

## Sharp, Ed

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Subject: Aunt Jessie's Obituary

Dawn,

How is this??

Ed.

Jessie Clifton Holland was born on January 28, 1902 in Stanton, Virginia to William Clifton and Jessie Harris Givens. She was the youngest of five children. When her father died in December 1902, Jessie's brother, James E. Givens and sister Fannie Rosalind Givens were sent to Louisville KY to live with their aunt. Upon her mother's death, when Jessie was 10 years old, she and her other two sisters joined their Aunt Fannie R. Givens in Louisville KY, where she lived during her young adult life.

Jessie attended Central Colored School, and completed Louisville Normal School which prepared her to teach. After college graduation she moved to Asheville, North Carolina and taught grades two through five at Mountain Street Elementary School for 20 years. She married Lafayette James Holland in 1938. They moved to Chicago where she accepted a position with the government and helped her husband establish the L. J. Holland Funeral Home. After retiring from the government position she worked with her husband in their funeral business for 15 years.

In 1982, Lafayette and Jessie Holland retired and moved back to Louisville where they became very active in the Fifth Street Baptist Church and many other political and religious organizations. Lafayette Holland passed away in September 1989. Jessie Holland continued to be active in her church and community and an inspiration to her nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, students, and a host of other relatives and friends. On the occasion of her 100th birthday Jessie said "My heart is full of laughter, My eyes are filled with tears of joy, My arms want to reach out and hug each of you." She will be missed but her love will live on!