

Virginia and two other country girls (Marjorie Pierce and Leora Jones) stayed in a rented room in Blythedale. Virginia walked to town on Sunday and back home Friday evenings for the four years she attended high school. She graduated in 1939. Virginia stayed that winter with Mom's Uncle Ted and Aunt Nell Hill in Lamoni, Iowa.

Carol received a doll for Christmas that year. Virginia made that doll several items of clothing: A velvet coat, crocheted dress and other cute outfits. I wonder if Carol still has that doll (Carol said, "Yes, I do have the doll"). Off and on Virginia stayed with different families that needed extra help. Later she attended Chillicothe Business College.

Chapter 3 Mount Pleasant II Church

Mt. Pleasant Church is located about one mile east of our house. The present church building was built in 1877, according to a history of the church, written in 1973, our great-grandfather. Billy Fowler was one of the men that made long trips to Princeton, Mo., by team and wagon, going one day and returning the next, for lumber to build the new church. The history also stated our grandmother, Carrie Hill, was Superintendent. Mom said Grandma Hill was Superintendent for many years. In January 1913, Carrie Hill was the first president of the Ladies Aid Society. This group of women made a quilt for Augusta Lindrose as a gift when she moved away. My Grandmother Caroline Shepherd Hill and my mother, Maude Hill, each made a block for the quilt. I now have that quilt. I had Randall buy it for me when it was sold by Madalyn Hutton, Augusta's granddaughter, at an Auction in 1989, for \$200.00. I helped the Ladies Aid Society when I was a teenager. The Society would do spring cleaning for some of the ladies in the community. I helped clean Hattie Richardson's house. We took everything out of the house and really cleaned it all before moving things back into the house. A big job.

We kids walked to the Mt. Pleasant Church to attend Sunday School each Sunday. Once in awhile we would catch a ride with Albert and Hattie Richardson and their son, Wayne. Harvey Richardson was the Sunday School Superintendent for 40 years, all the years we attended as kids. He gave Bibles to children who had perfect attendance. I did not receive a Bible. I got material to make a new dress. Church service was only held once a month, if that, for several years. Dad would give us each two or three pennies for the Offering Plate. Mom and Dad often went to Church when they had preachin'.

If one of us Fowler kids would misbehave Mom would thump us on the head and we knew we had better be good. Dad nearly always went to church during Revival.

When we were little the church was just one big room. It had a big wood stove and gas ceiling lamps. The ceiling lamps were "neat". Some man would use a long pole with a clamp on the end, to turn them on, light them, or turn them off. There was an old outdoor toilet with a door that hardly opened. The church had two separate doors in the back, with long aisles between the rows of seats, leading up to the pulpit. (The church has been remodeled since then).

Each summer we put on a Children's Day Program. We would walk to the church every day to practice. The main part of the program was, as the History of Mt. Pleasant Church stated, a complicated drill. We girls would march and march in and out, round and about, while one of the Jones girls, Wilma or Leora, played the piano. I was usually the youngest and shortest girl, so I led the procession. Later Roberta Baker led the group. Of course we had poems to recite and songs to sing. Kathleen fainted one day when she was up on the pulpit area practicing. It was a very hot day.

The Curtis Baker family lived east of the church about a mile or more. They had older kids. Loren Baker graduated with Randall. Wilma "Billie" was 2 grades ahead of me in high school and Roberta was 2 grades below me. Younger yet were C. R., and Clara. They went to Sunday School with us but attended the Mt. Pleasant Grade School which was on east of their house another mile.

Back to my story about Children's Day at church. Everyone would come for miles around and bring baskets of food. The women would spread the food out on long tables out in the yard and we would all eat and eat. One of Mom's specials was Scalloped Corn. In the afternoon, visiting preachers would speak to the adults inside the church. Most of the children would stay outside and play.

Some Sundays I would go home with my Mom's cousin and her husband, Cora and Harvey Richardson. They lived south of the Mt. Pleasant School about two miles. They didn't have any children and I loved to visit there. Cora had a china cabinet filled with cut glass dishes. I would sit on the floor and look at that and dream and dream of having one like it someday. (Years later when the china cabinet was sold at an auction I had my brother buy it for me and it is one of my proudest possessions). In May, a few days before Decoration Day, now called Memorial Day, we kids would pick wild flowers down near the creek, or any place we could find them and place some flowers on every grave in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery. This made us really feel so proud to be able to do this and have the cemetery look so pretty.