

Tombs Family

The Tombs family is one of the most mentioned in the Wheatley Archive, much of this related to Alderman Tombs, see Family Tree 16 on pages 16 and 17. The family came from a humble background with a great sense of 'community', and strove hard to achieve their later involvement. It is not evident which of the following references to Tombs family members relate to which individual. In 1791 'William had fallen on bad times, for he was granted 2/-a week from the Poor Rate and was buried the next year by the parish for the sum of £1.4s. 3d.; and in 1831, the family of John Tombs complained, in vain, to the vestry that their [presumably weekly] allowance from the Parish was inadequate – a loaf and 3d per head.

Likewise it is not clear which of the Joseph Tombs was involved in a 'riot' when various inhabitants tried to uphold 'common' rights 'Joseph Sheppard [*sic* Shepherd], Joseph Tombs, Charles Messenger and Edward Tombs, labourers, were charged with further rioting on 4 June 1870, on the complaint of John Cooper, baker. He had pastured his horse for 17 years and was not aware that the common was reserved to the poor of Wheatley.' Edward was probably the one shown in Family Tree 19 when he was 26.

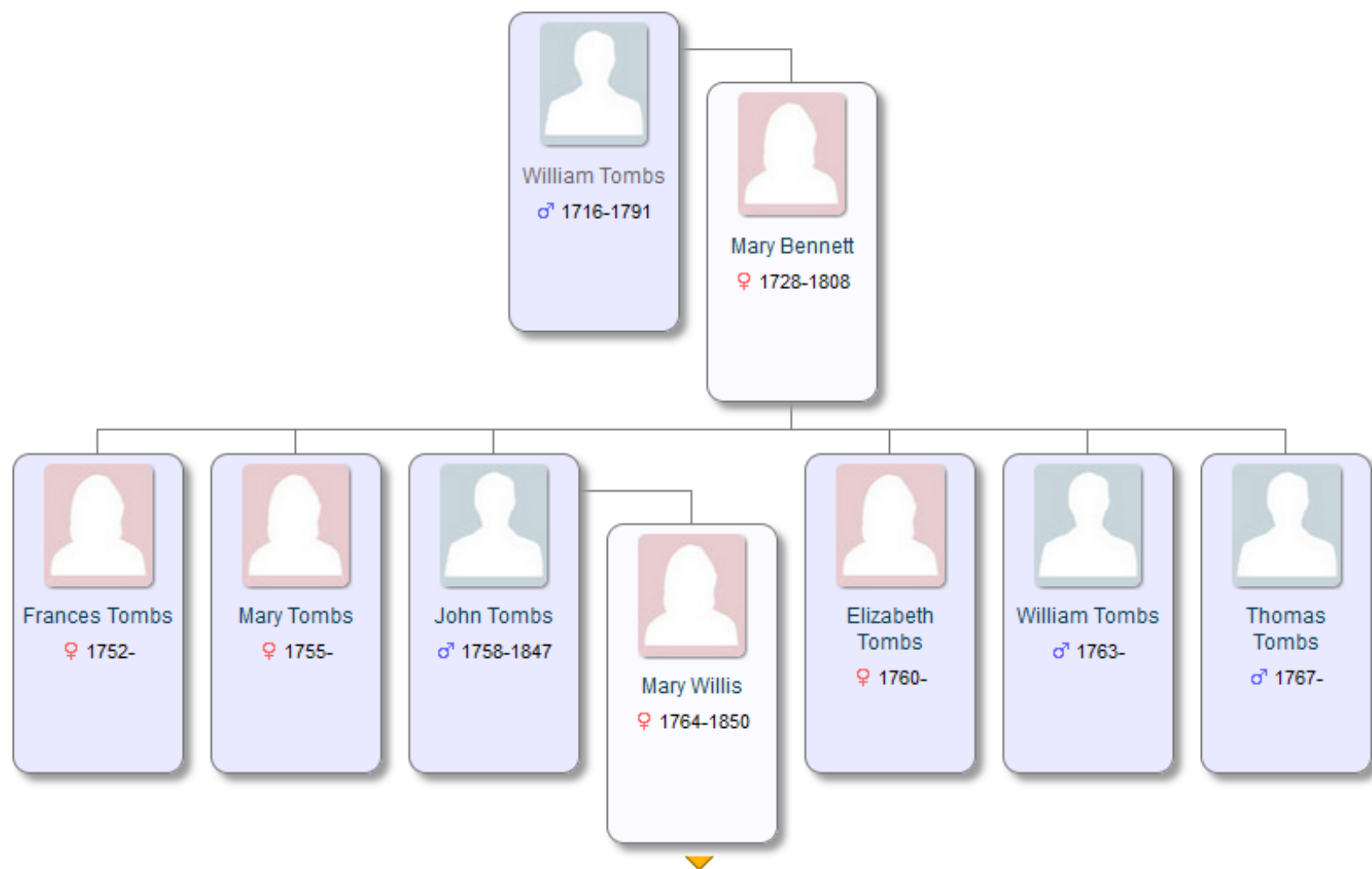
Street

Various members of the family – again not easily identified due to many uses of the same first name – were licensees. John Tombs was licensee of the Kings Arms, 1846-1852, although maybe this had been the King & Queen. He was also a tailor. William Tombs (Family Tree 22) was licensee of the Crown from 1907 to 1915 running it with his wife Annie, living there with their son, Llewellyn Richard who served in the Great War, 13 year-old daughter and three boarders. Thomas Tombs ran the Kings Arms in 1916-17.

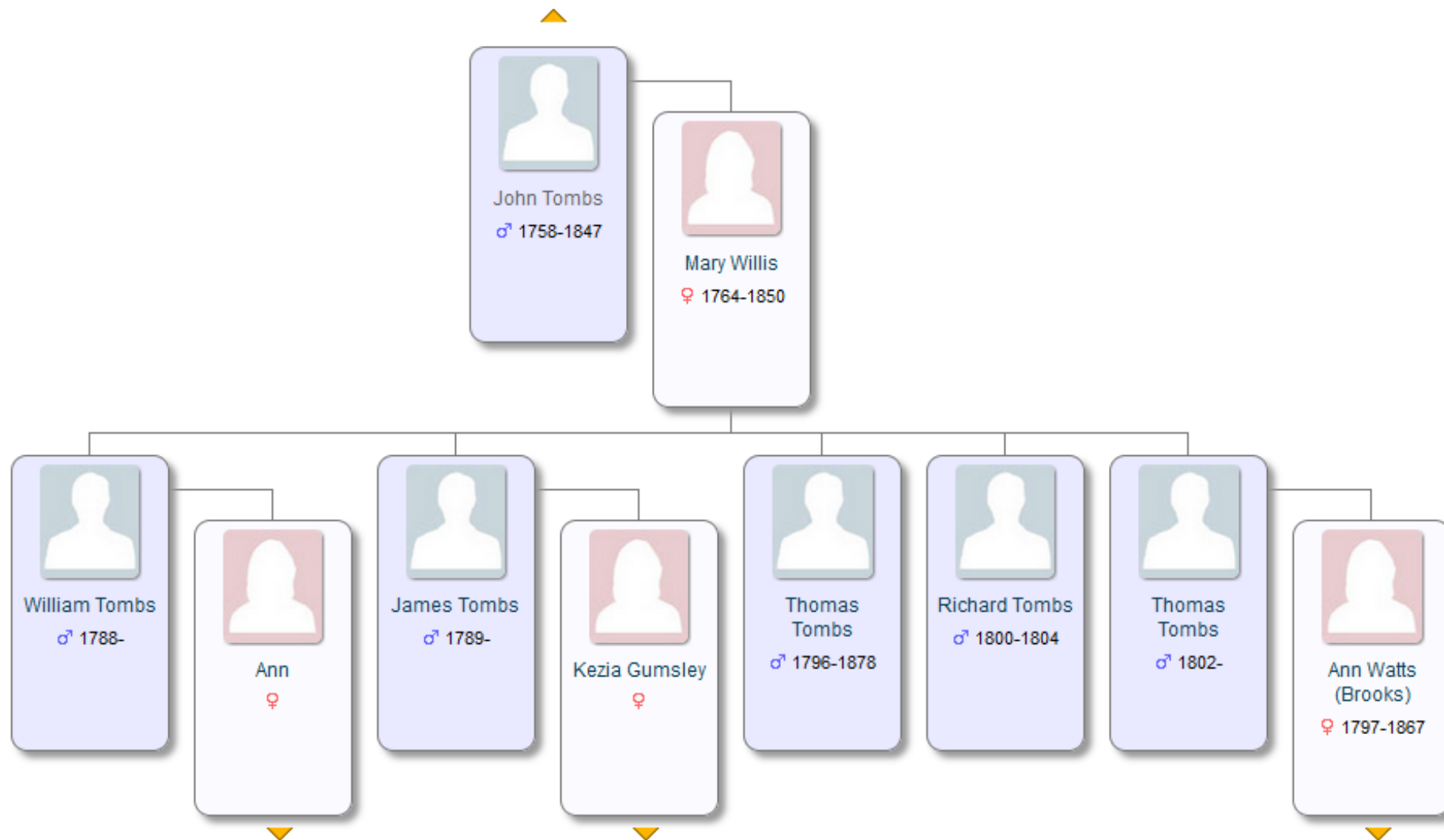
Tombs family group, neither named nor dated, possibly taken outside a once-thatched 38 High



Descendants from William Tombs, 1716-1789
Family Tree 1

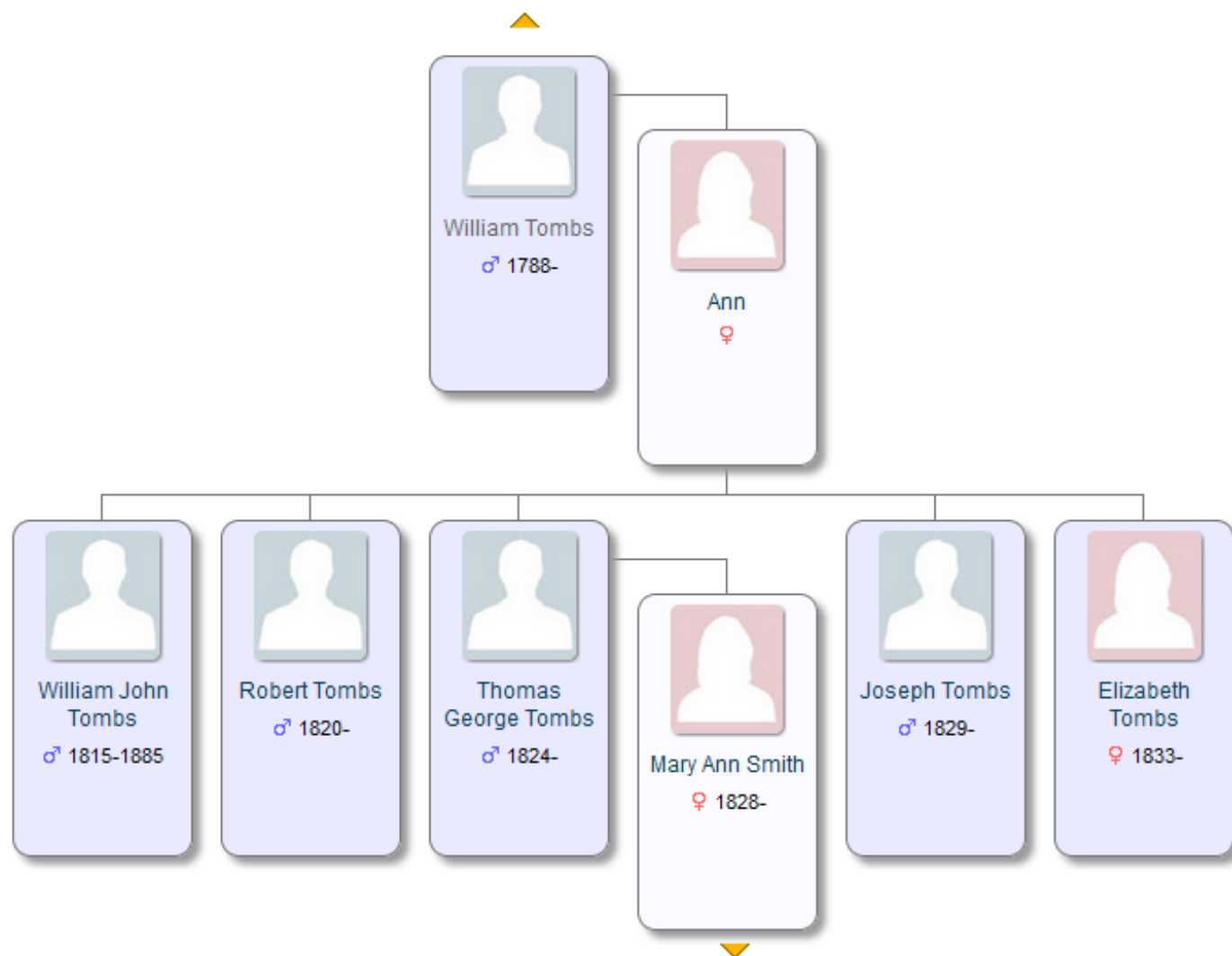


Descendants from John Tombs, 1758-1847
Family Tree 2

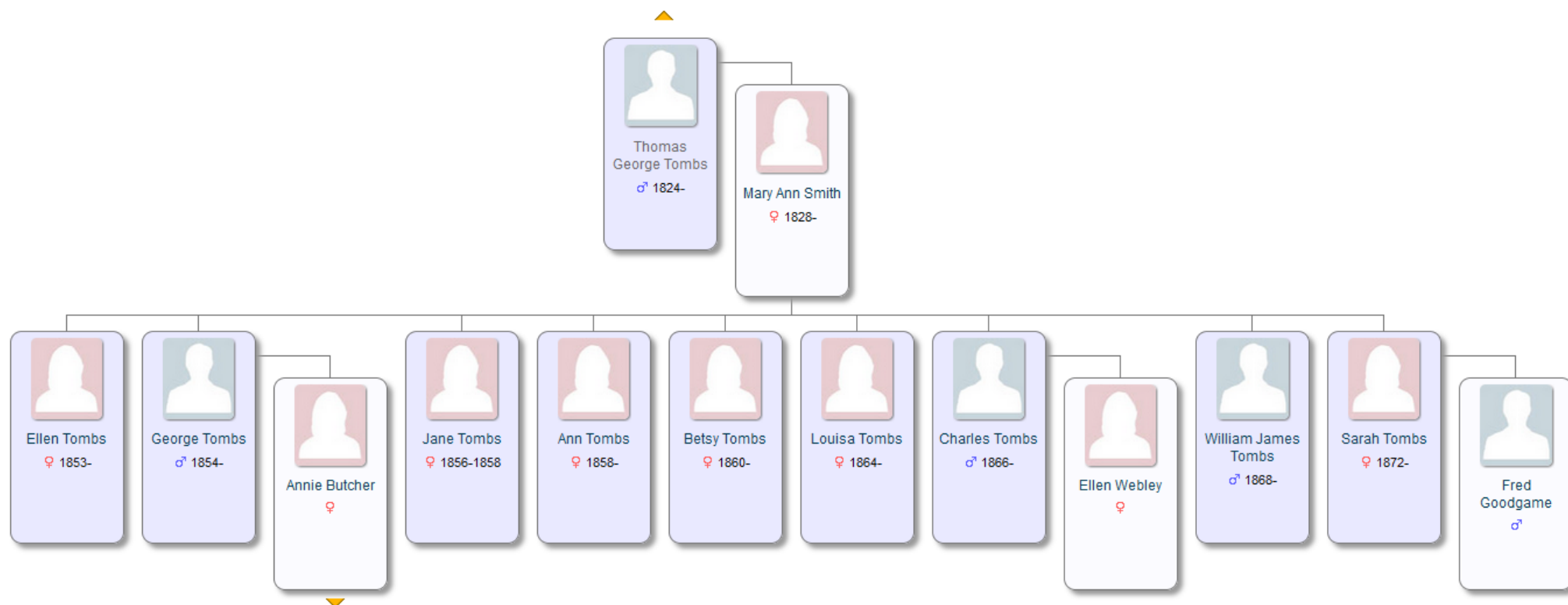


For descendants from William Tombs, born 1788, see Family Tree 3
For descendants from James Tombs, born 1789, see Family Tree 6
For descendants from Thomas Tombs, born 1802, see Family Tree 18

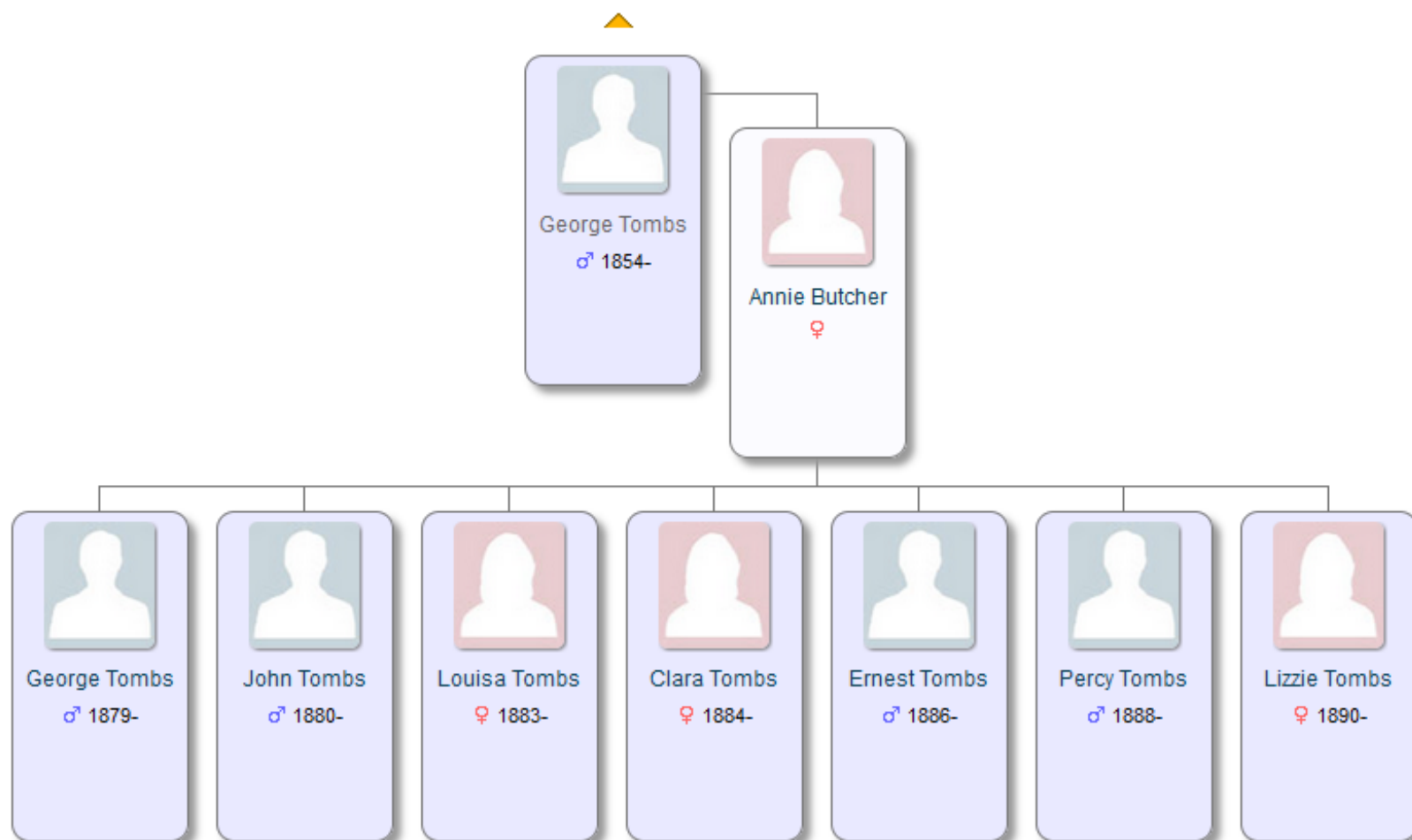
Descendants from William Tombs, 1788
Family Tree 3



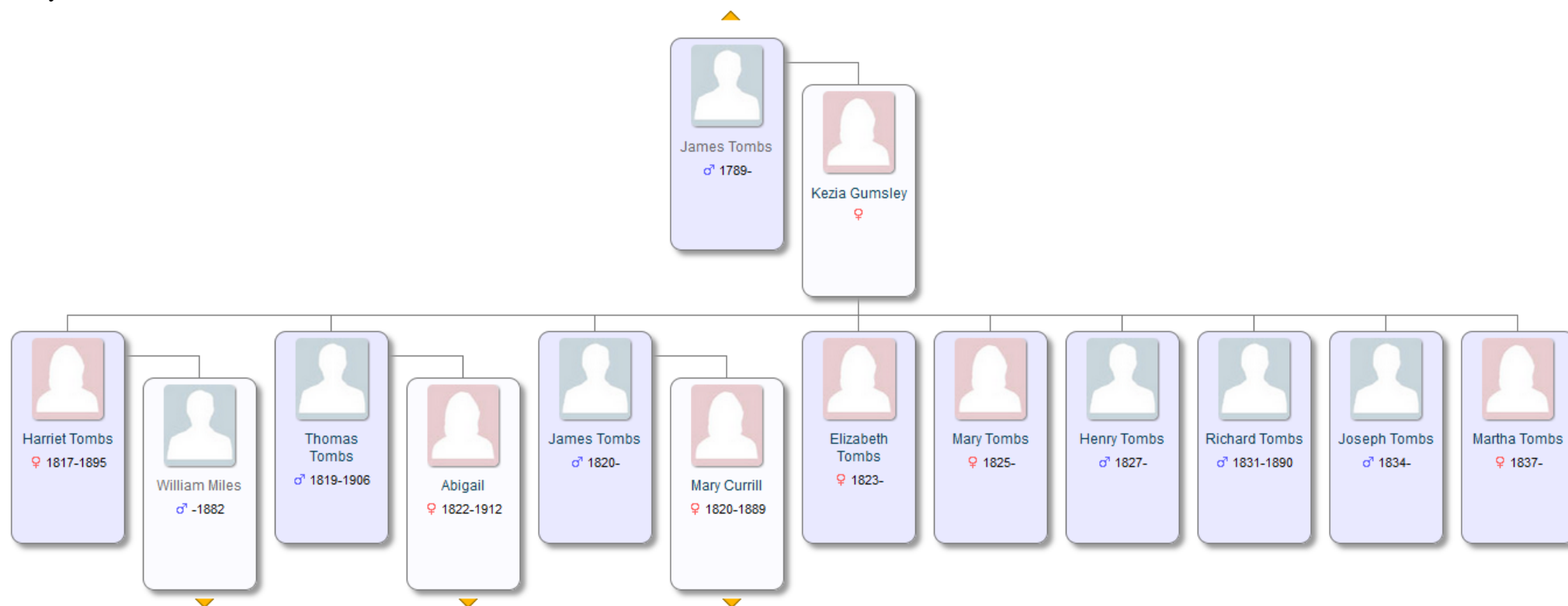
Descendants from Thomas George Tombs, born 1824
Family Tree 4



Descendants from George Tombs, born 1854
Family Tree 5



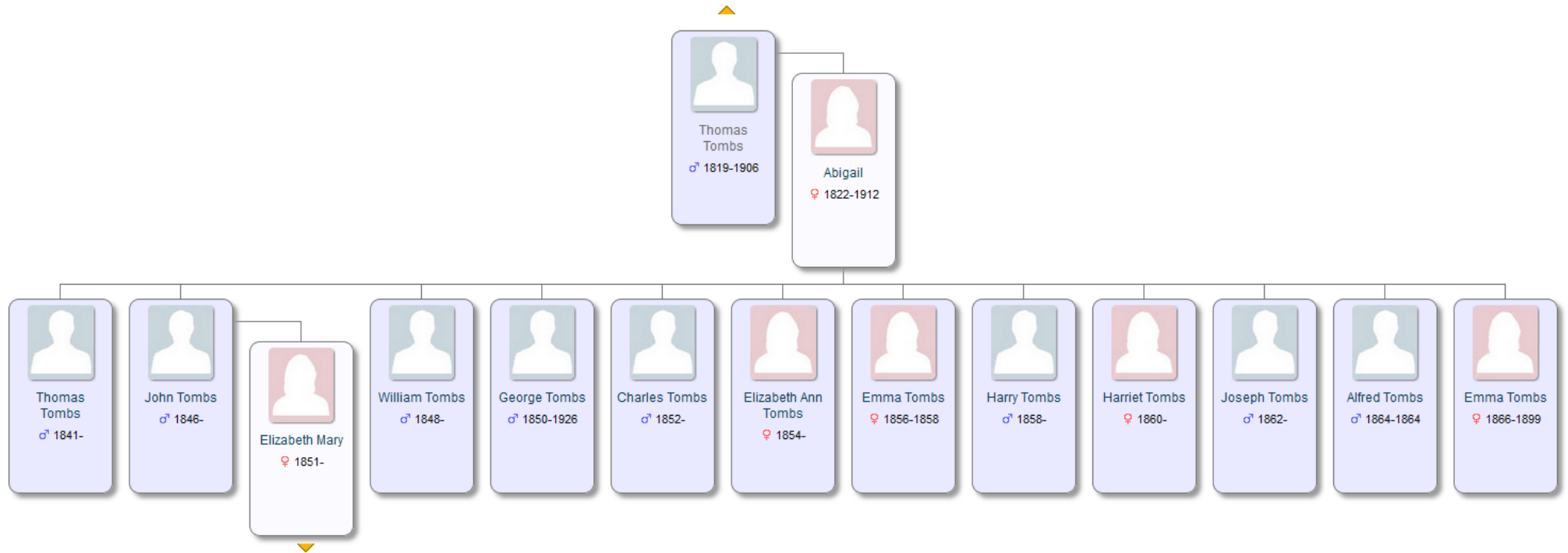
Descendants from James Tombs, born 1789, from Family Tree 2
Family Tree 6



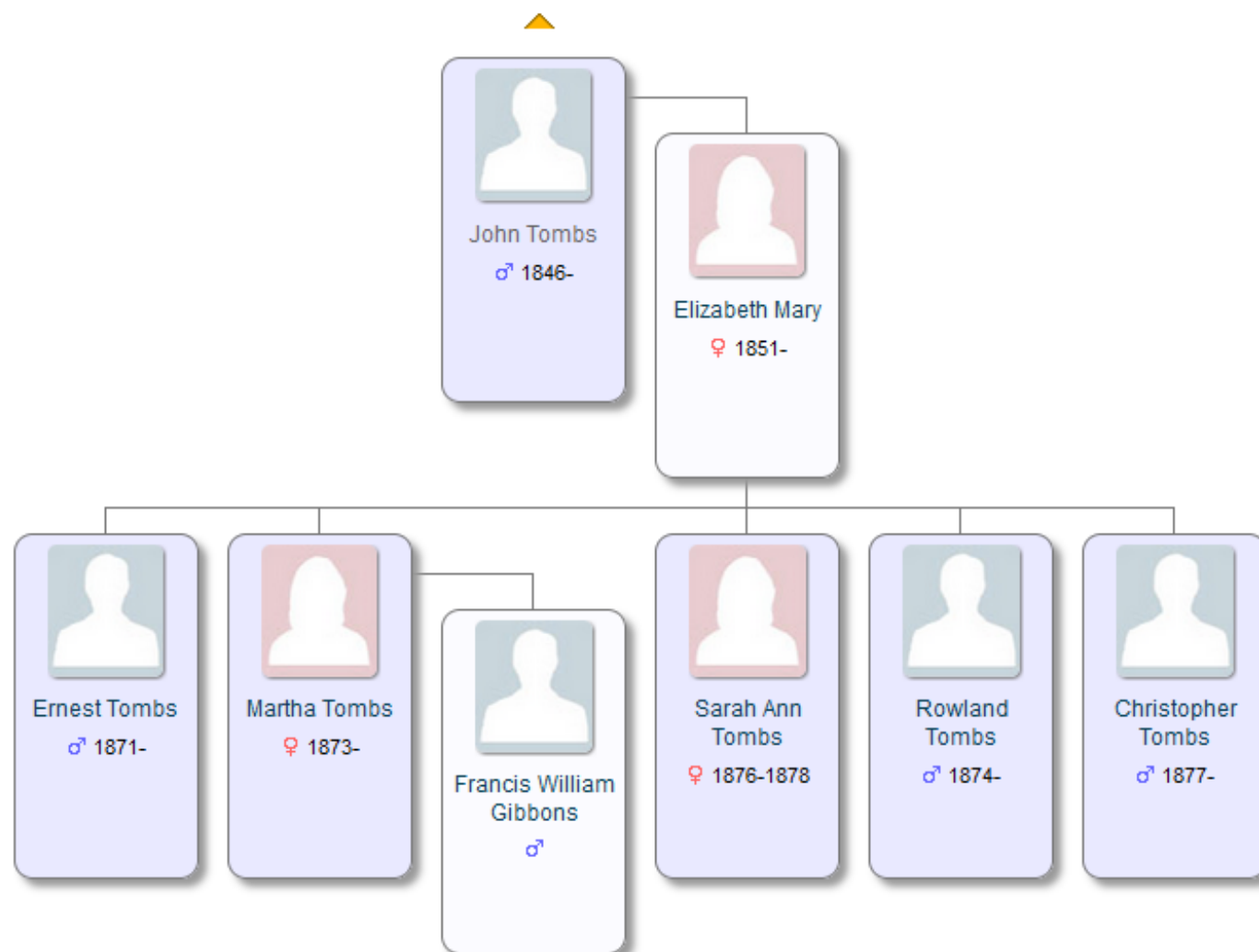
For descendants of Thomas Tombs, 1819-1906, see Family Tree 7

For James Tombs, born 1820, see Family Tree 9

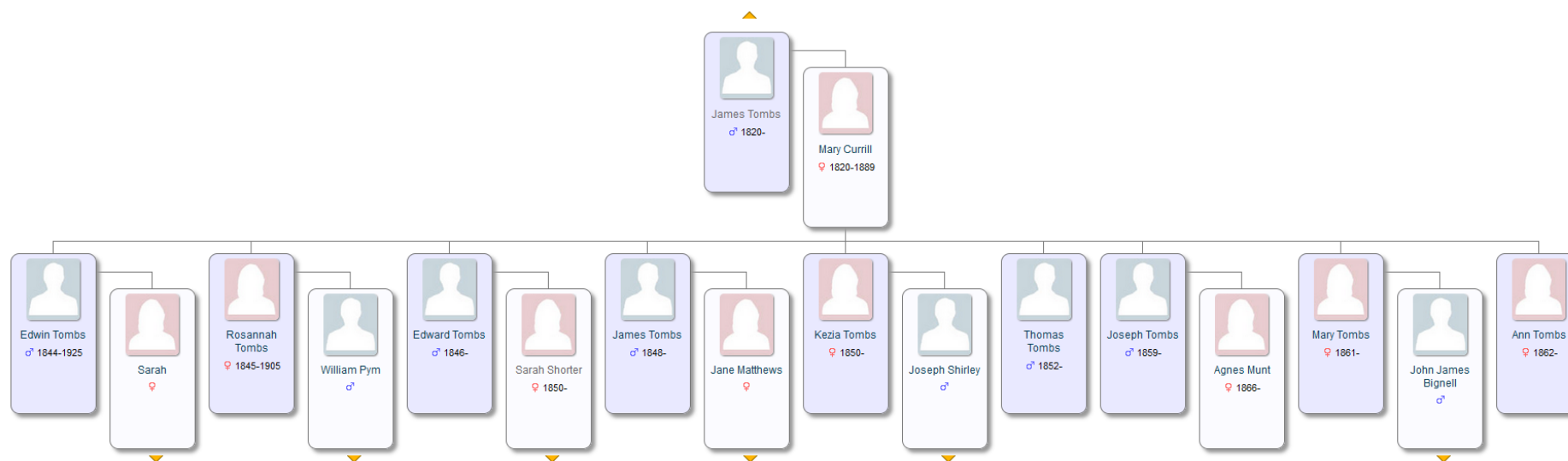
Descendants from Thomas Tombs, 1819-1906
Family Tree 7



Descendants from John Tombs, born 1846
Family Tree 8

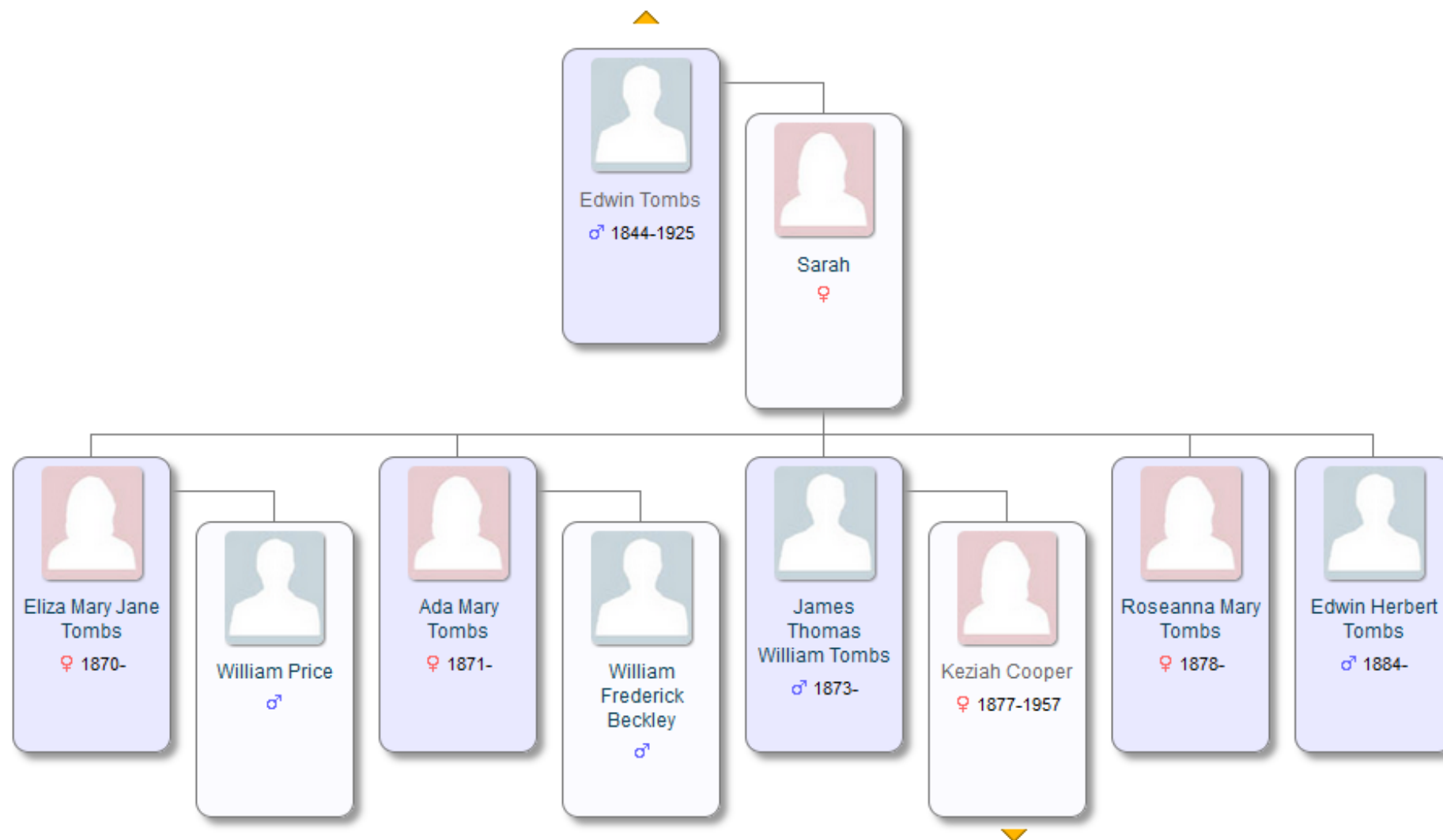


Descendants of James Tombs, born 1820, from Family Tree 6
Family Tree 9



For descendants of Edwin Tombs, 1844-1925, see Family Tree 10
For descendants of Edward Tombs, born 1846, see Family Tree 13
For descendants of James Tombs, born 1848, see Family Tree 17

Descendants of Edwin Tombs, 1844-1925, from Family Tree 9
Family Tree 10

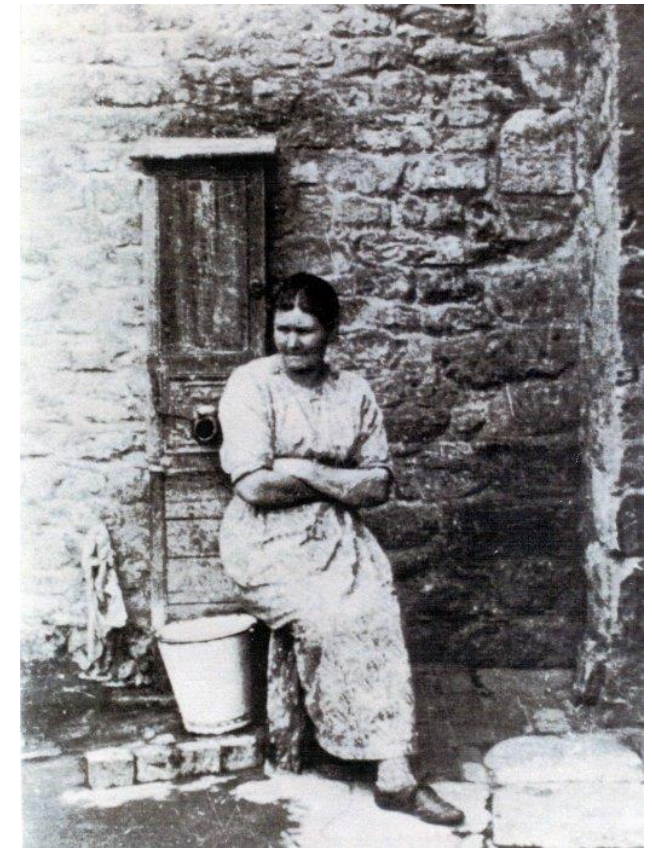
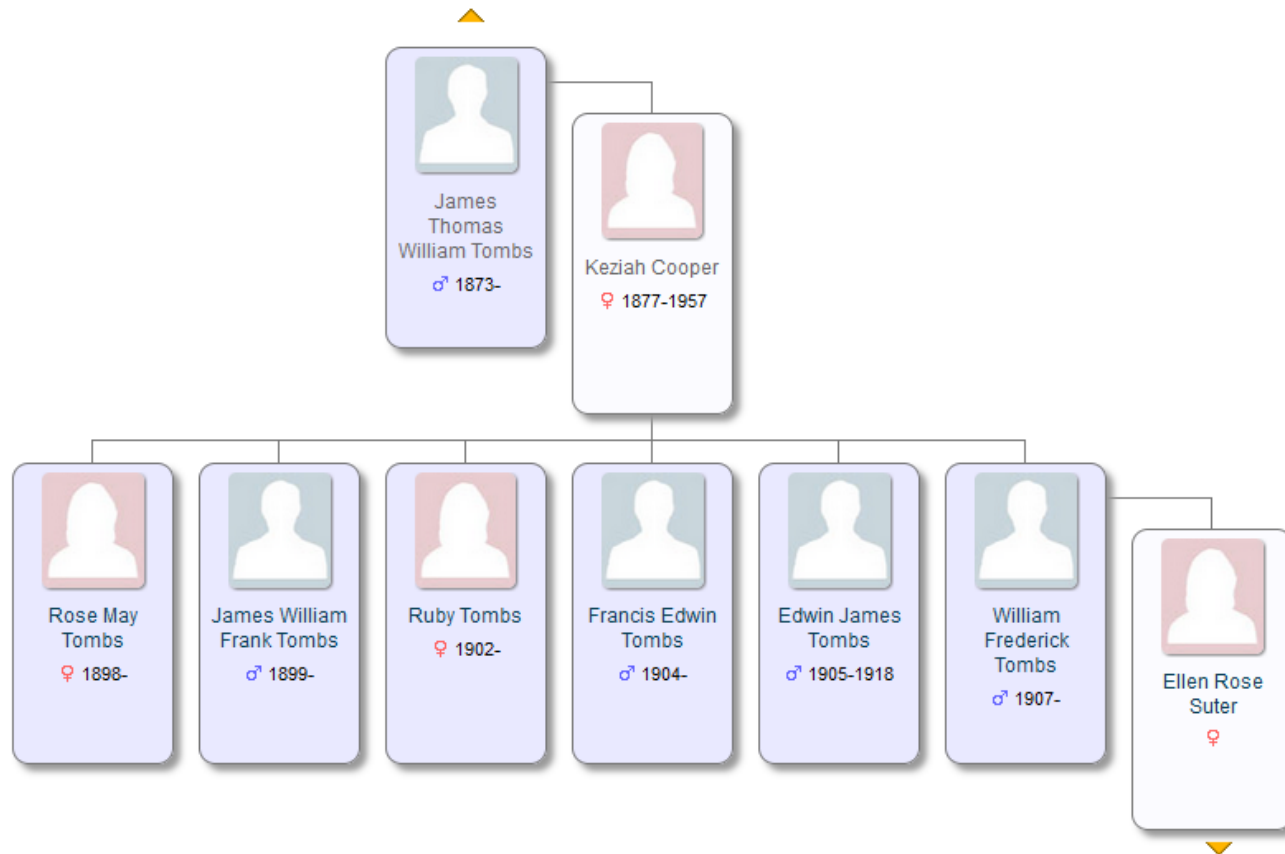


Descendants of James Thomas William Tombs, born 1873
Family Tree 11

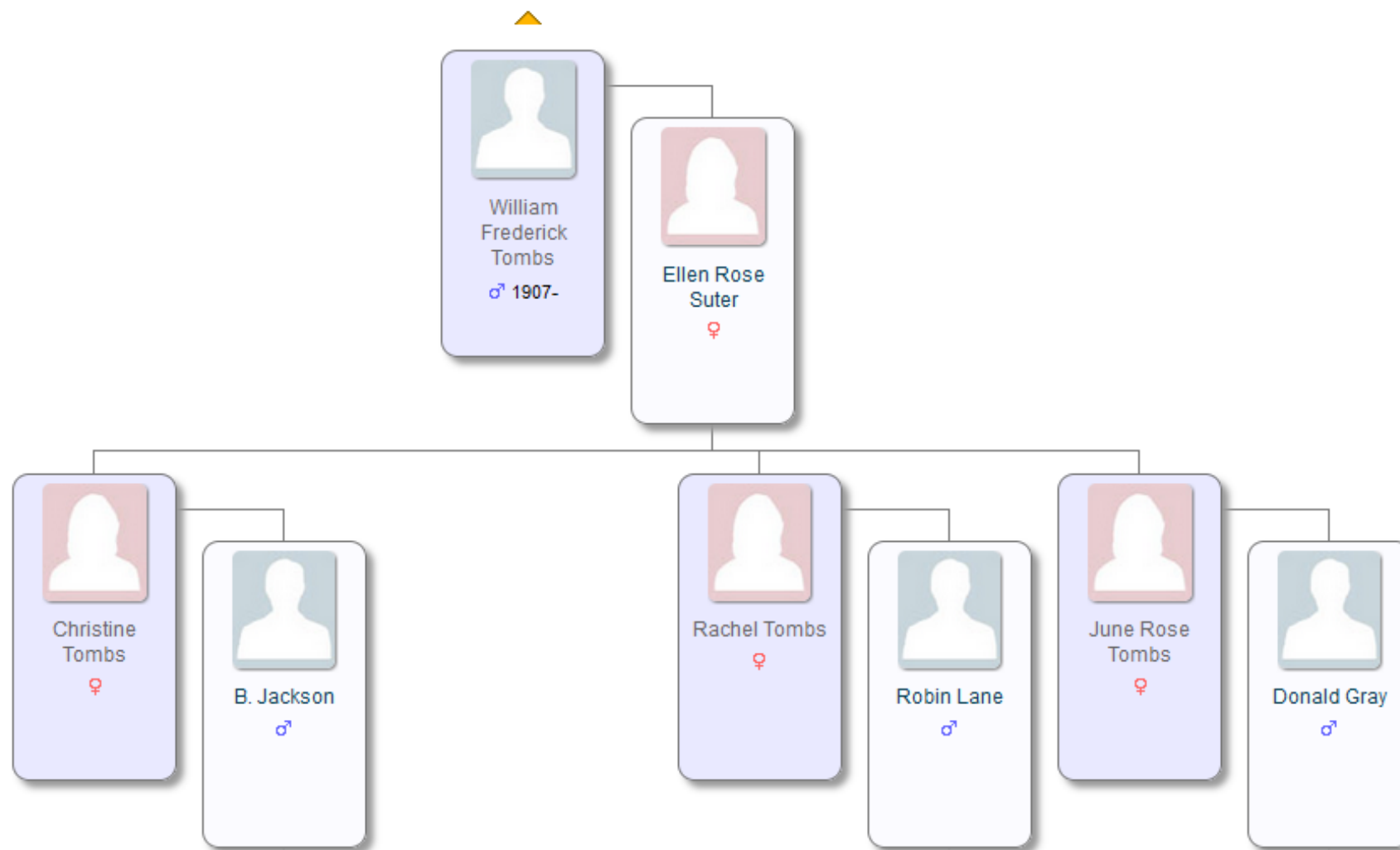
James and Keziah lived, as one of its four tenants, in part of the Manor House when Mrs Milne bought this in 1927. She decided to obtain vacant possession by offering land on London Road to the Goodlakes, the Shorters, the Hardings and the Tombs. James Tombs built his two-storey home Milne Cottage, which remains today as 19 London Road.

Rose was part of the Women's Wednesday Afternoon Group in 1908.

Keziah by the old pump at the Manor House

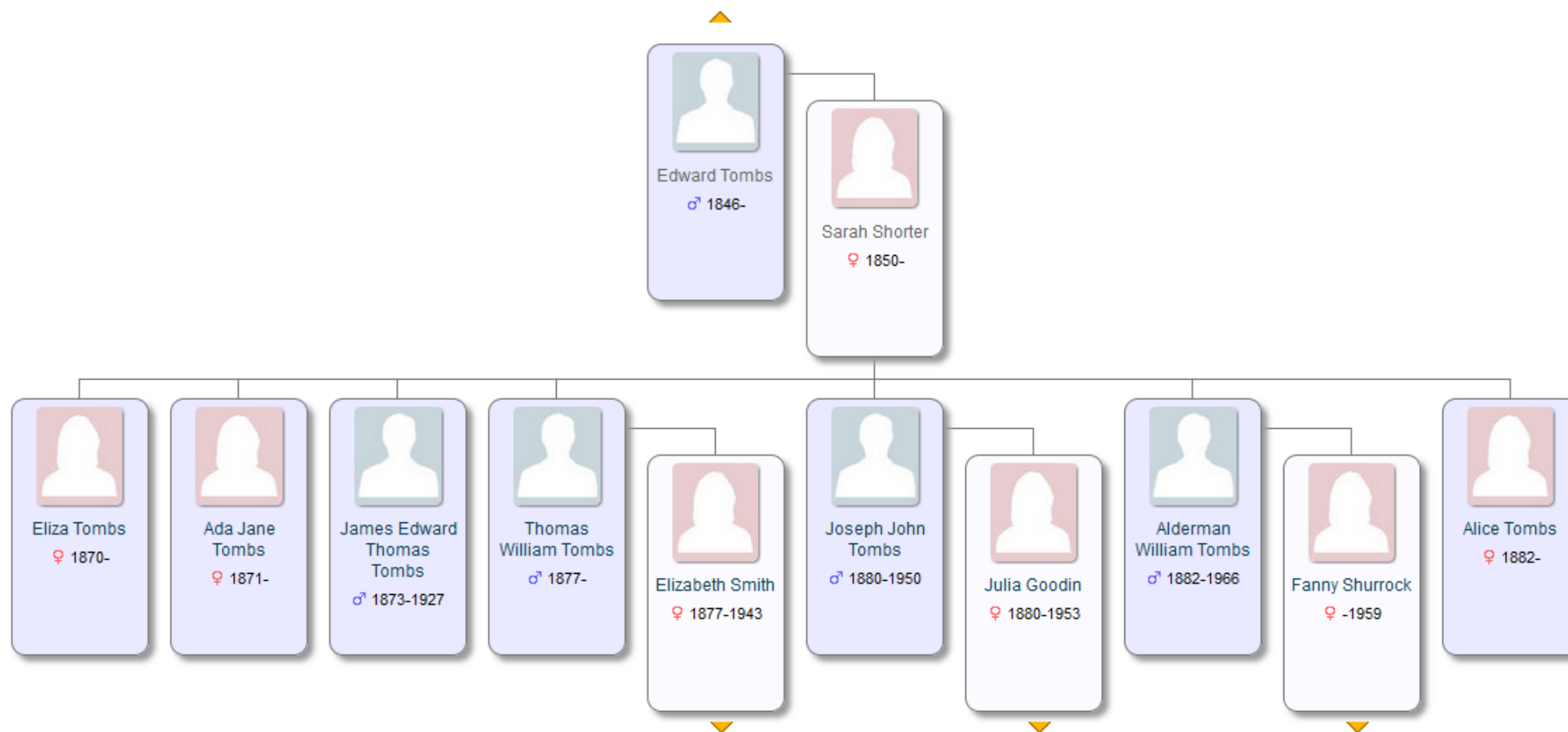


Descendants of William Frederick Tombs, born 1907
Family Tree 12



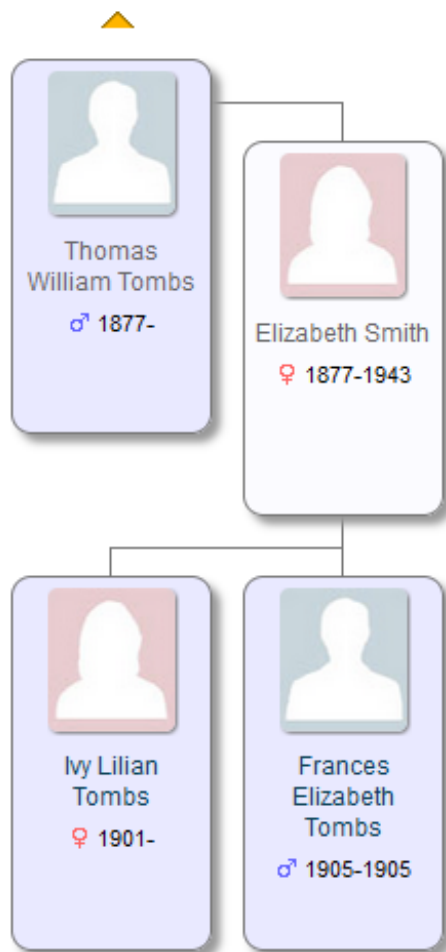
Christine, born in January 1938 has published (with Wheatley Archive) a book ‘On Parallel Lines: A Girl’s Life in Wheatley, 1939-1956’ in which she recounts her wartime and school memories. These include details of the shop which her grandmother, Keziah, opened in 1935 in the grounds of the house. During the war, this grocery business looked after the council estate tenants opposite. Christine remembers Mrs Harris delivering milk by horse and cart to their house each day.

Descendants of Edward Tombs, born 1846, from Family Tree 9
Family Tree 13

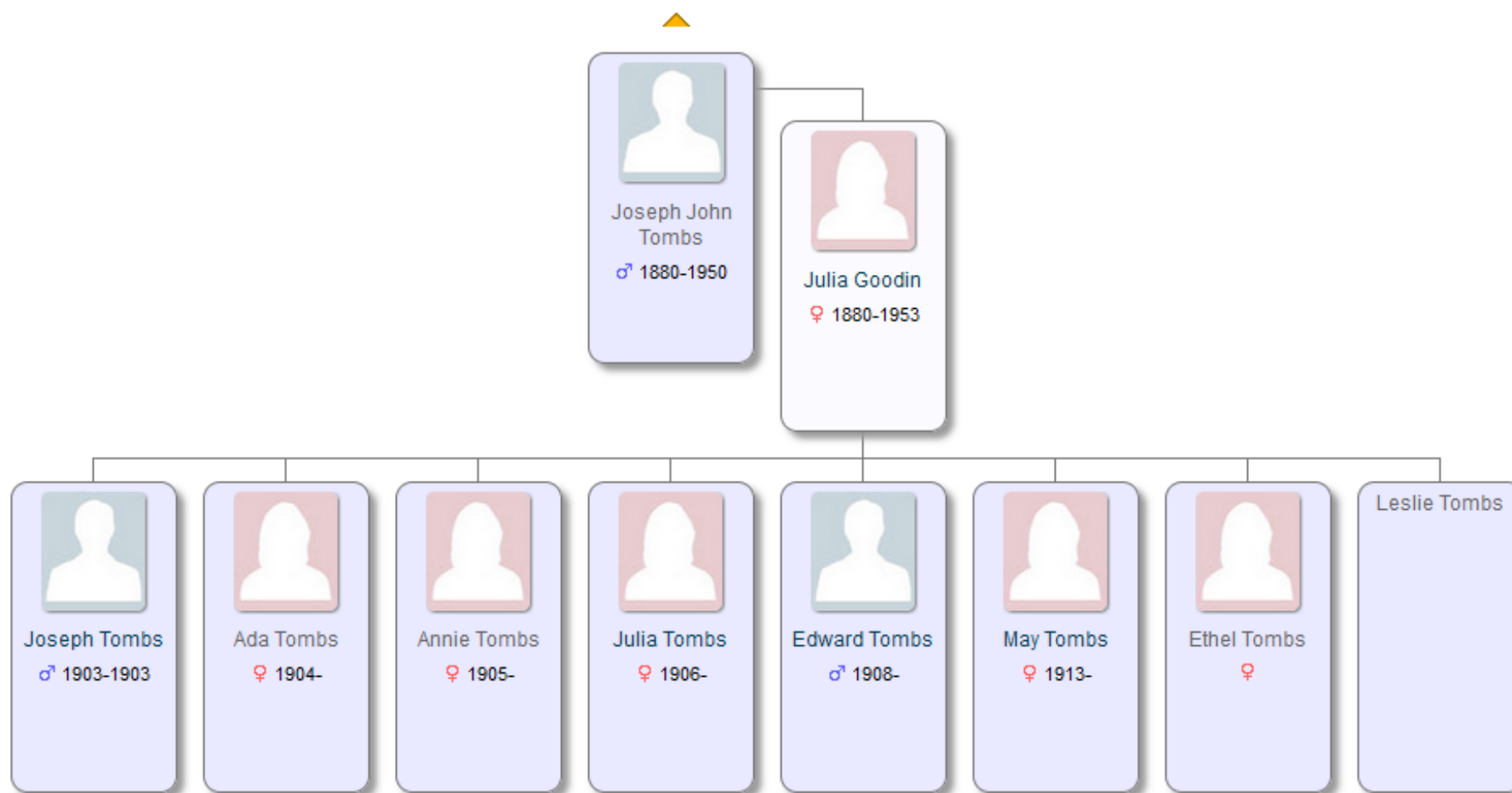


For descendants of Thomas William Tombs, born 1877, see Family Tree 14
For descendants of Joseph John Tombs, 1880-1950, see Family Tree 15
For descendants of Alderman William Tombs, 1882-1966, see Family Tree 16

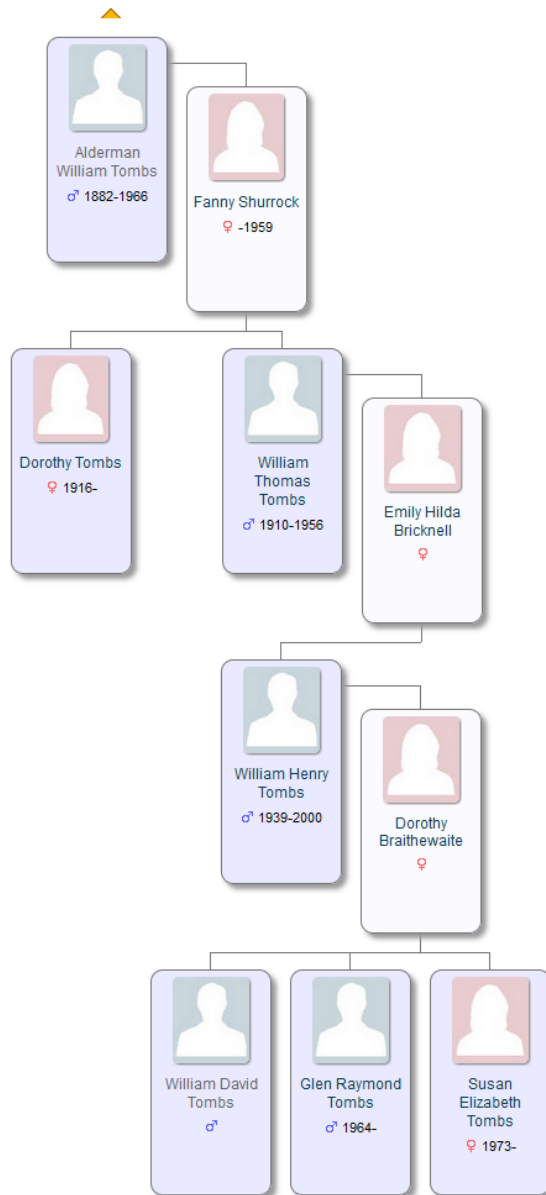
Descendants of Thomas William Tombs, born 1877, from Family Tree 13
Family Tree 14



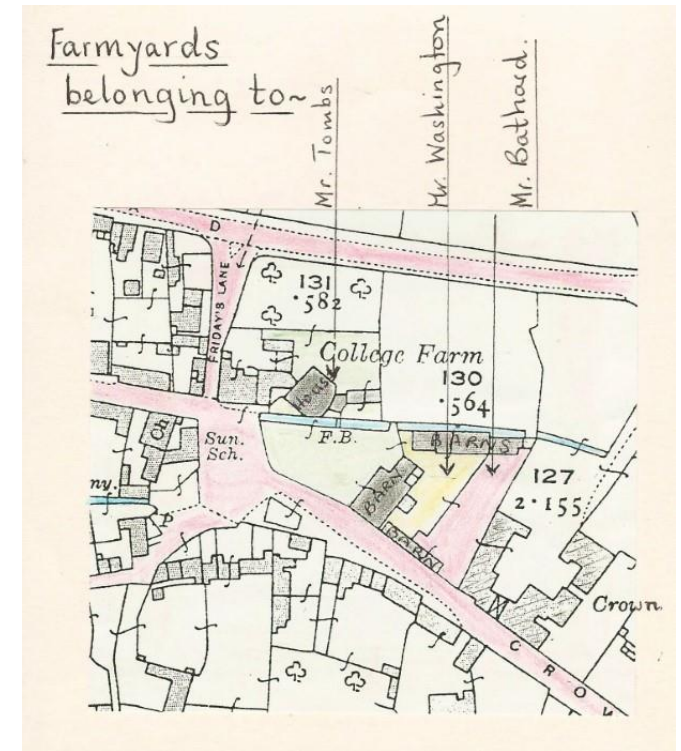
Descendants of Joseph John Tombs, 1880-1950, from Family Tree 13
Family Tree 15



Descendants of Alderman William Tombs, 1882-1966, from Family Tree 13
Family Tree 16



William was a market gardener and worked in the gardens of Shotover House. Dorothy was born in 1916 at College Farm. William had acquired one-third of this holding when it was split up. But, it seems that he rented this out to Jack Hanks, The farmyard is shown in this 1950s photograph.



William was clearly set on improving himself and he attended Rees Leyshon's evening classes for 16 years.

Having been on the Wheatley Urban District Council from 1915, William was the first chairman of the Parish Council when it was formed in March 1932, with William Slatter appointed as vice Chairman. Numerous write-ups give William Tombs the credit for having introduced electric light, main drainage and a water supply into the village making it 'the healthiest village in the country'. Tombs later stated that 110 council houses had been erected as of 1955.

Despite this, he was a down-to-earth man as one journalist reported that, 'I found him shovelling coal from a railway wagon in the station yard. He told me he had no need to work, but if there was work to be done he believed in doing it'.

Alderman Tombs



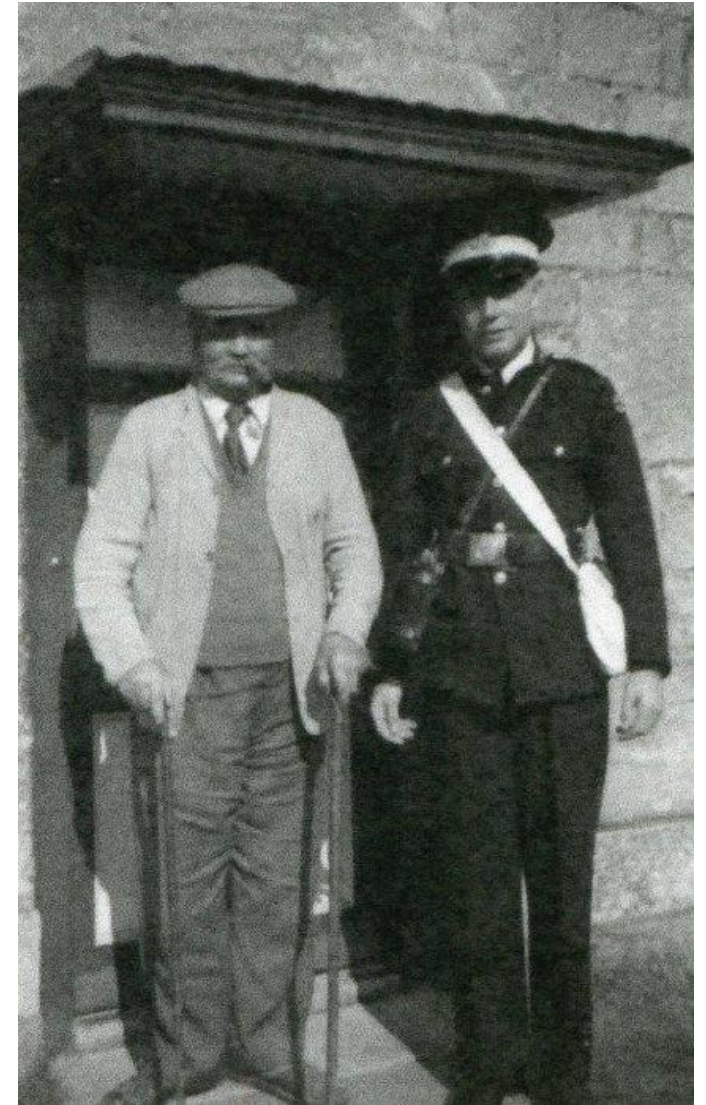
William Thomas Tombs



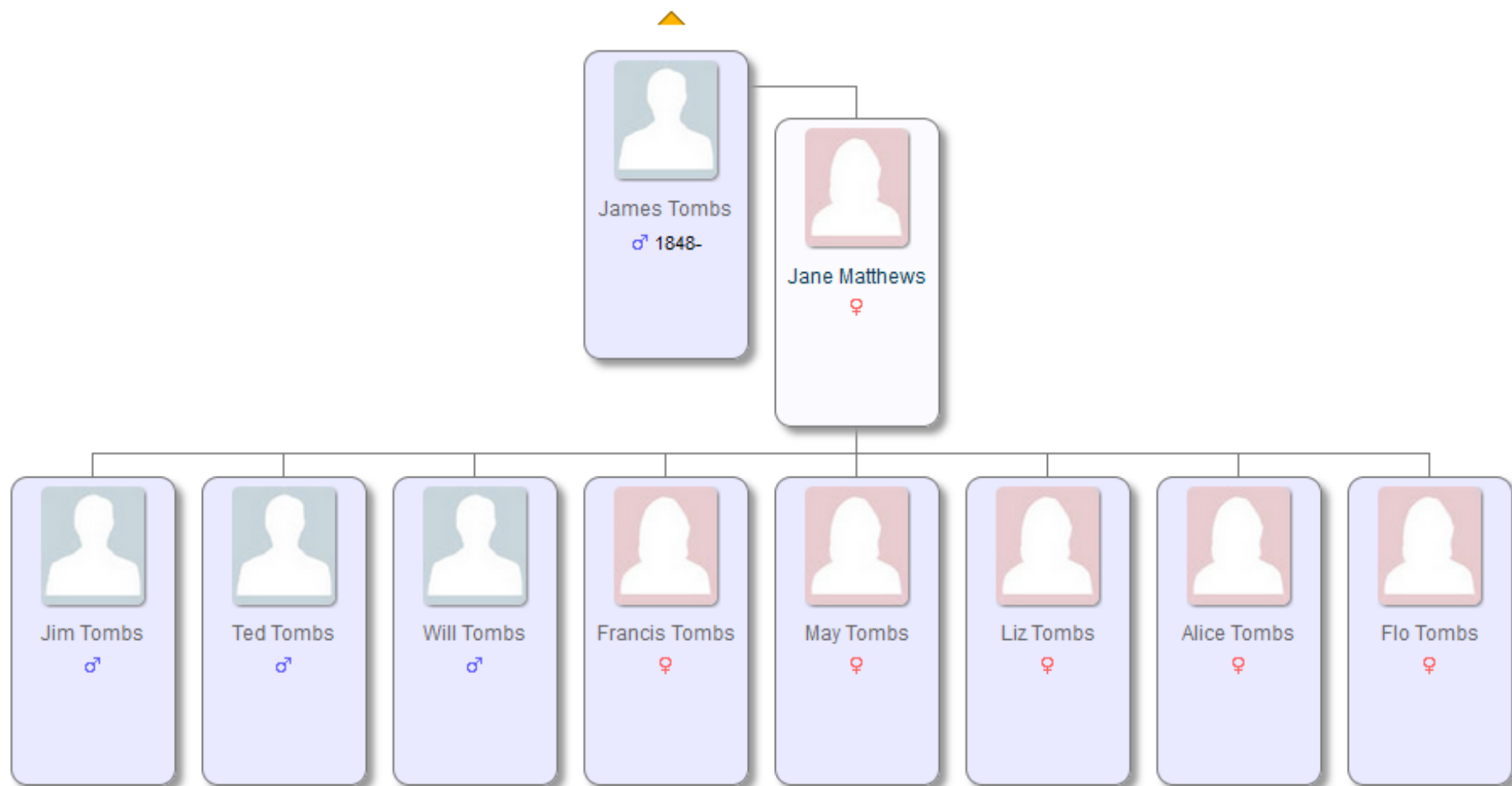
William Henry and wife Dorothy



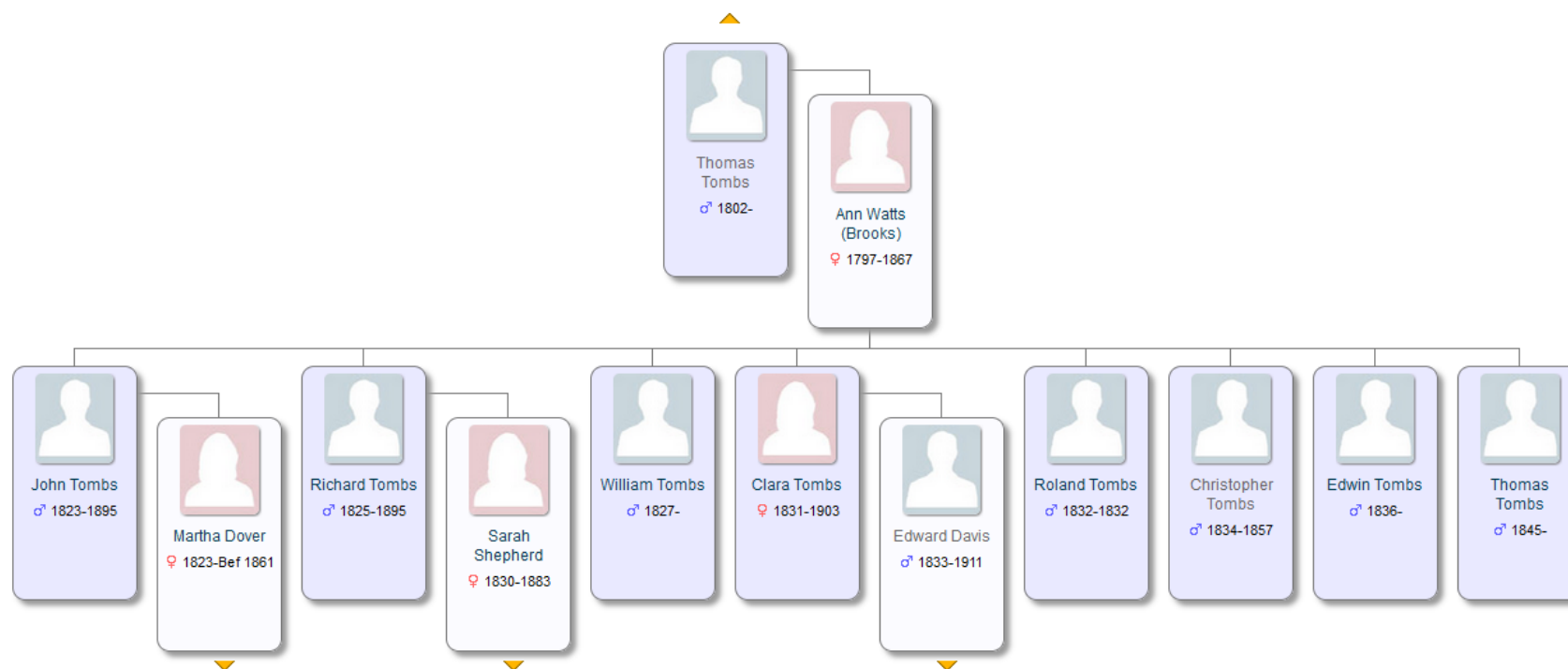
Alderman Tombs with grandson William Henry



Descendants of James Tombs, born 1848, from Family Tree 9
Family Tree 17

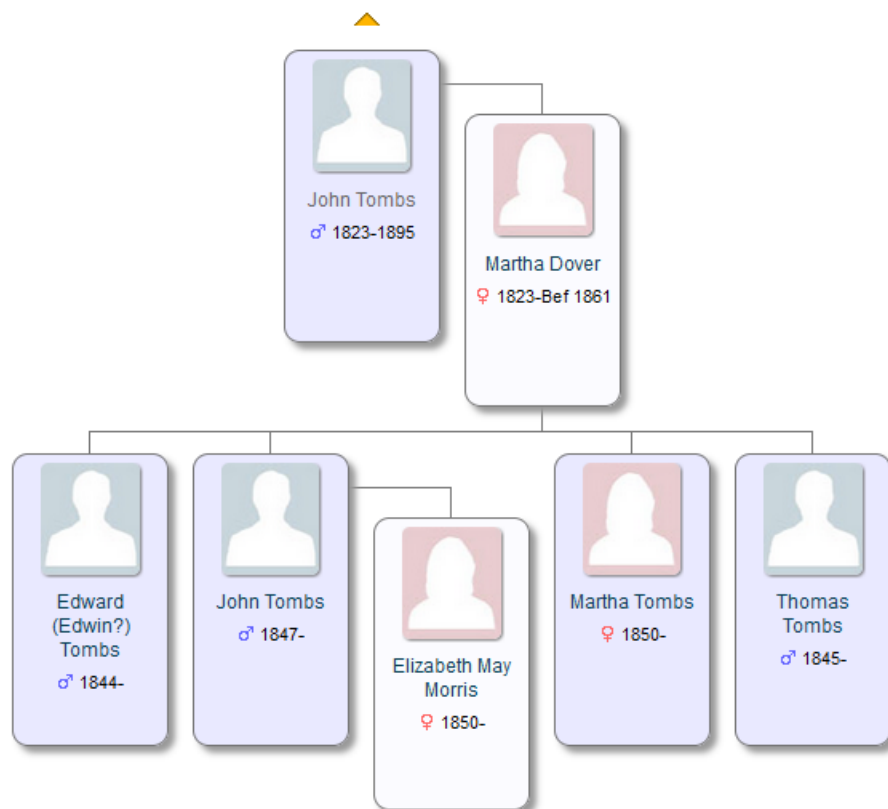


Descendants from Thomas Tombs, born 1802, from Family Tree 2
Family Tree 18

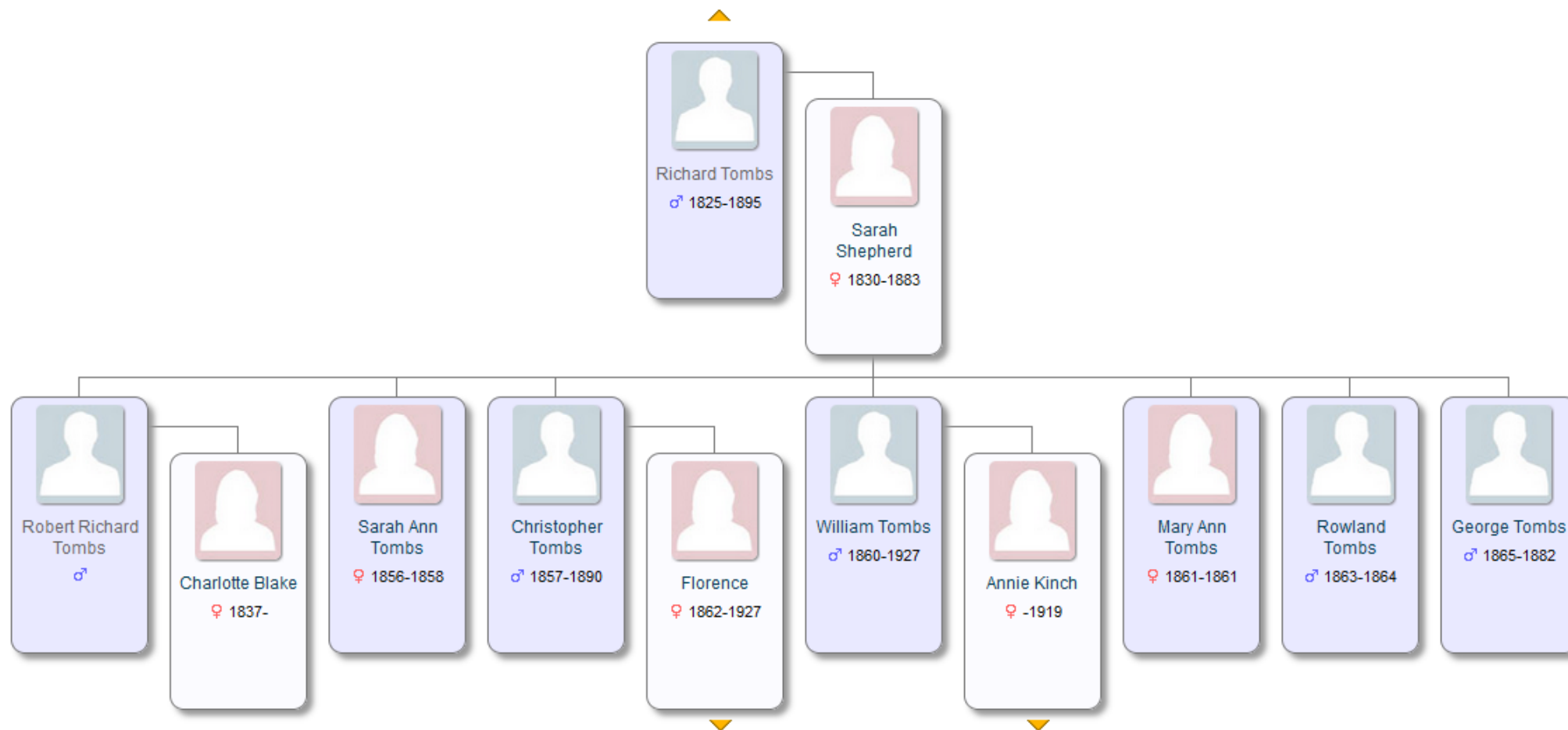


For descendants from John Tombs, 1823-1895, see Family Tree 19
For descendants from Richard Tombs, 1825-1895, see Family Tree 20

Descendants from John Tombs, 1823-1895
Family Tree 19

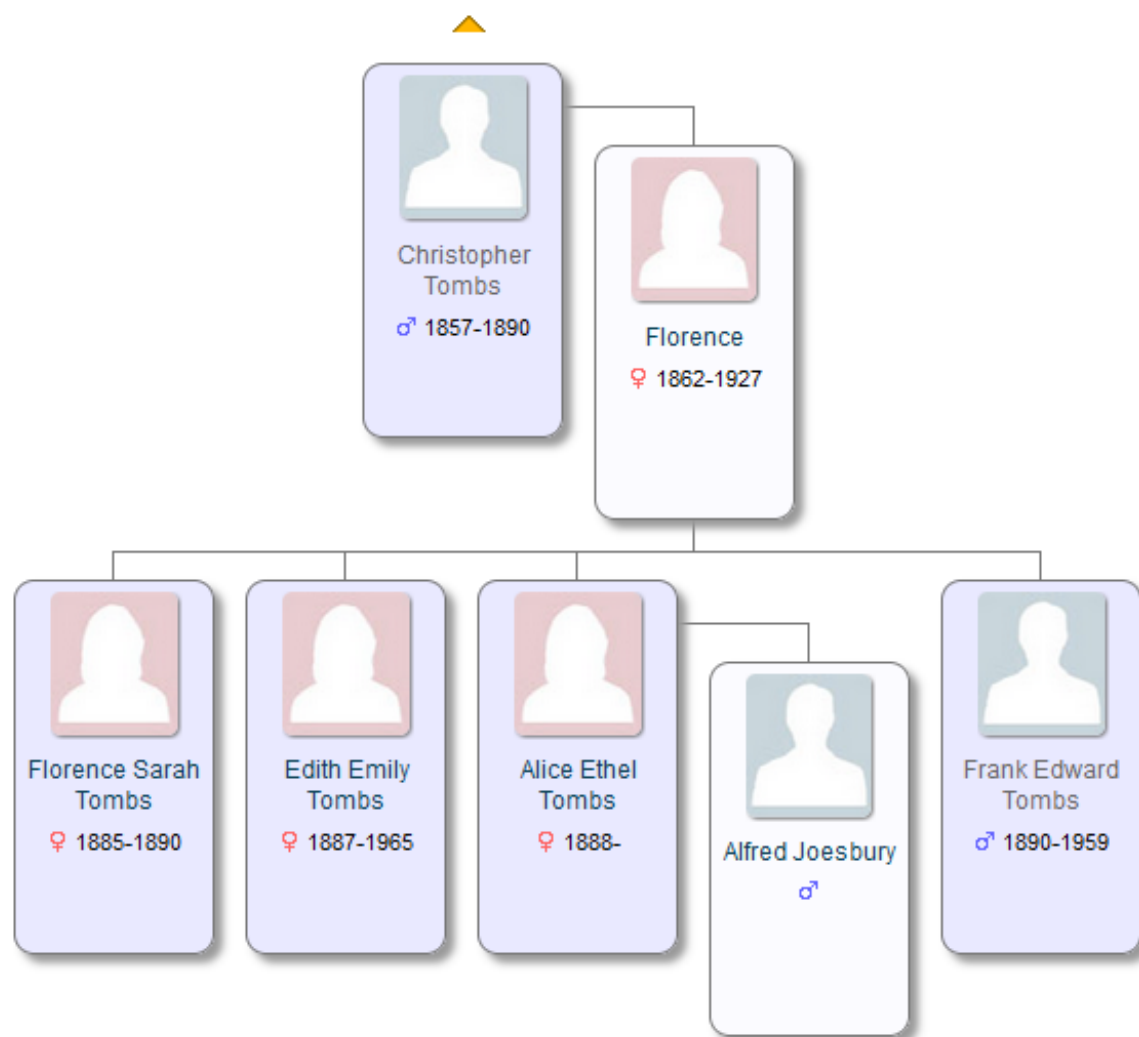


Descendants from Richard Tombs, 1825-1895
Family Tree 20

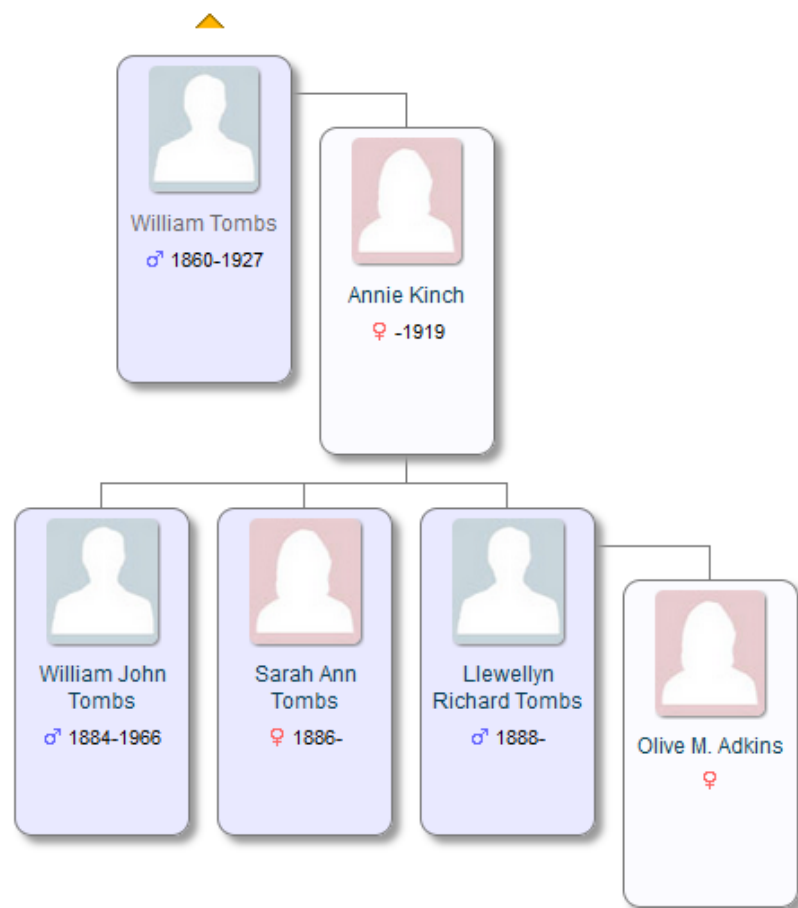


For descendants from Christopher Tombs, 1857-1890, see Family Tree 21
For descendants from William Tombs, 1857-1890, see Family Tree 22

Descendants from Christopher Tombs, 1857-1890
Family Tree 21



Descendants from William Tombs, 1860-1927, from Family Tree 20
Family Tree 22



Llewellyn signed up with the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in the Great War, but we do not know what part he played in this

There are two other Tombs-named entries in the genealogical database. These is un-named man who married Florence Shepherd, and a Martha Tombs who married Richard Summers in 1860, had children Hugh and Catherine, and ran a sweetshop in half of 55 High St (Ringland Cottage). Neither has any ancestors in the database.