

My DNA Match with Randy Chrisley (and where it took me)

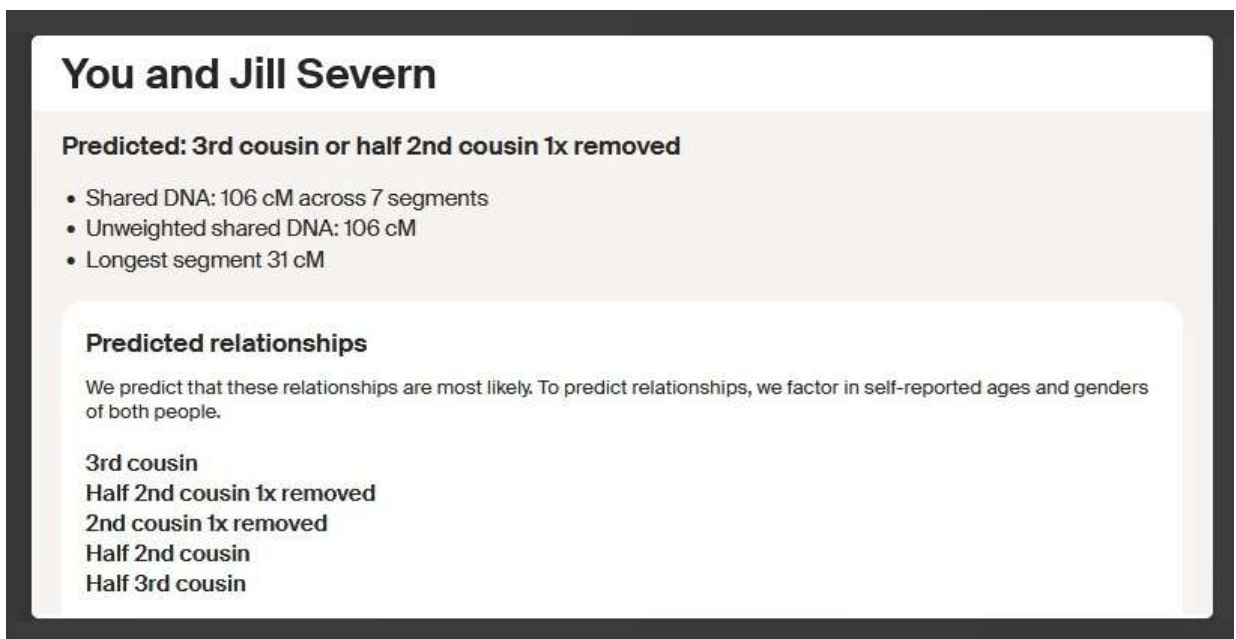
By Burks Oakley II
4 February 2025

[The readers of this narrative might think that I have difficulty staying on task – and they might be right!]

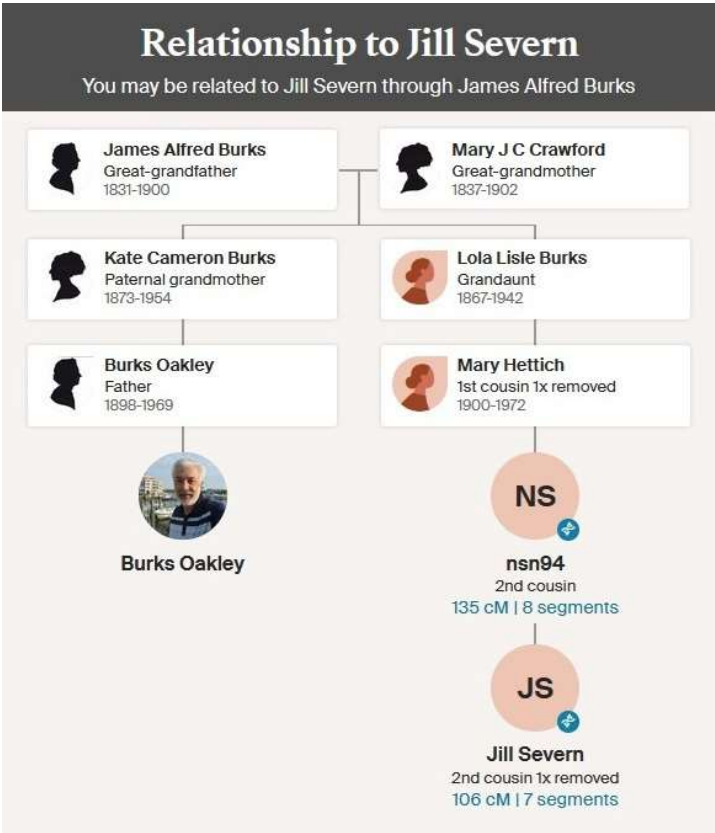
I have been looking through all of my large DNA matches on Ancestry.com, making sure that I understand exactly how each person fits into my family tree. A few days ago, I examined my DNA match with Jill Severn:



Jill and I share 106 cM of DNA across seven segments. Based on the size of this DNA match, software on Ancestry.com predicted our relationship:

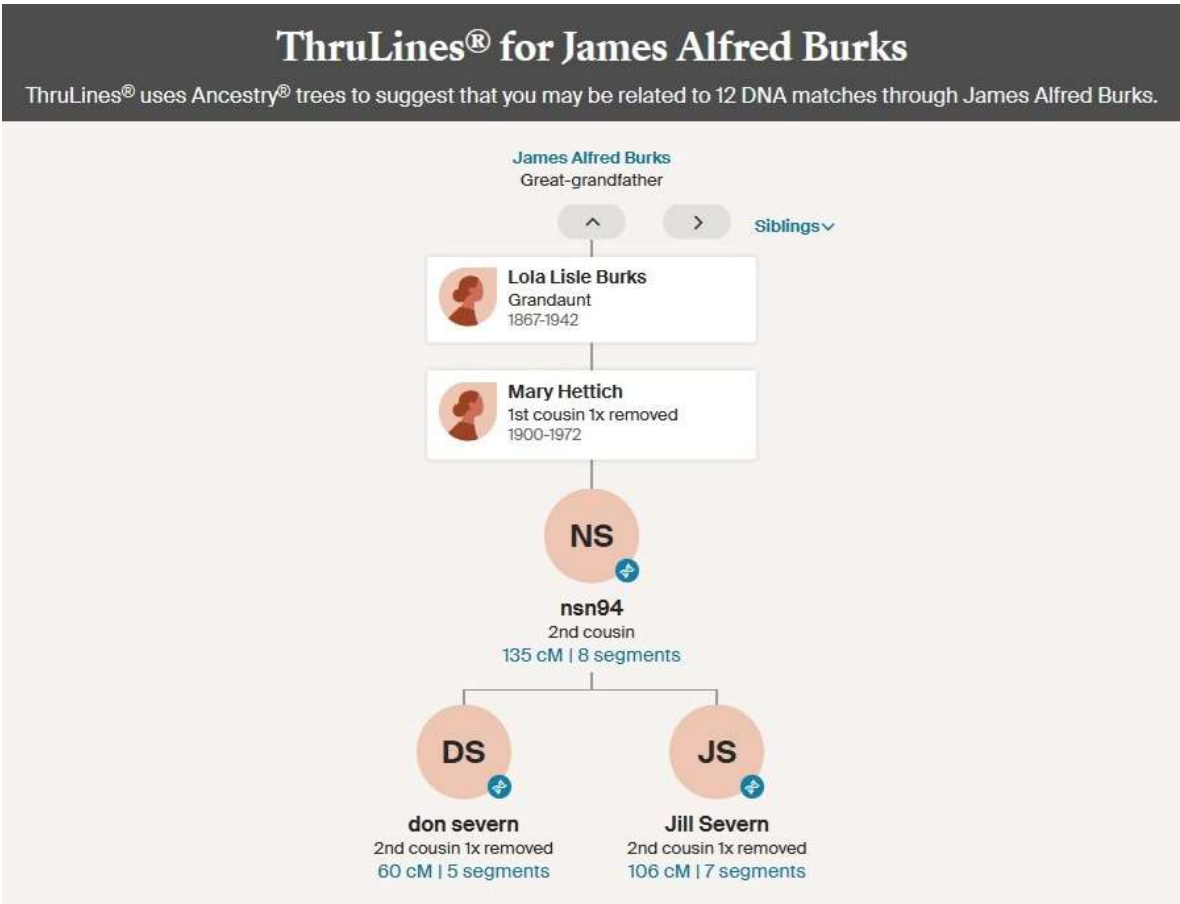


Here is a chart showing our actual relationship:



Jill is my second-cousin once-removed, which is one of the relationships predicted by Ancestry.com. I also have a 135 cM DNA match with Jill’s father (*nsn94*), whose last name must be **Severn**. Jill and I are both descended from James Alfred Burks (1831-1900) and his wife Mary Jane Cameron Crawford (1837-1902). I am descended from the **Burks-Crawford** couple through their daughter Kate Cameron Burks (1873-1954), while Jill is descended from this couple through their daughter Lola Lisle Burks (1867-1942).

Another way to view how Jill and I are related is to look at my ThruLines® chart for James Alfred Burks – here is just the part of the chart with the descendants of Lola Lisle Burks:



This chart shows that I also have a DNA match with Jill’s brother, Don Severn.

While looking at my DNA match with Jill Severn, I looked at our “Shared DNA Matches”. This list looks slightly different now that I have the “Pro Tools” on Ancestry.com. One of the shared matches I looked at was with Randy Chrisley:



You and Jill Severn

2nd cousin 1x removed | Paternal side ⓘ
2% shared DNA: 106 cM across 7 segments

Trees

Origins

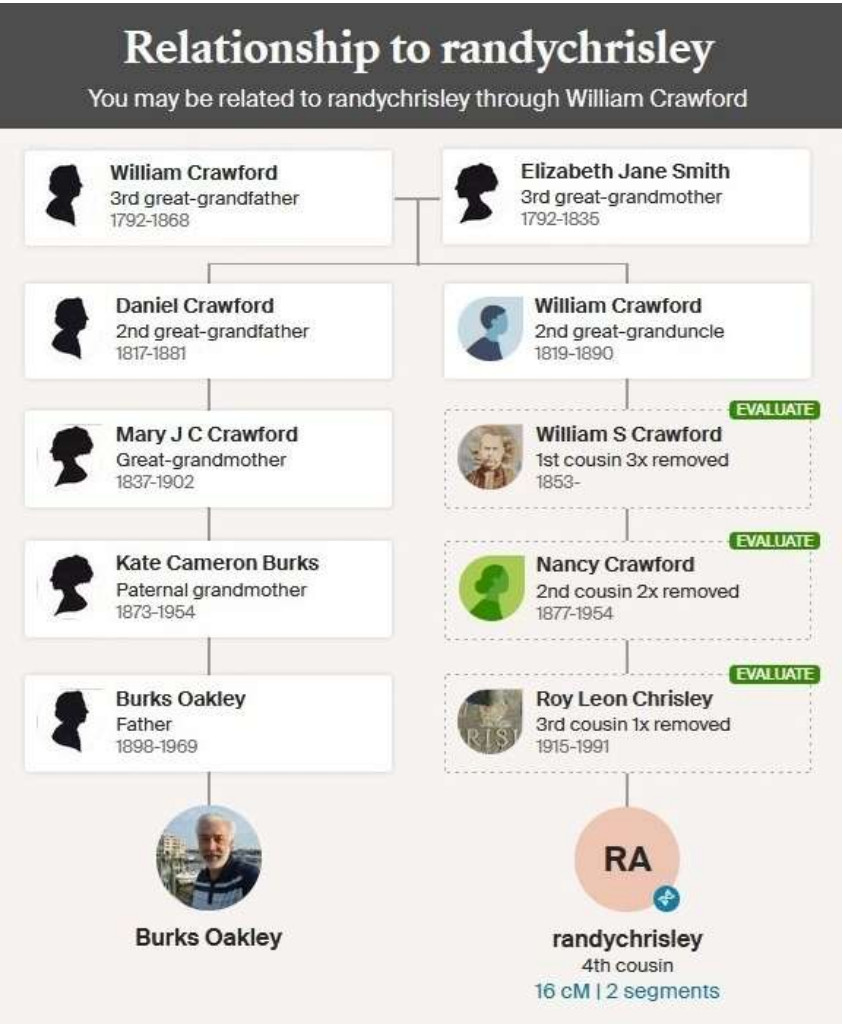
Shared Matches PRO

Shared match:	Your:	Jill Severn's:
 randychrisley 	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 16 cM Paternal side	Jill Severn's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 22 cM

The icon inside the red rectangle (above) means that Ancestry.com was able to identify the ancestor(s) that Randy and I have in common.

Since Jill is one of my **Burks** relatives, I was sure that Randy also would be related to me on the **Burks** branch of my family tree.

Boy, was I wrong....



Randy is a **Crawford** relative!! Randy and I are both descended from William Lewis Crawford Sr. (1792-1868) and his wife Elizabeth Jane Smith (1792-1835). I am descended from the **Crawford-Smith** couple through their son Daniel Crawford (1817-1881), while Randy is descended from this couple through their son William Lewis Crawford Jr. (1819-1890).

I certainly have a terrible habit of classifying my DNA matches by the male ancestor’s surname. I think of Jill Severn as a **Burks** relative, when I really need to think of her as a **Burks-Crawford** relative.

Since Randy and I both are descended from William Lewis Crawford Sr., I next looked at this man’s profile in my family tree on Ancestry.com:

Burks Oakley II ▾ Find in tree

William Lewis Crawford Sr. ☆

BIRTH 1792 • Wythe County, Virginia, United States
DEATH 9 APR 1868 • Wythe County, Virginia, United States

Family

Parents

John Crawford
1771-1807

Eleanor Atwood
1772-

Spouse and children

Elizabeth Jane Smith
1792-1835

Thomas Crawford
1810-1850

William Crawford
1819-1890

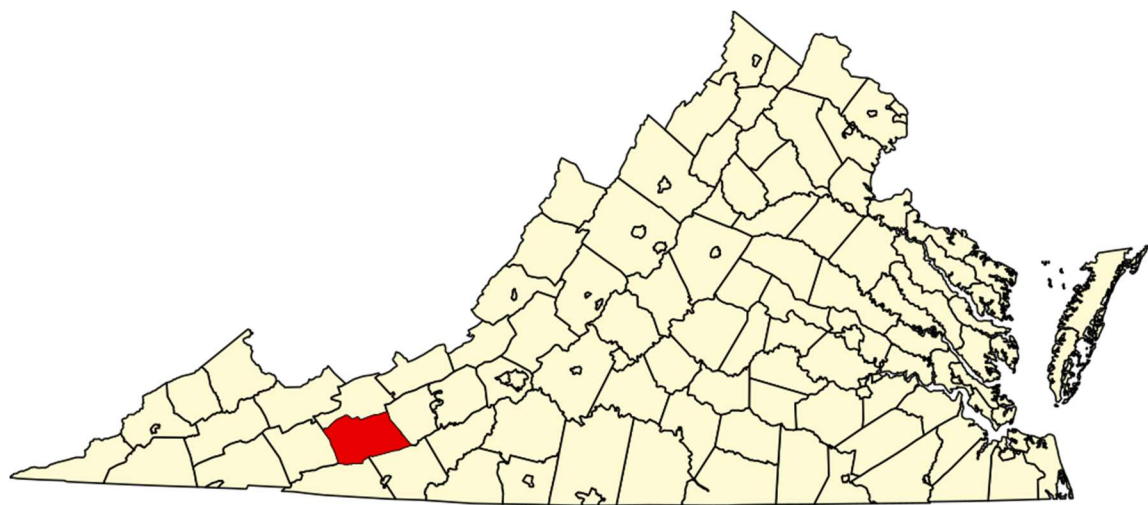
Mary Elizabeth Crawford
1811-1851

Robert Crawford
1825-1910

Daniel Crawford
1817-1881

John Henry Crawford
1830-1881

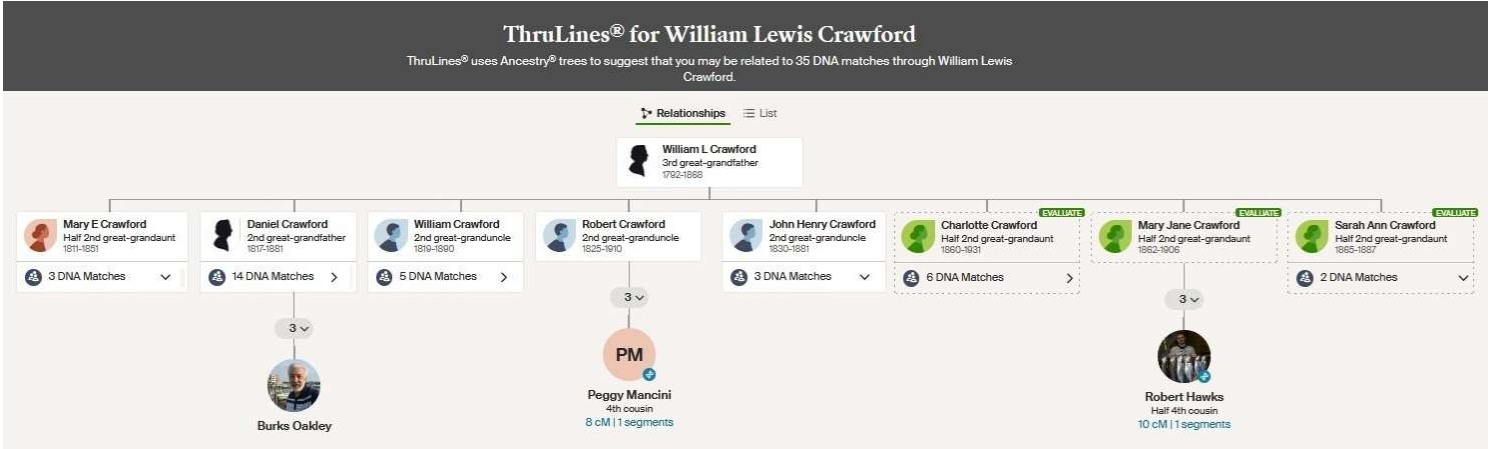
It appears that William Lewis Crawford Sr. lived his entire life in Wythe County, Virginia. Here is a map showing the location of Wythe County (shaded in red):



Wytheville is the county seat of Wythe County, and interestingly, Wytheville is just 35 miles south of Bluefield, West Virginia, where the ***Oakley*** family used to own and operate WVVA-TV.

But I digress....

According to my profile for William L. Crawford Sr. on the previous page, he and his wife Elizabeth Jane Smith had six children. I know that Randy Chrisley is descended from one of their children (William Jr.), and I wondered if I had DNA matches with descendants of any of their other children. So I next looked at my ThruLines® chart for William L. Crawford Sr.:



This chart is unreadable at this magnification, so I'll show it again in landscape view on the next page:

ThruLines® for William Lewis Crawford

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 35 DNA matches through William Lewis Crawford.

Relationships List

William L Crawford
3rd great-grandfather
1792-1868

Mary E Crawford
Half 2nd great-grandaunt
1811-1851

3 DNA Matches

Daniel Crawford
2nd great-grandfather
1817-1881

14 DNA Matches

3



Burks Oakley

William Crawford
2nd great-granduncle
1819-1890

5 DNA Matches

Robert Crawford
2nd great-granduncle
1825-1910

3



Peggy Mancini
4th cousin
8 cM | 1 segments

John Henry Crawford
2nd great-granduncle
1830-1881

3 DNA Matches

Charlotte Crawford
Half 2nd great-grandaunt
1860-1931

6 DNA Matches

EVALUATE

Mary Jane Crawford
Half 2nd great-grandaunt
1862-1906

EVALUATE



Robert Hawks
Half 4th cousin
10 cM | 1 segments

Sarah Ann Crawford
Half 2nd great-grandaunt
1865-1887

2 DNA Matches

EVALUATE

Oh my! I have a total of 35 DNA matches with descendants of William L. Crawford Sr. Starting at the left side of this chart, I have DNA matches with descendants of William's children Mary, Daniel, William Jr., Robert, and John Henry. All of these people are in my family tree, so they appear inside of solid white boxes. But then there are three additional children at the right – and I appear to have DNA matches with their descendants. Those children are Charlotte, Mary Jane, and Sarah Ann. These three children are listed with a “half” relationship, meaning that they had a different mother than Elizabeth Jane Smith. Recall that the ThruLines® charts are based on family trees on Ancestry.com, which are notorious for having errors. I didn't want to discount the probability that these matches were legitimate, since they accounted for nine of my thirty-five matches with descendants of William L. Crawford Sr. – but I certainly didn't have these three daughters in my family tree.

But then it hit me!

Here is just the right side of the ThruLines® chart:



John Henry Crawford (at the left) was born in 1830, but then Charlotte, Mary Jane, and Sarah Ann were born in 1860, 1862, and 1865, respectively. How can this be? William Sr. was born in 1792.

But still, these three daughters of William Sr. account for nine of my DNA matches.

I went back and looked at the profile for William Sr. in my family tree, and I saw that his wife Elizabeth Jane Smith died in 1835.

Hmmm...

Did William Sr. remarry later in life?

Scroll down....

Go on to the next page:

I searched the family trees on Ancestry.com for William L. Crawford Sr. – and he appears in 174 trees. Here is one of them – from the family tree owned by James Thompson:

Thompson/Crawford & H...Find in treeJames Thompson



William Crawford Sr

BIRTH ABT 1792 • Wythe County, Virginia

DEATH 9 APR 1868 • Wythe County, Virginia

Family

Parents

John Crawford

1771-1807

Eleanor Atwood

1772-1807

Spouse and children

Elizabeth Jane Smith

1792-1835

Mary CRAWFORD

1811-1851

Daniel CRAWFORD

1813-1881

Thomas S. Crawford

1815-1850

Nancy Crawford

1816-

William Crawford

1819-1890

Eleanor Crawford

1825-1863

Robert Crawford

1825-1910

Elizabeth R Crawford

1828-

Jonah J Crawford

1828-1875

John H. Crawford

1830-1881

David F Crawford

1834-1875

Susanah Crawford

-1902

Spouse and children

Eliza Jane Thompson

1841-1916

George Nash Crawford

1858-1859

Charlotte Crawford

1860-1931

Mary Jane Crawford

1863-1906

Charles B Crawford

1864-

Sarah Ann Crawford

1865-1887

Martha L Crawford

1866-1902

Oh my!! This profile shows that William Sr. had twelve children with his first wife, Elizabeth Jane Smith, and then he had six children with his second wife, Eliza Jane Thompson. And three of the children from his second marriage are Charlotte, Mary Jane, and Sarah Ann, who are the three children that appear in my ThruLines® chart for William Sr.

I'll certainly have to look into this in more detail. But right now, let me make some observations.

- William Sr.'s first wife, Elizabeth Jane Smith, died in 1835, having had twelve children with him. His second wife, Eliza Jane Thompson, wasn't even born until 1841.
- William Sr. was born in 1792. His second wife, Eliza Jane Thompson, was born in 1841, meaning that he was 49 years older than she was.
- The first child in William Sr.'s second marriage was George Nash Crawford (1858-1859). When George was born, William Sr. was 66 years old and his wife Eliza Jane was 17 years old. At that time, William Sr. had been a widower for 23 years.
- And William Sr. had SIX children with his second wife – the last was born in 1866, when William Sr. was 74 years old.
- My DNA matches (as well as those of my *Oakley* cousins) show that William Sr. was indeed the father of the children born to his second wife.

This just can't be right! Can it?

But wait! It gets more interesting! William Sr. appears in the Delp Family Tree:



This profile shows that he married Jane Thompson (who I believe is Eliza Jane Thompson) on 30 January 1858, when he was 66 years old. Again, she was born in 1841, so she would have been about 17 years old at the time. And their first child, George Nash Crawford, was born on 27 July 1858 – just six months after they were married. A 66-year-old man getting a 17-year-old girl pregnant. Huh?

Here is an excerpt from another profile – this one from the Sarah Fishback Family Tree:



This profile has their marriage 19 days earlier, but else the same.

At this point, I have to say that I am dumbfounded about my third-great grandfather, William Lewis Crawford Sr. What an incredible story! Twelve children with his first wife. Six more children with his second wife – when he was in his sixties and seventies! Is this an incredible story, or what?!!

As an afterthought, I looked at several family trees owned by ***Oakley*** family members. Here is Mark Eidem’s profile for William L. Crawford Sr.:

Mark C. Eidem Family Tr...Find in treeeidem67

William Crawford

BIRTH 1792 • Wythe County, Virginia, USA

DEATH 09 APR 1868 • Wythe County, Virginia, USA

Family

Spouse and children

Parents

John Crawford1771-1807

Eleanor Atwood1772-

Elizabeth Jane Smith1792-1835

Daniel Crawford1817-1881

Mark only has our direct ancestor, Daniel Crawford, in his tree. And here is Mark’s ThruLines® for William Crawford:

ThruLines® for William Crawford

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that Mark Eidem may be related to 20 DNA matches through William Crawford.

William Crawford4th great-grandfather1792-1868

Mary E CrawfordHalf 3rd great-grandaunt1810-1851

Daniel Crawford3rd great-grandfather1817-1881

John H. Crawford3rd great-granduncle1830-1881

Charlotte CrawfordHalf 3rd great-grandaunt1860-1931

William Crawford3rd great-granduncle-1890

3

4

4

4

4

wulybugr1Half 4th cousin 1x removed11 cM | 1 segments

MEMark Eidem

Leslie Ratcliff5th cousin9 cM | 1 segments

PBPatricia Booth5th cousin18 cM | 2 segments

Mark has DNA matches with William’s children from his first marriage – Mary, Daniel, John, and William. And he has four DNA matches with descendants of Charlotte Crawford, who was William’s daughter from his second marriage.

Here is Hal Oakley’s profile for William Lewis Crawford Sr.:

Oakley Family TreeFind in treeHOHal OakleyYour role: Editor

William Lewis Crawford Sr

BIRTH ABT 1792 • Wythe County, Virginia, USA

DEATH 9 APR 1868 • Wythe, Virginia

Parents

Spouse and children

John Crawford1771-1807

Eleanor Crawford1770-1863

Elizabeth Jane Smith1803-1835

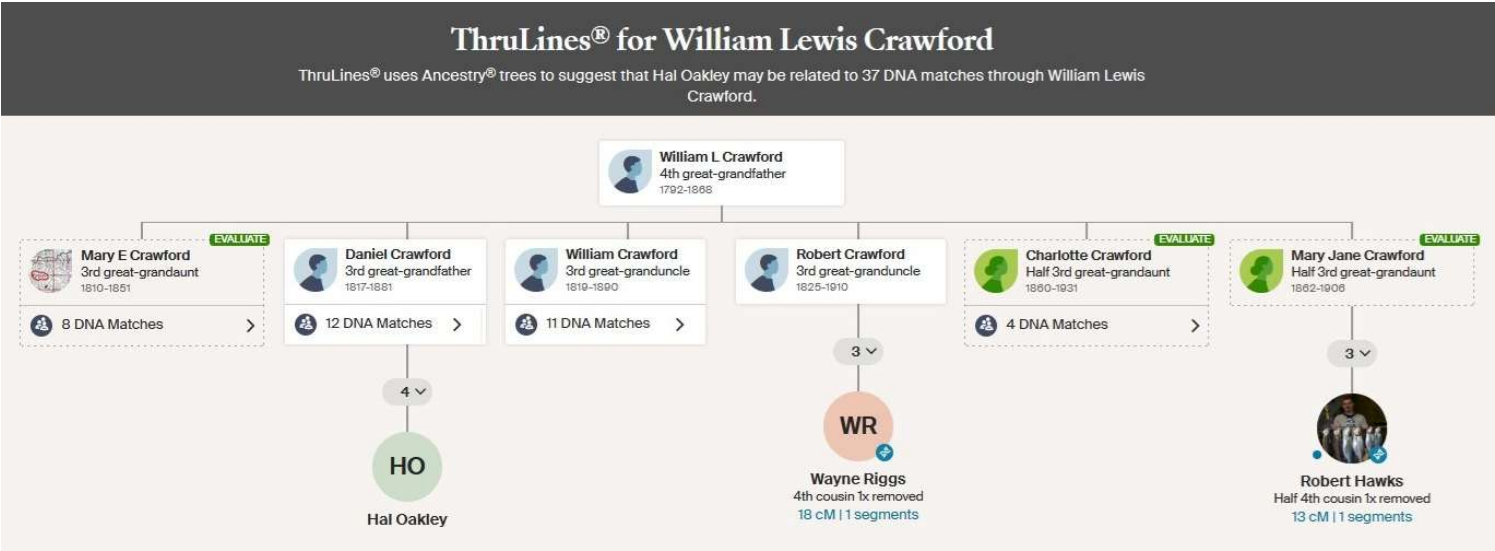
Daniel Crawford1817-1881

William Crawford1819-1890

Robert Crawford1825-1910

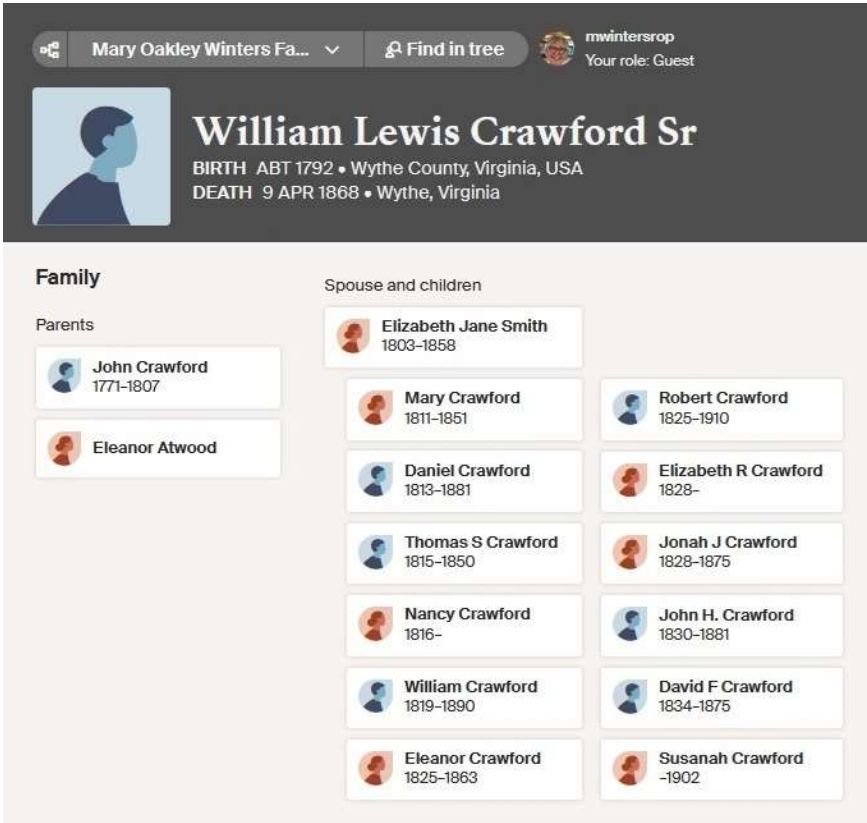
Hal’s profile has three of William Sr.’s children from his first marriage, including our ancestor, Daniel Crawford.

And here is Hal’s ThruLines® chart for William Sr.:



Wow! Hal has DNA matches with 37 descendants of William Lewis Crawford Sr.!! I only have 35 matches, and Hal is another generation removed from William Sr. I find this quite amazing. And Hal has DNA matches with descendants of two of William Sr.’s daughters from his second marriage, Charlotte and Mary Jane.

For completeness, I also looked at the profile for William Lewis Crawford Sr. in Mary Oakley Winters’ family tree:



Mary has all twelve children from William Sr.’s first marriage, but like the rest of us, she doesn’t have his children from his second marriage.

At this point, I know that Mark, Hal, and I all have DNA matches with descendants of William Sr.’s daughters from his second marriage. I should add that cousin Tim Oakley also has a DNA match with a descendant of Charlotte Crawford (Frank Mabry) – but Tim doesn’t have a family tree on Ancestry.com, so he doesn’t have any ThruLines® charts.

I still couldn't believe that William Lewis Crawford Sr. had a second wife who was so much younger than he was. I needed more proof. I searched for him again on Ancestry.com, and once again found him in numerous family trees, many with lots of records and sources:

All Public Member Trees results for William Lewis Crawford

William Lewis Crawford found in 174 trees

View all

William Lewis Crawford from tree

Sarah Fishback Family Tree

Birth

1792 Wythe, Virginia, USA

Father

John Crawford (1771-1807)

Residence

1850 Hampton, Virginia, USA

Mother

Eleanor Atwood (1770-1863)

Marriage

30 Jan 1858 Wythe, Virginia, USA

Spouse

Jane Thompson (1841-1916)

Death

9 Apr 1868 Hampton, Virginia, USA

2029 People

12 Records

33 Sources

The first tree I examined was the “Thompson/Crawford & Harper/Harding Family Tree”, which is owned by James Thompson (I mentioned this tree earlier in this narrative). In this tree, William Sr. appears at the following URL:

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/172455716/person/422272241443/facts>

The sources for this profile include a link to the entry for William Sr. in the 1860 US Census:

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7667/images/4298880_00284?pid=34438509

And when I viewed the census entry, I let out a huge scream:

1860 United States Federal Census for William Cranford										
Virginia > Wythe > District 68										
	Dwelling No.	Family No.	Name	Age	Sex	Color	Occupation	Real Estate	Personal Estate	Birthplace
25										
26										
27	1535	1364	William Cranford	68	M		Farmer	11100	800	VA
28			Jane	18	F					VA
29			Charlotte	1/4	F					VA
30			Thos Thompson	11	M					VA
31										

This shows William Sr., age 68, and his wife Jane, age 18, and their daughter Charlotte, age 1/4 year – she was born on 29 January 1860.

Holy cow! William Sr. really did have a second wife who was 49 or 50 years younger than he was!! Amazing!!!

The profile for William Sr. on James Thompson's family tree includes a link to William Sr.'s entry on the FindAGrave.com website:

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/219883689/william_crawford

MEMORIALS

William Crawford Sr.

BIRTH

1792
Wythe County, Virginia, USA

DEATH

9 Apr 1868 (aged 75–76)
Wythe County, Virginia, USA

BURIAL

Burial Details Unknown

MEMORIAL ID

219883689 · [View Source](#)

Family Members

Spouses



Eliza Jane *Thompson* Crawford

1841–1916 (m. 1858)



Elizabeth Jane *Smith* Crawford

1794–1854

Children



William Crawford Jr

1819–1890



George Nash Crawford

1858–1859



Charlotte *Crawford* Mabry

1860–1931



Mary Jane *Crawford* Swecker

1863–1906



Sarah Ann *Crawford* Swecker

1865–1887



Martha L *Crawford* Brown

1866–1902

This page lists both his wives, and four of his children from his second marriage. I looked at the entry for Charlotte Crawford (married name Mabry):

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/138504193/charlotte_mabry

Recall that Hal, Tim, and I have DNA matches with Frank Mabry, who is a direct descendant of Charlotte Crawford.

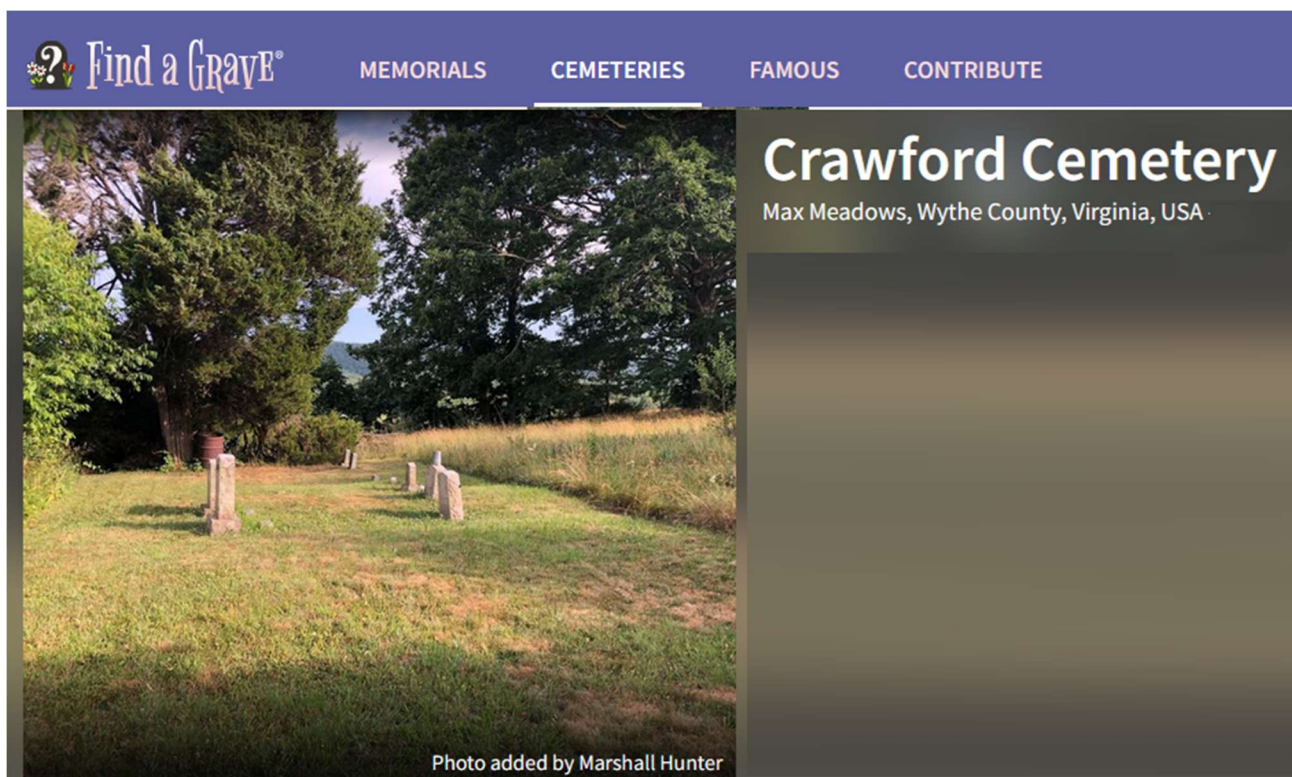
MEMORIALS

Charlotte *Crawford* Mabry

1860 – 1931 • Crawford Cemetery



Note that she is buried in Crawford Cemetery.



In addition to the many Crawfords who are buried in this cemetery, there are seven people with the Chrisley name (and recall that this narrative came about from my DNA match with Randy Chrisley):

	Buford Lee Chrisley ✨ 1903 – 22 Mar 1936
	Grover Lee Chrisley ✨ 1 Sep 1917 – 31 Mar 1974
	Jesse Ree Chrisley ✨ 6 Aug 1907 – 10 Mar 1982
	Margaret Ann "Maggie" Lindsey Chrisley ✨ 14 Apr 1885 – 10 Oct 1950
	Nannie Elizabeth Crawford Chrisley ✨ 10 Jun 1877 – 30 Aug 1954
	Robert Lee Chrisley 29 May 1876 – 24 May 1928
	William Riley Chrisley ✨ 20 Jul 1872 – 1929

These seven individuals simply have to be part of Randy's family. Unfortunately, Randy's tree on Ancestry.com is private, so I can't view it. I did, however, look at Randy's **Chrisley** line in other family trees on Ancestry.com. I could trace this line from his father back to his third-great grandfather, John "Jones" Chrisley (1785-1867), and every **Chrisley** male in this line was born in Wythe County, Virginia.

At this point, I think I've done enough with this branch of my family tree. When I first looked at my DNA match with Jill Severn, I had no idea that I would end up finding new information about my third-great grandfather, William Lewis Crawford Sr.

I certainly had no idea that I would find out that William Sr. was a widower for 23 years before marrying a (very) young woman who was 49 or 50 years younger than he was. And then having six more children with her! What a story!!