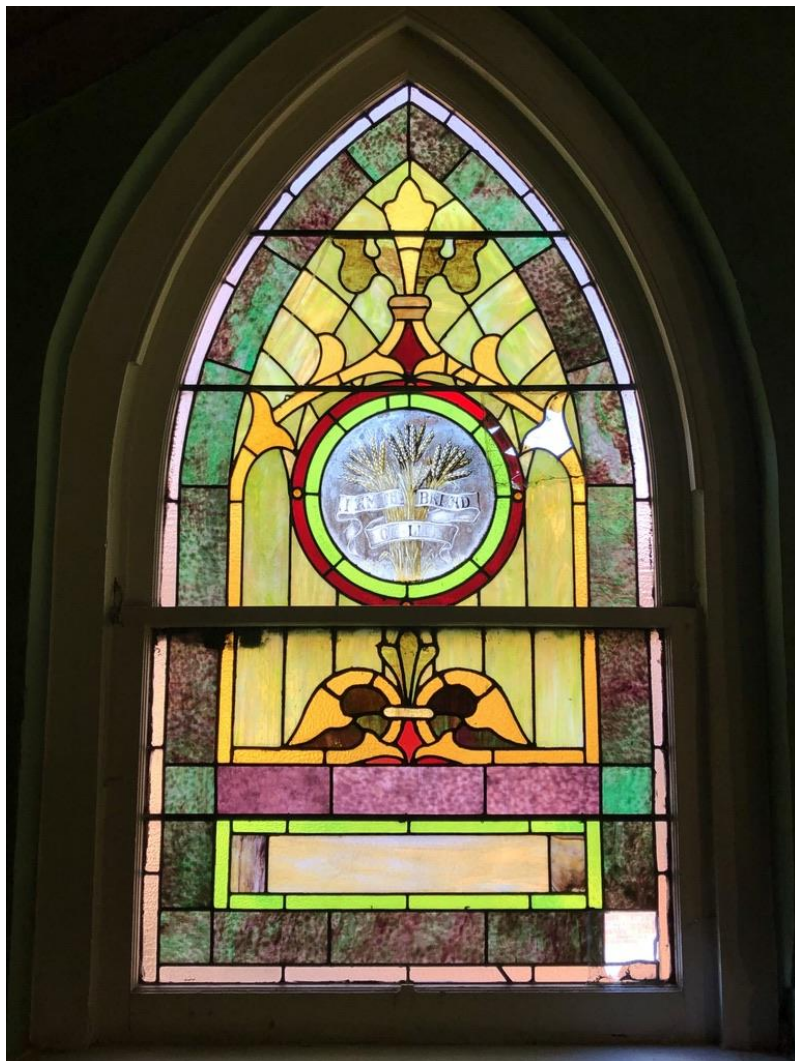


The Stained Glass Windows of the German Reformed Church in Brunswick, Maryland (now Beans in the Belfry)



Compiled by Wayne Allgaier for the Brunswick History Commission
June 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction. | 1 |
| Early History of the German Reformed Church in Brunswick. | 2 |
| Rev. Charles M. Smith. | 6 |
| Edward C. Shafer. | 11 |
| Charles C. and Lydia A. Orrison. | 14 |
| Clayton Kieffer Orrison. | 17 |
| Albert F. and Mary A. Ramsburg. | 20 |
| George D. and Mary E. Fahrenbach. | 26 |
| John H. and Laura V. Grove. | 31 |
| Mary McDonald. | 34 |

Introduction

On December 13, 2019, I received the following email from Jerry Knight, fellow member of the Brunswick History Commission: "I was speaking with Jim Politis [of Beans in the Belfry] last night and he had a great suggestion. It is to do a history of the people that donated windows to the Church at Beans then they would have a reception for the family members. I will photo the plaques on Saturday and then we can get the HC involved."

Having already enjoyed doing some research on other families in Brunswick from this same time period (people buried in the Old Berlin Cemetery), Jerry's invitation ignited a fire under me, and I set out to work immediately (even though my wife suggested I wait until after the holidays). I was consumed by the task, and by the first of January (after the holidays), the majority of the work had been done. I spent the ensuing weeks polishing up what I had found.

My major sources of information were:

- *Genealogical Abstracts from The Brunswick Herald* (1891-1910), by Patricia B. Duncan
- U.S. Census records
- FindaGrave.com, which occasionally contained obituaries and names of family members.
- Ancestry.com records (draft registration, marriage records, etc.)
- FamilySearch.org – family relationships submitted by individuals who have done research of their own.
- Interviews with surviving family members and visits to cemeteries.

Disclaimer: All information contained herein is based on information from the above sources, and is only as accurate as those sources. The dates may be off by a year or two due to rounding off. More information may surface later, and I welcome any information that may shed more information on the lives of these good people.

This has been an enjoyable journey as I feel I have gotten to know these people well.

Wayne Allgaier
Brunswick, MD
{wallgaier@me.com}
June 2020

Note: Not all of these people were members of the Reformed Church in Brunswick. Windows were dedicated to them by family members who belonged to this church.

Early History of the German Reformed Church in Brunswick



When the B&O railroad decided to move their large freight classification yards and locomotive maintenance shops from Martinsburg to Brunswick (previously known as Berlin) in 1890, there was only one church in this little village of 221 residents – the Methodist Episcopal Church, which had been established in 1850.

Foreseeing the rapid growth that would be taking place in Brunswick, other churches began to establish congregations here. In 1891 Pastor J.M. Meckley, minister of the German Reformed Church in Burkittsville “was instructed to canvass Brunswick and vicinity in order to obtain funds to purchase a lot and raise money in order to build a church.” These initial attempts were unsuccessful.

Over the next 15 years, the population of Brunswick had grown to over 3,000. In 1906, Rev. Charles M. Smith came from McConnellsburg, PA, to Burkittsville to be the new minister there, and on Oct 14 of that year, he met with a group of 53 members in Brunswick to organize the Reformed Church there. He continued to serve both churches (Burkittsville and Brunswick), and the church building was completed and dedicated in 1910.* A distinguishing feature of the new church was its 25 stained glass windows, several of which were dedicated to the memory of people closely associated with the church. These are all located in the sanctuary:

- Rev. Charles M. Smith, the church’s first minister.
- Edward C. Shafer, chairman of the church’s building committee, editor of Brunswick’s first newspaper (the *Brunswick Herald*), and mayor of Brunswick.
- Charles C. and Lydia A. Orrison. Farmed in Rocky Springs. Their son Clayton moved to Brunswick where he was a conductor on the B&O Railroad.
- C. Kieffer Orrison. Grandson of Charles and Lydia; Clayton’s oldest son. Chief clerk for the B&O Railroad. Died age 27.
- George D. and Mary E. Fahrenbach. Civil War veteran. Farmer and prominent citizen in Berks County, PA. Son-in-law William B. Werner was minister of the Brunswick Church for 6 years (1917-1923)
- Albert F. and Mary A Ramsburg. Prominent farmer in Frederick County [Ramsburg farm out across from McDonalds??]. She died in 1894, and he died in 1909, one year before the church was completed.
- John H. and Laura V. Grove. A retired merchant (dry goods and groceries) in Burkittsville, moved to Brunswick when he retired.
- Mary McDonald. Boarding house proprietor in Brunswick. Mother of Civil War veteran Rufus Brunner. In her will, she bequeathed “to the Reformed church of Brunswick, \$25 for the erection of a memorial window in the church to her memory.” (There is no window today with her name on it.)

In the 1940’s, the church in Burkittsville closed, and the Brunswick church became a part of the Lovettsville charge, with the Lovettsville minister coming across the river to preach and care for the members in Brunswick. The following families were active in the Brunswick church at that time (from memories of Kay Souder Cooper and Sandra Grahams Cox):

- Souder. John Nevin Souder had been a founding member of the church. Son Woody Souder and wife Maxine were active in the church.
- Castle. Fannie Castle was the wife of John Nevin Souder.
- Grahams. Thelma and her children. 2 daughters were married in the church.
- Ferrell. James Edgar and Ruth Ellen (Lewis). Farmer. She was a teacher and leader in the church.
- Piper. Norman and Katherine and family
- Eagle. George Maynard and family. Farmer. "A wonderful man; everyone's grandfather."
- Roelke. Lloyd and Katie and family. Had a grocery store in town.
- Eagle. Harvey and family
- Nuice. Alta played the organ, was Sunday School Superintendent.
- Virts. Orion was a teacher and leader in the church
- Orrison. Dr. William Werner Orrison was a local doctor (Distinguished Citizen in 1988)
- Parker. Homer and Evelyn and family.
- Flook. Ridgely and Sylvia. She was more involved. He was a farmer.
- George. Hypatia was from Lovettsville, played the organ.

In 1934, the Evangelical Synod of North America and the Reformed Church in America united to become the Evangelical and Reformed Church in 1934. And in 1957, the Evangelical and Reformed Church united with the Congregational Christian Churches to become the United Church of Christ (UCC), under which name it continues today.

The last service held in the Brunswick church was on December 27, 1968. Members subsequently transferred to neighboring congregations of the United Church of Christ or other denominations as they chose.

**By 1910, the Burkittsville charge, overseen by Rev. Smith, consisted of 4 churches:*

- *Burkittsville German Reformed Church (organized in the 1820's)*
- *Knoxville Grace Reformed Church (1856)*
- *Petersville Faith Reformed Church (August 1903)*
- *Brunswick First Reformed Church (October 1906)*

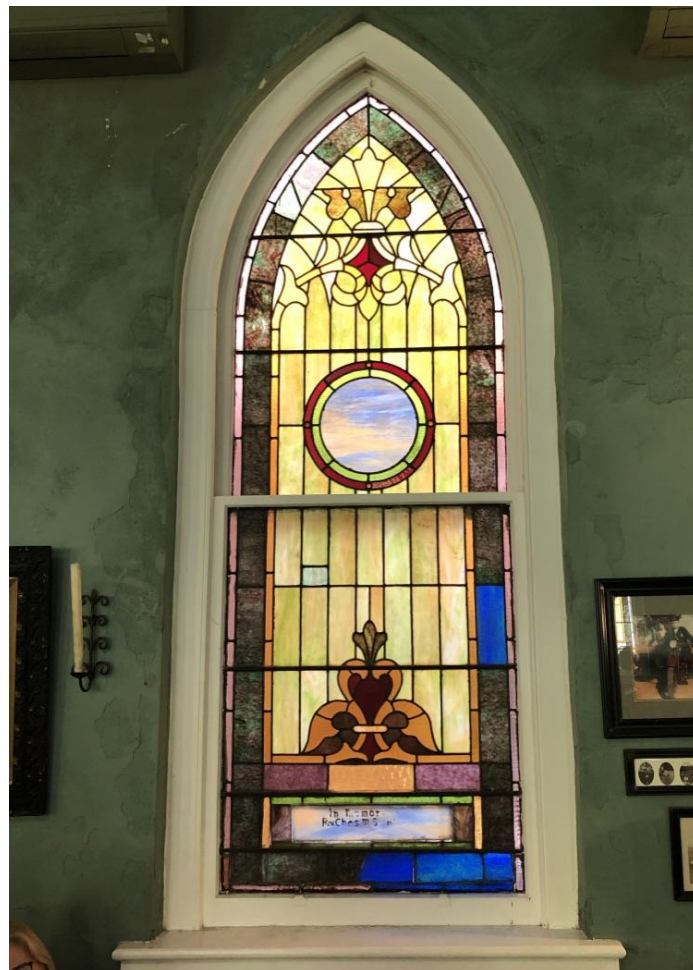
Cornerstone



Transom window over the main entrance



Rev. Charles M. Smith
(1867-1923)



Charles M. Smith was born April 1, 1867, in Pennsylvania, possibly in or near McConnellsburg, in Fulton County. I have not been able to find any information on his family or his early years.

Charles met Matilda K. Wilson (from Bellefonte, PA, 100 miles north of McConnellsburg) and they were married in 1896 at St. James United Church of Christ in Bellefonte. He was 29, and she was 20. Their first child died in infancy.

In 1900, the Smiths were living in McConnellsburg where he was a minister. They were still living in Pennsylvania in 1904 when their second child, Lawrence M. Smith, was born.

In 1906, the family moved to Burkittsville, MD, where he became the minister of the Resurrection Reformed Church there. Soon after their arrival in Burkittsville, on Oct 14, 1906, Rev. Smith met with a group of 53 members of the Reformed Church in Brunswick to organize a church in that town. Charles became minister of that church as well as the one in Burkittsville. Funds were raised, and the new church was dedicated in 1910. At that time, Charles, Matilda, and 5-year old Lawrence were living on Main Street in Burkittsville. He served as minister to both churches until 1913.

A third child, Lois C. Smith, was born in Middletown in 1916, and their son Lawrence died 3 years later at the age of 15.

By 1920, Charles was retired, and he, Matilda, and 3-year old Lois were now living on Washington Street in Middletown. Charles died on March 14, 1923, at the age of 55, and was buried in Christ Reformed Cemetery in Middletown, MD.

When Lois got married, Matilda moved in with her and her husband, Joseph Dollahite, who was from Texas. He had come to Washington to work as a clerk for the federal government, and they made their home in Arlington, VA. While there, in 1938, they had a daughter, Mary Dollahite. They all eventually moved back to Joseph's home state of Texas and established their home in Garland, TX.

Matilda died in Dallas, TX, in 1955. She is buried at Restland Memorial Park, Dallas Co., TX.

DESCENDANTS: Charles and Matilda's daughter Loise Camelia Smith Dollahite died in 2000 (in Texas) and is buried at Memory Lawn Memorial Park in Martindale, Caldwell County, TX. Her husband Joseph Wylie Dollahite (1916-2004) and daughter Donna Guice (1946-2009) are buried in the same cemetery. *NO CHILDREN OF DONNA GUICE ARE LISTED*, so it is assumed that there are no living descendants.

Rev. Charles M. Smith's gravestone in Middletown:



Matilda Smith's grave in Martindale, TX:



Windows in St. Paul's German Reformed Church (now St. Paul's UCC) in McConnellsburg, PA).
Built in 1894.



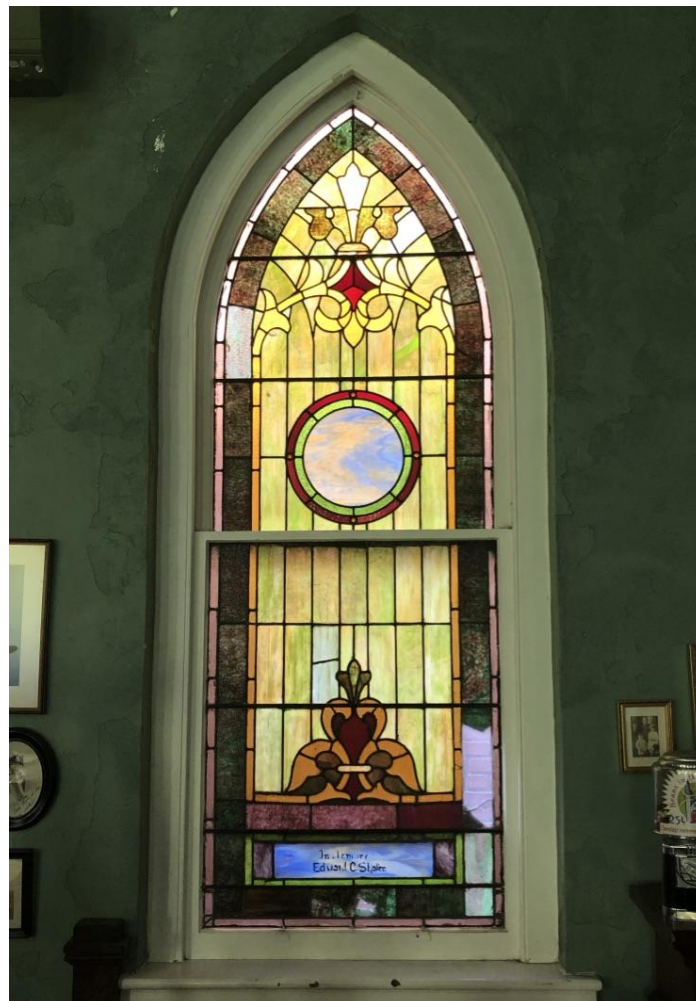
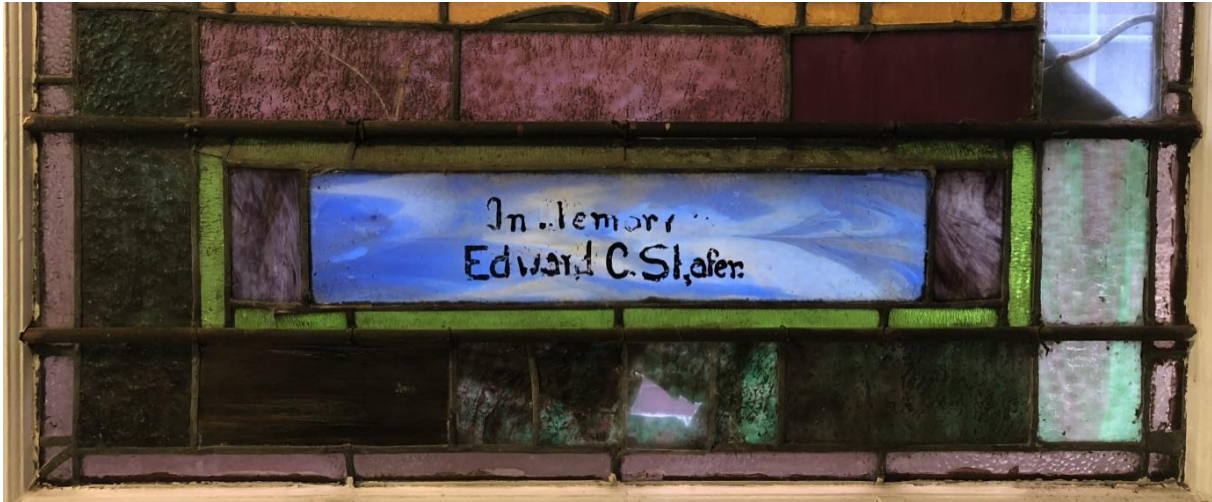
St. Paul's German Reformed Church in 1908 and 1920:



St. Paul's church today:



Edward C. Shafer
(1863-1924)



Edward C. Shafer was born to Martin T. and Mary Catherine (Rice) Shafer on farm near Burkittsville. There was already a 4-year old boy in the family, Thomas (who died 6 years later at the age of 10). When Edward was 15, his mother gave birth to a daughter Julie; both mother and daughter died that same year, leaving Edward with his widowed father.

In 1880, Edward was living with his father, his aunt Henrietta Shafer, and his uncle E. Talbot Shafer on the farm near Burkittsville. Edward's father re-married in 1883 to Julia A. Hersperger. They had one daughter, Margaret E. Shafer, born in 1884 in Waynesboro, PA.

Edward went on to college, graduating from Gettysburg College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1886. Two years later, he received his Masters degree.

He then moved to Brunswick (newly re-named from Berlin by the B&O Railroad, which had just moved into town), and in 1891, along with E.C. Unger, he founded Brunswick's first newspaper, the *Brunswick Herald*. Three years later, he purchased Mr. Unger's interest and became sole proprietor of the paper, which he would continue to publish for about 20 years. The 1900 Federal Census indicates that he was one of four men boarding with Luther and Mary Poterfield in Brunswick.

In 1909, Edward and Miss Eva S. Nicodemus, who had worked at the newspaper as his compositor for the previous 12 years, boarded a train for Washington D.C., where they were married. The town knew nothing of this until they returned. There were no children from this union. Edward and Eva made their home on First Avenue. (This may have been First *Street*, which today is Virginia Avenue). His occupation was listed as "Editor, Printing."

In 1920, they were still living on Bridge Street (today: Virginia Avenue), but his occupation was now listed as "Insurance and Real Estate." (After about 20 years as editor, he sold the newspaper to devote his time to the real estate and fire insurance business in which he had become involved.)

Edward served three terms as mayor of Brunswick: 1896-1897, 1920-1922, and 1922-1923. He resigned from this last term due to illness, and died shortly thereafter, on 22 May 1924, at the age of 61. He is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Frederick, MD. His widow, who died 46 years later (1970), is buried beside him.

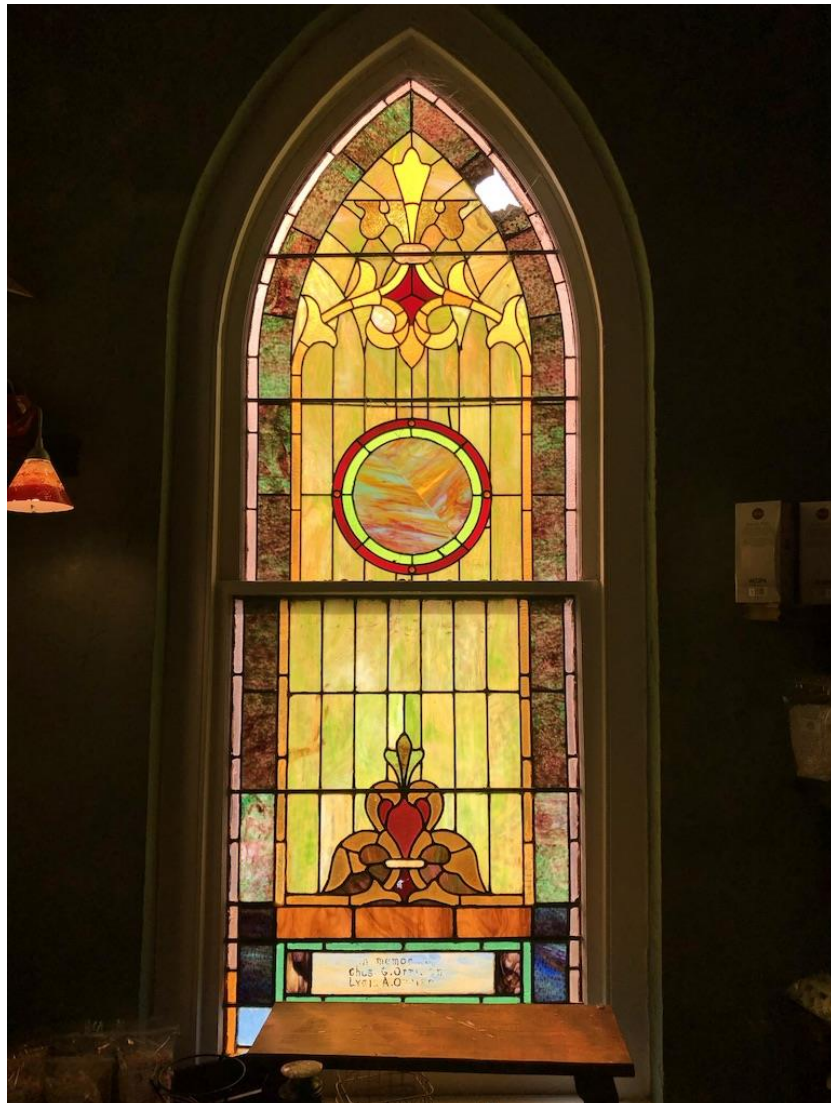
As "one of the leading citizens of Brunswick," Edward also:

- was town clerk for 4 years.
- was a nominee for the Maryland House of Delegates.
- was the chief marshal of the first fire company organized in Brunswick. He was president of the Volunteer Fire Company.
- was a member of Loyalty Lodge, Knights of Pythias.
- was a member of the Reformed Church and was chairman of the building committee under whose supervision the Reformed Church was erected in 1910.

Descendants: None.



Charles C. Orrison and Lydia A. Orrison
(1840-1916 and 1839-1896)



Lydia A. Hildebrand was born to Johannes Hildebrand (1798-1875) and Lydia Albaugh (1800-1876), farmer in Frederick County, MD, in 1839.

Charles C. Orrison was born in Virginia to Presley Orrison (1804-1860) and Henrietta Marlow (1819-1894) in 1840.

1866: Charles and Lydia were married in 1866, and he followed his father's tradition of farming in the Tuscarora area. Their first son, Clayton E. Orrison, was born the following year, and 3 years after that, daughter Laura G. Orrison was born.

In the 1870 Census, Charles and Lydia and their two children (3 yo Clayton E. and newborn Laura G.) were living with Lydia's parents (the Hildebrands) on a farm in Frederick county. Ten years later, Charles and Lydia were living with their two children on a farm *next door* to the Hildebrand family in Frederick County. Son Harry M. Orrison was born in 1883.

Lydia died on 31 May 1896, at the age of 57. She is buried in Rocky Springs Cemetery, Rocky Springs, MD.

In 1900, Charles and his 19-year old son Harry were living in Tuscarora, now with his daughter Laura and her husband George S. Moore. He was still with them in 1910. He died on 6 March 1916, age 75, and was buried with his wife in Rocky Springs Cemetery.

Descendants:

Son Clayton married Hester America Ramsburg. They moved to Brunswick where he was a conductor on the B&O Railroad. They had 5 children, 2 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, 12 great-great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great-great-grandchildren. These descendants live in Las Vegas, Atlanta, San Diego, Utah, Colorado, New York City, Kansas City, and Maryland (Frederick, Boonesboro, Darnestown, and Lavale). Paul Orrison, originally from Brunswick, lives in Frederick with his son Britt and his family.

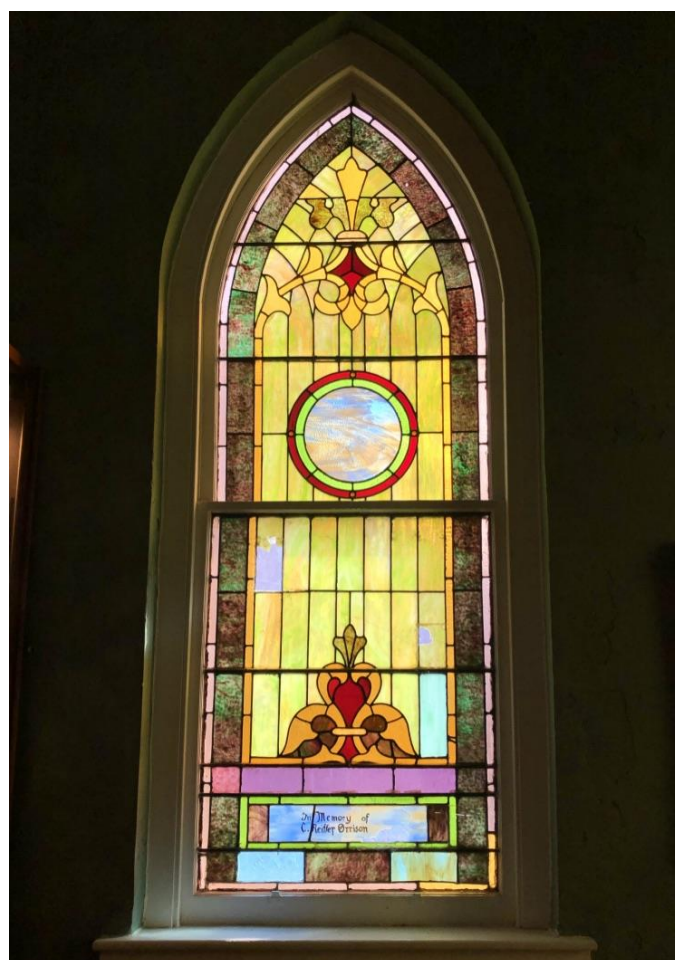
Daughter Laura married George S. Moore. They had no children.

Son Harry married Oda Anzonetta Shafer. They had 6 children, 6 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, and 8 great great-grandchildren. These descendants live in California, Michigan, New York, and Maryland (Frederick, Middletown, Baltimore, Ellicott City, and Wheaton)

Tombstone of Charles C. and Lydia A. Orrison, Rocky Springs Cemetery, Maryland.



Clayton Kieffer Orrison
(1891-1918)



Clayton Kieffer Orrison was born in Martinsburg, Berkeley County, WV, in 1891, the first child of Clayton Elmer Orrison and Hester America Ramsburg. His parents were originally from Frederick County, MD, and they were living there again in 1896, so it is assumed that they were in Martinsburg temporarily, perhaps working in the B&O car yard, which was moved to Brunswick just a few years later. His 4 younger brothers would all be born in Maryland. He was the grandson of Charles and Lydia Orrison, who also have a stained glass window dedicated to them in the Reformed Church.

In the 1900 Census, Kieffer (as he was known) was living with his parents and two younger brothers in Brunswick, Ward 3 (the west side of town). His father was a conductor on the Railroad. In that same year, his mother gave birth to a baby boy, G. Russell Orrison, who died 23 days later of "marasmus," a term used then for general malnutrition. Apparently his mother had eclampsia during the later stages of her pregnancy that led to this condition.

In the 1910 Census, Kieffer was living with his parents and three brothers on N. Maple Ave. in Brunswick (probably at 411 N. Maple Ave., where they were living when his father died in 1936). He was employed as a stenographer in the Railroad office.

On 5 June 1917, Kieffer, age 26, registered with the draft in Brunswick. He was single, and listed as his occupation, "Chief Clerk for the B&O Railroad." He was described as being "short, stout," and the notation was made that he had a disability: "One foot," which obviously kept him out of the draft.

Kieffer died on 14 October 1918, at the age of 27, cause unknown. (His nephew, Paul Orrison, speculates that it may have been from the flu.). He is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Frederick, MD.

Descendants: None.

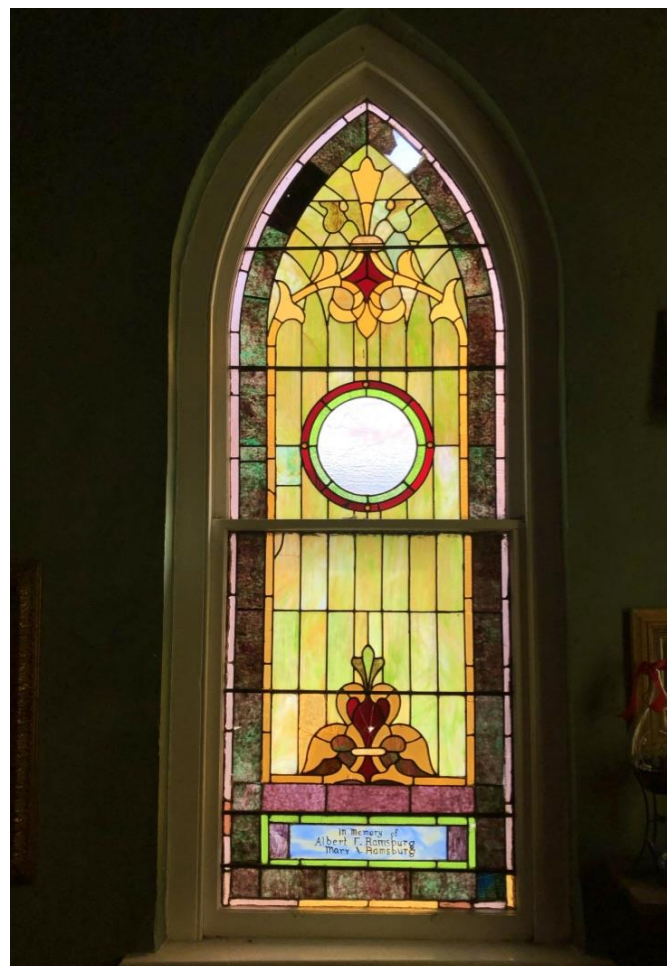
Kieffer Orrison's gravestone in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Frederick, MD



The Orrison home at 411 N. Maple Avenue (2020 picture):



Albert F. and Mary A. Ramsburg
(1935-1909 and 1837-1894)



Albert Ramsburg was born in Frederick County in 1835, the youngest son of Frederick and Lydia Ann (Snook) Ramsburg, and the great grandson of German immigrants who came to this country in the early 1700's as some of the earliest settlers of Frederick County. The farm where Albert was born was located near the small farming community of Charlesville, about 4 miles north of Frederick in the Tuscarora District, on present-day Sunday's Lane.

Albert's future wife Mary was born 2 years later to Michael and Christiana Elizabeth (Staley) Zimmerman. Her great grandparents had also immigrated from Germany in the early 1700's and had purchased land near the Ramsburgs.

An important bond that these two families shared was their membership in the German Reformed Church, which they were instrumental in establishing in Frederick County.

When Albert was 2 years old, his father died. The 1850 census shows his widowed mother still caring for 14-year old Albert and his 4 older siblings, ages 16-22.

Albert and Mary were married on March 2, 1858. He was 22, and she was 20. Their first child Florence (later known as Villa Bell) was born in 1859. The 1860 census indicates that Albert was farming, and his mother was still living in the same household.

During the next two decades, 7 more children were born in the family. Albert's mother, who continued to live with them, died in 1870.

In the 1880 census, Albert and Mary are still farming in Frederick County. They now have 7 children at home, ages 1-18. Their oldest daughter Villa Bell was married in 1880, and is no longer at home.

Mary died in 1894, age 57, and was buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Frederick. By 1900, Albert, now 65 years old and retired, is living with his daughter Lillie M. and her husband George C. House, who is farming in Burkittsville.

He later moved in with another daughter Mary Alberta (wife of Albertus W. Neikirk, a teacher) north of Middletown, where he died on 15 Oct 1909. He was 74 years old. He is buried beside his wife in Mt. Olivet.

Descendants of Albert and Mary Ramsburg: All eight of their children lived in Frederick County as adults. They had 24 grandchildren and lots of great- and great-great-grandchildren who live all over the U.S. While Albert and Mary never lived in the immediate Brunswick area and may never have attended the Reformed Church there, they were members of that faith, and the stained glass window was probably dedicated to their memory by their daughters Hester America Ramsburg Orrison and Adria Gertrude Ramsburg Plush, both of whom married men from Brunswick and were living there in 1910 when the church was dedicated.

Albert F. Ramsburg



Mary A. Ramsburg



One of the Ramsburg farms in Charlesville, MD, possibly that of Albert and Mary.



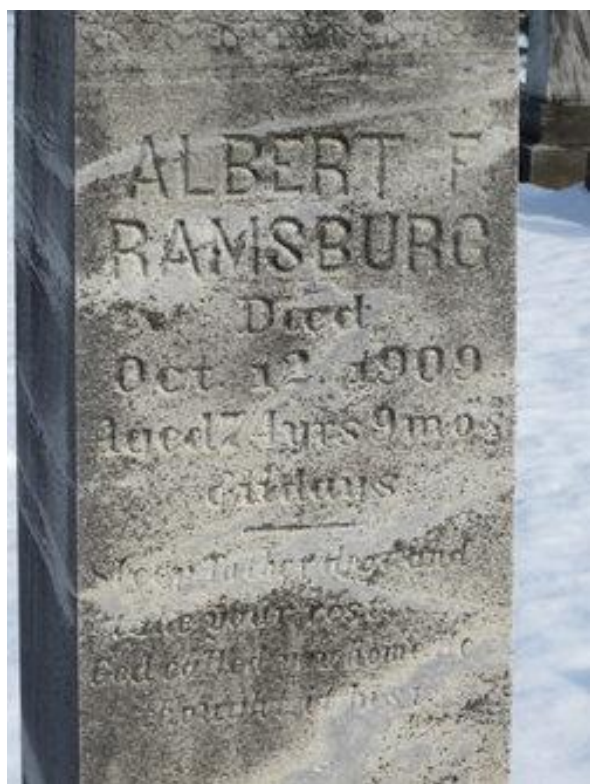
Zion Reformed Church of Charlesville.



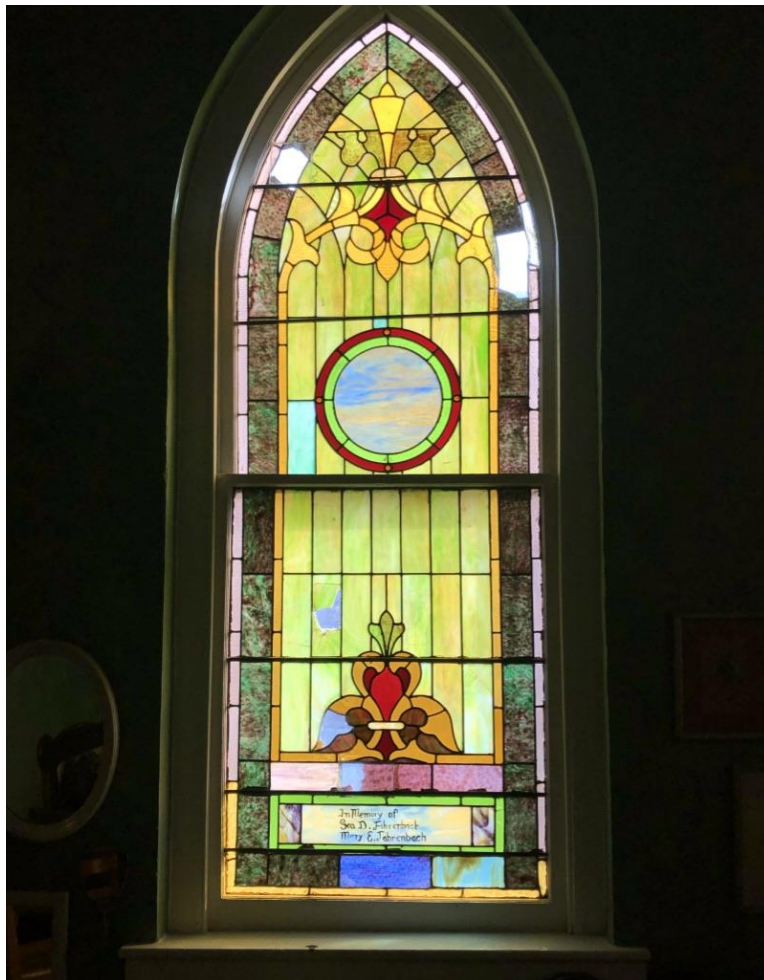
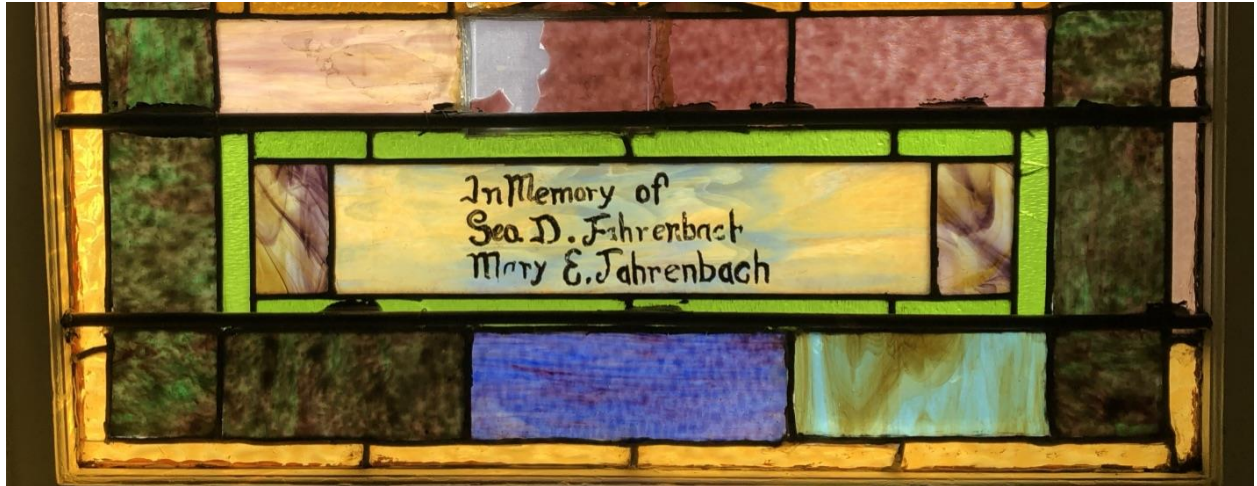


Tombstone of Albert and Mary Ramsburg in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Frederick, MD.





George D. and Mary E. Fahrenbach
(1846-1919 and 1845-1930)



George D. Fahrenbach was born in 1846 in Hesse-Kassel, Germany, to Charles W.H. and Anna Christine (Dells) Fahrenbach. The family emigrated to the U.S. in 1851, when George was 5 years old.

In the 1860 census, George's parents (Charles and Catherine) and his sister Caroline (age 7) were living in household #442 in Penn township, Berks Co., PA. George (age 13) was living nearby with the family of Eli and Ann Geiss in household #411.

When the Civil War broke out, George enlisted with the Union Army, although he was only 15 years old, and served throughout the war in the 151st regt Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and the 55th regt PVV, eventually achieving the rank of Corporal. He was engaged in several prominent battles of the war, including Gettysburg, where he was wounded three times (in the arm, the abdomen, and the head) but continued to fight, and Chancellorsville, where he was taken as prisoner of war (but escaped soon afterwards).

After the war, he returned home to the farm and, in 1866, he married a local girl, Mary E. Ziebach. She was born in 1845 in Berks County, Pennsylvania, to Jonathan and Sarah (Weber) Ziebach. Both parents and several of her grandparents were natives of Berks County. After a year on the farm, he went north to Luzerne County, where he operated a sawmill for three years before returning home to Penn Township in Berks County in 1869.

George and Mary became the parents of 7 children:

- Sarah Isabella (born 1868)
- Charles William (b. 1869. Died age 3 months)
- Franklin Adam (b. 1870)
- George Wesley (b. 1873)
- James Monroe (b. 1875. Died in 1882, age 8)
- Mary Rebecca (b. 1877)
- John Henry (b. 1888)

George was a successful farmer, eventually accumulating 630 acres, with "very valuable limestone quarries on his land." By 1880, his aging parents had moved in with them. In 1893, he moved into Reading, but continued farming. Then, in 1905, he built a "fine brick residence" for his family in Penn Township, where he lived for the rest of his life.

The 1900 census confirms that he was still farming in Berks County and at that time they had 3 sons (one was a book keeper; another was a physician) and a new daughter-in-law living with them, along with 3 "servants." In 1910, they were living in Bernville, Berks County, PA. By that time, his primary occupation was listed as "working in stone quarry." At 64 years of age, he may have found this more suitable than farming. Son John H. (21) was still at home, "in school."

George was very active in his community. Other accomplishments included:

- Chairman of the building committee that built St. Thomas Union (Reformed and Lutheran) Church in Bernville while living in Reading (1897).
- Superintendent of Penn Valley Sunday School for 25 years.
- Active member of the democratic party; frequent delegate to county conventions.
- Member of Penn township school board for 11 years (president for 6 years).
- President of Bernville Cemetery Association for 9 years.
- Elected sheriff of Berks county, serving one term of 3 years.
- Leader of "Old Home Week" in Bernville.
- Chief Marshall 1907-1908.
- 32nd degree mason.
- Member of several fraternal organizations.
- Traveled extensively (reportedly, he visited every state)

George died on 6 December 1919, age 73, in Berks Co. He was buried in Haags cemetery in Bernville, Berks Co., PA. A large monument with a life-size union soldier on top watches over his grave. The 1920 census shows Mary 74 years old, widowed, living in Penn Township, with 4 boarders. She died in 1930, age 84, in Berks County, and is buried beside her husband.

Posterity:

5 children lived to maturity and had children:

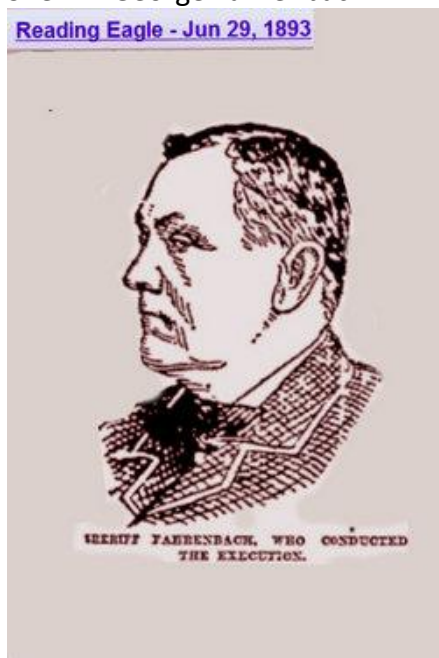
- Sarah (or Sallie) (1868-1945) married William B. Werner, a minister in the Reformed Church. She taught school for 10 years. In 1900, he was a clergyman in Perkiomen Township, Montgomery Co., PA, and in 1910, he was a minister in Hudson, Steuben County Indiana. They moved to Gold Hill, NC, where in 1920 he was superintendent of Nazareth Orphan Home, with 46 boys and girls. In 1923, they moved to Maryland, where he served as pastor of the Reformed Church in Brunswick (for 6 years), and then Burkittsville (for 8 ½ years). They had 2 daughters, Helen (born in 1885, a music teacher, married Mr. Safrit, lived in Tuscarora) and Emily (b. 1887, married C. Albert Orrison, who served as mayor of Brunswick 1928-1930).
- Frank (1870-1934) married Cora Haag. They moved to Cleveland, Ohio where he was a government food inspector. They had one son, Frank.
- George W. (1873-1943) married Maggie B. Mertz. He became a physician and practiced in Bernville. Two children: Helen Margaret and Charles.
- Mary R. (1877-1934) taught school before she married Charles Bender. They remained in Berks County. One child: George Frank Bender.
- John H. (1888-1981) graduated from Franklin and Marshall College (Lancaster) in 1909, married Bertha Mae (Fahrenbach). They moved to Washington, D.C.

Grave marker in Haags cemetery in Bernville, Berks Co., PA.

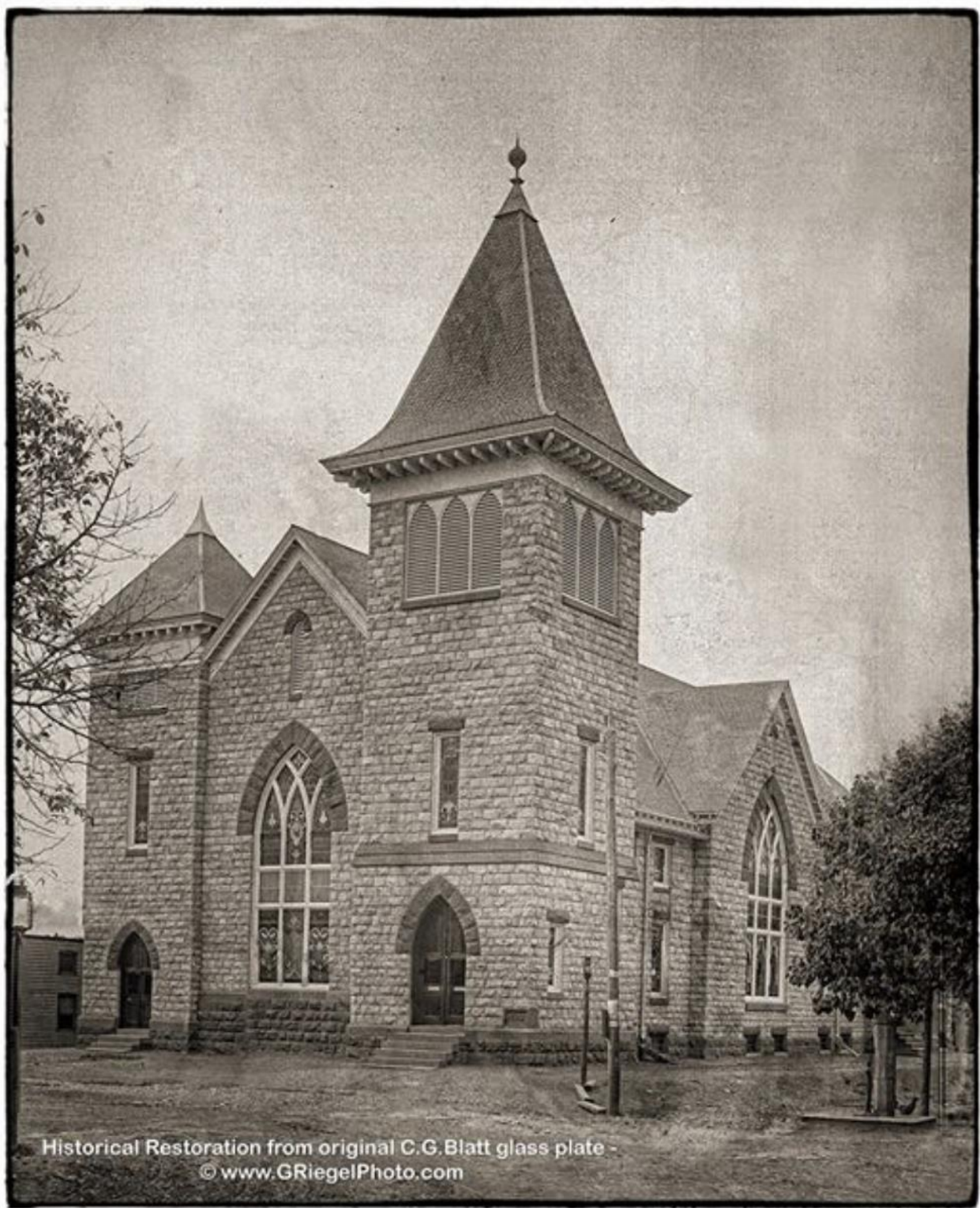


Sherriff George Fahrenbach

[Reading Eagle - Jun 29, 1893](#)

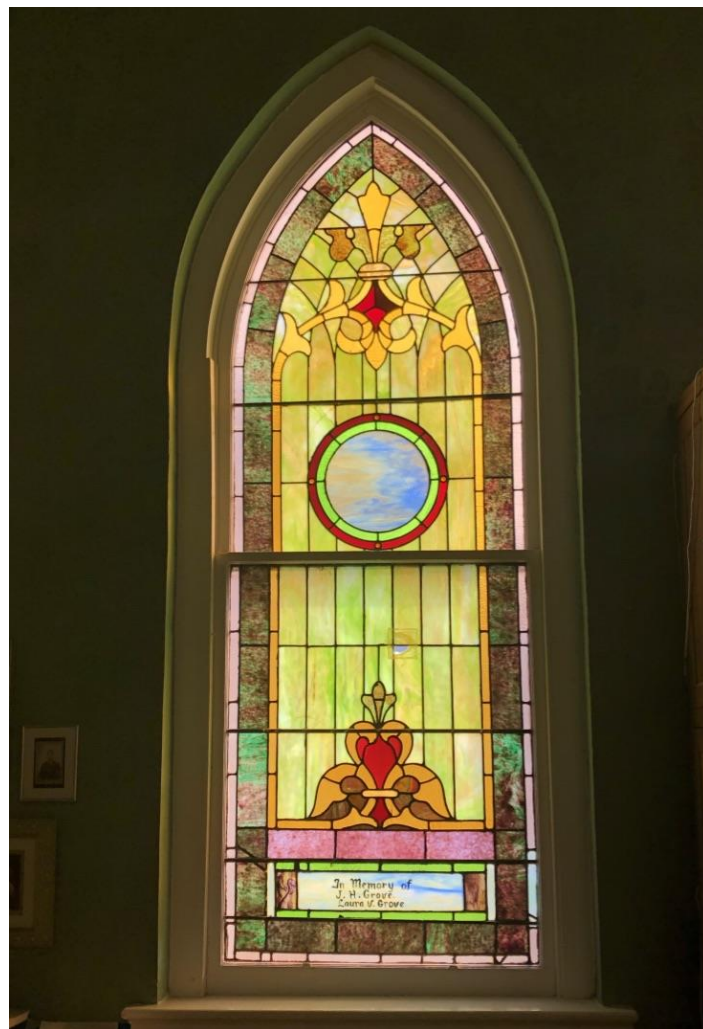


St. Thomas Union (Reformed and Lutheran) Church at Bernville, PA, built in 1897.



Historical Restoration from original C.G. Blatt glass plate -
© www.GRiegelPhoto.com

John H. and Laura V. Grove
(1845-1916 and 1851-1920)



John Grove was born in 1845 in Petersville, MD, to Daniel and Julia Ann (Willard) Grove, farmers. In the 1860 census, John, age 14, was living in Burkittsville with his parents and three siblings. His father was, at that time, a merchant in addition to farming. In the 1870 census, John (24 yo) was still living in the Petersville district with his parents and 4 siblings. His father was again listed as a farmer.

In 1873, 28-year old John married 22-year old Laura Rudy, daughter of Jacob and Eliza C. (Routzahn) Rudy of Middletown. John and Laura eventually had 7 children, but only three of them survived to adulthood.

In 1880, John and Laura were living in the Petersville district (which included Burkittsville and the village of Berlin). They had two children, Edna (6) and Luella (1). He was a merchant, selling dry goods and groceries. Living next door was his widowed mother and her three daughters.

In 1900, John and Laura were living in Burkittsville in the same home with his sisters Helen and Georgetta. They had two children living with them: Luella (22) and Olive (14). By this time, he had retired as a merchant.

By 1910, John and Laura were living on Potomac Avenue in Brunswick, no occupation listed. Their daughter Olive V, age 23 and single, was living with them. Olive never married. She was in the retail millinery business (making or selling women's hats).

John died in 1916, age 71, and was buried in Christ Reformed Cemetery in Middletown. Laura went to live with her daughter Louella and her husband, Hanson O. Orrison on High Street (now Potomac St.) in Brunswick. Laura's unmarried daughter Olive (33) was also living with them, still working as a milliner. Laura died in 1920, age 69, and was is buried beside her husband. Olive died in 1929, age 41, and is also buried in the Christ Reformed Cemetery.

Descendants:

The oldest child, Edna Grove (born 1874) "got a job in Greencastle, PA in Nov 1894." There is not subsequent record of her.

4 children died at birth or in early infancy.

Olive, the youngest child, remained single until she died in 1928.

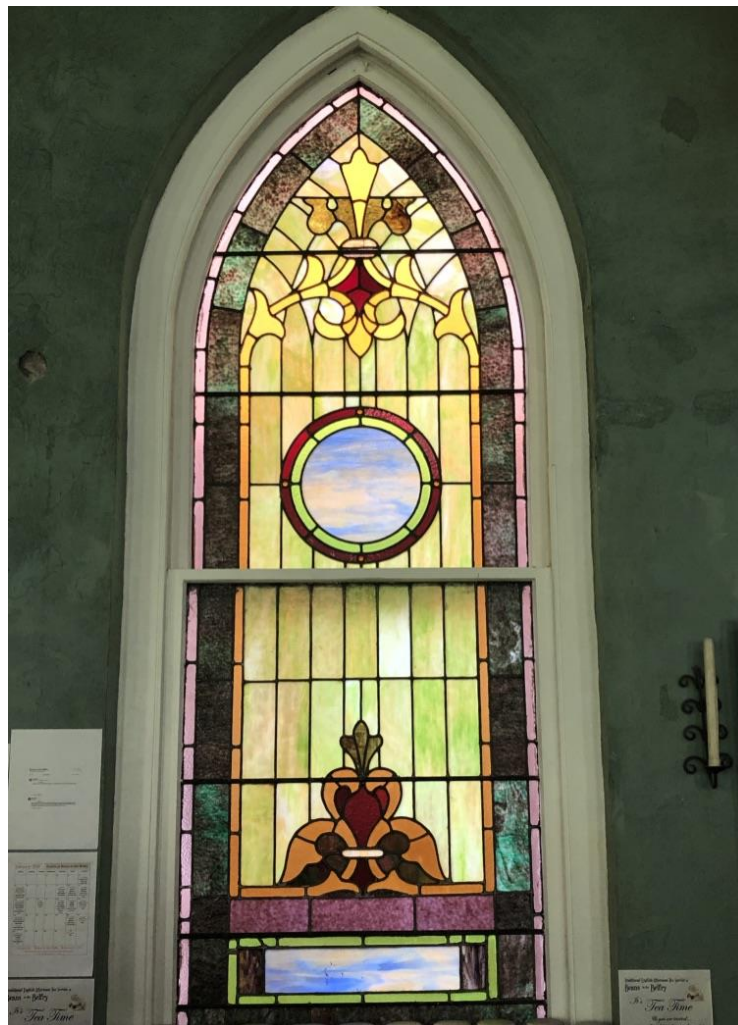
Only one daughter, Louella E., was married. Husband: Hanson Marlow Orrison (nephew of Charles C. Orrison), a brakeman on the B&O Railroad. They have no children listed in the 1920 or 1930 census (living in Brunswick).

Thus, we have no record of any living descendants of John and Laura Grove.

John and Laura Grove's tombstone, Christ Reformed Church cemetery, Middletown, MD



Mary McDonald
(1825 – 1911)



Mary Bruner was born in March 1825 in Point of Rocks, MD. Little is known of her early years, however, on September 16, 1838, at the age of 13, she gave birth to a son, Rufus Bruner.

Sometime before 1850, Mary and Rufus moved to the little village of Berlin (now Brunswick). [Documentation for this: The 1850 census taker listed the following people living together in Petersville District, which included Berlin:

- Michael Breslin, age 45, born in Ireland
- Mary Breslin, age 26, born in Maryland
- Rufus Breslin, age 11, born in Maryland

There is a Michael Brislin (1803 – April 22, 1854) buried in the Old Berlin Cemetery. I assume the census taker got the first names of Mary and Rufus and assumed they were part of Michael's family. Otherwise, the ages seem to match reasonably well.]

About 1854, Mary married an Irishman, Bernard (Bernie, Bill) McDonald, 5 years older than she. Bernard was a railroad hand at the time, and later became a superintendent.

Mary's son Rufus was still living at home when the Civil War broke out. In the fall of 1861, it was apparent that the South was serious about their efforts to invade the North, and Rufus, now 23 years old, enlisted in the Union infantry along with several other men from Berlin in the Potomac Home Brigade. This unit was charged with guarding the B&O Railroad, but when major conflicts broke out, they were involved. These included the Battle of Harper's Ferry (September 1862), the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1863), and the Battle of Monocacy (July 1864). After the war, Rufus returned home, married (but had no children), and worked on the railroad. He and his wife Helen lived with his mother for a few years, then (by 1870) moved into their own home in Berlin. He died of consumption (TB) on February 2, 1897, as was buried in the Old Berlin Cemetery. Apparently, he was later reinterred, as his name and dates are inscribed on a tombstone shared by his wife (who died in 1927) in the Mountain View Cemetery in Sharpsburg, MD.

Interestingly, in all the censuses starting with 1850, it was Mary, not her husband, who was credited with owning the property where they lived. We have records of the following properties having been purchased or sold by her:

- 1865: Lot #75 (on Third Street, now S. Maple Ave, beside where "Mommer's" used to be, across from Dr. Horine's pharmacy.)
- 1867: Lot #4 (on Bridge or First Street, beside the old lock house, now on B&O property on Virginia Ave. extended).
- Also of note, her nephew John McDonald sold lot #24 in 1881. (This is the current site of Beans in the Belfry and the adjacent apartment building. Another building on this lot was taken down to make room for the new bridge.)

Mary "was known among railroad men as Mother Mac. For over 50 years she kept a boarding house there. Railroad officials when visiting Brunswick always went to her house for some of her famous mince pies and apple dumplings." [Source: *Obituary in Mail, Hagerstown*]

According to at least two articles in the Brunswick Herald (1894 and 1907), she ran a boarding house on 1st Street (today: Virginia Ave.). In 1910, widows Mary (85) and her daughter-in-law Helen (66) were living together. Mary was running a boarding house on 3rd Street (Maple Ave.), near Dr. Horine's residence. At that time, she had 5 boarders staying with her. Of interest is the fact that, per the 1900 census, Mary never learned to read or write.

Mary's husband Barnard (or Bernard) died in December 1898. [*Documentation: Brunswick Herald, December 16, 1898. It states that he was 96 years old, but this is probably in error, as it lists Mary E. McDonald as his widow.*]

Mary died July 1, 1911 at the age of 86. She willed her house and lot to Helen Bruner, her son's widow. She also bequeathed "to the Reformed church of Brunswick, \$25 for the erection of a memorial window in the church to her memory." However, no memorial window with her name on it is to be found in what is now Beans in the Belfry.

Mary E. McDonald was buried in Sharpsburg. I'm not sure why she was buried there, as she spent most of her time in Berlin/Brunswick. Apparently her daughter-in-law moved to Sharpsburg, where she was found in the 1920 census living by herself. Helen died in 1927 and is buried with her husband Rufus beside Mary E. McDonald.

Descendants: None.

Mary E. McDonald's tombstone in Sharpsburg, MD



Mary McDonald's boarding house, 5 S. Maple Avenue:

