

THE MARRIAGES OF EDITH MARIE TOWNSEND

SOME SOURCES CITE THAT EDITH MARIE TOWNSEND OF INDIANA, RELATED TO THE ELBURN FAMILY OF THE SAME, WAS MARRIED TWICE – TO HENRY ELBURN AND TO HIS HALF-BROTHER, WILLIAM R. CONFER. OTHERS CITE THREE MARRIAGES – TO HENRY ELBURN, TO WILBUR ELBURN (HENRY'S BROTHER), AND TO WILLIAM R. CONFER, THE HALF-BROTHER OF HENRY AND WILBUR. EVIDENCE (MARRIAGE LICENSES, CENSUS RECORDS, OBITUARIES, ETC.) SUPPORTS ALL THREE MARRIAGES.

IT ALL BEGINS WITH A SON OF JAMES ELBURN JR AND ELIZABETH HAGUE, WHO MOVED FROM KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND TO MIAMI COUNTY, INDIANA. SAMUEL J. ELBURN (30 SEP 1850-13 OCT 1889, IN) MARRIED MINNIE M. SMITH ON 9 SEP 1886:

Miami Co, Indiana Index to Marriages, 1850 - 1920
Elburn, Samuel
Minnie M. Smith
September 9, 1886
C-7, 542

MINNIE (BORN OCT 1867, IN) WAS THE DAUGHTER OF GEORGE MICHAEL SMITH JR AND ADELINE SIPPY. HENRY AND MINNIE SMITH ELBURN HAD TWO CHILDREN:

WILBUR ELBURN (13 APR 1887, MIAMI, IN – 18 FEB 1939, CASS, IN)

HENRY ELBURN (1889, IN – 1921)

AFTER SAMUEL J ELBURN DIED IN 1889, MINNIE SMITH ELBURN MARRIED LABON REILLY CONFER ON 2 APR 1893:

Miami County, Indiana Index to Marriages, 1850 - 1920
Elburn, Minnie E.
Labon Confer
April 2, 1893
C-9, 165

LABON (BORN DEC 1862, IN) WAS THE SON OF MICHAEL CONFER AND JULIA ANN ARMSTRONG. LABON AND MINNIE SMITH ELBURN CONFER HAD ONE SON:

WILLIAM R "WILLIE" CONFER (24 NOV 1900, ALLEN, IN – 8 MAY 1971, MIAMI, IN).

PART OF THE CONFUSION LIES IN THE CLOSENESS OF THE NAMES, WILBUR ELBURN AND WILLIAM/WILLIE CONFER. ALSO, ON THE 1930 CENSUS, WILBUR AND CHILDREN RUTH, CHARLES, AND JUNIOR ARE LIVING WITH LABON AND MINNIE SMITH ELBURN CONFER, AND THE CENSUS RECORD CLEARLY LISTS THEM AS WILBUR, RUTH, CHARLES AND JUNIOR *CONFER*. SOME PEOPLE TAKE THIS TO MEAN THAT WILBUR ADOPTED THE NAME OF HIS STEP-FATHER; HOWEVER IT IS THE ONLY TIME THE NAME WILBUR CONFER IS SEEN – HE WAS BORN ELBURN, ON THE 1900 AND 1910 CENSUSES, HE WAS ELBURN, HE MARRIED UNDER THE NAME ELBURN, ALL OF HIS CHILDREN WENT BY THE NAME ELBURN,

AND HIS OBITUARY LISTS HIM AS WILBUR ELBURN. I TEND TO THINK THE CENSUS TAKER ON THE 1930 CENSUS ASSUMED WILBUR AND HIS CHILDREN WERE CONFERS SINCE THEY LIVED WITH HIS MOTHER AND STEPFATHER, NAMED CONFER.

1900 Census - Washington, Miami, Indiana
Labon Confer 37, Minnie 32, **Wilbur Elburn** 14, Henry Elburn 12 stepsons

1910 Census - Pipe Creek, Miami, Indiana
Wilbur Elburn 22 farm hand
YN Prickett 30, Ethel Prickett 32, Pauline Prickett

Michigan Marriages 1868 - 1925:

Wilbur Elburn

35 years

Born 1886 Indiana

Son of Samuel Elburn & _____ Smith

Edith Townsend Elburn

25 Years

Born 1896 Indiana (?)

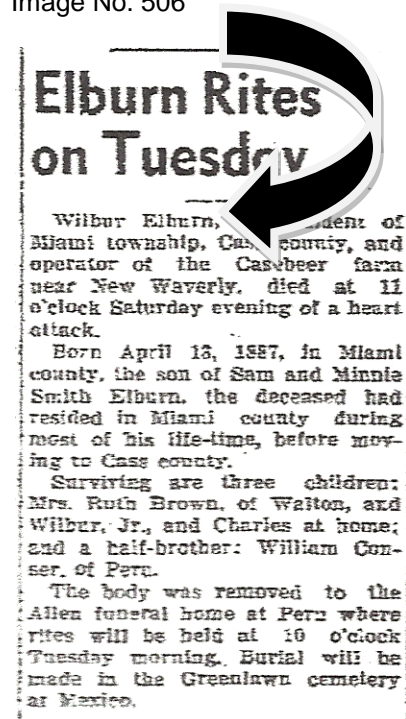
Daughter of Elijah and Dillman (?)

Married 6 September 1921 St. Joseph, Berrien, Michigan

Film No. 2342742

Digital GS No. 4210034

Image No. 506



**Elburn Rites
on Tuesday**

Wilbur Elburn, president of Miami township, Cass county, and operator of the Casebeer farm near New Waverly, died at 11 o'clock Saturday evening of a heart attack.

Born April 13, 1887, in Miami county, the son of Sam and Minnie Smith Elburn, the deceased had resided in Miami county during most of his life-time, before moving to Cass county.

Surviving are three children: Mrs. Ruth Brown, of Walton, and Wilbur, Jr., and Charles at home; and a half-brother: William Confer, of Peru.

The body was removed to the Allen funeral home at Peru where rites will be held at 10 o'clock Tuesday morning. Burial will be made in the Greenlawn cemetery at Mexico.

NOW FOR THE MARRIAGES OF EDITH MARIE TOWNSEND. EDITH WAS BORN 6 SEP 1899 IN MIAMI, IN AND DIED 6 NOV 1969 IN WABASH, IN, THE DAUGHTER OF ELIJAH TOWNSEND AND IDA SOPHIA DILLMAN.

EDITH MARRIED 1) HENRY ELBURN, SON OF SAMUEL J AND MINNIE SMITH ELBURN, ON 27 APR 1913:

Miama Co. Indiana Index to Marriages, 1850 - 1920

Elburn, Henry
Edith M. Townsend

April 27, 1913

C-17, 143

Indiana Marriages 1800-1941:

Edith M. Townsend, b. 8 sep 1896, age 17

Henry Elborn

27 Apr 1913

Miami County

HENRY AND EDITH TOWNSEND ELBURN HAD THREE CHILDREN: LUCILLE R ELBURN, EDNA OLIVE ELBURN, AND THURMAN CURTIS ELBURN. IN THE 1920 CENSUS, HENRY, EDITH AND THE CHILDREN ARE LIVING IN MIAMI, IN. HENRY DIED IN 1921.

EDITH TOWNSEND ELBURN MARRIED 2) WILBUR ELBURN, SON OF SAMUEL J AND MINNIE SMITH ELBURN AND BROTHER OF HER FIRST HUSBAND, HENRY ELBURN, ON 6 SEP 1921:

Michigan Marriages 1868 - 1925:

Wilbur Elburn

35 years

Born 1886 Indiana

Son of Samuel Elburn & _____ Smith

Edith Townsend Elburn

25 Years

Born 1896 Indiana (?)

Daughter of Elijah and Dillman (?)

Married 6 September 1921 St. Joseph, Berrien, Michigan

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WILBUR AND EDITH TOWNSEND ELBURN ELBURN HAD THREE CHILDREN: CHARLES WAYNE ELBURN, WILBUR JUNIOR ELBURN, AND RUTH ARLENE ELBURN. WILBUR AND THE CHILDREN WERE LIVING WITH EDITH'S PARENTS, LABON AND MINNIE SMITH ELBURN CONFER IN THE 1920 CENSUS, BECAUSE EDITH HAD LEFT HER SECOND HUSBAND AND THEIR CHILDREN AND MARRIED FOR THE THIRD TIME.

EDITH TOWNSEND ELBURN ELBURN MARRIED 3) WILLIAM R "WILLIE" CONFER, THE SON OF LABON AND MINNIE SMITH ELBURN CONFER AND THE HALF-BROTHER OF HER FIRST TWO HUSBANDS, HENRY AND WILBUR ELBURN, ON 25 MAY 1929 IN ALLEN, IN:

Indiana Marriages:

William Confer

age 29, 24 Nov 1900, Peru, IN

Labon Confer & Minnie Smith

Edith Elburn

age 30, 6 Sep 1899, Miami, IN

Elijah Townsend & Ida Dillman
25 May 1929, Allen, IN
by RL and Pearl Rich

WILLIAM AND EDITH TOWNSEND ELBURN ELBURN CONFER HAD THREE CHILDREN: MELVIN RAY CONFER, BILLY GENE CONFER AND CARL CONFER. IN THE 1930 CENSUS, WHERE HUSBAND #2 AND CHILDREN ARE LIVING WITH THE CONFERS, WILLIAM AND EDITH CONFER ALONG WITH SON RAY (THE ONLY CHILD BORN AT THIS DATE) AND EDITH'S 70-YEAR-OLD UNCLE, PETER DILLMAN, ARE LIVING IN MIAMI, IN. IN THE 1940 CENSUS, WILLIAM AND EDITH CONFER, THURMAN CURTIS ELBURN (MARRIAGE #1), CHARLES WAYNE ELBURN (MARRIAGE #2), MELVIN RAY CONFER (MARRIAGE #3) AND BILLY GENE CONFER (MARRIAGE #3) ARE ALSO LIVING IN MIAMI, IN. (SON CARL CONFER WAS BORN AND DIED IN 1931.)

WHEN EDITH TOWNSEND ELBURN ELBURN CONFER DIED , HER OBITUARY ONLY LISTS TWO HUSBANDS, HENRY ELBURN AND WILLIAM CONFER:

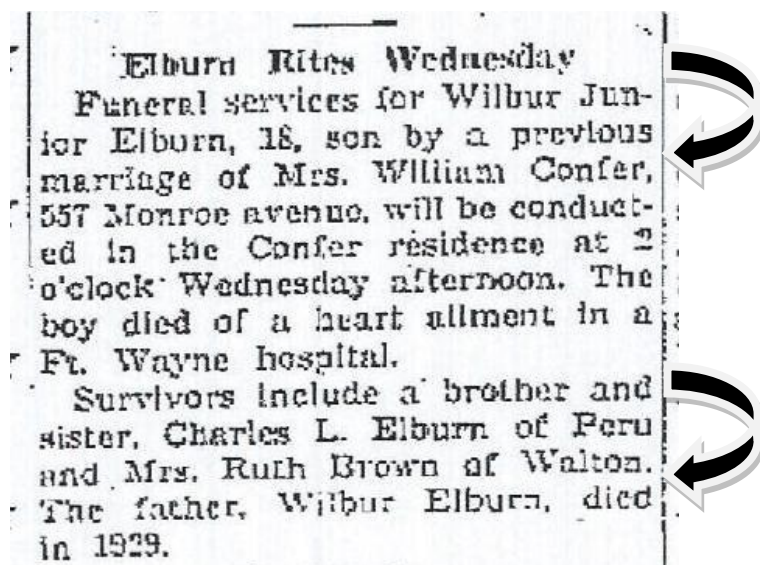
MRS. WILLIAM CONFER
Mrs. Edith M. Confer, 32, 427 W. 3rd St., died at the Pleasant View Nursing Home in Wabash County at 5 p.m. Thursday following a three-year illness.
Born Sept. 6, 1897, in Cass County, she was the daughter of Elijah and Ida (Dillman) Townsend.
In 1913, she was married to Henry Elburn, who preceded her in death in 1921. Later, in 1928, she was united in marriage with William Confer, who survives.
She was a member of the Miami Baptist Church at Adamsboro.
Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Jess Wilson, Logansport R.R. 5; Mrs. Gilbert Cremeans, Peru, and Mrs. Ruth Beck, Logansport; three sons, Curtis Elburn, Peru R.R. 4; Ray Confer, Yorktown Heights, N.Y., and Billy Gene Confer, Grapevine, Tex.; 16 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.
Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Flowers-Leedy Funeral Home here with burial to follow in the Ever-Rest Memorial Park Cemetery.
Friends may call at the funeral home after noon Saturday.



SHE DOES HOWEVER LIST A DAUGHTER FROM THE SECOND/IGNORED MARRIAGE: MRS. RUTJ BECK IS RUTH ARLENE ELBURN DAUGHTER OF WILBUR ELBURN. THE OTHER TWO CHILDREN FROM HER SECOND

MARRIAGE PRECEDED HER IN DEATH: WILBUR JUNIOR ELBURN DIED IN 1942 AND CHARLES WAYNE ELBURN DIED IN 1963 . ONE OF HER CHILDREN FROM MARRIAGE #3 ALSO IS OMITTED FROM HER OBITUARY : CARL CONFER WHO DIED IN 1931.

THEN THERE IS THE OBITUARY OF WILBUR JUNIOR ELBURN, WHO IS A "SON BY A PREVIOUS MARRIAGE OF MRS. WILLIAM CONFER" AND "THE FATHER, WILBUR ELBURN."



IN SUMMARY:

EDITH MARIE TOWNSEND WAS MARRIED THREE TIMES, TO ALL THREE SONS OF MINNOE SMITH ELBURN CONFER: TWO BROTHERS AND A HALF-BROTHER. BETWEEN THE THREE MARRIAGES, SHE HAD A TOTAL OF NINE CHILDREN.

- 1) HENRY ELBURN (SAMUEL J ELBURN AND MINNIE SMITH) – 27 APRIL 1913.
 - a. LUCILLE R. ELBURN
 - b. EDNA OLIVE ELBURN
 - c. THURMAN CURTIS ELBURN
- 2) WILBUR ELBURN (SAMUEL J ELBURN AND MINNIE SMITH) – 6 SEP 1921.
 - a. RUTH ARLENE ELBURN
 - b. CHARLES WAYNE ELBURN
 - c. WILBUR JUNIOR ELBURN
- 3) WILLIAM R. CONFER (LABON CONFER AND MINNIE SMITH ELBURN) – 25 MAY 1929.
 - a. MELVIN RAY CONFER
 - b. CARL CONFER
 - c. BILLY GENE CONFER

RESEARCHED AND COMPILED BY JOAN ELBURN FARLEY, 1 JUNE 2014