

The “Wide-Awake” Stockman of Green County



Green
County
Public
Library
Genealogy

Laura
Johnson

Archibald Nathaniel “Nathan” Bridgewater, born May 26, 1860, in Adair County, Kentucky, was one of many children in the Bridgewater household. His parents were William Page and Elizabeth Bridgewater.

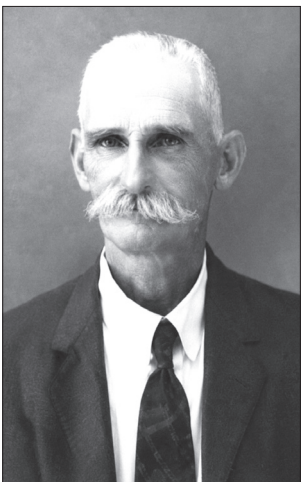
By the time he reached young adulthood, Nathan was working as a farmhand in the Gresham community of Green County, living with his older brother Davy’s family. The work was hard, but it was honest and steady. His mother and younger siblings were also in the household. His father had passed in 1875.

In 1884, Nathan married his first love, Susie F. Spillman. Their marriage lasted barely two years before Susie died in November 1886, leaving Nathan with their newborn daughter, Mattie Elizabeth Bridgewater.

Nathan remarried on December 14, 1887, this time to Mary Elizabeth Bridgewater, a cousin. Together they built a bustling household in Green County.

The 1900 census lists the names of their children: Mattie (age 14), Mary (10), Katie (8), Emma (3), and little Nathan Paul (1), with one daughter, Bertha, lost in infancy. There was also a boarder named Herbert Darnell in the home who became Mattie’s husband in 1906.

Nathan was a farmer as well as a livestock man. He had purchased 176 acres of land near Ebenezer Church in 1897 and helped survey the Green County



Nathan Bridgewater,
1860-1941

Pike near there in 1907, placing 588 stakes across eleven miles. He shipped hogs, bought cattle, and traveled all over the area with wagonloads of livestock. He purchased another farm for \$8,000 in 1919, a considerable sum for the time.

Neighbors called him “wide awake,” meaning sharp, alert, and always ready for business. Nathan Bridgewater didn’t miss opportunities. By the 1920s, Nathan was known throughout Green and Adair counties as an accomplished stock man, a trader who could judge a hog or a heifer with a glance.

On occasion, he was a representative of the loose leaf tobacco warehouse and once claimed the distinction of killing the largest hog ever butchered in Greensburg, a 630 pound sow that even the local butcher backed him up on.

Nathan and Mary Elizabeth sold their farm in 1929 to Dr. S. J. Simons and moved to Greensburg.

Nathan worked as long as his body allowed. Into his mid-seventies, he was still in the pens, still trading in livestock. In 1928, he had received some broken ribs, and a

hog knocked him down, spraining his wrist in 1930. He sustained a more serious injury in 1931 when he suffered a fractured hip in a fall.

Mary Elizabeth Bridgewater died in 1931, after a long illness. Her obituary described a devoted mother whose only regret was leaving her children. Nathan buried her at Ebenezer Cemetery and carried on, as he always had.

Two years later, at age 73, he married Louellen Walker in a quiet ceremony performed by Rev. Perryman. Friends congratulated them warmly. “It is never too late to enjoy the happiness of companionship,” the paper wrote.

Sadly, Louellen died in 1937 after a battle with cancer. Nathan mourned her, too.

In his final years, Nathan hosted family reunions, welcomed grandchildren and great grandchildren, and remained a familiar figure on the roads around Greensburg. He had lived through three marriages, raised a large family, traded thousands of animals, and built a reputation as one of the county’s most dependable stock men.

On March 31, 1941, at the age of 80, Archibald Nathan Bridgewater died at his home. His obituary described a man of faith who joined the church at Milltown as a young man and later served as an elder at Mt. Gilead. He left behind five children, 32 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, and a legacy woven into the farms and communities of Green and Adair counties. He was buried at Ebenezer Cemetery, not far from the land he once bought, surveyed, and worked.

Greensburg-Green County
A proud past — A promising future

Way Back When

1966– The Greyhound Bus Line from Louisville will offer service to Green County. There will be three round trips daily to Louisville at a cost of \$3.40 per person.

By CAROL DIAL
SPECIAL TO THE R-H

**August 28, 1996
Road open by Friday** - The new section of US 68 between Greensburg and Rocky Run will open by Friday.

Over the Trails, John H. Ewing, Jr. - Representatives of the College of Agriculture of University of Kentucky demonstrated tobacco cutting and priming leaves in several local communities in August 1947.

HUD grant - A \$200,000 grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development was presented to the City of Greensburg to upgrade city owned public housing properties.

New fire truck - The Greensburg Fire Department purchase a new \$182,200 fire truck.

**August 28, 1986
Vandalism at school** - Several hundred dollars of damages occurred at the Summersville Elementary school when a four-wheel-drive vehicle was used to destroy the front door of the school.

Church under-

going repairs - The Greensburg United Methodist Church is undergoing repairs to the brick facade.

Milby entertains Villagers - Residents of Greensburg Village were entertained with a picnic at the home of Gordon Milby.

Coyotes plentiful in county - Area residents are becoming concerned about the numerous coyotes living in the county. Dennis Nunn killed two animals while hunting recently. The pair came toward Nunn in a threatening manner before he shot them.

**September 2, 1976
Homes looted** - Three homes were burglarized Friday afternoon with thieves stealing guns, jewelry, money and knives. Affected were homes of Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Paxton, Bobby McCubbin and Odell Warren.

News from Newt, Mrs. E. G. Pierce - Four men, Dennis Simpson, Stanley Simpson, Woodrow McKinney and Buford Pierce, were ordained as deacons at Trammel Creek Baptist Church.

Whitman receives blue ribbon - C. J. Whitman was awarded

a blue ribbon on his Star Farmer display at the State Fair. Whitman is the first Green County FFA member to receive this honor.

Home owners making improvements - Green County homeowners spent \$1,580,000 on repairs, additions and improvements to their homes in 1975.

**September 1, 1966
Bus service for county** - The Greyhound Bus Line from Louisville will offer service to Green County beginning September 7. There will be three round trips daily to Louisville at a cost of \$3.40 per person.

Personals - Mrs. H. E. Shively has returned from New York where she went to buy her fall line of goods.

Summershade, Hazel Kessler - The Wallace Thompson family entertained with songs and music Saturday night at the school house.

Featured at the Franklin - Gala reopening, 20th anniversary celebration, new giant screen. “Mary Poppins” stars Julie Andrews, Dick Van Dyke. “Cast a Giant Shadow” features Kirk Douglas.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Green County Conservation District is currently offering two new programs. Free cedar posts are offered through the Green River Basin Stream Protection and Grazing Improvement Program. Applications will be received through October 31, 2026, at the Conservation office. The Tree Rebate Program offers 50% rebate (maximum \$100 rebate) to Green County residents for trees purchased now through October 31, 2026. Bring your receipt to the Conservation office.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Green County Public Library, established under KRS 173.720, provides library services to citizens in Green County, Kentucky. In accordance with Chapter 65A and 424 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, the financial records of the Green County Public Library District for the Period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 may be inspected at the Green County Public Library, 112 W Court St., Greensburg, Kentucky during administrative office hours; Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Inquiries should be made to the library director, Rebecca Pruitt.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Dear Resident,

Sanitation District No. 1 of Green County, aka Summersville Sewer works hard to provide safe, reliable wastewater treatment to our community. However, we are experiencing an increase in sewer blockages caused by improper items being flushed down the toilet or poured down the sink.

Even items marked “flushable” do not break down in the sewer system. They get caught in pipes and pumps leading to equipment failure and expensive backups. A typical jetting service can cost \$400 and the pump \$1,800.

Items that are NOT to be flushed or poured down a sink include:

- *baby wipes
- *personal hygiene wipes,
- *disinfecting wipes
- *paper towels
- *facial tissues
- *napkins
- *feminine hygiene products and applicators
- *dental floss
- *cotton swabs
- *diapers
- *medications
- *fats, oils, and grease

Customers who are found to be the source of sewer blockages due to improper disposal will be held financially responsible for repair costs.

We ask for your cooperation in protecting our sewer system.

Sincerely,
Board members,
Barbie Milby
Marty Glanzer
Shirley Bale

PUBLIC NOTICE TO:

- (1) NICHOLAS WILLIAMS;
- (2) SPOUSE OF PHIL WILLIAMS (a/k/a Phillip Lee Williams);
- (3) HEIRS, DEVISEES AND LEGATEES OF PHIL WILLIAMS (a/k/a Phillip Lee Williams); and/or
- (4) SPOUSE OF HEIR, DEVISEE AND LEGATEE OF PHIL WILLIAMS (a/k/a Phillip Lee Williams)

A lawsuit to foreclose on real property located at 312 East Columbia Avenue, Greensburg, Green County, Kentucky has been filed in the Circuit Court of Green County, Kentucky naming, among others: the spouse of Phil Williams; heirs, devisees and legatees of Phil Williams; and spouse of heirs, devisees and legatees of Phil Williams, as defendants/persons who may have an interest in the property. The spouse of Phil Williams; heirs, devisees and legatees of Phil Williams; and spouse of any heirs, devisees and legatees of Phil Williams is/are hereby given notice of that lawsuit, *Pennymac Loan Services, LLC vs. Phil Williams, et al.*, Green Circuit, 25-CI-00165 of their being named defendants and of the need to file some response to the Complaint to assert his/her interest, if any, they may have, or claim to have, in the property.



What Green-Taylor Water upgrades mean for customers

The Green-Taylor Water District recently announced major changes that will be of benefit to customers. The company is transitioning to new meters with plans to install 500 of those by the end of 2026.

* customers will get more accurate statements that will help discover leaks or excessive water usage;

* the transition means the district will change from a customer-read system to an employee-read system. This will result in customers paying for the exact amount of water that is used each month;

* the new meters are part of an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) that will send readings to the district’s office every four hours and will not require some to read the meters every month;

* once all new meters are installed, customers will not have to worry about excessive water usage (i.e., leaks) because the new system will notify the district with an alarm if there is excessive usage by a customer;

* the company will keep customers up to date on its Facebook Page, will continue to have information through the local media and will send all customers a letter along with the bills that are mailed;

* none of the upgraded changes will result in an increase in customer costs. The district already had money on-hand to purchase the supplies associated with the new system.

The district asks for customers to be patient and cooperative as it incorporates the new system into the operation.

The Green-Taylor Water District was established in 1964 and currently has a base of more than 6,700 customers with 5,500 having active meters.