

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

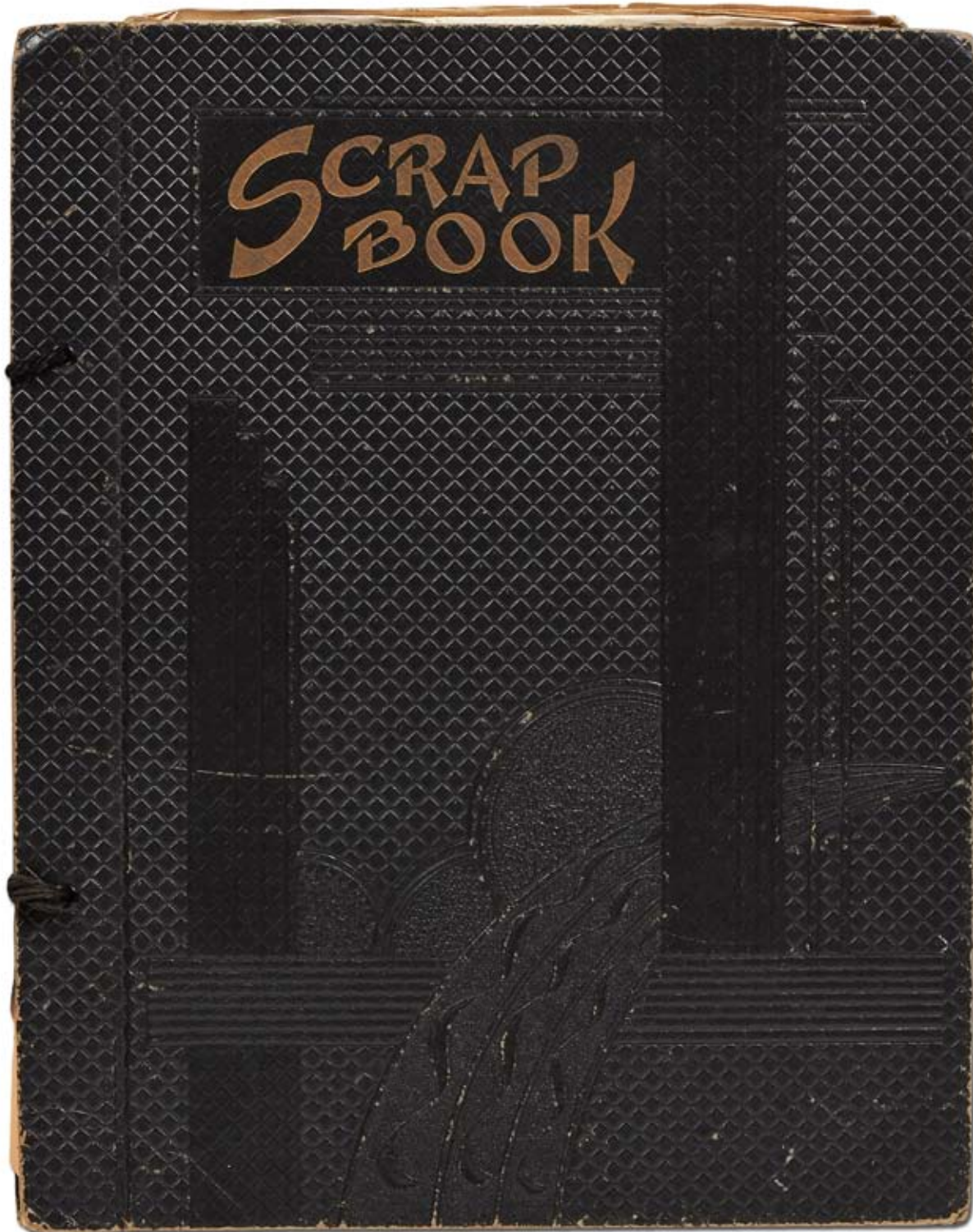
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Wrapped in the Flag...

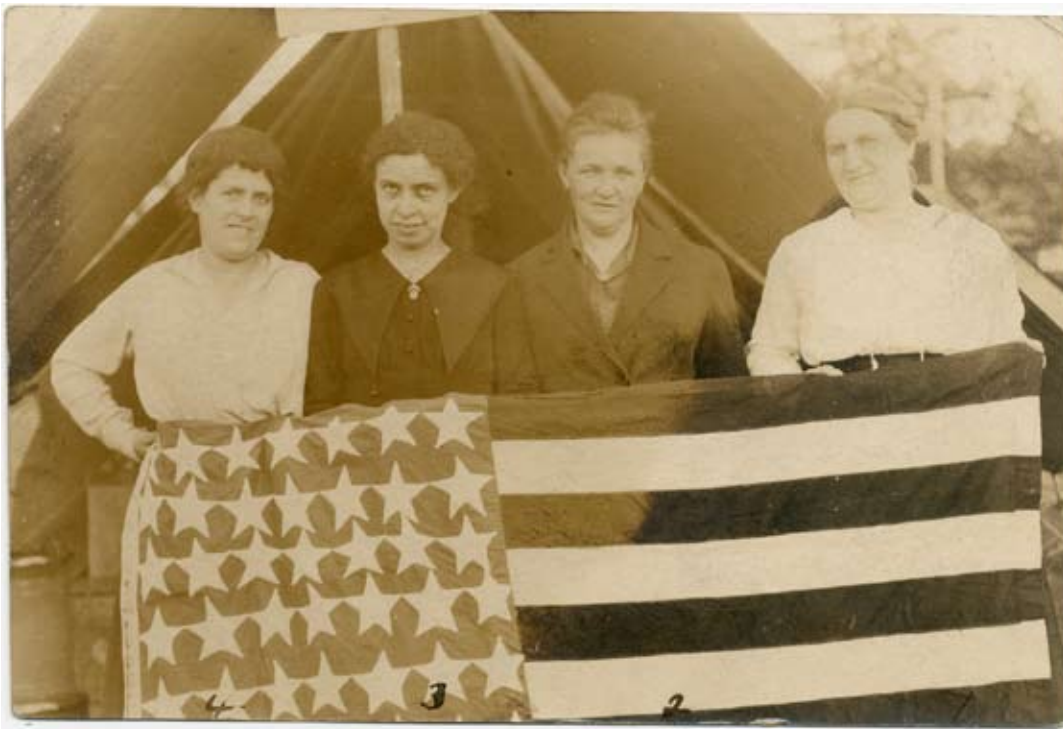
Lillie M. Jenkins

Scrapbook of Lillie M. Jenkins of Jackson, Michigan, on "The Most Colorful and Interesting History" of an American Flag in the First World War, sewn by Jenkins for Company F of the 126th Infantry of Jackson, Michigan

\$650



Commercial scrapbook. Quarto. Scrapbook stitching a little loose, leaves browning, in good, sound condition. Eleven mounted newspaper clippings and nine clippings laid in; eight photographs (including a real photo postcard); a five-page letter on Knights of Columbus letterhead dated Germany, April 2, 1919; a few miscellaneous pieces of ephemera. According to the information included in the scrapbook, the flag that Jenkins made was "... claimed to be the first American flag to be flown to the breezes on German soil, and returned Jackson soldiers are said to have substantiated this claim."



A unique look at the nature of one woman's participation in the war effort and the talismanic qualities of the American flag, a scrapbook assembled by Lillie M. Jenkins (with her name and address in Jackson, Michigan penciled on the inside front cover of the volume), whose patriotic feeling led her to sew an American flag for a local unit that was shipping out for the Great War.

Bernard Lowe took charge of the flag and claimed to have worn it wrapped around his body during the battles in which he engaged as a member of the Red Arrow Division, and that the flag "served as a good luck 'piece' for Mr. Lowe and all the members of his company." The mounted five-page letter from Lowe includes an account of the unit's fighting and the role of the flag: "Our next move was to the Argonne were [sic] I consider we had our hardest fighting the flag was still around my waist. In the article in the Jackson paper it is stated it was within a few feet of Capt. Richard F. Smith at the time he was killed that statement is also true. . . . We are now in Germany over the Rhine and the Flag is still with me, I have been appointed official custodian of the Flag as long as I live it is the wish of all the boys of Co. F. that I take care of the flag as I have carried it some thousands of miles and in some hot places." Lowe returned safely home and presented the blood-stained flag back to its creator. A number of the clippings appear to date from the 1930s and 1940s and take a retrospective look at the flag and its story. [BTC#392328]



