

Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society

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<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ne/county/dodge/>

Roots and Leaves

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Board - Terms: 3 yrs – Richard Kirch 2 yrs - Earl Underwood 1yr - Loretta Meistrell

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**Spring 2024**

**Meetings: 5:30 PM at the Louis E. May Museum – 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month**

**MARCH 11 - Keene Library upgrade – Laura England-Biggs, Library Director**

**APRIL 8 - Searching for info on orphans or NPEs – Earl Underwood & Renee Bunck**

**May 13 - Election of Officers and Planning Session for June Workshop**

**SUMMER – A Genealogy workshop will be held at Keene Library on June 15**

**Thank you for renewing your membership for 2024! Please check the ENGS membership number that follows your name on the envelope mailing label. If the number ends in -23, your membership has not been renewed for 2024, but we hope you still plan to renew.**

To be better stewards of your renewal dollars, we have realized that we can no longer afford to print and mail the “Roots and Leaves” Quarterly. We do plan to continue to produce the Quarterly and we will make it available via email or online for you to read or download. Your renewal dollars will be used to support the day to day operations of ENGS. Money that would have been spent on printing and mailing will be available for attracting interesting programs, holding Genealogy workshops, assisting members in their individual research activities and purchasing office supplies to support those activities. If you already receive meeting reminder messages, you are all set to receive the Quarterly via email 4 times a year. Members who want to be added to the email stream, may send a request to [cemeterystroller@gmail.com](mailto:cemeterystroller@gmail.com). The Quarterly will also be available on Facebook, [www.usgennet.org/usa/ne/county/dodge/](http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ne/county/dodge/) and [MayMuseum.com](http://MayMuseum.com). Watch for the summer issue of “Roots and Leaves” on May 15, 2024.

The topic for this quarterly was suggested by James Dam. James’ interest was piqued by a for sale sign on the west side of Highway 77 north of Fremont that advertised a large red barn. Public records show that the farm was sold to C & J Camenzind in 2023 by Duane and Judi McKenzie. The quest for information about the barn and its history has been an interesting one. I’m sorry to report that James Dam, age 83, died on May 24, 2023. I think the story of the Malmsten Barn will be of interest to many of our “Roots and Leaves” readers.

**The first reference to the barn that I found was on page 83 of Orleatha Kellogg’s 1982 book “Bloom on The Land”.** The article included a sketch by Hortense Wilson and this information: In the region, two dairy barns of the clay hollow tile, a larger module than brick, are still standing. The larger of the two, located along Nebraska 77, some five miles north of Fremont, is a mammoth 40 by 130 feet of red tile with a lovely arched roof with wood shingles. The gable ends are of horizontal white painted wood with the front gable containing the hay door. At the other end are two large concrete tile silos built into the corners of the barn. Entrance to the silos is gained inside the barn off the central aisle through the usual

shaft and small door arrangement for removing the silage. On the west end is the wagon door leading into a central drivefloor which is flanked on both sides by rusting metal stanchions and is prevented from running the entire length by the enclosed area designed to care for the milk. One can only guess how the exit was made with the wagon. A difficult maneuver with a team and wagon, but less difficult for a small tractor. It is not known which was used. A standard three foot door provides entrance into the milk storage area. In addition to windows spaced along the walls are shed dormers, three projecting from each side of the arched roof. Astride the ridge of the roof are several metal spiked ventilators. This barn, which stands empty today, was built by the investor, C.J. Malmsten, in the early 1930's



**Newspapers.com was a handy source to follow the story of the barn and its builder in the Fremont newspapers.**

**Fremont Herald June 20, 1924** FREMONT IS IMPORTANT IN PENNEY STORE CHAIN. City is Chosen as Headquarters of Manager of District With 14 Nebraska Stores. Possibly it is not generally recognized how important Fremont is becoming in relation to the operation of the chain of stores of the J. C. Penney company in this state. This city since the first of the year or a bit longer has been the home of C. J. Malmsten, district manager for the J C Penney company in Nebraska. Though Mr. Malmsten makes his regular journeys to the several Penney stores within this district by automobile. Of course Fremont was selected as the seat of his operations because of its many natural advantages including perfect railway facilities which offer a man a maximum of convenience and opportunity to get in and out according to his necessity or desire. Mr. Malmsten has fourteen Penney stores in the state to look after that being the number established in Nebraska up to the present date. Beside the store at Fremont which is soon to be so ideally located in the Petrow building on Main street, now being remodeled for its reception, there are Penney stores at Beatrice, Broken Bow, Columbus, David City, Falls City, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, McCook, Nebraska City, Norfolk, North Platte and Ord.

**Fremont Tribune Sept 5, 1927** LARGE CRAMER FARM NORTH OF FREMONT SOLD Mr. Malmsten recently purchased the farm formerly owned by the late Robert Cramer. C. J. Malmsten of Fremont purchased three tracts on the Cornhusker highway six miles north of Fremont comprising a total of 360 acres for \$169.25 an acre. The tract includes 2 sets of buildings with only fair improvements. He started making improvements at once and his plans call for developing into a modern dairy and stock farm. The buildings will be erected as rapidly as possible. This is the second farm Mr. Malmsten has purchased in the vicinity of Fremont within the last two months. In July he bought a quarter section of the Krause land on the bluffs in Saunders county which he plans to develop as a summer home and fruit farm. To a Tribune representative Mr. Malmsten who is a large stockholder in the J. C. Penny Co., said that Fremont and vicinity are the garden spot of the world. He has seen practically all of the western and northwestern countries and he has decided to "string along" with Fremont.

**Fremont Tribune July 27, 1928****START WORK ON MALMSTEN FARM**

Dairy Barn is First of Group - Work on the first unit of a group of buildings and improvements which C.J. Malmsten will make on his dairy and stock farm north of Fremont on the Cornhusker highway has been started and will be rushed to completion. The Teas Construction company was awarded the contract for the dairy barn and work has already started. The barn is the first of a group of buildings Mr. Malmsten will erect in carrying out his plan for a model stock and dairy farm. The dairy barn will be 361/2 by 136 feet in ground dimensions with a height of 36 feet. The foundations and floors will be of concrete and the building of wood. The contract price is \$11,000. Mr. Malmsten before adopting plans for the building studied dairy barns of all types and kinds and used ideas from various sources in working out the plan that he is following.

Nothing that will add to the convenience and efficiency of the plant has been omitted and when completed Mr. Malmsten will have the last word in dairy barn and equipment. The two large silos which will be at the end of the barn have been erected. They are of tile construction, 40 feet high and 14 feet in diameter. The total capacity is 275 tons. The large barn will have stanchions for 40 cows and stalls for calves and cows. The hay mow has a storage capacity of 150 tons. Already Mr. Malmsten has his foundation herd on the farm. The head of the herd is a grandson of the champion sire owned by J. C. Penny, who has one of the world's greatest herds of Guernseys, and the heifers come from the same farm. He will add other young cows from time to time.

**Fremont Tribune Sept 3, 1928****ROOFING BIG BRICK DAIRY BARN**

The modern brick dairy barn that C. J. Malmsten is building on his farm, six miles north of the city on the Cornhusker highway, is far enough along to show that it is a mammoth affair. It has had the appearance of a factory project before the timbers were placed for the roof and tourists have asked what factory was going up in the country. It is to be right up to the minute as a home for thoroughbred cattle and will be equipped with the modern things to be found in the finest stable. Two tile silos have already been built.

**Fremont Tribune Oct 22, 1928****GRAIN ELEVATOR FOR MALMSTEN FARM**

The construction on the modern dairy farm of C. J. Malmsten, six miles north of Fremont, is still in progress. The exterior work on the mammoth dairy barn has been completed and the equipment is now being installed. A large machinery house has also been completed and a large grain elevator will be built yet this fall. When the work is completed there will be no better improved dairy farm in this section of Nebraska.

**Fremont Tribune May 13, 1929****PLANS FOR MODERN HOUSE FOR DAIRY**

C. J. Malmsten is having plans drawn for a modern farm house to be built at his dairy farm on the Cornhusker highway, seven miles north of Fremont, for the occupancy of the manager and his family, The plan is a modified Spanish design with brick and stucco construction and the house will be in keeping with the fine dairy barn and hog house that are of tile construction. The house will be two stories and completely modern and will have all of the advantage of a suburban home. It will cost in the neighborhood of \$10,000.

**Fremont Tribune Sep 28, 1929****PRIZES WON BY FREMONT STOCK BREEDER SHOWN**

Malmsten Herd made record at Hog Shows. Prizes won at three state fairs and at the national swine show during the past two months by hogs from the C. J. Malmsten farm north of Fremont are on display in the J. P. Penney and company store window. Included In the

premiums are a cup for the grand champion boar of Nebraska and the Junior world champion boar. The Nebraska grand champion was not the property of the Malmsten farm until after the close of the state fair. Malmsten, who has been securing the best stock available to build his herd, offered to buy this boar from its owner, Chester Stone, of Nehawka, providing it was adjudged grand champion. The sale was consummated according to agreement when Judging was completed. The Fremont stock breeder, who entered the field only two years ago, made an enviable record in his first exhibits. He entered all the big fairs as a "dark horse" exhibitor and gained wide recognition by carrying away prizes on most of his entries. His herd is large enough so he was able to have exhibit at the National Swine shows at Indianapolis, Ind., and the Nebraska state fair at Lincoln at the same time, winning honors in both shows.

**Fremont Tribune Dec 2, 1939**

**C. J. MALMSTEN FARM IS SOLD**

N. Chris Nelsen Buys Show Place. One of the outstanding farms in this part of the state changed hands today when N. Chris Nelson, 1007 North Broad, purchased from C. J. Malmsten the 440-acre Improved farm six miles north of Fremont. The farm was purchased eight years ago by Malmsten who erected all-modern Improvements. Located adjacent to Highway 77 are a large owner's residence, two tenants' residences, one of the finest dairy barns in the state and a large, modern hog brood barn.

**Fremont Tribune Feb 21, 1958**

**C. J. Malmsten Rites Pending In Lincoln**

Carl J. Malmsten, 80, native of Oakland and former Fremont resident, died late Thursday night at a Lincoln hospital. He had been in ill health for some time. Mr. Malmsten worked in the original J. C. Penney store at Kemmerer, WY and operated the Penney store at Richfield, Utah. Later, as a supervisor, he was in charge of finding sites and placing stores in Nebraska and South Dakota. In the days of Mr. Malmsten's association with the Penney group, supervisors owned a third of the stores they started, managers a third and the company a third. These interests were purchased when the Penney firm went on the stock exchange. The Malmstens lived in Fremont from 1920 to 1932. They went to Lakeland, Fla., and then to Lincoln where they lived at 3701 Sheridan Blvd. In Fremont, they lived east of the Garden City school. He bought and developed the farm on the west side of Highway 77 at the bluff north of town. The place occupied by Chris Nelson still is known as the Malmsten place to many. Mr. Malmsten was born at Oakland May 15, 1877.

He had lived at Tekamah and Gothenburg as a boy. He attended college at Grand Island. His acquaintances in Fremont were retained after he left and he enjoyed hunting and fishing with groups of his friends here. During his time in Fremont, Mr. Malmsten, a multi-millionaire, had contributed to Midland, the YMCA and the Presbyterian Church and other organizations and causes. He was a member of the Fremont Masonic Lodge, the Scottish Rite and Shrine. He found greater interest in ranching than in the farming operation here and owned a cattle ranch of about 30,000 acres near Burwell.

**The Burt County Plain Dealer offers an online reference to a 2019 project by the Burt County Museum with more information on both the Malmsten farm and the history of the Malmsten family. Burt County Museum: Touring the Malmsten farm.**

**[https://agupdate.com/community/burt\\_county/lifestyles/burt-county-museum-touring-the-malmsten-farm/article\\_23707368-ce7c-11e9-b508-47851ec66ec0.html](https://agupdate.com/community/burt_county/lifestyles/burt-county-museum-touring-the-malmsten-farm/article_23707368-ce7c-11e9-b508-47851ec66ec0.html)**