

## HOLY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HILL OVERLOOKING ROBESONIA

Reverend Aaron Finfrock was our Pastor from 1864–1891.

And, while all of our Pastors are interesting, Rev. Finfrock left an amazing paper trail that adds to the intrigue! Genealogical records – oh my! Read on, and make sure to look at the photos!

Rev. Aaron Finfrock was born August 1, 1825, in Frederick County, Maryland.

He entered the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in 1856. After completing his course of study at Gettysburg, Finfrock was licensed in the Fall of 1858 by the Synod of Maryland, at Waynesburg. He was called to the Dillsburg, PA, charge in May 1859. The West Pennsylvania Synod at Hanover ordained him on September 5 of that year.

Rev. Finfrock remained in the Dillsburg charge until the summer of 1864, when he moved to Berks County and took charge of St. Daniel's, Kissinger's, Geigertown, and Bern churches for a little more than a year. In December 1865, he settled at the Womelsdorf Parish, which then included St. Daniel's, Reed's, Strausstown, and Host churches. For a few years he retained Bern and Kissinger's churches in connection with his charge, and in 1887 he gave up Reed's, the original Tulpehocken church. He retained the other four congregations until the close of 1891, when he retired from the active work of the ministry. For several years, he continued to reside in Womelsdorf. He moved to a residence on Sixth Street in Reading, PA, in 1896. Rev. Finfrock never married. About four or five years before his death, he was partly disabled by a fall. He lived in Reading until his death on October 29, 1902. He is buried at Charles Evans Cemetery in Reading.

Rev. Finfrock was very conscientious in his work. He had a kind and sympathetic disposition, a good sense of humor, and appreciated a good joke. He spoke fearlessly against the social and other evils of the time and frequently referred to the existence of so much wickedness in the “enlightened 19th century.” [Can you imagine if he lived in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?!]

Aside from the last paragraph, Rev. Finfrock's ministry sounds relatively similar to several others in our more distant past. However – somehow – our archives contain several books of church records and other distinct items from his time at St. Daniel's! It is unclear how these survived the church fire of 1976 – unharmed except from the passage of time, or if they were perhaps stored somewhere else offsite.

Found in our archives is an original Marriage certificate for William H. Froelich and Amanda S. Moyer, married July 12, 1873 by Rev. Finfrock. This can be traced back to one of Rev. Finfrock's marriage record books! Further research has found that Mr. & Mrs. Froelich are buried in Section 2 of the Heidelberg Cemetery. Additionally, there is an original Confirmation certificate for James Grimes from May 25, 1878. Look at the writing and detail of these certificates!!! Each archival find is like uncovering buried treasure! Each page and each item reminds us that St. Daniel's story didn't begin with us, but goes way back through the generations to 1751! Our congregation was shaped by faithful people whose lives still echo in these pages, inviting us to cherish our history and live our faith with the same care and conviction, and deepening the sense of responsibility to TREASURE, PRESERVE, and CARRY FORWARD the story we've inherited over 275 years!

Notable events during Rev. Finfrock's lengthy ministry at St. Daniel's:

1864-1865: Started in 1861, the United States Civil War continued until April 9, 1865. Approximately 365,000 Union and 258,000 Confederate soldiers were killed.

April 14, 1865: President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated; Vice President Andrew Johnson became the 17<sup>th</sup> President.

December 18, 1865: The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment was proclaimed, abolishing slavery and involuntary servitude.

1866-1868: Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Alabama were admitted back into the Union.

March 1, 1867: Nebraska was admitted as the 37<sup>th</sup> state of the Union.

March 30, 1867: Territory of Alaska was purchased from the Russian Empire.

June 23, 1868: A patent was awarded to American inventor Christopher Latham Sholes, along with Carlos Gidden and Samuel W. Soule, for the first typewriter; it was first manufactured in 1873 by E. Remington & Sons, and first sold to the public in 1874. It was the first to use the QWERTY keyboard.

July 9, 1868: The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified, granting citizenship to all persons "born or naturalized in the United States," including formerly enslaved people, and provided all citizens with "equal protection under the laws."

March 4, 1869: Ulysses S. Grant was inaugurated as the 18<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

February 3, 1870: The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified, prohibiting the federal government and states from denying a citizen the right to vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

1870: Virginia, Mississippi, Texas, and Georgia were readmitted to the Union.

March 1, 1872: Yellowstone National Park was established; it was the world's first national park.

May 17, 1875: Aristides the horse won the first Kentucky Derby.

August 1, 1876: Colorado was admitted as the 38<sup>th</sup> state of the Union.

March 4, 1877: Rutherford B. Hayes was inaugurated as the 19<sup>th</sup> President of the United States after a disputed election.

1877-1892: Thomas Edison invented the phonograph (1877); patented the first practical incandescent light bulb (1879); and developed the kinetograph/kinetoscope for moving pictures (1889-1892).

June 21, 1879: Frank Woolworth opened the first "5 and 10 cent" store in Lancaster, PA.

1879: The Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Carlisle, PA, opened to "Americanize" Native American Indian children.

March 4, 1881: James Garfield was inaugurated as the 20<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. He was shot on July 2 and died from his injuries on September 19, 1881. Vice President Chester Arthur became the 21<sup>st</sup> President.

May 24, 1883: The Brooklyn Bridge opened, connecting Brooklyn and lower Manhattan.

November 18, 1883: Four standard time zones, made necessary by transcontinental railroad travel, were adopted by the U.S. and Canada.

1883: Extensive repairs to the church building and rededication of St. Daniel's on November 25th.

December 6, 1884: The Washington Monument was completed, finishing a 36-year, two-phase construction project. It opened to the public on October 9, 1888.

March 4, 1885: Grover Cleveland was inaugurated as the 22<sup>nd</sup> President of the United States.

October 28, 1886: The Statue of Liberty, a gift from France, was dedicated in New York Harbor.

1887: St. Daniel's became a member of the Womelsdorf Parish, which lasted until 1943.

March 4, 1889: Benjamin Harrison was inaugurated as the 23<sup>rd</sup> President of the United States.

November 2, 1889: North Dakota and South Dakota were admitted as the 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> states of the Union.

November 8, 1889: Montana was admitted as the 41<sup>st</sup> state of the Union.

November 11, 1889: Washington was admitted as the 42<sup>nd</sup> state of the Union.

July 3, 1890: Idaho was admitted as the 43<sup>rd</sup> state of the Union.

July 10, 1890: Wyoming was admitted as the 44<sup>th</sup> state of the Union.

October 1, 1890: Yosemite National Park was established.

December 29, 1890: The Battle of Wounded Knee took place in South Dakota, where the U.S. Cavalry massacred over 250 Sioux Indians.

December 1891: James Naismith invented basketball.

What an amazing and enduring history we share!

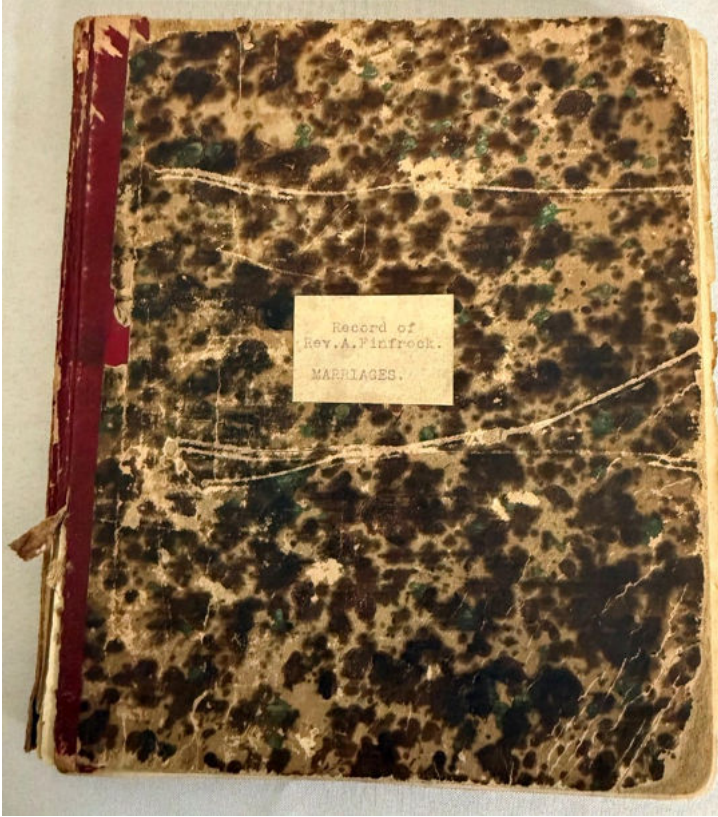
Follow this space throughout the year for snippets of St. Daniel's history from 1751 to 2026.

Historical details taken from the 'Saint Daniel's Evangelical Lutheran Church "Eck Kirche" 1751-2001' church history book written by the St. Daniel's History Committee in celebration of the 250th anniversary. More detail regarding this topic is found in Chapter 3 – Pastors. Significant time spent in our archives and going down rabbit holes! Timeline details researched on the internet. Photos of St. Daniel's archives except where noted.

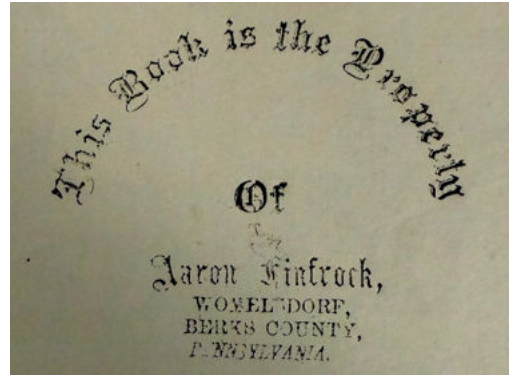
**#StDaniels #StDanielsLutheranChurch #EckKirche #CornerChurch  
#OnTheHillOverlookingRobesonia #RobesoniaPA #1751StDaniels2026  
#275thAnniversary #HolyHighlights #History #OurHistory #ReverendAaronFinrock  
#ChurchRecords #MarriageCertificate #WilliamFroelich #AmandaMoyer  
#HeidelbergCemetery #ConfirmationCertificate #JamesGrimes  
#ALotHappensIn275Years**



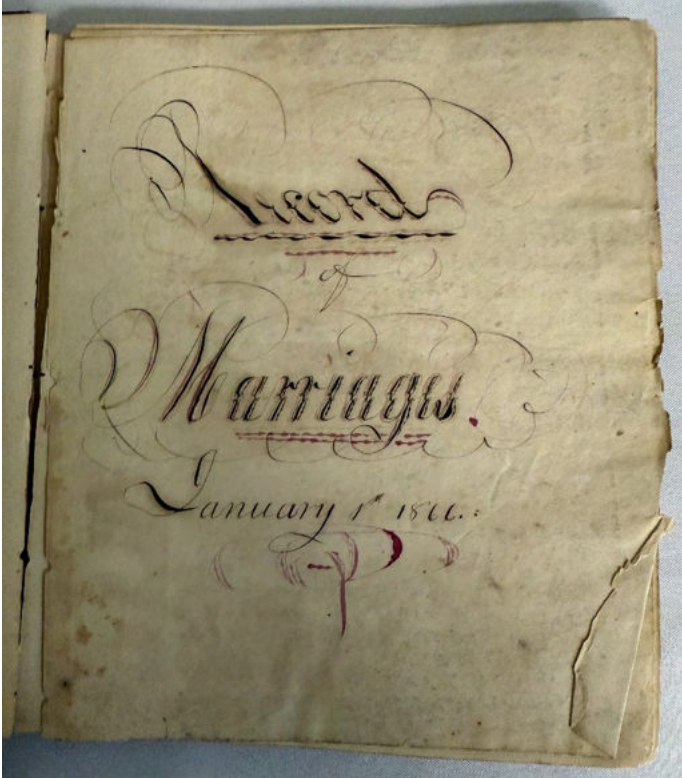
Rev. Aaron Finfrock; photograph on the left by Saylor, Reading, PA; photograph on the right by Hafer, Reading, PA; dates unknown



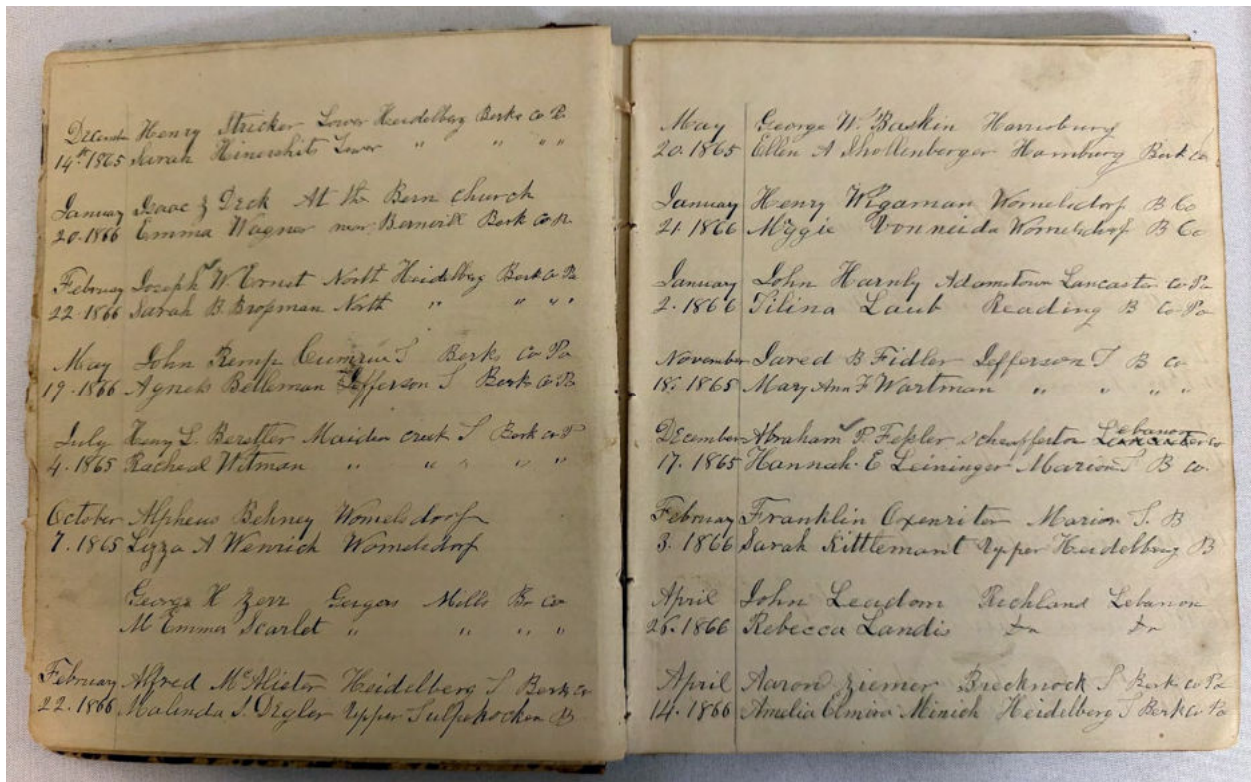
Record book of Marriages performed by Rev. Aaron Finfrock (sticker added to the book at some later date)



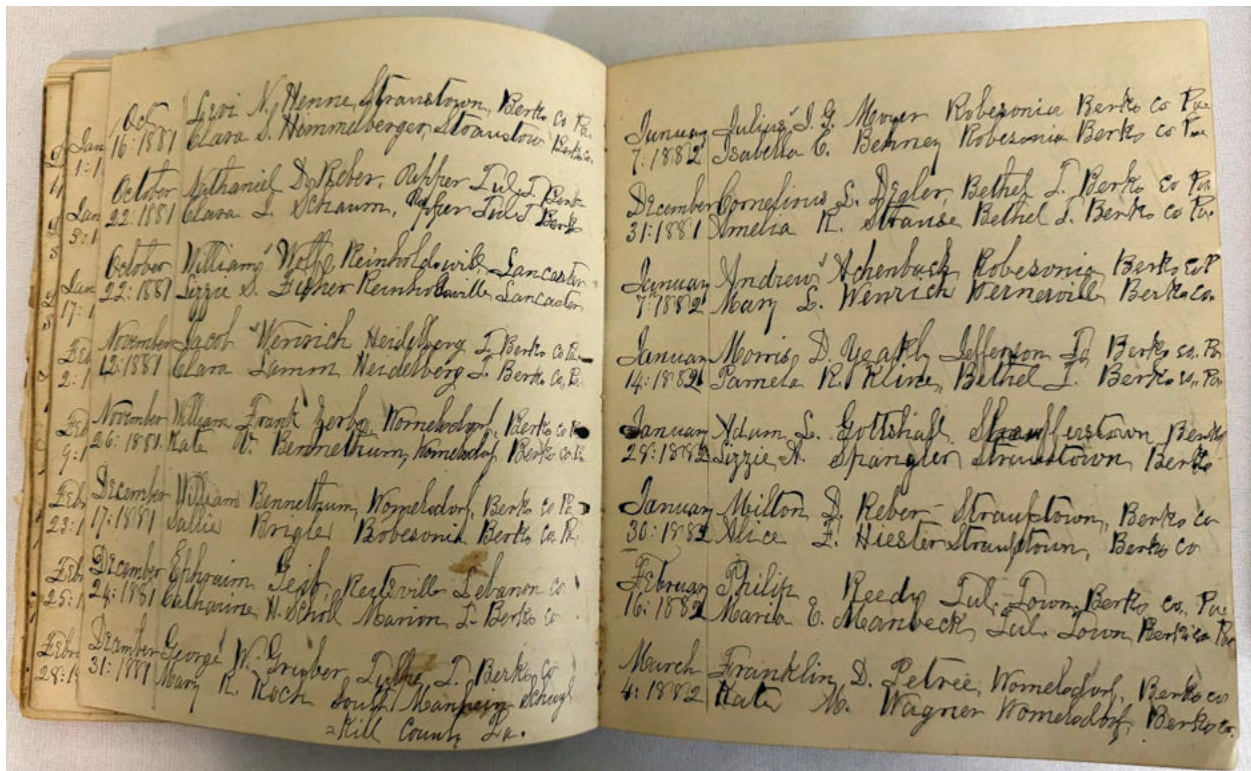
Imprint inside the Marriage record book.



Handwritten inside the Marriage record book.



Entries from 1865-1882 in the Marriage record book (during Rev. Aaron Finrock's pastorate).





# Marriage Certificate.

Let every man have his own wife.  
1 COR. 7. 2.

Let every woman have her own husband.  
1 COR. 7. 2.



## MARRIAGE IS HONORABLE.

It is not good that man should be alone, I will make him an help meet for him. Gen. 2, 18.  
Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cleave unto his wife. Gen. 2, 24.  
What therefore GOD hath joined together, let not man put asunder. Mat. 19, 6.

Come, gracious Spirit, heav'nly Dove,  
With light and comfort from above;  
Be thou their guardian, thou their guide;  
O'er ev'ry thought and step preside.  
Conduct them safe, conduct them far  
From ev'ry sin and hurtful snare;  
Lead to thy word, that rules must give,  
And teach them lessons how to live.

The light of truth to them display,  
That they may know and love thy way;  
Plant holy fear in new join'd hearts,  
That they from thee may ne'er depart.  
Lead them to righteousness, the road  
That they must take, to dwell with God;  
Lead them to heav'n, the seat of bliss,  
Where pleasure in perfection is.

*This is to Certify, that*

*Mr. William H. Froelich* AND *Ms. Amanda S. Moyer*  
of \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Were by me joined in the bonds of Holy Matrimony, according to the law of GOD and the Rites of \_\_\_\_\_  
on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and \_\_\_\_\_

By



Church, of \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor of the \_\_\_\_\_

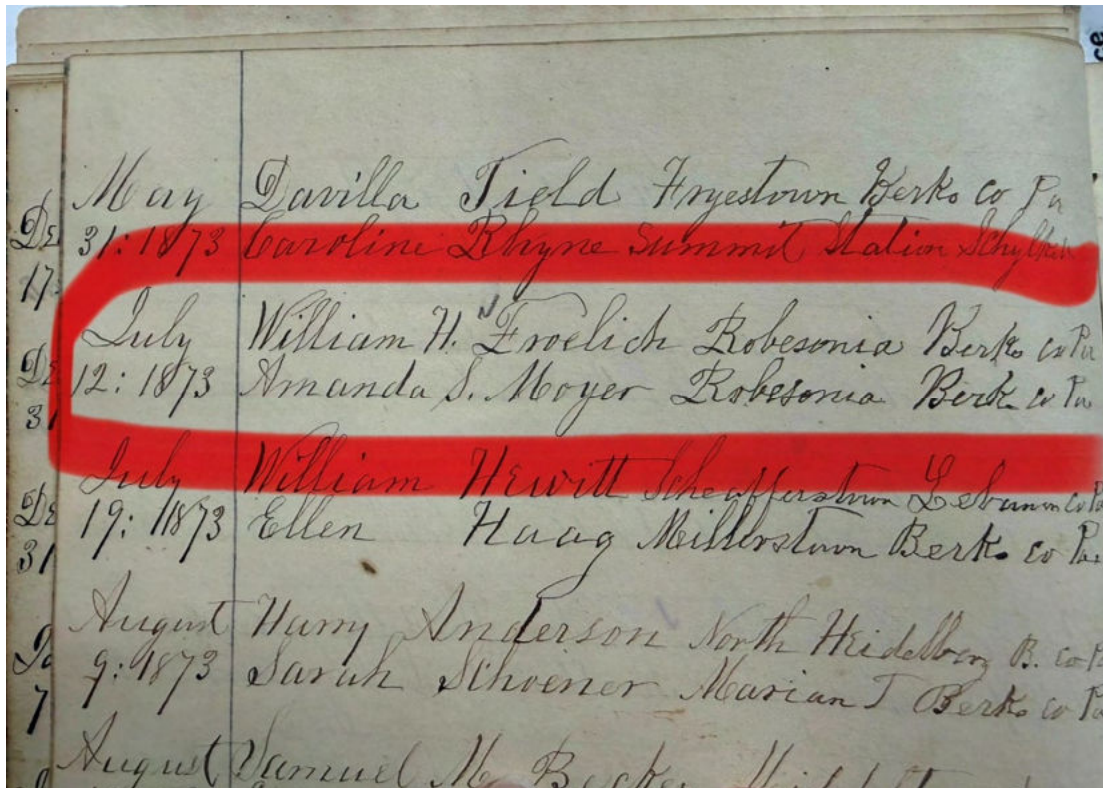
Witness.

J. WEIDMAN, PRINTER, WOMELSDORF, PA.

Original marriage certificate for William H. Froelich and Amanda S. Moyer, July 12, 1873, performed by Rev. Aaron Finrock.



Original marriage certificate for William H. Froelich and Amanda S. Moyer, July 12, 1873, performed by Rev. Aaron Finrock. The fountain pen ink is faded but there is just enough for eagle eyes to guess the names, then confirm them in one of the Marriage record books!

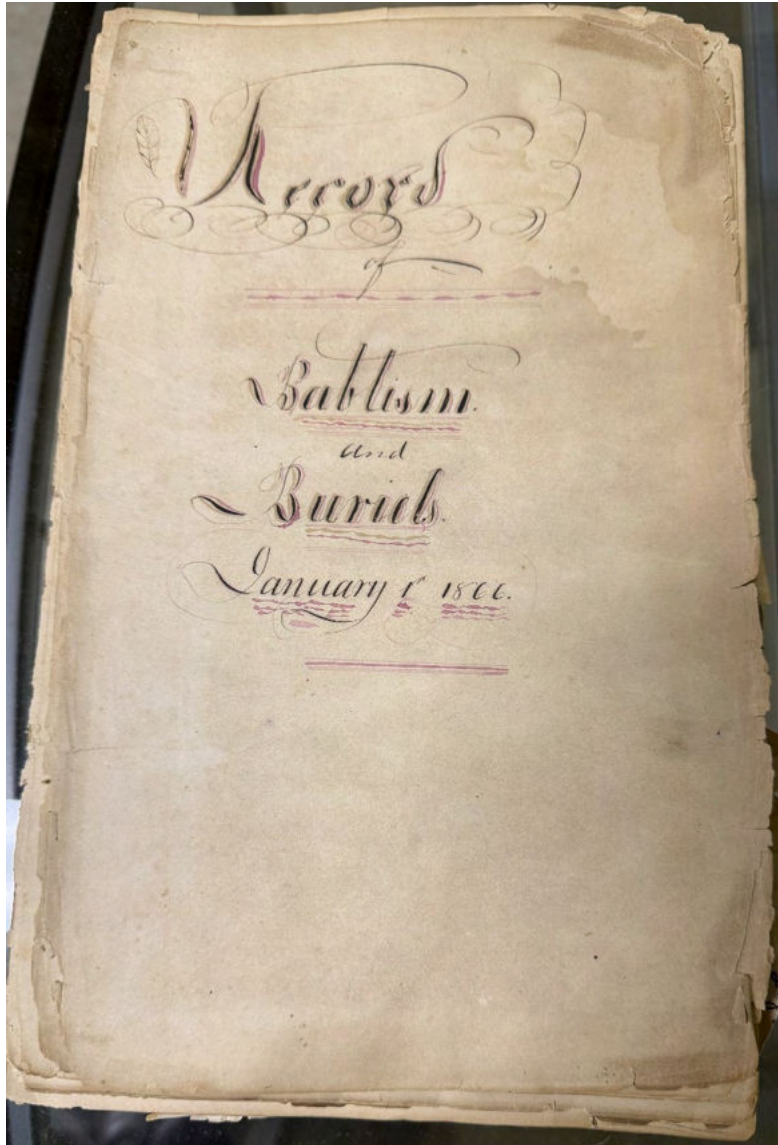


After guessing the names were William H. Froelich and Amanda S. Hager or Moyer, this entry was found in the previously noted Marriage record book - confirming the names William H. Froelich and Amanda S. Moyer. Yes!



The gravestones of William H. and Amanda S. (Moyer) Froelich located in Heidelberg Cemetery, Robesonia, PA. Photographed February 25, 2026.





Pages from a record book of Baptisms and Burials starting January 1, 1866 (Rev. Aaron Finrock).

No.	Name of Parents	Name of Child	When b'd	How	Where born	Sponsors	Place		
1307	Franklin & Henrietta	David	19	February	1868	Marian	Parents	Reid Church	
	Sarah (Shatt)		30	May	1868	Tutshoeken	James Anspach	Hart Church	
131	William & Joseph	Samuel Jacob	25	Jan	1868	Marian	Maria Keller	Hart	
	Leah (Seibert)		31	May	1868	Jefferson	James & Rebecca	H. S. Church	
132	William H. & Kelley	Eliza Maria	20	Dec	1867	Wolf	Christman	Daniel & Lydia Berger	H. S. Church
	Carilla (Wirth)		30	May	1868	Tul	Parents	Blue	
133	Joseph Miller	Thomas Elizabeth	30	Nov	1867	Stranstown	Parents	Blue	
	Sophia (Kapel)		31	May	1868	Heidelberg	Leonilda Birgel	Eck Church	
134	Harilla & Berger	Daniel	18	April	1867	Wormsloof	George W. May Birgel	Wormsloof	
	Maria (Kugel)		31	May	1868	North Heidelberg	Emma Wetlinger	Eck Church	
135	Adam & Sarah	Emma Rebecca	28	April	1867	Wormsloof	Parents	Wormsloof	
	Rebecca (Sindler)		31	May	1868	North Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
136	Moses & Henry	Jacob Walter	11	September	1868	Penn T	Parents	Reid Church	
	Leah (Freid)		31	May	1868	West Union & Lancaster		Eck Church	
137	George W. & Joseph	Harrison	7	Dec	1867	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
	Mary (Boyer)		4	June	1868	North Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
138	John & John	Lilly May	29	August	1867	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
	Emma (Kugel)		4	June	1868	Lower Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
139	John F. & Fidler	Loisna Elmer	26	January	1868	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
	Mary A. (Gylden)		5	June	1868	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
140	Samuel & Nancy	Abbe Ellen	7	April	1867	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
	Elizabeth (Hoffman)		10	August	1867	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
141	Joseph & Carick	Katie Viola	26	January	1868	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
	Mary A. (Fields)		7	June	1868	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
1	Reyer & Harmel	Sarah Ann	11	April	1868	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
	Sarah (Mannings)		13	June	1868	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
2	George & Myrtal	William	18	June	1868	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
	Nancy (Schellman)		3	April	1868	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
3	Wasa & Mentzer	Heller Ann	3	April	1868	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
	Liza K. (Bryson)		16	June	1868	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
4	Harrison & Leisinger	Lytia Corrola	6	Jan	1868	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
	Elmer (Snyder)		18	June	1868	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
5	Daniel P. & Whitson	Tama Regina	4	June	1868	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
	Mary (Wynick)		18	June	1868	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
6	Ja. Ch. & Freucher	George Charles	14	August	1867	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	
	Tompson & Rader		18	June	1868	Heidelberg	Parents	Eck Church	

Entries from 1868 in the Baptism portion of the record book (during Rev. Aaron Finrock's pastorate). Notice the last column is "Place," covering the different churches under Rev. Finrock's charge. "Eck Church" is St. Daniel's.



1865 Lidia Gattin von Laurent Minuig und Feister von  
 Jacob und Susanna Feist. Starb am 31<sup>ten</sup> October 1865  
 Alt 48 Jahr 6 Monat 25 tag. Feist. Pagina 40: 6. 7. 8  
 1865 Maria Magdalena Gattin von Samuel Marsone  
 und Feister von Christian und Maria Magdalena Quors  
 Starb am 15<sup>ten</sup> Decembers 1865. Alt 60 7 11 M 15 tag.  
 Feist. Feist. Kalm 34. anno 2. 0  
 1866 William Bohn von Jacob und Elisabeth Feister  
 Starb am 3<sup>ten</sup> Junius 1866. Alt 32 7 5 M 24 tag  
 Feist. Mars. 13. 37  
 1866 Anna Feister von Jacob und Maria Feister  
 Starb am 17<sup>ten</sup> Junius 1866. Alt 20 7 10 M 19 tag  
 Feist. Lucco 23. 28  
 1866 ... Feist. ...

This page appears to be written in German.

William Heilbach	Harry	21 May 1876	Upper Twp	Parents	Blue
Rebecca (Long)	Irina Lema	9 Sept 1876	Stramtown	Parents	Blue M
William Henry		11 July 1875	Heidelberg	Mother	Eck
Mabel (Jester)	Lizzie	9 Sept 1876	South Heidelberg	Parents	Eck
Samuel P. Jaeger		2 July 1876	Heidelberg	Mother	Eck
Caroline (Hess)	Rebecca Levi	1 Oct. 1876	Jefferson	Parents	Eck
David (Hess)		21 Feb. 1875	Jefferson	Parents	Eck
Rebecca (Hess)		1 Oct. 1876	Keenida	Mother	Eck
James (Hess)	William Samuel	2 April 1876	South Heidelberg	Parents	Eck
John (Hess)		1 Oct. 1876	Rebeccaonia	Parents	Eck
Michael (Hess)	Kate Hannah	2 Jan. 1874	Upper Twp	Parents	Blue M
Michael (Hess)	Charles	1 Oct. 1876	Mill Creek Lutheran	Anne S. Ulrich	Eck
Michael (Hess)		14 Apr. 1876	West Rubeen Lutheran	James & Kate Mosler	Eck
Thomas H. (Hess)	Monroe Martin	1 Oct. 1876			
Thomas L. (Hess)		10 Aug. 1874			
John K. (Hess)	Eck	1 Oct. 1876			
Rebecca (Hess)		27 Sept. 1876			
James (Hess)	Anna Maria	2 Sept. 1876			
John (Hess)		24 Oct. 1875			
Samuel L. (Hess)	Ellen Henrietta	7 Oct. 1876			
Caroline (Hess)		9 Aug. 1875			
John (Hess)		8 Oct. 1876			
George (Hess)	Naron	25 Sept. 1876			
John (Hess)		19 Oct. 1876			
John (Hess)	Amelia Cora	28 Sept. 1876			
John (Hess)		19 Oct. 1876			

Additional pages of baptisms – 1876 and 1886. “Eck” refers to St. Daniel’s.

Jonathan Hoff	Virginia Fyanna	5 Sept. 1886	Marian	Parents	Wormelhof
Emma L. (Fellert)		18 April 1886	Rebeccaonia	Benjamin & Kate Moacherman	Eck
Arnon W. Moacherman	Valeria May	10 Dec. 1885	Marian	Charles H. Achenbach	Host
May M. (Bilfman)	Howard Charles	18 April 1885	Heidelberg	Ellen C. Brigle	Eck
John N. Schreiner		4 March 1886	Mill Creek	Parents	Eck
Leeta A. (Baldorf)	Luella Ellen Esther	11 April 1886	Wormelhof	Samuel M. Allister	Wormelhof
David Wemmer		8 Feb. 1886	Wormelhof	Samuel M. Allister	Wormelhof
Angelina (Brigel)	Pearson & Lewis	22 July 1886	Jefferson	Parents	Host
Jonathan B. Meyer		5 June 1885	Upper Twp	Parents	Blue
Annie A. (Nagle)	Franklin Pearce	4 Oct. 1885	Stramtown	Parents	Blue
Franklin P. Kallman		8 May 1884	Upper Twp	Parents	Blue
Rebecca (Petree)	George Washington	27 August 1886	Upper Twp	Parents	Blue
Franklin P. Kallman		5 March 1886	Upper Twp	Parents	Blue
Rebecca (Petree)	Calvin	27 August 1886	Upper Twp	Parents	Blue
William F. Long		16 Jan. 1884	Upper Twp	Parents	Blue
Kate (Heid)	Charles Calvin	25 Feb. 1884	Upper Twp	Parents	Blue
James N. Kuber		6 Feb. 1886	Upper Twp	Parents	Blue
Caroline (Long)	Amy Elizabeth	14 March 1886	Upper Twp	Parents	Blue
George B. (Leibner)		8 Nov. 1886	Upper Twp	Parents	Blue
Kate J. (Becker)	Edwin Albert	19 Dec. 1886	Upper Twp	Parents	Blue
Anna (Meyer)		8 Nov. 1886	Upper Twp	Parents	Blue
Olivia N. (Kline)	Carrie Ellen	19 Dec. 1886	Upper Twp	Parents	Blue
Harriet (Kline)		8 Nov. 1886	Upper Twp	Parents	Blue
Olivia N. (Kline)		19 Dec. 1886	Upper Twp	Parents	Blue



Another "Church Register" record book. This may have been from a later date where records were rewritten. The handwriting is not that of Rev. Finfrock.

REGISTER OF BAPTISMS				BAPTISMS			
No.	Name of the child	Name of the father	Name of the mother	Month	Day of baptism	Name of sponsors	Remarks
1-	Sarah Ellen	Samuel L. Brown	Catherine Fisher	Oct 21, 1863	Jan 7, 1864	Sarah J. Fisher	
2	Emma Valeria	Benjamin Macdonald	Catherine Livingston	July 29, 1864	Sept 11 "	Parents	
3	Elizabeth	Cherison Bunnell	Marie Miller	Sept 24, 1863	" "	"	
4	Kate Elizabeth	Emmanuel Meyer	Elara Kewick	Nov 10, 1864	Dec 18 "	Daniel Meyer	
5	Albert Jacob	Joshua Ernst	Elizabeth Kewick	Jan 3, 1865	July 26, 1865	Parents	
6	Adeline Elizabeth	John H. Fisher	Ellen Lamm	Nov 24, 1864	July 26 "	Elizabeth Lamm	
7	Catherine	Samuel Rhine	Jessie Hughes	Feb 13, 1865	June 4 "	Sarah Rhine	
8	William Ulrich	Adam K. Brossman	Catherine Goshart	Jan 31, 1865	June 4 "	Parents	
9	Mona Deane	Jacob G. Smith	Emma Meil	July 26, 1865	Apr 10 "	"	
10	William Arthur	John W. Sialer	Catherine Schegel	July 26, 1865	May 21 "	Daniel & Elz. Fidler	
11	Kenna Eliz.	Henry Spangler	Rebecca Brossman	Feb 1, 1865	June 6 "	Parents	
12	Anna Eliz.	William Bross	Maranda Stone	Sept 2, 1864	Apr 10 "	Anna Miller	
13	Maranda	Frederick Juetz	Justina Livingston	Sept 12, 1864	Feb 26 "	Parents	
14	Eva Auguste	Richard Kewick	Mary T. Bach	July 29, 1865	Sept 10 "	Elizabeth Kewick	
15	Anna Franklin	Richard Sialer	Rebecca Rinta	July 29, 1865	Sept 10 "	Parents	
16	Henry Grant	John B. Stamp	Amelia Gruber	July 14, 1865	Sept 10 "	M. & Elizabeth Stamp	
17	Catharine	Daniel Fox	Catherine Bross	May 24, 1865	Sept 9 "	Parents	
18	Rufus	Thomas Kewick	Hettie Joder	Feb 12, 1865	May 7 "	Daniel & Susan Joder	
19	Tabora	Jonathan M. Engel	Amanda Bellert	July 26, 1865	May 7 "	Parents	
20	James William	Frank Bissel	Mary A. Dunkelberg	Feb 12, 1865	May 7 "	James Bissel	
21	Henry Samuel	George J. Fry	Antonia Fry	July 10, 1865	May 7 "	Parents	
22	Alveta Rebecca	John Bross	Alveta Brossberg	June 9, 1865	July 3 "	"	
23	Lilla A.	John H. Fisher	Ellen Lamm	July 29, 1866	May 27, 1866	"	
24	Emma	Arthur Hummel	Amelia Brossman	July 27, 1866	June 13 "	"	
25	Eva	John Wagner	Tate Heffner	Oct 31, 1865	Feb 1 "	"	
26	Anna	"	"	Jan 18, 1866	Feb 4 "	"	
27	Lizzie Caroline	John S. Henry	"	Dec 21, 1865	Jan 16 "	"	
28	Henry Wilson	Henry S. Shuler	Sarah Lamm	Aug 27, 1865	June 7 "	"	
29	Charles	Frederick Bunt	Elvira Kewick	Oct 17, 1864	Feb 14 "	"	
30	Eva Lilla	Jacob K. Speichen	Lizzie Painter	Aug 28, 1865	Feb 7 "	Mary Shuler	
31	Mona Calvin	Jacob K. Sialer	Sarah Gruber	Apr 3, 1866	June 24 "	Amanda Gruber	



Original Confirmation certificate for James U. (?) Grimes, May 25, 1878, performed by Rev. Aaron Finfrock.



Closer views of the top and bottom of the Confirmation certificate.

