

# THE ELKINGTON FAMILY Of BARBY



BARBY LOCAL  
HISTORY GROUP  
NOVEMBER  
2021



## INTRODUCTION

The earliest mention of an Elkington in the Barby Parish Registers occurs in the record of a marriage between **JOHN ELKINGTON** and **ELIZABETH GRUBBE** on 30 October 1561. A century later, on 24 October 1664, a shoemaker named **WILLIAM ELKINGTON** took Richard Grubbe (son of Richard Grubbe) as an apprentice.<sup>1</sup> William was charged for one hearth under the 1662 Hearth Tax Act, and for two hearths in 1674, indicating an increase in wealth during Grubbe's apprenticeship.<sup>2</sup> In 1667, Richard Grubbe 'the Towne hay-ward was slayne in execution of his Office Ap. 3d. buried ye 5<sup>th</sup>'.<sup>3</sup>

The relationships between these two Elkingtons and three Grubbes can only be surmised, because there is no relevant documentation available. The Parish Registers for the whole period 1573 to 1748 are missing. However, Bishops' Transcripts exist for the end of this period and there are tax records and some surviving wills, together with some property deeds, which help to document the history of the Elkington family in the village from the beginning of the Eighteenth Century.

The information contained in the following pages has been gathered mainly from parish registers, censuses (every 10 years from 1841 to 1911 inclusive) and wills. Much of this data is now available online and has not been referenced. Twentieth century data has been augmented by personal recollections of present-day Barby residents and with assistance from Jane Aires, an Elkington descendant. Photographs have been reproduced from copies held in the archives of Barby Local History Group (BLHG). The Group also holds copies of many of the cited documents.

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<sup>1</sup> Northamptonshire County Record Office (NRO), 24P/1664/1

<sup>2</sup> NRO, Hearth Tax 1662 & 1674

<sup>3</sup> NRO, ROP 925

## THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

The Eighteenth Century registers and transcripts make many references to **EDWARD ELKINGTON**.

At least three adult men of this name lived in Barby during the century:

a 'cord winder' for whose will probate was granted on 23 April 1736;

a man who 'drowned himself' on 8 June 1763 aged 52; and

a man whose eleventh child was baptized in 1790.<sup>4</sup>

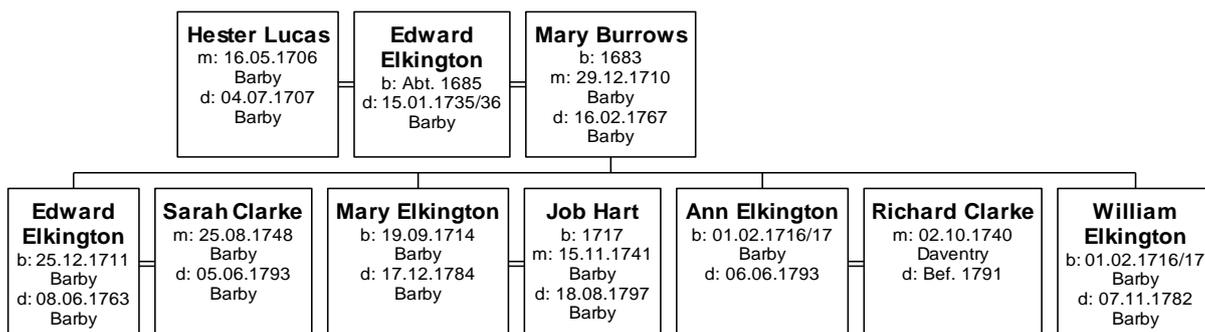
**EDWARD ELKINGTON** (c1685 – 1736), Cordwainer

Edward, being a shoemaker, was probably related to the William Elkington who took an apprentice in 1664. He could have been a grandson or, possibly, a son.

Edward married **MARY BURROWS** on 29 December 1710. This was his second marriage. He had married Hester Lucas on 16 May 1706, the same day that Elizabeth Lucas married John Harrison of Monks Kirby. Hester was buried on 7 April 1707. Edward probably married for the first time at the age of 21, after completing an apprenticeship, so he was born in about 1685.

On 15 April 1714, Edward purchased some land, amounting to about 15 acres, from William and Elizabeth Goode, which Elizabeth had inherited from her father, Nathaniel Clarke. He paid £85.<sup>5</sup>

The children of Edward and Mary were **EDWARD** (baptised 25 December 1711), **MARY** (baptised 19 September 1714), **ANN** (baptised 1 February 1717), and **WILLIAM** (baptised 1 February 1717). Thus the second Eighteenth Century Edward was the first's son.



Edward made a will on 9 April 1728. He appointed his wife Mary and his son Edward as executors. His other son and his two daughters were each to receive bequests of £20 when they reached the age of 21. At this time, Edward owned  $\frac{3}{4}$  quartern of land; he had previously sold a cowcommon to William Pittom. Witnesses to the will were: William Elkington, William Burrows, and Robert Elkington.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Dates of baptisms, marriages and burials are from Barby Parish Registers or Bishops' Transcripts unless otherwise noted.

<sup>5</sup> BLHG, Deeds of *Toft Hill*, Barby

<sup>6</sup> barbylhg.org.uk, *The Pittoms of Barby Northamptonshire*, p5; NRO, Will of Edward Elkington, proved 23 April 1736; a quartern was a quarter of a yardland, a variable quantity, about 30 or 40 acres in Barby parish.

**MARY ELKINGTON** (née Burrows) survived her husband by about thirty years; she was buried on 16 February 1767, aged 83.

#### **WITNESSES TO THE WILL OF EDWARD ELKINGTON**

The prevalence of the names 'Edward' and 'William' in the family suggests that the **WILLIAM ELKINGTON** who witnessed Edward's will was his brother. A burial on 10 April 1738 could have been for this William. Another William had been buried on 24 December 1717: this might have been their father or uncle. This second William was probably the owner of land mentioned in the terriers of 1684 and 1692 and the man listed in the Poll Book of 1695, and again in 1702 as 'William Ellington'.<sup>7</sup>

**ROBERT ELKINGTON** too was probably a brother. He married **MARY DENNY** on 25 January 1725. Their children were Robert (baptised 28 September 1725), Mary (baptised 21 January 1727), Robert (baptised 27 July 1729), William (baptised 11 January 1732, buried 17 January 1732), William (baptised 24 December 1732, buried 16 June 1734), and Edward (baptised 7 September 1735). There are no later references to Robert's children.

**WILLIAM BURROWS** was Edward's brother-in-law, who was a churchwarden in 1737 and died in 1765. He paid tax of 2 shillings on five windows in 1752.<sup>8</sup> In his will he granted his sister Mary Elkington the sum of £5 from his personal estate, plus land he owned in Barby and Yelvertoft with a rental income of £3 per year. This land, together with three other plots in Barby and one in Long Buckby, totalled 2 yardlands. Although his will was drawn up in 1760, it made no bequest to his nephew Edward or Edward's children. The land was bequeathed, together with the rest of his real and personal estate, to Mary's other children and grandchildren.<sup>9</sup>

#### **EDWARD ELKINGTON (1711 - 1763)**

The second Edward, who later 'drowned himself', married **SARAH CLARKE** of Barby on 25 August 1748. Three years previously, on 5 June 1745, Edward had purchased a property on the plot of the present-day *Lilac Cottage*, for the sum of £48 19s. On 6 October 1747, he sold some of the barns on the southern part of the plot for £30 10s 6d to John Wilson. The doorway between the newly separated buildings was to be filled in, a new door giving access to the highway was to be constructed and Elkington and Wilson agreed to dig & maintain jointly a well in Wilson's yard. The family continued to occupy the remaining buildings until they were sold for £90 on 7 June 1761. The increase in value reflects the conversion of one of the southern barns into a dwelling house and the improvement of the remainder. On 3 November 1762, together with Thomas Cartwright & his wife Elizabeth, Edward and Sarah sold 2 messuages and 2 acres 'of land and common of pasture for all cattle' and appurtenances in Daventry and Barby for the sum of £100.<sup>10</sup> Perhaps these messuages

<sup>7</sup> NRO, Glebe Terriers, 1684 and 1692; NRO, Poll Book, 1695 and 1702

<sup>8</sup> NRO, D 6330, Window Tax, 1752

<sup>9</sup> NRO, Will of William Burrows, proved 4.10.1765

<sup>10</sup> BLHG, Deeds of *Lilac Cottage*; for more detail see blhg.org.uk, *Lilac Cottage*

were a part of their property in 1752, when Edward paid tax on nine windows: it is unlikely that the *Lilac Cottage* property had nine windows.<sup>11</sup>

Edward and Sarah's three children were **EDWARD** (baptised 22 November 1750), **MARY** (baptised 12 October 1752, buried 10 December 1752) and **WILLIAM BURROWS** (baptised 10 January 1754).

William Burrows Elkington was one of ten Barby men described, on the Militia list of 1777, as weavers; he had been apprenticed to William Whitmore of Barby, a weaver, who paid his tax on 31 May 1768.<sup>12</sup> In 1772, now described as a woolcomber of Kilsby, William inherited the land which his grandfather had purchased in 1714 and when he died in 1782 he owned a total of 15 acres (farmed by Edward). He bequeathed this land to his mother, to be passed to Edward on her death. **SARAH ELKINGTON** (née Clarke) was her son's executor; she was buried on 5 June 1793.<sup>13</sup>

### **WILLIAM ELKINGTON (1716 – 1782)**

The second Edward's brother, William, inherited from his uncle William Burrows the land which was intended to give Mary (née Burrows) a rental income, plus any real or personal estate which had not been already bequeathed. He was his uncle's sole executor. The land consisted of one yardland in Barby, previously owned by Thomas Cattell and occupied by him, and a quartern in Yelvertoft, previously owned by William Sly and occupied by Thomas Clarke. In 1773, William received about £8 for land purchased by the Oxford Canal Company. William also paid tax on nine windows in 1752.<sup>14</sup>

William and his nephews Edward and William Burrows were the only Elkingtons mentioned on the Enclosure map of Barby compiled in 1778. At this time, William occupied property in what is now Rectory Lane and owned land at Nortoft.<sup>15</sup>

By the time of his death, William was quite a wealthy landowner. He was buried on 7 November 1782, aged 66. Described as a yeoman in his will, he mentioned neither wife nor children; the beneficiaries were all nephews and nieces. Each of his two Elkington nephews received £100; in addition, nephew Edward's debt of £50 was to be forgiven. There were also bequests to four other nephews and nine nieces, the children of his sisters.<sup>16</sup>

### **EDWARD ELKINGTON (1750 – 1813)**

William's nephew, the third Eighteenth Century **EDWARD**, occupied the site of present-day *Westfield House*, on the corner of Davis's Lane (now Elkington Lane). His immediate neighbour was Giles Kilworth, a witness to the will of his brother, William Burrows Elkington. All the Barby Elkingtons of the

<sup>11</sup> NRO, D6330, Window Tax, 1752

<sup>12</sup> *Northamptonshire Militia Lists 1777*, ed by Victor A Hatley, Northamptonshire Record Society, XXV (Kettering, 1973); The National Archives (TNA), IR1, Register of Duties Paid for Apprentice Indentures 1710-1811

<sup>13</sup> BLHG, Deeds of *Toft Hill*; NRO, Will of William Elkington, proved 26.10.1783

<sup>14</sup> NRO, Will of William Burrows, proved 4.10.1765; TNA, RAIL 855/157; NRO, D 6330, Window Tax, 1752

<sup>15</sup> NRO, 24P/211 and Map 5082

Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries were descendants of this Edward.

#### **MARY ELKINGTON (1714 - 1784)**

Mary, sister of Edward (1711-1763) and William (1716-1782), married **JOB HART** (1717-1797) on 15 November 1741. Job was a miller. Both he and his son Job are shown as landowners on the Enclosure map.

Job and Mary baptised nine children in Barby between 1743 and 1759. By the time their uncle William Elkington wrote his will in 1780, two of the daughters had become Ruth Ellard and Rachel Carter. All the nieces received bequests of £30, except Mary, who was to receive an allowance of 50 shillings per year until she should marry. The bequest of £30 to the youngest daughter, Hannah, was cancelled in a codicil of June 1782. Both Hannah and Mary were single when they died. However, Hannah's will bequeathed her estate to her 'natural daughter' Sarah Howard Hart: the existence of this daughter, born in May 1782, may explain why Hannah was cut out of her uncle's will.<sup>17</sup>

Job Hart junior was the main beneficiary of his uncle's estate; he was living with William in Barby at the time of William's death and received all the land owned in the parish: house, buildings and 52 acres, out of which he was required to pay most of the bequests to his cousins.<sup>18</sup> He already owned 1½ quarters bequeathed to him by his great-uncle William Burrows. In 1798, he paid £2 8s 8d tax on his land.<sup>19</sup>

Job's brother William, the village miller, paid £1 16s on his 11 acres of copyhold land in Kilsby. The third brother, Edward, received 17 acres of freehold land in Kilsby and paid 1s 4d tax.

Job's son William married Sarah Elkington, the daughter of his cousin Edward (1750-1813).

#### **ANN ELKINGTON (1717 - 1793)**

Ann, younger sister of Mary, married **RICHARD CLARKE**, a baker, in Daventry on 2 October 1740. Their children's baptisms (all in Daventry) were for: Mary, William, Anne, Sarah, Susanna, and Sarah. By 1780 when Uncle William Elkington wrote his will, Mary had become the widowed Mary Bliss of Harpole, with several children; Anne was 'Ann Haswell'; and Sarah was Sarah Fowler. Mary was to receive £50, the others £30. Niece Elizabeth Clarke was also to receive £30, and nephew William Clarke, now 'of Whitecross Street London Baker', was given 23 acres of land in Yelvertoft.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> NRO, Will of William Elkington, proved 18.12.1782

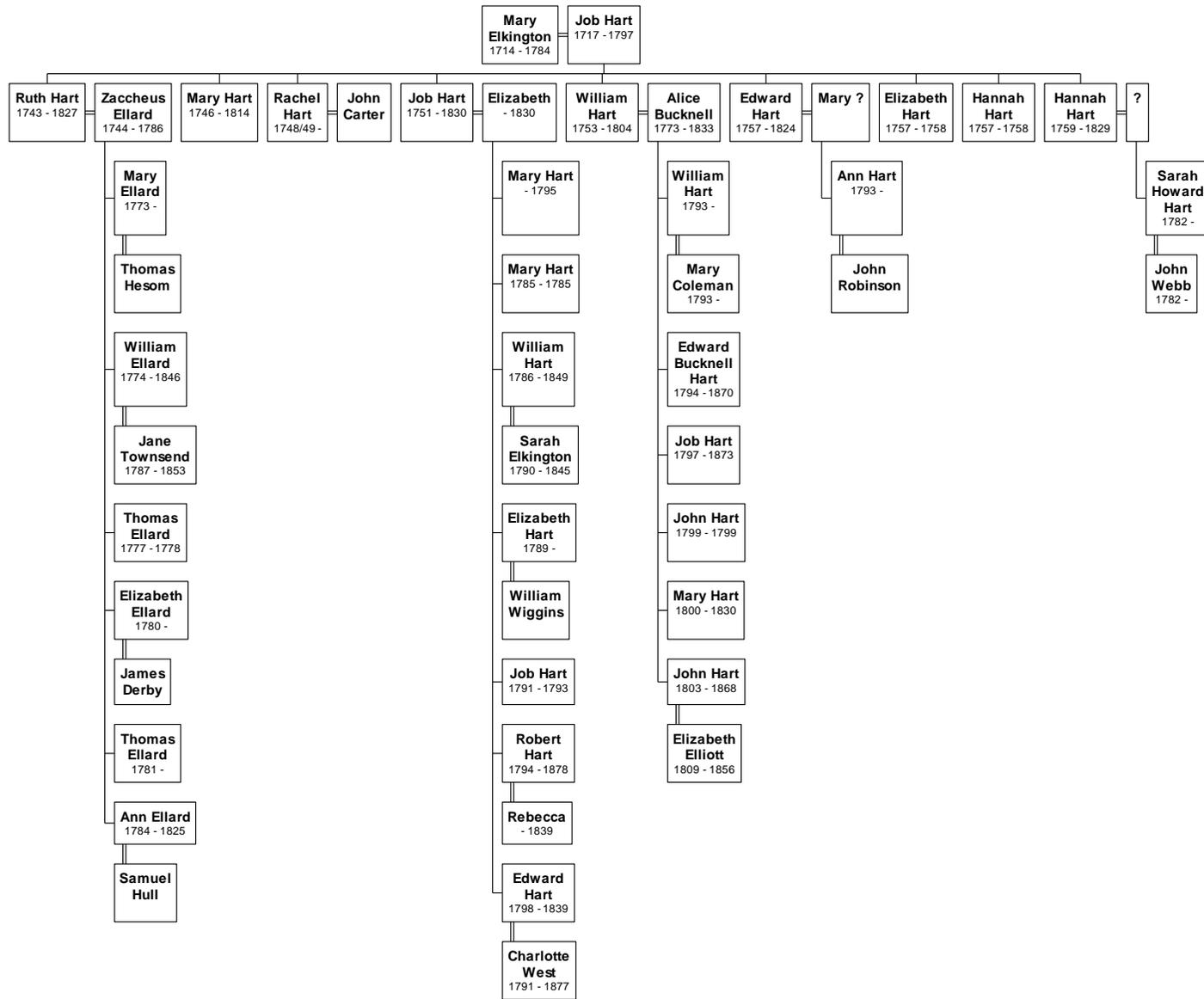
<sup>17</sup> NRO, Will of Hannah Hart, proved 26.11.1829

<sup>18</sup> Eight of William's Barby acres had been bequeathed to him in 1778 by Elizabeth Clarke of Clifton-upon-Dunsmore, a childless widow. TNA, PROB 11/1042

<sup>19</sup> TNA, IR 23/63

<sup>20</sup> There was a Bliss family in Barby early in the century. The registers record a baptism for 'Mary Bliss' on 27 October 1706 and the burial of 'Mary Bliss, wife' on 20 August 1707.

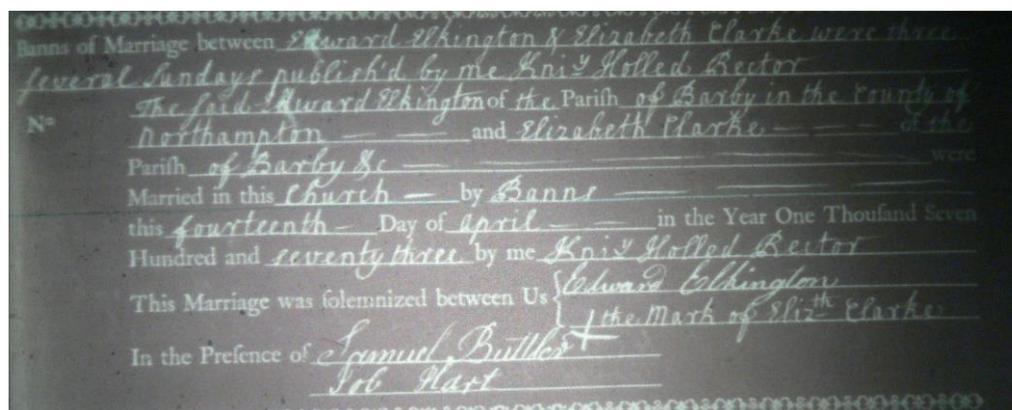
Descendants of Mary Elkington



Ann died a widow in 1793. Her daughter Mary Bliss predeceased her in June 1791. Within two days of Mary's funeral, Ann wrote her will, describing herself as 'of Barby'. She owned land in Long Buckby: a quarter in lieu of the land her uncle William Burrows had given her, having previously bought it from her husband. This land she bequeathed to her daughter Sarah and her husband John Fowler, a butcher, on condition that, within six months of her death, they use it to raise £120, to be divided equally between Mary's six children Elizabeth, Mary, Richard, Ann, Sarah and Susannah when they each reached the age of twenty-one. The Fowlers made the final payments to the Bliss children in 1799.<sup>21</sup>

## THE END OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

**EDWARD ELKINGTON** (1750-1813), like his father, married a Clarke, **ELIZABETH**, of Barby, on 14 April 1773; Edward signed his name, Elizabeth made her mark, and the event was witnessed by Samuel Butler and Job Hart (most likely to have been Edward's cousin).<sup>22</sup>



In 1798, Edward shared a land tax of £1 3s with John Oliver and William Butler. In his own right, separately, he paid £1 2s 10d.<sup>23</sup>

The eleven children of Edward and Elizabeth were: **WILLIAM** (1774-1791), **MARY** (1775-1799), **ELIZABETH** (1776- ), **EDWARD** (1777-1778), **HANNAH** (1779-1798), **EDWARD** (1780-1800), **JOSEPH** (1781- ), **THOMAS** (1786-1801), **JOHN** (1788-1842), **SARAH** (1790-1844), and **WILLIAM** (1792-1857). Perhaps only four of the eleven reached the age of 21. **ELIZABETH ELKINGTON** (née Clarke) was buried on 10 March 1804; her husband died nine years later.

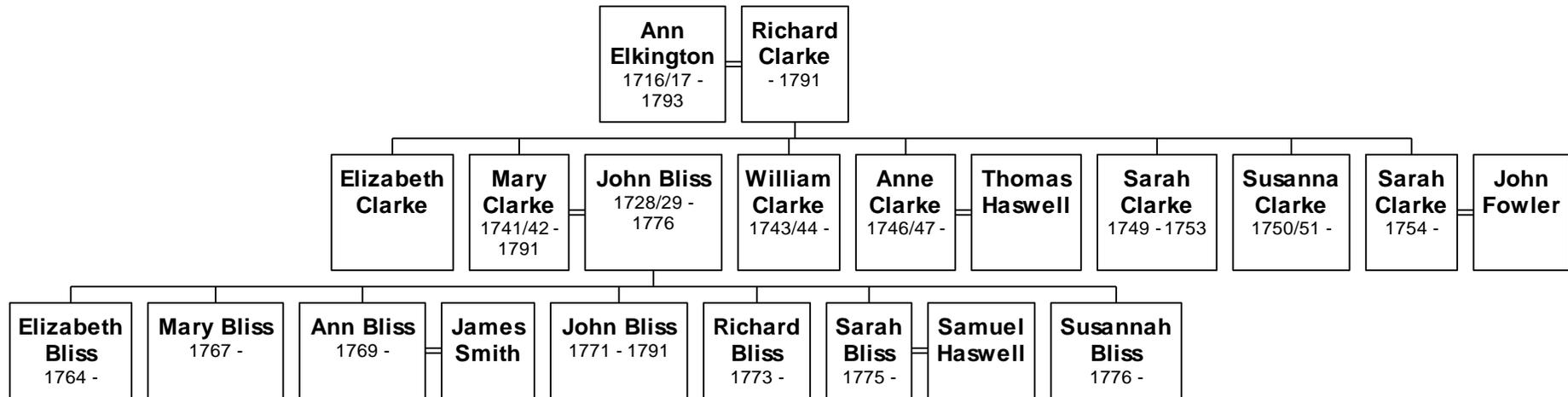
Another **ELIZABETH ELKINGTON** was buried on 12 February 1783. The description of her as 'a poor old woman' suggests she was *persona non grata* with the dominant Elkington family, and possibly the mother of the 'base born' child John, baptised on 13 March 1733. On 13 March 1772, **MARY ELKINGTON** of Onley, a widow, married Isaac Mawby of Lutterworth, a widower. Neither of the witnesses were Elkingtons, suggesting that this Mary was not a favoured relation either.

<sup>21</sup> BLHG, Will of Ann Clarke, proved 3.08.1793

<sup>22</sup> Samuel Butler had married Ann Clarke on 23 January 1770. His granddaughter Charlotte later married Edward's grandson Job Hart.

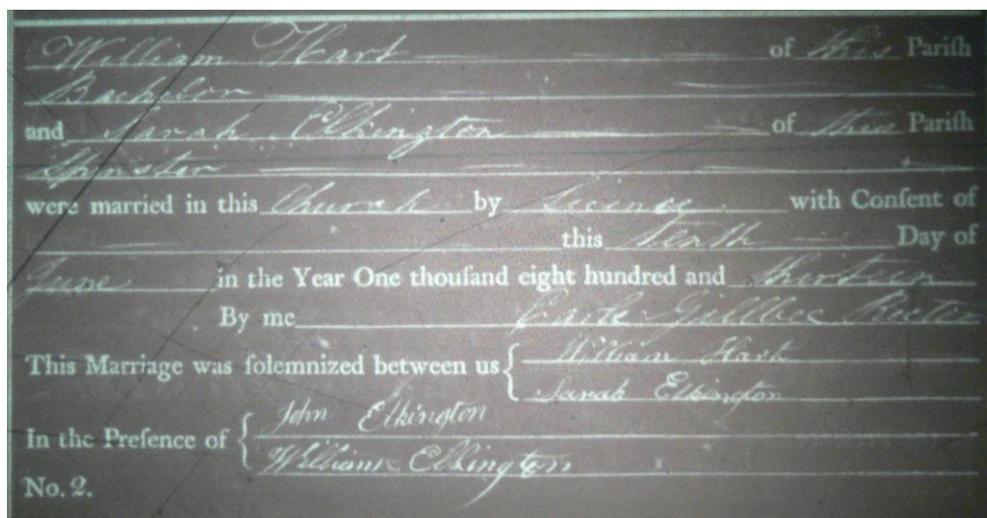
<sup>23</sup> TNA, IR 23/63; William Butler could have been the brother or father of Samuel.

### Descendants of Ann Elkington



## THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Edward Elkington's sons John and William carried the family through the Nineteenth Century; the name survived into the Twentieth through William only. They are likely to have been the two witnesses at their sister Sarah's marriage to William Hart.



### SARAH ELKINGTON (1790 – 1844)

Sarah and William Hart farmed at Barby Nortoft. When he died in 1849, William owned 50 acres in Barby and 18 acres in Kilsby, possibly the land which his father Job and uncle Edward (who appears to have been childless) inherited from their uncle William Elkington (1716-1782).<sup>24</sup> Two of William and Sarah's daughters married two brothers from the Chambers family of blacksmiths, whilst their son Job farmed with his wife Charlotte Butler and carried on the Hart line.

### JOHN ELKINGTON (1788 – 1842)

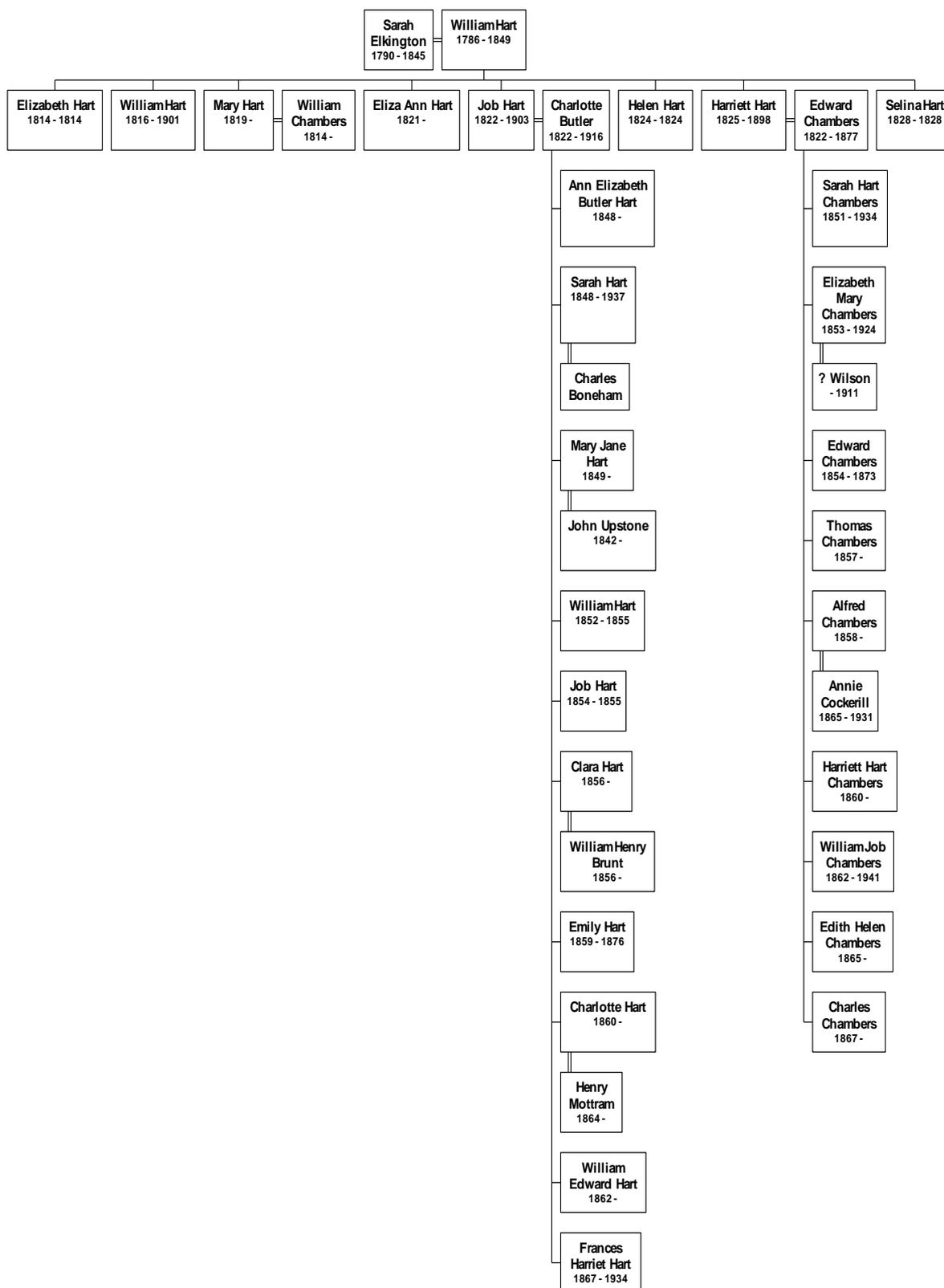
There is no record of a christening for John in the Barby registers. However, the 1840 Oakley (Poor Law) Survey recorded a **JOHN ELKINGTON** as owning 51 acres 1 rod 19 perches, including the house, outbuildings, yard, garden and orchards at *Westfield House* - the property belonging to **EDWARD ELKINGTON** in 1778.<sup>25</sup> Moreover, on 23 May 1821, **WILLIAM ELKINGTON** made a written statement to the effect that Edward had died intestate, leaving three children – John, William and Sarah wife of William Hart; that letters of administration had been granted to John; and that, on receipt of £400 from John he, William, would give up all claims on Edward's estate.<sup>26</sup> Included in John's property in 1840 was the cottage now known as *Walnut Cottage*, occupied by William Bosworth; John farmed all the land himself.

<sup>24</sup> TNA, PROB 11/2104

<sup>25</sup> NRO, ZA 1431 and Map 4418

<sup>26</sup> NRO, ZB 1382/16

### Descendants of Sarah Elkington



There is no extant record of a marriage for John in the Barby records. This became a matter of concern in 1900, when the title to two closes of land owned by Zaccheus Chapman Elliott, one of

John's sons-in-law, needed to be verified. Jane Barker, the eighty-year-old aunt of another of John's sons-in-law, made a statement declaring that John had married **ELIZABETH PIT TOM** in about 1815, and that they had no more than eight children.<sup>27</sup>

In fact, John had married Elizabeth in Newnham on 13 March 1815. She was the daughter of William Pittom and Eleanor Devonshire. Between 1816 and 1833, there are eight christenings recorded in Barby for children born to Elizabeth and John. Their children were: **ELIZABETH** (1816-1900), **JOSEPH** (1818-1822), **MARY** (1820-1886), **ANN** (1822-1895), **HANNAH** (1825-1878), **SARAH** (1827-1872), **ELEANOR** (1830-1855) and **ELIZA** (1833-1866).

In 1825, John was recorded as the tenant of 8½ acres of charity-owned land, let to him 'for 10 years from Midsummer 1822, at the yearly rent of £28. This was let by auction to the best bidder, the rent considerably exceeds the annual value'.<sup>28</sup>

In 1837 John filled the role of Surveyor of Highways in the Parish of Barby. In this capacity he pursued the non-payment of highway rates by six occupiers of land in Onley, by taking a complaint to a local Justice of the Peace. One of those involved was Richard Pittom.<sup>29</sup>

At the 1841 census, John was recorded as a grazier at *Westfield House*, with six daughters. Ann was not there that night and his wife had died in 1833, aged 41. John died in 1842 aged 54.

At the 1851 census, the family home was occupied by Sarah and Eliza, both recorded as 'annuitants'. On the night of the census, they had two visitors: Hannah and Howard Pepper. Hannah and three other sisters had married since 1841.

#### **ELIZABETH ELKINGTON** (1816 - 1900)

Elizabeth married **ZACCHEUS CHAPMAN ELLIOTT** (1812-1881) on 4 January 1847. They lived in the property on 'Davenport Road' owned by Zaccheus' great-grandfather Zaccheus Chapman in 1778.<sup>30</sup> Zaccheus was farming 105 acres with one labourer in 1851. By 1861 he had 57 acres and two labourers working for him. On census night in 1871 there were two young relations in the house: Eliza's daughter Elizabeth and Eleanor's son. Zaccheus died in 1881; at the census that year Elizabeth was living with Eliza's daughter Mary and was a farmer with 61 acres, employing one labourer and one boy. By 1891 she had retired and was 'living on her own means'; she died in 1900, leaving no children. [Elizabeth Elliott, sister of Zaccheus, married John Hart, grandson of Job Hart (1717–1797) and Mary Elkington (1714–1784).]

<sup>27</sup> NRO, YZ 5395

<sup>28</sup> TNA, CHAR 2/202

<sup>29</sup> NRO, D 1488 The others involved were: Elizabeth Berry of Onley, Thomas Wise of Barby, James Truslove of Onley, James Foden of Onley, and Richard Lee of Kilsby.

<sup>30</sup> Zaccheus Chapman was a more substantial landowner than either Edward Elkington or Job Hart. In 1798, he paid £3 6s 6d in land tax.

**MARY ELKINGTON** (1820 - 1886)

John's second daughter, Mary, married **EDWIN WILLIAM BARKER** (1814-1875), son of William Barker of *Pinfold House*, on 25 December 1843. Edwin was farming 76 acres with the help of two labourers in 1851, whilst his unmarried brother Samuel was farming 72 acres from his widowed father's house. At the 1871 census, Eliza's daughter Mary was staying with Mary and Edwin. Edwin died in 1875 and Mary was living on the income from her land in 1881. Like her sister Elizabeth she had no children. When she died her bequest of £50 to support 'five of the eldest and most deserving widows of the parish' was designated 'Mary Barker's Charity'. By 1901 the only Barkers in Barby were two unmarried sisters of Edwin and Samuel.

**ANN ELKINGTON** (1822 - 1895)

Ann married **RICHARD BETTS** (1822-1885) on 30 September 1847 at St Andrew's, Rugby. Richard was a cooper, the son of a grocer and tin dealer of Drury Lane, Rugby. In 1861 Ann and Richard were living at 25 Sheep Street, Rugby, with five children and a student lodger. By 1871 Richard was running a glass and china business in Sheep Street; they had a five-year-old daughter and a new lodger – 'a professor of music' - whilst their son Alfred was a pupil teacher.

In 1881 their two daughters were still at home. After Richard died in 1885, Ann moved back to Barby with her youngest daughter Ellen. Ellen married in 1892, three years before her mother died; she moved to Monks Kirby with her Scots farmer husband, whose parents farmed in Church Lawford. Alfred completed his training and settled in Hillmorton as a teacher; in 1900 he was an executor, with Thomas Pittom, of the will of his aunt Elizabeth Elliott. His brother Edwin was in London by 1881; he became a shipping merchant's clerk and married there. Mary married Charles Snewing, who was brought up on a farm in Watford, although his father was born in Brinklow; their son Arthur Elkington Snewing was killed in action in 1916. Edwin's son Sydney went through a long divorce suit, which was concluded in 1919.<sup>31</sup>

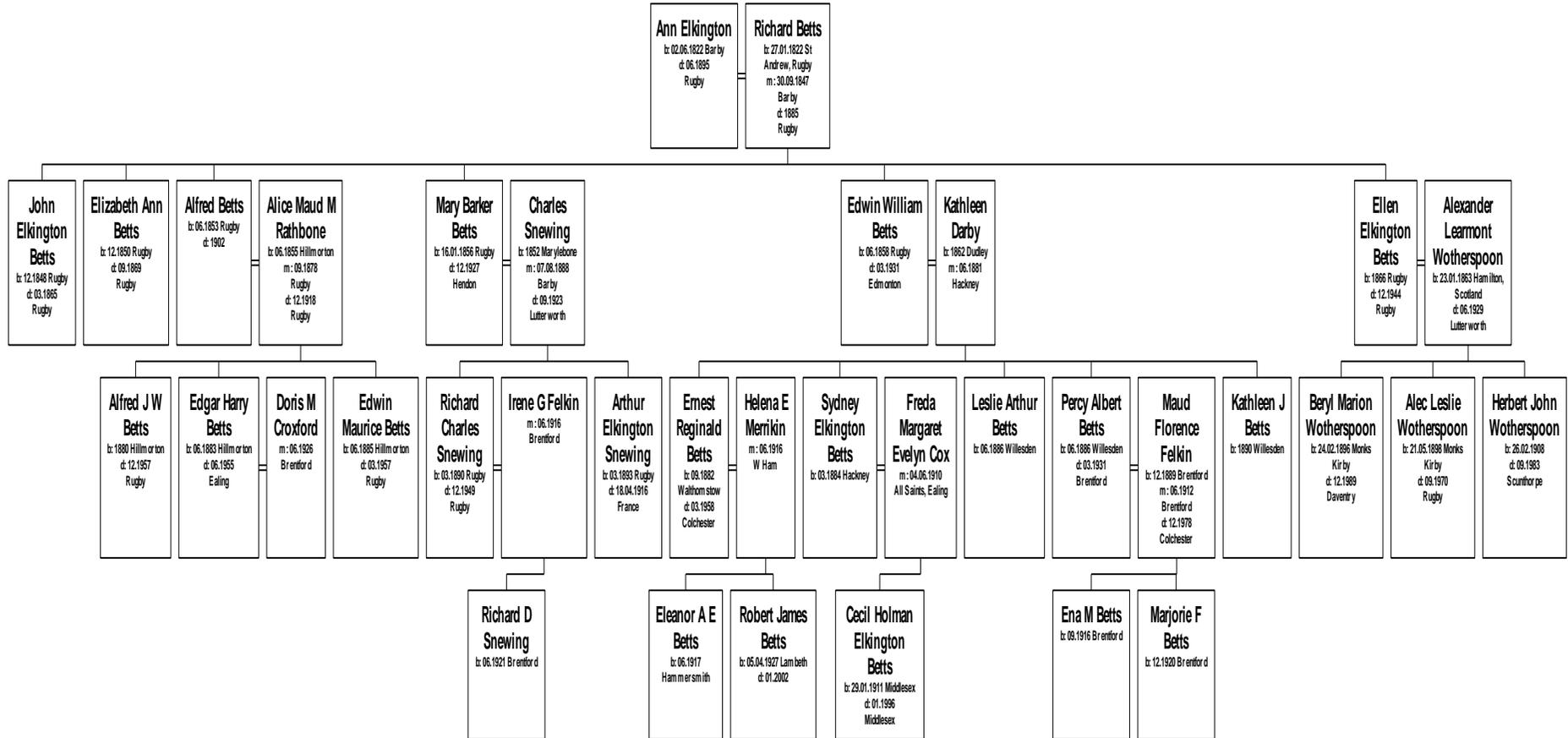
**SARAH ELKINGTON** (1827 – 1872)

Sarah Elkington married **BENJAMIN WEST CATTELL** (1828-1874) on 8 June 1852. He was from Swinford (Leicestershire), although his mother, Mary West, was from Crick. Mary West's sister Charlotte married Edward Hart, brother of the William Hart who married Sarah Elkington (1790-1844). Benjamin was farming 47 acres in Swinford, with the help of a 14-year-old boy called Job Crisp of Marston, in 1861. In 1871 he was working on his mother's 162-acre farm. He and Sarah both died in the 1870s, leaving no children.

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<sup>31</sup> TNA, J77/1258/8357, J77/1352/1392, J77/1452/4745

### Descendants of Ann Elkington



**ELEANOR ELKINGTON (1830 – 1855)**

Eleanor married John Prowett, a Leicestershire farmer's son, on 25 May 1854 in Barby. John was born in Swinford, where he farmed 172 acres with his brother in 1851, but he and Eleanor made their home in Gumley, where their only child, Thomas Elkington Prowett, was born in 1855. Eleanor died in May of that year, presumably during, or soon after, childbirth. Thomas has not been traced in British records after 1871, when he was living with his aunt, Elizabeth Elliott, in Barby.

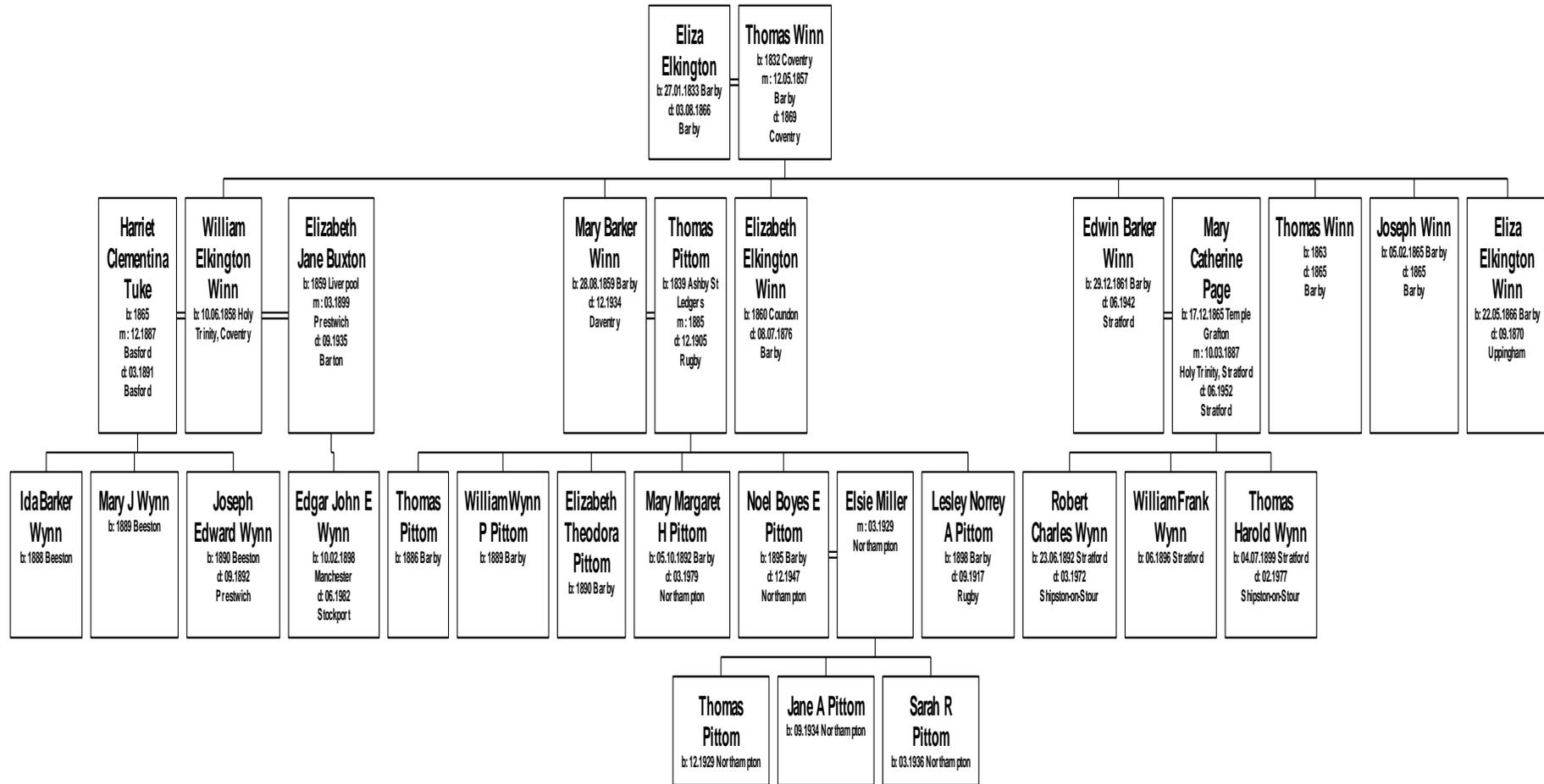
However, John had remarried in 1869; his second wife was Emma Bingley, a farmer's daughter born in Slawston, and the family, including two more children, emigrated to Australia, where Thomas appears on Australian census returns in the early Twentieth Century; he died in 1925.

**ELIZA ELKINGTON (1833 – 1866)**

Eliza was the last of the daughters to marry. She married **THOMAS WINN** (1832-1869) of Coventry on 12 May 1857. By 1861 they had three children, all born in Coventry, although daughter Mary was baptized in Barby, where they were living. Thomas was a cornfactor at the time of his marriage, but had begun his working life as an apprentice to his father, a maltster. In 1861 Thomas was farming 120 acres. Both Eliza and Thomas died before 1871, when their four surviving children were living with aunts and uncles: Mary with the Barkers, Elizabeth with the Elliots, and the two boys William and Edwin with Thomas' brother Joseph and his wife in Uppingham, where Joseph was an ironmonger in Market Place.

Elizabeth died young, but Mary married Thomas Pittom in 1885 and settled in Barby at *Ashleigh House*, with a family of six by 1901. William became a horse dealer; in 1881 he was living as a boarder at 42 James Street, Rugby; he then married twice, working as a bicycle maker in Beeston in 1891, but reverting to horse dealing in Manchester by 1901. Edwin also became a horse dealer, settling into a business in Hampton Lucy, where he had been living with his uncle William Winn in 1881 at *Ryon Hill Stud Farm*; his own business was at *Welcombe Bank*.

### Descendants of Eliza Elkington



**HANNAH ELKINGTON** (1825 – 1877)

Hannah's husband Howard, the son of John and Mary Pepper, was baptised in 1828 at St Michael's, Coventry. He and Hannah were married on 20 November 1849. Howard was a farmer's son but was working as a butcher in 1851 when he was visiting Barby. He and Hannah were living apart by 1861. Howard had moved to London and was living in a boarding house as a single man. By 1871 he was living in the Westminster Union Workhouse; he was still there in 1881 and died in 1885.

In 1861 Hannah was living with her brother-in-law John Prowett and his son Thomas in Gumley as a housekeeper. In 1871, after John had remarried, she was working as a housekeeper for John and Mary Jane Spencer, the licensees of the *Lawrence Sheriff Arms* in Church Street, Rugby; Mary Jane was the sister of Benjamin West Cattell, another brother-in-law. Hannah died in 1877 and was buried in Barby.

**WILLIAM ELKINGTON** (1792 – 1857)

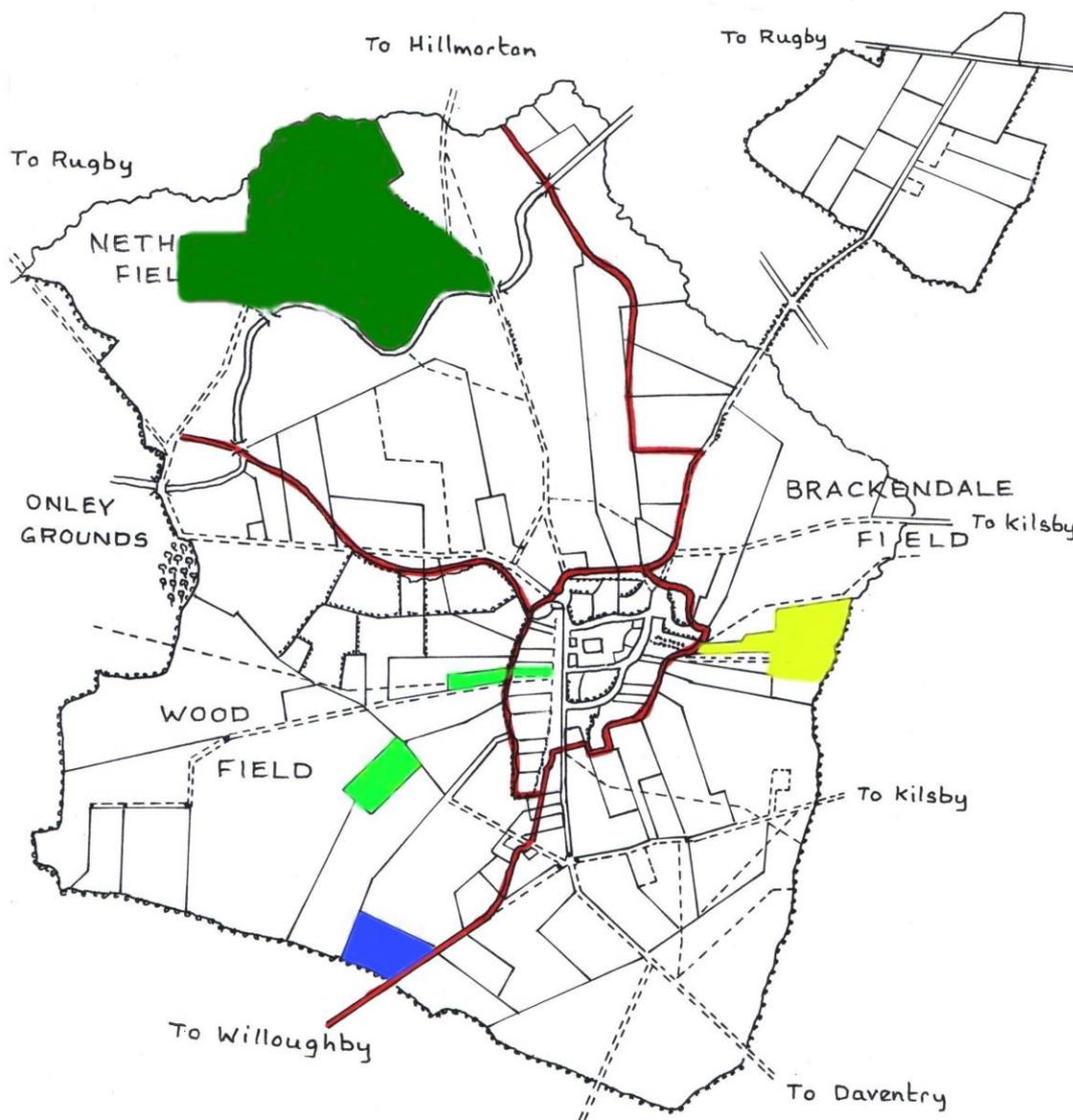
William Elkington, brother of John (1788-1842) and Sarah (1790-1844), carried the family name through to the Twentieth Century via his son **WILLIAM**, baptised in 1830. He also had a daughter, **SUSANNA**, baptised in 1821. He had married **ELIZABETH COLEMAN** (1798-1856), on 15 June 1820. At the 1841 census, the family of four formed the household at *Barby Lodge*. By 1851 Susanna had married; the remaining family of three lived in *Lodge House* with Joshua Coleman aged 11, a son of Elizabeth's brother Thomas, and John Barrett, a farm servant aged 17.<sup>32</sup>

In 1851 William was farming 123 acres, employing one labourer and two boys. At the time of the 1840 survey he was the tenant of 124 acres 12 perches at *Lodge House* owned by 'Rev Ch Williams'. Although William did not own the land he farmed, he was clearly a wealthy man: the NRO holds papers in the Bosworth (Highgate House) Collection which show that he had financial dealings with John Winns Abbott of Little Creaton between about 1825 and 1832. In 1825 Abbott was loaned £300, which was finally paid back, with interest, by the executors of his estate in 1832. The Osborn papers at NRO also refer to financial transactions with William Elkington between 1823 and 1825. He had, of course, received £400 from his brother in 1821.

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<sup>32</sup> Thomas' granddaughter Martha Coleman married Edward Thomas Clarke, grandson of Edward Hart and Charlotte West.

## LAND OCCUPIED BY ELKINGTONS IN 1840



- Land allocated to Edward Elkington in 1778
- Land allocated to William Burrows Elkington in 1778 (subsequently Edward's)
- Land acquired by Edward Elkington after 1778
- Land farmed by William Elkington in 1840

### SUSANNA ELKINGTON (1821 – 1882)

Susanna married **WILLIAM JOSEPH ELLARD** (1822-1894) of Willoughby on 7 February 1848. By 1861 they had produced six children and were farming 90 acres in Willoughby. In 1871 they had 142 acres, in 1881 150 acres. Three of Susanna and William's sons were farmers in Willoughby, Grandborough and Braunston. Their son John moved to Crick, where he was a butcher and grazier.

Their daughter Susan married Zaccheus Ellard, son of William Joseph's brother John and his wife Mary (née Elliott), who also lived in Willoughby.<sup>33</sup> Susan and Zaccheus lived at *Manor House Farm*, Sawbridge. Their son William Joseph was a member of the Northamptonshire Yeomanry during World War I. He died of influenza on 30 October 1918, after serving 2½ years in France. He was buried in Cremona Town Cemetery and is commemorated on the memorial window in St Mary's, Barby, together with his second cousin William Edwin Elkington.



### WILLIAM ELKINGTON (1830 – 1878)

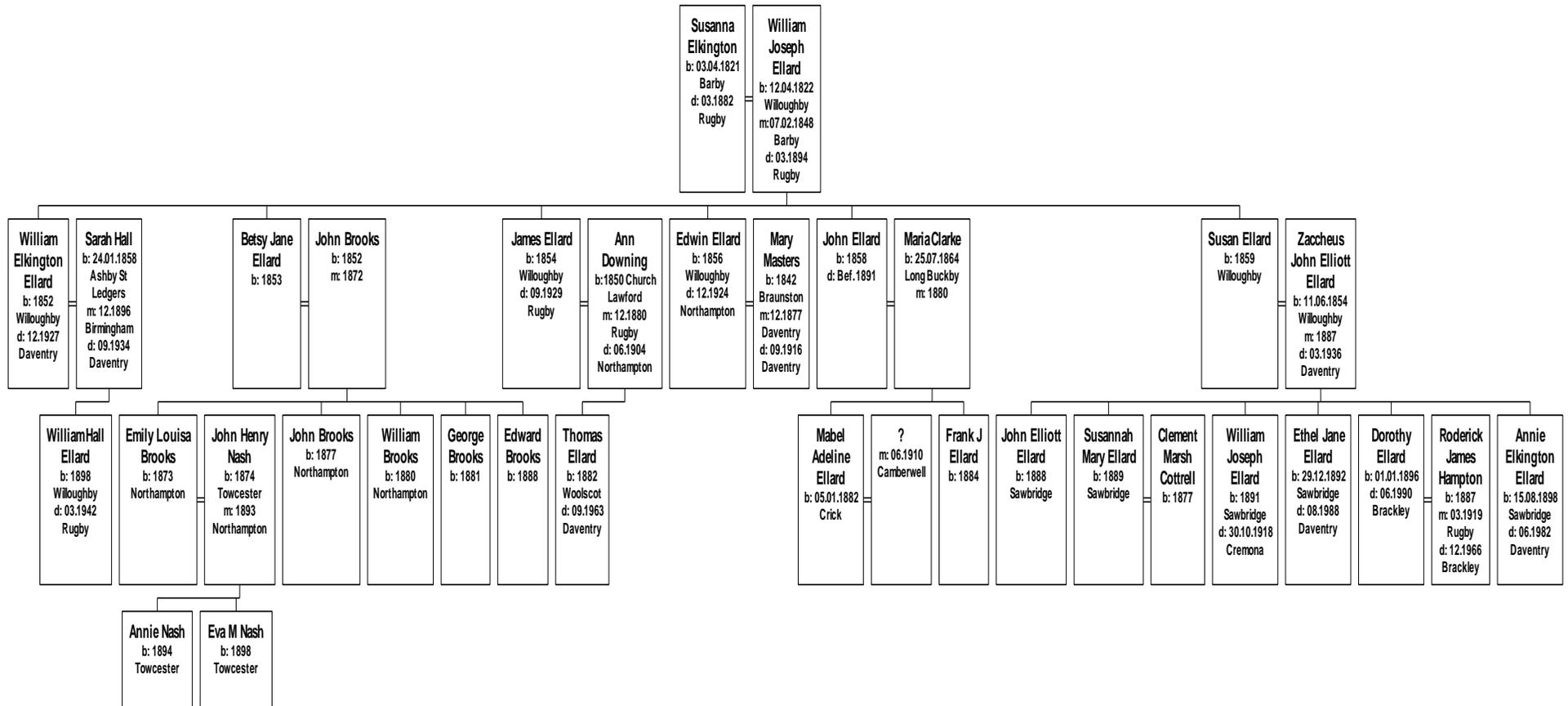
After the death of his parents, Susanna's brother William continued to farm 123 acres at *Elkington Lodge*, employing two labourers and one boy. In 1861 he was 30 years old and married to **ESTHER**, with a one-year-old son **WILLIAM**. Living with them was Esther's five-year-old son Edward More and two servants. William had married **HESTER RAINBOW MOOR** (a spinster with no recorded father) on 22 June 1858; witnesses were Richard Lee Coleman and Elizabeth Faulkner.

Esther was born in Kilsby on 14 February 1835 and baptised there on 5 February 1836 as 'Hester Rainbow Moor', the daughter of Thomas Rainbow and Hannah Moor. In 1841 she was living with her maternal grandparents William and Mary Moore (both nominally aged 55) in Kilsby. William was a butcher. Also living with them was seven-year-old Elizabeth Faulkner.

Esther's parents married a year after her birth, in Chilvers Coton, where her father died the same year; he was buried there on 17 August. His second daughter, Catherine Waitt Rainbow, born in 1836 at Chilvers Coton, was baptised at Braunston on 22 October 1836. Thomas's family came from Braunston and, in 1841, Catherine was living there with her uncle Waitt Rainbow; she was still there in 1851. Catherine married Henry Stevens at Shoreditch in 1856, then John Hollis at Shoreditch in 1868. She had seven children altogether before her death in Bethnal Green in 1904.

<sup>33</sup> Mary was the sister of Elizabeth Elliott who married John Hart, and Zaccheus Chapman Elliott who married Elizabeth Elkington. For details of the connections between the Ellard, Elliott, Elkington and Hart families, see *Barby & Willoughby: Family Connections* (Barby LHG, November 2021).

Descendants of Susanna Elkington



Esther's mother was married again in 1836, to John Middleton. In 1851 they were living with six children in *The Lodge* farming 8 acres, listed on the census return next to *Lodge House*, where her daughter's future husband lived. She died at the age of 74, after falling from a pony and trap.

By 1851 Esther had moved to Barby, where she was a servant in Hannah Riddey's household at *Old Crown House*.<sup>34</sup> There is no record of a baptism for her son Edward, although he is described as born in Barby on census returns. He was still living with his mother (and her husband) in 1871 but by 1881 he had married and moved to Leamington Priors (now Leamington Spa).<sup>35</sup>

In 1867, a survey of William's farm was carried out, listing the repairs and renovations needed. It listed broken doors and windows, collapsing mud walls and rotten thatch in both the farmhouse and the outbuildings, and missing gates and fences in the fields. The main farmhouse included a brewhouse, dairy, back bedroom, front bedroom and privy. The outbuildings included piggeries, a barn, stable, cow hovel and wagon hovel.<sup>36</sup>

At the 1871 census, William and Esther's family consisted of five boys and two girls ranging in age from 11 years to 5 months. **EDWIN** died, aged 10, later that year; and another daughter **MARY**, born in 1872, survived only weeks.



THE ELKINGTON FAMILY pre-1901

William      Esther      Edmund      Esther Rainbow      Joseph      Ellen      John Charles

<sup>34</sup> Hannah's son James was married to Rebecca Elliott, sister of Elizabeth, Zaccheus Chapman and Mary Elliott.

<sup>35</sup> The 1901 census lists Edward Moore, born in Barby, aged 47 years, living at 13 Oxford Street, Leamington Priors; together with his wife Fanny, aged 48; daughters Fanny A, aged 24, a waitress; Rose, aged 20, a barmaid; Ethel, aged 9; sons William A, aged 23, a fishmonger; Joseph, aged 21, a pork butcher; Percy, aged 18, also a pork butcher; Leonard, aged 17, a fishmonger; Ernest, aged 14, a butcher's boy; Berty, aged 5; and a boarder called Thomas Simmons, aged 15, a fishmonger; all born in Leamington. Edward himself was a cabman.

William died in 1878, leaving Esther a widow at the 1881 census, living with her six surviving children. Although **WILLIAM** and **JOSEPH** were agricultural labourers, they were no longer farming 123 acres. **JOHN** was a shoemaker, daughter **ESTHER** was a domestic servant, whilst **ELLEN** and **EDMUND** were scholars. Esther Rainbow was an agent for the *Rugby Gazette*.

In 1891 there were only three sons living with Esther, who had no listed occupation; Joseph was not at home. The household was recorded between those of Thomas and Mary Barker Pittom, and Job and Charlotte Hart. This suggests they were occupying 2 *Dodds Cottages*, where Esther was recorded as a retired laundress in 1901. She was not alone that year: living with her were her daughter, **ELLEN ELKINGTON** (1869-1953), described as a 'housemaid (domestic)'; and her son, **EDMUND ELKINGTON** (1871-1927), a bricklayer's labourer. Neither of these children has left a marriage record; and Edmund is to be found only in the photograph above.

### INTO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

#### ELLEN ELKINGTON (1869 – 1953)

Esther Rainbow died in 1912. It would seem that her place as head of the household was taken over by Ellen, because Ellen appears in so many of the surviving family photographs. She was a well-known figure in the Barby community of the Twentieth Century. She continued to live in *Dodds Cottages*.



Above: ELLEN at the door of 2 *Dodds Cottages*

Left: ELLEN in her garden – *Ashleigh House* in the background



Above: ELLEN with unknown visitors

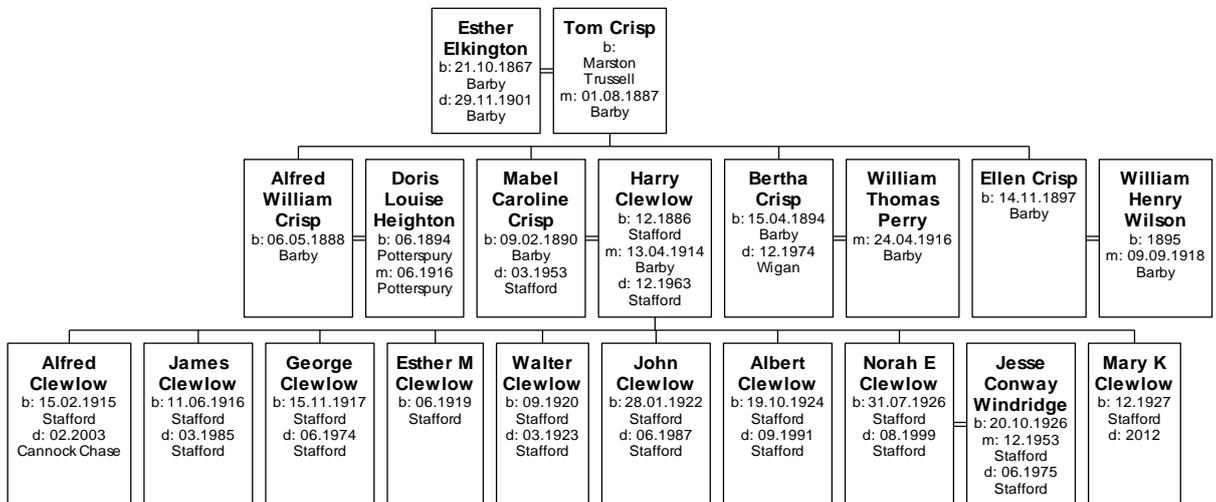


Right: ELLEN with Mrs Goodman (l) and Mrs Napier (r)

**ESTHER ELKINGTON (1867 – 1901)**

Ellen's older sister, Esther, did not enjoy a long life. She married Tom Crisp, a gardener and member of a Marston Trussell family, in 1887. In 1891 Tom was a groom and they had two children. In 1901 they had four children, Tom was a gardener, and they lived at Star Corner. Later that year, Esther died; Tom remarried in 1904.

**Descendants of Esther Elkington**



In 1911, the two eldest children (now in their twenties) were living with Esther Rainbow Elkington, her unmarried children Ellen and Edmund, and her widowed son William. Alfred was a butcher and Mabel a domestic cook. Ellen was living at *Westfield House* as a servant for Sidney Pittom's family.



LEFT: Esther Clewlow (1919-); RIGHT: Mabel Clewlow (née Crisp, 1890-1953)

Mabel's husband Harry was a decorator; his sons all joined him in the business.



ABOVE: Mabel Clewlow outside the family house in Stafford advertising Harry's business



ABOVE: Mabel and Harry Clewlow with some of their children in about 1922



RIGHT: The Clewlovs visiting Ellen in Barby:  
James (1916-1985),  
Mabel (1890-1953),  
Harry (1886-1963)

### **WILLIAM ELKINGTON (1860 – 1941)**

William and Esther's eldest son, William (known as Billy), was a farmer and publican of the *Black Horse Inn* in 1901. He was living with his wife **LUCY** (1847-1910) and a 7-year-old granddaughter **EDITH**, born in London. Described as a labourer at the time, he had married Lucy Haddon, as a bachelor, in 1893, the year of her first husband's death; he was John Pittom, the previous landlord of the *Black Horse*. Edith is most likely to have been the daughter of Lucy's son Thomas, who married in London in 1893.

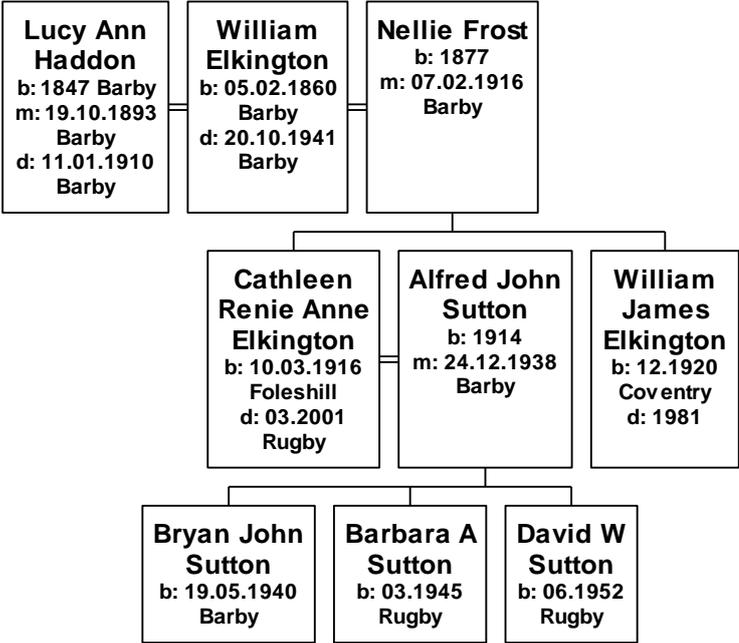
In 1916 William was a grazier, paying the Town Land Charity £9 17s 6d for half a year's rent, presumably for land. (In the same year 'Mrs Elkington' was paid 6s for 'knocking manure'.)<sup>37</sup>

Also in 1916, William married **NELLIE FROST**, the daughter of a Lilbourne butcher, with whom he had a daughter, **CATHLEEN RENIE ANNE** and a son **WILLIAM JAMES** (known as Jim). This marriage did not last and William spent his last years with his sister Ellen. Nellie married Albert Goode in 1944, after William's death.

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<sup>37</sup> NRO, ZB 1382/23

### Descendants of William Elkington



RIGHT: William and Nellie with their children

BELOW: A studio portrait of William





Above: another studio portrait of William; left: William with Ellen

### JOHN CHARLES ELKINGTON (1863 - 1948)

Although William and Esther's son John was still a shoemaker in 1891, by 1901 he was a postman, living at 2 *Cleaver's Cottages* with his wife **LETTIE** and four children. Lettie was the daughter of Edward Roberts, a widowed mole catcher in 1881, but a general labourer in 1891. Lettie's mother was Mary Ann Mawby; Edward's first wife, who died in 1871, was Letitia Cryer.

John and Lettie's nephew, George, recalled that John used to play his fiddle on Saturday nights at the *Old Crown*, whilst Lettie danced a jig, setting the pace for the customers.<sup>38</sup>

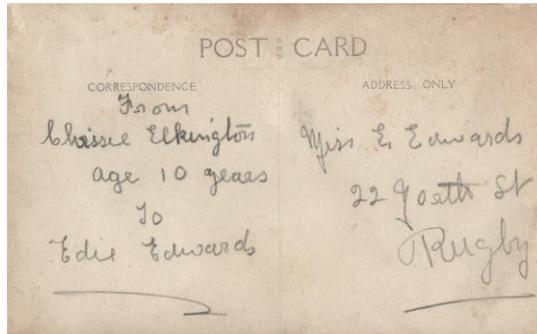
Although John and Lettie had eleven children, five of them died under the age of 30. **WILLIAM EDWIN** was 'driver 11137, C Bty, 78<sup>th</sup> Bde, Royal Field Artillery', when he was killed in 1916 and commemorated in Becordel Becourt cemetery and St Mary's.

Right: Esther



<sup>38</sup> Haywood, Marion, *Barby* (Barby: 1972)

In the same year, their daughter **CHRISSIE** sent her photo as a postcard.



Chrissie died four years later. Her sister **ESTHER** died two years after that. Esther was a domestic servant in 1911, living with the Sargent family.

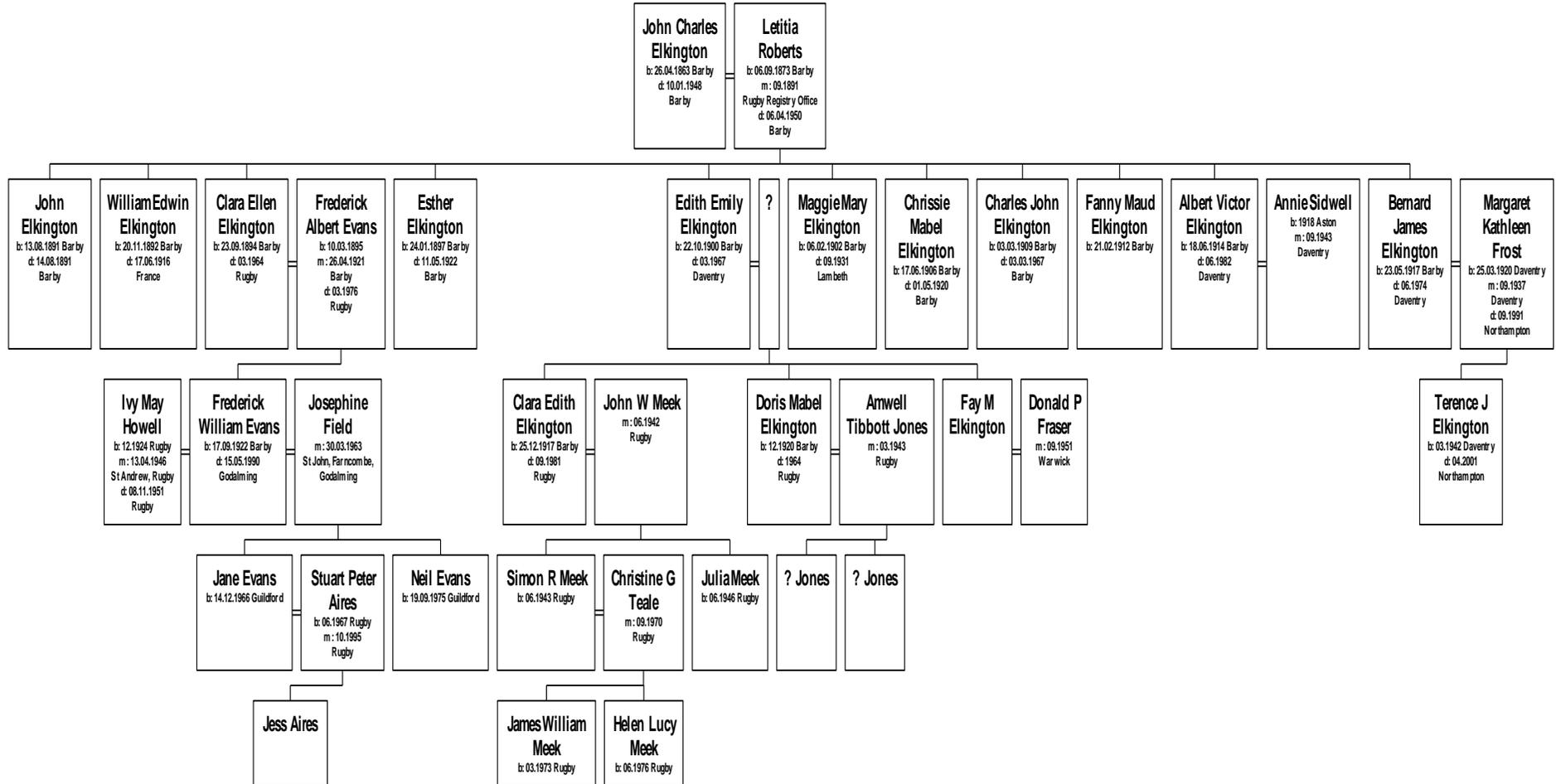
Their sister **CLARA ELLEN** married Frederick Albert Evans, the son of Nellie Frost's sister Emily. Their son Frederick William was known as Bill.

Below: Esther with her aunt Ellen and mother Lettie (née Roberts)

Right: Bill Evans with his parents Frederick Albert and Clara Ellen Evans



### Descendants of John Charles Elkington





**THE WEDDING OF CLARA ELLEN ELKINGTON AND FREDERICK ALBERT EVANS, 26 APRIL 1921**

BACK ROW: Florence Elkington, Charles Elkington, Clara Ellen Elkington, Frederick Albert Evans, George Elkington  
MIDDLE ROW: Albert Victor Elkington, Maggie Elkington, John Charles Elkington, Lettie Elkington, Bernard James Elkington, Unknown  
FRONT ROW: Fanny Elkington, Unknown/Clara Edith Elkington



ABOVE LEFT: Bill Evans in about 1926, in an unidentified field, possibly in Barby

ABOVE RIGHT: Bill Evans with his cousin Clara Edith Elkington and his grandparents John Charles and Lettie Elkington



**BILL EVANS' WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHS**

ABOVE: Marriage to Ivy May Howell in 1946, with Clara Ellen on the left and Fred on the right

RIGHT: Marriage to Josephine Field in 1963, with Fred and Clara Ellen on the left





ABOVE: The three daughters of Edith Emily with their husbands

Left to right:

Clara Edith and John Meek

Doris Mabel and Amwell Jones

Fay and Donald Fraser



This photo, taken outside Barby School in 1919, includes Charlie Elkington on the far right.

**JOSEPH ELKINGTON (1865 - 1933)**

In 1901, Joseph was no longer an agricultural labourer, but a joiner machinist. His wife was **FLORENCE**, aged 26, and his two sons were **GEORGE WILLIAM ELKINGTON**, aged 2, and **JOSEPH HARDY ELKINGTON**, aged 3 months.

Florence was born **FLORENCE HARDY** in Bradpole, Dorset, in 1874. Her sister Ann was born 2 years later. Their father was George Hardy, a gardener. Florence's son George believed his mother to be related to the novelist Thomas Hardy: both girls were born within a 25-mile radius of his birthplace, Upper Bockhampton.



In 1881 the two Hardy girls were living in Barby at the home of John and Jane Foster. They were described as daughters-in-law, because John Foster was Jane's second husband. Jane was the daughter of Richard George Dodd, a baker in Braunston, who moved to Barby, lived at *Ashleigh Farm* and built *Dodds Cottages*. In 1891 Florence's sister Ann was working as a domestic servant for the Malin family at the Braunston post office; Florence has not been traced in that year; she married Joseph in Barby in 1897; he was a bricklayer's labourer at that time.

In 1911, Joseph was again an agricultural labourer, working as a cowman at *Lindley Lodge Farm* in Nuneaton. The family was living in a four-roomed house.

However, the family moved back to Barby, where both sons married in the Nineteen Twenties. Joseph was again a labourer, now working for a bricklayer. They lived in *Shakespeare Terrace* on Rugby Road. Every year, at Christmas time, Florence would send her nextdoor neighbour, Mrs Weston, a Christmas card through the post. Florence died in 1939.



RIGHT: FLORENCE on the steps of *Shakespeare Terrace*, before the railings were taken for the War effort



LEFT: George William, Joseph, Florence, Joseph Hardy

This photo was probably taken on the occasion of Joseph Hardy's marriage.

### **JOSEPH HARDY ELKINGTON (1901 - 1964)**

Joseph was the first brother to marry. He married a Barby woman, **ELIZABETH FLAVELL**. At the time, he was working at BTH in Rugby. They settled in Hillmorton.

RIGHT: Joseph and Elizabeth on their wedding day in 1923



### **GEORGE WILLIAM ELKINGTON (1898 – 1981)**

Joseph and Florence's elder son George was baptised on 19 June 1898. He was thus old enough to be enlisted for service in World War I; he was serving in the RAF in 1918, before returning to Barby.<sup>39</sup>

George became a gardener like his maternal grandfather; he worked on the Ashby-St-Ledgers estate and, later, at Rugby School. On 30 October 1926 he married **DORA KATE EAGLESTONE** (1900–1981), the daughter of Jim and Agnes; she was one of at least six daughters born to the Eaglestones, who lived on the edge of Barby, on the Welton Road at the cottages now known as *Cleves Cottages*. Jim was born in West Haddon and Agnes was

<sup>39</sup> NRO, Barby Electoral Register 1918

born in Southam, but they married in Barby.  
George and Dora enjoyed being part of the village community.

DORA and GEORGE are Third and Fourth from the left on the back row



In 1937 George was a member of the village's Coronation Committee.



GEORGE is on the extreme left in the back row

When war came again, George joined the Barby Home Guard.

GEORGE is second from the right in the middle row



When the War was over and the villagers were offered the chance to buy the old prisoner-of-war camp to convert into a village hall, George was at the forefront of the campaign to raise sufficient funds. At the meeting held to discuss the way forward, George was able to hand over £10 from the British Legion and offered a personal loan of £100. He was a founding member of the Village Hall Committee.<sup>40</sup>

DORA (second from right) helping to celebrate 25 years of Barby Women's Institute in 1952



DORA (on left) helping to celebrate 50 years of Barby Women's Institute in 1977

RIGHT: GEORGE with Mrs Goodman, Mary Swingler and her brother on the day of his christening in 1940

This photo was taken in the garden of *Bosworth Cottage*, where George and Dora lived in as gardener and house-keeper. The Swinglers lived next door and Mrs Goodman lived in Kilsby Road.



Neither Joseph nor George left any descendants. Thus George was the last of the Barby Elkingtons.

<sup>40</sup> NRO, Barby Parish Meeting Minutes, February 1950



## LEGACY OF THE ELKINGTON FAMILY

For more than 400 years there were Elkingtons in Barby. From at least the Eighteenth Century they formed one of the families which dominated the land-owning section of the local community, by intermarrying with the Harts, the Elliotts, the Ellards and the Pittoms. But by the mid-Nineteenth Century there were no land-owning Elkingtons and, by the end of the Twentieth, the family had disappeared completely.

Nevertheless, their name remains: there is still an Elkington Lane. And there is an Elkington Shield to be won annually at the Gardening Club's show: an apt reminder of the last of the Barby Elkingtons, the much-loved



George William Elkington (1898-1981).

