

## Help in the fields before the storm

By Rose Marie Vance

Mama Vera "Oleen" Gladden Vance told me, her daughter, Rose Marie Vance all the time how much she loved her mama; being the youngest of eleven children, mama Oleen was very close to her mama Vilona. Mama said not too long after one of my grandmama Vilona's baby were born, an awful storm was coming toward their place; a crop of what I believe was said to be corn needed to be picked to save the crop. grandmama dug a whole with a shovel to make a sitting place for the baby while she started in the field; grandmama prayed she could get it all in before the storm ruined it as the money it would bring was needed. Grandpapa worked out of town and or state and it was up to grandmama to take care of crops and bring in money to take care of the Homefront and children until he returned with some money. Grandmama was definitely rushing as fast as she could go but not making much headway on gathering; the storm was on the brink of bursting into the field and grandmama said she could she her short little mama, a red scarf on her head, going so fast that all you could see was arms flying in the air and her going faster than humanly possible. Grandmama mama had been passed on into heaven for quite some time, but that day she not only completed the job for grandmama, grandmama had her baby safely in the home before the storm hit with a horrific wind, and downpour of rain as if buckets were pouring from the sky outside. Grandmama said, Great grandmama Sarah Parker Neighbors was the best mama and worked hard from morning to night, with a gift to share time and love with her children and husband. My mama Oleen knew the story to be true and sacred.