

Collecting Antique Bottles

Collecting antique bottles has been a popular past-time for quite a few decades. It has seen a revival in recent years thanks to collectors reaching out to one another to share information about the hobby and show off their collections on the web. Often a collector will specialize in a particular type of bottle, for example a pill or beer bottle, or instead fill his or her collection with bottles of a certain age or made using a specific glass manufacturing technique.

Our recent exhibit, “Antique Bottles from Berkshire County,” showcased Jim Thomas’ collection of bottles made, used, and found in Berkshire County. Jim built much of his collection by digging bottles out of the ground at sites of former garbage dumps or home privies.

Getting in on the hobby of bottle digging and collecting is a fun way to channel your inner Indiana Jones, but there are a few basics you should follow before you dig in. First, get permission

This newsletter is interactive! Click on colored boxes for videos, websites, and songs.

Click here to read an article about bottle digging in the Berkshires



from the property owner or municipality. Next, team up with someone who has dug for bottles before, he or she has a wealth of knowledge on both the techniques for digging and of the bottles you may find. Bottle digging is not a solo activity. There is always the danger of the side walls of a pit collapsing in on you, or even cutting yourself on a broken piece of glass. Nevertheless, sharing the thrill of finding a pristine or rare bottle with your digging buddy makes the experience all the more fun.



Want to identify and date your antique bottles? The Society for Historical Archaeology's website is a comprehensive, yet accessible, resource for collectors.



Click here for a nifty "bottle dating wizard"

Virtual Museums

INTERNATIONAL PERFUME BOTTLE ASSOCIATION

OLD OPERATING THEATRE MUSEUM

At the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors website you can find a bottle collecting group near you as well as nearby bottle shows.

SARATOGA SHOW 2015
 Antique Bottle Show & Sale



SUNDAY, JUNE 7th
 SARATOGA FAIRGROUNDS
 BALLSTON SPA, NY

Doors open to the public at 9:00 AM
 Show closes at 2:30 PM

For information or table contract, contact:
 The National Bottle Museum (518) 885-7589 or
 nbm@nycup.rr.com



Click here to see a video of a bottle dig

Carrie Smith Lorraine

Among the many "Legendary Locals" that Gary Leveille spoke about at the May Program at Dewey Hall, is Carrie Smith Lorraine. As Gary explains in his book "Legendary Locals of the Southern Berkshires"

she was Sheffield's first professional female photographer and took numerous photographs that encapsulated what the landscape and the people of Sheffield looked like at the turn of the 20th century. The Sheffield Tree Project features some of her photos, which you can see by clicking on the photo to the left.



The Songs of George F. Root

Those of you who made it out to our April Program at Dewey Hall heard about the life and music of Sheffield native, George F. Root, from his descendant Anne Elizabeth Barnes. Root is considered one of the first composers of popular American music. He gained most notoriety with the songs he wrote during and about the Civil War.

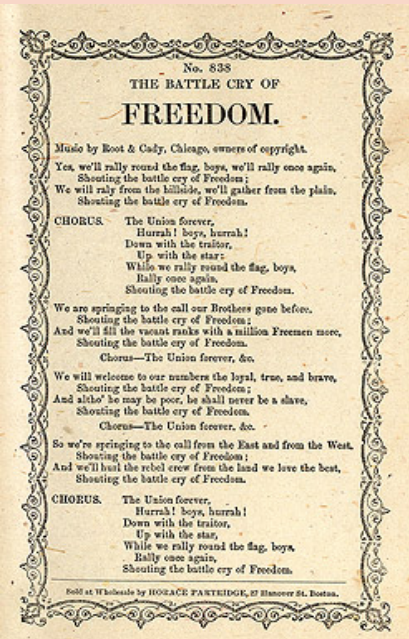
By and far, his most famous and enduring song is "The Battle Cry of Freedom." In less than a day after hearing President Lincoln's July 1862 call for 300,000 volunteers for the Union Army, Root

had composed the rousing melody and penned its patriotic lyrics. It was an instant hit, especially among soldiers for whom the song was written. With 14 printing presses running nonstop, the publisher still struggled to keep up with demand for copies of the song's sheet music. An outstanding 750,000 copies were put into circulation during the Civil War. On the homefront, families honored their fighting sons, husbands, and



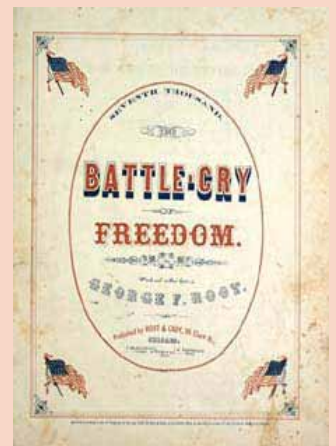
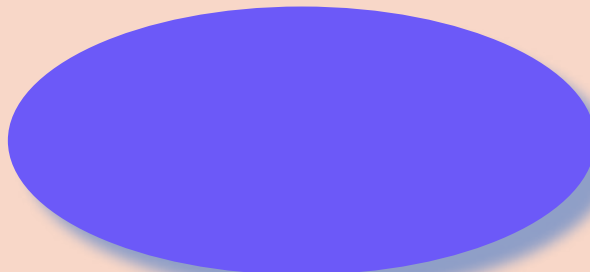
brothers by singing the song, and sent copies of the sheet music to the front for the soldiers to sing to lift their spirits.

Indeed the song was so popular that there was even a copycat confederate version that was just as cherished in the South. Click below to hear and read the lyrics to both versions of the song.

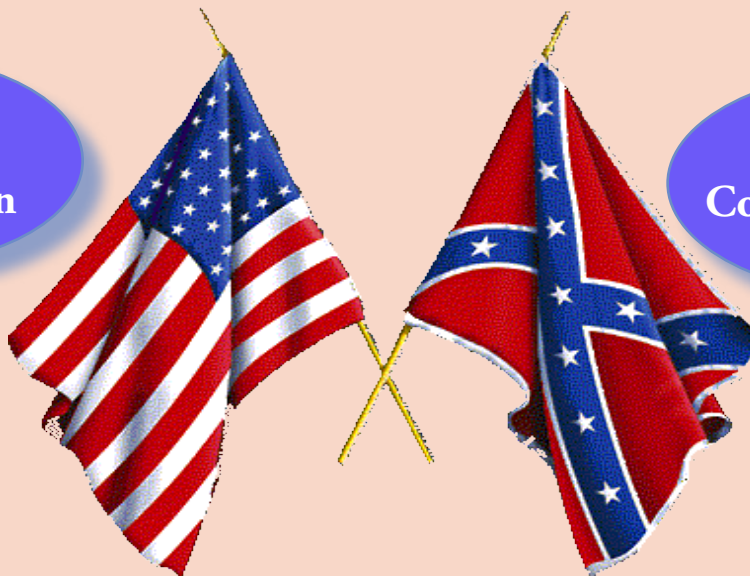


The Union forever!

Hurrah, boys, hurrah!



Click to hear the
Union Version



Click to hear the
Confederate Version

Did you enjoy the E-newsletter? Prefer the paper version? Do you have any suggestions? Let us know by emailing sheffieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com