

Graburn

Graburn United Cemetery, originally Peace Congregational, Graburn, Alberta.

Prior to construction of this church in 1917, regular services were held in the pioneers homes. First known as the Peace Congregational Church, it was built on a piece of property donated by Henry Krahn Sr.

Lumber for the project was purchased in Walsh, Alberta, from Mr. Helm. Chief carpenter Bernard Bischel with help from the following volunteers supplied most of the manual labor during construction: William Lehr, Gottlieb Pfeifer, Henry Krahn, Edward Lehr, Adolph Janke Emmanuel Schlenker and Fredrich Hiller.

Dedication services were conducted November 04, 1917. In 1925 it became part of the United Church of Canada. This congregation was part of the Memorial Salem Pastoral Charge and in 1958 became part of the Redcliff Pastoral Charge.

The Graburn school building was moved to this site in 1959 and was attached to the church to become a Sunday school and meeting room.

The congregation celebrated its 50th. anniversary November 4 and 5, 1967, with Reverend George Spady and Reverend Bruce Armstrong as guest ministers.

Ministers who served the congregation were: Elias Bernstein 1916 to 1919, Treise 1919 to 1920, Rigert 1920 to 1923, Kesler 1924 to 1926, Hiltenbrand part of 1927, Siebert 1927 to 1929, Gebhardt 1929 to 1930, Reideman 1931 to 1934, Rigert 1935 to 1938, student Megdanil part of 1939, Paul Hediger 1939 to 1947, George Spady 1948 to 1958, Allan S. Hunt 1958 to 1970 and Marjory Ashton 1970 to June 1972.

The last regular church service was held in June 1972. Several special services were held after that. In June, 1977 the congregation held a meeting to decide what to do with the assets. The group decided to leave the church intact, as it was considered a landmark, containing the memories of many people. Most of the valuable furnishings were donated to the Irvine, Alberta, museum. An application for a grant from the Provincial Department of Culture in the fall of 1977 to help restore the cemetery was denied. The Department informed those interested that a grant of up to \$2000.00 would be made available provided it was matched. The second application was accepted in November 1978, and a cheque for \$738.75 was received. The group had to raise funds to complete the project. A successful fowl supper attended by over 400 who drove over muddy roads was held May 06, 1979.

Efforts were made to collect data on all the people interred in the cemetery. Relatives, friends and the Medicine Hat News were instrumental in gathering the information needed. Most of the church records had been destroyed years earlier.

The monies collected from the grant and through fund raising allowed the group to build a new fence and erect the \$1200.00 cairn. Enough money was raised that the second half of the grant was not applied for.

This cemetery is located at the junction of range road 12 and township road 100, or ten and one half miles south of Walsh, Alberta, on the Graburn road. The legal land description is NW 35-09-01- W 4. The first burial was 1917 and the last in 1944. This large, L shaped church has fallen into disrepair, several windows are broken, and the foundation is sinking. The two door outhouse stands with gaping doors just south of the church.

The grave yard is in the southeast comer, it is well fenced but one must wade through waist deep grass to do any research. A huge cairn lists all those interred here and also supplies most of the pertinent dates. There are indications that someone was visiting here just a few days ago as there is a good trail through the tall grass. As found September 01, 1996. There are only nine markers.

Alter Maria.

Bedker John (adult) died 1946.

Bedker Kenneth born 1925, died 1926.

Bedker Mary (adult) died 1943.
Flemmer nee Hottmens Dorothy born 1875, died 1940, wife of Jacob Flemmer.
Genert Leah born 1917, died 1918, of Christ Genert.
Genert three children of Jacob and Rosina Genert.
Greenfelder infant of Paul Greenfelder.
Heinrich Wallace J. born February 01, 1925, died March 01, 1925, of George Heinrich.
Heller Christina S. born 1883, died November 08, 1918, at 35 years, 9 months and 7 days, wife of Jacob Heller.
Hiller Heinrich born 1920, died 1920, of Fred Hiller Sf. and Katherine Fondrich.
Hiller Helmuth born 1931, died 1931, of Fred Hiller Sf. and Katherine Fandrich.
Hiller James born 1931, died 1931, of John Hiller and Ida Stock.
Houff nee Nittle Justina born 1888, died 1915, wife of Jacob Houff.
Janke Adolph born June 10, 1892, at Katzbach, Russia, died October 23, 1930, husband of Maria Magdalena Sandau.
Janke Christian born August 19, 1917, died accidently October 02, 1935, of Adolph and Maria Janke.
Inscription reads: "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for Thou art with me."
Janke Emma born 1920, died 1922, of Jacob Janke and Lydia Sandau.
Janke Gustav infant of Jacob Janke and Lydia Sandau.
Janke Henry born April 16, 1913, died June 03, 1913, of Adolf Janke and Maria Sandau Enslin.
Jasman Johannes born 1884, died from the flu 1918, husband of Maria Kautz.
Krahn Christoph born 1872, died 1933, husband of Mary Fandrick died October 21, 1951, interred in Hillside Cemetery.
Krahn Emma born 1907, died 1917. This was the first burial in cemetery October 14, 1917.
Krahn Emma born 1922, died 1924.
Krahn Ida born 1910, died 1919.
Kusler Arthur infant died 1917, of Emil Kusler and Dorothy Flemmer.
Kusler Eugene born March 22, 1915, at Graburn, Alberta, died Friday, September 05, 2003, of Henry and Caroline
Kusler married December 30, 1939, to Louise Johnson deceased
Kusler Karl born January 27, 1865, died December 18, 1925, husband of Katherine Jahraus.
Kusler nee Jahraus Katherine born November 28, 1869, died September 13, 1914, wife of Karl Kusler.
Kusler nee Johnson Mary "Louise" born September 16, 1910, at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, died Tuesday, September 17, 2002, of Mathew and Helena Johnson, married December 30, 1939, to Eugene Kusler.
Kusler Paul born February 28, 1922, died May 18, 1924 son of Emil Kusler and Dorothy Flemmer. Body sealed in a lead casket.
Lehr Edward born 1906, died 1924, of Edward Lehr.
Lehr Ida born 1917, died 1918.
Mogck nee Widmer Bertha born 1885, died from tuberculosis November 14, 1923, wife of Johann Mogck.
Neufeld Bertha about age 20, moved from another site.
Noble Doreen a preschooler buried here then moved to Eagle Butte.
Pfeifer infant of Gottlieb Pfeifer and Susanna Bohnet.
Pfeifer Gottlieb born 1876, died March 1941, husband of Susanna Bohnet.
Posdech Christina born 1855, died 1931.
Sackman Catherine died 1923.
Sackman Johannes Sf. born August 05, 1869, died August 12, 1937, by heart attack.
Schacher Ida born 1916, died 1924, of Jacob Schacher and Mary Stock.
Schacher Marion born 1929, died 1929, of Jacob Schacher and Mary Stock.
Schlaht nee Bollinger Dorothy born 1890, died October 15, 1941, from a heart attack at Walsh, Alberta,

interred October 19, 1941, wife of Philip Schlaht.
Schlaht Edward born October 09, 1915, died from Asthma (Innerliches Leiden) May 25, 1941, at Walsh, Alberta, interred May 27, 1941, by Reverend M. Voss of Philip Schlaht and Dorothy Bollinger.
Schlaht Philip born 1875, died October 07, 1943, from cancer interred October 10, 1943, husband of Dorothy Bollinger.
Schlenker Clarence born April 04, 1930, died August 02, 1930, of Ed Schlenker and Louise Flemmer.
Schlenker Emanuel born 1883, died 1923.
Schlenker Jacob born 1884, died from pneumonia after being injured in an accident caused by a runaway team of horses April 19, 1944, interred April 23, 1944, husband of Rosalia Manske.
Schneider nee Mauch Pauline born March 19, 1885, in Russia, died February 26, 1924, at Graburn, Alberta, wife of Peter Schneider.
Sept John born 1875, died 1948, husband of Mary Heller.
Sept nee Heller Mary born September 12, 1882, died June 07, 1940, wife of John Sept Sr.
Waldbauer Edward born 1941, died 1941, of Adolf Waldbauer and Hertha Schlenker
Waldbauer Ferdinand Jr. born 1862, in Russia, died 1926, husband of Christina Flemmer.
Weishaar Christina born December 08, 1847, died September 07, 1930, from apoplexy.
Weiss John age late 20's early 30's.
Widmer Fred born 1922, died 1922.
There may be unknowns as well.

Graburn, Alberta, unidentified burial sites

Coburn Major died 1911.
Ramsay William "Wally" died 1923.
Ressor Milton born 1925 died 1926.
Stothers Mrs. born 1867, died 1914, wife of William Stothers.
Ziegenhagel George Sr. died 1917, husband of Magdalena Job.

NW 26-08-01-W4, Graburn, Alberta.

The grave of an unknown, some believe a native Indian, is located in the south ditch of the Graburn road just before the road turns south into the Cypress Hills. When the road was built, this plot was left undisturbed and a barbed wire fence was installed. Found in good condition April 11, 1997.

SE 14-9-02-W4 Graburn, Alberta.

Johannes Beierbach died in 1907, and is interred on this his homestead, husband of Christina nee Kruger died in 1921, interred at Torrington, Alberta.

SE 29-9-02-W4 Graburn, Alberta.

Chris Mohr passed away (year unknown) interred on hill behind residence of the late Lawrence Good. His wife Carolina married (2) Pastor Fred Anhorn, she died January 06, 1947, and is interred in Hillside Cemetery.

Church of God "Gemeinde Gottes" Cemetery, Graburn, Alberta.

Construction of this church started in March 1932, by a breakaway group from the Graburn United Church after differing opinions about their religion caused a rift. Henry Reiman donated two acres of land

for this site just one mile south of the United Church location. Mr. Reiman, a Lutheran, had originally donated this same piece of property for the construction of a Lutheran church. The lack of interest towards forming a Lutheran congregation left the property empty.

Most of the lumber for this building was cut in Jacob Schacher's sawmill from Cypress Hills trees. The Jacob Miller, Jacob Schacher, Anton Schacher, George Heinrich, Reinhold Janke, Ben Kusler, Matthew Seitz and Jacob Heller families supplied much of the volunteer labor required to erect the structure. Matthew Seitz, an excellent craftsman, built the pews, pulpit and other fixtures prior to dedication services July 1932.

Several of the ministers serving this medium sized congregation were Reverends Wiens, Butgereit, Karl Krause, Albert Schneider, Kowalko and Ralph Farmer. Most of the ministers traveled from Medicine Hat, Alberta, and spent the night with one of the poor but humble families.

Sunday services were usually at 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch in the church and an afternoon service. After a quick trip home to perform the tedious farm chores most members returned for an evening service.

During the horse and buggy days, a barn was also constructed on the property, later, it was sold and moved from the location. In the 1960's, the building was shared with an Evangelical congregation on alternate Sundays. The building and property were sold in 1957.

This cemetery is located at the junction of range road 12 and one mile south of township road 100, or eleven and one half miles south of Walsh, Alberta, on the Graburn road. The legal land description is SW 35-09-01-W4. The two acre property is overgrown and has become a resting place for abandoned machinery. The old church stands askew in the extreme northwest corner of the plot. The building is about 22 by 36 feet and has four windows in each of the east and west sides, the single, padlocked door faces north.

The small cemetery in the southeast corner is well fenced and contains eight visible graves, only three are marked. As found September 01, 1996.

The markers read:

Miller Gordon L. born January 09, 1940, died April 20, 1940, at three and one half months, of Godfrey A. Miller and Elsie Hehr.

Miller Barbara born November 30, 1865, died September 09, 1939, wife of Adam Miller Sr. "In God I have put my trust. "

Lichtenwald nee Ostwald Marija born November 11, 1887, died August 11, 1935, aged 47 years and 9 months wife of A. Lichtenwald.

Other records show following to be interred here:

Redelback Johan born 1860 in Russia, died March 1938, husband of Carolina Redelback.

Redelback Carolina born 1864 in Russia, died January 1935, wife of Johan Redelback.

Seitz Mr. M.

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