

# Mother Gindlesperger

By F. Pearl (Poynter) Gindlesperger

I was born May 6, 1894 in the country. The town was White Pigeon Michigan. To Clara Isabelle Gohn and John Ferguson. They were farmers but my father graduated from the University of Michigan and took a post graduate course in civil engineering. They were



*My picture as an infant.*



*My mother, Clara Gohn.*

math wizards. Could do long problems in cube root and extract some in heads without putting on paper. Mother was a great reader. Guess that's what I inherited as I loved to read and still do. When I was 2 weeks old I was brought to Indiana. As my father had died and Mother had to go

out to work. Came to Mother's aunt, Grandpa Gohn's sister's home John Poynter and they raised me. Lived quarter mile from the one room "Marsh" school, where I started when I was 4 years old. Ma Poynter boarded the school teachers so that's probably why I started so young. Our home was a mile east of Shipshewana Ind. I only remember a couple teachers names. I seemed to learn easy and when we finished the 7th grade they



*Mary and John Poynter.  
My foster parents.*

closed the school and we had to go to town, a mile away. But Indiana miles seem shorter than Pennsylvania miles. Had to walk tho. In the winter those that lived farther were hauled by sled.



*Taken when I was 2 years old.*

California. He and wife were there when the San Francisco earthquake was. So they left for Seattle, Wash. Then the A,Y,P or Alaska, Yukon, Pacific Exposition was being built and



*My home in Shipshewana.*

he wanted them to come. So we sold off things and went. Kept the 4 acre farm and nice house. Were there in Seattle 3 1/2 years. They got homesick so we came back. While there I started school in the fall. We had left Indiana in May. Went to last half of 8th grade to get into high school as I was too young and from too far away to go right into hi. So the next spring after I had gone half year to high school I got work in a store in the city. We had rented a house out in Green Lake, the northern end of Seattle. 9 miles by streetcar into heart of the big city. Always had a library book to read on the way too. I was tall and rather sedate being



Taken when I lived in Seattle, Washington.

raised with 2 middle aged people. So I could hold a job as clerk.

It was Frederick and Nelson's big plushe (sic) department store on 2nd Avenue. I clerked in the Ladies Home Journal Pattern Department. Tho at slack times I was sent to other departments. So did not go back to school that fall. As I earned \$5 a

week which was good money at that time for a young girl. My foster parent's daughter Minnie Davis and her family had gone also when we went. With their 3 girls, Floss, Florence (who was here one time) and Vera. We used to go to the many beautiful parks there and to a good vaudeville show, good clean shows then. So we came back to Indiana, then I was 15 1/2. So started to hi school



A post card from my home town.

that fall. There was no work there in Shipshewana for a young girl. Then too people had

wrote that the renters in our home were not much good and were destructive. So I went to first year in hi school then on to the second year. I belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church and always went to SS and church. Also belonged to the Queen Esthers which was our Missionary Society. I had joined church and was baptized in Shipshewana Lake. In the lake by being sprinkled but not immersed. I think I was 10 years old.



My church in Shipshewana.



My High School in Shipshewana, Indiana.



My entire High School.

Bees and the Alpha Zetas. I was an Alpha Zeta. We had a contest every spring. I spoke one year I remember, the "Portia at the Bar." You know how it went. "The quality of mercy is not strained, it droppeth as the gentle rain from Heaven." I don't remember if I won or not. We were a one room hi in the building with all grades. But believe me we had very good teachers and 4 solids with art, music and botony on the side if we wanted it. And we got our lessons and I think we learned as much as they do today with all the fancy things.

Of course your Dad appeared on the scene the last day of December. I met him and we fell in love like a ton of bricks. Quit school and married the 28th of March 1911.



Pearl and John Gindlesperger.

We had a good time in Hi school. Spelling bees. One girl, Alma Hostetler and I always spelled the whole room down. Also literary societys. Was 2. The Bumble