



Effingham County Cultural Center and Museum Newsletter

Effingham, Illinois

Volume 2, Issue 3

July-August-September 2015

A Big Thank You to the Mason Christian Church



Members of the Mason Christian Church hosted a fund raiser for the Old Courthouse Museum on Saturday, April 11. One hundred thirty-three (133) meals, complete with homemade cinnamon rolls and biscuits, were served.

ECCMA volunteer **LoElla Baker** displayed a variety of Mason artifacts, including this exhibit featuring the Prairie Poet, James Newton Matthews. Mason historian and ECCMA member **Jerry Eident** has conducted a considerable amount of research on this 19th century Mason poet.

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.

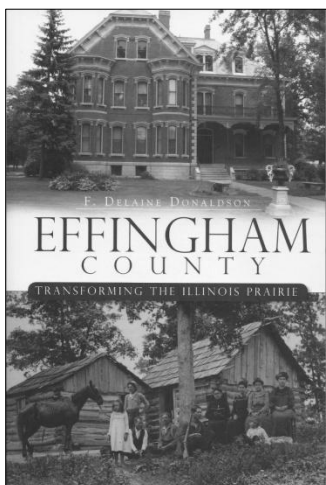
Board and Officers

President	Delaine Donaldson	
Vice President	Jane Ries	
Secretary	LoElla Baker	
Treasurer	Allen Westendorf	
Members at Large	Jerry Katz	
	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

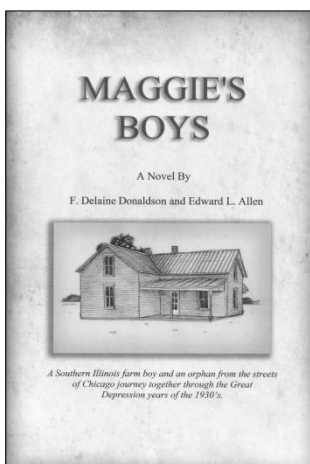
Author: F. Delaine Donaldson

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

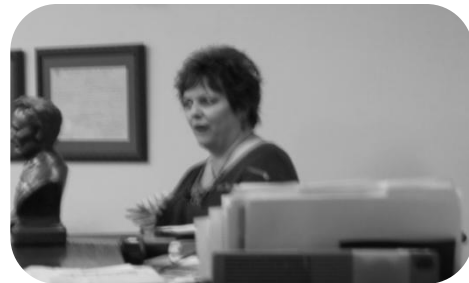
Published: 2013, BeeSquared Publishing, Cincinnati, Ohio

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.

**Scenes from the collaborative
ECCCMA - Lake Land College
*Effingham Remembers: The 150th Anniversary of President
Abraham Lincoln's Death***



This program was standing room only!



April 15, 2015 Lincoln Program

Lake Land College and the **ECCCMA** collaborated to research, produce and present a commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the death of President Abraham Lincoln. The presenters were:

ECCCMA President **Delaine Donaldson**: Civil War Letters & Journal of H.H. Wright

ETNR newsman **Herb Meeker**: Role of the Press During the Civil War

LLC faculty **Matt Greider**: Public Reaction to Lincoln's Death

Jamie Broom Miller, Direct descendent of Kate Clutter: Lincoln Childrens' Nanny

Bill McCluney and **Anna Johnson**: Embalming Practices of the Era

Local historian **Dan Wormhoudt** and LLC faculty **Nancy Caldwell & Matt Greider**:
Funeral and Burial of Lincoln

Among the many quotes attributed to the 16th President of the United States is this one:
"Don't worry when you are not recognized, but strive to be worthy of recognition."

This program demonstrated that Lincoln did strive, and was worthy of recognition. During his lifetime, and particularly during the Civil War, Lincoln was criticized by many. Yet upon his death, that criticism faded and almost all Americans recognized, at least at some level, that the country had suffered a terrible loss.

Jamie Broom Miller's presentation had the most direct connection to the Lincoln White House. Her ancestor, Kate Clutter, (shown below) was nanny to the Lincoln children when she was a young woman. Jamie was able to display a collection of wall paper cuttings that were part of sheets of wallpaper that were actually in place in the White House at the time of the Civil War.



Scenes from the Memorial Day Celebration at the Effingham Performance Center May 25, 2015

Three Chicks and A Stage
and
Effingham Performance Center
present

OUR VETERANS REMEMBER

A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO OUR LOCAL VETERANS AND MILITARY
Featuring Mattoon High School JROTC "Gladiators" Drill Team

Monday, May 25, 2015 at 2:00 pm

★ V.I.V. Section ★
Very Important Veteran seating for
local veterans who would like to be
recognized during the show.

Written, Produced and Directed
by
Dr. Carol Hourigan
and
Monique Hortenstine

Proceeds benefit Effingham County Veterans Memorial Fund

This year's musical tribute to area veterans was well attended and well received by veterans, their families, their fans and local history buffs.



The County Museum staff provided a variety of military uniforms and exhibits for the enjoyment of all. The Mattoon High School drill team started the entertainment, which was followed by historical narrators, vocalists, individual musicians, and the FACE orchestra - each presenting examples of music reminiscent of the Civil War, and World Wars I and II eras.



City of Effingham 2015 Funding Presentation

Jeff Bloemker, the city of Effingham's new Mayor, presented the ECCCMA with a check for \$25,000 on Friday, June 5, 2015. These monies are derived from the city's tourism funds, and they will be used to help complete the remodeling and furnishing of the second floor so that it can be opened to the public later this year.



Those at the presentation (L to R):

ECCCMA Treasurer **Allen Westendorf**, Board Member **Dr. Henry Poterucha**, Board Member **Jerry Katz**, President **Delaine Donaldson**, Vice President **Jane Ries**, Secretary **LoElla Baker**, Effingham Mayor **Jeff Bloemker**, Board Member **Linda Ruholl**, Board Member **John Keenan**, Effingham Tourism Director **Jodi Thoele**, and Effingham Director of Economic Development **Todd Hull**.



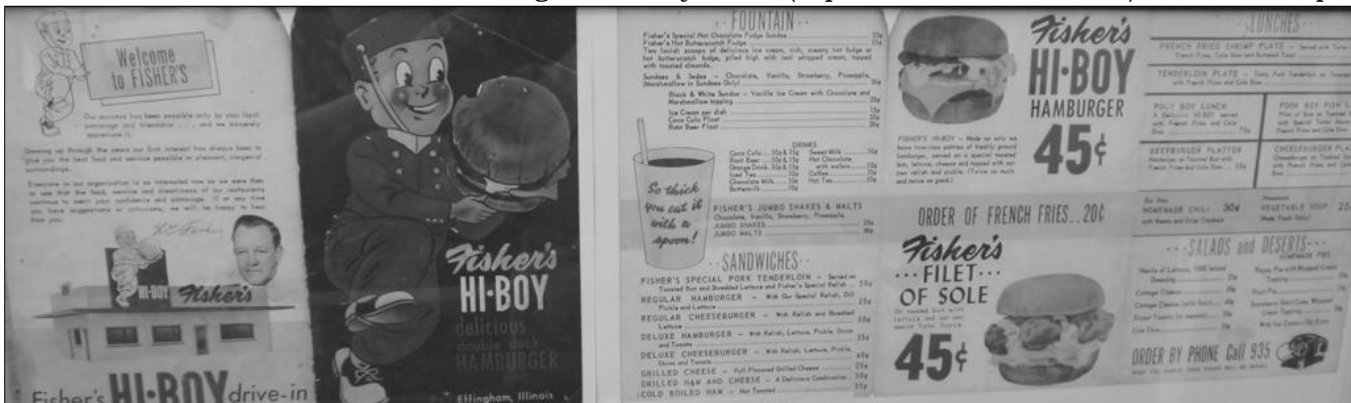
July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Hours? TBA
5	6	7 Open 10-2	8	9	10	11 Open 10-2
12	13	14 Open 10-2 Membership meeting 6PM Board Meeting 7:30PM	15	16	17	18 Open 10-2
19	20	21 Open 10-2	22	23	24 EffingHam & Jam BBQ contest on grounds ←-----→	25 Open 10-2 -----→
26	27	28 Open 10-2	29	30	31	

New in the Train Room



Come and see ECCMA volunteer **Jo Thomas**'s recent creation. Fisher's Hi-Boy was a landmark that played an important part in the lives of local teenagers from the 1950s through the 1970s. During the era of social networking by "cruising", Fisher's Hi-Boy was THE "turn around" point before heading back to the cruise route on Jefferson Avenue. An original Hi-Boy menu (copied from **Mike Bruner**) is also on display.



Feedback from the Younger Set

Two hundred South Side second graders made a field trip to the museum on April 8th. Docents who helped the kids view the exhibits were **Russ Thomas, Allen Westendorf, Jerry Katz, Delaine and Sandi Donaldson, Chuck** and **Sue Hoelscher, Patty Winn,** and **LoElla Baker**. Here are some of the children's comments, written after they processed the visit:

"...I liked the train room best. It was amazing how someone could build all that. I liked it when it was time to switch (rooms) and he (Russ Thomas) blew the whistle."

Gabby M.

"At the Museum, I liked the Navy stuff because my grandpa Brown was in the Navy."

Lucas B.

"I liked the military medals most. I hope I can come back soon."

Carson M.



August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Museum open 10-2
2 County Fair Parade	3	4 Open 10-2	5	6	7	8 Open 10-2
9	10	11 Open 10-2 Membership meeting 6PM Board meeting 7:30	12	13	14	15 Open 10-2
16	17	18 Open 10-2	19	20	21	22 Open 10-2
23	24	25 Open 10-2	26	27	28	29 Open 10-2
30	31					

LABOR DAY



September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Museum Open 10-2
6	7	8 Open 10-2 Membership meeting 6PM Board Meeting 730	9	10	11	12 Open 10-2
13	14	15 Open 10-2	16	17 Open 5-7 Corvette FunFest----->	18 ----->	19 Open 10-2 ----->
20 Corvette Fun Fest Ends	21	22 Open 10-2	23	24	25	26 OLD SETTLERS REUNION Hours TBA
27	28	29 Open 10-2	30			

Documented visitor statistics

January - February	58	(museum open for special events only)
March	84	
April	229	
May	315	
June	<u>104</u>	(as of June 15)
Year to date	790*	

*number accounts for approximately 2/3 of actual visitors because many do not sign the register

ISHS Honor



Delaine & Sandi Donaldson and **Linda Ruholl** of the ECCCMA were pleased to journey to the Old State Capitol in Springfield on April 25, 2015 to attend the **Annual Awards Meeting** of the **Illinois State Historical Society**. The museum's newsletter received an Award of Merit, with these comments:

"A fresh, clear newsletter distinguished by its readability and thoroughness. Includes many useful items such as calendar, photos, mission statement, and contact information. This publication demonstrates this organization is active, vibrant and engaged in the community. This is an excellent example of what can be achieved without an expensive budget and with a reasonable level of expertise."

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