

August Le Pique

Pastor 1852 – 1855

He became a minister of the Evangelical Protestant Church in Carlsruhe, Baden (in present -day Germany) in 1839 and emigrated later to America.

After all the dissension with Wettle and Hoppe Had ceased raging, Pastor August Le Pique was called from Highland, Illinois. The church school had gone completely under during the disturbances, but Le Pique started in up again. He became the main teacher at St. Paul's church school and preached on Sundays in the church.

Our protestant school grew so rapidly, one hundred and forty students, that an assistant was hired for Le Pique. Mr. Michael Seitz, a professionally trained teacher from the grand-duchy of Baden, Germany, took part in that country's Revolution of 1848 joining the insurgents with a company of artillery. When the disturbance was quelled, he fled with his wife to the United States and arrived in Belleville. Seitz took over the school when Le Pique left Belleville.

Le Pique's departure from St. Paul's stemmed from the reduction of his salary from two hundred dollars annually to one hundred dollars a year. The congregation seemed unable to make the necessary sacrifices to assemble his salary. An attitude of enlightenment and rationalism had come over the congregation changing their attitudes towards responsibility.

In 1855, he had to hand in his notice to the congregation, which he consented to do when differences occurred over hymnals.

Following St. Paul's, Le Pique pastored a new German congregation, which later joined the old Lutheran Missouri Synod and became the Zion Church.

Le Pique also was the "resident preacher" at the German Evangelical Protestant Church in Highland, IL from 1851-1859.

He is listed as a registered voter in District 33 of St. Louis County in an area call Butchertown (north of Easton, west of Vandeventer Avenue) in 1868.

Information Sources:

1909 70th Jubilee Booklet of St. Paul's by Reverend Otto F. Pessel. Translation from the German by Lynn C. Koehler of our congregation, 1973

Research by:

Carol Kirby of the Belleville Public Library, Main Branch, Spring, 2016.

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