

Civil War Soldiers on Battlefields Discussed on March 19 at Free Lecture Series in Elsau

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ELSAH - What did Civil War soldiers on the battlefields write home to their friends and family back home? Find out during the free Hosmer-Williams Lecture Series hosted by the Historic Elsay Foundation Thursday, March 19 at Farley Music Hall in Elsay. For more information, please see the attached press release.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Have you ever wondered what Civil War soldiers wrote in personal letters to parents, family members and friends back home? What did they reveal about what they saw or how they felt during fearful extraordinary times in battle and during routine daily events in camp?

In his presentation, “From the Monticello Female Seminary Archives: The Civil War Letters of Captain David W. Norton to Mary (Mollie) Chapman,” Springfield writer Mark Flotow will tell us about one such correspondence between a young lady attending Monticello Female Seminary and an Union Army officer stationed in Tennessee.

Mark’s presentation draws from his recently published book: “In Their Letters, in Their Words: Illinois Civil War Soldiers Write Home.” He discovered the letters written to Mary—she called herself Mollie—in the Monticello Archives in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. He also found more tidbits about Mollie in her student writings and letters to home in Jerseyville.

In addition to writing the book, Mark is a volunteer interviewer for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library’s Oral History program. He is a past member of the advisory board for the Illinois State Historical Society and has written several articles for the society’s magazine, Illinois Heritage.

The presentation will take place Thursday, March 19 at 7:30 PM at Farley Music Hall in Elsay. It is free and open to the public. Reservations are not required. Parking is available. Refreshments will be served following Mark’s presentation.

Historic Elsay Foundation proudly presents this program as the first in our 2020 edition of the Hosmer-Williams Lecture Series, which is underwritten by Liberty Bank: A United Community Bank.

Attention media, print and otherwise, for additional information, contact George Provenzano, at gprovenzano@lc.edu, or visit our website, historicelsah.org