

East Bath —A History

East Bath was also known as Little Germany because of the many German immigrants who settled there.



The community focus was the church and the one room school.

The school may have been established in 1838 when the Bath Township Trustees established school sub districts. The school was later replaced in 1880 on property purchased for \$100 from Charles and Lucinda Harris. The school system consolidated nine schools when the brick building at Bath Center was built in 1923. Ray Van Devere bought the East Bath schoolhouse and created a mini castle with three towers proclaiming it to be The Towers of Hammondsburg perched on the Hills of Macochee. The German Evangelical Church was erected on property owned by John Bennage on the SW corner of Shade and Revere

Roads to serve the citizens of East Bath of German ancestry in 1861.



The church is long gone., however, just west of its site a cemetery which remains was plotted and the first burial was in October of 1861.

East Bath Cemetery History

Some little known facts:

- The first burial was in 1861 of a 32 day old girl.
- There are 61 grave markers representing 16 families.
- Four Civil War vets are buried here.
- Two people buried here lived to be 91 years of age, one buried in 1904 and the other in 1937.
- There are 12 burials of children under the age of 12. The youngest were 16 day old twins who died in 1889.
- The last burial was an 83 year-old man in 1967.
- Bath Grange erected an identification sign at Bath Cemetery in 1986.

Acknowledgements

Bath Township

Bath Township Historical Society

Bath Township Museum

Cemetery Tour Committee

Sam's Club

Brochures of this and other Bath Township tours are available at:

www.bathtownship.org

East Bath Cemetery
in

Bath Township

East Bath Cemetery



1. John Bennage 2. Nancy Miller
3. Conrad Carver 4. Lucinda Harris
5. Louise Harris 6. Henry Cover

Located at

2902 Shade Road

(west of Revere Road)

John Bennage (1812-1892)

John Bennage was born in Lewsiberg, PA, He married Mary Ann Whited in 1843 in Park, IN. They had 12 children together.

They lived for a time in Springfield where John was a

potter before moving to Bath. Their children were Mary Elizabeth, Nancy Louisa, George A,

Elizabeth, John D., William D., Jacob W., Levi S, Cleber W, Alfred W, Emma A, and Ulisses. Many of these and other Bennage family members were buried in the East Bath Cemetery.



Henry Cover (1839-1891)

Born in Pennsylvania, Henry, a farmer, enlisted in the Ohio Volunteer Army, 115th Regiment, Company C of the Union Army in 1862. At first they were stationed near Cincinnati and Dayton. In 1864 her married Mary Elizabeth Bennage. At the end of that year, Company C was protecting railroads near Murfreesboro where they were surrounded by Gen Hood's Confederate army, forced to surrender and marched to Andersonville prison camp. He survived and was sent to a hospital in Columbus to recover. He returned to Bath in 1865. He and Mary had children including Cleber, Clara, Coila, Ernest, Arthur, Samuel and Rutherford.



Nancy Sprankle Castetter Miller Cover (1813-1904)

Nancy had one son, David, with her first husband JB Castetter. After his death she married Peter Miller (1796-1869), a widower, in 1834. He had come to Bath in 1838 at age 43 from Stark County. Nancy was stepmother to his only surviving child, son Elias, and they had three sons (James, Joseph, Milton). Peter was a township trustee and justice of the peace. After his death in 1869 Nancy married Michael Cover. He died at 59 in 1877. Nancy lived to age 91.



Louisa Harris (1846-1937)

Nancy Louisa Harris was born in Park, Indiana and moved to Springfield OH in the 1850's and later to Bath with her parents John and Mary Bennage (photo at far left) Her future husband John Harris was in the Union Army and his brother William was killed at the battle of Winchester, VA. John and Louisa married in 1864 after the Civil War. They built a home on land John bought before the war. The home was built from logs of her parents old log home. They farmed and had seven children, five surviving infancy (Etta, Roy, Lewis, Florence, Sherman) and two did not (Early and May). She was known as Aunt Louise to many nieces and nephews. Her sister Mary Elizabeth married Henry Cover. Husband John died in 1923 at age 83. In 1930 Louisa sold her Shade Road property to Peter and Mary Martin and she died at 91 in 1937.

Lucinda Harris (1846-1914)

Lucinda Sprankle daughter of Michael and Eliza McGrew Sprankle of Stark County, married Charles Harris in 1874. She was his second wife. They owned 106 acres which Charles had purchased when his landlord Mr. Peach died. Lucinda and Charles lived with his oldest two children Frank and Riley. No record exists of his daughter Eleanor reaching adulthood and his son Eber was adopted by the Shoemaker family when his first wife Caroline Harris died in 1873. In 1880 the new East Bath School was built on a parcel of land purchased from the Harrises.



Conrad Carver (1811-1890)

Conrad was born in Germany, the son of John and Margaret Miller Carver. Schooled until he was 14, he worked in Germany until he was 26 when he came to New York and headed to Cincinnati. He got as far as Cleveland. He took a canal boat to Peninsula and stayed there, working for a farmer for 6 months, then on the canal for four years. He saved money to buy 30 acres in Bath and eventually owned a farm of 195 acres. In 1838 he married Sarah Lutz and they had nine children (Lavina,

Mary A., Eliza, Simon P., Alfred, John, Margaret, Rose A. and Polly).

