

# Historically Great Gifts

By Anne Fullem

Is Havre de Grace near and dear to your heart? If so, consider giving a little piece of Havre de Grace heritage to a loved one this holiday season. Our City is very fortunate to have six different museums all working very hard to preserve Havre de Grace history. Dozens of volunteers and dedicated citizens donate their time and energy to sharing our rich past with thousands of visitors all year round. Each museum reverently preserves artifacts, recreates moments in our past, and captures the true flavor of our City's history. But did you know they make it possible to take a little heritage home with you? This holiday, I decided to explore our museum stores in search of unique gifts that reflect a place I love, my home... Havre de Grace. So, come along for the tour, I think you might be surprised at how many gifts you can cross off your list.

## Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Store

[www.decoymuseum.com](http://www.decoymuseum.com)

Joanne Calder met me at the front desk and gave me a little history about their mission. Which of course, revolves around decoys, but specifically the interrelationship between decoy carving and historical trends. It sounds complicated, but a tour of the museum provides a rich, easy to understand experience, and ends wonderfully enough, with the museum store. The large, brightly lit shop is full of birds, decoys and backyard birds alike. Represented by authentic decoy carvers like local artist Bryan Bodt and Leonard Burcham. As well as more whimsical birds, like the wine bottle holder I picked up for a friend. There are stuffed toy birds that make authentic calls. Joanne's favorite is the loon. There are bird books, bird puzzles, bird ornaments, including these beautiful hand blown glass ornaments with detailed wildlife painting (all done from the inside of



the globe - amazing!) Let's pick up one of those for Mom. Ok, this was fun, but let's head off to the next museum store.

## Steppingstone Museum Store

[www.steppingstonemuseum.org](http://www.steppingstonemuseum.org)

This was my first time at Steppingstone's Museum store. It's a little out of the way, but definitely worth the visit. Linda Noll was there to greet me, and we wasted no time, heading into the shop. The Museum is dedicated to preserving the Harford County farming culture and artifacts of the turn of the 20th century. The extraordinary thing about this shop, isn't that most of the items are handmade, but they are made by hand using the technology that was available in the late 1800's. During weekends and events, you will find these artisans, demonstrating their techniques and skills to the public. There is a wide selection of wrought iron pieces forged by blacksmiths Tom Alexander and Lou Kosydar. Hand thrown crockery, tea cups, bowls and utilitarian necessities are lovingly created by potters Linda Mitchell and Amanda Jones. Primitive wood carvings made with antique tools by carvers Wayde Whitlock and John Weifenbach are colorfully displayed. I picked up a basket made by Betty Angelucci, filled with goodies, it will be the perfect gift. Grabbed some of the old-fashioned candy for stocking stuffers and headed to my next destination.



## Susquehanna Lockhouse Museum Store

[www.lockhousemuseum.org](http://www.lockhousemuseum.org)

I was fortunate to find Tom Fitzpatrick and Joe Kochenderfer at the Lockhouse. It was a sunny afternoon, and the small building was hosting quite a few visitors. I squeezed past the tour and headed for the museum store. Quietly tucked in a downstairs room of the historic house, the shop boasts a wide array of Bay related gifts. The room is rich with history and that is reflected by the items available there. Tiny little soldiers in colorful uniforms form ranks inside a glass case. Scrimshaw jewelry and belt buckles by local artist Ramona Bolen, beautifully capture the essence of another time. They have stuffed toys, children's games, jewelry, books, birdhouses made from decorated gourds, and so much more. I picked up a book of Federal style paper dolls. My niece Evy and I should have fun playing with these. A bean bag crab and a pair of scrimshaw earrings for a boat loving friend, were just too cute to leave behind. On we go...



## What Knots Museum Store Havre de Grace Maritime Museum

[www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org](http://www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org)

I worked my way through throngs of school children to the office of Iris Barnes. She had kindly agreed to give me a tour of the museum store and explain a little of the thought process that goes into choosing the items they buy. Their mission is to collect, document, preserve and interpret the maritime skills of this region, including those of the indigenous people who lived here. Neatly displayed are Native American crafts & jewelry, artisan blown glass, sea glass jewelry, maritime & history books, Bay food items, stuffed animals & children's toys, CDs, and souvenirs. Well, this is easy... some seafood marinade for Dominic, a wampum shell necklace for my niece Brooke, and wow, look at this... A Native American "tool" for starting fires in the wilderness. I think my nephew Ben, will be intrigued by this. He's fascinated with the mechanics of how things work, and loves unusual gadgets.



Shopping is over for today, but I'll be back before the holidays. I got a good head start on my list and a lot of great ideas!

**Museum membership makes a great gift for anyone!**