

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MEMORIES OF LIZA MEREDITH (nee Chapman)

(1893 - 1991)

(Chapman)

Liza was Harold and Archibald's older sister; she had one sister older than her. Liza grew up on a farm on what is now known as 'Chapman's Hills'. This farm was located approximately 3 miles south of Eagle on what is now Scout Road. This farm was located in Walworth County and in the Town of Troy. The girl scouts from Illinois bought this property. One side of the road is kept for their use, camping, etc. and the other side of the road was platted into 5 acres parcels and sold.

Liza's memories are as follows:

They were blessed with good parents and there was alot of love and kindness in their home. They were not wealthy, they were a poor family but much goodness was given to them.

Liza received her diploma from School District #5 in the year 1908. (This was the 8th grad.diploma). The school was located near Troy Center; from there she went to high school in Palmyra and graduated from high school in 1912. She went to Whitewater Normal School for 6 weeks and then went out teaching. Liza did not think you were prepared too well to go out and teach with such little training. She taught at a small school near Troy Center. (A one room school house). She had 6 pupils to start with and taught in that school from 1912 thru 1913. She said there were only 2 pupils left so they closed the school. She had 2 pupils that graduated under her; their names were Carl Hopkins and his sister Eleanor. She said they were both very smart sometimes smarter than the teacher. Both of them are deceased now. Carl Hopkins became a mail carrier and Eleanor a housewife. From there she taught in District #5 in the town of Troy Center from 1915 to 1918. Liza got married in May 1925 to Irving Meredith who had lived not too far away from the homestead.

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Irving Meredith was a farmer and was proud of Liza's profession of being a teacher. Liza taught school for 10 years and then worked for Dr. Fitzgerald who had an office and hospital in the village of Eagle. She stayed home basically after that and was just a 'farmer's wife' which she enjoyed. The original Meredith homestead was on Hwy 67 about a mile south of Eagle. Today, only an abandoned windmill remains on the site. They were married less than 2 years when Irving Meredith passed away. Liza's father wanted her to come home and live saying she wouldn't be able to farm the 80 acres on her own. She also worked for Dr. Schmidt who also had an office in Eagle; this was about the year 1928. She took care of pregnant mothers and their babies..probably in Dr. Fitzgerald's hospital.

1912 - 1913....Randall District (Where Liza Meredith taught in one room schools

1914 - 1915 ...Baker School (This little one room school was situated on the corner of Bluff Road and Scout Rd) It was torn down about 1977 or 1978..

1917- 1918....Adams School

1918 - 1919 Stewart School

1923 - 1925...Baker's School Corners (East Troy)

1929 - 1944...Jeriocho School (taught 15 yrs. here)

1944 - 1954...Eagleville School (taught 17 yrs. here)

Most of her pupils were farm children until she taught at Eagleville School then some of the pupils were only living at the lake.

Liza said she's glad she's not teaching school now because from what she reads about the problems the school system has now with it's teachers, pupils, etc. she says it was much better in her day. Very seldom did she have to discipline her pupils and when she did all she did was talk to them. She lived in "The Best Age". Unquote...Some of her old pupils still keep in touch with her and many having chosen good professions in their life still come to visit her. Liza taught all 8 grades in the one room schools. The last year she taught at Eagleville School she was teaching 48 pupils in all eight grades. The older children would help teach and take care of the younger pupils. Her sister, Elizabeth, would also help Liza correct papers, etc. In 1950 when the school had rooms added on more teachers were hired to teach. Liza says they didn't have so many days off from school like they have now. she thinks they had to teach 180 days per school year. Mr. Stole was their principal then and he was also an excellent teacher. Liza was also a substitute teacher but doesn't remember how many years.

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Liza would substitute for Dorothy Mason from Palmyra who always went deer hunting. Liza would go to night school with Tina Kavanek from Palmyra for further training because she didn't graduate from college. She took the night classes at Whitewater. She doesn't remember there being any fund raisers for the school like there is now. She remembers the Waukesha Dairy Show which was held in Waukesha along the river. All the school children participated, making posters, etc. This was the forerunner of the County Fair. When she taught at Jericho School she stayed with the Walter Schaefer family instead of commuting back and forth because the roads were so bad. Liza Meredith had a new house built in Eagle by Arthur Juedes who sold his farm and sub-divided some of the land in Eagle. The home was built in 1957 on Park Avenue. Liza moved to Eagle with her mother from the home farm which had been sold. Her mother passed away 2 yrs. later in 1959. Liza passed away in 1991 at the age of 98.

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