

Where do we get our stuff?

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The Cornwall Brothers Store Museum is full of interesting items. Have you ever wondered, where did all this museum stuff come from? The answer is its an accumulation of several factors at work.

Donations. Many people just give items that they think are historic and should be preserved. Every donation is credited to the person who gave the item. This is how we have the Fitzgerald and Lee exhibit currently in the museum. The discovery of all their data and history was recognized as something for the museum and donated.

Consignments. People loan their historic items so that others may share the beauty or significance of the item. Each consignment is noted with the name of the loaner, and it is returned to the owner upon request.

Searchers. There are a certain few people who will see an item at a garage sale, online sale or otherwise, and will alert the museum to the item. Often when researching a topic, items will be found that could be obtained for the museum. These are evaluated by our curator, Martha Grimes, and obtained if deemed appropriate for the museum

The combination of donations, consignments and searching is most of our displays.

Last week, we had someone walk in who had found an item while digging in their back yard. They were asking if we knew what it was or had ever seen one before. Both answers were no. It was a button sized piece of sterling silver with Alster Tower etched on the front, named, and the 1000 Islands. On the back, was a knob type feature of unknown use, and the words sterling silver. Internet searching had brought no answers. Here is a photo of the item. If you think you know what it would have been made for, please email info@alexandriahistorical.com, or stop by the museum. We are curious about this find.



If you think you may have something we would appreciate, please stop by the museum. We are always looking for something new!