

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH::: NEW GERMANY.

by Miss Z. M. Miller.

"The first missionary to look after the German Settlers in this area; reported that in June of 1837 there were twenty families." Construction of the Church on the north side of Town line rd., began in 1848, and the congregation has used the same building ever since. The first baptism was recorded May 6th. 1849.

**St. Joseph's Church, Snyder**, is the oldest remaining church in Willoughby Township. In the beginning the church was known as St. Joseph's Black Creek. The area came to be called New Germany because the settlers who came to this area spoke German. The number of German speaking priests in the diocese were small and the territory huge, with most being little more than wilderness. The result was that often the people of Black Creek would not see a priest for months. Construction of a church began in 1848 and it was blessed and dedicated in 1849. In 1869 the tower of the church was built with 2 bells installed. Even though the area was referred to as New Germany, at no time was it ever officially called that name. The post office was in Stevensville and for many years the people went there for their mail. Ultimately a post office was established in the village and given the name Snyder after a Lutheran minister who resided there at the time. In 1920 the post office was discontinued.