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Religious and Educational Contributions of German-Russians To The Development of Rush and Ellis Counties, Kansas

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RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF
GERMAN-RUSSIANS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF
RUSH AND ELLIS COUNTIES, KANSAS

being

A thesis presented to the Graduate Faculty
of the Fort Hays Kansas State College in
partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree of Master of Science

by

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Date July 28, 1948

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10-16-48

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The problem of this thesis, "Religious and Educational Contributions of German-Russians to the Development of Rush and Ellis Counties, Kansas," has been dealt with in various manners by persons other than the author. The Rev. Francis S. Laing, OFM. Cap. in 1910 gathered the historical facts of the emigration of the German Russians to the United States and their settlements in Kansas together with a general picture of their pioneer activities. B. M. Dreiling, the compiler of the Golden Jubilee book in the German-Russians in Ellis and Rush Counties, Kansas, in 1926 enlarged upon the work of the Reverend Laing and took into consideration the field of religion and education in general. Emma D. Schwabenland presented a panorama in 1939 of the German-Russians on the Volga and in the United States. Richard

1. Rev. Francis S. Laing, OFM. Cap., German-Russian Settlements in Ellis County, Kansas (Topeka, 1910), pp. 489-528. Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society. Kansas State Printing Office. Vol. 11, 1910.

2. Ellis and Rush County Jubilee Committee, German-Russian Settlements of Ellis and Rush Counties, Kansas. Compiled by B. M. Dreiling (Hays: Ellis County News, 1936), pp. 126.

3. Emma D. Schwabenland, German-Russians on the Volga and in the United States (Boulder: University of Colorado, 1939), pp. 153.

⁴
 Sallet in 1931 gave us an account of various German-Russian settlements in the United States in the German Language. In 1937 the habits and traits of the German-Russians were dealt with by Marjorie Gamet Raish in her Master of Arts dissertation, "Victoria, The Story of a Western Town." ⁵ Sister Mary Eloise, C.S.J. ⁶ gave us a complete account in 1945 of the social life of the German-Russians in Ellis County.

The aforesaid treatises lack a detailed and complete account of the contributions made by the German-Russian emigrants in the field of religion and education to the State of Kansas and the nation, the immediate problem of this thesis. No doubt the educational contributions of the German-Russian colonies in Rush and Ellis Counties, Kansas, are of interest to the general public. From these colonies certain social contributions to the State of Kansas and to Rush and Ellis Counties in particular are directly related to the religious and educational development of these

4. Richard Sallet, Russlanddeutsche Siedlungen in den Vereinigten Staaten (Chicago, 1931), pp. 32. (American Historical Review.)

5. Marjorie Gamet Raish, Victoria, The Story of a Western Town (Hays: Fort Hays Kansas State College, 1937), pp. 138.

6. Sister Mary Eloise, C.S.J., The Social Life of the German-Russians in Ellis County, Kansas, (Washington: The Catholic University of America, 1945), pp. 150.

counties since religion and education are correlated in the minds of these people.

Statement of Problem

Due to the unawareness of these contributions by the general public and the lack of historical facts in the Fort Hays Kansas State College library concerning these German-Russian colonies, the writer selected this thesis problem: "Religious and Educational Contributions of German-Russians to the Development of Rush and Ellis Counties, Kansas."

In developing the thesis the following plan obtains: (a) a statement of facts concerning the German-Russian emigration to the State of Kansas. (b) the development of the seven original colonies: Liebenthal, Catherine, Victoria, Munjor, Pfeifer, Schoenchen, and Hays. (c) the contribution of each colony to the field of religion and education. (d) the summary of each colony's contributions and conclusions drawn therefrom.

The statement of facts of the German-Russian emigration to Kansas, the development of the original seven colonies and their contributions to the fields of religion and education, are based on factual materials gather from the following: the findings of contributions made by each colony in the fields of religion and education through personal contact and interviews; through search of church

records and parish histories; newspapers; personal diaries; historical books; and courthouse records of Rush, Ellis, Barton, and Russell Counties.

CHAPTER II

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE GERMAN-RUSSIAN EMIGRATION

The historical background of the German-Russian migration to the State of Kansas is found in the life of Catherine II, Empress of Russia, 1762-1796. Catherine II born at Stettin, Germany, married at the age of fifteen, Peter III of the Holstein-Gottorp House, the nephew of the Empress Elizabeth of Russia and heir to the Russian throne. Upon the death of the Empress, Peter threatened to divorce Catherine in 1762,¹ but her seventeen years at the Russian court had made her a Russian of the Russians,² and, anticipating the great part she was later to play, she attached to herself a strong and political party because of her tact and matchless influence over men.³ When her puppet husband sought to bring about the divorce, Catherine, assisted by the Orloffs, the Princess Dashkoff, and others who had long formed about her a coterie of conspirators, headed an uprising of the troops in St. Petersburg,⁴ and aided by the

1. Alfred Ramband, Russia (New York: P. F. Collier, 1898), vol. 2, p. 108.

2. Opus cit., p. 84.

3. Henry Cabot Lodge, History of Nations (New York: P. F. Collier & Son Co., 1928), vol. 15, p. 155.

4. Opus cit., p. 156.

dilatoriness, weakness and unpopularity of Peter, secured all the instruments of power and was declared Empress of Russia. Peter was seized and imprisoned, and probably strangled by Gregory Orloff, Catherine's favorite at the time, July 1762.⁵

Catherine, in spite of her many defects of character, was one of the most remarkable rulers of modern times. Her boundless ambition and tireless energy served chiefly one aim--that of developing all the resources of Russia and of transforming Russia into the most powerful and most splendid state of Europe.⁶ She sought to bring Russia into direct contact with the Western world by importing French culture, sending her artists and scholars abroad to profit by foreign example, and encouraging immigration to her vast possessions.

In the matter of immigration she proved more successful than in her many other foreign ventures. Her first invitation to foreigners was issued December 4, 1762 but the response was nil. Undismayed she issued a second invitation, "The Manifesto," much more detailed on July 22, 1763.⁷ This manifesto, a cumbersome document, set forth

5. Lodge, opus cit., p. 158.

6. Alfred Ramband, Russia (New York: P. F. Collier, 1898), vol. 2, p. 108.

7. Opus cit., p. 87.

in article 6 section 1, the conditions, rights and privileges, under which immigrants could enter her empire.⁸ It also guaranteed immigrant colonies freedom of worship, the right to build churches, bell towers, and schools, (but no monasteries), to have their priests and teachers, to retain their mother tongue, and their own governing authority subject to Russian rule. To speed the colonization of her unsettled districts Catherine II granted exemptions for a period of thirty years from all taxes, levies, and land service.⁹ Military exemption for an indefinite time was offered the colonists and was observed for a period of 111 years.

The Empress Catherine fearing lest this second invitation would prove fruitless sent imperial commissaries to various countries with the mandate to extend her invitation the length and breadth of the countries they visited. In the year 1763, Captain J. G. von Kotzer, Messrs. Florentin and Psanu, all Germans by birth, were sent to Frankfort, Germany, to carry out the mandate. They pictured the unsettled territories as uninhibited Gardens of Eden

8. This manifest of Catherine II, was reprinted at Hays, Kansas, in 1882, from a copy secured in Denver of an immigrant (J. Schyler); from this print the details regarding the manifesto were taken. It is also found in Bauer, Geschichte der deuts Shen Ansiedler an der Wolga, pp. 10-15.

9. Opus cit., p. 104.

and to prove their mettle for results even offered free transportation and maintainence not contained in the Manifest.¹⁰

Captain Kotzer and his two assistants during the period of 1763-1767 induced some 8,000 families comprising 25,000 persons to emigrate from Hussia, Saxony, Alsatia, Baden, Wuerttemberg, Bavaria, Tyrol, Switzerland, and the Palantinate.¹¹ Their outstanding success was due to the chaotic situation resulting from the Seven Years War 1756-1763 even though Germany had a ban on migration of its people.

The emigrants were directed to various centers, such as Rosslau near Dessau on the Elbe; Luebeck, Regensburg, and Freiburg. From these centers the colonists moved to Hamburg where they embarked for Kronstadt on the Gulf of Finland.¹² From there they proceeded to Oranienbaum, where they were met and welcomed by Catherine the Great in the fall of 1763. Different routes were then followed to reach the designated Volga district which was to be the Garden of Eden for the German colonists. The

10. Ellis and Rush County Jubilee Committee, German-Russian Settlements of Ellis and Rush Counties, Kansas. Compiled by B. M. Dreiling (Hays: Ellis County News, 1926), p. 9.

11. Opus cit., p. 9.

12. Opus cit., p. 10.

common route was to sail along the Neva, down the Wolchow past Novgorod. Here they disembarked and began the tire-some journey overland to Torzhok on the Volga, where most had to hibernate for the winter. Others who sent on did not reach Nishni-Novgorod, where the Russian Government had made provision for winter quarters for the new colonists.¹³

In the spring of 1764 the emigrants journeyed down the Volga and docked at Saratov on the Lower Volga, this being the district set aside for the colonists. It was an immense district lying on both sides of the Volga River, the mountain side known as Bergseite governed by the Saratov government and the east side known as the Wiesenseite governed by Samara government. Landing in Saratov the immigrants found that the new land was anything but the promised land and found the czar lands a vast expanse of wild, semi-arid steppe lands, the promised home buildings were nowhere in evidence and the money allowance advanced by Her Majesty too meagre.¹⁴ The immigrants being artisans knew nothing about agriculture, and arriving too late for spring planting, they faced a bleak and hungry winter. As a result many of the colonists suffered dire

13. Opus cit., p. 10.

14. Opus cit., p. 11.

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need and many starved to death. A total of 104 colonies were founded in this territory, 59 on the so-called meadow (wiesenseite) on the east side of Volga and 45 on the so-called mountain (bergseite) on the western side of the river, at a total cost to the Russian government of 5,899,813 rubles.

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The spring of 1765 gave the colonists new hope and they strove to eke an existence from the soil. Energy, industry, and thrift, the characteristics of the German people, after ten years of struggle finally brought about some semblance of prosperity. During the first ten years in Russia the colonists were forced to beg the government for food to subsist and oftentimes had to fight for their lives against the savage Kirghiz hordes who, with fire and sword, annihilated four colonies and retarded the development of many others. The constant bickering between colonists and the government officials concerning the repayment of financial subsidies did anything but encourage the colonists to remain in Russia. Being poor in material

15. Opus cit., p. 11.

16. Rev. Francis S. Laing, OFM. Cap., German-Russian Settlements in Ellis County, Kansas (Topeka, 1910), p. 490. Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society, Kansas State Printing Office. Vol. 11, 1910.

17. Ellis and Rush County Jubilee Committee, German-Russian Settlements of Ellis and Rush Counties, Kansas. Compiled by B. M. Dreiling, (Hays: Ellis County News, 1926), p. 11.

wealth but rich in optimism, tenaciousness and trust in God they stayed on.

The colonies founded on the east and west sides of the Volga River furnished in 1876 the people for the seven German-Russian colonies in Rush and Ellis Counties, Kansas, who came from 19 different colonies of the original 104 in Russia. These nineteen colonies were: Katharinestadt also called Baronsk founded by Baron de Beauregard in 1765; Boregard, 1766; Ober-monjour, 1766; Zug, also called Gattung, 1767; Luzern at times called Roemler, 1767; Schoenchen, known as Paninskoje, 1767; Solothurn, also called Wittman, 1767, these seven colonies were on the east bank of the Volga, north of Saratov; on the north and south of the great Karamann River which flows into the Volga west of Katharinenstadt were: Rohleder, known as Raskaty, 1764; Herzog also known as Susley, 1764; Marienthal known by two names, Pfannenstiel or Tonkoschurovka, 1766; and Louis, known as Otrogowka, 1766; south of the great Karamann were located three branches of colonies from the original 104 known as Liebenthal, 1859; Neu-obermonjour 1859, ten verst (6½ miles, a verst is equal to 0.6629 miles, or 1.067 kilometers) south of Liebenthal, and Marienburg, 1860, 68 verst northeast of Liebenthal; all these 15 colonies were on the meadow side, the Wiesenseite. The remaining four of the nineteen were on the mountain side, the Bergseite:

Kamenka, 1766, 110 verst southwest of Kamenka; Rothamel, known as Pamnatnaja founded in 1767, 25 verst northwest of Kamenka; Pfeifer, 1766, 7 verst southwest of Kamenka; and Semenowka, 1766, 15 verst southwest of Pfeifer.¹⁸

These colonies grew prosperous and enjoyed privileges the Russian people themselves did not enjoy under the Czarina's government. The exemption from military service, the ever increasing prosperity, and the aloofness of the colonists from the natives aroused resentment and jealousy on the part of their Russian neighbors. The friend and protectress of the German colonists, Empress Catherine II had died, 1796, in her place ruled men mostly hostile to the colonists. This gave rise to numerous curtailments of privileges and freedom of self-government enjoyed by the German colonists was infringed upon more and more.¹⁹

Then came the Crimean War 1854-1856 with its consequent drain on the man power of the Lower Volga. Lack of foresight led some of the colonists to sign away their liberties. Then came two decrees, the first dated June 1871, limiting the period of exemption from military service to ten years, and declaring that the laws governing the German colonies in furnishing recruits should continue in

18. Opus cit., p. 10.

19. Opus cit., p. 11.

force only until a new military edict be issued. During this ten year period the colonists were free to emigrate without forfeiting their property.²⁰ But when the military order of January 13, 1874 was promulgated subjecting all colonists to military service the German people bestirred themselves to avoid being drafted into the Russian army. Service in the Russian army was especially distasteful to the German Catholic colonists because the only chaplains supplied were priests of the Russian Greek Orthodox Church --teaching a different creed and not in union with the Roman Catholic Church--and it was impossible for Catholic soldiers to receive the sacraments or to make their Easter²¹ duty while in the military service for the six year period.

Another reason for their dislike to serve in the Russian army was the religious discrimination which eliminated anyone but an orthodox Russian from rising to the rank of an officer. The poor treatment accorded the soldiers likewise made military service odious to the²² German people who were accustomed to human treatment.

20. Opus cit., p. 11.

21. Rev. Francis S. Laing, German-Russian Settlements in Ellis County, Kansas (Topeka, 1910), p. 491. Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society. Kansas State Printing Office. Vol. 11, 1910.

22. Opus cit., p. 491.

In the spring 1874 term of court at Novousensk the right to emigrate was affirmed by the procuror in the presence of several hundred men when Balthasar Brungardt, one of the jurors who had been schreiber (secretary) of Herzog for nine years argued with a certain Mr. Kraft about the freedom of emigration as contained in the "colonial-ostaw" (lawbook). Arriving at no decision it was left to the state attorney (the procuror) who sided with Mr. Brungardt and insisted that the colonists were at liberty to emigrate. A meeting was soon held at Herzog at which 3000 men were present. They, being deeply religious, took counsel from the Old Testament, "And there the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Send men to view the land of Chanaan, which I will give to the children of Israel, one of every tribe, of the rulers." (Numbers 13, 2-3), they chose scouts who, at the expense of their village, were to explore the United States and Brazil. Balthasar Brungardt was one of the speakers who had attended the seminar (college) at Saratov 1860-64 and sat under Professor Stelling for history and geography lectures. Professor Stelling was born on the Pacific Coast, his father, a native of Courland, Baltic province of Russia, washed gold in California. In his lectures he spoke much of the glories and freedom of the United States in America. Mr. Brungardt being familiar with world geography suggested Brazil and Nebraska as

desirable places for new homes, giving preference to the latter because of its colder climate.²³

Five delegates were chosen to explore Nebraska in the United States: Balthasar Brungardt, Herzog; Peter Leiker, Ober-monjour; Jacob Ritter, Luzern; Peter Stoecklein, Zug; and Anton Wasinger, Schoenchen. Balthasar Brungardt declined, and his place was taken by Nicholas Shamme, Graf. These delegates met at Ober-monjour and from there proceeded to Hamburg by way of Katharinenstadt, Saratov, Warsaw and Berlin. A Mr. Weinberg at Hamburg encouraged them to go directly to the United States which they did. Arriving in New York in 1874, the delegates were befriended by Joseph Koelble, a "Vertrauensmann" (man of trust) in Castle Garden. A Mr. Schneider in New York had the five scouts as guests for two days after which they set out for Sutton, Clay County, Nebraska, traveling by way of Buffalo, Chicago, Omaha, and Lincoln. At Sutton, Nebraska they spent a day with a Mr. Grosshans examining the land and visualizing their future homes in the land of promise. Messrs. Leiker, Stoecklein and Wasinger took a pound of soil, samples of prairie grass, some paper money, and each of the five explorers an abundance of real estate literature back to Russia. Their sojourn on American soil was only ten days but the report of the delegates upon their return to Russia was enthusiastic enough to start a wholesale

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wanderlust in a number of villages.

At the end of December 1874, two more explorers were sent, Joseph Exner of Ober-monjour and Jacob Bissing of Katharinenstadt. These two were heading for Kansas, and arriving at Topeka they went to Larned, Pawnee County, Kansas via the Santa Fe. They spent a week in Kansas and returning home reported unfavorably not only of Kansas but the entire territory they had seen, thus keeping many from
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undertaking the emigration hardships.

The village of Pfeifer not wanting to be left out of the exploring picture sent Anton Kaeberlein to investigate the State of Arkansas. On his return, Mr. Kaeberlein reported perfect satisfaction regarding the soil but being accustomed to living in villages he did not like the local custom of living on the land far from a neighbor.

The German colonists were loathe to leave their homes in Russia and to try their fortune in a strange land especially when they heard a different report from each exploring delegation. When, however, the first soldiers were drafted, four from Herzog, November 24, 1874 the colonists began to make plans on December 11, 1874 for immediate action. A breathing period of ten months elapsed

24. Opus cit., p. 492.

25. Opus cit., p. 492.

before any of them were ready to leave Russia. Four families though, under the leadership of Mr. Schwabauer of Denhof, could not be deterred from setting sail for America and settled in the State of Arkansas. Their enthusiastic letters about America to Jacob Lang were read to the citizens of Kamenka and Pfeifer, Russia, causing the wanderlust to rise to the breaking point in September, 1875.

The first group of the German colonists to leave were 27 persons from Katharinenstadt, October 22, 1875 during the reign of Alexander II. This group included Justus Bissing and his family, seven persons in all; Frederic Karlin with a family of four; his two sons, Peter and James Karlin each with a wife and child; and Frederic Koerner with a family of ten. In Saratov they were joined by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Meder and four single men who successfully evaded the military draft: Jacob Lang, Joseph Stremel--a grand-uncle of the author--Mathias Urban of Kamenka and Christopher Stegman of Pfeifer.

The second group to emigrate left on October 24, 1875 led by Nicholas Schamme, one of the scouts of the previous year. This contingent embodied families from various settlements and consisted of 229 persons including

26. Rev. Matthew Pekari, OFM. Cap., History of St. Catherine's Parish, Catherine, Kansas. 1876-1942 (Hays, 1942), p. 10.

their leader, Nicholas Schamme. From Herzog came 71 made up of the following families: Andrew Billinger 3, Alois Dreiling 7, Anton Dreiling 8, Nicholas Dreiling 7 and his two step-sons, Hammerschmidt 9, another Nicholas Dreiling 5, John Goetz 7, John Kreutzer 2, Michael Rome 2, John Sander 7, Michael Storm 6, John van der Dunk 2, Ignatius Vonfeld 2, and Ignatius Weigel 4.²⁷

From Liebenthal came 72 to join the emigration party to America comprising the following families: Joseph Braun 5, Jacob Beil 4, Peter Beil 3, Martin Goetz 2, Jacob Herrmann 8, John Herrman 5, Peter Herrman 3, Adam Kreutzer 6, John Kreutzer 2, John Legleiter 5, Michael Legleiter 3, John Schaefer 5, John Peter Schaefer 3, Peter Schaefer 3, Joseph Schoenberger 4, and Franz Weber 11.²⁸

The Ober-monjour contingent consisted of but fourteen people: John Geist 5, John Jacob Geist 5, and William Geist 4.

From Neu-Obermonjour came 51 to join the German-Russian emigration group to America: Henry Bieker 6, John Bieker 7, John Joseph Bieker 7, Nicholas Bieker 9, William Bieker 6, Frank Waldschmidt 7, Philip Wolf 7, and John

27. Rev. Francis S. Laing, OFM. Cap., German-Russian Settlements in Ellis County, Kansas (Topeka, 1910), p. 493. Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society. Kansas State Printing Office. Vol. 11, 1910.

28. Opus cit., p. 493.

Zimmerman 2.

A scattered few came from other villages and among them we find: Jacob Arnholdt of Boregard with five in the family; Antom Herrman 5, of Marienthal; Peter Quint 7, of Louis; John Bollig 2, of Graf; and Paul Dinges of Marienburg.²⁹

This second party of 229 seekers after liberty traveled to Bremen by way of Tambow, Koslow, Grjasi, Orel, Smolensk, Witebsk, Wershbolow, Eydtkuhnen and Berlin. At Bremen they had the good fortune of meeting with the first group which had been compelled to wait four days for passage on a ship. On November 2, 1875, 262 pilgrims set sail on the North-German Lloyd S.S. Ohio and after a twenty day rough voyage landed at Baltimore, November 23, 1875.

In Baltimore, Nicholas Schamme entered into an agreement with Mr. C. B. Schmidt of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad to have the 262 pilgrims taken to Topeka, Kansas where they arrived on November 28 and made their temporary abode in Kansas at North Topeka, while a large number of men scouted for land to settle on. In company with Mr. Schmidt they made their first trip in search of land going as far west as Great Bend, Barton County, and Larned, Pawnee County, Kansas. The high price

29. Opus cit., p. 493.

of land, five dollars per acre, the lack of suitable locations to establish villages and the scarcity of homesteading land kept the German-Russians from settling in the two counties. They returned somewhat discouraged to Topeka, many sought jobs around Topeka in the railroad shops and surrounding farms.

At this particular time the Kansas Pacific Railway, the Old Kansas Pacific Line, was making a special effort to bring more settlers to Kansas as is evidenced in newspapers of 1876.

CITIZENS OF HAYS AND VICINITY. ATTENTION!

The Kansas Pacific Railway, the Old Kansas Pacific Line, is making extraordinary exertions to add thousands to our population this season. It extends, as you well know, from Kansas City and Leavenworth to Clay Center, Las Animas, LaJunta, Denver, Boulder, and Cheyenne--these points being the terminie of the main line and branches. It reaches all important places in Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, etc; passes through all our principal cities and opens up to settlers all our fertile valleys. Its agents are constantly at work in every section of the Union, and are talking to the people and distributing tons of printed matter, illustrating and describing our State. Our people can aid in this good work by writing to their friends who wish to take a trip for pleasure or health, and urge them to visit the great Colorado resorts. You can also send the names of your friends and acquaintances living east of the Missouri River, and whom you think might be induced to come to Kansas, to Mr. Keim at Kansas City, and he will send them printed matter and have his agents call upon them. In this way

thousands in ignorance will obtain knowledge of our vicinity. Mr. O. S. Lyford is General Superintendent, and Mr. Beverly R. Keim, General Passenger agent, with offices in Kansas City.

Vol. 1, No. 3, Ellis County Star, April 20, 1876.

Mr. A. Roedelheimer, of the Kansas Pacific Railroad got in touch with the German-Russian emigrants in Topeka and pictured a veritable paradise to them in western Kansas near Hays in Ellis County and in neighboring counties. Three trips were made to this paradise and the land shown the pilgrims was near Hog Back, however, their disappointment was equal to that of their forefathers when they were induced to settle in Russia in 1763-1778 with the result that the men decided to return to Russia. But Mr. Roedelheimer had an ace up his sleeve, when he saw their disgust at the Hog Back land he took the men to the present Catherine site, the territory up and down the Smoky Hill River, and finally that on which Victoria now stands. The land in these shown territories was cheap ranging from \$2.00-2.50 per acre and suitable for colonization. Furthermore, the test given the soil by the men proved satisfactory as our grand-uncle, Joseph Stremel told us more than once, "we spaded up the ground and masticated a little of the soil to discover whether it tasted after grain."

Suitable arrangements were made with Mr. Roedelheimer and the land office whereby large tracts of land were bought by the heads of the families. The transactions

satisfactorily completed, the happy German-Russian land owners returned to Topeka anxious for the winter months to pass so they could establish their homes on western Kansas land.

the first German-Russian colony to be settled by the first
quartz from Berlin. On February 11, 1878 fourteen families
left Topeka and came to Hays, and the following day they
moved to the lands where the present site of Hays is in
Section 21, Township 16, Range 10, 1st Meridian, Kansas.
These fourteen families were Jacob Herrmann, Peter Herrmann,
John Schaefer, Martin Decker, Peter Wolf, August Decker,
John Kreuter, all of Hays, and August Decker, William
Decker, John Decker, John Decker, Richard Decker, William
Decker, Frank W. Decker, Philip Wolf, and John Decker-
man of Lee-Clinton, Iowa.

The industrious group started work at once to
provide shelter for the night in a building. That same
night a blizzard swept the Hays country driving killing
snow little livestock they brought with them from Topeka,
Kansas, bringing additional hardships to the already trying
lot of the new settlers. The day is given to some accounts

1. See, Rudolph Schlimmberg, The History of St. Joseph's Church, Historical, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

CHAPTER III

LIEBENTHAL

Liebenthal, Kansas, has the distinction of being the first German-Russian colony to be settled by the immigrants from Russia. On February 21, 1876 fourteen families left Topeka and came to Hays, and the following day they moved to the south where the present site of Liebenthal is, Section 21, Township 16, Range 18, in Rush County, Kansas. These fourteen families were: Jacob Herrmann, Peter Herrman, Sohn Schaefer, Martin Goetz, Peter Beil, Andrew Weber, Adam Kreutzer, all of Liebenthal, Russia; Henry Bieker, John Bieker, John J. Bieker, Nicholas Bieker, William Bieker, Frank Waldschmidt, Philip Wolf, and John Zimmermann¹ of Neu-Obermonjour, Russia.

The industrious group started work at once to provide shelter for the night in a sod house. That same night a blizzard swept the Rush County prairies killing what little livestock they brought with them from Topeka, Kansas, bringing additional hardships to the already trying lot of the new settlers. The hardy pioneers were undaunted

1. Rev. Rudolph Stollenwerk, The History of St. Joseph's Church, Liebenthal, Kansas (LaCrosse, 1930), p. 1.

and set about with a determination to conquer the elements as well as the wilderness of their new land. They built not only shelter for themselves but also for their animals they were able to buy with the little money they had left.

The colony was called Liebenthal after their home town in Russia and also because the Big Creek valley seemed like a garden spot to the first settlers which in time proved to be the case. The name means "love valley" and the settlers had hopes that their colony would be an example of brotherly love to the rest of the colonists who were coming to Kansas to make their homes.

A second group of emigrants who had received word from the first group that Rush County, Kansas was a garden spot and a land of opportunities came to Liebenthal, August 14, 1876. In this second group we find Henry Depperschmidt 6, Peter Depperschmidt 10, John Jacob Schoenthaler 3, Karl Herrklotz, Helen Herklotz, and Jacob Munsch all single, Joseph Munsch 3, Frederick Werth 4, Jacob Werth 4, John Werth Sr. 3, John Peter Werth 3, Karl Werth 8, Louis Werth, Jacob Zimmerman 8, and Joseph Schuckmann 2. With this group came the Reverend Father M. Huhn to celebrate Mass the next day on the great feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary bringing much joy and happiness to the Liebenthal colony. All these people of

second group came from Schoenchen, Russia.²

In September of this same year another group came to Liebenthal and this group represented a third Russian community, Neu-Obermonjour. This group consisted of: Adam Bieker 5, Frank Dreher 6, John Dreher 4, Konrad Dreher 3, Philip Dreher 9, Frederick Graf 6, Joseph Zimmerman 4, and Joseph Rumbach, single.³

With the arrival of this Neu-Obermonjour group trouble arose in the colony when the question of the town-site was to be changed. The tract of land in Section 21 on which the village was situated contained but forty acres and had poor water supply. This induced the members of the second group, Schoenchen, Russia, to come to an agreement with the founders to move the colony to the east half of Section 16, which had a better supply of water as determined by tests. A number of families with this assurance proceeded to build their homes on the new location a half mile north of the present Liebenthal site. But peace and brotherly love were soon to disappear when John Schaefer went contrary to the agreement and deeded four acres of land in Section 21 to Most Reverent Louis Fink, O.S.B., Bishop of Leavenworth, on which the church

2. Opus cit., p. 2.

3. Opus cit., p. 3.

was to be erected. The reason for Mr. Schaefer deeding the four acres was: Section 16 was school land, and the settlers could not pay for the entire 640 acres, hence could not secure a patent nor deed any parcel of the 640 acres to the Bishop of Leavenworth for the erection of a church.⁴ A clear title is necessary before a Catholic Church edifice can be erected.

This generous deeding of property split the colony into two factions and the settlers from Neu-Obermonjour with the exception of Henry Depperschmidt moved to Ellis County, Kansas, Section 28, Township 15 south, Range 18 west, and founded the town of Schoenchen. The others remained at Liebenthal in brotherly love and devoted all their energy to building a church on the land donated by Mr. Schaefer.⁵

Liebenthal's Contribution to Religion

In 1877 the Liebenthal colony made its first contribution in the field of religion to the State of Kansas by building a church edifice which was completed in October

4. Rev. Francis S. Laing, OFM. CAP., German-Russian Settlements in Ellis County, Kansas (Topeka, 1910), p. 498. Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society. Kansas State Printing Office. Vol. 11, 1910.

5. Ibidem.

1878. The building was of stone of the immediate neighborhood quarried gratis by the men of the colony. The humble structure measured 48 x 28 feet, with a sacristy 15 x 15 feet on the west side for the priest to live in. The first priest to visit the colonists was Rev. Adolph Wibbert who put in his appearance March 1876 when he visited all the German-Russian colonies. In 1877 Rev. Valentine Sommereisen said Mass in Liebenthal several times during the year and was succeeded by the Capuchin Fathers from Victoria in May 1878 who remained in charge till 1884 when the first secular priest, Rev. Joseph Harges, was appointed the first resident pastor.

In the fall of 1889 the Liebenthal people who proved generous contributors to religion erected the first parish rectory at a cost of \$800 with the men doing all the work thereby saving a great deal of money. In 1887 a steeple was built on the church to add dignity to the structure and furnish a place for the church bell. In the fall of 1897 the little stone church was enlarged. It had become too small due to the natural increase among the settlers, the colony now numbered 65 families. At the silver jubilee celebration February 22, 1901, plans were made to build an imposing structure and on November 22, 1902 the corner stone of the massive building was laid by the Most Reverend J. J. Hennessy, Bishop of Wichita. This new structure of

6. Rev. Rudolph Stollenwerk, The History of St. Joseph's Church, Liebenthal, Kansas (LaCrosse, 1930), p. 6.

50 x 148 feet was erected at a cost of \$40,000 with most of the stone masonry work donated by the parishioners. The imposing new church was dedicated May 28, 1905 by the Bishop of Wichita who emphasized the fact that the generous people of Liebenthal had indeed made a great contribution to religion in the State of Kansas by their whole-hearted cooperation and generous donations in spite of depression times.⁷

A new rectory was needed in Liebenthal and in 1910 a large two-story stone rectory was built at a cost of \$15,000. This grand rectory was to serve but for a seven year period since a destructive fire, on August 12, 1917, destroyed both the church and rectory. Undaunted, the generous and religious-minded people set about to reconstruct both edifices. The rectory was completely rebuilt with new rock for a cost of \$15,000 in 1918. The present church edifice was restored with some salvage material used to replace the original imposing structure at a total cost of \$50,000. It was completed in 1921 and dedicated by Most Reverend August J. Schwertner, Bishop of Wichita, on November 8.⁸

The Liebenthal colony has contributed four native

7. Opus cit., p. 7.

8. Opus cit., p. 8.

sons to the cause of the priesthood. The first native son, Rev. George J. Herrman, studied at Louvain, Belgium, 1911-1914, at Trier, Trieres, Germany, 1915, and at Innsbruck, Austria, 1916 till the first World War forced him to leave Europe and complete his theological course at Kenrick Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri. He was ordained December 17, 1916 and has served the St. Joseph's parish at Mount Hope, Kansas for a period of 31 years, the first year in the priesthood he served as assistant pastor at Newton, Kansas. The second native son, Rev. John M. Moeder, was ordained May 30, 1931 and served as pastor at Plains, assistant chancellor of the Wichita Diocese after receiving his doctorate in Canon Law, pastor of Augusta, and now pastor of McPherson, Kansas. Rev. George Schmidt, ordained May 24, 1941, served as assistant pastor at the Cathedral parish, Wichita, pastor of Sitka-Ashland, and is now pastor of Schulte and Director of the Propagation of Faith for the Wichita Diocese to help the cause of religion not only in Kansas but throughout the nations. Rev. Jacob Dreher, ordained September 18, 1943, served as assistant pastor at Wichita Cathedral, pastor of Moline, Kansas, and is now pastor of Offerle, Kansas.

9. Rev. John Moeder, J.C.D., Early Catholicity in Kansas and History of the Diocese of Wichita (Wichita, 1937), pp. 100, 140, 145, 146, 149.

Twenty-seven young ladies have consecrated their lives to the cause of religion by entering various Religious Orders. They are devoting their energy and labors to the cause of Christ in various parts of Kansas. The list of their religious and family names together with the year of their religious profession and the number of years given to religion follows:

Liebenthal Ladies in Adorers of the Most Precious
10
Blood Convent, Wichita, Kansas.

		Yrs. of Service
Sr. Philip Dreher.....	1900..*1942.....	40
Sr. Luella Rugh Herrman.....	1940.....	8
Sr. Clementine Bertha Kreutzer...	1932.....	16
Sr. Margaret Helen Kreutzer.....	1934.....	14
Sr. Julia Cosma Legleiter.....	1929.....	19
Sr. Lucina Barbara Schmidt.....	1930.....	18
Sr. Valeria Irene Schmidt.....	1930..*1946.....	16
Sr. Donata Irene Schmidt.....	1934.....	14
Sr. Crescentia Martina Schmidt...	1936.....	12
Sr. Ancilla Rita Schoendaller....	1942.....	6
Sr. Rudolpha Agnes Schuckman.....	1930.....	18
Sr. Emerita Frances Schuckman....	1924.....	24
Sr. Victoria Loretta Schuckman...	1932.....	16
Sr. Victorine Teresa Weber.....	1912.....	36
Sr. Cornelia Esther Werth.....	1940.....	8
Sr. Leonard Loretta Werth.....	1938.....	10
Sr. Seraphine Elbina Windholz....	1936.....	12
Sr. Fidelis Albina Windholz.....	1929.....	19
Sr. Veronica Olga Windholz.....	1932.....	16

Liebenthal Ladies in Immaculate Conception Convent
11
of St. Dominic, Great Bend, Kansas.

10. Adorers of the Most Precious Blood Convent Register, Wichita, Kansas. pp. 30-50.

11. Immaculate Conception Convent Register, Great Bend, Kansas. pp. 15-50.

* Deceased.

Sr. Alvarita Esther Brungardt.....	1945.....	3
Sr. Bertilla Germana Brungardt...	1945.....	33
Sr. Martha Mary Hilmes.....	1921.....	27
Sr. Richard Lucille Herrman.....	1947.....	1
Sr. Ludmilla Pauline Dechant.....	1935.....	13
Sr. Melanie Isadora Dechant.....	1935.....	13
Sr. Olivia Agnes Dreher.....	1930.....	18

Religious Service Years..... 418

Two young men of the Liebenthal parish are preparing themselves for the priesthood. Rev. Gilbert Herrman will complete his theological course at Conception Seminary, Conception, Missouri, June 1949. Mr. Emmanuel Dechant will start his theological course at Josephinum Seminary, Columbus, Ohio this September.¹²

The Liebenthal parish is placed under the protection and patronage of Saint Joseph. The parish today numbers 105 families comprising 568 souls under the pastorate of Rev. Frank J. Urick since February 13, 1941. Rev. Urick is a German-Russian from Collyer, Kansas and has made a contribution of twenty-five years in the priesthood to the State of Kansas. He was ordained June 10, 1923 and has served as pastor in Sharon, Beaver, Wright, and Liebenthal, Kansas.¹³

The parish plant at Liebenthal is one of the outstanding ones in Kansas. The three large buildings of

12. Personal interview with pastor, Rev. Frank J. Urick, Liebenthal, Kansas. June 22, 1948.

13. Ibidem.

native stone could not be replaced today for less than
14
\$200,000.

Liebenthal's Contribution to Education

The first school in Liebenthal was the old church building 48 x 28 feet erected in 1877. The first classes were taught by Joe P. Linnenberger from Victoria in 1878. He was succeeded by William Grabbe from Munjor, Anton Kuhn, 1897; Peter J. Roth, 1898; George Gottschalk, 1899. These pioneer school teachers helped lay the foundation for the modern school system Liebenthal has today. The first parochial school building was erected in 1890 under the tutelage of Father Hartman. In 1917 the present large school building of native stone was erected for the small cost of \$25,000 due to the many days of free labor donated
15
by the generous and willing people of Liebenthal.

The Liebenthal colony has furnished 40 lay teachers for the public schools in the State of Kansas. These teachers have a total number of years of service amounting to 189 in the elementary schools and nine in the secondary. The seven Religious Sisters of the parish have 70 years of service in the elementary schools and 22 years in the

14. Ibidem.

15. Ibidem.

secondary and these 22 years of secondary school service belong to one person, Sister Victorine Weber of the Adorers of the Most Precious Blood Order.

16

A list of teachers follows:

Name	Years Taught	
	Elementary	Secondary
Dechant, Chris.....	1	
Dechant, Peter J.....	1	
Diehl, Edwin.....	3	
Diehl, Monica.....	1	
Dreher, Louie.....	19	
Dreher, Matthew.....	21	
Herrman, Anna.....	1	
Herrman, Frank.....	1	
Herrman, George A.....	20	
Herrman, Hazel.....	2	
Herrman, Helen.....	12	2
Herrman, Henry F.....	6	
Herrman, Irene.....	1	
Herrman, Jacob.....	1	
Herrman, Jacob M.....	2	
Herrman, Lidwina.....	8	5
Herrman, Lydia.....	1	
Herrman, Mabel.....	2	
Herrman, Mary.....	5	
Herrman, Rose Mary.....	16	
Herrman, Victor.....	3	
Kreutzer, Albertine.....	4	
Kreutzer, Bertha M.....	2	
Dreutzer, Vincent.....	1	
Legleiter, Mrs. Leo.....	1	
Legleiter, Mrs. Nell.....	3	2
Legleiter, Pauline.....	1	
Schmidt, Alevena.....	8	
Schmidt, Herb I.....	12	
Schmidt, Stephen.....	2	
Schmidtberger, Georgene.....	2	
Schafer, Hildegard.....	2	
Schafer, Leona.....	1	

16. Taken from Superintendent of Public Instruction Registers, Rush, Ellis, Barton, and Russell Counties, Kansas.

Name	Years Taught	
	Elementary	Secondary
Schafer, Rose Mary.....	2	
Schoenthaler, Catherine.....	5	
Schukamn, Regina.....	2	
Weber, Mary M.....	3	
Weber, Martha.....	3	
Weber, Mercedes.....	2	
Weber, Stephen.....	10	
Sr. Luella Ruth Herrman.....	3	
Sr. Bernadette Schmidt.....	10	
Sr. Ancilla Schoendaller.....	1	
Sr. Emerita Schuckman.....	21	
Sr. Victorine Weber.....	12	22
Sr. Fidelis Wintholz.....	13	
Sr. Olga Wintholz.....	10	

Educational service years..189..... 31

One hundred seven pupils attend the school taught by five Sisters of the Adorers of the Most Precious Blood, Wichita, Kansas.

1. Rev. Arthur Pallari, S.M., History of St. Charles's Parish, Catholic, Kansas, 1911, p. 101.

CHAPTER IV

CATHERINE

The twenty-seven persons who left Katherinenstadt, Russia, on October 22, 1875 arrived at Hays, Kansas, on March 1, 1876. These twenty-seven made up the Justus Bissing family of seven; the Frederic Karlin of four; his two sons, Peter and James Karlin, each with wife and child; and Frederic Koerner with a family of ten. They lived for a month and seven days in Hays above Krueger's store where all twenty-seven were housed in one large hall. During the month and seven days they drove daily to their new home, some nine miles northeast of Hays, hauling whatever lumber they needed from Hays and working hard to establish suitable places of habitation. On April 8, 1876, they moved into their homes and the foundation of the inland town of Catherine was laid. The land these settlers chose is designated as 13 S-Range 17 W-Section 16, Ellis County, Kansas. This section was the public school section and was purchased from the Kansas School Commission at \$3.00 per acre. These five families named the settlement Catherine in honor of their former¹ home in Russia.

1. Rev. Matthew Pekari, OFM. Cap., History of St. Catherine's Parish, Catherine, Kansas (Hays, 1942), pp. 10-11.

A second party much larger than the first, arrived on July 26, 1876, made up of seventy-five settlers.

This party embodied the families of John Karlin 5, Karl Koerner 4, Frederic Meis 2, Mrs. Meis 8, Andrew Schmidt 2, Jacob Schmidt 3, Peter Schmidt 4, Mrs. Schueler 3, Mrs. A. Schuetz 7, Henry Staab 5, Karl Staab 5, August Walter 5, Frederick Walter 8, Jacob Walter 4, Jacob Welz 3, George Schmidt and John Meder.²

These new-comers to America were so enthusiastic about owning homes in Kansas that, when they arrived in Hays, some of them could not wait for the regular morning wagons but set out on foot to Catherine. They returned the next morning and took the rest of the new-comers to Catherine. There sod-houses (semolingoos)--cozy little affairs 16 x 24 feet, standing three feet in the ground, the sides and roof of sod, had been built by the first arrivals for the on-coming second group.³

Four trustees, Fred Karlin, Fred Walter, Fred Koerner and Jacob Walter were elected to purchase the school section for the settlers. The ground not used for the village site was to be devoted to grazing and no plow dared touch it. Forty-three heads of families contributed

2. Ibidem, p. 11.

3. Ibidem, p. 12.

towards this purchase and received in turn one or several shares of land ranging from six to thirty-eight acres. Five acres of land entitled one to a village lot whereon he could build his home and with this went a cemetery lot for burial. But the area of the town lot was deducted from his five acre grazing land. Fifty acres were set aside for the village town-site. Of this land Block 14, a tract 648 x 346 feet consisting of two town blocks was donated by the generous share holders to the church, thereby making their first contribution to religion in the State of Kansas. Another half block was later purchased by the parish and is now used for the school and Sisters' convent. On May 23, 1893 all this real estate was conveyed to the Rt. Rev. John J. Hennessy, Bishop of Wichita and Administrator of the Concordia Diocese, by Warranty Deed, from the St. Catherine Town and Grazing Company. This tract is in the very center of the village and a stranger coming into town receives the vivid impression that the church was built first and that the villagers grouped around it, a picture in stone of the first settlers gathered around the village cross praying that God might send priests to care for their spiritual needs.

4. Ibidem, pp. 12-13.

Catherine's Contribution Towards Religion

The village fathers felt the need of a church building and in 1879 they erected a public school building of native stone, District No. 4, 46 x 23 feet for school purposes. A 12 x 12 addition was built to serve as a sanctuary and sacristy. A sliding door separated this room from the rest of the building during school hours. On Sundays and holy days of obligation the sliding door was pushed back and the school became the church. This was the start, but ambitious as the German-Russians were for a worthwhile church, the Catherine community did not lag. Plans were made in 1886 for a permanent church building. Donations of wheat were made after the harvest each year and in May 1890 the plans were approved by Bishop Hennessy and work on the church structure began, the corner stone was laid June 29 of the same year.⁵

Native stone was quarried on the Jacob Staab farm, 5 miles northeast of the church. From the "Steinenberg," a hill a mile south of town, rock was quarried but in both instances the rock was unsuitable for foundation purposes, so the trek to the Smoky Hill River, 15 miles distant, started for harder rock. This hard rock was obtained from Matt Dinges and John Klaus and hauled by the parishioners

5. Ibidem, p. 17.

thereby helping keep down the cost of the building.

The contractor was Justus Bissing, Jr., who was responsible for the building material while Father Martin Muellders, OFM. Cap., did the hiring and paying of the stone-masons and the carpenters. Mr. A. Druiding, Chicago, Illinois, was the architect. The cost of the 40 x 60 x 45 feet building was but \$9,790.39 raised by wheat percentage, and a seven dollar assessment for each communicant, pew rent and bazaars. The quarrying, hauling, and much free labor is not included in the total cost of building. The Catherine people were happy to make this contribution toward the field of Religion for theirs was the Faith that does not stop to count the cost. The church has a steeple of 116 feet 7 inches making it stand out as the chief building in their town and showing the people for miles that Catherine takes its religion seriously.⁶

Right from Victoria on an improved road to the junction with a dirt road, 6 m.; left on this road is Catherine, 10 m. (2,000 alt., 625 pop.), a German-Russian agricultural village founded in 1876 by the first emigrants to leave the lower Volga region in Russia for settlement in Kansas. Their ancestors had been invited into Russia by Empress Catherine the Great to set up colonies, which she hoped would form models for her backward peasant. Dominating the village is St. Catherine's church (Roman Catholic), an imposing Gothic-type structure of local stone. Its classically proportioned twin spires dominate miles of level countryside. In the church is a revered

6. Ibidem, p. 18.

relic of the earliest days of the colony--a rude Wooden Cross. For several years, until they were able to build a church, the settlers held their services in the open air at the foot of this cross.⁷

The church was dedicated October 6, 1892 by Bishop Hennessy, Bishop of Wichita and Administrator of Concordia Diocese. A mounted guard of honor on horses met the Bishop outside of town and escorted him to Catherine giving the honored visitor a taste of western Kansas dust and hospitality. At the dedication celebration the lack of interior furnishing was bewailed by both Bishop and people and it was hoped good crops would come to allow the furnishing of the building. The great business depression of 1893 made the furnishing project impossible and with crop failures due to black rust in 1894-1895 brought starvation face to face to the people of Catherine. Conditions were so drastic that the children did not care to play at recess time but stayed in the schoolroom to conserve their energy due to extreme hunger. These conditions moved the people to make a vow to St. Joseph and keep his feast day, March 19, just like the Sunday each year to forestall crop failures. On October 14, 1894, the parishioners, led by the pastor, Father Emmeram Kausler, OFM. Cap.,

7. Harold C. Evans, Kansas A Guide to the Sunflower State (New York: The Viking Press, 1939), pp. 362-363.

recited the rosary in common and then publicly made the following vow to St. Joseph:

O God, whose attribute it is to be always merciful and to spare, protect us, through the intercession of St. Joseph, from crop failures. In order to make ourselves, at least to a certain extent, worthy of this grace we solemnly vow to keep the Feast of St. Joseph as a holy day of obligation for all time and to spend some hours of that day in public prayer.

The next year a bumper crop resulted and the church was furnished completely, from stained glass windows, necessary vestments and vessels, rugs, statues, to reed organ. The reed organ was replaced with a double manual Kilgen pipe organ in 1917. That same year, 1895, a 24 x 9 x 9 foot addition was built on the north side to keep the wintry blasts out of the church, "No matter from what direction the wind blows it is always cold at Catherine."

The priests who served the Catherine colony made their headquarters in the home of John Giebler till 1892 when an annex 35 x 40 feet was added to the church to serve as a rectory thus making another contribution to Religion. The rectory was extended 22 feet in 1921 thus making it a ⁸ 12 room modern rectory.

St. Catherine's parish has contributed eight native sons to the ministry: Rev. Norbert J. Staab, pastor of

8. Rev. Matthew Pekari, OFM. Cap., History of St. Catherine's Parish, Catherine, Kansas (Hays, 1942), pp. 19-24.

9. Ibidem, pp. 26-27.

Sacred Heart Church, Larned, Kansas, ordained June 7, 1914. Rev. Joseph A. Wasinger, now deceased, was ordained May 10, 1916. He served the ministry 2 years. Rev. Francis A. Staab, ordained September 20, 1918, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Topeka, Kansas. Rev. Athanasius Karlin, OFM. Cap., ordained June 28, 1919. Rev. Edwin Dorzweiler, OFM. Cap., Ph.D., ordained June 28, 1919, is Lector of Philosophy at St. Fidelis Monastery, Victoria, Kansas. Rev. Paulinus Karlin, OFM. Cap., ordained May 23, 1943, is teacher and superior of the Friary at St. Joseph's Military Academy, Hays, Kansas. Rev. Firman Schmidt, OFM. Cap., ordained June 24, 1946. The years of service rendered by these priests to the field of religion amount to 177 years.

The Catherine colony has contributed a daughter parish to the field of religion when twenty-one families in 1916 started the St. Severin's parish northwest of Catherine, Kansas. Mr. Joe Dinkel donated three acres of land for this purpose and a church 72 x 32 feet was dedicated October 23, 1916. Mr. P. J. Walter gave three acres for a school, and Justus Walter and Peter Karlin each gave three acres.¹⁰ Severin today numbers 32 families consisting of 128 souls.

The parish of St. Severin has contributed one son to

10. Ibidem, pp. 22-23.

the priesthood, Rev. Flavin Meis, OFM. Cap., ordained June 14, 1931. He has served as pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Atwood, Kansas, and is now pastor of Ness City, Kansas.¹¹

The Catherine colony today numbers 410 souls made up of 85 families. Fr. Joseph Mayerhoefer, OFM. Cap., is the pastor of St. Catherine's parish. The parish plant is valued at replacement figures \$175,000.¹²

The Catherine colony has contributed 45 ladies to the various Religious Orders with a service record of 995 years.

Catherine Sisters	¹³ Entrance Year	Yrs. in Religion
Sr. Therese Katherine Wasinger.....	1921..C.S.J.....	27
Sr. Carol Ann Weilert.....	1945..A.PP.S.....	3
Sr. Augustine Weilert.....	1934.. " "	14
Sr. Imelda Weilert.....	1936.. " "	12
Sr. Benigna Weilert.....	1925.. " "	23
Sr. Norberta Crescentia Miller.....	1931..O.P.	17
Sr. Alvina Emerentiana Miller.....	1936.. " "	12
Sr. Sebastian Henrietta Miller....	1932.. " "	16
Sr. Fridoline Isabel Miller.....	1935.. " "	15
Sr. Anathasia Margaret Leiker.....	1896..C.S.A.....	52
Sr. Alexia Anna Schueler.....	1907.. " "	41
Sr. Martina Matilda Walter.....	1907.. " "	41
Sr. Scholastica Catherine Walter...	1909.. " "	39
Sr. Clementia Matilda Schueler.....	1909.. " "	39
Sr. Hermina Sophia Schueler.....	1909.....	39

11. Ibidem, p. 23.

12. Personal interview with Fr. Joseph Mayerhoefer, OFM. Cap., June 23, 1948.

13. Taken from the Convent Registers of the different Orders concerned.

Sr. Stella Amalia Schmidt.....	1911.....	38
Sr. Solana Adeline Wolf.....	1911.*1940.....	29
Sr. Annette Sophia Karlin.....	1911.....	37
Sr. Alexandra Agnes Schueler.....	1915.....	33
Sr. Fidelis Cecilia Karlin.....	1917.....	31
Sr. Bertilla Pauline Schueler.....	1918.....	30
Sr. Bernette Mary Karlin.....	1918.....	30
Sr. Paulina Angela Meis.....	1919.....	29
Sr. Carlita Mary Staab.....	1920.....	28
Sr. Paulita Rose Staab.....	1920.....	28
Sr. Marcia Sophia Antonie.....	1921.....	27
Sr. Laurine Helen Staab.....	1922.....	26
Sr. Rosaline Helen Karlin.....	1922.**1928.....	6
Sr. Adelinde Agnes Koerner.....	1922.....	26
Sr. Anarda Mary Karlin.....	1922.....	26
Sr. Protase Christine Leikam.....	1923.....	25
Sr. Matilda Philippa Meis.....	1925.....	23
Sr. Catherine Laura Karlin.....	1927.....	21
Sr. Majella Clara Giebler.....	1930.....	18
Sr. Marcella Constance Karlin.....	1930.....	18
Sr. Lois Sylvia Karlin.....	1934.....	14
Sr. Mariline Marcella Wasinger.....	1934.....	14
Sr. Evangelis Alice Meis.....	1935.....	13
Sr. Francis Ann Germaine Karlin.....	1937.....	11
Sr. Flavian Johanna Meis.....	1941.....	7
Sr. Robert Ida Meis.....	1941.....	7
Sr. Solana Edna Schmeidler.....	1944.....	4
Sr. Jacqueline Catherine Younger.....	1945.....	3
Sr. Clareann Sybilla Schmidt.....	1946.....	2
Sr. Frances Marie Frances Schmidt.....	1947.....	1

Religious service years..... 995

Catherine's Contribution to Education

In the field of education Catherine has done her part from her very beginning in 1876. Jacob Schmidt had been a school teacher in Katharinenstadt, Russia for 25 years. When he landed in Catherine, Kansas he took up

* Deceased.

** Left Order.

where he left off in Russia. He gathered the children about him in his own house in the afternoons and evenings teaching them the four R's--reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic, and religion. Two years later Mr. Roger taught regular school in the large home of Jacob Walter. In 1879 a school district was formed and a school house of stone built, known as District No. 4. Balzer Dreiling, Anton Dreiling from Victoria taught this school and so did Kate Bahl of Hays.

The parochial school started in 1891 when the parish bought the district school house and the district school was built in another part of town where William Grabbe taught the older children and retarded ones for many years. Incidentally, Mr. Grabbe was the Superintendent of Public Instruction from 1905-1909 in Ellis County, Kansas.

In 1899 arrangements were made for the Sisters of St. Agnes, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, to teach the parochial school. The old school house was torn down in 1902 and a new building erected at a cost of \$4,200, under the pastorate of Father Jerome Mueller, OFM. Cap. This stone school house still serves the needs of the community today. The above cost shows but the cost of material, the labor being

14. Ibidem, p. 24.

15. Ellis County Superintendent of Public Instruction.

donated by the Catherine people. In 1908 another contribution towards the field of education was made by building living quarters for the Sisters under the pastorate of Father Alphonse Hillenbrand, OFM. Cap. This building is of frame construction, costing the parish \$5,000, with most of the labor donated.¹⁶

In the field of education we find the Catherine colony contributing a large number of teachers. The list follows.¹⁷

Name	Years Taught	
	Elementary	Secondary
Dorzweiler, Rev. Edwin, Cap.....	3	26
Karlin, Mrs. Anna.....	3	
Karlin, Rev. Athansius, Cap.....	3	10
Karlin, Rev. George, Cap.....	3	5
Karlin, J. J.....	7 (1897-1904)	
Karlin, Rev. Paulinus, Cap.....	3	3
Pelzel, Felix.....	3	7
Pelzel, Martin.....	3	8
Schultz, Ethel.....	1	
Schultz, James B.....	21 (1897-1917)	
Schultz, John P.....	8 (1899-1906)	
Schmidt, Jacob.....	2 (1876-1877)	
Schmidt, Joe.....	7	
Schmidt, Steve.....	3	
Schmidt, Theora.....	2	
Staab, Alphonse.....	1	
Staab, Euphrosie.....	1	
Staab, Rev. Norbert.....	3	6
Staab, Mrs. Rose.....	22	
Walter, Esther.....	1	

16. Rev. Matthew Pekari, OFM. Cap., Opus cit., p. 25.

17. Teachers' Registration. Superintendent of Public Instruction, Ellis County, Kansas, and same from Russell County, Kansas.

	Elementary	Secondary
Windholz, Albert.....	3	
Windholz, Anselm.....	4	
Windholz, Bonaventure.....	1	
Windholz, Frank.....	3	6
Windholz, Isadore.....	9	
Windholz, Josephine.....	3	
Sr. Carol Ann Weilert A.P.P.S. ¹⁸	1	
Sr. Augustine Weilert.....	8	
Sr. Imelda Weilert.....	15	
Sr. Benigna.....	12	5
Sisters of St. Agnes ¹⁹		
Sr. Athansia Leiker.....	40	
Sr. Alexia Schueler.....	30	11
Sr. Scholastica Walter.....	37	2
Sr. Clementine Schueler.....	39	
Sr. Stella Schmidt.....	37	
Sr. Solana Wolf.....	29	
Sr. Annette Karlin.....	12	
Sr. Alexandra Schueler.....	33	
Sr. Fidelis Karlin.....	19	12
Sr. Paulina Meis.....	29	
Sr. Carlita Staab.....	28	
Sr. Paulita Staab.....	28	
Sr. Lauraine Staab.....	26	
Sr. Matilda Meis.....	23	
Sr. Catherine Karlin.....	21	
Sr. Majella Giebler.....	18	
Sr. Marcella Karlin.....	18	
Sr. Lois Karlin.....	9	5
Sr. Francis Ann Karlin.....	11	
Sr. Jacquelin Younger.....	3	
Sr. Frances Marie Schmidt.....	1	
Educational service years.650.....		108

18. Adorers of the Most Precious Blood Convent Teachers Register, Wichita, Kansas, pp. 30-50.

19. Saint Agnes Convent Teachers Register, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, pp. 3-99.

The list of teachers shows that 650 years of service have been rendered by 21 lay teachers with 108 years to their credit in the elementary grades. Five priests of the Catherine colony contributed 15 years of teaching elementary grades. The Religious Sisters, 25, have a total of 527 years of teaching to their credit in the elementary grades. In the secondary field 108 years have been contributed to the field of education by the various groups. We find the five priests contributing 50 years; the Religious Sisters contributing 35 years and the three lay teachers 21 years. The total number of teachers, both lay and religious, totals 51 with 756 years of service in the cause of education in Kansas.

The Catherine colony has 68 children attending its school under the tutelage of three Sisters of Saint Agnes. ²⁰

20. Personal interview with Fr. Joseph Mayershoefer, OFM. Cap., June 23, 1948.

CHAPTER V

VICTORIA

On November 24, 1874, four young men were drafted in Herzog, Russia for the Czar's army which precipitated the exodus of the Herzog people out of Russia. The following year in October, 1875, a large body of colonists left Russia between October 12-24: Andrew Billinger 3, Alois Dreiling 7, Anton Dreiling 8, Nicholas Dreiling 7, Jacob Hammerschmidt 9, Leonard Hammerschmidt, Nicholas Dreiling (surnamed the "Small"), John Goetz 7, John Kreutzer 2, Michael Rome 2, John Sander 7, Michael Storm 6, John Van der Dunk 2, Ignatius Vonfeld 2, Ignatius Weigel 4. All these were from Herzog, Russia.

Others joined these migrators: Jacob Arnholt 5, of Boregard; Joseph Braun 5, Frank Weber 11, all of Lieben-thal; John Geist 5, John Jacob Geist 5, William Geist 4, of Ober-Monjour; Anton Hermann 5, of Marienthal, and Peter Quint 7, of Louis. All of them left Saratov, Russia, October 24, 1875 in company with many other emigrants making up three railroad cars. They arrived in Baltimore November 23 on the North-German Lloyd liner "Ohio" and

1. Rev. Francis S. Laing, OFM. Cap., German-Russian Settlements in Ellis County, Kansas (Topeka, 1910), p. 493. Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society. Kansas State Printing Office. Vol. 11, 1910.

traveled directly to Topeka, Kansas, where they spent the winter.² Four delegates were sent to Ellis County to procure a town site for the Herzog colonists. The delegates chose a site near Hog Back but it was rejected by the Herzog colonists who sent inspectors from Topeka to view it. These inspectors selected Section 1, Township 14 south, Range 17 west, west of the present town of Victoria.

On April 8, 1876 the twenty-three families plus Joe Stremel came to Victoria and erected on the east bank of Victoria Creek their first dwellings and named the colony Herzog after their original town in Russia.³ The English had established Victoria in 1873 and the German-Russians establishing another brought about the twin city name Victoria-Herzog.⁴

The original settlers found the country in Ellis County to their liking and sent enthusiastic reports back to Russia to their relatives and friends in Herzog and other Russian communities. The result was that on August 3, 1876, a group of 286 persons mostly from Herzog, Russia, arrived at Victoria. This fact was heralded in the Ellis

2. Ibidem.

3. "About one hundred Russians have settled near Victoria during the present month." Ellis County Star, Vol. 1, No. 4, April 27, 1876.

4. Marjorie Gamat Raish, Victoria, The Story of a Western Town (Hays: Ft. Hays Kansas State College, 1937), p. 135.

County Star, "Six hundred Russians coming--Welcome." Vol. 1, No. 17, July 27, 1876.

Mr. Balthsar Brungardt, one of the above group, having been Secretary at court in Saratov undertook to secure passes for 108 families at eighteen rubles per family. After tedious delays and some "gifts" to the governor, all but four families received the desired passes. These four had the misfortune of drawing recruiting passes in the form of red ballots. The petitions to the Russian War Department and to the Minister of War were of no avail. Undaunted and resourceful they sent a telegram to the Czar and arrangements were made to delay the answer till after the emigrants had all passed the Russian border.⁵ The strategy worked and seventeen coaches left Saratov filled with the 108 families from June 25 to July 8, 1876. At Duenaburg they were joined by Mennonite emigrants, who filled ten coaches. The Herzog crowd separated from the Mennonites at Eydtkuhnen because relatives in America had informed the Herzog crowd that the North-German Lloyd "Ohio" liner was a poor one to cross the Atlantic due to the treatment received when they were on board ship and encouraged them to seek a different route.⁶

5. Rev. Francis S. Laing, OFM. Cap., German-Russian Settlements in Ellis County, Kansas (Topeka, 1910), p. 496. Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society. Kansas State Printing Office. Vol. 11, 1910.

6. Ibidem.

Mr. Weinberg, agent of the Hamburg American Line prevailed on some to go by way of Hamburg. This route was taken by the settlers of Munjor, Schoenchen, and Lieben-thal. The others, 1454 in number, arranged for transportation to New York at 38 rubles with an agent of Johanning & Bremer of the North-German Lloyd on the "Mesel."⁷ Arriving in New York various offers of transportation prices ranging from \$18 to \$22 per passenger were made in Castle Garden. These offers were refused and with much bickering an agreement was reached for 16 rubles (75 cts per ruble) per passenger. The Menonites went to Nebraska and the following came on to Victoria: Peter Braun, Peter Andrew Braun 3, Andrew Brungardt, Sr. 2, Balthasar Brungardt 5, Frank Brungardt, Sr. 8, Frank Brungardt 2, John Peter Brungardt, Peter Brungardt 6, Peter Brungardt 9, Alois Denning 8, Michael Denning 6, Andrew Dinkel, George Dinkel 4, John Peter Dinkel 5, Michael Dreiling, Sr. 3, Anton M. Dreiling 5, Frank M. Dreiling 4, Michael M. Dreiling 4, Peter M. Dreiling 3, John Dreiling, Elizabeth and Pauline Dreiling, John Frank, Joseph Kapp, Adam Knoll 5, Michael Kuhn, Sr. 4, John Kuhn, Sr. 3, Andrew Kuhn 4, John Kuhn 3, Michael Kuhn 10, Michael Kuhn, Jr. 3, Anton Mermis 6, Michael Pfeifer, Sr. 13, Adam Riedel 11, Martin Riedel 5,

7. Ibidem, p. 497.

Michael Riedel 3, Peter Rome 3, Ignatz Sander 7, Frederic Schamber 5, Andrew Scheck, Sr. 3, Andrew Scheck 8, Michael Schmidtberger, John Vonfeld 14, John Wasinger 7, John Windholz, Michael Weigel 10, John Wittman 8, Peter Wittman 3, Martin Yunker 8, all of Herzog, Russia. John Leiker 7, Anton Rupp 8, Caspar Rupp 6, Jacob Rupp 4, of Ober-monjour; Joseph Graf, Sr. 5, Martin Quint 8, Michael Quint 8, of Louis, Russia; Henry Gerber, of Graff, Russia. This largest contingent of German-Russians arrived in Victoria August 3, 1876 causing the Ellis County Star editor to comment: "Six carloads of Russians, numbering some 50 families arrived at Victoria on Thursday last." Vol. 1, No. 19, August 10, 1876. The following week in the same paper this item was a news item: "It is stated that Mr. Balthasar Brungard (Brungardt) is worth \$150,000.

The Herzog settlers were mostly of the peasant class. Agriculture was the one business they thoroughly understood. Taking advantage of the liberal homestead laws, each head of a family secured 80 acres of government land. Those who had the means, bought additional land, at a reasonable price and on easy terms, from the Kansas Pacific Railroad.⁹

8. Ibidem.

9. Ellis and Rush County Golden Jubilee Committee, German-Russian Settlements. Compiled by B. M. Dreiling (Hays, 1926), p. 48.

Victoria's Contribution to Religion

Amid the sod houses in Herzog stood the large wooden cross where the early settlers gathered in the evening after work to say their night prayers and on Sundays and holy days of obligation for religious services when no priest visited the settlement. This beautiful custom was in vogue till the fall of 1879 when the people built the church edifice. The first priest to visit the Herzog colony was Father Martin Huhn of the Epiphany Church in Leavenworth, Kansas, in August 1876. Father A. A. Wibbert said the first Mass in the Alois Dreiling home which was located four blocks north of the present church on the west side of the street. Fr. Wibbert took care of the spiritual needs of the colony on Tuesdays in his travels from Salina to Hays City till October, 1876. The crowds far surpassing the strength of the floors caused a frame church to be built on the south side of the Dreiling house. This structure was 40 x 24 feet, too small to accommodate all who sought entrance. This building later was torn down and rebuilt into the Sisters' residence.¹⁰

The Honorable Walter C. Maxwell, a Catholic Englishman living south of Victoria, undertook to build a stone

10. Capuchin Fathers. St. Fidelis Monastery Chronicles. May 11, 1878--June 1948, Victoria, p. 1.

church for the settlers on Section 1, north of the present location. This kindness of Mr. Maxwell brought about a false accusation by the Hays City Sentinel, June, 1877, that he wished to buy the German-Russian votes for the Democratic party. We quote in part Mr. Maxwell's answer to the charge made against him:

"July 16, 1877. Dear Sir: It is a lie, whether he be Republican or Democrat, English or American, German or Russian, to assert that the sum of one thousand (\$1,000) dollars was promised for a church to the Russians--for their vote at the last election. . . I had in contemplation for over twelve months before this meeting in Herzog through the wish of my friends in England that I should build a church--had already promised a few hundred dollars long before the election. . . I have \$700 now in my possession. I expect to have met a contractor for the stone work of the church last week but was disappointed. I hope and expect however to have the church started in a week or two. Yours respectfully, W. C. Maxwell.¹¹

In June, 1877, when the Catholic population at Herzog numbered 400 souls, Mr. Maxwell collected \$700 of the \$1500 subscribed by his friends.¹² The German-Russians were asked to quarry and haul the necessary rock from the immediate neighborhood. In August of the same year plans and specifications were completed by Henry Bergsland who

11. The Ellis County Star, Vol. 2, No. 14, July 19, 1877.

12. In a letter dated February 14, 1917, Hon. Bernard Maxwell states that the Duke of Norfolk contributed 100 English pounds toward the building of the first rock church at Victoria. Monastery Chronicles, Victoria, p. 6.

also received the contract to build the 60 x 30 x 16 feet church edifice. This church served the needs amply till September, 1878, when more room was needed. Fr. Joseph C. Mayershofer built an annex to the Maxwell church and was completed in the spring of 1879. During this building period more settlers kept coming to Herzog and Fr. Hyacinth Epp, OFM. Cap. succeeded in getting the Kansas Pacific Railroad Company to donate ten acres in the northwest quarter of Section 7 for a church and school on June 9, 1879.¹³ By the middle of 1881 there were 214 families with 1350 souls in the Catholic parish in Victoria. Plans were being made by Father Joseph C. Mayershofer, OFM. Cap. to build a large church on the new location. Father Anthony Scheurmann, OFM. Cap. altered the original design of Father Joseph and superintended the building of the new church measuring 168 x 84 x 35 feet, with a seating capacity of 600. The corner stone was laid June 1, 1880 and the consecration thereof by Ft. Rev. L. M. Fink, Bishop of Leavenworth,¹⁴ took place October 19, 1884.

The cost of the third building was but \$8,000 due to the free labor of the settlers in hauling materials and lending a hand whenever farm work allowed them to do so. Fr. Anthony Scheurmann, OFM. Cap. raised \$1,875 of the

13. Ibidem, p. 2.

14. Ibidem, p. 3.

above sum in England and Westphalia on his visit to Rome in 1884 from his many friends and relatives who were greatly interested in the development of Catholicity in western Kansas.¹⁵

The Herzog colony had the fastest growth of any of the original seven due to immigration, location and natural increase. In 1895 we find 275 families with 1700 souls belonging to the Herzog church.¹⁶ The year 1894 was a poor crop year and on October 7, 1894 a vow to St. Joseph was made publicly as follows:

"O God, whose attribute it is to be always merciful and to spare, protect us, through the intercession of St. Joseph, from crop failures. In order to make ourselves, at least to a certain extent, worthy of this grace we solemnly vow to keep the Feast of St. Joseph as a holy day of obligation for all time and to spend some hours of that day in public prayer.¹⁷

This vow is faithfully kept by those who made it but is not binding on their descendants. Incidentally in 1895 the people reaped an abundant harvest.

In December 1905 the need for a larger church was much in evidence and plans were drawn by John T. Comes, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. In 1908 these were revised and modified by John Marshall, Topeka. Building operations

15. Ibidem, p. 4.

16. Ibidem, p. 4.

17. Rev. Matthew Pekari, OFM. Cap., History of St. Catherine's Parish (Hays, 1942), p. 20.

began November 1908, the corner stone was laid October 4, 1909 by Bishop Cunningham of Concordia and the building was completed in 1911. The "Cathedral of the Prairies" as it is known today has the imposing size of 220 feet long, 73 feet wide, a transept of 107 feet and two towers reaching 141 feet.

Rising magnificently from the low houses around it are the two spires of the St. Fidelis Church, called by William Jennings Bryan the Cathedral of the Prairies. Designed by John R. Comes of Pittsburgh, Pa. and Joseph Marshall of Topeka, the structure is 221 feet long and 73 feet wide with a transept 107 feet in width. Built of local limestone and Romanesque in style, its two towers are 141 feet high. The church seats 1,700 persons, almost three times the population of the town.¹⁸

Another contribution the Victoria people made to the field of religion was the free labor and natural limestone they contributed towards the erection of the monastery quarters for the Capuchin Fathers. Previous to April 1880 the priests stayed with the Alois Dreiling family till the 69 x 36 feet two-story monastery building was completed. The Capuchin Fathers bore the expense for the building project. In 1892 another two-story building 43 x 27 feet was erected the same way. The present monastery, started October 16, 1900 and completed May 27, 1903,

18. Harold C. Evans, Kansas A Guide to the Sunflower State (New York: The Viking Press, 1939), pp. 361-362.

has the dimension of 145 feet in length with two wings 90 x 100 feet, is used not only for living quarters but also as a Junior Seminary for the Capuchin students. The Victoria people again donated their services to help establish a training school for young students. The building cost but \$50,000 in actual cash but the donated labor meets that figure. The large church, a \$500,000 edifice, cost the Victoria parish but \$130,000 because the labor was furnished gratis by the people of the parish. Likewise, the Sisters' living quarters cost the parish but \$10,000, due to the generosity and cooperation of Victoria parishioners.

Fourteen native sons of the Victoria parish have entered the field of religion helping spread the Gospel of Christ. They are listed below with the year of their ordination:

19
 Rev. Otto H. Von Linter, 1901
 Rev. Wm. M. Robben, 1906
 Rev. Mike P. Dreiling, 1913
 Rev. Chris. Dreiling, 1915
 Rev. Francis X. Poley, 1919
 Rev. Richard Bollig, OFM. Cap., Ph.D., 1926
 Rev. Virgil Kuhn, OFM. Cap., 1928
 Rev. Edgar Weigel, Ph.D., 1930
 Rev. Mark Linnenberger, OFM. Cap., 1931
 Rev. Valerian Brungardt, OFM. Cap., 1931
 Rev. Colman Schulte, OFM. Cap., 1932
 Rev. Herbert Linnenberger, C.P.P.S., 1935
 Rev. Marcellus Dreiling, C.P.P.S., 1936
 Rev. Killian Dreiling, OFM. Cap., 1936
 Rev. Boniface Dreiling, C.P.P.S., 1937
 Religious service years, 338 years

Two young men have devoted their lives in religion to the brotherhood: Brother Gerard Kuhn, Alexian Brothers, 1910, and Brother Andrew Dinkel, OFM., 1922. Their total years in service amount to 64 years.

The young ladies of the Victoria parish have made a large contribution to the field of religion by entering various Religious Orders and devoting their lives to the cause of religion. Following is the list of their names and the year of entrance into religion:

20

St. Agnes Congregation, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin

		Years of Service
Sr. Fidelis Anna Denning.....	1885..**1900...	15
Sr. Prisca Catherine Denning.....	1889..**1905...	16
Sr. Felicitas Catherine Dreiling...	1888..*1909...	21
Sr. Basilia Amalia Kuhn.....	1889...*1942...	53
Sr. Hiltrudis Pauline Dreiling.....	1889.....	59
Sr. Hilda Veronica Quint.....	1892...*1929...	37
Sr. Anna Catherine Vonfeld.....	1893...*1925...	32
Sr. Lioba Mary Von Lintel.....	1893...*1936...	43
Sr. Suzanne Mary Wellbrock.....	1895...*1909...	14
Sr. Jerome Elizabeth Goetz.....	1895...*1922...	27
Sr. Albina Margaret Kuhn.....	1897...*1900...	3
Sr. Josepha Rosa Quint.....	1890.....	58
Sr. Florine Margaret Sanders.....	1900...*1927...	27
Sr. Dorothy Catherine Vonfeld.....	1900.....	48
Sr. Albina Clementine Kuhn.....	1903.....	45
Sr. Ventura Elizabeth Berens.....	1904...*1919...	15
Sr. Hedwig Barbara Braun.....	1904.....	43
Sr. Firmina Margaret Vonfeld.....	1904.....	43
Sr. Lambertine Agnes Gerber.....	1907.....	41
Sr. Blandine Margaret Kuhn.....	1907.....	41

20. St. Agnes Convent Register, Fond Du Lac, Wis.
pp. 3-99.

* Deceased.

** Left Order.

Years of
Service

Sr. Pancratia Mary Vonfeld.....	1907.....	41
Sr. Liberata Rose Schumacher.....	1908.....	40
Sr. Killian Catherine Weigel.....	1908.....	40
Sr. Herman Joseph Barbara Weigel..	1908.....	40
Sr. Emmeram Eva Brungardt.....	1909...*1941...	42
Sr. Georgine Rose Sander.....	1910.....	38
Sr. Agnes Tecla Von Lintel.....	1910.....	38
Sr. Marietta Margaret Dreiling....	1910.....	38
Sr. Angelita Felicitas Dreiling....	1913.....	35
Sr. Victorine Elizabeth Scheck....	1914.....	34
Sr. Felicitas Cecilia Dreiling....	1915.....	33
Sr. Perpetua Monica Brungardt.....	1915...*1933...	18
Sr. Anselm Philomene Kuhn.....	1918.....	30
Sr. Thecla Catherine Sanders.....	1919.....	29
Sr. Viola Rose Goetz.....	1921.....	27
Sr. Almeda Albing Kuhn.....	1921.....	27
Sr. Verda Ida Goetz.....	1922.....	26
Sr. Virgila Lidwina Kuhn.....	1922.....	26
Sr. Cyprian Adeline Kuhn.....	1923.....	25
Sr. Liboria Basilia Lang.....	1923.....	25
Sr. Emeline Celestina Dreiling....	1923.....	25
Sr. Terentia Bertha Linenberger...	1924.....	24
Sr. Annabel Blanche Dreiling.....	1925.....	23
Sr. Francis Borgia Helen Dreiling.	1925.....	23
Sr. Consolata Mary Wasinger.....	1925.....	23
Sr. Antholine Cecelia Kuhn.....	1926.....	22
Sr. Augustine Bertha Brungardt....	1926...**1932..	6
Sr. Mary Bridget Catherine Wittman	1927.....	21
Sr. Nicholine Mary Kuhn.....	1927.....	21
Sr. Angela Helen Berens.....	1930.....	18
Sr. Mary Zita Josephine Lang.....	1930.....	18
Sr. Appolonia Bertha Dinkel.....	1933.....	15
Sr. Wendelin Catherine Lang.....	1934.....	14
Sr. Raphael Mary Younger.....	1935.....	13
Sr. Bernardine Theresa Dreiling...	1937.....	11
Sr. Helene Viola Wellbrock.....	1938.....	10
Sr. Dolorosa Alice Goetz.....	1938.....	10
Sr. Thomas More Mary Lang.....	1939...**1942...	3
Sr. Mary Donna Pauline Dreiling...	1939.....	9
Sr. Lucy Ann Mildred Wasinger.....	1939.....	9
Sr. RONALDA Mildred Wellbrock.....	1940.....	8

* Deceased.

** Left Order.

Years of
Service

Sr. Lioba Dolores Dinkel.....	1940.....	8
Religious service years.....		1673

Sisters of St. Joseph²¹

Sr. Frederick Catherine Brungardt..	1907.....	41
Sr. Edward Catherine Brungardt.....	1908..*1930....	22
Sr. Odella Mary Pfeifer.....	1909.....	39
Sr. Theodore Beata Pfeifer.....	1909.....	39
Sr. Amelia Catherine Lang.....	1909.....	39
Sr. Vincentia Rose Pfeifer.....	1911.....	37
Sr. Benedict Eva Brungardt.....	1911.....	37
Sr. Conrad Susanna Brungardt.....	1917.....	31
Sr. Baptista Clara Pfeifer.....	1919.....	29
Sr. Rose de Lima Emerentia Brungardt.....	1925..*1940....	15
Sr. Lioba Marie Regina Brungardt..	1926.....	22
Sr. Rose Catherine Lidwina Brungardt.....	1928.....	20
Sr. Norbertine Albina Dreiling.....	1931.....	17
Sr. Laurita Celestine Dinkel.....	1931.....	17
Sr. Antonio Anna Dreiling.....	1929.....	19
Sr. Emerentia Agatha Brungardt.....	1934.....	14
Sr. Mary Margaret Ida Linnenberger.	1913.....	35
Sr. Cosmas Adelaide Weigel.....	1917.....	31
Sr. Damian Appolonia Weigel.....	1917.....	31
Sr. Roberta Genevieve Dreiling.....	1917.....	31
Sr. Ermelina Dorothy Wasinger.....	1919.....	29
Sr. Adeline Mathilda Wasinger.....	1922.....	26
Sr. Virginita Otilia Dreiling.....	1922.....	26
Sr. Agneta Margaret Kuhn.....	1923.....	25
Sr. Teresina Regina Rome.....	1926.....	22
Sr. Frances Therese Albina Billinger.....	1926.....	22
Sr. Clarice Lucianna Richmeier.....	1928.....	20
Sr. Agnella Mary Scheck.....	1929.....	19
Sr. Margaret Louise Josephine Windholtz.....	1929.....	19

21. Nazareth Motherhouse and Novitiate Convent
Register, Concordia, Kansas, pp. 10-41.

* Deceased.

** Left Order.

	Years of Service
Sr. Anna Rita Amelia Brungardt.....	1929..... 19
Sr. Huberta Clara Dreiling.....	1930..... 18
Sr. Anna Matilda Clara Kuhn.....	1930..... 18
Sr. Hildalita Matilda Witmann.....	1931..... 17
Sr. Edwina Annetta Bieker.....	1931..... 17
Sr. Frances Hubert Cecelia Brungardt.....	1931..... 17
Sr. Anna Josita Catherine Hammerschmidt.....	1931..... 17
Sr. Valerian Helen Brungardt.....	1931..... 17
Sr. Laureta Celestine Dinkel.....	1932..... 16
Sr. Godfrey Eveline Sanders.....	1933..... 15
Sr. Cleta Philomene Pfeifer.....	1934..... 14
Sr. Mary Jane Frances Pfeifer.....	1935..... 13
Sr. Concepta Loretto Mermis.....	1937..... 11
Sr. Florence Rose Marie Dreiling...	1945..... 3
Sr. Rose Beatrice Cecelia Dreiling.	1945..... 3
Religious service years.....	989

Sisters in Various Orders²²

Sr. Aquina Helen Brungardt, O.S.B..	1923..... 25
Sr. Raymonda Mary Braun, A.P.P.S....	1934..... 14
Sr. Alma Adelburg Leiker, O.P.....	1935..... 13
Sr. Angela Luch Leiker, O.P.....	1935..... 13
Religious service years.....	65

Summing up the total contribution made by the Victoria priests and Sister Religious plus the two young men in the Religious Brotherhood we find the Victoria colony contributing a total of 3099 years of religious service to the field of religion.

The Victoria colony has contributed 110 ladies to various Religious Orders. St. Fidelis parish today

22. Taken from the Convent Registers of the three Convents concerned.

numbers 340 families made up of 1500 souls under the direction of Fr. Iraeneus Reinl, OFM. Cap.²³

The Victoria colony has the distinction of mothering five other communities: Gorham 1893, St. Peter 1894, Emmeram 1899, Walker 1903, and Vincent 1907. The Gorham parish is under the direction of Rev. J. A. Peters and has 110 families consisting of 500 souls. The parish has an elementary school taught by three Sisters of St. Joseph with 70 pupils. The parish formerly had a high school but merged with the Gorham Rural High School in 1940.²⁴

The St. Peter parish, Morland, Kansas, has a membership of 600 and is under the pastorship of Rev. John Mueller. A modern two-story brick school is attended by 110 pupils taught by four Sisters of St. Joseph.²⁵

The Emmeram parish has 231 members but no parochial school. The members receive their spiritual guidance from Rev. Camillus J. Schmitt, OFM. Cap., who resides at Catherine, Kansas.²⁶

Rev. Robert Meis, OFM. Cap., has charge of the

23. Personal interview with Fr. Iraeneus Reinl, OFM. Cap., June 22, 1948.

24. Personal interview with Rev. J. A. Peters, June 24, 1948.

25. Personal interview with Rev. John Mueller, June 24, 1947.

26. Personal interview with Rev. Camillus J. Schmitt, OFM. Cap., Victoria, Kansas. June 24, 1948.

Walker parish and has 65 families totaling 250 souls. Thirty-eight children attend the parochial school taught by two Sisters of St. Agnes. The parish has contributed two priests to the field of religion, Rev. John Leiker who has been bed-ridden at St. Mary's Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri, since 1923; and Rev. Paul Berens, OSB., a teacher at St. Benedict's, Atchison, Kansas.

Victoria's Contribution to Education

The Herzog colony, now known as Victoria, established public school District No. 7 in 1877 called the Herzog District. No school building was built but classes were held in the Alois Dreiling Home taught by a Mr. Rowe. Mr. Peter Linnenberger, who had studied in the seminary at Saratov, Russia, taught private school, first in the home of John Sander, and later in the Alois Dreiling home where he succeeded Mr. Rowe in September 1877 and taught the public school till September 1879 when the first parochial school was set up. Two Sisters of the St. Agnes Order, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin arrived in Victoria August 29, 1879 to take up the teaching duties of Mr. Linnenberger. The two pioneer teachers were known as Sister Agatha and Sister Aurea. These two Sisters taught school in the church built

27. Personal interview with Rev. Robert Meis, OFM. Cap., Walker, Kansas. June 24, 1948.

by the Hon. W. C. Maxwell which served the double purpose of church and school, a movable partition dividing off the sanctuary. The school benches were removed each Friday by the children, stacked outside and taken in again on Monday morning for school. The Sisters lived in the Alois Dreiling home and continued to use the Maxwell church for school until 1888 when a new school 66 x 30 x 23 feet of native rock was built. At the same time a Sisters' residence was built. The new school proved too small in ten years time and a two-story structure of native stone was erected containing eight classrooms for the small sum of \$1816. In 1918 the high school was set up using one room in the elementary school and one in the Sisters' residence. This set-up proved unsatisfactory and in 1922 a brick school was built, 76 x 50 x 33 feet for a cost of \$30,000. The elementary school was part parochial and part public, two teachers being paid by the district. In 1938 the entire elementary school became a public school. The high school became a public high school in 1940. Today the Victoria district is building a modern high school with all facilities to cost \$360,000.²⁸

The Victoria colony has contributed two Superintendents of Public Instruction to Ellis County in the persons

28. Personal interview with Peter Quint, School Board Director, Victoria Rural High School. June 22, 1948.

of Anthony Kuhn and Joseph T. Pfeifer. Mr. Kuhn served two terms 1909-1913 and Mr. Pfeifer served five terms 1933-1943.²⁹ The following is a list of teachers from Victoria, and the number of years they have taught in both elementary and secondary schools.

Name	Years Taught	
	Elementary	Secondary
Andres, Josephine.....	1	(1894)
Arnold, Nick.....	2	
Arnold, Harriett.....	2	
Arnold, H. D.....	3	..... 2
Bender, Emma.....	2	
Bender, Hilda.....	1	
Billinger, Albina.....	3	
Billinger, Catherine.....	1	
Billinger, Mrs. Irene.....	4	
Billinger, Kate.....	5	
Bollig, Adolph.....	2	
Bollig, Frank.....	1	
Brungardt, A. B.....	1	(1896)
Brungardt, Adolphina.....	2	
Brungardt, Ambrose.....	1	
Brungardt, Ambrose.....	2	
Brungardt, August.....	3	
Brungardt, Bernard.....	3	..... 3
Brungardt, Bernice.....	6	..... 8
Brungardt, Clara.....	5	
Brungardt, Dom. J.....	10	(Prin. R.H.S.. 5 #1, Schoen- chen)
Brungardt, Herbert.....	1	
Brungardt, Kate.....	5	(1898-1902)
Brungardt, Katherine.....	2	
Brungardt, Louis.....	4	
Brungardt, Magdalen.....	3	
Brungardt, Maggie C.....	17	(1898-1914)
Brungardt, Margaret.....	12	..... 8
Brungardt, Mary.....	1	

29. Taken from the Ellis County Superintendent of Public Instruction records, Hays, Kansas, and a personal interview with Anthony Kuhn, Victoria, Kansas, June 21, 1943.

Elementary

Secondary

Brungardt, Matilida.....	3	
Brungardt, M. B.....	7	(1896-1902)
Brungardt, M. C.....	8	
Brungardt, Pauline.....	12	..... 10
Brungardt, Regina.....	1	
Dinkel, Adolph J.....	2	
Dinkel, Bertha	6	
Dinkel, Dominic.....	1	
Dinkel, Eugene.....	2	
Dinkel, George.....	23	
Dinkel, Isabel.....	4	
Dinkel, Peter J.....	5	
Dinkel, R. J.....	1	
Dreiling, Ada V.....	5	
Dreiling, Agnes.....	3	
Dreiling, Albina.....	2	
Dreiling, Alex.....	2	
Dreiling, Alvin.....	2	
Dreiling, Anton.....	9	(1888-1896)
Dreiling, B.....	1	
Dreiling, B. M.....	2	
Dreiling, Doris.....	2	
Dreiling, Edwin J.....	1	
Dreiling, Frank A.....	2	
Dreiling, Gerhard.....	3	
Dreiling, Irene.....	2	
Dreiling, Leona.....	1	
Dreiling, Pauline.....	1	
Dreiling, Philomine.....	2	
Dreiling, Rich.....	2	
Dreiling, Rose.....	4	
Dreiling, Wendelin A.....	1	
Dreiling, Wm. A.....	3	
Dreiling, Regina.....	1	
Geist, August.....	1	
Geist, Jewel.....	1	
Geist, Magdalen.....	2	
Georg, Otilia.....	2	
Gerstner, Cath. J.....	3	
Gerstner, Fred.....	3	
Goetz, Agatha.....	1	
Goetz, Iva.....	1	
Goetz, Joe.....	4	
Goetz, Margaret.....	1	
Goetz, Simon.....	6	
Graf, Christina.....	13	
Gross, Irlene.....	3	
Gross, Lawrence.....	1	
Gross, Mary Lois.....	1	

Elementary

Secondary

Gross, Virginia.....	2	
Hammerschmidt, Ray.....	8	
Hammerschmidt, Sophie.....	2	
Hauser, Ben.....	2	
Hauser, Elizabeth.....	5	
Hauser, Gladys.....	1	
Hauser, Sophie Josie.....	2	
Hayser, Margaret.....	2	
Knoll, Anna.....	1	
Knoll, Helen.....	6	
Knoll, Lorina.....	1	
Kraus, Esther.....	6	..... 1
Kraus, Ida I.....	4	
Kuhn, Adeline.....	1	
Kuhn, Anton.....	17	(1898-1914)
Kuhn, Baltasar.....	1	
Kuhn, Basilia.....	3	
Kuhn, Clara.....	2	
Kuhn, John M.....	4	
Kuhn, Leo.....	10	
Kuhn, Mrs. Leo.....	1	
Kuhn, Leo J.....	18	
Kuhn, Leona.....	1	
Kuhn, Louise.....	1	
Kuhn, Martina.....	1	
Kuhn, Mary.....	2	
Kuhn, Matilda.....	5	
Kuhn, Otilia.....	2	
Lang, A. J.....	6	
Linnenberger, Joe P.....	2	(1877-1878)
Mermis, J. A.....	4	(1899-1902)
Miller, Scholastica.....	3	
Munk, Margaret.....	3	
Pfeifer, Albina.....	3	
Pfeifer, Alice.....	2	
Pfeifer, Esther.....	1	
Pfeifer, Fred.....	6	(1883-1888)
Pfeifer, Herb.....	5	
Pfeifer, Joe L.....	4	
Pfeifer, Laura.....	3	
Pfeifer, Mary.....	2	
Pfeifer, Rose M.....	3	
Pfeifer, Severina.....	6	
Pfeifer, Winifred.....	1	
Polecyn, Loretta.....	20	
Quint, Eugene.....	2	
Quint, Lydia.....	2	
Quint, Stella.....	1	

Elementary

Secondary

Riedel, Albert.....	1	
Riedel, Albert, Jr.....	3	..... 2
Riedel, Betty.....	2	
Riedel, Mrs. Blanche.....	4	
Riedel, Harold.....	6	
Riedel, Helen.....	1	
Riedel, Mrs. Matilda.....	3	
Robben, Rita.....	19	
Rohleder, Bernard.....	1	
Rome, Alex.....	1	
Rome, Fridolin.....	1	
Rome, Joe J.....	2	
Rome, John H.....	3	
Rome, Peter.....	4	
Rome, Mrs. Rose.....	4	
Rome, Wendelin.....	1	
Sander, Alfred.....	3	
Sander, Barbara.....	5	
Sander, Herman.....	1	
Sander, Irene.....	2	
Sander Nellie.....	1	
Sander, Silvester.....	1	
Sander, Wendelin J.....	13	
Sanders, Florence.....	6	..... 3
Schamber, Rich.....	2	
Scheck, Wendelin.....	2	
Schmidt, Anna.....	4	
Schmidt, Killian.....	1	
Schmidtberger, Alvina.....	5	
Schmidtberger, Armella.....	1	
Schmidtberger, Georgina.....	8	
Schmidtberger, Nick J.....	5	
Schneider, Elsie.....	1	
Schreiner, Adolph F.....	8	..... 6
Schreiner, Mrs. Vida.....	1	
Schumacher, Mrs. C. A.....	1	
Schumacher, Mrs. Irene.....	1	
Schumacher, Nick J.....	7	
Schumacher, Peter.....	1	
Schumacher, Ruby.....	5	
Shoemaker, Ruth I.....	1	
Toepfer, Fred.....	1	
Toepfer, Victor.....	6	
Vonfeldt, Christine.....	1	
Vonfeldt, Elsie.....	1	
Vonfeldt, Josephine.....	2	
Vonfeldt, Lidwina.....	14	
Vonfeldt, Malasina.....	2	
Vonfeldt, Mabel.....	1	

Elementary

Secondary

Vonfeldt, Melasina.....	1	
Von Lintel, Mary.....	1	
Von Lintel, Mary.....	1	
Wasinger, Adolph J.....	4	
Wasinger, Augusta.....	3	
Wasinger, Wm.....	1	
Weigel, Anselm.....	8	
Weigel, B. A.....	3	
Weigel, Ben.....	1	
Weigel, Celestine.....	4	
Weigel, Clara.....	4	
Weigel, Rev. Edgar.....	3	..... 1
Weigel, Eleanor.....	2	
Weigel, Elsie.....	3	
Weigel, Fred, Jr.....	2	
Weigel, Harold.....	1	
Weigel, Hattie.....	2	
Weigel, Ida.....	2	
Weigel, Joe.....	6	
Weigel, Joe J.....	1	
Weigel, Joe, Jr.....	1	
Weigel, Lidwina.....	4	
Weigel, Lydia.....	2	
Weigel, Maurice.....	2	
Weigel, O. P.....	3	..... 4
Weigel, Otto.....	3	
Weigel, Pauline.....	3	
Weigel, Philipa.....	1	
Wittman, Basilia.....	1	
Wittman, Ella.....	4	
Wittman, Genevieve.....	7	
Younger, Mildred.....	3	

Educational service years..722.....53

30

Sisters of St. Agnes

Sr. Angelita Dreiling.....	21	.....14
Sr. Donna Dreiling.....	9	
Sr. Felicitas Dreiling.....	21	
Sr. Felicitas Dreiling.....	33	(music)
Sr. Francis Borgia Dreiling...	20	

30. Taken from the Teachers Register of the Religious Orders concerned.

Elementary

Secondary

Sr. Lambertine Gerber.....	41	
Sr. Verda Goetz.....	26	
Sr. Viola Goetz.....	27	
Sr. Almeda Kuhn.....	3	24
Sr. Antholine Kuhn.....	15	
Sr. Basilia Kuhn.....	44	
Sr. Hilda Quint.....	35	
Sr. Josepha Quint.....	43	
Sr. Georgine Sander.....	24	14
Sr. Victorine Scheck.....	18	
Sr. Liberata Schumacher.....	40	
Sr. Anna Vonfeld.....	32	
Sr. Anges Von Lintel.....	32	6
Sr. Lioba Von Lintel.....	33	
Sr. Consolata Wasinger.....	23	
Sr. Lucy Ann Wasinger.....	9	
Sr. Melene Wellbrock.....	10	
Sr. RONALDA Wellbrock.....	8	
Sr. Bridget Wittman.....	21	
Sr. Raymonda Braun, A.P.P.S...	12	
Sr. Lioba Brungardt.....	19	
Sr. Agneta Kuhn.....	19	
Sr. Amelia Lang.....	10	22
Sr. Theodore Pfeifer, C.S.J..	32	
Sr. Vincentia Pfeifer.....	10	20
Sr. Cyrilla Richmeier.....	19	
Sr. Tersina Rome.....	15	
Sr. Serena Rome.....	19	
Sr. Godfrey Sanders.....	13	
Sr. Ermelina Wasinger.....	23	
Sr. Cosmas Weigel.....	10	15

Educational service years. 789.....125

Glancing at the list of teachers we find that the lay teachers contributed 722 years of service in the elementary level and 53 years in the secondary. This contribution was made by 208 lay teachers of the Victoria colony to the field of education in the State of Kansas

The religious Sister teachers, 36 in number,

contributed 789 years of teaching on the elementary level and 125 years on the secondary.

The Victoria colony today has both elementary and secondary schools under a district set-up. In the elementary school eight teachers are employed teaching 350 pupils and in the secondary, eleven teachers minister to 150 students.

31

31. Personal interview with Fr. Iraeneus Reinl, OFM. Cap., June 22, 1948, Victoria, Kansas.

CHAPTER VI

MUNJOR

Munjour, Kansas, located on the west side of Big Creek, Section 25, Wheatland Township 14, Range 17, Ellis County, was founded by emigrants from Obermonjour, Herzog, Wittman, Marienthal, Schoenchen and Gattung, Russia. They came by way of Hamburg-New York leaving Saratov, Russia July 8, 1876. At Eydkuhnen the party separated, the emigrants from Herzog decided to go to America by way of Bremen on a North-American Lloyd liner, the others chose¹ Hamburg as the point of embarkation.

These founders of Munjour were: Jacob Engel, John Berg 5, Frank Leiker 4, Henry Leiker 4, Jacob Leiker 4, Joseph Leiker 3, Konrad Leiker 3, Michael Leiker 4, Nicholas Leiker 4, Peter Leiker 6, all of Obermonjour, Russia. From Wittman, Russia, came John Dechant 4, John Herl 6, Henry Miller 2, Henry Ruder 7, Stanislaus Ruder 3, Joseph Schreibvogel, Anton Schumacher 5, George Schumacher 3, Henry Schumacher 4, and Mrs. Catherine Schumacher 5. From Marienthal, Russia came Nicholas Eberle 6, Peter Gross 5, Mathias Rohr 6, Peter Rohr 4. From Gattung,

1. Ellis and Rush County Jubilee Committee, German-Russian Settlements of Ellis County, Kansas. Compiled by B. M. Dreiling (Hays: Ellis County News, 1926), p. 60.

Russia came Peter Stoecklein 7, Anton Schneider 5, and the John Goetz family consisting of six members from Herzog. From Schoenchen, Russia came Anton Wasinger 8,² and Anton Wasinger, Jr. 4.

Arriving in New York towards the end of July they wended their way westward and stopped over several days in Herzog, Kansas, in the meantime exploring the territory on and near Big Creek. They moved to a place on the creek north of the present Munjor site. Spending two months on that site they decided to move farther south and built their homes in Section 25 of the present Munjor site. The Ellis County Star, Vol. 1, No. 17, July 27, 1876 announced their arrival: "Two carloads of Russians arrived here Wednesday morning. The two car-loads contained but ten families--eleven to the family." The editor in a later issue editorialized: "Our county is settling up rapidly. A large majority of Russians arriving in Kansas during the past year have settled within its boundaries, and without doubt, all those on their way to the state will do the same." Vol. 1, No. 23, August 31, 1876. The editor's statement that all those on their way to the state will settle in Ellis County was true. Before the end of 1876

2. Rev. Francis S. Laing, OFM. Cap., German-Russian Settlements in Ellis County, Kansas (Topeka, 1910), p. 497. Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society. Kansas State Printing Office. Vol. 11, 1910.

more emigrants arrived to settle in Munjor:³ Anton Befort 3, Konrad Befort 3, Michael Graf, Christina Herl, John Klaus 3, John Krannawitter, Jacob Leiker 4, Jacob Leiker 4, Jacob Pfannenstiel all from Obermonjour, Russia. August 1878 brought Gerard Befort 6, Anton Dechant 4, Carl Dechant 5, Jacob Engel 6, Peter Klaus 8, John Pfannenstiel 5, Conrad Rupp 9, John Stoecklein from Obermonjour, Russia. Two weeks later Anton Gabel joined the colonists at Munjor.

Munjor has the distinction of having three of the five original explorers of 1874 make their homes in its boundaries, Peter Leiker, Obermonjour; Peter Stoecklein, Zug; and Anton Wasinger, Schoenchen, Russia.⁴

The same year the colonists arrived at Munjor they purchased Section 25, Township 14, Range 17 and organized the Munjor Land and Grazing Company without any legal status. This company, on October 11, 1882 at the suggestion of John Schlyer, called the "Russenvater" because of his many helpful and kind deeds to the colonists, was incorporated. Part of the section was surveyed by G. R. Wolf for the town site, each holder of a lot being a member of the Munjor Land and Grazing Company. The remainder served as grazing land for the use of all members.

3. Ibidem, p. 498.

4. Ibidem, p. 500.

The charter, printed at Hays in 1882, required that the company shall continue fifty years, that five directors be its officers; president, secretary and treasurer; that the capital be \$10,000, divided into 200 shares of \$50 each; that no interest in land holdings of the company be mortgaged, sold or transferred without the consent of two-thirds of the members. The by-laws required quarterly meetings (Art. 6) and an annual election of directors (Art. 2.) The cattle charge per month was ten cents in 1888; 15 cents in 1895; and 10 cents in 1898 as recorded in the minutes of the company, page 66. On August 15, 1888, the south half of the section was sold. In 1897 an effort to disband the company failed. The court, February 20, 1897 upheld the conservative party. In January 1899, deeds were given for the town lots only. Unfortunately for the peace of the colony, the settlers were incapable of properly handling the corporation affairs and two factions developed in Munjor with many fights and quarrels resulting. After futile attempts to settle matters in court, the two factions settled their affairs out of court, the Munjor Town and Grazing Company was dissolved and peace again reigned in Munjor much to the relief and satisfaction of all Munjor settlers.

5. Ibidem, p. 514.

Munjor's Contribution to Religion

Next to home and family, the object of greatest concern to the Munjor settlers was the House of God. And thus in Munjor we find the people, immediately after completing their own houses, casting about for means to build a suitable church. As early as 1877 they succeeded in erecting a small frame church 40 x 20 feet with foot boards walled out with rocks and slats on the outside over the foot board cracks. During its construction, Mass was said by Father Wibbert and Father Sommereisen in private homes, the first being said in the home of Anton Wasinger. The two priests came once a month. On the other Sundays the Munjor people went to Fort Hays whenever the Army Chaplain said Mass there.

In 1878 the Capuchin Fathers from Victoria took charge of the parish and have had it as their charge ever since. The church built in 1877 soon proved too small and a sixteen foot addition was added. The corner stone of the stone structure was laid on Passion Sunday, 1889, the dedication on Trinity Sunday, 1890 performed by Rev. Francis Wolf, OFM. Cap.⁶

In 1931 fire of unknown origin destroyed the structure of 1889 which was restored in 1932-1933 at the low cost of

6. Ibidem, p. 507.

\$25,000 due to much free labor. The present hospice was built in August 1902 at the low figure of \$5,000. The parish plant today is valued at \$150,000.⁷

The Munjor parish has given five sons to the priesthood. Rev. Celestine Pfannenstiel, ordained June 10, 1930, is now located in Silver Springs, Maryland, doing missionary work in the United States and at times conducts missions in Kansas. Rev. Celestine I. Rohr, OFM. Cap., ordained June 10, 1940, is a printer in the religious book shop of the Capuchin Order, Alverno, Pennsylvania. Rev. Hyacinth Grabbe, OFM. Cap., ordained June 14, 1931 helps in religious work in Ellis County and teaches at St. Joseph's Military Academy, Hays, Kansas. Rev. Herman Joseph Leiker, OFM. Cap., ordained September 22, 1918 is now pastor at Wheeling, West Virginia. Rev. Raphael Engel, OFM. Cap., ordained June 10, 1925, is pastor of the Atwood Parish and the Capuchin Missions in northwest Kansas.⁸

Two of the young men of the parish joined the Brothers of the Capuchin Order and are devoting their lives to religion in St. Fidelis Monastery, Victoria, Kansas.

7. St. Francis Church Records, Munjor, Kansas, pp. 10-30.

8. Catalogue of the Capuchins, Pennsylvania Province (Pittsburgh: St. Joseph's Protectory Press, 1940), pp. 104-26.

Brother Paschal Leiker, July 13, 1926 and Brother Eldred Herrman, May, 19, 1931.⁹

Another contribution of the Munjor colony is the Our Lady of Help parish in Antonino, Kansas, started in 1906. Father Walter Herrmann, OFM. Cap. is the pastor and has 59 families with 330 souls belonging to his parish. In the school three Sisters of St. Agnes Order teach 67 children.¹⁰

The Munjor colony made a large contribution to the Sacred Heart parish in Ness City, Kansas, where today a large parish of 150 families is under the pastorship of Rev. Flavin Meis, OFM. Cap., a native son of Severin, the daughter parish of Catherine, Kansas.¹¹

The Munjor colony today has 90 families totaling 460 souls and has 97 children in school with four teachers of the St. Agnes Order of Sisters in charge. The Munjor parish is administered to by Father Ignatius Weisbruch, OFM. Cap.¹²

9. Ibidem, pp. 126-127.

10. Personal interview with Rev. Walter Herrmann, OFM. Cap., Munjor, Kansas. June 24, 1948.

11. Personal interview with Rev. Flavin Meis, OFM. Cap., Hays, Kansas. June 21, 1948.

12. Personal interview with Rev. Ignatius Weisbruch, OFM. Cap., Munjor, Kansas. June 24, 1948.

The religious contributions made by 62 young ladies follows:

13

Sisters of St. Agnes, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin

		Years of Service
Sr. Hortulana Anna Leiker.....	1891..*1919....	28
Sr. Rose Mary Ruder.....	1903.....	45
Sr. Marina Catherine Goetz.....	1903.....	45
Sr. Aquina Catherine Leiker.....	1904.....	44
Sr. Felicia Appolonia Wasinger.....	1908.....	40
Sr. Rosaline Josephine Ruder.....	1908.**1918...	10
Sr. Laurentia Anna Denning.....	1909.**1938...	29
Sr. Clarita Pauline Klaus.....	1912.....	36
Sr. Laurinda Elizabeth Pfannenstiel	1914.*1944....	30
Sr. Florian Germaine Pfannenstiel..	1916.....	32
Sr. Silveria Emma Boos.....	1922.....	26
Sr. Clemenza Agnes Wasinger.....	1922.....	26
Sr. Agnes Mary Grabbe.....	1922.....	26
Sr. Antonius Regina Gabel.....	1926.....	22
Sr. Audrey Bertha Pfannenstiel.....	1933.....	15
Sr. Virgil Mary Pfannenstiel.....	1934.....	14
Sr. Carmelyn Irene Pfannenstiel....	1936.....	12
Sr. Flavia Lidwina Herl.....	1937.....	11
Sr. Waltrude Dorothy Leiker.....	1942.**1946...	4

Religious service years..... 495

Munior Sisters of St. Joseph, Concordia¹⁴

Sr. Leonilla Anna Sauer.....	1921.....	27
Sr. Marie Alma Victoria Grabbe.....	1921.....	27
Sr. Frances Cunnigunda Grabbe.....	1923.....	25
Sr. Teresita Agnes Fisher.....	1924.....	24
Sr. Agnese Martina Grabbe.....	1929.....	19
Sr. Celestine Rosaline Ruder.....	1935.....	13
Sr. Gaudentia Caroline Kronewitter.	1937.....	11
Sr. Agatha Barbara Reichert.....	1939.....	9
Sr. Firmina Alexia Befort.....	1941.....	7
Sr. Lillian Seraphine Urban.....	1941.....	7

13. St. Agnes Convent Register, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, pp. 3-99.

14. Nazereth Motherhouse and Novitiate Register, Concordia, Kansas. pp. 10-40.

* Deceased.
** Left Order

Sisters of Most Precious Blood, Wichita

		Years of Service
Sr. Alban Matilda Rohr.....	1918.....	30
Sr. Petronilla Philomenia Leiker...	1920.....	28
Sr. Cyril Mary Leiker.....	1924..*1948....	24
Sr. Hilda Gertrude Gabel.....	1926.....	22
Sr. Juliana Alice Schiffelbein.....	1926.....	22
Sr. Charlotte Phillipa Rohr.....	1928.....	20
Sr. Lovola Ida Pfannenstiel.....	1929.....	19
Sr. Hildegarde Bridget Leiker.....	1929.....	19
Sr. Reinolda Rosalia Korbe.....	1929.....	19
Sr. Bertina Helen Schiffelbein.....	1930.....	18
Sr. Paulette Irene Schiffelbein....	1932.....	16
Sr. Ethelberta Bernita Leiker.....	1932.....	16
Sr. Roberta Bridget Graf.....	1932.....	16
Sr. Bertha Angeline Leiker.....	1933.....	15
Sr. Boniface Martina Schiffelbein..	1934.....	14
Sr. Adrian Florine Stecklein.....	1934.....	14
Sr. Teresita Angela Gable.....	1934.....	14
Sr. Albertine Mary Hertel.....	1934.....	14
Sr. Theodora Ausgusta Pfannenstiel.	1936.....	12
Sr. Thomasine Edna Stecklein.....	1937.....	11
Sr. Lillian Katherine Stecklein....	1937.....	11
Sr. Constance Agnes Pfannenstiel...	1938.....	10
Sr. Clarita Virginia Stecklein.....	1938.....	10
Sr. Serena Dorothy Pfannenstiel....	1938.....	10
Sr. Louise Reinolda Gabel.....	1938.....	10
Sr. Isabella Olinda Stecklein.....	1939..*1946....	7
Sr. Isidore Bernice Pfannenstiel...	1940.....	8
Sr. Joyce Velma Stecklein.....	1941.....	7
Sr. Herman Agnes Hertel.....	1943.....	5

Sisters of St. Dominic, Great Bend, Kansas¹⁶

Sr. Mary Rose Mary Engel.....	1933.....	15
Sr. Seraphine Isabel Grabbe.....	1939.....	9

15. Sister Adorers of the Most Precious Blood Register, Wichita, Kansas, pp. 30-50.

16. Immaculate Conception Convent Register, Great Bend, Kansas, pp. 15-50.

* Deceased.

** Left Order.

	Years of Service
Sr. Regina Bernice Leiker..... 1939.....	9
Sr. Ellen Florentine Dater..... 1946.....	2
Religious service years.....	1134

To the field of religion the Munjor colony has contributed 1134 years of religious service by means of its 62 young ladies who have foresaken the world and have taken on Christ. Those belonging to the Sisters of Saint Agnes Convent, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, contributed 495 years; The Saint Joseph Sisters, Concordia, Kansas, 169 years; the Adorers of the Most Precious Blood, Wichita, Kansas, contributed 442 years; and the Dominicans of the Immaculate Conception Convent, Great Bend, Kansas, contributed 28 years.

Munjor's Contribution to Education

When it comes to the field of education the Munjor colony got off to a slow start. The people were poor when they landed from Russia and needed their children on the farm. However, in 1880 they started to attend the public school on the "hill" taught by Art N. Bailey. The Sisters of St. Agnes took over the teaching in 1885 and Mr. Conrad Leiker bought all the school books for the children because of the poverty of the parents. The frame church built in 1877 served as the school building until the new one 74 x 36 x 37 feet of natural rock was built in 1890 at a cost

of \$10,000, the cost of the building being kept at a minimum through the free labor of the parishioners.

Although the Munjor colony started slowly it has made a large contribution to the field of education in the last thirty years. Munjor furnished a Superintendent of Public Instruction for Ellis County, 1905-1909 in the person of William Grabbe who taught district schools for nineteen years.¹⁷ The Munjor educational contributions are listed below.

Names ¹⁸	Years Taught	
	Elementary	Secondary
Sr. Mary Rose Engel, O.P.....	7	
Sr. Teresita Fisher, C.S.J.....	18	
Sr. Antonius Gabel, C.S.A.....	22	
Sr. Louise Gabel, A.P.P.S.....	4	
Sr. Hilda Gabel, A.P.P.S.....	15	
Sr. Teresita Gabel, A.P.P.S.....	9	
Sr. Agnes Grabbe, C.S.A.....	10	
Sr. Flavia Herl, C.S.A.....	11	
Sr. Clarita Klaus, C.S.A.....	36	
Sr. Reinolda Korbe, A.P.P.S.....	3	8
Sr. Gaudentia Kronewiter, C.S.J.....	8	
Sr. Aquina Leiker, C.S.A.....	37	
Sr. Bertha Leiker, A.P.P.S.....	9	
Sr. Hildegard Leiker, A.P.P.S.....	13	
Sr. Regina Leiker, O.P.....	5	
Sr. Audrey Pfannenstiel, C.S.A.....	15	
Sr. Constance Pfannenstiel, A.P.P.S.....	4	
Sr. Florian Pfannenstiel, C.S.A.....	32	
Sr. Isidore Pfannenstiel, A.P.P.S.....	2	
Sr. Laurinda Pfannenstiel, C.S.A.....	30	
Sr. Loyola Pfannenstiel, A.P.P.S.....	13	
Sr. Theodora Pfannenstiel, A.P.P.S.....	6	

17. Taken from the Ellis County Superintendent of Public Instruction records, Hays, Kansas.

18. Taken from the Teachers Registers of the Religious Orders concerned.

Elementary Secondary

Sr. Agatha Reichert, C.S.J.....	4	
Sr. Alban Rohr, A.PP.S.....	18	..... 4
Sr. Rose Ruder, C.S.A.....	45	
Sr. Leonilla Sauer, C.S.J.....	21	
Sr. Isabella Stecklein, A.PP.S.....	3	
Sr. Joyce Stecklein, A.PP.S.....	1	
Sr. Lillian Stecklein, A.PP.S.....	5	
Sr. Thomasine Stecklein, A.PP.S.....	5	
Sr. Clemenza Wasinger, C.S.A.....	26	
Sr. Felicia Wasinger, C.S.A.....	40	

Educational service years.....462 12

19
Name

Engel, Carl.....	26	(1896)
Engel, Florian.....	5	
Grabbe, John C.....	6	
Grabbe, Wm.....	19	
Graff, Clara.....	3	(1907)
Graff, Mrs. Christine.....	1	
Graff, Marie.....	2	
Gross, Lawrence.....	7	
Leiker, Alfred.....	4	
Leiker, Anna.....	7	
Leiker, Anna Y.....	4	
Leiker, Aquilinus.....	14	
Leiker, Mrs. Carmen.....	3	
Leiker, Fred J.....	4	
Leiker, George E.....	2	
Leiker, Irene.....	2	
Leiker, Josephine.....	3	
Leiker, Lillian.....	1	
Leiker, Marcellus.....	10	
Leiker, Margaret.....	8	
Leiker, Romauld.....	3	
Pfannenstiel, Clem.....	7	
Pfannenstiel, Magdalen.....	1	
Pfannenstiel, Nick.....	1	
Sauer, Eleanor.....	8	
Sauer, Frank.....	4	..... 2
Sauer, Frank J.....	2	

19. Taken from the records of the Superintendent of Public Instruction Teachers' Registers of Rush, Ellis, and Russell Counties, Kansas.

	Elementary	Secondary
Schumacher, Peter.....	5	
Wasinger, Paul J.....	9	
Weigand, Amelia.....	1	
Grabbe, Rev. Hyacinth, OFM.Cap.....	3	14
Educational service years.....	77	16

The 30 lay teachers have contributed 74 years of service in the elementary school and but two in the secondary, while the Religious Sisters contributed 462 years in the elementary school and 12 years in the secondary. One priest contributed 3 years in the elementary school and 14 in the secondary.

1. These parts of the entire paragraph were obtained from Mr. Joseph Strussel through personal interviews. They correspond with previous statements by Rev. Francis W. Linn, OFM, Cap., General Superior and Director of Holy Cross School, St. Paul, 197-197.

CHAPTER VII

PFEIFER

The colony of Pfeifer has the distinction of having one of its group as being the very first to leave Russia. Joseph Stremel, of draft age, succeeded in evading the draft by leaving Russia in 1875. He and three others, Michael Meder and Mathias Urban of Kamenka, and Christopher Stegman of Pfeifer, Russia, left their homes in October, 1875, to join the party of Justus Bissing at Saratov, Russia, sailing on the "S.S. Ohio" of the North-German Lloyd line from Bremen on November 2, 1875 and arriving at Baltimore the twenty-third of the same month. The four young men struck out for the West and arrived at Topeka before the end of the year. Joseph Stremel, eager to see western Kansas, came with the Herzog colonists to Victoria, April 8, 1876, and remained there until 1877 when he moved to Pfeifer. He had been delegated by his father, Anton Stremel, and his three brothers to acquire property for them in Kansas prior to their leaving Russia. He succeeded in buying several sections of land in Rush County, testing the soil by spading it and masticating some of it to discover whether it "tasted after grain."¹

1. These facts of the entire paragraph were obtained from Mr. Joseph Stremel through personal interview. They correspond with published statements in Rev. Francis S. Laing, OFM. Cap., German-Russian Settlements in Ellis County, Kansas, pp. 493-495.

Thirteen families started the colony of Pfeifer, Kansas, August 21, 1876, made up of 11 families from Pfeifer, and 2 from Kamenka, Russia. These left Saratov June 14-26, 1876: Andrew Desch 4, George Etzel 2, Anton Holzmeister 6, Gottlieb Jacobs 11, Joseph Jacobs 3, Mathias Jacobs 2, Michael Jacobs 2, George Schmidt 6, John Schmidt 4, Joseph Schmidt 2, Jacob Schoenfeld 3, all of Pfeifer, Russia; John Meder 2, and John Schlitter 5, of Kamenka, Russia. Arriving at Hays, Kansas, August 20, 1876 they set out for the southeast corner of Ellis County and settled on Section 25 in Freedom Township. Here they began building homes and shelters before the winter months set in. Section 25-14-17 of Freedom Township was railroad land and was to be paid in eleven annual installments. Another 160 acre plot was obtained for the colony and the 800 acres were divided into shares. Each share apportioned to a family carried the obligation of helping pay for the entire 800 acres. Bleak days were in store for the shareholders, not raising enough crops to meet the payments. Through frugal thrift and hard labor they succeeded in not only saving the 800 acres, but each family in Pfeifer managed to homestead another eighty acres by tilling the soil for a five year period during the day and living in the village at night. These homesteaded eighty acre tracts cost the individual \$18 when the title was finally cleared and

acquired. Timber claims of 160 acres were taken up by many of the Pfeifer people, costing them a dollar to file the claim and cultivating the soil for a five year period plus planting a number of acres in trees. Some land was available in spots for \$1.25 per acre, others were \$2.00-2.50² per acre.

Before the year 1876 was out, several more joined the Pfeifer colony: Mrs. Elizabeth Basgall 5, Joseph Basgall 2, Joseph Basgall 4, Michael Meder 2, Mathias Brungardt 2, Caspar Holzmeister 2, Anton Holzmeister 2, Martin Holzmeister 2, Miss Magdalene Holzmeister, John "Hans" Basgall 4, John J. Basgall 5, Caspar Seitz and his mother Katherine, and Mathias Vogel 4. All these arrived³ September 26.

October 1877 found another group of German-Russians leaving Pfeifer, Russia for Pfeifer, Kansas. The group consisted of the following people: John Kaeberlein 6, Jacob Kisner 4, Caspar Kisner 2, Adam Stegman 5, Mathias Stegman 3; these were joined by a group from Kamenka, Russia: John Ingenthron 6, Anton Stremel, Sr. 3, Anton

2. Personal interview with Peter J. Roth who gave the details of the entire paragraph. Pfeifer, Kansas. July 28, 1943.

3. The Ellis County Star, vol. 1, No. 22, August 31, 1876 reports: "More settlers this week. The Russians are the most populous people we know of."

Stremel 5, John Stremel 2, Michael Urban 6, Jacob Urban 5, Stephen Urban 6, George Urban 3, Mrs. Michael Urban 3, George Urban 6, and his two stepsons George and Jacob Brungardt 8. These settlers came by way of Hamburg and arrived in Pfeifer, Kansas, November 14, 1877. Joseph Stremel who had been residing in Herzog now joined the Pfeifer colony.⁴

Pfeifer's Contribution to Religion

The colony of Pfeifer, started August 21, 1876, like the other six colonies, missed their priest. A large wooden cross was erected in the town square where people gathered for prayers, hymns and instructions. The Rev. A. A. Wibbert, the pastor of Salina, Kansas, visited them at times when he made the rounds of the colonies. The first mass was celebrated in the Gottlieb Jacobs home in 1877. Prior to this time the Pfeifer people drove or walked to Victoria to attend divine services. Deeply rooted in the Catholic Faith, the Pfeifer people wanted a priest of their own to minister to them. To induce a priest to minister to their spiritual needs regularly, they built the first church 28 x 26 feet a hundred yards south of the Smoky Hill River in 1879. In 1885 a frame building was

4. Rev. George Weber, A Short History of the Pfeifer Parish (Hays, Kansas, 1936), pp. 4-5.

erected where the present school stands. This was necessitated by frequent floods of the Smoky Hill River. Three years later found the Pfeifer people erecting a permanent stone structure on the location where the present church stands. The rocks were quarried in the neighborhood by the men of the parish who also hauled and trimmed them. Adam Dome and John Schlitter were past-masters at stone masonry and instructed others how to trim and lay rocks. Cooperating and doing the work themselves, they erected the building for a total cost of but \$2,700, thereby making a contribution of thousands of dollars in the field of religion to the State of Kansas.⁵

Holy Cross Church soon proved too small for the many souls residing in the Pfeifer territory and 1916 found them starting the present magnificent structure. Money for the project had been raised by means of wheat percentage and much of the masonry labor was donated by the men of the parish. The structure of gothic style architecture, 60 x 150 x 30 feet, built of native limestone cost the parish but \$50,000. It was dedicated May 3, 1918 by Bishop John Henry Tihen, Bishop of Denver, due to the illness of Bishop Cunningham of Concordia. It was a gala day well remembered by the author. People from Rush and Ellis Counties gathered at Pfeifer and the huge church was filled

5. Ibidem, p. 1.

to overflowing giving testimony of their deep faith and pride in the fact that they had contributed another church edifice to Ellis County. The pastor at the time was Father Peter Burkhard who put in many hours of manual labor on the church project together with his brother Peter Joseph Burkhard.

Left from Victoria on an improved road is Pfeifer, 10 miles (2000 alt. 200 pop.), home of German-Russian immigrants from a town of that name in Russia. At Pfeifer is the Holy Cross Church (Roman Catholic) with three steeples on the west facade. The center one with a bell loft is 150 feet high. Over the main entrance a mosaic by Brachi, a Venetian artist, shows the return of Christ as judge of mankind. Upon the tile floor at the entrance is the inscription: Mein Haus is ein Bethaus. (German. My house is a house of prayer).⁶

This article describes briefly the spirit of religion evident in the minds of the Pfeifer people.

To further the cause of religion the Pfeifer people contributed two homes for their pastor. In 1886 they built a 32 x 30 feet rectory at a cost of \$1,500 with the men doing most of the work gratis. In 1907 they erected the present rectory at a cost of \$6,000.

Three native sons of the Pfeifer colony have dedicated their lives to the cause of religion: Rev. Stephen Appelhans, Society of the Divine Word, ordained May 5, 1932 is doing foreign missionary work at the present time

6. Harold C. Evans, A Guide to the Sunflower State (New York: The Viking Press, 1939), p. 363.

in New Guinea; Rev. Alexius Urban, Capuchin, ordained May 8, 1932 is stationed at St. Joseph's Military Academy, Hays; Rev. Edward J. Sander, ordained May 24, 1942 is pastor of St. Joseph's Church, New Almelo, Kansas. Incidentally, the original Pfeifer colony in Russia furnished two priests who later came to the United States and labored for the cause of Christ: Rev. Joseph George Stremel and Rev. George Dechant. Twelve seminarians were attending a Russian seminary but never finished their course due to the military draft forcing them into the Russian army.⁷

Another contribution the Pfeifer colony has made to the cause of religion in Kansas is the daughter parish, Loretto, Kansas, started October, 1912, when seventeen families of the Pfeifer colony started the Mary of Perpetual Help parish in Rush County. This parish now has a \$50,000 brick church, modern frame rectory, and had a two-story school building which was destroyed by fire April 20, 1948. This school will be replaced with a modern brick structure in the near future.

This daughter parish, Loretto, has furnished four young men for the priesthood. Rev. Alex G. Stremel, ordained June 2, 1928, has spent his twenty years in the priesthood laboring in Caldwell, Pittsburg, Wichita

7. Personal interview with Peter J. Roth who came to Pfeifer in 1878 and knew the above personally. Pfeifer, Kansas. July 28, 1943.

Cathedral, Frontenac, Conway Springs, Fowler, Windthorst, and is now pastor at Odin, Kansas. While pastor at Windthorst, he made a singular contribution to the field of religion by writing and staging a passion play entitled "Calvary Hill," a three hour performance depicting the last six days of Christ on earth. The sacred drama met with such public acclaim the first year, that he revised the play and had it published and copyrighted. He directed the play with 152 characters for six successive years at Windthorst and has done the same thing for the past two years at Odin, Kansas, where the public acclaim is the same as in western Kansas. "Calvary Hill" is staged annually five times during Holy Week and has the distinction of being the only complete passion play west of the Mississippi and being the only one staged in the State of Kansas. The play was first staged Holy Week, 1940.

Another contribution made to the field of religion by Rev. Alex. G. Stremel is the Shepherd's Hour, a half hour program over KGNO Dodge City Daily Globe broadcasting station for a seven year period 1938-1945 every Monday 12:30-1:00 p.m. In the field of religion another contribution was made by the author in the Catholic Evidence Build work where he did "Street Preaching" for a five year period starting at Perth, Kansas, 1935. In the summers of 1937-1940 this work was done in south-western Kansas, Bucklin, Kingsdown, Bloom, Meade, Mullinville, Fowler, Plains, and

Elkhart with the result that a new Catholic parish was started in Bucklin, Kansas, in 1941. The Rev. Joseph A. Stremel helped in this work the summers of 1939 and 1940.

The Rev. Peter J. Stremel, the second native son of the Loretto parish, ordained May 23, 1932, has worked in Greenbush, Sitka-Ashland parishes and is now pastor of St. Boniface's Church, Sharon, Kansas. Rev. Adolph J. Stremel, ordained June 5, 1937, has served the Yates Center and North Kinsley parishes, was a captain in the U. S. Air Corps for two years, and is now pastor at Lyons, Kansas. Rev. Joseph A. Stremel, ordained May 27, 1944, served at the Wichita Cathedral and is now pastor at Windthorst, Kansas.

Fifteen young ladies from Loretto have entered the religious life and are making their contribution to the religious field in Kansas.

In the Pfeifer parish we find the Arch-confraternity of Christian Mothers, the Third Order of St. Francis, the Children of Mary, the Catholic Youth of Salina, and the Maenner Verein now mostly merged into the Knights of Columbus, carrying on the lay apostolate for the betterment of religion in Kansas.

The Pfeifer parish today numbers 375 souls comprising 70 families. Pfeifer today has a well equipped parish plant valued at \$175,000. This sum having been raised by

voluntary donations by the German-Russians since their arrival in the little village August 21, 1876. The Catholic Faith is very much alive today in the hearts of the people. Some of the early pioneers still relate their religious pilgrimage from Pfeifer to Herzog, a distance of ten miles, in 1881 on foot, singing hymns and praying aloud the rosary and other prayers. The pilgrimage was made to express their deep-rooted faith and to ask God's blessing and protection of the crops and to thank Him for allowing them to come to the land of opportunity, the State of Kansas.

The Pfeifer parish contributed to the religious field the following:

Sisters of St. Joseph, Concordia⁸

		Years of Service
Sr. Liguoria Anna Roth	1907	41
Sr. Augustine Elizabeth Basgall	1907	41
Sr. Wilfrid Sophia Jacobs	1908	40
Sr. Sabinus Mary Roth	1910	38
Sr. Boniface Elizabeth Ruban	1910	38
Sr. Arsenius Margaret Basgall	1910	38
Mother Callista Dorothy Urban	1912	36
Sr. Celeste Rose Kisner	1913	35
Sr. Alexia Helen Urban	1934	114
Sr. Alvera Johanna Brungardt	1940	8
Sr. Jovita Helen Burghart	1941	7
Sr. Alvera Johanna Brungardt	1940	8
Sr. Ann Clare Georgina Schmidt	1942	6
Sr. Marina Marie Roth	1944	4

8. Nazareth Motherhouse and Novitiate Register, Concordia, Kansas.

Years
of Service

Religious service years..... 410

Sisters of St. Dominic, Great Bend, Kansas⁹

Sr. Gonsalva Anna Savolt.....	1936.....	12
Sr. Alexia Anna Marie Stremel.....	1938.....	10
Sr. Sylvester Mildred Eakes.....	1940.....	8
Sr. Dorothy Irene Jacobs.....	1940.....	8
Sr. Bertrand Adolphine Urban.....	1941.....	7
Sr. Dorothy Catherine Burghart.....	1943..*1947....	4
Sr. George Ann' Esther Jacobs.....	1944.....	4
Sr. Martin Genevieve Weaver.....	1944.....	4
Sr. Marietta Viola Urban.....	1945.....	3
Sr. Virginia Barbara Burghart.....	1946.....	2
Sr. Scholastica Geraldine Easkes....	1946.....	2

Religious service years..... 64

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, Wichita, Kansas¹⁰

Sr. Flavia Margaret Kippes.....	1892..*1935....	43
Sr. Clara Anna Stegman.....	1918.....	30
Sr. Caroletta Elizabeth Stremel.....	1919.....	29
Sr. Dorothy Rose Stremel.....	1920.....	28
Sr. Loretta Monica Stremel.....	1929..*1942....	13
Sr. Rita Mary Basgall.....	1929.....	19
Sr. Angelica Kathryn Stremel.....	1932.....	16
Sr. Apollonia Esther Stremel.....	1937.....	11
Sr. Agnes Claire Rita Basgall.....	1943.....	6

Religious service years..... 205

Total religious service years..... 679

9. Immaculate Conception Convent Register, Great Bend, Kansas, pp. 15-50.

10. Adorers of the Most Precious Blood Convent Register, Wichita, Kansas, pp. 30-50.

* Deceased.

Pfeifer's Contribution to Education

Education and religion are synonymous terms in the minds of the German-Russian settlers. Where you find a Catholic Church building you will also find a Catholic school building. This is the case in each of the seven original German-Russian colonies and their daughter parishes. After the Pfeifer colony was established it started to make its contribution to the field of education immediately. Mr. Martin Appelhans taught the first school in 1876 and carried on nobly for a period of years. The first school was held in the home of Gottlieb Jacobs where the children were instructed in religion and the three R's. Mr. Appelhans was succeeded by William Grabbe and Alois Gottschalk who taught for a number of years till the Sisters of St. Joseph, Concordia, Kansas, took charge of the school.

The present beautiful two-story school building erected at a cost of \$10,000 was preceded by two frame buildings which gave service till 1907 when the present school was erected. The elementary school at Pfeifer is a district school, District U. 4 with four Sisters of the St. Joseph Congregation in charge who have a total of 55 teaching years experience and have under their charge 63 pupils.

The Pfeifer colony has contributed 65 public school

teachers besides the first pioneer teacher, Mr. Martin Appelhans who taught the first school for a ten-year period, 1876-1886, since that time we find the following teachers contributing to the educational field:

Name	Years Taught	
	Elementary	Secondary
Appelhans, Annie.....	3	
Basgall, Alois G.....	33	
Basgall, Anna.....	1	
Basgall, Cecelia.....	2	
Basgall, George J.....	8	
Basgall, Jacob J.....	8	
Basgall, Kate.....	6	
Basgall, Martin G.....	10	
Basgall, Wendelin.....	12	
Befort, Alois.....	2	
Befort, Mrs. Ed.....	1	
Breit, Alois J.....	5	
Breit, Helen.....	1	
Dome, Adam.....	2	
Hartman, Appolonia.....	2	
Hartman, Evelyn.....	1	
Hartman, Viola.....	2	
Holzmeister, Appolonia.....	2	
Holzmeister, Katie.....	2	
Holzmeister, Leona.....	13	
Jacobs, Anna.....	2	
Jacobs, Mrs. Cecelia.....	3	
Jacobs, Joe.....	6	
Jacobs, Leona M.....	2	
Jacobs, Mrs. Sadie.....	3	
Meier, Anna.....	1	
Meier, Julia.....	1	
Meier, Kate.....	2	
Roth, Anthony E.....	3	(Principal R.H.S.#1).. 5
Roth, Bernard.....	3	..... 3
Roth, Joe.....	3	
Roth, Juanita.....	1	
Roth, Leo J.....	6	
Roth, Victor J.....	6	
Schmidt, Arnold L.....	2	
Schmidt, Isadore.....	4	
Schmidt, Mary.....	2	
Stegman, A. J.....	1	

	Elementary	Secondary
Stegman, Edgar.....	1	
Stegman, Elizabeth.....	2	
Stegman, Joe M.....	4	
Stegman, John.....	1	
Stegman, Katie.....	2	
Stremel, Rev. Alex.....	3	(Supt., ... 8 Odin Public Schools)
Stremel, Felix B.....	2	
Stremel, Ida M.....	1	
Stremel, Rev. Joe A.....	3	(Supt., Windthorst Consolidated Schools)...5
Stremel, Joe.....	7	
Stremel, Theodore.....	9	
Stremel, Wendelin J.....	3	
Urban, Adam.....	12	
Urban, Rev. Alexius.....	3	..... 13
Urban, Alois G.....	12	
Urban, Bonnie.....	3	
Urban, Elsie.....	2	
Urban, Helen.....	10	
Urban, Joe.....	1	
Urban, Joe C.....	7	
Urban, Joe H.....	2	
Urban, Joe J.....	4	
Urban, John A.....	18	
Urban, John L.....	2	
Urban, Marie.....	4	
Urban, Mike.....	7	
Urban, Mary C.....	8	

Educational service years...402..... 34

Mr. Martin Appelhans, from 1877 to 1886, taught the first school at Pfeifer. Mr. Appelhans was one of the early Pfeifer settlers.¹¹ Adding his ten years of elementary teaching to the above total makes the elementary teaching years 412 contributed by the Pfeifer colony to the field of education in the State of Kansas.

11. Personal interview, Peter J. Roth, Pfeifer, Kansas. July 28, 1943.

The Pfeifer colony has contributed two superintendents to the field of education in the persons of Mr. Martin A. Basgall and Mr. Anthony E. Roth. Mr. Basgall held the office for two terms, 1919-1923. Mr. Roth took office in 1943 and is still serving Ellis County and is up for re-election this coming November.¹² Below is the list of the Pfeifer Parish's educational contribution made by its ladies in Religion.

Name ¹³	Years Taught	
	Elementary	Secondary
Sr. Arsenius Margaret Basgall.....	36	
Sr. Rita Mary Basgall.....	3	
Sr. Jovita Helen Burghart.....	5	
Sr. Cortona Veronica Dome.....	24	
Sr. Dorothy Irene Jacobs.....	6	
Sr. Wilfrid Sophia Jacobs.....	20	10(music)
Sr. Sabinus Mary Roth.....	20	8(music)
Sr. Clara Anna Stegman.....	28	
Sr. Alexia Anna M. Stremel.....	8	
Sr. Apollonia Esther Stremel.....	9	
Sr. Caroletta Elizabeth Stremel.....	27	
Sr. Dorothy Rose Stremel.....	26	
Sr. Monica Loretta Stremel.....	3	
Sr. Alexia Helen Urban.....	12	
Sr. Boniface Elizabeth Urban.....	36	
Sr. Marietta Viola Urban.....	1	
Sr. Martin Genevieve Weaver.....	1	

Educational service years....265 18

With the 412 years of service contributed by the 65 lay teachers and three priests the Pfeifer colony has

12. Ellis County Superintendent of Public Instruction records, Hays, Kansas.

13. Taken from Convent Teacher Register, Concordia, Great Bend, and Wichita, Kansas.

a total of 677 years of teaching as a contribution to education in the elementary grades and 52 years in the secondary schools.

CHAPTER VIII

SCHOENCHEN

The Schoenchen colony bears the distinction of being the only one of the original seven colonies brought about because of a fuss and disagreement. The founders of Schoenchen had settled in Liebenthal, Kansas, February 22, 1876, August 14, 1876, and September, 1876. After the arrival of the September group, trouble arose about the permanent location of the village, Liebenthal. The August group had made the agreement with the Liebenthal founders to move the village from Section 21 to the east half of Section 16, Rush County, Kansas. This site was larger, more elevated, and better supplied with water. Because of this agreement several homes had been built on the new location but shortly the trouble started. Section 16, a school section, had to be paid in full before any deed could be issued for lots and the settlers were in no position to do so this early in the game. Mr. John Schaefer, no doubt having the best of intentions, went contrary to the agreement and donated four acres of land in Section 21 for the erection of the church. This generous offer was accepted by some and rejected by others to the extent of some real exhibitions of temper. Those who had built their homes on Section 16 were so provoked

that in April and May, 1877 they moved their homes to the present site of Schoenchen together with several others from each contingent that had settled at Liebenthal. From the original group of February, 1876, Henry Bieker 6, John Bieker 7, John J. Bieker 7, Nicholas Bieker 9, William Bieker 6, Frank Waldschmidt 7, Philip Wolf 7, and John Zimmerman 2, all of New-Obermonjour, Russia, moved to the new colony on the Smoky Hill River in Ellis County.¹ The Ellis County Star, Vol. 1, No. 48, March 15, 1877, attests this fact: "Seventeen Russian families that settled near the north line of Rush County have been moving on Section 33 in Ellis County this week." The section number is incorrect because the legal description of Schoenchen is as follows: Section 28, Township 15 south, Range 18 west.

Among the August contingent from Russia to Liebenthal the following moved to Schoenchen: Carl Herrklotz, Helen Herrklotz, Jacob Monsch, Joseph Monsch 3, Michael Schmidt 7, Simon Schoenthaler 7, Joseph Schuckmann 2, Frederic Werth 4, Jacob Werth 4, John Werth, Sr. 3, John Peter Werth 3, Carl Werth 3, Louis Werth 4, and Jacob Zimmerman 8. All these came from Schoenchen, Russia. The September contingent consisting of people from Ober-Monjour, Russia

1. Rev. Francis S. Laing, OFM. Cap., German-Russian Settlements in Ellis County, Kansas (Topeka, 1910), p. 498. Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society. Kansas State Printing Office. Vol. 11, 1910.

also followed the trek to Schoenchen and in this party we find the following: Adam Bieker 5, Frank Dreher 6, John Dreher 4, Conrad Dreher 3, Frederic Graf 6, Joseph Rumbach, and Joseph Zimmermann 4.²

The three different groups named their new colony San Antonio and again the fuss started. The name did not suit everyone since some of the settlers were from Neu-Obermonjour and Schoenchen, Russia. Each wanted their Russian village to be honored by naming the new colony after it. Heated arguments prevailed for days but finally concessions were made by both sides and it was agreed to name the village Schoenchen after the Russian village and dedicate the church to St. Anthony, who was the church patron of the Neu-Obermonjour village in Russia. Peace finally prevailed among the settlers and it helped them get a new start in life in America even though the Indians west of the colony were a constant source of fear and alarm though they never molested the settlers.³

Frank Waldschmidt had taken up the south half of the S.W. quarter of section 28 as a homestead. On this the village of Schoenchen was built. The patent for the land was issued August 30, 1882, but not filed till May 11, 1885. Meanwhile Mr. Wald-

2. Ibidem, p. 499.

3. Frank Bieker who was 14 years old when he came to Schoenchen, Kansas, gave these facts. Mr. Bieker is still living and is a reliable and trustworthy man. June 24, 1943, Schoenchen, Kansas.

schmidt had presented the land to the community. The plot of the village was recorded April 18, 1885, and five men, Konrad Dreher, Joseph Hardinger, Frederic Werth, John Peter Werth and August Wolf, appointed trustees of the town company, who still continue in office. This is but nominal, as the transfer deed was lost without being recorded, so that all deeds must be signed by the heirs of Frank Waldschmidt.⁴

Schoenchen's Contribution to Religion

The villages, Schoenchen and Hays, were the only ones of the seven that did not use the cross for the gathering place of religious services. Before the coming of Father Valentine Sommereisen near the end of 1877, the people fulfilled their religious obligations by making the long journey to Hays whenever the fourth Sunday of the month came around--Mass was said at the Fort Hays Barracks on the fourth Sunday of the month. From October, 1877 onward, Mass was said at intervals in Schoenchen in private homes until 1879 when the first church was begun with Fritz Bentel as the mason. It was of yellow stone, designed to be 30 x 18 x 15 feet, but when the walls were finished a heavy rain in 1880 caused the foundation to settle, cracking the walls to such an extent that it was abandoned. In its stead, a frame church 30 x 18 x 9 feet was erected

4. Rev. Francis S. Laing, OFM. Cap., German-Russian Settlements in Ellis County, Kansas (Topeka, 1910), pp. 515-516. Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society. Kansas State Printing Office. Vol. 11, 1910.

in the fall of 1881.⁵

The little church served the Schoenchen village till 1885 when Father Joseph Hardes felt a larger one was needed. He had the rock hauled for the new structure. His successor, Father Philip Brockard, had seen to the building of the foundation when another heavy rain struck Schoenchen causing abandonment of the project. After the second experience the people found out that they were building on sand, causing the foundation to settle and wreaking destruction to their proposed church buildings. When Father Emmeram Kausler, OFM. Cap., came to the village he tore out the ruined foundation and moved to a different location. He himself designed and supervised the construction of the present church building, keeping the actual construction expenses down to \$6,000. This he was able to do because the men in the parish hauled the rock, trimmed it, and did everything they could to erect the imposing present structure. Messrs. Alois Staab, Catherine, and Anton Gross, Hays, were the only persons receiving wages. The \$6,000 was collected by wheat percentage. The corner stone was laid April 18, 1900, and the church dedicated June 13, 1901, the patron feast day of the parish.⁶

5. Ibidem, p. 508.

6. Ibidem, p. 508.

The Schoenchen parish has contributed three native sons to the ministry. Rev. Robert Herrklotz, ordained May 30, 1938 is now pastor of St. Mary's Church, Chase, Kansas. Rev. Vincent Werth, OFM. Cap., ordained June 14, 1932 is working in the Capuchin parishes in Ellis County with headquarters at Hays, Kansas. Rev. Alfred Wasinger, ordained June 1, 1936 is pastor of Clyde, Kansas.

The Schoenchen colony today has a well improved modern parish plant with a replacement value of \$150,000. The parish is under the direction of Rev. Frank Riedel who has 76 families with 380 souls under his charge. In the parochial school 92 children attended during the past school term taught by four teachers of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Concordia, Kansas. Rev. Riedel has the distinction of serving the Schoenchen colony the longest of any pastor, taking over June, 1932.⁷

The following page shows the years of service rendered in the field of religion by the 25 ladies of the Schoenchen colony. The total number of years adds up to 422 years. The three native priests have rendered service to the field of religion amounting to 38 years. Schoenchen's contribution to religion in the field of service has 460 years to its credit.

7. Personal interview with Rev. Frank Riedel, Schoenchen, Kansas. June 22, 1948.

Schoenchen Ladies in Religious Orders

Nazareth Motherhouse and Novitiate Sisters of St. Joseph,
Concordia, Kansas⁸

	Years of Service
Sr. William Dora Zimmerman.....	1908..... 40
Sr. Collette Katherine Rupp.....	1908..... 40
Sr. Lucida Amelia Zimmerman.....	1914..... 34
Sr. Leona Lucy Dinges.....	1914..... 34
Sr. Germanus Rose Zimmerman.....	1917..... 31
Sr. Esther Lidwina Werth.....	1921..... 27
Sr. Frances Theresa Zimmerman.....	1924..... 24
Sr. Edwina Annetta Bieker.....	1931..... 17
Sr. Ermenhilda Seraphina Pfeifer.....	1938..... 10
Sr. Dorothy Virginia Herklotz.....	1946..... 2

Sisters of St. Dominic Immaculate Conception Convent,
Great Bend, Kansas⁹

Sr. Ceslaus Alice Unrein.....	1943..... 5
Sr. Columba Eleanor Unrein.....	1945..... 3
Sr. Charlotte Shirley Unrein.....	1946..... 2

Sister Adorers of the Most Precious Blood
Wichita, Kansas¹⁰

Sr. Linus Elvina Dinges.....	1928..... 20
Sr. Agatha Gertrude Wasinger.....	1928..... 20
Sr. Lioba Albina Rupp.....	1930..... 18
Sr. Paraxedes Irene Rupp.....	1932..... 16
Sr. Felicitas Leona Riebel.....	1936..... 12
Sr. Norberta Barbara Riebel.....	1937..... 11
Sr. Robert Thelma Werth.....	1938..... 10
Sr. Winifred Viola Riebel.....	1941..... 7
Sr. Florentia Martina Riebel.....	1942..... 6
Sr. Gwendolyn Marilyn Rupp.....	1942..... 6

8. Nazareth Motherhouse and Novitiate Register,
Concordia, Kansas, pp. 5-40.

9. Immaculate Conception Convent Register, Great
Bend, Kansas, p. 49.

10. Adorers of the Most Precious Blood Convent
Register, Wichita, Kansas, pp. 30-50.

Sr. Agnessa Catherine Ruder ¹¹.....1932.....	14
Religious service years.....	422

Schoenchen's Contribution to Education

The first school bell rang in Schoenchen in September, 1879 when John Dreher took over the teaching duties in a private home. He was succeeded by George Gottschalk who taught the Schoenchen school for 4 years. The public school district was organized in 1880. Here school kept until 1916 when the parish erected a beautiful stone school 64 x 32 x 32 feet and the Sisters of St. Joseph, Concordia, Kansas, were placed in charge. This school building cost the parish but \$25,000.¹²

In March, 1926 the patrons of the Schoenchen school district voted bonds for the erection and equipment of a \$25,000 high school. Ten years later the patrons of the school had the \$80,000 gymnasium building erected. Today the Schoenchen High School has an enrollment of 92 pupils taught by five teachers. Among them are two German-Russians, Dominic Brungardt, the principal, and Linus Drees,¹³ professor of mathematics and physical education.

11. St. Agnes Convent Register, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, p. 67.

12. St. Anthony's Parish History, Schoenchen, Kansas, pp. 1-30.

13. Personal interview with Dominic Brungardt, Principal of Schoenchen Rural High School, June 28, 1948, Hays, Kansas.

The following is a list of Schoenchen's contributors to education:

Name	Years Taught	
	Elementary	Secondary
Bieker, A. A.....	1	
Bieker, Alex. S.....	1	
Bieker, Fred C.....	3	..... 3
Bieker, Louis.....	1	
Boos, Mrs. Beatrice.....	8	
Gottschalk, George.....	8	(1896)
Gottschalk, Marcus.....	3	
Gottschalk, Phil.....	7	
Rupp, Agnes.....	1	
Rupp, Anton.....	1	
Rupp, Conrad.....	8	
Schoendaler, Frieda.....	1	
Unrein, Ben J.....	1	
Unrein, Josephine.....	2	
Wasinger, Adolph J.....	1	
Wasinger, Amelaia.....	4	
Wasinger, Andrew J.....	1	
Wasinger, Angeline.....	9	
Wasinger, Celestine.....	1	
Wasinger, Pauline.....	3	
Werth, Celestine.....	4	
Werth, Frank.....	1	
Werth, Isadore.....	5	..... 2
Werth, Joe.....	3	
Werth, Josephine.....	1	
Werth, Nick F.....	2	
Werth, N. W.....	1	
Sr. Edwina Bieker.....	15	
Sr. Leona Dinges.....	22	
Sr. Felicitas Riebel.....	9	
Sr. Winifred Riebel.....	4	
Sr. Gwendolyn Rupp.....	1	
Sr. Lioba Rupp.....	6	...4 secondary, 4 college
Sr. Praxedis Rupp.....	9	..... 2 (music)
Sr. Agatha Wasinger.....	18	
Sr. Aegidia Werth.....	11	
Sr. Esther Marie Werth.....	25	
Sr. William Werth.....	38	
Educational service years...	240	..... 15

CHAPTER IX

HAYS

Previous to the German-Russians' settling in Hays a few Irish Catholics had located in Ellis County around the town of Rome, Kansas, located on the south bank of Big Creek. This town was sponsored by "Buffalo Bill" Cody. A few Irish Catholics flocked to the new town, Hays City, when the railroad was built to Hays in 1868. The spiritual needs of these few Catholics were taken care of by the pastor of Solomon, Kansas, Rev. Frank Fogarty¹ and the pastor of Salina, Rev. A. A. Wibbert.

For several years occasional services have been held at Fort Hays by Rev. Fr. Fogarty of the Catholic Church, and work has been commenced on a church edifice in an eligible site in Hays City.²

Not only the Irish Catholics attended services at the Fort Hays Barracks, but many of the German-Russians who started to settle in Rush and Ellis Counties February 22, 1876, as is attested in an account in the Ellis County Star:³

1. Rev. Matthew Pekari, OFM., Cap., History of St. Joseph's Parish, Hays, Kansas (Hays: News Press, 1944), p. 9.

2. Ellis County Star, Vol. 1, No. 6, May 11, 1876.

3. Ellis County Star, Vol. 1, No. 22, August 31, 1876.

The Russians are a very devout class of people. Promptly on Sunday they may be seen on the way to the Post Chapel, where their services are held. Dressed up in their best clothes and smiling faces, they afford a pleasing sight. Their belief is the Roman Catholic Religion.

In October, 1876, the Rev. Valentine Sommereisen took up his residence as the first resident pastor in Hays City. He was born in Alsace, 1829, ordained a priest on March 8, 1856. He served his apprenticeship among the Sioux Indians and was well qualified to take care of the scattered colonies in Rush and Ellis Counties. He said the first Mass at the Fort on the first Sunday of Advent, 1876.

Fr. Sommereisen, as we are pleased to announce, permanently located with us. His residence is on Fort Street, opposite Krueger Bros. His district embraces Russell and all counties West as far as Wallace on the line of the Kansas Pacific.⁴

Father Sommereisen said Mass at Hays City on the fourth Sunday of each month, the other Sundays of the month found him taking care of the six German-Russian settlements: Liebenthal, Catherine, Victoria, Munjor, Pfeifer, and Schoenchen. Under this herculean task he bore up bravely for two years and then retired to his vineyard northeast of Hays in 1878 where he lived in retirement until his death in 1897.⁵

4. Ellis County Star, Vol. 1, No. 37, December 14, 1876.

5. Rev. Matthew Pekari, OFM. Cap., History of St. Joseph's Parish, Hays, Kansas (Hays: News Press, 1944), p.9.

Hays's Contribution to Religion

During Father Sommereisen's administration he organized St. Joseph's parish locating the church on the Martin Allen property, Lots 1-3-5-7. He planned to build a small stone church on this property while in the meantime Mass was said at the Fort and at the school house.⁶

Catholic Services will be held at the school house Sunday. The Russians have bought a bell.⁷

The number of Catholics was increasing by leaps and bounds due to German-Russians moving to Hays as is verified by the Ellis County Star:⁸

About 700 Russians attended church in this city last Sunday. The need of a church is imminent and Father Sommereisen set in motion a building program. Operations are to be resumed on the Catholic Church sometime during the present month. Fr. Sommereisen has the foundation for his residence laid and the cellar walls completed. It will add much to the appearance of that portion of the city when completed.⁹

The church project was started and the foundation built, but Father Sommereisen's dream of a rock church never materialized. Due to ill-health and the immense amount of work entailed, he was forced to retire in 1878.

6. Ibidem, p. 10.

7. Ellis County Star, Vol. 1, No. 40, January 18, 1877.

8. Ellis County Star, Vol. 1, No. 50, March 29, 1877.

9. Ellis County Star, Vol. 2, No. 1, April 25, 1878.

Father Anastasius Mueller, OFM. Cap. took over the parish at Hays City on May 16, 1878. He found there a hole which had been dug for the foundation, the windows for the church and a debt of \$200. The windows he sold to Victoria for the Maxwell Catholic Church. He held services at Fort Hays, later in the public school and the courthouse but moving back into the school house for the sake of convenience. Since he had a number of people scattered along the railroad right-of-way he could only hold services at Hays City the fourth Sunday of the month. During these pioneer days he found board and lodging with Mr. Andreas Meier, one of the first German-Russians to settle in Hays City. By 1879 Father Anastasius had built up his little congregation to the point where they could help along to complete the little frame church projected by Father Sommereisen. It was rather an unpretentious frame building 42 x 22 feet. A little room behind the sanctuary served as home for the priest. This little frame church had the distinction of being the first church of any kind in Hays City that was used exclusively for divine service. The little frame church soon became too small and it was the dream of both pastor and people to erect a stone church in keeping with the Hays City architecture. The people had acquired some material wealth by 1884 and agreed to erect a new church building. Building operations got under way in 1886. The sum of \$2,400 had been raised and

on August 15, 1886 Father Anastasius solemnly blessed the corner stone. Christmas found the church completed except for windows. It was a structure of 72 x 32 x 21 feet. A two-story addition 26 x 16 feet was built on the east side of it and later a side chapel. The entire edifice was dedicated March 6, 1887 by Father Anastasius.¹⁰

The year 1895 found the Hays Catholic people in dire straits so they joined in with the rest of the German-Russian colonies keeping St. Joseph's Day, March 19, as a Sunday. During the month of March, 1895, the Hays City destructive fire burned 65 buildings to the ground sparing the Catholic buildings. Many people ran to the church to pray for deliverance and made numerous promises if the buildings were spared. Father Lawrence exposed the Blessed Sacrament and during the exposition, while people were on their knees, the wind shifted and spared the buildings.¹¹

The early pioneers of Hays City were ready to do something special for their church and their priests after the second church was spared by the fire. They sought to erect suitable living quarters for their priests. The Capuchins bought ten cords of native stone from the

10. Rev. Matthew Pekari, OFM. Cap., History of St. Joseph's Parish, Hays, Kansas (Hays: News Press, 1944), pp. 11-13.

11. Ibidem, p. 14.

Ellis County Clerk, November, 1897 and later the flour mill of Andreas Meier on the Saline had the stones hauled to Hays City. The parishioners did this work gratis.¹²

At the turn of the century the second church at Hays City was found too small, some 116 families now belonging to St. Joseph's parish. Bishop Hennessy approved the architect's plans April 25, 1901 and allowed the parish to borrow \$10,000. On June 3, 1901 the breaking of ground took place and the cornerstone was laid November 28, 1901. While the new structure was going up the people helped raise the necessary funds. Even the Hays City Military Band did its part in helping raise \$800 at its concert. In spite of all things, the building operations had to be suspended due to poor crops and the entailed shortage of funds on the part of the people. But the church was finally completed and the gala dedication celebration took place June 14, 1904. The heating system did not arrive until March, 1905. The faith of the German-Russian goes beyond a little chill in church even though the winter without heat was a severe one. Various donations were given by the people to furnish the church: Jacob Brull and A. A. Wiesner donated the two side altars; Messrs. John Gross, Joe J. Basgall, Peter Staab, Jr., and John Schlyer the high altar

12. Ibidem, p. 14.

and wall brackets.¹³

St. Joseph's parish kept growing in numbers and the year 1933 found 800 families belonging to the congregation. Due to crop failures, the increase of school enrollment, the rise of current expenses, the parish was plunged into debt to the huge sum of \$89,000. Something had to be done to lift the debt; various means were tried and finally the weekly envelope system was inaugurated resulting in \$22,000 of the huge debt being paid off the first year (1934). By 1943 the entire debt was paid off plus a \$20,000 assessment from the Concordia Diocese to meet its bonded indebtedness.¹⁴

The next contribution to religion of the St. Joseph's parish was the huge renovation of the church from top to bottom at an expense of \$60,000. This was done in 1943-1944 and the church consecrated May 30, 1944 by Ft. Rev. Bishop Thill, Bishop of Salina. Most of this expense was borne by outright donors who saw fit to donate five marble altars, electric organ, and whatever else was needed to enhance the House of God.¹⁵

The contribution of the St. Joseph's parish to the

13. Ibidem, p. 14.

14. Ibidem, p. 25.

15. Ibidem, p. 26.

priesthood is not as great as the other German-Russian colonies but Hays has the distinction of having the first native son being ordained. June 19, 1898 was a memorable day in the history of St. Joseph's parish and a day long remembered by the German-Russian people throughout Rush and Ellis Counties. One of their own had been raised to the dignity of the priesthood, Father Fidelis Meier, OFM. Cap., son of Andreas Meier, Hays City, Kansas. Father Fidelis became an outstanding member of the Capuchin Order. He filled many responsible posts in the Capuchin Province of St. Augustine. His chief interest was in the field of education and music. He was greatly interested in preserving the folk songs of the German-Russians and assembled a collection of German-Russian hymns and folk songs to which the musical notation had been lost. From hearing the songs sung by the people he wrote the notation and accompanying harmony. He also wrote several sacred compositions for use in church, one of which is rendered in St. Joseph's Church on Palm Sunday. Father Fidelis Meier died December 8, 1938. Rev. Timothy Gottschalk, OFM. Cap., ordained June 14, 1932 is the second native son of the parish to be a minister of Christ. Ven. Brother Wendelin Weisner (Sept. 8, 1895) and Brother Richard Leiker are devoting their lives to the cause of religion in the Capuchin Order.

St. Joseph's parish, Hays, has mothered the large St. Mary's parish at Ellis which consists of 425 families numbering 1850 souls. The Ellis parish was started in 1886. Today it is one of the largest in the Salina Diocese and one of the best equipped. The parish plant is built of native magnesia limestone except the Sisters' house and the new school under construction. The new school will be a credit to any town or community and the contract calls for only \$138,000. It will have a large gymnasium, two kitchens, a large dining hall, club rooms, and plenty of class rooms. Work began March 29, 1948 and the building will be ready for school in September. This is a great contribution to the field of education by the German-Russians who moved from Hays and other communities to gain employment in the Union Pacific shops and to buy and settle the land around Ellis, Kansas.

St. Mary's parish, Ellis, has contributed three native sons to the priesthood: Rev. Leo Weigel, C.P.P.S., ordained May 28, 1931; Rev. Alex. Leiker, C.P.P.S., May 1, 1938; Rev. Michael Storm, C.P.P.S., April 21, 1940. Frater Adelbert Wiesner, O.F.M. Cap. died as a theological student December 17, 1918. The three priests rendered a total of 35 years of service in the field of religion.

The parochial school is taught by seven Sisters of

17. Voice of St. Mary's, St. Mary's Church, Ellis, Kansas, April 11, 1948.

the St. Agnes Order, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin. Four hundred thirty-five children attend this school. The pastor of Ellis is a native son of the Victoria colony, Rev. Vergil Kuhn, OFM. Cap. The entire parish plant at replacement prices easily values near the half million dollar mark.¹⁸

Another parish St. Joseph's parish helped start is the St. John Baptist Church, Hyacinth, Kansas, under the pastorship of Rev. Ludger Wuenschel, OFM. Cap., who claims 24 families numbering a hundred souls. The parish does not have a parochial school. The parish was started November 29, 1906.¹⁹

St. Joseph's parish, Hays, has made another worthwhile contribution to the field of religion in the organization of the Catholic Evidence Guild of Hays, Kansas. The main object of this guild movement is to promote better knowledge of Catholic teachings and to inspire good will and understanding. Organization work on the guild began January, 1935, and the approbation of His Excellency F. J. Tief, Bishop of Concordia, was given on February 22, 1935. A weekly instruction was given at St. Joseph's Military Academy to train women and men who would carry on the work

18. Personal interview with Rev. Vergil Kuhn, OFM. Cap., pastor of St. Mary's Church, Ellis, Kansas. June 22, 1948.

19. Personal interview with Fr. Ludger Wuenschel, OFM. Cap., June 23, 1948, Hays, Kansas.

of the guild. The instructors were: Fr. Edwin Dorzweiler, OFM. Cap., professor of philosophy in the Capuchin Seminary, Victoria, Kansas; Fr. Fidelis Meier, OFM. Cap., a former professor of ethics and Biblical studies; Fr. Roger Connair, OFM. Capl, professor of chemistry at St. Joseph's Military Academy; and Fr. Terence Moffat, OFM. Cap., professor of English and sociology at the same institution.²⁰

The first members of the Guild were: George Gatschet, H. J. Tholen, M. J. Dorzweiler, Albert Spies, Anthony Dechant, Philomene Beilman, Eleanor Herl, Irene Gottschalk, Laura Strohmeier, Margaret Mansfield, and Ruby Schumacher. Others who joined later were: Levene Weigel, Marie Tholen, Agnes Schaefer, and Albert Burtscher. The officers of the Guild were elected March 14, 1936: H. J. Tholen, president; M. J. Dorzweiler, vice-president, and Miss Ruby Schumacher, secretary-treasurer. The name, "The Catholic Evidence Guild of St. Francis" was adopted.

The Guild went into action April, 1936, at Ellis, Kansas where Messrs. H. J. Tholen and Albert Spies spoke on the Bible and the Visible Church. Twenty-two other evenings were spent explaining the Catholic Church in fourteen different communities. On June 21, 1937, the second season opened for the Guild at Wakeeney, Kansas,

20. The Catholic Campaigners for Christ Review, Vol. 12, No. 1, Spring 1948, Waterbury, pp. 15-18.

where a five night stand was made and the speakers speaking outdoors. Natoma, Grinnel, Quinter were the towns visited for five night street preaching. In 1938 Natoma, Wakeeney, Quinter, Goodland and Colby received a five night course of instructions by the above named members of the Guild. The year 1939 found the Guild speakers in Wakeeney, Oakley, Stockton and Quinter, explaining the teachings of the Church and making its contribution towards the field of religion. The year 1940 found the Guild speakers in Stockton, Wakeeney, Quinter and Morland. This was the last appearance of the Guild speakers due to World War II when activities had to be suspended where travel was entailed.

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The Catholic Evidence Guild of Hays, Kansas, carried on its program not only in halls and on the streets, but also over the air. December 13, 1936 found the founder, Father Edwin Dorzweiler, OFM. Cap., giving an address on "Shall we Look for Another?" over Station KFBI, Abilene, Kansas. These broadcasts came monthly every second Sunday for 30 minutes until September, 1940 when arrangements were made to conduct a weekly Sunday program over KSAL Salina, Kansas. These broadcasts were now conducted by the priests of various parishes under the auspices of the Catholic

21. Ibidem, pp. 15-18.

Evidence Guild of Hays, Kansas, each Sunday. ²²

The Hays parish today is under the care of Fr. Alfred Carney, OFM. Cap., the pastor who has 1220 families with 4,020 souls under his charge. ²³ St. Joseph's parish has contributed 430 years of service to religion by its 35 ladies who have entered the Religious Orders.

Name	Years of Service
Sr. Ethelreda Eliz, Younger, C.S.J....1930..*1942...	8 ²⁴
Sr. Catherine Florence Dreiling, C.S.J.....1929.....	19 ²⁵
Sr. Hilarion Clara Pfeifer, C.S.J.....1945.....	3
Sisters of St. Agnes, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin ²⁶	
Sr. Austin Anna Koerperich.....1918.....	30
Sr. Terese Bertha Sack.....1919.....	29
Sr. Mark Elizabeth Bahl.....1921..*1942...	21
Sr. Gervase Bertha Frank.....1921.....	27
Sr. Rosaria Mary Ebert.....1921.....	27
Sr. Afra Sophia Denning.....1921.**1938...	17
Sr. Angelina Catherine Drees.....1923.....	25
Sr. Evelyn Philomene Dreiling.....1925.....	23
Sr. Justine Rosine Denning.....1925.....	23
Sr. Emerita Ottilia Unrein.....1927.....	21
Sr. Gregory Harriet Gassman.....1930.....	18

22. Hays Catholic Evidence Guild Records kept by Mr. H. J. Tholen, Hays, Kansas, pp. 93-100.

23. Personal interview with assistant pastor Rev. Corneilius Heim, OFM. Cap., June 23, 1948, Hays, Kansas.

24. Nazareth Motherhouse and Novitiate Register, Concordia, Kansas, p. 31.

25. Mount St. Mary's Convent, Wichita, Kansas, p.24.

26. St. Agnes Convent Register, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, pp. 3-99.

* Deceased.

** Left Order.

Years of
Service

Sr. Dorissa Rose Erbert.....	1930.....	18
Sr. Priscilla Albertine Lattigan.....	1932.....	16
Sr. Angelora Julia Erbert.....	1936.....	10
Sr. Alma Rose Cecelia Pfeifer.....	1939.....	9
Sr. Magdala Gladys Basgall.....	1940.....	8
Sr. Annice Dolores Herman.....	1940.....	8
Sr. Susan Agnes Leiker.....	1940.....	8
Sr. Johnel Anna Marie Ruder.....	1942.....	6
Sr. Camille Esther Sanders.....	1942.....	6
Sr. Blanche Weisner.....	1942.**1946..	4
Sr. Bianca Blanche Weisner.....	1942.....	6
Sr. Theodosia Marcella Tholen.....	1942.....	6
Sr. Kenneth Esther Struckhoff.....	1942.....	6
Sr. Cordula Lillian Koerner.....	1942.**1946..	4
Sr. Armella Leona Hammerschmidt.....	1943.....	5
Sr. Frederick Martina Kuhn.....	1943.....	5
Sr. Ralph Anna Kuhn.....	1943.....	5
Sr. Aletta Florence Ross.....	1944.....	4
Sr. Allen Vera Bittle.....	1946.....	2
Sr. Margaret Ann Norine Bittle.....	1946.....	2
Sr. Mary Alice Elizabeth Walters.....	1947.....	1

Religious service years..... 430

Hays's Contribution to Education

The Sisters of the Congregation of St. Agnes, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, took permanent residence in Hays in 1882. A two-story frame house was built on Lot 10, Block 17, east of the present Girls Catholic High School. This building served as the school and Sisters' residence. In 1884 another frame building was erected on the same block. By September 1892 the enrollment was 105 and the next September it was up to 271. The following year there was a sharp drop to 96 children. But a steady growth set by

1906 when 162 children enrolled.

The dream of a college for boys was growing strong. The Capuchin Fathers joined St. Joseph's parish in the erection of a substantial building that would serve both as a parish school and a high school for boys. For two years, 1906-1908, when weather permitted and the men could get away from their farm work, stone was quarried and hauled from the quarries along the Smoky Hill River. The building was completed having eight rooms--the downstairs served as the parochial school, upstairs was St. Joseph's College. This was the first venture for the German-²⁸Russians in higher education.

The "college" opened in September with 54 boys registered; the parochial school had 227. The first class to graduate from the new building carried off the highest honors in the county elementary examinations in June, 1909. The number of pupils kept growing and the plans were made for the parochial brick building on Fort Street. The school opened in September, 1914. In 1916 the elementary enrollment had risen to 408. In 1918 a ninth and tenth grade were opened for the girls of the parish making another contribution to education. In 1922 more property was

27. Rev. Matthew Pekari, OFM. Cap, History of St. Joseph's Parish, Hays, Kansas (Hays: News Press, 1944), pp. 18-19.

28. Ibidem, p. 19.

bought north of the brick school and \$12,698.14 were spent to build and equip the new location. In 1924 another frame building was equipped for \$4,352,86. In September of that year 656 children enrolled in the grades and 64 girls in high school. The enrollment kept increasing and in 1929 a new system was adopted. The seventh and eighth grade boys were sent to St. Joseph's Catholic College, where they were formed into a junior high school.²⁹

In 1931 a drastic change was made in the parochial school buildings. Hays Catholic College moved to its present location and the parish took over the two-story building on 13th Street for junior high and Girls Catholic High School. St. Joseph's parish pays \$800 to the Province of St. Augustine for the use of the building annually. A state of emergency arising in 1941, the parochial school joined the public school system of Hays and is known as the Jefferson school with an enrollment of 800 pupils.

On April 6, 1944, new property was bought by the parish in Block 36, Lots 13, 15, and 17 for the erection of a larger parochial school building, the cost of the lots being \$2,500. On this location the new building is being constructed to cost \$400,000.

Reverting to the higher education contribution made

29. Ibidem, p. 21.

by the people of Hays and the outlying German-Russian villages, a few details are in place. The boys secondary school started in 1893 when Father Lawrence Beck, OFM. Cap., taught bookkeeping, English, algebra and other high school subjects. Lack of funds forced the venture to be abandoned in 1895. But in 1908 the high school for boys opened again with the facilities for board and room. The student body grew rapidly since it was the only boarding school for Catholic boys in western Kansas.³⁰

A drive was launched by Bishop Tief and the Church authorities in Hays for a greater Hays Catholic College on January 23, 1922 with the result that Ellis County pledged \$332,282 towards the new school. Poor crops kept the Ellis County people from paying their full quota and the drive was extended towards the northwest part of the diocese where large numbers of German-Russians live. The drive resulted in \$21,000 cash and pledges totaling \$60,000.

Work on the new college began in 1924 and work continued sporadically until 1927 when the funds gave out. For many months the building stood like a specter on the prairie, its uncovered steel and iron work visible for miles. Bishop Tief floated another loan and the building was covered and ready for occupancy in September, 1931. At the present the St. Joseph's Military College and Academy

30. Ibidem, p. 21.

is out of debt and has an annual enrollment of 285-300.³¹

The Hays parish has contributed one Superintendent of Public Instruction in the person of Alexander Meier who held the office for three terms, 1899-1905. Besides contributing one Superintendent, a large number of German-Russian men and women have made their contribution towards
32
the field of education in Kansas.

Name	Years Taught	
	Elementary	Secondary
Bahl, Catherine.....	1 (1896)	
Bahl, Chas. R.....	3.....	8
Bahl, Lizzie.....	4	
Bahl, Magdalen.....	3	
Basgall, Joe J.....	4	
Bissing, Al.....	1	
Bissing, Mary E.....	2	
Boos, Beatrice.....	2	
Dinges, Anton.....	1	
Dinges, M. P.....	4 (1899-1902)	
Drees, Linus.....	3.....	4
Froelich, Agnes Clara.....	1	
Gaschler, Ambrose.....	3	
Gaschler, Anton A.....	1	
Gottschalk, Peter V.....	9	
Gottschalk, Rev. Timothy.....	3.....	9
Groff, Agnes.....	1	
Groff, Cecelia.....	2	
Groff, Marie.....	2	
Gross, Marie Elsie.....	1	
Herl, Pauline.....	1	
Hoffman, F. J.....	1	
Jacobs, Alice.....	3.....	17
Jacobs, Blanche.....	6	
Jacobs, Grace.....	1	
Jacobs, Mary.....	8	

31. Ibidem, p. 29.

32. Taken from the Ellis County Superintendent of Public Instruction records, Hays, Kansas. Also from the records of Russell, Barton, and Rush County Superintendent of Public Instruction offices.

Elementary

Secondary

Jacobs, Mrs. Sadie.....	1	
Keberlein, August.....	1	
Klung, Gus M.....	1	
Kraus, Dora.....	5	
Kraus, Emma.....	7	
Kraus, LaVona.....	1	
Lang, Anthony.....	1	
Linnenberger, Fred J.....	1	
Meier, Alex.....	8	..... 5
Meier, Andrea.....	7	
Meier, Aurelia.....	3	
Meier, Elizabeth.....	4	
Meier, Esther.....	1	
Meier, Matilda.....	2	
Meier, Phyllis.....	3	
Meier, Rita.....	2	
Miller, Gladys.....	1	
Nierenberger, Alex.....	6	
Nierenberger, Ida.....	1	
Pfeifer, Irene.....	2	
Pfeifer, Rita Jane.....	2	
Pfeifer, Viola.....	2	
Polifka, Alice.....	3	
Polifka, Helen.....	9	
Riedel, George.....	3	(1897-1899)
Ross, Betty.....	2	
Ross, Florence.....	4	
Roth, Hyacinth S.....	3	(Prin. R.H.S.# 2, Victoria)....14
Roth, Peter J.....	3	(1896-1899)
Schafer, Ida M.....	10	
Schoendaller, Katherine.....	3	.....3
Schumacher, Mrs. Irene.....	5	
Schuvie, Rose.....	5	
Schwaller, Freda.....	1	(1899)
Tholen, Laurine.....	1	
Tholen, Mary.....	4	
Unrein, Mary.....	10	
Wagner, Helen.....	2	
Wagner, Katie.....	6	
Weber, D. A.....	1	
Weber, Earlene.....	1	
Weber, M. D.....	1	(1897)
Weigel, Val A.....	8	.....5
Weisner, Gwendolyn.....	1	
Weltz, Beatrice.....	1	
Weltz, Vivian.....	2	
Werth, Laura.....	8	

	Elementary	Secondary
Wolf, Alice M.....	2	
Wolf, Clara	3	1
Wolf, Clara	1	
Wolf, Esther.....	1	
Wolf, Frances.....	4	
Wolf, Hattie.....	1	
Wolf, Jacob.....	1	
Wolf, Margaret.....	1	
Wolf, Zeonbia.....	1	

Educational service years...245.....66

Sister Teachers of St. Joseph's Parish, Hays, Kansas

Sisters of St. Agnes³³

Sr. Mark Bahl.....	19	
Sr. Magdala Basgall.....	3	2
Sr. Allen Bittle.....	2	
Sr. Margaret Ann Bittle.....	2	
Sr. Justine Denning.....	23	
Sr. Angelina Drees.....	25	(music)
Sr. Evelyn Dreiling.....	22	
Sr. Dorissa Ebert.....	18	
Sr. Rosaria Ebert.....	27	
Sr. Angelora Erbert.....	12	
Sr. Gervase Frank.....	24	
Sr. Mary Gregory Gassman.....	3	15
Sr. Annice Herman.....	8	
Sr. Priscilla Lattigan.....	16	
Sr. Aletta Ross.....	3	2
Sr. Johnel Ruder.....	6	
Sr. Terese Sack.....	29	
Sr. Camille Sanders.....	6	
Sr. Kenneth Struckhoff.....	6	
Sr. Theodosia Tholen.....	6	
Sr. Emerita Unrein.....	21	
Sr. Mary Alice Walters.....	1	
Sr. Bianca Weisner.....	6	

Sisters of St. Joseph, Wichita³⁴

33. St. Agnes Convent Register, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, pp. 3-99.

34. Mount St. Mary's Convent Register, Wichita, Kansas, pp. 49-61.

	Elementary	Secondary
Sr. Catherine Dreiling.....	17	
Sr. Hilarion Pfeifer.....	1	
Educational service years..	306.....	19

The total years of teaching service rendered by the Hays colony is 551 elementary and 85 secondary. Lay teachers contributing 245 and the Sisters 306 years in the elementary level. In the secondary the lay teachers have 66 years while the religious only 19.

St. Joseph's parish, Hays, Kansas school system at the present time is under the public school district set-up known as the Jefferson School where 564 pupils are taught in the first six grades by 17 Sisters of St. Agnes Order and two part-time teachers in art and music. One hundred sixty-five pupils in junior high are taught by five Sisters of the same Order and the two part-time teachers. The Girls Catholic High School is taught by six Sisters of the above mentioned Order with 131 girls in attendance.³⁵

At the present time St. Joseph's parish, Hays, Kansas, is making a worth-while contribution to the field of education by erecting a \$400,000 new modern school and gymnasium building, the money coming from the members of the parish.³⁶

35. Sister Remigia, C.A.S., Hays, Kansas, personal interview, June 24, 1948, Hays, Kansas

36. Personal interview with the assistant pastor, Rev. Corneilius Heim, OFM. Cap., June 23, 1948, Hays, Kansas.

CHAPTER X

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The seven original colonies of the German-Russians have made a contribution to the field of religion and education not only to the State of Kansas, but to the nation in general. In our research we found that most contributions in the two fields were made directly to the State of Kansas, but in some instances contributions were made to other states. The Saint Agnes Sisters, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, utilized the young ladies from Ellis and Rush Counties wherever they fitted best. Many of these ladies who joined the Religious Order as domestics naturally would stay at the Motherhouse in Fond Du Lac and make their contribution to both fields by doing the menial tasks that are entailed in doing religious and educational work. The four other Religious Orders concerned are located in Kansas and all their efforts are expended in the state.

The over-all picture of the seven original colonies can best be pictured by a summary of their contributions to both fields. In placing a value upon the material contribution to both fields we are basing our judgment upon inflated prices and upon the judgment of the Reverend pastors of the seven colonies.

In the field of religion the Liebenenthal colony has contributed a \$150,000 church and rectory, 4 native priests

with 61 years service, 27 ladies in Religious Orders with 418 years service, and two seminarians.

In the educational field Liebenthal's contribution consists of a \$50,000 school, 40 lay teachers with 189 service years on the elementary level and 9 secondary, 7 Sister teachers with 70 elementary service and 22 secondary service years.

The second colony to be established, Catherine, has contributed a \$125,000 church and rectory, 8 native priests with 177 service years, 45 Sisters rendering 995 years of service, and one daughter parish, Severin.

In the educational field Catherine has a \$50,000 school, 21 lay teachers contributed 98 elementary service years and 21 secondary; 25 Sister teachers contributed 527 service years on the elementary level and 50 secondary.

The third colony to be established, Victoria, has made the greatest contribution to the religious field by contributing a \$500,000 church and rectory, 14 native priests with 338 service years, 2 Religious Brothers with 64 service years, 110 Sisters with a total of 2727 service years, and five daughter parishes: Walker, Gorham, Vincent, St. Peter, and Emmeram, Kansas.

The Victoria colony has also made a large contribution to the educational field by erecting a \$50,000 school

and has under construction a \$500,000 rural high school. Two hundred eight lay teachers have contributed 722 elementary service years and 53 secondary, while the Sister teachers, 789 service years and 125 secondary service years. Victoria also has furnished two Superintendents of Public Instruction for Ellis County with 14 years of service.

The fourth colony to be established, Munjor, contributed a \$100,000 church and rectory, 5 native priests with 96 service years, 2 Religious Brothers with 39 service years, 62 Sisters with 1134 service years, and two daughter parishes, Antonino and Ness City, Kansas.

In the educational field Munjor contributed a \$50,000 school, 30 lay teachers with 74 elementary and only 2 secondary service years, 32 Sister teachers having 462 elementary and 12 secondary service years, one priest teacher, 3 elementary and 14 secondary service years, one Superintendent of Public Instruction to Ellis County with 4 service years.

Pfeifer, the fifth colony to be established, has contributed in the religious field a \$125,000 church and rectory, 7 native priests with 89 service years, 36 Sisters with 679 years of service, one daughter parish, Loretto, 7 years of weekly radio broadcasts, 5 years Catholic Evidence Guild work, and 8 years of "Calvary Hill" passion play production.

In the educational field Pfeifer contributed a \$50,000 school, 61 lay teachers rendering 402 elementary and 8 secondary service years, 17 Sister teachers with 265 elementary and 18 secondary service years, 3 priest teachers with 9 elementary and 26 secondary, 2 Superintendents of Public Instruction to Ellis County with 10 years of service.

The sixth colony, Schoenchen, contributed a \$100,000 church and rectory, 3 native priests with 38 service years, 25 Sisters with 422 service years.

In the educational field Schoenchen has a \$50,000 school, a \$50,000 rural high school and a \$80,000 gymnasium building, 27 lay teachers with 82 service years on the elementary level and 5 on the secondary, 11 Sister teachers with 158 elementary and 10 secondary service years.

The seventh colony, Hays, contributed a \$200,000 church and rectory, 5 native sons with 91 service years, 35 sisters with 430 service years, 2 Religious Brothers with 60 years of service, 2 daughter parishes, Ellis and Hyacinth, Kansas, 5 years of Catholic Evidence Guild work, 12 years of radio broadcasts, 8 of these weekly broadcasts.

In the field of education Hays has contributed a \$75,000 school and is contributing another \$400,000 elementary school at present, a \$50,000 high school, a Military Academy and Junior College, 82 lay teachers with 242 elementary and 57 secondary service years, 25

Sister teachers with 306 elementary and 19 secondary service years, 1 priest teacher with 3 elementary and 9 secondary years of service, 1 Superintendent of Public Instruction with 6 service years to Ellis County.

The following Summary shows that in the field of religion the Victoria colony leads the field followed by Munjor, Catherine, Pfeifer, Hays, Liebenthal, and Schoenchen as the table shows.

Place	Sisters	Years	Priests	Years	Misc.	Total
Victoria	110	2727	14	338	71	3280
Munjor	62	1134	5	95	43	1320
Catherine	45	995	8	177	1	1226
Pfeifer	36	676	7	89	4	815
Hays	35	430	5	91	66	646
Liebenthal	27	418	4	61	22	532
Schoenchen	25	422	3	38	00	488

The educational field summary from the point of service puts Victoria at the head of the list for its contribution to education followed by Pfeifer, Catherine, Hays, Munjor, Liebenthal, and Schoenchen.

Place	Teachers	Elementary Years Service	Secondary Years Service	Total
Victoria	244	1511	178	1933
Pfeifer	82	677	52	811
Catherine	51	650	108	809
Hays	108	551	85	744
Munjor	63	539	28	530
Liebenthal	47	259	31	337
Schoenchen	38	240	15	273

The seven original colonies have each made their contributions to both the fields of education and religion. The spirit found among the German-Russian people will enable them to make future contributions to both fields. These people realize the necessity of both religion and education and whenever called upon to contribute materially or personal service they have not been found wanting. In the beginning they were not financially able to contribute much towards education, but today we find each of the seven original colonies doing their utmost to provide modern education for their children.

While the educational facilities in Russia were very poor, the young folks here are striving for a good education so that the Russians can soon supply themselves with the necessary teachers and have even raised one priest, Father Fidelis, son of our old resident, Andrew Meier. Alex Schueler of Catherine spends over \$300 a year on the education of one boy at St. Mary's College.

As to the school room the children are healthy, obedient, enduring, and in morality they are above the average; almost invariably the parent is on the teacher's side.

The most remarkable and praiseworthy feature is that the best paid teachers are among the Russians, and they do not change teachers if they can help it.¹

This spirit prevails in all of the seven original colonies and also in their daughter colonies. This type

1. Victoria Scrap Book, Hays Public Library. Clipping from the Hays Republican Press, September 3, 1898, Hays, Kansas, p. 1.

of spirit together with all other contributions from the German-Russians in Kansas will ennoble future contributions to both religion and education.

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