

# Freeman and Welthy Albright

2005 Cemetery Walk

Pastor Dave and Kathy Erichsen

**Freeman:** Welcome, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am Freeman A. Albright, a former Hartley-ite, and this is my dear wife, Welthy.

**Welthy:** Hello. I am Welthy Gable Albright. I was born September 14 of 1896 to Paul and Lettie Bracken Gable right here in O'Brien County. I went to public school here and graduated in 1906. As a matter of fact, I lived my entire life in the Hartley area. People always asked me where I got my name. Well, my parents had an orchard on their farm and were surrounded by several kinds of fruit, you see. And when my mother was in the "motherly way" she liked the name Welthy after the welthy apple. So you see, my name had nothing to do with money. It was spelled like the apple, not like the money!

**Freeman:** It has been a long time since I heard that little story. Well, anyway, I was born January 26, 1896, to Martin and Kate Linder Albright. I graduated from Hartley in 1914 and began courting this lovely woman.

**Welthy:** Oh, Freeman

**Freeman:** Well, you were lovely; and you still are at the age of, what is it now?

**Welthy:** 108 ½

**Freeman:** Are you sure? I only made it to 71 years here on the earth! And going back to courting, do you remember when we took that little buggy ride one Sunday?

**Welthy:** Of course I do! Folks, I had the surprise of my life one Sunday while Freem (that's what I called him) was courting me. He showed up at my door in the middle of winter driving a horse-drawn sleigh through the snow. He had rented the sleigh from a livery place in town, and he drove it out to pick me up to have Sunday dinner with his family back in Hartley.

**Freeman:** That's right! The trip was a total of 26 miles both ways, but for some reason neither of us even got cold! The things you do for love! Well anyway, it was some time after that I entered the service. I was proud to serve in the armed forces for seven months in England, France and Spain. I came home in 1918 to marry Welthy on June 20. My folks decided to fix up the home place right nice for us when they built us a brand new house on the farm. That was just six and a half miles south of Hartley. I think they call it the Mohni place now. And together we made our living.

**Welthy:** Yes we did, Freem. Some people say we worked mighty hard back then. But I don't even think we thought of it as work. It's just what we did.

**Freeman:** You are right, my dear. I was a cattle feeder and trader back then and had a large herd of dairy cows. We employed several hired men who lived right in the house with us. Welthy was always busy cooking and washing for these men.

**Welthy:** And that was right along with caring for our growing family. We raised three fine children on the farm. As a matter of fact, all three were born in the living room of the Mohni place. Our oldest was Virginia who is now Mrs. Leo Pflanz of Sioux City. Then there was our only son, Merle, who now lives in New Mexico with his wife Jo. And our baby was Gloria, Mrs. Marvin Lux, who stayed right here in Hartley. Freem, why don't you tell the folks what you did for the community while you lived on earth?

**Freeman:** Well, folks, since I was a veteran of World War I, I was commander of the legion post for many years. I also served as a district officer of the American Legion, a member of the Beacon Masonic Lodge and I was a Shriner.

**Welthy:** Freem is just being modest, folks. His family was always so proud of him. He was a very prominent civic leader in Hartley. And you could always count on Freem having several fountain pens in his pocket when you met him on the street. And do you remember your favorite saying, dear?

**Freeman:** Well, of course. "I'll tell you boys". I said that a good many times in conversation for sure. Now dear lady, why not tell these folks just what you did besides cook and clean and wash and raise children.

**Welthy:** Oh, did you have to talk about wash day? That was not my favorite day on the farm. Something always went wrong on wash day. But I loved to garden and raise chickens. I also cooked for friends at dinner parties, and helped with chores around the farm such as washing the separator after the cows were milked. I even helped milk them sometimes.

**Freeman:** No, I mean what you did for the community dear.

**Welthy:** Well, I was a member of the Methodist Church, and a charter member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Klio Club, and Farm Bureau. Oh how I loved the Farm Bureau. I guess I held several offices in these organizations. But the socializing was what I enjoyed. It was just good to get together with other folks.

**Freeman:** Isn't that right? We had a good life here in O'Brien County, didn't we dear lady?

**Welthy:** We surely did. But you had to leave me after 49 years. It was so good to join you again just seven months ago.

**Freeman:** Oh, yes, and good to join these folks today. You see, we still enjoy socializing. We hope you enjoyed our part in Hartley's history. And we thank you for coming.