



Martha B Mott Free 2000

MARTHA B. (MOTT) FREE

Born Martha Ann Brabham, November 6, 1940 in the small town of Bamberg, SC -the youngest child of five surviving of Lillian Sanders Brabham and Henry Lee Brabham. Henry Lee left Lillian when I was one month old. She found work where she could to support the five of us - 2 boys and 3 girls.

Mama married Marion R. Grooms when I was six years. He had two children living at home - still leaving me the youngest.

I was a happy child in spite of the fact that we were poor. I was like Dolly Parton: "nobody ever told me I was poor." I graduated from Bamberg High School in 1959. While there, I was very active in sports - cheerleader, basketball, softball. I was elected best dancer, most athletic and May Queen during my senior year.

I discovered how to shag at age 10. My older beautiful sister, Barbara, was the best dancer I knew. Being 5 years older than I, she didn't want me to tag along so I learned to shag from afar. Spent my young days dancing with my good friend, Judy Robinson, as a partner. Didn't know there was a right or wrong foot. I guess I had the correct foot. Boys discovered I could dance at about age 16 - danced at the Folly Beach Pier and Rich's at the Isle of Palms.

Met my husband, Bobby, at a dance at Branchville, SC - Saturday nights found us dancing the night away - square dancing or whatever came on.

Bamberg High offered a two-year Commercial Course, which served me well in getting a job since I could not afford college. I was married in 1960 and became "married with children" - 3 wonderful boys, Richard, Robbie and Matt Matt later became a great shagger (from the mouths of mothers)!

Bobby and I have taught over 500 children to shag. This, along with teaching Matt, is my greatest accomplishment in the Shag world.

I have been in banking for - how I hate to admit - 40 years. I am now semi-retired. Bobby and I spend many weekends at Myrtle Beach and still enjoy meeting our friends at Harold's and Duck's to shag. However, we do a whole lot of talking these days.