Book 7 - Chapter 1

The Elliotts of Devon and Oxford County
William Elliott and Eliza Rogers Family

Second Revision: April 2025

Preface: William was the second son and sixth oldest child of John and Mary Elliott. To review their lives in Devon, the trip to Canada and their life here, refer to
Book 1
The Devonshire Elliott/Seldon/Prouse/Hamlyn/Wilson Families of 1843 Ingersoll and surrounding townships

IRC – Ingersoll Rural Cemetery
Con – Concession

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Book 7 has been written in a slightly different manner. Where as in other books, all the family is included in a single book, the William Elliott family has been divided into chapters. The reason is that this family is my personal line and I have more information available to me.

Chapter 2 - 2 Son John Rogers Elliott and Eliza Rogers Family

Chapter 2 - 3 Daughter Mary Jane, Son William and Son Thomas and Elizabeth Hanson Family

Chapter 2 - 4 Daughter Mary Ann, Son Edwin and wife Ada Elliott Family

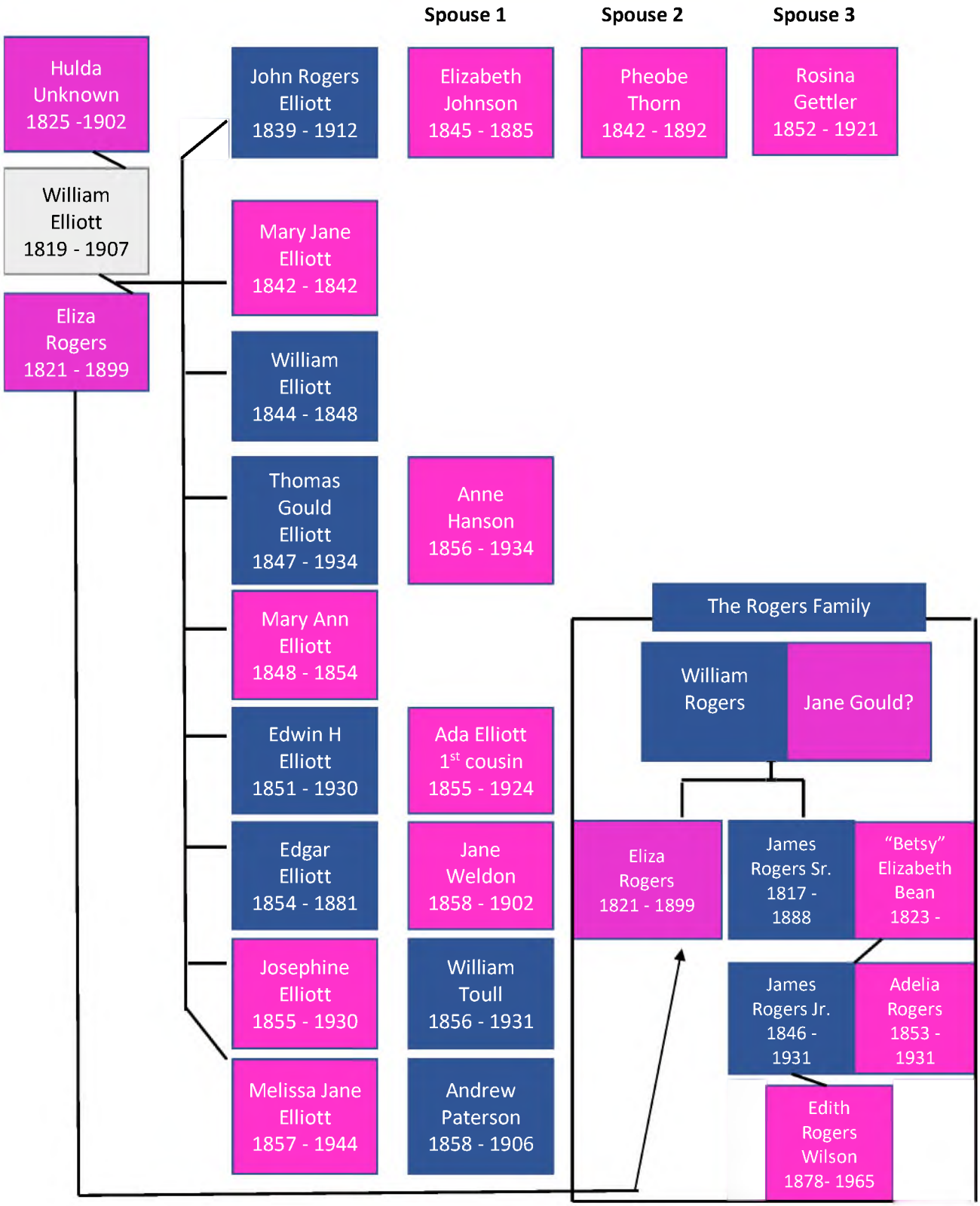
Chapter 2 - 5 Son Edgar Elliott and Jane Weldon

Chapter 2 - 6 Daughter Josephine Elliott and William Toule Family

Chapter 2 - 7 Daughter Melissa Elliott and Andrew Paterson Family

William Elliott Family Tree – Generation 2 and 3.

(Second son of John and Mary Elliott) & Eliza Rogers Family

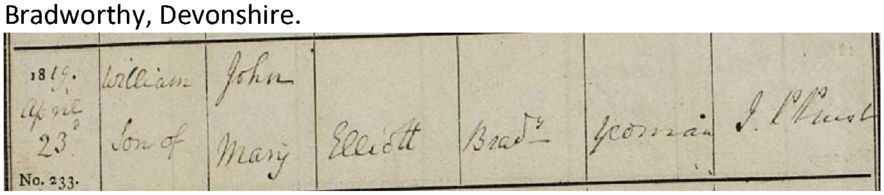


Sixth child of John Elliott and Mary Elliott

Child: William Elliott	B 04 April 1819 likely Bradworthy, Devon
	D 08 May 1907(est.)St Cloud township, Stearn Co. Minn. Burial location unknown
	M 21 Sept 1840 Marwood Parish, Devon
Spouse: Eliza Rogers	B 20 Oct 1821 Bridgwater, Somerset
	D 11 Apr 1889 Ingersoll, Ontario Buried IRC.
	M 1870 Alberta Township, Benton Co. Minn.
Spouse: Hulda	B March 1825 Upper Canada (father N Brunswick, mother born New York)
	D 24 Oct 1902 Sauk Rapids, Benton Co. Minn. Burial location unknown

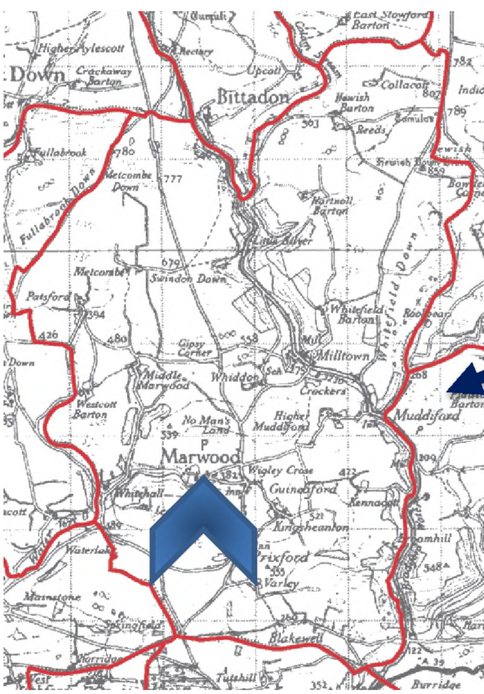
William Elliott is my great, great grandfather. Eliza Rogers is my great, great grandmother. Most of my research has been involved in tracking all of his generations of children. At last count there were over 270 direct relatives that I have found. As each generation appears, the more dispersed they become and the harder to locate. This is an ongoing search and my hope is that someday other relatives will update the search.

William led a controversial life. If every generation of a family has a black sheep, William would easily qualify. If it would be possible to go back in time to met your forefathers, he would be one that I would like to talk to the most. William was the second oldest son of patriarch and matriarch John and Mary Elliott. He was born 2 years after his brother John Jr. It appears he was born, as are the rest of the family according to cemetery and baptism records (below), in Hartland Parish and likely in the town of Bradworthy, Devonshire.



1819. April 23. No. 233.	William Son of	John Mary	Elliott	Brad^o	Yeoman	J. Plust

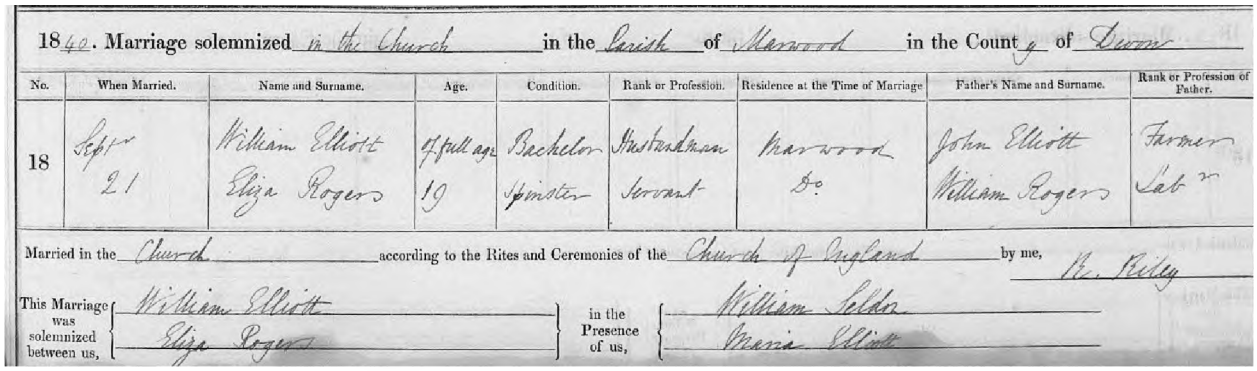
It can be speculated that the family moved 40 km east to Marwood Parish and likely to the village of Muddiford before living at the Prixford Barton farm. Tithe records of Marwood Parish indicate that the family was in the village of Muddiford in 1840 as seen in Book 1.



Marwood Parish (Prixford Barton and Muddiford noted).

Eliza Rogers and William's marriage was registered in the Devon Marriage Index as occurring in either July, August or September of 1840. The 1920 genealogy records and family bible held by his grandson Roy Elliott has the date as 27 Sept 1840.
Eliza Rogers and William Elliott's marriage was actually Sept 21, 1840. The witnesses were Maria Elliott and William Seldon. Maria was William's older sister. The other witness, William (alias Elliott) Seldon, would become her husband in 1841 and that couple would join the family in Canada in 1846. William Elliott was only 21 and Eliza 19 when they were married.

Eliza was listed on the marriage papers as working as a servant and William was a husbandman (farmer).



1840. Marriage solemnized in the Church in the Parish of Marwood in the County of Devon

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
18	Septr 21	William Elliott Eliza Rogers	of full age 19	Bachelor Spinster	Husbandman Servant	Marwood Do	John Elliott William Rogers	Farmer Lab^r

Married in the Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by me, R. Riley

This Marriage was solemnized between us, William Elliott, Eliza Rogers in the Presence of us, William Seldon, Maria Elliot

Children of William and Eliza Elliott

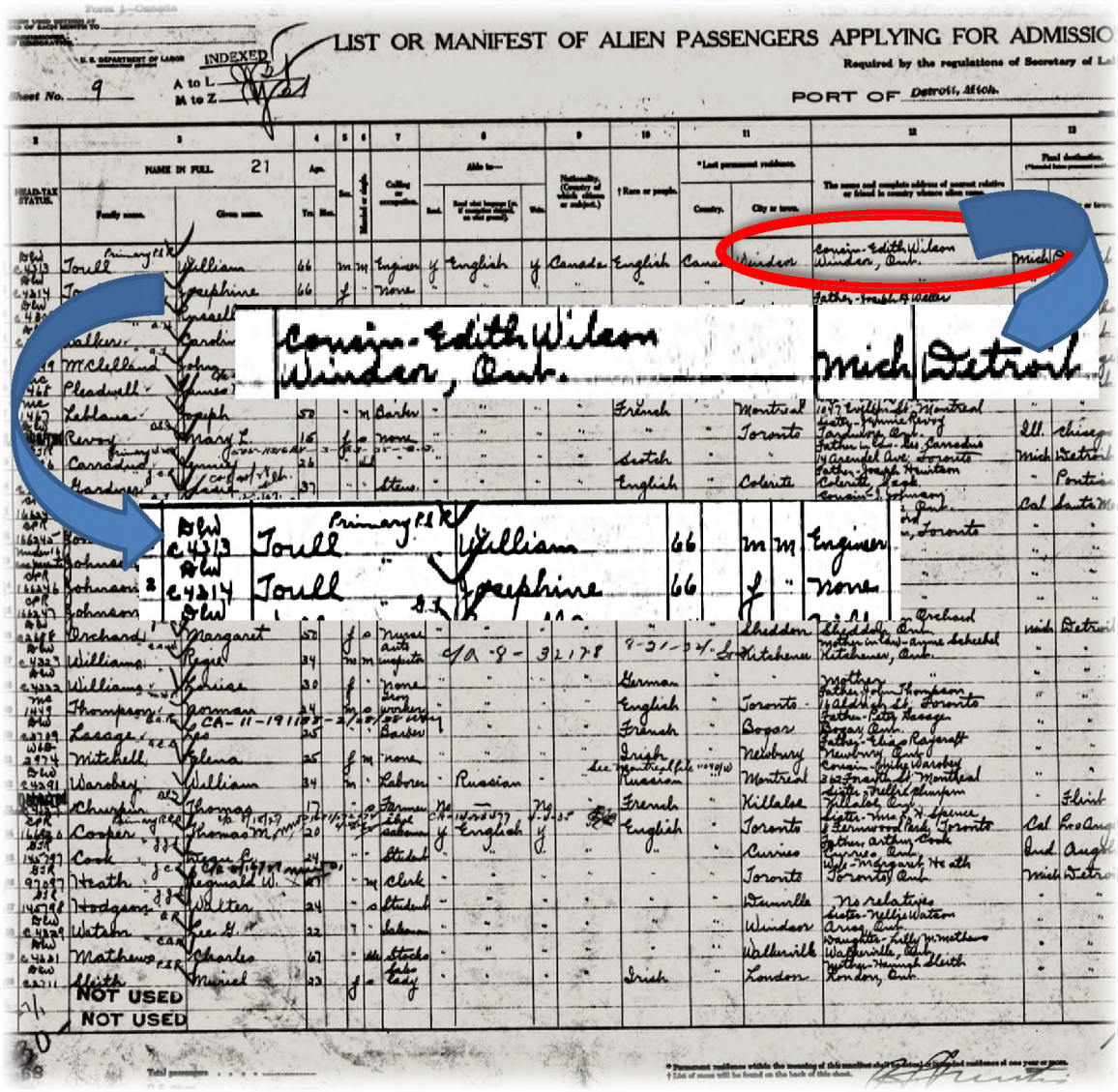
John Rogers *	B 23 June 1841 in Marwood, Devon D 15 Nov 1912 in Port Huron, Mi.
Mary Jane	B 13 Nov 1842 in Marwood, Devon * death date unknown but prior to spring of 1843. Death location likely Marwood, Devon
William	B 29 Sept 1844 possibly Scarboro, Ont. or W Zorra, Oxford County. D 17 Sept 1848 in E Nissouri township, Oxford Co.
Thomas Gould	B 29 Jan 1847 in E Nissouri township D 05 May 1934 in Ingersoll, Ont. Buried IRC.
Mary Ann	B 23 Feb 1849 in E Nissouri township D 28 Oct 1854 likely Oxford County.
Edwin Hamilton	B 20 Feb 1851 in E Nissouri township D 27 Apr 1930 in Ingersoll. Buried IRC.
Edgar James	B Oct, 1854 in E Nissouri township, Oxford Co. D 22 July 1881 in Ingersoll. Buried IRC
Josephine	B 12 June 1855 in Goderich township, Huron Co. D 06 Feb 1940 in Highland Park, Mi. Buried IRC
Melissa Jane	B 27 Sept 1857 in Goderich township, Huron Co. D 03 Mar 1944 in Hamilton, Ont. Buried IRC.

*My great grandfather

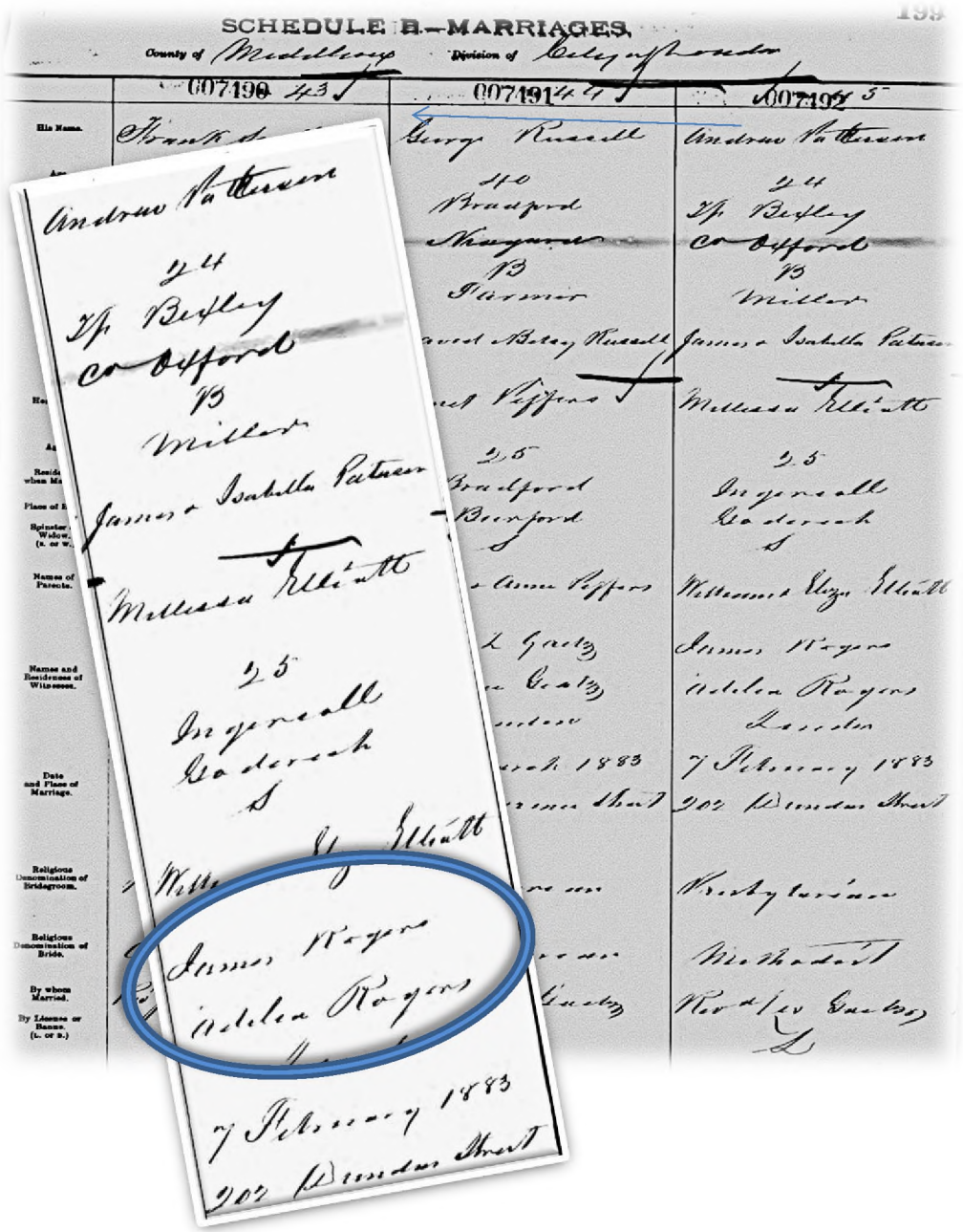
The Search for the Eliza Rogers Family

While researching members of Eliza and William's family, I came across two incidents where names appeared that I did not recognize but felt familiar. I was not planning on looking into Eliza's family tree but the initial clues led me down that path. I am confident these names helped me flesh out more of Eliza Roger's family. I had to backtrack through censuses, immigration and baptismal records to find Eliza's parents. Here is how the detective work played out.

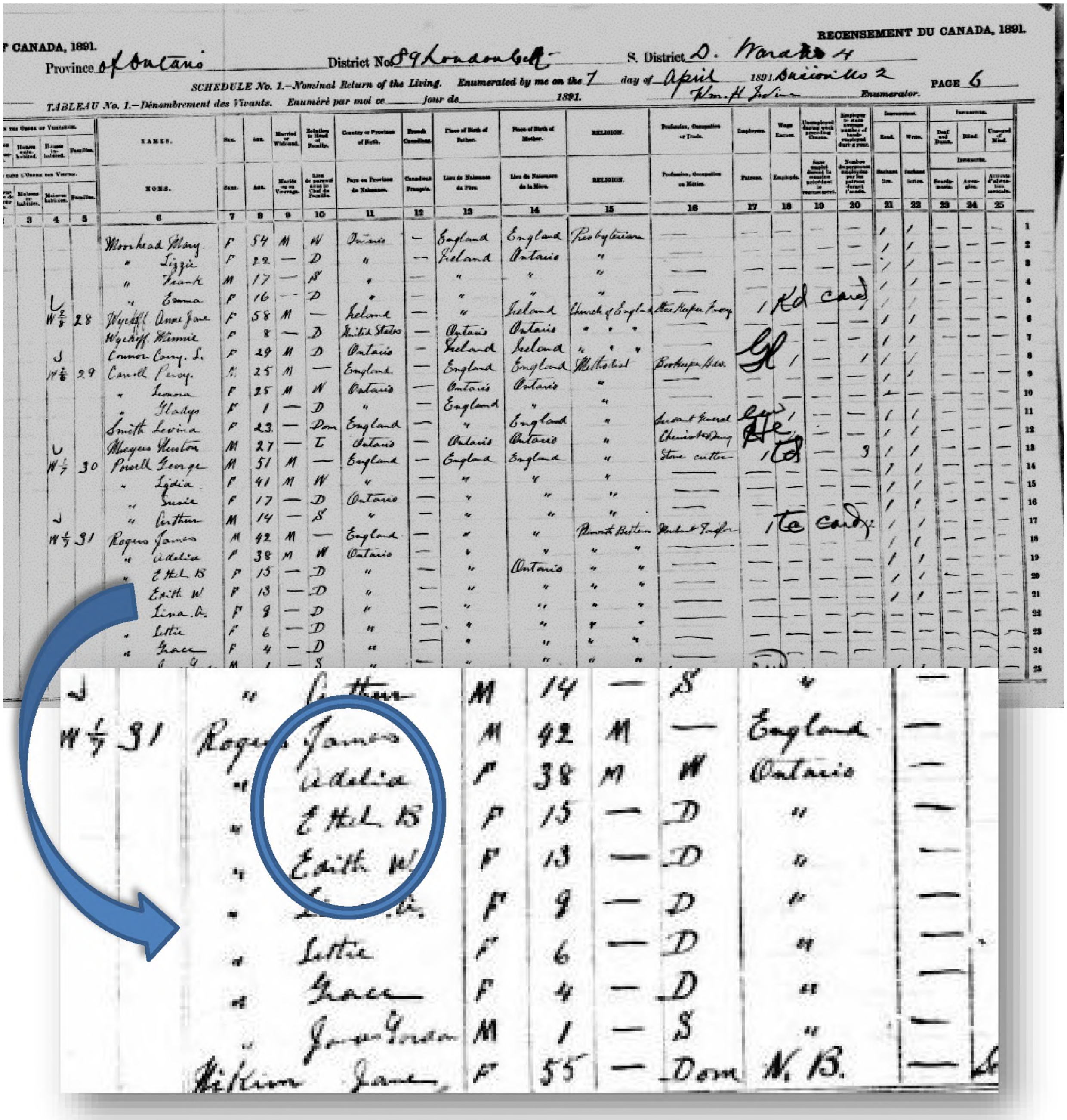
I was looking into William and Eliza's daughter Josephine. Her married name was Toull and she was crossing the border from Windsor to Detroit in 1916. The Canadian contact was given as an Edith Wilson of Windsor, Ont. Wilson is a common married name within the Elliott group (Book 5) but I had not run into an Edith before. The paperwork listed Edith as a cousin. (Manifest listing below).



I put that name on the back burner and continued my research. Later, I was investigating Eliza Elliott's youngest daughter Melissa. Her marriage information piqued my interest. The two witnesses were James and Adelia Rogers. This was interesting for two reasons. Eliza's maiden name was Rogers. Adelia was not a common given name and by chance or planned, Eliza's granddaughter by daughter Josephine had the same first name.



At this point, I felt some investigation was needed into James and Adelia Rogers. Melissa's marriage certificate indicated that the Rogers lived in London, Ont. It was not difficult to locate them in the 1891 census of London. The census had him listed as being age 42, that he had emigrated in 1865 and had a daughter named Edith – likely the Windsor border contact. This all fit to that point.



CANADA, 1891. RECENSEMENT DU CANADA, 1891.

Province of Ontario District No. 89 London City S. District D. Ward No. 4

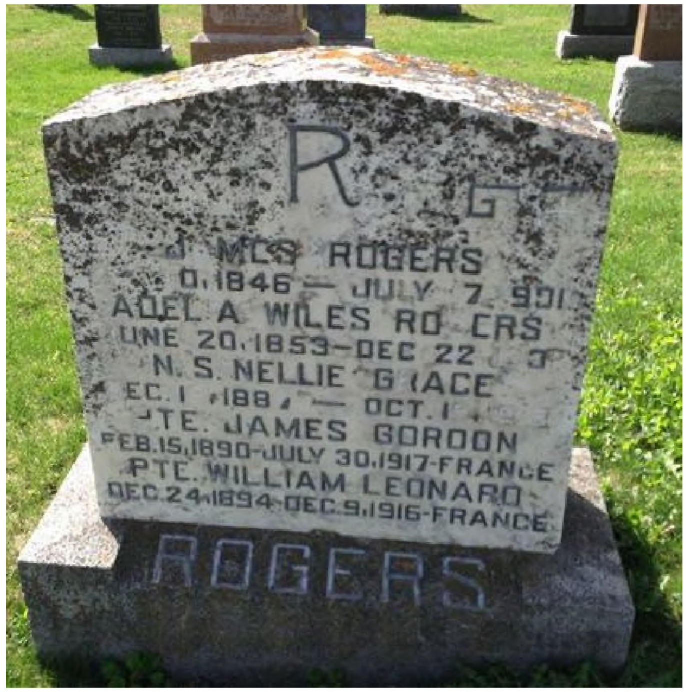
SCHEDULE No. 1.—Nominal Return of the Living. Enumerated by me on the 7 day of April 1891. Division No. 2 PAGE 6

TABLEAU No. 1.—Dénombrement des Vivants. Wm. H. [illegible] Enumerator.

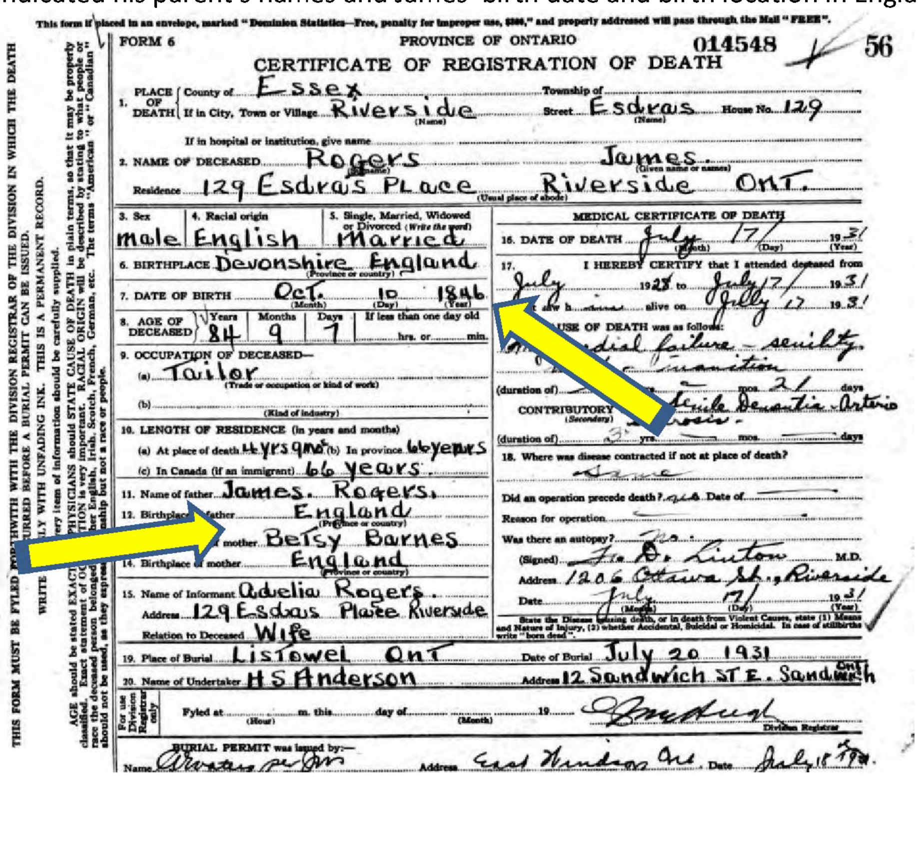
Line	3	4	5	6 Names	7 Sex	8 Age	9 Married or Widowed	10 Relation to Head of Family	11 Country or Province of Birth	12	13 Place of Birth of Father	14 Place of Birth of Mother	15 Religion	16 Profession, Occupation or Trade
1				Moorhead Mary	F	54	M	W	Ontario	—	England	England	Presbyterian	
2				" Lizzie	F	22	—	D	"	—	Ireland	Ontario	"	
3				" Frank	M	17	—	S	"	—	"	"	"	
4				" Emma	F	16	—	D	"	—	"	"	"	
5		W ½	28	Wyckoff Anne Jane	F	58	M	—	Ireland	—	"	Ireland	Church of England	Housekeeper
6				Wyckoff Minnie	F	8	—	D	United States	—	Ontario	Ontario	"	
7				Connor Cory. S.	F	29	M	D	Ontario	—	Ireland	Ireland	"	
8		W ½	29	Carroll Percy	M	25	M	—	England	—	England	England	Methodist	Bookkeeper
9				" Leona	F	25	M	W	Ontario	—	Ontario	Ontario	"	
10				" Gladys	F	1	—	D	"	—	England	"	"	
11				Smith Lavina	F	23	—	Dom	England	—	"	England	"	Servant General
12				Meyers Newton	M	27	—	L	Ontario	—	Ontario	Ontario	"	Chemist & Drug
13		W ½	30	Powell George	M	51	M	—	England	—	England	England	"	Stone cutter
14				" Lydia	F	41	M	W	"	—	"	"	"	
15				" Susie	F	17	—	D	Ontario	—	"	"	"	
16				" Arthur	M	14	—	S	"	—	"	"	"	
17		W ½	31	Rogers James	M	42	M	—	England	—	"	"	Plymouth Brethren	Merchant Tailor
18				" Adelia	F	38	M	W	Ontario	—	"	"	"	
19				" Ethel B	F	15	—	D	"	—	"	Ontario	"	
20				Edith W	F	13	—	D	"	—	"	"	"	
21				Lina B.	F	9	—	D	"	—	"	"	"	
22				Lettie	F	6	—	D	"	—	"	"	"	
23				Grace	F	4	—	D	"	—	"	"	"	
24				James Gordon	M	1	—	S	"	—	"	"	"	
25				Wilkins Jane	F	55	—	Dom	N. B.	—				

James Rogers Find a Grave website page also indicated he had a daughter named Edith (Rogers) Wilson. Edith Wilson now had parents. It also showed his place of birth as Heanton Punchardon, Devon. Because he was James Rogers Jr, I knew there would be a James Rogers Senior still to be located and likely in Devon.

Name:	James Rogers Jr
Gender:	M (Male)
Birth Date:	10 Oct 1846
Birth Place:	Heanton Punchardon, North Devon District, Devon, England
Death Date:	7 Jul 1901
Death Place:	Essex County, Ontario, Canada
Cemetery:	Fairview Cemetery
Burial or Cremation Place:	Listowel, Perth County, Ontario, Canada
Has Bio?:	Y
Spouse:	Adelia Rogers
Children:	Edith W Wilson William Leonard Rogers James Gordon Rogers Nellie Grace Rogers
URL:	https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/110339561/james-rogers



The slam dunk of confirmation information was his death certificate. It showed that James Jr. had been living in Riverside, Ont. which is now part of Windsor (likely with his daughter Edith Wilson). It also indicated his parent's names and James' birth date and birth location in England.



This form if placed in an envelope, marked "Dominion Statistics—Free, penalty for improper use, $300," and properly addressed will pass through the Mail "FREE".

FORM 6 PROVINCE OF ONTARIO 014548 56

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF DEATH

1. PLACE OF DEATH: County of Essex; Township of ...; If in City, Town or Village Riverside; Street Esdras; House No. 129

If in hospital or institution, give name ...

2. NAME OF DECEASED Rogers James

Residence 129 Esdras Place Riverside Ont.

3. Sex male | 4. Racial origin English | 5. Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced Married

6. BIRTHPLACE Devonshire England

7. DATE OF BIRTH Oct. 10 1846

8. AGE OF DECEASED 84 Years 9 Months 7 Days

9. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED— (a) Tailor

10. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (in years and months) (a) At place of death 4 yrs 9 mo (b) In province 66 years (c) In Canada (if an immigrant) 66 years

11. Name of father James Rogers

12. Birthplace of father England

13. Maiden name of mother Betsy Barnes

14. Birthplace of mother England

15. Name of Informant Adelia Rogers

Address 129 Esdras Place Riverside

Relation to Deceased Wife

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16. DATE OF DEATH July 17 1931

17. I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from July 1928 to July 17 1931 ... alive on July 17 1931

The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: Myocardial failure – senility, inanition

(duration of) 2 mos.

CONTRIBUTORY (Secondary) Senile Demntia Arterio sclerosis

(duration of) 3 yrs.

18. Where was disease contracted if not at place of death? Same

Did an operation precede death? no Date of ...

Was there an autopsy? No

(Signed) F. D. Linton M.D.

Address 1206 Ottawa St., Riverside

Date July 17 1931

19. Place of Burial Listowel Ont. Date of Burial July 20 1931

20. Name of Undertaker H S Anderson Address 12 Sandwich St E. Sandwich

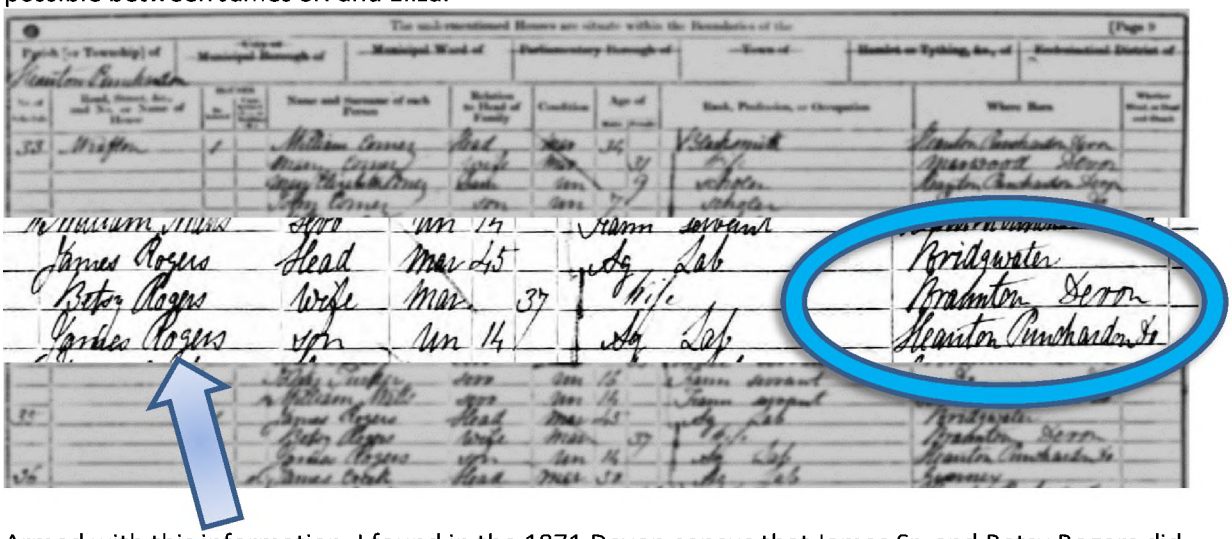
Fyled at ... m. this ... day of ... 19...

BURIAL PERMIT was issued by:— Name ... Address East Windsor Ont. Date July 18 1931

THIS FORM MUST BE FYLED FORTHWITH WITH THE DIVISION REGISTRAR OF THE DIVISION IN WHICH THE DEATH OCCURRED BEFORE A BURIAL PERMIT CAN BE ISSUED. WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK. THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD.

My initial thought that James Rogers was Eliza's brother was shattered when I looked at his age. He would have been 29 years younger. However, the fact that there was a commonality between the Rogers and Elliott families was obvious. I knew James (Jr.) was related and I was leaning, due to his age, towards him being a nephew of Eliza's. The fact that Edith Wilson was listed as a cousin on the border papers reinforced this thought.
I next looked into finding a James Rogers in Devon via census records and other sources. I found him in Wrafton, Devon. I located Wrafton, Heanton Punchardon on a map and discovered it was close to Marwood, Devon. This information indicated I was in the right area. The locales are about 8 kilometers apart as the crow flies. Since James Jr. had emigrated in 1865 as per the 1891 Ontario census, and calculating he was 16 years old at the time, the 1861 English census of Heanton Punchardon should have him listed along with his parents. As hoped, James Sr., wife Betsy and James Jr. were listed.

The 1861 Heath Punchardon census also gave up another hint. James Rogers Sr. was born in Bridgwater, Somerset around 1817. Eliza Rogers (now Elliott) was born in 1819. A brother/sister relationship was possible between James Sr. and Eliza.



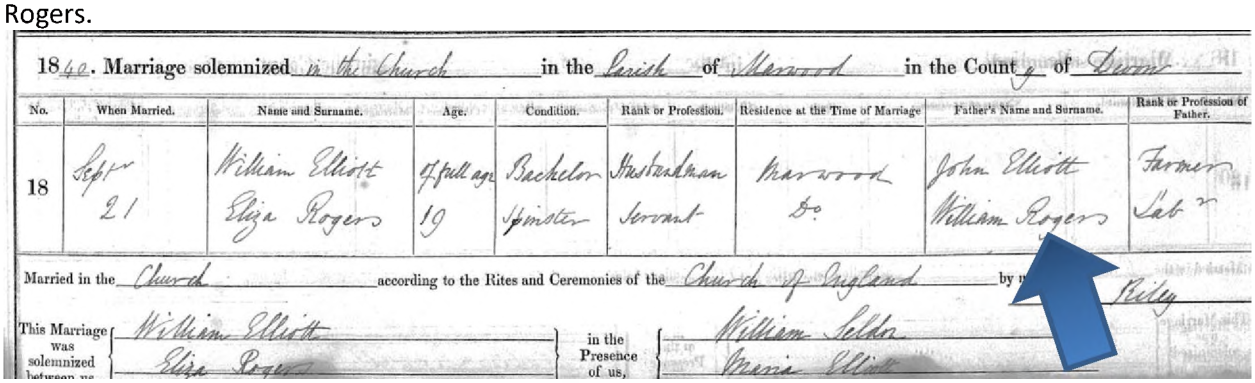
Armed with this information, I found in the 1871 Devon census that James Sr. and Betsy Rogers did indeed live in the village of Wrafton in Heanton Punchardon Parish and that James Jr. was no longer with them. It confirmed that he had emigrated by himself in 1865 as noted on future Ontario censuses. I strongly suspect he was in contact with his aunt Eliza Rogers Elliott at the time.
To add to this evidence, I needed to locate the unmarried Betsy Barnes. She was named as the mother of James Jr. on his death certificate. Maybe the "Betsy" Rogers listed in the 1861 Wrafton census may not be Betsy Barnes and I was not on the right path. More digging was needed.
I found Betsy Barns (sic) in the 1851 census as a lodger in Heanton Punchardon. James Rogers Sr. was a lodger at the same location. His age appeared off by a few years which was not uncommon in older censuses. Another confirmation mark was ticked off. A further James and Betsy tie in was the evidence found in the Devon marriage index of Jan – Feb - Mar. of 1844 from Ancestry.ca. It showed that James and Betsy Rogers were married in 1844. The timeframe is right as James Jr. was born on the 10th of October 1846 as per his death certificate. The location and names all line up.

James Rogers and Betsy Barnes Marriage Register listing.

Search for James Rogers in the UK Census Collection

Name:	James Rogers
Registration Year:	1844
Registration Quarter:	Jan-Feb-Mar
Registration District:	Barnstaple
Parishes for this Registration District:	Search for Barnstaple in the London Times
Inferred County:	Devon
Volume:	10
Page:	45
Records on Page:	**Name**
	Betsy Barns
	Thomas Brailey
	Richard Jewry
	Elizabeth Martin
	James Rogers
	Mary Tucker

The next step was to locate either brother and sister, James Sr. or Eliza Rogers living with their parents. The marriage certificate for William Elliott and Eliza Rogers indicated that her father's name was William Rogers.

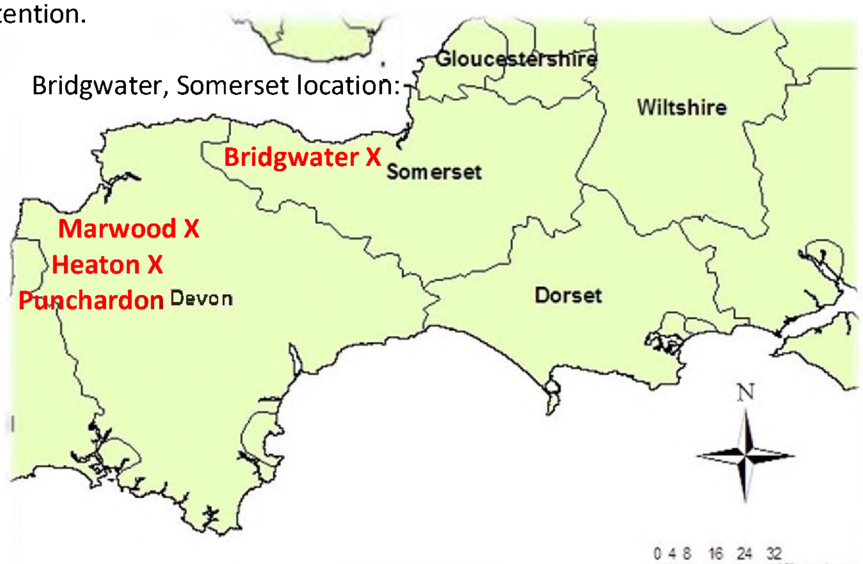

1840. Marriage solemnized in the Church in the Parish of Marwood in the County of Devon

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
18	Sept 21	William Elliott	of full age	Bachelor	Husbandman	Marwood	John Elliott	Farmer
		Eliza Rogers	19	Spinster	Servant	Do	William Rogers	Lab r

Married in the Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by [illegible] Riley

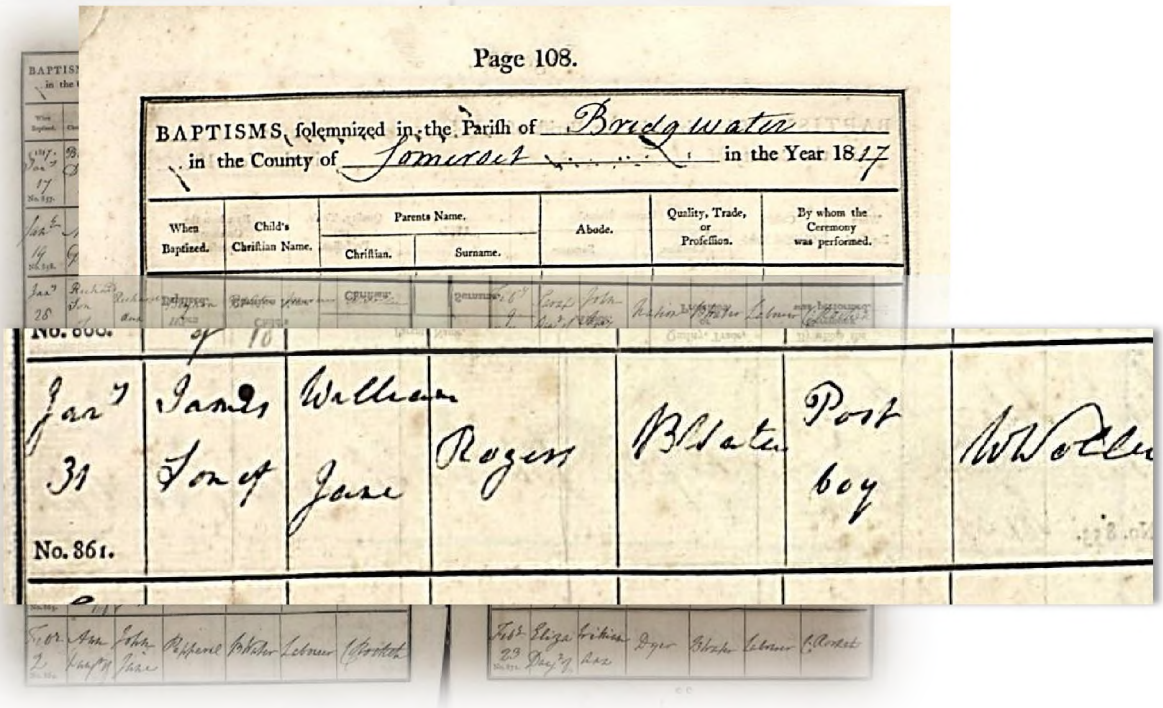
This Marriage was solemnized between us, William Elliott, Eliza Rogers; in the Presence of us, William Seldon, Maria Elliott

Since the 1841 Devon census had James Sr. listed as being born in Bridgwater, Somerset, this is where I focused my attention.



Bridgwater Somerset

Bridgwater was an administrative center for the district. The advent of a new dock in 1841 revived Bridgwater's port on the River Parrett. Wool, tile making and brewing were the main industries in the mid 18th century. Today it has a population of 35,000.
The best clue needed would be to tie children James and Eliza Rogers to a father William Rogers of Bridgwater. I found more proof. A William and Jane Rogers of Bridgwater, Somerset baptized a son, James, born 21 Feb 1817. More facts fall into place. It should be noted that William Rogers occupation was listed as a postboy (mail carrier).



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BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Bridgwater in the County of Somerset in the Year 1817

When Baptised.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name. Christian.	Parents Name. Surname.	Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
Jan 31	James Son of	William Jane	Rogers	B'Water	Post boy	W Wollen

No. 861.

The information on this document appears to support both the facts and suppositions I had made. I believed I had located James' parents: William and Jane Rogers. Now it was necessary to figure out if Eliza (Rogers) Elliott was related and in what manner.
I continued to dig through the Bridgwater baptism records. After a lot of perusing records via various ancestry links I found the same father and mother combination showing up in the records again. They were listed as baptizing a daughter named Eliza. Eliza's birth date, according to a number of documents including grandson Roy Elliott's family Bible, was 20 Oct 1821.

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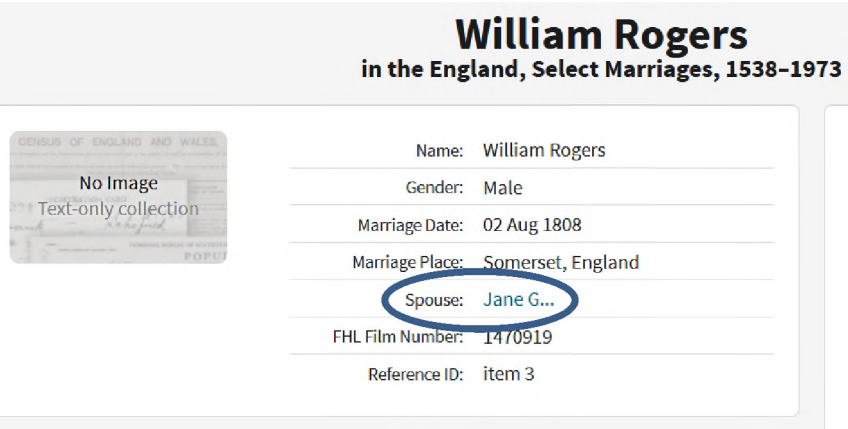
BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Bridgwater in the County of Somerset in the Year 1821

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name. Christian.	Surname.	Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
Oct 20	Eliza	William & Jane	Rogers	Bridgwater	Artificer	J. Rees

Birthdate Oct 20.

An Eliza Rogers was born to William and Jane Rogers on Oct 20, 1821 according to Baptism records in Bridgwater. I feel very confident that William and Jane Rogers of Bridgwater, Somerset were the parents of James Sr. and Eliza (Rogers) Elliott.
Finding information on line earlier than the early 1800s is difficult. I was able to pull up one speculative piece about William and Jane Rogers.

I recorded a screenshot of an Ancestry.ca page that the Ancestry algorithm produced that may indicate the marriage date of William and Jane Rogers. The time frame, location and names all work. No other algorithm produced any results.


William Rogers
in the England, Select Marriages, 1538–1973

No Image
Text-only collection

Name:	William Rogers
Gender:	Male
Marriage Date:	02 Aug 1808
Marriage Place:	Somerset, England
Spouse:	Jane G...
FHL Film Number:	1470919
Reference ID:	item 3

I suspect that Jane G. was all that was readable on the original marriage document. I believe Jane's last name was Gould. The reason for this is that the practice of the time was to give children either first or second names that honoured grandparents' or parents' first or maiden names. That is why as an example, William Elliott's oldest son was John Rogers Elliott. William's second son Thomas had a middle name of Gould. I suspect that the name was his maternal grandmother's maiden name.

In summation, it appears that Eliza's nephew James Rogers Jr. made the unaccompanied trip to Upper Canada at the age of 16. He was very likely in contact with his aunt Eliza and settled onto farming land in Perth Co. She may have encouraged him to come for a better life. He settled, married and had numerous children. Eliza had a brother also named James and her father was William Rogers and her mother Jane (Gould) of Bridgwater, Somerset.

William Elliott and Family Life

Eliza Rogers Elliott (photo courtesy of Reed Elliott)

By 1841, Eliza had given birth to their oldest child, John Rogers Elliott, while living in Marwood. He was under 2 years old when he crossed the Atlantic with his parents in 1843. According to family Bible records, a daughter Mary Jane was born in Marwood on the 13th of November 1842, and although no death date was given in the Bible, there was no Mary Jane listed in the Devon Exodus data of the Elliott family that emigrated in 1843. I suspect the child died shortly after birth in late 1842 or early 1843. No Devon grave location has been found nor any Canadian records of her has been located.

William Elliott's life path seemed to indicate a restless soul. Whereas his siblings all settled into their farms with their spouses in and around Ingersoll, William was constantly on the move. My research has indicated that he started from scratch building a homestead, either with his father or by himself, four times in his life.

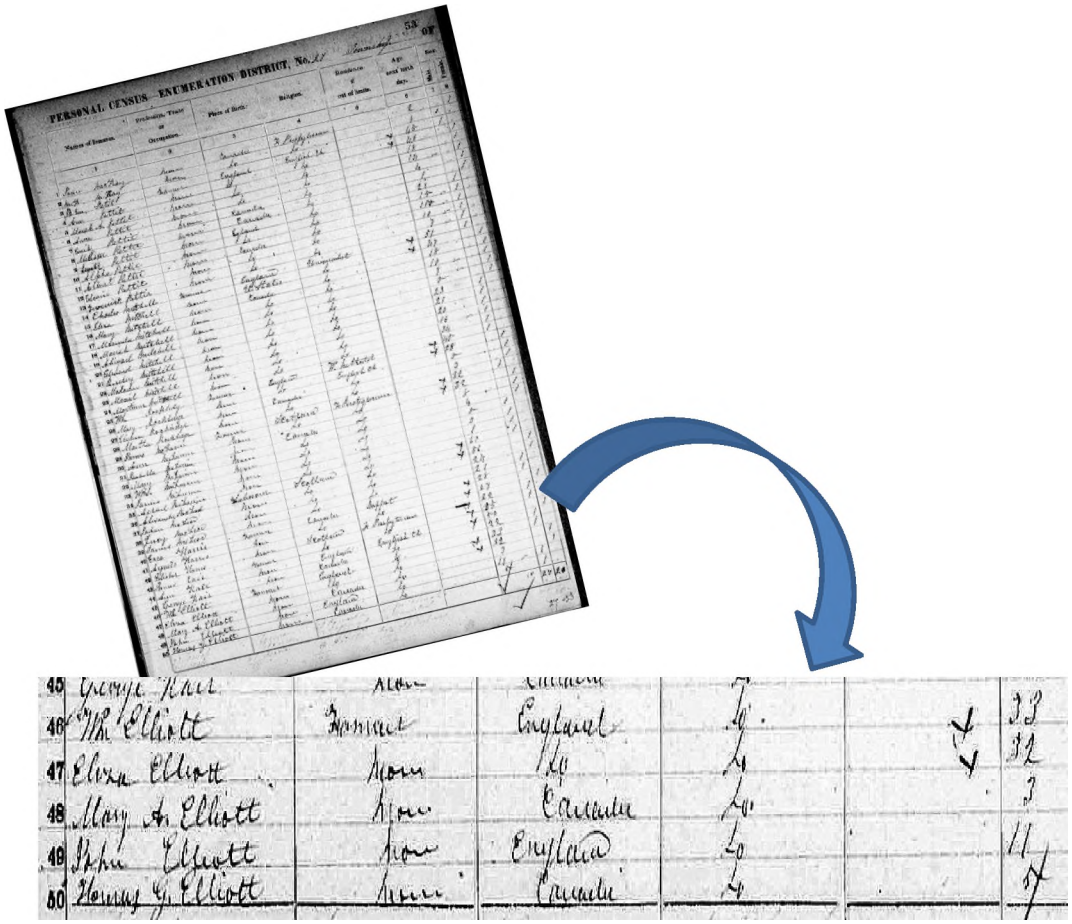
The older male Elliott members arrived in 1843 to began building the first family home located in W Zorra township of Oxford Co. The Tax roll of 1848 shows William paying taxes on an E Nissouri farm. He had 90 acres of woods with 10 acres under cultivation and he owned 1 milking cow and three heifers.

INHABITANTS.	No. of Lot.	Description of part	Uncultivated.	Cultivated.	Square or new of	Additional fire-	Square or new of	Additional fire-	Frame Houses	Additional fire-	Frame, Brick,	Additional fire-	Brick or Stone	Additional fire-	Grist-Mills with one	Additional pair	Saw-Mills.	Store-Houses.	Merchant Shop	Stud Horses fo	Horses three ye	Oxen four year	Milch Cows.	Horned Cattle	Close Carriage
1 William Elliott	29	W½ "	90	10																			1	3	

The 1851 census of East Nissouri confirmed this, as William and family are found living on a farm at Con 11 Lot 18 in East Nissouri township. This location is about 200 meters north of the main intersection of the present village of Kintore, Ontario and part of the present location of the Kintore Box Co. The farm was about 4 km from the original family property in W Zorra. William and family were leasing in 1851

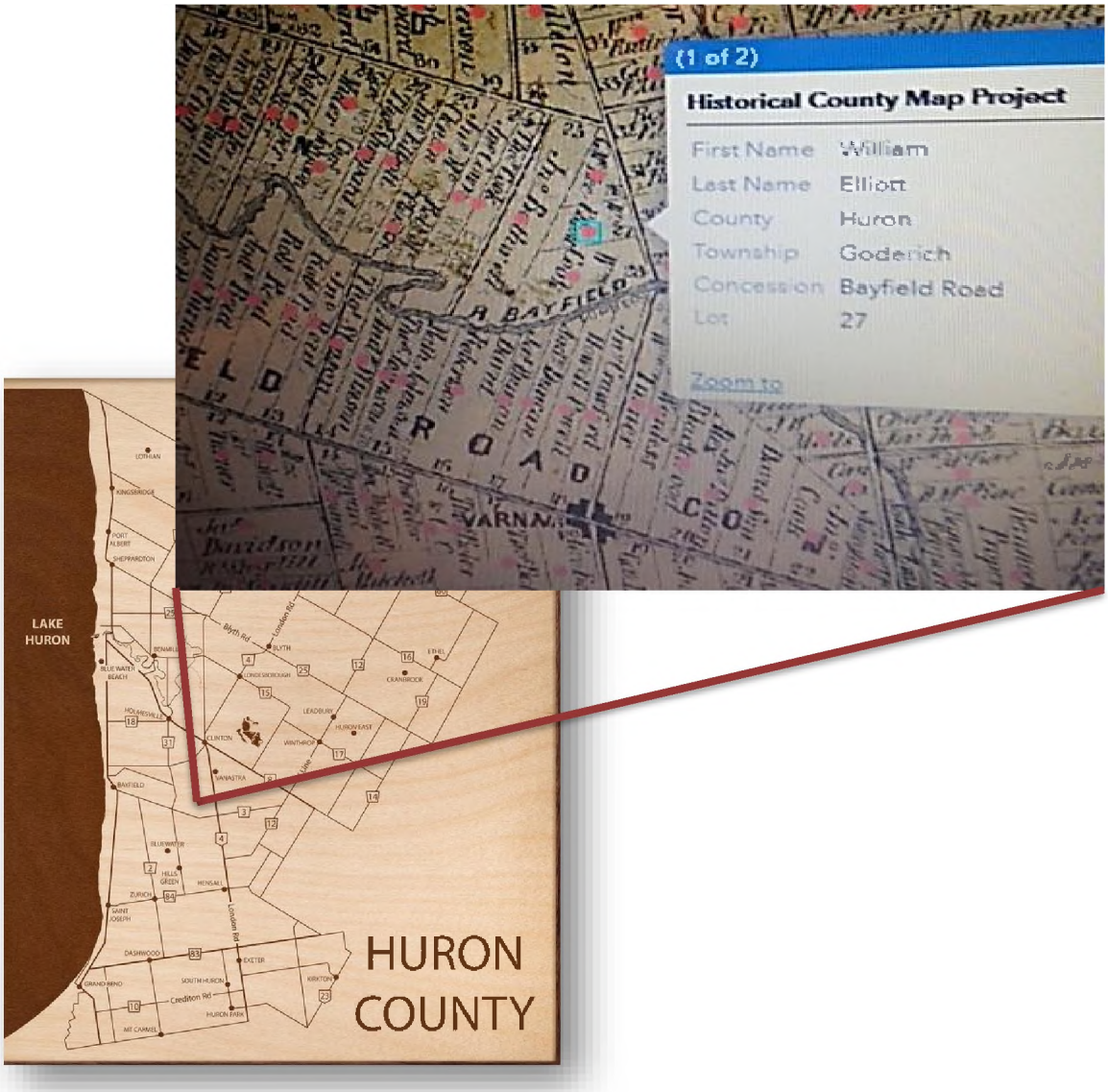
and bought a 50-acre portion of the property April 13, 1855 according to Onland.ca Ontario property records. A paid sum of £224 is attached to the sale records of the property. Later, the family appeared to have moved off of the 50 acres as William's name appears with a group of 3 other men as either co-owners or mortgagers of the property in September of 1860. (Onland Book 41, East Nissouri, Oxford County Pg 151). No other Elliott relative, either father nor brothers, appear in this farm property record.

1851 E Nissouri census

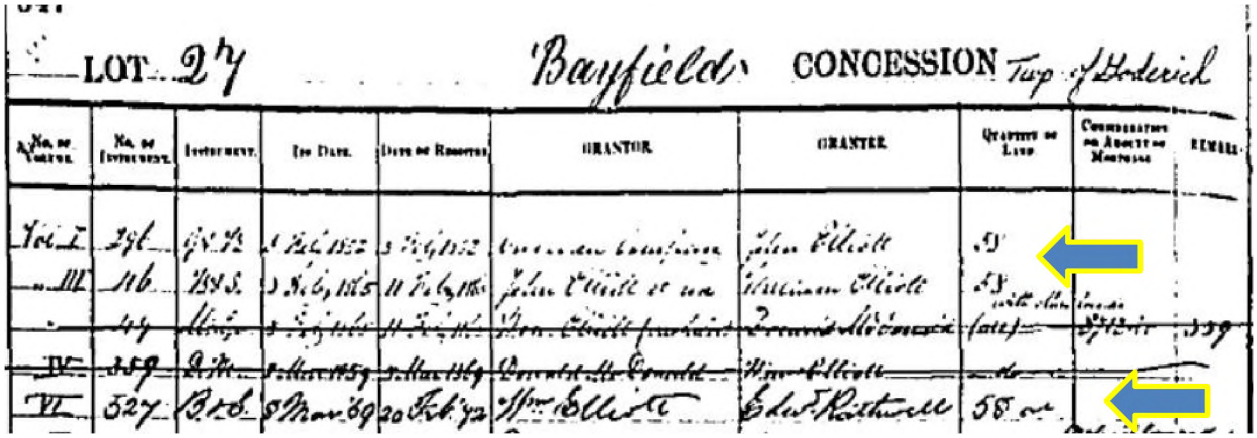


At that point, I lost track of the family. No amount of looking in and around Oxford Co. was able to produce results. There was a William Elliott family living in N. Oxford near Thamesford and was mistakenly identified by grandson Roy's records as my William and his family. Further review of censuses of the mistaken man indicated he was Irish born and had children that did not have the identical names as the 1851 census of my William Elliott family. He was eliminated from the search. By spelling William's last name "Elliot" in the search algorithms of government census websites I was able to locate the family in Goderich Township in Huron County, Ontario. This location was about 95 km north west of the rest of the family in Oxford Co.

A double check on the Tremaine Historical County digital map project finds the family on the 1862 map of Huron Co. They were living at lot 27 of Bayfield Rd. The 58-acre farm was located in the very south east corner of Goderich township, Huron Co. and about 5 km from the village of Varna, Ont.



The Clinton Ontario library in Huron Co. was able to help me locate the farm in the Onland site. The property listing for their location was misfiled in the wrong Onland book. Once the right book was located (Pg 4 of Book 7 – Concession Bayfield Lot 36 – 79), it showed that William's father purchased 58 virgin acres from the Canada Company. The records are difficult to read but it may have been 1852. Since Williams family were found in Huron Co. in the 1861 census it is possible that his father John purchased the property in 1852. John included William in the ownership papers in 1855. William owned the property until March of 1869 when it was sold to a Mr. Rathwell. William was not living on the property at that time.

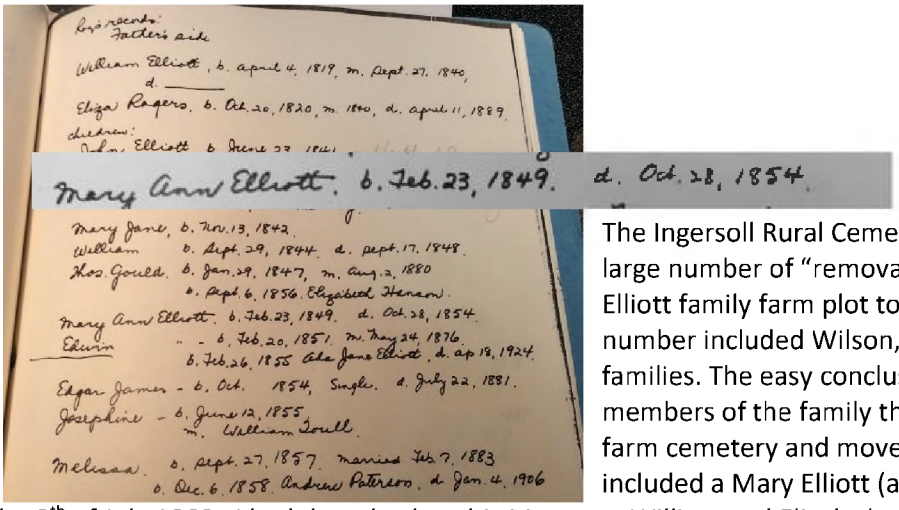


LOT 27 Bayfield CONCESSION Twp of Goderich

No. of Grantee	No. of Instrument	Instrument	Its Date	Date of Registry	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	Quantity of Land	Consideration or Amount of Mortgage	Remarks
Vol I	296	G.W.D.	1 Feb 1852	3 Feb 1852	[illegible]	John Elliott	50		
" III	116	B.&S.	3 Feb 1855	11 Feb 1855	John Elliott et ux	William Elliott	50		
"	44	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	(all)	[illegible]	[illegible]
IV	359	Q.C.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Wm Elliott	do		
VI	527	B.&S.	8 Mar 69	20 Feb 72	Wm Elliott	Edwd Rathwell	58 ac		

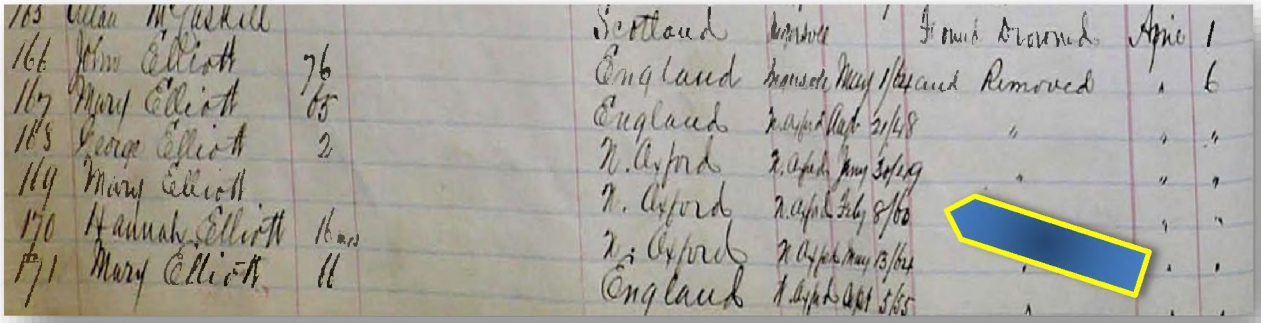
Checking the 1861 census for their Huron Co. location confirmed the family presence with several additional children. For the second time in a decade, the family was clearing land and the 1861 census listed them as living in a shanty.

Two children, John Rogers and Mary Ann, were missing from this family census list. John was found living on his uncle Thomas Elliott's farm abutting the Thames River just east of Ingersoll and in North Oxford township. The census had him listed as 21 years old and working as a labourer. I suspect he was a farmhand and was of the age that he was setting his own history. Whether he ever lived in Goderich Township is open to debate. At the time of this census, daughter Mary Ann would have been about 13 years of age. This is too young to be farmed out as a servant and I had not seen her listed in any of the other relative's family censuses during this time period. Find a Grave had not uncovered anything in the numerous cemeteries I checked in both Oxford and Huron Counties. Only later, while going through Roy Elliott's genealogy research papers from the 1920s, did the William Elliott family Bible resurface. The Bible listed Mary Ann as being born in 1849 and dying in 1854. The reason for her death and her burial location are not confirmed.



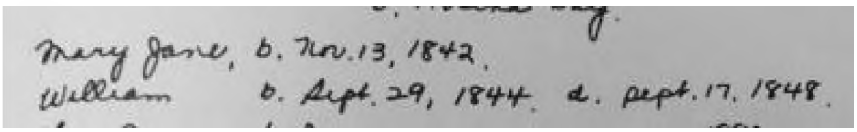
Roy's records:
Father's side
William Elliott, b. april 4, 1819, m. Sept. 27, 1840,
d. ——
Eliza Rogers. b. Oct. 20, 1820, m. 1840, d. april 11, 1889.
children:
John Elliott b. June 27 1841.
Mary Ann Elliott. b. Feb. 23, 1849. d. Oct. 28, 1854.
Mary Jane, b. Nov. 13, 1842.
William b. Sept. 29, 1844. d. Sept. 17. 1848.
Thos. Gould. b. Jan. 29, 1847, m. Aug. 2, 1880
b. Sept. 6, 1856. Elizabeth Henson.
Mary Ann Elliott. b. Feb. 23, 1849. d. Oct. 28, 1854.
Elvin - b. Feb. 20, 1851. m. May 24, 1876.
b. Feb. 26, 1855 Ada Jane Elliott. d. ap 18, 1924.
Edgar James - b. Oct. 1854, Single. d. July 22, 1881.
Josephine - b. June 12, 1855.
m. William Gould.
Melissa. b. Sept. 27, 1857. married Feb. 7, 1883
b. Dec. 6, 1858. Andrew Paterson. d. Jan. 4. 1906

The Ingersoll Rural Cemetery Index for 1866 shows a large number of "removals" or reburials from an Elliott family farm plot to the cemetery. This large number included Wilson, Elliott, Seldon and Prouse families. The easy conclusion was that these were members of the family that were buried in the family farm cemetery and moved to IRC. This group included a Mary Elliott (age unknown) who died on the 8th of July 1860. I had thought that this Mary was William and Eliza's daughter. However, the family Bible refutes that argument. I tend to believe that the information in the Bible is likely correct as it was compiled at a date 100 years earlier than my research and likely had verbal accounts to pull from living descendants. IRC records support the fact that the removed Mary Elliott was likely a child of John Jr., William's older brother (Book 6). Some researchers have suggested that Mary Ann had in fact survived childhood and married her cousin Richard Seldon. This falsehood is addressed in the Seldon Book 4.



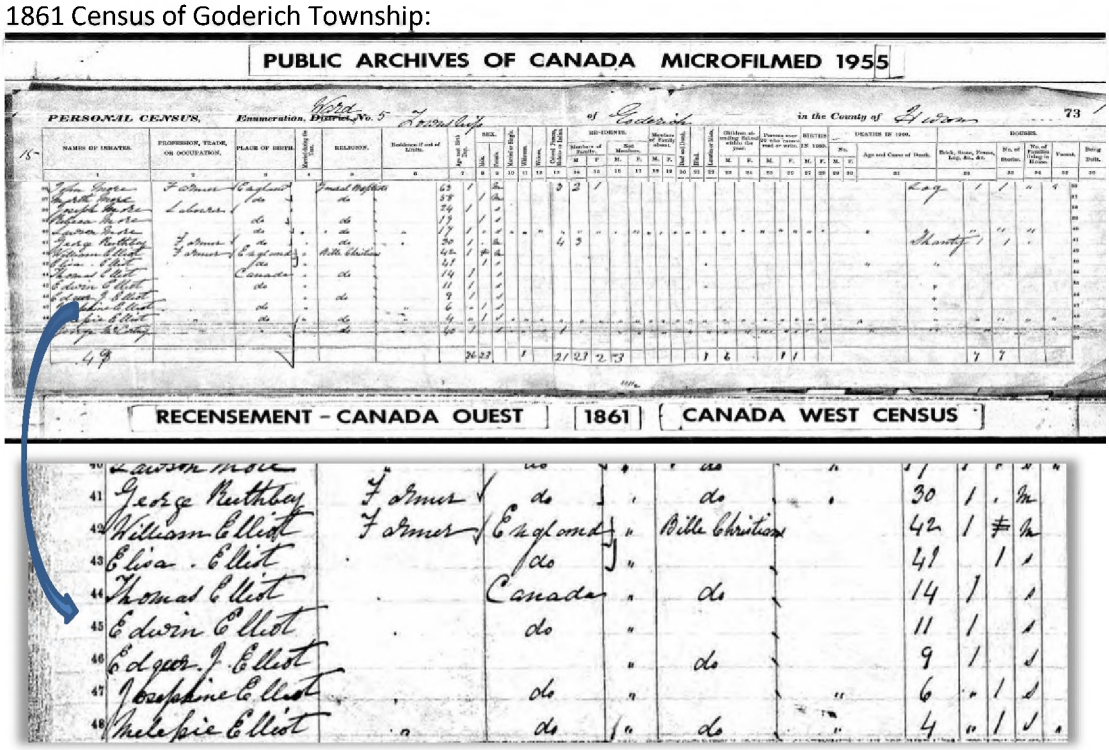
IRC death index for April 1866:

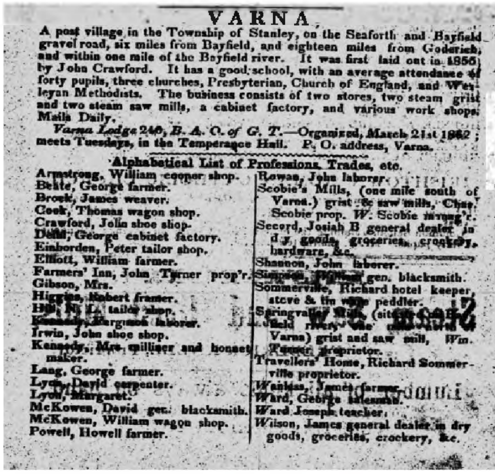
I often wondered about the birth lag after William's son John Rogers was born and the birth of the next child. Normally families spare little time between births and after John there was a five-year gap until brother Thomas Gould Elliott was born in 1847. The discovery of Roy Elliott's Family Bible indicates that gap was filled by the birth of Mary Jane in 1842 and death in 1842 or 1843 and son William, who was born in 1844 and died in 1848. Neither lived long enough to appear on any census.



This would fit with the timelines when the family appears in the 1861 census and as well the sale of the Nissouri township land in 1860. Son Thomas Gould Elliott was still listed in the Goderich township census as were brothers Edwin, Edgar and sisters Josephine and Melissa Jane. There would be no other children born to this family after Melissa's birth.

1861 Census of Goderich Township:





VARNA,

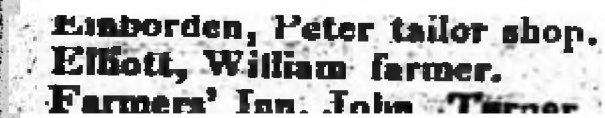
A post village in the Township of Stanley, on the Seaforth and Bayfield gravel road, six miles from Bayfield, and eighteen miles from Goderich, and within one mile of the Bayfield river. It was first laid out in 1855 by John Crawford. It has a good school, with an average attendance of forty pupils, three churches, Presbyterian, Church of England, and Wesleyan Methodists. The business consists of two stores, two steam grist and two steam saw mills, a cabinet factory, and various work shops. Mails Daily.

Varna Lodge 248, *B. A. O. of G. T.*—Organized, March 21st 1862; meets Tuesdays, in the Temperance Hall. P. O. address, Varna.

Alphabetical List of Professions, Trades, etc.

Armstrong, William cooper shop.
Beate, George farmer.
Brock, James weaver.
Cook, Thomas wagon shop.
Crawford, John shoe shop.
[illegible], George cabinet factory.
Einborden, Peter tailor shop.
Elliott, William farmer.
Farmers' Inn, John Turner prop'r.
Gibson, Mrs.
Higgins, Robert framer.
[illegible] tailor shop.
[illegible], Ferguson laborer.
Irwin, John shoe shop.
Kennedy, Mrs. milliner and bonnet maker.
Lang, George farmer.
Lyon, David carpenter.
Lyon, Margaret.
McKowen, David gen. blacksmith.
McKowen, William wagon shop.
Powell, Howell farmer.
Rowan, John laborer.
Scobie's Mills, (one mile south of Varna.) grist & saw mills, Chas. Scobie prop. W. Scobie manag'r.
Secord, Josiah B general dealer in dry goods, groceries, crockery, hardware, &c.
Shannon, John laborer.
Simpson, [illegible] gen. blacksmith.
Sommerville, Richard hotel keeper, stove & tin ware peddler.
Springvalley Mills, (situated on Bayfield river, one [illegible] of Varna) grist and saw mill, Wm. Turner proprietor.
Travellers' Home, Richard Sommerville proprietor.
Wanless, James farmer.
Ward, George salesman.
Ward Joseph teacher.
Wilson, James general dealer in dry goods, groceries, crockery, &c.

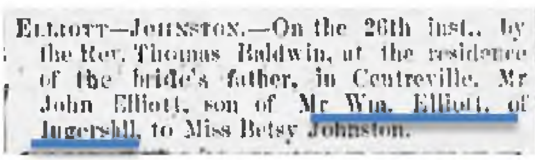
The Huron County Gazetteer of 1864 has William Elliott listed as local farmer.



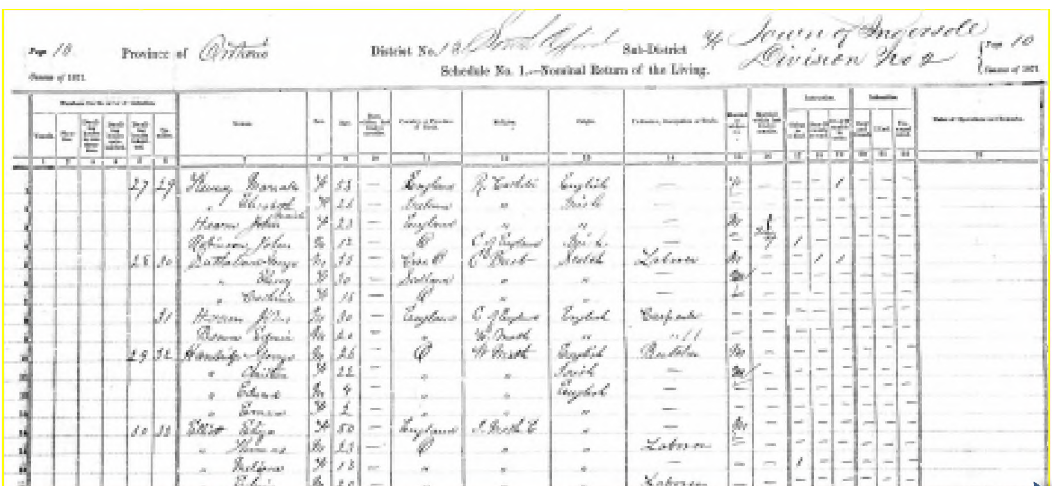
Einborden, Peter tailor shop.
Elliott, William farmer.
Farmers' Inn, John Turner

The Family Fracture

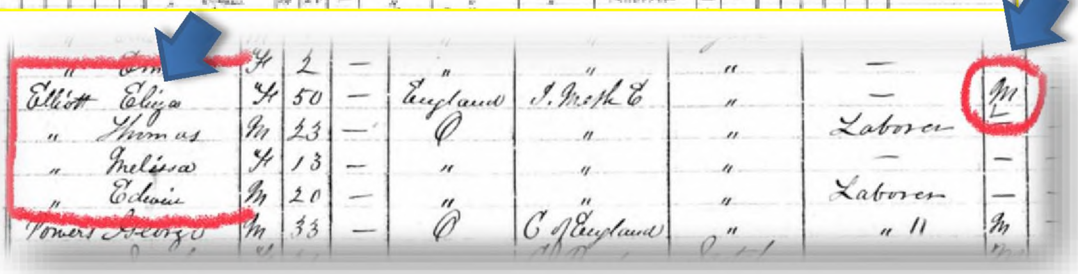
It is at this point during the mid 1860s that there appears to be a major turning point in the dynamics of the William Elliott family. William was listed as living in Ingersoll in Sept 1864 as per son JR Elliott's marriage announcement in the Ingersoll Chronicle. If correct, the family left Huron Co. prior to the fall of 1864 and were living in Ingersoll. The 1871 Ontario Census confirmed the family had returned to Ingersoll. However, there is a mystery in the census columns.



ELLIOTT—JOHNSTON.—On the 26th inst., by the Rev. Thomas Baldwin, at the residence of the bride's father, in Centreville, Mr John Elliott, son of Mr Wm. Elliott, of Ingersoll, to Miss Betsy Johnston.



Page 10 Province of Ontario District No. 18 South Oxford Sub-District 4 Town of Ingersoll Division No 2
Census of 1871
Schedule No. 1.—Nominal Return of the Living.



[illegible]	F	2	—	"	"	"	—	
Elliott Eliza	F	50	—	England	I. Meth E	"	—	M
" Thomas	M	23	—	O	"	"	Laborer	—
" Melissa	F	13	—	"	"	"	—	—
" Edwin	M	20	—	"	"	"	Laborer	—
Powers George	M	33	—	O	C of England	"	" 11	M

There is no surprise that oldest son John Rogers was gone and married, he would have been 30 years old. Josephine would be 16 and was missing. In reality, she was living with her aunt Maria Seldon and

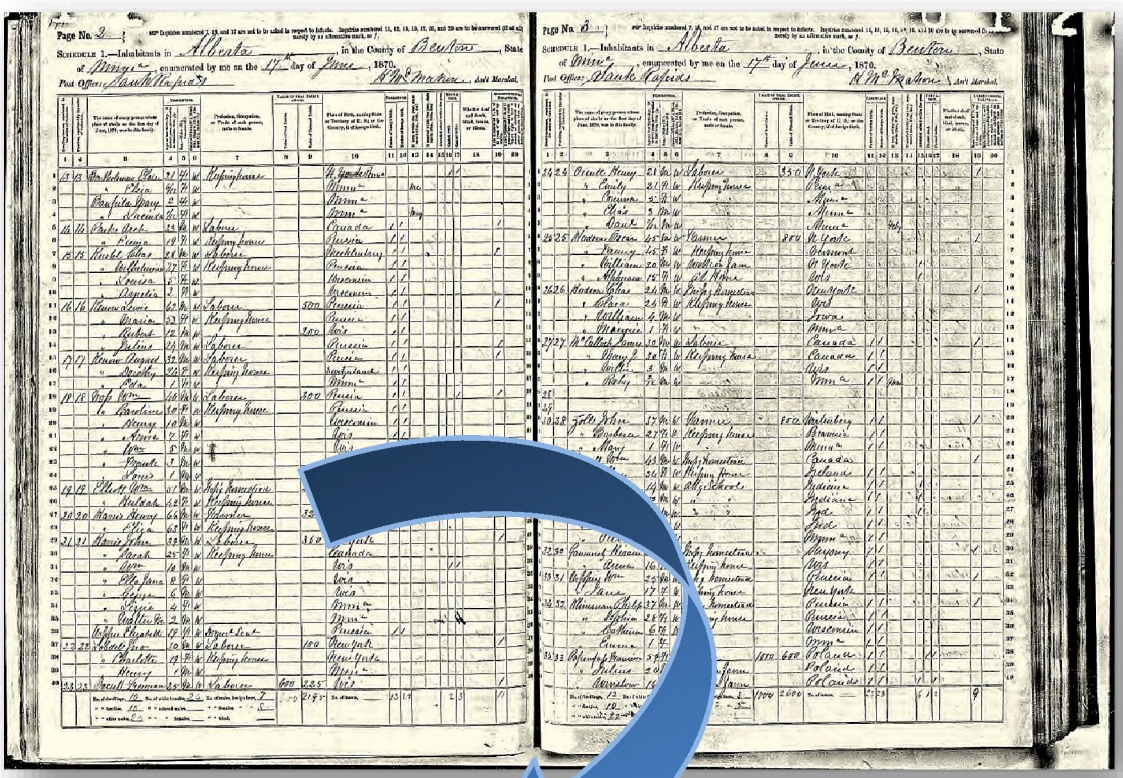
working as a "house servant" at Maria's Seldon farm home in N. Oxford. The missing figure was father William. Eliza was listed as still married on the census (arrow previous page). More intrigue is added when, in the 1881 census, elderly Eliza was found living in Ingersoll with her son Thomas. However, in that 1881 census she was listed as a widow. Did William die? The question was how to find her husband William, either dead or alive.

After many fruitless attempts, I decided to start digging into his brothers and their families. William's brother, Thomas Elliott's obituary in the Ingersoll Chronicle in Sept. 1897 dropped a large hint as to William's location in the very last line of text.

"He leaves besides a wife, a family of three daughters and two sons: Mrs. Fletcher, of London; Mrs. James, St. Thomas; Mrs. Card, Ingersoll; Walter, of Michigan and Louis, of the Northwest Mounted Police Force. He also leaves a sister and two brothers, Samuel, who resides near Embro, and William, of Minnesota "

Within an hour, with internet help, William had been found and with him came a major surprise.

Alberta Township, Benton County Minnesota 1870 census.



This 1870 census showed William and a wife Huldah Elliott living in Alberta township, Benton County Minnesota on a 200-acre farm. This location is just across the Mississippi River from St. Cloud, Minn. and a few miles from the village of Sauk Rapids, Minn. Later censuses confirm he and Huldah emigrated together in 1866 but were not married until 1870.

Does that really prove that this was the missing William? No, but it made a good starting point. The age was right and the fact he was born in England is correct. There was also a location to work with; Alberta Township, Benton Co. Minnesota. The timing was right as well, as the property in Huron Co. was sold at about this time.

The 1900 Benton Co. census was the true litmus test in identifying William.

Columns *7* *8* *9* *10* *14* *15* *16* *17*

Column 7 and 8: indicate the month and year of birth. A match again for William. According to the Family Bible his birth date was 04 April 1819
Column 8: shows that Hulda is 7 years younger than William.
Column 9: indicates they are husband and wife
Column 10: is how long they have been married – she indicated 30 yrs. (1870) but he first put down 60 years (which is how long he had been married to Eliza and Hulda combined). This error was corrected to 30 years by the enumerator. Does this slip mean his marriage to Eliza was never nullified?
Column 14/15: indicate that his father and mother were born in England– which is correct for William.
Column 16: indicates their arrived in Minnesota in 1866
Column 17: shows they have not lived elsewhere in 33 years

All the hints in the 1900 census match for William Elliott. He had surprisingly remarried, and had made Minnesota his home.

Note: Henry and Emily Orcutt – the next couple listed below on the census form, were the son and daughter of an original settler William Orcutt who was county Judge and Administrator for Benson County and would be prominent in the later lives of Hulda and William.

Hulda Elliott

Who is Hulda Elliott? Censuses show that she and William were married. It is thought she was born in Ontario but there is census proof her father was from N Brunswick and her mother New York State. I have tried numerous times with the Canadian census search tools to find a Hulda or Huldah but to no avail. It appears that William and Hulda knew each other when they both lived in Ontario as they immigrated to Minnesota in the same year. Was she an Ingersoll resident or from Hueon County? They were not young when they left for the US. He was about 45 years old and she was 39 years old at the time. Her age fluctuates depending on the census record year.
There are a couple of possible explanations.

1. Eliza got a divorce from William. This was not common in the 1860s as a divorce was seen as a source of scorn. Did Eliza purposely lie on her 1870 census that she was still married because of the shame and stigma it would create for the family? Did Eliza have an excuse for her missing husband? Did the children know and held the secret? In the 1880 census she listed herself as widowed. She was not.
2. Did William run out on the family? If so, what a rapscallion! How completely did he disappear and why? His whereabouts was known to brother Thomas and probably the family core. Was he the family secret? Did he leave his nuclear family destitute? He still owned Broken Front Concession, Lot 15 with his brothers in Centerville (outside Ingersoll) and the mortgage on the 50 acres in Goderich Township after he left. Were the proceeds of these sales for the family? He was not a wealthy land baron in Minnesota but would acquire farm acreage via federal grants. Finding William created more questions than answers.

For the fourth time, William cleared land and built a shanty when he moved to 1866 Minnesota.
In 1866 he would have been an original pioneer in the township of Benton, Minn.

The Benton County Historical Society described Alberta Township in 1865 as thus:

"Alberta lies hi (sic) the northeast portion of the county, and has an area of 46,080 acres, of which 367 are under cultivation. The surface is slightly undulating, and chiefly covered with timber. The soil is a dark loam and quite productive. The town is watered by the Elk and St. Francis rivers, the sources of which are within its boundaries, and the west branch of the Rum River, which crosses the northeastern part. Along these river bottoms there is a large acreage of hay meadows, the low land, in many places, extending far into the timber.

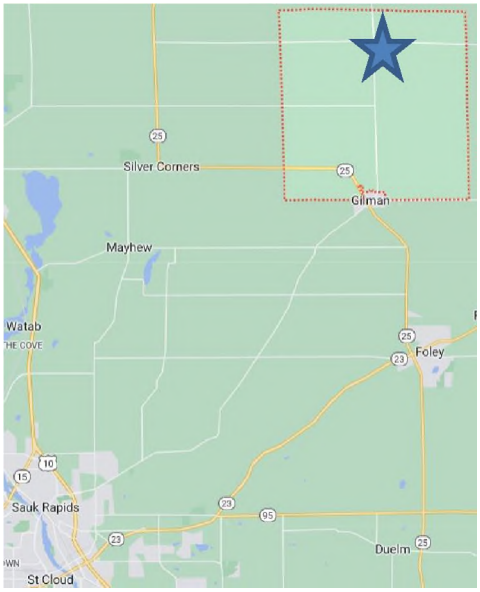
The first settlers in this town were J. B. Abbott and C. A. Gilman, but the exact date of their arrival cannot be ascertained. The oldest settler in the western portion of the town is Winslow Pappenfus, who settled on section thirty-four, with his parents, in March, 1865. The oldest settler in the eastern part of the town is William Wipper, who settled on section thirty, in 1868. These are the oldest settlers now living here, although others had made claims earlier, only to be abandoned after a short stay. Among other early settlers are William Orcott and George W. Burtield, both of whom are now residents of the town."

William's arrival in 1866 would have meant they arrived only a few years after the first settlers in this region. American history was also playing a role in William's life. Between 1860-1865 the US Civil War was in full force. Minnesota was not immune to the call for soldiers. Being a non-US citizen at the time and newly arrived, William did not participate. However, the Minnesota regiments were not called upon

to fight against the south so much as to defend the western boundary of Minnesota from the native tribes that had been pushed west by the settlers. This was the period of the Dakota Wars.

Fort Ridgely (about 130 km south of Benson Co.) was the site of a famous battle in the Dakota Wars in 1862. The Sioux tribe laid waste to many farms and settlements in the region as well as attacking the fort. An estimated 500 soldier and settlers, young, old, male and female were shown no mercy and killed. The Fort was in service until 1872. The land William farmed was still on the edge of wilderness when William and Hulda arrived.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Fort_Ridgely



Ensuing Minnesota censuses indicate that Hulda and William immigrated together via Michigan in 1866. The land they were granted was in a natural uncleared state. They were married in 1870 although I have not been able to locate marriage documents. Their naturalization papers were completed in November, 1873. So as in 1843 in W Zorra, 1850 E Nissouri and in 1860 in Huron Co., William started from scratch. This time he received a land grant from the United States government on the 20th of February, 1874.

He received land at Township 38 N, Range 29 W, Sect 2, W1/2 lot, NE 1/4. Alberta township, NE of Sauk Rapids, Minnesota. This would be about 161 acres in total.

He signed off on his citizenship papers in 1873.

2

State of Minnesota,
DISTRICT COURT.
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT.
Benton County.
} ss.

Michael Bramelly

and Jacob Gazett being duly sworn, say that they are both of them Citizens of the United States of America: that they know William Elliott and that he has resided within the State and jurisdiction of the United States for five years last past; that during that time he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

M. Bramelly
Jacob Gazett

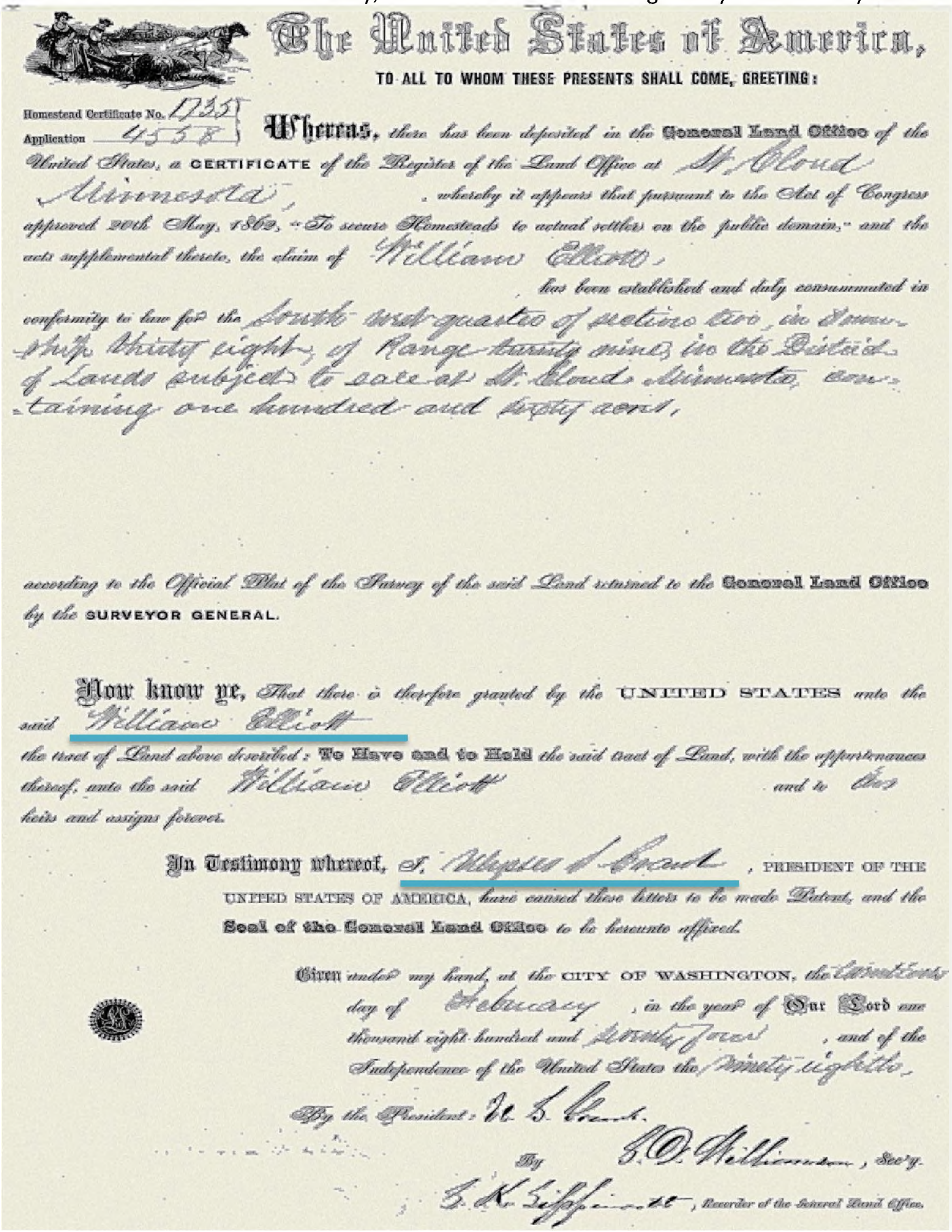
Sworn in open Court, this 26th day of November 1873
before me,
H B Steven Clerk
H McMaken Deputy Clerk

I William Elliott do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America, and that I do absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever; and particularly to Victoria Queen of Great Britain of whom I was a subject.

William Elliott

Sworn in open Court, this 26th day of Nov 1873
before me,
H B Steven Clerk
H McMaken Deputy Clerk

Land Grant to William Elliott February, 1874. Note the Grant was given by President Ulysses S Grant.



The United States of America,

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Homestead Certificate No. 1735
Application 4558

Whereas, there has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States, a CERTIFICATE of the Register of the Land Office at St. Cloud Minnesota, whereby it appears that pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of William Elliott has been established and duly consummated in conformity to law for the South west quarter of section two, in Township thirty eight, of Range twenty nine, in the District of Lands subject to sale at St. Cloud Minnesota, containing one hundred and sixty acres,

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL.

Now know ye, That there is therefore granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said William Elliott the tract of Land above described: To Have and to Hold the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said William Elliott and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony whereof, I, Ulysses S Grant, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the twentieth day of February, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy four, and of the Independence of the United States the ninety eighth.

By the President: U. S. Grant.

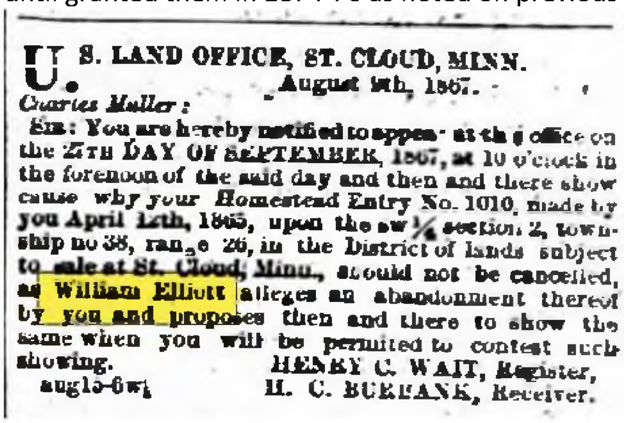
By [illegible], Sec'y.

[illegible], Recorder of the General Land Office.

William was granted 2 properties in 1874 and 1876. Total area 161 acres

Accession	Names	Date	Descript	Section	Townsp	Range
MW-0183-246	STEPHENSON, ISAAC,	1865-01-03	EÂ½NEÂ¼	2	38	29
MW-0183-246	STEPHENSON, WILLIAM	1865-01-03	EÂ½NEÂ¼	2	38	29
MN1930__.216	ELLIOTT, WILLIAM	1874-02-20	SWÂ¼	2	38	29
MW-0507-384	ELLIOTT, WILLIAM,	1876-08-15	SÂ½NWÂ¼	2	38	29
MW-0507-384	BASYE, HENRY	1876-08-15	WÂ½NEÂ¼	2	38	29

These properties were procured by William in 1867 as he petitioned in the St. Cloud newspaper that the land had been abandoned by the previous owner. Abandonments were not uncommon at the time in this region as families found clearing and working the land too difficult. I believe they lived on the lots until granted them in 1874-76 as noted on previous page.



U. S. LAND OFFICE, ST. CLOUD, MINN.
August 9th, 1867.

Charles Muller:

SIR: You are hereby notified to appear at this office on the 27TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1867, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of the said day and then and there show cause why your Homestead Entry No. 1010, made by you April 12th, 1865, upon the sw ¼ section 2, township no 38, range 26, in the District of lands subject to sale at St. Cloud, Minn., should not be cancelled, as William Elliott alleges an abandonment thereof by you and proposes then and there to show the same when you will be permitted to contest such showing.

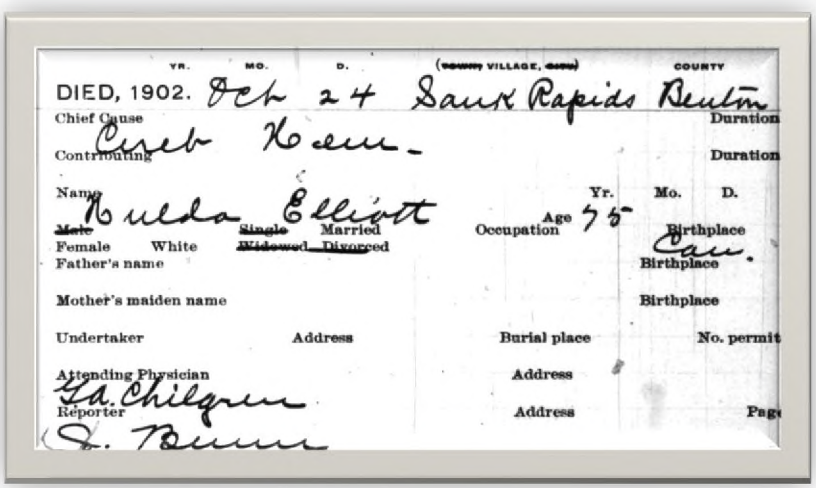
HENRY C. WAIT, Register,
H. C. BURBANK, Receiver.

aug15-6w

Prior to 1900, William and Hulda sold the farm and moved into a rented house, in the nearby town of Sauk Rapids, to retire. Sauk Rapids itself has had a hard luck existence. It was a supply and lumber mill town and the end of the rail line from the east in the 1870's. Produce was taken by horse wagon to the town to be shipped east or south via train or the Mississippi River. Sauk Rapids was devastated by a F4 tornado in April 1887. Seventy-two people died in what is still the deadliest tornado in Minnesota history. The town took years to rebuild and by the time it had recovered, the town of St. Cloud, located across the Mississippi River, had surpassed it in importance.

Photos courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

1887 tornado aftermath. The bridge across the Mississippi to St. Cloud: built in 1876 and rebuilt 1879.



DIED, 1902. Oct 24 Sauk Rapids Benton

Chief Cause: Cereb Hem.

Contributing

Name: Hulda Elliott

Female White Married

Occupation — Age 75

Birthplace: Can.

Father's name — Birthplace

Mother's maiden name — Birthplace

Undertaker — Address — Burial place — No. permit

Attending Physician: G.A. Chilgren — Address

Reporter: G. Brunn — Address — Page

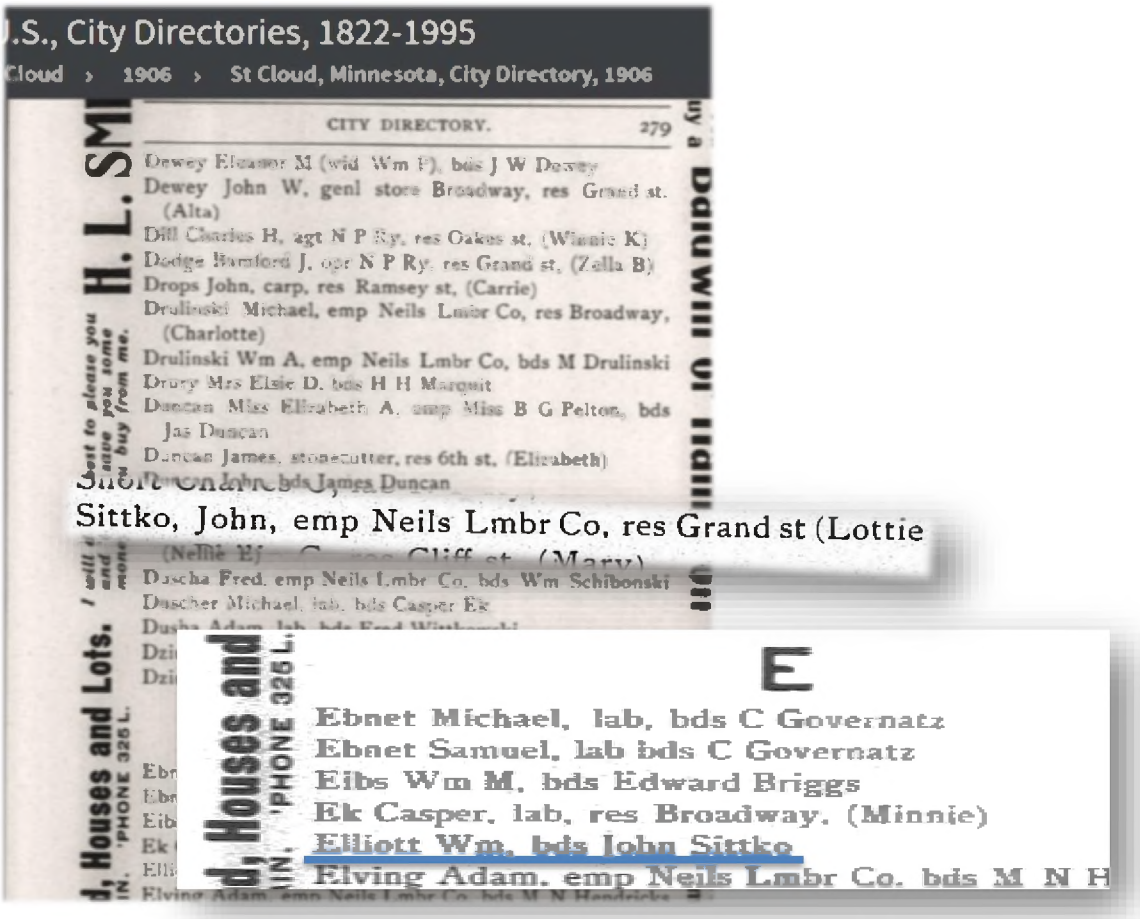
Death index card: State of Minnesota Genealogy Department

Hulda died on Oct 24, 1902 of a cerebral hemorrhage. Her burial location is unknown. I have yet to ascertain her maiden name.

According to the 1905 Minnesota Census and after Hulda's death, William was living with the Nelson Orcutt family on Grand St. in St. Cloud, Minn. Nelson was a son of the Orcutt family that were close neighbours of the Elliott's when they lived on their farm property. William was 86 years old at the time of the 1905 census. From census records and St. Cloud city directory pages, the Orcutt family moved to Chelan, Washington prior to the 1910 US census. A John Sittko and wife Lottie bought the Orcutt's Grand St. house when they moved from the Dakotas to St. Cloud in 1906. William was listed as a lodger with the Sittkos. It appears he came with the house. Neither the 1909 St. Cloud city directory nor the 1910 St. Cloud census had a William Elliott on record. It would be safe to assume he died in 1907 or 1908. There is a death notification indicating a William Elliott died in St Cloud on the 8th of May in 1907. Disappointedly, I have not located a definitive death certificate, burial location or will for William Elliott.

1905 census of Sulk Rapids Mn.

Last records found for William Elliott in St. Cloud, Minnesota City Directory 1906.

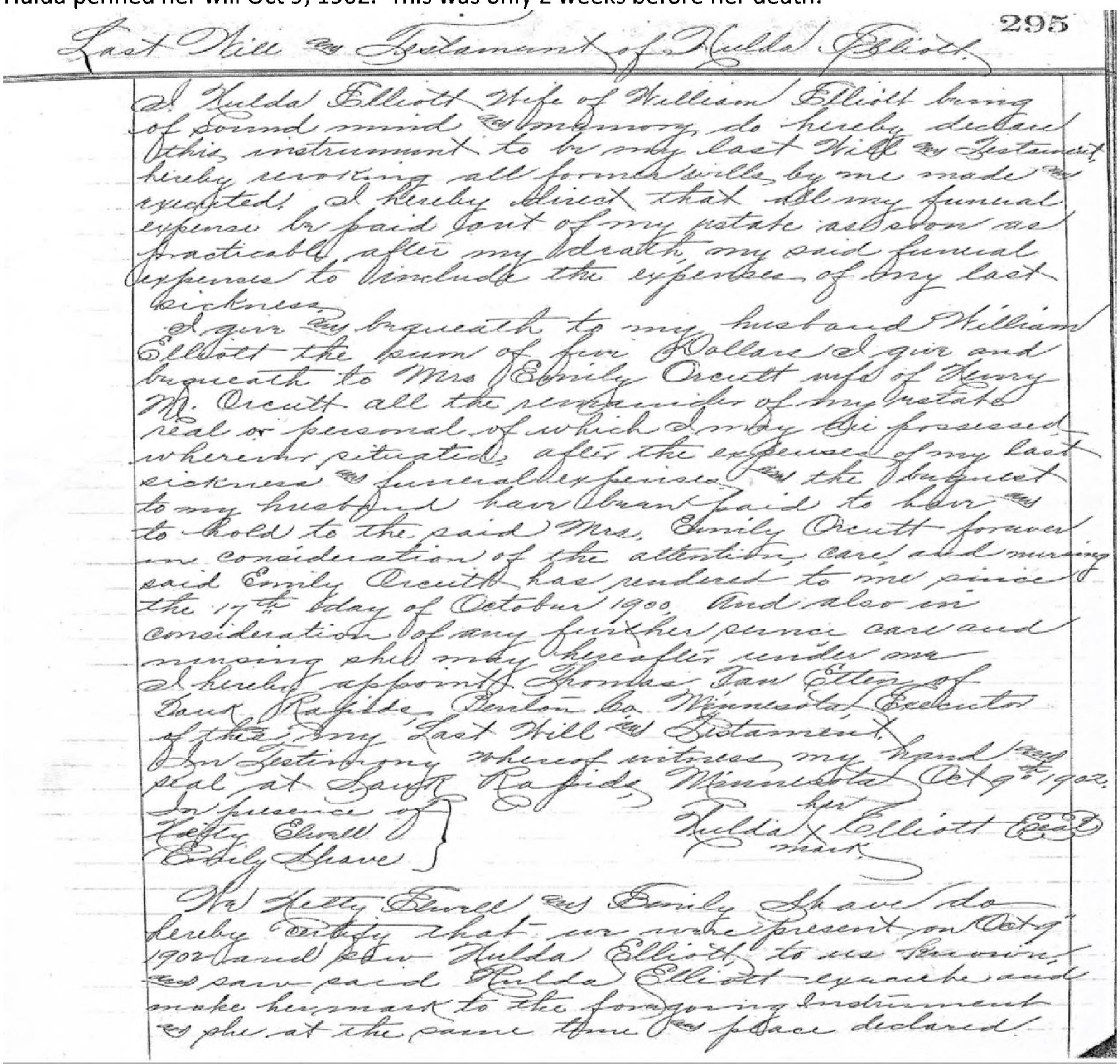


William died 08 May 1907 as per *"Minnesota, Death Records and Certificates, 1900-1955", database, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FDZB-T2J*

Name	William Elliot
Sex	Male
Age	89
Birth Year (Estimated)	1818
Event Type	Death
Event Date	8 May 1907
Event Place	St. Cloud Township, Stearns, Minnesota, United States
Event Place (Original)	St. Cloud, Stearns, Minnesota

The man was the rolling stone of his family. Was he successful in his business pursuits? Questionable. Was he a good father? Hardly. I think the best way to sum up the man was by the directions given in his wife's will.

Hulda penned her will Oct 9, 1902. This was only 2 weeks before her death.



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Last Will & Testament of Hulda Elliott

I Hulda Elliott Wife of William Elliott being of sound mind & memory, do hereby declare this instrument to be my last Will & Testament hereby revoking all former wills by me made & executed. I hereby direct that all my funeral expense be paid out of my estate as soon as practicable after my death, my said funeral expenses to include the expenses of my last sickness.

I give & bequeath to my husband William Elliott the sum of five Dollars I give and bequeath to Mrs Emily Orcutt wife of Henry M. Orcutt all the remainder of my estate real or personal of which I may be possessed wherever situated, after the expenses of my last sickness & funeral expenses & the bequest to my husband have been paid to have & to hold to the said Mrs. Emily Orcutt forever in consideration of the attention, care, and nursing said Emily Orcutt has rendered to me since the 17th day of October 1900. And also in consideration of any further service care and nursing she may hereafter render me. I hereby appoint Thomas Van Etten of Sauk Rapids, Benton Co. Minnesota, Executor of this my Last Will & Testament.

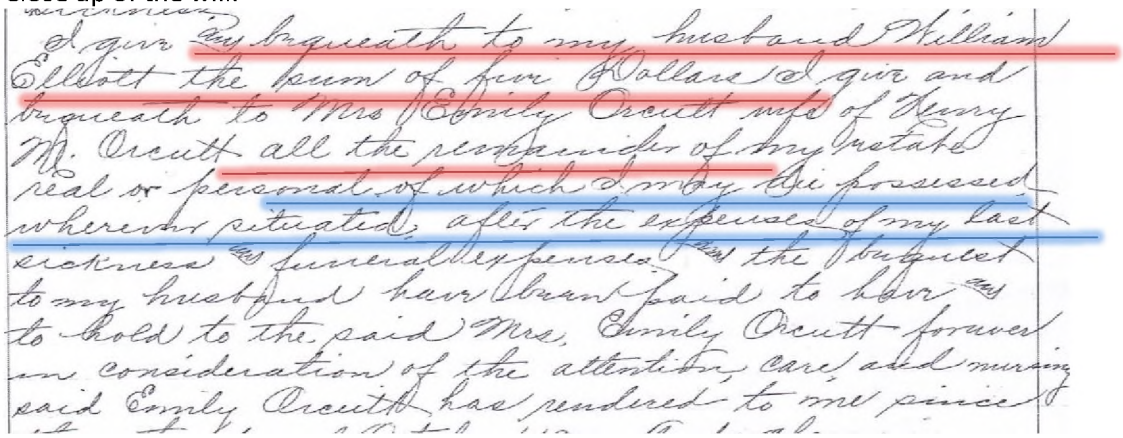
In Testimony whereof witness my hand & seal at Sauk Rapids Minnesota Oct 9th 1902.

In presence of
Hetty Elwell
Emily Shave

her
Hulda x Elliott (Seal)
mark

We Hetty Elwell & Emily Shave do hereby certify that we were present on Oct 9th 1902 and saw Hulda Elliott, to us known, & saw said Hulda Elliott execute and make her mark to the foregoing Instrument & she at the same time & place declared

Close up of the will.



Transcribed:

"I give and bequeath to my husband William Elliott the sum of five dollars and give a bequeath to Mrs. Emily Orcutt wife of Henry M Orcutt all the remainder of my estate".

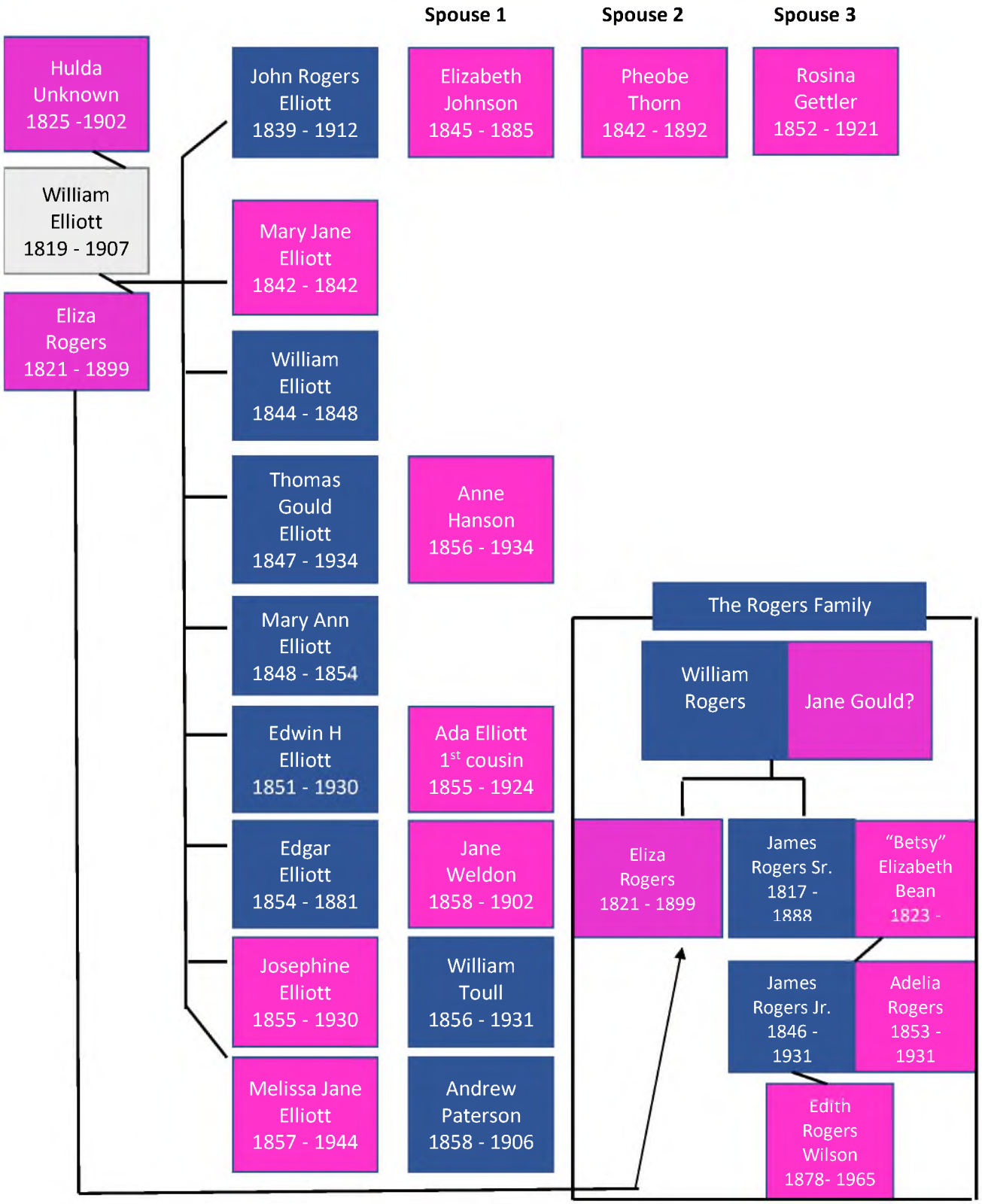
Hulda apparently had been ill for 2 years before her death and Mrs. Orcutt had taken care of her until she died and thus received Hulda's estate. I think Hulda did not think highly of William. Hopefully he quaffed a few beers with the $5 dollars he received.

One question that has not been answered is what happened to William's first wife Eliza Rogers.

After moving back to Oxford Co. from Huron Co., she appeared in the 1871 Census as living in Ingersoll. That census page is noted in preceding pages. By 1881, the Ingersoll census had "widowed" Eliza listed as living with son Thomas G and his wife.

1881 Ingersoll census

Other records of the time would indicate they were living on Carnegie St. in Ingersoll. Eliza was 60 years old at the time of the census. She died 11 April 1889 and is buried in IRC just a few blocks from her Carnegie St. home. The tombstone lists her as Elizabeth and she is buried with younger son Edwin Elliott and his wife (and first cousin) Ada. Eliza died of bronchitis after a short illness and is buried in the Elliott section "H" of IRC. The widow moniker was still present on her death schedule, even though William was still alive in 1899. William and Eliza had a complicated relationship. He was unable to stay in one location whereas she was loyal and raised her family as a single mother. Her children were loyal to her.

Their children led exciting lives and the offspring of these children had fruitful lives as you will witness in following chapters.

William Elliott Family Tree
(Second son of John and Mary Elliott) & Eliza Rogers Family