

411 MAIN STREET  
DONNELLSON, IA 52625  
FAX/TELEPHONE: 319-835-5545  
E-MAIL: [donnibr@iowatelecom.net](mailto:donnibr@iowatelecom.net)  
WEB SITE: [www.donnellson.lib.ia.us](http://www.donnellson.lib.ia.us)

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Issue #195

## THANKFUL NOVEMBER



**“Libraries are the mind and soul of their communities, and librarians are the mind and soul of the library.” ~ American Library Association (ALA)**

### **Library Happenings**

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

### **We thank Our Generous Donors:**

Lorene Boyer Memorial, Deb Nagel & Barb Schau (Adopt-a-Books). If there are books, authors, magazine subscriptions, or newspaper subscriptions you would like to adopt for the library, please mention it to the librarian on duty. She will take down the title/author, your name, and your number so we can get back to you on the adoption status and price. Thank You!

## Preschool Story Hour

This past month we read books about Halloween, Dogs, Snow, and Thanksgiving! We love having local daycares when they can make it. Having a bigger group adds energy and fun. The kids especially enjoyed the snow stories since the weather was in cooperation.

## Senior Crafternoon



Flower in a basket we made for November were really nice. Big thanks to Victoria Matlock and the Montrose Health Center! The next Senior Crafternoon will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 and is titled Christmas in a can.

## The Donnellson Book Core

The book club met on Monday, November 21, to discuss *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk* by Kathleen Rooney. Most of the members enjoyed the book. It's based on a real woman who lived in New York in the 1930s. She was successful in writing in the advertising field. She had one son from a failed marriage. She ended up in a mental institution and received shock therapy. The book discusses these memories as she is taking a 10-mile walk on New Year 's Eve. This brought up discussion about the role of women in business in the '30s, mental health institutions, and safety of walking in the winter at night on New Year 's Eve in New York among other subjects.

Next month's book is the classic *A Call of the Wild* by Jack London. **Here is what Goodreads has to say:**

**First published in 1903, *The Call of the Wild* is regarded as Jack London's masterpiece. Based on London's experiences as a gold prospector in the Canadian wilderness and his ideas about nature and the struggle for existence, *The Call of the Wild* is a tale about unbreakable spirit and the fight for survival in the frozen Alaskan Klondike.**

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.

## December Library Activities

10 - 2 p.m. December 3rd

Mrs. Klaus photo

Call to reserve a session for your group

11:30 a.m. December 2nd, 5th, 9th, 12th, 16th, 19th, 23rd, 26th, & 30th

ENERGIZE, DVD lead exercise group

Every Monday and Friday

10 a.m. December 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th

Story Hour

5:00 p.m. December 13th

Chalk Screen Ornament class

12 spots available, call to register

3:30 p.m. Crafternoon December 14th

By Lee County Floral

Sponsored by Montrose Health Center

Call to register

1:00 p.m. Pie Making Demo & Give Away December 17th

By local author Beth Howard

She will have her newest book *World Piece* for purchase signing.

7:00 p.m. December 19th

Book Core

Discussing "The Call of the Wild" by Jack London

Picking-up "The Lost Vintage" by Ann Mah

1:00 p.m. January 19th

CARDS has been canceled for December

1:30 p.m. December 21st

Early Out Activity – Gingerbread & Ornaments

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. - Writers' Bloc

CLOSED December 24th & January 2nd

Holidays

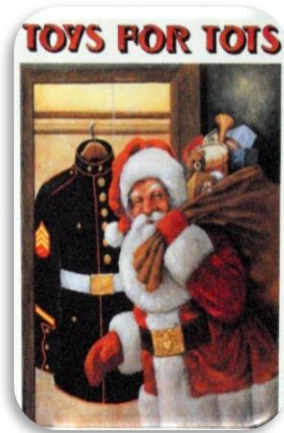
1:00 p.m. December 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

Kids Holiday Activities

28<sup>th</sup> Puzzle Activity

29<sup>th</sup> Lego Activity

30<sup>th</sup> Movie Activity



### **Toys for Tots Update**

This Donnellson Library has always been a collection point for giving and helping those who are less fortunate than themselves, especially the children. Since Christmas is just around the corner, the Donnellson community to date has been very generous with their donations to the annual U.S. Marine Corps program. The closing date for donations is December 22.

If you would like to bring joy and happiness to a child there is still time to donate. Please drop off your unwrapped toys at the library during regular business hours: Monday-Friday from 11:30 to 7:30 and on Saturday from 10:00 to 3:30. Thank you to all who have donated to date and Merry Christmas.

### **MRS. CLAUS PLANS A DEFINITE VISIT TO DONNELLSON LIBRARY**



#### **Friends of the Library Team begin preparations for Mrs. Claus' Visit on 3 December**

We were very happy to learn Mrs. Claus and three of her elves will be coming to the Donnellson Library to visit with the kiddos as promised. Decorations of two lighted Christmas trees, teddy bears, Christmas books, and treat bags with cookies, candy canes, and an orange will be ready by the time she arrives at 10 am on December 3. The library personnel look forward to greeting Mrs. Claus and her elves for an entertaining visit. If you wish to meet Mrs. Claus, please call the library to make an appointment during normal business hours Monday-Friday 11:30-7:30 and Saturday from 10:00-3:30.



The Writers' Bloc meeting was held November 16 in the Donnellson Library Local and Family History Department. Attending were Jan Blankenburg, Diane Kruse, Marty Miller, and Tom Moller. Like last month, before the meeting started we had a surprise visitor – this time Mr. Bruce Carlson who is a local publisher of ghost stories. He not only publishes local stories but also travels across the country if he is aware of a “good story”.

As our guest we asked Mr. Carlson to start off the meeting to share any new writings he found and published recently. He stated he had one book on his mind which he would like to publish if the

writer had a copy of the draft manuscript on the Texas Hill Country. The writer was contacted but unfortunately the manuscript was not located due to the passage of time. The draft was written back in 2015.

Even though Mr. Carlson was disappointed at the news, he said he would like to stay for the meeting to hear what members of the group have written over the years.

Tom Moeller shared a book of his poetry printed for him by his daughter. Mr. Carlson mentioned to Tom he would like a copy of the poetry book since he also loves poetry. Tom gave him an autographed copy.

In addition to poetry and writing musical lyrics, Tom also shared a sketch book because he loves to draw. He decided instead of cutting photos out of magazines to go along with his poetry, he plans to sketch the “picture” to explain his words of poetry.

A surprise letter entitled “You Better Watch out” from Santa Claus was received before the meeting and Jan had opportunity to read it to the group. Jan passed the letter to Tom as a reminder he better watch out since Santa is watching. As it turned out, of course, it was a joke and Jan admitted she was the author of the letter.

Jan shared her *Country Echoes* Essays and Poetry book with Mr. Carlson, since he loves poetry, as well as the six books she has written over the years. She also mentioned she is working on another poetry/essay book with her granddaughter Nima.

Marty wrote a short story entitled *Lost In Thought – Memories of Yesterday*.

Our Writers’ Bloc group meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 December meeting will be December 21 in the Local and Family History Room.~ **Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**

## **November Suggested Reading**

Synthetic Biology *Life's Extraordinary New Worlds*

This month's selection is another offering from The Great Courses, 18 half-hour lectures on a very new field of study which seems to hold great promise on everything from controlling mosquitoes to repairing coral reefs; genuine beefsteak without cows; enhancing computing speed to increasing computer memory; repairing damaged hearing to making designer clothing from cells; and repairing bodily damage and curing diseases from cancer to viral infections (COVID-19, HIV, Ebola?). Interestingly, much of the curing process involves modifying viruses to do good work instead of bad.

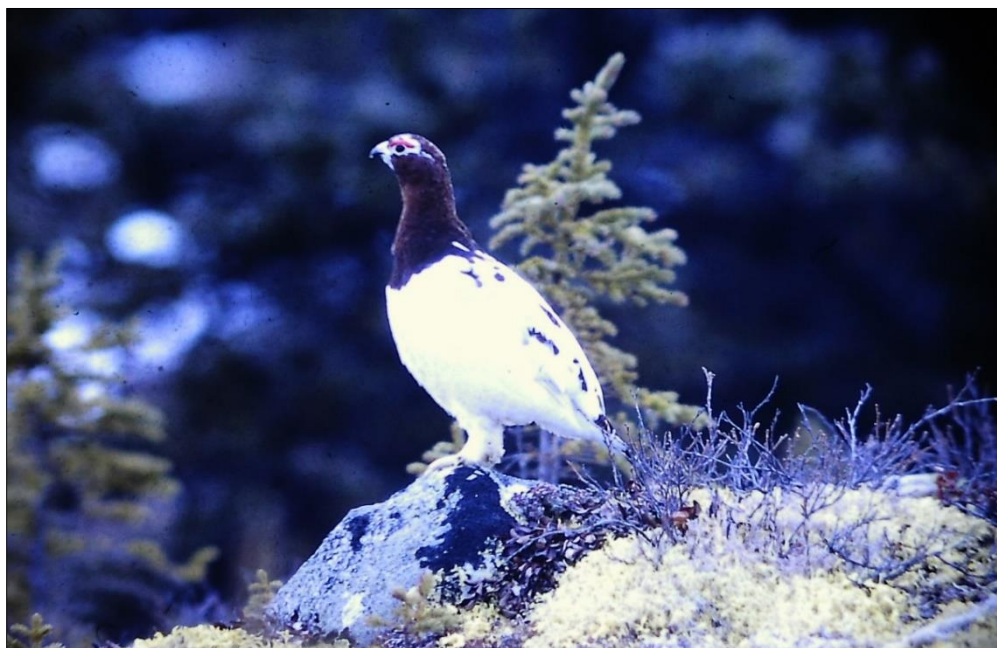
Covering all the bases, this selection branches out into survival in space and preparation for planned outposts on the moon and Mars; new carbon-free fuels; rescuing endangered species and reviving extinct ones (with the Woolly Mammoth as the centerpiece); and the possibility of actually creating new life forms.

A step-by-step section on how to de-extinct a species clarifies this process, and a very good chapter on RISKS inherent in this entire Synthetic Biology process provides a no-holds-barred caution to readers, including the risks of the process being used for evil by criminals and terrorists.

The course is presented by Mr. Milton Muldrow Jr., Director of Natural Sciences at Wilmington University. Muldrow is also an associate director of the NASA Delaware Space Grant Consortium. He earned his PhD in Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason University. When not teaching and lecturing in his area he owns a biotech and educational business called Phantom Ecology.

If you have an interest in science, wonder about how modern medicines are made, or just enjoy a good science fiction story, this is a fascinating course and an eye-opener for budding young scientists and anybody with an active curiosity. ~**Written and submitted by Aaron Kruse**

### **Richard L Proenneke Museum**



Male Spruce Grouse in winter coat - black head and neck with a red comb over the eye. Also known as "spruce hens or chickens" or "fool hens".

*Richard's Thanksgiving Celebration at Twin Lakes*

#### **From "The Journals of Richard L Proenneke 1981 – 1985 – A Life In Full Stride**

**Nov. 25, 1981** - At my checking station I brushed 4 inches of new snow from the big elevated log. The total for Nov. till now a little better than 16 inches.

A few chunks busted and my water in I called it enough for this day before Thanksgiving. Supper and some reading from the book *Arctic Wild* by Lois Crisler before my journal entry. After supper the temp. was 18° and now (8 PM) 22°. It is overcast and I can hear the wind on the mt. across. This morning with the sun bright I glassed for sheep trails. I could see sign of their digging above the gorge of Glacier Creek.

**Nov. 26, 1981 Overcast, Breeze dn. & 30°** - Today being Thanksgiving would be a Twin Lakes holiday. Clean my carpet. Neaten things up a bit and read the book *Arctic Wild* while it snowed. It was in the early fifties and I was

on Kodiak when I heard a man and wife team following and filming a caribou herd on the main land. Later and still on Kodiak I read the paperback *Arctic Wild*. Now, after ten or fifteen years with the caribou I feel that I have something in common with them. I have seen what they have seen almost without exception.

I took my little turkey out of my cold box to thaw and found it frozen so hard that I doubted it would thaw by evening without help so I put it in a pan of cold water.

**Nov. 27, 1981 Partly Cloudy, Calm, & 17°** - Getting dark and snowing again as I put the bread in the tater baker oven. Plenty of water so I wouldn't get more. My wood supply for the night I closed the door and lit the cow barn lantern. I like it much better than the Aladdin. Burns maybe one fourth as much fuel. No mantle or cracking chimney problems. No noticeable heat and by sitting a half circle of foil behind it gives plenty of light for one person to read or write.

**Dec. 1, 1981 Partly Cloudy, Breeze up & 14°** - A couple years or more ago John Branson gave me a birch burl thinking I might want to carve a bowl from it. Started to once and found it pretty tough due to being dry. A couple days ago I noticed the thing for the umpteenth time and thought – how about soaking it in hot water for a day or two. So – I chucked it in my big 10 cup stew pot and applied the hot water. Left it on the stove day and night to tenderize. This morning I would give it a try with the gouge chisel. Soft, carved like green birch. I really scooped out the chips.

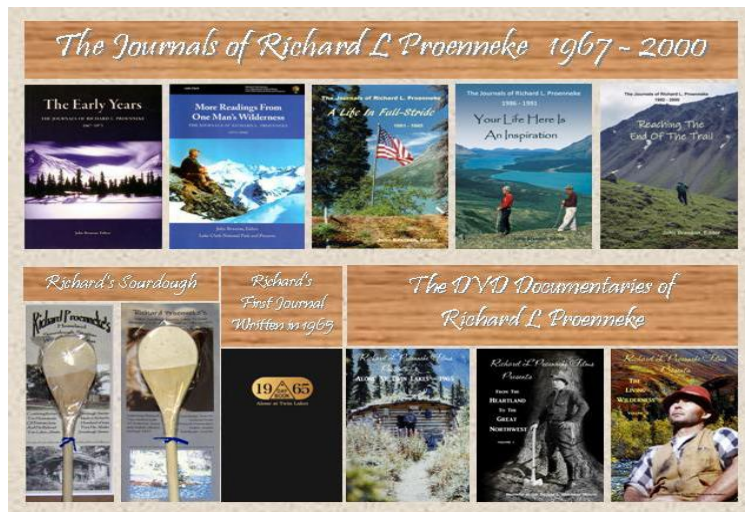
Snowing had slacked off but visibility was such that I couldn't see the lower end of the lake. Sheep country didn't look too bad what I could see of it. The temp. not climbing any and that is a sure sign that it intends to go down come sunset if not before. I scooped that burl right down to a thin shell before deciding to let it dry some and see what developed.

Back to my wood hauling intending to get only a load or two. The trail partly drifted in and it took one load to get it in shape. So – I made another and another. Never a better time for sledding. Morning would see it drifted full so I brought the last load back in near darkness. Still had my water to fetch and wood to pack. It was five when I called it good. Sunset is 3:45 as of tomorrow afternoon. Sunrise at 9:00.

While hauling wood I went on up the trail to my snow measuring station. Just exactly 4 inches since I brushed the big log section clean yesterday afternoon.

Now at 7:30 the breeze has calmed. A few flakes of snow drifting down and the temp. 8° under a cloudy sky.

*Richard L Proenneke's Legacy continues . . . . .*



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)

## Thankful for Our Veterans: A Special Tribute

They sacrificed the comforts we enjoy;  
The list is long of all the things they gave.  
Our veterans are extraordinary people;  
They're loyal, dedicated, true and brave.

When terror and invasion were real threats,  
They showed us they could handle any storm.  
We owe our freedoms and our very lives  
To our veterans, who served in uniform.

Our veterans should be celebrities;  
They're exceptional; no other group compares.  
We're grateful for the many things they've done;  
They're always in our hearts and in our prayers.

We owe our veterans support and friendship;  
Let no one ever question what they're worth.  
These men and women served us and our country,  
Our veterans--the very best on earth. ~ Joanna Fuchs



## Local & Family History Department



~ The month of November was a busy time for 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 interesting genealogy requests were completed. Diane Kruse made a visit to the Franklin Independent schoolhouse, escorted by Tom Moeller, local Franklin Board member, to gather information and take photographs for her upcoming book on Lee County rural schools. Tom donated a Franklin school memory plate, which was used as a fund raiser in 1976 to maintain the schoolhouse, to the Department.

~ In addition, obituaries continued to be alphabetized and made ready to be filed in the appropriate binders and files. Pat Morrison visited and as always made an additional contribution for our obituary records.

~ All these projects are in addition to the monthly display which plays an important role every month.



**Donations Received:**

Mrs. Janet Adkisson Mills donated two boxes of lovely obituary memory cards from her collection. The memory cards, truly a unique keepsake to celebrate the life of a loved one, will be filed in a separate binder by year of death under the title of Memory Cards. A thank card was sent to Janet to thank her for her contribution.

**Loan to the Department:**

The Department has kept a 300-piece beautifully framed wood carving of the Ora Latta residence in Burlington, IA created by Ed Latta in 1985. We have Doug Seyb to thank for this Latta display.

**Long Distance Genealogy Queries:**

**Wendy Borgeson:** Research on the Brooks/Kincaid families have been completed as much as possible and forwarded to the requestor. 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. Her planned trip to the Donnellson area from local Missouri to visit with members of the Local & Family History Department has been postponed to the Spring of 2023 due to health issues.

**Christina Fairchild:** Christina's inquiry is still pending due to the difficulty of the many spellings of an immigrant name coming to America and additional time is required to ensure the correct family is being researched in the **Germans to America Lists of Passengers** volumes. Research continues with her requested information on St. Peters' Church and family names of Voss and Ewert. Land record deeds continue to 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.

**Visitors during November:**

Alan Spohnheimer, a former resident of Donnellson now living in Ames, Iowa, visited the Local & Family History to share photographs and family history information. The family history information is quite extensive and will be placed in a Spohnheimer Family album. Mr. Spohnheimer plans another visit to the Donnellson area at a later date to add more family information.

Kara Bender from St. Louis, Missouri stopped by over the Thanksgiving holiday to do more research on her family tree of Handrich, Dieffenbach, and Krehbiel. Kara came to Donnellson in July of this year for a short visit but was unable to stay longer to research all the documentation located in the Local & Family History Department. Many pages of family information were found this time and copied. With a few things still outstanding, another trip will take place after the new year.

### November Local and Family History Display

The October display entitled **Scenes of Autumn** was held over into November as it was a very popular and colorful library addition. The photographs covered the fall season with colorful trees, pumpkins, apples, and the fall harvest of seasonal beans and corn.



### Upcoming December Local and Family History Display

The December Christmas display is another favorite feature of the Local & Family History Department. Patrons will see the popular figures of Santa, Mr. Snowman, and the Christmas carolers. In addition, special additions of a Very Beary Christmas, Christmas Gnomes, an Angels' Choir, and a snow scene will be featured. When you visit the library, please stop by the display case to get a glimpse of the Christmas season.



Newsletter Editor: Diane P. Kruse