

Harrison County, Names Listed in the Church Registry of Saint Peter German Reformed Church Near Crandall, Indiana, ca. 1900–1926

Evan N. Miller, Jennifer Duplaga, and Natalie Burriss

From the 1830s through the 1860s, Indiana experienced an increase in its population of German immigrants, both from Germany and the eastern United States. To preserve their traditions and create community, many of these new residents established churches resembling the ones they attended in Germany, such as those associated with the Lutheran denomination. One such German church community in Harrison County, Indiana, was the congregation of Saint Peter German Reformed Church.¹

Saint Peter church was located in Jackson Township “about two miles south of Crandall, Indiana, and five miles northeast of Corydon, Indiana.”² The church was founded in 1860 as the Evangelical Protestant Saint Peter’s Church, belonging to the Evangelical Association denomination. In 1868 church members revised the church’s constitution and joined the German Reformed denomination (also known as the German Reformed Church of North America) and renamed it the German Evangelical Saint Peter Church, or Saint Peter German Evangelical Church.³ The church remained active for about a century, ceasing operation around 1960.⁴

The records for Saint Peter, housed at the William H. Smith Memorial Library at the Indiana Historical Society, contain reproductions of two record books dating from the church’s founding in 1860 to 1926.⁵ The earliest records are predominantly written in German, although two of the church’s earliest constitutions have been translated to English and transcribed for researchers. Toward the end of the nineteenth-century, English becomes the church records’ primary language, though German still appears periodically, for example, in the record book’s pre-printed titles and in small phrases or notes from the record takers.

The second volume, which dates from the early twentieth century, contains a church register that provides information about church membership and important religious ceremonies. The authors transcribed selections from this volume, which contains records of baptisms, communions, confirmations, marriages, and general membership. In addition to names, other information is sometimes recorded, including birth and death dates, current residence, membership status, parents, place of birth, and tallies documenting members’ communion attendance. Page numbers are noted in brackets

following the titles. Evan N. Miller and Jennifer Duplaga have provided English translations in brackets immediately following German phrases. Some information spans across two pages; these instances have been consolidated. In some places, record takers ignored the record book's formatting and wrote outside spaces or lines; this information has been included in the transcription within the spaces where they first occur. Some names are directly followed by an "X," and its meaning is unknown. Due to illegible handwriting, notes in the baptismal register have not been transcribed or translated.

Notes

1. Frederick Porter Griffin and Violet Bruner Windell, *Harrison County's Earliest Years* (Corydon, IN: O'Bannon Publishing, 1984), 8, 12.
2. Amelia Benson, *German Reform Cemetery, R.R. 3, Corydon, Indiana (located two miles south of Crandall, Indiana)* (N.p., 1967). The church building has been demolished, but the cemetery remains off Highway 335 west of Crandall.
3. See 1860 and 1868 church constitution translations, Saint Peter German Reformed Church Records, 1860–1926, SC 2010, folder 3, Indiana Historical Society. On a national scale, both the Evangelical Association and German Reformed Church had large German memberships, and in the mid-nineteenth century, many associated churches conducted services and meetings in German, finding it more comfortable for their congregants as many were still learning English. Over time, English eclipsed German as both denominations' primary language. For more information on these denominations and other religious organizations in Indiana, see L. C. Rudolph, *Hoosier Faiths: A History of Indiana's Churches and Religious Groups* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995), 176, 242. Rudolph provides succinct overviews of the following pertinent denominations: Evangelical Association (pp. 235–43); German Reformed Church (pp. 173–77); Lutheran (pp. 139–58); and Evangelical Synod of North America (pp. 178–85).
4. Saint Peter German Reformed Church Records, online collection summary. Many of the remaining church members transferred their membership to New Middletown German Reform Church after Saint Peter's closing. See Benson, *German Reform Cemetery*.
5. Saint Peter German Reformed Church Records.

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Glieder-Liste. [Member List] [pages 9–10]					
		Aufnahme [Admission]		Austritt [Withdrawal]	
No.	Namen-der Glieder. [Name of Member]	Wann. [When]	Wie. [How]	Wann. [When]	Wie. [How]
1	Philipp Berst X			1914	Died
2	Anna Berst Sr. X				"
3	Adam Berst				
4	Jorish Berst				
5	Anna Berst X				
6	Lisette Berst				
7	Jakob Raudenbusch				Died
8	Anna Raudenbusch X				gestorben [died]
9	Louis Wagner X				Died
10	Jorish Elwanger				
11	Magdalena Elwanger			1928	Died
12	Louis Tempel				Died
13	Katharina Tempel				
14	Margaretha Rudel			1928	Died
15	John Rudel X				gestorben [died]
16	Margaretha Rudel jr.				
17	Rosa (Rudel) Miller			1922	Died
18	Elisabeth Rudel				
19	Wilhelma Rudel				
20	Jakob Rainhard X				Died
21	Anna Rainhard X				Died
22	Mary Miller X			in 1911	[rub] gestorben [died]
23	Anna Miller X			do	do
24	Henry Miller X			do	do
25	Peter Woertz				Died
26	Abraham Woertz				Died

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27	Anna Feig				
28	Katharina Feig				
29	Georg Brush X			1909	gest. [died]
30	Mary E. Brush X			1911	gestorben [died]
31	Caroline (Bevine) Gardner X				gestorben [died]
32	Geo. Woertz				
33	Mrs. Marg. W[---]				
34	Henry Woertz				
35	Susie Woertz	June 1911	Confirmed		
36	Walter Woertz	do.	do.		
37	Philip C. Ellwanger	do.	do.		
38	Fred. Ellwanger	do.	do.		
39	Wm. Ellwanger	do.	do.		
40	Mrs. Phil. Miller-Ellwanger		do.		Withdrew
41	Ed. Reinhardt X	taken up by <u>special</u> confirmation			" [Withdrew]
42	Chist. Reinhardt X	in March 1912			" [Withdrew]
43	Jacob Ellwanger X	taken up by renewal		16 June 1912	
44	Mrs. Sally " " [Jacob Ellwanger] X	do	do [Confirmed]	do	Died
45	Phil. C. Miller (Louisville [comes] a member by common consent.				
46	Nora Rudel		Confirmed		
	Milli Ellwanger		do [Confirmed]		
	F. Nellie J. ebbemon				Withdrew
	Alma Lee Miller		Confirmation		
	Loretta Miller		" [Confirmation]		
	Rosetta Miller		" [Confirmation]		

Kommunikanten.										
[Communicants] [page 106]										
		1904				1905				
No.	Namen der Glieder [Name of Members]	Ostern. [Easter]	Pfingsten. [Pentacost]	Herbst. [Autumn]	Weihn't. [Christmas]	Ostern. [Easter]	Pfingsten. [Pentacost]	Herbst. [Autumn]	Weihn't. [Christmas]	
1	Philipp Berst									
2	Anna Berst sr.									
3	Adam Berst									
4	Christ. Berst									
5	Anna Berst jr.									
6	Lisette E. Berst									
7	Jakob Raudenbusch									
8	Anna Raudenbusch									
9	Louis Wagner									
10	Christ. Elwanger									
11	Magdalena Elwanger									
12	Louis Tempel									

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13	Katharina Tempel								
14	Margaretha Rudel sr.								
15	John Rudel								
16	Margaretha Rudel jr.								
17	Rosa (Rudel) Miller								
18	Elisabeth Rudel								
19	Wilhelma Rudel								
20	Jakob Rainhard								
21	Anna Rainhard								
22	Mary Miller								
23	Anna Miller								
24	Henry Miller								
25	Peter Woertz								
26	Abraham Woertz								
27	Anna Feig								
28	Katharina Feig								

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29	Georg Brush								
30	Brush								
31	Caroline Gardner								

Kommunikanten.									
[Communicants] [page 108]									
		1911				1912			
No.	Namen der Glieder [Name of Members]	Ostern. [Easter]	Pfingsten. [Pentacost]	Herbst. [Autumn]	Weihn't. [Christmas]	Ostern. [Easter]	Pfingsten. [Pentacost]	Herbst. [Autumn]	Weihn't. [Christmas]
32	Phil. C. Ellwanger [- first Com.]								
33	Fred. Ellwanger - first Com.								
34	<u>Wm.</u> Ellwanger [- first Com.]								
35	Phil. C. Miller								
36	Henry Woertz								
37	Mrs. J. Rheinhardt								
38	Christ. Rheinhardt								

Kommunikanten. [Communicants] [page 104]													
		1910				1911				1912			
No.	Namen der Glieder [Name of Members]	Ostern. [Easter]	Pfingsten. [Pentacost]	Herbst. [Autumn]	Weihn't. [Christmas]	Ostern. [Easter]	Pfingsten. [Pentacost]	Herbst. [Autumn]	Weihn't. [Christmas]	Ostern. [Easter]	Pfingsten. [Pentacost]	Herbst. [Autumn]	Weihn't. [Christmas]
1	Philip Berst												
2	Mrs. Anna Berst												
3	Miss Anna Berst												
4	Miss Lisetta Berst												
5	Adam Berst												
6	Christ Berst												
7	Wm Rudel												
8	Mrs. Rudel sr.												
9	Marg. Rudel												
10	Elizabeth Rudel												
11	Louis Temple												
12	Mrs. K. Temple												
13	Christ Ellwanger												
14	Mrs. Magd. Ellwanger												

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15	Jacob Roudenbusch												
16	Mrs. Marie Miller												
17	Geo. Woertz												
18	Peter Woertz												
19	Miss Anie Feig												
20	Abraham Woertz												
21	John Schechter												
22	Ben. Schechter												
23	Louis Wagner												
24	Miss Katie Feig												
25	Mrs. Marg. Woertz												
26	Mrs. Phil. C. Miller												
27	Mrs. Phil. Miller-Ellwanger												
28	Mrs. Wm Rudel jr.												
29	Mrs. Geo. Reuter (of [N./J.] M. Congr)												
30	Gusta Woertz - first Com.												
31	Walter Woertz [- first Com.]												

Abendmahlsgäste in voller Zahl. [Total Communion Attendance] [page 166]												
	Ostern. [Easter]		Pfingsten. [Pentacost]		Herbst. [Autumn]		Weihnachten. [Christmas]		Kranke. [Sick]		Volle Zahl. [Total Numbers]	
Jahr. [Year]	Männl. [Male]	Weibl. [Female]	Männl. [Male]	Weibl. [Female]	Männl. [Male]	Weibl. [Female]	Männl. [Male]	Weibl. [Female]	Männl. [Male]	Weibl. [Female]	Männl. [Male]	Weibl. [Female]
1910					10	10					10	10
1911	9	8	9	13	—	—	6	6			24	27
1912	8	6	10	9								

Tauf Register.							
[Baptism Register] [pages 34–35]							
No.	Name des Täuflings. [Name of the One being Baptized]	Name des B[V]ater. [Name of the Father]	Name der Mutter. [Name of the Mother]	Geburtstag. [Birthday]	Tauftag [Date of Baptism]	Namen der Pathen. [Name of Godparents]	Bemerkungen. [Notes] [Not transcribed]
1	Anna [V/I]atava	Jacob Elwanger	Sallie née Karus	1903-12 17	190.7. 3	Jacob or. Anna Rainhardt	
	2nd. by. Th. M. [K/Peffer]						
2	Thelma Ruth	Philip C. Miller	Rosa née Rudel	Oct. 5, 1910	Nov. 15 1910	Eltern [Parents]	
3	Roy Cecil	Jacob Ellwanger	Sally née Kerns	June 5. 1912	Feb. 11. 1912	Eltern [Parents]	
4	Liotha Lucille	J. Henry Woertz	Viola E. née Le May	Nov. 14 1911	Feb. 25 1912	Eltern [Parents], Grosseltern [Grandparents] & Miss M. LeMay	
	getauft bei andern personen [baptized by other people]						
1	Alma Lee	Philip C. Miller	Rosa née Rudel	July 17, 1906	Oct. 21.	Eltern [Parents]	
2	Louilla twins	do.	do.	April	November	not known	
3	Rosetta [twins]	do.	do.	1908	the 8th 1908	to writer	
	by Theo. Mueller			Aug. 13 1912			
5	Ellnora Elizabeth	do.	do.	[Aug. 13 1912]	October 6, 1912	Wm Rudel & Lizzi Rudel	

Konfirmanden-Register. [Confirmation Register] [page 76]									
No.	Namen. [Name]	Wo geboren. [Where born]	Wann geboren. [When born]			Wann konfirmirt. [When confirmed]			
			Jhra. [Jahr] [Year]	Monat. [Month]	Tag. [Day]	Jhra. [Jahr] [Year]	Monat. [Month]	Tag. [Day]	
1	Augusta Marg. Woertz	Jackson Twhip.				1911	June	11	
2	Walter Raymond Woertz	do					do.		
3	Phil. Christ. Ellwanger	do.					do		
4	Fred Ellwanger	do.					do.		
5	Wm Ellwanger	do					do.		
6	Edward Reinhardt	do	[in März 1912]				[---]		
7	Christopher Reinhardt	do	in März 1912				[---]		
8	Nora M. Rudel	do					1913	Mch	23
9	Anna Amelia Elwanger	do					1913	" [Mch]	" [23]
10	Alma Lee Miller	do							
11	Loretta Miller	do							
12	Rosetta Miller	do							

Trau Register. [Wedding Register] [pages 90–91]								
No.	Wann getraut. [When married]	Namen des Bräutigams. [Name of the Groom]	Namen der Braut. [Name of the Bride]	Geburtsort. [Place of birth]	Wohnort. [Place of residence]	Prollamirt, Licens. [Proclamation, License]	Wo getraut. [Where married]	Namen der Zeugen. [Name of the Witnesses]
1	1904-5-8	Miller Philip O.	Rudel Rosa	Harrison County, Ind.	Harrison County	1904-5-5.	[---]	Ph. F. Rudel x. Elisabeth Rudel
2	1904-7-3	Munzer Frederick	Rainhart Katie L.		Harrison County	1904-7-2.	[---]	Nettie Woerz
3	1904. 8-21	Gardner Charles	Mrs. Bevens Carrie	Harrison Co., Ind.	Harrison County	1904-8-18.	[---], Crandall Christian	x Magd. Elwanger

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