

In Remembrance

Lancaster High School, Lancaster, Ohio, Class of 1910 Remembrance Section of Class Directory

This section may be incomplete! Comments and corrections can be provided to Chet@LHS60.net.

Classmates – Classmates are included as we learn about them. Initial listing includes classmates identified in the Lancaster High School 2000 Alumni Directory¹ and June 2008 Alumni Newsletter.

Images – Class image is from a 1910 Mirage yearbook. Current images are included when available.

Dates – Dates are included from the Social Security Death Index or obituaries when available.

Obituaries – Obituaries are included when available. In many cases they are the source for adding a classmate and provide verification that information contained here is correct.



1910 Class Image from the 1910 Mirage Yearbook

Ralph W. Acton

Lancaster, Ohio

29 Nov 1890 – 1 Dec 1981

Landscape Architect Ralph W. Acton Dies

Ralph W. Acton, 91 of 625 Coonpath Rd. NW, Lancaster, died Tuesday morning at Lancaster Fairfield County Hospital.

A member of First United Methodist Church and a landscape architect, he retired in 1980, a pioneer in ornamental evergreens. He began his first nursery, known as Rosebank Nursery, in 1922 on Amanda Road. Moving to BIS Road in 1935, it was changed to Acton's Nursery and moved again in 1961 to Coonpath Road.

Survivors include the wife, Anna F.; one daughter, Mrs. Paul (Jeanne) Brehm, Columbus; five sons, Daniel N., Lancaster-Kirksville Road, James (Dick), Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and David A., Paul E. and Thomas N.,

¹ Classmates reported as deceased in the 2000 LHS Alumni Directory remain to be included.

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all of Lancaster; 17 grand-children; 13 great-great-grandchildren; one brother, William, Clearwater, Fla.: two sisters, Mrs. Herbert (Florence) Kaumeyer, Lancaster, and Mrs. Kenneth (Mildred) Smith, LaCross, Wisc.; and nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be Thursday, 3 p.m., in the chapel of the Frank E. Smith Funeral Home; the Rev. George S. Brown officiating; burial in Maple Grove Cemetery, which Acton landscaped when it was known as Trails End Burial Park.

Friends may call today, 7-9 p.m. and until time of service Thursday, at the funeral home.

Originally published in the Lancaster Eagle Gazette, December 2, 1981

Ellen Henry²

Lancaster, Ohio

22 Jan 1892 - 20 Feb 1910

Dreadful Accident Shocks Community

W. B. Henry and Daughter Miss Ellen Killed at Hocking Valley Crossing

Driving Home From Church Their Lives Were Snuffed Out In Twinkling of an Eye-Funeral Services on Wednesday

While driving home from church Sunday evening, W. B. Henry, aged 61 years and his daughter Ellen aged 18 years were killed by a fast Hocking Valley passenger train at Willow Crossing just west of the city. The horrible accident happened about 8:20 p.m. as the southbound passenger train from Columbus was rushing swiftly along in the silent night. The unfortunate couple had been attending the Presbyterian church, of which they both were members, and did not see the approaching train until it was too late.

Native of the County

The Late W. B. Henry was born December 22, 1848, about six miles from Lancaster on a farm in Rushcreek township and was the son of Thomas and Margaret Henry. He leaves behind a loving and heartbroken wife, three sons, four brothers and one sister to mourn his untimely death. In 1876 the deceased was married to Miss Mary Stuart, of near Bremen, and three sons and a daughter were born of the union, and their only daughter Ellen, met death with her father.

The deceased leaves three sons, Edgar L. Henry, married of Columbus, a lay worker in the Broad street Presbyterian church, and Robert and Albert, who have been associated with their father in business. The four brothers are John K. Henry, a prominent lawyer of Columbus, L. P. Henry of Putnam county, Thomas II, and Herbert P. Henry of Pleasantville. One sister, Mrs. W. F. Thompson of East Wheeling Street also survives her brother.

The late Mr. Henry was a very prominent in business life and was owner and operator of the Lancaster Brick and Tile works, on the West side of the city. He conducted a very successful plant and gave employment to many men. He was a prominent church worker and for many years was elder in the Presbyterian church, and had been a member of that congregation from his youth. In 1886 he was elected clerk of the courts of the county, and moved from his country home to this city where he lived at the time of his sudden taking-off. He was also a member of the board of education for many years and took much interest in all municipal affairs. He was well know and numbered his friends by the hundred. His untimely death has cast a gloom over the entire community.

The Only Daughter

Miss Ellen was born January 22, 1892, and had just started on her 18th year. She was the only daughter and her awful fate cannot be realized by the loving family and schoolmates. She was a student in the Lancaster high school and was a girl of high accomplishments. Had she lived until the closing term she would graduated and was to have delivered an oration this coming Thursday at the rhetorical held at the high school. Her sorrowing friends said that she had the oration committed and was prepared for the recital. The sudden calamity that hurried these two souls into eternity without a moments warning is terrible in the extreme and has almost caused the heart-broken wife and mother mental paralysis. The sorrowing mother has been ill for several weeks, and the tragedy of the two lives going out in the blackness of the night is almost more than the poor woman can bear. Her many friends have grave fears for her health. Two lives, one in the green spring of youth just starting out on life's highway with all the future in the foreground and the morning of life fresh as the silvery dew, and the other having passed the highest point where the shadows were falling towards the golden West, yet in love and in rapture with all the world, to be called

² Listed as deceased on page 34 of 1910 Mirage

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into the great beyond in such a terrible manner is more than the human mind can comprehend. The funeral will be held from the late home of the dead on Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, conducted by Rev. Hugh Leith of the Presbyterian church. The bodies will be laid to rest side by side in the family lot in beautiful Forest Rose cemetery.

Story of the Wreck

The awful calamity occurred as the father and daughter were peacefully driving to their beautiful home in Cedar Heights, after attending church in Lancaster. It is quite evident that the unfortunate couple did not hear of or see the rapidly approaching train. The victims had just crossed the track when the huge piece of steel and iron crashed down upon them and snuffed out the spark of their existence in an instant. The bodies were hurled about a hundred feet on the right side of the track and lay about 20 feet apart. The daughter was lying near the embankment and the father over towards a field. Both were still breathing when helping hands hurried to their assistance. The buggy was a total wreck and the top was carried a quarter of a mile down the track as the train was unable to stop short of that distance. The horse escaped uninjured which is very remarkable.

The father and daughter were quickly put aboard the train and hurried to the union station in the hope of saving their lives, but all in vain. Mr. Henry breathed his last as the train was pulling into the station and his daughter Ellen expired shortly after. The couple never regained consciousness and both passed peacefully away with the mystic night. The remains were afterwards removed to the home in the early dawn of the morning.

Brain Penetrated

The velocity of the train when it crashed into the buggy crushed the skull of the unfortunate girl and a piece of a spoke was driven into her head, penetrating the brain. Mr. Henry received a terrific blow on the head, which fractured the skull and his death was almost instant. Marks of the wasted lives were conspicuous in the white snow which related the horrible accident in silent and melancholy imagination.

Willow crossing has quite a history and several unfortunates have met their death at that place. There is a slight incline in crossing the tracks and on one side is an old shed which hides all view of the train coming from the north and on the other are several willow trees and a long sharp curve, which obstructs the view of an approaching train on the other side until just before crossing the road.

Coroner Peter Bugh was at the scene of the accident this morning and was viewing the remains of the shattered buggy and gathering other data for his report. There was also quite a number of curious people standing around and much comment on the untimely fate of the unfortunate was heard Monday. The members of the ill-fated train arrived in Lancaster at 4:28 and their testimony was taken by Coroner Bugh.

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Memorial Service

Most impressive were the services in memory of W. b. Henry and Miss Ellen Henry which were held in the Presbyterian church Sunday morning. Addresses were made by C. T. McCoy on behalf of the elders of the church; B. J. Wolfe, representing the Sunday School; George D. Claflin of Mr. Henry's class; J. L. Graham of the Brotherhood; Miss Hazel Beck of the Christian Endeavor society, especially eulogized Miss Henry; Rev. Leith also spoke briefly upon the life and works of Mr. Henry. The services concluded by the singing of "Crossing the Bar" by the church choir.

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