

Life and Times of Martha Warner

*Interviewed by Lisa Lashbrook; transcribed by Kate-lyn Rhoads; and edited by Gary Strohm.*

Martha Warner was born on April 20, 1928 on North 3rd Street in Marshall, the daughter of William and Rebecca (Long) Scott.

Over the years, Martha's family lived in the Freedom Church, Mill Creek and Mt. Pleasant Church areas and on Poplar Street, South 2nd Street and South and North 6th Streets in Marshall.

On the farm, Martha said that her chores included milking the cows, feeding the hogs, washing the dishes, doing laundry on the washboard, hanging clothes on the clothesline. (She noted that the clothes were homemade.) She and her siblings also gathered sticks and corncobs for the fire, churned butter, gathered eggs and rode horses. They went barefoot all summer.

"Meals were prepared on a wood and gas stove," said Martha. Her family especially enjoyed cured ham and bacon. "We butchered our own meat," said Mrs. Warner. "We had fresh brains and sausage and planted garden with lots of vegetables," They canned many of those vegetables and had plenty of fresh milk.

The neighbors would work together for bailing hay, butchering animals and making lard.

Martha said that she enjoyed school very much. She walked to school with the other kids in the neighborhood. "Sometimes students would lock the teachers out of the one-room school house," said Martha.

She attended the Bruselman School in 1934, then

the Jackson, Prairie, Marshall South, Union, Opposum Ridge and Number One Schools. She then attended Marshall High School.

Martha enjoyed reading, playing games, school activities, going to the movies and church and playing with her cousins.

"At eleven years old, I started working for Lula Thompson for 50 cents a week as a cook, housekeeper, laundry and so forth. I would walk to town to catch a bus. During high school, I worked at a bakery for Zane Arbuckle. Most of my career has been working with elderly people. After I was married, I worked at Burnsides Nursing Home, but a majority of my time was spent raising five children."

Commenting on her romantic life, Martha said, "I didn't kiss much. I got my first kiss at age 13. We were skidding on a pond. I started dating around 15 years old."

She was married on June 22, 1947 to Jack Warner at her sister Margaret Thompson's house by the EUB Church in Marshall.

Prior to their marriage, Jack entered the U.S. Army on October 9, 1940 and was discharged on August 13, 1945. He was also in the Navy Reserve for five years.

The Warners had five children: Earl, born on June 5, 1948, Donna and Daniel, born in February 1950, Lisa, born in March 1955 and Ronald, born in January 1957.

Among the world events which stand out the most in her life are World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War. "The Holocaust was worldwide and it was horrible," said Mrs. Warner. On the lighter side, she recalls enjoying drive-in movies, where they could sit on the ground to watch the movies and the fairs every summer.

Martha received the Marshall Pride Award in 2009 and has participated in the Friends of the Library and Coffee Chat and First Christian Church Cooking for the Connection. She cooked breakfast for the Joshua Men monthly for one year and was funeral dinner coordinator at the First Christian Church. She was also VBS refreshment coordinator at Butler Springs - Hillsbury, Ohio, a volunteer cook at Camp Illiana in Washington, Indiana. She was also a kindergarten volunteer for six years, a mentor with MAYN and helped with the Helping Hands at First Christian.

More family history:

Martha had ten brothers and sisters: William was born on July 29, 1922. He served in the U.S. Army and was discharged on September 1, 1945. Margaret (Thompson) was born on July 2, 1924. John was born on May 4, 1926. He served in the U.S. Army and was discharged on August 12, 1946. Jacob was born on May 31, 1930. He served in the military and was discharged on January 22, 1952. Alice (O'Neal) was born on May 28, 1932. Rita (Arney) was born in 1934. Mary Jane (Walker) was born on August 15, 1935. Truman was born on September 1, 1937. He served in the U.S. Navy and was discharged on January 3, 1963. Billy was born on May 12, 1946. Another sister died at three months of age.

Martha's paternal grandparents were Alexander and Caroline (first wife) and Helen (second wife). Her great grandparents Jacob and Hedy (Brown) Scott donated land for the Ohio Cemetery in 1870. Her great great grandparents were William and Hannah (Hagerman) Scott. Her father's siblings

were Lula, Otto, Merle and Roller.

Martha's maternal grandparents were J.N. and Nancy Long. Her mother's siblings were Alice, Effie, Mabel, Gifford, Laura, Edith, Phil, Jesse and Truman.