

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE July-August 2024

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Museum Updates

Well our 2024 season has started and you will see some of the photos of events from May and June in this edition of Echoes of Cedarville.

With the loss of so many of our long term members we are being reminded on a daily basis how important it is to document the memories of our members. Those memories remind us of what life in Cedarville and the surrounding areas was like 50, 75 and even 100 years ago. So please we urge each of our members to continue to forward us your memories and we will continue to include them in our newsletters.

This year is the 175th anniversary of the founding of Cedarville and we along with the Village of Cedarville feel it is important to share memories and historical moments of Cedarville and the Cedarville Area. Already in the works are programs about past Cedarville businesses, a focus on Lost Lake. Do you have a particular topic that would be of interest to you? If so, please let us know and we will see if we can include it in next years programs.

July 16th– 7:00pm	Cedarville– Past and Present, A Discussion about Cedarville businesses and homes and a Memorial Plaque presentation in honor of Paul Fry
August 20th– 7:00 pm	John Reed and a look back at Johns Garage & ts impact on life in the village
September 17th–7:00 pm	Dr Andrew Dvorak presents a look at Lost Lake

We have just recently received donations of artifacts and memorabilia that will be reviewed, documented and hopefully incorporated into some displays in the very near future. If you have any Cedarville (or Cedarville Area) related items that you feel would be great additions to the museum, please feel free to contact us.

The board members of the Cedarville Area Historical Society would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have recently made donations to the Society either in honor of someone who has recently passed or for personal reasons of your own. We truly thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Facebook Postings and Subsequent Comments:

Coralyn and LeRoy Fransen

- Married July 5th 1941
 - Nancy Kamm shared that LeRoy was called Whitey by many and that she was lucky to be raised by wonderful parents
 - Gary Wagner were his neighbors and he only knew LeRoy as Swede

Red Oaks Post Office closed in 1974 and went to an RFD address

- Cindy Hansen remembers going to pick up the mail everyday after school at Mrs. Reeser's house. Emma Reeser had been the Post Master for 31 years, retiring in 1973
- Pam Stampfli also remembers getting the mail daily from Ms Reesers
- Cindy Gross Meyers grew up in Red Oak and she rode her bike down the hill to pick up the mail in Ms Emma's house

Member's Memories

This months newsletter includes memories of some of our members. We thank those who submitted memories in written format and look forward to hearing from other members:

**Delbert Scheider
1925-2021**

Written In 2017-Please note this was typed as written

In the afternoon of 1935 (month was left blank) I was surprised by the unexpected arrival at my farm home of my Grandfather, John H Frank and my mothers siter, Margaret Frank. After consulting with my parents, I was informed that I would accompany my cousin Duane Scheider and my Grandfather and aunt to the gravesite funeral of the then famous Jane Addams.

I was only ten years old. Jane Addams was only a name to me. As a small boy who was only interested in the comic section of the local newspaper I knew little of the political activities of Jane Addams. Of her nationwide objection to World War I, er political activity for Women's Rights, of her organization and operation of Hull House, an Institution in Chicago providing basic needs and education to underprivileged immigrants and citizens of slum areas of Chicago. These activities earned her the coveted Nobel Peace Prize in 1930.

As we approached the Cedarville Cemetery from the west on Red Oak Road, we found vehicles parked on both sides of the road. We eventually found a parking place in a farm field south of the cemetery.

As we walked up into the cemetery, among a huge mob of people, it became evident that we could not get near enough to the gravesite to hear. Thus my grandfather helped us scale the fence east of the gravesite and get close enough to hear from outside the cemetery east of the gravesite.

I remember nothing of the ceremony. My Grandfather was born in 1859 thus he was one year older than Jane and had frequently met her at Cedarville functions. Because of her fame he wanted Duane Scheider, my cousin, and I to attend the funeral.

Looking back at the time of Jane's activism, which earned her fame; If I had been mature I would not have supported her. She was an extreme social activist, totally of line with the culture of that time. A time when each family assumed risk and was responsible for its own wellbeing. Jane led the social change; when government and political activism assumed responsibility for the wellbeing of the underprivileged.

Today we can say that she was correct in her action. Her action on women's rights to vote, opposition to war, and providing for the needs of immigrants and underprivileged by organizing and operating Hull House in Chicago led to great social attitude change.

Even today we find differing philosophies on government and political responsibilities for support for the lower economic segament (sp) of society. One segament (sp) wants government welfare programs to provide for everyone. Others want individuals to assume risk and provide for themselves. Because of these differences we find ourselves politically in the middle.

My own experiences in former socialistic countries convince me that complete socialism does not work



Memorial Day Memories-June 2024 Program Steve Myers

On Tuesday evening June 18th, CAHS Board President Steve Myers presented a Memorial Day Parade Memories Program. Steve was very excited to announce at the program that he was able to research and provide positive proof that Cedarville's participation in a Memorial Day or Decoration Day program goes back as far as at least May, 1882. Steve found proof of this in an article published in the Chicago Tribune in May 1882 that referred to the fact that The Honorable Robert H. Wiles delivered the Decoration Day address at the address in Cedarville (written documentation ending years of speculation). Also of interest in our June program was the reference in articles that reflected that our current Cedarville Area Historical Society Treasurer Galen Bertram performed a solo at the United Methodist Church on May 30th 1969 and May 28th, 1973.

In addition to the program, there was a building dedication to James Bade designated with a plaque honoring his dedication to the restoration of the building and procurement of collections and documents for the museum.



Community Involvement

**Presentation to Members of The Golden Lions Club of Freeport
Thursday, June 13th
Dr. Andrew Dvorak**

On Thursday, June 13th, Board Member, Dr Andrew Dvorak made a short presentation to the Golden Lions Club of Freeport. His presentation including acquainting the attendees with our organizations mission and efforts. We thank the Golden Lions Club for inviting us and look forward to future visits of their members to the Cedarville Area Historical Society. If anyone would be interested, we would be happy to speak with your organization or group.



Memorial Day Parade Festivities including a Memorial Dedication to Don Franz for his time and dedication to The Historical Society and his vast knowledge of Illinois as it related to the Civil War



Paul Fry **October 4, 1922—June 11, 2024**

Paul Eugene Fry, age 101 passed away peacefully at Winn Prairie in Freeport on June 11, 2024. Paul was born on October 4, 1922 in Kalona, Iowa to Genevieve (Buck) and Dr. John Lewis Fry. After graduating from Kalona High School, Paul attended Washington Junior College in Washington, IA and Sherwood Music School in Chicago. Paul then served in the Army during World War II, and was stationed in Alaska. After his discharge in 1946 Paul attended Loras College in Dubuque. Upon graduation he entered the seminary at Catholic University in Washington DC.

After completing the seminary, Paul went on a European trip where, through a mutual friend he met the von Trapp Family. He remained lifelong friends with Maria von Trapp.

Paul served in the priesthood for 15 years in the Rockford Diocese. His most fulfilling position during this time was as administrator at St Vincent's Orphanage in Freeport.

In 1966 Paul returned to Catholic University and received his master's in social work. After graduating, he undertook a social work career in Washington DC until his retirement in 1983.

During retirement Paul devoted his time to volunteering with the elderly population, individuals who were unhoused and homeless, as well as individuals who suffered with AIDS. As one friend so aptly said "Paul's compassion for the suffering and forgotten was an inspiration." In 2005 Paul moved to Cedarville, and refurbished an historic home where he loved entertaining family and friends. He moved to Winn Prairie in 2017.

Paul was an accomplished musician playing both the bassoon and harp. He was also an avid reader of history and biographies, and loved his role as "self-appointed family historian." As a child he absorbed family stories from his Aunt Mary Fry as well as his Grandma Buck. He considered them invaluable mentors who taught him the importance of family.

In 1990 Paul published a book about his Aunt Mary entitled "A Generous Spirit". It was a history of Mary, the Fry family in Cedarville as well as Jane Addams' family. Mary lived with the Addams family for much of her life, oversaw the household and worked as Mrs. Addams' companion and caregiver. She provided invaluable service to the family over her lifetime. Through his Aunt, Paul came to know the Addams family well and at age 12 was a pallbearer at Jane Addams' funeral.

In 2012 Paul also published a history of St Joseph Parish in Freeport, "The Story of a Parish."

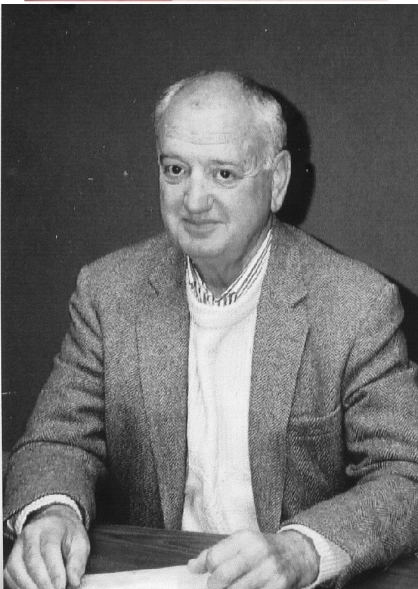
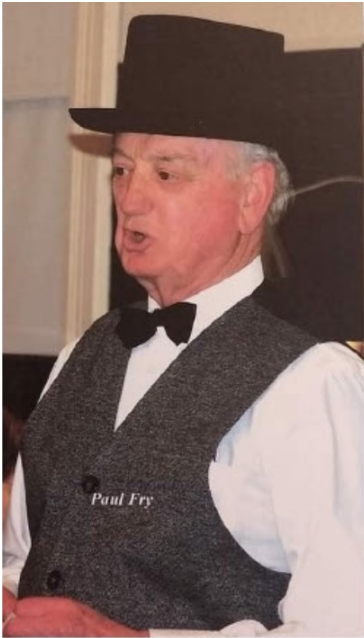
Paul was preceded in death by his parents, and siblings Jack Fry, Bill Fry, Ed Fry, Jean Joyce and Carolyn Levy. He is survived by 13 nieces and nephews whom he loved dearly and often proclaimed that each was his favorite, 24 great nieces and nephews as well as many close and devoted friends from his days in Washington, DC as well as Illinois. Paul's family would like to thank the wonderful staff at Winn Prairie for the love they showed Paul, giving him the care he needed while allowing him the independence he so greatly desired.

There will be a graveside service for Paul on July 13, 1:00 pm at the Cedarville Cemetery (W Red Oak Rd, Cedarville.) This will be followed by a celebration of Paul's life at his favorite restaurant, The Muse on Cedar Creek (395 N Cedarville Rd, Cedarville) from 2:00-4:00 pm. The celebration will be relaxed and informal and all are invited to come and share stories and memories with family and friends.

Along with family and history, equity and fairness were important to Paul. He greatly admired Jane Addams and his respect for her work guided his life. If you wish to make a memorial donation, please consider a social justice organization that is important to you or the Cedarville Area Historical Society. Donations may be sent to <https://cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org> or 1212 S. Stewart Ave, Freeport, IL 61032.

Editor's note: (I am exhausted just reading all Paul's accomplishments. What a wonderful human being)

Paul Fry (cont)



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

Postage

Return Service Requested

Museum Hours Saturdays 1:00PM-4:00PM (June, July and August)

Museum is always available by appointment

During non-open hours you can utilize the Ring doorbell and we will do our best meet you at the museum

Museum facilities are available for private functions (weddings, reunions, meetings)

Call or text 815-990-0417 or 815-847-9127 to reserve or

We Would Love to Share Your Stories

**Email us your stories or antidotes about Cedarville or the Cedarville area. We are also very interested in how you, as a member are connected to Cedarville and to our Cedarville Area Historical Society. We will present them in following newsletters. Email them to:
info@cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org**

We thank those of you who have submitted your renewals and would also like to thank those of you who made Additional donations.

**Cedarville Area Historical Society
450 2nd St. , Cedarville IL. 61013
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**Mailing Address
1212 S. Stewart Ave, Freeport, IL 61032**

**Web site
www.cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org**

**E-mail
info@cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org**

**Facebook-Cedarville Area Historical Society
YouTube-Cedarville Area Historical Society**

*Steve Myers, President
Lisa Goodwin, Vice President
Galen Bertram, Treasurer
Sharon Barmore, Secretary
Andy Dvorak, Director
Wendy Gilpin, Director
Moirra Knowlton, Director
Sally Kryder Anderson, Director
Jim Bade, President Emeritus*

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).

