

# History of the Brush Valley Evangelical Lutheran Church

Brush Valley Township      Indiana County PA

by Rev. J. Milton Snyder, Pastor 1901

Zechariah 1:5    “Your fathers, where are they? And the Prophets, do They live forever?”

Death is not only solemn and sad at times, but real. It bears the young and old, the high and low, the fair and lovely, the sinner and saint away as surely as the coming and going of the years. “The fathers where are they?” but sleeping in their quiet beds of earth; and “The prophets” and pastors, are lying in their midst. Thus, the generations come and go; and we also shall by and by be gathered with the dead. One of the great features of the Christian’s Life is, that it has to do with earth and Heaven; man and God; the Church here and the Church there. It is a part of time: the rest embracing all eternity. The life that we live here is known to us; and partly to others: the life “hereafter” is the unknown and untried future.

Here we make a few footsteps and leave a few footprints and the weary journey is ended. It is the Christian’s part to gather up the facts and the fragments that remain, work them together and make them intelligent and tangible. The Christian’s task is mixed with pleasure and perplexity. It is like gathering flowers in a beautiful garden, or hunting for a rose on the Thorny Mountain. For the history of this congregation, it has been a difficult task to gather facts; as the records are few and most all local tradition is lost in the ‘chaos and silence’ of the past. With the meagre materials at hand we shall do the best we can.

Among the earliest Lutherans who settled in “The Wilds” of Indiana County was the family of John Conrad Rice, who removed from Lancaster County, Pa and located near the present town of Indiana in the year 1794. The home of Conrad Rice occupies a prominent place in the history of the Lutheran Church in Indiana County. For it was under his roof that the first public worship of God by Lutherans, in this county was held. To Mr. Rice’s home the Rev. John Michael “Steck of Greensburg, Pa came four times a year and held services for the Lutherans of the county who could attend during 1798 and 1799. Rev. Steck may also have continued a yearly visit to this county from 1800 to 1813 as I find one recorded statement to that effect. He had served Lutheran Churches in Bedford and Somerset Counties from 1789 to 1792; when in the later year he removed to Greensburg and became a missionary in the west part of Pa. then a comparative wilderness. Rev Steck died at his home in Greensburg, Westmoreland County, July 14<sup>th</sup> 1830 in his 65<sup>th</sup> year. I added a short sketch of his life in Appendix A.

The first regular Lutheran pastor who located in this county (Indiana) was the Rev. John Gottfried Lambrecht, a graduate from the gymnasium of Gottingen, Germany. He came to the town of Indiana in the year 1813 and organized, or may possibly have re-organized the Lutheran Congregation at Indiana. Rev. Lambrecht also visited the community of Brush Valley during the years 1813 and 1814 and held public services in private dwellings in this immediate neighborhood, notably at the home of Peter Fry east of and adjoining the present church property. Among the “original settlers” of this neighborhood were the Bower’s; Roser’s; Millers; Fry’s; Howard’s; Steinman’s; Keller’s; Tyson’s; Overdorff’s; Heine’s; Coy’s; Cramer’s; Truby’s; Leininger’s;

Empfield's; Creswill's; Altemus' and DeArmy's coming mainly from east of the Allegheny Mountains ranging from the years 1790 to 1815.

Rev. Lambrecht ceased his ministry here at Brush Valley July 1815. After his resignation there is a vacancy of several years, although there is a tradition that a man attempted to impose himself upon the people as a regular, ordained Lutheran Minister, during the years 1817 and 1818, but that he did not succeed.

We have next two ministers who served as supply. The Brush Valley and Indiana congregations, which now formed one pastorate, viz: Rev. William Shultz 1819 to 1821 and Rev. Moehler in 1821. We now reach the most important period in the History of the Congregation. The Ministry of Rev. G.A. Reichart and the organization of the present congregation and the erection of the old log church. Rev. Gabriel Adam Reichart became pastor of this congregation, as well as that at Indiana, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1821. From the beginning of public services in this community about 1813 or 1814, up to the close of Rev. Reichart's ministry in 1827. The preaching was exclusively in the German; English services being introduced at long intervals, at first, by Rev. A.G. Sharretts, between the years 1827 and 1837. Within the History of this congregation of eighty odd years, three church buildings have been erected. It can not be definitely stated in what year the first building called the 'Old Log Church' was erected; but most probably during the year 1821; if not earlier; for the deed conveying the land on which it was built (now forming the main graveyard), bears the date of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1822, and states also, that the house was then in existence. This was the first Lutheran Church erected in Indiana County; and antedates its sister Church in the Charge about nine years, as the First Lutheran Church in Indiana was completed in 1830.

The land on which the Old Log Church was built consisting of one acre was purchased of Peter Fry and his wife, Catherine for the sum of \$400; by Jacob Soryer, and John Tyson, Trustees for the congregation. The deed for this land – dated January 26<sup>th</sup> 1822 was acknowledged before John Evans, Justice of the Peace. This acre of land was part of a large tract located in what was then called Wheatfield Township and was 'surveyed by warrant dated December 31<sup>st</sup> 1773, in the name of Isaac Gray and joining lands of Obadiah Smith, John Story and others.' In passing I would state that the original surveys of land in this immediate neighborhood were made by Obadiah Smith, John Story and Isaac Gray about the year 1773-75. The Smith survey was east of the Gray survey and the Story survey north of the same, the wad leading to Mechanicsburg being nearly on the line between the last two. This deed states that this 'said lot (acre) of ground was for the use of all those persons concerned as a place of public worship, on which is erected a house for said purpose, hereafter to be known as "Fry's Meeting House"; and also for the use of schools for the education of youth and for no other purpose. It was the first church erected in this part of Indiana County, the old Fry Meeting House; on the Daniel Miller farm, about one mile south of Mechanicsburg, was the second church built in this part of the county. The Old Log Church was built of small logs, slightly hewed. Valentine Keller and Daniel Fry cut and hewed most of the logs as well as assisted in the building of the church. 'Chunking and daubing' were placed between the logs and hewed logs pinned to the sleepers by wooden pins made the floor. Two windows were on each side of the building, having 4 or 6 small panes of glass. So far as I can learn from the oldest living members, the size of the church was about 16 or 18 feet in width, and about 22 or 24 feet in length; and was located in the old graveyard, lengthwise along the road

leading from Nolo to Mechanicsburg – a rod or two back from the road and about midway between the two front corners of the graveyard. It was about nine feet in height; one story, the ceiling being the slab roof; the pulpit was at the east gable and the door at the west end in the center. The first pews were made of hewn slabs similar to benches. At first for heating the church they used the old open fire-hearth and log fire; but latterly used a large ‘ten-plate stove’; for lighting the church at night they used the old style ‘fat lamp’.

It is my opinion that Rev. G.A. Reichart organized this congregation about November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1822; or if not on this date, then on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 1823. He was a regular ordained minister of the old “Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania, and was commissioned and sent by This Old German Synod as a “Missionary to the Scattered Lutherans of these parts”. His first ministerial act that I find recorded by himself in the German, was the baptism of twenty-two children (22) August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1822, in “The Old Log Church”: The twenty-third (23<sup>rd</sup>) infant baptism recorded was performed November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1822, immediately preceded by a statement in the German, written November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1822, which I think Pastor Reichart means to stand as the Organization of the Congregation. In a footnote I give the first (10) ten infant Baptisms recorded with the date of births\*. Rev. Reichart administered the first Holy Communion he held here, in the Old Log Church, on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 1823, when seventy-four (74) persons communed. This number included four (4) members from the Congregation at Indiana and also forty-four (44) persons who were Confirmed by Rev. Reichart on Saturday previous, January 11<sup>th</sup>.

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\*1. Manifests from Elizabeth Hess, of Mechanicsburg; and Mrs. **Rachel (Shuman) Cramer** of Sun Cliff, Indiana County

\*2. Baptized, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1822. Children of Henry and Barbara Coy.

Michael Coy born March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1806  
John Coy, born November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1808  
Elizabeth Coy, born January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1817  
Magdalena Coy, born April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1822  
Maria, daughter of John & Susan Dunkel born, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1822  
Maria Coy born July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1807  
Barbara Coy, born March 4<sup>h</sup>, 1815  
Susanna Coy, born February 7<sup>th</sup>, 1819  
Jonas, son of John & Susan Stephen born May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1815  
Jacob, son of Peter & Maria Empfield, born August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1821

Confirmed January 11<sup>th</sup>, 1823 and Communing January 12<sup>th</sup>, 1823

#### Charter Members

Henry Bower, born June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1780  
Henry Coy, born December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1782  
William Dearmen, Born July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1785  
Peter Bower, Born December 17, 1785  
John Coy, born August 13, 1788

John Bower, born July 11, 1790  
Jacob Brown, born March 14, 1793  
Henry Bower, born July 12, 1794  
Adam Bower, born January 19, 1795  
George Kellar, born January 19, 1796  
George Nast, born May 16, 1796  
**John Kramer, born July 8, 1796**  
**Jacob Kramer, born January 13, 1797**  
Henry Brown, born September 11, 1798  
George Brown, born February 24, 1801  
David Bower, born May 2, 1802  
John Weik, born June 4, 1802  
John Howard, born April 24, 1806  
George Roser, born February 23, 1808  
Maria Bower, born January 8, 1781  
Barbara Coy, born September 3, 1783  
Sallie Bower, born April 6, 1787  
Sallie Coy, born October 11, 1792  
Magdalena Brown, born May, 1796  
John Bower, born March 31, 1796  
Maria Empfield, born March 15, 1798  
Johanna Strong, born July 11, 1799  
Elizabeth Bower, born May, 1800  
**Catherine Kramer, born May 1, 1802**  
Catherine Strong, born August 29, 1802  
Elizabeth Bower, born December 28, 1803  
Christiann Wike, born March 19, 1804  
Polly Bower, born March 26, 1804  
Veronica DeArmy, born June 4, 1804  
Elizabeth Nast, born July 26, 1804  
Catherine Bower, born October 9, 1804  
Elizabeth Fetterman, born October 22, 1804  
Elizabeth Mardus, born August 15, 1805  
Catherine Howard, born February 26, 1806  
Maria Fetterman, born April 13, 1806  
Lydia Tyson, born August 14, 1806  
Elizabeth Fetterman, born July 30, 1807  
Maria Lowman, born April 4, 1809  
Polly Roser, born February 14, 1810  
and all who communed, on this occasion at the organization of the congregation.

They were: the following are those who communed January 12<sup>th</sup>, 1823 – Charter Members

Philip Fetterman  
Lydia Fetterman  
Jacob Soryen  
James Strong  
Catherine Strong  
George Roser

Michael Fetterman  
Catherine Fetterman  
Susanna Stephen  
Daniel Fetterman  
Rosanna Fetterman  
John Brown  
Elizabeth Brown  
John Tyson  
Magdalena Tyson  
Maria Hartz  
John Bower  
Veronica Bower  
Christian Keller  
Andreas Lowman  
Peter Howard  
Magdalena Howard  
Magdalena Bower  
John Dunkel  
Susan Dunkel  
Elizabeth Dearmen

From Indiana Congregation Present  
Conrad Rice  
Maria Rice  
Daniel Henry  
Andreas Henry  
Rev. G.A. Reichart, Pastor

Thus, twenty-six (26) Church Members and with the 44 confirmed January 11<sup>th</sup>, seventy (70) in all who formed the first congregation and original Charter Members. Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1825, a Catechetical Class of twenty-five (25) persons were confirmed by Rev. Reichart, whose names and births are given.

Confirmed by Rev. G.A. Reichart March 19, 1825

Henry Wike, Sr.  
Jacob Fisher, born April 16, 1782  
John Kramer, born November 22, 1796  
Peter Stephens, born April 7, 1799  
Nancy Wike, born August 26 1784  
Elizabeth Palmer, born June 1, 1790  
Polly Fisher (Baptism) November 1, 1795  
Margaret Stephen, born May 4, 1802  
Samuel Mardus, born September 16, 1801  
Christian Keller, born March 20, 1803  
David Mardus, born August 16, 1803  
George Bower, born October 1803  
Peter Wike, born November 11, 1803  
Jacob Stephens, born February 25, 1804  
Henry Wike, born February 1, 1808

Valentine Keller, born March 19, 1808  
John Bower, born May 8, 1809  
Veronica Weisner, born September 9, 1806  
Elizabeth Wike, born December 11, 1806  
Maria Reisinger, born March 1807  
Margaret Bower, born April 4, 1808  
Catherine Kowan, (Baptised) January 31, 1795  
Maria Stephen, born April 23, 1808  
Susanna Dearmen, born September 11, 1808  
Elizabeth Dearmen, born October 17, 1809

They communed with 53 Church members on the following Sabbath, March 20<sup>th</sup>, making the total number who communed on that day 78.

On Easter Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1827, Rev. Reichart administered his last Holy Communion in this Congregation 68 members communing amongst whom were ten (10) catechumens that he confirmed on Saturday, April 14. they were:

Confirmed by Rev. G.A.Reichart April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1827

John Stephen, born January 10, 1802  
Jacob Dearmond, born September 2, 1806  
Michael Coy, born March 13, 1807  
Henry Dearmond, born July 31, 1807  
John Fetterman, born September 16, 1807  
Michael Fetterman, born October 18, 1808  
Andreas Fetterman, born January 3, 1810  
Maria Coy, born July 15, 1808  
Catherine Bower, born August 4, 1811  
Eva Bower, born April 11, 1813

After a ministry of 6 full years at this place, the Rev. G.A. Reichart resigned August 1st, 1827, removing to Kittaning, Armstrong County, Pa  
Rev. Reichart resided for the first few years of his ministry here on what is known as the "Reichart Farm" near the "Old Keller Mill". Now called "The Schreckengost Mill".

I will give a short summary of his ministerial acts in this congregation, as I have called them, and add them in the miscellaneous items, viz: - Confirmations 79; Infant Baptisms 140 odd; Funerals 10; Marriages 13.

Rev. Nicholas G. Sharretts immediately succeeded Rev. Reichart as Pastor: the pastorate consisting of the congregations at Indiana: Brushvalley and Blairsville, and later Strongstown being added. This charge was Rev. Sharrett's first and only pastorate; he resided in Indiana during his whole ministry here. He administered his first Holy Communion in this congregation Sabbath, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1828 when 44 members communed. The first recorded Confirmation by Rev. Sharretts in this congregation took place March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1830; being six (6) in number. The following are their names and births.

Confirmed by Rev. N.G. Sharretts March 1, 1830

Samuel Roser, born November 11, 1811  
Henry Fetterman, born February 3, 1809  
Sophia Fetterman, born May 10, 1811  
Nancy Dearmond, born September 27, 1812  
Catherine Fetterman, born June 17, 1812  
Susanna Steck, born September 17, 1808  
Saturday December 28, 1832, Rev. Sharretts Confirmed 29 Catechumens in this congregation who communed Sabbath December 29<sup>th</sup> with 67 other members. Making a total of 96 Communicants on that day.

Confirmed by Rev. Nicholas G. Sharretts, December, 28, 1832

John McIlhenny  
Benjamin Gilhousen  
Ludwig Coy  
John Coy  
Samuel Fetterman  
Daniel Fetterman  
John Steck  
Jacob Fetterman  
William Shuman  
**Daniel Cramer**  
David Stephy  
John Dearmond (Bap)  
John Leininger  
Levi Silhousen  
Sarah Stineman  
Sarah Dearmond  
Veronica Coy  
Catherine Hess  
Elizabeth Dearmond  
Keziah Roser  
Barbara Coy  
Susan Shuman  
**Rachel Cramer**  
Elizabeth Coy  
Susan Bower  
Sarah Bower  
Mary Leininger  
Catherine Empfield

On Saturday, April 19, 1835, Rev. Sharretts confirmed a class of catechumens numbering twenty-one (21), who communed with 93 members of the congregation Sabbath morning, April 20; making a total of 114 members communing.

Confirmed by Rev. N. G. Sharretts, April 19, 1835

Jacob Dick

Isaac Dearmond  
John Coy (of John) born November 2, 1814  
Adam Dearmond  
George Wike  
David Wike  
John Henry  
Edmund Paige  
Elizabeth Paige  
Christiana Roser  
Margaret Waltemyer  
Catherine Fetterman  
Elizabeth Coy  
Rosina Fetterman  
Sarah Bower  
Catherine Leininger  
Catherine Stephy  
Sophia Steck  
Elizabeth Brown  
Catherine Brown  
Catherine Miller

About January 1, 1833, Rev. Sharretts organized The Lutheran Congregation at Strongstown with twenty-four (24) charter members: nine (9) of whom, at least, were from this congregation to form the new organization, which was made an integral part of the charge. Rev. Sharretts was the first pastor to introduce English services; he frequently preached both German and English at the same service; about every four weeks; and sometimes on Saturday's. He died at Indiana, December 31, 1836; after a ministry of nine (9) years and two (2) months. Aged 34 years, one month and 11 days. His remains rest in the "Oakland Cemetery" at Indiana, Pa. to await the resurrection of The Just. He was a good man and a faithful servant of Jesus Christ. I give a sketch of his life in the attached Appendix "B". A summary of his ministerial acts here, embraces fifty-six (56) confirmations; ninety-nine (99) Infant Baptisms and twenty (20) Marriages.

Rev. J. Brown succeeded Rev. Sharretts as Pastor of the Indiana Charge in 1837. The charge then embraced the 3 congregations at Brush Valley, Strongstown and Indiana: with most probably the Congregation at Blairsville. I find no confirmations or communions recorded in this congregation by Rev. Brown.

The Rev. Jacob Medtart followed Rev. Brown taking charge March 1, 1838. I find recorded during Rev. Medtart's ministry:

Confirmed by Rev. Jacob Medtart, June 13, 1840

Elizabeth George  
John Paige  
Peter Roser  
Gideon Fetterman  
Elizabeth George



John C. Fetterman  
Susan Fetterman  
George Empfield  
Elizabeth Keller  
Lydia Leininger  
Mary Bowers  
Catherine Roser  
Mary Ann Bowers  
Sally Empfield  
William H. Miller (by certificate)

On May 28, 1842 Rev. Medtart organized the "Salem Lutheran Church" of Smicksburg. This county, whilst he also served the Plum Creek congregation. Thus, the Indiana Charge then consisted of the five following congregations. Viz:- Indiana; Brush Valley; Strongstown; Smicksburg and Plum Creek. The pastor residing in Indiana. About the year 1842 Rev. A. Babb took charge of the Blairsville congregation.

On June 13, 1840 the following persons were elected Church Officers, the first I find recorded. Elders – Samuel Wagely and George Keller; Deacons-Philip Coup and Edmund Paige. Deacons-Jacob Dearmond and Daniel Cramer. Rev. Medtart resigned here about October 1, 1842 and was succeeded by the Rev. David Adams, who took charge November 1, 1842. During Rev. Adam's ministry the propriety of building the Second Church was agitated, but owing to some business difficulties he resigned September 19, 1844 and removed, afterward engaging in the practice of medicine. I find no records of his ministry.

The "Old Log Church" after being used for its holy purposes for over 25 years was reverently taken down in the early fifties. Rev. Henry Bishopresigned November 1, 1849 and the Rev. C.J. Deininger succeeding who took charge of this and the Indiana Congregation in the early part of 1850. During his ministry here Rev. Deininger admitted eight (8) persons to church membership by the rite of Confirmation.

Confirmation by Rev. C.J. Deininger

Spring 1851

A.C. Noble  
October 5, 1851  
George W. Rhodes  
Rebecca Rhodes  
Lucinda Misener  
Henry Misner  
Daniel A. Rhodes  
Susanna Coy  
Susanna Paige

During the fall of 1847 the following Church Officers were elected: Elders – Adam George and George Wike; Deacons – John B. Coy, Jr. and John D. Paige.

Rev. Deininger as well as Rev. Bishop officiated in both the German and English language; supplying the Strongstown congregation with services whilst in charge here. On account of ill health Rev. Deininger resigned December 1852, and was at once succeeded by the Rev. Peter Sahn, DD.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1853 Rev. Sahn took charge of the Indiana pastorage then consisting of Indiana, Brush Valley and Strongstown; preaching his introductory sermons in the Zion Lutheran Church, Indiana January 2, 1853. English in the morning, German in the afternoon. Rev. P. Sahn preached here in both German and English about every two weeks. He administered the Holy Communion in this congregation October 2, 1853 when 96 members communed including 41 persons who were confirmed Saturday October 1.

Peter Roser  
John Coup  
Daniel Gulden  
Abednego Keller  
Isaac Bowers  
Benjamin Roser  
Nicholas Keller  
Henry Luther Rhoads  
John DeArmy  
Simon DeArmy  
John Fornwall  
John Bowers  
Francis Hollinger  
**Christian R. Weaver**  
Alemina Keller  
Mary Bowers  
Hannah Keller  
Mary Rebecca Amon  
Elizabeth Catherine Lower  
Rachel Bowers  
Ellen Bowers  
Nancy Bowers  
Nancy Coy  
Jemina Empfield  
Caroline Coy  
Rachel Ann Keller  
Frances Bowers  
Barbara Ellen Lower  
Catherine Coup  
Elizabeth DeArmy  
Mary Ann Empfield  
Maria Gulden  
Elizabeth Gulden  
Elizabeth Roser

**Elizabeth Weaver**– Baptized  
Mary Ann Altemus – Baptized  
Evaline Altemus – Baptized  
Sarah Altemus – Baptized  
Margaret Hollinger – Baptized  
Susanna Altemus – Baptized  
Mary A. Holmes – Baptized

During Rev. Dr. Peter Sahn's ministry the present Lutheran Church at Strongstown was erected. After a service of about five (5) years, Rev. Sahn resigned, February 1, 1858 and was followed by the Rev. William S. Emery, who took charge of the Indiana pastorate April 1, 1858: The Charge consisted of 3 congregations viz: - Indiana; Brush valley and Strongstown. The pastor resided in Indiana. In Rev. Emery's ministry here 19 members were received into the church 10 by Confirmation and 7 by certificate and 2 by Profession of Faith.

Confirmed by Rev. William S. Emery

May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1858  
James C. McFeaters

Received by Certificate May 10, 1858

\_\_\_? Hite and wife

Mrs. Hite

\_\_\_? **Weaver and wife**

**Mrs. Weaver**

Mrs. Empfield

Confirmed January 30, 1859

Martha Folkomer

Susanna Folkomer

Martha E. Lower

Barbara Folkomer

Elizabeth Coy

Maria Coup

Margaret Lower

Confirmed December 16, 1860

John Dickey

Simon Lydick

From M.E. Church by Certificate December 16, 1860

Isaac Bowers

Mrs. Isaac Bowers

Received by Profession of Faith October 10, 1858

**John Weaver**

**Christiann Weaver**

Rev. Emery was the last minister here to use both German and English. The Indiana Charge was divided during the last year of Rev. Emery's ministry here. The Indiana Congregation remaining alone; and Brush Valley and Strongstown separating to form a new charge to be known as the Brush Valley Charge. Thus, from their organization respectively, about November 1, 1822 and January 1, 1833. The Brush Valley and Strongstown congregations were an integral part of the Indiana Charge, to April 1861. Rev. Emery resigned the charge April 8, 1861 and the Rev. Henry Gathers became pastor at once, as supply, of the new Brush Valley Charge. He also at the same time, probably supplied part, if not the whole, of the Cookport Charge, as the Synodical minutes show he served four 4 congregations. Rev. Gathers resided in Mechanicsburg. He served Brush Valley and Strongstown, probably, every two weeks from April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1861 to March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1862. He was the first Minister here who held no German Services but preached only English. When he resigned, and was immediately succeeded by the Rev. George M. Settlemyer. Rev. Settlemyer served four congregations, viz:- Brush Valley, Strongstown, Germany and most probably Mt. Zion of the Cookport Charge. He resided in Mechanicsburg and probably served each congregation every two weeks. It is worthy of mention that during Rev. Settlemyer's ministry, Mr Adam Altemus, an aged and worthy member of this congregation willed in 1863 a thousand dollars to our Lutheran Mission in Africa.

On January 24, 1864 Rev. Settlemyer received into the congregation 3 new members by confirmation. They were Andrew Paul, Zechariah Paul and William Hite. After a ministry of 4 years, Rev. Settlemyer resigned the Charge March 1, 1866 and was followed by Rev George F. Ehrenfeld, who took charge of the Brush Valley pastorate, as a Supply June 1, 1866. He served Strongstown in connection with this congregation, as for other congregations, I cannot state since not a record line of his ministry here is given. Rev. Ehrenfeld served nearly two years resigning April 1, 1868. This congregation with Strongstown was vacant now for something over a year.

Rev. Simon P. Snyder became pastor of this, the Brush Valley charge. Coming from Blairsville, Indiana County, about December 1, 1869. Rev. Snyder resided in Mechanicsburg and he organized the present Lutheran Congregation in Homer City and he also supplied Graceton Luther Chapel and New Florence Mission in connection with the two congregations of the Brush Valley charge; he, likewise held occasional services at Mt. Zion of the Cookport charge. I do not find recorded a single act of his entire ministry here, of near five years duration.

Rev. Snyder resigned this charge April 1, 1874. He died at Van Werk, Ohio, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1895; aged 74 years and 10 months. I give a short sketch of his life in Appendix "C".

Rev. Isaiah B. Crist – After a vacancy during the summer months, the Rev. Isaiah B. Crist succeeded Rev. Snyder, taking charge of the pastorate, November 1, 1874. He resided in New Florence and served with the Brush Valley Congregation, Strongstown, Germany, Mt. Zion and New Florence Mission. Rev. Crist remained one year resigning November 1, 1875. The charge was now vacant for near 6 months when Rev. A. W. McCullough took charge April 1, 1876. Rev. McCullough resided in Brush Valley Township; and he served this congregation, with Strongstown; and the Mt Zion congregation now of the Cookport charge for the term of two years,

preaching every two weeks. Rev. McCullough resigned April 1, 1878 and was succeeded by Rev. Benjamin W. Tomlinson, who served as a supply this congregation during the summer months of 1878. After the Rev. Tomlinson discontinued his services – Rev. A. W. McCullough, then residing in Dixonville, took charge, as a supply during part of the year 1879, serving this congregation in connection probably with Mt Zion charge. On December 6, 1879 Rev. McCullough admitted four persons into the church by Confirmation. They were:

1. Catherine Fisher (Baptized December 5<sup>h</sup>)
2. Catherine Evans
3. Jennie M. Murdick
4. (blankspace) Weaver

Rev. M.O.T. Sahn, in the Spring of 1880 followed Rev. McCullough and supplied this congregation and Strongstown with services in connection with the Mt Zion congregation and the Cookport charge. Rev. Sahn is a son of Rev. Dr. Peter Sahn, deceased, pastor of the charge from January 1, 1853 to February 1, 1858. The son served here until the fall of 1882.

### **Third Church Building**

We now reach the period of the third or present church building. On the 13<sup>h</sup> of August 1877 the trustees met at the home of Daniel Garman to consult about building a new church. They organized by electing John D. Paige, as president, M.S. Stewart, Secretary and David Garman, Treasurer. It was at this meeting resolved that the Trustees purchase a lot of ground from Peter Howard upon which to erect the new church. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 1881, the Trustees of the congregation, viz: - John D. Paige, **Christian R. Weaver** and Lloyd Shaffer, purchased of Peter Howard, and his wife, Lucinda, for the sum of \$10.00 about one fourth of an acre of land, along the eastern line of the then church lands on which the new church was placed. Then, at a meeting of the church council held at the home of the late John Shaffer, of precious memory, it was determined that a mechanic be secured to examine the old or second church building to ascertain if it were practicable to repair the old building or best to erect a new one. Mr. John P. Kennedy was appointed to examine the old church; and he reported that it was “not worth repairing”. At a meeting of the church council held August 8, 1881 it was resolved to take the necessary steps to erect a new house of worship. The dimensions to be as follows: viz: - size 30 x 45 feet, 15 feet high. Mr. John P. Kennedy was requested to draw a plan and specifications for the new church, as early as possible. On Monday August 25, 1881, the Board of Trustees consisting of John D. Paige, **Christian R. Weaver** and Lloyd Shaffer, met in the old (or 2<sup>nd</sup>) church for the writing of proposals for “Bids” for the building of the new church, which were posted at various places September 3, 1881 the Trustees compared the various bids received and they awarded the contract for building the church to John P. Kennedy for the sum of \$975.00 to be paid in three payments; the parties concerned signing an agreement to that effect. Mr. Mathias Yaney did the mason work at the new church building. On Wednesday September 20, 1882 the Contractor, John P. Kennedy and the Board of Trustees met in the new or present church building. They together examined the building, when it was pronounced satisfactory; the following is an itemized statement of the cost of this new orf present church building:

Contract of J.P. Kennedy	\$975.00
Extra paid for steps	3.00
Extra paid for painting spire	3.00
Cost of wall	54.75
Cost of furnishing (Estimated)	<u>\$185.75</u>
 Total Cost	 \$1,160.75

On Sabbath, October 15, 1882 the present church was dedicated to the worship of the Triune God, the “feast of dedication” was a joyous occasion. The last payment due contractor Kennedy, to the sum of \$375.00 was “raised” at the Dedication and the church stood free of debt. A large concourse of people gathered to praise The Lord for His goodness and joy filled all hearts. Rev. P.G.Bell of Indiana, this county, preached the dedicatory sermon and consecrated the church to its holy purposes. Rev. M.O.T. Sahm, pastor of the Cookport charge and Rev. J.R. Beard, a minister of the U. Presbyterian Church of Penn Run, this county, were also present, and assisted in the services. In the audience was Mrs. Sarah Sahm, the widow of Dr. Peter Sahm, once Pastor of the congregation for five years. Most probably amongst the most interested persons gathered in the audience at this dedication service were Valentine Keller and his wife, Margaret Keller, who were the only charter members of the original congregation then living. Valentine Keller had helped to build the first church, when about 13 or 14 years of age; and he now had lived to see the Third church dedicated. I call attention to the interesting fact, also, that Valentine Keller and his wife, Margaret (nee Bowers) were confirmed at the same time, with the class of 25, by the first pastor, Rev. G.A. Reichart, on March 19, 1825, Mr. Keller’s 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, that was, 17 days older at the time than his wife. And that, on Sabbath morning, March 20<sup>th</sup> they together partook of the Holy Communion; the second administered in the Old Log Church by Pastor Reichart. And what a beautiful ending to relate still further that Margaret Keller, familiarly known as “Aunt Peggy” has quite recently passed to her Heavenly Home on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 1900, at the ‘good, old age’ of 92 years, 6 months, and 12 days. She was the very last of the original congregation to linger on the earth, and pass over to the Church where ‘the year’s ne’er end’; and the congregation never breaks up. With a melancholy interest, I shall at this point, turn the leaf of history, which takes us into ‘the valley and shadow’ of the Church’s life. I shall give some of the earliest deaths in the congregation and burials, recorded in the German. In all probability – the First burial place in this community was on the Isaac Griffith farm, now owned by the widow, Emma Simons, of Sun Cliff; it is to the left of the road leading from Suncliff to Schreckengost’s Mill, and near the White Oak Tree at the foot of the first hill: 4 or 5 rods in from the road.

### **Early Deaths, Interred by Rev. G.A. Reichart**

The first recorded death on the church records is that of John Stephan who died October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1823. Aged probably between 57 and 58 years. Funeral text Heb 4:1.

John Hart, born August 10, 1764, died November 5, 1823. Aged 59 years, 2 months and 26 days. Funeral text Math. 5:3

**David Kramer**, son of John and Maria Kramer, born August 29, 1801 in Morn Cive (sic), (Morrison Cove) Bedford County. Died July 11, 1824.

Philip Stephen, born May 31, 1806. Died October 14, 1824. Aged 18 years, 4 months and 13 days. Funeral text Psa 16:6

William Empfield; born August 29, 1824. Died October 30, 1824. Aged 2 months and one day. Funeral text 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:24 and 25.

Elizabeth Graw; daughter of Adam and Barbara, born March 1807. Died March 3, 1825. Aged 18 years. Funeral text Math. 21:22

Peter Stephen, born April 7, 1799. Died November 10, 1825. Aged 26 years, 7 months and 3 days.

Henry, son of John and Susanna Dunkel, born May 11, 1824. Died January 4, 1826. Aged one year, 7 months and 24 days.

Susanna, daughter of Peter and Barbara Helman, born July 2, 1815. Died June 4, 1826. Aged 10 years, 11 months and 2 days.

There are some deaths recorded that deserve more than a passing notice, first is that of Mrs Catherine Frey. She was born in York County, Pennsylvania on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of January 1759; her maiden name was Hirschinger. She died in Wheatfield Township, this county, April 18, 1831. Aged 72 years, 2 months, and 20 days. She was the wife of Peter Frey with whom she lived in matrimony 53 years 6 months and 13 days and was the mother of 12 children viz:- 7 sons and 5 daughters who were all alive at her death. Peter Frey, the husband of the above named Catherine. He was born in Windsor Township, York county, November 28, 1750. Died in Wheatfield Township, this county, May 3, 1831 but 15 days after his wife at the 'ripe age of 80 years, 5 months and 5 days. They were both interred by the pastor Rev. Nicholas G. Sharretts.

Christopher Keller, one of the oldest settlers, at the time of Brush Valley Township, died on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 1839, the 75<sup>th</sup> year of his age; he was buried on Tuesday, May 14, his pastor Rev. Jacob Medtart preaching the funeral sermon from Gen. 47:9. "And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, the days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years; few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the years of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage, But O for the touch of a vanished hand. And the sound of a voice that is still." And thus, we take up "The golden thread" that is attached to the "Leaf of History". In all probability, after the resignation of Rev. M.O.T. Sahm, in October 1882, the Brush Valley charge was vacant for about one year, from October 1882, to November 1883; for I can find no reports to the contrary on the Church Records, nor in the Minutes of Synod.

The Rev. W. E. Crebs became pastor of this Congregation November 1, 1883, serving it for one year, in connection with the Homer charge, he residing in Homer City, most probably during the year 1883. This congregation was separated from the Strongstown congregation and united with the Homer charge. Rev. Crebs resigned here November 1, 1884 and was succeeded by Rev. John W. Reese, who became pastor of the Homer charge April 1, 1885, and he resided in Homer City. The Charge consisted of Homer City, Brush Valley, and "

Luther Chapel of Graceton. On the 8<sup>th</sup> November, 1885 the Trustees of the congregation sold the balance of the lumber of the old or second church building for the sum of \$12.62, and this leads me to the conclusion that the old frame church was taken down during the year 1884 or 85 after being used for its sacred purpose for about 40 years. During his ministry here Rev. Reese admitted six persons to Church membership.

Admissions by Rev. John W. Reese

January 16<sup>th</sup> 1887

Mrs. Tillie J. Keller (Certificate)  
Christian W. Keller (Prof. Of Faith)  
Miss Charlotte Coup (Prof. Of Faith)  
Miss Jennie Coup (Prof of Faith)

July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1888 by Confirmation

Fannie E. Altemus  
Jessie W. Rhoads

Confirmed by Rev. J.W. Reese, October 24, 1885

Israel Paul  
Jacob I. Paul  
John Sidmond Marks

In the fall of the year 1885 Mr. Stephen H. Rand was employed to fence the church grounds on the East and South sides at the cost of 25 cents per panel.

After serving this congregation for 4 years until April 1, 1889, Rev. Reese resigned and was followed by Rev. J.W. Shaeffer, who took charge of the Homer Pastorate June 1, 1889, he residing in Homer City. He preached here every two weeks serving until June 1, 1891 or two years when he resigned removing to Augustaville, Pennsylvania.

Rev. W.G. Slonaker succeeded Rev. Shaeffer as a Supply to this congregation and Strongstown, during the summer of 1892. Rev. Slonaker was then a student of Theology at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pa. The charge now consisting of Brush Valley and Strongstown, was vacant for about a year when Rev. S.V. Dye became pastor, August 1, 1893 residing in Strongstown. In the month of February 1894 Rev. J. R. Samples assisted the pastor Rev. Dye, in a series of special services when a goodly number were moved to inquire what they must do to be saved. A free will offering was made to Rev. Sample for his services of \$20.67. The following were admitted to Church membership during the ministry of Rev. Dye.

Admissions by Rev. S. V. Dye

February 25, 1894 by confirmation

Miss Gertie J. McFeaters



Miss Bessie T. McFeaters  
Miss Gertie Murdick  
Miss Celia Campbell  
Miss Cora N. Altemus  
Mrs. Addie Syster  
**John E. Weaver**  
Lewis D. McCullough  
Elmer E. **Campbell** by Baptism  
Miss Alta Z. Empfield (now Hoover)  
Miss Jennie B. Empfield  
Miss Lillie Belle Hill (now Buterbaugh) [sic]  
Mrs. Nancy Elizabeth Bowers  
Benjamin Daniel Hill by Profession of Faith  
Miss Mary Margaret McCullough  
Mrs. Arabella Bowers  
Miss Viola G. **Campbell**  
George G. McCullough  
David Elmer McCullough

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1895 by Certificate from Lutheran Church

George R. Stewart  
Miss Gertie V. Paul (Confirmed)

Rev. Dye ceased his labours here April 1, 1896, when Rev., Jacob M. Hankey became pastor as a supply during the summer of 1896 and of 1897. He served Brush Valley and Strongstown in connection with Antioch of the Cookport charge, Rev. Hankey ceased his labours in the fall of 1897 and Rev. Samuel A. Shaulis of New Florence took charge of the pastorate as a supply during the summer of 1898. He served this congregation with Strongstown until about November ...

Rev. J. Milton Snyder, the present pastor succeeded Rev. Shaulis taking charge May 1, 1899, removing from Tremont, Schuylkill County, Pa. He resided in Strongstown and preached at this congregation and Strongstown every Sabbath. Rev. Snyder was installed Pastor August 13, 1899. Sabbath 10:00 am at Strongstown and 3:00 at Brush Valley. Revs Lewis Hay of Indiana and G.L. Courtney of Homer City preaching to the congregation and pastor respectively. During the present pastorate up to this time, the following were admitted to the church.

Admissions by Rev. J. Milton Snyder, Pastor

July 23, 1899 by Certificate from Lutheran Church of Indiana

Isaiah S. Kepple and  
Wife, May J. Kepple  
Mrs. Margaret Hoover (Reinstated)  
Rachel Ann (Stahl) Coy by Baptism and Confirmation September 15, 1901. . Born  
October 12, 1865.  
by Confirmation September 15, 1901

**Annie Belle Cramer**

Samuel Shem Gressley

Nancy Malissa Gressley

Andrew Curtin Murdick by Confirmation January 19, 1902. Born Dec 27, 1863

by Certificate from Strongstown Charge September 28, 1902

Henry A. Burkhart

Sarah A. Burkhart

Nora (Burkhart) Rhodes

Daniel Altemus by Baptism September 30, 1903. Born June 4<sup>h</sup>, 1855

Jesse Wilmer Burkhart by Confirmation March 30, 1904. Born August 28, 1885

It is but fitting to state that in the summer and fall of 1899 the ladies of the congregation held several 'festivals' to secure funds to beautify and repair the church building. They gathered the sum of \$26.17 of which was used to paper the church walls and ceiling, leaving a balance of \$13.44 which was used toward the repainting of the church. Miss Jennie Coup and Miss Gertie Murdick acted as an efficient committee in this good work by The Ladies. During the fall of 1900 the church building was repainted within and without and the present out buildings erected at a cost of \$106.00: making the total cost of repairs about \$130.00 paid cash. The pastor acting as solicitor and collector of the subscribed funds. The Decker Brothers of Penn Run, this county, doing the papering and painting by contract. All who worked so faithfully at these repairs, and gave so generously deserve full credit. Another item, worthy of record was the convening of the Eastern Conference of the Pittsburgh Synod (G.S.) October 29, 1900 in this congregation for the first time in its history. The conference met Monday evening and continued in session until Wednesday noon, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 14 Lutheran Ministers being in attendance, including Rev. J. Aberly, a Lutheran Missionary, lately returned from India. Various subjects of general religious interest were discussed, and the conference was a most enjoyable occasion.

I will here give a list of all the Church Officers as found recorded.

The Church Officers

Church Councils

In 1876

John D. Paige

Mathias Altemus

Uriah Younkin

Chambers Murdick

In 1884

John D. Paige – Elder

Chambers Murdick – Elder

Stephen H. Rand – Treasurer

Adam George – Deacon

Charles J. Rhoads – Deacon

In 1887

John D. Paige – Elder

Chambers Murdick – Elder

**Christian R. Weaver** – Deacon  
Stephen H. Rand – Deacon  
C.J. Rhoads – Deacon  
David Garman – Treasurer for one year

In 1888  
John D. Paige – Elder  
Chambers Murdick – Elder  
**Christian R. Weaver** – Deacon  
Stephen H. Rand – Deacon  
Charles J. Rhoads - Deacon

In 1893 and 1894 Installed September 10, 1893  
John Shaffer – Elder  
S. H. Rand – Elder and Treasurer  
**Christian R. Weaver** – Deacon and Trustee  
Israel Paul – Deacon and Trustee  
C. W. Keller – Deacon and Trustee  
William W. Nevins – Deacon  
George R. Stewart – Deacon – Installed October 27, 1895

In 1896 Installed October 11, 1896  
John Shaffer – Elder and President  
S. H. Rand – Elder and Treasurer  
George R. Stewart – Deacon and Secretary  
Israel Paul – Deacon  
C. W. Keller – Deacon  
H. W. Learn – Deacon  
C. W. Keller – Trustee  
W. H. Lower – Trustee  
D. E. McCullough – Trustee

In 1899 Installed November 12, 1899  
I. S. Kepple – Elder  
S. H. Rand – Elder and Treasurer  
Christian W. Keller – Deacon  
Israel Paul – Deacon  
George R. Stewart – Deacon and Secretary

Installed April 2, 1900  
Jacob I. Paul – Trustee  
William H. Lower – Trustee  
H. W. Learn

### **Miscellaneous**

Delegates from this congregation to the Pittsburg [sic] Synod (G.S)  
John D. Paige, meeting in Blairsville, Indiana County, Pa October 1890  
George R. Stewart, meeting in Apollo, Pa October 1897  
Christian W. Keller, meeting in Pittsburg, Pa October 1900

## Sabbath School

It would be interesting to give a full and accurate history of the Sabbath School of the congregation called truly, the Nursery of the Church, but I am sorry to say that I am unable to give a full history. So far as I can learn the first Sabbath School of the congregation was organized soon after the Second Church was built; and most probably during the year 1847; whilst Rev. Henry Bishop was pastor. I am not able to state who were the first officers of the school. In the spring of 1857 the school was re-organized. John D. Paige being elected Supt't.

### Sunday School Officers 1876

John D. Paige – Superintendent

David Garman – Librarian

Mathias Altemus – Treasurer

### Present Officers 1900-01

Isaiah S. Kepple – Sup't.

Christian W. Keller – Asst. Sup't.

Miss Alice Shaffer – Secretary

Mrs. Alice Paul – Treasurer

### Young Peoples Society of Christian Endeavor

The Christian Endeavor Society of the congregation was organized September 13, 1893.

### First Officers

William M. Nevins – President

Fannie (Altemus) McFeaters – Secretary

Rev. A. W. McCullough – Cor. Secretary

Miss Harriet Shaffer – Treasurer

### Present Officers 1900-01

Margaret Empfield – President

Harriet Shaffer – Vice President

Cora Altemus – Rec. Secretary

Tillie J. Keller – Cor. Secretary

Alice Shaffer – Treasurer

The Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the congregation was organized during the meeting of the Eastern Conference on October 30, 1900 by Rev. Mrs. Lewis Hay. President of the Synodical Society of the Pittsburgh Synod.

The first officers of the Society were:

Mrs. I. S. Kepple – Vice President

Mrs. Tillie J. Keller – Cor. Secretary

Mrs. George R. Stewart – President

Miss Alice Shaffer – Rec. Secretary

Miss Harriet Shaffer – Treasurer

### First Marriages

It may be a matter of interest to hear of the first marriages recorded by the first three pastors viz:- Rev. Reichart, Sharretts and Medtart, who made a record of marriages. There are 39 recorded.

#### Marriages by Rev. G.A. Reichart

<b>Jacob Cramer</b> to Elizabeth Fetterman	March 11, 1823
George Keller to Catherine Bower	July 15, 1823
John Stephen to Sally Bower	October 2, 1823
Herman Tyson to Anna Murphy	December 18, 1823
George Glassford to Elizabeth Wolf	January 1, 1824
George Wohlfart to Marie Lloyd	April 8, 1824
David Reisinger to Susanna Enders	April 29, 1824
Christian Keller to Anna Maria Hart	May 4, 1824
David Meisner to Elizabeth Bower	September 2, 1824
Samuel Meisner to Veronica Bower	November 2, 1824
David Bower to Sally Samson	April 13, 1826
Christian Keller to Christina Weik	May 16, 1826
John Thompson to Susanna Samson	June 1, 1826

#### Marriages by Rev. Nicholas G. Sharretts

Henry Bower to Elizabeth Fetterman	November 6, 1827
Jacob Dearmond to Mary Reisinger	April 24, 1828
Michael Fetterman to Mary Coy	May 1829
William Shuman to Catherine Bower	August 20, 1829
<b>Daniel Cramer</b> to Rachel Shuman	March 4, 1830
John Steffy to Elizabeth Wike	April 8, 1830
John Fetterman to Elizabeth Dearmond	December 9, 1830
Michael Coy to Elizabeth Fetterman	November 17, 1831
John McFeaters to Susan Dearmond	November 24, 1831
Michael Helman to Catherine Sorgus	October 11, 1832
Henry Dearmond to Sarah Stineman	January 3, 1833
Jacob Dick to Sophia Fetterman	February 28, 1833
Robert Dunwoodie to Mary Stevens	March 14, 1833
Alexander Patterson to <b>Martha Campbell</b>	March 27, 1833
George Roser to Christiana Fetterman	October 24, 1833
Ludwig Coy to Margaret Slippy	March 1834
Andrew Fetterman to Catherine Stoll	
John Coy, Sr. to Mary DeHavens	
John Coy (of Henry) to Barbara Diehl	February 12, 1835
Henry Wike to Nancy Empfield	

#### Marriages by Rev. Jacob Medtart

John Leininger to Susan Shirely	March 21, 1839
Isaac Dearmond to Margaret Sorgus	March 28, 1839
Herman Miller to Sarah Sorgus	April 11, 1839
John Stake to Sarah Dearmond	July 14, 1840

John Sorgus to Lydia Leininger  
William Fowler to Elizabeth Coy

March 21, 1842  
April 21, 1842

#### Purchase of Church Lands

1. One acre of land was purchased from Peter Fry and wife, Catherine. Original tract for the graveyard by John Tyson and Jacob Soryer, Trustees of the congregation for sum of \$4.00. Deed dated January 26, 1822.

2. Fifty-eight perches. Stick measure, purchased from Peter Howard and wife Lucinda for burial ground by John D. Paige, John Paul and Samuel DeArmy Wolf, Trustees of the congregation for the sum of \$9.06. Deed dated June 1, 1866. Recorded in deed book A, Volume 64, page 630, Indiana County, Pa

3. About one-fourth acre, purchased of Peter Howard and wife Lucinda, on which present church is now built, the lot beginning at a post on the east end of the Altemus grave lot and running with the line of the said church land east for about three and one half rods; thence parallel to the other line of the church lot due north to a white oak tree, on the public road leading to Mechanicsburg from Nolo. Thence west along said public road about three and a half rods to the corner of said church lot at the public road, bought by Christian R. Weaver, Lloyd Shaffer and John D. Paige, Trustees of the congregation for the sum of \$10.00 cash. Purchased September 22, 1881.

Sketch of soldiers buried in the Brush Valley Lutheran Cemetery or who were killed in battle serving during the Civil War 1861-1865.

Benjamin Meyers	War of 1812. Died June 24, 1876. Aged 85 years, 7 months, 8 days
John Howard	War of 1812 in his 80 <sup>th</sup> Year
Abraham Coy	55 <sup>th</sup> Regiment, PA Vol Co F
Joseph Everett	55 <sup>th</sup> Regiment Pa Vol Co F, Died October 19, 1899 in 69 <sup>th</sup> year of age
Daniel S. Croft	[no reg't noted] Died February 2, 1890. Aged 86 years and 8 months
David W. Keller	Co B, Independent Battalion Pa Cav. Died in 30 <sup>th</sup> year of his age
Francis K. Herlinger	54 <sup>th</sup> Regt Pa Vol Co C Died Jan 14, 1890
Adam Lower	206 <sup>th</sup> Regt Pa Vol Died Jan 1, 1893. Aged about 82 years
John Shaeffer	206 <sup>th</sup> Regt Pa Vol Co H Died Jan 20, 1899 Aged 74 yrs 5 mos 3 days
Finley Fetterman	206 <sup>th</sup> Regt Pa Vol
Michael Fetterman	206 <sup>th</sup> Regt Pa Vol Died May 23, 1898 Aged 80 yrs 6 mos 11 days
Daniel Miller	206 <sup>th</sup> Regt Pa Vol Co H Died July 21, 1891 Aged 62 yrs 8 mos 24 days
John Coup	6 <sup>th</sup> Regt Pa Hvy Art Co L Died Aug 22m, 1894 Aged 65 yrs 7 mos 7 days
Abraham B. Wike	78 <sup>th</sup> Regt Pa Vol Co D Transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps Dec. 12, 1863. Died September 3, 1893 in 72 <sup>nd</sup> year of his age
John Peddicord	

Joshua Stewart 211 Regt Pa Vol Co K  
 Peter Steffey 82<sup>nd</sup> Regt Pa Vol Co G Died November 12, 1895  
**Philip Cramer** 206<sup>th</sup> Regt Pa Vol Co I Died March 27, 1893 in 69<sup>th</sup>  
 year of his age  
 Henry Keller 206<sup>th</sup> Regt Pa Vol (?)  
 James Moose 6th Regt Pa Heavy Artillery Co L Died August 25 1901 Aged  
 66 years

Killed in Battle and Died Away from Home

Andrew Carbaugh 55<sup>th</sup> Regt Pa Vol Co F Killed at Cold Harbor June 8, 1864  
**Ephraim Cramer** 55<sup>th</sup> Regt Pa Vol Co F Captured at Drewry's Bluff Va May 24,  
 1864. died in Andersonville Prison. Aged about 25 years  
**Nicholas Cramer** 55<sup>th</sup> Regt Pa Vol Co F Killed at Petersburg, Va June 18, 1864.  
 Aged about 25 years  
 John Keller 55<sup>th</sup> Regt Pa Vol Co F Killed in the Battle of the Wilderness.  
 Aged about 28 years  
 Abednego Keller 55<sup>th</sup> Regt Pa Vol Co F Starved in Libby Prison Aged about 34  
 Edmund Roser 55<sup>th</sup> Regt Pa Vol Co F Died of disease March 16, 1864 Aged 19  
 years 10 months 10 days Buried at New York City  
 George H. Shaeffer 11<sup>th</sup> Regt Pa Vol Co D Died of Typhoid fever July 21, 1864  
 Aged 19 years 2 months and 18 days. Buried at City Point, Va  
 James Dick 67<sup>th</sup> Regt Pa Vol Co D  
 George W. Dick 12<sup>th</sup> Reg't. Pa Vet Reserve Corps Co H. Died at Alexandria,  
 Va. Died January 5, 1863 of wounds received at the Battle of Fredericksburg, Va,  
 December 13, 1862. Aged about 20 years.  
 Isaac Fornwalt 11<sup>th</sup> Reg't. Pa Vol Co D. Captured at the Battle of the  
 Wilderness, May 7, 1864. Died in Libby Prison. Aged about 20 years.  
 James Dias 11<sup>th</sup> Reg't. Pa Vol Co D. Captured at Battle of the Wilderness,  
 May 7, 1864. Died in Libby Prison.  
 Daniel Waltermire 55<sup>th</sup> Reg't. Pa Vol Co F. Died of wounds received at  
 Petersburg, Va. June 18, 1864  
 William Waltermire Prob.60<sup>th</sup> Reg't. Pa Vol. Died in prison, probably Libby.  
 Henry Waltermire Prob 60<sup>th</sup> Reg't. Pa Vol. Buried in the "Maner" Graveyard.  
 Aged 67 years, 4 months and 18 days.  
 David Waltermire 55<sup>th</sup> Reg't. Pa Vol Co F. Died in his 80<sup>th</sup> year. Buried in 'Brush  
 Valley Cemetery'.  
 Gathered and recorded by Rev. J. Milton Snyder.

List of Pastors

I shall here give a complete list, as correct as possible of all the pastors, and their time  
 of service from the very beginning of this congregation to the present time.

Rev. John Michael Steck 1798 – 1806; 4 times a year. 1806 – 1813 once a year  
 Rev. John Gottfried Lambrecht 1813 – July 1815  
 Rev. William Shultz 1819 – 1821 – Supply  
 Rev. \_\_\_ Moehler 1821 - Supply  
 Rev. Gabriel Adam Reichart August 1, 1821 – August 1, 1827

Rev. Nicholas G. Sharretts	July 1, 1827 – December 31, 1836
Rev. J. Brown	1837
Rev. Jacob Medtart	March 1, 1838 – October 1, 1842
Rev. David Adams	November 1, 1842 – September 19, 1844
Rev. Henry Bishop	November 1, 1844 – November 1, 1849
Rev. C. J. Deininger	1850 – December 1852
Rev. Peter Sahn, DD	January 1, 1853 – February 1, 1858
Rev. William S. Emery	April 1, 1858 – April 8, 1861
Rev. Henry Gathers	April 1861 – March 1862; Supply
Rev. George M. Settlemeyer	March 1, 1862 – March 1866
Rev. George F. Ehrenfeld	June 1, 1866 - April 1, 1868
Rev. Simon P. Snyder	December 1, 1869 – April 1, 1874
Rev. Isaiah B. Crist	November 1, 1874 – November 1, 1875
Rev. A.W. McCullough	April 1, 1876 – April 1, 1878
Rev. Benjamin W. Tomlinson	1878; Supply
Rev. A.W. McCullough	1879; Supply
Rev. M.O.T. Sahn	Spring 1880 – October 1882; Supply
Rev. W.E. Crebs	November 1, 1883 – November 1, 1884
Rev. John W. Reese	April 1, 1885 – April 1, 1889
Rev. J.W. Shaeffer	June 1, 1889 – June 1, 1891
Rev. W.G. Slonaker	1892; Supply
Rev, S.V. Dye	August 1, 1893 – April 1, 1896
Rev. Jacob M. Hankey	1896 – 1897; Supply
Rev. Samuel A. Shaulis	1898; Supply
Rev. J. Milton Snyder	May 1, 1899 – May 1, 1905

### Church Bell

During the month of May 1903 a “Steel Alloy Bell” was placed in the church tower, purchased of Montgomery Ward and Company, Chicago, Illinois. The bell without the fixtures or mountings weighed 605 lbs. The cost of the bell alone was \$ \_\_\_ Cost of fixing tower and ladder for church \$ . The cost of cut of church for Church History \$ . total paid out \$ .

The Pastor, Rev. J. Milton Snyder solicited these funds and paid them out. Making his report to the congregation November 22, 1903 handing over a balance of \$2.63 to the Church Council.

### Conclusion

My work is now done: it was a laborious task, and yet mixed with pleasure. It would have been my supreme delight to have given a full and exact sketch of this church from its very beginning until now: it was impossible to do so. The recorded facts were too few; the pastoral charges too many; and the local traditions too vague. The very best possible has been done, and we must throw the Mantle of Charity over all mistakes, since we cannot rectify them. The human pen can give only cold, naked facts; and it must leave untouched and untold the lives that were here spent; the struggles that were here endured; and the victories that were here won. The many pastors and their worshippers have passed into the ‘Silent Land’. Their records and history The Angel of God Has Perfectly Kept in The Book of Life. We would not



soon, nor willingly, forget those who are gone on before us; and it best becomes us to turn over thoughts and our voices towards the God they worshipped and loved.

While we look beyond the 'blossom-starred' sky above us, we cannot forget our life duties here not the dear old church where we now worship. We dare not forget 'the venerable house – our Fathers built to God'.

Their dust endears the sod  
Here holy thoughts a light have shed  
From many a radiant face,  
And prayers of tender hope have spread  
A perfume through the place.  
They live with God; their beds are dust;  
But here their children play.  
And in this fleeting lifetime trust  
To find the 'narrow today'.

February 28, 1901

Delivered to the Congregation on Sabbath  
morning June 23, 1901.

#### Appendix A

In memory of Rev. John Michael Steck.

Died at Greensburg, Pa July 14, 1830. Aged 64 years, 9 months, 9 days. The Rev. Jno. Michael Steck was born at Germantown, Pa, October 5, 1765. He studied Theology under Dr. Helmuth and was admitted a member of the Lutheran Synod of Pa. In 1784 he took charge at Chambersburg, in 1789 he became pastor to the congregations in Bedford and Somerset Counties and in 1792 accepted a call from the congregations in Westmoreland County, Pa making Greensburg his residence, where he died on July 14, 1830. (Aged 64 years, 9 months and 9 days).

He was an earnest faithful and successful minister. (See Sprague Annuals of the Amer. Pulpitix. 148). From Strong's Cyclopedia Vol. Ix page 1002.

By Rev. J. Milton Snyder  
Strongstown Indiana Pa  
Jan 16<sup>th</sup> 1901

#### Appendix B

In memory of Rev. Nicholas G. Sharretts

Died December 31, 1836. Aged 34 years, one month and 11 days. Rev. Nicholas G. Sharretts was the Eldest son of Major F. and Catherine Sharretts. He was born near

Selins Grove, Union (now Snyder) County, Pa on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1802. His parents having removed to Carlisle, Pa where Nicholas, at the early age of 15 years publicly professed the Savior and was confirmed a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. From early in life he was exercised with the desire to preach the Gospel. In this he was encouraged by his pastor, the Rev. Benjamin Keller, who prepared him for the Freshman year in Dickenson College, Carlisle, then under the presidency of Rev. Dr. Mason. He graduated in 1825. He pursued the study of Theology under the direction of Rev. J. G. Schmucker, DD of York, Pa. Having afterwards visited the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, he was licensed to preach the Gospel by the Western Pa synod convened at Berlin, Somerset County, Pa in the fall of 1826. At that time he was appointed as Itinerant Missionary for the Northwestern part of Pa. After visiting our people in the counties of Clearfield, Venango and Indiana he accepted a call from his first and only pastorate consisting of the congregations of Indiana and of Blairsville (also latterly of Brush Valley and Strongstown, by Rev. J. Milton Snyder). He entered on his labours here (Indiana) the first day of July 1827. On the 9<sup>th</sup> October of the same year (1827) he married Miss Louisa H. Spottswood of Carlisle, Pa. A most excellent lady who was to him a noble wife and an efficient co-worker and comforter in all his toils. He was the first settled pastor and English preacher placed over this field. He served this, his people, faithfully and zealously, and most acceptably for 8 years and 6 months, when death relieved him of his labours and sufferings on earth, and took him to his reward in Heaven. He died on the last day of the year December 31, 1836. Aged 34 years one month and 11 days.

His death was greatly deplored not by his own people only, but by all. Even to this day, after the lapse of fifty years or more his name is mentioned with respect and endeared recollections by those who knew him. During a collecting tour to raise funds to free the church at Indiana (which was built during the early years of his ministry) of a debt, he contracted the disease that finally caused his death. But the summons did not take him by surprise. He could say, "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand." His deathbed furnished delightful evidence of the power of religion to sustain the soul in the final struggle. Rev. G.A. Reichart, his co-laborer in the Gospel, at Kittaning, Pa visited him during the last few days, to whom he testified of his hope in the Savior whom he preached.

His remains were interred in front of the Church at Indiana; he had been instrumental in building, amid a large concourse of sorrowing friends, who mourned his early departure.

Rev. C.F. Heyer improved the solemn occasion by a sermon on the Text from 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 4:26. Here his remains rested until the death of his wife, December 13, 1879 when they were deposited side by side in "Oakland Cemetery" at Indiana, Pa.

By Rev., A.C. Ehrenfeld  
Transcribed by rev. J. Milton Snyder, December 29, 1900  
Strongstown, Pa.

Appendix C

In Memory of Rev. Simon P. Snyder

Died December 1, 1895. Aged 74 years and 10 months

Rev. Simon P. Snyder was born February 3, 1821 in New Philadelphia, Tuscarora County, Ohio. His father was a Lutheran preacher. At the age of 17 Rev. Snyder united with the Lutheran Church, and began to prepare himself by a course at Wittenberg College, to preach the Gospel. He was licensed in 1849 in Canal Dover, Ohio. He began his ministry at Smithville, Ohio; and served at the following places; New Castle, Indiana; Trivoli, Illinois; Camden, Indiana; Blairsville, Pa; Brushvalley, Pa; Butler, Indiana; Shipman, Illinois; Walton, Indiana and Ohio City, Ohio. He spent forty-six years in the service of the Master, preaching the Gospel of Peace. He died in Van Ohio, December 6, 1895. Aged 74 years and 10 months. Published in the Lutheran World of December 26, 1895 and transcribed by Rev. J. Milton Snyder, December 29, 1900.

(Transcribed 20 January 2003 by Brigid E. Richards)