

SEEKING A NEW FRONTIER

Taken from
Epochs of History of First Mennonite Church
of Pretty Prairie, Kansas

In the spring of 1884, after having been in America about 10 years, some of our people with limited means from the mother communities of Freeman, South Dakota, and McPherson County, Kansas, felt a need for a new settlement and church somewhere on the open prairie of Kansas where land was cheaper. In quest for a suitable location, four young men, namely Peter W. Kaufman, John Stucky, John Senner and Jacob Preheim ventured out to look over Reno, Kingman, Harper and Pratt Counties, centering their choice on this area in Reno County. Soon after they returned, another group consisting of Jacob Wedel, Andrew Goering, Peter Goering and Christian D. Krehbiel inspected and approved this locality in Albion and adjoining townships.

As the Santa Fe Railroad then owned every alternate section of land here, their agents Brown and Bigger showed this land to a group of prospects from S. Dakota and McPherson County of about 50 people at one time. Twenty-two surreys and buggies were used to transport this group from Hutchinson to and from this land. The price then was \$6.00 an acre for raw land and \$7.00 an acre for fenced prairie. This met with their approval, and they reserved and later purchased 9 sections, thus availing themselves of the Brown and Bigger offer to give \$50.00 for church purposes if this specified amount of land were bought. Only five of this group bought 2 quarters each, all others 160 acres each, except for a few which bought only 80 acres, some of these being improved homesteads. So by October 10, 1884 when this church was organized, 30 families were already here, with more coming from time to time.

The following is a list of families that came from South Dakota and McPherson County, Kansas in 1884 with the trek continuing through 1885. This list has been compiled as nearly correct as could be established by the information that was available.

Coming from S. Dakota 1884 - 1885

Mrs. Mary Graber	Jacob Krehbiel	Joseph Stucky
John B. Graber	Daniel Krehbiel	Peter J. Stucky
Christian Graber	Christian D. Krehbiel	Jacob Flickinger, Sr.
Peter A. Graber	Jacob Albright	Jacob J. Flickinger
Joseph C. Graber	John Albright	Rev. J.J. Flickinger
Jacob K. Graber	Mrs. Magdeline Kaufman	Carl Preheim
John J. Graber	Peter Kaufman	Jacob Preheim
Joseph Graber, Sr.	Joseph Kaufman	Peter Preheim
Jacob J. Graber	Andrew Schwartz	Jacob Senner, Sr.
Peter R. Graber	Solomon Schwartz	John Senner
Joseph G. Graber	Jacob Schwartz, Sr.	Peter Senner
Peter D. Graber	Jacob J. Schwartz	Joseph J. Zerger
Andrew Goering	Mrs. Lizzie Stucky	John Vogt
Jacob Goering, Sr.	Jacob J. Stucky	
Daniel Goering	John Stucky	

Coming From McPherson County 1884 - 1885

Jacob Kaufman	Joseph P. Graber	Joab Schmitt
Peter W. Kaufman	Carl Graber	Cornelius Schroeder
Peter P. Stucky	John Goering	David Schroeder
Christian Stucky	John Flickner	Ernest Wenzel
John C. Graber	Peter Kopper	
Peter Graber	Joseph Albrecht	

Coming later than 1885

John G. Graber - S.D.	1886	Zacharias Goering - M. Co.	1902
Peter O. Graber - S.D.	1891	Henry Ratzlaff - M. Co.	1904
Mrs. Peter Graber - S.D.	1891	Jonathan R. Goering - M. Co.	1904
John C. Kaufman - M. Co.	1888	Ben W. Goering - M. Co.	1905
Christian M. Albright - M. Co.	1892	Peter A. Stucky - S.D.	1907
John C. Schwartz - M. Co.	1892	Joseph P. Stucky - Okla.	1909
Jacob Krehbiel - M. Co.	1892	Mrs. Frances Zerger - Okla.	1910
John R. Krehbiel - M. Co.	1892	Ben Wedel - Cal.	1910
Jacob Waltner - M. Co.	1892	Joseph Preheim - K. Co.	1912
Peter J. Waltner - M. Co.	1892	Carl Voran - K. Co.	1912
Joseph N. Waltner - M. Co.	1892	Paul Voran - K. Co.	1912
Christian W. Albright - M. Co.	1892	Lawrence Voran - K. Co.	1912
Ben J. Flickner - M. Co.	1892	Albert Huxman - M. Co.	1915
John Waltner - M. Co.	1893	David Flickner - M. Co.	1918
Joseph Schrag - M. Co.	1896	Joseph J. Kaufman - S.D.	1917
John Schrag - M. Co.	1899	Andrew J. Stucky - M. Co.	1918
Ben Unruh - M. Co.	1898	Andrew G. Schrag - M. Co.	1918
John Graber - M. Co.	1895	Peter P. Schrag - M. Co.	1925
John D. Graber - M. Co.	1902	Rudalph J. Stucky - M. Co.	1820*
Peter D. Graber - K. Co.	1899	Henman Winsinger - M. Co.	1921**
John Goering - K. Co.	1899	Henry Ruebke - Germany	1923
Mrs. Lizzie Kaufman Vogt-K. Co.	1899	Edwin Goering - M. Co.	1942
Wm. Soft - S.D.	1899	Howard Schrag - S.D.	1942
Jacob H. Goering - M. Co.	1902	B.J. Stucky - M. Co.	1916

* While this appears to be in error it appears this way in the Book.

** This is as it appears in the book. Henman not Herman.