

Exploring the Cemetery – Preston Kofroth



Another photo from my dad's collection shows Jeff Usner, the topic of last month's article, with Preston Kofroth, another of Rothsville's successful businessmen. It seems both men loved cars, and Kofroth was in a unique position to explore his interest because he was a carriage maker. While Usner's business was at the "Y" in "lower" Rothsville, Kofroth's business was at the "Y" in "upper" Rothsville, across from the White Swan Hotel.

Usner (right) and Kofroth (left) are sitting in a 1901 Elmore automobile. The Elmore was an early automobile

manufactured near Elmore, and later, Clyde, Ohio, from 1893 to 1912. The 1901 Elmore sold for \$750 and was advertised as being "practically noiseless on high speed, with ample power for mud or hills, and built for comfort with a long wheel base and wide, roomy seat."

On April 8, 1905, The "Rothsville Notes" section of the *Lititz Record* ran a paragraph stating that "P. B. Kofroth has a most complete line of near[l]y all styles of vehicles of his own make, from a runabout to the finest carriage or buggy, all of his own make, no cheap western factory make, [*] which lasts only a season. He also has a number of second hand conveyances fully repaired and almost as good as new. He has an order for a large passenger vehicle for a Berks county sanitarium, besides a hearse, which is to be one of the finest in the country."

His obituary describes how Kofroth was an active part of the Rothsville and Jerusalem Lutheran communities. Therefore I have decided that he deserves a mention in this column even though he moved to Lititz and was buried in the Moravian cemetery.

Lititz Record (Lititz, Pa.), Thursday, September 3, 1936, p. 12, col. 1:

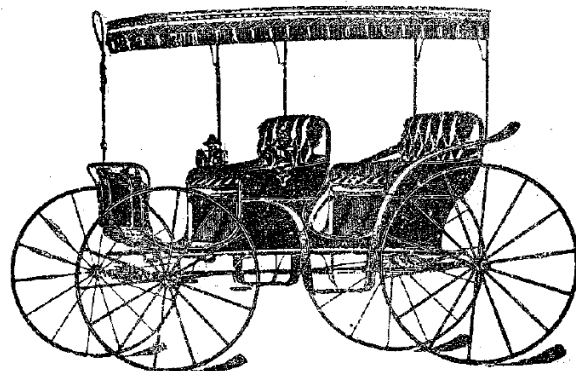
"Preston B. Kofroth

Preston B. Kofroth, 75, of 57 E. Main Street, died of complications after an illness of 12 weeks, Tuesday afternoon at 1:15 o'clock.

He served for many years as a school director in Warwick Twp., and also as superintendent of the Lutheran Sunday School at Rothsville. Mr. Kofroth was one of the builders of the Rothsville Lutheran Church. He also was a coach builder for 35 years.

Three children survive: Mamie; Maude, wife of Joseph N. Welsh, Pleasantville, N.J. and Perry, of Chicago. Five grandchildren also survive. A son, Avon, died Friday at his home in Cambridge, Mass."

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P. B. KOFROTH, - - Rothsville, Pa.

[*Take that, Studebaker!]