

THE MENNONITE CHURCH AMONG THE ARAPAHOS AND CHEYENNES

(Tell about when the Mennonite work began among the Cheyennes and Arapahoes.)

About as close as I can get to the church movement when it first begun, was in 1880, down here at Darlington, Oklahoma. So the first thing I can say about the beginning of the movement, as I have stated before, was Darlington, Oklahoma, near El Reno. The first missionary was S. S. Haury from Summerfield, Illinois. And the Mission and the School started in 1881. So from then on they spread out from Cantonment to Hammon and then they spread it out to the Hopi field in Arizona. And then we went to Montana, and the year I do not know. But of course I know that the Mennonite movement here in Oklahoma was carried on by different field representatives. And finally I got acquainted--when I went to school here at old Cantonment--they came every Sunday to conduct services at the schools. And they had missions--stationed west of Cantonment about a mile. And every other Sunday we'd go there to attend services. And the man at that time that had the meeting, he used to talk Cheyenne. He used the Cheyenne language. But they could not master the Arapaho language at that time--until the present time. There has been different men all these years move in. They didn't stay very long. But there was one that I know that stayed among the Arapaho tribe. He was Newfield. And today, that building he lived in is still standing over here at our little church, north of here (Mennonite church, etc. about 2 miles south of Canton). And now his son came here last summer, listing the people that he knew, and he got in contact with my brother. So I went over there and talked about his father's work. And my brother showed him my mother's Bible that was presented to her when she first was baptized through the Mennonite movement. That's an old Bible and the leaves have started crumbling. They have it at the parrish. So that's where the Indians got their Bibles, by attending the church regularly. They still do that now! They give the Bibles to the people that attends more, mostly in a month. If they have regular good attendance, they reward them