

DONNELLSON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER
411 MAIN STREET
DONNELLSON, IA 52625
FAX/TELEPHONE: 319-835-5545
E-MAIL: donnlibr@iowatelecom.net
WEB SITE: www.donnellson.lib.ia.us

August 2021

Issue #180



Tayberries

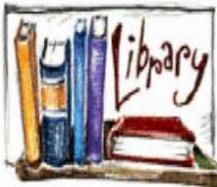


Blackberries



Raspberries

"In August, the large masses of berries, which, when in flower, had attracted many wild bees, gradually assumed their bright velvety crimson hue, and by their weight again bent down and broke their tender limbs." ~ Henry David Thoreau



Library Happenings

"A little library, growing larger every year, is an honourable part of a man's history. It is a man's duty to have books. A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life." ~ William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

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

Farewell, For Now



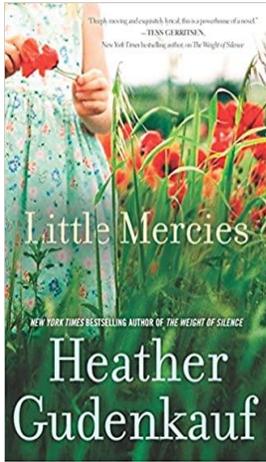
Gayle Austin has been like my right arm here at the Donnellson Library for 20 years. She began as a substitute library clerk in 2000, and later became Assistant Director. Gayle was always willing to help anyone who needed it. She was kind to all our patrons, and a fast learner. She was able to help people with computer issues, was always good with kids, and really, all aspects of the work of being a librarian. Gayle resigned at the end of this month to be at home with her husband, George. We hope that she may be able to come back as a sub from time to time when George gets back on his feet. If you would like to share any special memories of Gayle, please come into the library and let me know. I would also be glad to deliver any cards, letters, or tokens you may want to share with her. Gayle is one special lady, and we will miss her terribly. ~ **Brenda Knox, Library Director**



Preschool Story Hour Returns

We have really missed our library kids during these times of the COVID virus. We are trying to have a small Story Hour program again but wonder if the case numbers going up in Lee County will put the kibosh on our plans. For now, beginning September 7, we will hold Story Hour for preschool kids on

Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. Children who attend Story Hour should be accompanied by a responsible caregiver at all times. We will read stories based on a theme each week, do some movement activities, sing some songs, and have fun meeting other kids. The program will last approximately 45 minutes, and there will be time for kids to check out their own books after the program. Call 319/835-5545 to learn more about preschool Story Hour.



The Donnellson Book Core

Our book for August was *Little Mercies* by Heather Gudenkauf. While most of the group that attended enjoyed the book, some found the subject matter, involving a devoted mother and social worker, who makes a tragic mistake, and desperate pre-teen trying to live on the streets, to be a little depressing. The group had a great discussion and some interesting comments about this book.

The book for next month has been a popular choice for many readers at this library. *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger is a standalone novel that has been compared to *Huckleberry Finn*. Different than his Cork O'Connor mystery series, this book still begins in the Great Lakes. The book also is very prescient, as the tragedy of the Indian Schools has been in the news, lately. Here is what Goodreads has to say about the book:

In the summer of 1932, on the banks of Minnesota's Gilead River, the Lincoln Indian Training School is a pitiless place where Native American children, forcibly separated from their parents, are sent to be educated. It is also home to Odie O'Banion, a lively orphan boy whose exploits constantly earn him the superintendent's wrath. Odie and his brother, Albert, are the only white faces among the hundreds of Native American children at the school.

After committing a terrible crime, Odie and Albert are forced to flee for their lives along with their best friend, Mose, a mute young man of Sioux heritage. Out of pity, they also take with them a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy. Together, they steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi in search for a place to call home.

Over the course of one unforgettable summer, these four orphan vagabonds' journey into the unknown, crossing paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls of all kinds. With the feel of a modern classic, This Tender Land is an enthralling, bighearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole.

If you are interested in joining the Donnellson Book Core, please come to the library and sign up, with your e-mail and phone number, and we can order a book for you!





FRIENDS OF THE DONNELLSON LIBRARY

FALL BOOK SALE

Time is getting closer. The Friends of the Donnellson Library will be holding their fall book sale on Saturday, October 2, in the American Legion Hall, 419 N. Oak, from 8:00-3:30. A mountain of books for the upcoming book sale has been collected, sorted, and organized and patrons will have a choice again of large collections of children and adult favorites, DVD's, classics as well as cookbooks, gardening, historical, westerns, hunting and fishing, and military topics. With the huge donations to date "there will be something for everyone". In addition to the blind date with a book, we will have many other items of interest. Come see what they are! All proceeds will help the Friends of Donnellson Library fund needed purchases for the library that are outside of their normal budget.

Our book sale in June was the best book sale ever in all the years we have been organizing them so members we would like to do it again and make this Fall Sale our best. Friends' members hope to see our many patrons in the Legion Hall on 2 October so we can do it again.

Social distancing is recommended, and hand sanitizer will be provided at the book sale. ~ **Written and submitted by Diane Kruse**

Friends of the Library Additional Events for Weekend of 2 October

The Friends group is also organizing city-wide yard sales for the weekend by helping to publicize the yard sales on a free map. If you are planning a yard sale for that weekend, please come to the library for a form. Contact Victoria Matlock at 319-4708611 with any questions. Posting for the sale need to back at the library by the week of 20 September for inclusion on the map. Maps with yard sale locations should be ready by the end of the week.

Writers' Bloc



The August meeting of the Writers' Bloc was held at 1:00 p.m. 18 August in the Local & Family History Department of the Donnellson Public Library. Attending were Jan Blankenberg, Marty Miller, and Diane and Aaron Kruse.

Jan had several poems to share with the group but her main presentation came with a series of four different forms of haibuns Jan shared by her granddaughter Nima from a creative writing class. The following explanation of a haibun follows in case you are wondering “what is a haibun”. The haibun is the combination of two poems: a prose poem and haiku. The form was popularized by the 17th century Japanese poet Matsuo Basho. Examples of a haibun are a prose poem followed by a haiku; an open poetic field (more than half of the poem is not left justified and that shape has a meaning; an in-praise poem finding beauty in something ugly; an apocryphilia which basically where you put a well-known character in an unlikely situation. So, if you love to write poetry and would like to try a different style, the Writers’ Bloc group has several examples for review. Thank you Nima for sharing.

Marty shared an interesting experience she and Ed had setting up their new TV. She entitled it “Adventures in the Brave New World of Television”. You see, their purchase was not just a “normal” TV but one classified as a “Smart TV”. Their first eye-opener was when they selected a 43” screen (out of sheer lack of options) and Marty reflected on the tiny TV the very lucky college students of her day had in their dorm room. (Authors note: Who was lucky enough to have a TV at all?)

With the precious new prize at home, the ordeal started. First, they were required to get a Wi-Fi password just to set up the TV. This became an ordeal, as the couple’s daughter had the necessary password (no further explanation), and she lives in California. The daughter had to begin a long-distance-coordinated scavenger hunt for the password, and which was completed only after the daughter texted her husband, who was somewhere over the ocean on a business trip.

Password in hand, faith running low, the Millers called an 800-HELP number and provided both password and (for some reason) the daughter’s email address. Finally, the TV began to work.

Marty’s final judgement on the process was “It takes a global village to set up a Smart TV.”

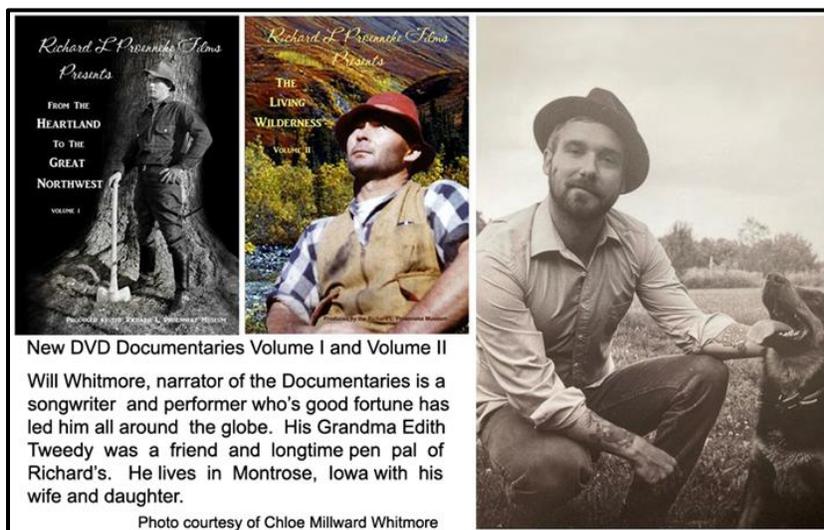
At the July meeting, Diane mentioned the continuing trickle of information coming to her for her book on pioneer schools, one reason the book is not yet finished. She was urged to put the book in printed form in the Local & Family History room, even if unfinished. The draft book contains a lot of material useful for tracing families, and the book also might serve as bait for those who have information the general public doesn’t have, and which would be a way to attract more information for the book.

To date, research information for all 15 townships of Lee County are on the shelf for review. In addition, a rough draft of the histories of the schools is on the shelf. Several major items continue to be a work in progress are the lists of students, teachers, and rural school Board of Directors.

Samples of old schoolbooks used during the rural school years are available as well as photographs. School and financial accounting records which were maintained by the teacher and the Board of Directors for each school are available as well.

The next meeting will be held 15 September in the library. ~ **Written and submitted by Diane and Aaron 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



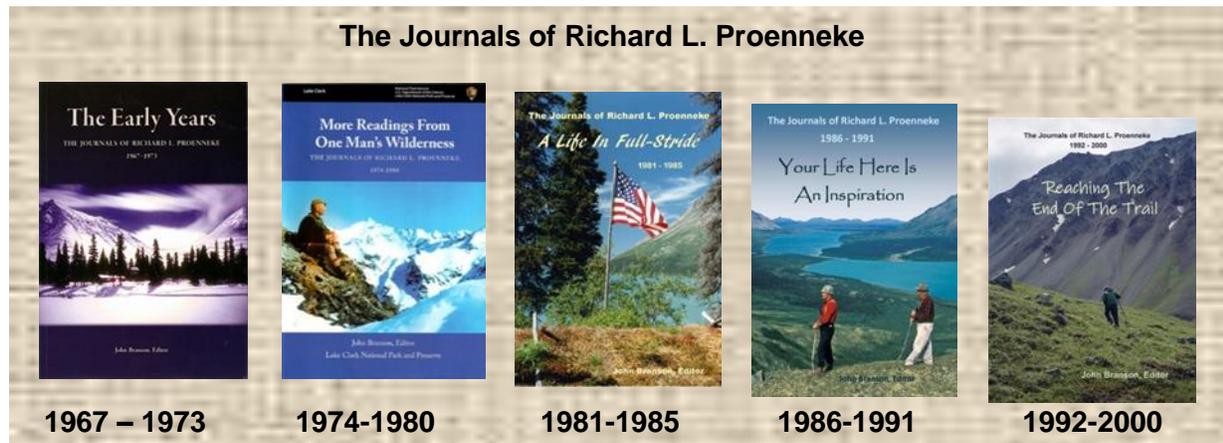
Richard captures this Caribou Bull in full stride, his antlers still bloody from scraping off the velvet covering in preparation for the rutting season.

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 or at the Richard L Proenneke Museum in the Donnellson Library". And don't forget to check out Richard's written words in the *Journals of Richard L. Proenneke*.

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.



Are you a Richard Proenneke fan? Consider joining us by helping out and at the same time learning about this amazing man who grew up in our “backyard”. Drop us a line at:

Brenda Knox, Librarian: bknox@donnellson.lib.is.us

Brie Anderson, Richard Proenneke Museum Curator: brie@richardproenneke.com

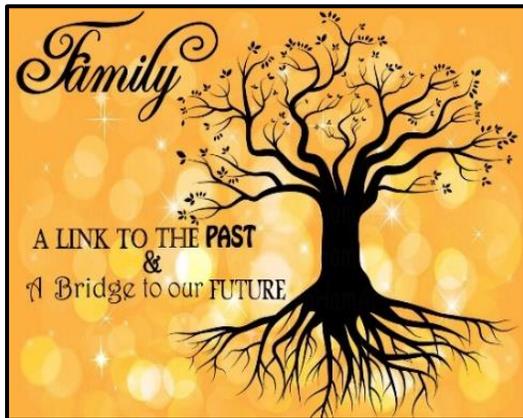
An August Suggested Reading

This month’s suggested reading is by two authors, Matt Eversmann, First Sergeant Retired from the U.S. Army, and James Patterson, a world-famous writer of police and psychological thrillers. The selection is *Walk in my Combat Boots*, a collection of short stories from active and retired military personnel, largely from combat experiences and a few from post-service experience. Matt Eversmann spent 20 years in the army, largely as a ranger. He served in Somalia during the *Black Hawk Down* episode. He also saw notable service in Iraq in the 10th Mountain Division.

The stories related in this selection range from National Guard response in the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Towers to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Vietnam. They relate a realistic (because they are true experiences) view of combat, whether from medics or pilots or battalion commanders. Many show young people who grew up in military families, others who for one reason or other just wanted to serve this country. What is most striking in these stories is the sense of dedication to country, unit, and buddies. Threaded through the entire book are the incidents of seriously wounded soldiers whose first stated desire is to get back to their units and friends.

Perhaps more heartbreaking than heartwarming are the stories of the young people who leave the service and find civilian life a difficult and confusing proposition, lacking in order and clarity and

purpose. For any veteran, this selection will definitely be of interest. For any citizen, when you see a veteran of combat or peacetime duty, this book gives a better idea of the experience which shapes that veteran. ~ **Written and submitted by Aaron Kruse**



Local & Family History Department

The month of August 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, and set up the 55th 1965 class reunion display. Photographs are displayed at the end of the newsletter. Because the month of September celebrates traditional festivals such as the Rodeo, Old Threshers, and others, as well as the beginning of college football season, plans were in progress to give our patrons a preview of most of them in case they don't have the opportunity to attend and celebrate them all. A few of those photographs are displayed at the end of the newsletter as well.

~ Sharon Meierotto continued to update Lee County obituaries and Diane Kruse continued filing with the local Illinois, Missouri, and Van Buren obits.

~ Diane continues to work with Roberta Krehbiel's many treasures of memorabilia Roberta passed on to the Local & Family History Department. The 100 family albums are filed in alphabetical order in the back of the room on the lower shelves. If you have a family album you would like to donate it, we will be happy to accept your copy or make a copy and return the original to you.

~ Cynthia Chambers of West Point visited the Department to research the village of New Garden, Iowa, which was a Quaker settlement in the 1840s and located midway between Fort Madison and Salem. She was familiar with the cemetery and the area of settlement but unaware this tiny village had a schoolhouse. Research shows the Quaker schoolhouse was known as District #2 in Charleston Township and built circa the 1840s and closed in the late 1870s. Once the prosperous settlement disappeared only a lonely graveyard and desolate gravestones were left to keep watch over the forgotten dead.

~ The department received the book on the Underground Railroad from Kim Townsend Spangrude entitled *The Townsend/Wood Alliance, A Study of the Men and Women (and their descendants)* as mentioned in the June newsletter. The book was written by her cousin Jason Townsend and contains information about the Townsends and Woods and their role in the Underground Railroad. The book has been cataloged and filed with the Underground Railroad file.

In addition, since Thomas Townsend, Kim's 3x great grandfather was buried in Sharon Cemetery in an unmarked grave, Kim purchased a stone and had the cemetery caretaker place the stone to mark his grave site. The photograph is on file.

~ Pat Morrison loaned a Krehbiel Family album to add to our family album collection. A copy was made and categorized and added to our department collection. In addition, she donated updated cemetery walks for the following cemeteries: Bowman, Birch, Old and New Charleston, Donnell, Hillcrest (Everhart), New Boston and String Prairie. All updates have been filed with the appropriate cemetery files.

~ Two new files have been created to add pertinent information for our patrons: Death Certificate Index (1919-1939) and the Pioneer Cemetery Commission.

The Pioneer Cemetery Commission was known years ago as the Pioneer Cemetery Association. This commission was revamped as a set up to check on the state and upkeep of cemeteries and evaluate what can be done to improve them.

~ The Department received two cemetery map plats for their records: The Donnell Cemetery map donated by David Hawk and the Beeler pioneer cemetery map by Diane and Aaron Kruse.

First Sweet Corn Festival

The below photo was taken from the December 1972 local newspaper *Remember When?* Loaned by Jane Krebill. The photo shows the preparation of the 10,000 ears of sweet corn eaten at the first annual West Point Corn Festival (August 1958) by members of the Businessmen and Lion Club crews. Corn was cooked at the Frozen Food Plant, brought by pickup to the large tanks set up in a stand in the middle of the park. Ears were buttered with paint brushes and placed in metal pans from which they were taken by the "consumer".



The workers shown above are left to right: Mayor G.B. Snaadt, Tony Geers, Vern Schantz, and Jim Kaltefleiter. Vince Schierbrock is almost hidden by Schantz. Since then, the Sweet Corn Festival has since become an annual event in West Point.

Local and Family History August Display – 55th 1965 Class Reunion

Although a year late due to the COVID pandemic in 2020, the Central Lee graduating class of 1965 gathered during the month of August to celebrate their 55th reunion. This reunion was special as these alumni hold the honor of being the first class to attend all four years of high school at the then new Central High School.

Below are several photographs from the Donnellson Library display which covered their past reunions from 1970 through 2020. Since the 55th reunion was celebrated a year late, the alumni only need to wait four more years to celebrate again. Other photographs can be reviewed at the Local Family & History Department of the library. **Photographs taken by Carole Landes Elston. Display designed by Diane Kruse.**



The below photo shows the alumni gathering with Tim Overton's two 1965 Chevis as props for their class photo at the Green Acres Country Club.



Upcoming September Display

Below is a preview with a few photographs for the September display. All photographs will be in full view in the September newsletter. **Photographs and design by Diane Kruse.**



Newsletter Editor, Diane P. Kruse, Retirees4Now@aol.com

