



History Matters!

Newsletter of the Effingham County Museum

Effingham, Illinois

Volume 8, Issue 4

Fourth quarter, 2021

Your Effingham County Museum Board



Front row, L-R: Delaine Donaldson, President; Jane Ries, 1st VP; LoElla Baker, Secretary; Allen Westendorf, Treasurer. Back row, L-R: Members-at-Large Amy Gillespie, Jerry Katz, and Linda Ruholl. Phil Lewis was absent.

MISSION STATEMENT

The **Mission** of the Effingham County Museum is to preserve our Historic Register structure, to collect artifacts from county history, and to use them to educate our local and external communities, while immersed in the broader context of American history. 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 parent organization for the Effingham County Museum is the Effingham County Cultural Center and Museum Association, Inc, which is a 501(c) 3 organization.

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 Gallery 1 of the first level and in the Northwest corner of Level 2.

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
Amy Gillespie
Linda Ruholl
Phil Lewis
Dr. Ruben Boyajian, Emeritus

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Web site: www.effinghamcountymuseum.org
Visit us on Facebook @: Effingham County Courthouse Effingham Ill

Board Reports

Due to Covid-19, we have not been able to host General Meetings, so we are using this means to let you know what we have been doing at Board Meetings to further the Mission of the Museum.

July board meeting

The Board:

- *Approved the June minutes and June bills.
- *Accepted a bid to paint the exterior wood next spring.
- *Accepted a bid to replace an air conditioner coil.
- *Learned that the furnace filters had been replaced and that a replacement schedule had been posted.
- *Heard that the yearly insurance quote was upcoming.
- *Discussed a potential proposal for an open-book type display unit for the Fred Snocker prints.
- *Discussed the potential for reimbursing Fred Snocker for his expenses.
- *Discussed progress on the key safe and key identification.
- *Noted the August return of the Chamber of Commerce membership donation requests.
- *Heard about progress on the 2022 Inspire! grant.
- *Heard that the *History Matters!* newsletter would be ready for distribution at the end of the month.
- *Heard that the "Crosswalks" article for AASLH's *History News* had been acknowledged by Aja Bain.
- *Discussed a potential wheeled outdoor Open sign.
- *Discussed a potential computer donation.
- *Received a copy of the FY2020-2021 Annual Report.
- *Heard about the impact of the death of Mary Truitt on Illinois National Road Association.

August board meeting

The Board:

- *Approved the July minutes and July bills.
- *Assessed fall plans and decided to comply with State mandates; Old Settlers will be virtual this year.
- *Voted to renew the Museum's current cell phone service plan.
- *Heard about progress on an Illinois Landmarks grant.
- *Voted to approve the amended FY 2021-2022 budget.
- *Restarted the Chamber of Commerce donation request letters.
- *Reviewed progress on the key box project for the EOP.
- *Discussed the potential for a laptop computer donation for Special Collections.
- *Considered revised Collections forms.
- *Received the first draft of a set of proposed Structure Management policies.
- *Considered the potential for a second Active Shooter class for Board Members.
- *Reviewed progress toward completing the recommendations from the 2018 CAP visit.

September board meeting

The Board:

- *Approved the August minutes and August bills.
- *Heard about a Hazardous Waste Collection opportunity on Oct 16, 2021
- *Continued the tentative assessment of fall plans; Old Settlers Reunion will be a virtual event.
- *Learned that the fall Membership Drive would start around the end of the month.
- *Reviewed progress on an SEICF grant and the Inspire! grant.
- *Learned that the Illinois B2B grant and the Landmarks Illinois grant had been submitted.
- *Reviewed and critiqued proposed Structures Policies 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3.
- *Learned about recent accessions from the Collections Management Coordinator.
- *Heard about a proposed memorial for Gallery 2 (Civil War).
- *Heard about a request for assistance from a teacher at an Effingham alternative school.
- *Voted to order a wheeled 29 inch x 49 inch Open sign from U-Line.
- *Committed to have the museum open in the evening of Friday Sept 17 for Corvette Fest.

Some slices of local history are still available-

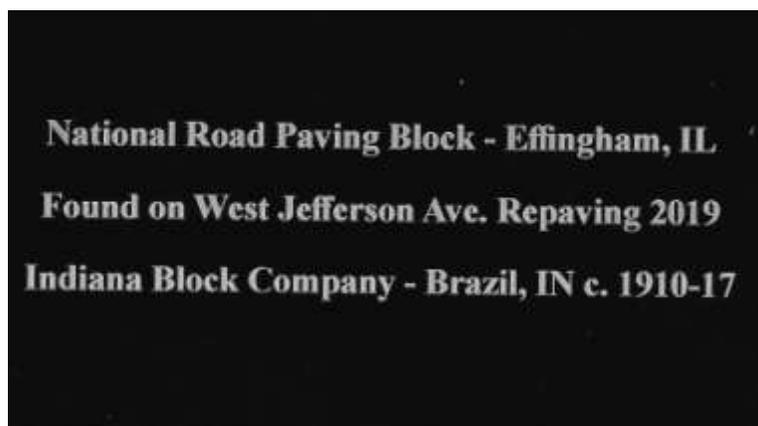
And waiting for You!

Claim your
Remnant of the Old National Road



\$25.00

Each paver contains this plaque, establishing its provenance:





3rd Quarter 2021 MUSEUM PAGES

Effingham County Museum historians create a new Museum Page every other week. These are the columns from the July-August-September issues of the *Effingham Daily News*.

DELAINE DONALDSON

July 12, 2021

History of the Ann Crocker St. Clair Chapter NSDAR

Beth Wattelet was primary author, with assistance from Delaine.

This article reviewed milestones in the local DAR history, with a picture of the original charter, the portrait of the founder, and a photo of the Chapter's original gavel.

Sept 6, 2021

The Bissell College of Photo-Engraving

Delaine noted that there were three buildings associated with the Illinois College of Photography, but that one of them is underrepresented in the literature about the College. That problem is addressed here and includes multiple photographs, including one from 1927 taken after it was destroyed by fire.

PHIL LEWIS

August 9, 2021

Sears and Other Kit Homes in Effingham County

Phil shared photographs and narrative about a number of these homes, including the Sears Avondale and the Magnolia. The history of other companies that marketed kit homes is included.

JANE RIES

August 23, 2021

World War I and Stories of Those Who Didn't Make it Home

Jane presented a list of many local men who died during World War I, including those who succumbed to the Spanish Flu. Multiple pictures of the soldiers and some grave markers were included.

LINDA RUHOLL

July 26, 2021

Franciscan and Native Son: Father Alexis Pruemmer, OSF

Linda's article traces the life and apostolic service of a Teutopolis priest who work with Native American and Black American parishes before returning to the area to serve as St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital's chaplain.

Sept 20, 2021

History of Effingham's 1872 Courthouse Through the Eyes of People Who Worked There, Part I

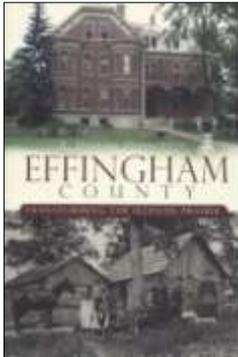
Steven Seymour, retired Effingham County Resident Circuit Judge, explained the location of the county offices and people who worked in them at the old County Courthouse while he played various roles there up until his retirement in 2006.

Looking for a Christmas gift for a history buff?

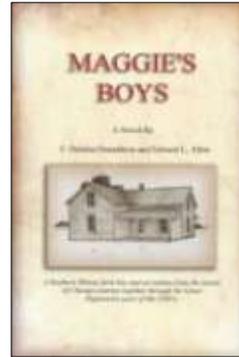
Gallery 3 has been restocked, and displays a number of items to commemorate your visit and shorten your shopping list.

PRICE of EACH = \$10.00

Books by local historian and ECM President Delaine Donaldson



Book 1



Book 2

Christmas Ornaments (individually gift boxed)



Ornament 1:the Museum



Ornament 2:the Depot

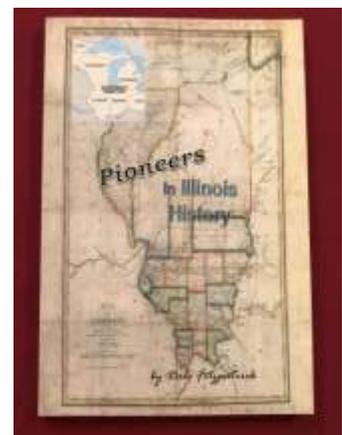
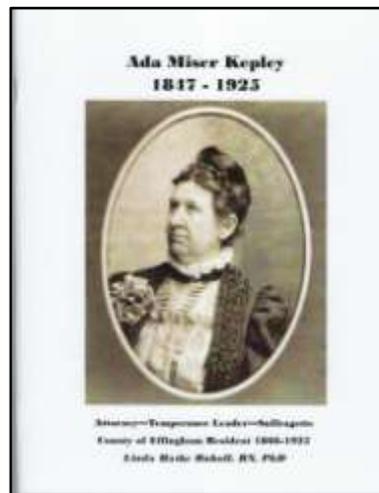
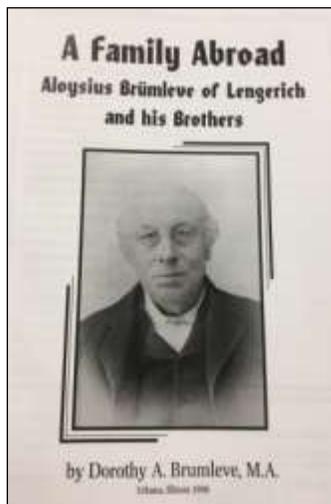


Ornament 3:Sports logos



Ornament 4: Bliss Park

Other volumes by local people





The Board of the Effingham County Museum approved a new Collections Management Policy in May of this year. A portion of the Accessions Policy (4.7) deals with LOANS.

So what does the Loans Policy say?

* **What kinds of loans are permitted?**

There are two kinds of loans: Incoming and Outgoing. Incoming means someone else is loaning something to the Effingham County Museum (ECM). Outgoing means that ECM is loaning an object to some other agency or group.

* **Why does the museum participate in loans?**

Incoming loans are intended to enhance a particular exhibit, or to promote scholarship in a specific area. Outgoing loans may also promote scholarship, but the more likely reason is to enhance an exhibit at a school or some other entity or non-profit with an educational mission similar to that of ECM. For example, ECM has loaned objects to Effingham County community centennial celebrations.

* **How are loans documented?**

Both incoming and outgoing loans are accompanied by written documentation. The loan form documents this kind of information:

- *description of the item(s) being loaned,
- *condition of the item(s),
- *responsible parties on both ends with contact information,
- *insurance or an insurance waiver,
- *transportation or shipping to/from ECM,
- *signatures of responsible parties on both ends of transaction.

Loan documents are retained for the long-term.

* **How are traveling exhibits from outside the county managed?**

The standards of the loaning agency (for example, the Smithsonian) are implemented.

* **Are there negative aspects of the loan process?**

ECM recognizes that items loaned out may be damaged or lost. ECM expects recipients of loans to care for them appropriately. Likewise, ECM will exercise due diligence in exhibiting and caring for any incoming loaned items.

2022 Membership Drive

The Effingham County Museum had 268 paid up members as of June 30. The coming year's membership drive started in late September. If you paid your membership after July 1, it counts toward 2022.

We appreciate your help!

THANK YOU

If you didn't receive a notice and want to renew, use the form below.

Mail to Allen Westendorf, Box 324, Effingham, IL 62401
Please print your email clearly, so that you can receive the quarterly newsletter and announcements.

	Friends of the Courthouse Annual Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS - \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL - \$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY - \$50.00
DATE _____	FOR CALENDAR YEAR _____	
NAME _____		
ADDRESS _____		
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP _____
PHONE _____	CELL _____	
E-MAIL _____		
Payment method: <input type="checkbox"/> CASH <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK # _____	Payable to ECCMA	<small>The group is a 501(C) 3, not-for-profit organization which exists exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. As such, donations are tax deductible.</small>
Would you like information on becoming a donor? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Effingham County Cultural Center and Museum Association, Inc. P.O. Box 324, Effingham, IL 62401~www.effinghamcountymuseum.org		

"Courthouse Stories"

This is the first in a series of shares from interviews conducted with people who spent a portion of their working lives in the current Effingham County Museum building during the time when it served as the Effingham County Courthouse.

The first person to be interviewed for this series was Retired Resident Circuit Judge Steven Seymour. He was first sworn in to the practice of law on 16 May, 1973. The following month he joined the practice of F. Ronald Ealy as an associate. Next he opened his own practice at 109 North 4th Street. Around that time, Frank Schniederjon, Jr asked him to become Assistant State's Attorney. When Schniederjon choose not to run for the office again in 1976, Seymour returned to private practice. He was appointed Resident Circuit Judge on 16 April, 1989, and served in that role until he retired in 2006.



Steven Seymour's earliest memory of the courthouse building starts at the south door. There was no elevator at the time. Rooms 103 and 104 were utilized by Treasurer Alma Croft. The rooms across the hall (110 and 111) were used by Robert Overbeck, the Circuit Clerk. At the time, Overbeck had just two Deputies, June Sarver and Geneva Hardiek. One of them handled criminal matters, while the other dealt with civil cases. The vault, Room 108, was used to store old files.

On the second level, Room 201 was occupied State's Attorney Frank Schniederjon, Jr. Room 202 was used by his secretary, Susan Van Dyke. She had been Frank Schniederjon, Sr's secretary as well, when he was in the State's Attorney role.

What is now Room 203 was divided into three parts. The west three-fourths of the area was the main courtroom. The eastern one-fourth was divided unequally into two parts. The smaller one was the chambers of Judge Jack Michaelree. The other one was a small courtroom barely able to hold the Judge, Court Reporter, Clerk, a table large enough for four, along with six chairs lined up against the wall. It was used for small case loads and contested family and juvenile proceedings. The close quarters enhanced tensions present in the room at the start of proceedings. The jury room was to the north of Room 203.

Just before he retired on November 30, 2006, Judge Seymour received a request from Chief Judge Gene Schwarm. He was asked to take the lead in establishing CASA of Effingham County. He did so and served as the first President of the Board of Directors. CASA's purpose is to supply a volunteer advocate who can be a fixture in the life of a child who enters the court system as a result of abuse or neglect.

ERRATA

In the MUSEUM PAGE published in the Monday September 20, 2019 issue of the Effingham Daily News, there were two errors.

Here are they are, with corrections:

<--This photograph was mislabeled as **Judge Frank Schneiderjon, Jr.** The photograph is actually of **Attorney Frank Schneiderjon, Sr.** He was never a judge.



Secondly, this statement at the bottom of the third column of the Museum Page article is incorrect: "**At times, some of his contemporaries' decisions appeared to be arbitrary...**"

Retired Judge Steven Seymour wishes to clarify: "**I do not think nor did I say that the decisions of my colleagues were arbitrary. I did indicate however that it was my opinion that the attorneys and litigants deserve to have the facts and law upon which the court relied on explained in greater detail in announcing the decision. So at times my decisions were longer than my colleagues.**"

Received Materials about the Illinois College of Photography

In recent years, Frank "Arkie" Snocker, a resident of Nebraska, supplied the Effingham County Museum with multiple photographs of the Illinois College of Photography (ICP), both the premises and the students' work. Mr. Snocker is an enthusiastic fan of turn-of-the century photography. Here are some examples from the hundreds of photo files (jpgs) he sent to Jane Ries as email attachments.



Parlor at the IL College of Photography in 1900



Studio of ICP graduates Fay & Ray Graves in Chadron, NE



Fred Gildersleeve, 1903 graduate of ICP

In addition, Mr. Snocker mounted a number of these vintage photographs on foam boards, and sent 81 of them to Delaine Donaldson. Some of these foam boards, as well as other ICP objects and ephemera, are featured in Delaine's north wall exhibit on Level 2.



End of 2021 Museum Season

**The final regularly scheduled day to be open is
Saturday, 12/18 - 10 AM to 2 PM**

December						2021
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 X
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

**If you have out-of-town holiday visitors and want
to arrange for a private tour,
Contact Delaine Donaldson
at
217-821-2796
delainedonaldson@mchsi.com**



Old Settlers 2021 - A Virtual Event



Oldest female - Emma Holste (96)



Oldest male - Al Wendt (95)



Longest married - Millie and Al Wendt (70 years)

They were married June 9, 1951

We regret to share that Mr. Al Wendt passed away on Sunday, September 26, 2021.