

The President's Page

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REFLECTIONS ABOUT THE MUSEUM

SUCCESS IN CAPITAL LETTERS!

The Effingham County Museum has always had three goals in its mission: 1. Preserve the historic courthouse; 2. Renovate the 1872 building to restore it to its earlier grandeur; and 3. Operate the building as a museum which showcases the rich history and culture of the area. The first of the goals will, of necessity, continue as the building must be maintained and not permitted to fall into disrepair. The second goal is nearly completed, although there will be continual efforts to make sure nothing has been overlooked in the renovation process. Regarding the third goal, the Museum has been showcasing local history and culture on the first floor since November 11, 2012; however, I am pleased to say that the Museum has entered a new phase of existence---the operational phase which utilizes the second floor to really tell the story of Effingham County, as well as serve as an events center.

In this goal, the Museum has demonstrated the ability to achieve great success! Two recent examples this:

“A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES,” on Saturday, June 10, was a smashing success. Partially funded by a grant from the Illinois Humanities, local filmmaker, Matthew Devall, demonstrated his talent by producing eight videos which help enhance the museum experience for all visitors.



The above picture shows the audience which had gathered by 6:50 for the 7:00 showing.

A packed house viewed all of the videos, videos which may viewed on YouTube. You may also find the descriptors of the videos on the Museum website:

<http://www.effinghamcountymuseum.org/>

Click on quarterly newsletter.

LADIES TEA AND STYLE SHOW

Another packed house occurred when on June 24, a sold-out Museum fundraiser presented Linda Ruholl telling the story of Civil War nurse, Mary Newcomb, and a group of Civil War Era costumed models showing the fashions of 150 years ago. The general opinion of the audience was that the Tea should be an annual affair.



Shown above are some of the models. These were from St. Anthony High School. Notice the table décor for the Tea.

AFFIRMATION OF THE MUSEUM

There is also a third manner in which the Museum's success has been demonstrated--- through the affirmation given by both visitors and donors. Thank you cards are regularly received by

the Museum from people who want to express gratitude for courtesies extended to them while touring the many exhibits. And then there are donations like the COHIHO Foundation's recent gift of \$25,000 to the Effingham County Museum. What a blessing that is to the Museum mission! The presentation of the grant is pictured below as members of the ECCCMA Board received the check:



Shown (from left to right) are Museum Board members Jerry Katz, LoElla Baker, Allen Westendorf, Jane Ries, Dean Manuel and Linda Ruholl; COHIHO Trustees Anne Kabbes and Frank Kabbes, and Delaine Donaldson, Museum President.

Yes, the operational phase of the Museum's second floor has been tremendously successful---SUCCESS SPELLED IN CAPITAL LETTERS.