



History Matters!

Newsletter of the Effingham County Cultural Center
and Museum

Effingham, Illinois

Volume 3, Issue 3

July - August - September 2016

Arts and Hearts ~ 2016



The Courthouse Museum was at the center of the Artisans' Fair and CSS Auction May 13-14, 2016.

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.

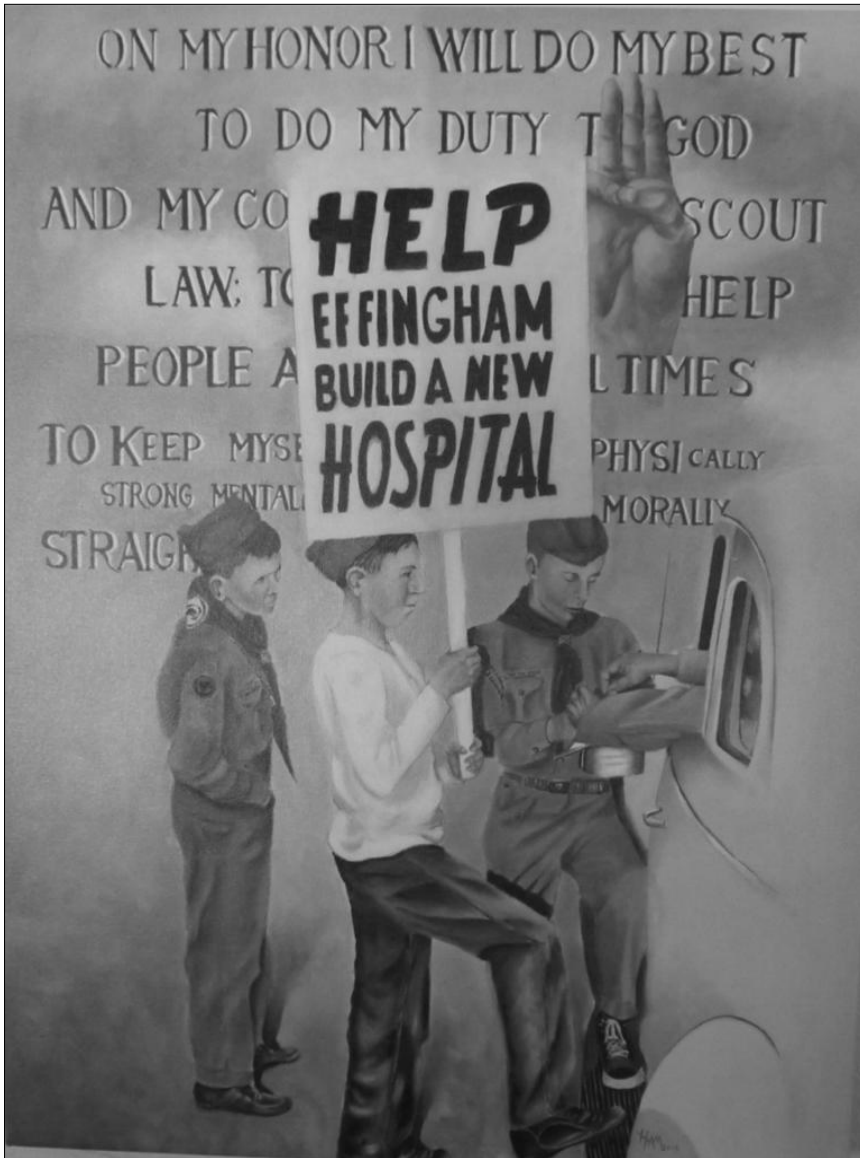
Board and Officers

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| President | Delaine Donaldson | |
| Vice President | Jane Ries | |
| Secretary | LoElla Baker | |
| Treasurer | Allen Westendorf | |
| Members at Large | Jerry Katz | |
| | Ruben Boyajian MD | Henry Poterucha MD |
| | John Keenan | Linda Ruholl |

CONTACT INFORMATION

Street address: 110 East Jefferson Ave., Effingham, IL 62401
Mailing address: Effingham County Cultural Center and Museum
P.O. Box 324
Effingham, IL 62401
Phone: 217-540-8655 (leave message if no answer)
Email: ECCCMA@gmail.com
Web site: www.effinghamcountymuseum.org
Visit us on Facebook @: Effingham County Courthouse Effingham Ill
Newsletter Editor: Linda Ruholl, contact @: lruholl@wbnnorriselectric.com

Acquisition for Museum's Second Level



ECCCMA recently acquired a copy of some original artwork depicting the efforts of three local Boy Scouts to fund raise for a new St. Anthony Hospital after the Hospital Fire of April 4-5, 1949.

ECCCMA member **Dan Wormhoudt** was instrumental in influencing local artist Ham Hampton to create this painting, with the intent of using the proceeds to further the Boy Scout mission.

The foreground of the painting is based on a photograph which was originally published in the *Effingham Daily News*.

The background of the painting contains the Scout Pledge and the hand sign that the Scouts display while reciting the Pledge aloud.

This reproduction of Ham Hampton's painting will grace the second floor of the Museum, and will accompany a display of memorabilia from the hospital fire.

Additional copies of the reproduction of this artwork are available through Dan Wormhoudt, who can be reached by leaving a message at the Museum.

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

Michell Dupske Family Reception ~ April 23, 2016



LoElla Baker and **Jerry Katz** greet **Michell Dupske** and Michell's aunt **Lois Veigel Loyet** (in wheel chair) when the Dupske family came to see the exhibit with Shirley Veigel Clements' memorabilia.

Shirely Clements was a registered nurse who died in the St. Anthony Hospital Fire of 1949.



Shirley Clements' grandson, **Mike Dupske**, used a hand held computer with Skype to allow Shirley Clements' other living sister to join the group. The second sister, the former Carol Veigel, lives in Colorado, but she was able to see the wall exhibits and the contents of the display case via the computer link.



The extended Michell Dupske family in Gallery 3 of the Old Courthouse Museum



The Dupske family broke bread with the Museum family before returning to their homes in Missouri.



Cake with 22 roses - one for each year of Shirley's life.



Strategic Planning 2016

The ECCCMA Board participated in the annual Strategic Planning process in April, May and June. Upon review, the Board concluded the ECCCMA was carrying out its Mission and that the majority of the 2015-2016 strategic goals had been met.

ECCCMA fulfilled the Mission to preserve & restore the 1872 Historic structure in these ways:

- 1/ Completed the ceiling and installed suspended school room lights on 2nd floor
- 2/ Put up period wall paper frieze around the periphery
- 3/ Completed the majority of the electrical wiring
- 4/ Finished the catering kitchen and 2 ADA-compliant restrooms
- 5/ Created a view box to the interior wall components
- 6/ Assembled and partially installed the posts, spindles, railing, stairs and fascia on the judge's podium
- 7/ Rented the second floor for two member events (wedding, baby shower)

ECCCMA fulfilled its Mission to educate the community and others in these ways:

- 1/ Conducted five public offerings of the *Historic Lecture Series*
- 2/ Hosted field trips for grade school students from Units #30, 40 and 50, and St. Anthony High School
- 3/ Collaborated with Lake Land College on the Second Annual *Lincoln and His Times*
- 4/ Furnished 26 Museum Page articles to the *Effingham Daily News*
- 5/ Provided a historian to speak to Effingham High history students, and to the American Legion of Illinois Annual Convention
- 6/ Hosted the Michell Dupske extended family to view the Shirley Clements exhibit
- 7/ Launched a new museum web site with donor recognition
- 8/ Provided group tours to area high school class reunions, senior citizen groups, PEO, DAR and Mensa
- 9/ Circulated four issues of the ECCCMA newsletter, *History Matters*
- 10/ Published multiple veteran and iconic school structure images on the Museum's *Facebook* page
- 11/ Created a Women's exhibit in Gallery 4
- 12/ Added five structures to the Train Room, including the Old Courthouse and Fisher's HiBoy
- 13/ Displayed fifty Civil War luminaries at the Courthouse entrance on Veteran's Day
- 14/ Collaborated with 3 Chicks and a Stage at the EPC to honor Vietnam veterans on Memorial Day
- 15/ Facilitated a Book Group Discussion of *Maggie's Boys* in cooperation with the Effingham Public Library
- 16/ Revised exhibits in Galleries 1, 2, and 3 for the March 1 reopening



Strategic Goals and Objectives for 2016-17

The ECCCMA Board set these goals for upcoming year.

- Goal 1: Expand our building renovation effort**
- a. Finish the floor on the second level
 - b. Cleanup and enhance the basement
 - c. Paint the exterior entrance areas
 - d. Reorganize storage areas in the vault, second and third floor
 - e. Complete the electrical wiring on second level
- Goal 2: Use archival materials to produce themed exhibits for the second level**
- a. Develop family-themed exhibits for the southeast section
 - b. Create a religious display for the south wall center section
 - c. Build an education exhibit for the northeast section
 - d. Fashion a general store for the north wall economics section
 - e. Construct a politically-themed display for the north wall government/politics section
 - f. Design a medical exhibit for a centrally located mobile display case
- Goal 3: Target programming to address the needs and interests of varied audiences.**
- a. Tie school field trips & visits to the 2016 Illinois History common core standards
 - b. Create a Summer Day Camp Program for grade school age children
 - c. Continue the annual *Lincoln and His Times* program for all adults
 - d. Develop an afternoon indoor "Cemetery Walk" program for older adults
 - e. Participate in the Old Settler's Reunion for older adults
 - f. Provide a Reminiscence Program for the institutionalized cognitively impaired
 - g. Continue the Historic Lecture Series for all local residents
 - h. Collaborate on programming with city, county and regional organizations
- Goal 4 Expand fundraising**
- a. Develop a focused plan to request, track, and recognize small donations
 - b. Conduct three special theme fund raisers targeting large donors
 - c. Host an 1872 Celebration and Grand Ball
 - d. Apply for a minimum of four grants
 - e. Develop mechanisms to rent the second level to organizations and individuals
 - f. Seek membership renewals on a cyclical basis
 - g. Solicit new members through multiple mechanisms
- Goal 5: Create a focused marketing campaign**
- a. Integrate name of museum into the local, regional and state print media
 - b. Join two museum associations
 - c. Maintain membership in the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce
 - d. Participate in state and regional historical and small museum functions
 - e. Update the web site on a monthly basis

New First Level Exhibit

The Effingham County Museum is delighted to share a collection of elephants assembled over the years by the late **ELVESTA TOPP**.

Elvesta Topp was born in 1905, and she lived to be 103. Her parents were John and Mary Wetherall Knierim. By profession, she was a cook. She practiced her craft through the years at Effingham's Central Grade School, the Steak House and the Roslyn Cafe.

Elvesta had four brothers: Frank, Emanuel, John and Aaron, and there were three sisters: Mary, Kate and Elizabeth. Elvesta outlived all of them.

Elvesta's hobby was collecting elephants, and over the years, she accumulated over 1,000 of these ancient symbols of wisdom. For Elvesta, it was personal - she was an active member of Effingham County's Republican Party, and the figures symbolized that Party for her.

Elvesta's only child was Eeva Topp Johnston. Eeva cared for her mother for many years. Elvesta wanted to age in place, and she was granted her wish to pass on at home.

After the death of Elvesta Knierim Topp, and of her daughter, Eeva Topp Johnston, the elephant collection was donated to ECCMA. Museum volunteer **LoElla Baker** cleaned and organized the collection. About 120 of the smaller figures are on display in a case in the Museum's first floor central hallway, ensuring that Elvesta Knierim Topp will not be forgotten. The ECCMA invites you to come see this unique display.





July 2016 Museum hours: 10 AM - 2 PM

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| | | | | | 1 | OPEN 2 |
| 3 | 4 | OPEN 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | OPEN 9 |
| 10 | 11 | OPEN 12 General meeting 6PM Board meeting 730pm | 13 | 14 | 15 | OPEN 16 |
| 17 | 18 | OPEN 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | OPEN 23 |
| 24 | 25 | OPEN 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | OPEN 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |



August 2016 Museum hours: 10 AM - 2 PM

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | OPEN 6 |
| 7 | 8 | OPEN 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | OPEN 13 |
| 14 | 15 | OPEN 16 General meeting 6PM Board meeting 730pm | 17 | 18 | 19 | OPEN 20 |
| 21 | 22 | OPEN 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | OPEN 27 |
| 28 | 29 | OPEN 30 | 31 | | | |



September 2016 Museum hours: 10 AM - 2 PM

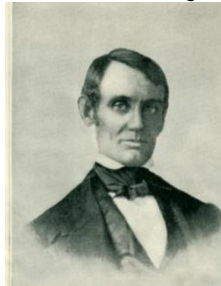
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | OPEN 3 |
| 4 | 5 | OPEN 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | OPEN 10 |
| 11 | 12 | OPEN 13 General meeting 6PM Board meeting 730pm | 14 | 15 | 16 | OPEN 17 |
| 18 | 19 | OPEN 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | OPEN 24 |
| 25 | 26 | OPEN 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | OCT 1 OPEN 1872 Celebration |

1872 Courthouse Celebration and Grand Ball

October 1, 2016 ~ Daytime Activities

10:30 - 11:30 AM First Floor Media Room/Courtroom (Gallery 3)

"Looking for Lincoln" by Mr. Phil Lewis



FREE LECTURE

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Abraham Lincoln was born on Feb. 12, 1809 in Hodegenville, Kentucky. He lived in Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and Washington, D.C. 1861-1865. PBS decided in 2009 to develop a documentary for Lincoln's 200th anniversary of his birth. It was titled "Looking for Lincoln". Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. was the host and investigator into Lincoln stories and mythology for the special. Abraham was a complex and sometimes contradictory man. Gates used Doris Kearns Goodwin and other nationally known Lincoln scholars to search out themes about Lincoln's life. Kearns wrote the award winning book Team of Rivals, which Steven Spielberg used as his inspiration for the movie "Lincoln" in 2012. Gates used the gathered information to explore why Lincoln is still one of the most popular figures in American history 151 years after his death.

When Abe married Mary Todd in 1842, they lived in Springfield, where he had a successful law practice with three different partners. During that law practice, Abe traveled all over the State of Illinois. He represented the Central Illinois Railroad in a tax liability case in McLean County, which he won and received his largest fee of his career- \$5,000. When Lincoln became interested in politics, he had occasion to travel to other parts of Illinois for debates, speeches, personal appearances, etc. Many of these forty communities honored Lincoln with statues after his death. If you do a search of them on the Internet, you can see where the statues are and who the sculptors were.

This Power Point presentation "Looking for Lincoln in Illinois" will highlight many of the places and statues associated with Lincoln in Illinois. Some communities like Lincoln, Illinois actually have more than one statue. Following the presentation, viewers will have a better idea where to look for Abraham Lincoln in Illinois.



Chris Vallillo, in Concert

3:00 - 4:00 PM on Second Level

\$15.00 - only 100 tickets to be sold

See last page for order form

Chris Vallillo is a multi-talented musician from Macomb, Illinois. He is a true Midwesterner, and he makes our people and the places we love come alive.

His album *Abraham Lincoln in Song* was #10 in the Billboard Bluegrass Album Chart.

He was the key note speaker for the Smithsonian traveling exhibition on Roots Music, and he tours regularly. We are very fortunate to host him here.

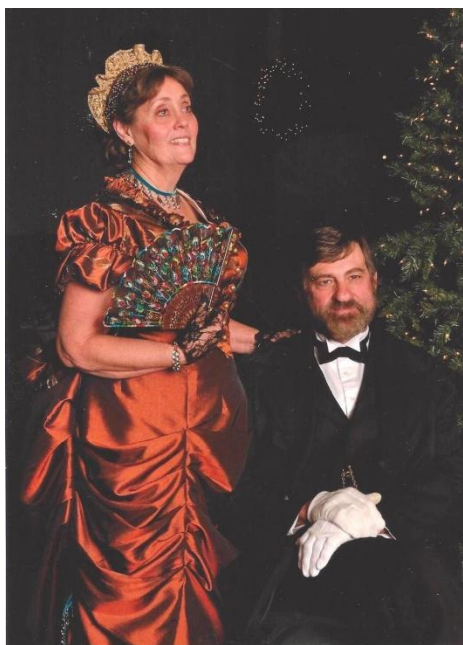
Sample his music in advance at www.ginridge.com

Grand Ball

October 1, 2016

Tickets \$30.00 for Grand Ball only
Bundled ticket for Vallillo concert and Ball \$40.00
See last page of newsletter for order form

General Ulysess S. Grant and Mrs. Julia Dent Grant



6:00 PM Doors open
Dan Wormhoudt, Master of Ceremonies
FACE Orchestra & Mr. Greg Sapp

7:00 PM Remarks by General Grant
Grand Ball follows

General and Mrs. Grant portrayed by Scott and Peggy Whitney. The Whitneys have been part of many celebrations in Illinois and throughout the Midwest. They began this work in 2000. Scott Whitney is a retired math and science teacher. He is a graduate of Western Illinois University, and was a member of the US Army Reserves from 1971-1977. Peggy Whitney is a former elementary school teacher, and a graduate of Wisconsin State University and Northern Illinois University. The Whitneys are members of the Seward

Historical Society, and they live on their family farm near Seward, Illinois.



The Salt Creek String Band will provide the music for the Grand Ball. The members of the band are Marylynn Toliver, Gratton Toliver, Chris Griffy, and Melody Freeman.

They will play authentic music of the Civil War and post-Civil War era.

Light period refreshment will be served. Only **100 tickets** will be sold due to space limitations.

Period dress required of active participants.



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

_____ x \$40.00 Concert & ball = \$ _____ Name _____

_____ x \$30.00 Grand Ball only = \$ _____ Mailing address:

_____ 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# _____