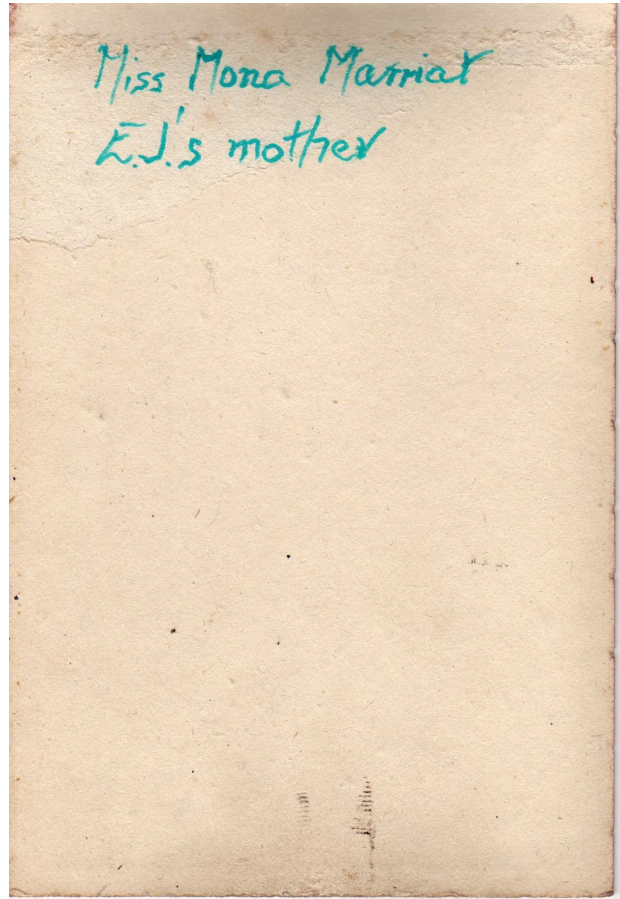


Emrys John Williams – A Personal Story

It wasn't until I was 34 years old and clearing out the desk of my newly-dead father that I discovered that nobody had told the truth.

I found the portrait of a young woman, carefully preserved. On the back was written in Dad's hand, "Miss Mona Marriott, EJ's mother." EJ was me, Emrys John Williams. And I knew who my mother was, and it was Dad's wife, Elsie Marion Williams, née Francis. So what was all this?



I asked Joan, Mum's sister. She explained that yes, the photo was right, Mum was not my mother, I had been adopted. Mona had lived with Mum and Dad and been a single mother in 1953, when that was shameful. Mona had left when I was young and Mum and Dad had adopted me. They had deliberately concealed my origins, Mum going to the length of destroying every photo in the house that showed Mona. Except, it seemed, the one in my hands. The whole family knew of this subterfuge, and just made no mention of it. Some suspected that Dad, Llewellyn Curwen Williams, was my genetic father, but nobody knew.

It's a wise man that knows his father. It had turned out that I didn't even know my mother. All this was quite a surprise, but it did explain some odd events from the past. Tradition has it that mothers are more nurturing than fathers, but I'd noted in my childhood, before I was ten, that Mum was much more cold to me than Dad.

I did have just a few memories of Mona. I remember standing on the stairs in Elmwood Avenue, holding my teddy bear and wearing a duffel coat. Mona did up the toggles on the coat. And she bathed me and shaved underneath her arms in the bathroom, which fascinated me at two years old. And I remember her not coming home, ever again, which was sad for me.

That was all that happened, back then in 1988. I was grieving the loss of Mum and Dad and busy sorting out their estates and working hard too and slightly in shock that I'd been deceived by Mum and Dad and my relatives for all those years. I chose to do nothing. I didn't seek out Mona, I didn't

make a fuss, I didn't ask for details. I did come across my adoption certificate.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY IN THE RECORDS OF THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

The statutory fee for this certificate is 3s. 6d. Where a search is necessary to find the entry, a search fee is payable in addition.

Given at the **GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON**

Application Number A. B. R. 99599

(1) No. of entry	(2) Date and country of birth of child (See footnotes)	(3) Name and surname of child	(4) Sex of child	(5) Name and surname, address and occupation of adopter or adopters	(6) Date of adoption order and description of court by which made	(7) Date of entry	(8) Signature of officer deputed by Registrar General to attest the entry
58238	Sixteenth October 1953 England Registration District <u>Islandford</u> Sub-district <u>Islandford</u>	Emrys John Williams	Male	Llewellyn Curwen Williams 8 Elmwood Avenue Feltham, Middlesex Training College Lecturer and Chairman Williams of the same address, Hornsey wife	Nineteenth August 1960 Quorn Hill Court Pety Stasional Division of Spelthorne	Seventh September 1960	J. B. Johnson

CERTIFIED copy of an entry in the Adopted Children Register maintained at the General Register Office given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the 29th day of September 1960.

This certificate is issued pursuant to the Adoption Act, 1958 (7 Eliz. 2 Ch. 5) Section 20. The Act provides that the particulars in columns 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall be entered in the register as they are specified in the Adoption Order.
By Section 20 of the Act, a certified copy of an entry in the Adopted Children Register, if purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall, without any further or other proof of the entry be received as evidence of the adoption to which it relates and, where the entry contains a record of the date or country or district and sub-district of birth of the adopted person, such certified copy shall also be received as evidence of that date or country or district and sub-district in all respects as if the copy were a certified copy of an entry in the Registers of Births.

CAUTION.—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this certificate, or (2) uses a falsified certificate as true, knowing it to be false, is liable to prosecution.

HA 016877



The 21st Century

Move forward eighteen years. I'd been working very hard both in the UK and abroad and I hadn't thought much about Mona and still nobody had mentioned anything to me about my parentage. I'd had various unpleasant struggles with clinical depression and stress and was going through a period of mental housecleaning, clearing out any skeletons mouldering in cupboards. It struck me that one such skeleton was Mona. When I'd first learnt about her, I'd chosen not to search for her, because I could easily imagine it becoming an obsession. Now, in the internet age, it was so easy to find people that not to look could be an obsession in itself. So I looked, and spent a few hours and £4.50 online, and found a likely candidate. I wrote. She wrote back. It was my birth mother, after nearly fifty years.

Mona had changed her name to Liza, and that's what I'll call her now. She was born in 1921, so was in her eighties. It turned out that recent years had been unkind to her, with the death of her lifelong housemate with dementia, and serious health problems of her own. However, she was now and is now in reasonable health. I have visited her and been introduced, to some acclaim, as her long-lost son. She has visited us in Eversholt. We write and speak on the phone irregularly.

Liza did not welcome my approach and is still unsure how to relate to me. She went through a phase of believing that I was only out for her money, which shocked and disappointed me. She broke off communications for many months. But we are still in close touch now, in 2009. Liza has previously said that she didn't want me to let the family know of her existence. She has now moderated that stance and says that she's happy if I tell the story, but definitely does not want to meet the family. So I am telling the story. I'll not be bringing her to any parties.

Liza was initially befriended by Mum when Mum and Dad moved to Nottingham during the war. Liza was a very wet-behind-the-ears teacher at 21, and Mum, more experienced, helped her out. Liza lodged with them. Liza says she was very jealous of the easy physical familiarity, sitting together and holding hands, that Mum and Dad had. However, they all got on very well. After the war, Mum and Dad moved to Feltham, and Liza came too. It must have been very cosy. Liza says that eventually Dad "affected to fall" for her. Liza was younger and bubblier than Mum. She says that Dad was "very sexy" and they had an affair. I don't know when it started or stopped. Liza became pregnant with me. She confirms that Llewellyn Curwen Williams is my genetic father.

Abortion was not legal then, and Liza says that she had no idea how to get an illegal abortion, so the pregnancy went ahead. They owned up to Mum. It must have been a tense meeting, with the three

of them, sharing a house and a friendship for years. Single parenthood then, had it become public, could have destroyed the careers of Liza or Dad.

In fact, Liza went off to hide in Dorset to give birth to me, her baby. She didn't admit to a father on my birth certificate. She returned to Elmwood Avenue and they continued to live together. Liza says that she thinks that Mum acquiesced in all this because it guaranteed that she had Dad under her thumb for the rest of her life. Liza also said that Mum effectively stole me, her baby, from Liza. Mum elbowed Liza out, Liza says. I don't know how accurate an analysis that is. Liza says that she thinks Mum had some medical issue that meant she couldn't conceive, and she would have wanted children.

REGISTRATION DISTRICT Blandford										
1953 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Blandford in the County of Dorset										
Columns:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
455	Sixteenth October 1953. Somerset Hanning Norm Keston Wilt Wootton	George John	Boy		Mona Marriott School Teacher 4, 5 Elmwood Avenue Feltham Middlesex		M. Marriott Mother 8 Elmwood Avenue Feltham Middlesex	Twentieth Second October 1953.	H. Slacey Registrar.	Adopted E.S. Rollans Deputy Superintendent Registrar

Anyway, eventually, Liza left, and did not return. She says that the situation became intolerable.

Mum and Dad adopted me formally. They never told me anything about all this, not one hint, and neither did anyone else, although all the family at the time knew Liza and must have known I was her baby. I never suspected a thing until I found that photograph in Dad's desk after he was dead. I had a privileged childhood, in a well-off family, which led to academic and then commercial success and an easy life with a loving wife. Still, I don't like what happened.

I do think it was a serious error of judgement for Mum and Dad to keep the truth from me. I could be bitter about that, but there is no point in being bitter. And I do wish that Liza hadn't had to leave.

Personal History

We lived at 8, Elmwood Avenue, Feltham, when I was young. Before I started school, I was looked after during the day by Kit and Fonce Skittrell. Kit was a dinner lady at Spelthorne School where Mum taught. Fonce worked on track maintenance for British Rail. I really enjoyed being with them, they were very good to me. Fonce introduced me to woodworking. I kept in touch with them until they died, Fonce in the 1980s and Kit around 2002.

I attended Hanworth Infants' School for two years, from age 5. In fact, I started in the middle of the first term, after I turned 5 on October 16th. This frightened me greatly, because I was new and nobody else was, and I felt very out of my depth, and I still remember that time with horror. Mum taught at this school, too, but she avoided teaching my class.

When I was 7 I went to Oriel Junior School, a little further away.

We moved to 7, Greenmeads, Westfield, Woking, at Christmas in (I think) 1963. We moved because Feltham council compulsorily purchased our house to build flats. Mum took me to the local junior school to register for the new term and was given a job on the spot by the headteacher. I was there a year and a half, and passed my 11+.

I attended Woking County School for boys, a grammar school, for 7 years. I finally began to enjoy school when I was about 15 and doing O levels. I really enjoyed the two years I spent in the sixth

form. Before that, I'd hated school. I had spent the vast majority of my school life not understanding how I fitted in, not feeling comfortable with my friends, not confident in new situations. Liza thinks I have a slight autistic spectrum disorder, and I suspect she may be right.

I went up to Downing College, Cambridge, in 1972, and after 3 years was granted a 2:1 in Natural Sciences, which, for me, meant physics. I really, really enjoyed my time there. I hadn't applied for a research place because I was scared I'd not get the needed 2:1, so I took a job at Racal (Slough) Ltd in Windsor, building a very early digital radio system for military research. I didn't like it, far too industrial, so I arranged to go back to Cambridge to do postgraduate research.

I was at Cambridge again from 1976 to 1979, doing experimental research on gravitation, but I never wrote up the thesis for my PhD. In my defence, I have to say that I had probably the worst PhD supervisor in the university. I met him to discuss my work only twice in 3 years.

In 1979, I joined with Dave Liddell, a friend from Cambridge, and Dennis Fielder, a friend from Woking, to found Jeaborough Ltd, an electronics design consultancy. I lived at 1, Ironmonger Court, Neath Hill, Milton Keynes, a very pleasant ground floor flat. Dennis and I bought Dave out later, because he wasn't committed to the project. We did fine for a while, growing to about 20 people. Our biggest customer was Tycom, a computer maker. In fact, I, personally, coined the word "futureproof" as a gimmick to use in a marketing pitch to Tycom to get a computer design contract. They took it for their own marketing and it's passed into legend! Then Tycom went bust owing us a fortune and so we went bust and that was that, in, I think, 1984.

Dennis Fielder and I formed Fielder Williams Design, which basically just sold our own design services. Dennis quit to take a real job. I moved into 26, Greenways, Bow Brickhill, with Sheila and her children, in 1986. I continued as a consultant for a while, but caught pneumonia and was in hospital. Mark I'Anson, a Cambridge friend, visited me in hospital with an employment contract. "Sign here and we pay your mortgage", he said. I signed. So I worked for Integrated Micro Products Ltd from about 1987 onwards, designing first simple Unix computers and later specialist fault tolerant machines, able to keep going as their own hardware failed.

Mum and Dad died within a few weeks of one another in 1988. It was a pretty torrid time. But my inheritance helped us to move to our present house, Helford House, Tyrells End, Eversholt, in 1994.

Integrated Micro Products was bought by Sun Microsystems in 1995 for \$100M, in large part because of a fault tolerant computer I'd designed. I was then a Sun Microsystems employee. I kept working in the UK for Sun for a while, but fell out with some colleagues – I have never really fitted in with anyone – so arranged to transfer temporarily to a Sun department in California.

From June 1998, I lived at 1024 Morse Avenue, an apartment complex in Mountain View. Sheila moved with me too, but went home after 3 months. She didn't like the impersonal apartment and wanted to finish the chef's course she was taking, so we spent 9 months apart. Then we managed to rent a small bungalow at 1890? Channing Avenue, Palo Alto, which was lovely. The neighbours were friendly and we could walk downtown to nice shops. Sheila and I lived there until the end of 2000, when we came home. We could have stayed in America, but I still didn't fit in.

I was voted a Sun Distinguished Engineer, which put me in the top 1% of Sun engineering staff. I liked that!

I kept on working for Sun, but became increasingly distressed at having to work for an American company and visit America after September 11th 2001. (I watched the attacks live on TV from my hotel room and remember working out that the Palo Alto Travel Lodge was unlikely to be a priority terrorist target!) From my own observation of individuals in the US, and from reading the news, I concluded that the USA had become a very dangerous and unpleasant state. I imagined myself a scientist working, say, for Krupp or Bayer in Germany as the Nazis came to power. When would have been the right moment to stop working to support German industry, morally? 1931? 1933? 1939? I picked an early date. I had already transferred to Sun Labs in Grenoble to avoid having to travel to the US, when Sun chose to close the department, short of cash, in 2004 (I think). I was

offered redundancy and grabbed it with both hands, despite the appeals of my colleagues to go back to the US.

Since 2004 I've been bumming around Eversholt, doing very little. I earn money sometimes as a self employed carpenter or decorator.

I can't resist putting this list of granted patents in this history. Carve this on my tombstone! It's something I'm proud of. I may never have fitted in, but I can think outside the box!

Patent Number	Title
7379846	System and method for automated problem diagnosis
7251690	Method and system for reporting status over a communications link
7231550	Event protocol and resource naming scheme
7228474	Semiconductor device and method and apparatus for testing such a device
7203881	System and method for simulating system operation
7200763	Method and apparatus for controlling the power consumption of a semiconductor device
7200525	System and method for generating a data structure representative of a fault tree
7155704	Determinism in a multiprocessor computer system and monitor and processor therefore
7139920	Method and apparatus for supplying power in electronic equipment
7137057	Method and apparatus for performing error correction code (ECC) conversion
7131030	Method and system for storing field replaceable unit repair history information
7120559	System and method for performing automated system management
7085681	Symbiotic interrupt/polling approach for monitoring physical sensors
7028122	System and method for processing node interrupt status in a network
7028059	Apparatus and method for random number generation
6918055	Service operations on a computer system
6892159	Method and system for storing field replaceable unit operational history information
6823476	Mechanism to improve fault isolation and diagnosis in computers
6801584	Using a differential signal in adjusting a slice voltage for a single-ended signal
6714021	Integrated time domain reflectometry (TDR) tester
6578166	Restricting the damaging effects of software faults on test and configuration circuitry
6519717	Mechanism to improve fault isolation and diagnosis in computers
6519704	System and method for driving a signal to an unbuffered integrated circuit
6519702	Method and apparatus for limiting security attacks via data copied into computer memory
6516422	Computer system including multiple clock sources and failover switching
6499048	Control of multiple computer processes using a mutual exclusion primitive ordering mechanism
6408409	Method and apparatus for ring buffer flow error detection
6363493	Method and apparatus for automatically reintegrating a module into a computer system
6363438	Method of controlling DMA command buffer for holding sequence of DMA commands with head and tail pointers
6327668	Determinism in a multiprocessor computer system and monitor and processor therefore
6256753	Bus error handling in a computer system
6247143	I/O handling for a multiprocessor computer system
6216186	Modular computer system including compatibility evaluation logic

6212652	Controlling logic analyser storage criteria from within program code
6173416	System and method for detecting errors using CPU signature
6170068	System and method for preserving the state of a device across a reset event
6167477	Computer system bridge employing a resource control mechanism with programmable registers to control resource allocation
6141766	System and method for providing synchronous clock signals in a computer
6138198	Processor bridge with dissimilar data registers which is operable to disregard data differences for dissimilar data write accesses
6134679	System and method for accessing devices in a computer system
6134672	System and method for iterative copying of read/write memory
6092218	System and method for self-referential accesses in a multiprocessor computer
6049893	System and method for synchronously resetting a plurality of microprocessors
6047392	System and method for tracking dirty memory
6038684	System and method for diagnosing errors in a multiprocessor system
5993055	Faulty module location in a fault tolerant computer system
5974489	Computer bus expansion
5974103	Deterministic exchange of data between synchronised systems separated by a distance
5953742	Memory management in fault tolerant computer systems utilizing a first and second recording mechanism and a reintegration mechanism
5889940	System and method for reducing the effects of hardware faults in a computer system employing multiple central processing modules
5799022	Faulty module location in a fault tolerant computer system
5627965	Method and apparatus for reducing the effects of hardware faults in a computer system employing multiple central processing modules
H04M11/06	Telephone Interface Unit
G06F13/10E	Small Computer

Family Life

Emrys John Marriott was born on 16 Oct 1953 at Somerleigh Nursing Home, Rowlands Hill, Wimbourne, Dorset.

Birth Mother: Mona (Liza) Marriott, born 23 Sep 1921.

Genetic Father: Llewellyn Curwen Williams

Adopted 19 Aug 1960 by LCWilliams ("Dad") and his wife, Elsie Marion Francis ("Mum").

Moved in with Sheila Joy Chessman, Alethea Joy Chessman and Melissa Joy Chessman, December 1986. Sheila was our office cleaner and was literally thrown into my lap at a party. She married the boss.

Sheila Joy Rolph born Staines, 10 Oct 1953

Married 10 Jun 1972 Keith Chessman, St Mary the Virgin Church, Staines, Surrey

Divorced 18 Jun 1982, Luton County Court, because of Keith Chessman's adultery with Christine Maddison

Changed name by deed poll to Sheila Joy Williams, 6 Dec 1991

Married EJWilliams at Bletchley Registry Office, 19 Feb 1994.

I proposed in a restaurant on the Boulevard St Germain on 11 Feb 1994, but only if we could get married the next weekend. I didn't want too much fuss made! We organised the whole thing from a phone box in Paris and had a splendid time.

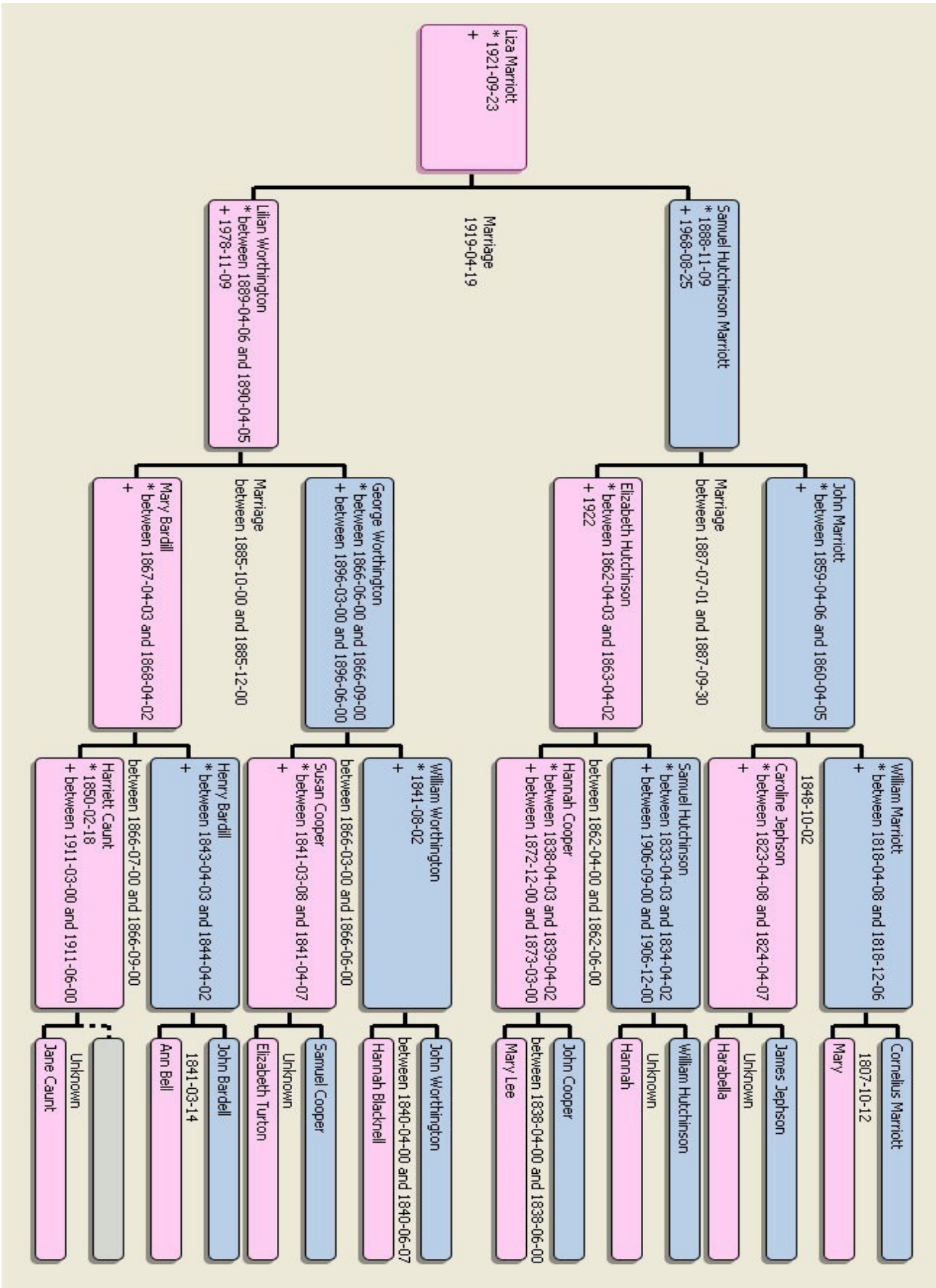
Sheila's children with Keith Chessman:

Melissa Joy Chessman, born Ashford Hospital, Ashford, Middlesex, 8 Nov 1972

Alethea Joy (Leap) Chessman born 16 Aug 1975 at Kingston Hospital, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

Further personal details about Melissa and Leap are omitted because I've not asked their permission to publish them.

Liza's ancestors



Liza's family tree was a lot easier to track than the Williams one. All of Liza's ancestors (and my ancestors) for at least 4 generations come from the village of Calverton in Nottinghamshire. They were either farm labourers or "frame work knitters", a local speciality of textile manufacture. Not one of Liza's 30 ancestors over 4 generations ever employed anyone or moved away. About half couldn't write their own name. Liza says that she always suspected that her ancestors were peasants. I told her that I didn't think that they quite rose as high as that.

I especially like the all-female line of my ancestry, back to Jane Caunt who was born in 1833. She gave birth to my great-great-grandmother Harriet Caunt when she was 17 years old, and didn't admit to any father on the birth certificate. This all-female line is very close to me now, because my mitochondrial DNA comes from it. I have the same mitochondrial DNA today as Jane Caunt had, illiterate teen single Mum in 1850. I wonder if Jane imagined her 3-greats grandchild would have flown all over the world designing the computers that hold society together nowadays? She died about the time the Wright brothers first flew.

As far as I know, Jane Caunt and Liza Marriott are my only ancestors back five generations who declined to declare a father in my ancestry.

I have a much more detailed version of Liza's family tree (200 pages of printout) if anyone would like it.