



April and Robert were sort of high school sweethearts. Sort of, because they met in 7th grade, but didn't start dating until their senior year of high school. They went to separate colleges, but continued their relationship long distance.

On their six year anniversary, April went over to his house after work, and he greeted her with a dozen roses and a sweet card. "I thought he was trying to suck up because he hadn't planned anything for our anniversary," April says. Jeff actually had been planning, and in a big way. He brought April to his cousin's house by a lake to go fishing that night. Just when she least expected it, lights across the lake lit up. April was able to make out the words "Will you marry me?" and turned to find Jeff on his knees with a ring in hand.

For April the engagement was a big surprise, but her dream wedding wasn't. "I had dreamed of my wedding day ever since I was a little girl," she said. "And as long as Jeff and I had been together, of course I dreamed of what I wanted my wedding day to be like with him." They knew they wanted to get married in the fall, so picking a date in November was their first step. Since April had been a bridesmaid for many of her friends (nine in three years), she already had contacts with various vendors.

When it came time to find her wedding dress, April was afraid it was going to take a long time to find that "perfect dress." She ended up being wrong. "The first place we went, I tried on a dress, and knew it was it," she says. The gown was by designer Allure Brides and had beadwork on the top with satin and organza. The bridesmaid gowns were strapless, satin Bill Levkoff gowns in a champagne color.

As guests entered the church, a white picket fence surrounded by plants and flowers wrapped around the center aisle doors inside the church. The aisle runner had the couple's names and wedding date painted at the end. The stage was adorned with three large candelabras covered in flowers.

The ceremony included over 800 guests and was in the church April had grown up in. The couple had just finished building their first house, and the pastor talked about all the hard work they had put into it and how they needed to work just as hard making their house a home. "Our pastor really personalized

the whole ceremony just for us," April says. While the couple lit a unity candle, a slide show of pictures from the couple's childhood played. The ceremony ended up with both of their parents coming up on stage to join in a family prayer to signify the joining of two families.

The reception was at April's parents' 50-acre farm. "When they first moved there, I thought it would be the perfect place for a wedding," April says. "And I was right, it turned out beautiful!"

In the first tent, a large arrangement of flowers surrounded the wedding favors- caramel apples and a candy/peanut mix in cute containers with the couple's name and wedding date. From the first tent, guests walked into the main tent. Every table arrangement was spotlighted. The bride's cake was arranged under a chandelier, while the groom's cake was accented with banana pudding and Dairy Fresh chocolate milk (provided by the groom's parents, who own a dairy farm that provides milk to Dairy Fresh.) The dance floor was chocolate brown with a spotlight of their initials in the middle. Fabric and lights were wrapped around the tent frame and a large iron and crystal chandelier hung from the center.

April's cousin was a member of the reception band, Wes Loper Band. She says the band did an amazing job of playing songs that people of all ages could enjoy.

The delicious food ranged from an initial "M" ice sculpture with boiled shrimp around it to a roast beef carving station, mashed potatoes bar, and grits. "Everyone was going back for seconds," April says. She adds that the person behind every detail of the reception was Mike Hamm. "I told him every little detail we wanted and he went above and beyond to give us exactly what we wanted," April says.

April describes her favorite memory from her wedding day. "The limo dropped Jeff and I a few houses down from the reception," she says. "Just as the sun had begun to set, we rode into the reception in a white carriage pulled by a large Clydesdale horse. A trumpet played as we came down the driveway. We felt like royalty!"

Acknowledgements and Special Thanks from the Squires / Middleton Wedding

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www.pathwayministries.us

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Reception Site:
Bride's parent's home

Reception Caterer:
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Entertainment:
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