

Trewren Family

Three Marys and an Eliza: Investigating the Trewren and Edmonds Families of Cornwall, Pennsylvania and Connecticut

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY By Lois Abromitis Mackin

I had two starts as a genealogist. The first was in 1980, when the second of my father's parents died. At that point, I gathered information on my father's grandparents, aunts and uncles from surviving great-aunts.

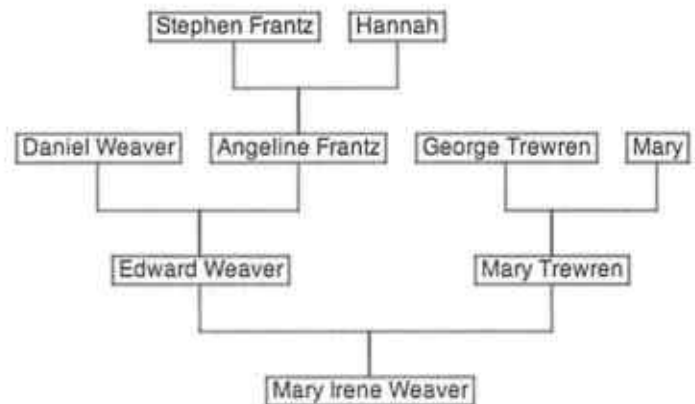
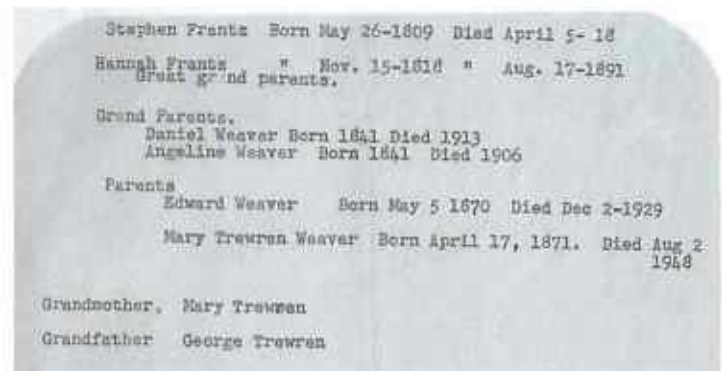
The second start came nearly 20 years later, when my mother, the oldest living member of our family, gave me copies of family records. There wasn't much—our family had been "tossers" rather than "keepers," and there had been no genealogists.

Armed with my mother's information and a clipping from the *Wall Street Journal* about genealogy, I started work. The *Journal* said you should use a computer genealogy program, so I bought *Reunion* for my Macintosh. The *Journal* said modern genealogists use websites like *Ancestry.com* and *Genealogy.com*, so I subscribed. *Ancestry.com* offered a free daily newsletter full of helpful information, so I subscribed to that, too.

Soon my email inbox began to fill with collections of articles telling me how to do genealogy. Starting out, I followed these steps:

1. Inventorying what I had,
2. Formulating a research objective,
3. Defining the geography,
4. Harvesting low-hanging fruit (in the form of marriage indexes),
5. Compiling census history,
6. Accumulating clues from the marriage and census records, and
7. Finding death dates and burial places.

Using these steps, I was able to accomplish my original research objective and formulate new one. Along the way, I discovered some useful techniques for displaying and analyzing information. I invite you to accompany me as I recount my journey, and hope you will enjoy it as much as I did.



1. Inventorying What I Had

For my mother's family, I had two starting points. The first was a collection of notes my grandmother Mary Irene (Weaver) Neifert (1898-1967) typed up about 1960¹. I entered this information into my genealogy database and plotted a pedigree:

As you may have guessed, the three Marys in the title of this article are my grandmother Mary Irene (Weaver) Neifert (who was always known by her middle name, Irene), her mother Mary (Trewren) Weaver and her grandmother Mary Trewren, whose maiden name was unknown.

The second starting point was a large marriage certificate, brown with time, showing the marriage of James Edmonds and Eliza Spargo² - the Eliza of the title. But the certificate, (shown on the next page), didn't fit into the pedigree. The surnames didn't match the ones in the notes. When asked, my mother said she thought the people named in the certificate were somehow related to her grandmother, Mary (Trewren) Weaver (1871-1948).

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1845. Marriage solemnized at Wesley Rock Chapel in the District of Penzance in the County of Cornwall

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
	<u>Twenty seventh March 1845</u>	<u>James Edmonds</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>Bachelor</u>	<u>Miner</u>	<u>Trevarer in the Town of Marazion</u>	<u>John Edmonds</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
		<u>Eliza Spargo</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>Spinster</u>	<u>Household Servant</u>	<u>at William Appley Marazion</u>	<u>William Spargo</u>	<u>Husband</u>

Married in the Wesley Rock Chapel according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Wesleyan Methodists by me William Appley William Appley Minister

This Marriage was solemnized between us, James Edmonds & Eliza Spargo In the Presence of us, Sarah Appley Wm. Kugelly John James Registrar

I certify that the foregoing is a true Copy of an Entry in a Register Book of Marriages in the District of Penzance
 Witness my hand this Fourth day of April 1845
John James Registrar.

insula. Marazion is a smaller town on the same bay.

2. Formulating a Research Objective

This gave me a research objective: discover the identities of James Edmonds and Eliza Spargo and establish their relationship to my grandmother's family.

3. Defining the Geography

Getting to know the geography helps a genealogist understand an ancestor's life story.

Tamaqua, Pennsylvania. Tamaqua, settled about 1800, is located in Schuylkill County in northeastern Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Germans came over the Blue Mountain from Berks and Northampton Counties to settle Schuylkill County in the mid-1700s; it is part of a region of mountains and valleys known for its anthracite coal. In the course of my research, I discovered that my family's history was linked even more closely to Pennsylvania's coal mines than I had thought.

Penzance and Marazion, Cornwall. Cornwall is the tip of the long peninsula on the southwest corner of England. Historically, mining, fishing and agriculture were the region's major occupations. The Penzance district named on the marriage certificate is centered in the city commemorated in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*. It is on the south coast close to the western end of the pen-

4. Harvesting Low-Hanging Fruit - More Marriage Records

The USGenWeb site for Schuylkill County provided links to other sites, including the Schuylkill County Archives' web site <www.co.schuylkill.pa.us/Offices/Archives/archives.asp>, which offers an online index to county marriage docketts.

There, I found index entries for the marriages of my grandparents, as well as the 1894 marriage of my grandmother Mary Irene (Weaver) Neifert's parents, Mary Trewren and Edward Elwood Weaver³. This record, gave me the birth dates, residences and occupations of my great-grandparents at the time of their marriage.

5. Compiling Census History

My mentors at Ancestry.com said I needed to find my ancestors in U.S. censuses, so I started looking, as recommended, with the most recent census first, and then moved backward in time. I quickly discovered that I needed to track whole families, rather than individuals. Using only my genealogy program to record information, it was hard to remember which census records I'd found and which ones I still needed to find.

Then it occurred to me that a set of people in a succession of censuses could be displayed in a

table with rows (the people) and columns (the censuses). So, I created a spreadsheet for my data. The gaps in my research stood out immediately. I highlighted the blank cells in yellow. This gave me a visual “to do” list and a mission: fill in the yellow cells.

From the censuses, I learned the birthplaces and approximate birth dates of the ancestors I was finding. I was able to correlate the census information with my grandmother’s typed notes and the Edmonds-Spargo marriage certificate. In addition, the censuses started to reveal family groups.

As I tracked the Trewren family, I worked back in time from my great-grandmother Mary (Trewren) Weaver’s 1930 census record⁴. After I found Mary in her parents’ household in 1880, I searched for her parents in 1870, and then followed their family forward to 1930. As the table below shows, I found:

Edward Weaver and Mary (Trewren) Weaver in 1920,⁵
Edward Weaver and Mary (Trewren) Weaver in 1910,⁶

Edward Weaver and Mary (Trewren) Weaver in 1900,⁷

Mary Trewren in 1880—household of George Trewren and Mary [maiden name unknown],⁸

George Trewren and Mary [maiden name unknown]

Trewren in 1900,⁹

George Trewren and Mary [maiden name unknown] Trewren in 1910,¹⁰

Mary [maiden name unknown] Trewren in 1920.¹¹

I did not find:

George Trewren and Mary [maiden name unknown] Trewren in 1870,

George Trewren in 1920 or 1930, or

Mary [maiden name unknown] Trewren in 1930.

In my spreadsheet, I created a row for each individual and a column for each census. As I found more family members, I added rows in the appropriate families. To keep things clearer, I created a columnar arrangement of individuals in each family by generation. As a check for the age information in the census records, I entered the birth and death dates I knew after the name of each person. Then, as I found birth information in the census records, I added approximate birth dates (abbreviating “about” as “abt”). I also shaded the cells for census years in which I had established that an individual was not alive (that is, before birth or after death).

The information for Mary (Trewren) Weaver and her parents is shown here. During my research,

Person				Census						
Gen 1	Gen 2	Gen 3	Gen 4	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930
George Trewren (abt 1847-?)				Not found	George Trewren, age 33, coal miner, born England, head of household, Summit Hill, Carbon, PA		George Frewin, age 52, stationary engineer, born England, head of household, Watertown, Litchfield, CT	George Theuren, age 63, engineer factory, born England, head of household, Watertown, Litchfield, CT	Not found	Not found
Mary [Maiden Name Unknown] (abt 1851-?)				Not found	Mary Trewren, age 29, born PA, wife, household of George Trewren		Mary Frewin, age 49, born PA, wife, household of George Frewin	Mary Theuren, age 58, born PA, wife, household of George Theuren	Mary Breurin, widow, age 68, born PA, head, Watertown, Litchfield, CT	Not found

Person				Census						
Gen 1	Gen 2	Gen 3	Gen 4	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930
	Mary Trewren Weaver (1871-1948)				Mary Trewen, age 9, born PA, daughter, household of George Trewen		Mary Weaver, age 29, wife, born PA, household of Edward A. Weaver	Mary Weaver, age 39, born PA, wife, household of E. Edward Weaver	Mary Weaver, age 45, born PA, wife, household of E. Edward Weaver	Mary Weaver, age 59, born PA, head of household Tamaqua, Schuylkill, PA
	<i>Spouse:</i> Edward Elwood Weaver (1870-1929)						Edward A. Weaver, age 30, born PA, head of household, Tamaqua, Schuylkill, PA	E. Edward Weaver, age 39, born PA, head of household, Tamaqua, Schuylkill, PA	E. Edward Weaver, age 49, born PA, head of household Tamaqua, Schuylkill, PA	
		Daniel Elwood Weaver (1894-1966)					Daniel Weaver, age 5, born PA, son, household of Edward A. Weaver	Daniel Weaver, age 15, born PA, son, household of E. Edward Weaver	E. Daniel Weaver, age 25, born PA, son, household of E. Edward Weaver	
		<i>Spouse:</i> Mary Keilman (1895-1971)							Mary Weaver, age 25, born PA, daughter-in-law, household of E. Edward Weaver	
			Daniel Edward Weaver (1918-1988)						E. Daniel Weaver, age 1 6/12, born PA, grandson, household of E. Edward Weaver	
		Mary Irene Weaver Neifert (1898-1967)					Irene Weaver, age 1, born PA, daughter, household of Edward A. Weaver	Irene Weaver, age 11, born PA, daughter, household of E. Edward Weaver	Irene Weaver, age 21, born PA, daughter, household of E. Edward Weaver	Irene Neifert, age 31, born PA, daughter, household of Mary Weaver
		<i>Spouse:</i> Emerson Clinton Neifert (1899-1990)								Emerson Neifert, age 30, born PA, son-in-law, household of Mary Weaver

Person				Census						
Gen 1	Gen 2	Gen 3	Gen 4	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930
			Lois Irene Neifert Abromitis (1925-present)							Lois Neifert, age 4 1/2, born PA, granddaughter, household of Mary Weaver
	Edith Trewren (1872-1964)				Edith Trewren, age 7, born PA, daughter, household of George Trewren					
	Irene Trewren (1874-1927)				Irene Trewren, age 6, born PA, daughter, household of George Trewren					
	Elizabeth Ellen Trewren (1876-1938)				Lizzie E. Trewren, age 4, born PA, daughter, household of George Trewren		Elizabeth E. Frewin, age 24, born PA, daughter, household of George Frewin	Elizabeth E. Theuren, age 33, born PA, daughter, household of George Theuren	Elizabeth Breurin, age 40, born PA, son [sic], household of Mary Breurin	
	Robert Glasson Trewren (1878-1945)				Robert G. Trewren, age 3, born PA, son, household of George Trewren		Robert Trewren, age 21, born PA, brother-in-law, household of Edward A. Weaver			
	Eliza Leota Trewren (1880-1926)				Eliza L. Trewren, age 2/12, born PA, daughter, household of George Trewren		Eliza L. Frewin, age 19, born PA, daughter, household of George Frewin		Mrs. Leota Wigglesworth, age 39, born PA, daughter, household of Mary Breurin	
	Spouse:									
		Mary Leota Wigglesworth (1904-1954)							Leota Wigglesworth, age 15, born CT, granddaughter, household of Mary Breurin	

Person				Census						
Gen 1	Gen 2	Gen 3	Gen 4	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930
		Alice M. Wigglesworth (1909-2000)							Alice Wigglesworth, age 10, born CT, granddaughter, household of Mary Breurin	
		Alberta Wigglesworth (1911-1996)							Alberta Wigglesworth, age 7, born CT, granddaughter, household of Mary Breurin	
	Jane Trewren (1883-1963)						Jane Frewin, age 16, born PA, daughter, household of George Frewin	Jennie Theuren, age 25, born PA, daughter, household of George Theuren		
	James Edmonds Trewren (1886-1945)						James E. Frewin, age 14, born PA, son, household of George Frewin	James E. Theuren, age 23, born PA, son, household of George Theuren	James Breurin, age 38, born PA, daughter [sic], household of Mary Breurin	
Also in household: Lizzie Edmonds (1860-?)							Lizzie Edmonds, age 39, born PA, boarder, household of Edward A. Weaver			

my mother provided some new information – undated notes in my grandmother’s handwriting and a letter written by a cousin, Alice (Wigglesworth) Howard. These gave dates of birth and death and married names for the Connecticut Trewrens, allowing me to add rows for the spouses of Mary (Trewren) Weaver’s siblings and fill in almost all the remaining blanks in the census table.

6. Accumulating Clues

The census information gave me these clues to my grandmother’s direct lineage:

- An Edmonds couple born in England and living in Schuylkill County had the same first

names as the Edmonds couple whose Cornish marriage certificate I had. They had an apparent daughter, Mary, born in Pennsylvania about 1851. The birth information for this daughter matches the dates in the census entries for Mary [maiden name unknown] Trewren.

- A woman named Lizzie Edmonds (whose birth date, birthplace and occupation fit with those of the youngest child of James Edmonds and Eliza Spargo) and a man named Robert Trewren were living in the household of Edward Weaver and his wife Mary (Trewren) Weaver in 1900. Lizzie was as a boarder, Robert a brother-in-law.

James Edmonds was not found in the 1860 or later censuses.

George Trewren was not found in the 1920 or later censuses. Mary [maiden name unknown] Trewren was listed as a widow in 1920.

Mary [maiden name unknown] Trewren was not found in 1930.

In addition, the disappearance of Mary (Trewren) Weaver's sisters from their parents' household, along with the reappearance of the widowed Mary Leota Wigglesworth in 1920, provided clues to possible death and/or marriage dates for Mary's siblings.

7. Finding Death Dates and Burial Places

To complete my analysis, I needed death and burial information for the Trewrens and Edmondses. My mother remembered her grandmother Mary (Trewren) Weaver placing flowers on Edmonds graves in Odd Fellows Cemetery in Tamaqua.

Pennsylvania. In 2005, I decided to visit Tamaqua during a trip to the East Coast. Through Internet research, I had located a newspaper report that the secretary of the Odd Fellows cemetery had compiled a listing of the burials and placed it in the Tamaqua Public Library. A call to the library confirmed that the listing was there.

I arrived in Tamaqua early in the day armed with a laptop, camera, lists of ancestors whose graves I wanted to find, and addresses for ancestral houses I wanted to photograph. First, I found and photographed the houses, including the Queen Anne Victorian built by Edward Elwood Weaver for his wife Mary (Trewren) Weaver. The Weaver family lived in this house from 1902 until after Mary's death in 1948. About noon, I went to the library to consult the Odd Fellows listing – a very thick binder

containing a computer printout of burial records, no photocopying allowed. The listing included Edmondses, including James and Elizabeth! Most of the burial records showed age, or date of birth and death, but for James and Elizabeth, there was only a note "Moved from Meth Cem" and the date 10-29-1917.

Furiously taking notes, I hand-copied the cemetery map from the binder, and headed for the cemetery. Racing the setting sun, I found and photographed all the burials I was looking for—except the Edmonds. My mother had told me that the Edmonds grave was an obelisk "downhill" from the Weaver plot. Well, there were a lot of obelisks downhill from the Weaver plot. Some were in the section of the cemetery where the burial listing indicated the Edmonds graves should be, but I had no luck finding the Edmonds obelisk.

Returning to my mother's house, I persuaded her to accompany me on a second Tamaqua trip. We visited the Weaver plot, and, like a homing pigeon, my mother led me far, far down and along the hill, into the trees at the edge of the cemetery, to the site of an Edmonds marker missing its top. It had names and dates (see photo)!



The monument inscriptions were a bonanza. On the south face, above the large EDMONDS, the inscription reads:

*James Edmonds Died May 16,
1860*

Aged 42 years

*-----
Also his wife Eliza Died Nov
12, 1884*

Aged 59 years

*Thus the Lord giveth his Be-
loved sleep.*

The east face has more in-
scriptions:

John Died Mar 29 1863

Aged 10 years

*-----
Henry Died Dec 21, '59
Aged 4 days*

*Thomas Died Mar. 9, '64
Aged 6 yrs*

Safe in the arms of Jesus.

I now had death dates and the burial place for James and Eliza Edmonds, and this information explained the differences between the Edmonds family census enumerations in 1850 and 1860. James was not in the 1860 household because he died not long before the census was taken. (I later found him in the Schuylkill County mortality schedules for 1860). John from the 1850 household also died before 1860. Thomas from the 1860 household died before the 1870 census, and a third, previously unsuspected child, Henry, was born and died between 1850 and 1860.

Evidence was mounting, but I still didn't know positively whether these were the James Edmonds and Eliza Spargo who married in Cornwall in 1848, or what their relationship was to the Trewren and Weaver families.

Connecticut. Having learned that Connecticut vital records are kept by the town clerk, I wrote to Watertown seeking death records for George Trewren and his wife Mary [maiden name unknown]. I soon received two death certificates. The names, addresses, birth dates and birth places all matched information from the census records. Mary's death certificate gave me the surname of her father: Edmonds, linking her with James Edmonds and Eliza Spargo (although the death certificate gives Eliza's

The death certificates gave me George and Mary's death dates and the name of the Watertown cemetery where they are buried. With the death dates, I was now able to find George's and Mary's obituaries in the Waterbury Republican, at the Silas Bronson Library in Waterbury. The obituaries contained details of their lives in Watertown and the names and residences of the children surviving at the time of their deaths.

A call to the cemetery office produced the news that "they are all here" - George, Mary and more. Since Watertown is just off Interstate 84, near Waterbury in northwestern Connecticut, I was able to fit a visit into my 2005 East Coast trip. In Watertown, I photographed the Trewren graves and the Methodist church the Trewren family attended. I had hoped to find property records for the Trewren house at the Town Hall, but when I arrived, the town officers were in a meeting. But, I was more than satisfied with what I had found at the cemetery: the burials of George Trewren, Mary (Edmonds) Trewren, the six Trewren children who lived in Connecticut and a grandchild, M. Leota Wigglesworth - with her married name.

Results from the seven research steps:

I had accomplished my first research objective. I had discovered the identities of James Edmonds and Eliza Spargo, as well as their relationship to

