

WHAT MARSHALLTON MEANS TO ME

Marshallton means a lot to me. I was born in the village and lived here until I married. I went to school here – in this building. The school, at that time, consisted of four rooms and two bathrooms. There were two grades in each room for a total of eight grades. I walked home for lunch every day since I lived close by. My favorite teacher was Miss Anna. She taught 7th and 8th grades here. She had also taught my father. He was thirteen years old when his family came to Marshallton, so he attended school here too.

I have many fond memories of growing up in Marshallton. We would play softball on the school grounds – no little league or organized ball – just a group would get together and have fun. I could ride my bicycle all over town with my dog, Mickey, following. We didn't have to worry about traffic because there were not many cars driving through town. I remember roller skating with my sisters and friends on the sidewalks. I also remember we would get in trouble with some of the residents, because they did not like the noise of roller skating. I enjoyed being a Girl Scout and earning badges. Our mother, Abbie Cann, started the first Girl Scout troop in Marshallton.

The Marshallton Methodist Church was important in my life and still is. My family attended church regularly and participated in the life of the church. My grandfather was a pastor of this church from 1909 to 1916. That is what brought my family to Marshallton. And, I'm happy to say they liked it and stayed. After I was born, my grandfather retired from the ministry and he lived with us. My grandmother had passed away by that time. My husband, Duke, and I were married in this church. Two of our four children were also married here.

I had an antique shop in Marshallton for 37 years. I opened the Blacksmith Shop in 1965, fulfilling a long time dream of mine.

In 1974 our family moved into a home on the east end of town. We enjoyed village life – walking to the Oyster Bar and Marshallton Inn for dinner, walking to church and knowing all our neighbors. We lived there until our family of four sons was grown and then decided to downsize and moved ten minutes away, although we still own property in the village and are active members of the Friends of Martins Tavern. So you see, my memories of Marshallton are spread over my lifetime. I left this area for short periods, but always came back. Many of my relatives, including my two sisters and their families, still live in the area.

We do not want to forget those who came before us. The Miss Anna's, the Harry Perdue's (Harry Perdue organized the Memorial Day Parade for many years. He also spent a lot of time writing the history of Marshallton), my parents and grandparents and those of many of you. They all cared about this village and contributed to the life we have today. We need to carry on and keep improving and preserving what we have so we can pass it on to future generations.

I am very pleased that the Supervisors want to make certain that this quaint village of Marshallton is preserved. With their support in improving sidewalks, lighting, traffic calming and providing these new entrance signs, Marshallton will always be a place young and old alike will be proud to call home.

Written By: Mary C. Evans
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