

***District Court, Civil and Criminal Case Files, 1854-1932. Box 1, Minnesota Historical Society. Territory of Minnesota District Court, Scott County: Thomas A. Holmes against Helen M. Holmes.***

Helen was given to extravagant habits and practices, including large and unnecessary debts at various stores and mercantile houses in Shakopee. The incompatibility by and between the two people, which continually created dissensions, disputes, bickering and strife, caused the devolvement of the marriage, according to the case.

Helen had “a furious and ungovernable temper wholly unsuitable to domestic peace or enjoyment, that she frequently used abusive and vituperative language and would frequently with profane oaths and other improper language for a lady.”



Shakopee ca 1858 Edwin Whitefield. Minnesota Historical Society.

Then again, have a 35-year old difference in age probably did not help!

The marriage was dissolved on March 24, 1858.

Helen Taisey Holmes left the Shakopee area. Her father, Mathias Taisey died on April 24, 1881 in Missouri. Sophronia Health Taisey died on November 23, 1891.

Helen died in 1889 in Minnesota.

As for Thomas Andrew Holmes? Within five months, Tom married again, again at the Episcopal Church. The fourth wife was Harriet Richards Woodbury, who was just 24 years younger than Tom Holmes!



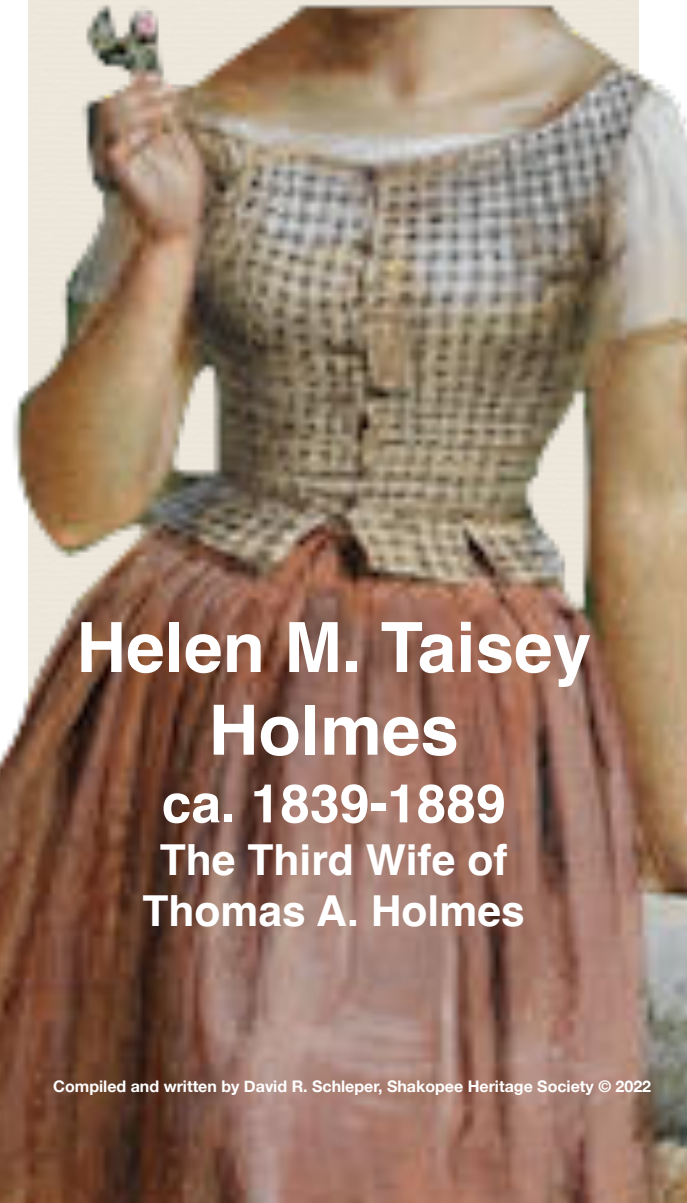
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## SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY



Helen M. Taisey  
Holmes  
ca. 1839-1889  
The Third Wife of  
Thomas A. Holmes

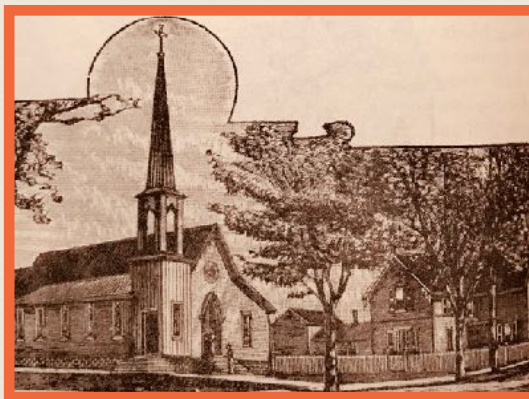


Helen Taisey was born in Michigan in 1839. Her parents were Mathias Taisey, who was born on May 29, 1812 in Vermont, and Sophronia Heath Taisey, who was born on March 8, 1829, also in Vermont.

Mathias and Sophronia had four children, including Albert, Helen, Elizabeth, and Milton. In 1849, they moved to Stillwater, Minnesota Territory.

Taisey's father, Mathas Taisey, used to keep the Lake House, a boarding house, in Stillwater, but moved to Shakopee City and had a claim about three miles from downtown Shakopee City, Minnesota Territory, according to the diary by Daniel M. Storer. By mid-February, Taisey's parents, Mathias and Sophronia Heath Taisey, were having problems, and eventually divorced.

Her father, Mathias Taisey, traded his claim to John Boswell Allen and his wife, Jane Dillard Allen's house in



St. Peter's Episcopal Church (1854-1921) in Shakopee City, Minnesota Territory was the location of the marriage of Thomas A. Holmes and Helen Taisey on August 24, 1854. *The Episcopal Church in Minnesota—A Historical View in Stereo: The Early Years* © 2015 by Arthur Louis Finnell has a picture of the inside of the church, on right, from the 1880s. The church was also used for the fourth marriage of Thomas A. Holmes and Harriet Richards Woodbury, five months after Helen's divorce.



town, according to Daniel Storer, according to the diary he wrote. Later, Mathias Taisey sold the house to Spier Spencer for \$1300. Mathias Taisey ended up in Greenwood, at the fork of the Crow River, about twenty miles north of Shakopee in a forest of timber in 1856. He had a public house there, and later was trading in groceries. By a year later, he married again, and according to Daniel Storer's journal, appears to be doing well. "He has a small appearing woman" said Daniel M. Storer, pp. 71, 83.

Private Mathias Taisey ended up in the Civil War, where he joined the Second Battery Light Artillery on January 4, 1862. He was discharged for disability on October 29, 1863.

Mathias's daughter, Helen M. Taisey met Thomas A. Holmes while in Shakopee, and was probably excited about marrying a millionaire.

Thomas A. Holmes married Helen M.

Taisey on August 24, 1854 at the Episcopal Church in Shakopee according to Daniel M. Storer in **The Diary of Daniel M. Storer from 1849 to 1905: A Pioneer Builder and Merchant-His Personal History of Shakopee, Minnesota from August 1853 to January 1905**, from the Shakopee Heritage Society, p. 59. This was the third marriage of Thomas Andrew Holmes.

Helen was 35 years younger than Thomas Andrew Holmes. Thomas was 50 years old, and Helen was 15 years old.

After three years, Thomas, age 53, asked the marriage contract between him and Helen be dissolved.

According to lawyer papers, Helen Taisey refused to cohabit with Thomas Holmes, which she was duty bound to do, according to the **State Archives-Scott County**