

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From Sainte Marie Foundation

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SAINTE MARIE FOUNDATION MUSEUM NOW OPEN

After a gala grand opening in late August, the Sainte Marie Foundation is now open on the first Sunday of each month from 1 – 3 p.m. or by special request for families and other groups (call 618-455-3153).

The featured exhibit (to be available until the end of May, 2015) celebrates all present and former Sainte Marie area residents and those who have ties to Sainte Marie who have served in the military, with a special focus on World War I and World War II participants. A DVD made by Annette Reis Lynch has been very popular with visitors who have seen the exhibit. It features people from Ste. Marie who served in the military over the years, starting with the Picquet brothers who served in the Civil War.

But the most extensive collection is from World War II. “People from the area searched their closets and storage areas and loaned us all kinds of items,” says Mike Hartrich, vice president of the Foundation and a co-curator of this exhibit with Donna Keller. Of particular interest are Purple Hearts from Norman Copper (Newton) and the Gerald Geltz family, as well as uniforms, ration books, induction papers (some even lied about their age in order to get into the war effort) and many pictures.

Copies of the pictures have been placed in notebooks, arranged by various time periods – from the Civil War all the way up to present military involvement. Viewers will see many familiar faces of people who grew up in the Sainte Marie area and served in the military.

“This is an exhibit that may never be seen again,” says Hartrich, “since so many of the items are on loan from various families. In addition, the large, two-story Foundation House (where the museum is located) is filled with items that celebrate the history of this small, but unique village and the rural area surrounding it.”

The Museum will be open from 1 – 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 5 and on future 1st Sundays until the end of May, when the exhibit changes. The Museum is located in the Foundation House at 113 S. Washington Street, Sainte Marie. Admission is free. For further information, call Mike Hartrich at 618-783-8678.

The Sainte Marie Foundation is incorporated as an Illinois not-for-profit, founded exclusively for charitable purposes and dedicated to the improvement and historical preservation of Ste. Marie.

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Picture Caption: (l – r) Darren and Amy Frohning, Newton, view pictures at the military exhibit at the new Sainte Marie Foundation museum during the grand opening in late August.

