

The Bethel Moravian Church in Swatara Township, Lebanon County

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The "Bethel" Moravian meeting house (located in what is now Swatara Twp). was built about 1743. It was a two story log structure, weather-boarded, and lined on the inside with poplar. It measured about thirty by forty feet. The first floor was divided into three rooms in which the minister lived and taught school. The second floor contained a large, single room that was used as the sanctuary. The building was fortified and served as a place of refuge for the local settlers and militia during the French and Indian War. The graveyard, or "God's Acre" as it was referred to by the Moravian's, was constructed to the rear of the meeting house.

About 1830 religious services ceased at the Bethel Moravian meeting house. The remaining members attended the Hebron Moravian Church, near Lebanon. A United Brethren congregation and a Dunkard congregation built a brick union meeting-house in 1860, about 500 feet from the site of the old log structure. The Moravians abandoned their old cemetery in 1833, however, the two newer congregations maintained the cemetery and buried their deceased members there in a separate section. The old log church that was built in 1743 was dismantled in about 1878. Some of the wood from the church was used in the construction of a house and barn on the adjoining property.

There are no longer signs of either of the churches. The graveyard lies quietly near the intersection of Cemetery Road and Mountain Road, about 2 miles northeast of Lickdale, at the base of Little Mountain. There is a line of ancient cedar trees that border a grassy pasture frequented by cows and chickens from a neighboring farm. In among the grass and trees are scattered the grave markers of the of the early congregations. The earliest section of the cemetery contains the Moravian graves. As was their custom, women and young girls were buried on one side and the men and boys were buried on the other, like apposing pages in a book. More than 140 members and friends of Bethel Moravian Church were buried here between 1752 and 1833.

The little cemetery chronicles the everyday life and death struggle of the early families that settled in this wilderness area. In the cemetery, many of the stones mark the graves of infants and young children, and women who died in childbirth. In some cases portions families were wiped out by the ravages of disease-- each family member dying in an orderly succession as the sickness passed from person to person. At least four of the stones mark the final resting place of men killed while plowing their fields, during an Indian attack in the summer of 1756. Several Indians who were killed during raids in the 1750's are said to be buried in an unmarked grave beneath a large old tree that once stood next to the graveyard. A number of the graves mark the resting place of soldiers of the Revolutionary War, who fraught to bring freedom to the new land.

The Moravians at Bethel used squared headstones laid flat on the ground to mark each grave site. The grass and soil have claimed many of these and only a few can still be seen. Of the old headstones yet visible, most were made of brown sandstone, and the

inscriptions on these are totally illegible and lost to time. Some markers, made of a harder stone can still be read, but they too are fading.

Interments at the Bethel Moravian Cemetery

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u> [or age]	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Date of Burial</u>
	Elisabeth Fischer	5 Oct. 1748	---	20 Aug. 1752
1.	Joh. Wilhelm Fischer	21 Sep. 1709	---	1 Oct. 1752
2.	David Fischer	2 yrs. 9 mo. 21 days	18 Apr. 1754	20 Apr. 1754
3.	Michael Sauser	31 Jul. 1754	18 Aug. 1754	19 Aug. 1754
4.	Jacob Händsche*	---	26 Jun. 1756	27 Jun. 1756
5.	Franz Albert*	30 Jul. 1719	26 Jun. 1756	27 Jun. 1756
6.	Joh. Geo Miess*	28 Sep. 1739	26 Jun. 1756	27 Jun. 1756
7.	Friedr. Weisser*	21 May 1740	26 Jun. 1756	27 Jun. 1756
8.	Anna Rosina Korr	27 Aug. 1760	8 Oct. 1763	10 Oct. 1763
9.	Anna Barbara Korr	-- Jul. 1728	20 Nov. 1763	21 Nov. 1763
10.	Heinrich Christ	4 yrs. 4 mo.	31 Dec. 1763	2 Jan. 1764
11.	Georg Heinrich Redelmeyer	11 days	31 Oct. 1764	1 Nov. 1764
12.	Elisabeth Faber	2 yrs. 6 mo.	3 Jul. 1765	4 Jul 1765
13.	Adam Faber	29 May 1717	25 Aug. 1767	26 Aug. 1767
14.	Johannes Redelmeyer	22 Oct. 1765	25 Apr. 1768	26 Apr. 1768
15.	Jacob Ströhly	1 yr. 4 mo. (small pox)	7 May 1768	8 May 1768
16.	Elenora Räber	12 Jul. 1740	26 Jun. 1769	28 Jun. 1769
17.	Johann Christian Kohr	12 Dec. 1769	24 May 1770	25 May 1770
18.	Anna Margaretha Born	11 mos. 3 days	28 Jul. 1770	29 Jul. 1770
19.	Magdalena Kohr	13 May 1731	5 Dec. 1770	7 Dec. 1770
20.	Johannes Thomas Redelmeyer	15 Mar. 1772	22 Mar. 1772	23 Mar. 1772
21.	Christian Ohrendorff	80 yrs. several mo.	16 Apr. 1772	17 Apr. 1772
22.	Margaretha [Kohr] Born	40 yrs. less sev. mos.	5 Jul. 1772	6 Jul. 1772
23.	Daniel Born	11 Apr. 1772	17 Sep. 1772	18 Sep. 1772
24.	Johannes Redelmeyer	22 Nov. 1770	24 Dec. 1772	26 Dec. 1772
25.	Anna Juliana Redelmeyer	3 yrs. 4 mo.	2 Jan. 1773	3 Jan. 1773
26.	Catharine Spittler	16 Aug. 1770	14 Mar. 1773	16 Mar. 1773
27.	Elisabeth Faber	50 yrs. less about 12 days	1 Dec. 1773	2 Dec. 1773
28.	Joh. Geo. Miess	70 yrs.	20 Apr. 1774	22 Apr. 1774
29.	Catharina Beck	17 yrs. 10 mos.	27 Nov. 1774	29 Nov. 1774
30.	Elisa Beck	12 yrs. 14 days	21 Feb. 1775	---
31.	Maria Barbara Beck	15 Dec. 1731	13 Mar. 1775	15 Mar. 1775
32.	Johann Wilhelm Dörge	20 yrs. 4 mo.	22 Jun. 1755	23 Jun. 1755
33.	Joh. Adam Spittler	1 yr. 4 mo. less sev. days	6 Oct. 1775	7 Oct. 1775
34.	[infant (f)] Miess	21 Oct. 1775	21 Oct. 1775	22 Oct. 1775
35.	Daniel Born	10 Oct. 1726	6 Nov. 1776	8 Nov. 1776
36.	Juliana Miess	59 yrs. 8 mo.	17 May 1778	18 May 1778
37.	Maria Volck	54 yrs.	1 Jul. 1778	2 Jul. 1778
38.	Catharina Miess	3 yrs. 10 mo.	7 Jul 1778	8 Jul. 1778
39.	Rosina Miess	---	2 Oct. 1778	3 Oct. 1778
40.	Adam Spittler	16 Oct. 1778	22 Jan 1779	24 Jan. 1779
41.	Bernhard (Heinrich) Faber	57 yrs. 4 mo. less a few days	5 Apr. 1779	6 Apr. 1779
42.	Catharine Spittler	35 yrs. 2 mo. 13 days	30 Jun. 1779	1 Jul. 1779
43.	Margaretha Faber	26 yrs. and about 6 mo.	27 Nov. 1781	---
44.	Christina Faber	9 Mar. 1782	23 Mar. 1782	24 Mar. 1782
45.	Rosina Till	62 years	21 Jan. 1783	23 Jan. 1783

46.	Jacob Till	69 years	29 Jan. 1783	31 Jan. 1783
47.	Anna Maria Faber	12 days	7 Jul. 1785	9 Jul. 1785
48.	Johann Heinrich Heckadorn	8 mo. less 5 days	29 Apr. 1787	30 Apr. 1787
49.	Maria Elisabeth Faber	28 Nov. 1779	21 Jan. 1788	22 Jan. 1788
50.	Sally Tinn	8 weeks	---	30 Jan. 1788
51.	[infant (m)] Lewis	---	---	15 Nov. 1788
52.	--- Miess	---	---	12 Jun. 1789
53.	Maria Christina Miess	31 Aug. 1787	11 Feb. 1790	12 Feb. 1790
54.	Christina Faber	61 yrs. 8 mo.	25 May 1790	27 May 1790
55.	Maria Magdalena Schör	8 days	24 Dec. 1790	25 Dec. 1790
56.	Johann Jacob Faber	16 Mar. 1785	20 Oct. 1792	21 Oct. 1792
57.	Jacob Michael Korr	---	---	--- 1792
58.	Johann Philipp Beck	2 Feb. 1727	22 Feb. 1792	25 Feb. 1792
59.	Joh. Friedrich Faber	26 Apr. 1792	28 Oct. 1792	30 Oct. 1792
60.	Jacob Faber	3 Dec. 1749	11 Feb. 1793	13 Feb. 1793
61.	Jacob Spittler	25 Aug. 1722	5 Apr. 1794	6 Apr. 1794
62.	Philipp Beck	10 Jan. 1797	10 Jan. 1797	11 Jan. 1797
63.	Catharina Windbüchler	---	1 Feb. 1797	2 Feb. 1797
64.	--- Angst	20 Jun. 1797	20 Jun. 1797	21 Jun. 1797
65.	Johannes Faber	4 Mar. 1775	27 Nov. 1797	29 Nov. 1797
66.	Catharina Spittler	12 Jun. 1788	7 Dec. 1797	8 Dec. 1797
67.	Elisabeth Wenkelblech	9 mo. 2 wks. 8 days	10 Dec. 1797	12 Dec. 1797
68.	Salome Losern	---	30 Dec. 1797	31 Jan. 1798
69.	Johann Jacob Döriges	10 Feb. 1797	10 Mar. 1799	11 Mar. 1799
70.	Peter Windbiegler	2 yrs. less 14 days	1 May 1800	2 May 1800
71.	Johann Friedrich Strohm	28 Mar. 1798	7 Aug. 1800	9 Aug. 1800
72.	Christian Gottfried Heckedorn	24 Mar. 1778	25 Aug. 1800	26 Aug. 1800
73.	[infant (m)] Kohr	18 Apr. 1801	18 Apr. 1801	19 Apr. 1801
74.	Caspar Kohr	7 Oct. 1724	28 May 1801	30 May 1801
75.	Rosina Bringna Brunner	13 Mar. 1798	7 Apr. 1802	9 Apr. 1802
76.	Maria Catharina Heckedorn	21 Dec. 1750	14 Apr. 1802	16 Apr. 1802
77.	Magdalena Beck	11 Mar. 1798	17 May 1802	18 May 1802
78.	Jacob Spittler	6 Dec. 1769	28 May. 1802	30 May 1802
79.	Margaretha Spittler	--- Dec. 1750	8 Feb. 1803	10 Feb. 1803
80.	Bernhard Miess	22 Jan. 1774	10 Feb. 1803	13 Feb. 1803
81.	Catharina Spittler	19 Oct. 1802	18 Jul. 1803	19 Jul. 1803
82.	Johannes Miess	4 May 1803	17 Aug. 1803	18 Aug. 1803
83.	Catharina Angst	39 yrs. 1 mo. 26 days	10 Jan. 1804	12 Jan. 1804
84.	Verona Xander	1 Nov. 1720	6 Jul. 1804	8 Jul. 1804
85.	Peter Pfeifer	42 yrs. and about 2 mo.	17 Aug. 1804	18 Aug. 1804
86.	Jacob Faber	11 Jun. 1776	3 Oct. 1804	5 Oct. 1804
87.	Johann Heinrich Brunner	22 Apr. 1801	15 Oct. 1804	17 Oct. 1804
88.	Catharina Meyer	20 Mar. 1761	15 Nov. 1804	17 Nov. 1804
89.	Johann Gerhard Miess	17 Oct. 1746	26 Jan. 1805	29 Jan. 1805
90.	Maria Barbara Miess	19 Aug. 1751	26 Sep. 1805	28 Aug. 1805
91.	Johann Daniel Brunner	22 Jan. 1754	18 Dec. 1805	20 Dec. 1805
92.	Heinrich Fischer	8 Jan. 1806	16 Jan. 1806	17 Jan. 1806
93.	David Fischer	8 Jan. 1806	25 Jan. 1806	26 Jan. 1806
94.	Christopher Kapp	5 Oct. 1738	13 May 1806	14 May 1806
95.	Johann Erhard Heckedorn	9 Sep. 1746	24 Aug. 1806	26 Aug. 1806
96.	Jacob Michael	about 60 yrs.	9 Sep. 1806	11 Sep. 1806
97.	Salome Krumben	19 Sep. 1806	25 Sep. 1806	26 Sep. 1806
98.	[infant (m)] Kohr	8 Jan 1807	8 Jan. 1807	10 Jan. 1807
99.	Wilhelm Fischer	16 Feb. 1807	27 Feb. 1807	28. Feb. 1807
100.	Johann Heinrich Heckedorn	20 May 1788	29 Aug. 1807	30 Aug. 1807

101.	Johannes Buchmeyer	29 Oct. 1807	17 Nov. 1807	18 Nov. 1807
102.	Catharina Miess	9 Dec. 1807	28 Jun. 1808	29 Jun. 1808
103.	Adam Fischer	18 Nov. 1808	30 Nov. 1808	2 Dec. 1808
104.	Heinrich Dubs	15 Dec. 1808	20 Jan. 1809	21 Jan. 1809
105.	Elisabeth Brunner	6 Dec 1757	16 Oct 1812	19 Oct. 1812
106.	Michael Fischer	29 Aug. 1768	3 Apr. 1814	6 Apr. 1814
107.	Heinrich Miess	24 Jan. 1752	17 Jun. 1816	19 Jan. 1816
108.	Catharina Buchmeyer	17 Jan. 1778	24 Apr. 1816	26 Apr. 1816
109.	Abraham Sebolt	8 May 1783	21 Sept 1819	22 Sep. 1819
110.	Christian Fischer	---	9 Nov. 1820	10 Nov. 1820
111.	Johannes Miess	35 yrs. 4 mo. 3 days	3 Jan. 1821	5 Jan. 1821
112.	Elisabeth Miess	30 Jun. 1747	2 Mar. 1821	4 Mar. 1821
113.	Frederick Buchmeyer	7 Nov. 1779	29 Mar. 1821	1 Apr. 1821
114.	John Spittler	6 Jun. 1771	21 Apr. 1821	23 Apr. 1821
115.	Anna Maria Miess	1 Apr. 1780	18 May 1821	20 May 1821
116.	Magdalena Miess	3 Sep. 1787	13 Jul. 1821	15 Jul. 1821
117.	Heinrich Miess	27 Dec. 1815	8 Aug. 1821	9 Aug. 1821
118.	Johannas Philipp Beck	15 May 1768	15 Nov. 1821	17 Nov. 1821
119.	Peter Brunner	18 Mar. 1749	26 Jan. 1822	28 Jan. 1822
120.	Joseph Kiefer	8 Jun. 1819	20 Jul. 1822	22 Jul. 1822
121.	Catharina Kiefer	14 yrs. and 24 days	19 Aug. 1822	21 Aug. 1822
122.	Magdalena Jung	18 Dec. 1820	1 Oct. 1822	2 Oct. 1822
123.	August Jung	22 Nov. 1819	5 Oct. 1822	7 Oct. 1822
124.	Daniel Kiefer	15 Mar. 1778	3 Feb. 1823	5 Feb. 1823
125.	Anna Catharina Kapp	19 Mar. 1745	26 Feb. 1824	27 Feb. 1824
126.	Frederika Buchmeyer	23 Sep. 1823	7 Jul. 1824	8 Jul. 1824
127.	Magdalena Miess	18 May 1782	8 Aug. 1824	10 Aug. 1824
128.	Christian Schetk	48 yrs. 11 mo. and sev. days	16 Nov. 1824	18 Nov. 1824
129.	Catharina Winkelblech	17 Jan. 1822	10 Feb. 1825	12 Feb. 1825
130.	Catharina Winkelblech	24 Apr. 1797	25 Jul. 1825	26 Jul. 1825
131.	Catharina Buchmeyer	11 Jan 1825	27 Nov. 1826	29 Nov. 1826
132.	Elisabeth Winkelblech	14 Jan. 1827	10 Jun. 1827	11 Jun. 1827
133.	Caspar Miess	18 Oct. 1782	24 Sep. 1827	26 Sep. 1827
134.	Jacob Bader	27 Nov. 1825	9 Feb. 1828	9 Feb. 1828
135.	Anna Maria Kohr	20 Dec. 1745	23 Sep. 1828	24 Sep. 1828
136.	Heinrich Spittler	21 Jan. 1776	31 May 1829	1 Jun. 1829
137.	Michael Beck	3 Apr. 1805	18 Nov. 1829	20 Nov. 1829
138.	Johannes Beck	3 Jan. 1800	11 Dec. 1829	13 Dec. 1829
139.	---- Børhor	4 Mar. 1830	10 Mar. 1830	11 Mar. 1830
140.	Johannes Miess	14 May 1812	11 Nov. 1830	15 Nov. 1830
141.	Eleonora Hughs	36 yrs. 11 mo. 16 days	23 Dec. 1830	24 Dec. 1830
142.	Sarah Bader	8 Jan. 1828	2 Oct. 1831	4 Oct. 1831
143.	Philip Faber	28 Jan. 1747	7 Oct. 1831	9 Oct. 1831
144.	Sophia Winkelblech	70 yrs. 1 mo. 4 days	9 Oct. 1831	11 Oct. 1831
145.	Johannes Kiefer	5 yrs. 8 mo. 10 days	11 Jan. 1833	13 Jan. 1833

* Killed by Indians while plowing their fields in June of 1756.

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143	<u>Men</u>								<u>Women</u>										
	114	113	111	107	106	95	94	91	89	112	115	116	125	135					
	133	86	80	78	74	61	46	41	35	42	45	54	76	84	88	90			
<u>Boys</u>	6	7	32	65	72	79	110	29	43	108	<u>Girls</u>								
<u>Men</u>	1	4	5	13	21	28	60	9	19	22	26	27	31	36	<u>Women</u>				
<u>Little Boys</u>	2	3	20	23	24	33	40	8	12	18	25	30	34	38	75	81	126		
117	??	139	87	82	73	69	62	59	56	48	44	47	49	52	53	55	66	68	131
<u>Little Boys</u>	<u>Friends and Acquaintances</u>																		
120	123	71	10	11	14	15	17	57	64	16	39	77	51	63	67	69	122	121	<u>Girls</u>
<u>Men</u>	137	136	128	124	119	118	96	85	58	37	79	83	127	130	144	70	<u>Women</u>		
	97 101 ?? ??																		

note: Not all of the gravesites for the people in the death records are accounted for.