



**Mennonite Library & Archives  
Fresno Pacific University**

**MB Mission work in Oklahoma  
An Inventory of Records**

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

**Creator:** MB Mission  
**Title:** Records of mission work in Oklahoma  
**Inclusive dates:** 1907-1975 (bulk: 1941-1958)  
**Quantity:** 1.3 linear ft.  
**Record Group No.:** A250-4

**HISTORICAL NOTE**

Mennonite Brethren work among the Comanche Indians began in 1894 when Rev. Henry Kohfeld was granted permission by the United States government and Chief Quanah Parker to establish a mission on 160 acres near Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The mission received its name because Quanah Parker carved a notch into a Post Oak tree to show where the mission was to be built.

The Kohfelds served as the first missionaries to the Post Oak mission from 1894 until 1907. They were followed by A.J. and Magdalena Becker, who arrived in 1901. Numerous other missionaries followed in subsequent years.

The work at Post Oak was enlarged in the 1930s and 1940s. In 1937 the Beckers established a church in the Mexican community of Lawton, a few miles east of Post Oak. In 1948 the Post Oak Mission School was founded, with D.J. Gerbrandt and Ruth Wiens as the first teachers. The school closed in 1958.

In 1955 the United States government proposed an enlargement of the Fort Sill artillery range to include the area occupied by the Post Oak Mission station. The government bought the missionary property, and the mission moved to the nearby town of Indiahoma. The Post Oak Cemetery, a focal point for the mission, was completely relocated at government expense as well.

The last Board of Foreign Missions personnel left Oklahoma in 1965. Today the Post Oak Mennonite Brethren Church in Indiahoma and the Faith Bible Church in Lawton still exist, the legacy of seventy-one years of Mennonite Brethren mission work among the Comanche Indians and Mexican immigrants of Oklahoma.

**SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

This subgroup includes minutes, correspondence, clippings, maps and articles relating to the Post Oak Mission and School from 1907 until 1975, the bulk of which date from 1941 to 1958.

**LANGUAGES APPEARING IN THE COLLECTION**

Minutes and correspondence before 1940 in German.

## **(Record Group A250-4: MB Mission work in Oklahoma)**

### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION**

Missionary Council minutes, 1943-1958  
Other minutes and reports, 1930, 1942, undated  
Correspondence, general, 1923-1967  
Bartel, Bena, 1952-1958  
Bartel, Harry K. and Martha, 1946-1947  
Becker, A.J. and Magdalena, 1907-1952  
Dick, John S. and Tina, 1941-1942  
Fast, Clarence E. and Edna, 1942-1944  
Friesen, Walter and Helen, 1957-1931  
Gerbrandt, D.J. and Linda, 1945-1955  
Gomez, Anna, 1942-1956  
Gomez, Walter and Lois, 1944-1946  
Grunau, Sarah, 1952-1958  
Heinrichs, Maria, 1919-1920  
Koweno, Felix, 1932-1954  
Kroeker, Martha, 1950-1955  
Neufeld, H. J. and Anna, 1946-1958  
Nickel, Frank P. and Eva, 1947-1952  
Pahcheka, Max, 1948  
Petker, Dan and Eleanor, 1953-1956  
Reimer, Raymond and Matilda, 1955-1956  
Vogt, Raymond and Clara, 1952-1953  
Wiebe, Alton F., 1956-1958  
Relocation of mission station, 1955-1958  
Post Oak Mission School, 1949-1958  
Construction project, 1957  
Financial documents, 1918-1952  
Articles and reports by A. E. Janzen, 1946-1970  
Other articles, 1941-1953  
Clippings, 1941-1974  
Site Drawings(map case, drawer 4)  
Miscellaneous, undated  
Photographs  
    Camp ministry  
    Comanche people  
        Individuals  
        Groups and families  
        Children  
    Church group photos  
    Missionary groups  
    Buildings  
        General  
        Church Building  
        Main Residence  
    Cemetery  
        General  
        Group photos  
    Woman's class  
    School class pictures  
    Miscellaneous  
    Lawton Mexican mission