Ackerman Cheat Sheet

I. Jacob Ackermann (1855-1910) md. (w1) Annie Weppler (d. 1885 during childbirth)
- A. Harry Ackerman (1885-___) md. Bernice ___
  - no children

I. Franz Theodore Gossmann (d. 1887) md. Christine Kühnle (1862-1936)
- A. Christine "Teen" Gossmann (1886-1966) md. William Wilson (___-1951)
  - Dorothy Wilson
  - Billy Wilson (___-1958)

I. Jacob Ackermann md. (w2) Christine (Kühnle) Gossmann
- A. Katharine Ackerman (1889-1909) md. Frank A. Konrad
  - 1. Had daughter Kathryn (1908-_) who md. William Turner Sr (1905-1974):
    - a. William Turner Jr
    - b. Donald Turner
- B. Jacob "Jack" Ackerman (1891-1979) md. Marie Fox (1894-1968)
  - no children; The family did not see much of Jack, though he submitted poems to newspapers upon someone's sickness or death.
- C. Elizabeth Ackerman (1893-1974) md. Frank Frederick (1890-1975)
  - 1. Annette Frederick (1930-living) md. David Skinner (1929-living)
- D. Carolyn Ackerman (1895-1980) md. Joseph Williman (1897-___)
  - 1. Norman Williman (1921-1980)
- E. Mary Ackerman (1879-1930) md. Joseph Rexer (___-1942)
  - 1. Ethel – died young
  - 2. Mildred (1917-1974) md. Thomas Lawson
  - 3. Mary Elizabeth (1920-___) md. Lloyd Wunder
  - 4. Jean (1922-___) md. Henry "Henny" Scheutz Jr.
- F. Emma Ackerman (1901-1993) md. Louis Fleck (1896-1946)
  - 1. Barbara Fleck (1943-2019) - adopted
- G. Fred Ackerman (1904-1964) md. Adeline Breyer (1905-1992)
  - no children
  - Adeline was dau. of John Breyer (d.1957) and Amelia ___(1886-1980)
  - Adeline had brother John Breyer who married Agnes ___

Frederick Cheat Sheet

I. Jesse Gerhart (____-1917) md. Many Amanda Nase
children – Frank, Calvin, Carrie, Katharine, Etta (m. Henry Smith), Amanda, Charles, Ellamina (m. John Bossert), Annie (m. Morris Zendt Frederick)

Annie Nase Gerhart (1869-1925) md. Morris Zendt Frederick (1869-1915)

1. Frank Russell Frederick (1890-1975) md. Elizabeth Ackerman (1893-1974)
2. .Oscar Frederick (1892-1956) md. May Spicer
    a. Evelyn (m. Lloyd McClennan)
    b. Raymond (m. Etta)
    c. William (m. Evelyn)
3. Jesse Frederick (1895-1969) md. Marie Kensil (1894-1968)
    a. R. Kensil ;Ken' Frederick md. (w1) Marilyn and (w2) Barbara
4. .LeRoy 'Roy' Frederick (___-1967) md. Dora
    a. George (m. Marion Miller)
5. Mark Frederick Sr. (1899-1985) md. Florence
    a. Mark Jr. (m. Edith)
    b. Ernest
    c. Robert (m. Jennie)
    d. Charles (m. Lois)
    e. Carl
    f. Jay
    g. Glenn (m. Mildred)
    h. Ethel (m. Pep Geluppi)
    i. Betty Jane (m. John Heligor)
    j. Stella (m. Allen Smith)
    k. Nancy.
6. Stella Frederick (19011964) md. Raymond Thompson (___-1955)
    no children
7. Viola Frederick (19041990) md., ___Greaser, who walked out on her
    a. Leon (m. Ruth)
    b. Russell (m. Cleta)
    c. Lorraine (m. Ernest 'Bud' Nyce)
    d. Joan (m. Berstein)
    e. Jerry Ann (m. Leslie Rollins)
8. Sadie Frederick (1906-___) md. Clark Repogle (1895-1962)
    no children

The Ackermans and Fredericks

Annette Skinner, my mother, is the daughter of Elizabeth Ackerman and Frank Frederick.

Elizabeth Marie Ackerman [9/11/1893–10/30/1974] was usually called ‘Liz’ or ‘Lizzie’, names she never liked. A few people called her Beth. When dating Frank in her youth, she used the name Bess, or ‘B’ for short. Her last name of Ackermann, a German name, was shortened to Ackerman early in life.

Frank Frederick [11/18/1890–12/8/1975] was born Frank Russell Frederick, but later took the name of Frank Gerhart Frederick – Gerhart being his mother’s maiden surname. Gerhart was also the middle name of all of Frank’s siblings.

The Ackermann and Frederick families were all of German ancestry – 100 percent, though their stories are quite a bit different. Liz’s parents, the Ackermanns, had been recent arrivals to this country, emigrating from Germany to Philadelphia in the 1880’s. They were an urban, ethnic family – a lively group who lived in rental row homes, worked blue-collar jobs and kept their German language and culture alive at home and at church.

Frank’s ancestors were a cluster of families of German descent that had been living and inter-marrying in northeastern Pennsylvania for five and six generations dating back to the early 1730’s. They were part of the massive German immigration to Philadelphia in the 1700’s that created the conservative German belt of farms and towns that surround Philadelphia to this day. The immigrants were German protestants of many sects, including Mennonites. Frank’s maternal grandmother was writing in Pennsylvania Dutch in school in the mid-1800’s, but the family was speaking English by the time of Frank’s birth in 1890.

The ancestors of Frank Frederick are the earliest of my ancestors to come to America, probably predating the English on my paternal (Skinner) side. The parents of Liz Ackerman, emigrating from Germany to the US in the 1880’s, were the most recent arrivals in my family.

Frank and Liz would be the last generation of their families to marry within the German community – their only child, my mother, married outside the German community.



Frank and Liz, circa 1911



This photo, cut from a group shot, sat on Frank's secretary-style desk during his life.



Liz and friend Lillian Liebert, undated



Liz and Frank Frederick – Her 75th Birthday, 11 Sep 1968



Frank and Liz with their daughter Annette and family
Frank's 75th Birthday, 18 Nov 1965
[DES slides]

The Ackermans

Liz Ackerman was born and raised in the Port Richmond section of northeast Philadelphia. Port Richmond is located on the Delaware River about 2 ½ miles north of center city. The family lived about a mile inland from the river near Allegheny Avenue. The area was heavily populated by immigrants from the states that would comprise the future country of Germany, particularly southern Germany.

Their neighborhood of small row homes was home to a large immigrant population – Germans at first, and later Irish. The Ackerman's were living at 2918 Victoria Street in 1893, when Liz was born, 3170 Mercer Street in 1900, when Liz was age seven, and a few blocks away at 3172 Belgrade St. in 1910 and 1920. Belgrade was the address that my mother (b. 1930) recalls the family reminiscing about.

Ackermann History

Liz's father was Jacob Ackermann who was born in 1855 in the village of Broggingen in the Baden region of Germany, today part of the German state of Baden-Wurttemberg.

Jacob immigrated to Philadelphia in 1880, and married a German gal by the name of Anna Margaret Weppler in 1882. The marriage was performed by Pastor Suckow of the Fifth German Reformed Church in Philadelphia. The church was located on Otis Street, just off Cedar in Philadelphia's Port Richmond neighborhood. Otis Street has disappeared or changed names, so I do not know if the church building is still standing.

In 1885, Jacob and Anna had a son Harry Ackerman. Tragically, Anna died during Harry's birth, though Harry would go on to live a long life, dying at age 83 in 1969. I never met him.

Jacob Ackermann was left a widower with child. At church, he met another German gal, Christine Gossmann, who was also a widow with child. Christine's maiden name had been Kühnle.

Christine Kühnle was born in 1862 in the town of Nekargemund, Baden, Germany. Nekargemund is a few miles up the Neckar River from Heidelberg. Christine's first husband was a learned man by the name of Franz Theodore Gossmann. He was born in the German town of Frankfurt and he and Christine were married in a suburb of Frankfurt in 1885.

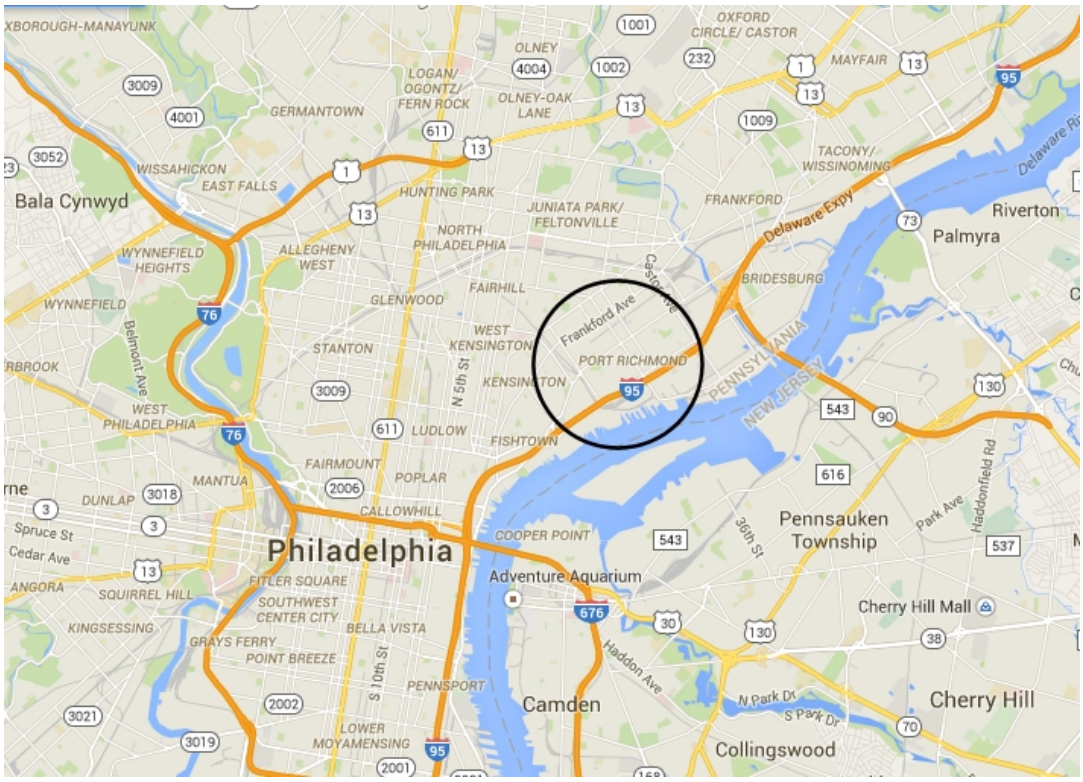
Franz had an uncle who had emigrated to Philadelphia where he was running a grocery store at the corner of Allegheny and Chatham Streets in Port Richmond. The uncle paid the expenses for Franz and Christine to come to Philadelphia as well.

Christine and Frederick emigrated to Philadelphia in 1885 or 1886 and had a daughter Christine (called ‘Teen’) in 1886. Tragically, Franz Gossmann died less than a year later in 1887.

Mutual friends introduced Jacob Ackermann and Christine (nicknamed ‘Jenie’) Gossmann to each other and they married in 1888 at Philadelphia. Pastor Suckow performed the marriage as he had for Jacob’s first marriage. Jacob and Christine already had two young children to raise, Harry and Teen, from their first marriages. Together they had seven additional children – Katharine, Jacob (‘Jack’), Elizabeth (my grandmother), Caroline (Aunt Carrie), Mary, Emma (Aunt Em) and Edward (Uncle Fred). These are the Philadelphia relatives I knew growing up.



Jacob Ackermann was from the small town of Broggingen, Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany. His second wife, Christine Kühnle Gossmann, was from Nekargemund, Baden-Wurttemberg.



Port Richmond Neighborhood, Northeast Philadelphia



Christine (Kühnle) (Gossman) Ackermann (1862-1936)



Christine Ackerman

Liz had this framed photo of her mother sitting on her sewing machine in the guest bedroom when I was growing up.

Child of Jacob Ackermann and Annie Weppler

Harry (1885-1969) - had 2 children

Child of Christine Kühnle and Jacob Gossmann

Christine "Teen" (1886-1966) – had 2 children.

Children of Christine Kühnle Gossman and Jacob Ackermann

Katharine (1889-__) – had 1 child?
Jacob "Jack" (1891-1979) – no children
Elizabeth (1893-1974) – 1 child
Caroline "Carrie" (1895-1980 – 1 child
Mary (1899-1930) – 4 children of which one died young
Emma (1901-1993) – adopted 1 child
Edward "Fred" (1904-1964) - no children

More On the Family

Teen Gossman, whose father died while she was an infant, took the Ackerman surname from her mother's second husband.

Jacob Ackermann, second husband of Christine, died in 1910 at age 55. My grandmother was about age 17 at the time and her youngest siblings Emma and Fred were under the age of ten. I have no photos of Jacob. Mother Christine died decades later in 1936.

Three of the Ackerman children - Harry, Liz and Emma, left Philadelphia as adults. The six others stayed in Philadelphia for the duration of their lives, living in row homes in northeast Philadelphia not far from where they had grown up.

As with other new arrivals to this country, the ethnicity of the family was reinforced at home and at Sunday School, and other church functions, where everything was in German. I can recall my grandmother, Liz Ackerman, and her sister Caroline (Aunt Carrie) laughing as they sang a German song from their youth.

Harry Ackerman (1885-1969), son of Jacob Ackermann and first wife Annie Weppler:



Teen Ackerman (1886-1966), only child of Christine Kühnle and first husband Franz Gossmann:



Christine (center) with daughter Elizabeth, third child from Christine's second marriage to Jacob Ackermann, and daughter Teen, from Christine's previous marriage to Frederick Gossmann.

Kate Ackerman (1889-1909), first child of Christine Kühnle and second husband Jacob Ackerman:



Jacob 'Jack' Ackerman (1891-1979), 2nd child of Christine Kühnle and Jacob Ackerman:



Elizabeth Ackerman (1893-1974), 3rd child of Christine Kühnle and Jacob Ackerman:



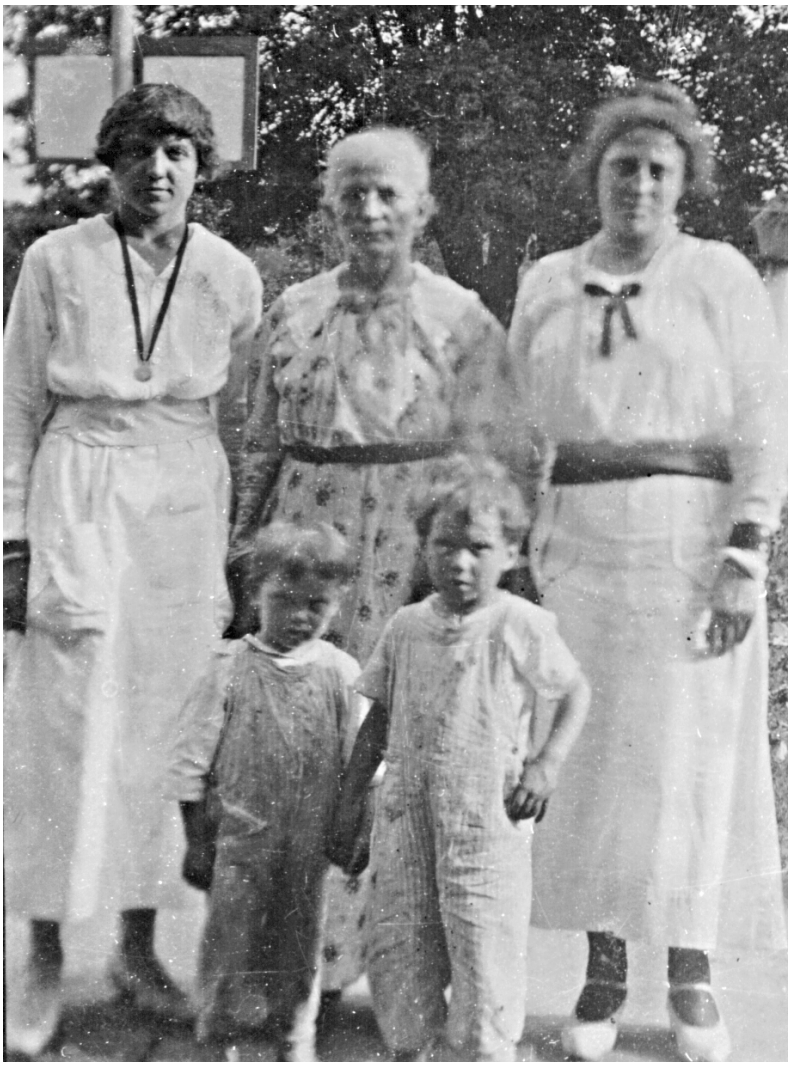
Elizabeth and half-sister Teen, 18 Nov 1965
[DES Slides)

Caroline 'Carrie' Ackerman (1895-1980), 4th child of Christine Kühnle and Jacob Ackerman:



Carrie & Husband Joe Williman, Frederick Residence, Woodbury Hts., NJ

Mary Ackerman (1899-1930), 5th child of Christine Kühnle and Jacob Ackerman:



Christine (center). with daughters Elizabeth (1893-1974) and Mary (1899-1930)
with grandsons of Kate, Kate being elder sister to Elizabeth & Mary.
The grandsons are William Jr. and Donald Turner, born in the 1920's
[tin-type image]

Elizabeth Ackerman looks like my mother (her daughter) in this image

Emma Ackerman (1901-1993), 6th Child of Christine Kühnle and Jacob Ackerman:



Emma and sister Elizabeth with one of their nieces



Mother Christine Ackerman (seated) with daughters Emma, Liz, Carrie and Mary
Ackerman home, 3172 Belgrade St., Philadelphia

Edward 'Fred' Ackerman (1904-1964), 7th Child of Christine Kühnle and Jacob Ackerman:





Fred Ackerman w/Susan & Me
At Right - Frederick Residence, Woodbury Hts., 1959

Fred used to pretend to pull coins out of his ear as he was doing in this photo. After his death, his wife pulled a large cent dated 1794 out of his bureau and gave it to me – now that was a neat trick!



The Ackermans, 1962

Carrie with husband Joe, Liz with husband Frank, Fred Ackerman (in rear, his wife Adeline not shown) and half-brother Harry Ackerman (red shirt) with wife Bernie



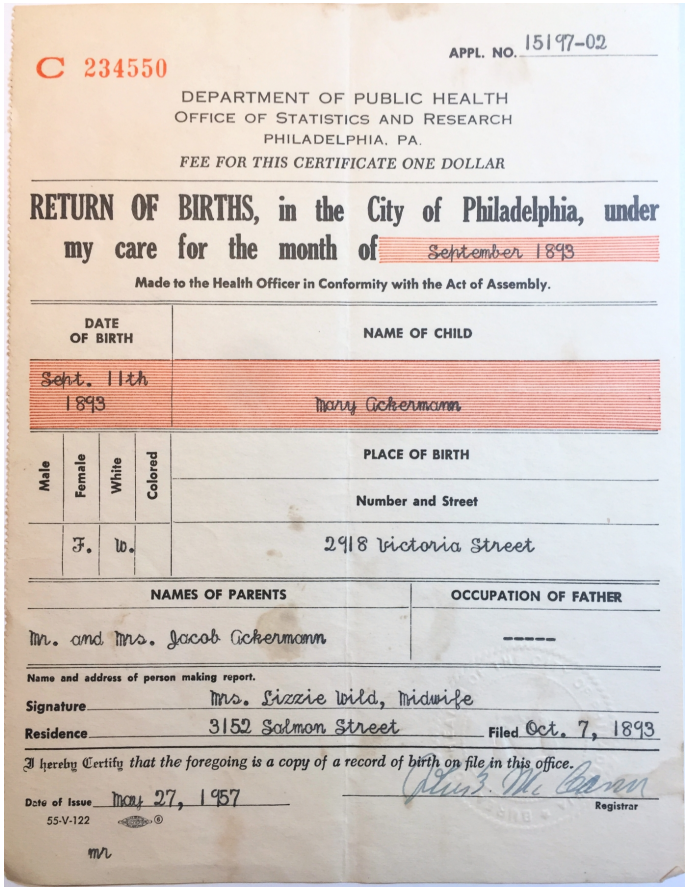
Sisters Emma, Carrie & Liz
Aug, 1963

Liz Ackerman

Elizabeth Ackerman was born Mary Elizabeth Ackerman in 1893. She was born in her parent's rental home at 2918 Victoria Street in northeast Philadelphia with the help of a mid-wife.

Her family were members of St. Johns German Evangelical Reformed Church (St. Johannes Kirche) located at 3391 Frankford Avenue, on the S/E corner of Frankford Ave. and Ontario Streets.

Elizabeth was christened at the church as Maria Elizabethe, a month after her birth. Her godparents were George & Katharine Ohlschlager. She received her church confirmation at the church in 1908, at age 14, as Elizabeth Marie.



C 234550

APPL. NO. 15197-02

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
OFFICE OF STATISTICS AND RESEARCH
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

FEE FOR THIS CERTIFICATE ONE DOLLAR

RETURN OF BIRTHS, in the City of Philadelphia, under my care for the month of September 1893

Made to the Health Officer in Conformity with the Act of Assembly.

DATE OF BIRTH	NAME OF CHILD
Sept. 11th 1893	Mary Ackermann

Male	Female	White	Colored	PLACE OF BIRTH
	F.	W.		Number and Street: 2918 Victoria Street

NAMES OF PARENTS	OCCUPATION OF FATHER
Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Ackermann	-----

Name and address of person making report.

Signature Mrs. Lizzie Wild, Midwife

Residence 3152 Salmon Street Filed Oct. 7, 1893

I hereby Certify that the foregoing is a copy of a record of birth on file in this office.

Date of Issue May 27, 1957

55-V-122

Registrar

mr

Record of Birth, 1893



Christening, St. John's Church, 1893
Pastor Johannes Voegelin



Liz at the time of Church Confirmation, not quite age 15
[Annette's writing]



Certificate of Church Confirmation, 1908, at age 14
Pastor George Miller

St. Johns German Reformed Church

The German Reformed churches provided a spiritual and social home for German immigrants in southeastern Pennsylvania. The church was based upon the teachings of the Protestant Reformation and subsequent writings like the 1563 Heidelberg Catechism. As the German population grew in the Philadelphia area, first in the 1700's and then in urban areas in the late 1800's, supporting churches grew to provide a home for the immigrants. Colleges also developed, including the well-known Franklin & Marshall and Ursinus colleges.

St. Johns was located at 3391 Frankford Avenue, at the intersection with Ontario Street. The building is still standing today though the whereabouts of the original German records is unknown. Like many Protestant churches, St. Johns was absorbed by the United Church of Christ in the 20th century and later resold for non-religious use. The building is currently a neighborhood food pantry



St. John's Church building in 2025

St. Johns provided an active social life for Liz in terms of the church services and Sunday School classes and excursions. The church even had a basketball team. In 1909, her close circle of German friends from the church included future husband Frank Frederick. At the time they became aware of each other, Liz was age 16, Frank was 18. They would date fourteen years until their marriage in 1923.

GERMAN.

Bethlehem, Norris and Blair: Rev. F. W. Kratz, 2210 Dauphin. 10½ A.M., 7½ P.M.

Emanuel, Thirty-eighth and Baring: Rev. A. E. Hofer, 413 N. Thirty-eighth. 10½ A.M., 7½ P.M.

Emanuel, Bridesburg: Rev. John B. Forster, 2631 Weiser. 10 A.M., 1½, 7½ P.M.

Salem, Fairmount av. bel. Fourth: Rev. F. W. Berleman, 341 Fairmount av. 10¼ A.M., 7½ P.M.

St. John, Frankford and Ontario: Rev. John Voegelin, 3391 F kford av.

St. Lucas, Twenty-sixth bel. Girard av.: Rev. M. F. Dumstrey, 921 N. Twenty-sixth.

St. Mark, Fifth ab. Huntingdon: Rev. G. A. Scheer, 2404 N. Sixth.

St. Matthew, Fifth ab. Venango: Rev. U. O. Silvius, 3725 N. Fifth.

St. Paulus, Wharton ab. Eighteenth: Rev. Philipp Vollmer, Ph. D., 1315 Ward. 10½ A.M., 4 P.M.

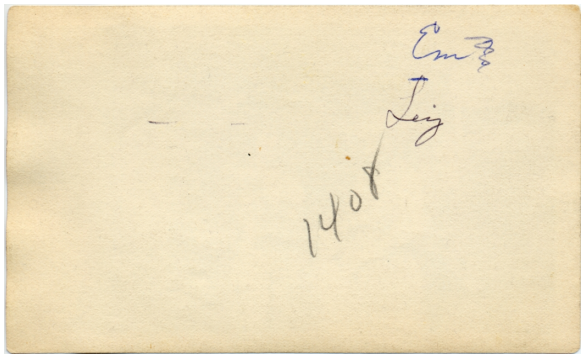
Zion, Sixth ab. Girard av.: Rev. P. H. Dippel, 1230 N. Sixth. Rev. Nicholas Gehr, D. D., 2404 N. Sixth, pastor emeritus. 11¼ A.M., 7½ P.M.

St. John's Church, 3391 Frankford Avenue

Philadelphia German Churches, 1898 Public Almanac, Philadelphia [Books.Google.Com]

Pastor John Voegelin had christened Elizabeth in 1893



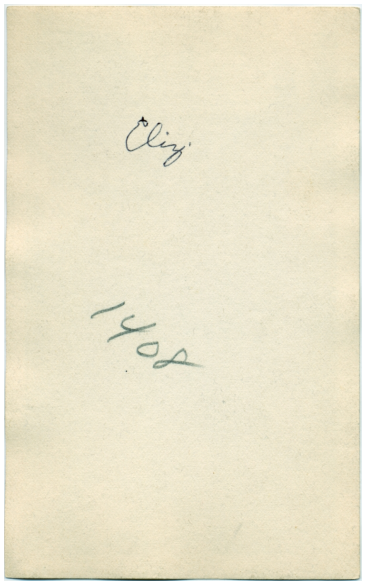


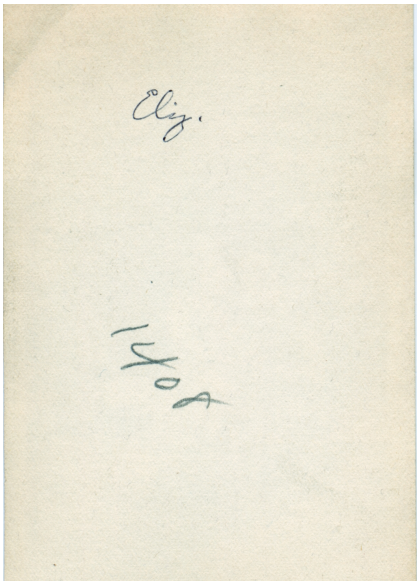
Sisters Emma and Liz and unnamed niece
Ackerman home, 3172 Belgrade St., Philadelphia, circa 1920's
[Annette's writing on the back of nearly every photo]

Liz and Emma had a sister Mary who had daughters Mildred (born 1917), Elizabeth (born 1920) and Jean, which explains the young girls that appear in some of the photos in the 1920's.









Elizabeth Ackerman, 3172 Belgrade Street, Philadelphia, circa 1920’s

The Fredericks

Frank Frederick, husband of Liz Ackerman, grew up in Telford, a small town in a rural area about 30 miles north of Philadelphia. Frank's paternal and maternal ancestors had been in the Telford area for five or six generations, dating back to the 1730's. All of Frank's ancestors had emigrated from a region of Germany called the Palatinate. In America, all of the marriages in Frank's family in the 1700's and 1800's had been within families of German descent in the Telford area.

By 1900, Frank's family was speaking English at home, but with a touch of the Pennsylvania Dutch accent common to the Telford/Souderton area. This differed from the family of his future wife - the Ackermans, who had emigrated from Germany to Philadelphia in the 1880's and were speaking German at home.

The German Migration

The Germans are the largest group of immigrants to come to America, second only to the English. The German immigration began early in American history. The town of Germantown, a suburb of Philadelphia, was settled by the late 1600's.

In the 1700's, a unique, large-scale migration of German people began, all from one region of Germany called the Palatinate. Many of these Palatinate immigrants settled in Pennsylvania, and by 1770, one-third of the residents of Pennsylvania were of German descent. Frank's ancestors were part of this Palatinate migration. On my father's side, the Showalters were a part of this same Palatinate migration.

The term Pennsylvania Dutch [corrupted from Deutsch] refers to Palatinate immigrants, principally the Mennonites and Amish, who continue to practice their German religious customs today. Other German immigrants, who no longer have a strong German culture, are referred to as simply German Americans.

German immigration widened during the 1800's. Eight million additional Germans immigrated to the US involving all regions of Germany and spreading out across the continental US. After 1850, many of these immigrants stayed in America's cities instead of seeking farmland. The family of Frank Frederick's future wife, the Ackermann's, were a part of this migration of the 1800's, immigrating from various regions of Germany to Philadelphia in the 1880's.

The Palatinate

With the Protestant Reformation of the 1500's and the increasing power of European states, the control of Europe by the Holy Roman Empire (Catholic church) began to be replaced by a fragmented struggle over power, religion and land by various European entities in the 1600's and 1700's.

In the 1700's, the map of Europe looked nothing like that of today. For example, the country of Germany did not exist. Instead, the German people lived in numerous separate states. One of the larger states was the Palatinate, located on the Rhine River in the southwest, just north of the Alsace region of France, and not far from Switzerland. The Palatinate became the home of protestants persecuted by Catholic Europe.

The government of the Palatinate offered limited religious freedom to Protestants in an attempt to re-populate war-torn lands. Protestant members of the Lutheran and German Reformed churches began to move there. Other Protestant sects came as well. Persecuted Mennonites, who had fled from German sections of Switzerland to the Alsace region of France, began relocating to the Palatinate. The Amish, a strict splinter group of the Mennonites, were located in Alsace and the Palatinate as well. And the protestant Huguenots, persecuted by France, also fled to the Alsace region and the Palatinate. These groups adopted the 'High German' language of the Palatinate. The ancestors of the Gerhart family on Frank Frederick's maternal side were said to include protestant French Huguenots from the Alsace region.

Many of the ancestors of Frank Frederick in America had been Mennonites –

> "The Mennonites tended to live high moral lives characterized by industriousness, honesty, and hard work. They shunned profanity, swearing, drunkenness, or other deeds of "the flesh." They attempted to maintain peaceful relations with their fellowmen, were obedient to the government, and approached life with a religious intensity."
> [http://www.swissmennonite.org/history/palatinate.html]



Map of German Regions Today
[www,seawhy.com]

The Migration

The Palatinate was a tough place to live in the 1600's and early 1700's. The French repeatedly moved into the area, torching towns in the process. Spain, another Catholic country, did the same. The leaders of the Palatinate and neighboring German provinces were often at odds with one another and frequently changed allegiances. As a result, the prescribed religion of the Palatinate changed fifteen times over the course of 100 years. There were too many immigrants for the available land and the inhabitants were often on the run. And high taxes made it impossible to make ends meet. To top everything off, the winter of 1709/1710 was unusually cold, freezing the Rhine River, and resulting in starvation.

Desperate people began a migration down the Rhine River (the river flows to the north) to Rotterdam in Holland, where they were offered help by Protestant England, with thousands taking a boat to England, and ending up in tent cities around London.

In Pennsylvania, William Penn was in need of Protestant immigrants to populate the land and to build a strong economy. In England, his friend Queen Anne desired the same. Penn actually visited the Palatinate and implemented an advertising campaign there. The German farmers were renowned for their highly productive animal husbandry and agricultural practices.

The Palatine squatters who had been camped around London were sent to America and a flood of people back in the Palatinate were ready to follow. Thus, a unique 'chain' migration was set in place. 100,000 Germans would come to America from the Palatinate by 1750, including 2500 Mennonites and some Amish. Some additional Mennonites came directly from Holland as well.

The boat travel was brutal. The boat ride down the Rhine (north to Rotterdam, Netherlands) took several months, with hungry, sick people packed in boats, waiting for each local authority to approve passage. The passengers were ill-treated and taken advantage of. The trip across the Atlantic from Rotterdam to Philadelphia took an additional four weeks. Deadly typhoid fever became known as the Palatine fever.

> The conditions under which the great mass of emigrants left the Old Land were a reflection of the times. Famine, unemployment, poverty, and the brutal arm of the law hastened the exodus, and the unwary were exploited and cheated at both ends of the journey and frequently bullied and starved aboard ship as well. But there is a sense of racial destiny in the march from the Old World to the New. [http://www.sunnetworks.net/~ggarman/palatine.html[

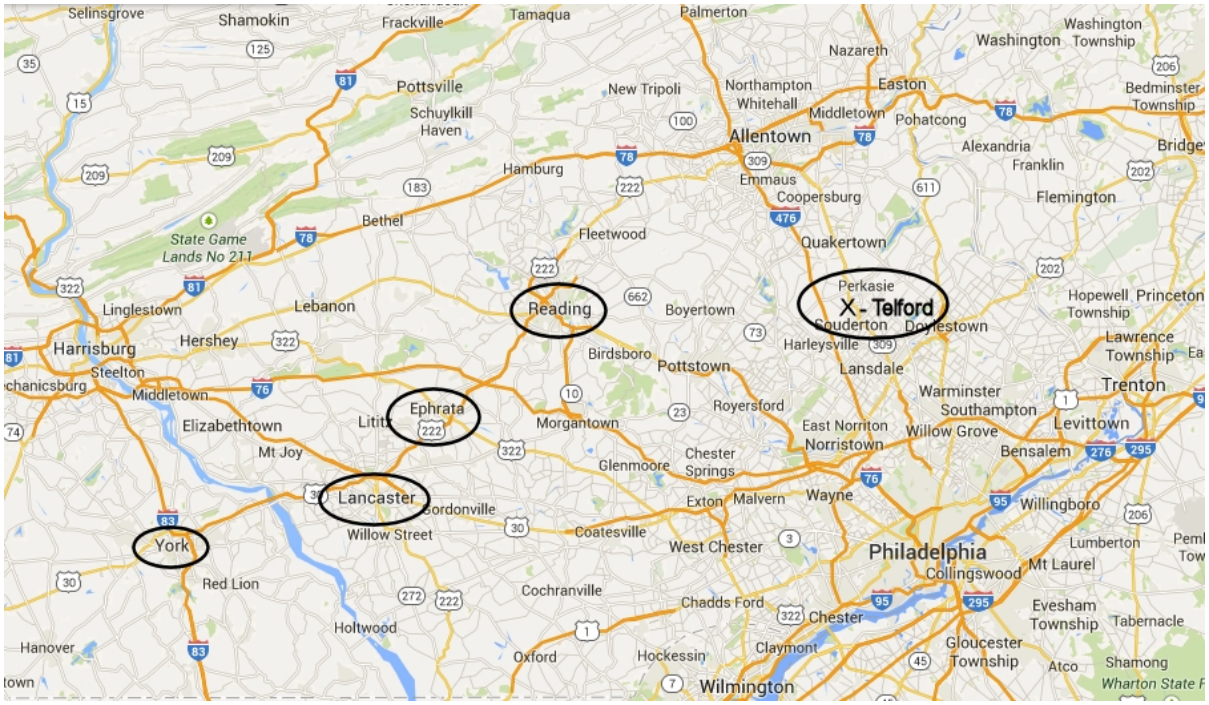
The Invaders

“Thousands of German emigrants followed their countrymen in the following decades to North America. In 1727, the newcomers were arriving in such great numbers that the English colonists in Pennsylvania were disturbed to see the steady flow of non-English settlers pouring through the port of Philadelphia. In order to keep this movement under control, the assembly passed a law in 1727 that all 'Palatines' be required to take an Oath of Allegiance to the British Crown. Between 1740 and 1756 there were 30.000 male adults who took the Oath of Allegiance.

A real mass migration had started. ….. Large parts of the Country of Pennsylvania as well as the Northern part of Maryland soon had a 'thoroughly German character' as is stated in contemporary reports. … Benjamin Franklin for example said. *Why should the Palatine Boors be suffered to swarm into our settlements, and by herding together establish their language and manners to the exclusion of ours? Why should Pennsylvania founded by Englishmen suffer to become a colony of foreigners who shortly will be so numerous as to Germanize us instead of Anglifying them...*”
[http://www.claudeshawbell.com/genealogy/pa/gerimgrpa.html]

The Geography

The Palatine emigrants settled in the undeveloped rural areas 20-60 miles around the Philadelphia suburbs, creating a wide area of farmland in the vicinity of the future towns of York, Lancaster, Reading, Telford, etc. Most were Lutheran or German Reformed with some Mennonites and Amish.



Frank's ancestors settled in the Perkiomen/Telford/Souderton area north of Philadelphia. Several of Frank's ancestors were well-documented Mennonites. Their country of origin prior to the Palatinate is difficult to determine – German, Swiss or the Alsace region of France? At any rate, the Germanic surnames of Frank's ancestors in Pennsylvania are undeniable – Frederick, Gerhart, Ziegler, Dettra, Renner, Meyer, Hendricks, Nase, Schmidt, Staudt, Delp, Zendt, Krey, Wildonger, Schumacher, Oberholtzer, OpDenGraeff, Godshall, Lindeman, Kuster and a Dutch (Holland) Mennonite by the name of Boorse. Wow!

Frank moved away from Telford at an early age, and I was never away of his German heritage.

[blank]

The Family of Frank Frederick

Frank Frederick, born 1890, was the eldest child of Morris Zendt Frederick and Annie Gerhart. Frank's younger brothers were Oscar, Jesse, LeRoy and Mark in descending order. The boys were followed by three gals – Estella, Viola and Sadie.

Frank (1890-1974) – had 1 child
Oscar (1892-1956) – 3 children
Jesse (1895-1963) – 1 child
LeRoy (1896-1967) – 1 child
Mark (1899-1985) – 11 children
Stella (1901-1964) – no children
Viola (1904-1990) – 5 children
Sadie (1906 - __) - no children

Father Morris Frederick died young at age 45 in 1915. His three girls, all born after the turn of the century, were still quite young at the time. The same early death of a father occurred in the family of Frank Frederick's future wife - Liz Ackerman, whose father died in 1910.

Morris Frederick did odd jobs, working for the local town, and later, working in a cigar factory. When Frank was old enough to work, Morris got his son a job at the cigar factory and pocketed much of Frank's wages.





Morris Zendt Frederick

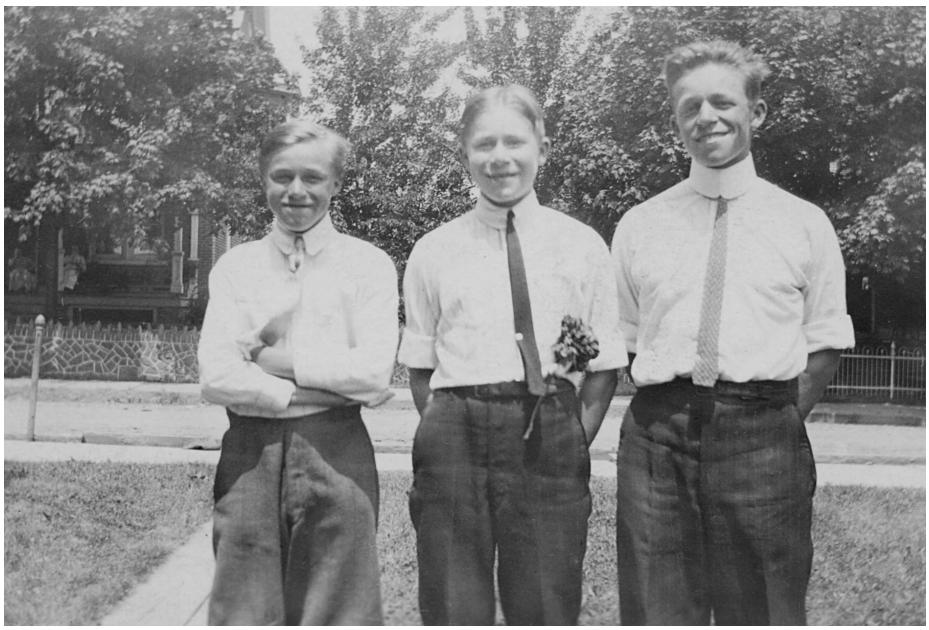




Frank's parents – Morris Zendt Frederick and Annie Gerhart



Annie (Gerhart) Frederick (1869-1925)
Poplar Street?, Telford



Frank photographed his younger brothers – Mark, LeRoy and Jesse, circa 1911



Annie Frederick with her daughters
(Frank's sisters) – Stella, Sadie and Viola, circa 1918



Oscar Frederick, another younger brother of Frank,
with wife Mae Spicer, circa 1918



Mark, LeRoy, Jesse and Frank Frederick



Frank, Jesse, LeRoy and Mark with sisters Viola, Sadie & Stella

1962 Frederick Reunion [DES Slides]



Siblings Sadie, Jesse, Frank, Viola and Mark Frederick, 1965
Frank's 75th Birthday, Skinner Home, Woodbury, NJ [DES slide]



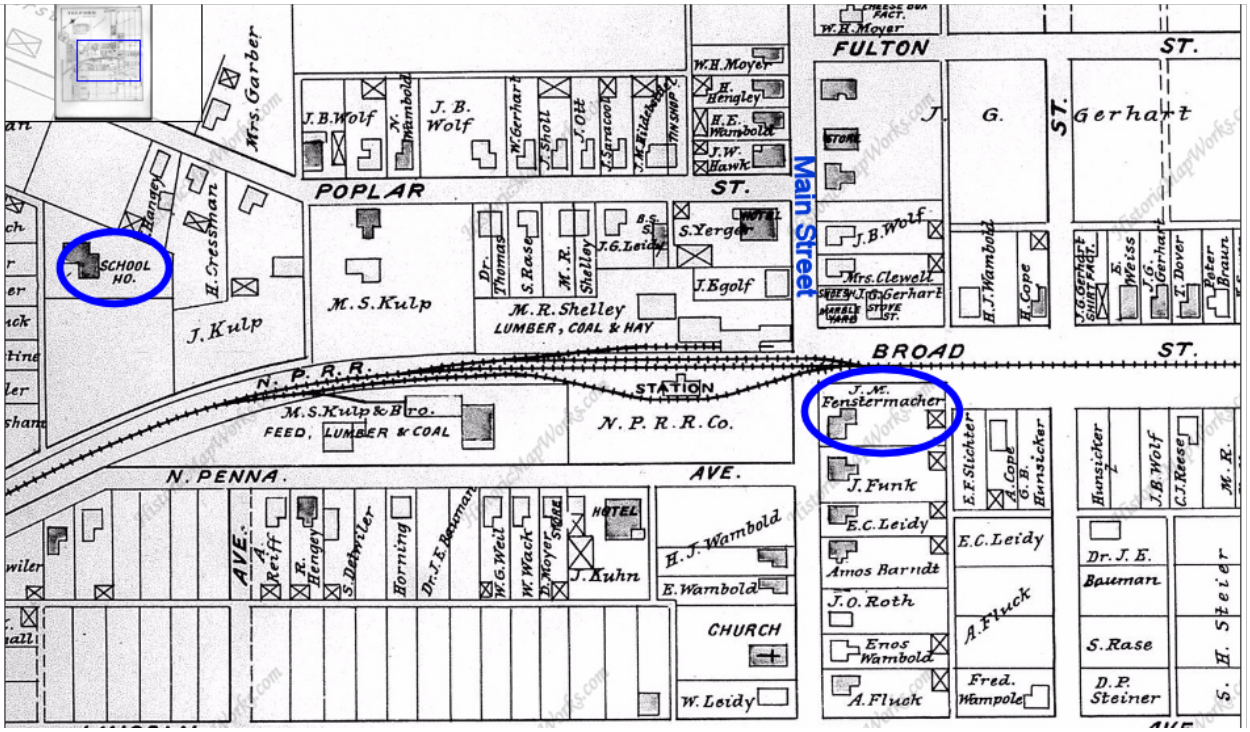
Siblings Sadie, Frank, Mark and Viola
Mark's 50th Wedding Anniversary, 1974
[DES slide]

Telford

The town of Telford is split between two Pennsylvania counties – Montgomery County to the west and Bucks County in the east. Main Street in downtown Telford is the dividing line. The town was originally divided into two boroughs - West Telford and Telford, to reflect the county split. Frank was born in West Telford.

The Fredericks were living on Poplar Street (today, W. Broad Street) in West Telford per the 1900 census. They were living on the west side of Main Street, near the intersection with W. Broad Street, per the 1910 census and on the east side of Main Street per the 1920 census.

One of their homes, likely the 1910 census address, appears in numerous photographs taken in the 1911 time frame. The home was brick, with a front porch. They had a small patio on the south side of the house, probably off the rear kitchen. The patio was surrounded by vines growing on a wooden lattice. A manual water pump from a well was located in this patio area.



Telford, PA – 1893
[HistoricMapWorks.com]

Frank graduated from West Telford Grammar **school** in 1905 at age 14. He worked for a time at a cigar factory with his father, with the father pocketing most of his pay. The following year Frank moved out on his own, boarding and working at the barbershop of Mr. **Fenstermacher** in the center of town. Frank's father was never the same to him after he moved out of his parent's home.

Frank's Diary

Frank Frederick kept a diary for most of his life, beginning about age 14 (1905). He started keeping a second, financial diary beginning at age 27 in 1918, detailing his bank account, incoming pay, and outgoing expenses.

My Mother has summarized Frank's diaries. Her work, as well as surviving pages of Frank's diaries (most were disposed of), are contained in the Appendix. The diaries provide many details about Frank's life in Telford, and later Philadelphia.

Frank's diary begins -
"Some of my earliest memories are when we lived in the same house with Harry? Schwenk on 3rd St. south of the railroad. The field at the railroad was on fire at nite. Sleeping in bed and waking up with snow on the covers, eating next door with prayer before eating and hymns after eating, their daughter making ice cream with milk and snow. At six started to go to school. Joseph K. Bergey was my teacher. He had 3 classes. It was a 2 room brick L-shaped school with a large lot all around."

"During summers used to be with grandparent Fredericks at West Point [a small town south of Telford]. ….. Milk was kept in a dark cellar. Uncle Elmer used to sneak down there and drink the cream off. ….. All the aunts and uncles with families used to spend Xmas at West Point. Used to kill a rooster or two as a 25 lb. turkey was not enough."

School Days

Frank started school at age 6 in the fall of 1897. He attended a two room school. He was taught by Joseph Bergey in one room of the school for several years, and later 'graduated' to the second room of the school under Mr. Nampole. Frank's class consisted of just six students. Those students included a daughter of teacher Bergey, a daughter of teacher Nampole and a girl named Elsie Schwenk, whom his family had once shared a twin home with.

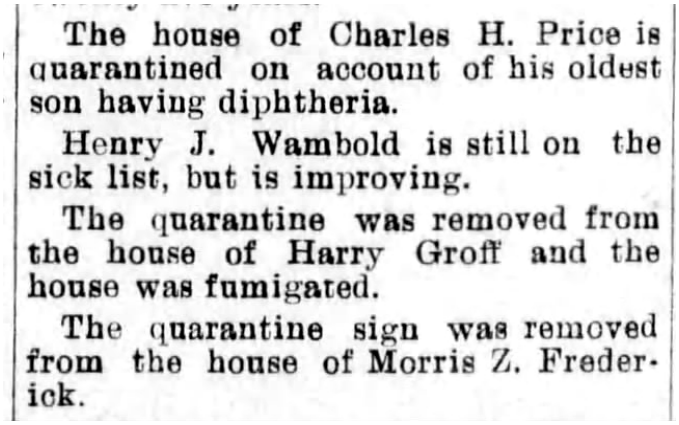
Frank finished out his schooling in a new school that was built on Poplar St. in front of the old building. Frank grew up in several different homes, usually with other families or relatives sharing the house. For a time, he lived in a twin home on Poplar St., across from the school. This is the address recorded by the census of 1900. The family of one of his mother's sisters, Elamina Bossert, lived in the other half of the twin.

1905, Grammar School Graduation

Frank graduated from the West Telford Grammar School at age 14 in 1905. I suppose that was about the eighth grade or so, though they had no separate grades. Frank graduated second in his class out of a total class of six students! and gave a salutation called "An Appeal".

Scarlet Fever Quarantine

Frank had been on track to graduate in the previous year of 1904, but early in his years of schooling, his family had been quarantined in their home for scarlet fever, most of Frank's siblings having come down with the disease. During the quarantine, the Board of Health and a neighbor supplied food to the family.



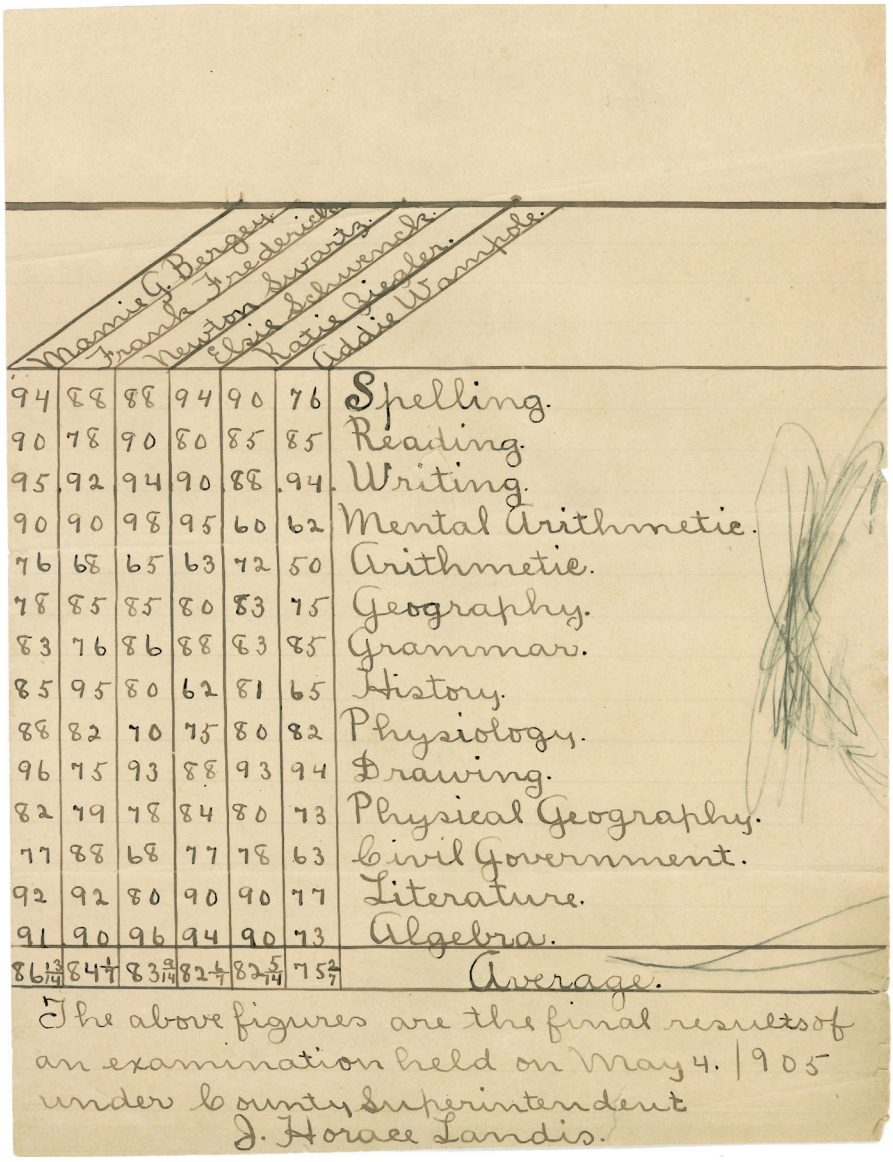
The house of Charles H. Price is quarantined on account of his oldest son having diphtheria.

Henry J. Wambold is still on the sick list, but is improving.

The quarantine was removed from the house of Harry Groff and the house was fumigated.

The quarantine sign was removed from the house of Morris Z. Frederick.

Typhoid Fever Quarantine
The Central News, Perkasie, PA; 14 April 1904



Maggie G. Berger.	Frank Frederick.	Newton Swartz.	Elsie Schwenck.	Katie Riegler.	Addie Wampole.	
94	88	88	94	90	76	Spelling.
90	78	90	80	85	85	Reading.
95	92	94	90	88	94	Writing.
90	90	98	95	60	62	Mental Arithmetic.
76	68	65	63	72	50	Arithmetic.
78	85	85	80	83	75	Geography.
83	76	86	88	83	85	Grammar.
85	95	80	62	81	65	History.
88	82	70	75	80	82	Physiology.
96	75	93	88	93	94	Drawing.
82	79	78	84	80	73	Physical Geography.
77	88	68	77	78	63	Civil Government.
92	92	80	90	90	77	Literature.
91	90	96	94	90	73	Algebra.
86 13/14	84 1/7	83 9/14	82 1/7	82 5/14	75 2/7	Average.

The above figures are the final results of an examination held on May 4. 1905 under County Superintendent J. Horace Landis.

Frank's Final School Exam Results, 1905; age 14



TELFORD

The commencement of the West Telford Grammar school will be held in the Chapel on June 10th. The graduating class is as follows: Mamie Bergey, Kate Ziegler, Elsie Schwenk, Addie Wampole, Frank Frederick, Newton Swartz. Prof. Winfield S. Hartzell, Principal of the West Bethlehem High School, and several others will make addresses. The Lansdale Orchestra will enliven the occasion with music.

The Central News, Perkasie, PA; 25 May, 1905

ANNUAL

Commencement Exercises

...OF THE...

WEST TELFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

... IN THE UNION CHAPEL. ...

On Saturday Evening, June 10th, 1905,

At 7.30 O'Clock.

PROGRAM:

Music,	Lansdale Orchestra.
Invocation,	Rev. C. R. Fetter.
Address of Welcome,	Rev. P. A. Laury.
Music,	Orchestra.
Salutatory, "An Appeal",	Frank R. Frederick.
Oration, "Character",	Addie H. Wampole.
Music,	Orchestra.
Oration, "In Khaki Clad",	Elsie O. Schwenck.
Oration, "The Keystone of the Union",	Newton E. Swartz.
Music,	Orchestra.
Class Presentations,	Katie G. Ziegler.
Address to the Graduates,	Prof. Winfield Hartzell.
Music,	Orchestra.
Valedictory, "Within the Temperate Zone",	Mamie G. Bergey.
Presentation of Diplomas,	Rev. C. R. Fetter.
Benediction.	
Music.	Orchestra

GRADUATES:

MAMIE G. BERGEY,	FRANK R. FREDERICK,
NEWTON E. SWARTZ,	ELSIE O. SCHWENCK,
KATIE G. ZIEGLER,	ADDIE H. WAMPOLE.

CLASS MOTTO—"Launched".
CLASS FLOWER—American Beauty.
CLASS COLORS—Purple and Gold.



CLASS OF 1905,
WEST TELFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

—Photo by ZEIGLER.

Top Row—Frank R. Frederick, Mamie G. Bergey, Addie H. Wampole, Newton E. Swartz.
Lower Row—Elsie O. Schwenck, Principal H. Z. Wampole, Katie G. Ziegler.
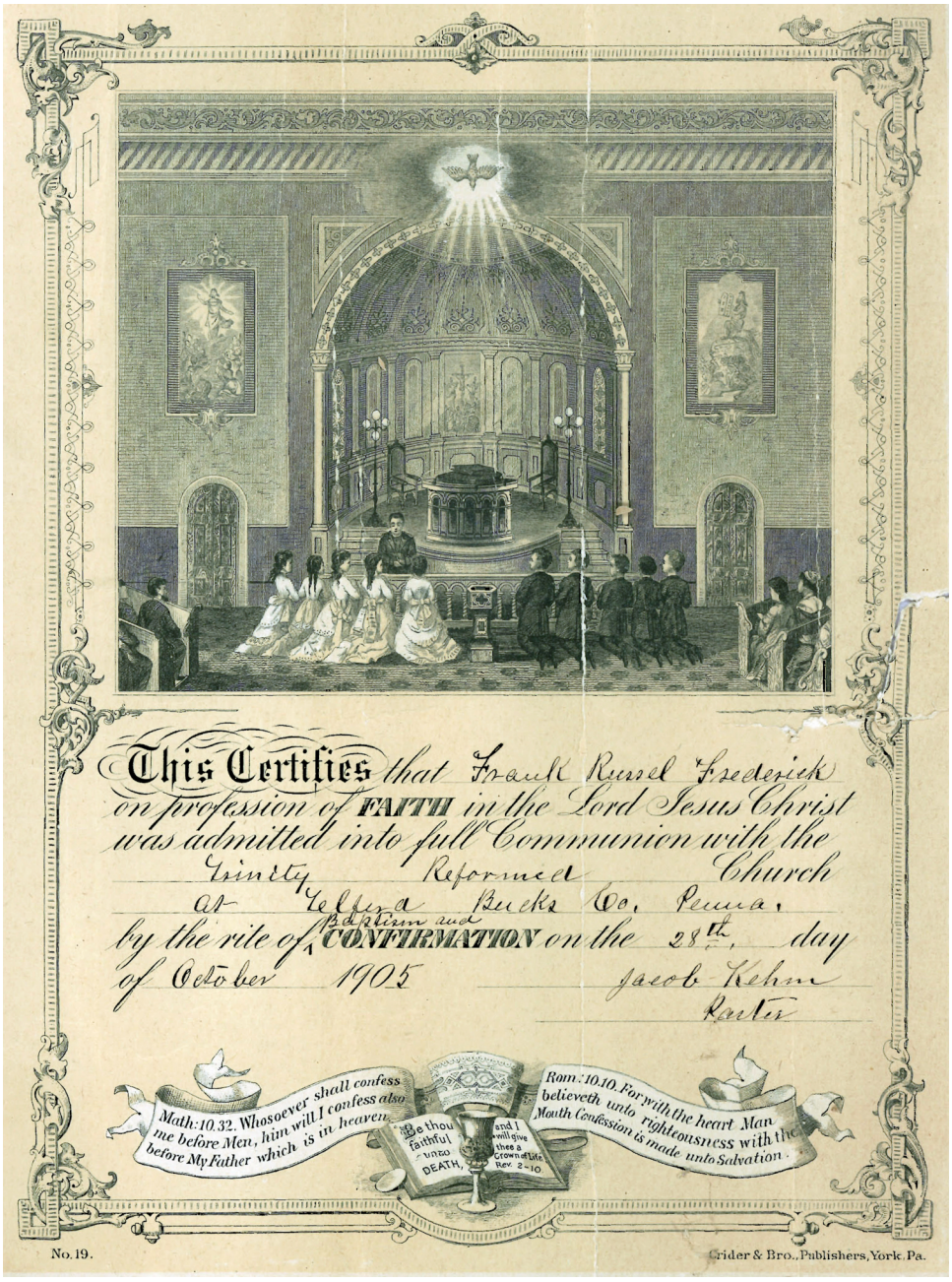
1905 Graduation Class
Newspaper Photo



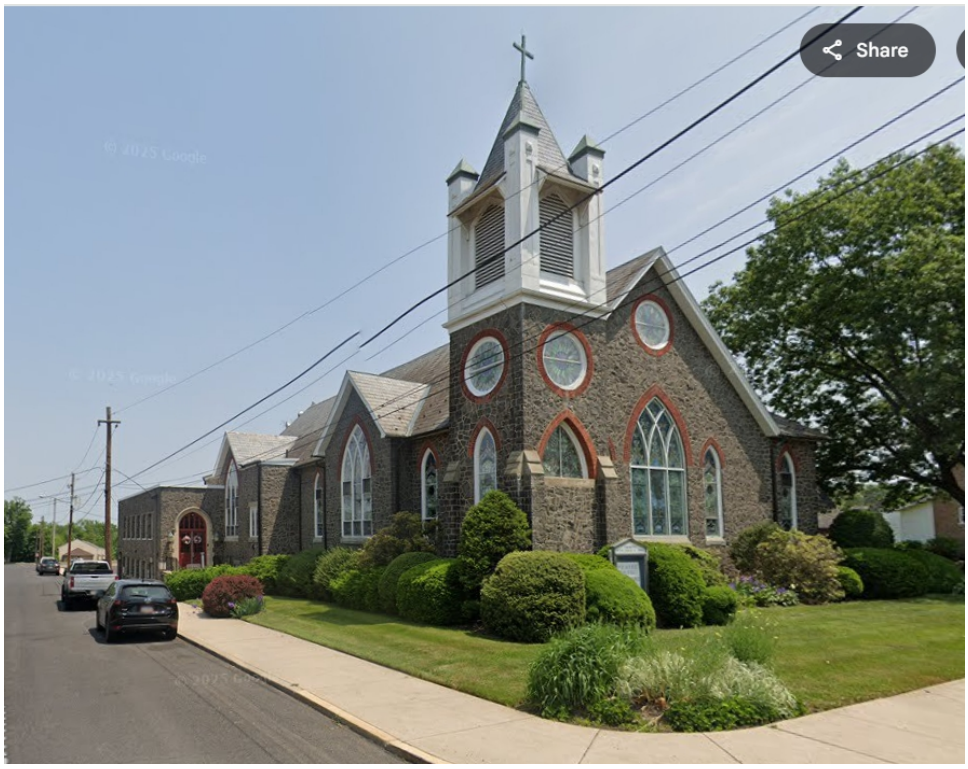
1905 Graduation Class
Original Photographer's Photo

1905, Church

Per his diary - “During the summer I studied the Heidelberg Catechism and on October 28 was baptized and confirmed by Jacob Rehm, Pastor, in the Trinity Reformed Church of Telford, Bucks County.”



Certificate of Church Confirmation



Frank & Family belonged to the Trinity Reformed Church, Telford.
Trinity, like many reformed churches, is now part of the United Church of Christ.

1905, Cigar Factory

Later that year, Frank's father got him a job at a cigar factory where Frank stripped tobacco leaves for $2-3 per week. *His father, who also worked there, took Frank's pay giving him an allowance of ten cents a week, sometimes a quarter.*

1906, Frank Moves Out On His Own

In March, Frank was walking to the Telford Post Office when a local barber by the name of Frank Fenstermacher stopped to talk to him. Fenstermacher had a barbershop on Main St., at the railroad crossing, and wanted Frank to work there six days a week, including evenings. The pay would be 25 cents per week, but Frank was also offered a room on the 3rd floor of the Fenstermacher home for boarding and meals with the family. Frank, age 15, accepted the opportunity to move out on his own.

Per Frank's diary – "When I got home to tell Father he got very angry. It was suppertime and Grandma Frederick and Mother were crying and no one could eat. *Finally, Father said I could go, but he was never the same to me after that.* I would come home Sundays after church and Sunday school, but he hardly spoke to me. I grew very much discouraged and I decided to travel to Philadelphia and then to the South and West."

I guess the disillusioned Frank wanted to see the country.

A New Life In Philadelphia (age 15)

Frank went to Philadelphia at age fifteen in 1906, and lived there until 1923, at age 32, when he relocated to the suburbs of South Jersey. The key to Philadelphia was that Frank's mother had four sisters and their families who had moved to Philadelphia – Aunt Amanda, Aunt Etta Smith, Aunt Elamina Bossert and Aunt Carrie. For most of his Philadelphia years, Frank would live with his aunts, particularly Aunt Elamina, all of whom lived near Frankford Avenue in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia. Frank's maternal grandparents, Amanda and Jesse Gerhart, also relocated to Philadelphia, where they lived out the remainder of their lives with their daughter Elamina. Frank's parents and siblings did not move to Philadelphia and lived their lives in the Telford area 30 miles to the north.

Philadelphia offered an endless variety of unskilled work and Frank seems to have had no trouble moving from job to job, with his salary increasing from 25c per week to $14/week in a few short years. Philadelphia was not far from Frank's parents 30 miles to the north in Telford - maybe an hour by train and somewhat longer by street trolley.

The Move from Telford to Philadelphia – In Frank's Own Words

April 24, 1906 – "I got up at 5 A.M., an hour earlier than usual. I packed a few clothes, left a note on my valise [suitcase stand] that I was going to Philadelphia, took the milk can over to the barbershop as usual, and with 30c in my pocket, started walking along the RR being a beautiful morning, fresh and cool. After walking as far as Gehman's trolley switch, below Souderton, a farmer gave me a lift on his milk buggy as far as Hatfield Station (where he was leaving his milk for the Milk Train) and I took the trolley for Chestnut Hill [Philadelphia], then down Germantown Ave. to Columbia Ave, and walked back to Aunt Carrie's at W. Dauphin St. who was surprised to see me." [Aunt Carrie was a sister of Frank's mother, not to be confused with Aunt Carrie who was a sister of Frank's future wife.]

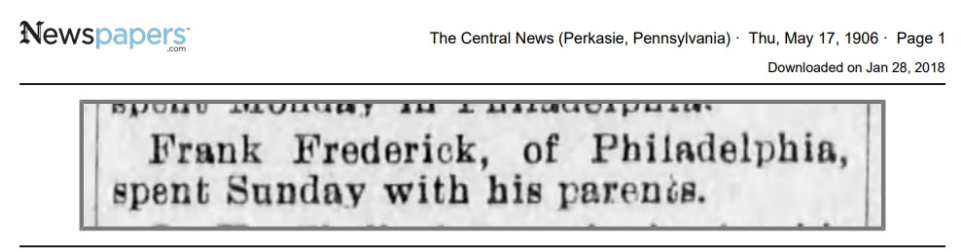
Frank settled in with his Aunt Etta and her husband Harry Smith at 3413 Frankford Ave, in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia. The Smiths had a son Harry Jr. and a grocery store. Aunt Amanda lived nearby at 4006 N. Reese Street.

April 27, 1906 – "Uncle Harry [Smith] took me to Carver's File Works on E/S Frankford Ave., near Alleghany, where I was given a job in the Forging Dept. Then gave me money to go home [to Telford] and get the rest of my clothes. [At Telford] I told mother I had a job and was staying at Aunt Etta's but would come home soon on a visit, then went to the cigar factory [where Frank had worked with his father] for my working certificate. *Father was ripping mad and was going to thrash me at first but finally, let me go.* I then took the keys to Fenstermacher's [the barbershop where Frank had lived] and left on the next trolley for Phila."

April 30, 1906 - "Started working at Carver's File Works at $3.00 per week in Forge-Hammer Dept."

May, 1906 – "Only worked a few weeks at Carver's when Delp [a relative] got me a job at $6.00 per week at Robt. H. Foerderer's Inc. (Frankford Ave & the Creek) in the Checking Dept., counting skins of 'Vici Kid' Leather.

Aunt Elamina [Elamina Bossert] moved to 2046 Russell St. near Aunt Etta's and after she was settled I went to board with her. But after a few months she moved to 2011 E. Tioga St. where I went too."

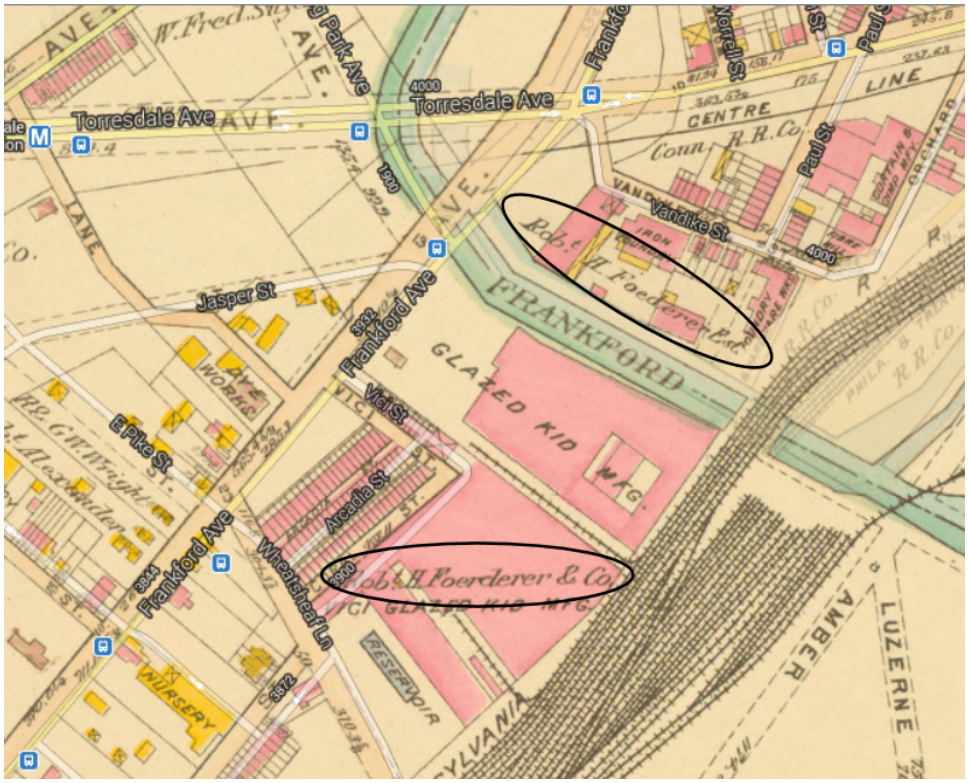

Newspapers.com
The Central News (Perkasie, Pennsylvania) · Thu, May 17, 1906 · Page 1
Downloaded on Jan 28, 2018

Frank Frederick, of Philadelphia, spent Sunday with his parents.

Frank, of Philadelphia, visits his parents at Telford, 1906



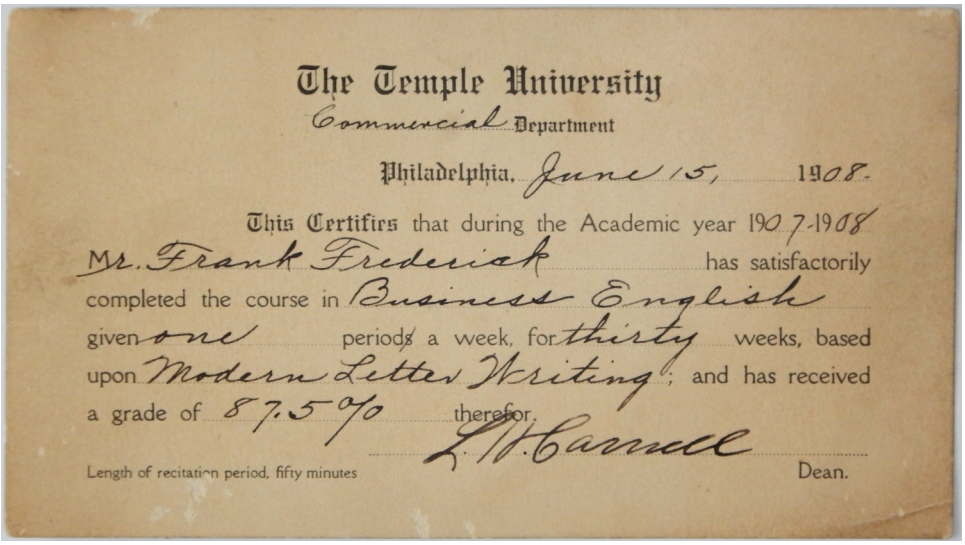
Carver's File Works



Robt H. Foerderer & Co

Temple University 1907-1908

Frank enrolled at Temple Night School in 1907, 3 nights a week, studying Bookkeeping, Arithmetic, Penmanship, Spelling, Modern English, Letterwriting, Commercial Law and Geography.



The Temple University
Commercial Department

Philadelphia, June 15, 1908.

This Certifies that during the Academic year 1907-1908
Mr. Frank Frederick has satisfactorily
completed the course in Business English
given one periods a week, for thirty weeks, based
upon Modern Letter Writing; and has received
a grade of 87.5% therefor.

L. W. Carnell
Dean.

Length of recitation period, fifty minutes

Frank enrolled in night school at Temple 1907-1908

Winter, early 1907 – "Enrolled at Temple College for a combined bookkeeping and commercial course, 3 nights per week studying Bookkeeping – Arithmetic – Penmanship – Spelling – Modern English and Letterwriting – Commercial Law – Geography – It was hard work but I stuck the winter out."

Bush & Terrys Rug Mills

June, 1908 – "I left Foerderer's in June and was out of work until Aug 18 when I started at Bush & Terry's Rug Mills, Jasper & Ontario St., Phila in the Shipping Dept. at $7.00 per week sewing burlap on the 9x12 and around bales of 27x30 & 27x50 Adminster Rugs. Before Xmas was transferred to the Setting Dept. where I supplied the spoolers with the yarn and fixed machines, later acting as Asst. Foreman. *It was strange to me at first as there were only girls in the Dept., except the foreman John Wilson & myself.*"

St. John's Church - Frank Meets His Future Wife, Liz Ackerman

Nov, 1909 – "Became acquainted with some nice boys and girls since going to St. Johns German Evangelical Reformed Church and Sunday School at the S/E corner of Frankford Ave. and Ontario Street."

St. Johns Church was located at 3391 Frankford Avenue, in the same neighborhood where Frank had been living with his aunts. The church provided Frank with a close circle of German friends from the neighborhood and lots of activities, including a basketball team. His circle of friends quickly grew to include Liz Ackerman, his future wife.

From Frank's Diary:
Nov 24, 1909 – **"Mother sent me a card to bring one of the girls Elizabeth Ackerman up any time I came up."**

Frank had started attending St. Johns Church in 1909. The parents of Liz Ackerman had been attending St. John's for several decades. This is the church that the Ackermans were attending when Liz Ackerman was born in 1893, and the church where Liz was confirmed in 1908. The German Ackerman family referred to the church in German as St. Johannes Kirche. For Frank Frederick, it was simply St. Johns. Thus, Frank and Liz, both active in church Sunday School, met at St. John's. When they met, Frank was age 18, Liz age 16. They would date for 13 1/2 years and marry at St. Johns in 1923.

While dating, Liz signed her name as 'Bess' or simply 'B'. Frank referred to her as 'B' in his diary.

1910 Census

At Philadelphia, the 1910 census shows Frank living with his Aunt Elamina Bossert at 3484 Helen Street. Elamina's widowed mother, Amanda Gerhart (Frank's maternal grandmother), was living there as well, age 81.

The 1910 census shows that Frank was a spool man in a rug mill. Per his diary, he had been employed by Bush & Terry Rug Mill since 1908, rug mills being a large industry in Philadelphia at the time.

The 1910 census shows that the family of Frank's future wife – the Ackerman's, were living at 3172 Belgrade Street.



Port Richmond Neighborhood, Northeast Philadelphia

In 1910, Frank was living with his Aunt Elamina Bossert at 3484 Helen Street, Kensington. Liz Ackerman and her family lived at 3172 Belgrade Street, Port Richmond.



3484 Helen Street, Kensington neighborhood, Northeast Philadelphia

Frank received his mail here in the years 1910-1916. This was the home of his Aunt Elamina. His Grandmother lived here as well.



3172 Belgrade Street, Port Richmond neighborhood, Philadelphia

The Ackerman family rented at this address for many years while Liz and her siblings were growing up in the years 1900 thru the 1920's.

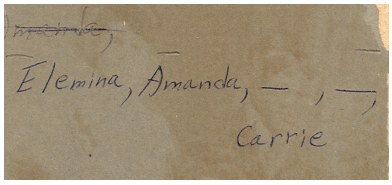
Five Generations

Per Frank, a photo appeared on the front page of the Philadelphia Record, a newspaper with a large circulation, on March 21, 1910, showing 5 generations of Gerharts – Grandmother Amanda, age 80; Aunt Elamina, age 62, Mary Zuckschwert, age 44, Anna Gregor, age 23 and son George Gregor, age 1.

My guess is that the following image, partially mislabeled by Annette, is the original photograph printed in the newspaper and referenced by Frank in his diary.



The Gerhart Grimace



Annette's writing

Frank Frederick and Liz Ackerman

Frank and Liz, living less than a mile apart in northeast Philadelphia, met at St. John's Church and began dating in 1909. They and their circle of friends, almost all of German descent and members of St. Johns Church, appear in a large number of photographs taken in the 1911 time frame.

Their gal friends included:

Ida May Yaeck, lived at 1810 Lippincott Street [born 1893-died 1975, married William Whinney; had at least one child, Dorothy May Schmidt]
Lillian Liebert, 1812 Lippincott [1893-]
Frieda Pirman, 1830 Lippincott [md. William Wiestner].

Frank lived just a few blocks from the girls.

The neighborhood boys included:

Harry Brautigam, 3432 Braddock
Harry Brenner
Fred Burkle [1892-1967, md. 1921, Helen M. Krause]
Charles Lee

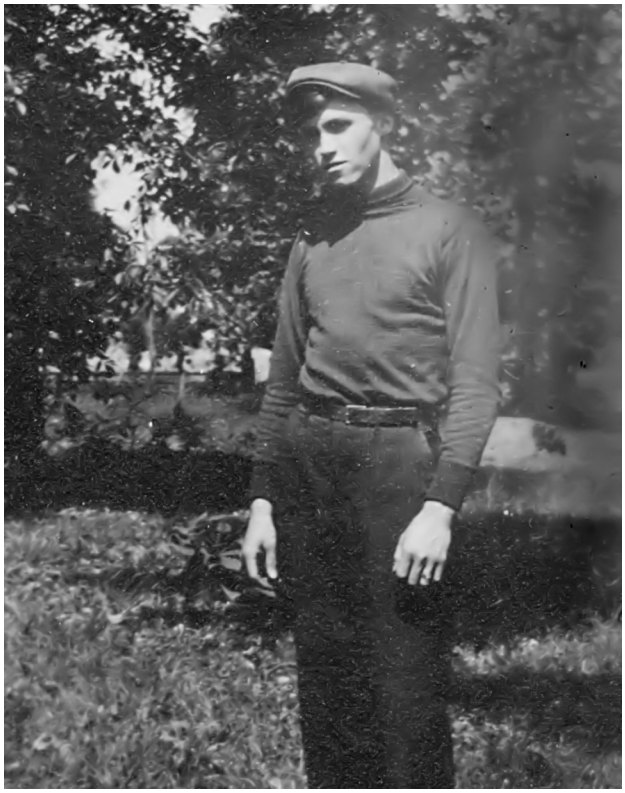
Frank and the guys, except Burkle, played together on the St. John's basketball team.

The explosion of photos taken in the 1911 time frame is partially due to the fact that Frank had purchased his first Kodak camera, a fact I only know because he was photographed carrying the camera in one of the images.



Liz & friend Lillian Liebert, undated

Baseball Outing, circa 1910





Both of these images likely taken on the same day

Baseball Outing (Close-Up)



Frank – Rear
Lower Right, friend and neighbor Ida Yaeck

Baseball Outing (continued)





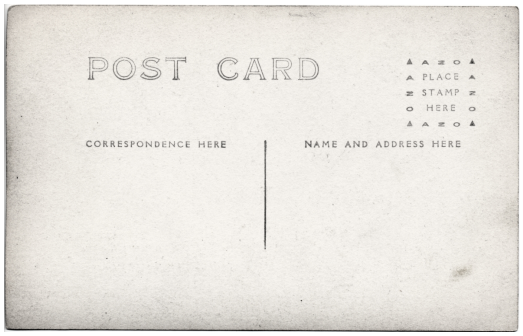
Ida Yaeck appears in both images

Baseball Outing (continued)



Ida Yaeck, second from left





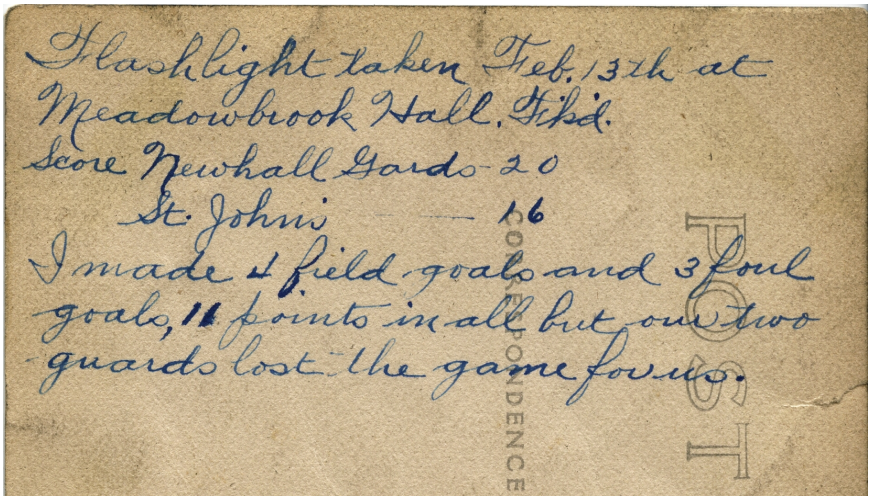


Rear of Images

St. Johns' Church Basketball, 1911



Frank and friends were active in the St. Johns basketball team



February 13, 1911- 'Flashlight' probably means flash bulb

Frank scored 11 of his team's 16 points
"but our two guards lost the game for us"

Easter, Juniata Park, Philadelphia, circa 1911



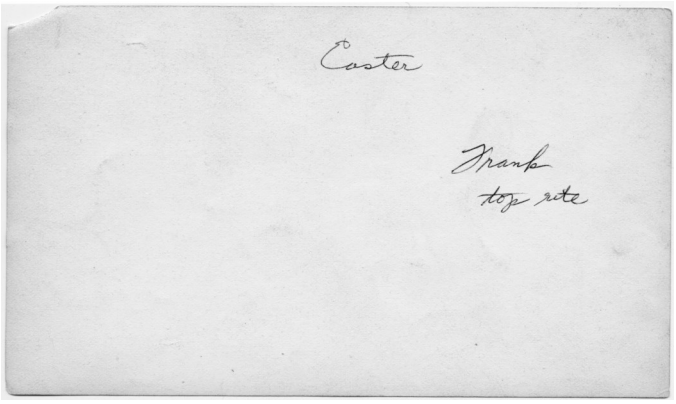
Fred Burkle's date (middle), Liz at right, guys in rear



Another Easter Outing



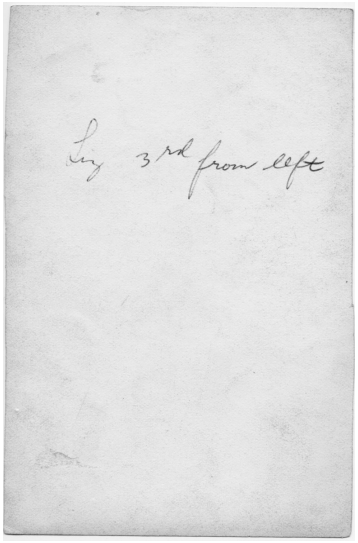
Guys – unknown person, Fred Burkle, Frank, Charles Lee and Harry Brautigam



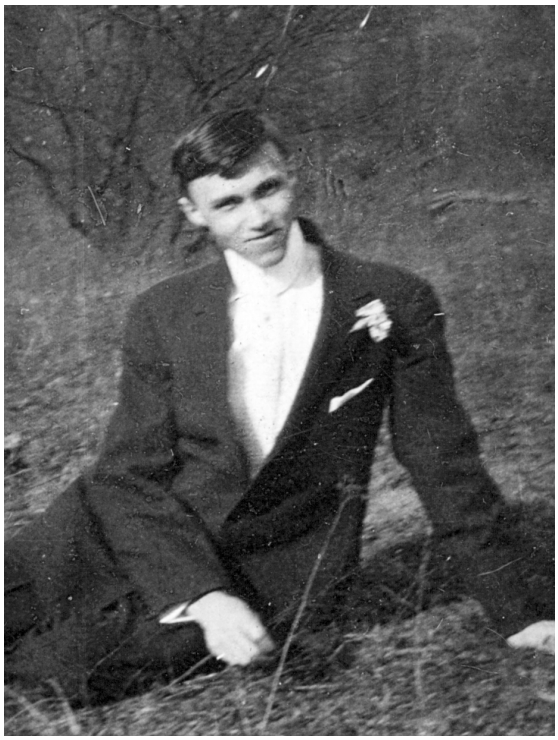
Another Easter Outing (continued)



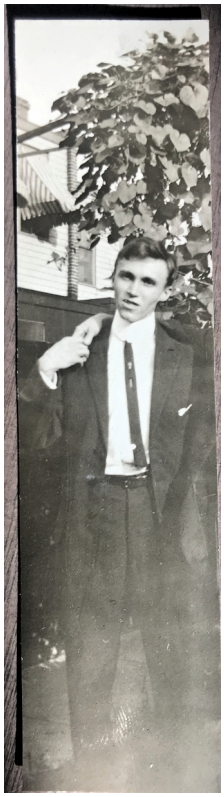
Lillian Liebert and Liz, middle of upper row
Charles Lee, Fred Burkle and Harry Brautigam, lower row



Misc



Frank





Liz (same button dress as many other images)

Outing A, circa 1911



unknown person, Liz (button dress), Fred Burkle's date, Lillian Liebert
Fred Burkle, Harry Brenner, Harry Brautigam



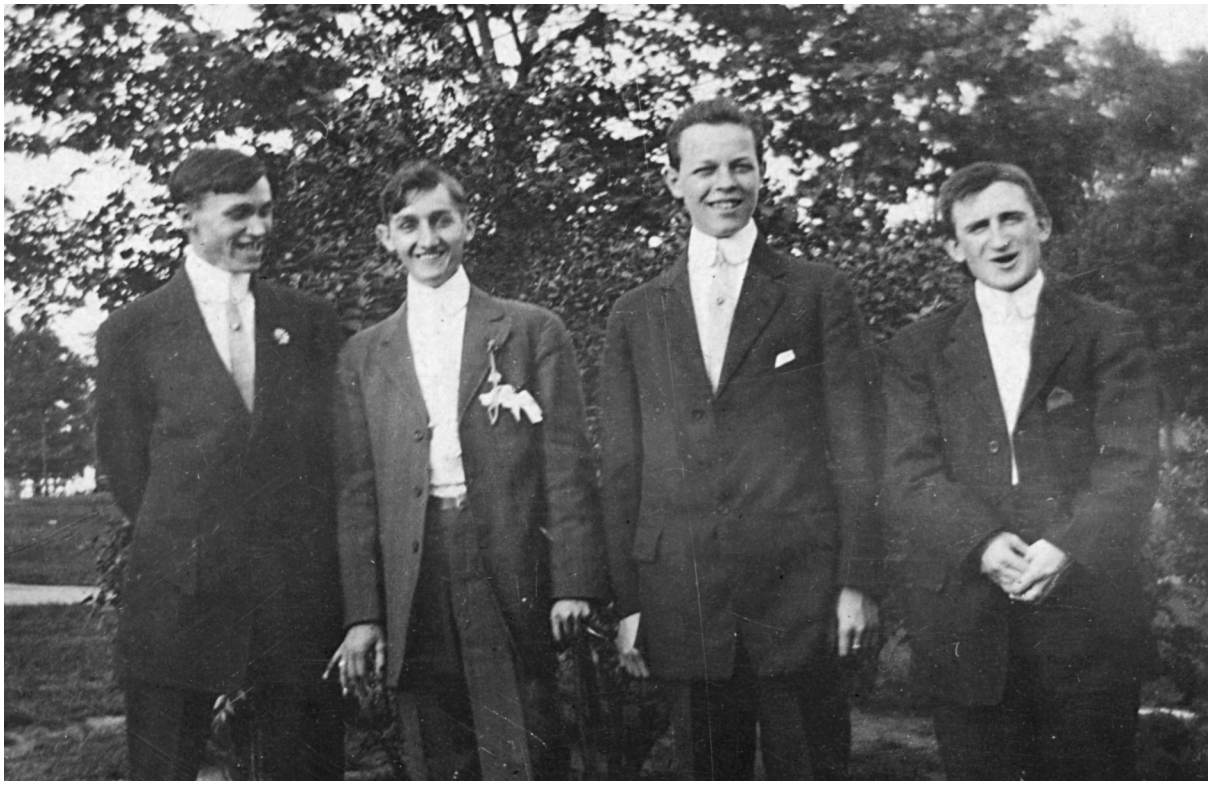
Outing B, circa 1911

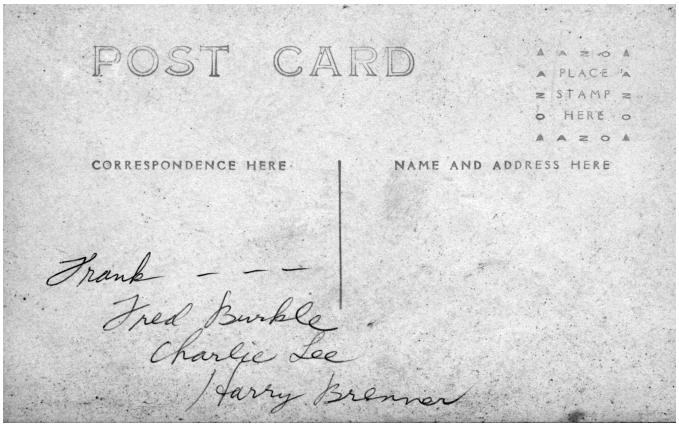


Fred Burkle's date, Harry Brenner's date, Harry Brautigam's date and Liz.
The gals are wearing the guys' jackets, so we know who was dating who.



Outing B (continued)





Frank Frederick, Fred Burkle, Harry Brautigam, Harry Brenner.

[Annette's writing, Charlie Lee looks more like Harry Brautigam]

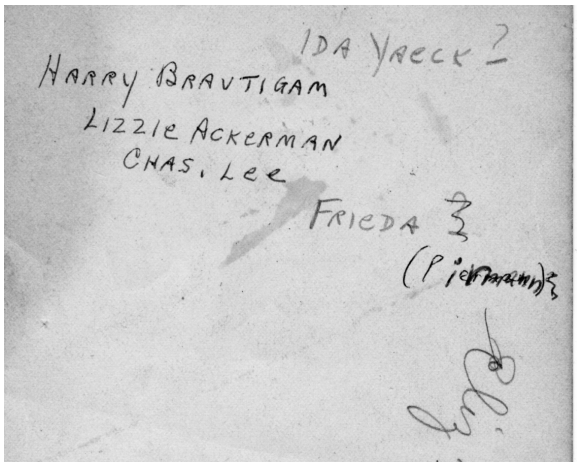
Outing C, circa 1911



Outing C (continued)

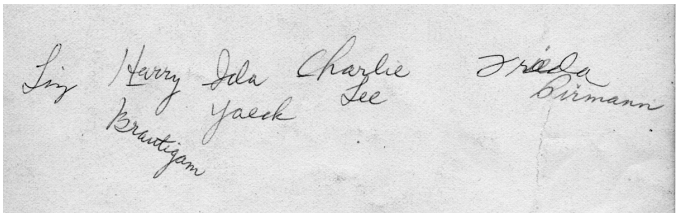


Ida Yaeck, Harry Brautigam, Liz Ackerman, Charlie Lee, Frieda Pirman



Outing C (continued)





Farm Picnic, 30 May 1911



Frank & Liz with Fred Burkle & his date, 30 May 1911
Men In White

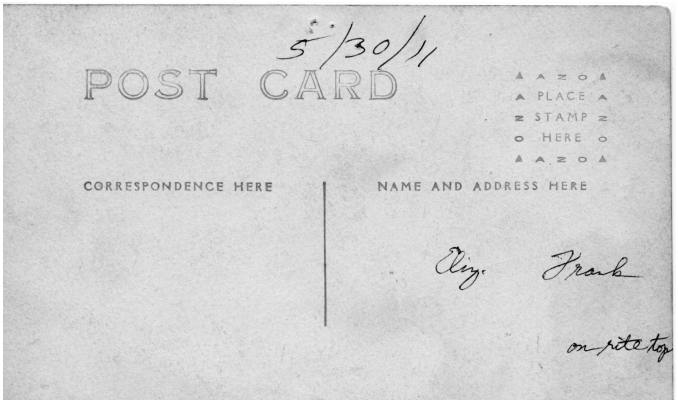
Frank is holding his Kodak Brownie box camera, circa 1910 model, probably the reason for the flurry of photos taken in the 1911 time frame.

Per Frank's diary, 5/30/1911 – 'Edith Press [unknown person] had our crowd up to their farm for a picnic.'

Farm Picnic (continued)



Some familiar faces, 30 May 1911:
Top – Ida Yaeck, Charlie Lee, Lillian Liebert
Middle - Fred Burkle and date, Elizabeth Ackerman and Frank Frederick
Foreground – Harry Brautigam

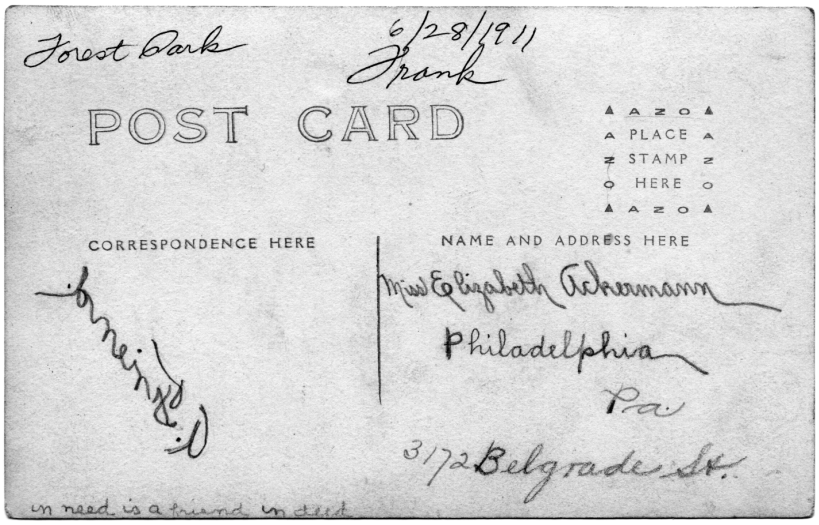


Annette's writing

Forest Park, 11 June 1911



Frank Frederick at Forest Park, near Telford, PA, probably on a weekend trip back home from Philadelphia

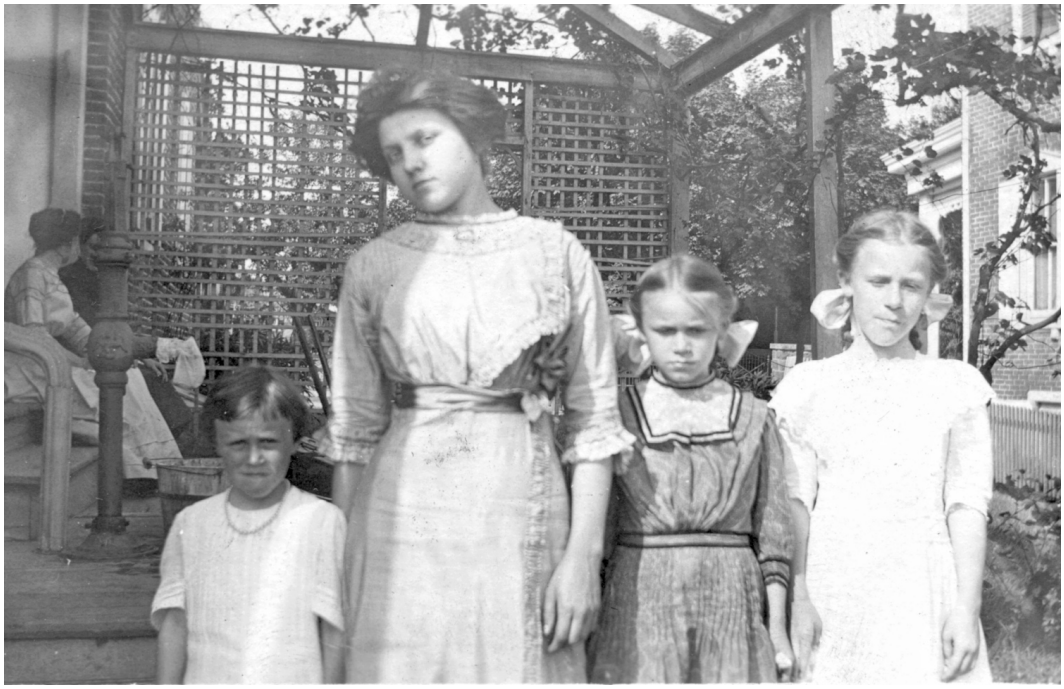


"A Friend In Need …" [spelled backwards], June 1911

Per Frank's diary, "Went to Forest Park on our Sunday School excursion."

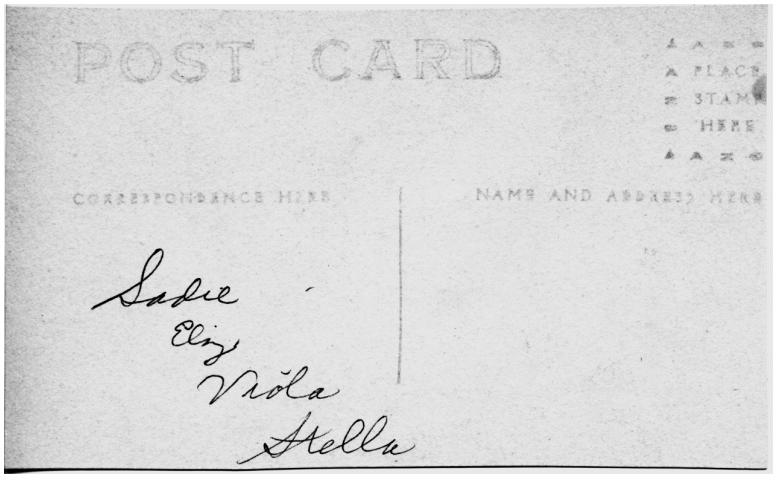
Home to Telford, PA - 4 Sep 1911

In 1911, Frank took Liz home to Telford to visit his mother and siblings. This was probably not the first time Liz met Frank's family as they had been dating since 1909, but this was the first time Frank had a camera. Frank and Liz made the trip with three friends, as it was not appropriate for the young couple to make the train trip alone. Frank mentions the trip in his diary and took some photos - – the photos are dated 4 September 1911.



Liz with the Frederick gals (youngest to oldest) – Sadie, Viola; Stella.
Patio on Side of Frederick home, Telford. 4 Sep. 1911

Note the outdoor well pump w/bucket behind Sadie.



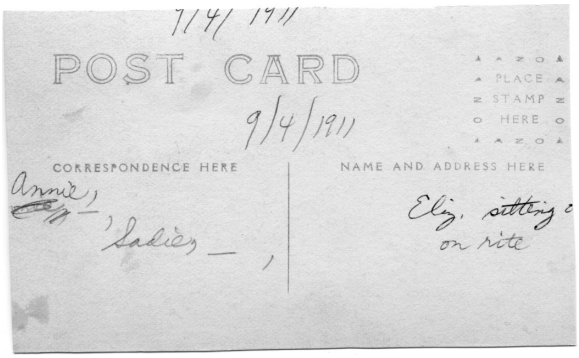
Trip To Telford, 1911 (continued)



At left - Annie Frederick (Frank certainly resembled his mother); Far right – Liz.
Middle - Fred Burkle, Lillian Liebert & Harry Brautigam, friends of Frank and Liz from Phila.
Lillian is holding Frank's young sister Sadie; a brother of Frank is hidden next to Liz.

Frederick Home, Main Street near Broad St., Telford, PA, 4 Sep. 1911





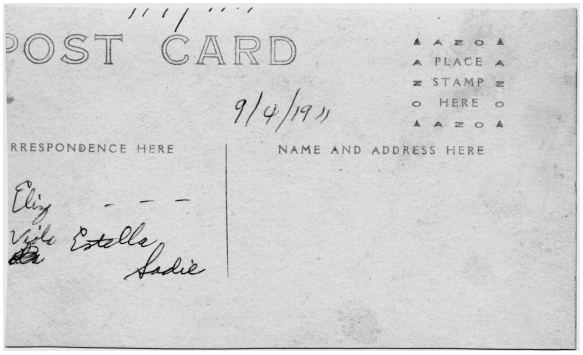
Trip To Telford, 1911 (continued)



Liz with friends Lillian Liebert, Harry Brautigam and Fred Burkle
and Frank Frederick's young sisters – Viola, Stella and Sadie.

Side Patio of Frederick home, Telford. 4 Sep. 1911





Same Film As Telford Trip, 1911



Liz Ackerman and Lillian Liebert





Annette's writing,
Same film as 1911 Telford trip

Same Trip As Telford Trip, 1911





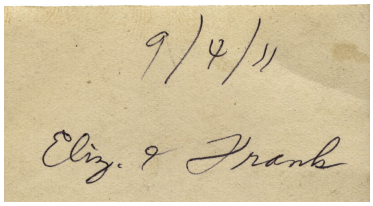


Annette's writing
Same film as 1911 Telford trip

Telford Trip, 1911



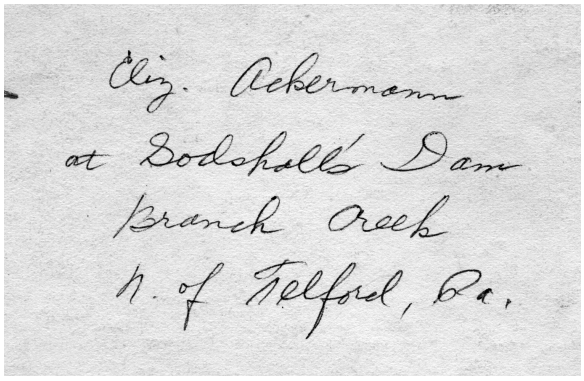




Annette's writing

Telford Trip, Undated





Liz with flowers, Telford, Date Unknown

Photo taken at the Godshall Dam at Meyer's Mill
on the East Branch of the Perkiomen Creek, Telford.

Telford Trip, Undated





Liz? and Frank

Probably the Cowpath Road crossing of the East Branch of the Perkiomen Creek, near Godshall Dam.

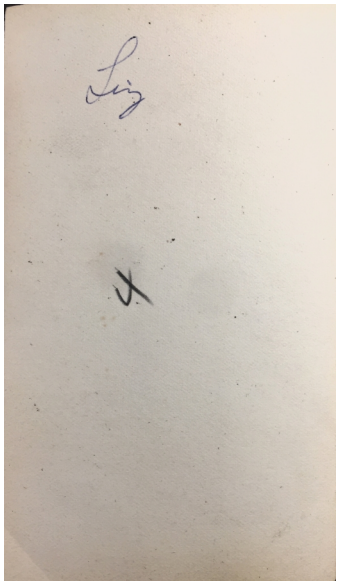
Misc



Liz, undated



1914?



Dads Did Not Live Long

April, 1910 – Jacob Ackerman, father of Liz Ackerman, dead at age 55.

Back To Frank's Diary

April 16, 1910 – "Went up home [Telford] – and admitted a member of Golden Rod, Castle #397, Knights of the Golden Eagle [a Masonic Temple organization]. I was sponsored by father."

Dec 14, 1910 – "Jesse [Frank's brother] came down [to Phila.]. It was very cold but I took him to the Dazzleland to see moving pictures."
Dazzleland was a large, 500-seat movie house at 2950 Frankford Ave.

Dec 25, 1910, Xmas Day in Telford – "Started snowing about 9 A.M. After dinner Oscar [Frank's brother] and I went roller-skating at Menlo Park [a town below Telford]. After Supper went to Xmas Services in Trinity Reformed Church. Only a few people attended. Snow was knee deep on the way home."

Dec 27, 1910 –"returned home to good old 3469 Emerald Street." [Philadelphia]

Mail was addressed to Frank at 3484 Helen St., Phila, from 12/23/1910 to 2/22/1915, the address of his Aunt Elamina Bossert. It is not clear when he lived at 3469 Emerald St.

Philadelphia, Manufacturing PowerHouse

Frank came of age during the explosion of blue-collar work in America's cities at the turn of the century. His dairy reflects his job opportunities and his rapidly increasing pay. Philadelphia was one of the leading manufacturing centers in the US at the time with all of the supporting shipyards and train facilities.

More From The Diary

Jan 21, 1911 – "B sent a note she could not go with us to my Basket Ball game tonite."
Frank referred to his future wife, Liz Ackerman, as 'B' in his diary.
On February 13, Frank scored 11 of the 16 points as a captain and center forward on the basketball team of St. John's Church.

Jan 30, 1911 – "Harry Dallison and I took a run over to York Rd. in the morning. In afternoon we all attended the Cheltenham Ave. Sunday School."

June, 1912- "My last day working for Bush & Terry [Rug Mill]. My boss wanted me to do more work. I told him I was so busy now I could not see how I was to do even more. I also asked for a raise. We got into an argument so I told him I was quitting at noon."

Oct, 1912 – "Got a job as Plumber's Helper with Albert F. Yahn on Emerald St. Feels good to work again."
Frank was living with his Aunt Elamina at 3484 Helen Street at the time.

Jan 1, 1913 –"Spent New Year's Eve at B's. This afternoon we went to Fred Burkle's staying for Supper." [Fred Burkle was a good friend of Liz and Frank – he gave a gift in honor of my parent's wedding in 1952.]

Jan 9, 1913 – "Work is very slack and Yahn told me he could no longer keep me on. Got work at the Miller Lock Works, Frankford Ave. at $6.00 a week assembling locks – but left after a few weeks."

Mar 4, 1913 – "Woodrow Wilson sworn in as president – Started work with C.J. Matthews & Co. as helper on seasoning machine at $7.00 per week – it wasn't long before I was raised to $8 per week."

The Needle, X-Rays and Cocaine

July 4, 1913 – Frank, Fred Burkle and Lillian Liebert made another visit to Frank's family at Telford, probably also with Liz. They returned on the 6th.

While getting undressed at home, Frank stepped on a needle, about ½ inch in length, that lodged in his right foot between his big and second toe. On 8 July, he had an x-ray taken at Episcopal Hospital, at a time when x-rays were still experimental.

On July 10, he went twice to the hospital with doctors unsuccessfully probing for the needle and was finally admitted to the hospital in the Men's Ward. On 13 July, Dr. Whittaker found the needle after ¾ of an hour of probing.

"It sure was hot laying there and he used a lot of cocaine but the pain was almost unbearable, but I only moved the foot once when he first located the needle." Frank was released from the hospital at noon on 19 July after a stay of nine days.

Aug 9. 1913 – "Put shoes on for first time & went to see B."

Feb 5, 1914 – "Admitted to Thespian Lodge #1167 I.O.O.F. [Independent Order of Odd Fellows] Meetings held at Amber & Allegheny Streets."
The group did much work in support of homes for orphanages.

May 18, 1914 –

"Think of me when you are happy
Think of me when you are not,
In the depths of your affection,
Place one sweet forget-me-not. Bess"

July 25, 1914 – "B and I went to Atlantic City on the Shoemaker's Excursion. Very hot & cloudy most of the time."

Death of Frank's Father, Morris Zendt Frederick, at age 45

Dec 13, 1914 – "Went to Telford – father seemed cheerful. Strongly expects to go back to work in a few weeks – but I do not think so as I believe his mind is affected."

Dec 18, 1914 – "Mark [brother of Frank] wrote father was out of his mind & did not know a thing anymore".

Dec 19, 1914 – "Went to Telford. Father did not know me – I hardly knew him either as he looked so different."

Jan 1, 1915 – "At 5 pm rec'd telegram from Jess – there was no hope, to come at once. Stopped over to see B – thought I had plenty of time for the train but missed it – finally got up home about 10 pm. But father had died several hrs earlier. There was a lot of confusion for a while. Aunt Bella Gerhart & Uncle Elmer Frederick were there. Also the Pastor of Trinity Reformed Ch. Funeral was set for Wed. the 6th. After a short prayer by the Pastor, all left."

Jan 2 1915 - "Left for Phila in afternoon and left a funeral notice in the Phila Inquirer Office."

Jan 6, 1915 – "Some more confusion today – bad weather – everything is wet, icy & slushy. There was a short Service at the house & then proceeded to Trinity Reformed Ch. for a short Service. The pall bearers were from the KGE & IORM." [KGE = Knights of the Golden Eagle, a Masonic organization that Frank and his dad belonged to.]

Death of Frank's Paternal Grandmother, Susanna Frederick

Feb 22, 1915 – "Rec'd notice Grandma Frederick died 2/20. Funeral to be held on Wed. Feb. 24."

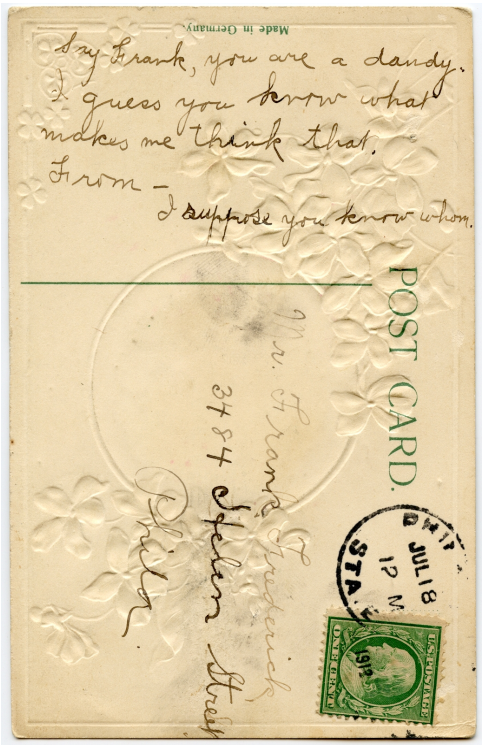
Feb 24, 1915 – "Rained when I got up – met Oscar [brother of Frank] at Chestnut Hill & took trolley to Ambler to Aunt Laura. Had short service –Leonard & Harvey Myers, Roy, Jess, Oscar & I were pall bearers [Roy, Jess and Oscar were brothers of Frank]. Took coffin out of the window – then by autos to the Towamencin Meeting House where there was a service."
1915 was an early year for autos - no one in the family would have owned a car.

Mar 20, 1915 – "Public Sale today. House sold & some odds & ends. Had words with Oscar over selling a lamp."

Liz and Frank Correspondence

Frank and Liz exchanged a large number of birthday, Easter and Christmas cards in the 1911-1913 time frame that are a remarkable historical record. Only a few are shown here:





1913

Confusion at Helen Street

In March of 1915, Frank took over the rental of 3484 Helen St. from his Aunt Elamina. Frank's entire family, including his mother and sisters from Telford, eventually joined him at that address. But Frank was caught by surprise when everyone moved out on Aug 2, a day earlier than planned, leaving Frank with a mess and no bed on which to spend the night:

Mar 26, 1915 – "Rented the house at 3484 Helen St."
This was the home that Frank's Aunt Elamina had been renting for many years.

Mar 30, 1915 – "Aunt Elamina moved to 2034 Russell St."

April 2, 1915 (Good Friday) – "Scrubbed & cleaned in A.M. Mark [Frank's brother] came with the beams after lunch. So we unloaded & fixed up a bed to sleep in."

Apr 5, 1915 – "Mother & girls [Frank's sisters] came down – B was over for supper."

Apr 7, 1915 – "Jess came today – We are all together again except for Oscar and Roy, but feel it will not last long." [Jess, Oscar. Mark and Roy were brothers of Frank.]

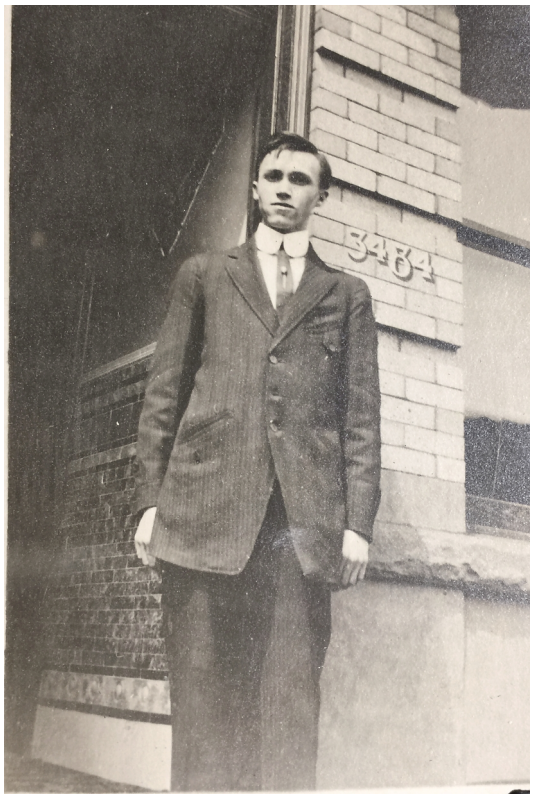
May 3, 1915 – "Mother, Sadie, Jess & Mark went to Telford."

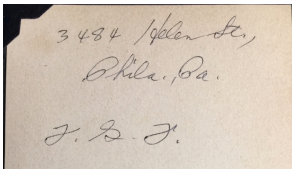
Aug 1, 1915 (Sunday) – "B's mother was here shortly before dinner. In the afternoon Mark took the tacks out of the hall carpet. B brought me an ashtray & a box of James Saltwater Taffy from Atlantic City. She told me mother & all were to move Tuesday."

Aug 2, 1915 – "Arriving home from work found mother & all gone leaving my belongings scattered all over the floors. Had baked beans, crackers & sweet pickles for supper. Mother came in a while (I) was getting washed up. I could hardly talk. No place to eat or sleep. No one said a word to me about leaving me here, only B, (everything was done on the quiet). Said goodbye to Mother and then went to Aunt Elamina's, then to Russell Bossert's at 750 Willow St. and arranged to board there together with Jess."

Sep 30, 1915 – "Elected Recording Secy of Thespian Lodge #1167 IOOF."







Frank and grandmother Amanda Gerhart
3484 Helen Street, Philadelphia

Mar 11, 1916 – Frank moved to 1939 Wensley St. – Mrs. McBride's boarding house.

Aug 31, 1916 – "Began work at Auto Car Co. at 25c per hour. Boarded at 31 Greenfield Ave., Ardmore, Pa."
Ten years earlier, Frank had been earning 25c per week.

Feb 19, 1917 – Death of maternal grandmother Amanda (Nase) Gerhart.

Feb, 1917 – Frank relocates from Ardmore back to Philadelphia, boarding at 703 E. Willard Street.
Mail was sent to Willard Street thru Apr 7. Mail was sent to 3022 Emerald Street from 12/19/1917 thru 3/28/1918.

1917 – Frank begins working at **Cramp's Shipyard** in Northeast Philadelphia. In May, he earned his highest monthly salary of the year - $161.40.

Feb 9, 1918 – the War Dept. classified him as 1A, V-E-F. On March 26, he was downgraded to II-D.

1918 – Frank served in the Corona Encampment #287 I.O.O.F. of Pa, Thespian Lodge #1167.

1918 – Liz was still living at 3172 Belgrade St. with her family. She did sewing or trimmed hats for a living at the time.

End of Part 1; Download Part 2 (1918-1975) to continue.