

# My DNA Match with *JohnH1400* – Going Back on my *Burks* Line

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This narrative begins differently than others I have written lately, in that I have no idea how or why I had created a folder on my Windows computer with information about my DNA match on Ancestry.com with *JohnH1400*. But a few days ago, I finally got around to looking at our DNA match:

Distant Family



JohnH1400

Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin  
Paternal side  
11 cM | < 1% shared DNA

 Public linked tree  
164 people

 Common ancestor

John and I share just 11 cM of DNA, so we are likely to be distant relatives. And our DNA match is on the paternal side of my family tree.

It turns out that John and I are both descended from William Burks (1740-1830) and his wife Elizabeth Eliza Cade (1745-1789):

How are you and JohnH1400 related?

Common Ancestors



According to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect you and JohnH1400. View a common ancestor to see the relationship path that connects you.

JohnH1400 could be your 4th cousin 1x removed through:



William Burks

3rd great-grandfather

1740–1830

[View Relationship](#)



Elizabeth Eliza Cade

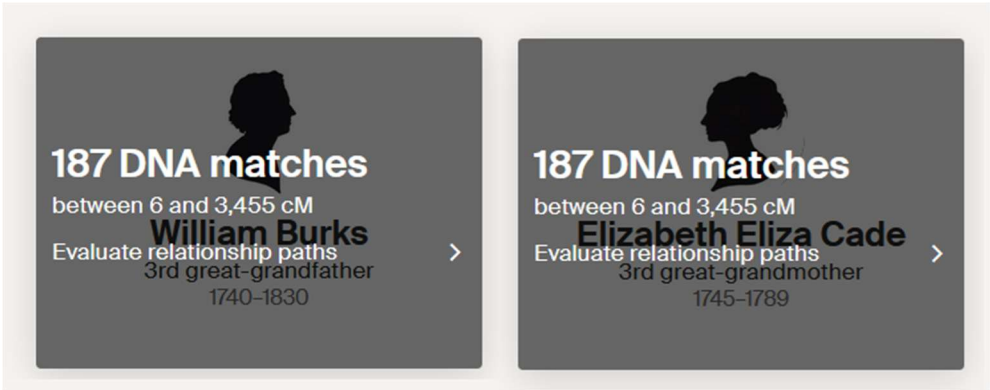
3rd great-grandmother

1745–1789

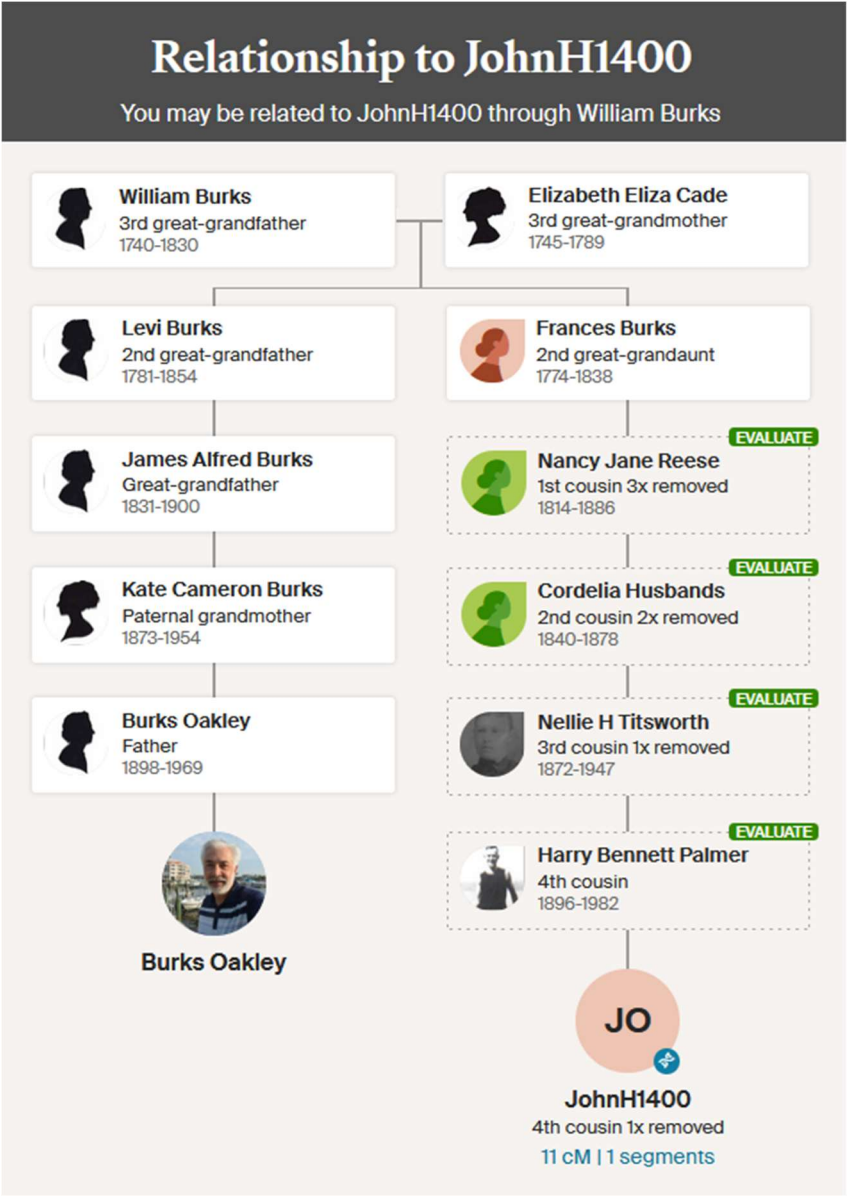
[View Relationship](#)

This couple were my third-great grandparents. But why would I take special note of my DNA match with *JohnH1400*?

John and I are both descended from the *Burks-Cade* couple – but I have DNA matches with a total of 187 descendants of this couple:



At any rate, I looked at the chart on Ancestry.com showing how John and I are related:



I am descended from the *Burks-Cade* couple through their son Levi Burks (1781-1854), while John is descended from this couple through their daughter Frances Burks (1774-1838). Based on this chart, I was a fourth-cousin of John’s father, Harry Bennett Palmer (1896-1982), which means that John and I are fourth-cousins once-removed.

Since John’s father was a *Palmer*, John most likely also is a *Palmer*. And given that his father was born in 1896, John must be at least my age (76 years old).

As an aside, I note that John’s mother was Prudence Viva Stephens (1892-1974), so my revised guess is that John is significantly older than I am.

Actually, in the 1940 US Census for Harry Palmer, his son John is listed as being 8 years old. Which would mean that John was born around 1932, which would make him 94 years old now.

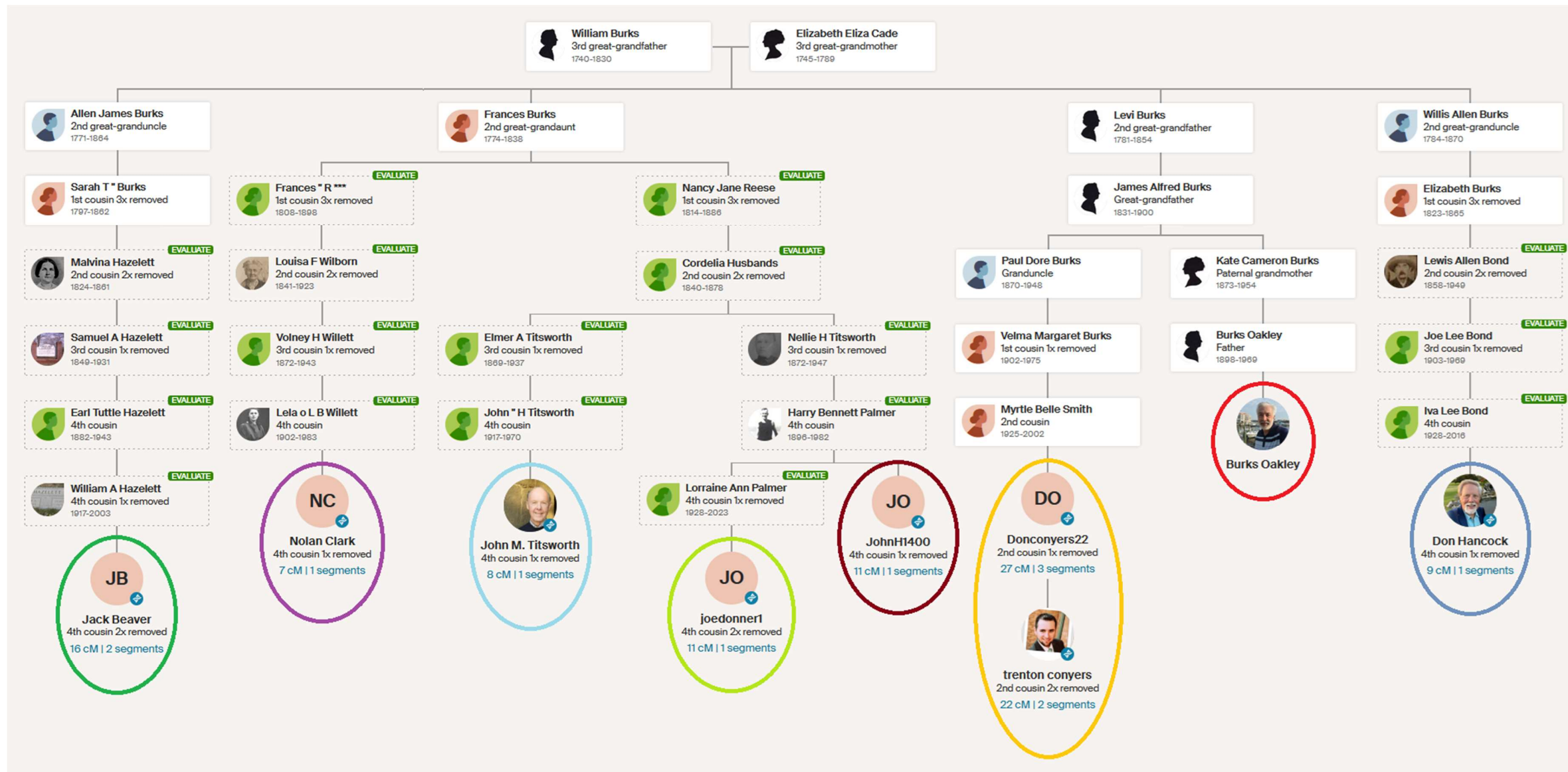
But I digress....

I still had no idea why I was interested in my DNA match with John Palmer.

I looked at our “Shared DNA Matches”. Although we have over 80 such matches, I could only identify seven individuals where our common ancestors were known:

| Shared match:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Your:                                                                                                                     | JohnH1400's:                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div><div><b>Donconyers22</b></div><div></div></div>              | <div>Your:</div> <div>2nd cousin 1x removed</div> <div>27 cM</div> <div>Paternal side</div>                               | <div>JohnH1400's:</div> <div>Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin</div> <div>21 cM</div>            |
| <div><div><b>trenton conyers</b></div><div></div></div>           | <div>Your:</div> <div>Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed</div> <div>22 cM</div> <div>Paternal side</div> | <div>JohnH1400's:</div> <div>3rd cousin 2x removed or half 2nd cousin 3x removed</div> <div>21 cM</div> |
| <div><div><b>Jack Beaver</b></div><div></div></div>       | <div>Your:</div> <div>4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed</div> <div>16 cM</div> <div>Paternal side</div>            | <div>JohnH1400's:</div> <div>Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin</div> <div>25 cM</div>            |
| <div><div><b>joedonner1</b></div><div></div></div>        | <div>Your:</div> <div>4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed</div> <div>11 cM</div> <div>Paternal side</div>            | <div>JohnH1400's:</div> <div>Half brother or nephew</div> <div>1,551 cM</div>                           |
| <div><div><b>Don Hancock</b></div><div></div></div>       | <div>Your:</div> <div>4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed</div> <div>9 cM</div> <div>Paternal side</div>             | <div>JohnH1400's:</div> <div>Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin</div> <div>37 cM</div>            |
| <div><div><b>John M. Titsworth</b></div><div></div></div> | <div>Your:</div> <div>4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed</div> <div>8 cM</div> <div>Paternal side</div>             | <div>JohnH1400's:</div> <div>2nd cousin or half 2nd cousin</div> <div>184 cM</div>                      |
| <div><div><b>Nolan Clark</b></div><div></div></div>       | <div>Your:</div> <div>4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed</div> <div>7 cM</div> <div>Paternal side</div>             | <div>JohnH1400's:</div> <div>4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed</div> <div>24 cM</div>            |

So I wasted a lot of time and constructed a chart showing how John and I are related to these seven individuals. That relationship chart is shown in landscape view on the next page:



In the overall chart on the previous page, I appear in the bright red oval, while John Palmer (**JohnH1400**) appears in the dark red oval. John and I have “Shared DNA Matches” with (from left to right in the chart):

- Jack Bever – green oval
- Nolan Clark – purple oval
- John M. Titsworth – light blue oval
- Joe Donner – light green oval
- Don Conyers and his son Trenton – gold oval
- Don Hancock – blue-gray oval

The nine DNA matches in this chart go back to the **Burks-Cade** couple through four of their children:

Allen James Burks (1771-1864) – Jack Bever

Frances Burks (1774-1838) – Nolan Clark, John M. Titsworth, Joe Donnert, JohnH1400

Levi Burks (1781-1854) – Don Conyers, Trenton Conyers, and myself

Willis Allen Burks (1784-1870) – Don Hancock

From this chart, it is apparent that John Palmer and Joe Donnert are first-cousins once-removed, and John Palmer and John M. Titsworth are second-cousins.

And for some unknown reason, all these DNA matches are males. Go figure!

I also note that I am the only person in my generation. Everyone else in the chart is one- or two-generations more removed from the **Burks-Cade** couple than I am.

I’m really at my wit’s end now. Why did I flag my DNA match with John Palmer?

At this point, I can only state that my DNA match with John Palmer, combined with our seven “Shared DNA Matches”, provide strong support for this branch of my family tree – strong support for my ancestral line going back to William Burks and his wife Eliza Cade.

Sorry for wasting your time....