

Rudolph Strehle

Bethlehem Digital History Project

8.9.10. Lives some Brethren, who departed in Beth in the Months of September & adobe 1785 1. Life of our tate Br. Rudolph Archle writer himself: I was born Jane 29 at Entringen a Market Jown in the Ducky Wintenberg, In my tenderes & Infancy & ready a Seeling of our Jave. & liked to learn Aymore of my Mather which treased of him. From my to the Acar I went to School, & learned with Plea In my 11 the year my Mother fell dead by with & my father being also withly, it same very mapres ly moo my times, that I woon might be a from the & come among vorange Proble, Ja & prayed God with Sears on my Finees, to save my he might do with me as he pleased. Some Days after my Mother departed. Bing 16 Years of age, my father brought me to Subingen to learn the Maron Trade, at Weeks after he also departed this Sime. I whill relained a foncern about my Salvation , however by Teduction 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 Endingen a Market Town in the Duchy of Würtemberg. 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 Tübingen 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 Im, & became more vervelets & lighteninded yel not without Uneavinefo. In 1933 a great thang taking Place in the Ducky of Wirlemberg of the War comming, I was measured with a View to become a Soldier Jeame into great former & a verious Tenvideration whether I should run away or which what Surn it would take, & Spraged to god to put it into my Mind & Thoughts, what Steps It became clear in my Heard, to be still, & to let as it would, she god the abourance that it would take a glorious Event, if Seven vhould some among the Poldiers. I trought: God is all mighty, omnibre send & all knowing , I will rely on thim! In Hist I went vone finer into the Preachings of the Rev . M. Prestal Breiten hole, in which my Hard offen war powerfully laid hats of, vo that I windo not regrain from vhedding Scars, the I was much ashamed to be veen weep ing. 1735 in March I way obliged to become a & same into the Imperial Vervice at Treyburg in Brin gave . I many times went into the field, buauve we were quartered al first in the Villager, we fat & prayed for not to with draw his gracious thand from me, other sive I whould be last . How much infolward by the piril

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. Preibtad 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

Spirit of War, & harned also to play Jarde. In Sanwary 136 standing for timel in the Right from I till B' fack on the forfifications I hepe a Ba ; for our Vaor. I did not know; my lost Vila with God prevented it well before my Cyre, I promis him, that if should come again nilo the Wirfemberg, vo that I would hear ag & go agam to the A. Comunion 1: with olic Mare, & had no Preacher in the army : I would begin a new from that formunion to be obedient, an it is expedied in a luther on Prayer Book, & be converted. This our Jaor. took Robie of & heplit in Mind, the' forgot it again . Jearne whill the same year among several other Regiments, & on other Place grew also so confused in my Mind, that would have become an atteind, if I could have af it. But it was always clear in my Heart, Word of God is and abideth Smath, & those art an or lunate Man, if they continuest to. Once I'm finded to deviat to France, but divine Provis dence directed it vo, that I came again into the Wir temberg foundry to Ludwig buty. There I went

spirit of war, and learned also to play cards. In January 1736 standing centinel in the night from 1 till 3 o'clock on the fortifications I kept a band with God; for our Savr. I did not know; my lost situation, presented itself before my eyes. I promised him, that if I should come again into the Duchy of Würtemberg, so that I would hear the Word of God and go again to the H. Communion /: for we were in a Roman Catholic place, and had no preacher in the army :/ I would begin a new from that Communion to be obedient, as it is expressed in a Lutheran Prayer Book, and be converted. This our Savr. took notice of and kept it in mind, tho' I forgot it again. I came still the same year among several of the regiments, and on other places. I grew also so confused in my mind, that I fair would have become an atheist, if I could have effected it. But it was now always clear in my heart, that the Word of God is and abideth truth, and thou art an unfortunate man, if thou continuest so. Once I intended to desert to France, but divine providence directed it so, that I came again into the Würtemberg country to Ludwigsburg. There I went

the furch on New years day 1737, & intended to par take again the first Time of the St. form? al the In bilince into the flurch, if same all at once into my Mind : What have those promised to god Burg on the for Sification Well What, it those now given him they Heard ? My Heard melled, I begun to weep & vaid yes. Mean while they begun to ving : With Levue I begin, with Sever Ill be speaking the this made a deep Imprefrion upon me; I was very attendive in the Breaching, but at the H. Jomunion I fell so heavy , that Siould not help thinking I had paylook of it for my fondemnation. after divine Service my Companions persuaded me to go with them to the Orphan House thurch , where a good Minister was at that Sime Didit, & heard the laving Heart of Sever to Simmers devere m vo vweet a Manner, that got a fanfidence to thim, & revolved to keep & give myself intirely up to him. I then frequented diligently the Preachings Meetings of this Minister, whave Hame was Beethen. fill Im 1988 when in his Moure Hearned to know the first Bun. from the longhon & among the rest our Tale

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 Dr. Samuel France. Nov 5 the His year standing Centinel sur for manifested himself to my Heart in his meridarious side Juffering & Death I have he whill interceder for all poor Simmers, on al, count of which my Heard grew at once clear & cavy. & was Delivered from all it Setter up in 1139 Igod in Subingen a printed Pamphlet, enfilled : The night & straight Way to Life Ne which proved a great Be to my leart. In 1110 was king in Mudlgar. among many wild natural Prople, & being ignorant of the Sinner point, baving also no body to whom Divrover my Heart, I became duy & came into new Perplexitien; which excited in me a Device to come into Sellowship with the Brow fongen I revol ved there to & prayed our daor to prepare himself the Way for it. What I as hed for was grunded. I got drave to go on a Vivit to Herrn haag . I was received heartily by the Arm. a is being jure formunion Day I war ad mitter to the done first, & had deave to be a Sputator at the Lorder Supper. I had a thorough Convervation with the late Polgiar pur Miller, & came again to to the right Track . I was all the Month of Suly 1742 in Horn hears & in August Instand to Sult gard . I made the

late Br. Samuel Krause. Nov. 5th this year standing centinel 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. Congrn. 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 Herrnhaag. 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 Polyearpus Müller, and came again into the right track. I was all the month of July 1742 in Herrnhaag and in August I returned to Studtgard. I made the

forenand with some Awahaned, to remain by the Doctains of the Merit of state Blood & Death of Lever, & this was the Beginning of the united Flock in Rittgard, where Id in December same will 7 Bun, Effer a repeated Visit in the fongen. I ablai, ' ned my Liv mitvian from military Dervicer MAA & arrived with the forgen lin Meren haag with the W. Word: What is accounted fooligh by the North God hav choven se Jan. 7th AS I was received the langun, at which the Verve : Happy langungation whose Rober the Lamber Blood neepsrom all De filements se was so in free ford on my Thind , that I always rejourd as offen as it was sung in the for gregation. In 146 Nov. 13th 146 Ivar admitted to the H. Jam " which proved a particular Aring then my to my Heart. 1249 I gal a fall to go to Penviloonia vel out in Sebruary with a famping of Brn. be Way at Mottand & England & May 12th we orrived the & well in New york & on the 21st in Bethlehem. Jourse here is known to the Brun, & Sav. therefore I will conclude. They far be him velf. He versed in Beth le hem by his Mavon Trade

covenant with some awakened, to remain by the Doctrine of the Merit of the Blood and Death of Jesus, and this was the beginning of the united flock in Studtgard, where to in December came still 7 Brn. After a repeated visit in the Congrn. I obtained my dismission from military service in Apr. 1744 and arrived with the Congrn 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 Congrn. at which the verse: happy congregation whose robes the Lambs blood keeps from all defilements 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 Ouronomy here faith ful & worfully. He was particularly a faithful & edifying Watchman to the Night for many Glars. & in her advanced ilge he exten lev lified , how blefve this service had been for his Heard, what happy Hours he had often had in fervervation with sur lar. & off Proofs of his gracious Protection & Prevervation he has experienced in the Right hardicularly in the Indian Way. He had a good deal of mithural Knowledge, & loved to madedifying Rochy, but had at the vame lime a faithful Heard towards our Sur. & his fangen. & was always full of Faith & fourage & of a Witness Spirit Mag he was married with his late Wife Laphia Dorother Sophia late Run berger, with whom he lived 34 years in the marries Sale to in which he had I Jone of whom one Jon Frederic is here & 2 are in Wachooia Sept. 5th 183 he became Widower & his mercan ong age Weakness & Jukliness obliged him to live in Quiel nefo & Revel. On his last fin Sertical this year the rour ofliged to vlay in his Room, but believes, that our Saos. would also blefs him there . His

and in various services of the Oeconomy here faithful an 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 Congrn. 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 sickliness 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

Aure of the fair formanion being brought to him the levelified to have had an entraordinary blefved Day, & war ware, that this would be his last level wal & formunion here below. He Visit of veveral Ban, with a fartice larly at our da. Br. Scharmas proved a special Day to him! He looked with Patien. & Saith to meet his Departure, & received the Blefory of the Lord & the langen whereupon he de parted vally & happily on the 11th of Sept. in the With year of his age.

share of the Choir Communion being brought to him, he testified to have had an extraordinary blessed day, and was sure, that this would be his last festival and communion hee below. The visit of several Brn. & Srs. and particularly of our dr. Br. Johannas proved a special day to him. He looked with patience and faith to meet his departure, and received for it the blessing of the Lord and the Congrn. Whereupon he departed softly and happily on the 11th of Sept. in the 74th year of his age.