

Winifred C. George (1915- 1993)



By Robert E. Gatten, Jr.

Winifred Clara George was the third of six children born to Rev. O. H. Schmidt and his wife Alma, nee Kohn, on July 11, 1915 at Wetaskewin, Alberta, Canada. She lived with the family at Minneapolis and Chaska in Minnesota and Cincinnati, Ohio where she attended Hughes High School. She attended Valparaiso University for one year.

She worked in the toy departments of Carson Pierre Scott in Chicago and in Famous Barr in St. Louis. She then was employed at Continental Casualty in Chicago and in St. Louis and joined Employers of Wausau in 1963. She completed work for the C.P.C.U. and C.P.I.W. designations. She served as president of the local and regional National Association of Insurance Women. She retired in 1976.

She was united in marriage to Gerard George on July 1, 1947. He preceded her in death in 1974.

Since retirement she had been very active as a volunteer with the St. Louis Visitors Center downtown and at the airport, and as a volunteer at the Jefferson National Monument. That led to the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and she served as president of the Foundation in 1991-1992.

Winnie was instrumental in starting the Metro St. Louis Chapter of the Foundation and served as chapter president for the first five years. She was chairman of the 1985 annual meeting in St. Louis. She was also one of the principal coordinators of the 1991 annual meeting in Louisville.

Speaking of her work as a VIP (Volunteer in Parks) at the Jefferson National Monument, Winnie said recently, "Visitors notice my Lewis & Clark tie tack and I quickly say, "I'm a Lewis and Clark person.'

Indeed, she was.

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(George was a Director of the Foundation, 1985-1988; Vice President, 1988-1991; and Secretary, 1988-89. She died on June 12, 1993.)

*Prepared by Bob Gatten, 2011*