

My New DNA Match with Amanda Colwell (and what are the odds?)

By Burks Oakley II
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Earlier today, I checked the Ancestry.com website to see if I had any new DNA matches. I almost always filter all my matches (currently 54,852 in number) so I only see those matches that (1) I have not viewed previously and (2) where software on the Ancestry.com website was able to find our common ancestor(s). Most days, this process turns up zero matches that meet the two criteria.

But today was different – this filtering process identified my new DNA match with Amanda Colwell:

Burks Oakley

Summary

Origins

Matches

Traits

Common ancestor

Unviewed

Clear all

Filter 2

Create group

Search

Sort

Distant Family



Amanda Colwell

Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed

Paternal side

29 cM | < 1% shared DNA

Public linked tree 3 people

Common ancestor

Note that both the “Common ancestor” and “Unviewed” filters were being used. I have a 29 cM DNA match with Amanda.

Of course, I immediately looked at the details of this match – and I looked first at our common ancestor:

How are you and Amanda Colwell related?

Common Ancestors

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

Amanda Colwell could be your half 4th cousin through:



William Lewis Crawford

3rd great-grandfather

1792-1868

View Relationship

Oh my! We both are descended from William Lewis Crawford Sr. (1792-1868). Just yesterday, I finished writing a lengthy narrative about this man – who had

twelve children with his first wife. After she died, he was a widower for 23 years. Then he married a (very) young woman who was 49 or 50 years younger than he was. And he had six more children with her! See:

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/RandyChrisley_4Feb25.pdf

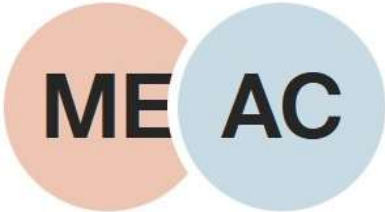
What are the odds that I would write about William Lewis Crawford Sr. one day, and then find a new DNA match going back to him the very next day.

I went on to look at our “Shared DNA Matches” – the top two from my perspective are shown here:

Shared match:	Your:	Amanda Colwell's:
 Tim Oakley  	Your: 1st cousin 1x removed 511 cM Paternal side	Amanda Colwell's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 26 cM
 J.O. Managed by ginnyoak   	Your: 1st cousin 2x removed 196 cM Paternal side	Amanda Colwell's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 25 cM

These matches are with Tim Oakley and Josh Oakley (**J.O.**). Josh is two generations more removed from William Sr. than I am, yet he still has a 25 cM DNA match with Amanda.

I should add that my cousin Mark Eidem also has a DNA match with Amanda:



Mark Eidem and
Amanda Colwell

Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed
Maternal side

< 1% shared DNA: 18 cM across 1 segments

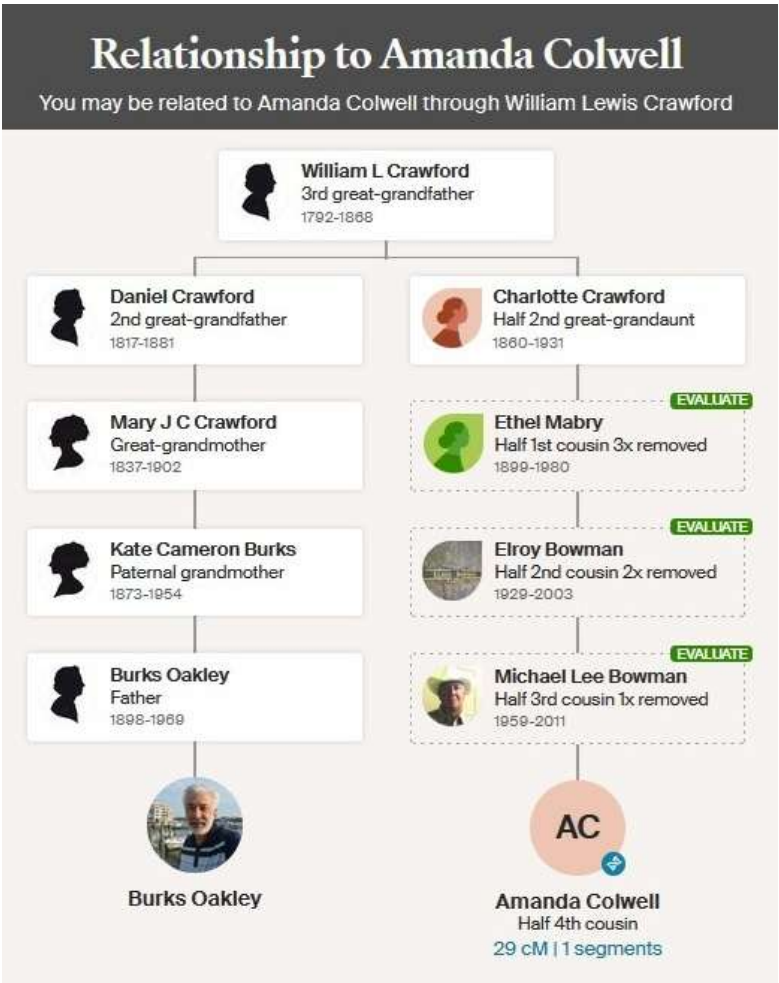
Since Mark’s match is less than 20 cM, he doesn’t appear on the list of “Shared DNA Matches”.

I also looked at my Shared DNA Matches with Amanda from her perspective:

Shared match:	 Your:	 Amanda Colwell's:
 Jeremy Bowman Managed by Paige Bowman	  + Your: Half 4th cousin 40 cM Paternal side	Amanda Colwell's: Brother 2,444 cM
	 + Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 15 cM Paternal side	Amanda Colwell's: Half uncle or granduncle 795 cM
 P.B. Managed by Iringelstetter	  + Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 20 cM Paternal side	Amanda Colwell's: Granduncle 725 cM
 Morgan Flinton	 + Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 17 cM Paternal side	Amanda Colwell's: 2nd cousin or half 1st cousin 1x removed 198 cM

Amanda’s largest DNA match is with her brother, Jeremy Bowman. I guess that this means Amanda’s maiden name was **Bowman**. She has three more large DNA matches, but only one of them (**P.B.**) has a common ancestor identified.

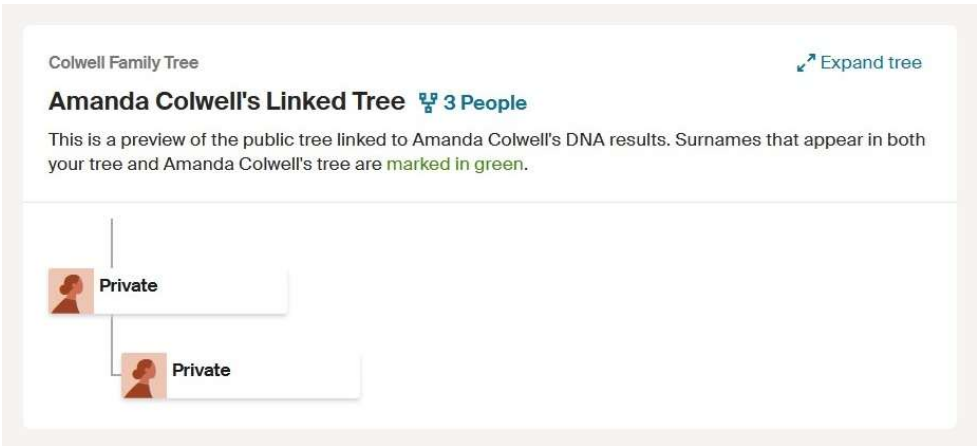
I went on to look at the chart showing how Amanda and I are related:



This chart shows that we both are descended from William Lewis Crawford Sr. I am descended from his son Daniel Crawford, while Amanda is descended from his daughter Charlotte Crawford. Note that Daniel was one of William Sr.’s children from his first marriage, while Charlotte was one of his children from his second marriage. This is why we are listed as “half” fourth-cousins in the relationship chart.

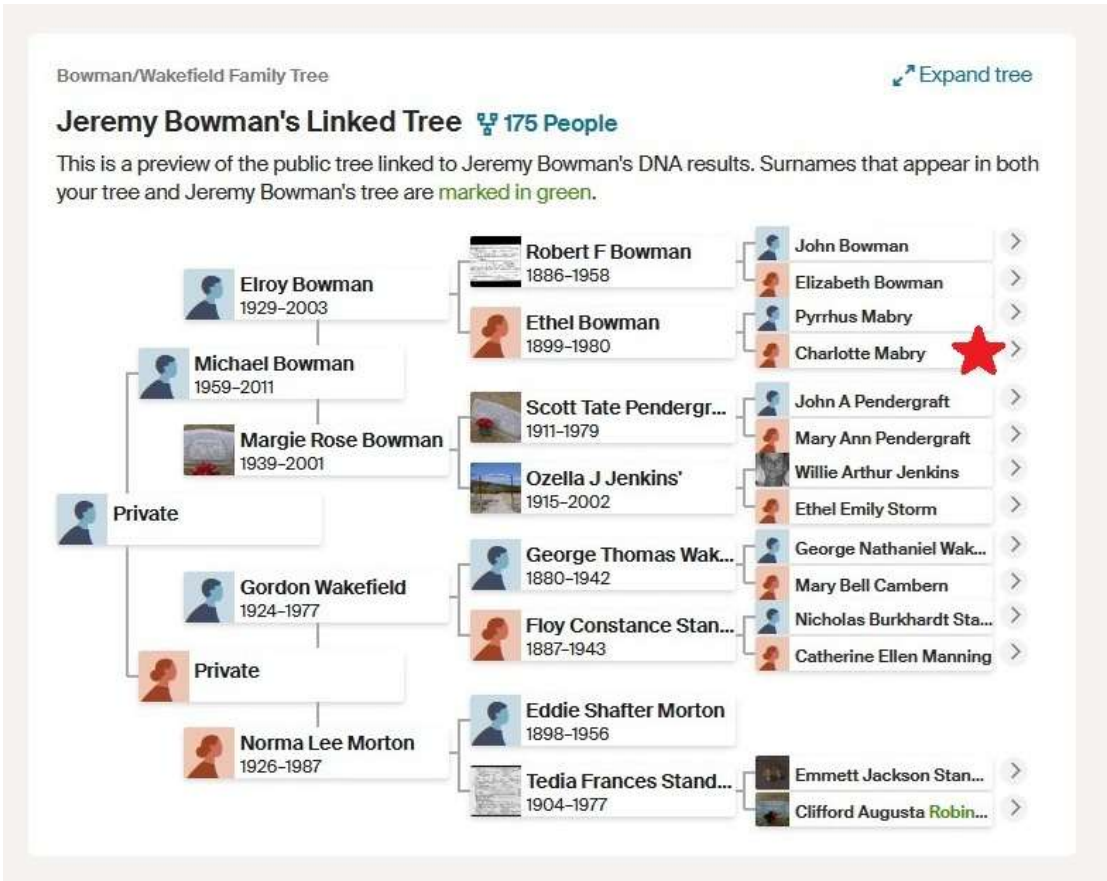
Amanda’s father was Michael Lee Bowman (1959-2011), so indeed her maiden name would have been **Bowman**.

I also looked at Amanda’s family tree (pedigree) on Ancestry.com:



Wow! She just has herself and her mother in this tree. I’m always amazed how the software on Ancestry.com can complete her tree back so many generations.

Of course, in this case, it isn’t all that amazing, since Amanda’s brother, Jeremy Bowman, has a very complete pedigree chart:

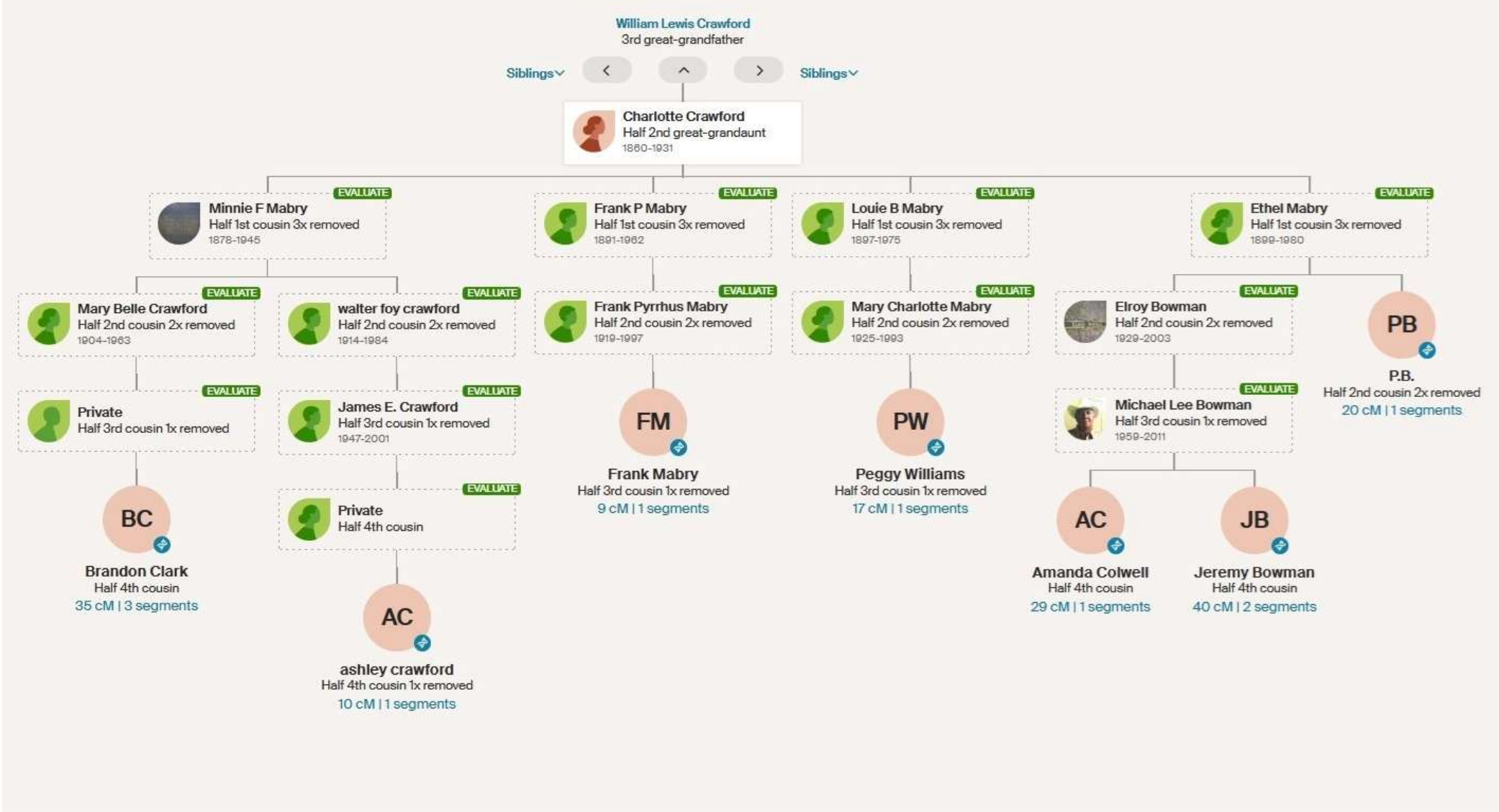


Jeremy’s pedigree chart goes back to Charlotte Mabry (née Crawford).

The only thing remaining is to look at the ThruLines® chart for William Lewis Crawford Sr. Actually, I’m only interested in the ancestral lines that connect back through Charlotte Crawford. That part of the ThruLines® chart is shown on the next page in landscape view:

ThruLines® for William Lewis Crawford

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 36 DNA matches through William Lewis Crawford.



I now have a total of 36 DNA matches with descendants of William Lewis Crawford Sr. Seven of those matches connect back through William Sr.'s daughter Charlotte.

Amanda and her brother Jeremy appear in the lower-right of the chart on the previous page, along with their great-uncle ***P.B.***

Note that in this ThruLines® chart, Charlotte Crawford (at the top of the chart) appears inside a solid white box. This indicates that she now is in my family tree on Ancestry.com. I added her and William Sr.'s other children from his second marriage late yesterday.

I sure was surprised to see my new DNA match with Amanda Colwell earlier today. What are the odds?