

## ***Introduction***

## ***Zion in the Fields***

The history of Zion Lutheran Church, east of Pickrell, Gage County, Nebraska, has thankfully been preserved due to major efforts of the congregation in publishing the *Zion Centennial History* book in 1974 and the *Zion 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* book in 1999. Yet, a genealogical history of the families who established this long-standing community has not been published; our goal is to recognize them and their legacy.

For the past four years, a team of representatives from the seventeen families who helped establish Zion Lutheran have diligently searched for information about the founders, their parents and their children. When I first contacted family representatives, I hoped to find migration records for everyone since I did not think it would be difficult to locate genealogy data about each family. After all, I reasoned, everyone probably remained in the Gage County area and we just needed to check with their descendants. That assumption turned out to be completely wrong, as we soon discovered that some of the children and their spouses bought land in other counties, a few divorced, a few died and their spouses remarried, and in some cases there simply were not any records kept for infants who died young. To confirm the accuracy of details that had been previously collected from memories, we attempted to locate at least two verifying pieces of information related to the dates and locations of each individual. In cases of conflicting information, we used the church register, a civil record or an obituary as the official date because it would have been recorded at the time when the birth or death occurred. If new information was found that did not agree with traditional family history, the source document is listed in the notes. Baptism names are important, so everyone is identified accordingly, with an American name or nickname from the census records also noted. Unconfirmed data was left blank, with regrets in not being able to locate all of the missing information.

Many have helped with *Zion in the Fields* by contributing information or locating old photos. In addition to the family representatives, I would like to give special thanks to Stephanie Ehmen for major assistance in locating Internet sources, to Fran Zedney for her research at the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City, to Alice Jurgens Schlake, who has been a significant help in tracking down details and talking to descendants of the founding families, to Cheryl Meints for editorial assistance and to my mother, Marie Jurgens Meints who hosted committee meetings twice a year. Clarence Zimmerman, the grand-nephew of Tamme Zimmerman, and Grace Zimmerman, the granddaughter of Willm Ehmen, also provided valuable assistance with this project. Hans-Juergen Adams of Wiesmoor, Germany has often located details in the German records. At the Gage County Courthouse, Judy L. Gibson and Willa Weideman Faris searched for early land records. Other records from the Gage County Historical Society and the Nebraska State Historical Society also provided helpful information.

As a descendant of the Zimmerman, Rossmueller, Meints, Aden and Johnson families, I've had a personal interest in completing this genealogy book. It is my hope that other descendants will record their own history, photos and stories to continue the legacy established by these early German settlers. ~~~ *Diana Church*

## ***Zion in the Fields***

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*Zion in the Fields* presents seventeen families who migrated from Germany to Illinois and Gage County, Nebraska between 1862 and 1881.

*Bartelt Aden, Hinrich Aden, Willm Ehmen, Harm Johnson,  
Onne Johnson, Willm Johnson, Albert Meints, Christian Meints,  
Heye Meints, Albert Miller, Eilert Miller, Foke Miller,  
Christopher Remmers, Thomas Remmers, Willm Schone,  
Claas Zimmerman, Tamme Zimmerman*



Six miles east of Pickrell, Nebraska is a prosperous farming community that does not have a grocery store, a bank, a post office or any of the other typical features of a small town. Instead, the community is defined by the early land purchases of individuals and families who emigrated from the villages of northern Germany. Their long-standing legacy is the establishment of Zion Lutheran Church within the midst of its surrounding fields.

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*A three-generation documented genealogy including photographs of the founding families of Zion Lutheran Church, as well as migration records of their journey from Germany to Illinois and Nebraska between 1862 and 1881. Blank charts are included so descendants may identify their relationship to the founders of Zion Lutheran Church. [Photos of Bartelt Aden & Harm Johnson were not found.]*

Genealogy data includes birth and death information of the founding families as well as records of their parents, their children and spouses. Dates and locations in Germany and America have been identified for nearly every individual.

*Bartelt Aden, Hinrich Aden, Willm Ehmen,  
Harm Johnson, Onne Johnson, Willm Johnson,  
Albert Meints, Christian Meints, Heye Meints,  
Albert Miller, Eilert Miller, Foke Miller,  
Christopher Remmers, Thomas Remmers,  
Willm Schone, Claas Zimmerman, Tamme Zimmerman*

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***Zion in the Fields***



*Diana Church*

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