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**TREMAIN**





A FAMILY GENEALOGY <sup>c</sup>

NEW YORK

1908

PRIVATELY PRINTED FOR THE DESCENDANTS OF  
LEVI TREMAIN



## I. Norman-French and Cornish Ancestry :

This family traces back its ancestry to the time of the Norman Conquest of England by William, Duke of Normandy (William I. of England), in 1066.

In the Doomsday (or Domesday) Book—two volumes, a large folio and a quarto—compiled by order of William I. and which contains a survey of all lands and demesnes at that time in England, with particulars of their ownership, values, etc., the name of the family occurs.

It is found again in the *Rotuli Hundredorum* (Hundred Rolls) of 1273, a similar record compiled by order of Edward I., and the name appears in other historical rolls of that period.

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The name is of Norman-French origin, Tremayne (*trois mains*, three hands). On the coat-of-arms the three hands are represented. The name was changed in spelling, as was the case very often with names transplanted to England and from England to America; and it became anglicized into Trewman and Truman, signifying “*true man*.” Another spelling, that of the Anglo-Saxon Træman, bears the signification of “woodman.”

Some of the family settled in Cornwall. In that county *Tre* is the equivalent of the Anglo-Saxon *Tun* or town. *Mayne* signifies shore, thus giving the meaning of “a town by the shore or coast”; or it may be derived from the French province called “Mayne.” Still another explanation is that in old Norman French *man* or *mann* means Norman; so that *Le Man* a native of Mayne or Maine is analogous to *Le Breton* or *Le Norman*.

The earliest settlers in this country spelled their name variously, Treman, Truman, Trueman; but some of them very soon reverted to the Cornish spelling of Tremayne, Tremaine or Tremain.

To-day the Cornish and Devonshire families adopt the spelling of Tremayne.

The branch of the family interested in this narrative has uniformly spelled the name Tremain, without a final *e*.

According to the recognized authority of Burke ("Landed Gentry"), the representative of the family in the reign of Edward III. (1312-77) was PERYS TREMAYNE, resident at the manor of Tremayne, in the parish of St. Martin, on the banks of Helford Haven in the County of Cornwall, England. Perys married Opre Treskewys, and their two sons were John and Perys. The latter married Onera Treverton. Their grandson, Thomas, removed to Callacombe, Cornwall.

## II. American Ancestry.

The first American settler of this family lineally descended was Joseph Truman. He spelled the name thus, but some of his grandchildren reverted to the ancient spelling of Tremayne or Tremaine. He settled with his wife and children at New London, Connecticut in 1666, the year of the Great Fire of London, following after the Great Plague of the previous year, so graphically described by Daniel Defoe, of *Robinson Crusoe* fame.

Joseph (1st) seems to have been a man of substance. He bought land and a tanning establishment at New London.

He was the father of five children, Joseph (2nd), Thomas, Elizabeth, Mary and Ann.\*

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\* (See *Savage's Genealogical Dictionary of New England Settlers. Caulkin's History of New London, Conn.*)

Joseph (2nd) married Mary Shapley and had an offspring of ten, Mary, Elizabeth, Eleazor, Joseph, John, Mary, Jane, Henry, Benjamin and Daniel. He was a tanner. He and others received in 1704 from the Governor and Company of the General Court, by authority of Letters Patent, to them given by Charles II., dated April 23, 1663. Joseph was sent by the people of New London to the then Governor of the Colony in 1730, to obtain money from the Treasury to build a battery at New London.

From the fourth child of Joseph (2nd), Joseph (3rd) who had a numerous offspring, many members of the Tremain family trace their lineage.

The second son of Joseph (1st) was Thomas, born in 1681. He married Susanna Mosier, born 1685. Thomas died in 1731 at New London. His tombstone is still standing. His widow survived him till 1759.

They had five children. Philip, one of these, married in 1716, and was the father of nine children. Philip was a soldier in Col. Thomas Westbrook's Massachusetts Regiment in the Indian Wars in Maine in 1724.\*

The seventh of Philip's children, Simeon, born in 1730, was the father of three children, the oldest of whom, Nathaniel, born in 1757, married in 1780 Olive Lyman, daughter of Simeon Lyman, of Salisbury, Connecticut.

Nathaniel served in the Massachusetts Militia and in the Continental Line in the Revolutionary War. In an application for a pension (which was allowed him), the following particulars are mentioned in a communication dated April 10, 1901, from the Commissioner of Pensions concerning Nathaniel's record :

“ \* \* \* Dec., 1775, one year, Private, Captain Wareham Parks, Col. Learned and Col. Wm. Shepherd, Mass., Feb., 1777, 4 mos., Private, Capt. Faxon, Col. not stated,

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\* (See New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Vols. 45 and 46.)

Mass. \* \* \* Residence of soldier at enlistment, Westfield, Mass. Date of application for pension, April 24, 1818. Age at date of application, 60 years.\*

Nathaniel was the father of Isaac, Levi, William, Olive, Nathaniel, Calvin, Myron, John Milton, Eliza, Milo, Laura and Milo (2nd).

Levi had five children, William, Israel P., Edwin R., Lyman and Pluma E.

Of these William had four children, Frank W. (Major), killed in the taking of Fort Gregg near Petersburg, Arthur L., Helen and Flora.

Israel Phelps was the father of Mary L., Pluma A., Hobart L., William Henry and Adaline Allen.

Edwin R. was the father of Henry Edwin, Walter R. (who died in U. S. military service in 1862), Augusta T. (who married S. R. Bradley) and Louis H. (deceased).

Lyman was the father of Frederick (who died in U. S. military service), Grenville, Helen and Lyman (deceased).

Pluma E. married Frederick M. St. John and had one son, Henry.

The grandchildren of Levi are of the eighth generation from the first American settler of this family, Joseph Truman (1666).

The genealogical tree annexed hereto as a folder will make clear the lineage of the descendants of Levi Tremain.

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\* (See Report of the Revolutionary Pension Roll made to First Session 23d Congress, 1835; Smith's History of Pittsfield, Mass.)

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Elizabeth,

Mary,

Ann.

Ann,  
(1751)

Violet,  
(1757)

Lucretia,  
(1765)

Milo,  
(1802)

Laura,  
(1805)

Milo 2nd,  
(1807)

Lyman,  
(1819)

Pluma E.,

Grenville,

Helen,

Lyman.

Henry.

Mass. \* \* \* Residence of soldier at enlistment, Westfield, Mass. Date of application for pension, April 24, 1818. Age at date of application, 60 years.\*

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## JOSEPH (1st)

Joseph (2nd) m. 1701, Mary Shapley

THOMAS,

Elizabeth,

Mary,

Ann

b. 1681,

m. S. Mosier,

d. 1757

PHILIP,

m. 1716

Elizabeth,  
(1701)Eleazor,  
(1705)Joseph 3rd,  
(1706)John,  
(1708)Mary,  
(1709)June,  
(1710)Henry,  
(1713)Benjamin,  
(1715)Daniel  
(1717)Moses,  
(1730)Elizabeth,  
(1736)Joseph 5th,  
(1738)Sarah,  
(1740)John,  
(1748)N. B. Names in circles of the Tremain family descend from the above named  
first and fourth generations.Jonathan,  
(1717)John,  
(1718)Joseph 4th,  
(1722)Benjamin,  
(1724)Rachel,  
(1726)Nathaniel,  
(1728)SIMON,  
b. 1733,  
m. 1757Ann,  
(1751)Violet,  
(1757)NATHANIEL,  
m. 1780, Olive Lyman.JUSTUS  
(1753)Lucretia,  
(1765)Isaac,  
(1781)LEVI,  
(1783)William,  
(1785)Olive,  
(1787)Nathaniel,  
(1789)Calvin,  
(1794)Myron,  
(1796)John Milton,  
(1798)Eliza,  
(1800)Milo,  
(1802)Laura,  
(1805)Milo 2nd,  
(1807)William,  
(1815)Israel P.,  
(1815)EDWIN R.,  
(1817)Lyman,  
(1819)Pluma E.,  
(1819)

1800. Arthur L., Helen, Flora

Mary L., Pluma A., Hobart I., William, Henry, Adaline Allen

Henry Edwin, Walter R., Augusta T., Louis I. Frederick, Grenville, Helen, Lyman Henry.



Much valuable information regarding the various branches of the Tremain family in America is to be found in two volumes entitled "Five Colonial Families," by E. M. Treman and M. E. Poole, D. C. L., LL. D., published at Ithaca, New York.

### The Family Coat of Arms, Crest and Motto.

\* *Arms*—Gules, three dexter arms, conjoined at the shoulders and flexed in triangular or, fists purpure.

\* *Crests*—Two arms embowed, holding between their hands a man's head purpure, on the head a high-crowned hat sable.

\* *Motto*—*Honor et honestas* (Honor and Honesty).

In Bray's Legends, Superstitions and Sketches of Devonshire it is stated that "the family of Tremaines is of ancient standing. Their arms consist of three united arms with clinched hands, and two hands above support a Saracen's head as the crest." This would indicate that some of the family took part in the Crusades.

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\* The arms, crests and motto are produced in color in "Five Colonial Families," Vol. I. opposite the title page, published at Ithaca, New York, as stated above.



















