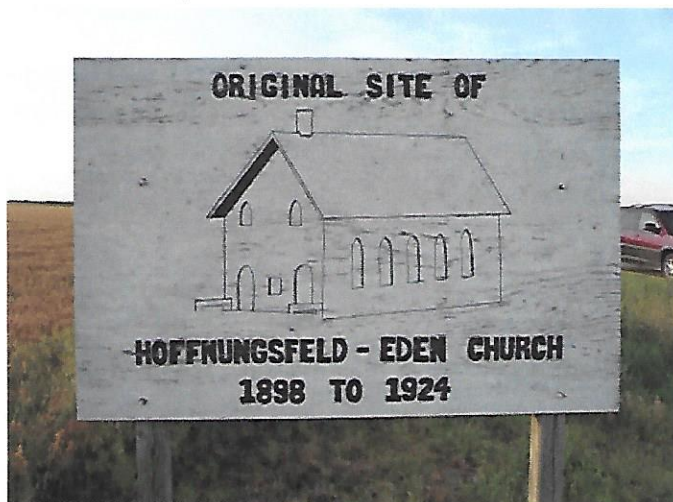
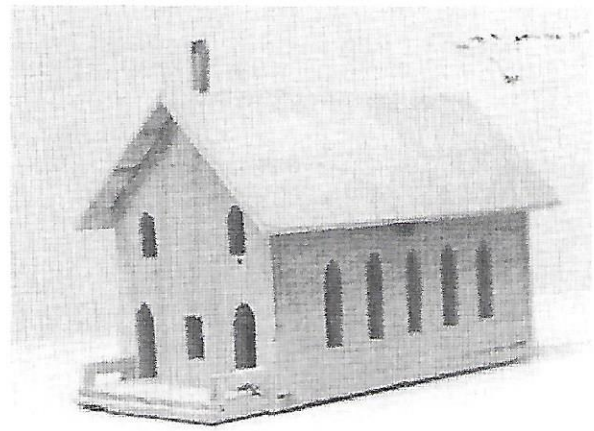


On August 6, 1874, sixty-four families known as the Stucky congregation, left Russia under the leadership of Elder Jacob Stucky. This group landed in New York on September 3, 1874, and in October of the same year these families arrived in Central Kansas where the Santa Fe Railroad Company provided an immigrant house, 20 x 120 ft, as temporary living quarters 3 ½ miles west and ½ north of Moundridge. Part of these quarters were used as a church and schoolhouse for eight years. This house was located approximately 100 feet west of the present Hopefield Church.

The congregation adopted the name Hoffnungsfeld. Later on, January 20, 1880, it was chartered as the Hopefield Society of the Mennonite Church.

The present and original building was built in 1882. Up until 1942 it was located 40 feet to the north of the present site, at which time it was moved over onto a full basement. The cost of remodeling was approximately \$11,000.

On February 12, 1895 the Hoffnungsfeld-Eden congregation organized. The forefathers shared worship services in the one 40 x 60 ft building from 1895-1898. Inside were four sections of pews with three aisles. Kerosene lamps hung above the middle aisles. There was no well, no electricity, no telephone; there were only hitching posts for horses. Jacob J. Goering built a model of the 1895 church entirely from memory since there is no known picture of the original building.



On December 10, 1887. The Hoffnungsfeld-Eden congregation voted to erect a building 4 miles west and ¼ mile north of Moundridge. It was dedicated in June, 1898. The church became affiliated with the Kansas Conference in 1877, with the Western District Conference in 1894, and with the General Conference in 1898. The name was changed to Eden Mennonite in 1924.