

Phelps Helps



Volume 14, Issue 4

Winter 2006

**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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Phelps Helps Web Page via

[http://users.atcjet.net/p/
psdesigns](http://users.atcjet.net/p/psdesigns)



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New Slate of Officers for 2007

Holdrege Area Genealogy has a new slate of officer for 2007.

- Elizabeth Schlatz - President
- Virginia Lindstrom - Vice President
- Margaret Stutheit - Secretary
- Lourie Johnson - Treasurer

A Note from our Past President

I wish to thank those members who have agreed to be officers for the next year. New people bring in new ideas and help keep our organization strong.

I have enjoyed serving you for many years and appreciate all your support and help. I will still be gathering articles for the Phelps Helps newsletter and in charge of the library at the museum. Remember that we are always looking for volunteers in the library. All you need to do is come out on our work days on Tuesday or Thursday afternoon from 1:00 pm. To 5:00 p.m. If you wish to work on a special project just let me know. Sandra Slater

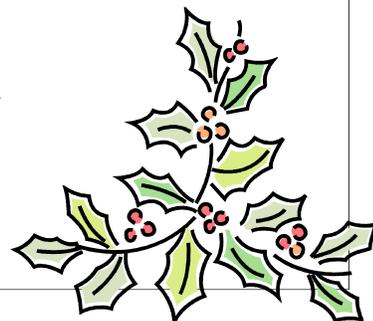
Your Past President, Sandra Slater

2007 Membership Dues

Holdrege Area Genealogy dues will be **due January 1, 2007**. Thanks to all our members for supporting us through the years. **Dues will remain \$10 a year**. Our address is Holdrege Area Genealogy Club, Box 164, Holdrege, NE 68949.

Please send in your Queries on their Nebraska relatives. Through the years, we have been successful in connecting members who are researching the same family lines.

Any member can also submit a story about their Phelps or Harlan County relative for a future newsletter.



New Books On Our Shelf

Donated by Elizabeth Schlatz

1949 and 1950 Orleans, Nebraska High School Year Book

1967 Campbell, Nebraska High School Year Book

1968 and 1969 Oxford, Nebraska Cardinal Year Book

Reunion of the Class of 1936 Alma High School, published in 1971

Donated by Dick Dyas

Phelps County Cemeteries, Vol. 3 Addition 2000-2004

Donated by Jana Nation

1997 Oxford, Nebraska Cardinal High School Year Book

Family of June Hoffman

Cemetery Inscriptions of Stark County Ohio, Volumes 1-5

History and Bibliography of Stark County, Ohio

Family of Dorothy Johnson

200 years - A Bicentennial Illustrated History of the United States, 2 Vol. set

Trinity Evangelical Free Church, Holdrege, NE, 1999, 2000, and 2005

Swedish English Dictionary

Donated by Warren M. Jacobson

World War II, Tape With Walter Cronkite

Donated by Dick and Maree Rae Larsen,
2297 S. Weimaraner Way, Meridian, ID 83642

A CD that includes the family lines of the Malm, Lundberg and Hemstrom that resided in Phelps and Gosper Counties in Nebraska. Included are old family pictures, a special presentation about the origins of C. J. Malm, Sophia Lundberg and Gust Hemstrom families. There is also Family Tree Maker and GEDCOM files back to their roots in Sweden in 1700s.

Complimentary Email for Sandra Slater

Below is an email recently received by Patti Simpson from one of the many people Sandra Slater has helped.

"I've had the pleasure of searching rootsweb/Phelps and browsing for more and more info. I'm compiling a family history for my aunt, who will turn 91 in January. Her family goes back to the Mayflower, and is also eligible for DAR membership. Of course, documentation in BMD is necessary for these societies.

"I had begun to become discouraged; finding records for these early dates is extremely hard. Courthouse fires, lack of registration enforcement, etc. take a toll. Out of pure desperation, I emailed Sandra Slater, who figured out how much time she would need to accomplish my goals. I sent a check only last Friday, and that Wonder Woman already has re-

sults! Not only that, but she found far more than I dreamed possible.

"I'm sure you already know how wonderful Sandra and the Holdrege Genealogy Society are, but I don't think these wonderful people ever get ENOUGH recognition. I've never written to rootsweb or societies to express myself this way. I honestly feel I may have dropped this entire project if Sandra hadn't found some new info for me. Because she went out of her way to help me, I will have a fantastic gift to give my aunt this Christmas.

"Please pass this on to others at GenWeb so Sandra receives some well deserved accolades. She's definitely an asset to the genealogical world."

Sincerely, Cheryl Kale

Harlan County, Nebraska

SPRINGGROVE CEMETERY

Written By Dick Dyas

The cemetery is located 2 miles north and 4 3/4 mile east of Oxford, NE, The official description is NW¼ NE¼, Section 34, TWP 4N, Range 20W, Harlan County, NE. the newspapers in early days always showed burial in the Mascot Cemetery in their obituaries as the town of Mascot was close by.

A flagpole, donated by Marjorie and Dick Dyas, was erected in the spring of 2004. The flag that is flown on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day is the flag that draped the casket of Elwin W. Dyas, a WW I veteran. The duties of caring for and pulling up the flag are handled by Douglas Rawson, A Legion member, who lives just west of the cemetery. A new cemetery sign was erected in the spring of 2005. There are two Civil War, two Spanish American War, one World War I and one WWII veterans buried here. All veteran's graves have government markers. The Oxford American Legion decorates these graves each Memorial Day along with a short service. The care of the cemetery is done by the sons of Doug and funds are provided by the Township board.

The list of those buried there can be found in the Harlan County Cemetery book, Second Edition dated 1876 - 2001, compiled by Ben Boell and published by the Holdrege Area Genealogy Club. There are 60 head stones still standing, a stone with more than one name is counted as one. Many are family stones containing the names of the family members

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.

while in other lots each member has a stone. All stones are standing and in good condition. Watching the cemetery and reading early obituaries indicates that there are many unmarked graves.

The land consisting of two acres was purchased on 27 Nov 1897 by the newly formed Spring Grove Cemetery Association from Martha A & D. A. Waldrin, Wife and Husband, of Gage County, NE. The cemetery was initially fenced on all four sides, however, the east side fence was rotated 90 degrees to the north and now is along the north side of a proposed extension. There is no registered document at the Harlan County Courthouse to show that the additional land was ever purchased. There were burials being made long before the date the ground was purchased as the earliest date of burial was in 1880 and numerous burials bear dates before 1897. There had to be a plat map prepared and used long before the cemetery area was purchased as all burials are in lots and perfect alignment. The plat map was not recorded and the working copy has long disappeared. I have tried for years to prepare a plat map, but with only 5 lot deeds recorded and two of those did not contain a stone and with different size lots located in various locations, it has been difficult to prepare a lot map. I am currently taking many measurements and soon hope to have a map, based on 18' X 10' lots, showing the relation of the grave stones to each other. The cemetery was platted showing 18' X 10' lots, however, there are several lots that are 23' X 10' and one lot that is

(Harlan County Continued on page 8)

New Members & Their Queries

Please send in your Queries on your Nebraska relatives. Through the years, we have been successful in connecting members who are researching the same family lines.

Any Holdrege Area Genealogy Club member can also submit a story about their Phelps or Harlan County relative for a future newsletter.

Harold E. Young
12615 N. Hope Ln.
Spokane, Wa. 99208

My grandfather, Francis "Frank" P. Young worked at the Palace Meat Market as a butcher in Holdrege, NE. My paternal grandparents Isaac Leffler and Martha Alice (Coffman) Leffler also resided in Phelps County, were married in Holdrege in 1903 and are buried in Prairie Home Cemetery, Holdrege, NE. Any assistance you might be able to provide would be most appreciated.

Doug Trank
3401 Mesa Road
Lubbock, TX 79403

I am researching the Oman and Trank families who resided in Phelps

County in the late 1880s and early 1900s. They resided north of Loomis, NE and are buried at Moses Hill Cemetery. I would like to correspond with any one interested in these families.

Lelah Coady
112 North Orleans Ave.
Orleans, Nebraska 68966

Researching the Coady family of Harlan County, NE.

Ken Mosman
2018 Arrowhead Dr.
Holdrege, NE 68949

Mr. Mosman would like to hear from anyone who worked or resided at Christian Children's Home, near Holdrege, NE. He is exploring the possibility of writing a book. This home was in existence from 1888-1954.

Linda Cleary
P.O. Box 2
Andover, NH 03216

About 40 Christmas Trees will be on Display at the Museum in December

Holdrege Area Genealogy Club will be one of many to display a Christmas tree for the Nebraska Prairie Museum Christmas Tree Walk December 8, 9 and 10th. This is one of several special events the museum has had to celebrate their 40th anniversary. Virginia Lindstrom is chairman of this project and other members will help her. Our tree will highlight

many of the achievements of our organization and the Don O. Lindgren Library housed at the museum.

We encourage everyone to attend.



First Holdrege Business Men Remember Town as Rail Camp

continued from last Phelps Helps Issue

The Lincoln Land Company had purchased a great amount of land which was included in the first homestead ranch of John Johnson, and it is that company which plotted and laid out the town.

Mr. Phillips representing them visited Phelps Center on October 10th, 1883, and at a meeting held at the Sam Drano law office offered to the citizens of that village lots in the city of Holdrege free, under the provision that they build upon them or remove their buildings to that location.

Phelps Center had become at that date quite a village with two general stores, one owned by A. P. Erickson and the other by King and Albertson, a hardware store belonging to Hymer Bros., Richardson's harness shop and Halogen and Hanson's implement concern. S. A. Dravo was practicing law there and T. M. was editor and publisher of the newspaper.

In December of 1883, the building activities of the railroad culminated at Holdrege and from that time the history of Holdrege leaves the period of uncertainty and struggle. The town became the scene of intense activities and progress. Construction work on the new line continued westward to Oxford, northward toward Curtis and southeast on the Polly and Red Cloud branch with Holdrege as the base of operations.

The population increased, coming from all corners of the county and the country, Phelps Center contributed a large number, for with the county records in Holdrege, the town was in actuality from 1884 the seat of the county offices, with only the formality of an election to confirm it. On November 11, 1884, the election was held and the returns gave the new site on the railroad a vote of 852, Holdrege took a contented breath and a long stride.

"Yes sir", Mr. Lindevall says, there was

money here and the town was a frenzy of building. Any time, night and day, you could hear hammers going week days and Sundays."

He himself was employed in the center of these activities as a carpenter and with Mr. Roberts is credited with construction of the major portion of the city.

Many buildings were moved from Phelps Center among them the home of A. Voris, which was in 1883, the first to go on the logs which rolled the structure over the virgin prairie to the boom town. Mr. T. M. Hopwood, editor of the paper in Phelps Center started building activities on a hotel called the Arlington here, located on the present site of the Evens Hotel.

Mr. Parsons, who arrived later, but was acquainted with the people of those days says, "Mrs. Hopwood told me that when the building was under construction she set up a stove in the street and served the carpenters meals outdoors." Even then the spacious Arlington was inadequate to meet the housing problem and all available rooms were occupied.

The Hopwoods moved a house from Phelps Center and placed it next door to the hotel, it served as a paper office for his publication the Nugget, and the upstairs was turned into sleeping compartments. Parsons chuckled as he recalled those times for there were amusing sides to every problem.

"The upstairs of that old building was divided into rooms by cardboard partitions. One room had seven beds, three occupying a bed and an exit was gained by the simple method of walking over adjoining beds until the door was reached."

"You remember the fellow that fell out of bed one morning?" Lindevall asked.

(Rail Camp Continued on page 6)

(Rail Camp Continued from page 5)

Parsons evidently did. He laughed. It seemed that on one morning one of the roomers sleeping next to the wall rolled out of bed and through the partition and into the next room which unfortunately was occupied by a lady. "She thought the world was coming to an end and had hysterics." Parsons explained.

There was the same urgent need for accommodations for the residents and Nels Nelson who had a grocery solved the problem by suspending a bed by wires from the rafters of the roof, accessible by way of a ladder. They had for safety a two-by-four to place under the bed for re-enforcement.

It was an ingenious affair and quite successful until one night upon retiring they forgot the two by four, the wires broke and Nelson fell out and into a box of eggs just below.

Parsons said he and a companion took possession of the building which had been moved from Sacramento and is now in part, the citizen office and slept there. On a Sunday morning their slumbers were disrupted by a crowd coming in, the Methodists had decided to hold morning services there. "What did we do? Well we stayed in bed and "went back to sleep." Which is a sample of the manner in which the early timers met the problems.

Dining room accommodations were equally an inadequate as sleeping quarters and Lindevall says they had to bar dining room doors against the rush at meal times, and hold the crowd until first comers were served. Our man to aid him in seeing the vacancies at the tables cut a large hole in the partition.

The year of 1883, the Burlington railroad offered the town plot for the site of the courthouse, and on May 30, 1884, the structure was complete and the county records placed in it. Today the building is a portion of a residence in the four hundred block of Broadway.

1883 brought two doctors to this community, doctors Guild and Hoyt and Norris and Wells moved their drug store from Phelps Center. It was a sturdy healthy people who settled here, however, and Parsons says that epidemics were unknown.

Building and moving continued throughout these years. A. P. Erickson put up a building on West Avenue on the southwest side of the street, carrying a line of groceries and general merchandise. S. A. Dravo occupied an office at the present location of the Gillette store. The first business house though is said to have been somewhere near the former location of the Phelps County Bank, and housed a concern dealing in groceries and tobacco. It had formerly been a barn and was floorless.

A bank was organized in the early settlement of Holdrege and was housed in a small frame building which until recent years stood on the lot west of the present fire station. In 1886, Mr. McGrew, organized the First National Bank, at the present time a substantial Holdrege business. Another concern was a hardware store owned and operated by a Mr. Killip.

The first resident built in Holdrege was erected by G. O. Lindevall, a one room affair constructed from lumber hauled from Kearney. Other citizens built later, many of them choosing sites removed from the business district. Parsons at that time built a residence he now occupies. In 1884 the village was incorporated.

Besides the business activities other elements often took the front of the state. The town was on constant vigil against the possibilities of prairie fires. Plowed furrows and a strip of prairie burned about the buildings acted as a back fire. Cisterns were dug at the intersections of West Avenue and Third and Fourth Avenue and on East Avenue at the same location and a double action pump kept the bucket rack for the bucket

(Continued on page 9)

The Reflector - 1913 Bertrand Year Book

Continued from last Phelps Helps issue

Class of 1904

Motto: "Nothing is Worth Having if Gained Without Effort."

Colors: Pale Pint and Nile Green

Flower: Pink Carnation
Class Roll

Nellie (Nelson) High,
Bertrand, Nebr.

Gertrude (Burns) Shores,
Smithfield, Nebr.

Victor Swenson, Rock Island, Ill, Student at Augustana Seminary.

Don Kuebler, Pittsburg, Kan., civil engineer.

Otto Swenson, Waldron, Ark., government forester.

Emil Nelson, Bertrand, Nebr., farmer

Class of 1905

Motto: "After the Conflict, Ours the Victors' song."

Colors: Tan and Blue

Flower: American Beauty
Rose

Class Roll

Clyde Clayton, Bertrand, drayman

Laura Swanson, Bertrand, Nebr. stenographer.

Hilda Pearson, Bertrand, Nebr., teacher.

Hilda Johnson, Bertrand, Nebr., stenographer.

Nellie Cole, Loomis, Nebr., teacher

Nellie (Bonser) Shedd, Bertrand, Nebr.

Class of 1906

Motto: "Learn as if You were to Love Forever; Live as if You Were to Die Tomorrow."

Colors: Red and Yellow

Flower: Red Rose

Class Roll

Josephine Dobner, Kearney, normal student

Emily (Larson) Swenson,

Bertrand, Nebr.

Rosa (Stephenson) Price, Steamboat Springs, Colo.

Veda (Atkinson) Montgomery, Pilger, Nebr.

Mabel (Cook) Slonecker, Deer Lodge, Mont.

Maybelle (Lundin) Peterson, Loomis, Nebr.

Gertrude McHugh, Bertrand, Nebr., teacher

Class of 1907

Motto: "Not What We Have Said, But What WE Have Done."

Colors: Purple and Gold

Flower: Pansy

Class Roll

Myrle Brown, Bertrand, Nebr., music and expression teacher

Laura Nylander, Loomis, Nebr., teacher

Gertrude (Dobner) Shaughnessy, Smithfield, Nebr.

Florence (Clayton) Phillips, Smithfield, Nebr.

Mary Murphy, Bertrand, Nebr.

Elva Morgan, University Place, H. S. teacher.

Rena (Johnette) Nelson, Loomis, Nebr.

Lulu (Johnson)McWhorter, Bertrand, Nebr.

Class of 1908

Motto: "Omnia Probate, Bonum Tenete."

Colors: Nile Green and White

Flower: White Rose

Class Roll

Hilda Carlson, Bertrand, Nebr. Stenographer.

Dora (Spring) Ream, Minden, Nebr.

Belle Livingston, Ogallala, Nebr., teacher

Clarence Nelson, Round Rock, Tex., teacher in Trinity College.

Edith Peterson, Ber-

trand, Nebr., at home

LeRoy Tull, Eustis, Nebr., bank cashier.

Martha Hougham, Cheyenne, Wyo.

Class of 1909

Motto: "With the Ropes of the Past, We Ring the Bells of the Future"

Colors: Orange and Black

Flower: Marguerite.

Class Roll

Olive Pearson, Bertrand, Nebr., teacher.

Ebba (Knutson) James, Kearney, Nebr.

Ruth Knutson, Tilden, Nebr., teacher

Gerda (Swanson) Mason, Bertrand, Nebr.

Anna Erickson, Omaha, Nebr.

George Tozer, University Place, student at Wesleyan University, Lincoln, Nebr.

Sigurd Wilson, Bertrand, Nebr., farmer

Carl Brown, Crete, Nebr., student at Doane College.

Esther Dahl, Bertrand, Nebr., at home.

Class of 1910

Motto: "Out of the Harbor, Out on the Deep."

Colors: Old Rose and Silver Gray.

Flower: Deep Pink Rose

Class Roll

George Berquist, Lincoln, student at State University

Esther Nelson, Bertrand, Nebr., at home.

Nina Johnson, Lincoln, Nebr., college student

Amanda (Peterson) Peterson, Bertrand, Nebr.

Lillian Peterson, Ber-

(Reflector Continued on page 8)

(Reflector Continued from page 7)

trand, Nebr., teacher.
Amy Benson, Bertrand,
Nebr., teacher
Mabelle, Holen, Lincoln
University student,
Lincoln, Nebr.
Myrtle (Stephenson)
Luke, Lincoln, Nebr.

Class of 1911

Motto: "Finished, Yet
Beginning."
Colors: Lavender and
White
Flower, White Rose.
Class Roll
Ward Bradshaw, Bertrand,
Nebr., clerk.
June Matson, Bertrand,
Nebr. teacher.
Ruth Matson, Bertrand,

Nebr., teacher.
Nellie Thayer, Bertrand,
Nebr., teacher.
Nettie Rayburn, Smith-
field, Nebr., teacher.

Class of 1912

Motto: "Thus Endeth our
First Lesson."
Colors: Blue and Gold.
Flower: Daisy
Class Roll
Hjalmer Swanson, Omaha,
Nebr., Mail Clerk.
Esther Swanson, Kearney,
Nebr., teacher.
Maude Beyrer, Kearney,
Nebr., Normal Student.
Lillian Johnson, Ber-
trand, Nebr., at home.
Fred Johnson, Bertrand,
Nebr., at home
Effie Johnson, Bertrand,

Nebr., teacher.
Hannah Matson, Bertrand,
Nebr., teacher.

Class of 1913

Class Roll
Blanche Baily

(only 1913 senior-photo below)



(Harlan County Continued from page 3)

32' X 10'. The map will be adjusted for these larger size lots.

The Articles of Incorporation for the Spring Grove Cemetery Association are on file at the Harlan County Clerks office. The Articles of Incorporation also listed the names of the officers and directors. They were:

P. W. Newman, President
F. H. Shields, Vice President
Henry Greenback, Secretary
W. R. Swindle, Treasurer

Board of Directors:

P. W. Newman
F. H. Shields
M. J. Cress
While
Henry Grosenbach

No records exist to indicate who followed the above personnel. The deed for

the lot that my Great Grandparents are buried was issued on 21 April 1900 and Jerome Troutman was President. P. W. Newman, W.R. Swindell, M. J. Cress.

M. J. Cress, died 17 Feb 1903, Jerome Troutman, died, 1932, W.R. Swindell, died, 22 Apr 1919, P.W. Newman, died, 16 Jan 1926 and W. H. Lee, died, 16 May 1910 all are buried in the cemetery. Henry Grosenbach was the last of the original officers to pass away. He died in 1935 and is buried in the Oxford Cemetery, however, he has three infant children buried in this cemetery.

For several decades, the cemetery was declared an abandoned cemetery and was not taken care of. I can find no records of any lots sold during this period. If there was a burial, or a stone erected, it was in an existing lot. In the early '70's, The Spring Grove Township board took over the cemetery and began taking care of it as well as providing some funds for same.

brigade in readiness.

For the water supply, however, the town went to the John Johnson ranch which was located on the land now the City Park. He had a well equipped with buckets and a rope. The row of cottonwood trees which until recently grew along the creek through the park were landmarks of his ranch. They were sacrificed to charity last fall and were cut and hauled to the city wood pile for fuel for the needy.

Mr. Johnson owned originally the land upon which the city was laid out.

Winter found the citizens watching weather conditions, lest one of them stray to far from civilization, and be caught in a blizzard which the county had a certain well earned fame. It is those blinding snow storms which took the heaviest toil of lives among the farmers. Many died within a few feet of home, Parsons said.

He shook his head recalling the tragedies of those days of cold. One of the storms came on the eve of the removal of a division of the hotel. The building had suffered from the journey and windows and chimney were missing. On the following morning occupants of the rooms awoke, blanketed in snow and found a painfully cold bedroom.

Food supplies were a matter which the householder had to concern himself at all times. Garden stuff was their only source of fresh vegetables and dried apples and dried prunes were a luxury. We only had the barest necessities in those days Parson said. "People had not extravagant tastes.

School facilities were perhaps the most important factor to be considered and in 1884, Mrs. Hopwood was the Superintendent of Schools and Miss Bell Hopwood, who came from the east, and experienced teacher, conducted classes in different homes.

Entertainment consisted of visiting." And we had a good time to, when we went

"Often as not they walked several miles east of town where a old church was located and that was the social center for the Lutheran people."

The years of '87 and '88 brought amazing advancement and an influx of people. Wagon trains continued to pass through, leaving new citizens in their wake. Holdrege grew steadily and consistently. The Frank Johnson store was well established by then. Fredericks and Engstrom had started a grocery, a Kearney man, Mr. Kreamer, opened a clothing store.

The city gave absolute evidence of growing out of a "boom town" class and becoming a permanent center of business, education and culture. Until today the herds of antelope are history, raiding expeditions are a matter of chuckles, and the struggles of the hardy pioneers are this month to be fittingly recognized in a celebration of the spirit and progressiveness that has been the direct foundation of the city and its present advantages.

To Frank Parsons and Mrs. Parsons and Mr. and Mrs. Lindevall, the Citizen owes a debt of gratitude for information upon which this was based. Mr. Parsons came to this section in '83, at the age of 22 from Delaware. Mr. and Mrs. Lindevall came from Chicago at an earlier date.

Asked what they thought of this county at first site, Mr. Lindevall said "We didn't think, we didn't have time. We making a home and becoming settled in a new territory."

"Trees" Parson said, "There were no trees. It was a common cry among the easterners from the wooded hills and valleys but they all stayed." They said they liked it.

A country of calico dresses and cotton hose. "Yes sir," the ladies say, "in those days a pair of mercerized hose put in high society."

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Holdrege Area Genealogy Club
PO Box 164
Holdrege, NE 68949