

Exploring the Cemetery: Rothsville Central-08, Part I:



This photo postcard features Mr. Zimmerman's class of 34 students. The slate in front of the photo reads, "Rothsville Central School '08." The photo card was addressed to **Elsie Martin** and carried the message "*Rothsville Central School with Gertrude's picture on ha ha.*" We are fortunate that someone, presumably Elsie, wrote (at least partial) names on the back. This is another photo I found in the files of **Robert M. Leeking**, Elsie's stepson. Names in bold are buried in the cemetery. Ages are estimated.

Gertrude Frymyer, "GF," 15, 2<sup>nd</sup> row (right), was the subject of the humorous inscription. She was the daughter of Jacob and Martha (Kiehl) Frymyer and married Harvey H. Smith. She lived in Akron for much of her life and was buried at Mt. Zion Cemetery when she died in 1978.

Three members of the 1912 WHS class from last month's article also appear in the photo: **Esther Martin** "EsM," 14, 4<sup>th</sup> row; **Elsie Martin** "EeM," 13, 3<sup>rd</sup> row; and Ray Grube, "RG," 14, 2<sup>nd</sup> row. Also included is Ray's brother **Eddie**, "EG," 13, 3<sup>rd</sup> row, who married **Mary S. Weidler**. Edward Grube (1894-1971) served as church treasurer and council member and at the time of his death, was a member of the cemetery board. **Weidler Grube**, was Edward's son.

Esther Martin's future husband, **Jefferson H. Musser**, "JM," 14, is seated at the end of the first row. He was the son of **Frank S. and Emma Weidler (Hess) Musser**.

Further romance is indicated by **Chester Adams**, "CA," 13, 1<sup>st</sup> row, and **Elsie Conrad**, "EC," 13, 3<sup>rd</sup> row. Elsie's parents were **Jacob G. and Mary (Gass) Conrad**. Chester Adams was the

grandson of **Reuben and Anna (McQuate) Adams**. He became a teacher in Ephrata and died at 52 of heart troubles. Elsie lived until 1968.

“LR” – **Luke Royer**, 12, 1<sup>st</sup> row, son of **Francis and Lizzie (Leed) Royer**. He grew up to be an accountant employed at Norristown. He died in 1963.

“RR” – **Ruth Royer**, 14, 4<sup>th</sup> row, sister of **Luke**, was a teacher for 27 years and a lifelong resident of Rothsville. She retired in 1940 and died in 1968.

“KR” – **Katie Royer**, 14, 3<sup>rd</sup> row, daughter of **Christian and Isabella (Habecker) Royer** was a drapery maker who also lived her entire life (died 1971) in Rothsville. Another photo is below.



“WB” – Walter Behmer, 14, 1<sup>st</sup> row, son of **John M. and Emma (Miley) Behmer**, served in the army in WWI. He was buried at Neffsville in 1969.

“AW” – Alvin R. Weaver, 12, 1<sup>st</sup> row, son of Aaron and Mary Weaver.

“CZ” – Charles Zook, age 13, first row, son of Elder Wallace L. and Alice (Graybill) Zook. A partner in Zook Brothers Coal and Fuel Oil at Rothsville Station, Charles died in 1975 and is buried at Middle Creek.

“HZ” – Harry Zook, 15, behind row 3 on the right, brother of Charles. A farmer, he died in 1984 and is buried at Mellinger Mennonite Cemetery.

“PF” – **Phares “Fritz” Fry**, 14, 2<sup>nd</sup> row, was the son of **John and Annie (Seltzer) Fry**. He was a painter and paperhanger who was married to **Hazel Allison**, a teacher who taught at both Rothsville and Millport schools. Phares died in 1982.

“EF” – Edna Fry, 14, 2<sup>nd</sup> row, was the daughter of **Emanuel and Jamina (Keller) Fry** and no close relation to Phares. She married Chael G. Gochnauer and died in East Petersburg in 1985.

“HK” – **Harvey Kissinger**, 14, 2<sup>nd</sup> row, son of **Henry and Clara (Hilton) Kissinger**, worked at Raymark in Manheim. He died in 1976. His wife was the former **Lillie Schlappich**.

As you can see, the age range is from about 12 to 15, roughly 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grades. The rest will be named in Part II.