Margaret Small McMunn — From Scotland to the Williamsport west end

(From Page E-1)

her industry was flourishing. According to family lore, she set off — by foot — with another young man from Callais, J. Henry Cochran, who did become one of those millionaires.

The sawyer and the pastry cook at the hotel, both Irish, both Catholic, both new in Williamsport, were married on June 22, 1876, in the presence of C. A. Annunciation, then a small brick church on Edwin Street.

But there is more to the story, and this part continues to intrigue me. When Margaret left the farm for Williamsport, she left behind in Callais a young daughter of Elizabeth. The child is listed in the 1870 census as being 9 years old and living with Margaret's uncle James and her grandmother. The girl's name is the same as the census record is Elizabeth. By 1880, she would have been born in 1861, when Margaret was 26. The identity of Elizabeth's father is unknown, but he was always referred to as a farmer. He was Frederick Augustus Hillsley. Frederick was from Williamsport, his brother Michael had a logging operation in Cascade Township, and his father was a traveling salesman.

Margaret's father, Edward, was a farmer, and he and his wife Elizabeth had a daughter, Elizabeth, who was born in 1861. They lived in a small house on Edwin Street.

After their marriage, Margaret and Edward McMunn had five children. The eldest was named Fred; sometimes she named her daughter Fred. In 1866, the family moved to Cascade Township, where they remained for the rest of their lives.

Five children

Margaret Small McMunn — From Scotland to the Williamsport west end

(From Page E-3)

Margaret was proud of her Scottish ancestry. She bragged that her family had descended directly from the famous Scottish poet Robert Burns. Burns did have several children out of wedlock, but she was not so sure. She was appointed by the church to be a letter carrier — the “Democratic” letter carrier, a position he held until he died.

Margaret was the daughter of a Scottish farmer, and her family was from the small town of Callais, not far from the Annunciation Church, which was the heart of the Scottish community. She was the only child of Margaret and Edward McMunn, who had lived in the same house until they died — Edward in 1906, Margaret in 1911.

(See MARGARET, Page E-3)