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Emily 6 years 5 months



Frank & Emily



Charlotte Jean, Frank, David, Emily
And Barbara Jean

EMILY BERGWALL JEFFERY

Jan Jeffery Robar's memories...

My Grandmother, Emily Bergwall Jeffery lived to be 101 (born in 1888). She had 3 children: Charlotte, David (my dad) and Barbara. She was a kindergarten teacher and even played the piano in class, for many years. She has always been a rock star for me as I credit her for changing our whole family from being Episcopalian to Catholic. In her 20s she met a priest who made a big impression on her and she converted. The whole family followed. She was a uber Catholic and I owe my love of the Catholic faith to her. Memories of my grandmother: canoeing up at the cottage to go get the mail, could identify Wisconsin wild plants and flowers, had a large loom that she weaved on (made blankest, placemats, etc.), she wove baskets made from materials she gathered from the woods, cooking on the wood stove at the cottage, playing cards at the cottage, she was always active and even rode a 3 wheel bike (with the grandkids in the rear basket!), she made rosaries for the missions and was responsible for opening the catholic church near her house in Bradenton for morning mass. She kept a daily diary and would often have a rosary or holy card in her hand. She became one of the curators at the pioneer museum at Cedar Lake Home (knew what all the implements were called and used for), and was family historian. My Dad was very devoted to her and when she lived at the Cedar lake Home near West Bend he visited her daily.

The years of faithful service at St. Joseph Church in Bradenton, Florida as a sacristan and mission rosary maker, estimated at over 5000 rosaries, by Emily A. Jeffery.

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Emily with Whitewater Normal friends



Emily the teacher



Emily in the bottom center, circa 1972.
David and Charlotte are at far right.

This document edited by Kathy Natzke

EMILY BERGWALL JEFFERY

Kathy Natzke's memories...

My grandmother Emily Bergwall Jeffery and my grandfather, Frank Jeffery moved to Bradenton, Florida when I was quite young so I have few memories of visiting them in Wisconsin. She was devoutly religious, and into her nineties was still riding her bike to the church every morning to get it ready for 6am mass. She made rosaries for the catholic missionaries and worked in her garden. Both she and my mother were deeply affected by having lived through the great depression, so detested wasting anything! We all remember the wonderful poverty cakes my grandma used to make! I got to know her better when she spent some time in our home prior to moving back to Wisconsin, and behind the sternness, I got to see how kind and sweet and grateful she was.

I have to think that many of these characteristics were part of the Swedish/Wisconsin heritage and I am proud to be a part of it.

Her conversion to Catholicism:

A notation made in the confirmation records of the Grace Episcopal Church following the name of Emily Bergwall shows that she was "presented to Roman Church, Feb. [14], 1909." A first cousin of mine, Mary Anne (Bergwall) Zaffiro, recalled Emily recounting her preparations to make the switch of affiliation. Emily described her approach to Roman Catholic priest Rev. Downs at Whitewater, Wisconsin, as a "most frightening experience." Emily attributed her fears to the fact that the Bergwall family's association with the Episcopal Church was widely known. Evidently, Emily was not deterred. Her conversion was followed by those of her future husband, Frank Jeffery,² and her own mother.

In a letter written from Hartland on June 29, 1939 to her daughter, Charlotte, in Hamilton, Ohio, Jennie wrote, "Just twenty-six years ago today I was received into the Cath. Ch.!" This comment establishes the date as June 29, 1913 when Jennie was 49.

² Emily Bergwall and Frank Jeffery were married on February 10, 1915 at Gesu Church in Milwaukee. They had three children: Charlotte Jean, David Bergwall, and Barbara Rose.

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View of city in Iowa, oil painting by Charlotte



Frank Jeffery with Blondie,
oil painting by Charlotte



Farm scene, charcoal sketch by Charlotte

This document edited by Kathy Natzke

CHARLOTTE JEFFERY CHENOWETH

Kathy Natzke's memories...

Charlotte was the eldest of Emily Bergwall Jeffery and Frank Jeffery's children. Like her siblings, Charlotte was college educated. She lived most of her adult life in Dallas, Texas and was married to William Chenoweth. Although Charlotte and Bill had no biological children, she was a wonderful art teacher at the exclusive Hockaday School for girls. Charlotte was an accomplished painter, sketch artist, and potter. She always claimed that an old burn injury to one of her hands gave her pottery a unique look since certain fingers had less mobility. Charlotte was likely the most talented artist in the entire Bergwall clan, and many of us own and treasure her artwork.



Charlotte



Charlotte and David



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DAVID JEFFERY

Jan Jeffery Robar's memories...

There are many things I admired about my father David Bergwall Jeffery. He was a very kind and patient person who was creative (especially carving and woodworking) and fun loving. He had a great sense of humor. He practiced his Catholic faith and imparted that faith to me. He volunteered with causes he believed in: the red cross, donating blood, teaching swimming to multiple children and adults, gathering swimmers together for swim teams as their coach and using his talents at church. Many people did not realize he had a day job as a designer at Amity/Rolfs Company because he was so busy doing other things for the community. I also remember, how for me, he would stop whatever he was doing and pay attention to me and my needs at the moment. I could go to him with anything I needed. When I decided to give up competitive swimming, he never blinked an eye but instead imparted a love of teaching others to swim in me that I did for many years. All in all, I was lucky and blessed to have him as a father.



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Barbara on her 3rd birthday



Barbara, Emily, Peter Natzke and daughter,
Kathy

This document edited by Kathy Natzke

BARBARA JEFFERY NATZKE

Kathy Natzke's memories...

I donated to the marker on behalf of my mother, Barbara Jeffery Natzke, and my grandmother, Emily Bergwall Jeffery. They both exemplified education, hard work, kindness, honesty, and a fair amount of stoicism. Emily, though born in 1888 had a college degree, so was able to work as an elementary school teacher. Such a feat for women of this era! My mother had a master's degree and was instrumental in getting a wonderful library built in the town in which my siblings and I grew up in, in Illinois. She was my father's business partner for his at-home printing business and became the editor and publisher of a newspaper dedicated to the news in our town, giving our town an identity and a sense of community. She never charged people for personal ads in which they were looking for work and loved to highlight good things that were happening in town. She led the charge for our town, Warrenville to be incorporated, so that we could have basic city services such as water, gas, street lights, police, etc.

Though we lived in Illinois my mother had a deep love for Wisconsin and the countryside. She was a fabulous gardener, calligrapher, leather worker, did needlepoint, papier maché, wove baskets, braided her own rugs, and was very do it yourself in all things. She was pretty much good at anything she tried and very, very creative! She volunteered in many organizations and was a wonderful girl scout leader.

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Jan and her husband participate in craft shows in Colorado, where Jan sells mittens, quilts, pillows, and hats, all of which she has made from recycled materials. Her husband, Steve is a woodcarver (like David Jeffery). Jan and Steve love making and creating these items.

Creativity continues...

Jan Jeffery Robar (Emily's granddaughter,
David's daughter)



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Creativity continues...

Jan Jeffery Robar (Emily's granddaughter,
David's daughter)



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Camille Natzke has worked as a fashion designer in NYC since 2004 and has done designs for women, men, children and infants.

Creativity continues...

Camille Natzke (Emily's great granddaughter, Barbara's granddaughter)

