

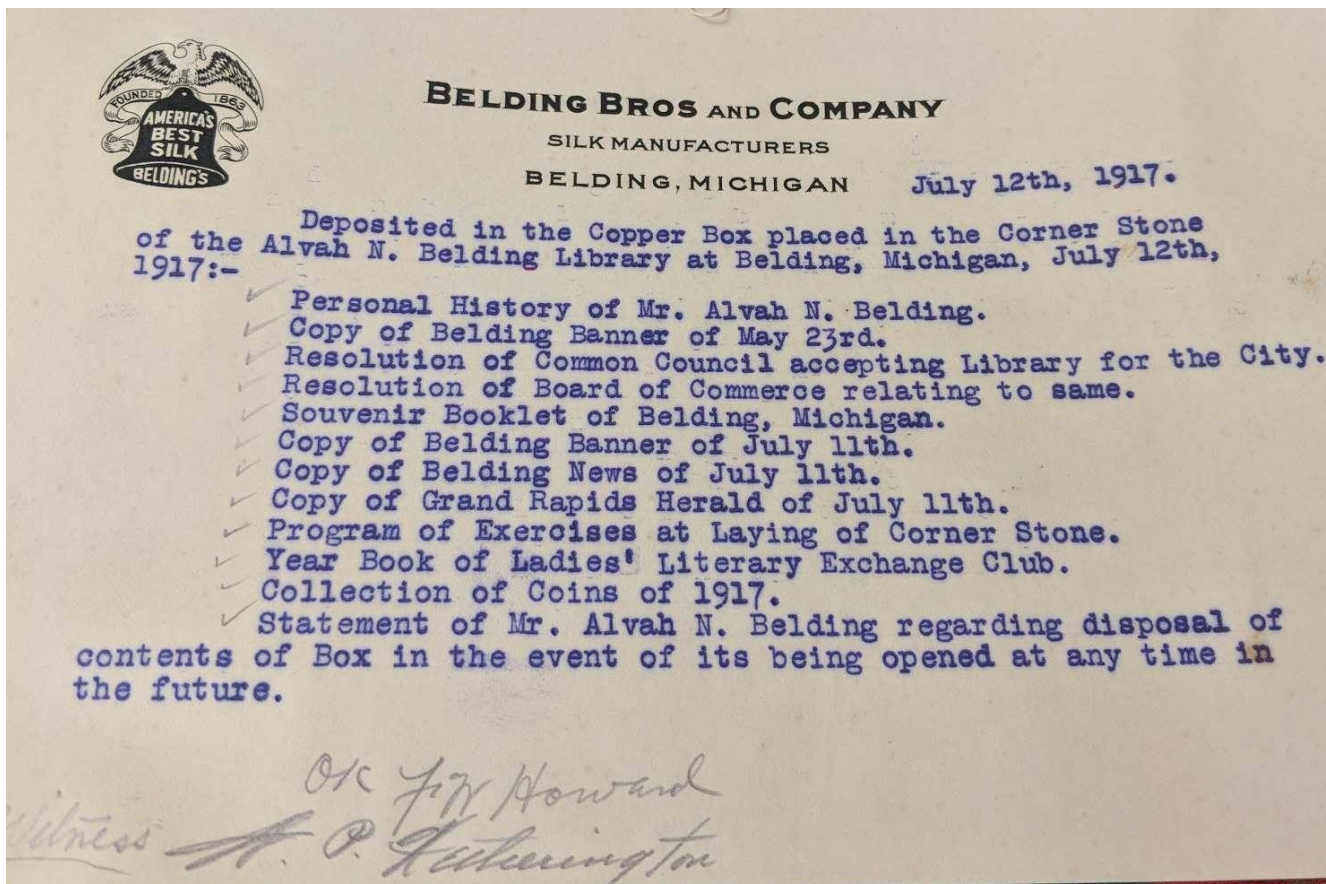
Releasing the Fabled Library Time Capsule of Alvah N. Belding Memorial Library

According to library lore and rumor, passed down from prior Librarians, the Alvah N. Belding Memorial Library contained a secret set in stone. A time capsule, placed in the cornerstone of the library by Alvah N. Belding himself.

The legend sounded reasonable, but where was the proof? The files of history within the library contained evidence of a Cornerstone Laying Ceremony, held July 12, 1917, but showed no mention of placing a time capsule.

Newspaper articles written about the event also gave no mention of the fabled, mysterious time capsule.

However, a thorough investigation of the library history files revealed a clue. A typewritten list of items on Belding Bros and Company letterhead, claimed to have been placed in a copper box inside the library cornerstone, July 12, 1917.



On May 14, 2018, a crew from Cusack’s Masonry Restoration, Inc. from Hubbardston, Michigan was scheduled to remove the library cornerstone, bearing the 1917 date inscribed in the stone. Proving to be a larger job than expected, the crew from Cusack’s returned the following day, May 15, 2018, with larger equipment. The stone was removed and the time capsule was uncovered.



Photo by Kelly Worden, 2018

On May 16, 2018, the copper time capsule box was safely opened, and the contents revealed. Those on hand to witness the opening of the box and the 100-year-old contents within were Library Director, Britney Dillon, Friends of the Library, President, Jim Mason, and library staff members Betty Jenkins, and Kelly Worden.

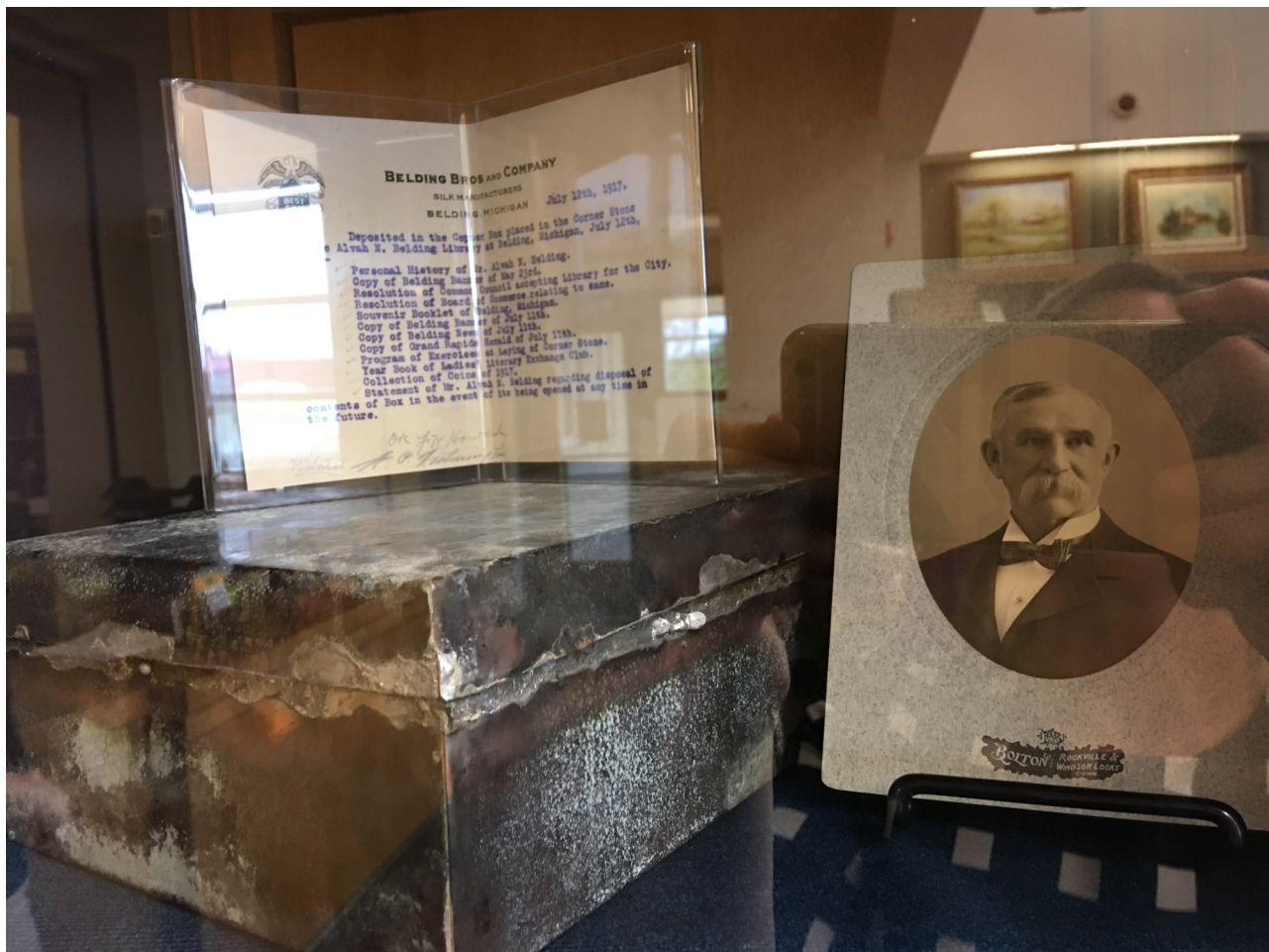
The box was opened in a dimly-lit room, and cotton gloves were worn to prevent damage of the contents.



Photo by Kelly Worden, 2018

The contents of the time capsule were protected under a layer of silk floss, presumably from the Belding Bros and Company silk manufacturing mills, and each item from the list was intact and in like-new condition, with the exception of the coins inside the leather pouch, which had oxidized.

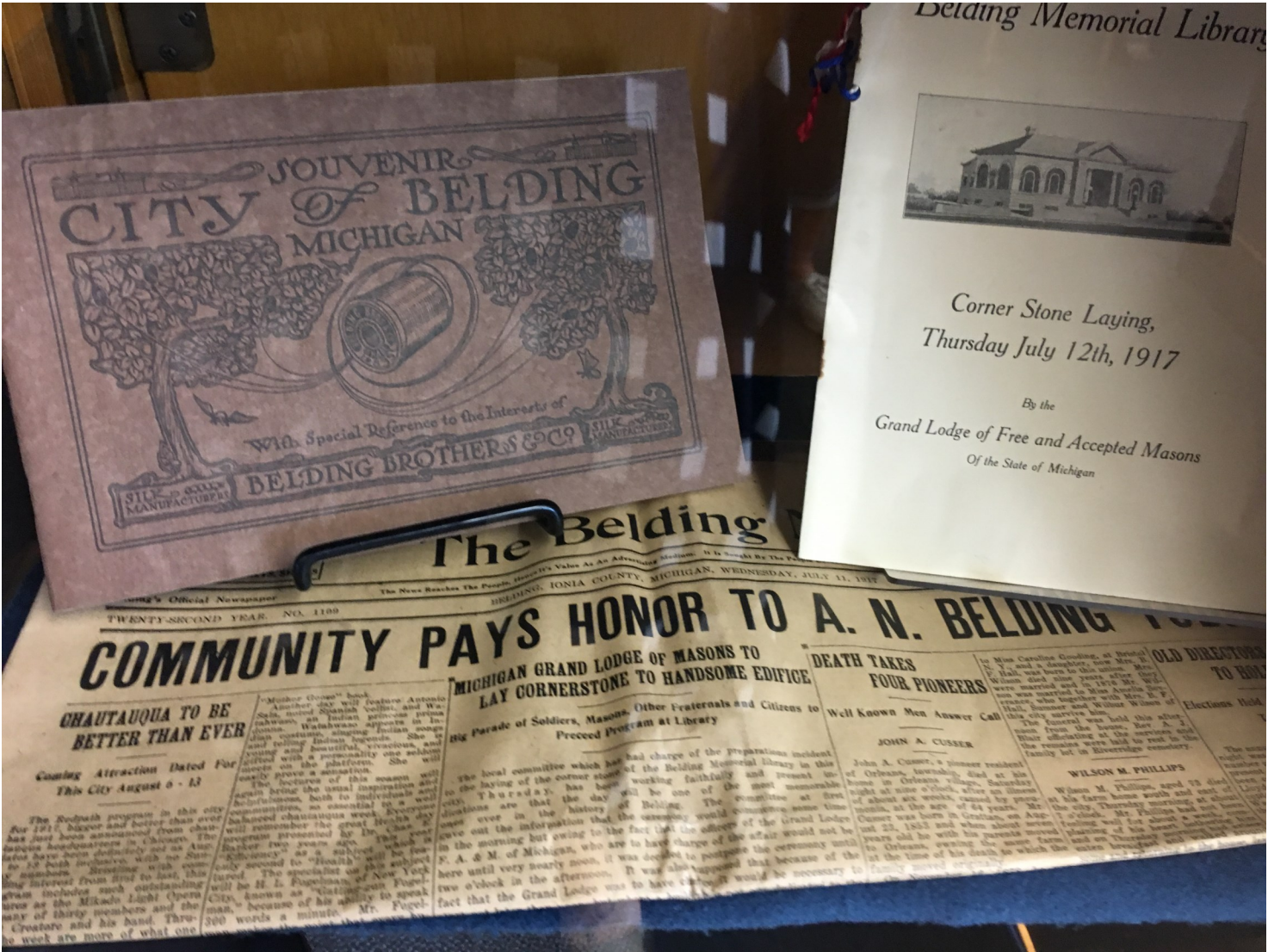
The contents of the time capsule were on display inside the library for several months before they were packed back into the copper box to be re-entered as a time capsule for future generations to discover.



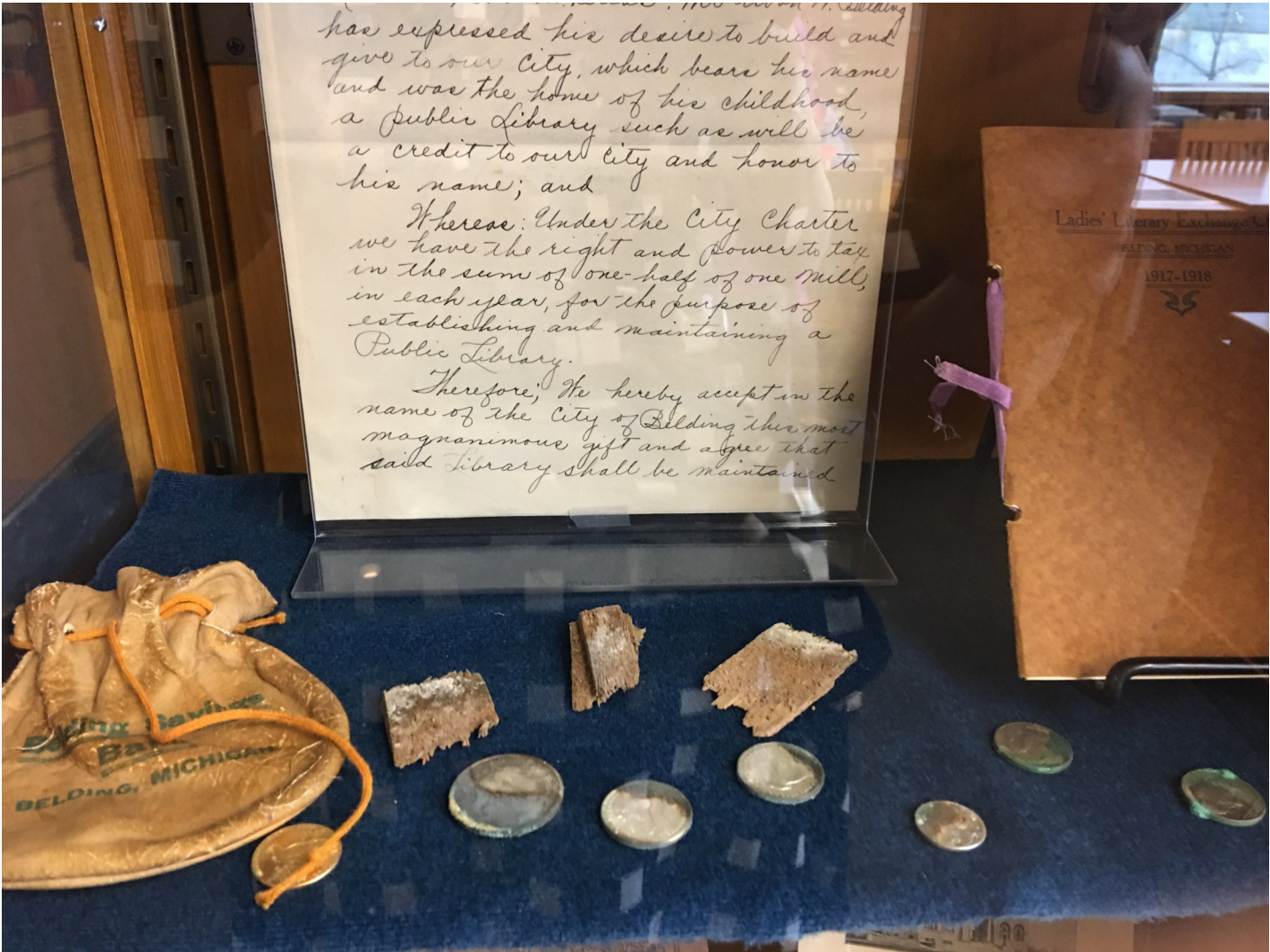
Photos by Kelly Worden, 2018



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