

Main Hall museum

The elegant, but reverent, second-floor chapel, complete with bell tower, was altered in the 1980s to accommodate its use as a classroom, Scheehle said. Using old photographs, renovations began in 1993, returning the chapel to its 1893 appearance.

Framed in nostalgia, the stories of many leap from page and portrait, among them: William W. Cargill, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Paul Newman, Brother Joseph Dutton and "Duke" Ellington.

A Leper colony in Hawaii

Presented among stories within the Early History exhibit is that of Ira Barnes Dutton, a Milton Academy student, attending between 1859 and 1861. Originally from Vermont, a three-year-old Ira and his parents arrived in Janesville in 1847.

Under his given name, Ira attended school part-time, taking a course of general studies, while he "worked at a book store," Scheehle said, and was an "office boy at the Janesville Gazette," an archived document stated. In 1861, the American Civil War was afoot, and Ira enlisted as a member of the 13th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment, serving for four years and three months, Scheehle said.

According to Scheehle, Ira married and divorced, struggled financially, and drank to excess. He was noted to have described his own behavior, in an archived accounting shared by Scheehle, as fierce and reckless.

"He was a drunk and (years later) decided to turn his life around," Scheehle said. He turned to Catholicism and changed his name to Brother Joseph Dutton, she said, taking the name in reverence for Saint Joseph.

Hoping to atone, Scheehle wrote, Brother Joseph Dutton joined a monastery in Kentucky where he was accepted as a layman. During that time in his life, she said, he became aware of the work of Father Damien, a Belgium-born Roman Catholic priest, also known today as Saint Damien of Molokai, so named for an island upon which the Kingdom of Hawaii required people with leprosy to live. Damien administered comfort to colony residents, living on the island's Kalaupapa Peninsula, through his ministry work from 1873 to 1889, at the end of which time, he, himself, succumbed to the disease.

Upon learning of conditions on Molokai, Scheehle said, Dutton believed he had found his calling, and in 1886, a story printed in the Janesville Gazette in 1981 and included within archival materials kept at the museum reported, he journeyed by steamboat, arriving unannounced, and began helping Damien care for the ill. Three years later, he would continue the work without Damien's help.

Before his own death in 1931, it was noted that Dutton had once written: "I have never grown tired of my work ... and as far as leaving Molokai, the thought

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never comes into my head." At the time of his death, he had spent some 40 years caring for colony residents, never contracting the disease, information on the National Park Service Kalaupapa webpage states.

Known for his letter writing, he was reported to have been in correspondence with 200 people who regularly sent him letters and books.

With age making him ill, he was transported to a hospital in Honolulu where he was visited by Catholic priests from Janesville and Beloit, "who had by then named a school after him," the Gazette reported.

Nearing his death, he was reported to have said: "I guess I have come to the end of my trail, that my work is finished. I hope God approves."

The professor and the 'Duke'

Among stories featured in the Music and Drama exhibit, is that of American composer, bandleader and pianist Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington (1899-1974), who was known as a very close friend of Milton College Drama Professor Mrs. Ethel Rich, Scheehle said.

The pair met at the University of Wisconsin. Rich later became an international vice president of the Duke Ellington Jazz Society.

Ellington participated musically with Milton College on three occasions, Scheehle said, twice, in 1964, when he performed in concert on April 11 during a festival of the arts, and wrote a musical score used, with his permission, during the school's performance of William Shakespeare's "Timon of Athens." In 1966, he wrote a musical score for a T.S. Eliot play "Murder in the Cathedral," which was also performed by the school's drama department.

Words within a printed program capturing the essence of the 1966 event read: "Milton College Speech - Drama Department presents Murder in the Cathedral, by T.S. Eliot, with music composed and arranged by Duke Ellington."

As reported in an April 16, 1964, issue of the school's paper: "Wildcat," Duke Ellington, described as "the nation's genius of jazz," performed "in personal concert," before a "jammed" house of 700. Among selections played, the paper reported, were "Mood Indigo," "Caravan" and "A-Train."

On June 7, 1964, Milton College awarded Ellington a doctorate of humanities. Unable to attend the commencement, "due to a previous engagement in California," as reported in the June (1964) issue of the school's alumni magazine "Milton Today," his son, Mercer, accepted the degree for him. He was photographed viewing the honorary degree citation with Rich.

Content within Milton Today stated: "(Ellington) is so firmly established and so much in the public view, that his name alone implies his professional qualifications." Another statement reads: "His life is gentle, and the el-



Milton College Preservation Society Executive Director Judy Scheehle holds a flag which once flew over the Molokai leper colony in Hawaii. The flag is part of the Brother Joseph Dutton display in the Main Hall museum's Early History exhibit. (Kim McDarison photo)

ements so mix in him that nature may stand up and say to all the world: 'This is a man.'"

In a November, 1965, issue of the same magazine, Rich sought to update Milton readers on the activities, performances, awards and recognitions, received by Ellington since his honorary doctorate received from Milton. She was in attendance, the story shared, during a performance given by the New York Philharmonic orchestra during which Ellington's selection, "The Golden Broom and the Green Apple" had its world premiere at Lincoln Center "with the composer conducting." She further attended "ceremonies at City Hall, the Tonight Show and a dinner in Ellington's honor ... after the Tonight Show."

Rich was also among guests invited to a reception hosted by President and Mrs. Nixon at the White House in celebration of Ellington's 70th birthday, Scheehle wrote in a story published by the Milton Courier in 2005. Rich retired from Milton College in 1973, and died, as did Ellington, in 1974.

Plan a visit

Those interested in visiting the museum can do so seasonally, from June through August, between the hours of 1 and 4 p.m., Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Office and archives hours are offered year-round, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with some variation due to limited staffing, on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Contact the museum by phone: (608) 868-2354, or visit the website.

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