

2218 Fifth Avenue
Kearney, Nebr. 68847
November 23, 1975

Linn County Heritage Society
P. O. Box 175
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52408

Dear President:

I read your advertisement in The Genealogical Helper and write of my early Iowa ancestors.

My Grandfather Edwin L. Nicholas was born near Fairfax in Linn County, Iowa, 3 December 1870, the 3rd and youngest child of Holmes F. Nicholas and Elizabeth Kerr Nicholas (nee Bradley). They were married in Linn County, 12 April 1863, as found in the Marriage Records, Vol. 2 page 56. At the time of their marriage each had been married before and widowed.

Holmes was born 22 March 1812 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania (His father William Nicholas was a pensioned Revolutionary War soldier). The wife of his youth was Sarah Keith; they were married in Columbiana County, Ohio, ca. 1833. Sarah died near West Liberty, Iowa, as the family moved west. They had 10 children, none of whom were born in Iowa.

Elizabeth Hoy Bradley was born in Richland County, Ohio, 13 February 1834 and married Amos Kerr there in 1854. This young couple left immediately by wagon for Iowa settling first in Johnson County. Family tradition says that Amos died of a fever caused by drinking water from a contaminated well. Elizabeth was also ill but survived and gave birth to a daughter Amy. To support herself and infant, Elizabeth became a pioneer school teacher settling finally in Linn County. She made inquiry of her acquaintances for a carpenter to repair her house. Mr. Nicholas came to do this work for her and they were soon married.

Their eldest child Lillian was born ca 1864; William born ca. 1868 and my grandfather Edwin in 1870. Holmes is shown as living in Fairfax Township, Linn County, Iowa, in the 1860 and 1870 Federal Census.

The family moved to Cherokee County, Iowa ca 1879 and are listed there in the 1880 Federal Census. Holmes died near Marcus, Cherokee County in 1896. Elizabeth moved with her daughter Amy (Mrs, Robert C. Glass) to Seattle, Washington and died there in 1904.

My Grandfather Edwin married Minnie E. Smith, daughter of Jabez and Sarah Wirt Smith in Cherokee County 13 March 1895. (The Wirt Family had come to Iowa from Pennsylvania in 1855.) Edwin and Minnie moved to Knox County, Nebraska, ca. 1900 and they celebrated their Golden Wedding. Edwin died in 1951; Minnie in 1956. Earl Nicholas, my father, is the youngest of their four children. (Sherman, Gladys and Nona are others)

Perhaps my family was not there long enough to qualify for your publication but we do have a marriage and three births in the family history in Linn County.

Please let me know about your publication and if we are included, we would like to have a copy of the publication. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Marlene Plambeck
Mrs. Vern. Plambeck