

## Daffodils



## **Library Happenings**



Library Happenings are written and submitted by Sunny Robbins, Director of the Donnellson Public Library, unless otherwise noted. The Library will be **CLOSED** on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> for **Good Friday**. We will re-open Saturday at 10:00 am.

### **Preschool Story Hour**

This past month's story hour themes such as: Mice are nice, Colors & Rainbows, Chickens, & Eggs. Join us on Tuesday morning at 10:00.

### **Senior Crafternoon**

Victoria hosted a great group and walked through making boa wreaths. They turned out cute. Thanks to Montrose Health Center for these activities possible!



The Senior Crafternoon will be held at 3:30 April 12<sup>th</sup>, May 10<sup>th</sup>, and June 14<sup>th</sup>. Call the library reserve one of the 10 spots.

### **Coffee Craft & Conversation**

We started a second craft group! River Hills in Keokuk has generously sponsored 10 spots for patrons who want to come to a Lee County Floral hosted craft at 1:00 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. Coffee will be served. Participants are lead in making a craft and simply enjoy time together. Call the library to reserve your spot. The next few dates are April 27<sup>th</sup>, May 25<sup>th</sup>, and June 22<sup>nd</sup>.



### **The Donnellson Book Core**

The book club met on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, to discuss *Sunflower Sisters* by Martha Hall Kelly. The group really enjoyed this historical novel about the Civil war.

The book for April is *Dear Mrs. Bird* by AJ Pearce. It is a WWII novel that can be compared to *Lilac Girls* or the *Potato Peel Pie Society*. Here is what Goodreads has to say:

**London 1940, bombs are falling. Emmy Lake is doing her bit for the war effort, volunteering as a telephone operator with the Auxiliary Fire Services. When Emmy sees an advertisement for a job in the *London Evening Chronicle*, her dreams of becoming a Lady War Correspondent seem suddenly achievable. The job turns out to be typist to the fierce and renowned advice columnist, Henrietta Bird. Emmy is disappointed, but gamely bucks up and buckles down.**

Mrs. Bird is very clear: Any letters containing Unpleasantness—must go straight in the bin. But when Emmy reads poignant letters from women who are lonely, may have Gone Too Far with the wrong men and found themselves in trouble, or who can't bear to let their children be evacuated, she is unable to resist responding. As the German planes make their nightly raids, and London picks up the smoldering pieces each morning, Emmy secretly begins to write letters back to the women of all ages who have spilled out their troubles.

Emmy and her best friend, Bunty, are spirited and gutsy. As the bombs continue to fall, the irrepressible Emmy keeps writing, and readers are transformed by AJ Pearce's hilarious, heartwarming, and enormously moving tale of friendship, the kindness of strangers, and ordinary people in extraordinary times.

Join the Donnellson Book Core by letting the librarians know you are interested. We will get you the current book, and make sure you can come to the next discussion. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the library Activity Room. Don't want to join this book club, but do want to start your own? Get your friends together and have a librarian help you order multiple copies of your choice.

**Art w/ Jeri Sparks**

The Friends of the Donnellson Library have generously offered to sponsor art introduction classes in the library! Artist Jeri Sparks will give a class using different mediums on the first Thursday of every other month.

**J SPARKS M**

**April 6th**  
**5:30 pm at the Donnellson Library**

Learn to paint a winter sunrise using acrylic paints with Jeri Sparks  
Beginners introduction to different mediums

June 1st	watercolors
August 5th	soft pastels
October 5th	charcoal
December 7th	acrylic
Feb 1st, 2024	watercolor pencils

For information about private lessons or additional classes, contact Jeri at [jerijerisparks.com](http://jerijerisparks.com)

Sponsored by the Friends of the Donnellson Library

**April Activities**

(\* means registration is required)

Energize	11:30am	April 3rd, 10th, 14th, 17th, 21st, 24th, 28th
Story Hour	10:00am	April 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th
Early Out Activity	1:30pm	April 6th
*Art W/Jeri Sparks	5:30pm	April 6th
*Crafternoon	3:30pm	April 12th
Book Core	7:00pm	
Friends Meeting	5:30pm	April 17th
Writers Bloc	1:00pm	April 18th
		April 19 <sup>th</sup>

The Donnellson Library

WILL BE

**CLOSED**

FRIDAY, APRIL 7TH

for the observance of Good Friday.

We will reopen Saturday, April 8th at 10:00 am.

CARDS 1:00pm April 20th

Library Board 7:00pm April 20<sup>th</sup>

\*Coffee Craft, Conversation 1:00pm April 27th

**Richard L Proenneke Museum**



**“The Iowa Cabin” built by Garvin Roth and his friends in 1975, adjacent to Shimek Forest, still stands today.**

On a return trip to Primrose in 1975, having heard of a new “Iowa Cabin” recently built, Richard and cousin “Fordy” set out to locate and explore this newly built cabin by Garvin Roth and several of his friends. Garvin had seen one of Richard’s film presentations around the age of ten at the Anson church near Kahoka, MO. Roth was so inspired by Richard, that after graduating high school, he and his friends built this cabin on his father’s property adjacent to Shimek Forest. Clearly a testimony to Richard’s influence on others, although this cabin has seen better days, it still stands today.

***In a letter to Jake dated November 23, 1975 Richard wrote:***

Dear Jake,

Your letter came yesterday. I was expecting one and wondered what you ran into. Good to hear that you found your diggings in order but sorry to hear that you lost your landlord. He was living on borrowed time, I think.

Hope you got that box of slides by now. No doubt they were packed good and should find you unless they met with foul play. That Ektachrome green - I have seen it many times. See some prize winners on Ektachrome though. One minute at f8 or 10 is pretty good inside my cabin. (using Kodachrome II) Still shooting landings every chance I get. Steve was around his place yesterday and asked me this morning if I was trying for three point or wheel landings yesterday. (I thought some were pretty good) Today I tried for three pointers and could feel the tail wheel touch first a time or two. Have put on about 4 hrs. since you left. That new oil change is just below the four mark. Nice to have that right wing tank full. Steve says he would burn 80-87 if he could get it. He doesn’t think it is Shell that they sold me. Last two days calm and smooth - a pleasure fly the downwind leg without running sideways like a dog. Steve’s hanger is a dripper when it warms after a 20° night. Supposed to snow one to two inches tonight or tomorrow.

*Fordy, Tip and I went searching for that log cabin the Roth boys (and others built). We parked at the Wilaphone place and went down the hill across the creek and followed a road to the right before crossing*

the old R.R. right of way. Didn't find it so cut northeast back towards the road. Tip was gone a long time but checked in once during the big circle. Driving in we had seen a pole across two posts, a chain and padlock on one end. We followed that well-worn car track and found it on a high bank along the creek. A nice location about 12'x16' inside, plywood and roll roofing for a roof. Concrete for chinking. Very sloppy job of notching but they really plastered the cracks shut. They used fine lime stone (it packs) for a floor. Shot the remainder of the 8 mm of it and Fordy so you will get to see the only new log cabin that I know of in Harrison Township.

Got a letter from Sis Clum. Said they really enjoyed their trip to Michigan and she thinks if Voight had a job that suited him back there they would move. Polar Air Ways had a big backlog of work waiting for him. Says they are taking in \$200,000.00 per mo. now. She, Voight and the kids plan to run Babes ranch for a month while they are in Hawaii. Terry and Vic are living in his deceased mother's house in Bremerton Wash. She also wrote that the Alaskan picture "Sourdough" was really packing them in. Some people going a second time. She thought it a waste of money and thought mine better. (friend who saw both agreed) Sure wish you had somewhere to cache your 50 years gathering at a reasonable rate - we could shoot 10,000 ft. and make a nice one. "The Flight of the Arctic Tern".

I wrote to the Park Service telling them I am ready and willing to write captions for those slides I shot but haven't heard from them. I will write to Bob Belous and see what I can learn about the footage shot while you was there.

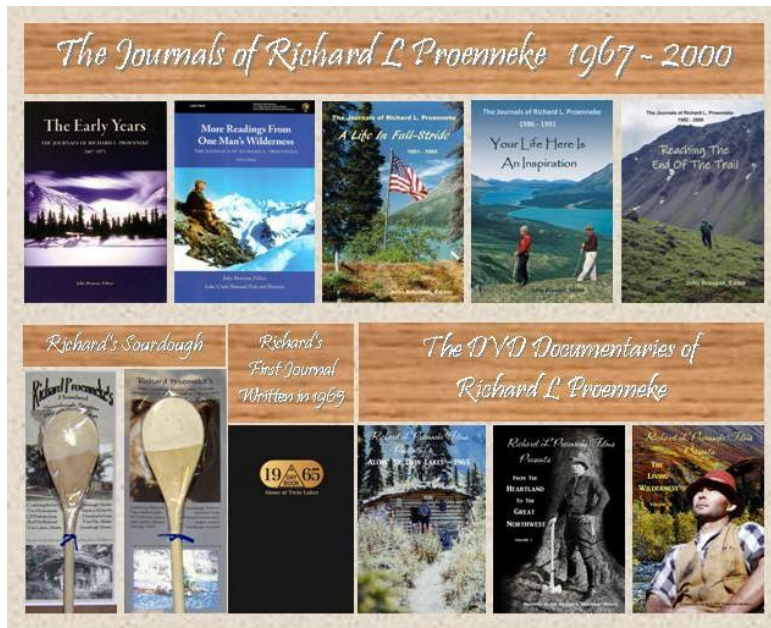
Violet & Benny Hurlock are in town. Up at Ila and Lanore's this evening - up here tomorrow evening. Better wrap this up - time to call it a day. Have the picket fence in (4 in. slats spaced 2" tops cut at 45° angle) Looks pretty good, a coat of exterior latex will finish it.

Your brother,

Richard

P.S. Tip is showing her age this evening, like you, she is lame in one front leg. Fordy made the big circle but sweat was coursing down his temples - too heavy.

P.S. Florence says she has stamps for a crock pot if she can find a redemption store for her stamps.



Are you a Richard Proenneke fan? Would you like to learn more about this incredible man who grew up in our backyard? Consider joining us and lending a helping hand. Drop me a line at: Brie Anderson, Richard Proenneke Museum Curator: [brie@richardproenneke.com](mailto:brie@richardproenneke.com) or contact the new Library Director Sunny Robbins: [director@donnellson.lib.ia.us](mailto:director@donnellson.lib.ia.us)

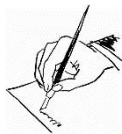
## **A Suggested March Reading - Introduction to Paleontology**

This month the suggested reading is another Great Course, 24 half-hour lectures by a noted paleontologist, Professor Stuart Sutherland Ph.D. of the University of British Columbia.

Doctor Sutherland is a professor of Teaching in the Dept. of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences. He earned a degree in geology in 1987, then a doctorate in geology in 1992. In 1994 he began postdoctoral studies at the Natural History Museum in London, engaged in field research on fossils in Spain, and earned a teaching degree before emigrating to Canada in 1998. He teaches both geology and paleontology at the Vancouver Campus of the UBC.

This study begins with a study of history on a geological scale, from the formation of the earth to the tools of the paleontological trade. Readers will learn the history of earth and the study of paleontology from how to determine the behavior of extinct creatures through analysis of fossils into the role of minerals in understanding the age of fossils. A detailed briefing on the formation and fragmentation of super continents (the earth is currently re-forming a super continent) aids in the understanding of early life forms and the impact of biodiversity in ensuring the survival of species. In the course of the lectures, considerable attention is given to the mass extinctions which have nearly wiped out all life on earth and the mechanics of both mass extinctions and recovery from these.

An easy and interesting course to study, this Great Course is a trove of information on the earth's history, the biodiversity (both plant and animal) which has inhabited this world, and the cycles of extinctions and recoveries our planet has seen. Highly recommended for any with an interest in the history of our natural world and a study of what might lie ahead for all of us.



### **Writers' Bloc**

Have you written about your latest travel experience? Or your grandmother's funny antics? Or have you made a world of your own with characters dying to be introduced to the world? Or historical happenings of the past? Our writers' group meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday from 1-3 p.m. in the Local and Family History room. Share or just come listen to others as they share what they have written.

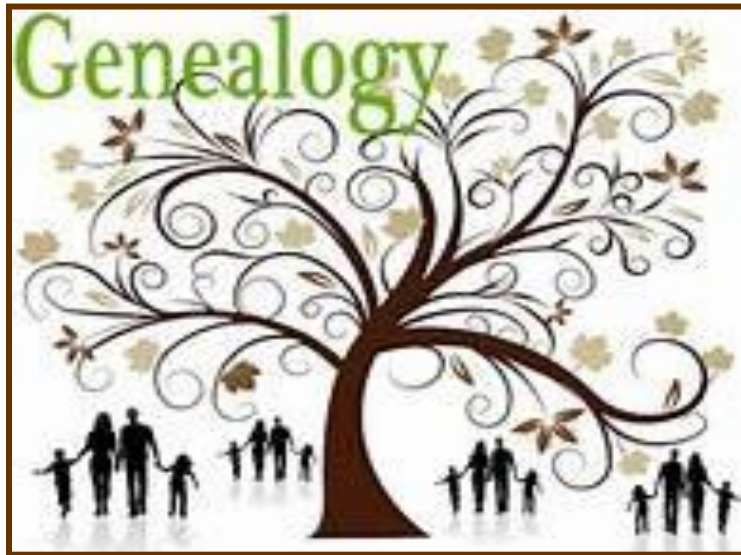
The March meeting of Writers' Bloc was held March 15 in the Donnellson Library Local & Family History Department. Attending were Jan Blankenburg, Tom Moeller, Marty Miller and Diane and Aaron Kruse.

Diane started off the meeting by giving an update on the progress of her book on the *History and Heritage of Lee County Rural Schools*. Most of the chapters have been completed and reviewed and said time is getting closer to getting the book finished. One of the final stages is acquiring an ISBN and a Copyright for the book and stated those processes will be initiated in April.



The Friends are presently collecting and sorting books for sale. Books can be delivered to the library during regular hours, Monday-Friday 11:30-7:00 and on Saturday 10:00-3:30.

We look forward to seeing our first great success of the year. See you all in June. ~**Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**



### **Local and Family History**

During the month of March members of the Local and Family History were occupied with accepting donations of family albums and discussing plans for the upcoming sessions of a genealogy workshop. Members also accepted donations of family albums which will be reviewed and placed on the shelf among our other 100 plus albums. Obituaries continued to be alphabetized and made ready to be filed in the appropriate binders and files. Joyce Francis and Jean Kruse have been regular volunteers working to support our filing system to get our Lee County, contiguous counties, and local Illinois and Missouri obituaries on file. Pat Morrison as well visited and always makes an additional contribution for our records.

Although the Department handles many projects, the display case plays an important role each month. The March display covers National Reading Month for the entire family from the youngest to the oldest. Books on many topics of interest were on display for patrons and children to choose from. Photographs of the display are seen at the end of the newsletter.

**Donations:** Susan Chaney donated three family albums for our shelves. The albums are all of the same family but broken down into three separate binders: The George Michael Reu Family, and two albums containing the family tree of Charles Henry Kirchner.

**Genealogy Workshops:** Sharon Meierotto and Diane Kruse held two genealogy workshops during the month of March. For the first workshop, Sharon pulled together a packet for the attendees with forms which can be filled out with family information. The information gives clues as to where research can be done to acquire information on family members. A few examples are photographs, obituaries (which can give as many as 21 clues), certificates, military records, school

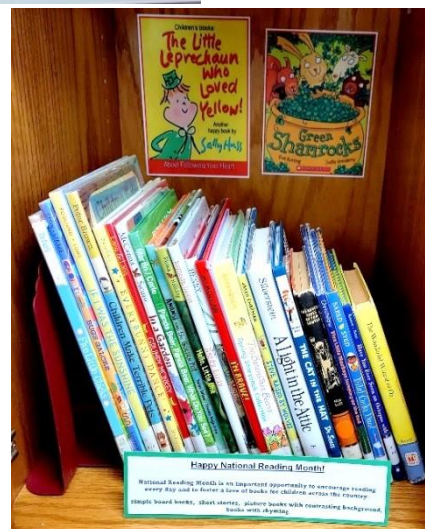
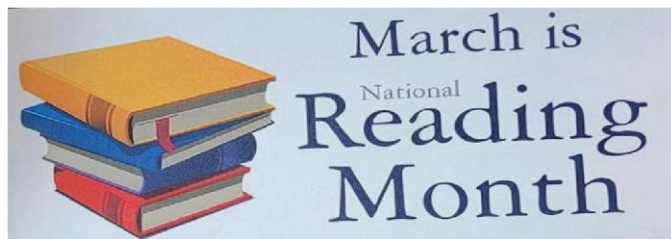


records. Diane gave a visual tour of the genealogy room noting where information can be located using the forms with filled-in information from research. Attendance filled the chairs at the table and all were quite interested in the information presented.

The second workshop included a hand out of the many websites available for researching information. Some websites were listed as “free” and others you needed to sign in and pay an annual fee. Those which were labeled “free” are quite easy to use. Becky Burghoffer asked if we had a map of Germany and if not could be acquire one for reference. Sharon showcased her family album for attendees and Sunny Robinson, Library Director, shared her family albums which included a 15 generation chart. Diane handed out a poem entitled “Are You a Good Ancestor”. This poem should serve as a reminder to research all sources available to make the family record complete. It was agreed the workshops are a good starting point and two more workshops are being scheduled for the month of April – on Tuesdays, April 10 and April 24 at 5:30.

**March is National Reading Month**

Below are some photos of the March display courtesy of Carole Landes Elston.



This month the display topic will present the history of Donnellson as their topic of the month. Visit the Local & Family History Department to read about the interesting growth of the town. Although some people may find the increased emphasis on reading to be boring, the increase in reading during this month (and every month) has significant benefits that will continue to pay off in the future. Reading is one of the best habits to develop; it strengthens the mental muscles, helps to improve comprehension and analytical abilities, and increases imagination and boosts memory.

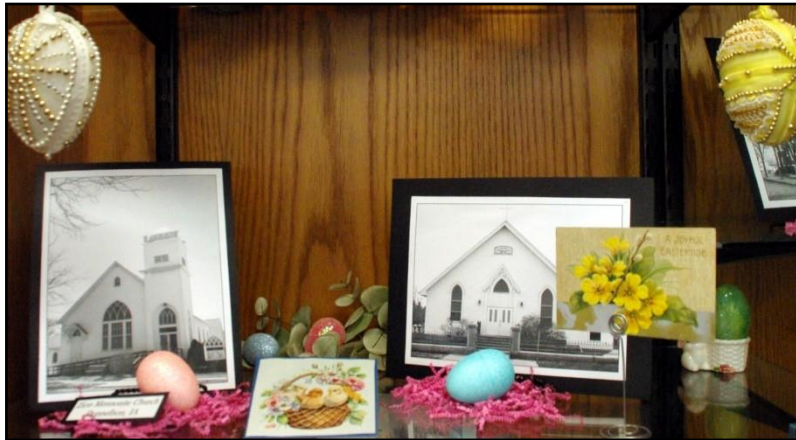
The Local & Family History Department will be celebrating *National Reading Month* 2023 as a time for everyone to show how much they love reading and how exciting and fulfilling it can be.

National Reading Month is a month set aside to motivate Americans of all ages to read every day. Reading is fun and has many benefits, regardless of your age. It is a key component of education and professional development. Check out books on your favorite topic(s) or pursue a new topic at your library.



## Upcoming April Local and Family History Display

Easter brings together an unlikely cadre of traditions: church, bunnies, chicks and flowers. While Easter is a time when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Christ, a few aspects of the holiday were adopted from ancient pagan rituals which celebrated the resurrection of life in the spring. Below is a sneak preview of some items of the Easter display courtesy of Diane Kruse.



Newsletter Editor:

**Diane P. Kruse**

