The Virginia Wall Story



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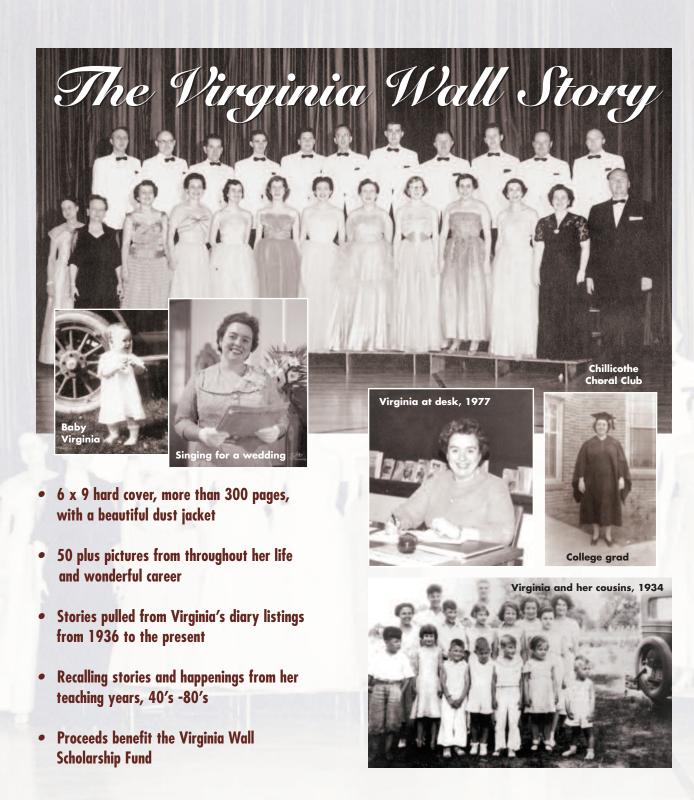
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by Bonnie Mitchell



The idea of a book about Virginia Wall has been in my mind for a number of years. It seemed to me that a story as extraordinary as hers deserved to be captured in print. As a child she dreamed of becoming a teacher and she not only achieved that dream but succeeded far beyond her imagination. As a teacher she earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues and administrators as well as of her students. She taught for three years in Holden and then came to Chillicothe where she spent 45 years in the same classroom, teaching two, and even three generations of the same families. Between teaching and serving as senior sponsor, she made a major impact on the lives of nearly 7000 students. One significant result of that impact was the scholarship foundation that was created and funded by several hundred of those former students - a not-for-profit foundation that will survive long after she and those same students are no longer living. I believe The Virginia Wall Story to be of great importance in the history of Missouri's teachers.

— Bonnie Mitchell

The idea for writing this book came from Bonnie Mitchell, the author. She had tried for several years to get my consent to do this but I could not agree. When she suggested that the proceeds from the sale of the book should go to the Virginia Wall Scholarship Fund, that caused me to give consent. Having kept a yearly diary from 1936 to the present, I have re-read all the diaries and used the school yearbooks from 1937-1991 and have provided her with factual information which she has used to write this book. These sources plus memorabilia I have saved during the years have sparked many additional memories which I have shared with her.