

Samuel Perry Burks – One of Our Distant *Burks* Cousins (and other interesting stuff about our *Burks* family)

By Burks Oakley II
13 June 2024

More than ten years ago now, one of the first DNA matches I saw on Ancestry.com website that was of any relevance to me was my match with Jeannine Burks (married name Long):

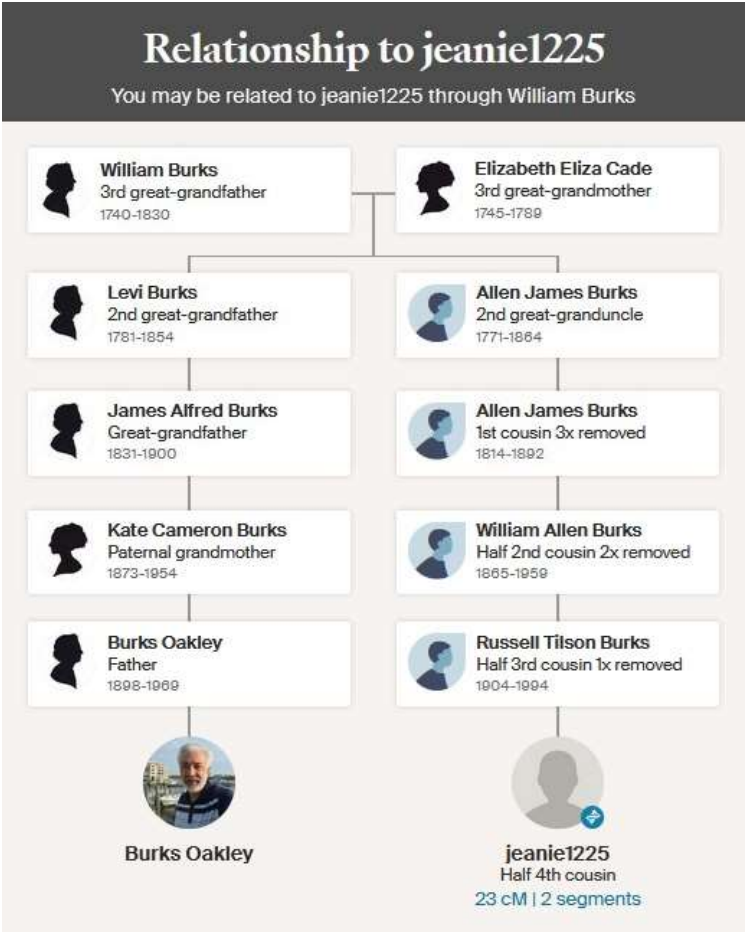


You and jeanie1225

4th – 6th Cousin | Paternal side

< 1% shared DNA: 23 cM across 2 segments

Jeannine and I are distant cousins, and we share 23 cM of DNA. Here is a chart showing how we are related:



We both are descended from William Burks (1740-1830) and his wife Eliza Cade (1745-1789).¹ I am descended from this couple through their son Levi Burks, while Jeannine is descended from this couple through their son Allen James Burks. Based on this chart, Jeannine and I are fourth-cousins.

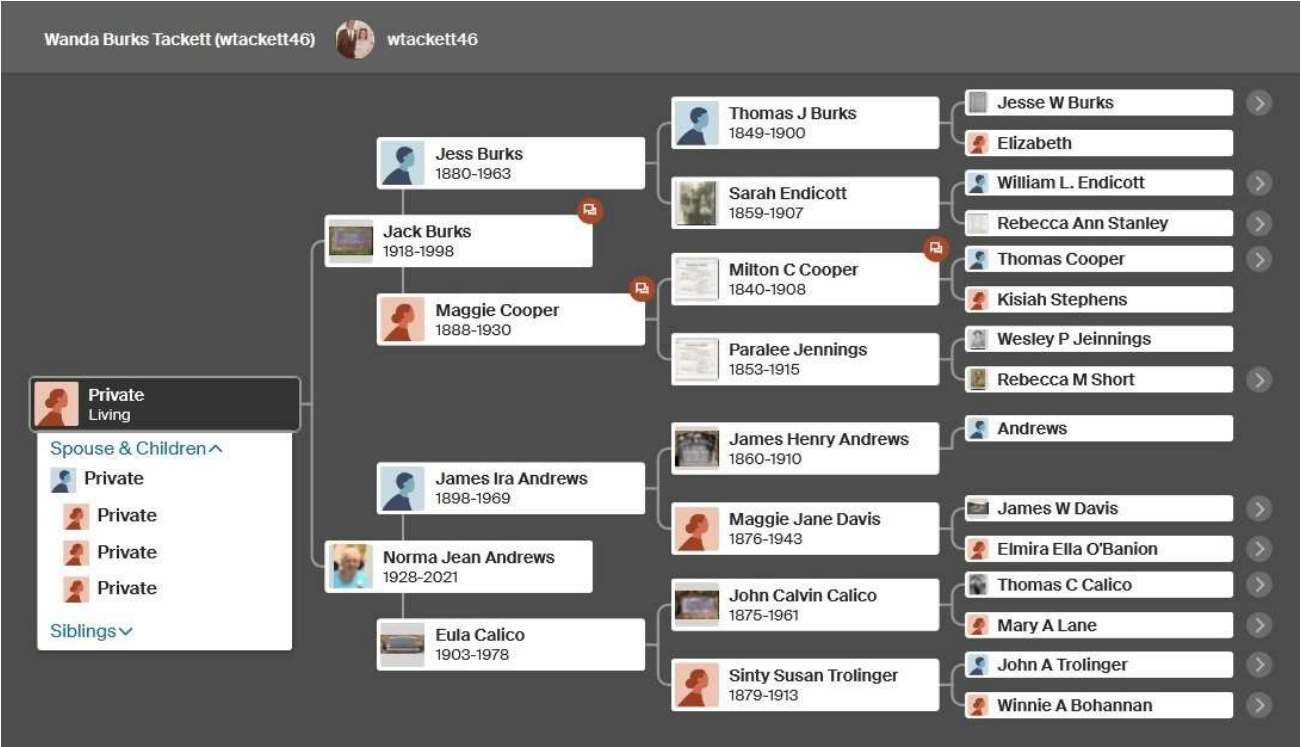
¹ Note that William Burks lived to be 90 years old, while his wife Eliza Cade only lived to age 44.

I mentioned Jeannine in one of the first narratives I wrote about my DNA matches with *Burks* family relatives:

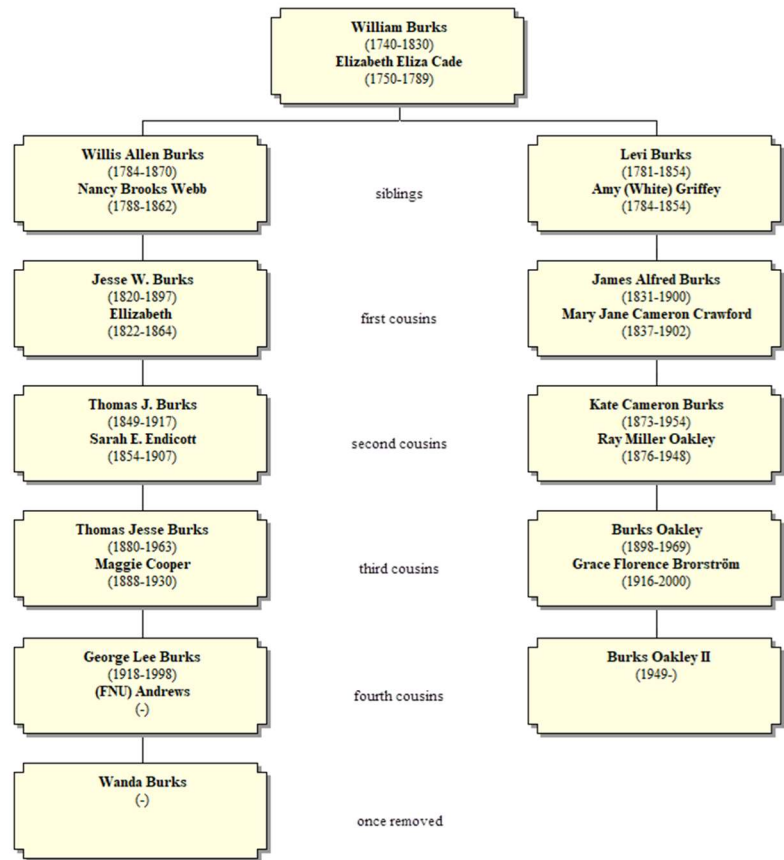
<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/25-DNA&BurksFamilyRelatives.pdf>

In September 2015, Jeannine mentioned that she has a DNA match with another *Burks* cousin named Wanda Burks (married name Tackett). I found Wanda’s profile on Ancestry.com, and I sent her a message using the Ancestry.com message system. She replied right away, and over the next few weeks, we exchanged several messages about the *Burks* family.

Here is Wanda’s pedigree, showing her *Burks* line at the top:



Her *Burks* line continues back for a number of generations. The following chart shows how Wanda and I are related:



Wanda and I are both descended from William Burks and his wife Eliza Cade. Wanda is descended from this couple through their son Willis Allen Burks, while I am descended from this couple through their son Levi Burks. Based on this chart, Wanda is my fourth-cousin once-removed (I am in the same generation as her father).

Note in this relationship chart that Wanda’s great-grandfather, Thomas J. Burks (1849-1917), married Sarah Endicott (1854-1907). Six years ago, Wanda created a private Facebook group called “Burks and Endicott Cousins”:

Burks and Endicott Cousins

Private group · 53 members



I learned about this group (I don’t recall how) and I joined it. It doesn’t have a lot of activity, but it is fun to look at old photos of distant **Burks** cousins. Here are several examples:

Posting from Wanda Burks:



“Happy Birthday in heaven to my dad, Jack Burks. Born May 25, 1918, in Norman, Oklahoma. He left us on August 28, 1998, in Checotah, Oklahoma. This photo was taken on his 50th birthday.”

Here are a few more postings from Wanda Burks:



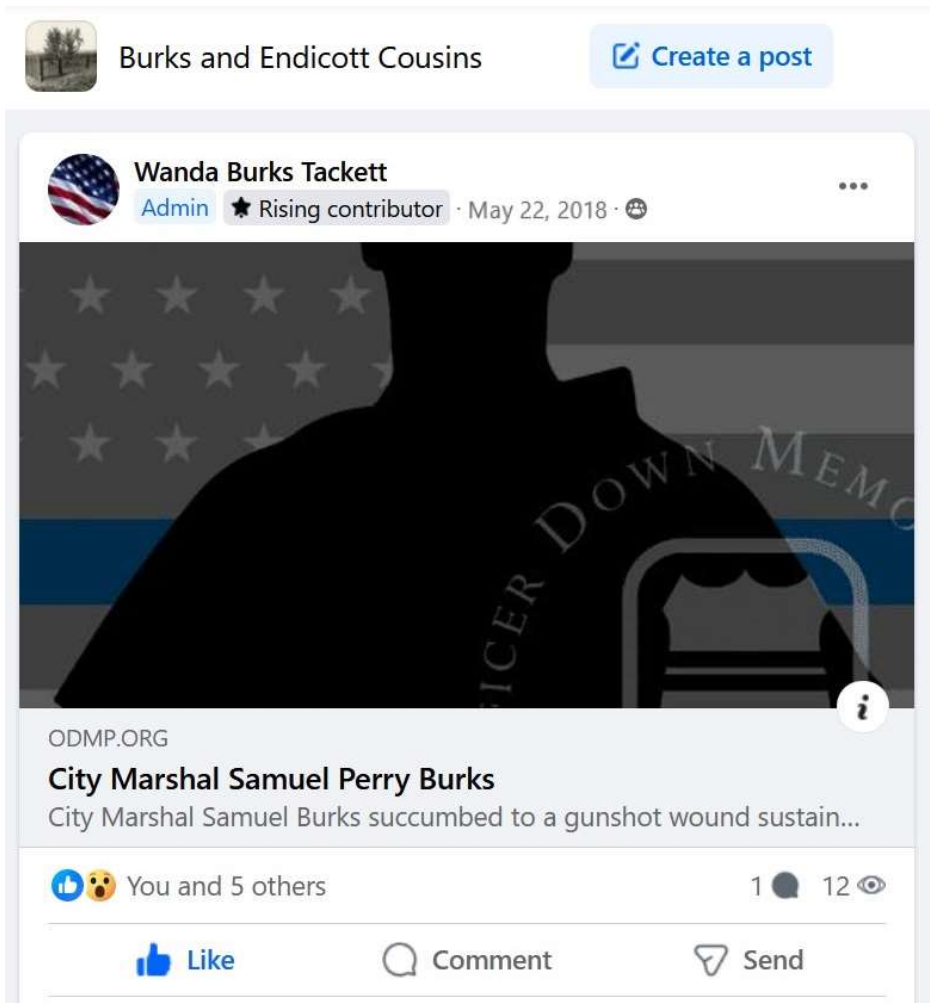
July 1964, West Los Angeles. Brothers and sisters saying goodbye to Tom Burks. Cecil, Amy, Jack (real name George Lee). Evelyn, Pete, Edna.



Another pic of Jess and Pearl, maybe taken shortly after their marriage. To the family, he was Papa and she was Maw. This is my dad's dad and my step-mother. This is my grandpa Burks and the only grandma Burks I ever knew.

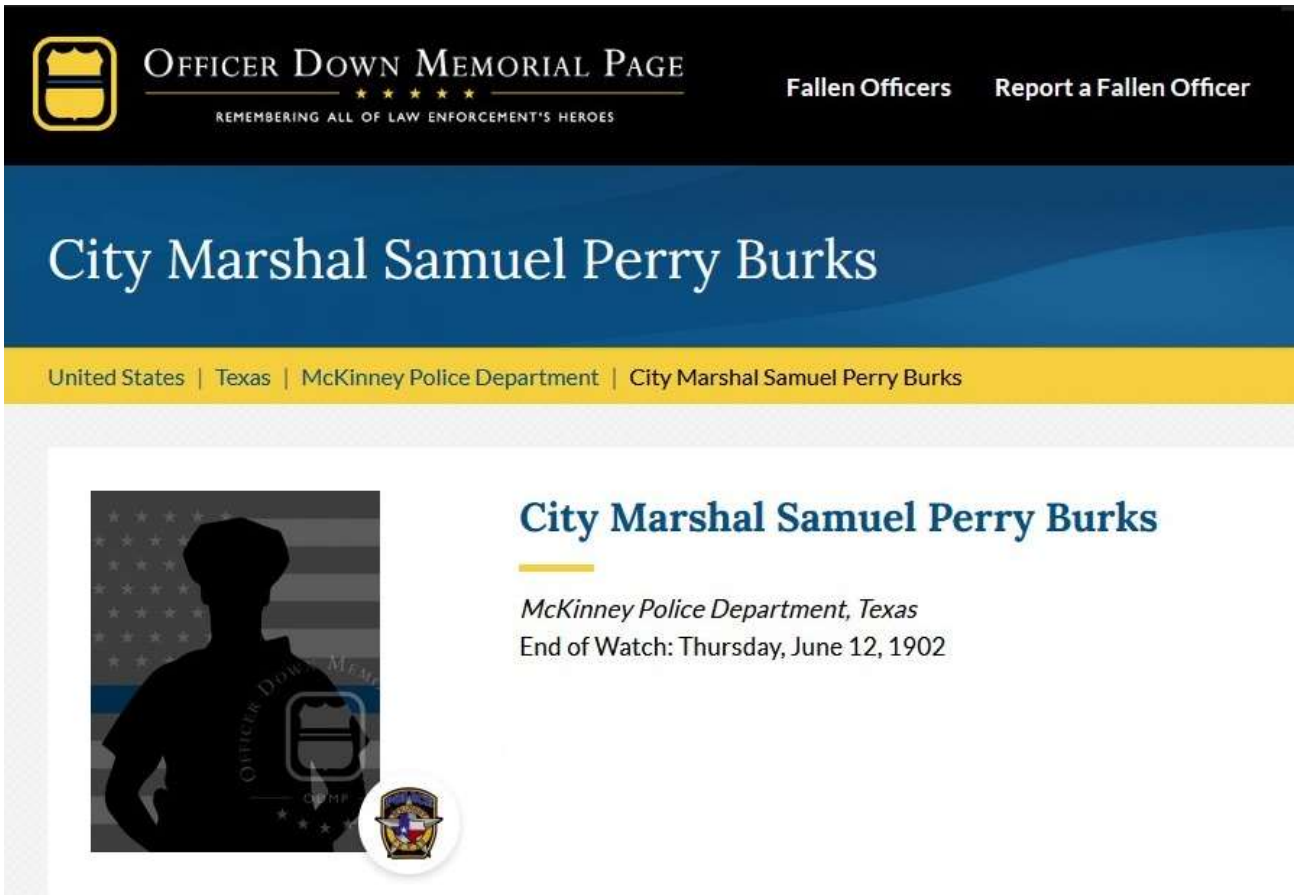
OK, with all this as an extended introduction, let me get on to what I really want to write about. I recently was scrolling through the postings in Wanda's Facebook group, and I saw a posting about Samuel Perry Burks. He was the sheriff in McKinney, Texas, and he was killed in the line of duty. So let me now provide some details about our cousin, Samuel Perry Burks.

What first caught my eye was the following posting to the “Burks and Endicott Cousins” group in Facebook:



I clicked on this posting, which took me to the following Officer Down Memorial Page:

<https://www.odmp.org/officer/17692-city-marshal-samuel-perry-burks>



The page continued with:

SAMUEL PERRY BURKS

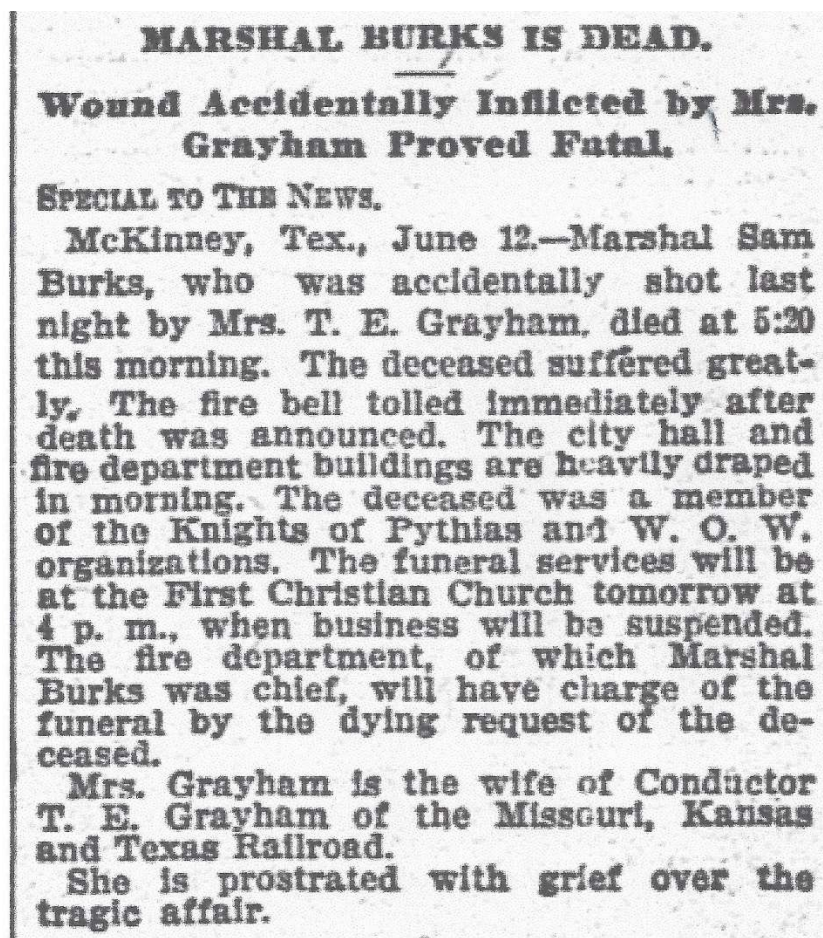
City Marshal Samuel Burks succumbed to a gunshot wound sustained the previous day. He was shot by a store owner after he responded to a prowler call.

The officer and a night watchman had arrested three people at the scene. The night watchman took two of the suspects and Marshal Burks took the third suspect. As the marshal placed the suspect in his vehicle, the store owner, who believed Marshal Burks was one of the prowlers, opened fire with a shotgun.

Marshal Burks had served with the McKinney Police Department for 11 years. He was survived by his wife and three children.

Oh my! He was shot by a woman who mistook him for one of the prowlers. And he died the next day.

Here is a newspaper article about this tragic event:

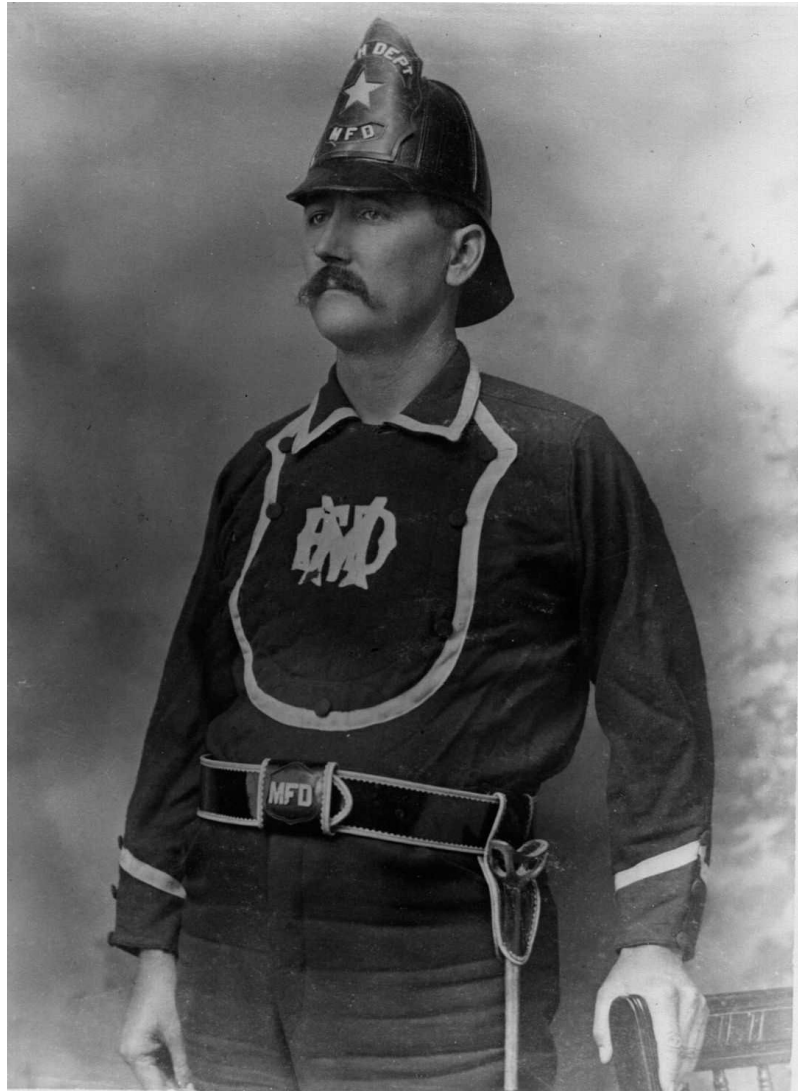


Note that this article states that Marshal Burks was the chief of the fire department, as well.

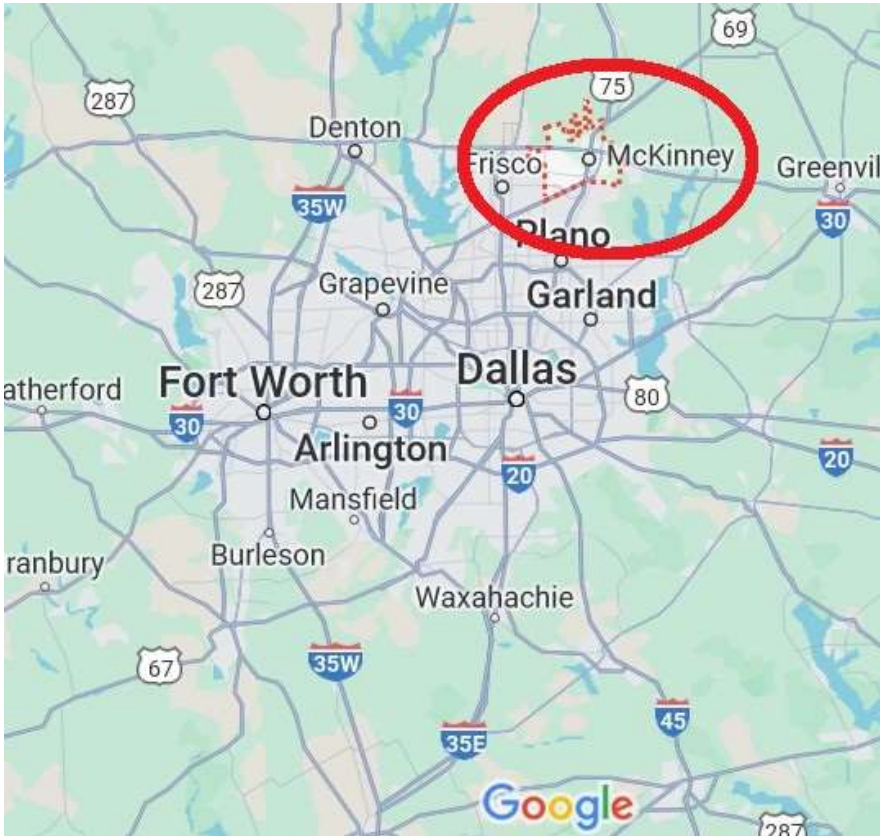
Here is a photo of "Marshal Burks" that I found on Facebook:



And here is another photo of him in his fire department uniform:

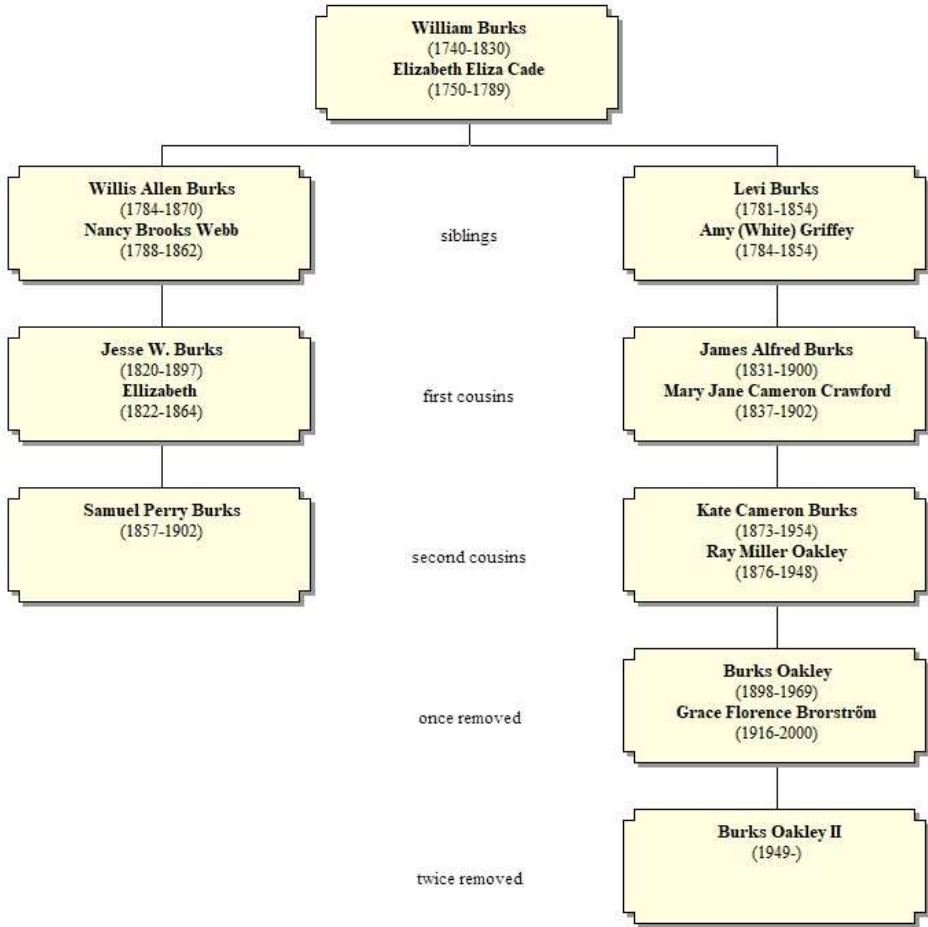


Samuel Perry Burks was the marshal (and fire chief) in McKinney, Texas. Here is a Google Map showing the location of McKinney:



Today, McKinney is a “suburb of the Dallas–Fort Worth metroplex, [located] about 32 miles north of Dallas”. I’m sure that when Samuel Perry Burks was the Marshal (around 1900), that McKinney was out in the country, so to speak.

Having learned all of this about Samuel Perry Burks, I wondered exactly how I was related to him. He appears in multiple family trees on the Ancestry.com website. I took information from various trees and constructed this chart, showing how he and I are related:



Samuel Perry Burks is descended from William Burks and his wife Eliza Cade through their son Willis Allen Burks. In fact, he was a great-grandson of this couple. Based on this chart, Samuel was a second-cousin of my paternal grandmother, Kate Cameron Burks. That means that I am Samuel’s second-cousin, twice removed.

I next looked at the entry for Samuel Perry Burks on the FindAGrave.com website:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11399960/samuel-perry-burks>



MEMORIALSCEMETERIESFAMOUSCONTRIBUTE



Photo added by [Bobbie Badger](#)

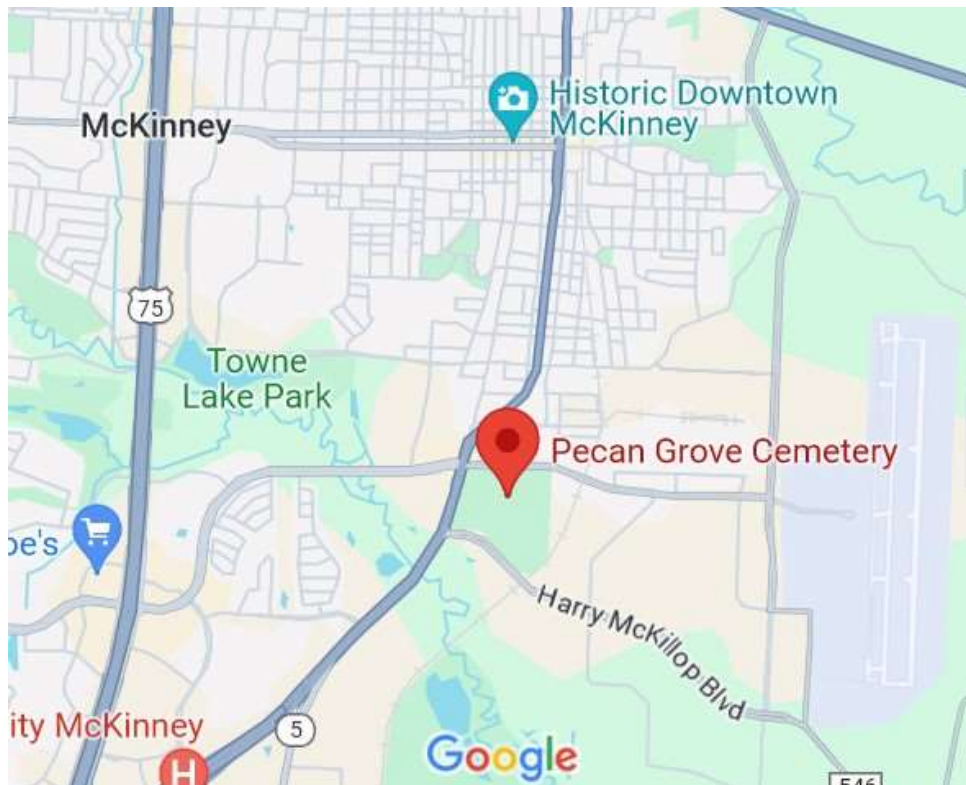
Samuel Perry Burks

BIRTH	May 1858 Missouri, USA
DEATH	11 Jun 1902 (aged 44) McKinney, Collin County, Texas, USA
BURIAL	Pecan Grove Cemetery McKinney, Collin County, Texas, USA
PLOT	Block 40 - Lot 6 - Space 9
MEMORIAL ID	11399960 · View Source

Here is an enlargement of the photo of his gravestone:



The entry on the FindAGrave.com website said that Samuel Perry Burks was buried in the Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney. Here is a Google Map showing the location of this cemetery:



No doubt there really was a pecan grove there when the cemetery was established. As an aside, here is a description of the cemetery from the [visitmckinney.com](https://www.visitmckinney.com/listing/pecan-grove-historic-cemetery/253/) website:

<https://www.visitmckinney.com/listing/pecan-grove-historic-cemetery/253/>



Pecan Grove Historic Cemetery

OVERVIEW

One of the oldest cemeteries in North Texas, Pecan Grove is the final resting place for many early Texas pioneers, from Governors to gunslingers. Heroes of the Texas Revolution are interred here, as are veterans of the Mexican War, the War for Southern Independence, and every war thereafter. You will also see many old McKinney family names for which streets, schools, parks and other city amenities are named to memorialize them. Tours here are self-guided or fill out the online "Contact Us" form for assistance. Each Memorial Day, the cemetery is the site of a county-wide ceremony honoring our fallen; it is attended by state, county and local officials and hundreds of veterans and community members.

I also saw an interesting posting in the "Burks and Endicott Cousins" Facebook page:



Lori Burks

★ Rising contributor · April 19 · 🌐



Update ceremony info. This is the statue they initially planned to present the statue in 2023, but were not able. It will be next month!



I guess I missed an earlier posting about a statue. And here is a follow-up posting:

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE DEDICATION OF OUR LAW
ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL WALL HONORING OUR
FALLEN OFFICERS

MARSHAL SAMUEL PERRY BURKS
PATROL OFFICER MARION E. TAYLOR
PATROL OFFICER MILLIGAN RAY BURK

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024
10:00AM - Dedication Ceremony

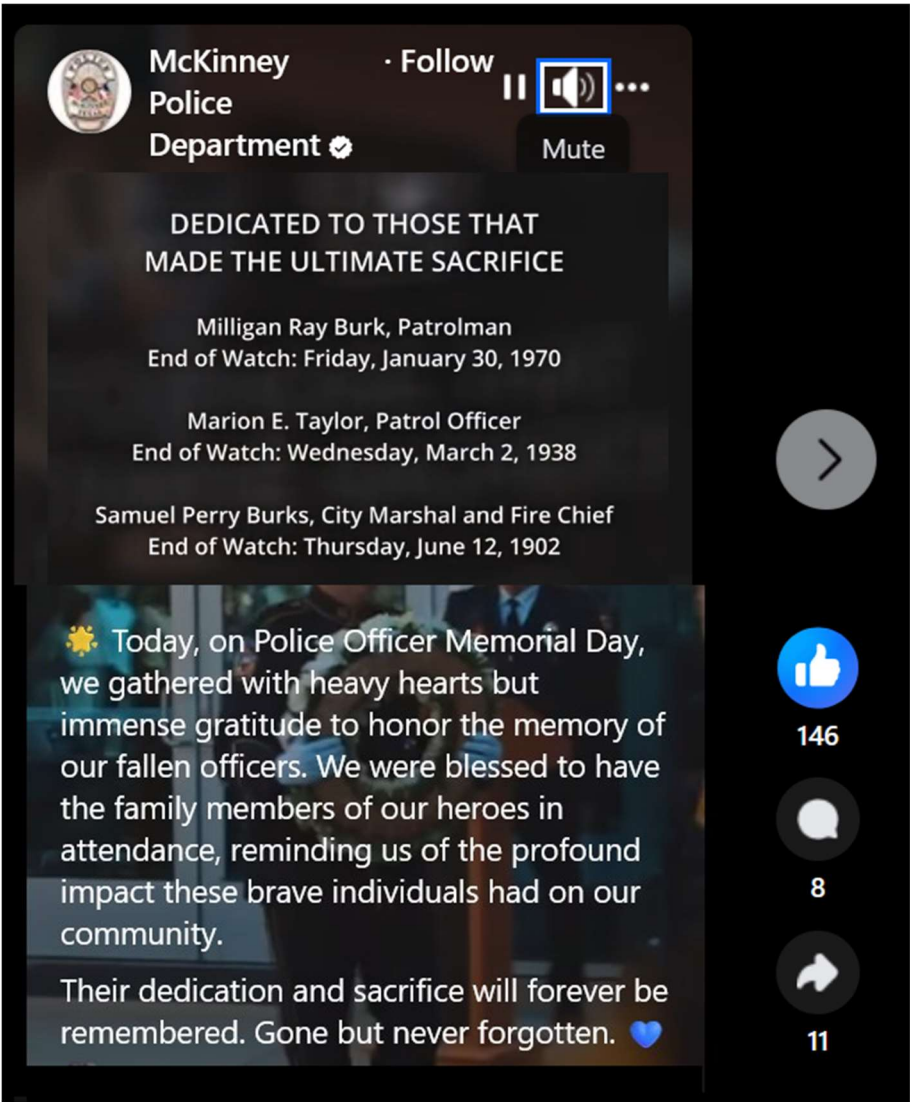
MCKINNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT
2200 TAYLOR BURK DRIVE
MCKINNEY, TX 70571

Oh my! The city of McKinney now has a “Law Enforcement Memorial Wall” honoring its fallen officers – and Marshal Samuel Perry Burks is one of the three fallen officers.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to find a picture online of this memorial wall.

The city of McKinney has a nice video on Facebook about the “Police Officer Memorial Day” ceremony in McKinney this year:

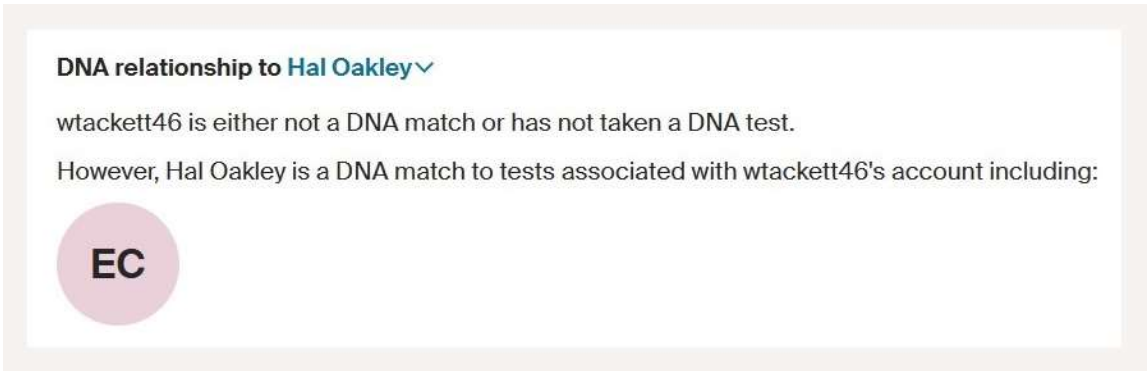
<https://www.facebook.com/reel/289753660876215>



This video does mention Samuel Perry Burks (City Marshal and Fire Chief).

Finally, I learned that Samuel’s youngest son, Alex Ware Burks (1894-1963), who was eight years old when Samuel died in the line of duty, carried on his father’s law enforcement legacy. Alex served as Chief of Police in McKinney, Texas, and Deputy Sheriff in Dallas, Texas. Alex would have been my father’s third-cousin, meaning that he was my third-cousin once-removed.

Well, I didn’t mean really finally, but almost. Although I don’t have a DNA match with Wanda Burks Tackett, I wondered if anyone in our family does. It turns out that none of us (Hal, Mark, Tim, Sullivan) have a DNA match with Wanda. But both Hal and Mark have a DNA match with Erica Crouch, and Wanda manages her DNA profile on the Ancestry.com website. Here is what I found for Hal:



EC of course is Erica Crouch. I next looked at Hal’s DNA match with Erica:

HO

EC

Hal Oakley and Erica Crouch

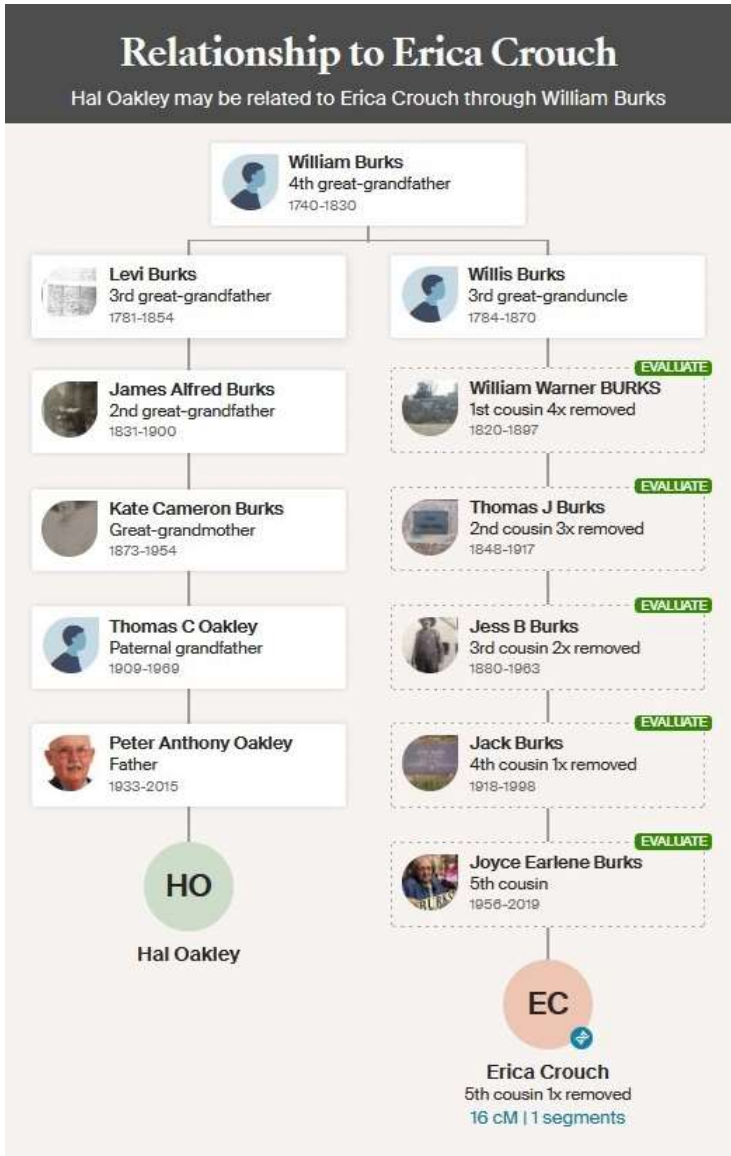
Erica Crouch's test is managed by: wtackett46

5th – 8th Cousin | Paternal side

< 1% shared DNA: 16 cM across 1 segments

They share just 16 cM, so they are likely to be distant cousins.

Software on Ancestry.com produced a chart showing how Hal and Erica are related:



Hal and Erica are fifth-cousins once-removed. Note that Erica is a granddaughter of Jack Burks (1918-1998) – and if you have been paying attention, you will know that Jack Burks was Wanda Burks’ father.

Erica’s mother was Joyce Earlene Burks (1956-2019), and Joyce had to have been Wanda’s sister. Which means that Erica is Wanda’s niece.

How nice that Hal and Mark have DNA matches with Erica, since this helps to validate our connection to this branch of the *Burks* family.