

A small flower garden grew in the front of the house. There you would grandmother's precious "pinies " (peonies), an old style moss rose bush, a syringa bush and some others that I do not recall. There were one or two lilac bushes. At one time a board fence (long bars) ran along the front of the lot, which gave way later to a red picket fence. Along this fence grew the hop vines which supplied her with the hops she used for making yeast. She gave many a start of yeast to people who came for it. And do you remember the "Bouncing Betsy" that grew on the outside of the sidewalk?

When grandfather bought the home, he planted an orchard on one-half acre of land and on the other side he planted lucern. I remember an incident that mother told about the lucern. She said that grandfather went to the store to purchase some loose radish seed and the clerk thought he said lucern seed. Anyway the lucern was there for many years.

I slept at grandmothers home eight years before she became ill and had to remain in bed. I did many chores for her. She would send me to the store or other places to do errands for her and when I returned she gave me a piece of bread and butter or a spoon-full of sugar. Grandma wore her hair parted in the middle in front and combed smoothly back and divided and twisted and tied in a bow over which she wore a black crocheted net. Sometimes a loose hair would find its way inside her collar. She would call me to come, "Iris, there is something itching my back. It must be either a hare or a rabbit. Will you get it for me?".

For two years before she passed away, she was too ill to leave her bed. Mother and Aunt Lizzie took care of her. They sat up each night, one until two O'clock in the morning and the other the remainder of the night. This for two years. She died on December 27, 1912. Had she lived until the following February 2nd she would have been ninety years old.

Aunt Sue placed a sheaf of ripened wheat, tied with a beautiful ribbon, upon her casket. A symbol of a completely life.

Written by Mrs. Iris Lewis (granddaughter)