

Howard Lincoln DUNHAM (alias Edgar Ernest EGAN)

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Howard Lincoln⁹ DUNHAM (Alfred Gordon⁸ Luther W⁷ Joseph^{6,5} Micajah^{4,3} Joseph² Deacon John¹ DUNHAM) was born 31 January 1884 in Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa [1], [2], [3], [4], [5] and [6] as the youngest son of Alfred Gordon⁸ DUNHAM (1840-1910) and Fanny May⁴ HEALAS (1844-1930). In the 1885 Iowa State Census, he appears in the household of Alfred Gordon in Buchanan County, Iowa [2] and in the 1895 Iowa State Census in the household of Alfred Gordon in both Buchanan County, Iowa [3] and Black Hawk County, Iowa [4]. On 1 June 1900 he appears in the 1900 Federal Census in the household of Alfred Gordon in Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa [5] and on 13 June 1900 in the household of his brother Harry William⁹ DUNHAM (1866-1938) in Dempster Twp, Hamlin County, South Dakota [6].

Howard married Bertha Emma BANIK (1885-1971) in Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota as reported in the *Aberdeen Daily News* [7] on or before 1 October 1904. Bertha was born in Odes'ka, Russia on 5 January 1885 and died on 4 December 1971 in Poucé Coupe, British Columbia, Dominion of Canada [8].

Howard and Bertha had three children. The first child was born after 1 June 1905 [9] and before 30 July 1907 [10] when the second child, Mabel Fannie¹⁰ DUNHAM, was born in Bowdle, Edmunds County, South Dakota [10]. The name of the first-born child is unknown and died before 18 April 1910 [11] while Mabel died 25 February 1934 in Groundbirch (aka Stewart Flats), British Columbia, Dominion of Canada [12] and [13]. The third child is James Jasper¹⁰ DUNHAM who was born on 27 Dec 1910 in Saint Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota [14] and died on 24 December 1973 in Salmon Arm, British Columbia, Dominion of Canada [15]. Summarizing,

1. Child¹⁰ DUNHAM b. ca 1906 – d. ca 1909
2. Mabel Fannie¹⁰ DUNHAM b. 30 July 1907 – d. 25 February 1934
3. James Jasper¹⁰ DUNHAM b. 27 Dec 1910 – d. 24 December 1973

The last known historic record mentioning Howard is likely the 1910 Federal Census that shows Howard L. DUNHAM living with his mother on 25 April 1910 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma [16]. It is interesting to note that Howard is reported as being single while Bertha in the 1910 Federal Census is living with Karl BANIK, her father, on 18 April 1910 in Bowdle, Edmunds County, South Dakota [11] and is shown as married with Mabel Fannie¹⁰ DUNHAM living with her.

On 7 May 1915 Howard married Edna Lillian MICK in Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas under the alias Edgar E. EGAN [17]. Thus, sometime between 18 April 1910 and 7 May 1915 Howard Lincoln⁹ DUNHAM assumed the alias Edgar Ernest EGAN that he used for the remainder of his life. Edna Lillian MICK was the daughter of James Edmund MICK (1857-1893) and Margaret Ann SMITH (1861-1925), born on 14 April 1889 in Orillia, Ontario, Dominion of Canada [18] and died on 7 November 1966 in Eloise, Wayne County, Michigan [19]. Howard Lincoln⁹ DUNHAM (alias Edgar

Ernest EGAN) died on 11 Jul 1967 in West Branch, Ogemaw County, Michigan [20] and is buried in the Churchill Township Cemetery at the corner of State Road and Miller Road in Selkirk, Ogemaw County, Michigan [21].

Edgar and Edna had two children. The first child was June Lillian¹⁰ EGAN, born 19 Jul 1916 in Palmyra, Marion County, Missouri [22] and died 23 Dec 1992 in Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan [23]. The second and last child is Daniel Henry¹⁰ EGAN, born 4 Jul 1920 in Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas [24] and [25], and died 3 Mar 1975 in Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan [26]. Summarizing,

4. June Lillian¹⁰ EGAN b. 19 Jul 1916 – d. 23 Dec 1992

5. Daniel Henry¹⁰ EGAN b. 4 Jul 1920 – d. 3 Mar 1975

I will now discuss how it was discovered that Howard Lincoln⁹ DUNHAM and Edgar Ernest EGAN were likely the same person. In March of 2016 I received my FamilyTreeDNA kit results. The first kit appearing on the list of Family Finder matches was the “Anna Mae ‘Ann’ Sibole” kit with 192 cM of shared DNA. DNA Painter (<https://dnainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4>) shows that these are the various cousin relationships compatible with 192 cM of shared DNA:

- 1C1R, 1C2R, 1C3R
- 2C, 2C1R, 2C2R
- 3C, 3C1R
- H1C, H1C1R, H1C2R, H1C3R
- H2C, H2C1R

A well-researched family tree was provided at that time and so I thought finding our common ancestor would literally be a “cake walk.” But no common ancestors were found which puzzled me. I looked at the family tree associated with this kit several times over the next couple of years and again found no common ancestor. However, as I gained experience in finding and interpreting matches in common with a selected match, I was able to determine that this was a DUNHAM family connection.

In the summer of 2018, I decided that something strange and unexpected was occurring and took particular notice of the H1C chain of possible relationships. My paternal grandfather James Fountain⁹ DUNHAM Sr. had three marriages and all that is known of the second marriage is the first name of this spouse and the date and location of their divorce. The chain of H1C relationships could be a child from this second marriage. I discussed this possibility with my half-aunt Doris Lone¹⁰ (DUNHAM) BRYANT (1917-2020) several times over that summer. In September I asked Doris if she would consent to moving a copy of her AncestryDNA kit data to FamilyTreeDNA so we would have a better idea of how our DUNHAM family is related to the “Anna Mae ‘Ann’ Sibole” kit. Doris gave me her consent and the results of her FamilyTreeDNA became available on 21 September 2018 and we saw that there was 430 cM of shared DNA.

This was a major step forward as DNA Painter shows that the various cousin relationships compatible with 430 cM of shared DNA are

- 1C1R, 1C2R
- 2C
- H1C

a substantially reduced number of possibilities. The H1C relationship was discarded as the most recent common ancestor would have to be Alfred Gordon⁸ DUNHAM which is a (full) 1C relationship. Additionally, the 1C1R relationship occurs with an 81% probability and would be the most likely case.

So, I began looking into the associated family tree to see how a 1C1R relationship would appear. Since Doris was born in 1917 and “Anna Mae ‘Ann’ Sibole” kit owner was born in 1935, the 1R (once removed) would most likely be on “Anna Mae ‘Ann’ Sibole” kit’s side. On Doris’ side, a first cousin relationship meant that the common ancestors were Alfred Gordon⁸ DUNHAM (1840-1910) and Fanny May⁴ HEALAS (1844-1930) and so we are looking for one of their children. This led to two cases on “Anna Mae ‘Ann’ Sibole” kit’s side. The first case was that Doris and Jonah Everett SIBOLE (1903-1984) were first cousins which implied that either John Elijah SIBOLE (1871-1939) or Anna Catherine NOVINGER (1872-1930) was a DUNHAM. The second case was that Doris and June Lillian EGAN (1916-1992) were first cousins which implied that either Edgar Ernest EGAN (1884-1967) or Edna Lillian MICK (1889-1966) was a DUNHAM. Thus, one of John Elijah SIBOLE (1871-1939), Anna Catherine NOVINGER (1872-1930), Edgar Ernest EGAN (1884-1967) or Edna Lillian MICK (1889-1966) was a DUNHAM if this was a 1C1R relationship.

Edna Lillian MICK (1889-1966) could not have been Bessie Blomcki⁹ DUNHAM (1888-1905) as Bessie died in 1905. John Elijah SIBOLE (1871-1939) could not be Clara “Carrie” May⁹ DUNHAM (1871-1960). Anna Catherine NOVINGER (1872-1930) could possibly have been Clara “Carrie” May⁹ DUNHAM (1871-1960) who had multiple marriages but this is highly unlikely as the children of John Elijah SIBOLE and Anna Catherine NOVINGER were well documented. The birth date of Edgar Ernest EGAN was 31 January 1884 which also is the birth date for Howard – a major revelation that pointed to Howard and Edgar being the same person.

My next step was to see if I could move the research from FamilyTreeDNA to AncestryDNA as AncestryDNA allows one to search matches restricted to a particular surname and location. I searched for the surname SIBOLE, an uncommon surname, on AncestryDNA and two matches appeared – a kit with display name “debbie_kays” and another kit with display name “J.M. managed by debbie_kays.” When I examined the family tree for the “debbie_kays” kit, I quickly realized that this was a daughter of the “Anna Mae ‘Ann’ Sibole” kit.

On 16 December 2018, I sent an Ancestry message to user “debbie_kays” asking for her help in confirming that my great-uncle Howard Lincoln⁹ DUNHAM and her great-grandfather Edgar Ernest EGAN were the same person for the following four reasons:

1. There was 430 cM of shared DNA between my half-aunt Doris lone¹⁰ (DUNHAM) BRYANT and her mother Anna Mae “Ann” SIBOLE on FamilyTreeDNA that supported a 1C1R relationship between them with over 80% probability.

2. The birth dates for Howard Lincoln⁹ DUNHAM and Edgar Ernest EGAN were identical – 31 January 1884.
3. June Lillian¹⁰ (EGAN) SIBOLE was the informant for Edgar Ernest EGAN's death certificate and his daughter. She indicated that she did not know Edgar's parents, which is to say, she did not know her paternal grandparents.
4. Edgar Ernest EGAN's application for a Social Security account number (SS-5) [27] lists his mother as Fannie WILSON. This was interesting as Fannie is the name of Howard's mother and WILSON is the surname of Fannie's mother and Howard's maternal grandmother and appears to be an amalgamation of their names.

Deborah "Debbie" Ann (Kays) Wessel was the user "debbie_kays" and sent me contact information and we discussed this a few days later. Debbie was shocked and skeptical of Howard and Edgar being the same person, but said that she knew nothing about Edgar's family growing up and was willing to pursue the research. Debbie graciously granted me view access to her and her first cousin Joshua Leroy Moore's AncestryDNA kits as well as her mother Anna Mae "Ann" SIBOLE's FamilyTreeDNA kit. I tried several ways to show Debbie that she had a significant amount of DUNHAM family DNA over the next couple years and thus confirming that Howard and Edgar were the same person.

Finally on 8 August 2020, Debbie stated that she would like see a proof that they are the same person. I suggested that we follow the proof methodology used to prove the parents of Luther W⁷ DUNHAM [28], [29] and [30] that is based upon an apparently new technique using a couple/parents pedigree chart that is populated with short length autosomal DNA shared matches. These matches were positioned into the pedigree chart at the Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) in the pedigree chart using information in the family tree provided by the kit's owner. It is like throwing darts (matches) and seeing how they begin to flesh out the pedigree chart. With hundreds of thrown darts, one begins to see that the person of interest really does have this pedigree and thus the root couple/parents are ancestors of the person of interest. This couple/parents pedigree chart acts like the Rosetta Stone by taking hundreds of disjoint and independent pieces of autosomal DNA derived information and organizes them so they make genealogical sense.

Because the HEALAS family immigrated from England in the mid-1800's, I thought there may be some problems in proving the HEALAS maternal family line. I suggested to Debbie that it would be helpful to get two other close family members to submit AncestryDNA kits. Her half-brother Leland Leroy Sibole and her sister Linda Lou (Kays) Dalton provided AncestryDNA kits and granted me view access to them.

The methodology discussed in [28], [29] and [30] was used with the root couple/parents Alfred Gordon⁸ DUNHAM and Fanny May⁴ HEALAS and the AncestryDNA kits of the four descendants of Edgar Ernest EGAN named above. The resultant couple/parents pedigree chart is shown in Figure 1. Additional generations are shown in continuation Charts. For example, the ancestors of Amos⁵ GARDNER and Phebe⁵ TIRRELL are continued on Chart 5 where Amos and Phebe appear as the root couple. The top number for each couple/parents cell indicates the number of AncestryDNA kits

found with a shared DNA match whose MRCA is this couple. Equivalently, the family tree for this kit descends from a different child of that couple/parents. The second number indicates how many of the four test kits have this shared match. Hence the number of matches will be greater than or equal to the number of kits. I note that a kit may have connections to multiple couple/parents in the Chart and each connection is reflected in the Chart. Thus, the total number of kits will be greater than or equal to the number of distinct or unique kits. Cells shaded a light yellow indicate that only one descendant of the couple is known to have had children and so the number of kits and matches must be zero. For example, Deacon Joseph⁴ HITCHCOCK Sr and Abigail³ KING had only one child before Abigail died as shown in Chart 3. Joseph's later marriages are shown below the cell for him and Abigail in Chart 3. Finally, I note that the pedigree number 18 is associated with the cell for Joseph and Abigail.

The total number of kits and matches associated with a particular couple/parents in the Chart is obtained by adding up all the kits and matches for the cells in the ancestral lines in the Chart. For example, there are 21 kits and 37 matches for Robert³ HEALAS and Mary² WILSON. This can be verified by examination of Chart 1 as there are no continuation Charts for the HEALAS family. I also note that the couple/parents cell of George¹ WILSON is left blank as there are conflicting parentages in the literature.

A total of 475 kits and 656 DNA shared matches were found of which 43 kits and 104 matches are for Alfred Gordon⁸ DUNHAM and Fanny May⁴ HEALAS, 401 kits and 505 matches were on the paternal (DUNHAM) family and 31 kits and 47 matches were on the maternal (HEALAS) family. If we just consider the DUNHAM and HEALAS family lines, there are 444 kits and 609 matches for the DUNHAM family and 74 kits and 151 matches for the HEALAS family. There is excellent coverage of the paternal family line on the root Chart and reasonable coverage of the maternal family line. This is too many kits and matches to be random events. Thus, Edgar Ernest EGAN is a descendant of Alfred Gordon⁸ DUNHAM and Fanny May⁴ HEALAS. From Edgar's birth date, we conclude that Edgar Ernest EGAN must be Howard Lincoln⁹ DUNHAM, resolving long standing questions of what happened to Howard Lincoln⁹ DUNHAM.

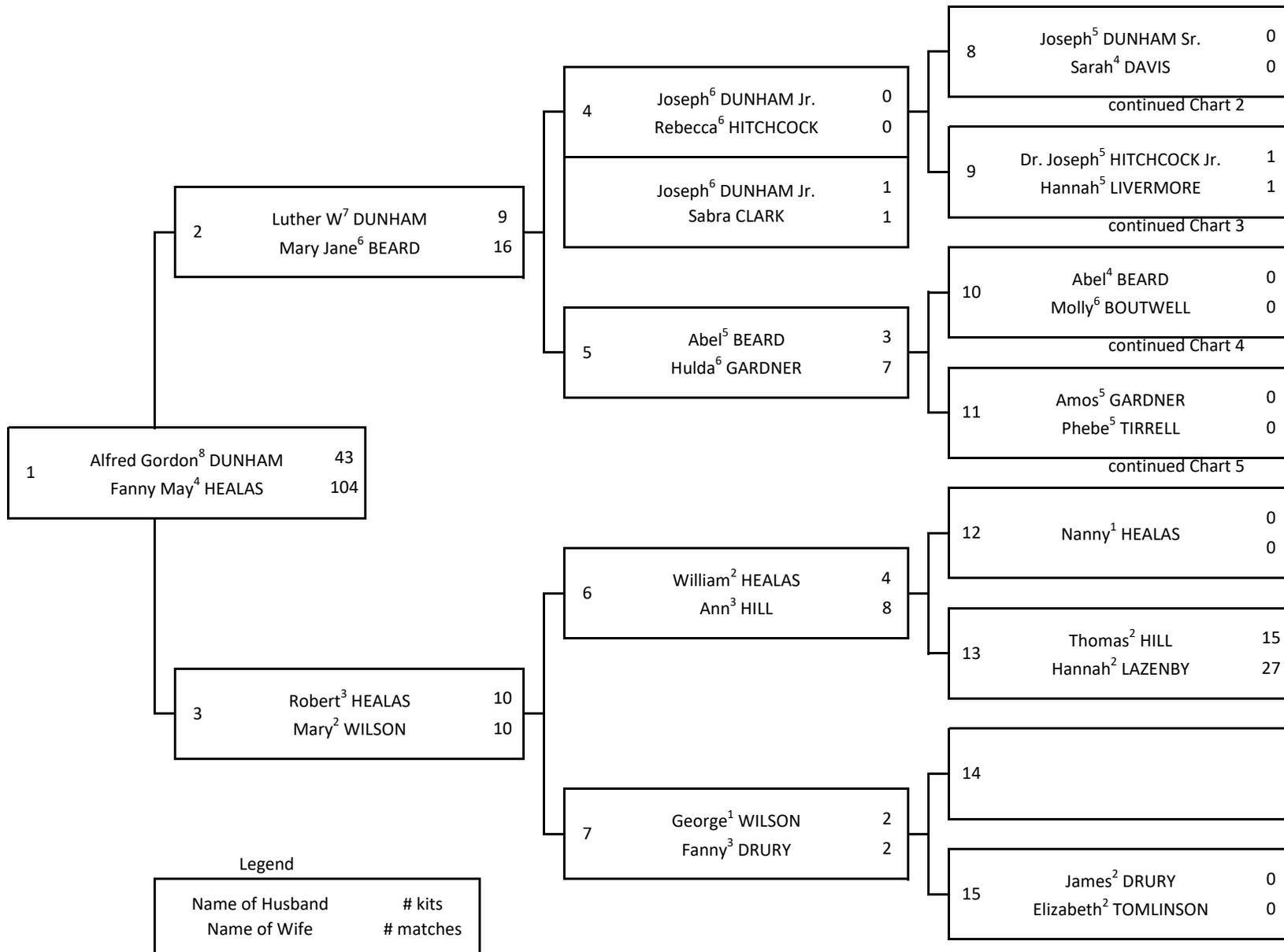


Figure 1. DNA Couple/Parent Pedigree Chart 1

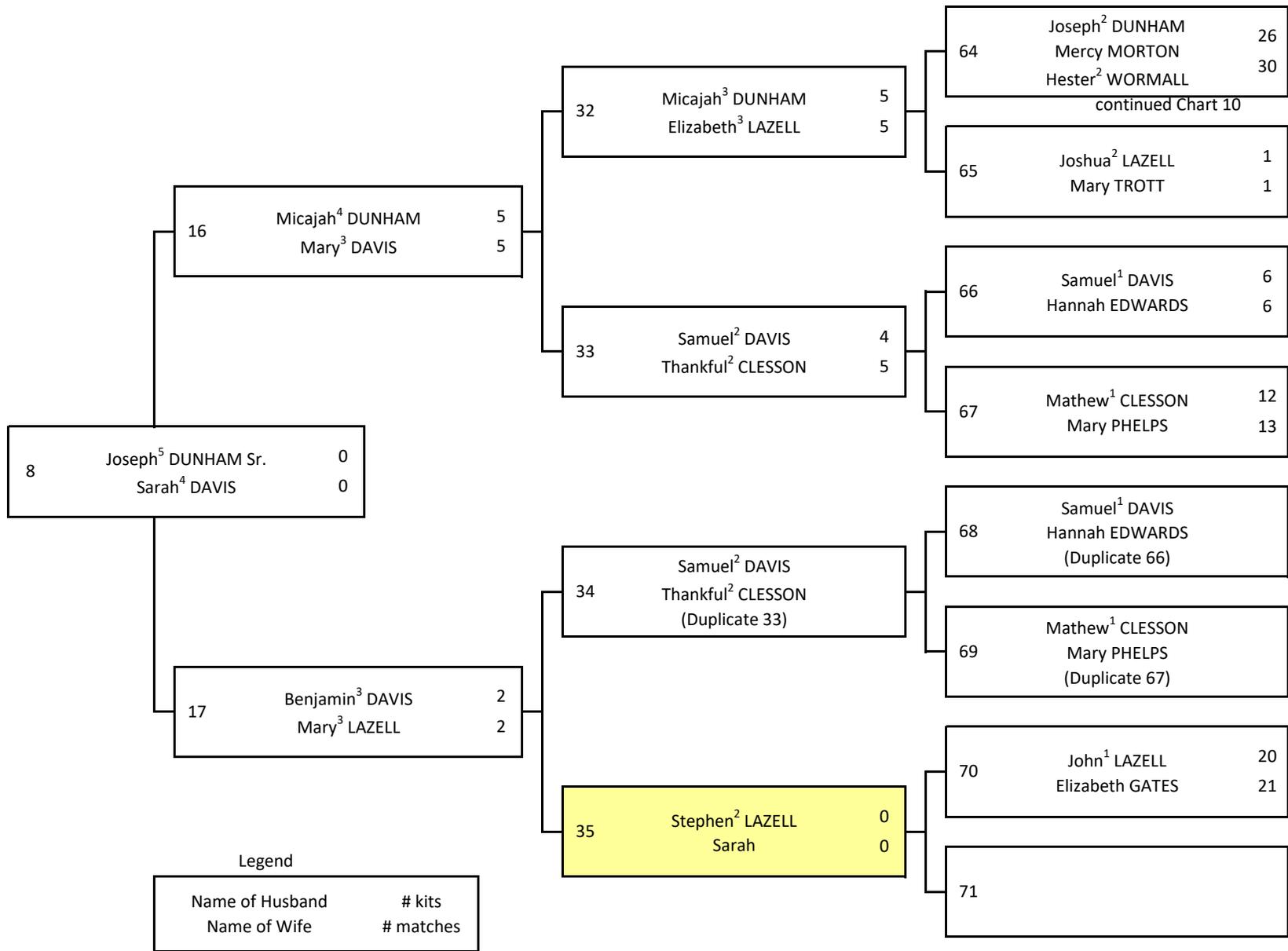


Figure 1. DNA Couple/Parent Pedigree Chart 2

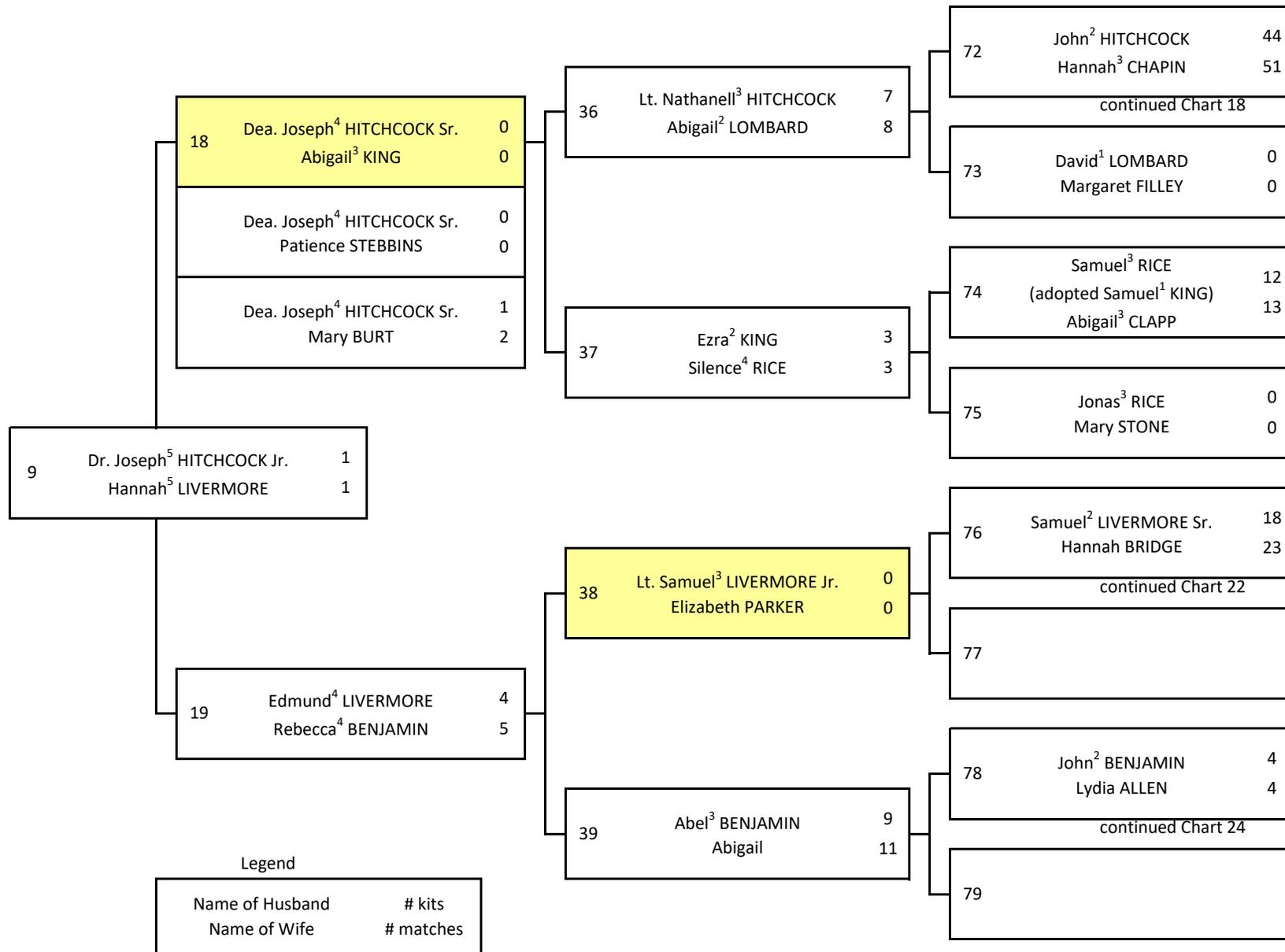


Figure 1. DNA Couple/Parent Pedigree Chart 3

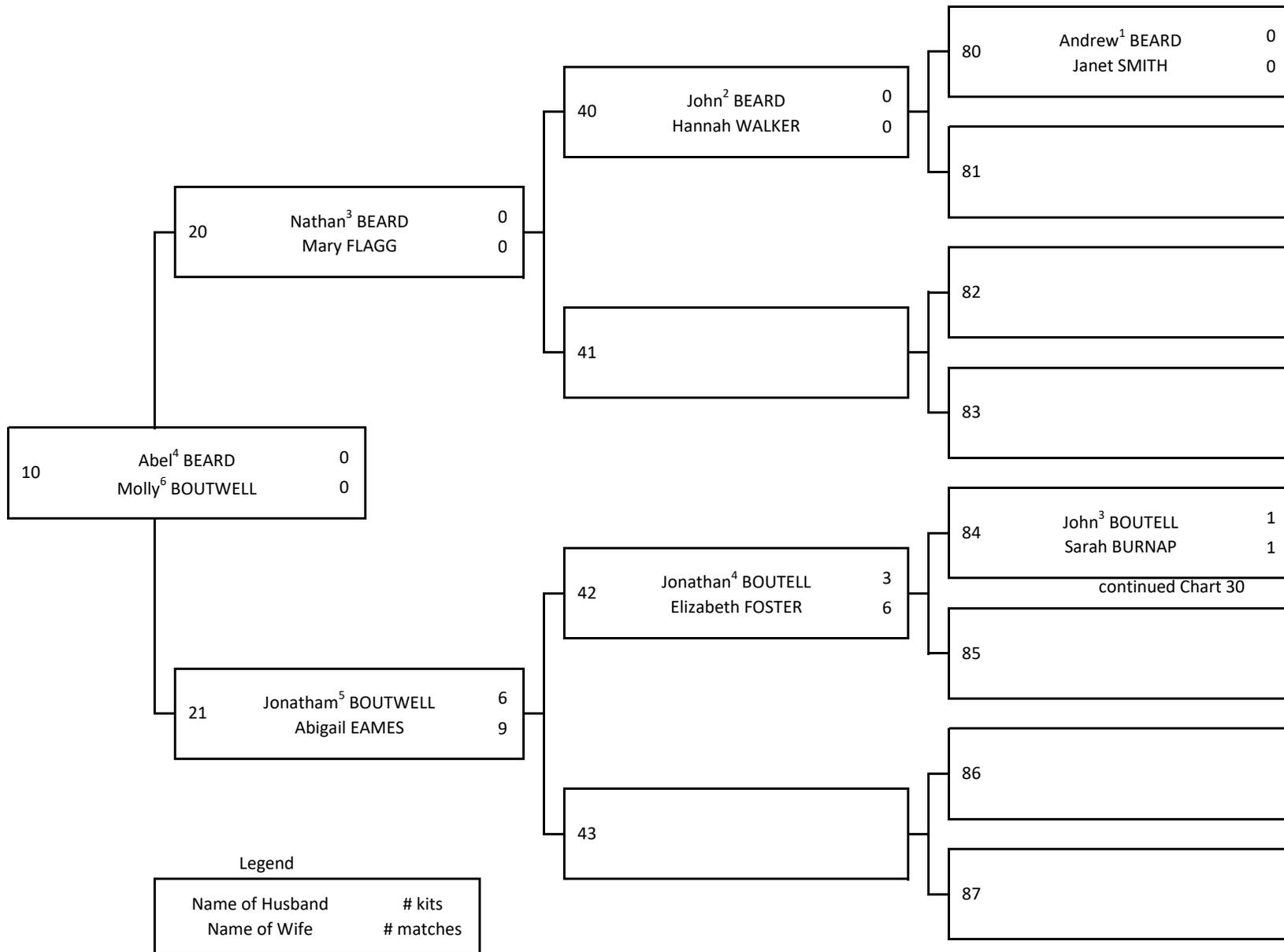


Figure 1. DNA Couple/Parent Pedigree Chart 4

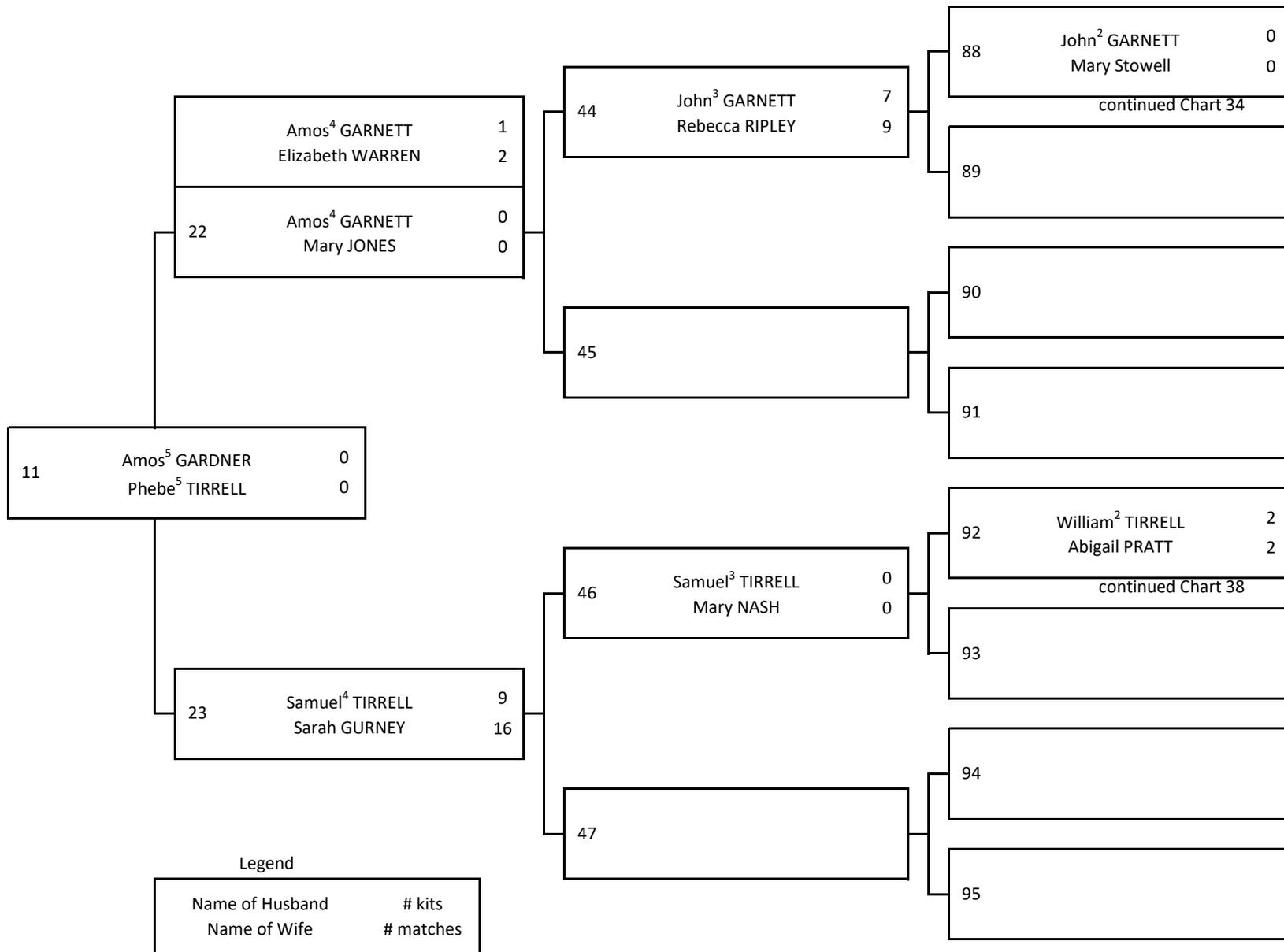


Figure 1. DNA Couple/Parent Pedigree Chart 5

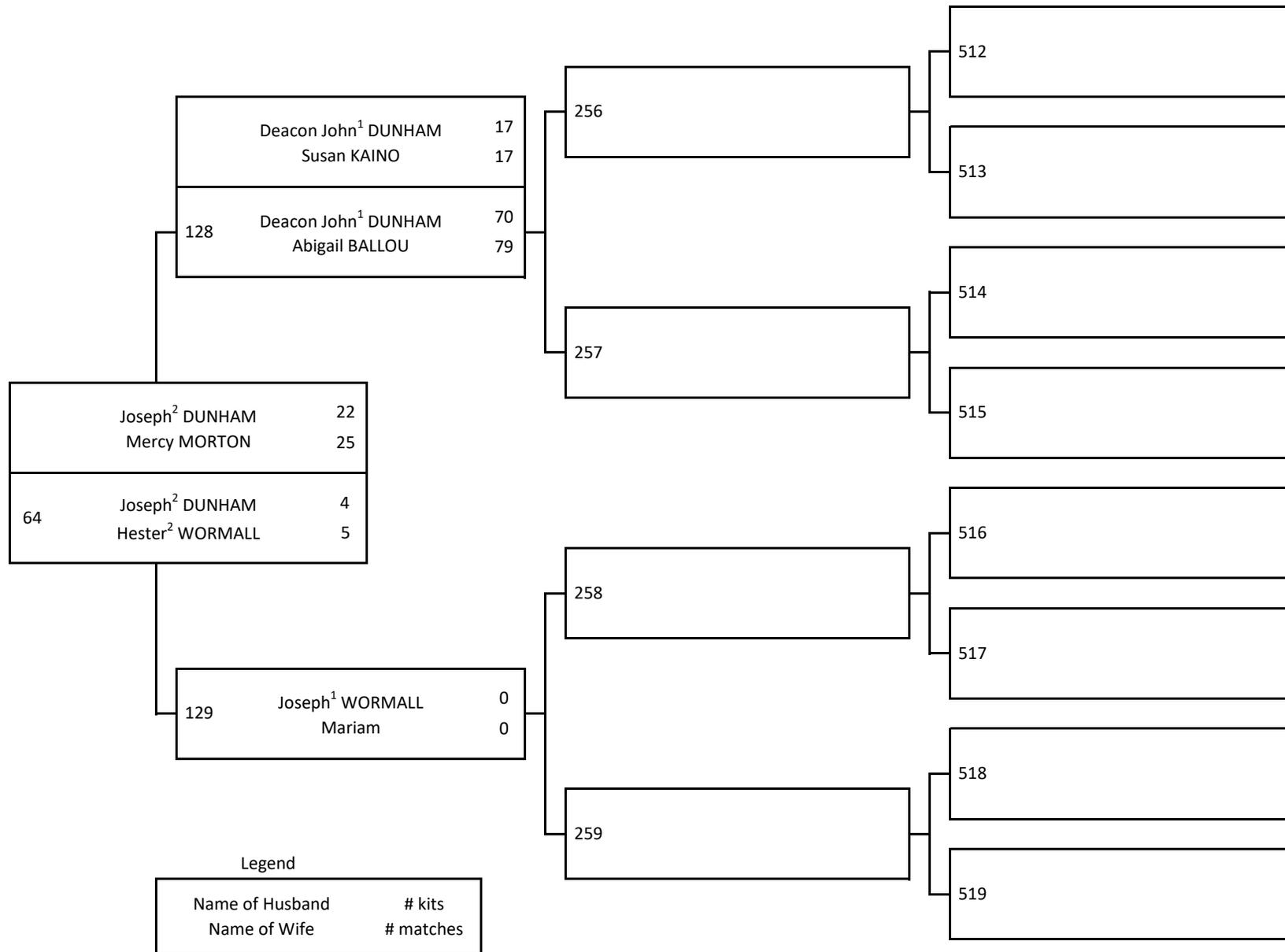


Figure 1. DNA Couple/Parent Pedigree Chart 10

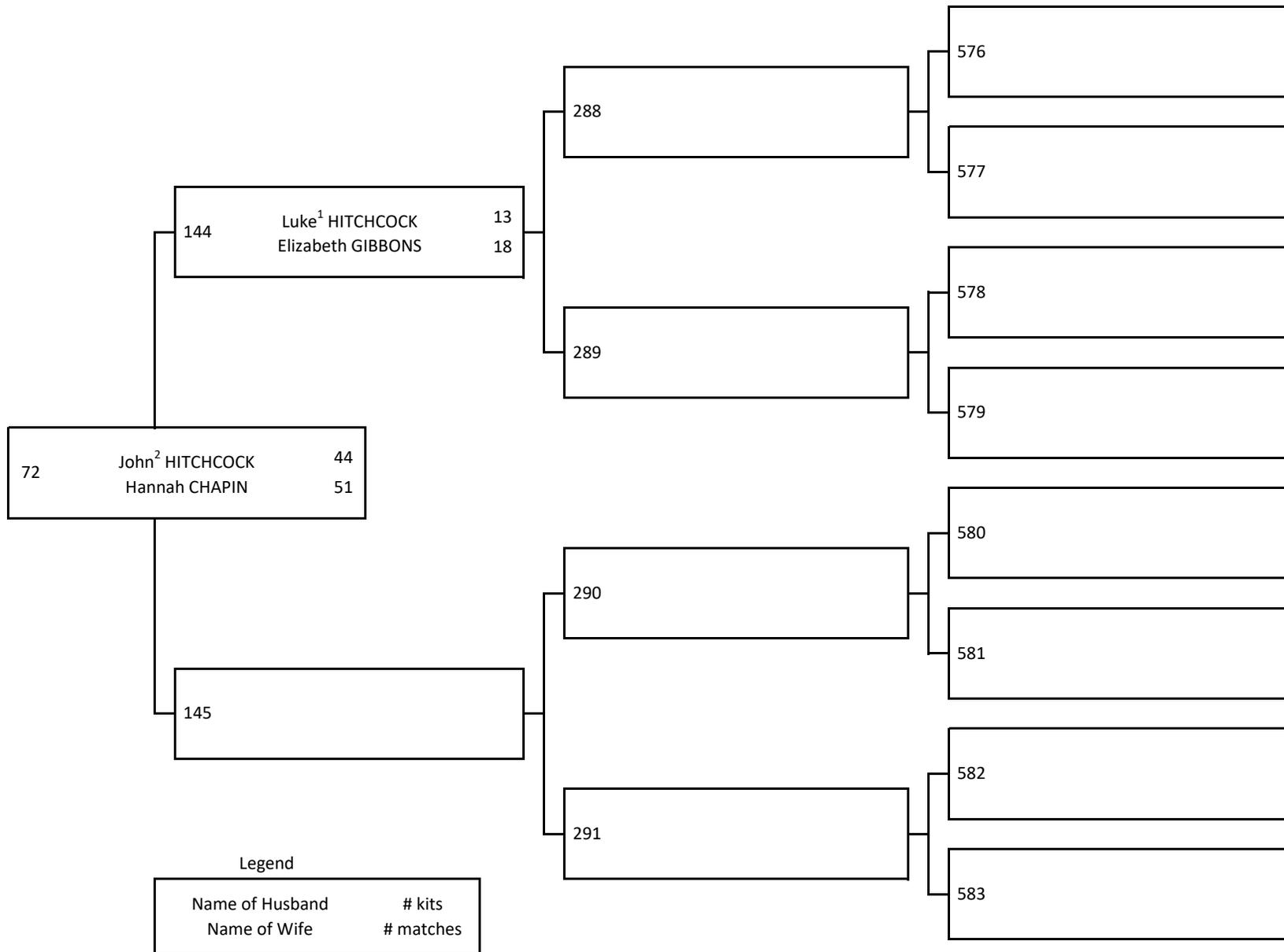


Figure 1. DNA Couple/Parent Pedigree Chart 18

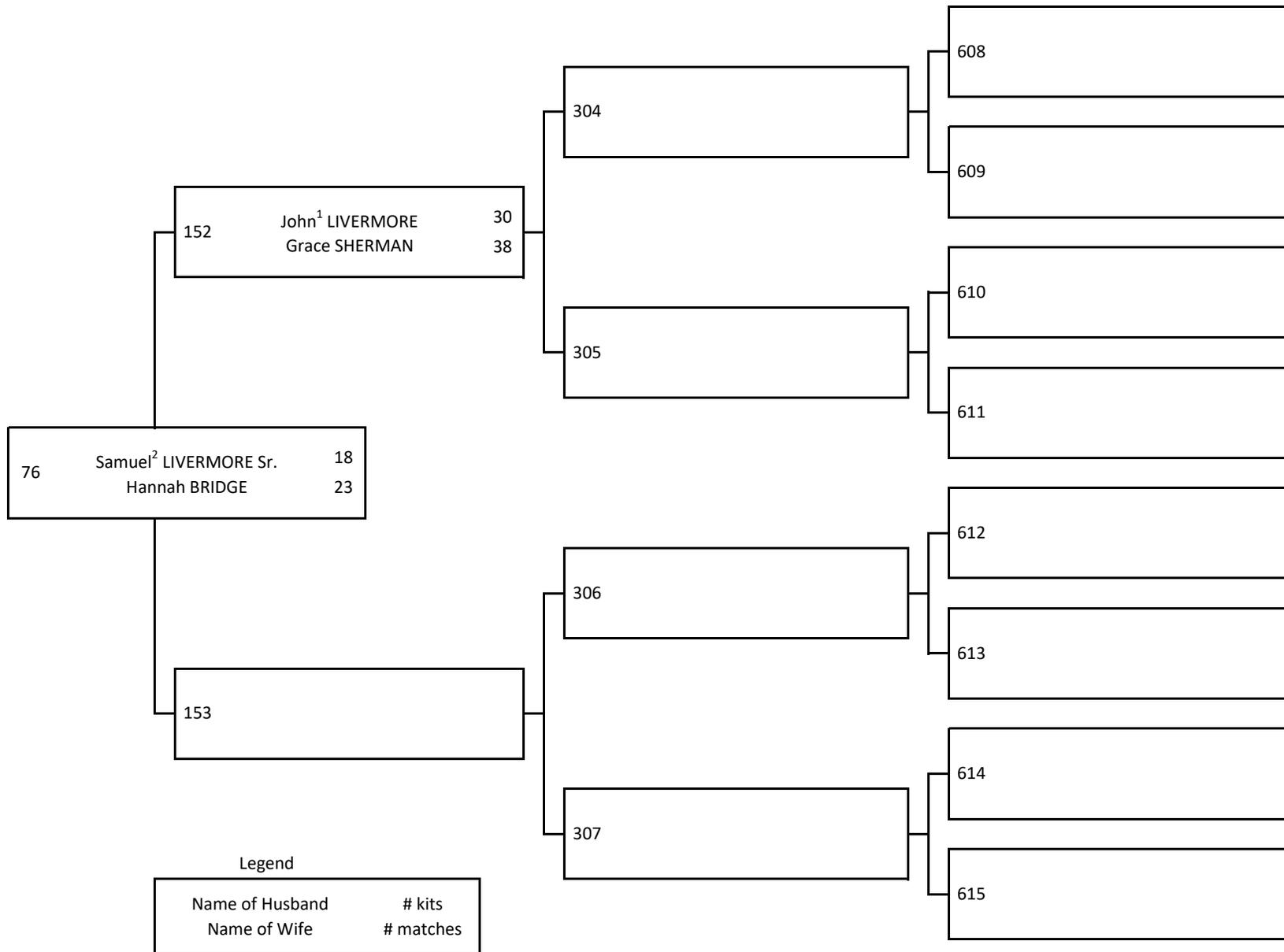


Figure 1. DNA Couple/Parent Pedigree Chart 22

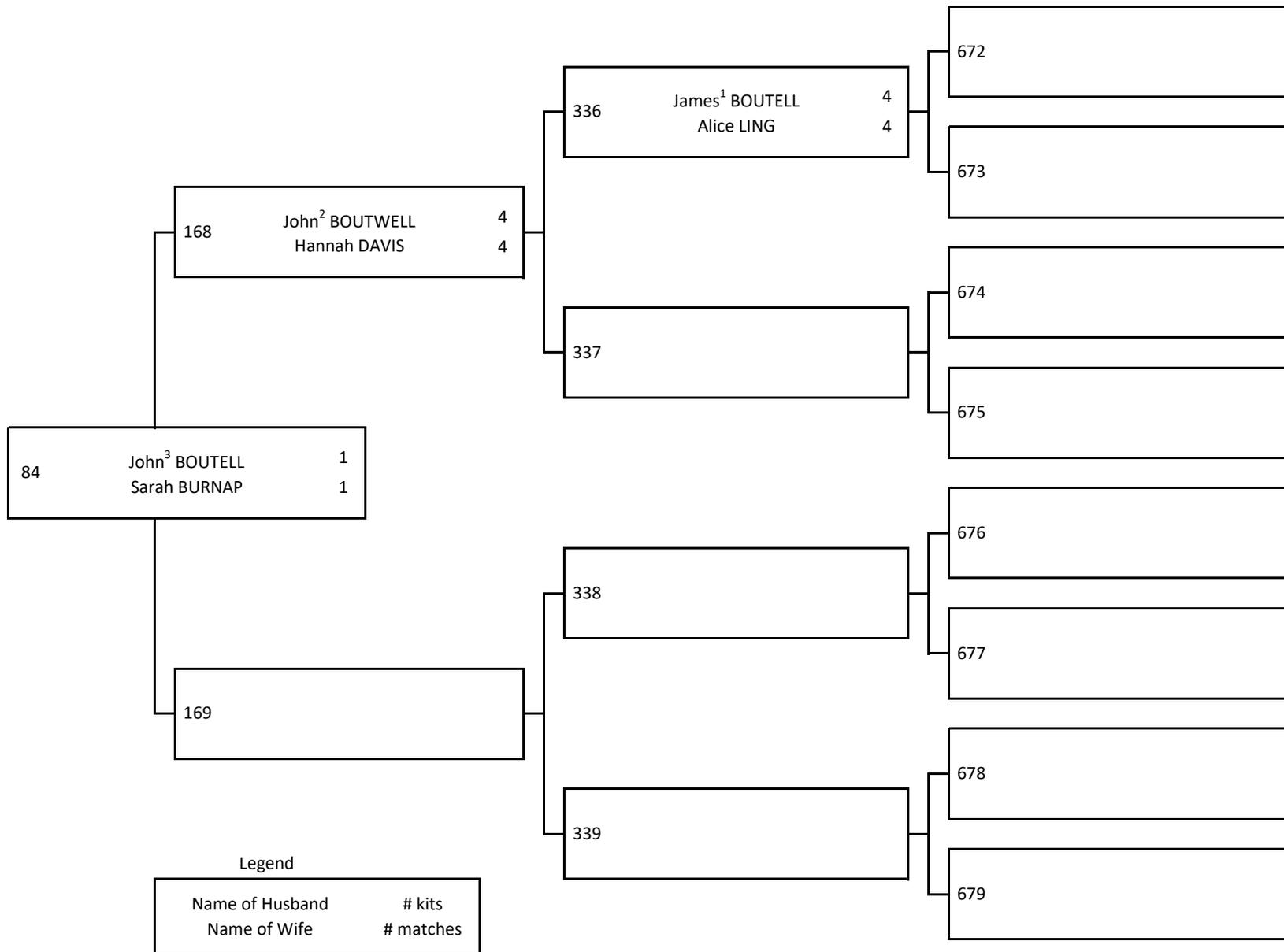


Figure 1. DNA Couple/Parent Pedigree Chart 30

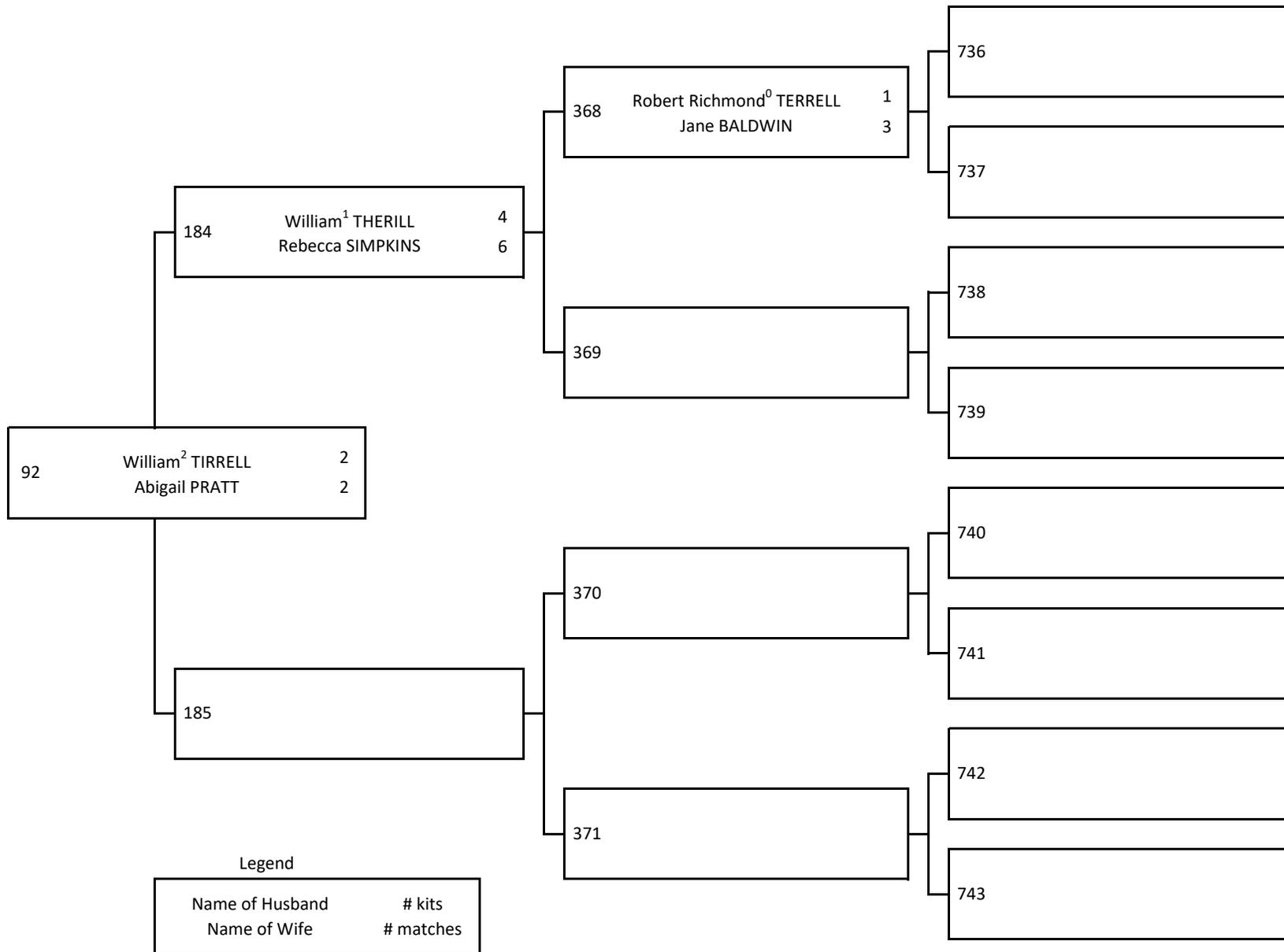


Figure 1. DNA Couple/Parent Pedigree Chart 38

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