

# Phelps Helps



Volume 13, Issue 1

Spring 2004

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

**The public is welcome!**

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## Oscar Tregar is Bertrand's Senior Businessman, Came By Train To Kearney in 1880

1960 Bertrand Herald, Nebraska newspaper story

Bertrand's senior business man is Oscar Tregar who will be 91 years old on his birthday this coming November 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Tregar was born in Henderson Township, Knox County, Illinois in 1869.

Mr. Tregar was so unfortunate to lose his father when the former was but 15 months old. His mother married again when he was three. His step-father was Nels A. Stromquist. It was in the company of his step-father, his mother, one half brother and a half-sister that he came to Phelps County. The Stromquists settled on what is now Danielson land 11 miles east of Bertrand.

The Stromquists came to Kearney by train. The mother and the children traveled in the regular passenger coaches, but the father was in an immigrant car with the two span of horses, the furniture and the other possessions of the family. This was in the year 1880. The father had come to Nebraska in 1879 and staked his claim on the homestead. At first he took only 80 acres, but a change in the law gave his the full 160 acres.

The family built a sod house and set up housekeeping and farming. Phelps Center had a frame school and Mr. Tregar attended there whenever he could. He started there as a regular scholar in 1881. He went to Swede school in 1880. An old Swedish lady in the neighborhood took the children into their home and taught them their catechism in Swedish. This was a regular thing as Swedish was spoken in the home.

Eager for an education. Mr. Tregar went to school at every opportunity. He was still attending school in Bertrand in 1889. Here we went to school in the frame building which was later purchased by C. F. Wickwire and used as a basis for building his home on his farm. The school was taught by Miss Bardshar.

Memory for the early homesteaders takes them back to Kearney. It was here they came by train and it was here they went for their groceries and supplies. It was in Kearney that the family saw their first Indians when they arrived at the depot there. The floor of the depot was literally covered with Indians who had come into the building to escape the terrible cold of the winter.

This was the bad winter of 1880-1881. Mr. Tregar remembers it well, as they did not get their corn husked before the snow set in. The snow began after an electrical storm on Christmas Eve

*(Oscar Tregar Continued on page 8)*

# New Books On Our Shelf

**Donated by Carol Davis**

Keokuk County, Iowa  
 Pottawattamie County Iowa, Early Marriages, Council Bluffs Courthouse, Book C, 1878-1885  
 Pottawattamie County Iowa Early Marriages, book C, Register 1, 1883-1886  
 Nebraska History, a quarterly magazine, January-March 1944 and October-December 1946, fall/winter 1996  
 Honor our Heritage, Phelps County Centennial, 1873-1973  
 Holdrege Nebraska City Directory, 1990  
 North Central Regional Telephone Directory 1983-1984  
 Colonial Families of Eastern Shore of Maryland, Vol. 1  
 Old Kent: The Eastern Shore of Maryland Maryland Eastern Shore Newspaper Abstracts, Vol. 2, 1806-1812  
 Maryland Eastern Shore Newspaper Abstracts, Vol. 4, 1918-1924  
 Genealogical Abstracts from Newspapers of Maryland's Eastern Shore 1835-1850  
 Revolutionary Patriots of Kent and Queen Anne's Counties, Maryland  
 Inhabitants of Kent County, Maryland, 1637-1787  
 Abstracts of Kent county, Maryland Wills, Vol. 1, 1777-1816  
 Abstracts of Kent County, Maryland Wills, Vol. 11, 1816-1867  
 Inhabitants of Cecile County, Maryland, 1649-1774  
 Inventory of Maryland Bible Records, Vol. 1

Maryland Genealogical Society Bulletin Summer 1982  
 Maryland Oaths of Fidelity  
 The Maryland Calendar of Wills from 1685-1702, Vol. 2  
 Maryland Personal Guide  
 The Center-A Guide to Genealogical Researching the National Capital Area  
 Indiana County Heritage, winter 1985 and summer/fall 1989

**Donated by Mary Lou Abramson**

Franklin County Nebraska Farm and Ranch Directory 1968  
 1985-1986, 1987-1988, 1989-1990, 1991-1992  
 Franklin County, Nebraska Tam Service  
 1971 Furnas County, Nebraska Directory  
 1970 Harlan County, Nebraska Directory  
 1968, 1970, 1972 Gosper County, Nebraska Directory  
 Tam Service Books (Includes Township Maps, Alphabetical Locator and Mailing List)  
 Phelps County - 1987-1988, 1989-1990, 1991-1992, 1995-1996, 2000-2001  
 Kearney County - 1985-1986, 1987-1988, 1989-1990, 1991-1992, 1995-1996  
 Kearney Nebraska County Directories, 1970 and 1972

**Donated by Holdrege Area Genealogy Club**

Microfilm of Funk Fridhem Lutheran Church, Phelps County, Nebraska, Membership Records 1879-1932 and Ministerial Acts 1879-1942

## WELCOME !

**WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER TO HOLDREGE AREA GENEALOGY CLUB.**

JEAN BIBBEY  
 1419 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Holdrege, NE 68949

\* \* \* \* \*

## QUERIES

Sarah Firehamer  
 17108 Mayfair Ct.  
 Granger, Indiana 46530-7488

Would like to share information with anyone researching these Phelps and Harlan County, Nebraska families: SKOOG,

BERGSTROM, MCNEIL, LENEY, POWELL, LINDSTROM, MAGNUSSON AND HAINEY.

Looking for descendants of JOHN AUGUST JOHNSON born in 1834 in Sweden, died 1915 in Nebraska. Married first ?; Son Carl Alfred Johnson. 2<sup>nd</sup> Marriage in 1880 in Nebraska to SOPHIA ABRAMHAM; daughter Adla. Adla's half brother was Emil Nelson, Associated surnames: BORG, MCNEIL, LENEY

# Harlan County, Nebraska

INFORMATION BELOW TAKEN FROM THE ALMA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH'S MORTGAGE BURNING JUBLIEE HELD IN 1904.

**1888 - 1904**  
**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A MORTGAGE BURNING JUBLIEE COMMEMORATIVE OF THE 16TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALMA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**JUNE 23, 1904**  
**IN PERSON OR BY LETTER.**  
**"IN HIS NAME."**

OFFICIAL BOARD

Rev. Wm Hauptmann Pastor

DEACONS

A.T. KEMPER  
 D.S. Hardin  
 Mrs. M.A. Downs  
 Mrs. A.B. Lafferty

TRUSTEES

T.L. Porter  
 S.C. Gould  
 A.H. Gould  
 Frank Shaffer  
 E.M. Froman  
 Wm. Downs, Clerk  
 D.S. Hardin, Treasurer  
 Z.T. Kemper, S.S. Supt.  
 Mrs. M.R. Morgan, Assistant  
 Mary McCulloch, President C.E.  
 Gertrude McCulloch, supt. Junior C.E.  
 Gertrude Lafferty, Choirister  
 Mrs. S.C. Gould, Organist

LADIES' AID SOCIETY

Mrs. Mary Yocum, President  
 Mrs. H.C. Mead, Vice-Pres  
 Mrs. A.m. Lafferty, Sec.  
 Mrs. S.C. Gould, Treas.

**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.

**PROGRAM**

1:30 P.M. Opening song  
 Reading Scripture  
 Thanksgiving Prayer - Rev. Bross  
 Anthem - Choir  
 Address of Welcome - Rev. Hauptmann  
 Response - Rev. Travers  
 Response - Rev. Sweeney  
 Song - Choir and Congregation  
 Organization and 1st Council - Rev. Taylor  
 Church Building - Rev. Dickinson  
 Church Growth - Rev. Ricker  
 Song  
 Recess  
 Endeavor Society - Mrs. Pease  
 The Ladies Aid - Mrs. Lafferty  
 Letters from Absent Members  
 Song - Choir  
**EVENING SERVICES**  
 7:30 P.M. song Service - Led by Choir  
 Prayer - Rev. Smith  
 Anthem - Choir  
 Address - Rev. H. Bross, State Supt. Of Missionary Work  
 Presentation of charter Members  
 Ceremony of Burning Mortgage - conducted by Rev. Hauptmann  
 Social Hour

\*\*\*\*\*

**Congregational Church**  
**Organized by Council**  
**May 17th, 1888**

**CHARTER MEMBERS**

May 17, 1888  
 J M Furguson, removed to Hastings, Neb.  
 Mrs. J M Furguson, removed to Hastings, Neb.  
 Mrs. Harrit Garvin, removed to Fowler, Ind.  
 Thos L Porter  
 A B Lafferty  
 Amanda M Lafferty  
 Mrs. E H Wilcox, removed to Omaha, Neb.

June 3rd  
 Mrs M J Downs  
 Mrs E A Carpenter, removed to  
 Mrs. L M Moore  
 Jennie Jamison, removed to

August 12  
 Mrs P Chessington, removed to Lincoln, Ne.

October 19  
 Rev. George L. Dickenson, Prescott, Mass.

Lillian Dickenson  
 Mr. Dawson, Pawnee City, Nebraska  
 Mrs. Dawson, Pawnee City, Nebraska  
 Laura Ferguson, Hastings, Nebraska

May 12, 1889  
 Z T Kemper  
 Elvira Booth Burrows, -- Ia.  
 Buell Chessington, Lincoln, Neb.  
 H.E. Bowman, ---  
 Emaline Bowman, Died, Nov. 23, 1895

July 31  
 Mrs. Sarah Garvin, Ma-

*(Harlan Co Continued on page 4)*

(Harlan Co Continued from page 3)

roa, Ill.

Fannie Porter

September 8

Delia Carpenter VanAken,  
Dewitt, Neb.

June 1

Mrs. Anna Allen

Anna Conklin Burrows,  
Imogene, Iowa

June 13

Wm Gettings, ---

Mrs. Wm Gettings, --

Hobert Dickinson, Wash-  
ington, D.C.

October 22, 1891

Rev. A.E. Ricker,

Aurora, Nebraska.

Mrs. A.E. Ricker,

Aurora, Nebraska

January 3, 1892

Sophia Pettit

Jennie Shaffer, died  
Dec. 11, 1894

Olive Pettit Jackson,  
Burchard, Nebraska

Maud Wood Kinley, Glen-  
wood, Iowa

S.A. Maud Lafferty, Den-  
ver, Colorado

Elsie Conklin, Imogene,  
Iowa

Zadie Horton Sutley,  
Lyndon, Washington

Myra Horton Cramer, La-  
comb, Canada

Harry Kinley, Glenwood,  
Iowa

Walter Baldwin

April 10

Iona Beattie, St. Paul,  
Minn.

M M Horton, Lacombe, Can-  
ada

Mr. M.M. Horton, Lacombe,  
Canada

July 3

Samuel A. Pettit, Steam-  
boat Springs, Colo.

Sarah Egelston, Colum-  
bus, Nebraska.

Mary Biddle, Imogene,  
Iowa

October 6

S. M. Baker

March 12, 1903

Homer Danberg, La Veto,  
Colorado

Rev. Z K Heiselman,  
Steel City, Ne-  
braska.

Mrs. Ella Thomas, letter  
to Evangelical

December 24

E Reed, San Barnardino,  
Cal

Jennie Reed, San Barnar-  
dino, Cal

Frank Reed, San Barnar-  
dino, Cal

Wm H Reed, San Barnar-  
dino, Cal

Edwin B. Reed, San  
Barnardino, Cal

Frank Shaffer

Birdie Shaffer Gould

Mary Shaffer Yocum

Will Downs

Alvin D. Brown, Merriam,  
Kansas

Josephine Brown, Mer-  
riam, Kansas

Charles Brown, Merriam,  
Kansas

December 24

W J McKenzie

Etta M McKenzie

Stanton C Gould

Belle Gould Austin,  
Franklin, Nebraska

Gomer Thomas

Anna Conklin, Imogene,  
Iowa

Bertha Hedden Gibbons,  
Campbell, Nebr.

Gertrude Prettyman

Gertrude Lafferty

Claude Hammock, Sioux  
City, Iowa

H J Egelston, Columbus,  
Nebraska

Etta Bowman -

Nina Swartz Burford,  
Fairbury, Nebraska

Lewis Gaskill, dismissed  
by request

Wm Cramer, Lacombe, Can-  
ada

Fred Linn, Humboldt, ne-  
braska

Daisy Linn, Humboldt,  
Nebraska

J.F. Morgan

Mary R Morgan

Aubrey Pettit -

Lulu Tift, --

Catherine Cramer, La-  
combe, Canada

Nannie Moore Dingman,  
Bellville, Kansas

Iona Crosthwait Willey

Isabelle Fletcher

October 7

Leslie Stevens, died.

Mrs. Leslie Stevens, Or-  
leans

L. Stevens, Orleans

Elizabeth Kline, --

Jessie Mitchell Mock, --

December 20

May Jenkins

Etta Bartels, Neosho, Mo

Mary Armstrong Reneau

Lizzie Wiley

Myrtle Harrit Garvin,  
Fowler, Ind.

January 4, 1895

Flora Kemper

D.S. Hardin

Mrs. D. S. Hardin

G A Gage -

Mrs. G A Gage

Stephen Jenkins, dropped  
by request

Elmer Shaffer

Sadie Rinehart, Huntley

October 6

Chas. Miller

LaVern Miller

January 5, 1896

Rev R M Travers, Wymore,  
Nebraska

Mrs. Travers, Wymore,  
Nebraska

Donald Travers, Wymore,  
Nebraska

Kittie Travers, Dewitt,  
Nebraska

November 1

Kate Driscoll, Fairmont,  
Nebraska

Edith Piper Olmstead,  
Orleans

Lillian Robertson  
Shaffer

Jennie Furse Egelston,  
Columbus, Nebraska

Alice McKenzie, Frank-  
lin, Nebraska

Leonard McKenzie, Omaha

Edith M. Lafferty

Robert Anderson, Elm  
Creek, Nebraska

Clayton Sheffrey, Or-  
leans

January 10, 1897

(Harlan Co Continued on page 5)

(Harlan Co Continued from page 4)	<u>August 10</u>	Mar Elizabeth McCulloch
Rev. Wm S Hills, Garfield, Kansas	Alvina Fox, Huntley	Maggie Oneido McCulloch
Julia A Hills, Garfield, Kansas	<u>October 10</u>	Inez Gertrude Woodruff
Laura Hills, Garfield, Kansas	Chas Woodruff	Maud Sarah Fletcher
Jessie Downs Mead	Mrs. Chas Woodruff, died	Charlie M Hardin
Carrie Randall, Elkart, Indiana	April 7, 1904	Charlie Luther Shaffer
Helen Whitney Murray	Henry Woodruff	<u>September 22</u>
Emma Prettyman Dixon	May Francis Woodruff	Rev A J Folsom, Plymouth
Samuel Whitney	Ethel Shaffer	Church, Omaha
Fannie Whitney	Mrs. A H Gould	<u>March 1, 1903</u>
H L Fox	Charles Pettit, dropped by	John Shaffer
Carrie Jandebour	request	Roy H Musselman
<u>July 11, 1897</u>	Charles Reed, San Bernar-	Guy Porter
George Beerman, Horton, Kansas	dino, Cal	Mark McKenzie
Etta Patton	<u>November 11</u>	Frank Jandebour
Hattie Hill	James L Barnes, died	Harry Hardin
<u>May 1, 1897</u>	Bessie A Barnes, McCook, Ne-	Gertrude McCulloch
Mrs. E Southworth, Sabensville, Pa.	braska	Anna Laura McCulloch
Lillie M Randall, Elkart, Ind.	<u>June 27, 1900</u>	Lena Fletcher Herron
Geo. A Randall, Elkart, Ind.	Mrs. Ida Mills	Vera May Fletcher
J W Dingman, --	Edith Mills	Rebecca Shuitor Shanks
Arthur A Underwood, Cheyenne, Wy.	Leslie Mills	Celia Mitchell
Susan Underwood, Cheyenne, Wy.	<u>December 19</u>	Carrie Jandebour
Ferdinand Retzman	Alfred Yocum	Edith Simpson Willits
Mrs. F Retzman	April 7, 1901	Fannie Swartz
Elsamer French, --	Charles Harrit	Alida Tubs
Libbie M French, --	Cora Harrit	Louisa C Folsom
Angie M Mead	Mrs. Ella V Daniels	Howena Harstine Ellis
Calista Hill, Garfield, Kansas	Mary Daniels	Ethel Gould
Mattie A Padgett, Fairbury, Nebraska	Carlie Daniels	<u>March 22</u>
Sarah Richards, died September 17, 1902	Hazel Daniels	Daniel Jandebour
Lulu Tift, --	Merl Daniels	<u>May 10</u>
<u>March 1, 1899</u>	Ina May Jenkins	Joseph H Wiley
Dora Butler Shaffer	Sadie Jenkins	Edna M Wiley
<u>July 2</u>	Bertha Mills	Ila Maud Wiley
Rev F W Peas, Central City, Iowa	Clara Martha Hardin	I Lee Keim
Eloise Pease	Laura C Schrach, dismissed	<u>March 1904</u>
Leila Musselman	at request	Rev Wm Hauptmann
	Mary L. Richards	Georgia Hauptmann
	A H Gould	E K Heseltine
	Wm. Zumwalt, --	Mrs. E K Heseltine
	Mrs. Wm. Zumwalt, --	Monroe Heseltine
	<u>August 14</u>	Richard James
	E M Vroman	Lizzie James
	Frankie M Vroman	Tobitha Marvin
	<u>September 1</u>	Mrs. W G Black
	Blanch Livesay	
	May Darrow	
	<u>November 3</u>	
	Caroline Blackledge, died	
	March 3, 1904	
	<u>March 2, 1902</u>	

# Traveler Describes Stage Trip To Phelps Center, Phelps County, Nebraska

From Kearney Daily Hub, March 1, 1967

**BACKGROUND NOTE:** Williamsburg, Nebraska was the first County Seat from 1873-1879. Most of the buildings were moved from Williamsburg to Phelps Center when it became the second county seat from 1879 to 1883. In 1883 the railroad came to Phelps County, but not to Phelps Center. This is when Holdrege was started. Both Williamsburg and Phelps Center became extinct.)

Prior to the coming of the automobile, cross-country travel in regions without railroad service was precarious at best for those travelers without their own horses and teams. In a letter to the Lincoln "Journal" of February 27, 1883, in the files of the Nebraska State Historical Society a traveler signing himself "Eyes" tells of traveling by stage from Kearney to Phelps Center, then the county seat of Phelps County.

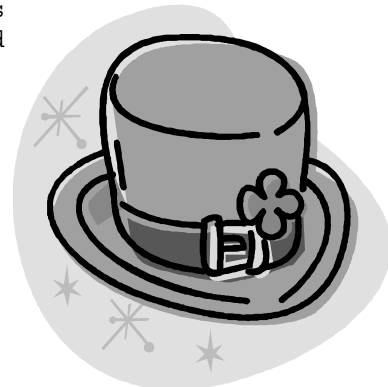
## Not Impressed

"Eyes" was not overly impressed by his trip, or at least not favorable impressed. Learning that a stage ran to Phelps Center, he wrote, "I searched for the Kearney headquarters of said route: I found them—in the rear of the post office, headed toward the wood pile." The stage, he described in detail: "There were four wheels to begin on; these were connected by sticks running crosswise and lengthwise, and on these was mounted that which passed for as a seat. In front was no dashboard but a grand opening for one. On the rear of the seat was ---the great open domain of nature. At length the human part of the establishment put in an appearance and we proceeded to begin to get ready to start. First the luggage was put in place. This consisted of a mail bag, your servant's valise, and a cross-cut saw, secured by running a surcingle through the handles and strapping the whole to the back of the seat."

"Our quadruped was furnished with shoes for four feet. The roads were very icy, so the shoes were put on his front feet, these were to walk with. His rear feet were left unshod, these were to slide with, and it was hard to tell which pair of feet were most active."

On the way, they stopped at Williamsburg, a rural post office in Phelps County. "Here we found post office, hotel, store, private residence and general lounging place, under one roof; in fact the whole town was under one roof, and it was not a large roof either. The establishment was dirty in front, dirtier in the rear, and the dirtiest in the centre. One thing that attracted my attention on the trip was the dogs. I found that they were a sure index to the financial condition of the residents. If the people were poor, they had a yellow dog; and if they were very poor, a black dog; and if they were most exceedingly poor, both a yellow and black dog. They would rush from the dooryard as if to devour us on the spot."

Upon reaching his destination, however, "Eyes" was most impressed with the village of Phelps Center and its future. He felt the village of 25 to 30 buildings would increase rapidly with the coming of the railroad. But the Burlington missed Phelps Center and the new town of Holdrege was established. In a short time Phelps Center ceased to exist.



# Child Lost All Night, Found

by Uncle in Snake  
Creek Draw, Suffers Only Slight Exposure

Estimated More Than 200 Participate in All Night Search For 20 Month Old Son of Mr. & Mrs. Harley Arehart, is Missing Near 12 Hours

Holdrege Citizen May 18, 1942

Lost all night, little Gary Lee Arehart, 20 month old son of Mr. ad Mrs. Harley Arehart, was safe and apparently sound in Brewster hospital this morning.

He was found shortly after 6 o'clock by his Uncle Ray Arehart, sound asleep in Snake creek draw, almost a mile from the Arehart home, which is located a mile and a half south of Sacramento.

Little Gary Lee had wondered away from the farm yard shortly after 6 o'clock last night to start one of the most scary child hunts in recent Phelps county history.

The dangers faced by the 20 month old youngster were hundreds of little water holes in the pasture adjacent to the farm home, some of them according to Sheriff G. Royal Hanson, were up to 3 feet in depth.

A draw running through the Arehart pasture was partially filled with water and Snake creek draw into which the pasture draw empties also had many water holes.

Dressed only in overalls and a little red wool sweater, tiny Gary Lee withstood the rigors of an exceedingly cold night and reports from Brewster hospital this morning indicated that the little youngster was apparently going to get over his exposure all right.

Hundreds of neighbors and friends joined the night long search----women and girls, as well as men and boys, trapped the water hole filled pasture with searchlights during the alnight with little Gary's parents, who were joined by neighbors and then by officers from Holdrege and the Holdrege city fire department.

Several times the searchers passed the area where little Gary was eventually

found but the exceedingly dark night blocked the efforts of searching parties and it was not until this morning that little Gary was found by his uncle.

He was rushed immediately to the Brewster Hospital and immediate medical attention given to block the harmful efforts of his night-long exposure.

When he was found, little Gary was fast asleep, but his tear-stained face was evidence of the terrors he must have suffered, lost alone in the dark when the mournful prairie coyote howls echoed across his hiding place.

He awoke immediately and began to cry as soon as he was picked up by his uncle.

Little Gary had spent the day helping his parents entertain Sunday relatives. As soon as the visiting family had gone his parents commenced their evening chores. His mother went to care for the chickens, his father went to bring in the cows and little Gary stated to help his grandfather bring in the cobs.

When he first disappeared his mother thought he was with granddad and granddad thought he was with his mother. The search commenced immediately as soon as the two had checked for his whereabouts.

Neighbors were called and the search went on but there was no sign of him. Sheriff G. Royal Hanson arrived at the scene with local officers at 10 o'clock and shortly afterward the Holdrege Fire department joined the hunt.

A systematic search was organized--powerful auto headlights were utilized--an estimated 200 people participated in the hunt.

All night long the hunt went on at least 25 volunteers continued the search up until the very moment when tiny Gary was found.

The entire area was covered--mud holes were raked--a deep trench silo filled

*(Lost Continued on page 8)*

*(Lost Continued from page 7)*

with water was combed—draws and ravines were combed.

It was evident, according to Sheriff Hanson that the draw running through the Arehart pasture was the route taken by little Gary. The Arehart pasture draw opens into the snake creek draw and it was there that Gary was found.

Shock and worry was too much for both

Mr. and Mrs. Arehart and at 8 o'clock this morning both mother and father passed out. Holdrege firemen Kenneth Jackson and Bob Eldridge administered first aid and revived them until Dr. H. A. McConahay arrived on the scene.

Heavy recent rains had filled low spots in the pasture to create the greatest danger.

*(Oscar Tregar Continued from page 1)*

and it snowed intermittently the rest of the winter. The snow never got a chance to melt and the canyons and ravines got level full. You could walk anywhere on the top of it as it formed a hard crust. In order to get feed for the hogs, the men had to dig into the buried corn field and dig out ears of the unhusked corn for feed.

The father drove to the rivers whenever it was possible and cut willows for them and for the neighbors for fuel. People burned corn and one man near Loomis named Martinson burned his furniture in order to keep from freezing to death. Beneath the snow was a thick coating of ice and this served to increase the problems of the homesteaders.

The frame house on the Stromquist claim was built in 1881 from lumber hauled from Kearney. Going to Kearney was no problem. You just struck out over the prairie in that general direction. You couldn't get off the road as there was none. The only bridge across the Platte was at the approach to Kearney.

Mr. Tregar recalls helping his step-father take a cow to Kearney when he was eleven years old. He walked all the way. "I got pretty tired." He remarked. The oxen were needed for farm work and were too slow for travel so if you wanted to go any where you just walked.

In 1890, just before his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, Mr. Tregar quit his job of carpentering for Charley Nelson and went to visit his grandfather in Sweden. His grandfather in Sweden gave him \$1500 on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. That was his grandfather Tregar. He returned from Sweden in July of 1891.

Prior to coming to Sweden, "Mr. Tregar helped Mr. Stromquist his step-father to build a number of houses in the Bertrand and Loomis area. Charley Nelson had built a new store which is now the V. F. W. building. The carpenter who was building the fixtures wouldn't build the sugar bins so that they would swing either way. This Mr. Tregar was engaged to do. He worked at this before the day before he left for Sweden.

Upon his return from Sweden, Mr. Tregar went to business college in Omaha. He used this knowledge thus gained in many ways. He engaged in the implement business in the building where Baily Implement is now located. Associated with him is this business was his half brother and the firm was known as Tregar and Stromquist. He also used his business sense to buy stock, sell cars and to farm.

In 1894-1895 he tried his luck on the farm but the drought decided his future as a farmer. Everybody just about starved to death in this year.

Business men of Bertrand who were familiar to Mr. Tregar were Ahara, the grocer, McCormick, the lumber dealer, Samuelson and Sandstrom furniture dealers; P. C. Schroeder; Phillip Swanson; and the doctor John Harrington. He had known the family of Philip Swanson before he left Illinois.

A precious memory for Mr. Tregar is the time he saw General Grant. Grant's private

*(Oscar Tregar Continued on page 9)*



*(Oscar Tregar Continued from page 8)*

train had come through Galesburg, Illinois. Grant's interpreter, was a cousin of Mrs. Stronquists. He wanted to see the family so they went to the station. When the train stopped the cousin got off to visit and went down the street to get the children some candy. "We held up Grant's train for some candy" chuckles Mr. Tregar. They saw Grant and always treasured the memory of the great man.

In 1912 Mr. Tregar and Mamie Eskelson were married. Questioned about his getting married so late in life, he said he hadn't wanted to get married until he had seen some of the world. Their first home in Bertrand was in the place now occupied by Keith Farnham. Three children were born to this marriage. One child passed away in infancy in the flu epidemic of 1918. Anna and Carl both live with their father. Anna has her own business as a cosmetician, and Carl helps his father in their little store. Both children were born in the house now occupied by the Russell Upthagrove family.

The Tregors lived on the farm again after the birth of their children. They returned to Bertrand to live. Mrs. Tregar died in 1934.

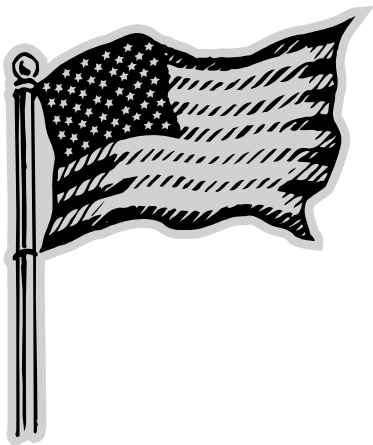
The Tregors are noted for their longevity. Mrs. Stromquist passed away in 1926 as the result of a fall down a flight of stairs in the church. Now at ninety, Mr. Tregar feels well, and except for his failing eyesight is in good physical condition for a man of his advanced years. His nephew, Paul, who is a doctor in Fort Collins, Colorado, sent his uncle a check for \$90 on this ninetieth birthday and he told his uncle at the time that he would send him \$100 on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mr. Tregar plans on being around to collect it.

He would like to go to Sweden once more before dies. At present is contemplating a trip to visit his sister in California this summer. His only problem is the doctors think he should fly and he doesn't want to die that way. A good feeler, he is pleasant to know and enjoys talking of how things used to be.

Oscar Tregar died in 1965 and is buried beside his wife at Moses Hill Cemetery in Phelps County, Nebraska.

# G.A.R. Anniversary

Holdrege Citizen, April 7, 1891



As announced last week, the members of Grover Post No. 111 together with a large number of our citizens met at the court house last night, and in common with 7000 other posts celebrated the twenty fifth anniversary of the founding of that grand order. The post commander, King, called the meeting to order and after music, M. Sickafoose read the order from headquarters and also a circular giving the historic significance of the occasion. After prayer by Rev. A. B. Chapin and music, the adjutant's and quartermaster reports were presented. These reports show that Grover post was organized in 1882 at Phelps Center and after continuing several years was united with the post at Sacramento with Holdrege as its headquarters. There have been 103 old soldiers rolls of which 37 still remain in good standing. Since its organization it has expended \$1,440.00 for the relief of old soldiers. Mrs. Latta then set forth the

work of the Woman's Relief Corps. Prof. Hart made some remarks befitting the occasion and paid high tribute to the G. A. R. and the great principle that they taught patriotism. Enjoyable select readings by Prof. Jayne and Mrs. Stover. Short addresses were made by M. Sickafoose and by Dr. Sanders who gave an interesting account of his capture and his experience on the Sultana when it was blown up. The music which was furnished by Miss Mather with the assistance of a select choir was fine and added much to the occasion. Taken all together the occasion was fittingly celebrated and the members of Grover post are to be congratulated over the success of the meeting.

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