

### Dwight and Marguerite Burch

Dwight and Marguerite Burch were happily married for more than sixty-four years. They shared a love for music, their family, and their community. Together they raised five children, built a home on their family farm, and created a beautiful love-story.

Dwight was born in Walkerton, Indiana and shared his childhood with five brothers and two sisters. He attended a one-room school in the countryside of Walkerton, from which he graduated in 1914. He was working with his father on their family farm, but shortly after graduation, he moved to Hamlet, Indiana.



**Marguerite and Dwight Burch**

Marguerite was born in Hamlet. She was one of five children—two brothers and two sisters. She also attended a country school with her siblings. After graduating from high school, she went on to study education at Valparaiso University for twelve weeks. She then taught school for three years.

Dwight and Marguerite were childhood friends who never realized that their story together would last a lifetime. They realized the great love that they shared for each other in their late adolescent years. They married in 1925, after courting for more than three years.

The couple had five children - Marilyn (1926), Delores (1927), Carol (1928), Warren (1935), and Connie (1944). Dwight and Marguerite passed along interesting and humorous stories about the early years of their relationship, which their family would treasure.

One story was about the couple's wedding day, which didn't go very smoothly. Dwight actually had to go into work that afternoon, so they picked up their marriage license that morning. Dwight's suit had arrived with trousers that fit terribly, so they had sent them back for the alterations but didn't receive the new ones until 4:00 p.m. the day of the wedding. Dwight didn't even have time to eat supper that night, due to the chaos.

Their early years of courting also hadn't been as easy as falling in love was. Marguerite's parents didn't accept Dwight during the beginning of their relationship, so Dwight and Marguerite began to meet in secret at the theater or at her aunt's home.

Soon, however, Dwight visited Marguerite's parents to tell them he didn't want to have to sneak around anymore. As he pulled up to their house, though, something hit the roof of his car. Marguerite's sister had shot an arrow into the air! When Dwight told the story, he claimed that he thought it was Cupid. He did speak to Marguerite's parents, though, and it worked out in his favor. According to him, they accepted him because he treated her better than her own brothers did!

Dwight worked multiple jobs during his lifetime. He worked on his family farm, worked on a dairy farm and delivered milk to customers in South Bend, worked at a steel mill in Gary for a year, and he worked for an oil company.

Dwight also had the ability to repair his own farm machinery. While he was farming, he would work during the day, and in the evening he made repairs to his equipment. His family remembers him as an inventor. If he didn't have a particular piece of equipment or couldn't find it on the market, he would make it himself.

Once, he bought a Ford truck and then bought a Maxwell motor and transmission from the junkyard. Installing these into the Ford truck allowed for the truck to have an eight-speed transmission, which wasn't used during that time but is being sued today. He also created a sprayer for the crops that could spray sixteen rows at a time, another of his creations that is regularly used today.

While Dwight was farming, he sold commodities from the farm. He told his family that fat hogs sold for 3 cents a pound, oats for 13 cents a bushel, corn for 17 cents a bushel, wheat for 36 cents a bushel, and 50% butterfat cream sold for \$1.00 per gallon.

While Dwight worked on the farm, Marguerite cared for their children. She did the canning, cared for the hired men, and churned butter for three families. She also played music in church, which kept her very busy.

In 1933, the couple faced tragedy. The chimney in their house was defective and started a fire in their home. They lived in the country, and during that time, there wasn't a fire department nearby. The city fire department wouldn't go that far into the country, so they had to watch as their home burned to the ground. Marguerite's parents took in the couple and their three children. A few months passed, but they were finally able to move back to the same spot, where someone built a brand new home for them.

Dwight and Marguerite enjoyed taking part in community events and helping others. They both had hobbies - Marguerite played the organ for park events, and Dwight built grandfather clocks and wall clocks. They also enjoyed traveling to Holiday, Florida, where they began spending their winters in the 1960s. The two of them were also lifelong members of the Lutheran Church.