

Historical Society Publications Now Available Through the Mail


Many Cedarville Area Historical Society publications are available through the mail. Check the list and order those of interest to you by circling the **boldfaced** title. For **each** item you order, add \$1.50 for postage and handling to the publication cost. Send this page and payment to the historical society as indicated in the box below.

- “Generous Spirit”** by Paul Fry, biography of Paul’s Aunt Mary Fry, friend to members of the Jane Addams family for many years. More than 100 pages with photos. **\$19**
- Agnes Henney Autobiography.** Small, privately printed 1940 memories of John Henney’s 95-year-old widow. Includes photos. Only 9 copies left. **\$15**
- Civil War Medicine** by Dr. Gordon Damman, Lena dentist and president of a medical museum in Frederick, Md. Three volume set. **\$25 for all three volumes.**
- Cedarville.** Contains concise history of Cedarville and sketches of many of the old buildings in the village. Published for the 1976 U.S. bicentennial. **\$4.**
- It Seems Like Only Yesterday** by LeRoy Wilson. Thirteen brief, humorous articles by Mr. Wilson about growing up in Cedarville in the 1930s. Two dozen photos. **\$8.**
- Jane Addams** by Cedarville historian Ron Beam. Concise story about Jane Addams growing up in Cedarville. Easy to read. Only 4 copies left. **\$6.**
- The Cedarville Clingmans** edited by Jim Bade. Annotated 19th century diaries of several members of the family that came to Cedarville in 1837. More than 340 pages of text and photos. Only 7 copies left. **\$25.**
- Letters of the Barber-Patten-Moses-Richart Families of Illinois and Iowa and Memoirs of Jefferson Moses** edited by Jim Bade. Sixty four letters from 1858 to 1878 of members of Cedarville related families and autobiography of Civil War veteran Thomas Jefferson Moses. Only 6 copies left. **\$18.**

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ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

APRIL 2006



Cedarville Area Historical Society

Historical Society 2006 Programs Getting Ready for Spring Kickoff

**By Jim Bade
President**

Current plans call for opening the museum about May 15.

Only the finishing touches are lacking from the 2006 season of the Cedarville Area Historical Society. Mostly missing are some specific dates and times

The number of exhibits in the first floor north room will be increased over last year. There will be a new Addams family exhibit that will have additional emphasis on the family of John Weber Addams, the brother of Jane. There will also be exhibits on the Cedarville School, the residential architecture of Cedarville, the toy tractor collection of the late Craig Bicker, Cedarville, and a model of a Midwest country church created by Wayne Rychly, Cedarville.

Visitors to the museum in the 1889 Cedarville School will be greeted with a first floor that is 95 per cent restored. The south room walls and ceiling have been repaired and repainted. This month the floor will be sanded and refinished and new electrical service and ceiling lights will be installed.

The south room will again be used for programs, but it will also feature artworks that either reflect the history of Cedarville or were created by Cedarville artists. These works will be drawn from private collections and the historical society’s archives.

The foyer off the bathrooms has been repainted to match the color of the north and south rooms, new 1890-style ceiling tile has been installed and a ceramic tile floor matching the bathroom floors will be laid. The unusable radiators have been removed to increase working space.

(Turn to next page)

Historical Society 2006 Programs

(Continued from previous page)

The historical society will offer six educational-entertainment programs during the May through October season. The dates have not been firmed, however, the programs will include:

Paul Fry speaking on the John Weber Addams family. This program will tie into part of the Addams family exhibit. Fry, a Cedarville resident, is the author of "Generous Spirit: The Life of Mary Fry." Miss Fry for most of her life was a companion to many members of the Addams family.

Carole Bertram, Freeport piano teacher, performing ragtime and 1930-era popular songs on the museum's 1906 upright piano. Carole appeared twice last year before capacity audiences.

Christopher Fye, Freeport architect, talking about Cedarville residential architecture. Again, this will tie into a museum exhibit and also an August 5 Cedarville historic house walk.

LeRoy Wilson hosting a session highlighting personal experiences in Cedarville during the 1930s to 1960s. The program will include audience participation. LeRoy writes an historical society newsletter column about growing up in the village in the 1930s. His book containing thirteen of his columns has been a society best seller.

I will present a program based on the young Cedarville students who signed the autograph book of Mary Fry during the time period of 1888 through 1892. Many of the boys and girls later married each other and many of them are the grandparents of today's local area sixty and seventy year olds.

On August 5 and 6, the historical society will host the reunion of the Clingman family. The first members of the family came to Cedarville in 1837. As part of the reunion, family historians will relate tales of Clingmans who lived in the village.

Although the August 5 historic house walk featuring between ten and fourteen village houses will be staged at the same time as the Clingman reunion, the walk will be available to the public. The cost is expected to be about \$12.

As usual, the historical society will cooperate with the Cedarville American Legion on Memorial Day. The society will participate in the parade and cemetery program and will host a picnic lunch on the museum grounds.

Late in September the society will sponsor the third Jane Addams Festival with the 5 K run and walk on the Jane Addams Trail, a picnic lunch on the museum grounds and games for adults and children. Trophies and medals will be awarded.

Yes, Those Were Wonderful Days When You Owned High Top Boots

By LeRoy Wilson

In the early 30s during depression years, wearing apparel was hard to come by.

In the summer months it was hand-me-down and bare feet. Winter was still hand-me-downs, but we needed our feet protected from the cold. The greatest thrill a young boy could possibly experience was to own a pair of high top leather boots.

You don't see them in today's world. Now it's low cut white walking shoes. Seventy years ago it was high top leather boots. Those boots came about two inches or so below the knee. They laced to the ankle and the remaining distance up the leg was lace hooks to the top eyelets.

On the outside of the left boot was a three inch elongated pouch. In the pouch was a pocket knife. With a new pair of boots you got a knife — thrill of thrills!

Can you imagine what carrying a pocket knife in your boot to school would get you nowadays? Not only would you be expelled from school, but you would probably land in a court of law.

If you were blessed with a new pair of these boots, the first thing you did was to

water proof them with goose grease. The first day you wore them to school they allowed you to be a show off and to be envied. You would come up along side another boot wearer and compare heights. A quarter of an inch higher gave you bragging rights.

This foot wear was great for wading in puddles and spring ditch streams. Whose boots could handle the deepest water? If you goofed and the water went over the top, it was a cold, slushy walk home. Since we wore our pants legs tucked inside the boots, Grandma knew that if my trousers were wet above the boots, I had been wadding again. That was bad news for all.

There were features of those boots that caused problems. The steel lace hooks could catch on rugs and furniture. Not good. The soft black heels easily marked floors. If you could convince the parent to get you steel heel plates, you could clatter your way through life. When the hooks got bent, it required a pair of pliers or the lace would not go in or out of the hooks. Those problems meant nothing if you could wear high top boots.

We stomped our way through World War II with combat boots. What could we have done to the enemy with high top boots?

Historical Society Gets IRS Approval of Tax Exempt Status

The Cedarville Area Historical Society has been granted exemption from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The ruling also means contributions to the society are deductible under section 170 of the Code. Most foundations require this status before considering grant requests.

The effective date of the exemption is June 6, 1975, the date the society was organized.

The IRS letter added: “You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code.”

The IRS cautions that donors to the historical society must have a written receipt for contributions of \$250 or more; The society will provide such receipts.

**Cedarville Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 336, Cedarville, Il. 61013**

**Jim Bade, president
Narcissa Engle, vice president
Ruth Smith, treasurer
Denise Rogers, secretary
Dave Kaiser, director
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Board member Steve Myers and son Daniel move two old radiators and refrigerator from foyer opposite museum bath-rooms to facilitate installation of new flooring. One radiator weighed between 400 and 500 pounds.



Archives Home to Unusual Items

The archives of the Cedarville Area Historical Society contain some rare gems of information that often are overlooked because researchers tend to focus on “the big picture.”

In 1988 Margaret Frank, president of the society, corresponded with the Illinois Department of Transportation in an effort to learn more about the present concrete bridge that spans Cedar Creek at the north end of the village. A page and a half letter from the Department probably gave her more information than she expected.

According to the state, the bridge was constructed in 1980 at a cost of \$1,398,431 and its span is 313 feet. The contractor was Belvidere Construction with Nebil Abadeer as resident engineer.

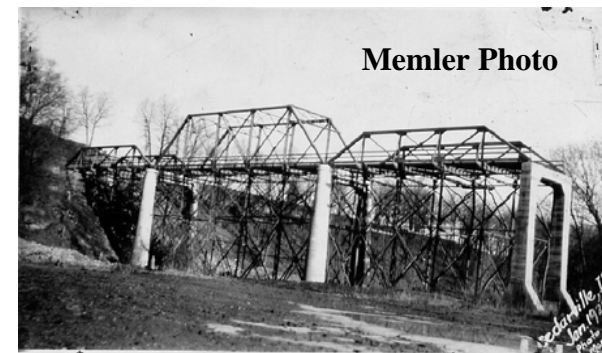
The new bridge replaced the structure built in 1927-28 at a cost of \$35,196.09. Its length was 257.3 feet and it was built by Vincennes Bridge Co. of Indiana and Ferguson Construction Co. of Rockford.

Merton Memler was the resident engineer. He later became a district engineer, serving in that position from 1952 through 1967.

W. Rex Heacock, district construction engineer in 1988, added the footnote that the cost of removing the 1928 bridge — \$40,000 — exceeded the total cost of constructing that bridge by almost \$5,000.

As complete with facts as Heacock’s letter was, it neglected several bits of human interest material, probably because the writer was unaware of the information.

Merton Memler took more than a dozen pictures of the bridge as it was being constructed in 1927-28. The historical society has copies of those photos, one of which is reproduced on this page. Also, while working on the bridge, Memler became acquainted with the Sam Franks family who lived just north of the con-



struction site. In 1927 Memler was married to Sam’s daughter Dorothy who was a first cousin to Margaret Frank, a daughter of Sam’s brother John. Dorothy died in 1976 at the age of 75. Margaret, who never married, died in 1989 at the age of 86, only one year after the letter was written to the highway department.

History Behind Abe Lincoln Bust At 1889 School Begins to Unfold

The life-size plaster bust of Abe Lincoln has lived in the 1889 Cedarville School — now the museum of the Cedarville Area Historical Society — for 97 years. Only now is its origin being learned by the current generation.

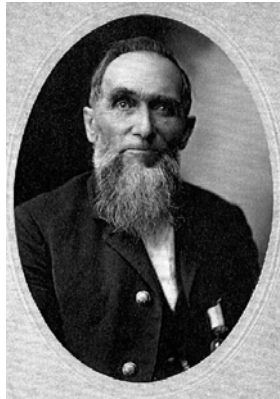
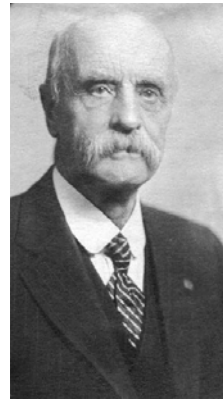
Inscribed on a small plaque is the information the bust was presented to the school by local citizens in 1909 to commemorate the 100th birthday of the Civil War President. The bust, 32 inches high, was purchased from a Boston firm that specialized in making these presumably relatively inexpensive likenesses of famous people. The firm, P. P. Caproni & Brother, is no longer in business, according to the Boston Historical Society.

Newspaper research by Ladona Wardlow, historical society member, indicates the beginning of the Lincoln story can be

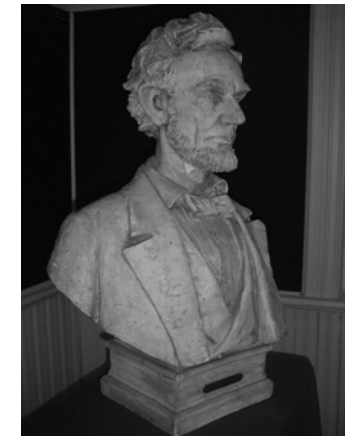
found in a brief February 10, 1909, notice in the Freeport Daily Bulletin that urged Cedarville residents to turn up at 1:30 p.m., Friday, February 12, in the Knights of the Globe hall to join school children in a celebration of Lincoln's 100th birthday. The K of C hall, a favorite spot for plays, dinners, school graduations and meetings, was once an Evangelical Church located at what would now be 135 Harrison St. The building no longer exists.

On Wednesday, February 17, the Freeport Daily Journal reported "a large and attentive audience greeted the pupils in the Globe hall on Friday afternoon whither the school had repaired to celebrate the Lincoln anniversary."

In the audience were several Civil War veterans who told various stories related



From left: William Klingman, William Kryder and Ellen Fry as they probably looked in 1909.



From left: Willard Fink in 1910, O. A. Fackler in 1904, Abraham Lincoln bust, 2006

to Lincoln. William Clingman and Luther Angle, 46th Illinois Infantry privates from Cedarville, told of hearing the Freeport 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debate. William Kryder told of Lincoln's death and burial. Kryder was a member of the 146th Illinois Infantry, the regiment that guarded the President's body when it lay in state in Springfield, Il.

After an audience song — noted by the newspaper as "Italian Hymn No. 157 in the book" — numerous students presented short talks on various aspects of Lincoln's life. The names of many of the students are familiar to people living today: Joe Miller, Harry Fink, Willard Fink, Mary Shoemaker, Eleanor McClurkin, Alice Phillips, Edith Phillips, Fred Thompson, Bethel Pepperman, Frank Mitchell.

Also, Ellen Fry, Oliver Hutmacher, Clarence Smith, Lawrence McCammon,

Harold Fink, Clifford Schrack, Ethel Thompson, Chester Forte, Glenn Bear, Logan Kahley, Jessie Kryder, Vernie Smith, Hazel Winchell, Florence Forte, Helen Frank, Gertrude Portner, Hester Frank, Vera Portner, Ethel Forte, Clint Zipse, Arthur Lentz and Nellie Hutmacher.

The newspaper reports nothing about action taken at the meeting to acquire a memorial; however, the March 2 Freeport Daily Bulletin reported, "Inasmuch as the committee appointed to purchase the Lincoln memorial does not know just how much they may spend until all have paid, will all who wish to have a part in this please hand their contribution to some member of the committee or to O.A. Fackler (school principal) as soon as convenient."

No word on how much was collected or how much the bust cost.