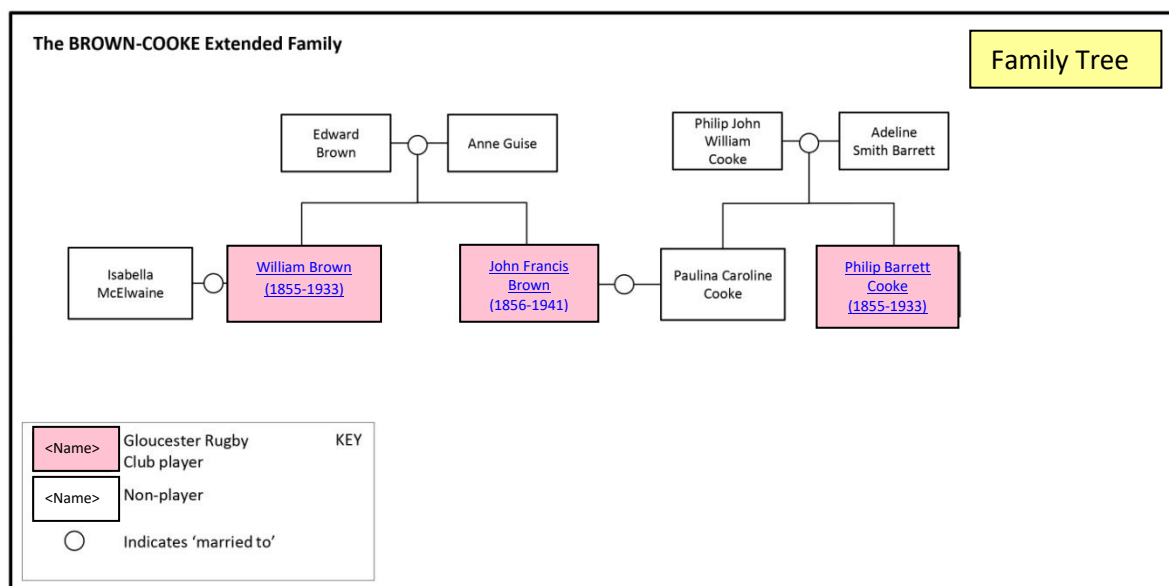


EXTENDED FAMILIES: The Brown and Cooke Greater Family: The relationships based on marriage between the families of the brothers [William Brown](#) and [John Francis \('Frank'\) Brown](#) and Frank's brother-in-law [Philip Barrett Cooke](#)



The **BROWN** Family – brothers [William Brown](#) and [John Francis \('Frank'\) Brown](#)

The brothers were the sons of Edward Brown (1923-1902) and Anne Brown (née Guise) (b.1924). Edward was born at Roscommon, Ireland while Anne came from Bromsgrove, Worcestershire and the couple had four children. The family initially lived in Bromsgrove but by 1861 they had moved to Bristol and by 1871 they lived in Faulkner Street in Gloucester.

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William Brown was born in Bromsgrove on 3 March 1855 and like his brother [John Francis \('Frank'\) Brown](#) he would play for Gloucester. After leaving school both William and his brother Frank were employed as Post Office Clerks. In 1885 at an examination held in London for a Clerkship in the Secretary's Department, General Post Office, William was the only candidate to successfully satisfy the examiner and passed. He subsequently moved to London which curtailed his rugby career with Gloucester, joining the Confidential Enquiry branch dealing with internal security issues. On 4 June 1897 at St Winifred's Roman Catholic Church York, William married Isabella McElwaine. The couple had four children all of whom were given as a middle name William's mother's maiden name of Guise. The family initially lived in York but within four years moved to Dublin where William became the Assistant Surveyor at the General Post office; he was promoted to Surveyor by 1911. William, before moving away from Gloucester owing to job demands, **as a forward, played 119 games for the Gloucester First XV between 1876 and 1885, scoring 11 tries. He was also awarded 7 Gloucestershire County caps, scoring one try.** William died on 3 July 1933 aged 78 years at his home in Highfield Road, Dublin where he had lived for over thirty years after moving to Dublin. His wife, Isabella died in Dublin in 1955 aged 88 years.

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John Francis ('Frank') Brown was born in Bristol on 20 November 1856 and like his brother [William Brown](#) he would play for Gloucester. After leaving school both Frank and his brother William

were employed as Post Office Clerks and like his brother would pursue a career within the General Post Office (GPO) both in Britain and South Africa. On 2 September 1885 Frank married Paulina Caroline Cooke at St Peters Roman Catholic Chapel in Gloucester. Frank's wife, Paulina, was the sister of [Philip Barrett Cooke](#) who was therefore Frank's brother-in-law. The couple soon moved with Frank's work to Bedford where they had six children. In 1898 he was transferred to the GPO's West of England headquarters at Exeter before being appointed in 1900 as the Post Mast General of Natal and then Transvaal in South Africa where he would remain for the rest of his life. He became involved in the Public Service sector and was elected to the Transvaal Provincial Council, actively engaged during the Great War in the Recruiting Committee and was Chairman of the Returned Soldiers Employment Committee. He also chaired several commissions including the Stallard Commission and the Shop Hours Commission and finally chair of the Federation of Ratepayers Association of Johannesburg for eight years before he retired from public life in 1933 aged 76 years. His wife, Paulina, also played a significant role in South African public life as she was President of the Women's South African Party and took a prominent role in the South African Gifts and Comforts Association. **Frank, a versatile player turned out with both the forwards and backs and played 105 times for the Gloucester First XV between 1874 and 1886, scoring 35 tries; he captained the Club from 1876 until 1883. He also won 16 Gloucestershire County caps between 1878 and 1885, scoring 1 try;** his rugby career was curtailed owing to work commitments. Frank died in Johannesburg, South Africa on 18 December 1941 aged 84 years while his wife, Paulina, had died three years previously in 1938 aged 78 years. There is a [detailed profile of Frank Brown](#) in the People/Player Profiles section of this website.

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The **COOKE** Family – **Philip Barrett Cooke**

Philip Barrett Cooke was born in Gloucester on 20 August 1858, the son of Philip John William Cooke (1828-1907), a Solicitor, and Adeline Smith Cooke (née Barrett) (1829-1910). The couple married in Devon in 1853 and had eight children, all of whom survived into adulthood. The family lived in Gloucester, variously at Tewkesbury Road and Pitt Street. Philip's sister, Paulina Caroline Cooke married [John Francis \('Frank'\) Brown](#) who was therefore Philip's brother-in-law. His parents moved to Devon, the county where his mother was born and died there. Philip followed into his father's profession and became a Solicitor in Gloucester and in 1883 he and his father had entered into a partnership. On 11 September 1884 at All Saints Church, Philip married Annie Slater. The couple lived in Barnwood Road and Horton Road and had two daughters who were the nieces of [John Francis \('Frank'\) Brown](#). His wife, Annie during the Great War volunteered as a nurse and was attached to No.32 Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) at the Gloucester Red Cross Hospital caring for wounded servicemen; the hospital stood in Great Western Road and treated almost 5,000 soldiers. **Philip, a forward, played 76 games for the Gloucester First XV between 1873 and 1883. He was also awarded 11 Gloucestershire County caps, scoring 1 try. In 1890 he became Secretary of the Gloucester Club** as well as Secretary to the Stewards of the Three Choirs Festival. He also became Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Secretary of the Gloucester Pilotage Authority and Clerk of the Gloucester Harbour Trustees. Philip died from Nephritis on 22 August 1930 whilst living in Park Road, aged 72 years; the first part of the funeral service was held at Gloucester Cathedral and he was buried at St. Lawrence Churchyard, Barnwood. His wife, Annie, died in February 1932 aged 69 years and is also buried in St Lawrence Churchyard.

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