

Chapter 78

Karen Turnbell – A Burks Relative

[originally written 25 April 2021]

Introduction

I am using DNA on the Ancestry.com website to confirm and to extend my family tree. Several times each week, I look to see if I have any new DNA matches on this site; however, I'm really only interested in those matches where the software on the website is able to identify an ancestor (or ancestors) that a DNA match and I have in common. I typically get more than one hundred new DNA matches each week, but only once every few weeks do I get one showing a common ancestor. This is due to the fact that many of my DNA matches don't have family trees or their trees are not linked to their DNA profiles. So many people use the Ancestry.com website to learn about their "ethnicity" and are not at all interested in building a family tree or contacting their DNA matches. Frustrating!

New DNA Match with Karen Turnbell

In April 2021, I filtered my DNA matches on Ancestry.com to show only those matches with a common ancestor, and then sorted those results by date. In looking at this list, I found that I had a new DNA match with a woman named Karen Turnbell (the little blue dot indicates that I had not previously viewed this match):

The screenshot shows the 'Burks Oakley's DNA Matches' interface. At the top, there are options for 'List' and 'Map'. Below that, there are filter buttons for 'Unviewed' and 'Common ancestors', along with 'Search' and 'Sort' options. A section titled 'Last 7 days' contains a match for Karen Turnbell. Her profile picture is shown with a small blue dot in the bottom-left corner. The match details are: '4th - 6th Cousin' and '31 cM | < 1% shared DNA'. To the right, there are icons for 'Public linked tree' (972 People) and 'Common ancestor'.

Karen and I share 31 cM of DNA and based solely on the size of this match, we could be as close as fourth-cousins.

I then looked to see who our common ancestor was (or perhaps, who our common ancestors were):

How are you and Karen Turnbull related?

Common Ancestors

According to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect you and Karen Turnbull. View a common ancestor to see the relationship path that connects you.

Karen Turnbull could be your 4th cousin 2x removed through:



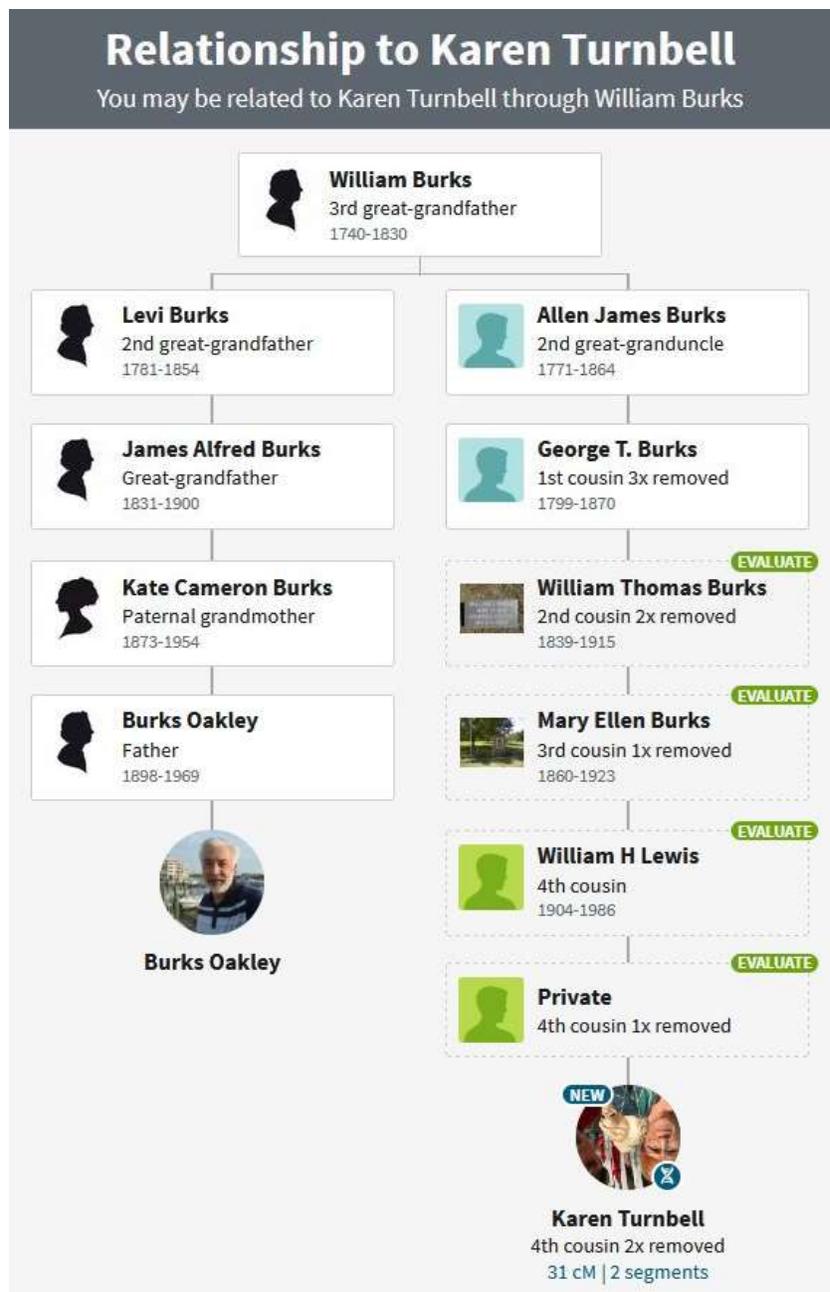
William Burks
3rd great-grandfather
1740-1830
[View Relationship](#)



Elizabeth Eliza Cade
3rd great-grandmother
1745-1789
[View Relationship](#)

Karen 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.

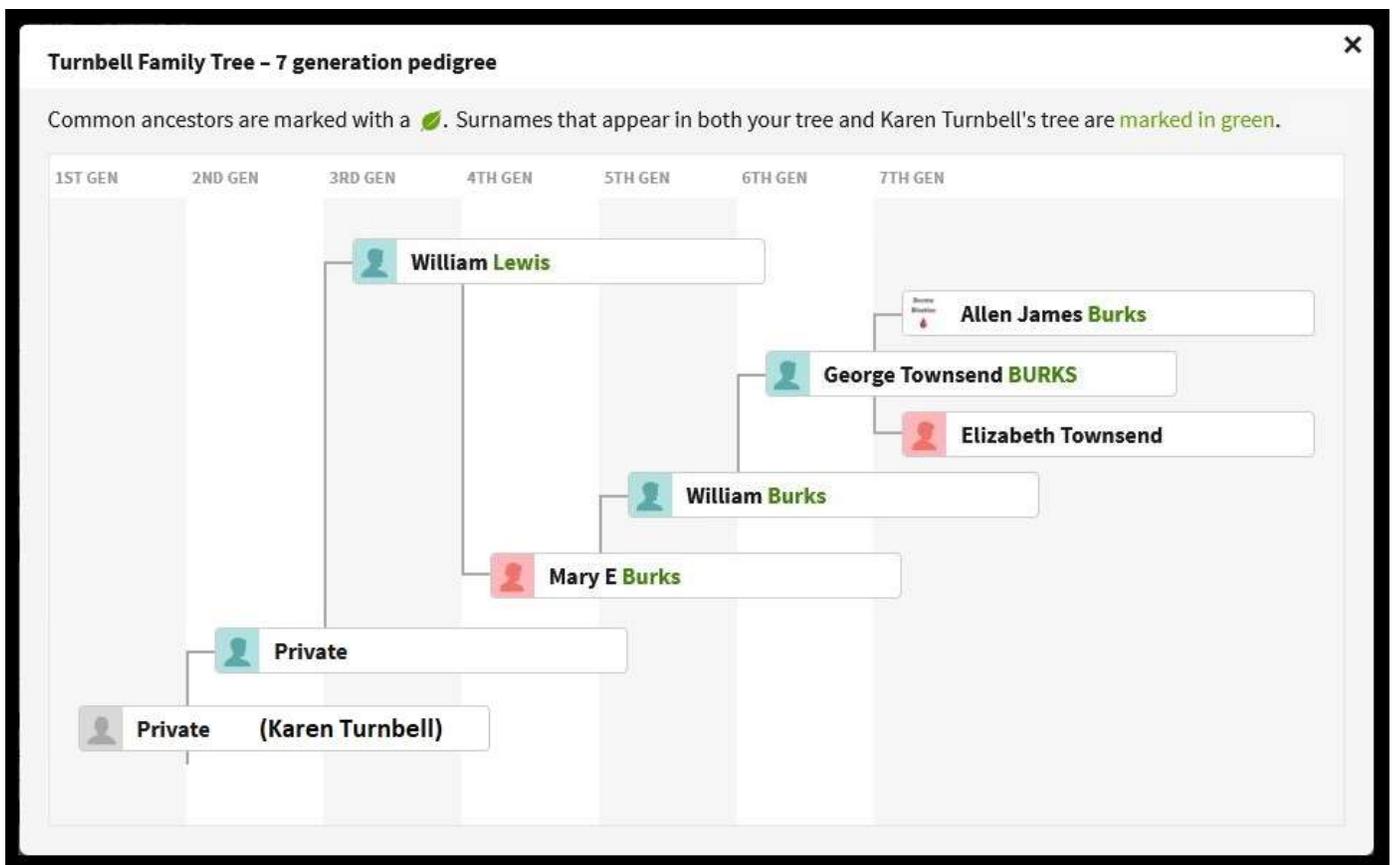
I went on to view a chart showing how Karen and I are related. This chart was constructed automatically by software on the Ancestry.com website:



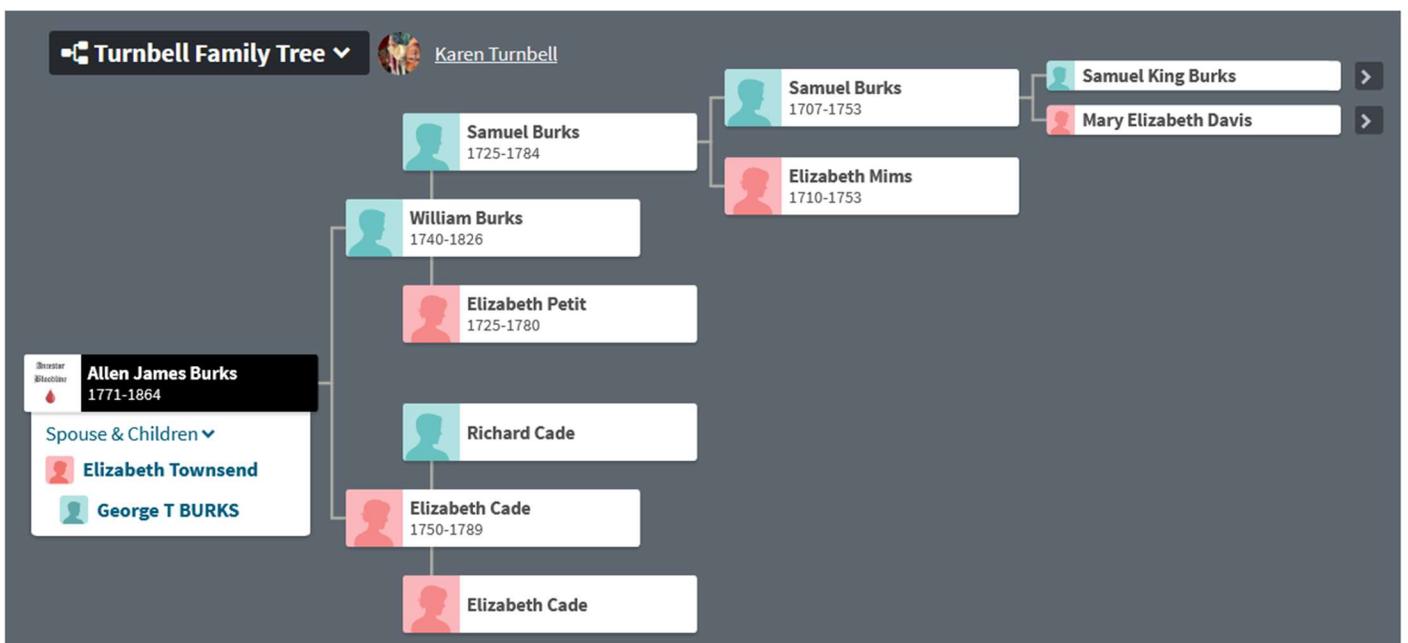
I am descended from William Burks through his son Levi Burks (1781-1854), while Karen is descended from William Burks through his son Allen James Burks (1771-1864). Based on this relationship chart, I was a fourth-cousin of Karen's paternal grandfather William H. Lewis (1904-1986). This means that Karen is my fourth-cousin twice-removed (4C2R).

Note that in the relationship chart on the previous page, Allen James Burks and his son George Townsend Burks (1799-1870) appear in white boxes with a solid border; this indicates that they already are in my family tree on Ancestry.com. The rest of Karen's line appears in boxes with dotted borders; I don't have these people in my family tree.

I next looked at Karen's family tree – well, really just her **Burks** line. Here is the relevant part of her pedigree:



Karen has the entire line back to Allen James Burks in her tree. In fact, she has a number of generations more:



This is really nice to see, and it agrees with my family tree.

In March 2020, the noted genetic genealogist Blaine T. Bettinger published a chart with the results of his research. The chart shows the average amount of shared DNA between two people with a known genealogical relationship:

The Shared cM Project – Version 4.0 (March 2020)												
Blaine T. Bettinger www.TheGeneticGenealogist.com CC 4.0 Attribution License			How to read this chart: 				Great-Great-Grandparent		GGGG-Aunt/Uncle			
Half GG-Aunt/Uncle 208 103 – 284	Great-Grandparent 887 485 – 1486						Great-Great Aunt/Uncle 420 186 – 713	1C3R 117 25 – 238	2c3R 51 0 – 154	Other Relationships		
Half 1C2R 125 16 – 269	Half Great-Aunt/Uncle 431 184 – 668	Grandparent 1754 984 – 2462				Great Aunt/Uncle 850 330 – 1467	1C2R 221 33 – 471	2c2R 71 0 – 244	3C2R 36 0 – 166	6C 18 0 – 71		
Half 2c1R 66 0 – 190	Half 1C1R 224 62 – 469	Half Aunt/Uncle 449 871 492 – 1315	Parent 3485 2376 – 3720			Aunt/Uncle 1741 1201 – 2282	1C1R 433 102 – 980	2c1R 122 14 – 353	3C1R 48 0 – 192	4C1R 28 0 – 126	6C1R 15 0 – 56	
Half 3c 48 0 – 168	Half 2c 120 10 – 325	Half 1C 449 156 – 979	Half-Sibling 1759 1160 – 2436	Sibling 2613 1613 – 3488	SELF	1C 866 396 – 1397	2c 229 41 – 592	3c 73 0 – 234	4c 35 0 – 139	5c 25 0 – 117	6C2R 13 0 – 45	
Half 3c1R 37 0 – 139	Half 2c1R 66 0 – 190	Half 1C1R 224 62 – 469	Half Niece/Nephew 871 492 – 1315	Niece/Nephew 1740 1201 – 2282	Child 3487 2376 – 3720	1C1R 433 102 – 980	2c1R 122 14 – 353	3C1R 48 0 – 192	4C1R 28 0 – 126	5C1R 21 0 – 80	7C 14 0 – 57	
Half 3c2R 27 0 – 78	Half 2c2R 48 0 – 144	Half 1C2R 125 16 – 269	Half Great Niece/Nephew 431 184 – 668	Great-Niece/Nephew 850 330 – 1467	Grandchild 1754 984 – 2462	1C2R 221 33 – 471	2c2R 71 0 – 244	3C2R 36 0 – 166	4C2R 22 0 – 93	5C2R 18 0 – 65	7C1R 12 0 – 50	
Half 3c3R	Half 2c3R	Half 1C3R 60 0 – 120	Half GG Niece/Nephew 208 103 – 284	Great-Great-Niece/Nephew 420 186 – 713	Great-Grandchild 887 485 – 1486	1C3R 117 25 – 238	2c3R 51 0 – 154	3C3R 27 0 – 98	4C3R 19 0 – 60	5C3R 13 0 – 30	8C 11 0 – 42	

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

Karen and I are fourth-cousins twice-removed (4C2R), and according to the chart shown above, 4C2R share 22 cM of DNA on average, with a range of 0 to 93 cM. So the 31 cM match I have with Karen is above average in size, but well within the observed range.

Ancestry.com has a feature that shows all of the people who have DNA matches with two individuals. I went on to look at the “Shared DNA Matches” that I have in common with Karen. A selected set of these shared matches are shown in the following chart:



You and Karen Turnbell

4th – 6th Cousin

< 1% shared DNA: 31 cM across 2 segments

Trees Ethnicity Shared Matches

Filter by:

Unviewed

Common ancestors

Search | Sort ▾

Extended Family

	Rebecca Post	3rd – 4th Cousin 71 cM 1% shared DNA	Unlinked Tree
	Jerry scoggan	4th – 6th Cousin 45 cM < 1% shared DNA	No Trees
	george carpent..	4th – 6th Cousin 41 cM < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 29 People Common ancestor
	rlburks26	4th – 6th Cousin 39 cM < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 105 People
	Rebecca Baker	4th – 6th Cousin 28 cM < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 7 People Common ancestor
	M.B. Managed by MACorri...	4th – 6th Cousin 28 cM < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 1,188 People Common ancestor
	kgranzella	4th – 6th Cousin 27 cM < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 13 People Common ancestor
	Brenda Burks	4th – 6th Cousin 25 cM < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 17 People Common ancestor
	C.V. Managed by NormaBurksVaughn	4th – 6th Cousin 23 cM < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 140 People Common ancestor
	Nina Edmondso..	4th – 6th Cousin 23 cM < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 121 People Common ancestor

I was amazed to see all the **Burks** relatives with whom we both have DNA matches. All the people on this list are known to me and all are **Burks** descendants. In the Appendix, I discuss the relationship of each of these individuals to my **Burks** ancestors. I still am amazed that the software on Ancestry.com is so powerful that it can identify this entire group of people.

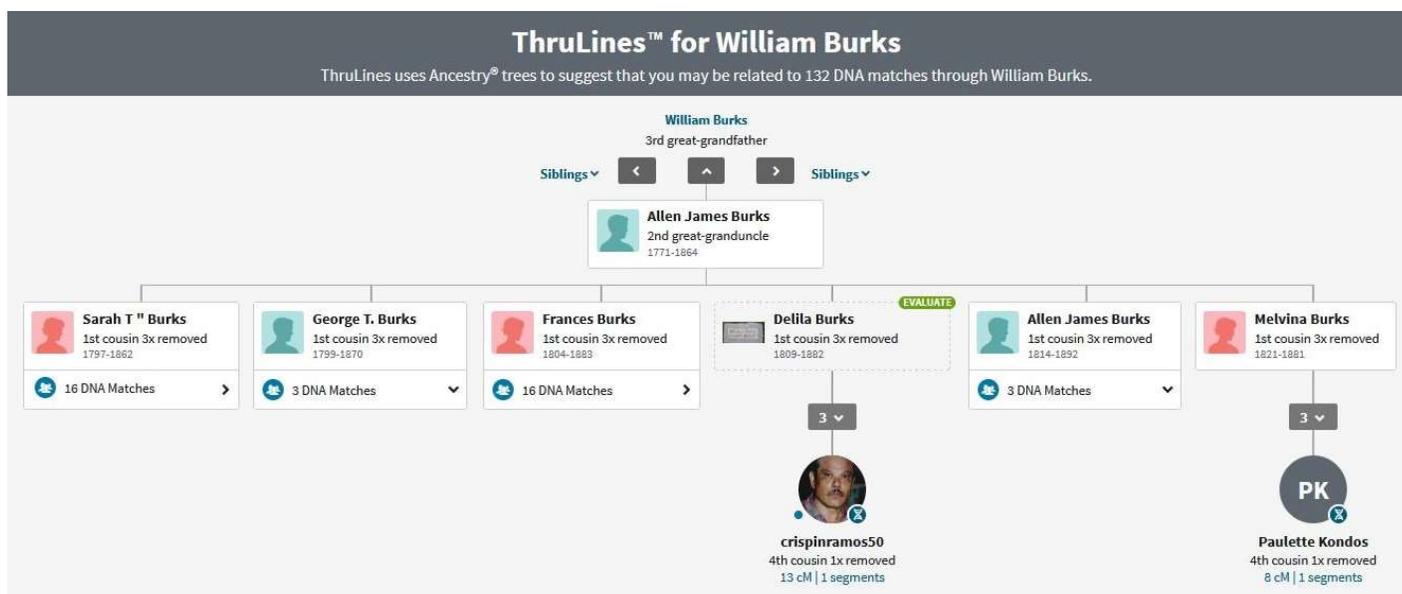
Of course, Karen and I have shared DNA matches with many more people, but they don't have family trees on the site, or their trees only go back a generation or two.

Finally, I looked at my ThruLines™ chart for William Burks:



Oh my! I have DNA matches with 132 descendants of William Burks – this is really amazing!! [As an aside, I only have DNA matches with 111 descendants of Elizabeth Eliza Cade – and this undoubtedly is due to errors in some of the family trees on the Ancestry.com website.]

Recall that Karen is descended from William Burks through his son Allen James Burks. Here is that part of my ThruLines™ chart:



I have DNA matches with 40 people who are descended from Allen James Burks – again, pretty amazing! It looks like I need to verify that Delila Burks (1809-1882) was really a daughter of Allen James Burks.

Karen’s line goes back through George Townsend Burks, and here is that part of my ThruLines™ chart:

ThruLines™ for William Burks

ThruLines uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 132 DNA matches through William Burks.



This branch of the chart shows my DNA match with **C.V.**, who I know is Chris Vaughn. Chris' mother is Norma J. Burks, and I met Norma in Naples, Florida, in 2016, along with Norma's sister Jackie Burks Oakley. I wrote a short narrative about them – see:

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/TwoMoreBurksRelatives_21Jan16.pdf

I find it interesting that my DNA matches in this branch are quite different than they were when I wrote about my ThruLines™ for William Burks in July 2019:

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

I guess people come and go on Ancestry.com.

Summary

In this short narrative, I began with my new DNA match with a woman named Karen Turnbell. We both are descended from William Burks (1740-1830) and his wife Elizabeth Eliza Cade (1745-1789). This couple were my third-great grandparents. Karen has a very complete **Burks** family pedigree in her family tree on the Ancestry.com website.

Karen and I have a large number of Shared DNA Matches with people known to be **Burks** descendants. My ThruLines™ chart going back to William Burks shows that I have 132 DNA matches with his descendants, which is really pretty amazing.

Finally, I have to say that given the large size of my DNA match with Karen, I'm surprised that none of my close **Oakley** relatives have a DNA match with her. I guess that just shows how randomly autosomal DNA is inherited.

Addendum

Karen's photo that is associated with her profile on Ancestry.com is upside-down. Here it is rotated by 180°:



Appendix

Here is a chart showing the **Burks** descendants with whom both Karen Turnbell and I have DNA matches:

Name	Relationship	Shared DNA	Tree Status
Rebecca Post	3rd - 4th Cousin	71 cM 1% shared DNA	Unlinked Tree
Jerry scoggan	4th - 6th Cousin	45 cM < 1% shared DNA	No Trees
george carpent..	4th - 6th Cousin	41 cM < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 29 People Common ancestor
rlburks26	4th - 6th Cousin	39 cM < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 105 People
Rebecca Baker	4th - 6th Cousin	28 cM < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 7 People Common ancestor
M.B. Managed by MACorri...	4th - 6th Cousin	28 cM < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 1,188 People Common ancestor
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C.V. Managed by NormaBurksVauehn	4th - 6th Cousin	23 cM < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 140 People Common ancestor
Nina Edmondso..	4th - 6th Cousin	23 cM < 1% shared DNA	Public linked tree 121 People Common ancestor

Rebecca Post – Rebecca is descended from James Alfred Burks (1831-1900) and his wife Mary Jane Cameron Crawford (1837-1902) through their daughter Lola Lise Burks (1867-1942).

Jerry Scoggan – Jerry is the father of Ada Scoggan (**browneyes463** on Ancestry.com). They are descended from Levi Burks through his son Lewis Roten Burks (1823-1865).

George Carpenter – George is descended from William Burks and his wife Elizabeth Cade through their son Willis Allen Burks (1784-1870).

Rlburks26 – This man is descended from William Burks and his wife Elizabeth Cade through their son Allen James Burks (1771-1864).

Rebecca Baker – Rebecca is descended from William Burks and his wife Elizabeth Cade through their son Allen James Burks (1771-1864).

M.B. – This woman is descended from William Burks and his wife Elizabeth Cade through their son Willis Allen Burks (1784-1870).

kgranzella – This woman is descended from William Burks and his wife Elizabeth Cade through their son Willis Allen Burks (1784-1870). Her maiden name was Burks.

Brenda Burks – Brenda is descended from William Burks and his wife Elizabeth Cade through their son Willis Allen Burks (1784-1870).

C.V. (Chris Vaughn) – Chris is descended from William Burks and his wife Elizabeth Cade through their son Allen James Burks (1771-1864).

Nina Edmundson – Nina is descended from Levi Burks through his son Lewis Roten Burks (1823-1865).