

*French and Indian War Historical  
Account Here At Roadside America:*

## NORTHKILL AMISH

The first organized Amish Mennonite Congregation in America. Established by 1740. Disbanded following Indian attack, September 29, 1757, in which a Provincial soldier and three members of the Jacob Hochstetler family were killed near this point at Roadside America. : :

There were many Indian attacks near here. They died for their faith, home and country, which was the beginning and the belief in Democratic Government, as the United States of America.

This incident of the Jacob Hochstetler family was the last massacre in Berks County.

Roadside America is a large part of the original farm. The Indian trail was 300 feet West of the display building. The wild deer still travel on this trail.

See the great display of the Indian raid on the trail at Roadside America---Nothing like it in all America illustrating an historical incident in hand carved figures in man sizes. A sure piece of fine art.



*Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission.  
Historical Society of Berks County.*

*Dedicated on Saturday, June 27, at 11.30 a. m., by pilgrims of Amish, Mennonites and visitors from over the country. There were several hundred visitors here. Published in the Reading Eagle, Sunday July 5th, '59*

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## ...— THE HOCHSTETLER MASSACRE —...

On the evening of September 19th, and 20th at early morning, as the home was set afire by the Indians under the command of three French Scouts and possibly seven Indians. In the distance is the son Jacob who was wounded in the leg and his brother Christian escaping from the burning home to the wooded hills; while their mother who was trying to escape through a small cellar window, being on the stout side she became stuck, and an Indian named Tom Lions stabbed her in the back with a butcher knife and she was scalped. The rest were either killed, taken prisoner or escaped.



ON the evening of September 19, 1757 the young people of the neighborhood gathered at the home of Jacob Hochstetler to assist in paring and slicing apples for drying. After the folks departed the family retired; and just about the time they were sound asleep the dog awakened Jacob, the son, who opened the door to see what was wrong, when he received a gun shot wound in his leg. He realized in a moment that they were being attacked by Indians and managed to lock the door before the Indians could enter. In an instant all the family were on their feet. The Indians, 7 or 10 in number with 3 French scouts, were seen standing near the outdoor bake oven in consultation. There was no moon that night. There being no light in the house, those inside could not be seen. There were several guns and plenty of ammunition at hand. The two sons, Joseph and Christian, picked up their guns to defend the family. Two or three could be shot and the guns reloaded before the Indians could enter; but their father, firmly believing in the doctrine of nonresistance, remaining faithful in the hour of sorest trial, could not give his consent for defence. In vain they begged him; he told them it was not right to take the life of another even to save one's own life. What a night of horror this God-fearing family must have spent the last hours; while the timber wolves were howling and the owls chattering their calls to others; with the dog barking and seeing their fate outside at the hands of the savage Indians. At daybreak the birds began singing their songs of peace. But with the Hochstetler family there was no peace.

Joseph ever afterwards claimed the family could have been saved had father given his consent, as they were both good marksmen ( their father was also ) and the Indians never stood fire unless under cover.

At daybreak the house was set afire as the Indians watched. As things got too hot in the house and they thought the Indians left the family was compelled to leave by the basement windows to save their lives, but for three who were killed and scalped, the rest were taken prisoner, all but Joseph who escaped.

A son John and his family lived on the hill close to the homestead, left the home and hid in the heavy underbrush and watched the whole affair. There were over two hundred murdered in this section of Berks County and practically all farms destroyed by fire.