

Grace Ives Maluge

We are happy to name Grace (Ives) Maluge as the 108th inductee in Marshfield's 150: Heroes and Leaders, Past and Present register. Grace Maluge was nominated by her great-granddaughter, Lynette (Werner) Pupp.

Interested in history and its preservation, Grace (Ives) Maluge recognized the importance of Marshfield having a historical society. Her effort was instrumental in seeing that organization established in 1952 and she continued to actively support its mission during the remainder of her life.



In 1952, with the help of John L. Stauber, then president of Marshfield's Old Settlers Club, and others interested in a local society, Grace arranged a meeting in the Marshfield Free Library on September 19, 1952 to consider options. Acting as chairwoman, she introduced Dr. Wilbur Glover of the State Historical Society who explained the necessary steps for organizing a historical society and the statutory requirements to be affiliated with the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

After John Stauber, speaker for the evening, stressed the need for such a group in this community, those in attendance voted unanimously for its organization to be known as the Marshfield Historical Society. Articles of incorporation were approved and certified by the secretary of state, Fred K. Zimmerman, October 17, 1952, and then filed by the Wood County register of deeds. The names of those forming the corporation included Mrs. William A. (Grace Ives) Maluge, Clarence C. Meyers, Mrs. Fred K. (Nellie Bohn) Kamps, Mrs. Caroline Hartl Allen and C. J. Dregne.

The first meeting of the new historical society was held in the Council Chamber of the Marshfield City Hall on November 7, 1952. In addition to local attendees, there were two staff members of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Margaret Gleason, reference librarian, and Donald McNeil, field representative also present. Among the first directors elected that evening was Grace Maluge, who has been recognized as the woman who pioneered the area society.

Four years later the society changed its name from Marshfield Historical Society to the North Wood County Historical Society, hoping to attract and encourage interest and memberships outside the city of Marshfield.

Grace Elizabeth Ives was born on August 30, 1886, the daughter of George Washington and Fannie Elizabeth Ives. She had seven siblings. A brother, George Smith Ives, served as mayor of Marshfield from 1934-35 and was re-elected for the 1936-37 term. Another brother, Walter Ives, was the band leader of Wally Ives and the Jolly Dutchman band, and still another brother, Lovell Ives, was the music arranger and a member of the band, who also directed the Green Bay Packers Band from 1982 to 1997.

In 1904 Grace married William August Maluge who was a butter maker. Three years later they moved to Marshfield. They established residence at 301 North Peach Avenue where they operated a neighborhood grocery store on the property called Cash Corner Grocery. Later they operated another grocery store at 304 East Tenth Street. That store had been owned by Isadore Seidel.

William and Grace had three daughters, Charolotte, Ruth and Grace, who all graduated from Marshfield High School. In 1926 Will started to spend the summer months in Perkinstown, where he owned and operated a small resort, "Shady Nook," and a small grocery store. In 1932, Grace and her youngest daughter would join him for the summers after a local doctor told her that their youngest daughter's asthma would be relieved with the Northwoods air.

Besides her interest in local history, Grace spent years documenting her ancestry to Richard Warren, 12th signer of the "Mayflower Compact." The Compact, signed November 11, 1620, was important because it was the first document to establish self-government in the Americas. Imagine how painstaking a job it was without the internet to trace that history! In February 1939, she was awarded a fellowship and certificate of merit in genealogy by the Council of the Institute of American Genealogy, Chicago, in recognition of her original research and meritorious contribution to the archives of American Genealogy. She published her findings in a book in 1950. She held membership in the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Wisconsin and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

A lifelong-learner, Grace was a charter member and organizer of the Marshfield Women's Study Club, as well as a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Grace was also an artist who enjoyed painting and drawing and making beautiful quilts with panels that included her artwork. One of her favorite hobbies was making historical, scientific and religious scrapbooks and gifting them to adults and children who were patients at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Throughout her life, Grace enjoyed collecting and preserving both community and family history, and she relished sharing these with family and friends. In 1972, as the city celebrated its centennial, Grace's efforts were memorialized at the North Wood County Historical Society Museum at Praschak Wayside Park with a portrait, engraved with the title, "Organizer of North Wood County Historical Society 1952."

