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**Mary Gail Simpson**

Mary Gail Simpson was born in Clayton, Alabama to Inesta and Alston Farrior. Inesta was a school principal and Alston was a school bus driver. After graduating from Barbour County Training School Mary Gail went to Johnstown, Pennsylvania where she obtained a nurse’s aid job at Mercy Hospital. Within a short time she was promoted to surgical technician. She liked the job, but her mother encouraged her to get a college degree. She chose Central State College in Wilberforce, Ohio, graduating in 1964 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. In 1978 she graduated from the University of Dayton with a Master’s of Science degree in Counseling Education.

While at Central State College, Mary Gail met Bill Simpson. They were married on Christmas day in 1965. With their two sons, they moved to Omar Circle in Yellow Springs where their sons attended Yellow Springs Schools. Their son William Hewitt Simpson graduated from Central State College in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Management-Marketing. He is married to Natombi Smith Simpson, and the couple lives Cincinnati, Ohio. He employed as a store manger for a Petsmart store.  The Simpsons’ son Alston graduated from Tuskegee University in 1991 where he majored in Sociology. He has served in both the Navy and the Army.

Mary Gail spent her professional career working at Greene County Children Services in Xenia, Ohio. She was an adoption and foster care supervisor, retiring in 1999. She is a member of First Baptist church, Yellow Springs, Ohio where she serves as the chairperson of the deaconesses. She is also a member of the Altrusa Club of Xenia, the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, Rho Omega chapter, Wilberforce, Ohio. She enjoys playing card games such as bridge and frustration, and participates in clubs that meet monthly to play these games. She also enjoys gardening and working in her yard, drawing on her parents’ lessons in cultivating a garden to grow vegetables and herbs. She always has a small herb patch outside of her back door where she gathers fresh herbs year ‘round. She tries to keep fit by walking and swimming.