

HISTORICAL SITE

ST. BRIDGET CHURCH

St. Bridget Church was established in an Irish settlement six and one-half miles north of Axtell, Kansas. The first settlement needed a name for their new parish so St. Bridget was chosen to honor the Patroness of Ireland. Sometime between 1863 and 1864, a frame building was erected at the location of the cemetery. This building was moved up the hill to the



northwest to its present site.

In 1871, Father Suitbert Demarteau, OSB, from Atchison, began directing the construction of a rock church 30x60 feet which could seat over 300 people. It was completed in 1875. Father Patrick O'Sullivan came to the parish in 1896. In 1902, he was successful in getting a foundation for the present building constructed. Construction was started, stopped and resumed again because of the financial considerations of that time. Halfway through the construction, a wind storm tore the scaffolding down, blew out the windows and

door frames and caused considerable damage to the walls. It was rebuilt and the red brick that was used was brought in by railroad flat cars to the Carney siding. (farm of Don and Marci Meyer.) Then it was transported by wagon to the construction site. The finished building was 50x100 feet and cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000. A unique feature of St. Bridge's Church construction is its high vaulted ceiling unsupported by pillars. Another striking feature is its stained glass windows. These were first installed in the stone church in December, 1885. Then they were transferred into the present church before the dedication.



Home of the
EAGLES



USD #488

AXTELL-BERN-SUMMERFIELD

The district has over 300 students and employs approximately 70 people. Axtell has a Jr./Sr. High School for grades 7-12. The elementary site is located in Summerfield. The office of the Superintendent and Board of Education is located in downtown Axtell.



ST. MICHAEL ELEMENTARY PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

They enroll grades 1-6.

AXTELL COMMUNITY P.R.I.D.E.

Established in June 2000

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.marshallco.net/axtell/sites

May 2002



LOOK HERE!

Axtell

KANSAS

Axtell is located approximately 10 miles south of the Nebraska State Line and 89 miles west of St. Joseph, Mo. It is located in the eastern part of Marshall County about 1/2 mile from the Nemaha county line. Turning north at the junction of US 36 and KS 110 you travel two miles and are greeted by a beautiful sign constructed by the Axtell Busy Bee 4-H club.



Axtell is a thriving rural community with many services, organizations and churches.

SERVICES:

Emergency Medical Technicians • Library
Monthly Health Clinic • Cancer Support Group

ORGANIZATIONS:

Axtell Community P.R.I.D.E. • Axtell Alumni Association • Knights of Columbus • 4-H • Boy Scouts • Girl Scouts • Volunteer Fire Department
American Legion • Senoir Citizens

CHURCHES:

Mission Covenant Church • St. Michael Catholic Church • Salem Lutheran Church
United Methodist Church



ST. MICHAEL CHURCH

The St. Michael evolved from the St. Bridget Parish. In 1874, a group of Catholics living in or near Axtell banded together and built a church building at

Eighth and Murray Streets (where Regis and Mary Jane Rochel presently live). They arranged for the pastor of St. Bridget Church, six and 1/2 miles north, to celebrate Mass for them on alternate Sundays. Then in 1881 Rev. Timothy Lubert, OSB, organized this group into the present parish.

The present church site, Block 13, was purchased in 1901. The parish had 60 families. With Father Taton's encouragement, the parish built four buildings: the church in 1906, the parish house in 1909, the school building in 1917 and the convent in 1918.

MISSION COVENANT CHURCH



The first building for Evangelical Mission Covenant Church was constructed in 1889. In 1907, the congregation decided a new location would be better so a new building was constructed on the present site. When nearly completed, a fire started in a pile of wood shavings and burned the building. A few days later they began rebuilding. Richly colored windows were included this time. This building is 1 mile east of Salem Lutheran church.

METHODIST CHURCH



The small rural Axtell Methodist congregation, in 1904, designed their new church structure to incorporate 14 stained glass windows. Of these 14, nine are "regular" size 3' x 5' windows of wine-colored glass framed with amber, red and green scrolls surrounding a centered symbol. The larger, 17' x 14' windows are positioned on the north, south and east sides of the sanctuary. The newspaper article of 1905 justly stated that these "...illuminated stained glass windows rouse thought of praise to the craftsman for the work and talent needed to make such awe inspiring colors and figures."

The craftsmen knew just how to combine their colors and to place them so the changing light would affect the various parts of the window throughout the day to give an ever changing pattern.

In November of 1976, the windows were cleaned, repaired, and covered with Plexiglas by the Cathedral Glass Company of Evansville, Indiana. Cost, \$7,400. (Info taken from booklet entitled: A Century of Service 1878-1978.)

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH



Salem Lutheran Church is 4 miles west from the Axtell corner and 2 miles south on Hwy. 87. The Swedish congregation included not only the stained glass windows but also a wonderful pipe organ.

HISTORICAL SITE

WWI DOUGHBOY



In 1925, the City of Axtell and surrounding countryside wanted to honor her men and women that served their country in the First World War. They commissioned a famous sculptor to depict the World War I "doughboy."

This famous statue still stands proudly in Axtell reminding all who see it of our men and women who proudly served their country in the armed forces.