

Eudora Kelley

Nashville, Brown County

July 6, 1888 to August 8, 1973

Eudora Kelley was born in Nashville, Indiana on July 6, 1888. She was the daughter of Samuel and Lydia Kelley whose family had settled in Brown County in the 1850s. Eudora attended Nashville schools and went to Nashville High School. Before finishing her studies she was asked to leave to teach in the one-room school houses in Brown County. She taught 7th and 8th grades at Helmsburg and Nashville. She became interested in farm education and taught her students how to test seed corn by the approved Purdue University plan by 1906. When the first Extension Agent came to Brown County in 1921, she got a job on the Extension staff.

In 1930 Eudora Kelley went to Indianapolis to teach at Ben Davis High School until her retirement, having been a teacher for 40 years. She finally received her teaching degree in 1936 from Central Normal College in Danville, Indiana. Always interested in young people and civic work Eudora was in the Red Cross during WWII, she was County Salvage Chairman, and was active in War Bond drives.

Eudora Kelley's political views were Democratic and she was a firm believer of the two-party system – a government by the people. She encouraged young people to choose a party and she helped mold policies in Brown County. Eudora was a charter member of the Brown County Business and Professional Women's Club. During her political career she served as Vice Chair of the Democratic party of the 9th District, was a member of the Democratic State committee for 18 years, and attended three National Conventions as an alternate.

On January 15, 1949 Eudora Kelley took the Oath of Office for a four year term as Reporter of the Supreme and Appellate Court in the state of Indiana (1949-1952). At that time she was the only woman from Brown County to be elected to a state office. Eudora never married, but left several proud nieces and nephews. She died August 8, 1973 and is buried in Greenlawn Cemetery in Nashville, Indiana.



Photo Courtesy: Brown County Historical Society



This profile was provided to ICW by Rhonda Dunn, Archivist, Brown County Historical Society

References will be published at the end of Women's History Month.