

NAIN PROJECT, 1991

Item 2

Translations

by

Vernon H. Nelson

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NAIN PROJECT, 1991

TRANSLATION OF PART OF THE MEMORABILIA OF BETHLEHEM  
AND NAZARETH, ETC. CONCERNING NAIN, 1758

by Vernon H. Nelson

The material translated here is found in the Bethlehem Diary, which is located at the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem. The original is written in German Script. This is a translation of pages 615 (partial) to 618 of Volume XIX, July - Dec. 1758.

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[1758]

III.) Concerning the noteworthy events in the little Indian congregation in Nain and Gnadenenthal, they report mainly the following about themselves:

Concerning us it can be said correctly: the little group is insignificant, so that it would pass away, if it did not hang so firmly to its Head. And if ever we needed the intercessory prayers of our Brethren and Sisters in the Litany, and experienced the hearing of the same in so many different ways, it was in the past year.

Our enemies were many, wild Indians and others, high and low, and all out for this, totally to break us up and separate us from Jesus' love. But God be thanked! We still stand, and through the manifold demonstrations of His faithful assistance and help in the amazing and most intricate situations, but most of all through the often very powerful expression of His precious presence, we have the certain and complete hope, that He will not leave us, until He has completely carried out his plan of love for us, poor ones.

In particular we note the following special items.

1.) The extraordinarily emotional days of blessing for our little brown group, which were, besides the Heathen-Festival, at which many heartfelt tears were sown for the many Indian nations and for those who have wandered, which certainly will come up in their time,

a.) Good Friday, when such an atmosphere of Golgotha expressed itself in the services, that the translator finally lacked words, and his tears had to interpret.

b.) Oct. 18, when our dear Nain was dedicated by Br. Petrus.

c.) Nov. 13, which for many years has not had such special meaning for us as it did this year.

d.) Dec. 19, when they all came home from hunting, as if called, and were aware of the Mother's gentle leading.

2.) We had the Choir-festivals, lovefeasts, footwashings, cup [of covenant] services, and communions, (except for the last, which we had at Nain) together with the congregation in Bethlehem and Nazareth, and with great blessing.

3.) The many visits of Indians of all sorts of nations, who came to us in part by themselves, in part due to the various treaties and official messages, many of whom received a special impression of God in our midst.

4.) The return of various wandering and misled little sheep, whose clear confessions, weeping and whining for absolution and re-reception into the congregation, caused a completely unforgettable impression, thankfulness and joy among white and brown alike. Likewise the report concerning some who, as their end came, fell into the hands of the Good Shepherd, among others, Jonathan, the Mahikand.

5.) The total of the baptized in Bethlehem and at Nazareth at the close of the previous year, 1757, was 79. Now in this 1758<sup>th</sup> year 8 have been added: one young man, 1 girl, and 6 children. Totalling 87.

6.) Readmitted to Holy Communion were Hanna and Abigail, and in Gnadenthal, Andreas and Anna Justine. Participants in this sacrament for the first time were 2, Rebecca and, in Gnadenthal, Gottlieb.

Candidates were 3. Lucia, a widow; Levi and Renatus, two young men.

7.) 1 man has gone home [died] in Gnadenthal, named Paulus (a coal rescued from the fire), also 1 widower, 1 widow, 1 boy and 2 children, 6 in all.

8.) The number of inhabitants of Nain and Gnadenthal is at present, subtracting those who have gone away or died, 81. Of these 68 are baptized members, and 26 of them are communicants.

And, according to their repeated requests, 43 are still living on our land at Nain, at the Hall, and in Friedensthal, of whom 33 are baptized.

So the inhabitants or the souls at Nazareth are:

Married people 69 couples or . . . . .	138 persons
Children in all . . . . .	84
Widows . . . . .	18
Widowers . . . . .	6
Single Brethren . . . . .	46
Young men . . . . .	8
Boys . . . . .	12
	<hr/>
	312

To this is added those who in part are living at Nazareth, in part staying there only for the time being

	<u>49 Indians</u>
Grand total	361

NAIN PROJECT, 1991

TRANSLATION OF THE MEMORABILIA OF  
NAIN, 1759

by Vernon H. Nelson

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[1759]

Memorabilia of the little Indian Congregation  
at Nain from the year 1759

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We can say to the praise of our dear Lord, that HE has shown himself to be very gracious to us. At our congregational events, both the daily events as well as those on Sundays and festival days, HE has very often comforted us and refreshed us with his dear presence. Yes, many a heart has melted because of its misery, and He has looked at it anew, and from that look has left something behind in the heart, of which we still have many blessed traces, and we also hope to preserve it through His grace.

At the beginning of this year a hut was built for the benefit of the Indian Single Brethren, which was occupied by Br. Rothe on Jan. 5th. Since then he has taken charge of them, and has been visited by them frequently. We certainly wished in our hearts that it would have gone further with the Indian Single Brethren this year, both in regard to their feelings toward the martyred Man and closer connection with Him as also in respect to grace connected with the choir. But we can still say little about it. Meanwhile we hope that our Lord will still give us comfort in this matter. We do find in most an inclination to live with their workers. Hopefully this will take place next year, when their house will be finished. And generally we expect that we, as with our Gottes-Acker which was dedicated on April 9th, also will advance with the further building of Nain next year and get things in better order. The beginning has already been made.

Last winter we took all the Indians who lived at Nazareth to Nain, and the Savior caused it to be a blessing to them, so that of the wandering and misled again two married couples could be absolved and readmitted to communion. Also for this let thanks be given to the Lamb. The remaining ones give us good hope that they too will yet be a joy to the Lamb.

In March the measles began to spread here and at the start caused somewhat of a panic, because there were many here who had not had them. According to Indian fashion everyone would have fled away. But when the Brethren and Sisters thought: we are indeed our dear Savior's children. If He wishes to take us to himself by this illness, what greater thing could happen to us? So they all resolved to expose themselves intentionally to the disease and visited each other very frequently, so that in a period of 2 months, 47, young and old, had the measles. But because they all recovered, it made so great a shame among them as cannot be expressed. And overall their childlike conduct during these circumstances was a very pleasant phenomenon.

We had many visits from the Susquehanna Indians, and many of them heard the Gospel, especially Papunham's people, who stayed here for 2 months last summer expressly for that purpose and we still hope to see a harvest from that. Also from Pennsbury in Jerseys came the people of Capt. John, who once lived on the Nazareth land, for a visit here, but soon asked for permission to remain here, which they also received, and we have good hope for their progress.

From the main workers we had visits at various times. Noteworthy were those of Br. and Sr. Spangenberg before their departure to Wachovia, of Br. Petrus, when he held communion for us 2 times, and both times absolution took place during many warm tears, first the absolution of Nathanael and



second of Nicodemus. He visited us often besides this, as did also Br. and Sr. Lawatsch and Br. Gottlieb.

Let sincere thanks also be given to our dear heavenly Father for the peace which we also have enjoyed this year from the outside. Oh what a noble thing it is, peace.

Our Indians had a blessed harvest this year. Yes, everything they sowed and planted prospered, concerning which they testified at their harvest lovefeast that they were very sincerely thankful and grateful. This Fall they again also had a good and successful hunt.

The protection of several Brethren who were in real danger of death also deserves a separate thanks, such as Josua, Jr., and Benjamin, who both could have been torn apart by wild bears, if a fear had not come over the creatures, as also Christian, Hanna's grandson, who was struck to the ground by a large beam, which fell down from a house, and was carried off for dead. But in several days he recovered completely without a single injury.

Most of all we give praises for the many times of blessing which we had this year, and particularly for the 12 heavenly-blessed communions. And we cannot thank the dear Mother of the church enough, for the sort of tireless faithfulness she showed to this little brown group, and brought many a poor wandering and sick heart back to the meadow of the wounds of Jesus.

We also commend our children to her motherly faithfulness, that they will get more feeling in their hearts, because then everything else would be given to them. They are indeed also the reward for his pain.

Another pleasant matter for our thanks and our Indians' is the fact that we have received our dear Br. and Sr. Schmick back into the service of the North American Indian Mission [Plan], after they were already on the way by sea to the South American Indian Mission [Plan]. However, because of

damage to the ship they had to return, and immediately thereafter a resolution concerning their remaining here arrived from the Jünger-Haus.

The total of our baptized people in Nain was, at the close of the previous year, 87 souls. In this year 7 have been added, namely 1 widow, 2 wives, 1 single sister, and 3 children.

4 have been readmitted to Holy Communion, namely Priscilla and Nathanael, Nicodemus and Justina.

3 Single Brethren are candidates: Timotheus, Levi, and Renatus.

7 have gone home. 1 wife and 6 children, namely 3 boys and 3 girls.

The total of all the inhabitants in Nain is

Communicants . . . . .	35
Baptized adults and children . . . . .	64
Unbaptized boys and girls . . . . .	17
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	116

NAIN PROJECT, 1991

## TRANSLATION OF THE MEMORABILIA OF

NAIN, 1760

by Vernon H. Nelson

The material translated here is found in the Bethlehem Diary, which is located at the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem. The original is written in German Script. This is a translation of pages 531 to 534 (partial) of Volume XXII, July - Dec. 1760.

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[1760]

Memorabilia of the little Indian Congregation  
in Nain from the year 1760

We confess with humble thanks our LORD's special visits of grace during the year. For it has been a very happy and blessed year for the little brown congregation.

Our dear LORD has blessed us richly through His invaluable presence, comforted us and let us feel in all our poverty that His heart is with us.

The dear Mother of the church has brought her specially blessed work of the heart clearly to light, and

our gracious Abba has also given us many fatherly signs of love, since He has protected, nourished, and cared for us, and applied the work of his holy angels.

Of the grace and love of our Dear Divine Family we have, besides what our hearts and feelings tell us, also the following proofs, for which we at the close of this year sincerely give praise, glory and adoration.

1) We have lived together in a blessed divine peace, and externally we have also enjoyed peace and freedom to lead a peaceful and quiet life.

2) The epidemics and sicknesses raging everywhere this year touched a few here and were a great blessing to them. The Savior took some to himself on the occasion.

3) In Summer 4 houses were completely built and in the middle of the square a well was dug and lined with masonry. It has fine water with a good taste, and by it much need and inconvenience has been alleviated. In building and hunting the Brethren were graciously protected from all injury.

4) The harvest of Indian corn was blessed and hunting was also rather successful.

5) The frequent visits of Br. and Sr. Spangenberg, Br. and Sr. Boehler, and Br. Gottlieb always caused and left behind real blessing for the Brethren and Sisters.

6) The Congregational Meetings were well attended by Brethren and Sisters, and by strangers. The beautiful texts, the Wochen, [text not clear] and the Gemein-Nachrichten, and especially the teaching of Jesus' incarnation, sufferings, and death was gratifying, comforting, savory, and blessed to us and to their hearts.

7) Many non-Moravian Indians from the Susquehanna also heard some account of their creator during their visits, as we hope not without blessing, and we saw that they wish to renew their good faith in the Brethren thereby.

8) The congregational life of the Brethren and Sisters is: association with the Man of pain, to love Him, follow Him, and also to walk according to the Gospel through the bloody grace which they have received from Him.

9) The groups of the Married and of the Single Brethren and Sisters, established in September, are proceeding with true blessing.

10) And what shall one say about the solemn days and occasions for blessing: such as the Heathen-Festival, Passion Week, Easter, Ascension Day, Pentecost, Christmas, the Widows' Festival, Single Brethren's Festival, and Married People's Festival? The faithfulness, grace, and blessing which the Savior bestowed on the little brown group of sinners in general and on each one in particular is felt among them.

11) But the most blessed of all is and certainly remains the sacramental participation in His body and blood. And He bestowed this grace on his little congregation 13 times.

12) Indeed the priest with the oil of joy for body and soul also drew near to us at the cup of blessing, which we had in October, to abide in a new connection with Jesus' martyrdom, until we see Him face to face.

13) The separate children's meetings and school classes have been up to now much frequented and accompanied with blessing. Most of the children sincerely love the Savior. And we wish earnestly that there may be none among them who shall not do well.

The parents acknowledge the Brethren's hard work and faithfulness with them and the children with many sincere thanks, and are also happy about so many translated verses and the church litany, which they are learning to pray together and to sing.

14) Baptized this year into the death of Jesus were 6, namely 1 boy Salomo, 2 little boys, Anton and Joachim, and 3 girls, Marie, Anna Marie, and Bathseba.

15) Received into the congregation 2 sisters, Judith and Gesche.

16) Joined in marriage 6 couples, namely David and Caritas, Petrus and Lucia, Elias and Susanna, Philippus and Judith, Timotheus and Anna Johanna, Renatus and Gesche.

17) The Savior also gave us the joy that several people who had been unfaithful and wandered away came back to Jesus' wounds and received absolution of sins and new grace in his blood, namely Petrus, Marcus and Anna, and Caritas, David's wife.

18) Readmitted anew to Holy Communion 2 Brethren and a Sister, Petrus, Marcus, and Anna.

19) Susanna participated this year for the first time.

20) Timotheus was confirmed for the next participation.

21) Hanna became a Candidate for communion.

22) 8 were transferred into the healthy kingdom, namely 2 men, Nicodemus and Josua the Dellaware, 2 women, Elsy and Amalia, 1 boy, Salomo and 3 girls, Marie, Marie Elisab., and Elisabeth. Their going home was very gratifying to us and an edification to others.

23) In June Br. and Sr. Schmick replaced Br. and Sr. Mack here.

24) In April Br. Sensemann with about thirty Indian Brethren and Sisters moved from here to Weequetank to build a new establishment there.

25) Given up to the Single Sister's House in Bethlehem, Gamenochqueesch; 13 years old; surviving daughter of Josua the Dellaware, by his first marriage.

Nain consists now at the end of the year

of communicants . . . . .	30
Candidates for communion . . . . .	2
Baptized adults and children . . . . .	34
unbaptized <u>ditto</u> . . . . .	14
	<hr/>
Total	80 souls

[Poem in six stanzas, not translated]

NAIN PROJECT, 1991TRANSLATION OF THE MEMORABILIA OF  
NAIN, 1761

by Vernon H. Nelson

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[1761]

Memorabilia of the little Indian Congregation  
in Nain, from the year 1761

The gracious and blessed economy of the dear Family of God among the little brown group deserves worship and much sincere praise and thanks.

In childlike humility we acknowledge the faithfulness and protection of the dear heavenly Father in many sorts of situations, such as: in hunting, fishing, building of houses, of which 6 are completely finished and lived in, 1 has been brought under roof, and 1 has been blocked up. He has nourished us and cared for us, has richly blessed the Indian corn, and also has given us weather good for growing, when in many other places it has turned out poorly.

From this blessing we, as well as many Indians from the Susquehanna, and our Brethren and Sisters from Weequetank--who also often visited here--received needed meals. The number of men, women and children this year was 652, as can be seen in the attached monthly analysis, as follows:

In Jan.	30	In May	23	In Sept.	23
Febr.	23	June	13	Oct.	8
Mar.	25	July	172)	Dec.	22
Apr.	75	Aug.	238)		—
	<u>153</u>		<u>446</u>		53
				Total	<u>652</u>

In these visits most also had an opportunity of hearing words about their Creator and Savior and, as we believe, not without blessing, which will manifest itself more clearly when the times are totally peaceful. Last summer the mother of Bartholomaeus' wife Elisabeth, from Tiaegu, let her know through

her foster son, that if she should go out of this world (which also happened) she certainly believed that she would go to the Brethren's God, of whom she had heard, and to whom alone she cried for mercy and grace, and therefore her daughter Elisab. should remain with the Savior and the Brethren.

A young Mahicand woman, a friend of Rachel and Bathseba, remained with us after the last treaty in Easton, and already has often asked to be baptized.

We have felt the dear presence of our LOrd in a very blessed way, and cannot say otherwise than: it has pleased Him to demonstrate his grace to us.

And although much still remains for which we in general and in specific have greatly to be ashamed of and to humble ourselves before our LOrd, yet we are still also comforted that we are in the continuing care of our dear Mother, whose love and faithfulness cannot be praised enough and Her thanked for it.

In particular we think back with sincere joy, and confess with humble thanks the many blessed occasions we had to refresh ourselves through the year together with our Friend, and at the teaching of His incarnation and martyrdom. And this happened at the solemn congregational and choir festivals, at morning and evening meetings, and in the groups, where Brethren and Sisters and children received much blessing for their hearts, (to which the frequent visits of the dear Br. and Sr. Spangenberg and Br. and Sr. Boehler contributed much). But in particular the most blessed of all was at the participation in the holy sacrament, the Lord's Supper, and our dear LOrd granted this grace to His little brown congregation 13 times. The last at the close of the year was a particular blessing to each poor heart.

We also recognize and are sincerely thankful that Bethlehem has helped us with more land to enlarge our plantation and for firewood and building wood that will be needed in the future, and has destined it for Nain.

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The gift of children which the Savior gave us this year were 3 little girls and 1 little boy who also have been baptized into His death, and are named Lea, Anna, Augustina, and Joseph.

Besides these, 3 grownups also received the baptismal bath, 1 woman, Salome, and 2 boys, Matthaesus and Thomas.

1 widow, Jannicke, was received into the congregation. Cathrina and Amos were again admitted to Holy Communion.

This year 5 participated for the first time. Timotheus, Bartholomaeus and Elisabeth, Josua, Jr., and Hanna, Magdalena's daughter.

Candidate: Anna Johanna, Timotheus' wife.

Transferred into the healthy kingdom: 1 girl, Bathseba. Nain consists at the close of the year of Indian

Communicants . . . . .	36
Candidates for Communion . . . . .	2
Baptized adults and	
Children . . . . .	34
Unbaptized adults . . . . .	2
and children . . . . .	8
Total	82

With them live Br. and Sr. Schmick and the single Br. Joh. Roth.

Grand	3
total	85

(4 are here as guests. )  
 (Abraham, Sarah, Joachim )  
 (and David )

NAIN PROJECT, 1991TRANSLATION OF THE MEMORABILIA OF  
NAIN, 1762

by Vernon H. Nelson

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[1762]

Memorabilia of the little Indian Congregation  
in Nain from the year 1762

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Sincerely honored and praised  
are Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
when we think of the past year.  
For countless times we experienced in general and in specific,  
and find, that it was full of grace and blessing for us, poor  
ones.

Right at the beginning of the year the dear Mother, the  
Holy Spirit, manifested herself to us, her poor children, in  
a very particular way, and on Pentecost also let us perceive  
her presence powerfully among us;

Established with blessing our relationship with the Man of  
pain and everywhere cared for us in a very motherly way with  
untiring faithful love. And who can express in words her  
special work in the heart, or even only grasp it in ideas?

But we confess it with humble hearts, and thank Her for  
all the love, work, and care given to us, with the childlike  
assurance that She remains our Mother, and that in grace, but  
we remain her sinful maggots and little children.

This year we felt and enjoyed the most blessed presence of  
our Single Heart and best Friend in a very special way. And  
what the association with His beloved person has offered our  
hearts remains probably indescribable. HE has shown himself  
faithful to us (in spite of our great poverty). And this we  
have enjoyed with great blessing not only in the daily meetings  
during the proclaiming of the doctrine of his incarnation, mar-  
tyrdom, and death, through which many a heart of the wild Indians  
has been affected and blessed with us, but also especially on  
solemn days and occasions when we have refreshed ourselves in  
Him with great blessing.

The Heathen-Festival was particularly blessed, and at it a single woman, as bounty from the treaty at Easton, was baptized into the death of Jesus.

Passion Week, Easter, Ascension Day, Pentecost, Christmas, the Choir festivals of the Married people and of the Widows, the Gemein-Tage, were all true days of blessing for our hearts.

At the celebration as Elder of His people He showed himself to be very gracious, and at the absolution gave us, as assurance of this, once again the look of His grace.

He legitimatized the pedilavium on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April for that for which He instituted it.

Indeed the priest with the oil of joy for body and soul drew near to us in a new connection at the cup of blessing.

In the groups and classes of adults and children, a particular grace ruled, and a special blessing also rested on the school classes.

Besides this the anointed addresses and the wonderful reports of the Gemeinhaus diary were very refreshing, comforting, and a great blessing.

But the 12 communions, when we celebrated the sacrament at His arm and at His breast, were extraordinary days of blessing for us, of which the inexpressibly blessed participation and the feeling of His closest presence will remain unforgettable to us.

And at these above-named days of blessing the frequent visits of our dear hearts the Spangenbergs, Nathanaels, and Boehlers also contributed much, and in general overall created real blessing for us and our children.

For all the priceless grace, love, and blessing we have received from our Lord we worship in dust at His feet and sing: praise, glory, and might, be given to Him, by us poor redeemed persons.

Yes, let many thanks be also given to the true friend of sinners for the return of the 5 who had wandered at the Susquehanna,

namely the old Moses, Augustus, Augustina, Elisabeth, and the old Abraham, and in Nain, Daniel. That these sought and found grace and forgiveness from Him, and died relying on His bloody merit and death, is very gratifying to us.

And what shall we say about our dear and kind heavenly Father, who has supported us this year like a father, has nourished and cared for us? In particular we must praise and adore Him,

Because He has blessed the work of our hands, since again 5 log houses have been built, so that now, with the Gemein and Widows House, 14 houses and 4 huts are standing here and are lived in.

The fence has been made around the Hutberg [cemetery] and 44 fruit trees have been planted as an alley to the Hutberg.

That He has blessed the summer and fall hunt, and particularly our Indian corn and garden produce during a very bad drought, and let us harvest the same, so that not only everyone had something to eat for his own physical necessity and support but also at their frequent visits, friends and non-Christian Indians, whose number this year was 279, could receive needed food. Now

We thank God for all gifts,

that we have received this year.

We ask our dear Lord, etc. [continuation of poem]

....

The gift of children which the Savior gave us this year, and who were baptized into His death, consists of 3 little girls, Christina, Johanna, and Anna Rosel, and 1 little boy, Jonas.

1 adult received the bath of baptism, namely Martha.

2 couples were united in marriage. Gottlieb and Anna Rosina, and Amos and Agnes.

Daniel was absolved.

During the year 2 participated in the Holy Communion for the first time. Anna Johanna and Salome.

Transferred into the healthy kingdom. 4, namely 1 man, Daniel, 1 woman, Abigail, and 2 little boys, Abraham and Joseph.

Given to Weequetank, 2, namely Martha and Abraham, Zachaeus' little son.

At the end of the year, 1762,

Nain consists now of

Communicants . . . . .	37
Candidates for communion . . . . .	1
Baptized adults and children . . . . .	32
Unbaptized adults and children . . . . .	9
Total	<u>79</u> souls

Br. and Sr. Schmick are with them.



NAIN PROJECT, 1991

TRANSLATION OF PART OF THE MEMORABILIA OF  
BETHLEHEM, CONCERNING NAIN, 1763

by Vernon H. Nelson

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[1763]

Since the attack of wild Indians in the vicinity in October, off and on more than 200 people have fled to us. The two inns, the farm, the Indian house, and still other houses have been used for their stay for several weeks, and it has been a true joy for us, to share our bread with them.

In the very same month we saw ourselves forced to let the Indian Brethren and Sisters in Weequetank come to Nazareth because of the danger they were exposed to, both day and night, from the white people. But they remained there only a few weeks, because at the beginning of November an official decree was issued, that all Indians in Nain and Weequetank were to go to Philadelphia. Obeying this decree, they emigrated on the 8<sup>th</sup> of the same month, after receiving an order to disarm and willingly turning over their rifles. In Philadelphia they were found worthy of enduring the disgrace of Christ for 4 hours on the streets, and finally were transported to Province Island, 5 miles from the city. In all these and other oppressive situations these our Brethren and Sisters from among the heathen created honor for the name of our Lord. Br. and Sr. Grube and Br. and Sr. Schmick live among them as their workers and share with them happiness and sorrow....

In Nain, where for the time being Br. and Sr. Joh. Schneider and Br. and Sr. Schebosch are living, a new meeting Saal was likewise built, and was dedicated in May.

Br. Dav. Zeisberger, Sr., visited the Indians in Chwihilusing on the Susquehanna 2 times and spent some time among them, and testifies that he never before has been aware of so great a movement and desire for salvation among the Indians. At the same time he baptized their former heathen teacher Papunhank, who now is named Johannes, and another Indian. He also received

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the consent of the 6 Nations to be allowed to build a house for himself and to live there. But the frequently-mentioned wild Indian attack has hindered that for the moment, and Johannes, formerly Papunhank, has moved away with his family and several other families and gone to Philadelphia. He now lives with 9 other Indians from Chwihilusing among our Indian Brethren and Sisters.....

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NAIN PROJECT, 1991

[1764]

[During all of 1764 the Moravian Indians were at Province Island near Philadelphia.]

NAIN PROJECT, 1991TRANSLATION OF PART OF THE MEMORABILIA OF BETHLEHEM  
CONCERNING NAIN, 1765

by Vernon H. Nelson

The material translated here is found in the Bethlehem Diary, which is located at the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem. The original is written in German Script. This is a translation of pages 259 (partial) and 260 (partial) of Volume XXVII, 1765-1767.

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[1765]

In Spring our Indian Brethren and Sisters, according to arrangements of the Government and with an official escort, were brought back to their land and, accompanied by the Brethren Schmick and Dav. Zeisberger, moved to the Susquehannah. Through a deputation they immediately let the 6 Nations know of their arrival there, and they were invited by the same to settle with their teachers at Lake Cajuga. Meanwhile their present stay at Machilusing has been accompanied with grace, peace, and true communion of hearts, and the word of the atonement demonstrates itself as the power of God in the hearts of the wild Indians, who often come there in great numbers. Not only have several Indian families moved to be with them (one woman has already been baptized and other Indians have become candidates for baptism) but also various ones of those who have been wandering about for 12 or more years have been found again. Also the Indian Brethren and Sisters there have built a spacious meeting house, have also built a home for our Brethren and overall have had a very rich Indian corn harvest. Their frequent visits here in Bethlehem, since they have gone to live on the Susquehannah, have given them and us considerable pleasure. To be sure the present work of our Brethren among the Indians deserves very special participation and remembrance on the part of all Brethren and Sisters before the Lord....

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