

## Cemetery Note

The most common name in our old cemetery is Fry (Frye, Frey, etc.), with over 50 Fry graves out of the 700 still marked.

Among these are German-born **Phillip Frye (1743-1831)**, a wheelwright, and his wife **Dorethea Boger Frye (1758-1827)**, both buried in the old cemetery. They were great-grandparents of Orville and Wilbur Wright, the inventors of the airplane. Phillip and Dorethea had eleven children, among whom was **Catharine (1796-1889)**, baptized at NJLC. In 1820, at NJLC, Catharine married **John Gottlieb Koerner**, a carriage maker who was born in Saxony, Germany. Catharine and Gottlieb, who lived near Hillsboro, had five children, one of whom was **Susan Catherine Koerner (1831-1889)**, who is memorialized in the highway markers near Hillsboro as the mother of the Wright Brothers.



At some point Catharine and Gottlieb and the Koerner family moved to the Midwest, where Gottlieb opened a carriage shop in Richmond, Indiana. In 1859, their daughter **Susan** married **Milton Wright**, who was a bishop in the United Church of the Brethren in Christ, founded by Mennonite Martin Boehm and German Reformed minister Phillip William Otterbein (now part of the United Methodist Church). Among their children were aviation pioneers **Wilbur Wright**, born in Millville, Indiana in 1867, and **Orville Wright**, born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1870.

Photo: Grave markers for Anna Dorethea Boger Frye and Phillip Frye.