



On left is William "Bill" Francis Marschall and Laura Christine Klein Marschall on their wedding day on September 27, 1913. On the right is a picture of Laura Klein Marschall and William Marschall.



William "Bill" Francis Marschall was born April 2, 1888, son of Anton Marschall (1857-1945) and Catherine Siebenaler Marschall (1863-1902). He was born on the family farm in Eagle Creek Township.

On October 7, 1913, at St. Hubert's in Chanhassen, Bill married Laura Klein, the first daughter and third child of Emil Eugene Klein (1861-1937) and Angela Pauly Klein (1861-1948). Bill and Laura were the parents of Vincent, Rita, Esther, and Raymond. Laura enjoyed sewing, family visits, her church, and baking, especially her apple pie. She was deeply religious, attended mass daily, and a member of St. Mark's Christian Mothers, Catholic Order of Foresters, and the Third Order of St. Francis, according to *A Marschall Family History 1784-2007*.

Bill and Laura first lived on a rented farm near Riley's Lake, then lived in a house near Shakopee, and then rented a farm near Bill's parents' place. While Bill grew up farming, he moved back to Shakopee and operated the Mobil gas station on Lewis Street, and with his son, Vince, operated a farm implement business. The family bought a house nearby, and Bill enjoyed being in Shakopee and being around others.

For many years, Bill acted as Santa Claus at private homes, schools, and Shakopee's annual children's Christmas party. In the December 27, 1945 *Shakopee Argus-Tribune*, an article, "Shakopee Christmas Carol," noted, "If some wise guy told you there isn't any Santa Claus or that Christmas is just a day for kids, you can tell him he's wrong on both; and you can call upon some 30 shut-ins at St. Francis Home and Hospital to back you." The St. Francis Home and Hospital was the second hospital in Shakopee. The Sisters of St. Benedict erected a large two-and-a-half-story limestone building at the corner of Fourth and Atwood Street, south of St. Mark's Church. It became St. Gertrude's Convent and Academy from 1862-1880, the first school for women in Shakopee. Later it became the Poor House. In 1938, the Franciscan Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Angels bought and remodeled the Poor House and called it the St. Francis Hospital and Home for the Aged.

The old hospital continued to be used as a nursing home for 26 beds and convent before it was torn down and now is a parking lot. After further expansions, St. Francis Hospital renamed to St. Francis Regional Medical Center. St. Francis Hospital (the third hospital in Shakopee) opened in 1953. In 1996, this hospital was torn down and is now a parking lot, after a new, comprehensive and high-quality regional medical center campus was established for St. Francis Regional Medical Center at 1455 St. Francis Avenue.

"That typical hospital quiet that folks, the afternoon visiting hours when all the patients are resting, had settled as usual in the institution Saturday afternoon. The sisters and nurses were busy and out of sight. The long first floor corridor was empty and still.

"Quietly the north door opened and the stillness was gently disturbed by the small and measured tinkle of merry bells. Heads turned on white pillows, tired, searching eyes peered through open doors and caught just a glimpse of a rotund and beaming figure in red and white; they knew he'd be back and their happy ears listened intently as the tinkle faded at the far end of hall where the steps rise to the second floor and the home of the aged.

"…These were some of the residents of the home; these were the women who in years past had helped to make others happy at Christmas time. Now they were convinced the story that had been told was really true. As each received a simple paper bag encasing candy, peanuts, an apple and an orange, their smiling eyes grew misty; some drew frail hands before their faces and quickly retired to their rooms; some folded slight arms on their bosoms and literally hugged themselves in joy and gratitude.

"…Back down the stairs two graying ladies, bed-ridden for many months, could only turn their heads and fairly nod their thanks while







ATHER AND FIVE SONS joined the Shakopee Council No. 1685, Knights of Columbus, as a famil roup, in 1918. This was recalled last Sunday evening, March 17, when two of the Marschalls o is group, received recognition as they were presented 50-year Jubilee awards during the St atricks Day Ladies Night banquet at St. Mary's Hall in Shakopee. Honored last Sunday evening were eo Marschall of New Prague and William F. Marschall of Shakopee. They joined the Shakopee ouncil at the same time with their father and three other brothers. Left to right, standing, William Marschall, the late Henry Marschall, Leo Marschall of New Prague, the late Ferdinand Mars hall and Mat Marschall of Shakopee. Seated is their father, the late Anton Marschall. Other re iving Jubilee awards last Sunday were George Philipp and Willian O'Loughlin, both of Shakopee



On top is Anthony Anton Marschall (1857-1945) and Anna Katherina Siebenaler Marschall (1863-1902), parents of Bill. In the middle is Anton and his five sons, including Bill. The bottom picture is of Bill and Laura Christine Klein Marschall on their fiftieth anniversary.

happiness shone in their wrinkled faces. From door-to-door went the bells ringing and bringing joy to the men and women who were not to be home for Christmas. Their momentary misfortune was forgotten and in its place was a memory that will remain long after their pain and sugaring has passed."

Bill smiled and thought, "This was more fun!"

Bill served as Shakopee city alderman from 1943-49. At the same time, he was on the Scott County Fair Association Board. He was St. Mark's Men's Club president from 1938-1940. In 1920-23, he served as Eagle Creek Township Club president and was Scott County Farm Bureau vice president and director in 1935-39. He was Shakopee Sportsmen Club president. From 1930-32, Bill was Knights of Columbus Council Grand Knight and was a Third Order of St. Francis member. His last activity was in the Golden Age Club.

William "Bill" Francis Marschall died at the age of 81 years on December 2, 1969. Laura Christine Klein Marschall moved to Friendship Manor and died of pneumonia at the age of 85 years on November 21, 1975. She was buried near her husband at the Shakopee Catholic Cemetery.

Bibliography

Klein, Dorothy T. *A Marschall Family History 1784-2007*, 2007. Edited and published by Raymond W. Marschall and updated in 2007 by Katherine R. St. Clair.

"Shakopee Christmas Carol." *Shakopee Argus-Tribune*, 27 Dec. 1945.

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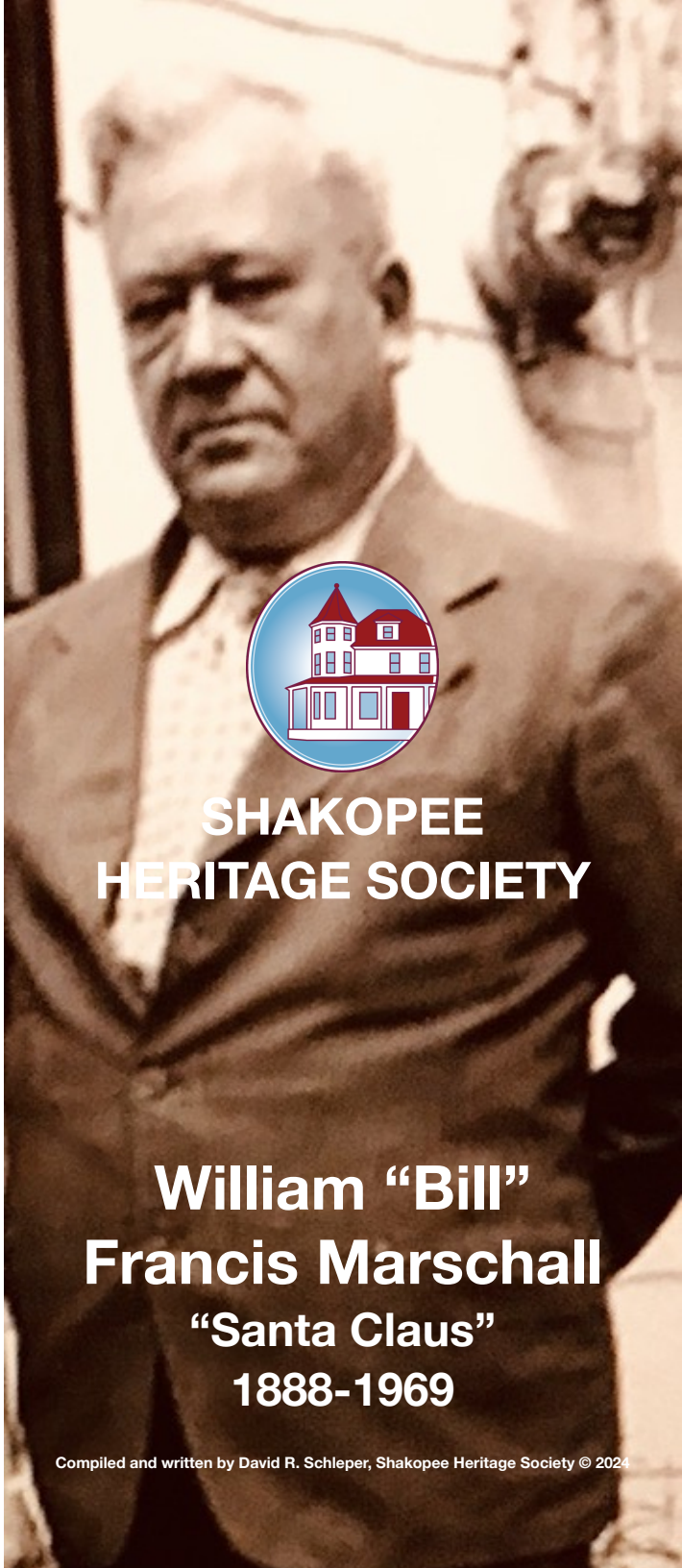

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William "Bill" Francis Marschall

"Santa Claus"

1888-1969

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