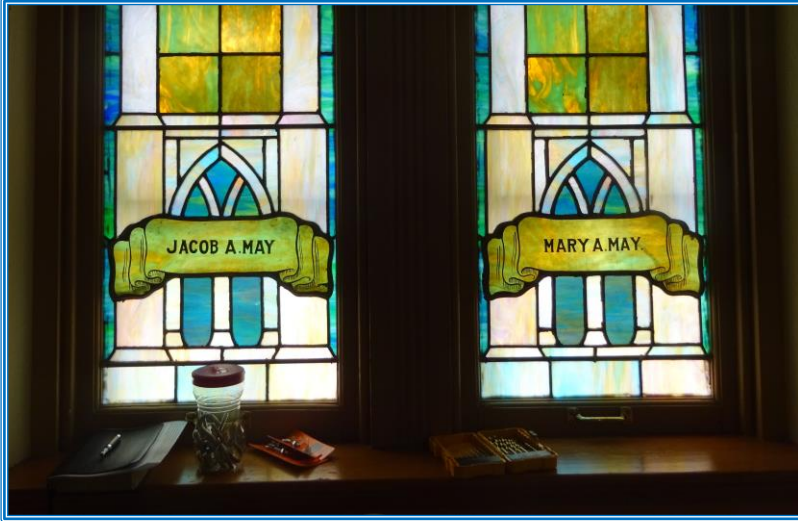


Exploring the Cemetery-Stained Glass, Part 4: Jacob and Mary May

Toward the front of the sanctuary there is a window with the names "Jacob A. May" and "Mary A. May." There are no Mays in the cemetery, so it took a little bit of detective work to figure out who they were. Jacob's death certificate stated that he was a retired paperhanger who was living in Warwick Township at the time of his death. The informant on the death certificate was Nathan Long.



Jacob Ambrose May was born June 20, 1849, to John and Anna (Silvius) May. He married Mary A. Stehman, and for many years lived in Lancaster. They had no children. However, by the 1920 census, he and his wife were living in Warwick Township with Henry H. and Mary Long. By the 1930 census, Mary May had died, and Jacob was living with Henry Long's son, Nathan Long, and Nathan's wife, Clara, on "the state road from Rothsville to Brownstown."

Jacob died Aug. 16, 1930, and services were held in the church, after which he was buried in Lancaster's Greenwood

Cemetery. But why was Jacob May living with the Long family? To figure this out I had to unravel the mystery of the two Rosanna Hambrights.

Michael and Martin Hambright were brothers. Michael had a daughter, Rosanna, who married John Long, the father of Henry H. Long. Martin Hambright also had a daughter named Rosanna who married John Stehman and had a daughter, Mary, who married Jacob May. So, the two Rosannas were cousins, and Henry H. Long and Mary May were second cousins. Nathan Long was Mary May's second cousin, once removed, and it was a matter of family taking in somewhat distant family. Nathan Long and his wife Clara were active members of Jerusalem Church and are buried in the cemetery.

If you've been following the last three stained glass articles, it is beginning to appear that all of the windows studied so far commemorated people who died or were active in the community in the 1920s. And this helps to date the placement of the windows for which there is not a record.

Jacob May had a brother, Cornelius May, who never left Lancaster. A tinsmith, he lived in the first block of S. Queen St. He died in 1938. His wife, Jennie May, achieved some notoriety in Lancaster for her protection of a large maple tree. Her death in 1939 was reported as follows:

"Death Claims Woman who Defended Tree; Mrs. Jennie H. May, 83, Found Dead in Kitchen at 23 South Queen Street; Gas Jet Was Open

They can cut down that tree now... For death, striking unexpectedly Thursday night, claimed Mrs. Jennie H. May, eighty-three, the lone defender of that old maple in front of her home at 23 South Queen street. It was just last February that Mrs. May, while watching for the first sign of spring buds, promised that the old tree -- last one within a block of Penn Square -- "will stand as long as I live..." There are still some leaves from those buds lingering on the tree... and a few fluttered silently to the pavement Thursday night as two women entered the tiny house... and found Mrs. May dead. A jet on the gas stove in the kitchen was open and nearby was the body of Mrs. May, said Dr. Harold K. Hogg, deputy coroner. The victim may have failed to fully close the jet while using the stove... or she may have bumped against it while working about the stove, Dr. Hogg said in rendering a verdict of accidental death."