

for a menonite farmer in the Dayton area. While in Dayton, they had their fifth child, Betty.

Things were very tough financially. Emma never complained, and supplemented their meager income with vegetables from the garden and homemade clothing. After a couple of years at Shenendoah things did get better, as Elias began to receive income both from his farming and from preaching at a nearby country church.

Tragedy occurred during their fourth year at Dayton, when their oldest child, Harry, a boy of nine and a half years, died of appendicitis. He lingered for more than a week in terrible fever and pain, before finally succumbing to the complications of the emergency surgery. Later in her life, Emma shared that she believed the doctor could have been politically motivated, and that the surgery scar was that of a swastika. In any event, it is clear that initial medical care for Harry was delayed due to their economic class. That, in addition to questionable medical competence, probably contributed to the death.

They were, needless to say, devastated by the loss. Elias, who seldom had much money to his name, accepted \$100 from brother-in-law Peter Maurer for the funeral expenses. After Harry's death, Elias persevered and received his high school diploma that year. Elias then transferred to Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pennsylvania. Elias saw it both as an opportunity to finish his credentials for the ministry, as well as give Emma a break from living in the same house and environs where Harry had died. Two years later in Annville, Elias earned enough college credits to qualify as a full-time Christian minister.



Son Harry



Sonny (Harry) and Baby (Ruth) Tombstones

June 30 - 41
Through life you will find
joy and happiness, sorrow and
sadness, but you will find you
will get more joy and happiness
out of life by being content,
never doing anything that you
would not do in the presence of
God and your parents, and
wherever you have a chance to
do something for others by a
smile, a word, or deed do it.
Your Mother

Emma's entry in daughter Arlene's autograph book. Both the autograph and the photograph are dated during their time in West Virginia.

