

# The Bridgewaters of Downley, West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

An overview of the descendants of William Bridgewater who lived in Downley, West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, England from the late-1700s



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Feedback and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to [genealogyjim@shaw.ca](mailto:genealogyjim@shaw.ca)

Front cover: Downley, West Wycombe (photograph by Sandra Swann)

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## Introduction

Bridgewater is believed to be a locational name, derived from the town of Bridgewater in Somerset, England, but I have found no connection between “our” Bridgewaters and the town in Somerset.

This document is focussed on my wife’s Bridgewater ancestors who lived in the parish of West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, England in the 1700s, and is intended to provide a general overview of the many descendant branches of our Bridgewater family tree. There will be more information on my wife’s immediate family, and their story, as that is what I am most familiar with, but I hope that it will also provide a better understanding of the other descendant lines, and how we are all related.

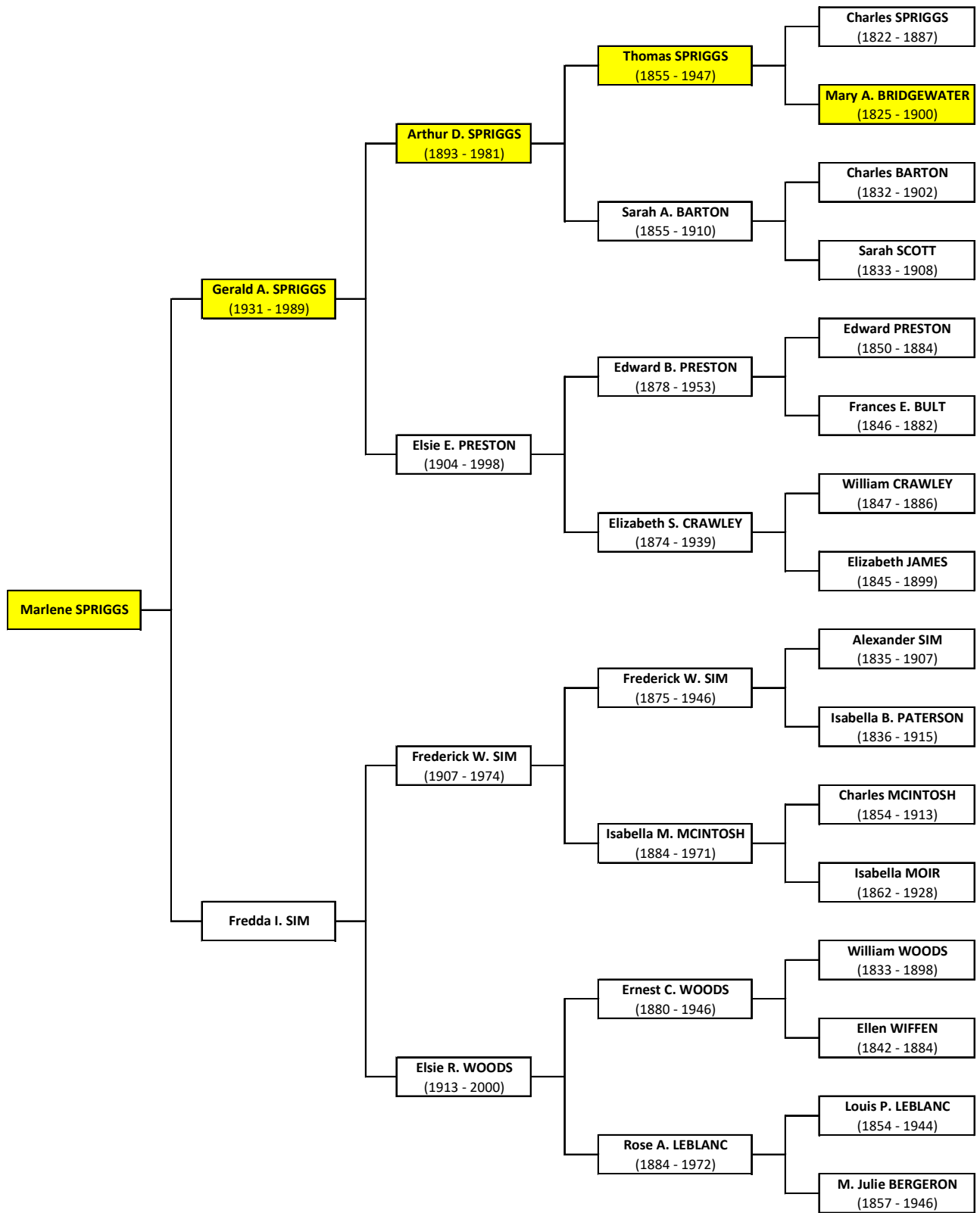
Throughout the document, to protect their privacy, I have tried to avoid providing details of living relatives, and I apologise if this cut-off has not been perfectly executed.

This is not intended to be the final word on the Bridgewater family of West Wycombe, and I hope that over time, new information will be identified, and that people from the various descendant branches might add additional chapters to this document, expanding the story of their Bridgewater lines.

I apologise for any errors that may have crept into the document, and I welcome any corrections, family photographs, or other feedback, which can be incorporated into future versions.

The chart on the next page shows with yellow highlight, the ancestral line that is the focus of this document.





## Chapter 1 – The Early Generations

Our earliest confirmed Bridgewater ancestor is William Bridgewater, born circa 1791 at West Wycombe. His 1845 marriage certificate states that his father was William Bridgewater, a chairmaker, but he was not baptised in either West Wycombe or High Wycombe.

A search of neighbouring parishes identifies two possibilities in Hughendon parish, which borders West Wycombe –

- William Bridgewater, son of William Bridgewater and Elizabeth Fox, baptised 27 November 1791.
- William Bridgewater, son of William Bridgewater and Mary Maye, who were married in Hughendon on 26 October 1788.

William Bridgewater senior was buried in West Wycombe on 17 July 1838, at the age of 73 years, suggesting that he was born circa 1765. The local newspaper<sup>1</sup> reported his death as follows – *“SUDDEN DEATH – William Bridgewater, a chair-maker, was found dead in his workshop with a chisel in his hand; he is advanced in years”*.

Bridgewater is not a common surname in the area, and the only identified William Bridgewater born circa 1765 is the baptism of William Bridgewater, son of George and Mary Bridgewater, in High Wycombe on 21 February 1768.

George Bridgewater baptised four children in High Wycombe, as follows –

- Martha Bridgewater, baptised 17 May 1761
- Richard Bridgewater, baptised 26 December 1762
- William Bridgewater, baptised 21 February 1768
- Henry Bridgewater, baptised 17 February 1769

The High Wycombe parish registers also identify a marriage of George Bridgewater and Mary Costard on 3 February 1768. The register states that George Bridgewater was a widower at the time of the marriage, suggesting that the first two of the children listed above may have a different mother than the last two children, but also named Mary. This would also explain the five year gap between the baptism of Richard and William.

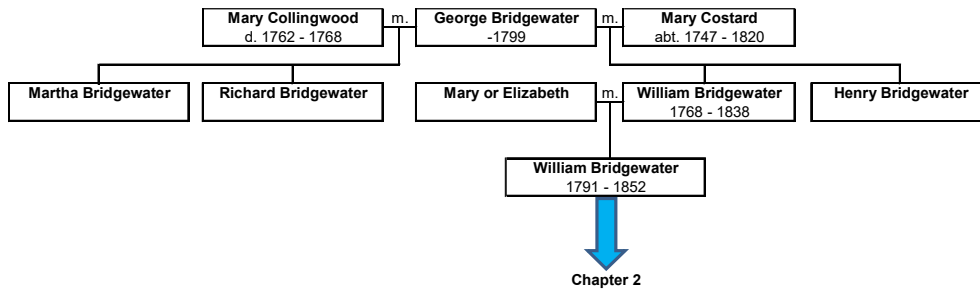
The only identified candidate as the mother of Martha and Richard is Mary Collingwood, who married George Bridgewater on 6 November 1760 in West Wycombe, and presumably died between 1762 and 1768, although no burial record has been found.

Mary Bridgewater, the mother of William and Henry, is likely the Mary Bridgewater buried in High Wycombe on 7 April 1820, aged 73 years. This suggests a birth date circa 1747.

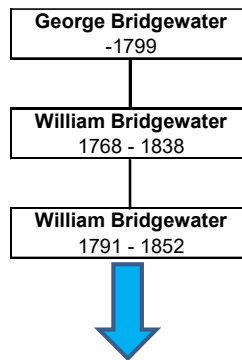
The connection to William Bridgewater, born circa 1791, is only an educated guess at this time, but in the absence of evidence to the contrary, the foregoing will be accepted as the most likely familial relationships.

The Martha Bridgewater baptised on 17 May 1761 married John Dean in High Wycombe on 9 April 1781. No further research has been done to date on this line nor on Richard and Henry Bridgewater.

William Bridgewater, born circa 1791 will be covered in more detail in chapter 2.



## Chapter 2 – William Bridgewater and Elizabeth (Collins?)



William Bridgewater first appeared in the census records of West Wycombe in 1841<sup>ii</sup>, living at Plomer Hill with four children (Catherine, Mary Ann, Elizabeth and William). He is listed as a 45 year old farmer, but ages of adults were rounded down to the nearest five years, suggesting that he was born between 1791 and 1796.

Plomer Hill	1	William Bridgewater	45	Farmer	4
		Catherine do	10		4
		Mary Ann do	16		4
		Elizabeth do	14		4
		William do	8		2

William Bridgewater in 1841 census.

In the 1851 census<sup>iii</sup>, 58 year old William is listed with wife Mary, two children (William and Elizabeth) and grandson Arthur Bridgewater. The family was still living at Plomer Hill, and William was farming 90 acres and employing five men.

William Bridgewater	Head	Man	58	Farmer (of 90. Comp. 5 Men)	Plomer Hill
Mary do	Wife	Woman	47		do. Risborough
William do	Son	Man	19	Shoe maker	do. Plomer Hill
Elizabeth do	Daughter	Woman	21	Farmer's Daughter	do. do
James Bennett	Serv	Man	55	do Labourer	do. Madaya
Joseph Stone	Serv	Man	28	do do	do. Downley
Arthur Bridgewater	Grandson	Boy	3	Scholar	do. Plomer Hill
John Barlow	Visitor	Man	21	Shoe maker	do. Downley

William Bridgewater in 1851 census.

From these two census records, it appears that William was a widower in 1841 and married Mary between 1841 and 1851. This scenario is confirmed by a newspaper notice<sup>iv</sup> announcing the marriage of William Bridgewater and Mary Stratton in Princes Risborough on 13 December 1845.

**MARRIED.**  
 On Saturday last, at Princes Risborough Church, by the  
 Rev. C. Gray, by licence, Mr. William Bridgewater, chair-  
 manufacturer and farmer, Downly, West Wycombe, Bucks,  
 to Miss Mary Stratton, daughter of the late Mr. John Young  
 Stratton, Priuces Risborough.

**William Bridgewater & Mary Stratton marriage notice.**

But who was William Bridgewater's first wife?

The West Wycombe parish registers identify the baptism of eight children of William and Elizabeth Bridgewater, as follows –

- Ellinor Bridgewater, baptised 27 October 1818
- Ellen Bridgewater, baptised 27 May 1821
- Catherine Bridgewater, baptised 7 July 1822
- Catherine Bridgewater, baptised 20 July 1823
- Mary Ann Bridgewater, baptised 29 May 1825
- Elizabeth Jane Bridgewater, baptised 20 March 1826
- Sophia Bridgewater, baptised 16 August 1829
- William James Bridgewater, baptised 30 March 1833

Elizabeth, the mother of these eight children, was buried in West Wycombe on 19 September 1834, aged 42 years, so she was born circa 1792. The only likely marriage that I have found in the area, for a William Bridgewater to an Elizabeth, between 1808 and 1818, is the marriage of William Bridgewater and Elizabeth Collins in nearby Little Missenden on 7 December 1816. I am confident that Elizabeth Collins is the mother of the eight Bridgewater children, but I do not have proof, so I will add her surname in brackets, with a question mark, to the family charts in this document. We will talk more about DNA in chapter 11, but I will say at this point that there is some DNA evidence that this Collins connection is likely correct.



**William Bridgewater headstone.**

William Bridgewater did not live for very long with his second wife, as he died in West Wycombe on 13 December 1852. His will leaves bequests to his wife Mary, son William James, daughter Mary Ann Spriggs wife of Charles Spriggs, daughter Catharine wife of Henry Fox, children of his late daughter Ellen who was the wife of Frederick Herbert Tilbury, and daughter Elizabeth Jane.

Bridgewater William 13. ✓	<i>This is the last Will and Testament of me William Bridgewater of Slomer Hill in the Parish of West Wycombe in the</i>
------------------------------------	--

**Beginning of the will of William Bridgewater.**



William Bridgewater was not a poor man when he died. He did not own Plomer Hill Farm, but leased it from the local landowner. In addition to the farm, William also held 11 cottages in the village of Downley, by copyhold. His executors posted notices in the local newspapers, announcing the sale by auction of William Bridgewater's property, including the copyhold cottages<sup>v</sup> and his farming equipment & household effects<sup>vi</sup>. The auction notice for his farming equipment and household effects, listed the following items for sale –

*“THE LIVE AND DEAD FARMING STOCK comprises three Cart Horses, a Pony, two in-calf Cows and 2 Sturks, Rick of Wheat, three iron-arm market waggons, timber-carriage and chains, three dung -carts, market cart, ploughs and tackle, harrows, winnowing -machine, rick-stands, gig, cart and plough harness, Barn Implements, and effects. The useful HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE consists of mahogany four-post, tent, and other bedsteads, with furniture ; goose-feather beds, hair and wool mattresses, and bedding; mahogany chests of drawers; dining and other tables; chairs; carpets; glassed bookcase; bureau ; two pianofortes; china and glass; kitchen utensils and fixtures”.*

After the death of William, his wife Mary disappears from the West Wycombe records, but I believe that she is the Mary Bridgewater who married George Stratton in Wycombe Registration District in the Oct-Dec quarter of 1853.

Ellinor Bridgewater, the eldest daughter, is not mentioned in her father's will and was not living with him in 1841 or 1851, so is assumed to have died prior to his death.

Ellen Bridgewater married Frederick Herbert Tilbury and their family will be covered in chapter 3.

The elder Catherine Bridgewater is assumed to have died as baby, as the next child, born a year later, was also named Catherine.

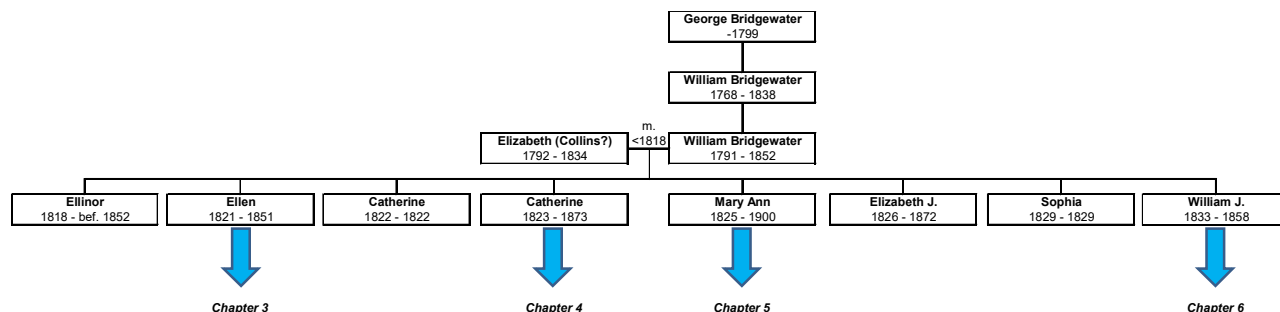
The younger Catherine Bridgewater married Henry William Fox and their family will be covered in chapter 4.

Mary Ann Bridgewater married Charles Spriggs and their family will be covered in chapter 5.

Elizabeth Jane Bridgewater did not marry and died in West Wycombe on 5 October 1872 at the age of 46 years.

Sophia Bridgewater was buried on 18 October 1829 at the age of two months.

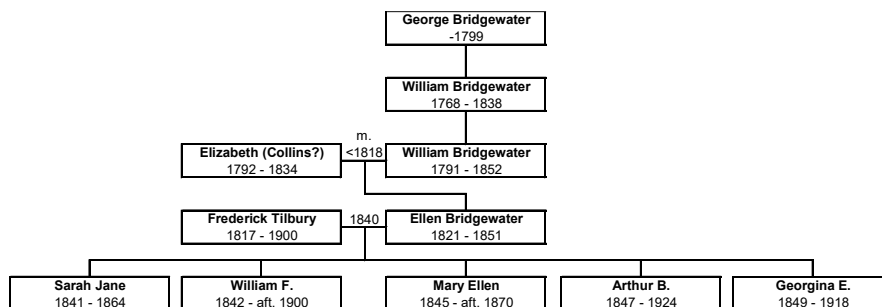
William James Bridgewater married Susanna Bristow and their family will be covered in chapter 6.



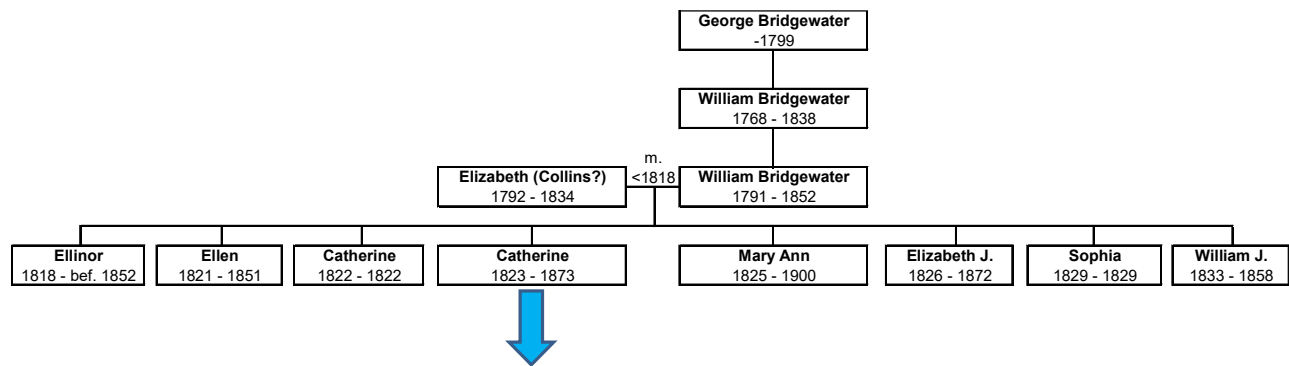


3. Charles TILBURY (b. Abt 1881-St. Pancras, London, England; d. Aft 1890)
3. Violet Ellen TILBURY (b. Oct/Dec 1882-Tottenham, Middlesex, England; d. Oct/Dec 1944-Surrey, England)
  - sp: George Albert RIDER (b. Abt 1882; m. Oct/Dec 1910; d. Oct/Dec 1939-Westminster, Middlesex, England)
3. George Albert TILBURY (b. Jan/Mar 1885-Stamfordhill, Middlesex, England; d. Aft 1900)
3. Susannah Bridgewater TILBURY (b. Apr/Jun 1887-Stamfordhill, Middlesex, England; d. Apr/Jun 1949-Surrey, England)
  - sp: George A. STOUT (m. Jul/Sep 1919)
    4. Gordon A. STOUT (b. Oct/Dec 1921-Edmonton, Middlesex, England)
      - sp: Patricia W. HOWE (b. Jan/Mar 1923-Wandsworth, London, England; m. Jul/Sep 1946)
        5. Michael J. STOUT (b.-Surrey, England)
3. Herbert TILBURY (b. Abt 1890-Stamfordhill, Middlesex, England; d. Aft 1900)
2. Georgiana Elizabeth TILBURY (b.6 Jul 1849; d.11 Feb 1918)
  - sp: Charles Edwin SKULL (b.1850-High Wycombe, Buckingham, England; m. Jul/Sep 1872; d.31 Aug 1931)
    3. Walter Charles SKULL (b. Oct/Dec 1872-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Aug 1886-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
    3. Fred SKULL (b. Jan/Mar 1874-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.1952)
      - sp: Ellen Mary PEACE (b. Apr/Jun 1871-High Wycombe, Buckingham, England; m. Jul/Sep 1901; d.1955)
    3. Edith Nellie SKULL (b. Abt 1877-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Aft 1900)
      - sp: William Henry MARTIN (b. Abt 1865-Sandford, Oxford, England; m. Jul/Sep 1900; d. Aft 1900)
    3. Percy Carter SKULL (b. Jan/Mar 1878-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Aft 1951)
      - sp: Annie Lucy J GREENING (m. Jul/Sep 1903)
        4. Joan Greening SKULL (b. Apr/Jun 1904-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
          - sp: Roland CLARKE (b. Jan/Mar 1901-High Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Aft 1900)
            5. Tim CLARKE
  3. Charles Arthur SKULL (b. Oct/Dec 1879-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Jul/Sep 1880-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
  3. Charles Arthur SKULL (b. Oct/Dec 1881-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Aft 1951)
    - sp: Elsie Gertrude NICHOLSON (b. Jan/Mar 1879-Brixton, Surrey, England; m. Jul/Sep 1907)
      4. Charles Nicholson SKULL
      4. Arthur Nicholson SKULL
      4. SKULL
      4. Ruth Nicholson SKULL (b. Apr/Jun 1918-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
        - sp: John Godfrey PEACE (b. Oct/Dec 1906-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; m. Jul/Sep 1947; d.29 Jul 1997)
  3. Mabel Kingsley SKULL (b. Apr/Jun 1883-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.1979)
    - sp: James Douglas FLECK

- 3. Maud SKULL (b. Abt 1888-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Aft 1900)
- 3. Arthur SKULL (b. Apr/Jun 1885-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Jan/Mar 1886-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
- 3. Dorothy SKULL (b. Oct/Dec 1889-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Aft 1900)



## Chapter 4 – Catherine Bridgewater and Henry Fox



Catherine, the fourth child of William and Elizabeth Bridgewater was baptised at West Wycombe on 20 July 1823.

She married Henry William Fox on 19 February 1849 at St. Luke, Chelsea, Middlesex, and their marriage produced eleven children.

Catherine died at West Wycombe on 11 April 1873 at the relatively young age of 49 years. Her husband, Henry Fox, died at West Wycombe on 2 August 1896.

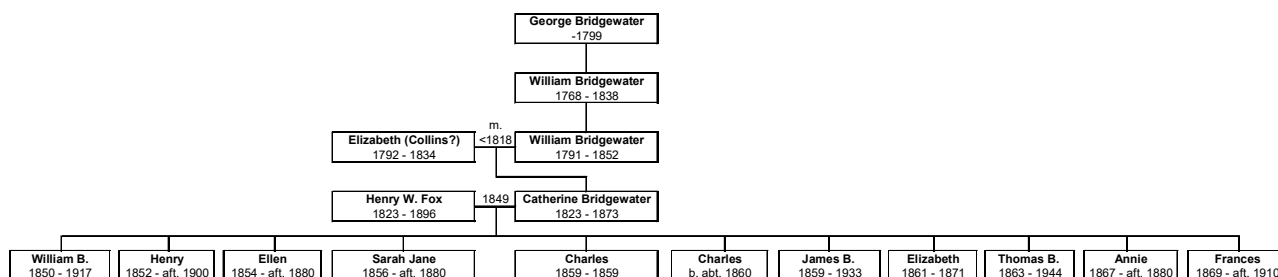
The known descendants of Catherine and Henry Fox are as follows -

1. Catherine BRIDGEWATER (c.20 Jul 1823-West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.11 Apr 1873 -Downley, West Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
  - sp: Henry William FOX (b. Abt 1823-Hammersmith, Middlesex, England; m.19 Feb 1849; d.2 Aug 1896-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
2. William Bridgewater FOX (b. Jan/Mar 1850-Downley, West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Apr/Jun 1917-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
  - sp: Rebecca TILBURY (b. Jan/Mar 1853-Loudwater, Buckingham, England; m. Jan/Mar 1871; d. Aft 1900)
2. Henry FOX (b. Jan/Mar 1852-Downley, West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Aft 1900)
  - sp: Elizabeth Ann ADAMS (b. Abt 1852-Frogmoor, Devon, England; m. Jul/Sep 1890; d. Aft 1900)
2. Ellen FOX (b. Apr/Jun 1854-Downley, West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Aft 1880)
2. Sarah Jane FOX (b. Jan/Mar 1856-Downley, West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Aft 1880)
2. Charles FOX (c.11 Jun 1859-West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; b.17 Jun 1859-West Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
2. Charles FOX (b. Abt 1860-Downley, West Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
2. James Bridgewater FOX (b. Oct/Dec 1859-Downley, West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. 25 Jan 1933-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
  - sp: Harriett Emma CHAPMAN (b. Apr/Jun 1864-Peterborough, England; m. Oct/Dec 1887; d. Aft 1932)
3. Harriet Ellen FOX (b. Jul/Sep 1888-Lewisham, Kent, England; d. Aft 1939)

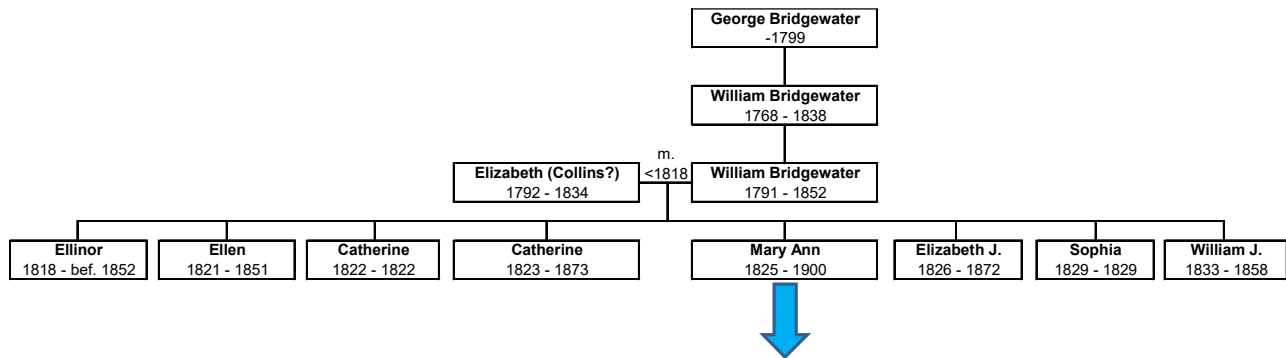


- sp: UNKNOWN
4. Esther M.S. FOX (b. Oct/Dec 1911-Camberwell, London, England; d. Aft 1929)  
sp: William Henry SPRING (b.23 Feb 1868-Brixton, London, England; m. Jul/Sep 1915; d. Aft 1939)
  4. Frank E. SPRING (b. Abt 1918-Massachusetts, United States of America; d. Aft 1939)  
sp: UNKNOWN
    5. Judith SPRING
  4. Emily R. SPRING (b.Abt 1920-Massachusetts,United States of America;d.Aft 1929)
  4. Hubert SPRING (b.Abt 1921-Massachusetts,United States of America;d.Aft 1939)
  4. Robert SPRING (b.Abt 1921-Massachusetts,United States of America;d.Aft 1939)
  4. Alfred SPRING (b.Abt 1922-Massachusetts,United States of America;d.Aft 1939)
  4. Charles SPRING (b.Abt 1924-Massachusetts,United States of America;d.Aft 1939)
  4. Philip SPRING (b.Abt 1927-Massachusetts,United States of America;d.Aft 1939)
  3. George Henry FOX (b. Jul/Sep 1889-Lewisham, Kent, England; d.10 Feb 1933-Battersea, London, England)  
sp: Esther Louisa THOMAS (b. Jan/Mar 1890-Islington, London, England; m. Apr/Jun 1914; d.5 May 1960-Hendon, Middlesex, England)
  3. Frederick Thomas FOX (b. Oct/Dec 1890-Acton, Middlesex, England; d. Jan/Mar 1962-Surrey, England)  
sp: Rose Ethel COSFORD (b.11 Nov 1892-Fulham, London, England; m.12 Sep 1915; d. Jul/Sep 1971-Surrey, England)
    4. Kathleen R. FOX (b. Apr/Jun 1916-Willesden, Middlesex, England)
    4. Doris M. FOX (b. Oct/Dec 1918-Willesden, Middlesex, England)
  3. Kathleen Minnie FOX (b.15 May 1898-Hammersmith, London, England; d. Oct/Dec 1980-London, Greater London, England)  
sp: John Edward MAHAN (b. Oct/Dec 1896-Doncaster, York, England; m.24 Sep 1922; d. Oct/Dec 1966-Brent, Greater London, England)
    4. Joy Iris MAHAN (b.1 Mar 1926-Willesden, Middlesex, England; d. Oct/Dec 1975-Hillingdon, Greater London, England)  
sp: Ronald E. EAGLES (b. Jul/Sep 1923-Willesden, Middlesex, England; m. Jan/Mar 1951)
    4. Frederick MAHAN (b. Jul/Sep 1929-Willesden, Middlesex, England; d. Jul/Sep 1929-Willesden, Middlesex, England)
    4. Pamela A. MAHAN (b. Oct/Dec 1931-Willesden, Middlesex, England)  
sp: Allan A. NASH (m. Jul/Sep 1962)
  2. Elizabeth FOX (b. Oct/Dec 1861-Downley, West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; bur.24 Aug 1871-West Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
  2. Thomas Bridgewater FOX (b.15 Sep 1863-Downley, West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.10 Nov 1944-Victoria, Australia)  
sp: Mary Jane BLAMIRE (b.1868-Victoria, Australia; m.1891)
    3. William Bridgewater FOX (b.19 Jul 1892-Victoria, Australia; d.14 Jan 1982-New South Wales, Australia)  
sp: Laurie ARMITAGE (m.1927; d.1960-New South Wales, Australia)
    3. James FOX (b.1895-Victoria, Australia; d.1895-Victoria, Australia)
    3. Thomas Henry FOX (b.18 Mar 1898; d.19 Aug 1980-Victoria, Australia)

- sp: Stella Grace ABBEY (b.1901-Victoria, Australia; m.1928; d.1958-Victoria, Australia)
- 4. Leslie Graeme FOX (b.18 Nov 1928)
  - 4. Valerie FOX (b.28 Apr 1932)
- 3. Benjamin John FOX (b.1902-Victoria, Australia; d.1902-Victoria, Australia)
  - 3. Valerie Frances Mary FOX (b.1905-Victoria, Australia; d.1908-Victoria, Australia)
  - 3. Charles Wycombe FOX (b.15 Dec 1911-Victoria, Australia; d.29 Mar 1973-Victoria, Australia)
- sp: Elaine Stathearn SMITH (b.1912-Victoria, Australia; m.1937; d.1984-Victoria, Australia)
- 2. Annie FOX (b. Abt 1867-West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Aft 1880)
  - 2. Frances (Fanny) FOX (b. Jul/Sep 1869-West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Aft 1910)
- sp: William Henry SIMMONS (b. Abt 1868-Seaford, Sussex, England; m.26 Nov 1892; d. Jul/Sep 1910-Eastbourne, Sussex, England)
- 3. Reginald SIMMONS (b. Oct/Dec 1893-Seaford, Sussex, England; d. Oct/Dec 1958-Eastbourne, Sussex, England)
  - 3. Eva Dorothy SIMMONS (b. Oct/Dec 1897-Seaford, Sussex, England; d. Aft 1910)
  - 3. Daisy May SIMMONS (b. Jul/Sep 1908-Seaford, Sussex, England; d. Aft 1910)
  - 3. Cecil Ray SIMMONS (b. Jul/Sep 1908-Seaford, Sussex, England; d. Oct/Dec 1964-Brighton, Sussex, England)



## Chapter 5 – Mary Ann Bridgewater and Charles Spriggs



Mary Ann, the fifth child of William Bridgewater and Elizabeth (Collins?) married Charles Spriggs, son of Thomas Spriggs and Elizabeth Saunders, in West Wycombe parish church on 20 September 1849. In the 1851 census<sup>vii</sup>, they were found living at Gurdens Farm in Stokenchurch, Oxfordshire, with a daughter, Eliza. Charles Spriggs was farming 117 acres and employing 3 agricultural labourers and a general servant, so he was doing well for himself.

Gurdens Farm	Charles Spriggs	Head	Mar	24	Owner of 117 Acres	Provis. Westminster	✓
	Mary Ann do	Wife	Mar	25		Provis. Westminster	
	Eliza do	Daughter		8 1/2		Provis. Westminster	✓
	Henry Jones	Serv	Mar	23	Ag. Lab. Carter	Provis. Westminster	✓
	John White	Serv	Mar	17	Ag. Lab. do	Provis. Westminster	✓
	David Perfect	Serv	Mar	15	Ag. Lab.	Provis. Westminster	✓
	Isaac White	Serv	Mar	16	General Servant	Provis. Westminster	✓

Charles & Mary Ann Spriggs in 1851 census.

When Mary Ann's father, William Bridgewater, died in December 1852, it seems that she and Charles Spriggs moved onto his property, Plomer Green Farm, almost immediately, as their fourth child, William, was born in West Wycombe in early 1854.

By 1861 they had produced a total of eight children, but sadly only six were still living at the time of the 1861 census<sup>viii</sup>. Eliza had died in 1855 at five years of age, and George, born in 1858 had died in 1859, before he was nine months old. Four year old daughter, Amy, was not listed with the family in the census, and does not appear to have been enumerated elsewhere.

Plomer Green Farm	Charles Spriggs	Head	Mar	29	Owner of 26 Acres, employs 10 men & 1 boy	Green Westminster	
	Mary Ann do	Wife	Mar	26		Provis. Westminster	
	Eliza Spriggs	Serv		8		Green Westminster	
	Mary do	Daughter		4 1/2		do	
	William do	Serv		7		West Wycombe Bucks	
	Thomas do	Serv		5		do	
	John do	Serv		3 1/2		do	

Charles & Mary Ann Spriggs in 1861 census.

Charles and Mary Ann Spriggs produced a total of 11 children, of whom 9 lived to adulthood, 8 married and 7 had children of their own. By 1881 the family had moved from Plomer Green Farm to the nearby Plomer Hill Farm, where they remained until Charles' death in 1887. Mary Ann continued living on the farm, with her eldest son, Charles, until her death in 1900.

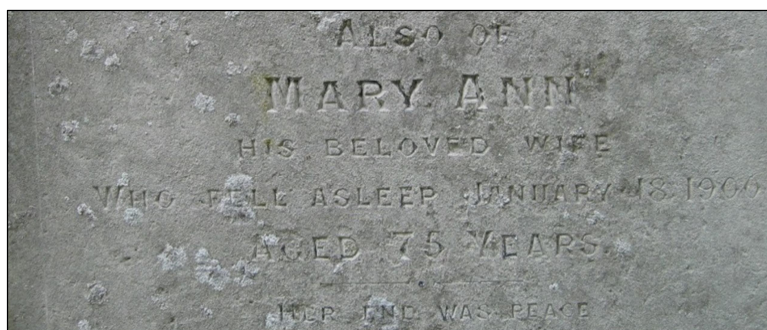
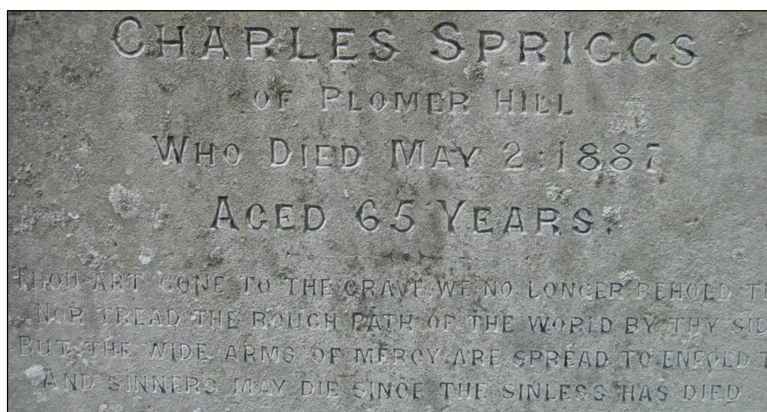
Charles Spriggs was obviously well respected in the community, as documented in his obituary from the Bucks Free Press newspaper -

*Death of Mr. C. Spriggs - This parish has this week sustained a severe loss by the removal by death of Mr. Charles Spriggs, of Plomer Hill, which took place at his residence on Monday morning, after a short illness. The cause of death was bronchitis; the deceased was out as lately as Tuesday week. The deceased was Chairman of the School Board, one of the vice-presidents of the Horticultural Society, and surveyor, and has at various times held almost every public office in parochial matters with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the parish generally. He was a most zealous and painstaking officer in all the duties he undertook, and will be greatly missed at the School Board, and also at the Horticultural Society's meetings, in the welfare of which he took an especial interest, particularly the Poultry Show in connection with the above, in the formation of which he was one of the most active promoters. The deceased had for some years been a member of the Board of Guardians, and only retired from the office a few weeks ago. He was an excellent Guardian, and rendered useful and intelligent service during his occupation of the post. He was closely connected with the Wesleyan body at Downley, in fact, in every useful society or movement affecting the parish generally. He was always ready to assist, and from his large experience and sound judgement his advice was always acceptable. We may say of him that he was a good citizen and a kind neighbour. The funeral is arranged to take place on Friday (to-day) at West Wycombe Church at 5 o'clock, the procession starting from deceased's residence at four.*

Charles and Mary Ann Spriggs are buried in the churchyard of St. Lawrence's church in West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, beneath a prominent headstone.



**Charles & Mary Ann Spriggs headstone  
- West Wycombe.**

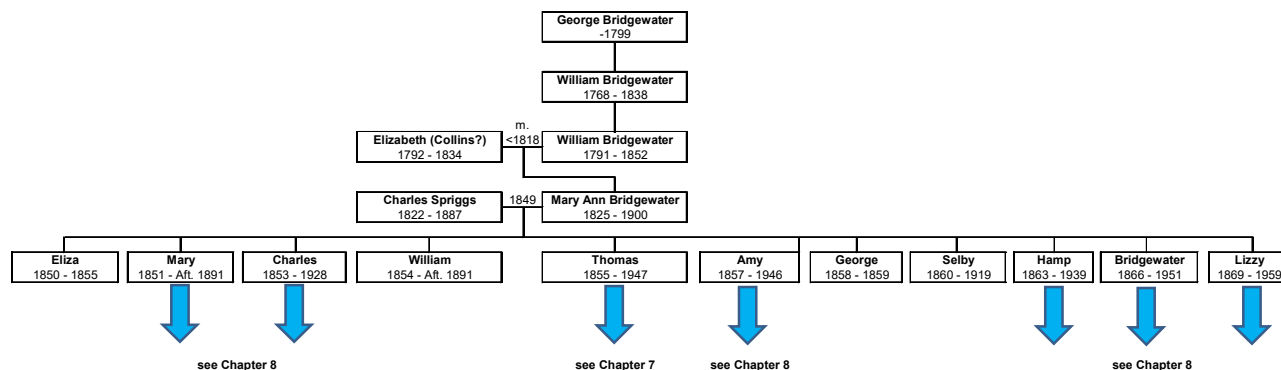


With such a large family it is easy to lose track of the various descendant lines, so we will cover William and Selby in this chapter, as they had no known descendants, then Thomas (Marlene's great grandfather) in chapter 7 and the remaining children in chapter 8.

William, born in 1854, was the fourth child of Charles and Mary Ann Spriggs, and took up the trade of chair-making, which was a major industry in the West Wycombe area in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the 1891 census he is still living at Plomer Hill Farm, where he is described as single, 36 years old, a farmer's son. I have lost track of him after 1891, as he does not

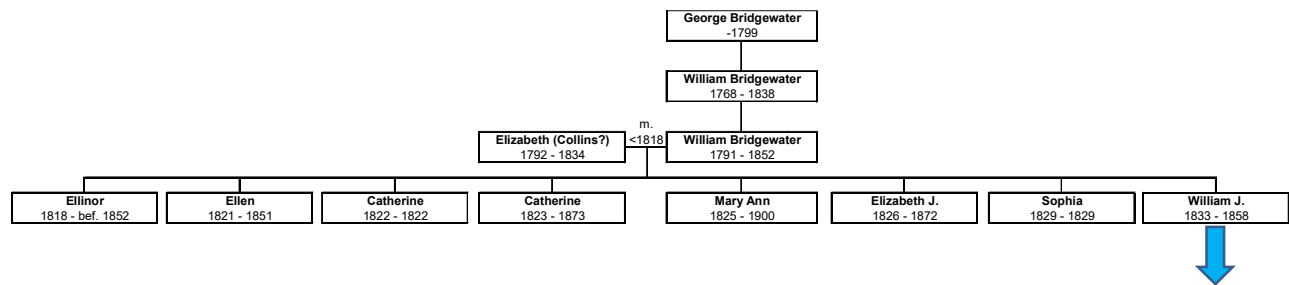
appear in either the 1891 or 1901 census of West Wycombe, so do not know whether or not he married and had a family. Perhaps he emigrated?

Selby Spriggs was the 8<sup>th</sup> child of Charles and Mary Ann and was born in 1860. He became a grocer, and continued living at Plomer Hill Farm until his marriage to Emily Sarah Heybourne in 1896. After their marriage, Selby and Emily opened their own grocer's shop in the village of Downley, where they lived until Selby's death in 1919 at 59 years old. Selby and Emily did not have children. Emily continued to run the grocery store until her death in 1945. They too are buried in the West Wycombe churchyard.





## Chapter 6 – William James Bridgewater and Susanna Bristow



William James Bridgewater was the youngest child and only son of William and Elizabeth Bridgewater. He was baptised at West Wycombe on 30 March 1833.

On 4 December 1854 he married a local girl, Susanna Bristow at West Wycombe. The couple had a daughter, Elizabeth, born in the Apr-Jun quarter of 1856, but who died just two years later, while Susanna was pregnant with their second child, William Arthur Bridgewater.

Sadly, William James Bridgewater did not get to see his son, as he died in West Wycombe at 25 years old, on 27 August 1858, just a few weeks before William Arthur's birth in mid-September.

Susanna married Thomas Nash on 5 June 1870, and had one additional child, Thomas Walter Nash. Thomas Nash died in early 1871, around the time his son was born, leaving Susanna a widow again, at 37 years of age. Susanna did not remarry and died on 5 January 1909, more than 50 years after the death of her first husband.

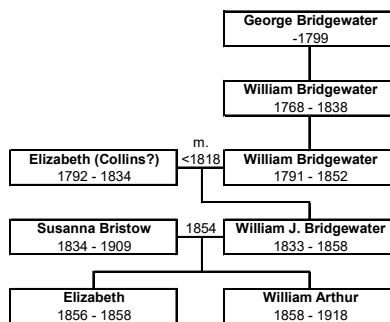
As a young man, William Arthur Bridgewater left England for Australia, and on 20 December 1881 he married Amy Blanche Coe in Collingwood, Victoria, under the name of William Arthur Bridgewater Lacey. It is unclear why William changed his surname, but as he was the only male line descendant of William and Elizabeth Bridgewater, and his descendants bear the surname Lacey, the Bridgewater surname disappeared from our family tree, but was used as a second given name in some lines of the family.

The known descendants of William James Bridgewater and Susanna Bristow are as follows -

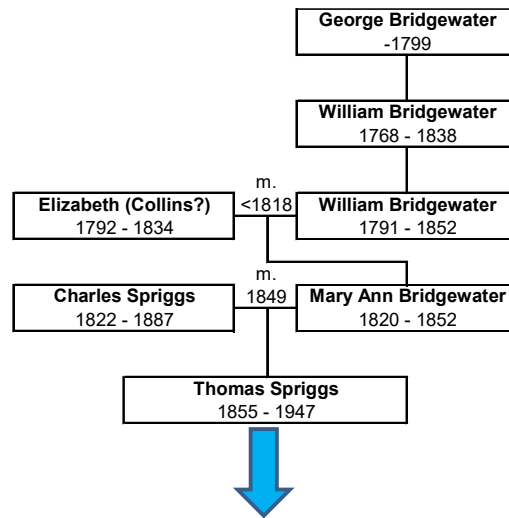
1. William James BRIDGEWATER (c.30 Mar 1833-West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.27 Aug 1858-West Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
  - sp: Susanna BRISTOW (c.30 Mar 1834-West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; m.4 Dec 1854; d.5 Jan 1909-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
2. Elizabeth BRIDGEWATER (b. Apr/Jun 1856-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Apr/Jun 1858-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
2. William Arthur BRIDGEWATER (c.14 Sep 1858-West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.27 Mar 1918-Neerim South, Victoria, Australia)
  - sp: Amy Blanche COE (b.1862-Victoria, Australia; m.20 Dec 1881; d.1938-Victoria, Australia)
3. Beatrice Jane LACEY (b.1882-Victoria, Australia; d.11 May 1901-Victoria, Australia)
3. Elizabeth Susan LACEY (b.1884-Victoria, Australia; d.1969-Victoria, Australia)
  - sp: Cecil William BRINSMEAD (b.1884-Victoria, Australia; m.20 Apr 1905; d.1959-Victoria, Australia)

- 4. Reuben William BRINSMEAD (b.1905-Vic., Australia; d.1981-Victoria, Australia)  
sp: Myrtle Isabel WILLIAMS (m.1928; d.1965-Victoria, Australia)
  - 5. Gordon Cecil BRINSMEAD (d.1934-Victoria, Australia)
- 4. Elsie Lorna BRINSMEAD (b.1908-Victoria, Australia)  
sp: William Potter FIRMIN (b.1902-Victoria, Australia; m.1929; d.1964-Victoria, Australia)
- 4. Allan Cecil BRINSMEAD (b.1910-Victoria, Australia)  
sp: Natalie Nellie VINALL (b.1902-Victoria, Australia; m.1933; d.1974-Victoria, Australia)
- 4. Eric Stanley BRINSMEAD (b.1912-Victoria, Australia; d.1983-Victoria, Australia)  
sp: Grace Gladys ORCHARD (b.1911-Victoria, Australia; m.1933; d.1959-Victoria, Australia)
- 3. Sarah Lilith LACEY (b.1885-Victoria, Australia; d.1893-Victoria, Australia)
- 3. Clarice May LACEY (b.1886-Victoria, Australia; d.1968-Victoria, Australia)  
sp: Edward White WATTS (b.1886-Vic., Australia; m.1908; d.1937-Victoria, Australia)
  - 4. Arthur Edward WATTS (b.1911-Victoria, Australia; d.1970-Victoria, Australia)  
sp: Maud Emmerson SMITH (b.1911-Victoria, Australia; m.1932)
  - 4. Dorothy May WATTS (b.1913-Victoria, Australia; d.1979-Victoria, Australia)  
sp: Edwy SNELL (m.1932)
  - 4. Cyril James WATTS (b.1915-Victoria, Australia; d.1969-Victoria, Australia)  
sp: Meryl Jean WALLIS (m.1938; d.1984-Victoria, Australia)
- 3. William James LACEY (b.1887-Victoria, Australia; d.2 Oct 1939-Victoria, Australia)
- 3. Laura Louisa LACEY (b.1889-Victoria, Australia)  
sp: William Carruthers HUTTON (m.23 Apr 1908)
- 3. Gertrude Blanche LACEY (b.1894-Victoria, Australia; d.1958-Victoria, Australia)  
sp: John Charles MCKENZIE (b.1888-Victoria, Australia; m.1 Oct 1914; d.1966-Victoria, Australia)
  - 4. Mavis MCKENZIE
  - 4. Marge MCKENZIE
  - 4. Keith Osmond MCKENZIE
- 3. Osmond Guy LACEY (b.1895-Victoria, Australia; d.18 Jul 1954-Victoria, Australia)  
sp: Phoebe Mary MCKENZIE (b.1892-Victoria, Australia; m.1918)
  - 4. Arthur LACEY
  - 4. Clifford LACEY
  - 4. Shirley LACEY
  - 4. Merle LACEY
- 3. Amy Victoria LACEY (b.1897-Victoria, Australia; d.1947-Victoria, Australia)  
sp: Wallace Isaac MCKENZIE (b.1890-Victoria, Australia; m.1920; d.1971-Victoria, Australia)
  - 4. Marion Amy MCKENZIE (b.1921; d.1984)  
sp: Charles Roderick GORDON (b.1920; d.1983)
- 3. Cyril Aden LACEY (b.1901-Victoria, Australia; d.25 Jul 1956-Victoria, Australia)  
sp: Merlina May PURKISS (b.1900-Victoria, Australia; m.1925)
  - 4. Merlyn Mary Elizabeth LACEY (d.1935-Victoria, Australia)
  - 4. Alan LACEY
  - 4. Malcolm LACEY

3. Maud Millicent LACEY (b.1903-Victoria, Australia; d.Bef 1957)  
 sp: Robert Oswald SHEEN (m.1923)
3. Eric Baden Powell LACEY (b.1910-Victoria, Australia; d.1983-Victoria, Australia)  
 sp: Flor Emma FOWLES (b.1902-Victoria, Australia; m.1923)



## Chapter 7 - Thomas Spriggs and Sarah Annie Barton



Thomas Spriggs, the fifth child and third son of Mary Ann Bridgewater and Charles Spriggs, was born in West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, in 1855. By 1871<sup>ix</sup> he was apprenticed to Frederick Manning, a local draper, and was living at 4 Oxford Street in High Wycombe. A butcher, Charles Barton, was living next door at 2 Oxford Street, with his family. In the style of the time, the families lived above their shop.

2	do	1	Charles Barton	Head	Mar	39	Butcher	do	Wycombe
			Sarah	Wife	do	37	do	do	do
			Charles	do	do	7	do	do	do
			Sarah	do	do	16	do	do	do
			Abraham	do	do	14	Scholar	do	do
			Ada	do	do	13	do	do	do
			Julia	do	do	9	do	do	do
			Jane	do	do	7	do	do	do
			Ellen	do	do	6	do	do	do
			Emily	do	do	4	do	do	do
3	do	1	Charles Ireland	Head	Mar	39	General Servant	do	Wycombe
			Ellen	Wife	do	30	do	do	do
			Ann	do	do	24	do	do	do
4	do	1	Frederick Manning	Head	Mar	40	Draper	do	Wycombe
			Charlotte	Wife	do	40	do	do	do
			James	do	do	12	do	do	do
			Samuel	do	do	10	do	do	do
			Thomas Spriggs	Apprentice	do	16	do	do	do

Thomas Spriggs & Sarah A. Barton in 1871 census.

In 1875, at 20 years old, Thomas married Sarah Annie Barton, eldest daughter of the butcher, Charles Barton, and they moved to Newlands in High Wycombe. Charles Barton was likely not very happy about his daughter marrying the draper's apprentice, but Sarah was 7 months pregnant, so this was a better option than Sarah giving birth as a single woman.

By 1881<sup>x</sup>, Thomas and Sarah were living at Water Street, with Thomas working as a grocer, and employing an apprentice of his own. The census identifies 3 children, but Sarah had borne two other children who died as babies – the first born, Annie, in 1876, and Thomas, born in 1879 who died at less than 6 months old in 1880. The grocery business must have been doing well, as the family could afford a house servant, Lizzie Jones.

ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES		NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	
	In- habited	Use- d as dwelling (B)				Males	Females			
Waver Lane	1		Thomas Spriggs	Head	Mar.	45		Grocer	Bucks, Mycombe	
			Sarah A. do	Wife	Mar.	26			do do	
			Bertha N. do	Daughter		4			do do	
			Ethel do	Daughter		2			do do	
			Alfred do	Son		2			do do	
			George Brandon	Boat		14		Grocer Apprentice	do Ribton	
			Lizzie Evans	Boat		10		Gen. Serv.	do Mycombe	

Thomas & Sarah A. Spriggs in 1881 census.

In 1891<sup>xi</sup> the family was living at Brook Street, with Sarah taking care of the grocery business and Thomas working as a provision traveller. Perhaps the family needed the additional income as three more children had joined the family – Eva, Alice and Henry H. (known as Hamp). Sadly, two other children born to the family since the last census did not see their first birthday – Charles born in 1886 and Edith born in 1887 had died in 1886 and 1888 respectively. There was one other child born to Thomas and Sarah between 1881 and 1891, who was not listed with the family in the 1891 census – Stanley, born in 1882, was found in the household of his mother's sisters at Bridgers Yard, off Easton Street.

Thomas Spriggs	Head	M	45	Provision Traveller	OT	X	Waver Lane	do
Sarah A. do	Wife	M	26	Grocer		X	Waver Lane	do
Bertha N. do	Daughter	F	4				Waver Lane	do
Ethel do	do	F	2				do	do
Alfred do	Son	M	2				do	do
Eva do	Daughter	F	1				do	do
Alice do	do	F	1				do	do
Henry H. do	Son	M	1				do	do

Thomas & Sarah A. Spriggs in 1891 census.

The family was still living in Brook Street in 1901<sup>xii</sup>, with one new addition to the family – Arthur D. Spriggs. The family had again lost two young children – Edward, born in 1892, had died in 1896 and Gertrude, born in 1896 died as an infant.

29 Brook St	1		Thomas Spriggs	Head	M	45	Grocer	Worker	Bucks, Mycombe
			Sarah A. do	Wife	M	46			do Mycombe
			Stanley S. do	Son	S	18	Wholesaler	do	do Mycombe
			Eva Spriggs	Daughter	S	17	Boot & Shoe assistant	do	do do
			Henry H. do	Son	S	11		do	do do
			Arthur D. do	Son	M	8		do	do do

Thomas & Sarah A. Spriggs in 1901 census.

Several of the older children, Bertha, Ethel and Alfred, had left home by this time. At the time of the census, Bertha was living on London Road with her Mother's sister Ada, and working as a dressmaker. Ethel and Alfred had moved to London, where Ethel worked as a boot saleswoman and Alfred, a butcher by trade, had joined the army and was fighting in the South Africa (Boer) war.

The 1911 census<sup>xiii</sup> identified that Thomas was now a widower, with Sarah having died on 20 November 1910 at the age of 55 years. Bertha Nellie and Arthur Douglass were living at home, along with Marjorie Reid, daughter of Eva Spriggs. Eva was heavily pregnant with her second child at the time, so had perhaps sent Marjorie to stay with the grandfather and aunt.



1	Thomas Spriggs	Head	55	Widow	14 8 6	Spencer: 2nd 1/2 1/2	320	Widow	West Wycombe
2	John Spriggs	Daughter	34	Single				Widow	High Wycombe
3	Arthur Spriggs	son	17	Single		Spencer: 1st 1/2 1/2		Widow	High Wycombe
4	Blanche Spriggs	Daughter	3					Widow	High Wycombe
5									

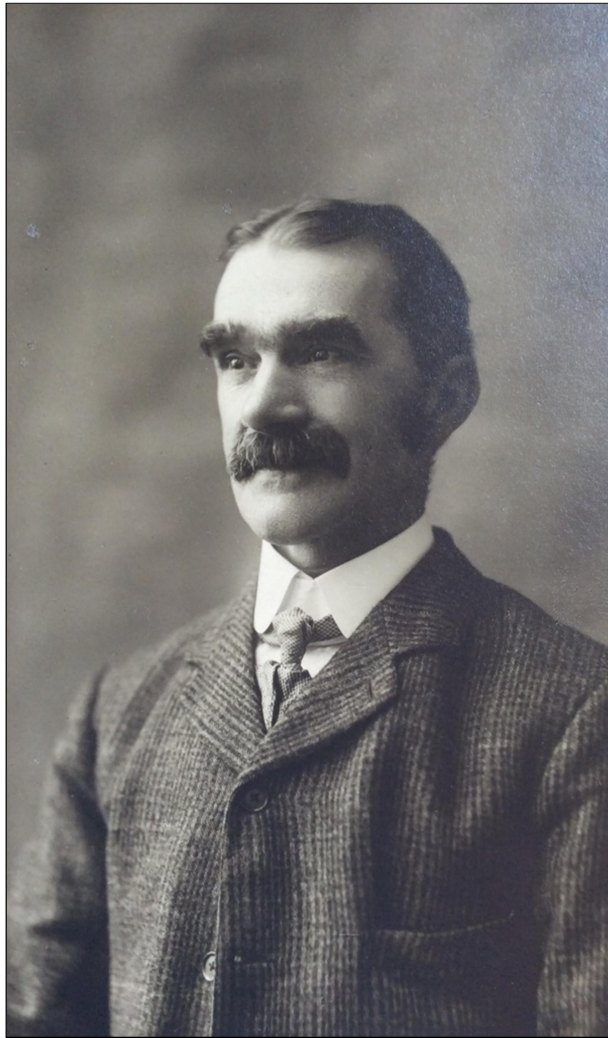
**Thomas Spriggs & family in 1911 census.**

Thomas and Sarah had produced a total of 14 children, 8 of whom lived to adulthood, 6 married, and 5 produced children of their own. Thomas survived the second world war, and died in early 1947, aged 91 years.

Ethel Spriggs did not marry, continued working as a saleswoman, and died in High Wycombe on 1 February 1972.

Alice Spriggs married a storekeeper, Ernest Hancock, in High Wycombe in 1930. The couple had no children, and Ernest died in 1969. Alice died in Northampton on 7 November 1982.

Henry Hamp Spriggs, known as Hamp, emigrated to Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada, as did his brothers Alfred and Arthur. Hamp took out a homestead on the block next to his brother Alfred, but sold it in 1912 and moved into the village of Duck Lake. He died on 29 April 1913 after falling through the ice on a local river.

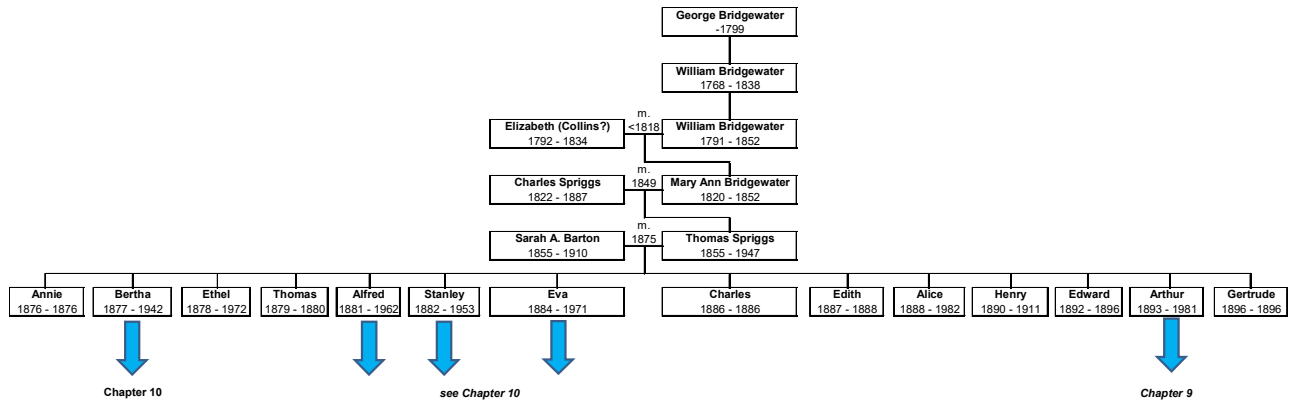


**Thomas Spriggs (1855 – 1947).**

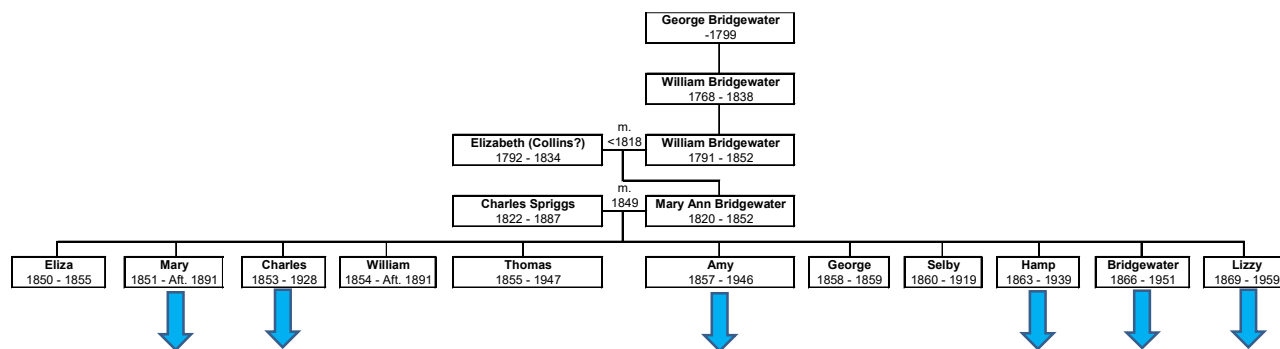


**Sarah Annie Barton (1855 – 1910).**

We will cover Arthur Douglass Spriggs in chapter 9 and the remaining children of Thomas and Sarah in chapter 10.



## Chapter 8 - Other Children of Mary Bridgewater & Charles Spriggs



We will look briefly at the other children of Charles Spriggs and Mary Ann Bridgewater.

Mary Spriggs married a Scottish gas engineer, Peter Buchen Watson, in London in 1870. They had nine children, the first six of whom were born in High Wycombe and the remaining three were born in Scotland. Several of the children later returned to live in England.

Charles Spriggs, being the eldest son, remained on the farm at Plomer Hill, and married Ellen Field in 1894. Charles died in 1928 and Ellen in 1931. Charles and Ellen had two sons, John Powesland Spriggs and Charles Powesland Spriggs, born in 1895 and 1896 respectively. I have no idea where the Powesland name came from, as it does not appear as a surname in either family back several generations.

John P. Spriggs remained in West Wycombe and married Bessie Harvey in 1931. John and Bessie did not have any children together, but John fathered a child (Susan Margaret Catling) with a widow named Winifred Catling, in Princes Risborough in 1952. John P. Spriggs died in West Wycombe in 1958, and Bessie died in Dorset in 1975.

Susan was adopted by John and Joan Orton, was raised as Susan Jane Orton and is now known by her married name, Jane Roach. She lives in West Sussex.

Charles P. Spriggs married Fanny Townsend, daughter of a local vicar, but this marriage ended in divorce in 1936. Charles P. Spriggs then married Doris Palmer in 1937. Their marriage produced two children – Gillian Rose in 1940 and Charles Andrew in 1947. Charles, Doris and family lived at Benson, Oxfordshire, and later at the New Inn, Blewbury, Berkshire. After Charles P. Spriggs' death in 1954,

Doris and her daughter Gillian emigrated to New Zealand, where Doris died in 1985 and is buried in the Anglican churchyard in Keri Keri. Jane and Gillian were unaware of each other's existence until DNA testing revealed the genetic connection between them early in 2020.



**Charles Powesland Spriggs  
(1896 – 1954).**

Amy Spriggs married William Henry Collins in London in 1876 and had seven children, who were all born in the Wycombe area. William Collins died in 1924 and Amy died in Brentford, Middlesex in 1946.

Hamp Spriggs married Helen Hill in London in 1888 and had two children, Edith and Wilfred, who were both born in Kingston Blount, Oxfordshire. Hamp was a grocer, draper and sub-postmaster in Kingston Blount, and died 24 October 1939, just two and a half months after Helen's death.

Bridgewater Spriggs married Florence Hall in 1895, and they had four sons – Stewart, Arnold, Norman and Cyril. Bridgewater ran a furniture manufacturing / upholstery business in Wycombe, and died in 1951, four years after Florence's death. Stewart died in Palestine during World War I. Arnold died as a baby and Cyril died in a motorcycle accident in 1928. Norman married and had a daughter named Barbara.



**Lizzy Spriggs (1869–1959).**

Lizzy Spriggs married Charles Henry Cherry in London in 1892. Soon after their marriage Charles and Lizzy emigrated to the United States of America. Their two children, Gertrude and Linden were born in Chicago, Illinois in 1893 and 1896 respectively. The family moved to Benton Harbor, Michigan, where Charles died in 1941. Lizzy then moved to California and died in Los Angeles in 1959. Lizzy and Charles have descendants still living in California.

Below I have provided the basic details that I have on the descendants of Charles Spriggs and Mary Ann Bridgewater, but I have limited the details to four generations in an effort to avoid detailing living people –

1. Charles SPRIGGS (c.13 Jan 1822-Tetsworth, Oxford, England; d. 2 May 1887-West Wycombe, Buckingham, England)  
sp: Mary Ann BRIDGEWATER (c.29 May 1825 - West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; m. 20 Sep 1849; d.18 Jan 1900 -West Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
  2. Eliza SPRIGGS (b. Jul/Sep 1850 - Stokenchurch, Oxford, England; d. Jul/Sep 1855-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
  2. Mary SPRIGGS (b. Oct/Dec 1851 - Stokenchurch, Oxford, England; d. Aft 1890)  
sp: Peter Buchen WATSON (b.10 Jun 1847 - Grangemouth, N B, Scotland; m. Apr/Jun 1870; d. Aft 1890)
    3. Margaret Clubb WATSON (b. Oct/Dec 1871 - High Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.17 Dec 1963-Crowell, Oxford, England)  
sp: Henry Joseph HILL (b. Oct/Dec 1870 - Kingston, Oxford, England; m. Apr/Jun 1896; d.30 Dec 1944 -Crowell, Oxford, England)
      4. Henry Hamp HILL (b. Jan/Mar 1897 - Crowell, Oxford, England; d. 8 Mar 1916 - Souchez, France)
      4. Joseph HILL (b. Jan/Mar 1899 - Crowell, Oxford, England; d. Aft 1900)
    3. Gertrude Mary WATSON (b. Oct/Dec 1872 -Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Aft 1890)
    3. Charles Spriggs WATSON (b. Jul/Sep 1874 -Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Aft 1890)
    3. Jean McNellen C. WATSON (b. Apr/Jun 1876 -Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.1965 - Ealing, Middlesex, England)

- sp: Frederic Charles Davis WAKELIN (b. Jul/Sep 1876 - Oxford, Oxford, England; m.3 Sep 1901; d.18 Jul 1944 - Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
4. Margaret Sophie WAKELIN (b. Oct/Dec 1902 - Headington, Oxford, England; d. Jul/Sep 1909 -Headington, Oxford, England)
  4. Edith Mary WAKELIN (b. Oct/Dec 1906 - Oxford, Oxford, England; d. Aft 1910)
  4. Dorothy Jean WAKELIN (b. Oct/Dec 1910 - Oxford, Oxford, England; d. Aft 1910)
3. Peter Mountain WATSON (b. Jan/Mar 1879 - Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.17 Nov 1950 -Leicester, Leicester, England)
  3. Jessie Elizabeth WATSON (b. Jan/Mar 1881 - Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Aft 1890)
  3. Selby Eric WATSON (b.1884 - Falkirk, Stirling, Scotland; d. Aft 1890)
- sp: Gertrude HARKER (m. Oct/Dec 1920)
3. William WATSON (b.1886 - Falkirk, Stirling, Scotland; d. Aft 1890)
  3. Lizzie Spriggs WATSON (b.1889 - Falkirk, Stirling, Scotland; d. Aft 1890)
2. Charles SPRIGGS (b. Jan/Mar 1853 - Stokenchurch, Oxford, England; d. 7 Apr 1928 - West Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
- sp: Ellen FIELD (b.13 Nov 1854 - Chalford, Oxford, England; m. Jul/Sep 1894; d.18 Apr 1931 -West Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
3. John Powlesland SPRIGGS (b. Jul/Sep 1895 - High Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.10 Aug 1958 -West Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
- sp: Bessie Muriel HARVEY (b.13 Feb 1892-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; m. Apr/Jun 1931; d.27 Sep 1975 - Poole, Dorset, England)
- sp: Winifred M. GITTINGS (b. Jul/Sep 1921 – Shoreditch, London, England)
4. Susan Margaret CATLING {a.k.a. Susan Jane ORTON} (b. Oct/Dec 1952 – Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
- sp: Nicholas J. ROACH (m. Mar 1979)
3. Charles Powlesland SPRIGGS (b.31 Jul 1896 - Downley, West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Jan/Mar 1954 - Wallingford, Buckingham, England)
- sp: Fanny Alberta TOWNSEND (b.28 May 1902 - Witney, Oxford, England; m.22 May 1923 (Div); d. Jan/Mar 1978 - Bristol, Gloucester, England)
- sp: Doris Lilian PALMER (b.18 Dec 1908 - Wallingford, Oxford, England; m. Apr/Jun 1937; d.4 Jul 1985 - Kerikeri, Northland, New Zealand)
4. Gillian Rose SPRIGGS (b. Jan/Mar 1940 - Abingdon, Oxford, England)
  4. Charles Andrew SPRIGGS (b. Jul/Sep 1947 - Oxford, Oxford, England)
2. William SPRIGGS (b. Jan/Mar 1854 - West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Aft 1890)
  2. Amy SPRIGGS (b.1 Feb 1857-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Jan/Mar 1946 - Brentford, Middlesex, England)
- sp: William Henry COLLINS (b. Apr/Jun 1856 - West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; m. Oct/Dec 1876; d. Jul/Sep 1924 - Brentford, Middlesex, England)
3. Henry George COLLINS (b.17 Mar 1878 - West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Oct/Dec 1941 -Brentford, Middlesex, England)
  3. Charles William COLLINS (b. Apr/Jun 1879- West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Aft 1910)
- sp: Mabel Isabel BELLAMY (b. Oct/Dec 1885 - London, England; m. Oct/Dec 1910; d. Jan/Mar 1963 -Essex SW, Essex, England)
4. Charles W. COLLINS (b. Apr/Jun 1912 - West Ham, Essex, England)
3. Evelyn Maud COLLINS (b. Jul/Sep 1880 - Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Oct/Dec 1905 - Brentford, Middlesex, England)
  3. Mabel Amy COLLINS (b. Oct/Dec 1881 - West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.21 Dec 1963 -Chichester, Sussex, England)
- sp: Albert Ernest John HILSON (b.20 May 1875 - Plymouth, Devon, England; m. Jul/Sep 1903; d. Jan/Mar 1948 - Ealing, Middlesex, England)

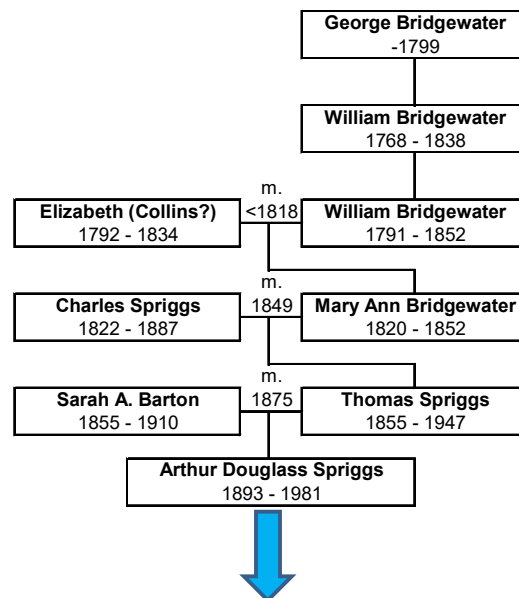


4. Reginald Collins HILSON (b.15 Oct 1905 - Acton, Middlesex, England; d. Nov 1995 - North East Hampshire, Hampshire, England)  
 sp: Rose A. BRAND (b.3 Sep 1908; m. Apr/Jun 1934; d. Aft 1938)
4. Emmeline Maude HILSON (b.15 May 1908 - Acton, Middlesex, England; d. Aft 1959)  
 sp: Norman John FRYATT (b. Jul/Sep 1905 - Kingston, Surrey, England; m. Jul/Sep 1943; d.21 May 1960 - Chichester, Sussex, England)
4. Albert E.W. HILSON (b. Apr/Jun 1912 - Croydon, Surrey, England; d. Jul/Sep 1912 - Holborn, London, England)
4. Archibald Collins HILSON (b.29 Apr 1914 - Croydon, Surrey, England; d. Jan 2007 - Mid Devon, England)  
 sp: Brenda MITSON (b.12 Oct 1917 - Paddington, London, England; m. Jan/Mar 1941; d. Oct/Dec 1993 – Haywards Heath, Sussex, England)
3. Arthur Clement COLLINS (b.8 Jun 1883 - High Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Apr/Jun 1973 -Cambridge, Cambridge, England)  
 sp: Elizabeth REDWOOD (b.8 Jun 1886 - Reading, Berkshire, England; m. Jan/Mar 1907; d. Aft 1938)
4. Evelyn Margaret COLLINS (b. Apr/Jun 1907 - Harrow, Middlesex, England; d. Aft 1910)
4. William Henry COLLINS (b. Jan/Mar 1909 - Abingdon, Berkshire, England; d. Aft 1910)
4. Amy Maude COLLINS (b. Jul/Sep 1910 - Andover, Hampshire, England; d. Aft 1938)  
 sp: Alec G. DANIELLI (b.22 Apr 1909 - Hendon, Middlesex, England; m. Jul/Sep 1939; d. Aft 1938)
4. Phyllis J. COLLINS (b. Oct/Dec 1911 - Andover, Hampshire, England)
3. Archibald Harold COLLINS (b.10 Feb 1885 - High Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Aft 1929)  
 sp: Florence (b.14 Aug 1893 - London, England; m. Abt 1910; d. Aft 1929)
4. Mary COLLINS (b. Abt 1928 - New York, United States of America; d. Aft 1929)
3. Clarence Victor COLLINS (b. 9 Jan 1892 - High Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.29 Nov 1971 -Ealing, Middlesex, England)  
 sp: Edith Emily Osborne MISON (b.8 Mar 1894 - Maldon, Essex, England; m. Oct/Dec 1917; d. Aft 1938)
4. Prudence COLLINS (b. Oct/Dec 1923 - Maldon, Essex, England; d. Oct/Dec 1923 - Maldon, Essex, England)
4. Dudley V. COLLINS (b. Oct/Dec 1925 - Windsor, Berkshire, England)  
 sp: Lilian V. SHEPHERD OR WHEELER (m. Jan/Mar 1954)
4. Daphne COLLINS (b. Jan/Mar 1930 - Chertsey, Surrey, England)
4. Dawn COLLINS (b. Jul/Sep 1937 - Brentford, Middlesex, England)
2. George SPRIGGS (b. Jul/Sep 1858 - Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Apr/Jun 1859 - Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
2. Selby SPRIGGS (b.21 Dec 1860 - Downley, West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.12 Jul 1919 - West Wycombe, Buckingham, England)  
 sp: Emily Sarah HEYBOURNE (b.22 Jun 1861 - Crowell, Oxford, England; m. Oct/Dec 1896; d. 2 Nov 1945 –West Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
2. Hamp SPRIGGS (b.4 Jan 1863 - West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.24 Oct 1939 - Buckingham, Buckingham, England)  
 sp: Helen HILL (c.28 Dec 1862 - Aston Rowant, Oxford, England; m. Apr/Jun 1888; d.4 Aug 1939 - Warwick, Warwickshire, England)
3. Edith May SPRIGGS (b.29 May 1889 - Kingston Blount, Ashton Rowant, Oxford, England; d. Aft 1938)  
 sp: William John ABEL (b.1 Jan 1886; m. Jul/Sep 1912; d. Aft 1938)
4. Frances R. ABEL (b. Jul/Sep 1916 - Buckingham, Buckingham, England)  
 sp: Lewis H. POLLARD (m. Jan/Mar 1938)

- 4. William R.M. ABEL (b. Apr/Jun 1920 - Buckingham, Buckingham, England)  
sp: Margaret P. PARKER (m. Jul/Sep 1947)
- 3. Wilfred Noel Hill SPRIGGS (b.25 Dec 1898 - Kingston Blount, Ashton Rowant, Oxford, England; d.1980 – Warwick & Leamington, Warwick, England)  
sp: Isabel Jessie KNIGHTS (b.28 Aug 1899 - Southam, Warwick, England; m. Jul/Sep 1922; d.1959 -Warwick, Warwick, England)
  - 4. Richard J. SPRIGGS (b.15 May 1924 - Warwick, Warwickshire, England)  
sp: Betty BROWN (m. Oct/Dec 1947)
- 2. Bridgewater SPRIGGS (b.18 Jun 1866 - West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. 3 Feb 1951 - West Wycombe, Buckingham, England)  
sp: Florence Elizabeth HALL (b.3 Sep 1871 - Loughborough, Leicester, England; m. Jul/Sep 1895; d.15 Mar 1947 - West Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
  - 3. Stewart Arthur SPRIGGS (b.15 Jan 1897 - Loughborough, Leicester,England; d.27 Nov 1917 - Palestine)
  - 3. Arnold McGregor SPRIGGS (b. Jan/Mar 1901 - High Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Apr/Jun 1901 -Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
  - 3. Norman Hall SPRIGGS (b.24 Nov 1907 - Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. 5 Apr 1973 - Wycombe, Buckingham, England)  
sp: Doreen Margaret EASDEN (b.21 Feb 1909 – West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; m. Apr/Jun 1931; d.17 Oct 1997 - Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
    - 4. Barbara Elizabeth SPRIGGS (b.21 Dec 1935 - Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Nov 1995 -Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
  - 3. Cyril Bridgewater SPRIGGS (b. Apr/Jun 1911 - Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.17 Sep 1928 - Henley, Oxford, England)
- 2. Lizzy SPRIGGS (b.31 Aug 1869 - West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.27 Dec 1959 - Los Angeles, California, United States of America)  
sp: Charles Henry James CHERRY (b. Oct 1867 - South Stoneham, H, England; m.2 Feb 1892; d.9 Oct 1941 –Ann Arbor, Washenaw, Michigan, United States of America)
  - 3. Gertrude CHERRY (b. Dec 1893 - Illinois, USA; d. Aft 1900)
  - 3. Linden Charles CHERRY (b.7 Jul 1896 - Chicago, Illinois, United States of America; d.10 Aug 1972 –Fair Oaks, Sacramento, California, United States of America)  
sp: Frances CHAPMAN (b. Abt 1901 - Michigan, United States of America; m. Abt 1924; d.1986)
    - 4. Robert CHERRY (b.9 Nov 1925 - Michigan, United States of America; d.2 Mar 2004 - Stuart, Martin, Florida, United States of America)  
sp: Frances ROGERS (b. Abt 1929; m.2 Feb 1952)



## Chapter 9 – Arthur Douglass Spriggs and Elsie Elizabeth Preston



Arthur Douglass Spriggs was born in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, England on 23 March 1893, the last child of Thomas and Sarah Spriggs to reach adulthood. His younger sister Gertrude had died as a baby.

In 1911 Arthur left High Wycombe and headed to Saskatchewan, Canada, to join his brothers Alfred and Henry (Hamp) in Duck Lake. In 1912 he applied for a homestead on the front of the SW quarter of Section 33, Township 45, Range 6, West of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meridian. He worked his property in the summer months and helped his brother Alfred in his butchery business in the winter.

The First World War broke out in 1914, and on 8 June 1915 Arthur signed up to serve in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, attesting at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The then 22 year old butcher is recorded on the attestation papers as being 5 ft. 7 ½ in. tall, with fair hair and blue eyes. After agreeing to the nature and terms of engagement, agreeing to be vaccinated, and passing the medical inspection he was deemed fit for service.

Arthur did not immediately go overseas, as on 6 November 1915 he married Florence Edna Reid in All Saints Anglican church in Duck Lake. But just two weeks later, on 23 November 1915 he sailed for England with the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles, and by January of 1916 he had joined the fighting in mainland Europe.



Arthur D. Spriggs.

The war was not kind to Arthur, but he did survive it. On 31 May 1916 he was hospitalized due to trench fever while serving at Ypres in Belgium, returning to the trenches on 22 July. The battalion moved to France, and in September he was promoted to Lance Corporal, whilst serving at the Somme. In October, still fighting at the Somme, an exploding shell buried him in a dugout from which he suffered a contusion of the back and shell shock, which took him out of the fight. Arthur spent six months in hospital in England, and on leaving hospital he returned, at his own request, to the ranks. He served in England for the remainder of the war and returned to Canada in May 1919, after 3 ½ years away, to find his wife and her 6 month old daughter living with another man.

On leaving the army, Arthur moved to Saskatoon and joined the Canadian Post Office as a mail clerk, a position he held until his retirement in 1958. Arthur settled into life in Saskatoon, joined the choir at the local Anglican church, and it was here that he met Elsie Elizabeth Preston. Elsie was also born in England, and had come to Canada with her parents and her brother Ted in 1908.



**Arthur Spriggs & Elsie Preston  
50th wedding anniversary.**

Arthur Spriggs and Elsie Preston were married on 14 September 1929 at the Knox United church in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. On the marriage registration, both listed their religion as Anglican, so we can only guess that the Anglican minister perhaps would not marry a divorced person, even one who sang in his choir, hence their marriage in the United church. After their wedding, Arthur and Elsie lived at 914 – 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, just down the street from Elsie's parents, who lived at number 901. Here they raised two children, Gerald, born in 1931 and his younger sister, Gladys. During the summer months the family would spend time at Waskesiu Lake in Prince Albert National Park, along with the family of Arthur's brother, Alfred.

In the late 1970s Arthur and Elsie moved from their home of 30 years into an apartment just a few blocks away. It was here that Arthur died in 1981 and Elsie in 1998. Both are buried in the Woodlawn cemetery in Saskatoon.

Gerry joined the Royal Bank of Canada in Saskatoon at 18 years old and continued working in the bank until his retirement in 1987, never staying in one city for more than a few years at a time. He was working in Rosetown, Saskatchewan when he met Fredda Sim, and they married in Rosetown in 1953, as Gerry was being transferred to Foam Lake, Saskatchewan. They moved to Foam Lake the following week, and it was there that their daughter Marlene Lynn (my wife), and son, Arthur William, were born, before Gerry was transferred to Regina (1957), Montreal (1965), Calgary (1966), Montreal (1969), Toronto (1976) and Winnipeg (1982). Their third child, Robert Gerald, was born in Montreal. After retirement, Gerry and Fredda relocated to Cloverdale, British Columbia, to enjoy the coastal climate. But Gerry's golden years were cut

short and he died in 1989 at his daughter's house in Calgary, and he is buried there in the Queen's Park cemetery.

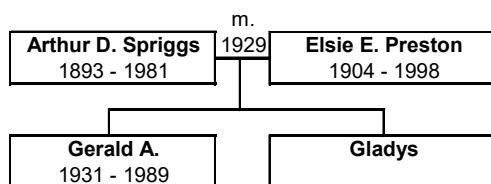


**Gerry Spriggs & Fredda Sim's wedding.**



**Gladys Spriggs Nursing Graduation.**

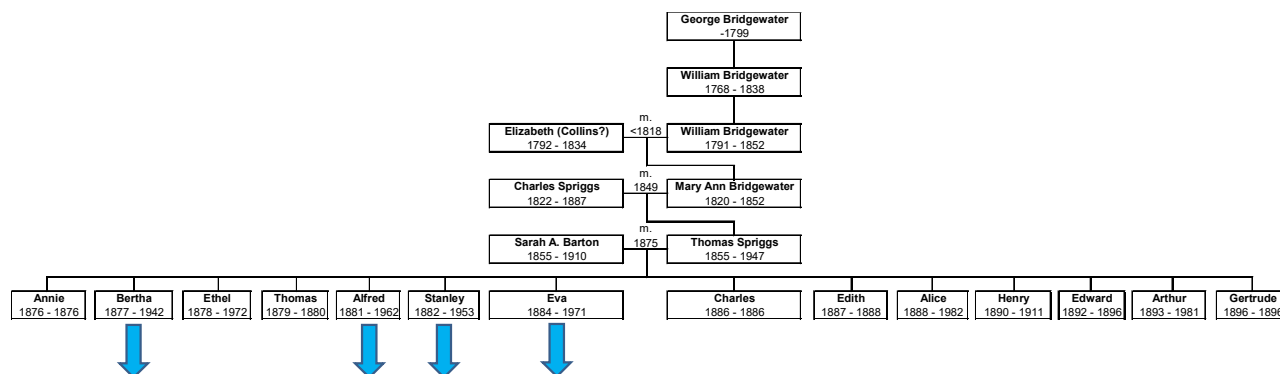
Gladys graduated as a nurse and spent her career working in hospitals and care facilities. She married Mervyn Smith in Saskatoon in 1959, which is where they raised their two sons, and where Mervyn died in 1991 after a career in the City of Saskatoon Electrical Department.



To respect the privacy of the living family members, this is where I will end the story of the Spriggs family's 200+ year journey from Toot Baldon, Oxfordshire, through Buckinghamshire and on to Canada, leaving the next generation to continue the story at some point in the future.

All that remains is to provide brief details of the lives of the other children of Thomas Spriggs and Sarah Annie Barton.

## Chapter 10 – Other children of Thomas Spriggs & Sarah A. Barton



Bertha Nellie Spriggs was born in High Wycombe in 1917 and married James Lunn, a soldier, in 1917. They do not appear to have had any children. At some point Bertha travelled to South Africa, as while travelling from Cape Town to Liverpool on the M.V. Ambosso, she died on 29 October 1942 when the ship was torpedoed by German submarine U-575, 589 nautical miles north of the Azores.

Alfred Spriggs, the eldest son to survive to adulthood, was born in 1881. He served with British forces in the South African (Boer) War, before emigrating to Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada. In 1905 he married Laura Kennedy and they produced 9 children. Alfred and Laura have numerous living descendants, many of whom are still in Saskatchewan. Alfred operated a butchery business, a skill that he no doubt learned from his maternal grandfather, Charles Barton, back in High Wycombe. He died in 1962 and Laura died in 1973. Both are buried in the Duck Lake cemetery.

Stanley George Spriggs was born 21 April 1882. He worked as an upholsterer and married Rose Gomme in 1905. Stanley and Rose raised 4 children, with their second son, Ronald Stanley, dying in an automobile accident in 1937. The remaining 3 children all married and had children of their own.

Eva Spriggs was born in 1884 and worked as a boot shop assistant, before marrying Robert Reid in Falkirk, Scotland in 1908. Eva and Bob Reid raised 4 children in Scotland, and Eva died there in 1971.

Basic information on these families is provided below, but again I have limited the information to three generations, to try and protect the privacy of living descendants –

1. Thomas SPRIGGS (b. 22 Sep 1855-West Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Jan/Mar 1947-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)  
sp: Sarah Annie BARTON (b.12 Mar 1855-Wooburn Green, Buckingham, England; m. 29 Nov 1875; d.20 Nov 1910-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
2. Annie SPRIGGS (b.19 Jan 1876-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Jan/Mar 1876-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
2. Bertha Nellie SPRIGGS (b. Apr/Jun 1877-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. 29 Oct 1942-At Sea)  
sp: James LUNN (b. Abt 1889; m. 5 Feb 1917)
2. Ethel SPRIGGS (b. 26 Jun 1878-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. 1 Feb 1972-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
2. Thomas Charles Stewart SPRIGGS (b. Jul/Sep 1879-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Jan/Mar 1880-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)

2. Alfred SPRIGGS (b. 19 Jan 1881-High Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.19 Oct 1962-Saskatchewan, Canada)  
 sp: Laura KENNEDY (b. 29 Jun 1884-Saskatchewan, Canada; m. Sep 1905; d.28 Jun 1973-Saskatchewan, Canada)
3. Marjorie SPRIGGS (b. 9 Nov 1906-Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada; d.18 Jun 1977-Saskatchewan, Canada)  
 sp: Harry Carl KALBFLEISCH (b. 25 Sep 1905; m.1930 - 1940; d.17 Apr 1983-Saskatchewan, Canada)
3. Thomas Clifford SPRIGGS (b. 31 Aug 1908-Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada; d.5 Oct 1962-Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada)  
 sp: Mary Grace KENNEY (b. 19 Jan 1916-Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Canada; m. Nov 1948; d.25 Jul 2002-Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada)
3. Charles Barton SPRIGGS (b. Aug 1910-Saskatchewan,Canada;d.12 Nov 1999-Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada)  
 sp: Hilda Bernice SIMPSON (b.1914; m.1942; d.26 Feb 1971-Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Canada)  
 sp: Mary FAST (b. Abt 1913; m.1976; d.8 Mar 1994-Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Canada)
3. Douglas SPRIGGS (b.1912-Saskatchewan, Canada; d.6 May 1972-Saskatchewan, Canada)  
 sp: Mary Katherine LESSER (b. Abt 1926; m.1959; d.4 Nov 2003-Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Canada)
3. Gertrude SPRIGGS (b. 2 May 1915-Saskatchewan, Canada; d.3 Jun 2000-British Columbia, Canada)  
 sp: Russell O'BRIAN (b. 25 Oct 1895-Turtle Mountain, Manitoba, Canada; m.1937; d.17 Jun 1974-Richmond, British Columbia, Canada)
3. Herbert SPRIGGS (b. 23 Mar 1920-Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada; d.18 Sep 1987-Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada)  
 sp: Irene Liliane BAYNTON (b. 27 Feb 1929-Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Canada; m.1950; d.3 Apr 2010)
3. William SPRIGGS (b.1921-Saskatchewan, Canada; d.1930-Saskatchewan, Canada)
3. Dorothy Helen SPRIGGS (b. 6 May 1923-Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada; d.30 Nov 2000-Vernon, British Columbia, Canada)  
 sp: Arthur John BENSCH (b. Abt 1911-Alberta, Canada; m.1958; d.2 Nov 2001-Osoyoos, British Columbia, Canada)
3. Rolph SPRIGGS (b.13 Feb 1926-Saskatchewan, Canada; d.7 Sep 1993-Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Canada)  
 sp: Virginia A BAILEY (b. 14 Dec 1931-Dodsland, Saskatchewan, Canada; d.14 Jul 1979-Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Canada)
2. Stanley George SPRIGGS (b. 21 Apr 1882-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Apr/Jun 1953-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)  
 sp: Rose Florence Lucy GOMME (b. 15 Mar 1882-Culverton, Buckingham, England; m. 24 Apr 1905; d.16 Jan 1953-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
3. John Charles Thomas SPRIGGS (b.10 Nov 1905-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.1958-Newton Abbott, Devon, England)  
 sp: Hilda Rosalind BARNES (b.1 Jan 1916-Amersham, Buckingham, England; m. Jul/Sep 1928; d. Oct/Dec 1964-Newton Abbot, Devon, England)
3. Ronald Stanley SPRIGGS (b.17 Jul 1908-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.3 Jun 1937-Saunderton, Buckingham, England)
3. Martin Henry SPRIGGS (b.13 Aug 1914-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.7 Jan 2009)  
 sp: Ruth Isabel JANES (b.14 Oct 1918-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; m. Oct/Dec 1939; d. Jan/Mar 1998-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)



3. Betty SPRIGGS (b.3 Dec 1916-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Feb 1988-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
  - sp: Leonard Arthur LOWE (b.11 Mar 1913-Oxford, England; m. Jul/Sep 1938; d.8 Jul 1989-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
2. Eva SPRIGGS (b. Jan/Mar 1884-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.1971-Falkirk, Stirling, Scotland)
  - sp: Robert REID (b. Abt 1886-Falkirk, Stirling, Scotland; m.27 Jan 1908; d. Aft 1910)
    3. Marjorie REID (b.1908-Falkirk, Scotland; d. Aft 1910)
    3. Robert T. REID (b. Abt 1910-Falkirk, Stirling, Scotland; d. Aft 1910)
    3. Cyril REID (b.1918-Falkirk, Stirling, Scotland; d.2005-Falkirk, Stirling, Scotland)
      - sp: Christina Kerr PURVES (m.1948)
    3. Douglass REID (b.1935-Scotland)
2. Charles William SPRIGGS (b. Apr/Jun 1886-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Jul/Sep 1886-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
2. Edith Mary SPRIGGS (b. Oct/Dec 1887-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Jan/Mar 1888-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
2. Alice Elsie SPRIGGS (b.21 Nov 1888-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.7 Nov 1982-Northampton, Northampton, England)
  - sp: Ernest Edward HANCOCK (b.18 Jun 1891-Potterspury, Buckingham, England; m. Apr/Jun 1930; d.15 Jun 1969-Brixworth, Northampton, England)
2. Henry Hamp SPRIGGS (b. Oct/Dec 1890-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d.29 Apr 1913-Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada)
2. Edward SPRIGGS (b. Jan/Mar 1892-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Jan/Mar 1896-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)
2. Arthur Douglass SPRIGGS (b.23 Mar 1893-High Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. 5 Feb 1981-Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada)
  - sp: Florence Edna REID (b.16 May 1891-Cypress River, Manitoba, Canada; m. 6 Nov 1915(Div); d. Aft 1955)
  - sp: Elsie Elizabeth PRESTON (b.22 Aug 1904-Camberwell, London, England; m.14 Sep 1929; d.24 May 1998-Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada)
    3. Gerald Arthur SPRIGGS (b.10 Jul 1931-Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada; d.27 Jun 1989-Calgary, Alberta, Canada)
      - sp: Fredda Iris SIM (m.11 Sep 1953)
    3. Gladys SPRIGGS
      - sp: Mervin Eldean SMITH (b.23 Nov 1931-Ardath, Saskatchewan, Canada; d.26 May 1991-Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada)
2. Gertrude Emily SPRIGGS (b. Jul/Sep 1896-Wycombe, Buckingham, England; d. Jul/Sep 1896-Wycombe, Buckingham, England)

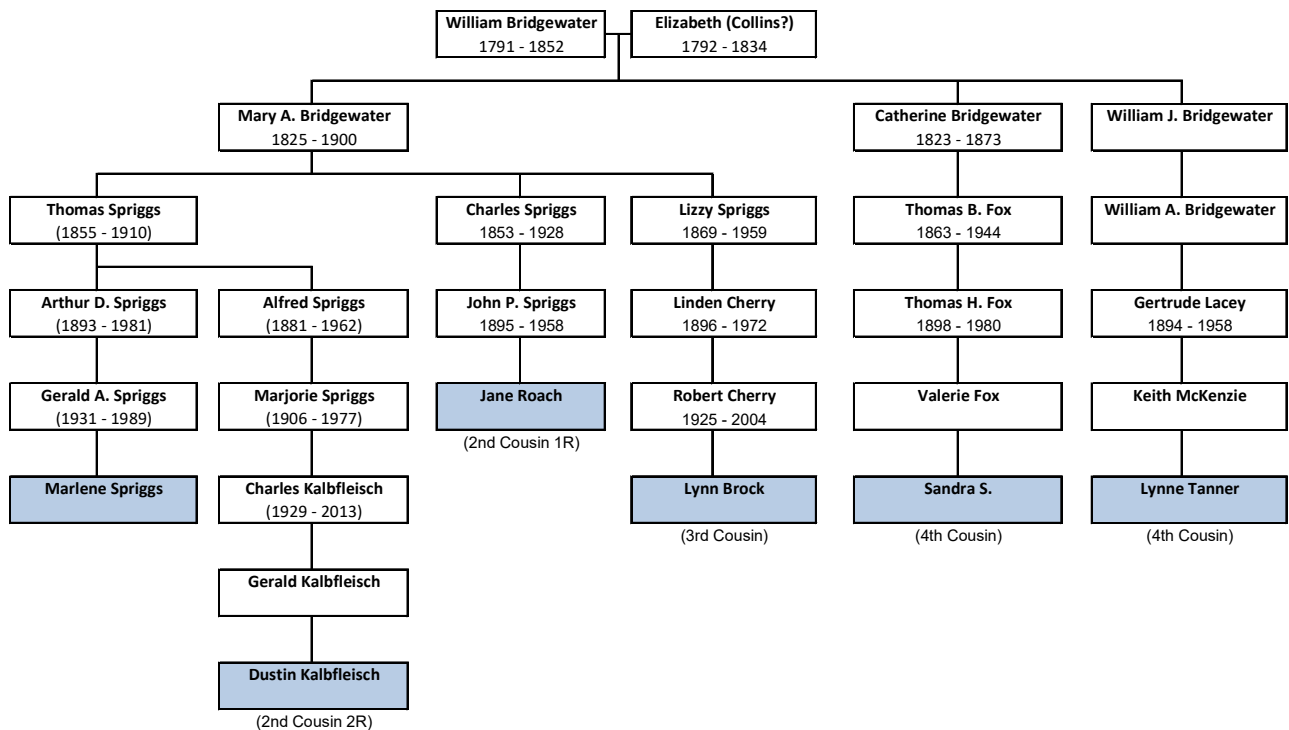
# Chapter 11 – DNA Testing

The foregoing chapters have identified many of the descendants of William Bridgewater, born circa 1791 in West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, based primarily on public records. So it would be nice to be able to confirm the validity of the ancestral lines as researched.

Autosomal DNA testing, through companies such as Ancestry, 23andMe, MyHeritage and FamilyTreeDNA, is of huge benefit to genealogists in confirming familial connections identified by researching the paper trail of our ancestors. If two people who have well-researched family trees, which identify a common ancestor, also share autosomal DNA, and if there is no other obvious ancestral connection, then it is highly likely that the identified common ancestor is correct.

Through comparison of the autosomal DNA results of my wife, Marlene Spriggs, with the results of others who have taken DNA tests (DNA matches), I have found several Bridgewater cousins who were previously unknown to me, including descendants of three of the four children of William Bridgewater and Elizabeth (Collins?) who are known to have children. So autosomal DNA testing has been instrumental in confirming my wife’s Bridgewater ancestry. Identification of shared DNA between Marlene Spriggs and Bridgewater line relatives at the second, third and fourth cousin levels reinforces the accuracy of the researched line back to William Bridgewater and Elizabeth (Collins?).

The chart below shows several of Marlene’s Bridgewater connections confirmed with autosomal DNA testing, but not all known DNA connections have been included in the chart to improve readability.



**Bridgewater DNA Connections of Marlene Spriggs.**



As mentioned in chapter 2, Marlene has one DNA match who shares DNA with several of the people in the chart above, but does not have Bridgewater ancestry. He is however descended from a Collins line from the West Wycombe area, reinforcing the likelihood of William Bridgewater's (b. 1791) wife being Elizabeth Collins. But further research is required to confirm or refute this theory.

There are many other people who have taken autosomal DNA tests, with whom Marlene shares significant amounts of DNA, and with whom it appears that she may share a common Bridgewater ancestor, but unfortunately there is no paper trail to establish the correct relationship.

It is unlikely that relatives beyond fifth cousins will share significant amounts of autosomal DNA, so for more distant connections on the male ancestral line, Y-DNA testing can also be very useful.

The Y-chromosome is passed down the male line from father to son, largely unchanged, although mutations do occur from time to time. It is these mutations that create what is termed "genetic distance" between Y-DNA samples – the genetic distance between two samples increases by 1 with each mutation on either line of descent from a common ancestor. The relative stability of the Y-chromosome is therefore useful in identifying common male ancestors in ancient times.

The only known male line descendants of William Bridgewater (1791-1852), are the Lacey line from Australia. If any male Lacey line descendants living today were to take a Y-DNA test, it could be useful in learning more about the earlier Bridgewater ancestry. These tests are frequently on sale from FamilyTreeDNA, especially around Black Friday in November.

## References

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- <sup>i</sup> Oxford Chronicle & Reading Gazette newspaper; 14 July 1838.
- <sup>ii</sup> 1841 Census of England; HO107; piece 55; book 17; folio 7; page 8.
- <sup>iii</sup> 1851 Census of England; HO107; piece 1720; folio 139; page 2.
- <sup>iv</sup> Oxford Chronicle and Reading Gazette newspaper; 27 December 1845.
- <sup>v</sup> Bucks Herald newspaper; 25 June 1853.
- <sup>vi</sup> Bucks Chronicle and Bucks Gazette newspaper; 28 May 1853.
- <sup>vii</sup> 1851 Census of England; HO107; piece 1720; folio 24; page 3.
- <sup>viii</sup> 1861 Census of England; RG9; piece 860; folio 26; page 2.
- <sup>ix</sup> 1871 Census of England; RG10; piece 1403; folio 85; page 64.
- <sup>x</sup> 1881 Census of England; RG11; piece 1464; folio 37; page 6.
- <sup>xi</sup> 1891 Census of England; RG12; piece 1137; folio 95; page 48.
- <sup>xii</sup> 1901 Census of England; RG13; piece 1347; folio 21; page 33.
- <sup>xiii</sup> 1911 Census of England; RG14; piece 7864; schedule 54.