

DESCENDANT OF NORTH DAKOTA AND CITY FOUNDERS DIES

Stuart Joseph Walsh, Jr. 90, died Monday November 19, 2003 in Edgewood Vista, East Grand Forks, MN, formerly of 624 North 6th St. in Grand Forks, ND, with his daughter, Pat by his side.



Walsh

We will miss Dad telling his story and how it was living on the river and how they used to care for it. We should have listened to him in 1997. He was descended from a family rich in area heritage. Stuart was proud of this and his ancestry and would talk about it if anyone wanted to listen. He was the grand nephew of Alexander Griggs, founder of Grand Forks City, Griggs County named after him. Also, the grandson of George Walsh, founder of UND, Walsh Hall was named for him. From my dad, I understand it was a hot topic in the legislature between UND here (Grand Forks) or the state penitentiary and he (George) argued very strongly to get UND here in Grand Forks. Stuart also was a great grandson of Thomas H. Walsh who negotiated for statehood when the Dakotas (North and South) were still territories (Walsh County was named after the Walsh's). And the one he loved the best was his uncle, Jack Nelson (Nelson County named after him) (Sheriff-Range) that went to Alaska and married Klondike Kate and came back to Dakota Territory. They both were chasing stage coach robbers and were killed in the shoot-out. Dad and all the descendants lived in the large three story house north of Grand Forks which belonged to an opera singer, who used to sing at the old opera house in the city at that time. There are so many things about the family good and bad, of course, but I believe toward the last there was more he wanted to say, but could not.

Stuart J. Walsh, Jr. was born February 28, 1913 in Falconer Township of Grand Forks County, ND, the son of Stuart J. Walsh and Elizabeth (Barlow) Walsh. He was raised and educated to grade eight in Falconer Township.

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He married Florence Irene Adair on November 30, 1935 in Grand Forks. After marriage, they lived with Florence's brother and his wife in Inkster, ND helping farm. He also farmed for his father in rural Grand Forks before moving to Grand Forks in the 1940's. Stuart worked for Armour's Packing Company, Butler Machinery and Construction Company before going to work at the State Mill and Elevator where he worked for 35 years before retiring in 1977.

Stuart was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge, United Commercial Travelers, a fifty year member of The Eagles Lodge and was a social member of The Royal Neighbors of America.

Survivors include: Daughters: Patricia Edgar "Bob" Walker, East Grand Forks, MN, Donna Mae (Richard) Farrell, Camden, MI, Margie Ann Volk, Grand Forks, ND; Son: James S. Walsh, Florence, MT; Sister-in-Law: Peggy Walsh, OR; Seven Grandchildren; Six Great Grandchild; In: One Great Great Grandson, Joshua; Many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Florence Walsh on May 22, 1996; his parents; daughter, Virginia Rae Bileter of Ohio; and by brothers, Charles, Grand Forks, George, Oregon, Tom, Grand Forks and Donald, Grand Forks.

Services will be 2:00 p.m. Monday in St. Michael's Catholic Church of Grand Forks, ND. Visitation will be today from 5 to 7:00 p.m. in Amundson Funeral Home and will continue for the hour before the services in the church.

Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery of Grand Forks. Arrangements are with Amundson Funeral Home of Grand Forks.