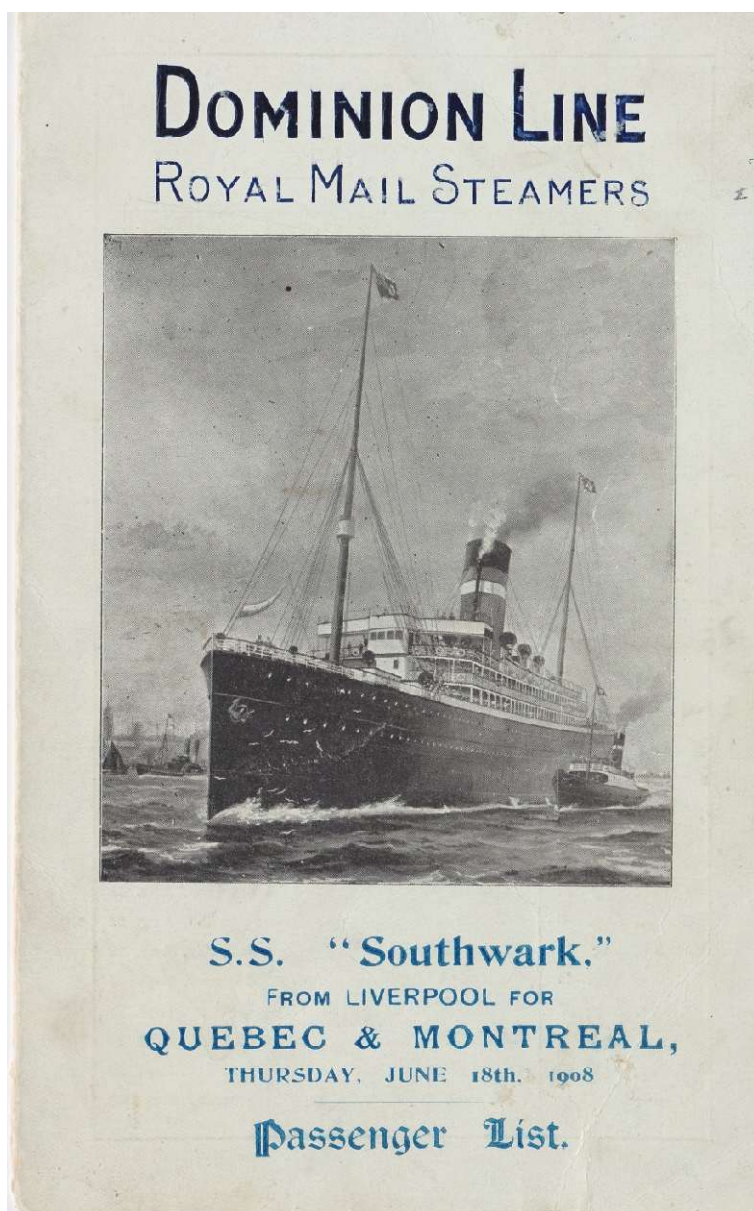


The Prestons of St. George Hanover Square

An overview of the descendants of William Preston who lived in
St. George Hanover Square, Westminster, Middlesex, England

1783 - 1836



James J. Cosgrave

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Front cover: Passenger list of *S.S. Southwark*, in possession of author.

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Introduction

The surname Preston likely originated in Wales as ap'Reston, meaning son of Reston, but research has not confirmed this connection, as our Preston family was already living in Westminster (London), England as early as the 1780s.

This document is focussed on my wife's Preston ancestors, the story begins in the fashionable Parish of St. George Hanover Square, in the City of Westminster, County of Middlesex, England, in the late 1700s, and is intended to provide a general overview of the many descendant branches of our Preston 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.

Our Preston ancestors did not live long lives, with many succumbing to tuberculosis well before their three score and ten years were up. This may have had environmental causes, as those who left the London area and emigrated to North America and New Zealand generally lived much longer lives than their forebears.

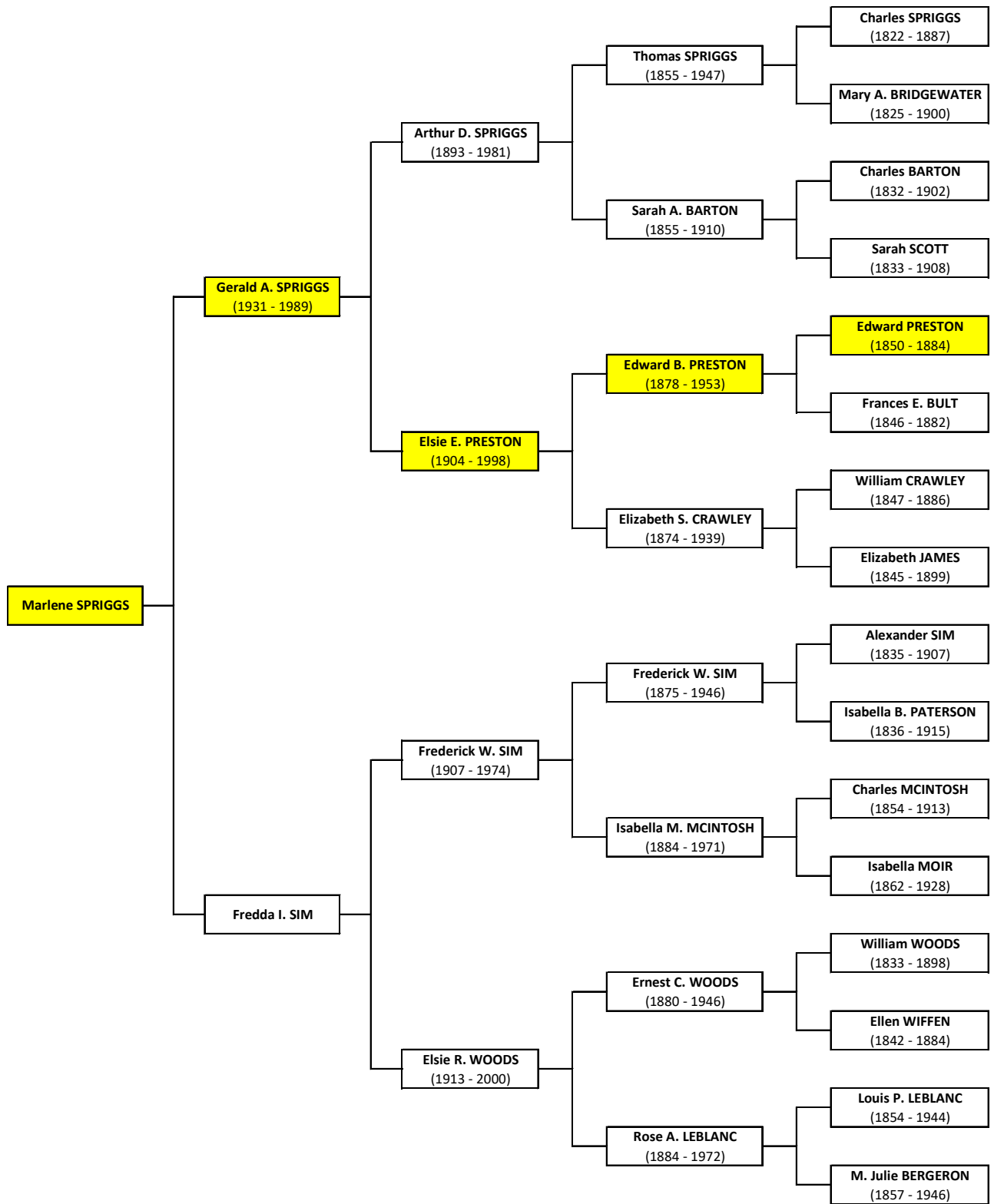
Throughout the document, to protect their privacy, I have tried to avoid providing details of living relatives, and I apologize if this cut-off has not been perfectly executed.

Family history is a collaborative study and I want to acknowledge the work of several others, that has been incorporated into this document, including Thomas Wayne Preston (1923-2014), Amy Bernauer and Allen Edward Estall (1923-1992).

This is not intended to be the final word on the Preston family of St. George Hanover Square, 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 Preston lines.

I apologise for any errors that may have crept into the document, and I welcome any corrections, family photographs, or other feedback.

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

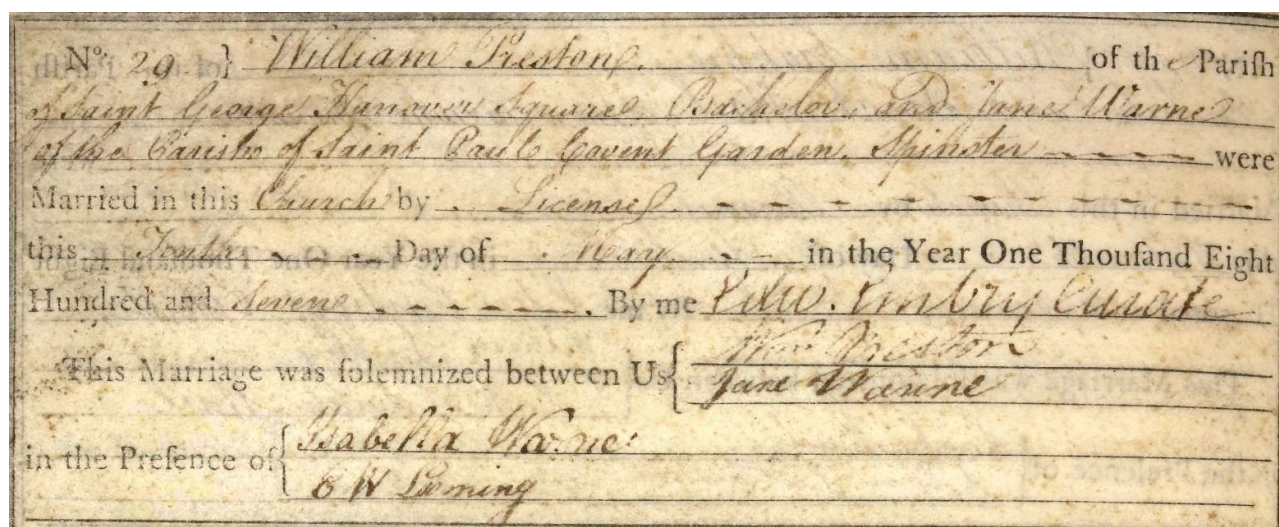


Chapter 1 – William Preston and Jane Warne

The Parish of St. George Hanover Square was created in 1724 from the Parish of St. Martin in the Fields, and included Belgravia and Mayfair, two of the most fashionable areas of the West End of London. Fashionable areas are home to well-dressed people, and so perhaps it is no coincidence that William Preston was a Gaitor and Breeches Maker (Tailor).

The birthplace and parentage of William Preston is not known, but in 2025, Amy Bernauer identified that William had a brother named John Preston, who was also a Gaitor & Breeches Maker, and his life will be covered in chapter 2.

William Preston was born circa 1783, location unknown, and married Jane Warne in the church of St. Paul Covent Garden, London on 10 May 1807¹. William and Jane were married by license, rather than by banns, suggesting that he was a man of some means.



William Preston & Jane Warne Marriage 1807

Circa 1798, William Preston, possibly with his brother John, setup business making gaitors and breeches for wealthy Londoners. By 1816 the business was situated at 126 New Bond Street, Mayfair, where it remained for many years. William was joined in the business by his eldest son, William Preston junior, who inherited the business on his twenty-fifth birthday in 1839, and also by his second son, John. By 1843, the business is listed in a London directory as “Preston William & John, leather breeches makers and tailors, by appointment to her majesty’s household & H.R.H. Prince Albert”.

William Preston died 13 January 1836 at the age of 53 years and is buried in Kensal Green Cemetery in London. His wife Jane died at Brompton, Middlesex on 17 September 1840, at the age of 58 years, and is also buried in Kensal Green Cemetery.

William and Jane’s marriage produced eight children as follows –

- Jane Ann Preston, born 4 February 1808
- Louisa Preston, born 14 October 1809
- Caroline Preston, born 2 September 1811

- William Preston, born 20 April 1814
- Frederick Preston, born 18 February 1817
- John Preston, born 28 January 1819
- James Preston, born 14 January 1821
- Charles Preston, born 14 April 1823

- a. **Jane Ann Preston** married Charles Bennett, a London Stockbroker, and had six children. Their second child, Preston Bennett, immigrated to Canada, chasing gold, and later farmed in the area of Kamloops, British Columbia. Preston became a Member of the Provincial Legislature, but died shortly after being re-elected in 1882. There is some evidence, that Preston Bennett fathered two children with a local indigenous woman in the Kamloops area, but there is no mention of children in any of the newspaper articles concerning his death. For completeness, this line has been included below in the known descendants of Jane Ann Preston and Charles Bennett -

1. Jane Ann PRESTON (b.4 Feb 1808-St. George Hanover Square, Westminster, London, England; d.18 Nov 1881-Islington, Middlesex, England)
sp: Charles BENNETT (b. Abt 1811-Ham Petersham, Surrey, England; m.22 Sep 1835; d.8 Jun 1892-Burton Joyce, Nottingham, England)
2. Charles BENNETT (b.7 Dec 1838-St. George Hanover Square, Middlesex, England; d.15 Feb 1918-Islington, Middlesex, England)
sp: Elizabeth Ann CABBELL (b. Abt 1842-Manchester, Lancashire, England; m.20 Sep 1866; d.26 Jun 1886-Bad Schwalbach, Hesse, Germany)
3. Mary Evelyn BENNETT (b.22 Sep 1867-Croydon, Surrey, England; d.26 Apr 1962-Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex, England)
sp: Augustus Charles DOVE (b. Abt 1853-Islington, Middlesex, England; m.15 Apr 1893; d.26 Jun 1920-Edmonton, Middlesex, England)
4. Hugh Vernon DOVE (b.6 Feb 1894-Hornsey, Middlesex, England; d.16 Jan 1985-Ealing, Greater London, England)
sp: Katherine N. CONCANON (b.16 Aug 1888-Steyning, Sussex, England; m. Jul/Sep 1931; d. Oct/Dec 1964-Ealing, Middlesex, England)
4. Mary Valerie DOVE (b.20 Aug 1898-Hornsey, Middlesex, England; d.7 Feb 1989-Worthing, Sussex, England)
4. Ruth Millicent DOVE (b.11 Feb 1905-Hornsey, Middlesex, England; d.1988-Bracknell, Berkshire, England)
sp: Reginald Ernest T. WINDOVER (b.19 Dec 1894-Edmonton, Middlesex, England; m. Jul/Sep 1926; d. Oct/Dec 1961-Worthing, Sussex, England)
5. Diana Mary Millicent WINDOVER (b. Jul/Sep 1930-Edmonton, Middlesex, England)
sp: David K.M. THOMAS (m. Jul/Sep 1953)
5. Jane Patricia WINDOVER (b.29 Jun 1935-Edmonton, Middlesex, England)
sp: Michael Gordon NETTELFIELD (b.2 Feb 1928-Hartismere, Suffolk, England; m. Jan/Mar 1958; d. Abt 1963-Malaya)
sp: John Bentley WESTACOTT (b.28 Sep 1930; m. Jan/Mar 1965; d.1989-Enfield, Greater London, England)
6. Emma J. WESTACOTT

6. Susan Ruth WESTACOTT
3. Constance Edith BENNETT (b. Jan/Mar 1872-Islington, Middlesex, England; d.20 Jun 1947-Walkerburn, Peebles, Scotland)
 sp: Arnold MORITZ (b.21 May 1872-Govan, Lanark, Scotland; m. Apr/Jun 1901; d.18 Oct 1949-Walkerburn, Peebles, Scotland)
4. Philip Arnold MORITZ (b. Jan/Mar 1902-Ingatestone, Essex, England; d.23 Jun 1982-Taunton, Somerset, England)
 sp: Brenda Mary ROBINS (b.17 Mar 1919-Salford, Lancashire, England; m. Oct/Dec 1941; d.3 Mar 2006-Taunton, Somerset, England)
4. Constance Hermina MORITZ (b. Jul/Sep 1903-Edmonton, Middlesex, England; d.15 May 1989-Wymondham, Norfolk, England)
 sp: Gerald Robert SIMPSON (b.6 Jul 1902-Bangalore, Madras, India; m.21 Feb 1927; d.1998-Norwich, Norfolk, England)
5. Gillian Constance Wallace SIMPSON (b.29 Jul 1932-India; d.26 Nov 1987-Wymondham, Norfolk, England)
 sp: Derrick Gisborne GORDON (b.12 Mar 1931-Knocknagarm, Kildare, Eire; m.1955; d.12 Oct 2006-Roundstone, Connemara, Galway, Eire)
3. Charles Harold BENNETT (b. Apr/Jun 1874-Islington, Middlesex, England; d. Aft 1953)
 sp: Minnie Emma TOLLEY (b. Abt 1874; m.9 Oct 1914; d.7 Sep 1954-Hampton Hill, Middlesex, England)
3. Clifford Cambell BENNETT (b.22 Mar 1877-Islington, Middlesex, England; d.20 Nov 1946-Nevada, California, United States of America)
2. Preston BENNETT (b.15 Dec 1840-Kensington, Middlesex, England; d.9 Aug 1882-Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada)
 sp: Susan
3. Louis Victor BENNETT (b.8 Feb 1868-British Columbia, Canada; d.13 Dec 1933-Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada)
 sp: Mary Ann AUGUST (b. Abt 1887-Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada; m.9 Aug 1909)
4. Margrette Sophia BENNETT
3. Caroline BENNETT (b.22 Feb 1867-Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada; d.5 May 1962-Los Angeles, California, United States of America)
 sp: George LONEY (b.7 Feb 1833/1854-Ontario, Canada; m.21 Apr 1890; d.22 Dec 1919-Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada)
4. Bertha LONEY (b.25 Feb 1891-Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada; d.2 Dec 1970-Los Angeles, California, United States of America)
 sp: William J. TURNER (b.5 Apr 1893-Point Edward, Ontario, Canada; m.6 Mar 1920; d. Aft 1941)
5. Doris J. TURNER (b.9 Jul 1910-Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada; d. Aft 1941)
5. Vivian TURNER (b.24 Nov 1911-Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada; d. Aft 1941)
4. Myrtle LONEY (b.28 Nov 1892-British Columbia, Canada; d.24 Jul 1981-Orange, California, United States of America)
 sp: Oscar John BOWMAN (b.20 Feb 1888-.,United States of America; m.7 Jul 1914; d.21 May 1982-.,United States of America)
5. Elizabeth BOWMAN (b. Abt 1915-Canada; d. Aft 1929)
5. George BOWMAN (b. Abt 1918-Canada; d. Aft 1929)

- 4. Vivian George LONEY (b.1 Jan 1895-British Columbia, Canada; d. Aft 1916)
 - 4. Florence Isabel LONEY (b.1 Jan 1897-British Columbia, Canada; d. Aft 1920)
sp: Francis VERCKER (b. Jul 1888-Summerville, Westport, Mayo, Ireland; m.23 Jul 1913; d. Aft 1920)
 - 5. Doreen VERCKER (b. Abt 1914-British Columbia, Canada; d. Aft 1920)
 - 2. Mary BENNETT (b.18 Oct 1842-St. Mary Abbot, Kensington, Middlesex, England; d.24 Oct 1919-Edmonton, Middlesex, England)
 - 2. Frederick BENNETT (b.25 Jul 1844-Kensington, London, England; d.13 Nov 1913-Islington, Middlesex, England)
 - 2. Walter BENNETT (b.13 Jan 1847-St. Mary Abbot, Kensington, Middlesex, England; d.20 Feb 1925-Islington, Middlesex, England)
 - 2. Isabel Jane BENNETT (b.22 Nov 1848-Kensington, Middlesex, England; d.1 Jun 1853-Kensington, Middlesex, England)
- b. **Louisa Preston** married James Foster, and their known descendants are as follows –
- 1. Louisa PRESTON (b.14 Oct 1809; d. Apr/Jun 1890-Islington, London, England)
sp: James FOSTER (b. Abt 1805-Guildford, Surrey, England; m. Bef 1841; d. Aft 1880)
 - 2. Louisa Maria FOSTER (b. Apr/Jun 1840-Godalming, Surrey, England; d. Jul/Sep 1909-Brentford, Middlesex, England)
sp: Thomas DAVIES (b. Abt 1839-Abergwilly, Caernarvon, Wales; m. Jul/Sep 1864; d. Aft 1880)
 - 3. David Thomas F. DAVIES (b. Abt 1868-Godalming, Surrey, England; d. Aft 1890)
 - 3. Mary L. DAVIES (b. Abt 1872-Woodford, Essex, England; d. Aft 1890)
 - 3. John P. DAVIES (b. Abt 1873-Worthing, Sussex, England; d. Aft 1900)
 - 3. James M. DAVIES (b. Abt 1875-Worthing, Sussex, England; d. Aft 1890)
 - 2. Sarah Jane FOSTER (b. Oct/Dec 1841-Godalming, Surrey, England; d.7 Oct 1924-Broadstairs, Kent, England)
sp: Charles Francis Samuel KING (b.21 Jul 1832-Deptford, Kent, England; m.5 Sep 1867; d.9 Nov 1919-Southampton, Hampshire, England)
 - 3. Henrietta Augusta KING (b.1 Aug 1868-Islington, Middlesex, England; d.11 May 1947-Broadstairs, Kent, England)
 - 3. Gertrude Sarah KING (b.15 Feb 1870-Islington, Middlesex, England; d.4 Feb 1954-Westgate-on-Sea, Kent, England)
 - 3. Alfred Foster KING (b.1 Sep 1871-Islington, Middlesex, England; d.16 Feb 1968-Worthing, Sussex, England)
sp: Alice Mary PAGE (b.26 Jan 1895-Richmond, Surrey, England; m. Oct/Dec 1925; d.29 Nov 1972-Worthing, Sussex, England)
 - 4. Sheila M. KING (b. Jul/Sep 1926-Guildford, Surrey, England)
 - 4. John Alfred KING (b. Jul/Sep 1929-Guildford, Surrey, England; d.10 Feb 1980)
sp: UNKNOWN
 - 5. Michael KING
 - 5. Stephen KING
 - 3. Edith Helen KING (b.1 May 1874-Whetstone, Middlesex, England; d.3 Apr 1916-Southampton, Hampshire, England)
 - 3. Winifred Emily KING (b.15 Feb 1877-Whetstone, Middlesex, England; d.13 Jan 1977-Broadstairs, Kent, England)

3. Flora Mabel KING (b.13 Dec 1881-Lewisham, Kent, England; d.11 Sep 1948-Broadstairs, Kent, England)
2. James Preston FOSTER (b. Jul/Sep 1843-Godalming, Surrey, England; d. Oct/Dec 1868-Guildford, Surrey, England)
2. Helen Ann FOSTER (b. Jan/Mar 1845-Godalming, Surrey, England; d. Aft 1880)
2. Georgina FOSTER (b. Oct/Dec 1846-Godalming, Surrey, England; d. Jan/Mar 1926-Cambridge, Cambridge, England)
 - sp: Edwin Robert GAMLEN (b. Jul/Sep 1842-Bristol, Gloucester, England; m. Jan/Mar 1873; d. Jan/Mar 1914-Chesterton, Cambridge, England)
 3. Georgina Laurel GAMLEN (b.12 Jun 1874-Chatham, Kent, England; d. Jul/Sep 1978-Southampton, Hampshire, England)
 3. Evelyn Foster GAMLEN (b. Oct/Dec 1878-Cambridge, Cambridge, England; d.1 Feb 1950-Cambridge, Cambridge, England)
 3. Edwin Rupert GAMLEN (b.15 Mar 1880-Cambridge, Cambridge, England; d.23 Jun 1970-Southampton, Hampshire, England)
 - sp: Ethel Gabrielle Cartier BOYD (b.8 Mar 1887-Paris, France; m.26 Sep 1912; d.11 Jan 1960-Chelmsford, Essex, England)
 4. Edwin Herbert GAMLEN (b.28 Aug 1913-Chesterton, Cambridge, England; d.28 Nov 1998-Waveney, Suffolk, England)
 - sp: Elsie G.A.R. TRINGHAM (b. Jan/Mar 1912-Lewisham, London, England; m. Oct/Dec 1939; d. Aft 1944)
 5. Christine E. GAMLEN (b. Apr/Jun 1945-Surrey, England)
 - sp: Peter J. OBERN (m. Jan/Mar 1969)
 5. Rupert W. GAMLEN (b. Oct/Dec 1946-Surrey, England)
 - sp: Maureen JOHNSON (m. Jan/Mar 1970)
 4. Hugh A. GAMLEN (b.16 Apr 1915-Chesterton, Cambridge, England; d.1987-Cirencester, Gloucester, England)
 - sp: Violet Margaret BARKER (b.1920-East Retford, Nottingham, England; m. Jul/Sep 1948 ;d.29 May 2007-Ripon, York, England)
 5. Philip H. GAMLEN (b. Oct/Dec 1949-Ilford, Essex, England)
 5. Jeremy D. GAMLEN (b. Oct/Dec 1954-Stepney, London, England)
 4. Donald Reginald GAMLEN (b.2 Feb 1917-Chesterton, Cambridge, England; d.1986-Petersfield, Hampshire, England)
 - sp: Joan DANCMASTER (b.1919; m. Jan/Mar 1941; d.30 Dec 2008-Petersfield, Hampshire, England)
 5. Caroline M. GAMLEN (b. Oct/Dec 1942-Chichester, Sussex, England)
 5. Timothy R. GAMLEN (b. Jul/Sep 1945-Surrey, England)
 5. Annabel S. GAMLEN (b. Oct/Dec 1954-Southampton, Hampshire, England)
4. Victor Henry GAMLEN (b. Jul/Sep 1919-Chesterton, Cambridge, England; d. Aft 1920)
4. Kenneth Robert GAMLEN (b.6 Jan 1922-Chesterton, Cambridge, England; d.29 Dec 1992-Wokingham, Berkshire, England)
 - sp: Joyce Winifred STANFORD (b.4 Aug 1917; m. Jan/Mar 1954; d.2004-Reading, Berkshire, England)
 5. Robert H. GAMLEN (b. Jul/Sep 1955-Oxford, Oxford, England)
 5. Sarah M. GAMLEN (b. Oct/Dec 1961-Oxford, Oxford, England)

- 4. George A. GAMLEN (b. Jul/Sep 1925-Cambridge, Cambridge, England)
sp: Joan A. COWLING (m. Jul/Sep 1954)
- 4. Desmond Foster S. GAMLEN (b.18 Apr 1930-Yarmouth, Norfolk, England; d.2 Oct 2017-Great Malvern, Worcester, England)
sp: Jean Ruth MORRIS (b.1 Jul 1930; m. Apr/Jun 1954; d.1 Nov 2020-Great Malvern, Worcester, England)
- 3. Grace Eleanor GAMLEN (b.15 Dec 1881-Cambridge, Cambridge, England; d. Jan/Mar 1972-Southampton, Hampshire, England)
- 3. Linda Beatrice GAMLEN (b. Jul/Sep 1883-Cambridge, Cambridge, England; d.12 Aug 1967-Breinton, Hereford, England)
- 3. Hilda Mary GAMLEN (b. Oct/Dec 1885-Cambridge, Cambridge, England; d.26 Nov 1965-Oxford, Oxford, England)
- 2. Emily FOSTER (b. Oct/Dec 1848-Godalming, Surrey, England; d. Aft 1880)
sp: Henry ROGERS (m. Oct/Dec 1882)
- 2. William Frederick FOSTER (b. Jul/Sep 1850-Godalming, Surrey, England; d. Aft 1880)
sp: Martha ALLDREAD (b. Abt 1859-Belper, Derby, England; m.14 Aug 1880; d. Aft 1880)
- 3. Frederick Alldread FOSTER (b. Oct/Dec 1880-Belper, Derby, England; d. Aft 1880)
- 2. Harriet Reid FOSTER (b. Apr/Jun 1852-Godalming, Surrey, England; d.29 Mar 1941-Boreham, Essex, England)
- 2. Grace Clementina Angelina FOSTER (b. Jan/Mar 1855-Godalming, Surrey, England; d. Jul/Sep 1869-Guildford, Surrey, England)
- 2. Augusta Josephine FOSTER (b. Apr/Jun 1857-Godalming, Surrey, England; d.3 Feb 1941-Upminster, Essex, England)

c. **Caroline Preston** married Thomas Fraser, and their known descendants are as follows –

- 1. Caroline PRESTON (b.2 Sep 1811; d. Abt 1891)
sp: Thomas FRASER (b. Abt 1801-Middlesex, England; m.7 Apr 1836; d. Aft 1840)
- 2. Henry FRASER (b. Apr/Jun 1838-Kensington, Middlesex, England; d. Aft 1840)
- 2. William FRASER (b. Apr/Jun 1840-Westminster, London, England; d. Aft 1840)

d. **William Preston** married Eliza Chinnock in 1838, just a year before he inherited the tailoring business from his father. William continued in business at 126 New Bond Street, Mayfair until his death in 1855, at 41 years old. Following his death, the business, or perhaps just the business location, was taken over by Henry Huntsman, another tailor. Henry Huntsman later moved his tailoring business to Saville Row, where it continues to operate as one of London's premier men's clothing stores.

I have found no trace of Eliza, or their son Frank after the 1871 census, but the known descendants of William and Eliza are as follows –

- 1. William PRESTON (b.20 Apr 1814-London, England; d.2 Sep 1855-London, England)
sp: Eliza CHINNOCK (b. Abt 1814-Frome, Somerset, England; m. Apr/Jun 1838; d. Aft 1870)
- 2. Frank William PRESTON (b. Jul/Sep 1840-London, Middlesex, England; d. Aft 1870)
- 2. Harry PRESTON (b. Oct/Dec 1842-London, Middlesex, England; d.24 Aug 1855-St. George Hanover Square, Westminster, London, England)

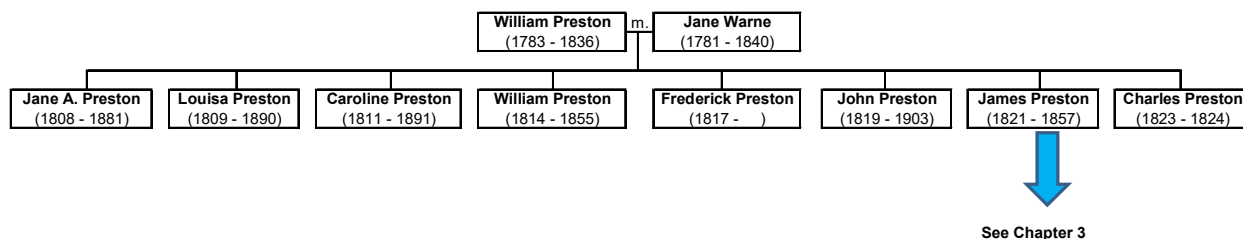
e. **John Preston** left the family tailoring business at some point after 1843, but resurfaced in an 1862 newspaper advertisementⁱⁱ, stating that he had resumed business as a supplier of

Naval and Military uniforms, Hunting and Shooting Equipments, Leathers, etc. Very little is known of John's life, but he is believed to have died abt. 1903.

HUNTING, SHOOTING, &c.—
JOHN PRESTON, Breeches Maker and Tailor,
the practical and only surviving partner of the late firm of William & John Preston, formerly of 126, New Bond Street (established 1798), begs to inform those of his old patrons who may not be aware of the fact, that he has **RESUMED BUSINESS** at 10, PRINCES STREET, HANOVER SQUARE, W., where every article in Naval and Military Uniforms, Hunting and Shooting Equipments, Leathers, &c., may be obtained at moderate prices, and executed with that care and attention which obtained for his late brother and himself their well-known reputation.

John Preston 1862 Newspaper Advertisement

- f. **James Preston** married Margaret Jane Evans, daughter of a tailor, and their life together will be covered in more detail in chapter 3 of this document
- g. **Charles Preston** died on 1 January 1824 at Westminster, Middlesex, before reaching his first birthday.



Chapter 2 – John Preston and Elizabeth

The will of William Preston (1783-1836) mentions his brother John, who was also a tailor and breeches maker. John Preston wrote a will in 1839, in which he identified his nephew, William Preston of New Bond Street, which confirms the connection between William Preston senior and his brother John.

John Preston's will also names his heirs as a son named Archibald Preston, a daughter named Mary Ann Dockerill, and a granddaughter named Caroline Dockerill. John's wife, Elizabeth had died at 30 Poland Street, Westminster on 6 December 1838, from an internal tumour, at the age of 57 years.

Mary Ann Preston married John Dockerill, at All Souls church, Regent Street on 14 May 1832, and the marriage produced at least two children, as follows –

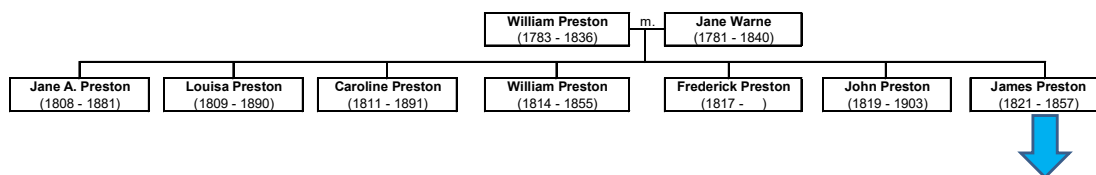
- Caroline Mary Dockerill, born 8 September 1832
- John Joseph Dockerill, born 1 October 1835.

Probate of John Preston's will in February 1849 states that he was late of Poland Street, but now of Hamburg, Germany. His son in law, John Dockerill died on 27 May 1882, also in Hamburg, Germany, so it seems that the family moved to Hamburg between 1839 and 1841 as I cannot find any of this family in the 1841 census of England. I have found no further trace of this family.

The known descendants of John and Elizabeth Preston are as follows –

1. John PRESTON (d.1848/1849-Hamburg, Germany)
sp: Elizabeth (b. Abt 1781; d.6 Dec 1838-Westminster, Middlesex, England)
2. Archibald PRESTON (d. Aft 1839)
2. Mary Ann PRESTON (b.23 Jul 1808; d.Aft 1839)
sp: John DOCKERILL (b.13 Dec 1808; m.14 May 1832; d.27 May 1882-Hamburg, Germany)
3. Caroline Mary DOCKERILL (b.8 Sep 1832)
3. John Joseph DOCKERILL (b.1 Oct 1835)

Chapter 3 – James Preston and Margaret Evans



James Preston, the seventh child of William Preston and Jane Warne, was born in New Bond Street, Westminster, on 14 January 1821, and baptised on 20 April 1821. The birth was registered at Dr. William's Library in Redcross Street, near Cripplegate, suggesting that the family were non-Conformists, i.e. they did not adhere to the teachings of the Church of England, and instead belonged to one of the other Christian religions, so James was not baptised at his local Church of England church.

James Preston's father, William Preston, died in 1836, and the following year, James' brother, William Preston junior, posted a newspaper advertisementⁱⁱⁱ, seeking employment for James in an Oil and Italian Warehouse.

TO OIL and ITALIAN WAREHOUSEMEN.—The Friends of a respectable YOUTH, aged 16, are desirous of obtaining a SITUATION for him in an OIL and ITALIAN WAREHOUSE, for his improvement. He has had two years' experience in the manufacturing department of one of the best houses at the West end; is of good address, and speaks the French language fluently.—Address, post paid, W. Preston, 126, New Bond-street.

1837 Advertisement Seeking Employment

It seems that James went to work for George Barron, who operated an Oil and Italian Warehouse at 88 Oxford St^{iv}, on the corner of Oxford Street and Market Street.



88 Oxford Street circa 1840

By December 1843^v, James Preston had taken over the business from George Barron, and was offering hams, wine, and candles, in addition to olive and vegetable oils.

JAMES PRESTON (late G. Barron) respectfully acquaints the nobility, gentry, and public, that, having devoted much time in the selection of his stock, he is now enabled to supply them with very fine flavoured mellow YORK and WEST-PHALIA HAMS, varying from 5 to 18 lbs; smoked and pickled Tongues of his own cure, fit to dress without soaking. J. P. continues to pay particular attention to his stock of British Wines, amongst which his Ginger and Elder are in the highest state of perfection, at 16s per doz.; pure Olive or Vegetable Oil (equal to sperm), 5s 6d per gallon. J. P. will guarantee the above free from adulteration, there being many houses offering spurious oils (under the name of vegetable) at a low price. Nonpareil Wax Candles, 16s per dozen lbs; Composite 11s 6d per dozen, or 1s per lb, at his Oil, Italian, and Grocery Warehouse, 88, Oxford-street, corner of Market-street. Orders by post punctually attended to.

December 1843 Advertisement

On 7 August 1844, James Preston married Margaret Jane Evans, daughter of Thomas Evans (a tailor) and Winifred Roberts, in the parish church at St. George Hanover Square, Westminster. On the marriage registration James is listed as an oilman.

James did not stay in the oil business for very long, as by 1847 he was living at Mount Street and had joined his father in law, Thomas Evans, in the tailoring trade. He continued to live and work in Mount Street until his death.



James Preston (1821-1857).

James and Margaret Preston had seven children, as follows –

- Augustus James Preston, born 7 March 1846
- James Evans Preston, born 9 February 1847
- Emily Jane Preston, born 4 April 1849
- Edward Preston, born 28 December 1850
- Herbert Preston, born 4 October 1852
- Stanley Preston, born 24 September 1854
- Mortimer Preston, born 24 March 1856

Augustus, James and Herbert all died before the age of two years, but the remaining four children all married in England and had families of their own.

The family is found in the 1851 census of Marylebone^{vi}, living at 88 Oxford Street. James is identified as a Master Tailor, and the family has a Nurse living with them, likely to look after the two young children.

James Preston	Head	Men	30	Master Tailor	Middle Westminster
Margaret Do	wife	Men	24		Do Do
Emily Do	Serv		2		Do Do
Edward Do	Son		3 mo		Do Do
Livermore	Serv	W	25	Nurse	Do Hanover Sq

James Preston & family in 1851 census.

James Preston died at 127 Mount Street, St. George Hanover Square on 24 October, 1857, at the age of 36 years. The death certificate states that the cause of death was tuberculosis. He is buried in the Brompton Cemetery^{vii}. The cemetery is divided into separate sections for members of the Church of England and Dissenters (members of the non-Conformist religions). James Preston is buried in Dissenters Section 2, confirming that the family were not members of the Church of England.

His widow, Margaret Preston is found in the 1861 census^{viii}, living at 8 Stock Orchard Villas, Islington, with her father, three of her children, and Mary Ryan, a general servant, born in Limerick, Ireland. Her son Edward is not listed with the family, but is found living nearby in the household of Oliver d'Lancy, a School Master. Edward is listed as a Scholar.

8 do do do	1	Mr - Evans	Head	Men	72	Retired Tailor	Highwell St Wales
		Mrs Preston	dau	W	37		Miscot London
		Mrs Preston	grandm	W	12		Do Do
		Mrs S Preston	grandm		6		Do Do
		Mrs M do	do do		8		Do Do
		Mrs Ryan	Serv	W	25	General Serv	Limerick Ireland

Margaret Preston & family in the 1861 census.

On 20 February 1871, at the age of 47 years, Margaret died at 25 Beresford Road, Highbury Newpark, Middlesex. She is buried in the Brompton Cemetery^{ix}, alongside her husband James.

Emily Jane and Edward Preston both remained in England, while Stanley and Mortimer Preston immigrated to the United States of America.

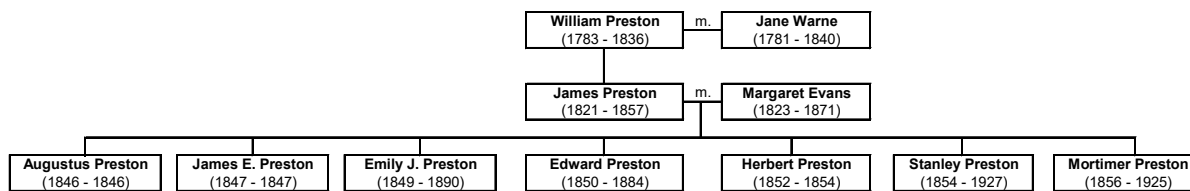
We will cover Edward Preston and his family in greater detail in chapter 4.

Meanwhile, the other known descendants of James Preston & Margaret Jane Evans are as follows -

1. James PRESTON (b.14 Jan 1821-Westminster, Middlesex, England; d.24 Oct 1857-127 Mount Street, St. George Hanover Square, Middlesex, England)
 - sp: Margaret Jane EVANS (b.1 May 1823-Westminster, Middlesex, England; m.7 Aug 1844; d. 20 Feb 1871-Highbury Newpark, Middlesex, England)
2. Augustus James PRESTON (b.7 Mar 1846-London, England; d.28 Mar 1846-Marylebone, London, England)
2. James Evans PRESTON (b.9 Feb 1847-London, England; d.28 Oct 1847-Torquay, England)
2. Emily Jane PRESTON (b.4 Apr 1849-Westminster, Middlesex, England; d.17 May 1887/1888-Headingley, Leeds, Yorkshire, England)
 - sp: Francis Henry POTTER (b. Apr/Jun 1842-Whitby, York, England; m. Jan/Mar 1873; d. Jan/Mar 1890-Leeds, York, England)

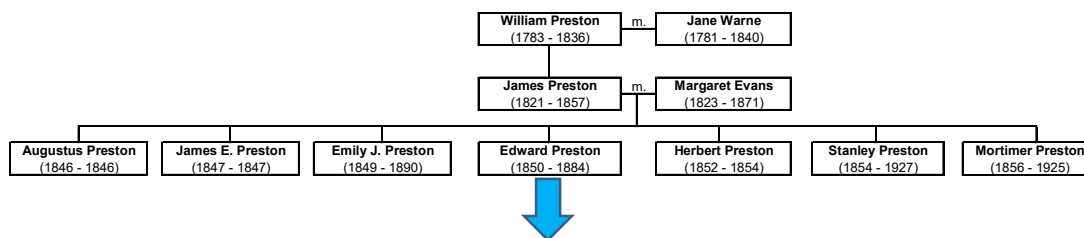
3. Margaret Preston POTTER (b. Oct/Dec 1873-Islington, Middlesex, England; d. Abt 1952)
3. Hilda Ann POTTER (b. Apr/Jun 1875-Islington, Middlesex, England; d.1929)
sp: Arthur TOMPSON (b.6 Feb 1865; m.24 Jun 1904; d.1935)
3. Emily Clare POTTER (b. Jul/Sep 1876-Islington, Middlesex, England; d.Jul/Sep 1901-Goole, York, England)
3. John Earnshaw POTTER (b. Jan/Mar 1878-Islington, Middlesex, England; d. Aft 1900)
3. Reginald POTTER (b. Jan/Mar 1882; d.24 Sep 1882-Highbury Park, London, England)
2. Edward PRESTON (see Chapter 4)
2. Herbert PRESTON (b.4 Oct 1852-London, England; d.12 Apr 1854-London, England)
2. Stanley PRESTON (b.24 Sep 1854-St. George Hanover Square, Middlesex, England; d.24 Jun 1927-Long Beach, Los Angeles, California, USA)
sp: Anna Maria FOXALL (b.19 Aug 1856-St. Pancras, London, England; m.7 Nov 1878; d.7 May 1935-Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, USA)
3. Phoebe Evelyn PRESTON (b.28 May 1880-Islington, London, England; d.9 Jan 1901-Colorado Springs, El Paso, Colorado, USA)
3. Rev. Harold PRESTON (b.26 Aug 1894-Colorado Springs, El Paso, Colorado, USA; d.27 Sep 1966-Covina, Los Angeles, California, USA)
sp: Virgie Carrie GANDY (b.2 Jul 1896-Hayes Center, Nebraska, USA; m.19 Mar 1921; d.21 May 1965-Westwood, Los Angeles, California, USA)
4. Merle Stuart PRESTON (b.17 Apr 1922-San Bernadino, San Bernadino, California, USA; d.15 Jul 1978-Portola, Plumas, California, USA)
sp: Olive DEFFNER (b.18 Oct 1924-Fall City, Nebraska, USA; d.23 Mar 2017-Salem, Oregon, USA)
5. Edith Gail PRESTON (b. Covina, Los Angeles, California, USA)
sp: Kenneth Erwin JOY (b. Humboldt, California, USA)
5. Carolyn Ruth PRESTON (b. Covina, Los Angeles, California, USA)
5. Theodore Stuart PRESTON (b. -Upland, San Bernadino, California, USA)
4. Thomas Wayne PRESTON (b.12 Sep 1923-Long Beach, Los Angeles, California, USA; d.25 Nov 2014-United States of America)
sp: Yvonne Ruth ROBBINS (b.24 May 1930- Los Angeles, California, USA; d. 10 Oct 2018-California, USA)
5. Stanley Thomas PRESTON (b.6 Feb 1950-Covina, Los Angeles, California, USA; d.10 Sep 2022-Riverside, California, USA)
5. Denise Robin PRESTON (b. Covina, Los Angeles, California, USA)
5. Norman Clifford PRESTON (b. Covina, Los Angeles, California, USA)
5. Neil Bruce PRESTON (b. Covina, Los Angeles, California, USA)
sp: Josephine MOORE (b.22 Aug 1903; m.1 May 1966; d.8 Sep 1988-Santa Monica, Los Angeles, California, USA)
2. Mortimer PRESTON (b.24 Mar 1856-London, England; d.24 Apr 1925-Wichita, Sedgewick, Kansas, USA)
sp: Florence Ann STEMSON (b.1 Mar 1856-St. Clements Dane, Middlesex, England; m. Oct/Dec 1878; d.28 Feb 1942-Wichita, Sedgewick, Kansas, USA)
3. Edith Florence PRESTON (b.31 Jul 1879-Finchley Rd., Middlesex, England; d.4 Nov 1957-Wichita, Sedgewick, Kansas, USA)
3. Hugh Mortimer PRESTON (b.2 Dec 1880-Barking, Essex, England; d.1958)

- sp: Helen B. (b. Abt 1885-Kansas, USA; d. Aft 1929)
4. Margaret H. PRESTON (b. Abt 1907-Kansas, USA; d. Aft 1929)
 4. Louisa M. PRESTON (b. Abt 1909-Kansas, USA; d. Aft 1929)
 4. Mortimer H. PRESTON (b. Abt 1914-Kansas, USA; d. Aft 1929)
 4. Paul S. PRESTON (b. Abt 1917-Kansas, USA; d. Aft 1929)



See Chapter 4

Chapter 4 – Edward Preston and Frances Bult



Edward Preston was born on 28 December 1850 at 127 Mount Street, St. George Hanover Square, the fourth child, and eldest surviving son, of James Preston and Margaret Evans.

His father died when Edward was six years old, and his mother died when he was 20 years old, leaving him as the head of the family, just before the 1871 census.

In the 1871 census^x, Edward Preston is found still living at 25 Beresford Road, with his brothers Stanley and Mortimer. Edward and Stanley are both listed as Commercial Clerks in the Tea Trade, and 15 year old Mortimer is still at school.

25	1	Edward Preston	Head	Commercial Clerk in the Tea Trade	Do	St George Hanover Sq
		Stanley	Brother	Do	Do	Do

Edward and Stanley Preston in the 1871 census.



Edward Preston c. 1879.

The following year, Edward Preston married Frances Emily Bult, daughter of Thomas Sminey Bult, at St. John's East Dulwich in the Parish of Camberwell, Surrey, on 7 August 1872. On the marriage record, Edward is listed as a Gentleman, and the marriage was publicised in *The Times* and *The Morning Post* newspapers.

Edward and Frances Emily Preston had five children, as follows –

- Nellie Preston, born 10 June 1873
- Madeline Preston, born 30 September 1874
- Elsie Mildred Preston, born 26 September 1875
- Stella Preston, born 12 April 1877
- Edward Bennett Preston, born 9 April 1878

Madeline^{xi} and Stella^{xii} both died before their first birthday, and were buried in the Brompton Cemetery, with their grandparents James and Margaret Preston.

The remaining family of five is listed in the 1881 census^{xiii}, living at 2 Topsfield Road, Hornsey, Middlesex, with Edward identified as a Sub-manager and Mercantile Agent.

2	1	Edw Preston	Head	Mar	30	Sub Manager	Middlesex
		Frances Emily	Wife	Mar	30	Wife	City
		Nellie	Daughter	Single	7	Schooler	Holloway
		Elsie Mabel	Daughter	Single	5	"	Holloway
		Edw B	Son	Single	3	"	Highgate

Edward Preston & family in the 1881 census.

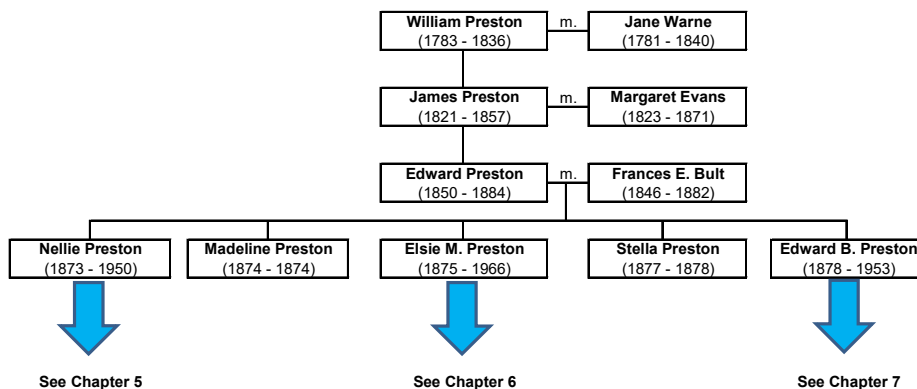
Unfortunately their household was soon devastated, when Frances Emily Preston died from tonsillitis and diphtheria, on 16 November 1882, at 35 years of age. She is buried in the family plot at Brompton Cemetery^{xiv}.

Just 18 months later, on 13 May 1884, Edward Preston succumbed to tuberculosis at the Consumption Hospital, in Hampstead, leaving the three children aged six to ten years old, with no parents. Edward is also buried in the family plot at Brompton Cemetery^{xv}, with his wife, parents and two infant children.

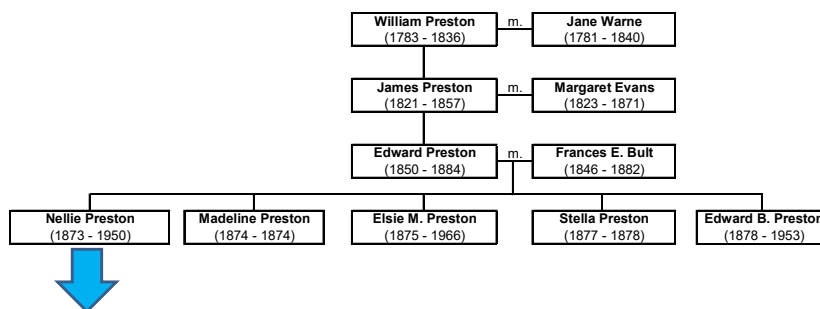
I have not found a probate record for Edward Preston, which could add credence to the passed down story that relatives put the children in an orphanage and took his money. But both of Edward's brothers had emigrated to the United States of America prior to Edward's death, and his sister, Emily Jane Potter (nee Preston) died a few years later, so the only close family in England would have been siblings of his late wife, Frances Emily Bult.

Another family story is that Edward died from "high living" after the death of his wife, so perhaps there was simply no money to take care of the children. It is known that Edward's brother, Mortimer, sent money to help with the education of the two daughters of Edward's son, Edward Bennett Preston, so he is unlikely as a villain.

The lives of each of the three children, after their parents' death, will be covered in the next three chapters.



Chapter 5 – Nellie Preston and Henry Usherwood



Nellie Preston was born at 5:30 am on 10 June 1873, at 6 Neville Terrace, Hornsey Road North, Islington^{xvi}, the eldest child of Edward Preston and Frances Emily Bult.

After the death of her parents in 1882 and 1884, Nellie was taken in by her mother's sister, Anne Bult. Nellie is found in the 1891 census living with Anne Bult at 82 Dalston Lane, Hackney, and is listed as 17 years old, a Draper's Assistant.

On 26 December 1898 Nellie married Henry Ernest Usherwood at the Baptist Chapel, Northcote Road, Battersea. Nellie and Henry raised six children, the first two being born in Southampton, and the other four being born in New Zealand. Henry had been born in England, but his parents had emigrated to New Zealand, so it is not surprising that in 1901, Henry and Nellie emigrated to New Zealand also.

In the 1990s I was in contact with Allen Estall, then of Christchurch, New Zealand, a grandson of Nellie and Henry Usherwood, and he provided me with much information on this branch of the family. More recent information has been obtained from New Zealand public records.



**I-r – Irene, Victor, Elsie, Harold,
Nellie & Constance Usherwood.**

The known descendants of Nellie Preston and Henry Usherwood are as follows –

1. Nellie PRESTON (b.10 Jun 1873-Hornsey, London, England; d.28 Feb 1950-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)

sp: Henry Ernest USHERWOOD (b. Jul/Sep 1867-Strand, London, England; m.26 Dec 1898; d.3 Aug 1905-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)

2. Constance Muriel USHERWOOD (b.30 Sep 1899-Southampton, Hampshire, England; d.9 Nov 1969-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)

sp: Bruce Alfred ESTALL (b.1898-New Zealand; m.21 Apr 1920(Div); d.1960-N.Z.)

3. Raymond Charles ESTALL (b.16 Nov 1920-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)

sp: Yvonne VOICE (m.20 Jan 1946)

4. Graham ESTALL (b.-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)

4. Martin John ESTALL (b.-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)

4. Ann ESTALL (b.-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)

3. Allen Edward ESTALL (b.29 Jan 1923-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand; d.23 Jun 1992-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)

sp: Stella Jocelyn WILSON (b.19 Sep 1917-New Zealand; m.1 May 1944; d.20 Oct 2009-New Zealand)

4. Stephen Allen ESTALL (b.-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)

4. Linda Jocelyn ESTALL (b.-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)

sp: Philip Christopher BARTLEY

3. Norman Bruce ESTALL (b.6 Dec 1925-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand; d.18 Jul 1926-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)

sp: Stanley Dorrington WILSON (b.26 Apr 1889; m.1935; d.1981-New Zealand)

2. Irene Olive USHERWOOD (b.12 Oct 1900-Southampton, Hampshire, England; d.1986-Timaru, New Zealand)

sp: Walter Cyril BATE (b.28 Sep 1901-New Zealand; m.20 Jan 1925; d.1978-N.Z.)

3. Joyce Irene BATE (b.-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)

sp: John HUTTON

3. Melva Joan BATE (b.-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand; d.2006-New Zealand)

sp: Peter William MILWARD (b.8 Sep 1928; m.1953; d.2010-New Zealand)

2. Victor Ernest USHERWOOD (b.13 Jan 1902-Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand; d. 1 Feb 1978-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)

sp: Elizabeth Wensley PALMER (b.28 Oct 1903-New Zealand; m.23 Dec 1924; d.12 Jan 1992- Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)

3. Marianne Nellie USHERWOOD (b.19 Dec 1925-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand; d. 19 Apr 1998-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)

sp: William OLIVER

4. Karen Lillian F OLIVER

sp: Anthony Bowkett MATTHEWS

4. Gerald Rex OLIVER

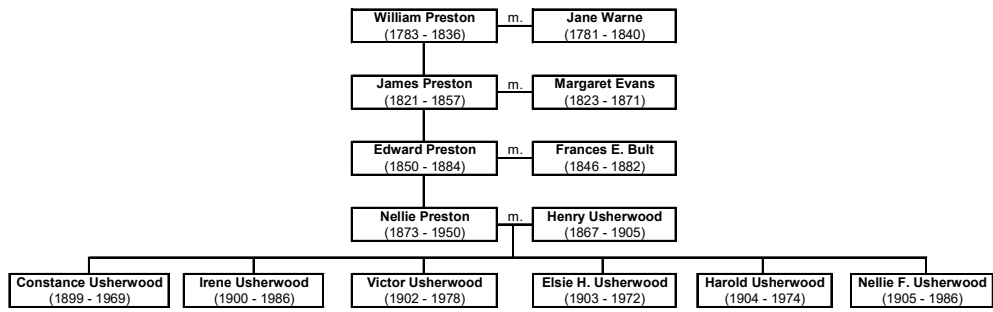
3. Stanley Ernest USHERWOOD (b.21 Aug 1927-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand; d.2007-New Zealand)

sp: Valerie GOOD (b.28 Sep 1926; d.2007-New Zealand)

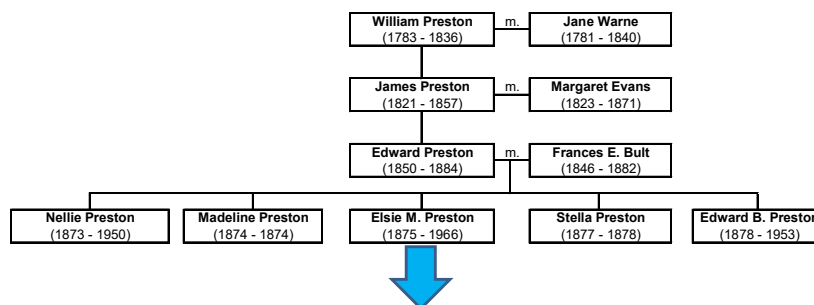
3. Doreen Olive USHERWOOD (b.7 Aug 1930-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand; d.1988-New Zealand)

sp: Alan Hector BROWN (b.25 Jul 1930; m.1952; d.16 Apr 2020-Christchurch,

- Canterbury, New Zealand)
4. Jennifer Ruth BROWN
 - sp: Bruce Murray YATES
 4. Susan Lorraine BROWN (d. Bef 2021)
 - sp: Murray BELL
 - sp: Clayton ROSS
 4. Nigel Ross BROWN
 3. Lilian Ruth USHERWOOD (b.-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)
 - sp: Ian Alexander MACDONALD (b. 21 Aug 1925; m. 1953; d. 2009-New Zealand)
 - 4. Lynette Joy MACDONALD
 - 4. Glenys Olive MACDONALD
 3. Nola Mary USHERWOOD (b.-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)
 - sp: Christopher Trevor BURTON
 - 4. Antony Philip BURTON
 - 4. Kathy Anne BURTON
 2. Elsie Hinemoa USHERWOOD (b.21 Jul 1903-Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand; d.28 Feb 1972-Nelson, New Zealand)
 - sp: Henry Thomas HARVEY (b.7 Mar 1903; m.5 Feb 1926; d.9 May 1985-Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand)
 - 3. Valmai Maud HARVEY (b.25 Feb 1926-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)
 - sp: Alfred Clarence WAHREN
 - 3. Hubert Henry HARVEY (b.30 Oct 1928-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand; d.1994-New Zealand)
 - sp: Patricia Cecilia WILSON (b.3 Sep 1934; m.1952; d.2021-New Zealand)
 - 3. James Preston HARVEY (b.16 Jun 1937-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand; d.2009-New Zealand)
 - 3. Carol Jean HARVEY (b.30 Dec 1943-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand; d.18 Oct 1966-Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand)
 2. Harold Bult USHERWOOD (b.31 Jul 1904-Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand; d.1974-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)
 - sp: Ethel May BUTTERFIELD (b.13 Nov 1902-New Zealand; m.23 Dec 1925; d.1998-New Zealand)
 - 3. Laurence Arthur USHERWOOD (b.20 Sep 1927-Christchurch, Canterbury, N.Z.)
 - sp: Alison Sheriff ADCOCK (b.20 Jan 1929; m.1949(Div); d.2019-New Zealand)
 - 3. Maurice James USHERWOOD
 - sp: Elizabeth Averill BAKER (b.11 Apr 1932; m.1954; d.2007-New Zealand)
 2. Nellie Francis USHERWOOD (b.10 Jun 1905-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand; d.7 May 1986-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)
 - sp: Oliver George OAKLEY (b.11 Feb 1904; m. Apr 1930 (Div); d.12 Dec 1975-Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand)
 - ...sp: William GREGORY (m. Dec 1947; d. Bef 1986)



Chapter 6 – Elsie M. Preston and Richard Holloway



Elsie Mildred Preston, the third child of Edward Preston and Frances Emily Bult was born at 2 Fern Villas, Albion Grove, Hackney at 10:45 am on 26 September 1875^{xvii}.

Nellie is found in the 1891 census, listed as a 15 year old visitor in the household of John and Mary Chaffle at St. Lawrence, Kent, and in the 1901 census she is listed as a 28 year old Draper's Assistant, an employee of Jones Bros.

In early 1907, Elsie married Richard Edwin Holloway in his hometown of Bideford, Devon, and shortly after their wedding they sailed from Plymouth, bound for Wellington, New Zealand. Elsie's sister Nellie was already living in New Zealand, in Christchurch, on the South Island, but Elsie and Richard stayed on the North Island, eventually making their home in Dannevirke.

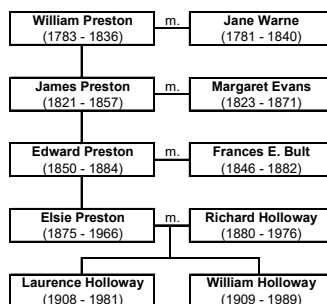
Elsie and Richard Holloway raised two sons, Laurence and William, who were both born within a few years of the couple's arrival in New Zealand.

The known descendants of Elsie Preston and Richard Holloway are as follows –

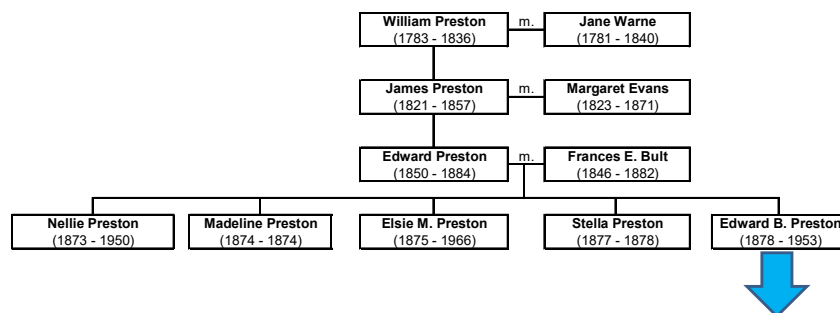
1. Elsie Mildred PRESTON (b.26 Sep 1875-London, England; d.19 Jun 1966-New Zealand)
sp: Richard Edwin HOLLOWAY (b.10 Jul 1880-Bideford, Devon, England; m. Apr/Jun 1907;
d. 22 Mar 1976-Dannevirke, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand)
 2. Laurence Edwin HOLLOWAY (b.11 Jan 1908-New Zealand; d.1981-New Zealand)
sp: Rita Frances SNOOK (b.29 Oct 1908-New Zealand; m.1931(Div); d.1979-N.Z.)
sp: Doreen Ann MCGLASHAN (b. Abt 1907;m.1946; d.1962-New Zealand)
 2. William George HOLLOWAY (b.18 Apr 1909-New Zealand; d.23 Mar 1989-New Zealand)
sp: Doris HEAL (b.18 Mar 1911-New Zealand; m.1934; d.13 Jan 1991-Dannevirke,
Hawkes Bay, New Zealand)
 3. Trevor Preston HOLLOWAY (b.17 Jan 1936; d.25 Nov 2016-Dannevirke, Hawkes Bay,
New Zealand)
sp: Anne Rosalie
 4. Ross William HOLLOWAY
 4. Lynne Margaret HOLLOWAY
sp: Robert John WOODHOUSE (b. Pahiatua, Wairarapa, New Zealand)
 3. William Rowan HOLLOWAY (b. Abt 1938; d.1993-Gisborne, New Zealand)
sp: Janice Margaret HOLLOWAY
 4. Tracy HOLLOWAY
 4. Keryn HOLLOWAY
 4. Leona HOLLOWAY

3. Kelvin Burt HOLLOWAY

sp: Dorothy June (b. Abt 1945; m.Bef 1970; d.29 Jul 2011)



Chapter 7 – Edward B. Preston and Elizabeth Crawley



Edward Bennett Preston, the only son and youngest child of Edward Preston and Frances Emily Bult was born at 13 Victoria Cottages, Highgate North, on 9 April 1878 at 9:30 am.

He was only six years old when his father died in 1884, and in the 1881 census^{xviii} Edward Bennett Preston is found at Muller's Orphan House in Bristol, Gloucestershire, where he is listed as a 16 year old scholar.

In the 1901 census^{xix}, Edward is found living back in London, at 234 Blackfriars Road, Christchurch, listed as a 22 year old, single Warehouseman.



**Edward B. Preston
& Elizabeth Crawley.**

On 30 June 1901, 23 year old Edward Bennett Preston married Elizabeth Sarah Crawley, daughter of a deceased Commercial Traveller, William Crawley, at the Parish Church of Christchurch, Southwark.

After their marriage, Edward and Elizabeth Preston lived at 38 Kempstead Road, Camberwell, and their first two children were born there as follows –

- Edward Mortimer (Ted) Preston, born 15 May 1902
- Elsie Elizabeth Preston, born 22 August 1904

Edward had given up warehousing and was working as a Painter, but by 1907, both of his sisters, Nellie & Elsie Mildred, had emigrated to New Zealand, and Edward Preston decided to move his young family to Canada.

Edward set off for Canada alone, to find suitable work, while his wife and two children remained in England. He soon found work with the City of Saskatoon in Saskatchewan and arranged for his family to join him there.

Elizabeth, Edward (Ted) and Elsie sailed out of Liverpool on 18 June 1900, on the S.S. *Southwark*, a mail steamer of the Dominion Line and disembarked in Montreal. From Montreal they took the train to Saskatoon, which must have seemed like a great adventure to the two young children, seeing all the wide open space, after being cooped up on a ship, seeing nothing but ocean for the duration of the voyage.

The 1911 census of Canada found Edward Preston and his family living at 936 – 8th Avenue in Saskatoon, with Edward working for the City of Saskatoon, as Water Inspector. His religion is listed as Congregationalist, a Protestant sect that emphasizes the right and responsibility of each congregation to organize their own affairs, without judgement by any higher human authority, which may explain the Non-Conformist / Dissenter beliefs of his Preston ancestors. The family had a new addition, daughter, Frances Augusta Preston, who had been born in Saskatoon on 10 June 1910.



(l-r) Elsie, Edward, Ted, Frances & Elizabeth Preston – 1910.

By 1921, Edward had left his job at the City of Saskatoon and was working as a Warehouseman at MacDonald-Crawford, a wholesale grocery business, and the family was now living at 901 – 5th Avenue North. Edward continued working in this role until 1939.

Elizabeth Sarah Preston suffered from a fallen bowel and was an invalid for more than 20 years, prior to her death on 24 January 1939, at the age of 64 years.

After the death of his wife, with his children all married and out of the family home, Edward took the opportunity to travel to New Zealand to visit his sisters, after more than 40 years apart, and he also spent some time in Eastern Canada, before settling down in Calgary, Alberta.

Not long after moving to Calgary, Edward became ill and died on 1 August 1953, at 75 years of age. He is buried in Queen's Park Cemetery in Calgary.



(l-r) Elsie M., Edward B. & Nellie Preston.

Edward Mortimer (Ted) Preston worked as a Salesman for Ashdowne Hardware Company in Saskatoon for about 15 years, before joining Champion Spark Plugs, also in a Sales role.

On 16 February 1929, Ted married a local Saskatoon woman, Mary Elizabeth (May) Reynolds. Ted and Mary moved to Calgary when Ted went to work for Firestone as a Traveller.

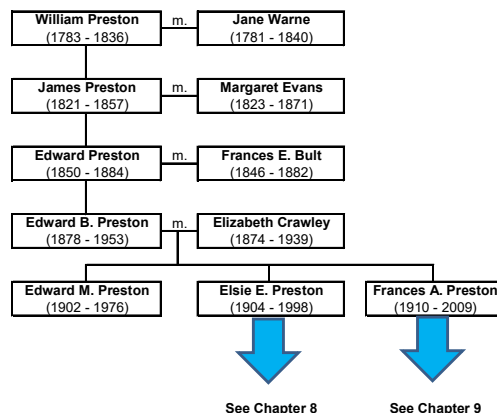
Mary Preston (nee Reynolds) died in Calgary on 14 August 1964 at 58 years of age, and is buried in Calgary's Queen's Park Cemetery.

Ted then married Alma Alice Gwendolyn Evans (nee Prouse) in Calgary on 16 October 1965, and they soon moved to Victoria, British Columbia, where they lived at suite 361 – 1575 Begbie Street.

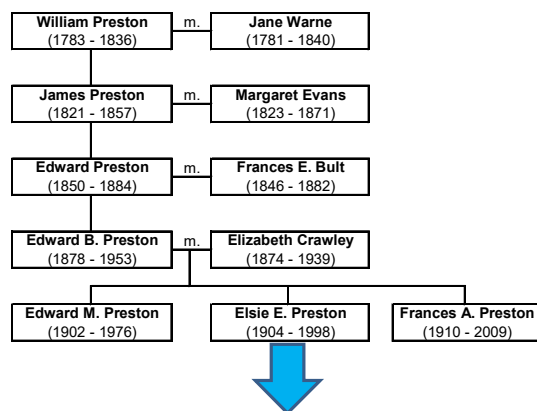
Alma Preston died from arteriosclerosis in Victoria on 27 September 1975, at the age of 72 years and was cremated at the Royal Oak Crematorium in Saanich.

Ted lived less than a year after the death of Alma, and he died at 74 years of age, in Victoria on 17 August 1976, from heart disease and diabetes. He is buried in the Royal Oak Burial Park in Saanich.

The lives of Elsie and Frances Preston will be the subject of the next two chapters.



Chapter 8 –Elsie Elizabeth Preston & Arthur Douglass Spriggs



Elsie Elizabeth Preston was born in Camberwell, London, England on 22 August 1902, the second child of Edward Bennett Preston and Elizabeth Sarah Crawley.

She moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada in 1908, sailing on the S.S. *Southwark* with her mother and brother Ted, and then by train from Montreal to Saskatoon.

After completing her schooling in Saskatoon, Elsie continued her education at a secretarial college, which was funded in part by her father's brother, Mortimer Preston, who was living in the United States of America. In 1919 she entered the workforce as a Stenographer with the Winnipeg Paint and Glass Company in Saskatoon and in 1928 was promoted to the position of Bookkeeper with the same company.

Elsie joined the choir at the local Anglican Church, and it was here that she met Arthur Douglass Spriggs, who had served in the Canadian Army in the First World War, and had joined the Canadian Post Office as a Mail Clerk when he left the army. Arthur had been previously married, but had divorced upon returning to Canada in May 1919, after 3 ½ years away, to find his wife and her 6 month old daughter living with another man.

Elsie Preston and Arthur Spriggs 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, Elsie and Arthur lived at 914 – 5th Avenue North, just down the street from Elsie's parents, who lived at number 901.



Elsie Elizabeth Preston.



**Elsie and Arthur Spriggs
50th wedding anniversary.**

Gerry Spriggs 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 (my wife), and son, Arthur, were born, before Gerry was transferred to Regina (1957), Montreal (1965), Calgary (1966), Montreal (1969), Toronto (1976) and Winnipeg (1982). Their third child, Robert, 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 1953 wedding.

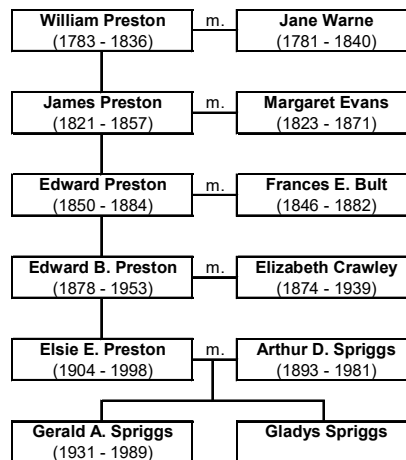
Here they raised two children, Gerald (Gerry), born in 1931 and his younger sister, Gladys. During the summer months the family would spend time at Waskesiu Lake in Prince Albert National Park, along with the family of Arthur's brother, Alfred.

In the late 1970s Elsie and Arthur 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.

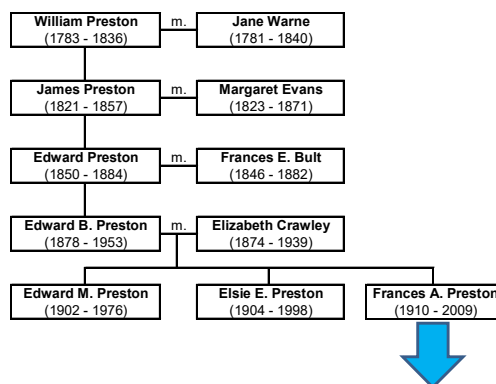


Gladys Spriggs graduated as a nurse and spent her career working in hospitals and care facilities. She married Mervyn Smith in Saskatoon in 1959, which is where they raised their two sons, and where Mervyn died in 1991 after a career in the City of Saskatoon Electrical Department.

Gladys Spriggs nursing graduation.



Chapter 9 – Frances Augusta Preston & William Bell Smith



Frances Augusta (Fran) Preston was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on 21 June 1910, the only child of Edward Bennett Preston and Elizabeth Sarah Crawley to be born Canada.

Like her sister Elsie, Fran attended secretarial college, and went to work as a Stenographer at *Hornibook, Whitmore and Allen*, before moving to *Gutta Percha and Rubber Ltd*. While with this second company, she had to send an employment offer letter to a William (Bill) Smith in Elfros, Saskatchewan. But by the time the letter got to Elfros, Bill had gone to Winnipeg to work, so Fran had to send another offer letter to him in Winnipeg. Soon after, Bill showed up at the office unannounced, whistling away, and just walked right into the boss' office.

Fran and Bill Smith hit it off and were married in 1934. After moving to Calgary for another job, Bill started an oilfield supply company (Continental Petroleum Rubber Company) which he grew to include offices in Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon and Regina. Bill sold the business in 1960 and he and Fran moved to Vernon, B.C.

Fran and Bill Smith had two children – Gail Shirley and Sharon Faye Smith.

Gail Smith married John Armstrong Powell in Calgary, Alberta, but they later lived in Toronto, Ontario. They had two sons and a daughter.

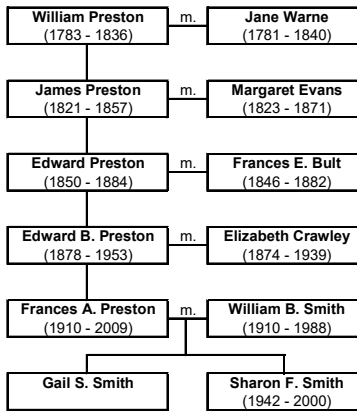
Sharon Smith was born in 1942, married three times and had a son, Todd, and two daughters. Todd married Sandra Shelley Van Helden in Calgary in 1990, but sadly Sandra passed away on 21 September 1998^{xx} & Todd on 20 April 2000^{xxi}. Sharon died in Calgary on 21 August 2000^{xxii}.



Frances A. Smith 94th birthday.

Bill Smith passed away in Vernon on 9 December 1988 and Fran later moved to Ontario to be closer to her daughter Gail.

Frances Augusta Smith (nee Preston) died in Mississauga, Ontario on 14 January 2009, at the age of 98 years.



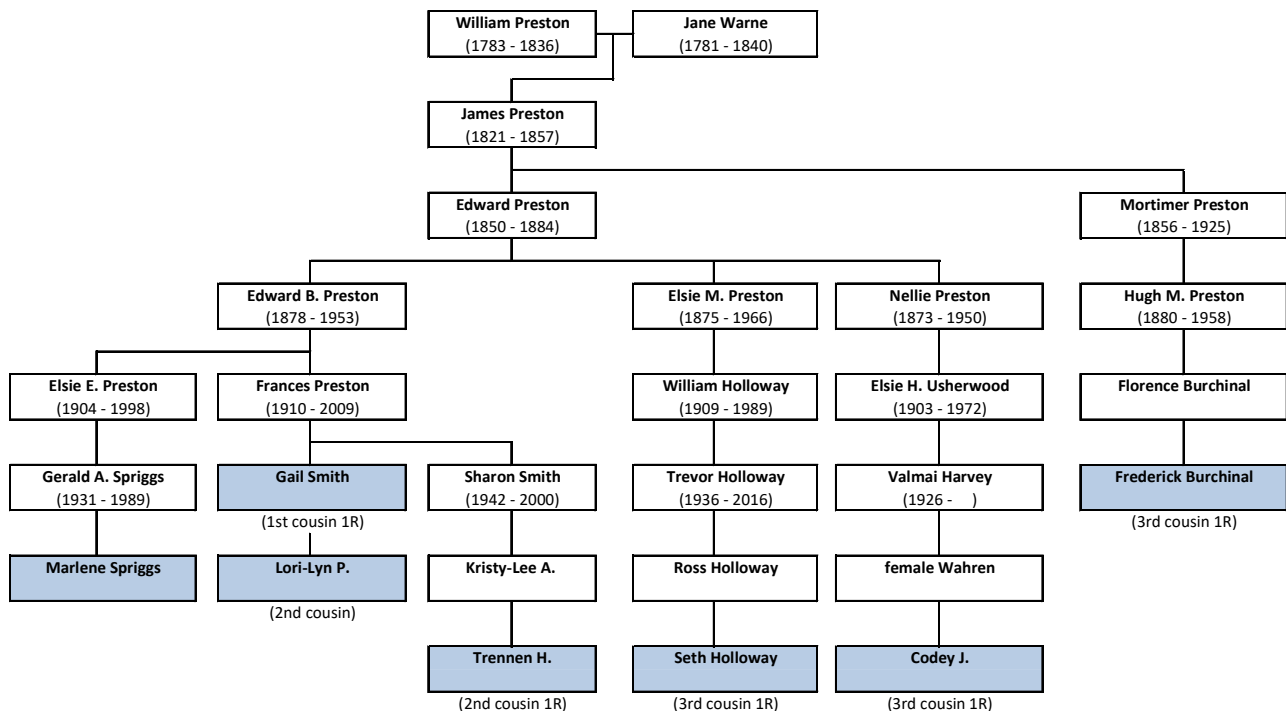
Chapter 10 – DNA Testing

The foregoing chapters have identified many of the descendants of William Preston and Jane Warne, 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, My Heritage 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, I have found several Preston cousins who were previously unknown to me, including descendants of all three of the children of Edward Preston (1850-1884) who had children. So autosomal DNA testing has been instrumental in confirming my wife's Preston ancestry.

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



Preston DNA Connections of Marlene Spriggs.

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 Preston 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 could 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.

I therefore encourage male Preston descendants to take the Big Y-700 test at FamilyTreeDNA, or even the somewhat cheaper Y-111 test, which could help to clarify how our Preston family fits into the overall haplotree of humankind. These tests are frequently on sale, especially around Black Friday in November.

To date I am not aware of any Preston male descendants of William Preston who have taken Y-DNA tests, so even one person testing would be useful, and several, from different lines of descent would be a bonus.

References

- ⁱ Parish Registers; St. Paul Covent Garden, Westminster
- ⁱⁱ Newspaper – Army and Navy Gazette; London; 22 February 1862
- ⁱⁱⁱ Newspaper – Morning Herald; London; 1 April 1837
- ^{iv} Hathi Trust; [#129 - John Tallis's London street views, 1838-1840 : ... book. - Full View | HathiTrust Digital Library](#)
- ^v Newspaper – Morning Herald; London; 19 December 1843
- ^{vi} 1851 census of England; HO107; piece 1486; folio 580; page 27.
- ^{vii} www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/brompton-cemetery Brompton Cemetery Burial Record 16708.
- ^{viii} 1861 census of England; RG9; piece 134; folio 116; page 20.
- ^{ix} www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/brompton-cemetery Brompton Cemetery Burial Record 63170.
- ^x 1871 census of England; RG10; piece 293; folio 19; page 31.
- ^{xi} www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/brompton-cemetery Brompton Cemetery Burial Record 77975.
- ^{xii} www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/brompton-cemetery Brompton Cemetery Burial Record 91903.
- ^{xiii} 1881 census of England; RG11; piece 1375; folio 41; page 76.
- ^{xiv} www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/brompton-cemetery Brompton Cemetery Burial Record 113823.
- ^{xv} www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/brompton-cemetery Brompton Cemetery Burial Record 122049.
- ^{xvi} James Preston's family bible, in possession of Allen Estall of New Zealand in 1991.
- ^{xvii} James Preston's family bible, in possession of Allen Estall of New Zealand in 1991.
- ^{xviii} 1891 census of England; RG12; piece 1974; folio 87; page 11.
- ^{xix} 1901 census of England; RG13; piece 360; folio 54; page 45.
- ^{xx} Calgary Herald newspaper; 25 September 1998; page 6.
- ^{xxi} Calgary Herald newspaper; 27 April 2000; page 8.
- ^{xxii} Calgary Herald newspaper; 25 August 2000; page 7.