

**From a folder at Mennonite Library and Archives titled "Corporation" regarding Hopefield and Eden - Written in German; Translated by Frieda Nickel, Pine Village**

So that it be known to everyone, by way of this writing/script, that since many years ago and now the Hoffnungsfeld congregation of the Mennonite Church is a Corporation under the Laws of the State of Kansas, combined with certain Land and personal Property and "Gebaulichkeiten" connected by/to that, all in Mound Township, McPherson Co. Kans. All situated, owned and "holds" and was the property "besagter" = of the said Corporation for "ecclesiastical/church purposes to be used. And there on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 1895, certain members, as before mentioned of the Corporation organized themselves and became members of another church/congregation of the Hoffnungsfeld Eden Church and hence now we, the "signers" (unterzeichretan) or already signed members of said Corporation of the Hoffnungsfeld Congregation in regard to the sum of \$1200, the beginning of which consists of 30 acres land, by means/or way of a certain Deed that was certified/attested to during the transfer of this writing and the sum of \$450 in cash; we now, with the aforementioned Corporation, of the Hoffnungsfeld congregation and all their remaining members, who have not departed from the congregation, decide that we have no further Obligations, Rights, Title or Interests on and in the joint/or common/or mutual ownership and we now relinquish and give up and give over and cease whatever voice in the "community" concerns/or transactions/or business of the aforementioned Corporation of the Hoffnungsfeld congregation and that we cease in every sense of membership of the same to be and that we have no "rights" – in the aforementioned Corporation and that the remaining members who have not departed that congregation, every community "real property" and all rights and privileges of/that the Corporation owns and enjoys (ausgenommen) except that the Eigentum/ownership of the Corporation remains and we the undersigned have only the right to bury our dead as it has been done till now, and to keep in order the graves of those that have been buried there, and we agree to pay half of the expenses for the upkeep of the same, and the extermination of the weeds in the same as long as we make use of the right to bury our dead on the aforementioned God's Acre. And we the undersigned, and Hoffnungsfeld Eden congregation and our descendants obligate ourselves herewith and make the decision, that we never will make use of the Word Hoffnungsfeld except in connection with another word, as for example: Hoffnungsfeld Eden.

And in order for the faithful fulfillment of this obligation, not to use the stated word, and to ensure that – we have decided if we neglect the above obligation to again receive the land and the money herewith -- become the property of the said Corporation of the Hoffnungsfeld congregation and that those who signed and their descendants should have no ownership in it or therein.

We resolve to have met the above agreement, in order to avert (Redtshandel) action or lawsuit, and to bring and answer all questions between members of the said Corporation and to bring silence forever and we (bezougen) manifest herewith that all questions herein have been brought to silence forever, and we manifest herewith.

We the undersigned manifest herewith that we the members are all who have organized ourselves as the former proven Hoffnungsfeld Eden Congregation.