



William
Bridgewater

1795-1880

Preacher and Farmer

WILLIAM⁸ BRIDGWATER (*JONATHAN F.⁷ BRIDGWATER, JR., JONATHAN⁶, NATHANIEL⁵, SAMUEL⁴, THOMAS³, JOHN², BRIDGWATER¹*) a preacher and a farmer, was born February 14, 1795 in Amherst Co., VA, and died April 04, 1880 in Plymouth, Hancock Co., Illinois, son of Jonathan F. Bridgewater and Nancy Ewers. When still a child, his family moved from Virginia to the wilds of Kentucky. His father, Jonathan F. BRIDGWATER, Jr. was born April 20, 1764 in Henrico Co., VA, and died December 12, 1849 in Adair Co., KY. He married Nancy EWERS January 01, 1791 in Amherst Co., VA, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth EWERS.

Jonathan F. was a Revolutionary War Soldier and is mentioned in Allen's History of Green County, Kentucky, 1872. [Reprint, Green County Historical Society] He moved to Amherst Co., Virginia, after the Revolutionary War; then by 1801 to Green Co., Kentucky. He bought 648 acres on Russell Creek, a branch of the Green River, jointly with his brother-in-law, William Ewers. He is recorded there until just after 1820 when he appears in the records of Adair Co., Kentucky. Settlement of Estate recorded 27 May 1850: Adair Co., Kentucky, Deed Book N, p. 528. Jonathan and his wife are buried in the family cemetery near Cane Valley, Kentucky.

William Bridgewater was married to his first cousin, MALINDA FRANCES EWERS, on November 15, 1818 in Adair Co., Kentucky. She was born May 9, 1798 in Amherst Co., Virginia, and died May 17, 1851, daughter of WILLIAM EWERS and MARY BARNETT. Five months later, on October 21, 1851, in Hancock Co., Illinois, William remarried. His new bride was the widow LUCY [MCCLURE] LYON who came with five of her own children from her marriage to David Lyon. Lucy was born November 15, 1807 in Albemarle Co., Virginia, and died August 20, 1890 in Denver, Hancock Co., Illinois.

Both William and Lucy are buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, in Harmony Township, Hancock Co., Illinois.

In Kentucky, William's family was deeply involved with the Mount Gilead Baptist Church in Green County, adjacent to Adair County.

Before relocating to Illinois, it was necessary for William to dispose of his property. This included land and slaves. He had already made a gift of a slave to his son, James Ewers Bridgewater, who promptly sold his "gift" and moved to Illinois. Other family had also relocated and apparently convinced William to follow, which he did sometime after August 1850, when the census taker visited his family in Adair County, and October 1851 when he married the widow Lyon in Hancock Co., Illinois. It is not known whether Malinda died in Kentucky or made the trip to Illinois and died there.

WILLIAM BRIDGEWATER and MALINDA EWERS had the following known children:

- i. JAMES EWERS⁹ BRIDGEWATER, b. September 02, 1820, Adair Co., KY; d. May 30, 1893, Caldwell, Sumner Co., KS; m. NANCY JANE SMITH, July 26, 1846, Hancock Co., IL; b. about 1825, Kentucky; d. May 12, 1894, Oklahoma.
- ii. SEATON T. BRIDGEWATER, b. 1825, Kentucky; d. 1847; Mexican War.
- iii. MARY ANN BRIDGEWATER, b. about 1827, Kentucky; m. JAMES S. B. MASSIE.
- iv. NANCY JANE BRIDGEWATER, b. about 1829, Kentucky; m. ELIJAH BEARD.
- v. MELISSA FRANCES BRIDGEWATER, b. about 1831, Kentucky; m. BOWEN PRICE HURT, July 15, 1846, Adair Co., KY; b. about 1826, Kentucky; d. August 21, 1864, Georgia; Civil War
- vi. AMANDA EWERS BRIDGEWATER, b. April 21, 1834, Kentucky; d. January 01, 1890; m. CARY ELLIOTT, November 28, 1850, Adair Co., KY; b. July 18, 1825, nr Columbia, KY; d. November 19, 1900, Denton, MO.
- vii. JENNETTA JONES BRIDGEWATER, b. January 30, 1838, Kentucky; m. WILLIAM LOGAN LYON, May 01, 1853, Hancock Co., IL; b. Bet. 1831 - 1832.

Source Notes:

William was a preacher, born in Virginia, raised in Kentucky, removed to Illinois [1851].
Beth Brown.

Removal to Illinois is reflected in Mt. Gilead Baptist Church records in Green Co.,
Kentucky.

Granddaughter, Emma Frances [Bridgewater] Christy, related the story that William's son
James Ewers Bridgewater and cousins [Burgess Griffin Bridgewater and George
Washington Bridgewater] went to Illinois and William followed. William had given
James a slave and "not believing in slavery" James sold the slave and moved to Illinois.
Emma was a constant companion of her own granddaughter, Evelyn Beth [Christy]
Brown, who passed on stories of her family from Illinois, to Kansas, then Colorado, and
finally California.

1850 Census, First District, Adair Co., Kentucky, p. 27

8 August 1850, V. A. Wheat, Ass't Marshal
373-373

15. Wm Bridgewater, 55 M, Farmer, b. Va
16. Mal. Bridgewater, 52 F, b. Va
17. Amanda Bridgewater, 16, b. Ky
18. Jenetta Bridgewater, 12, b. Ky; Attended School
19. Geo. Bridgewater, 29, Farmer, b. Ky
20. Nancy Bridgewater, 80, b. Va
21. Mary Ewers, 76, b. Va

In this record, William's surname is spelled "Bridgewater" while the remaining surnames
are "Bridgwater". Geo. Bridgwater might be William's nephew, George Washington
Bridgewater, who married Nancy J. Reddie, and was living in Montgomery Co., Illinois,
in 1860. If he is not a son I am unaware of, I suspect "nephew" George was there to assist
in the move to Illinois. Beth Brown told me, as told to her by her grandmother, that
William Bridgewater and his nephews, especially Burgess [George's brother] were quite
close and freely helped one another whenever there was a need.

IRAD Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763-1900, Illinois State Archives
BRIDGEWATER, WILLIAM LYON, LUCY 10/21/1851 Vol. 002 Page 0009 License
#00001794 HANCOCK

Lucy was the widow of DAVID LYON [Her obituary, below]

1860 Census, Harmony Twp., Hancock Co., Illinois, p. 194-195 [452-453]

23 June 1860, George J. Rogers, Ass't Marshal

P.O. Rough & Ready, Illinois

1390-1320

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|------------------|----------|
| 38. Wm Bridgewater | 65 M | Farmer 4000-3000 | Virginia |
| 39. Lucy | " 53 F | | Virginia |
| 40. John | " 23 M | Farmer | Virginia |
| 1. Mary Bridgewater | 18 F | | Illinois |

John and Mary "Bridgewater" are John *Lyon* and Mary *Lyon*, William's step-children.
Their father was David Lyon.

resuming

1391-1391 [Numbers not used]

1392-1322

2. William Lyons	28 M	Farmer 3000-900	Kentucky
3. Nelly J. Lyons	23 F		Kentucky
4. Melinda Lyons	6 F		Illinois Attended School

1870 Census, Harmony Twp., Hancock Co., Illinois, p. 36-37 [180-181]

25 June 1870, Thos Logan, Ass't Marshal

P.O. Bently

270-267

34. Bridgewater William	65 M W	Farmer 7200-650	Virginia
35. ----- Lucy	63 F W	Keeping House	"
36. Lyon Janette	15 F W	at Home	Oregon
271-268			
37. Lyon William L	37 M W	Farmer 7000-750	Kentucky
38. ----- Janett	32 F W	Keeping House	"
39. ----- Lydia F	16 F W	At Home	Illinois Attended School
40. ----- David	9 M W	" "	" Attended School
1. Lyon Louella	5/12 F W	At Home	Missouri b. Jan [1870]

IRAD Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763-1900, Illinois State Archives

LYON, WILLIAM L - BRIDGWATER, JENETTA E - 05/01/1853 002/0017 00002045
HANCOCK

1880 Census, Chili Twp., Hancock Co., Illinois, e. d. 6, p. 16D [77]

15 June 1880, David P. Warrell, Enumerator

147-147

18. Banks Job V, W M 42, [head] married, Farmer; b. IL; parents b. KY
19. ----- Mary A, W F 38, Wife, married, Keeping House; b. IL; parents b. KY [sic]
20. ----- Susan, W F 11, Daughter, single, at School; b. IL; parents b. IL
21. ----- Orvil R, W M 1, Son, single; b. IL; parents b. IL
22. Brown John T, W M 18, Ward, Farmer; b. NY; parents b. NY
23. Bridgewater Lucy, W F 72, Mother in Law, widowed, Boarder; b. VA; parents b. VA

Indexed "Bridgewater" by Ancestry.com

Lucy's obituary published in the Carthage Republican, Carthage, Illinois, August 27, 1890.

NOTE: Virginia Elliott's book, Captain George Elliott and the Virginia Navy, has a "Bridgewater Excursus" incorrectly tracing the Bridgewater lineage. However, it does provide additional "unverified" descendant information on William Bridgewater, the Ewers, and the Lyon(s) families.

Notes for LUCY MCCLURE:

Kentucky Marriage Index. Index compiled from county courthouse marriage records by Jordan Dodd of Liahona Research (P.O. Box 740, Orem, Utah 84059).

1850 Census, Hancock Co., Illinois, p. 300

19th day of September, 1850. Wesley Williams Ass't Marshal
437-437

22. Lucy Lyon	43 F	1200	Ky
23. Sidney	" 20 M	Farmer	" Attended School
24. Logan	" 18 M	"	" Attended School
26. John	" 13 M		Illinois Attended School
27. Mary	" 8 F		" Attended School
28. Mary Page	65 F		Va

The cemetery record date of death is 20 AUG 1890 [Computer printout, unknown source] whereas Lucy's obituary calculates to the same date but states she died on Wednesday which was the 23rd of August.

Obituary published in The Carthage Republican, August 27, 1890

Denver [Hancock Co., Illinois]

A PIONEER MOTHER GONE.

AUG. 25 -- Lucy Bridgewater was born in Albemarle county, Va., the 15th of November 1807; came to Kentucky in 1817. In 1835 she with her first husband, David Lyon, moved to Hancock county, Ill., and located in St. Mary's township on a farm now owned by T. B. Brumback. Here those hardy pioneers with willing hands and generous hearts helped develop the country and to adorn it with a higher and better civilization. There too were ties of friendship formed which only death could break. The husband died in 1844, survived by the wife and five children. But two of the children are now living, Mrs. J. V. Banks, of Hire township, McDonough county, and T. G. Lyon, of this place. In 1851 the mother was united in marriage to Wm. Bridgewater, and moved with him to Harmony township on a farm now owned by John Fleming, thence to Denver about twenty years ago. Ten years later the second husband died at the age of 85 years. And last Wednesday night at the hour of twelve, surrounded by her children, grandchildren and friends, aunt Lucy reached the last station on life's long road at the age of 82 years, 9 months and 5 days. Of the original family there is but one left -- a brother -- Jas. McClure, of Augusta. She was a blessed mother. Her children learned the lesson of her life and grew to be noble men and women. She was a member of the Christian church more than sixty years; did her work well and was fruitful to every trust. Many whose suffering and wants were made lighter by her charities will pay the tribute to her memory in anguish and tears. After an appropriate and beautiful sermon by Elder Cramer the good mother in Israel was laid to rest at the Mt. Pleasant cemetery.

Notes for JAMES EWERS BRIDGWATER:

1848 Removed to Hancock County, Illinois
1850 Census, Bear Township, Hancock County, Illinois
1860 Census, Bear Township, Hancock County, Illinois
1870 Census, Bear Township, Hancock County, Illinois
1876 Removed to Taylor County, Iowa
1876: Purchased SW 23 T 69 R32, Taylor Co., Iowa
1880 Census, Grant Township, Taylor County, Iowa
1883 Removed to Caldwell, Sumner County, Kansas
1883: Purchased 2 N & 3 W Caldwell, Kans; SE 18 T 34 R 3 W
1893 Obituary of James E. Bridgewater
1894 Obituary of Nancy J. Bridgewater

Children:

- 1 Melissa Bridgewater [1848-1850] died young
- 2 Mary Jenetta Bridgewater [1850-1903] m. James N. Baldwin
- 3 George A. Bridgewater [1852-1923] m. Margaret Freeman
- 4 Margaret E. Bridgewater [1854-1932] m. Samuel H. Lewis
- 5 Arminta Bell Bridgewater [1855-1924] m. William M. White
- 6 Child Bridgewater [1857-] died young
- 7 Seaton Jefferson Bridgewater [1860-1921] m. Ida Adella Smith
- 8 Emma Frances Bridgewater [1862-1930] m. Andrew Christy

Died, at Caldwell, Kan., May 31, 1893, James E. Bridgewater aged 72 years. Born in Kentucky, he moved to Illinois when young. About eight years ago he went to Kansas. James Bridgewater was married to Miss Nancy I. Smith July 26, 1846. Eight children were born to them. The wife six children and one sister survive. The deceased was a member of the Christian church for twenty years, and lived a life in harmony with his profession. His funeral was largely attended, his body was laid to rest in the cemetery north of Caldwell. "Carthage Republican" 21 May 1893, p. 5
Carthage, Hancock Co., Illinois

Buried 5 June 1893 in cemetery north of Caldwell, Sumner Co., Kansas.

Notes for NANCY JANE SMITH:

Died in Oklahoma while visiting daughter Emma [Bridgewater] Christy; body returned to Caldwell and funeral held Monday, 14 May 1894, at the Central Christian Church, conducted by Pastor Hook.

Died.

Mrs. Nancy J. Bridgewater died at the residence of Mrs. Emma Christy, in Oklahoma, last Saturday. The deceased was a lady well known to a good many of our people, as a kind, estimable christian woman. She was in her

70th year, and survived her husband who died in this city over a year ago. She was around on the day of her death and died suddenly while sitting in her chair. The funeral services were held at the Central Christian Church in this city on last Monday, conducted by Pastor Hook.

"Caldwell News"

Caldwell, Sumner Co., Kansas

17 May 1894, p. 5

Notes for SEATON T. BRIDGWATER:

Died in Mexican War of camp fever. I have not found verification for this.

Notes for JAMES S. B. MASSIE:

Res. Palopinto, Texas.

Notes for CARY ELLIOTT:

Buried in Strange Graveyard beside his wife, three infant children and near his sisters Polly Elliott Hindman and Nancy Elliott Baker. Ref. Captain George Elliott of the Virginia Navy, p. 100.

Notes for WILLIAM LOGAN LYON:

Logan and Gennetta were step-brother and step-sister. Moved to El Dorado Springs, Missouri.

IRAD Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763-1900, Illinois State Archives
LYON, WILLIAM L - BRIDGWATER, JENETTA E - 05/01/1853 002/0017
00002045 HANCOCK

Notes for JONATHAN F. BRIDGWATER:

Family was bible last known in possession of Charlie Bridgewater, Jr., Evanston, Indiana, [1981].

JONATHAN BRIDGWATER and NANCY EWERS had the following known children:

- i. THOMAS NATHAN BRIDGEWATER, b. December 03, 1792, Amherst Co., VA; d. July 16, 1863, Green Co., KY; m. (1) MARY PAGE, February 03, 1814, Barren Co., KY; m. (2) NANCY LEE, February 09, 1826, Green Co., KY; m. (3) MARIA PELLY, October 11, 1858, Taylor Co., KY.

- ii. WILLIAM BRIDGEWATER, b. February 14, 1795, Amherst Co., VA; d. April 04, 1880, Plymouth, Hancock Co., IL; m. (1) LUCY; m. (2) MALINDA FRANCES EWERS, November 15, 1818, Adair Co., KY. He was a preacher; removed to Hancock Co., IL in 1851.
- iii. MARY "Polly" BRIDGEWATER, b. February 01, 1797, Amherst Co., VA; d. 1876; m. (1) GEORGE W. TAYLOR; m. (2) CHARLES JONES, February 01, 1816, Adair Co., KY
- iv. SAMUEL BRIDGEWATER, b. 1806, Green Co., KY; m. LOUISA GENTRY, July 20, 1830, Green Co., KY.
- v. JOHN F. (JACK) BRIDGEWATER, b. September 23, 1811, Green Co., KY; m. ELIZABETH "Betsey" GROVES, November 05, 1832, Adair Co., KY