



*About 1910*



*About 1918*



*1940*



*Undated*



*Duane Smith painting*

## **Cedarville School Thru The Years**



*2004*

## *ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE*

*JULY 2005*

*Cedarville Area Historical Society*



## **Carole Bertram to Play ‘Oldies’ July 13 on 1906 Upright Piano**

I. Carole Whitaker-Bertram, well-known Freeport piano teacher, will perform Wednesday, July 13, at the new Cedarville Museum.

Mrs. Bertram will play popular songs from the years 1890 to 1910 on the 1906 upright piano belonging to the

Cedarville Area Historical Society.

The program will start at 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets are available by calling Jim Bade at 815-563-4485. The cost is \$2 for historical society members; \$3 for non-members. Only 50 tickets are available.

The museum is in the 1889 Cedarville School on top of the Second Street hill, one block west of Mill Street. This program is the second of a summer series sponsored by the historical society. Dr. Gordon Dammann, Civil War historian, opened the series with a June talk and slide presentation.



*I. Carole  
Whitaker  
Bertram*

I. Carole Whitaker-Bertram was born south of Peoria in Mason County and was raised on the family farm with her  
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*(From page one)*

three sisters near the small town of Forest City.

Mrs. Bertram had an early love of music and started taking piano lessons at the age of five. Using her developing piano skills as a base, she began church organ lessons at age eleven and played her first church service and a wedding at age twelve.

While living in various communities in the Midwest, she has continued as a church organist and for more than 40 years has taught many children and adults how to play the piano.

She currently accompanies the Freeport Choral Society and plays at weddings and funerals. For the past 18 years Mrs. Bertram has been the organist at St. John United Church of Christ.

Mrs. Bertram and her husband, Galen — who went to grade school at the 1889 Cedarville School — are members of the historical society.

Two other history-related events have been scheduled for 2005 by the Cedarville Area Historical Society.

On Tuesday, August 16, Paul Fry will speak. Fry is the author of “Generous Spirit: The Life of Mary Fry.” She was Fry’s aunt and a long-time close friend of the Jane Addams family. For many years Miss Fry was a member of the household of Anna Haldeman Addams, the second wife of John Addams. Fry is a Cedarville resident and a member of the historical society.

In September the society will hold its second Jane Addams Festival. The date has not been set. Miss Addams was born in Cedarville in September



*Although no documentation currently exists, it is believed the 1906 upright piano in the Cedarville Museum — the old 1889 Cedarville School — found its first home in the school. Repaired and tuned by John Hartman of Freeport, this is the piano on which Mrs. Bertram will perform during her July 13 program.*

## **Cedarville Historical Society Treasure Sale**

**Saturday  
July 23  
8 a.m. to ?**

**Former  
Museum  
Building  
On  
Cherry St.**

## ***LeRoy Remembers***

*(From previous page)*

Then as now, we seldom thought of why we were celebrating. Independence Day is and should be a solemn day in our country, a day when we think of freedom and how we struggled to gain that freedom. The price of freedom is high and the struggle continuous.

Let us always continue to celebrate the Fourth of July in our own way. Family gatherings, fireworks and a reverent “thank you” are all appropriate.

P.S. Do you remember lighting snakes? Putting five or six caps one on another and then hitting them with a hammer? Throwing exploding bombs?

### **Cedarville Area Historical Society**

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

Correspondence can be sent to Cedarville Area Historical Society, Box 336, Cedarville, IL 61013. Our web page is <http://www.uic.edu/jaddams/hull/Cedarville>

# *LeRoy Remembers When Fourth Of July Was “Poppin” Good Time*

By LeRoy Wilson

When I was growing up in Cedarville, the Fourth of July rated right along with Christmas. There was no problem getting fireworks if you could find the money. Fire crackers came in all sizes from tiny Lady Fingers to huge three and four inch sticks of dynamite. At least they sounded like dynamite and they could blow your fingers off.

Another part of the Fourth was the large family picnic. All of my Dad’s brother’s and sisters’ families came to Cedarville bearing delicious food. I think Cedarville allowed more fireworks celebrations than Freeport. All my cousins brought large supplies of ammunition.

The kids would dare one another to hold a Lady Finger size cracker in his finger and set it off. Most times it just hurt a little, but once in awhile there would be a heavy charge in the Lady Finger and it hurt like blazes and your finger would go numb.

A favorite thing to do with a two inch fire cracker was to put one under a tin can. A normal size can would go thirty

thirty feet in the air. If you didn’t set it straight, it would fly thirty or forty feet along the ground and crack someone in the head. One can understand why the law stepped in and put a stop to fire cracker availability.

One year my Dad got hold of some big three inch green fire crackers. We were not allowed to touch them. Dad stuck a three incher in a crack at the top of grandpa’s fence post. He lit the cracker and ran before it went off. It split the post all the way to the ground. When grandpa found the split post a few weeks later, he was furious. He made just about as much noise as the fire cracker when it went off.

One could tell when the Fourth was getting close. Just like Christmas decorations go up early, one could hear fire crackers going off early. The teenagers would go down the streets throwing them out of car windows. The noise would disturb the citizens and the village board would tell Tiger Cummins to police the streets better. I don’t think Tiger was ever able to catch a kid tossing them out of a car window. It was a great time.

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# *Museum Landscaping Underway*

Work has started on a three year project to create a new and inviting look to the half acre surrounding the Cedarville Museum.

The area surrounding what was once the 1889 Cedarville School will continue to have some vestiges of the past, but it will have many new features thanks to the master plan of Pamela Rosmann, Cedarville, who has volunteered her services as a professional landscape designer.

Remaining will be the swing set and slide, but the equipment will be moved to a new location south of the building. To be added will be an arbor with bench, six park benches and eight picnic tables along with additional trees, bushes and plants. All new trees and plants are being chosen for easy maintenance.

Also, reaching back into history, the plan calls for a split rail fence along the east border of the property. Photos from about 1910 show such a fence.

Most of this year’s work calls for site preparation; however, the new fence will be installed. Cost of materials for the first year is estimated at \$1,100. Two thirds of this amount has already b



*Old sidewalk is first to go.*

been contributed or pledged, including the money for the fence. In addition funds for two park benches have been promised. Most of the labor will be from volunteers.

No formal fund raising campaign will be conducted for this year’s work; however, those wanting to contribute to the \$300 to \$400 needed for this year’s work can contact Jim Bade, historical society president, at 815-563-4485.



*Left: Duane and Ruth Smith on the left chat with Roger and Jane Goodspeed. All four have volunteered their services to the historical society. Ruth is a member of the society board and treasurer.*



*Above: Dave Kaiser, right, society board member discusses the lecture with Dick Wolfe.*



*Judy Corrie, left, and Jane Goodspeed debate Dr. Dammann's talk as Judy's husband, Harlan listens.*



*Ruth Smith, Jim Bade and Mary Reed, historical society board member, enjoy post-talk refreshments.*



*Madeleine, daughter of Denise Rogers, historical society board member, was one of the young people at the program. That's mom's back. Below are Ken and Pam Rosmann, Sue Myers and Jim Bade, historical society president.. Mrs. Rosmann has created a landscaping plan for the historical society*

## Large Turnout for Dammann Talk On Civil War Medical Practices



*Ryan Mullen, left, and Daniel Myers apparently disagreed on some points raised by the talk.*



*Left: Dr. Gordon Dammann, speaker for the June 21 historical society program, and Bonnie Bade, wife of Historical Society President Jim Bade, have a brief talk after the presentation. Dr. Dammann, Lena dentist and founder and chairman of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Fredrick, Md., showed slides of his Civil War medical artifacts and related them to historical events.*



*Right: Steve Myers, historical society board member, discusses Dr. Dammann's program with Karen Dammann, the doctor's wife.*