

Miriam Elaine Grasz Field (1918-2010) Elkhart County, Indiana, Fresno & Tulare Counties, California

Name:	Miriam* Elaine Grasz			Sex:	F
AKA:					
Birth Date:	28 May 1918	Place:	Nappanee, Elkhart County, Indiana		
Chr. Date:		Place:			
Death Date:	25 September 2009	Place:	Selma, Fresno County, California		
Burial Date:	30 September 2009				
Place:	Kingsburg Cemetery, Kingsburg, Fresno County, California				
Cause of Death:					



Events

- She resided at 957 E. Walnut Ave. in Nappanee, Elkhart County, Indiana in 1918. Miriam was born in this house.



- Church Affiliation: Nappanee First Brethren Church, Bet 1918 and 1938, Nappanee, Elkhart County, Indiana. Miriam began life attending the Nappanee First Brethren Church, the church of her parents. Not much is known about the church activities of her parents other than that they were faithful life-long members of that church. Miriam no doubt attended at the insistence of her parents. Upon marrying Howard she became a member of the Nappanee Methodist Church of Nappanee, Indiana. From various comments by Miriam her involvement with the Nappanee Methodist Church was a positive one. As she was an outstanding organist she was the organist of this church. It is not known if this was a paid position or not. She attended Sunday School classes and her first two were sons baptized in that church. After moving to Turlock, California, she and Howard transferred their membership to the Turlock Methodist Church. They were very active in that church and made many lasting friendships with other members. At some point Miriam became the official organist of the Turlock church. Whether she was paid for this service or not she enjoyed doing it. She would attend choir practice in the middle of the week and play on Sunday.

Following the move to Fresno she soon became the official organist of the St. Paul's Methodist church there. She was also active in what was known as women's circles and other organizations associated with the church. She taught Sunday School for sixth grade kids at one point. This was less than a positive experience. She was not a trained teacher and most likely did this because no one else would. Her son Eugene was in her classes and he remembers her having a tough time controlling the sixth grade boys of the class who no doubt were way more interested in the sixth grade girls than the Sunday School lesson for the week. She did not last long as a sixth grade Sunday School Teacher.

Her church attendance continued after the move to Kingsburg, California. As was her usual pattern she soon became the church organist. It can be said with certainty that her church attendance and loyalty was tied to her organ playing. This position lead to her eventual disdain for organized religion. At some point the Kingsburg Methodist Church decided that a new organ was needed. A \$40,000 instrument was purchased and installed and Miriam was set to make heavenly \$40,000 music. The wife of the minister very quickly informed Miriam that even though she had 12 years of piano and organ lessons, played the cello for a while, had experience in four previous churches with complete success, was the organist for a funeral home in Turlock and was qualified to play the less than \$40,000 organ of the Kingsburg Methodist church... she was in fact just not qualified to play the new \$40,000 organ! In complete humiliation and very hurt feelings she left the Kingsburg Methodist Church never to return.

From comments made by Miriam, it is certain she retained a basic belief in God. She would make comments like, "I talked to the Man Upstairs," and asked for this or that. But as far as having any desire to go to church it was ended with the organ debacle. Church attendance for Miriam was very much tied to the pleasure of music.

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Events: Miriam* Elaine Grasz	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She resided at 356 W. Market St. in Nappanee, Elkhart County, Indiana from about 1930 to 1938. Miriam was born at 957 E. Walnut St., Nappanee, Indiana. At some point before 1930 the family moved to 356 W. Market St. Her mother died in this house in 1931. Her father remarried and the family moved two houses east to the home of Mandy Blosser, his mother-in-law. They eventually moved back 356 Market St., where Miriam lived until she got married in 1938. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band Member: played the piano in the Nappanee Marimba Band, Abt 1936, Nappanee, Elkhart County, Indiana. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She graduated from Nappanee High School in 1936 in Nappanee, Elkhart County, Indiana. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She worked as a clerk-stenographer for the Indiana State Employment Office between 1936 and 1938 in Elkhart County, Indiana. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church Affiliation: Nappanee Methodist Church, Bet 1938 and 1945, Nappanee, Elkhart County, Indiana. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She resided at 155 Metzler St. in Nappanee, Elkhart County, Indiana between 1938 and 1945. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She worked as an Organist between 1938 and 1974. Miriam was the organist for the Methodist Church in Nappanee, Indiana, until she moved to Turlock, California in 1945. She became the organist for the Methodist Church in Turlock until she moved to Fresno in 1950. She was also the organist for the Hale Funeral Home while she lived in Turlock. She became the organist for St. Paul's Methodist Church in Fresno and also for a time the organist for the First Methodist Church of Fresno. When she moved to Kingsburg in 1973, she then became the organist for the Methodist Church there. At some point the Kingsburg Methodist Church purchased a \$40,000 organ. The wife of the minister of the Kingsburg Church told my mother that she was not qualified to play an organ of that quality. Her feelings were deeply hurt and she never played professionally again. This was a tragedy because she was an outstanding musician with years of training and experience. She was more than qualified to play the \$40,000 organ. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She immigrated from Nappanee, Elkhart County, Indiana, on 1 September 1945 to Turlock, Stanislaus County, California. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She resided at 410 Thor St. in Turlock, Stanislaus County, California between 1945 and 1950. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She moved from Turlock, Stanislaus County, California, in October 1950 to Fresno, Fresno County, California. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She resided at 3943 Maywood Dr. South in Fresno, Fresno County, California between 1950 and 1972. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church Affiliation: St. Paul's Methodist Church, Bet 1950 and 1972, Fresno, Fresno County, California. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She worked as an antique dealer between 1976 and 1988 in Fresno, Kingsburg and Modesto, California. The business was called Miriam's Antiques. They also sold antiques at various antique shows. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She moved from Fresno, Fresno County, California in 1973 to Kingsburg, Fresno County, California. In the fall of 1973, they lived in an apartment in Selma while they built the house in Kingsburg. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She resided at 40193 Rd. 32 in Kings County, California between 1973 and 1989. The actual residence was in Tulare County, just east of the county line which was the Kings River. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church Affiliation: Kingsburg Methodist Church, Bet 1973 and 1988, Kingsburg, Fresno County, California. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She resided at 333 Kern St., Park Kingsburg in Kingsburg, Fresno County, California between 1999 and 2007. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She resided at Bethel Lutheran Home, 2280 Dockery Ave. in Selma, Fresno County, California bet 1 October 2007 - September 25 2009. 	

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Events: Miriam* Elaine Grasz			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She was buried at the Kingsburg Cemetery in Kingsburg, Fresno County, California on 30 September. Tombstone Inscription: Loving wife, mother & grandma/Miriam Elaine Grasz Field/wife of Howard Allen Field/May 28, 1918 - Sept. 25, 2009/B. Nappanee In. D. Selma Ca, 30 September 2009, Kingsburg Cemetery, Kingsburg, Fresno County, California. 			
Father:	Floyd* May Grasz (1886-1979)		
Mother:	Tressa* Ethel "Tressie" Wilson (1886-1931)		
Spouse:	*Howard* Allen Field (27 September 1911 - 2 December 1988)		
Marr. Date:	6 May 1938	Place:	Nappanee, Elkhart County, Indiana
Children:	1	Eugene* Allen Field (1941-)	
	2	John Wayne Field (1944-1979)	
	3	Dennis "Pody" Robert Field (1946-)	
Burial Notes:			
Block 14, space 419.			

Chronology Report

1911	1935	1959	1983	2009	
					Name: Miriam* Elaine Grasz
					Parents: Floyd* May Grasz (1886-1979) and Tressa* Ethel Wilson (1886-1931)
					Life Range 28 May 1918-25 September 2009
					September 30 Cemetery: California, Fresno County, Kingsburg. Kingsburg Cemetery.
					1911 September 27 Spouse: Indiana, Porter County, Valparaiso. Howard* Allen Field (1911-1988). Born in Valparaiso, Porter County, Indiana. Died on 2 December 1988 in Fresno, Fresno County, California.
					Bet 1918 and 1938 Church Affiliation: Indiana, Elkhart County, Nappanee. Nappanee First Brethren Church.
					1918 Residence: Indiana, Elkhart County, Nappanee. 957 E. Walnut Ave.
					1918 May 28 Birth: Indiana, Elkhart County, Nappanee.
					Abt 1930-1938 Residence: Indiana, Elkhart County, Nappanee. 356 W. Market St.
					1931 March 11 Death of Mother: Indiana, Elkhart County, Nappanee. Tressa* Ethel "Tressie" Wilson (1886-1931).
					Abt 1936 Band Member: Indiana, Elkhart County, Nappanee. played the piano in the Nappanee Marimba Band.
					Bet 1936 and 1938 Occupation: Indiana, Elkhart County. clerk-stenographer for the Indiana State Employment Office.
					1936 Graduation: Indiana, Elkhart County, Nappanee. Nappanee High School.
					Bet 1938 and 1945 Church Affiliation: Indiana, Elkhart County, Nappanee. Nappanee Methodist Church.
					Bet 1938 and 1974 Occupation: _____ Organist.
					Bet 1938 and 1945 Residence: Indiana, Elkhart County, Nappanee. 155 Metzler St.
					1938 May 6 Marriage: Indiana, Elkhart County, Nappanee. Howard* Allen Field (1911-1988). In Nappanee, Elkhart County, Indiana.
					1941 January 20 Son born (#1): Indiana, Elkhart County, Nappanee. Eugene* Allen Field (1941-). Born in Nappanee, Elkhart County, Indiana.
					1944 August 31 Son born (#2): Indiana, Elkhart County, Goshen. John Wayne Field (1944-1979). Born in

Chronology Report

1911	1935	1959	1983	2009	Name:	Miriam* Elaine Grasz
						Goshen, Elkhart County, Indiana. Died on 10 November 1979 in Fresno, Fresno County, California.
		■			Bet 1945 and 1950	Residence: California, Stanislaus County, Turlock. 410 Thor St.
	▶				1945 September 1	Immigration: California, Stanislaus County, Turlock. from Nappanee, Elkhart County, Indiana,.
	▶				1946 January 28	Son born (#3): California, Stanislaus County, Turlock. Dennis Robert Field (1946-). Born in Turlock, Stanislaus County, California.
		■			Bet 1950 and 1972	Residence: California, Fresno County, Fresno. 3943 Maywood Dr. South.
		■			Bet 1950 and 1972	Church Affiliation: California, Fresno County, Fresno. St. Paul's Methodist Church.
	▶				1950 October	Immigration: California, Fresno County, Fresno. from Turlock, Stanislaus County, California,.
			■		Bet 1973 and 1989	Residence: California, Kings County. 40193 Rd. 32.
			■		Bet 1973 and 1988	Church Affiliation: California, Fresno County, Kingsburg. Kingsburg Methodist Church.
			▶		1973	Immigration: California, Fresno County, Kingsburg. Fresno, Fresno County, California.
		■			Bet 1976 and 1988	Occupation: California, Kingsburg and Modesto, Fresno. antique dealer.
			▶		1979 July 9	Death of Father: Indiana, Elkhart County, Goshen. Floyd* May Grasz (1886-1979).
			▶		1979 November 10	Death of Child (#2): California, Fresno County, Fresno. John Wayne Field (1944-1979).
			▶		1988 December 2	Death of Spouse: California, Fresno County, Fresno. Howard* Allen Field (1911-1988).
				■	Bet 1999 and 2007	Residence: California, Fresno County, Kingsburg. 333 Kern St., Park Kingsburg.
				▶	2009 September 25	Death: California, Fresno County, Selma.
				▶	2009 September 30	Tombstone Inscription: California, Fresno County, Kingsburg, Kingsburg Cemetery. Loving wife, mother & grandma/Miriam Elaine Grasz Field/wife of

Chronology Report

1911	1935	1959	1983	2009	
				◀	<p>Name: Miriam* Elaine Grasz</p> <p>2009 September 30 Burial: Howard Allen Field/May 28, 1918 - Sept. 25, 2009/B. Nappanee In. D. Selma Ca. California, Fresno County, Kingsburg, Kingsburg Cemetery.</p> <p>bet 1 October 2007 - September 25 2009 Residence: California, Fresno County, Selma. Bethel Lutheran Home, 2280 Dockery Ave.</p> <p>Best Man: _____ . Robert McAndrew.</p> <p>Church: _____ . Nappanee Methodist Church.</p> <p>Food service: _____ . Misses Myrtle Mae Field and Mary Field.</p> <p>Maid of Honor: _____ . Esther Pippen.</p> <p>Music: _____ . Cora Stuckman.</p>