



AT WATERLOO AND DIXIE TOO

The story of a United Brethren Preacher named George Muth.

In June 1815, two significant things happened. In order of importance:

1. The first United Brethren General Conference was held. They adopted a Confession of Faith and Discipline.
2. The Battle of Waterloo, in Belgium, ended Napoleon's reign.

A UB minister named Ernst George Christian Muth — he went by George — fought at Waterloo. And 50 years later, he fought in the US Civil War.

George Muth was born in Lippoldsberg, Germany, in 1798. At age 16 he joined the Prussian Army under legendary general Gebhard von Blucher, who would become the highest-decorated Prussian-German soldier in history. Muth was probably involved in the Battle of Ligny, on June 16, 1815, during which Napoleon defeated the Prussians — Napoleon's last military victory. The Prussians retreated to fight another day, which would happen just two days later and a mere 20 miles away...and with a different outcome.

The 1815 General Conference ended on June 10. The Battle of Waterloo occurred eight days later. Blucher's 50,000 Prussian troops played a decisive role in defeating Napoleon, joining the nearly 70,000 multi-national troops under the Duke of Wellington.

Around 1818, George Muth emigrated to America. He worked in Baltimore for a few years, then made his way to Littlestown, Pa. There, he met and married Sara Weaver on June 9, 1822. They would be married for 58 years.

In 1827, George and Sara and children (they would have 13 of them) moved to

southwest Ohio, near Cincinnati. He was converted in 1829 at a United Brethren camp meeting and joined the United Brethren church. He became a licensed UB minister in 1831.

The family moved in 1837 to a farm southeast of Indianapolis, and he joined Indiana Conference, which ordained him in 1838. When White River Conference was spun out of Indiana Conference, Muth was among the charter members. He remained part of White River Conference for the rest of his life.

Muth was described as “a man of strong physical proportions, of strong will and indomitable courage. His make-up was such as a pioneer preacher needed. No hardship or sacrifice was too great for him to undertake or make in order to preach Christ.”

By the time the Civil War started, George Muth had been a UB minister for 30 years. Company I of the 13th Indiana Cavalry was organized in the winter of 1863, and Muth joined as chaplain with the rank of captain. In April 1864, they were deployed to Tennessee, then to Alabama, then back to Kentucky, and would have participated in various skirmishes.

Muth gave what was described as “valiant service” until being discharged on October 29, 1864. He returned to Indiana and continued his ministry. He built a church in 1882, personally paying nearly all the cost.

Sara died in 1880. In September 1882, George married a widow named Mary J. Hawkins. George died 11 months later, on August 29, 1883, in Carrollton, Ind.

