

---

## Benjamin Ury Schrecengost

---

### Notes

Benjamin Ury Schrecengost was born September 6, 1837 in Valley Twp. Armstrong Co. Pa. at the Red Mill. He was the first child of 11 children of George and Hannah (Cravenor) Schrecengost. His 7 brothers were David Alexander, Daniel Levi, Joseph Mosgrove, George Cravenor, Samuel Peter, William Love, Isaac Adam. His sisters were: Sarah Ann, Mary Elizabeth, and Hannah Susannah.

On August 18, 1864 he married Harriet Blackburn King in Pittsburgh, Pa., by J.W. Shirer V.D.M. at Wesley Chapel of M.E. Church, 5th Ward. Witnesses W.M. and Josephine Read.

He bought a farm in Cowanshannock Twp., Armstrong Co. with a log house. The 1876 Atlas shows a house near the road with a coal mine near. His grandson, Norman Beer, said he bought an old school house, used it for a sheep pen, then used part of the lumber to build a house in the hillside back from the road. He had good stone mason knowledge as he made the stone foundation extra wide. They had only a dirt floor for many years, and cooked at the fireplace.

Their children were as follows: Charles King born August 3, 1866, Hannah May born Jan. 1, 1868, James Albert born June 12, 1869, Anna Jane born Dec. 14, 1870, Benjamin Franklin born March 2, 1874, Samuel Craig born April 22, 1878. Little Frankie (Ben Franklin) died at 11 months. Harriet was told if she breast fed her child she couldn't get pregnant, so she fed Samuel until he was about 6 years old.

Benjamin farmed and mined coal. The 1876 Atlas states in Cowanshannock Business notices "Schecongost, Benj.U; Proprietor Schecongost Coal Bank, also Farmer. Best Bituminous Coal. P.O. Rural Valley, Pa."

A Lutheran Catechism book has his name written in the front, but James, Charles and Samuel were baptized in Salem Reformed Church, Armstrong Co., Pa. (also called Hill's Church). Records there show Benjamin and Harriet communed in 1871 through 1873.

A small notebook shows that Benjamin belonged to Rose Valley Literary Society in 1890 and 1891.

Benjamin gave each of his children a lot of about one fourth acre along the road. First was Jim's in front of Benjamin's house, then May's, Ann's, Charles' and Samuel's. Sam's extended up to the stone quarry below one of the coal mines to the end of the farm. Charles didn't marry so Sam's wife later bought his lot to raise vegetables to sell. Jim didn't marry so his lot was left empty.

When Charles was just a boy he noticed a Mr. McGregor, a well-to-do business man from Kittanning, had brought some men to hunt on land below the house that was the family garden. He told them to get out of there. Mr. McGregor turned and shot Charles in the head almost killing him. He had difficulty learning after that and children made fun of him because of that and because he was reel footed. He developed quite a temper but was a good worker. Never married, he died at 59 in 1925.

Hannah May married Orv J. Patrick and they built a house on her lot. They had two sons who died at birth March 24, 1898 and Feb. 4, 1900. Diabetic in later years, her cataracts took her eyesight. She had made many beautiful tatted and embroidered items before her blindness. She died in 1936.

Jim had small feet and could wear a lady's size 7 shoe. He lived at home and didn't marry. He died at 63, only 2 years after his mother on Oct. 10, 1932.

Anna Jane married Peter Beer, son of Absolom W. Beer, (a powerful man known for his strength). They lived up the hill towards Blanco until they could build a house on Anna's lot. Norman Peter was born Sept. 30, 1894 and Samuel 1899. Peter was a large strong man like his father and he hauled freight for the coal company with his horse and wagon. Norman said his father was loading a 600 or 700 lb. barrel of white lead paint when his foot slipped. He heaved the barrel onto the wagon wrenching his back. In 6 days he was dead. (1900). Their house was lived in but not finished inside.

Anna later remarried to Lee Schall whose wife had died leaving him with two children, Ross and Ethel. They had two children, Clarence and May. They moved to a farm near Rockville. She died Nov. 29, 1948.

Samuel Craig at about age 2 fell over a pumpkin gathered in for harvest. He ruptured his stomach and was bothered by it all his life. Samuel married Edith Waltenbaugh and they lived with his mother until they could build a house. Twila May was born there in 1905. They rented their house to get enough money to buy furniture. Merle James was born in the new house in 1910, Harriet Catherine in 1912 and Leroy Ellsworth in 1916. Samuel later built a house at the end of his lot. He died Sep. 24, 1948.

In 1902 Benjamin broke a leg and had failing health after that. Hannah May wrote to Sam who was working at a lumber camp in Washington state, telling him he should come home because his father wasn't well. Sam came back and his father lived about a year. Benjamin died Feb. 14, 1902 at his home in Rose Valley and is buried at Salem Reform Church Cemetery.

Note-- Benjamin's birth date is in the George Schrecengost Bible owned by Nora Hill of Kittanning, Pa. His death is in The Reg docket Vol. 4 P. 260 Kittanning, Pa. Courthouse.

---