



History Matters!

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

Effingham, Illinois

Volume 5, Issue 1

January - February - March, 2018

Scenes from the Down Town Merchants' HOME TOWN CHRISTMAS November 25, 2017



A wide variety of people visited the Museum during the Event, including Effingham County Fair Queen, Maria Lueken (L) and Elizabeth Weidner, Effingham County Junior Fair Queen.

ECCCMA 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
	Henry Poterucha MD (emeritus)

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MIDLAND

On December 22, 2017, Midland State Bank Foundation presented ECCCMA with a \$2,500 contribution to assist the organization in carrying out its mission to preserve the 1872 County Courthouse and to educate the public about Effingham County history.

Front row (L to R): ECCCMA Secretary LoElla Baker; Vice President Jane Ries, Member-at-Large Dean Manuel

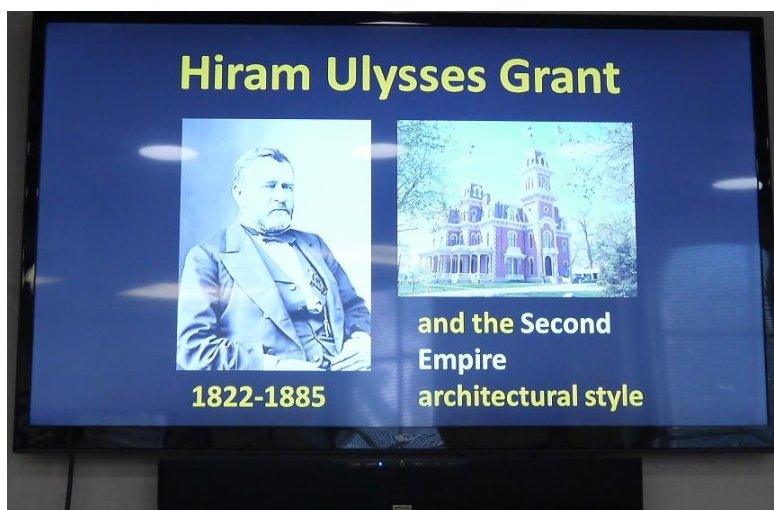
Back row (L to R): ECCCMA President Delaine Donaldson; Treasurer Allen Westendorf; Member-at-Large Jerry Katz; Mel Stock, Representative of Midland State Bank Foundation.

Recent Events Final Quarter 2017 October 14, 2017 ~ 1872 Celebration @ 10:30 AM



ECCCMA member Dan Wormhoudt introduced speaker Phil Lewis, who presented an illustrated lecture about Ulysses S. Grant and the Second Empire Style of architecture.

This lecture was free to the public and was conducted in the first floor media room.



Phil reviewed many facts about Grant's life from birth to death to burial, and shared multiple photographs of public buildings and private homes from the east coast to California which were constructed in what became known as "Grant's style."

Recent Event
October 14, 2017 ~ 1872 Celebration @ 1:00 PM



Visitors viewed a free temporary exhibit of Sandy and Ross Richardson's collection of ladies fashions from *Godey's Ladies Book*, a 19th century magazine for women which frequently featured elegant domestic and imported dress designs.



Recent Event
October 14, 2017 ~ 1872 Celebration @ 3:00 PM

Concert by Singer-Songwriter-Musician Mr. Chris VALLILLO



Mr. Vallilo is a versatile musician who performs with a variety of vintage instruments.

In this presentation, he emphasized some of 19th century music that would have been played and sung during the Civil War and up into the end of the century.

After the performance, the audience was encouraged to come on stage and try their hand with the various instruments Mr. Vallillo played.

In addition to stringed instruments, Chris Vallillo also played the simple kazoo, and combined it with the kind of folksy joke Abraham Lincoln would have shared with his audiences, political and otherwise.

An underlying theme of Mr. Vallillo's music is the concept that music is a shared joy that brings people together, and has the potential to heal wounds and bridge philosophical differences.



The Vallillo concert was a ticketed event.

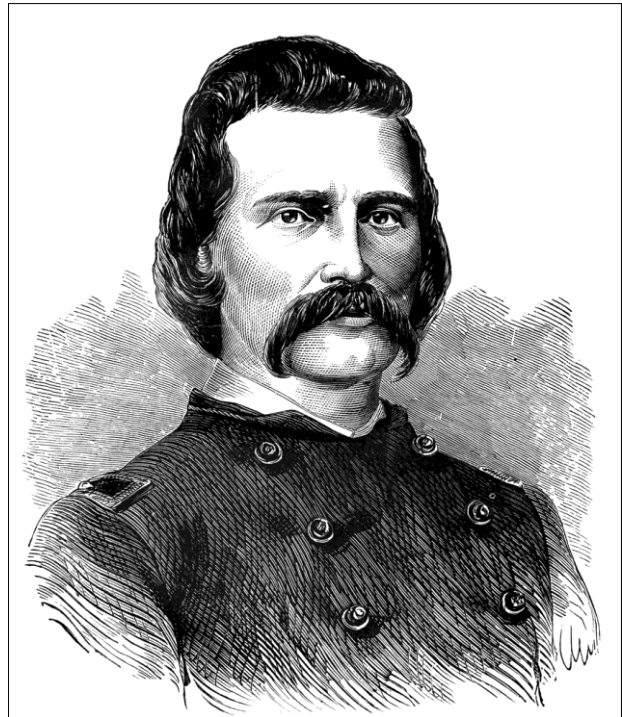
Recent Event
October 14, 2017 ~ 1872 Celebration @ 4:15 PM



Dan Wormhoudt introduced Brian "Fox" Ellis, who portrayed General "Black Jack" John A. Logan of Southern Illinois.

Brian Ellis is a well-known performer who has been active as an educator, consultant and author since the 1980s.

This was a free event.



A comparison of Brian Ellis's persona and Jack Logan's portrait reveals an uncanny physical resemblance. Ellis is skilled in sharing the ambiguities around Logan's life and career. Logan was a small town lawyer who became a U. S. Senator. Initially, he seemed to lean toward the southern cause, and he did not favor emancipation for slaves. But he had a change of heart and advanced rapidly when he entered military service. Ellis shared Logan's pride at leading the triumphant march into Vicksburg after the city fell to Grant's long siege. He was a favorite of General Grant, yet he felt ill-served by General Sherman.

After the Civil War ended, he was instrumental in establishing Memorial Day as a national holiday. Mark Twain claimed Logan was his favorite public speaker, and Frederick Douglas said that if Logan could change his mind about slavery, there was hope for all.

Recent Events
October 14, 2017 ~ 1872 Celebration @ 6:15 PM

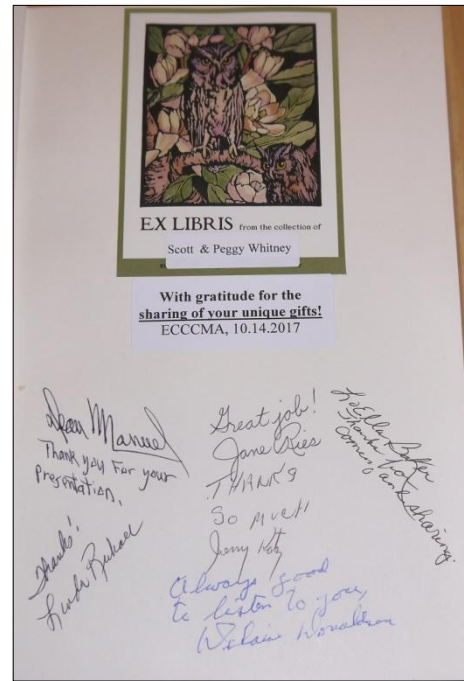
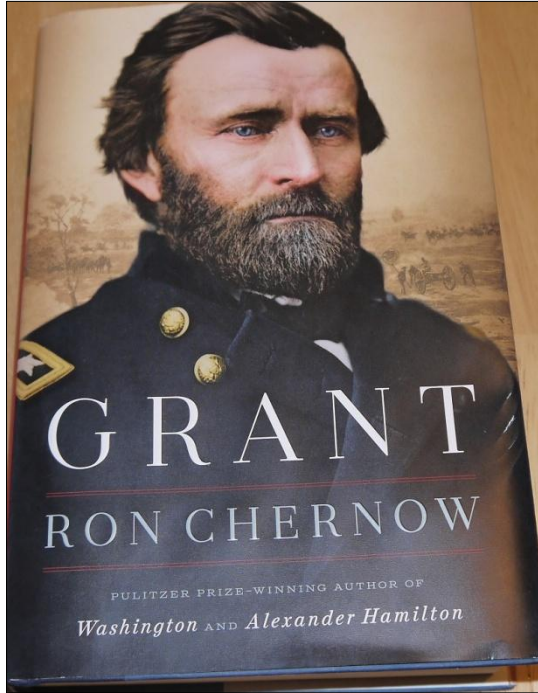


The FACE Orchestra, under the direction of Beverly Marshall played at the start of the Grand Ball, presenting period music of the second half of the 19th century.



President Ulysses S. Grant and Mrs. Julia Dent Grant, as portrayed by Scott and Peggy Whitney. President Grant shared some stories from the Lincoln era.

Recent Event
October 14, 2017 ~ Scenes From The 1872 Celebration



Master of Ceremonies Dean Manuel presented Scott Whitney with a copy of Ron Chernow's new Grant biography as a token of the Museum's appreciation for Scott and Peggy's living history depiction of President and Mrs. Grant. Chernow is also the author of the biography of Alexander Hamilton, the basis of the musical *Hamilton*.



Lining up for the Virginia Reel displayed the Ladies' dresses to the best advantage.



ECCCMA Members Mr. & Mrs. Phil Lewis (L) and Mr. & Mrs. Dean Manuel (R)



Refreshment table at the Grand Ball.



Ada Kepley Concert Series

Concert #1: October 15, 2017



Barefoot Movement, a group from Nashville, Tennessee, was the initial set of performers.

All four were very talented and enthusiastic, and... Yes, they really do perform barefoot!

Traditional bluegrass blended with pop favorites from the past. Their instrumentation was as versatile as their four part harmony.

Historic Lecture Series for 2017-2018

Lecture #1: November 9, 2017

Ewington Sons of the American Revolution and their Flag Display



LoElla Baker introduced the gentlemen from the Ewington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution prior to their presentation. The history and use of each flag was shared with the audience. Criteria and processes associated with SAR membership was reviewed. The SAR aims to promote patriotism and to honor Forefathers, the military and Eagle Scouts. There are 15 SAR chapters in Illinois.



**Recent Event: The Annual Christmas Open House
Scenes from Friday, December 1 and Sunday, December 3, 2017**



Patty Winn as "Mary Christmas"



Vintage toys and gifts



A variety of refreshments was enjoyed.



MYSTERY BAND

People from all over the country contact us by way of the email link on the Museum web site. These queries come to the *History Matters!* editor. A woman from St. Louis County recently sent a photograph of a gentlemen she thinks may be her great-grandfather, Mr. Albert Hennel. He also appears in a photograph with several other people, most of whom are holding musical instruments.



Family lore says he was the "leader of the Effingham Band" around 1890. A number of folks at the Museum examined the photographs. None of them had any information about Mr. Hennel or the musical group in the photograph.

There is a placard in front of the band, but the print is too indistinct to read. The photographs were done by Bissel, as evidenced by the backing.

If you have any information about the family or the band, please contact **Linda Padfield** via jenlin1@msn.com

Is this Albert Hennel?



Is this the 1890s Effingham Band?



Jane Ries' Veterans' Tree in the first floor Media Room.

Mark your Calendar ~ Events Coming Up in 2018



January	January 11: Historic Lecture # 3, 2017-18 Series <i>"Dieterich Machine Gun Company"</i>
February	February 8: Historic Lecture #4, 2017-18 Series <i>"40 Years of Niemerg's Steakhouse"</i>
March	March 6: New Museum Season Begins
	March 8: Historic Lecture # 5, 2017-18 Series <i>"The Spanish Flu in Effingham County"</i>
	March 13: Annual Meeting and Election
April	April 26: Annual Celebration of Lincoln Event <i>"Medical Lincoln"</i>
June	June 23: Ladies Tea Fundraiser
September	September 29: Old Settlers' Reunion
October	October 13: Celebration of 1872 Courthouse Event
November	November 24: Home Town Christmas
	November 30: Christmas Open House Day 1
December	December 2: Christmas Open House Day 2