

Speier Colony

In 1899, relatives and friends from Rastadt colony welcomed the last group of families who came from Rastadt Russia. They were provided lodging and temporary accommodation at Rastadt. Nine of these families agreed to pay yearly installments to buy lots in Rastadt colony. (names from book,) pg17

In 1901 Jakob Geis and Johannes Resch built a house SE1/4 35-15-16

In 1902, three trustees Mienrad Eberle, Vincenz Frey and Johannes Resch, purchased land at the same location. (SE1/4-35-15-16-2), from the North West Co. for 3.00/acre. Building started in the spring of 1902. Michael Selinger dismantled his Rastadt home of mud bricks and moved it to Speier.

Speier Colony pioneers attended services at the mud and brick church on section 10, until the new church was built in Rastadt colony. A small chapel was built in Speier Colony; regular services were not held there, it was used Holy days and prayer gatherings. Margaret Selinger and Joseph Deck were married in this chapel on Oct 28, 1919. Margaret was born at Rastadt in 1900 and moved to Speier when she was two years old.

The first school was erected in 1903 and Mrs. W. Deloughery was the 1st teacher

The 1909 survey showed seven farmyards and 3 larger holdings on which the chapel and schoolyard and cemetery was located.

The seven pioneers were Michel Eberle, Mathias Fuchs, Gregory Resch, Mienard Eberle, John Selinger, Micheal Selinger and Hieronimus Selinger.

Micheal Selinger was a talented musician who often entertained at Hauchiets and upseids. He also led the Kossachoka, a Ukranian dance which he learned during his tour of duty with the Russian navy in 1883-89.