

Chapter 87

Jill Severn – A Burks Relative

[originally written 10 May 2022]

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 Jill Severn

In May 2022, 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 Jill Severn (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 tabs for 'List' and 'Map'. Below that, a 'Filter by:' section includes 'Unviewed' (selected) and 'Common ancestors'. A search bar with 'Search | Sort' is also visible. The main content area is titled 'Last 7 days' and features a match for 'Jill Severn'. The match details include a profile picture with a blue dot, the name 'Jill Severn', the relationship '2nd - 3rd Cousin', and '106 cM | 2% shared DNA'. To the right, there are icons for 'Public linked tree' (7 People) and 'Common ancestor'.

Jill and I share 106 cM of DNA, and we could be as close as second- or third-cousins.

I actually recognized the **Severn** surname when I saw it – I previously wrote about the descendants of James A. Burks (my great-grandfather):

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/38-Descendants-of-JamesABurks.pdf>

One of these descendants was Lloyd Severn, who was a great-grandson of James A. Burks. I immediately thought that Jill Severn must be in this branch of my family tree.

Ancestry.com calculates the probabilities of various relationships between two people, based on the size of their DNA match. These probabilities for my DNA match with Jill Severn are shown in the following screenshot:

You and Jill Severn
 Shared DNA: **106 cM** across **7 segments**
 Unweighted shared DNA: **106 cM**
 Longest segment: **31 cM**

Possible DNA relationships
 This table shows the percentage of the time people sharing 106 cM have the following relationships:

| Percent | Relationship |
|---------|---|
| 51% | 2nd cousin 1x removed Half 2nd cousin 1st cousin 3x removed Half 1st cousin 2x removed |
| 22% | 3rd cousin 2nd cousin 2x removed Half 2nd cousin 1x removed Half 1st cousin 3x removed |
| 20% | 2nd cousin 1st cousin 2x removed Half 1st cousin 1x removed Half great-grandaunt/granduncle Half great-grandniece/grandnephew |
| 4% | 3rd cousin 1x removed Half 3rd cousin Half 2nd cousin 2x removed 2nd cousin 3x removed |

Our most likely relationship is second-cousin once-removed, with a 51% probability. Other possibilities include third-cousin (22% probability) and second-cousin (20% probability).

I went on to view the ancestors that Jill and I have in common:

How are you and Jill Severn related?

Common Ancestors 🏠

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

Jill Severn could be your 2nd cousin 1x removed through:



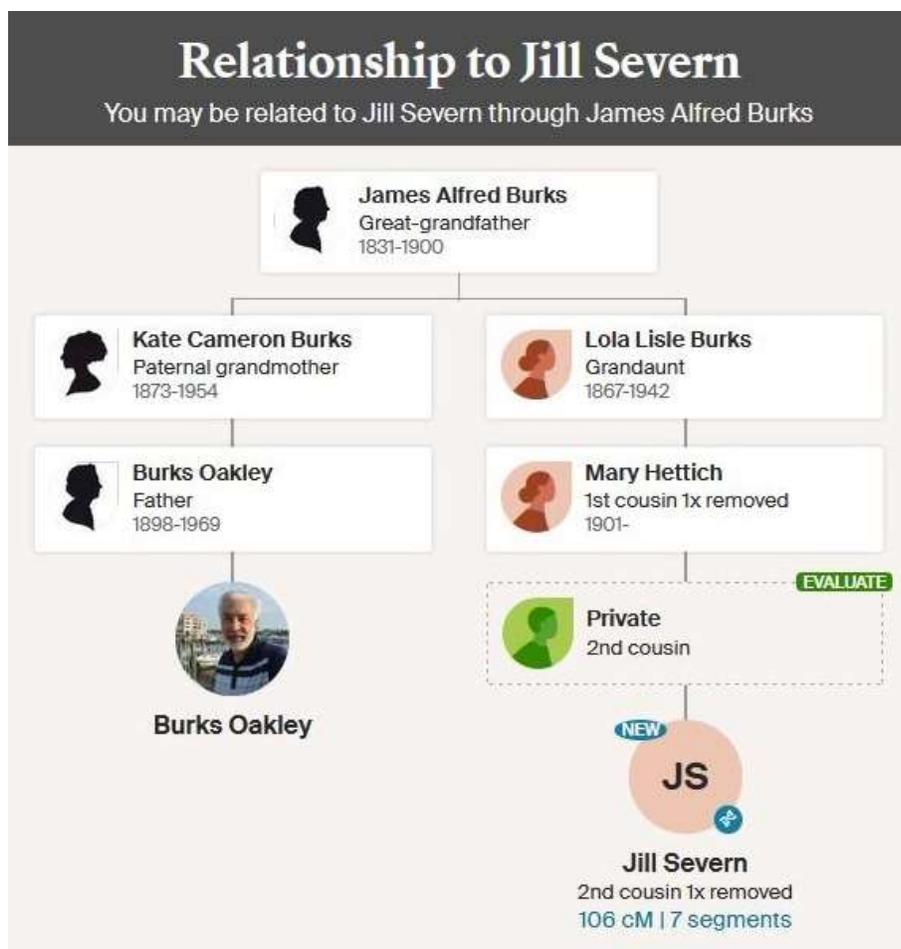
James Alfred Burks
 Great-grandfather
 1831-1900
[View Relationship](#)



Mary Jane Cameron Crawford
 Great-grandmother
 1837-1902
[View Relationship](#)

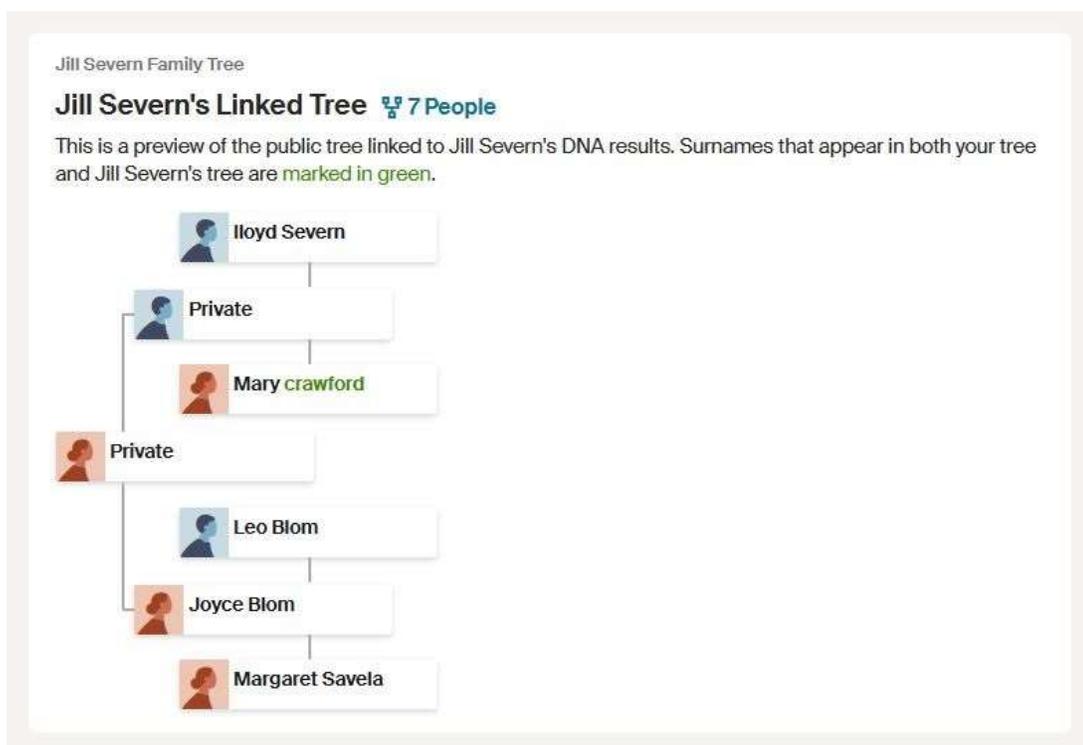
As I originally thought, we both are descended from James Alfred Burks (1831-1900) and his wife Mary Jane Cameron Crawford (1837-1902). This couple were my great-grandparents.

Ancestry.com automatically created a chart showing how Jill and I are related:



I am descended from James A. Burks through his daughter Kate Cameron Burks (1873-1954), while Jill is descended from James A. Burks through his daughter Lola Lisle Burks (1867-1942). According to this chart, I am a second-cousin of Jill's father, which means that Jill and I are second-cousins once-removed. Recall that Ancestry.com predicted that this relationship was the most likely, based solely on the size of our DNA match.

I next looked at Jill's pedigree on Ancestry.com:



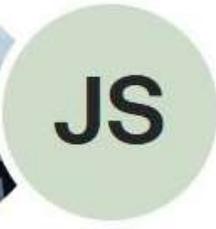
I was surprised to see that Jill's pedigree doesn't go beyond her four grandparents. This chart shows her paternal grandmother to be Mary Crawford, and there aren't any facts, such as a date or place of birth, associated with her. In fact, Jill doesn't have any facts for any of the ancestors shown in her pedigree – just their names.

The relationship chart shown earlier had Jill's paternal grandmother as Mary Hettich (1901-1972). This is the same name that I had in my earlier chapter about my DNA matches with descendants of James A. Burks.¹

More Details about DNA Matches with Descendants of James A. Burks

I then went on to look at all of the DNA matches that I have in common with Jill Severn. Software on the Ancestry.com website automatically prepares a list of all of the people with whom Jill and I have a DNA match that is 20 cM or larger. This list is shown on the next page:

¹ <http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/38-Descendants-of-JamesABurks.pdf>



You and Jill Severn

2nd – 3rd Cousin

2% shared DNA: 106 cM across 7 segments

Trees Ethnicity Shared Matches

Filter by:

Unviewed

Common ancestors

Q Search | Sort ▾

Close Family



Hal Oakley

1st – 2nd Cousin
418 cM | 6% shared DNA

Public linked tree
353 People
 Common ancestor



Mark Eidem

1st – 2nd Cousin
418 cM | 6% shared DNA

Public linked tree
540 People
 Common ancestor



David EIDEM

2nd – 3rd Cousin
246 cM | 4% shared DNA

Unlinked Tree



Stephen Slane

2nd – 3rd Cousin
241 cM | 3% shared DNA

No Trees

Extended Family



nsn94

2nd – 3rd Cousin
135 cM | 2% shared DNA

Public linked tree
2 People



Rebecca Post

3rd – 4th Cousin
71 cM | 1% shared DNA

Unlinked Tree



Gayle Forster

3rd – 4th Cousin
65 cM | < 1% shared DNA

Unlinked Tree



saffronbluefraser

4th – 6th Cousin
64 cM | < 1% shared DNA

Public linked tree
3 People



don severn

4th – 6th Cousin
60 cM | < 1% shared DNA

Public linked tree
7 People
 Common ancestor



Sharon Baker

4th – 6th Cousin
38 cM | < 1% shared DNA

No Trees



Brandon Clark

4th – 6th Cousin
35 cM | < 1% shared DNA

Public linked tree
2 People



Jan Ogle

4th – 6th Cousin
20 cM | < 1% shared DNA

Private unlinked Tree

Let me now go through this list by size of match in descending order.

Hal Oakley – His paternal grandfather, Thomas Crawford Oakley, was my father's youngest brother. Hal is a second-great grandson of James A. Burks.

Mark Eidem – His paternal grandfather, William Burr Oakley, was one of my father's brothers. Mark is a second-great grandson of James A. Burks.

David Eidem – He is Mark Eidem's son, and thus a third-great grandson of James A. Burks.

Stephen Slane – He is a grandson of Paul Dore Burks, and thus a great-grandson of James A. Burks. His mother was Pauline Louise Burks (a daughter of Paul Dore Burks). Pauline's sons were Oliver and Stephen, and her second husband was a Slane. Her second husband adopted her two sons and they changed the family name to Slane. I have been in contact with Stephen's wife Julia Slane.

nsn94 – I believe that this person is Lloyd Severn, and is Jill's father, and thus a great-grandson of James A. Burks.

Rebecca Post – She is a granddaughter of Paul C. Hettich (1909-2002), who was a son of Lola Lisle Burks! Paul Hettich was my father's first-cousin. So Rebecca is a second-great granddaughter of James A. Burks.

Gayle Forster – She is a daughter of Joseph Post (1920-2009), and therefore a sister of Rebecca Post. I guess that **Forster** is her married name, rather than her maiden name.

saffronbluefraser – While she and I have shared DNA matches with a number of **Burks** relatives, she does not have a family tree on the Ancestry.com website.

Don Severn – He is the brother of Jill Severn, and thus a second-great grandson of James A. Burks. More below.

Sharon Baker, Brandon Clark, and Jan Ogle – They don't have family trees on Ancestry.com, so I don't have any way to know how we are related.

Overall, there is really good support that most of the people on my list of shared DNA matches with Jill Severn are all descendants of James A. Burks (and, of course, his wife Mary Jane Cameron Crawford).

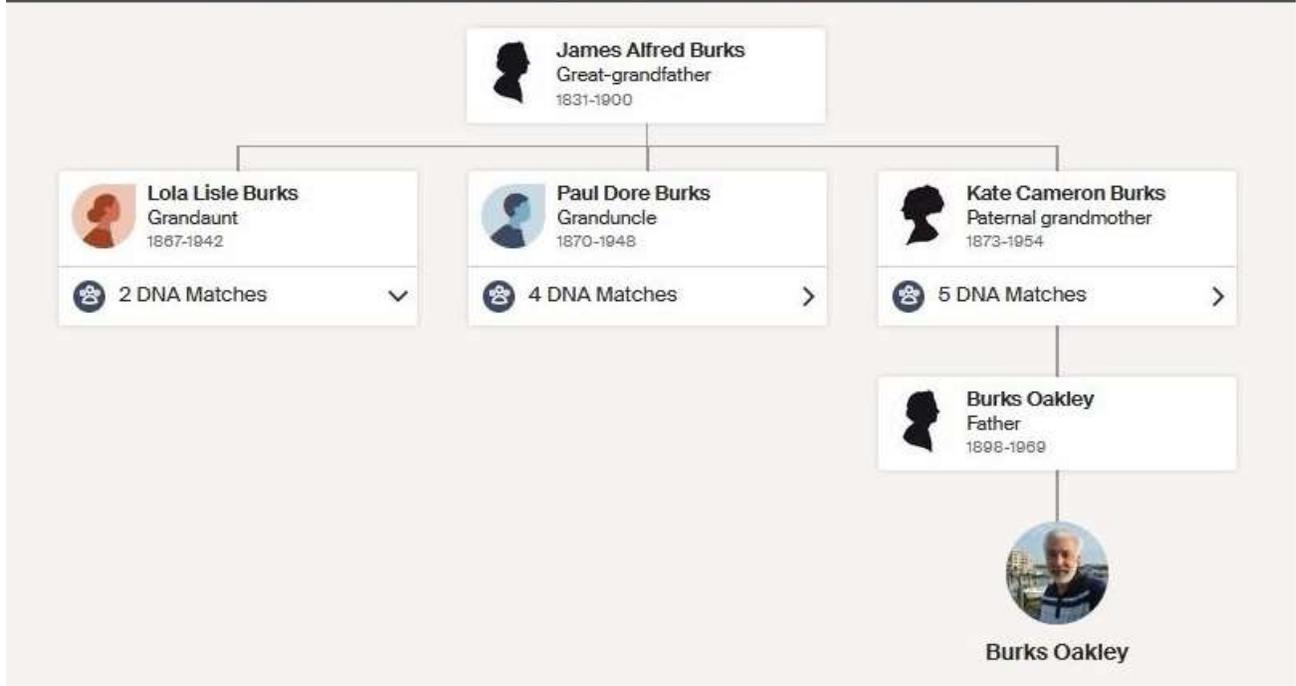
I have to note that the listing of Shared DNA Matches does not include my daughter, Amy Oakley, nor does it include Mark Eidem's daughter, Mary Bowers. Given that I have a DNA match with Jill that is 106 cM, and Mark has a DNA match with Jill that is 43 cM, I find it strange that neither Amy nor Mary have a match with Jill that is at least 20 cM in size.

ThruLines™ for James A. Burks

For completeness, I decided to review the ThruLines™ charts for James A. Burks (and his wife, Mary Jane Cameron Crawford). Here is the initial ThruLines™ chart:

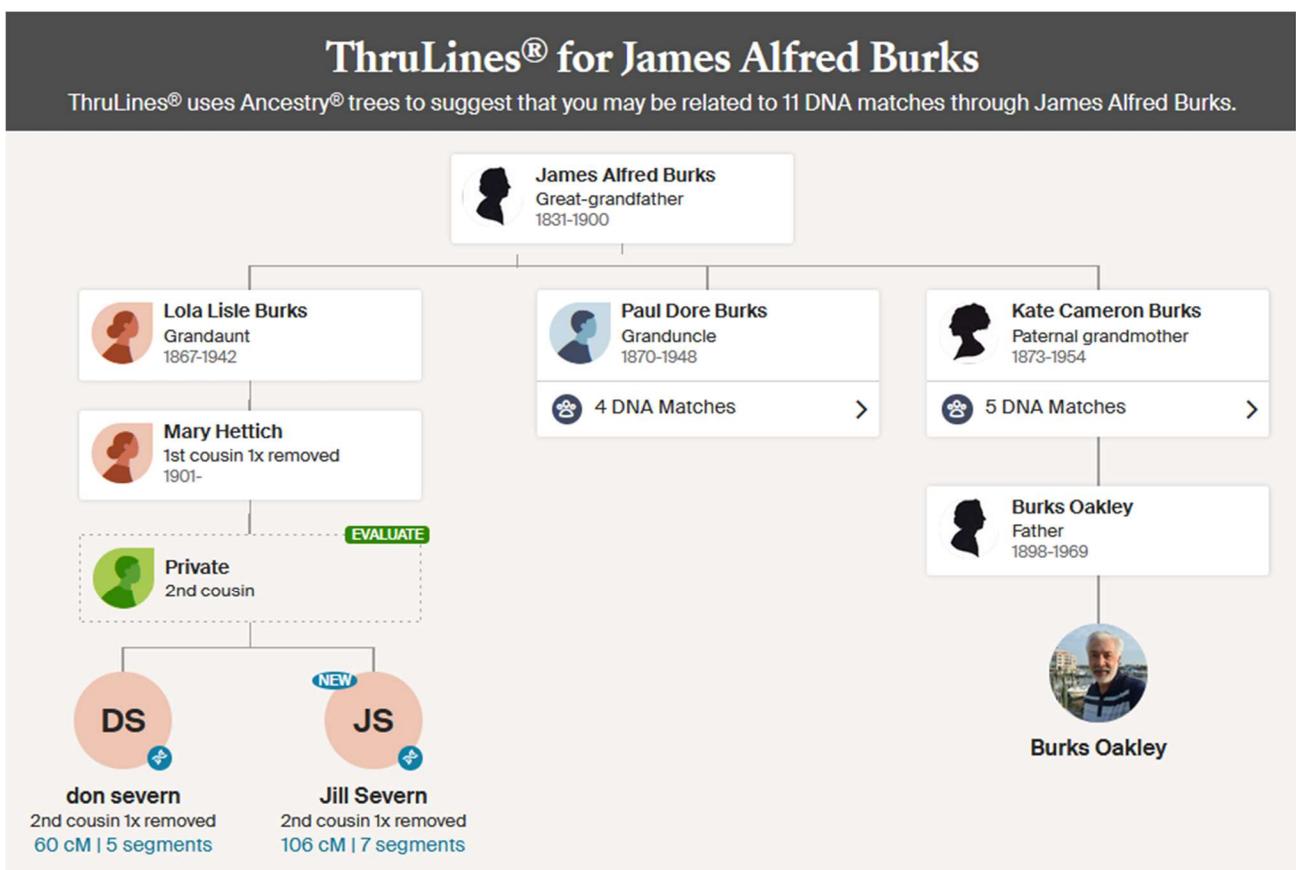
ThruLines® for James Alfred Burks

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 11 DNA matches through James Alfred Burks.



This chart shows that I have eleven DNA matches with descendants of James A. Burks – two through his daughter Lola Lisle Burks, four through his son Paul Dore Burks, and five through his daughter Kate Cameron Burks. I should note that all the ThruLines™ charts for Mary Jane Cameron Crawford are identical to the charts for James A. Burks, with Mary Jane substituted for James at the top of the chart.

Here is the same chart with the line through Lola Lisle Burks opened:



This chart shows my connections to Don Severn and Jill Severn, and it is obvious from this chart that they are brother and sister.

Based on all the information I have from Ancestry.com, I believe that **nsn94** is their father, Lloyd Severn (most likely Lloyd A. Severn Jr.).

My eleven DNA matches in the ThruLines™ for James A. Burks are shown in list form below:

ThruLines® for James Alfred Burks

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 11 DNA matches through James Alfred Burks.

[Relationships](#) [List](#)

Lola Lisle Burks Family Line 2 matches ^

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|--|------------------------------|
| NEW JS | Jill Severn | 3rd–4th cousin ↻ 106 cM across 7 segments | 2nd cousin 1x removed ↻ 7 |
| DS | don severn | 4th–6th cousin ↻ 60 cM across 5 segments | 2nd cousin 1x removed ↻ 7 |

Paul Dore Burks Family Line 4 matches ^

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| MI | mikecascone@gmail.com | 3rd–4th cousin ↻ 106 cM across 7 segments | 2nd cousin 1x removed ↻ 11 |
| DO | Donconyers22 | 4th–6th cousin ↻ 27 cM across 3 segments | 2nd cousin 1x removed ↻ 243 |
| | trentcon | 4th–6th cousin ↻ 22 cM across 2 segments | 2nd cousin 2x removed ↻ 7,570 |
| | Tiera Mae Everitt | 5th–8th cousin ↻ 15 cM across 1 segments | 2nd cousin 2x removed ↻ 99 |

Kate Cameron Burks Family Line 5 matches ^

| | | | |
|-----------|--|--|----------------------------------|
| | You James Alfred Burks is your great-grandfather. | | |
| AO | Amy Oakley | Parent/child–immediate family ↻ 3,455 cM across 29 segments | Daughter ↻ 2,119 |
| HO | Hal Oakley | 1st–2nd cousin ↻ 418 cM across 18 segments | 1st cousin 1x removed ↻ 353 |
| ME | Mark Eidem | 1st–2nd cousin ↻ 418 cM across 18 segments | 1st cousin 1x removed ↻ 540 |
| BB | Brittany Bunce | 2nd–3rd cousin ↻ 213 cM across 12 segments | 1st cousin 2x removed ↻ 1,785 |
| JO | J.O. | 3rd–4th cousin ↻ 196 cM across 7 segments | 1st cousin 2x removed ↻ 70 |

I previously have written about the Paul Dore Burks line

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/38-Descendants-of-JamesABurks.pdf>

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/42-StephenSlane-BurksCousin.pdf>

Random Musings

I wrote above that I was puzzled that Jill and I didn't have shared DNA matches with Amy Oakley and with Mary Bowers.

Since I have access to Amy's DNA profile on Ancestry.com, I looked into this a little more. It turns out that Amy does have a DNA match with ***nsn94***, who I believe is Jill's father. But this match is only 10 cM in size. So Amy's match with Jill would be smaller than 10 cM – too small to be on the list of shared DNA matches (which require a minimum size match of 20 cM). In fact, Amy's doesn't have a DNA match with Jill (which requires a minimum size match of 8 cM).

Jill's match with Mark Eidem is 43 cM, and Mark's son David Eidem shows up on the list of shared DNA matches for Mark and Jill. But Mark's daughter Mary doesn't. It would appear that Mary's match with Jill is less than 20 cM.

Summary

In this short chapter, I began with my new DNA match with a woman named Jill Severn. Jill and I share 106 cM of DNA. We both are descended from James Alfred Burks (1831-1900) and his wife Mary Jane Cameron Crawford (1837-1902). This couple were my great-grandparents. Jill is descended from their daughter Lola Lisle Burks, while I am descended from their daughter Kate Cameron Burks. Jill and I are second-cousins once-removed.

Jill and I share DNA matches with a number of other descendants of the ***Burks-Crawford*** couple. Some of these people have family trees on Ancestry.com that have enough information to put them in the ThruLines™ charts for James A. Burks and Mary Jane Cameron Crawford, while others do not have family trees on Ancestry.com, but are known to me through previous research.

Overall, the DNA matches characterized in this chapter provide strong support for the ***Burks-Crawford*** branches of my family tree on Ancestry.com.