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MRS. EDNA BEST, MASON NATIVE,  
DIES IN FLORIDA  
BELOVED AND TALENTED WOMAN LED MOVEMENT FOR SESQUI AT  
WASHINGTON, DIED 17 APRIL 1960

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From The Daily Independent, Maysville, Ky., April 1960

Mrs. Edna Hunter Best, a gentlewoman of the old school and one of Mason County's most gifted residents, is dead. Mrs. Best, widow of Arthur S. Best, passed away yesterday at 1 p.m. at the home of her daughter Mrs. Lloyd Moeller, Coral Gables, Florida., where for a number of years she had spent the winter months. She was 86 years old.

One of Mrs. Best's great ambitions was to preserve and restore the history of her native Washington. For the last five years she had worked on a book entitled "Old Houses In Washington" which she had hoped to complete this spring. The book was to have been dedicated to her late father, Dr. Alexander Hunter.

In 1936, while she was president of the Washington Study Club, with the combined forces of that organization and Limestone Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Mrs. Best carried through to a successful conclusion the observance of the 150th celebration of the establishment of Washington as a town by the Virginia Legislature. As a memento of the event she had published a pamphlet titled "Sketches of Washington". She wrote a composition titled "It Happened First In Washington" for the dedication of the Albert Sidney Johnston Shrine.

Her talents were many. She had taught elocution in the Washington school and was an artist of considerable note. She created a number of worthwhile productions in both water color and oils which embellished the home of her sister, Miss Martha "Pattie" Selina Hunter, with whom she had resided at Washington.

Mrs. Best had attended private schools in Washington and Miss Savage's school for boarding and day pupils at Fernleaf. She was graduated from the old Millersburg Female College which her mother and daughter also attended. She did post-graduate work in elocution under Mrs. Best, the wife of Colonel C. M. Best, head of Millersburg Military Institute. Also she taught for a year at Bedford College, Virginia.

On December 27, 1905, she was married to Arthur Smedley Best, who for a quarter of a century operated a hardware business at Millersburg. He was the son of Dr. Isaac Reynolds Best and Sallie Barbee Best. Dr. Best was a native of Mason County and began the practice of medicine in Washington where they lived for several years before moving to Millersburg.

Following the death of her husband in 1928, Mrs. Best returned to Washington to reside. Upon her return she renewed her membership in the Nomads and held the office of president. Also she was a charter member of the Washington Study Club. Since 1956 she had held honorary membership in both organizations. During World War I she was appointed Red Cross chairman of Mason County by the Governor of Kentucky.

Mrs. Best was born March 12, 1874, daughter of Dr. Alexander Hunter and Mrs. Nancy Boulden Hunter, the latter of Millersburg, and was the oldest of seven children.

Surviving, in addition to her daughter and sister, are two brothers, David McKinley Hunter, Cleveland Ohio, and Pompano Beach Florida and Thomas Pickett Hunter, Austin, Texas.