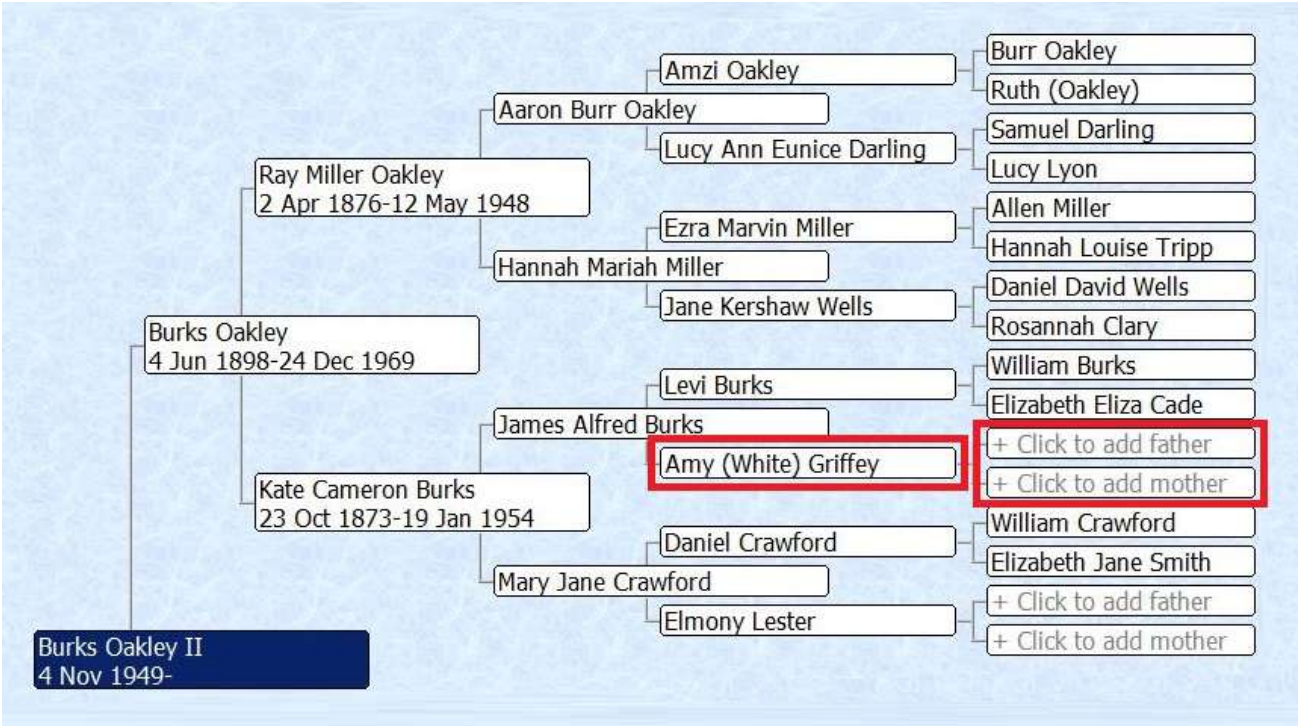


More Support for Amy Griffey’s Hypothesized Ancestry

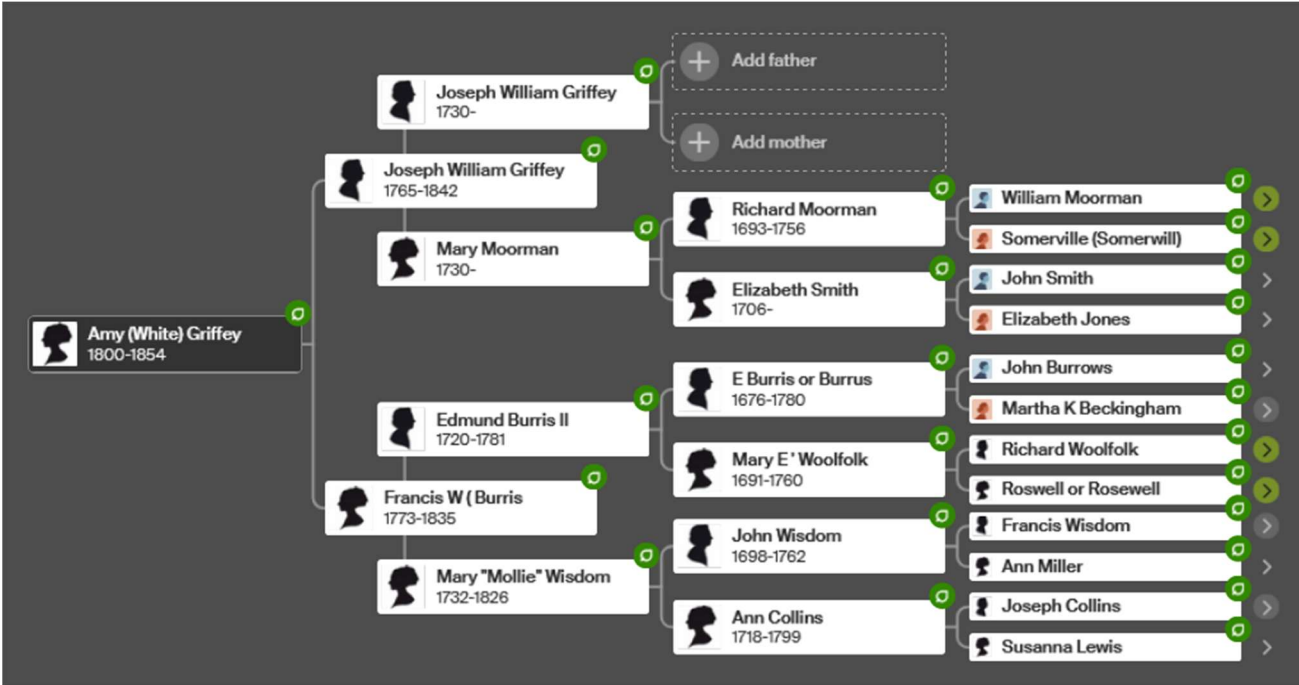
By Burks Oakley II
17 April 2026

When I first became interested in genetic genealogy more than a decade ago, the ancestors of my second-great grandmother, Amy Griffey (1800-1854), were unknown to me. Here is a screenshot from a narrative that I wrote early on about how I used DNA to break through the “brick wall” and hypothetically identify a number of her ancestors:



From: <http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/8A-GriffeyGenealogy.pdf>

At that time, Amy Griffey’s ancestors were completely unknown to me. But through DNA on Ancestry.com, here is what I currently have hypothesized as being Amy Griffey’s pedigree:



Even though I have a huge amount of DNA evidence to support this hypothetical branch of my family tree, I am always looking for more supporting evidence. And that is what this narrative is about.

As an aside, I often have written Amy Griffey’s name as *Amy (White) Griffey* – her first husband was a Mr. White (first name unknown).

I’ll begin this narrative with my new DNA match with a man having the username **Mendosolo**:

Unviewed X

Common ancestor X

Clear all

Distant Family



Mendosolo

4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed

Paternal side

7 cM | < 1% shared DNA

 Public linked tree

 169 people

 Common ancestor

He and I share just 7 cM, so we probably are rather distant relatives.

In fact, we both are descended from John Wisdom (1698-1762) and his wife Ann Collins (1718-1799):

How are you and Mendosolo related?

Common Ancestors



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

Mendosolo could be your 6th cousin through:



John Wisdom

5th great-grandfather

1698–1762

View Relationship



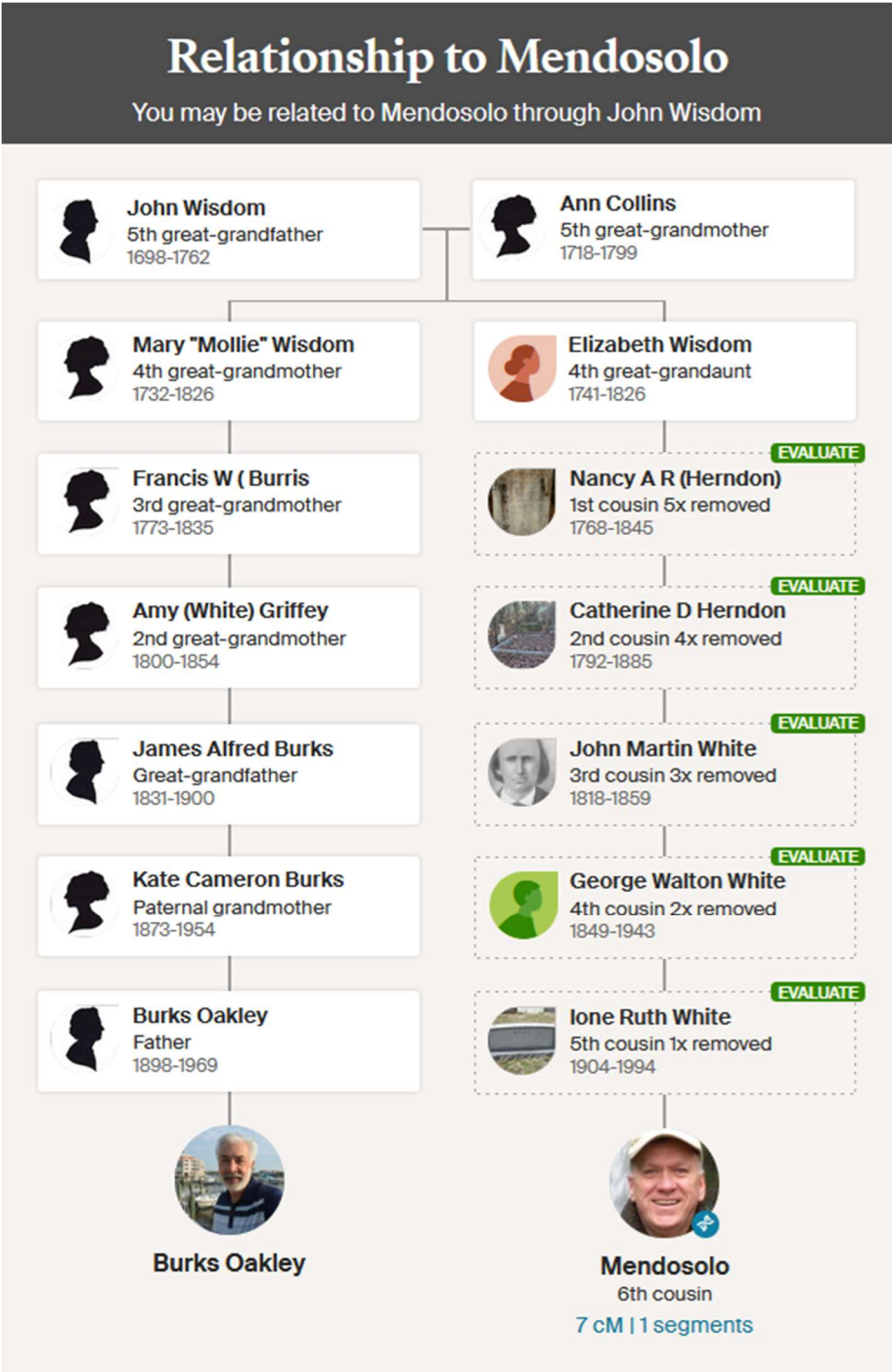
Ann Collins

5th great-grandmother

1718–1799

View Relationship

Here is a chart showing how **Mendosolo** and I are most likely related:

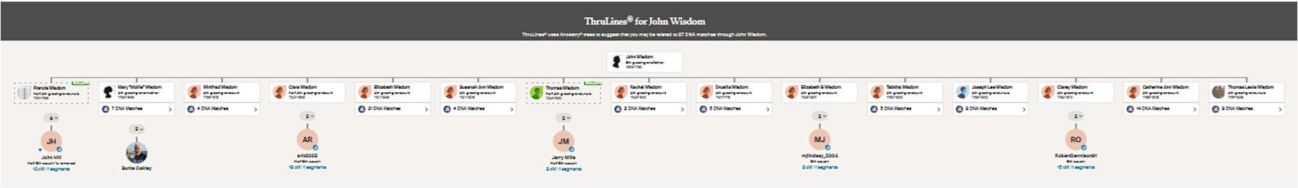


I am descended from the **Wisdom-Collins** couple through their daughter Mary “Mollie” Wisdom (1732-1826), while **Mendosolo** is descended from this couple through their daughter Elizabeth Wisdom (1741-1826). Based on this chart, **Mendosolo** and I are sixth-cousins. Note that my ancestral line back to the **Wisdom-Collins** couple goes through my second-great grandmother, Amy Griffey.

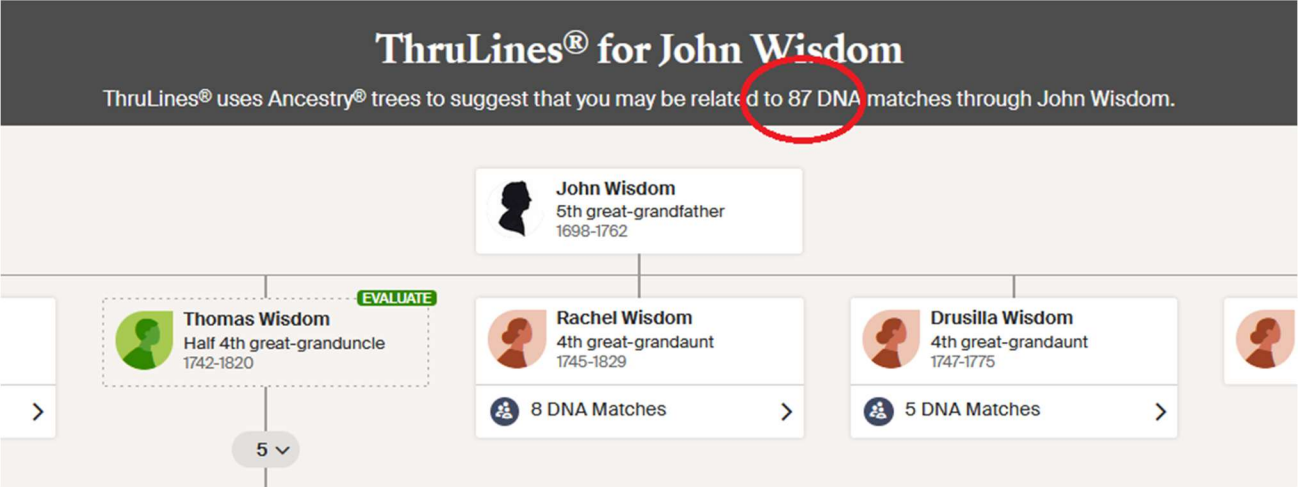
Continuing with my new DNA match with **Mendosolo**, I next looked at the DNA matches that we have in common – our so-called “Shared DNA Matches”. Although there are over one-hundred people on this list, software on Ancestry.com could only identify eight matches where our common ancestors are known:

Common ancestor ✕		
Shared match:	Your:	Mendosolo's:
 M. S. Managed by augirl47	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 22 cM Paternal side	Mendosolo's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 30 cM
 Larry Gold Sr.	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 15 cM Paternal side	Mendosolo's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 23 cM
 connie pounders	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 14 cM Paternal side	Mendosolo's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 29 cM
 Mary Sisk	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 11 cM Paternal side	Mendosolo's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 21 cM
 lisa mccafferty	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 10 cM Paternal side	Mendosolo's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 32 cM
 Maryanne K. Brown	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 10 cM Paternal side	Mendosolo's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 24 cM
 G. R. Managed by debra rowzee	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 9 cM Paternal side	Mendosolo's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 31 cM
 Shirley McLawhorn Managed by Charles Schimmel	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 9 cM Paternal side	Mendosolo's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 23 cM

All but one of these people (Mary Sisk) goes back to the **Wisdom-Collins** couple, and appear in my ThruLines® chart for John Wisdom (and also my ThruLines® chart for his wife, Ann Collins):



Of course, this chart is unreadable at this magnification – but the important point is that I have DNA matches with 87 descendant of John Wisdom (and his wife Ann Collins):



But Mary Sisk is different:

How are you and Mary Sisk related?

Common Ancestors

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

Mary Sisk could be your 5th cousin through:



Edmund Burris

4th great-grandfather

1720-1781

[View Relationship](#)



Mary "Mollie" Wisdom

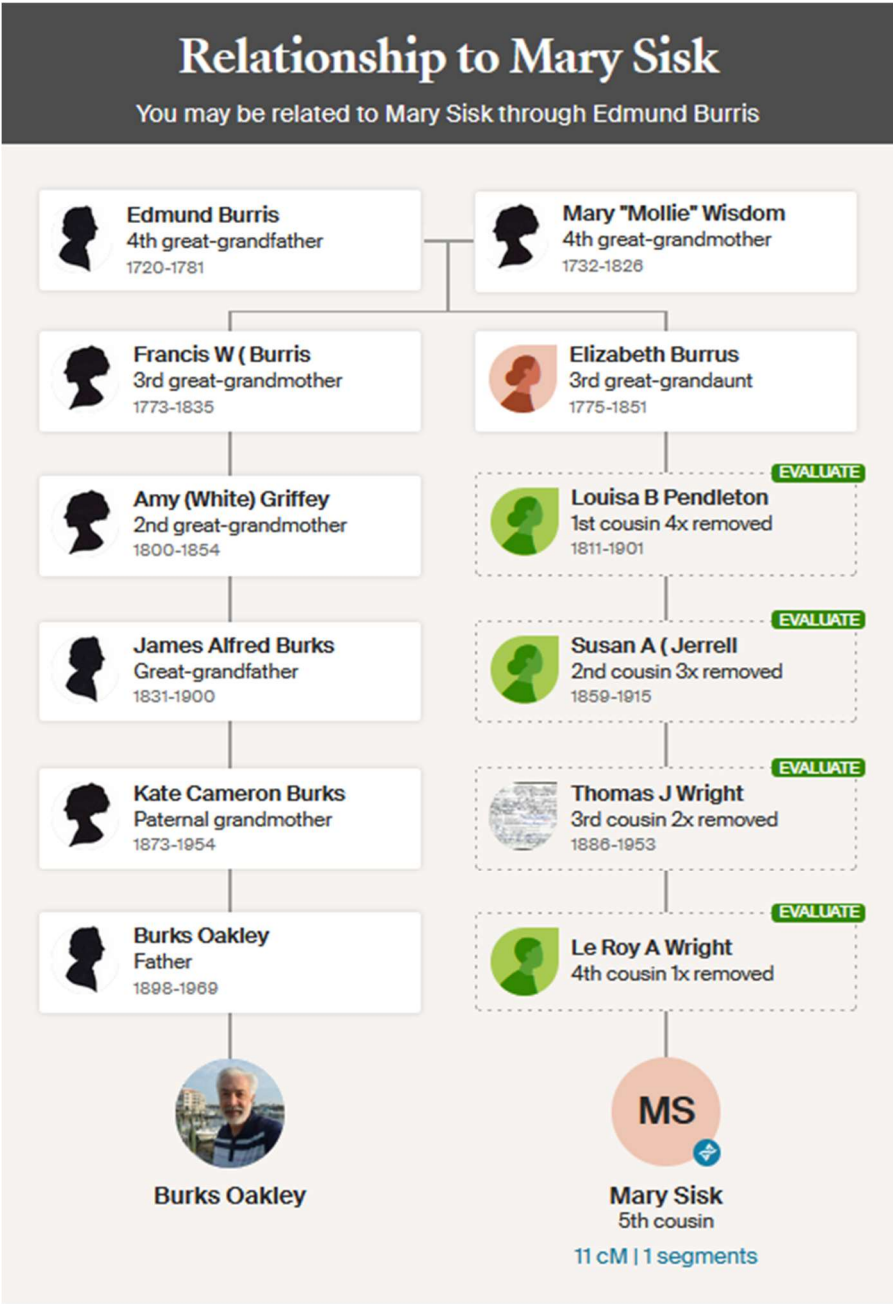
4th great-grandmother

1732-1826

[View Relationship](#)

Mary and I are descended from Edmund Burris (1720-1781) and his wife Mary “Mollie” Wisdom (1732-1826). Note that Mary was a daughter of the **Wisdom-Collins** couple.

Here is a chart showing how Mary and I are most likely related:



I created a new chart showing how Mary, *Mendosolo*, and I are related:



I have DNA matches with both Mary and *Mendosolo*. Mary has a 21 cM DNA match with *Mendosolo* (per Shared DNA Match screenshot a few pages back).

Moving on, Mary and I have a “Shared DNA Match” with Reece Young Jr.:

reece young jr.

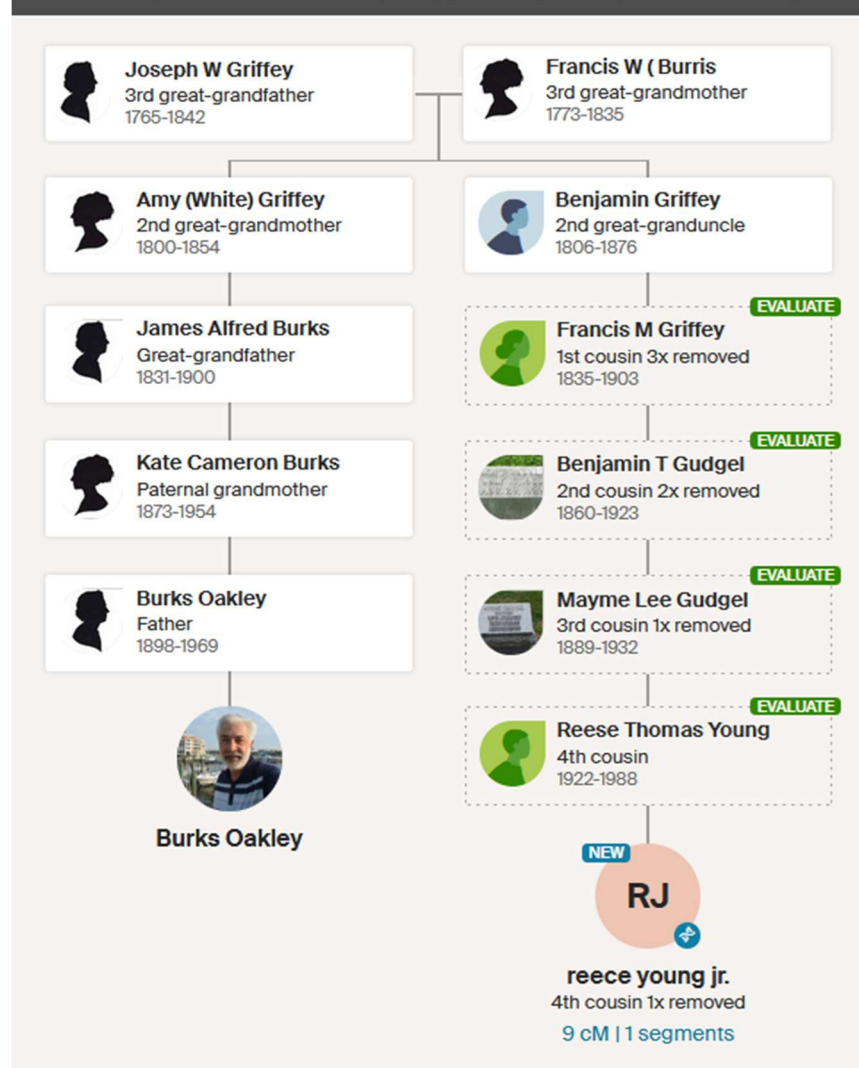
2 2 +

Your:
4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed
9 cM
Paternal side

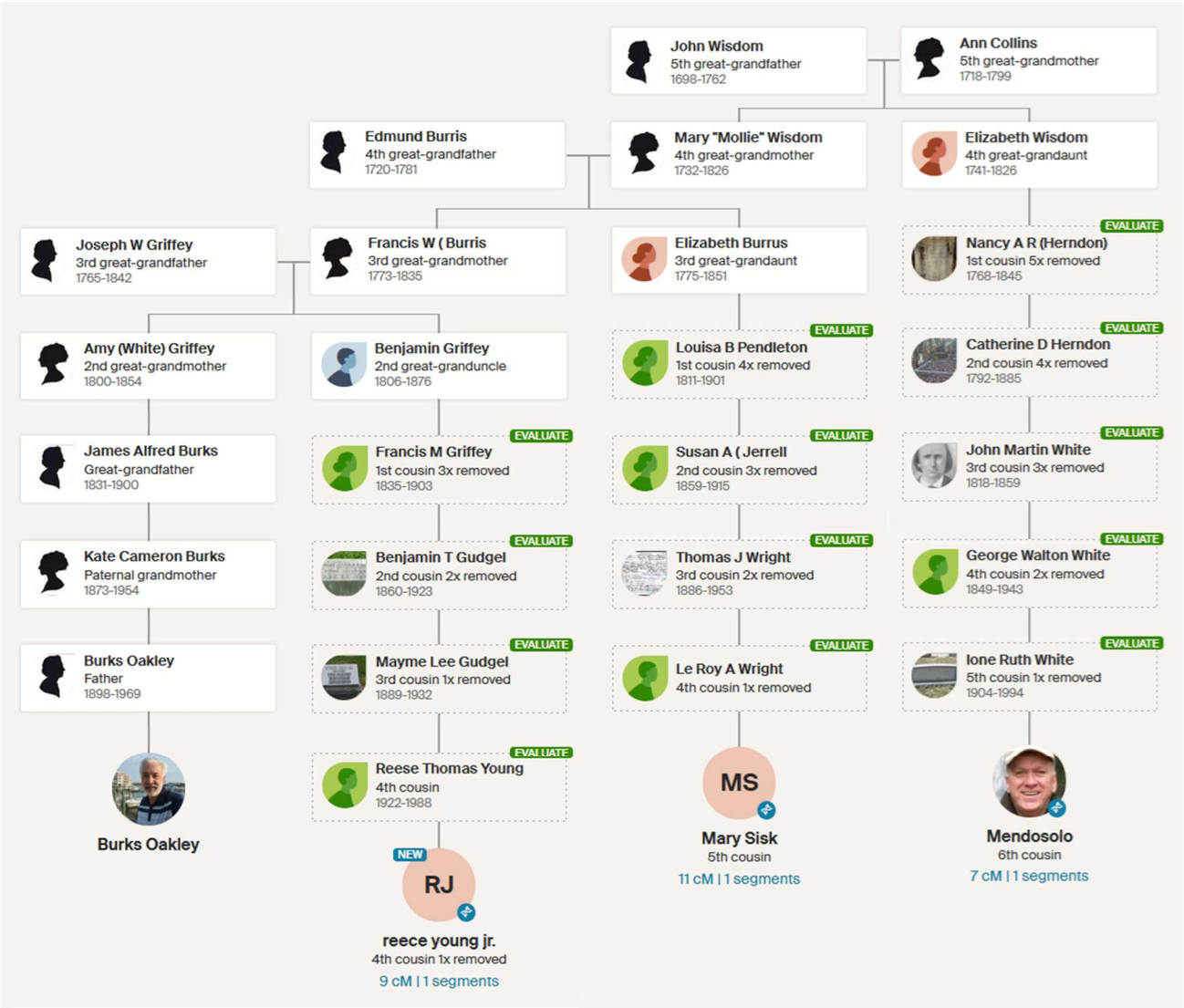
Mary's:
Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin
25 cM

Reece is descended from Joseph William Griffey and his wife Francis (Fanny) Burris:

You may be related to reece young jr. through Joseph William Griffey



I added Reece to the overall relationship chart:



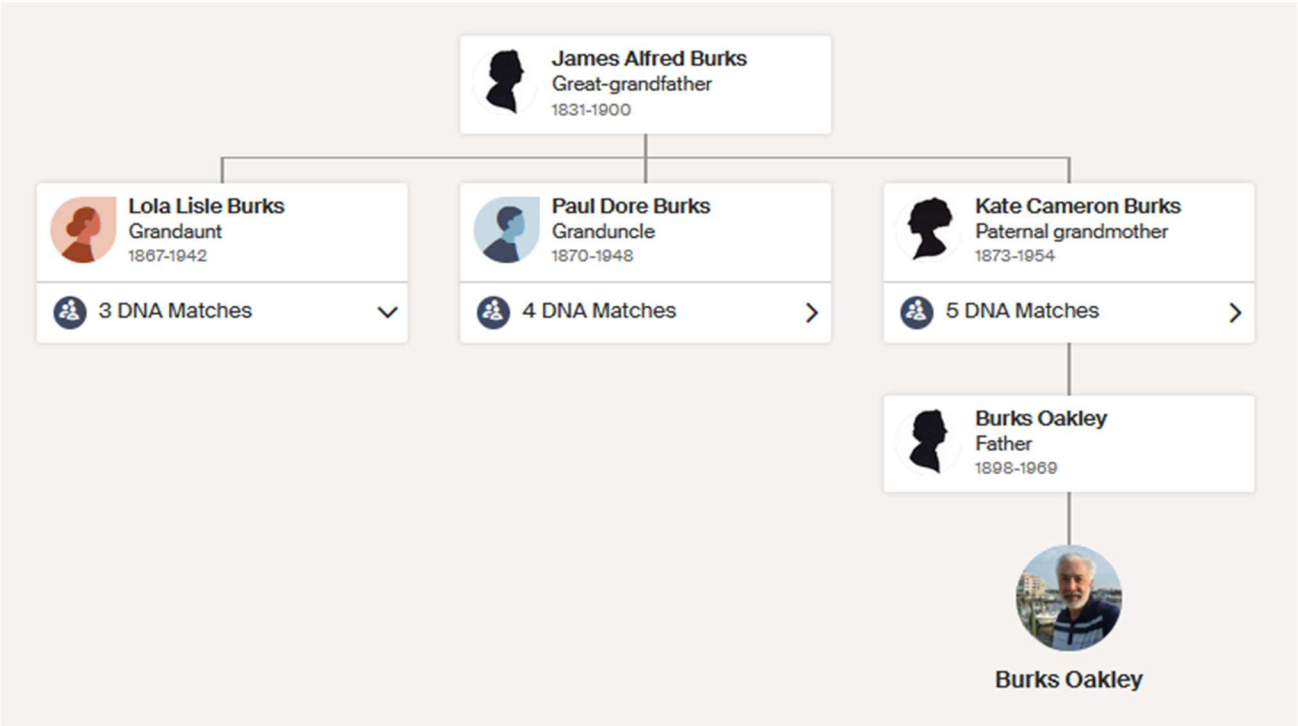
While all this is nice, there is not much new or different here – this is a lot like the narrative I wrote about Reece Young Jr. a little over a month ago.

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/ReeceYoungJr_11Mar26.pdf

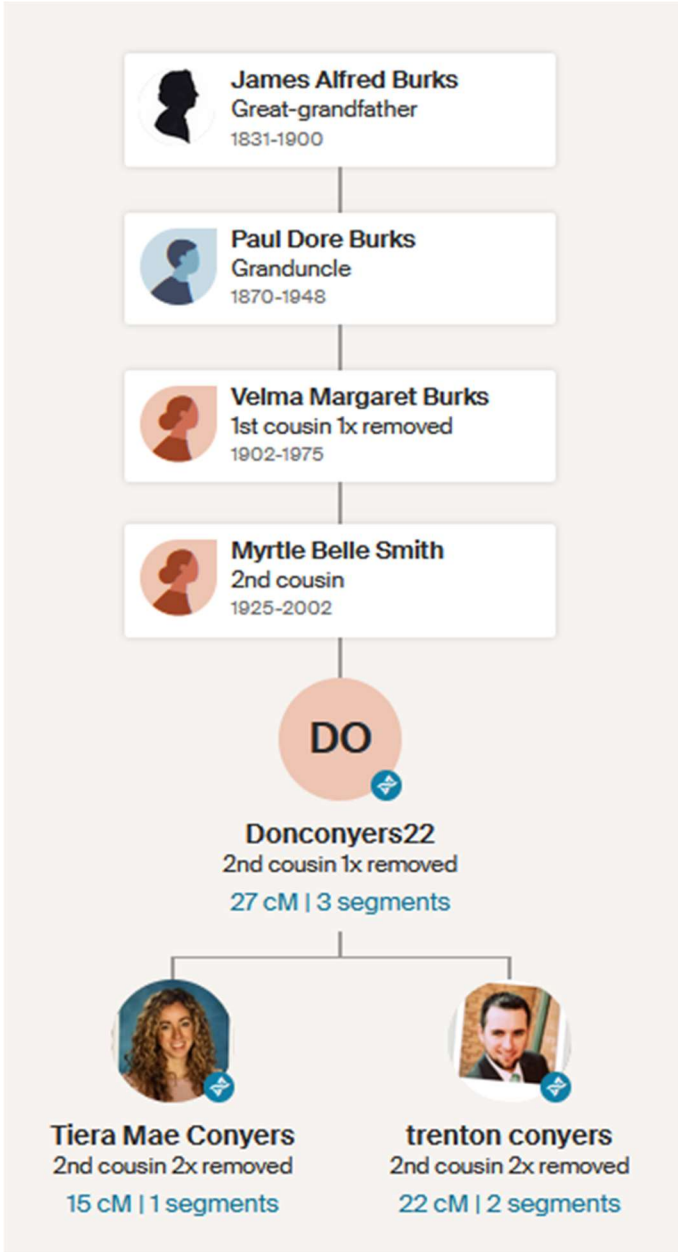
I wondered if I could extend this a few more generations. So I next looked at Amy Griffey’s son James Alfred Burks. BUT...

But to the best of my knowledge, James A. Burks didn’t have any siblings who had children. Two siblings died young, and one died childless at age twenty-nine. So going in this direction was a bust.

Just for fun, I went on to look at the children of James A. Burks.



One of the descendants of Paul Dore Burks is Don Conyers. Here is his line back to James Alfred Burks:



I looked at my DNA match with Don Conyers, and then I viewed the list of our “Shared DNA Matches” – and when I saw the following shared match, you probably could have heard me yell “OMG” half-way across town:



I also looked at my DNA match with *hanck1965*, and then I viewed our “Shared DNA Matches”. We have shared matches with six descendants of the *Wisdom-Collins* couple:

- Connie Pounders
- *B. K.* (Managed by CherylCritchfield)
- Charles Shell
- Robert Seamans
- *J. K.* (Managed by LindaKing299)
- girlietchr

In addition, we both have a DNA match with Don Conyers’ daughter, Tiera Mae Conyers:

Common ancestor ✕		
Shared match:	Your:	hanck1965's:
 Donconyers22	Your: 2nd cousin 1x removed 27 cM Paternal side	hanck1965's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 21 cM
 Tiera Mae Conyers	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 15 cM Paternal side	hanck1965's: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 22 cM

I went on and created a chart showing how **hanck1965**, Don, Tiera Mae, and I are all related:



Note that the **Wisdom-Collins** couple were my fifth-great grandparents. Extend that two more generations for Tiera Mae Conyers – they were her seventh-great grandparents. Pretty amazing for an autosomal DNA match!

As an aside, Tim Oakley and Hal Oakley both have DNA matches with **hanck1965**:

Filter shared matches		
Shared match:	Your:	hanck1965's:
Tim Oakley	Your: 1st cousin 1x removed 511 cM Paternal side	hanck1965's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 31 cM
Hal Oakley	Your: 1st cousin 1x removed 418 cM Paternal side	hanck1965's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 20 cM

Tim and Hal are my first-cousins once-removed, so they are one more generation removed from the **Wisdom-Collins** couple than I am. This couple was their sixth-great grandparents. [Of course, Tim and Hal also have DNA matches with Don Conyers and his daughter Tiera Mae.]

Let me now summarize this last finding. I have a DNA match with Don Conyers and his daughter Tiera Mae Conyers. They are descended from my great-grandfather, James Alfred Burks, through his son Paul Dore Burks.

Paul Dore Burks was an older brother of my paternal grandmother, Kate Cameron Burks (married name Oakley). This means that Paul Dore Burks was my “granduncle” (my father’s uncle).

The important finding was that Don Conyers and I have a “Shared DNA Match” with a man having the username of *hanck1965* on Ancestry.com. And this man is descended from John Wisdom and Ann Collins – my fifth-great grandparents.

Of course, my ancestral line back to the *Wisdom-Collins* couple goes through my second-great grandmother, Amy Griffey:

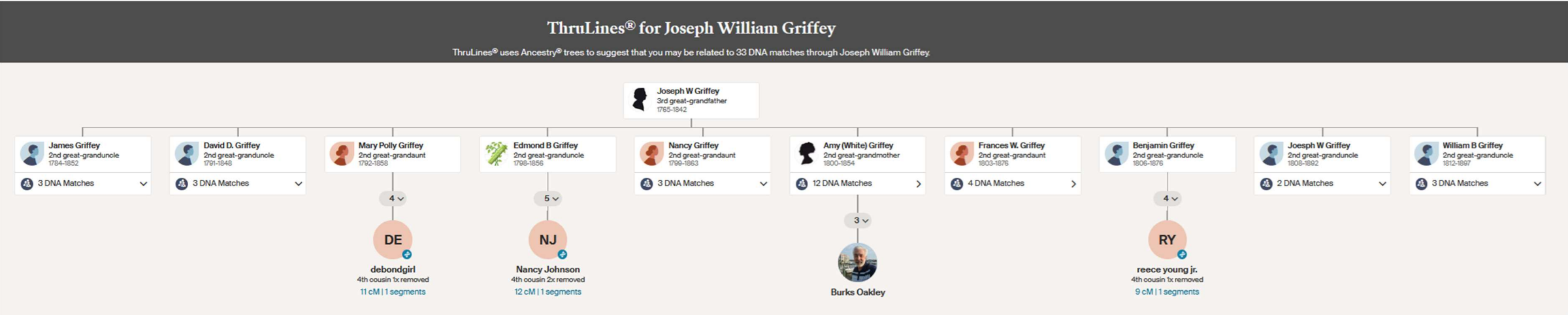


And this is yet another piece of evidence strongly supporting the ancestral lines I hypothesized for Amy Griffey over a decade ago.

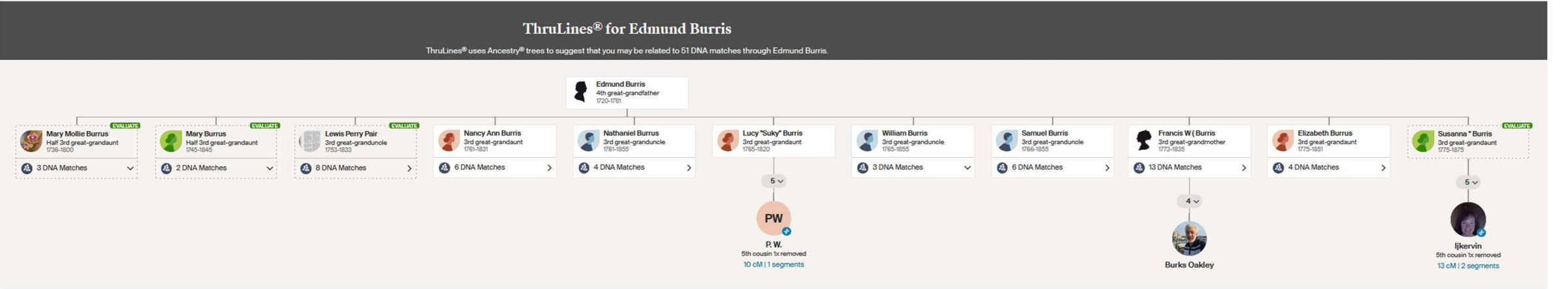
The fact that Tiera Mae Conyers, Tim Oakley, and Hal Oakley all have DNA matches with *hanck1965* provides additional support – not to mention being rather unique for autosomal DNA matches.

One last thing. Whenever I wonder if I have Amy Griffey’s parents correct, I always have to go back and look at two of my ThruLines® charts. They are displayed on the next page in landscape view:

Joseph William Griffey (1765-1842) was the father of Amy Griffey. I have DNA matches with 33 descendants of Joseph William Griffey:



Edmund Burris (1720-1781) was the maternal grandfather of Amy Griffey. I have DNA matches with 51 descendants of Edmund Burris:



Knowing that I have DNA matches with so many descendants of Amy Griffey’s parents and maternal grandparents certainly helps to reassure me that I have figured out her ancestry.

In this narrative, I have provided additional evidence for the ancestral lines that I hypothesized for Amy Griffey over a decade ago. See:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/8A-GriffeyGenealogy.pdf>

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/8B-AmyWhiteGriffey-revisited.pdf>

A very recent narrative provided additional support for these lines:

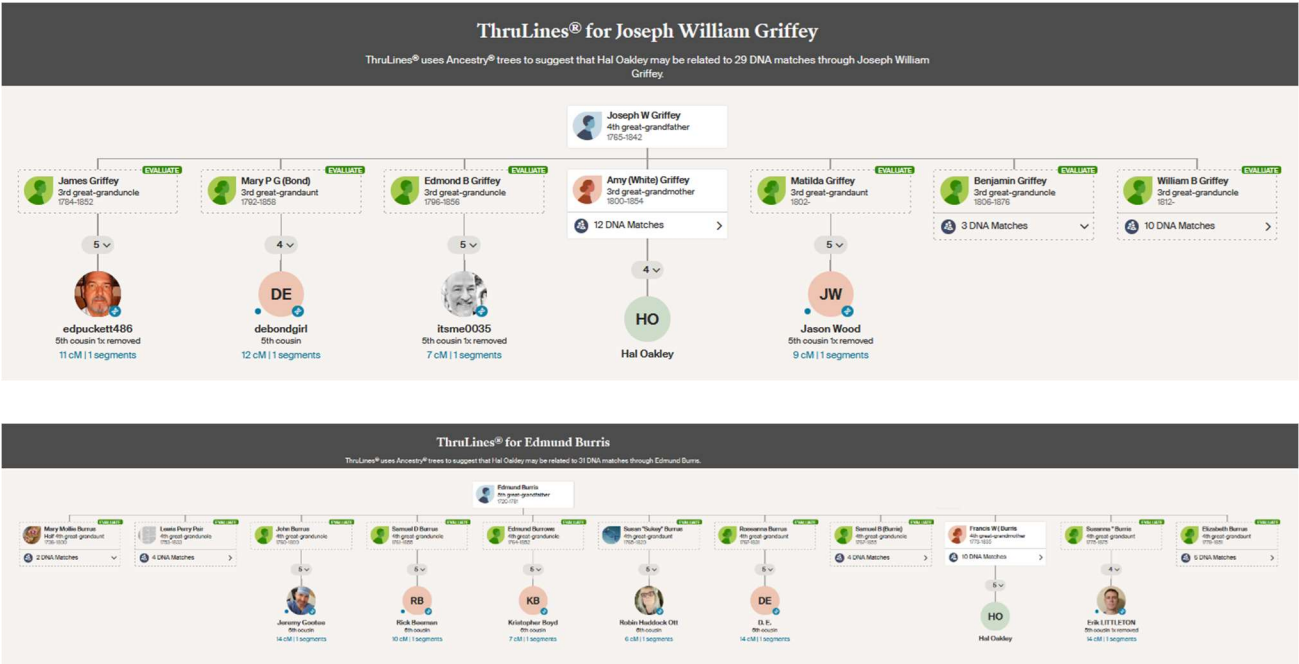
http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/ReeceYoungJr_11Mar26.pdf

I guess that at some point, I should be satisfied that I have her correct ancestors. But I'm sure that I'll keep searching....

One last thing – my cousin Hal Oakley also has a large number of DNA matches with several of Amy Griffey's ancestors – see ***Appendix A*** on the next page.

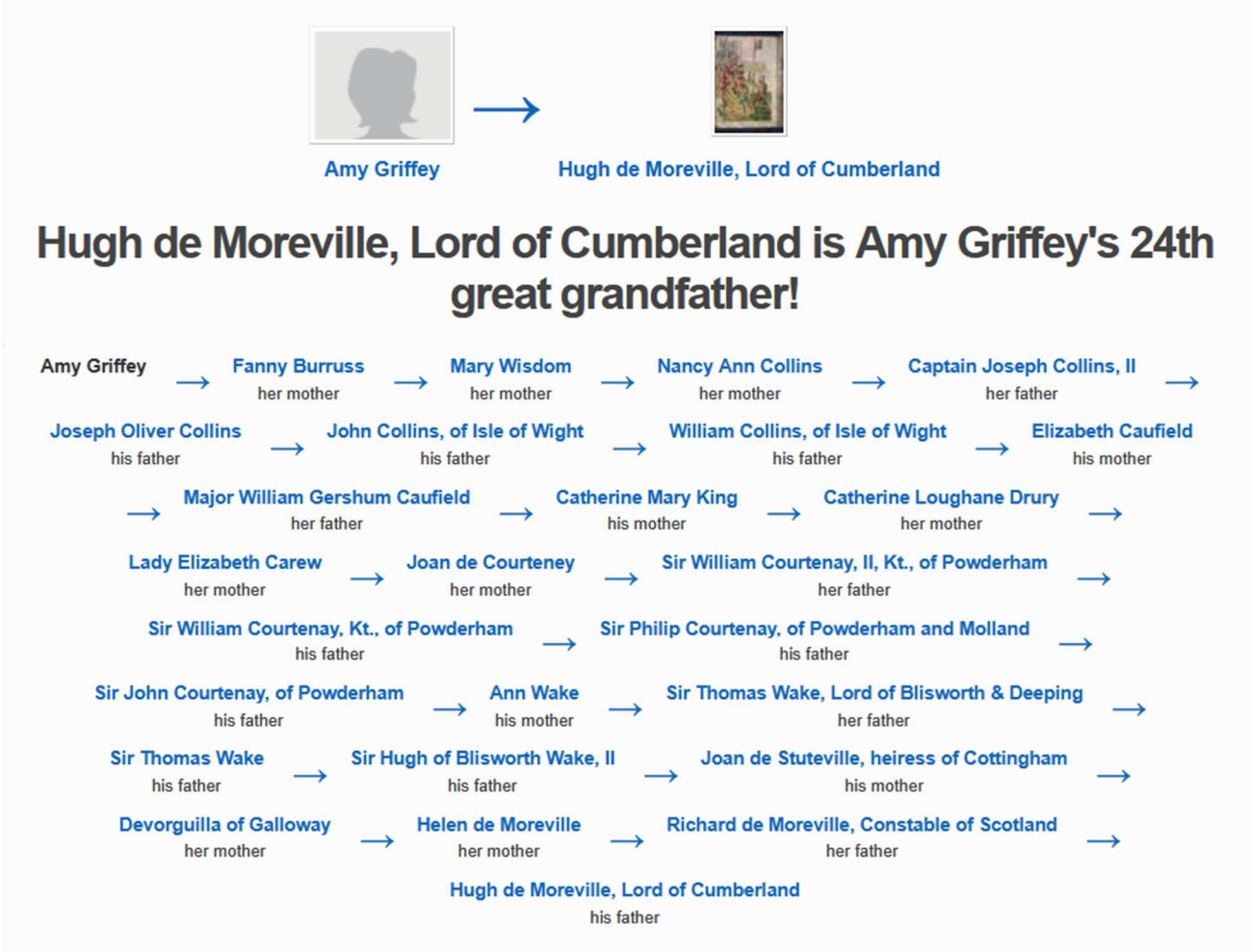
Appendix A: Several of Hal Oakley's ThruLines® Charts

Hal Oakley is my first-cousin once-removed. He also has a large number of DNA matches with descendants of Joseph William Griffey (29 matches) and Edmund Burris (31 matches), as shown in the following ThruLines® charts.



Appendix B: Tracing Amy Griffey’s Ancestors Back to Scotland, Wales, and England in the 1100’s

As I was searching my computer files for any additional narratives about Amy Griffey, I ran across several screenshots from the Geni.com website that trace Amy Griffey’s ancestors back over twenty generations:



This screenshot traces Amy Griffey’s line back to her 24th-great grandfather, Hugh de Moreville, Lord of Cumberland. This man was born around 1100 and died in 1162. His title was “Constable of Scotland”. Note all the nobility in this ancestral line!



Hugh de Moreville, Constable of Scotland

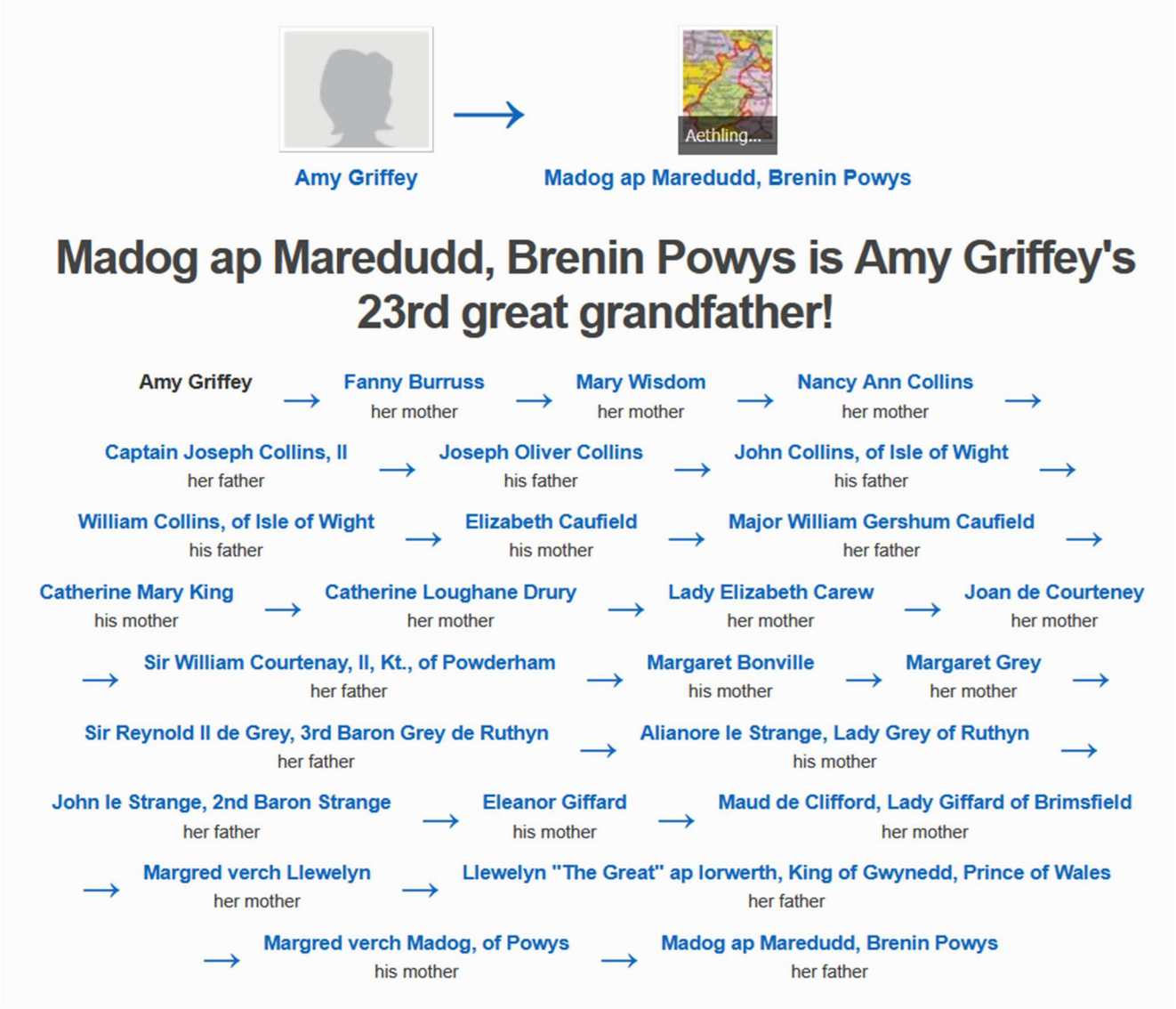
Gender: Male

Birth: circa 1100
Kirkoswald, Cumbria, England (United Kingdom)

Death: 1162 (57-67)
Dryburgh, Scottish Borders, Scotland (United Kingdom)

Place of Burial: Dryburgh Abbey, Melrose, Scottish Borders, Scotland, UK

Immediate Family: Son of [Hugh de Morville Kirkoswald, Lord of Cunningham and Lauderdale](#)
Husband of [Beatrice de Beauchamp, heiress of Houghton Conquest](#)
Father of [Roger de Morville](#); [Hugh de Morville, Knt.](#); [Malcolm Morville](#); [Richard de Moreville, Constable of Scotland](#); [Maud de Morville de Vipont](#) and 1 other
Brother of [Guillaume \(William\) de Morville of Bradpole](#) and [Simon de Morville](#)





Amy Griffey → Fanny Burruss
her mother → Mary Wisdom
her mother → Nancy Ann Collins
her mother →

Captain Joseph Collins, II
her father → Joseph Oliver Collins
his father → John Collins, of Isle of Wight
his father →

William Collins, of Isle of Wight
his father → Elizabeth Caufield
his mother → Major William Gershum Caufield
her father →

Catherine Mary King
his mother → Catherine Loughane Drury
her mother → Lady Elizabeth Carew
her mother → Joan de Courteney
her mother

→ Cecily Cheney
her mother → Elizabeth Hill
her mother → Cecily Stourton
her mother → John Stourton, of Preston, MP
her father

→ John Stourton, Lord de Stourton
his father → William de Stourton
his father → Lady Alice de Stourton (Berkeley)
his mother

→ Joan (the Younger) de Ferrers, Baroness Berkeley
her mother → William de Ferrers, 5th Earl of Derby
her father →

Sir William de Ferrers, 4th Earl of Derby
his father → William de Ferrers, 3rd Earl of Derby
his father →

Sir Robert de Ferrers, 2nd Earl of Derby
his father → Robert de Ferrers, 1st Earl of Derby, Lord Of Tutbury
his father

© Adrian Warren / Dae Seethorn
www.shutterstock.com

Gender:	Male
Birth:	July 09, 1062 Tutbury, Devon, England
Death:	June 01, 1139 (76) Charterley, Staffordshire, England
Place of Burial:	Merevale Abbey, Merevale, Warwickshire, England
Immediate Family:	Son of Henry de Ferrieres of Ferrières-Saint-Hilaire and Chambray and Bertha de l'Aigle, Countess of Surrey Husband of Hawise de Vitré, Countess of Derby Father of William Ferrers ; Sir Robert de Ferrers, 2nd Earl of Derby ; Walcheline de Ferrers ; Maud (de Ferrers) de Verdon ; Isabella de Ferrières and 2 others Brother of Maud de Ferrers ; Engenulph de Ferrers, master of Duffield Castle ; Amicea de Ferrers ; Emmeline de Ferrers ; Henry de Ferrers and 2 others