

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

A Remembrance
Of
Elizabeth Jane Tolliver

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REMEMBRANCE

Elizabeth Jane Tolliver (1883-1965) was "much loved here in Warsaw (KY)," according to **Sue Bogardus** of the Gallatin County Historical Society. Her granddaughter, **Elizabeth Brightwell**, concurs. "She loved everybody.., is remembered for her kindness, sharing with others, and the wise advice she gave to those who sought it."



Born in Gallatin County, she spent her entire life in the vicinity. Her baptism in the Mt. Zion Baptist Church at age 11 foreshadowed a lifetime of work in the church. "She loved her church and the ministers.., invited them home for dinner." She believed it to

be a gift from God when one of her sons became a Baptist minister. **Rev. Harry Brown** served Bethel Baptist in Cincinnati for 38 years and retired 20 years ago.

Rev. Brown remembered that his mother was a "leader without a formal education.., an advisor to both black and white who came to her." She had eight children who were "brought up in the right way... (and who) turned out well." "She ruled the family... had a strong personality...would quickly point out to others the error of their ways."

Brightwell, who was named for her grandmother, felt that she was the favorite grandchild. She was told; "If you love yourself, then you can love others." She remembers her grandmother's garden, grape arbor, and apple tree, all of which were shared with others in the neighborhood. Mrs. Tolliver, or "Aunt Lizzie" as she was known, helped with church dinners and other fundraising activities before and after the two black churches in Warsaw, Predestinarian Baptist and Consolidated Second Baptist, combined congregations. She had a piano in her home and encouraged her granddaughter to learn to play. Brightwell has been pianist at her church for many years.

She overcame the tragedies in her life; her first husband, Jasper Brown, died at age 65, their eldest daughter at age 25, and her second husband, Edward Tolliver, also preceded her in death.

Her daughter-in-law, wife of Rev. Brown, paid

tribute to her; "She was a good mother-in-law. She advised me early in our marriage to follow his lead and to go wherever his work took him." Both Rev. and Mrs. Brown received college degrees in Louisville, KY. She made a career of homemaking and followed Mrs. Tolliver's advice. Before and after Rev. Brown's retirement, the couple led tours to Israel, Africa, Australia and European countries. Their son has a Ph.D. in philosophy, lives in San Francisco, and owns his own business (gives motivational seminars for corporations).