

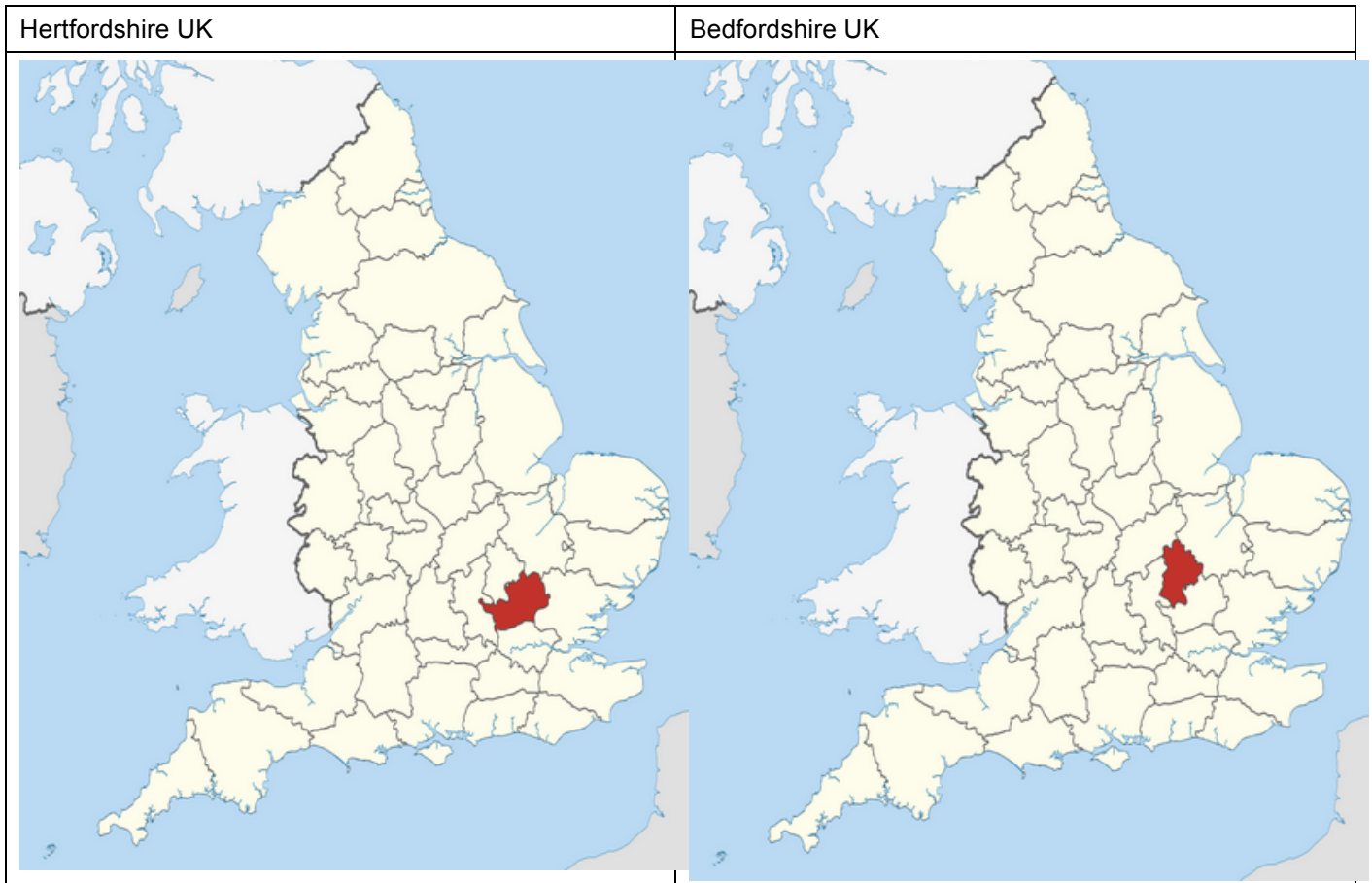
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SKEGGS FAMILY HISTORY

1700 Skeggs Family in Anstey Hertfordshire

The Skeggs surname, variously spelt Skiggs, Skegg, Skeges, Skeck and others, is an unusual surname, but widely recorded in the north of England. In the 19th century Skeggs was a fairly common name in Hertfordshire, where our known Skeggs ancestors originated. It is an interesting example of how surnames were gradually created from the habitual use of nicknames. These nicknames were originally given with reference to a variety of personal characteristics, such as physical attributes or peculiarities, and mental and moral characteristics. The derivation, in this instance, is from the Old Norse byname "Skegg", "Beard", denoting someone with a particularly bushy beard. The "s" added at the end denotes "son of Skegg".

Our Skeggs family history can be traced to Hertfordshire, a County to the north of London. The villages of Anstey and Barkway figure prominently as places of residence in the early 1800's, Thomas Skeggs later moving to Bedfordshire to the North West of London.



1710 RICHARD SKEGGS IS BORN

Richard Skeggs was born about 1710 in Anstey

1719 Birth of Esther Parker

Esther Parker was born 8th October 1710, daughter of John Parker in Anstey

1735 Marriage of Richard Skeggs and Esther Parker

Richard Skeggs and Esther Parker are married in 11/3/1735 in Anstey

1736 to 1750 Children to Richard and Esther Skeggs

Richard and Esther have 5 children

Mary Skeggs	Born 31/10/1736
Sarah Skeggs	Born 25/10/1741
Ann Skeggs	Born 29/3/1747
Susannah Skeggs	Born 14/11/1748
Richard Skeggs	Born 10/2/1750

1761 Death of Esther Skeggs (nee Parker)

Esther Skeggs dies in 1761 Hertfordshire

1782 Death of Richard Skeggs

Richard Skeggs dies 1782 in Hertfordshire

1750 Birth of Richard Skeggs

Richard Skeggs is born on 10h Feb 1750 in Anstey, Hertfordshire.

1753 Birth of Mary Pallet

Mary Pallet is born in 1753

1770 Marriage of Richard Skeggs and first wife Mary Pallet

Richard Skeggs and Esther Parker are married in 1735 in Anstey

1770 to 1786 Children to Richard and Mary Skeggs

Richard and Mary Skeggs have 5 children

Thomas Skeggs	Born 25/10/1770	Died 1769?
John Skeggs	Born 15/3/1772	Died 1 st Oct 1790
Elizabeth Skeggs	Born 1774	
Mary Skeggs	Born 1778	
Sarah Skeggs	Born 15/1/1784	
Thomas Skeggs	Born 1780	
Esther Skeggs	Born 1786	

1788 Death of Mary Skeggs (nee Pallet)

Mary Skeggs dies in 1788 in Anstey Hertfordshire, aged just 35.

1791 Marriage of Richard Skeggs to second wife Sarah Brown

After the death of his first wife Mary (nee Pallet) in 1788, Richard Skeggs marries Sarah Brown (born 1770).

1791 Children to Richard and Sarah Skeggs

John was named after Richard's first son John who he had with Mary, but who had died aged 18 in 1790.

John Skeggs	Born 26th Oct 1794
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1802 Death of Sarah Skeggs (nee Brown)

Sarah Skeggs dies in 1802 in Anstey, Hertfordshire

1805 Death of Richard Skeggs

Richard Skeggs dies on the 4th March 1805 in Anstey, Hertfordshire.

1794 BIRTH OF JOHN SKEGGS

John Skeggs is born 2th Oct 1794 to Richard Skeggs and his second wife Sarah Brown

1805 Birth of Sarah Oakman

Sarah Oakman is born in Brent Pelham, a small village near Anstey, in 1797. The Oakmans came from Brent Pelham and Albury in Hertfordshire and Sarah's family can be traced back to the 1500's with the birth of Raphe Oakman in 1577.

1816 Marriage of John Skeggs and Sarah Oakman

John Skeggs and Sarah Oakman were married in Brent Pelham on the 14th November 1816.

1818 to 1829 Children of John and Sarah Skeggs

John and Sarah Skeggs have 7 children. Daughter Mary Skeggs was born in 1818 Brent Pelham before they moved to Anstey, where John Skeggs had lived. Their other 6 children were all born in Anstey

Mary Skeggs	Born 18 th Aug 1818	
Thomas Skeggs	Born 1820	Died 1900
William Skeggs	Born 1820	Died 1892
George Skeggs	Born 1824	
	Baptised 1840 (age 16)	
James Skeggs	Born 1826	
	Baptised 1840 (age 14)	
Hester Skeggs	Born 1827	Died 1864
Richard Skeggs	Born 1829	Died 1898

1841 to 1871 Census Residences of John and Sarah Skeggs

1841 Census

The 1841 Census reveals John and Sarah Skeggs are living in Anstey, just one house away from the house of George and Mary Barker, Sarah Barkers parents. There is no Mary Skeggs, nor Thomas Skeggs listed at the residence, nor is Sarah Barker listed as living at her parents place.

John Skeggs	Born abt 1801 (age 40)	Labourer
Sarah Skeggs	Born abt 1803 (age 38)	
William Skeggs	Born abt 1826 (age 15)	
George Skeggs	Born abt 1828 (age 13)	
James Skeggs	Born abt 1830 (age 11)	
Hester Skeggs	Born abt 1829 (age 12)	
Richard Skeggs	Born abt 1831 (age 10).	

In fact the Anstey Parish records indicate John Skeggs should have been age 47 (born 1794), and Sarah age 44 (born 1797) and the children should have been aged - William (19), George (17), James (15), Hester (14) and Richard (12) at the time of the 1841 Census, being born in 1822, 1824, 1826, 1827 and 1829 respectively. Clearly many the Census data is not always entirely accurate, people in those days not being literate and perhaps not knowing exactly when they were born.

1851 Census

John Skeggs (Skiggs in Census), is living in Cottered. His wife Sarah had died in 1846, and he is living with his grandson George age 11, probably near his relatives as there were several Skeggs families who lived in Cottered.

John Skeggs	Born abt 1799 (age 52)
George Skiggs	Born abt 1840 (age 11)

1846 Death of Sarah Skeggs

Sarah Skeggs Died in 1846 in Herefordshire. Perhaps this is why Thomas Skeggs, her son, moved to Luton in 1847, and John Skeggs her husband moved to Cottered.

1863 Death of John Skeggs

John Skeggs died in Layston Hertfordshire on the 4th April 1863

1820 BIRTH OF THOMAS SKEGGS

There is no birth registration or baptismal records for Thomas Skeggs. But according to the Census of 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881 he consistently states he was born about 1821, in either Anstey or Barkway Hertfordshire. The most likely date is 1820 in Brent Pelham where his father John Skeggs and mother Sarah, were married but a search of the Brent Pelham and Anstey records did not reveal this. We note that his 2 brothers George and James were respectively 16 and 14 years later after birth, in 1840, by which time Thomas had probably left home.

The marriage certificate of Thomas Skeggs and Sarah Barker confirms that Thomas Skeggs is the son of John Skeggs, and the witness to the marriage was William Skeggs, his younger brother.

1824 Sarah J Barker born

Sarah J Barker was born 4th March 1824 to parents George and Mary Barker in Anstey. Sarah Barker appears in the 1841 Census as a Farm Servant aged 15 with John and Mary Morris

1843 Thomas Skeggs and Sarah Barker are married

Thomas Skeggs and Sarah Barker were married on 29th January, 1843, in the Parish of Anstey, and the marriage registered in Royston in Jan-Feb-Mar of 1843. The handwritten Marriage Bann states that the first asking was Jan 15th, the second, Jan 22nd and the third Jan 29th. The 3 askings were required to ensure that any person who objected to the marriage had time to have their say.

1843 to 1861 Thomas and Sarah have 6 children

They have 6 children. Their first three children Eliza, Mary Ann and William were all Baptised in Anstey, though at the time Mary Ann was born, it was stated that they lived in Barkway, an adjoining village. In about 1848/1849 they moved to Stopsley Luton, Bedfordshire where their next three children, Sarah, James and William were born. The first William born 1847 died in 1850, and as it was customary to call another child the same name as the one who had died, their sixth child born 1860 was also called William. James was born in between the two Williams.

Eliza Skeggs	Born	19 th Nov 1843	Anstey
	Married	2 nd Aug 1862	Stopsley James Philips
	Children	1864 to 1873	George (1864-??), Arthur (1866-??), Caroline (1868-??), Sarah (1870-??), Charles (1873-1937)
Mary Ann Skeggs	Died	Oct 1875 (age 32)	Luton
	Born	7 th Sept 1845	Anstey
	Married	1866	Stopsley George Smith
	Children	1868 to 1891	Louisa (1868-??), Alfred (1880-??), Clara (1883-??), Alice (1885-??), Ellen (1887-??), Ada (1888-??) Arthur (1891-??)
William Skeggs	Died	JFM 1923 (age 78)	Luton
	Born	24 th Oct 1847	Anstey
	Died	11 th Jan 1850 (age 2)	Luton
Sarah Skeggs	Born	11 th May 1851	Anstey
	Died	13 th Oct 1852 (age 1)	Luton
James Skeggs	Born	1855	Stopsley, Luton
	Married	OND 1876	Pancras
	Children		
William Skeggs (2 nd)	Died	AMJ 1928 age 73	St Albans
	Born	JAS 1860,	Luton
	Christened	24 th June 1861	
	Died	JAS 1861 (Age 10m)	Luton AFTER the 1861 Census

1841- 1891 Census Residences of Thomas Skeggs

1841 Census

no Thomas Skeggs

1851 Census

Living in Stopsley, Luton, Bedfordshire, It's not clear why William Skeggs is listed here when he had died in 1850 aged 2. Perhaps it was tradition to list all family members, alive or dead. There appeared to be no other families of Skeggs living in Luton at the time so its likely they went to Luton for work. William died of cholera in Luton where there had been a cholera outbreak on 1847/1848.

Thomas	Born abt 1820, Anstey Hertsfordshire,
Sarah	born abt 1824, born Anstey
Eliza	born abt 1844 Barkway,
William	born abt 1846 Barkway, (WHY HE IS LISTED IF HE DIED 1850)
Sarah	born abt 1850 Barkway

1861 Census

Thomas Skeggs and family are living at Stopsley Luton Bedfordshire (Note 1st William and Sarah have now died). Why James is aged 10 and William aged 5? I think it was the other way round, James 5 and William probably 10 months, not 10 years as he was born in the 3rd Quarter of 1860. Very confusing, but what is clear is that in both 1850 and 1861 in Luton, there is the death of "a" William Skeggs so I believe that both died, the first aged 2, the second aged 1 year. In the 1971 Census, there is no William Skeggs present.

Thomas	born abt 1821 Barkway
Sarah	born abt 1823 Barkway, Straw Plaiter
Eliza	born abt 1843 Barkway, Bonnet Sewer
Mary A	born abt 1846 Barkway, Bonnet Sewer
James	born abt 1851 Stopsley, Luton (Should be born abt 1856 age 5)
William	born abt 1856 Stopsley, Luton (Should be born abt 1860 age 10 months)

1871 Census

Sarah and son James living in Sedlescombe, Kent AND strangely on the Census page before, a person called James Skeggs born 1821 in Anstey appears. On closer inspection of the handwritten entry it appears that the J for James could be a T, the second letter "a" has been overwritten so could be a "ho", and the second last letter "e" in James, has a curve over it implying it is broadened to an "a". These 3 changes make "James" look like a "Thomas", and besides there's no other Thomas Skeggs with similar details in any 1871 Census. I think the Census scribe probably started writing James Skeggs, as it is customary for the head of the household to be written first, then realising he is the son and not the head, changed it to Thomas.

James	born abt 1821 Anstey, Cow Man (ACTUALLY THOMAS)
Sarah	born abt 1824, Anstey, Dairy Woman
James	born abt 1855 Stopsley, Ag Labourer

1881 Census

Living in High Road Arkley, Chipping Barnet with wife and grand daughter (mother Eliza died 1875) but next door to daughter Mary Ann Skeggs and her husband George Smith and their children

Thomas	born abt 1821, Anstey,
Sarah	born abt 1824, Anstey
Caroline Philips	born abt 1868 Stopsley (grand dter, child of Eliza & James Philips)

1891 Census

Thomas Skeggs living Crouch Hall Lane, Redbourne, St Albans with grand daughter Clara Smith, daughter of Mary Ann and George Smith

Thomas	born abt 1825, Anstey, General Labourer
Clara Smith	born abt 1871, Stopsley (Grand dter Mary Ann and George Smith)

1900 Thomas Skeggs Death

The 1891 Census was the last time Thomas Skeggs appeared in a Census, at which stage he was living in Redbourne, St Albans. There is a death registration in 1900 of Thomas Skeggs in St Albans, the registration district for Redbourne, which we presume is him, as he doesn't appear in the 1901 Census.

1855 BIRTH OF JAMES SKEGGS

James Skeggs was born in Stopsley Luton, on 15th April 1855.

1855 – 1871 James Skeggs lives in Stopsley and Seddlescombe

In the 1861 Census, James is with his family in Stopsley Luton, aged 10, but as explained, I believe he was 5 and William 10 months. In 1871 he is living with his mother Sarah (Dairy woman) and father Thomas (Cow Man), in Seddlescombe in the south of England – why there?. Maybe after the death of daughter Sarah (1852) and their second William (1861), and with Mary Ann married (George Smith 1866) and Eliza married (James Philips 1862), only James is home and its time for a change, Seddlescomb being 10k from Hastings on the English Channel.

1876 James Skeggs marries Naomi Gallant (nee Bean)

On the 13th August 1876 James Skeggs marries Naomi Gallant (nee Bean) in Barnet. He is just 21 years old and Naomi is 30. Naomi was born Naomi Bean in 1846 in Rye Sussex, and had been married before to Edward Gallant, born 1841. They were married in 1865 in Shoreditch London and had a daughter, Naomi born 1869 and son Edward born 1872, who died age 2 in 1874. In 1876, Naomi's husband Edward Gallant died in April-May-June in Pancras, aged 35 years when daughter Naomi was 7 years old. Just 4 months later, James married Naomi.

1881 to 1921 Census Residences of James and Naomi Skeggs

1881 Census

James in High Road, Arkley, Chipping Barnet, Hertfordshire with his step daughter Naomi and his other 2 children.

James	born abt 1855 Luton, Bedfordshire	Blacksmith
Naomi	born abt 1846 Rye Sussex	wife
Naomi	born abt 1870 Camden Town Middlesex	Stepdaughter
Charles	born abt 1877 Barnet Hertfordshire	
William	born abt 1879 Barnet Hertfordshire	

1891 Census

James still living at 30 High Road, Arkley, but James' step daughter Naomi has left and there's now 4 children.

James	born abt 1855 Luton, Bedfordshire	Blacksmith
Naomi	born abt 1846 Rye Sussex	wife
Charles	born abt 1877 Barnet Hertfordshire	Errand Boy
William	born abt 1879 Barnet Hertfordshire	Scholar
Florence	born abt 1882 Barnet Hertfordshire	
May	born abt 1887 Barnet Hertfordshire	

1901 Census

James and Naomi still at 30 High Road, Arkley, Chipping Barnet, Hertfordshire, Charles has left home.

James	born abt 1855 Luton, Bedfordshire	Blacksmith
Naomi	born abt 1846 Rye Sussex	wife
William	born abt 1879 Barnet Hertfordshire	
Florence	born abt 1882 Barnet Hertfordshire	
May	born abt 1887 Barnet Hertfordshire	

1911 Census

James and Naomi are now at 2 Felix Place Fortis Green Hertfordshire , living with daughter May Skeggs age 24

James	born abt 1855 Luton, Bedfordshire	Blacksmith
Naomi	born abt 1846 Rye Sussex	wife
May	born abt 1887 Barnet Hertfordshire	

1928 James Skeggs Dies

In 1928, James Skeggs Dies aged 73 at Barnet, Edmonton Middlesex.

1932 Naomi Skeggs Dies

1877 BIRTH OF CHARLES SKEGGS

On the 24th March 1877, Charles Skeggs of Union Street Barnet South Mims, Middlesex is born to parents James and Naomi Skeggs.

1885 Gertrude Beatrice Bell is born

On the 23rd July 1885, Gertrude Beatrice Bell is born at 6 Woodside Cottages Muswell Hill Road, Highgate, Hornsey, to parents Henry Bell and Eizabeth Bell (nee Adams)

1895 Charles Skeggs joins Royal Artillery

On 27th March 1895, Charles joins the Royal Artillery as a recruit. His attestation record indicates he was an 18 year old shoeing smith and that he signed for 12 years. The Royal Artillery at the time was in Woolwich London.

1899 to 1905 Charles and Emma Skeggs are married and live in Barnet

On 29th October 1899, Charles Skeggs married Emma Richardson in Lyonsdown by Marriage Banns. Emma was born in 1876 in Enfield Middlesex and in 1891 was a 15 year old servant in Leicester Rd Lyonsdown, Barnet. In the 1901 Census, Charles and Emma Skeggs are at Albion Place, Bell's Hill, Chipping Barnet. This street doesn't exist anymore, however, the neighbouring streets in the Census indicate it was only a few hundred metres from 30 High St Barnet where Charles previously lived with his parents James and Naomi and not far from Leicester Rd Lyonsdown where Emma had been a servant. It's not known if Charles continued in the Royal Artillery.

1906 to 1911 Charles Skeggs and Gertrude Beatrice Bell are together then married

About 1906, Charles left his first wife Emma (or vice versa) and met Gertrude Beatrice Bell who had recently separated from her first husband Albert Edward Walton whom she had married on 9th October 1905. Charles and Gertrude moved to Uxbridge where their son James Henry was born 17th January 1909.

On 4th March 1911, Charles and Gertrude Beatrice Bell officially married in St Pancras, London, listing their marital status and bachelor and spinster respectively.

In the 1911 Census, it is noted that they had been married for 7 years and on the birth certificate of their first daughter Mavis Skeggs born in 1914 in Australia, it was noted that they married in St Pancras London on 4th March 1905. However the original marriage certificate notes that Charles and Gertrude were married the 4th March 1911. It's likely that the date was changed to protect son James knowing that his father Charles had previously married.

What happened to the first spouses of Charles and Gertrude? I have found no trace of Albert Edward Walton, but Emma Skeggs was living in 1911 at 23 High St Barnet with the Parsloe family almost next door to the parents of Charles Skeggs. She stated she had been married for 11 years with no children. This line was crossed out, not because it was incorrect, but the Census collector had deemed it inappropriate, not being married to the head of the family. After that, I have found no trace of Emma Skeggs.

1911 - 1914 Census/Electoral Roll Residences of Charles and Gertrude Skeggs

Soon after Charles and Gertrude Skeggs were married in March 1911 they moved to Brisbane Australia. The shipping records lists Chas Skeggs, wife and son Chas (should be James) leaving London on 4th May 1911.

Census UK 1911

In the April 2nd 1911 Charles, Gertrude and son James were living at 96 High St Uxbridge Middlesex UK. He is listed as a shoeing smith

Australian Electoral Roll 1913

In 1913, Charles and Gertrude Skeggs are living in Camperdown NSW, so we presume they emigrated to Sydney that year before moving to Queensland. (Likely 1911)

Australian Electoral Roll 1914 and 1915

In 1914 and 1915, Charles and Gertrude Skeggs and daughter Mavis, were living in Cabbage Tree Creek near Ipswich, Queensland, later called Lake Manchester. It was renamed in December 1916 when the new dam was opened. Charles is listed as a blacksmith.

Australian Electoral Roll 1922

In 1922, Charles and Gertrude had moved to Muirlea on the outskirts of Brassall.

Australian Electoral Roll 1922 to 1937

For 15 years Charles, Gertrude and 2 daughters live at Pine Mountain Road Brassall.

Australian Electoral Roll 1939 to 1954

Charles and Gertrude Operate a boarding house at 11 Smith Street North Ipswich.

Australian Electoral Roll 1954 to 1967

Charles Skeggs died in 1948, and in 1952 Gertrude moved to live with daughter Mavis and husband Harold Gurd to 12 Tallon Street West Ipswich and in 1963, with them to Cascade Street Raceview.

1914 - 1918 Charles and Gertrude Skeggs have 2 children

Apart from James, son of Charles and Emma (his previous wife) there are two more children, Mavis Gertrude Skeggs and Florence Beryl Skeggs born to Charles and his second wife Gertrude Beatrice.

James Henry Skeggs	Born 1909 Uxbridge, Middlesex (mother Gertrude Skeggs nee Bell) Died 1934 Katoomba NSW
Mavis Gertrude Skeggs	Born 10 th Sept 1914 Ipswich QLD (Mother Gertrude Skeggs nee Bell) Married 11 th November 1944 Harold Gurd No Children Died 20 th Jan 1996 Sandgate
Florence Beryl Skeggs	Born 18 th Dec 1918 Ipswich Qld (Mother Gertrude Skeggs nee Bell) Married 25 th March 1844 Charles Morgan Children Janice Beryl Morgan (Born 16 th Feb 1950, Mar 30 th Dec 1972) John Charles Morgan (Born 8 th Dec 1952, Mar 9 th Nov 1986) Died 10 th April 2005 Sandgate