

### **Memories Packed In A Jar**

THE FOLLOWING NAME found while searching Adams and Scioto Counties' Cemeteries for locations and listings for grave sites of my families' and childhood friends' brought a poignant memory from when I was about 3 years old.

Sometimes a name, the flicker of a sight, a smell or a sound can bring a memory to mind. Thus the sum fabric of our lives are recalled to allow us an insight to our indelible impressions.

August 1999 while visiting the Sandy Springs Cemetery, Route US 52, Sandy Springs, Adams County, Ohio my cousin, Goldie and I came across a small, simple stone with brief words inscribed upon it.

#### **"SPEAKER, Josie B, 1898 - 1951"**

It brought the image of a smiling face with dark eyes and hair. I was surprised that I could so clearly remember this lady as I only saw her a few times; perhaps no more than three or four times in my life. I can still clearly see her face today, eighty-three years later!

Mrs. Speaker lived at Buena Vista, Scioto County, Ohio, across and a little further south on the street from my grandma Nettie (Hubbard) Clifford.

Many years later, in August 1999 I asked my cousin Raymond, who had also lived in the same house as our grandmother, if he remembered Mr. and Mrs. Speaker. He did not remember them. However, I have a memory of when I was very young of running in the cool evening grass in front of Mr. & Mrs. Speaker's garage while they smilingly watched from their front porch swing as our aunts and grandmother watched from Gramma's front porch. My cousins, Loretta, Bubby, Raymond and I were laughing and chasing after lightning bugs (Fire Flies)" and putting them into Mason jars. I can still remember the sweet smell of the dew on the grass; it was refreshingly cool and tickled my bare feet. Special memories packed in a jar.!

We left the jars open and placed them on the edge of the porch before going to bed.

Next morning they had all flown away just like memories of by-gone days. They have flown away, but the light still shines within our memories and our hearts.

by



8.18.2016