

## **Delphia and Lena Catlett** (1890-1892 and 1891-1892)

George D. Catlett, the son of a West Virginia farmer, and Mary P. Hutzler were married on 20 Dec 1888, in Berkeley County, WV. After the birth of their first daughter Delphia (21 Jan 1890, in Fairfax, Tucker County, WV), George, who had been raised on his father's farm in Berkeley County, came to Brunswick like many others, seeking employment with the B&O Railroad. A second daughter Lena M. was born on 28 Nov 1891), and things were looking good for this young family.

However, their happiness was to be short-lived when Delphia, barely two years old, died on 9 Feb 1892. Their grief was only compounded when their second daughter Lena M, not quite 3 months old, also died 11 days later. George and Mary were new-comers in this new rapidly expanding railroad town, and they chose to bury their daughters in the town's Old Burying Ground, as it was known. Although they were probably of limited means in the early years of their marriage, they had a nice marble stone erected over their daughters' graves.

George soon found himself as an engineer on the railroad, a position he held for many years. He was also involved in local politics, serving on the town council and at one time serving as chairman of the district central committee of the Republican Party.

George and Mary went on to have 6 other children, all of whom survived into adulthood (see list below).

His career as railroad engineer ended abruptly in December 1927, when an accident on the railroad necessitated the amputation of one leg. His recovery was complicated by diabetes and heart trouble, and he finally succumbed six years later on 16 June 1933, at the age of 67. He was buried in the Park Heights Cemetery in Brunswick. His wife, who died 16 years later, was buried beside him.

*Descendants.* George and Mary's 6 children who lived to be adults were:

- Raymond Wentzell (1892-1970) married Etta Mullen (1892-?) and moved to Baltimore where he worked as a clerk for the railroad. Their daughter Nadine (1918-1976) married Thomas R.H. Carr, and they had two children, Nancy and John. Raymond was exempted from the WWI draft because he had been shot in the leg.
- John Harley (1895-1966) married Mabel Thompson (1915-2000). John served in WWI. After the war, he farmed for a while, then married (at age 36; Mabel was 19), moved to 215 West Potomac Street, and worked as a brakeman on the railroad. They had a son John (1934-?).
- Harry Samuel (1895-1976), Harley's twin brother, never married. He also served in WWI. He continued to make his home with his parents at 509 East Potomac Street, and

made a living initially by farming, following which he worked as the janitor at the elementary school, where his sister taught. He died at the Vindobona nursing home in Braddock Heights, MD

- Mary Edith (1898-1954), married John (“George”) Koogle, a trainman on the railroad. They had four children, one of whom was Ernie Koogle, known to me before his death in 2017. His widow Barbara lives in St. Petersburg, FL.
- Bertha Lee (1902-1988) became a school teacher. She married a coalminer from Wisconsin by the name of Roy Whitney Atkinson (1894-1962) in Mt. Vernon, WA, in 1927. He later became a state organizer for the CIO. They had three children: Elton (1928), Robert (1929), and Evelyn (1931).
- Helen Virginia (1906-1997) was a school teacher, and lived with her mother and brother Harry until she got married at a later age to Roy Jacob Lenhart (1905-1997) and moved to Middletown. They had no children.

Delphia’s and Lena’s common grave marker



509 East Potomac Street, Home of George and Mary Catlett in Brunswick (2020 photo)

