

My New DNA Match with Randy Risto (going back on my *Crawford* line)

By Burks Oakley II
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A few days ago, I looked to see if I had any new DNA matches on the Ancestry.com website. I filtered my DNA matches so that I only saw those matches that were previously “unviewed” AND where software on the website was able to identify common ancestors. One of the matches that met these criteria was with a man named Randy Risto:

Burks Oakley's DNA Matches

[All matches](#)[By parent](#)[BETA](#)[By ancestor](#)[By location](#)

Filter by:

Unviewed

Common ancestors

Search | Sort

Distant Family



Randy Risto

5th – 8th Cousin
15 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Paternal side

Public linked tree
406 People

Common ancestor

Randy and I share just 15 cM of DNA, so he is likely to be a distant relative.

I next looked at our common ancestors:

How are you and Randy Risto related?

Common Ancestors

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

Randy Risto could be your 4th cousin through:



William Crawford

3rd great-grandfather
1792–1868

View Relationship



Elizabeth Jane Smith

3rd great-grandmother
1792–1835

View Relationship

Randy and I are both descended from William Crawford (1792-1868) and his wife Elizabeth Jane Smith (1792-1835). This couple were my third-great grandparents.

Here are the profiles for William Crawford and Elizabeth Jane Smith from my family tree on the Ancestry.com website:



William Crawford

BIRTH

1792 • Wythe County, Virginia, United States

DEATH

9 APR 1868 • Wythe County, Virginia, United States



Elizabeth Jane Smith

BIRTH

1792 • Virginia

DEATH

1835/1858 • Wythe County, Virginia, United States

They lived in Wythe County, Virginia, in the late 1700's and the first half of the 1800's. Presumably Wythe County was near the western frontier around 1800. As an aside, Wythe County is located in the southwest portion of the Commonwealth of Virginia and was named for George Wythe, who was among the first Virginians to sign the Declaration of Independence. But I digress....

I went on to look at the chart showing how Randy and I are related:



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 John Henry Crawford (1830-1881). On this line, Randy and I are fourth-cousins. I should note that John Henry Crawford is in my family tree, but for some unknown reason, he appears in a dotted box with an “Evaluate” button, as would be the case if he were NOT already in my family tree. No idea why this is.

Software on the Ancestry.com website predicted how Randy and I are related, based solely on the size of our DNA match (15 cM):



You and Randy Risto
Shared DNA: **15 cM** across **2 segments**
Unweighted shared DNA: **16 cM**
Longest segment: **8 cM**

Possible DNA relationships
This table shows the percentage of the time people sharing 15 cM have the following relationships:

Percent	Relationship
22%	3rd cousin 1x removed
22%	4th cousin
16%	4th cousin 1x removed
14%	3rd cousin

The two largest probabilities were for us to be third-cousins once-removed (22%) or fourth-cousins (22%). And it appears that we are fourth-cousins, so this prediction was really spot on.

I also looked at Randy’s profile on the Ancestry.com website:



Randy Risto
Alberta, Canada Age: 60+
Joined **Last active**
23 May 2011 3-11 Months ago

Oh my! Randy is from Alberta, Canada. It would appear that someone in Randy’s ancestral line moved from the USA to Canada.

And that someone was Randy’s maternal grandfather, Lyman Crawford Ratcliff (1891-1968):



Lyman Crawford Ratcliff

BIRTH 31 DEC 1891 • McCune, Crawford, Kansas, USA
DEATH 16 JAN 1968 • Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Lyman Crawford Ratcliff was born in Crawford County, Kansas, and died in Calgary, Alberta.

According to Wikipedia, Crawford County was named in honor of Samuel Crawford, the third governor of Kansas. My guess is that it was just a coincidence that Lyman’s family was in Crawford County, Kansas. At any rate, I bet there is an interesting story as to why Lyman moved to Calgary.

I Googled “Randy Risto Alberta Canada” (without the quotes), and I found the following:



RANDY RISTO

MASKWACIS EDUCATION SCHOOLS COMMISSION

Associate Superintendent: Corporate Services

Randy Risto is the Associate Superintendent: Corporate Services for Maskwacis Education Schools Commission (MESCC). Randy grew up on a farm in the Wetaskiwin area near the Maskwacis Cree Nations and spent several years working in northern Alberta in the forest industry before becoming a teacher. While working in the education sector he has had the role of Teacher, Assistant Principal, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Associate Superintendent of Personnel, Deputy Superintendent, Chair of the Government of Alberta (GOA) Attendance Board and Director of the GOA First Nation, Metis, and Inuit Field Services Branch. Attending school with First Nations students and working with First Nation people on the farm and in the forest instilled in Randy the importance of Wahkohtowin. Randy currently lives near the Samson Cree Nation and is married to Jill, they have two children.

<https://educationanalytics.ca/randy-risto/>

This graphic is shown on the next page in landscape view:



RANDY RISTO

MASKWACIS EDUCATION SCHOOLS COMMISSION

Associate Superintendent: Corporate Services

Randy Risto is the Associate Superintendent: Corporate Services for Maskwacis Education Schools Commission (MESC). Randy grew up on a farm in the Wetaskiwin area near the Maskwaci Cree Nations and spent several years working in northern Alberta in the forest industry before becoming a teacher. While working in the education sector he has had the role of Teacher, Assistant Principal, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Associate Superintendent of Personnel, Deputy Superintendent, Chair of the Government of Alberta (GOA) Attendance Board and Director of the GOA First Nation, Metis, and Inuit Field Services Branch. Attending school with First Nations students and working with First Nation people on the farm and in the forest instilled in Randy the importance of Wahkohtowin. Randy currently lives near the Samson Cree Nation and is married to Jill, they have two children.

Randy is an Associate Superintendent for the Maskwacis Education Schools Commission (MESC). This organization is owned and operated by the Ermineskin Cree Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, Montana First Nation and Samson Cree Nation. MESC is the education authority for the Maskwacis Cree.

Oh my! It seems that Randy went to school himself with First Nations students, and now he is working to serve them. Impressive!

I next looked at the DNA matches that Randy and I share – our so-called “Shared Matches”. In order to be on the list of Shared Matches, an individual has to have DNA matches with both Randy and me that are at least 20 cM in size. This requirement limits the number of people on the list. In fact, there is just one person that I recognize on this list, and that is Stephen Slane:



You and Randy Risto

5th – 8th Cousin | Paternal side
< 1% shared DNA: 15 cM across 2 segments

Trees Ethnicity Shared Matches

Filter by: Unviewed Common ancestors Search | Sort

Extended Family



Stephen Slane

2nd – 3rd Cousin
241 cM | 3% shared DNA
Paternal side

No Trees

I have written about my DNA match with Stephen previously:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/42-StephenSlane-BurksCousin.pdf>

Stephen is a grandson of Paul Dore Burks (brother to my paternal grandmother Kate Cameron Burks). This means that Stephen is a great-grandson of Mary Jane Cameron Crawford (my great-grandmother).

I looked at the DNA matches for all of my **Oakley** cousins who have given me access to their DNA profiles on the Ancestry.com website. Out of this illustrious group, only Tim Oakley has a DNA match with Randy Risto:

Tim Oakley's DNA Matches

All matches By parent **BETA** By location

Filter by: Unviewed Common ancestors Search | Sort

Match name

Surname in matches' trees

Birth location in matches' trees

Search

Cancel

Distant Family



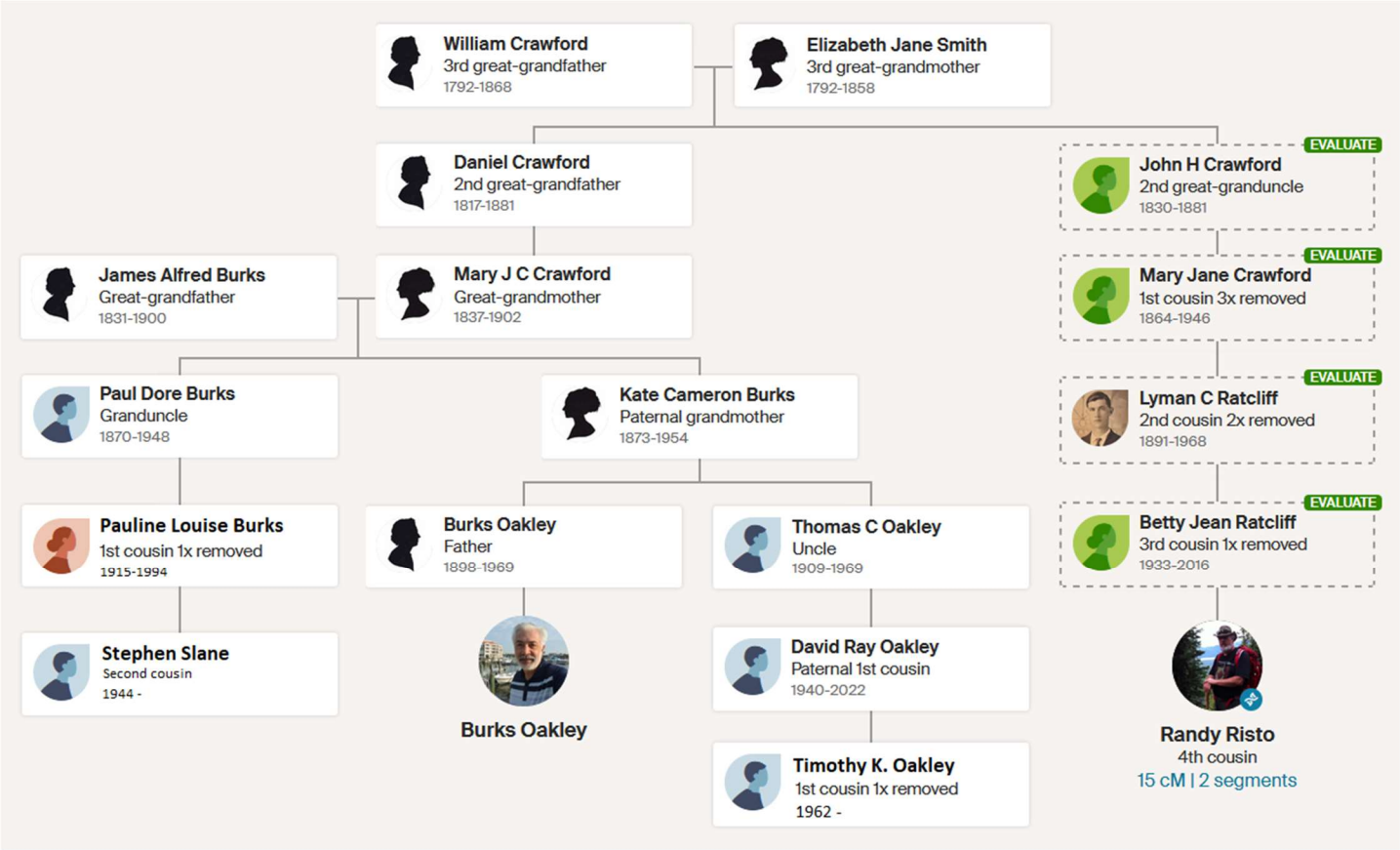
Randy Risto

5th – 8th Cousin
8 cM | < 1% shared DNA
Paternal side

Public linked tree
406 People

Since Tim’s match with Randy is just 8 cM, Tim doesn’t appear on the list of DNA matches that Randy and I share (the listing only includes people with matches greater than 20 cM).

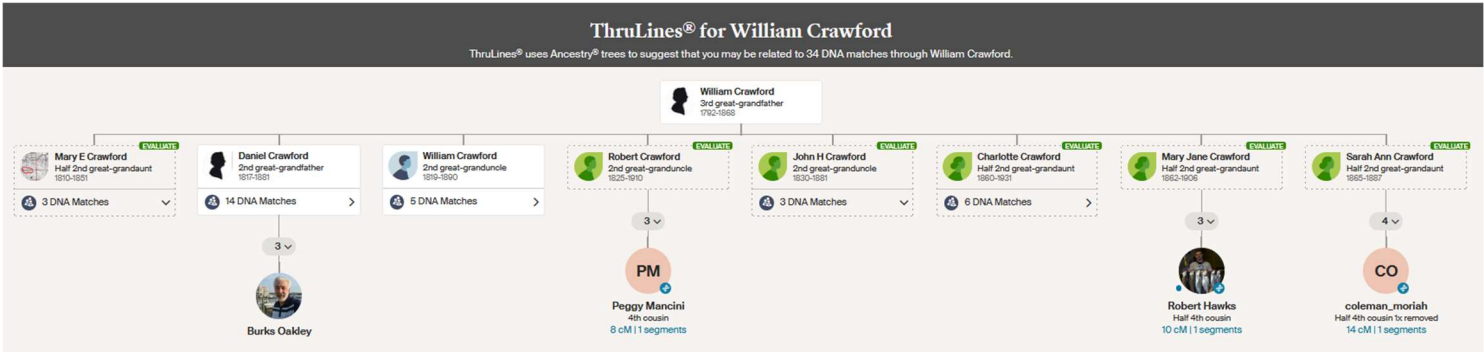
Just for fun, I created an overall relationship chart, showing how Stephen Slane, Tim Oakley, Randy Risto, and your truly are related:



I think that this chart does a good job of showing how the four of us all are descended from William Crawford and his wife Elizabeth Jane Smith.

I still find it rather amazing to know that four living individuals have matching segments of DNA¹ that can be traced back to common ancestors who lived at the edge of the American frontier in the late 1700's.

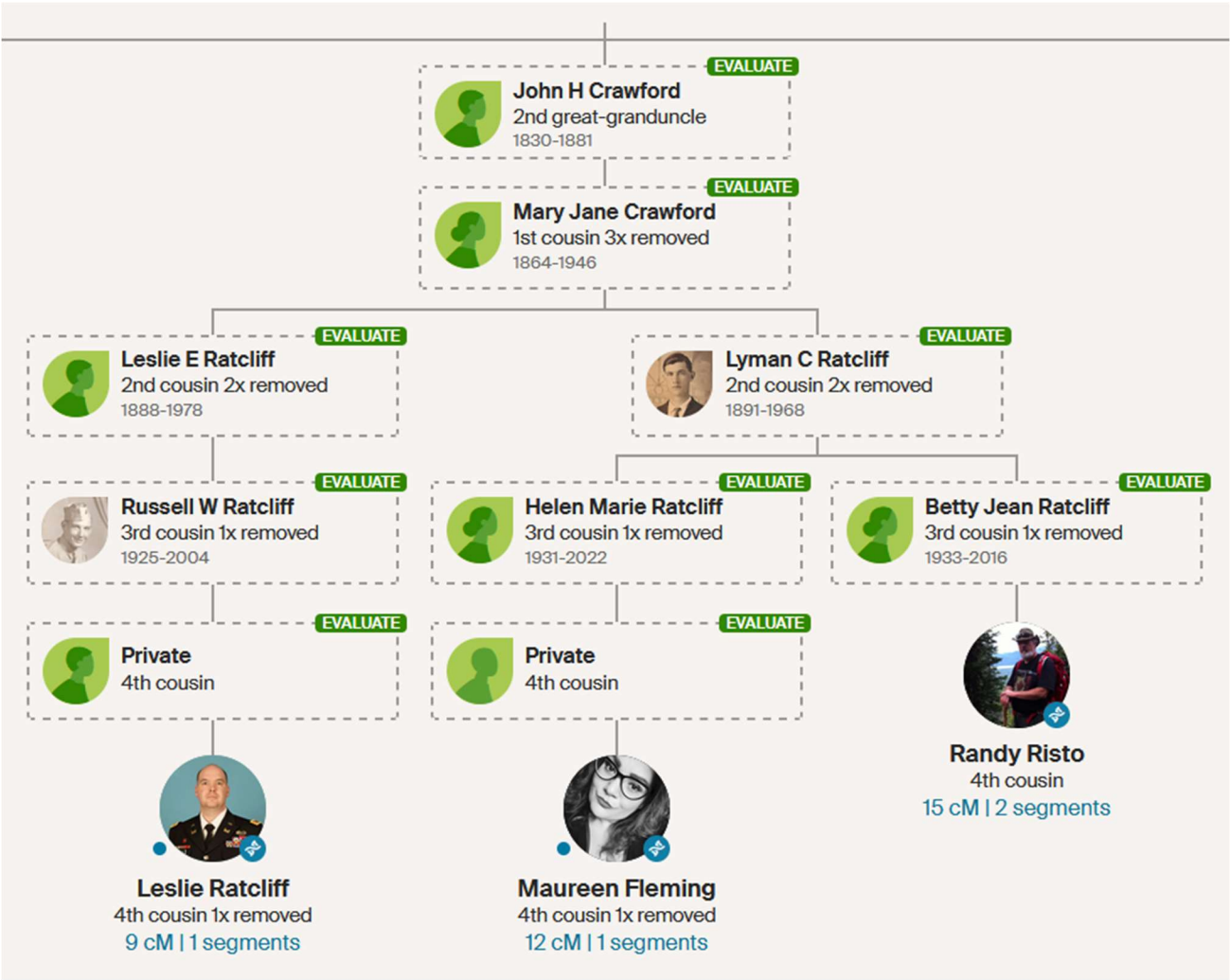
I went on to look at my ThruLines® chart for William Crawford:



This chart is unreadable at this magnification, but it shows that I have DNA matches with 34 descendants of William Crawford. The three lines at the right show my DNA matches which supposedly come from William Crawford’s second marriage (to a woman 50 years his junior). I rather doubt that these lines are correct, but I’m not going to take the time now to look into them.

¹ Ancestry.com doesn’t provide any evidence about the matching DNA segments. All we know is that Stephen and Tim have DNA matches with Randy and with me (but *not* necessarily the same segment of DNA on the same chromosome for each of these matches).

I did look at the ancestral lines that go back to William Crawford through his son John Henry Crawford (Randy’s ancestor):

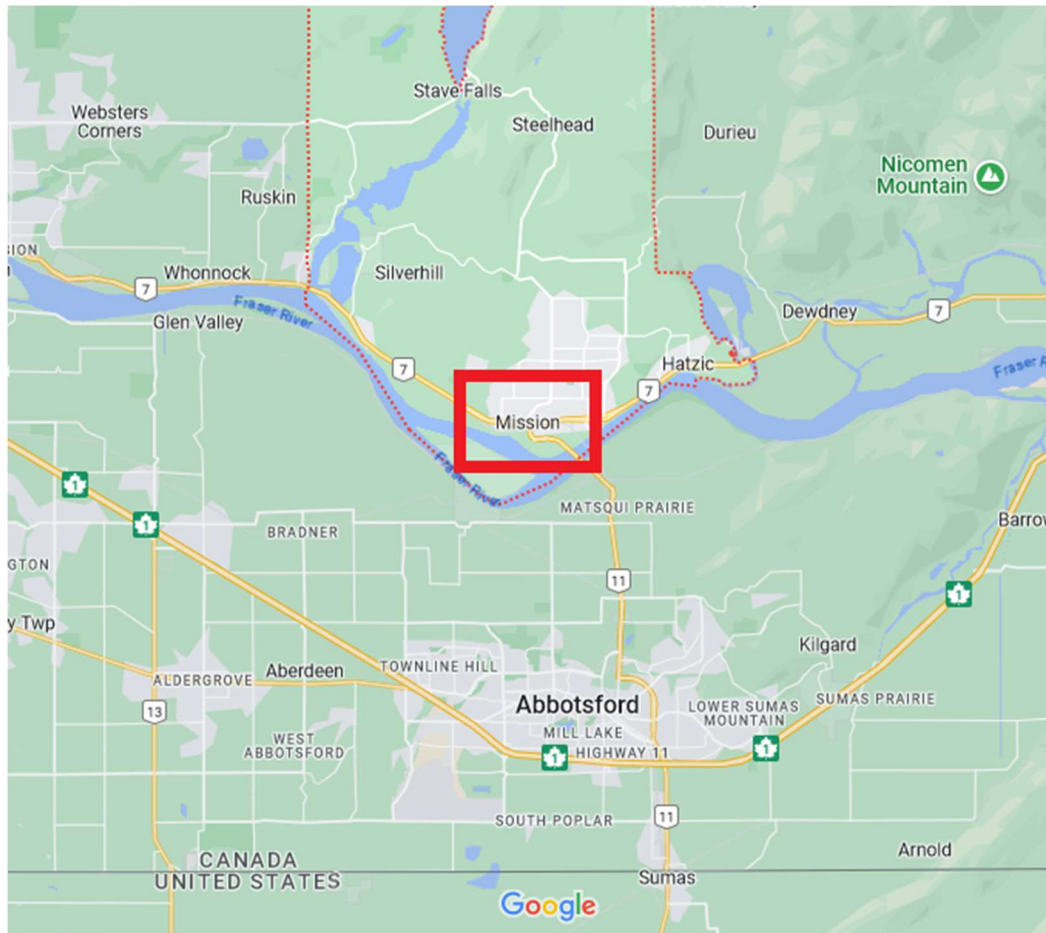


This branch of the ThruLines® chart shows that I have three DNA matches with descendants of John Henry Crawford. One of them is with Randy’s first-cousin once-removed, Maureen Fleming.

I looked at Maureen’s profile on Ancestry.com:



Maureen is from the town of Mission, British Columbia. This town is located ~65 km east of Vancouver on the Fraser River. It is less than 20 km from the US border:



In looking at the branch of my ThruLines® chart on the previous page, I see that Maureen is a great-granddaughter of Lyman Crawford Ratcliff – and remember that Lyman immigrated to Canada from Kansas. And this obviously explains why Maureen resides in British Columbia.

In looking through all my other ***Oakley*** relatives on Ancestry.com, only one of them has a DNA match with Maureen Fleming – and that person is:

Scroll to the next page....

Tim Oakley!!

Tim Oakley's DNA Matches

All matches

By parent

By ancestor

By location

Filter by:

Unviewed

Common ancestors

Search

Sort

Match name

Surname in matches' trees

Birth location in matches' trees

Maureen Fleming

Search

Cancel

Distant Family



Maureen Fleming

5th – 8th Cousin

12 cM | < 1% shared DNA

Paternal side

Public linked tree

194 People

Tim and I are the only ones in our family who have DNA matches with both Randy Risto and his first-cousin once-removed Maureen Fleming. Go figure!

The branch of my ThruLines® chart going back through John Henry Crawford also includes Leslie Ratcliff:

The diagram is a family tree chart showing the following lineage:

- John H Crawford** (2nd great-granduncle, 1830-1881) and **Mary Jane Crawford** (1st cousin 3x removed, 1864-1946) are the top-level ancestors.
- They have two sons: **Leslie E Ratcliff** (2nd cousin 2x removed, 1888-1978) and **Lyman C Ratcliff** (2nd cousin 2x removed, 1891-1968).
- Leslie E Ratcliff** has a son: **Russell W Ratcliff** (3rd cousin 1x removed, 1925-2004).
- Lyman C Ratcliff** has two daughters: **Helen Marie Ratcliff** (3rd cousin 1x removed, 1931-2022) and **Betty Jean Ratcliff** (3rd cousin 1x removed, 1933-2016).
- Russell W Ratcliff** has a son: **Private** (4th cousin).
- Helen Marie Ratcliff** has a son: **Private** (4th cousin).
- Betty Jean Ratcliff** has a son: **Randy Risto** (4th cousin, 15 cM | 2 segments).
- Private** (son of Russell) has a son: **Leslie Ratcliff** (4th cousin 1x removed, 9 cM | 1 segments).
- Private** (son of Helen) has a daughter: **Maureen Fleming** (4th cousin 1x removed, 12 cM | 1 segments).

Leslie Ratcliff is a great-grandson of Leslie E. Ratcliff (1888-1978), who in turn was a brother of Lyman C. Ratcliff (the man who immigrated to Canada). This branch of the family remained in the USA, and Leslie Ratcliff is a Captain in the US Army Reserve.

I obviously have a DNA match with Leslie Ratcliff. What about others in the *Oakley* family?

Well, both Tim Oakley and Mark Eidem have DNA matches with Leslie (not shown).

The ancestral line from Randy Risto back to William Crawford and his wife Elizabeth Jane Smith goes through Randy's mother, Betty Jean Ratcliff (1933-2016). In searching online for information about her, I found her obituary:

<https://www.womboldfuneralhomes.com/obituary/Betty-Risto>

Betty Risto (nee: Ratcliff) passed away peacefully to be with her Lord on August 11, 2016, at the age of 83. She is survived by her sister, Helen Lyle of Sundre; brother, Cliff (Wilma) Ratcliff of Calgary; children, Randy (Jillian) Risto, Barry Risto, Marvin (Zenja) Risto, Bonnie (Rob) Ogilvie; daughter-in-law, Barbara Risto; and her grandchildren, Tamara Risto, Luke (Karissa) Risto, Lauren (Evan) Standerwick, Annie Ogilvie, Raymond Risto, Jonathon Risto; and her great grandson, Logan Risto. Betty is preceded in death by her husband, Ray; father, Lyman; mother, Edith; brother, Dennis; and sisters, Mary and Carol.

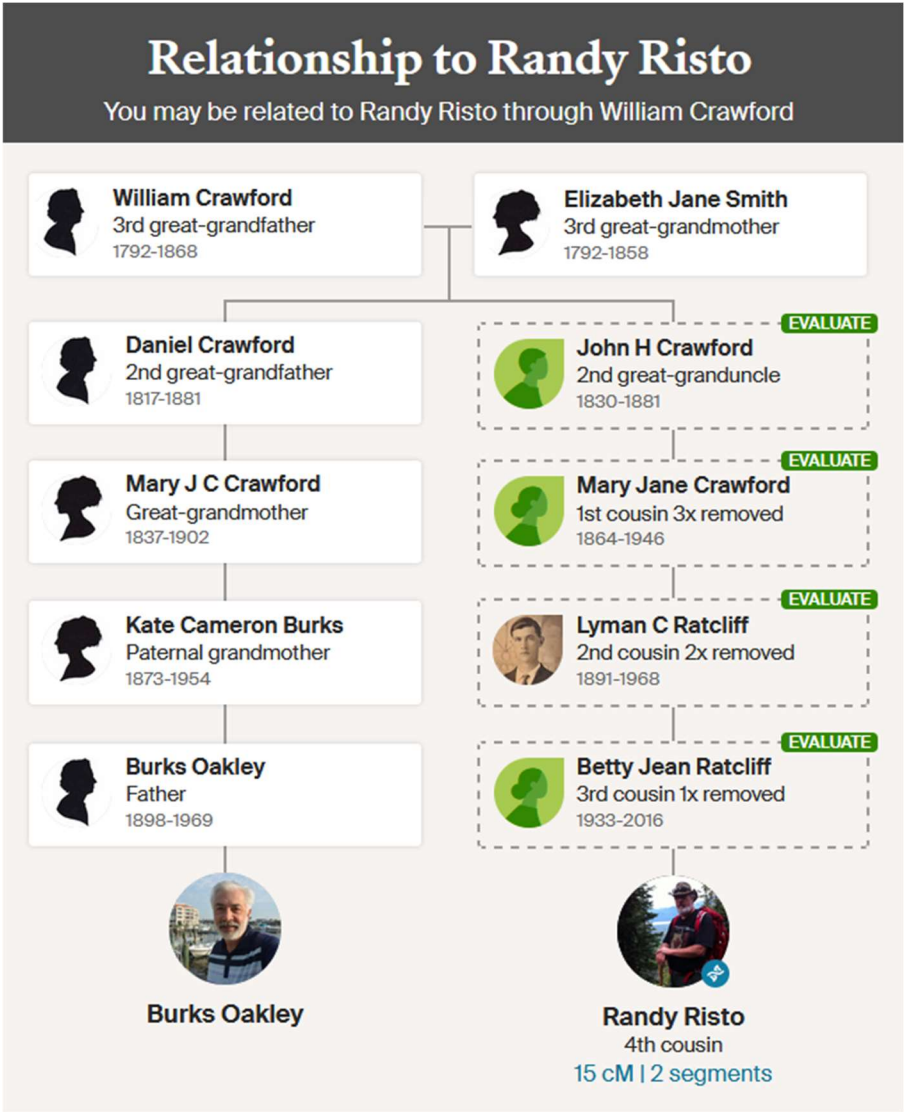
Betty was born on July 15, 1933, in Calgary, Alberta to Edith and Lyman Ratcliff. She graduated from Crescent Heights School in 1951 and completed her Nurses training at the Calgary General Hospital in 1955. She also attended the Baptist Leadership Training School. Her first nursing job was at the Wetaskiwin General Hospital, and she also worked the Aberhart Memorial Sanitorium, the University of Alberta Hospital, the Edmonton General Hospital, and the Wetaskiwin Auxiliary Hospital before retiring from nursing as a Unit Manager of long-term care with the Wetaskiwin General Hospital. After her retirement, she was a nursing instructor for the Alberta Vocational College. Betty was introduced to Ray Risto who was attending the Baptist Leadership Training School in Calgary during her first year of nurses training and they were married in 1956. Ray and Betty moved to the Risto family farm west of Wetaskiwin in 1963 where they raised their four children. Betty moved to Radium, British Columbia after Ray's passing and then to Victoria, British Columbia. She returned to Wetaskiwin in 2011.

Betty was known for her creative crafting, especially her quilts. Betty was a generous hostess and an accomplished cook and baker. Many friends and family gathered around her table to enjoy her food and fellowship. Betty was also known for her acts of service to her church and community. She will be remembered for instituting a supper for students attending the University of Victoria, which provides meaningful conversations and meals to hundreds of university students.

<http://www.emmanuelvictoria.ca/index.php/connect/student-dinners>

Betty's memorial service with a reception to follow will take place on August 27, 2016, at 2:00 pm at Calvary Baptist Church, 4910 Northmount Drive, Wetaskiwin. Anyone who was given a quilt made by Betty is asked to bring it with them to the service. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Emanuel Baptist Church Student Dinners, Emanuel Baptist Church, 2121 Cedar Hill Rd, Victoria BC V8P 2R6

One last thing. In looking at the chart showing how Randy and I are related, I noticed that Daniel Crawford (my ancestor) and John Henry Crawford (Randy's ancestor) both had daughters named Mary Jane Crawford:



Of course, my ancestor was Mary Jane Cameron Crawford, so these first-cousins didn't have exactly the same name. And they were born 27 years apart. But still a little quirky to have two women in the relationship chart named Mary Jane Crawford. And on that quirky note, I'll end this narrative.