

THE FAMILY TREE OF GEOFFREY TUDOR RIGGS - MALE LINE

NOTES:

- Colour coded fonts and line styles are used to distinguish:-

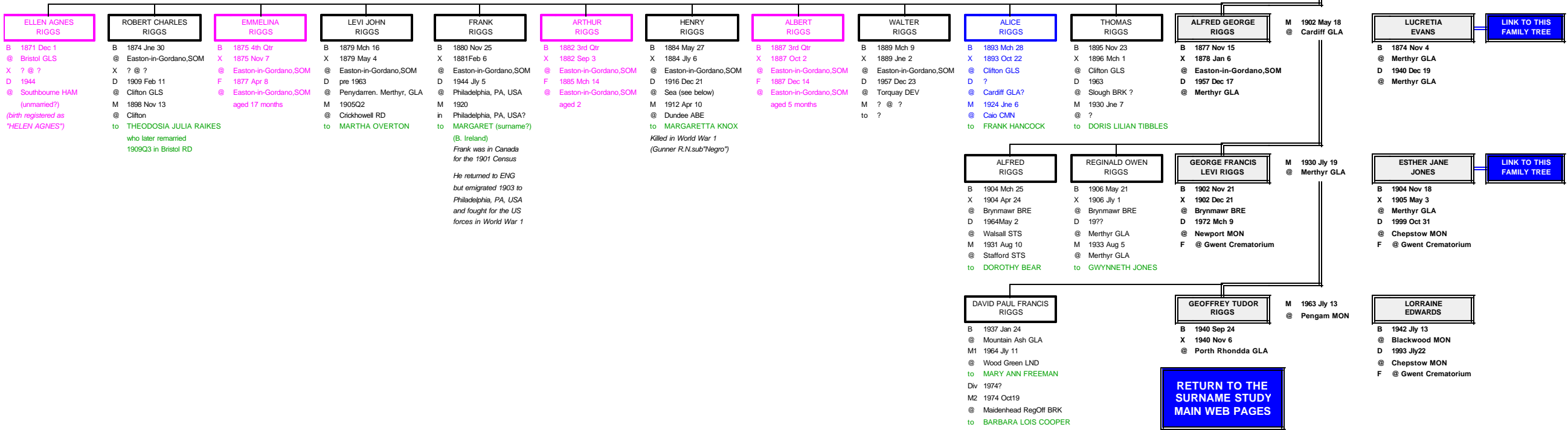
- Direct Ancestors;**
- Brothers who married / may have married / may have had children;
- Sisters who married / may have married / may have had children;
- Brothers or sisters who apparently died without children
- Spouses of brothers and sisters, etc

- B = born; X = Christened; M = married; D = died; F = funeral (i.e.,buried or cremated);
? = not yet proved/uncertain/unknown; < = before (year); > = after (year)
- If the date of an event after June 1837 is unknown, the Civil Registration quarter when it was registered is shown
- The forename "Christian" was a female name in Dorset and elsewhere in the 17th and 18th centuries
It is probably the former version of "Christina" and the more modern "Christine".
- The entry for "ROBERT RIGGS" in the Dewlish burial register in 1795 does not give an age, and could refer either to LEVI GEORGE RIGGS's great uncle (aged 28) or, more probably, to his great grandfather (aged 71)

- Jonas RIGGS, one of John and Ann (nee Hammett)'s four sons, was convicted at the Dorchester County Sessions on 1835Jne30 of larceny and sent to prison for one month at the age of 73. His crime was merely that of stealing a single spar (i.e. pole) of ash wood - for firewood ?

- "There is a legend that still awes school children today - the tale of Ann Riggs, the local village witch. Many misfortunes were attributed to her powers. One farmer blamed her for the death of nine of his horses which she is supposed to have ridden to exhaustion during successive night rides. Several times she was refused access to fields to gather sticks for firewood and the farmer concerned blamed her for the subsequent death of his cows. Traditionally the local witch coven met in the holy road above withybeds, to the north-west of the parish, towards Melcombe Bingham. These Withybeds are still very boggy.... But on this particular night, the witches were surprised by the local witch-hunter general and his henchmen and they were arrested and carried off to the nearest ducking stool, the local stream being too shallow. During the melee that ensued, poor Ann Riggs was killed and was buried just outside the churchyard. However, in the years that followed, the villagers, ridden with guilt, decided to give Ann a proper Christian burial and even extended the walls of the churchyard to include her in the consecrated ground and gave her a proper inscribed gravestone, which survives to this day.

- She is supposed to have lived in a shack behind the cottage opposite the church, which became known as Carriers Cottage, and until recently served as a village shop and post office. During renovations of the cottage and garden some tunnels were revealed indicating possible storage of ice blocks or cheeses. A recent occupant of the cottage, during more renovations, discovered a peculiar stone with strange mystical symbols pointing to the connections of Ann Riggs with the occult. It is also claimed that the cottage is haunted."
- Source: pp45-46 of "Hidden Dorset" published by Countryside Books, Newbury and Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes 1990 ISBN 1 85306 104 2
- Ann Riggs was almost definitely the Ann shown on this tree as Jonah's unmarried sister, christened 1701Apr16: her illegitimate daughter Ann, christened 1729Jne1, married William Arnold of Milton Abbas 1755May4, whilst Ann, daughter of John & Ann (nee Hammett) christened 1768May6, married John Loveless of Hilton 1801Dec14; and these were the only Ann Riggs in Cheselbourne (or in any of my data for the surrounding parishes).



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