

New Publications at the Jefferson County History Center

The Scripture Rocks: Why Douglas Stahlman Carved His Legacy in Stone & Kate M. Scott: Did She or Didn't She?

The Scripture Rocks, inscribed by Douglas Stahlman, have fascinated folks for more than a century. The book, *Dark Union*, published in 2003, captivated readers with the proposition that eminent historian Kate M. Scott consorted with Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth and gave birth to a daughter. The stories of both Scott and Stahlman will be available this fall in two new books published by the Jefferson County History Center.

History Center curator, Carole A. Briggs, has spent much of the last two years documenting the life of Kate M. Scott, as well as the life of Calvin A. Craig, rumored to have been a dear acquaintance, and the life of Osborn Oldroyd, a collector of Lincoln memorabilia. The authors of *Dark Union* claim that Oldroyd took a deposition from Scott on October 27th 1910, during which she claimed to be the mother of a daughter by John Wilkes Booth. According to the deposition, he was not killed by union troops after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln but fled to India.

Kate M. Scott: Did She or Didn't She traces Kate's life from birth to death and describes her time as a Civil War nurse at Camp Jamison, her long involvement with her father's newspaper, the *Brookville Republican*, the three books she wrote, and her devotion to "her boys" of the 105th PA Volunteer Regiment, also known as the Pennsylvania Wildcats. Kate's legacy exists today as WRC Senior Services, the outgrowth of the Pennsylvania Memorial Home, the place she helped establish for the veterans, their wives, widows, children, and orphans.

The second book, ***The Scripture Rocks: Why Douglas Stahlman Carved His Legacy in Stone*** provides a historically accurate and unbiased account of Stahlman's life and a record of his work carving the mysterious Bible rocks that are frequently encountered in the wooded hillsides around Brookville, Pennsylvania. Authors Brian Fritz and Kenneth Burkett have spent much of the past several years delving into the life of Stahlman and have documented more than 150 of the 555 rocks Stahlman claimed to have inscribed. The book includes a transcription of Stahlman's personal journal *The Dedicated Rocks Book* and many of his inscriptions that are preserved in stone.

Both books are illustrated and indexed, and include photographs and endnotes. The Scott biography is available now at the Jefferson County History Center, and the Stahlman biography will be available by Thanksgiving. A book signing is planned for Friday evening, November 28th at the History Center. To reserve either or both books, use the History Center's website, www.jchconline.org, phone (814) 849-0077, or email jchc@windstream.net.

THE SCRIPTURE ROCKS

WHY DOUGLAS STAHLMAN CARVED HIS LEGACY IN STONE



BRIAN L. FRITZ

KENNETH BURKETT



Kate M. Scott
Did She or Didn't She?
A Biography

By Carole A. Briggs

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