

Sketch: A Markham wife for Cheadle Burch

In the 1950s and 1960s, Marilu Smallwood Burch published several genealogical accounts on the Birch, Burch Family. Her notes on a Burch family in Hanover county Virginia are sparse, but from her search of the county records, she does suggest a group of six Burch brothers – Isham, Peter, Benjamin, Elisha, John, and Cheadle Burch. I have spent considerable time trying to understand this Burch family, but have not drawn any firm conclusions. I do feel confident enough to say that Elisha Burch, who married Mary Markham, and Cheadle Burch, who married Judith Markham, are brothers or first cousins.

Cheadle Burch and his wife Judith are the focus of this sketch. They are first identified together in an 1806 deed in Amelia county Virginia. I believe, but have not proven, that Cheadle Burch married Judith Markham between 1797-1803, probably in Amelia county Virginia. I have never found a marriage record to back up this proposal, but there are several pieces of evidence that lend strength to the idea. The greater question that I struggle with is – Which Judith Markham was married to Cheadle Burch?

The name of Judith was very popular in the Markham family, coming down through the family from Ireland. Four sons of the immigrant John Markham named daughters Judith Markham. Here they are:

Judith Markham (daughter of William)

Judith Markham was born about 1777-1780, daughter of William Markham and Mary Wathen. She was orphaned at a young age and grew up mostly in the family of her uncle Bernard Markham. In this database she appears as the wife of Cheadle Burch, because she seems to be the best candidate. To this point, the relationship is not proven.

Judith Virginia Markham (daughter of Bernard)

Judith Virginia Markham was born in 1787, daughter of Bernard Markham and Mary Harris. We have a very clear picture of her relationships. She married Norborne Cooke, and removed to Henry county Kentucky. She is not a candidate as the wife of Cheadle Burch.

Judith R Markham (daughter of John)

Judith R Markham was born about 1795, daughter of John Markham and his wife Mary (possibly Mary Tunstall) of Pittsylvania county Virginia. She was orphaned by 1808 and placed under the guardianship of her brother Peter Markham. By 1812 she is under the guardianship of her brother-in-law Elisha Burch. We know nothing of her adult life. Her birth year makes her an unlikely candidate as the wife of Cheadle Burch.

Judith Markham (daughter of George)

Judith Markham is named in the 1800 Will of her father George Markham. Her mother was probably George Markham's first wife, Sarah Hill. We do not have a birth year for this Judith Markham, but it was probably around 1785, as she was still underage when her father died.

She was placed under the guardianship of her uncle Nelson Patteson who had married her father's sister Rebecca Markham. We know nothing of her adult life. There are a few pieces of evidence that suggest she could be the wife of Cheadle Burch. She is our second most likely candidate.

I don't feel ready to claim with certainty that Cheadle Burch married Judith Markham. I do think the evidence that they named their son Bernard Markham Burch speaks strongly. Other connections to the Markham family are suggestive.

I cannot construct a clear argument for Judith Markham, daughter of William Markham and Mary Wathen, as the wife of Cheadle Burch. But, I do think she is the best candidate. A reading of her biography in this database will lay out the evidence and my thoughts.

Judith Virginia Markham (Bernard), and Judith R Markham (John) cannot be viable candidates for Cheadle Burch's wife. That leaves me to consider Judith Markham, daughter of George Markham and Sarah Hill. There are several reasons why she should remain in the running as a wife for Cheadle Burch. A reading of her biography in this database will point these out.

It is my hope that a future family history detective will be successful in gathering further evidences, and sorting it out to make a clear picture here! Cheadle Burch and his wife Judith should be remembered!

Do you want to know more?

[Sketch: The Judith Markham Story from an Old Clipping](#)

[Bio: Judith Markham \(daughter of William Markham and Mary Wathen\)](#)

[Bio: Judith Markham \(daughter of George Markham and Sarah Hill\)](#)

[Link for Judith Markham \(daughter of William Markham and Mary Wathen\)](#)

Sketch: A Markham wife for Cheadle Burch; Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2014.