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An Irish Prayer

May God give you, for every storm, a rainbow,
for every tear, a smile,
for every care, a promise,
and a blessing in each trial.
For every problem life sends, a faithful friend to share,
For every sign, a sweet song,
And an answer for each prayer.

Library Happenings



Library Happenings are written and submitted by Brenda Knox, Director of the Donnellson Public Library, unless otherwise noted.

Preschool Story Hour

In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb



In March, we read books for Story Hour about the wind, the weather, the coming spring, and planting seeds. We planted seeds for a chocolate cherry sunflower. We currently have just four little ones coming to Story Hour but are hoping more will join in now that the weather is getting better. And we are watching for our seeds to sprout!

Story Hour for preschool children is a program held each Tuesday, from 10:00-11:00 a.m.

A Very Hungry Caterpillar

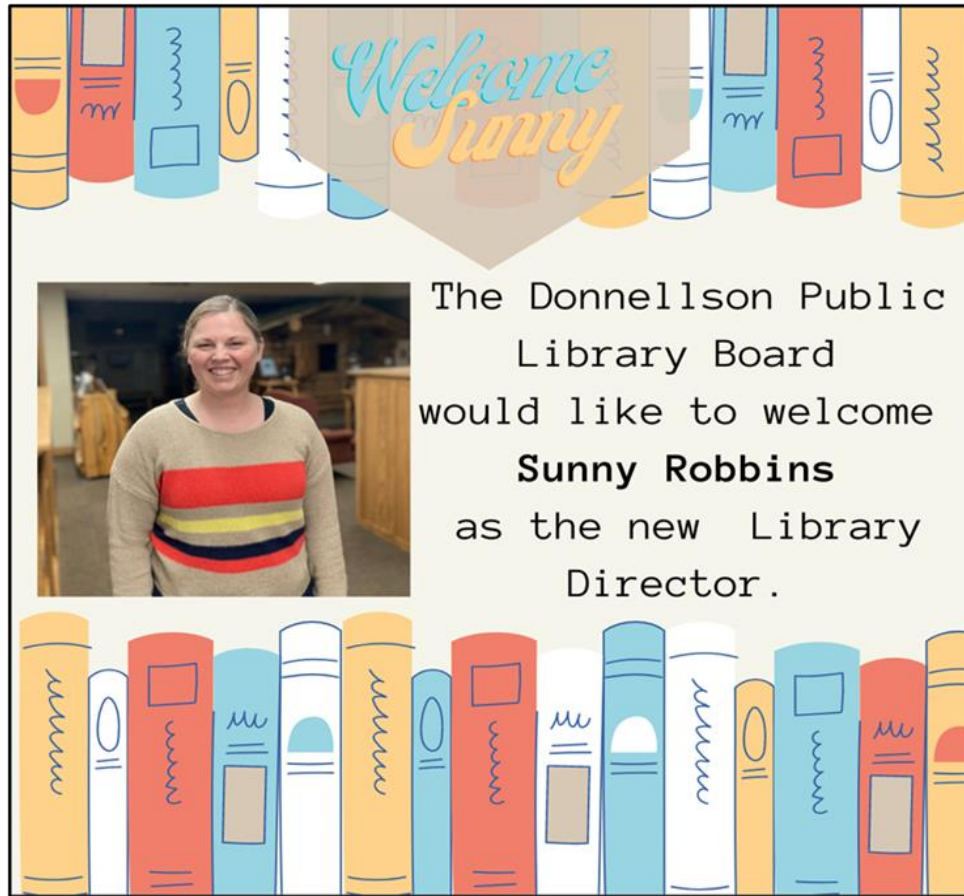
Our Central Lee Career Education student, Gavin Hasper, developed a fun activity for kids. If they find the Very Hungry Caterpillar stuffed toy, which is hiding with a tootsie-roll pop in the children's section of the library, they get to keep the sucker, and re-hide the caterpillar for the next child to find. The game has proven to be extremely popular!



From left to right: Weston, Ryker, Weston, Rayven (yup, two Westons)

We Welcome Sunny Robbins as the New Library Director!

Sunny will begin working with Brenda Knox, retiring Director, this month! She worked here for several years, part-time, and was always a favorite of the patrons and other staff! I know she will do an excellent job for the library.



I will be retiring after 22 years as Library Director soon, and wish to just say, I have been honored to serve as Library Director, and have liked getting to know all of you. Our goal will remain having the best patron services we can offer, and we love to find just the right book for your reading pleasure! I will miss seeing all of you but will stay active with the Friends of the Donnellson Library organization. -BK



Summer Reading Program: F h

We will be planning our Summer Reading Program, *Read Beyond the Beaten Path*, which has an outdoor theme this year. We will have sign-up sheets and brochures ready by the middle of May. Several special programs are planned so far, including a Butterfly Tent, the ISU Insect Zoo, the rock music of Sheltered Reality, and outdoor bubble stations from Absolute Science. Please be watching for the brochures, as we get everything planned.



The Donnellson Book Core

The Donnellson Book Core read and discussed **The Secret Diary** of Hendrik Groen, which may or may not be a non-fiction work. It is an international bestseller about one of our favorite types of characters, a cheerful older curmudgeonly fellow, who enlists his friends to keep the faith and join him in the “not-dead-yet-club” at his retirement home. Most enjoyed the book, but one or two felt it treated the elderly as stereotypes.

Our book for April takes on the Magdalene Laundries, which were institutions for unwed mothers in Ireland in the twentieth century. Here is what GOODREADS has to say about the book The Magdalen Girls by V.S. Alexander:

Dublin, 1962. Within the gated grounds of the convent of The Sisters of the Holy Redemption lies one of the city's Magdalen Laundries. Once places of refuge, the laundries have evolved into grim workhouses. Some inmates are “fallen” women—unwed mothers, prostitutes, or petty criminals. Most are ordinary girls whose only sin lies in being too pretty, too independent, or tempting the wrong man. Among them is sixteen-year-old Teagan Tiernan, sent by her family when her beauty provokes a lustful revelation from a young priest.

Teagan soon befriends Nora Craven, a new arrival who thought nothing could be worse than living in a squalid tenement flat. Stripped of their freedom and dignity, the girls are given new names and denied contact with the outside world. The Mother Superior, Sister Anne, who has secrets of her own, inflicts cruel, dehumanizing punishments—but always in the name of love. Finally, Nora and Teagan find an ally in the reclusive Lea, who helps them endure—and plot an escape. But as they will discover, the outside world has dangers too, especially for young women with soiled reputations.

Told with candor, compassion, and vivid historical detail, The Magdalen Girls is a masterfully written novel of life within the era's notorious institutions—and an inspiring story of friendship, hope, and unyielding courage.

As always, if you are intrigued by the books we are reading and want to join the Donnellson Book Core, please let the librarians know and we will order you a copy! The book club meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00.

Richard L. Proenneke Museum



View from Richard Proenneke's beach – Falls Mountain is alive with color; it is springtime at Twin Lakes.

From “More Readings From One Man's Wilderness” entry May 4, 1975 – Richard's 59th Birthday

The weather was getting no where fast and it looked as if he [Babe Alsworth] would be spending the night at Twin Lakes. The first time in all these years that he got trapped on this end. We prepared for the night. “Now don't cook a lot of stuff for me” he said. “All I want is one thing – beans.” I put the kettle on and made a salad with my brown sugar, salt, pepper, garlic salt and vinegar dressing. He didn't care for any salad but once he got a taste of it, he was the one to clean up the bowl. “I like that vinegar dressing” he said. It was getting late, him being on daylight savings time. I started to clear the upper bunk which had a foam rubber mattress... “Oh don't do that, I'll just sleep on the floor” he said. “Nobody sleeps on the floor here in the cabin,” I said

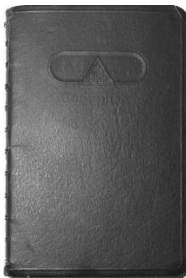
and I soon had him comfortable with a GI mummy bag. He was asleep in five minutes. As usual with someone in the cabin for the first night I didn't sleep sound. Too much creaking of bunk poles and snoring on the top bunk. When I turned in it was snowing and 28°.

From “More Readings From One Man’s Wilderness” entry June 13, 1977

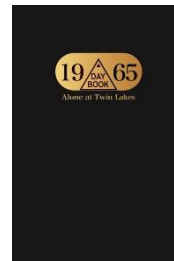
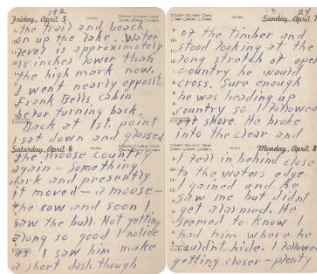
Past three I loaded up and headed for the canoe. A light following breeze and a pleasant paddle home. I was well satisfied with my ability to travel and feel sure that a few more such tours will see me ready for anything.

Cleaned up and an early supper. A brown rabbit came to the clothesline to lick the gravel where I drained the salty water from my spuds. A rabbit as tame as those who spent the winter with me and I wonder if it is. The birds came for hot cake – just like old times. A nice calm partly cloudy evening. Temp. 50 degrees. A real good night’s sleep last night and this morning at five I could hardly get my eyes open. Just a very long time since I slept so well. Frank Bell said “I feel better at Twin Lakes than any place I have ever been.”

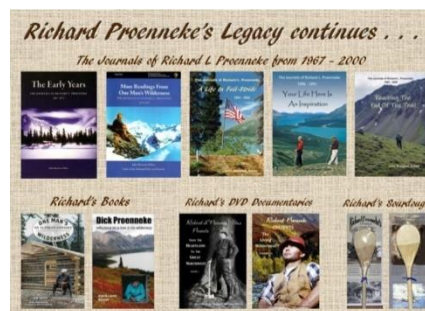
Coming soon! The new Richard Proenneke Journal “Alone At Twin Lakes – 1965” and the accompanying DVD Documentary to be released on Richard’s 106th Birthday, May 4, 2022.



The original 1957 Caterpillar Daybook & two pages from the Journal 1965”



Published Journal and DVD Documentary “Alone At Twin Lakes -



The complete set of the Journals of Richard L Proenneke and the book “One Man’s Wilderness;” the “Reflections on a man in his wilderness; DVD Documentaries, “From The Heartland To The Great Northwest” and “The Living Wilderness;” The Homeland and Kodiak Sourdough Starter Spoons are all available at the Donnellson Library or at our website: richardproenneke.com

We have been most fortunate at the Proenneke Museum the past few weeks for Gavin Hasper, a Central Lee High School Student who is volunteering at the library. He has been of tremendous help to us in many ways, from helping us reorganize our storage room to entering data into the

computer to converting RLPs slides to digital form for us. And best of all is he is a Richard Proenneke fan!

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 us a line at: Brie Anderson, Richard Proenneke Museum Curator: brie@richardproenneke.com Brenda Knox, Librarian bknox@donnellson.lib.ia.us

Writers' Bloc



The March meeting of Writers' Bloc was held at 1 p.m. in the Local and Family History Department. Attending were Mike Krebill, Jan Blankenburg, and Aaron and Diane Kruse.

Like the February meeting it began with a nature conversation from Mike Krebill. He mentioned two other naturalists who are authors and frequent speakers: Connie Mutel, who is involved with Loess Hills National Scenic Byway and Stan Teklela who is also a photographer of birds, wildflowers, and trees in every state. In total he is the author of 190 books.

Dandelion doughnuts was a topic of interest as well. Mike mentioned the best time to collect dandelions is before the end of April through the third week in May. Since no dandelions have been found to date the recipe plans to be completed by our May meeting. Members are looking forward to this adventure. Since he also mentioned pears and pecans, Mike described his recipe for his Dilemma Bread. Another possibility soon.

Jan shared some of her poems written years ago. To name quite a few: *Dough Boy* (whose wife is Playdough); *Wee Bit of Blarneyland*; *Not There Yet*; *A Lotto Luck*; *The Messenger*, *Ready, Set Go*, and *Right and Left Brain Thinking*. Jan also suggested the possibility of another book on poetry containing poems by the seasons. A possible title "Where the Heart Lies".

Since she has sent articles to magazines over the years, Jan contacted the Iowa magazine "Our Iowa" and asked if they were still accepting articles by its readers. Fortunately, the answer was yes. She sent a total of nine including the ones entitled *Dad's Tree* and *One Stitch at a Time*. All members look forward to hearing if the articles were accepted and printed.

Diane's writing contribution referred to the February display pertaining to the Underground Railroad in the southeastern area of Iowa in Salem and Denmark and monthly newsletter.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. on 20 April in the Local and Family History Department.
~Written and submitted by Diane Kruse

A March Suggested Reading

This month's suggested reading is *Red Handed*, a masterful piece of research, analysis, and writing.

The author is Peter Schweizer, a dedicated investigative journalist and researcher. *Red Handed* is the latest in a long line of political/economic/corruption essays – *Profiles in Corruption*, *Secret Empires*, *Clinton Cash* to name a few – which have uncovered and put on public display the true

~ For those interested in working on their family tree, a copy of the “Cousins Chart” was donated on how to identify them in the family history. The Department thanks Daniel Francis for this contribution. An added piece of information was included and pertains to Abraham Lincoln. It is a replica of the *New York Times*, dated February 11, 1861.

~ Additional photos were received from Jan Blankenburg. They will be added to her family records as well as Evan’s scrapbook.

~ Mark Holland from Montrose stopped by the library and donated an item he had purchased at an auction. It is unknown exactly what the box was used for years ago but it had the names of Krebill and Hopp written on it. Research was done by Kenny Tull and found the Antique Shaker Style Primitive Round Wood Pantry Storage Box was 14” High 15” Diameter, and possibly a Round Cheese Storage Box as they come in various heights and used for various things. Kenny suggested perhaps it was located at The Krebill & Hopp general store at the corner of Main and Elm, site of the parking lot for the Pilot Grove Community Room. A. D. Krebill and Hubert Hopp operated a general store there from February 1926 till May of 1929.

~ Research was started for Brian Henderson looking for information on members of his family tree dating back to the mid 1800’s. Research is still in progress.

Display for March

The display for March covered the Donnellson Library Then and Now. Photographs ranged from the old library which originated in Dr. Thompson’s office to the present-day library on Main Street. Photographs are provided courtesy of Carole Landes Elston.



Photo shows the first Donnellson Library established in the Dr. Thompson office.



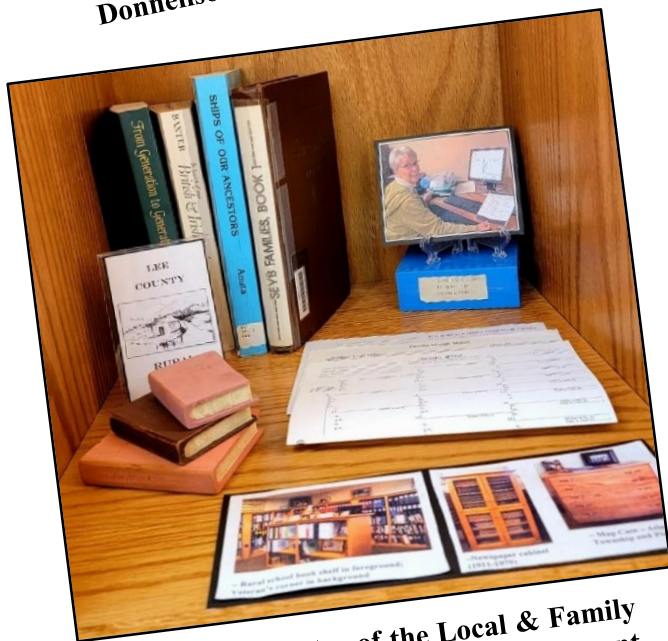
Photo shows two other locations of the Donnellson Library – Pilot Grove Bank on Main St. and the old Donnellson Review building on Park St.



Eeva Redfern, the First President of the Donnellson Public Library, 1935-1938.



Photos of Erma DeRosear who established the Donnellson Library Genealogy Department in 1986. Photo also shows one of Erma's many awards and book signing in 2014.



Present-day photos of the Local & Family History Department. The department covers obits from Lee Co as well as local Missouri and Illinois. Also available are old newspapers, plat maps, and rural school information.

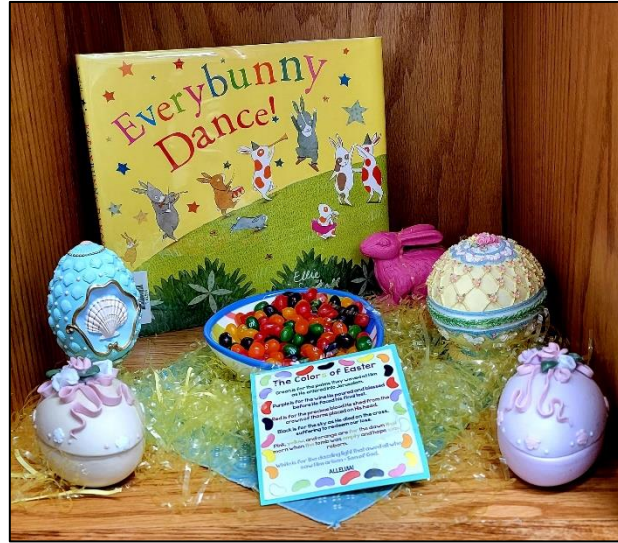


New library at 411 Main St. which includes the Richard Proenneke Museum. Photo includes the grand opening ceremony and library board and staff members.

Upcoming April Local & Family History Display

Easter brings together an unlikely cadre of traditions: church, bunnies, and eggs.

But what may seem like an odd trio is tied together by the universal themes of spring and life renewed. While Easter is a time when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Christ, a few aspects of the holiday were adopted from ancient pagan rituals that celebrated the resurrection of life in the spring. Below are some photos of the March Easter display courtesy of Carole Landes Elston.



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