

My New DNA Match with Reece Young Jr. – Going Back on My *Burks-Griffey* Line (and Beyond)

By Burks Oakley II
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I am interested in genetic genealogy – that is, the use of DNA to confirm and to extend my family tree. I make extensive use of the Ancestry.com website in this hobby/pastime/obsession.

When I visit the Ancestry.com website (which is typically daily), I usually view all my DNA matches and then filter them so that I only see those DNA matches that meet two criteria: (1) software on Ancestry.com has identified our common ancestors and (2) I have not viewed the DNA match previously. Most days, this process turns up zero new matches to examine. But just a few days ago, I saw that I had a new DNA match with a man named Reece Young Jr.:



reece young jr.

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

 Public linked tree
13 people
 Common ancestor

Reece and I share just 9 cM of DNA, so we must be rather distant relatives. Software on Ancestry.com identified our match as being on my father’s side of my family tree.

I first looked at our common ancestors:

How are you and reece young jr. related?

Common Ancestors

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

reece young jr. could be your 4th cousin 1x removed through:



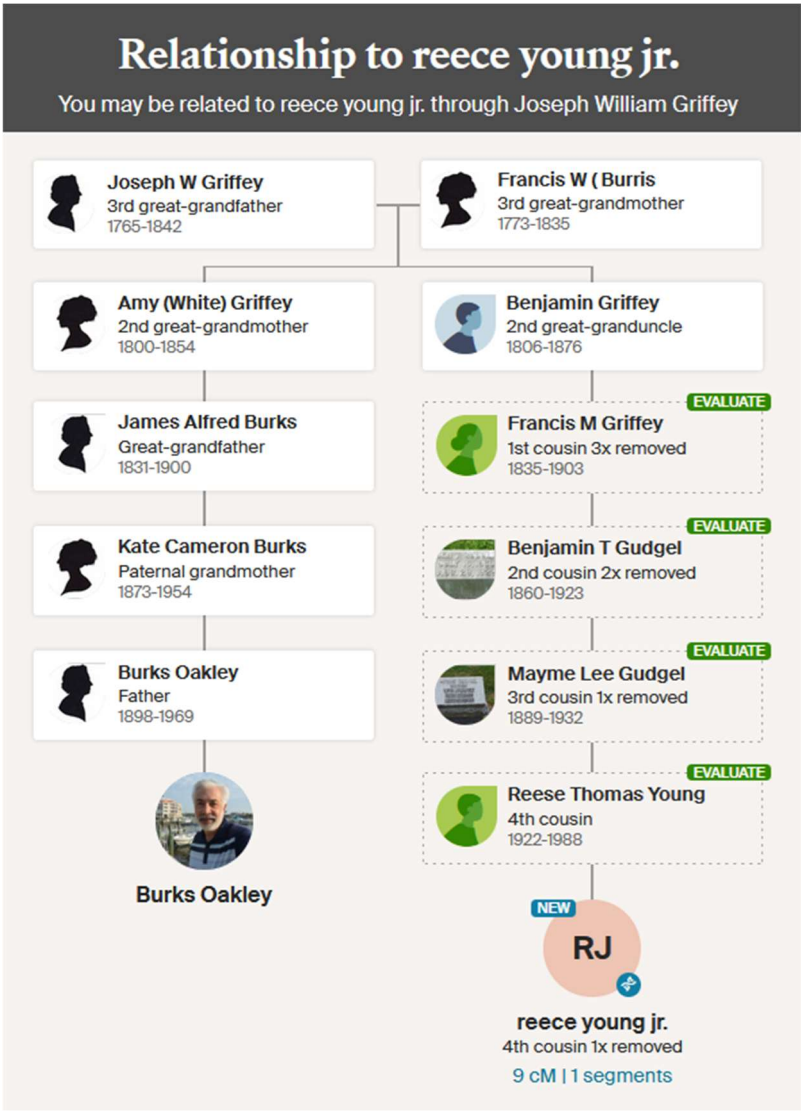
Joseph William Griffey
3rd great-grandfather
1765–1842
[View Relationship](#)



Francis Wisdom (Fanny) Burris
3rd great-grandmother
1773–1835
[View Relationship](#)

Reece and I both are descended from Joseph William Griffey (1765-1842) and his wife Francis Wisdom (Fanny) Burris (1773-1835). This couple were my third- great grandparents.

I then looked at the chart showing how Reece and I are related; this chart was automatically created by software on the Ancestry.com website:



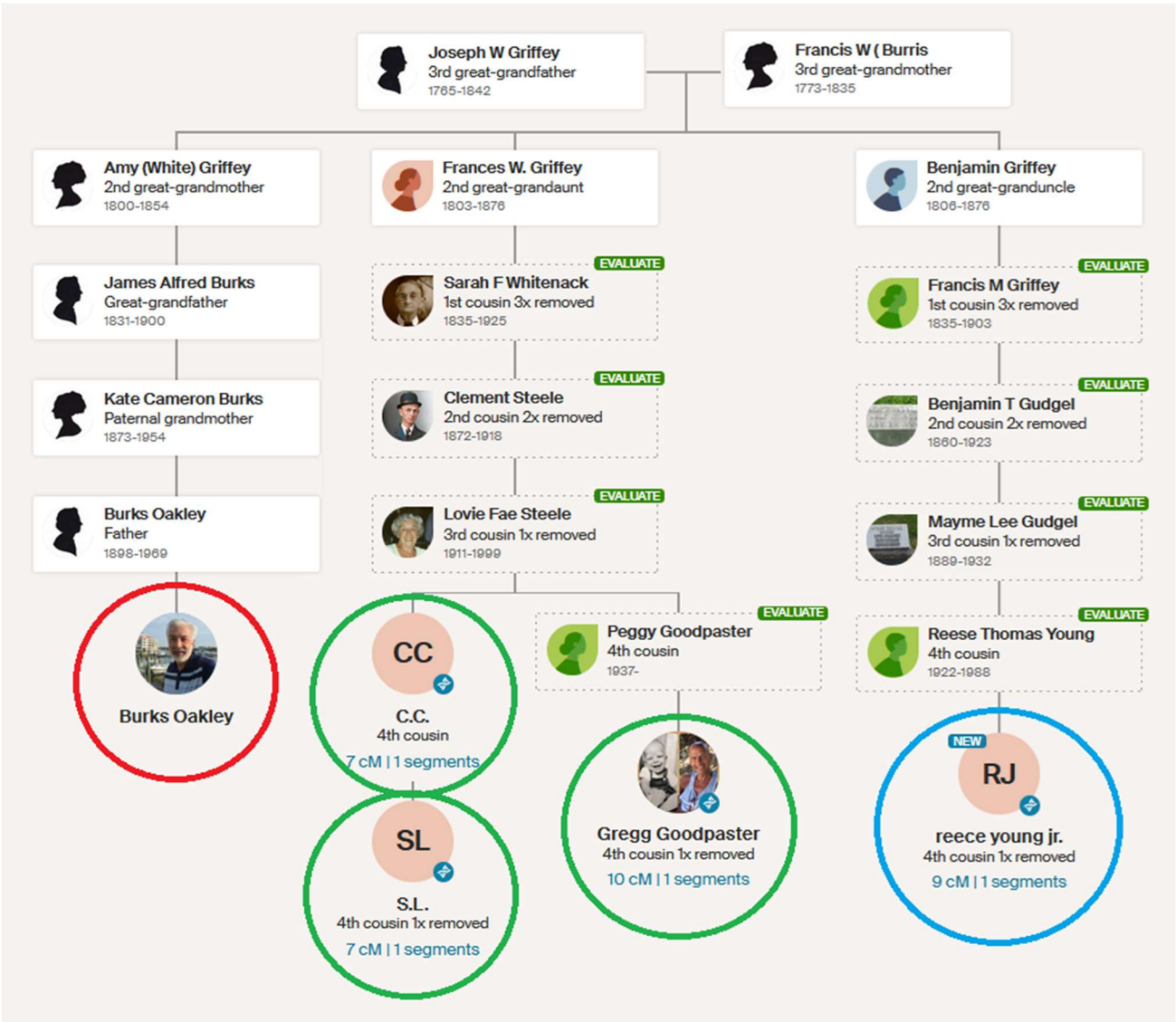
I am descended from the *Griffey-Burris* couple through their daughter Amy Griffey (1800-1854), while Reece is descended from this couple through their son Benjamin Griffey (1806-1876). According to this chart, I was a fourth-cousin of Reece’s father, which means that Reece and I are fourth-cousins once-removed.

I went on to look at the DNA matches that Reece and I have in common – our so-called “Shared DNA Matches”. Although there are 84 individuals on this list, I really could only determine how I was related to a handful of them. Here are three of these matches:

	Gregg Goodpaster 2000 1000 +	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 10 cM Paternal side	reece's: 3rd cousin 1x removed or half 3rd cousin 40 cM
	C.C. Managed by Cari Hager 2000 1000 +	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 7 cM Paternal side	reece young jr's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 35 cM
	S.L. Managed by Cari Hager 2000 1000 +	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 7 cM Paternal side	reece young jr's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 38 cM

Reece and I have DNA matches with Gregg Goodpaster, **C.C.**, and **S.L.** It turns out that all three of these individuals are descended from Joseph William Griffey and his wife Francis Wisdom “Fanny” Burris.

I edited my ThruLines® chart for Joseph William Griffey to show how Reece and I are related to Gregg Goodpaster, **C.C.**, and **S.L.**:



I appear the red circle at the lower-left of this chart, while Reece appears in the light blue circle at the lower-right of this chart. The other three individuals, Gregg Goodpaster, **C.C.**, and **S.L.**, appear in green circles in the lower-middle of this chart. From this chart, it is clear that **S.L.** is **C.C.**’s child, and based on the “Shared DNA Matches” on the previous page, **C.C.** is the mother and **S.L.** is the son. And Gregg Goodpaster is **C.C.**’s nephew, as well as **S.L.**’s first-cousin.

Again, Reece and I both have DNA matches with Gregg Goodpaster, **C.C.**, and **S.L.**, and we all are descended from the **Griffey-Burris** couple.

In looking at the DNA matches that I share with Reece, I learned that we both have DNA matches with Mary Sisk:

	Mary Sisk		Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 11 cM Paternal side	reece young jr.'s: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 25 cM
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The little icon next to Mary’s name indicates that we have common ancestors. So I looked at my DNA match with Mary to view our common ancestors:

How are you and Mary Sisk related?

Common Ancestors

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

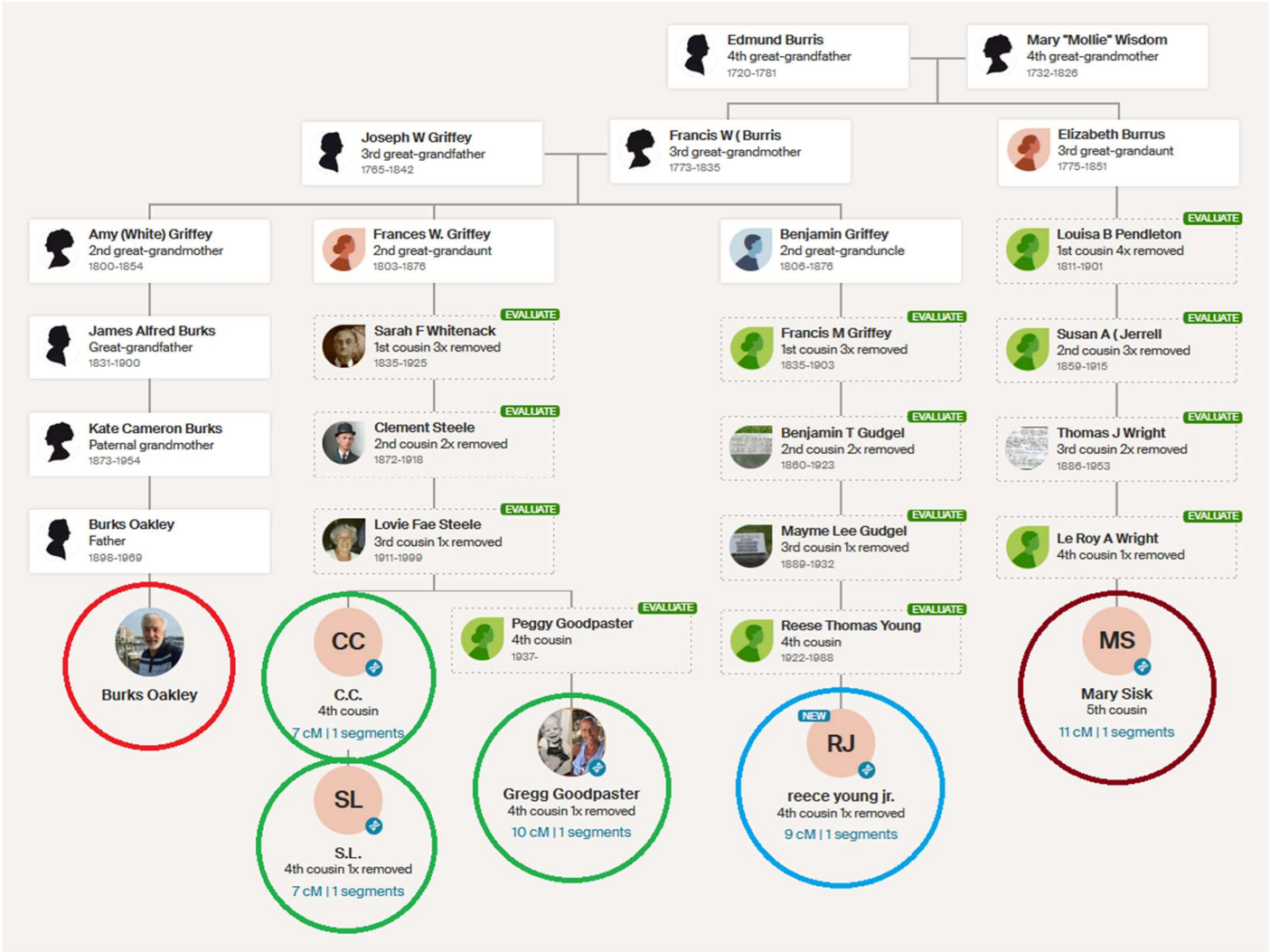
Mary Sisk could be your 5th cousin through:

**Edmund Burris**
4th great-grandfather
1720-1781
[View Relationship](#)

**Mary "Mollie" Wisdom**
4th great-grandmother
1732-1826
[View Relationship](#)

Oh my! Mary Sisk and I are both descended from Edmund Burris (1720-1781) and his wife Mary “Mollie” Wisdom (1732-1826). This couple were my fourth-great grandparents, and they were the parents of Francis Wisdom “Fanny” Burris.

I edited the relationship chart shown on the previous page to include Mary Sisk’s line back to the *Burris-Wisdom* couple:



Mary Sisk is shown in the lower-right of this chart, circled in dark red.

So at this point, Reece and I have DNA matches with three descendants of the *Griffey-Burris* couple, as well as DNA matches with one descendant of the

Burris-Wisdom couple. And these DNA matches provide strong support for the genealogical record, which is always nice.

But wait – I’m not done with this. I next looked at my DNA match with Gregg Goodpaster, and I learned that he and I have a “Shared DNA Match” with a man named Harrell Rudolph:



Harrell Rudolph



Your:

Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin

6 cM

Paternal side

Gregg Goodpaster's:

Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin

24 cM

Harrell and I share just 6 cM of DNA, so we have to be very distant cousins. I went on to look at the ancestors that Harrell and I have in common:

How are you and Harrell Rudolph related?

Common Ancestors

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

Harrell Rudolph could be your 6th cousin through:



John Wisdom
5th great-grandfather
1698-1762
[View Relationship](#)

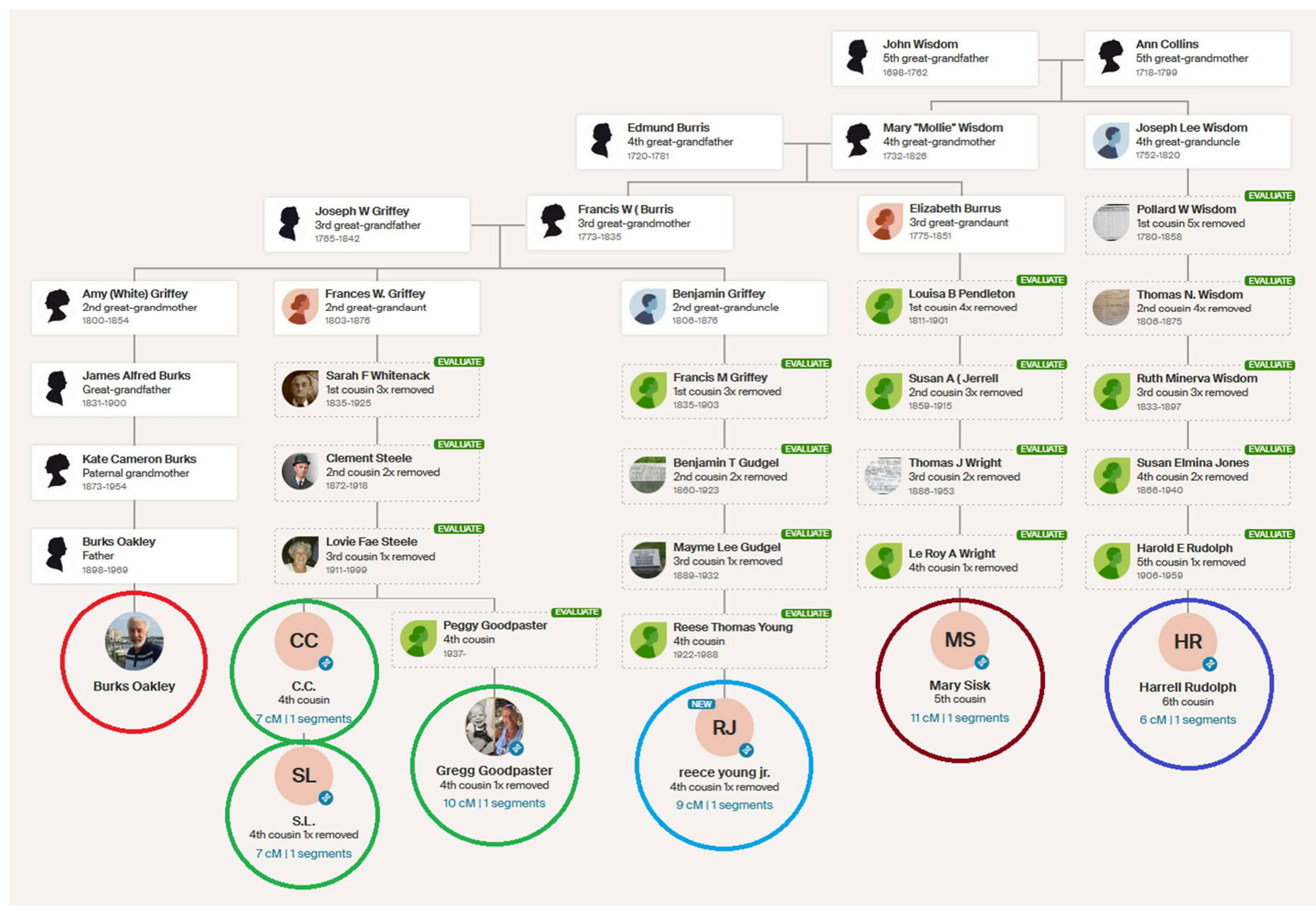


Ann Collins
5th great-grandmother
1718-1799
[View Relationship](#)

Oh my (once again)! Harrell and I are both descended from John Wisdom (1698-1762) and his wife Ann Collins (1718-1799). This couple were my fifth-great grandparents, and they were the parents of Mary “Mollie” Wisdom. I went on to add Harrell’s ancestral line back to the **Wisdom-Collins** couple to my overall chart:

The chart is a complex genealogical tree. At the top, John Wisdom (1698-1762) and Ann Collins (1718-1799) are the common ancestors. Their daughter, Mary "Mollie" Wisdom (1722-1828), is shown. Mary's son, Edmund Burris (1720-1781), is shown. Edmund's son, Joseph W. Grifflay (1755-1842), is shown. Joseph's son, Francis W. Grifflay (1773-1835), is shown. Francis's son, Benjamin Grifflay (1805-1878), is shown. Benjamin's son, Francis M. Grifflay (1835-1903), is shown. Francis's son, Benjamin T. Grifflay (1880-1923), is shown. Benjamin's son, Mayme Lee Grifflay (1888-1922), is shown. Mayme's son, Reese Thomas Young (1922-1993), is shown. Reese's son, Gregg Goodpaster (1922-1993), is shown. Gregg's son, Harrell Rudolph (1922-1993), is shown. Harrell's son, Mary Sisk (1922-1993), is shown. Mary's son, Burks Oakley (1922-1993), is shown. The chart also shows other branches of the family, including the descendants of John Wisdom's other children and Ann Collins's other children. The chart is organized into several columns and rows, with names and dates of birth and death. At the bottom, there are several circular icons representing different individuals: Burks Oakley (red circle), C.C. (green circle), S.L. (green circle), Gregg Goodpaster (green circle), RJ (blue circle), Mary Sisk (red circle), and Harrell Rudolph (indigo circle). The chart shows the relationships between these individuals and their common ancestors, including John Wisdom and Ann Collins.

Harrell Rudolph appears in the lower-right of this chart, in the indigo circle. This chart is shown again in landscape view on the next page.



To me, this overall chart tells a very interesting story about my ancestry going back on my **Oakley-Burks-Griffey-Burris-Wisdom** line. When I first started with genetic genealogy over a decade ago, Amy Griffey was a complete brick wall. See:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/8A-GriffeyGenealogy.pdf>

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/8B-AmyWhiteGriffey-revisited.pdf>

I hypothesized that Joseph William Griffey and Francis Wisdom “Fanny” Burris were her parents, and I added them to my family tree on Ancestry.com. Then I added a few more generations of ancestors for the **Griffey-Burris** couple. And suddenly I had all these DNA matches that were related to me via these ancestors.

To this day, I continue to find DNA matches, like those described in this narrative, which strongly support the ancestral lines that I hypothesized over a decade ago. Amazing! And in this case, my autosomal DNA match with Harrell Rudolph goes back to John Wisdom (1698-1762) and his wife Ann Collins (1718-1799), who were born more than 300 years ago.

As an aside, another interesting reading (but somewhat dated) is the following narrative, which features the **Wisdom-Collins** couple:

http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/JeffreyJohnston_27Jul24.pdf

Let me now change gears and mention some odds and ends that came up as I was writing this narrative.

I looked at the DNA matches that I have in common with **C.C.** – and I sorted these matches from her perspective, from largest to smallest. Here are the top four matches:

 S.L. Managed by Cari Hager		Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 7 cM Paternal side	C.C.'s: Son 3,467 cM
 Peggy Goodpaster		Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 15 cM Paternal side	C.C.'s: Sister 2,786 cM
 Gregg Goodpaster		Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 10 cM Paternal side	C.C.'s: Half brother or nephew 1,966 cM
 Angela Goodpaster		Your: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 10 cM Paternal side	C.C.'s: Grandniece or half niece 885 cM

This list includes her son **S.L.** and her nephew Gregg Goodpaster. But it also includes her sister, Peggy Goodpaster, and her grandniece, Angela Goodpaster. So why isn’t Ancestry.com able to identify how they fit into my family tree?

The answer is quite simple. Neither of them have linked their DNA profile to their family tree – their family trees are “unlinked”:

Unlinked Tree

Peggy Goodpaster has an unlinked public tree.

You can view any of Peggy Goodpaster's unlinked public family trees, but Peggy Goodpaster may not appear in any of them. Invite Peggy Goodpaster to link a tree to their DNA results. Comparing trees is one way to find out how you might be related.

Contact Peggy Goodpaster

Unlinked Tree

Angela Goodpaster has an unlinked public tree.

You can view any of Angela Goodpaster's unlinked public family trees, but Angela Goodpaster may not appear in any of them. Invite Angela Goodpaster to link a tree to their DNA results. Comparing trees is one way to find out how you might be related.

Contact Angela Goodpaster

In looking at my “Shared DNA Matches” with **C.C.**, I learned that she and I both have DNA matches with Don Conyers and his son Trenton Conyers:

 Donconyers22		Your: 2nd cousin 1x removed 27 cM Paternal side	C.C.'s: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 20 cM
 trenton conyers		Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 22 cM Paternal side	C.C.'s: 3rd cousin 2x removed or half 2nd cousin 3x removed 22 cM

Don is descended from James Alfred Burks through his son Paul Dore Burks (1870-1948). Of course, Paul Dore Burks was the older brother of my paternal grandmother, Kate Cameron Burks. So I can easily substitute Don’s line back to James Alfred Burks for my line in any of the relationship charts shown in this narrative.

C.C. and I also have a “Shared DNA Match” with **thoss20**, and she is also descended from the **Griffey-Burris** couple. She and I both have DNA matches with Gregg Goodpaster and Angela Goodpaster.

C.C. and I have a “Shared DNA Match” with Lucinda McBreen Wellman, and she is also descended from the **Griffey-Burris** couple. And Lucinda and I have “Shared DNA Matches” with a whole new group of people, including Jeff Hulker, **css_familytree**, and Nancy Mallory, as well as GailEKelley, who all are descended from the **Burris-Wisdom** couple.

C.C. and I also have a “Shared DNA Match” with a woman having the username of **hensleyrd**, who is descended from the **Burris-Wisdom** couple. She and I have DNA matches with **whmaier**, Robert Ammidown, LeanneElaine, and Linda King,

plus a handful more individuals, all of whom are descended from the ***Burris-Wisdom*** couple.

I think that I could go on and on with this all day long (and possibly all night long). The amazing thing to me is that so many of my DNA matches going back to my third- and fourth-great grandparents have DNA matches with each other. Of course, this is to be expected – but it still is amazing to see all of this in practice.

Overall, the DNA matches described in this narrative provide really strong support for the genealogy in the ***Oakley-Burks-Griffey-Burris-Wisdom*** branch of my family tree.