

GERMANS IN GROVER, COLORADO

Between 1900 – 1916, the changes in homesteading laws brought many settlers into the dry land regions of Weld County, including a group of German settlers who settled in the Grover area. In 1916 these settlers met, organized the Evangelical Lutheran Zion Congregation, U.A.C of Grover, Weld County Colorado, and in the summer of 1917 built a church which also served as a Christian day school.

Shortly after the church was constructed, members of the congregation received threats that their new church would be burned if the German language continued to be taught and spoken in school, or during church services. In response, Henry D. Hillman, Herman Hahn, and Mortiz Hopka printed a notice in the December 27, 1917 edition of the *Pawnee Press*;

PUBLIC TAKE NOTICE:

GROVER LUTHERAN SCHOOL CHANGES CURRICULUM, ELIMINATING GERMAN; WAR MEASURE

. In place of German, an “extended course in civil government” was substituted, this done “to prevent any internal troubles and to create greater unity among our people.” This church is now called the Weld Centennial Church and is located at Centennial Village Museum. You can view it when the village is open, mid-May thru mid-October.