

Exploring the cemetery: Rev. A. W. Leibensperger, Part 2

The Leibensperger entries continue this month with an impressive list of lost children and young adults.



•Frances Enck: born July 29, 1891 in Brunnerville, Pa.; died March 20, 1900 in Lexington, Pa.; buried March 23, 1900 —Rothsville, Pa.; Daughter of Lydia Enck. Sick with consumption 7 weeks. Aged 8-7-2. Funeral services at the house of her grandmother at 9:30 a.m., at church at 11:15. Baptized by Rev. M. Fernsler May 26, 1896.

•Viola Frank: born Oct. 19, 1878 in Vogansville; died April 7, 1900 in Disston; buried Apr. 10, 1900 at 9:30 a.m. at Rothsville. Daughter of Abraham Buchen and Clara (nee Ravegum). Baptized & received as a member of Lutheran [Church] at Rothsville on Nov. 24, 1894 by Rev. H. E. Semmel. Married on Mar. 25, 1900 to Abner Frank by Rev. A. W. L. Became sick day after with pneumonia, sick 12 days. Aged 21-5-18.



•Howard Leo Grube: born Nov. 28, 1897 in Warwick Township; died May 20, 1900 in Warwick Township; buried May 22 at 1 p.m. at Rothsville. Son of George S. Grube and his wife Estella (nee Young). Aged 2 yrs. 5 mos. & 22 days. Rev. Willawer conducted services at house & I buried child – he preached in English and I in German.

•Horace Grube: born Jan. 28, 1874; died Sept. 26, 1900; buried Sept. 29, 1900, a.m. Son of Isaac Grube and Susanna (nee Schaeffer). Baptized June 14, 1874 by Rev. B. W. Schmauk. Confirmed and received as a member of the Lutheran Ch. at Rothsville, by Rev. H. E. Semmel, Nov. 29, 1890. Sickness— typhoid fever. Aged 26-7-28.



•Mary Margaret Zell: born April 12, 1867 at Bernville; died Oct. 26, 1900 at Disston; buried Oct. 29, 1900—Rothsville at 10 a.m. at house. Daughter of Henry & Charlotte Haines. Baptized in infancy. Confirmed in St. John's Luth. Ch. at Bernville by Rev. J. J. Cressman, on March 22, 1883. Married to Martin Zell, Feb. 26, 1887. Joined Rothsville Lutheran Ch. Dec. 10, 1892. Aged 33-6-14.

•John H. Bear: born Jan. 17, 1848 in West Earl Township; died May 25, 1901 in Lititz; buried May 29, 1901—Rothsville, Pa., a.m. Son of Isaac F. Bear & Mary (nee Hipple); Married to Matilda Seigfried on Sept. 28, 1875 by Rev. L. Gerhard. This union was



blessed with 7 daughters. 1 daughter preceded in death 11 years. Widow, 6 daughters & 1 brother survive. Baptized by Rev. L. Gerhard & received as a member of Zion's Luth. Ch. at Mechanicsburg [Leola] in 1876. Sickly long time. Sick 2 weeks, dropsy, asthma, etc. Aged 53-4-8.

- Herbert Eberhard Weidler: born Mar. 23, 1900 in Warwick Township; died Jan. 14, 1902 in Womelsdorf, Pa.; buried Jan. 18, 1902—Rothsville in a.m. Son of Sydney I. Weidler & Ada K. (nee Stark). Baptized Nov. 4, 1900 by Rev. A. W. L. Sponsors—parents. Scalded, died next day. Aged 1-9-21.

- William Pipgress: born Nov. 6, 1900 in Warwick Township; died Jan. 16, 1902 in Warwick Township; buried Jan. 20, 1902—Rothsville, 9:30 a.m. Son of Geo. S. Pipgress & his wife Ella E. (nee Ressler). Baptized April 6, 1901 by Rev. A. W. L. Sponsor—

mother. Disease—bronchitis. Aged 1-2-10.

- Mary Lena Evans: born Oct. 29, 1900 in Lexington; died Feb. 11, 1902 in Lexington; buried Feb. 14, 1902—Rothsville. Daughter of Lydia Evans (illegitimate). Baptized Apr. 15, 1901. Sponsor was Magdalene Evans (grandmother). Child had croup, sick only 1 day. Funeral held at 9 a.m. with services & preaching at house. Aged 1-3-12.

- Harry [sic-Harvey] B. Leed: born Sept. 8, 1897 at Rothsville; died May 18, 1902 in Warwick; buried May 20, 1902—Rothsville, Pa.; Son of Jacob E. Leed & Mary L. (nee Bender). Baptized May 14, 1902. Sick 10 days, pneumonia & brain fever. Aged 4 yrs., 8 mos. & 10 days.

- John K. Ressler: born Aug. 25, 1867 in Millport; died Aug. 2, 1902 in Rothsville; buried Aug. 5, 1902—Rothsville, 10 a.m. Son of Manelius L. Ressler and Fianna (nee Kofroth). Married to Ella C. Shaar Sept. 25, 1892. Union blest by 1 child. Disease—consumption. Baptized by Rev. A. W. L. June 18, 1902. Aged 34-11-7.

There are a few more entries that I will include in a future article. But for now, I want to wrap up the story of A. W. Leibensperger. He married Mary Frederick in Philadelphia in 1896, the year he graduated from seminary. They had a single daughter, Catherine, born in 1899. The family moved to Ephrata in 1921 when they returned to the area from Lebanon County. Rev. Leibensperger remained with his large parish until retirement in 1952. He died in 1964 after a stroke and was buried at Bergstrasse Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Mary Frederick Leibensperger lived until 1968. Daughter Catherine, who never married, worked for Denver & Ephrata Phone Company and lived to the ripe old age of 98. She was living at Luther Acres at the time of her death in 1997.