

Phelps Helps



Volume 17, Issue 3

Fall 2009

Meetings held at the Nebraska Prairie Museum on the first Monday of the month at 2:00 PM.

The public is welcome!

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Holdrege Area Genealogy Club

In line with our policy of collecting and recording genealogical data on Phelps County residents, the Holdrege Area Genealogy Club urges all people to write their story.

Autobiography forms for writing a structured autobiography are free to all who visit the genealogical library at the Nebraska Prairie Museum in Holdrege.

Developing An Autobiography

One ongoing project of Ken Mosman, who is a member of our genealogy club, is a genealogy of Marvin C. Westcott of Holdrege, Nebraska. He is the 11th generation of his Westcott forebears from Stuckely Westcott, the first Westcott who immigrated to Rhode

Island early in the 1600s'. Stuckely Westcott was one of the original prospectors of Rhode Island. His descendants have been traced from there to New York, Illinois, Nebraska and to Holdrege, Nebraska.

Thanks To All Our Volunteer Staff

We are blessed with wonderful volunteers who are doing a great deal of work to make the library even better. There are several books and card files being indexed for quick reference. We continue to find unique records for researching not only in Phelps County, but other counties throughout Nebraska.

Gloria Melbye; Mary Christenson; Renate Emken; Susan Perry; Pat Scoville; Darlene Samuelson; Ben Boell; Mary Lou Abramson and Sandra Slater.

Below is the list of volunteers presently working in the library: Ada Hinson; Lourie Johnson; Mary Hammond; Virginia Lindstrom; Martha Tweety; Rose Ann Messersmith;



A New Look At the Donald O. Lindgren Library!

Additional changes have been started in the older part of our library. With thirteen volunteers helping on either Tuesday or Thursday afternoons, space becomes an important commodity. A plan is being implemented to make a little more space by putting the card catalogue into the wall that was formerly cupboards. Our masterful carpenter Bill Perry built the file into the wall. Next several of the doors were removed and baskets were purchased for each volunteer to store the project they are working on.

Thanks to donations to the library fund, we have six new comfortable chairs along with the new furniture in our new addition.

Our plans are to reorganize the two large tables we work on and add another one in the future. It seems our progress is slow but we hope to meet our goal in

the next few months.

We have had a number of visitors at our library this summer. It is always a great pleasure to assist them in their genealogy.



*Sandra Slater with two of our Library supporters,
Roy and Mary Pearson*

New On The Bookshelf..

Donated by Warner Carlson

- Holdrege High School Year Books 1966, 1968, 1975, 1978, 1996.
- Loomis Year Books, The Wolf, 1964 and Green Wave 1953

Donated by Jennifer (DeMoss) Cleveland

- DeMoss Family Pictures on CD

Donated by Harold Johnson

- Holdrege High School Year Book 1936

Donald O. Lindgren Library Projects

The Library is currently adding to a *supplement* to the Christian Children's Home book published in May 2008. Progress is slow, but new information comes to light from time to time.

A new book project has been started regarding Nebraska's mental hospital population from 1880 to 1930. The material is public information that is difficult to access because much of the data are hand written census records. The project will facilitate access and increase the accuracy of the interpretation of the census records.

Some cemetery records exist and they will be added in *Appendices*. Another goal of this book is to write a narrative history of the mental illness and its treatment anticipating that the stigma of mental illness will be lessened at all levels of society including patient's family members, medical officials, etc.

Another project is in the planning stage: structured autobiographies. The methodology is adapted from research and development in the field of gerontology. The object to facilitate

the writing of one's life history so as to communicate interests, beliefs, attitudes, and values to family and descendants. It is hoped that many residents will participate. Stay tuned for announcements.

Library volunteers continue the process of retrieving, recording, and disseminating data about the history of families and individuals in Phelps County. Genealogical help is extended to all who visit the library. Genealogy papers and records are welcome. Donations and volunteers are always needed.

Sjogren Family Timeline

The Timeline of the Sjogren Family Farm, Church and Cemetery - Harlan County, NE

Written by Carol Marie (Gustafson) Perkins about her Paternal Great Grandparents and Family

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.

07 Dec 1835—Johannes Johannesson (Carol's paternal great grandfather) was born in Goshult village, Fagerhult parish, Kalmar Ian, Småland, Sweden.

09 Sep 1844—Anna Lovisa Petersdotter (Carol's paternal great grandmother) was born in Hogeruda village, Järeda parish, Kalmar Ian, Småland, Sweden.

06 Jun 1868—Johannes and Anna Lovisa were married in Järeda parish.

27 Feb 1869—Carl Johan (Charley) was born, in Fagerhult parish.

22 May 1869—Johannes, Anna Lovisa and three month old Carl emigrated from Sweden to America. Ulysses S. Grant was the 18th President of the United States.

1869—Johannes assumed a new last name, as many immigrants did, becoming Johannes J. Sjogren. The family settled first in Brown County, Kansas, for a short while.

1870—The three then moved to Omaha, Nebraska and then to nearby Elkhorn, Nebraska.

25 Oct 1871—Anna Sophia Wilhelmena (Minnie) (Carol's paternal grandmother) was born in Elkhorn, Nebraska. An old church record from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Omaha, Nebraska, dated between 1870-1871 shows the Sjogrens were there and that Minnie was born in Elkhorn, a small village outside of Omaha.

1873—The four Sjogrens then made their final move to Scandinavia Township, Harlan County, Nebraska beginning their five year Homestead Act requirement

on the N.W. Quarter of Section 2, Township 4, Range 18.

07 May 1873—John Sjogren declared under oath his intention to become a citizen of the United States and renounced allegiance to the King of Sweden. Signing took place at the Kearny County

District Court, Lowell, Nebraska.

1873—"Mr. Sjogren had his well dug" – page 6 Immanuel Lutheran Church and Historical Marker by C. Edward Peterson. As written by Gloria (Hollertz) Bryan on page 1 in Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery-Scandinavia Township Harlan County. Nebraska: "In 1873, Mr. Sjogren and other pioneers dug a well with spades and shovels, lifting the dirt out with a bucket. It was four feet in diameter and boxed up with boards to keep it from caving in. It is said people came from miles away to get water from this well on the Hanson property".

10 May 1874—Emelia Augusta was born, Harlan County, Nebraska.

1874—Swan and Christina (Anna Sjogren's sister) Peterson also moved to Harlan County, homesteading across the road to the south of the Sjogren farm. The east half of the Immanuel Cemetery-2 1/2 acres-was donated by and laid out on Swan Peterson's property. Later the west 2 1/2 cemetery acres were donated by Mr. and Mrs. John August Johnson or Jacobson.

01 Mar 1875—Sadly, it was Christina and Swan Peterson's second born child, Peter Albert, b. 11/24/1873, who was the first to be buried in the Immanuel Cemetery. Peter Albert was Anna and John Sjogren's nephew.

23 Oct 1876—Hilda Maria (Mary) was the Sjogren's fourth born, Harlan County.

02 Nov 1877—John Sjogren received his final papers

(Sjogren Continued on page 4)

(Sjogren Continued from page 3)

for Naturalization, making him a citizen of the United States. The papers were signed in the District Court of Alma, Kearny County, Nebraska. Rutherford B. Hayes was the 19th President of the United States.

12 Nov 1877—According to the 70th Anniversary (1877-1947) History Booklet of the Bethel Lutheran Church, Holdrege,

Nebraska, sent to me

by Sandra Slater:

Carol's great grand-

parents, John and

Anna Sjogren, were

among the 30 charter

members who organ-

ized the "Evangelical

Lutheran Bethel

Congregation of

Holdrege, Nebraska."

This was clearly over

a year prior to their

being charter mem-

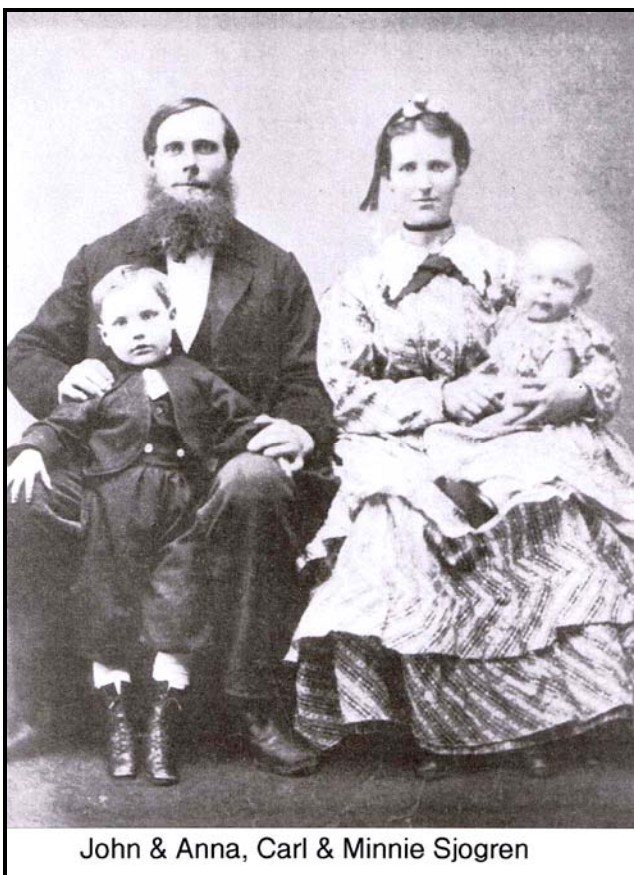
bers of the Swedish

Evangelical Lutheran

Immanuel Congrega-

tion, organized very

early in the year



John & Anna, Carl & Minnie Sjogren

across the road-west from the Sjogren farm. Each meeting was presided over by Rev. S. G. Larson. Immanuel's church was built of wood and was ready for use in June 1879. Bethel's church was built of sod and declared ready for use also in June 1879.

1879—The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Congregation was organized by the Rev. S. G. Larson. The organizational meeting was held in the farmhouse of Gustav and Christina Elisabeth Hanson, where the

Historical Monument now stands-across the road, southwest, from the Sjogren farm. Charter members (27-36) included Carol's great grandparents, Johannés and Anna Lovisa Sjogren and Anna's sister Christina and her husband Swan Peterson. John and Anna Sjogren donated the two acres of land on which the frame church was to be built, being the S.E. corner of the S.W. quarter of their homestead.

01 Feb 1879—A building plan meeting was held in the farmhouse of Swan and Christina Peterson. Kearney was the nearest town and the lumber was hauled from there by horse teams. Rocks for the foundation were found near the neighborhood of Orleans and hauled by ox teams. All labor was donated. John Sjogren, being a carpenter by trade, was selected to supervise the work. Each member was to donate an equal number of days' work. For work over and above that donated by others, John Sjogren was to receive one dollar a day.

01 May 1879—Lovisa Christina was born, undoubtedly on the farm, Harlan County.

Jun 1879—The little country church was ready for services.

The cost of the church was five hundred dollars. This church was used for twenty-four years, until 1903.

30 Jun 1879—John Sjogren was granted, according to the Homestead Act of 1862, the N.W. quarter of Section 2, in Township 4 North, of Range 18 West, Harlan County. The property consisted of 159 and 48/100 acres. Papers were signed at the Land Office in Bloomington, Nebraska.

(Sjogren Continued on page 5)

(Sjogren Continued from page 4)

1873-1882—Life in Scandinavia, Nebraska, was not easy, as recorded by C. Edward Peterson, first born of Christina and Swan Peterson. Covered wagons brought the few pioneers to their new land. They staked out the land they hoped to farm and build on, following the laws of the Homestead Act of 1862. They broke the prairie-building their initial dwellings and barns and other out buildings of sod-the only building material available. On the land where the Historical Marker is now, was the farm and house of Gustav Hanson. It was also where the post office was and his small general store. Mr. Hanson was the Postmaster. The small school was built across the road-cattycorner from the post office. When John Sjogren and his neighbors were digging his well, seven Indians headed in their direction-they were of the wild Sioux tribe, dressed in their war uniform, with tomahawks, bows and arrows, ready for war. When they saw that they were outnumbered by men with loaded muskets, they folded their arms and motioned for food. John Sjogren then went to Anna and brought out several soda biscuits. After eating, the Indians went away. In 1873, 1874, and 1875 grasshoppers came in such numbers as to shade the sun. They destroyed all corn and late forage. The pioneers were hard hit, without feed for their stock and no fuel for their cook stoves. When the men had a few bushels of wheat, some eggs and butter to sell, they

would take an ox driven wagon to Lowell, to trade for lumber and other necessities. Prairie fires in the fall, and snow blizzards in the winter were devastating to life and property. My cousin, Florence Grissette, wrote to me that Anna Sjogren would “tie a rope between the house and barn so as not to get lost in the snow”. Texas long-horn cattle and buffalo were a problem from time to time. They would tear down hay and grain stacks, sod houses and barns and take after people if they saw any on foot. There was plenty of game for hunters-flocks of prairie chickens and quail; herds of antelope, deer and buffalo. Rabbits were everywhere. One day five peaceful-hunter Indians came to the Sjogren farm asking to rest their ponies a few days. John Sjogren spent time hunting with one of the Indians using two of his own horses. When the Indians left, they gave Sjogren a large piece of their finest buffalo meat in exchange for loaves of Anna’s white bread. My father, Earl Gustafson, told me the Indians came often to take John hunting with them. Anna would bake biscuits and bread each day to give to the Indians upon the safe return of her husband.

03 Jan 1882—John Sjogren died leaving Anna with five children and she was seven and one-half months pregnant. John was 46 years old. I have searched for a death certificate and newspaper obituary, but to no avail. I have learned that death certificates were not required in Nebraska until 1904. Chester A. Arthur was the 21st President of the United States.

Family Firms—1958 Holdrege Citizen Jubilee

Some Have Served Holdrege Since Before Turn of Century

Many early Holdrege Businessmen showed the same tenacity in weathering the years, as did the homesteaders. Of exceptional interest are the firm which continue in business today managed by a member of the founder’s family.

Heading the list is the Norris Drug store which had its beginning as Wells and Norris in 1879. Their first location was the town of Juniata (“had to wait for

Holdrege to get started,” says present owner Claude Norris.) The store was the first drug firm on the scene.

In Holdrege the first location for the firm was West Avenue near the site of the present Madison Hotel. Shortly after, the store was moved to a frame building on the west side of East Avenue, between Third and Fourth Avenue, now the location of Anderson’s Plumbing establishment. In 1887, as soon as the building at 407 East Avenue was complete, Wells and Norris

(Firms Continued on page 6)

(Firms Continued from page 5)

moved in, and there the Norris Drug has continued for the intervening years. Their record is 75 years in Holdrege and 71 years in the same building.

Not only did Norris Drug have to wait for the founding of Holdrege, they had to wait for the establishment of some pharmaceutical houses with which they are associated today. In 1955 the Mentholatum Company enrolled the Norris Drug as a member of their 40 year Service Club and took note of the pioneer firm's 15 year start ahead of them.



Claude Norris

Patent Medicine

In the pioneer's time, drug stores were filled to overflowing with patent medicines, one crowding another. Today, with the survival of the fit, the number has been reduced measurably.

In spite of the many "cures" each of which was recommended for every ailment man is heir to, the presence of a registered pharmacist was required at all times. As a result his day was long, beginning at 8 a.m. and ending whenever he got out.

Soon after their arrival in Holdrege, Wells retired and the store from then on was known as Norris Drug. Following Wells, Mr. Norris was assisted by N. E. Johnson. Son Claude Norris joined the firm officially in 1916 although his apprenticeship began much earlier, almost from the day of birth.

Claude Norris had planned a different life. Had Phelps County produced more abundantly the year of his graduation from high school, he might have studied engineering at Armour Institute in Chicago. Instead he and his mother, Mrs. W. P. Norris, spent the next five years on a homestead in Laird, Colorado.

They were hard years, but years which Claude Norris looks back on with pleasure. He went to the homestead as a tall, thin "town kid" with no knowledge of farming. He gained better health and learned many skills under the tutoring of an uncle Bill Richardson, who operated a blacksmith shop on the Linder corner

of Holdrege before moving west.

Good Place to Live

When mother and son returned, he was ready to join his father's business, a decision he has not regretted. To quote Claude Norris, "It's a good country, a good place to live and it's good to be among your friends."

In Claude Norris' lifetime he has seen Phelps County change from dry plains to a region of lakes and he is justly proud of its growth.

The lifetime of W. P. Norris included more rugged scenes. The son recalls a story told by his father of the blizzard of 1887, which caught Baker McGrew, and E. A. Roth, another businessman, down town. The men were in the drug store, hoping the storm would abate when a third man entered and Mr. Roth offered the man \$10 to go to the Roth home and notify Mrs. Roth of her Husband's whereabouts. The man accepted the \$10 and left. Upon his return mission accomplished, McGrew offered \$20 if the man would also notify Mrs. McGrew. The man refused. "I wouldn't got out in that storm again for \$100," the man said.

A more amusing incident concerned a Kickapoo Medicine Co. that often advertised its products on the street with a traveling Indian show.

At the time of the Rosebud reservation uprising, W. P. Norris was sitting in the drug store with his newspaper, reading of the insurrection, when the biggest brave he had ever seen came striding through the door. Mr. Norris was considerably shaken until the Indian introduced himself, an advance agent for the Kickapoo Medicine Show.

Ledlie and Rea

Another "family" store began business in Holdrege July 1, 1886 under the name of Ledlie and Rea, a partnership composed of John Ledlie and H. D. Rea. The first location was the site of the J. M. McDonald store and a similar line of merchandise was stocked with both men and women's needs represented. The store building was L-shaped with two entrances, one on Fourth Avenue and one on West Avenue. A bank and a jewelry store occupied the

(Firms Continued on page 7)

(Firms Continued from page 6)

corner space.

In 1892 Mr. Rea died and John Ledlie took over under his own name. In 1889 Mr. Ledlie died and his widow, Mrs. Fanny Ledlie assumed management. A third name change took place: The store became known as F. Ledlie's and this name the firm has retained to the present time.

July 1, 1958 marks the 72nd anniversary of the Ledlie store and during those years there has always been a Ledlie at the helm. Marshall Ledlie came into the store in 1906 and two years later became manager. Another, son, Thomas Conger Ledlie, so named after an early day Presbyterian minister, was active in the firm until two years ago when ill health forced his retirement. The two own the store jointly.

The Ledlie store had had three locations, all within a radius of a few rods. After approximately 15 years in the first building, the business was moved west across the street to another L-shaped building on the "opera block," an area which houses the Lindsay Jewelry and Noble Drug firms. Twenty years ago Ledlie's made the third move, to the southeast corner of the intersection. The firm had by that time discontinued the line of shoes, yard goods and men's clothing, to concentrate on women's wear.

Marshall Ledlie, who does the buying for the store, believes variety is imperative if today's customer is to be satisfied. As example of the changing times he quotes A. P. Erickson, an early day merchant who stocked, among other items, bulk boots which were never boxed, but tied together by the strings.

In later years Mr. Erickson recalled that any two boots, though one size 8 and the other 11's could be sold as a pair to the needy pioneers who asked only that their feet were covered.

25-50 cents a pair

"In my own time I've sold lots of shoes for 25-50 cents a pair." Mr. Ledlie said. "Now everything must be two or three season's ahead of style."

Mr. Ledlie recalls one of his chores as a boy was cleaning the 10 kerosene lamps in his fathers store, a job which took half a day to trim the wicks, wash the

chimneys and replenish the supply of kerosene. They used five gallons a day.

His reward was a bag of nickel candy each Sunday afternoon. In his gang of boyhood friends, no one had money to spend, not so much as a nickel.

Thomas Ledlie is the linguist of the two, having learned Swedish as a boy, later to put it to use as dealing with the many Swedish families in Phelps County.

One difficult year for the pioneer was 1894 when corn burned to the ground during the blistering July. Merchants sent east for clothing to give away, and any other available aid. The two years following crops were good, but prices low: corn 9 to 10 cents a bushel.

"My father and Frank Johnson traded merchandise for corn, allowing from 10 to 25, 35 cents a bushel," Marshall Ledlie said. "Until father had about 150,000 bushels and Mr. Johnson 200,000. They held the corn for two years and finally sold for 14 ½ cents. It took a year to sell."

The Ledlie store took another beating following World War I when prices soared, then fell to nothing after the market crash of 1929. Many coats in stock costing \$70 or \$80 were offered for \$10 with no takers.

It's not like that now-days," said Mrs. Mary Cort, who has been employed by Ledlie store since 1925. "Women have money to spend, but they're not going to spend it till they find what they like. And that's what I'm here for."

Deisher and Kronquest

In 1892, the year Rea died and John Ledlie prepared to continue the business alone, another change was taking place in a Holdrege firm. N. H. Kronquest, who had been employed by the Standard Implement Co., was elevated to partnership in the firm of Deisher and Kronquest: stock in trade: Implements, Buggies and Wagons, with a lively side-line buying and shipping broom corn. An example of the broom corn scraper and baler in use at the time has been preserved and may be seen at the Sam Schrock farm.

The date was Feb 15, 1892 and the place was the corner of Third and East Avenues where the

(Firms Continued on page 8)

(Firms Continued from page 7)

Burlington freight depot now stands. Kronquest was Swedish and the family name one generation earlier had been Olson until his father had gone to court and had it changed.

The firm carried a full line of Deering implements and later added McCormick machinery. Competition was lively, and Deisher and Kronquest made many conditional sales with the farmers, hoping a portion would reach fruition. Nels Kronquest, son of N. H. Kronquest, has a 1900 order book belonging to his father and some of the conditions of sales added in pencil read:

“If purchaser can buy a second hand binder on a sale, this order is void.” (Deisher and Kronquest were offering a 6 ft. Ideal Deering binder complete at \$140, three years to pay).

“If purchaser’s crops should fail, this order is void.”

“If purchaser can’t countermand his McCormick order, this order is void.”

(Obviously this contract was made before Deisher and Kronquest had added the McCormick line).

Another memento of days when the firm was young is a chamois bag which a jubilee-minded customer unearthed and brought to Nels Kronquest recently. Mr. Kronquest remembers the one he had as a boy, might handy for carrying a boy’s marbles. Despite its age, the bag has weathered the years well and has the firm which distributed the bags with the message: “Buy your Implements, Buggies and Wagons of

Deisher and Kronquest.”

Other survivors of the period are a buggy wrench, and a few old pictures.

Locations Changed

Around 1904 the business changed locations, moving to Garfield street side of the block north, where the Kronquests since have erected a Quonset. Their location at present is 304 East avenue and in site of the old Sam Truman hotel, recently razed, is utilized as implement grounds.

N. H. Kronquest died in the fall of 1918. “He was a wise father.” Said Nels Kronquest. “Now about late hours; he didn’t say, “Don’t stay out late.” Instead he’d say, “There’s lots to do tomorrow; better start about 5.” That took care of the late hours.

Upon the death of N. H. Kronquest, C. A. Roose became manager. Since Nels Kronquest was too young to assume the many responsibilities, the partnership of Deisher and Kronquest was dissolved. In 1922, upon his return from a Lincoln Business School, Nels Kronquest became the head. In 1950 he was joined by his son, N. H. Kronquest as partner.

The Kronquest Implement Co has handled the same line for the 66 years of operation; has seen the Deering Co. merged with McCormick, which later became International Harvester. All IH machinery carries the McCormick label, but the Deering name has been dropped.

In 1922 when Nels Kronquest took charge, two
(Firms Continued on page 9)



(Firms Continued from page 8)

men's services were adequate to help the business operating, with the added help of or a dozen during harvest to set up binders, today's farmer no longer need start and end his day in the dark.

With the exhibition of two old machines during jubilee week, the past will come to life for the Kronquest Implement Co. One is a 1915 ten-twenty Titan in running condition, obtained from a dealer in St. Paul. "She made an awful lot of noise, but didn't do much else," Mr. Kronquest reminisced. The other is a replica of the original reaper, owned by IH Company.

Dr. Charles Morgan

One of Holdrege business firms founded in the turn of the century is unique in that the business continues to be operated by one of its founders, Dr. Charles B. Morgan, who is 82.

In 1901 Dr. Morgan first opened shop as optometrist and jeweler on Fourth Avenue. Dr. Morgan had learned the jewelry business as an apprentice to Charles Beghtol, and had completed the optometry course at Northern Illinois College of Ophthalmology and Otology in Chicago before joining A. M. Brooking in establishing the firm of Morgan and Brooking. A year later Brooking sold his half interest, moving to Hasting where he promoted the House of Yesterday museum.

Dr. Morgan expanded his business, adding a line of pianos, phonographs and other music items, a line he was equally qualified to handle since earlier educational pursuits had included the study of violin at the University Conservatory of Music in Lincoln and Orchestration with the Lincoln Philharmonic.

Dr. Morgan began business on the J. M. McDonald corner and remained there until the owner Frank Johnson, wanted to tear down the building to erect a new one. Dr. Morgan recalls the solicitude expressed by Mr. Johnson as to where Dr. Morgan would find new quarters.

"Where will you go?" worried Mr. Johnson. Dr. Morgan replied that Mr. Johnson need not concern himself, but Mr. Johnson did and the upshot was that he prevailed upon Dr. Morgan to utilize a portion of the F. Johnson store on the corner of Fourth and East

avenues until a suitable location could be found. Dr. Morgan remained six months, and Mr. Johnson refused remuneration.

At the end of this time Dr. Morgan bought and remodeled the Randall Building, presently occupied by Eads Jewelry. In 1947 he sold his jewelry business to Chase Brothers and established his optical office at 704 4th Avenue.

73 Years in Holdrege

Of Dr. Morgan's 82 years, 73 have been spent in Holdrege and he has seen much of life in his years "on the street." One gratifying experience has been the practice of orthoptics (the training of eyes). And his assistance in bringing together crossed eyes. Some of his early patients were children from the Christian Orphan's Home and these he treated without charge.

When Dr. Morgan began his career, his present location was nothing but a weed-covered lot. Back in 1901 he and other businessmen chipped in to buy hitching posts for their corner of the intersection.

In contrast with the 230 or more styles of frames from which the buyers may choose today, Dr. Morgan exhibits frames from the eyeglasses that belonged to Dr. Shield, an early day Holdrege physician. Half ovals, of steel, they were designed to fit the tip of the wearer's nose.

To achieve a record for longevity in business such as his, Dr. Morgan advocates knowledge of one's particular line, and knowledge of people. In addition, he believes one should have many interests, rather than "all the eggs in one basket."

Some of Dr. Morgan's outside interests include highway safety; a project in which he has enlisted the aid of several prominent people, is the care of the aged. He was responsible for much promotional work for Memorial Homes Inc.

As his contribution toward Holdrege's celebration, Dr. Morgan has announced he will give a diamond ring to the young lady chosen to reign as queen over jubilee festivities.

"Once I gave a diamond ring and got the girl." Dr. Morgan said, "This time I won't. This time I won't."

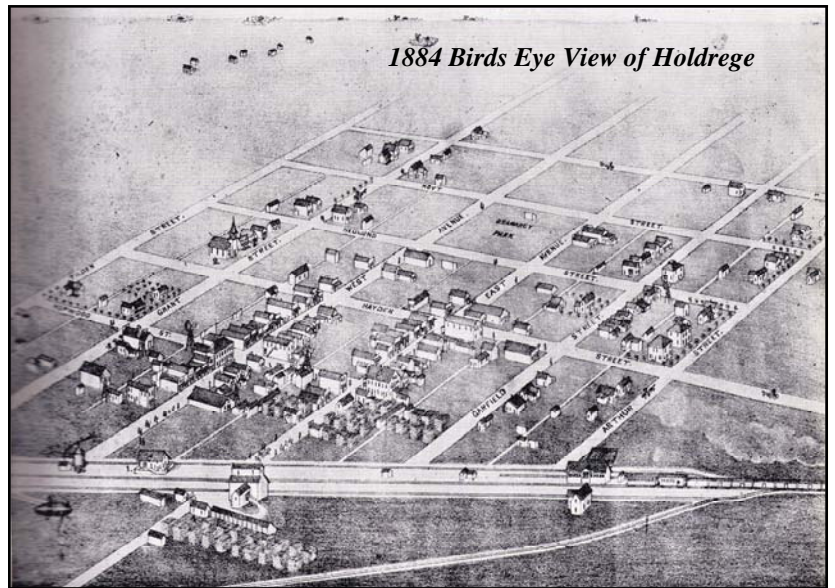
Holdrege, Nebraska Daily Citizen, December 30, 1887

From the First Presbyterian Church of Holdrege, Nebraska, 1887-1997

“There was trading posts badly needed in Phelps County, but the question was where to locate them. Where this point should be was an all-important question, which fortunately was satisfactorily settled, when in the winter of 1883, the Burlington and Missouri River Railway visited this county on its way from Kenesaw, in Adams County, to Oxford in the Republican valley, in order to secure a shorter line to Denver. The company and the community seemed to agree at once on the proper point for a station. So great was the anxiety to locate here that the pioneer building was moved to this point by a Mr. Voris on October 9, 1883, there being no time, in his opinion, to wait for a new building. On the 12th of the same month the United States Land office was removed from Phelps Centre. The day following, a hotel was started, called the Hopwood house. On the 14th the first public dinner was enjoyed in the “wheat field metropolis.” The solitary shanty of October 1883 was replaced by 132 substantial buildings by January 1, 1884 and in May this number had augmented to awards of 300.

“Only eight years ago the writer chased a large herd of antelopes over the present townsite, little thinking that in less than a decade the lonely prairie where deer, antelopes, wolves, and jack rabbits sported for the most part undisturbed was destined to soon contain all the accessories and requirements of a large city. The land could be had here for \$2 an acre.

“Following the close of the location of the town in October 1883, came the railroad, the first train pulling in here December 12, 1883.”



Holdrege Area Genealogy Club
 PO Box 164
 Holdrege, NE 68949
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