



Lena at age 19

LENA'S LEGACY

In 1929, the Roaring Twenties were coming to a close, color television was still a science experiment, and the Wall Street Crash kicked off the Great Depression. Less noticed but maybe more significant, a little girl named Lena was brought to live at the Children's Home. Resilience is born of adversity, though, and little Lena's story unfolds to show the power of faith that can send ripples through generations.

Lena's daughter, Mary Butler, fondly shares what she knows of her mom's story. Jessie Lena Terry Boggs was the youngest of nine brothers and sisters. Both of her parents had passed away by the time she was two. As is the case with so many families facing hard times, hers needed help, and they found it at the Children's Home campus in Brentwood. She and three siblings were signed in, and except for a brief time living with an older sibling, Lena spent her childhood there, eventually graduating from Franklin High School. She considered Dr. and Mrs. W.C. Creasman her "parents." Dr. Creasman, former TBCH president, gave her away at her wedding in 1953.

She received her bachelor's degree from Cumberland University and a master's degree at then Middle Tennessee State College, and then taught high school English. Understanding from experience what it means to help children, she pursued a career as an English teacher, tutoring students and pouring into the lives of her own three children. Her career took an interesting turn as she eventually worked at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, editing secret government documents.

According to Mrs. Butler, Lena spoke highly of her time at TBCH. She characterizes Lena as a wonderful mother, and a strong, Christian woman. This faith and strength of character carried her through an illustrious life and a courageous battle with cancer until her death at age 50 in 1976.

Perhaps the most amazing part of her story is how a little girl could grow up with these odds stacked against her, and yet still positively impact her own three children, eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. TBCH is proud to have its own history interwoven with that of such an inspiring woman, and is grateful to God for Lena and her legacy.



Lena (far right) and her siblings, Johnny, Ruth and Trudy, were residents at TBCH in Brentwood