

Phelps Helps



Volume 12, Issue 3

Fall 2003

President's Message

We are excited to have additional Harlan County newspapers on microfilm. We order books and microfilm for the library that will be useful for residents in South Central, Nebraska. We do research in our surrounding counties so having these Harlan County newspapers will be very helpful. Also several of our members have ties to Harlan County and are anxious to start gathering information from these early newspapers.

It is very rewarding to see how our library has expanded and invite all of you to come and research your families.

I also want to thank all of you who have been giving such informative programs at our meetings.

Your President, Sandra Slater

Meetings held at the Nebraska Prairie Museum, Holdrege, Nebraska 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>



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HOLDREGE AREA GENEALOGY SOCIETY WILL RESEARCH FOR YOU

We do Phelps and Harlan County research for others upon request. Our fees are \$7.50 when a member of our Genealogy Club or \$10 an hour if not a member, plus photocopy and postage fees which are billed to you later. This money is used to buy microfilm and books for the library.

Membership to our club is \$10 a year. Members can submit their queries free in our quarterly which they will receive four times a year. Members can also submit stories of their Phelps or Harlan County relatives to be printed in our newsletter or to submit to our library.

Send your request to Holdrege Area Genealogy Club, Box 164, Holdrege, NE 68949.

New Books On Our Shelf

DAHLQUIST FAMILY OF CEDAR BAYOU, TEXAS,
Written by Glenn and Melva Harrington
1959 and 1960 Holdrege High School year
books

William Pond and Livenia Hanson Cole.

DONATED BY DICK DYAS Land Records and
Genealogy Symposium, Beatrice, NE

**DONATED BY THE HOLDREGE AREA GENEALOGY
CLUB** Nebraska Cemeteries and known bur-
ial sites, 2 Volume set. Seward County
Nebraska Research Guide

**DONATED BY THE FT. KEARNY GENEALOGY SO-
CIETY.** Woman with Connections to Buffalo
county, Nebraska in the Military

DONATED BY JIM GRAY The Steinke Family
Genealogy and the Story of Gottlieb
Steinke and Augusta Dumkee

DONATED BY SANDRA SLATER History of the
United Methodist Church of Dorchester,
NE 1873-1998

DONATED BY MARY LOU ABRAMSON United
Methodist Church, Holdrege, Ragan, Wil-
cox parish, 1988, 1989, 1992 Story of



Harlan County Newspapers on Microfilm

Holdrege Area Genealogy Club has recently purchased eight Harlan County newspapers that are listed below. You can visit our library to research these newspapers.

- HARLAN COUNTY JOURNAL - August 27, 1897 to April 5, 1901
- HARLAN COUNTY JOURNAL - April 12, 1901 to April 29, 1904
- HARLAN COUNTY JOURNAL - December 5. 1913 to 16 December 1921
- HARLAN COUNTY DEMOCRAT (Republican City, NE) July 13, 1895- 13 Jun 1902
- REPUBLICAN CITY RANGER - August 18, 1905-29 Jan 1909
- REPUBLICAN CITY RANGER - February 5, 1909 - 21 Jun 1912
- THE ORLEANS CHRONICAL - June 9th, 1892 - October 16, 1903
- THE ORLEANS CHRONICAL - October 23, 1903 -September 4th, 1908
- THE ORLEANS CHRONICAL - September 11, 1908 - April 8, 1910

Harlan County, Nebraska

LAST EXTRACT FROM

HONERABLE WILLIAM GASLIN'S SPEECH

AT ALMA, NEBRASKA,
APRIL 14TH, 1880

After a warm and pleasant autumn, when the settlers were totally unprepared for, and least expected it, on the 16th of November 1871, a terrible snow storm set in which lasted three days and four nights. It was very cold and the suffering was intense. Judge Robbins, Walter Ferguson and other's on the way to Grand Island got caught and were out through the entire storm. Two poor fellows were caught near where is now Walker's Ranch. They hitched their horses and their wagon, rolled themselves up in their blankets, laid down, and the snow drifted over them and saved them from freezing to death. Abandoned wagons, harnesses, loads of buffalo, meat, goods and provisions, were abandoned on the divide, and men mounted their horses and fled for life. A large number of buffalo hunters were caught, some of whom froze to death, others suffered severely. A party of six men were caught on the divide between the Republican and Soloman rivers, and five of them perished. Animals in large numbers perished. During the winter there were other storms very severe in which those traveling the divide were caught. I was in a party who were caught in one storm which lasted three days. On Easter Sunday 1871. F. A. Biyo, Frank Hofnagle, and James Fisher, on their way from Lincoln to the Valley, were caught in a storm some 4 miles west of Malton's ranch. Fisher left his wagon and started on horseback for Peterson's ranch. The storm lasted from Sunday noon till Thursday morning. After the storm, Fisher and one of his horses were found dead about three miles from where Biyo and Hofnagle camped, who in company with the late D. N. Smith. They buried him near where found.

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.

The snow was deep and the weather was cold most of the time in the latter part of February 1872. Mrs. Brown had a herd of 750 cattle and all perished but 55. Out of a herd of some 2400 in the east part of the county, all perished but 450. The Code brothers hauled meal, corn, and grain from Grand Island

and yet lost one-half of the herd of nice cattle. The winter will long be remembered by some. In 1871, buffaloes, wolves and wild turkeys were very plentiful. In one night twenty-one large wolves were poisoned on the river near Coads.

Mrs. Bartlett was the first white woman in the county, and her family was the first children. Her daughter Mary was the first child born in Alma and Mrs. Levi Schrack the second. The first death in the county was William McBride, shot by soldiers, July 4th 1871. John Billou and Mary Smith were married by John D. Whiting---this was the first wedding in the county. Time falls so I will close this brief and unsatisfactory sketch of Harlan County.

p.s. The editor of the Chronicle is informed that John Gehley and family George Gehley and family and James Duncan and wife were the first white families to locate in the county and that they were here about two weeks before Mrs. Bartlett arrived, which it is claimed was the first white woman in the county.

CHANGED HANDS

Harlan County Press Orleans, Friday, May 15th 1885

This week Hiatt and son have sold out the Tribune to Beall & Russell. The Tribune has always been a good paper and we have no reason to doubt the ability of it s new editor to keep the machine in good shape, and the record good. Mr.

(Harlan County Continued on page 9)

New Members & Their Queries

1. Rowena Fulk
200 Everson Drive
Santa Cruse, CA 95060

I am looking for information on John Huston Clark who was born February 5th 1868, location unknown and died January 6th 1927 in Great Falls, Cascade, Montana. Norma J. Houck 801 Lawrence St. Emporia, KS 66801 would like to correspond with anyone searching Marcus Walker who died in Phelps County, Nebraska on April 28, 1895. He is buried Oley, IL. Some of his children include Clinton Walker, Clara (Walker) Simmons, Laura (Walker) Montgomery and Ella (Walker) Marker.

2. Alice Hampton
5352 Harvard Ave.
Westminster, CA 92683
Rham12938@aol.com

Nathan W. Hethcot (t) 1836-1925 and his wife Mary Harper Hethcot 1837- 1913 of Iowa, left Iowa and settled in Holdrege, NE. Their daughter, Alice Belle Hethcot Godwin moved to Holdrege with her 2 sons, Doyce and Dale Godwin, August 1906 from Iowa after her husband was killed in a train accident. Doyce Godwin, age 14, died February 1907 of appendicitis and is buried in Prairie Home Cemetery, Holdrege, NE. Both families are listed in the Phelps County 1909 directory. Alice Belle Godwin later married her husband's twin brother. She died in North Platte, NE in 1948. Both Nathan and Mary Hethcot are buried in the Harper Cemetery, Dallas County, Iowa. I would like to find out when they arrived in Holdrege. Did they die in Holdrege and were shipped to Iowa for burial or did they return to Iowa earlier? Any information on these families would be appreciated.

T. M. Hopwood, Early Phelps Leader

Had a Hand in Many Enterprises of 1870s, '80s, & '90s

Holdrege Daily Citizen Souvenir Historical Edition June 1958

In the early history of Phelps County, Phelps Center and Holdrege probably no other name stands out more prominently than Thomas M. Hopwood. Without at doubt, the main reason for this was the fact that he was owner, editor and publisher of the Nebraska Nugget, Phelps Center newspaper which was moved to Holdrege with the establishment of the new town. Much of the history of the county and of the new town of Holdrege, on which these articles are based, is from the pen of Editor Hopwood.

Disregarding the fact that he was a newspaper man and was never averse to mentioning the name of Hopwood he was, without question, one of the guiding lights of the new county in the late '70s through the '80s. Not only did he operate a newspaper that sparkled with pungent editorials; he was also a homesteader and later a county commissioner. He was president of the Holdrege Board of Trade for several years, an organiza-

tion devoted to the promotion of the city. He was a candidate for the state legislature in 1887. He lost out for this office when a three-cornered race developed between him and the Citizen editor, Eric Johnson, and James Rhea. Johnson. Backed by Swedes, who were gaining the majority in Phelps county at the time, won out by a slight margin. Hopwood was also one of the founders and organizers of the Holdrege National Bank.

He operated a hotel and eating house in Phelps Center, which business he moved to Holdrege, with the newspaper. He owned a livery and feed stable in Phelps Center as well as a farm implement house; he sold organs; he was a real estate and loan agent. He later became an extensive landowner and also owned considerable property in Holdrege. Mrs. Hopwood served as county superintendent for a time and was one of the first school teachers in the county.

A native of Pennsylvania, T. M. Hopwood

(Hopwood Continued on page 6)

Facts & Figures of Phelps County

From 1934 Phelps County Directory

The population of Phelps County is 9,253. The average precipitation is 24 inches. It is 24 miles square except the land the Platte River cuts off on the north, being a strip approximately one mile on the west and three miles wide on the east. It is bounded on the north by Dawson and Buffalo, on the east by Kearney, on the south by Harlan and on the West by Gosper Counties. Loess Plains top soil covers the county. This is a loamy deposit of the Pleistocene Age. It is a yellowish-gray loam and consists of a mixture of clay and carbonate of lime. Fossils are not generally distributed in this strata, but are sometimes locally abundant.

The average assessed valuation on farm land in 1933 was \$30.75 per acre. The county ranks 17th in wheat production and 30th in corn production, of the counties of the state.

The total land area of the county is 343,125 acres, divided as follows: 226,856 acres cultivated; 109,515 acres range and pasture; 3,850 acres water; 2,904 acres woodland.

There are 1883 pupils attending public schools in the county.

There were 444 hunting and fishing licenses issued to residents of the county last year and 32 trapping licenses.

There were 87 marriages in 1933 and 66 in 1932.

Phelps County has 4891 head of horses, 456 mules, 2804 milk cows, 18,965 other cattle, 20,964 hogs, 1,171 sheep and goats, 10,052 dozens poultry and 18 stands of bees. The valuation of dogs in the county is \$9,790.

The average last killing frost in the spring is May 1st. The first in the fall is October 1st.

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Phelps County farms are operated by 65 percent renters and 35 percent owners. There are 144 farm homes have electricity; 219 have water piped in the house; 159 have bath tubs and showers; 150 have furnace heat; and 513 have radio sets.

There are 3,028 autos and trucks; 426 tractors; 196 headers and combines; and two airplanes.

A five year average of the main crops for Phelps County is: corn 18.3 acres per acre; wheat 13.1 acres per acre; oats 25.9 bushels per acre; alfalfa 1.9 tons per acre.

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP BY ROBERTA "BOBBI" KING OF ARVADA, COLORADO

AT NEBRASKA PRAIRIE MUSEUM, ONE MILE NORTH ON HIGHWAY 183, HOLDREGE, NEBRASKA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2003, 9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

SPONSORED BY HOLDREGE AREA GENEALOGY CLUB

COST: \$10 (CHECK SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO:

HOLDREGE AREA GENEALOGY CLUB AND SENT TO:

ADA HINSON, 72828 ROAD 438, BERTRAND, NE 68927-3505)

PROGRAM TOPICS:

MILITARY RECORDS, CENSUS RECORDS, PROBATE RECORDS AND RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET.

PREPARED BOX LUNCH AVAILABLE FOR \$5.50. MUST PREORDER BY OCTOBER 20, 2003.

BOX LUNCH INCLUDES A SANDWICH WRAP (HAM & TURKEY WITH TOMATO OR SPINACH WRAP);

SALAD/FRUIT, BROWNIE AND CHIPS.

History of Phelps County History

From 1934 Phelps County, Nebraska Directory

Phelps County, Nebraska, was organized in 1873 and was named after Captain William Phelps, an early settler who also served as Attorney General of the State for several years.

Amasa Cobb filed on the first homestead in the county which started the influx of settlers. At the time the county was organized there were seventeen voters, and were only two precincts

The first county seat was located at what is now known as Williamsburg, later the county seat was located at Phelps Center. The first post office was located at a ranch house in the eastern part of the county and was called Hopeville.

In 1864, during an Indian uprising many of the freighters and immigrants were killed. So many were killed at Plum Creek that a grave yard was started and many graves are still there.

When the railroad was built a new town was started where Holdrege is and since the railroad would not go through Phelps Center, the county seat was changed to Holdrege.

The worst blizzard of the county was in 1880 and the last big buffalo hunt was

in 1873. Many old settlers remember seeing droves of buffalo so big that at a distance it looked as though the entire ground was moving.

Drought, grasshopper, Indian Scares and prairie fires combined to try and soul and morale of the settlers in the new country, but few of them left, and those who stayed have persevered and helped to make the state one of the grandest of the Union.

One of the worst fires was of 1879 which started on the Sappa in Harlan County and burned to the Platte River one day and back to the Republican the next. Many head of stock were lost and many settlers lost everything they owned. It is not known how many lives were lost as the country was so thinly settled at the time, but several immigrants wagons that were seen just before the fire were unaccounted for. Just another one of the things the sturdy pioneers had to face when they left their shelters homes in the east to make a new one in the new country.

All honor to those sturdy people who turned the first furrow and sowed the first seed and made the first homes of Phelps County.

(Hopwood Continued from page 4)

was born in 1847 and moved with his parents to Iowa in 1861. Here he grew up on a farm and attended Western College. After his health failed he became a representative of several fire insurance companies. He was married in 1887 to Mina Woolridge of Minnesota, a graduate of Western College.

The Hopwoods came to Phelps county from Vinton, Iowa in 1878. T. M. and a brother came into Phelps county across country from the east, driving a team and wagon. They had been told by homesteaders in Kearney county that there was good government land farther west and, setting up temporary quarters in Kearney County, they started west on their land-seeking trek.

About three miles over the county line, at a point about five miles north of the present village of Funk, they found a vacant half section (section 34 on which they made a pre-emption filing the next day in Kearney. Mr. Hopwood, who arrived in the area with a broken arm, a "young but cultured wife." and \$18. He had to borrow \$3 from his

(Hopwood Continued on page 7)

(Hopwood Continued from page 6)

brother in order to make a filing on the two claims. His pre-emption filing on the quarter section 34, township 7, Range 17, cost him \$3 and he also filed on a timber claim cornering the pre-emption in Section 28, township 7, Range 17 for which he paid \$18.

The first house built on the pre-emption was 6x8 sod house into which he and Mrs. Hopwood moved, along with a farm helper, a twelve year old boy.

Following the destruction of the Hopwood sod house as the result of a prairie fire another larger house was built, in which Mrs. Hopwood conducted a three months school term. The \$60 was a God-send for the family whose belongings were destroyed by the fire, and that, along with \$100 which he was able to borrow from friends back east, saw them through the winter.

In the fall of 1878, Mr. Hopwood was elected a Phelps county commissioner, and on December 23 of that year he rode mule-back toward the northwest to seek out the county seat of Williamsburg... He hoped to secure a bank bond there and secure signers for same "Preparatory to taking the official ermine of the county commissioner." Mr. Hopwood continues: We went Mule-back and alone, and as it was our first trip we had no idea of what the town looked like, and had but a faint idea of where it was, only knowing that it was on the Platte bottom. We took a northwesterly direction and traveled for miles and miles across the rolling prairie, looking and longing for the sight of man, or some site of habitation, but not a soul nor a house did we pass or see in the long 20 miles ride. Then we came in sight of the grand old Platte, river, and on its wide stretch of bottom lands would here and there be seen a modest dwelling, but nothing that led us to believe that we were nearing the county seat.

"Seeing a little white house some distance ahead of us, we went to it, hoping to learn the way to Williamsburg. We found the door closed and locked and no one to be seen. Passing around the house we found the south door open. Riding to another near by house, which we afterward learned to be that of Albert Han-

son, Williamsburg postmaster, we inquired where Williamsburg was. To our surprise we were directed to the vacant house we had just left."

Mr. Hopwood managed to get his bond signed after riding several miles up and down the river and visiting homes of these residents and several county officials. The bond was approved and he took his seat on the board in January, 1879.

Williamsburg was beginning to fade away in early 1878. Mr. Hopwood noted that he saw holes in the prairie here and there on inquiry learned that there had been quite a number of buildings in the settlement but many had burned down and several moved away, and nothing but the cellar holes remained. He saw the county safe standing out on the prairie, over 100 yards from the courthouse. This was the safe for which the county paid \$1,000. The county treasurer who at the time was Christopher Jensen continued to deposit the county funds in the un-guarded safe.

Mr. Hopwood later learned that the safe was moved out of the small courthouse in order to move the building. The building was moved but the safe was never moved back and replaced. The safe had cost the county more than three times over what the building was worth, but, said Mr. Hopwood, "It was allowed to stand out and keep vigil, as it were, over the deserted village and over the scene of the county administration which had been so disastrous to the taxpayers and which was corrupt and rotten to the very core."

The Hopwood's story begins to move at a more rapid pace from this point on. The same year Mr. Hopwood took his seat as county commissioner he became an associate editor of the Phelps County Pioneer, published by Burt O. Wilson at Sacramento. With the establishment of the new town of Phelps Center, and the Hopwood's removal there, the newspaper also pulled up stakes and moved to the new town. Soon Mr. Hopwood became sole owner of the newspaper, and the name was changed to the Nebraska Nugget. The early 80s were apparently busy years for Mr. Hopwood. The new town of Phelps Center was booming and was "just as sure of a railroad as if we had it,": In addition to

(Hopwood Continued on page 8)

(Hopwood Continued from page 7)

being owner and editor of the newspaper, Mr. Hopwood owned and operated the Phelps Hotel in connection with a livery and feed stable at the corner of Pennsylvania Ave. and Victor street." A hotel inn those days was always on the "American Plan" which meant an eating establishment in connection with a hostelry. The Phelps Hotel later became the "Hopwood's Hotel" and its removal to Holdrege in October, 1883, was rechristened "The Arlington Hotel."

That many irons in the fire would seem to be enough headaches for an average man, but Mr. Hopwood could hardly be considered "average." He also operated a machinery and implement house at Phelps Center, as well as a real estate agency. Another advertisement indicated sold "cottage organs" to further the culture of the neighborhood. Mr. Hopwood in a "Nugget advertisement of July 4, 1883, had 15 farms listed for sale at prices ranging from \$300 to \$1,000 per quarter. During 1883 he built a new home on Illinois Avenue in Phelps Center and also owned a large barn which was used as a community gathering place. He still owned his farm in eastern Phelps County which was rented.

Hopwood was one of the first to pull up stakes at Phelps Center and move to the new town of Holdrege, when it was apparent that the railroad could not be persuaded to change their route. He was the target of considerable criticism by the die-hards at the county seat, and was accused of being paid off by the railroad to the tune of \$1,000 cash and 10 free lots in the new town of Holdrege. This he denied in no uncertain language in his editorial columns, naming the perpetrator of the lie as "a species of baboon."

There is no doubt that Hopwood was one of the prime forces in encouraging emigration to the county, and the lush '80s that followed the droughty '70s, gave him plenty of reason to extol the virtues of the new country to the outside world through the columns of his newspaper.

It appears that by the middle of 1885, Mr. Hopwood had amassed a comfortable

amount of this world's goods and he decided to ease up and enjoy the fruits of his labors. In June, 1885, he leased the Arlington Hotel to a Hastings man and planned to devote his time to the newspaper. His account of this transaction was headlined "Milty has gone out."

"On Tuesday, Mr. J. W. Young, a well-known Hastings man, leased the Arlington Hotel for a term of years and we, T. M. Hopwood better known as "Milty, the Sneak" bowed ourselves out from grub service. We went in to make money. Some we pleased and some we didn't. Those we pleased will try our successor. Those we didn't, please forgive, and we ask an interest in your prayers.

"We go not from among you, but drive a stake in west Holdrege to which we tie Mrs. H. and the boys, Ted and Chet, while we will watch at the corners for those who owe us.

"The Nugget, our adopted child: what a flood of thought its name brings to us. The Nugget, a little infant taken up while in its swaddling clothes, and petted and fondled; resurrected from ashes, kicked about from cellar to garret; be smeared with calumny, vituperation and slime for six long years, to at last emerge into a metropolitan sheet with the same old name and the same building hand at the helm. With the Nugget we have had lots of fun. Some have tried to chaw its name, others have tried to ride it down. Hazelett called it bad names. Another fellow said "There is a place for it in Gosper County." Office seekers have moneyed with it; some could ride it while other couldn't. We even got kicked off ourselves in one instance, while brother Einsel rode through in manner so graceful as to even surprise himself.

"But hold on, what we intend to say as this; From now on we want to give our special attention to our pigs, the boys, Mrs. H. and the Nugget. If the paper improves from now on, lay it to the settled condition of the weather, and the lavishing smiles Mrs. H. lavishes upon its editor in payment for retiring from the Arlington Hotel.

(Hopwood Continued on page 10)

The Independent Herald

Saturday, March 18, 1899

- N. J. Snow and family will move into the Wickwire house.
- C. Fastenau is moving his former beer warehouse out to his farm.
- Payne and Smith have rented the south room of Buswell block, and we understand will put in a confectionery store and lunch counter.
- D.B. Rohrbacher hauled a load of flour over from Lexington during the storm—anything but pleasant.
- C. F. Johnson has sold his place south of town to a German from Nuckolls County. Consideration \$4,300. Johnson, we hear, is to farm the place this season. There are 720 acres, 80 acres of which is deeded land, the remainder being a school lease.
- JNO. Teaquist advertised as a drayman, saying he would give it his prompt attention.
- F. M. Doolittle advertised that he would clean, repair or sell a new watch to anyone who needed those services. He also invited patrons to see his modern, up to date store.
- George E. Hunter advertised that he did a first class work at the old stand for anyone who needed a hair cut.

(Harlan County Continued from page 3)

Beall is to well known among us to need an introduction. His law practice will probably have to be secondary affair. Mr. Hiatt intends confining himself to the law and loan business. He will find it hard to lay aside the pencil and long to give the scissors a friendly grip.

THROW UP YOUR HAT

Our eastern mail via Omaha now reaches us at 8:05 p.m., coming by way of Oxford. This brings us the Omaha and Lincoln papers and letters 14 hours earlier than formerly.

VILLAGE NEWS

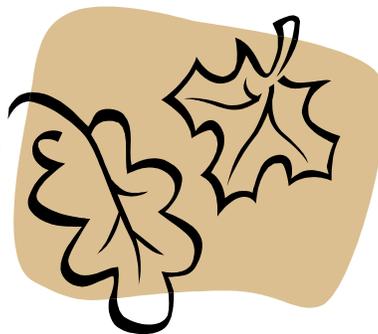
The Village Board has awakened at last to several things which their attention has been called to before. One is defective flues; another is manure piles in town, and still another is hog pens and loose hogs. They propose to have something to say as to how a healthy town ought to be run; and as they have the law to back them, and ordinances that already cover the points the gentlemen that are an integral part of the august body, have slipped their suspenders off and will proceed to business. They have intimated to the draymen in this issue of the Press to walk up to the captain's office at once, or quit the business.

(Hopwood Continued from page 8)

Three and one-half years later Mr. Hopwood sold an interest in the Nugget to C. L. Coffman who became general manager of the mechanical department. Mr. Hopwood remained as editor, but in March 1889, he and Mrs. Hopwood took off for the southwest. He remained for a time at Raton, New Mexico, where according to word received here, he benefited from the change of climate by improved health. From Las Vegas, New Mexico, came the word he was "Looking over the country." He and his wife returned to Holdrege from New Mexico in May, "decidedly improved in health."

In June of 1889, an advertisement in the Nugget offered most of Mr. Hopwood's holdings for sale; The Arlington Hotel, his residence property in west Holdrege, a farm in Anderson Township, his school land (320 acres) in Anderson township, a lease on section of school land in Colorado, and town lots in Holdrege "on your own terms." According to the advertisement Mr. Hopwood made the offers "A Good Chance for Investment" on account of his failing health.

The name Hopwood began to fade from the news along, about the turn of the century. However in 1897, when Mr. Hopwood was in his early 50s, one of the newspapers reported that he was thinking seriously of making a trip to the Klondyke in the spring. In the spring of the following year (1898) he and Mrs. Hopwood, along with Mr. Hopwood's sister, Belle, left for Kearney and expected to settle at Seattle from there. He was still undecided on the Klondyke trip, and whether he made his trek to the gold fields was never revealed in later issues of the papers.



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Holdrege Area Genealogy Club
PO Box 164
Holdrege, NE 68949