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“They are dead; but they live
in each Patriot’s breast,
And their names are engraven
On honor’s bright crest.”

~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Library Happenings

Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve and contribute to improving our quality of life. ~ Sidney Sheldon, American writer and producer.

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

Preschool Story Hour!

Spring has sprung! Marty Miller read books about Mother’s Day, to the kids. We have been talking about pets, mostly dogs, cats, and iguanas. We had a visit from a puppy named Josie visit. The kids enjoyed this special guest.

We usually sing songs, read books, do finger plays, and color a picture that goes along with the themes. Join us for Preschool Story Hour on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am all year long.



Summer Reading

Our summer reading program READ BEYOND THE BEATEN PATH will be going all of June and July this year. Our summer reading story hour will be Wednesdays at 10 am. All ages are welcome to attend. We will be reading some picture books and a chapter or two of *Cody unplugged* by Betsy Duffey. About the *Cody Unplugged*, Goodreads says:

Cody's mom is pulling the plug and sending him off to camp. That means no TV, no video games, no computers-for one whole week! According to his wilderness guide, the first rule of survival is to be prepared. The only thing Cody's not prepared for is how much fun he'll have at camp!



**Read Beyond
The Beaten Path**
With the
Donnellson Library

Special Events

- Jun 22nd @10 am Bubble Station
27th @ 10 am Butterfly Tent
- Jul 13th @ 2 pm Sheltered
Reality Band
- 20th @ 10 am Insect Zoo
- 27th @ 20 am Kids SR Party &
Prize Drawings
- Aug 12th @ 6pm Teen SR Pizza
Party

The poster features a cartoon illustration of a child reading under a tree with a squirrel, set against a background of a green field and a blue sky with clouds.

In keeping with our theme, we are holding daily mini camps. These activities will be held every Monday – Saturday at 1:30 pm here at the library for about an hour. Please note these camps will not be held on the days when special events overlap. We will do the following activities on the following days:

Monday – Art camp

Tuesday – Jr Actor’s camp

Wednesday – Mystery camp

Thursday – Lego camp

Friday – Movie retreat

Saturday – Jr Chef’s

For each reading tracker sheet filled out, an entry in our drawing and a treasure from our treasure chest will be given. Stop in to pick up your first sheet today. Thanks to our high school volunteers!



**Read Beyond
The Beaten Path**
With the
Donnellson Library

Earn Prizes

Pick up a summer reading sheet. Keep track of your reading. Bring your sheets to enter to win a prize. Prizes for Adults, Teens, and Kids will be given.

The more you read, the chances you have to win.

The poster features a cartoon illustration of a child reading under a large tree with a squirrel, set against a background of a green field and a blue sky with clouds.

They are ready to lead and help with these activities. Our high school kids are required to complete 36 hours of community service before graduation. Helping out at our library is one way they complete this requirement.

For these two months we want to see how many people come in to check out books. We will have a reading tree. Every time you check out books, we will give you a leaf to write your name on and add it to our tree. Let us see how full our tree can get.

Senior Crafternoon

May was a good month for flowers! Victoria helped the ladies make beautiful floral arrangements. Below is a photo of the class:



Senior Crafternoon

JUNE 8TH AT 3:30 CRAFT

ONCE A MONTH ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAY
AT 3:30 IN THE DONNELSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

RSVP your spot
Call 319-835-5545
Let us know if you
want to be
considered a
regular and we will
automatically count
on you each month

SPONSORED BY
MONTROSE HEALTH CENTER

The Donnellson Book Core

The group discussed *Midnight at the Blackbird Cafe* by Heather Webber for their meeting in May. With it being an example of magical realism, we had mixed reviews. It was fantastical, not believable, but enjoyed. We had about 10 people attend. More are coming back since COVID limited our numbers. We are encouraging all to come back. There are no limits to the number of people at this time.

The book for June 20th is *A Rumored Fortune* by Joanna Davidson Politano. Here is what Goodreads has to say:

Tressa Harlowe's father did not trust banks, but neither did he trust his greedy extended family. He kept his vast fortune hidden somewhere on his estate in the south of England and died suddenly, without telling anyone where he had concealed it. Tressa and her ailing mother are left with a mansion and an immense vineyard and no money to run it. It doesn't take long for a bevy of opportunists to flock to the estate under the guise of offering condolences. Tressa knows what they're really up to. She'll have to work with the rough and rusticated vineyard manager to keep the laborers content without pay and discover the key to finding her father's fortune--before someone else finds it first.

Award-winning author Joanna Davidson Politano welcomes readers to Trevelyan Castle, home of the poorest heiress in Victorian England, for a treasure hunt they'll not soon forget.

Writers' Bloc and Dandelion Donuts



Writers' Bloc members and attendees participate in frying the dandelion donuts and several attendees coating the donuts with various flavors of sugars.

The Writers' Bloc did not have their regular monthly meeting since Mike Krebill, a member of the Bloc, suggested at the April meeting it was a perfect time to make dandelion donuts. Members Diane Kruse, Jan Blankenburg, and Marty Miller volunteered to help, and our Library Director advertised the event on Facebook and in the local newspaper. Clay from Lee County Conservation came and helped as well. Thank you, volunteers.

This hands-on experience was wonderful and educationally delicious time had by all. A special thanks to Mike Krebill for coming to demonstrate how to make dandelion donuts on 18 May. We had 15 in attendance of all ages.

Our writer's group meets every 3rd Wednesday from 1-3 pm in the local and family history room. Share or just come listen to others as they share what they have written.

Our June meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. June 22 in the Local and Family History Department.
~Written and submitted by Sunny Robbins/Diane Kruse

RICHARD PROENNEKE MUSEUM



Hope Creek in the foreground flowing into Upper Lake where Richard routinely fished

From the Journal "A Life In Full Stride"

June 14, 1981 Partly Cloudy, Calm, & 33°.

I would go give Hope Creek a chance, so took the spinning rig with a little red bodied silver spinner Mepps. Hope Creek is running a nice stream and dumping into the very clear, very blue lake. I enjoyed being there even though I was just flinging the Mepps out and dragging it in. Bound to be fish there but you can't make them strike. Suddenly hooked hard and just off the bar. It was a fish alright and a good one. I kept a tight line just in case it was a boney mouthed lake trout. Already I had him browning in the skillet and it would be just a dream if he got away. I fought him awhile and then led him over to the little beach nearby. It was a real nice Dolly Varden and later I measured him to be 17 ½". Fish for supper was assured.

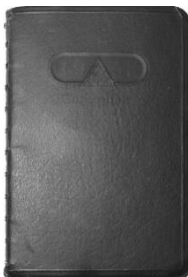
Porkypine for breakfast and Dolly Varden for supper. Cooking porkypine in just straight vinegar water is the way to go. Fried brown in bacon grease. Salt and pepper it on the plate and it is fine breakfast meat along with spuds and eggs.

The lake still like a mirror and I looked at the waterfall. This would be a good day to try that king size shower bath. Not as warm as the past few days and the sun around too far to have sunlight on the falls but I would go regardless. So I took my Dial soap box, my wash cloth and foot

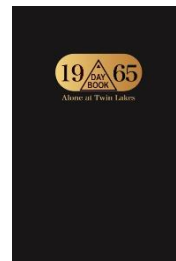
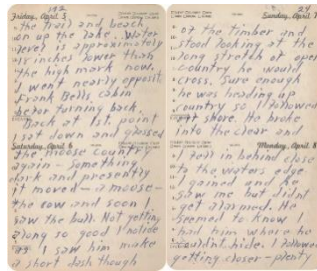
protection. No towel, I would move out a few feet into the sun to dry. Took the long handled No. 2 along to clear a path to the shower stall and paddled across. It's a good climb and one can get warmed up if he works at it.

Very cool in the shadow near the falling water and I could well imagine how water falling about 60 feet would feel. Feet protected and shovel in hand I cleared a path on a little horizontal ledge that leads to the falling water. Cold! well I guess, but I would get used to it, after a fashion. A little breeze was moving up the point of impact as much as eight or ten feet. I cleared the path while it was at its farthest away and then it swung back. Talk about pulsating shower heads – this one is bound to be a world beater. Soaped up and then it came my way again. Clean in a second and gasping for breath. I moved out and then back in again just to make it worth the climb. Into the sun to wipe dry with my wrung out wash cloth and I was warm in no time. That just had to be the most invigorating shower I have ever taken in 65 yrs. I'll certainly go again and am thinking that I will not be happy to see ice come to the high waterfall. I improved my path into the gorge as I climbed back out. No danger but watch you step. Rocks make an awful clatter going down.

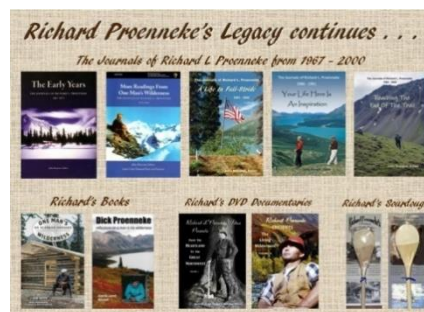
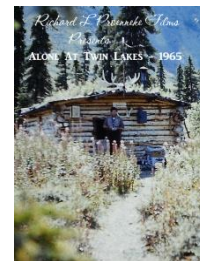
Time to slice off half of that big Dolly, take the ribs out and the skin off. Cut it in bite size pieces and shake it in my shake and fry fish sack. Real good and now I hope the trot line cooperates with a good burbot.



The original 1957 Caterpillar Daybook & two pages from the Journal



New Journal and DVD Documentary "Alone At Twin Lakes -1965"



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 a new volunteer to the Richard Proenneke Committee. Danielle Smith is an expert in the "Excel" Program and in building Websites. Since our records are kept in the Excel Program, Danielle's

expertise will be a huge benefit into consolidating the information instead of our current setup. Her knowledge with websites will also be welcome in finally getting our site into one location instead of part still being in Yahoo, and the bulk in GoDaddy. Welcome, Danielle!

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 or contact the new Library Director Sunny Robbins: director@donnellson.lib.ia.us

Richard Proenneke's 106th Birthday Celebration

The Celebration of Richard Proenneke's 106th Birthday on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, at the Donnellson Public Library was a huge success! Kicking off the release of the new Richard Proenneke Journal and DVD Documentary, "Alone At Twin Lakes – 1965".

The festivities included puzzles for the kids to solve, sending them throughout the library and Museum to gather clues, and more importantly it was a teachable moment.

Lots of snacks including Richard's Mom, Laura Bonn Proenneke's sugar cookie recipe, hickory nut cookies, dynamite sticks, and Richard's favorite tea, Kobuk Samovar Tea, and punch with blueberries.

Dave Roth provided music with a guitar and all guests were encouraged to sing a song written by Myrna Folker, "A Tribute to Richard Proenneke" to the tune of "On Top of Old Smokey":

*Richard went to Alaska
The 49th state
He built his own cabin
And lived out his fate.*

*He Lived there alone
For some thirty-years
Enjoying the beauty
Of the mountains, so dear.*

*He saw on those Mountains
The Dall Sheep and bear
Moose, caribou, martens
And loved them with care.*

*He paddled on Twin Lakes
In his trusty canoe
From one end to another
And along the shore, too.*

*He never went hungry
Kept himself well fed
Made sourdough pancakes
And biscuits and bread.*

*He fished in the streams
His supper to catch
His cabin's hinged door
Is a quite famous latch.*

*He wrote in his journals
Of what he observed
Animal life on the mountain
Caribou and sheep herds.*

*His journals live on
To tell of his life
Worthy and awesome
And not lived in strife.*

*The Donnellson Museum
Remembers his life
He now lives forever
In a famous afterlife!*

More than 40 stopped by to help celebrate the great accomplishments of this ordinary man who did extraordinary things with his life and left a legacy that will live on through his journals and films. The Richard Proenneke Museum is open to the public during the Donnellson Library's hours of operation.

BOOK SALE **FOR**



Time is getting closer for the Friends huge book sale. The Friends of the Donnellson Library will host their first of two book sales in 2022 on Yard Sale Day, Saturday 18 June at the American Legion (Post #474), 419 North Oak Street from 8:00-4:00. Books will be sold for a free-will donation.

With the books we have donated to date, the children through young adult categories are the largest collections we have ever had. To make it easier for our patrons to choose their books or select the entire collection for their own library, books are sorted in alphabetical order and all the collections are sorted in their own boxes. We also have a large supply of adult and children's movies.

Since our shelves are chock-full with the largest collection of books ever for the sale, we look forward to seeing our first great success of the year. See you all on June 18. ~**Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**

A May Suggested Reading

The Suggested Reading for this month is *The Worst Hard Time*. Written by Timothy Egan, this is a factual report on the 'Dust Bowl Days', the combination drought and depression which very nearly changed a huge area of the American prairie on a permanent basis.

The affected area reached north to south from Inavale, Nebraska to Lubbock, Texas and east to west from halfway across Kansas to a point directly south of Denver Colorado. It consumed the panhandle of Oklahoma and a significant portion of northeast New Mexico.

This area was once described as 'The Great American Desert', an area of scarce rainfall and buffalo grass. It was a haven for buffalo and antelope and later for ranchers running thousands of head of cattle on the rich grass. The area was ideally suited for grazing, but completely unsuited for farming. Trees were almost unknown, and the farmers lived in dugouts with walls and roofs of sod blocks, adding to the impact of the coming disaster.

By 1929 a booming market opened up in wheat and thousands of farmers began to move into the area and break up the tough grass-anchored sod in favor of annual crops of wheat. These thousands were victims of their own drive for riches and poor farming practices which laid bare the soil. When the drought hit in the early 1930s, most of these farmers stayed in place, suffering through each year in the misunderstanding that this was ‘just one drought’, stubbornly assuming and hoping the next year would be normal in rainfall.

The drought lasted halfway through the 1930s, and thousands lost everything they had, often including babies and the elderly suffering from ‘dust pneumonia’ as massive dust storms wiped out whatever crops were planted, whatever livestock was still alive, and buried the dugouts the people lived in.

The author is a reporter for the New York Times. He has written four books and has several rewards including the Pulitzer Prize. This selection is based on interviews, diaries, and newspaper reports. While lengthy, this work is highly detailed and provides a wonderful understanding of an epic disaster too often brushed once-over-lightly in our current educational system. ~**Written and submitted by Aaron Kruse**



Local & Family History Department

~ Again, May was an extremely busy month for the Local and Family History volunteers. Volunteers received phone calls for research requests, greeted visitors, receive several donations, and assisted with several genealogy walk-in and internet research requests. 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. Sharon Meierotto assisted Frances Corson Bogert, originally from Donnellson, and now resides in Missouri south of St. Louis. Bogert information she was looking for was located and the department received a generous donation of \$100.

Although the Department handles many projects, the display case plays an important role each month. The May display is and always will be special since it represents a month of remembrance for our veterans. Photographs of the display are seen at the end of the newsletter.

Special Visitors from Dunkerton, IA

Michelle Wheeler, Dunkerton Library Director and Teresa Stafford, Executive Director of the Dunkerton Historical Association in northern Iowa visited our Library Genealogy Department on May 14 for approximately 2 ½ hours. It was a special visit since our department was highly recommended as a model to help the newly formed Dunkerton Historical Association get set up in the basement of the Dunkerton Library.

Many questions were asked and answered, many notes were written down, and many photographs taken to provide an idea of how to get started, since the Association is in partnership with the library. Like our records, the materials designated for their local history room are quite varied and provide a good view of historic Dunkerton. They said what they viewed would be a great start. Another plan down the road, in addition to their newly created historical area, is a long-range effort to move a remaining one-room schoolhouse to the library site.

Their visit was extended into the afternoon with plans for lunch and a visit to the Lewellyn House in Salem. Kay Wesley, the very knowledgeable tour guide, was excited to give our guests an opportunity to view other ideas for displaying their local historic collection.

There are plans to keep in touch with Michelle and Teresa to answer more questions if there are some and hopefully an invitation to visit their newly created historical association and more importantly the one-room schoolhouse on site.

Oakwood Rural Schoolhouse Information

The Department received a query from Kenny Tull regarding the little Oakwood schoolhouse in Jackson Township. He forwarded a newspaper article from the *Keokuk Daily Gate City*, dated May 3, 1958. He wanted to know where in Jackson Township it was located and any further information other than the newspaper article he forwarded because he knew Ruth L. Seabold who lived in Jackson Township and was perhaps a graduate of that rural school.

Since Diane Kruse had researched many of the rural schools in Lee County more information included confirmation of his question about Ruth Seabold. She attended the school for eight years and graduated in 1935. In addition, further information included a description of the school, other family names who attended over the years, and when the school closed.

The article from the *Keokuk Daily Gate City* will be placed in the Jackson Township rural schoolhouse binder.

Donation of the Ed Latta (The Woodcarver) Collection

Mr. Willam Dahms visited the library and asked that we review the scrapbook of the Ed Latta collection. Mr. Dahms was in possession of many of the items from the Latta collection and wished to find a new home for items remaining in the collection. For 58 years Mr. Latta ran the blacksmith shop in Donnellson and tackled many things such as pounding a fender onto an old Ford, weld a broken cultivator, shoe a horse, or sharpen a plowshare. As time moved on all of

what he had accomplished disappeared. Since retirement and leisure do not come easy to a man whose entire life has been work, he used his band and circular saws to cut wood and used a carving knife to fashion all the details of his work (as referenced in a February 23, 2003 article entitled “Retired blacksmith keeps hands busy”).

Diane Kruse and Sharon Meierotto visited with Mr. Dahms and decided to take what was left for their future historical displays. Since the items had been in storage was quite a while, they need to be cleaned and repaired before they can be displayed.

The scrapbook given to the department shows the items he cut and carved over the years and displayed at the Des Moines County Fair in Burlington, IA. It was noted he autographed and dated most of the items. The scrapbook will be available for review.

Special Donation of the Hohl Family

Diane Kruse of the Local and Family History Department was in contact with Mr. Roland Hohl who has lived in Germany for the past 30 years. Since he was retired during most of those years, he decided to research the Hohl Family and included documentation on a number of family trees showing the relationship of the Ellerstadt and Donnellson Hohl families being traced back to the Hans Adams Hohl in the year 1651.

The department has received the family tree book on the Hohl Family and has it on file. The book is mostly in German with some references in English. However, because of today’s technology all the German included in the 180-page book can easily be translated to English. Although the book is still a “work in progress” according to Mr. Hohl, it is an excellent piece of history which includes many photographs. He stated in his letter which accompanied the book “he would be happy about any contribution (documents/photographs, etc.) to further complete the text and correct mistakes.”

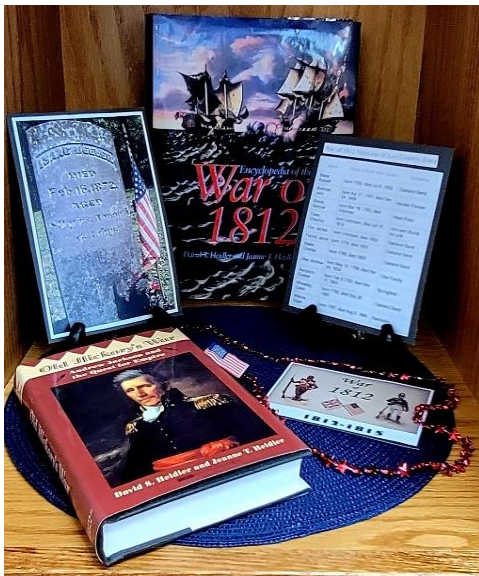
The book can be viewed in the Local and Family History Department but cannot be checked out.

Other Donations Received

- ~ A Franklin schoolhouse (Franklin Twp) photograph dated 1945(?) with some students identified
- ~ A Hazel Dell (Marion Twp) Certificate of graduation for Millard Paschal dated Aug 22, 1922
- ~ Two photographs of the Donnellson Centennial from Carole Landes Elston with one photograph identifying Carole Landes Elston, Vi Wilson, Lori Hulsebus Welch, and Barbara Krebill Tull
- ~ Copies of mimeographed letters from Mrs. Hughie Tweedy to Ms. Sam VanHove, dated in the year 1956 remembering school years. Letters were donated by Carole Landes Elston.

May National Military Appreciation Month Display

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



Circle of Flags

The two most traditional events for the month of May was the circle of flags at the St. Pauls' UCC Evangelical Cemetery and the service at the Sharon Church to honor those who served.

Members of the American Legion and the UCC Church participated in the raising of the circle of flags in addition to placing a flag at tombstones where a veteran was buried. Flags were flown from Saturday morning until 6 P.M. on Memorial Day. There are 63 flags in the circle and there were 93 flags placed at Veterans' graves. This tradition began with a memorial in memory of Edward Dahms who died in 1982.

The American Legion also attended the second and the oldest tradition at Sharon Church Cemetery to honor and remember those who served. This traditional ceremony always takes place at the memorial stone of George Perkins, a Revolutionary War Soldier.

Thank you and a salute to all who participated in these two very special traditions.



Photographs show the 63 Circle of Flags as well as some of the 93 flags placed at each grave



Photograph of the George Perkins Memorial

Upcoming Display for June

The June display will remember old Donnellson with some possible items taken from the Ed Latta Collection as well as items donated over the years from businesses, schools, and homes.

Newsletter Editor: Diane P. Kruse