

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

OCTOBER 2019

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Society Publishes 4 New Manuscripts

Four previously unpublished manuscripts of Cedarville history will go on sale this month by the Cedarville Area Historical Society. The books contain a total of 683 pages and 61 photos and illustrations and cover a wide range of subjects.

They were researched and edited over a ten year period by Jim Bade, president of the historical society. The one thing the books have in common is they are basically the letters, diaries and autobiographies of the actual participants in village history. Only explanatory editorial comments are added.

"I chose to use first person sources to paint the historical picture rather than to rely on second hand retelling. I like the immediacy," the editor said.

He added the books are highly readable, but they are also designed to stimulate more interest and possibly research into the treated subjects "Most of the infor-

mation in these manuscripts is privately held and is not easily available anywhere else," Bade said.

The four books, running in length from 93 to 342 pages, will cost from \$26 to \$36. Each manuscript will be bound in a sturdy three ring binder. They will only be printed on individual orders because demand is expected to be too limited to permit mass production. Copies are available for review through the historical society.

Following is a summary of the contents of each manuscript:

"The Letters of Sisters Eliza and Sophia Clingman" (93 pages including 19 photos) The 34 surviving letters exchanged in 1866 and 1867 between sisters Eliza and Sophia Clingman of Cedarville are not earth shaking, but are important for three reasons:

(turn to page 2)

CAHS Annual Report, 2020 Signup Pgs. 3 to 6

(from page 1)

One: They are a communication bridge for Cedarville's Clingman family because they fall between the numerous family letters and the several diaries of the 1861—1865 Civil War period and Eliza's later diaries.

Two: They are a wonderful chronicle of daily life in Cedarville and nearby Rockford a year after the Civil War. That year Sophia was a student at Rockford Female Seminary, a prominent girls' finishing school later attended by Jane Addams, founder of Chicago's Hull House and first American woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize,



Ann Eliza and Sophia Clingman

Three: The letters have interest to Addams family historians because Martha and Sarah Alice Addams, Jane's older sisters, were roommates of Sophia and are often mentioned in the letters. Indeed, Martha died at the end of the 1867 school year.

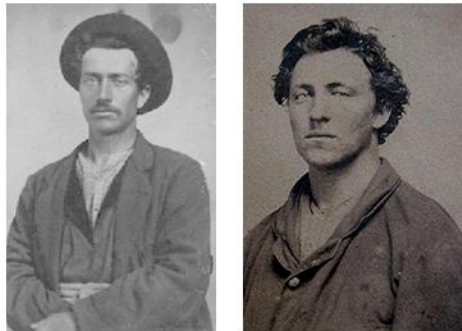
"Two Soldiers, One War" (121 pages including 7 photos and illustrations) Henry Carl and Thomas Jefferson Moses were Cedarville friends and neighbors. Both kept diaries and wrote letters home.

Carl's diary starts November 26, 1862, in Memphis and ends July 27, 1863, after the South's surrender of Vicksburg. Following a brief furlough, Carl left his diary at home and did not start a new one. The Moses diary starts October 15, 1863, about two and a half months after Carl's and concludes May 24, 1865, the closing of the war. A 1911 Moses autobiography contains material that fills in the gap between the two diaries. The Moses diary and a letter home contains a heart wrenching description of Carl's death and burial on the battlefield after the battle of Alatoona, Ga.

The book also includes a short diary by Carl's widow written in 1882 in empty pages of her husband's diary, the Moses autobiography and three versions of the controversial looting and burning of Columbia, S.C., near the end of the war.

"The 1858—1878 Letters of the Barber-Patton-Moses-Richart Families of Illinois and Iowa" (126 pages, 10 photos)

(Turn to page 7)



Henry Carl Thomas Moses

Cedarville Area Historical Society Annual Report to Members and Public

October 2019

The board of directors of the Cedarville Area Historical Society is pleased to report the current state of the society is excellent and the future looks very good. Some highlights of this year through the present date include:

- *Membership is 260, mostly older adults. Forty three percent live in this area, the rest in other areas, including one in France. Sixty percent receive their monthly newsletter in color by e-mail. The others get a black and white copy by mail. Two hundred copies are available at local distribution points and the museum.*
- *Our 2019 operating expenses will remain under \$12,000, according to the treasurer's October report, despite an increase in electricity costs, possibly as a result of completion of the second floor kitchen facilities.*
- *In the Spring new board member Andy Dvorak, American history instructor at Highland Community College, conducted two Cedarville history classes, Laura Keyes dramatized the life of Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of "Little House on the Prairie" and five local artists staffed a round table discussion on Cedarville art.*
- *Four live \$10 musical programs with free snacks afterwards were staged in the summer. The programs included the accordion duo of Cedarville's Bobbie Edler and John Waelti, cancelled last year because of an injury. The others were the male barbershop quartet "Inspiration", Stockton's Caswell sisters string quartet, and a flue—violin duo playing South American tangos and other classical pieces.*
- *For the eleventh year the historical society offered free Friday night movies in June and July under the direction of Sue and Steve Myers. Popcorn, candy and soft drinks remained at 50 cents each.*
- *Regular museum attendance was steady, but special tours and group use of the building meeting rooms and kitchen increased.*
- *The Super Bowl Sunday lunch and annual meeting, the Memorial Day program and picnic and the Christmas program were well attended. The Memorial Day event was a marvel despite a steady light rain. Rather than march to the cemetery for the ceremony, members of American Legion Post 1224, led by Commander Steve Myers, gathered in the museum with 65 spectators, and conducted the event. An "inside picnic" followed. Cedarville made local television news as the only community in Stephenson County to hold an event that rainy day. (Turn to page 6)*

2020 Membership Application

The Cedarville Area Historical Society invites you to join other members in the society. If you accept our invitation, please fill out the form below and mail your check to the Cedarville Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 336, Cedarville, IL 61013. Individual membership is \$15, family membership is \$25, the same as last year. If you join after July 1, your initial membership runs through that year and all of the next year. Your membership entitles you to receive a copy of the monthly newsletter and other communications and free admission to the museum. Most importantly, you will be supporting the work of the historical society.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E—MAIL (if you would like to receive the newsletters electronically rather than by mail.) The historical society encourages this because it saves the society more than \$7 annually per member in printing, postage and envelope expenses. Last year more than 60 per cent of our membership chose this option. (If you currently receive the newsletter by e-mail, that will automatically continue. If your e-mail has changed, please enter it.))

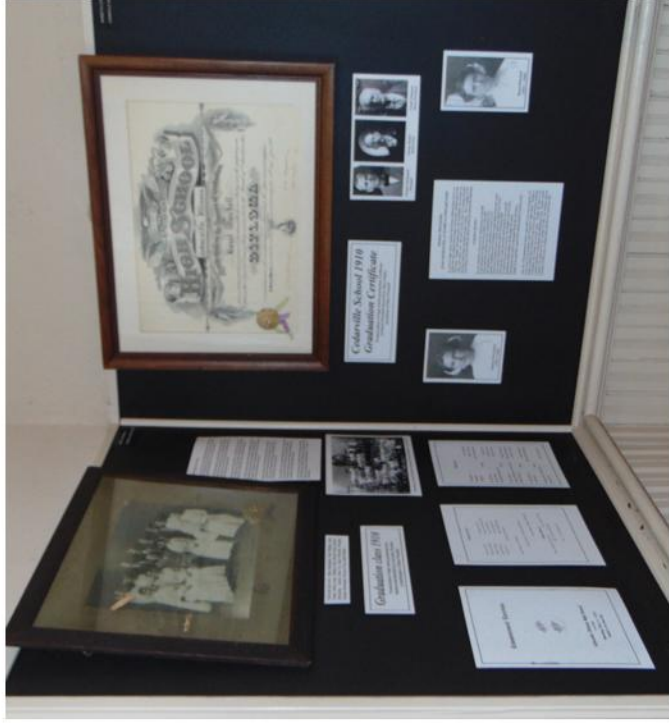
INDIVIDUAL _____ (\$15) FAMILY _____ (\$25) NO. IN FAMILY _____

The historical society spends only money it has on hand. It has never borrowed to fund its activities or restoration projects. Memberships, museum and program admissions, special events and sales are not enough to cover each year's expenses. We need additional help in the form of contributions from members who are pleased with what we do and want to see our efforts continue. If the society's 2019 activities and accomplishments met your expectations, please give us an extra financial helping hand. Our annual operating budget is approximately \$11,500. Last year's member annual contributions covered \$4,097 of that amount. Contributions to the society are tax deductible because we are a non-profit organization with 501 (c) (3) status from the United States Internal Revenue Service.

I am enclosing an additional contribution of _____ to the Cedarville Area Historical Society. These funds are to be used for ongoing operation expenses and/or restoration projects undertaken by the society.



Left: Bobbie Edler and John Waelti perform in July at Cedarville Museum; right: New exhibit on 1910 Cedarville High School class mounted on northeast wall of the museum.



(From page 3) (Annual Report)

At the September 10 meeting of the board of the historical society there was a brief discussion of plans for 2020 and consideration of future action that will be needed to continue improving the historical society's programs and activities.

The Super Bowl lunch and annual meeting of the society will be Sunday, February 2.

The museum will open Saturday, May 2 and close Saturday, October 31. The hours will be Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., the same as this year. Adult admission will be \$3 for non society members; free for society members.

The Memorial Day parade, cemetery ceremony and picnic will be Monday, May 25. The parade will start at 10 a.m. on Mill Street; the lunch will be 11 a.m. at the museum.

The free Christmas party will be Tuesday, December 8, at the museum.

Plans for four Spring history programs are already started under the direction of board member Andy Dvorak. Plans are also started for four Summer live music programs.

Board Vice President Steve Myers said he expects to continue free Friday night movies in June and July.

Long term considerations:

- The inventory of documents and artifacts now stored in the old Cherry Street jail (now owned by the historical society) must be resumed.
- The board must find additional funds to pay for the cost of doing more research, the major tool for learning about our history.
- We must create more space in the museum for exhibits.
- Restoration of the museum building must continue.

If you think we have done a good job in 2019, please add a year end contribution that is both generous and appropriate for you when you renew your membership for 2020. Last year 57 per cent of the membership contributed more than \$4,200 in this manner. We have adequate money for daily operations. But if we are going to solve the four long term problems, we need more funds. We only operate on a "cash available" basis.

Jim Bade, President
Cedarville Area Historical Society

BOARD MEMBERS: Steve Myers, vice president; Galen Bertram, treasurer; Sharon Barmore, secretary; Andy Dvorak, Moira Knowlton, Don Franz, Lisa Goodwin, Carol Meyers, directors

(From page 2) (Manuscripts)

The 64 letters and one memoir in this manuscript reflect the lives of several members of the Barber, Patten, Moses and Richart families when they lived in northern Illinois and central Iowa during the second half of the nineteenth century. The writings describe both the horror and boredom of Civil War military life, the physical hardships of frontier farming and — above all — the almost overwhelming loneliness suffered by individuals when they left the comfortable, close family life in Illinois to start a new life in unfamiliar, then untamed Iowa.

For the most part, the letters from 1858 to 1878 originated from the extended family of Thomas Barber and his wife, Elizabeth Jane Patten Barber, early residents of Cedarville. That family included the children, the siblings, the nieces and nephews, the cousins and the in-laws of Thomas and Elizabeth.

In addition to these letters there is corres-

pondence from Barber friends and neighbors, especially the family of Aaron K. Richart. The letters exist today because they were saved by the recipients, Thomas and Elizabeth Patten Barber and her sister Mary Patten Moses and their descendants. Why there are no letters after 1878 is unknown despite the fact some of those involved lived many more years.

The memoir, written by Thomas Jefferson Moses, husband of Mary Patten Moses, is the same as that in the manuscript on the two Civil War soldiers.

"CEDARVILLE CLINGMANS: Diaries and Letters of a 19th Century Midwest Rural Family" (347 pages including 25 photos and illustrations)

Responsibility for this manuscript is shared by Jim Bade and the late Mary Ellyn Mau and Verna Robinson, all related to the Clingman family.

(turn to page 8)



*Mill Street store
and home owned
by Jackson
Richart, brother
of Aaron Richart*

This large volume contains four dairies and almost 100 letters of members of the Clingman family. Combined the writings span from 1876 to 1902. starting with Eliza Clingman's letter home describing the U.S. centennial celebration held in Philadelphia and ending with the last entry in her second diary on December 29, 1902.

The diaries written by Thomas Clingman, his brother William Clingman and his cousin Henry Clay Clingman are Civil War based. Eliza Clingman's two diaries are post Civil War and are family and village oriented. The Thomas Clingman diary shows the relatively good education and descriptive skills of the 20 year old farmer.

All of the diaries are preceded by and followed by extensive comments relative to the individual diary. Since the three writers of the Civil War diaries mention many Cedarville area soldiers by name, the epilogue to the diary tells the ultimate fate of that soldier. In the case of Thomas Clingman's letters home, his letters were saved by Eliza and inserted in the appropriate place in his diary.

In an unusual move, there is a 59 page appendix at the end of the manuscript. It is filled with short articles on subjects related to events or persons mentioned in the diaries or letters. Also included are obituaries of 35 persons mentioned in the writings but not soldiers who are covered in the epilogues of the three Civil War diaries.

Because the Thomas Simpson Clingman diary is so well written and covers so much activity in detail, those 102 pages can be purchased separately;

Included in those pages is the prologue, the annotated diary and letters and the epilogue with information on 101 Cedarville area Civil War soldiers mentioned in the Thomas Clingman diary.

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Also on Facebook

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

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).