THE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER
Home of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society
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Volume 40, No. 1

Winter 2018

From the Featured Gallery:
The Challenge of Symbols

Contributed by Anne Sisk

Editor’s Note: Among the uniforms, letters, documents, and photographs in the Our Men & Women in Service Around the Globe featured exhibit, hangs a stark red, white, and black Nazi flag. The flag was carried home by Norman Taylor, a member of the 29th Division 116th Infantry C Company which landed on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. After surviving that devastating day, he was transferred to A Company. The flag is signed by the men who served with Taylor. Their names are encircled by the locations of the 29th Division as it moved through Europe to conquer the enemy from June 6, 1944 to May of 1945.

THE SWASTIKA

This ancient symbol, found around the world in art and jewelry, is often linked with auspiciousness or well-being. The name itself, swastika, derives from Sanskrit roots - su meaning good, asti meaning it is, and ka meaning make. A literal translation is “making of goodness.” Known as the fylfot in traditional Shenandoah Valley crafts and objects, a variation adorns a pie safe cabinet in the Historical Society’s collection.

When Adolph Hitler designed the symbol of his new Reich, he succeeded in creating an iconic image. Hitler agonized over the exact specifications of his swastika, reworking the balance of black graphic on red field to perfect his emblem. Since then, the swastika—or gammadion cross, fylfot, or Manji—has been linked with Aryan pride and antisemitism around the world.

SPOILS OF WAR

Since fighting began, man has helped himself to the property of his enemies. Whether called spoils of war, war trophies, or souvenirs, items seized or simply picked up during conflict are carried home with their captors. Many American soldiers came home from World War II with Nazi possessions. Wilson Homan returned with shoulder boards from a German naval

See Symbols, continued on page 10.
2018 EVENTS
Lincoln Day Ceremony, Monday, February 12, 2 pm at the Lincoln Homestead Cemetery.
Third Thursday Talk, February 15, 7 pm: Our Relations to the Past & the Present: World War I in the Shadow of the Civil War, with Jonathan Noyalas, Author and Director of McCormick Civil War Institute at Shenandoah University.
Third Thursday Talk, March 15, 7 pm: Brothers in Arms? Diplomatic relations between Germany and Austria-Hungary during the years of 1871-1914. Jacob Collier’s talk will question our understandings of the beginnings of World War I.
Third Thursday Partner Program, April 19, 7 pm at Massanutten Regional Library: To commemorate 100 years of education at James Madison University, discover some hidden history of the campus, with JMU Professor and Associate Vice Provost Meg Mulrooney.
Dayton Redbud Festival, Saturday, April 14
28th Annual Brocks Gap Heritage Day, Saturday, April 21, see page 3.
Third Thursday Talk, May 17, 7 pm: Gettysburg Religion—a religious history of America’s most famous small town before and during the battle, with Bridgewater College Professor Stephen L. Longenecker.

Donations to support these presentations are encouraged.

Our Wish List
Library Cart
Video Camera
Genealogy Research Assistants
Volunteers—what interests you??

Newsletter Submission Deadlines
Third Fridays in January, April, July, October
Do you have a story to tell? Please consider sharing it! All articles are subject to editing. Ideas for feature articles must be submitted in advance of the article. We reserve the right not to use unsolicited feature articles.
Submissions may be emailed to
director@heritagecenter.com
or mailed to HRHS, P.O. Box 716, Dayton VA 22821

The HRHS Collections grow through donations. If you are ready to pass along objects, photographs, and papers, please consider donating to the Historical Society.

All items are reviewed before being accepted into the permanent collection. We request that you make an appointment with the Collections Committee, if possible.

The Heritage Museum Hours
Monday—Saturday 10 am - 5 pm
Sundays, April—October, 1-5 pm
Office closed on Saturday and Sunday
Telephone: (540) 879-2681;
Email: heritage@heritagecenter.com
ValleyHeritageMuseum.org
HeritageMuseumStore.com
Executive Director Notes

Happy New Year!

Another year has flown by, but that is no surprise. You know that when you are busy and enjoying your tasks, time will fly. Every day is busy at The Heritage Museum, and I know that I (usually) love the tasks before me each day. Certainly, our generous and faithful volunteers would agree.

In 2017, the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society hosted 9 Third Thursday Talks, 9 WWII Video Lectures, and 7 Partner Programs, plus added 6 new stories to the galleries. In addition, members and friends gathered for the fabulous fundraiser, annual meeting, and gallery reception. And this list doesn’t include the numerous and varied activities required behind the scenes at the Museum!

Researchers, tourists, shoppers, members, and “students” of all ages used and enjoyed the vast information found in the Bookstore, Library, Archives, Galleries, Social Media, Talks, and Events.

The Annual Fund set a new participation record with 105 gifts totaling over $27,000—just a bit shy of our big, bold goal of $30,000!!

You made it possible. Thank you for your interest in and contributions to a very successful 2017. Thank you for ensuring that Harrisonburg and Rockingham History will be available to educate in 208 and many years to come.

With appreciation,

[Signature]

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28th Annual Brocks Gap Heritage Day
Saturday, April 21, 2018, 10 am - 4 pm
Fulks Run Elementary School

Visitors not connected to Brocks Gap become honorary cousins for the day!

- **Browse** 140 posters from old photograph collections, arranged by families, churches, communities, schools, and other topics.
- **Research** with Pat Ritchie’s personal library of family local and regional histories.
- **Chat** with genealogists and local historians who attend to share their material and gather new information.
- **Learn** from three programs during the day:
  - 11:00 am: *History of the Libbey House: Myths, Mysteries, and More*, with Robert and Barbara Liskey Driver
  - 12:30 pm: *Jacob C. Rhodes, World War II Soldier Killed In Action*, with Joe T. May and Lois May Rhodes
  - 2:00 pm: *What DNA Can and Can’t Tell You and Why*, with Dr. David F. Ritchie

As they have for every Heritage Day, HRHS staff and volunteers will be on hand to sell new books and to tell visitors about the work of the Society.

Heritage Day draws about 300 people, from as many as 18 different states. Many out-of-state attendees add a day of research at The Heritage Museum to their schedule.

Heritage Day is sponsored by Pat Turner Ritchie and her father Garnett R. Turner. For more information, contact Pat at patrichie@verizon.net.
The Surname Research List allows people researching the same surnames to make contact with each other in order to ask questions, compare and collaborate, knock down a ‘brick wall’ or two, and possibly find a distant cousin. Participants grant permission for the Society to release their contact information to fellow researchers, once requested. For privacy reasons your contact information will not be published. The list is available online at [valleyheritagemuseum.org](http://valleyheritagemuseum.org).

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Acquisitions

Archives

- Clarence Geier gave books and papers that belonged to Dr. Scott William Brewer to add to the existing Dr. S. W. Brewer Collection. Dr. Brewer (1858-1927), a prominent physician in Singers Glen, was an 1885 graduate of Richmond Medical College. Along with his diploma, he received the “Faculty Prize,” the highest honor the institution awarded at that time. His obituary stated that, “he was beloved by thousands in West Rockingham and could have collected fame and fortune as a surgeon, but instead decided to practice at Cootes Store and Singers Glen.” Dr. Brewer served his community 41 years.

- David Kluttz donated an original advertisement (circa 1860) for Universal Balsam de Malta. See article and advertisement on pages 8-9.

- Douglas Bartley and Debra Simmons donated numerous materials related to the Ruebush-Kieffer and Joseph Funk music publishers, the Shenandoah Collegiate Institute, and the Ruebush family. Mr. Bartley is a Ruebush family descendant.

- A Fleury/Flory family crest that belonged to Mildred “Milly” (Flory) Love was donated.

Artifacts

- Jerry and Phyllis Coulter donated a Revolutionary-era cannonball found in Harrisonburg in the 1980s while Jerry was tilling his garden. The age of the cannonball was confirmed at the time by JMU history department staff. The Coulters were informed that the cannonball may have been “recycled” during the end of the Civil War as armaments became scarce.

- Mary Hutzler Crim donated some unique women’s clothing specifically worn for dancing (circa 1930s). She and her sister belonged to a dance club which met monthly. One of Harrisonburg’s favorite sons, Charlie Wampler, Jr. (1915-2017), was also part of the group.

- Wilbert Davis donated a metal rim bender for a wagon wheel.


Acquisitions continue on the next page.
Acquisitions, cont’d

- Carole Funk Gerhard donated a double woven woolen coverlet (circa 1760-1780) in the pine tree design. It was purchased by the donor’s mother at the sale of Bess Cline (daughter of Squire John Funk). It is believed that the coverlet came with the Henry Funk family who moved from Montgomery County, PA, to Singers Glen in Rockingham County.

- Everett Ressler donated 12 patterns for felloes (the curved pieces of the wheel to which the spokes are attached). The patterns were rescued from the Hopkins Mill (later, W. H. Myers Mill on Muddy Creek) and date from 1866 to 1903. Wheels were made to order, and each pattern identifies the man to whom the pattern belonged. Some of the surnames include: Early, Myers, Showalter, Harrison, Bridges, and VanPelt.

Photos
- Doris Coffman donated photo reprints of the Dayton Concert Band, the Shenandoah Collegiate Institute Band, and the Ladies Concert Band of Dayton. One of Dayton Concert Band images includes G.P. Arey, who was the grandfather of Doris’ husband Richard Coffman.

Library and/or Ongoing Used Book Sale
- Ann Hill donated books for the Society’s ongoing used book sale
- Sidney Bland donated books for the Society’s ongoing used book sale, as well as newspaper clippings regarding the 2000 opening of the Museum in Dayton and news about other Historical Society exhibitions.
- The Hilda L. Welsh Trust donated various family genealogies (e.g. Biller, Cootes, Derrow, Fitzwater, Roadcap, Buhl, Reid, Spitzer, Fansler, Mauck, and Welch), related local history (Civil War, Mills, and, Cemeteries) and other genealogy resources for the Genealogy and Research Library.
- Saraona Minnich and Mary Nelson donated genealogy-related books for the Library and/or for the Society’s ongoing used book sale.

Tools, Equipment, Office Supplies & Grounds
- Chip McIntyre donated a new American flag for the exterior flagpole.
The Story of Clarissa Lippard Kluttz & The Universal Balsam of Malta

Contributed by David & Henry Kluttz

Editor’s Note: Accepting a donation is like opening an unexpected gift. There is an element of surprise and a feeling of gratitude. We are always eager for provenance details, but are especially delighted when donor’s provide a story!

The advertisement for Universal Balsam of Malta (seen opposite) was found in the pages of a German language family Bible owned by my grandmother four generations back, Clarissa M. Lippard Kluttz (born February 23, 1835), who lived very near Salisbury, North Carolina. How she came by this document and why it was kept in the pages of her Bible is not known with certainty, but a few things are known. Even though their German ancestors had emigrated to Philadelphia more than 100 years earlier, the family was still reading and speaking German in the home at the time of the American Civil War.

Clarissa may have obtained the advertisement for the elixir from the elixir purveyor, Jacob Sala, or from one of his agents near her home in North Carolina. But there is another possibility: she may have bought some of the elixir in Harrisonburg during the late winter or early spring of 1863. I prefer this second possibility because it says a lot about the times and the strength and courage of my Grandmother Clarissa, as well as other women and men who lived during those days.

Clarissa married Archibald Monroe Alexander Kluttz in 1853. Clarissa was 18 and Archibald was 21 years old at the time of their marriage. They were subsistence farmers near the Rowan and Cabarrus County lines, about 15 miles south of Salisbury.

Archibald enlisted in the Confederate Army on July 4, 1862, as a 1st Sergeant. At the time of his enlistment, he and Clarissa had two sons and two daughters, and Clarissa was pregnant with their fifth child.

Archibald fought at Fredericksburg in mid-December 1862. On December 21st, their fifth child, a son named Jacob, died at less than two months old. Archibald never knew his infant son.

In late February or early March of 1863, Clarissa received communications that Archibald was ill and that someone needed to retrieve him from the Confederate Medical Encampment at Port Royal Virginia. Clarissa consulted with Archibald’s parents and left right away by horse and wagon to bring her husband home to recover. She left the farm and headed toward Salisbury following the Post Road, the usual term for the path of the postal carrier.

Only a day’s journey had passed when she received additional word that Archibald had died on February 24, 1863. After returning home and consulting with her in-laws, she embarked once again on the journey to retrieve Archibald’s body. Most likely, her route took her first to Salisbury, then on to Salem, North Carolina. From there she likely traveled north to Roanoke, Virginia, and then northeast up the Shenandoah Valley through Harrisonburg, on to New Market and then east to Port Royal.

Along the way, either to or from Port Royal, my grieving great-great-great-grandmother Clarissa would have had good reason to purchase some Universal Balsam of Malta to relieve her grief and ailments, keeping the advertisement for medical instructions—and later within the pages of her Bible to remember her nearly 800-mile journey to retrieve the body of her dear Archibald.

Clarissa raised her remaining four children and died at the age of 71 in 1906.

See advertisement on the next page.
Universal Balsam of Malta

The virtues of this precious balsam have been abundantly experienced and [it] has been found to be the best medicine ever discovered, especially in the following ailments: in chest complaints, coughs, asthma, [whooping?] cough, weakness of the lungs, consumption, diarrhea, colds, leucorrhoea in women, an excellent remedy in inner pain of small children, to calm and quieten them, for headaches, stitch in the side, and back pain, hysterics,[rage/colic] and all pains of the bowels, stomach, heartburn, painful stones, toothaches, several drops with cotton placed on the affected tooth, in fever and chills and diarrhea a proven remedy, [narrowness/contraction], [burn/ gangrene], and similar misfortunes; and externally for all fresh wounds, whether caused by falls, pinches, hits, shoves, cuts or bites. If anyone has taken a cold drink in the heat, and immediately takes 15 to 20 drops on a lump of sugar, it will do him no harm; in severe illnesses, such as colic, hysterics and the like, 40 to 50 drops can be taken at once.

Note well: The above is available from Jacob Sala, in Harrisonburg, Rockingham County, Virginia.

HRHS expresses appreciation to Lois Bowman for the transcribing the German text.

A Warm Welcome To Our New Members

Lauren Arbogast, Rockingham, VA
Jean Barr, Lisle, IL
Susan Gatling, Penn Laird, VA
Christi Grace, Broadway, VA
Stephen Hutcheson, Berkley, MA
Vicki Meadows, Fredericksburg, VA

Hal Robinson, Burlington, NC
John Sherman, Damascus, OR
Vickie Slaubaugh, Bridgewater, VA
Nancy Stockner, Harrisonburg, VA
William Bray & Shirley Sharpe, Dayton, VA
Symbols, continued from the first page.

officer’s uniform. Vernon Lawson had his photo taken in a Hitler Youth uniform. And Norman Taylor saved the Nazi banner he found as the 116th A Company marched through France and Germany.

Since World War II, the image of the Nazi swastika has provoked strong emotion. But, as with many symbols, emotions are triggered by changing thoughts on the symbol’s representation. When the flag on display arrived in America, it represented the German enemy. When it arrived at The Heritage Museum in early August, 2017, it represented history and the honor of the soldiers who fought to win World War II. One week later, after the riots in Charlottesville, Virginia, it represented the rise of a new wave of white supremacy.

While Hitler may have corrupted the swastika, its history does not begin nor end in 1930s Germany. For the men of the 116th Infantry Regiment, claiming a Nazi flag as a spoil of war wasn’t an acceptance of the swastika as intended by Hitler. The flag celebrated what this symbol has meant for thousands of years. For the men who survived Operation Overlord on D-Day, the swastika became a representation of the making of goodness. To survive D-Day, to make it through every battle and location recorded on the border of the emblem’s white circle, is both to make good in the world, as well as to carry through with auspiciousness. Well-wishes in the shape of names and hometowns are written around the swastika on display, linking these men and their successes as the make good from Normandy to Berlin.
Engrossing and Surprising
Bond of Iron: Master and Slave at Buffalo Forge
By Charles B. Dew
Softcover, $16.95
A study of African-American workers empowered and partly liberated by their skills in Rockbridge County, Virginia, near Lexington.

History Note:
Buffalo Forge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The period of historical significance (1820-1870) is represented by 14 buildings and structures. Considerable history of Buffalo Forge can be found in the site’s Registry application on Virginia’s Department of Historic Resources website: www.dhr.virginia.govregisters/Counties/registry_Rockbridge.htm.

Note: Most books and some gift items are available to order at heritagemuseumstore.com. Shipping charges apply to all orders.
Check your mailing label. If it’s blue, it’s time to renew!

Now in the Featured Gallery

*Our Men and Women in Service Around the Globe During World War II*

Uniforms, letters home, honors, and diaries reveal the stories of far-reaching service of men and women from Harrisonburg and Rockingham during WWII.