

James Lewis and Mary Brown were my grandmother Katherine Alma Lee Lewis's (aka Alma) parents. Alma married Barney Hilliard Sharp and their kids were Mary, Lewis (my father), Jeri, and Shirley. So that should help place them in the family tree.

LEWIS

JAMES H. APR. 22, 1886 APR. 28, 1941	MARY R. FEB. 7, 1893 MAR. 28, 1959
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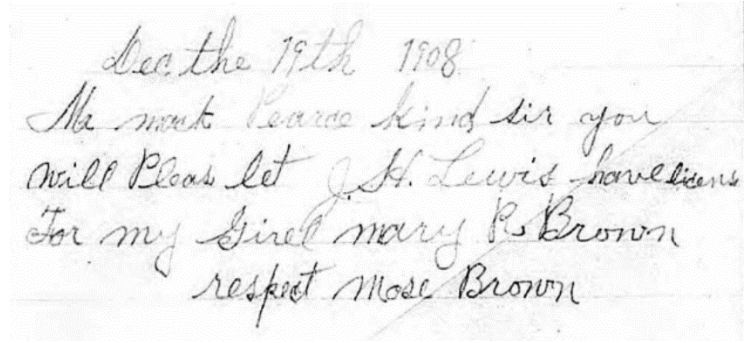
THERE WILL BE NO PARTING THERE

brother Ira (named "Fry" in the 1900 Federal census document) was born October 1892, so Mary could not have been born in February 1893.

James and Mary were married on December 24, 1908 at J. M. Brown's (John Moses Brown? who would be Mary's father) by John B. Lewis, MG (not sure if there is a relationship or not. John B. Lewis was a local minister in Marion County). James H Lewis and D. M. Ballard paid \$200 for the marriage bond (see below).

I am not sure who D. M. Ballard is at this time. He appears to be some type of county auditor or manager and gave permission for multiple marriages in Marion County, AL. However, there is a note on the marriage license where a "Mose Brown" who says Mary is his girl (see below)

At the time of the marriage, James H. Lewis was 22 years old, 5' 8", 135 pounds and was a farmer. Mary was 15 years old, 5', 120 pounds. Both were Freewill Baptists and lived in Detroit, AL. This was the first marriage for both of them. I had to look up what Freewill Baptists are. Basically they believe that salvation was for everyone, not just an elect few. Seems progressive. You can learn more [here](#).



Dec the 19th 1908
Mr. Mark Pearce kind sir you
will please let J. H. Lewis have access
for my girl Mary R. Brown
respect Mose Brown

I cannot find a family consisting of James Houston Lewis and Mary Rebecca Brown Lewis in the 1910 US Federal Census. There is a possibility, so I will lay it out here.

In the Census for Rye, AL in 1910 (enumerated April 22, 1910) (Source 164), there is a Mary R. Lewis (17) who is married to Isach H. Lewis (24), with a son named John A. (5 months). All were born in AL. Isach owns his own farm, free of mortgage. Both Isach and Mary can read & write and have been married 1 year. The problems with this option are "Isach" instead of "James" and "John A." for the child's name instead of "Albert". I don't know if the child was "John Albert" or something else.

However, everything else matches. It's the right town, Isach's and Mary's ages are right, the age of the son is about right, they have been married the right amount of time, the birth places of Isach, Mary, and their parents are in the right place. Rye only had 647 people in 1920 (see page 76, 10th page in Source 165) for population information. It seems very unlikely that there would be two couples in Rye that matched so closely. For now, we will have to leave it at the assumption that for some reason, James use the name "Isach" at that time, and the child's name was somehow altered later.



Mary Brown milking a cow (picture from unknown date)

In 1920, James Houston Lewis (33) and Mary Brown (26) are living in their own home, mortgage-free. Both can read & write, and they and their parents were all born in Alabama. James is a farmer. Their children are:

- Albert, son, (9), attending school

- Alma, daughter, (8 according to the Census, but should have been 9), attending school
- Lulu Bell, daughter (6), not in school yet
- Nettie J., daughter (2 years, 4 months), and
- Sarah J. Brown (Mary's mother – widowed) (65).

I do have a picture of the 3 girls (see right). These are Lulu Bell, Nettie, and Alma (left to right).

By 1930, the Lewises had moved to Tyronza, Arkansas where they are renting a home. James is now 43 and Mary is 37. Both can still read & write. It looks like James is self-employed as a farmer.

Their children living with them are:

- Lula, daughter (16), attending school, can read & write
- Nettie, daughter (12), attending school, can read & write
- Opal, daughter (7), attending school, can't read or write yet.



Alma has now moved out of the family home. She married Walter Burrow Godsey on August 19, 1928. They had a son (born in 1927), named Ulyes (I have seen this spelled many ways!). Walter died June 18, 1934 in Shelby, TN at 24 years old.

As Sarah Brown isn't living with them at the time of the 1930 Census, she must have died since the 1920 Census. I have some guesses about Sarah, but no sure identification of her gravesite.

In 1940, we find James (54) and Mary (47) still living in Tyronza, AR, working on their own farm. A new question in the Census is where did they live in 1935 (on a farm in Poinsett County, AR – probably where they are living in 1940). Another new question is the highest grade completed by each person. James and Mary both completed the 3rd grade.

The only other person living with them at this time is a grandson named Ulyless (again spelled differently), who is probably the daughter Alma's (my grandmother) son by Walter Godsey. Ulyless is 13 years old at this time, but is not attending school. Ulyless highest grade is listed as the 7th grade.

James H Lewis died on April 28, 1941 and Mary died on March 28, 1959 (5 days after I was born). Their gravestones are in the Tyronza Cemetery in Tyronza, Arkansas (see the FindaGrave site [here](#)).