

Family Group Sheet for Henry Phelps

Husband:	Henry Phelps
Birth:	1799 in TN
Death:	Abt. 1865 in Blount Co, Tennessee
Marriage:	1828 in Claiborne County, Tennessee
Father:	Valentine Fulp
Mother:	
Wife:	Rhoda Lebow
Birth:	18 Apr 1815 in Illinois
Death:	Apr 1880 in Blount Co, Tennessee
Father:	Daniel E Lebow
Mother:	Sally Hurst
Children:	
1 F	Name: Mary Jane Phelps Birth: 1829 in TN
2 M	Name: William Thompson Phelps Birth: 1830 in TN Death: 27 Apr 1865 in Sultana on the MS River near Memphis, TN
3 F	Name: Sarah Selina Phelps Birth: 1834 in TN Death: 09 Mar 1912 in TN
4 M	Name: Daniel Richard Phelps Birth: 20 Apr 1839 in Blount Co, Tennessee Death: 12 Feb 1910 in Blount Co, Tennessee Marriage: 23 Nov 1882 in Blount Co, Tennessee Spouse: Sarah Jane Lebow
5 M	Name: John Michael Phelps Birth: 20 Jun 1842 in Blount Co, Tennessee Marriage: 11 Feb 1899 Spouse: Mariah Jane Kidd
6 M	Name: George Henry Phelps Birth: 11 Aug 1845 Death: 28 Oct 1921 Marriage: 1878 Spouse: Elizabeth Clemantine James
7 M	Name: Hiram Thomas Phelps Birth: 28 Dec 1847 in TN Spouse: Ida Gideon
8 M	Name: Henry Phelps Birth: 1849 in Blount Co, Tennessee Death: 1865 in Blount Co, Tennessee
9 F	Name: Frances Eliza Phelps Birth: 13 Feb 1854 in Blount Co, Tennessee Death: 02 May 1938 Spouse: Wayne Gideon

10	Name:	James Jefferson Phelps
M	Birth:	01 Apr 1832 in Tennessee (Kentucky According to son Samuel H 1920 Census)
	Death:	01 Mar 1908 in Tennessee
	Marriage:	1860 in Tennessee
	Spouse:	Mary Jane James

11	Name:	Martha Malvina Phelps
F	Birth:	1836 in TN
	Marriage:	28 Aug 1848
	Spouse:	Harvey McClure

Notes:

Henry Phelps

Census records show that Henry Phelps was born in 1799 in Tennessee. His father was Valentine Phelps, son of George Fulp who migrated to America from Europe in 1751. Among the spellings of the name are Fulp, Fulps, Felps, and Phelps. Phelps is the contemporary spelling. It is thought that he later moved with his father, Valentine Phelps, to Illinois where he met and married Rhoda Lebow, daughter of John Lebow. Family records show that he left Illinois because of a family feud over his deceased father's estate. It is thought that he moved back to Claiborne County, Tennessee, and is seen in that County's 1830 census records living next door to his father-in-law, John, who apparently relocated to Tennessee about the same time. Henry later moved his family to Blount County, Tennessee and is seen in that County's 1840 and subsequent census records.

Henry and Rhoda had eleven children and lived in the Middlesettlements Community of Blount County. He died sometime before 1860. Family records show that during a smallpox epidemic in the community, Henry dug graves for the victims. It is believed that as one of the few able bodied men in the community, he kept an empty grave dug in preparation for the next death. When he became ill and died of the disease, he was buried in a grave that he had dug himself.

Rhoda Phelps died in 1880. It is thought that Rhoda and Henry Phelps are buried in the cemetery at Middlesettlements Methodist Church in Blount County, Tennessee where there are several older unmarked graves.

William Thompson Phelps

At the end of the civil war, brothers, William Thompson Phelps and John Michael Phelps, who were union soldiers and had been held in a confederate prison, were freed and returning home on the steamship Sultana when a boiler exploded and the ship sank. William Thompson died in the incident but his brother John Michael survived.

Daniel Richard Phelps

Daniel Richard Felps (Phelps) was born on April 20, 1839 in Blount County, Tennessee. He was one of eleven children born to Henry Felps and Rhoda Lebow Felps who were married in Claiborne County, Tennessee in 1828. Daniel Richard's ancestors were German Protestants who migrated to America in the mid-18th century, settling first in Pennsylvania and then North Carolina before coming to Tennessee. The family name is spelled differently in different periods and locations - Fulp, Felps, Phelps, and other. Hereafter, "Phelps", the contemporary spelling of the name in Blount County, Tennessee will be used for the purpose of this document.

Daniel Richard Phelps' father Henry, whose middle name may have been Valentine, died in the late 1850s leaving mother Rhoda and seven of her children still at home. As the oldest unmarried son, Daniel Richard, at age 21 or thereabouts, assumed major responsibility for the household.

When the Civil War came to East Tennessee in the early 1860s, Daniel Richard Phelps joined the Union army. As a soldier in the ranks of the Sixth Tennessee Volunteer Infantry, he saw combat at Lookout Mountain, Resaca, Kennesaw, Atlanta, Nashville, and other lesser engagements. His unit traveled over 10,000 miles by foot, rail, and steamship. He told his oldest son that he did not sleep in a bed for over two years.

Notes: (con't)

When the War ended in 1865, Daniel Richard Phelps returned home and became "man of the house". Older brother William Thompson had been killed in the war. Younger brother Henry had died. The community was destitute. Sisters Martha and Eliza and younger brother Hiram continued to live on the family farm, as did mother Rhoda until her death in 1880.

On November 23, 1882, Daniel Richard Phelps married Sarah Jane Lebow. They had nine children, six of whom survived to adulthood, married, and raised families. Those who died in childhood were Mary Beaula, Susie Cleo, and Chlora Eliza.

Daniel Richard continued to work the family farm in his later years until he was disabled from war-related wounds and illness. He died on February 12, 1910 and is buried at Middlesettlements Methodist Church in Blount County, Tennessee. His beloved wife Sarah Jane died in 1927 and was buried in another part of the cemetery due to rain and flooding at the time of her funeral. Daniel Richard's grave is marked by a military headstone which reads "Felps", the name under which he served his country. Sarah Jane's headstone reads "Phelps", the name used by all of her children and many descendants.

An extensive essay entitled "The Civil War and the Phelps Family" is located in the Media section of this site.

John Michael Phelps

At the end of the civil war, brothers, John Michael Phelps and William Thompson Phelps, who were union soldiers and had been held in a confederate prison, but were freed and were returning home on the steamship Sultana when a boiler exploded and the ship sank. John Michael survived the incident but his brother William Thompson died.

Henry Phelps

When 16 years old, Henry was shot and killed by a jealous husband in a love triangle.