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Mrs. Willis was born 72 years ago and spent her early childhood in a log house in the vicinity of Miles Chapel Baptist Church in Pleasant Grove. The family then moved to a larger home on Miles Chapel Road, around the corner from the church. She grew up with four older brothers and a younger sister and went to school in Pleasant Grove. Her father farmed tobacco on land he owned near the church and on other land down the road he rented. He left land at the rear of the church to his sons, whose widows have recently given it to the church, including the pond, which in earlier times provided strings of catfish to family members and neighbors. Another water place was the Dickey Mill owned by the Massey Family on Dickey Mill Road about two miles from the church.

Willis's mother used to love to fish there while the children floated leaves in the current below the dam. Two generations ago Willis's grandparents Prescott and Hattie Miles had purchased a good sized farm on Dickey Mill Road and gave the land for Miles Chapel. He lived to be 91 and she, 101. The old home place still stands at the corner of Dickey Mill Road and Miles Chapel Road. Their last child, Aunt Sally, still lives in the home, which is a local landmark. Aunt Sally refuses to leave because they deeded it to her. She will stay until she is diseased.

Grandma Hattie loved to go bare foot and she did a lot of walking, get out in the road and walk for miles with her hands behind her and didn't think twice about it. She would walk to Sweet Gum Church in Caswell County. She was a Kimber from Hillsborough. She used to bake hoe cakes and sweet potatoes in the fireplace. On election day in 1952 she slapped grandpa's ears and told him to vote for Ike because "he would bring the soldiers home." Grandpa voted for him and the soldiers came home. It's a mystery how they were able to buy the farm, but they knew that land was important and they didn't spend money on things like cars and clothes. And when their children grew up they sold them tracks of land rather than giving it to them because they thought the children would value it more.

Grandma made brooms of dogwood limbs to sweep the yard because she kept chickens which made a mess. She grew herbs and spices and made teas as remedies. An old photograph in a glass case in the entry way of Miles Chapel shows Prescott Miles and a gang of neighbor men standing in front of a raw-looking log structure, newly built, which was the first church, built in 1917. All the men were kin folks and farmers, including my grandmother's father, Uncle Jim Fuller. More details of church history follow, as well as memories of school days, child rearing and church relationships.