

Our Connection to Ginger Rogers

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Here's some fun stuff that I started chasing late last winter, and a genealogy friend of mine completed for us. I thought I had already posted this on the website (www.sharpancestry.org), but apparently I just posted it in my Facebook group, and forgot to follow up on the website posting. So here it is!

The news - on the Sharp side, we are (most likely) related to Ginger Rogers! I was watching an old Fred and Ginger movie in the November - December 2024 timeframe, and I always watch movies with IMDB pulled up on my phone to look up info. Ginger's [IMDb](#) page lists her parents as Lela Rogers and William Eddins McMath. "Eddins", I thought, "we have some Eddins in Dad's family line." So I went to FindaGrave and checked on her dad's parents and just started chasing things back and got to some Eddins / Eddings in Virginia in the early 1800s. Now I was getting more interested, as our Eddins family is from Virginia. And that is where I ran out of time. Then my friend Diane Larson was looking for genealogy research project, so I gave her the information I had, and she ran it down! And it is very likely that we are related - of course, not in a direct line but Ginger and we have a common ancestor from the late 1600s in Virginia.

The actual lineage (starting from Lewis Sharp (and Mary Lillis & Jeri Kirkland & Shirley Sharp) is to Catherine Alma Lewis (1910 – 1997) to James Houston Lewis (1886 – 1941) to William Jeptha Lewis (1854 – 1916) to Marilda Caroline Jeffreys (1864 – 1942), William's wife to Jacob Jeffreys (1832 – 1902) to William Jeffreys (1796 to 1879) to John J. Jeffreys, Sr. (1764 – 1846) to Jincey Eddings (unknown birth and death dates at this time) who was John J.'s wife to William Eddings (b. ? – d. ~1781 in Lunenburg, VA). William Eddings' father was William Eddins (~1695 – 1754, also from VA). The "g" in Eddings is often dropped in many of the records I see.

This part of the lineage I feel is pretty solid. I have traced this back myself and have good documentation on it. Diane took this information and found another family tree on Ancestry.com that the author says is a draft, but it is pretty well documented. I am encouraged that the author does list it as "draft" meaning that they are pretty careful about their work and don't want to put it out as solid until they are more certain.

Here's what Diane found, starting from our oldest ancestor listed above - William Eddins (d. 1754). In addition to our ancestor William Eddings (d. 1781), William Eddins (d. 1754) had another son named Thomas Lovell Eddins (d. 1750) who had a son named Joseph Eddins (d. 1825) who had a son named Thomas Eddins (d. 1848) who had a son named William

Joseph Eddins (d. 1884) who had a daughter named Louisa Eddins (d. 1933) who married James Gideon McMath (d. 1906). James and Louisa had a son named William Eddins McMath (d. 1925). He married Lela Rogers and they had a daughter who took the name - TA DA !!! - Ginger Rogers!

So there it is. It's not completely solid yet, but it seems more likely than not at this stage. So in addition to being (distantly) related to the current Queen Consort of England (Camilla), we are also related to Ginger Rogers.