



Rudolph Strehle

Bethlehem Digital History Project

8. 9. 10. Lives
of some Brethren, who departed in Beth-
lehem in the Months of September & October
1785.

1. Life of our late Br. Rudolph Strehle.
He writes himself: I was born June 29th 1712
at Eendingen a Market Town in the Duchy of
Wurtemberg. In my tenderest Infancy I had al-
ready a Feeling of our Savr. & liked to learn
Hymns of my Mother which trusted of him. From
my 4th Year I went to School, & learned with Plea-
sure. In my 11th Year my Mother fell deadly sick
& my Father being also vickly, it came very impress-
ly into my Mind, that I soon might be a poor Orphan
& come among strange People, I went into the field
& prayed God with Tears on my Knees, to save my
Soul, rather ^{things} ~~rather~~ he might do with me as he pleased,
Some Days after my Mother departed. Being 16
Years of Age, my Father brought me to Tubingen
to learn the Mason Trade, & 6 Weeks after he
also departed this Time. I still retained a Concern
about my Salvation, however by Seduction I fell

Lives of some Brethren, who departed in Bethlehem in the months of September and October 1785.

1. Life our late Br. Rudolph [Christian Rudolph] Strehle, He writes himself: I was born June 29th 1712 at Eendingen a Market Town in the Duchy of Wurtemberg. In my tenderest infancy I had already a feeling of our Savr. And liked to learn hymns of my mother which trusted of him. From my 7th year I went to school, and learned with pleasure. In my 11th year my mother fell deadly sick, and my father being also sickly, it came very impressively into my mind, that I soon might be a poor orphan and come among strange people. I went into the field and prayed God with tears on my knees, to save my soul in other things he might do with me as he pleased., some days after my mother departed. Being 16 years of age, my father brought me to Tubingen to learn the mason trade, and 6 weeks after he also departed this time. I still retained a concern about my salvation, however by seduction I fell

into Sin, & became more senseless & lightminded,
yet not without Uneasiness. In 1733 a great Change
taking Place in the Duchy of Wirtemberg & the War
commencing, I was measured with a View to become
a Soldier. I came into great Concern & a serious
Consideration whether I should run away or what
what Turn it would take, & I prayed to God to put
it into my Mind & Thoughts, what Steps to take.
It became clear in my Heart, to be still, & to let
it go as it would, & I got the Assurance that it would
take a glorious Event, if I even should come among
the Soldiers. I thought: God is allmighty, omnipre-
sent & all knowing, I will rely on him! In 1734
I went sometimes into the Preachings of the Revd. Mr.
Preibit at Breitenholz, in which my Heart often was
powerfully laid hold of, so that I would not refrain from
shedding Tears, tho' I was much ashamed to be seen weep-
ing. 1735 in March I was obliged to become a Soldier,
& came into the Imperial Service at Freyburg in Brin-
gau. I many times went into the Field, because we
were quartered at first in the Villages, wept & prayed
to God not to withdraw his gracious Hand from me, other-
wise I should be lost. I was much influenced by the
Spirit

into sin, and became more senseless and lightminded, yet not without uneasiness. In 1733 a great change taking place in the Duchy of Wurtemberg and the war commencing, I was measured with a view to become soldier. I came into great concern and a serious consideration whether I should run away or with what turn it would take, and I prayed to God to put it into my mind and thoughts, what steps to take. It became clear in my heart, to be still, and to let it go as it would, and I got the assurance that it would take a glorious event, if I even should come among the soldiers. I thought: God is allmighty, omnipresent and all knowing, I will rely on him! In 1734 I went sometime into preachings of the Revd. Mr. Preibitad Breitenholz, in which my heart often was powerfully laid hold of, so that that I would not refrain from shedding tears, tho' I was much ashamed to be seen weeping. 1735 in March I was obliged to become a soldier, and came into the Imperial Service at Freyburg in Brigau. I many time went into the field, because we were quartered at first in the villages, wept and prayed to God not to withdraw his gracious hand from me, otherwise I should be lost. I was much influenced by the

the Church on New years day 1737, & intended to partake again the first Time of the H. Comm. At the Entrance into the Church, it came all at once into my Mind: What hast thou promised to God in Freyburg on the Fortification Wall? What, if thou now gavest him thy Heart? My Heart melted, I began to weep & said Yes. Mean while they began to sing: With Jesus I begin, with Jesus I'll be speaking & this made a deep Impression upon me; I was very attentive in the Preaching, but at the H. Communion I felt so heavy, that I could not help thinking I had partook of it for my Condemnation. After divine Service my Companions persuaded me to go with them to the Orphan House Church, where a good Minister was at that Time. I did it, & heard the loving Heart of Jesus to Sinners described in so sweet a Manner, that I got a Confidence to Him, & resolved, to keep & give myself entirely up to him. I then frequented diligently the Preachings & Meetings of this Minister, whose Name was Beckhen, till in 1738 when in his House I learned to know the first Brn. from the Congr. & among the rest our
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into the church on new years day 1737, and intended to partake again the first time of the H. Comm. At the entrance into the church, it came all at once into my mind: What hast thou promised to God in Freyburg on the fortification wall. What, if thou now gavest him thy heart? My heart melted, I begun to weep and said yes. Mean while they begun to sing: With Jesus I begin, with Jesus I'll be speaking and this made a deep impression upon me; I was very attentive in the preaching, but at the H. Communion I felt so heavy, that I could not help thinking, I had partook of it for my condemnation. After divine service my companions persuaded me to go with them to the Orphan House Church, where a good minister was at that time. I did it, and heard the loving heart of Jesus to sinners described in so sweet a manner, that I got a confidence to Him, and resolved to keep and give myself entirely up to him. I then frequented diligently the preachings and meetings of this minister, whose name was Beckhen, till in 1738 when in his house I learned to know the first Brn. from the congrn. and among the rest our

late Br. Samuel Krause. Nov 5th this year
standing sentinel over Savr. manifested himself to
my Heart in his meritorious life, suffering & Death,
& how he still intercedes for all poor sinners, on ac-
count of which my Heart grew at once clear & easy,
& was delivered from all its Fetters. In 1734 I got
in Tübingen a printed Pamphlet ^{in my hands} entitled: The right
& straight Way to Life & which proved a great Bless-
ing to my Heart. In 1740 working in Studtgard
among many wild natural People, & being ignorant
of the sinner point, having also no body to whom
I could discover my Heart, I became dry & came into
new Perplexities; which excited in me a Desire to
come into Fellowship with the Brns. I resol-
ved thereto & prayed our Savr. to prepare himself the
Way for it. What I asked for was granted. I got leave
to go on a Visit to Herrnhag. I was received heartily
by the Brn. & it being just Communion Day I was ad-
mitted to the Love feast, & had Leave to be a Spectator
at the Lords Supper. I had a thorough Conversation with
the late Polyarpus Müller, & came again into the right
Track. I was all the Month of July 1742 in Herrnhag
& in August I returned to Studtgard. I made the

late Br. Samuel Krause. Nov. 5th this year standing sentinel our Savr. Manifested himself to my heart in his meritorious life, suffering and death, and how he still intercedes for all poor sinners, on account of which my heart grew at once clear and easy, and was delivered from all its fetters. In 1734 I got in Tübingen a printed pamphlet into my hands entitled: The Right and Straight Way to Life and which proved a great blessing to my heart. In 1740 working in Studtgard among the many wild natural people, and being ignorant of the sinner point, having also no body to whom I could discover my heart, I became dry and came into new perspective; which excited in me a desire to come into fellowship with the Brns. Congr. I resolved thereto and prayed our Savr. to prepare himself the way for it. What I asked for was granted. I got leave to go on a visit to Herrnhag. I was received heartily by the Brn. and it being just Communion Day I was admitted to the love feast, and had leave to be a spectator at the Lords Supper. I had a thorough conversation with the late Polyarpus Müller, and came again into the right track. I was all the month of July 1742 in Herrnhag and in August I returned to Studtgard. I made the

Covenant with some awakened, to remain by
the Doctrine of the Merit of ~~Jesus~~ ^{the} Blood & Death of
Jesus, & this was the Beginning of the united Flock
in Stuttgart, where in December came still 7
Brn. After a repeated Visit in the Congr. I obtai-
ned my Dismission from military Service in Apr.
1744 & arrived with the Congr. in Hernhaag with
the W. Word: What is accounted foolish by the World
God has chosen & Jan. 7th 45 I was received into
the Congr. at which the Verse: Happy Congregation
whose Robes the Lamb's Blood keeps from all de-
filements & was so impressed on my Mind, that
I always rejoiced as often as it was sung in the con-
gregation. In 1746 Nov. 13th 1746 I was admitted to
the H. Commⁿ which proved a particular Strengthening
to my Heart. 1749 I got a Call to go to Pennsylvania
set out in February with a Company of Brn. by
Way of Holland & England & May 12th we arrived safe
& well in New York & on the 21st in Bethlehem. My
Course here is known to the Brn. & Srs. therefore
I will conclude. Thus far be himself.

He served in Bethlehem by his Mason Trade
and in

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the Blood and Death of Jesus, and this was the beginning of the united
flock in Stuttgart, where to in December came still 7 Brn. After a
repeated visit in the Congr. I obtained my dismissal from military
service in Apr. 1744 and arrived with the Congr. in Hernhaag with the
W.[atch] Word: What is amounted foolish by the world God has chosen
and Jan. 7th [17]45 I was received into the Congr. at which the verse:
happy congregation whose robes the Lambs blood keeps from all defile-
ments and was so impressed on my mind, that I always rejoiced as often
as it was sung in the Congregation. In 1746 November 13th 1746 I was
admitted to the H. Comm. Which proved a particular strengthening to my
heart. 1749 I got a call to go to Pensilvania set out in February with the
company of Brn. by way of Holland and England and May 12th we arrived
safe and well in New York and on the 21st in Bethlehem. My course here
is known to the Brn. and Srs. therefore I will conclude. Thus far be
himself.

He served in Bethlehem by his mason trade

and in various Services of the Oeconomy here faith-
ful & usefully. He was particularly a faithful
& edifying Watchman ~~in the~~ Night for many Years,
& in his advanced Age he often testified how blessed
this Service had been for his Heart, what happy Hour
he had often had in Conversation with our Savr. & what
Proofs of his gracious Protection & Preservation
he has experienced in the Night particularly in the
Indian War. He had a good deal of verisimil
Knowledge, & loved to read edifying Books, but
had at the same time a faithful Heart towards our
Savr. & his Congrn. & was always full of Faith
& Courage & of a Witness Spirit. 1749 he was married
with his late Wife Sophia Dorothea Sophia late Nurn-
berger, with whom he lived 34 Years in the married
State, & in which he had 3 Sons of whom one Son
Frederic is here & 2 are in Wachovia Sept. 5th
1783 he became Widower & his increasing Age
Weakness & Sickness obliged him to live in quiet-
ness & Rest. On his last Choir Festival this Year
he was obliged to stay in his Room, but believed,
that our Savr. would also bless him there. His

and in various services of the Oeconomy here faithful and usefully. He was particularly a faithful and edifying watchman in the night for many years, and in his advanced age he often testified how blessed this service had been for his heart, what happy hour he had often had in conversation with our Savr. and what proofs of his gracious protection and preservation he had experienced in the night particularly in the Indian War. He had a good deal of scriptural knowledge, and loved to read edifying books, but had at the same time a faithful heart towards our Savr. and his Congr. and was always full of faith and courage and of a witness spirit. 1749 he was married with his late wife Dorothea Sophia Nurnberger, with whom he lived 34 years in the married state, ~~and had~~ in which he had 3 sons of whom one son Frederic is here and 2 are in Wachovia. Sept. 5th 1783 he became widower and his increasing age weakness and sickness obliged him to live in quietness and rest. On his last Choir Festival this year he was obliged to stay in his room, but believed, that our Savr. would also bless him there. His

Share of the Choir Communion being brought to him,
he testified to have had an extraordinary blessed
Day, & was sure, that this would be his last Leubi-
val & Communion here below. The Visit of several
Brn. & Srs. & particularly of our dr. Br. Johannes
proved a special day to him! He looked with Patience
& Faith to meet his Departure, & received the Blessing
of the Lord & the Congrn. whereupon he departed
softly & happily on the 11th of Sept. in the 74th
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