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## Just One Woman

By Teresa Hampton

A lady named Margaret E. Vick lived in the second half of the 1800's during a tempestuous time in our nation's history. She was baptized at sixteen by Wade Barrett of Tennessee. When she was twenty-four she married Joseph H. Holbrook. He had just returned from the Civil War. Margaret began to teach her husband the truth, and shortly he, too, was baptized. After diligent study, he decided to sell their farm and enter Mars Hill School. Two years later, he and Margaret moved to Fayette, Alabama.

Together the couple traveled by horseback or horse and buggy all over the south for gospel meetings. Margaret wore plain calico dresses, made by her own hands, and no jewelry. Her life was that of a woman adorned *in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works* (1 Timothy 2:9). It was said of Margaret, "She talked constantly of things pertaining to the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, and never gossiped." She encouraged many young preachers. Her husband baptized thousands.

One of the men Holbrook converted was C. A. Wheeler. He became a preacher, baptized 6,000 and started 100 congregations. Wheeler conducted a meeting at Iron Mountain School in August of 1909. With no one else available, a seventeen-year-old Baptist named Gus Nichols was asked to lead the singing. At the close of the meeting he and others were baptized. In 1913, Gus married Matilda Brown. She was baptized in the summer of 1917.

Nichols began preaching in 1924 and moved to Jasper, Alabama, in 1933. During the next 42 years he trained hundreds of elders and preachers in special Friday night classes. In his lifetime, Nichols baptized 12,000 men and women. One of his sons, Flavil, baptized 3,000 people. Two other sons were also preachers and his daughters were preacher's wives. In truth, it would be hard to count all that were baptized, taught and influenced for good by the Nichols family.

I almost forgot. Gus Nichols baptized a young woman at Jasper named Mildred who married Robert Hampton, a young preacher. Together they labored almost 50 years in the kingdom of Christ. They are the parents of my husband, Gary, who has preached over 40 years, and is now directing ETSPM in Knoxville, a school that prepares and trains preachers who literally go into the entire world.

Margaret Vick was just one woman, but "her steadfast faith, consuming zeal and earnest words of private admonition" helped many turn to the Lord for salvation. God demonstrated in her life that there is great power in one person! So, I leave you with a simple but important question. Will you be a Margaret?

Historical details, [www.therestorationmovement.com](http://www.therestorationmovement.com) and info about ETSPM, [www.etspm.org](http://www.etspm.org)

**Today's Verse:** "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2).

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