

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

June 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 Adds WiFi

CAHS recently added WiFi to the museum. This was something we have been trying to accomplish for years but because of the museum location, access has been near impossible.

With the help of the staff from JC WiFi, we were able to find a location on the peak of the East roof to get a clear path to the water tower, where the area transmitter is located. If you know our museum building, imagine straddling the ridgeline from the bell tower to the far edge of the roof with an antenna under one arm and the long cable clenched between your teeth.

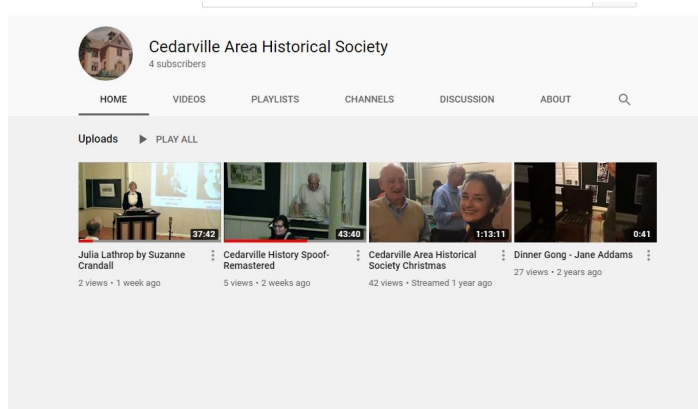
This exciting addition will allow us to provide interactive multimedia to our exhibits where a visitor can scan a QR (Quick Response) code and watch a video rendition of the display. Of course, all of these videos will be available on our YouTube channel.

Another exciting capability that WiFi adds is the ability to live stream our programs and functions. This gives members from all over the world the ability to join us “live”.

The museum also is planning on adding a video doorbell system that will allow visitors to contact a society member who can open the museum for them.



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 Julia Lathrop: A first person performance by Suzanne Crandall from September 1, 2015. We hope to add one program per week. Please go to Youtube and search “Cedarville Area Historical Society” to find us. We will be adding a link on our web page as well. 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. We are in the process of scheduling for sometime in September or October. Exact dates will be provided once confirmed. For those with tickets, please hold them until the fall program. We will provide names of current ticket holders in a future newsletter and provide an updated sign-up form for those still wish to sign up. Below are reviews of the four programs.

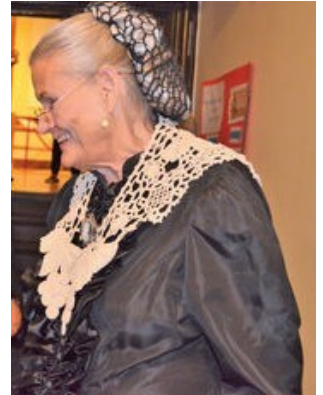
George Buss of Freeport, known nationally for his painstakingly accurate portrayals of Abraham Lincoln, will appear in character to discuss his long friendship and political collaboration with John H. Addams, Jane Addams' father. Mr. Addams served several terms in the Illinois Legislature and played a major role in bringing one of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates to Freeport in 1858.



Don Franz of Freeport, a longtime friend and board member of CAHS, and a well-known Civil War expert, will describe the circumstances surrounding the Lincoln assassination, and the trial and execution of the

Lincoln conspirators. Don has hinted that he has discovered a Cedarville connection to these events which he will reveal in his presentation.

Members of The Women of Courage and Commitment will present two short programs of two influential women in history, Jane Addams, played by **Emily Painter** and Susan B Anthony portrayed by Cathie Elsbree. These women will bring these influential women to life as they share their stories. Shown is Cathie Elsbree as Susan B Anthony.



Susie Dvorak of Freeport, who has done extensive research on the history of the Stephenson County Fair and is writing a book about the subject (recently she has been given the honor of being "Fair Historian" of the Stephenson County Fair), will describe how and why the Fair came to Cedarville in 1951 for the only time in its history.



Free refreshments will be served after each program. An elevator is available for handicapped visitors.

Stay tuned— New dates should be posted in next newsletter

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

History of the CAHS Museum

Part one

By Jim Bade

Twenty years ago the Cedarville Historical Society and museum were squeezed into a small, two room Cherry Street building that belonged to the village.. The front part was of limestone and was built in the late nineteenth century to serve as the village jail and “meeting place.” The back was frame and was added in 1976, the bicentennial year of the birth of the United States

The accommodations were primitive and only marginally adequate for the few dozen members of the society, but the building was rent cheap, only one dollar a year.

Fast forward twenty years to the carefully restored Cedarville hill top 1889 school that was abandoned and crumbling. It is now the home of that same historical society with more than 130 members, the site of an outstanding local history museum and the village’s cultural center. How did this worm to butterfly story unfold over the intervening twenty years?

On November 6, 2000, the village board sold the school building to the historical society for one dollar.

The deed gave the society five years in which to provide municipal water and sewers to the building and to operate it for not-for-profit purposes. Some of the trustees were concerned the small society could not restore the building and fulfill those requirements.

For the record: Virtually all improvements to the building were paid for by volunteer labor, contributions and bequests.

Almost immediately after the purchase, the historical society started to raise funds to repair and restore the 33 windows in the two story building. This project was funded by soliciting sponsorships for each window. Sponsors were rewarded with a small brass plate on the window they chose. Some windows cost as much as \$700. Reportedly the total cost was \$23,000.

In December of 2003 a new septic system was installed at a cost of \$6,200. The society had to resort to a special septic system because the cost of attaching to the village sewer system exceeded \$100,000, caused by a long run of sewer pipes and the need for a lift station and manholes.

Early in 2004 the society started a campaign to raise \$27,000 to construct handicapped accessible bathrooms on the first floor. The cost was cut to \$26,000 because volunteers razed the existing facilities. Start-

ed in July, construction was completed in a few months. On a humorous note: Federal regulations required the doors be labeled “men” and “women”. The society board added “boys” and “girls” in keeping with the original purpose of the two facilities.

Late in 2004, storm windows were installed by volunteers on the 17 first floor windows, the building was connected to the village

water supply, a first floor heating and cooling system was installed, minor electrical work was done and local Boy Scouts helped landscape part of the half acre surrounding the building. A successful \$11,000 fund raising campaign financed much of this work.

With the installation of the heating and cooling system on the first floor, it was possible to work in the building during the 2004-05 winter.

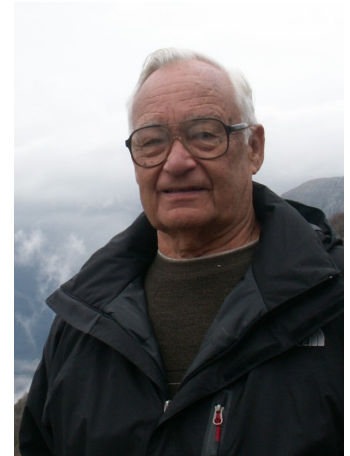
In January of 2005, the historical society installed 42 masonite blackboards in the two first floor rooms of the building. The boards were made and installed at no cost to the society thanks to two society members. Each board was “sold” to a sponsor, raising \$3,100.

The boards were coated with blackboard paint and can be written on by ordinary chalk.

With plans to open the building as a museum in May, emphasis was put on completing work in the first floor north room which was to be used for exhibits. (The slightly smaller south room was to be used for programs.) Volunteers sanded and refinished the original floor, painted the indoor window frames and patched holes in the ceiling and walls and then spray painted the finished surfaces. Electricians installed 44 power outlets in the north room floor to be used to illuminate exhibits.

The building opened as scheduled on May 30.

(Too be continued in next issue)



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

Return Service Requested

Postage

Museum Hours

April –October

Saturday 1-4PM

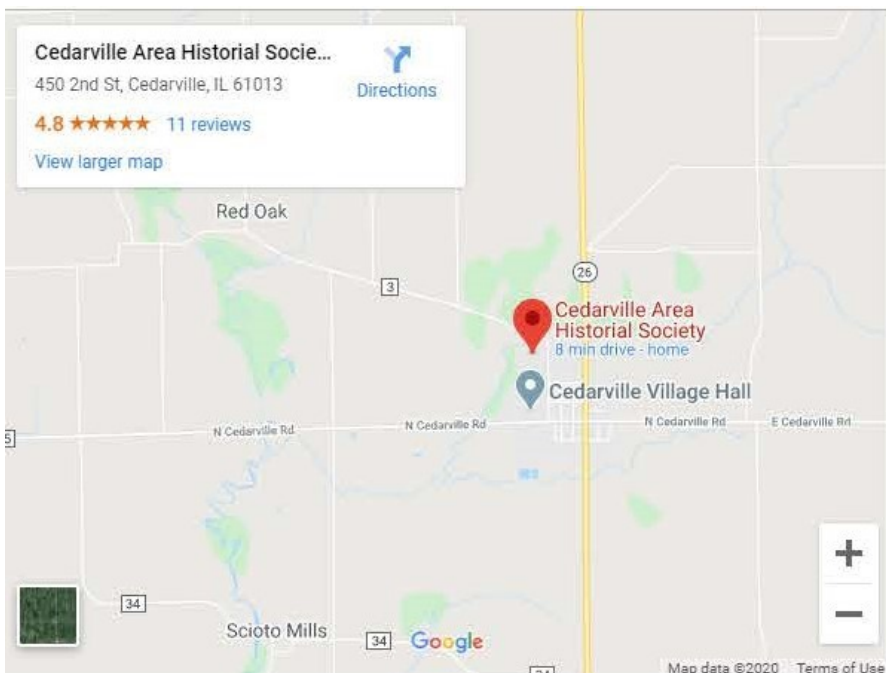
Sunday 1-4PM

Or by appointment by calling

815-990-0417 or 815-563-4202

The mailing address for the CAHS (PO Box 336, Cedarville, IL. 61013) is being changed to CAHS (1212 S. Stewart Av., Freeport, 61032).

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



Cedarville Area Historical Society
P. O. Box 336, Cedarville IL. 61013
Phone 815-563-4202

Web site
www.cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org

E-mail
info@cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org

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).