**Frances L. Lewis**

Frances was born on a farm in Fayette County, Ohio to Donzella and T.R. Atchison. Her family moved to Highland County, Ohioafter her birth and that is where she grew up. She attended school in Leesburg, Ohio and graduated from Leesburg High School in 1949. Her early life was that of a farm girl, which might account for her work ethic and problem solving abilities. Her **f**ather retired from farming by the time that she had graduated from high **s**chool and the family moved to Washington Court House, Ohio.

After graduation,Frances was employed at the new Fayette Memorial Hospital, which had opened in 1950. She attended Nurses College in Chicago which was beneficial to her becoming a Surgical Technician at the Hospital. She held that position until she married Joseph Lewis in 1956.

Following their marriage, Frances and Joseph moved to Dayton, Ohio where Joseph was employed at Dayton Air ForceDepot. Frances was soon employed by good Samaritan Hospital, until their first child Lorraine was born. Following the births of Joseph, II and then Dianne the family moved to Yellow Springs, in 1963. The family settled into their new home, school and church with many new friends. Frances began to volunteer as a reading mother at the Yellow Springs Elementary School and with the Girl Scouts as a Leader. The Reading Mother position eventually gave way to a full time position as a Teacher**’**s Aid/Library Aid within the Yellow Springs School System. She retired in 1995. In addition to the above activities, Frances worked as a Precinct Judge or Presiding Judge during special elections, primary elections, and general elections for three decades. She has been an active member at Central Chapel A.M.E. Church where she taught Sunday School and was the President of the Stewardess Board for many years.

There came a day in 1974 when her attention to detail, nurse’s training**,** and perseverance came to excellent use. Two young girls were walking west, on Fairfield Pike. As they crossed the creek which runs north across Fairfield Pike, one girl ran in front of an automobile and was struck and run over. Her condition was critical when Frances, who had been summoned by her children to assist the inured child, arrived on the scene. Frances immediately began administering CPR. The child was conscious by the time that the emergency crew arrived. They got her to the hospital where she underwent surgery successfully. The day was July 19, 1974. Several months later the Lewises heard a knock on the**ir** frontdoor and the child, Sari Samuel**,** with her mother Yoshiko**,** and father, Ed Samuel presented Frances with a silver tray, inscribed with the following:

TO MRS. JOSEPH LEWIS

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR LIFE

FROM SARI SAMUEL JULY 1974

Frances has been a lifesaver and life giver throughout her distinguished life.

*Joseph E. Lewis*

Sources: *Yellow Springs News,* July 1974