



Elizabeth Hardin Taylor

February 13, 1927 - May 22, 2018

Elizabeth Hardin Taylor, known simply as "Lib" to friends and family, died peacefully at her home on May 22, 2018. She was a life-long resident of Salisbury. Born on February 13, 1927 in her childhood home on Mitchell Avenue, she was the daughter of Ernest Lauriston Hardin, Sr. and Marye Hunt Lawson Hardin, formerly of South Boston, Virginia. Lib was named for her maternal grandmother, Eliza Craddock Lawson. As a child, she enjoyed the frequent companionship of her paternal grandparents, William Hill Hardin, an Episcopal priest, and Ella Kate Troy Hardin, who resided nearby on Maupin Avenue. Their warm and generous spirits left a lasting impression upon their granddaughter. In 1944, Lib graduated from Boyden (Salisbury) High School and furthered her studies at Mary Baldwin College where she received her B.A. degree in 1948. Lib was married to Edward Tennent Taylor, a native of Wilmington, N.C., on June 10,

1950 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Mr. Taylor was a veteran of World War II, having served as a lieutenant in the Navy. His interest in the textile industry brought him to Salisbury in the 1930s. He enjoyed his many years as an executive at the North Carolina Finishing Company in Spencer, N.C.

Lib's commitment to Salisbury was expressed in many ways over her 91 years. She was one of the founding members of the Rowan Art Guild and, along with Mr. Taylor, a charter member and long-time supporter of the Historic Salisbury Foundation. She had a passion for the natural world, which led to her involvement at Hurley Park as a member of its Board. Her primary commitment, however, was to volunteer work at both St. Luke's Episcopal Church and the Rowan Museum. Her grandfather inspired her devotion to the Church and her father instilled in Lib a keen interest in all things historic, particularly those objects, landmarks and lore that were unique to Salisbury and Rowan County.

Ironically, one of Lib's most significant contributions to her community was also her last. She merged her love of St. Luke's Church with that of history to oversee the publication of *From Generation to Generation* in 2006. In collaboration with noted historian Davyd Foard Hood, Lib spent many years weaving together the strands of notes, letters, sermons,

building records and related documents to tell the story of St. Luke's Church. The book is also an important resource for those studying the development of Salisbury and the Episcopal Church in North Carolina. Lib's involvement in the Rowan Museum began with the organization's inception in 1953. Her father, who served as Salisbury's mayor from 1951-1953, was instrumental in the founding of the Museum and served as its President from 1956-1974. Lib followed in his footsteps, serving as President from 1987-1997. She was also instrumental in assuring the success of the annual Rowan Museum Antiques Show, from its debut in 1953 until 2013, with her final report to the Museum's Board of Directors on the success of the Show in its 60th year. Her patronage of the Antique Show continued, however, and she enjoyed a memorable lunch with family and friends at the Show in 2015, her last visit to this event which was such an important part of her life. Lib's tireless efforts to the institutions most meaningful to her, as well as her generosity, did not go unnoticed. In 1999, the Board of the Rowan Museum honored her and her husband with the establishment of the Elizabeth Hardin and Edward Tennent Taylor Garden at Hurley Park. In 2007 she was thrilled to receive the Clement Cup from the

Historic Salisbury Foundation for her devotion to historic preservation in Salisbury. The following year, Lib was again recognized for her leadership as a preservationist in being the recipient of the Norvell Cup, an honor bestowed on her by the Rowan Museum.

Lib was for many years a member of the Travelers Club of Salisbury, the Salisbury Branch of The English Speaking Union and the Rowan County Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames. She cherished the time that she spent involved with these organizations and left every meeting with great enthusiasm for whatever topic had been discussed. Likewise, Lib always looked forward to the annual homecoming that was held at St. Andrew's Church in Woodleaf each August. She was generous in supporting the mission of St. Andrew's and took particular pleasure in providing altar flowers for the homecoming service.

Elizabeth Hardin Taylor was preceded in death by her parents, her beloved older brother Ernest "Larry" Lauriston Hardin, Jr. (1990), her husband Edward Tennent Taylor (2002) and her son-in-law Van Turner Hill (2015).

She is survived by her daughters, Marye Wagner and husband John R. Wagner of Clinton, CT, Elizabeth "Lisa" Towell and husband Jack H. Towell of Camden, SC and Katherine "Kate" Hill of Charlotte, NC.

Four grandchildren also survive, Elizabeth "Liza" Towell Boyd and husband James Blake

Boyd of Camden, SC, Ned Taylor Towell of Camden, SC, Jack Hardin Towell of

Wellington, FL and Sarah Elizabeth Walker Wagner of New York, NY. Ellen Taylor

Boyd and Elizabeth Adeline Boyd of Camden, SC also survive their great-grandmother.

A memorial service will take place at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Tuesday, May 29th

at 2:00 p.m., with a reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to the Hurley Park Foundation, 220 N. Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28202 (make checks to Foundation for the Carolinas with Hurley Park Fund #2524 in memo line); the Rowan Museum 202 N. Main Street, Salisbury, NC 28144: or St. Luke's Episcopal Church 131 W. Council Street, Salisbury, NC 28144.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Taylor family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY **29**. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
131 West Council Street
Salisbury, NC 28144

Tribute Wall



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Hardin Taylor.* ”



May 28, 2018 at 03:12 PM



“ *Roy and Susan Marshall purchased the Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket for the family of Elizabeth Hardin Taylor.* ”



Roy and Susan Marshall - May 28, 2018 at 01:08 PM