



16th Annual Local History & Historic Preservation Conference October 13, 2022

What Makes a Thing an Artifact? Joe Kapler, Lead Curator at WHS

“That oughta be in a museum!”...But should it?

Get Started Today

Get ahead of potential issues by looking and thinking forwardly.

First, ask yourself why you collect. What do you truly value?

Then, develop a collecting guide or refine existing guide/scope/policy.

Provenance vs. type specimen

Story vs. connoisseurship

Consider local or regional identity as the major collecting guidepost.

Collecting ‘calculus’ = collecting mission + limited resources + risk management +
donor expectations

At Time of Offer

Thanking...Communicating...Educating

Express genuine thanks.

Communicate realities and set expectations.

Share your mission as well as your process.

Declining is a core responsibility of proper curation.

It must be careful, considerate, and communicated.

Front-end effort, by you and donors, helps to winnow and ultimately yields a better collection.

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Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing Stories since 1846
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