

Phelps Helps



Volume 12, Issue 2

Summer 2003

**Meetings held at the
Phelps County
Historical Museum on the
first Monday of the
month at 2:00 PM.**

The public is welcome!

Visit us on the Web!
Phelps Helps Web Page via
[http://www.alltel.net/
~ps60313](http://www.alltel.net/~ps60313)



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President's Message

As I have mentioned, we have several volunteers from our club and outside our organization that spend countless hours making our library more valuable and user friendly for our club members and the many visitors that come to find their Nebraska connections. The volunteer's reward is a thank you meeting our visitors who have found some valuable information on their family.

I want to especially thank Harry Stuart who has made a profound difference in our ability to locate information in our records and books.

Five members attended the Nebraska State Genealogy Conference. We learned some valuable information on homesteads, vital records, census, house histories, and computer genealogy. Eight members will be going to the land Symposium at Beatrice in June. This will be a valuable opportunity to learn about state and national records.

Come and spend a day at our library.

Your President, Sandra Slater

?? Query Corner ??

1. I am searching for the following Phelps County family: My great grandparents, Richard D. and Nancy Matilda Marshall, and their daughter and son-in-law Eliza and Bert Phillips's family.

Gloria M Borgrink, 41180 Bridges Farm Lane, Leesburg VA 20175

2. I am looking for information on the children of Clara Fox Dawson Nutzman and her first husband, Jay M. Dawson. She and Jay Dawson were married in Bertrand, Phelps Co. in 1905, but would have divorced sometime prior to 1914, when Jay remarried (my grandma, Myrtle Slocum) in Gray Co. Kansas. I believe she and Jay had 3 children, possibly Rena, Dena & George Dawson. Any help would be appreciated. Thank you. Linda LeFebre (My Email: kansastex-an47@hotmail.com)

New Books On Our Shelf

FROM HILDING MATSON

- The Eric Matson Family History

FROM ADA HINSON

- The Story of Council Grove on the Santa Fe. Trail

FROM DON LINDGREN

- 4 binders of PHELPS COUNTY HISTORY
- 1 binder of MILITARY HISTORY
- 1 binder of

FROM SANDY SANDELL

- Hawaii at War

FROM JO JENSEN

- The Gardens of Japan
- Japan
- Hurlburt in Review, U.S. Airforce

4751 Air Defense Wing

- Hickman - The First Fifty Years
- 1942 Hickman Bomber
- Christmas in Hawaii 1940 and 1941
- December 7th Memorial Ceremony, Hickman Air Force Base, Hawaii, December 7, 1991 In the World War 1917-1918-1919, Buffalo County, NE
- The Deadeye - The story of the 96th Infantry Division
- The Marshall Cavendish Illustrated Encyclopedia of World War II, Volume 1 7 December 1941
- The Air Force Story East wind Rain - A pictorial History of Pearl Harbor Attach Motor-Transport - Corps Repair Unit 310 Third Army Coblenz Germany 1918-1919 The 88th Division In The World War of 1914-1918 351 first Infantry U. S. Official Pictures of the World War Guide to Oahu, December 1991

Harlan County, Nebraska

Weekly Tribune 25 June
1885

Prairie Dog Items

The little rain at present would be acceptable. The wheat and other small grain are doing very well just now.

Miss May and Silas Houk celebrated their 18th birthday Sunday the 14th by giving a dinner. There were about 30 guests present, who report having a good time and a splendid dinner. They all attended Sunday school.

Our Sunday school is progressing fine; has an average attendance of fifty scholars.

Lu Pond; while attempting to show some expert: "war-manship", sometimes since, shot himself in the left leg, and the ball entered the calf of his leg and passed through it making a bad flesh wound. Take a little advice, Lu, and don't shoot at the calves.

"The boys have been practicing on the ball grounds, and say they want to get leverage on the Alma Boys next Fourth of July. (Limber up boys we glory in your pluck---Ed.)

Jesse Bennett returned from the west, the possessor of the timber claim.

Will Campbell is "The father of a son." Born the 12th. : Mother and child doing well.

Sore Foot

Alma Herald, Alma, NE
January 5, 1882

Mr. Editor -- You say items from different parts of the county would be acceptable, so I send you some.

Fairfield farmers are making use of the splendid fall and winter to get all their work arranged and be ready for spring work. There was a large amount

NOTE: The Phelps Helps Newsletter highlights Harlan County in this section. With many of our subscribers interested in and from Harlan County, and since Harlan County is a connecting county to Phelps County, the Phelps Helps will publish history information on Harlan County.

of rye to put in, and lots of fall plowing for spring wheat, to no winter wheat was put in that I know of.

There was number of houses put up during the fall. Mr. Reneau, put up large one, and Mr. Setter, Mr. Kettles, J. D. Reneau, and J. F. Morgan all have new sod places.

District 49 put up a school house in the fall, and district 53 thinks the last is the best: It is fourteen by twenty-four feet inside, well seated and finished throughout. The work was done gratis by the district, and as is usually the way, the greater part was done by a few. In this case it was Tuel, Booth and Morgan. Mr. Tuel was the "Boss" and did nice work and it is nice, if you doubt, come and see. School is in progress now, Mrs. M. R. Morgan, teacher.

A Kansas lady teaching in 49, she is having a week's vacation to enjoy the holidays.

A. P. Myers and wife are on their claim again, and like Nebraska better than ever.

13 Aug 1885
Alma Weekly New, Alma, NE

Condensed Reports

Thursday and Friday were devoted to the study of the various branches required for a second-grade certificates and the best methods of the teaching them. The reading and calliathenio exercises as conducted by Prof. Nickerson, has been incalculable value to those attending and his arithmetic lessons were clear and comprehensive. Prof. Bentley ably conducted all other recitations except physiology, finishing spelling and better writing on Monday and by test taught the teachers the great necessity for improvement in these branches and that we should give particule instructions in our school work. Geography, Tuesday's lesson

(Harlan County Continued on page 8)

New Members & Their Queries

1. William E. Cordero
22123 Figueroa St. No. 135
Carson, CA 90745

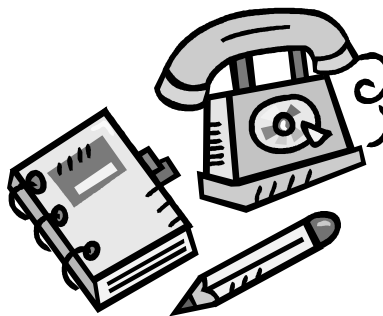
Researching these surnames in Phelps County CHELINE, MURPHY AND CARROLL.

2. Jim Creech, M.D.
926 N 8th Street
Estherville, IA 51334

Looking for information for families Chauncy Mitchell and Earnest Smith family who resided in Phelps county Nebraska in the early 1900s.

3. Betty Boyd
1285 Mokelumne Place
San Jose, CA 95120

Searching for any relatives of Klas and Hedwig (Widerbebeck) Peterson. Their children were Ivar, Anna and Edith Peterson.



Other Recollections of the Early Holdrege Days

by Lois Barr of Redlands, CA in 1967

OTHER RECOLLECTION OF THE EARLY DAYS

Miss Barr recalls many other incidents of early days in Holdrege in a letter to the Citizen. She remembers the first commencement at the Opera House, the big Cautauqua tent in the courthouse yard, especially the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

Other recollections: Bell Hopwood, Editor T. M. Hopwood's sister taught the first school group in the store room....Prof. W. R. Hart's wife taught the primary grades in a small wooden annex in the school yard. She sued a phonetic system of reading, so we learned to spell and well as read. We had the only school building then, on the east side...Mrs. Scott, from "back east" was an exceptional teacher. She established Friday afternoon as "literary" day. Each scholar had to participate --- no escape. Each ascended a small platform to face the vast assembly--a sea of faces it seemed to a pupil with his heart in his throat. There were recitations largely from Harper's Speaker, also essays, debates, extemporaneous

speeches book reviews, etc.---Our boys, Norman, Edward and Clinton Barr, all went to the state university at Lincoln to work their way through. Charles Dawes, later vice president, became acquainted with my oldest brother, Norman. Mr. Dawes steered my brother, later the Rev. N. B. Barr, to develop Olivet Memorial Institute in Chicago's "Little Hell," The McCormicks and other family were their backers.

Mrs. T. M. Hopwood, wife of the Nugget editor, was county superintendent of schools. Both were college graduates.

The University of Nebraska, when my brothers and other Holdrege high school graduates attended, had a faculty of notable men, including Dr. Bessey, Chancellor Canfield and Black Jack Pershing. In later years when I attended Columbia University in New York City, Dr. Canfield was the head librarian. His daughter, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, was there too and she invited me to have tea at her home. It was in New York after

(Recollection Continued on page 5)

Holdrege Area Genealogy Club Nominates Harry Stuart

Holdrege Area Genealogy Club would like to recognize Harry Stuart as our nominee for being an outstanding volunteer in his effort to make several index computer files for our books and record archive. These indexes are very much appreciated by our library volunteers and the visitors that come to do their genealogy research.

Some of the projects he has completed or maintains are

- a. Book list of 4,434 books in our library
- b. Obituary index of several thousand obituaries
- c. Military list of all military men from

Phelps County, stating their Branch in the service, rank and years of service.

d. Searchable index of Phelps County Court cases and Mother Pension lists.

e. Marriage Index

f. Maintains a computer index on all records housed in our Records Room.

Thank you Harry for all the volunteer hours you have given to this project!

Holdrege Area Genealogy Club
Nebraska Prairie Museum
Holdrege, NE

(Recollection Continued from page 4)

World War I, that I watched Black Jack Pershing ride up Fifth Avenue...My brother Clinton, had trained with General Pershing at Lincoln for the Spanish-American War.

My Father, later Judge L. C. Barr, had a struggle to get our family included in the "city" school district. There was much argument and publicity. Our homestead was just outside the city limits and some town folks wanted to charge \$500 tuition. I was only three years old and can't recall the details but we did get in---all eight of us! And we appreciated it.

Holdrege had the environment, the opportunities, the inspiration and the atmosphere needed.

Holdrege was always a city. It was hi-jacked and moved by stealth on the sleds drawn by ox teams, we were not an ox team town, however. We had "class" from that first special day!

Oregon Land For Everybody

From the Holdrege Citizen September 23, 1909

Phelps County People by the scores secure tracts at Lakeview Drawing SEVERAL GET 160 ACRES Great Interest In Returns as Received Here Almost Daily----Drawing is Nearly Ended.

The Citizen has been receiving almost daily reports from L. C. Huck and J. P. Nelson, who were left by the other delegates now on their way home via. Seattle, to represent the Lakeview drawing. These reports show that local people are landing their share of the spoils so that if the land is worth the values claimed for it they will be doing better than getting their money's worth.

Several from the county have secured 160 acre farms and others, obtained 80 and 40 acres tracts. The larger tracts are not necessarily the most valuable, however, as location has about everything to do with their real value.

It is thought that the drawing will be finished this week.

With the recent report to the Daily Citizen. Mr. Huck enclosed the following clipping throwing further light upon the attempt to wreck the excursion train the Holdrege party was traveling on an incident mentioned in Dr. Palmer's letter published in the Citizen:

"An unsuccessful, though well planned attempt was made to wreck the N.C.O. passenger train a few miles north of Amadee, Cal., on Monday afternoon. "Had the attempt been successful many would have been badly injured and it is possible there might have been several fatalities."

"The train loaded down with 300 men and women, bound for the land opening in this city, was speeding along about 25 miles an hour when the engineer, while making a sharp curve, saw a large pile of rocks upon the track. He had just time to apply his air and bring the train to a stop within ten feet of the pile. Had it been dark there would have been a terrible wreck."

That the wreck had been carefully planned and easily to be seen. By no chance could the rock have rolled down upon the track as they were found.

"The train crew assisted by many of the passengers quickly cleared the

track and the train went on. At the next stop the authorities of Modoc

County, Cal., and of Lakeview were notified and a search is not being made for the guilty parties.

"Just what the object of the would-be wreckers was hard to learn. It is possible that a wholesale robbery was contemplated as every one of the passengers was well supplied with money. Probably \$5000 or \$10,000 would have been taken from the passengers had the train been ditched as expected."

The complete list of all the allotments to Phelps County people up to date follows (See page 7 of this newsletter).



OREGON LAND FOR EVERYBODY

	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Blk</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rnge</u>
P. G. Freed	20	68	10	11	17	41	19
J. A. Hanson	40	239	40	9	27	38	17
W. M. Sandstedt	32	212	20	11	27	36	36
C. Alf. Johnson	41	93	10	3	18	35	21
J. Fred Youngquist	7	182	20	24	5	36	32
C. A. Baker	6	281	40	6	29	36	29
A. E. Bloach	6	218	20	1	29	36	36
Aug. Dahl	45	301	40	2	13	33	38
J. J. Walter	26	317	40	1	5	33	41
R. S. Hendricks	6	15	10	13	11	39	18
Olof Carlson	11	119	10	37	3	37	36
W. M. Bruce	14	134	20	4	9	41	17
D. Swancott	28	352	40	4	21	32	41
J. W. Jackson	26	332	80	2	25	36	27
A. E. Roach	9	241	20	20	31	36	36
Luther Dahl	46	72	10	58	8	38	20
Geo. O. Fairchild	33	116	10	35	33	36	36
Donald McKay	17	135	20	17	1	39	18
E. R. Olson	28	326	80	7	21	36	33
B. F. Pickering	10	115	10	38	25	36	36
F. L. Chapman	12	173	20	35	19	36	31
P. G. Engstrom	36	300	40	12	5	37	37
H. A. Christianson	21	210	20	18	19	36	36
Falk & Anderson	32	52	10	25	33	39	19
E. J. Simpson	34	134	20	10	14	41	17
W. N. Simpson	9	238	40	13	7	39	19
Allen Linder	35	335	160	3	33	34	38
J. R. Cooper	49	120	10	11	11	37	36
C. J. Danielson	27	16	10	45	23	39	18
P. A. Hallen	37	118	10	7	1	37	30
J. P. Nelson	49	17	10	27	25	39	18
D. S. Palmer	17	200	20	18	27	35	33
L. C. Huck	16	296	40	7	11	36	32¾
Laura S. Huck	1	138	20	13	25	39	18
D. S. Palmer	20	303	40	13	9	33	39
G. L. McClellan	47	338	160	1	29	37	15
C. E. Sandstram	11	229	40	4	10	41	16
Geo. Barnhoft	11	341	160	3	3	36	34
Ed B. Person & Dr. Morrow	46	73	10	42	18	38	20
C. L. Hedlund	5	211	20	26	19	36	36
C. H. Bennett	18	348	160	3	33	35	38
F. W. Eberspacher	28	269	40	4	15	36	28
Alfred A. Larson	26	217	20	7	13	33	39
John N. Gustus	12	170	20	21	9	36	31
F. L. Black	47	87	10	23	33	34	20
Wm. A. Schlinsog	35	200	20	4	29	35	33
Jas. Andrezon	20	9	10	4	23	36	14
Esther Sodergren	42	83	10	6	30	34	20
Nels Nelson	15	226	20	2	31	35	14
G. M. Lee	26	96	10	30	31	35	21
F. L. Black	28	339	160	4	25	36	26
L. Oman, Loomis	14	264	40	14	17	36	26
F. E. Hedburg, Holdrege	24	102	10	32	5	39	21
K. A. Schrieter, Atlanta	17	136	20	22	11	39	18
P. N. Nelson, Holdrege	24	32	40	3	29	31	41
Arthur Jackson, Holdrege	4	49	10	29	29	39	19
W. Garrabrant, Funk	17	129	20	7	7	37	15
M. H. Andren, Holdrege	24	91	10	14	24	35	10
G. R. Charlston, Loomis	4	114	10	8	25	36	36
E. Oman, Loomis	16	343	160	4	25	35	37
C. R. Burgeson, Holdrege	3	106	10	47	13	35	33
N. H. Kronquist, Holdrege	10	208	20	3	15	36	36
H. A. Johnson, Holdrege	22	34	20	9	15	31	41
Ruth Bergland, Loomis	11	351	40	13	7	32	41
Ed Burgeson, Holdrege	27	53	10	4	35	39	19
H. A. Knight, Holdrege	32	164	20	13	99	35	31
Earl I. Youngquist, Holdrege	43	252	40	10	7	36	24
Clyde Jackson, Holdrege	45	144	20	5	15	38	20
H. H. Funk, Funk	36	54	10	61	35	39	19
J. J. Walters, Holdrege	2	172	20	11	15	36	31
J. C. Swanburg, Loomis	16	96	10	20	31	35	21

Warren Moore, Loomis	3	133	20	5	15	39	17
E. Nordstrom, Loomis	8	161	20	19	27	35	30
W. A. Schlinsog, Funk	34	18	10	4	11	38	19
P. M. Johnson, Funk	4	141	20	13	2	39	19
S. A. Johnson, Holdrege	15	34	10	33	1	39	19
D. Hanna, Holdrege	19	50	10	4	31	39	19
Sidney Anderson, Holdrege	46	345	160	2	5	35	38
J. O. Munson, Wilcox	5	49	10	30	29	39	19
Joseph Johnson, Loomis	43	78	20	23	19	39	..
H. W. Wheeler, Holdrege	41	225	20	14	23	31	41
H. O. Grosse, Atlanta	24	54	10	49	35	39	19
D. B. Smith, Holdrege	47	61	10	24	17	40	19
Nels B. Anderson, Holdrege	10	300	40	12	35	36	37
F. D. Swanson	17	387	40	2	35	33	39
Arthur Lund	18	220	20	7	9	33	40
Ray Garrabrant	25	97	10	15	5	36	21
Garrabrant Bros	24	278	40	2	23	6	29
Emit Stromquist	18	150	20	6	17	38	23
Oscar Anderson	3	211	20	24	19	36	36
A. E. Stanley	30	268	40	2	11	36	28
Wm. Upright	30	213	20	29	3	36	36
Emil Bragg	34	613	10	33	31	40	14
Oscar Anderson	18	331	80	2	11	36	27
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H. A. Johnson, Holdrege	22	34	20	9	15	31	41
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Earl I. Youngquist, Holdrege	43	252	40	10	7	36	24	Wm. Upright	30	213	20	29	3	36	36
Clyde Jackson, Holdrege	45	144	20	5	15	38	20	Emil Bragg	34	613	10	33	31	40	14
H. H. Funk, Funk	36	54	10	61	35	39	19	Charles Jackson	18	331	80	2	11	36	27
J. J. Walters, Holdrege	2	172	20	11	15	36	31	Robert L. Burman	21	21	20	12	13	33	39
J. C. Swanburg, Loomis	16	96	10	20	31	35	21	END							

(Harlan County Continued from page 3)

was a development of the physical features of Nebraska. Civil Government and History were well discussed, and good methods proposed.

On Monday Dr. Oyler gave the teachers a lecture on the nervous system, and on Tuesday reviewed his previous lesson, and introduced the subject of alcohol and its effects on the nervous system, outlining his lesson for tomorrow. Today Mr. Chapman gave the teachers instruction of various short methods of arithmetic, and many valuable rules were given, which the teaching highly appreciated.

Visitor's names will be reported next. The teachers have been very prompt in attendance: from thirty-five to forty responding at morning and noon call.

The following are the name of the teachers in attendance: Prof. P.P. Bentley of Alma, Nebraska Prof. J H. Nickerson, Orleans, Nebraska C. W. Howell, Orleans, Nebraska Nora Deans, Alma, Nebraska Anna Stevenson, Alma, Nebraska Elisha Bennet, Alma, Nebraska Gertle Burtch, Orleans Ertle Proctor, Alma, Nebraska Jeannie L. Waggoner, Baimbridge, Nebraska Mary A. Card, Orleans, Nebraska Alta Steyenson, Alma, Nebraska Lucy Whley, Alma, Nebraska Katie L. Ferguson, Orleans, Nebraska Emma B. Evens, Orleans, Nebraska Ida St. Clair, Orleans, Nebraska Lizzie Moore, Orleans, Nebraska Florance Cleaver, Orleans, Nebraska Mrs. L. H. Hene Mrs. J. A. Henry, Alma, Nebraska Mrs. Rosa Cleaver, Orleans, Nebraska Anna Shannon, Alma, Nebraska Alice Cleaver, Orleans, Nebraska Buda Knowiton, Orleans, Nebraska Ida Poor, Republican City, Nebraska Ettie, Ronean, Orleans, Nebraska S. W. Cobun, Eva, Nebraska Clara Gibbons, Alma, Nebraska Aubery Billings, Alma, Nebraska Lucy D. Muchmoro, Orleans, Nebraska Augusta Habbo, Scandinavia Katie Shepherd, Oxford, Nebraska Ella Morton, Republican City, Nebraska Jennie Morton, Republican City, Nebraska Emma Morton, Republican City, Nebraska Emma Harden, Orleans, Nebraska Clara Stevens, Eva, Nebraska Katie Swadley, Alma, Nebraska Mary G. Smith, Alma, Nebraska Maggie Holmes, Freewater, Nebraska U. S. Howell, Orleans, Nebraska Nettie Moore, Freewater, Nebraska Kitty Hicks, Freewater, Nebraska Hanna Soick, Baimbridge, Nebraska Vinnie Russell, Alma, Nebraska D. J. Rencan, Orleans, Nebraska Bell Parsons, Republican City, Nebraska

Holdrege Nugget

21 November 1883

Five years ago, Phelps County did not contain 300 souls, but today our population will reach almost 5,000. Nearly every farmer in the county homesteaded or pre-empted his land and was as poor as Job's turkey. Many of them had not even a team, but today these men are worth from two to ten thousand dollars. Then we had no railroad. Land was valued at \$1.25 per acre, Kearney was the nearest market and many a poor ragged homesteader hauled his little crop of corn and wheat 125 miles and exchanged it for flour and groceries.

Holdrege Nugget

26 December 1883

Twenty carpenters are now boarding at the Arlington hotel, and 30 or 40 more have found accommodations elsewhere.

Holdrege Nugget

19 December 1883

Last Friday, Holdrege, for the first time in its experience, heard the click of the telegraph at 4:45 p.m. The linemen had put up 13 miles of wire from 7 o'clock in the morning until it reached the thriving town.



Holdrege Nugget

19 December 1883

The Commercial State Bank of Holdrege is now open for business. This bank is located on West Avenue, one block north of the Arlington Motel. Einsel Brothers, proprietors, have had a good many disadvantages to contend with in the past six months; first locating at Phelps Center, where they erected buildings, and were ready to commence business, when the town began to move to this place. Now they are ready. Their bank building is large and contains a brick vault in which they have just placed a beautiful burglar proof safe, which cost them \$1,000. Their patrons will find them gentlemanly and accommodating.



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Holdrege Area Genealogy Club
PO Box 164
Holdrege, NE 68949