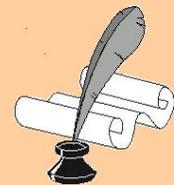


The Colony Penn



Issue No. 46

A Publication of the Pennsylvania Colony Historical Society of Nebraska

November 2013

Penn Colony meets 93rd time

One hundred and four members and friends of the Pennsylvania Colony of Nebraska attended the Colony's 93rd annual picnic August 10 and 11. The first event was held at the Henry Heim home near Dawson in 1914, and the picnic has been held for 92 consecutive years beginning in 1922.

As in recent years, the celebration was a two-day affair, with 56 attending a watermelon feed at the Heim home, now part of the Colony's museum, Saturday evening. Terry Thacker of Lincoln gave the "memorial moment" during the Sunday morning service at the Christian Church in Humboldt. Following the service, picnickers enjoyed a dinner catered by Wooden Spoon at the Agricultural Building in Humboldt. President Dan Pleiss conducted a brief business meeting followed by visiting and tours of the museum building at Dawson.

Genevieve Ulmer Young, 91, was the oldest person present. Hazel Leatherman, daughter of Erick and Ryann Leatherman of Lincoln, and Kal Leatherman, son of Justin and Andrea Leatherman of Smithville, Missouri, both age two, were the youngest present.

Four generations of the Wayne and Marian Leatherman family were present. Gary Georgi, Temecula, California, traveled the farthest distance.

Attendees are listed on page 3.



Cousins Kal and Hazel Leatherman, age 2, were the youngest present at the reunion. Tave Leatherman (right) was "runner" for Dan as he awarded prizes.



Genevieve Ulmer Young, at 91 the oldest present at the reunion, displays her "Meet My Family, You'll Understand" tee shirt (a Colony fund-raising item). She is a long-time member of the Goldenrod Club, and remembers attending with her mother when she was five years old!

five ladies and Mrs. Wilber Burr, Mrs. Homer Deweese, and Mrs. Clarence Allen were the Charter members.

The original purpose of the club was purely social, furnishing an opportunity for friendly chatter, the exchange of recipes,

Once upon a time . . . by Robert Williamson

Not all stories that have a title like this are fiction. This is a true story of an important part of the history of the Dawson community. And some of us "oldies" who still live in the area continue to enjoy a legacy that is intimately entwined with the Penn Colony.

One summer afternoon in 1907, while Sophia (Mrs. Martin D. Ulmer) and her sister, Sarah (Mrs. Jacob S. Heim), were visiting, they remarked that they seldom had the opportunity to visit their neighbors. Their regret was real, and they wondered what could be done about it.

A later conversation with other neighbors, Mrs. Ed Leatherman, Mrs. Jake Snethen, and Mrs. Wes Hummel, resulted in the organization of "The Country Ladies Kensington." These

piecing quilt blocks, mending and embroidery, or any kind of handwork—keeping their hands busy while they visited. Gossip was frowned upon. There were no officers, no dues, no formal programs, and no refreshments. They all had to cook supper for their families when they got home, and refreshments were not served since that interfered with visiting time. Food of a simple type for the children was provided by the hostess.

Anyone could belong—there were no restrictions so long as they were country women. (Town ladies were welcomed in later years if they wished to join.) Invitations were by word of mouth and someone usually volunteered to host the next meeting at her home. They met every two weeks.

Those were horse and buggy days, and members walked to meetings or came in the family rig. Each summer, a big "club picnic" was held in a member's grove or yard where long tables could be set up to bear the special dishes everyone brought. The men often played baseball after dinner, and they had a good audience. While the regular meetings were much enjoyed, the annual picnics were a highlight of the summer.

In 1916, the club was reorganized and the name changed to "The Goldenrod Study Club." A formal (continued on page 5)

THE COLONY PENN**EDITOR**

Keith Heim

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Shirley Heim Pierce

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President's Letter

Next summer we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first colony picnic held on the Henry Heim lawn in 1914. The celebration will also mark the 140th anniversary of the first family's migration to Nebraska. We are planning a weekend of activities relating to special events in our history, capped off with the dedication of the museum/community building. We are reviewing the dates for this event—please keep the first part of August open for a very memorable, enjoyable event. Keep an eye out for updates on the celebration. If you wish to volunteer to help with this exciting event, please let me know. Let's make this a BIG event with a record turnout.

In August, we had another very successful reunion weekend. Many of the attendees were able to see the progress on the museum/community building. On Sunday, I challenged the group to pledge \$10,400 to meet the matching requirement for a \$30,600 grant for the building—and the goal has been met! Thanks to all who helped.

Presently, we have a Boy Scout from Auburn who is working for his Eagle badge by painting the wood portions of the Henry Heim house—a long-needed project!

Previously, I have written about the tax advantages of IRA rollover contributions of stock and security investments. Now there is a way for farmers to deduct all of the production costs of producing grain by donating it to the Penn Colony. Moreover, the producer does not have to report the sale as income. The grain is delivered to the elevator in the name of the Colony, which then sells it, the proceeds going toward the museum and other Colony programs. If you have questions on any of these contribution options, please contact me.

A joyous holiday season to you all.

—Dan Pleiss

DONATIONS

The following funds have been received since the last issue of the newsletter was published. Donations received after October 31, 2013, will be reported in the next newsletter.

At the picnic on August 11, Dan announced the possibility of a USDA grant of \$30,000 if our group could raise \$10,000. By the end of that day \$6,000 had been donated, and the goal was met in four weeks. This show of support means the work on the new building can proceed on schedule. Thanks to all who contribute in any way to support the Pennsylvania Colony.

Building Fund:

Myrt Arnold, \$20.

In Memory of Rodney Wuster, Dwight and Lilah Wuster, and Pearl Ulmer, \$50, by Michael Barnes.

In Memory of Evelyn Shively Blevins, \$50, by Ronald Blevins.

Margaret Ruth Brown, \$200.

Larry Chilese, Architect, \$250.

In Memory of Arlene Masonbrink, Verna Heim Coons, and Elma Griffith, \$300, by the Coons-Masonbrink family.

Dave and Shirley Haner, \$1,000.

In Memory of Walter and Carol Williams, \$100, by Joyce Harvill.

Dennis and Kathryn Hayward, \$500.

Glenn and June Hayward, \$500.

John Heim, \$150.

In Memory of Melvin Heim, \$500, by Violet Heim.

Karen Krofta, \$50.

Marian Leatherman, \$50.

Gary and Becky Leatherman, \$1,000.

Richard and Marilyn Ogle, \$1,000.

In Memory of Ernest Ulmer and Ken Shorney, \$1,000, by Roger and Lorrie Shorney.

In Memory of Ernest Ulmer, \$100, by Dave Shorney.

Francis Whited, \$1,700.

Bob and Phyllis Williamson, \$1,000.

Genevieve Young, \$1,000.

Wayne and Dee Young, \$1,000.

Other Donations:

S. F. Heim Prairie Project, \$100, by Evie Grubb, in Honor of Violet Heim.

Richardson County Visitors Committee, \$2,565 grant for exit lights, furnace and air conditioning for the new building.

Cash donations given at the picnic and at house tours, \$270.

In case you are a bit confused . . .

About the 92nd and 100th anniversaries of the Colony picnic—the picnic will be 100 years old next year, the first one having been held in 1914. However, the second picnic came eight years later in 1922, so next year's event will be the 92nd consecutive picnic.

No titles, crests, or estates, but treasures nonetheless

by Keith M. Heim

When I was growing up at Dawson some years ago(!), I often heard it said that the family name was originally “von Heim,” indicating that the family was of the nobility.

With rank, it often follows, come estates and property and a family crest. One cousin, when she heard that I was researching the Heim genealogy in Germany, wrote to me, explaining that the map of the southern part of that country is liberally plastered with towns bearing suffixes of the family name: *Mannheim*, *Pfortzheim*, *Wertheim*, *Crailsheim* . . . and even a *Heimsheim*! Surely, she wrote, this indicated that most of the area had once belonged to the family.

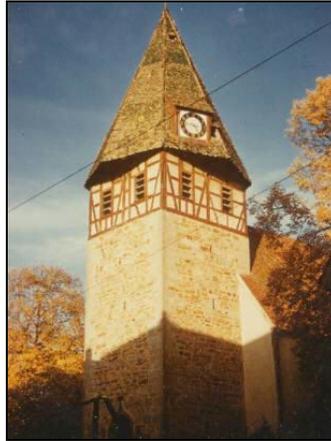
While I was living in northern Germany in 1960 and 1961, I made trips to the Black Forest area in the province of Baden/Württemberg (southwest Germany) to track down the family roots. I researched church records at Möhringen and Walddorf, where the family lived before emigrating to America in 1804 and 1817.

In tracing the family back to about 1490, I learned that the family were traditionally weavers with the exception of one ancestor who was a butcher. There were no vast landholdings—the name “Heim” means home, and its function as a place name is much the same as in “Jonesville” or “Jamestown” There were no references to a crest or the use of “von” with our surname, although a Heim or two married into a “von” family. One generation spelled the name “Haim.” Apparently, our ancestors were “ordinary,” hard-working peasants who eked out an honest, marginal living and emigrated when the failure of the flax crop in 1816 reduced them to near starvation. [See *The Colony Penn*, July 2002, p. 3.]

No royalty, but a fascinating history

Although I expect a relative or two harbors the suspicion that I appropriated a family fortune for myself, the real treasure I uncovered was a trove of interesting information relating to the family.

In the 1600s, for example, there were a number of curious entries in the records: “On flight from the soldiers—records not



Stone Tower of the Walddorf Church, the family church still in use in the Black Forest village near Stuttgart.

kept,” “Records burned by soldiers,” and similar entries. The edges of some of the pages were charred. I suddenly realized that this occurred during the Thirty Years War, 1618–1648, when armies raged back and forth through Germany, burning and looting. An abstract fact I had read about in history classes had involved my ancestors, and history became more vital and real for me!

The church at Walddorf was also fascinating. The sanctuary itself had been destroyed and rebuilt several times over the centuries, but the sturdy stone tower had survived. Originally, it was a watchtower, part of a line of defenses built by the Romans in about the sixth century, A.D., to keep the barbarians (our ancestors?) out of the Roman Empire. Adapting it for religious use, a pointed steeple and a clock had been added to its top! I learned that because real estate was scarce,

graves in the churchyard were periodically covered over with a layer of dirt, and new graves were dug on top of the old ones. Thus, there were no ancient tombstones that might have yielded useful information.

So, although my quest for family fame and fortune was a disappointing wash, the information I uncovered there helped make the family come alive as I visited the towns, which were almost unchanged since the Heims trod the streets so many years ago, and I imagined the lives they had led. Perhaps the information and the insights it afforded were real treasures, almost as valuable as any title or fortune I might have discovered.

A full account of Heim's visit and research in Germany is appended to *Westward Bound*, by Melvin J. Heim and Mary Bilsing, a book that has been republished by Penn Colony and available for purchase.

The account also appears in a booklet, *The Heim History*, (available for purchase). Included in the booklet are “family-tree-type” charts showing the families who immigrated from Pennsylvania, forming the first “Penn Colony of Nebraska.”

2013 Reunion Attendees from Nebraska

Auburn: Rich, Deb & Ellis Clopton. **Beatrice:** John & Delores Fiala, Dave & Shirley Haner, Barbara Schacht. **Blair:** Paul & Staci Griel. **Dawson:** Joe & Michelle Heim, Violet Heim, Marian Leatherman, Mark, Lorrie, Nick & Natalie Novak, Dick & Marilyn Ogle, Dennis & Robin Thacker, Bob & Phyllis Williamson. **Douglas:** Dan Dallmann. **Falls City:** Myrt Arnold. **Humboldt:** Glenn & June Hayward, Chuck & Shari Jaros, Karen Krofta, Lane Mayfield, Genevieve Ulmer Young. **Lincoln:** Keith Heim, Eric, Ryann, Asher & Hazel Leatherman, Allen Myers, Virginia Myers, Alex Shorney, Jim Shorney, Terry Thacker. **Norfolk:** Margaret Ruth Heim Brown. **Omaha:** Kent, Ann, Audrey & Jane Knudsen, Zach & Traci Leatherman, Dan & Charol Pleiss, Doris Wuster. **Pawnee City:** Tom & Clarene Fisher, Gary & Becky Leatherman. **Plattsmouth:** Dave Shorney, Linn & Lola Shorney. **Raymond:**

Dennis, Kathryn, Eric & Rebecca Hayward. **Yutan:** Scott Sr., Scott Jr. & Haleigh Wuster.

2013 Reunion Attendees from out of state

California: Charles Young, Arcadia; Gary Georgi, Temecula. **Colorado:** Andy & Sue Leatherman, Parker. **Iowa:** Lloyd & Donna Epley, Coralville; David, Barbara, Mina, Mitchell & Nathan Epley, Indianola; John Heim, Marion; John & Dea Ellen Birtwistle, Mason City. **Kansas:** Steve & Linda McGuire, Cheney; Roger Heim, Kansas City; Sam & Wanda Bilsing, Samantha Lenz, Lawrence; Dee & Barrett Young, Paola; Tim & Debbie Leatherman, Topeka; **Minnesota:** Doug Brown, Minneapolis. **Missouri:** Ann Tobin, King City; Justin, Andrea, Kal & Tave Leatherman, Smithville. **Oregon:** Neal & Shirley Pierce, Salem. **South Dakota:** Jack, Kristi & Katherine Hall, Spearfish. **Wyoming:** Ron & Emily Blevins, Powell.



by **Bob Williamson**,
**Director of Public
 Relations for the
 Colony**

Colony cousins and people in the Dawson community continue to donate artifacts for the museum. We are looking forward to the time we can begin to display items in our new building!

We have need for many items so that we can function as an efficient and professional museum and also serve as a meetinghouse for the community. The items are:

- A computer, a color printer, and a scanner for the office. The computer should have a “current” operating system, and sufficient memory. Also, an external hard drive or other type of memory storage for backups.
- A photocopier for office use as well as a service when visitors wish to purchase copies of pictures and paper documents.
- Carousals to hold photos for sale to visitors; these will be reproductions of museum photos. Donors are needed to fund the purchase of high quality, professional reproductions.
- Quality folding chairs, tables, and racks for meetings, similar to those we use at the Ag Building in Humboldt.
- Funds to purchase and install kitchen cupboards.
- Kitchen equipment and appliances: Trays, dinnerware, cutlery, utensils, coffeemakers, microwave, roasters, paper and plastic products, etc.

As seen on TV . . .

Last night I watched the Ohio State-Northwestern women’s volleyball game on the tube and was surprised when a girl named Maggie Heim competed for the Ohio State Buckeyes. A little research revealed that she is the daughter of David (“Buck”) and Susan Heim of Omaha, and the granddaughter of Douglas and Judy Heim, and has a scholarship at the Ohio school. Seems to be a connection here—Buck’s daughter playing for the Buckeyes! —*kmh*

Thank You, cousins

At the August Colony Board meeting, Bob Williamson handed me a birthday card left over from last year. This reminded me that I had *failed* to express my thanks to all the “cousins” who sent cards—pretty, handmade, funny, musical—on my “umptieth” birthday in 2012! A belated Thank You, cousins. —*Shirley*

Jessie Heim Deweese Remembers

“Mother [Mrs. Henry (Regina) Heim] told me talks of her childhood, how, when they moved to Nebraska, from Pennsylvania, they packed all their worldly possessions into a railroad box car, including a barrel of soft soap, and shipped it to Nebraska. When they arrived here they found the water was so “hard” it was impossible to use the soap. They had always been accustomed to soft spring water in Pennsylvania, and it was a real hardship until they learned how to “break” the water for laundry.”

Dawson men served in WWI

The Dawson Newsboy of October 18, 1918, carried an “Honor Roll” of local men serving in various branches of the armed forces during World War I. Listed were Ralph Barlow, Art Lee, Claire Liebhart, Lee Bacon, **Harry Ulmer**, **Isaiah Stratton**, William M. Bodkin, Henry Severns, John Shiley, Roy McPherson, Basil Hoy, Roy Nedrow, Garl Spaulding, Lee Triggs, Art Rosenberger, Capt. J. F. Kelly, Theodore Heater, Mike Miller, Will Heater, Emmet Kean, Frank Draper, Cecil Duryea, Bertram Happ, Glen Kline, Howard Allen, **Paul Heim**, Henry Wells, Floyd Hendricks, William Dappen, Frank Young, Louis Wells, George Dappen, **Clarence Kerr**, John Bodle, Paul Lyons, Ferdinand Kelly, Jerry Fenton, Paul Crook, Elby Boring, Clinton Chism, **Howard Heim**, Clarence Peden, John O’Donnell, C. F. Ramsey, and Rudy Gfellers.

The list appeared about three weeks before the armistice which ended the war on November 11, 1918. Presumably, none of them lost their lives in the war. Many of the last names were no longer found in the community when I grew up there twenty years later. Members of the Penn Colony are indicated in bold face type. WWI was the first war in which the Pennsylvania Dutch families sent sons to fight in an American war, the families being pacifists by religious conviction. —*kmh*

— ♦ —

Another item on the same page of *The Dawson Newsboy* noted that John Smith left to join the Red Cross, which provided ambulance service and medical care in France. His service was short-lived since the war ended less than a month later. (Read more about Smith in the April 2013 issue of *The Colony Penn*, page 4.)

Photo credits: Page 1: Shirley Pierce. Page 2: Kerry Dowdell (Pleiss). Page 3: Keith Heim (1960 photo). Page 4: Shirley Pierce (museum). Page 5: George Ludwig family. Page 6: Marcel Stratton. Page 7: Ron Richards. Page 8: Kathryn Hayward.

Will the real J. Heim please stand up?

Adah Heim James gave us this amusing anecdote which occurred many years ago when the General Conference of the Evangelical Church met at Dawson. The Presiding Elder wished to commend local members for their faithful service. After recognizing several members of the congregation, he asked, “Will Mr. Heim please stand?”

About half of the congregation stood. This amazed the Presiding Elder. The local minister explained: “They are all Mr. Heim.”

“Oh! I believe I am to commend a certain Mr. J. Heim.”

Some sat down, Henry, Sam and a few others. There were still many standing for at that time there were: Jacob G., Jacob S., Johnnie, John J., Jonas, Joe, and Jonathan.

By the help of the local minister it was finally culled down to Mr. John J. Heim. Just what he was commended for is beside the point. This little story is to explain how very difficult it was for a newcomer to distinguish the different Heims.

Even the names were very confusing. It was John J’s, Jake, Jake’s Joe and Jonathan, Johnnie’s Jonas, Uncle Jakey, etc., etc. Just how they missed naming someone Joshua or Jeremiah can always be wondered at.

From *Folklore of a Pennsylvania Colony in Nebraska*,
 —Elma Heim Larimore, 1955

Sadly Noted

George Harry Ludwig passed away on January 22, 2013, at his home in Winchester, Virginia. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Rosalie (Ros) Ludwig, daughters Barbara Ludwig, Sharon Ludwig, and Kathy Ramsay, and son George V. Ludwig. His sisters, Phyllis Ludwig and Nona Walker, also survive.



George H. Ludwig

He was preceded in death by his parents, George M. and Alice (Heim) Ludwig, brothers Dean and Robert Ludwig, and sister Genevieve Merck. [Joseph G. Heim family]

An Air Force Veteran, he earned BA, MS, and PhD degrees from the University of Iowa. There, he designed Explorer I's radiation detection instrumentation and thus co-discovered the Van Allen radiation belts. He held Senior Executive Service positions at NASA and NOAA and consulted for the University of Colorado and California Institute of Technology.

Honors include the World War II Victory Medal, NASA Exceptional Service and Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medals, and NOAA Program Administration and Management Awards.

George recently finished his book, *Opening Space Research: Dreams, Technology, and Scientific Discovery*, published by American Geophysical Union. A copy will be donated to the Penn Colony Museum by his wife, Rosalie Ludwig.

According to the book's description, it is "George Ludwig's account of the early development of space-based electromagnetic physics, with a focus on the first U.S. space launches and the discovery of the Van Allen radiation belts. Narrated by the person who developed many of the instruments for the early Explorer spacecraft during the 1950s and participated directly in the scientific research, it draws heavily upon the author's voluminous collection of laboratory notes and other papers, upon the Van Allen archive, and upon a wide array of other sources. This book presents very detailed discussions of historic events in a highly readable (semi-technical), first-person form. . . . Authoritative and unique, this book will be of interest to space scientists, science historians, and anyone interested in space history and the first U.S. space launches."

Ernestine (Heim) Coleman, 84, passed away in Lincoln on September 20, 2013. She was the daughter of "Ted" and Ella Mae (Thurber) Heim [John J./Israel Heim family]. She is survived by her husband, Claire Coleman, daughter Alice Coleman of Lincoln, sons Jerry Coleman of Canyon City, Colorado, and Evan Coleman of Lee's Summit, Missouri, and foster son, Dan Conn of Lincoln. Her brother Willis, of Naples, Florida, also survives.

Charlotte (Belden) Coulter, 97, passed away June 15, 2013, at Billings, Montana. She was the daughter of Clarke and Luella (Heim) Belden. She is survived by her son, Clarke Coulter, daughters Mickey Gilbertson and Kay Hein, and brothers Bill and Harry Belden. She was preceded in death by her husband Roy and three sisters, Pat Beck, Betty Burch, and Frances Lot. [S. F. Heim family]

Kenneth Lee Shorney, 67, son of Allen L. and Lorraine (Ulmer) Shorney, passed away February 3, 2013, at St. Louis, Missouri. He is survived by his wife Sandra, sons Kevin of Indianapolis, John Lee of Villa Ridge, Missouri, and Chris Lee of Parkers Prairie, Minnesota, and daughters Kelly of Indianapolis, and Kris Blake of Oceanside, California, brothers Roger of Miller, Missouri, David of Plattsmouth, Nebraska, and James of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Joan Edith Heim Thomasson, 83, passed away June 30, 2013. She was the daughter of Howard and Gretchen Heim. She is survived by her husband Leland, daughters June Thomasson, Rose Wood, and Karen Lee, and sisters Margaret Kruesi and Jean Feitshans.

Harlan Wachtler, 91, passed away at Humboldt on August 24, 2013. He was the son of Pearl Ulmer and the stepson of Norman Ulmer. He is survived by his daughter, Anita Fritz of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and stepdaughters Margie Barton of Sun City, Arizona, and Linda Zold of Sammamish, Washington. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marjorie, and a stepdaughter, Patricia Carroll. [Emanuel Ulmer family]

Carol (Gehring) Williams passed away July 9, 2013, at Wichita, Kansas. She is survived by her children, David Williams of Wichita, Kansas, Mary Oliver of Republic, Missouri, and Dawn McEwen of Kansas City, Missouri. She was preceded in death by her husband, Walter Harald Williams. [Emanuel Ulmer family]

Once upon a time (continued from page 1)

constitution was adopted and officers were elected. Program books announcing the lesson topic, often of a literary nature, were made for each member. Another special event, called "The Frolic," involved a noon or evening dinner for the benefit of the husbands.

During World War I, the club sent a large box of clothing for the French refugees, and the club adopted a French war orphan for one year. The club sent \$36.50 to him, and the receipt is still in the possession of the club. Through the years, the ladies performed other acts of charity.

The peak membership occurred in 1919, when there were 31 members, but the membership dipped to only 18 in 1923, 1924, and 1925, the smallest figure to date. All charter members, as well as all original members of the club, have long since passed away,

but their daughters and daughters-in-law still carry on, enjoying their association with each other.

Over the years, the group has contributed much to the social and educational life of the Dawson community, and continues to do so, celebrating its one-hundredth anniversary in 2012.



Goldenrod

Parts of this article were taken from the 1976 Dawson History, written by Elma Heim Griffith for the Bicentennial.

Statistics for 2013

by John Fiala

In 2002 we began entering genealogical data from many sources into a database supported by what is now RootsMagic computer software. In the future, this database will be a valuable resource for people in search of their family trees. An important detail is the PLACE where an event occurs, and we ask you to include this when you report an event. Here is how our records currently stand:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Individuals</u>	<u>Families</u>	<u>Events</u>	<u>Places</u>
2013	5,916	2,061	8,511	484

If you have family trees you would like to share, I encourage you to do so by either computer GEDCOM or on paper via email attachment or surface mail. I will compare them to the Colony database for additions or potential corrections. This is, in part, how we have achieved the numbers listed above.

Jacob G. Heim (1874) and Regina Gross (1874)

Joseph Gross Heim (1874) and Rosa Heim (1881)

Heim, Harold Lloyd died 30 Dec 2012.

Schacht, Mia Suzanna Corcoran born 10 January 2013 to Bret

Schacht and Megan Corcoran.

Ludwig, George Harry died 21 Jan 2013.

Bryant, Richard Wayne, spouse of Debra Ann Walker died 28 Feb 2013.

Heim, Stacie Olson died 25 May 2013.

Sarah Elizabeth Heim (1874) and Emanuel Ulmer (1881)

Shorney, Kenneth Lee died 3 Feb 2013.

Gehring, Carol Williams, spouse of Walter Harold Williams died 9 Jul 2013.

Samuel Franklin Heim (1874) and Elizabeth Heim (1882)

Belden, Charlotte Coulter died 15 Jun 2013.

Bilsing, Barbara Ellen Baker died 3 Jul 2013.

Jonathan W. Heim (1874) and Louisa Shafer

Justice, Zay Michael born 29 Dec 2011 to Gwendolyn Wood and Eric M. Justice.

Heim, Joan Edith Thomasson died 30 Jun 2013.

Margaret (Maggie) Emma Heim and Thomas Wuster (1880)

Dappen, Ardis Bevins died 30 Oct 2012.

Frederick Marquardt (1880) and Rosanna Kiess (1880)

Martha Marquardt (1880) and Christian "Chris" Wuster

Gehring, Carol Williams, spouse of Walter Harold Williams died 9 Jul 2013.

Johnnie Heim (1880) and Margaret Heim (1881)

Regina D. Heim (1881) and Henry W. Heim (1883)

Reed, Parker John born 13 Apr 2013 to Jodee Kay Heim and Blake Reed.

John J. Heim (1882) and Rosina Heim (1882)

Mary Louisa Heim (1882) and Clarence William Stratton

Shorney, Kenneth Lee died 3 Feb 2013.

Israel L. Heim (1882) and Gertrude Draper

Dawson, Wyatt Koda adopted 20 Jun 2012 by Gerald (Jerry) Coleman and Vernetta Akins.

- The original migrant couple is shown in bold print.
- The year of migration to Dawson area is shown by names.
- The order of descendant names has the direct descendant of the preceding ancestral level listed first on a line.
- All female spouses generally are listed with their maiden name. If a female is listed as a death, and was married, the married name and maiden name are listed.

First Band for Dawson



We published the photo (left) in July 2004, along with an article about the various Dawson bands. The Dawson Cornet Band was described as Dawson's first band. We had names for the members of this band, but at the time did not know which name belonged to which man, so we asked readers to help.

Subsequently, Marcel Stratton, Rollag, Minnesota, grandson of Clarence Stratton, emailed the editor, enclosing the same photo with correct identifications, as shown in the caption. Marcel writes:

"When one inventories the components, the result is well-balanced brass. One Bass, three Trombones (valve-type), two E-Flat Alto horns, and a row of Cornets. What a great sound that was, I'll bet.

"My given middle name is Clarence and my brother was named for Walter Stratton."

Dawson Cornet Band

Top row, from left: Delbert Judd, Elvon Barlow, Solomon Ulmer, Will Judd, Jacob (Jake) S. Heim, Ellett Judd. Bottom row: Bryan Rile, Chris Heim, Jonas Heim, Clarence S. Stratton, Walter Stratton. Clarence is Bandmaster.

Meet your cousins

These Heim cousins were in Dawson and toured the museum two years ago. Thought you would enjoy meeting them.

—Bob Williamson



From left: Larry and Linda Richards, Mike (Ramona Faser's son) and Sonnie Faser, Aunt Donajean Sensel, Ron and Candy Richards, Shirley Richards Morris, Shane, Shelby, and Misty Richards. Dashle Richards is taking the picture. [Samuel F. and Elizabeth Heim family]

A visit this year from California cousins Sonnie and Michael Faser was the occasion for a late summer family reunion of descendants of Tillie Heim Richards at the Ron Richards home at Brule, Nebraska.

MEMBERSHIPS

These are the current members of the Pennsylvania Colony Historical Society as of October 31, 2013. Membership renewals received after that date will be listed in the next newsletter.

Life Members: Marian Leatherman became the newest Life Member of the Pennsylvania Colony.

Other Life Members: Margaret Ruth Heim Brown, Dolores Ulmer Chapman, Coons Farm, Marjorie Fithian, Gary Georgi, Fern Heim, Keith Heim, Willis & Joyce Heim, Evelyn Heim-Grubb, Betty L. Johnston, Alice Koba, Shirley Pierce, Mark & Lorraine Roller, Ben & Ann Tobin, Frances Whited.

Patron Members: Sam & Wanda Bilsing, Doug Brown, John & Delores Fiala, John Heim, Kent & Ann Knudsen, Marie Straw, Frank & Margaret Kruesi.

Sustaining Members: Ron & Emily Blevins, Joyce Harvill, Dennis & Kathryn Hayward, Alan Heim, Dan & Charol Pleiss, Sue Seaton, Dave Shorney, Richard & Martha Sloan, Robert & Marjorie Weber.

Family Members: Myrt Arnold, Scott & Cindy Callaway, Doug & Jenny Edwards, Jean Feitshans, Dave & Shirley Haner, Glenn & June Hayward, Joe & Michelle Heim, Shari & Jeff Jennings, John & Susie Latusek, Gary & Becky Leatherman, Tim & Debbie Leatherman, Steve & Linda McQuire, Mark & Lorrie Novak, Dick & Marilyn Ogle, Scott & Kris Ogle, Dennis & Robin Thacker, Bob & Phyllis Williamson.

Individual Members: Kerry Dowdell, Jay Hickey, John Hickey, Bob Hinks, Doris Wuster.

Unforgettable Moments in Dawson History

Dawson Will Not Soon Forget . . .

When the Nemaha bridge went out in September, 1926.

When the new Highway 75 was finally opened for traffic in June, 1932.

The drought of the summer of 1934, which was broken August 15 by a two and half inch rain.

The hail and torrential storm of May 29, 1935.

The winter months of January and February, 1936, when the temperature hovered for weeks around 16 to 25 below zero. (And what a contrast now! As we are printing the finishing pages of this edition, the thermometer outside the Herald's office door is running from 106 to 114 above zero.)

When Don Belden's airplane burned on the street in front of the Dawson Oil Company station.

When Emory Watton's team hitched to a farm wagon in which the Pat O'Grady Jr. and Watton children were playing, ran away down the main street, and the horses not halted until they had turned onto the road leading east from the Burlington depot. Bill Babcock riding his pony finally stopped them and the children escaped unhurt.

Our thrill of pride when the new school building was ready for occupancy in the fall of 1925 and the first kindergarten in the new school with Miss Gladys McKenney (Wittwer) the teacher.

Since 1929, Dawson has received electric current, lights and power from the Iowa-Nebraska Light and Power Co., over its lines from Humboldt. In July of that year, the local light company, which had supplied the community for several years, sold its interests to the larger concern, the transfer of ownership being made August 15.

The local company was organized in 1915 and put into operation in January, 1916. Officers of the company at the time they sold out were John G. Smith, president; M.V. Riley, vice president; Dan J. Riley, sec-treasurer.

Since the acquisition of the local lines and business by the Iowa-Nebraska, the lines have all been rebuilt and many other improvements have been made. Residents of the community now enjoy almost uninterrupted service of the finest kind. The improved service which the larger company is able to give, resulted in a large increase in electrical equipment and a corresponding increase in the amount of power used.

Information for this article, compiled by Bob Williamson, is taken from the Historical and Business Review Edition of *The Dawson Herald* newspaper published in 1936. Penn Colony has reprints of the edition for sale, available on the Colony website ("For Sale" link), or contact Bob Williamson (see page 2 panel).

TECH CORNER



The QR (Quick Response) Code (left) contains the URL for the Colony website. [www.penncolonynebraska.org]

QR codes can be read by persons using their mobile devices equipped with cameras—such as cell phones and tablets—that have a scanner or a code reader app installed. The code gives *quick* access to whatever information it contains. In the future, we will publish the code in a corner of the newsletter, but with no explanation, because if you own such a device, you know what it is.

THE COLONY PENN AND EMAIL

If you currently receive this newsletter in print form, and prefer to receive it in electronic form (via email), contact Charol Pleiss (see page 2 panel), give her your email address, and ask to be added to the email list. This will save the Colony many pennies for the stamp, and even more pennies for paper and ink.

We currently send to 74 email and about 300 postal addresses. Do you know a friend or family member who would like to receive the newsletter? Contact Charol.

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2013 Pennsylvania Colony Picnic Attendees

Who would like to take on the project of identifying these people? We will send you a larger print for easier identification. Cover the picture with a piece of tissue-weight paper, number each person, row by row, and on a sheet of paper write the number and the person's name. Leave a blank for any person you cannot identify. Any takers?