

New Hope is the church Grandma, Betsy, went to. She was old line primitive Baptist. They had what they called Big Meeting once a year, 2nd Sunday in August. Back then, you could not go to the store to buy like we do now.

About the middle of July sand from the river or where they could find it was put in a pile & spread in the smoke house. Eggs were put on the sand & turned every day to have enough to cook cakes, pies, etc. for big meeting.

Grandpa & Daddy and some of the helpers would build lots to put peoples mules in. People had slow travel & would stay Friday night and Saturday night. There were so many the men would sleep in the cotton houses with a sheet on the cotton. The women & children slept in the house on beds & pallets on the floor. Grandma and Mama would have two colored women to come help cook & take care of the visitors. They were the colored women that lived on the farm. For a long time, they used the dining room to feed the men first, women & then children. I can remember it would be about sundown before children would eat.

Finally, they began building a long table on the east side of the house & everybody could eat at the same time. Boy you had to put the big pot little pots & all on. Kill a beef, hog, and several chickens to have plenty.

Daddy & Mama always fixed after Grandma married Mr. Gaskins in 1927. Grandma would come spend part of the week helping get ready.