

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE SEPTEMBER 2018

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Family of Four Scores Music Success

Billed as the Caswell String Quartet — Annaliesa, Ella, Laura and Hannah — four young women from the Stockton area were an hour long hit August 7 with a large Cedarville Museum audience. The group's program featured a combination of classical and popular songs.

The quartet's appearance was the last in this year's series of live local music performances. The July accordion duo program that was cancelled due to accident injuries will be next year. Recordings of this year's three programs are available on CDs for \$10 plus postage.



A Short Piece of Cedarville History: Pages 4 - 8



Annaliesa

Ella

Laura

Hannah

Caswell Girls Quartet A Big Hit With Large Cedarville Audience

Photos by Lisa Goodwin, Galen Bertram



Carole Bertram, Hannah



Pat Goodwin, Annaliesa, Laura, Ella



*Annaliesa,
Ella,
Hannah*

Tune Up Time Before The Program



*Annaliesa,
Laura*

A Picture and More Than a Thousand Words



From left, back row: Mary Shoemaker, Alice Phillips, John Frank, Arthur Lentz, Willard Fink, Harold Fink; Seated from left: Ellen Fry, Hazel Winchell, Principal McDonald, Ethel Forte, Eleanor McClurkin, Edith Phillips

*By Jim Bade
President, CAHS*

Pamela Thrasher of Freeport recently walked into the Cedarville Museum and unwrapped an oversized photograph of Cedarville's 1910 two year high school graduation class. She said it was a gift to the historical society from her mother, Lois Kahly Thrasher.

The eleven students, one of them Lois's mother, were clearly identified and I found myself thinking, "Who were they and what happened to them?"

After scouring the society's files with information on more than two thousand former residents and consulting with Ladona Wardlow, our chief researcher, here's what I found.

Starting with the printed graduation program, I learned the celebration was at 8 p.m., June 11, in the Knights of the Globe Hall. This brick building on the east side of Harrison Street and north of Cherry Street was originally an Evangelical Church.

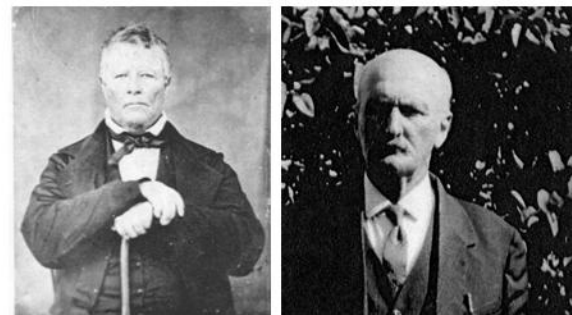
Built in the late 1850s, the structure was no longer used for religion by the 1890s and eventually it became the property of Dr. William Krape and the Knights of the Globe fraternal organization. Globe Hall was the headquarters of the Cedarville "garrison." We don't have the names of the members of that group.

The complete history of the building is sketchy, but it was used in 1903 for the first Cedarville High School graduation and later for theatrical performances, dinners and other events and at one time housed the machinery for the village's short lived electricity plant operated by Homer Ash. Eventually power for Cedarville came north from Freeport.

Identified under Mrs. Thrasher's photograph are the students: Harold Fink, Willard Fink, Ethel Forte, John Frank, Ellen Fry, Arthur Lentz, Eleanor McClurkin, sisters Alice and Edith Phillips, Mary Shoemaker and Hzael Winchell, Lois Thrasher's mother. The school principal Mr. McDonald is in the middle of the photograph.

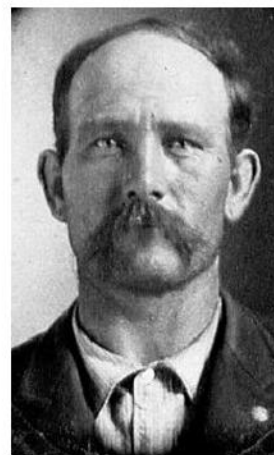
The second page of the program states the class flower was the white carnation and the class colors the unusual combination of lavender and green.

The program also lists Frank Clingman as board president, a position he held for many years. His formal name was Francis Washington Clingman, grandson of George Washington Clingman, a Stephenson County pioneer and the only veteran of the War of 1812 buried in the Cedarville Cemetery.



George and Francis Clingman

George Kryder, 46, was the board clerk. A lifelong Cedarville area resident, he was known as a friend to Buckeye Township farmers because he owned a threshing machine and corn shelling equipment. It was said he would hire out to harvest oats and rye and shell corn for a dollar a day. In his family history is the fact that his father, William, was a Civil War veteran who served as a guard over President Lincoln's body when it laid in state in Springfield.



George W. Kryder

The board secretary was Clinton Fink, generally considered the most prominent Cedarville band leader at that time. He started as a blacksmith at an early age under the tutelage of his father. The abandoned house on the northeast corner of Cherry and Cedar streets was built by him, probably shortly after his 1889 marriage to Laura Clingman. The last person to live in

the house was Bethel Fink Pentecoff, their daughter. She died more than a decade ago.

Graduate Willard Fink was the son of Clinton and Laura. On the printed program Willard is listed as giving the salutatory.

Thanks to a brief article in the February 10, 1909 Freeport Daily Bulletin, we know that Willard, along with other members of the 1910 class, participated in a public ceremony celebrating Abraham Lincoln's 100th birthday. Willard's role was to discuss the future President's early life in Indiana. The major outcome of that celebration was a community gift to the school of a life size bust of the President. It is now a permanent exhibit in the museum.



Clint's house: 1889 and today

Born in Cedarville in 1894, Willard worked at the Freeport post office many years before moving to southern California where he died in 1969 at the age of 74. His wife, the former Neva Morrison, died nine years later.

Willard Fink may be gone from Cedarville, but during his life he was known as an excellent photographer and he left the historical society with a wonderful collection of photographs of early twentieth century village life.

Clinton Fink in his band uniform



Graduate John Bollman Frank, born in Cedarville in 1892, was the son of Charles William Frank and the former Mary Alice Bollman. John's maternal grandfather was a Civil War Union soldier who died in his regiment's May 1863 charge up Champion Hill outside of Vicksburg. His maternal grandmother was the youngest child of George Ilgen, founder of Cedarville.

There is no record of John Frank's participation in either the 1909 or 1910 graduation programs.

John moved to Wisconsin about 1920 where he married the former Lylis Ausmacher in 1927. The couple had no children. Employed by Armour Packing Company for many years, he died in 1973 in Milwaukee at the age of 81. He is buried in the Cedarville Cemetery.

Mary Shoemaker was born about 1893 or 1894 in Clinton County, Pa., but moved to Stephenson County early in her life. She participated in the 1909 Lincoln program by relating the future President's later life in Indiana. At the graduation she discussed Marquis de Lafayette, a French military, political and revolutionary leader.

In 1912 Mary was married in Pennsylvania to Merrill Clinton Fink, Willard's brother. The couple had daughters in 1914, 1917 and 1918. Records indicate that Mary and her husband at some time ended their marriage because Mary did not die until 1964 but Merrill in 1953 married another woman.

There were two Phillips sisters in the 1910 graduating class — Edith and Alice. Born in 1893 and 1894 to Charles and Florence Phillips, both girls participated in the 1909 Lincoln program. Edith talked about Lincoln's life in Illinois; Alice discussed Lincoln's stepmother. The graduation program lists Edith's topic as "Ship of Faith" but with no further explanation. Alice read the class prophecy. We don't have a copy of her presentation, but it was undoubtedly upbeat.

Edith apparently was a very outgoing person. In January 1917 a Freeport newspaper commented that

52 persons attended a church party organized by Miss Edith Phillips, then 24-years-old, the new social chairman



*Undated
photo of
Alice
Phillips*

Both Phillips girls seemed to think and act in concert in some ways. In April of 1917 Edith and William Joseph Meyers of Red Oak participated in a surprise marriage.. Two months later Alice and Orville Adam Kahly of Freeport did the same thing.

Edith died in 1986, five days after her ninety-third birthday; Alice died in 1989, age 94.

Graduate Ellen Fry, born in Cedarville in 1894, was the daughter of Lewis Fry and his second wife Sophia Meyer. Ellen was chosen to read President Lincoln's Springfield Farewell Speech at the 1909 Lincoln celebration. In 1910 she recited the class history.

Graduating in 1912 from Freeport High School, Ellen spent the next two years teaching in Stephenson County. She then taught kindergarten at Jane Addams Hull-House in Chicago. She continued to work for several years, but her health began to fail and after several operations she died in 1925 at the age of 31.

Ellen's half sister was Mary Fry, for many years the house keeper and companion of Anna Addams, the second wife of John Addams, Jane's father.



*Sophia Fry,
mother of
Ellen Fry*

Harold Fink, another 1910 graduate and a cousin to Willard, spent his early life in Stephenson County. His parents were Joshua and Amelia Fink.

Like Willard he took part in the 1909 Lincoln program by reciting Lincoln's First Inaugural Address. At the graduation he spoke of the union troops in the Civil War.

South Dakota records indicate he moved to Hamil in 1918, a year after he was married to Haillie Moses., a 1912 Cedarville graduate and the daughter of Cedarville's Lewis and Georgiana Moses.



*1912 Cedar-
ville graduate
Haillie
Moses, wife
of Harold
Fink*

A Cedarville news article indicates he returned to the village in March of 1938. A World War II draft registration card dated in 1942 confirms his resi-

dence in Cedarville as does a 1945 Freeport newspaper article that reports he "entertained" his son, then in the U.S. army.

Several records list Harold as a farmer or a house painter. The later could very well be true because his father, Joshua, was in great demand as a house painter and wallpaper hanger in Cedarville in the later part of the nineteenth century. At that time it was common for sons to learn their father's trade.

Harold became ill in October of 1952 and entered the Freeport hospital where he died at the age of 57. His obituary stated that at the end of his life he was a "Cedarville retired filling station operator." His widow died in 1975, age 81.

Graduate Ethel Marie Forte was born about 1893 in Monroe, Wi., and did not come to Buckeye Township until after 1905. In the 1909 Cedarville President Lincoln birthday party she read the poem "Honest Poverty." Her brother Chester, 18, and her sister Florence, 15, also participated. At graduation she delivered an essay titled "Fashionable School Girl".

In 1924 at the age of 24 she was married in Winnebago County to Raymond Buford Snyder, 27. The next year the couple moved to Wisconsin where their daughter Ethel Jean Snyder was born. Five years later Ethel gave birth to a son they named Raymond Buford Snyder. Tragically the boy lived for less than a day.

Ethel's husband died in 1963, age 73; Ethel died the next year, age 72; their only surviving child, Ethel Jean, died in 1997, age 79.

Arthur Lentz was born in Mt. Carmel, Wabash County, Il., in 1891. His father, John A. Lentz, died in California in 1927 at the age of 65. Little is known of Arthur's mother. In 1910 he was living on the Lancaster Township, Il., farm of Charles and Mary Rockey and listed as a "boarder"

In the 1909 Lincoln program Lentz was chosen to talk on the "Words of William Henry Herndon." Herndon (1818—1891) was an American lawyer and

author. He is better remembered as Lincoln's law partner in Springfield, Il. Lentz's graduation subject was listed as "Model Discourse", a topic that must have had some interest in 1910.

Arthur's life and employment after graduation is sketchy. There is no record that he ever married and the date of his death is unknown.

Cedarville graduate Hazel Diana Winchell, mother of Lois Kahly Thrasher, donor of the 1910 graduation photograph, was born in Stephenson County in 1893. Her parents were Frank and Mary Winchell. She had two younger sisters.

In the February 10, 1909 President Lincoln program Hazel read a poem written as a tribute to the President's memory. During the next year's graduation program, she discussed Daniel Webster's "Defense of the Union" argument.

In 1912 Hazel was married to Logan Chauncey Kahly, brother of Orville Adam Kahly who married 1910 graduate Alice Phillips five years later. Hazel and Logan had six children, three boys, three girls.

Hazel's husband died in 1969, age 76. She died twenty years later, age 96.

Eleanor McClurkin, the final and eleventh member of the Cedarville 1910 two-year high school graduation class, was born April 27, 1894, in Port Huron, Mi. Her father Rev. Albert McClurkin served the Cedarville and Dakota Presbyterian churches for several years.

In the 1909 community program honoring President Lincoln on his 100th birthday, Eleanor was called on to discuss the death of his mother. In the 1910 graduation program she was honored by being named class valedictorian.

She was an honor student despite the fact that she suffered from severe arthritis for many years, possibly even when she was in high school. She was the founder and first president of the Illinois chapter of the National Shut-In Society.

In 1959 the school staged an all-alumni 50th anniversary. More than 100 attended, but Eleanor was not there, according to historical society's files. But she wrote a poem for the occasion and I assume she had someone else present it. She died at the age of 66 the next year.

SCHOOL MATES

Do you remember lessons in the school house on the hill
In the pleasant tree-lined streets of little Cedarville?
Those song-fests, spell downs and examinations too.
The ball games at recess, sometimes a scrap or two?
Spring's tumbling waters bringing strange things down the creek?
Where near forgotten grave stones, plant specimens we'd seek?
That Lincoln centennial we held in Woodman Hall
With speeches, songs and stories performed by one and all?
We shared our joys and sorrows, our laughter and our tears,
Memories which linger all through the years.
The absent ones join in thoughts from far and near.
Think of us and have great fun school mates of yester year!

Willard Fink left us with photographs that are memories that speak through the eyes. Eleanor McClurkin left us with simple words that are memories that speak through the mind.

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