

Shared DNA Matches with my *Burks* Family Relatives

By Burks Oakley II
23 July 2026

I recently wrote several narratives about the “Enhanced” Shared DNA Matches tool that is part of the Pro Tools set on Ancestry.com. See:

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/DavidSmith_14Jul26.pdf

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/MaryHelenChoate_18Jul26.pdf

In each of those narratives, I showed how a set of shared DNA matches could be used to assist in the verification of a branch of my family tree.

The approach that I used in that narrative was quite informative, so I decided to keep using it with another branch of my family tree. And that is what this narrative is all about.

WARNING – This narrative is rather lengthy, so it might be best to read a section at a time.

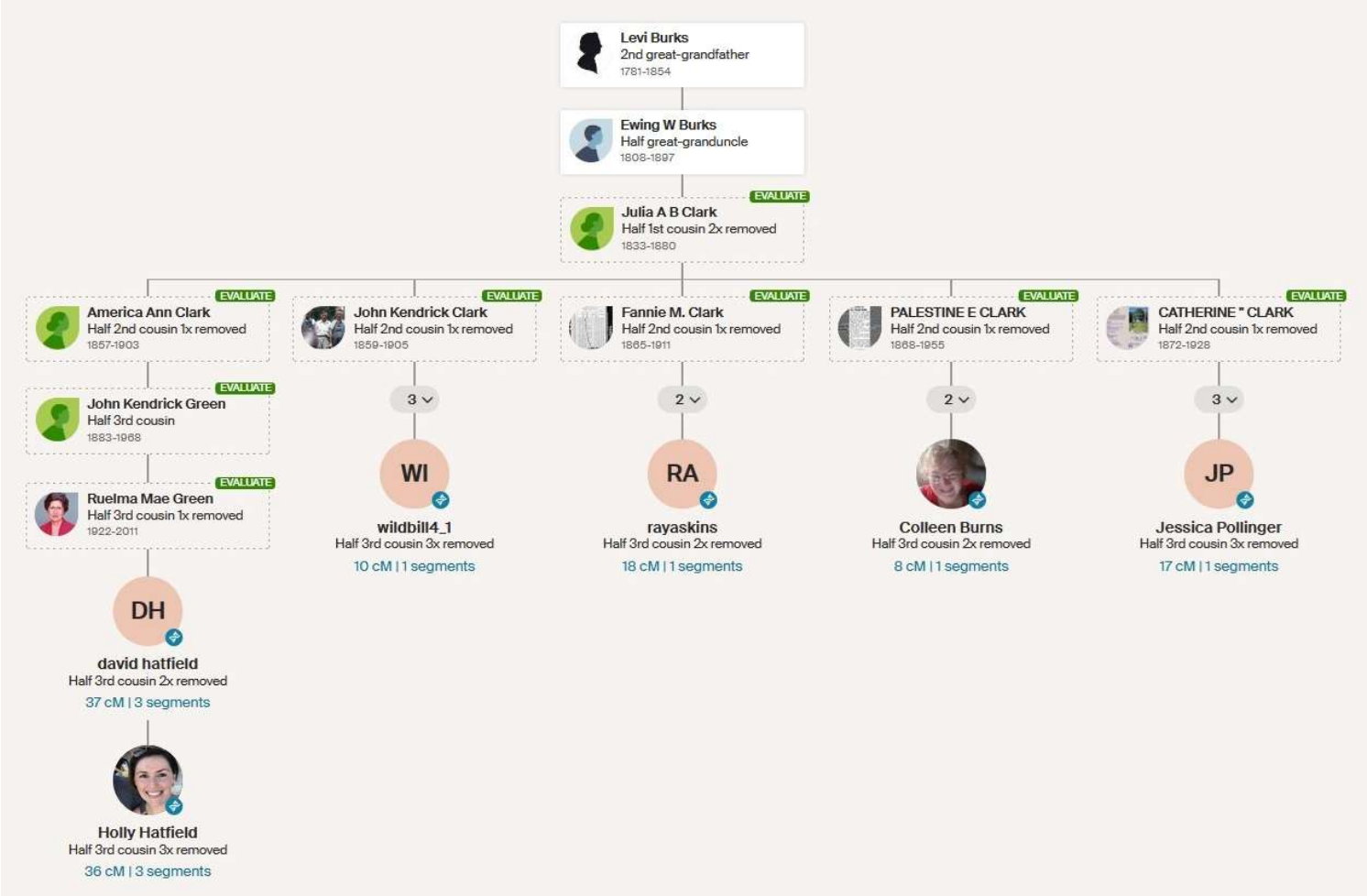
I decided to look at my DNA matches with descendants of Levi Burks (1781-1854). Levi was my second-great grandfather. Here is my ThruLines® chart for Levi Burks with all of the ancestral lines “closed”:



I have DNA matches with 56 descendants of Levi Burks, going back through eight of his children. It is important to remember that Levi was first married to Sarah “Sally” Pigg (1785-1830), and after she died, he remarried. My great-grandfather, James Alfred Burks (1831-1900), was the only child of Levi’s second marriage to marry and have children.

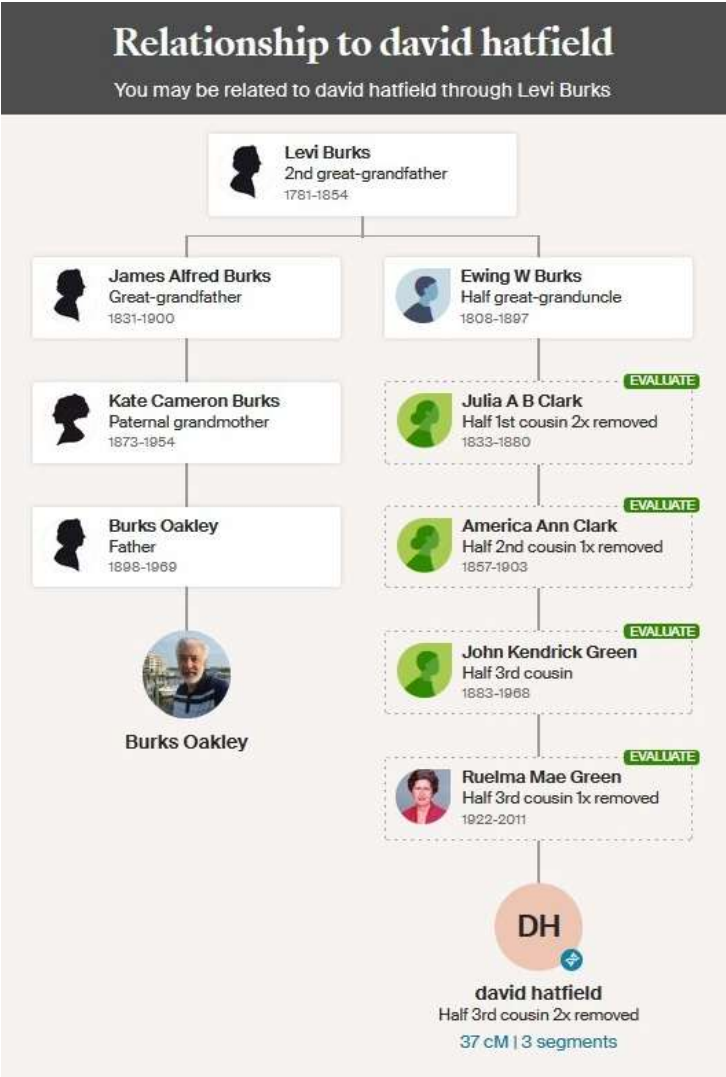
I looked at a number of my DNA matches in my ThruLines® chart for Levi Burks, and for some unknown reason (perhaps it was the size of our DNA match), I decided that I would look in detail at my DNA match with David Hatfield.

Here is the branch of my ThruLines® chart that connects to David Hatfield:



David is descended from Levi Burks through Levi’s son Ewing Washington Burks (1808-1897). Note that I also have a DNA match with David’s daughter, Holly Hatfield. David and I share 37 cM of DNA, while Holly and I share 36 cM of DNA.

Here is a chart from Ancestry.com showing how David and I are related:



Note that Ewing Washington Burks (David’s ancestor) and James Alfred Burks (my ancestor) had different mothers, so David and I have a “half” relationship. And according to the relationship chart on the previous page, we are “half” third-cousins twice-removed.

Ewing Washington Burks was born in 1808, while his half-brother James Alfred Burks was born in 1831. It turns out that I was a third-cousin of David’s maternal grandfather, John Kendrick Green (1883-1968). Amazing to see that I am in the same generation as someone born in 1883!

But I digress...

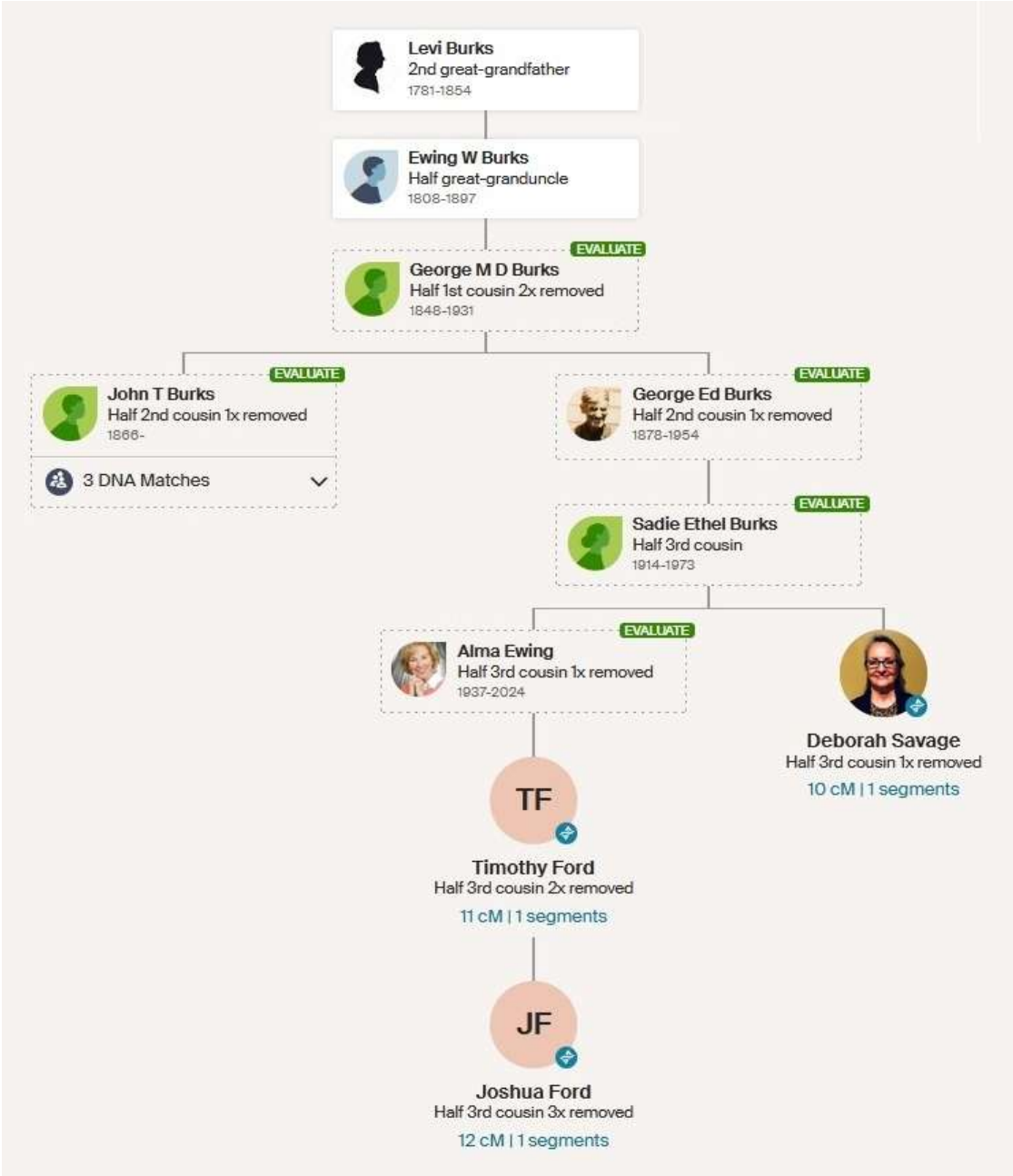
I looked in detail at my DNA match with David Hatfield. We have 192 “Shared DNA Matches”, and of these 192, software on Ancestry.com was able to identify our common ancestors for thirteen of them.

Here are five of these shared matches with common ancestors:

Common ancestor X		
Shared match:	Your:	david hatfield's:
 Amy Oakley  Your: Daughter 3,455 cM Both sides	 Holly Hatfield  Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 36 cM Paternal side	 meweigl  Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 25 cM Paternal side
TL suggests that she is descended from Levi Burks - through his son Ewin...		
 J. V. Managed by Vicars01  Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 24 cM Paternal side	 Jack Beaver  Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 16 cM Paternal side	 david hatfield's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 29 cM
TL suggests that she is descended from William Burks and his wife Eliza C...		
TL suggests he is descended from Richard Burks. This is the late Joel Vic...		
TL suggests that she is descended from William Burks and Eliza Cade. 29...		

I took the charts showing how I am related to these five people (plus David Hatfield), and combined them into one chart:

¹*J.V.* is the late Joel Vicars (1923-2015).



Note that I also have a DNA match with Timothy’s son, Joshua Ford, as well as Timothy’s aunt, Deborah Savage.

Timothy and I have 51 “Shared DNA Matches”, and of those 51, software on Ancestry.com was able to identify seven shared matches where our common ancestors are known. Here are those seven shared matches:

Common ancestor ✕		
Shared match:	Your:	Timothy Ford's:
 kevin wright 	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 19 cM Paternal side	Timothy's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 34 cM
TL suggests that he is descended from Levi Burks. 16Jul26.		
 Joshua Ford 	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 12 cM Paternal side	Timothy's: Son 3,450 cM
TL suggests that he is descended from Levi Burks. He is the son of Timoth...		
 B. G. Managed by Celtic_Lass1990 	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 12 cM Paternal side	Timothy's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 21 cM
TL suggests that she is descended from Levi Burks. 16Jul26.		
 Deborah Savage 	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 10 cM Paternal side	Timothy's: 1st cousin or half aunt 844 cM
TL suggests that she is descended from Levi Burks. Her mother was Sadi...		
 Colleen Burns 	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 8 cM Paternal side	Timothy's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 22 cM
TL suggests that she is descended from Levi Burks through his son Ewing ...		
 Joan Hay 	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 8 cM Paternal side	Timothy's: Half 3rd cousin or 3rd cousin 1x removed 42 cM
TL suggests she is descended from Levi BURKS, through his son Ewing W...		
 Suzanne Gorham Rosenblatt 	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 7 cM Paternal side	Timothy's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 23 cM
TL suggests that she is escended from William BURKS and Eliza CADE. 21...		

All of these people except Suzanne Gorham Rosenblatt are descended from Levi Burks – and Suzanne is descended from William Burks and his wife Eliza Cade.

Here is a combined chart showing how Timothy, his son Joshua, his aunt Deborah Savage, Suzanne, and I are related:

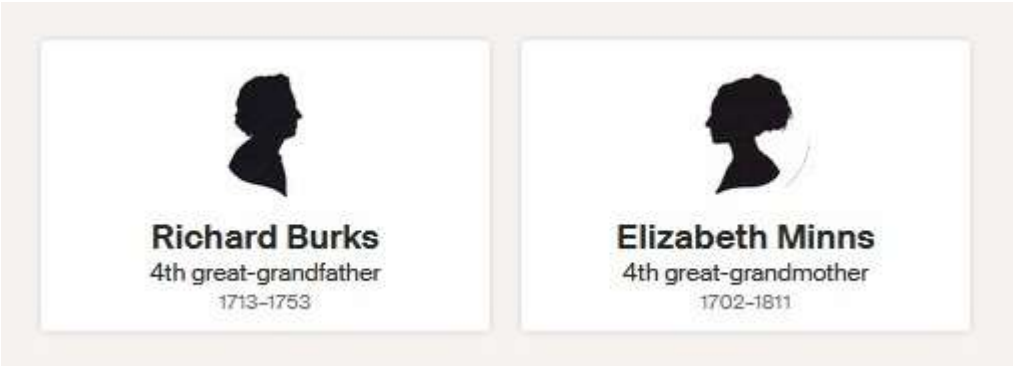


Recall that Timothy and I have “Shared DNA Matches” with Deborah, Joshua, and Suzanne.

Once again, the shared DNA matches provide strong support for the genealogical record.

If your eyes are glazing over, now would be a good time to take a break, since I am going to change gears (so to speak).

Let me now go back to Richard Burks, who was the father of William Burks and the grandfather of Levi Burks. In my family tree on Ancestry.com, I had that Richard’s wife was Elizabeth Minns (1702-1811):



In my ThruLines® charts, I had DNA matches with 102 descendants of Richard Burks, but ZERO DNA matches with descendants of Elizabeth Minns.

I should add that my cousin Hal Oakley’s tree stops with William Burks, and my cousin Mark Eidem’s tree also has Elizabeth Minns as the wife of Richard Burks.

Mark has DNA matches with 45 descendants of Richard Burks, but ZERO DNA matches with descendants of Elizabeth Minns.

Not being a rocket scientist, I still was able to conclude that Richard’s wife was not likely to be Elizabeth Minns. But a large number of family trees on Ancestry.com do have his wife as Elizabeth Minns.

I searched for Richard Burks on Ancestry.com and found a number of trees list his wife as Frances “Fannie” Horsley. Here is one example:

Richard Floyd Burke Burks ' found in 5752 public trees

★ Richard Floyd Burks from tree Taylor Family Tree 1

Birth	1713 Goochland, Goochland, Virginia, USA	Father	★ Samuel King Burks (1680-1756)
Marriage	1739 Virginia, USA	Mother	★ Mary Elizabeth Davis (1680-1756)
Death	12 Jul 1753 Hanover, Hanover, Virginia, USA	Spouse	★ Frances Fanny Horsley (1713-1753)

23610 People 4 Records 19 Sources

Note that Richard Burks appears in 5752 family trees on Ancestry.com. Of course, even the trees that have Richard’s wife being Francis/Frances “Fanny/Fannie” Horsley different on the locations of her birth and death:



Francis Fannie Horsley

BIRTH 1713 • Hanover, Virginia, United States

DEATH 12 JUL 1753 • Abermarle, Virginia, United States

At any rate, I edited my family tree on Ancestry.com and substituted Frances Horsley for Elizabeth Minns. Several days later, on 18 July 2026, I learned that I had not one, but two, new DNA matches on Ancestry.com where software on the site was able to identify our common ancestors. Those matches were with *lavalley1967* and Harriet Harris:

Unviewed X Common ancestor X

Distant Family



lavalley1967

[Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin](#)
Paternal side
12 cM | < 1% shared DNA



Harriet Harris

[Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin](#)
Paternal side
10 cM | < 1% shared DNA

Public linked tree
22 people

Common ancestor

Public linked tree
13 people

Common ancestor

And you could have knocked me over with a feather when I saw who our common ancestors were:

How are you and Harriet Harris related?

Common Ancestors

According to family trees on Ancestry, you and Harriet Harris are connected through these common ancestors.

Harriet Harris could be your 6th cousin through:



Robert Horsley
5th great-grandfather
Potential Ancestor
[View Relationship](#)



Frances Bassett
5th great-grandmother
Potential Ancestor
[View Relationship](#)

How are you and lavalley1967 related?

Common Ancestors

According to family trees on Ancestry, you and lavalley1967 are connected through these common ancestors.

lavalley1967 could be your 6th cousin through:



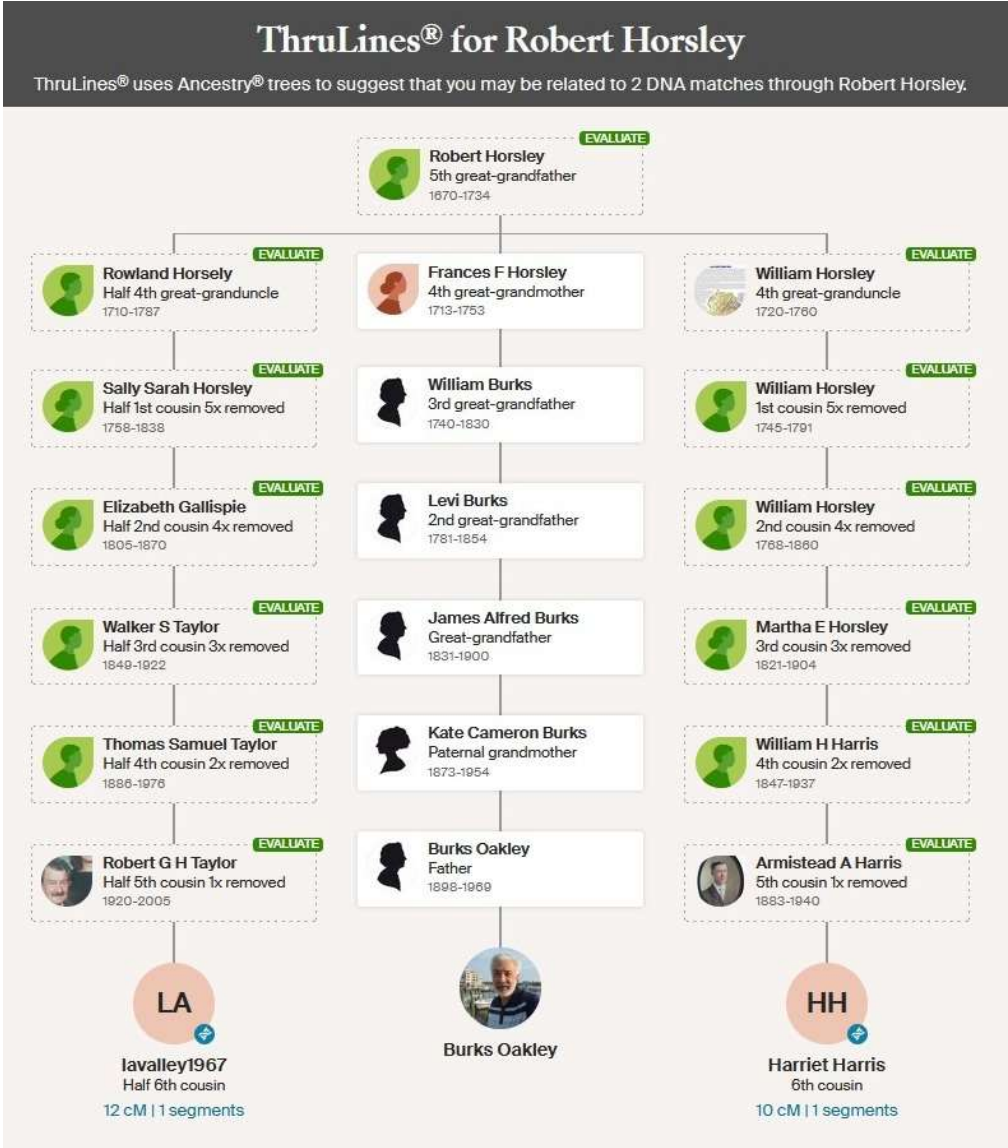
Robert Horsley
5th great-grandfather
Potential Ancestor
[View Relationship](#)



Frances Bassett
5th great-grandmother
Potential Ancestor
[View Relationship](#)

Oh my! Both Harriet Harris and *lavalley1967* are descended from Robert Horsley (1670-1734) and his wife Frances Bassett (1682-1738) – and this couple were the parents of Frances Horsley!

Here is my ThruLines® chart for Robert Horsley:



Wow! Maybe Frances Horsley really was the wife of Richard Burks....

I went on to look at my “Shared DNA Matches” with Harriet Harris. One of our shared matches was Norman Glass:

Common ancestor

Shared match:

Norman Glass

Your:

4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed
8 cM
Paternal side

Harriet Harris's:

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

TL suggests that Norman is descended from William Burks & Eliza Cade - ...

And Norman is descended from William Burks and his wife Eliza Cade.

Norman and I have 84 shared DNA matches, and our common ancestors are known for six of them. Here are five of the six:

Filter shared matches

Common ancestor

Clear all

Shared match:

L. A.

Managed by michaela anderson

Your:

Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin
13 cM
Paternal side

Norman's:

3rd cousin 1x removed or half 2nd cousin 2x removed
52 cM

TL suggests that she is descended from William Burks and his wife Eliza C...

Kim Buettner

Your:

4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed
10 cM
Paternal side

Norman's:

2nd cousin 1x removed or half 2nd cousin
127 cM

ThruLines suggests she is descended from William BURKS and Eliza CAD...

Harriet Harris

Your:

Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin
10 cM
Paternal side

Norman's:

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

TL suggests that she is descended from Robert Horseley and Frances Ba...

Dave Kersey

Your:

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

Norman's:

Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin
26 cM

TL suggests he is descended from William Burks and his wife Eliza Cade. ...

sherrisgarden69

Your:

4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed
7 cM
Paternal side

Norman's:

4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed
23 cM

ThruLines suggests she is descended from William BURKS and Eliza CAD...

Except for Harriet Haris, all of these people are descended from William Burks and Eliza Cade.

Norman Glass and I also have a DNA match with Nora DesChene:



This chart begins at the top with Robert Horsley and Frances Bassett. They had three children – Roland Horsley, Frances Horsley, and William Horsley.

lavalley1967 is descended from Roland Horsley (at the left of the chart), and Harriet Harris is descended from William Horsley (at the right of the chart).

In the top middle of the chart, Richard Burks married Frances Horsley; their son was William Burks. Two of William’s sons are shown in this chart – Allen James Burks and Levi Burks.

Allen James Burks was a direct ancestor of Norman Glass and *L.A.* Levi Burks was my second-great grandfather, and he also was Nora DesChene’s second-great grandfather.

Recall that in this chart, Norman Glass and I have “Shared DNA Matches” with *L.A.*, Nora DesChene, and Harriet Harris.

Once again, the “Shared DNA Matches” provide strong support for the genealogical record. In particular, the DNA matches support the idea that Frances Horsley was the wife of Richard Burks.

Time for another break??

As I look back on this lengthy narrative, I realize that I have one more generation of the *Burks* family to examine – and that is Samuel King Burks (1680-1756) and his wife Mary Elizabeth Davis (1685-1756), who were the parents of Richard Burks.

Here is my ThruLines® chart for Samuel King Burks:



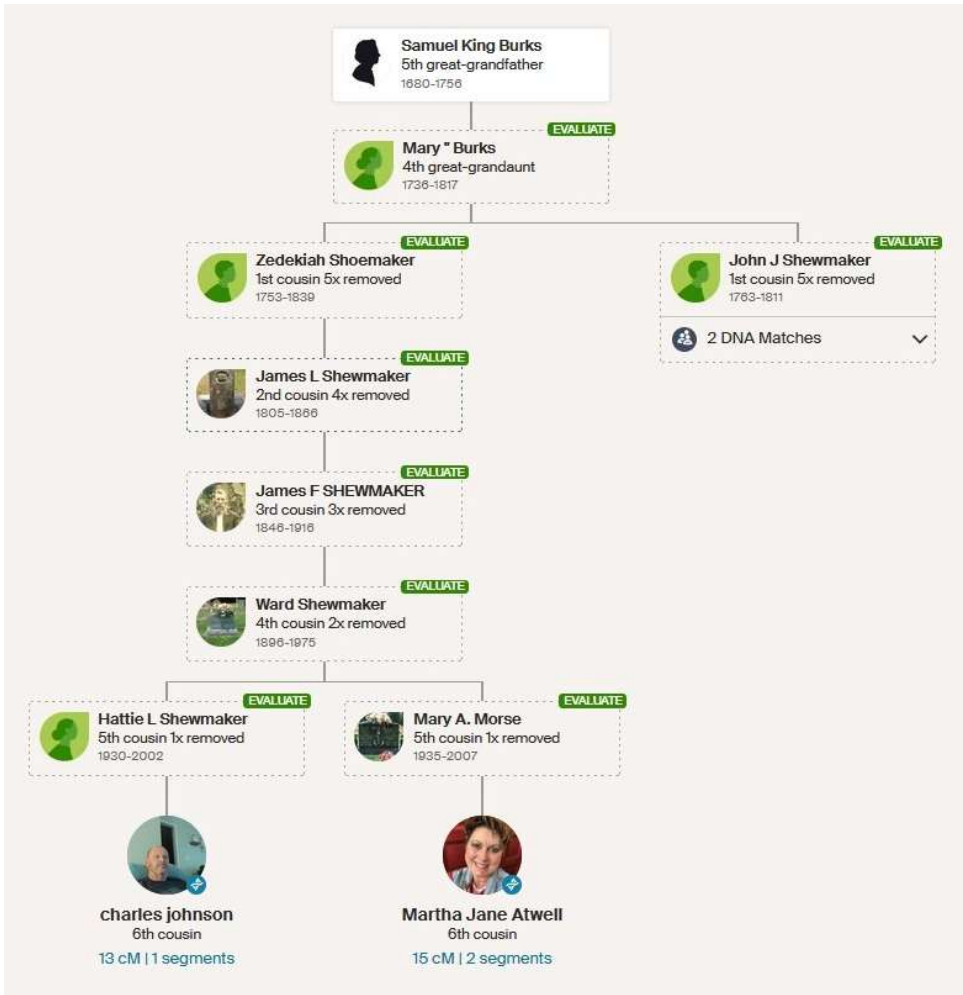
I have DNA matches with 29 descendants of Samuel King Burks. These matches connect back through six of his children.

Here is my ThruLines® chart for Samuel’s wife, Mary Elizabeth Davis:



Amazing! The two ThruLines® charts are identical!

After some looking around, I decided to look in detail at my DNA match with Charles Johnson. Here is the branch of my ThruLines® chart for Samuel King Burks that connects to Charles:



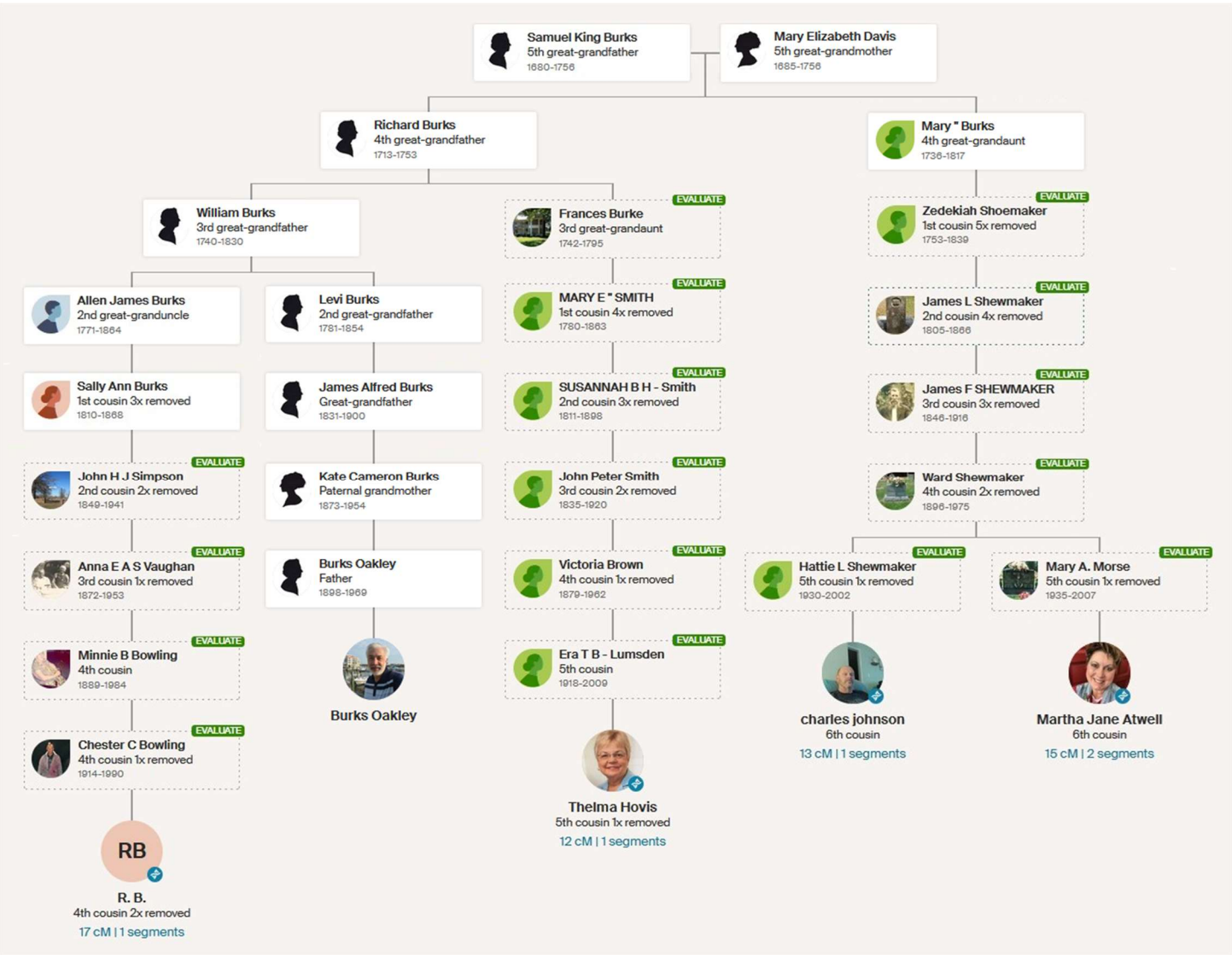
Note that I also have a DNA match with Charles’ first-cousin, Martha Jane Atwell.

Charles and I have 58 “Shared DNA Matches”, but our common ancestors are only known for three of them – **R.B.**, Martha Jane Atwell, and Thelma Hovis:

Common ancestor × Clear all		
Shared match:	Your:	charles johnson's:
R. B. Managed by Trevor J. Keckler 	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 17 cM Paternal side	charles's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 36 cM
 TL suggests he is descended from William Burks & Eliza Cade. 21Jul26.		
Martha Jane Atwell 	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 15 cM Paternal side	charles's: 1st cousin 1,106 cM
 TL suggests that she is descended from Samuel King Burks & Mary Elizab...		
Thelma Hovis 	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 12 cM Paternal side	charles's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 20 cM
 TL suggests she is descended from Richard Burks and Frances Horsley. 2...		

My guess is that as I go back to the level of my fifth-great grandparents, fewer people have trees that go back so far – so while I still have DNA matches, there just aren’t many with identified common ancestors.

I created a chart showing how Charles and I are related to **R.B.**, Martha Jane Atwell, and Thelma Hovis:



This is a really interesting chart, in that it spans so many generations in the **Burks** branch of my family tree. **R.B.** and I are descended from William Burks (and his wife Eliza Cade – not shown). Thelma Hovis, **R.B.**, and I are descended from Richard Burks (and his wife Frances Horsley – not shown). And Charles Johnson and his first-cousin Martha Jane Atwell (as well as the rest of us) are descended from Samuel King Burks and his wife Mary Elizabeth Davis.

And remember that Charles and I have “Shared DNA Matches” with **R.B.**, Thelma Hovis, and Martha Jane Atwell.

Yet once again, the “Shared DNA Matches” provide strong support for the genealogical record (the family tree).

One last point – Mary Elizabeth Davis was the daughter of Nathaniel Davis and Mary Elizabeth Hughes. In turn, Mary Elizabeth Hughes was the daughter of John Rice Hughes and Princess Nicketti Powhatan. Nicketti is traditionally believed to be the daughter of the Pamunkey Chief Opechancanough and his wife Cleopatra and a niece to Pocahontas. “Nicketti” is an Indian name meaning “she sweeps the dew from the flowers”. More at:

Here is an AI Overview from Google:

 ✕ 🔍

AI Mode All Images Videos Forums More ▾ Tools ▾

◆ AI Overview

Princess Nicketti (c. 1625–1720) is a legendary figure in Virginia history, widely believed to be the daughter of Pamunkey Chief Opechancanough and his wife Cleopatra (a sister or half-sister of Pocahontas). She is best known for her marriage to Welsh trader Captain John Rice "Trader" Hughes, making her a celebrated maternal ancestor of many frontier families. 👤 WikiTree +4



The connections between Pamunkey leadership, Opechancanough, and Nicketti form a fascinating bridge between Powhatan royalty and early Anglo-Virginian history: 🔗

- **Chief Opechancanough (c. 1554–1646):** He was the paramount leader of the Powhatan Confederacy who led the major uprisings against English colonists in 1622 and 1644. In his final years, following his capture and imprisonment, he was killed in Jamestown in 1646. 📖 EBSCO +2
- **Nicketti's Lineage:** According to historical and genealogical tradition, Nicketti (whose name translates to "*She who sweeps the dew from the flowers*") was Opechancanough's daughter. Her mother is often cited in family records as Princess Cleopatra, linking her directly to the immediate Powhatan royal circle as a niece of Pocahontas. 👤 Ancestry +4
- **Marriage and Descendants:** In the mid-17th century, Nicketti married Captain John Rice Hughes. The couple settled along the Virginia frontier and had numerous children, integrating Indigenous and European bloodlines. The stories passed down through oral history and genealogy suggest she died in the early 18th century around the age of 95. 👤 Ancestry +4

Summary:

In this lengthy narrative, I made extensive use of the “Enhanced” Shared DNA Match tool that is part of the Pro Tools set on Ancestry.com. I examined multiple generations of my **Burks** family ancestors.

I began with my DNA match with David Hatfield. David is descended from my second-great grandfather, Levi Burks. David and I have shared DNA matches that go back to my third-great grandparents, William Burks and Eliza Cade, as well as a DNA match that goes back to my fourth-great grandparents, Richard Burks and Frances “Fanny” Horsley.

I next looked at my DNA match with Timothy Ford; Timothy also is descended from Levi Burks. Timothy and I share a DNA match that goes back to William Burks and his wife Eliza Cade.

In looking at my **Burks** family ancestors, I realized that I had the wrong person as the wife of Richard Burks. When I changed his wife from Elizabeth Minns to Frances Horsley, I discovered two new DNA matches with relatives who are descended from Robert Horsley and Frances Bassett, who were the parents of Frances Horsley. One of these relatives, Harriet Harris, has a shared DNA match with Norman Glass, and Norman and I have shared DNA matches that go back to the **Horsley-Bassett** couple.

Finally, I looked at my DNA match with Charles Johnson, who is descended from my fifth-great grandparents, Samuel King Burks and Mary Elizabeth Davis. Charles and I have shared DNA matches that go back to William Burks and his wife Eliza Cade, to Richard Burks and his wife Frances Horsley, and to Samuel King Burks and his wife Mary Elizabeth Davis.

Overall, the “Shared DNA Matches” discussed in this narrative provide strong support for the ***Burks*** branch of my family tree, going back to my fifth-great grandparents.

