

## Lucile Reese

I, Velma Reese Young, have written this detailed account of my beloved mother, Lucile Reese, in 1998-99. The dates when used were taken from documents or given to me by Lucile in August of 1997. She began her life story in August, but never finished it past her high school years and college.

This biography is written from a daughter's personal experience about a person dearly loved and held in highest esteem. Mother's accomplishments will never be read in history books, nor will her profile appear on a coin or stamp; but, she was my friend, a confidant, and a person of strength, courage, and high morals.

I read Arenna Woods and Lenora Montgomery's family accounts and wished they had written more. Their writings inspired me to write Lucile's. Future generations who read this story will benefit from Lucile's strength and accomplishments, as did her immediate family.

Velma "Lucile" Montgomery was born March 23, 1901 in Barry County, Missouri northwest of Ridgley. Exeter was the post office. Her father was Robert Carroll (March 12 1851-Sept 28, 1926). Her mother was Laura "Lenora" Woods (March 11, 1860-July 3, 1949(?)). Robert and Lenora were married Nov 9, 1882, Barry County.

She had two brothers: Harris C (Sept 18, 1888-Oct 8, 1945) who married Presh Roller (Sept 17, 1889-June 29, 1985); and Samuel "Marvel" (April 24, 1894-Nov 21, 1967) who married Ruby Reed (Nov 15, 1896-Dec 21, 1980). Her sister was Alva Grace (May 25, 1885-Feb 3, 1978). Alva Married Arthur Keeling (Feb 27, 1880-May 6, 1963).

When Lucile's family had names the same as a nearby relative, they usually were called by their middle name or perhaps the family just liked the middle name better. This custom makes looking up records complex as legal documents or records were signed by the full name or the middle name only. Mom always signed legal documents using her full name and is listed in the D.A.R. as Velma Lucile Reese.

Robert Montgomery built his home down the road from the old homestead of Samuel Montgomery, his father. When mom was a girl her fathers four sisters lived there: Rebecca Howerton, Dicey, Malinda (Lindy) and Elizabeth (Betty). Her father had other sisters also. Lucile started to write a short history of her

aunts and uncles but did not complete the writings. The four aunts greatly influenced their much-loved niece. They were prim and proper, hardworking, yet provided a loving and caring atmosphere. Alva Grace got married Oct 20, 1904 and as mom always said, "the sister that practically raised me left home and I missed her." The aunts always welcomed their niece as she often walked down the road for a day's visit. She helped them in the garden, hung quilts out to air. Dicey gave her "New York Beauty." She fondly talked of them, told us stories about them, and their gardening, weaving, and quilt making. We have some of their quilts and homespun, loom-woven counter panes. Mom gave New York Beauty to George Reese.

Goodspeeds "1888 History of Barry County," p180 tells of Lucile's grandfather, Samuel Montgomery. "Samuel Montgomery was born in 1805 in Virginia, and when a young man went to (Rhea County) Tennessee in which state, he followed farming until 1842 when he removed to Barry County, Mo, locating on Shoal Creek two and one-half miles south of James Montgomery's farm." James was Samuel's son. The information says had married Jemima Little and they were from Rhea County Tennessee. She was born in Georgia in 1808 and died about 1886. They were parents of eight girls and four boys. Samuel died May 27, 1885.

Lucile's brother Samuel "Marvel" raised his family on the Samuel Montgomery homestead-Raymond, Betty Ruth, Carl, and Clayton. Today (1999) Clayton lives there with his wife Iva Mae.

Lucile's maternal grandfather, Harris Woods (Sept. 17, 1824-May 27, 1885 (?Oct 27, 1916)) and his wife Arrena Spilman (born Dec 18, 1831 in Allen County Kentucky-died Dec 25, 1894) ha(?....Dry Valley.....) buried at the Dry Valley Cemetery near the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Woods family was Methodist.

The Montgomery family was very active in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Mom's family had helped establish the church and donated land for it. Many social activities revolved around the church. Mom told of potluck on the grounds. Everyone brought a quilt and spread it on the ground and enjoyed the potluck.

Robert Montgomery must have been a student of the Bible because he had an extensive library of fundamental Christian authors of the day. On a visit to the old home one time, I was amazed to see the books still in the shelves while most other items were long gone. They were dusty, neglected rain coming in

and no one cared. I wrote to Clayton later and asked him to donate them to some Christian College in Springfield but I don't know if he did. Later, Mom brought me several of the books including J Baldwin's Browns "Devine Mysteries" but most were lost as far as I know.

Our family never attended church as both Lucile and Floyd got away from their fundamental Christian Heritage. Mom told me that they were much disillusioned by the Scopes trial and Darwinism and were questioning the validity of the Bible. Church attendance became irrelevant to them. When Alva Grace died mom gave me the Sunday School Record Book, the Cumberland Presbyterian material from the Montgomery family, and Plubet's Sunday School Teacher's manuals. These are much-cherished items to me. Among the books was mom's Bible Story book she had as a child. Woods and Montgomery's (?.....).

Lucile wrote a little about her childhood so I won't repeat her information. The iron doll, Emma, was inherited by George Reese's family. Her special porcelain doll, Queen Victoria, she gave to Cheryl Rutledge in the 1980s. She had a rag doll which she left out in the rain. She wrote about the dolls in the Siskiyou Senior News in 1979, "Christmas Recollections."

She inherited her love of flowers from her mother, Lenora. Lenora's Dahlias were well known in the Exeter area. I have Lenora's dahlia list and one of her varieties was named Lucile. Mom grew flowers, pressed flowers, stopped along the highway to smell the flowers.

Lucile spoke often of Rhoda Powell and Dottie McNabb (Zimmer) and maintained contact with Dottie throughout her lifetime. We have pictures of these good friends. Jewel Keeling, her sister's daughter was also a good friend. Rhoda and Dottie attended elementary school at Hazel Dale with her. Hazel Dale didn't offer an eight-grade class as the tax dollars ran out. She and Dottie received an eight-grade diploma anyway. The next year nearby Cassville offered eight grades so she and Dottie lived in Cassville and attended eight grade. They both got a second eight-grade diploma on May 1, 1915, Cassville, Barry County.

Exeter High School could only offer two years of credits but April 13, 1917, the school gave her a full high school diploma. Lucile explained to me that there was no such thing as deficit spending. School districts used tax money for as many months as the dollars lasted and when the funds ran out upper classes were cut or the teaching time decreased. Hence, school years varied according to the availability of funds. School terms could be 4-6 months. If there was not

enough money the higher grades were not offered. Piecing Lucile's school days, high school units, college units would be very confusing and seemingly conflicting if she had not explained the funding custom to me.

When Lucile graduated from Exeter Missouri and was given a High School diploma after two years of classes, she was qualified to be a school teacher. Therefore, at age seventeen, she left home, went to work and never lived at home again. She received Barry County Teaching Certificate #4 to teach in Missouri for three years, second grade. She was hired by School Board District #6, Barry County, July 8, 1918 for a six-month's term beginning Aug 19, at \$45.00 per month. According to her teachers retirement list made out at Doris, California in 1969, the school was at Independence, Missouri. I have a picture of her with her class.

May 27, 1919, she had a receipt for Lucile Montgomery for incidental fees at Springfield Missouri State Normal School, 4th District and connected with Springfield Teacher's College. She had a vase with the Normal School logo on it, which Han Reese says Lucile gave to her. College in those days had high school units in connection with them and Lucile was taking high school units to complete four years of units. She told me some of the units also applied toward college.

According to her retirement teaching list she taught in Barry County for eight months for \$480.00 for 1919-20. I found a letter from one of her students, Otis Laney, written in 1969. He said he had been her student and commented on the fact that she was a good teacher at Ridgley. He had moved to Weed, California, 50 miles from Dorris and learned she was in the area.

Lucile taught at Hazel Dell, her childhood school, six months 1920-21 for \$360.00. By now her three year teaching credential had lapsed and in order to renew it, she needed four years of high school or her college units didn't count until she had the units. She went to Fayetteville, Arkansas and stayed with Dr. John Campbell, a family friend and medical doctor and minister in the Cumberland Presbyterian church. She attended the University High School and graduated June 2, 1921. She told me there were nine students including her who were allowed to go through the graduation ceremonies at the University of Arkansas in June, but didn't have enough credits until Aug. Her diploma was dated for June. Throughout her life, I heard her talk fondly about this wonderful segment of her life. She took many photographs with her new camera including graduation pictures, and people in Fayetteville. Since she did not write on her

photos who these people were, we do not know who they are.

After Fayetteville, Lucile attended Southwest Missouri State Teacher's College in Springfield between 1922-27 and taught school in between terms. Her retirement list says she taught in the Oklahoma District in Barry County, Missouri for six months for \$360.00 for 1923-24. March 4, 1923, she received a new teacher's certificate.

Oct 6, 1924 Lucile married Floyd B Reese from Mountain View Missouri (Nov 15, 1899-May 25, 1982). They were married at Springfield, Greene County. Floyd was also attending college. They both eventually graduate but I have no records of the years Lucile's cousin Jewell Keeling and Ray Reese (Floyd's cousin) also graduated from Springfield.

Robert Montgomery passed away Sept. 30, 1926 and his obituary says Lucile was living at Hunter, Missouri. Both Floyd and Lucile taught at Hunter and their son, Don Lee, was born there Feb 26, 1927. Mom's retirement list does not list Hunter but Granilin District, Carter County for 1927-28. She is listed as a principal.

By 1928-29 Lucile and Floyd were teaching at Annapolis, Iron County, Missouri. I have a letter dated April 8, 1929 highly recommending them both as excellent teachers and very active in the community. Lucile was the high school principal. Her contract was for Consolidated District #1 for nine months for \$100.00 per month beginning Aug. 1928. Her three-year teaching credential was renewed to a state of Missouri Teachers Certificate #593 licensed to teach Elementary and High Schools in the Public Schools of Missouri and renewable upon completion of eight hours additional credit dated Sept 17, 1929 and registered in Washington County.

Lynn Carol Reese was born March 24, 1929 at Annapolis Missouri, Iron County. Lucile did not teach again until Sept 1929. The contract was with Washington County District #3 for nine months for \$125.00 per month. Her retirement list says Mineral Point School and she was the High School principal for eighteen months. She was also there 1929-30.

While at Mineral Point, Floyd and Lucile were across the street playing pinochle with friends. They were shocked to see flames leaping from their home. It burned to the ground and they lost all their belongings. Don told me of the incident and he was most upset because that very day he had just purchased a

brand new scooter and hadn't even ridden it yet.

There are no records of teaching or classes for 1931-37 but I do have record of credits from University of Missouri, Columbia School of Education during this time.

I am not sure of the date that Floyd purchased property on the Jacks Fork River near Blue Springs which his dad, Lee Reese, owned, but it must have been 1931.

June 6, 1932, Russell Robert Reese was born in the house dad built on the Jacks Fork. Velma Elenora was born Oct 22, 1934. George Arthur was born March 23, 1936. Alva Jean was born July 24, 1937. Her birth certificate lists Shannon County, Dr. Ferril. She states that only she and Russell were delivered at home. George and my birth certificates list Howell County which is where the closest town, Mountain View is located. There was also one more boy born but Lucile says he did not live long as he could not keep milk down. Since three of my children had severe milk allergies and were put on goat's milk and soymilk, I'm sure this was a lactose intolerance problem.

The Montgomery and Wood's families have had a tradition of family reunions. At the time of this writing, the Montgomery's meet yearly at the Old Samuel Montgomery home place, usually in September. The Woods family in 1936 had a Centennial on Aug 12 at the Dry Valley Church Methodist Episcopal. Our family attended. I have a copy of the flyer. The grounds are seven miles Northwest of Pierce City and eight miles Southeast of Sarcorie. This was a Woods reunion.

In 1937 Lucile's retirement list says that she was a high school teacher at Eminence Consolidated District, Shannon County, 1937-38 for five months at \$1??. Lucile must have been very busy with teaching and family.

In 1940 teaching certificated #1735 was issued from Public Schools of Oregon County. She taught at Dalton Chapel, a one-room school, 8 months for \$65.00 per month. I was one of her 2 first grade students. Russell Don and Lynn were also her pupils. I recall Don being an especially good student. She was a patient teacher but a very strict disciplinarian. We moved from the Jacks' Fork to the "flatland" while she taught at Dalton Chapel and I can remember the girl who lived with us and took care of George and Alva Jean because she made her biscuits so salty we could not eat them. We all walked to school.

We moved back to Jacks Fork after the school year and in 1941 Lucile did not teach. In 1942 she taught at the Heelstring School, a two-room school. She taught the higher grades so she was not my teacher. Heelstring is in Shannon County and she taught for four months.

Country Schools were central meeting places for the community and I can remember Christmas parties, Easter celebrations, box suppers, and potlucks at the schools. All these activities were related to teacher's duties, but a teacher was highly respected and looked up to by all the community. Very few people in the Ozark communities went to college, but they highly respected those that did.

We made visits to Lucile's mother in Exeter and to her sister, Alva Grace, in Springfield. These visits were always highlights for the whole family.

Lucile always had a flower garden as well as vegetables and fruit trees. She canned volumes of fruits and vegetables using the hot-pack method on the old wood stove. There was no electricity so she washed clothes using the old washboard (Russell has it I think) in large galvanized tubs. I can remember spending the day at the river. She would build a fire, heat the water in the tubs and my job was to use a punching stick to swish the clothes around in the hot soapy water. Washday was lots work!

One memorable day, dad bought a gasoline run washing machine. It was a wonder to behold! He set up rain barrels on each corner of the house to catch water and I'm sure we carried some in buckets from the river, there was also a well which caught roof-water run-off. The old wringers rolled merrily away and did the hard work of wringing out water. It also wrung hands and arms and we got very adept at hitting the release button when feeding the clothes into the wringer and the hands began getting "wrung."

At the same time gasoline lanterns came in and light at night was so much better than the coal-oil lamps. Mom helped us with homework, corrected papers and could do a lot more work at night.

Lucile did the volumes of ironing using the old cast-iron irons that were heated up on tops of the wood stove (I have one). There was no running water into the house. The old pulley screeched and squeaked as it lowered and raised the bucket into the well for water. Drinking water was carried from a spring by the river and it was a good up-hill climb with a bucket of water. Lucile expertly

sewed all our clothes on the old treadle-singer sewing machine. Every usable scrap of fabric was saved from making dresses (usually from sugar and flour sacks prints) to make quilt squares. She usually made 4" x 5" pieces, sewed them together, put an old quilt or blanket in the middle for batting and used whatever fabric she could scrounge up for a backing. She saved every scrap from worn out clothing also. This habit of "saving" persisted all her life, even when she could no longer make quilts. She had boxes of squares all cut out until the day she died. All of the family has some of her quilts and I finished the least four from squares, and tops she had already sewn together. She yarn tied the quilts. I have written about the Montgomery quilts and Lucile's quilts in another writing so it is not included here. We were very snug and warm in her quilts.

As busy as she was, she always found time to spend with us. She was never cross, never yelled at us, always took time to suggest amazing activities when we were bored. Both she and dad played cards, softball, hide and seek with us. She was very firm and consistent in discipline and used the switch liberally. She never disciplined in anger and we knew we deserved every "licking" she gave us. She usually made us go out on the tree and get our own switch. Lucile knew everything and helped us with homework. Her keen intellectual mind could remember dates, places, and incidents up to the day she died. Her physical endurance was remarkable her entire life. She was respected by everyone students, family and friends. I never knew her to have a single enemy. She was a positive person and found good in most people. All races were to be valued as worthy. People were valued by work ethic, treatment of others, regard for property of other people. She always taught us to be friendly to all but choose your friends wisely.

Dec 7, 1941 the bombing of Pearl Harbor and World War II had an affect on all of us. Ration books were distributed (I have one). By 1942-43 Floyd was working as a carpenter at Fort Leonard Wood in Neosho, Missouri and we lived with Mom's mother at Exeter and went to Ridgley School. In 1944 we moved to Mountain View and lived in town. Mom does not have teaching in Mountain View on her teaching record but I remember her teaching at the High School so she must have substituted.

Floyd went to Los Angeles, California to work in the shipyard at Wilmington. In 1944 he returned to Missouri and moved all of us to California at Torrance. He bought a house there. Lucile worked at the Doak Aircraft Company. Her W-2

form said she made \$85.35 total wages for 1944. Her ID Card listed -age 43-5'4" weight 128 lbs. She had \$2.64 withheld in income tax.

We moved from Torrance in March of 1945 as my report card indicates I entered Blythe Elementary School March 19, 1945. Lucile did not have a California teaching credential so could not pursue her teaching career. She worked as a secretary for a gas company for a while. She enjoyed being a full time homemaker and the family did a lot of rock hunting and camping on the desert and near the Colorado River at Alligator Slough. She also collected purple bottles. We spent some summers in Vidal.

Oct 8, 1945 Lucile's oldest brother Harris died of an unexpected heart attack at 57 years of age. She was unable to go back to Joplin Missouri for the funeral but wrote a paragraph which was read at his funeral (I have a copy).

Our family took a trip back to Missouri in 1948 in the month of August. We left from Vidal. We visited her sister, Alva Grace, and Arthur Keeling. Her mother from Exeter was living with Alva. We visited the Missouri Reese's in Mountain View

After we returned from our Missouri trip we immediately packed-up and moved to Hilt, California in the foothills of the Siskiyou Mountains in Siskiyou County. When George and Alva Jean enrolled in the small elementary school there and told the principal their mom was a teacher, he lost no time in hiring her on a temporary credential. They were elated to find such a qualified teacher in their small mill-owned town. I have a newspaper article from the Hilt paper telling about her directing a play, "Here Comes Charlie" for the Parent Teachers Association. Mom had a supporting role in this same play at Southwest Teacher's College. I have a picture of her in the play in Missouri.

While we lived in Hilt, Lenora Montgomery, Mom's beloved mother passed away. There was no money or time for Lucile to make the trip back to Missouri. I vividly recall her mental and emotional pain at not being able to attend her mother's funeral and the memory is etched in my mind as being a seldom seen despondency for my mother. I grieved for her but was glad we had just made the trip back to Missouri and she had been able to visit with her.

Lucile enjoyed the outdoors and our family made many camping trips to Bear Creek and Elk Creek. As I recall she did most of the work while the rest of us had a vacation. She could fry trout to perfection over a campfire using a metal

grate and an old cast-iron skillet. She did balk once in a while when Floyd caught so many fish that she had to serve them three meals a day. He just happily went out and caught more! She also cleaned them. The fish were not large so she dredged them in a corn meal and flour mixture, fried them in lots of oil until they were crisp. We ate the cleaned and de-scaled fish bones and all, they were so crisp.

In June 1950 we moved to Dorris, California, Siskiyou County, a high desert-type area. Aunt Alva had a letter from mom, describing Dorris in 1956. It was a mill-town-box factory town at that time. Alva Jean and I were bored so Lucile helped us make a quilt. She called it a nine-patch in a letter to Aunt Alva. We quickly made friends and did nothing with the pieced blocks. Being a "saver" she boxed the blocks and put them in her sewing room. In 1995 she brought them to me in Pleasanton, all sewn together and said, "Now finish this quilt." I decided to hand quilt it not tie it and finished it around March 1997. When I went to visit mom for her birthday I forgot it to show that it was done. Also in Oct, so she never saw it finished but it remains as one of my cherished possessions.

Dorris was in need of a teacher and the principal was ecstatic when George and Alva Jean mentioned their mom was a teacher. They could not believe there good-luck in having such a qualified person in their small town of 800 persons plus a surrounding farming community. In 1951 Lucile began teaching forth grade at Dorris Elementary School. Her good friend at the school was Irene George.

Lucile always accompanied Floyd on his fishing and deer hunting trips. Deer camps were usually "dry" so every drop of water had to be taken in the large metal dairy milk can. One day while the men were out hunting, mom was washing dishes and a large buck just pranced into camp. Mom had deer tags so she picked up a gun that was leaning on the table, shot the buck, hung it from a tree, cleaned it and sat down to read a book, a history book no doubt. The men came in with nothing and it took them a while to see the carcass and her deer tags on the antlers. She never did much gun shooting and even surprised herself when she hit the animal.

By 1953 only Alva Jean and George remained at home. Lynn was at X, California, Don was working for Fish and Game, Russell and I were attending school at the University of California at Davis. Lucile had more time and thrived in Dorris. She was very enthusiastic about her fourth grade class and was dearly loved by her students and their parents. I can remember her receiving many

thank-you notes and I have some of them. In her retirement years, I often heard former students and their parents greet her fondly at church, at the Tulelake Fair, at Grange Meetings, and shopping trips to Klamath Falls. At the 1991 Dorris Christmas Parade the theme was education and she was Marshal of the Parade. I made her a special scarf from Lamae Fabric to wear. I forgot to bring a camera and borrowed one but it didn't work so my pictures did not turn out. One of the church ladies gave me one later so I do have a picture of the event.

Lucile was very active in the Dorris community. She was a campfire leader. She was President of the Butte Valley Federated Women's Club 1954-56 and 1988. I usually visited her in September, we always made pies for the Tulelake Fair and she worked in the Women's Club booth every year. She and her co-workers were very proud that the money they earned was used for the Dorris Community. Once they helped purchase equipment for the Children's Park. All Dorris clubs always gave cups and saucers to their Presidents so she would have five at least from the Women's Club. She had as many as 20 cups and saucers so she was active in many groups. She did not label them except for one so we don't know which organizations she received them from.

Throughout the years when our family visited her at Dorris, she had props everywhere that she was working on for skits, poetry recitations, and gable decorations for potlucks and dinners and teas. I still have the scarecrow table decorations; she made for Halloween on Thanksgiving in the 1970's. Henrietta Sunkwist was her co-worker in a lot of these activities.

Since Lucile was still teaching on an emergency teaching credential and the state was demanding full certification, both Floyd and Lucile began going to summer sessions at Chico State and taking extension courses such as ceramics offered by John Kempke at Dorris. At Chico she took art and learned to watercolor and oil paint. She took classes in Spanish and when she visited us we took trips to the California Missions as fourth graders take California History and learn Spanish. A lady of Indian heritage taught basket weaving using the long pine needles. Mom made an authentic basket that I have.

Both Floyd and Lucile received California teaching credentials but I have no record of the dates. Floyd taught at Butte Valley High School and left the Quarantine Station work.

In 1961 Floyd, Lucile and Alva Jean made a trip to Utah, Wyoming, Colorado.

They visited Floyd's sister Ona Belew in Colorado (Gould). They visited Aunt Alva at Springfield and Marvel at Exeter, Missouri. The Mountain View Reese's were also on the agenda.

In 1964 Lucile and Alva Jean made the same trip. They visited the narrow-gage railroad in Silverton, Colorado and mom gave me a piece of silver ore that had fallen off the boxcars. There are several pictures and a notebook, which I gave to Alva Jean.

Floyd and Lucile's relationship was always stormy but after dad lost his job teaching and the Quarantine Station would not reinstate him there relationship deteriorated beyond repair. In 1964 they separated. A divorce was granted July 26, 1965 and recorded in Yreka, Siskiyou County. Mom gave me a written account of the happenings which I have in her files.

Floyd never believed women should drive, so Lucile did not know how to drive a vehicle. She had to have transportation so Alva Jean sold her, her 1962 red Volkswagen, which she bought new in the San Jose for \$2000.00. Alva Jean taught her how to drive on the back roads of Dorris. She went to Tulelake and passed all the drivers tests and got her license. She visited our family in Salinas soon after and our first ride was quite an "experience" but soon she could zoom down the freeways and handle traffic with the best of drivers.

Lucile took her "bug" on a Missouri trip in 1966 and it is in her pictures of that trip. Alva Jean and Lucile visited many relatives. Alva Jean says she has the notebook mom kept. They visited Rhea County Tennessee where Samuel Montgomery originated. They found the Montgomery family Bible in the possession of Aunt Betty (a Montgomery) family and copied the births and deaths information via a copy machine. I have copies. Carl, Clayton and Betty Ruth made the same trip in 1985. Carl said the Bible was now owned by Carl Denton. Lucile and Alva Jean visited the old James Montgomery Cemetery and made rubbings of the tombstones and copied information. She copied obituaries also. I have copies. She took a lot of pictures, which I have. They could not find the exact cabin site but narrowed it to two sites. When Carl went he found the exact site. The cabin was torn down in 1980 and Billy Carney was using the hand-hewn logs to build a cabin and using the original fireplace limestone and mantle. Carl also researched Montgomery marriages, estate settlements of James Montgomery and made copies, which included the cemetery bequest to the community. Russell has Carl's original letter to Lucile describing the trip and the findings. I have copies.

In 1966 Lucile and Alva Jean also visited her Father's brother's, Joshua, people at Okmulgee, Oklahoma. They took pictures but many of them are not identified on the backs of the pictures so we don't know who each person is.

After the 1966 trips, Lucile wrote a lot of family history and made genealogy a hobby. Russell Reese inherited her genealogy boxes.

Lucile changed to third grade teaching in 1967 at age 66. The red "bug" began to mount up repair bills so on a visit to our home in Salinas, California, she sold it and Adam (Buzz) Young helped her buy a Plymouth Valiant by making the \$500.00 down payment for her. The Valiant served her well for the remainder of her driving days.

July 3, 1967 at Merle West Hospital in Klamath Falls, Oregon, Lucile had thirty-five gall stones removed from her gallbladder and twelve out of the ducts, but, by October she and Alva Jean made a trip to Vancouver, BC and Victoria, Canada, so the surgery did not keep her down very long. Alva and I visited her at the hospital.

Nov 26, 1967 Lucile and Alva Jean and Glenn, Alva's son, who was just a baby in a bassinet born in October, drove to Missouri to attend the funeral of Samuel "Marvel," Mom's brother. Alva Jean says it snowed in Colorado.

In June 1969 after spanning 51 years in the teaching field, with eighteen of those years at Dorris Elementary School, Lucile retired. Some of those years were interrupted by child rearing and three years in Blythe. She was given a retirement party along with Milton Armstrong by the school. I have a copy of the brochure she was given a box made of wood??? Held water colors, oil paints, brushes, art paper. She was not professional but very good with water colors and painted old barns, Mount Shasta, Tulelake ducks. She oil painted the old Missouri home of Robert and Lenora Montgomery twice. I have one painting and Don has the other. Every time she took camping trips with our family to Elk Creek, she painted madrone trees, Elk Creek. Russell, George, Alva Jean and I have some of those paintings. When Lucile received the box of art supplies, she made the comment that when she retired she would sit in her rocker and paint but her retirement years were too busy to be filled with rocking and painting. She became very active in Community, traveling, writing family history, visiting her children, going to libraries everywhere to research genealogy. Her "real" life had just begun.

Lynn Reese drowned in the Colorado River on Sept 9, 1971, at Blythe, California. Alva Jean had gone to the store and when she returned to the riverbank, he was not there. She formed a water search and found his body. His service was performed by the Masons and he was interned at Blythe. Mom drove to Pleasanton and rode with our family to the funeral. Her comment was "He was such a good, happy child, when he was a boy."

Lucile visited all of her children often. She went on trips with Russell and Jan, and George and Virginia. As long as she was able to drive she traveled everywhere. She was a great role model for all her grandchildren. She usually spent Christmas with us at Salinas and later at Pleasanton. A visit from Grandma was always special! We have many pictures of her visits. When we camped at Elk Creek, she, Alva Jean and Don would come and join us. Even in her seventies she would grab a sturdy walking stick and wade Elk Creek with me so we could collect driftwood and rocks. Her last trip to Elk Creek was in her late 80's. When she got in the tent we had prepared for her, yellow jackets had taken residence. I have never seen an older person move so fast to vacate a tent in my life. She did not get stung.

Lucile went with us on our first 1972 trip to Canada and Alaska. She drove her Valiant. The trip was a highlight for her; she took extensive notes, kept a diary and later wrote up the experience. I have a copy.

In 1973 she went with us on a Death Valley trip and saw all the marvels there before too many tourists destroyed the sites.

The summer of 1976, Lucile was helping her sister, Alva Grace, in Springfield. Alva Jean, Dad and I drove back there for the Reese Family reunion at Blue Springs. Dad ended up ill in the hospital but mom went with us to the reunion. We stayed with Uncle Charlie, dad's oldest brother. Mom showed us the old kerosene lamp and a marble top dresser that Charlie was keeping for her. The Reese family welcomed mom and were friendly and happy to see her. They seemed to bear no grudges about her divorce from dad.

Everywhere she went, Lucile pressed flowers collected rocks, and state plates, and bought old bottles and arrowheads.

Lucile joined the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution

Eulolona Chapter of Klamath Falls, Oregon. She established her lineage via Thomas Spilman in 1973. Alva Jean and Linda Umberg (Russell's daughter) also joined. Lucile had the DAR Junior group leadership for several years at Klamath. Linda inherited her DAR pins and paraphernalia. She is listed as Velma Lucile Reese on all her forms.

Lucile helped organize the senior club in Dorris in 1977 and was the president several times. She was president in 1997 at the time of her death.

She joined the Dorris Grange Oct 13, 1978 and was the lecturer several times and secretary-treasurer for 12 years until the day of her death. Alva Jean also joined. The Pomona Grange was the combined Grange meeting of several Granges in the area and she was a member there also. I went to many Grange meetings with her as a guest. She usually put on a skit, recited poetry during the entertainment parts. Her poetry recitations were very professional and enjoyed by all present. "Forty Singing Seaman" and "Highwayman" both by Alfred Noyes were two of my favorites, which I heard when she was in her nineties. Russ and Jan Reese made a video of her poetry recitations in 1992 when Don, mom, and I visited them at Small Meadows, California. It included: The Drought, the Highwayman, Forty Singing Seamen, Curfew Must Not Ring Tonight, and Cremation of Sam McGee. Byron Young, my son, recorded the same poetry in 1994 plus "The Touch of the Master's Hand." In 1980 Lucile recited "The Cremation of Sam McGee" by Robert Service for the Pomona Grange Talent Contest and represented them at the state contest in Riverside, California. Her costume included old boots, a white beard, and a beat-up old hat and although she did not win the state contest, she did the Pomona Grange proud.

Alva Jean and I helped costume her for her portrayal of "Gertrude Featherstone," a sinister looking for a man. It was a riot! We dressed her up in a mini-skirt, bright colored shirt, lots of make-up and she had great legs for a 94 year old. Once when I attended a Grange meeting, she used Linda Umberg's storyboard "The Turnip" to visualize all the activity helpers at Grange to get the job done. At the fall state Grange Convention in Yreka in 1996, she won a trophy for her skit on the "Model T Ford" by Dorothy Gilliam's. Alva Jean took her and took pictures. Alva Jean inherited the Grange pins, rewards, and trophy.

Since Lucile saved everything she had boxes of cards for birthdays and thank-you notes from all of these organizations and the church. I kept some of them and she wrote a note leaving me all the stamps on her envelopes.

Alva Grace Keeling, Lucile's sister, died Feb 3, 1978. She had asked mom to be in charge of distributing her personal household effects. From her Lucile inherited several of the Montgomery sister's quilts. Lucile has written accounts of what she knows about them and I have written an account including pictures and who inherited each one from mom. I did not keep an accurate account of who all inherited these items: a Curier and Ives print of Aunt Alva's bought when she was a teenager went to Russell Reese. Mom gave me in 1978 the set of dishes brought from England by the Howertons (but made in the USA) when they migrated to America. I gave them to Cheryl Rutledge, my daughter. The hand made Applician Basket carried by Jemima from Tennessee I claimed. The Staffordshire Teapot from England I inherited. The Montgomery metal candle molds Alva Jean inherited. Robert Montgomery old college kerosene lamp we all rejected thinking it was a more recent model. Upon inspecting it, I discovered it was the first kerosene lamp that mom wrote about the family ever seeing. It even has the logo Tennessee written on it. I shudder when I think about it! I'm keeping it! We almost put it in the goodwill! It looked like a "made in Mexico" type of lamp. The globe is chipped by it is in perfect condition. The baptismal dresses were divided among Russell, George, and myself and Alva Jean. There were no notes as to whom they belonged. Pictures were my responsibility and at the present writing are being put on CD-ROM to be sent to family members who want them.

Lucile began attending First Baptist Church n Dorris. She enjoyed Lucille Rushing's Sunday school class for seniors. The church group gave her a lot of support. Bertha Owsley took care of her for two weeks in her own home when Lucile broke her hip in 1993 as I could not get up there to help her until the third week. Bertha and Ruby Johnson, Mom's neighbor, also drove Lucile to meetings. Lucile had not driven since Trisha Kay Glick ran a red light in Klamath Falls and broad sided Mom's Valiant in 1987. Joe and Louise Libran helped also. Many of the church people were also in Grange such as Lee and Estella Harrington and Elsie Craddock.

Lucile was active and alert until the day she died, December 8, 1997. Alva Jean could not make the funeral as she lived in Oklahoma but she summed up her life as "unconditional love." Don helped her a lot by maintaining the house and property, cutting and hauling volumes of wood for the old wood stove to keep the house warm. He also took her shopping in Klamath Falls. He inherited the house and property. I have written an account of the funeral. She is buried at Picard Cemetery at Dorris, California. Her marker reads, "She loved family,

taught the ABC's, She cherished flowers, recited poetry."