

Who is Oakley Burks and Am I Related to Her?

By Burks Oakley II
12 October 2023

Introduction

My name is Burks Oakley II and I was named after my father, Burks Oakley (1898-1969). In turn, my father's given name was his mother's maiden name – his mother was Kate Cameron Burks (1873-1954). We can trace Kate's **Burks** ancestral line in America back to John Burks (1655-1721), who was born in Ireland and immigrated to America, settling in Virginia. See:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/6A-BurksGenealogy.pdf>

Since my given name is Burks, I always am interested in finding new **Burks** family relatives. I have my DNA profile on the Ancestry.com website, and I have found many of my **Burks** relatives through DNA matches. I even found a cousin named Jackie Burks Oakley (her maiden name was **Burks**, and she married an **Oakley**):

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/TwoMoreBurksRelatives_21Jan16.pdf

But DNA isn't the only way to find new relatives. Read on!

Is it Possible that there is an Oakley Burks?

A week or so ago, I spoke with someone who said that he had a difficult time finding my e-mail address. I thought that was somewhat strange, since I am all over the web. So a few days ago, I Googled my name to see how difficult it would be to find my e-mail address.

The Google search turned up lots and lots of hits. The top three were:

Google

burks oakley

Images Shopping News Videos Maps Books Flights Finance

About 663,000 results (0.57 seconds)

 **Burks Oakley II**
<http://www.burksoakley.com>

Burks Oakley II
Burks Oakley II. Sloan-C Award Winner. picture of **Burks Oakley II**. Contact information · Biosketch Podcasts: CSC442B at UIS · Education · Awards · Philanthropy



 **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**
<https://ece.illinois.edu> · about · directory · emeritus

Burks Oakley, II | Electrical & Computer Engineering | UIUC
Burks Oakley, II. Burks Oakley, II. Administrative Titles. Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. Professor Emeritus. oakley@illinois.edu ...



 **Facebook**
<https://www.facebook.com/burks.oakley>

Burks Oakley II
Burks Oakley II is on Facebook. Join Facebook to connect with **Burks Oakley II** and others you may know. Facebook gives people the power to share and makes...

The first hit was to my personal website at burksoakley.com, which clearly has my contact information, including my e-mail address. I concluded that it really shouldn't be very difficult to find my e-mail address.

I continued to look at the results of this Google search, which was really quite fortunate, because I found the following:

Google

burks oakley

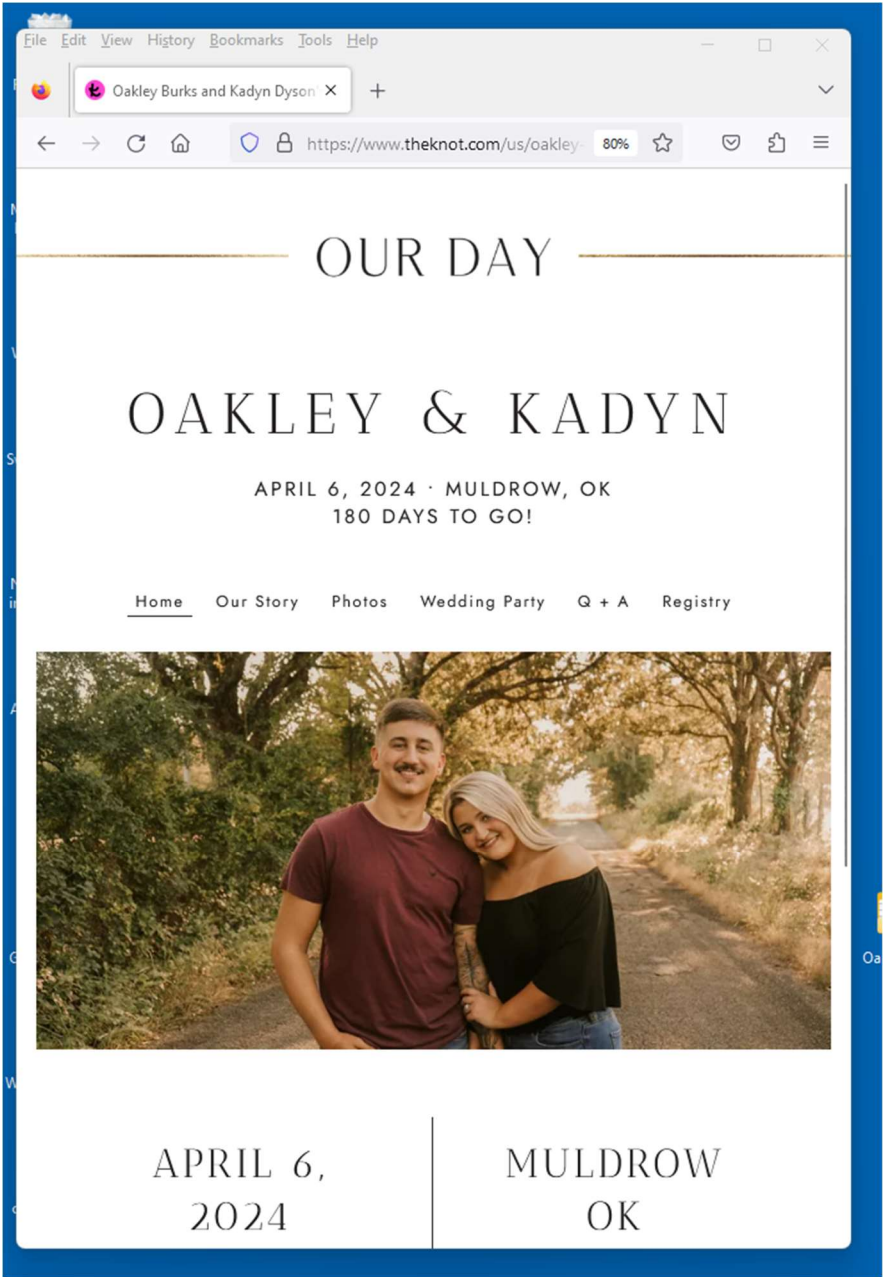
Images Shopping News Videos Maps Books Flights Finance

About 717,000 results (0.44 seconds)

 **The Knot**
<https://www.theknot.com/oakley-burks-and-kadyn-d...>

Oakley Burks and Kadyn Dyson's Wedding Website
Welcome to **Oakley Burks** and Kadyn Dyson's Wedding Website! View photos, directions, registry details and more at The Knot.

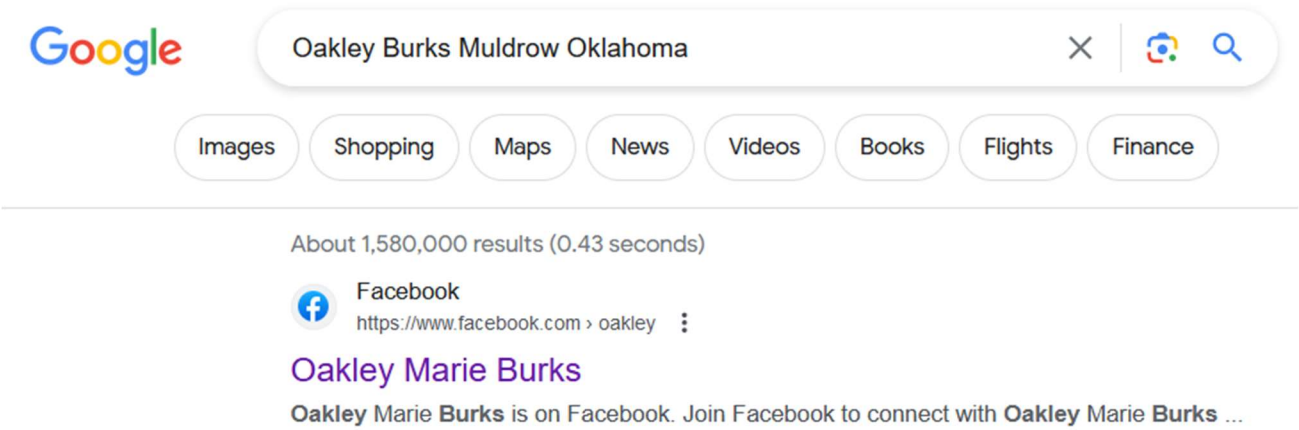
The title of this site was "Oakley Burks and Kadyn Dyson's Wedding Website". OMG! Could it be that there is a person named Oakley Burks? I then followed the link, which took me to:



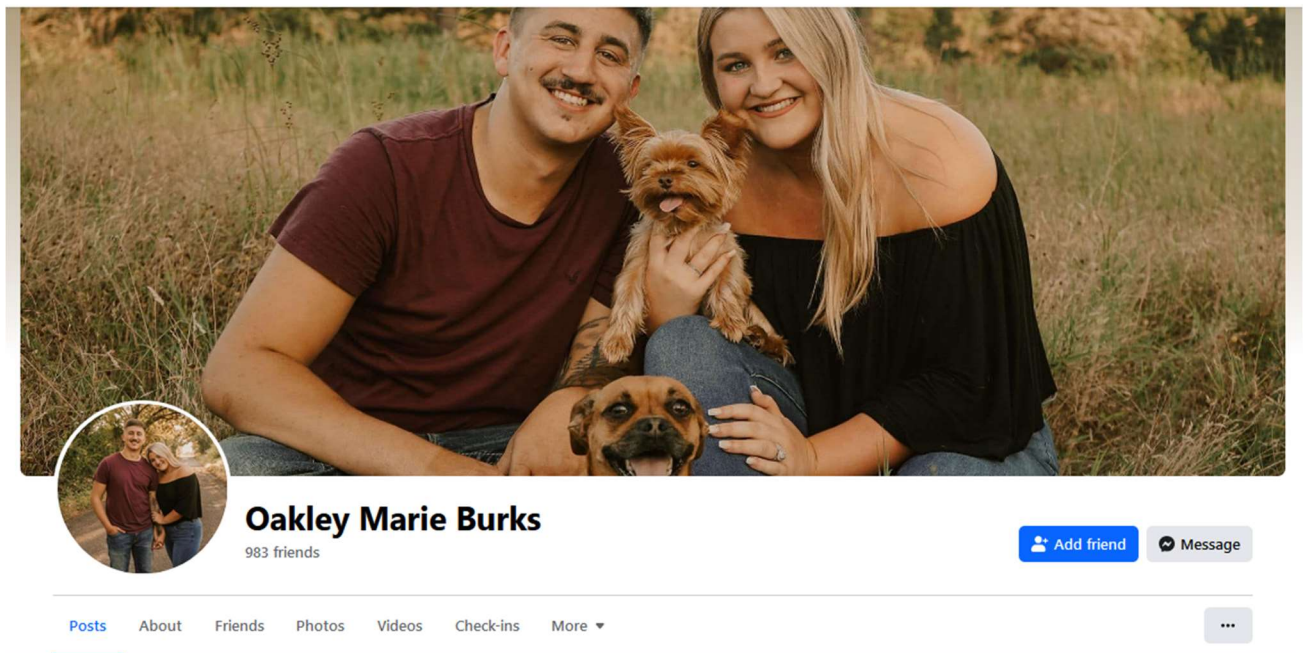
<https://www.theknot.com/us/oakley-burks-and-kady-dyson-apr-2024>

Oakley Burks and Kady Dyson are getting married in Muldrow, Oklahoma, on 6 April 2024.

I next Googled “Oakley Burks Muldrow Oklahoma” (no quotes). The third hit was to Oakley’s Facebook page:



I followed the link to her Facebook page:



Note that her Facebook page is at:

<https://www.facebook.com/oakley.burks>

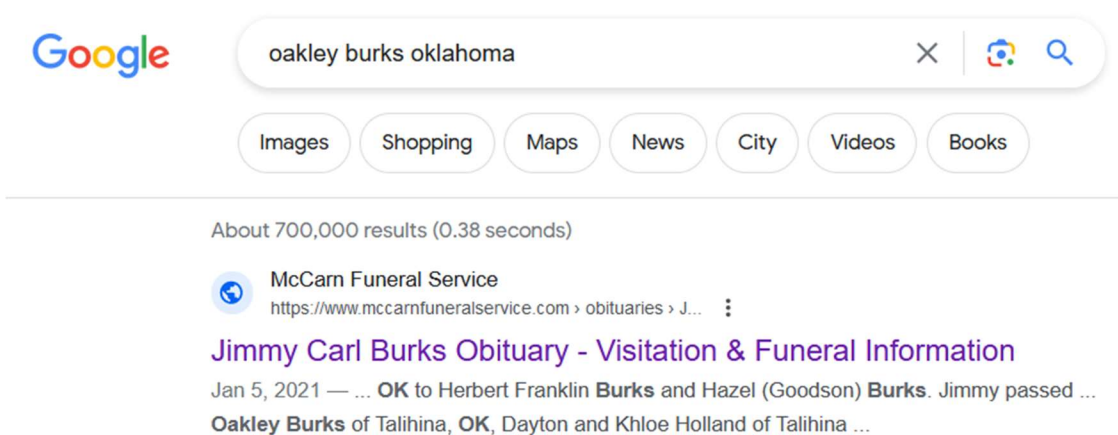
while my Facebook page is at:

<https://www.facebook.com/burks.oakley>

Wow! There really is someone named Oakley Burks! And it is FBO (Facebook Official). This is pretty amazing! As I think about it, she probably would be just as amazed as I am to find someone named Burks Oakley...

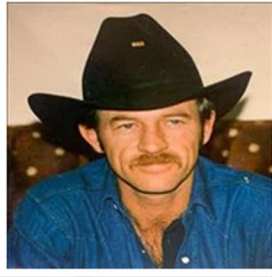
Is it Possible that I am Related to Oakley Burks?

I immediately wondered if Oakley Burks and I are related to each other. So I continued searching with Google. I played with the search terms, and eventually used “oakley burks oklahoma” (no quotes). One of the top ten hits was to an obituary for Jimmy Carl Burks:



<https://www.mccarnfuneralservice.com/obituaries/Jimmy-Burks/#!/Obituary>

Here is a screenshot of his obituary:



Send Beautiful Flowers

Share a Memory

Share   

Jimmy Carl Burks

June 29, 1950 - December 24, 2020

Tribute Wall

Photos & Videos

Obituary & Service

+ More

Obituary for Jimmy Carl Burks

Jimmy Carl Burks, 70 was born June 29, 1950 in Yanush, OK to Herbert Franklin Burks and Hazel (Goodson) Burks. Jimmy passed from this life December 24, 2020 at Lindsey Municipal Hospital in Lindsey, Oklahoma. Jimmy graduated from Buffalo Valley High School in 1969. After graduation, he married Barbara Bagwell in October 1969. Together they had three children, Larry, Karla, and Jason, that he was always so proud of. In 1983 Jimmy married Nancy Johnson and gained two stepchildren that he loved dearly, Darrell and Angela McIntosh. Jimmy worked construction and operated heavy machinery, he worked for Latimer County Barn in Buffalo Valley, where he made many good friends. He was always known for getting in everyone's lunch boxes and helping himself to some lunch, mostly the sweets. Jimmy enjoyed hunting (and poaching a few deer), one of the many traits he passed on to his son Larry. He took Larry hunting on Buffalo Mountain on countless occasions, legally, and this is where Larry killed his first deer. Jimmy also loved to dance, he would two-step with Karla at the street dance when a street dance was an actual street dance. Jimmy loved to laugh and pull jokes on people. He bought Jason a go-cart and first time Jason drove it he went right under the truck, then bought him a bb-gun, which Jason shot Karla in the eye with through a window. Jason never got in trouble, dad would always say, "leave him alone he is just a baby"

Jimmy leaves behind his three children: son Larry and wife Tayna Burks of Talihina, OK, daughter Karla and husband Kris Holland of Talihina, OK, and son Jason Carl Burks of McAlester, OK, stepdaughter, Angela and husband Brian Johnson of Talihina, OK, grandsons: Zachary Burks of Elmore City, OK, Colton VanHorn of McAlester, OK, Jayton and Jaxton Burks of McAlester, OK, Dalton McIntosh of Talihina, OK, Darrell Johnson of Talihina, OK, granddaughters: Haley Burks Jennings of Elmore City, OK, Oakley Burks of Talihina, OK, Dayton and Khloe Holland of Talihina, OK, Jaycee Burks of McAlester, OK, Chelsea Holland of AR, and Kailee Daney of Talihina, OK great grandchildren: Elena VanHorn, Bryson Lanning, Adalynn Holland, Laree and Bryson McIntosh.

Jimmy is preceded in death by his parents: Herbert Burks and Hazel Phillips, step father Harvey Phillips, brothers Gary Don Burks and Franklin Herbert Burks II, sister Linda Burks Watts and stepson Darrell McIntosh. Jimmy's laugh will always be remembered and never forgotten, he will always be in our hearts and looking after us from above.

Graveside Memorial Service will be on Friday, January 8th, 2020 at 2:00 PM at Cupco Cemetery in Yanush, Oklahoma with Bro. Kenny Bryant officiating. Cremation services are being provided by McCarn Funeral Service of Talihina, Oklahoma.

From this obituary, I learned that:

- One of his granddaughters was Oakley Burks of Talihina, Oklahoma.
- His son Larry Burks also lives in Talihina, Oklahoma.
- His father was Herbert Burks.

From this, my best guess is that Larry Burks is Oakley's father.

I went back to Oakley's Facebook page, and I found that she went to Talihina High School and currently lives in Talihina. A quick glance at Larry Burks' Facebook page confirmed that he is Oakley's father.

Here is a Google Map showing the location of Talihina, Oklahoma:



Talihina is located ~65 miles southwest of Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Its name originated from two Choctaw words, ‘tully’ and ‘hena’, meaning “iron road”, a reference to the railroad around which the town was built. But I digress....

If I am related to Oakley Burks, then I certainly was related to her paternal grandfather, Jimmy Carl Burks. So I looked a little more into this man – here is his entry from the Findagrave.com website:



MEMORIALS

CEMETERIES

FAMOUS

CONTRIBUTE



Photo added by [Danny Baldwin](#)

Jimmy Carl Burks

BIRTH29 Jun 1950

Yanush, Latimer County, Oklahoma, USA

DEATH24 Dec 2020 (aged 70)

Oklahoma, USA

BURIALCupco Cemetery

Yanush, Latimer County, Oklahoma, USA

MEMORIAL ID220592009 · [View Source](#)

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MEMORIAL

PHOTOS1

FLOWERS0

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/220592009/jimmy-carl-burks>

Jimmy Carl Burks is buried in Cupco Cemetery in Yanush, Oklahoma, less than ten miles west of Talihina.

Other **Burks** family members are also buried in this cemetery:

Find a Grave®

MEMORIALS

CEMETERIES

FAMOUS

CONTRIBUTE

Cupco Cemetery Memorials

4 matching records found for

Burks

Include Maiden name



Herbert Franklin Burks

13 Dec 1917 – 16 Mar 1985



Herbert Franklin Burks Jr.

5 Aug 1941 – 30 Aug 2005



Jimmy Carl Burks

29 Jun 1950 – 24 Dec 2020



Nadine Burks Burt-Holland

24 Jun 1940 – 4 Dec 2007

Jimmy Carl’s obituary stated that Herbert Burks was his late father, so my guess is that this man was Herbert Franklin Burks (1917-1985). And then Herbert Franklin Burks Jr. (1941-2005) would be Herbert’s son and Jimmy Carl’s older brother.¹

From here, I reasoned that I could find the rest of Oakley’s *Burks* line on Ancestry.com. Here is the profile for Herbert Franklin Burks from the family tree owned by *Philles_VanHorn*:

Pugh,Qualls, Cummings, ...

Tree search

Philles_VanHorn



Herbert Franklin Burks

BIRTH 13 DEC 1917 • Pope County, Arkansas

DEATH 16 MARCH 1985 • Talihina, Latimer, Oklahoma, USA

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

Oscar H Burks
1892-1960

Minnie Lela Murphy
1893-1976

Private

Herbert Franklin Burks
1941-2005

Jimmy Carl Burks
1950-2020

The information in this profile is completely consistent with all that I assumed up to this point. And this profile shows that Herbert Franklin Burks’ father was Oscar H. Burks (1892-1960).

¹ As an aside, it appears that Nadine Burks (1940-2007) is not a close relative of the other *Burks* family members buried in this cemetery. I was able to trace her family tree back to John Burks (1655-1721), who I mentioned in the introductory paragraph.

Here is a profile for Oscar Herbert Burks (1892-1960) from a family tree owned by *gfbecker*:

Reynolds Family Tree

Tree search

gfbecker



Oscar Herbert Burks

BIRTH 24 DECEMBER 1892 • Appleton, Pope County, Arkansas, United States of America

DEATH 24 JUNE 1960 • McAlester, Pittsburg, Oklahoma, USA

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

David Burks

1858-1937

Mary Ann Hickie

1861-

Minnie Lela Murphy

1893-1976

Olen L. Burks

1912-1993

Virgil Grady Burks

1914-2004

Herbert F Burks

1917-1985

Gwynne Doyel Burks

1920-2000

Inez I Burks

1926-2012

Bethel Lee Burks

1931-1996

Private

Private

This profile shows that Oscar Herbert’s son was Herbert F. Burks, and that his father was David Burks (1858-1937).

Continuing back on the *Burks* line, here is the profile for David Burks from the family tree owned by *gfbecker*:

Reynolds Family Tree

Tree search

gfbecker



David Burks

BIRTH NOV 1858 • Illinois

DEATH 1937

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

James Edward Burks

1818-1891

Nancy M Patterson

1831-1914

Mary Ann Hickie

1861-

Oscar Herbert Burks

1892-1960

Evey J Burks

1895-

I’m covering a large number of generations here. I wonder if this *Burks* line will ever intersect with mine...

The profile for David Burks lists his father as James Edward Burks (1818-1891). Continuing back, here is a profile for James Edward Burks from the family tree owned by Brian Embree:

Embree Family Tree

Tree search

Brian Embree



James Edward Burks

BIRTH 1 MAY 1818 • Prince Edward County, Virginia, USA

DEATH 15 MARCH 1891 • Appleton, Pope County, Arkansas, USA

Family

Parents

James Burks
1774-1864

Elizabeth Betsy TOWNSEND
1780-1845

Spouse and children

Nancy Mildred Patterson
1831-1914

Richard L Burks
1852-1934

Mahala Burks
1853-1941

David Burks
1855-1937

James Riley Burks
1860-1889

Nancy Mildred Burks
1865-1886

Alvis G. Burks
1866-1894

Lucy Jane Burks
1871-1898

Martha Elizabeth Burks
1873-1958

Frances L Burks
1877-1970

Well, this is encouraging, since James Edward Burks was born in Virginia, and my ***Burks*** ancestors originally lived in Virginia.

This profile shows that James Edward Burks’ parents were James Burks (1774-1864) and his wife Elizabeth “Betsy” Townsend (1780-1845).

I next looked at James Burks in the family tree owned by Brian Embree. Could it be that I’ll finally connect back to my ***Burks*** line?

Scroll down...

Go to the next page...

Embree Family Tree

Tree search

Brian Embree

James Burks

BIRTH 1774 • Lunenburg, Virginia, United States

DEATH ABOUT 1864 • Old, Forsyth, North Carolina, United States

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

William Burks

1750-1830

Eliza Burks

1752-1789

Elizabeth Betsy TOWNSEND

1780-1845

Berry BURKS

1795-1851

Sally Ann Berks

1797-1862

George T Burks

1799-1870

Elizabeth A BURKS

1804-1868

Frances Burks

1805-1883

Delila Burks

1809-1882

Sarah "Sally" Ann Burks

1810-1868

William Burks

1811-1870

Roland Harrison Burks

1813-1852

Allen James Burks

1814-1892

Mary E Burks

1816-

James Edward Burks

1818-1891

Susan Burks

1819-

Mary "Polly" Burks

1821-1888

Rebecca Burks

1823-

Oh my! This profile shows that James Burks’ parents were William Burks (1750-1830) and Eliza Burks (I believe that her maiden name was *Cade*). This couple were my third-great grandparents.

Bingo! Oakley Burks is indeed my distant cousin!!

After my initial excitement wore off, I began to have second thoughts about this. The entry for William Burks in my family tree on Ancestry.com doesn’t have a son named James Burks (1774-1864). I do have an Allen James Burks (1771-1864) who was married to Elizabeth “Betsy” Townsend (1780-1850).

Here is my profile for Allen James Burks:

Burks Oakley II

Tree search

Allen James Burks

BIRTH 1771 • Lunenburg, Lunenburg, Virginia, British America

DEATH 1864 • Putnam County, Indiana, United States

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

William Burks

1740-1830

Elizabeth Eliza Cade

1745-1789

Elizabeth Townsend

1780-1850

Sarah T. "Sally" Burks

1797-1862

George T. Burks

1799-1870

Frances Burks

1804-1883

Sally Ann Burks

1810-1868

William F. Burks

1812-1892

Allen James Burks

1814-1892

Melvina Burks

1821-1881

In comparing James Burks and Allen James Burks, some of the children are the same, and his wife Elizabeth Townsend is the same, and his place of birth is the same – but the birth year and the place of death are different. Of course, so is his name – Allen James Burks vs. James Burks.

This is so frustrating! On Ancestry.com, everyone has their own version of a family tree. And users copy lots of profiles into their own trees without doing any verification. So which of these profiles is correct?

I searched all the family trees on Ancestry.com for James Burks, who was born in 1774 in Virginia, who died in 1864 in North Carolina, who was the son of William Burks and a woman whose last name was Cade. Here are the results of that search:

All Public Member Trees results for James Burks

Your search

James

Burks

Born: 1774

In: Virginia, USA

Death: 1864

In: North Carolina, USA

Hide 2 fields

Parents: William Burks, Cade

1-20 of 2,044,746

Allen James Burks found in 1015 trees

View all

Allen James Burks from tree Burks123

Birth

1771 Lunenburg, Lunenburg, Virginia, USA

Father

William W Burks (1750-1830)

Mother

Elizabeth (Eliza) Cade (1750-1789)

Residence

1863 Indiana, USA

Spouse

Elizabeth "Betsy" Townsend (1780-1850)

Death

1864 Forsyth, North Carolina, USA

8471 People

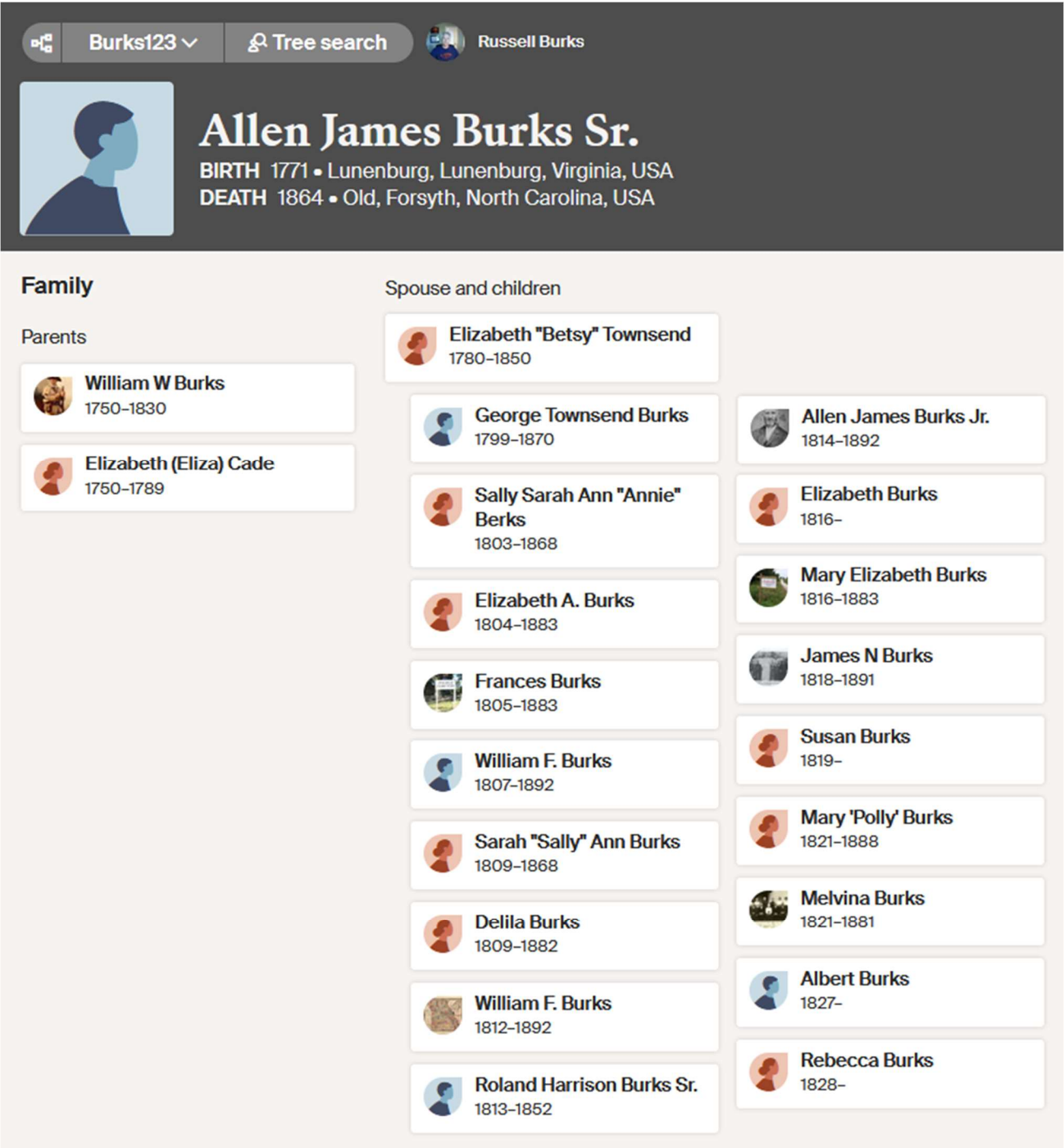
11 Records

96 Sources

The search turned up Allen James Burks – and he appears in 1015 family trees on Ancestry.com. But this search did NOT turn up a James Burks (this search didn’t get the entry for James Burks from Brian Embree’s family tree, since he listed Elizabeth “Eliza” Cade by her married name, Eliza Burks.

The first hit from the search shown above was from the family tree named Burks123, which is owned by Russell Burks. This profile is based on 11 records and 96 sources, and it is in a tree with 8471 people. It seems that Russell Burks is a serious genealogist; he is descended from William Burks and his wife Elizabeth (Eliza) Cade through their son Allen James Burks Sr. (1771-1864).

At any rate, let’s see what Russell Burks has for the profile of Allen James Burks, Sr. (who was his direct ancestor):

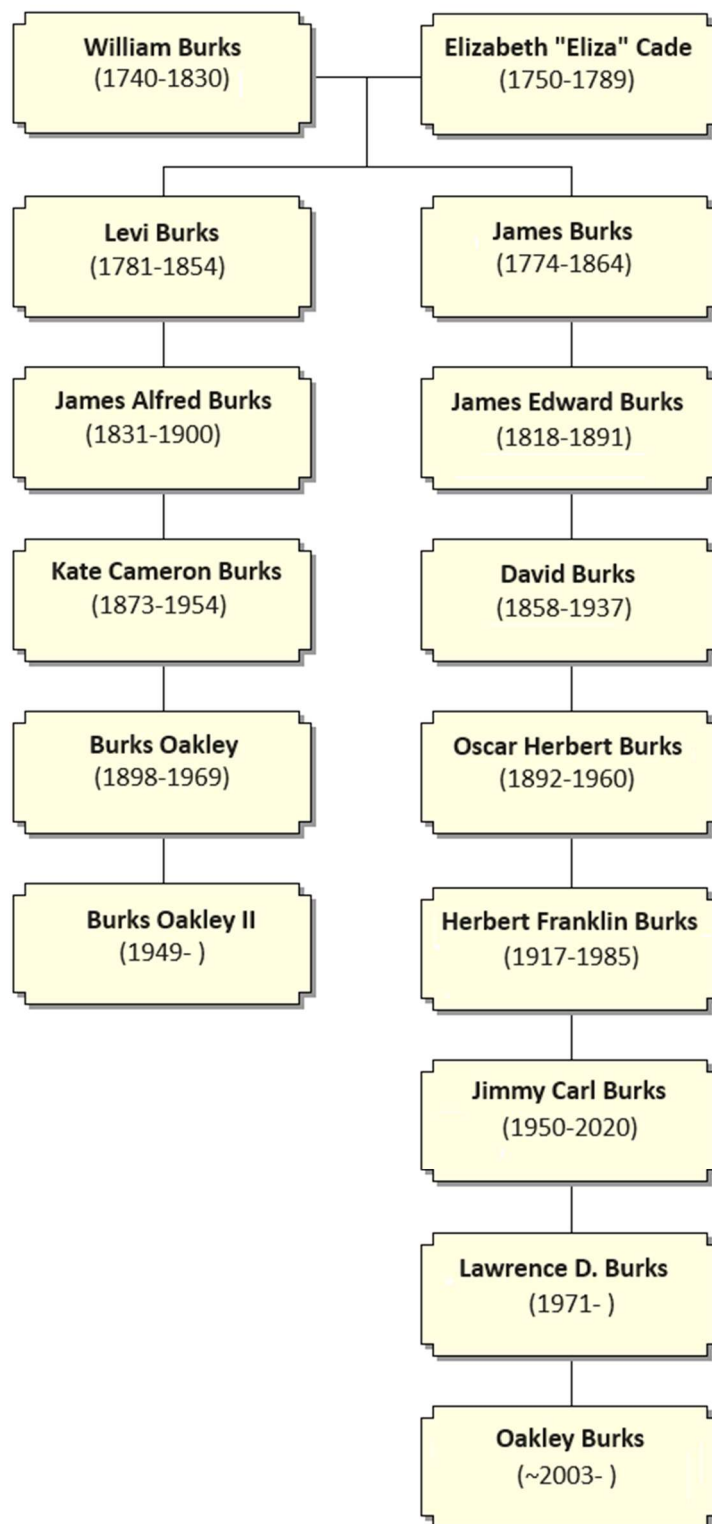


Well, this profile has Allen James Burks Sr.’s parents as William Burks and his wife Elizabeth (Eliza) Cade. It shows that Allen James Burks had 18 children, although William F. Burks appears twice. But most importantly, it has one of the children being James N. Burks (1818-1891), and this person is most likely a direct ancestor of Oakley Burks. In other trees, James appears as James Edward Burks, and even James N. Edward Burks. So Russell Burks’ family tree seems to support the idea that Oakley Burks’ line does go back to William Burks and his wife Eliza Cade.

At this point, I’m going to stop looking into this branch of the **Burks** family tree. There seems to be a lot of contradictory information in the many family trees, and I’m not sure that I could find the “truth”.

Given the information that I have presented above, I’m 95% sure that Oakley Burks is a direct descendant of William Burks and his wife Elizabeth “Eliza” Cade.

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



Based on this chart, I was a fourth-cousin of Herbert Franklin Burks, which means that Oakley and I are fourth-cousins three-times removed.

One Last Question

In my extended family, my first-cousin David R. Oakley's youngest child was Catherine Anne Oakley (born in 1967). Cathy married Gary Bunce, and they named their first son Oakley Robert Bunce (born in 1996). As far as I know, that is the only example in my extended family of someone having the first name of Oakley.

My one remaining question is: How did Oakley Burks get the name Oakley?