

My New DNA Match with William Travis

By Burks Oakley II
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This past week, I learned that I had a new DNA match on Ancestry.com with William Travis:

Unviewed

Common ancestor

Distant Family



William Travis

4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed

Paternal side

8 cM | < 1% shared DNA

 Public linked tree

 3 people

 Common ancestor

William and I share just 8 cM of DNA, so we are likely to be very distant relatives. Software on Ancestry.com was able to identify our common ancestors:

How are you and William Travis related?

Common Ancestors

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

William Travis could be your 5th cousin 1x removed through:



Edmund Burris

4th great-grandfather

1720–1781

View Relationship



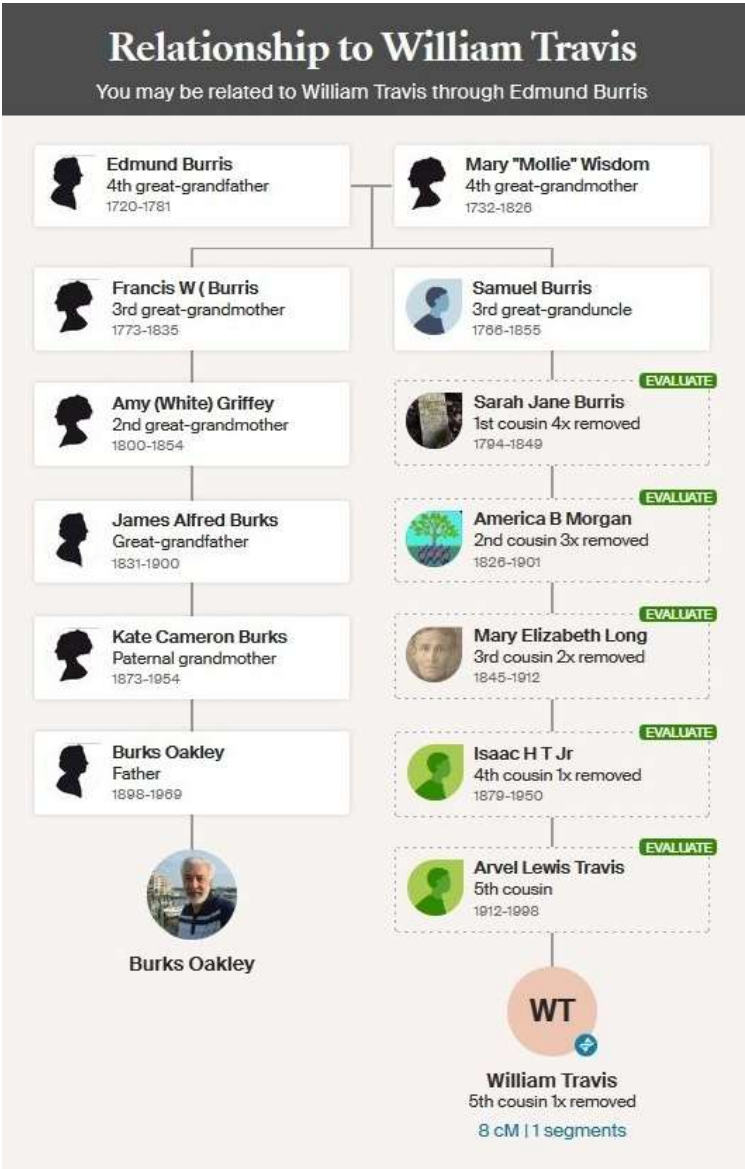
Mary "Mollie" Wisdom

4th great-grandmother

1732–1826

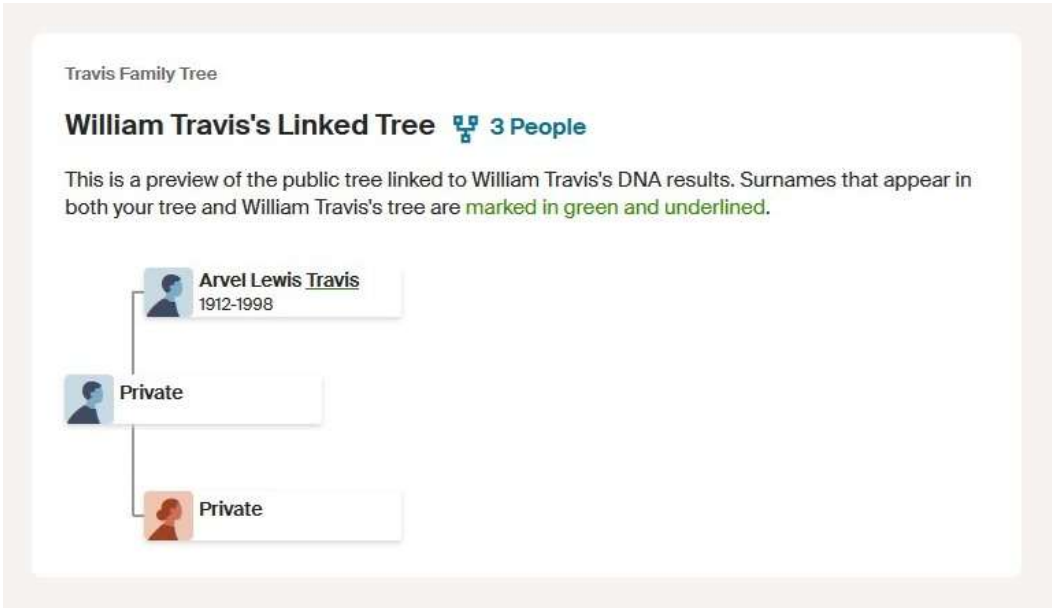
View Relationship

We both are descended from Edmund Burris (1720-1781) and his wife Mary “Mollie” Wisdom (1732-1826). This couple were my fourth-great grandparents. As an aside, note that Mollie was a widow from 1781 until 1826, a span of some 45 years. (!) I next looked at the chart showing how William Travis and I are most likely related:



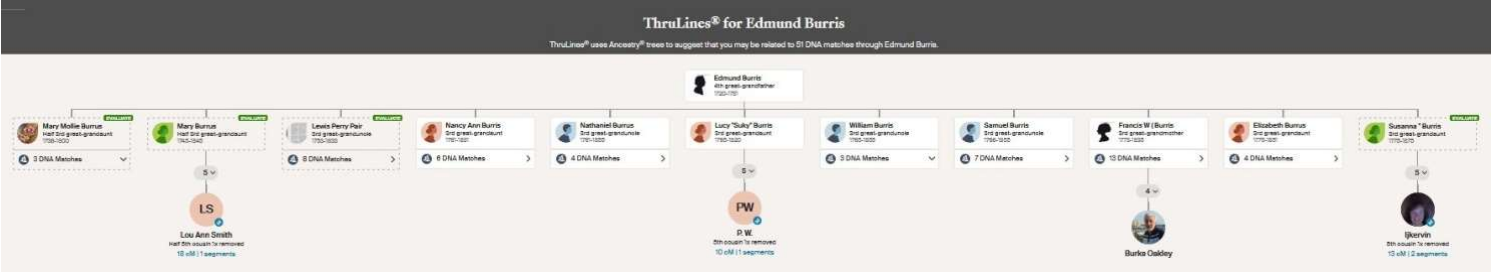
I am descended from the **Burris-Wisdom** couple through their daughter Francis Wisdom “Fanny” Burris (1773-1835), while William is descended from this couple through their son Samuel Burris (1766-1855). Based on this chart, I was a fifth-cousin of William’s father, Arvel Lewis Travis (1912-1998), which means that William is my fifth-cousin once-removed.

I also looked at William’s family tree on Ancestry.com:



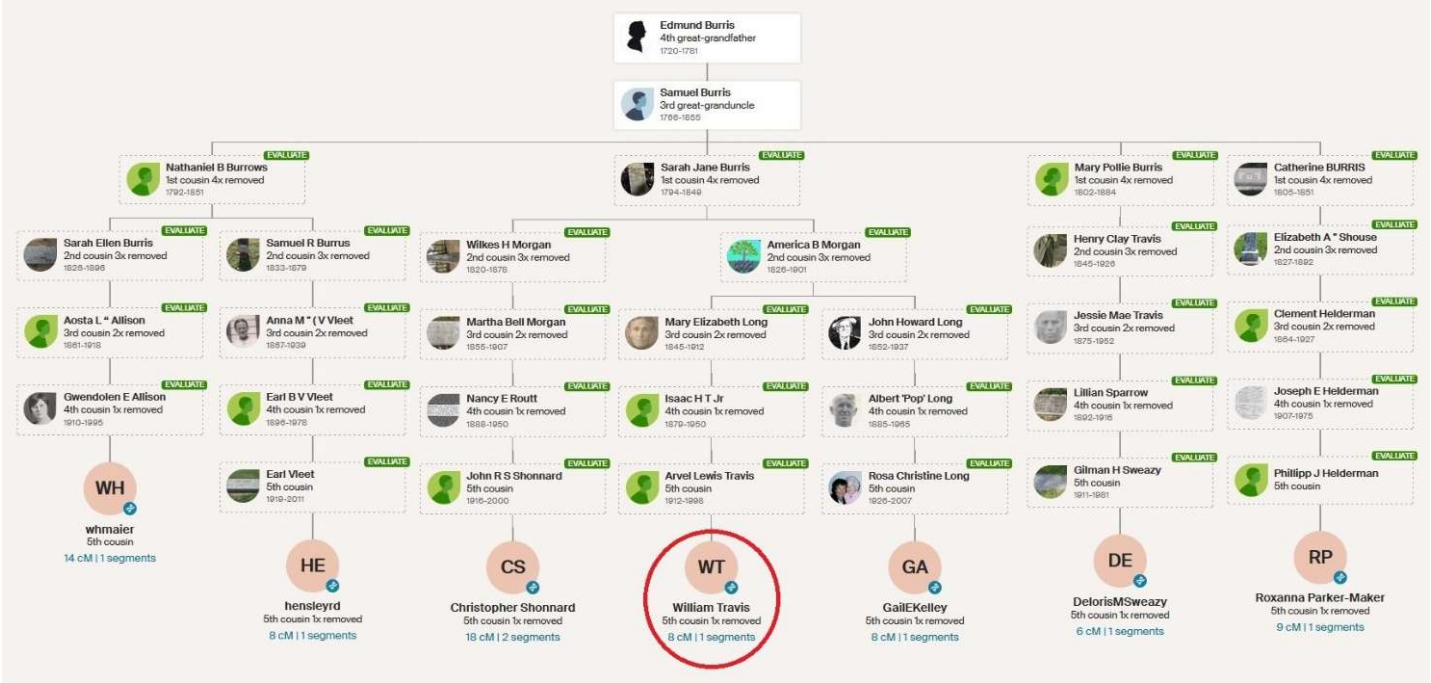
I always find it amazing that software on Ancestry.com is able to build a pedigree for someone starting with so little information. As an aside, my guess is that William has no clue that he is descended from the **Burris-Wisdom** couple.

I went on to look at my ThruLines® chart for Edmund Burris:



This chart is unreadable at this magnification. But the “take home message” is that I have DNA matches with 51 descendants of Edmund Burris, and these various descendants connect back to Edmund Burris through eleven of his children. I should add that my ThruLines® chart for Edmund’s wife “Mollie” is nearly the same as this chart, but it only shows DNA matches with 48 of her descendants. I don’t have the energy to track down the discrepancies.

Recall that William Travis is descended from the *Burris-Wisdom* couple through their son Samuel Burris. Here is the branch of my ThruLines® chart for Edmund Burris that goes back through his son Samuel Burris:



I have DNA matches with seven descendants of Samuel Burris: *whmeier*, *hensleyrd*, Christopher Shonnard, William Travis (in the red oval), Gail E. Kelly, Deloris M. Sweazy, and Roxanna Parker-Maker.

I also looked at the DNA matches that William Travis and I have in common – our so-called “Shared DNA Matches”. There are 66 people on this list, and the first one from my perspective is Allen Oakley:



Allen is the youngest child of my cousin Hal Oakley. But Hal isn’t on this list. Hmmm.... I wonder why.

I note that Allen doesn't have a family tree on Ancestry.com, so he doesn't appear in any ThruLines® charts.

I took a detour and looked at Hal's DNA matches. Sure enough, he has a 13 cM DNA match with William Travis:

Hal Oakley

Summary

Origins

Matches

Traits

All matches

By parent

By ancestor

By cluster

Pro

By location

Distant Family

William Travis

Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin

Paternal side

13 cM | < 1% shared DNA

Public linked tree

3 people

Common ancestor

Strange... Perhaps this has something to do with how the algorithms on Ancestry.com “weight” a DNA segment.

At any rate, going back to my “Shared DNA Matches” with William Travis, although he and I have 66 shared DNA matches, our common ancestors are only known for three of these individuals:

Common ancestor

Clear all

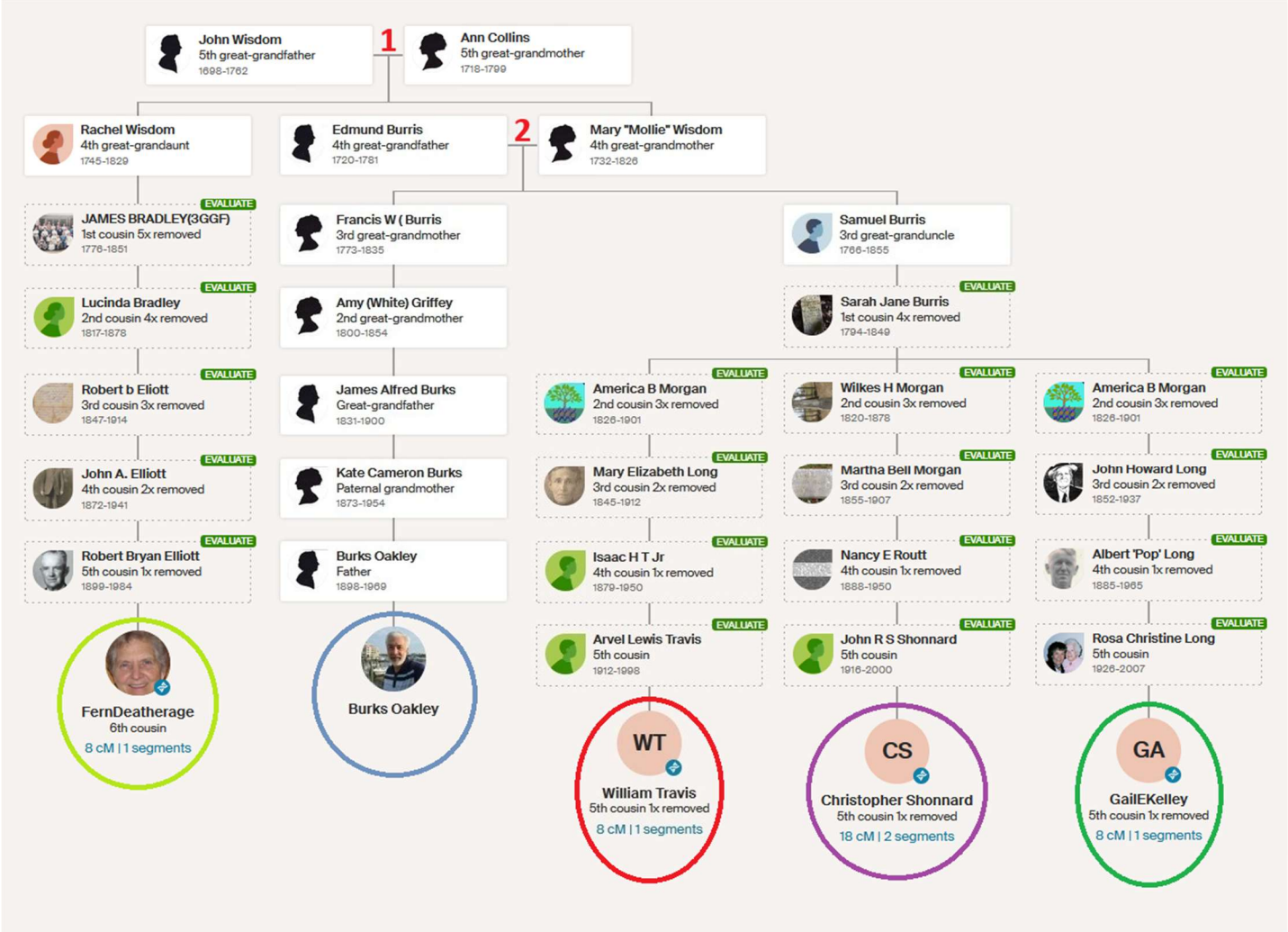
Shared match:	Your:	William Travis's:
Christopher Shonnard	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 18 cM Paternal side	William's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 23 cM
ThruLines suggests he is descended from Edmund BURRIS and Mary "Mo...		
GailEKelley	Your: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 8 cM Paternal side	William's: Half 2nd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 67 cM
TL suggests she is descended from Edmund Burris and Mary Mollie Wisd...		
FernDeatherage	Your: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 8 cM Paternal side	William's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 24 cM
Shared Ancestor Hint going back to John WISDOM and Ann COLLINS. 4M...		

I note that Christopher Shonnard and Gail E. Kelley appeared in the branch of my ThruLines® chart for Edmund Burris going back through his son Samuel Burris.

My notes for Fern Deatherage state that she is descended from John Wisdom (1696-1762) and Ann Collins (1718-1799), and they were the PARENTS of Mary “Mollie” Wisdom.

I decided to create a new relationship chart, showing William Travis, myself, and our three shared DNA matches – Christopher, Gail, and Fern.

Here is that chart:



John Wisdom and his wife Ann Collins appear as couple #1 at the top of the chart. They had two daughters – Rachel Wisdom and Mary “Mollie” Wisdom.

Rachel Wisdom was the direct ancestor of Fern Deatherage. Fern appears in the lime green oval at the left of this chart.

Mary “Mollie” Wisdom married Edmund Burris, and they are labelled couple #2. Among all their other children, they had Francis W. Burris and Samuel Burris.

I am descended from Francis W. Burris – and I am in the blue-gray oval in the chart.

The remaining three DNA matches are descended from Samuel Burris – they are William Travis (red oval), Christopher Shonnard (purple oval), and Gail E. Kelley (green oval).

It is important to remember that William Travis and I have DNA matches with the others in this chart – Fern, Christopher, and Gail.

From my perspective, the DNA matches in this chart provide solid evidence in support of the genealogical connections. And since my ancestral line in this chart goes back through Amy Griffey, this provides yet another piece of evidence supporting her ancestry – which was completely unknown to me before I made a major breakthrough using DNA. For more about this, see:

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

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

A few last items. Recall that William Travis and I have a “Shared DNA Match” with Christopher Shonnard. Well, my cousin Hal Oakley and William Travis also have a “Shared DNA Match” with Christopher Shonnard.

Common ancestor

Shared match:

Christopher Shonnard

Hal Oakley's:

Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin

9 cM

Paternal side

William Travis's:

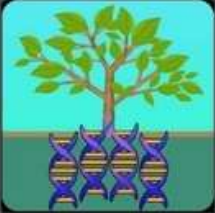
4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed

23 cM

Christopher is descended from Edmund Burris and Mary "Mollie" Wisdom ...

My DNA matches in this narrative go back to John Wisdom (1698-1762) and Ann Collins (1718-1799). This couple had seventeen children – and Ann still lived to be 81 years old. And her last 37 years were as a widow. What an amazing woman she must have been!

Finally, since we just celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, I would like to point out that in William Travis’ ancestral line back to the **Burris-Wisdom** couple, his second-great grandmother was America Burris Morgan (1827-1901):



America Burris Morgan

BIRTH

31 MAY 1827 OR 1826 • Anderson, Kentucky, United States

DEATH

1901 • Ohio County, Kentucky, USA

Her mother was a **Burris** and her father was a **Morgan**. And what a great first name they gave her!