

# ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE May—June 2024

*Cedarville Area Historical Society*



## Museum Updates

Well our 2024 season has just snuck right up on us. Our Memorial Day Event is right around the corner and we hope to see as all those who are able to attend the event. As always the event will start at 10:00 with parade line up at Mill and 2nd St. The group will proceed down Mill Street and go across the bridge to the Cedarville Cemetery, where there will be a service honoring those who served their country and are buried there at the cemetery.

This newsletter includes an interesting look at the past with memories from Paul Kryder and Carol Meyers. We encourage all of our members to share your stories , anecdotes and memories 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. It is the written word that keeps history alive. Email your stories to [Info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org)

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 and past Memorial Day Parades.

- May 27th- Memorial Day Parade, Program & Lunch (Parade steps off at 10:00 a.m.). There will also be a plaque dedication to Don Franz following the lunch.
- June 18th- Memorial Day Memories (A look at Memorial Parades from 100+ years ago) There will also be a plaque dedication to Jim Bade during the program
- July 16th- Cedarville— Past and Present, A Discussion about Cedarville businesses and homes
- August 20th- John Reed and a look back at Reed's Garage and its impact on life in the village
- September 17th- Dr Andrew Dvorak presents a look at Lost Lake

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### **Meet some of Cedarville's Early Settlers:**

**Thompson Wilcoxon:** Born about 1800 in Georgia and moved to Portsmouth Ohio. Came to Stephenson County in 1837 and died in 1887. He married Cynda Mitchell and they had 7 children. He and his brothers Levi and Rezin were large landholder in Scioto Mills area. He built Wilcoxon Opera House in Freeport

**Levi Wilcoxon:** Born in 1793 in Virginia and moved to Portsmouth Ohio before 1837. He died in December 1853. He was married to Abigail Marin and they had no children. He reportedly built the Scioto Mills Saw Mills in 1837. He served as the county's grand juror in 1839

**Rezin Wilcoxon:** Born in 1797 in Virginia: Came to the county around 1837 or shortly after his 1840 marriage to Hannah Hibbs and they had 6 children.

**Walter Wilcoxon:** Came to the county prior to 1836 from Maryland. He died in 1836 in Winslow, IL. He married Elizabeth Deavers and they had ten children. It is believed that he is a cousin to Levi, Thompson and Rezin. It is believed his burial in Cedarville Cemetery is probably a re-burial.

# 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:*

## **My Memories of Cedarville By Paul Kryder January 23, 1925—August 13, 2006**

I was born in 1925 on the Addams farm at the east end of Elm Road in Buckeye Township (LaBudde's farm when this was written) as my dad (Charlie Kryder) was farming there. In 1928 we moved to my Grandpa Franks farm also on Elm Road west of Henderson Road where we lived until moving to Cedarville in 1936. I started school in 1931 while still living on the farm.

We would walk to the old school on the hill (currently the Historical Society). At that time the old steel bridge across Cedar Creek by the old dam site was still there as was the angle road that led to it. We would walk down Elm Road, cross Hwy 26 and take that angle road to go to school. The north room downstairs was grades 1 -3, the south room downstairs was 4 – 6, the north room upstairs was 7 & 8, and the first 2 grades of high school were in the south room upstairs. One of my memories while attending school was when Jane Addams died. All the children at Cedarville School walked to the cemetery and formed a line on each side of the driveway into the cemetery. We each held an American Flag and stood there as the funeral procession passed.

The area west of the old school was not a part of the school grounds. This area was originally a cemetery, but the bodies had been removed and there were trees and bushes growing on most of it. We used to climb some of the trees and play tag running around in the bushes and climbing the trees. We had a softball diamond in the field north of the school (now known as Grandpa's Woods). Lots of recess and noon ball games were played there. There was a tree in right field and one in left field which caused a few problems but never stopped a game.

When we moved to Cedarville, we lived in the house just north of where Reeds Station is (at that time the corner was just an empty lot).

Summers in Cedarville were spent riding bikes all around town, fishing and swimming in Cedar Creek. The spring floods would sometimes fill in or wash out a hole so when swimming season approached, we would walk the creek to find the deepest hole, which would then become the swimming hole. It was usually at the bend north of the bridge on Red Oak Road or in the pasture west of the schoolhouse. I don't remember any crops being planted in this area – it was always a pasture.

In the winter, ice skating and sledding were about the only things to do. Most of the skating was upstream from the old dam site. Lots of town people would skate here. This was close to where we had built a bunk house in the front of the garage at Knowltons (Jane Addams house). The garage was fairly close to the creek and the Knowltons allowed us to close off the front of this big garage and use it to change our skates, play cards, etc.. There was only 1 rule - - no girls allowed! It was equipped with chairs, tables, a cook stove, etc. We would hunt rabbits and then cook and eat them in the bunkhouse. Some years we had to find a different place to skate, usually at Long Rock, because Strohm's store had an icehouse where they sold ice for ice boxes. When they needed to put new ice in the icehouse, they always cut it at the old dam site because they could get it out pretty easy in that spot.

**My Memories of Cedarville**  
**By Paul Kryder**  
**January 23, 1925—August 13, 2006**

During this time, none of the streets in town were blacktop and Mill Street was a lot steeper coming up the hill past the street that goes up to the school. So Mill Street was a pretty good place to go sledding. When things were good, we could start at the top of the schoolhouse hill, go down the hill, around the corner onto Mill Street and sometimes go all the way to the bridge. There wasn't much traffic back then. We also used to go sledding at Wolf Rock.

The community house on Cedar Street was always the entertainment spot during the winter months with basketball teams. Cedarville had both softball and basketball teams at this time. The school games were played there and there was also a town team. A few of the players on the town team were Jerry Wagner, Fred "Snookie" Homan, Perry Cromley, Hack Wilson, Lowell Kottman, LeRoy Fransen and Lewis Frank.

One of the interesting places in town was the village blacksmith shop. It was located on Cherry Street by the alley between Cedar and Harrison Streets. The blacksmith would usually let us watch if we stayed out of the way. Across the street was the original Bollman Grocery Store which was later moved to the present location of Perdue Grocery (since torn down). When I was growing up the post office was in the Bollman store.

There were 2 gas stations in town, Koppies Standard Station was located where the car wash is now. The building had a service garage on the south side and a home was attached to the back. There was a canopy built over the area between the building and the gas pumps. I remember one morning after a Halloween night there was an old buggy on top of the canopy. I don't recall who was responsible for that prank. The older guys (out of high school) who used to hang out at the station used to pull tricks on us younger kids. One thing was to hook up an old Model T Ford coil to a parked car and then lay a nickel on the fender. Anyone who reached for the coin would get a shock when he touched the coin or car. The other station was located where Barkau's Used Car lot is now located. It was run by Skeeter Wilson.

Memorial Day was always a big day in Cedarville before WWII. Cedarville always had the programs (speeches, songs, etc.) in the old Globe Hall on Cedar Street. The program was always in the morning because several of the WWI veterans belonged to the American Legion at Orangeville and would go up there in the afternoon for their service. The Cedarville band used to play for the parade and dad (Charlie Kryder) was always the marshal in charge of the parade. All the school children used to march in the parade along with a few on bicycles. The parade route was always to go south on Cedar Street, west on Cherry Street, north on Mill Street to the cemetery with a stop at the bridge. In some of the years after WWII, the Dakota or Orangeville High School bands would play and march in the parades following the same routes as above.

Another big thing in Cedarville was the annual Old Settlers Picnic in August. I remember it always being in Yeagles Grove (Wood Lane Drive area now). There were no houses built there during that time. There was a large building located in the middle which served as a storage building for planks and boards used for seats, etc.. This building also served as the stage for the programs that were held. The Cedarville Old Settlers was originally the Stephenson Co Old Settlers Association and they used to keep track of settlers happenings, births, deaths, etc.. In the morning after Old Settlers day us kids would gather there and walk all over the grounds looking for coins, we usually were successful and found some.



## Member's Memories (cont.)

My Memories of Cedarville  
By Carol Meyers

In the 1980's Cedarville had two girl scout troops: Brownie Troop 10 and Junior Troop 17. They held their meeting in what is now the Cedarville Area Historical Museum.

They took an active part in the community by planting and tending flowers at the post office and at the Old Jail. They also did a skit at the Cedarville Cemetery for the Memorial Day Celebration.

Ruth Gaar explained to them how they got their mail delivered with a tour of the Cedarville Post Office and Gene Woodley showed them through the Cedarville Fire Station and talked to them about fire safety.

They loved sledding down the hill in Cooley's backyard and having hot chocolate afterwards inside the museum. They took camping trips to Far Horizon's Girl Scout Camp in Jo Daviess County and day trips to Santa's Village and Great America with the money they earned selling Girl Scout Cookies and Girl Scout Calendars.

They earned many badges; The biking badge by biking to Scioto Mills, the hiking badge by hiking the Sugar River Trail in Wisconsin, and the sports badge by having their own Girl Scout Olympics winning ribbons.

Some Cedarville people who enjoyed working with them were: Barb Zunker as cookie sales chairman, Fely Warneke and Cathy Koning as troop nurses, and Carol Meyers as troop leader.

In our present age scouting seems to have lost its appeal as Cedarville has no girl scout troop today.

Note: Carol was a member of the Cedarville Area Historical Society for over 10 years, served as a troop leader as she took two daughters through Junior level scouts. In addition she was the Postmaster Relief/Sub for roughly 25 years. In speaking with Carol we all agree that it would be wonderful to see another troop form in the community of Cedarville.

### **Rosalee Rockman (Facebook Posts– April 2024)**

At the beginning of April we had our post on our Facebook Page which generated quite a few comments. We thought we would share that post and subsequent comments with you here in this newsletter. It certainly brings to light how an individual can impact so many different lives:

The Post said:

The Cedarville Area Historical Society has many pieces of art done by local artists. These pieces of art are on display in the second floor LeRoy Wilson Theater and Art Gallery and encourage you to visit the room when you visit the museum.

One of the artists who has artwork on display is Rosalee Rockman, a Freeport educator for over 35 years. Rosalee was a goldsmith, silversmith, sculptor, painter, graphic designer, fiber and texture artist and designer, a portrait artist, calligrapher and interior designer. Rosalee was a freelance artist from her restored 1884 historical structure studio gallery home, Cedar Cliff Carriage House, in Cedarville. Rosalee passed away in 1993 at the age of 57.



## Rosalee Rockman (Facebook Posts– April 2024)

In 2007 Glen and Linda Auman of Freeport donated four pieces of Rosalee's work to the Cedarville Area Historical Society. Pictured in this post is one of those pieces, a ceramic jug.

In response to that post were the following comments:

K. Wilken-I loved her. She was a wonderful teacher. So encouraging. CAHS you would have loved her too. She had that gift

K Kaiser– Rosalee was a gentle, peaceful woman (& Cedar Cliff neighbor) who was integral in my Artistic career endeavors. I never had her as an art teacher, but was privileged to help her in her garden, picking up her groceries at Purdues and helping her put curlers in her hair. She would tell me Stories of her time in Hawaii and share her creative processes for a variety of mediums. What a Beautiful life. What a beautiful soul. Grateful her work is on display

L. R. Piefer– Thank you for this wonderful tribute to my sister, Rosalee Rockman! It was so wonderful to see her beautiful face here this morning! I am fortunate to own all of her remaining artwork since she passed away, sketches, pots, weavings, and custom jewelry she created. Besides being my cherished sister, she was also my best friend and is missed every day. Living in Madison, Wisconsin since 2006, I had no idea of your Rosalee Rockman collection and would be happy to talk with you about her. I remember when good friends Duane Smith and Harlan Corrie came to collect her pieces for an exhibit. I have precious memories of time spent with her and my family on Cedar Cliff over the years. On Easter, I especially remember her hosting us for her special stir fry and flying kites on Cedar Cliff, an Easter tradition for my boys and our family! Such special memories!!!

K Kaiser-I too live in Madison. Would love to connect for coffee sometime. Bless you  
And your lovely sister

Thank you for your kind comments. Would love to meet you for coffee sometime

L Auman—Rosalee was a dear friend. Love her art and thankful you have it to share. Aumans

T, Weigel—Rosalee was a dear friend. She called most every morning, inviting me to visit or just Chatting. One day, instead, I got a call from Duane and Ruth Smith. Seeing her beautiful face is a lovely surprise this morning.

J Wertz—Thanks for sharing, Not only did Rosalee create beautiful art, she instilled the love of art into her students, many of which went on to have successful careers in the arts. My husband T. Wertz was one of them. She taught him in high school, and then he was lucky enough to land his first teaching job working side by side with her. He went on to teach art in the Dakota school district until retirement. Rosalee was a great mentor and wonderful friend. T Weigel—L Rockman Piefer, she loved you deary and often talked of you and the boys I think she was one of the most interesting people I've known. Duane and I selected her art covers of her church bulletins and he was astonished at the number of covers she had done. She impacted so many people in her years teaching. I first met her when I took private lessons in watercolor. I was in my mid 20's. Our friendship was a treasure to me.

Thank you T. Weigel for your kind and loving comments.

G. Diehl—She was such a talented artist & students who had her as their art teacher were so lucky! I think of her every time I drive past her former home.

M Garcia—Rosalie was my neighbor directly across Highway 26 on the other side of Cedar Cliff. As kids we wandered down her long private driveway exploring even though it said no trespassing, our curiosity took over. Her back porch had ceramic Sun sculptures everywhere and I think she had cats. I was fortunate to have her as an art teacher at FHS one semester. She was a unique and gifted artist. I never got to know her well as she was a very private person.



**James Bade**  
**President Emeritus**  
**May 2, 1932—April 19, 2024**

Our Dad, Jim Bade, passed quietly in his sleep this Friday April 19, 2024 afternoon after 91 years living a life full of gregarious spunk, intestinal fortitude, adventurousness, with a fierce open-minded tolerance for all things, ideas, people and possibilities. He was fiercely just and fiercely kind.

He was an egghead to be sure. He traveled so much of the world with my mom and most of it was not staying at the Ritz but instead, getting down in the dirt and "living and learning" it. He was a journalist and an editor in his very heart and soul and just plain old curious about real life.

Despite all "the things", family always came first. Always. Shirt off his back guy to family and friends. And even "shirt" to those that were not yet his friends... but with my dad, they naturally ended up friends.

If I had to pick just one snapshot of Dad that will stay and stick with me forever, it is a song. Dad had a marvelous singing voice. And we 3 little girls would beeeeeeggg from the back seat of the car for Dad to sing to us. And he always happily obliged. My favorite was Swinging on a Star. I'll think of him whenever I hear the words: "So you see it's all up to you, you can be better than you are, you could be swingin' on a star". Thanks Dad, I'll remember.

"Would you like to swing on a star  
Carry moonbeams home in a jar  
And be better off than you are  
Or would you rather be a mule

A mule is an animal with long funny ears  
Kicks up at anything he hears  
His back is brawny but his brain is weak  
He's just plain stupid with a stubborn streak  
And by the way, if you hate to go to school  
You may grow up to be a mule

Or would you like to swing on a star  
Carry moonbeams home in a jar  
And be better off than you are  
Or would you rather be a pig

A pig is an animal with dirt on his face  
His shoes are a terrible disgrace  
He has no manners when he eats his food  
He's fat and lazy and extremely rude  
But if you don't care a feather or a fig  
You may grow up to be a pig

Or would you like to swing on a star  
Carry moonbeams home in a jar  
And be better off than you are  
Or would you rather be a fish



**James Bade**  
**President Emeritus**  
**May 2, 1932—April 19, 2024**

A fish won't do anything, but swim in a brook  
He can't write his name or read a book  
To fool the people is his only thought  
And though he's slippery, he still gets caught  
But then if that sort of life is what you wish  
You may grow up to be a fish

And all the monkeys aren't in the zoo  
Every day you meet quite a few  
So you see it's all up to you  
You can be better than you are  
You could be swingin' on a star"

James married Yvonne "Bonnie" Auffant June 17, 1956 in Des Plaines, IL; she passed away December 15, 2018. James worked as a journalist and in public relations. He graduated from Northwestern University. He was the past president of the Cedarville Area Historical Society.

James is survived by his three daughters, Wendy (Hal) Gilpin, Lisa (Patrick) Goodwin, and Sue (Steve) Myers; sister-in-law, Barbara Bade; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. James was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Esther Bade; wife, Bonnie Bade; sister, Joyce Johnson; brothers, Al and Art Bade; and grandson-in-law, Max Hazen

A private family memorial service will be held at the Cedarville Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers the family requests that because of Jim's deep interest in history of all kinds that a memorial in his name be made to the Cedarville Area Historical Society. Please sign Jim's guestbook and share a memory at [www.burketubbs.com](http://www.burketubbs.com)



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

Postage

***Return Service Requested***

**Museum Hours Saturdays 1:00PM-4:00PM (Memorial Day weekend – Labor Day weekend)**

Museum is always available by appointment

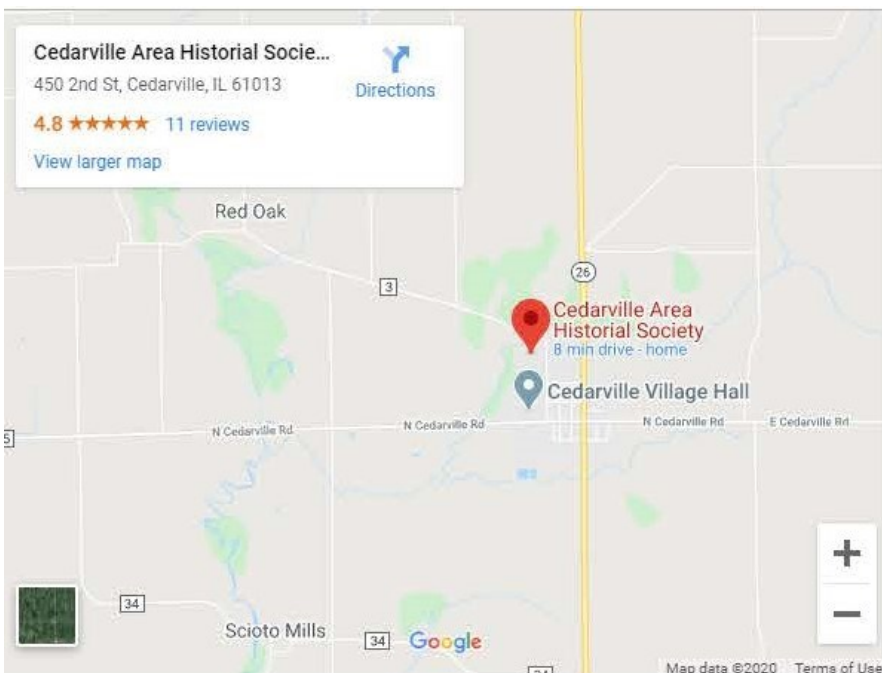
During non-open hours you can utilize the Ring doorbell and we will do our best meet you at the museum

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

Call or text 815-990-0417 or 815-847-9127 to reserve or email: [info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org)

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*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  
Phone 815-990-0417

**Mailing Address**  
1212 S. Stewart Ave, Freeport, IL 61032

**Web site**  
[www.cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org)

**E-mail**  
[info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org)

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