



COE COLLEGE BIBLIOPHILE

SPRING 2017



A newsletter for the members of the Coe College Library Association

STEWART MEMORIAL LIBRARY CELEBRATES 85TH YEAR by Highlighting Coe Connection To Nuremberg Trials

B.D. Silliman, a Cedar Rapids attorney and 1917 Coe graduate, had a front-row seat during the preparations for the Nuremberg Trials after World War II. When he died, the papers and artifacts he collected from that time were donated to the George T. Henry Archives at the Stewart Memorial Library.

Silliman's papers, many of them classified "top secret" until 2010, and the Archive's collection of the papers of **William Shirer '25**, provided the content for a stunning "walking timeline" exhibit mounted in honor of the Stewart Memorial Library's 85th anniversary year – and, coincidentally, the 100th anniversary of Silliman's graduation from Coe.

The timeline made use of planks, barrels and posters to tell the story of the war and the war crimes trials through the eyes of the two graduates. "Nuremberg Trials: Coe's Connection" was on display in the Library's Cone Gallery from Feb. 16 to March 16. It presented the experiences that Silliman had in preparing for the Nuremberg Trials meshed with excerpts from Shirer's diaries and papers to provide context for such issues as crimes against humanity.

In addition, Minneapolis attorney and military historian **Alan Anderson '78**, one of the first historians to view the Silliman papers, presented a Feb. 20 lecture at the Library about Silliman. (See related story.) The exhibit will be on display again in the Library during Coe Homecoming this fall and may become a traveling exhibit.

The events, along with the Founders' Day reception for **Marv Levy '50** on April 22, also were a chance to showcase the improvements to the Library's Winnifred S. Cone Gallery, made possible by a gift from **Kim Benjamin '75** and his family.

The Silliman collection benefited from the attention of **Nina Wilson '17**, who spent much of her time as a student worker at the Library helping Jill Jack, Director of Library Services, and Reference Librarian Carla Frazer organize and catalogue the Silliman materials.

"In my first semester at Coe, I was working with the Shirer papers in the Archive," Wilson says. "We were going through a box and found piles of stuff, and I didn't know what it was. Jill (Jack) said it was from Silliman, but that it hadn't been organized or catalogued. I've been interested in history since eighth grade, especially the Nazi atrocities because I couldn't understand how people could do those things. It was a very good opportunity to look into this area of history. Not a lot of people know about the Silliman collection, and I wanted to get it out there."

Wilson, a history and creative writing double major from Indianola, Iowa, initially thought about putting some of Silliman's papers on display at Gage Memorial Union. But Jack pushed her to think bigger. The walking timeline was the result.

Silliman, a World War I veteran, was an Army major stationed in Washington State in World War II when he was assigned to the staff of Supreme Court Justice

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LEFT: **Nina Wilson '17** points to an item of interest during the Feb. 16 opening of the Nuremberg Trials exhibit at Stewart Memorial Library. Wilson provided significant help in organizing and cataloging the papers of B.D. Silliman 1917, a Cedar Rapids attorney who played a supporting role in preparation for the trials, left his papers and memorabilia from that time to the Library's George T. Henry Archives.

TOP LEFT: Visitors read about Coe's connection to World War II and the Nuremberg Trials during the Feb. 16 opening of an exhibit at the Library. The well-attended exhibit was up until March 16 and will be set up again for Coe's Homecoming this fall. **TOP RIGHT:** Planks, barrels and posters were used in the Nuremberg Trials exhibit to tell the story of Coe's connection to the trials and World War II.



LEFT: William Shirer '25. CENTER TOP: B.D. Silliman 1917. CENTER BOTTOM: This unpublished picture of Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini, taken by Heinrich Hoffmann, Hitler's official photographer, is among the scores of pictures donated to the George T. Henry Archives by **B.D. Silliman 1917. RIGHT: Alan Anderson '78** delivers his Feb. 16 lecture about B.D. Silliman on Feb. 16 at Stewart Memorial Library. Anderson, a Minneapolis attorney and military historian, was one of the first to examine the Silliman papers in the George T. Henry Archives and realize their historical importance.

Robert Jackson in Germany to help prepare for the Nuremberg Trials. He was responsible for the capture, transfer and interrogation of key German officers during that time, departing soon after the trials began in 1945. He returned to his law practice in Cedar Rapids and was a longtime Coe College trustee.

Shirer was one of the last western journalists to leave Nazi Germany in 1940. He is known for his broadcasts from Berlin during the 1930s and for his many books, including "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich," which won the National Book Award in 1961. After the war, Shirer continued working as a journalist and author until his death in 1993, when his papers came to the Henry Archives.

The Silliman materials fill four boxes in the George T. Henry Archives and include evidence booklets, trial notes, the identification papers and medals of Gen. Heinz Guderian, a commander of Nazi Panzer divisions, and previously unpublished pictures taken by Adolf Hitler's personal photographer. The materials are an important addition to World War II scholarship, says Jack, who credits the work by Wilson.

"Nina's dedication to the Silliman archives has been remarkable," Jack says. "To have these the Shirer and Silliman collections and two alumni who were both involved in the Nuremberg trials is something special for the college, students and researchers."

ALAN ANDERSON: LEARNING ABOUT SILLIMAN

It was a circuitous route that brought **Alan Anderson '78** back to Stewart Memorial Library on Feb. 16 to talk about B.D. Silliman, the 1917 Coe graduate who played a supporting role in preparations for the Nuremberg war crimes trials following World War II.

After graduating from Coe, Anderson, an attorney in Minneapolis, earned a master's in business administration in 1981 and a law degree in 1982 from Cornell University. He spent the next 25 years litigating complex intellectual property cases, eventually adding an LLM in international dispute resolution. By 2007, though, he was looking for another outlet "to stay sane." Military history, one of his longtime interests, beckoned.

Anderson studied for his M.A. at Norwich University, the nation's oldest private military college, in Northfield, Vt., and, while there, developed an interest in The Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, the first international attempts to define the laws of war for naval warfare. The conventions dovetailed with Anderson's legal training and led to meetings with noted historians at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. and King's College, London. And that led to a Ph.D. in war studies from King's College and a dissertation on U.S. and Great Britain naval strategy from 1899 to 1906.

"If I'd known how many archives I'd have to visit in my research, I'd probably have rethought it," Anderson said. "It was more than 20 archives on both sides of the Atlantic. ... I guess you could say I like to learn."

Anderson grew up in the small town of Postville in northeast Iowa. His father was seriously wounded in combat in World War II, and one of his uncles (**Robert Anderson '39**) commanded an infantry company during the war in Europe. When Alan was a senior at Coe – majoring in political science, economics and business administration – he was chosen to escort **William Shirer '25** around campus during a Shirer visit, cementing his interest in World War II history.

Later, years after Shirer died in 1993, Anderson was visiting the Coe campus and asked to see Shirer's papers in the George T. Henry Archives at the Library.

"I was looking through the papers with Jill Jack, and there were these other boxes. We pulled them down, and they were Silliman's Nuremberg papers. 'Holy cow!' I said. 'This is astonishing.' I took some scans of a few things and took them to

a Society for Military History annual conference. I showed the scans to some of the leading scholars in World War II military history. 'Where'd you get this?' they asked. They're never seen some of the stuff."

Anderson was hooked. Though busy, he began researching Silliman and found that Silliman was a bit disgruntled when he left the Army after the Nuremberg Trials started in 1945. "Silliman badly wanted a promotion. The Army made it clear he would have to agree to stay in the Army at least six more months to receive it. He didn't want to do that. He left the Army and Europe a few days after the major war crimes trials started and took everything with him that he had," Anderson said. "That's why there are documents and other items in the Coe archive that historians haven't seen."

The materials in Silliman's archive include original interrogation reports of witnesses and war crimes defendants, memoranda he authored regarding preparations for the trial and various personal items that witnesses (including several former German Army generals) turned over to him or gave him. "The materials Silliman took provide interesting insights on several war crimes defendants as well as the actions of the Nazi regime."

During his early – and quick – research, Anderson found a partial copy of Silliman's diary from his days in Europe preparing for the trials in the Coe archive. He found the missing pages of the diary at Rice University in the papers of Sgt. Dick Hedges, a Cedar Rapids soldier who had met Silliman in Germany. "Silliman was walking down the hall when he saw someone had a picture of Cedar Rapids on their office wall. It was Hedges. That's how they met." Anderson obtained a copy of the missing parts of Silliman's diary and added them to the Coe archives.

And so it was that Jill Jack contacted Anderson in late 2016 about the Nuremberg Trial exhibit the Library was preparing, asking if he'd speak on Silliman.

"I happened to have more than enough research to write up what he'd done and put it in context," Anderson said.

Concurrent with his Coe lecture in the Perrine Gallery, Anderson also was named to the Coe Board of Trustees in February. He was back on campus in May for his first board meeting. He extended his visit an extra day – spending time in the Archives for some "serious research" with B.D. Silliman's papers.



GIFT RECALLS

'THE COE 22,' WORLD WAR II



Donald Niggemeyer '44
1944 photo

A gift from **Fran Wagner Niggemeyer Pfaff '44** provides a moving glimpse of the sacrifices demanded by World War II as well as the role Coe students played in that war.

Pfaff, of Charleston, S.C., is the widow of **Donald H. Niggemeyer '44**, one of "The Coe 22," the 22 men from the Class of 1944 who volunteered for duty in the war. The Coe 22 were among the many college students "outraged by Hitler's tyranny even before the attack on Pearl Harbor," so much so they joined Coe's ROTC, Pfaff writes in the introduction to "World War Experiences of The Coe 22," a 1999 volume in the Henry Archives that profiles the students.

After basic training in 1942, the 22 men lived together at 1345 A Ave. NE and continued their studies. In January 1944, they were ordered to Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga. They were among the "90-day wonders" – college graduates rushed through officer training and commissioned as second lieutenants to replace the Army's depleted infantry officer corps.

Two side notes: The 22 went to war with their college degrees, even though they'd missed their last semester. The Coe Board of Trustees granted them their degrees "in absentia" in March 1944. Also, Fran and Don Niggemeyer were married on Dec. 23, 1943, just a few weeks before he left for Fort Benning; as it turned out, eight of the Coe 22 would marry Coe students.

Nearly all of the Coe 22 would see front-line duty on European battlefields. Some were wounded, most were decorated, and one died.

Niggemeyer was serving with the Army's 175th Regiment, 29th Division, which had suffered heavy casualties in the D-Day landing on Omaha Beach. He was leading a night patrol in the area of Geilinkirchen, Germany, in the "no man's land" between U.S. and German positions, when his unit was ambushed. Niggemeyer stepped on a land mine and died Oct. 26, 1944.

Pfaff donated her husband's Purple Heart, lieutenant bars, regimental and division patches, infantry medal and rosary to Coe, as well as copies of two letters.

One letter is from Bob Myers, one of the Coe 22, who wrote her on July 27, 1945, offering his condolences and detailing what had happened the night her husband died. "'Niggey' rated very high with me both as an officer and as an individual," Myers wrote.

The other letter is one Niggemeyer wrote his wife on Oct. 23, 10 months after they were married and three days before he died.

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MEDALS:The Purple Heart (upper left) awarded posthumously to **Donald Niggemeyer '44** is among the World War II materials recently donated to the Coe Archives by his widow, **Fran Wagner Niggemeyer Pfaff '44**. Also shown are Niggemeyer's lieutenant bars, regimental and division patches, infantry medal and rosary.



"It's a beautiful, gloomy day somewhere in Germany, so I'll grab me a little sunshine by writing a few lines to my honey," he wrote. "Miss you something terrific, darling, but then I've told you all that before."

Niggemeyer writes about how he'd gotten a haircut the day before, "the first one since leaving the states," adding it wasn't a GI haircut either, but "a real, slick-down job" that he could part on the side. He also let his wife know he was growing a moustache.

He mentioned he was cuddling with a cat as he wrote the letter. He'd never been a cat person, preferring dogs, he wrote, but he was "getting a kick out of this cat. ... But now any small living body seems so significant of the things I dream and love to remember." War, he continued, had led him to "appreciate the simple things that make up a good life. ... Things you take for granted back there. Things like safety & warm food & warm abode ... to head (to) as darkness settles. Like sunny Sunday afternoons & being with the one you love more than all else in the world. When I've returned, honey, we'll sit around for a few eons & let the world go by & catch up with it gradually, spend each moment together savoring each moment as one would a rare & sweet wine."

Jill Jack, Director of Library Services, said Coe is "deeply grateful" to Mrs. Pfaff for the gift of her late husband's letters and medals. "The letters especially bring home the losses so many families suffered in the war," Jack said. "As it says on the Victory Bell in front of the Eby Fieldhouse, which the Class of '44 dedicated to the memory of Lt. Niggemeyer, 'He lived by deeds, not by years.'"



The George T. Henry Archives welcome inquiries from Coe veterans or their families about donations of war-related letters, papers and memorabilia. For information, please call Jill Jack, Director of Library Services, at (319) 399-8023.

LEFT: Anna Dentlinger '18 reads a letter that **Robert Myers '44**, one of "The Coe 22," wrote to Fran Niggemeyer in July 1944 telling her what he knew of her husband's death and how respected he was by his squad. Jill Jack (background), Director of Library Services, and Dr. Bethany Keenan, Associate Professor of History, arranged for the students in Keenan's European History seminar to view the materials donated to the Archives by Niggemeyer's widow. **RIGHT: The Victory Bell** in front of the Eby Fieldhouse on the Coe campus was a gift from the Coe Class of '44 to commemorate Lt. Donald Niggemeyer, a classmate who died in combat in Germany in 1944.





LEFT: Hall of Fame football coach **Marv Levy '50** speaks April 22 after receiving the Coe College Founders' Medal in ceremonies at Stewart Memorial Library. The black-and-white poster at right shows Levy (right) when he was a student at Coe, with teammate Gil Lehman rounding a corner during track practice in Eby Fieldhouse. **RIGHT:** **Marv Levy '50** chats with **Fred Jackson '03** and **Danielle Allen Jackson '05** during the April 22 Founders' Day reception at Coe. Levy gave Jackson a chance to play for the Buffalo Bills in 2006, an opportunity that opened the door to Jackson's NFL stardom.

HALL OF FAME COACH MARV LEVY HONORED WITH FOUNDERS' MEDAL

"All the time, Coe has remained close to my heart," he told *The Gazette* during his visit to campus. "Coe had a tremendous impact in helping me. And the people I had gotten to know at Coe had a tremendous impact on me. I have just always stayed close. Came back whenever I had the opportunity to come back. I savored my time in Cedar Rapids, which was the proper place for a big-city guy from Chicago to get away from it all. I have always looked forward to coming back."

Levy was honored in a Saturday morning ceremony that included remarks from Coe President David McNally and NFL running back **Fred Jackson '03**, who was recruited to play for the Buffalo Bills in 2006 by Levy, then the Bills' general manager. Jackson – a relatively small player by NFL standards – would go on to become the Bills' third all-time leading rusher.

Levy also has written five books, including his autobiography, "Where Else Would You Rather Be?," and a children's book, "Go Cubs Go!" He and his wife, Fran, live in Chicago.

The other recipients of the Coe Founders' Medal are **Paul Engle '31** and **William Shirer '25** in 1976; **F. Gaynor Evans '31** and **S. Donald Stookey '36** in 1980; and **Don Ebinger '47**, **Russell Knapp '30** and **William Whipple '35** in 2001.

Marv Levy '50, the well-known Hall of Fame NFL coach, was presented with Coe College's highest honor, the Founders' Medal, during an April 22 reception at Stewart Memorial Library.

Levy, 91, is the eighth recipient of the medal. When Levy learned he would be receiving the medal, he said he researched it and its past recipients. "Boy," he told the Cedar Rapids newspaper, "my eyes widened when I saw some of the people who had received it."

During Levy's visit, Coe also dedicated Marv Levy Way at the corner of College Drive and D Avenue NE to honor the coach who led the Buffalo Bills to four consecutive Super Bowls from 1990 to 1993.

Levy served in the Army Air Corps from 1943-46 in World War II before coming to Coe, where he lettered in football, basketball and track and graduated magna cum laude. His coaching career included head coaching jobs at the University of New Mexico, the University of California and the College of William & Mary, with assistant coaching jobs with the Philadelphia Eagles and Washington Redskins.



PHOTO BY LIZ MARTIN/THE GAZETTE

Coe ROTC cadets raise a flag April 6 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into World War I. The flagpole in front of Stewart Memorial Library was erected by the Class of 1918 to honor the nine Coe students who died in the war. Dr. Ranelle Knight-Lueth, Coe Assistant Professor of Art History, organized the event, which included students and faculty handing out more than 400 bookmarks with facts about the war and the Coe students who died in combat. In addition, Dr. Bethany Keenan, Coe Associate Professor of History, had her students use the Library and its Archives to research the lives of Coe students who died in both world wars. The Coe students who died in World War I were Gordon Dyrland, William August Weis, Eugene Crawford McKibbin, John Proctor Hanford, James Lloyd Ubil, Robert Farnum Kegley, Joseph Filipi and Anthony Francis Soukup.

NOW AVAILABLE: LAPTOPS & IPADS

Laptop not working? Forget your iPad? Not a problem. The Stewart Memorial Library now has laptops and iPads available for checkout in the Library.

Students, faculty and staff have long had access to desktop computers at the Library. The addition of the portable devices offers another option that also allows freedom of movement and the chance to take computing power with you to a quiet nook.

The six laptops and five iPads can be checked out for up to two hours. They also offer an option to computer lab classes that may be short a machine or two for instruction.

"It's one more service we're happy to offer," Director of Library Services Jill Jack said. "We hope to add even more devices in the future."



ALUMNI AND FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

ADDED TO THE GEORGE T. HENRY COLLEGE ARCHIVES, 2016-2017

- Adamson, Tom. *Twenty One Pipes*. Fremont, NE: 2016. (Tom Adamson, class of 1972)
- Affatigato, Mario. *Modern Glass Characterization*. Hoboken, New Jersey: The American Ceramic Society, 2015. (Mario Affatigato, class of 1989, Professor of Physics, 2001 -)
- Aspengren, Kate. *Flyer*. New York: S. French, 2001. (Kate Aspengren, Professor of English, 2006 -)
- Barnett, Dennis. *DAH Theatre: A sourcebook*. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books, an imprint of Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc., 2016. (Dennis Barnett, Professor Theatre Arts, 2001 -)
- Mikasinovch, Branko and Dejan Stojanovic, afterword and selected plays translated and edited by Dennis Barnett. *Selected Serbian Plays*. New Avenue Books, 2016.
- Gauntt, Blair. *George Orwell and His Magic Penguin*. Iowa: Obsolete Press, 2016. (Blair Gauntt, class of 1984)
- Levy, Marv. *Go Cubs Go! Baseballs Never Give up Story*. Overland Park, KS: Ascend Books LLC, 2017. (Marv Levy, class of 1950)
- Martin, Thomas Smith. *Stories My Kids Are Tired of Hearing*. Iowa City, Iowa: Press of the Camp Pope Bookshop, 2016. (Thomas Smith Martin, class of 1965)
- Menefee, Curt. *Losing Isn't Everything: The untold stories and hidden lessons behind the toughest losses in sports history*. New York: Dey St., an imprint of William Morrow. (Curt Menefee, class of 1987)
- Pinckney, Jordan. *Destined: Book one of the Blood Games trilogy*. Destined Productions, 2016. (Jordan Pinckney, class of 2009)
- O'Loughlin, Paula. *Courageous Resistance: The Power of Ordinary People*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007. (Paula O'Loughlin, Provost and Dean of Faculty, 2016 -)
- Ode Kiser, Leah, illustrator, written by Seth Ode. *Morgan the Ox*. Casa Grande, AZ: Artifact Fine Art, 2015. (Leah Ode, class of 2005)
- Pearl, Shirley White. *The Marginal Woman: Loving, living, and breaking boundaries in a pre-feminist world*. Ideal Living Press, 2016. (Shirley White Pearl, class of 1954)
- Roberts, Fritze. *Project Management for Authors: Five Steps to Success*. Erie, Pennsylvania: A Peculiar Project, 2016. (Fritze Roberts, class of 1999)
- *Even Our Friendship was Illegal: Coe students confront Mississippi segregation in 1962*. Cedar Rapids, IA: Coe Review Press, 2016. (Edited by Fritze Roberts; contributors: Vicki Burroughs Bixler, class of 1962; Dale Ely, class of 1963; Philip K. Ensley, class of 1965; Judith Lamparek Lanum, class of 1964; Sally Fels Meyers, class of 1964; Dorothy McCarter Quiggin, class of 1962; William H. Schalk, class of 1965; Jean Johnson Sidner, class of 1963)
- Roeder, Randy. *Sins of Intent: A Cletus Efferding Novel*. Cedar Rapids, IA: Dusty Typewriter Press, 2017. (Randy Roeder, class of 1986)
- Roth, Emily. *Stage Management Basics: A primer for performing arts stage managers*. New York: Routledge, 2017. (Emily Roth, class of 2014)
- Runner, Nancy, compiled by. *2 Cute + 2 be 4 gotten: Autograph Memories*. Lexington, KY: 2015. (Nancy Runner, class of 1967)
- Schmarzo, Bill. *Big Data MBA: Driving business strategies with data science*. Indianapolis: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2016. (Bill Schmarzo, class of 1979)
- Songer, Lorealee. *Songs of the Second Viennese School: A Performer's guide to selected solo vocal works*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016. (Lorealee Songer, Professor of Music and Voice, 2014 -)
- Sutton, Virginia Chase. *Of a Transient Nature*. Lafayette, Louisiana: Knut House Press, 2016. (Virginia Chase Sutton, class of 1976)
- Wallace, Heather. *Faith, Grief & Pass the Chocolate Pudding*. Ferndale, WA: AlyBlue Media, LLC, 2016. (Heather Wallace Rey, class of 1993)