

The following “biography” of Josephine Jeffries Cunningham (2.4.1) was excerpted from

John Hardie of Thornhill and His Family by Lillian Galt Martin

2.4.1 Josephine Jeffries, first child of Louis Eugene Jeffries and Jenny Hardie Jeffries, was born on 17 April 1892 in Selma, Alabama. She was one of the four flower girls in Alva Bradford’s wedding to Hardeman Session Meade in November 1902. In 1909 at age 17 Josephine Jeffries made a European trip, which included visits to Hardie relatives in Scotland. Excerpts from the diary which she kept on this trip, are included in the entry for Constance Valerie Martin Hardie (8.1.2), in this book. [Elizabeth Munce Weis (2.4.3.1) has donated to the Thornhill Foundation her aunt’s diary and also *Marine Flyer in France. The Diary of Captain Alfred A. Cunningham. November 1917-January 1918*, published by the History and Museums Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C., 1974. Both may be seen at THNOC.]

Josephine Jeffries was married on 8 October 1913 to Lt. Alfred Austell Cunningham, USMC, who was the first United States Marine aviator, in World War I. He remained in the Marine Corps until his retirement. He died in about 1938 or 1939. After his death Josephine Jeffries Cunningham lived in Sarasota, Florida, and then in Alexandria, Virginia. She died on 6 December 1966. They had no children and were both buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

[Information from Anna Meade Minnigerode (4.11.1), 1984, and Elizabeth Munce Weis (2.4.3.1), 1986.]

