

I Was A Cantankerous Little Cuss
memoirs of Grace Johnson Tompkins
(Tim's paternal grandmother)

Chapter 1

The Piano

GRACE: Can changing your name change your life? Why sure. I think my life was made more lovely when I changed mine, when I got married. I was about seventeen, eighteen, around in there...yep, dear old Herbert. He was a fine partner, a fine partner. He spoiled me.

FRANCES: Tell me about it.

G: Well I had an old piano that I pounded on for a while, but I got tired of it because I couldn't play it, so Herbert bought me a player piano. It came into the house one day and I thought it was borrowed. When I found out it was ours, I didn't get through kissin' that boy for a long time!

F: That story should be spread around, it's such good news.

G: Yep. But who'd want to listen to an old lady's stories, they got other things they'd prefer to do.

F: Well I for one want to listen, and I bet lots of people would just love to hear something like that. You're a great story teller.

G: If I got somebody like you to listen.