

Fruitland Facts.

The first Friends that settled in Fruitland neighborhood were Thomas H. Stanley and family, he believing that it was his duty to settle near the Kaw Indians to assist them in a better way of living, both religiously and temporally. They came here in the fall of 1857 near the first of the tenth month, with the approval of the Friends and also of government at that time. There were a few Friends lived on the Cottonwood river, namely: Curtis Hiatt, Jonathan Wheeler, Joseph Moon, and Madley and family. Andrew Hinshaw lived just west of Emporia and Milton Chamness four miles south of Emporia.

The next fall, 1858, John Moon and several other families of Friends settled on or near Cottonwood. Charles Hinshaw settled in the Fruitland neighborhood in the fall of 1861 or '62. John Morgan, Nathan Beals, Maholm Oliphant, William Lewis and their families settled in the neighborhood in 1861 '62 and '63, also Able Bond and White Worthington and their families.

There was a meeting set up called Neosho preparative meeting, a branch of Cottonwood monthly meeting. The preparative meeting was established in 1862 and was held in Thos. H. Stanley house. The Fruitland monthly meeting was set up in 1880 and was held in the stone school house until a church was built in 1884. The present membership numbers between 75 and 80.