

The Crackerbarrel



Elgin History Museum News January 2021

President's Report

Al Walters, President



Happy New Year! Aren't we all thrilled to say goodbye to 2020 and look forward to 2021 with renewed hope and optimism? I know the staff and volunteers at the Museum certainly are happy to start a new year.

November and December are always active months. Two major fund raisers happened, and it seems we are forever racing the weather to finish up the year's Nancy Kimball Cobblestone House renovations. 2020 was no different. Before we move on to 2021, let us take one last look at 2020. Despite the considerable headwinds facing the country, the Museum finished the year strong.

On the fundraising front, there were two successful events late last year. On November 7, the Virtual On-Line Gala replaced the traditional dinner and entertainment Gala. The Museum's Program Committee deftly transitioned the Museum into the virtual format without missing a beat. The Board and Program Committee were gratified by the number of people who tuned in to view an hour's worth of new videos and programming. Old fundraising standbys like the Silent Auction Baskets and Mystery Wine Bags were just as eagerly pursued on-line as they are in person.

Thanks to all who donated their time, energy and resources to make the Gala happen. This includes among others, the Program Committee members, Gala Chair Kathy Walters along with Ira and Jackie Marcus for their photography skills, and Rudy and Lillian Galfi for their video talents. The Museum staff was involved every step of the way, in front of the camera and behind the scenes. Special thanks to all our supporters. Your active bidding and buying pushed the event over the \$10,000 mark, well exceeding the Gala expectation.

Giving Tuesday was December 1. This day, a national endeavor tied to the Thanksgiving weekend, is dedicated to supporting local non-profits. Our new Vice-President Tricia Grosser has ably guided Museum participation in Giving Tuesday since its inception. Once

again, our members and friends responded by donating over \$10,000.00. We are incredibly grateful to all for your generosity.

Sunday, December 13 was designated for the annual Open House Celebration at the Nancy Kimball Cobblestone. Normally, this is an opportunity to show restoration progress to interested friends, neighbors and donors. As with so many activities lately, this event morphed into a 40-minute virtual tour featuring our friends and volunteers discussing their contributions, and it can be viewed on YouTube via this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFs0g_I_cGQ

An active 2020 construction season at the cobblestone house resulted in a period front porch and stairs built adjacent to the new custom front door assembly. Inside the house volunteer Dan Miller worked countless hours designing, milling and installing historically accurate baseboards, trim, door and window moldings and creating a double back door from scratch.

Other major tasks completed in 2020 included the installation of maple flooring on the first and second floors, interior painting of the trim and walls, light fixtures, and the completion of a functioning bathroom. Hope to see you at the Elgin History Museum in 2021.

Welcome New Members

- Ann Broihier
- Laura Davies
- Mary Gaston
- Carolyn Gathman
- Michele Machowicz

The Crackerbarrel

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Visit our website Elginhistory.org

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Christmas Memories

Collected by Jerry Turnquist

Santa on a fire truck

"When Santa Claus came to Fountain Square, he got off the fire truck, came up to me and called me by name. Years later I found out that Santa was Bill Genz a close friend of my Mom. That made my day!"

—Charlie Liepitz

Skating and shopping

Ice skating at Lords Park was like being in a Currier and Ives print! The lagoon with an island in the middle, a beautiful Pavilion and a little warming area inside a little room on the bottom floor. Sadly for me, having just moved back to Elgin after living in California, I didn't know how to ice skate. There isn't a lot of ice in Los Angeles. I did try, but wasn't very good, but still it was a great place to go. We would probably then head down to the Esquire restaurant in Fountain Square after for something to eat —usually just a Coke and fries, but they also had great ice cream sundaes!

Fountain Square also had Christmas Carols being sung in the upstairs window of Barnett's, a women's clothing store. Barnett's was one of many women's stores, but it was special at Christmas and at other times of the year as they would use girls from Elgin High and St. Ed's for models in their newspaper ads. There was Christmas shopping at one of the many department stores downtown, Ackemanns, Block & Kuhl, J.C. Penney, Sears, Spiess. There were also many men's or women's stores, Chuck Hines, Brenner's, Kay Campbell's, or Singers, just a few of the many stores.

—Chandler Swan



Fountain Square Photo: Chandler Swan

Santa was "Magic"

I was probably in first or second grade in 1956 or 1957, and tagging along with my mom in downtown Elgin during mid-December shopping. I can remember it being busy at all the major stores; Ackemann's, Spiess, Sears, and J.C. Penney. At all the stores there were lines of kids waiting to talk to Santa. I asked my mom how in the world Santa Claus worked at all these stores at the same time. My mom's answer was "Magic."

—Lyle Wolff

2021 Program Schedule

Betsy Armistead, Program Chair

NOTE: In-person events are tentative due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Check the website for current information. elginhistory.org/events

Every third Saturday of the month, 11:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M.: Spanish language tours of the Museum

January 14, 7:00 P.M. Gail Borden Library

Jerry Turnquist presents "Bet You Didn't Know This About Elgin History"

January 24, 2:00 P.M. Bill Briska presents Elgin Watch History to highlight the reprinting of E.C. Alft's *Elgin Time* book

February 11, 2:00 P.M. Gail Borden Library: "How Sweet It Is" with Linda Rock

February 21, 2:00 P.M. Linda Gorham presents African American Heroes and Sheroes in honor of Black History Month

March 18, 12:00 Noon Brown Bag Lunch: History of Elgin Symphony Orchestra with Eric Malmquist, Executive Director

April 11, 2:00 P.M. Leslie Goddard as Rachel Carson (in honor of Earth Month)

May 20, 12:00 Noon: Brown Bag Lunch: History of Biking in Elgin presented by Tom Armstrong for National Biking Month

May (tentative) Nancy Kimball Cobblestone House Presentation/Tour

Fun in the snow

"I grew up on St. Charles Street in Elgin. In the wintertime, my uncle used to plow our driveway with his jeep and push the snow over the retaining wall. We would build up a snow packed ramp from the upper backyard to the lower backyard and sled from our yard almost all of the way to the neighbor's house. It was also my job to make sure all of the sidewalks were shoveled and I even shoveled the street next to the curb so when cars would pull up, they wouldn't have to be concerned with getting stuck or people wouldn't have to step through the snow to get to the sidewalk."

—Ray Strahl

Special ornaments from Germany

Personally for me, Christmas time was always about tradition and family. We decorated the tree with ornaments from my childhood, my parent's childhood. These included special decorations which my maternal grandfather had brought over with him from Germany. All of these I still have. The perfect ending was Christmas Eve candlelight service at First Congregational Church singing Christmas Carols.

—Chandler Swan

Santa was scary

"Spiess and Ackemann's department stores always had a Santa for the kids to visit and reveal what their wants were. Sometimes Sears would have him walking around their store talking to the little ones. My youngest daughter, Barb, was scared to death of him so we didn't see him too much BUT he did make a home visit. It was Bill Genz of the Elgin Fire Dept. Barb didn't like him then either. Those were fun days to go downtown to see all of the Christmas decorations on ALL the stores and red kettles of the Salvation Army on almost every corner. In those days, it seemed like everyone knew everyone and it was a fun time. A wonderful time to be an Elginite!"

—Ellen Weidner

It was a magic time

"I have many fond memories of winter skating the lagoons of Lords Park. The parks had competitive skating there and they actually groomed the ice so the racers skated on near glass. As a kid, watching the older boys glide around with their racing skates made me want to throw away my clunky hockey skates, and I pined for the black long-bladed racers. Most of the time was spent on the well-lit upper lagoon because it was always in better shape and, being closer to the warming pavilion had something to do with it too.

Somebody dared my little wild brother to skate over toward the thin ice. It was on the north side where the creek entered the lagoon and the ice was always thin and barricaded. Yep, he went through the ice and caused a big stir for an hour or so. He survived and so did we.

It was a magic time to grow up in Elgin, although the realization of it didn't come to me until much later. I felt safe and at home in Elgin and folk were generally friendly and kind. The only life distractions back then were TV and radio. Today, I can't imagine growing up where a seven year old can click a mouse and virtually be standing on a street in Tokyo."

—Mark Coleman



Skating at Lords Park

Singing at Fountain Square

"Singing has been a big part of my life, and during the years from 1951 through 1953, I was a member of the Elgin High School A Capella Choir. Each year during the Christmas season, the choir was invited to sing from the second floor of Barnett's Clothing store in downtown Elgin. From the large window in front of us, we could see the crowds of shoppers in the street below and the city's big Christmas tree in Fountain Square, which had no fountain and was not square."

—Carl Missele

Christmas tree lots

"I remember Vege's Christmas tree lot at the corner of Liberty and Cooper in the 1950's. My Dad, who was an Elgin fireman, and his co-workers would sell trees every year on their off days. That lot was so reminiscent of the lot in the movie "Christmas Story" right down to the strings of light bulbs and rows of trees. Each year dad would bring home one of the 'free' undesired trees for our living room."

—Bill Ryan

Barbie & Ken dolls

"My most vivid Christmas memory of downtown Elgin as a child was walking down the steps to the basement of the Osco. It was next to the First National Bank. After my mom would do her banking, she would take my sister and me to Osco. At Christmastime, Osco would decorate their basement and it was a wonderland. Walking down those stairs was magical. I could not wait to roam the aisles in order to make my Christmas list. It was there that I saw my Barbie Dreamboat Chris Craft Yacht play set. Finally, Ken, Skipper, and Malibu Barbie could sail the high seas!"

—Sara Sabo

Thank You Donors

Grants

Business Interruption Grant from Illinois Department of Commerce

Nancy Kimball Cobblestone Project

Signal Hill Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution

General Donations

Mary and Martin Gregory

Memorials

Jan and Roy Garfield

Benefit Gala Donors

Lorraine Allerton	Elizabeth Hoefft
Jerri and Ken Barnhart	Patricia Jocius
Carol Blohm	Ira & Jackie Marcus
Janet Burkart	Carl & Chris Missele
Rita Corbett	George & Marge Rowe
Jose De La O	Judy & Alex Sorton
Charles & Patricia Dunning	Valerie Swan
Rudolph Galfi	James Turner
Carol & Robert Gathman	Judith Van Dusen
Patrick & Carol Gieske	Daniel & Lynn Walters
June & Alvin Gordon	

Giving Tuesday Donations

Rachel Abrams	Ricky Harris	Jim Nelson
Brian Anderson	Gary Hillquist	Michael N. Patchen
Debbie Anderson	Tom Hokinson	Bethany Patten-Nawara
James Anderson	Douglas Horton	Linda O'Connor
Tom Armstrong	Sarah E Hunt	Mark Preradovic
Jerri & Ken Barnhart	Pat & Jim Jocius	Erin Ramirez
Steven Bartholomew	Deborah Kelly	Valann Reddington
Dave Bosely	Susan E Kerr	Martha Redeker
William Briska	Trish LaFleur	Erin Rehberg
Phillip Broxham	Paul R. Larson	Linda Rock
Scott Budd	William Laue	Marge Rowe
Tish Calhamer	Maureen Lee	Sara Russell
Barry & Andrea Danielson	Elizabeth Marston	Kathy Sack
Dave & Marlene Daubert	Emma Marston	Frank G Salvatini
John Devine	Jane Marston	Judith A. Schroeder
Kimberly Doren	William Marston	David Siegenthaler
Maurice Dyer	Sandi McClure	Brian Stark
Carl & Mary Ellen Flaks	Chris Missele	Allison Stern
Sue Foley	Holly Montgomery	Ashley Stern
Terry Gabel & Sue Brigham	Dan Mullin	Laura Stroud
Rudy Galfi	Tricia Mullin	Jerry Turnquist
Susan Groenwald	Ron Mursewick	Jim & Sue Wingfield
Maureen Grosser	Nelson Nast	Miroslawa Wojciechowska
Patricia Grosser	Anna Nelson	

Remembering Carl Flaks, History Humanitarian

Elizabeth Marston, Museum Director



Carl Flaks passed away December 21, 2020.

Carl was a unique combination of history lover, teacher, collector, organizer, gardener and cook. Joining the Museum Board in 1998, Carl served as President from 2000 through 2004 as part of a new three-part system with a Vice-

President, President, and Past President all rotating through positions. He also served as Membership Committee Chair from 2005-2008. Carl was always thinking of new and better ways of getting history out to the public while having fun.

As an educator, Carl retired from teaching in 1998 after 37 years, ending at Schaumburg High School as the Social Studies Department Head. He helped develop the Watch Your Pocket program at the Museum, always playing the role of the factory superintendent in costume. With his handlebar mustache, Carl looked the part. He enjoyed working with the students and watching their face light up as they understood the historical concept, and often volunteered with his wife, Mary Ellen, also a retired teacher.



As a collector, Carl was interested in many different areas, such as beer cans and breweriana, presidential and political history, coins and medals, Elgin memorabilia, Native American rugs and Kachina dolls, baseball, Depression glass and musical history including sheet music and instruments. Carl helped develop the music exhibit in the temporary gallery that focused on sheet music and early phonographs in the collection. Carl also organized a temporary Hats Off exhibit and presented a well-received program on hats with Mary Hill.



Carl Judging the History Fair

Carl was a member of the Program Committee for the last 17 years, working with Lucy Elliott, David Nelson, and current Program Chair Betsy Armistead to dream up interesting new programs for Museum members and the public. He organized many programs, but really had fun researching and developing family events like 2019's trolley ride/picnic at John Duerr Forest Preserve or the History Fair, an annual event from 2004-2015. Carl was a presenter with the Museum's Speaker's Bureau. He had a number of lectures he could present from presidential history to beer cans to baseball. As with all Program Committee members, Carl assisted in the annual Museum Benefit and Silent Auction. Each year, Carl would take on a major role in the Benefit not only donating popular baskets, but also selling raffle tickets and helping to get the baskets to the silent auction winners.

One of the most interesting events/fundraisers that Carl developed was the Brass Band Concerts from 2003-2007. With his son, Jason, who is a high school band teacher and played in a brass band, Carl went through the Museum's collection of Joseph Hecker's music that was part of the Elgin Watch Factory Brass Band. Jason orchestrated the music for his band, played it at the concerts, and recorded some for use in the

Museum. The concerts were held at Carl's church, First Congregational, and attracted about 200 people each year. The event was an early fundraiser for the Museum. Carl loved the brass band concept so much, he even organized a 4th of July parade float that was a re-creation of Hecker's band.

Carl Flaks was a leader at the Museum in so many ways over the past 20 years, but he never missed an opportunity to make his community better. As a member of FCC United Church of Christ Elgin he had many opportunities to volunteer. He taught Sunday school and served on several ministries, most recently as Chair of the Mission Grants Committee. He was involved in the Laotian Refugee Resettlement Program, Elgin Cooperative Ministry, and the Prison Release Program. Most notably, he led the Soup Kettle at FCC for 27 years, serving thousands of meals for those in need.

He was recognized as the first recipient of the D. Ray Wilson Volunteer Award and always worked to embody the words of Quaker Missionary Etienne de Grellet. "I shall pass this way but once; and good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being; let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

A memorial service will be held for immediate family at FCC on Sat., Jan. 9 at 1:30 p.m. The service will be live-streamed on FCC's YouTube channel. Visit FCC-elgin.org for the link. Carl will be interred at Bluff City Cemetery.

The Joslyn Family of Elgin: Part 1

by David Siegenthaler

Rev. Adoniram Judson Joslyn (1819-68) and his brother Edward Swain Joslyn (1827-85) were prominent figures in early Elgin. Though both possessed passionate natures and extraordinary oratorical abilities, that was about all that they had in common.



A.J. Joslyn (l) and his brother E.S. Joslyn (r)

Rev. A.J. Joslyn, an Abraham Lincoln supporter, paved the way for 110 black contrabands to find refuge in Elgin during the Civil War. He subsequently helped

them organize the Second Baptist Church, even becoming a member himself, and fought for school integration. Ed Joslyn supported Lincoln's opponent in both the 1860 and 1864 elections and fought against school integration. Rev. A.J. was a temperance advocate who denounced "the influence of liquor in aggravating disease, stimulating to crime and corrupting the public morals." Ed, a practicing "wet" who was more likely to be found in a saloon than a church, was elected mayor of Elgin on the city's first "wet" ticket in 1861.

Rev. A.J. came to Elgin in 1844, where he was pastor of Elgin's First Baptist Church from 1844-55. He was named after Adoniram Judson (1788-1850), the famed Baptist missionary to Burma, 1814-50. By coincidence, Judson University in Elgin was named in memory of the same man. In 1845, Rev. A.J. was one of the founders and editors of Elgin's first newspaper, the "Western Christian," a Baptist, anti-slavery publication. From 1860-63, he edited the "Weekly Gazette," which also supported the Abolitionist cause. In 1854, Rev. A.J. was secretary of the organizational meeting of the Republican party in Kane County. He was also an Elgin Board of Education member; an Elgin Academy trustee, 1855-68; an Elgin postmaster, 1863-66; and an Elgin alderman in 1868.

Ed came to Elgin in 1848 and was admitted to the bar in 1852. He was a 13-term alderman (1855-58; 1864; 1868-69; 1871-76), a 2-term mayor (1861 and 1865), a Kane County state's attorney (1857-61), and a 2-term city attorney (1860 and 1870). Politically, Ed enthusiastically supported John Fremont in his 1856 presidential campaign. He then joined the Democratic party in 1858 and became a devoted follower of Stephen A. Douglas, and later, George McClellan. In 1861, Ed was commander of the "Elgin Continentals," an amateur militia company. When Lincoln called for volunteers at the outbreak of the Civil War in April 1861, Ed and his men immediately enlisted in Company A, 7th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry for 3 months' service. In August 1861, Ed enlisted as a lieutenant colonel in the 36th Illinois Infantry Regiment ("Fox River Regiment"). Due to a wound and subsequent ill health, Ed was discharged in September 1862.

The Joslyn brothers were members of the pioneering family of Lindsey Joslyn (1786-1863) and his wife Mary "Polly" Waite Joslyn (1787-1854). The family emigrated from Nunda Valley, New York, to Nunda Township, near Crystal Lake, about 1838. Other children included: David Waite (1810-?); Chauncy (1813-89; a Michigan judge); Zarah (1815-89; a New York doctor); Mary E. (1821-72; never married); Daniel (1823-1913); Merritt L. (1825-1904; a Woodstock judge); and Waity (Evelyn Waite? 1831-90; Mrs. Melvin Baldwin). There may have been two or three other sons (Waite, Fred and a son who died in infancy) but sources are conflicting.

When Rev. A.J. came to Elgin in 1844, the Baptist Church held services in the Union Chapel, Elgin's first church building, located at the northeast corner of DuPage and Geneva streets. In 1849, the chapel was replaced on the same site with a cobblestone church building that served the congregation until 1870. The Elgin Baptist Church was organized in 1838 and Rev. A.J. was its second pastor, following Rev. Joshua Ambrose.

Politically active on behalf of freedom, Rev. A.J. was an early leader of the anti-slavery Liberty Party in Illinois, and in 1848 he was a delegate to the convention of the Free Soil Party, which opposed the extension of slavery into the territories. He left Elgin in 1855 to work as an agent for the Illinois Baptist Education Society, and in 1856 he became the first minister of the Union Park Baptist Church in Chicago. While there he assisted in establishing the original University of Chicago under Baptist auspices.

In 1860, Rev. A.J. returned to Elgin as editor of the "Weekly Gazette" and zealously supported the candidacy of Abraham Lincoln. He was selected as a Republican delegate to the Illinois state constitutional convention in early 1862. There, he unsuccessfully opposed a section prohibiting Negro immigration into Illinois, and he was also unsuccessful in blocking a section which prevented Negroes from holding office or voting. In an address to the convention, he said, "I believe that slavery of any kind is a degradation to the man engaged in it - that it drags down to its awful clutch both the master and the slave. Sir, I would be glad if by moral influence, combined with others, I could make every slaveholder in this country willing to release the grasp he has upon his fellow men."

An opportunity soon arose to act upon this belief. After the battle of Shiloh, the Tennessee Valley in northern Alabama was occupied by Northern forces. Large numbers of slaves escaped behind the Union lines and were declared "contrabands of war." With the coming of winter, the large number of women and children among them posed a problem for the army. Rev. Benjamin Thomas of Elgin's Baptist Church was then serving as chaplain of the 52nd Illinois, a regiment stationed in the valley. He wrote Rev. A.J., who had taken his place as interim minister: "How many do you think can find homes at or near Elgin? ... Now, the time to prove our faith by our works has come ..."

Rev. A.J. quickly organized a committee which gave its approval to the exodus. Chaplain Thomas arrived in Elgin on October 15, 1862, with 110 contrabands, most of them women and children. He was threatened with assault and arrest for violating the black laws which prohibited any blacks from entering Illinois, but the refugees remained.

When some of the contraband children began appearing in local classrooms, the City Council passed a resolution instructing the Board of Education "to permit no Negro children to attend the public schools." This

resolution was introduced by Rev. A.J.'s brother, Alderman Ed Joslyn. Rev. A.J. protested, but to no avail. The eventual compromise was the opening of a separate "colored" school in 1863, which served until 1872, when Elgin schools were integrated.

In 1867, the year before he died at age 49, Rev. A.J., often called "Elder," left his own church and united with the blacks in their Second Baptist Church, which he had helped them organize in late 1866. In his "Gazette," in 1863, he had declared, "We go for the rights of all men. We are always, other things being equal, for the poor against the rich, the weak against the strong, the ignorant against the cunning and crafty." Like his missionary namesake abroad, Rev. Adoniram Judson Joslyn was one of the great moral and religious leaders in Elgin's history.

Rev. A.J. Joslyn was born October 5, 1819, in New York. On August 25, 1842, in McHenry County, he married Emily Shepherd (1821-75), also from New York. The couple had four children: Gertrude Emily (1846-1923; Mrs. John Farnum); Fannie Forester (1849-64); Ada Janette (1853-74); and Arthur Judson (1859; died at five months). Rev. A.J. died October 9, 1868, and his wife Emily died October 23, 1875. They were buried in the old Channing St. Cemetery and later moved to Bluff City Cemetery.

To be continued ...

Acknowledgments: Mike Alft's books and newspaper articles; Elgin death records; Kane County histories; obituaries and other newspaper articles; Ancestry.com; Kane County Clerk; etc.

Collections Corner: Nursing Donations

Beth Nawara, Curator

In 2019 the Museum received several donations related to nursing in Elgin. Two of the donations were quite large, and much of 2020 was spent processing them. The Elgin Women's Club donated copies of every "Sherman Rx," the Sherman Hospital newsletter. Volunteers indexed the name of every person pictured in the newsletters. They also donated several pictures of Sherman Hospital nurses. These donations allowed the Museum to help when the McHenry County Museum requested a copy of a picture of Irene Oberg, Sherman Hospital Nurse Supervisor, for an exhibit.



Another significant donation was made by the Estate of Wm. Roberts and Wm. Muirhead. The donation included pictures, letters written by Elginite Mary Muirhead, her nurse's uniform, and dog tag from her service in World War I. Her letters home, excerpted here, give a good representation of her experiences as a nurse.

According to the The Army Nurse Corps Association website E-ANCA.org, the first nurses and first women in the military were appointed to the Army Nurse Corps on February 2, 1901. Nurses helped the Continental Army in 1776 and during the Civil War. In 1898 medical care proved inadequate for the service members struck down by yellow fever, malaria and other tropical diseases during the Spanish American War. Fifteen hundred contract nurses were recruited to help turn the tide with epidemics. The nurses' contributions became the justification for a permanent female nurse corps. When the United States entered World War I there were only 403 Army nurses on active duty. By November 1918 the number rose to 21,460.

Mary Muirhead, born and raised in Elgin, was one of those nurses. She graduated from Sherman Hospital in 1908 and received a letter dated February 18, 1918 from the American Red Cross. They had been asked to find nurses for service in the U.S. Army and Naval hospitals and with Base hospitals. The letter said "You are likely to find the methods of procedure in a military hospital somewhat more formal than in a civil hospital and authority more absolute. May I urge, however, that you accept conditions without comment or criticism and make every effort to adapt yourself cheerfully and without friction to the new environment." (EAHS archives, 2019.91.5ab)

One of her first stops was at Camp Dodge, Iowa. On November 1, 1918 Mary arrived in New York City awaiting her next orders. She promptly wrote her parents a letter on Hotel Breslin stationery. The hotel, located at Broadway and 29th St., is still there today, renamed Ace Hotel. In the letter she wrote, "we had a very pretty trip all of the way. Ohio with its pretty old rail fences and rolling country dotted here and there with a bit of woodland surely is very beautiful." (EAHS archives 2019.91.6)

On January 15, 1919 Mary was in Allerey, France. She was working in a hospital ward with 45 patients who were waiting for transportation home. She writes "I am working with a Miss Peterson at the ward who has a sister by the name of Mrs. Carlson who lives in Elgin on Liberty Street....She is very well acquainted with the photographer Carlson and his wife and has visited Elgin." (EAHS archives 2019.91.8)

ELGIN HISTORY MUSEUM
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Mary Muirhead (l.) at Camp Dodge, Iowa

The Museum does not have a document stating when Mary returned home, but she did return to Elgin, continued to work as a nurse, and lived in Elgin for the rest of her life.