

Preston's from Goole, Yorkshire, England

by

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## Notes for William Henry PRESTON

Farm Histories

Wm Henry Preston

Lot 3 Concession 20

Wm. Henry Preston was born June 9, 1911, near Rawcliffe, England. He was married to Charlotte Hodgson in Tickhill, Yorkshire June 4, 1830. Several of their children were born in England.

Between 1839 and the early 1840's Mr. & Mrs. Henry Preston and family came to Canada apparently spending a short time near York (Toronto) where their daughter Hannah died at the age of 12, and was buried at Carter's Church, Toronto Township. Shortly afterwards, the family moved to the Township of Woolwich near Elora, Ontario. The also had three sons, Charles, George and Joseph.

At Elora he engaged in the manufacture of brick. His brickyard was near the present C.N.R. station. Many old homes and stores in Elora and Guelph were built with brick from Henry Preston's brickyard.

In the year 1851, Henry's wife Charotte died and was buried in a cemetery at Elora English Church. Later, Henry Preston was married to Mary Ann Roadhouse in Pilkington, Elora, Ontario on May 29, 1855.

1864: One day Henry was in the Post Office at Elora where he saw a Government poster which was advertising cheap land to new settlers in the Queen's Bush, as Grey-Bruce counties were then known. He filed on a 100 acre tract of uncleared land, namely lot 3 concession 20, Keppel Township. One of Henry Preston's older sons, Joseph, came up a year ahead accompanied by his nine year old brother Mark to clear some land. They built a 2 storey log house and a barn on the east side of the lot. The only landmark left there is a very large old lilac bush, the original root having been planted by Henry Preston's wife Mary Ann when they first came to live up here.

Near the lilac are a few little shrubs remaining where the old garden once was. Near this was a tiny private cemetery which contains five or six graves. In the early days it was customary to have their private burying plots on their farms as there was either no cemetery or else it was too far away, and their only means of transportation was with wagons or on foot.

The following summer, after having disposed of his brickyard business, Henry Preston and his wife Mary Ann came with their family to their new home here.

It must have been a tiresome journey over rough roads with a slow team. The Preston team consisted of a cow and an ox.

They stopped in Owen Sound overnight in the Carlson House where the T Eaton mail

order has been. Part of their journey was over what was called a corduroy road. This consisted of logs placed crossways of the roadway across wet or swampy areas. Where the water rose, the logs would bob up and down as you drove over them. They came by way of Owen Sound, Kemble, Big Bay, or North Keppel to Oxenden, from there in a south westerly direction over an old wagon trail to the rear of their lot. The old wagon trail was visible for many years. This was part of the Indian trail that led in a south westerly direction to the road between Hepworth and Shallow Lake. The early settlers in the area went to Oxenden for supplies and mail. There was only a vast cedar swamp where Wiarton now stands.

Mr. Preston continued with the help of his family to clear land for crops. He was active in community and Church work.

His three sons from the first family left the area; Charles to northern Ontario, Joseph to Tottenham, George married and lived in Wiarton for some years and operated a shoe making business, later moving to British Columbia with some of his younger children.

A family of eleven girls and two boys were born to Henry and Mary Ann Preston -- Harriet Jane, Hannah, Mark, Kezia, Kezia II (Cassie), Martha Ann, Mary Matilda, Sarah, Henrietta, Louisa, Margaret Julia, Wm. Henry Jr, and Rachel died in infancy. Kezia was the twin of Mark and died at 1 year of age.

When Henry Preston died on Sept 26, 1882 and was buried in Oxenden cemetery, his wife Mary Ann became owner and continued to farm the land with the help of her son Mark.

In 1883 they built a new house of frame construction west and south of the old log home about the center of the lot. A well was dug near it, which is still in use after seventy two years.

Mark Preston was married to Rosa May Weare in Hepworth on July 28, 1884, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Elias Weare, Sr. Their children were Wm. Henry Torrance Preston, Joseph Cephus Preston, James Mark Preston, Bertha May Preston, Harold Mervyn, who died at two years of age, Charles Preston, Ella Louise Preston, Mary Rosetta Preston, a daughter Edith and twins - boy and girl - passed away in infancy.

Mary Ann Preston died July 23, 1909 and was buried in Wiarton cemetery, at which time the remains of William Henry Preston were laid to rest beside his wife, however the tombstone was left in Oxenden cemetery because someone had defaced it by carving a tramps name upon the back of it.

After the death of Mary Ann Preston, Mark and Rosa Preston and family continued to live on this farm in the frame house. In 1918 the present cement block house was built a few yards south of the old frame home which was taken down.

Rosa Mary Preston passed away on March 9, 1937 and was buried in the Wiarton cemetery.

Mark Preston died on November 23, 1941 and was laid to rest beside his wife Rosa May Preston in the Wiarton cemetery.

A frame hay barn was erected east of the house and stood there for many years. After the death of Mark Preston in 1941, his youngest son Charles Jr. became owner of the place.

Charles Preston and R. Eleanor Sims were married in Wiarton on July 3, 1935. They have three children, Eleanor June, Joan Marie and Ivan Gary.

The above information was written by R. Eleanor Sims Preston in 1957.

For many years a large elm tree stood as a sentinel near the south west corner of the home. Through the years, shrubs and rose bushes were planted. A young elm came up opposite the old tree and grew to a good size before succumbing to the dread Dutch Elm disease. Measures were taken to save the large tree but proved of no value so both trees had to be destroyed. In the meantime, cedar and spruce trees which had been planted bordering the house lot have grown large enough for shade and appearance as well. A large maple stands behind the house where a garden once grew. This tree was grown from a seed found on a street in Port Elgin about 1941. This once beautiful tree has twice or three times been damaged by heavy winds and had to have several limbs removed. A young tree grown from the big trees seed is now nearly as tall as its mother. Several lilac bush slips from grandmas old lilac bush grow near the house.

The old well has been replaced by a new well drilled by Wm Wright and son of Hepworth the fall of 1972. The drill went down 15 ft to solid rock and through 45 ft of rock to get a good source of excellent water. It is located about 6 or 8 ft behind the house and is pumped into the house with a hand pump. Meanwhile, the old pump remains idle in the back yard as a reminder of days gone by.

The children of Charles and Eleanor Preston all have their own families. Eleanor June married Leonard Gibbons Sept. 15, 1960. They live in Kingsville with their two children Mark and Wanda. Joan Marie married Albert Ichnis July 27, 1968 and live in Wiarton with their daughter Tonya Maria. Ivan Gary married Emily Akiwenzie Jan. 31 1970. They live on this concession on lot 13 with their three children, Jeffery, Jamie and Charlyne. (add Joseph.)

by Eleanor Preston Sept 9 1975

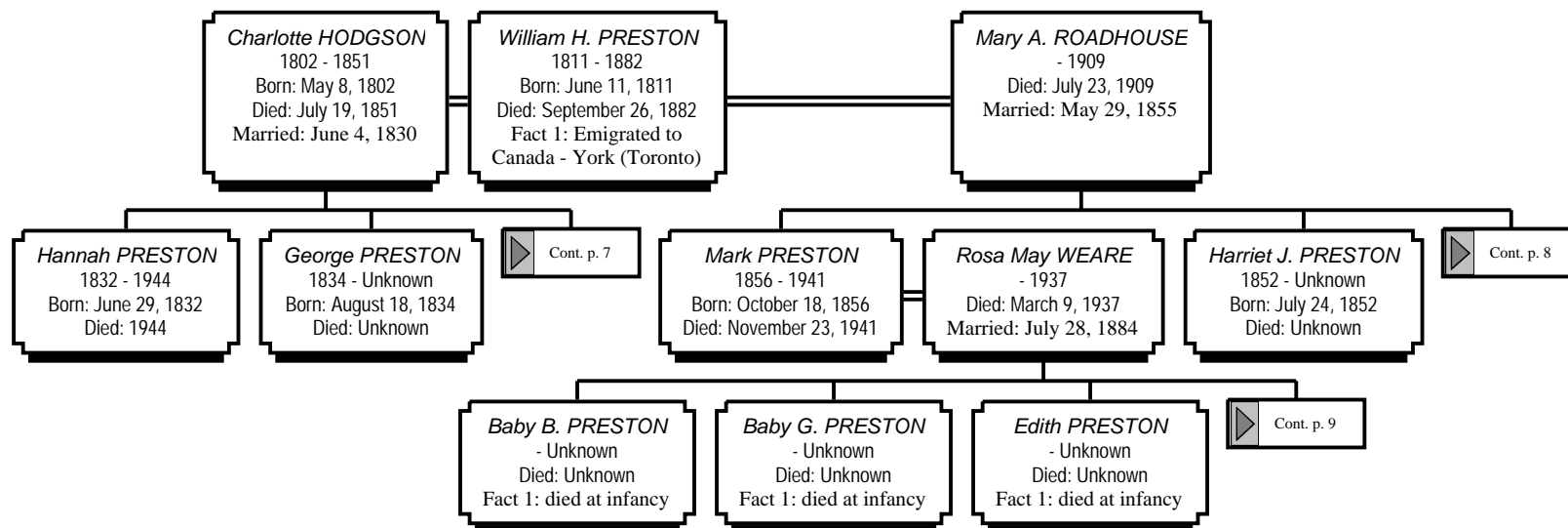
There was no lawyer in Wiarton. Many disputes which arose had to be settled by Mr. David Creasor, his lawyer in Owen Sound, as was the case when lending a helping hand to a neighbour who had a great deal of ill luck and the misfortune to lose his wife. Henry Presten offered the loan of a beautiful team of horses for which he had paid \$400 to help him put in his spring crop, asking in return only that they be pastured when the work was finished. When grandfather went to get them he found them locked in the stable and refused to give them up, entailing a law suit.

Grandfather always wore tails and silk hat to church on Sunday.

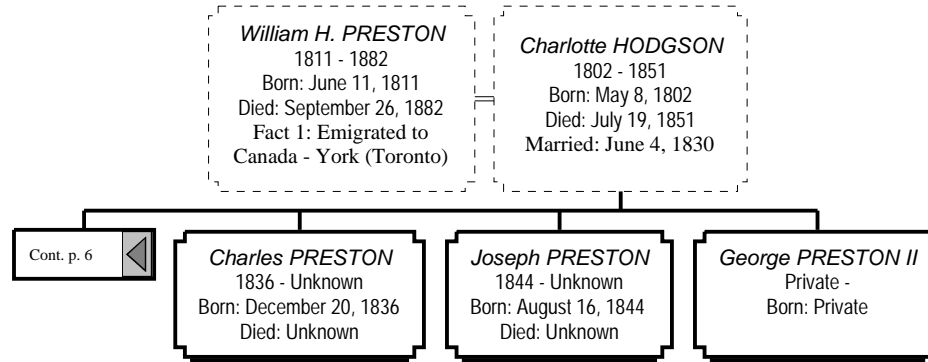
Leaving England ( ?? not confirmed ??)

At this time emigrants were not permitted to leave England without permission. When grandfather was walking along the wharf to the boat he was stopped by a policeman who inquired where he was going. Grandfather got on his dignity and said "I'll report you for insolence." The officer profusely apologized and grandfather went on his way.

Descendants of William Henry PRESTON

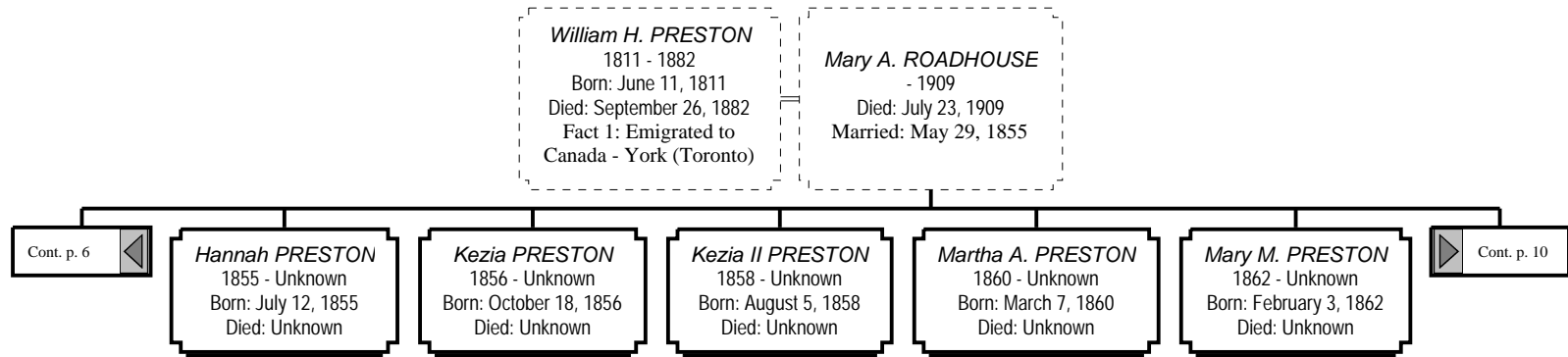


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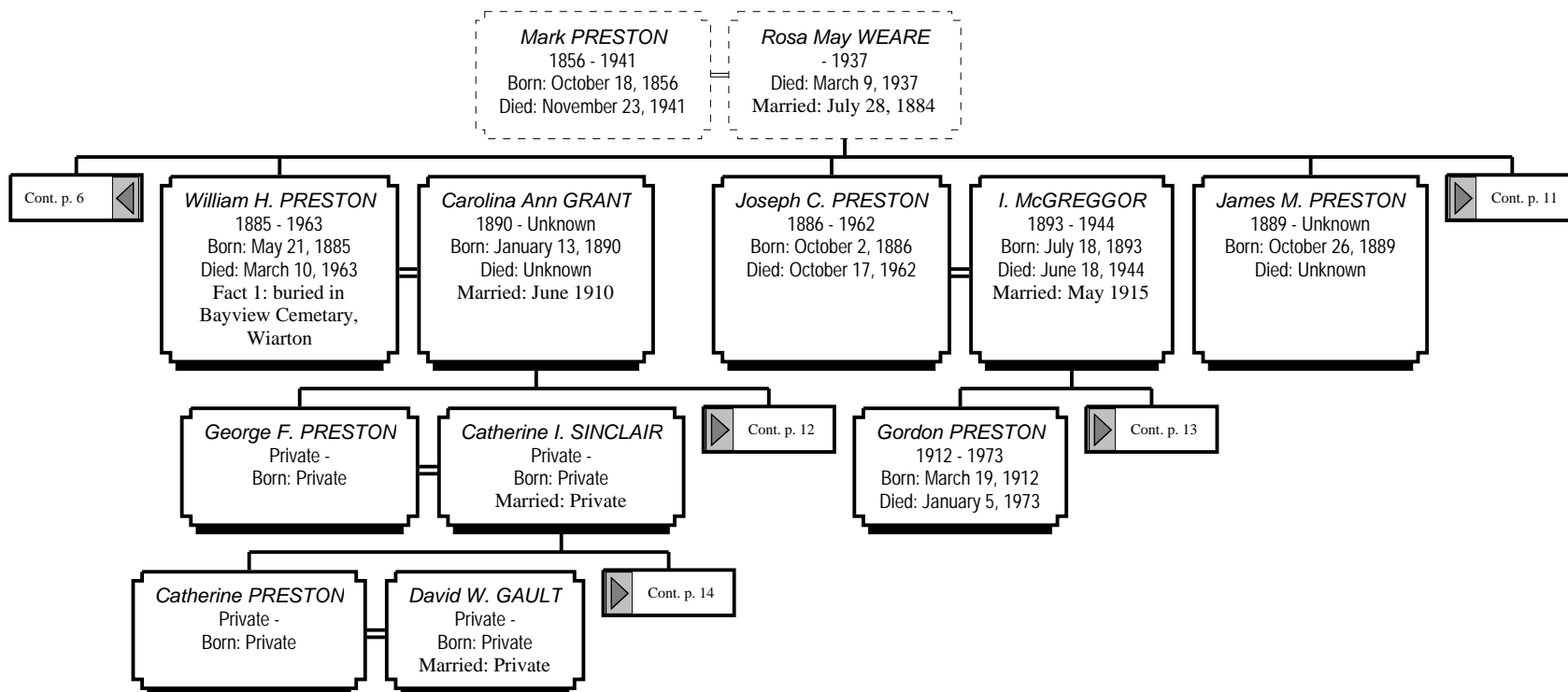




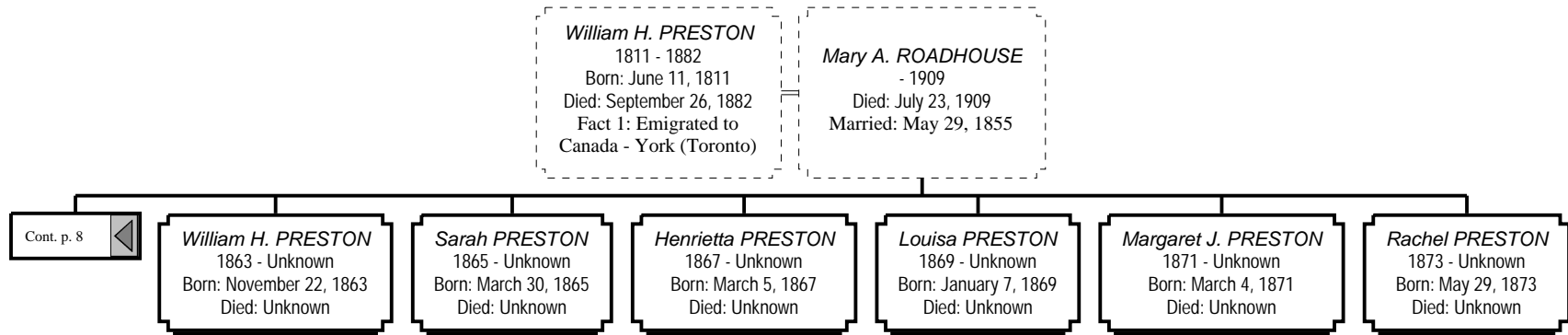
Descendants of William Henry PRESTON



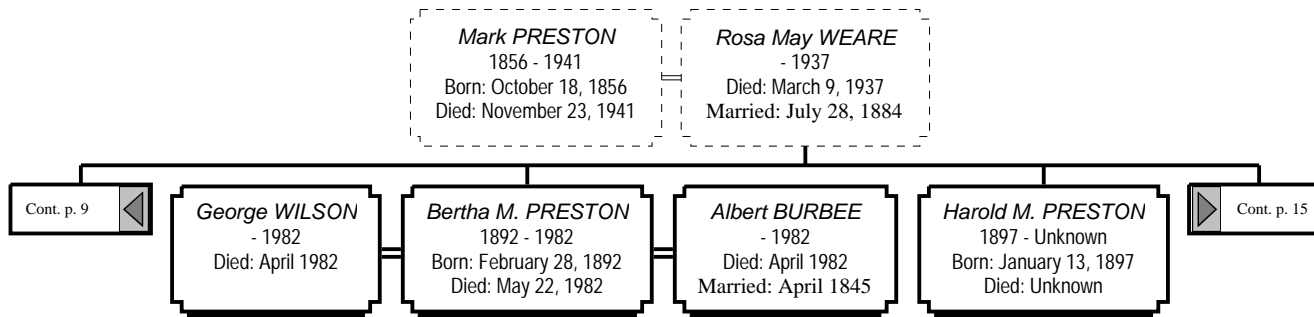
Descendants of William Henry PRESTON



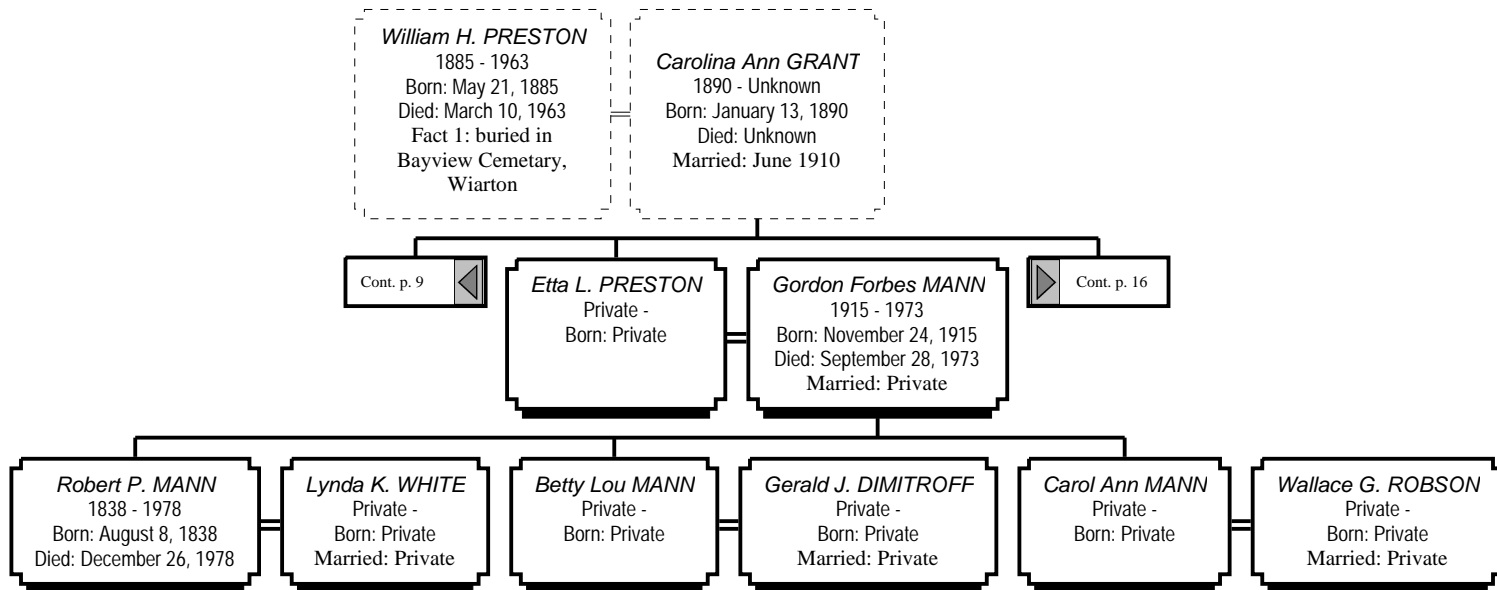
Descendants of William Henry PRESTON



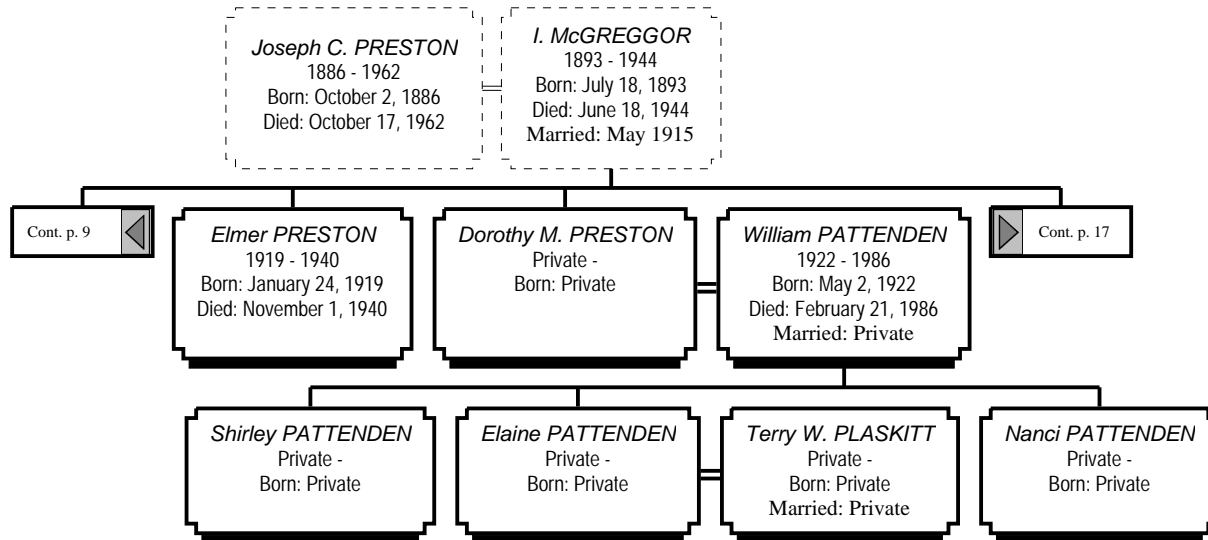
Descendants of William Henry PRESTON



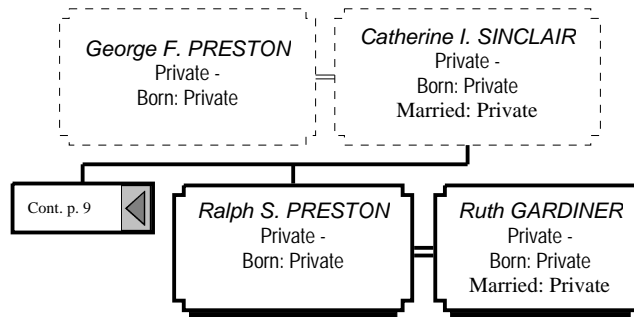
Descendants of William Henry PRESTON



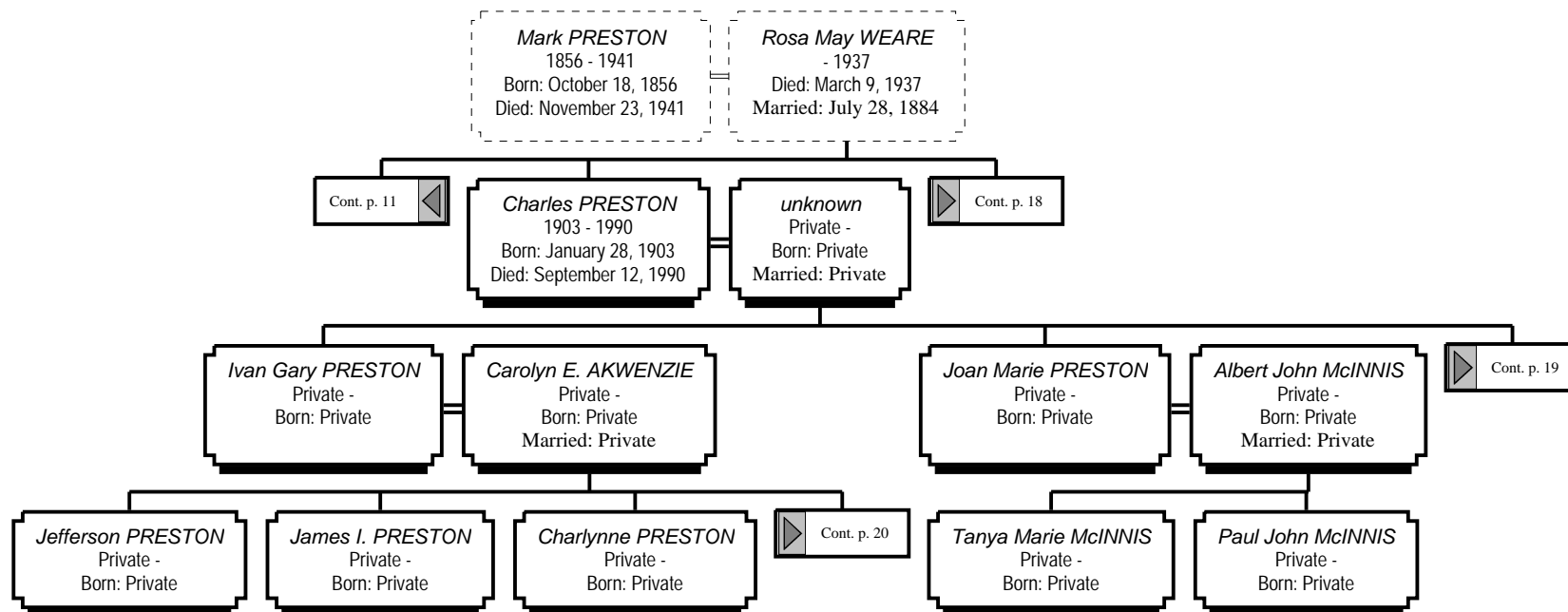
Descendants of William Henry PRESTON



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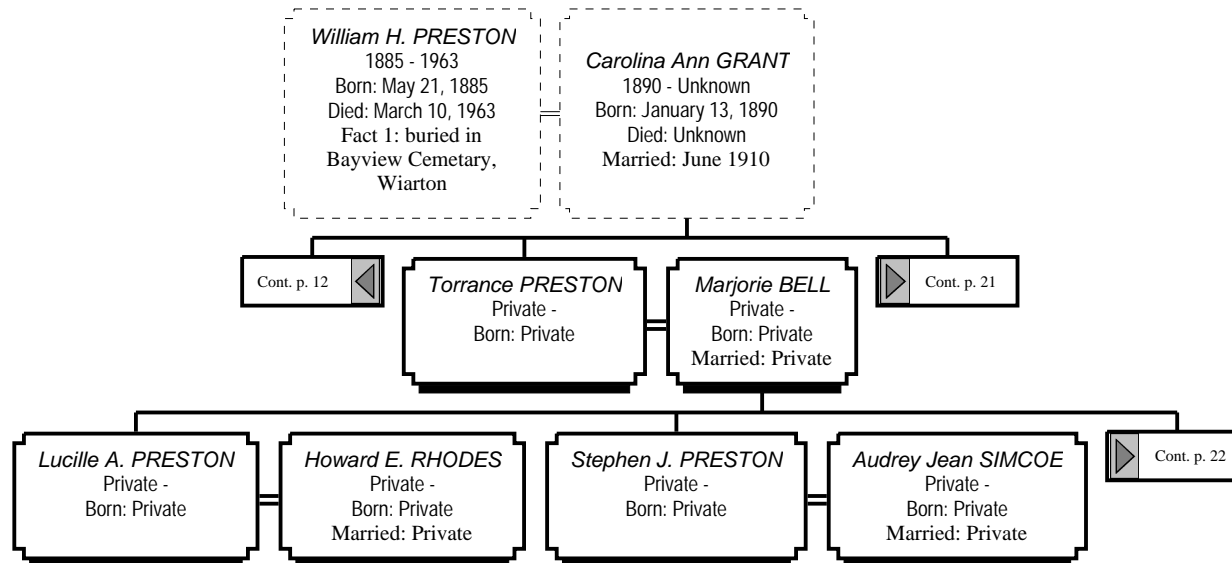


Descendants of William Henry PRESTON

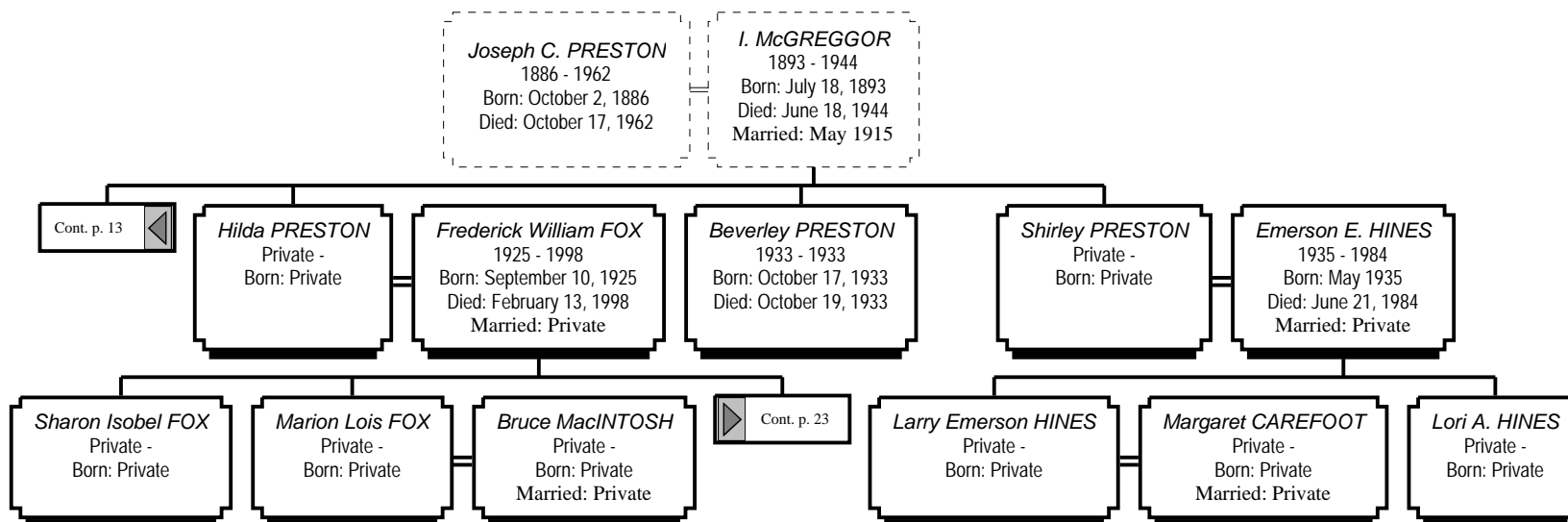




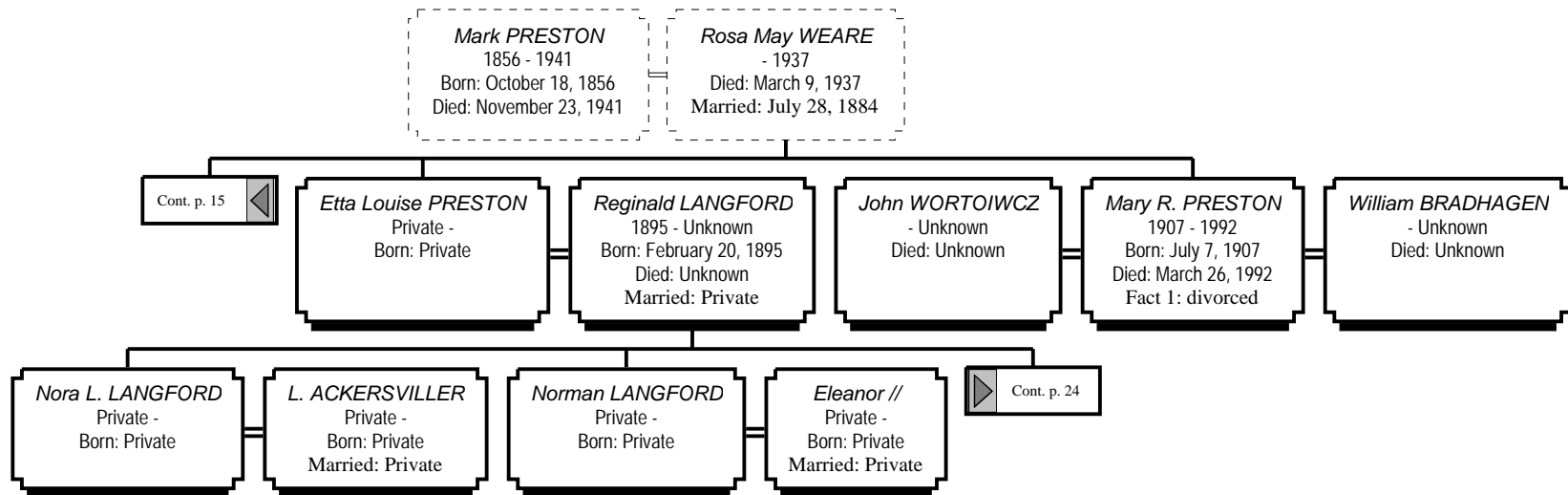
Descendants of William Henry PRESTON



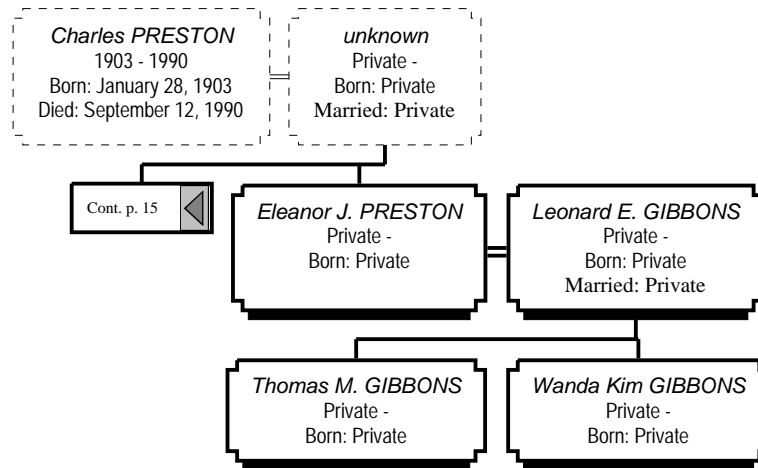
Descendants of William Henry PRESTON



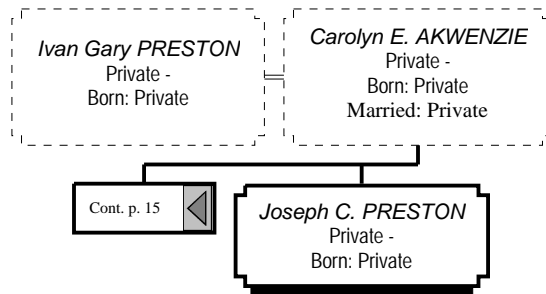
Descendants of William Henry PRESTON



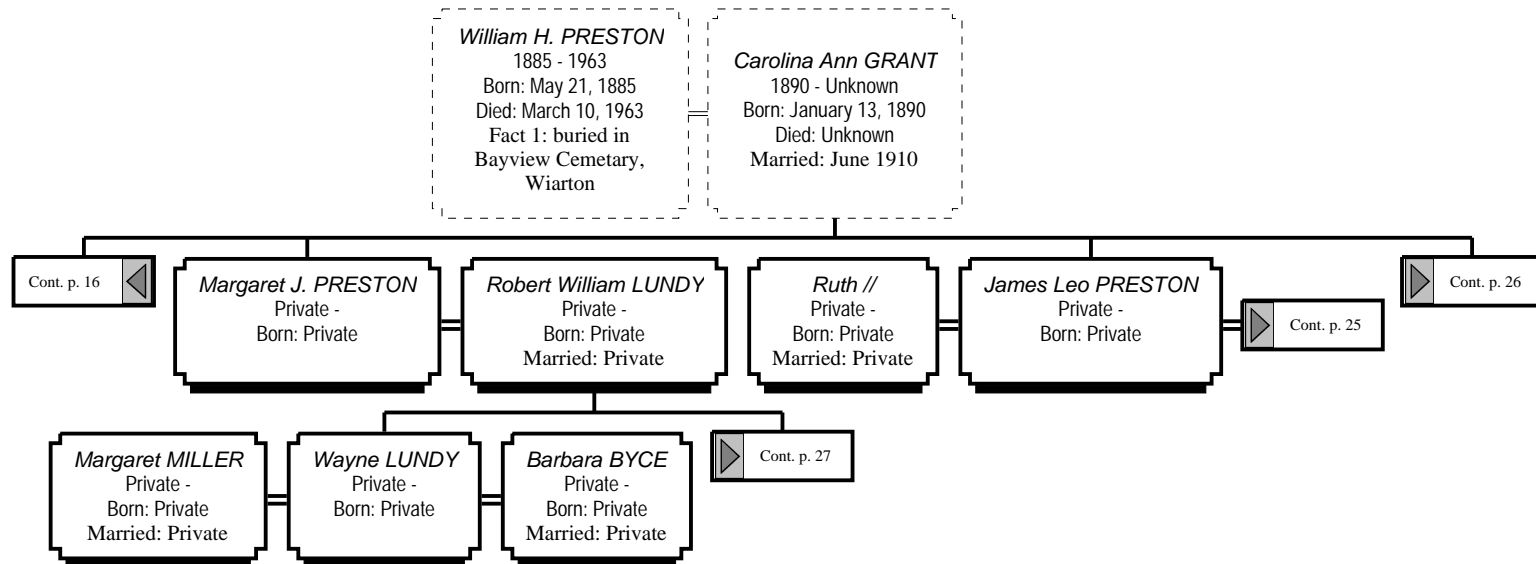
Descendants of William Henry PRESTON



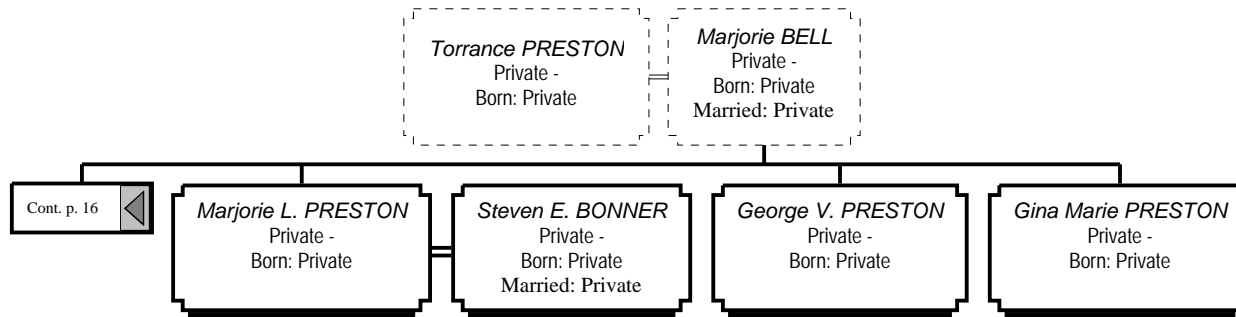
Descendants of William Henry PRESTON



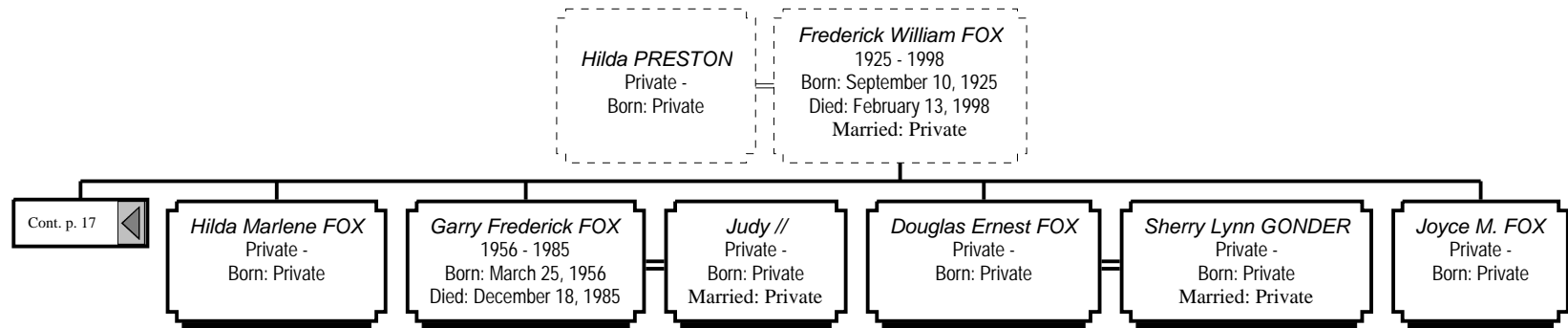
Descendants of William Henry PRESTON



Descendants of William Henry PRESTON

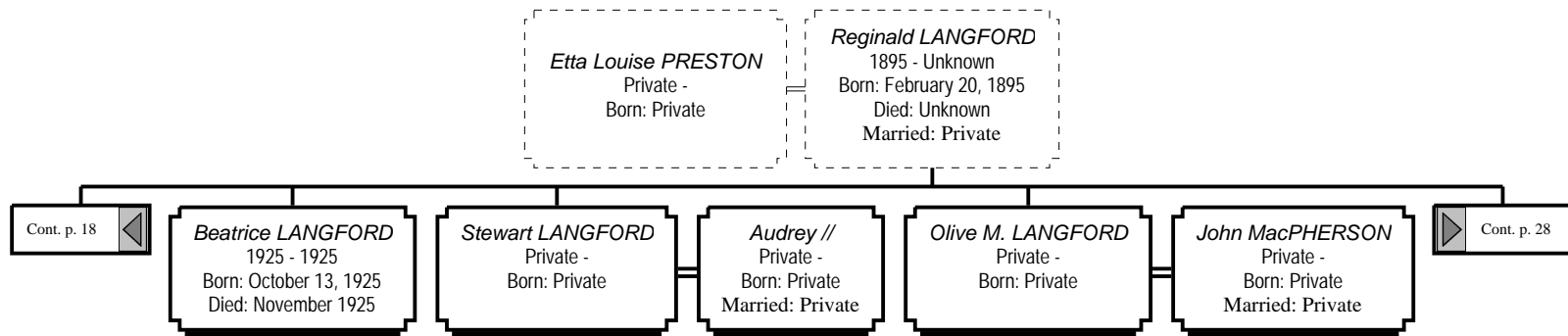


Descendants of William Henry PRESTON

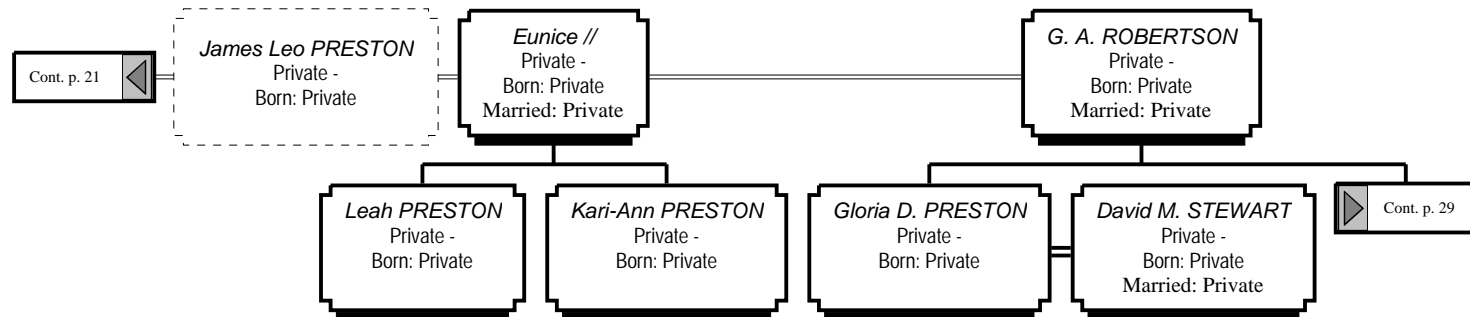




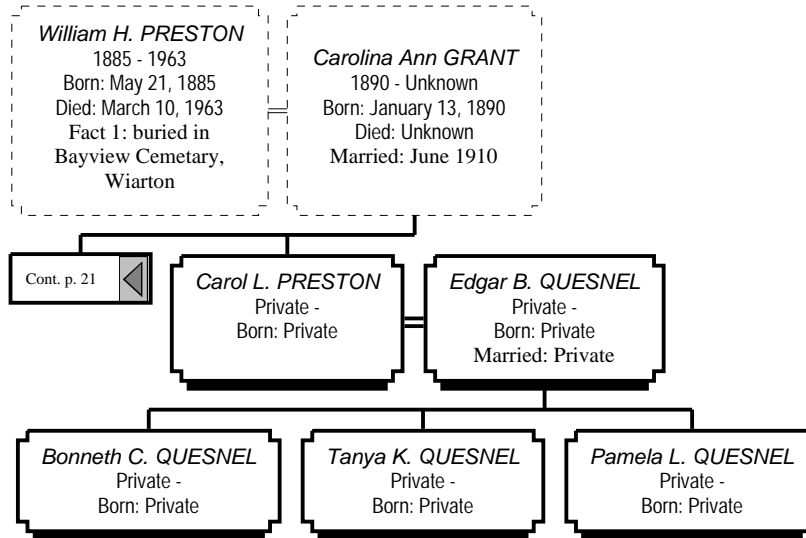
Descendants of William Henry PRESTON



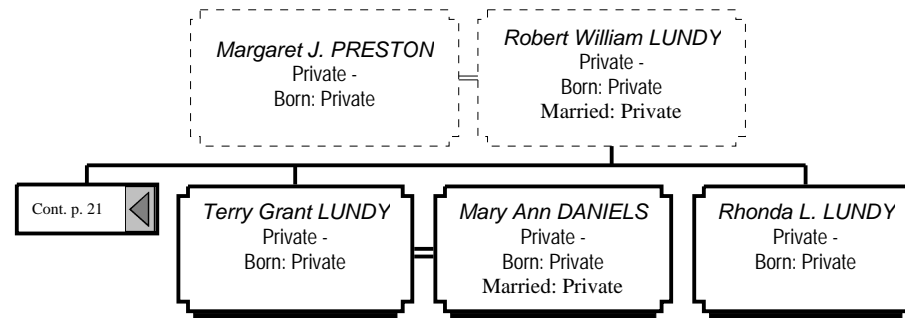
Descendants of William Henry PRESTON



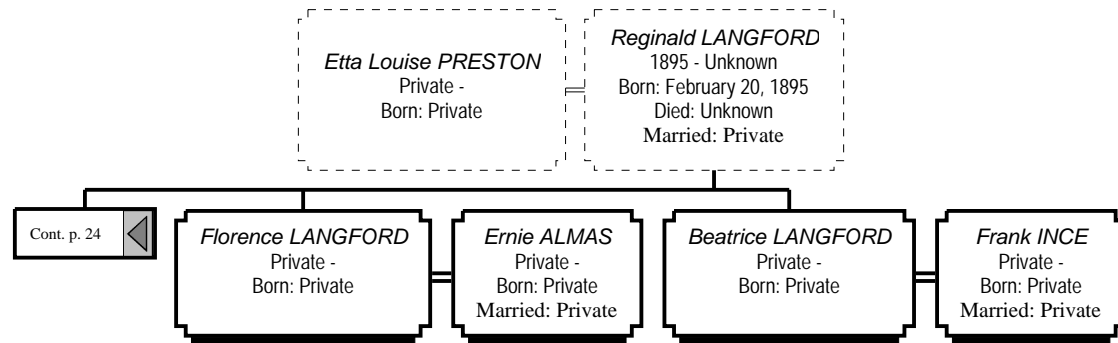
Descendants of William Henry PRESTON



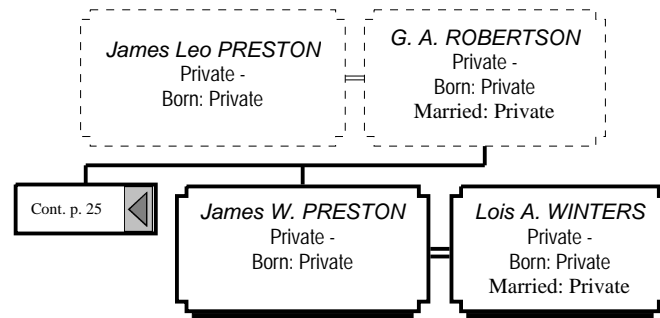
Descendants of William Henry PRESTON



Descendants of William Henry PRESTON



Descendants of William Henry PRESTON



## *Index of Individuals*

// -

Audrey: 24  
Eleanor: 18  
Eunice: 25  
Judy: 23  
Ruth: 21

*ACKERSVILLER* -

Lloyd: 18

*AKWENZIE* -

Carolyn Emily Dale Katherine: 15

*ALMAS* -

Ernie: 28

*BELL* -

Marjorie: 16

*BONNER* -

Steven Edward: 22

*BRADHAGEN* -

William: 18

*BURBEE* -

Albert: 11

*BYCE* -

Barbara: 21

*CAREFOOT* -

Margaret: 17

*DANIELS* -

Mary Ann: 27

*DIMITROFF* -

Gerald James: 12

*FOX* -

Douglas Ernest: 23  
Frederick William: 17  
Garry Frederick: 23  
Hilda Marlene: 23  
Joyce Marilyn Lynn: 23  
Marion Lois: 17  
Sharon Isobel: 17

*GARDINER* -

Ruth: 14

*GAULT* -

David William Lindsay: 14

*GIBBONS* -

Leonard Ernest: 19  
Thomas Mark: 19  
Wanda Kim: 19

*GONDER* -

Sherry Lynn: 23

*GRANT* -

Carolina Ann: 9

*HINES* -

Emerson Ernest: 17  
Larry Emerson: 17  
Lori Ann Michele: 17

*HODGSON* -

Charlotte: 6

*INCE* -

Frank: 28

*Jake* -

(name: William Howard PATTENDEN): 13

*Jeffery* -

(name: Jefferson John PRESTON): 15

*LANGFORD* -

Beatrice Elaine: 24  
Beatrice Eloise Mae: 28  
Florence Marie: 28  
Nora Lorene: 18  
Norman Howard: 18  
Olive Marion Dione: 24  
Reginald Beverly: 18  
Stewart Douglas: 24

*LUNDY* -

Rhonda Lenore: 27  
Robert William: 21  
Terry Grant: 27  
Wayne: 21

*MacINTOSH* -

Bruce: 17

*MacPHERSON* -

John: 24

*MANN* -

Betty Lou: 12  
Carol Ann: 12  
Gordon Forbes: 12  
Robert Preston Lowes: 12

*McGREGGOR* -

Isabella: 9

*McINNIS* -

Albert John: 15  
Paul John: 15  
Tanya Marie: 15

*MILLER* -

Margaret: 21

*PATTENDEN* -

Elaine Carol: 13  
Nanci (Nancy) Marie (aka: Nancy Marie Pattenden): 13  
Nancy Marie (name: Nanci (Nancy) Marie  
PATTENDEN): 13  
Shirley Diane: 13  
William Howard (aka: Jake): 13

*PLASKITT* -

Terry William Marshall: 13

*PRESTON* -

Baby Boy (twin): 6  
Baby Girl (twin): 6  
Bertha May: 11  
Beverley: 17  
Carol Laverne: 26  
Catherine Gail: 14  
Charles: 7  
Charles: 15  
Charlyne Emily: 15  
Dorothy Marion: 13  
Edith: 6  
Eleanor June: 19  
Elmer: 13  
Etta Lenore: 12  
Etta Louise: 18  
George: 6  
George Francis Orville: 9  
George II: 7  
George Vernal: 22  
Gina Marie: 22  
Gloria Diane: 25

Gordon: 9  
 Hannah: 6  
 Hannah: 8  
 Harold Mervyn: 11  
 Harriet Jane: 6  
 Henrietta: 10  
 Hilda: 17  
 Ivan Gary: 15  
 James Ivan: 15  
 James Leo: 21  
 James Mark: 9  
 James William: 29  
 Jefferson John (aka: Jeffery): 15  
 Joan Marie: 15  
 Joseph: 7  
 Joseph Cephus: 9  
 Joseph Charles: 20  
 Kari-Ann: 25  
 Kezia: 8  
 Kezia II: 8  
 Leah: 25  
 Louisa: 10  
 Lucille Annette: 16  
 Margaret Jean: 21  
 Margaret Julia: 10  
 Marjorie Lorraine: 22  
 Mark: 6  
 Martha Ann: 8  
 Mary Matilda: 8  
 Mary Rosetta: 18  
 Rachel: 10  
 Ralph Sinclair: 14  
 Sarah: 10  
 Shirley: 17  
 Stephen John: 16  
 Torrance Vernal: 16  
 William Henry: 6  
 William Henry: 10  
 William Henry Torrance: 9

*QUESNEL* -

Bonmeth Carolyn: 26  
 Edgar Bruce: 26  
 Pamela Lee: 26  
 Tanya Kathleen: 26

*RHODES* -

Howard Eugene: 16

*ROADHOUSE* -

Mary Ann: 6

*ROBERTSON* -

Geraldine Adelle: 25

*ROBSON* -

Wallace Gordon: 12

*SIMCOE* -

Audrey Jean: 16

*SINCLAIR* -

Catherine Irene: 9

*STEWART* -

David Murray: 25

*unknown* -

Unnamed: 15

*WEARE* -

Rosa May: 6

*WHITE* -

Lynda Katherine: 12

*WILSON* -  
 George: 11  
*WINTERS* -  
 Lois Alice Elizabeth: 29  
*WORTOIW CZ* -  
 John: 18