



Effingham County Cultural Center and Museum Newsletter

Effingham, Illinois

Volume 2, Issue 2

April-May-June 2015

In the Train Room



Chapel representation of former St. Joseph's College



Classroom building (L) flanked by current 1977 tower (R)

Come see this new addition to the ECCMA Train Room! Volunteer **Jo Thomas** recently created representations of three structures from a former Teutopolis icon - St. Joseph's Seminary and College. Bishop Damian Junker and Franciscan Superior Gregory Kanknecht worked together to plan this institution of higher learning in 1860. Father Damian Hennewig was pastor at St. Francis when the building site was selected. Thirty-five Teutopolis residents committed to the cause of higher education for males, and pledged \$440 to jump start construction. Ground was broken in early April, 1861, just before the fall of Fort Sumter and the start of the Civil War. The cornerstone was laid on July 2, 1861 and the seminary/college opened on September 16, 1862. The administration-dormitory building (40 ft x 80 ft), and a chapel with a small rec room, were the initial structures. Advertisements were placed in German language publications throughout the mid-west, stating the school's purpose was to: "give young men a complete scientific and classical education...the courses will embrace all those branches which fit pupils for any profession or for a business career...Special direction will be afforded to boys showing an inclination and vocation to the priesthood." A fee of one hundred dollars (\$100/year) in advance covered tuition, room, board and laundry.

Sources: *Teutopolis Illinois Quasiquicentennial Celebration Historical Booklet, 1839-1964* (page 25).
Days Gone By: A German Festival Teutopolis Illinois On the National Road, 2003 (pages 14-15).

ECCCMA Mission Statement

The purpose of the Museum is to establish, maintain, and operate a museum for the general public, and to collect, research, care for and interpret materials and artifacts of cultural and historical interest to the residents of, and visitors to, Effingham County, Illinois. Our vision is that the 1872 Effingham County Courthouse remains as an architectural gem that instills a sense of community pride and provides a venue to educate and showcase the history, art, and transportation of Effingham County. The Museum is a 501(c) 3 organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Hours

Usual hours March-November Tuesday & Saturday: 10 AM - 2 PM
Other hours by special arrangement
Closed to the general public December-February, except for special programming

Accessibility

The museum is wheelchair accessible from the east side entrance just off the parking lot. Toilet facilities that are wheelchair accessible can be found in the west exhibit room.

Collection Building

The scope of the Museum's collection is directed by its Mission Statement. Donations are accepted of objects that relate directly to the Museum's mission of collecting materials and artifacts of cultural and/or historical interest.

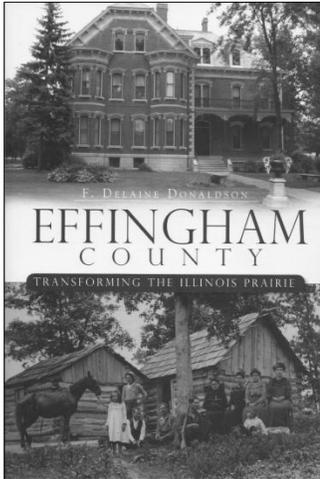
Board and Officers

President	Delaine Donaldson	
Vice President	<Open>	
Secretary	LoElla Baker	
Treasurer	Allen Westendorf	
Members at Large	Jerry Katz	Jane Ries
	Rueben Boyajian MD	Henry Poterucha MD
	John Keenan	Linda Ruholl

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Email: ECCCMA@gmail.com
Web site: www.effinghamcountymuseum.org
Visit us on Facebook @: Effingham County Courthouse Effingham Ill
Newsletter Editor: Linda Ruholl

Available for Purchase at the Museum - Proceeds benefit museum projects



Title: Effingham County: Transforming the Illinois Prairie

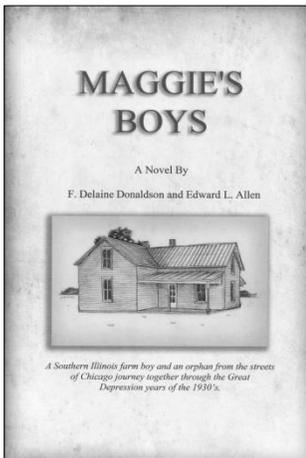
Author: F. Delaine Donaldson

Published: 2010, The History Press, Charleston, SC

126 pages 6 inch x 9 inch PB ISBN: 978.1.59629.965.8

Price: \$20.00

Description: A history of Effingham County drawn from local and other sources from the time of the Native Americans through the mid-20th century. Includes a complete list of sources. Fifty-seven period and current illustrations, including photographs from Effingham, Altamont, Mason, Teutopolis, Montrose, and Edgewood.



Title: Maggie's Boys

Authors: F. Delaine Donaldson & Edward L. Allen

Published: 2013, Kingery Printing Company, Effingham, IL

166 pages 5.5 inch x 8.5 inch PB

Price: \$10.00

Description: A fictionalized account of life during the Great Depression in Effingham County, as experienced by two teen aged boys, Frank and Pete. Original art work by local artists Vera Keplar and Jonathon Donaldson, who is the nephew of the first author.



Title: Mother Mary Ann Brown Newcomb: Effingham Civil War Nurse

Author: Linda Hatke Ruholl

Published: 2013, BeeSquared Publishing, Cincinnati, Ohio

308 pages 6 inch x 9 inch PB ISBN: 978.0615855301

Price: \$20.00

Description: Account of the experiences of a local Civil War volunteer nurse who served 1861-1865 with Grant's Army. End notes in Chicago Manual of Style. Full bibliography, index and 267 B & W illustrations.

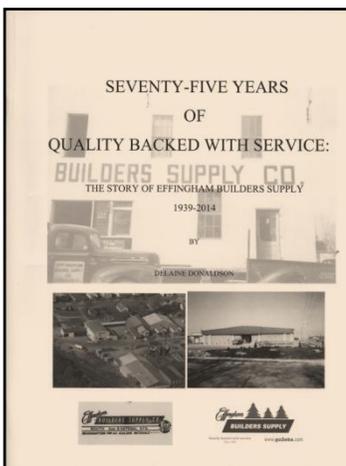
RECENT EVENTS

Historic Lecture Series

January 8, 2015: Effingham Builders Supply



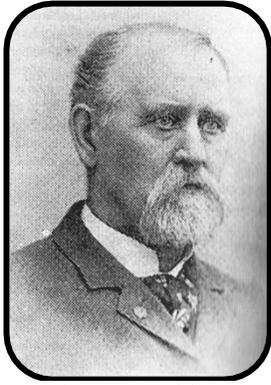
A capacity crowd braved January's frigid weather to listen to **Bob Mette**, his father **Geroge Mette** and brother **Bill Mette** tell the story of the birth of their business in 1939, and how it came to thrive. The founders, Walter Engel and J. W. Kabbes, were firmly grounded in the construction trades and understood their customers' needs. George Mette was originally hired as the Builder Supply bookkeeper, and the business was housed in the repurposed Equity Poultry Coop, on the corner of National Avenue and South 2nd Street. Fast forward to 2014. The business is now operated by the 3rd and 4th generation of the Mette family and is housed in much larger quarters on the corner of Evergreen and North 4th Street, with the URL www.go2ebl.com.



Each guest received a copy of the Builders Supply history, written by ECCMA President **Delaine Donaldson**. Chapter 1 described the context of business history, revealing Effingham County in 1939 as the perfect place and time to begin the establishment. Roosevelt's New Deal was making itself known via an influx of money from Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Public Works Administration (PWA) projects; thus Depression level unemployment eased. Oil lease money was also flowing, along with the pay envelopes of the oil field temporary workers. These men needed housing, and competed with county residents for space. Thus the County's climate was ripe for change, and the two uniquely fitted personalities of Kabbes and Engel stepped forward to make it happen. Delaine Donaldson employed various historiography techniques to unpack and flesh out the rich history of the Mettes' family-owned business. Original legal documents, business receipts, trended photographs, newspaper items, and written and oral interviews provide multiple points of view, and support the validity of this historical account of a venerable local business establishment.

Historic Lecture: February 12, 2015:

The 98th Illinois Mounted Infantry and Colonel John Funkhouser



Col. J. T. Funkhouser



Memorial to the 98th IL Infantry at Chicamunga



Historian Donaldson

In the second lecture for year 2015, ECCMA President **Delaine Donaldson** described the deeds of the 98th Illinois Mounted Infantry during the Civil War. This unit was organized at Centralia in September of 1862 by John T. Funkhouser. It was his second commission in the War, as he resigned the first one at the death of his father, after which he remained in Effingham for some months to settle his father's affairs. The 98th Mounted Infantry was constantly on the move throughout the War. They took part in 28 major battles and 137 skirmishes. The unit was converted to "mounted infantry" thanks to the efforts of John Hunt Morgan, who used his personal resources to buy their horses. They were armed with the new seven shot manually cocked lever-action Spencer rifles, which increased the mens' speed and accuracy, as compared to the powder-and-ball single shot musket. The final touch adding to their effectiveness was their commander's substitution of hatchets in the place of sabers. When charging the enemy, the hatchet along with a 24-inch long handle, displayed over head gave them a fearsome appearance that was a distinct psychological advantage. Known as Wilder's Lightning Brigade, civilians came to recognize and fear them as well, although Delaine Donaldson emphasized there is no evidence they did anything to terrorize the local citizenry. The September 1863 Battle of Chicamunga took a heavy toll on the 98th - 5 men killed and 36 wounded. Col. Funkhouser was among them. There is an impressive memorial to the 98th at the National Park Service's official site. Funkhouser resigned because of his wounds in July of 1864, and he died in 1898. Like many Civil War veterans, he never totally recovered from injuries incurred during the War.



Colonel John T. Wilder
commander of the
Lightening Brigade



Hatchet in place of saber



Wilder's Monument

Family History Lecture: March 12, 2015

Return to Gut Schmarsow



Family historian and international traveler **Mike Kirchhoff** shared the story of his return visit to Gut Schmarsow, site of the remnants of an estate that was the home of his ancestor, August Frederick Kirchhoff, and wife Wilhemine. The estate is currently in the north-eastern section of the German Democratic Republic, but after Germany's defeat in World War II, that area was part of Communist-dominated East Germany. Consequently, the area population is less familiar with the English language than people living in what was formerly West Germany. Mr. Kirchhoff dated his interest in family history from a classroom assignment made by Ed Allen of Effingham High School back in 1977.

Tasked with constructing a family tree, Kirchhoff consulted county records in the very building now housing the ECCCMA. His love of history was not instantaeous, however, although he did take several semesters of German in college. Eventually his interest was rekindled, and he recently returned to Germany in search of his roots for the second time.

Kirchhoff's ancestors lived in Germany when it was known as Prussia, and existed as strict feudal system. The owner of an estate was essentially the ruler of his own little fiefdom. He was not completely autonomous, however, as the overlord or king periodically approached estate owners for money and men to support his army. August Kirkhoff, Mike's ancestor, was fortunate in that he was the Head of Horses and Carriages on the estate, a position of prestige of which he was rightfully proud. His wife, however, did not benefit from his status, and worked as a field hand. People in the area were mostly Lutheran, but their belief system was threatened in 1848 when the king insisted Lutherans should desist from their mode of worship, and attend church in the fashion of other Protestants. Like the Roman Catholics, Lutherans believed in the Real Prescence in the Eucharist. Unwilling to adopt what they believed was an inauthentic religion, a large segment of the Lutheran population began a mass exodus out of the Prussia. Many of them came to the United States where there was farm land available in the midwest, including those who eventually settled in the Altamont area.

The land they left behind was ceded to others. During Communist occupation, it was communally occupied. Little was done to keep up the buildings, because without individual/family ownership, people saw no benefit to investing time, money and sweat in maintenance. After Germany reunified and went back to a democratic model, the government sold off farm land at the eastern end of the country. A couple from the southern part of Germany purchased a small section of the former 1,500 hectare Gut Schmarsow estate. The part they bought contained many of the original buildings, including a 3-storey grainery, horse and small animal barns, a blacksmith shop, and a distillery. They are gradually renovating these buildings. They breed Trakehner horses, the massive Prussian breed that came close to extinction in the aftermath of World War II. They also run a bed-and-breakfast, and Mike enthusiastically described the "full German breakfast" of cold and hot sausages, eggs, and multiple forms of fresh bread.

Landmarks Illinois

The *Landmarks Illinois* Economic Impact team visited the ECCCMA recently. Landmarks Illinois is a potent voice for historical preservation in Illinois. Since it was founded 44 years ago, the group has saved many architectural treasures across the state. Their mission is to stop the demolition of significant structures, historic districts, and archeological sites in cities, towns and rural areas. As a result of the Economic Impact team's visit, the museum received a useful assortment of Craftsman tools.

New Exhibit



Effingham County Health Department - the Early Years, is a collaborative display planned and carried out in conjunction with the current health department. Early HD staff members are depicted, including some of those on the first Board of Health. The health care team of the 1949-1954 era Home Delivery Service is noted on the second shelf; they provided personalized prenatal, labor and delivery and post-partum care to over 900 women. During the entire span of its existence, the ECHD Home Delivery Service did not experience a single maternal death. Local artist **Mary Parks** drew the portraits of the first two ECHD Health Officers.

ECCCMA Membership Application

Please print clearly.

Detach and mail to: ECCCMA, P. O. Box 324, Effingham, IL 62401

Name _____

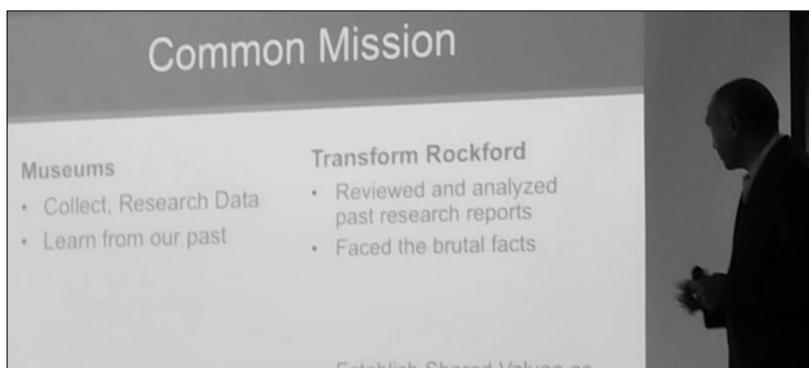
Mailing address _____

email address: _____

Check # _____ enclosed for one year membership:
_____ **\$25.00 individual** _____ **\$ 50.00 family**

Membership can also be obtained via PayPal by visiting the ECCCMA website:
www.effinghamcountymuseum.org

Phil Lewis and the Illinois Association of Museums



Local historian and ECCCMA volunteer **Phil Lewis** attended a recent annual meeting of the Illinois Association of Museums in Rockford.

Advocacy, collaboration, and empowerment were recurring themes at this conference. Phil reports the sessions were interesting and thought-provoking. Sagar Patel (left) described a collaborative effort in the

Rockford area which combined the efforts of museums, social service agencies, business and education to examine the role of local history in improving the social and economic conditions of the area. Other sessions presented information from Illinois museum curators and directors about specific volunteer programs, and how they apply current best practices while running their museums in Springfield and Lockport. The Illinois Association of Museums is an umbrella group that advocates for all the various types and sizes of museums in this state, from Chicago to deep southern Illinois. Their home base is located in Old Capitol Plaza in Springfield, and their web site is: www.illinoismuseums.org.

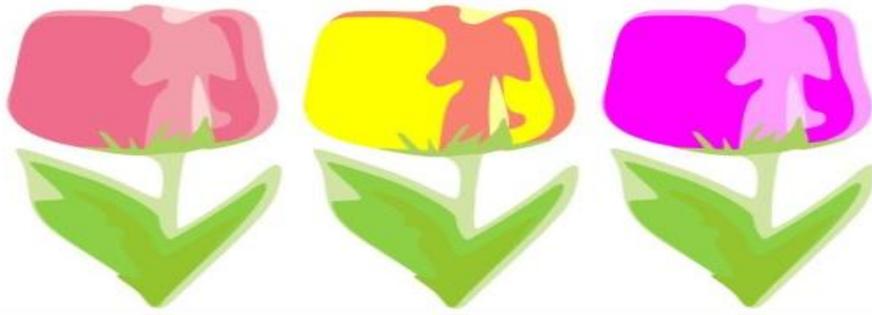
Phil Lewis also recently shared his specialized knowledge of local and regional history in the first 2105 issue of *Crossroads Trails*, which is the quarterly journal of the Effingham County Genealogical and Historical Society. His topic is James Newton Matthews, the Praire Poet/country physician who diligently attended the people of Mason, while simultaneously composing poems eloquently describing the Civil War era experiences of others, as well as his own current observations and experiences as a rural midwesterner. Phil points out the role Matthews played in the literary achievements of African-American poet Paul Lawrence Dunbar, and describes Matthews' long-time friendship with Indiana poet James Whitcomb Riley. Phil's article is located in *Crossroads Trails*, Volume XXXVI, Issue 1, pages 11-15. If you aren't a subscriber, you can read it at the Effingham library.



From the Vault

Many interesting artifacts have come to the museum and have been set aside for future exhibits. When the second floor is available for displays, an exhibit will be put in place to remember the events at the time of the 1949 St. Anthony Hospital fire. Recently the museum was honored by the family of Shirley Veigal Clements, RN, a heroic victim of the fire. Michell Dupske, Shirley's daughter, entrusted her mother's possessions to the ECCCMA with the understanding they would be used to share her mother's story. These items include photographs from all eras of her mother's life, as well as her class ring and her nursing pin. There is a letter from Shirley's mother to Zona B. Davis, written in 1974, in which Mrs. Veigal shares the last hours of Shirley's life prior to her

death less than 24 hours after the fire was reported. The most heart-wrenching item in the collection is Shirley Clements' rosary, which was in her hand at the time she jumped from the second floor window of the hospital and struck the cement sidewalk below.



April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 MUSEUM open 10-2
5	6	7 OPEN 10-2	8	9	10	11 MUSEUM Open 10-2 Mason Christian Church Benefit Breakfast 7 - 10 AM
12	13	14 OPEN 10-2 Membership meeting 6PM Board Meeting 730PM	15 *SPECIAL Program <i>Death of Lincoln & End of Civil War</i> Doors open 6M	16	17	18 MUSEUM Open 10-2
19	20	21 OPEN 10-2	22	23	24	25 MUSEUM Open 10-2
26	27	28 OPEN 10-2	29	30		



*April 15, 2015: Special Program

Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865. The ECCCMA will present a commemorative event on April 15. Local people will do readings demonstrating the personal feelings of County residents about the significance of the President's death, as well as the impact of the end of the Civil War. Doors open at 6PM to allow time to view exhibits.

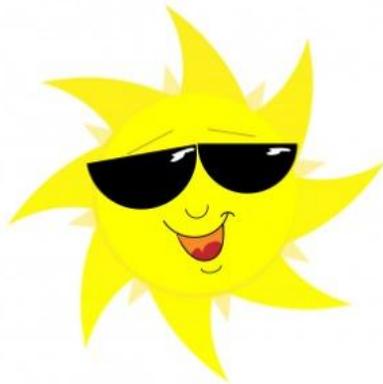


May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 MUSEUM open 10-2
3	4	5 OPEN 10-2	6	7	8 ARTS & HEARTS Courthouse Lawn 5-8PM	9 MUSEUM open 10-2 *ARTISANS FAIR Courthouse Lawn
10	11	12 OPEN 10-2 Membership Meeting 6P Board Meeting 730P	13	14	15	16 MUSEUM open 10-2
17	18	19 OPEN 10-2	20	21	22	23 MUSEUM open 10-2
24	25	26 OPEN 10-2	27	28	29	30 MUSEUM open 10-2
31						

Scenes from last year's Artisan's Fair*





June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 MUSEUM Open 10-2
7	8	9 OPEN 10-2 Membership Meeting 6PM Board Meeting 730PM	10	11	12	13 MUSEUM Open 10-2
14	15	16 OPEN 10-2	17	18	19	20 MUSEUM Open 10-2
21	22	23 OPEN 10-2	24	25	26	27 MUSEUM Open 10-2
28	29	30 OPEN 10-2				

Overheard at the Museum

"Great exhibits - great docents" (Los Angeles visitor)

"You guys have sure done a great job here. I'm glad this building got saved". (Local family history researcher)

"I think it is so good that somebody is preserving this history. Too often, it gets thrown away." (Civil War descendent)

Fund Raiser for the MUSEUM



**Please join us for a
Benefit Breakfast**

@

**the Mason
Christian Church Annex
7:00 - 10:00 AM**

on

**Saturday
April 11, 2015**

\$6.00 Adults - \$3.00 age 4-12 - Free age 3 & under



ECCCMA says a very warm "thank you" to the Mason Christian Church community for their hard work, fellowship and financial support!