

## Where I am From By Pam Whitted

I was born and raised in Hillsborough North Carolina. What's where I live—in the Country. But as you know I was born at Chapel Hill N.C. in 1960 because that's where the hospital was, and my age is 48 years old. My daddy and mama have eight children. Six girls and two boys. I am the youngest, the baby. Also when time went on we found out there were two half sisters who we just met. My mama didn't want to accept them until later on.

My dad was so funny, he couldn't eat regular salt. So my cousin would always bring some Ms. Dash to the house. After awhile, he got sick of it though, and he said, "take Ms. Dash and throw it out the door far as it can go!" I laughed.

We always had family cook-outs. They would last for three days and we would have plenty of food. We had a shade tree which had a swing. My daddy always sat there, especially when he would get mad at my Mama. Every time she fussed at him, he would go out the door to the swing.

We had a nice big yard, with all sorts of animals. So being in the County taught me a lot, like feeding the chickens, milking cows, and feeding pigs. It was just like a farm. But peoples usually get lost because it was in the County.

I enjoyed our family reunions because we met all of our cousins. We would always go to Virginia one year, then go to Hillsborough the next year. It was switched every year.

As I got older I went to kindergarten, and my daddy always carried me to school. Every evening when I heard him come I would stop what I was doing and then run out to the truck 'cause you could hear way down the road. He also had that horn like *The Waltons*. Everyone was ashamed to ride in the truck, but as they got older, they enjoyed it.

Growing up I was the baby out of eight children. I was always spoiled and always had my way. I never got beatings. I had a baby voice I used to get everything. I loved to suck my thumb. Even when I was in school, I would put my head on my desk so no one could see me and I would suck my thumb. My family always said they were going to put hot sauce on it, but I eventually grew out of that. I finally got older and always spent time out with Mama, she was a good lady. She died when I was 27. I was okay but everyday I would go to her room and just look around, that's how much I missed her. She would always do fun things for me.

When I was 23 I had my first son, Antonio Laturan Whitted on May 18, 1983. Next week is his birthday. Then I moved out and got my first apartment at Gateway Village. I stayed there for almost fifteen years, and always kept a nice place. But I had to leave when I went to treatment for drinking. I recovered with help from God.

Then I got married to Anthony Holden, which lasted about six years. In 1992 I had another baby, Montez Poteat. He's seventeen now, and I still call him my baby. He spent time with me in High Point with me and my husband, but our marriage ended. It was okay, though. I dated another guy for ten years afterwards. But eventually I had to

let it go, because it wasn't going well. So I moved to Burlington to be with my older son. When he left I went to Hillsborough, NC. I love both my sons.

This is the first time I've been without my place. I'm moving back on the housing list so I can return to my own place. I love to decorate and I love to clean.

God has blessed me with two grandchildren. I love them so much, A.J. and Trinity. They are also my babies. They are angels in my life.