

# ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

## June 2021

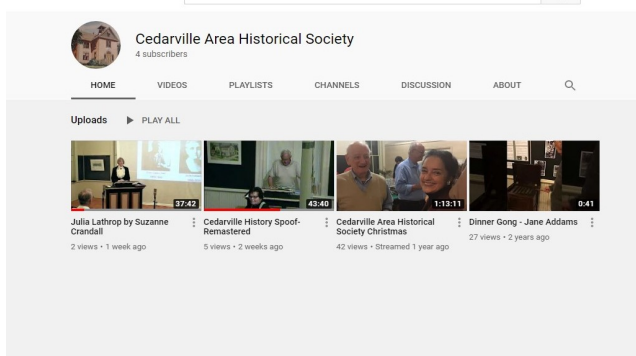
*Cedarville Area Historical Society*



## Museum Updates

- **Cedarville Museum Acquires New Link to Assassination** - Story on page 3
- **Museum is Open**— We ask that visitors call us (phone number on back page) prior to the visit and reserve a time. We will also have a Ring doorbell available at the entrance for those who stop by on the “spur of the moment”. The doorbell allows you to communicate with our remote staff member who will meet you at the museum. Of course, a reservation will ensure that a staff member will be available so please try to use the reservation option.
- **Next Summer Program**— The Lincoln Conspiracy, Tuesday, June 15, 7:30 PM - available “live-stream” or “in-person”. See page 2 for details.
- **Virtual Museum Tour Added to Website**— Now you can get a tour of many of our exhibits from the “Exhibits” page on our website [www.cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org)
- **New Exhibit Progressing**— A new exhibit concentrating on the art work, poetry and life of Lois Fink (Wyka), native of Cedarville will be ready for display soon.
- **Museum Display Cases Updated** - All of our display cases are now updated with motion sensing LED lights. Now you can enjoy perusing the displays high definition.
- **Museum Exhibits Now Include QR Code** - QR code signs are now on many of our exhibits that provide the visitor a recorded video overview of the exhibit. Simply scan the QR code display with your smart phone or tablet to watch. The museum will have tablets available for visitors if they do not have a smart phone or tablet.

## Programs Available on YouTube



CAHS is making available many programs from the last 17 years. They will be posted on YouTube. We will post updates on the latest additions on Facebook.

Please go to Youtube and search “Cedarville Area Historical Society” to find us or click on the YouTube symbol on our home page.

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

## Summer 2021 - Three Exciting Programs

The Cedarville Area Historical Society will present three outstanding history related evening programs for the summer months of 2021. All will be at the museum at 7:30 p.m. on a Tuesday evening. Audience can join in person or via livestream on our Facebook page. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

On Tuesday, June 15, 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.

On Tuesday, July 20, members of The Women of Courage and Commitment will present two short programs of two influential women in history, Jane Addams, played by Deb Pausz and Susan B Anthony portrayed by Cathie Elsbree. These women will bring these influential women to life as they



share their stories. Shown is Cathy Elsbree as Susan B Anthony.



On Tuesday, August 24, 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.

Don't miss this unique lineup of entertainment and education.

To watch "in-person" arrive at the museum on the date and time of the event. The entrance fee will be collected at the door. Please arrive early. Space is limited.

To watch via "Livestream" visit the CAHS Facebook page [Cedarville Area Historical Society - Home | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CedarvilleAreaHistoricalSociety) or website homepage [www.cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org) and follow the link. A donation link will be provided.

## Cedarville Memorial Day Ceremony/Picnic Well Attended

The Cedarville Memorial Day ceremony at the Cedarville Cemetery was well attended. There were more than 160 in attendance at the cemetery and 70 at



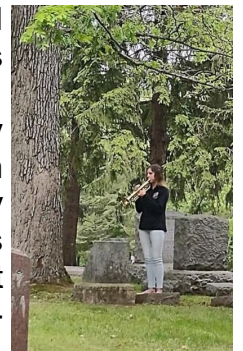
the picnic. The ceremony was led by Cedarville's American Legion Post 1224 and included the reading of President Lincoln's Gettysburg address by Kelly Goodwin, a patriotic song led by Pat Goodwin, a prayer by Pastor Craig Con-

ner from Cedarville Emmanuel Church, a reading of the names of interned veterans by Bill Pick, a six gun salute and taps by trumpeter Sarah Preiwe from Freeport High School. Currently there are more than 150 veterans buried at the cemetery, the oldest being George Washington Cling-

man dating from the War of 1812.



After the ceremony, the public was invited to the Cedarville Museum where the historical society offered a picnic lunch and great fellowship.





# Cedarville Museum Acquires New Link to Assassination

By Jim Bade - President Emeritus

Anyone living in Stephenson County for more than a few years has heard the story of Freeport native Charles Guiteau, the murderer of U.S. President James Garfield. A tiny piece of information only indirectly connected to the 1881 event is now in the archives of the Cedarville Historical Museum archives thanks to a gift from Christopher Cronau of Freeport's Solutions Bank.

The killer was the son of Luther Guiteau, cashier of the Freeport Second Bank founded by John Addams, father of Cedarville's Jane Addams. Cronau, senior vice president at Solutions, contributed a \$100 check signed March 27, 1873, by the father and cashed by a Cedarville area Civil War veteran.

The check has no link to the killing other than the family relationship.

The Charles Guiteau story invites retelling because of its strange twists and outright absurdity.

Charles Julius Guiteau was born in Freeport in 1841. He was a sometime writer and attorney and generally believed to be mentally unstable. A supporter of Republican President James Garfield, Guiteau believed he played an important role in Garfield's 1880 victory and for that reason deserved a major appointment, perhaps an overseas position. In reality he did nothing for Garfield and received nothing even after intensive pleadings to Garfield's advisors.

Greatly disappointed Guiteau began stalking Garfield and on July 2, 1881, in a Washington D.C. train station he shot Garfield who was only

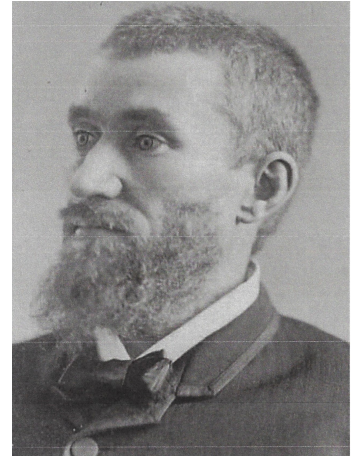
four months into his term. The president lingered eighty days and then died. One story is that with Garfield dead Guiteau believed he would get a choice position through Chester Allen Arthur, the vice president.

Guiteau was charged with murder and after a several month

trial, where he claimed he only shot Garfield and it was the poor work of the doctors that killed him, he was convicted and sentenced to be hanged. The sentence was carried out June 30, 1882. Before the executioner opened the trap door, Guiteau was given permission to read a rambling poem he had written. Upon throwing down the paper with the poem on it, the execution was carried out.

The body was buried in the jail yard, but was later sent to the facility that eventually became the National Museum of Health and Medicine.

The John Addams family and the Luther Wilson Guiteau family were close friends and often visited each other. The assassin's sister Flora was a good friend of Jane Addams and later accompanied her on a trip to Europe.



Charles Guiteau portrait



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

Postage

***Return Service Requested***

**Museum Hours (May – October)**

**Saturday 1-4 PM**

**Sunday 1-4 PM**

**Please call in advance so we can ensure staff is available.**

**You can also utilize the Ring doorbell and we will try to have a staff member there in minutes**

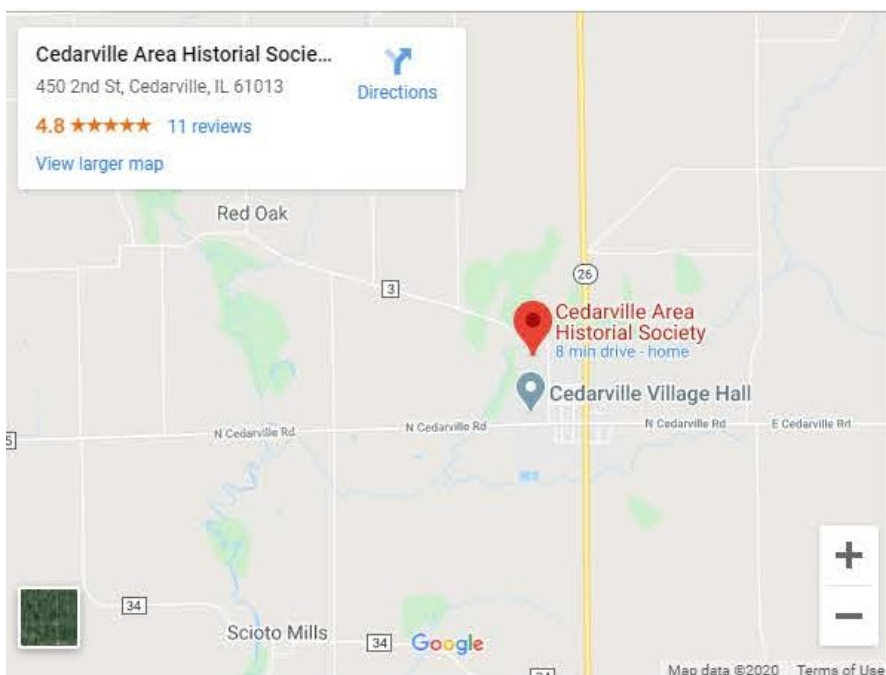
Private tours are available by appointment.

Call 815-990-0417 or 815-847-9127 to reserve

**We Want Your Stories**

Email us your stories or antidotes about Cedarville or the Cedarville area. We will present them in following newsletters. Email

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



**Cedarville Area Historical Society**  
450 2nd St. , Cedarville IL. 61013  
Phone 815-990-0417

**Mailing Address**  
1212 S. Stewart Ave, Freeport, IL 61032

**Web site**  
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**E-mail**  
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**Facebook-Cedarville Area Historical Society**  
**Youtube-Cedarville Area Historical Society**

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*Carol Meyers, Director*  
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*Moirra Knowlton, Director*  
*Jim Bade, President Emeritus*

*The society is recognized as a non-profit organization by Illinois and the U.S. government*