

**THE OLIVE BRANCH OF PEACE AND
GOOD WILL TO MEN ANTI-WAR
HISTORY OF THE BRETHREN
AND MENNONITES, THE PEACE PEOPLE
OF THE SOUTH, DURING THE CIVIL WAR,
1861-1865**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649143726

The olive branch of peace and good will to men anti-war history of the Brethren and Mennonites, the peace people of the South, during the civil war, 1861-1865 by S. F. Sanger & D. Hays

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Cover @ 2017

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S. F. SANGER & D. HAYS

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"A little child shall lead them."

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ANTI-WAR HISTORY
OF THE BRETHREN
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THE PEACE PEOPLE
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1861 - 1865



By
S. F. SANGER *and* D. HAYS

ELGIN, ILL.:
BRETHREN PUBLISHING HOUSE
1907

BX
7816
52250

PREFACE TO THE REVISION.

THE manuscript for this work had been prepared for the press in 1898, but its publication was delayed because some important matter it was desired to have inserted was not then in hand. This has since been obtained, and by order of the General Missionary and Tract Committee, and the request of Bro. Sanger, the work has been re-edited by the undersigned, who by personal visits and an extensive correspondence has aimed to secure greater accuracy and completeness. All matter not related to the subject has been omitted, and it has been the writer's purpose throughout to make it the exponent of a principle held sacred by our people, and to send it forth on its mission of Peace and Good-will.

D. HAYS.

January, 1907.

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PREFACE

MT. MORRIS, ILL., October, 1897.

AT a recent meeting of the General Missionary and Tract Committee it was decided to publish in book form a history of the trials and experiences of the Brethren during the late war between the States. The object of the book is to set forth our nonresistant and anti-war doctrine and also to show what was endured by our brethren, through God's help, to maintain these principles. It is believed the experiences of those dark days will be helpful to future generations in "contending for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" in adversity as well as in prosperity.

The book is to be published by the Brethren Publishing House, and all the profits from its sale go to World-Wide Missions of the church.

The Committee has appointed Elders D. Hays, of Broadway, Va., and S. F. Sanger, of Calverton, Va., to compile this work, and any assistance rendered them by those whose experience comes within the scope of the book will be greatly appreciated.

THE GEN. MISS. AND TRACT COMMITTEE.

In compliance with the above action of the General Missionary and Tract Committee, Brother S. F. San-

ger, then at Calverton, Va., after receiving his outfit of stationery, etc., with which to begin work on our Anti-War History, sent out a number of circular letters to all whose names and addresses he could get that were in the number of imprisoned brethren in Richmond and Harrisonburg, Va.

The following is a copy of the circular letter sent out December 6, 1897:

Dear Brother: You will see from the enclosed statement from the General Missionary and Tract Committee what is in prospect. If you have had any experience or have in possession information pertaining to the trials and imprisonment of any of our Brethren during the War of 1861-5 on account of our peace principles, will you kindly submit the same to writing as you know them to be facts,—in the order and under the headings indicated below?

1. The incident. (Tell what occurred.)
2. The time and place of the occurrence. (Give the date as near as you can, and also the place.)
3. The persons. (Give the names of all connected with the incident.)
4. The history. (Tell all you know about the incident.)
5. Personal experience. (Relate your own experience in this line, if you had any,—whether imprisoned, drafted, or caused to leave home because you were opposed to war.)

Please answer the above questions as fully and

correctly as possible and forward the same for the use of the Committee on Compilation as early as you can, to

S. F. SANGER,

Calverton, Va.

The response to this circular was generally prompt from Virginia, Tennessee and the West, and a number of these statements were identical, which, in order to avoid as much repetition as possible, have been carefully edited. This was agreeable to the expressed wishes of the writers who sent in their experiences.

Then, agreeably to the suggestion of Brother Sanger "that since our early brethren suffered greatly for their faith's sake in Germany—before they emigrated to America—this history should be incorporated in our book so as to preserve it and give it a wider circulation,"—this has been considered in a brief yet comprehensive way in Part I, Church and State. Later, September 13, 1898, Brother Sanger wrote, "I still think it would be good to have a copy of the Act of the Confederate Congress granting exemption to our brethren from military service. It would show that the law-makers were a considerate people and favorable to us." This important document, after considerable delay, was traced through the Record and Pension Office, Washington, D. C., to the Congressional Library, where a copy of it was obtained and is given entire at the close of this book.

The leading purpose of the book has been kept steadily in view—to set forth the nonresistant doctrine of the church and to show what the Brethren endured to maintain the principles of peace and to