

## **Genevieve Hamilton Marsh Spriggs**

Genevieve Hamilton Marsh was born on her parents' farm south of Lucasville on March 10, 1871. She was the 13<sup>th</sup> of 14 children born to William Absalom and Eleanor Overturf Marsh.

She was educated at the Marsh School, which still stands off U.S. Route 23 south of the intersection of Cook Road and is used as a house. And when Lucasville established its first high school, she was one of two graduates in the first graduating class in 1888.

Genevieve was very knowledgeable of not only classical studies, but she also developed a keen interest in both domestic activities and in horticulture and animal husbandry. She would just as likely be found outside with her father & his hired farm hands and brothers as she would inside the house, helping her mother & other domestic servants.

Life took a dramatic change for Genevieve when her father, William A. Spriggs, died on May 22, 1889, aged 65. The family struggled to settle his estate and pay off debts and claims put against them while still maintaining the farm. But eventually, all the lands would have to be sold to settle the estate.

Because of her love for farming, it is no surprise that, on April 19, 1892, Genevieve married local farmer John William “Bunker” Spriggs, son of John Crull Spriggs and Julia Ann Farmer (later Shuler). They took over operation of the Spriggs family farm east of Lucasville in Valley Township. The Breckenridge community of homes occupies the former farm.

Genevieve was an active partner in the care of the farm, its crops, and livestock. She kept a household and farm journal, detailing home remedies and other “tips of the trade” for farmers of the time.

She was also active in both the Lucasville Methodist Church and of Scioto Valley Grange, a social organization for area farmers and wives. One of the unique aspects of the Grange is that women could hold leadership positions, something that was almost unheard of in the early 1900's. Genevieve herself served as Master of the Grange.

John and Genevieve had a large family of eight children, who in turn grew to establish families & take on leadership positions. They are: Clara (1894-1976; wife of John S. Alley); Irma (1896-1978; wife of Thurman Milam); Clinton (1898-1989; married Gladys Bernthold); Marsh (1901-1976; married Garnet Keairns and later Mary Russell); Bessie (1904-1978; wife of Ashby Hawk); Charlotte (1906-1999; wife of Tracy Harwood); Louis (1908-1979; married Ann Jane White); and Kathryn (married William Smith).

Genevieve died on the family farm in Valley Township on December 15, 1945. She was laid to rest in Lucasville Cemetery.