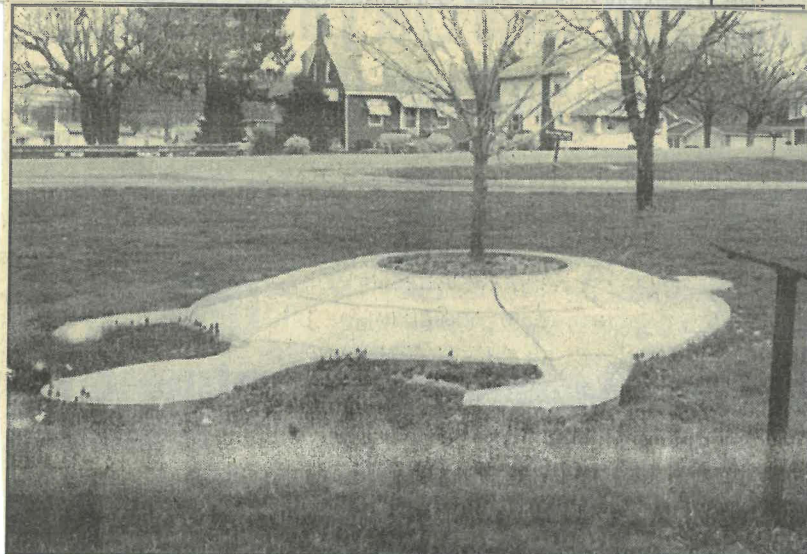




Zeisberger Monument *NCT News*
15 May 1996



Turtle Monument, Peace Tree *NCT News*
15 MAY 1996

March 14, 1971 - 200th Anniversary of the preaching of THE FIRST PROTESTANT
SERMON WEST OF THE ALLEGHENIES By Rev. David Zeisberger, Moravian
missionary to the Indians.

Pictured, in front of the monument to the event on Piling Street, Newcomers-
town -

Front row, left to right: Rt. Rev. Carl Helmich (retired Moravian Bishop,
Gnadenhutzen - speaker); Rev. William Gamble (Scriptural Holiness
Church); Rev. Jimmy Robbins (Valley View Baptist Church); Rev.
William Calvert (St. Paul Lutheran Church); Msgr. Ambrose Freund
(St. Francis de Sales Church, Roman Catholic);

Back row, left to right: Rev. John Visser (Executive Director of the
Tuscarawas County Council for Church and Community); Rev. John
Benson (Christ United Methodist); Rev. Glenn Shugars (Church of
God); Rev. Wesley Frederick (Church of the Nazarene); Rev. Fred
Schmidt (Assembly of God); Rev. Daniel Graham (First Presbyterian
Church).

Missing from picture: Rev. Ralph Dennis (Calvary United Methodist Church).
Photo by Henry Spring of New Philadelphia.



1. Opening the service, at microphone, Rev. Wesley Frederick, Newcomerstown Church of the Nazarene.

Behind him, left to right: Rev. Ralph Dennis (Calvary United Methodist); Rev. William Gamble (Scriptural Holiness); Rev. Fred Schmidt (Assembly of God); Rev. Daniel Graham (dark glasses - First Presbyterian); Msgr. Ambrose Freund (dark glasses and light-colored raincoat) (St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church); Rev. Glenn Shugars (Church of God); Mr. James Schlarb (Citizens for Community Improvement, physical arrangements); Rt. Rev. Carl Helmich (retired Moravian Bishop, and speaker for the day).



2. Bishop Carl Helmich addressing the crowd.

Behind him, left to right: Rev. Daniel Graham (First Presbyterian); Rev. William Gamble (Scriptural Holiness); Rev. Ralph Dennis (Calvary United Methodist); Rev. Fred Schmidt (Assembly of God); Rev. Glenn Shugars (Church of God); Msgr. Ambrose Freund (St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic); Mr. James Schlarb (public address); Rev. Wesley Frederick (Church of the Nazarene).



All arrangements for the observance were co-ordinated by Rev. John Benson,
Christ United Methodist Church.



ber of his works were translated by him into the Onondaga and Delaware Indian tongues and even at the present time he is a respected authority on the vernacular of the American Indian.

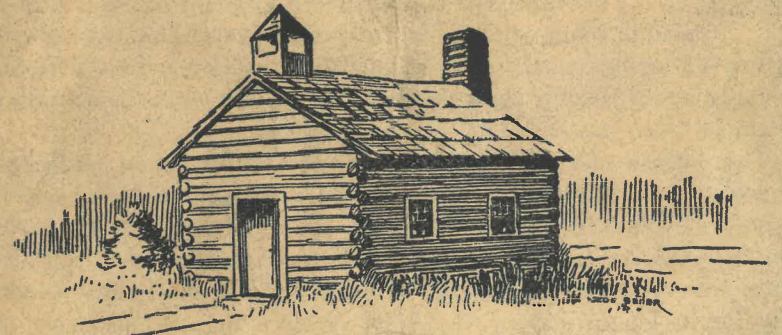
The manuscripts of six of his literary works are present in the Library of the America Philosophical Society, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The manuscripts of fourteen of his works are in the Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, where they are carefully preserved and most highly esteemed as valued and distinctive contributions to the literature of early America, and priceless collections which deal with the researches into the language of an extinct nation.

It is without prejudice to the claims of other historic spots in the great commonwealth of Ohio that these facts are set forth. We owe to the memory of those pioneers, who were our forefathers, a suitable memorial and a lively recollection of their mighty sacrifices and fearless struggles which were made that we may continue to enjoy the blessings of liberty, the gift of free speech and the heritage of mental freedom to that large degree of which we are all conscious.

S. O. M

Schoenbrunn Memorial

SCHOENBRUNN, THE FIRST TOWN IN OHIO, WAS
FOUNDED IN 1772



"July 29, 1773. Today the Schoolhouse was completely finished."

From the Schoenbrunn Diary

This was the first schoolhouse in Ohio



School Committee

CHARLES BARTHELMEH, Chairman	- - -	New Philadelphia, Ohio
S. O. MASE, Secretary	- - -	Dover, Ohio
C. S. McVAY	- - -	New Philadelphia, Ohio

Salient Facts Concerning Schoenbrunn, "Beautiful Spring," First Village in Ohio

THE site of the first settlement within the present boundaries of Ohio is less than one mile from the city limits of New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas County.

The village of Schoenbrunn was laid out and formally settled August 24, 1772, by the Reverend David Zeisberger, a Moravian leader, and a band of Christian Indians. This settlement was made about sixteen years prior to that of Marietta, the earliest settlement in Ohio to survive to the present time.

The village consisted of more than sixty houses in addition to numerous huts and lodges, and contained a population of about 450. After an existence of nearly five years the settlement was abandoned by its founders for the reason that it was deemed no longer tenable on account of its exposed position. The date of the final church service preceding its abandonment was April 19, 1777, or just two years after the battle of Lexington.

Schoenbrunn contained the first church and the first school house in that territory which is now known as Ohio, and here were formed the first peace society and the first temperance society organized west of the Alleghenies. Those community buildings were the most prominent structures of the village. The church had a membership of 417, while the enrollment in the school was proportionately large.

A little more than two years ago steps were taken by a local historical society definitely to determine the position of the village streets and the location of its principal buildings. The investigations of this society were eminently successful. Excavations made by members of the society, several of which were under the personal supervision of Dr. William C. Mills, Director of the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society, disclosed the location of the principal streets, the church, the schoolhouse and nearly a score of the dwellings. The remains of the fireplaces belonging to the church and to the residence of the schoolmaster were found well preserved and were easily identified by means of the original plat which was discovered among the archives of the mother church.

Quantities of interesting relics were unearthed. Among these were pottery, cutlery and other domestic articles peculiar to the period. Frag-

ments of weapons, heaps of kitchen refuse and much parched corn were found in an excellent state of preservation.

At its last session the General Assembly of Ohio appropriated the sum of \$10,000 for the purchase of the site of the village, and a committee, consisting of five persons, four of whom were senators or representatives, was appointed to examine evidence touching upon the identity of the site. This committee reported favorably upon the question of purchasing the site recommended by local investigators, and the transaction has been completed.

From the beginning of these investigations it was deemed appropriate that a suitable memorial be erected on the site, and that at least a portion of the village be restored to its original appearance. The churches of Ohio have undertaken the project of restoring the original church; it would seem fitting that the school children of Ohio should assist in erecting a duplicate of the earliest schoolhouse known to have been built within the state.

Projects for the restoration of various portions of the village have been endorsed by the State Department of Education, Ohio State Teachers' Association, Gov. A. V. Donahey, Dr. William C. Mills, The State Archaeological and Historical Society, the Governing Board of the Moravian Church of the United States, the Ohio Council of Churches, the New Philadelphia-Dover Ministerial Association, the Tuscarawas County Council of Churches, The State Schoenbrunn Committee and other civic, religious and educational organizations.

That this first settlement within the boundaries of the state did not survive to the present was due to the troublous times of the Revolutionary War and to the imminence of an Indian uprising on a pretentious scale. Had the country not then been writhing in the throes of a national agony, and had the young nation not then been fighting for its existence and trembling with apprehension over the ultimate outcome of its struggle, it is not likely that charitable assistance would need be solicited for the restoration of those earlier landmarks of Christianity and education.

A word concerning the illustrious founder of the village, the Reverend David Zeisberger, may help establish the fact more firmly that the settlement was not of the adventitious sort, but was established under the authority of one of the foremost scholars and spiritual leaders of his time. David Zeisberger was one of the most prominent ecclesiastical writers of colonial days. He was the author of more than a score of books touching upon theology, church history and Indian lore and also made a number of translations from the German. A num-

Gnadenhutten (translated means Tents of Grace) was settled five months after Schoenbrunn on October 9, 1772. Joshua, A Mohican Elder, brought a large group of Mohican Indians to this location thus the second Indian village was settled. Delawares at Schoenbrunn and Mohican at Gnadenhutten.

This settlement grew rapidly, soon there were between fifty and sixty cabins. The group worked hard and prospered, their standard of living was high for that era on the frontier, their cabins had glass windows, they used pewter household utensils, they were adept in crafts and art work, and loved music. The community had a spinet piano and one member played and led the singing.

In a very short time they developed gardens that were fenced; they cultivated many field crops; had droves of cattle, hogs and horses.

It was an interesting fact that the men all worked as well as the women, which was shocking to the Indians of the other tribes.

It was here that the Roth child was born, who was the first white child born in this territory.

All went well until the Revolutionary War began and the English at Detroit wanted all Indians to fight against the Americans. The local Indians refused and then they were threatened and pressured to go to war or to allow the enemy to go through.

In 1778 they left their homes and went to Lichtenau, near the present town of Coshocton, staying there until 1779. Lichtenau was abandoned and the Indians returned to Gnadenhutten. In 1780 Salem was founded.

Conditions were fairly quiet for a few months but again the British and the Indian Tribes to the west tried to persuade them to leave. When they would not, in September 1781 troops and Indian warriors rounded up all the Indians living in New Schoenbrunn, Gnadenhutten and Salem and took them to Captives Town, a few miles southeast of the present Upper Sandusky. The women and children and some men went by boat down the Tuscarawas, up the Walhonding and the Kokosing Rivers. Many men and boys went overland, driving whatever livestock they could take with them. The trip was a terrible experience as they were mistreated and their clothes and valuables were taken from them.

Here's Moravian 'First Sermon' Shrine

NEWCOMERSTOWN, O., April 19 —Commemorating the first Protestant sermon preached west of the Ohio River, hundreds of Moravians from northeastern Ohio will arrive here tomorrow to unveil a monument marking the site.

Rev. E. W. Kortz, a Moravian minister who lives in near-by Tuscarawas, will speak at 2 p. m. The rough-hewn monument of native stone, certifying that Rev. David Zeisberger preached to the Delaware Indian tribe there March 14, 1771, will then be unveiled.

Charles Lieser, president of the Newcomerstown Historical Society, is shown in the picture explaining the significance of that first sermon to pupils of a high school history class. They are Martha Ann Best, Patti Hinds and Dorothy Wilkin.

Rev. Mr. Zeisberger was extremely fortunate or was gifted with spiritual powers, according to historical records. A smallpox epidemic had ravaged the mile-square Delaware village in the broad Tuscarawas River valley in the winter of 1770-71 and tribal leaders had exhausted all efforts to curb the disease. In what was recorded as a last resort, Chief Netawatewes sent runners to Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh) to ask ministerial aid.

Rev. Mr. Zeisberger, a native of Austria, responded to the appeal. Guided by Indian scouts, he arrived at what is now Bolivar and followed the Tuscarawas River to the site of Schoenbrunn. Reaching his goal March 14, 1771, the Moravian minister delivered his memorable sermon before several hundred Delaware Indians.

History attests that a week later the epidemic had broken and the disease disappeared entirely within a few weeks.

Rev. Mr. Zeisberger returned to Fort Pitt for a year and then returned to start the building of Schoenbrunn.

The village has been entirely rebuilt on its original site in the last 10 years and is recognized as one of the outstanding historical spots in Ohio.



INSPECTING RECORD OF MISSIONARY PIONEER



8

Ohio Monument Builder

Monument to Historic Sermon

A MONUMENT marking the spot where the first Protestant sermon west of the Alleghenies was preached was dedicated April 20 on Pilling Street in Newcomerstown, under the auspices of the Newcomerstown Historical Society. The historic sermon was delivered on March 14, 1771, by Rev. David Zeisberger, a German-born Moravian Missionary, who traveled from Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh) to the Tuscarawas Valley in response to an invitation from the chief of the Delaware Indians in the Indian village of Newcomerstown. The rough-hewn stone Monument is said to stand within 100 feet of the spot on which Rev. Mr. Zeisberger

stood when he delivered his sermon. The sermon was preached in front of the cabin of Chief Netawatwes, and under a huge tree.

Otto J. Beiter of Newcomerstown, president of Ohio Monument Builders, had a prominent part in the plans for the erection of the Monument and in the dedicatory ceremonies. As chairman, he gave a brief address, before introducing the visitors, in the course of which he said: "This Monument will stand not only as a symbol of Christian spirit and traditions of the past, but also as a silent tribute to the foresight, sacrifices and courage of the members of the Newcomerstown Historical Society and the good

people of Tuscarawas County in planning, building and dedicating it."

Many Moravians attended the ceremonies and the principal address was delivered by Rev. Edwin W. Kortz, pastor of Sharon Moravian Church. Rev. M. F. Oerter of Tuscarawas, dean of Moravian ministers in Tuscarawas county, was in charge of the dedicatory services. Several others also spoke.

On the Monument is a plaque three feet wide and two feet high, on which is inscribed, "The first Protestant Sermon in the Northwest Territory was delivered near this spot by Rev. David Zeisberger, March 14, 1771."

To Mark 200th Anniversary of First Sermon ¹⁷⁷¹

At the site commemorating the first Protestant sermon preached west of the Allegheny mountains members of Newcomerstown churches will assemble this Sunday, March 14, at noon. The occasion will be the 200th Anniversary of the Rev. David Zeisberger's message to Delaware Indians.

Marking the place of the 1771 Service is a monument erected in 1941 through the efforts of the Newcomerstown Historical Society. The monument stands across from the former Greyhound Posthouse which is now occupied by the congregation of the Valley View Baptist Church. It is at that location that Sunday's Service, planned to last for one-half hour, will be held.

Most of what is known of the events of March 14, 1771, comes from information made available by the Historical Society. In 1770, there came to the Beaver Creek settlement of Western Pennsylvania, where the Rev. Mr. Zeisberger and another Moravian missionary had made many Indian converts, a black wampum belt conveyed by Indian messengers direct from Neta-watewes, chief of the Delaware tribe whose capital was Gekelemnpechunk (now Newcomerstown), asking the missionaries and their followers to come and live with them.

The Delawares were alarmed on account of an epidemic of smallpox ascribed to witchcraft which had taken the lives of so many of their tribe. They felt sure that by embracing Christianity the

contagion would cease, and in dire extremity issued a second call offering land free from molestation.

Zeisberger, with several Indian converts and guides, arrived in the early spring of 1771 coming from Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh) over the trail made first by the buffaloes and used later in turn by mound builders, Indians, hunters, traders, and pioneers.

The Indian capital was a mile square surrounding the spot where the above-mentioned monument was erected some thirty years ago. There were about a hundred log houses and huts surrounding the more spacious log cabin of the chief. His house alone had a shingle roof, board floor, a large stone chimney, and a staircase.

During the visit of several days, before returning east to Pennsylvania, Missionary Zeisberger preached to a great throng of Indians and a few white persons the first "Protestant sermon within the Northwest Territory." The following year (1772) he again came to the Tuscarawas valley and began the erection of Schoenbrunn. And another four years later in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence as signed 414 Christian Indians were living in the valley.

In case of inclement weather the celebration of Sunday, planned by the Newcomerstown Ministerial Association, will be held in Middle School. The public is invited to participate in the observance.

4-23-40

NEWCOMERSTOWN NEWS

News—Established 1898

AND INDEX

The Newcomerstown Index—Established 1870

Newcomerstown, Ohio, Thursday, April 11, 1940

\$1.50 PER YEAR

Society To Throw Light on Town's Past

On March 14, 1771 Rev. David Zeisberger assembled a group of Indians and whites around him near where the Pilling street viaduct now stands and preached a sermon.

The only remarkable thing about this was that it was the first time a Protestant sermon was preached in the Northwest Territory.

To mark this spot for posterity is Project No. 1 of the recently formed Newcomerstown Historical Society. Charles Lieser, president, declared that the marker—a sand-stone monument 4 by 6 by 10 feet—will be built. NYA aid has been prom-

ised but Mr. Lieser said if this is not forthcoming the society will construct the monument itself.

This is only one of the objects the historical society has in mind.

The group would like to know more about such things as the burial place of the Post Boy murderer (some say he was buried east of town along where the Pennsylvania railroad runs); the true facts about the stone fort near Orange; the early industries of this community; early schools, churches, bridges, and so on.

Much is already known about

these things. But many gaps remain and the society hopes to fill them in through research and study.

Collection of relics and articles of historical interest is also planned. Mr. Lieser already has many such pieces but the society would like more. And with these, they would like to start a museum.

The society now has 40 members and an effort will be made to swell this to 100. They meet the second Wednesday of each month and from time to time members prepare articles on local historical subjects. These are to be filed, possibly in an

historical section of the Newcomerstown public library.

Besides Mr. Lieser the officers are Ellis Barthalow, vice president; Mrs. Manuel Yingling, secretary; and Frank Schlupp, treasurer.

Wednesday evening the society met in the Public Library and furthered plans for the Zeisberger marker.

One of the highlights of the meeting was a talk by Loe Addy in which he described the deeds of the famed Girty boys who roamed this territory aiding the Indians against the colonists during the French and Indian war.

PAGE TWO

—: NEWCOMERSTOWN :—

UNVEIL MONUMENT
SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Jeffersonian News Bureau,
Mrs. Ann Crater,
Phone 4542

Newcomerstown, O., April 13.—Unveiling of the first Semmon monument in Pilling street, here, by Rev. M. F. Oertel, retired Moravian pastor, of Tuscarawas, shortly after 2 p. m., Sunday, will climax ceremonies in dedication of the monument erected through efforts of the local Historical Society during the past year. Motor caravans from Moravian churches in Uhrichsville, Tuscarawas, Dover, Gnadenthullen, Port Washington and Fry's Valley will converge at the site at 2 p. m. Rev. Edwin W. Kartz, pastor of the Tuscarawas church, will deliver the principal address and Rev. Charles F. Foust, local Lutheran minister, will give invocation. Sealing of local records will be in charge of Charles Lieser, president of the society. Paul Schliesser and R. S. Fathé will represent the state highway department and the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Association, respectively. Visiting officials will be introduced by Otto J. Belfer, chairman. A program of vocal and instrumental music will be presented.

4/18/41

Dedication Address

This is the Dedication Address, which Otto J. Beiter, president of Ohio Monument Builders, delivered at the dedication of the First Protestant Sermon Monument at Newcomerstown, a few days ago. A report of the Dedication appears elsewhere in this issue.

WE ARE assembled here today to dedicate a Monument to the trek westward of civilization and Christianity. Over 170 years have passed since that memorable "First Protestant Sermon" in the Northwest Territory was delivered by Rev. David Zeisberger near this Monument on March 14, 1771.

Many Memorials have been erected in memory of the works of this fearless Moravian missionary

and it is a peculiar coincidence that his first act of importance would be the last one to be commemorated.

Of the Seven Wonders of the World, four are Monuments, erected by those who wished to enrich the heritage of future generations by perpetuating the memory and the history of the generations of the past. The words and traditions, the habits and customs of the ages, are preserved for future generations only when they become pages in the book of history carved from everlasting stone. Much can be said of the Memorial masterpieces of the ancient world. Much has been learned and much can be learned

Continued on page 16

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Ohio Monument Builder

Dedication Address

Continued from page 12

from the endless honor and timeless grace of the messages they hold for the many generations to come.

It is that same desire and pride that inspired the Newcomerstown Historical Society to erect this Monument to preserve for future generations the records of this historical event. It is symbolic of that rugged individualism and courage, that wisdom and spirit that conquered the wilderness and made it possible for us to enjoy the sacred privilege of living in this beautiful Tuscarawas Valley in the greatest country in the world—a country that grants us social, political and religious freedom. A freedom and standard of living enjoyed by no other country in the world today. It is our heritage from the ages gone, and our duty to protect and

preserve it, Our America.

This Monument is dedicated not alone to the memories and the history of the past, it is dedicated to the wisdom and the spirit that is needed today to carry the banner of our Christian civilization onward, ever onward. We trust this Monument will stand for many, many years to come, that it will receive that same sacred care and respect that has always been given public and private Memorials. That it will stand not only as a symbol of the Christian religion and the traditions of the past, and as a Memorial to the vision, the courage and the sacrifices of the American Pioneers, but also as a silent tribute to the members of the Newcomerstown Historical Society and the good people of Tuscarawas county in planning, building and dedicating it today.

Moravians Here For Dedication Of Monument

Apr 21, 1941

Ceremony Transferred To Lutheran Church To Escape Rain; Many Officials Present

In spite of inclement weather the Zeisberger "First Sermon" monument was dedicated Sunday afternoon in the presence of a large assembly of people.

After the National flag was hoisted to a staff on the top of the stone structure, the monument itself was unveiled, revealing the large plaque, three feet wide by two feet high, with the following inscription, "The First Protestant Sermon in the Northwest Territory was delivered near this spot by Rev. David Zeisberger, March 14, 1771. Erected by the Newcomerstown Historical Society." The unveiling ceremony was in charge of Rev. M. F. Oerter of Tuscarawas, dean of Moravian ministers of Tuscarawas county.

Immediately following, Charles Lieser, president of the local society, placed the large copper box of his historical records within the monument after which they were later cemented in by Edward Hammersley who together with William Nay were builders of the memorial.

Through the public address system it was announced that the remainder of the program would be held at St. Paul's Lutheran church.

The program continued at the church with Rev. Charles Foust giving the invocation.

Otto J. Beiter, chairman gave a brief address previous to introducing the visiting guests in which he stated that four of the Seven Wonders of the World are monuments erected by those who wished to perpetuate the memory and history of the past, and it was the same desire that inspired the local Historical Society to erect this monument.

"This monument will stand not only as a symbol of the Christian spirit and traditions of the past, but also as a silent tribute to the foresight, sacrifices and courage of the members of the Newcomerstown Historical Society and the good people of Tuscarawas county in planning, building and dedicating it to-day," he said.

Robert S. Fatig, New Philadelphia, district supervisor of Memorials for the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society spoke on the memorials erected in Zeisberger's honor and said that his first notable event was the last one to be dedicated.

Plans Completed for 'Sermon' Dedication Speaker Is Selected

County Moravians To Cooperate In Event On April 20

Due to the fact that the Moravian pastor Rev. Robert Bennecke of Gnadenhutten is moving to eastern Pennsylvania, Rev. Edwin Kortz, pastor of the Sharon Moravian church has been selected to give the dedicatory address at the "First Sermon" monument here on Sunday, April 20. The memorial committee met last evening to complete plans for the program which will appear next week.

Word has been received from the other Moravian congregations of the county offering their cooperation and plans are made for caravans of automobiles to leave their respective churches at one o'clock on the 20th arriving in time for the service which is to begin at 2 o'clock.

Otto Beiter will act as presiding officer for the Historical society. Other members of the committee are Ellis Barthalow, Harry Ball, John A. Schlupp, W. F. Schlupp, Loe Addy, Mrs. Charles Baxter, Mrs. Albert Zimmer, Mrs. Manuel Yingling and Charles Lieser.

Societies that have not yet sent in their histories to be enclosed in the monument are urged to do so at once.

Rev. Storck, Moravian missionary to Nicaragua for 14 years, now on furlough, was present and spoke briefly on the work of Zeisberger. He was followed by Rev. Edwin Kortz, pastor of the Sharon Moravian church who made the dedicatory address. He spoke on the life of Zeisberger and his 61 years as a missionary among the Indians, and the influence he had in changing their lives from paganism to Christianity.

Several numbers were given by the brass choir composed of Donald Pickering, Charles Lieser, Francis Gunn, Dallas Carney and Leslie Besst and the program closed with the benediction given by Rev. Harold Lee.

"First Sermon" Memorial To Be Dedicated Sunday

Tells Why Zeisberger Preached Sermon Here

The occasion for the renowned sermon, which will be memorized Sunday, may be briefly summed up in a statement of facts taken from Mitchener's 1776 History of Tuscarawas and Muskingum Valleys and Mansfield's History of Tuscarawas county published in 1884.

In 1770 there came to the Beaver Creek settlement of Western Pennsylvania, where Heckewelder and Zeisberger, (Rev. David), the Moravian missionaries had made many Indian converts, a black wampum belt conveyed by Indian messengers direct from Netawawes, chief of the Delaware tribe whose capital was Gekelemnpech-unk (now Newcomerstown) asking the missionaries and their followers to come and live with them.

The Delawares were alarmed on account of an epidemic of smallpox ascribed to witchcraft which had taken the lives of so many of their tribe. They felt sure that by embracing Christianity the contagion would cease, and in dire extremity

issued a second call offering land freedom from molestation.

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During the visit of several days, before returning east to Pennsylvania, the missionary preached to a great throng of Indians and a few white persons, the first "Protestant sermon within the Northwest territory." The following year he again came to the Tuscarawas valley and began the erection of Schoenbrunn, near New Philadelphia.

Moravian Churches In County To Take Part In Ceremony

A caravan of automobiles from Moravian churches at Dover, Uhrichsville, Tuscarawas, Gnadenhutten, Port Washington and Frys Valley will precede the ceremony of unveiling the "First Sermon" monument on Pilling street next Sunday afternoon.

The dedication is being sponsored by the Newcomerstown Historical Society. The monument commemorates the first Protestant sermon preached west of the Allegheny mountains. The minister was Rev. David Zeisberger who delivered the Christian message in the spring of 1771 before a group of Indians.

The main address will be given by Rev. Robert H. Brenneche, pastor of the Moravian church at Gnadenhutten. Talks also will be given by representatives of the State Highway Department and the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society.

Following is the program:
1 p. m. Caravan of automobiles from Moravian churches at Dover, Uhrichsville, Tuscarawas, Gnadenhutten, Frys Valley and Port Washington.

2 p. m. Services at the monument near the viaduct on Pilling street.

Music by brass choir.
Invocation by Rev. Charles S. Foust, pastor of the Lutheran church, Newcomerstown.

Sealing the box of local historical records.

Remarks by representatives of the State Highway Department and the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society.

Music.
Address by Rev. Robert H. Brenneche, pastor of the Moravian church, Gnadenhutten.

Song and benediction.
Local organizations, clubs and business places have been asked to submit brief histories which are to be sealed within the monument.

SOCIETY TO SEAL CURRENT HISTORY IN MONUMENT FOR 'FIRST SERMON'

"First Sermon" Memorial To Be Dedicated Sunday

THE DAILY REPORTER, DOVER, OHIO

Unveiling of "First Sermon" Monument



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Music.

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Song and benediction.

Local organizations, clubs and business places have been asked to submit brief histories which are to be sealed within the monument.



A sudden rain and windstorm marred but did not prevent unveiling of the First Sermon marker at Newcomerstown yesterday. At top, left to right, are the Rev. M. F. Oerter, retired Moravian clergyman, who unveiled the marker; the Rev. Edwin W. Klotz of Uhrichsville who gave the dedicatory address; Charles Lieser, president of the Newcomerstown Historical society, and Edward Hammersley, stone mason in charge of building of the monument. Below is shown a front view of the monument which marks the spot where the Rev. David Zeisberger, Moravian missionary, preached his first sermon to the Delaware Indians in 1771, which led to the founding of Schoenbrunn in 1772.

Moravians Here For Dedication Of Monument

Ceremony Transferred To Lutheran Church To Escape Rain; Many Officials Present

In spite of inclement weather the Zeisberger "First Sermon" monument was dedicated Sunday afternoon in the presence of a large assembly of people.

After the National flag was hoisted to a staff on the top of the stone structure, the monument itself was unveiled, revealing the large plaque, three feet wide by two feet high, with the following inscription, "The First Protestant Sermon in the Northwest Territory was delivered near this spot by Rev. David Zeisberger, March 14, 1771. Erected by the Newcomerstown Historical Society." The unveiling ceremony was in charge of Rev. M. F. Oerter of Tuscarawas, dean of Moravian ministers of Tuscarawas county.

Tells Why Zeisberger Preached Sermon Here

The occasion for the renowned sermon, which will be memorized Sunday, may be briefly summed up in a statement of facts taken from Mitchener's 1776 History of Tuscarawas and Muskingum Valleys and Mansfield's History of Tuscarawas county published in 1884.

In 1770 there came to the Beaver Creek settlement of Western Pennsylvania, where Heckewelder and Zeisberger, (Rev. David), the Moravian missionaries had made many Indian converts, a black wampum belt conveyed by Indian messengers direct from Netawatewes, chief of the Delaware tribe whose capital was Gekelemnpechink (now Newcomerstown) asking the missionaries and their followers to come and live with them.

The Delawares were alarmed on account of an epidemic of smallpox ascribed to witchcraft which had taken the lives of so many of their tribe. They felt sure that by embracing Christianity the contagion would cease, and in dire extremity

issued a second call offering land freedom from molestation.

Zeisberger, with several Indian converts and guides, arrived in the early spring of 1771 coming from Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh) over the trail made first by the buffaloes and used later in turn by mound builders, Indians, hunters, traders and pioneers.

The Indian capital was a mile square surrounding the spot where the monument has just been erected. There were about a hundred log houses and huts surrounding the more spacious log cabin of the chief. His house alone had a shingle roof, board floor, a large stone chimney and a staircase.

During the visit of several days, before returning east to Pennsylvania, the missionary preached to a great throng of Indians and a few white persons, the first "Protestant sermon within the Northwest territory." The following year he again came to the Tuscarawas valley and began the erection of Schoenbrunn, near New Philadelphia.

Immediately following, Charles Lieser, president of the local society placed the large copper box of historical records within the monument after which they were later cemented in by Edward Hammersley who together with William Nay were builders of the memorial.

Through the public address system it was announced that the remainder of the program would be held at St. Paul's Lutheran church.

The program continued at the church with Rev. Charles Foust giving the invocation.

Otto J. Beiter, chairman gave a brief address previous to introducing the visiting guests in which he stated that four of the Seven Wonders of the World are monuments erected by those who wished to perpetuate the memory and history of the past, and it was the same desire that inspired the local Historical Society to erect this monument.

"... will ..."

Let's Tour Ohio

Newark, Flint Ridge Important To Indians

The area around Newark has been of importance to the American Indian for nearly 10,000 years as both a ceremonial center and common ground.

Ohio's Indians, as well as Indians from all over the eastern parts of North America, migrated to Newark's ceremonial mounds and Flint Ridge for meetings and for flint gathering.

FLINT RIDGE, which is south of Newark, is the site of flint quarries where Indians dug for the precious mineral to use in making tools and weapons. The area appears to have been held as neutral ground because of mutual dependence on flint, for there are no visible signs of conflict there.

Flint is the official gemstone of the state of Ohio. While the collecting of flint is not permitted at the Memorial, some can be found along the roads of the area.

The Indian mounds around Newark are numerous and impressive. The Mound Builders State Memorial is a 68-acre tract which contains a great circular earthwork, 100 feet in diameter with an eagle-shaped effigy mound in the center.

OCTAGON STATE Memorial features a large circle with an octagon conjoined. Among the other earthworks of Ohio's early natives is Wright Earthworks and Newark Earthworks and a collection of artifacts from this area at the Ohio Indian Arts Museum.

Also of interest in the near Newark area is Dawes Arboretum. The arboretum covers 525 acres with both virgin forest and formally planted sections, including a Japanese garden. The planted areas feature flora indigenous to Ohio.

Buckeye Lake was a reservoir for the Ohio Erie Canal and, for many years, has been a popular recreation area, for boating, fishing and swimming. In the northern portion of the lake, accessible only by water is Cranberry Island, a preserve.

A RELIC OF THE Ice Age, Cranberry Island is the only sphagnum bog known which is afloat on a lake.

Nearby Lancaster boasts 2-acre Mount Pleasant, used by the early settlers and Indians as an observation point and defense fortress. Visitors today can climb the mount's rugged surface to its 250-foot summit for a commanding view of Lancaster and the surrounding scenery.

To visit the Newark-Lancaster area from Columbus, proceed east out of the downtown area on I-70; continue east on I-70 to Rt. 13; north on Rt. 13 to the Newark tour area.

STRIP MAP LOCATIONS: 1. Mount Pleasant, in Rising Park. 2. Sherman State Park, 137 E. Main St., open May 1-Oct. 31, 10 a.m. Wednesday through Saturday, 1-6 p.m. Sunday, admission charge. 3. Rock Mill, about 10 miles northwest of Lancaster at the upper falls of the Hocking River. 4. The Wagnalls Memorial, Lithopolis, open Easter-Dec. 1, 1-5 and 7-9 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, 1-5 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, closed holidays; organ recitals 7:30-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 3-5 p.m. Sunday, narrated travelogues at 2:30 p.m. some Sundays in winter, free. 5. Wahkeena, southwest of the boundary of the last glacier near Lancaster, admission by appointment only, free. 6. President's Half Acre, west of Lancaster on U.S. 22. 7. General Philip Sheridan Statue, Somerset, between Lancaster and Zanesville. 8. Dawes Arboretum, 5½ miles south on Rt. 13, open daily during daylight hours, free. 9. The Newark Earthworks. 10. Mound Builders State Memorial, southwest of Newark Earthworks on Rt. 79, open during daylight hours. 11. Octagon State Memorial, N. 33rd St., open during daylight hours. 12. Ohio Indian Arts Museum, on the Mound Builders State Memorial, open April 1 through Oct. 31, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, admission charge. 13. Wright Earthworks State Memorial, James and Waldo Sts. about ¼-mile northeast of the Mound Builders group. 14. Flint Ridge State Memorial, Licking County, 2 miles north of U.S. 40 on C.R. 668, museum open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Monday March to November, admission charge. 15. Newark Canal, 3 miles south of Newark on Rt. 79 opposite the entrance to Kaiser aluminum plant. 16. Ye Old Mill Museum, south of Utica along Rt. 13, 13 miles north of Newark. 17. Granville Village, 23 miles from Columbus and six miles from Newark. 18. Cranberry Island, Hebron in the northern portion of Buckeye Lake. 19. Buckeye Lake, south of U.S. 40 near Hebron. 20. Ohio's Sweet Corn Festival, Millersport.

