

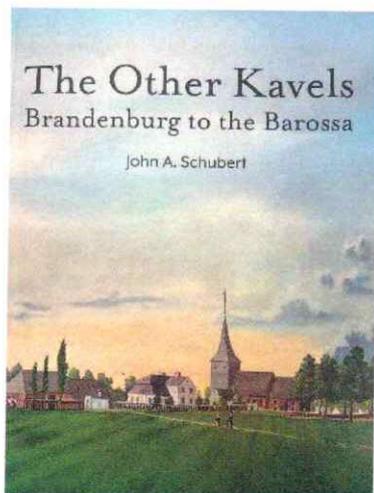
ISSN 1037-2792

Journal of
Friends of Lutheran Archives

No 35
December 2025

BOOK REVIEW

John A Schubert, **The Other Kavel: Brandenburg to the Barossa.**
Bowden, SA: Friends of Lutheran Archives Inc., 2025.



I recommend this deeply-researched book for those of us with South Australian Old Lutheran ancestry and for all interested in factors affecting the development of South Australia after colonisation.

The book provides considerable detail on the background to the work that Pastor Kavel and August Fiedler did to get George Fife Angas' support to bring around 500 Old Lutherans to South Australia in 1838 and 1839. It also undertakes a detailed examination of Pastor Kavel and his family and their relations with others. The writer almost breathes life into Pastor Kavel and his family.

I am not a direct descendant of Pastor Kavel and the other Kavel. I am a family historian whose story links in with that family. Not only were my 3xgreatgrandfather and three of his sons signatories to The Document of Agreement between George Fife Angas and the emigrants on board the Prince George but Pastor Kavel's legacy led my ancestors directly and indirectly to this unknown place on the other side of the world.

Some of the points which struck home with me were:

- the persecution faced by, and the hurdles placed in front of, this deeply religious and determined group to dissuade them from leaving Prussia;
- the dilemma facing Pastor Kavel of wanting to marry Miss Pennyfeather, an Englishwoman, when he had told his congregation members they were not to marry an English person so that the Church would not be contaminated;
- the difficulties arising between Pastor Kavel and the Dresden missionaries Schürmann and Teichelmann; this may have been a factor in the machinations regarding August Fiedler's teenage stepdaughter, Bertha Teusler, and her marrying the businessman Daniel Schlinke and not the missionary Clamor Schürmann;

Journal of Friends of Lutheran Archives 35 (December 2025)

- the reluctance of some of the Hahndorf settlers to honour an 1838 agreement and move again to Angas Park (as the Barossa was then known);
- the stories of Pastor Kavel's parents and siblings and their emigration to South Australia with him; and
- the detail of and achievements in August Fiedler's life.

Many other aspects are covered, sometimes in more detail than many readers might desire.

There are many maps and illustrations and an index at the front makes them easy to find.

44 pages of endnotes are worth reading as you see the superscripts in the text as they enable more detail to be evinced; it is recommended you use two bookmarks – otherwise you may lose your place.

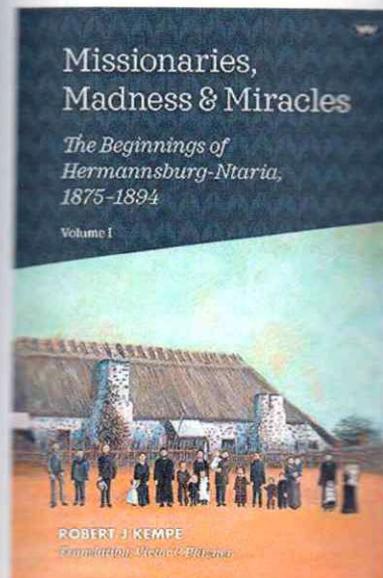
A detailed bibliography and an easy-to-use index at the end of the book make it easy to find sources and locate names in the text in which you may be interested.

The details in this book could evoke further research into the German Lutheran story in early colonial South Australia. There is still much to be told. Some families may have writings from their ancestors of which they do not understand the significance.

Reviewed by **Philip R Mann**

BOOK REVIEW

Robert J Kempe, translation by ...
Madness & Miracles: The Beginnings of Hermannsburg-Ntaria, 1875–1894. 2 Volumes. Mile End SA



of the initial band of missionaries Hermann Schulze and their work. The book is in two volumes. Volume I tells the story of the mission's establishment and the documents created by the missionaries and Superintendent Georg Heidenreich in the early 1870s at Hermannsburg, Lower Saxony. In addition to the original documents, Kempe has included his personal commentary on the documents, linking them together and interpreting any gaps. He has also given valuable historical background to the missionaries' tale with that of their long-term neighbors, the early Lutherans in the Wurmbrand and Willshire.

This work took ten years to bring to fruition. The storytelling is thorough and detailed. It opens a window into the lives of these people, especially on the long two-volume journey.