

Boone County Historical Society Programs 2012

TIME: 6:30 P.M. Museum will open at 5:30 P.M.
WHERE: 311 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois (Except July)
WHEN: 2nd Thursday – **EVERY OTHER MONTH** –
March – May – July – September - November
COST: \$3.00 PER PERSON: under 12 free if accompanied by an adult.

MARCH 8

WW2 Propaganda Posters -

Webster's Dictionary's definition of the word **propaganda** as "any organization or movement working for the propagation of particular ideas doctrines, practices, etc. any systematic, widespread deliberate indoctrination or plan for such indoctrination." During World War II the United States Government developed a very effective method of promoting it's ideals concerning democracy and freedom as well as creating doubt and concern about the political ideals of its' Axis enemies, such as fascism and other forms of government. **John Wright**, from DeKalb, Illinois has found the posters of this area, promoting the nation's ideals, an interesting hobby and he has accumulated a sizable collection of World War Two Propaganda Posters. He will begin the 2012 historical lecture series to show and explain these items of our nation's history. It promises to be another striking beginning for yet another grand season of lectures for the Boone County Historical Society.

MAY 10

The Pony Express

Everyone knows the Pony Express was an intriguing part of our nation's communication system, "before the Civil War" but what else do you know? Were you aware of the financial strain it became for the three men that undertook the task of organizing the project? Do you really understand the plight that the pony express riders had once they started their 2,000 mile journey? The route of the pony express, when one considers a modern map of the country seems to have taken a very peculiar journey, but there was a reason. Join us to hear **David Noe** of Poplar Grove, Illinois, a well known Civil War authority and author of a well received book on Civil War Foreign Contract Muskets as well as many other aspects of the history of the United States, to get a far better understanding of what actually occurred, from the time of the inception to the sad times of its demise.

JULY 12

General U. S. Grant

Presented at the Community Building - \$5.00

One of the most interesting presidents during our country's history has been Hiram Ulysses Grant, better known, perhaps as U. S. Grant. **Scott Whitney**, of Winnebago, Illinois, has made a name for himself portraying this Civil War icon and will be sharing his fascinating portrayal of our 18th president. Idolized by many, vilified by others, Grant has continued to retain both a popular and an unpopular reputation as President of the United States because of his efforts promoting civil rights and his seemingly poor judgment regarding low standards in Cabinet and federal appointments and lack of accountability generated corruption and bribery in several government departments. After his presidency he and his wife embarked on a two year world tour which was followed by another attempt to run for the presidential office. Sick, broke and desperate, he finished his memoirs shortly before his death. Those memoirs, published by Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) saved his wife from destitution for the remaining years of her life.

SEPTEMBER 13

The U.S.S. Eagle

In the final days of World War II, a little known chapter in Naval history took place off the coast of Maine resulting in the greatest loss of U. S. Naval personnel in New England waters during the war, and one of the most enduring naval and maritime mysteries in U. S. history. April 23, 1945 the U.S.S. Eagle (PE-56) was lost and today almost no one knows anything about it. With a crew of 63 men, the ship was sunk and only 13 men survived. At the time, the Navy "wrote it off" as simply "a boiler explosion," even though the Lucky Thirteen almost all testified differently during their testimony at the Naval Court of Inquiry. Join **Sharon Atkins** of Roscoe, Illinois as she related the final account of the Eagle and her father, Oscar Davis who was one of the "Lucky Thirteen." This is a personal account of an event that the Navy tried to cover up for well over 50 years until the truth was revealed by the research and diligence of a dedicated historian who revealed the story to the public.

NOVEMBER 8

Camp Grant

Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois was established in September, 1917, during World War I for the draftees from this area to train. Such organizations as the 86th Infantry, (Black Hawk Division) as well as the 332nd and 172nd Infantry units trained within its 18,000 acre confines. In October of 1940 the area was re-activated for World War II. The primary training during this time was for over 100,000 medical corpsmen. It was also used as a prisoner of war (POW) detention center. **Terry Dyer**, a Rockford native and a well known Civil War enthusiast, like so many such individuals captivated in that era, also has other military interests and Camp Grant is one of his. Join us with Terry as he enlightens us with his great knowledge of Camp Grant and relates many of his fascinating stories about the establishment.