

## Leonard S. House (1843-1929) and Family Civil War Veteran

Lawson and Mary Rebecca (Ridenbaugh) House were among the earlier settlers of Berlin. In 1868, he affirmed that he had lived in his house on Lot 56 for “over 40 years,” which would go back to at least 1828, before the canal or the railroad had come to Berlin. [Note: Leonard Smith laid out the village of Berlin in 1787 and started selling lots shortly thereafter. Lot 56 would be present-day 8 S. Maryland Ave, although the original house was replaced by the current house during the early 1900’s.]

Lawson and Mary were married in 1834. Their fourth child, **Leonard House**, whose family is the focus of this report, was born in 1843.

The 1850 census shows 7-year old Leonard living with his father (a laborer), his mother, and 4 siblings.

I was unable to find Lawson and Mary’s family in the 1860 census, but Leonard at that time was living in Berlin with David and Elizabeth House and their family. Obviously related, but I am not sure how.

*Involvement in the Civil War.* Several months after the outbreak of the Civil War, the state of Maryland was authorized to organize the Potomac Home Brigade, the purpose of which was to protect the B&O Railroad from the Confederate Army. Leonard, who was working as a laborer in Berlin at the time, enlisted in Company H in August 1862. A month later, he found himself in Harpers Ferry as part of the Union forces defending that strategic town against Stonewall Jackson. The Union Army surrendered on September 15, and this new private found himself being marched to Camp Parole, near Annapolis. *Had they not been taken prisoner and been placed on parole at that time, they would have marched to Antietam to participate in that slaughter just two days later.*

They spent the winter at Camp Parole until a prisoner exchange was arranged in the spring. They then returned to their original assignment, which was “for the protection of the canal and the property and persons of loyal citizens of the neighborhood, and to be stationed in the vicinity whilst in the service.”

However, as the war progressed, they were called on to participate in some significant battles, most notably the Battle of Gettysburg (July 3-5, 1863), and the Battle of Monocacy (July 9, 1864).

On April 8, 1865, members of the 1<sup>st</sup> PHB were transferred to the 13<sup>th</sup> Maryland Infantry Regiment (MIR). The following day, April 9, Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, ending the war. The 13<sup>th</sup> MIR was disbanded on May 29, 1865, and Leonard House, along with the others, mustered out of service at that time.

Leonard’s mother died in 1864 while he was serving in the army.

Shortly after returning home from the war (in 1867 or ’68), Leonard married Mary E. (aka Elizabeth). They were soon blessed with their first child Arthur.

In 1870, Leonard and his young family, along with his brother Martin and his young family, were living in Loudoun County, across the river from Berlin. Their widowed father was still living in Berlin with his three youngest children.

An 1873 map of Berlin (see below) indicates that Leonard's family was living on Lot 54 [current-day 35 West Potomac Street, across from where the museum now stands], just a half block north of his father's house.

Leonard's father Lawson House died in 1879 or 1880.

In 1880, Leonard, now 35 years old, was working as a laborer, living in Berlin with his wife and 11-year old son Arthur. Their second child Hattie was born in 1881.

The 1890 census was destroyed in a fire, but that same year a schedule was made enumerating Union veterans and widows of Union veterans. It listed Leonard S. House, private, PHB, Company H. Address: Barry, Frederick County, MD. Barry was the name of the post office in Berlin/Brunswick at that time.

Between 1893 and 1904, Leonard served as a pall bearer at several funerals, as recorded in the *Brunswick Herald*, including that of Civil War comrade Battle Bond in 1898.

The 1900 census of Brunswick listed no occupation for Leonard. Their two adult children were still living with them at that time. Arthur, 31, was a brakeman on the railroad, and Hattie, 19, was single.

Tragedy struck the family in 1901, when their son Arthur, age 33, met with an untimely death. The *Brunswick Herald* described the event in detail: "While coming up across the yard, a hard rain came up and it is supposed he took shelter under a box car, standing alone on one of the tracks. There, it seems he took out his handkerchief, spread it down on a rail, and laid down and went to sleep with his head on the rail and both hands back of his head. Shortly after a single car was thrown into this track by one of the shifters and the force of this car moved the car under which Arthur was lying and the wheels crushed his life out." **Arthur House** was buried in a family plot at the north end of the Old Berlin Cemetery, the first of six people to be buried in that family plot.

In 1903, Hattie married Charles William Garfield ("William") Lutman of WV. They would become parents of two children: Claud (1905) and Arthur (1908). They were living with her parents in 1910, at which time her father's occupation was listed as "own income."

After only 10 years of marriage, **Hattie Lutman** died (in 1913), leaving her husband William with two young children. She was buried in the same family plot as her brother in the Old Berlin Cemetery.

Leonard's wife **Mary E. House** died in 1915. She was also buried in the family plot.

William later remarried, and in 1920, he and his new wife Cecelia V., along with his two sons, were living with Leonard and Mary on Wenner Street (present-day W. Potomac Street). William, according to the census taken 10 years later, was an engineer on the railroad.

**Leonard House** died in 1929. He was buried in the family plot in the Old Berlin Cemetery. He and Mary share a tombstone which bears the inscription: "We put all our trust in the Lord/ Yes we rest from all our laborers[sic]."

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Note 1: Leonard's two older brothers Martin and Lawson also served in the Potomac Home Brigade. They are buried elsewhere, however.

Note 2: Two other people, last name Ray, are buried in this family plot. No relation.

1873



L.S. and Mary E. House



Arthur C. House



Hattie M. (House) Lutman

