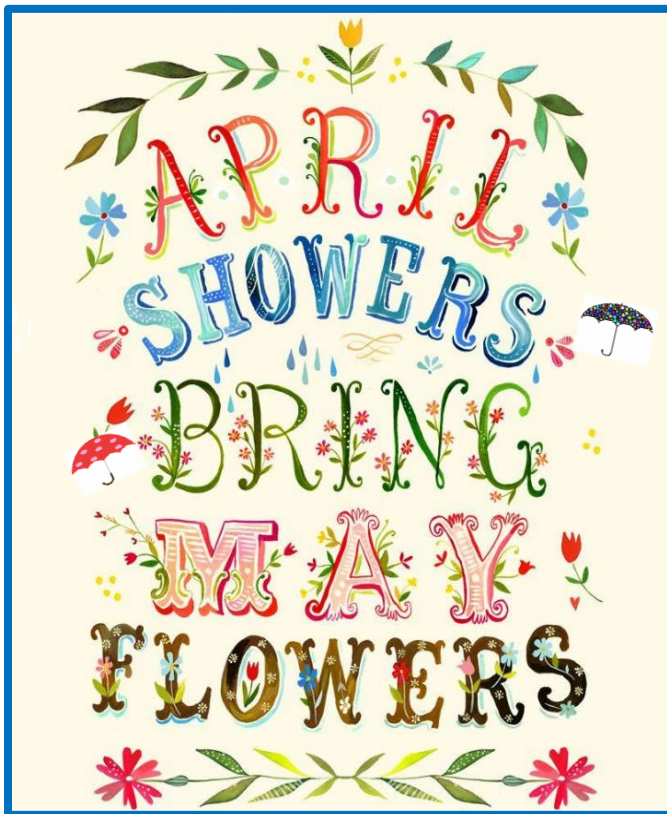


DONNELLSON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER  
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WEB SITE: [www.donnellson.lib.ia.us](http://www.donnellson.lib.ia.us)

April 2021

Issue #176



When April showers may come your way  
They bring the flowers that bloom in May  
So when it's raining have no regrets  
Because it isn't raining rain you know  
It's raining violets

And when you see clouds up on a hill  
You know they'll bring crowds of daffodils  
So just keep looking for a bluebird  
And listening for his song  
Whenever April showers come along

And when you see clouds up on the hill  
You know there'll be crowds of daffodils  
So just keep looking for a bluebird  
And listening for his song  
Whenever April showers come a-long...

~ April Showers Lyrics by Judy Garland

### Library Happenings

**“Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better.” ~ Sidney Sheldon (1917–2007), an American writer**

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

## **Come on Back To Your Public Library**

We would love to see our patrons come back to our beautiful library. We know that during the height of the pandemic, when case numbers were high, and we had to reduce our hours, or were closed by government directive, people could simply get out of the habit of visiting the library. But now most of the staff is fully vaccinated, and we are feeling good about getting our numbers back up. We still require mask-wearing for the safety of our kids, and others who could not be vaccinated for other health reasons. We still require hand sanitizing, and social distancing. But we are finally re-bounding from a most unprecedented year. Check out our many new books and come on back to the Donnellson Public Library. Our hours are 11:30-7:30 Monday through Friday, and 10:00-3:30 on Saturday.

## **Summer Reading Program: Reading Colors Your World!**

As I announced in the last newsletter, our Summer Programming will take place outdoors this year to avoid overcrowding among the youngsters, who have not yet been eligible for vaccines. On Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m., beginning June 8, we will debut *The Outdoor Book Corps* for kids ages 2-5. This will be a fun Story Time with movement activities and take-home coloring pages. On Wednesdays, also at 10:00 a.m., we will have a program for kids ages 6-12, also outdoors, and will focus on reading chapter books, and a take home craft or STEM experiment based on our theme. We are purchasing a speaker and microphone set so that we can be heard above the Main Street traffic. These programs will be right in the library's front yard. We ask that each kid brings a backpack, with a mask, a towel to sit on, a bottle of water, or any snack they are allowed to have. Every week we will have a drawing for an art kit, and an art activity with free art supplies for kids to take home in their backpacks. *The Outdoor Book Corps will be cancelled any day there is severe weather or rain, or if one of our programs in the park is scheduled for that day.*

### ***Live, Free Entertainment for All Ages! Wear Your Masks!***

We will also have the following special programs, appropriate for all ages held at the Railroad Park Shelter House, (except for Sheltered Reality, a rock band.)

Absolute Science: Fun with Bubbles! 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 9

Iowa State University Insect Zoo: 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 7.

The Blank Park Zoo: 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 14.

Sheltered Reality: 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 21. *They will take the "stage" on the Library's front porch! Bring your towel to sit on!*

***Every child attending the Library's programs must have a form signed by their parent or guardian on file. No exceptions. The Form can be found in the brochure for the Summer Reading Program, available now at the library.***

*Watch this space for news about the Teen Book Club. We hope to re-start the teen book club and meet at the park this summer.*

## **New Website is on the Way**

The State Library of Iowa and the Institute for Museum and Library Services is providing a new platform for library websites state-wide. These will debut in June and early July. Our website will still be located in the same place: [www.donnellson.lib.ia.us](http://www.donnellson.lib.ia.us). Enjoy our updated look, soon.

## **The Donnellson Book Core**

The Donnellson Book Core is reading *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn for the May 17<sup>th</sup> book discussion. **Here is what Goodreads has to say about this historical novel:**

*In an enthralling new historical novel from national bestselling author Kate Quinn, two women — a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947 — are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption.*

*1947. In the chaotic aftermath of World War II, American college girl Charlie St. Clair is pregnant, unmarried, and on the verge of being thrown out of her very proper family. She is also nursing a desperate hope that her beloved cousin Rose, who disappeared in Nazi-occupied France during the war, might still be alive. So, when Charlie's parents banish her to Europe to have her "little problem" taken care of, Charlie breaks free and heads to London, determined to find out what happened to the cousin she loves like a sister.*

*1915. A year into the Great War, Eve Gardiner burns to join the fight against the Germans and unexpectedly gets her chance when she is recruited to work as a spy. Sent into enemy-occupied France, she is trained by the mesmerizing Lili, code name Alice, the "queen of spies", who manages a vast network of secret agents right under the enemy's nose.*

*Thirty years later, haunted by the betrayal that ultimately tore apart the Alice Network, Eve spends her days drunk and secluded in her crumbling London house. Until a young American barges in uttering a name Eve hasn't heard in decades and launches them both on a mission to find the truth...no matter where it leads.*

Our book for June will be another work of historical fiction. *I will Send Rain* by Rae Meadows. Please let the librarians know if you would like to join the Donnellson Book Core, and write down your name, e-mail, and phone number for the club secretary.

## **Staff Changes at the Library**

We are so glad to welcome Victoria Matlock to the library staff. She brings so much positive energy, exceptional marketing skills, and great customer service know how to the library.

We are sorry to have to say goodbye to Sunny Robbins, who has worked at the library since 2016. Sunny was always a patron favorite and will be missed by all. We know we will get to see Sunny and her kids, all voracious readers, on their regular visits. Sunny took charge of the teen book club until the pandemic forced it to go on hiatus. We will miss her helpful, smiling face here at the library desk. Sunny will start a new job for the State of Iowa at the Department of Human Services shortly. Thanks, Sunny, for being as nice and cheerful as your name! Best wishes for your new career!



Sunny Robbins teaching a bread-making class in the winter of 2018.

### Writers' Bloc

The Writers' Bloc met April 21 from 1:00-3:00 P.M. in the library Local & Family History Department. Bloc members Jan Blankenburg, Marty Miller, Aaron and Diane Kruse welcomed two guests Elaine Foley and Margo Pedrick who shared some of their writings. Both guests read about some special personal experiences of the past. Both readings were thought provoking and generated questions.

Jan brought her 9<sup>th</sup> book of her poetry and prose collection. To make our guests aware of how they can share their writings with others, Jan noted she always sends a poem for five categories in the Iowa Poetry Contest and/or an article for *Country* magazine, which normally adds an appropriate photograph to make the article more interesting.

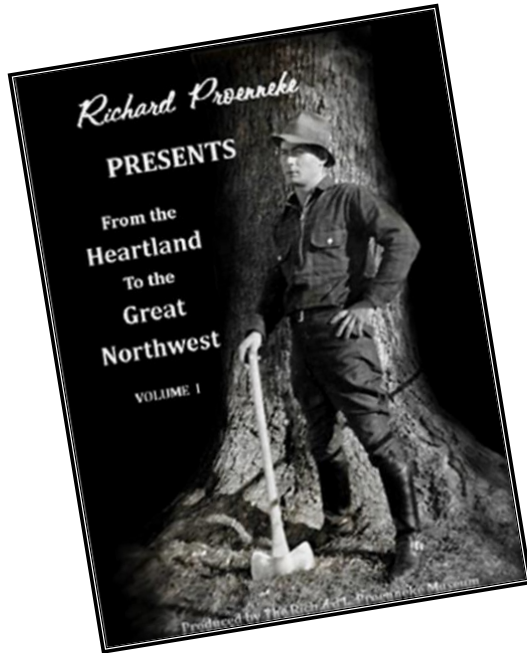
Diane mentioned she is still working on her rural schoolbook and compiles a monthly library newsletter. The newsletter has been a popular item for our patrons over the last 16 years.

Aaron, who is an avid reader, continues to contribute a monthly suggested reading for the newsletters.

Marty, who usually suggests unusual topics for group participation, suggested all write about what they would name their Roomba, if you had one. Since the Roomba is a hard working and clever robot which navigates the floor area, cleans it, can move from room to room, and find its own charging stations, select a clever name and tell why.

Members of the Writers' Bloc always look forward to meeting new members so if you are an aspiring writer please join us. The next meeting of the Bloc will be May 19 from 1:00-3:00 P.M.  
~ **Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**

### **Richard L Proenneke Museum**



### **COMING SOON! TWO NEW DVD RICHARD PROENNEKE DOCUMENTARIES!**

Documentary Volume I - "From The Heartland To the Great Northwest"

This Documentary represents Richard Proenneke's beginning into the art of film making from the very first attempts in the late 1930's at his home in Primrose, Iowa and his move to the Wilkinson Ranch in Heppner, Oregon in early 1940; the disruption of WW II and his entry into the US Navy; to Portland Oregon and his preparation to make the move to Alaska. The release is estimated for late spring/early summer. For more information and to pre-register please contact [brie@richardproenneke.com](mailto:brie@richardproenneke.com)

Documentary Volume II - "The Living Wilderness"

In this Documentary Richard, now living on Kodiak Island, AK, continues to document his life through film, recording his experiences at Kodiak, Sawmill Lake and Cape Chiniak. He would meet "Spike" and Hope Carrithers, Sam Keith, Babe Alsworth, Terry and Vic Gill. Entering a new path, Richard sets out on a new course at Twin Lakes, from the challenges of winter survival to salvaging a crashed plane. The release is estimated for late spring/early summer. For more information and to pre-register please contact [brie@richardproenneke.com](mailto:brie@richardproenneke.com)

## The Journals of Richard L. Proenneke



### LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Richard Proenneke Museum is looking for a volunteer to help with the wide variety of functions related to the Richard Proenneke Museum with flexible volunteer hours.

We are needing someone with the following knowledge/experience and should have basic computer skills in the following:

Microsoft Windows 10, Microsoft Word, 2010, Microsoft Excel 2010

Microsoft Office Publisher 2007 or higher would be helpful.

If you are interested in volunteering and being a part of a wonderful and unique experience, please contact:

**Brenda Knox, Librarian: [bknox@donnellson.lib.ia.us](mailto:bknox@donnellson.lib.ia.us)**

**Brie Anderson, Richard Proenneke Museum Curator: [brie@richardproenneke.com](mailto:brie@richardproenneke.com)**

### An April Suggested Reading

This month's selection is *The Outlaws*, a history of selected Old West outlaws and in part the members of their gangs. The material is gathered from interviews with law officers, in some cases former members of the gangs who knew the outlaws personally, newspaper articles, and personal letters.

The author is James D. Horan, a writer with at least 30 works both fiction and nonfiction who has received the Edgar Allan Poe Award, the Buffalo Award, and the Western Heritage Award. In his introduction, he notes he set out originally to 'penetrate the fog of mythology' which surrounds so much of the history of the Wild West.

In the course of his research, he found the outlaws by-and-large were decent people (when not engaged in their particular line of work) who believed in home and family, detested strong drink, and neither swore nor allowed others to swear in the presence of women. With that said, they were not Robin Hood figures, giving to the poor (except themselves) or punishing injustices. They were simply committed to earning their livings outside the law and were as ruthless as that line of work required.

*The Outlaws* covers such notables as the James-Younger Gang, The Daltons, Sam Bass, and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid in great detail and includes copies of newspaper articles and letters providing nearly endless detail about the lives and deaths of these much-glamorized villains.

Recommended for anybody interested in true Western lore vs. the Hollywood version. ~ **Written and submitted by Aaron Kruse**

**An Upcoming Event in June**

**FRIENDS OF THE  
DONNELLSON LIBRARY**

**Big  
Book Sale**

**!!SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY!**

**Free-will Donation**

**Something New: Pre-packaged snacks and water will be available. “Try a blind date with a book”. For the outdoorsmen, a good collection of hunting and fishing books. Children and adult favorites and audio books and DVD’s .**

**WHEN: June 19, 2021**

**WHERE: American Legion  
419 N. Oak St.  
Donnellson, IA**

**TIME: 8:00-3:30**

**Collections of favorite authors, cookbooks,  
gardening, hobbies, historical military and political,  
classics**

**MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING ARE  
RECOMMENDED**

**Local & Family History Department**

**"People are hungry for stories. It is part of our very being. Storytelling is a form of history, of immortality too. It goes from one generation to another." ~ Studs Terkel**

~ Two requests for genealogy research were received. The first request came from Gay Simpson of Medicine Lodge, Kansas requesting any information in our files which would help secure membership in the patriotic organization of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for a descendant of Anna Perkins, daughter of George W. Perkins a Revolutionary war hero now buried in the Sharon Cemetery in Lee County. Documentation found and sent to Gay included: a copy of *The Perkins Family* written by Charles Cruickshank, a descendant of Perkins; a copy of the relinquishment pension for his service which showed his daughter Anna Perkins Graves appeared before a Justice of the Peace in the State of Missouri, County of Lewis in 1853 by Earl P. Otto a descendant of Perkins; a copy of the Graves/Perkins newsletter to show their marriage; and photograph and program of the Dedication of the Monument to George Perkins at the Sharon Cemetery, Lee County, Iowa, May 28, 1907. NOTE: A historical article will follow on George W. Perkins later in the newsletter.

The second request was from Kim Townsend Spangrude requesting information on her 3X great grandparents who descended from a long line of devout Quakers and migrated from Pennsylvania



to Indiana, then to Iowa. Information requested centered around their devout Quaker faith and their residence in Lee County in Big Mound and Primrose. Information was researched but ended in not finding Kim's Townsend family members, although there were Townsend families located in the area. An additional request was forwarded with more information; therefore, further research is in progress.

~ During the month volunteers continued to keep the informational files expanding. Roberta Krehbiel continued to clip obituaries and sort through her many treasures of memorabilia to eventually pass on to the Local & Family History Department. Mary Davis continued to paste and sort obituaries from local Illinois, Missouri, and Van Buren County. Thank you, ladies, for your assistance in helping bring the information up to date for the month of April.

~ The new shelves installed have provided the needed space to expand our holdings for contiguous counties as well as local Illinois and Missouri obituaries and is filling up quickly. Information regarding all cemeteries pertaining to these obits, as well as the older obits previously filed, are contained in black binders along the top of the file cabinets. Another area of expansion house antique postcards, some high school annuals, and soon to be added photo albums of local families and other interesting areas of Donnellson.

~The large seven-volume Lee County Iowa Grave Registrations from the Adjutant General's Officer are now on file and ready for patrons' review. This set was copied by permission of the Keokuk Library and contains pertinent information for one's research of family members. The form entitled Individual Burial Record contains the DOB/DOD, burial place and cemetery and has space for any additional remarks regarding the grave site, family members, etc. If a family member is a Veteran, pertinent military information is also recorded.

~ Work continued to update the list of donated family albums. The Local and Family History Department has three shelves of family history albums for patrons' use for family research. To date, the department count is 100 albums. The family albums are filed in alphabetical order in the rear of the room on the lower shelves. If you have a family album you would like to donate, we will be happy to accept your copy or make a copy and return the original to you.

~ Jane Krebill continued to consult and work with the BNSF to acquire grant funds to do a major upgrade of the Donnellson Depot.

### **Remember When?**

Below is a photo of the West Point, Iowa baseball team circa 1905. The photo came from *Remember When?*, December 1972 on loan to the Local & Family History Department by Jane Krebill. Players are listed beginning with the front row, left to right: Joe Fichtenkort, pitcher and shortstop, Dall McCannon, second base, Muggins Goebel, catcher, and Bennie Goebel, pitcher and center field. Back row, left to right: George Wilson, third base, W.J. (Bill) Wilson, shortstop and center field, Ray Hall, first base, Gus Gram, right field, and Dave Sheets, left field. The team's playing schedule included Donnellson, Lowell, Fort Madison, and Bridgeport. The original photo belongs to Violet Wilson Kaltefleiter.



### **The Historical Background on Revolutionary War Hero George W. Perkins**

George W. Perkins was born in the Blue Ridge mountains of South Carolina on March 22, 1752. Little is known of his ancestors or parentage, other than they came from England. The Old Pioneer Soldier followed the occupations of a hunter, trapper, tiller of the soil and in later years dressed skins and fur pelts and manufactured them into caps, gloves, and various articles of wearing apparel. In the year 1779 he was united in marriage to Keziah Manning in the state of North Carolina and had a son, Stephen Perkins and a daughter, Anna E. Perkins.

The records of the War Department state May 1776 as the date of his first enlistment from the State of South Carolina. Since it was customary during the War to enlist for periods, even so short as one month, George is recorded as having enlisted no less than nine times in the regular service from May 1776 to May 1780.

He subsequently lived in the states of North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky, and finally in 1837 he and his wife moved to the vicinity of Primrose then a part of the Wisconsin Territory to live with their only daughter, Mrs. Anna Perkins Graves. Here they both died and were buried in the McKeehan Cemetery, the cemetery close to the farm on which they had lived near Primrose.

In 1907 their remains were moved to the Sharon Cemetery, Lee County, where the State of Iowa erected a memorial monument to the memory of this Old Pioneer Soldier. The monument was “erected under the supervision of the Torrence Post, G.A.R.. at the solicitations of the Keokuk and Jean Espy Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, aided by the Lexington Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution.”



The front side of the memorial monument reads:

A Soldier of the American Revolution  
 Born in South Carolina, March 22, 1752  
 Died in Lee County, Iowa, November 27, 1840  
 Served Two Years under Marion Oree,  
 Brown and Robinson  
 South Carolina and North Carolina  
 Militias and Regulars

On the sub-base stone in letters is inscribed: Erected by The State of Iowa

On the backside of the main die is inscribed the names of the different societies and chapters, under whose supervision and solicitations it was erected.

### **Local and Family History Department April Display**

The April history display covered the history of April showers bring May flowers memorabilia for Mother's Day. Items on loan for the display are shared by Diane Kruse, Carole Landes Elston and Sharon Spiesz Meierotto, and Jan Blankenberg. The display will be shown through Mother's Day. Below were photographs taken by Carole Landes Elston from the display:





~ Newsletter Editor, Diane P. Kruse, [Retirees4Now@aol.com](mailto:Retirees4Now@aol.com)

