

Phelps Helps



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June 2012

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

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welcome!**

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The Olson Family That Immigrated to Phelps County, Nebraska

This is a story sent by Lena Jelaska in Sweden was requesting information about the Adolf and Sophia Helena (Nilson) Olson in 2002.

Lena Jelaska contacted Holdrege Area Genealogy Club several years ago about her relatives who came from Sweden and immigrated to Phelps County, Nebraska. She located her information from the Emigrant Institute in Sweden and had translated some old Swedish letters between Olaf Olson in Sweden and his brother John Olson who resided in Chicago, IL. The letter was dated 27 March, 1899. It states, "You asked to give regards to brother Adolph, it is now too late, he died the 1 Nov 1898, left wife, and 5 children behind, 2 girls, twins, 15 years, Frank 12 years, two girls smaller. He had a lingering illness, was unconscious 24 hours. But the last minutes he recovered his senses and called them all by name, said fair well, passed away calm. Remain your brother John Olson

Adolf Olson and his brother

Anders "Johan" Olson emigrated from Sweden to America in June of 1866.

Their Parents were Olaus and his wife Ingrid Gustava. Their son's were Adolf, Gustaf, Anders Johan and Per Olaf. They lived in Gunnarsmala in Brotorp, in Alems parish, Kalmar County, Sweden. Their father Olaus ran a small cab business and mail-coach driver. Olaus died in 1845 at 39 years old, probably of cholera. His widow, Ingrid Gustafva had no support and desperately need to marry a man who could support the family. Ingrid remarried Johas Peter Persson from Alem. She thought he was a good man but he wanted revenge on the family and was very abusive to her sons. The step father didn't even allow her sons to eat enough so she had to get food to them in secret.

The four boys, moved out from the home and got work as farm hands in neighboring villages.

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Research Notes of Lorena Smith

Death was a frequent visitor in pioneer homes.

Among the homesteaders southwest of Atlanta was a family of Bohemian Persons. Josephine Harokava had married at 18 to Joseph Kra-somil. After living in Crete, Nebraska, they had settled in Phelps County. Josephine was buried in the Oxford Cemetery in 1926.

Frank W. Peterson who was born in Sweden in 1843 (a year before my Grandfather's were born) came to the U. S. in 1869 and lived in Galesburg, IL for 10 years before moving to a farm 3 miles north of Holdrege, NE. They moved to 801 Tilden in town in 1905 (I haven't determined if his wife died before or after they moved into town but she died in 1905).

Peterson had 12 children with 10 of them dying in infancy. Only his daughter Mrs. August Johnson and his son A. L. Peterson survived. He married Anna Olson who died in 1913 after eight years of marriage.

Frank W. Peterson was run over by an automobile and lingered unconscious for many weeks. He had a paralytic stroke on May 4th from which he never recovered. He died May 17, 1926 at the age of 83.

Another family who had 11 children were Emil Johnsons. He and his four year-old son were on the road between Farnam and Stockville, Nebraska when the car slid into the ditch on a gravelled road. He was found later pinned in the car in the water of a ditch. His son also drowned. He left a wife and 10 children.

By Atlanta, Nebraska, a man noticed that his neighbor's team of horses was standing by the fence at the end of the field, at 10:30 a.m. By noon they were still there so he went to investigate and found Albert Silver dead.

(Olson Continued from page 1)

On the 17th of June 1863, Adolph was condemned for illicit sexual intercourse (between unmarried partners). The offence followed him as a mark in the church records through the years and was no doubt one of the reasons for his decision to emigrate. His mother died in 1865.

22 of May 1866, at an age of 31, Adolph collected his removal certificate in his home district Pataholm near Alem. The next day, his brother Anders Johan, 25, collected his removal certificate in his district Alem.

On the 2 June 1866, on a small sailing ship

named Jessie Adolf and his brother Anders Johan left from the port of Hamburg, Germany. The destination was to be New York, United States of America. After the arrival in New York they separated and never joined again. Adolf was determined to be a farmer. He went to Indiana and then to Nebraska. Anders Johan went to Chicago, IL.

This description is based on information from Lena's father, grandfather and grandmother, old letters, church records and household examination rolls in Sweden. Lena Jelska

Adolph Olson was born 28 November

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1835, and his wife Lena (Helena) Sofia (maiden name Nilson), was born 3 July 1853.

The children, Amanda Charlotta and Elin (Ellen) Mathilda are born 20 July 1884, Frans (or Frank) Emil was born 14 June 1886 and baptized 10 Oct 1890 and Augusta Sofia was born 6 June 1892 and baptized 26 July 1892.

The records in the American Archive in Sweden, noted that Adolf Olson came to Nebraska in 1878 from Burlington, Indiana. He married 22 Oct 1883 to Lena Sofia Nilson from Oppaby, Hyckilinge, Linkoping, Sweden, and had five children all born in Sacramento, Phelps Co., NE.

Records here in Phelps County were not as complete on the Olson family as in Sweden. We have no listing of Adolf's burial but believe that he might be in an unmarked grave in Fridhem Cemetery as the family were members of the Fridhem Church near Funk, Nebraska and a record of the of the parents and their children can be found in the churches records.

In the 1900 Federal Census Adolf's widow, now know as Sophia is residing at the Arlington Hotel in Holdrege with her children. Sophia is working in the laundry and two of her oldest children, Amanda and Frank are working also. Amanda as a servant and Frank a laundry boy.

In January of this year John Modig from Colorado came into the museum to find information on the Children's Home. He is the son of August H. Modig who wrote a 1909 book about the Christian Children's Home. He stated that he had an aunt that was related Adolf Olson and that two Olson children were admitted into the Christian Children's Home here in Phelps County.

Their names were Hulda and Augusta Olson (page 135 & 136 in the CH book). Like many of the children that were in the Children's home, the Olson children were without a father and their mother could not take care of all her younger children and so the home was a place they would have good care. With the information that John Modig provided me, I started looking for them. On the Internet I found Lena Jelaska who resides in Kungsangen, Sweden. Lena reminded me that in 2002 she contacted me to do research on the Adolph Olson and his wife Lena Sophia (Nilson) Olson. Now ten years later John could fill in what happened to the Olson family after 1900. With more clues, I could find more records. Daughter Amanda married Alfred Peterson, raised two daughters. Amanda died in 1979 and is buried at Immanuel Cemetery here in Phelps County, Nebraska. Her mother, Sophia Helena and her siblings moved to Lincoln, Nebraska. Daughter Ellen married John Silver, son Frank married Anna and Augusta and Hulda never married. This family remained very close to each other through their lives. The rest of the family is buried at Yuka Cemetery, Lincoln, NE.

It was very rewarding to be a part of this research and to be able to connect the relative in Sweden to her relative here In the United States.



The Langenbergs—A Family Story

By Dorothy Langenberg

Henry and Dora Langenberg moved from Otoe County, Nebraska, to Becker County, Minnesota, in March 1913 with their four children and a friend with his two sons. (Mother of sons had died.)



Our parents had a problem getting the next three children baptized as they were in a Norwegian community so church services were in Norwegian. Henry and Dora spoke English and German. The minister said he would do baby Irvin's baptism in English but the day of the service he could not find his English book so the baptism was done in Norwegian. Our parents hoped it was done right. With the next child, Helen, mother made a visit on the train to have her baptized at the family church in Otoe County. Father stayed home with the other five children. With the next child, Albert, our parents thought they would try another Minnesota Church. Mother went with the baby to talk with the minister whose wife was an RN. While there, their two year old girl got up from a nap, came out and, standing over the baby, began to cough. The RN mother said, "Oh, our children have whooping cough.

Hope you are not afraid of it!" Albert was born June first and had a cough until spring. Agnes was born 1 ½ years after Albert in Becker County, Minnesota. By then our parents were planning to move back to Nebraska. The Nebraska Langenbergs had moved to the Bertrand community so that is where Henry brought his family in December 1922. When Agnes was one year old she was baptized at Hope Lutheran Church near Smithfield where her sponsors, Mrs. August (Matta) Langenberg and Mrs. William (Bertha) Langenberg, were members. Mother made Agnes' baptism dress and slip.

On March 1, 1923, our family moved to a farm south west of Atlanta. In March 1933 we moved to Rockfalls township where we attended School District #1. In 1937 our family moved to a farm where Rockfalls is located and we lived there until 1947. It was a great place to grow up with trees, birds, squirrels, and a spring creek where livestock could drink. Our family had a well with a pump on it. We were the last family to live in the house. When we lived there all of Rockfalls was still in place and in the clear spring water we could see bullhead fish.



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In 1930 I (Dorothy) was three years old when my father's sister, Anna Langenberg Kammann, my Godmother, gave me a little blue coat. Mother took good care of it and tried hard to keep moths away. She didn't like smelly mothballs so she used a little tobacco pouch instead. This little blue coat, complete with tobacco pouch, Agnes' baptism dress, slip and framed certificate can be seen in the Atlanta Room at the Nebraska Prairie Museum.

In 1947 we moved to the family farm which my parents bought from August Dale, son of Tom Dale, listed in the Phelps County Historical Book of 1980, as being the Rockfalls' town harness maker. Tom homesteaded the 160 acre farm where he and his family lived in a sod house until house builders came into the area



and began building 25 foot square houses. This was home for the Langenberg family for 20 years with many happy memories for children and grandchildren.

I, Dorothy Anna Helen Langenberg, 13th child of Henry and Dora, was born June 8 1927, the tie breaking child, raised with five brothers and five sisters. One sister and one brother died in

infancy. Because I was the youngest, my father would teasingly call me "The Caboose"! I attended school in Rockfalls township four years at District #1 (West Sunnyside) and four years at District #42 (Rockfalls). I spent ten years growing up on the farm where Rockfalls is located and 33 years in Rockfalls township.

When my last brother left home in 1950, father's heart problem said no farming so I did tractor work for 17 years and my sister, Agnes, and I did the rest of the farm work including hand milking and raising chickens. On October 4, 1954, father had a bad stroke affecting his right side. He was in a wheel chair, and hospital bed at the insistence of his doctor, for five years cared for by mother, Agnes and me. After his death we kept farming until the fall of 1966 when we moved to Holdrege.

On October 13, 1966, Agnes and I started working at Methodist Memorial Homes as Nurse Aides on the same 3-11 shift. We both received many awards while working at Memorial Homes, including the Loving Care awards and Pins (Given in Lincoln in 1982), Employee of the Month, and Certificate of Merit from Board members. We retired January 4, 1987. My hobbies include crocheting, sewing, and making embroidered baby quilts. Mother lived with us until she passed away July 16, 1975.

Due to health problems Agnes and I moved to Holdrege Memorial Homes on June 9, 2011. Brother Albert lives at Christian Homes. All our other sisters and brothers have passed away. Their names are Clara Michel, Anna Ebmeier, Lena (died in infancy), Laura Johnson, Harold, Irvin, Helen Michel, baby brother (died at birth), Henry and Lester.

Orleans Area, Harlan County, Nebraska

Written by Margaret Stutheit

Harlan County was organized June 3, 1871. The County Seat was in Orleans until it was moved to Alma. In Orleans the courthouse was in the center of the square where the library now stands.

I'm going to tell you a bit about the Orleans area in Harlan County. Now as all small towns, there isn't much left of Orleans anymore. The past few years they have been in progress of starting a new museum. It is in the building that was the theater when I was a kid. Probably the only thing that stayed the same is the contour of the earth. Buildings and highways change as time goes on and the flood of 1935 hit hard at Orleans, changing lives and lands.

My great grandparents Theodore and Caroline Noren homesteaded a mile and a half south of Orleans. I do have all the homestead papers. Great Grandpa came from Ostergotland, Sweden in 1873 at the age of 20 to the United States. He settled near Orleans in 1877. My great

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.

grandfather came in 1878. They didn't marry until they had both homesteaded their own lands next to each other.

They first lived in a sod house then later in a stone house. My grandma was one of seven of their children. My grandpa came from Denmark as a grown man. He was a casket maker in Denmark. Later he built several family homes, the school which was District 59 near Orleans where I went to grade school and also several large barns. When he first came to Orleans, he worked at the Grape Vine Livery Barn and at the Rasmussen Blacksmith shop in Stamford, NE.

The Grapevine Livery Barn was a lively business in Orleans. It was a large barn 46 by 50 with an L addition 30 by 46 which could stable up to 50 horses. It was run by Walt Bedoe and John Homs. It was an important part of his business along with roadsters and fine vehicles. They were upright and

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industrious citizens.

The Sentinel was probably the first Orleans weekly newspaper published in 1875.

A Great Uncle, Ed Noren recalls that in early days fishing, hunting rabbits and wild turkeys was a sport as well as food for the table. Ed attended the sod schoolhouse. He also remembered his dad plowing with oxen. After one oxen died he obtained a pony from an Indian but that did not work out to well so had to get another oxen.

They raised Indian corn and wheat. Wheat was harvested by hand with a scythe with long stands of straw being used in bundles. Some the wheat was taken to a mill near the Prairie Dog Creek to be ground into flour.

Prairie fires were a concern of the early pioneers. Back fires were set to protect the homes and building that were in the path of the fire.

At Christmas time native trees would be cut and decorations for the tree made by hand by members of the family presenting a different appearance then today. We always had Christmas

on Christmas Eve as long as my grandparents were alive.

There was a stockade a mile west and a mile and half north of Orleans school. It was to protect the settlers from the Indians and shelter from the winter storms. It was 40 feet square and 10 feet high. The sod wall was two and one half feet thick. It is believed that the soldiers from Fort Hays and Fort McPherson helped build the stockade. Someone finally set fire to the stockade and burned it down.

My Great Grandparents, Theodore and Caroline (Swanson) Noren told of Indians coming to their house but only for food as far as I know of.

George Gahley who lived near the stockade carried mail from Kearney for 15 cents a letter. Most all supplies had to come from Kearney before the railroad came through. My Grandparents, Holger and Emma Christensen farmed and did trucking and thrashing for many people. Farmers would go from farm to farm and help each other out. I can remember when they thrashed at our place. All the outside garden talk and all the many foods that were prepared. My Aunts and grandma always came to help. We were happy to have a pump in the house for water.

Holdrege Republican Newspaper

- * Holdrege was started in October 10, 1883 and the first house that was unloaded belonged to David Voris.
- * May 15th, 1885: The newspaper notes that Prairie Home Cemetery was being laid out.
- * June 1885: The sale of the old county buildings in Phelps Center was sold last Saturday as advertised. They were purchased by John Lindbloom.
- * July 3rd 1885: The Holdrege post office has been placed in the third-grade with gives the postmaster a salary of \$1,200. We congratulate Mr. Crossley and at the same time take pleasure in the thought that such facts speak volumes for the rapidity and stability of the growth of Holdrege.
- * July 3rd 1885: The population of Holdrege by a census taken was 1,029.

Old Soldier Is Honored

January 2nd, 1908

Received His Commission Monday
Appointment a Surprise To the Judge

Another Holdregeite has been honored. Last Monday County Judge E. W. Beghtol received from the national headquarters of the Grand Army of the Republic at Kansas City, a commission appointing him aid de camp on the staff of the commander in chief. The appointment was a great surprise to the Judge, as he had not been an applicant for the place. However he is justly proud of this splendid honor and has had the portfolio constituting the commission framed and has hung it on the wall of his office for the review of his comrades of Grover Post and friends.

Elias W. Beghtol enlisted as a private in Co. I, 137th Illinois Infantry, May 11, 1864 at

Quincy, IL. In June his regiment was stationed near Memphis, Tenn., doing guard duty on the Memphis and Charleston railroad, carrying supplies to Sherman's army and returning with prisoners from the front and guarding them to Caro and Johnson Island.

Mr. Beghtol was engaged in the battle of Memphis Aug. 21, 1864, with Gen. Forest surprised Gen. Woshburn, having command at Fort Pickering with 35, 000 troops defending the city.

Special Mention was made on the face of Mr. Beghtol's discharge for meritorious conduct while in the country's service. He has served since May, 1887, as adjutant of Grover post of this city.

Women Wield a Horsewhip Bertrand, Nebraska

Excitement is running high here today on account of a whipping H. H. Wiley, a former Justice of the Peace and a man with a large family, who yesterday, it is claimed made indecent proposals to the seven year old daughter of A. M. Hill of Bertrand. Wiley was ordered to leave town and while preparing to do so today was arrested by Constable Clark Clayton on a warrant sworn out by the little girl's mother. At 2 p.m. a number of women led by the mother of the girl, covered the prisoner with a revolver and after tying his hands, placing a strap around his neck, marched him out in front of the city hall and three women at a time thrashed him with blacksnake whips until his

hands and face was dripping with blood. The site having been sickening to many, Constable Sandstrom ordered them to stop.

The whipping took place in full view of the prisoner's home and while he received a little pity, public sympathy was touched by the cries of his children and his wife who has not recovered from a bed of confinement.

Wiley was released and after loading a few household goods on a wagon, left for Iowa. His wife is being cared for by the neighbors.

—State Journal



**Glover Post No. 111—G.A.R. Meeting
Grand Army of the Republic
In front of the newly built
Phelps County Courthouse, May 30, 1915.**

Civil War Veterans, from right to left, extreme back: Joseph Makinson, C.H. Stevens and H.C. Bartlett; Next row: Henry Deabenderfer, Joseph Harbough, Lawrence C. Barr, Elias Beghtol, Dr. Samuel F. Sanders, Peter Wiser, Horace Moon, Freeman E. Chapman, Ephriam Cannon, Majors, Trank and Francis M. Clay.



Free Genealogy Class

The Holdrege Area Genealogy Club is sponsoring a genealogy class for the public.

This will be an opportunity to learn more about your family history.

We have an excellent genealogical library that is housed at the Nebraska Prairie Museum. This also includes newspaper microfilms from Phelps County and other South Central area towns. We also have several members that have years of experience in genealogical research. Volunteers are available in the library on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

**DO YOU WANT TO
KNOW WHO YOUR
ANCESTORS
WERE?**

The Holdrege Area
Genealogy Club
is offering a
FREE Introductory
Genealogy Class
Learn to Search Your
Family History
Learn How to Find your
Ancestors
on the Internet

**Class will be held
Saturday,
June 2, 2012
At 2:00 p.m.**

At the
**Nebraska Prairie
Museum Library**
2701 Burlington Street,
Holdrege, Nebraska
For more information and
to register call
995-6712 or the
Nebraska Prairie Museum
at 995-5015

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