

## From an interview of Allie Strobe by Mary Johnson

In March of 2013, I sat down with Allie Strobe to hear her recollections of our Ladies Missionary Circle, later named Ladies Missionary Society. As anyone who ever talked to Allie can attest, it was an enjoyable visit. I won't be able to convey all that we talked about that day but I can give an overview. The purpose of Ladies Missionary Society was to support our missionaries. It was once a month on Tuesday. Allie remembered that because that was the only day off she had so she could attend. She tried to recall all the attendees.



Some of them were Rhea Holden (Rich and Jerry Holden's grandmother), Lona Brinser (Allie and Tootie's mom), Lula Bell DeNee, Lois Strobe, Lois Hall (my mom), Myrtle Dunham, Joy Stephens, Ella Andreasen (Art Andreasen's mom), Tootie Harper, Blanche Stephens (Jody Stephen's mom), Pat Forde, Mary Ryder, Mabel Strobe, and Clella Maslin (Joy Sims grandmother). Jan Shear was one who would take the blocks home and stitch Bible references on them. Bertha Groats attended and I remember her as the "doll lady". There were many more but the names escaped her. And I also attended.

She recalled that when they tied the quilts, it was always Mabel Strobe who crawled under the frame to push the needle back up and make sure that the thread wasn't tangled and there were no knots. [As a side note, the church still has the four chairs and quilting frame that were used to tie all those quilts.] She remembered that nobody liked to put the bindings on.

Along with the quilts, the group made hospital gowns for the Seymour's in Africa. They would take donated men's white shirts and sew up the front and cut a slit up the back and take the collar off and put ties on them. They were supposed to be made with just white shirts, but at one point someone donated some stripped shirts and the next time Ruth Seymour was home on furlough she told the group that the patients would fight over the stripped shirts! So we kept on making them!

One quote that Allie said was, "You did what Myrtle (Dunham) told you to do!" And she also said, "She was a dear person." She was an amazing seamstress!

At each meeting they would have a short devotional. Lula Bell DeNee led them many times.

Another thing that the group did was have the residents of the Casterline nursing home, near Warren Center, come for a Christmas luncheon. We would make favors and have a nice dinner arranged for that day.