

Tise was a member of the Floyd County Historical Society and worked with the ongoing restoration of the Phlegar House. She also donated the land for the Jesse Peterman Memorial Library in Floyd. Peterman was Tise's aunt.

"Marguerite did have a great respect for education and research," Pingel said. "That was very much behind her donation."

Tise spent countless hours conducting her research the old-fashioned way. As she gathered information, she would write her notes in shorthand, later typing them on back of other unneeded paper.

"She was very frugal in what she did," Williams said.

And she earned the respect of other historians and genealogists.

"All of us history buffs appreciated her knowledge," said Atkins, noting that Tise inspired others as she completed her projects. "We have lost an invaluable source of local information."

People who came to Floyd tracing their ancestry often met with Tise.

"She was quite a respected researcher," Pingel said, noting that Tise communicated with people all over the country. "And somebody that a lot of people went to as an authority."

Tise was born in Roanoke County but grew up in Floyd. She graduated from Floyd High School and taught at an elementary school in the area before taking a job in foreign service at the State Department. The job allowed Tise to travel the world, and she attended the Potsdam Conference alongside world leaders - including Harry Truman and Winston Churchill - as World War II ended in 1945.

Those who spent time with Tise know little more about her personal life. When in social situations, she talked about history and her projects.

"She cared deeply about the place she was researching and the people she researched," Williams said.

And she had a connection to many of the people she researched and wrote about. Many were family members or ancestors of her acquaintances.

"She was just genuinely interested in it," Atkins said. "She was just a historian at heart."

Those who were close to Tise have learned from her example and plan to continue her work.

"She left us all looking forward," Williams said. "If we do what we should, we will pass that on to others."

"Love of the community was part of what she was."