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Innkeeper, Bethlehem and Nazareth, Pennsylvania 1762 - 1775

Johannes Lischer, son of Johann and Barbara (Hegler) Lischer, was born 28 November 1719 in Hilzoff, margraviate of Wittgenstein in the Palatinate, Germany. He arrived in Philadelphia on the ship HOPE 23 September 1734. On 16 April 1759 he married in the Moravian Church at Bethlehem, Maria Catherine Loesch. He died at Nazareth, Pennsylvania 12 May 1782 and is buried in the Moravian Cemetery there.

Johannes Lischer (later Leshner) was born a Mennonite, but was converted to the Moravian Brethern in 1742. Soon after he moved to the Moravian Barony of Nazareth and in 1753 he went with some other unmarried Brethern to Wachovia, North Carolina, and assisted in founding the first Moravian congregation there. He made a second visit to North Carolina and remained for several years. He became an express rider between Bethlehem and Wachovia.

On 27 March 1762 John Lischer was installed by the Moravians as the first landlord of "The Crown", a tavern near Bethlehem. Records indicate that the inn suffered a deficit of £41.10.9½ for the year ending 1 April 1765. On 19 April the Lischers quit "The Crown" and were installed at "The Rose" in Nazareth on 20 April and administered its concerns until 30 March 1772. On 30 March 1772 the new Nazareth Inn was completed and the Lischers were installed as the first landlord and landlady and served until March of 1775.

-Herbert Keyser Zearfoss  
#86-31

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