

Late in 1887, when Babe was only five, the Reeves bade farewell to Eagle Lake and moved to 133 Valley Street in St. Paul. A double wedding took place in the Reeves home on October 19, 1892 when Sarah Emaline married Louis Stearns and Elspa Phillena married Clarence Ridley. Little sister was ten years old. Tom Reeves worked for around seven years as a sawyer and engineer, then the Reeves moved to Central Park Methodist Church where he was janitor. Soon they moved to Gladstone, today, Maplewood, then an area of small farms and a farmers' market. Sarah Reeves died at age of 73 in January 1912; he died at age of 82 in 1914. They were buried in Eagle Lake Cemetery near graves of their children.

Clarence Ridley was a teamster for the Babcock Transfer Co., and both he and Stearns may have been partners in the horse-drawn drayage business around 1900. Their horse barns were in caves along the Mississippi. Elspa and Clarence had six children. He was a stern man. Son Tom was in the transfer business with his father, and the younger man wanted to mechanize. However, Clarence refused, so Tom went to work for the railroad. At the age of 21 he was caught between railroad cars and killed. Clarence also objected to Willis Shaver courting their daughter Harriet, so the couple eloped.

The hospitality that had been shown to everyone by Sarah Sutherland Reeves when she and Tom were in northern Wisconsin was carried on by their youngest daughter, Babe (Leah Medelia). She became a teacher at the Ericsson School in St. Paul, a piano teacher and the organist at Central Park Methodist Church. By 1919 she lived at 1057 Edgerton. In a letter written to Phebe Fuller by Helen (Nellie) Sutherland in 1919 this address is mentioned as if it were a place where many people felt comfortable dropping in. At a later date, Shirley Ridley Norton describes the energetic, extended family.

Pehaps in 1934, my folks, Eva and Paul Ridley, my brother, Tom [named after his uncle], and I also moved into 1057 Edgerton along with my dad's bachelor brothers, Ben (F.B.) and Bud (Willard C.) and Aunt Babe. By this time my father was a St. Paul Policeman, Ben worked in the slaughter house in So. St. Paul and Bud was a piano player in 'nightclubs', very gifted, played by ear. Their oldest sister, Harriet Shaver, had children that attended the old Johnson High School; the family lived in Gladstone so they were often or always at 1057 waiting for their ride out to Gladstone. As a carefree 4-year old, I loved the activity and attention. It was too hectic for my folks – people coming and going at all hours, sleeping at all hours, eating whenever, Aunt Babe was being courted by a fellow at Central Park Church, Shaver kids and their friends dropping over, Uncle Will Shaver coming over after work at 8:00 a.m. and Mother trying to care for 3 year old Tom and 4-year old Shirley. We moved!

The "fellow at Central Park" was church treasurer, Govert S. Stephens, owner of the Globe Business College. His wife had died, and he married the church organist. Many of the family holidays took place in the large home on Osceola, Bud playing one of the two pianos for the singers gathered around. Babe's stepson, Roger, was welcomed as part of the Reeves family and returns from California for reunions.

On one occasion the calmness of Leah helped prevent a panic, a story that is told on page 1 of the *St. Paul Dispatch*, March 23, 1940. It bears a picture of Leah and the headline: "Organist Braves Fire, Plays as 500 Quit Church." The fire started in the basement and flames were coming up through the floor around her feet. She played on until people had left the church in an orderly way.