



JOSEPHINE COLLINS

CHARTER MEMBER

Josephine was born in Mt. Sterling, Kentucky. Her husband and she moved to Ohio, where they farmed and frequently moved in order to find better circumstances for their family of five children.

Her collections included tea cups, crochet hooks, and a few thimbles, but she left most of the thimble collecting to her daughter, Evelyn Eubanks. Together they attended many TCI conventions and worked to host at least two of the pre-TCI get-togethers of thimble collectors.

Sandy Woodyard's memories: "I remember Josephine as always being happy and friendly. We shared a room (and a bed) at the Louisville, Kentucky TCI Convention. Members of Ohio Thimble Seekers (OTS) had decided to wear scarves with a wooden thimble around our necks. I had made myself a skirt to match this 'necklace.' Josephine loved it so much that I gave it to her before we left the convention. I also remember the program that Evelyn gave on the crochet hooks Josephine collected at one of the mini-conventions we hosted in Columbus, Ohio. I purchased a couple of crochet hooks to add to Josephine's collection. One was a set with hooks that screw into the handle; the other had an agate handle."

Daughter Thelma Manning's memory: "Josephine was a person who loved people, and if she met a person for the first time, they did not remain a stranger very long."

After Josephine's husband passed away in 1952, she knew she could not handle the farm by herself, so she moved to Dayton, Ohio. As a person who had to keep busy, she got a job as cashier at a local department store where she worked full-time until her 65th birthday and then part-time until she retired at 75 years of age. She was also involved in politics and volunteered to help candidates get their advertisements addressed for mailing or anything else she could help with. She worked at the polls on Election Day for many years.

Josephine loved to travel and went on many trips with senior citizen groups, with her children, or with anyone else who asked her to go along. She often told her children not to mention a trip they were planning in front of her, if they did not want her to go along!

She was always available and loved to accompany Evelyn to the many thimble conventions. Everywhere she went she always searched for thimbles, crochet hooks, Lydia Pinkham advertisement items, and tatting shuttles. Josephine urged her family to join the hunt as well.

Many days and weekends were spent at antiques shows, flea markets, yard sales, and auction sales or anywhere else she thought might turn up a treasure, and often did. Josephine remained in fairly good health until she passed away at 95 years of age in 1998.

These are only a select few of the crochet hooks that were once in Josephine's collection:



Brass and steel crochet hook, marked "606" and "HUTTON & C^o PATENTED LONDON," mid - to late 19th century.



Brass and steel crochet hook, with dragon, marked "Z. S. & S." on the hook cover, late 19th century.



Sterling crochet hook, marked "W.M.," Birmingham, sterling, and 1915 on the handle and "ENGLISH MADE" below the handle.



**A crochet hook by the late Eleanor Brand an OTS member and silversmith.
Marked "ECB, STERLING," ca. 1980s.**



**Another crochet hook hand-crafted by Eleanor Brand.
Marked "ECB," ca. 1980s.**



Mother-of-pearl and steel crochet hook.



Cathedral window bone and steel crochet hook, with Stanhope of a view of New York Bay, 19th century.