

Biography of George Long son of Henry and Catharina Kern Long 1739-1805 p 54-57

Read at his funeral

[steveburkhart31](#)

[<https://www.ancestry.com/connect/Profile/00a3d23d-0002-0000-0000-000000000000>] originally shared this on 07 Nov 2014 to Ancestry.com

b>Ps. 54-57. Biography of b1. George Long, son of Henry and Catharina Kern Long 1739-1805. The following was read at his funeral on Deep Creek.

The married Brother George Long who peacefully fell asleep on Jan. 8, 1805 at Deep Creek was born in the year 1739 in Schoenau near Heidelberg in the Palatinate. His father Henry Long who was a citizen and master locksmith there and his mother Catharina, maiden name Kern, belonged to the Reformed Church and also guided their children to it. His parents decided latter to move to America and arrived with their children in Philadelphia Oct. 1751. Here when he had to work off his freight he came to decent people with whom he was able to hold out for his whole time and whom he left with a testimonial of being a quiet industrious person for Brandywine, Pa. and thereafter for the region of Lebanon. During this time he experienced repeated urgings of the spirit of God in his heart, but since he lacked a clear knowledge of the gospel and since he was also often drawn back again into the usual way of the world nothing further came of this except that outwardly he wished to remain with his Church in which he also was confirmed in order to partake of the communion.

In the year 1763 he moved to North Carolina, came to this area and at first worked for a considerable time as a nonmember (Moravian Church) in Bethabara. He felt a special love for the Brethren but since he had no desire in his heart for salvation and since he had also almost completely forgotten the German language, having lived among English people since his childhood, he made no further acquaintance with them except that he had the impression that they were good and honest people.

Later he moved to the region of Deep Creek and bought land there and entered matrimony with his first wife, whose maiden name was Miller. At this time he began to be more concerned about his soul salvation. The holy ghost performed such a work of grace in him, revealing to him his lost, sinful condition, that he often wept bitterest tears. How he should find peace for his soul however remained hidden from him. He endeavored in outward matters to do everything to avoid having to reproach himself and from time to time attended the preaching services of the Baptist and those with other views and also felt frequently the grace of God laying hold upon him. However nothing permanent came of this. When the late Brother Soelle once came in the course of his journeying into that area and undertook to preach at his settlement our late brother and others also went to hear him. He had a very poor opinion as he often said of Brother Soelle and thought, as he began to speak, it was hardly worth listening to him but then suddenly he heard him describe the whole lost state of his heart and how one could come to the Saviour for grace and for receiving the forgiveness of sin even while being a sinner under the curse, so that he had to let his tears have free course and he developed such a love for this Brother that right after the sermon he took him to his home and asked

him next time to preach in his house. Here he told the said Brother his course up to the present and was given loving and truly evangelical guidance in the right way.

This then was the beginning of the services held by the Brethren in that settlement, held at first by the Brethren Soelle and Utley and thereafter by other Brethren for more than 30 years, first in German and then in English. In his house and in his brother's house and held with blessing.

Since his wife reached the certainty of her own salvation at the same time they now both arranged to honor the teaching of Jesus by their work and walk, and also to bring up their children in this way. He also was ready to testify gladly for everyone concerning the foundation of his hope and when ever the Brethren visited with them and held service he blessed them in his heart accompanying what they did with his prayer and desired with all his heart to receive more fruit from it.

In the year 1784 his dear wife passed on peacefully into eternity. Later he married a second time to a woman whose maiden name was Masters. In his first marriage he had 10 children and in the last 3. Three of the first and three of the last preceded him into eternity. By the oldest of them he lived to see 19 grandchildren. We can give our late Brother, despite all his shortcomings and weaknesses, the testimonial that he also lived in fellowship with the Saviour and in faith in him. What we admired most in him was the faithfulness with which he sought to preserve his children from the world and to lead them to the Saviour. Whenever a Brother visited his house it was always his wish to have him speak about such things thoroughly with his children, and he himself did this very often when he commended them in the prayer to the Saviour and told them about his own conversion. He was happy and grateful that various of his children later united with the congregation and shared in the grace which belonged to it.

As for himself he was sorry that because of the distance and other reasons it did not seem possible for him to do more. In the meantime upon his repeated request and after repeated consideration his wish was finally granted and he became a member of the Hope congregation on Aug. 26, 1802 which congregation he always attended when he visited here. On the 13th of Aug. 1803, he partook of the holy communion for the first time in a Moravian congregation, and this at Salem. A few weeks ago he journeyed with his wagon to Fayetteville and as he passed through Salem on his way back he seemed especially brisk, so that none could have anticipated that his end was near. He also had a very deeply spiritual conversation with one of the Brethren. Soon after his return home he suddenly became ill with severe nerve fever so that he was scarcely conscious and stayed in continuous slumber. On the 8th of Jan. he passed away peacefully in the 66th year of his age.

The above biography was translated from the German to the English language on Feb. 5, 1964 in the Dept. of Archives and History at Salem College, Winston-Salem, N. C., by Bishop Kenneth G. Hamilton, of the Moravian Church, who is 71 years old.