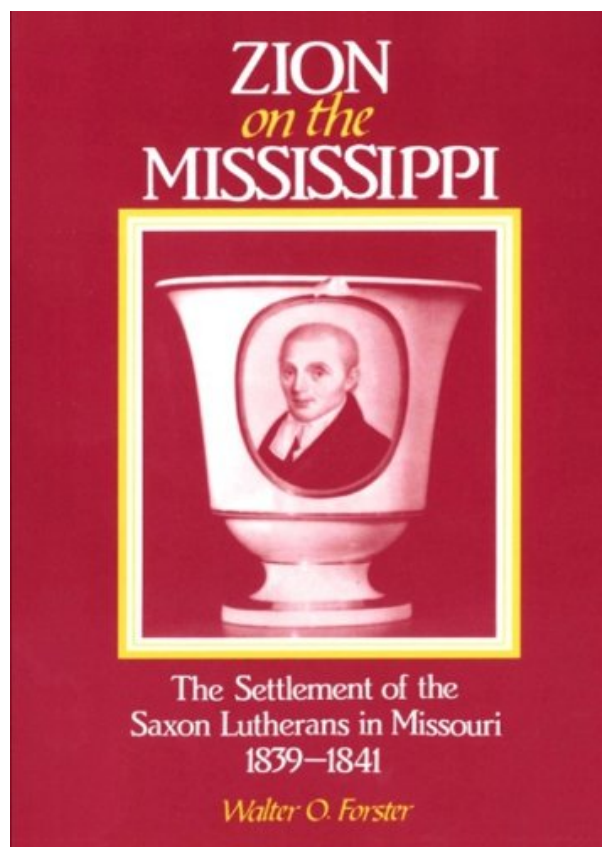


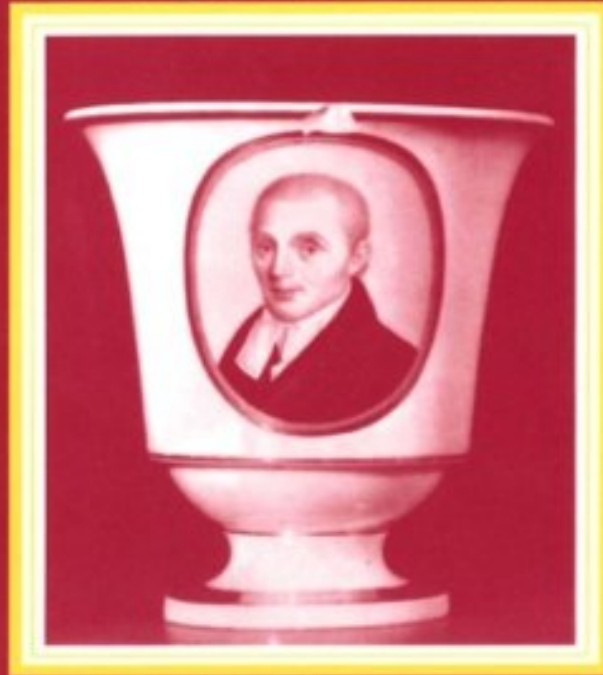
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The Settlement of the
Saxon Lutherans in Missouri
1839—1841

Walter O. Forster

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This book offers a popular account of the Saxon emigration and settlement in Perry County, Missouri. The author explores the social, economic, and religious life of these early Lutherans and describes such formative events and people as the founding of Concordia Seminary and the leadership of C.W.F. Walther.

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Ancestors found

By Donald P. Koch

I purchased this book at the suggestion of a distant cousin. As it turns out it provides substantial insights into events directly impacting 4 of my ancestors. The political, cultural and religious events leading to their emigration from Saxony to St. Louis are thoroughly documented in this book making it a must read for persons researching their family history if their ancestors were part of that particular emigration. The events leading to their decision are explained in some detail which helps to personalize history. It is lengthy but it a good read.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Zion on the Mississippi: The settlement of the Saxon Lutherans in Missouri, 1839-41 by Walter O. Forster

By John J Flanagan

I purchased the book from Concordia Publishers (cph.org) in order to learn more about the history of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Also, since I am one half of German descent on my maternal side, I wanted to know more about the factors which prompted the emigration of Saxon Lutherans to America between 1839-41. This book, ably researched and well written by Walter O. Forster, opened my eyes to many aspects of the historical record I had not been previously aware of. The conditions in Germany and Saxony, the description of the issues facing the "state" Lutheran church, the role of the pietists, rationalists, and separatists, and how the intellectual and philosophical climate of Lutheran academia impacted on the perfect storm of social and religious upheaval are explored in depth.

No doubt Martin Luther, had he been alive during those chaotic times, would have wondered why so many intellectuals of the time had abandoned Lutheran orthodoxy to rationalism, and sought to be part of the age of enlightenment popular in academic circles. It has always been true that even the finest minds in the universities of Germany in those years could often read the pulse of the ordinary Lutheran erroneously, and perceive that the thinking of the day had thoroughly infected the masses. In my own narrow bias, I do not see the ordinary Lutheran farmer, working from dawn to dusk to support his family's needs, would have become apathetic, lose his faith to rationalist ideology, and join those who were irreligious. I like to feel that many

ordinary people of the day, steeped in the fundamentals of the Christian faith, were protected by the Holy Spirit from heresy, as God, in His providence protects His children to this very day.

The book does an excellent job of describing Martin Stephan, C.W.F. Walther, and others who formed the group of separatists who followed Lutheran orthodoxy, and when the climate of Saxony was hostile to their faith and doctrines, determined to find a new home in America, where Europeans immigrants of all kinds found religious liberty. Interesting enough, the failings of Martin Stephan in both his religious leadership and personal life caused his downfall and removal as leader of the Saxon Lutherans a year after arriving in America. In my mind, it is a testament to the early Missouri Synod Lutherans that they would not tolerate such behavior and sought to honor God and the tenets of the faith by pruning the branch before the whole tree became rotten.

I recommend this book to all members of the LCMS, and to all people of German extraction and interested in the history of Germany and Saxony, as a supplement to other sources. It is easy enough to read, not as dry as some history records can be, and it is sure to enlighten the reader. Walter O. Forster's book is, in my view, a must read. Warmest Regards, John J Flanagan, Oro Valley, Arizona 10/06/12 johnflanagan91@yahoo.com

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Great for exploring family history!

By Maureen Anderson

I bought this because I have several ancestors who are mentioned in this book. It has been very useful for me in my geneology work. It is also well-written and easy enough to read but I wouldn't call it a "fun" novel to sit down and enjoy. It's mainly history and well-worth the price for anyone who is researching their family history.

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