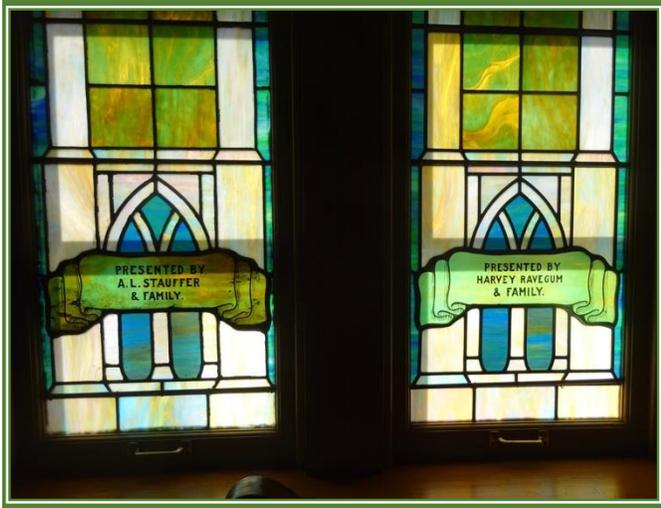


Exploring the Cemetery: Stained Glass 9

Sorry about missing last month, but I completely forgot! Joe and I have been busy helping Landis Valley Farm Museum inventory, transcribe, and translate all of their Fraktur collection. Reading and translating the old fraktur writing and script is mind-boggling, especially since there are so many misspelled words. But the work is fascinating and will take a very long time.



There is one window on the south side of the church that I haven't talked about. The left side was presented by "A. L. Stauffer & family," and the right side by Harvey Ravegum & Family."

I mentioned Harvey Ravegum in the May 2016 *Ravegum* article. Harvey (1886-1968) was the son of Henry and Sarah Ellen (Rathman) Ravegum. He married Alice Weidman (1891-1979) and worked as a carpenter, eventually retiring from Armstrong Cork Co. As far as I can determine, Harvey and Alice had a single daughter, Anna Mary (1910-2003), wife of David P. Kurtz. All are buried in the cemetery.

A. Lincoln Stauffer (1892-1972) was the son of Abraham L. Stauffer and Mary Lorah. He was born in East Cocalico Township, but died in Rothsville. He was a farmer by occupation, and his wife was Minnie A. Cooper (1888-1975). Lincoln and Minnie had two daughters: Hilda, married to James W. Grabill, and Marcella, married to Rufus Grube. Again, all are buried in the cemetery.

In this genealogy business there were a number of naming patterns used over and over by families, both of which are exhibited by the Abraham Lincoln Stauffer family. First, it not uncommon to give a son the exact same name as the father, but to refer to one by the first name and the other by the middle name. Sometimes this carried over for many generations. Second, in the past many children were named for national leaders. When I was doing the records of the Middletown Cemetery, I joked that at some point I would have to tally the George Washingtons and Benjamin Franklins to see who won. At the time of the Civil War there were many Abraham Lincolns and Elmer Ellsworths. We just don't see this anymore.

Elmer was a friend of Lincoln who started the Zouave movement, which was a sort of militaristic, gymnastic movement inspired by native soldiers in French Algeria. Displays and drills were mounted around the country and attracted huge crowds. At the start of the Civil War, entire regiments were styled on the Zouaves, down to colorful uniforms and fezzes. Elmer Ellsworth wanted to please his friend Lincoln and immediately formed the first regiment of Zouave soldiers, by enlisting the toughest, meanest group he could find, that is, members of the New York City Fire Department who frequently battled each other before they ever got around to battling fires. Elmer led his regiment across the Potomac to seize Arlington and was killed while removing a flag from the top of a hotel. He is considered to be the first Union casualty of the war. By the way, once the Zouave regiments got into some real battles, they realized that their bright red uniforms were an appealing target and rapidly abandoned the attire.

I hope that was an interesting digression inspired by A. Lincoln Stauffer.