

# The Plattsmouth Journal.

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## SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS SHOWN IN PLATTSMOUTH OBSERVANCES

Different Churches Hold Services and Day is Filled With Family Reunions and Much Good Cheer.

"Peace on earth good will to men." There is no season of the year in which this message of the Prince of Peace strikes a more responsive chord in human nature than in the two or three weeks immediately following the winter solstice.

It is the season during which, from a time when the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, the bond of human sympathy is the strongest. The pagan Romans observed it not only as a season of merry-making but of gift-giving, a season not of selfish pleasure but of effort to give pleasure and happiness to others. The heathen of Northern Europe illuminated yule fires and made it a time for general rejoicing.

A survival of the ancient festivals is seen in the custom which, in some places, still reckons that Christmas lasts until Twelfth Night—from December 25 until the Feast of Epiphany, which falls on January 6. It is a season which something in human nature makes the greatest festival of the year.

Few historians of Christianity claim that Christmas is the anniversary of the birth of the Savior of the world. Few of them profess to be able to place with confidence the month or the season of the year in which the Nativity occurred. For a time in the early history of the church Christmas was a movable feast, as Easter still is.

But surely the early Christians could not have fixed upon a more appropriate time for celebrating the coming of him whose whole existence on earth was a sacrifice of love for the good of mankind.

There is something wrong in the soul which does not at this season feel a keen pleasure in the tokens of remembrance that come to him and in letting others know that they are not forgotten. It is the time of all others when more happiness comes from giving than from receiving.

This Christmas was more like the Christmas of fifty years ago in appearance. The day dawned with fifteen inches of snow spread over Mother Earth, much to the delight of the youngsters. In fact, the smile of good cheer appeared upon the countenances of the passers-by upon the street. They smiled to know that this was indeed a White Christmas, and those who were able to do so, put in the day sleigh-riding and the merry jingle of the bells was music to the ear. Notwithstanding the Christmas Eve was very very disagreeable in getting around. Entertainments were held at several of the churches, in which the children took the principal parts. However, the attendances were not nearly so numerous as they would have been had the snow not been so deep. Below we give accounts of the various church entertainments:

**St. Luke's Church.**  
St. Luke's Episcopal church held Christmas Carol services on Christmas Eve at the church, and after the whole congregation had been given a treat in the way of song service by the splendid trained and equipped choir, the young people and children of the congregation marched in a body to the A. O. U. W. Hall, which had been decorated and arranged for the occasion. A splendid program was prepared and rendered by the children and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. After the speaking and singing the candy and presents were opened and everyone received a remembrance of the happy occasion.

**Presbyterian Church.**  
The Christmas exercises of the Presbyterian Sunday school were held Friday evening in the auditorium of the church, and consisted of a little play entitled "Is Santa Claus a Fraud?" and in which a number of the children of the Sunday school participated. The attendance was not as large as hoped for, owing to the inclement weather but still there were quite a number who braved the elements to enjoy the entertainment given by the children and which was thoroughly enjoyed by those fortunate enough to be present.

For the occasion the pulpit had

been extended and prettily decorated with Christmas bells, holly wreaths and the like, which were very artistically and appropriately arranged.

The scene presented a court room. At the back of the stage was to be found the judge's bench, with a canopy overhead. On each side of the judge's bench was to be found the counsel's desk and the witness box. To the front of the stage and on one side was the jury box. On the opposite side seats had been arranged for the witnesses and choruses. The play opened with the counsels busily writing at their desks and the usher and crier staking up and down the room. Ed. Zuckeweller was counsel for the prosecution and Will Schmidt-mann, Jr., counsel for defendant. Blythe Rosencrans acted as-crier and Joe Eaton as usher.

Father Time was the first juror and foreman of the jury. He was dressed in a white robe, wore long white beard and forelocks and carried a scythe and hour glass. Mother Goose came next and she was dressed in a quilted petticoat and pointed bodice. She wore high heeled red slippers, peaker had and many ribbons and adornments. Next the sand man who was dressed like a monk, wearing a brown robe and cowl, and carried a bag of sand. Pierrot then danced gayly in. He was dressed in the conventional costume of white with rosettes of all colors. The Queen of May then entered. She was dressed in a dainty white frock, wore a crown of flowers. Jack Frost was the next juror and was dressed in white, dotted with tufts of cotton-wool. Next came a Doll. She was dressed to represent a doll and walked stiffly like a jointed doll. Jack-O-Lantern then entered with a mad rush. He wore a green "Robin Hood" costume and a large paper pumpkin made to fit over the head. The Fairy was the next one called and she entered wearing the usual spangled costume. She was followed by April Fool. He was dressed in the costume of a court jester and wore a fool's cap and bells. The last one of the jury was the Goddess of Liberty and she was dressed in the regulation costume of Columbia. The judge then entered in a very pompous and dignified manner. He wore a judge's wig and gown. The prisoner was then announced. He was preceded by his two heralds. They were dressed in a page's costume with decorations of mistletoe and holly and carried trumpets with banners hanging from them. They advanced to the front of the stage and blew their trumpets and then marched to both ends of the stage, in front, and remained there until the prisoner appeared.

A chorus of Christmas Waits, dressed like the surprised choirboy, then entered and chanted a Christmas carol. The Waits then stepped to one side of the stage and a number of little folks dressed in their night clothes and carrying stockings filled with Christmas gifts, then entered, sang a Christmas carol and stepped to the places assigned to them.

The jingling of the sleigh bells could then be heard, snow balls were thrown in at the door and amidst a bustle of cheery welcome Santa Claus entered. The Christmas Waits and children with stockings gathered about him and sang a Christmas carol to the tune of "Jingle Bells," while Santa stood in the center of the stage smiling benignly. Santa then sang a solo then took his place at the bar. The questions were then argued by the counsels and the first witness called was Dame Rumor. She was dressed in a fantastic costume with "tongues" cut from red flannel sewed all over her gown. She testified that Santa was a fake and impostor. The next witness called was History. She was dressed in college cap and gown and carried a long roll of parchment. She testified for Santa. Tradition was then called and testified that the prisoner was not a fraud. She was clad in misty white and wore a misty veil over her face. Poetry was called and testified for the prisoner. She was dressed in white, wore a wreath on her head and carried a gilt lyre in her hands. Folklore took the witness stand next

and also testified for Santa. She wore a fantastic garb which combined hints of any or all nations, but not modern. The jury then called on the prisoner to speak for himself. Following Santa's explanation, a few words by the judge and a song by the children, the case was turned over to the jury.

The jury found him not guilty and the interesting little play was brought to a close by a few remarks by the judge.

Following the play Santa Claus distributed pop corn and candy to the little people, as well as the older ones.

**At the Methodist Church.**  
The Methodist Episcopal congregation held services last Friday evening at the church on Main street and followed them by a Christmas celebration and program, consisting of songs and recitations by the little folks and a few solos. One particularly beautiful solo by Clara Mae Morgan pleased everyone.

The usual games were played and a general good time enjoyed. The program was in charge of Mrs. C. S. Johnson, who deserves credit for furnishing a happy Christmas Eve. Instead of a Christmas tree, Santa Claus had a little house and came and looked out of the chimney to see that his children were well taken care of.

**At the Christian Church.**  
The Christian church held services Christmas Eve and celebrated afterward with a Christmas tree graced by Santa Claus in true Christmas style. Rev. Moore had charge of a pleasing and interesting program and this was followed by candy and all that goes to make up Christmas Eve festivity. After an evening of hilarity the distribution of presents was made and everyone received some remembrance.

Christmas passed off as one of the most successful and enthusiastic yuletide celebrations ever held in this city, the various churches and Sunday schools throughout the city holding song services and Christmas trees, according to immemorial custom, and gladdening the hearts of young and old alike with gifts.

Aside from family reunions and dinner parties too numerous to mention, each church and Sunday school had celebrations to which all were made welcome.

## ANOTHER CHRISTMAS WEDDING

Mr. Alva E. Stites and Miss Mabel A. Stewart, Married at the Home of Bride.

Our popular young druggist, Alva E. Stites, departed last week for Ainsworth, Iowa, and the neat wedding cards received here disclose the object of his visit to that city. The cards announce the marriage of Mr. Stites and Miss Mabel Stewart, the pleasant affair taking place at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Stewart, at Ainsworth, Iowa, on Wednesday evening December 22. The Ledger did not receive the details of the wedding in time for publication, but we are safe in saying that it was one of the most pleasant social affairs that has occurred in that vicinity.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Stewart, one of the prominent and highly respected families of Ainsworth, and is a young lady of high education and unlimited popularity. The groom, Mr. Alva E. Stites, is one of our most popular and energetic business men, having been in the drug business in Union the past three years. He was born near here and all his acquaintances have taken pride in watching his development from a "barefoot boy" to the top of Union's business directory. Mr. Stites is the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Taylor, the family being numbered among our best citizens. The new married couple will arrive here in the near future to make this village their permanent home, and many friends will be ready to greet them and extend hearty congratulations.—Union Ledger.

**Dance at Murray.**  
The dancing club of Murray, will give a dance at Jenkin's hall in Murray on Friday night (New Year's Eve) December 31. Music will be furnished by Jacob's orchestra of Omaha and a general good time is assured. The club members will be admitted free but an admission fee of 75 cents will be charged those who are not members of the club.

## DIED IN HOSPITAL AT LINCOLN

Mrs. Dr. A. E. Walker, Formerly Miss Jessie Gilmore, Passes Away Saturday Evening December 26th, 1909

Died—In the hospital at Lincoln, Nebraska, at 7:30 o'clock Saturday evening last, December 25, 1909, Jessie Gilmore Walker, aged 21 years, 1 month and 13 days.

Jessie Gilmore Walker, or as she was better known to her friends in this city by her maiden name, Jessie Gilmore, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Gilmore and was born in Cass county at the old home place one mile south of Plattsmouth, on November 12, 1888, where she lived all her life up to the time of her marriage. She attended the Plattsmouth High school where she was well known and loved by all. After leaving this city she taught various schools in this county and made a host of friends. On June 9, 1909, she was married to Dr. A. E. Walker, of Nehawka, and went there to make her home. Some time ago she was taken sick at her home and it became necessary to remove her to the hospital in Lincoln. The attending physicians decided it would be advisable to operate upon her for appendicitis, and the operation was accordingly undertaken last Monday. Her condition at the time of the operation was such, however, that she failed to rally from the shock, and she passed away Christmas night as above stated.

The body of the deceased arrived this afternoon at 1:15 on the Burlington and the funeral will be held at 2:00 o'clock from the United Brethren church one mile south of town and interment made in the Horning cemetery.

The announcement of Mrs. Walker's death comes as a distinct shock to everyone, as she numbered all her acquaintances as friends and was beloved by all.

Besides her father, mother and husband, all of whom are living, there are three sisters and two brothers who survive her and mourn her loss. They are: James Gilmore, Ulysses, Neb.; Will Gilmore, Lincoln; Mrs. B. W. Livingston, living south of town, and Hester and Fannie Gilmore, at home.

## Population Increased in Oklahoma.

The Journal is in receipt of a letter from its good friend, John Murray, Jr., of Alva, Okla., in which he states that the Merry Christmas time came to them with double joys this year. They were blessed by the arrival of a 12-pound baby girl, which of course is grounds for great joy to the happy father and mother. Mr. Murray further states that they are having the most severe winter that he has ever seen in Oklahoma. Plenty of snow, and the past three weeks of solid freezing weather, something he has never seen in that country until after Christmas, and he says it will probably put the farmers back with their spring work. He extends good cheer to all friends in his native city (Plattsmouth) and Cass county, and that he is pleased to note from the Daily Journal that she is donning a progressive spirit, and endeavoring to become one of the live cities of the state.

## Another Christmas Wedding.

Another Christmas wedding took place day before yesterday at the home of F. Lindholm, west of this city, when his daughter, Miss Stella Lindholm was united in the bonds of Holy Matrimony to Adam Fred Nagele, Jr., son of the prominent Cass county farmer of the same name.

Rev. Austin of the M. E. church preached the ceremony which was witnessed by the relatives and intimate friends of the bride and groom. Both parties are well known in this vicinity, where they have many friends who unite with the Journal in extending good will and best wishes for a long and prosperous married life.

John Meisinger, Jr., one of the best farmers of Cass county, was in the city today, and while here called at the Journal office to renew his subscription to the semi-weekly. John is one of the fellows like a chip off the old block, he never believes in becoming delinquent with the printer. He resides about two miles south of Cullom.

## Death at Weeping Water.

A special from Weeping Water, under date of December 23, says: Julia, the eight year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Will Willis, died here at the home of her grandmother last evening. Death was due to pneumonia. Her parents are in Oklahoma, and the mother is so seriously ill that neither could come to the bedside of their dying child. The child has been staying with her grandmother that she might attend school here.

## KILLED BY CARS AT CEDAR CREEK

An Employee of the Atwood-Newell Quarries Struck by No. 87 and Body Horribly Mangled.

On Saturday evening last, a man by the name of McMahan, whose first name is unknown, was struck by train No. 87, a fast freight going east about one-half mile west of Cedar Creek and his body was literally ground to pieces. From all reports it would seem that the man was walking on the track when he was struck. This train does not stop at Cedar Creek, and the engineer first noticed blood and other evidences of a person being run over when he stopped at Oreapolis and the authorities at Cedar Creek were notified. Parties who gathered up the remains, say they were scattered from a half mile west to a half mile east of Cedar Creek. McMahan had been employed in the Atwood-Newell stone quarries near the town. Sixty-seven dollars in money and a time check was found upon his person. It was known that he had not been drinking, as he had not indulged in anything intoxicating for several months. The night was stormy and the snow so deep that he chose the track to walk upon to keep out of as much snow as possible and did not hear the approaching train. He was not an old man, and is said to be a hard working fellow, and was well liked by everyone of his associates. As to relatives, no one knew of any, and consequently his body was taken charge of by Stander Bros., undertakers at Louisville, and interment made in the Waldardt cemetery. No blame is attached to the trainmen, neither can his untimely death be attributed to the saloon keeper, as some will perhaps endeavor to make it appear.

## A Slight Stroke of Paralysis.

Mr. A. W. White, the well known groceryman of this city, was stricken with a slight stroke of paralysis early Christmas morning, and while his condition is greatly improved today he is still confined to his bed. While the attack was very light it affected a portion of his left side and neck and throat, and was not noticeable by Mr. White until he attempted to arise on Christmas morning, when from the throat and tongue condition he was unable to speak. No seriousness is anticipated and Mr. White will be back at his duties in the store within a few days, which will be pleasing to his many friends.

## A Pleasant Time at the Cook Home.

A very much Christmas time was strongly in evidence at the pleasant home of our good friends, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Cook, immediately south of town, on both Saturday and Sunday last. The house was filled with guests, and we feel safe in saying that the host and hostess were equal to the occasion and treated their guests with all the good things of the glad occasion. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Sam Cashner of University Place, Miss Nellie Dreamer and Miss Ida Johnson of Lincoln, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dreamer and two children, Ruth and Stanton, and Miss Cora Rung, of Alvo.

## Joyous Christmas Gift.

As Christmas is the most joyous time of the entire year, this time it was counted doubly so at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Brittan, for on Friday morning they were blessed with the safe arrival of a bright eyed bouncing 12-pound baby boy, and you may bet it was the happiest Christmas time that "Jack" has seen in many a year, as the pleasant smile that donned his face truly indicated. The mother and little stranger are doing nicely, and "Jack" will be able to resume his duties at the Burlington shops not later than January first.

## TO BE MARRIED NEXT WEDNESDAY

Harry E. Graves and Miss Jennie E. Marks Will Unite in the Holy Bonds of Matrimony.

C. L. Graves and son Harry, were in the city between trains this morning, C. L. looking after some important legal matters, while Harry visited the county judge's office on more important business—at least to him. In looking over the license record, we note that our young friend secured a permit to marry one of Cass county's sterling young ladies, in the person of Miss Jennie E. Marks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Marks, who reside one mile west of Union. The wedding will occur at the home of the parents of the bride on Wednesday evening, December 29, at 8 o'clock, the ceremony to be pronounced by Rev. Arthur Perry of Nebraska City.

While it is a little out of the ordinary to make an extended notice of the happy event so far in advance, but Harry's countenance beamed in upon the Journal force so bright, with a box of cigars in hand, that we could not possibly resist the temptation to "blow him up," before hand.

Harry is editor of the Union Ledger, and one of the most genial young men on land or sea, while the bride-to-be belongs to one of the best families in Cass county, and a most beautiful, charming and accomplished young lady. The Journal and all hands connected therewith, unite in extending congratulations to the couple, with the hope their matrimonial career through life will be one continued round of pleasure, and may the bright wings of love hover over them to the end.

## A Pleasant Social Event From Friday's Daily.

Last evening Plattsmouth council No. 123, Loyal Mystic Legion of America, held a very pleasant session at their council chambers. The spirit of "Peace on Earth and Good Will to Men," prevailed, which was made manifest by providing some needy companions with coal. After closing the members were invited into the banquet room to partake of dainty refreshments prepared by the social committee.

Plattsmouth Council ranks among the best of the fraternal orders in the state for sociability as well as for morality benefits, and while it is not a bargain counter institution, is a "pay for what you get" perpetual and substantial life and accidental insurance society, conducted by reliable Nebraska men.

## Home for Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Ruffner were the recipients yesterday of a fine 20-pound turkey from their son Grover, who lives at Duncean, Neb. Tomorrow at the Ruffner home there will gathered around the festive board a number of the children of this most estimable family, including Grover himself. Also, Mr. and Mrs. Dr. Roy Dodge and Horace Ruffner of Omaha, and Perry, of South Omaha. There will be but one of the family absent, Will Ruffner, of St. Louis, who writes that on account of pressing business he will be unable to be here at this happy family reunion.

## Elevator Board Meets.

From Friday's Daily.  
H. J. Schneider and John Albert returned home last evening from Cedar Creek, where they were yesterday attending the meeting of the board of directors of the Farmers' Elevator at that place. As is customary the board of directors meet in December, adjust all business matters that come before them, and set the date for the annual meeting of the stockholders, which was set for the 4th of January, this year.

## In District Court.

Judge Travis held a brief session of court last evening to try the case of Susan Eidenmiller vs. John T. Eidenmiller in which the plaintiff sued for a divorce from the defendant. As the facts of the petition were found to be true, and as the defendant did not appear in court to oppose the petition, the court granted the decree to the plaintiff, together with the custody of the minor children.