

Family Group Record for Dr. Norman Ernest BORLAUG

Husband		Dr. Norman Ernest BORLAUG-[12109] ^{1, 2, 3}	
Born	24 Mar 1914	Cresco, New Oregon twp, Howard, IA	
Christened	1914	Saude Lutheran, Utica twp, Chickasaw, IA	
Died	12 Sep 2009	Dallas, Dallas, TX	
Buried			
Father	Henry Oliver BORLAUG-[12106] (1889-1971) [MRIN:3830]		
Mother	Clara Olsdotter VAALA-[12108] (1888-1972)		
Marriage	24 Sep 1937	Minneapolis, Hennepin, MN [MRIN:4118]	



Wife		Margaret GIBSON-[12791]	
Born	30 Aug 1911	, , , IA	
Christened			
Died	7 Mar 2007	Dallas, Dallas, TX ^{4, 5, 6}	
Cause of Death	Results of a fall.		
Buried			
Father	[MRIN:3830]		
Mother			

Children

1	F	Norma Jean BORLAUG-[12792]	
AKA	Norma Jean LAUBE, Norma Jean RHODA		
Born	27 Sep 1943	, , , IA	
Christened			
Died			
Buried			
2	M	Scott BORLAUG-[12793]	
Born	Nov 1944	, , , IA	
Christened			
Died	Dec 1945	, , , IA	
Buried			
Spouse	Never Married		
3	M	William Gibson BORLAUG-[12794]	
Born	29 Mar 1947	Waterloo, Black Hawk, IA	
Christened			
Died			
Buried			

General Notes (Husband)

REFERENCE:
 1. BICKEL, Lennard, "Facing Starvation, Norman Borlaug and the Fight Against Hunger", (New York, Readers Digest Press, Dutton & Co., 1974).
 2. VIETMEYER, Noel, "Borlaug", The mild-mannered maverick who fed a billion people. (Bracingbooks.com)

From age seven to nineteen, Norman worked on the 106 acre (43 hectare) family farm west of Protivin, Iowa, fishing, hunting, and raising maize, oats, timothy hay, cattle, pigs and chickens. He attended the one-teacher, one-room New Oregon #8 rural school in Howard County up through eighth grade. Today, the school building, built in 1865, is owned by the Norman Borlaug Heritage Foundation as part of "Project Borlaug Legacy". At Cresco High School, Norman played on the football, baseball and wrestling teams, on the latter of which his coach, Dave Barthelma, continually encouraged him to "give 105%."

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General Notes (Husband)(cont.)

He attributes his decision to leave the farm and pursue further education to his grandfather, Nels Olson Borlaug (1859 to 1935), who strongly encouraged Borlaug's learning, once saying, "You're wiser to fill your head now if you want to fill your belly later on." Through a Depression-era program known as the National Youth Administration, he was able to enroll at the University of Minnesota in 1933. Initially, Borlaug failed the entrance exam, but was accepted to the school's newly created two-year General College. After two quarters, he transferred to the College of Agriculture's forestry program. While at the University of Minnesota, he was a member of the varsity wrestling team, reaching the Big Ten semifinals, and helped introduce the sport to Minnesota high schools by putting on exhibition matches around the state. "Wrestling taught me some valuable lessons ... I always figured I could hold my own against the best in the world. It made me tough. Many times, I drew on that strength. It's an inappropriate crutch perhaps, but that's the way I'm made". Borlaug was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma in 1992.

A central figure in the "green revolution", Norman Ernest Borlaug (March 25, 1914-) was born on a farm near Cresco, Iowa, to Henry and Clara Borlaug. For the past twenty-seven years he has collaborated with Mexican scientists on problems of wheat improvement; for the last ten or so of those years he has also collaborated with scientists from other parts of the world, especially from India and Pakistan, in adapting the new wheats to new lands and in gaining acceptance for their production. An eclectic, pragmatic, goal-oriented scientist, he accepts and discards methods or results in a constant search for more fruitful and effective ones, while at the same time avoiding the pursuit of what he calls "academic butterflies". A vigorous man who can perform prodigies of manual labor in the fields, he brings to his work the body and competitive spirit of the trained athlete, which indeed he was in his high school and college days.

After completing his primary and secondary education in Cresco, Borlaug enrolled in the University of Minnesota where he studied forestry. Immediately before and immediately after receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in 1937, he worked for the U.S. Forestry Service at stations in Massachusetts and Idaho. Returning to the University of Minnesota to study plant pathology, he received the master's degree in 1939 and the doctorate in 1942.

From 1942 to 1944, he was a microbiologist on the staff of the du Pont de Nemours Foundation where he was in charge of research on industrial and agricultural bactericides, fungicides, and preservatives.

In 1944 he accepted an appointment as geneticist and plant pathologist assigned the task of organizing and directing the Cooperative Wheat Research and Production Program in Mexico. This program, a joint undertaking by the Mexican government and the Rockefeller Foundation, involved scientific research in genetics, plant breeding, plant pathology, entomology, agronomy, soil science, and cereal technology. Within twenty years he was spectacularly successful in finding a high-yielding short-strawed, disease-resistant wheat.

To his scientific goal he soon added that of the practical humanitarian: arranging to put the new cereal strains into extensive production in order to feed the hungry people of the world - and thus providing, as he says, "a temporary success in man's war against hunger and deprivation," a breathing space in which to deal with the "Population Monster" and the subsequent environmental and social ills that too often lead to conflict between men and between nations. Statistics on the vast acreage planted with the new wheat and on the revolutionary yields harvested in Mexico, India, and Pakistan are given in the presentation speech by Mrs. Lionaes and in the Nobel lecture by Dr. Borlaug. Well advanced, also, is the use of the new wheat in six Latin American countries, six in the Near and Middle East, several in Africa.

When the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations in cooperation with the Mexican government established the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), an autonomous international research training institute having an international board of trustees and staff, Dr. Borlaug was made director of its International Wheat Improvement Program. In this capacity he has been able to realize more fully a third objective, that of training young scientists in research and production methods. From his earliest days in Mexico he has, to be sure, carried on an intern program, but with the establishment of the Center, he has been able to reach out internationally. In the last seven years some 1940 young scientists from sixteen or so countries (the figures constantly move upward) have studied and worked at the Center.

Dr. Borlaug is presently participating in extensive experimentation with triticale, a man-made species of grain derived from a cross between wheat rye that shows promise of being superior to either wheat or rye in productivity and nutritional quality.

In addition to the Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. Borlaug has received extensive recognition from universities and organizations in six countries: Canada, India, Mexico, Norway, Pakistan, the United States. In 1968 he received an especially satisfying tribute when the people of Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, Mexico, in whose area he did some of his first experimenting, named a street in his honor.

Selected Bibliography

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General Notes (Husband)(cont.)

Borlaug, Norman E., "The Impact of Agricultural Research on Mexican Wheat Production", Transactions of the New York Academy of Science, 20 (1958) 278-295.

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Ladejinsky, Wolf, "Ironies of India's Green Revolution", Foreign Affairs, 48 (July, 1970) 758-768.

Myrdal, Gunnar, The Challenge of World Poverty: A World Anti-Poverty Program in Outline, chap. 4, "Agriculture " pp. 78-138. New York, Pantheon Books, 1970.

Paarberg, Don, Norman Borlaug: Hunger Fighter. Foreign Economic Development Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating with the U.S. Agency for International Development (PA 969). Washington, D. C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1970.

"Statement to the Press" from Dr. J. George Harrar, President of the Rockefeller Foundation. New York, The Rockefeller Foundation, October 21, 1970.

"U.S. Agronomist Gets Nobel Peace Prize", the New York Times (October 22, 1970) 1.

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Mikel John Reed, 3890 Collier Tr., Kennesaw, GA 30144

General Notes (Wife)

Norman and Margaret met while in college, as he waited tables at a Dinkytown coffee shop where they both worked.

OBITUARY: Dallas Morning News, The (TX) - March 15, 2007

MARGARET GIBSON BORLAUG, , MARGARET GIBSON Dallas, Texas. Margaret Gibson Borlaug, 95, died peacefully at Presbyterian hospital on March 7, 2007. She is survived by her husband, Norman; two children- daughter Jeanie Laube and husband Rex; son Bill Borlaug and wife Barbie; five grandchildren-Billy Rhoda and wife Stephanie, granddaughters, Jennifer Marsh and husband Dan, Julie Larson and husband Dave, and Tiffany Rubi and husband John and Natalie Borlaug; four great grandchildren-Kyle,

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General Notes (Wife)(cont.)

Matthew, Nicholas Rhoda and Anne Rubi; niece - Margaret Marie Breinholt and nephews Randall Gibson and Richard Gibson. After living 40 years in Mexico with her husband, in 1985, Margaret returned to the USA where they established residences in both Dallas, home of her two children, and College Station, Texas. She played an active role in her extended family, and was especially close to her grandchildren. Margaret's was the force that held the family together, the hands that steadied them, the arms that nurtured, the shoulders that consoled, the ears that listened, and when necessary, the stern voice that disciplined. It was Margaret's service to the family that permitted her husband to pursue his life's work in agricultural science and development. Margaret's husband, Norman, has been honored by kings and queens, presidents and prime ministers, farmers and intellectuals. Among his honors, he has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the U.S. Presidential Medals of Freedom and Science, and the Congressional Gold Medal. To her husband, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Margaret Gibson Borlaug achievements were no less important. She simply was, "the greatest 'Nannie' ever." A memorial service will be held at 10 AM on Saturday, March 24 at King of Glory Lutheran Church, North Service Rd, 6411 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75240

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General Notes for Child Norma Jean BORLAUG-[12792]

Norma married:

- (1) Richard H. Rhoda; m 18 June 1966, div 13 January 1989, Dallas, Texas.
- (2) Errol O. Laube (b 1938); m 9 February 1991, Dallas, Texas.

General Notes for Child William Gibson BORLAUG-[12794]

William married Barbara -----, about 1970; parents of Natalie H. and Tiffany J. Borlaug.

Source Citations

1. *Iowa State census*,, 1915 - Howard County, New Oregon Township; Roll IA1915-233, Line a721.
2. *Ibid*, 1925 - Howard County, New Oregon Township; 1 January 1925.
3. *United States Federal Census*, (U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, Collego Park, MD 20740-6001), 1930 - Iowa, Howard County, New Oregon Township; SD 3, ED 45-14, sheet 1A, Line 38, Dwelling 9, Family 9; 2 April 1930.
4. *Social Security Death Master File* (U.S. Social Security Administration, Office of Central Record Operation, FOIA Work Group, P.O. Box 17772, North Green Street, Baltimore, MD 21290-7772), Number 472 - 05 - 1191.
5. *Obituary*,, Houston Chronicle; 8 March 2007.
6. *Ibid*, Dallas Morning News; March 15, 2007.