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September 2022

Issue #193



**Pumpkins in the cornfields
Gold among the brown
Leaves of rust and scarlet
Trembling slowly down
Birds that travel southward
Lovely time to play
Nothing is as pleasant
As an autumn day!**



Happenings

“Books are the treasured wealth of the world and the fit inheritances of generations and nations.” ~ Henry David Thoreau

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

Preschool Story Hour!

September included story hour themes of cows, mice, hats, and birthdays. Join us for Preschool Story Hour on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am all year long.



Senior Crafternoon



For September's craft, we did a fall craft using pinecones. We had a large group with lots of comradery. The cones had to be left to dry, but a good time was had by all. We are grateful to Victoria Matlock and Montrose Health Center for making this activity possible

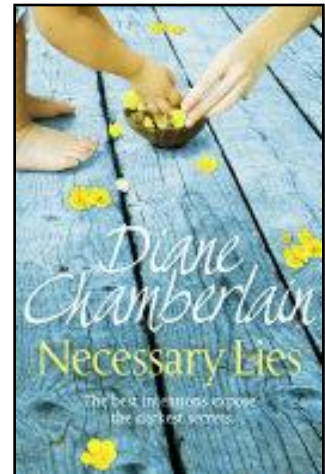
The Donnellson Book Core

The book for September 19th is "Necessary Lies" by Diane Chamberlain. **Here is what Goodreads has to say:**

North Carolina, 1960. Newlywed Jane Forrester, fresh out of university, is seeking what most other women have shunned: a career.

But life as a social worker is far from what she expected. Out amongst the rural Tobacco fields of Grace County, Jane encounters a world of extreme poverty that is far removed from the middle-class life she has grown up with.

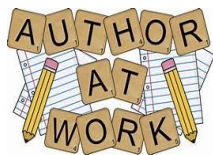
But worse is still to come. Working with the Hart family and their fifteen-year-old daughter Ivy, it's not long before Jane uncovers a shocking secret, and is thrust into a moral dilemma that puts her career on the line, threatens to dissolve her marriage, and ultimately, determines the fate of Ivy and her family forever.



Soon Jane is forced to take drastic action, and before long, there is no turning back.

Upcoming October Programs

Oct 4 th	Story Hour	10 am	
Oct 11 th	Story Hour	10 am	
Oct 11 th	Beginner Painting Class	5-7 pm	10 spots available
Oct 12 th	Crafternoon	3:30 pm	15 spots available
Oct 13 th	Cards – Come Play	1:30 pm	
Oct 17 th	Book Core	7 pm	
Oct 18 th	Story Hour	10 am	
Oct 18 th	Friends of Library	5:30 pm	
Oct 19 th	Writer's Bloc	1 pm	
Oct 21 st	Early Out Halloween party	1:30 pm	



Writer's Bloc

The meeting was held September 28 in the Donnellson Library Local and Family History Department. Attending were Jan Blankenburg , Marty Miller, Diane Kruse and Aaron Kruse, and Tom Moller.

Tom Moeller is our most recent member and stated he wanted to join because he writes poetry and was interested in getting his poetry published. Jan gave him guidance on several ways to get started. She introduced him to *Lyrical Iowa* which is an annual anthology of 300 or more poems chosen from those submitted to the competitions. This contest is open to all persons with an **Iowa address** and you do not need to be a member of the Association. No entry fee.

Tom has a small book of poetry (*The Poetry of Tom Moller*) which he shared with the group. His daughter created the book as a keepsake of his highly creative writings years ago. Some of the poems he mentioned were “Ode to John Prine” (singer during the John Denver era.), “The Calico Cat, “An Open Letter to Dr. Bill, and mostly recently “Corona Virus”. Since Tom has a folder of poetry, Jan also showed him how to scrapbook with poetry by placing a photograph along side the poem to create family memories over the years.

Jan read several entries of poems submitted to *Lyrical Iowa* over years in several of the categories accepted by the association. The poem “I Do” in the humor category was the one which catches everyone’s attention whenever she reads it. She also mentioned to Tom the group members predicted the poem would win the Humor Category. It was suggested by all in the group Writer’s Bloc is the place to create and share ideas no matter what type of writings each member is interested in creating.

Marty read a book by Mark Boyle entitled *The Way Home: Tales of a Life Without Technology*. She found the book fascinating and will recommend the Donnellson Library purchase the book for all to read. This book is a modern-day *Walden* — an honest and lyrical account of a remarkable life lived in nature. The author explores the hard-won joys of building a home with his bare hands, learning to make fire, collecting water from the stream, foraging, and fishing. No car, no electricity or any of the things it powers: the internet, phone, washing machine, radio, or light bulb. Just a wooden cabin on a smallholding by the edge of a stand of spruce.

Aaron mentioned he had one book published (*Mongoose*) and another (*River City Justice*) self-published. A copy of *River City Justice* is on the shelf in the library in the Local and Family History Department.

Diane mentioned her visit to the Dunkerton, Iowa Library on her way to a rural school conference in Cedar Falls (UNI) on September 27. Her stop in Dunkerton was to catch up on the establishment of the Library Historical Association. In May the Director Michelle Wheeler and volunteer Teresa

Stafford visited with the volunteers in the Donnellson Local and Family History Department as recommended by several other libraries to view the Donnellson setup as well as discuss how they organize their files regarding cemeteries, obituaries, local history, schools (both city and rural), businesses and organizations. In addition, the Dunkerton team visited the Llewellyn House in Salem to see how large items inherited from ancestors of families living in the area are displayed. Progress on the setup was instructional as the Dunkerton library hopes to add large items to their own display – two rural schoolhouses, a small chapel, and an old depot.

The conference at UNI on rural schools was well attended by representatives from many areas of Iowa who support and maintain the history and preservation of rural schools in their area. Diane was one of two representatives of southeast Iowa. A member of The Henry County Historic Preservation Commission was the other. In fact, that Commission has written and published a book on all rural schools in the county. However, there is another book in progress on rural schools in Lee County. Diane is compiling all research and photos for her book, currently on schedule for publishing in the first quarter of 2023. Since the book is in the draft stage, information and photographs are still being accepted as references for the book.

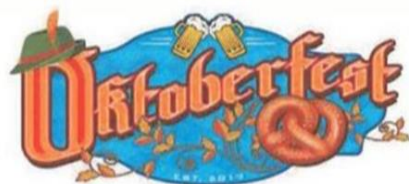
Our Writers' Bloc group meets every 3rd Wednesday from 1-3 pm in the Local and Family History room. We invite you to share or just come listen to others as they present what they have written. Our October meeting will be October 19 in the Local and Family History Room.~ **Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**

Update on the Restoration of the Donnellson Depot

The Donnellson Depot's days as a dilapidated storage unit are numbered according to an article in the August 12, 2022, *Daily Gate City*. The depot building is full of historical artifacts and Mr. James Lewiston, a Montrose resident and local history buff, is excited to restore the depot to its former glory. The first step was to clean up outdoors and then place the historical items in their proper place.

Both steps of the cleanup have been completed, as displayed in the below photos of both the exterior and interior. Once the matching paint has been received the depot will be repainted, the "Donnellson" sign will be restored, and the cataloging of the historical artifacts will begin.

Lewiston is looking forward to applying and obtaining grants available from county, state and federal departments for the cultural or historical aspects of the restoration. With the partial restoration in place the depot will be a stop on the depot tour 1 and 2 October. With a lot of helpful volunteering the City Council hopes to be open for visits by next summer.



FRIENDS OF THE DONNELLSON LIBRARY

FALL BOOK SALE

FREE-WILL DONATION

WHEN: October 8, 2022, 8:00 - 4:00

WHERE: Donnellson Tax & Accounting Service
406 N Main Street (Parking lot)
Donnellson, IA

PATRONS WILL HAVE A CHOICE OF COLLECTIONS OF CHILDREN AND ADULT FAVORITES, CLASSICS AS WELL AS SELECTIONS OF COOKBOOKS, GARDENING, HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, AND MILITARY TOPICS.

OKTOBERFEST

OCTOBER 08, 2022

Time is getting closer for the Friends huge book sale and with the donations to date, there will be "something for everyone". The Friends of Donnellson Library will be holding their second book sale of 2022, Saturday October 08 from 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the Donnellson Tax & Accounting Service, 406 Main St. just across from the Donnellson Library.

All books are sold for a free-will donation. In addition to the items listed above in the Oktoberfest poster there will be the categories of Movies and Music.

The Friends look forward to seeing our second highly successful sale of the 2022 year. So, see you all on October 8th. ~**Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**

Richard L Proenneke Museum



Richard Proenneke, had a natural ability using his vision to capture a perfect composition with his cameras.

From the "Dear Jake Letters" Richard wrote to his brother in 1965-1966

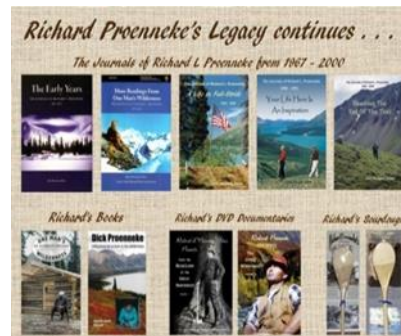
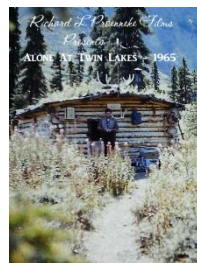
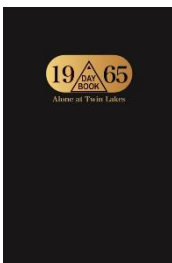
After returning from his visit at Twin Lakes, spending the last four weeks alone, Richard first returned to Kodiak, AK before heading to his homestead in Primrose, IA to spend the 1965/1966 winter. In the spring of 1966, after the passing of his Mother, Laura, in February, Richard was back in Kodiak, AK. During the month of March or April, 1966 appeared to be when Richard had his fateful accident nearly losing his eyesight. While helping a welder pour a big ladle of molten lead metal, they poured in a cupful and there was a big explosion. The molten metal came out - just like snow, only it was molten lead - hit him in the face, got into his eyes, particularly his right eye.

The first time Richard mentions the incident is in a letter to brother “Jake” dated June 11, 1966 where he states: *“Well, Wednesday my lady doctor says better wait till next Monday to go to work. I ask her if I must wait that long. She allowed I could stay home and help the wife or something. I said no wife and she says well how about somebody else’s wife. I came back and it wasn’t long until I found myself pulling on my coveralls and have been going ever since. Very sore eye lids gave me some trouble and that right eye still has a ways to go to see with the left one but it is gaining slowly. Funny thing I can see better when I tip my head back. The burns are doing real well and some that people said would mark me for life are nearly gone already.”*

His next letter to brother “Jake” dated June 23, 1966 Richard follows up on his progress writing: *“I am doing pretty good I think. All healed up and only a few scars showing that may take a few weeks to clear up. My eye has improved to the second line on the eye chart which is a big F & P if you remember. At the end of two weeks the big E was all I could make out. It is strange - if I tip my head forward I can see much more detail. Head lights and tail lights give me the most trouble. I see the light and a big flare to the left. I’m afraid I would have trouble on the freeway. An eye specialist Dr. Milo Fritz from Anch. is holding a clinic here at Kodiak four days next week and I will see him. My lady doctor says she can see no reason why it won’t come back to normal in time.”*

In a letter to brother “Jake” dated July 14, 1966 Richard writes: *“My eyes continue to improve slowly. Stinson no. N9510K tied up about 120 yards from my kitchen window is my test pattern. The past few days I notice the letters & numbers looking better with my right eye. In good light I can read them for a few seconds at a time. Graduated to line three on the eye chart. I can read line 6 with my left. Believe it or not at four inches I can see better with my right than left. Dr. Fritz said the surface of my eye is warped but didn’t mention anything that could be done to correct it other than let it go and wear glasses. Two doors down the hall from where he was holding clinic his buddy was running the physicians optical Co. I ask him if my eye could return to normal or near normal vision. He said it is possible. He tested my eyes for glasses and gave the dope to his buddy who said he would contact the insurance company and if they approved he would make me up a pair of safety glasses. I haven’t heard anything as yet. I have no trouble working except reading drill sizes and such. My eyes don’t bother in the least as far as getting tired or such.”*

Fortunately, Richard’s eyesight would return to near normal. His gifted ability using his vision and with his cameras would produce a multitude of amazing photographs and film we continue to enjoy today along with his voluminous writings in his Journals and letters.



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

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

September Suggested Reading

The Suggested Reading this month is *Zoology Understanding the Animal World*. This suggestion is, like many others, a combined reading/video offering from The Great Courses, a computer-available educational business which specializes in such courses. In the case of this current suggested course, the educational packet consists of 4 CDs (viewable on any player) holding 24 30-minute video presentations.

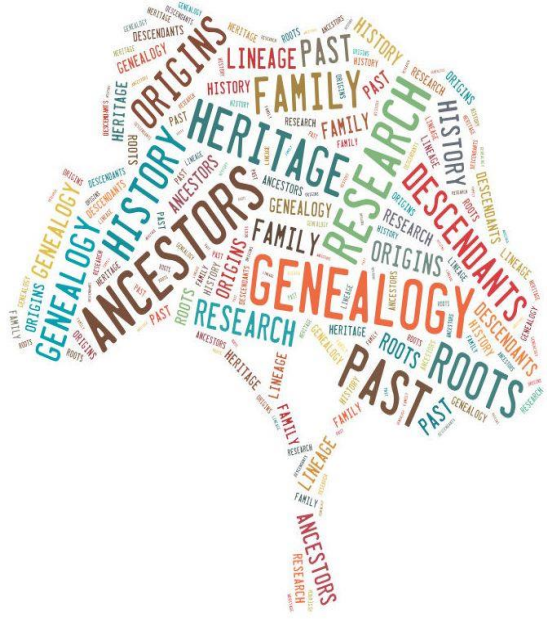
The course is presented by Dr. Donald E. Moore III, director of the Oregon Zoo and senior science advisor at the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute.

Dr. Moore received his Ph. D. in Conservation Biology from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He has worked as a scientist for conservation programs for the Assoc. of Zoos and Aquariums and helped implement the Elephant Trails and American Trail exhibits at the Smithsonian's National Zoo, as well as leading workshops in modern zoo management.

In the case of *Zoology*, the videos cover all manner of animals from ocean sponges to elephants, insects, birds, fish and reptiles, parasites, and etc. From mating and raising of young to evolution to feeding and survival, this course is both informative and entertaining. For anybody who enjoys our natural world and wants to know more about our fellow inhabitants, this is a must-see course.

~Written and submitted by Aaron Kruse

Local & Family History Department



~ The month of September was very busy for the Local and Family History volunteers. The Department received several visitors from out of state, several donations were received for future use in displays, and several interest genealogy requests were received for local and out-of-state residents.

In additions, obituaries continued to be alphabetized and made ready to be filed in the appropriate binders and files. Pat Morrison visited and always makes an additional contribution for our obituary records. In addition, Joyce Francis assisted Sharon Meierotto with filing of obituaries, many from the old years of late 1800's through the present day. All these projects are in addition to the monthly display as it plays an important role every month.

Donations Received:

Bradley Shark: Bradley Shark from Minneapolis, MN visited the Local and Family Department for several reasons. He wished to upgrade his father's side of the family since most of the genealogy was researched on his mother's Graf side. He also donated many school souvenirs from his mother's side. All will be filed appropriately for further view.

Loan to the Department:

Because of the interest the Ed Latta wood carvings has generated, the 300-piece beautifully framed wood carving of the Ora Latta residence in Burlington, IA created in 1985 will be displayed in the Local and Family History Department into the month of October. We have Doug Seyb to thank for this Latta display.

Genealogy Queries:

Christina Fairchild: Research continues with Christina from Angels Camp, CA regarding her requested information on St. Peters' Church and family names of Voss and Ewert. Photographs and the history of the St. Peter's Church were located and are in the process of being copied and e-mailed. Land record deeds will be researched at the **Lee County Clerk's** office for land, mortgage, and title deed records for the family names concerned with Voss and Ewert in Franklin Township. Due to the difficulty of the many spellings of a immigrant name coming to America, additional time is required to ensure the correct family is being researched.

Wendy Borgeson: Additional information of the Brooks/Kincaid families was forwarded to the requester. Land owned by the Kincaid Family was located on the maps of 1874 and 1897 as well as a photograph of the Waverly rural school class in the early 1900's. The photograph listed six of the Kincaid children. Wendy forwarded family photographs to be included in the family album

being created in the Local Family and History Department so others in the area related to the Brooks/Kincaid families can view the information. Her planned trip to the Donnellson area from nearby Missouri to visit with members of the Local & Family History Department has been postponed to the Spring of 2023 due to health issues.

In the meantime, research will continue for further information on family members as well as making a list of areas of interest for Wendy to visit when she does arrive in the Lee County area. She said it was important to her to know and see the areas her mother talked about and also meet family relatives who still live in the area as well as friends she made while attending Donnellson High School (graduating in 1947).

Local Cemetery of Beeler

A request was received from Beeler family members in the Keosauqua area to view the pioneer cemetery located on land owned by Aaron/Diane Kruse. Arrangements were made with the local Lee County trustees as well as the Pioneer Cemetery Commission to be present to answer any questions the family would have.

A Beeler file was located in the Local and Family History Department and because of the amount of information the file will become a family album. In addition, the Beeler family members left what they had researched over the years to be included in the new Family Album.

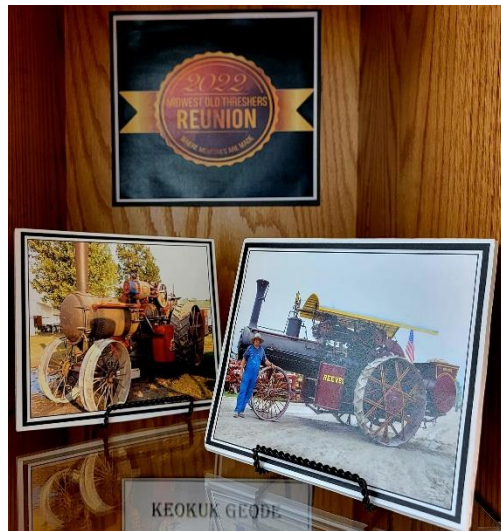
A meeting is planned for the near future to meet at the Local and Family History Department to present them with the copy of the map as well as a duplicate copy of the combined Beeler file.

To make things more interesting, the family members stated there are Beeler descendants in the Keosauqua/Cantrill area. With that in mind, the file will grow larger and members of the Local and Family History Department will receive an invitation to view their cemeteries which hold Beeler family members.

September Local and Family History Display

The September display covered the well-known Tri-State Rodeo Parade with “Shoeloose” as the grand Marshall, the Rodeo, Mexican Fiesta, the Keokuk Geode festival, the Nauvoo Grape Festival, and the Henry County Old Threshers gathering in Mt. Pleasant. Photos below are courtesy of *The Hawkeye* and Carole Landes Elston.





SHOELOOSE, THE GRAND MARSHALL OF THE 2022 RODEO PARADE

Upcoming Events

October Book Sale

The Oktoberfest Friends of the Library Book Sale is scheduled for the 8th of October outdoors and we are watching the weather. So far, the weather reports are on our side and believe we can look for a beautiful day with lots of sunshine. See if we are right as we are planning on a large crowd and hope to make this our best book sale ever. So, watch for the announcement on how we did in the October newsletter.

October Display

A topic for the upcoming October display is still undecided. A decision will be made in the next week.

Newsletter Editor- Diane P. Kruse