

Fuerbringer Family



he direct line of the Fuerbringer family goes back to the end of the seventeenth century in the principality of Reuss, Germany and chiefly in the city of Gera. Here Ottomar Fuerbringer (1810-1892), the son of Wilhelm Fuerbringer, a prominent lawyer, was born. Wilhelm died when Ottomar was still a boy and his mother and oldest brother thought that he should enter some kind of business, but Ottomar insisted that the only thing he cared for was to continue his studies in college and the university.

At this time he was a rationalist, but after attending the University of Leipzig from 1828 to 1831, he became a Christian.

When Ottomar finished his studies at Leipzig in the Kingdom of Saxony, he had to take his final examination in his home church. He passed the examination easily according to the certificate issued to him but was told that because of his orthodox religious convictions, he could not expect to receive a call into the ministry, as the Reuss State Church was rationalistic.

After working as a private tutor in the home of Pastor Gotthold Loeber he immigrated to the United States. He was the only one of his family to come to America. Here he served the Lutheran Church at Venedy, Illinois from May 1840 until the winter of 1850 when he consented to serve congregations in Freistadt and Kirchayn, Wisconsin.

On October 18, 1842 he married Agnes Ernestine nee Buenger Walther, the widow of Otto Herman Walther, first pastor of Old Trinity Church in St. Louis, Missouri. Agnes came to America in 1839 at age 17, with her widowed mother, Christiane nee Reiz, and several brothers and sisters.

In 1858 Pastor Fuerbringer was called to St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth where he remained until his death in 1892.

Pastor Fuerbringer was one of the founders and also one of the first teachers at the Missouri Synod College in the log cabin in Perry County, Missouri. Dr. A.L. Graebner stated he was "the profoundest thinker among the fathers of the Missouri Synod". He wrote many articles for church publications, was frequently consulted by learned pastors on difficult matters and situations, and was highly respected for his solid theology, ability and judgment. He was of a rather retiring nature and not a great conversationalist. Dr. D.F.W. Walther called him a "schlafende loewe" (a sleeping lion).

Included in the Fuerbringer household were: John Walther (son of Agnes and Pastor Herman Walther), Theresa Harzsdorf (adopted daughter of Agnes), Renata, Otto, Gustavus, Maria, Clara, Agnes and Ludwig.

Ludwig Ernest (1864-1947), the youngest child in the family, was born when his father was 54 and his mother was 45 years old. He grew up with the youngest sisters as the older members of the family had already left home for their vocations or marriage.

At the age of 13, Ludwig attended Concordia College, Fort Wayne, from 1877 to 1882. He then entered the St. Louis Seminary in 1882. After graduating in June 1885, he returned to Frankenmuth to become the called assistant to his father. Upon his father's death in 1892 he was elected as his successor and remained in that position until he was called to be an instructor on the Seminary faculty in St. Louis in 1893. He remained in that position until his death in 1947 at the age of 83.



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
For copies of Family Histories go to www.bavarianinn.com/familyhistory