

DONNELLSON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER  
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Issue #179

**LEE COUNTY**  
**FAIR** SINCE 1841



### Library Happenings

**"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends: they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers." ~ Charles W. Eliot (1834-1926), American Academic and Former President of Harvard University**

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

We were proud to honor master carpenter John Hunold at our July Board of Trustees meeting for the fine cabinetry, bookcases, and wood trim in light oak that he designed and built for our library. Here is the article from the local newspapers:

“At the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Donnellson Public Library July 22, the members presented a plaque to master carpenter John Hunold for his work in cabinetry and casework for the new library. In her presentation speech, Director Brenda Knox noted that John donated many hours of time and labor for each job he bid in the new library. Volunteer Diane Kruse, from the Local and Family History Department also spoke of John's design skills, taking advantage of the space in the room to keep it looking professional and uncluttered. He and Diane also designed the large glass-fronted display case just outside the door of the department.

John Hunold has been building cabinetry for people in Lee County for over 35 years and has a keen eye for choosing the best oak lumber and hardware accessories. He grew up helping his father with similar work. The Library Board gave him an engraved wooden plaque with carpentry tools depicted on it, to be mounted in the library.”



**John (center) is pictured holding his plaque with Trustee President, Allison Krehbiel, and Local and Family History volunteer, Diane Kruse.**

### **Doug Seyb Donates Subscription to Pulitzer Prize Winning Iowa Newspaper**

Local farmer and well-read county resident Doug Seyb donated a year's subscription to the Storm Lake Times to our library. Doug is well-known for appreciating good journalism. The Storm Lake Times Editor, Art Cullen, won the prestigious award for a series of his editorials, mostly published in 2017. His award-winning writing is featured in every weekly issue of this newspaper. The paper is shelved directly below our local papers, the Daily Democrat, and Daily Gate City in the reading area in front of the Proenneke exhibit at the library. Thanks, Doug, for this generous and thought-provoking donation to our library.

### **Memorial Donation**

The Donnellson Public Library kindly thanks the friends and family of Susie Easter for memorial donations to the library in the past two months. We appreciate the family of Susie, and especially her husband Jim, for thinking of the library.

**Summer Reading Program Winners. Hint: All were winners!**

In addition to an art or craft activity kids could take home each week, we had a drawing for kids to win an art kit! This went along with our theme: Reading Colors Your World. We had some great activities that were free to all kids at Railroad Park, and on the library's front porch, for those kids who did not want to come to our regular "Outdoor Book Corps" activities. Here are some highlights from the summer: Winners of Art Kits: (names withheld)





**Absolute Science Presented Bubbles! To the Kids for our First Outdoor Experience. Boy, did we have a messy good time! However, the presenter did not give us his secret recipe for bubble soap!**



**Here are pictures from the ISU Insect Zoo, which was a wonderful program. Josh and Rebecca presented some very fine-looking bugs to the kids.**



**Picture from the Sheltered Reality Show, where our kids got to join in on a drum line, with choreography! They had us dancing in the streets!**



### **New Faces at the Library!**

Stop in and say hello to some of our new staffers, Toni Peterson, and Shannon Schneider. These ladies are working part-time to cover for Gayle Austin, who broke her leg in late April. They will still be with as subs through the coming months. Both have been doing a great job and are fast learners!

### **The Donnellson Book Core**

The Donnellson Book Corps members enjoyed *Eligible* by Curtis Sittenfeld, which they discussed at the July Book Club. Since it was a modern take on *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, there was some discussion about the “likeability” of the sisters and the male protagonist. This was as it should be.

The selection for August is *Little Mercies* by Heather Gudenkauf. This popular book club selection has been discussed by several book clubs around the state this year. **Here is what Good Reads has to say:**

*Veteran social worker Ellen Moore has seen the worst side of humanity; the vilest acts one person can commit against another. She is a fiercely dedicated children's advocate and a devoted mother and wife. But one blistering summer day, a simple moment of distraction will have*



*repercussions that Ellen could never have imagined, threatening to shatter everything she holds dear, and trapping her between the gears of the system she works for.*

*Meanwhile, since her mother left, ten-year-old Jenny Briard has been living with her well-meaning but irresponsible father, sleeping on friends' couches and moving in and out of cheap motels. When Jenny suddenly finds herself on her own, she is forced to survive with nothing but a few dollars and her street smarts. The last thing she wants is a social worker, but when Ellen's and Jenny's lives collide, little do they know just how much they can help one another.*

*A powerful and emotionally charged tale about motherhood and justice, Little Mercies is a searing portrait of the tenuous grasp we have on the things we love the most, and of the ties that unexpectedly bring us together.*

Remember, the Donnellson Book Core welcomes new members. At the present, we can allow only 12 people at a time in our Activity Room for a discussion, but a zoom option is available if we get to be a larger group. Please leave your name, number, and e-mail for the discussion coordinator, if you are interested in joining the book club.

### Writers' Bloc



The July meeting of the Writers' Bloc was held at 1:00 p.m. 21 July in the genealogy room of the Donnellson Public Library. Attending were Jan Blankenberg, Marty Miller, and Diane and Aaron Kruse.

Marty led off with the opening essay of a series entitled 'Memories of Grandma's House'. The series will recall some of the houses she has lived in or which are of note to her for other reasons. She also read a part of a letter written by her grandmother to her husband-to-be which was offered to the group as an excellent example of courtly letters written in the early 1900s.

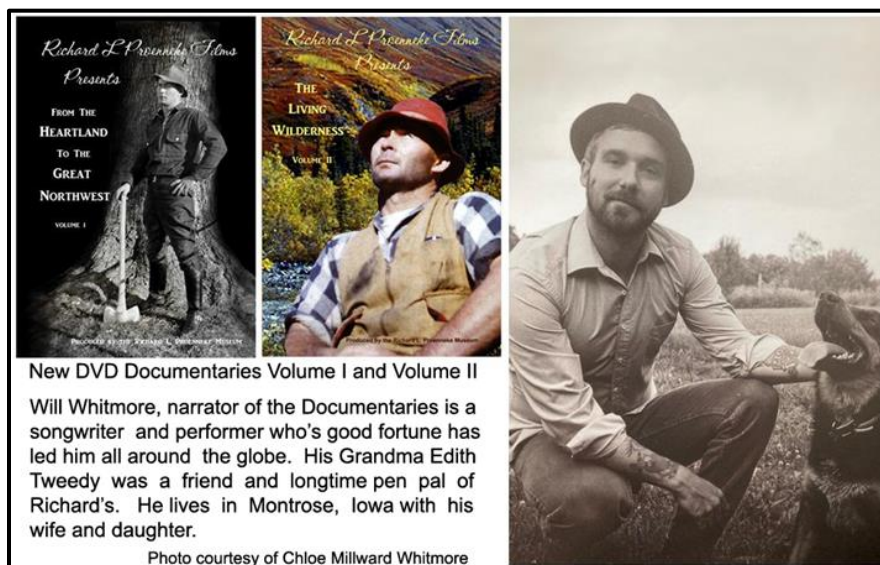
Following this, Marty read a limerick by Garrison Keillor, unusual for the fact it was written in the 'free style' (non-rhyming) often used today. This was followed by a poem Marty wrote titled The Perfect Garden: Three Views. The poem described the garden as viewed by an old man, a young rabbit, and a poet. Entertaining, to say the least.

Jan – very unusual – had no writings to offer, nor did Aaron. Diane presented a wrap-up on the two displays she did for July and early August, both of which won kudos for originality. Diane also mentioned the continuing trickle of information coming to her for her book on pioneer schools, one reason the book is not yet finished. Jan urged her to put the book in printed form in the genealogy room, even if unfinished. There is a lot of material useful for tracing families, and the book might serve as bait for those who have information the general public doesn't have, thus attracting more information for the book.

Diane promised to have the book on the shelf by the August meeting (don't hold your breath!).

The next meeting will be held 18 August in the library. ~ **Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**

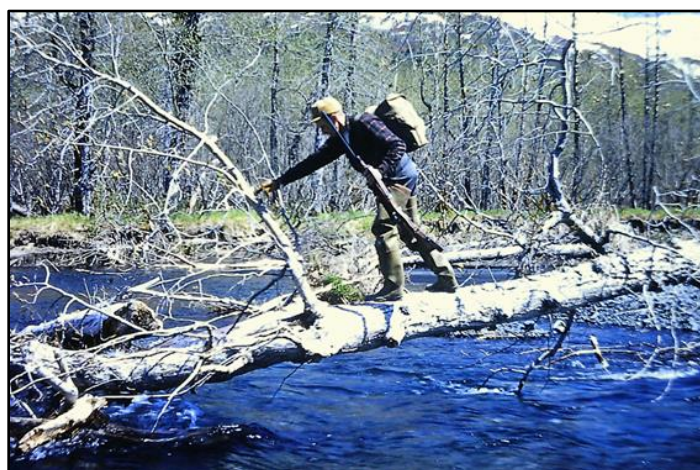
## Richard L Proenneke Museum



New DVD Documentaries Volume I and Volume II

Will Whitmore, narrator of the Documentaries is a songwriter and performer who's good fortune has led him all around the globe. His Grandma Edith Tweedy was a friend and longtime pen pal of Richard's. He lives in Montrose, Iowa with his wife and daughter.

Photo courtesy of Chloe Millward Whitmore



**Richard Proenneke with rifle in tow and a backpack crossing a fast-moving stream at Twin Lakes, AK**

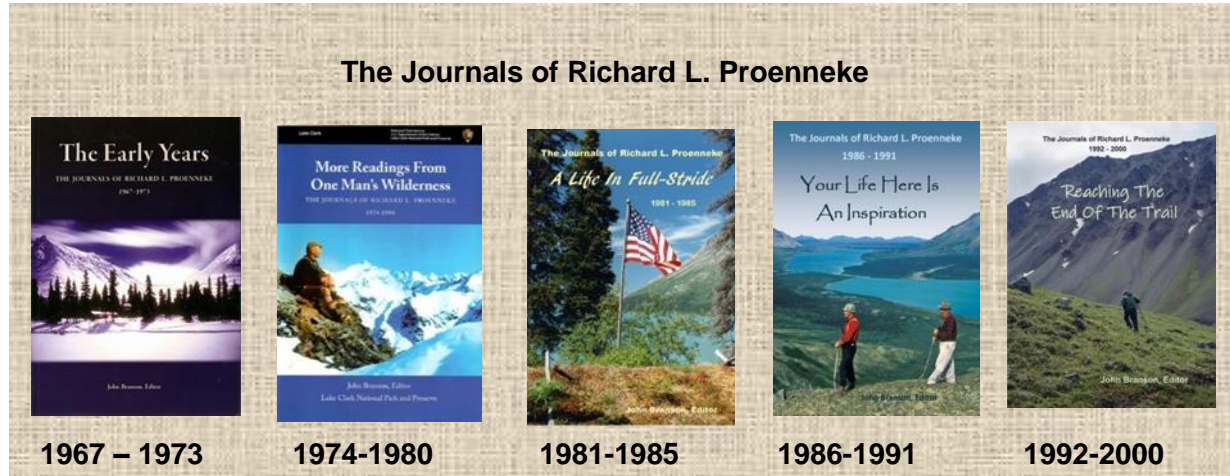
Having found the perfect spot for his future cabin in 1967, Richard began clearing the area where his cabin would sit. Beginning July 16, 1967, he began harvesting the logs he would use to build his cabin. He cut and peeled five logs that very afternoon, 15 the next day, and by July 20 Richard would have a total of 45 logs seasoning for over the winter.

To learn more about Richard's life, check out the two new DVD Documentaries "*From The Heartland To the Great Northwest*" and "*The Living Wilderness*" now available at our website [richardproenneke.com](http://richardproenneke.com) or at the Richard L Proenneke Museum in the Donnellson Library".

*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.

*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.



**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)**

**Friends of the Donnellson Library October Book Sale**



**FOR**



The Friends of the Donnellson Library will be sponsoring their second book sale of the year on Saturday, October 2nd from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the American Legion Hall at 419 N. Oak St.,



Donnellson, IA. The date was changed from the third Saturday in September to the first Saturday in October due to a scheduling conflict.

Since our first book sale in June was so successful, members of the book sale team plan to keep the same setup with books alphabetized by last name letter and larger collections will be sorted according to category. Since several of the new additions at the June sale were very popular, they will appear again along with perhaps one or two new surprises.

Friends are now accepting your donation of gently used books needed for the book sale. So, if you have books in good condition, please bring them to the library during business hours, Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. prior to the sale. Looking forward to seeing all our patrons in October. More information to come in the August and September newsletters. ~ **Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**

### **A July Suggested Reading**

The suggested reading this month is *The Birth Order Book*, subtitled *Why You Are the Way You Are*. Psychologists have long recognized that the personality development of children is influenced by no-one as much as by their parents. Speaking in general, a first-born child will tend to copy the parents in manners and behavior, extending this tendency into adulthood. The second child quite commonly goes the opposite direction, as though recognizing the slot of being a parent-copy is taken and the child needs to distinguish him/herself by being a parent-opposite. The third child, then, is often a wild card, going off on paths not expected by anyone.

Regardless of specifics, parents are any child's first, most consistent, and most important role models (whether the child is copying or resisting in behavior). Nowhere is this more strongly evidenced than in the growth in numbers in our current society of single-parent homes, where children are raised by a single parent, most commonly the mother. In large parts of our cities, boys – especially – are being raised without fathers and the frequency of these boys finding their way into juvenile delinquency and adult law-breaking highlights the criticality of role models.

*The Birth Order Book* goes beyond this phenomenon of children raised without a male model and examines the entire range of basic emotional models followed by the various children in a family and how these models are displayed for a knowing world to see. Examined are the first three children in a family, differences displayed in male vs. female at each position, the child born as fourth, fifth, sixth, etc., and the child born into a 'second family,' i.e., a family with one set of children followed only after a period of years by a second child or group (the 'surprise' child who comes along perhaps six years after the others are born).

The author of *The Birth Order Book* is Dr. Kevin Leman, an internationally known psychologist and radio/TV personality. He has made years of appearances in both mediums, including *Fox and Friends*, CBS's *The early Show*, and *Focus on the Family*. He has written more than 40 books such as *Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours*.

Highly recommended, especially if you've ever thought children are a different species. ~ **Written and submitted by Aaron Kruse**



## Local & Family History Department

*“In all of us there is a hunger, marrow-deep, to know our heritage – to know who we are and where we have come from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is still a vacuum. An emptiness. And the most disquieting loneliness.” ~ Alex Haley*

The month of July proved to be another very busy month for our Local and Family History volunteers. The Department received several visitors for research requests, logged in several donations, set up the Lee County Fair display for the month of July, and met with Carole Landes Elston and Ray Tull to gather ideas for their request for a display to celebrate their 1965 55<sup>th</sup> class reunion from 6-8 August. A few photographs will be displayed at the end of the newsletter and more will appear in the August newsletter.

~ Carrie Thompson and her mother Janice stopped by twice to acquire information on the Allen Family. In addition, other family lines connected to the Allen Family were researched in the Department along with their cemetery tours to locate family gravestones. Charleston Cemetery was the main cemetery of visitation.

~ Information from Dean Thomson was added to the Samuel Bentzinger Family album. In turn, information was returned to add to his family book. Information continues to be exchanged to date.

~ Information continued to be researched regarding a request from Lincoln Ekle for information about his great grandparents. Information was located and this month another request to research other members of the Ekle Family was received. Research continues.

~



During July volunteers continued to keep the informational files expanding even though not as quickly as previous months due to preparations for the upcoming display for the Lee County Fair and working on requests submitted for genealogy research. Photos of the Lee County fair are found at the end of this newsletter.

Sharon Meierotto continued to update Lee County obituaries and Diane Kruse continued filing the local Illinois, Missouri, and Van Buren obits. Roberta Krehbiel continued to sort through her many treasures of memorabilia to pass on to the Local & Family History Department. Thank you, Roberta, for your continued assistance during the month of July.



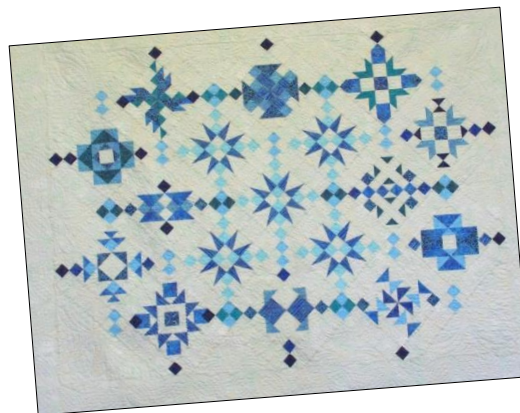
Mary Davis decided to discontinue her pasting and sorting of obituaries of local Illinois, Missouri, and Van Buren County for health reasons. Thank you, Mary, for your assistance over many years of dedicated volunteerism to the Local and Family History Department. We will miss you and wish you good health.

~ Work continued to update the list of donated family albums. The 100 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.

~ Work continued for Mary Ann Engel, daughter of Leonard G. Haase, e-mail request regarding an old *Madisonia* which mentioned her grandfather George Bentzinger and La Crew. She was also interested in finding out where her mother and grandmother taught a rural school, the Galland schoolhouse and its dedication. She noted her father was Superintendent of Schools and dedicated the replica schoolhouse. Information for this project is still being researched.

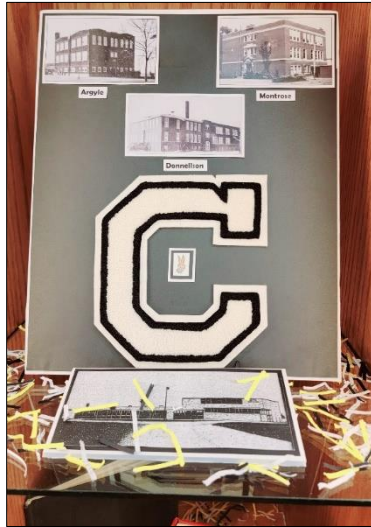
### Local and Family History July Display

Although a display was created in June through the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, with the Lee County Fair (7-12 July) right around the corner, another display was created to cover the oldest fair in Iowa. Below are a few photographs from the event in case you missed it. **Photos by Diane Kruse.**



## Upcoming Local and Family History Department August Display

Below are a few photographs from the August 1965 55<sup>th</sup> reunion display from material and photographs on loan from Carole Landes Elston and Ray Tull. Check the August newsletter for more information and photographs. The display will be available for review for another week.  
**Newsletter photographs by Carole Landes Elston**



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