

2018 Illinois World War One Commemoration Events/Activities

On-Going Exhibits

Chicago History Museum (Chicago)

Chicago and the Great War

DuSable Museum of African American History (Chicago)


Clearing a Path for Democracy: Citizen Soldiers of the Eighth Illinois National Guard




Glencoe Historical Society (Glencoe)

Glencoe in the Great War



Pritzker Military Museum and Library (Chicago)



Lest We Forget: Sailors, Sammies and Doughboys Over There in World War I

FEBRUARY	<p>11 “Over There and Over Here: The Local African-American Experience During WWI” with Bill Kemp, Librarian and Archivist McLean County Museum of History</p> <p>During WW I several dozen Bloomington-Normal residents fought in an African-American regiment reputed for its bravery and ferocity. They became known as the “Black Devils” by the Germans. Bill will present an illustrated lecture about local black soldiers and talk about the discrimination and bigotry these doughboys faced upon their return home.</p>	<p>Bloomington Public Library (Bloomington) 2:00 p.m.</p>
	<p>27 Century of Service: First Army</p>  <p>Lieutenant General Stephen M. Twitty (USA) visits the Museum & Library to discuss his career and the 100-year history of the First Army, America’s first, oldest, and longest-serving numbered field army.</p>	<p>Pritzker Military Museum and Library (Chicago) 6:00 pm</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">MARCH</p>	<p>6 American Doughboys WWI</p>  <p>American Doughboys in the First World War reviews America's participation in "the war to end all wars" as historian Robert Mueller takes listeners on a trip across the battlefields of Northern France to describe the events, people, and places of America's contribution to the defeat of the German Kaiser. Famous engagements such as Belleau Wood, Cantigny, St-Mihiel, and Meuse-Argonne are reviewed with images of what the battlefields look like today. The evening ends by relating the enormous changes that the conflict brought to warfare, society, and populations around the world. Sponsored by the St. Charles History Museum in collaboration with the St. Charles Public Library</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Charles Public Library (St. Charles) 7:00 – 8:00 pm</p>
	<p>29 Pritzker Military Presents: Terrance Finnegan, <i>A Delicate Affair on the Western Front: America Learns How to Fight a Modern War in the Woëvre Trenches</i></p>  <p>Terrance Finnegan returns to the Museum & Library to discuss his book about the 1918 battle at Seicheprey France that introduced American troops to 20th-century warfare. Sponsored by the United States World War One Centennial Commission.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pritzker Military Museum and Library (Chicago) 6:00 pm</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">APRIL (cont.)</p>	<p>8 and 9 The Great War Reenactment</p> <p>Midway Village Museum will host the 6th annual Great War event, a WWI military event that features over 225 reenactors portraying soldiers and civilians from the United States and Europe in the museum's historic village. Visitors engage in this unique historic, immersive experience with the opportunity to enter encampments, tour a reproduction 150-yard trench system, and watch large-scale narrated battle reenactments.</p> <p>Featured Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large scale battle reenactments featuring pyrotechnics • WWI Tanks, including the FT-17 French tank • Large scale WWI model airplane displays and flying demonstrations • Tours of the 150-yard trench replica including bunkers • Explore the exclusive Trench Train, also known as the Tin Turtle • Displays of WWI weapons, equipment, and artifacts • Live horses from the Cavalry units • Lectures throughout the day by military experts • Salvation Army donut dollies demonstrations • Live musical performers with songs from the 1910s • Battle skirmishes throughout the day in the village  <p>The Traveling Bijou Theater Presents: Buster Keaton silent films with live accompaniment by the Rockford Wind Ensemble</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Midway Village (Rockford)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 10:00 – 5:00 Sunday 10:00 – 4:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Traveling Bijou Theater</i> Saturday 7:00 pm (Museum Center Lakeview Rooms)</p>

APRIL (cont.)	<p>12 Pritzker Military Presents: James McGrath Morris, The Ambulance Drivers: Hemingway, Dos Passos, and a Friendship Made and Lost in War</p>  <p>Join us as author James McGrath Morris discusses two aspiring writers who forged an intense twenty-year friendship and wrote some of America's greatest novels, giving voice to a "lost generation" shaken by war. Sponsored by the United States World War One Centennial Commission.</p>	
	<p>21 Camp Grant in World War One (Presented by: Greg Jacobs)</p>	<p>Little White School Museum (Oswego) 1:30 – 3:00</p>
	<p>29 The Airfield on Washington Street</p> <p>Jim Hoppe is back, presenting "The Airfield on Washington Street." He will talk about the Illinois Wesleyan Officers Training School, the Motor Training School on Washington Street, and the Men in the Reserve Air Corps.</p>	<p>Bloomington Public Library (Bloomington) 2:00 p.m.</p>
MAY	<p>22 Pritzker Military Presents: Thomas Phillips – <i>In the Shadow of Victory II: America's Forgotten Military Leaders, The Spanish-American War to World War II</i></p>  <p>Author Thomas Phillips visits the Museum & Library to discuss his second volume on some of America's forgotten Military Leaders. Sponsored by the United States World War One Centennial Commission.</p>	<p>Pritzker Military Museum and Library (Chicago) 6:00 pm</p>
	<p>26 Memorial Day Parade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wreath-Laying Ceremony: 11 am • Parade begins: 12 pm 	<p>Chicago</p>
	<p>31 Pritzker Military Presents: Elizabeth Cobb – <i>The Hello Girls: America's First Women Soldiers</i></p>  <p>Author Elizabeth Cobbs visits the Museum & Library to tell the story about how America's first women soldiers helped win World War I. Sponsored by the United States World War One Centennial Commission.</p>	<p>Pritzker Military Museum and Library (Chicago) 6:00 pm</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">JUNE</p>	<p>4 Pritzker Military Presents: Patrick K. O'Donnell – <i>The Unknowns: The Untold Story of America's Unknown Soldier And WWI's Most Decorated Heroes Who Brought Him Home</i></p> <p>Author Patrick K. O'Donnell returns to the Museum & Library to discuss his book about the Unknown Soldier and America's involvement in WWI. Sponsored by Grove Atlantic.</p> <p>When the Unknown Soldier was laid to rest in Arlington, General John Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in WWI, selected eight of America's most decorated, battle-hardened veterans to serve as Body Bearers. He chose them for their bravery and to tell the larger story of America's role in World War I.</p> <p>For the first time, O'Donnell cinematically portrays their heroics on the battlefield one hundred years ago. The Body Bearers appropriately spanned America's service branches and specialties. Their ranks included a cowboy who relived the charge of the light brigade, an American Indian who heroically breached mountains of German barbed wire and captured more than sixty Germans, a salty New Englander who dueled a U-boat for hours in a fierce gunfight, a tough New Yorker who sacrificed his body to save his ship, and an indomitable soldier who, though blinded by gas, nevertheless overcame five machinegun nests.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pritzker Military Museum and Library (Chicago) 11:31 a.m.</p>
	<p>7 Pritzker Military Presents: Kenneth Davis, <i>More Deadly Than War: The Hidden History of the Spanish Flu and the First World War</i></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p>Kenneth Davis returns to the Museum & Library to talk about his latest book about the Spanish flu pandemic in WWI that resulted in the deaths of tens of millions of people around the world. Sponsored by the United States World War One Centennial Commission.</p> </div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pritzker Military Museum and Library (Chicago) 6:00 pm</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">JULY</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">AUGUST (cont.)</p>	<p>24 Homefront: Echoes of the Great War Exhibit Opening with Dance Night</p> <p>Sponsored by the St. Charles History Museum (Details to come)</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">(St. Charles) 5:00 – 7:00 pm</p>

<p>AUGUST (cont.)</p>	<p>31 Brown Bag Lunch: Honoring the Soldiers of St. Charles</p>  <p>Sponsored by the St. Charles History Museum (Details to come)</p>	<p>(St. Charles) 12:00 – 1:00 pm</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER</p>		
<p>OCTOBER</p>	<p>1 National WW1 Centennial State Caucus</p>	<p>Pritzker Military Museum and Library (Chicago) TBD</p>
	<p>13 Recreate Your WWI Soldier Experience (Presented by: Tina Beaird)</p>  <p>Many federal WWI personnel records were destroyed in a National Archives fire in the 1970s. Tina offers ways to locate copies of peripheral federal military records and provides solutions for recreating some of the lost history in these “fire” records by using local government documents, newspapers and base records, and more.</p>	<p>St. Charles History Museum (St. Charles) 1:00 – 2:00 pm</p>
<p>NOVEMBER</p>		
<p>DECEMBER</p>		