

German Evangelical and Reformed Church Cemetery

This was the second church and cemetery started by this congregation. The cemetery was founded in 1865 with land deeded by Jacob Korn.

This was the last historic cemetery founded in New Berlin. There are two monuments in the cemetery of early settlers born in the 18th century. Carl Wilde (1788-1866) and Angelica Kratz (1799-1881). Here also lie the final resting places of these early families, the Grasers, Imigs, Kiekhefers, Koefflers, Kornes, Lukes, and Beeheims. Here also lies Adam Bernhardt, early settler and Civil War veteran.

The Swartz family for many years had a large marker over their site. The marker and the family's remains were moved to Prairie Home Cemetery in Waukesha many years ago.

The cemetery was active into the 1960s. By this time the church was gone and all that existed was the final resting place of the early pioneers. The families went to different churches leaving the churchyard to its fate and its cemetery as a historical relic.

*New Berlin Landmarks Commission
2005 (on the informational sign at
the cemetery)*

PIONEER CHURCH HISTORY

Doctrinal differences led to the breakup of the original Lutheran church in the mid-1860s. A majority of the congregation wished to leave the church and form a German Reformed church, echoing the issues that had originally caused the Germans to seek religious freedom in America many years before. The founders of the new church were Jacob Wagner, Daniel Schley, Philip Streeter and Abraham Kern. Initially the new church met in the Little Grove School. In 1865 Jacob Kern deeded land to the trustees about a half mile north of their former church near Racine and Swartz Road. A brick church was built there in 1865 at a cost of \$800. A cemetery was dedicated at the new site and as the old Lutheran church was abandoned after 1867, the original cemetery became nearly forgotten, overgrown and neglected.*

This cemetery is now maintained by the City of New Berlin. Many of the stones are damaged and hard to read. Some that are still readable are Kieckhefer, Graser, Beheim, Schiffman, Wilde, Pirner, Rindt, Kern, Luke, Korn, Stern, Koeffler, Reverend H. Hesse and the only known Civil War veteran, Adam Bernhardt.

**2010 Reclamation and Rededication of a Pioneer Cemetery brochure by the Landmarks Commission*