

Gros Ventre

Newburg Evangelical Zion Cemetery, Gros Ventre, Alberta.

The Evangelical Zion Church was built in 1908, by the men from this community, Mr. Gottlieb Freimark was one of the many volunteers who helped in the construction. The church building is no longer on this property.

There is a very good four wire fence around this half acre plot but again the vegetation has not been cut. There are only two visible stone markers in the tall grasses. Travel south on Eagle Butte Road to township road 100 then six miles east. The cemetery is in the southwest corner on the Marvin Rath property, legal land description is SW 01-10-04-W4. Marvin is a grandson of Michael. The property for this church was donated by Michael and Barbara Rath in 1908. As at September 06, 1996.

As found on the markers and in the book "Plains, Trains and Wagon Wheels":

Rath Barbara born February 09, 1875, at Wittenberg, Russia, died May 30, 1925, of Adam Bohnet and Christina Rath, second wife of Michael Rath.

Rath Mary born December 12, 1893, died September 21, 1911, daughter of Michael Rath.

Rath Michael born December 21, 1867, at Wittenberg, Russia, died August 17, 1920, married (1) 1892 at Albota, Russia, to Wilhelmina Hille from Kulm, Russia, she died 1895, married (2) February 02, 1895, to Barbara Bohnet. Two children from first marriage and fourteen from second marriage. Survivors included nine children from first marriage, brothers; Andreas, Gottlieb both of Gros Ventre, Christian in Argentina, Johannes at Gackle, North Dakota, and Jakob at Albota, Russia, sisters; Mrs. Christian Flaig, Mrs. Christoph Flaig and Mrs. Christian Schorr all of Gros Ventre.

Rath Johannes born February 03, 1837, died July 12, 1917, of Christian Rath and Christina Finkbeiner.

Rath Selma born May 03, 1910, died July 04, 1920, of Michael Rath and Barbara Bohnet.

The following could be interred here:

Lehr nee Hoffman Sophie born December 01, 1876, died May 02, 1910, wife, of John Lehr Jr.

Lehr John Sr. born March 27, 1837, died November 04, 1912.

Rath Leah daughter of Andrew Rath and Justina Bohnet.

Weiss Christina died at 16 years, of John Weiss Sr. and Barbara Heidinger.

Weiss Regina died at 17 years, of John Weiss Sr. and Barbara Heidinger.

Baptist Church, Gros Ventre, Alberta.

This church was located on NE 36-09-04-W4, twelve miles south and seven miles east of Dunmore, Alberta. Church services were first held in the vacant home of the Ludwig Schorr family. The main rooms were used as the sanctuary and the bedrooms were used as Sunday School classrooms.

The Henry Sponholz family were very involved in maintaining regular services. Mr. Sponholz was one of the Sunday School teachers, while his daughter Ruth played the organ. Sons Roy and Ray usually played the flute. The small congregation was able to produce many fine programs with the help of student ministers from a Bible institute. "The Seminary Quartet" consisting of a group of student ministers from Rochester, New York, visited the congregation in 1923. Other supporting families were the Hillenbergs and J.A. Weiss.

Interred here as per Medicine Hat Genealogical Society records:

Faundrick Ludwig born 1844, died 1917.

Hauck Peter Jr. born November 08, 1886, died January 01, 1943, husband of Magdalena Rath.

Koppenstein Emma born September 18, 1904, died October 30, 1931.

Renke Irene Elizabeth born March 12, 1931, died September 30, 1931, at Medicine Hat, Alberta.

Webb John 18 years, died April 26, 1914.

St. Alban Anglican Church, Gros Ventre, Alberta.

This church was established in 1904. As at April 17, 2000, I have been unable to find any information about this church.

Gros Ventre Congregational United Cemetery, Gros Ventre, Alberta.

The church and cemetery are located on a hill south on Eagle Butte Road to township road 94 then two and one half miles east in the southeast corner of SW 28-09-04- W 4. There is a broken down log church at this location, signs of paint can be seen in the doorways. The three or four acre plot has shrunken to about one acre containing a small fenced cemetery west of the church. The rest of the yard is being cultivated. The fence is in need of repair and it is difficult to find any markers in waist deep grass. As at September 06, 1996.

March 16, 1997: The original church building was the vacant home of Johannes Rath, which was donated and moved to a site on the Christian Stuber homestead. Christian Stuber donated the property for the church and cemetery. Ten teams of horses were needed to move the heavy log building. Remodeling was accomplished with the help of many volunteers.

Some of the founding families were: Christian Seitz, Andrew Rath, William Krauss, Adam Stuber, Johannes Stuber, Erhardt Stuber, Fredrick Rabb, and Frederick Jesse.

During the first years of operation, members would take turns to pick up a pastor at Irvine or Medicine Hat with sleigh or buggy. The pastor would be picked up Saturday and returned to his home the following Monday. In later years he would travel by car and served as many as three churches.

Week long conferences were held in large tents erected on the church property, confirmations and new member acceptance took place during the conferences.

Attendees for these meetings traveled from as far away as Calgary, Alberta.

In 1920, Reverend G.J. Rieker became minister of the pastoral charge out of Irvine, consisting of congregations from north of Irvine, Alberta, Graburn, Alberta, Gros Ventre, Alberta, and Kincorth, Saskatchewan. Some of the other pastors that served were: Scholdice, Kesler, Rieker, Sizzler and Hediger.

Stuber nee Rath Elizabeth (sic) born December 25, 1848, in Bessarabia, died October 16, 1925. "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." Hebrews 4:9, wife of Johannes Stuber. From other sources:

Krauss Wilfred Lewis born December 26, 1938, died January 15, 1939, at Medicine Hat, Alberta, from pneumonia.

Jans ? born March 05, 1850, died April 17, 1937.

Stuber Johannes born 1845, in Bessarabia, died 1911, of Fredrich Stuber and Katharina Widmar, husband of Elizabeth Rath.

Stuber nee Bohnet Elizabeth born January 31, 1883, died April 06, 1937, at Medicine Hat, Alberta, from pneumonia, wife of Christian Stuber.