

# ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

**July 2020**

***Cedarville Area Historical Society***



***The Museum is temporarily closed due to the Coronavirus outbreak. We will email and post on Facebook with updates.***

## **Museum Updates**

### **Museum Board Decides to Wait to Open**

After the monthly board meeting on July 7, 2020, the CAHS board decided to wait another month before considering opening the museum. We will provide updates in our next newsletter. Thank you for understanding.

### **CAHS Receives Grant from the Illinois Humanities Council**

the CAHS has received a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council. The COVID19 Emergency Relief Grant in the amount of \$2,500 will be used to help keep the museum in operational condition.

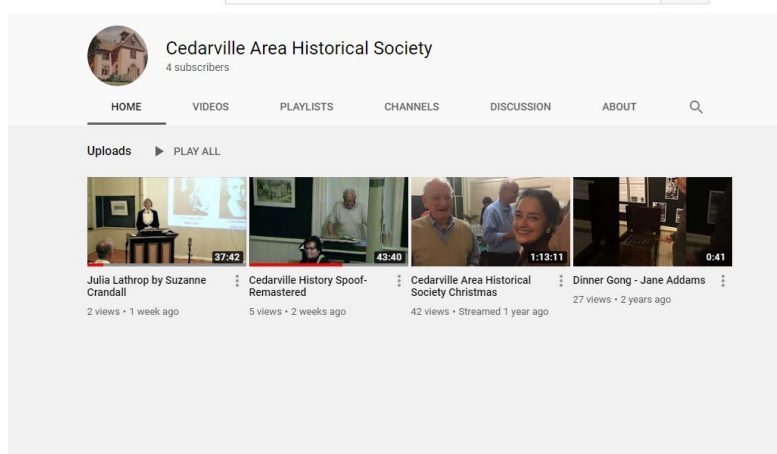
“The work of your organization is vital to supporting and maintaining the cultural vibrancy of Illinois and we hope that this support will help your organization to continue this work during these challenging times.” was the feedback from the Illinois Humanities Council.

Thank you to CAHS member, Wendy Gilpin, for her tireless efforts giving us this opportunity.

### **Programs available on YouTube**

In order to brighten your summer, CAHS will be making available many programs from the last 16 years on YouTube. We already added our very own Cedarville spoof starring our own Society members. Our latest addition is Ellen Gates Starr: A first person performance by Suzanne Crandall from August 18, 2015. We hope to add one program per week. Please go to Youtube and search “Cedarville Area Historical Society” to find us. We will also add a link on our web page.

“Like” our page at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtNjKA5hA5R5ZSVO2bEGfBA> to get automatic upload updates.



# Spring Programs Delayed Until Fall

Due to the coronavirus, the history related evening programs for the Spring months have been delayed until the fall. The following dates have been scheduled but are contingent to what the conditions will be in the fall.

September 29 - Done Franz (Lincoln Assassination)

October 6 - Susie Dvorak (Stephenson County Fair Historian)

October 13 - Emily Painter (Jane Addams) Cathie Elsbree (Susan B Anthony)

October 20 - George Buss (Abraham Lincoln)

For those with tickets, please hold them until the fall program. We will provide a sign-up form for those who still wish to sign up in a future newsletter.

If we are not able to present the program in the fall, we will plan to move it to the spring of next

## CAHS Remembers Longtime Member

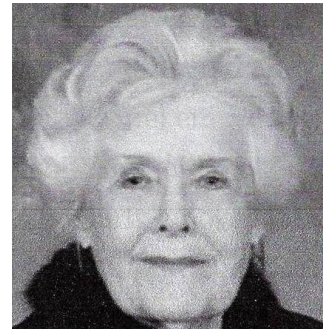
Rachel Mae Wise, 91, a member of the Cedarville Area Historical Society, died June 15 at her farm home immediately south of Cedarville.

She was born July 30, 1928, to Roy and Helen Nelson. The family at that time was living on a farm near Winslow, Il. At first Rachel attended high school in Lena/Winslow but later was graduated from Dakota high school.

On her first day at Dakota, Rachel met L. Keith Wise, whom she married on June 1, 1947, in the Dakota Community Church. The 59 year union ended with Keith's death in 2007. Two daughters, Linda and Kathy, and a son Kim, were born to the couple.

Rachel and Keith were active in the state and national Charolais beef associations. In time they expanded their interests into real estate and appraisal businesses. Rachel continued to be active in the later two fields after her husband's death.

Survivors of Rachel include a daughter Linda and her husband Don Graff, Austin, Tx., a daughter Kathy Foltz, Cedarville, and a son Kim and his wife Susan, Dallas, Tx. Also surviving are six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.



## Watercolor Painting Donated to CAHS

Well known Freeport artist Linda Auman has donated her 15 inch by 20 inch still life water color to the Cedarville Area Historical Society. The unframed work is undated. Previously, Mrs. Auman donated four works of art by the late Rosalee Rockman to the society.

# History of the CAHS Museum

Part two (Continued from last

issue)

By Jim Bade

In the summer of 2005, a split rail fence, identical to the original fence, was constructed on the east border of the property. The original fence was needed to stop grazing cows from encroaching on the school playground. At the same time the school playground equipment was moved to the north side of the half acre and repainted.

A big event in April, 2006, was the federal government granting tax exempt status for the historical society. That also meant the society could solicit tax deductible contributions. Most foundations require this status before considering grant requests.

In May new ceiling lights were installed in the first floor north and south rooms and the floor in front of the bathrooms was finished with ceramic tile.

In June individual society members bought four hand-crafted oak benches. One would be placed in the soon-to-be constructed arbor by the east fence and three were placed inside the building.

A major addition to the building was made in 2007 with the construction on the second floor of the Rosabelle Cronau Research Center that now houses more than a thousand books and publications on Cedarville related history. The \$5,000 project was mostly funded by a gift from Ray Cronau in honor of his wife who had died the previous year. Other funds came from Winnifred Macomber whose husband, Lena teacher Vernon Macomber, had also recently died.

In the spring of 2009 the society began the restoration of the second floor north room that was to be named the LeRoy Wilson Theater and to be used for history lectures, live music programs, historical society parties and events of the general public. The room would seat 64 on new padded folding chairs. The project,, including heating and cooling, was completed the following year.

A way to make the second floor room more available to physically handicapped persons was explored but with no answer at that time.

In a surprise move in September of 2009, the village offered to sell to the society for one dollar the Cherry Street building originally used by the organization. The society accepted the offer. With the new facility the society was able to move artifacts and equipment stored in the second floor south room making that room available for other purposes. Using \$9,000 of a \$10,000 bequest, the society in 2014 refurbished the nineteenth century building by replacing the old roof with a metal one and remodeling the original bathroom.

In June of 2010 a slate blackboard was removed from a wall in the second floor south room. Until then the board's installation date was unknown. However, written on the back of the removed board was "October 28, 1911", a Saturday, and the names of three men --- Cyrus Kryder, George Confer and Merrill C. Fink. In addition there was a notation that the day was clear and cool. Kryder was a well known carpenter at that time.

In October four historical society artists –

Roger Goodspeed, Harlan Corrie, Duane Smith and Dan Edler – agreed to paint four 55 by 74 inch acrylic murals with Cedarville history themes that would be mounted on the south wall of the LeRoy Wilson Theater. The artists donated their talent.

You can see the resulting murals today.

Two years after the restoration of the second floor north room, the problem of transporting

handicapped visitors to that floor was solved. The society board agreed to spend \$36,000 to install an elevator that would move between the two floors in 30 seconds.

The fund raising campaign received a great sendoff with a \$20,000 contribution from Karl Erickson, a retired Cedarville farmer and an historical society member. The remaining \$16,000 was raised in ten days and the conveyance was operational in time for the society's December 11, 2012 Christmas party. Erickson, who was ill and not able to attend the party, died December 13 at the age of 101.

Cold December 2013 weather did not stop two volunteers from rebuilding the basement entrance of the museum.

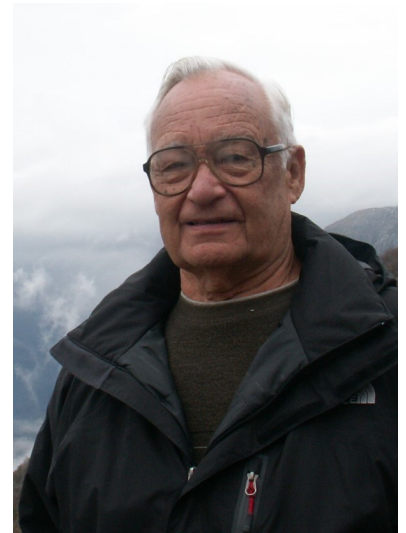
They contributed material and labor.

In October 2016 two society volunteers began working to turn the second floor south room into a mini kitchen where food could be assembled for use in museum sponsored events. Finished in time for the Christmas party, the project included heating and air conditioning, refrigerator, microwave, sink, counter space and storage drawers.

Storm windows were installed at a cost of \$1500 in the second floor south room in 2017. Volunteer labor was used.

All building windows now had storms.

The former 1889 school building that was crumbling is now one of the finest examples of good restoration. It is also a good example of what dedicated volunteers can accomplish.



***Cedarville Area Historical Society***  
***1212 S. Stewart Ave, Freeport IL 61032***

Postage

***Return Service Requested***

**Museum Hours (Temporarily Closed)**

April –October

Saturday 1-4PM

Sunday 1-4PM

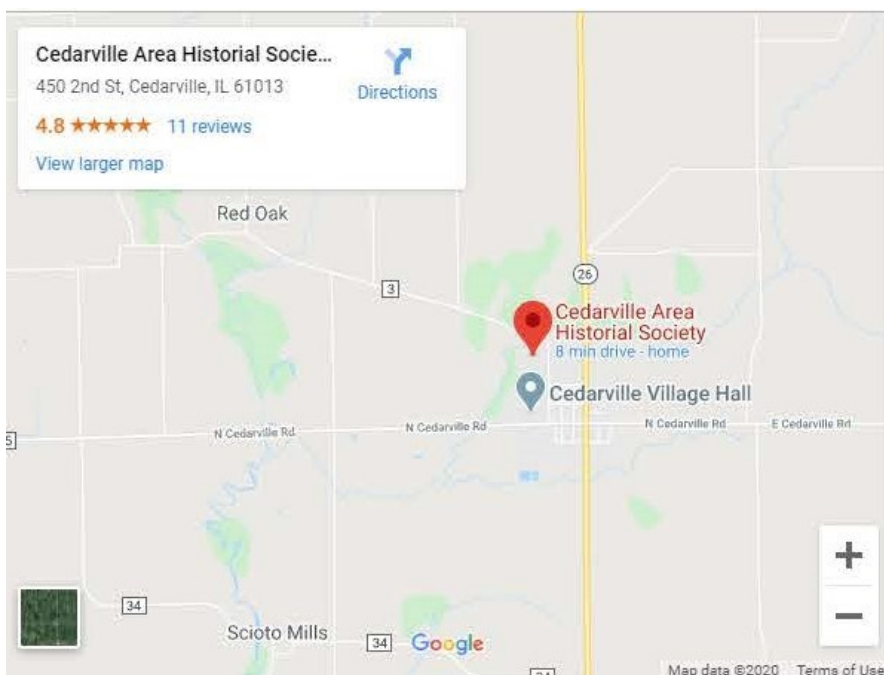
Or by appointment by calling

815-990-0417 or 815-847-9127

**We Want Your Stories**

Email us your stories or antidotes about Cedarville or the Cedarville area. We will present them in following newsletters. Email them to [info@cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:info@cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org)

***If you have not renewed your membership, please do so.  
We need your support. Thank you.***



**Cedarville Area Historical Society**  
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**1212 S. Stewart Ave, Freeport, IL 61032**

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**Facebook-Cedarville Area Historical Society**  
**Youtube-Cedarville Area Historical Society**

*Steve Myers, President*  
*Lisa Goodwin, Vice President*  
*Galen Bertram, Treasurer*  
*Sharon Barmore, Secretary*  
*Andy Dvorak, Director*  
*Carol Meyers, Director*  
*Don Franz, Director*  
*Moirra Knowlton, Director*  
*Jim Bade, President Emeritus*

*The society is recognized as a non-profit organization by Illinois and the U.S. government and has been designated as eligible for tax deductible gifts under IRS tax code regulation 501 (c)(3).*