

Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts Honorees 2017

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Segregation Era "Colored" Sink

Dated: Mid 20th century

African American Historical Society of Portsmouth
Portsmouth, Virginia

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Recalling a time of racial segregation in Virginia, the "colored" hand sink, now in care of the African American Historical Society of Portsmouth, was once in use at a railroad warehouse. Such examples of racial segregation at public facilities were common across the southern United States following the Reconstruction Period and 1890 ruling of "separate but equal" status for African Americans and known as "Jim Crow" laws that enforced racial segregation on the state and local level until 1965. As few such items remain intact, it exemplifies an era of a separate and unequal life lived in the south.

WCYB-Bristol Farm & Fun Time Audio Disc of Rare Radio Performance by the Stanley Brothers with the Clinch Mountain Boys
Dated: circa early 1950s



Birthplace of Country Music
Bristol, Virginia

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This disc holds never-heard music of Ralph and Carter Stanley from early-career broadcasts on WCYB-Bristol's historic *Farm & Fun Time* radio show. As radio stations began reaching an expanding audience, live performances of regional artists became a fixture of programming on stations across the country. At the same time in 1946 that Bill Monroe took the Grand Ole Opry by storm with what is considered to be the first bluegrass music, WCYB began broadcasting from Bristol. This powerful station reached a 5-state area and was home to *Farm & Fun Time*, a midday music program which featured advertising jingles, community announcements, and a farm report. From 1946 through the late 1950s, the show was a platform for first-generation bluegrass musicians such as the Stanley Brothers, Flatt & Scruggs, Mac Wiseman, Jim & Jesse McReynolds, and the Sauceman Brothers. Because it gave the first generation of bluegrass a platform on which to grow, WCYB's *Farm & Fun Time* is an integral part of American roots music history.



Odd Fellows Ceremonial Collar
Dated: circa early 1900s

Blacksburg Museum & Cultural Foundation
Blacksburg, Virginia

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In what was a small African-American community on the outskirts of Blacksburg, Virginia, Tadmore Light Lodge 6184 of the Grand United Order of the Odd Fellows and the Saint Francis Council of the Right and Worthy Grand Council of the Independent Order of Saint Luke came together to purchase and build the only community center for African-Americans in Blacksburg and the surrounding area. Constructed in 1905, the St. Luke & Odd Fellows Hall was located in New Town, one of five African-American communities in Blacksburg. During segregation, the Hall was the only place outside of church where African-Americans could gather. This ceremonial collar is representative of the members of the community who took ownership to create a safe haven for African-Americans in Blacksburg and many parts of Montgomery County and beyond.

Electric Car Drivers Permit for First Woman in Washington, DC

Dated: September 7, 1904

Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Foundation

Wytheville, Virginia

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In 1904, Edith Bolling Galt became the first woman licensed to operate an electric car in Washington, D.C. Like many other early women drivers with independent methods of transportation, Edith questioned contemporary gender roles and societal expectations. Edith's recollections of driving her Columbia Elbron Victoria Mark XXXI in Washington D.C. are relayed in her 1939 autobiography, "My Memoir." Edith Bolling Galt married President Woodrow Wilson in December 1915, and served as First Lady until 1921. As one of only eight historic sites across the country dedicated to the interpretation of a First Lady, her birthplace home now tells the story of the overlooked, yet vitally important role that Edith Bolling Wilson played in the White House at a pivotal moment during World War I and in women's rights movement. This artifact provides a glimpse into the early life and accomplishments of one of the most significant and influential women of the 20th century.



Young Woman's 1864 Diary

Dated: June 1864

Historic Sandusky Foundation

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Born November 8, 1846, Adeline "Ada" Lawrence Hutter was the youngest child, and only daughter of George and Harriet Hutter, longtime owners of the Sandusky plantation. Ada was seventeen years old when Union General David Hunter seized her family's home, Sandusky, as military headquarters during the Battle of Lynchburg in June 1864. Ada's diary reveals the thoughts, feelings, and reservations of a young woman coming into adulthood during a turbulent time of uncertainty and share first-hand accounts of the Civil War. Her diary contains excerpts of poetry, autographs, her own personal musings, notes on life in Lynchburg and other prominent families in the area, her disdain towards the Union soldiers that commandeered her home and threatened her family, and her growing concerns for her dear brother who was being held as a prisoner of war in Johnson's Island, Ohio. Ada's diary remains one of the only artifacts that provide such explicit details of how the Civil War came to affect Sandusky and the Hutter Family.

James C. Foltz Distillery Still

Dated: circa mid 1800s

Museum of the Shenandoah Valley

Winchester, Virginia

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The James Foltz C. Distillery operated in Edinburg, VA, from 1898–1916, when Prohibition was enacted in VA. To our knowledge, this is the only still set in a Virginia public institution that retains all its original components as well as related materials: still pot, coils, vat, cap, casks, cask-making tools, account books, ledgers, licenses, orders, and receipts. The Foltz family operated the foremost distillery in Shenandoah CO. The still's importance to local history and culture surpassed prohibition. When Woodstock, VA celebrated its bicentennial, the still was included on a parade float as an example of the area's early history. Several weeks later, ABC agents visited the Foltz farm and drilled a large hole in the still pot, ensuring it would not be used again. Conserving the still is also timely: as craft distilleries appear across VA, the conserved still set will allow the MSV to engage with this contemporary trend while presenting the history of an important regional industry.



D-Day Order of the Day

Dated: June 6, 1944

National D-Day Memorial

Bedford, Virginia

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As Allied forces waited in the English Channel for the order to invade Normandy on June 6, 1944, Dwight Eisenhower issued his famous “Order of the Day.” This pep talk was to encourage those getting ready for the crucial battle. Among the anxious soldiers to receive a printed copy was Roanoke’s Bob Slaughter. Realizing the historical importance of the moment, Bob had his buddies sign his copy; eleven of those who penned their names would be dead within hours. Bob folded his Order into a plastic bag and carried it for the rest of the war. Wounded twice and earning two Bronze Stars, Bob survived to cherish his Order of the Day, calling it his “most treasured souvenir of the war.” In later years he frequently showed it in numerous talks around the country and to visitors at the National D-Day Memorial, of which Bob was the founder. Few copies of this inspiring document survive; fewer with signatures of participants of D-Day; and only one which belonging to the eventual Founder of the National D-Day Memorial.

Excavated 18th Century Merchant Ship

Dated: Circa 1750s to 1800



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In November 2015, archaeologists made an incredible discovery during construction of a waterfront hotel in Alexandria, Virginia. This 18th century merchant ship is the most tangible piece of the City’s rich maritime history. Its voyages throughout the Atlantic world allowed the port to flourish in the colonial period. Eventually, the ship became a physical part of the town when it was scuttled and used to extend the shoreline into the Potomac River. This vessel is a rare example of a documented, excavated, and soon to be conserved 18th-century merchant ship – one of only two ever archaeologically documented or excavated in Virginia. Though the ship is incomplete, its discovery affords a rare opportunity to study the remains of British Atlantic shipbuilding traditions.



Prince William County Poll Books

Dated: 1902

Prince William County Historic Preservation

Dumfries, Virginia

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In 1900 there was significant unrest in Virginia’s electorate – with a strong belief that there was extensive voter fraud. Between June 12, 1901, and June 26, 1902, the Constitutional Convention met in Richmond, whereby the 100 delegates met and decided on several new requirements for voters. The first requirement was a \$1.50 poll tax to be paid six months prior to the election, for three years prior to the vote occurring. Additionally, after 1903, the voter registrars could administer a written application, that must be completed without assistance, and a could require an understanding exam in order to process the voter’s application. Civil War Veterans, both North and South, black or white, were exempted from the requirements. As a result, major disenfranchisement occurred and in 1905 there were 88,000 fewer voters than had been in the last election. These poll books illustrate exactly how devastating this legislation was to African Americans in Virginia.



Paris Peace Conference Parade Flag

Dated: June 1919

Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library

Staunton, Virginia

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This French flag was carried in the Paris Peace Conference Parade in June, 1919, celebrating the signing of the Treaty of Versailles and the end of what was then known as The Great War. A French delegation gave the flag to President Woodrow Wilson, and he kept it in his personal possession after leaving the White House because of its special significance to him. It was one of the first donations made by Wilson's widow, Edith, to the then Woodrow Wilson Birthplace (now Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library) in the 1930s. The flag was prominently displayed at the Birthplace through the 1980s, but the flag's deteriorating condition forced it to be removed to storage.

As we near the centennial of the Paris Peace Conference and the of World War I, this flag remains as a reminder of Wilsonian idealism- freedom, prosperity, peace, the protection of human rights, and the spread of democracy that has been the hallmark of American foreign policy since the 1940s.