

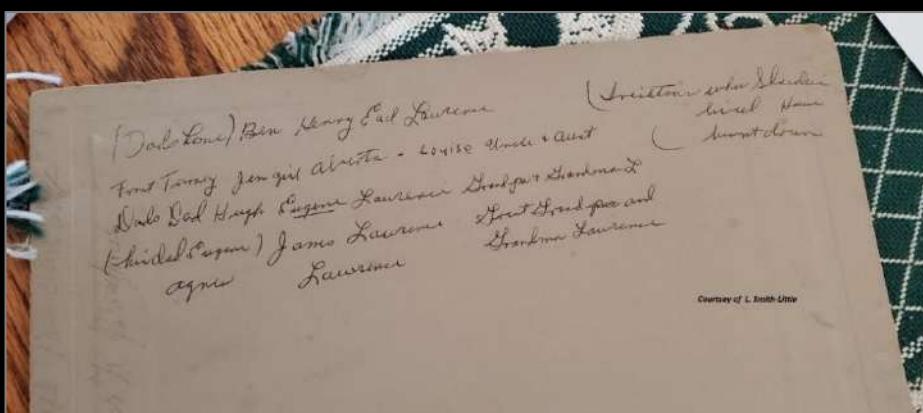
James Anthony & Agnes Hart-Lawrence 50th Golden Anniversary Portrait

This picture was taken at the home of William Hugh Eugene & Mary Ellen "Annie" Neiderer-Lawrence at 1071 Irishtown Road, right after James Anthony & Agnes Hart-Lawrence's 50th Golden Anniversary Mass on December 30, 1913. Genevieve is with her parents Turnie & Alverta Slusser-Lawrence, grandparents Eugene & Annie and great grandparents making this a four-generation picture.



The home of Eugene & Mary Ellen Neiderer-Lawrence at 1071 Irishtown Road, most likely right after the James & Agnes Golden Anniversary Mass on December 30, 1913. Genevieve was the only great-grandchild at that time making this a four-generation picture.

This professional looking photo was provided to friends and family members, we have personally seen this picture from three different families.



One relatives photo copy has a handwritten note stating the photo was taken in Irishtown at the home later owned by Elmer Shrader. This building was later destroyed by fire in 1954 and was replaced later with a small Shrader general Store.

This same property was once owned by John L and Elizabeth Weaver-Lawrence who raised a family of eleven children. John was a Blacksmith along with four of his sons James Anthony, Henry Jacob, Francis Charles, and George William. Later William Hugh "Eugene" Lawrence took ownership and lived there until the late 1930's, when he and his wife Annie Neiderer- Lawrence moved into their in-laws (see attached census reports).

Later this property was purchased by Elmer Shrader and family who lived in it from around 1940 until a fire in 1954 burnt the house and other facilities way beyond repair. This location eventually became the site of Shrader's grocery store and now apartments.

It was quite popular during this time to have grand anniversary celebrations. This four-day of festivities started with a high Catholic Mass on the morning of Tuesday December 30, 1913, and ended with a Friday

January 2, 1914, dinner. Here is a summary published in the January 8th edition of the local New Oxford Item Newspaper (see below).



GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATION.

Mr and Mrs. James Lawrence, an aged and well-known couple, of Irishtown, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary, Tuesday, December 30th, with a Solemn High Mass at 8:30 a. m., in Sacred Heart Church, (Conewago Chapel), where half a century ago, they were married by Father Catanni.

Numerous relatives and friends from Hanover, McSherrystown, New Oxford, and the Conewago parish, were present.

The music and singing were enchantingly rendered by Miss Anna Lippy, the church organist, assisted by the Sacred Heart choir.

The aged couple, attended by Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lawrence, their eldest son, and wife, marched down the aisle to the music of a beautiful wedding march. The church was elaborately decorated with gold, ferns and various cut flowers, all brilliantly illuminated by electric lights.

Entire article below



Tuesday - High Mass 8:30 at the Sacred Heart Conewago Church

- Rev. Germanus Kohl residing 1909-1914
- Music by Miss Anna Lippy
- Singin by Rev. Jerome "Charles" Lawrence

Tuesday - 1:00 PM Banquet at James Anthony & Agnes Home

Tuesday - Evening Social for Grandchildren (including one great grandchild Genevieve)

Thursday - Early Afternoon Dinner at Son & Daughter in law Eugene & Ella Neiderer- Lawrence

Thursday - Evening Supper at their son and daughter in law, Fabian & Emma-Rider Lawrence

Friday - Dinner (dinner was typically a large meal in the early afternoon) at Daughter and Son in Law Anna & Peter Long.

Almost 25 years later, in 1939 Eugene and Annie Neiderer-Lawrence would celebrate their Golden 50th anniversary following in his parent's footsteps. Their eldest son, Henry Earle "Ben" Lawrence and wife Joanna Agnes Smith-Lawrence hosted the dinner in the same tradition.

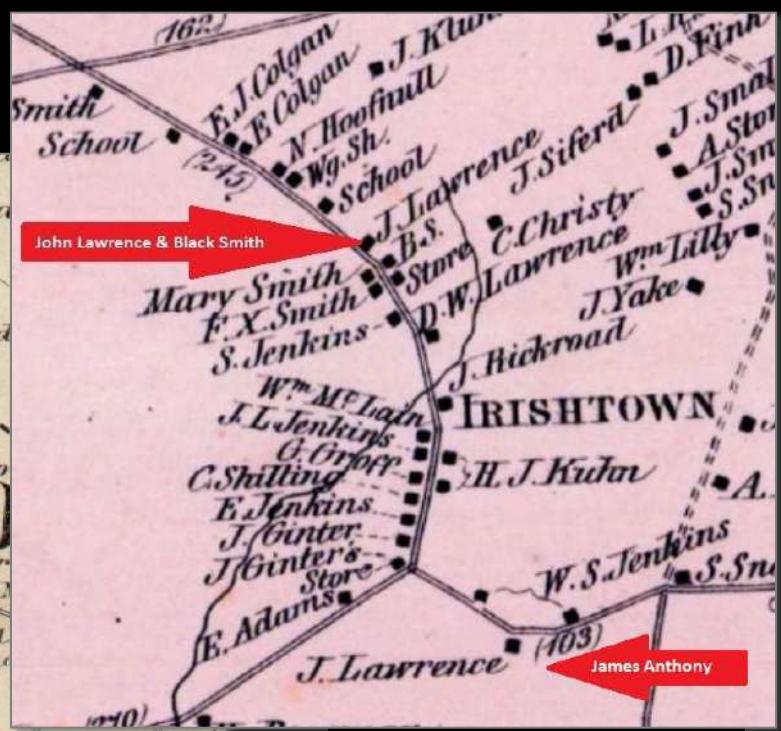
Irishtown in the early 1900's had many Lawrence family relatives living in this small village. In two historic maps, we can see the location of John L Lawrence house.



and Black Smith business. The latter also shows the location of James Anthony & Agnes Hart-Lawrence home.



1858 Local Irishtown Map



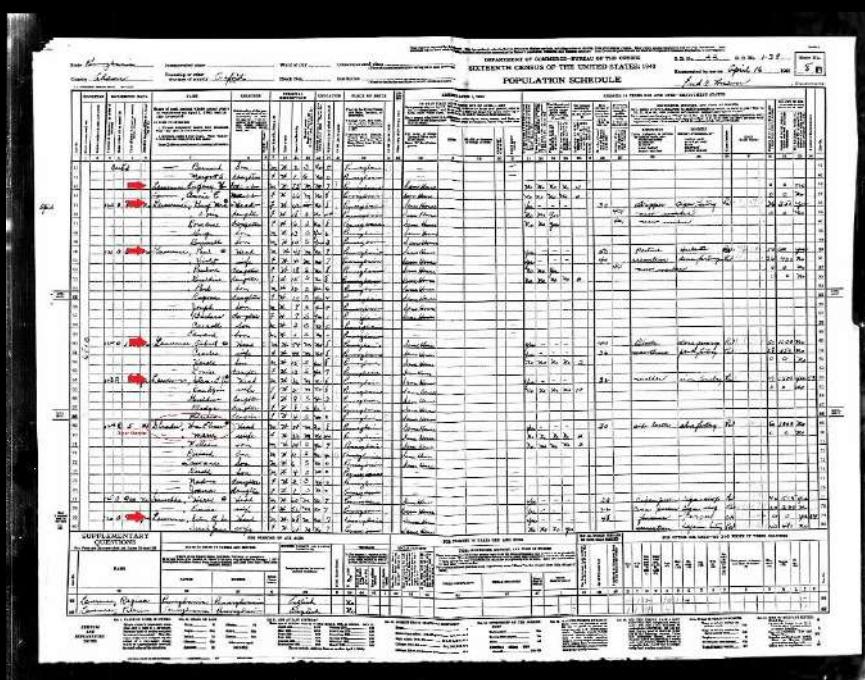
1872 Local Irishtown Map

On the 1872 map, we have highlighted James Anthony's home along with John Lawrence and his Blacksmith business.

The attached sample census report from 1940 shows Elmer Shrader's residence that later had a three-alarm fire and was destroyed, only remnants of some walls remained.

One last note on this well-preserved photo. Some thought the picture location was at the Slusser family house at 2000 Centennial Road. After all, Alberta's father Eugen was a carpenter and he built and owned homes / property in the area.

Research shows (via Zillow website) that this house was built in 1920 and the front Door, to the front Window offset, does not match this photo, thus dispelling this theory...





Original 1913
Photograph



This is a current (2020) photo from Google Maps of the 2000 Centennial Rd. house which was the original Slusser home.

As you can see the windows spacing is reversed. The window on the right is closest to the Door in the original photo. This is opposite from that screen capture from Google maps of 2020 which shows that the left window is closer to the door. The Slusser house was built in 1920 so there is no way that this theory works and has been put to rest...

The Hanover Sun and Gettysburg Times had multiple articles regarding the fire that totally destroyed the now owned Shrader home.

Many provided donations so the family was quickly housed in a new location with many items replaced and clothes provided.

THE GETTYSBURG TIMES
Truth Our Guide—The Public Good Our Aim ESTABLISHED 1902
 Adams County's Only Daily Newspaper With Honor To Ourselves And Profit To Our Patrons
 GETTYSBURG, PA., THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 23, 1954 Leased Wire Member of The Associated Press

SHRADER HOME IN IRISHTOWN IS DESTROYED BY FIRE TODAY

Fire destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Shrader this morning at Irishtown.

The fire started in a summer house to the rear of the 2½-story frame dwelling, William Shrader, New Oxford R. 1, a nephew, reported late this morning.

Mr. Shrader had gone to visit his aunt, and found the home in flames upon his arrival, and "two women were bringing my aunt out the front door."

Flames Spread Rapidly

He said he learned from the neighbors who had gone to the home when the fire started that Mrs. Shrader was heating water in the outkitchen preparatory to washing. She became ill and fell unconscious. When she revived she found the small frame summer house a mass of flames. Crawling from the summer house she called for neighbors, who found her inside the eight-room home adjoining the summer house.

The fire from the blazing summer house swept up over the rear of the home, and set fire to the back of the second floor. From there the fire spread into the kitchen and swept through the remainder of the structure, the nephew said.

The rear of the house was ablaze when the neighbors located Mrs. Shrader in the home and removed her to the home of a neighbor across the street from the blazing dwelling, where the family remained at noontime.

3 Fire Companies Called

Irishtown, New Oxford and Conewago Fire Companies responded to the alarm, but were unable to save more than the walls of the building. The interior with the exception of a front room was gutted and the roof caved in. Prompt action by the firemen prevented the fire from spreading to any adjoining buildings.

Mrs. Shrader was alone in the house at the time of the blaze. Three of the couple's children are married, several are students at Delone

(Continued On Page 3)

WEATHER FORECAST
 Partly cloudy, not as cold tonight, low 26-31. Friday cloudy, mild, followed by snow and colder.

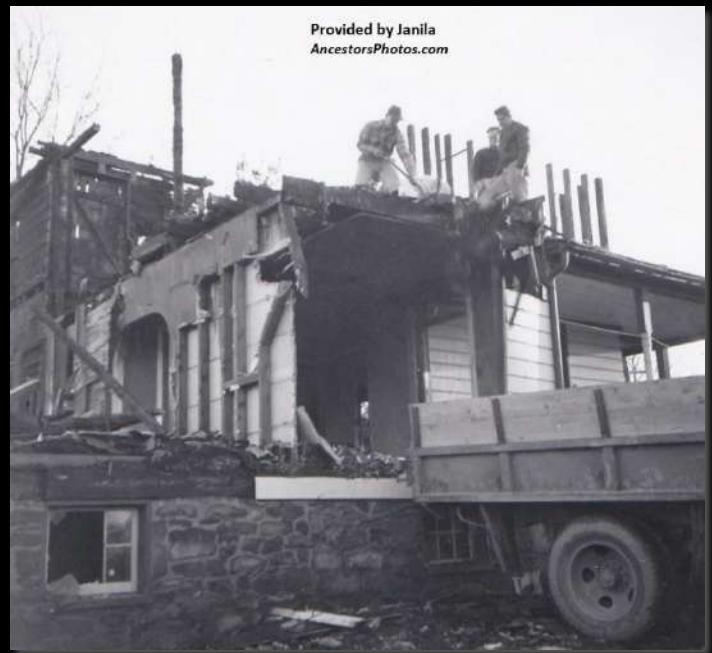
44 Pages

Vol. 52, No. 304 PRICE FIVE CENTS

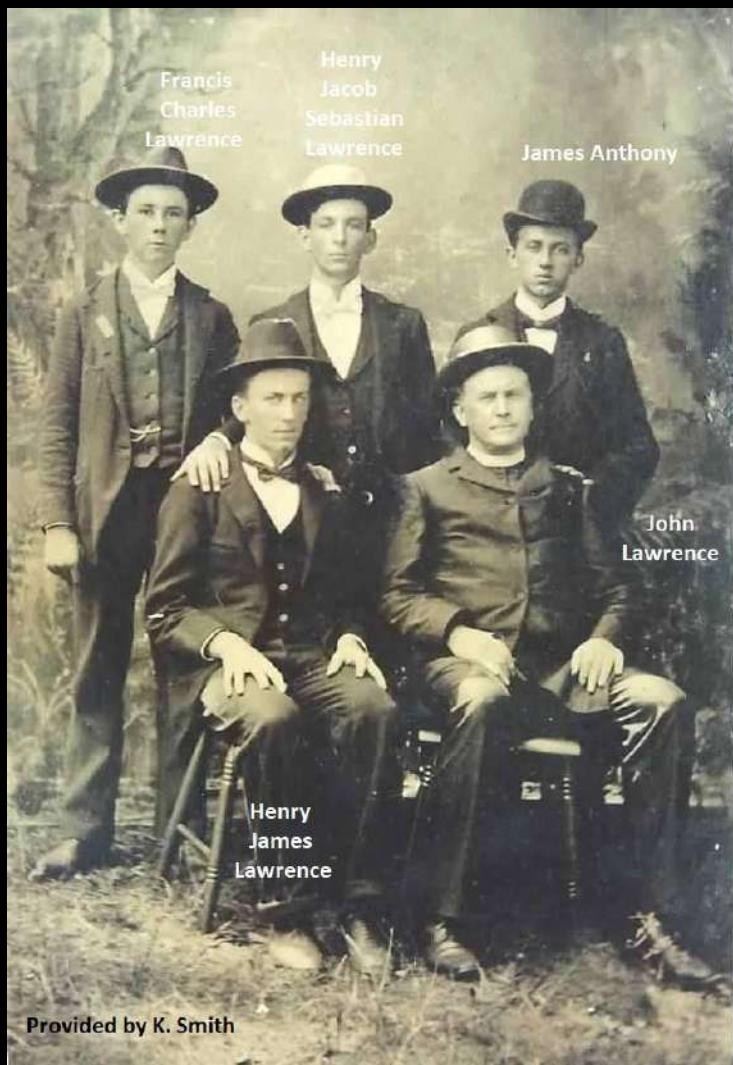
SHRADER HOME
 (Continued from Page 1)
 High School. The remainder are pupils at the parochial school at Conewago Chapel. The baby of the family is in third grade.

Mr. Shrader had left for his employment at the Hanover Shoe Co. earlier this morning. He returned home after being notified of the fire. The children also returned from school when word reached them of the blaze.

Irishtown Family Homeless In Fire



Thank you for reading, the following is additional reference information.



Tentative ID's

Seated Right: John Lawrence
(2/12/1813 - 12/18/1889)

" Left : Henry James Lawrence
(6/27/1836 - 11/27/1911)

Back Right : James Anthony Lawrence
(10/29/1837 - 7/24/1914)

" Center: Henry Sebastian Lawrence
(9/2/1839 - 1/1914)

" Left : Francis Charles Lawrence
(6/26/1841 - 1/1)

E
1705

Original picture estimated to
have been taken 1852 - 1854

John L Lawrence and four of his Sons

Provided by K Smith

New Oxford Item.

NEW OXFORD, PA., THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1914.

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Numerous relatives and friends from Hanover, McSherrystown, New Oxford, and the Conewago parish, were present.

The music and singing were enchantingly rendered by Miss Anna Lippy, the church organist, assisted by the Sacred Heart choir.

The aged couple, attended by Mr. and Mrs Eugene Lawrence, their eldest son, and wife, marched down the aisle to the music of a beautiful wedding march. The church was elaborately decorated with gold, ferns and various cut flowers, all brilliantly illuminated by electric lights.

The High Mass was sung by Rev. Jerome Lawrence, son of the aged couple, assisted by Rev. Benjamin Smith, S. J., as deacon, Rev. John Smythe as sub-deacon, and Rev. Germanus Kohl as master of ceremonies, who also delivered a most touching address.

Before the mass was sung, the aged couple renewed their marriage vows and received the jubilee benediction, before the altar, and, accompanied by their children, also received the Blessed Eucharist.

After the services, at the entrance of the church, the bride and groom received the hearty congratulations of all their relatives and friends.

Their home was beautifully decorated with ferns and a profusion of other flowers. A sumptuous banquet was served at 1 p. m., and a presentation of a purse of gold was donated them by their children and relatives, and many other presents by their numerous friends.

The following persons were present: Rev. Benjamin Smith, S. J., of Philadelphia; Rev. John J. Smythe, of Conewago; Rev. Joseph Murphy, of Midway; Rev. Jerome Lawrence; Mr and Mrs. Eugene Lawrence, Mr and Mrs. Edward Hemler, Mr. and Mrs. Fabian Lawrence, Mr. Stanislaus Lawrence, Mr. George Lawrence, Mr and Mrs. Peter J Long, Miss Isabelle Lawrence, and Mr. and Mrs. Turnie Sloesser, of Irishtown; Mr. and Mrs. William Losman, Mrs. Jerome Overbaugh, Mrs. Mary Johns, Mrs. Annie Leonard, and Miss Emma Hart, of McSherrystown; Mr. and Mrs. Linus Lawrence, and Mr and Mrs. Lingg, of New Oxford, and Miss Emma Lawrence, of the "Sonny South".

A social was also given in the evening, for the grandchildren, 31 in number, and one great grandchild.

At the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence, 50 years ago, Mr. and Mrs. John Staub were the attendants. Mr. Staub has been carried away by death and Mrs. Staub, who resides at Fairfield, was unable to be present.

Rev. Jerome Lawrence, the son, who sang the mass, is professor of higher mathematics and Prefect of the Junior Department of St. Bernard College, Cullman, Alabama. He is also Director of all outdoor sports at the institution, where he has returned to resume his work.

Miss Emma Lawrence has returned to Chattanooga, Tenn., to finish her studies in Chattanooga Business College.

Mr. Harry F. Lawrence, a well known Cigar Manufacturer and Justice of the Peace, of Chattanooga, Tenn., was the only son who was unable to attend.

The venerable couple, with a number of friends and relatives, including Father Jerome Lawrence, were served with a sumptuous wedding dinner at the home of their son, Eugene Lawrence, and family, on New Year's Day, and supper at the home of their son, Fabian Lawrence, and family. On Friday, a dinner was served at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Peter Long, and family, at which were present besides the bride and groom: the Rev. Fr. Lawrence, the Misses Emma and Isabella Lawrence, and Mr. Adam Long and son, Ralph.

—The ITEM joins in extending heartiest congratulations to the venerable couple on this most august occasion.

Newspapers.com

TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 28, 1954

FAMILY UNITED AFTER BLAZE

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Shrader and family were united Monday in a new home in Irishtown after having been burned out of their original home there last Thursday.

Donations by residents of the county and Hanover, plus the offer of a home by Robert Bolin, New Oxford, permitted the family to reunite after they had resided at homes of various relatives after the fire.

Fire Chief John L. Sneeringer, Irishtown Fire Chief, who headed the drive to aid the burned-out family, said that cash donations, in addition to the gifts of clothing, furnishings and food, total slightly more than \$500. The cash is being deposited to Mr. Shrader's account at the Farmers and Merchants Bank, New Oxford.

Donations gave the family "everything they need, except maybe a few dressers, or bureaus, or articles of that type for the bedrooms," the Irishtown firemen said today.

James A. Lawrence**10-29-1837****7-24-1918****Obituary****JAMES A. LAWRENCE**

James A. Lawrence, of Irishtown, died Wednesday morning from a complication of diseases, aged 80 years, 8 months and 25 days.

He was a veteran of the Civil War, having served as a Sergeant of Company H, 165th Regiment, under Capt. William H. Gordinier. He was a member of Major Jenkins Post No. 99, G. A. R., of Hanover.

He leaves his widow and the following children: Eugene W. Lawrence, Irishtown; Henry A. Lawrence, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Mrs. Edw. Hennler, Irishtown; Mrs. William Losman, McSherrystown; Mrs. Peter Long, New Oxford; Miss Isabelle Lawrence, at home; Rev. Jerome Lawrence, of St. Bernard's College, Coleman, Alabama; Frank L. Lawrence, Irishtown; Miss Emma Lawrence, Birmingham, Alabama. There are also 33 grandchildren and seven greatgrandchildren.

One brother, George W. Lawrence, and three sisters, Mrs. Kate Staub, Mrs. Sallie Overbaugh and Mrs. Anna Leonard, also survive.

Agnes Hart-Lawrence**5-6-1843****10-16-1922****In the News!****New Oxford Item.****THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1915.****LOCAL HAPPENINGS.****Had Narrow Escape.**

Mrs. James A. Lawrence, of Irishtown, had a narrow escape from being crushed under wheels of a train at the crossing of the W. M. R. R. on Lincoln Way, West, on Tuesday. Mrs. Lawrence, who is well advanced in years, was driving Westward, and was just in the act of crossing the railroad when the engine of the 9:49 mail train Westward, appeared from between the buildings. With great presence of mind the woman quickly turned the horse she was driving, to the side, up on the lawn, allowing the train to pass within two feet of the vehicle. Eye witnesses of the affair trembled in fear that the woman would be crushed under the train. Mrs. Lawrence failed to hear the whistle of the engine or the alarm gong close to the crossing.



