



# Tales and Trails Newsletter

From Denton, NE, and surrounding areas...Sponsored by the Denton Community Historical Society

September, 2012



A sincere THANK YOU to the Village of Denton which has, once again, given our Society a grant to help in our work. One of the items, that we requested funds for, was a voice recorder. Now that we have a good recorder, we need to make good use of it. Members have suggested a number of names that they feel have a story that needs to be told for future generations. And we need to know of others that you feel need to be interviewed. Also, we need people to do these interviews. So let me know at [dsull88075@aol.com](mailto:dsull88075@aol.com) if you have comments.

## THANK YOU, ALSO TO EVELYN ROESLER

Evelyn recently donated to the Society two books, *HISTORY OF LANCASTER COUNTY THEN AND NOW* and *ATLAS OF LANCASTER COUNTY*. Evelyn has been interested in the history of Lancaster County, especially the area of Berks. Berks was a stop on the Burlington line, just east of Crete. Evelyn Horak Roesler attended Berks school. At one time the small village was home to a general store, a train depot, a grain elevator and school district #49.



## COMING EVENTS

**October 23 at 6pm.** The doors will be open at the Denton Community Center at 6 pm with appraisals starting at 7 pm by Tom Bassett. Mr Bassett is well known in the area for his honest appraisals. The following instructions are: Members do not pay to attend. They may bring up to three items to be appraised with the first two costing \$5. each, the third being free. Non-members will pay \$5 at the door with \$5 each being charged for two items. Coffee and drinks and light refreshments will be available on a self help basis throughout the appraisal.

This is being considered as a fund raiser and so we do REALLY want a good crowd.

**November 27 at 12 noon.** This will be our final meeting for the year with a pot luck dinner. We will then have election of officers for 2013.

***Dues for the year 2013 are due January 1st, but we urge you to pay them before the due date. Remember is you are a lifetime member you do not pay. Also, we do send a lot of "Trails and Tales" by e-mail. These come through in color which adds greatly to their enjoyment. If you are not currently receiving an e-mail copy. please call me at 402-423-6320 (Teresa) to request that method of delivery***

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- NEW MEMBERS •
- Ed and Bonnie Borgman 1903 Mustang Crossing, Missouri Crossing Tx 77459 •
- Robert Shea 1255 W Branched Oak Rd. Davey, Ne 68336 •
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## ANNA OLIVIA OLSON

Born August 7, 1866, in Leland, LaSalle Co. Illinois, my father was a store-keeper at that time. Some years later, we moved to our home in the country, eight miles north of Ottawa, which is in the same county fourteen miles from Leland. My education did not extend beyond the rural school, but by being observant and interested in learning, my education has not been neglected all these years, still I realize there is much to learn.

I recall so well when my precious Mother taught me the Lord's Prayer and other prayers when a young child. No matter how many times a day we would repeat them in concert, I never failed to fold my hands. Also, after having prayed my prayers at night, and bade the others "good night", it seemed wrong to me in indulge in conversation, or even say a word afterwards. So we always had our "visits" first. However, that was a childish notion that was changed long ago.

It was quite a custom or habit for us school girls to go home with one another and stay overnight, which we always enjoyed. Sister Etta and I took music lessons of Prof. Kellog who was a perfect instructor, he playing the violin while we played our lessons on the organ. But, I was too much like the cat and the fish, they love fish but they will not go in the water to secure it, therefore I

finally dropped it, which I have always regretted. At that age, I much preferred to ride horseback as fast as the horse could go. And I still love it, if I only had the courage.

I was christened when a very young child, an infant. My parents never sent their children to Sunday School or Church--they took us, went with us. The good old songs we used to sing are still ringing in my ears.

September 16, 1885, I became the wife of Emanuel Peterson, of Dayton, Webster Co, Iowa. The marriage ceremony being performed by the Rev. George B. Miller at the parsonage near our home. Sister Etta and her fiancé being witnesses. We had a nice wedding supper at home. After visiting several days Emanuel returned to his home in Iowa, having secured a "bird" for his "cage". A nineteen year old "bird" and it was neither a blackbird nor a parrot. The following year in November, our home was gladdened by the addition of a son, Wilbur Emanuel. After living five years and a half in our cozy little home of eighty acres with great maple trees and blue grass lawn, we decided after much thought, to move to the "wild west", Nebraska, as our farm was too small and there was no land for sale near us. So we traded in our little home to my father, who had land not far from Denton.

My! Such a change! The pasture part had fence, and the rest was plowed ground, but we knew this before we went; husband had been out to see if first. To say I was home-sick is putting it mild. Mr. Peterson would comfort me by saying, "If we don't like it here, we can go back." I can still see our little Wilbur walking up and down a small draw in our calf pasture, near the house, He said he was going to build Lincoln there and have street cars, and Mamma and Papa were to ride free of charge. In June 1891, our home was again gladdened by the arrival of our only daughter Esther Anna. We were members of the Swedish Lutheran Church at Lincoln, at that time, but it was tiresome to drive so far, over twelve miles, with workhorses. And it gave us little chance to become acquainted with the good people who so kindly called on us and urged us to attend their services. Those dear people who were the first to come and see us were Mrs. A.E. Bowers; Mrs. Will Bowers; Mr. and Mrs.. Ed Bowers. Shortly after, Mrs. A.E. Bowers and Miss Cora Angelo (now Mrs. Fred Griffin), called. When we first came to Nebraska, we made our home with my brother, Oscar Olson and family, who came west some years before, and lived in the same section, which made it very nice for us. while our little home was being built. It was indeed a great comfort, and wonderfully kind of them.

We joined Denton M.E. Church for awhile, but later changed to Wesley Chapel M.E. Church. We always had the same pastor anyway. We are still members of that church and I belong to their Ladies' Social Circle of our church. Am also a member of Yankee Hill W.C.T.U. After our sons Orin Gustave and Clarence Calvin joined our family circle, our happiness was complete. Nebraska has been most wonderfully kind to us, and the longer we lived here, the less we cared to go back east to live.

Editor Note: This biography by Anna Olson Peterson is part of a 1924 project of the Wesley Chapel M.E. Ladies Social Circle. For the rest of this biography and others that contributed their biographies, please go to the website, [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nelancas/church](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nelancas/church). The biographies were submitted to that site by Susan Curelop, the daughter of Orville Reddish.



**Dr. Agnes Houston Jones—1924**  
**Dr. for Denton Community 1925-1929**



**Dr. Edward L. Jones in his Greenwood office. He practiced in Greenwood, Montana and Raymond.**

## Family Memories—Nancy Biggs, Ph.D.

The town of Denton played a key role in the life of my family. It was in Denton that my grandparents, Orin and Eleanor (Jones) Peterson met, fell in love and married. For their entire life together they lived in the Denton vicinity and considered it to be their good fortune to have met in Denton.

Orin's parents, Emmanuel and Anna Peterson, moved to the Denton area in 1891 where they farmed. Orin attended school at District 108 and graduated from Denton High School. He played the flute in the Denton Orchestra, lived and farmed on West Claire, and attended the School of Agriculture on the east campus of the University of Nebraska (graduating in 1927). It was in the Denton Orchestra that he met my grandmother, Eleanor Jones. Having recently learned to play the violin she shared her new skills with the community.

In the words of Eleanor Jones Peterson: "In the autumn of 1925 our family moved to Denton. Dr. E.L. Jones (her father) was practicing medicine in Raymond, Eleanor was attending the University of Nebraska, and Dr. Agnes Houston-Jones and the younger Jones children were living in Wallace, where she had been practicing medicine for two years. When Dr. E.L. Jones learned the Denton doctor was retiring, he persuaded his wife to move to Denton to be nearer Raymond, and also near the university." The Jones family lived in the Visse house and Dr. Houston Jones practiced out of their home. In 1929 the Jones family left Denton and moved to Raymond because Dr. E.L.'s health was failing. There the two doctors worked as a team until E.L.'s death in 1938.

Cultural activities occupied the leisure time of Denton families. In addition to the orchestra practicing and performing, some of the young people, including Orin Peterson and Eleanor Jones, put on "home talent plays". The group would gather at various homes and then stage their productions for the enjoyment of the town. Extension Clubs were one of the social activities of the women in this area. Dr. Houston Jones and Eleanor both joined the Denton club and enjoyed the association with the women of the area.

As was typical of rural churches, the Denton Methodist Church shared a minister with another church. The Reverend Kelso preached in Denton and also at Wesley Chapel. Orin's family belonged to Wesley Chapel and Eleanor's to the Denton Methodist Church. Reverend Kelso invited the Jones family to the Wesley Chapel July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic in 1928. Orin and Eleanor ended the day on a romantic boat ride on the Blue River; the beginning of their romance and eventual marriage. They were married on June 5, 1928 in the parlor of the Jones home in Denton.

In 1925 there were less than a dozen woman doctors in Nebraska. Even rarer was a husband and wife team of doctors. E.L. Jones was a teacher before he was a doctor, and it was through his work as a teacher he met his wife Agnes Houston. He believed they would make a powerful team if they attended medical school so in 1904 the two of them enrolled in the Cotner School of Medicine in the town of Bethany. Because E.L. already had graduated from college he was able finish his medical degree in 1905. Agnes graduated the following year, 1906. Nearly as amazing as it was to graduate from medical school, it was an even more remarkable feat because Agnes was pregnant and eventually delivered my Grandmother in the summer of 1905. With her family of 3 little girls (Marguerite, Irene and Eleanor) Agnes Houston managed to complete medical school and raise them and 3 other children.

Dorothy Jones Sterns is the sole living member of the Jones family. Dorothy lives in Douglas, Nebraska where she remains active in her church and with her family. There are many families that have sprung from the two doctors that once lived in Denton, Nebraska. These many family members live across the United States, but all know the foundation laid for them by the Drs. E.L. Jones and Houston Jones.

Nancy Biggs, Ph.D. is the great-granddaughter of Drs. Jones.

**DR. WILLIE EDGAR LAMB**

Dr. Willie Edgar Lamb was born January 22, 1881 in Rock Co, Nebraska. After graduating from the Nebraska College of Medicine in May 1908, Dr. Lamb came to Sprague and stayed until 1944--36 years. His home was straight east of the church. His parents were John E. and Belle Wright Lamb who lived in Sprague a number of years. Their house was two doors north of the Doctor's home. Dr. Lamb married Asenith Kirlin on May 16, 1904. Doctor and his wife, Asenith, had one child, William Dwight Lamb born Dec 7, 1910. Asenith passed away in 1925 and on July 24 1926, he married Minnie Bargman. William Dwight passed away April 27, 1987 in Lincoln Ne. In 1944 Doctor and Minnie moved to Lincoln and shortly afterwards, Doctor became company doctor of Western Electric In Lincoln. He stayed with this company for five years. (Editor's Note: some of this Bio is taken from a history book on Sprague Ne.)

Richard Schell a DCHS board member recalls an incident during threshing season, when he fell out of a tree and broke his leg. Dr. Lamb was called and arrived. There was no cast but it was simply wrapped tightly.



This is a desk that was in Dr. Lamb's office. Luana Sullivan has lived in the house built by Dr. Lamb since 1945 and considers this desk a part of Sprague history. We agree. The trophies are not a part of the Dr. Lamb legacy however. It appears that his patients came through the back door of the house and climbed up the stairs to his office. Luana has kept the desk just as it was when she moved in. Some of the floor boards in the house are from the home of the doctor that was in Sprague before Dr Lamb. It is believed that Dr. Frank Borglum was that doctor. He was the brother of Gutzon Borglum that created the Mount Rushmore carvings.

Among the items that Luana found when she moved into the home of Dr. Lamb were these two items. You will note that one is from a company "Lederle" which is still in the drug manufacturing business. You will note that this is a allergy medication. The other package is a medication that was used to treat the effects of menopause and was manufactured by Schering Corporation which is now Schering Plough Drug company. Thank you, Luana, for sharing these items with us.



**DR. ALMERON O. SKINNER**



Dr. Almeron O. Skinner was a Denton doctor during World War 1 time frame. We know this because we have a picture known to be Bob Haase, in his navy uniform, with Dr. Skinner. He was still in Denton in January 1922 when his brother Alva visited him. (See Bits and Pieces). Just when he came to Denton and when he left is not known but I have seen a number of obituaries that say that Dr. Skinner was called but could not save the patient. According to the Denton 125 years handbook, the Skinners lived in the corner house catty corner from the Methodist church until 1925 and Dr. Skinners office was east of the post office that was at the NE corner of the main intersection (east of the CCC sign). Dr Skinners obituary states that he was on the staff at the Regional Center at one time and had also worked at the hospital in Beatrice.

What is known is that he was born in Tecumseh and died with his wife Mable and daughter Harriett surviving. Harriet was married by then to Dr. Herbert S. Jackson and when Dr. Jackson died in 1974, Harriet survived along with a daughter Janet Thompson (husband Alfred P. Thompson) and a son Allan and a son Daniel. The

Thompson's lived at 630 N 54th in Lincoln. This address was home to Kevin Jackson later on, but cannot find any of the family at this time. Does anyone have any information on any descendants?

**NOV 3 1921****ROKEBY**

Rev. Dunn has purchased a new Ford roadster.

A much needed extension has been added to the stables on the school grounds

Lost--gray silk glove, finder will please notify Lenore Schlichtemeier or Winifred Davis.

**EMERALD HEIGHTS**

Friends and relatives gathered at the home of Mr. Fritz Lostroh on Tuesday evening, the occasion being his birthday. A nice luncheon was served during the latter part of the evening. We wish him many more birthdays.

**NOV 10, 1921****ROKEBY RATTLE**

The Rokeby basketball teams took a double header victory from the Denton High School on the Denton court Friday afternoon, November 4. The Rokeby boys won by a score of 8 to 5 and the Rokeby girls by 6 to 5. The Rokeby boys are: Albert Davis, captain, Edward Sullivan, Hartley and Orval Williams and Lawrence Clymer. The Rokeby girls team is composed of: Bertha Oltjenbruns, Marjorie Jacoby, Mary White, Francis Oltjenbruns and Alive Olmstead, captain.



The Oltjenbruns home was the scene of a jolly party Saturday afternoon when Miss Sandstrom and her pupils, teacher and school mates of Wilber and Esther gathered there to enjoy the many good things provided for their entertainment. After playing games for a time, delicious refreshments were served and later all gathered around a bonfire to roast wienies and marshmallows. It was a most delightful occasion.

Mr. and Mrs. White celebrated their twenty-first wedding anniversary Sunday. Rev. Dunn was a guest at dinner and a number of other friends and relatives were present to help them enjoy the day.

Mrs. E. Peterson slipped and fell on the stairs at her home one morning last week and suffered a broken wrist and numerous painful bruises. She is getting along as well as could be expected.

**EMERALD EPISTLES**

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Merrill attended the 25th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ruebky of Seward Nebraska last Sunday. A very large crowd was present.

RUG AND CARPET WEAVING---MRS WALTER KREPS, PHONE 1612

**DENTON DOINGS**

Jessie Shea who has been in the Orthopedic hospital just a month is improving very well. Editors note: Jessie passed away on Oct 16, 1925 at age 12 years, 0 months and 8 days.

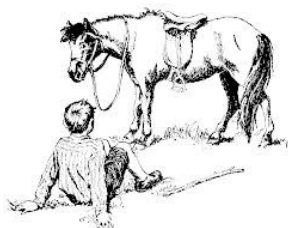
The dance which was held at Jerry Sullivan's last Saturday evening was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Helen Shea and Irene Sullivan spent the week end with the home folks.

**ROKEBY RATTLE**

Twenty of Annabell Loos' school mates helped to make her tenth birthday a very happy event on Saturday afternoon, November 12th. The time was spent with games and music. A very delicious lunch was served. She received many nice presents.

The Wesley Chapel Circle met for an all-day meeting at the home of Mrs. Roy Steinhausen last Wednesday.



Lawrence Clymer had the misfortune to have his saddle girth break and let him fall from his horse, breaking his right arm, last Tuesday evening on the way home from school. He was back in school Monday with his arm in a sling.

Harry Foreman has been suffering from an ulcerated tooth which the dentist removed a few days ago.

**NOV 17, 1921****SPRAGUE SPIELS**

Whilemna Westendorn was born in Holland, the 27th of June, 1833. In the year 1861 she was joined in marriage to Garriet J. Heusinkvelt. After six years of married life they decided to come to America and in 1867 they left Holland for the New Country and a new home. To this union were born six children, three of whom preceded their mother into the better world, as did also her husband, he having died the 27th of January 1897. Today there are three children who mourn her loss. One son and two daughters. They are John Heusinkvelt who lives in our midst; Mrs. C. W. Oberman of Lincoln, Nebraska and Mrs. G. Walvoord of Hickman, Nebraska. Mrs. Heusinkvelt passed out of life at noon on the 10th day of November in a beautifully quiet way. She had been waiting for her Lord for quite a long time and He came and took her away in sleep. She had reached the grand age of eighty-eight years.

Otto Gloe butchered a nicer young beef last Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Lamb celebrated their fifty-second wedding anniversary last Monday, November 14 by entertaining the following guests at dinner: Dr. and Mrs. Lamb and son Willie, Rev and Mrs. E.E. Pengelly, Mrs. Mary Cox of Lincoln, and Minnie Bargman.

Mrs. Kurtz papered for Mrs. Willie Faig last Tuesday.

**DECEMBER 1, 1921****ROKEBY RATTLE**

The intermediate and primary pupils of Rokeby school gave a Thanksgiving program and chicken-pie social at the school house of Tuesday evening. The children performed their parts in a creditable manner and the program was greatly enjoyed. After the program, an original play was presented by the high school students for the benefit of the Red Cross. They sold sixteen membership buttons.

The Sprague basketball teams went down to defeat before the Rokeby fives on the Rokeby court Friday afternoon. The Rokeby boys won 15 to 11 and the Rokeby girls won 41 to 0.

There was a large attendance at the Ladies Aid meeting at the home of Mrs. Loos, Friday afternoon. The ladies spent the afternoon preparing for their annual bazaar to be held at the church on the evening of Dec 2. Mrs. Loos served dainty refreshment.

Mr. and Mrs. George Allan Jr. entertained the following guests at Thanksgiving dinner: Mr. and Mrs. Sanders and family of Lincoln, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Nootz and Willard, Ervin Nootz and Schuyler Southwell.

Some people are in such a hurry to finishing shucking corn, they even shuck by lantern light. Ask George Allan, Jr. about it.

**DECEMBER 7, 1921****ROKEBY RATTLE**

A community meeting was held at the school building last Wednesday evening to lay plans for beginning work on the community building. It was decided to begin work at once and on Friday morning a number of men were on hand and commenced work on the basement. The job will be pushed as rapidly as the weather will permit.

Lela Rundle and Alice Olmsted spent Thursday night with Winifred Davis. Hartley Williams and Mary White visited at the Davis home during the evening. The young folks made the candy and popcorn for the Ladies Aid bazaar.

The bazaar was held on Friday evening and was a decided success, both socially and financially. There was a large crowd in attendance and everyone present enjoyed the evening.

**DECEMBER 29, 1921****ROKEBY RATTLE**

Mrs. Vanderpool and Miss Marjorie Jacoby were hostesses at a miscellaneous shower last Thursday afternoon in honor of Miss Amanda Sandstrom whose marriage will take place this week. The rooms were decorated in keeping with the season and numerous useful and pretty gifts were presented on a gaily decorated Xmas tree. Dainty refreshments were served.



On Monday evening a jolly party of friends and school mates gathered at the home of Orval Williams to help him celebrate his seventeenth birthday and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Mrs. Williams served a delicious supper and the guests departed afterwards wishing Orval many happy returns of his birthday.

## JANUARY 5, 1922

### SPRAGUE SPIELS

Mr. and Mrs. Alder are the proud parents of a baby girl born Monday January 2.



Dr. Lamb had quite a serious accident Wednesday night of last week while playing a game of basketball. Sam Spellman Jr. collided with him, his knee striking the doctor's knee, causing a very bad fracture. It was an unavoidable accident which could not be helped. Sam feels very sorry, but of course, it was not his fault. The doctor's father and William Krull took him in Lincoln where Dr. Rowe and Welch took an x-ray and put on a cast.

Mr. and Mrs. George Damrow and family called on Dr. Lamb Sunday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Motts Wendelin and son of Crete also drove down to see the doctor, also a number of other friends.

### ROKEBY RATTLE

On New Years evening Floyd Smith entertained as a watch party at his home. Dainty refreshments were served late in the evening and the young people departed early in 1922.

Mr. F.C. Munn who underwent a serious operation at the Lincoln hospital just before Christmas, is getting along nicely and expects to return home in about a week.

Miss Helen Nye was elected teacher of the intermediate grades in Rokeby school in place of Miss Sandstrom, who was married during the holidays. Editors Note: Amanda Sandstrom married Victor A. Stiegelmeier and Elsie Sandstrom married Leroy Quick on Dec 22, 1921.

The members of the Wesley Chapel Circle and their families were entertained at the home of Emmanuel Peterson, Wednesday. Dinner was served to eighty people.

The Burgess family held a reunion on Christmas at the parental home. Children and grandchildren to the number of thirty-six were present.

The community house was being shingled last week but a slight delay is being caused by a shortage of material.

## January 19, 1922

### DENTON DOINGS

Loren Mickle shelled some corn last week. Gertrude Minchow assisted Mrs. Mickle in her cooking for the men.

The marriage of Marie Shay (should be Shea) and Albert Culp will take place Wednesday Jan 18, so all prepare for a charivari.

Mr. J. Howard Smith had a narrow escape a couple of weeks ago when one of his horses crushed him against a gate. He is getting better.

The postmaster's twin brother, W.W. Reeves, arrived from the northern part of the state and will spend some time visiting here.

W.T. Voss returned home Saturday from the hospital in Lincoln, where he was taken a few weeks ago for treatment of a severe case of tonsillitis.



## OBITUARIES

**Sonora (Nora) Pester** passed away on June 24th at the age of 92. She was the widow of Boyd Pester and the daughter of Max and Leona Schnirl. Survivors include two sons and a daughter and their families. Her brother Don and his wife Esther have been DCHS members for many years

**Bernice Gansemer** died June 28th in Lincoln. She was 90 years old. She and her deceased husband, Harland, were DCHS members also. Survivors include two sons and their families. Her parents were Thomas and Helena Schrader. Bernice graduated from Rokeby High School.

**Charles W.P. Wiechert** passed away on September 7th. He was 89. His wife Dorothy (Haase) Wiechert preceded him in death. Dorothy was one of the founding members of DCHS and their children, Bill, Robert, Jeanette and Annette, are DCHS members. His parents were August and Elle Loos Wiechert.



Denton Community Historical Society  
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