



Patricia “Pat” Eileen Heath (1923 - 2006)

Patricia “Pat” Eileen (Armstrong) Heath was born on March 15, 1923 in Chicago, IL to Clifford Harry and Ida Mae Armstrong. Pat’s mother Ida died of pneumonia in 1929 when Pat was six years old. Pat and her younger sister, Betty Jane lived with their father and their "Granny" moved in with the family to help raise them. In 1943, Pat married Alexander Peter Ustick. He was a Navy cook. They had two children, Clifford Michael and Linda Barbara. In 1951, Pat and her children moved to Edmond, Oklahoma. She married Russell Lee Heath in May 1955 and they lived in Edmond and raised Pat’s two children.

Pat became interested in history as an adult. She took her two children to many museums and historical sites. They didn't miss many historical markers either. Russell died in 1981. Pat moved to Lakin, Kansas in 1982 to be near her grandchildren. She worked at the Kearny County Library and became interested in the local history, including the Santa Fe Trail. She became a member of the Kearny County Historical Society in 1986. That same year, she attended one of Dr. Marc Simmons' Santa Fe Trail Workshops and became a Charter member of the Santa Fe Trail Association. Pat attended every Symposium and Rendezvous through 2004. She was the Director of the Kearny County Museum from 1991 to 2005. She included Santa Fe Trail information in her Museum Booth at the County Fair. Pat enthusiastically visited with anyone with an interest in history. Pat was a hostess for the Santa Fe Trail Bicycle Tours from 1990-2004. The Santa Fe Trail Association named Pat a Santa Fe Trail Ambassador in 1997. Pat received an award of distinguished service for Museum Community Service from the Kansas Museum Association in November 2005. Pat passed away on July 8, 2006 and is buried in the Lakin Cemetery.