



History Matters!

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

Effingham, Illinois

Volume 4, Issue 1

January - February - March 2017

The Effingham County Courthouse Museum as the backdrop for Downtown Christmas 2016.



ECCCMMA Mission Statement

The purpose of the Museum is to establish, maintain, and operate a museum for the general public, and to collect, research, care for and interpret materials and artifacts of cultural and historical interest to the residents of, and visitors to, Effingham County, Illinois. 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 Museum is a 501(c) 3 organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Hours

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

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 west exhibit room.

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
	Ruben Boyajian MD
	Linda Ruholl
	Dean Manuel
	Sandi Wernsing
	Henry Poterucha MD (emeritus)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Visit us on Facebook @:	Effingham County Courthouse Effingham Ill
Newsletter Editor:	Linda Ruholl

MIDLAND STATES BANK PRESENTATION



On January 5, Midland States Bank presented the ECCCMA with a generous donation, allowing the organization to continue our on-going structural renovation project, and to expand exhibits and programming.

(L to R): Linda Ruholl, Board Member; Dean Manuel, Board Member; LoElla Baker, Secretary; Delaine Donaldson, President; Jane Ries, Vice President; Allen Westendorf, Treasurer; Mel Stock, Midland States Bank; and Jerry Katz, Board Member

ECCCMA Membership Application

Please print clearly.

Detach and mail to: ECCCMA, P. O. Box 324, Effingham, IL 62401

Name _____

Mailing address _____

email address: _____

Check # _____ enclosed for one year membership:

_____ **\$25.00 individual** _____ **\$ 50.00 family**

Membership can also be obtained via PayPal by visiting the ECCCMA website:

www.effinghamcountymuseum.org

Upcoming Events in 2017 Historic Lecture Series

3rd and 4th Sessions

January 12 and February 9

7:00 PM - Second Level Courtroom



The January and February programs will be given by **Kip Johnson**, a local Civil War scholar with detailed knowledge of the 41st Illinois Volunteer infantry. Kip is also a hands-on reenactor with a well-developed taste for authenticity, based on field experiences going back to the 1980s.

Kip's topic is the 41st Illinois Volunteer Infantry, a unit which was organized in Decatur in the summer of 1861, and pulled men from a number of surrounding communities, including Mattoon, Sullivan, Shelbyville, and Taylorville.

Under Grant's command, these troops were part of the assault and capture of Forts Henry and Donelson early in the War, and suffered heavy casualties there. At Shiloh, they were part of the last line of defense, and again they lost many men.

The story of the bravery and determination of 41st Illinois goes on all the way on to Sherman's March to the Sea, and Kip Johnson will provide many of the details during his two lectures.

Forget how cold it is, and please join us for two sessions of authentic Civil War history!

5th Session

March 9

7:00 PM - Second Level Courtroom



Our own **Delaine Donaldson** will share the life history of Mr. Benson Wood, namesake of the former Benwood Hotel. A native of Pennsylvania, Mr. Wood came to Illinois in 1859. He enlisted in the 34th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. After being wounded, he was discharged in 1863, but his life of public service had just begun. He attended law school, and practiced in Effingham. He served as a member of the U. S. House of Representatives from Illinois' 19th District from 1895 to 1897. Later, he was President of the Effingham State Bank. Come hear Delaine's account of all the details of Benson Wood's fascinating life, accompanied by a rich collection of illustrations.

Recent Presentations
November 10, 2016 - Season's First Historic Lecture



DEAN MANUEL

Proclaiming God's Unchanging WORD to a Changing World
1866 - 2016
The One Hundred and Fifty Year History
of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Effingham, Illinois

Dean presented a lecture and power point about the history of St. John's on West Jefferson Avenue, from the time prior to its founding in 1866 to the present era. The early history of the church was shaped by European history, especially changes in Germany after 1835. As religious freedom was suppressed, many Lutheran families moved out. Many came to the United States. The cohort that arrived in Effingham spent some time in the Buffalo, New York area prior to coming to Illinois.

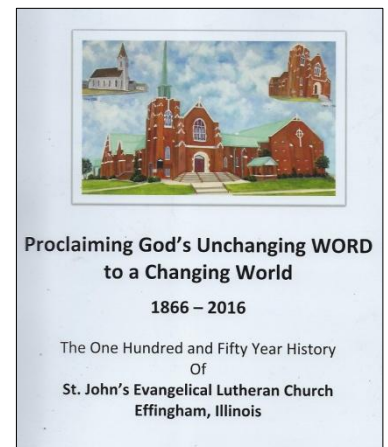
Dean wrote a 70+ page history of the church, which was informed by many primary and secondary sources. He also investigated the lives of the people who came together to form the first church, using census data and other old records to discover who they were, how they made a living, and what kinds of families they formed. They were a diverse and devout group. The number of baptized, coummincant and voting members increased steadily over the years. In 1866, there were about 25 members. Today, there are 1,016 baptized, 832 communicants, and 148 voting members. Women were permitted to vote in 1984. The St. John's Lydia Guild and volunteers served coffee and delicious refreshments after the lecture.



Dean Manuel speaks in the Museum's second level remodeled Courtroom

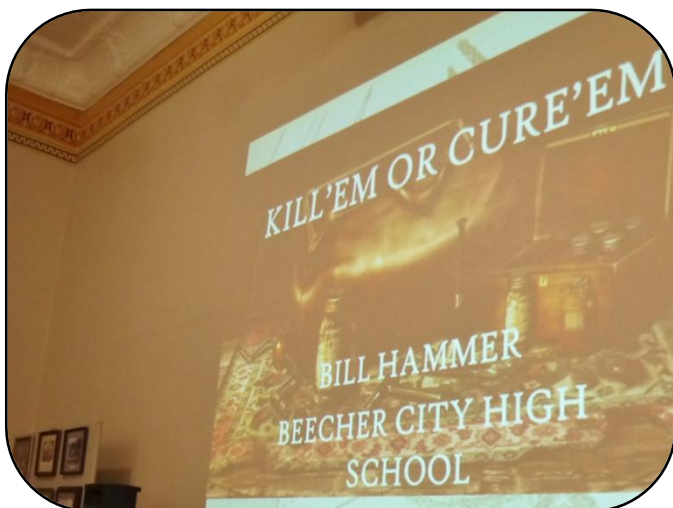


Rev. Herbert E. &
Mrs. Mabel Zimmerman
Served 1944-1970



Dean's Church History
Spiral bound, \$15.00
Available for Purchase

Recent Presentations
December 8, 2016: Season's Second Historic Lecture



BILL HAMMER
presented
KILL 'EM OR CURE 'EM

Mr. Bill Hammer, a history teacher at Beecher City High School with many years of experience, presented an overview of American medical history, along with periodic advances in therapy. He also spoke to some of the less successful and even harmful treatments inflicted on well-known individuals. Mr. Hammer's presentation also included medical history associated with our country's various military conflicts, with emphasis on the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and World War I.

Society's emerging understanding of the causes of disease and disability were illustrated with multiple photographs, drawings, and videos. Because Mr. Hammer is an experienced and technically-apt high school teacher, he is aware of the necessity for including various forms of fast-paced media in his classes, as these strategies are a good fit with the preferred learning style of American teenagers, who prefer instant access to Google over a manual search in a paper dictionary.

Mr. Hammer debunked some 19th and early 20th century mythically-inspired medical theories, including Balancing the Four Humors, Animal Magnetism, Galvanism, and Demonic Possession. He also displayed pictures of instruments used in methods of treatment such as trephining and blood letting. An illustration of the latter "therapy" was the death of George Washington after being bled on a daily basis by four different physicians. As they did not communicate with each other, the four doctors literally "bled him dry." The scientific basis for this debunked medical treatment was that bleeding removed unknown poisonous substances from the body and also restored the balance of humours.

A review of medications was included. Some of the substances known to our ancestors are still in use, such as morphine and belladonna (atropine). Others, such as liquid radium and calomel, fell into disfavor after prolonged use was demonstrated to cause side effects far worse than the disease they were intended to manage. Mr. Hammer has served his community as a certified Pharmacy Technician, and he noted that medication formularies are continually being revised. For example, syrup of ipecac was dispensed for many years as an emergency treatment for swallowed poison. It was removed from the market after being abused by individuals with anorexia.

**ECCCCMA Christmas Open House in Pictures
December 2 and December 4, 2016**





President Delaine Donaldson shared the history of the renovated second level.



Patty Winn spread Christmas Joy!



Sandi Wernsing served refreshments.



Visitors enjoyed Melvin Higgs' wooden recreation of the tools of yesteryear.



Jane Ries' Veterans' Tree in the Level 1 Media Room





Schedule for February 2017

Museum Closed Except for Special Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Historic Lecture 7PM Doors Open 6PM	10	11
12	13	14 General Meeting 6PM Board Meeting 730	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				



Schedule for March 2017

Museum Resumes Regular Hours

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 OPEN 10-2
5	6	7 OPEN 10-2	8	9 Historic Lecture 7PM Doors open 6PM	10	11 OPEN 10-2
12	13	14 OPEN 10-2 General Meeting 6PM Board Meeting 730	15	16	17	18 OPEN 10-2
19	20	21 OPEN 10-2	22	23	24	25 OPEN 10-2
26	27	28 OPEN 10-2	29	30	31	