

### The Phelps \*

Elsa Philena Sutherland, third daughter of James, married Seth Sexton Phelps, as stated earlier. They developed a farm at Waseca, Minnesota. He also harvested and sold lumber to the railroads. They prospered and built a large house of light gray brick known locally as the "Phelps mansion". Later this was placed on the index of historic places.

Their children were Ellen Elspa (1864-1928), Nancy Hannah (1868-1921), Seth James John (1870-1880), George Robert (1873-1958), Jessie Elvira (1875-1889) and Joseph DeWitt Phelps (1876 or 7-1944).

A dreadful accident occurred in March 1884; Seth Phelps was struck by a freight train on a crossing west of town. Banks of snow were so high and steep the snowy roadway went over one bank and followed on the track for a few rods to where the bank on the other side was lower. During a snowstorm the train was approaching, and Phelps and his team of horses could not move out of the way! Elspa Phelps was crippled with arthritis at the time. In 1885 she received a monetary judgement from the railroad for her husband's accident.

Elsa's daughter, the second grandchild of James and Hannah Sutherland, Ellen Elspa Phelps, married Carl S. Fitch in 1885. Surviving children of this marriage were Seth Carl, Elspa, Dean, Carl and John Fitch. It is almost unbelievable today that in the 1890s five children in this family, two being twins, died in their infancy.

Nancy Hannah Phelps, age 31, married a businessman, Andrew Henderson, in August 1899. A professional photographer took a picture of the large wedding reception in the yard and on the porch of her mother's lovely home. The next year another horrible accident afflicted the family. Henderson was caught and mangled in a machine at the plant he ran. Nancy then managed her mother's farm.

George Robert Phelps married Isabel Harding, and their children were Ruth, Andrew, Stafford and Keith Kenzie Phelps. Ruth's first husband was Fred Perkins and second was Nils E. Fosstveit.

### The Robert Sutherlands \*\*

Robert Sutherland and his wife Dorinda Smith have been mentioned earlier. After managing his father's estate in Belmont he managed a sawmill in Wisconsin. However, the West was beckoning many people, and he felt its call. He, Dorinda and their two little boys moved to a town in western Minnesota near a brother of hers where Robert developed a blacksmith business. Another son was born, Robert Guy in 1878.

Major events were taking place in South Dakota. In 1874 soldiers of General Custer discovered gold in the Black Hills, land sacred to the Indians, and warfare ensued. All the while the buffalo were being decimated, weakening the Indians' strength and destroying their way of life. The last battle between Indians and white men in South Dakota took place in 1881. Railroads were being built to carry settlers west and bring crops to market.

The Sutherlands moved to a town in central South Dakota, Blunt, northeast of Pierre. Their last child, Helen, was born here in 1886. Robert Guy was given a business

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\* Donna Carlson Fostveit of Waseca, MN has developed a genealogy for this large family (Phelps, Fostveits, Michaelis, Greeney, Fitch, Perkins, etc.) Bonnie Jean Fostveit Gifford (Scott) also lives in Waseca.

\*\* Glenn H. Ickler of Hopedale, MA has a family list. Roy Ulrich of Virginia, MN has information. Genealogies being developed by Dennis M. Sutherland, Star Prairie, WI and Max Schneider of Midland, MI