



Matthew Coleman Bridgewater

MATTHEW COLEMAN⁸ BRIDGWATER (NATHANIEL⁷, JONATHAN⁶, NATHANIEL⁵, SAMUEL⁴, THOMAS³, JOHN², BRIDGWATER¹) was born on Saturday, June 7, 1828, in Nelson Co., Virginia, and died November 3, 1882, in Cooper Co., Missouri.

Matthew was most certainly a southern gentleman with southern sympathies. His great admiration of Missouri Governor, later Major General Sterling Price, is reflected in the naming of one of his sons, Sterling Price Bridgewater, in January 1862. The following November, and surely coerced by the circumstances of the war, Matthew signed the Oath of Loyalty that was being circulated by Missouri's Union Provost Marshal. It is of no surprise that Matthew was ultimately a Confederate Soldier. He served as a private in Company I, 13th Missouri "Wood's" Cavalry, CSA, commonly nicknamed "Wood's Regiment". This unit was originally designated the 14th Mo Cavalry Battalion. Later, as the unit was increased to regimental size, it was re-designated as the 13th Mo Cavalry Regiment. It was also known as "Wood's Partisan Rangers" and was commanded by Col. Robert C. Wood. It served primarily as an "unattached" or independent unit, although it was assigned to Marmaduke's Cavalry Division. It saw action at Pine Bluff, Arkansas on October 25, 1863, at Jenkins' Ferry on April 30, 1864, and in the numerous engagements of Price's 1864 Missouri raid.

Along with many of his friends and neighbors, Matthew was conscripted by Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's forces in their raid in Missouri during the months of October and November, 1864. "Pap Price's" Missouri expedition was countered around Kansas City, Missouri, by Union forces under Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis and Maj. Gen. Alfred Pleasonton. Price withdrew south, and Pleasonton pursued him into Kansas. The armies engaged at Marais des Cygnes in Linn Co., Kansas. After a Union artillery bombardment that began at 4:00 am, Pleasonton's men attacked furiously. Although outnumbered, they hit the Rebel line with enough energy to force Price and his men to withdraw. This was known as the Battle of Osage and, by some, as the Battle of Trading Post, named after nearby communities.

The Regiment, including Matthew, surrendered at Shreveport, Louisiana, and was paroled in June 1865. At the time of its surrender it was part of the 1st Missouri Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Trans-Mississippi Department.

After the war, Matthew returned to his wife and children in Missouri and resumed his work as a carpenter and farmer. He was married June 09, 1853, in Saline Co., Missouri, to Martha Jane Harlow, daughter of Rice G. Harlow and Evelina Ewers. She was born September 19, 1832 in Nelson Co., Virginia, and died May 02, 1873 in Cooper Co., Missouri.



Matthew was the youngest son of Nathaniel Bridgwater and Rebecca Jeanetta Clarke of Nelson Co., Virginia. His father was established in the county when, in 1833, he sold everything and headed west. His eldest son, Samuel Bridgwater, had scouted out Cooper Co., Missouri, the year before, and apparently convinced other kin back in Virginia to join him in the west. Clarks, Harlows, Bridgwaters, and others began selling off their property in and by the mid-1830's resettled in Missouri. Nathaniel became prominent and well respected during his remaining years in Cooper County. He died on October 9, 1849. The probate of Nathaniel's estate was filed in Cooper Co., Missouri, 12 November 1849. Administrator was his son-in-law, James C. Ancell. His heirs were his children: Jonathan Bridgwater of the State of Virginia; Samuel Bridgwater, Charles Bridgwater, Eliza Rucker, Rebecca F. Bridgwater, Sarah Sutherlin, and Nancy Dix of Cooper Co., Missouri; Lucinda Ansell, Amanda M. Thornton, and Matthew Bridgwater of Saline Co., Missouri; and William Bridgwater and Jenetta T. Harlow of the State of

Texas.

Children of MATTHEW BRIDGWATER and MARTHA HARLOW were:

- i. MARY REBECCA⁹ BRIDGWATER, b. March 14, 1854, Missouri; m. ETHYLBERT DUDLEY THOMPSON, March 7, 1881.
- ii. FLOYD FINLEY BRIDGWATER, b. January 1, 1855, Missouri; d. April 13, 1884, Brownsville, Saline Co., Missouri, from pneumonia. Floyd never married.
- iii. DOROTHY EVELYN BRIDGWATER, b. January 1, 1857, Cooper Co., MO; d. March 9, 1903, Nashville, Kingman Co., Kansas; m. JONATHAN SIMMONS, April 4, 1883.
- iv. CHARLES THORNTON BRIDGWATER, b. April 14, 1858, Missouri; d. April 23, 1884, Brownsville, Saline Co., Missouri, from pneumonia; m. MARY ELIZABETH LAWSON.
- v. CAPITOLIA BELL BRIDGWATER, b. February 19, 1860, Missouri; d. June 24, 1948; m. SAMSON SYLVESTER DURHAM, 1888.
- vi. STERLING PRICE BRIDGWATER, b. January 20, 1862; d. December 28, 1862.
- vii. SARAH ELIZABETH BRIDGWATER, b. April 28, 1863, Missouri; d. February 7, 1947; m. CHARLES PRICE, April 14, 1886.
- viii. ELMIRA ADALAIDE BRIDGWATER, b. July 17, 1865, Missouri; d. December 18, 1937; m. (1) MR. LOCKWOOD; m. (2) FRANK PRICE, September 29, 1886.
- ix. JOHN WESLEY BRIDGWATER, b. December 16, 1867, Pettis Co., Missouri; d. June 13, 1943; EMMA JANE BROUGHTON, December 12, 1893.
- x. MARGARET FRANCES BRIDGWATER, b. August 2, 1870, Missouri; d. June 12, 1957; m. ARTHUR VOLNOY KENNEDY, December 20, 1888.
- xi. RICE G. BRIDGWATER, b. about 1872, Missouri; d. October 6, 1872, Missouri.



Source Records

1830 Census: Nelson Co., Virginia, p. 97, living with parents.

Bridgewater Nathaniel

Ages	-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60
Male	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
Female	1	2	1	0	2	1	1	0

Slaves 6 male - 0 female

1840 Census, Cooper Co., Missouri, p. 112, living with parents.

Nath Bridgewater

Ages	-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70
Male	1		2	1		1			1
Female				3	1			1	

1850 Census, District No. 23, Cooper Co., Missouri, p. 119. [239]

27 September 1850

686-686

15. William M Rucker	25 M		400		Mo
16. Eliza	"	25 F			Va
17. James		4 M			Mo
18. Charles		2 M			Mo
19. Matthew Bridgewater	22 M	Carpenter			Va

Saline Co., Missouri, Marriage Book C, p. ____.

Mathew C. Bridgewater married June 9, 1853, Martha J. Harlow.

Photographs

Original photographs of Matthew and Martha are in possession of _____.

1860 Census, Black Water Twp., Cooper Co., Missouri, p. 8 [664]

25 July 1860

49-49

24. M C Bridgewater	31 M W	Carpenter P.E. 350		Virginia
25. M J Bridgewater	28 F W			Virginia
26. M R Bridgewater	6 F W			Missouri
27. F F Bridgewater	5 M W			Missouri
28. D E Bridgewater	3 F W			Missouri
29. C T Bridgewater	2 M W			Missouri
30. C B Bridgewater	5/12 F W			Missouri

Missouri's Union Provost Marshal Papers: 1861-1866, Missouri State Archives, Reel No. F1283

Bridgewater, M. C., Pettis County, Oath of Loyalty, 09-14-1862

The Sedalia Advertiser, January 21, 1865, Sedalia, Pettis Co., Missouri, Article published in The Sedalia Advertiser provides list of citizens conscripted by Price's Army, including Matthew.

Missouri Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans website <http://www.missouridivision-scv.org/mounits/woodregcav.htm> contains roster of POW's, including Matthew in Company I.

1870 Census, Heath Creek Twp., Pettis Co., Missouri, p. 13-14 [506]

8 June 1870, Post Office: Sedalia

83-86

34. Bridgewater Mathew C	46 M W Carpenter	280-565	Virginia
35. ----- Martha J	38 F W Keeping House		Virginia
36. ----- Mary R	16 F W at Home		Missouri
37. ----- Floyd F	14 M W do do		Missouri
38. ----- Dorathy E	13 F W do do		Missouri
39. ----- Charles T	12 M W do do		Missouri
40. ----- Capitola	10 F W do do		Missouri
1. Bridgewater Sarah E	7 F W		Missouri
2. ----- Adelaide E	4 F W		Missouri
3. ----- Jno W	2 M W		Missouri

Floyd. *Dorathy*, Charles, and Capitola could not write; *Dorathy*, Capitola, and Sarah attended school.

1880 Census, Blackwater Twp., Saline Co., Missouri, e.d. 70, p. 4 [561B]

3 June 1880

27-27

7. Bridgewater Mat C	W M 51	Widowed Carpenter	VA VA VA
8. ----- Floyd	W M 24 Son	Single Works on farm	MO VA VA
9. ----- Dorothy E	W F 23 Daughter	Single Keeping House	MO VA VA
10. ----- Captolia B	W F 20 Daughter	Single	MO VA VA
11. ----- Sarah E	W F 18 Daughter	Single Attended School	MO VA VA
12. ----- Elvira A	W F 16 Daughter	Single Attended School	MO VA VA
13. ----- John W	W M 12 Son	Single Works on farm	MO VA VA
14. ----- Maggie F	W F 10 Daughter	Single	MO VA VA
15. ----- Carter M	W M 25 Nephew	Single Works on farm	MO VA VA

Dorothy had Bilious Fever. Maggie could not write. Nephew, Carter Mitchelberry/Michaelborough Bridgewater, was a son of William Bridgewater and Martha Dicks/Dix.

Heath Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Saline Co., Missouri. Matthew and his wife are buried in Heath Creek Cemetery, Saline Co., Missouri, located in Blackwater Township, Twp 41, R 20, S 15. Cemetery is on the left side of Route J, about 1/2 mile south of I-70.

Complete names and dates of birth provided b y family record sheet and letter, circa 1960, from Addie Francis (Simmons) Moomau to Vern Paul. Addie was a granddaughter of Matthew Coleman Bridgewater and Martha Jane Harlow.

Additions and Corrections appreciated.

Compiled by Vern Paul

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[The Bridgewater Register](#)

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