



# ***History Matters!***

**Newsletter of the Effingham County Cultural Center and  
Museum**

**Effingham, Illinois**

**Volume 7, Issues 3/4**

**July-Sept & Oct-Dec, 2020**



**Effingham County Museum**

110 East Jefferson

Effingham, IL 62401

217-240-2471

[www.effinghamcountymuseum.org](http://www.effinghamcountymuseum.org)

[www.facebook.com/effinghamcountycourthousemuseum](https://www.facebook.com/effinghamcountycourthousemuseum)

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019-2020**

(Fiscal year 1 July 2019–30 June 2020)

**The Museum's *Annual Report* for 2019-2020 is complete and available.**

**Paid up members will receive a mailed copy with the 2021 Membership renewal.**

**Paper copies are also available at the front desk of the Museum.**

**The *Annual Report* is our way of informing our members and the public about:**

**\* *Annual programs and special events.***

**\* *New artifacts in our collections.***

**\**Fiscal year finances.***

**\**New exhibits.***

**\**Honors we received.***

**\**Publications @ local & state level.***

**\**Current fund raisers.***

**\**Plans for the coming year.***

## MISSION STATEMENT

The **Mission** of the Effingham County Museum is to preserve our Historic Register structure, to collect artifacts from county history, and to use them to educate our local and external communities, while immersed in the broader context of American history. Our **Vision** is that the 1872 Effingham County Courthouse remains as an architectural gem that instills a sense of community pride and provides a venue to educate and showcase the history, art, and transportation of Effingham County. The parent organization for the Effingham County Museum is the Effingham County Cultural Center and Museum Association, Inc, which is a 501(c) 3 organization.

Usual hours March-December: Tuesday & Saturday: 10 AM - 2 PM  
Other hours by special arrangement  
Closed to the general public January-February, except for special programming or by appointment.

**Masks and social distancing are required.**

### Accessibility

The museum is wheelchair accessible from the east side entrance just off the parking lot. Toilet facilities that are wheelchair accessible can be found in the Gallery 1 of the first level and in the Northwest corner of Level 2.

### Collection Building

The scope of the Museum's collection is directed by its Mission Statement. Donations are accepted of objects that relate directly to the Museum's mission of collecting materials and artifacts of cultural and/or historical interest.

### Board and Officers

President	Delaine Donaldson
Vice President	Jane Ries
Secretary	LoElla Baker
Treasurer	Allen Westendorf
Members at Large	Jerry Katz
	Amy Gillespie
	Linda Ruholl
	Susan Hoelscher
	Dr. Ruben Boyajian, Emeritus

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Web site:	<a href="http://www.effinghamcountymuseum.org">www.effinghamcountymuseum.org</a>
Visit us on Facebook @:	Effingham County Courthouse Effingham Ill



An informative Museum sign has been situated on the lawn next to the county parking lot east of the Museum for a number of years. Several few months ago, it mysteriously disappeared "without a trace."

**We are happy to report this sign has been replaced, and there are now informational signs in front of the south face and the east face of the Museum.**

**New artifacts on display on Level 2 in SE corner ~ 3rd quarter**



**These items were donated by Bruce B. Penwell, Jr.** Mr. Penwell's mother was related to the local Jennings, Laue, and Larimore families.

**(Collection Plan: Family/transportation)**

The chair is a 1880s "mule ear" chair. It is constructed of sturdy hard wood (which appears to be linden). The seams are "fitted," meaning there are neither nails nor screws. The rush seats are replacement surfaces. The chair was transported from Texas to Illinois by Noah Jennings and his wife in the 1880s by horse-drawn wagon. Prior to that time, Mr. Jennings had

moved his family to Texas to engage in cotton farming. When that did not work out, they came back north to Beecher City and farmed there. The stool was made of walnut and has a cane seat. It was constructed by a Mr. Winterowd of Beecher City in the 1960s. He was 93 at the time.



***Noah Jennings, Civil War Uniform***



***Noah Jennings family,  
L to R: Noah, Jessie, Mary Jennings (Wills),  
Louann Larimore Jennings***



## Progress on the dome painting continues



**Dr. Ruben Boyajian continues his work on this unique mural depicting iconic scenes from Effingham County history.**

**The mural is inside the dome in the center of the Second Level of the Museum.**

Doctor uses a lift to reach the dome and stands inside this basket while painting.



**MORE ART! Works created by the members of the Effingham Art Guild**



**Members of the Art Guild bring new creations periodically.  
There is something for everyone to enjoy.**



# CONSERVATION @ the Local Level

## SAVING FAMILY PHOTOS from WATER DAMAGE in an EMERGENCY

Sometimes professional pictures in frames and snapshots in albums are the only things we have to go along with our memories of births, baptisms, confirmations, birthdays, weddings, family reunions and long ago travels.

When memories fade and older family members pass on, it's those pictures and snapshots we count on to serve as a record of important events in family life.

So, **what will you do** when the roof leaks or the pipes burst or the sump pump fails or the river overflows, and those precious photographic records are in danger?

Here are some practical tips, adapted from "*Saving Photographs After the Flood*", by the AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION (AIC).

- 1/ Work on photographs that have no backup negatives or digital copy first.
- 2/ Rinse wet photos with plain water, if needed. The surface is fragile; be gentle.
- 3/ Seal the wet photos in ziploc bag, or garbage bag with a twist tie. Put **wax paper** between layers of photographs.
- 4/ Freeze them right away - later you will thaw them, separate them, and lay them out in a single layer to air dry.
- 5/ If no freezer is available, rinse the photos with plain water and dry them naturally.
- 6/ Put them **face up in single layer** on a flat surface. If you have a window screen, use that. Alternately, depending on how many you have, you use a table or a piece of plastic sheeting laid on ground or on cement.
- 7/ **Don't** expose the photos to **direct sunlight**. Don't worry if they curl. They can be flattened later. A photography shop can help you with that.
- 8/ Professional conservators can assist with valuable materials and with severely damaged materials.  
You can locate a conservator by:  
email: [info@culturalheritage.org](mailto:info@culturalheritage.org)  
or  
call AIC [\(202\)452-9545](tel:2024529545)



## OLD SETTLERS 2020: A Virtual Event ~ Sept 26



**John Kirby - Oldest Male Old Settler**  
Age 96 ~ 90 years in county



**Genevieve Rentfro Shadwell - Oldest Female Old Settler**  
Age 98 ~ 80 years in county



**Gert and Charles Harris - Longest Married Couple @ 74 years**



## Other Virtual Old Settlers 2020



**Daphne Fearday age 98**  
59 years in county



**Erma Holste age 95**  
95 years in county



**Irma Mundt Horn age 90**  
90 years in county



**Eleanor Poe Bounds age 91**



**Gene (age 88) & Jeanie (age 87)**  
Mayhood



**Wilma Woidt Kruger age 95**  
95 years in county



**Kurt & LoElla Baker - married 61 years**



**Art & Linda Hatke Ruholl - married 52 years**



**Mark & Jane Loy Ries - married 42 years**

## New accession 4th quarter 2020



Retired nurse educator, Marilyn Fuqua Thompson recently donated a collection of 23 nursing and education pins to the museum.

**(Collection plan: medical/education)**

The top pin celebrates the National League for Nursing. One arm of the NLN is tied to accreditation for local nursing programs like the ones at Lake Land College.

The other pins were issued over the years by the American Nurses Association to celebrate Nurses Week during the first week of May each year. The timing is significant because Florence Nightengale's birthday is May 12. Year 2020 is the 200th anniversary of her birthday.

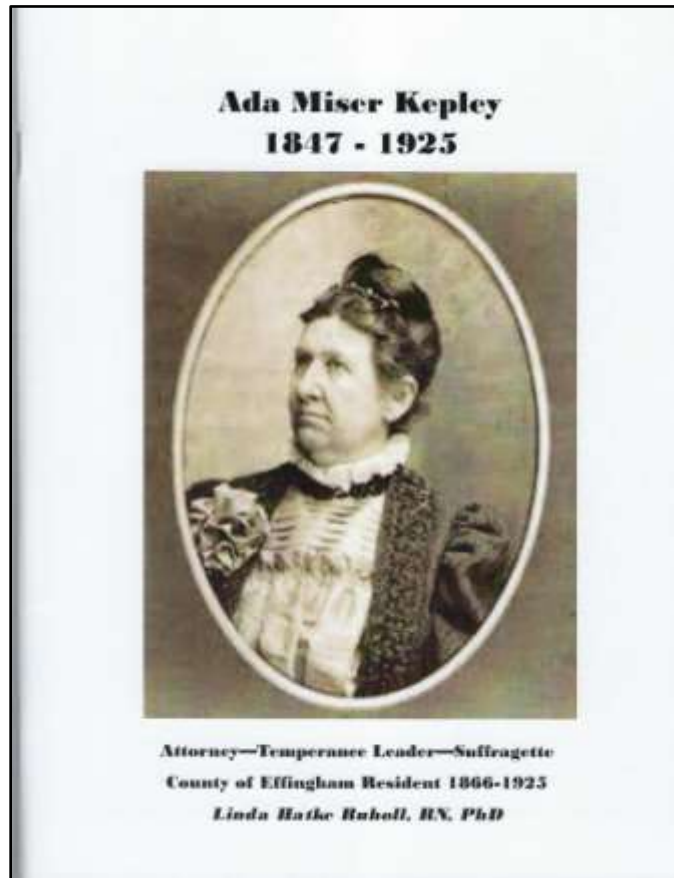
The pins are significant in Illinois, because the very FIRST Nurses Day in the United States was celebrated in this state. There was a nursing shortage after World War 2. Father Clarence Brissette organized the first parade in Chicago in 1949, in the hope of inspiring more people to enter the profession. The parades continued through 1958. The last one featured 4,000 marching nurses, 100 floats and 30 bands.

There is also local significance because St. Anne's Hospital School of Nursing was a participant in these parades, as illustrated above.<sup>1</sup> The Adams family nurses from Teutopolis were working or going to school at St. Anne's during this era. Nurses' Day at the national level was first proposed in 1953, but it wasn't until 1974 that President Nixon issued the first proclamation. In 1982, the American Nurses Association formally acknowledged Nurses' Day. In 1990, the ANA Board of Directors expanded the recognition, declaring May 5-12 as National Nurses Week.



<sup>1</sup> Carolyn Hope Smeltzer, Frances R. Blasses, & Connie R. Robinson, "Nurses Day Parade", *American Journal of Nursing*, Vol 105, No 11, 72A-72B.

## Christmas Gift or Stocking Stuffer Idea



**A monograph (small PB book) about Ada Kepley (44 pages)**

**\$10.00 if purchased @ museum**

**\$14.00 if shipped to "stay at homes"**

**Use order blank below to request mailed copy - Allow 2 weeks**

**Questions? Ask the author @ 217-690-5701 or [lruholl46@gmail.com](mailto:lruholl46@gmail.com)**

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Ship to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ for \$14.00 (to ECCCMA) enclosed.

Mail request to: ECCCMA  
Kepley Order  
Box 324  
Effingham, IL 62401



## Looking for a unique Christmas gift?

*For the one who is hard to buy for?  
The person who "has everything"?  
The individual who loves Local History?*

**COME TO THE MUSEUM**  
to claim your  
**Remnant of the Old National Road**



**\$25.00**

**Each paver contains this plaque, establishing its provenance:**

