

William J. Ray (1849-1885)
His wife Margaret Ann Elliott Ray (1851-1891)
Their son William W. Ray (1872-1878)
Their daughter Margaret (Maggie) Ray (1851-1891)
William's mother Eliza Ridenbaugh Ray (1819-1884)

(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 E. Ray** and **Harvey J. Ray** for the other family.)

William J. Ray was born in 1849, the second child of William and Eliza Ray, innkeepers in Washington County. His older brother Robert was born in 1838. We have no record of other children in this family.

In 1860, 11-year old William was the only child at home with his mother and his 80-year old grandmother Margaret Ridenbaugh, both of whom were apparently widows. They were then living in the Petersville District, with a Burkittsville Post Office address, which included the village of Berlin. (I was unable to find his brother Robert in the 1860 census. There are two individuals by that name in the 1870 census, both born in Maryland: Robert Ray, a 36-year old bricklayer in Baltimore, married with two children; and Robert Ray, a 33-year old grist mill worked in Washington County, Illinois. One of these may have been William's brother.)

In 1870, William (21 yo) and his mother were living together in Berlin. He was working as a farmhand. An 1873 map of Berlin shows Eliza Ray living on Lot #76. This would be approximately where Mommer's Diner was located on S. Maple Avenue. Also living in Berlin at that time was William's future wife, **Margaret Ann Elliott**, 19-year old daughter of William Elliott, foreman on a ballast train, and his wife Susannah. (A ballast train spreads crushed rock along the railroad to stabilize the ties that hold the rails.). The Elliotts were living on Lot #30, which today is part of the CSX commuter parking lot, across the tracks from the end of Maryland Avenue.

William and Margaret were married around 1871. We have a record of three children having been born to this union: **William W. Ray** was born in 1872 and died at the age of 6. He appears to have been the first member of this family to be buried in the Old Berlin Cemetery. Estella Ray was also born in 1872, perhaps a twin of William W. The third child was **Margaret A.R. Ray** (same name as her mother), nicknamed "Maggie," born in 1874.

The 1880 census shows William Ray living with his widowed mother in Berlin, and now working on the railroad. His exact job description was not listed. 8-year old Stella was also living with them, and 5-year old Margaret ("Maggie") was living with his in-laws, the Elliotts. Interestingly, William's wife Margaret was not listed with either household.

William's mother **Eliza Ray** died in 1884. She was buried beside her grandson William W. Ray.

William J. Ray died in a railroad accident at Frederick Junction in 1885 when he was caught between two cars while uncoupling them. He was buried in OBC with his mother and his son.

In 1886, William W. Elliott was awarded guardianship of his grand-daughters Estella (14) and Maggie (12), although their mother was still living.

Margaret A.R. Ray (William's wife) died in 1891. She was buried in OBC with her husband and son. 17-year old Maggie came under the guardianship of her aunt Mary Elliott.

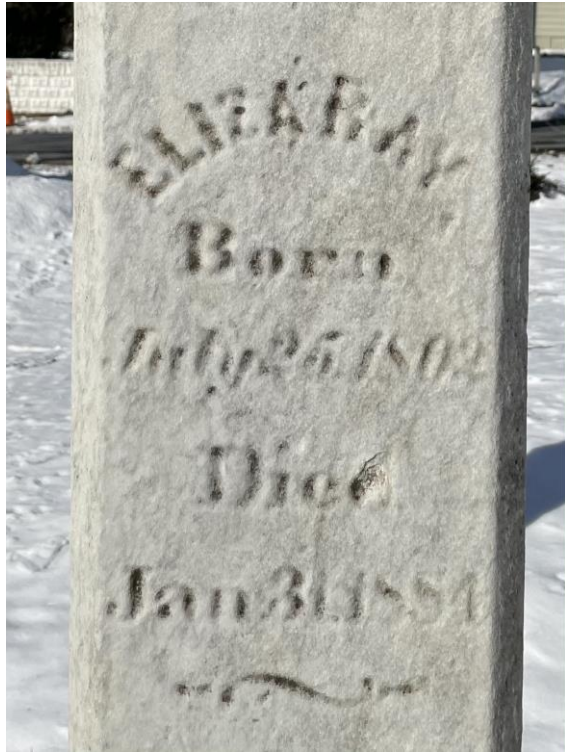
"Maggie" Ray (Margaret) died in 1898, age 24, of "throat consumption." She was the last of the immediate Ray family living in Brunswick. She was buried in the OBC with her family, although her name is not engraved on the family grave marker or any other tombstone.

Estella Ray, the only surviving sibling, had married a Mr. Harris, probably in the 1890's, and had moved "out west." I was unable to find her in the 1900 census or subsequent censuses.

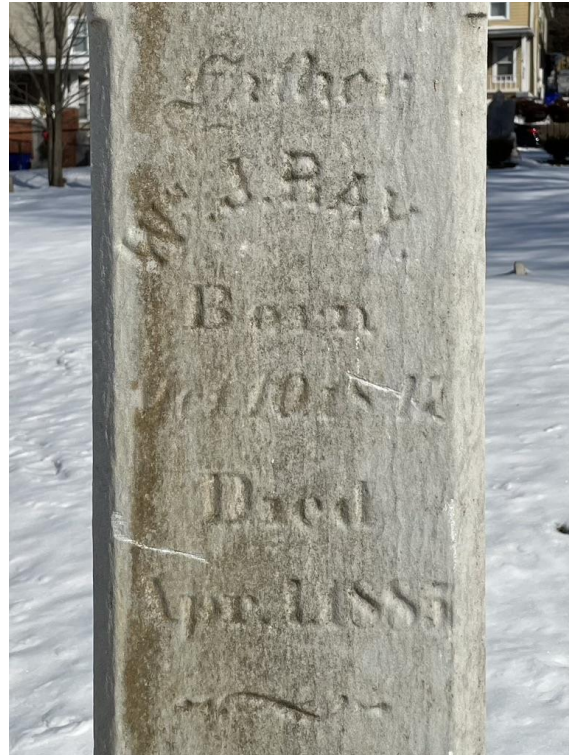
Note: Margaret Ray's parents, **William W. and Susanna Elliott**, are buried behind the Rays. In this picture, the Ray tombstone is the taller one on the right. The Elliotts are on the left.



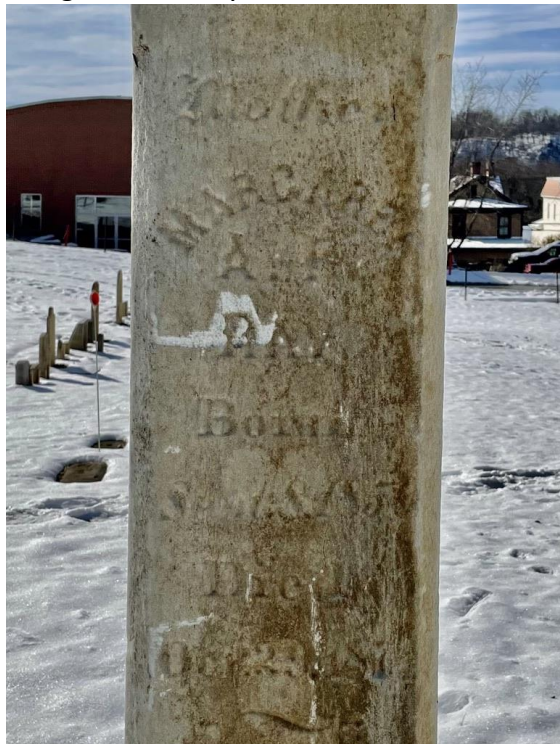
Eliza Ridenbaugh Ray



William J. Ray, son of Eliza



Margaret A.R. Ray, William's wife



William W. Ray, son of William and Margaret

