



Mary Brooks Howard

October 13, 2010

Memorial services for Mary “Brooks” Howard, 81, Frankfort, will be held Saturday, 10:00 a.m. at Good Shepherd Church, Leestown Rd., Frankfort. Father Charles Howell will officiate. Burial will be at Redhill Cemetery, Hodgenville, KY. Visitation will be Saturday, 9:00a.m until time of service, at the church.

Mrs. Howard died Wednesday at St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington, of natural causes. A native of Hodgenville, she was a daughter of the late Charles Claudius “Claude” and Hannah Brooks LaRue Williams and was a member of Good Shepherd Catholic Church. She was owner and operator of Abraham Lincoln’s boyhood home in Hodgenville for over thirty years. She was the first woman President of the Lincoln Heritage Trail Board of Directors and LaRue Co. Chamber of Commerce. She inspired and co-chaired the “Lincoln Days” celebration. She was Assistant Director of Recreation Parks and Historical Sites for KY Dept. of Parks. During her tenure with the department, she became one of Ky’s greatest protectors of history. She worked with numerous administrations, Parks Dept. management, and “equally passionate and determined” park managers directing the restoration of Ky State Parks and Historic Sites; which have become the benchmark by which other state parks are measured.

She studied the Principles of Conservation at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC, and along with various park managers worked with The Horn Foundation, Joel Oppenheimer of Chicago, Sotheby’s of New York,

premier conservation consultants, and members of John James Audubon's family to ensure that the structures and artifacts belonging to the State of Kentucky would be preserved for generations to come.

Major renovations, restorations, and artifact acquisitions completed under Brooks' direction include the John James Audubon State Park & Museum, Henderson, KY; Waveland Museum, Lexington, Ky; William Whitley House, Stanford, KY; White Hall, the home of Cassius Marcellus Clay, Richmond, KY; My Old Kentucky Home, Bardstown, KY and Boone Station, Lexington, KY. As a direct descendent of Mary Brooks LaRue Enlow Rathbone, earlier pioneer, spouse of John LaRue (LaRue County), a midwife who assisted with the birth of Abraham Lincoln, and grandmother of John LaRue Helm, a two term governor of Kentucky, it was only natural that Mary Brooks Howard would become passionate about Abraham Lincoln and Kentucky history.

Brooks received several awards such as Kentucky Historical Society, Award of Distinction for an Individual, 2007; President of the Lincoln Heritage Trail Board of Directors, Appointed to the Board by Gov. Wendell Ford, 1973, First woman to serve as President; Governor's Advisory Commission on Tourism, Appointed by Gov. Julian Carroll, 1979; Brigade of Kentucky Mounted Riflemen, Honorary Commission presented by Gov. Julian Carroll in recognition of Brooks Howard's valued support of the Kentucky Economic Development Militia, 1979; Governor's Task Force on State Parks Development, Appointed by Gov. Julian Carroll, 1979; American Association of State and Local History (AASLH); President of the Hardin County Audubon Society; Kentucky Tourism Council; Kentucky Festival Association; Hodgenville Women's Club and was a Kentucky Colonel.

She was preceded in death by husband, Frederick Fabian Howard, Sr. a brother, Charles Claude Williams Survivors include her daughter, Mary Brooks Howard-Meador, Lexington and son, Frederick Fabian Howard, Jr, grandchildren Ryan and Julia Meador

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Mary Brooks Howard Conservation Fund, KY Dept. Of Parks Foundation Board, c/o Erin Holler, 500

Mero St. 10th Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601; or Crusade for Children; or ST. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Guestbook at ljtfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ Brooks was one of the most generous and collegial women I know and the first to support other professional women. When I was first beginning in historic design, she was one of the first women to give me an opportunity to consult with the state on the man##imported-begin##MarianneRamsey##imported-end##

January 01, 1753 at 12:00 AM



“ I worked with Brooks for 13 years when I was the park manager at Waveland. We used to tease her about being the "antique czar" because of her interest and knowledge of antiques. I really liked her a lot and will miss her. Please accept my condolences.##imported-begin##SaraElliott##imported-end##

January 01, 1753 at 12:00 AM



“ My sincere condolences to Brooks family. I worked with Brooks many years in Ky State Parks and admired her commitment and devotion to history and preservation. She forged an incredible legacy that will be appreciated by future generations.##imported-begin##JeanUnglaub##imported-end##

January 01, 1753 at 12:00 AM



“ Will miss this wonderful lady who definitely knew where she came from, preserved and appreciated the many treasures that the Lord has provided throughout the generations and filled her earthly days as his servant.##imported-begin##SusanMcCrobie##imported-end##

January 01, 1753 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. I am sure she is in a much better place now. I know that Brooks loved her dearly and will miss her greatly as the rest of the family will as well. Please know that my thoughts are with you and your family during this very

January 01, 1753 at 12:00 AM



“ It has been such and HONOR to be Brooksie's "Assistant" these last 4 months. She always said I was a Godsend to her and Mary Brooks but I always felt it was the opposite. I was the one that was Blessed to be able to help Mary Brooks and Brooksie during

January 01, 1753 at 12:00 AM



“ Brooks was a beautiful person and the dearest of friends. I'll miss her physical presence, but her spiritual presence and influence will be with me always. She was a proud Kentuckian, historian, and she was witty, caring, giving and loving. You haven't

January 01, 1753 at 12:00 AM



“ Brooksie was always the only one of her generation who would play Trivial Pursuit with the Meador kids. I will never forget what fun she was to be with. She was a lovely person and will be missed by all who knew her.

January 01, 1753 at 12:00 AM



“ We will always remember Brooksie as a beautiful, classy and gentle person who loved her Grand children very much and was always by your side. I will miss seeing you together tackling the challenges and adventures of the day. Carolyn, Patrick, Nicole, Mom###imported-begin###MikeBeaugrand###imported-end##

January 01, 1753 at 12:00 AM



“ Mrs.Brooks Howard was a wonderful person and a dear friend of mine. I worked for several years at the William Whitley State Historic Site. My deepest sympathy to the family.###imported-begin###RickySparks###imported-end##

January 01, 1753 at 12:00 AM



“ Brooks was my mentor, my colleague but most of all my dear, dear friend. She has supported me through more family tragedies than I can count and it's hard to imagine my life without her. Please know your mother and grandmother was loved and respected by###imported-begin###KathleenWhite###imported-end##

January 01, 1753 at 12:00 AM



“ Brooks and family,

I have never seen such an impressive biography. You are very lucky to have had such an energetic and caring role model. My condolences on your loss. Barb Simanek###imported-begin###barbsimanek###imported-end##

January 01, 1753 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mary Brooks, I am so saddened to hear of Brooksies passing. I have such fond memories of her and how gracious she was. Please know that you have been and will remain in my thoughts and prayers. Please be in touch. Much love to you and your family.*##imported-begin##TinaFields##imported-end##

January 01, 1753 at 12:00 AM



“ *It has been so many years since I have seen Brooksie or family. From growing up down the street from she and Fred, in Hodgenville... I have so many great memories of this wonderful woman. Prayers to Fabe and Mary Brooks. Sharon Rice & Family*##imported-begin##SharonRice##imported-end##

January 01, 1753 at 12:00 AM