

August 22, 1966

The Harts drive Mother and me down to Charles Town via Baltimore and Frederick after Jim and I had worked a half day. We had a hot, humid, murky day and even the breeze was hot. Of all the country I've seen though, I still think the Valley and the Blue Ridge mountains are the loveliest.

We arrived about three thirty and went direct to Babbie's and Edith Gardiner's apartment on South Mildred Street. It's the first floor of a big, old, red brick house and was cool inside. There were so many relatives around that I didn't know who was who. Didn't have time for more than a word of greeting all around.

We left the cars out front and walked the 2 blocks to the church, entering the church yard at the lower end. Mother and Edith and a couple of others were driven down and Uncle Jack with Becky and Jack drove too. Uncle Jack looks awful and seemed very feeble. This was especially hard on him - he and Babbie had always been so devoted. That is a lovely old church and seemed cool and serene with white flowers in vases on the altar. I noted again the brass plaque on the left side wall to the memory of Nathan Smith White and Frederica Macky White. There is one tall lancet window on the right side that is not a stained glass memorial. I hope someday that we can band together and make that a memorial to Joseph and Rebecca White Trapnell and their children - most of whom lie buried in the church yard outside. (Uncle Tom is in Arlington).

There was a full vested choir and we sang two hymns - one of my favorites, "Welcome Happy Morning," and "O Love Divine." Babbie sang in the choir for years - so did Uncle Jack. And Edith was the organist for years. The casket had no pall but was covered with a magnificent spray of huge white chrysanthemums and red carnations. There were a minister and a deacon whom I didn't know, and Felix. (He and Olivia have a summer place in Maine and had driven all night in order to get there in time). The deacon took most of the service and had a good voice and delivery. Felix speaks with difficulty as he had a malignancy removed from his throat some years ago, but he said several beautiful prayers. I helped each other care for their mothers.

We all walked outside to the grave under the open green canopy where there were chairs for Uncle Jack, Mother, Win and a few others. Most of us stood outside of it during the committal service. The mound was covered with artificial grass and many sprays and baskets of beautiful and colorful flowers. Babbie lies in the lot with her parents and her two sisters, Emily who died of diptheria when she was seven and Fredericka who died when she was twenty of some brain ailment - possibly a tumor.

Afterward we spoke to relatives and some Charles Town friends (there were a good many townfolk present) and then dispersed. Some of us went back to the apartment on foot and saw each other off. A good many were going on to Shrinemont, near Orkney Springs, where they had planned to go for their annual get-together for the following week. They would have been going on Saturday anyway. Coke and Elsa, Bill, Berk and Tommy, the Holmes' and the Neds, Libby and

Rogers and his family. Sally went back to Washington with Hall and Betty and I think the Bowlings went home too. Win drove herself back to Manassas. - she said it takes only about an hour and a half. Tucker and her three were going to Shrinemont - Tucker and Becky for the weekend and Hunt and Anne were staying the week and going home by bus.

I kept thinking of all the times Babbie had been hostess to the family for the other funerals and how she would have enjoyed seeing all of us together.

The Harts, Mother and I left before six and drove to Frederick where we went out of our way to go into town to the Francis Scott Key Hotel for dinner. It was worth it. The traffic wasn't too heavy and it was cooler. We took Route 40 (duel) to the Baltimore Beltway and that to I-95 (Kennedy Memorial) and that right into Wilmington, getting home around ten thirty. The same route we took going down, when we did it in 2 hours and 45 minutes, which is amazing considering that when we were kids, the drive from here to Charles Town for a long summer visit at Rion Hall (Mother's aunt's home) took us almost all day long.

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Note: Edith and her mother and father first rented the north half of Grandpa's house on South George Street (he built it in 1870) in 1921 when he retired from his farm near Shepardstown. Mr. Gardiner died and as Granny and Mrs. Gardiner were both invalids, Babbie and Edith helped each other care for their mothers. I think Granny died first (May 1931) and Dad helped make the south half of the house into two apartments. Babbie had the upstairs and Edith the first floor. Mrs. Gardiner died either just before then or just after. Quite a while later, Babbie decided to sell the house and she and Edith took an apartment together. Edith is quite a bit younger than Babbie (she was 86 or 87) and nobody was ever a more devoted and good friend. We all owe her a great deal, because what Babbie would have done without her, I don't know. She certainly is a member of the family.

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Funeral of Rebecca M. Trapnell, August 19, 1966  
Zion Episcopal Church, Charles Town, West Virginia

2nd 3rd 4th Generations

1 Ben none present -----

2 Joe Laura Rawlins  
Libby Trapnell  
Rogers & Lee  
3 children  
Hall & Betty  
Bill & Berk  
Sally  
Tommy  
Polly Hilbary  
Scott Hilbary

3 Nell Kloman Rev. Felix & Olivia Kloman  
Tony Kloman  
Anne Hunter Jenkins  
Mark Jenkins - *midland Jenkins*

4 Will Coke & Elsa  
Holmes & Frances  
Jane  
Emily  
Ned & May  
Elizabeth  
Susan  
Jane & Nubby Bowling  
Betty Bowling  
Tommy Bowling

5 White none present -----

6 Dick's widow, Evelina Beatty  
Ricky Trapnell  
Tucker Rawlings  
Hunt Rawlings  
Becky Rawlings  
Anne Rawlings  
Anne & Jim Hart  
*McIntosh (V. H. Jones)*

7 Tom's widow, Win Trapnell

8 Jack (last surviving brother or sister)  
Becky Purcell  
Jack, Jr.

- 1 brother
- 2 sisters-in-law
- 16 born nieces and nephews
- 10 in-law nieces and nephews
- 14 born great nieces and nephews
- 3 born great great niece and nephews
- 1 in-law great niece