

Montgomery Friends of the Library

Blacksburg Library

October 22, 2017

The October meeting of the FOL was held in conjunction with a MFRL sponsored presentation at Blacksburg Library. Sharyn McCrumb spoke about her new book, The Unquiet Grave. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 by Lynn Bramer. FOL President Ellen Hall was out of town. Lynn introduced our speaker, Sharyn McCrumb.

There were 92 people in attendance.

Sharyn McCrumb is a New York Times "Best-selling author," who has lived in this area for the past 34 years. Sharyn is the author of 27 books, plus short stories, essays and works of non-fiction. She has received many major awards, such as The Edgar Allan Poe Award, The Agatha Award (multiple times) and The Anthony Award.

Sharyn's story takes place in West Virginia in 1897. A young woman from Greenbriar County named Zona Hester Shue died at her home. Seven weeks before she had married a man, who had come to the area to work as a blacksmith. Zona's parents did not like, or trust the man, but she married him anyway. They moved away, and the family had no word from her, until they received news of her death. About a month after the funeral, Zona's mother claimed to have had a visit by Zona's ghost. Zona told her that she had been murdered.

Zona's mother got a ride to Lewisburg, West Virginia, where she talked with a lawyer, who got the body exhumed. An autopsy was performed, and Zona's husband, Edward "Trout" Shue was convicted of her death.

There is a historic road marker on the side of U.S. 60 in Greenbriar County that says, "Only known case in which testimony from (a) ghost helped convict a murderer."

Sharyn told about all of the research that went into 'fleshing' out the story, and how difficult it is to decide whose point of view should prevail. Read the story and see for yourself!

The program was greatly enjoyed by everyone. Afterwards, the FOL Hospitality Committee treated the crowd to delicious refreshments.

Lynn reminded everyone that the Library Foundation Board's Annual basket Auction would be held at the Blacksburg Library on Nov. 3, 2017. There will be music and food, as well as beautiful baskets. Please try to attend.

The next FOL Board meeting will on November 21 at 3:00 at the Blacksburg Library.

Submitted by Susan Keith, Secretary