I'm Fred Olds, founder of this museum. Search this gallery and see if you can answer my questions!

Fred's Finds
North Carolina and World War I

Find these objects in the exhibit!

Lusitania Medal

The sinking of the passenger ship *Lusitania* resulted in the deaths of 1,198 people, including women and children. This medal was made in Germany as propaganda to celebrate that sinking. Propaganda is the use of ideas, opinions, or images to promote a particular political cause or point of view.

Q: Even though this medal was made to glorify the German war effort, how might it also be a good piece of propaganda for the British?

Compass

A compass is a device that indicates direction and is helpful in determining an object's course of travel. This compass, and many other tools in this case, were once used to increase accuracy when aiming weapons, like machine guns of all sizes, over long distances.

Q: What modern technology helps us to figure out our direction and position in relation to other objects or places? *Hint: Every smartphone has one!*

A: Tracking and receiving devices are parts of the Global Positioning System (GPS). When used with a satellite, these devices can determine the location of something on Earth.

92nd Division Artillery Helmet

Members of the 92nd Division were also known as Buffalo Soldiers. This name refers to African American cavalrymen on the western frontier after the American Civil War. While the exact origin of the nickname is unclear, the most common origin story is that American Indians referred to these men as "buffalo soldiers" because they respected the men's toughness in battle, which was like that of the buffalo.

Q: Who was the North Carolinian from Buncombe County that was drafted into WWI and assigned to Battery F, 349th Field Artillery Regiment, 92nd Division?

A: Private Ernest B. McKissick.

Wristwatch

The dangers of trench warfare made it unsafe to search for a pocket watch to find the time. "Wristlet watches" or "bracelets with clocks" had become part of women's fashion in the late 1800s. However, the convenience of having time on your wrist made wristwatches a staple for soldiers fighting in WWI and soon helped them become a regular part of men's fashion, too.

Q: Has modern technology moved time back into pockets?

A: Although the wristwatch is still practical and fashionable, many people use their cell phones to tell time, conveniently keeping their phone in their pocket in place of wearing a watch.

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Trench Periscope

Periscopes like these allowed soldiers on the front lines to see over trench walls without exposing themselves to enemy fire.

Q: Other than in the trenches, where else were periscopes used during WWI?

A: On submarines.

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Prosthetic Arm

Evidence of prosthetic limbs dates as far back as the ancient Egyptians, but the number of wounded soldiers in WWI led to major gains in the development of prosthetic limbs.

Q: This prosthetic arm is made from wood and leather. What materials are prosthetic limbs made from today?

A: Modern materials include various plastics, lightweight metals like aluminum and titanium, and mixed materials like carbon fibers.

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US Congressional Medal of Honor

Private Robert L. Blackwell was one of only two North Carolinians to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for service in WWI. The other North Carolinian awarded this honor was Samuel I. Parker. Parker survived the war; unfortunately, Blackwell did not.

Q: If you look closely, you'll see that the blue ribbon of this medal contains 13 white stars. What do these stars represent?

A: The 13 original colonies of America.

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Red Cross Nurse's Uniform

Women supported the war effort in numerous ways. One way was through nursing with the American Red Cross. Nearly 24,000 Red Cross nurses were trained during WWI—almost all of them white due to the practice of racial segregation. Women's participation in the war effort helped improve opinions about their right to vote.

Q: Which amendment to the US Constitution granted women the right to vote?

A: The 19th Amendment, for women's suffrage, was adopted in 1920.