

# ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

**March 2021**

***Cedarville Area Historical Society***



***The Museum is closed due to the Coronavirus outbreak. We are offering private tours.***

## **Museum Updates**

### **New Website Released**

Cedarville Area Historical Society released a new website this month. This new site features a “responsive format” which means it will look great and function well on any device. This site will also give us the ability to add more content like live streaming, blogs and separate pages for specific content. Some of the content we would like to add soon includes research library information, museum exhibits and searchable content. [www.cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org)

### **More Updates**

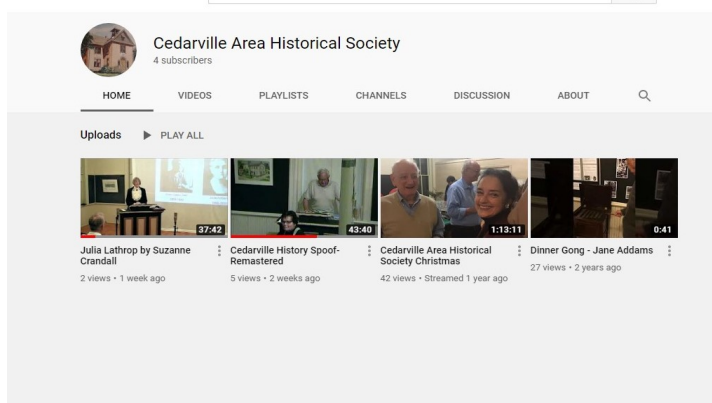
- We are working on the possibility of opening the museum in some capacity
- More exhibits are being planned for the summer.
- We are looking into live streaming programs this summer.

### **CAHS Makes The Journal Standard 3/10/2021 Issue**

Look at the front page of the 3/10/2021 “The Journal Standard” issue for a very informative article written by the talented writer Sherry Maves.

<https://www.journalstandard.com/story/news/2021/03/09/illinois-museums-cedarville-area-historical-society-online-history/6923238002/>

## **Programs Available on YouTube**



In order to brighten your winter, CAHS is making available many programs from the last 17 years on YouTube. Our latest addition, “Life of Weber Addams” Jane Addams’ only brother by Paul Fry presented on October 10, 2006.

Please go to Youtube and search “Cedarville Area Historical Society” to find us.

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

# A Cedarville History Mystery Has Been Solved

Part 2 of 2

By Jim Bade  
President Emeritus

Leaving Cedarville by 1940, the Oscar Fink family including Lois moved to South Benton Street in Freeport. Apparently in less than a year, Lois and her sisters Florence and Rachael, moved to nearby Liberty Street. Shortly thereafter they were joined by the married sister Evelyn and her husband and infant daughter, the future Marilyn Allen, who later commented that as a child she had “a lot of loving care from three aunts.”



*Lois Ruth Fink Duray (Undated)*

In January of 1943 Lois, 21, and her sister Florence, 23, married local men about to be inducted into the army in a double ceremony announced by Oscar and Nellie. Lois was working in a laundry at that time. Apparently while her husband was in military service, she studied to be a beautician and found positions in two Freeport salons.

Her first marriage fell apart and in February of 1946 she married a Dakota man, only to divorce him after three and a half years. It is possible this was followed by an unverified third marriage.

About 1953 she moved to Rockford

and bought a business called “The Kurl-Mor Beauty Shop”. Her niece, then in eighth grade, said she worked part time with her aunt. It was sometime in the late 1950s that Lois married Ronald Wyka, either her third or fourth husband. He was previously married and ten years younger than Lois. How long they stayed together is not known.

By 1971 Lois was living in Aurora, Il., according to her brother’s obituary, where she again bought a beauty shop. Her niece said it was in Aurora that Lois en-



*CAHS Museum painting*

rolled in her first painting class and decided she liked it and believed she had talent.

Marilyn Allen said she was not aware of any other formal education in painting that her aunt pursued. However, she often used one technique that she was known for: Using a spatula to lay on heavy coats of paint to give depth.

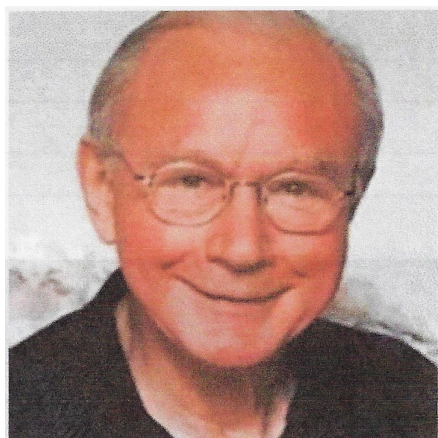
The niece added: “She not only painted pictures, she painted artwork on various objects, often at the request of other people.”

As Lois’s work became recognized,

she began to exhibit her paintings, to win prizes and to offer classes to others. This is also when she adopted the artist's name of "Wyka".

It is not known when Lois's relationship ended with Ron Wyka who died in 2014, but her next recorded marriage was in 1978 to a Rockford man who died in 1984 at the age of 63, the same age as his wife.

Lois's last marriage was in 2000 to Victor L. Duray, a Freeport native and



*Victor Duray (Undated)*

highly successful insurance agent. It lasted until May 12, 2013, when she died at the age of 90 from the effects of Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Following her death, Victor moved to Provena St. Josephs Center in Freeport where he died in 2015 at the age of 91.



*Lois and Husband Victor Duray in 1990's*

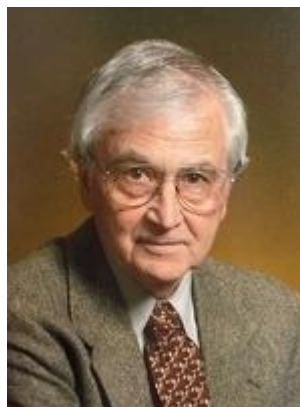
Lois had no children of her own, but her obituary listed seven step children, all related to two of her husbands.

The talent of Lois Fink Duray is very much appreciated today with many local people owning examples of her work. The Cedarville Area Historical Society has just one. I am sure more would be welcomed.

## Condolences

The Historical Society would like to extend our condolences to the families and friends of two long-time members.

William (Bill) Blomberg (1932-2020) passed away on December 23, 2020.



Glenn Dietmeier (1936-2020) passed away on December 27, 2020.





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

Postage

***Return Service Requested***

**Museum Hours (Temporarily Closed)**

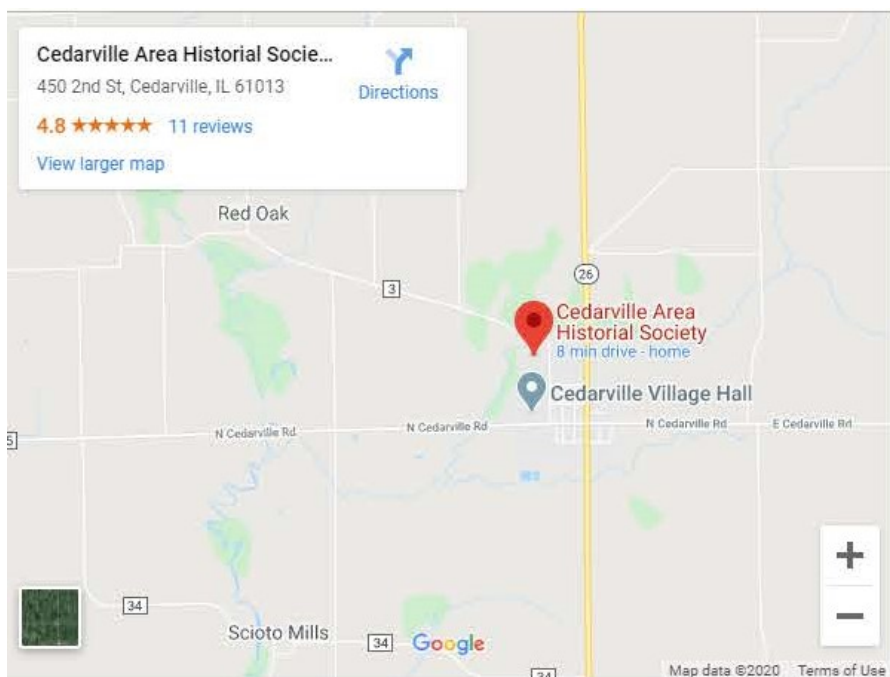
Private tours by appointment.

Call 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

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



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**Phone 815-990-0417**

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

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**E-mail**  
**[info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org)**

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

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