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### **Floyd historian unlocked the past**

FLOYD - Marguerite Tise lived with a family of ghosts. Tise, a local historian and genealogist, knew the families of Floyd like few others.

"She spent her entire life on local and family history," said Gino Williams, Floyd County's commonwealth's attorney and a friend of Tise. "That was her hobby, her passion."

"Her knowledge is just incredible," said Paul Pingel, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church and a family friend. "Her research is considerable. You could truly see a roomful of files and boxes in her home."

Most of Tise's retirement was spent in libraries and courthouses, and conducting interviews for her projects, which ranged from family histories to the restoration of old homes.

"She was very focused on what project she was working on," said Charlotte Atkins, a Floyd librarian and genealogist. "And she was always working on a project."

Tise's interest in history spanned most of her life, although she was most active after she retired more than 25 years ago. She traced the history of her family and many others from Floyd. She also published several of those histories.

And she was the person most people turned to with a question about the county - some affectionately called her "our encyclopedia."

"There is a pretty broad and substantial history here," said Williams, who worked on a variety of projects with Tise and spoke with her several times each week. "And she knew most of it."

Tise died Aug. 8 after a brief illness, leaving behind several projects, notes and possibly a manuscript detailing the history of her county.

Tise's sister Jessie Heafner said provisions have been made for these items, which will likely go to a fellow historian.

And though tracing her past may seem like tedious work, Tise was happiest when doing so, Heafner said.

"Her favorite part was finding some little bit of history we didn't know," she said. "She loved to unearth something."

Pingel said riding through Floyd with Tise was always a pleasure because each trip was almost like a tour. She could tell her passengers about each residence - who lived there and what historical significance the building might have.