabeth Eliza Cade (1745-1789):

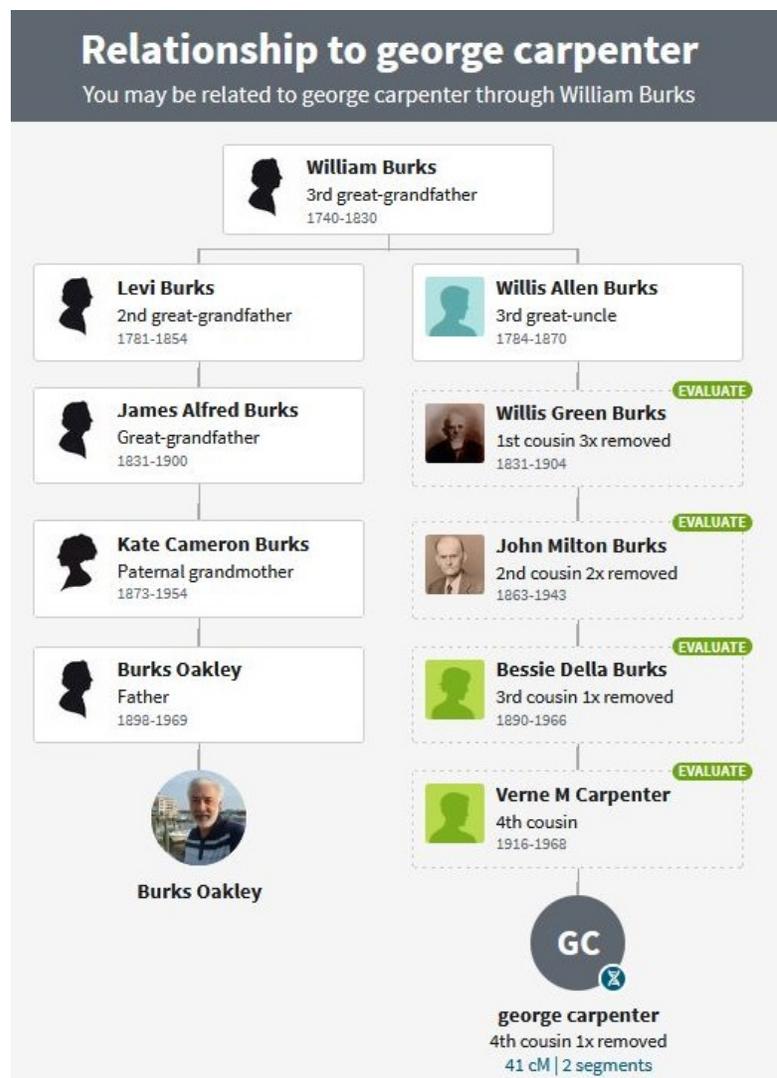


This couple were my third-great grandparents.

After learning about the DNA match that George and I have, as well as our common ancestors, I went on to examine George's family tree on the Ancestry.com website:



George's pedigree chart shows that his paternal grandmother was Bessie Della Burks (1890-1966). The software on the Ancestry.com website automatically created a chart showing how George and I are related:



I am descended from William Burks through his son Levi Burks (1781-1854), while George is descended from William Burks through his son Willis Allen Burks (1784-1870). The chart shows that that George and I are fourth-cousins once-removed. That is, his father Verne Milton Carpenter (1916-1968) and I were fourth-cousins. Going back on the relationship chart, my great-grandfather James Alfred Burks (1831-1900) was a first-cousin of George's second-great grandfather Willis Green Burks (1831-1904).

In looking at George's Burks ancestors, I learned that Willis Green Burks (1831-1904) was the first in the family to move to Sutter County, California:

The screenshot shows a genealogy profile for Willis Green Burks. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "Burks-Creager_Redeux" and "Tree Search" buttons, and a user profile for "Kay and Mel Burks". The main profile header includes a portrait of Willis Green Burks, his name, birth date (NOV 1831), birth location (Tennessee, USA), death date (15 APR 1904), and death location (Sutter County, California, USA). Below the header, the profile is divided into two sections: "Family" and "Spouse & Children".

Family

Parents

- Willis Burks (1784-1870)
- Nancy Webb (1790-1860)

Spouse & Children

- Julia Ann McCubbin (1828-1880)
- William Leander Burks (1851-1928)
- Miles Henry Burks (1853-1929)
- Allen Berry Burks (1855-1930)
- James Delaney Burks (1857-1900)
- Mary Jane Burks (1859-1935)
- Jesse Townsend Burks (1861-1949)
- John Milton Burks (1863-1943)
- Rosa A Burks (1871-)

Willis Green Burks, who was George's second-great grandfather, was a grandson of William Burks and Eliza Cade. It appears that he made the move to California in several steps, and he really was in California only for the last few years of his life.

As an aside, isn't it amazing that James Alfred Burks was born in Mercer County, Kentucky, and died in Quincy, Illinois – all within the Midwest – while Willis Green Burks was born in Tennessee and died in 2000+ miles away in Sutter County, California. But I digress....

As I mentioned above, Willis Green Burks appears to have moved west in stages. He was born in 1831 in Tennessee. He was married in 1850 in Richwoods, Miller County, Missouri. His children were born in Missouri. But by the 1880 US Census, Willis Green Burks was living in Corinth, Osborne County, Kansas. That is where his wife died in 1880.

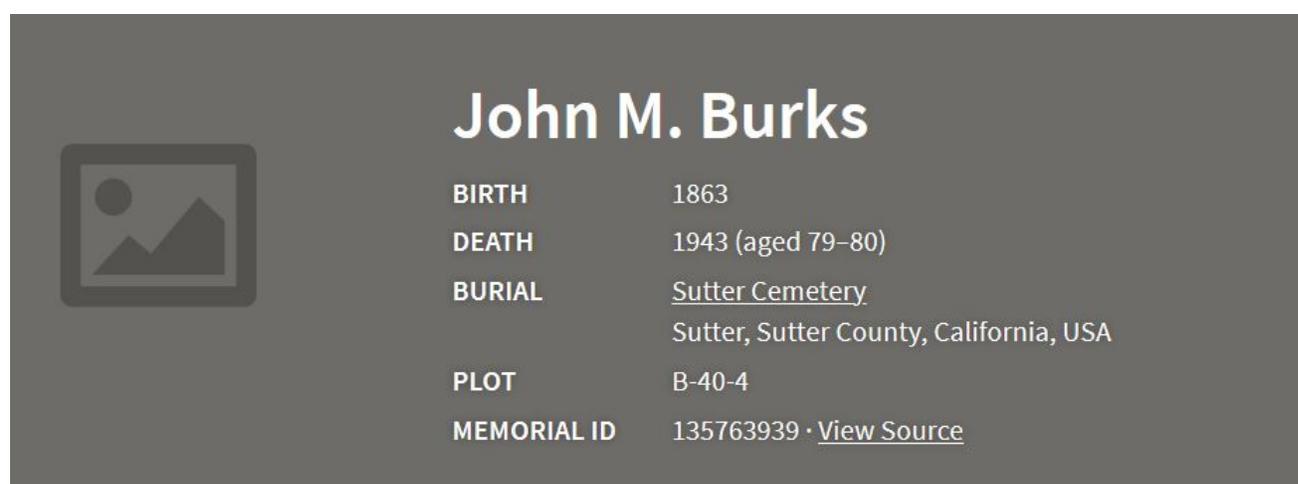
According to the California voter registration rolls, he was living in Rough and Ready, Nevada County, California, in 1898. How the heck did he get there?

In the 1900 US Census, Willis Green Burks was back in Kansas, living with his son, Allen B. Burks, and Allen's family.

Willis Green Burks died on 15 April 1904 in Sutter County, California, and is buried in the Sutter Cemetery, in the small town of Sutter, California.

Four of his sons apparently followed him to California: William Leander Burks died on 12 February 1928 in Yuba, Sutter County, California; Miles Henry Burks died on 18 August 1929 in Sutter County, California; Allen Berry Burks died on 8 February 1930 in Sutter County, California, and John Milton Burks (George's ancestor) died on 24 February 1943 in Sutter County, California.

And speaking of John Milton Burks, he had children in Missouri, Oklahoma (Indian territory), and Yuba, Sutter County, California.¹ According to the FindAGrave.com website, he is buried in Sutter Cemetery:



The image shows a memorial page for John M. Burks on FindAGrave.com. It features a placeholder for a photograph on the left and a list of biographical details on the right. The details include birth and death dates, burial location, plot number, and a memorial ID with a link to view the source.

John M. Burks	
BIRTH	1863
DEATH	1943 (aged 79–80)
BURIAL	Sutter Cemetery Sutter, Sutter County, California, USA
PLOT	B-40-4
MEMORIAL ID	135763939 · View Source

Many of George's Burks relatives are also buried in Sutter Cemetery. Here is a listing from findagrave.com of the eighteen Burks family members who are buried in this cemetery:

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/8396/memorial-search?firstName=&lastName=Burks&page=1#sr-166831105>

If we were to add in spouses and children, it would be a large group of the extended Burks family that are buried in that cemetery.

George sent me the obituary of his great-grandfather John Milton Burks:

¹ <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/106688896/person/340052906765/facts>

p. 4 2/25/1943

Appeal-Democrat

Prominent Fruit Grower Called

For many years one of the most prominent residents and fruit growers of the Barry district of Sutter county, John Milton Burks died this morning after a long illness. He was four days past 80 years of age, and had been ill a long time, having for 15 years been failing.

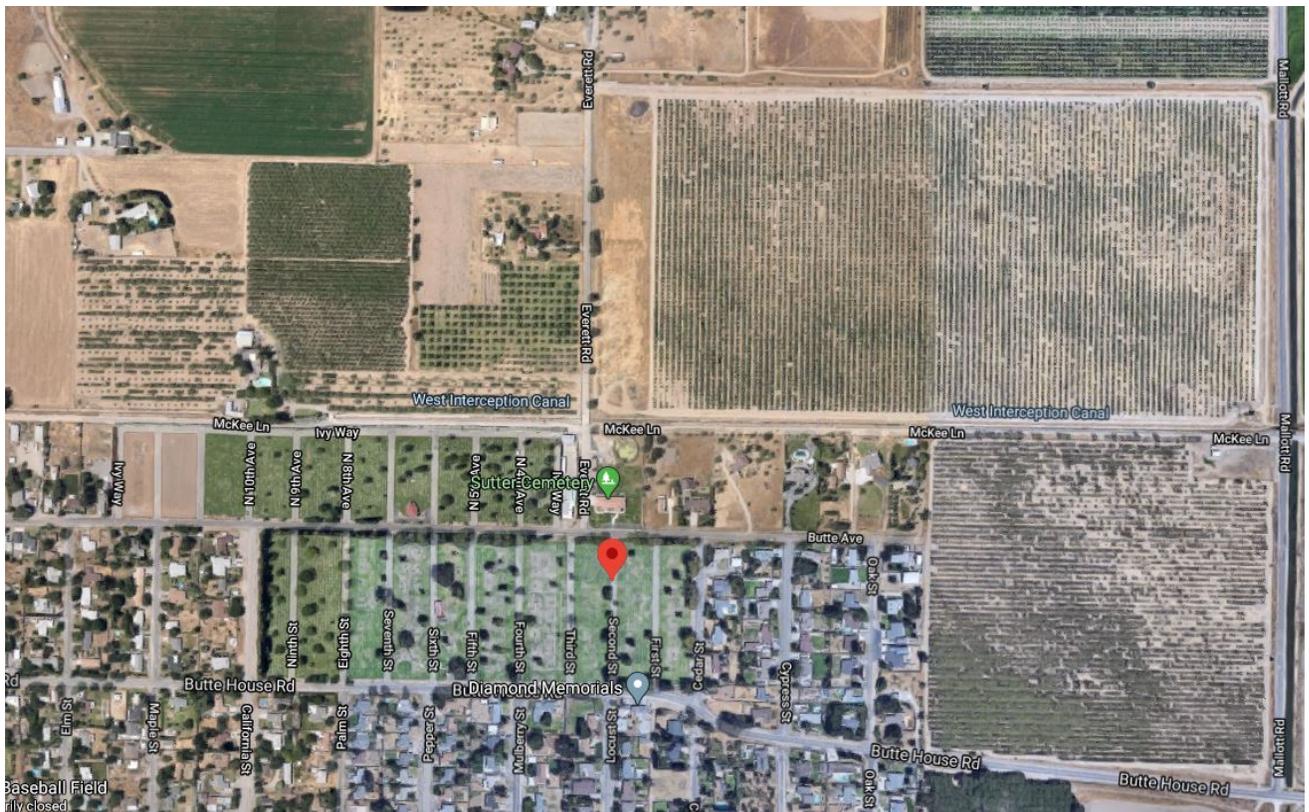
Burks and his wife, Mrs. Tillie May Burks, who survives him, came to Sutter county from Jefferson City, Mo., 42 years ago and had resided in Barry district constantly since that time. He was a successful farmer and was prominent in community and public affairs until his health began to fail. He was the last of the four Burks brothers who came out from Missouri to Sutter county.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by the following sons and daughters: Ora Burks of Woodland, Mrs. Della Schimmel of Vallejo, Monte Burks of Seattle and Mrs. Hazel Knaggs of Woodland. Another son, Roy, who was constable of Barry district for a long time, died a few years ago.

Funeral services will be held Saturday at 2 p. m. in the Jones chapel in Yuba City and interment will be in Sutter City cemetery.

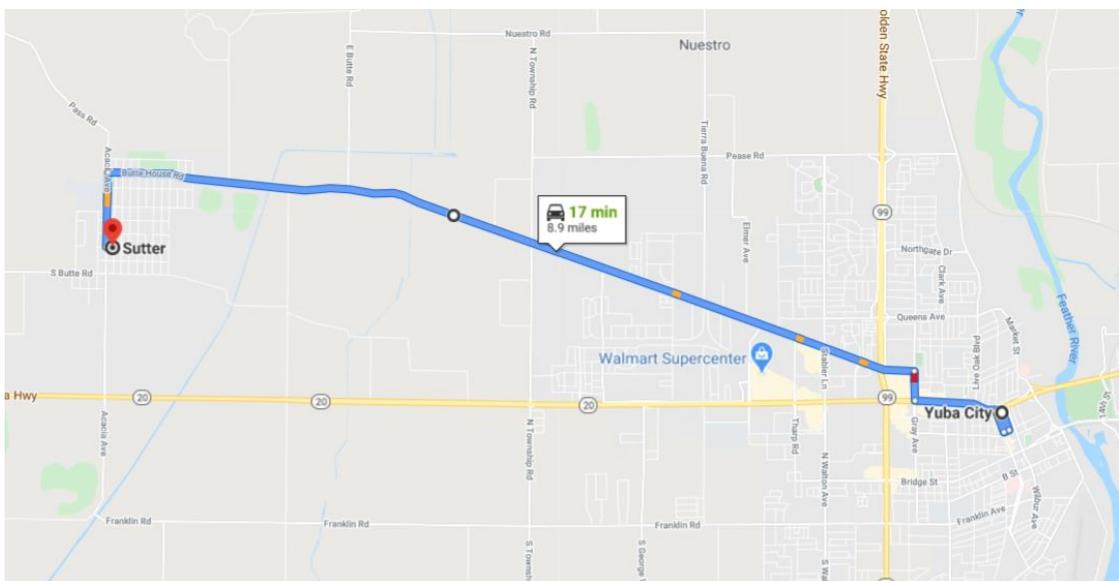
I find it interesting to learn that John Milton Burks was the last to die of four Burks brothers (mentioned above) who made the move from Missouri to Sutter County. It also is interesting to see that he was a successful grower of fruit.

Here is a satellite view of the little town of Sutter, California, from Google Maps:



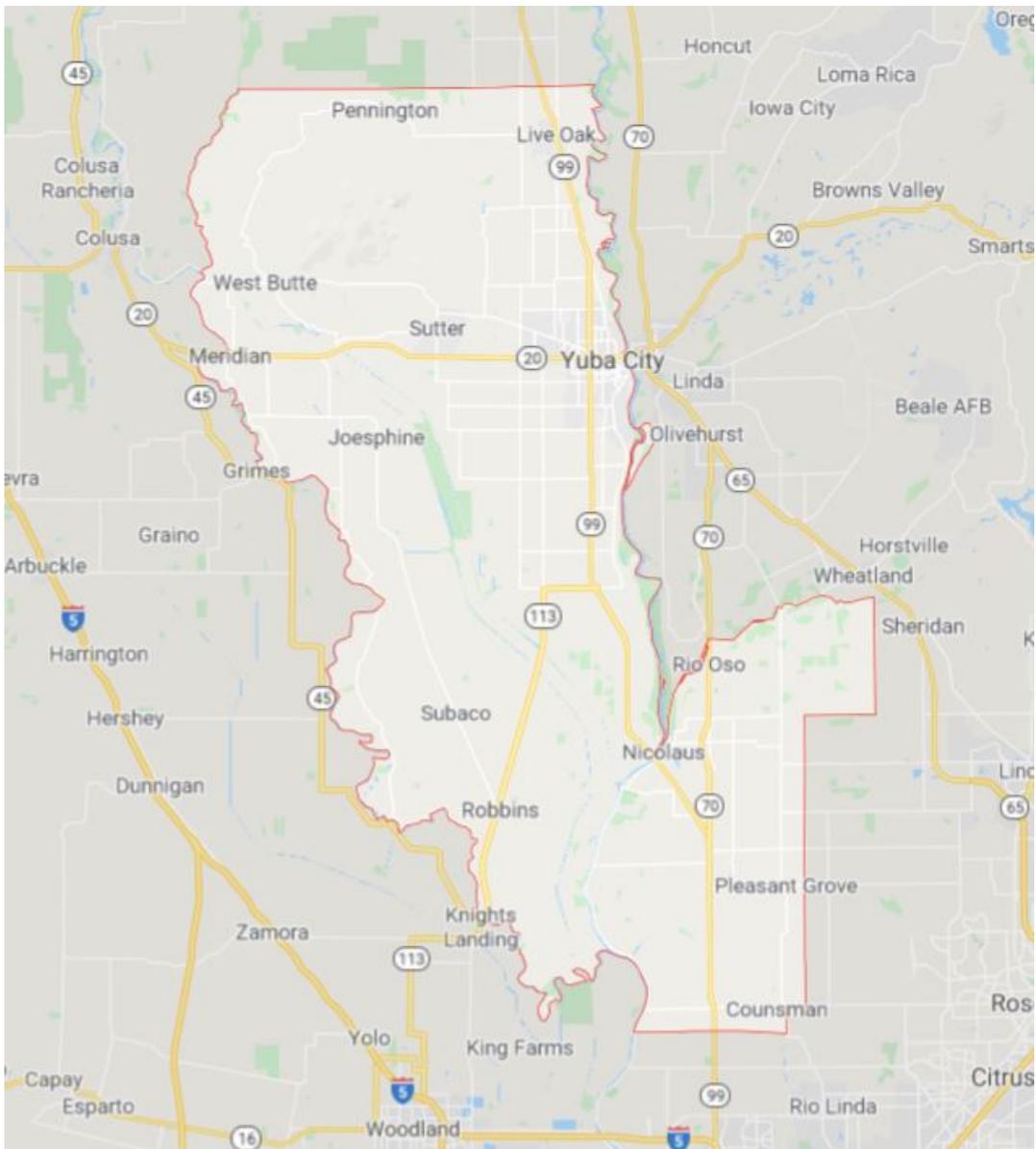
The Sutter Cemetery is marked with a red dot, and you can see that right outside the town are fruit orchards. So it all fits!

Sutter, California, is about 8 miles west of Yuba City (where George currently lives):

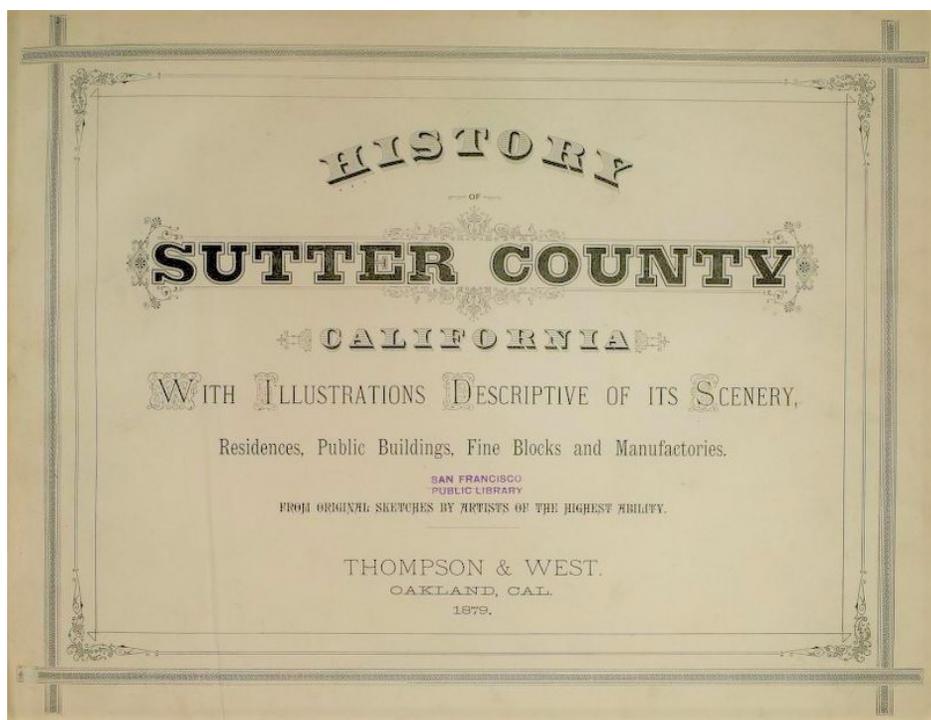


Yuba City is the county seat of Sutter County, California, United States. The population was 64,925 at the 2010 census.

Here is a Google Map showing Sutter County:

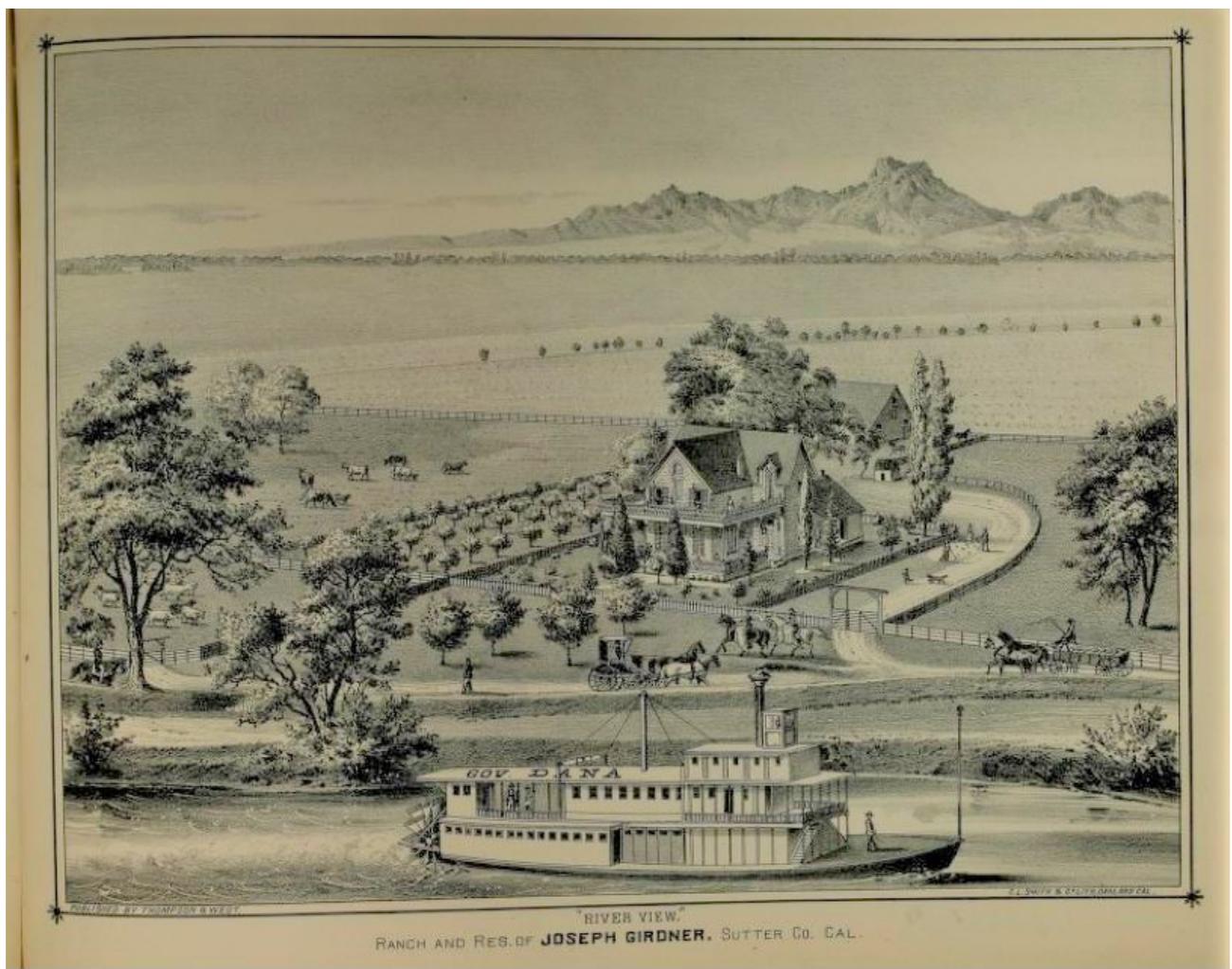


George told me about a book published in 1879 entitled *History of Sutter County California*.² Here is the title page:



Amazing to see the beautiful illustrations in this book – for example:

² <https://archive.org/details/historyofsutterc00cham/>



Note the fruit trees. Unfortunately, this book was published before the Burks family arrived in Sutter County, so this family name doesn't appear in the text.

At this point, I think I've done enough to cover George's Burks ancestors who moved west to California. Thanks to my DNA match with George Carpenter, I certainly have found an interesting branch of my Burks family!

My Shared DNA Matches with George Carpenter

George Carpenter and I have thirty-five "shared DNA matches" – that is, we both have a DNA match with the same set of thirty-five individuals. Of course, the reason that we both match these people has to be that they are Burks descendants. Unfortunately, most of these people do not have family trees on the Ancestry.com website, so I can't tell how they fit into the Burks family.

Here is a screenshot showing a subset of six of these shared DNA matches where I know our relationships:



You and george carpenter

Predicted relationship: 4th-6th Cousin

Shared DNA: 41 cM across 2 segments

Trees Ethnicity Shared Matches

Filter by: Unviewed

Common ancestors

Search | Sort

4th Cousin

	Rebecca Post 4th-6th Cousin Shared DNA: 71 cM across 5 segments	Unlinked Tree
	Jerry scoggan 4th-6th Cousin Shared DNA: 45 cM across 3 segments	No Trees
	rlburks26 4th-6th Cousin Shared DNA: 39 cM across 3 segments	105 People
 Managed by MarkCorriston	M.B. 4th-6th Cousin Shared DNA: 28 cM across 1 segments	1,188 People Common ancestor
	Brenda Burks 4th-6th Cousin Shared DNA: 25 cM across 1 segments	12 People Common ancestor
 Managed by NormaBurksVaughn	C.V. 4th-6th Cousin Shared DNA: 23 cM across 1 segments	140 People Common ancestor

Rebecca Post – She is a granddaughter of Paul Hettich, who in turn was a son of Lola Lisle Burks. Lola Lisle Burks was a sister of my paternal grandmother Kate Cameron Burks.

Jerry Scoggan – He is descended from Lewis Roton Burks, who was a son of Levi Burks from his first marriage. Levi Burks was my second-great grandfather.

rlburks26 – He is descended from Allen James Burks, who was a brother of Levi Burks.

M.B. – This is Mary Josephine Burks (deceased). She is descended from William Burks and Elizabeth Eliza Cade through their son Willis Allen Burks.

Brenda Burks – She is descended from William Burks and Elizabeth Eliza Cade through their son Willis Allen Burks.

C.V. – This is Chris Vaughn; she is the daughter of Norma Burks Vaughn. Chris is descended from William Burks and Elizabeth Eliza Cade through their son Allen James Burks.

All of these six shared DNA matches are consistent with everyone being descended from William Burks and Elizabeth Eliza Cade. It is too bad that the other twenty-nine people with whom George and I have shared matches don't have family trees on the Ancestry.com website.

I should note that due to the random way that autosomal DNA is inherited, and the fact that autosomal DNA is "diluted" with each successive generation, I will have a different set DNA matches with Burks descendants than others in the family have. Note that my cousins Hal Oakley and Mark Eidem don't have DNA

matches with George Carpenter, but they do have DNA matches with Rebecca Post (who is a closer relative). And John Oakley (a great-great-grandson of Kate Cameron Burks) has a DNA match with **rlburks26**. My daughter Amy Oakley doesn't have DNA matches with George or with any of the six shared matches itemized above, but she does have a DNA match with Stephen Slane. Stephen's mother was Pauline Louise Burks, who was a daughter of Paul Dore Burks, and Paul was an older brother of Kate Cameron Burks. Hal and Mark both have matches with Stephen, as does Mark's daughter Mary Bowers. All this points out the need to test as many people as you can in a family, especially the older generations.

ThruLines™ for William Burks and Elizabeth Eliza Cade

I next thought it would be a good idea to look in more depth at my DNA matches with other descendants of William Burks and his wife Elizabeth Eliza Cade (my third-great grandparents). Here is my ThruLines™ for William Burks:



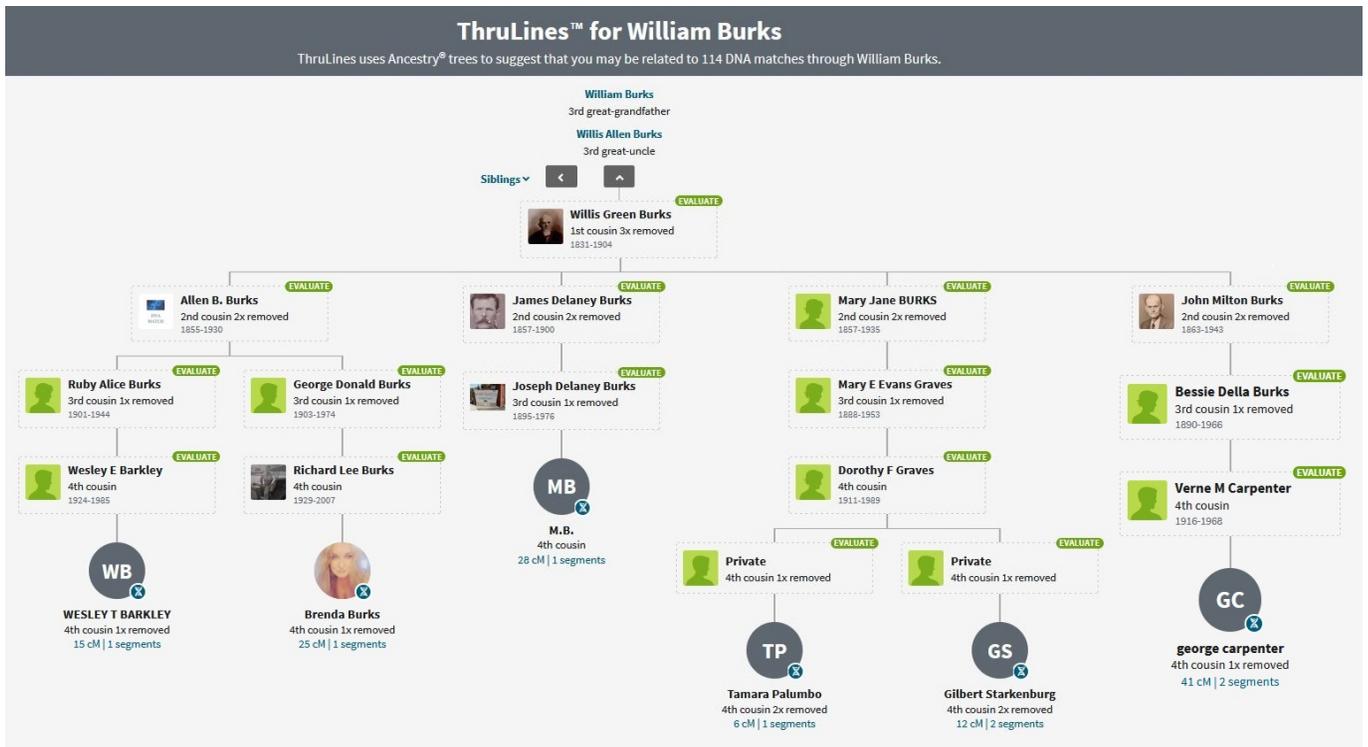
I find it amazing to see that I have DNA matches with 114 of the descendants of William Burks. I have DNA matches with descendants of all seven of his children. I should add that my ThruLines™ for Elizabeth Eliza Cade looks essentially the same as the one for her husband William Burks, but it shows that I only have DNA matches with 110 of her descendants. And I don't have the mental energy to account for the missing four. I will say that George Carpenter shows up in both of these ThruLines™.

I decided to include the details of George's branch back to William Burks in this narrative. Here is the relevant branch of the ThruLines™, showing the descendants of Willis Allen Burks (1784-1870):



This chart shows that I have DNA matches connecting back through four of Willis Allen Burks' children.

Finally, opening the line at the right that goes back through Willis Green Burks (1831-1904) shows this branch of the ThruLines™, with George Carpenter at the lower right:



I note that several of my DNA matches are with people who still have the Burks surname – namely Brenda Burks and a woman listed as **M.B.**, who was Mary Josephine Burks (1924–2019).

Phew! Quite amazing to see my DNA matches with all of these Burks descendants.

Summary

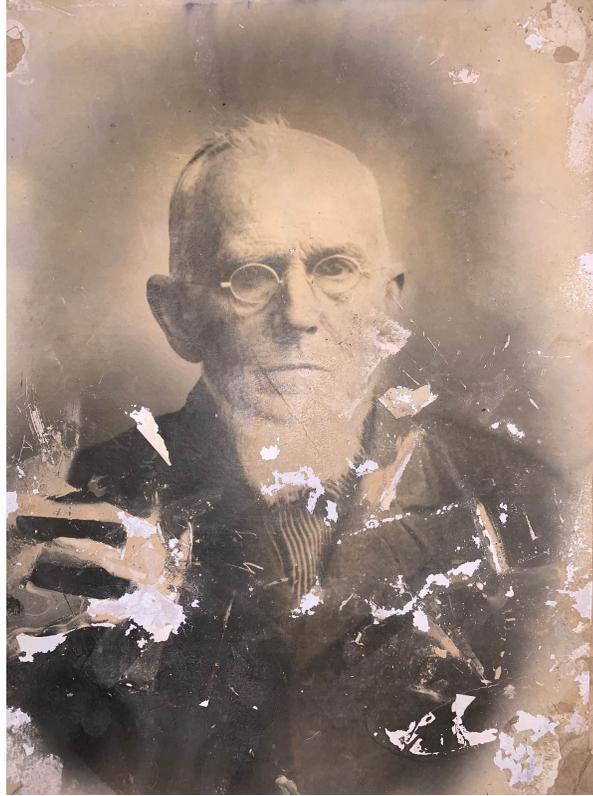
In this narrative, I discussed my DNA match with George Carpenter, who is my fourth-cousin once-removed. George and I are both descended from William Burks (1740-1830) and his wife Elizabeth Eliza Cade (1745-1789). George's branch of the Burks family ended up moving to Sutter County, California, around 1900, and I presented some information about this very interesting branch of the Burks family.

I also discussed some of the DNA matches that George and I have in common, and how the way that autosomal DNA is inherited means that we all have a different set of DNA matches with Burks descendants.

Finally, I presented my ThruLines™ going back to William Burks and Elizabeth Eliza Cade. I have 114 DNA matches with descendants of William, and 110 DNA matches with descendants of Elizabeth. I have DNA matches with descendants of all seven of their children.

Appendix

George Carpenter sent me this photo of Willis Green Burks (1831-1903), who was the first in this branch of the family to move to Sutter County, California. Recall that four of his sons also moved there.



The most interesting part of this photo is the family tree written on the back:

Willis Green Burks
father of
John Milton Burks
grandfather -
Abella B. Burks
great grand father
Dune M. Carpenter
g. g. grand father
George M. Carpenter

My translation:

Willis Green Burks
father of John Milton Burks
grandfather of
Della B. Burks [*who also appears in this narrative as Bessie Della Burks*]
great-grandfather
Verne M. Carpenter
g-g grandfather
George M. Carpenter

And George has been the focus of this narrative!