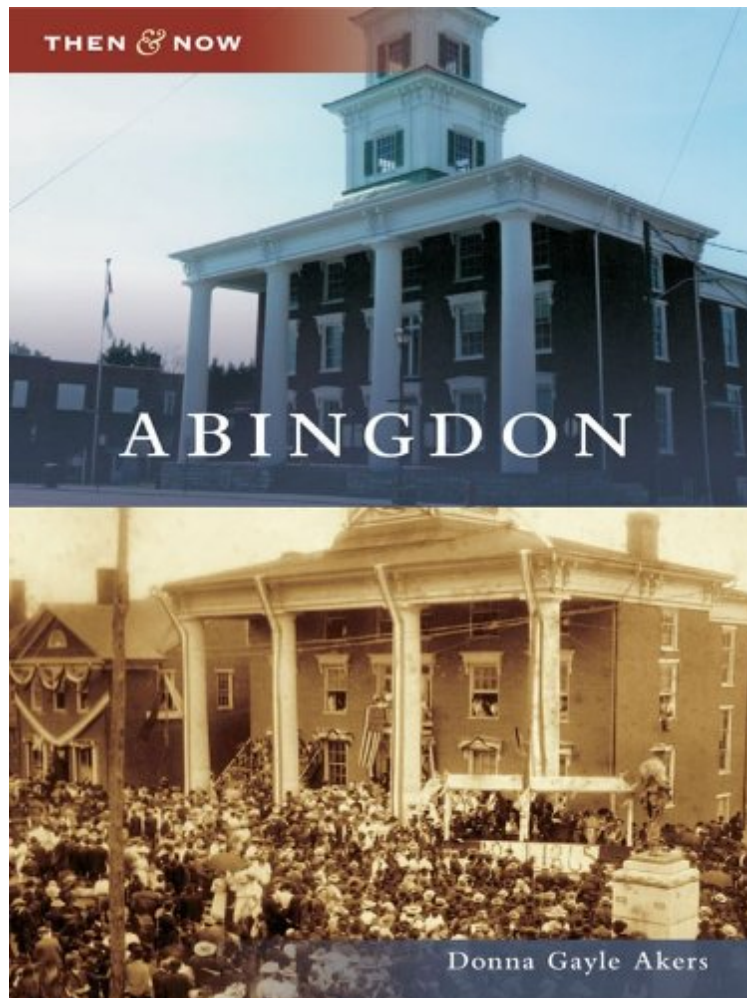


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Abingdon (Then and Now)

Donna Gayle Akers

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Donna Gayle Akers : Abingdon (Then and Now) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Abingdon (Then and Now):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good in print editionBy R. DaryBuy the print edition, not the Kindle one. Probably an especially good book for Abingdon natives and visitors who have more time to look around than I did.

Abingdon, first named Wolf Hills by Daniel Boone, was one of the earliest towns and commercial centers in southwestern Virginia. Named after Martha Washington's ancestral parish in England, this unique town has weathered many economic changes and has emerged as a leading cultural and arts center for the area. Author and native Donna Gayle Akers has extensively researched and published three other books about the area's history. Using images from collectors and area historical groups, she shows Abingdon's past and the excellent

preservation of its built environment.

Title: Book examines Abingdon in decades past
Author: Tom Netherland
Publisher: Herald Courier
Date: 11/14/2010
Good news for those who live in or simply love Abingdon. Care to learn more of Abingdon? Then pick up a copy of Donna Gayle Akers's new book "Abingdon" (Arcadia, \$21.99). The photos-heavy book with accompanying text examines Abingdon of decades past in comparison with Abingdon of today via photographs. "I hope it will demonstrate how historic preservation is really important," Akers said by phone from her home in Boone, N.C. "I hope it's received well." Turn out to meet Akers, buy a book and have it signed when she appears at the Annual Christmas Show at Coomes Recreation Center in Abingdon from Nov. 19-21. Then catch her again on Dec. 4 at Zazzy's Coffee House in Abingdon and on the same day at the Historical Society of Washington County. "This is my ninth book," Akers said. "My first book was a children's book, published in 2002. I feel honored every time I've been able to complete a book." Most of Akers's books concentrate on either Washington County, Va., or Abingdon and for good reason. She's a ninth generation native of Washington County, a genealogical line that she said leads back to the days of Daniel Boone. "These books are a labor of love," Akers said. "I feel like I am giving something back to the community." In the case of her new book, that community is Abingdon. "It's an educational tool," Akers said. "I think it will educate folks from natives and to people who live around there." For example, Akers explains a bit of why so many historical buildings in Abingdon survived through decades of urban renewal. "Abingdon has done a great job of preserving its history," she said. "Because we had a historical district early in Abingdon, that is one reason why so many buildings were preserved." Akers's vast and interesting photographs reflect that. From shots old and new of the Martha Washington Inn to the Zephyr Theatre, Hotel Abingdon, Barter Theatre, Abingdon Motor Company and so on, Akers illustrates a fascinating look at how history can be preserved while also showing how history either does or does not change particular locales. "My heart is in Abingdon," Akers said. "It's a walk down memory lane." **BOOK SIGNINGS BY DONNA GAYLE AKERS**
When: Nov. 19-21
Where: Coomes Recreation Center, 300 Stanley St., Abingdon, Va.
Info: (276) 623-5279
Web: www.donnaakers.com
AND
When: Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-noon
Where: Zazzy's Coffee House, 380 E. Main St., Abingdon
Info: (276) 698-3333
ALSO
When: Dec. 4, 1-3 p.m.
Where: The Historical Society of Washington County, 306 Depot Square, Abingdon
Info: (276) 623-8337
About the Author
Author and native Donna Gayle Akers has extensively researched and published three other books about the area's history. Using images from collectors and area historical groups, she shows Abingdon's past and the excellent preservation of its built environment.