

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE January/February 2025

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Museum Updates

Save the Date: Chili/Soup Luncheon– February 9th, 2025 11:00-1:00

Happy New Year to each and everyone of you. We hope that you enjoyed the holidays as much as we did. We are looking forward to 2025 and will kick off our year with our annual Chili/Soup Luncheon. As in past years the luncheon will be held at the Cedarville Area Historical Museum with the lunch including your choice of chili and soups and sides of grilled cheese sandwiches, chips and desserts. As in the past lunch will be served in our second floor event room and seating will be provided. If you so choose we will have take out containers. We have maintained our prices and adults will be \$6.00 and children under 12 will be \$2.00

Although our summer presentation programs have not been finalized, we do know that included in this years programs will be:

- A program on the Oakdale Tabernacle landmark
- Abraham Lincoln and the Addams Family
- History of the Cedarville School
- Cedarville Historical Spoo (originally presented live in 2009)

A couple of reminders for 2025:

- If you haven't sent in your 2025 membership dues remember that we use those funds for our basic operational expenses of the facility. We all know how expensive things like electric, gas, insurance and other basic expenses have become. We appreciate your support because without you, we wouldn't be here
- We are a non-profit organization and gladly accept any financial donations that you choose to make. Additional funds are used to update displays and support summer programs
- If your home address or your email address has changed or changes, please remember to let us know and we will update our records so that you continue to receive our newsletters
- Included at the Chili luncheon is our annual organization update. Members who attend will receive a copy of our annual financial report and will be asked to vote for three persons to serve for three years on the board of directors.
- One of the exhibits that we would like to expand in 2025 is our exhibit dedicated to the school. If you or someone you know has any Cedarville school artifacts, pictures or documents, or memories that they would like to donate to the school, let us know
- We are also looking for display cases, similar to those currently in the museum or those that are conducive to displaying documents, pictures or artifacts
- If you know of someone who you think would enjoy being a member, please invite them to join our organization. The more the merrier.

This edition of our newsletter contains Christmas memories of some of our past members. It is always fun to read and hear about local memories. If you have any that you would like to share, please send them on to us either via email or through the traditional postal service.

Cedarville Christmas Memories-Curtis Wilson, DePere, Wi

I grew up in Cedarville in the 60's. My mother loved Christmas and Christmas Eve dinner was always at our house with her side of the family (Cramer/Richards). The relatives would start arriving in the late afternoon with arm full of presents and wonderful dishes to pass. With a warm fire crackling in the fireplace, my mom would serve a mixture of old favorites and bazaar new dishes that she had discovered. These experiments were not always appreciated by everyone in attendance—but I always looked forward to these creations. This was Christmas after-all. When else could you serve a onion pie. After our Christmas eve feast my folks always insisted that everyone bundle up and attend the candlelight service at the Methodist Church-another favorite memory for me. My families life revolved around that Church and I'm sure that service hasn't changed a bit over the years (at least-I hope not). Singing Silent Night n a dark church, on a snowy evening, with a lit candle in your hand, surrounded by family and friends is a wonderful Cedarville memory.

My mother was big on starting traditions. One year she insisted that we fill paper bags with sand and insert a lit candle, creating a "luminary". These bags lined both sides of our driveway on Oak Ridge Drive and were only lit on Christmas Eve to a neighborhood with every driveway lit with the warm glow of "luminaries". Occasionally the wind would blow the bags into the candle and we would have flaming luminaries. Of course as a kid, Christmas is all about presents and we couldn't wait to return from Church to open the ones from relatives. As the kids grew older and the families got larger, we all drew names in a secret ballot at Thanksgiving for those Christmas Eve gatherings. Only the name of the gift recipient appeared on the wrapped package and one by one we all opened our gift with everyone else watching. It was always fun guessing who picked your names the gifts became more interesting as we grew older.

Since Santa Claus wasn't going to show up for hours, these Christmas Eve gatherings were all about gifts for my grandparents from all of us. My grandfather was one of the most expressive people I have ever met and I have wonderful memories of him opening up his presents. If it was clothes, he always modeled them in a comic way immediately.

I have wonderful memories of Christmas in Cedarville.

Cedarville Christmas Memories-Peggy Miller Schoonhoven

Christmas time in the "little village of Cedarville" was quaint and charming with a real pine tree, packages wrapped & ribboned and all of my school friends looking forward to the long Christmas vacation. We usually went caroling with a group from church and spent considerable time ice-skating on Cedar Creek and sledding on special hills. When I couldn't feel my fingers and toes, I would head home for hot chocolate, cookies, and Mom's homemade fudge. Who can forget the poems and songs we had to learn for the Christmas programs at church, when our minds could only think about getting home to open gifts?

One year I recall often, but my little sister, Mary Lou, wanted to forget about it. She had told all of her friends she was getting a big doll for Christmas. Someone suggested we put a very tiny doll in a small box and then into graduated sized boxes, all nicely wrapped. We hid the big doll in a closet. She furiously started pulling paper off each box and they got smaller and smaller. She looked up at everyone laughing and observing her utter disappointment and the tears began to flow when she saw the tiny doll on her lap. We knew it was time to bring out the big doll in the closet. By that time her patience was completely gone. She would not even look at the big doll and her "Merry Christmas" had turned to Bah-Humbug!". It took her the rest of the night to open other gifts and accept the big doll. Whose idea was this? Fortunately, not mine.

The most memorable Christmas of all was in 1943. The love of my life, Harold Schoonhoven, had been waiting a year for me to graduate from high school so we could get married. I graduated in June and on December 5, 1943 we were married in the Cedarville Evangelical Congregational Church. Our "honeymoon plans" took us to Lancaster, Wisconsin where my father & stepmother were living. I cant say it was a very happy time because I was so anxious to get home to our little apartment above Strohm's Store, open our wedding gifts and plan for our first Christmas together. We enjoyed a lot of honeymoon trips during our, almost, 63 years of marriage.

I thank God for the 88 years he has given me and for the wonderful memories I have of my 20 plus years I lived in Cedarville. Merry Christmas to all _____ Peggy (Miller) Schoonhoven

Cedarville Christmas Memories-Jane Goodspeed

Christmas at our house on Pine Hill at the edge of Cedarville was the best when we had snow. Looking out the windows we saw a snowy Addams barn and an icy Cedar Creek. All around us the world was white.

We always had family with us. Grandparents came from Michigan and later our children, living in St Louis, came to visit every Christmas, even if we were not there. One year, after it had been snowing hard all day, we met my in-laws at the Land of Corn train in Freeport. We drove to the bottom of our hill but there was no way we could get our car up the lane. After unloading their suitcases we piled everything on sled and walked thru the snow. They delighted us with tales of their childhoods in Michigan and Minnesota as we worked our way up the hill on foot.

When the weather man threatened snow it was always tricky to plan a Christmas party. One year we invited Cedarville friends to come for punch and "goodies" before the carol singing at the museum. (that was before the present day wine and appetizers were served at that holiday event). Steve Glaze, who lives in the Addams Homestead, offered to chauffeur folks up the hill from the museum and back in his 4 wheel drive van. Everyone appreciated his generosity!

Several years before that event we walked around Cedarville singing carols and gathering friends to come back to Pine Hill for cookies and cocoa. I realized we must have been pretty convincing in our invitation when I looked up and saw a boy at our dining room table that I'd never seen before! Thank goodness our children knew him.

Being with our loved ones made every Christmas special. There was the time we made a teepee for our grandson and the Christmas we gave our daughter a puppy that cried all night. Our son-in-law faithfully remembered to leave cookies for Santa and, after everyone was in bed, he snuck downstairs, ate the sweets and arranged ashes in the shape of a footprint in front of the fireplace. There was always activity when we were together. We sang carols to the birds and left food for them. We rode sleds down the hills. We drank lots of cocoa and roasted marshmallows over a fire. All of this is dear to remember. Not sensational, just a happy family tale.



Left:: Cedar Creek as seen from Pine Hill

Right: Cedar Creek from Pine Hill



Curt Wilson son of LeRoy and Gayle Wilson. Curtis attended Cedarville School in the early 1960's



L: Peggy Miller born 8/26/1925, died 2/28/2019. Daughter of Flossie and Russell Miller. Married Harold Schoonhoven on 12-5-1943

R: Jane Goodspeed born 1-22-1934, died 5/07/2024, Daughter of James and Dorothy Livermore. Married Roger Goodspeed.



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

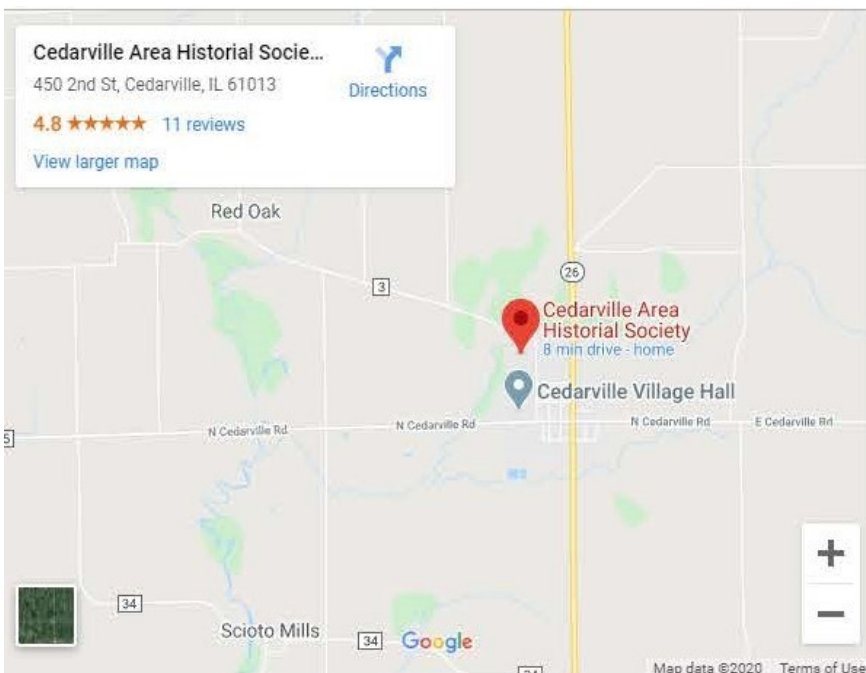
Museum facilities are available for private functions (weddings, reunions, meetings)

Call or text 815-990-0417 or 815-847-9127 to reserve or email: info@cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org

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 have made additional donations to CAHS



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.cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org

E-mail
info@cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org

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

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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).