

Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 382
St. Joseph, MO 64502

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Volume 31 Number 1

January/February/March 2010

100 Years and Counting

St. Joseph Couple Celebrates Being Centurians Together

Copied from the St. Joseph News-Press (October 18, 2009) with
permission from the author, Sylvia Anderson

John Ostertag remembers his grandfather well -- "a sturdy, hard-headed German" and how he absolutely forbade his son from learning to be an auto mechanic. At the time, his grandfather and father were blacksmiths by trade, living in Atchison, Kan.

"Automobiles are a fad. They will never make it," Mr. Ostertag remembers his grandfather saying. "But he lived long enough to see himself wrong."

Just like his grandfather, who retired as a blacksmith at 85 and lived to be 93, Mr. Ostertag has witnessed major changes since his birth, which as of July 26 of this year was 100 years ago.

He remembers plenty: his first job, at age 10, shoeing flies off of horse legs while his father fitted the horses with shoes; the two-mile walk to grade school and even further to high school; and how it was 118 degrees the day he got the license to marry his wife, Enid, in July of 1933.

"Back in 1933, it was beginning of the drought," he says. "On the day we got married, I'm sure it was 110 and there were no fans or air conditioners. It was hot, hot, hot. 1934 was even worse."

Unlike most of his contemporaries who have lived to be 100, his wife is still with him after 76 years of marriage, and she also celebrated her 100th birthday this year.

Their secret? It's not a Spartan life of diet and exercise, they say. "I never exercised in any way, shape or form," Enid says.

Officers for 2009-2010

President -- John Hutchcraft president@nwmogenealogy.com
Vice President -- Sarah Waugh
Treasurer -- John Atkinson treasurer@nwmogenealogy.com
Recording Secretary -- Kenneth Cox
Corresponding Secretary -- Phyllis Heath
Past President -- Juanita Haskins
Members at Large -- Carol Almanza and Carolyn Garver
Librarian -- Connie McCoy librarian@nwmogenealogy.com
Assistant Librarian -- Phyllis Heath
Membership -- membership@nwmogenealogy.com
Publications -- Deloris Foster publications@nwmogenealogy.com
Publicity -- Rose and John Hutchcraft
Journal Editor --
Newsletter Editor -- Jo Mayse
Program Chairman -- Sarah Waugh
Internet Chairman -- Sharlene Miller

General Meetings:

Fourth Thursday of April, June, September, and November at 7:00 PM

Executive Meetings:

Second Thursday of January, March, May, July, September, and November

Both are held at the Genealogy Library, 412 Felix, St. Joseph, MO.

Society members are welcome to attend Board Meetings.

Members and public are welcome at General Meetings.

This newsletter is published four times a year by the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society. It is a medium for the exchange of information between members. Readers are encouraged to submit articles. All contributions will be considered. Suggestions and criticisms are also welcome. Write: Northwest Missouri Genealogy Society, P.O. Box 382, St. Joseph, MO 64502, or phone (816)233-0524. The editors reserve the right to make editorial changes in manuscripts, which they believe will improve the material without altering the intended meaning. The opinions expressed in this periodical do not necessarily represent the view of the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society or its officers. Articles represent the authors opinions and ideas and do not necessarily have official sanction nor does inclusion here represent approval or recommendation.

President's Corner

"Oh the weather outside is frightful..." Due to the bad weather in December we have been closed several days when we would normally have been open. Those of you who have made it in this past month probably missed some familiar faces -- Kenneth Cox and Phyllis Heath. They have been absent due to health issues. We wish them both a speedy recovery and hope to see them back in March 2010. We will be closed in January and February for the winter. Hopefully the snow will be gone by March when we reopen.

American Family Insurance is going to give us a microfiche reader and possibly a microfiche reader/printer. We do appreciate their generosity.

Hope everyone has a great year. See you in March.

John Hutchcraft, President

From the Librarian

Happy New Year! Do you remember all the worry and hubbub about the change from 1999 to 2000? Now we are ten years into the century already. There will be a census taken this year. I wonder what questions will be on it. There will be a door to door census taker or will forms be sent to every household to be mailed back in? How many people will fail to respond or be missed?

We as genealogists value finding our ancestors in the census. We complain about the loss of the 1890 census which created that 20 year black hole where the person we are seeking disappeared. We are delighted with the 1850 census that names the members of the household and the 1880 census where they finally identified relationship of the people in the household. We were excited with the release of the 1930 census where many of us found our parents listed for the first time. We glean each census for clues to aid us in our research.

What will future researchers learn about us from the 2010 census? Will they find you living in a state far from your previous residence? Or will you be found living in the same area where you were in 2000? Did your name change in the last ten years? The census gives us an opportunity to tell future generations about us.

Connie McCoy, Librarian

100 years and counting: continued from page 1:

And Enid has long been known for the wonderful pies she makes, although she doesn't cook anymore.

They've certainly had their share of hardship, especially in the early days. When they first got married, they lived on \$25 a week. When she got pregnant, it cost \$10 for the delivery, \$25 for the doctor, and a dollar for the circumcision, which was a lot of money at the time. Insurance was unheard of in those days.

The worst times, they say, were during World War II, when they were separated for 10 months and Mr. Ostertag went off to war.

"I was with three little kids," she remembers. "He got \$50 a month and sent me \$45 of it."

She was worried he would not make it back and still has all the letters he wrote.

But he did and they would have two more children, 15 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. They moved to St. Joseph in 1959 into a house where they still reside with help from their children and their church family at Brookdale Presbyterian. And after all these years, they still enjoy being with each other, which may be the secret to it all.

"I used to sell insurance and would visit newlyweds," Mr. Ostertag says. "I'd tell the husband, 'My experience is you are going to have to give 90 percent of your will to your wife, and I would tell her 'That goes for you, too.' It's give and take. And whatever you do, don't get mad at the same time."

(thank you to Sylvia Anderson for letting me use this in our newsletter)

(John and Enid Ostertag are charter members of the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society and have volunteered many hours at the library. John turned 100 years old on July 26, 2009 and Enid reached her 100th birthday September 23, 2009)

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New Members

Bill & Sherry Beckemeyer -- Roswell, GA
Judy Bayless -- Bellingham, WA
Pamela Montgomery -- Rushville, MO
Linda Evans Robbins -- St. Joseph, MO
Frank & Pat Ward -- St. Joseph, MO
Judith Van Meter -- Portland, OR
Teresa Bally -- St. Joseph, MO
Susan Killian -- Liberty, MO
Renee Pasley Beggs -- St., Joseph, MO
Don Groneweg -- St. Joseph, MO

Donations

Midwest Genealogy Center

A Bibliography of American County Histories compiled by P. William Filby

Mid-Continent Public Library

Passengers to America edited by Michael Tepper

Judith Ipsen

Louis Roy, Ancestors & Descendents by Judith Ann LeRoy Ipsen

Frank & Pat Ward (Ward Printing Co.)

Notepads and two reams of paper

Carol Almanza

Abstracts from Ben Franklin's Pennsylvania Gazette 1728-1748

Abstracts from the Pennsylvania Gazette 1748-1755

German New River Settlement: Virginia

Expressions of Faith compiled by David W. Lewis, Jr.

Bob & Charlene Slater

Set of Missouri Manuals

John Gariety, Piney Flats, TN

Genealogy & History of Lewis & Catherine Penrod

Monetary Donations

Judith Palmer -- Studio City, CA

Bill & Sherry Beckemeyer -- Roswell, GA

Judith Young -- McLean, VA

James Patterson -- Salt Lake City, UT

Donald Norris -- Universal City, TX

Jerilyn S. Zubko -- Basking Ridge, NJ

Mark L. Moore -- Campbell, CA

Phillip Thomas -- Ames, IA

New at the Library

The 49ers' as Reported by Andrew, Cape Girado, Cole, Cooper, Green and
Grundy County Newspapers Vol. 6 30 Nov. 1847 to 12 Apr. 1856

The 49ers' as Reported by Clay, Howard and Lafayette County Newspapers
30 Nov. 1847 to 29 Nov. 1857 Vol. 7

Please check your newsletter address label for month membership is due. In order to keep your newsletter and Journal coming, please mail your dues in before the expiration date.

Annual dues are: \$15.00 -- in the USA
 \$20.00 -- in Canada and Mexico
 \$25.00 -- all other countries

Enclose a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) if you want a membership card returned to you by mail.

The Genealogy Library will be closed the month of January and February and will reopen March 2, 2010.

Next general meeting will be April 22, 2010 at the NW MO Genealogical Library, 412 Felix Street in St. Joseph, MO. at 6:30 PM. This will be a dinner meeting. The Society will furnish meat, drinks, and bread. Please bring your own table service and a covered dish. We will be electing new officers also.

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**Phyllis M. Heath
1934-2010**

Phyllis was a charter member of the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society, currently serving as corresponding secretary and membership chairman. She will be greatly missed. The society would be pleased to receive memorial gifts in her name. Our next newsletter will tell how the memorials are/were used.

Phyllis M. Heath, 75, St. Joseph, passed away Friday, January 15, 2010, at her daughter's home. Phyllis was born February 13, 1934, to Virgil and Frances (Hayes) Nunn in Davis City, IA. She was a 1952 graduate of Lafayette High School. She married Richard "Dick" Heath in July 1958 at Wesley United Methodist Church, and he preceded her in death in 2006. She was also preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her son, David Heath and his wife Kerri, Rea, MO; daughters, Melanie Wertin and her husband Chris, Lawrence, KS, Gail Kramer and her husband Andy, Columbia, MO; brother, Pat Nunn and wife Laura Rose; five grandchildren: Joseph Taylor, Adam Wertin, Kyle Wertin, Eric Wertin, Senturie Heath, and her dog Rufus. Services were held January 18, 2010 at Heaton-Bowman-Smith & Sidenfaden Chapel, with internment in Memorial Park Cemetery.

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