



[P193] John WRIGHT
b. 1699 Sandford, Devon,
d. ABT 1752
m. 5 September 1727

[P194] Mary DRAKE
b. ABT 1699
d. 1746 Sandford, Devon,

[P17932] John WRIGHT
b. 1729 Sandford, Devon,
d. 1783 Sandford, Devon,
m. 7 April 1760 Crediton , Devon,

[P17935] Hannah STEERE
d. 1802 Sandford, Devon,

[P172] William WRIGHT
b. 1761 Sandford, Devon,
d. 13 August 1818 Sandford, Devon,
m. 10 November 1783

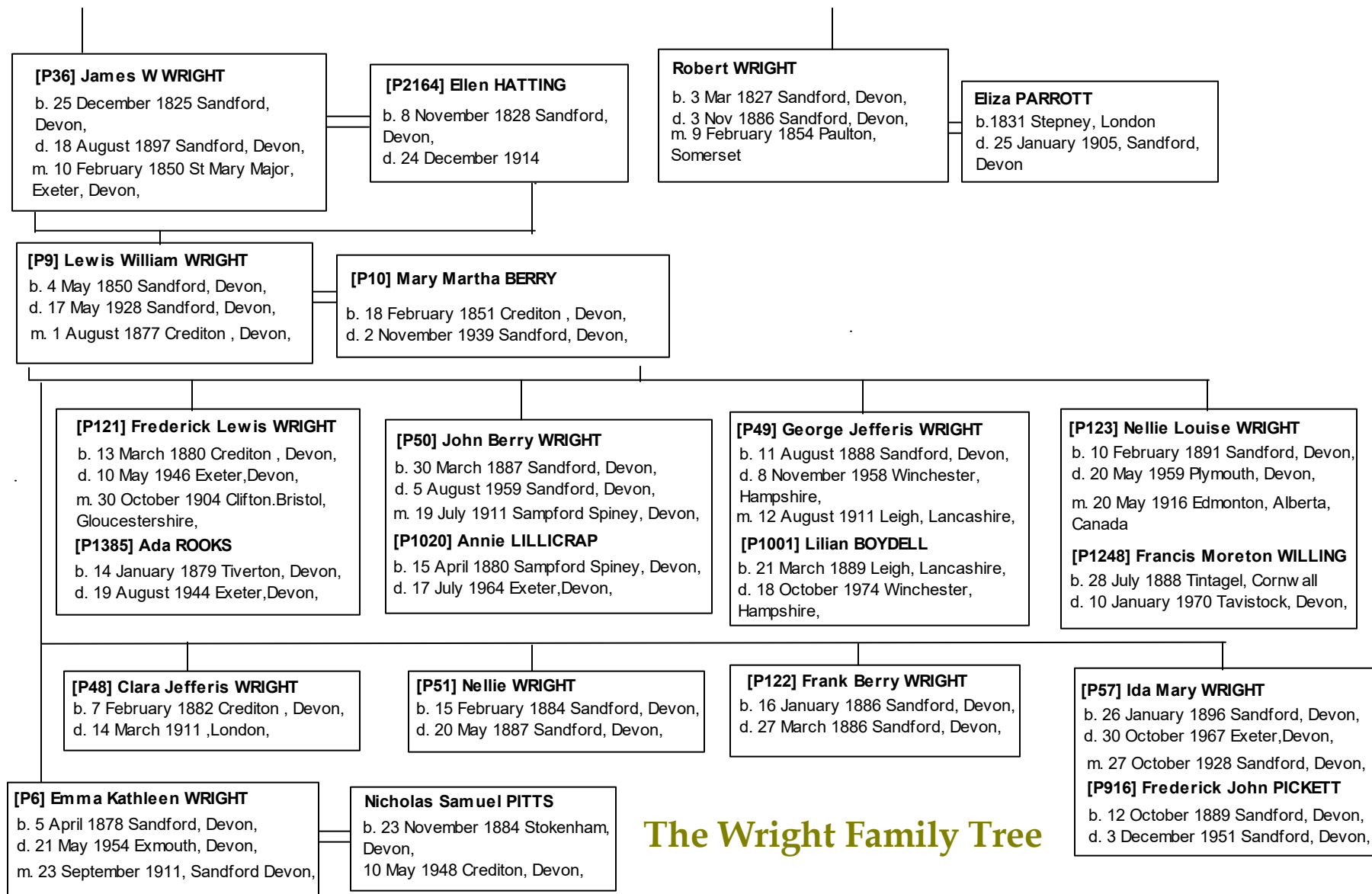
[P173] Elizabeth WELLINGTON
b. ABT 1759 Sandford, Devon,
d. 7 December 1843 Sandford, Devon,

[P168] James WRIGHT
b. 26 September 1799 Sandford,
Devon,
d. 20 February 1851 Sandford, Devon,
m. 24 February 1825 Sandford,
Devon,

[P169] Mary BRAGG
b. ABT 1800 Sandford, Devon,
d. 27 March 1875 Sandford,
Devon,

Our Wrights arrived in Sandford in the latter half of the C17th. Their origins before that are unknown. They lived in Sandford for many generations. By the late C18th the family had a tradition of working as blacksmiths, and as the years passed they developed their skills and thier business to become prize-winning agricultural implement manufacturers. James Wright and his brother Robert were both described as Master Blacksmiths and Master Machinists. and worked in partnership. But in 1859 there must have been a falling out, as the partnership was dissolved, and the brothers went their separate ways. James Wright and his descendants had the West of England Iron Works, and Robert's family became Britannia Iron Works. At first the West of England Iron Works had the upper hand, winning prizes and much praise at the local agricultural fairs. But that was reversed over time, and in the early C20th the Britannia Iron Works took over the rival West of England company.

The Wrights lived in Sandford for some eight generations. At times some family members would live in Crediton , but Sandford was clearly the family home. Then driven by work and marital troubles, in the 1880s, James Wright (1861 - 1928) left Sandford for South Wales and then moved to Bradford, Lancashire. Of the same generation, his cousin Lewis Wright married Mary Berry in 1877, and they had nine children, six of whom survived. Though the couple remained in Sandford most of the six children were to spread their wings, and move to pastures new around the UK. Kate remained close, in Exmouth then to Crediton and neighbouring parishes, Fred lived in Exeter, Clara moved to Exeter before her premature death at the age of 29, George moved to Leigh in Lancashire, then to Winchester, Nell migrated to Canada, returning before WWII to live in the South Hams, and Jack and Mary both stayed in Sandford with their spouses and children. Despite this modest diaspora the children of Lewis and Mary Martha remained in close touch with one another.



The Wright Family Tree