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May 2023

Issue #201



**Lee Greenwood**

**“And I’m proud to be an American, where at least I know I’m free. And I won’t forget the men who died, who gave that right to me.”**

## Library Happenings

Library Happenings is written by the Director of the Donnellson Public Library, unless otherwise noted.

### Preschool Story Hour

Story time themes this month included: the wind, mother’s day, animals that are different, butterflies, and friends. There were a couple opportunities to travel to preschool or daycares to do a story time at their location.



## The Donnellson Book Core

The book club met on Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, to discuss *Little Beach Street Bakery* by Jenny Colgan. One book club member wrote her observation of the discussion:

There was a lively discussion of this book for a number of reasons. One of the characters was a puffin named Neal and everyone liked the puffin. He was a cocky little bird who was a good companion for Polly when she needed a friend. After her relationship fell apart with Chris, Polly had left London to live on an island where she knew no one. She had very little money and an apartment above an old building was the only place she could afford to rent. She liked to bake and that turned into her new business venture. She rescued Neil the puffin and he became her companion, and then she gradually made friends with the local fishermen, and with Huckle, an American who had a secluded cabin and was a beekeeper. A theme of the book was to find your passion, and follow it, even if it means giving up what looks like a more successful lifestyle.

This seems like a setup for a Hallmark movie, and that dominated much of the discussion. Was it a "fluffy" romance, or did it have more substance? Part of the discussion was the meaning of the word "fluffy". Almost everyone said they would recommend the book because it was both fluffy and had substance. We discovered that the author has three more Little Beach Street books. The group shared homemade bread made by Marty and Sunny, but it was not from the recipe in the back of the book. That recipe for "Easiest Bread Ever" did not turn out. Myrna made the author's recipe for Cheese Straws and Sweetcorn Fritters and they were very tasty. We do not usually have snacks, but this book gave us much to chew on!

~ written and submitted by Marty Miller.

Next month's book is a classic *The Butterfly Effect* by Rachel Mans McKenny. **Here is what Google Books has to say:**

*The Butterfly Effect* is an honest tale of self-discovery, about the behavior of bugs (and people), how they can be altered by high-pressure climates, confused by breakdowns in communication, and most importantly, how they can rehabilitate themselves and each other.

Anti-social butterfly, Greta Oto, prefers the company of bugs to humans. She gets along with her twin brother, but not other people in general. So when she lands a research gig in the rainforest, she leaves it all behind.

Greta learns that her twin, Danny, has suffered an aneurysm and is now hospitalized. She abandons her research and hurries home to the middle of nowhere America to be there for her brother. Coming home means confronting all that she left behind, including her lousy soon-to-be sister-in-law, her estranged mother, and her ex-boyfriend Brandon who has conveniently found a new non-lab-exclusive partner with shiny hair, perfect teeth, and can actually remember the names of the people she meets right away. Her

dissertation is now in jeopardy and being back home, it's all creating chaos of Greta's perfectly catalogued and compartmentalized world.

Join the Donnellson Book Core by letting the librarians know you are interested. We will get you the current book. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the library Activity Room.

### Senior Crafternoon

Big thanks to Victoria Matlock and the Montrose Health Center for the flower arranging session! The ladies had a great time.



The next Senior Crafternoon will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:30. Call the library to reserve your spot.

### June Library Activities

**Story Hour** for Preschool and School aged children (two age groups, one time)  
10:00 am Tuesdays June 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>

**Toddler Time** for 1-3 year olds  
10:00 am Thursdays June 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>

### 2:00 Summer Activities – planned for school aged kids

Mondays – Art

June 5<sup>th</sup> watercolors, 12<sup>th</sup> w/ Jeri Sparks, 19<sup>th</sup> drawing, 26<sup>th</sup> w/ Victoria Matlock

Tuesdays – Touch-a-truck

June 6<sup>th</sup> ambulance, 13<sup>th</sup> fire truck, 20<sup>th</sup> foam cannon, 27<sup>th</sup> police car

Wednesdays – Cooking with Toni

June 7<sup>th</sup> cream pies, 14<sup>th</sup> mini pizzas, 21<sup>st</sup> cini minis, 28<sup>th</sup> turnovers

Thursdays – Find your Voice activities

June 1<sup>st</sup> puppet show intro, 8<sup>th</sup> write your story, 22<sup>nd</sup> make music, 29<sup>th</sup> Lee County Conservation

Fridays – Movie “Lyle, Lyle Crocodile” June 2<sup>nd</sup> &

Legos June 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, & 30<sup>th</sup>

**TEEN Murder Mystery Lasagna Dinner (13+)**

6:00 pm Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>

**Crafternoon** - call library to RSVP

3:30 pm Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>

Sponsored by Montrose Health Center

**Writers Bloc**

1:00 pm Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>

**CARDS**

1:00 pm Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>

**Sheltered Reality – Drums** *Family activity*

4:00 pm Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>

**Board Meeting**

7:00 pm Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>

**Pour Paint Class** - cost \$5 - call library to RSVP

3:30 pm Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>

**Book Core** - discussing "The Butterfly Effect" by Rachel McKinny

7:00 pm Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>

**Foam Cannon** *Family activity*

2:00 pm Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>

**Friends meeting**

5:30 pm Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>

**Magician Makayla OZ** *Family activity*

6:00 pm Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>

**2023, May 3, Suggested Reading *Sisterhood of Spies* The women of the OSS**

Women across the world have generally played an important but unsung role in the lives of their homelands, including during wars, although generally not in direct military operations. The role of women in U.S. industry – while so many men were occupied in the military – has been covered in both literature and movies, but the role of women in both the military and national intelligence operations, especially during World War II, has been largely ignored.

This month's suggested reading is a masterful telling of the role women played in the intelligence world during the 1940s, to include both war and peacetime, and leading to an ever-growing role in all fields of intelligence.

The author is Elizabeth P. McIntosh, who relied on her own experiences in the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in the war years and later a full career in the Central Intelligence Agency beginning in 1958, plus interviews with a hundred other female OSS operatives, to tell this in-depth story of women on the front lines (and many behind enemy lines) in the intelligence business.

Women made up one-fifth of the total enrollment in the OSS, about 4000. They were recruited with such ready-made skills as cryptography, cartography, analysis, skills in propaganda, various forms of communication, languages, and secretarial skills. Add in employment such as clerks, parachute packers, drivers, and social skills allowing them to infiltrate enemy ranks, and it becomes obvious that women were indispensable to their services.

With a nod to Hollywood and fiction writers, Mata Hari was a real agent (code name 'Cynthia'). Another female agent ran an 'underground railroad' behind enemy lines in Europe to smuggle downed fliers out to their own side. Others were skilled recruiters of agents in foreign services, conducted propaganda efforts against enemy troops and leaders, mastered subversion techniques, and tracking and analyzing high-value targets.

The *Sisterhood* is rich in fascinating details of the women who lived years of their lives in 24-hour threat environments, working against enemies such as the vicious German Gestapo and SS commandos. An excellent and enjoyable lesson in history. ~ **Written and submitted by Aaron Kruse**

**Author at Work** 

The Writers' Bloc meeting was held May 17 in the Donnellson Library Local & Family History Department. Attending were Jan Blankenburg, Tom Moeller, Marty Miller and Diane Kruse.

Jan read several poems from the past to share with the group. The first poem entitled *Snow in the House* (about a gray and white cat) was lengthy but entertaining. Jan mentioned it could be categorized as a poem or a story. Another poem *The Sprawly Little Bunny* (written at a third grade level) always made children laugh. Then there was *How Sweet It Is*. Jan switched from poetry to tell the story of her Frick and Frack Shack, which at one time was the home to two pot bellied pigs. In memory, she named it 'The Frick and Frack Shack' which includes a man with the red hat.

Jan also informed the group she received a surprise phone call from a woman who lives in Jackson Hole, WY about her article in *Our Iowa* in the April newsletter entitled "One Stitch at a Time" which Jan wrote about her mother Elsie Beaudine. The caller enjoyed the article but what she noticed was interesting regarding the pair of hands with a wedding band on the right hand as she wears her ring on the right hand. It is a tradition usually for European men or women to wear the ring on the right hand after their spouse passes. If one of the spouses dies, the surviving partner often chooses to wear their wedding ring on their right hand because this is often a symbol of their undying love and symbol for their deceased partner. Jan ended by asking all present why they write. Everyone replied and had a different interpretation.

Marty mentioned her idea for speakers at the Donnellson Methodist Church during the month of June since none were scheduled. Rather than not having any speakers Marty suggested it would be interesting if the parishioners told their own stories about some interesting events called Nostalgia Sunday Memories written in a story format. Will report on the results at the July meeting.

Tom Moeller, who is a resident of Franklin, IA continues to work on his poetry concerning unusual residents of the town. For instance, rare white squirrels moved in several years ago. The group suggested since those residents are so unusual, he should write a poem and possibly get that “rare” photo so others can enjoy this most unusual animal. Will report at the June meeting.

Diane reported her book is with the printer for its second printing to include additions and corrections. At this point the printer will set up the manuscript with headers, page numbers, the copyright and ISBN, and examples of a cover selection. Once the writer and her editor review the second manuscript it will be returned to the printer with additions or corrections. ~ **Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**

**FRIENDS  
OF THE  
LIBRARY**

**Summer  
Book Sale**



Time is just around the corner for the Friends' huge book sale on Saturday, June 17 in conjunction with the city-wide Yard Sale Days in the parking lot of the Donnellson Tax & Accounting Service, 406 Main Street just across the street from the Donnellson Library. All books, movies, audio books, and music will be sold for a free will donation.

As usual with the huge donations to date, there will be “something for everyone”. 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.

Friends are still accepting donations of books which can be delivered to the back door of the library during regular business hours Monday-Friday 11:30-7:30 and Saturday from 10:00-3:30. We will not be accepting magazines, encyclopedias, old textbooks or condensed *Reader's Digests*.

The Friends look forward to another book sale with a selection of books from another large collection and seeing our first great success of the year. See you all on June 17. ~ **Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**

### **Richard L Proenneke Museum**

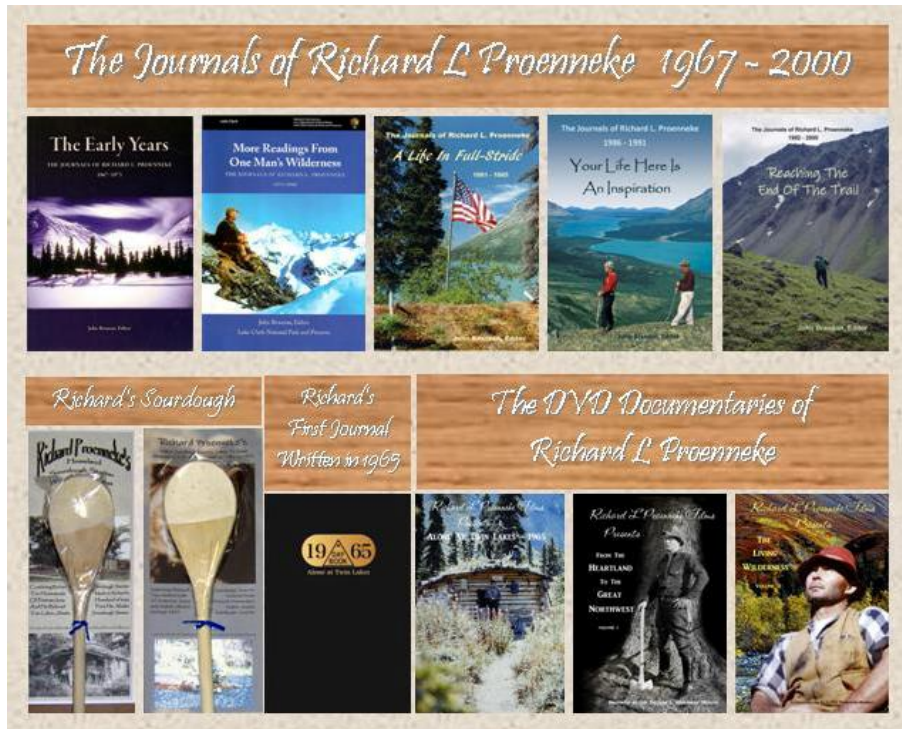


### **Central Lee Building Trades Class builds a shelter house for May's Park**

The Richard Proenneke Museum is proud to be a part of the new shelter house for May's Park. The group was busy this year working on various projects throughout the surrounding area. The projects provide the students with on the job training and experience that will hopefully serve them well in the years to come. Even though the school year ended before the job was finished, I'm told it will be completed in the next couple of weeks. We believe Richard

would be proud of the craftsmanship of the students in building this shelter house for the community. The dimensions of the shelter house are nearly the same as Richard's Twin Lakes Cabin.

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)



## Local Memorial Day Traditions

The most traditional events for the month of May is the Circle of Flags at the St. Pauls' UCC Evangelical Cemetery and placement of flags at the Sharon Church Cemetery to honor all 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, 64 large flags were flown in the circle and 95 small flags were placed at Veterans' graves. Flags were flown from Saturday morning until 6 P.M. on Memorial Day. This tradition began with a memorial in memory of Edward Dahms who died in 1982.

This year Charles Grossman of the Farmington American Legion and Larry Loney of the Donnellson American Legion, along with five Boy Scouts and three leaders, placed flags at the entrance to the Sharon Church Cemetery as well as at all the Veterans' graves to honor and remember those who served. Larry gave a memorial speech at the George Perkins gravesite. Born March 22, 1752 in the Blue Ridge Mountains of South Carolina, George Perkins is one of



five Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Lee County Iowa. Larry closed the ceremony by playing Taps to honor all.

Another tradition begun by Larry several years ago was playing Taps on Memorial Day Weekend at the Donnellson Race Track. Thank you and a salute to all who participated in these three very special traditions.



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

**Local & Family History Department**



During the month of May members of the Local and Family History were occupied again accepting donations, obituaries, and corresponding with researchers. Obituaries continued to be alphabetized and made ready to be filed in the appropriate binders and files. Joyce Francis has been a regular volunteer working to support our filing system to keep these Lee County obituaries on file. Sharon continued to work on her Lee County Veterans file. As noted previously the binder will have the

Veterans filed alphabetically since researchers may not know the cemetery of burial. Information will include township/cemetery, branch of service, years of service and War, as well as a photo if one is available. It should prove to be a valuable tool for researchers when completed.

Even though Diane continued to work on her book on the history and heritage of Lee County rural schools, she had time to work with her obituaries during the month with the support from Jean Kruse who filed the Contiguous, Van Buren County, Local Illinois, and Local Missouri obituaries. Diane also had time to complete the display showing some of Lee County's rural schools.

Pat Morrison returned to her normal visitation schedule and is doing well and still has a caregiver until she can be on her own.

**Genealogy Workshops:** At the May 9<sup>th</sup> genealogy workshop all members had the opportunity to log on to a computer and do research with the website Family Search with Mrs. Pat DeVocht as instructor. The session lasted one hour and all were pleased with the information found as they entered more information.

No workshop was conducted for May 23 in the Local & Family History Department since the upcoming holiday was just around the corner. However, several donations were acquired regarding Becky Burghoffer's request for a German map. The German Map Book with over 100 maps on Germany was received and catalogued. Carole Landes Elston loaned a German map and Pat Morrison donated several maps on Germany, one on Britain, and one on Ireland.

We plan more genealogy workshops beginning in September. If anyone is interested please call the library at 835-5545 for information and place your name on the list. Anyone desiring research in the meantime can visit the Local & Family History Department to review files for their family history.

**Donations:** Jean Kruse donated several souvenir plates from different areas of the country from her Mother's collection. It is planned to place them in a display in the future.

### **Research:**

- Diane continues to work with Sharon Hutcheson who is interested in finding the grave site of Joseph Hutcheson in Van Buren Township Okland Cemetery. Even though the majority of her ancestor family are buried there, no grave site was ever found for Joseph. A file was created and the search continues.

Diane continues to be in touch with Mr. Donald Helsel who currently lives in Michigan. Don's mother was Florence Lowenberg (daughter of August and Lottie Krebill Lowenberg) born in 1916. He has photographs and other information of interest and would like to share it with the Local & Family History. Mr. Helsel still plans to make a trip to Donnellson sometime this summer. The Local & Family History Department looks forward to his visit.

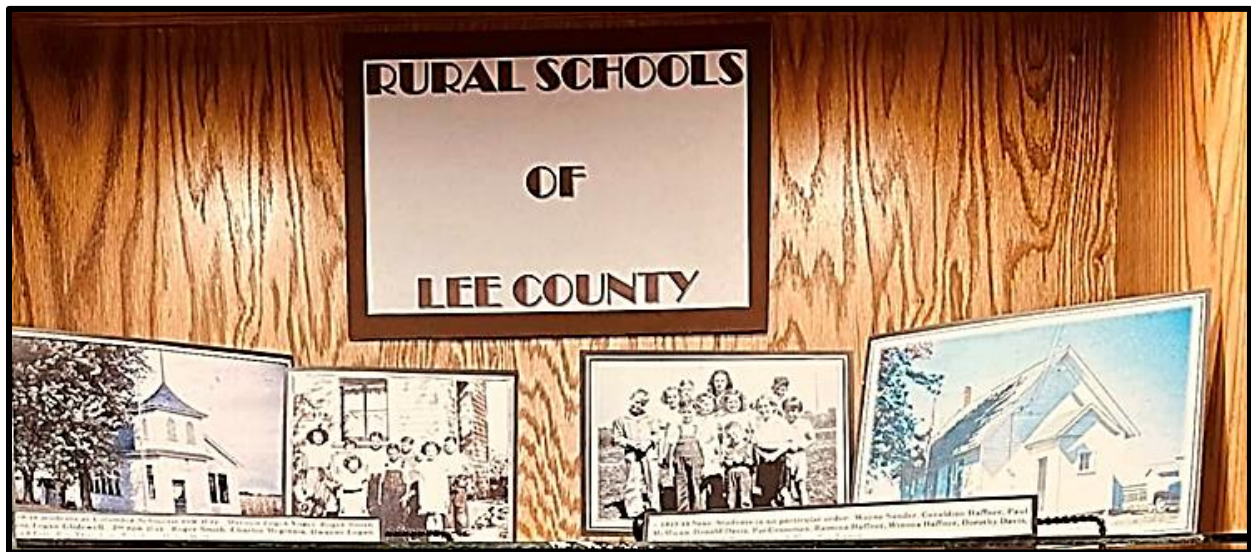
### **Display for May**

Although the Department handles many projects, the display case plays an important role each month. The May display covered some of the rural schools of Lee County. No subject for a June display has been chosen to date so it will be a surprise. Photographs of the display seen below were taken by Carole Landes Elston. Donations by Tom Moeller, Joyce Francis, Sharon Meierotto, Jan Blankenberg, and Diane Kruse. Come visit and view the display until the end of June.

GALLAND  
IOWA'S FIRST SCHOOL  
1830



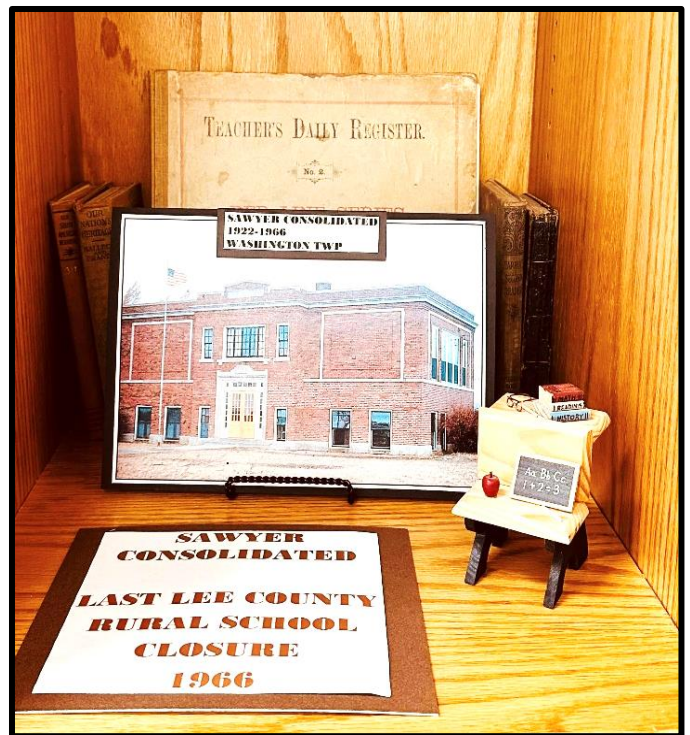
~ The first schoolhouse, built by Dr. Isaac Galland, was a log building only 10' x 12' and was situated in a clearing on the bank of the Mississippi River at the head of the Des Moines Rapids. The teacher of the wilderness school was Berryman Jennings. There were eight pupils in attendance the first term but the number soon grew to 13, some of whom came from Illinois and ranged in age from six to 16. When the great Keokuk Dam was built, the old schoolhouse was submerged under 20 feet of water, about three or four hundred feet from the shoreline. In 1923 a deed to a plot of ground was given by Mr. & Mrs. T.S. Harrington. In October 1924 the Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated a plaque on a large native boulder. In 1938 Leonard G. Haase of the Lee County Schoolmasters Club sponsored a project to build and replica. On October 4, 1940 the new replica was dedicated by then-Governor George A. Wilson.



~ Shown above are the Columbia School in Van Buren Township and the Saxe School in Harrison Township, two of the rural schools on display



~Photo shows a sampling of school books and library books in a school library. The photo shows the library of the Franklin Independent school museum.



~Photo shows the Washington Township Sawyer Consolidated schoolhouse built in 1922. The school was the last of the Lee County rural school and closed in 1966.

Newsletter Editor: Diane P. Kruse