



## **The Hillsboro Story – Excerpts**

### **The *Brown* Promise**

If Philip Partridge was the spark that ignited the school fight, Imogene Curtis carried the torch. While he did time in the state penitentiary for arson, she formed a local chapter of the NAACP, and instigated a lawsuit against the Hillsboro Board of Education.

A visionary woman, Imogene had been educated in the nearby village of Samantha in an integrated Quaker school and saw no reason for complacency on the issue of equal education. Her cousin, Junior Burns, said, “Imogene had the brains.”

The Hillsboro Board of Education was violating the United States Constitution, and Imogene Curtis knew it. But she needed her community to rally and went next door on Baker Street to talk to her good friend, Gertrude Clemens. “Imogene Curtis came to me and asked me, would I help her, that we would be together on this. And that’s when we got the NAACP to come in. They came to Hillsboro from Dayton.”