

In Memory of Balthaser

Typed and edited by Kendra Thompson

Balthaser was converted in 1915 and baptized in 1917 by Rev. Fuxa. He was active as a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Lehr which he helped to establish. May God comfort all the bereaved.

My brother was also very good in playing the parlor organ. Many times he would have friends and family in his home and entertain them playing the organ and singing. The night before he died he played one song after another singing the words. One of his beloved hymns was "Wenn Frieda mit Gott Meine Seele" translated, "It is well With My Soul." It would be sad if we would be without a Saviour. His thoughts were to try to do what was right and to seek for righteousness. As much as possible he tried to live at peace with others and stand for what he believed to be the truth.

Already two of my brothers here in America, Gottlieb and Balthaser died accidentally; and two brothers, Christian and Jacob in Besserabien died in the military. I ask myself what does that mean to me? It is beyond my understanding although one can imagine what it may mean for me also.

(The obituary was concluded with this poem in German:)

Endlich hast du ueberwunden
Manche harte, schwere Stunden;
Manchen Tag und mache Nacht
Hast du in Schmerzen zugbracht.
Standhaft hast du sie getragen,
Deine Schmerzen, deine Plagen,
Bis dir der Tod dein Auge brach.
Du bist von uns geschieden,
Vielleicht nur kurze Zeit,
Dann seh'n wir uns einst wieder
In sel'ger Ewigkeit.

(Translated it would read):

Finally you have conquered
Many hard and difficult hours;
Many days and many nights
You have endured much suffering.
You endured steadfastly,
Your suffering, your troubles,
Until death closed your eyes.
You have departed from us,
Maybe for only a short time,
Then we shall see each other
In blessed Eternity.

Please note: This obituary appeared in Der Staats-Anzeiger the German newspaper subscribed to by many Germans—from Russia in the United States and also by persons in Europe.

(The translation was by Dr. Gideon and Eleanor Zimmerman 1999)