

# Past Times

FREE

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The Hayes Presidential Center is affiliated with the Ohio Historical Society.

## Exhibit offers a peek into Museum's Collections Vault

Museums own many more things than you see on display when you visit. Even though many objects are rotated on and off display, it is impossible to put everything out where you and I can see it. The reasons for this include limited exhibit space, items that are too fragile to be exhibited, and objects that are indirectly related to the Museum's mission.

The mission of the Hayes Museum is to interpret the life of 19th U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes and the period of time in which he lived - America's Gilded Age. Documents and objects displayed in the Museum have direct connections to the President or the Gilded Age. However, the Museum has other items that its directors felt were important to preserve.

*Hidden Treasures of the Hayes Museum* is made up of a selection of these types of items. The exhibit on display August 17, 2010 through February 29, 2011 gives us all the chance to peek into a real treasure chest. It was made possible with funding from the Randolph J. & Estelle M. Dorn Foundation, with additional support from Mosser Construction, Inc.

Did you know that when President Hayes lived in the White House (1877-1881) the Washington Monument was being built? It took 49 years after George Washington died (1799) for the nation to begin a monument dedicated to its first President. The construction was affected by many problems, including money, politics and the Civil War. Work stopped in 1854 and did not restart until 1879

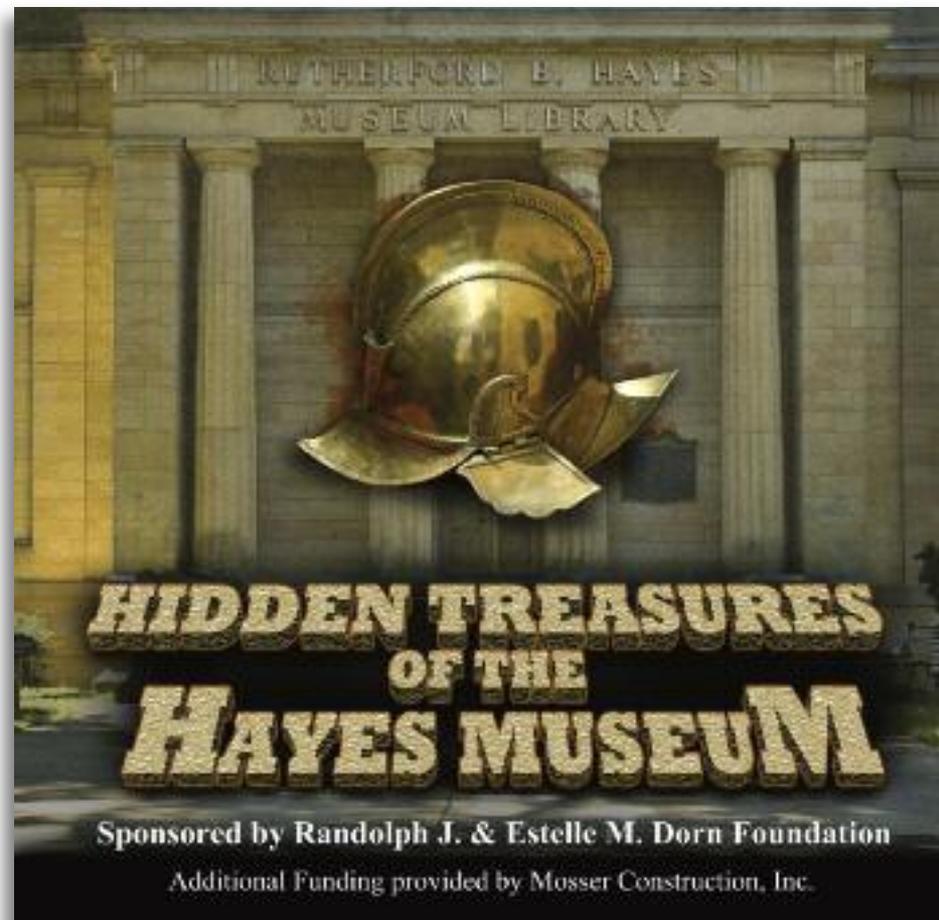
when a contest was held for a new, less costly design. Plans for three entries - a gothic tower, domed building and a square tall tower - are on display in *Hidden Treasures*. The winning design was the 555-foot obelisk we see today. It was finished in 1884 (see page 3).

Also on display is a coin that only recently was discovered to be a link to the Washington Monument. While doing research for the *Hidden Treasures of the Hayes Museum*, Center staff were able to match the coin to a diary entry written by the President: AUGUST 8, 1880. YESTERDAY THE FIRST STONE WAS LAID IN CONTINUANCE OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT - A CORNER-STONE ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER ... I PLACED UNDER A HALF DOLLAR MARKED ON ONE SIDE "R.B.H." AND ON THE OTHER "1880." THE MARKING WAS DONE ON TOP OF THE MONUMENT, AND A SIMILARLY MARKED PIECE I KEEP AS A TOKEN.

Other exhibit items include examples of the unique, unusual, and odd objects that are part of the Museum Collections.

The word "odd" best describes a sewing basket made from the body of a seven-banded armadillo. It is a souvenir purchased by President Hayes' son Webb during a trip to South America. The basket is a typical 20th-Century item made by locals for the tourist trade.

A common pencil is among the most unique artifacts in the museum's collection. Presented to President Hayes in 1880 by Colonel Ezra H. Bailey, it has great significance. The pencil was used by Union General Ulysses Grant to write a rough draft of surrender terms agreed to by Confederate General Robert E. Lee.



Colonel Bailey was present that day at Appomatox Courthouse and "... took the liberty of confiscating the pencil" after the generals left the room.

An unusual pouch woven of red, white, and blue ribbon decorated the bottle of champagne used to christen the naval ship the *USS Spiegel Grove*. The ship was named for President Hayes' Spiegel Grove estate in honor of his great-grand-

son Navy Admiral Webb C. Hayes. The admiral's wife Martha carried out the naval tradition of breaking the bottle of wine on the ship's bow at the launching ceremony Nov. 10, 1955.

*Hidden Treasures of the Hayes Museum* is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. The exhibit is closed Monday, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

## Artifacts sometimes lose their past

The things a museum collects fall into two general categories - artifacts and manuscripts. Artifacts are three-dimensional objects like a vase, sword, dress or medal. Manuscripts are one-of-a-kind two-dimensional items made of paper, like a letter, legal document, or map.

Every museum has "orphan" artifacts in its collections. These are artifacts that have become separated from their history. The portrait at right is one of two painted on planks of wood. The identities of the artist and the subjects in the portraits are unknown.

According to oral history (stories told by one family member to others), a traveling artist in need of money to get to Cleveland offered the painting to Anson Miller (the father of Mrs. Webb Hayes) in exchange for a cash loan of \$50. The artist told Anson he would return for the paintings but never did.

Center staff closely examined the two oil portraits and believe they probably were painted at the same time in the same household. But who, when, and where remain a mystery.



## The symbol of the 'bravest of the brave'

The Medal of Honor is the highest military honor awarded by the United States government. It is given to members of the U.S. armed forces who "... go above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States." The resolution creating the Medal of Honor was signed into law during the Civil War on July 12, 1862.

Throughout history the medal has become a symbol of the bravest of the brave. The total number of soldiers awarded the Medal of Honor is 3,468. Of those, 621 received the award posthumously (after they died). Four residents of Sandusky County, Ohio, were awarded the Medal of Honor: John Miller (Battle of



Gettysburg) and Charles McCleary (Battle of Nashville) - during the Civil War; Colonel Webb C. Hayes

(Luzon, Philippine Islands) - during the Philippine

Insurrection; and Rodger W. Young (New Georgia, Solomon Islands) - during World War II.

Colonel Hayes was the second oldest son of President Rutherford B. Hayes. He was a career soldier who along with his wife spent his retirement years living in Spiegel Grove. His Medal of Honor is part of the Museum Collections.

There are three versions of the medal in use today. Members of the Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard are awarded the original 1862 design. In 1904, the Army adopted its own version of the medal. The newest branch of the military, the Air Force, adopted its own design in 1965.



**Rodger Young**

## Definitely on the weird side

President Hayes' son Webb (at right) was a soldier who fought in the Philippine Insurrection - 1899-1900. While on duty in the Philippines, Webb captured a pony to use as transportation. He named the animal 'Piddig' after a local town. Webb became so attached to the pony that when it died, he preserved Piddig's hooves (below.) Lying in front of the hooves is the short riding whip, called a 'quirt,' that Webb used when riding the pony.



# Hidden Treasures' Hidden Words



Find these words hidden in the puzzle at left. Circle each with your pencil.

ARTIFACTS  
COLLECTIONS  
HISTORY  
MANUSCRIPTS  
MISSION  
UNIQUE  
ORPHAN  
PHOTOGRAPHS  
QUIRT  
TREASURES

## Photographs are important windows into the past

Photographs capture moments in time. They literally are windows to the past.

Photographs not only allow us to see objects and manuscripts as they originally looked, but also how they fit into everyday life. The Hayes Museum's Photographic Collections cover topics ranging from ice harvesting and Lake Erie shipping to portraits of people.

Sometimes the individuals seen in old photographs were people who made history! Clarence Childs is one such person. He is an Olympic medal winner.

Clarence and his family moved to Fremont when he was 11. It was in Fremont that he discovered his talents as an athlete and a musician.

Clarence played halfback for the Fremont Football Club during his senior year of high school, but school and football were cut short by war. Before graduation, he mustered into the military as a musician and served in Cuba until the end of the Spanish American War. Clarence then traveled to Europe with the All-American Concert Band, performing at the 1900 Paris Exposition.

In 1906, he enrolled at Kenyon College where he participated in track, football, and several music clubs. He transferred to Yale University his senior year to study law,



Clarence Childs in his Yale track uniform.

continuing to play football and compete in track and field.

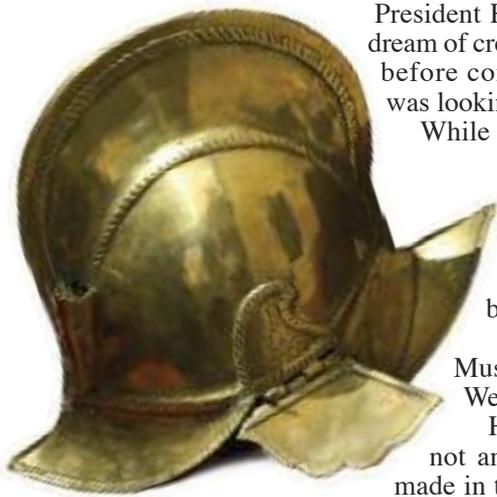
In 1912 Clarence was chosen to compete in the Olympic Games in Stockholm, Sweden. He won the bronze medal in the hammer throw, missing the silver by less than an inch. After touring Europe and the U. S. with the Olympic team, he joined Yale's coaching staff. He later coached at Wooster College and Indiana University. His assistant in 1914 & 1915 was his Olympic teammate, the legendary Jim Thorpe.



The photo at left shows what the Washington Monument looked like to U.S. citizens between 1854 and 1879.

Today the monument looks the same (above) as when it was completed in 1884. President Rutherford B. Hayes was unable to attend the dedication ceremony for the structure, which was held in 1885 on George Washington's birthday - February 22.

# Art or artifact: It can be hard to tell



President Hayes's son Webb was able to make his father's dream of creating a museum in Spiegel Grove a reality. Even before construction of the Hayes Museum started, Webb was looking for artifacts to place in the museum.

While serving in the Army in the Philippines (1899-1900), he came across the helmet at left and other pieces of early brass body armor. Webb believed the items were brought to the Philippines in 1521 by famous world explorer Ferdinand Magellan. He purchased the artifacts and brought them back to Fremont, Ohio.

For years the descriptions of the armor filed in the Museum's *Objects Catalog* were based on the story Webb was told.

However, new research indicates that the armor is not ancient. Close examination reveals it likely was made in the 19th century by Moro tribesmen. The Moro are a group of native Filipino people who are very skilled in metalworking. It now appears that the Museum's Magellan armor is art rather than artifact. The items were expertly copied from original Spanish designs. The body armor probably was created to sell to foreign visitors and service people.

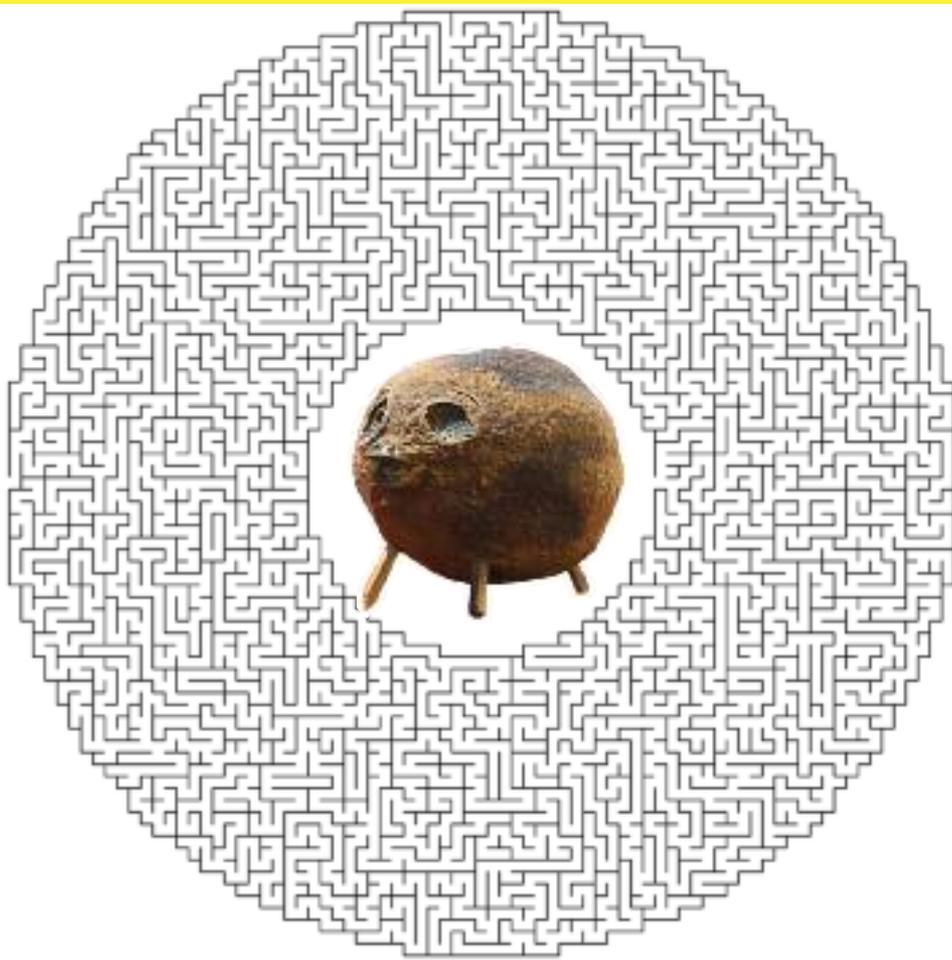


## Missionary preserves China's history

Reverend Franklin Ohlinger (center, above) grew up in Sandusky County and attended Baldwin-Wallace College shortly after the Civil War. In 1870, the American Board of Missions sent Ohlinger to Foochow, China as a Methodist education missionary. A gifted linguist and teacher, Ohlinger quickly mastered the Chinese language and founded the Anglo-Chinese College at Foochow that continues to the present. For 17 years, he and his wife Bertha translated and published sermons, lessons, and books into Chinese.



The 19th-century bronze incense burner (at right) is part of a much larger collection of Chinese artifacts, publications, photographs, and texts donated to the Museum by the Ohlingers' daughter Constance.



## A present for a President?

Every U. S. president receives gifts from American citizens. Many are spectacular, lavish, and valuable. Others are strange and unique. When President Hayes received this pig fashioned from a lemon, he must have smiled. Although a folk art oddity, the gift was actually functional. It held lemon juice to add to one's cup of tea. Use your pencil to help the Lemon Pig find its way out of the maze.

## What Is It? Contest

Do you know what this item is? Email your answer to [admin@rbhayes.org](mailto:admin@rbhayes.org) (type "contest" in the subject line) and you can win a prize from the Museum Store. One winner will be drawn from all the correct entries (in March 2011). Limit one entry per person. Winner's name will be posted on the Center's website [www.rbhayes.org](http://www.rbhayes.org).

