

**THE LIFE AND WORK OF REV.  
FRANCIS JACOB RUTH, A  
PIONEER OF LUTHERANISM  
IN NORTH WESTERN OHIO**

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The Life and Work of Rev. Francis Jacob Ruth, a Pioneer of Lutheranism in North Western Ohio by Francis Jacob Ruth

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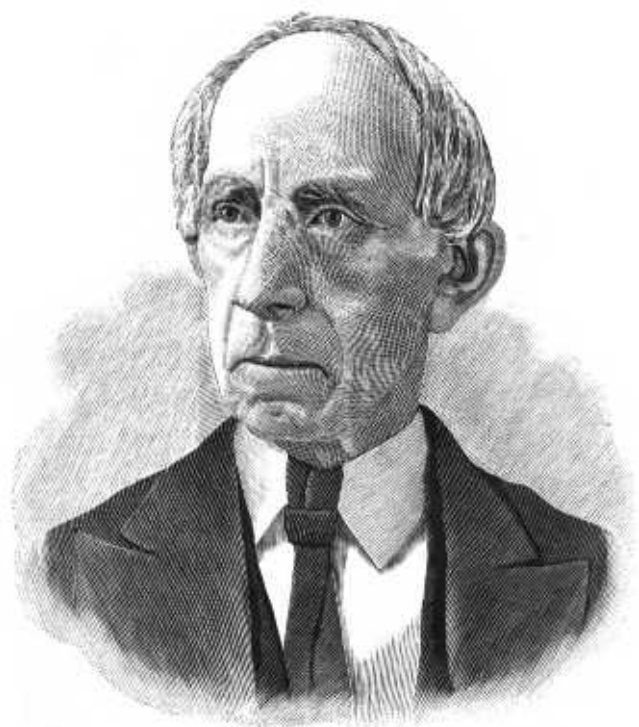
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Yours truly  
F. J. Ruth

ROUSE, J

THE  
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-OF-

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-IN-

NORTH-WESTERN OHIO.

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## PREFACE.

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THE "Memorial Committee" appointed by Wittenberg Synod, at its annual convention, held at Findlay, Hancock county, Ohio, September 24-29, 1884, appended the following to their Report, viz:

"Your Committee would also inform this body, that a Biographical Sketch of the life and work in the ministry, of our deceased brother, REV. FRANCIS JACOB RUTH, together with numerous other documents and papers, have been committed to our care, to be presented to this body for publication, if it shall be disposed so to do: and your Committee recommend that Synod take measures looking to the publication of the same.

J. CROUSE, }  
H. L. WILES, } Committee.  
D. W. SMITH, }

The recommendation was adopted, and the matter placed in the hands of a committee, consisting of Revs. J. Crouse, D. D., D. Summers, and C. S. Ernsberger.

At its annual meeting at Springfield, O., the above named committee reported its work as completed, and a committee on publication was appointed, consisting of Rev. C. S. Ernsberger and Rev. J. A. Hall.

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LIFE AND WORK  
—OF—  
REV. F. J. RUTH.

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CHAPTER I.

HAVING been frequently and most earnestly solicited by some of my esteemed friends, and especially by my beloved children, to furnish them with a brief history of my life and labors in the ministry, in the English Evangelical Lutheran Church, during more than half a century, I have at length concluded to comply with this very reasonable request.

And for the information of my dear children, more especially, I will endeavor to give some account of my ancestors, and of the peculiar manner in which I was brought into the Gospel ministry.

Concerning my ancestors, however, my knowledge is very limited, and such as I have, has been obtained chiefly from some of my more aged relatives.

It accordingly seems that my great-grandfather, on my father's side, came from Switzerland to this country, U. S. A., prior to the Revolutionary War. After arriving at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he was sold for his passage over the ocean, to a certain gentleman who resided at Sinking Springs, in Berks Co., Penn'a.

Being naturally a strong, healthy and industrious man, he was enabled to redeem himself in due time, not only, but ultimately to purchase the entire real estate of his landlord and friend. His ancestors, before he came to this country, were quite wealthy, and had lived in England for some time, during the reign of Queen Ann.

My great-grandfather on my mother's side, came from some part of Germany to this country, and located in Fredericktown, now called Frederick City, Maryland. His name was Al<sup>l</sup>; and was a man who was much respected by all who knew him. I remember having often seen him, and conversed with him. He departed this life in the ninety-eighth year of his age.

My grandfather on my father's side, resided near Reamstown, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and was a farmer by occupation. He was married to Catharine Deschter, with whom he had twelve children. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and died on his farm at about middle age. My grandfather on my mother's side was married to Elizabeth Allix,

and resided in Fredericktown, Maryland. He was at one time the proprietor of a hotel and store, both of which he kept for a number of years together. General George Washington always made his house his home, when in the place, and my mother was well acquainted with the General. This grandfather's name was Jacob Medtart, and was for a time Paymaster during the Revolutionary War. He was the father of three sons and four daughters, of whom my mother was the eldest.

My father was the second son of Francis Ruth, and was born on the 1st of November, A. D., 1779. When he had arrived to manhood he went with a man by the name of Adams, to Fredericktown, Maryland, and commenced the mercantile business. He soon afterwards was intermarried with Margaretta Medtart, with whom he had five children. My father's name was Henry. In the course of time he removed from Fredericktown, Maryland, to Georgetown, District of Columbia, where he took charge of the Holtzman Hotel, and continued its management for a number of years. He was in time elected to different offices in the District, and died on the 6th of March, A. D., 1815. My father was in the war of 1812, was Captain of an Infantry Company called the "Georgetown Blues."

While in camp he lost his health in a measure, and soon after passed away, when in the 35th year of his age, and was buried with the honors of war.