

Stewart Bell Jr. Archives
Handley Regional Library & Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society
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Shenandoah Valley Tapestry Records
Collection Number: 1749 WFCHS

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS: Collection is open to all researchers.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE: Restrictions may apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a member of the archives staff for information concerning these restrictions. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any claimants of copyright. Some materials may require special handling.

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Initial processing undertaken by Archives staff in 2019. Last updated by Buffy Knappenberger in January 2025.

EXTENT: 0.42 linear feet

DATE: 2014-2020

EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF COPIES: Photographs in this collection have been digitized and are available to view online through the Past Perfect online database: <http://handley.pastperfectonline.com/>

SCOPE AND CONTENT: This collection contains a collective history of the Shenandoah Valley Tapestry from the early inspiration for the project through the planning and stitching process. Also included is information on historic buildings located in the Winchester/Frederick County area along with the minutes of the meetings, news articles about the project and the ceremony for its dedication, and programs created.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL: The Winchester Chapter of the Embroiders' Guild of America (WEGA), the Multicultural Club Collage (MCC) of Frederick County, VA, the Handley Regional Library, the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, and the Kernstown Battlefield Association worked together to create the Tapestry project. The Tapestry employed the inspirations of both Margaretta Barton Colt and Page Huff Dillon to create a Tapestry containing a true voice and history of the Shenandoah Valley.

The project entitled, "The Shenandoah Valley Tapestry, A Journey through Time" began as a result of the book, *Defend the Valley* by Margaretta Barton Colt. This work provides an intimate view of the Civil War in the Valley through the letters and private papers of the Barton and Jones families: two prominent families of Winchester, Virginia. The book then inspired a painting, commissioned by Margaretta Barton Colt and created by Page Huff Dillon, entitled "Winchester & Frederick County Virginia." Thus began the incentive to create a community-based narrative of the Valley through needlework.

Through the collective efforts of the community of the Winchester/Frederick County area, the Tapestry made progress. Everyone and anyone were encouraged to contribute to the Tapestry by adding even just one stitch, making it a truly community-driven project. The tapestry was completed followed by an unveiling ceremony and reception held October 20, 2018 at the Village at Orchard Ridge, Winchester, Virginia.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Magazine Article “A Stitch in Time” by Lucy Edmison, Irina Galunina, Irina Novash, Linda Suter, published in Needle Arts v 49, no.2, June 2018, pp 12-17

IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Gift of multiple donors.

CONTAINER LIST:

BOX 1

Background—provides history of the project as well as its early inspiration and the continuing efforts to complete the project; 3 leaves, typescript

Buildings—provides locations of buildings included in the tapestry and other notable locations in the Winchester/Frederick County area; 10 leaves, printed

Calendar, 2019, includes illustrations from Shenandoah Valley Tapestry, a Journey through Time, 1 item, printed

Calendar, 2020, includes illustrations from Shenandoah Valley Tapestry, a Journey through Time, 1 item, printed

Calendar, 2021, includes illustrations from Shenandoah Valley Tapestry, a Journey Through Time, 1 item, printed

Facebook posts – The Shenandoah Valley Tapestry

Magazine Article “A Stitch in Time” by Lucy Edmison, Irina Galunina, Irina Novash, Linda Suter, published in Needle Arts v 49, no.2, June 2018, pp 12-17

News Articles - 4 leaves, typescript

Stitchers/Artists - 3 leaves, typescript

Stitchers/Community ledger – “I Took One Stitch,” November 14, 2015 - August 26, 2018

Minutes – December 12, 2017 - February 12, 2019

Photo – The Handley Library Tapestry piece, color, 20 cm x 25.5 cm, in folder

Pins – “I Made a Stitch in Time,” 1 small, round, metal pin in envelope

Posters for display of tapestry, 6 leaves, printed

Physical Location: Oversize, Box 26

Programs – in chronological order – includes the following folders:

“A Journey through Time” with author Margaretta Barton Colt, November 14, 2015

“A Stitch in Time” – invitation – March 10, 2016

“History Told in Stitches” – Tour of Winchester City Houses – October 29, 2016

Tour of Frederick County Houses – May 20, 2017

Winchester Chapter of the Embroiderers Guild of America, June 1, 2017 program of Tapestry Project –
Stitch a Story

“Life in the Valley,” November 18, 2017

Animals of the Tapestry – May 18, 2018

Unveiling Ceremony and Reception – October 20, 2018

Tapestry frame – photocopy

PHOTOGRAPHS

- [1749-001] Page Huff Dillon, artist of the original painting on which the tapestry is based, October 20, 2018.
- [1749-039] Shenandoah Valley Tapestry needleworkers, holding examples of their work. Left to right: Rebecca Ebert, unidentified, Jackie Partlow, Elaine Evans, unidentified, Linda Suter, Irina Galunina, Nina Vassallo, unidentified, unidentified, unidentified, circa 2017.