

## P R E F A C E

*“And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment . . . And all these having obtained a good report through faith received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us, should not be made perfect.” Hebrews 11: 36, 39 & 40*

During the centuries God has always preserved a remnant of faithful followers. The Anabaptist movement raised many leaders who paid a high price to declare their unswerving devotion to Jesus Christ and His teachings recorded in the Bible.

Among them was Andrew Braun, who with his faithful few, declared themselves free from the state church by forming the small congregation in Schweinfurt, Bavaria. The following court transcripts reveal the opportunity Andrew Braun assumed to declare the true meaning of spiritual rebirth and a living faith in Jesus Christ.

The cost of discipleship was high and many indignities were suffered by Andrew and his flock. He not only experienced imprisonment, but was bound hands and feet and hanged on a hook in his cell. Persecution finally persuaded these pilgrims to leave their homeland for America where freedom to worship God as they chose was established.

We have a priceless heritage. It is our privilege to continue what others have begun with fervor and love for the truth, as described by the Apostle Paul in I Cor. 15: 58;

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”*

Respectfully,

Robert W. Freund  
Syracuse, New York

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Schweinfurt, August 15, 1853  
Present: Schultes, Burgomaster (versed in law)  
Bräutigamm, Actuary

Farmer Friedrich Buettner, of this city who, as is known from the recorded proceedings, is a member of the disbanded Baptist Congregation, declares that his wife Dorothea, nee Popp, also of this city, gave birth to a boy at 2 o'clock yesterday morning.

Inasmuch as the notice of this given by the midwife to the Royal Protestant Pastorate here was not accepted, he hereby gives notice and states that he has not selected a name for the boy as yet.

*Friedrich Buettner*  
*Schultes*  
*Bräutigamm*

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Schweinfurt, August 18, 1853

To the Royal Protestant Pastorate of this city:  
May we humbly inquire in connection with the current situation, whether the birth of the new-born child has been entered in your birth register, or whether we should start a civil register for the births and deaths occurring in the so-called Baptist Congregation?

Most respectfully,

The Council  
*Schultes*

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E. No. 365  
Schweinfurt, August 19, 1853

I learned accidentally last night that midwife Dietzelin (imbecilic and unfit for service) came to my house several days ago while I was attending the religious examination of the college students, and informed my wife:

“Farmer Friedrich Buettner, who belongs to the so-called Baptist Congregation—a sect not tolerated in Bavaria—has a newborn son, and he as father, as well as his wife, nee Popp, are positively unwilling to allow

their child to be baptized under the Evangelical-Protestant Rite, and are considering emigrating to America.”

The Dietzelin woman inquired what she, as nurse, should do. My wife who was very busy at the time, replied without further consideration: “You must go to the Police. They will tell you.”

As stated, I learned of all this only last night inasmuch as the Dietzelin woman did not return to my house and my wife forgot about the incident.

In my opinion this is not a matter for the police, inasmuch as the birth of the child in question properly should be called to the attention of the Protestant Pastorate and the newborn child should be brought for baptism.

I hereby request the honorable Mayor Schultes to inform Farmer Buettner of this decision.

With deepest respect,

*Ulrich*

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Schweinfurt, August 20, 1853

Present: Schultes, Burgomaster (versed in law)  
Bräutigamm, Actuary

Having been summoned, Farmer Friedrich Buettner, of this city, appeared and upon questioning as to whether he would bring his child for baptism in the Protestant Faith, declared:

As is well known, my wife and I have accepted the principles of the so-called Baptist Congregation, whose confession of faith has been presented to, but not approved by the Royal State Government.

Inasmuch as we, according to our religious principles cannot agree to the baptism of our newborn child in the Protestant faith; and furthermore, inasmuch as we believe that according to the Constitutional Charter we cannot be forced to bring our child for baptism in this religion, we are willing not to have our child baptized and so informed the midwife.

We will give whatever information is required by the authorities for entry in the birth records upon notification by the police department.

Farmer Friedrich Buettner was thereupon informed that he would receive specific instructions concerning the matter.

*Friedrich Buettner*

*Schultes*

*Bräutigamm*