Aunt Ruth was excited she knew it was Percy’s wedding day.

They all arrived in town several days before.

Samantha and Robert drove a wagon full of household furnishings from Aunt Ruth.

Ollie, Stanley and Jared were in another wagon loaded with some of Samantha and Robert’s things and Percy’s wedding items and food for the family.

Uncle Jerry and Aunt Ruth lift a week ahead to get there and help the Collins with the ceremony.

Aunt Ruth saw Eleanor and knew not to speak.

Eleanor stared at Jerry and Ruth and sat in her wagon and watched them go from one store to another.

Eleanor figured they were there for Percy.

Jerry watched Eleanor and did not say anything.

Mary said, “Who is that woman?”

Jerry said, “Percy’s mother.”

Mary said, “What do you think should we invite her to Percy’s wedding?”

Timothy was walking in the back of them with his wife and said, “Momma don’t get in that. That is Percy’s decision.”

Mary said, “Ok Timothy. But I was thinking about yall.”

Timothy said, “You are different. Trust me.”

Timothy wife pointed and said is that them?”

Jerry was holding tight to Ruth.

He told them Ruth had dementia.

They told him Percy told them.

They stopped and Samantha and Robert were grinning and waving.

Samantha spoke to Timothy and his wife.

She and Robert will be living down the street from Timothy and Sally.

Robert said, “You need help with all of that?”

Samantha said, “Who is that woman coming over here?”

Timothy and Sally and Mary and Jerry turned and saw it was Eleanor.

Ruth said, “Samantha you will like it here for a little while. The pace is slow and that will give you and Robert time to be together by yourselves. You won’t be out at different activities.”

Samantha had one eye on the woman coming to them and one eye on Aunt Ruth.

The woman passed by them.

Samantha turned in her seat and watched the woman.

Ruth said, “That was Eleanor Percy’s mother.”

Samantha turned and looked at Ruth with a puzzle and questioning look on her face.

Stanley and Jared stood and stretched.

Ollie got out the wagon and walked to Ruth and Jerry and hugged them and greeted Mary, Timothy and Sally.

Ollie said, “We are going to eat first…”

Everyone pointed across the street.

She said, “… and then unload the wagons.”

Sally said, “Baby can we join them?”

Timothy said, “Yall don’t mind if we join yall?”

Ollie was stretching and said, “We would love it.”

Ollie said, “Aunt Ruth you look so nice.”

Samantha said, “I was thinking that and wanted to say it. Uncle Jerry you put that outfit together.

Stanley and Jared helped Timothy put the wedding items in the wagon and they all drove to eat.?”

Tears came to his eyes and he shook Ruth’s arm and said, “No she did it by herself.”

Stanley and Jared kissed Ruth.

Mary thought, How tender and loving they are.”

Uncle Ben and Uncle Matthew were to arrive the next day.

They were opening a clothing store.

Ollie and Jared would stay and manage it until they hire someone.

Ollie loved Christmas in Philadelphia so Jared had to manage the store by himself.

Al taught Jared business skills and he graduated from school to be a bookkeeper.

Al was driving another wagon loaded with men’s and children clothes.

They bought a small building across the street from Percy’s office.

Percy was in his office working.

Ricky looked out the blinds and saw everyone arriving.

He saw earlier when Eleanor passed by the family.

He looked over at Percy who head was down, wondered if he invited Eleanor to his wedding.

Ricky was invited.

Jared and Stanley would be staying at the bed and breakfast with Percy.

They had to go to the train station and pick up Betsy, Herbert, Deborah, Bryson, Luci, Brianna and Thomasine.

They rented the same house.

Samantha, Robert, Ollie, Stanley and Jared stayed up all night working on their house.

Jared and Stanley they had the mattresses for the house and the bed linen.

They made up the bedrooms and kitchen.

Samantha and Robert ordered a table set and two sofas six months ago and the order should have arrived weeks ago.

They telegrammed the company but heard nothing.

They made the house nice with all the curtains and bedspreads and rugs Ruth gave to them along with everything for their kitchen.

Samantha and Robert were not sure if they wanted any children.

They wanted to be like Ruth and Jerry.

They wanted to travel the whole summer when school was out and visit their friends.

Samantha decided, Al and Lucy would stay in one bedroom and Matthew and Thomasine would stay in the other bedroom.

Betsy, Herbert, Deborah and Bryson would stay with Ruth and Jerry at the rented house.

They all meet at the church to decorate the church.

Betsy added items and flowers to the decorations that took the wedding upscale.

Mary, Sally and Shirley sat and watched.

Betsy brought a lot of food from Philadelphia.

Shirley looked because Percy’s family was fancy and they were plain.

Sally said, “I went by the clothing store when they were taking the clothes in.”

Shirley and Mary looked at her.

Sally said, “I bought me two dresses. One for the wedding and the other one Mary’s wedding next week.”

Mary and Shirley looked at Sally.

She cut her eyes at them and said, “I liked them a lot.”

Shirley said, “What did Timothy say?”

Sally said, “Nothing. He has not seen them yet.”

Mary sat and looked.

She said, “I finally saw Eleanor yesterday.”

Shirley looked at Mary.

Mary said, “She walked pass us. Jerry and Ruth did not speak to her.”

Sally said, “She watched us. She may have put two and two together. She walked by her head up in the air.”

Mary exhaled and said, “Shirley do …”

Shirley said, “No momma.”

Mary said, “Being Christians.”

Shirley stood and walked out the church.

Mary looked at Shirley.

Sally peeped around Mary at Shirley.

Sally looked at Mary who turned and looked at her.

Sally stood and left and went home to Timothy.

Timothy was sitting and he stood to greet Sally when she walked in the house.

Sally was excited about her dresses.

She looked at Timothy.

He was walking and pacing in the house.

Sally was scared.

She had not seen Timothy that nervous before.

Timothy looked at her and put his hands on his hips.

Sally did not move.

She was still holding the dresses in her hands.

Timothy looked at Sally and said, “I want to preach.”

Sally smiled and said, “I know.”

Timothy said, “You don’t know.”

Sally looked at Timothy.

He held his hand out to her and she did not know what to do.

She was still holding onto the dresses.

Timothy walked to her and said, “Put down the dresses. I don’t care about you buying yourself things. You cared about every penny. I don’t care. I am not happy. I want to go out in the world and preach God’s word and see God save people…”

Timothy was shaking Sally’s hands.

Sally looked at her husband and her eyes filled with tears.

She shook her head and wiped the tears from her eyes.

Timothy looked at her.

Her head was down as she wiped the tears from her eyes.

She said, “I’ll follow you Timothy everywhere. You have loved me and been good to me.”

Timothy said, “Look at me Sally. I know you were raised poor and you never had anything. God will not let us live in poverty. HE loves you too. I see that fire in your eyes when the Word of God is preached. You can preach Sally Collins. You can go far in the world.”

Sally still wiping her eyes and looking at Timothy.

She did not want to be poor anymore.

Timothy said, “Listen to the plan. Come and sit with me and you help me plan our future. If you don’t want to travel and preach the word of God. Tell me. Please me.”
Shaking her hands.

She said, “Timothy I just can’t be poor anymore. God brought me out of that and I know HE won’t put me back in it.”

Timothy picked up Sally and said, “Come Sally.”

Timothy and Sally talked their move.

Timothy said, “We can sell this house and live off the money.”

Sally shook her head.

Timothy said, “Or rent it.”

Timothy said, “I asked Percy to buy my coal mine.”

Sally said, “Timothy he is young.”

Timothy said, “I know. He said, he did not want me to have no money.”

Sally laughed.

Timothy said, “You haven’t laughed over the years. I always thought I failed you.”

Sally reached over and touched Timothy’s face.

Sally said, “Oh Timothy God gave you to me. I always felt your love, but I was afraid it would not last.”

Timothy said, “Sally my love for you is from God. It will last. Listen to my plan. I see you always want a house that’s ours.”

Sally said, “Yes.”

Timothy said, “Percy is planning on getting him and Shirley their own place.”

Sally laid on the sofa and put her head in Timothy’s lap.

 Sally said, “What about your mother and daddy’s house? Can we stay with them when we are home?”

Timothy got quiet.

Sally looked at him.

He looked down at her and kissed her.

He said, “I’m so happy you did not kick me out.”

Sally said, “Never Mr. Collins.”

They kissed and made their plans.

Everyone was so happy.

The neighbors were excited to have a wedding.

Betsy asked Shirley could she add a few special things to her wedding dress.

Shirley was nervous and said, “Yes.”

Samantha and Ollie did Shirley’s hair and makeup and nails.

Deborah was getting acquainted with the Collins.

She saw they were very plain.

Bryson introduced himself to Mr. Collins.

Was ill but was up and all of his sons bathed him, shaved him and cut his hair.

He was well dressed.

They had a wheelchair for him.

He did not want to use the wheelchair but knew he did not have enough strength to walk Shirley down the aisle.

Deborah saw the nice dress Mary wore, but it was a dress.

Jerry, Ruth, Herbert, Al, Lucy, Matthew, Thomasine, Ben and Brianna were at the church.

Stanley, Robert and Jared were with Percy.

Ricky was at the wedding with his guest.

Many of the workers from the different coal mines wee at the church and their spouses and children.

Percy said, “It’s a lot of people. Do we have enough food?”

Stanley said, “That’s not what you are to worry about on your wedding day.”

Percy said, “What then?”

Jared whispered in Percy’s ear.

They all laughed.

They walked in the church and Percy stopped and said, “Whoa. I know my family has been here.”

Shirley’s four brothers carried Thomas in the church, but they put him in the wheelchair and they walked up to the alter to be Percy’s best men.

Mary was standing with Thomas.

They were talking.

Ben, Al, Matthew and Herbert took all the food downstairs.

Thomas said to Mary, “That food smell great.”

Mary looked and saw the caterers bringing in the wedding cake and fruits.

Thomas begin to cough.

People in the church heard Thomas coughing.

Thomas walked out the church and many of their father’s friends were outside with him Mary.

Thomas saw Shirley’s wagon pulling up.

He asked the people to go inside the church.

He knew his daddy wanted to spend a few minutes with his only daughter before he handed her off to Percy.

Betsy stepped out the wagon with Sally, Deborah, Ollie and Samantha.

Betsy spoke to Mary and Thomas.

Sally’s dress really blended with Deborah, Samantha and Ollie.

Betsy put special touches on their dresses.

Sally’s blended well.

They walked in and escorted Mary into the church.

Thomas was anxious to see Shirley.

Shirley’s wagon pulled up and Betsy decorated her wagon with the extra flowers.

Betsy said, “I just had to use up the flowers I had. “

Betsy turned and said, “Oh my.”

Thomas laughed and said, “You did not know your food smelled that good?”

They laughed.

Betsy walked out to help Shirley.

Thomas was peeping and rolled the wheelchair so he could see Shirley.

Betsy pulled the rug to the wagon.

Shirley stepped out.

Betsy arranged her dress and handed Shirley her bouquet.

Thomas grinned and thought, “WE country people would never had done this.”

Shirley saw Thomas and went to him.

They spent a few minutes and Betsy walked in the church and looked around.

Everyone was looking at the stylish Betsy.

She had Bryson to stand at the door to escort her and Mary down to their seats.

He escorted Mary to her seat.

She looked over at Percy’s family and saw the wealthy and stylish people.

She was enjoying her grandchildren.

People were already talking about the fabulous wedding.

Genna was present and watching everything because she was to marry the next week.

Timothy saw her and laughed and told Robert.

They laughed.

When Shirley’s brothers saw her step into the church.

They could not believe how beautiful Shirley was. They only knew it was her because Thomas was walking her down the aisle.

Genna nearly passed out.

Her father caught her.

Percy watched Shirley.

He had no emotions.

He knew Shirley was his friend, now she is becoming one with him.

He was wondering.

Ben looked at Percy because he knew Percy had some doubts.

Timothy looked at Percy.

He looked at Been.

Ben looked at Timothy and they stood and watched Thomas escort Shirley down the isle.

Bryson escorted Betsy to her seat and they sat.

The ceremony was beautiful.

They had plenty food for the reception.

Everyone ate and danced and sang.

They helped clean the church.

Jared and Stanley were staying with Samantha and Robert for the rest of their time there.

Eleanor heard of the best wedding the town ever saw.

She realized it was Percy’s wedding.

Ben bought the coal mine from Timothy and gave it to Percy as a wedding gift from the family.

Shirley was shock and happy.

She looked at Timothy.

Sally hugged Timothy and he kissed her on the cheek.

Timothy said, “We’re going out in the missionary field.”

His brother said, “Tim, how?”

Sally said, “God will provide.”

Jerry, Al, Herbert and Matthew chipped in and gave Ben money for the coal mine.

Percy’s family did not see him and Shirley for a week.

Samantha and Robert’s furniture came.

They were packing up the wagons to leave, when Thomas caught them and told them his father had passed and he was going to tell Shirley.

They unpacked the wagons and stayed for another week.

Mary put her house for sale and moved with her sister Wilhelmina outside the town.

She would go with Timothy and Sally in the missionary field from time to time.

Timothy rented he and Sally’s house.

They would always come home for the holidays.

Mary was financially fine with the sale of their house and all the furnishings.

Wilhelmina lived in pretty cottage and they were happy with their gardening and working at the church.

Mary passed the next year when Shirley gave birth to Patrick.

Percy continued to build up his coal mines.

Shirley gave Percy five boys.

Over the years of their marriage Percy built Shirley a beautiful home.

Eleanor begged Shirley to talk to Percy to let her make up for her evil ways to him.

Shirley told Eleanor “I’ll send you a letter of Percy’s decision.”

Shirley said, “Percy I saw Eleanor and she begged me to ask you if she could see the children.”

Percy looked at Shirley.

Shirley said, “My momma and daddy are gone. If I did not have anything, but you came and kept me living. It is your decision about your momma. I told her I would send her a letter.”

Percy looked at Shirley.

He put his head back in his books and continued to write.

After two months Percy said, Shirley you can take the boys to see Eleanor, she is never to come to my home for nothing.”

Shirley nodded her head for yes.

Shirley would meet Eleanor in town and let her spend town with the boys.

Shirley would not tell Eleanor where Percy’s office was.

Percy would watch them from his office.

His sons loved Eleanor,

Ruth passed five year after Percy’s marriage.

She and Jerry and Al and Lucy would travel the train and come and visit once per year.

Percy wanted everyone to go to the farm for Christmas.

Bryson became governor.

Ben and Brianna and their son would come to visit with Matthew and Thomasine.

Samantha and Robert decided they did not want children.

They were becoming important in the state for education.

They were enjoying their lives and having fun with family and friends.

Ollie married a doctor at Herbert’s hospital.

Herbert decided to retire.

But the board made him the director over the hospital because the governor was his son-in-law.

Bryson and Deborah decided to have children because of Ruth’s dementia.

They had a set of twin boys.

Betsy was tired, running behind the twins, Ruth and Herbert she passed a year before Ruth.

Deborah and Herbert were devastated because Betsy was young.

Herbert spent most of his time at the hospital and he would travel with Al, Ben and Matthew to the town of to the family farm.

He enjoyed his grandsons when he saw them.

Deborah worried about him being in that house without Betsy.

Herbert told Deborah, “When it is time for me to go to your mother I will go then not before.”

He kissed Deborah on her forehead.