

GERMAN & SWISS REFUGEES IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1700s

Accounts of the first settlers of
 New Bern, 1711, and Bethabara, 1753-55

EXCERPTS

The Carolina settlements of New Bern (1710) and Bethabara (1753) have markedly different histories — most notably that one failed and the other succeeded.

- **NEW BERN**, founded near the coast by Swiss and German Protestant refugees, failed after several years of hardship including Indian wars, disease, and lack of supplies. Letters from the first settlers reveal New Bern's promise and hardship.
- **BETHABARA**, founded in the backcountry by German Moravians from Pennsylvania, flourished and led to the group's permanent settlement at Salem. Selections from the official Bethabara diary portray the settlers' daily tasks and worship as well as their longterm goals and the increasing prospect of attack by Indians.

NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA, 1710-1714¹

Baron Christoph von Graffenreid, a Swiss nobleman, established a settlement in North Carolina in 1710 with plans to mine the region's silver and also provide a refuge for hundreds of Swiss and German Protestants who had fled to England, escaping war and religious persecution. Within four years his settlement in America had failed and he returned to England, soon writing his account of the "misfortunes" dooming his settlement. In his account he included several letters from the first settlers to the colony's supporting society in Switzerland; excerpts are presented here.

HANS RUEGSEGGER, LETTER TO SWITZERLAND, 8 APRIL 1711

With friendly greeting I inform you that I with my household arrived safe and sound in Carolina, and that with happiness. But on the twenty-sixth of February, my son Hans, with a great longing for the Lord Jesus, died. On the contrary my daughter has a fine young son, born the last of July, 1710. We are in a very good and fat land. I am in hopes that within a year I shall have over a hundred head of horses, cattle, swine. If one would present me with the whole lowland, in order that I should go back again to Switzerland and take up the former service I would not do it on account of the freedom of conscience. If my son Uhli would venture to go upon the journey, he should turn whatever he can into money, and if he has not married since my departure, let him take an honorable honest girl to wife, even if she has not much temporal means, if only he can pay the passage over. Whoever desires to come over here, he can call upon Mr. Ritter in Bern [Switzerland]. If you, my son, wish to undertake this journey, keep God always before your eyes, and also if you do not wish to come, so that we may enjoy and see one another sometime up above with spiritual eyes in Heaven.

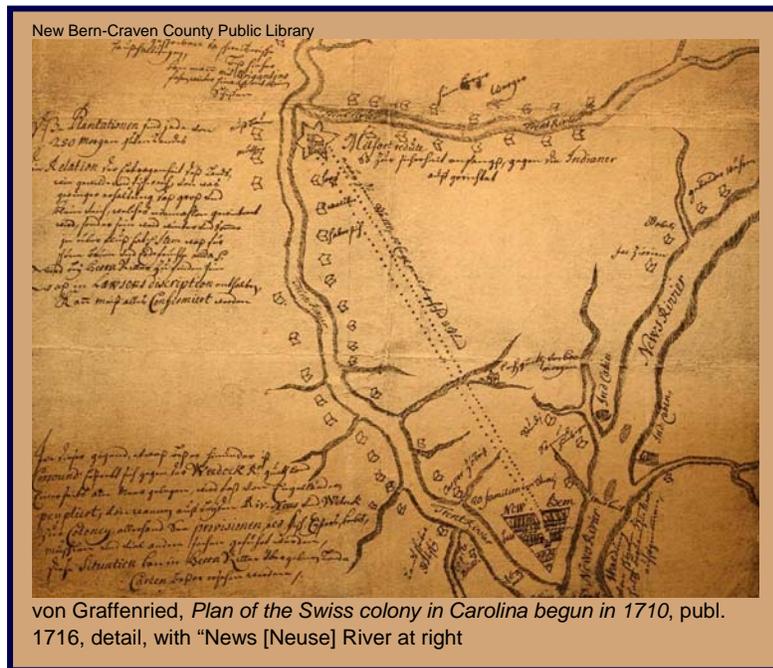
But if you will come, I will inform you how you shall do. Buy a few hundred steel tobacco pipes with the stems and four thalers worth of Arau knives and several brass knives. From these you can get twice the price of the half in Rotterdam. In England and Carolina as much again. On the sea provide

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¹ *Christoph von Graffenried's Account of the Founding of New Bern*, written ca. 1716, publ. 1920, eds. Vincent Todd & Julius Gobel, published for the North Carolina Historical Commission by the University of Illinois Press, 1920; full text online from the N.C. Office of Archives and History at www.ncpublications.com/Colonial/Bookshelf/Graff/deggrafpref.htm. In the public domain. Some punctuation modernized and paragraphing added by NHC for clarity.

yourself with something besides what there is upon the ship in the way of food and drink, for one must not save, by hunger or thirst. If my brother-in-law Hans should want to go with you he can do it. I am in hopes if I stay well to provide five or six households with food and drink for possibly a year long. I will not tell anyone he should go upon the journey. Whoever has not the leading from God, he may stay in Switzerland. If my brother-in-law, Peter Seeman, and Uhli Küntzi should have a desire for the journey, they can make it. Our Count Von Graffenried will supply them with good land; after this he will give them a four-year lease, supply them with stock and furniture, so that they can thenceforth be well supplied their life long, if they have luck.

After this I will report to you a little how it went with us upon the voyage. Down the Rhine to Rotterdam we passed through the greatest danger. At Rotterdam we lay quietly for six weeks. There two children and one man died. From Rotterdam to Newcastle two women died. At New Castle we lay quietly for four weeks. Then we started away, went out on the sea, lay still for eight days. After this the fleet started. At that time my daughter gave birth to a little son. Then we took six weeks to cross. For six weeks we saw nothing but sky and water.



Out of the hundred persons no one died. So we came to land in Virginia. Then we traveled a hundred miles by water and land, landed at our Landgrave's house on Michael's day. Meanwhile a woman died. After this we lay quietly till New Years; then they began, everyone, to move upon his own land allotted to him. Until now of a hundred persons, nine have died.

I and my daughter's husband have gone from one another about half a mile, for this reason I would have need of my son. . . .

*By me Hans Ruesegger.
Out of India or America, in the
Island of North Carolina, on
the river Neuse, April 8, 1711.*

SAMUEL JACOB GABLEY, LETTER TO SWITZERLAND, 9 APRIL 1711

With service, duty and greeting, dear and faithful father, mother, brothers and sisters, children and relatives, and all good friends. With regard to myself, I live well and happy and would not wish to have remained at home. I am also married to Margaret Pfund of Zweysimmen. As far as the land is concerned it is very hot, many brooks, and much forest. The natives or Indians are black, half naked, yet clever and sociable, unbelievers, unsuited for work. I will not praise much nor complain. If one has money and property, gold and silver, he can be master just as in Europe, but I will say that for a workman or a poor man it is better there than here. He can get land as much as he needs. He can keep as much stock as he is able. Swine cost nothing to keep. Cattle go the whole year on pasture, become fat and good to butcher by themselves. They make no hay. It is true that many a one has up to a thousand head or more of cattle and hogs.

The land is uncultivated, yet is to be hoped tolerably fruitful; but yet I would not cause any one to come here, nor would I advise it, because of the costly and difficult journey over the fearful and wild sea. Yet we arrived safely and suffered little sickness, and for my part, did not get here so badly. For old and

young it is hard, nevertheless we got a young son on the sea. The great God has kept all. To be sure it has cost much and gone slowly in these expensive, hard, war times. . . .

Herewith you are again greeted father and mother, brothers, sisters, children, and all good friends. Greet for me Uhli Treut especially, and his whole house, Hans Klasner, and his dear wife, Rufascher and his whole house. If I have injured anyone or done anything to anyone please forgive me for it, as God, in Christ forgives us. I wish you all prosperity from God. May he bless your work and the fruit of your labor from now on till into eternity. Amen.

*Your beloved Samuel Jacob Gabley and Margreth Pfund.
Out of America or India the 9th of April, 1711.*

JACOB WÄHRE, LETTER TO HIS COUSIN IN SWITZERLAND, ca. APRIL 1711

With my duty and greeting dear and faithful Cousin, Christen Eggen; and your whole house. If I could hear that you were well it would rejoice me. As far as my condition is concerned I am well and live contented, and do not wish that I had remained at home. As far as the land is concerned, it stands like this. Whoever has riches, gold and silver, can be master just as in Europe, but I will say that for a poor man or workman it is better there than here. If he wishes to work for day wages he gets a half crown for every day, in produce or stock. Gold and silver are rare. He can get as much land as he has need of. He can keep as much cattle and swine as he is able, and the swine become, of themselves, fat and good to butcher. Cattle go on pasture the whole year. I say that many a one here has up to a thousand head of cattle or more. The country is hot, uncultivated, many streams of water, great forests. The natives or Indians are black, half naked, yet sociable; but it is to be hoped that the land is tolerably fruitful. Still I would not advise nor cause any one to come here on account of the costly and difficult voyage over the terrible and wild sea. But yet, for my part, it has not gone badly with me; but for old people and young children it is difficult. It has gone slowly with us here because of the expensive and hard war times. . . .

If it should come about that more people should come into this country, I beg you send me a half dozen readymade shirts, a few sheets plus ten ells of linen cloth and ten thalers in money, a hale dozen knives of Barbli and an axe that has been tested, and pack it together and give it to certain people that they may have care of it, so that nothing may spoil for me on the sea. Buy me at Rotterdam or in England a jacket and trousers. With this I commend you to God. Greet the pastor for me and his whole house, Magistrate Zergen, the Mayor and his whole house, Treasurer Martge, both Kilchmeyers, Truwhart and their whole house, Heinrich Egender of St. Stephan's Court and his whole house for his sons Jacob and Peter Treuthart, Joseph Bullre of Wyssenbach and his wife Wassle, Anna Maria, Jacob Gobli and his whole house up in the village. Greet for me my dear Comrades namely the good Säumers. I wish for them that they may earn much and become rich in this world, for into the other world one takes nothing. With this I wish you all temporal and eternal prosperity from God. God bless your food and income. Finally I wish the same for my fatherland. Amen.

Your humble Jacob Währe of Zweysimmen.

P. S. Do not think it strange that my brother is not writing, he did not have the chance as I did.

MICHAEL ZIORIEN, LETTER TO SWITZERLAND, CA. APRIL 1711

With a thousandfold greeting, I wish all true friends, neighbors, and acquaintances God's grace and blessing. I and my wife, two children, and my old father have, the Lord be praised, arrived safe and sound in Carolina, and live twenty English miles from New Bern. I hope to plant corn enough this year. The land is good, but the beginning is hard, the journey dangerous. My two children, Maria and Hansli died at Rotterdam in Holland and were buried in the common burial place.

This country is praised too highly in Europe and condemned too much. I hope also in a few years to have cows and swine as much as I desire. Mr. Graffenried is our landgrave. Of vermin, snakes, and such

like, there is not so much as they tell of in Europe. I have seen crocodiles by the water, but they soon fled. One should not trust to supporting himself with game, for there are no wild oxen or swine. Stags and deer, ducks and geese and turkeys are numerous.

[Enclosure: letter written by Christen Engel] . . . The greatest failing and lack here in Carolina is that too few people are here, and no good mills. There is one being built by us people who are in Carolina. No one has any desire to be back in Switzerland, for one can eat but little meat in Switzerland, but here in Carolina I need have no anxiety from this year on, that every year I should not butcher thirty or forty to fifty swine, more if I wish. And if Cousin Haldmann would give me the whole meadow of the estate with everything belonging to it, I should not want it for I have meadow and forest enough for the swine and arable soil, one adjoining the other. If I only had money so that I could buy a half dozen cows, and also as many swine, a few horses, I would ask nothing more of temporal blessing than good health and afterwards eternal life, as I wish for all mankind. I would also wish that the poor neighbors were with us and then they would not need to suffer hunger if they would only be willing to work a little. Therefore whoever has a desire for it, let him just venture boldly under the protection of the Most High. To be sure they do not give one a ready built house and cleared land. Each one can labor for it and clear it himself. The journey is certainly hard and was hardest for me. But after the rain comes sunshine. And now we are, the Lord be praised, all as well as we have never been before.

BETHABARA, NORTH CAROLINA, 1753-1755²

BETHABARA was founded in the Carolina backcountry (in present-day Forsyth County) in 1753 by German Moravians from Pennsylvania. Intended as a temporary settlement, Bethabara was abandoned after the settlers moved to the permanent village of Salem in 1771. Selections from the official Bethabara diary portray the first settlers' daily tasks and worship as well as their longterm goals and the increasing prospect of attack by Indians.

Nov. 18 [1753], Sunday. We arose in good spirits, although several of the Brethren had not been able to sleep for the cold, for our cabin is small, and the roof full of holes.

Several of the Brethren went hunting, and succeeded in getting a couple of wild turkeys, the first game we have had, for although on our trip we tried to secure some game this is the first we have shot. Otherwise we spent the day resting.

In the evening we had our first Liturgy—the “Ave Agnus Dei”—then evening prayer, and went once more to bed, lying in our blankets around the room, and Br. Gottlob in his hammock above our heads.

Nov. 19th, Monday. After morning prayer the axes and hatchets were sharpened, and other tools made ready for use. Br. H. Loesch took a couple of horses to Mr. Altem's to bring corn for us. We began to build a bake-oven, so that we might again have bread, of which we have had little lately. Our food has been largely pumpkin broth and mush, which has agreed with us very well.

The Brn. Nathanael and Jacob Loesch measured off eight acres of land, which is to be cleared at once, so that wheat can be sown. Others began to gather the dead wood, and build bonfires. The grind-stone was set up, a cooper's bench and wash-trough made. The Brn. Gottlob, Nathanael, and Grube laid a floor of clapboards in our cabin, for the better protection of our goods. In the evening Br. Grube held singstunde and evening prayer.

. . .

Nov. 26th. We rose feeling well and happy. Br. Nathanael held morning prayer; then Gottlob, Nathanael and Grube went out to look over our land, and made a circuit of some five miles, finding plenty of good, fertile ground, and especially large meadows where fine pastures can be made.

² *Records of the Moravians in North Carolina*, ed. Adelaide L. Fries (North Carolina Historical Commission, vol. 1 of 11 vols., 1922-1969); online from the N.C. Office of Archives and History at www.ncpublications.com/Colonial/Bookshelf/Moravian/friespref.htm. In the public domain.

After dinner we had our liturgy as usual. In the afternoon we selected a place for our garden. Mr. Altem and his neighbor came to visit us, and remained over night.

In the evening we had an English song-service, and Br. Grube read one of the Berlin sermons. Our sleeping quarters were very much crowded, as we had guests.

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Dec. 24th. After morning prayers Hermanus set out, with two horses, for the home of Mr. Hikki, some 60 miles away, to procure several bushels of salt. It rained all days. Our neighbor, Mr. Macgaal, came to take our patient home, but finding him no better left without him.

At 9:30 P. M. we began the Christmas Eve Watch service. We read the story of the birth of our Saviour, and rejoiced that the Holy Child was born for the salvation of the world. We had a Lovefeast also, and soon after midnight closed our first Christmas Eve Watch meeting in North Carolina.

Dec. 25. Br. Grube held morning prayer. At noon he read for us a sermon preached by Count Zinzendorf on a Christmas Day, and we enjoyed it. In the evening we sang hymns relating to the Holy Christ-Child.

Br. Pfeil was again very sick with colic.

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[Diary continues in August 1754.]

Aug. 17. Built a stable for the calves, though for the present it will be used for drying tobacco.

Aug. 19. Made hay in the meadow one mile west of our cabin, and on the 22nd mowed the bottom on the Grassy Fork, near the good spring, a mile and a half north-west from our house, where a good meadow could be made.

We had expected to do more with hay in the future than this year, but on account of the very favorable weather we can use what we have made now.

Aug. 27. Built two corn cribs near our cabin.

Aug. 31. We thatched the fodder huts built in the 1st field yesterday; also gathered a quantity of fox grapes for vinegar.

Sept. 2. We built a pig pen.

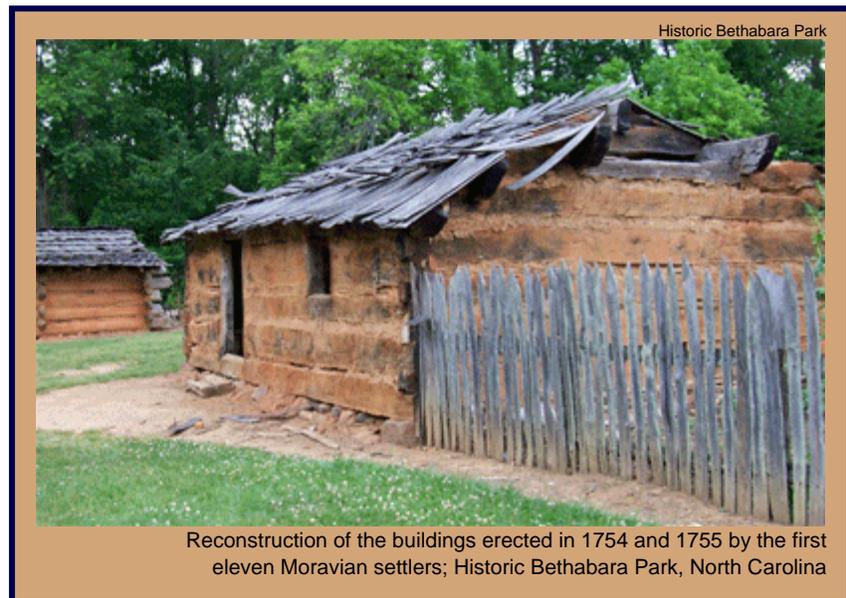
Sept. 9. Built the third corn-crib near our house.

Sept. 12. Felled a large poplar tree in the 1st field, and began to saw it into boards. For two weeks Br. Pfeil has been making us shoes, and Br. Feldhausen barrels for storing food.

Sept. 21. Finished gathering and shucking corn from the 1st field.

Oct. 3. Began to reap the buckwheat. When threshed it made more than thirty bushels.

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Reconstruction of the buildings erected in 1754 and 1755 by the first eleven Moravian settlers; Historic Bethabara Park, North Carolina

Nov. 17. Sunday. Was the anniversary of the arrival of the first company, and their taking possession of this house. We celebrated the day appropriately; also held a general conference in which many things were discussed that needed to be settled together.

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Nov. 26. Brought in turnips and buried them in a pit. This evening we laid the cornerstone for the new dwelling house two hundred paces south-east of our cabin. We placed it at the front corner, toward the west, and placed our names in it. Then we had Lovefeast, and discussed the Text for the day.

Nov. 27. We began to build the house, and this was our chief work until it was finished in January.

Dec. 18. We ate the last of our potatoes. We have had them hardly three months, but more than 20 bushels rotted because we could not dig them at the right time, being too busy with other things. Dec. 23rd we had the last of the pumpkins. They also would have lasted longer if we had been able to bring them in at the right time, but still we have had them for five months.

Dec. 21. Built a small house 24 feet from the new dwelling house— it will serve for the present as a smoke-house. It was finished by Jan. 2nd, and the first meat hung in it to smoke. For salting we killed cattle as follows: a cow weighing 400 lbs; an ox, 460 lbs; a cow 350 lbs; two oxen, each 400 lbs; and a cow, 200 lbs; all these between the 21st and 30th of December.

Of game during this period we shot two small deer and two wild turkeys. Bear fat, which is the best fat here, will be scarce this year, for the snow drove the bears to their dens unusually early.

Concerning the weather during this period we may say that Nov. 20th it cleared up cold, and ice formed on standing water. Several inches of snow fell on Nov. 22nd, continuing very cold until the night of Nov. 26th when it rained, followed by freezing weather until Dec. 10th, when it rained. From then until the last of the month there was alternate raining and freezing, the year ending in rain.

During this period 51 strangers have been here, 20 spending the night. Two came for medicine.

Adam Spach was here Dec. 22nd, and asked that one of us would come each Sunday and preach at his house, but we could not do this for him.

Our services continued as usual. On Dec. 24th we kept the Nativity Night-watch, and observed the 25th of December also.

And so with the forgiveness of our sins, and fresh grace and blessing from the Saviour, we closed this year and entered upon the new.

Jan. 1 [1755]. Wednesday. Having been awakened by the blowing of the French horn we assembled in the presence of our Saviour, and with hymns worshipped Him in His beauty. About eleven o'clock we read a sermon preached at Marienborn on Jan. 1st, on the text: "Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our Profession, Jesus Christ," Heb. III, 1. We enjoyed the sermon, and then prayed the Litany. During the afternoon and evening we entertained ourselves by reading extracts from the Diary kept from the beginning of our settlement here to the present day. A poem composed for this New Year was also read, and we closed the day with Liturgies and evening prayer. Toward evening a Quaker, his wife, and two hunters arrived. As our cabin was so crowded they built a fire outside, staying by it until we went to bed. It was quite cold today.

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Jan. 2. The Quakeress, who understands German, attended our morning prayers. Then we all went to work, some on the building of the new house, others sawing boards, and still others covered the new kitchen, and hung in it the meat which is to be smoked.

Jan. 7. The Brn. Loesch and Merkli rode to Mr. Owen and Mr. Altem, returning in the evening. They brought with them some of our cattle, which had wandered from the rest as far as the Town Fork. We hauled in fodder from the 2nd field, and hay from the meadow by the good spring. The Brn. Feldhausen and Pfeil worked in the tannery. Began to build a chimney in the new kitchen. For lack of

vegetables we are now eating meat each day for dinner, which agrees with us well, and makes us feel strong for work. A stranger from Virginia came and spent the night.

Jan. 14. Two Brethren went to the mill with three bushels of wheat we threshed yesterday, bringing back the first flour from wheat we have raised in the Wachau.

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Feb. 2. Today we caught the first wolf in our wolf-pit.

Feb. 3. Monday. After morning prayers we went to work. The Brn. Ingebretsen and Beroth continued sawing boards for the mill; Christensen and Kobus squared timber for the mill, and as the moon is on the wane they will this week fell some more trees. Five Brethren cleared land. Toward noon four strangers arrived, bringing letters from Br. Matthew Hehl and Br. Christian Seidel to Br. Peter. They were written Oct. 14th of last year, and were sent by the so-called Catholic weaver, but he himself was not here. We read the letters in the evening, being much interested in the news they contained.

Feb. 7. Today Br. Loesch rode beyond the Etkin to take our taxes to the Justice. He took with him the scalp of the wolf we caught, and the Justice, having asked whether he could swear that the wolf was killed in this County, gave him a certificate without further formality. Today it was snowing and freezing. Two Brethren split wood on the cleared land; five dug in the cellar; Br. Kapp helped with the work on the mill; Br. Christensen made a turning-lathe. As we were out of salt, and could not well send to Virginia for more, we reclaimed some by boiling brine, and found it good and strong.

Feb. 8. For the first time we had Lovefeast bread baked half flour and half corn-meal. We caught another wolf in the pit.

Feb. 12. Toward evening a man named Georg Muller arrived. Some weeks ago he asked to be allowed to come here for treatment, or that Br. Kalberlahn would come to him; neither request could then be granted, but now he was brought by two friends, who remained over night. Three months or more ago the man was struck on the head with an axe by some one who wanted to kill him. A surgeon treated the wound, and it seemed to heal, but it has opened again, his mind is weak, and he suffers much pain.

Feb. 13. Br. Kalberlahn operated on the injured man, and removed a splinter of bone from the skull; has also agreed to keep him under his care for several days here.

Feb. 19. A man came yesterday to take away our patient, but he did not want to go, so the man returned without him, and we will try further whether he can be helped. He does not trouble us, being as obedient as a child.

Feb. 21. It was very cold last night, and we had to take into our little cabin one of our horses which was sick. This weather is hard on our cattle, and especially the calves, for it is cold and they find little to eat in the woods. Two carpenters came to sharpen their axes.

Feb. 26. Br. Georg Schmid can now walk without a cane. For two weeks he has been making baskets and sieves. On the 28th he began work on a pair of bellows for the forge.

Practically the entire month of February has been so cold that those who have lived here several years say it has been an unusually hard winter. It snowed four times, on the 6th, 7th, 20th, and 24th. Yet we can not imagine another winter when nearly all our cattle and calves and horses must be left to take care of themselves in the woods; nor another winter in such poor quarters, especially our sleeping room, which is of rails between which a man may thrust his hand. Yet with our blankets we have been able to stand it, so it can well be said that with fairly good accommodations the winter here is not to be dreaded.

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March 17. The snow is eighteen inches deep. The fodder is nearly all used so we cut maple and other sprouts in the bottom and brought them in so that our milk cows could eat the buds. To these we

added the straw and chaff from our bed-sacks, lest the cows, for lack of food, lose their milk. For this country the winter is lasting unusually long.

March 23. Sunday. The weather is much milder, and tonight we had the first dew. At morning prayers we were reminded that the Passion Week begins today, and the services would all touch on the theme of the Saviour's sufferings. The sick man who has been with us for some time, asked to attend, and was permitted to do so.

March 24. The sick man has now reached a point where his treatment can be continued at home, and Br. Ingebretsen escorted him thither.

March 25. At morning prayer we were reminded of the Annunciation, and of the love of God, beyond man's power to understand, which led the Creator to leave eternity for this passing time.

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May 30. We had a formal Congregation Council to consider the farm and how it can be improved, and also to consider where and how a new farm should be laid out in the fall. Br. Jacob Loesch has sent a detailed report of this to Br. Joseph. We were informed that Br. Nitschmann will leave for Pennsylvania next Monday. It was very warm today until it began to rain a little.

May 31. All who were not in the fields were busy with letter writing. It was an unusually cold day for this time of the year. Within the last two weeks we have lost some twenty hogs, large and small. In the evening Mr. Churton arrived; he will survey two Entries for Br. Cossart. We closed the day and the month with a liturgy and evening prayers.

[Diary continues in June 1755]

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July 22. A so-called Dunkard or Bearded Man came to the smithy. He has just come from New River with his entire family, fearing to remain there longer because of the Indians, who are wandering about. Although his home was only about seventy miles from here the journey has taken them three weeks, as they had no other road to take than to the Roanoke. The man told us that some ten weeks ago a man named Stahlnekker, living on Holston River, about 100 miles from the New River Settlement, had been captured by the Indians, and his entire family murdered. It was believed that he would be cruelly tortured, since the Indians hated him. A few days before the Dunkard left several families had been attacked, and part murdered, part captured; and the last night before his flight the family of one of his nearest neighbors had been murdered, only three miles from him. So far as the man knew 28 persons had been killed or taken prisoner. When the man reached the Roanoke he found other refugees from New River, but it was no place to stay, for the settlers there were much alarmed by the news they brought; so this man decided to take his family to the Town Fork, twelve miles from here. There he found Mr. Altem and his family packing up and moving; so the poor fellow is at a loss to know what to do next. When his work at the smithy was finished he went back to his people on the Town Fork. . . .

July 24. Work was resumed as usual. We heard many reports, especially that people were moving away from this neighborhood. Mr. Benner begged that he and his family might remain with us, and this request was granted, and our old cabin was cleared out for him.

July 25. Mr. Benner's brother-in-law and the younger Mr. Guest were here, and said that their settlement also was going to move, but they did not yet know where. In the evening we had conference, and decided what to do in case it became impossible for us to remain here, for instance, to bury all our iron implements in the creek, and to bury in the ground all else that would not be injured that way. We also agreed to keep ourselves well supplied with provisions, especially meal, for Br. Lischer, who has been to the mill today, reports that the miller is leaving tomorrow, though he will leave his mill in such condition that any one who wishes meal ground can use it for himself.

July 27. Sixteen strangers were here, eight remaining over night. Among them was Mr. Altem. Last week he moved his family to Haw River, but it is too far from his farm, and besides they do not feel safe, so he asked to come with them to us, to which we agreed. A man came to call Br. Kalberlahn to a German named Johann Dop, who had been accidentally shot through the body; the man was dead when the doctor reached him.

July 28. At the request of Mr. Altem three of the Brethren went to his home for some of his things. Next day he and his family arrived and we lodged them in our former cabin for strangers.

...

Oct. 21. Altogether we have planted seven acres in rye, and nineteen in winter wheat. We have also begun to fell timber for building a new house for the use of the seven married couples who are now on their way hither.

Oct. 22. The place for the new house was staked off today, and work begun in excavating for the foundations.

Oct. 23. Today we killed ten pigs. It is too expensive to feed them at home, and to let them run wild in the woods and profit by them requires conditions that do not exist here. They have too many enemies, wild-cats, and foxes, and wolves when they are small, and bears when they are older.

Oct. 24. Corn is hard to buy, and costs about two shillings a bushel.

Oct. 25. Saturday. Today we laid the corner-stone of the new house, placing it at the front corner toward the west. First some specially composed verses were sung, then we had Lovefeast, during which a poem was read in honor of our dear Johannes von Watteville's birthday. Several appropriate chorals were sung; we also remembered the fact that two years ago today the second company of settlers reached here. We also sang a few verses for Br. Lung, in honor of his birthday yesterday.

...

Nov. 3. Yesterday Sauter arrived and announced the approach of the new company; today we all worked hard on the new house, and Br. Loesch rode back with Sauter to meet the new-comers, who arrived toward evening on Nov. 4th, and were heartily welcomed. There were seven married couples, ten Single Brethren, and five drivers for the wagons. The Single Brethren were lodged in the old dwelling house, and the married people in the first story of our new Brothers House, where they made a partition with their tent cloth until it can be replaced by boards. We are much crowded, but the Saviour makes it easy for us to bear what otherwise would be uncomfortable, and blesses us with His consolation.

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Nov. 9. After morning prayers Br. Christian had a conference with the Brethren about to leave for Bethlehem, that is Br. Friis, Georg Schmid, and the five drivers, Pitschmann, Rubel, David Kuntz, Giers, Martin Hirt. At 11 o'clock we prayed the litany, spent the rest of the day quietly. In the evening we had Lovefeast followed by the Communion. In the latter service Br. Christian Henrich presided, and he with his Anna served the Sisters, while Br. Friis and Br. Gottlob Hoffman served the Brethren. There were 60 communicants—46 Single Brethren, and 7 married couples.

And here this Diary of the Single Brethren comes to an end. What shall the Diarist [Friis] say who has written it for a year and a half? I bow in the dust at the feet of the Lamb, and thank Him for all the grace and mercy that He has vouchsafed to us. To Him be thanks and praise to all eternity.