

*Jim Cole, Cedarville resident and member of the historical society, checks one of the new park benches for comfort.*

## ***Society Members Buy 4 Park Benches***

Four new white oak park benches will soon grace the grounds of the Cedarville Museum thanks to the generosity of three historical society members.

Three of the six-foot wide benches will stand alone while the fourth will be part of an arbor that soon will be constructed.

The benches are the gifts of Narcissa Engle, Karleen Olson and Wendy Bade Gilpin. All will be identified with small plaques. Mrs. Engle's bench is in memory of Dick James Engle, her late husband. She is also contributing the bench that will be used with the arbor. Mrs. Olson and her family's bench will honor her late mother Ruth Kryder Cuplin. Mrs.

Olson also donated the funds to construct the white oak fence on the east side of the museum grounds. The inscription for Mrs. Gilpin's plaque is to be determined.

The benches were made by Gregory W. Barker, McConnell, creator of custom furniture, who contributed part of his time to the project.

**Cedarville Area Historical Society  
P.O. Box 336, Cedarville, IL 61013**

**Jim Bade, president; Narcissa Engle, vice president, Ruth Smith, treasurer; Denise Rogers, secretary; Moira Knowlton, Mary Reed, Steve Myers, Neal Scheider, Dave Kaiser, directors**

## ***The Story Behind the Autograph Book***

Jim Bade, president of the Cedarville Area Historical Society will travel from the past to the present on Tuesday, June 20, when he hosts the society's opening evening program with a talk on the names written in the 1888 school autograph book of Cedarville's Mary Fry.

The 7:30 p.m. program will be in the museum on top of the Second Street hill.

The book's more than 60 names of Miss Fry's classmates represent the Who's Who of village pre-teens at that time.

*(Turn to page 7)*

## ***ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE***

***JUNE 2006***

*Cedarville Area Historical Society*



## **Memorial Day Draws Crowd**



*More photos by Katie Myers are on pages four and five*



## 1930 Buckeye Students Look Back

It all started with a 1930 black and white photograph of the interior of Buckeye School that was provided a year ago by the late Ruth BearWagner. Using her identifications, three persons who attended the school about that time were contacted for their memories of the school, now a farm outbuilding. A series of letters was the result.

John Kryder, now living in Pennsylvania, responded: "This photo was taken prior to installing new windows on the east wall. John G. Leiser, the teacher, used to walk over from the highway through the fields to teach school. He also liked to wrestle with one of the students at the back of the school. His sister taught us later."

Elwood (Woody) Wardlow, Florida, when he saw the photo, commented that he started in Winnesheik School at age five and a half, then attended Cedarville School and then transferred to Buckeye when "we moved out to a cheaper house in the country."

He continued: "Our new home was an acre with a house and small barn ... near where Coon Creek runs into Cedar Creek. The school was a mile up the road to the north. The

## Bade to Speak on Autograph Book

*(From page 1)*

In 1888, when the names were first signed in Miss Fry's book, she was eleven years old and living with Cedarville's Addams family.. Anna Addams, second wife of John Addams, had taken Mary in as an orphan following the death of her mother. Mary, who never married, continued to be associated with the Addams family until she died in 1952 at the age of 75.

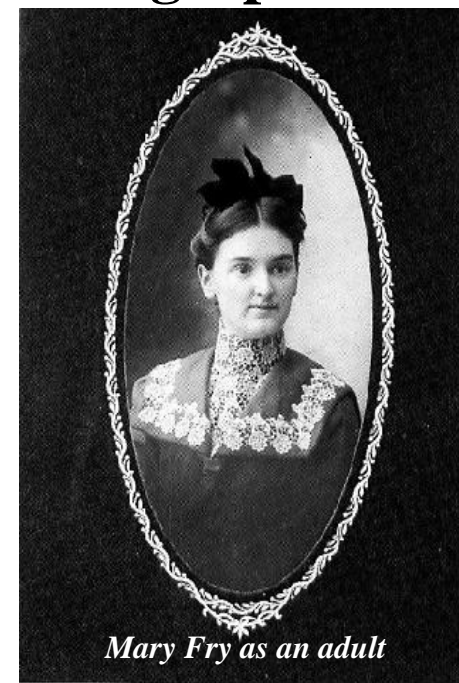
The autograph book was donated to the Cedarville Area Historical Society by Paul Fry, nephew of Mary and author of her biography "Generous Spirit" which is available from the historical society.

Those who signed Mary's book included many children whose descendants still live in the Cedarville area. Among them were: Minnie, Nellie, Vida Charles and Elmer Clingman; Mary's five siblings Margaret, William, Homer, Charles and

### *LeRoy and Grandma*

*(from the previous page)*

Supper time came and more food and left overs gifted the table. The depression years were hard times. Many people had little to eat. My grandma and grandpa had little material things or money, but they shared their home grown food with all who came on Sundays.



*Mary Fry as an adult*

John; the Fink sisters Lottie and Cora; ; Selma Rutter; Pearl Graham; Blanche and Edna Hutchison; Josie and Hattie Neidigh; Rose and Sadie Addams; Luella Folgate; Laura Epley; Eva Ermold; Alma Duth; and Oliver and Clyde Richart.

Tickets for the talk are \$2 for society members, \$3 for non members. They can be purchased at the museum or by calling 815-563-4485.

A CD containing each page of Mary Fry's autograph book is available for \$8 at the museum.



*We finally meet LeRoy's grandparents! In the center sitting are Grandpa Joseph and Grandma Mable Lutz. Three of their four children are from left: Charles, Alice (LeRoy's mother) and Clarence. Orville was born two years after this 1915 photo.*

## *Yum, Yum to Grandma's We Go*

By LeRoy Wilson

Delicious meals are part of our childhood memories. During the depression years, it appears my grandma tried to feed the world.

We really never knew who would show for Sunday dinner, but early Sunday morning grandma would start to bake pies, never less than six, and sometimes a dozen. When noon arrived, the large dining table would have all the leaves in and the table set for the maximum. She had a mind set of "cook it" and they will come and they did, relatives and friends. Grandpa worked a truck farm so we grew and raised all our food.

Grandma was a wonderful cook and she did it all on a wood burning cook stove. Grandpa would chop the heads off three or four chickens and then he and grandma would pick and gut them. There was canned beef, mashed potatoes, gravy and all the usual vegetables.

Most Sundays my Cousin Bob Lutz was there. Grandma always threw a large white table cloth over the table after we ate. The cloth hung almost to the floor. Bob and I would sneak under the table in the afternoon, reach up, grab chicken legs and sit under the table and eat. It seemed to taste better when eaten that way.

*(Turn to next page)*

first farm to the east belonged to Clarence Kryder and beyond that were the Bears.

"The school was one room and had a stove and pump and privies. At the front were some chairs arranged as a recitation bench. Behind that were desks for grades one through four and to the right were desks for grades five through eight. The slate blackboards were along the side walls. The grounds were large enough for a good range of games at recess. There were no programs or contests with other schools. The only teacher was John Leiser, a single man who boarded with a family close by."

John Kryder responded to Woody's letter by saying: "My first grade teacher was Miss Folgate. She was tough on discipline. I remember her giving me a ruler spanking on a bench located in the entrance hall where our coats were hung. John Leiser (*teacher*) walked across the backfields of the Hartman's farm to the schoolhouse. There was a stair crossover built for him to go over the fences from the highway. Ralph Hartman used to play Santa Claus at Christmas. One winter the roads were covered with ice and we skated to school. We enjoyed the various school skits to entertain our families through the years."

Recalling the pump mentioned by Wardlow, Betty Kryder Neuschwander, Loxely, Al., said, "The pump was several feet from the school in the corner of the school yard and had to be primed with water. It took awhile to get it going in the winter. There was a little shed close to the school for coal and wood for the school heater. This building was used too for misbehaving students. There was a piano and we sang together each day for a short time. One song I remember was My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean. Also patriotic music. We all took our lunches to school. Sometimes John (*her brother*) and I had a new dinner bucket with a thermos." Betty also commented on school diseases.

Having read Betty's letter, Wardlow commented: "With her prompting, I now remember the balky pump. And the coal shed, the Christmas plays, the lunch buckets and the childhood diseases.

"John and Betty Kryder and the Wardlow children would play together sometimes in the Kryder pasture between our homes. Coon Creek was a tiny thing but provided wading and minnows. (Coon ran into Cedar Creek, which was much better.) There was a good spring about 100 yards from the Kryder buildings and Betty's mother (*Martha Dickson Kryder, wife of Clarence*) made wonderful sandwiches from the watercress found there."

On May 19 of this year, John Kryder sent the latest comments: "Janise Angle was my last teacher. She commented that she liked my real life stories in composition."



*All photographs by Katie Myers*

