“The Pity of War: Words and Images of World War I”
Media Coverage
July thru December 2014
July 28 program to explore Quaker response to ‘Great War’

July 24, 2014

World War I has become for many Americans a part of almost ancient history, more likely to be lumped together with the Civil War and French Revolution than viewed as a significant factor for ushering in modern society.

Aspects of the so-called “Great War” will be featured in the latest gallery exhibit, *The Pity of War: Words and Images of World War I*, at Wilmington College’s Meriam R. Hare Quaker Heritage Center July 28 through Dec. 12.

An opening program and reception will be held at 7 p.m., Monday, July 28.

July 28 will mark the 100th anniversary of the opening salvos of the war when Austro-Hungarian forces began their invasion of Serbia. By the end of “The War to End All Wars,” more than nine million participants were dead and 20 million wounded or listed as missing.

It was one of the Earth’s deadliest conflicts.

“It’s a story that we tend to forget,” said Ruth Brindle, curator of the Quaker Heritage Center. “World War I is often overshadowed by World War II, particularly here in the United States, where the war’s impact wasn’t felt as acutely as it was in Europe.

“That’s why we felt this exhibit is necessary.”

*The Pity of War: Words and Images of World War I* will feature a chronology of the war and stories of those who lived through those events as soldiers, civilians and conscientious objectors.

“Using the words of these individuals, and highlighting those stories with images from the period, really brings the experience home on a personal level,” Brindle said, noting that, of particular interest to the mission of the Quaker Heritage Center is the inclusion of stories of Quakers that registered as conscientious objectors or volunteered for relief work in war-torn Europe.

That particular interest is why Stephen Angell, the Geraldine Leatherock Professor of Quaker Studies at Earlham School of Religion, will be the guest lecturer at the exhibit opening. His talk, “A. Neave Brayshaw and the Re-Invigoration of the Quaker Peace Testimony during World War I,” will explore the ways the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) responded to the War.

The Quaker Heritage Center is open weekdays, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the last Saturday of each month between August and November, from noon to 3 p.m. Other special programming is planned for this fall.
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- Ruth Brindle, Wilmington College’s Quaker Heritage Center curator

"These are the powerful stories from history that help us connect to these massive, overwhelming events." Ruth Brindle, Wilmington College’s Quaker Heritage Center curator, said. "Something about these stories and the voices of the people involved, that is how we connect to history."

The exhibit, titled "What It Really Great?: Wilmington College reflects on World War I," is on display in the Quaker Heritage Center through May 10. The exhibit is part of a larger effort to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I.

"As an American citizen, we think, ‘Oh, the anniversary isn’t for a while – 2017,’" Brindle said. "But no, the war started much earlier for others."

What was once dubbed "The Great War" has since become a distant memory, often overlooked when discussing modern history. "We don’t do a good job of teaching people about history as more than a series of dates," Brindle said. "We want to do as much as we can to connect the people.

For many, World War I feels more ancient than modern. Many of the surviving participants were long gone by the early aughts, with the last veteran passing away in 2010. And while Hollywood has devoted much of its time to the catastrophes of World War II, it has remained unusually silent on the happenings of this Great War.

"The last veteran was alive in 2010," Brindle said. "But this was a life-changing event for so many people. We have this amazing wealth of information from people during this time."

The idea for the exhibit was born out of a freshman English writing prompt, on family letters. Brindle’s British colleague, Charlotte Farlie, assistant professor of English, came to Brindle after a student handed in a powerful essay on a set of photos of World War I, handed down from his great-grandfather.

"She showed me the photos and essay, and said the 100th anniversary was coming up," Brindle said. "We came up with the idea of looking at the war from those involved, and how that can be a very pro-peace statement."

The idea grew from there and became a class project for an Intro to Public History Practice course.

"How do you take history outside the classroom?" Brindle asked. "You could work in museums, parks … we take the theories and put them into practice in this course. They were given this challenge."

The students and Brindle were tasked with figuring out how to quickly educate the museum patrons on the events of World War I, while including the very humanizing side of the war. In within a 300-square-foot space.

"The exhibit first gives patrons a short, simple rundown of the war and some of the progress between the years of 1914 and 1919, before going into more detail on how the civilians responded to the war, particularly the Quaker community in Wilmington, Ohio."

In the Quaker tradition, six testimonials are upheld: simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and education.

"These tenets, when applied to everyday life, were behind many social change and relief movements throughout history, such as the women’s suffrage movement, abolitionist movement and war relief efforts."

This exhibit focuses on the incredible things done, at home and abroad, by Quakers – a forgotten community during a forgotten war.

"The American Friends Service Committee (a Quaker organization) got its start in 1917, as a result of the British version," Brindle said. "It was a way for Quakers to funnel that kind of relief work to Europe. They worked very closely with the Red Cross, but they were a separate organization, structurally based on Quaker beliefs and relief services."

The Quaker Heritage Center compiled artifacts from service members and civilian relief workers.

"Probably my favorite item right now is the diary of a young man named Richard Larkin who served with the Red Cross," Brindle said. "He was a Quaker from this area and he talks about going to Romania and working with the Gypsy population. It’s really cool to read through because you get caught up in these nationalities. French, German, English. This narrative group was still very much involved in this war and in history."

Also on display is a series of diaries from Helen Wright, a member of Wilmington College’s first graduating class, who taught Latin and grammar at Wilmington for 46 years. In her diaries from 1910-1919, Wright described what life was like in Wilmington for those waiting for the war to end.

"She would write about food shortages, or going downtown to City Hall or the Courthouse to hear someone speak about how to help and how there was a hunger among the general public to hear about what was happening," Brindle said. "It really brings home how much the war impacted people at home."

Quaker or non-Quaker:

A number of events will run in conjunction with the exhibit, including a few unusual and exciting events is a choral performance by the Cantabile Men’s Ensemble of Wilmington, directed by Steven Haines, titled “All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914” which will begin Tuesday, Nov. 11. During the Christmas of 1914, without any go-ahead from higher ranking officials, the men in the trenches agreed on a cease-fire, because it was Christmas. They came out of their trenches, swapped cigarettes and gum and had a few nights of peace during the first Christmas of the war. The event is a mix of choral performances of songs from this period and dramatic readings of letters and diaries of men from the front lines.

[Haines] came into my office and handed me a CD, and said to just listen to it and call him," Brindle said. "I was on the road later that week and had to pull over. He didn’t know I was working on this exhibit. So, we got over the waffles of that confidence and decided to host it. It helped shape the performance.”

The Pity of War: Words and Images of World War I runs through Friday, Dec. 15 at the Quaker Heritage Center at Wilmington College, 1370 Quaker Way, Wilmington. For more information about the exhibit and related events, please visit wilmington.edu/quac.
Quaker Heritage Center Update

By now hopefully you have heard about “The Pity of War: Words and Images of World War I,” the newest exhibit at the Quaker Heritage Center. Since it opened on July 28, public response has been wonderful, with visitors commenting on how much they learned about the war, how the exhibit reinforced their anti-war sentiments, and sharing their own ideas for creative public programming. The opening reception and speaker may have already taken place, but there are still plenty of opportunities for you to be a part of this powerful exhibit experience.

On Tuesday, September 30, at 7 p.m., our very own Neil Snarr will be sharing stories of Quakers from our community who volunteered overseas, including Luther Warren, Mark E.C. McMillan, and Richard Larkin.

On Tuesday, November 4 (the anniversary of the death of leading World War I poet Wilfred Owen), at 4 p.m., you are welcome to join Wilmington College students, faculty, and staff as they present poems influenced by the authors’ war experiences.

The highlight of the fall will be a special performance of “All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914” on November 11, 13, and 15. Under the direction of Steven Haines, the Cantabile Men’s Ensemble will present the powerful story of the informal truce between soldiers on the front lines. The story is told through new arrangements of European carols and war-songs, as well as dramatic readings of letters and diary entries from soldiers on the front.

The exhibit will be on display through December 12, open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from noon to 5 p.m. on the last Saturday of each month.

Watch the Quaker Heritage Center’s website (www.wilmington.edu/qhc), Facebook page (www.facebook.com/QuakerHeritageCenter), and your own email for more information about these and other exciting programs! As always, please feel free to call (937/481-2456 – please note the new phone number!) or email (ruth_brindle@wilmington.edu) with any questions.
The City Show - August 12, 2014

We'll hear about a professional cornhole event at Miami Valley Gaming in Monroe and a World War I exhibit at the Quaker Heritage Center in Wilmington. There's also a report on the Lebanon Youth Golf League and an Inside HDLI segment on the Lebanon Mason Monroe Railroad.

Program Information
- Created Date: August 12, 2014

Index Points
- Lebanon Youth Golf League
- Cornhole at Miami Valley Gaming
- The City of War
- Inside HDLI - L M & M Railroad
- Community Calendar

http://thelebanonchannel.pegcentral.com/player.php?video=4b816f0e1cb062ba71ff5b6322b60801
Other special programs are planned for this fall.

Between August and November, from noon to 5 pm, the Nature Center offers a six-week course on how to identify plants and animals. The course starts on Tuesday, September 10.

In the Library, "The Science of Food" series continues. Each Tuesday, a different expert will discuss a topic related to food science.

In the Art Center, "The Art of the Photograph" exhibition runs through the fall. A new show will be featured each month, highlighting different aspects of photography.

In the Community Center, the "Sports and Healthy Living" program continues. Weekly workshops are offered on topics such as nutrition, fitness, and injury prevention.

In the Auditorium, "The History of Rock and Roll" concert series continues. Local bands and musicians will perform each week, showcasing the evolution of rock and roll.
The Quaker Heritage Center Presents
“All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914”
7:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday; November 11, 13, and 15

The events that eventually brought about the Christmas Eve truce of 1914 create one of those stories that almost defy believability. While Pope Benedict XV had suggested a temporary hiatus of the war for the celebration of Christmas, the warring countries refused any official cease-fire. But on Christmas Eve, many German and British troops sang Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and on Christmas Day, soldiers from each side emerged from the trenches to exchange presents of cigarettes and plum puddings, sing carols and songs, and play soccer. That the truce did indeed happen, and that we can experience that story by way of the recollections and words of those who were there, make for an incredibly compelling story of the better parts of human nature winning out in an unbelievably horrible situation.

“The young men who found themselves in the trenches that Christmas were experiencing a type of warfare that was incomprehensible to all of them,” Cantabile Director Steven Haines said. “That so many of them dealt with the horrors through the written word is equally astonishing. Yet, write they did; leaving us with words that are full of pathos, humor, confession, and revelation. Collectively they left us with a ‘script’ that no single author could have written, let alone imagined.” That “script” takes the form of “All Is Calm,” a choral performance by the Cantabile Men’s Ensemble, which will be presented at the Quaker Heritage Center on November 11, 13, and 15.

The performance offers the words left behind combined with music to tell this story without interference from an author’s intrusion. The poetry, letters, journal entries and random musings tell a profound and moving story without the need for any further embellishment. Inhumanity gave way to sense and civility for short time during the early months of one of the most horrific events in world history.

The program is being offered in conjunction with “The Pity of War: Words and Images of World War I,” a student-produced exhibit on display at the Quaker Heritage Center of Wilmington College through December 12, 2014. The Center is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the last Saturday of each month, 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Contact Ruth M. Brindle, Curator, or visit www.wilmington.edu/qhc for more information on the exhibit and a full calendar of events.
‘All is Calm’ at Wilmington College

Staff report
October 23, 2014

WILMINGTON — A Christmas Eve truce of 1914 will be the theme for an upcoming choral performance at Wilmington College.

“All Is Calm,” which will be performed by the local Cantabile Men’s Ensemble, will be presented on the WC campus at the Quaker Heritage Center Nov. 14, 13, and 15 at 7:30 p.m.

In the performance, the events describe the true story of the Christmas Eve truce of 1914 creating one of those stories that almost defies believability, according to a spokesperson.

While Pope Benedict XV had suggested a temporary hiatus of the war for the celebration of Christmas, the warring countries refused any official ceasefire.

But on Christmas Eve, many German and British troops sang Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and on Christmas Day, soldiers from each side emerged from the trenches to exchange presents of cigarettes and plum puddings, sing carols and songs and play soccer.

“The young men who found themselves in the trenches that Christmas were experiencing a type of warfare that was incomprehensible to all of them,” Cantabile Director Steven Haines said. “That so many of them dealt with the horrors through the written word is equally astonishing. Yet, write they did; leaving us with words that are full of pathos, humor, confession and revelation. Collectively, they left us with a ‘script’ that no single author could have written, let alone imagined.”

That “script” takes the form of the choral performance ‘All Is Calm.’

The performance offers the words left behind combined with music to tell this story without interference from an author’s intrusion, according to a spokesperson, and the poetry, letters, journal entries and random musings tell a profound and moving story without the need for any further embellishment.

“As a director of theatre and music,” Haines said, “I constantly work to discover and tell stories that move us and change us. In this case, the effect is even more compelling because we are using only the words and the songs of those who actually lived it.”

The program is being offered in conjunction with “The Pity of War: Words and Images of World War I,” a student-produced exhibit on display at the Quaker Heritage Center through Dec. 12.

The center is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the last Saturday of each month, noon to 5 p.m.

Contact Ruth M. Brindle, curator, or visit www.wilmington.edu/cqhcf for more information on the exhibit and a full calendar of events.
The Quaker Heritage Center and Cantabile Men’s Ensemble are combining to share a remarkable story of war and peace that occurred 100 years ago during World War I.

The Cantabile group will perform a musical program titled “All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914” in a trio of performances, Nov. 11, 13 and 15, at 7:30 p.m., at the Meriam R. Hare Quaker Heritage Center at Wilmington College.

The events that brought about the Christmas Eve truce of 1914 create a story that almost defies believability, according to QHC curator Ruth Brindle.

While Pope Benedict XV suggested a temporary hiatus of the war for the celebration of Christmas, the warring countries refused any official cease-fire. But on Christmas Eve, many German and British troops sang Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and on Christmas Day, soldiers from each side emerged from the trenches to exchange presents of cigarettes and plum puddings, sing carols and songs, and play soccer.

Brindle noted that the truce did indeed happen and we can experience the story by way of the recollections and words of those who were there.

“This makes for an incredibly compelling story highlighting the better parts of human nature winning out in an unbelievably horrible situation,” she said.

Cantabile director Steven Haines said the music is based upon participant and other eyewitness accounts, as many shared the horrors they experienced through written words that are full of pathos, humor, confession and revelation.

“These young men who found themselves in the trenches that Christmas were experiencing a type of warfare that was incomprehensible to all of them,” he said. “Collectively they left us with a ‘script’ that no single author could have written, let alone imagined.”

The Cantabile performance presents the words left behind combined with music to tell this story. The poetry, letters, journal entries and random musings tell a profound and moving story without the need for any further embellishment. Inhumanity gave way to sense and civility for a short time during the early months of one of the most horrific events in world history.

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Since the venue features limited seating, audiences will be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis. Donations will be accepted to help cover the licensing fee for the program.

Cantabile’s program is being offered in conjunction with “The Pity of War: Words and Images of World War I,” a student-produced exhibit on display at the Quaker Heritage Center through Dec. 12. The Center is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the last Saturday of October and November, from noon to 5 p.m.
Present Choral Christmas Truce Programming

(BELOW) Xmas 1914 — A friendly chat with the enemy, courtesy of the National Army Museum, London

The Quaker Heritage Center is presenting the program, “Everyone Sang”: A Celebration of the Poets of World War I, Nov. 4, at 4 p.m., in the T. Canby Jones Meetinghouse. Students, faculty and staff will present dramatic readings of some of the most well-known and powerful poetry to come out of World War I.
World War I — 100 years hence

QUAKER HERITAGE CENTER FEATURED EXTENSIVE PROGRAMMING AROUND ‘THE GREAT WAR’ ANNIVERSARY

Call it what you might — The Great War, World War I, The War to End All Wars — but this seminal event undoubtedly ushered in the modern era and so-called American Century.

The Meriam R. Hare Quaker Heritage Center presented an exhibit titled *The Pity of War: Words and Images of World War I*, which featured an array of programming that, between July 28 and Dec. 12, ran the gamut from Quakers’ response to the war and local Friends’ relief efforts to a poetry reading of verse from the era, an exhibit displaying artifacts and written recollections, and a concert depicting the Christmas Truce of 1914.

Indeed, the QHC coincided the Nov. 11 armistice anniversary with a choral concert telling of the almost unfathomable 1914 Christmas truce story in which German and British troops emerged from the trenches to sing Christmas carols, exchange gifts and play soccer.

July 28 marked the 100th anniversary of the opening salvos of the war when Austro-Hungarian forces began its invasion of Serbia. By the end of “The War to End All Wars,” more than 9 million combatants and 7 million civilians were dead, and another 28 million wounded or listed as missing.

It was one of the Earth’s deadliest conflicts.

“It’s a story that we tend to forget,” said Ruth Brindle ’99, curator of the Quaker Heritage Center. “World War I is often overshadowed by World War II, particularly here in the United States, where the war’s impact wasn’t felt as acutely as it was in Europe.

“That’s why we felt this exhibit was necessary.”

*The Pity of War: Words and Images of World War I* hosted a chronology of the war and stories by those who lived through those events as soldiers, civilians and conscientious objectors.

“Using the words of these individuals and highlighting those stories with images from the period really brings the experience home on a personal level,” Brindle said, noting that, of particular interest to the mission of the Quaker Heritage Center was the inclusion of stories of Quakers that registered as conscientious objectors or volunteered for relief work in war-torn Europe.

Vinton Prince, professor of history at WC from 1983 through 2014, provided a lunchtime lecture in September on The Great War — “That’s what it was called before we decided to have another one,”

continued on page 30
a result of the renowned poetry and other literature based on that conflict.

Some of the poetry included "The Soldier" by Rupert Brooke, "Break of Day in the Trenches" by Isaac Rosenberg, "Grass" by Carl Sandburg and "Everyone Sang" by Siegfried Sassoon.

Culminating the exhibit programming in November, the QHC and Cantabile Men's Ensemble combined to share a remarkable story of war and peace that occurred 100 years ago during World War I.

The Cantabile group presented a musical program titled "All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914" in a trio of performances.

The events that brought about the Christmas Eve truce of 1914 create a story that almost defies believability, according to Brindle.

While Pope Benedict XV suggested a temporary hiatus of the war for the celebration of Christmas, the warring countries refused any official cease-fire. But on Christmas Eve, many German and British troops sang Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and on Christmas Day, soldiers from each side emerged from the trenches to exchange presents of cigarettes and plum puddings, sing carols and songs, and play soccer.

Brindle noted that the truce did indeed happen and Cantabile offered the unique opportunity of experiencing the story by way of the recollections and words of those that were there.

"This makes for an incredibly compelling story highlighting the better parts of human nature winning out in an unbelievably horrible situation," she said.

Cantabile director Steven Haines '73 said the music is based upon participant and other eyewitness accounts, as many shared the horrors they experienced through written words that are full of pathos, humor, confession and revelation.

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BY RANDY SARVIS

Arizona Craycraft views the World War One exhibit. She was a participant in the associated poetry reading, "Everyone Sang: A Celebration of Poets of World War One."
he said, noting the massive conflict was essentially a European civil war in which the Americans joined the Allies in 1917.

He said it was the world's first "industrialized war" in that railroads transported troops and the armies used modern infantry weapons.

Consider what 100 years of weapons evolution produced: Napoleon's troops in the early 1800s carried rifles that could be fired twice in a minute and were accurate to 100 yards; Grant's troops in the Civil War could fire three shots a minute with accuracy to 300 yards; rifles used in World War One fired 15 rounds a minute with an accuracy to 1,000 yards.

"We got much better at killing each other," Prince said, noting that WWI also brought about the phenomenon of being the first war in which more than half of the wounded survived, which led to masses requiring physical and mental care for decades to come.

Prince said The Great War "destroyed" the world's economic system, causing the traditional European powers to bankrupt themselves. It created two continental powers, the United States and U.S.S.R., which went on to emerge as the two global superpowers for most of the 20th century. In 1914, the U.S. had the world's 16th largest military.

The war also "emboldened" Japan to invade China in the 1920s and 30s, Prince added, and "it gave us Adolph Hitler, who was a consummate nobody without World War I. The Great War opened the door to the 20th century and what we mistakenly call progress."

The Quaker Heritage Center exhibit and programming started on the 100th anniversary of the war's opening salvo in late July.

Stephen Angell, the Geraldine Leatherock Professor of Quaker Studies at Earlham School of Religion, spoke on "A. Neave Brayshaw and the Re-invigoration of the Quaker Peace Testimony during World War I," in which he explored the way the Religious Society of Friends responded to the War.

In September, Neil Snarr, emeritus professor of sociology, spoke of the 500 young American Quakers that volunteered as relief workers during World War I, with a focus upon those from Clinton County.

Under the auspices of the Red Cross, he said these Quakers — among hundreds of other volunteers from multiple denominations — were trained in health care, agriculture, construction and nutrition. Also, the American Friends Service Committee specifically trained and organized 100 young Quaker men. All returned home deeply touched by what they witnessed in war-torn Europe.

Later in the semester, students and faculty members presented a poetry reading, "'Everyone Sang': A Celebration of Poets of World War I".