



Willis Bill Heusinkveld

OCT 11, 1924 - SEP 15, 2011



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Willis Bill Heusinkveld

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Willis "Bill" Heusinkveld, age 86, of Centerville, Iowa, passed away Thursday, September 15, 2011, at Centerville Nursing and Rehab Center in Centerville, Iowa. Bill was born on October 11, 1924, on a farm in Sioux County in northwest Iowa, five miles from the nearest town of Hull, Iowa. It was part of a very Dutch area with two Dutch Reformed churches in the little town. He often went to church twice a day. Bill's ancestry on both sides was Dutch. He was part of a family of four boys and two girls. Bill's mother died when he was only six so his father had to be supervisor of the household, as well as doing the daily chores and annual crop raising. There was always plenty of work for the four boys on the 160-acre farm. The eldest daughter, Harriet, became a surrogate mother and did lots of housework. Bill graduated from Iowa State University in Ames with a degree in Electrical Engineering after two years in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He first worked for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Casper, Wyoming. That is when Bill decided to go by the name of "Bill" instead of Willis. While in Wyoming he met and married Marjorie Creager, a registered nurse, who had grown up in Cody, Wyoming. Bill and Marjorie moved to Ottumwa where Bill began a 35-year engineering career with Iowa Southern Utilities. His family, including three young daughters, moved to Centerville, Iowa, in 1958 where Bill worked as Electric Distribution Engineer and later as Director of Electric and Gas Rates. After Bill retired in 1990, he published a 325-page genealogy entitled Heusinkvelds in America. The book included many pictures and data on all of the members of the Heusinkveld family living in the United States. Bill subsequently became interested in local history and researched the 1846 Mormon Trail in preparation for its 150th anniversary celebration. His research became part of the publication, Mormon Trails Across Appanoose County in 1995. Bill was elected Appanoose County Chairman of the Sesquicentennial Commission to celebrate Iowa's 150-year anniversary of statehood. In that capacity,



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he authored and published *This Day in History and Cemeteries of Appanoose County*. He went on to publish *Pioneer Stories*, *Towns of Appanoose County*, *Historic Homes of Centerville*, and *Civil War History of Iowa Companies*. Bill also wrote the historical portion of the book *Appanoose County 1904-2004*, which was created to celebrate the Courthouse centennial. From July of 2002 through November 2010 he entertained readers of *The Centerville Daily Iowegian* with his popular weekly column exploring Appanoose County history. Bill's interests went beyond researching local history. Bill and his wife Marjorie had a bird watching hobby for many years and traveled throughout the United States adding to their life list of birds sighted. He was chairman of the Centerville Concert Association for some years, bringing a variety of music to our community. Bill sang bass with the barbershop group "The Coal Minor Chordsmen". He avidly played postal chess for years. The Appanoose County Historical Society's annual newsletter was initiated by Bill when he served on the Board. Bill was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church as well as the Masonic Lodge. Bill is survived by his wife, Marjorie Heusinkveld, of Centerville, Iowa; three daughters, Joyce (Daryl) Sherman of Lake Mills, Iowa, Judy (Joseph) Olsen of Independence, Iowa, and Jean Heusinkveld of Fairbanks, Alaska; seven grandsons, David (Kelly) Sherman, Loren Sherman, Daniel Sherman, Saul Burger, Shane Burger, Tell (Megan) Burger, and Joel Burger; and two great-grandchildren, Isaac Sherman, and Hannah Burger; and a brother, Henry Heusinkveld of Overland Park, Kansas. Bill was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, George and Myron Heusinkveld; and two sisters, Harriet and Frances Heusinkveld. Funeral services will be held 10 a.m., Tuesday, September 20, 2011, at the First Presbyterian Church in Centerville with Pastor Suzanne Gorhau officiating. Burial will follow the service in the Oakland Cemetery in Centerville. A visitation will be held at Lange Funeral Home on Monday, September 19, 2011, with the family present from 6-8 p.m. Memorials have been established to the First Presbyterian Church and may be left at Lange Funeral Home, 1900 S. 18th Street, Centerville, Iowa, 52544. Condolences may be shared online at www.langefh.com.



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Visitation

September 19, 2011 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Lange Funeral Home 1900 S. 18th St. Centerville, IA (641) 856-2000

Funeral Service

September 20, 2011 10:00 AM

First Presbyterian Church 102 N. Main St. Centerville, IA



Tribute Wall

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Thomas Funeral Home posted:

October 21 at 2:36 PM



Thomas Funeral Home shared an album called **Obituary Wall**.



October 13 at 2:41 PM



Anonymous posted:

Bill you and Marj were my first clients, I enjoyed working for the both of you...I remember what you told me Bill that first day...no matter what, my wife is always right...LOL...I will miss you...God Bless... Posted by Sally Houser - Centerville, IA - caregiver September 19, 2011

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Marjorie, Joyce, Judy and Jean - Please accept our sincere condolences on Bill's death. He was a wonderful man, and we know he was a great husband and father. He also was a good neighbor and friend and always a pleasure to be around. We so enjoyed reading his books and Foncey really enjoyed all the childhood memories his histories invoked for her. You are in our thoughts. Posted by Katie Taylor Morgan, Foncey & Jack Taylor - Laramie, WY - Friends September 19, 2011

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Know that our thoughts and prayers are with your family at this difficult time. The Ramos family
Posted by Ramos - Centerville,, IA - friend September 19, 2011

January 4 at 7:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

As one interested in local Appanoose County history, Bill provided encouragement and assistance to me over the past several years as I have researched the history of western Appanoose County. He constantly went out of his way to find historical publications, have them copied and sent to me to assist in my research from a distance. When he thought I was in trouble, he responded unselfishly to my situation. He will continue to inspire many of us as we re-read his many publications about the history of Appanoose County. Hopefully, his work will be preserved and made available to as many other local and family historians. Although we had very little direct contact, he was the best of friends. May his family rejoice in the memories of his outstanding contributions to history of his community. Posted by Bill Hawkins - Lords Valley, PA - Friend September 19, 2011

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Uncle Bill was very special to all of his nephews and nieces. He was so jovial and fun to be around. We love the book he wrote for the family, Heusinkvelds in America. He was a tremendous historian for for Centerville and Apanoosa County. His writing style was clear, well organized, accurate and easy to read. He was devoted to his family. He was an intelligent, hard working, caring, wonderful man. He will be missed. Posted by Laura Miller - Overland Park, KS - niece September 17, 2011

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Sorry to hear of Bill's passing. I worked on several history projects in Appanoose County with Bill. We both served as board members with the Appanoose County Historical Society. My condolences to Marg and her family. Posted by Gary Craver - Centerville, IA - Friend September 17, 2011

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

May God wrap his loving arms around you & hold you close during this difficult & sad time. You were blessed to have such a wonderful father, husband and grandfather. Posted by Debbie & Dewey Edeker - Altoona, IA - Friend (classmate of Joyce) September 17, 2011

January 4 at 7:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

My heart is heavy to learn of Bill's passing. He was a wonderful person, and so excited about Appanoose County's history and sharing it with others. He was a pleasure to work with and I'm so proud to say he was my friend. My thoughts and prayers are with your whole family. Posted by Lisa Eddy - Centerville, IA - Friends in Historical Societ September 16, 2011

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO ALL OF YOUR FAMILIES. I HAD SO MUCH RESPECT FOR BILL IN OUR EMPLOYMENT WITH ISU, IES, AND NOW THE ALLIANT ENERGY COM. I LOOKED FORWARD TO HIS ADVICE AS I DID MY JOB. REGRETTED WE DID NOT GET TO VISIT WITH HIM AT THE LAST EMPLOYEES BENEFIT MEETING. FRIENDS FROM CENTERVILLE DAYS, THE PRICES (DOUG AND NANCY) Posted by Doug and Nancy Price - Leon, IA - Co worker and a former neighbor September 16, 2011

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Please accept our sincere sympathy and prayers, and may your loving memories give you peace. Posted by Dennis & Bev Sisul Laurson - Centerville, IA September 16, 2011

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Media

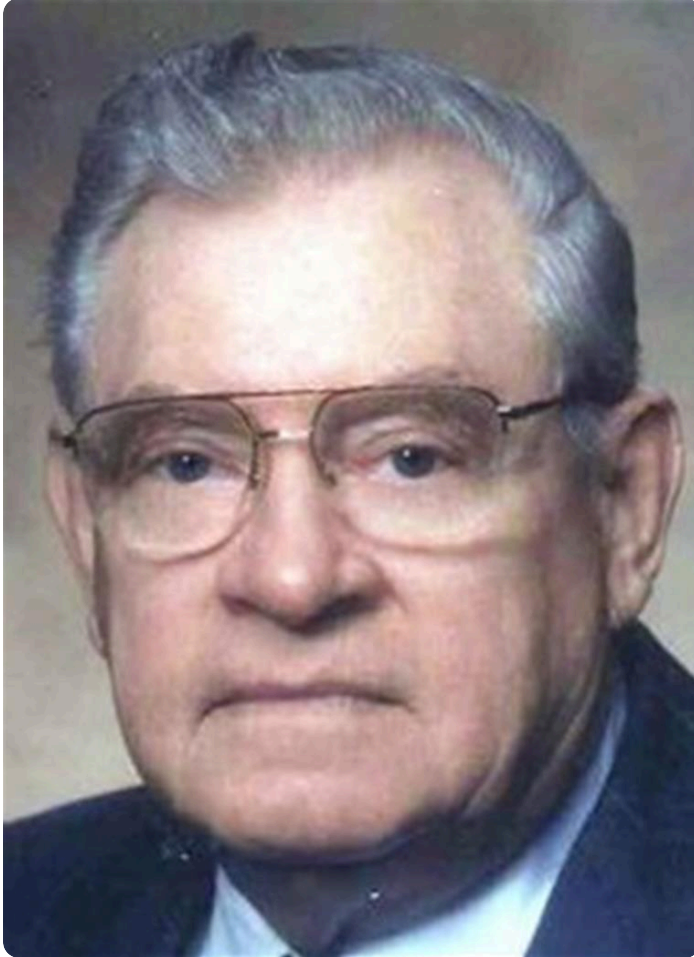
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Thomas Funeral Home shared a photo to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 2:41 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Willis by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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