

4-27-1988

## 04/27/1988 - EIU History Professor Says History Is More Than Textbook Material

University Marketing and Communications

Follow this and additional works at: [http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press\\_releases\\_1988](http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1988)

---

### Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "04/27/1988 - EIU History Professor Says History Is More Than Textbook Material" (1988). 1988. 190.

[http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press\\_releases\\_1988/190](http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1988/190)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Press Releases at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1988 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact [tabruns@eiu.edu](mailto:tabruns@eiu.edu).



ART TATE, Assistant Director, University Relations  
Office: (217) 581-5981 - Home: (217) 348-7553

88-70

April 27, 1988

**FILE COPY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU HISTORY PROFESSOR SAYS HISTORY IS MORE THAN TEXTBOOK MATERIAL

CHARLESTON, IL.--Encouraging people to stop, look and learn about the history around them is what Eastern Illinois University history professor Dr. E. Duane Elbert does best.

"History is not just what is contained in a textbook. It is looking at how people lived in the past--seeing their homes and the landscapes around them ... It is understanding, for example, why particular artifacts were used," Elbert said.

"It is studying the social/cultural interactions between people and things and breaking the code as to what these things meant to the people of early Illinois or early America."

-more-

Elbert enjoys putting the pieces of these historical puzzles together and rediscovering the cultural landscapes of America.

He shares his discoveries not only with his students, but with others who have no where else to turn for the answers.

Elbert, who serves as president of the Illinois State Historical Society, said he and the organization's 3,000 members share their interest and knowledge in history and technical information with each other and with other groups.

The Society also serves as a support group for the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield and for Illinois historical sites and local history museums.

The organization holds meetings to discuss local and state history and also sponsors an Illinois Junior History Program, which includes five regional history fairs for junior high and high school students, and a state history exposition. It provides publications for original manuscripts and sponsors a history symposium in December.

One of the Society's major activities includes an annual meeting and tour to be held this year on ~~April 29-30 and May 1~~ in Chicago.

The group will tour the south and west side communities of Chicago and will visit such landmarks as the Pilgrim Baptist Church, the DuSable Museum of African American History and Quinn Chapel.

They will also visit Chicago's northwest neighborhoods and will explore Jefferson Park, Logan Square, the Ukranian Village and Chinatown.

Elbert said the main focus of the organization in recent years has been planning and implementing a major fund-raising campaign to increase the organization's endowment.

He said the Society needs funds to help continue promoting Illinois history. "We would also like the organization to continue to grow and to be more effective in promoting scholarships and museums."

Elbert, a native Illinoisan, has taught at Eastern for 22 years. In addition to teaching such courses as domestic life, local history research and folk culture, he is graduate coordinator for Eastern's Historical Administration program.

He has received numerous awards, the most recent being "An Award of Commendation" from the Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis, Mo., for furthering the history of the Lutheran Church through outstanding research and excellence in writing the article "The American Roots of German Lutheranism in Illinois."

The article was published in the Summer 1985 issue of the Illinois Historical Journal.

Elbert has served as a museum consultant on numerous restoration projects, including the restoration of Jubilee College near Brimfield, Ill. He has been responsible for purchasing historically correct artifacts for the circa 1850 school.

He has also worked on the Dudley House Restoration project in Charleston.

Elbert is chief curator and exhibit preparer of Greenwood School Museum in Charleston where he and the graduate students in the Historical Administration program annually install exhibits on such diverse topics as dolls and political items.

As evidenced, Elbert's accomplishments span many pages as does history.