



Historical Markers of the Heritage of the United Methodist Church in Lancaster County

by The Reverend Abram W. Sangray

The following Roadside Markers were put in place in Lancaster County, in the summer of 1984, as a bicentennial project of the United Methodist Church of Lancaster. Each description identifies the marker and location.

Christian Newcomer — 1749-1830

Born in second farm left on E. Eby Rd., in a "small stone house". As an early circuit rider he was a "Paul" for the Wesleyan Movement among the Germans - elected third bishop United Brethren Church. Remembered for his classic "Newcomer's Journal".

(Erected by Leola Church and the Lancaster District United Methodist Church) Sign is located at Turkey Hill Market, Route 23 & Hess Rd. intersection.

Christian Herr House

Where earliest United Brethren traveling preachers found local support in Gospel Ministries — Meetings held in spacious ground floor room of old log house — Here was formed first recorded U.B. Church Class east of Susquehanna river — Barn datestone 1764.

(Erected by Lancaster District United Methodist Church) Sign is located to the s.e. at corner of Letort Road and Kauffman Road.

John Seybert — 1791-1860

Birthplace of second bishop of The Evangelical Association. First missionary, traveling preacher, and organizer of many churches all over eastern U.S.A. His famous Journal gives daily account of forty years' work.

(Erected by Manheim Church and The Lancaster District United Methodist Church) Sign is located 1/10 mile s. at end of lane, along the highway in Sporting Hill.

Souderburg Methodist Church

Site of a colonial congregation, built 1801 by settlers Benjamin and Jacob Souders — Methodist laymen. Henry Boehm 1775-1875 taught a class here. Bishop Francis Asbury 1745-1816 preached here. Philadelphia Annual Conference met here in 1804.

(Erected by St. John's Church and the Lancaster District United Methodist Church) Sign is located at the site, 2948 Lincoln Highway; residence Ms. Penny Young.

Home of Christopher Grosh — 1749-1829

The 1802 farm house is one mile northeast — with unique spacious upper room for worship — where this congregation first gathered. Grosh was a gifted preacher and organizer with Martin Boehm 1725-1812 of earliest United Brethren Church.

(Erected by Ranck's Church and the Lancaster District United Methodist Church) Sign is located on the ground of Ranck's Church, Ranck's Rd., s.e. of New Holland.

Jacob Albright Farm 1759-1808

First traveling preacher and organizer made Bishop 1807 — The Evangelical Association. Here he farmed and manufactured roofing tiles. Farm in lane this side up creek site of ancient, old Flickinger Church — circa 1790. (Not open to public).

(Erected by Lancaster District United Methodist Church) Sign could not be located as planned because of reversed agreement of owner. It is in storage, pending still further consultation, at nearby Fry's Nursery.

Blainsport Meeting House

Center for earliest United Brethren Church class was organized 1812, built 1848. Early families parented many area churches. Community named for presidential candidate James E. Blaine.

(Erected by the Historic Preservation Trust of the Cocalico Area & The United Methodist Church Lancaster District) Sign is located on the site, along route 897 n.w. of Reinholds.

Francis Asbury

Near this site on July 6, 1815 Bishop Asbury and Lancaster's Henry Boehm "Bade One another Adieu For the Last Time" ending his annual visits here, after thirty-five years.

(Erected by The Lancaster District United Methodist Church) Sign is located on the side of a private property at 844 Columbia Avenue Lancaster.

Long's Barn

At this farm-barn site May 10, 1767, 1,000 people gathered for a "Great Meeting". "We are Brethren" exclaimed Rev. Philip W. Otterbein to preacher Martin Boehm, first two bishops of the Church Of The United Brethren in Christ, organized thirty-three years later. Following two mergers, one in 1946 and the most recent in 1968, this church in now united with The United Methodist Church.

(Erected ½ mile from the farm, at the road's end, at Landis Road.) Also during this year, a major work was performed with the (first) official marker at Long's Barn, The Pennsylvania State Marker, a cast iron mold engraved sign, which stood along the old road (now inside of the Farm Museum land) was re-located to a site on the corner of route 272 & Valley Road, a major intersection. It reads: Issac Long Barn. The United Brethren in Christ and The Evangelical United Brethren Church trace their origin to the joint efforts of Rev. Philip W. Otterbein of the German Reformed Church and Martin Boehm a Mennonite preacher, at a revival held here about 1767. The barn stands about a mile and a half to the north.

Boehm's Chapel

Built 1791, this "Temple Of Limestone" is the oldest existing structure designated for Methodist use in Pennsylvania, and one of the oldest in the U.S. erected on land formerly owned by Bishop Martin Boehm, co-founder of the United Brethren in Christ, it was frequently visited by Bishop Francis Asbury, "Father of American Methodism."

The above (Official Pennsylvania cast, aluminum roadside historic marker) was erected this year at Boehm's, along route 272 opposite the church. It is the first roadside marker ever to appear at roadside there. It's cost, \$900, was assumed by a group of Boehm's family members, mostly from the mid-west and west coast.

The other markers, listed and described above, were designed of wooden materials and uniformly painted with a common logo depicting a circuit rider; crafted by the Little German Sign Maker, Reading, Pa.