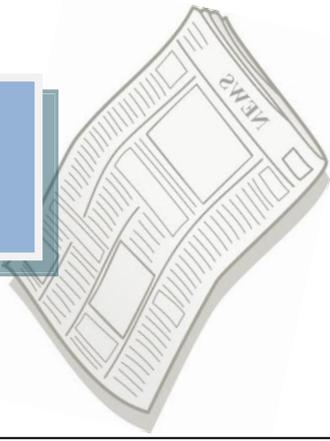


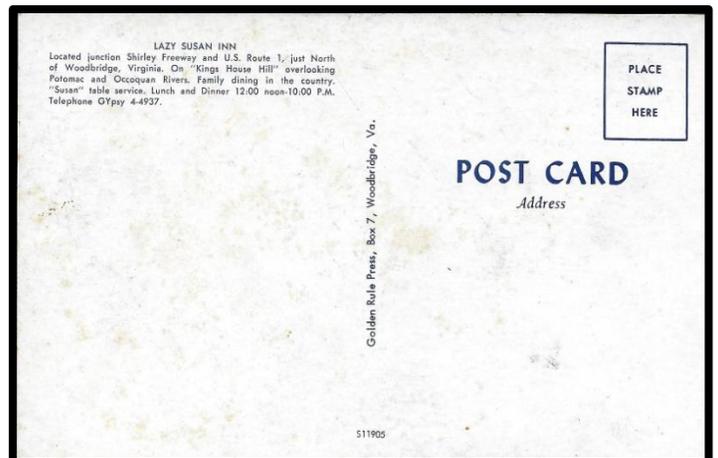
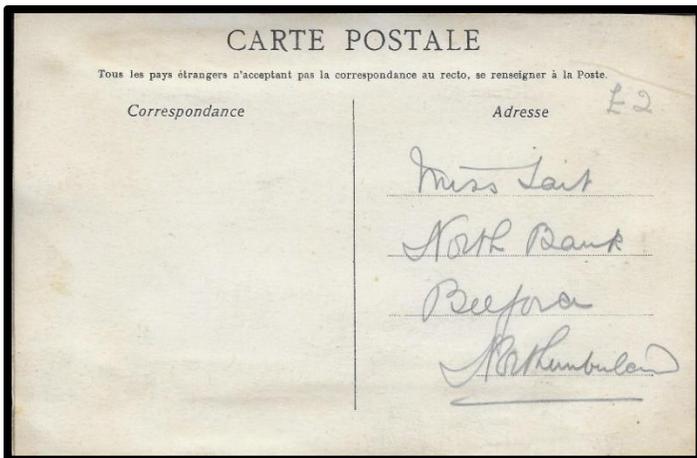
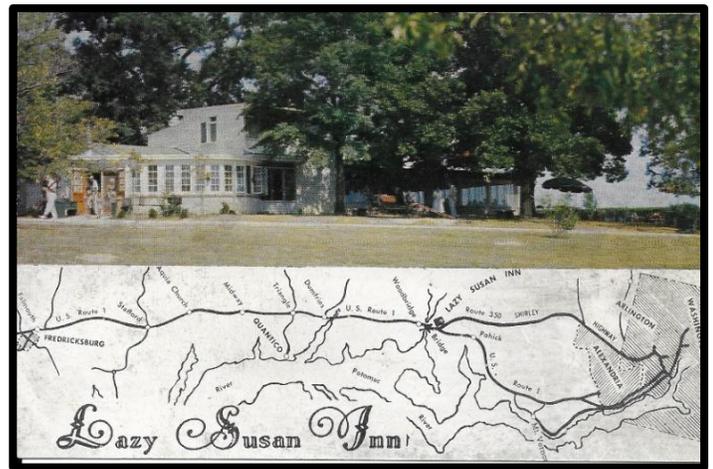
Mill Racer December, 2016

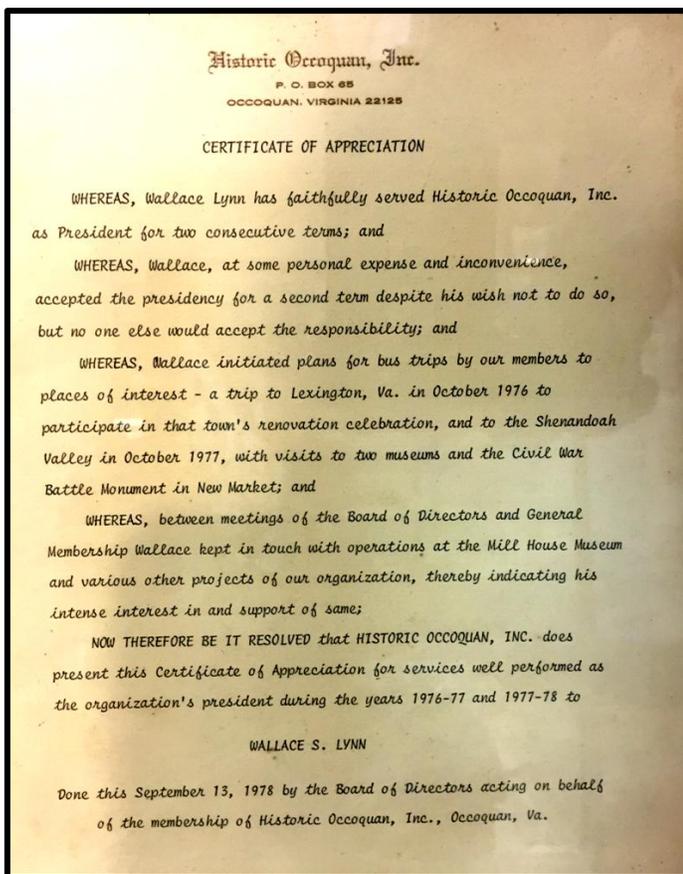


New Collection Items

Two postcards were recently donated to the Mill House by Letty Lynn. Pictured below left is a WWI silk postcard. These cards were embroidered by French and Belgian women as a source of income and sold to the soldiers as souvenirs. The silk design contained a small pocket that might hold a miniature handkerchief that a wife or sweetheart could carry with them to remember their loved one so far away. The embroidered emblems represent the British, French and Russian Empire. Though not many cards survived, the designs were unique and numerous. The back of the card can be loosely translated as "All foreigners not accepting the correspondence on the front are to ask about it at the post." Usually the card would be inserted into an envelope to mail. Now the mystery is to find who Miss Tait was and who mailed the card!

Our other card is from the Lazy Susan Inn which opened in 1955. The Inn evolved into the Lazy Susan Dinner Theater and it operated for many years. On the map, the road from Washington D.C. is the Shirley highway, Route 350. The I-95 system construction began in 1965. This helps us date our postcard between 1955-1965.





Two other items donated by Ms. Lynn belonged to her uncle, Wallace Lynn. The first is his 1944 Knapp-Monarch Co. mess kit from WWII and the other a certificate of recognition for his service as president of Historic Occoquan. The certificate is shown above on the left and the kit to the right.

About the same time these donations connected to Wallace Lynn came in, a visitor to the museum was looking for information about a relative who attended Occoquan High School. While researching that I came across the article below about a school field trip and Wallace was one of the students.

Manassas Journal, March 27, 1930, Page 1

Occoquan Class at Gettysburg, American History Class Visits, National Battle Ground

The American History Class of Occoquan District High School, accompanied by a few other pupils and several members of the faculty, left early Saturday morning, March 22, by bus for the historical battlefield of Gettysburg, Pa., there to see and receive first hand information about a decisive battle of world history.

The party which included about 25, viewed with interest our National Capitol, the beautiful country of Maryland, the historical Fredericktown, and finally crossed the Mason-Dixon Line into Pennsylvania, and finally reached the historical park.

After a delightful lunch, the group set out by aid of a guide to view the battlefield. It was two long hours that it viewed the beautiful statues and markings and heard related the story of how two opposing armies clashed on the field of battle.

Early in the afternoon the party left for Virginia, and several hours later arrived again at Occoquan, full of historical information that would require pages of printed text to tell.

Those that made up the party were as follows: Miss Elizabeth Vaughn, principal of the school; John M. Kline Jr., instructor of History; Georgie Brockett, instructor at Alexandria; Frances Brunt, Jane Selecman, Thelma Austin, Katharine Brawner, Louise Brawner, Burnetta Brockett, Ann Bubb, Dorothy Hoyt, Janet Russell, Maxine Rison, Ellen Selecman, Malissa Lacey, Katharine Keys, Robert Bryant, Dudley Dawson, Lester Malcolm, Wolford Reid, Wallace Lynn, Billie Sanford, Elwood Davies, Mr. Keys, bus driver.

Note: Occoquan School opened in 1927 at 12915 Occoquan Road and housed all 12 grades. In 1953 the high school students moved to the first Gar-Field (now the Ferlazzo Building) and the original building became Occoquan Elementary.



Video Display

On Friday, December 2, our new video display began operating here at the Mill House. Thanks to a wonderful donation we were able to purchase a large TV, laptop computer and the necessary items to complete the connection.

The TV sits in the upper part of the alcove across from the museum door. It is one of the first things visitors to the museum notice as they arrive. We can now show one of our history power points featuring photographs from the collection, historical maps, oral history DVD's and reenactment videos. The possibilities are endless now that we have this system.

If you haven't been to the museum lately please stop and see us and enjoy the many facets of Occoquan history!

WinterFest 2016

The Mill House joined the fun for Occoquan's WinterFest on a chilly Saturday, December 10 from 3p.m.-7p.m. In between visits with Santa, roasting marshmallows and other fun activities, children could stop by the museum and make a festive decoration. Woven yarn ornaments, beaded candy canes and snowflakes were among the choices. As you can see, young and old both had fun at the craft tables!



History Note: December 18, 1862

CSA General Wade Hampton raids Occoquan, reportedly capturing 20 Union supply wagons attempting to cross the river by ferry. Hampton arrested local resident, John Underwood, as a traitor to the south.

2016-2017

As 2016 comes to an end the Occoquan Historical Society wishes everyone a wonderful *New Year* as 2017 rolls in.

Thank you to everyone for your monetary donations, collection additions and your continued interest in our endeavors.

Happy Holidays!



Mill House Museum
 PO Box 65, 413 Mill Street, Occoquan, VA 22125
www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org
 703-491-7525
 Open Sunday through Saturday 11-4