

Freadus Gilliom Sprunger  
(July 10, 1910 - April 25, 2010)



Freadus Gilliom Sprunger of Berne, Indiana was called to his Heavenly Home on Sunday, April 25, 2010. He was born in Berne on July 10, 1910, the first child of Jonas and Zilla (Gilliom) Sprunger. Freadus was a life-long resident Berne resident, always living within a few miles of his birth place.

Freadus attended the rural No. 8 Sprunger country school and Berne High School, where he played a cornet in the band. On May 23, 1935, he married Ruth Sprunger in his parents' new home north of town, with the ceremony conducted by Dr. C.H. Suckau. In 1940, they built the farm house near Berne where he continued to live until suffering a stroke on April 29, 2009. He then resided in Edelweiss Nursing Care at Swiss Village, where he died. Freadus and Ruth celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in 2005. Ruth died on September 3, 2005.

Freadus grew up in First Mennonite Church, where he was baptized and became a member of the church. He enjoyed singing in the Mennonite Men's Chorus. He was a member of Grace Bible Church.

Being very talented artistically, Freadus was a hand wood carver pattern-maker for Dunbar furniture in Berne. In 1952, when Berne celebrated its centennial, Roger Lee Sprunger designed an accurate pattern of the Bern, Switzerland clock tower and Freadus hand carved the clock tower model replica for Berne's centennial souvenir, from which bronze copies were cast.

Freadus retired from farming in 1987, but remained active on his farm. For about the past twenty-five years, Freadus planted many trees and shrubs. He kept his woods neatly mowed. He was often seen driving his golf carts, tractors and was adept at equipment maintenance, running chain saws and making firewood. As recently as April 14, he made a visit to his farm and cut grass with his riding mower---a favorite activity.

For many years, Freadus and Ruth welcomed countless friends and relatives to reunions and visits in their woods retreat. One of Freadus' favorite pleasures was giving hay rides to their guests. He loved having company and had no trouble remembering everyone's name, although he may not have seen them in many years.

Freadus skillfully made many things, from tools, to machinery, and could repair furniture and other things, so that they were better than new. He was a good bass singer and enjoyed classical music, especially brass music, and continued to practice his cornet until last April. He had a clear memory to the end and was a wealth of historical

information. He enjoyed keeping up with current events. He appreciated the good care of the Swiss Village nursing staff. He also liked speaking and hearing the Swiss dialect.

Freadus and Ruth were parents of Neva Fascial of LaGrange Park, IL; Rita (Tom) Burke of Fishers, IN; Agnes Sprunger of Green Valley, AZ; Gretchen (Rev. Ken) Curtis of Tucson, AZ and Dale (Judy) Sprunger of Van Wert, OH. Besides his children, Freadus is survived by six granddaughters, six grandsons, twelve great-granddaughters, and nine great-grandsons, all of whom have enjoyed playing on his farm.

Freadus is survived by his siblings Merlin K. (Alice) Sprunger of Berne; Doris Sprunger of Fort Wayne; Berneta (Don) Yager of Berne; Verne (Katie) Sprunger of West Chester, OH, sister-in-law Vernelle Yoder of Berne and many nieces and nephews. Preceding Freadus in death were his wife Ruth, his parents, brothers, Loren, Lowell and Otis Sprunger and his sister, Margaret Eggers.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 1, 2010 at the Grace Bible Church in Berne with the Pastor Charles Circle and the Chaplain Chris Thurow officiating. Interment will be in the M.R.E. Cemetery of rural Berne.

Family and Friends will be received from 2:00 – 8:00 p.m. Friday, April 30, 2010 in the Swiss Village Chapel in Berne and one hour prior to the funeral service at the Grace Bible Church on Saturday.

Suggested memorials are to the Grace Bible Church Missions, Gideons International, or Swiss Heritage Village.

**Yager-Kirchhofer Funeral Home online obit (accessed 7/8/2013)**