

JIM PHELPS

James William Phelps
Project Consultant – Gray County

Photograph of the Phelps family and information provided by Sara McFarland, Research Librarian at the Cimarron (Kansas) City Library



THE JAMES "JIM" WILLIAM PHELPS FAMILY

About 1910

Front row, left to right: Theodore, Jim Phelps, Harry, Bessie, Alice (Hatch) Phelps, & Pearl

Back row, left to right: Jennie, Edith, Ernest, Ada, & Ollie (Olive)

JAMES "JIM" WILLIAM PHELPS, son of Joseph B. Phelps (1841-1908) and Sarah Bailey (1846-1909), was born on 26 Sep 1863. He was married in 1888 to **ALICE MARY HATCH**, daughter of Perry Oliver Hatch (1838-1926) and Anna C. Moffett (1845-1916). Alice was born on 29 Oct 1866 in Illinois.

In the year 1900, James and Alice lived on their farm in Garfield, Finney County, Kansas. By 1910 and 1920, they had moved to Cimarron, Gray County, Kansas, where James was the manager of the new telephone system.

James died on 18 Feb 1937, and Alice died on 22 Oct 1951. Both were buried at the Cimarron Cemetery in Cimarron, Kansas.

James and Alice had the following nine children:

JENNIE M. PHELPS was born on 6 Nov 1890 in Finney County, Kansas. She married James Franklin Gearhart (1891-1982), son of David and Luella Gearhart, on 1 Jun 1913 in Cimarron, Gray County, Kansas. They made their home in Englewood, Clark County, Kansas, where Jennie became ill with the Spanish Influenza and died on 15 Oct 1918 at the age of 27. Her youngest child was only 25 days old at the time of her death. Her other children were Bruce, who was aged four years at the time of Jennie's death, and Galen, who was aged two years. Jennie was buried at the Cimarron Cemetery. About 1923, James Gearhart married again to Grace Smith (1894-1978). James passed away on 23 Oct 1982 in Fort Dodge, Ford County, Kansas. James and Grace were buried at the Englewood Cemetery in Englewood, Kansas.

ERNEST FRANK PHELPS was born on 31 Mar 1892 and was married to Winifred Dillman. Winifred was born on 14 Feb 1893. Ernest died on 19 Nov 1955 and Winifred died on 14 Nov 1970. Their burial was at the Cimarron Cemetery in Cimarron, Kansas.

ADA B. PHELPS was born on 1 Sep 1894 in Finney County, Kansas. She was first married to Owen Grant, born on 24 Dec 1890. After they were married, they lived in Garfield, Finney County, Kansas. In 1930, they were living in Foote, Gray County, Kansas, where Owen made his living as a farmer. He died on 5 Jun 1937 and buried at the Cimarron Cemetery in Cimarron, Kansas. Six children were born in their marriage: Audrey Grant, Melba Grant, Virginia Grant, Harry Grant, Morton Grant, and Phyllis Grant. Ada married again to Ralph William Crockett, son of Nevada C. Crockett and Mary Adeline Keltner. Ralph was born on 10 Sep 1893 in Carroll County, Missouri, and died on 3 Jun 1967. Ada died on 29 Jan 1980 in Yakima, Yakima County, Washington. Ralph and Ada were buried at the Terrace Heights Memorial Park Cemetery in Yakima, Washington.

OLIVE "OLLIE" ELLEN PHELPS was born on 19 Oct 1895 in Finney County, Kansas. In 1916, she married Clarence Casper Rowton, Sr., born on 7 Jun 1894 in Cimarron, Kansas. Clarence and Ollie lived in Hutchinson, Kansas, briefly before moving to Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas. Two children were born in their marriage, Theda Arnolia Rowton (1917-1994) and Clarence Casper Rowton, Jr (1918-1994). Theda was only 17 months at the time of her Mother's death, and Clarence Jr. was only five days old. Ollie died of pneumonia at her home in Wichita on 22 Oct 1918 at the early age of 23 years. Her body was taken to Cimarron, Kansas, for burial at the Cimarron Cemetery. Clarence Rowton, Sr. died on 17 Jun 1959 in Wichita, Kansas, and like Ollie, buried at the Cimarron Cemetery.

EDITH M. PHELPS was born on 5 Aug 1898. On 9 Jul 1923, she married Morton Toch Hirsch, son of Felix Roth Hirsch and Julia Toch, in Manhattan, New York City, New York. Morton was born on 23 Oct 1896 in the state of New York. In 1940, they continued to make New York their home. They eventually moved to California. Edith and Morton did not have children. Edith died on 4 Apr 1968, and Morton passed away on 15 Mar 1969. Both died in San Francisco, San Francisco County, California.

BESSIE L. PHELPS was born on 19 Jun 1900 in Cimarron, Gray County, Kansas. She married Arthur Deerson on 5 Sep 1922 in Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado. Arthur was born on 10 Sep 1895 in Turkey. The couple spent three years in London after they were married. Arthur Deerson was a Commercial Artist and had a studio in New York City. Two children were born in their marriage: Phelps Deerson, born 1925, in London, and Jane (Deerson) Allen, born 9 Feb 1929 in White Plains, New York. In 1930, they were living in Westchester County, New York. By 1940, they had moved to Fairfield County, Connecticut. Arthur died in Aug of 1973. Bessie died on 27 Jul 1984 in Brookline, Norfolk County, Massachusetts.

HARRY WILLIAM PHELPS was born on 30 Jan 1903 in Gray County, Kansas. He married Leora Pinson, who was born in 1910 in Oklahoma. Harry and Leora had two sons: Robert William Phelps, born on 24 Mar 1931 and died 26 Sep 1961 in Fort Sam Houston, Bexar County, Texas, and Edward Phelps, born in about 1933. In 1940, the family was living in Wichita, Kansas. It's believed Leora died in the early 1950s. Harry died on 28 Jan 2002 in Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, and buried at the Cimarron Cemetery in Cimarron, Kansas.

THEODORE "WHITEY" OLIVER PHELPS was born on 12 Jan 1905 in Ravanna, Finney County, Kansas. He married Elsie Elizabeth Farr, daughter of William Henry Farr and Cora Lee Hazell, on 12 Feb 1927 in Garden City, Finney County, Kansas. Elsie was born on 30 Nov 1904 in Ingalls, Gray County, Kansas. Three children were born in their marriage: 2 sons, James William Phelps and Donald Phelps, plus a daughter, Joan (Phelps) Egbert. Theodore and Elsie spent most of their life in Gray County, Kansas. Theodore was a retired farmer and spent a little time working for the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad. He died 8 Feb 1978 in Dodge City, Ford County, Kansas and Elsie died 8 Nov 1980 in Cimarron, Kansas. Both were buried at the Cimarron Cemetery.

PEARL LUCILLE PHELPS was born on 15 Jun 1907 in Cimarron, Gray County, Kansas. On 12 Jun 1951, she married Gale Warren Brown, son of Clayton Brown and Anna Van Law, in Los Gatos, Santa Clara County, California. Gale was born on 2 Aug 1911 in Pocatello, Bannock County, Idaho. Pearl died on 28 Jul 1995, and Gale passed away on 15 Sep 1996. They were both buried at the Bunkers Memory Gardens Cemetery in Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada.