

Harvey J. Ray (1885-1905) William E. Ray (1879-1908)

(Note: There are two families by the name of Ray buried in the Old Berlin Cemetery, who do not appear to be closely related. See also **William J.** and **Margaret Ray** for information about the other family.)

In the northern end of the Old Berlin Cemetery, in the fenced-in House family plot, are two tombstones marking the graves of Harvey J. Ray and William E. Ray. There is another Ray family buried in another part of the cemetery, but these two men did not seem to be related to them. So, who are they, and why were they buried in the House family plot?

From their death certificates, we know the names of their parents: William Ray and Catherine Lenhart, and that they were “natives of Maryland.” A careful scrutinizing of the 1900 census in Brunswick failed to show anyone by the name of Ray there at that time. Nor was I able to find this family anywhere else in Maryland (or anywhere else in the U.S., for that matter).

The first mention of the family was a report in *The Brunswick Herald* of the death of 20-year old **Harvey J. Ray** in October 1905. He died at his home in Brunswick of typhoid fever, leaving his mother and one brother. His death certificate indicates that he was unmarried, and was a laborer. He was buried in a family plot owned by the House family. I was unable to find any connection between these two families. The inscription on his tombstone reads: “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”

Just a little over two years later, in January 1908, *The Herald* reported the death of 28-year old **William Ray**, who also died of typhoid fever at his home on Wenner Hill, leaving behind a widow, “the former Miss Jacobs of Loudoun County” and his mother. The death certificate gives his widow’s name as Amelia Catherine Ray. William, like his brother, was a laborer. He was buried beside his brother. The inscription on his tombstone reads: “Home is sad, Oh God, how dreary/ Lonesome, lonesome every spot/ Listen for his voice until weary/ Weary for we hear it not.”

A memorial entry in *The Herald* a year later reads “In remembrance of my son Harvey J. Ray... who departed this life October 8, 1905. Poem by his mother. In remembrance, 1 year ago this 15th day of January, 1908, we laid to rest our husband and son, William Ray. Poem by his wife and mother.”

There is no mention of the boys’ father when they died (other than the listing of his name on their death certificates), so he may have died prior to 1905. I have been unable to find what became of the boys’ mother after they died.

William Edgar Ray's young widow Amelia Catherine ("Katie") remarried Lewis Richard Funk not too long after her husband's death. Lewis was a carpenter involved in building houses in the booming town of Brunswick. They had one son, Stanley Benjamin Funk, who later had quite a colorful career as a captain in the merchant marine service. His first two marriages (in 1947 and 1950) ended in divorce, but apparently his third wife was a keeper. They had three children, plus three from her previous marriage; 27 grandchildren; and 41 great grandchildren when he died at age 96.

Amelia (1887-1942) and Lewis Richard Funk (1880-1963) are buried in the Lovettsville Union Cemetery, along with her parents.

These are the tombstones for William Edgar Ray and Harvey J. Ray in the Old Berlin Cemetery:

