Barbara (Wald) and Anton S. Kraft had their picture taken with their first of 11 children, Alice, in 1916.

Alice (Kraft) Charboneau posed for a picture on June 5, 2019, her 103rd birthday, in Coquitlam, B.C., Canada. See the story and photos inside.

Alice (Kraft) Charboneau celebrates 103rd birthday

Alice (Kraft) Charboneau, who turned 103 on June 5, 2019, in Coquitlam, B.C., Canada, is proud of her roots in Strasburg where she entered the world in 1916 while World War I was being fought in Europe.

Alice was the first of the 11 children of Anton S. and Barbara (Wald) Kraft, all of whom were born in Strasburg.

Her paternal grandparents were Stephan and Franziska (Fischer) Kraft, and her paternal great-grandparents were Peter and Katherina (Wald) Kraft, Sr. Peter was one of the first German-Russian settlers at Strasburg. They are buried at Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Strasburg, and Peter and Katherina’s tombstone is inscribed in German.

Alice only learned English when she was 10 years old because that was the age to receive instructions for first Holy Communion, and the teaching nuns would not let the children speak the language they spoke at home, which was German.

The Kraft family, who had farmed east of Strasburg, moved to Grand Forks about 1936 and then to Portland, Ore., during WWII. Anton, Sr. served in the N.D. House of Representatives in 1929.

Alice met her husband, Wilfred Charboneau, while working in Bismarck and shortly after they married and moved to Canada. Alice has three children, Bernadette Bouvette and Gerald Charboneau, who live in the Vancouver, B.C., area, and Joseph of Kelowna, B.C.

Wilfred, who was born in 1911, died in 2006.

She has three living siblings—Paul, 85, and Stephen, 83, in Portland and Elmer, 88, in Seattle, Wash. Her deceased siblings were Lawrence, Anton Jr., Agnes, Frances, Eva, Gladys and August, all of whom lived in Portland, Ore.

(Editor’s note: This story and photos were submitted by the youngest of the 11 children, Stephen Kraft of Portland.)

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