

*Earning the Right to do Fancywork: An Informal Biography of Ida Eisenhower, 1957*

By Kunigunde Duncan

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“We sat in the front porch swing, chatting of cooking and a host of other matters: the superiority of freshly ground coffee; the need for a man’s knowing how to cook and mend; raising boys made easy in one lesson; laugh with them at their nonsense; how modern medicine could have saved her little Paul; how she’d borrowed law-books once, bent upon besting a dishonest man who had bested her David; what color—would it be a dim-rose?—for the new parlor paper, in prospect. We talked of women’s rights. She’d argued for them—heatedly—an entire afternoon, right here in this very porch swing, with sister [sister-in-law] Amanda [Eisenhower Musser].”