



Walter Essig

October 31, 1907 - November 8, 2009

Walter K. Essig, 102, Bismarck, died November 8, 2009, peacefully at home. Services will be on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Bismarck with Rev. Wes Aardahl officiating. Burial will be in Sunset Memorial Gardens in Bismarck. Visitation will be Friday from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Eastgate Funeral Service and continue on Saturday, one hour prior to the service at the church. Walter was born October 31, 1907, to Christian and Wilhelmine “Minnie” Siegele Essig on the family homestead in Schiller Township, near Lincoln Valley of Sheridan County, ND. His family moved to McClusky, ND, when he was six. After high school, he worked for three years at the First State Bank of Denhoff and then four years as Sheridan County deputy auditor. He married Alice Riedlinger on June 24, 1931. In 1934, they took over the operation of the Essig homestead near Lincoln Valley until they retired and moved to Bismarck in 1974. He served on several committees including the AAA farm program, and also was a long-time member of the Sheridan County Welfare Board. He was recognized for following good farming and soil conservation practices. He was active in St. Andrews Lutheran Church and its Parish. In Bismarck he became a member of Faith Lutheran Church and was active in its Friendship Circle. He was a member of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society and also of the local chapter of AARP. He had a lifelong interest in history and was dedicated to discovery and preservation of early history of North Dakota. He had a hobby of hand book binding and book repair. Walter is survived by his daughters, Kathleen

Bennett, Concord, CA, and Margaret Pretzer, Bismarck; his sons, James Judy, Fargo, and Robert Rita, Scottsboro, AL; his many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; his brother, Hugo Frances, McClusky; and his brother-in-law, Ted Ruth Riedlinger, Everett, WA. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Alice; three brothers; one grandson; and one son-in-law.

Tribute Wall

JH

“ My sympathy to the family of Walter Essig, a man whom I did not know personally, but who obviously influenced many lives. I too grew up in Sheridan County Glenn and Laverne Bauer Swendsen were my parents. I wanted to mention to his family, friends, and fans that Walter was the senior living graduate of McClusky High School at the time of McClusky's Centennial in 2005, a status he obviously maintained throughout the rest of his life. He was a member of the Class of 1925. My late sister, Kirsten Swendsen Engel, was the chairperson of that event, and Walter was one of those whom she selected to be a grand marshal of the Centennial parade. What a wonderful example of a life well lived! May he rest in peace.

Judy Swendsen Hill - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ THANK YOU FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF YOUR KNOWLEGE ,
GOD BLESS YOU

JOSEPH SCHOCK - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ MY SYMPATHY TO WALT'S FAMILY. I VISITED WITH WALT AND ALICE NUMEROUS TIMES. DURING ONE VISIT I ADMIRERD HIS TRUMPET VINE AND HE IMMEDIATELY TOOK SOME OF IT TO SHARE WITH ME. IT TOOK ME MANY YEARS TO GET IT GOING AND BY THAT TIME I WAS ABOUT READY TO LEAVE MY HOME, AS I WAS A WIDOW. I ALSO TOO LIL TO SEE THEM AT TIMES, SO DID SPEND MANY INTERESTING TIMES WITH THEM. MY SYMPATHY TO JIM AND JUDY. WALT HAD A LONG AND INTERESTING LIFE. REST IN PEACE.PHILIP GOEHRINGS WERE MY IN LAWS AND THE LATE NORMAN GEHRING WAS MY HUSBAND.

MARLENE gEHRING - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ *Walter Essig*

MARLENE gEHRING - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ *Walter Essig*

Mildred L. Graner - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ *Wish to extend my sympathy to his family and friends. Walter was a very generous and caring gentleman. He always had a smile and encouraging words which I greatly appreciated when I began working at Faith Lutheran. May he rest in peace.*

Mildred Graner - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DZ

“ *Jim Sorry to read about your Dad, but he had a long and full life. We hope you two are doing well. We tried to find your address when we stayed in Fargo, but missed. Let us hear from you some time. Old Friends Don & Marlyn*

Don & Marlyn Zimmerman - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *Sorry to hear about your grandpa. I have only seen pictures of him...but never actually met him. I have heard so many wonderful things about him. He was very lucky to have you in his life during these troubled times. God bless and take care. Love you, Darcy*

Darcy & Marvin Duchsherer - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ He was my primary Sunday School teacher for many years. I remember with fondness his years of dedication in furthering the Christian faith for the young people of St. Andrews Church.

Loretta Hoffmann Bloomquist - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ I have many fond memories of Walter as a member of St. Andrews, mostly of being our Sunday School teacher and superintendent, the many years we held our church picnics in their grove of trees. Walter had a sweet soft voice who was great to visit with. He helped me with the history of Edgemont township for the N.D. Centennial quilt. My sympathy goes out to the family. Walter rest in peace. Betty

Betty Kurle Waltz - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ Walter Essig

Betty Kurle Waltz - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ Walt was a quiet, hard working member of GRHS. Both he and Alice were the cornerstone of our Society. They were especially kind to my mother Katherine Ebach and always remembered her in a special way when they met. They were very knowledgeable about the history of the German people here and will be missed very much. Our sympathy to the family.

Mary Ebach - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

HT

“ I was fortunate to have known Alice and Walter. I was at their house a number of times. She helped translate a number of German documents and other areas of my research. It was always interest visiting with Walter. They were a great asset to our chapter and society of GRHS. Our condolenes.

Herbert & mildred Thurn - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ The thing I remember most about Walter was his unique ability to give you his undivided attention during a conversation with him. It was not difficult at all to see that he took a very genuine interest in everyone around him. My deepest sympathy to the family.

Daryl Wahl - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ Many years ago, Lowell and Joyce Siegele, my wife and I arranged to meet in Bismark. We had the privilege of meeting Walter and his wife, Alice. They gave us a tour of the countryside ,including my Grandfather's Gotfried Siegele homestead. Walter shared a wealth of information on our family and a lot of the history of Bismark. Alice shared an amazing collection of history on relatives from Germany. It was a wonderful trip. We'll remember Walter and Alice for the great people they were. With fond memories - Herb and Cheryl Siegele.

Herb and Cheryl Siegele - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ My condolence to the Essig Family. My parents, Ebner Schafer and Hilda Miller Schafer were very good friends of Walter and Alice. There were many discussions and letters over the years discussing North Dakota Indian and Military History. Our families shared the commonalities of their German Russian Heritage. I enjoyed visiting the Essig farm on many trips to North Dakota with my parents and have a number of photos of the two families from those trips. Jack Schafer 11.10.09

Jack Schafer - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WH

“ Sincere sympathy to the family of Walt. One of the most interesting days that I have had, was when I spent a day with Walt and the local newspaper editor Glenn Dill shortly after we moved to Lamoure. We traveled much of Lamoure and Ransom counties locating historical sites and old wagon trails. I always enjoyed visiting with Walt who was a great local historian and a friend. Wayne Hankel Former Sheridan County Agent

Wayne Hankel - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ Another son of the prairie has taken leave. Walter is a legend and will be missed. More than 30-yrs-ago Alice and Walter came into my life and taught me so much about emigrant - pioneer - Germans from Russia history. Safe journey, my friend.

Carol Just - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM