



# History Matters!

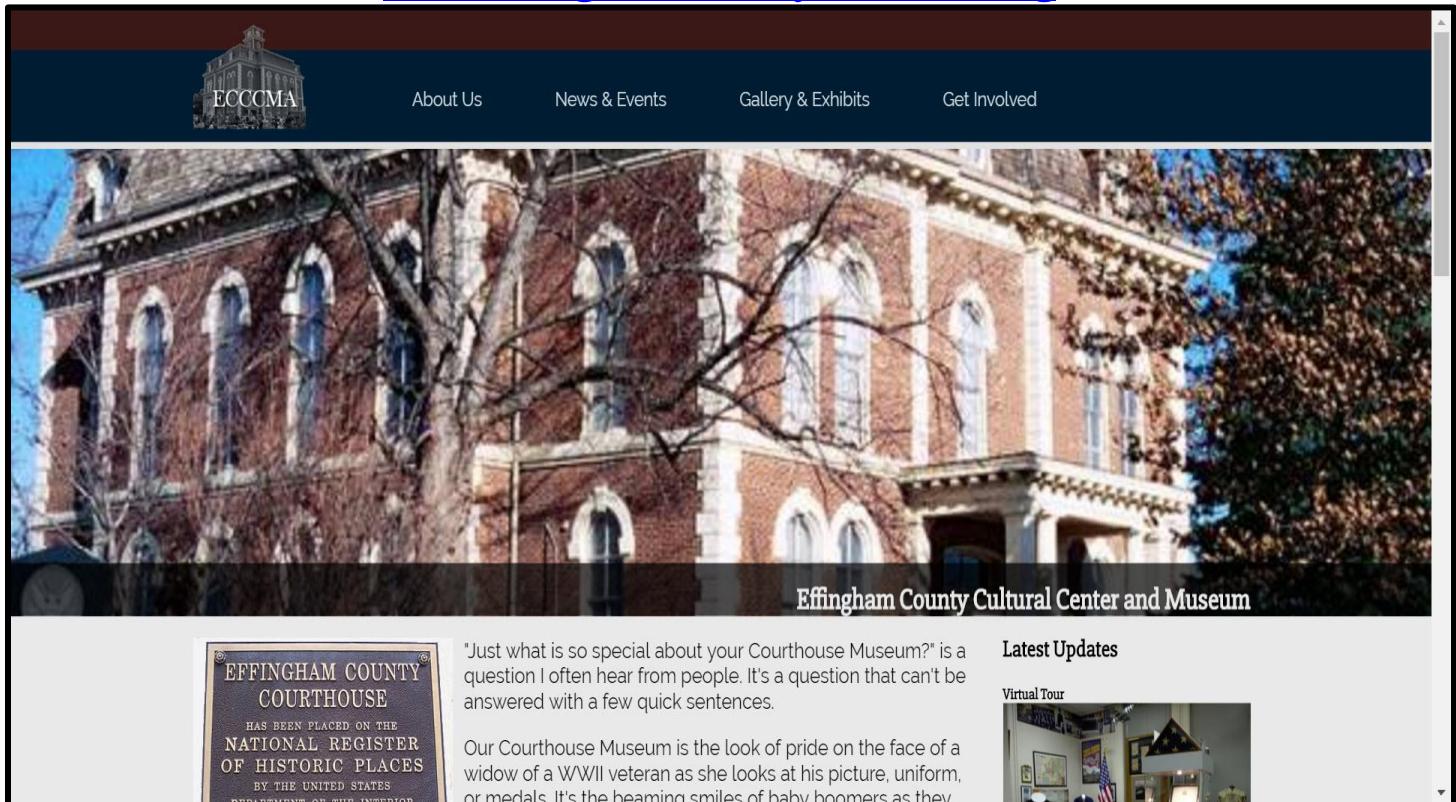
Newsletter of the Effingham County Cultural Center  
and Museum

Effingham, Illinois

Volume 3, Issue 2

April - May - June 2016

Check out ECCCMA's new web site.  
Bookmark our URL so you can visit often:  
[www.effinghamcountymuseum.org](http://www.effinghamcountymuseum.org)



The screenshot shows the website for the Effingham County Cultural Center and Museum. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "About Us", "News & Events", "Gallery & Exhibits", and "Get Involved". Below the navigation bar is a large, scenic photograph of the Effingham County Courthouse, a red brick building with white trim and arched windows. In the foreground, bare tree branches frame the building. A banner at the bottom of the page reads "Effingham County Cultural Center and Museum". On the left side of the main content area, there is a plaque for the Effingham County Courthouse being placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The plaque text includes: "EFFINGHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR". To the right of the plaque, there is a text box with the following content: "'Just what is so special about your Courthouse Museum?' is a question I often hear from people. It's a question that can't be answered with a few quick sentences. Our Courthouse Museum is the look of pride on the face of a widow of a WWII veteran as she looks at his picture, uniform, or medals. It's the beaming smiles of baby boomers as they...". Further down the page, there is a section titled "Latest Updates" with a link to a "Virtual Tour" and a thumbnail image showing a room with historical exhibits.



Our new look was created by **Nick Westendorf**, son of ECCCMA Board Member **Allen Westendorf**. A virtual tour has been added, along with many photographs depicting aspects of Effingham County history. Prior issues of our newsletter are archived there as well, and can be downloaded in a PDF format. Upcoming events will be highlighted, so stay informed about what's going on by visiting us often! There is no visitor counter, because Google Analytics will be used to monitor traffic.

## **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-December: Tuesday & Saturday: 10 AM - 2 PM

Other hours by special arrangement

Closed to the general public January-February, except for special programming  
or by appointment

### **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  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Members at Large

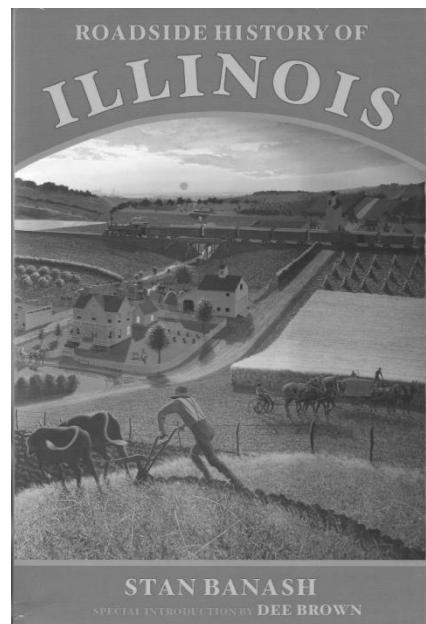
Delaine Donaldson  
Jane Ries  
LoElla Baker  
Allen Westendorf  
Jerry Katz  
Rueben Boyajian MD  
John Keenan

Henry Poterucha MD  
Linda Ruholl

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Phone: 217-540-8655 (leave message if no answer)  
Email: ECCCMA@gmail.com  
Web site: [www.effinghamcountymuseum.org](http://www.effinghamcountymuseum.org)  
Visit us on Facebook @: Effingham County Courthouse Effingham Ill  
Newsletter Editor: Linda Ruholl, contact @: 217-540-8655 (leave message)

## **Collaborative Project with Effingham Public Library**



The Effingham County Museum and Cultural Association collaborated with Johnna Schultz, of the Effingham Public Library, on March 28, 2016 to bring Stan Banash to the Museum. Stan "Tex" Banash is the author of a unique book combining Illinois travel with Illinois history. Stan devoted over ten years to researching and writing it. The volume divides the state into seven regions, starting with Southern Illinois and working north across the state. Within each region, historic places are described as they are situated on local, state and national roads and byways. The history of each town, city or place is described, usually accompanied by photographs and/or drawings. Stan Banash has assembled a rich meld of historical data and interesting trivia. For example, did you know the first skyscraper in the U.S. was built in Chicago (p. 366)? If you learned as a kid that John Deere invented the metal plow, it's not true! John Lane, a Will County blacksmith is the inventor (p. 281). The book is fully indexed, and there is an extensive bibliography. The *Roadside History Of Illinois* (ISBN 97800-8782-599-0) was published by Mountain Press of Missoula, Montana in 2013. Stan Banash revealed he has another book in the works. It will also center on Illinois, but his precise topic is a secret.

### **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](http://www.effinghamcountymuseum.org)**

## Recent Event

### January Historic Lecture Series: 1-14-2014

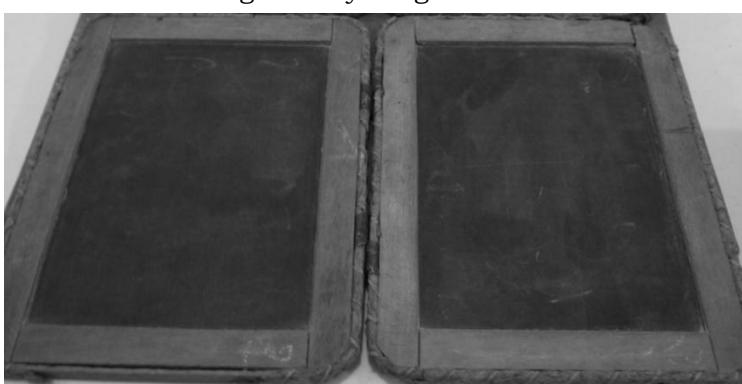


**Jill Moomaw** presented the history of the McCoy School, which provided primary school education to hundreds of rural children from 1864 to 1952. Her work was informed by a series of 1992 interviews of former students that she conducted as part of the requirements for a course at Southern Illinois University. The results of her qualitative research were supported by the Mary Ball artifact collection, much of which was on display at this event.

McCoy School was created during the Civil War in Mound Township, about 2.5 miles northeast of Altamont. Elisha McCoy donated the land for the school, as well as for the McCoy Cemetery that sits to its rear.

The nature of the school year changed over time. In 1894, there were two terms. Winter term ran September through January and Spring term spanned February through April. This timing allowed farm children to be in the fields when their families needed their help. Enrollment was higher at the turn of the century, with 60-64 students, but dropped fifty years later to 10-20 students. The Depression had an effect and in the 1929-1930 school year, there were only 4 boys and 7 girls in class.

One teacher managed everything in this one room schoolhouse, from lighting the fire in the stove to supervising the students' letters on these hinged slate tablets. Salaries ranged from \$35 to \$90 per year, and actually went down over time. Teachers were not required to have a college degree in that era. Students who attended said there were few discipline problems.



The school ran from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Children walked to and from school, although a few parents delivered them by horse or car if the weather was really bad.

Lunches were packed at home and were humble in nature compared to what children bring today. Sandwiches were common, with peanut butter or lard fillings. There was no refrigeration, no running water, no indoor toilets, and no central heating. One of the students carried drinking water from a well on the property into the classroom in the early morning. A kind of hot lunch program started in the 1940s, and was prepared and served by the students and teacher. Free government commodities helped jumpstart that program.



The curriculum was solid, and students were able to pass the county-constructed year end exams. Students who were not promoted to the next grade were generally those with multiple absences.

The school created a sense of community among the local families, and many events were held there, including a large picnic at the end of the school year. The McCoy Community Club was a kind of alternative PTO group. This colorful Friendship quilt was created, pieced and quilted by the Club women. It has been donated to the ECCCMA, and will be part of the second floor exhibits when the time comes.

The school closed during the general consolidation effort in Effingham County in 1952. Unlike many of the country schools from this era, McCoy School still stands, but it was sold and is now privately owned.

## **Selected Current Renovations & Additions to Our Second Floor Space**



**Finished railings**



**Lighted shadow box showing original bricks**



**Additional ADA-compliant restroom**



**Island with butcher block top, Caterer's room**



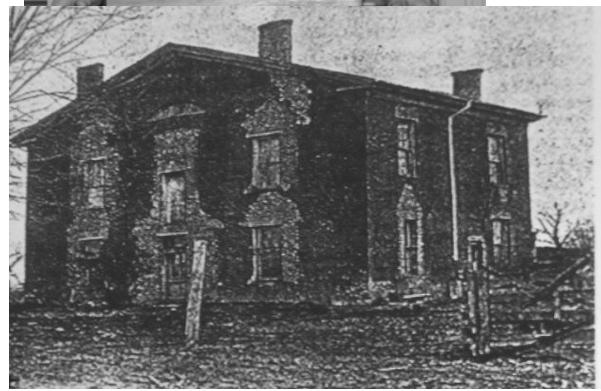
**Catering sink and water heater**

## RECENT EVENT

### March Historic Lecture Series: 3-10-16



Mr. **Glen Bower** presented the history of Effingham's Centenary United Methodist Church. This church is unique in that it represents the oldest continuous religious congregation in Effingham County. Glen gave his talk behind a beautiful podium that once graced the Mt. Zion Methodist Church. The podium stands for "history rescued" as the building in which had been housed burned to the ground two weeks after it was removed from the historic church. Glen began his formal study of the church as he constructed an application for its recognition by the Illinois State Historical Society's Sesquicentennial Church Award.



The original Methodist congregation in the County formed in 1835, soon after what historians call the "Pioneer Period" of Methodism in Illinois, and just four years after the county of Effingham was carved out by the Illinois legislature. Meeting for services was difficult at first, for several reasons. There was no resident minister, nor was there a church building. Lay leaders filled the gap between visits from hardy circuit riders ordained to minister and preach. Early members met in homes in Ewington, the first County seat. Sometimes services were held at the first courthouse there, in this structure (left, above) that later housed the County Poor House after the county seat moved to Effingham. **Jane Loy Ries** provided a slide show to illustrate places described by Mr. Bower.



The congregation moved its center of activity to Effingham about 1855. Again, services were held in private homes at first. The first church building (left) was built in 1865, but the circuit rider practice continued. The structure on 5th Street was the largest Protestant church building in Effingham at the time, and it was called "Centenary Methodist, because that year was the 100th anniversary of the Methodists in America. In less than thirty years, the congregation outgrew it, and a second church was constructed in 1895.

The third and current church was started in 1953 and dedicated in 1961. The bell tower was added later; it was dedicated in 1977. Between then and today, additional changes were made. Today, the Centenary United Methodist Church has worship services and programs for all ages. The pastor is Dr. Joseph Sheets, and Rev. Jessica Baldyga is the Associate Pastor. There are around 800 members, and they live the example of Christ in many ways. Examples are the annual Trunk-or-Treat program, and the provision of one of the very few recycling drop-off points in the city of Effingham.

For more information about the church, visit their web site: [effinghamcumc.com](http://effinghamcumc.com). After the program, the Methodist's ladies group served cookies and other refreshments on the Museum's first floor.

## City of Effingham Presentation



The City of Effingham recently transferred possession of a collection of more than forty individually-framed photographs to the Museum. Former **Mayor Bob Utz** was responsible for collecting, formatting, and displaying them in City Hall at the time Effingham city government moved to its current location on Jefferson Avenue, just a block away from the Museum. People, places and processes illustrating Effingham's history are the focal points of these framed photographs, and they will be integrated into the Museum's existing collection in various ways.

## Dieterich Bank Presentation



Officials and staff of Dieterich Bank presented an award of \$10,000 to ECCCMA on March 21st. This award will allow the organization to continue its Mission to preserve and enhance the historic 1872 Courthouse structure, as well as to inform the public about Effingham County history through educational programming and by collecting, archiving, organizing and exhibiting historic data and artifacts.

## NEW 2016 Women's History Exhibits in Gallery Four



**Ada Kepley artifacts** depicting her role as Temperance activist (presented to the Museum by the families of Mr. Bill Broom and Mr. Jim Broom.)



**Shirley Clements, hospital fire heroine artifacts**  
(presented to the Museum by the family of Michell Clements Dupske)

## Midland State Bank Presentation



ECCCMA was privileged to receive a donation of \$20,000 from the Midland States Bank Foundation on January 8th. This award will help the Museum to pursue its Mission to preserve and enhance the physical aspects of the 1872 historic structure. It will also support the purchase of supplies and materials needed to create and maintain displays and exhibits. In addition, a portion of the funds will be devoted to educational programming, and to the acquisition of technology that will enhance the museum experience of future visitors.

### Ready for a short Sunday afternoon road trip south?



Go see a Museum sister organization, the St. Marie Foundation House, on Washington Street in St. Marie. Volunteer docent **Mike Hartrich** will share St. Marie's rich social, business and church history. The museum is open on the first Sunday of the month from 1-3 PM. There are many artifacts from local families and St. Mary's Catholic Church. Mike is a retired Newton High School English and History teacher.

**Bonnie Jackson** is a St. Marie Foundation Board Member, and she is also the person responsible for installing the period wall paper frieze around the entire periphery of the second floor of our Effingham County Courthouse Museum. Ladies will enjoy the Hat Room on the second level, as well as lovely display of wedding photographs organized by decades. You will recognize many of the names!

## NEW 1949 ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL FIRE PHOTOS

Shared with the Museum courtesy of Mr. Kurt Becker



Beds originally intended for patients at the Armory



Evacuating bodies from SAH first floor



Families anxiously await news of loved ones on the morning of April 5, 1949



## May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Open 10-2	4	5	6	7 Open 10-2
8	9	10 Open 10-2 GEN MEETING 6PM Board Meeting 730	11	12	13 Arts & Hearts Open 5-8PM	14 Artisans Fair Open 10-2
15	16	17 Open 10-2	18	19	20	21 Open 10-2
22	23	24 Open 10-2	25	26	27	28 Open 10-2
29	30	31 Open 10-2				



## SUMMER June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 VW Fun Fest	4 VW Fun Fest Open 10-2
5 VW Fun Fest	6	7 Open 10-2	8	9	10	11 Open 10-2
12	13	14 Open 10-2 GEN MEETING 6PM Board Meeting 730	15	16	17 Taste of Freedom	18 Open 10-2
19	20	21 Open 10-2	22	23	24	25 Open 10-2
26	27	28 Open 10-2	29	30		



The EFFINGHAM COUNTY CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM presents the

# 1872 Courthouse Celebration and Grand Ball

Saturday, October 1, 2016

10:00 AM	Museum opens
10:30-11:30 AM	Program: Looking for Lincoln ~ 1st floor Local Historian Phil Lewis
3:00-4:00 PM	Chris Vallillo in concert ~ 2nd floor
6:30 PM	Doors Open ~ 2nd floor Dan Wormhoudt, Master of Ceremonies FACE Orchestra ~ Mr. Greg Sapp
7:00 PM	Introduction of President & Mrs. Grant Remarks by President Grant Grand Ball commences Music by the Tolivers' Salt Creek String Band

Period costumes (1860-1872) required to actively participate in the Grand Ball; for males, either civilian or US Union military attire appropriate. Spectators in contemporary dress may be seated in the periphery of the room. All attending Grand Ball must be ticketed. Period refreshments will be served. **No alcohol** permitted. ECCMA is not responsible for accidents or lost items.

Questions? Contact Delaine Donaldson @ the Museum 217-540-8655 (leave message)

## Advance ticket orders: PLEASE print clearly

Mail to: ECCMA, 110 East Jefferson, Box 324, Effingham, IL 62401

<input type="checkbox"/> x \$40.00 Concert & ball	= \$ _____	Name _____
<input type="checkbox"/> x \$30.00 Grand Ball only	= \$ _____	Mailing address:
<input type="checkbox"/> x \$15.00 Vallillo Concert only	= \$ _____	_____

Allow 2 to 3 weeks for delivery of tickets

**Only 100 tickets will be sold; tickets non-refundable**

Cell# \_\_\_\_\_