

Elizabeth Hill Cockerham (1796-c1881), Ancestor 89
William John Cockerham (1794-1852), Ancestor 88

By their great great great great (4x great) granddaughter, Linda R. Horton 23 July 2021

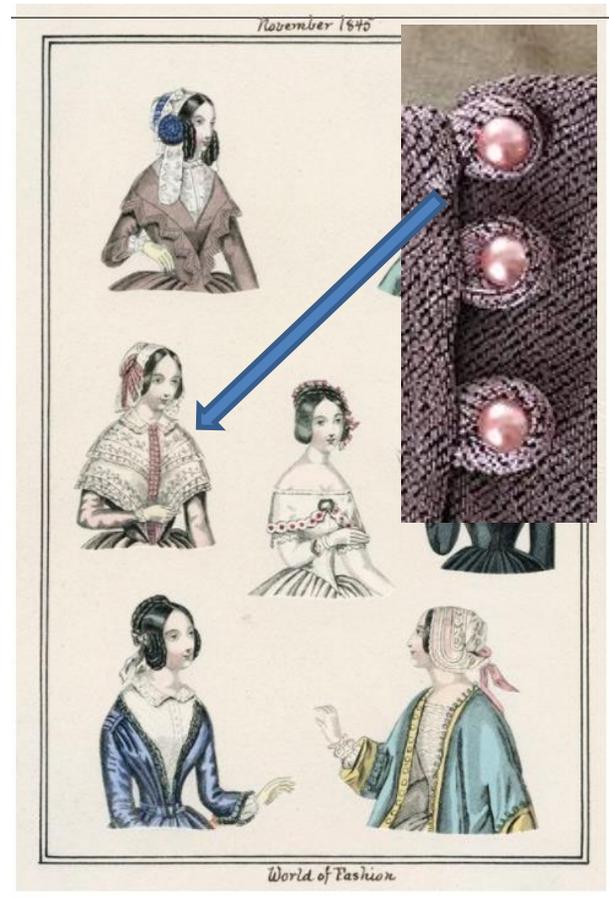


Elizabeth Hill was born in North Carolina, in about 1796 and died in Lee County, Kentucky, after the 1880 census, probably in 1881.¹ She is believed to have been the daughter of Joel Hill (1763-1843) and Anna Watson (1773-1855). On 29 Mar 1821, Elizabeth married William John (or John William) Cockerham (1794-1852) in Wilkes County, North Carolina. They migrated to Breathitt County, Kentucky in about 1827. They had six known children, all sons. Two were Confederate soldiers who, after desertion, were captured and died in Union prisoner-of-war camps. Two other sons registered for the Union Army After William's death in 1852, Elizabeth lived with her son, James Henry (1822-1904), our great great great grandfather.

We are fortunate to have a photograph of an ancestor as distant as a 4x great grandmother. For the photography session, Elizabeth wore a buttoned shawl with the small buttons closed by rouleau loops² and a lappet cap, a head covering with flaps or ties down the cheeks. Caps of this type were worn by many women in the United States and Europe³ during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Elizabeth's buttoned shawl resembles the one in the drawing at right of 1845 fashions,⁴ while her ruffle-trimmed cap is a variant of this popular head covering. The cap at left, in the Metropolitan



Museum of Art, is from an earlier era—1750-1799—but closely resembles what our ancestor wore a century later.⁵ Additional examples appear on the next page.⁶





Morning cap | American | The Metropolitan Museum of Art

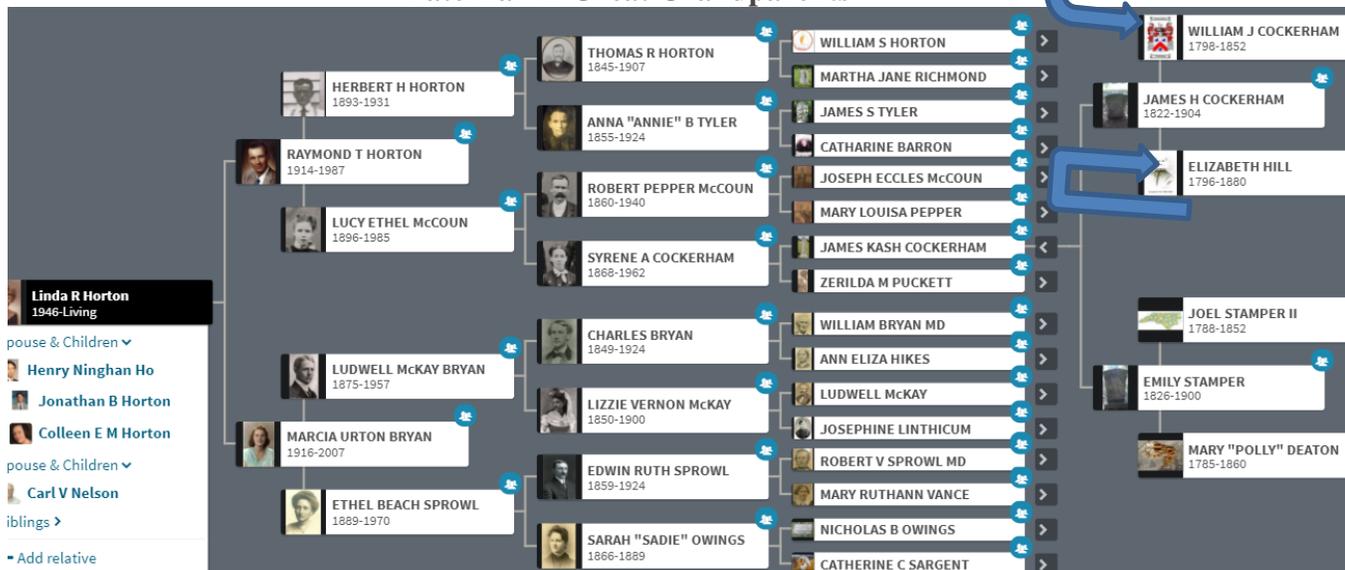


Cap | American | The Met

Women wore these caps even when having their portraits painted.⁷



Elizabeth and William in the Family Tree: Paternal 4x Great Grandparents



William's pedigree below shows his Cockerham patrilineage back to the 1500s. He was the sixth generation of Cockerhams in America. The immigrant ancestor, marked by the arrow, was John

Cockerham. He was born in Dorset, England and was christened there on 12 May 1639.⁸ He migrated to Virginia in 1666.⁹ It is likely that his wife, Mary Wynne, was also born in southern England, possibly in Devon, and that they married there prior to their voyage to Virginia.



Elizabeth's Early Years

Elizabeth Hill was born about 1796 in North Carolina. Some sources give her birth date as 26 July 1792 but, based on her reported age in census reports, which varied quite a bit, 1796 is more accurate. (The 26 July 1792 birthdate probably was that of another Elizabeth Hill.) She died after the 1880 census for Proctor, Lee, Kentucky, on 24 Jun 1880, probably in 1881.

Based on work by other researchers, our Kentucky Horton and Bryan Family Tree reports that Elizabeth's parents were Joel and Anna Watson Hill. Unfortunately, the earlier researchers did not report the sources used to identify these individuals as Elizabeth's parents. Records might become available in the future that answer the question of her parentage. Although for now our tree accepts the view that Elizabeth's parents were Joel Hill and Anna Watsons, other researchers, including our cousin Bella Gulden, consider her parents to be undetermined.

Marriage and Family

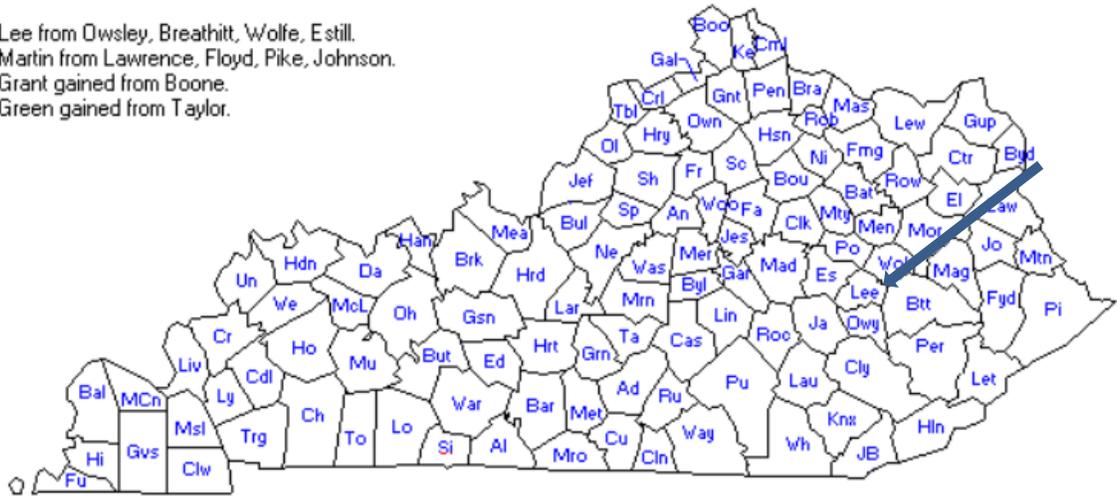
Elizabeth and William (also known as William John or John William) married on 29 Mar 1821. He had been born in Wilkes County, North Carolina in about 1794, and their wedding took place in that county. North Carolina marriage records reported the date of bond as 29 Mar 1821, while their marriage license was dated March 1821; the specific date is illegible.¹⁰ At the time of marriage, Elizabeth would have been about 25 years old, and William about 27, if the birthdates 1796 and 1794 are correct. The marriage record reported the couple's names as William Cockerham and Elizabeth Hill. Support for their identity as our ancestors is found in the death certificate of their son John Miles Cockerham stating that his father was John W Cockerham, and that his mother Elizabeth Hill, both born in North Carolina.

Records indicated that William and Elizabeth Hill Cockerham had at least six children: James Henry, 1822-1904 (our ancestor); William, 1827-1878; Martin, 1830-; John Miles, 1833-1924; Elijah David, 1835-1863; and Daniel "Duff," 1838-1863.

The **1840 U.S. census** collected the name only of the head of the household and only the age ranges for other household members. For the family of William John Cockerham in Breathitt

1870

Lee from Owsley, Breathitt, Wolfe, Estill.
Martin from Lawrence, Floyd, Pike, Johnson.
Grant gained from Boone.
Green gained from Taylor.



The **1850 U.S. census**, for the first time, provided names and ages of all members of households, not simply heads of households. In Owsley County, the household of William Cockerham, age 56, and Elizabeth, age 54, was Family #192 with two children still at home, Miles (John Miles), age 17, and Daniel, age 12. Neither William nor Elizabeth could read or write, while the three sons in their household had acquired these skills.

Next door, Family #191 consisted of William and Elizabeth's eldest son, James Henry, his wife Emily Stamper Cockerham and three children: John, seven; James Kash, four; and William, two. James Henry's brothers William and Martin Cockerham also resided at #191; they were 23 and 21 years old, respectively. James Henry could read and write, while his wife Emily and brothers William and Martin could not.

William died on 30 March 1852. For the rest of her life, Elizabeth lived at the home of a son. In the **1860 census**, Elizabeth Hill Cockerham was living with Martin and his family. The reported age of Elizabeth was 60 while Martin was 30, his wife Liddy was 17, and their daughter Elizabeth was 11 months old. Later Martin and Liddy had marital problems, as described in the sketch of Martin below (page six) and went their separate ways.

The Civil War

The U.S. Civil War (1861-1865) had a direct impact on the Cockerham family of eastern Kentucky. In 1863, Elizabeth lost two sons, Daniel Duff and Elijah, to the war. On 25 October 1861, Daniel had enlisted in the Confederate Army for three years of service. He left behind a wife, Orlena, and a two-year-old daughter, Mary Ellen Cochran. Orlena was pregnant with their second child at the time of his enlistment. On 10 January 1862, he deserted during the Battle of Middle Creek in Floyd County, Kentucky.¹⁴ On 9 June 1863, he was captured and taken to a Union prison-of-war camp on Johnson's Island, which is in Sandusky Bay in Lake Erie near Sandusky, Ohio.¹⁵ Daniel died there on 12 September 1863. Later Orlena had a relationship with her brother-in-law John Miles Cockerham, who was married to her (still alive) sister. The result was the birth of a son, Franklin, in 1864.

Like his brother, Elijah enlisted in the Confederate Army on 10 September 1862, and left behind a young wife, Amanda. At the time of Elijah's enlistment, they had two small children, and another was born soon after his enlistment. Like Daniel, Elijah deserted and was arrested. After Elijah's arrest at Missionary Ridge, Tennessee, on 3 December 1863, he was taken to Camp Chase, a Union prison camp near Columbus, Ohio,¹⁶ where he died 21 December 1863.

Two of Elizabeth's sons, James and Martin, registered for the draft on the Union side. James signed up soon after Lincoln's eloquent Gettysburg address, reported in newspapers large and small across the nation. Both sons' registrations appear in the Union consolidated list for July and December 1863.¹⁷ Neither served.

The biography of James Henry Cockerham includes a timeline of family milestones, Presidential election results in his lifetime, and key Civil War events.

Elizabeth in the **1870 census** for Breathitt County was described as 74 years old, and she was living with James, age 48 and his wife, Emily, age 44 and six of their children. Mary was 18, Taylor [Zachary Taylor] 15, Gilly Ann 13, Malissa 10, Caroline six, and Ellen three.

When the **1880 census** was enumerated on 24 Jun 1880 in a community known as Proctor in Lee County, Elizabeth was still living with her son James, his wife, Emily Stamper Cockerham and the children still at home, their youngest children, Malissa, Caroline, and Lou Ellen. Elizabeth was described as 78-year-old and "infirm." The formation of Lee County in 1870 from parts of Owsley, Breathitt, Wolfe, Estill Counties had given the family of James Henry Cockerham another new address, although they did not move.

Elizabeth died after the 1880 census. The caption on the profile photograph of Elizabeth on the first page of this biography indicates that her date of death was 1881.

Children of William John Cockerham and Elizabeth Hill

James Henry Cockerham. See the biographies of James Henry Cockerham and Emily Stamper.

- Born in Wilkes County, North Carolina in 1822.
- Married Emily Stamper on 9 June 1842.
- With Emily, had nine children.
- Died 30 March 1852.

Humphrey Cockerham

- Born in Wilkes County, North Carolina in 1824.
- On 21 September 1851, married Frances Jane Allen in Morgan County, Kentucky.
- With "Franky," had at least seven children.
- Died in Morgan County, Kentucky in 1875.

William Cockerham

- Born in Wilkes County, North Carolina in 1827.
- On 10 October 1857, married Nancy Emily Allen (1840-) in Morgan County, Kentucky.
- With Nancy, had seven children: Levi, 1859-1931; Joseph D, 1861-; Gilly Ann, 1864-; John, 1867-; James Henry, 1870-1960; Abraham 1874-; and Miles 1877-.

Martin Cockerham

- Born in Estill County, Kentucky in 1829.
- On 9 June 1858, married Lydia "Liddy Ann" King (1844-); he was 28 and she 17; both gave Bloody Creek, Breathitt County as residence.
- On 28 June 1860, was living with Lydia and 11-month-old daughter Elizabeth on a Breathitt

County farm, near Lydia's parents and other family members.

- On 1 July 1863, registered for the Union draft.
- On 9 August 1870, when census was counted, was living in Wolfe County (Hazel Green Post Office) with Lydia and their children: Elizabeth, 10; Zerilda, eight; James, five; Nancy E., three; Elmira, one.
- Separated from Lydia between 1870 and 1880.
- On 11 June 1880 when the census was conducted, was boarding at the Wolfe County home of Martin Taulbee. In the same census, Lydia was described as divorced; a boarder named Brently Spencer was living in her home at the time.
- In 1887, Lydia and Brently wed, according to 1900 census [may not be a valid marriage, unless Martin had died before the marriage].
- The following children are believed to be Martin's children: Elizabeth 1859; Nancy 1866; Serilda 1862; Elmira 1869; John W 1870; James H 1865; Dora Bell 1873; Orlena 1876. The birth years fluctuate significantly; these birth years are as reported on Lydia's 1880 census. Some of these children may be Brently Spencer's children.
- Date of Martin's death unknown.

John Miles Cockerham

- Born 5 July 1833 in Kentucky.
- Married Nancy Hollon (1833-1881) in Breathitt County, Kentucky. She was the sister of Orlena Hollon, who married John Miles' brother, Daniel "Duff" Cockerham.
- With Nancy, had eleven children: Lucinda 1855-1889; William J 1856-1940; James Wilson 1857-1942 [great grandfather of Bella Gulden]; Caroline 1859-1933; John Miles 1861-1940; Sarah Evelyn 1863-1845; Marion Boyd 1866-1934; Melissie 1860-; Cora Mae Belle 1872-1945; Bruce 1875-; and Richmond Henry 1880-1969.
- Richmond's death places Nancy's death after 1880.
- Had relationship with Nancy's widowed sister, Orlena Hollon; with her had a son, Franklin, 1864-1947.
- Had relationship with Gilly Ann Sebastian Cockerham (1846-), widow of his nephew William Cockerham (son of James Henry and Emily Stamper), which resulted in the birth of a son, Vincent, 1882-1939.
- In 1900 census, reported as married to Margaret in Montgomery County, Kentucky.
- In the 1910 census, John Miles and Margaret have Vincent living with them. He is reported as married with one child; Vincent's wife and child were not counted with the family.
- Died 27 January 1924 in Mount Sterling, Montgomery County, Kentucky

Elijah David Cochran

- Born 1835 in Breathitt County, Kentucky.
- Married Amanda Araminta Lemaster (1841-1927); they had three children: James B, 1858-1858; Martha, 1859-1914; and Jefferson D, 1862-1946.
- On 10 September 1862, enlisted in the Confederate Army.
- On 3 December 1863, was arrested for desertion in Tennessee.
- On 3 December 1863, was received at Union prisoner-of-war camp, Camp Chase.
- Died 21 December 1863 at Camp Chase.

Daniel “Duff” Cockerham

- Born in Owsley, Kentucky, in 1838
- Married Orlena Hollon (1838-1914); with her had a daughter, Mary Ellen, born about 1859.
- On 25 October 1861, enlisted in the Confederate Army for three years of service (source fold3 records).
- Son John Miles was born in 1862; Orlena was probably pregnant with him when Duff entered the Army.
- On 10 January 1863, deserted during the Battle of Middlecreek.
- On 9 June 1863, was captured and taken to Johnson Island.
- On 10 September 1863, died on Johnson Island.
- In 1864, Orlena gave birth to Martha; it is possible that she was conceived when Daniel was home after deserting and before he was imprisoned.
- In about 1868, Orlena gave birth to her fourth child, Franklin Cockerham (who died 18 June 1947). He could not be the son of Daniel; he was the son of Orlena’s brother-in-law, John Miles Cockerham (1833-1924), who at the time of Franklin’s conception was still married to Orlena’s sister, Nancy.

¹ I am deeply indebted to our cousin Bella Gulden Gerstang for her extensive research concerning our shared ancestors, William John Cockerham and Elizabeth Hill Cockerham. Bella Gulden, *The Elizabeth Hill Chapter of the Gulden/Hall Tree*, prepared 18 Nov 2017 and updated with corrections in April 2018. She has posted many stories on her tree on Ancestry.com, thereby sharing the benefits of her research with cousins. Bella descends from their son, John Miles, while we descend from their son James Henry.

² <https://victorypatterns.com/blogs/pattern-tutorials/how-to-make-a-rouleau-button-loop>

³ <http://www.larsdatter.com/18c/womens-caps.html>

⁴ <https://vintagedancer.com/victorian/victorian-hat-history/>

⁵ <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/110181>

⁶ <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/197665871116113353/>

⁷ <http://kozykitty.blogspot.com/2019/11/new-18th-century-caps.html>

⁸ John Cockram, sonne of John and Mary Cockrd. Book: Christenings. Collection: Dorset: Swanage-Parish Register, 1563-1812.

⁹ Nugent, Nell Marion. *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, 1623-1666. Vol. I. Richmond [Virginia]: Dietz Printing Co., 1934. Reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1983.*

¹⁰ Gulden, Bella, *The John William Cockerham Chapter of the Gulden/Hall Tree*, 18 November 2017; updated with corrections April 2018.

¹¹ Id.

¹² Maps are from <https://www.mapofus.org/kentucky/>

¹³ Burch, John Russell, 19th-Century Politics in the Formation of Appalachian Kentucky Counties: The McGuires and the Creation of Owsley and Lee Counties. *Journal of Appalachian Studies* Vol. 11, No. ½ (Spring/Fall 2005), pp. 226-242. Published by the University of Illinois Press on behalf of the Appalachian Studies Association, Inc. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/41446664>

¹⁴ Source for Daniel’s desertion was Fold3: Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Kentucky, at 10.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Middle_Creek

¹⁵ https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Johnson%27s_Island

¹⁶ Source for Elijah's desertion was Fold3: Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Kentucky

¹⁷ U.S. Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863-1865.