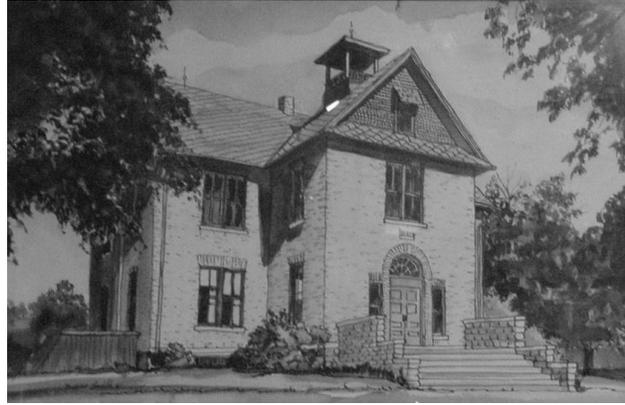


ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE July—August 2025

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Museum Updates

Well our 2025 season is in full swing and there are many great things still ahead for this year. Here is a calendar at a glance for this year. Please take note of the dates and mark them on your calendar.

Our remaining summer programs are listed below with each program beginning at 7:00 p.m.

- July 15th-Jane Addams as Reformer: Striving for the Lincoln Ideal In A Rapidly Changing America (Presented by Dr Andy Dvorak)
- August 19th-History of Old Settlers Day from 1869 (Presented by John Reed)
- September 16th-Cedarville Historical Spoof (a Video presentation from the original 2009 live program)
- October 7th-History of Cedarville School and the Neighborhood (Board members and audience participation)

We have had quite a few activities and visitors this season. We kicked off our season a bit early when we participated in International Museum Day on Sunday, May 18th. We were thrilled to have 9 other Historical Organizations from Stephenson County join us for the event, which included all of us opening our doors on that day celebrating each of our museums. We thank the Greater Freeport Partnership for their support.

We are also partnering with those same nine organizations in our Passport To The Past program. Visit all ten participating museums between now and Labor Day and you will earn an entry to win a Gift Basket filled with goodies from each of the organizations. In addition at each museum you visit you will receive a postcard from that community. Lets show our community spirit and visit each of the participating organizations. The participating communities/organizations are: Stephenson County Historical Museum, Stephenson Genealogical Society and the museums in Cedarville, German Valley, Lena, McConnell, Pearl City, Rock Run (located in Rock City), Silver Creek Railroad Museum, and Winslow.

Our Memorial Day Program was attended by over a hundred people followed by an indoor picnic luncheon at the museum, which included music provided by Ukulele Express 815.

On Tuesday, June 10th we were thrilled to have a program about the history of the Oakdale Tabernacle building presented to us by Joe Kanosky. We would encourage all of you to visit the building when it is open to the public. We are thrilled that they have the support of so many in the community to restore and preserve this beautiful building.

Many thanks to our members who have volunteered their time and labor on getting some things done around the museum. Galen Bertram repaired (actually replaced) the door to the basement and Steve Myers weeded a long overlooked garden at the front door entrance. Thank you gentlemen. Sally Anderson, Toni Galster, Jean Homan and Wendy Bade-Gilpin spent many hours researching and updating our School and Military displays so that they were available for viewing with our Memorial Day opening.

REMEMBER: If during your spring/summer cleaning you come across items (photos, postcards, apparel, school items, military, historic retail items, whatever) that have significance to the history of our surrounding community and you are thinking of throwing them out STOP, those items may be of historic importance to our community and we would love to have them for current/future displays. We have recently received many new photos, old deeds, books, school records, military items and other items from members and community residents. Give us a call (224-639-3436) or email us at info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org

COMMUNITY MEMORIES

History of Cedarville Women's Club 1916-1959

In 1916 the rural women in the vicinity of Cedarville, Illinois formed a club which they named "The Goodfellowship Club". The first meeting was held February 3rd, 1916, with sixteen members enrolled. The object of this organization was for the social and mental advancement of its members and to help each other when in need. A constitution was formed and a president elected and she in turn named a program chairman for each meeting. Dues were twenty-five cents per member. Membership was limited to twenty ladies from the school district. Meetings were held in the homes on the third Thursday of each month.

In 1917 it was decided to draw up a constitution and by-laws to take in members outside the school district. A president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and program committee were elected. The club motto was "Toward the Light", the flowers was the "Goldenrod" and yellow and white were the club colors. The grew fast and the Cedarville Community House was selected as the meeting place. Much work was done for the community. Money was given toward a furnace and decorating of the Community House and to the Cemetery Association for the building of a gravel road and a vault. Trees and shrubs were bought and planted as a landscaping project for the Community House. The club sewed and had quilting bees for families in distress sent money for care of a Belgian orphan.

The Goodfellowship Club worked with and exchanged programs with other clubs. A quartette and a chorus of twenty ladies were organized and sang for clubs, Christmas and Easter programs in churches and many other entertainment events. One act plays and even a minstrel were given to raise money to carry on for the welfare of the community.

The Goodfellowship Club joined the County Federation of Woman's Clubs in May, 1929 with thirty-two members, three honorary and two in memoriam. The name was changed to Cedarville Woman's Club. They paid county dues of one dollar and club dues were raised to one dollar per member. They attended county conventions and began work with Federation projects.

In March 1932, the Cedarville Woman's Club became members of the State and District Federation and by 1945 they were joined with the General Federation with forty-seven members, four honorary and five in memoriam. Club dues were again raised to one dollar and one half. They continued working with all general Federation projects and sent boxes of clothing and food to Korean children and flood refugees and sewing material, buttons, thread, etc. to the General Lucas Clay project in Germany. Boxes of clothing, food, candies, gifts and books were sent to Marquette Boys School, Park Ridge School for Girls, veterans hospitals, Dixon State Hospital and the County Home. The club visited Dixon State Hospital. They sewed for children of the Kings Daughters and made pads and bandages for the hospital as a cancer project. They helped the local Girl Scouts and sold garden and flower seeds for children of a rural school to help purchase books for their school library.

Cedarville being the home of Jane Addams led the group to do many things in her honor. They joined the Historical Society in placing markers at each entrance of Cedarville designating her birth place. They sponsored a Jane Addams book shelf for Cedarville School and donated many fine books. Their club also visited the Hull House in Chicago, which Miss Adams formed.

They had a bake sale and raised fifty dollars toward a movie projector for the community.

In 1950-1951, federation clubs worked on a percentage basis and Cedarville Woman's Club won second place in the county with sixty-five percent credit.

Their constitution and by-laws were revised in 1955. They continued to have instructive programs, including motion pictures and talks by prominent men and women. Their regular projects were cancer, polio and Red Cross and they also contributed to the Hear Fund, Mental Health, Indian Welfare, Boys and Girls schools, Penny Art Fund and other as suggested by the Federation or as voted upon by club members.

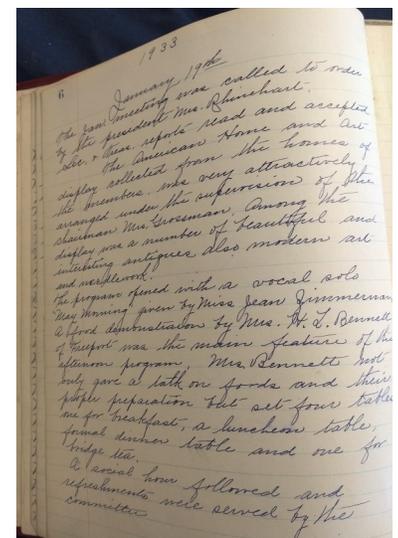
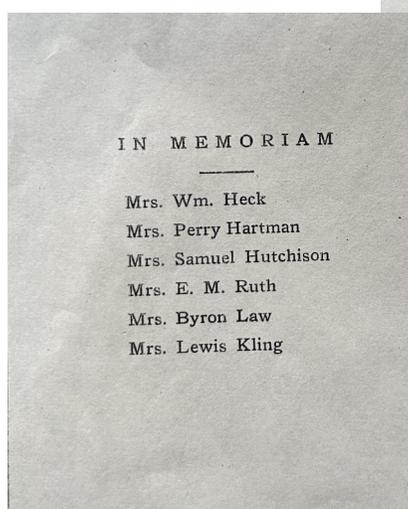
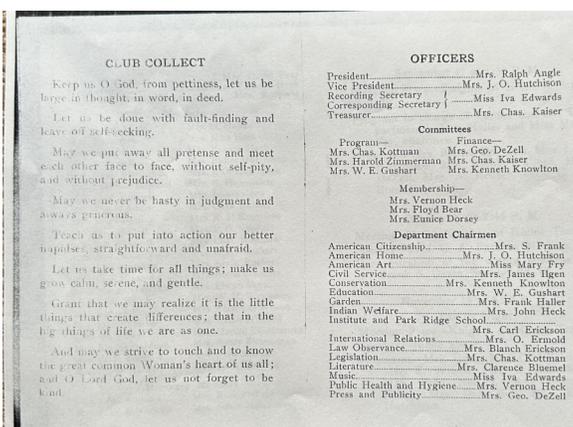
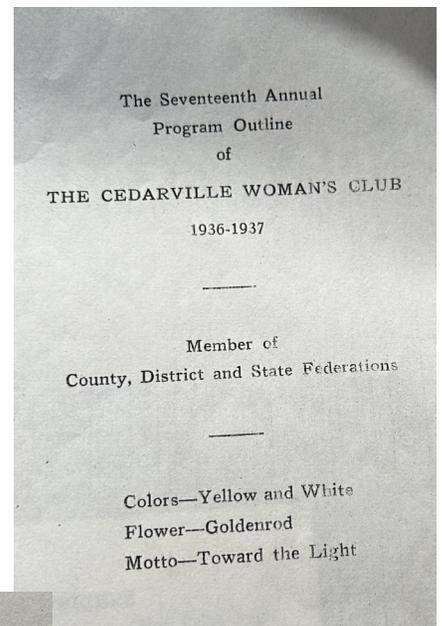
Cedarville Women's Club (Cont)

This history was written at the time when the club was forty-three years old. The officers were president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. They had committees that included Programs, Finance, Membership which were comprised of three people each, a parliamentarian, a music chairman and assistant and a Sunshine Lady. They had thirty-seven members, one charter member, two honorary and nineteen in memoriam. Dues were two dollars. Their elections were held in April and they continued to meet the third Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m. alternating annually at the two churches of Cedarville. Their meetings were opened with the pledge of allegiance to the flag or Club Collect as designed by the president. They have a song of the month and roll call. A program followed their business meeting, after which the Club was adjourned and refreshments were served by the hostess. A little friendly chatting and finally fond goodbyes and hoping to see each other at their next meeting. *(much of this information was gathered through notes written by Mrs. Fred Nelson, Dakota, II. In 1959)*

Below are the names of past presidents of the Women's Club. How many names do you recognize?

1916-Selma Hutchison (it is listed as Selma Dixon, but she didn't become Selma "Dickson" until 1932 so we corrected the name)

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1917-Mrs James Illgen | 1918-Mrs. J.O. Hutchison |
| 1919-Mrs Orville Kahly | 1920-Mrs. J. L. Ulrich |
| 1921-Mrs Edw Erickson | 1922-Mrs Edward Ruth |
| 1923-Mrs S. W. Frank | 1924-Mrs P. O. Hartman |
| 1925-Mrs Thomas Gieldseth | 1926-Mrs H. C. Bolender |
| 1927-Mrs. Roy Cromley | 1928-Mrs. Thomas Bell |
| 1929-31-Miss Mary Fry | 1931-33-Mrs Ernest Rinehart |
| 1933-34-Mrs Winifred Gushart | 1934-35-Mrs James Illgen |
| 1935-37-Mrs Ralph Angle | 1937-39-Mrs Winfred Gushart |
| 1939-41-Mrs John Roddewig | 1941-43-Mrs Harold Zimmerman |
| 1943-45-Mrs Clarence Wilson | 1945-47-Mrs William Lindeman |
| 1947-48-Mrs Marvin Bardell | 1948-49-Mrs Ralph Angle |
| 1949-53-Mrs Fred Nelson | 1953-55-Mrs Frank Sturtevant |
| 1955-57-Mrs Harry Phillips | 1957-59-Mrs Lew Hambley |



1. Cover page to the 1936-37 Program Book
2. First page of Program Book 1936-37
3. In memoriam page
4. Sample of detailed meeting notes from January 1933

Memorial Day 2025



Ukulele Express 815 played during Memorial Day and presented a donation to American Legion



American Legion 1244 at ease



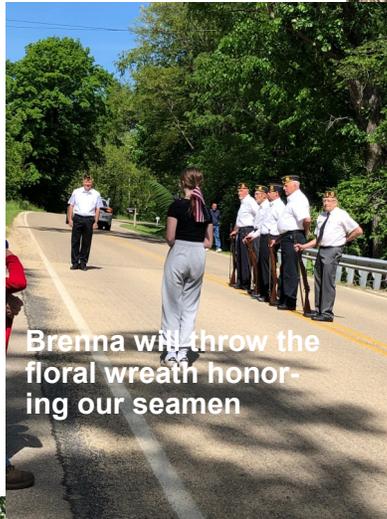
Past attendees know to bring a chair



Braden and Keefen recited the Gettysburg address



Cedarville American Legion 1244 ready for the march to the cemetery



Brenna will throw the floral wreath honoring our seamen



It's a family affair with Wendy Gilpin and Lisa Goodwin,



Marchers of all ages are heading up to the ceremony at the Cedarville Cemetery



Wendy, Greg Brenna and Everett and Jim in background





The Wagner Family brought a donation for the military display



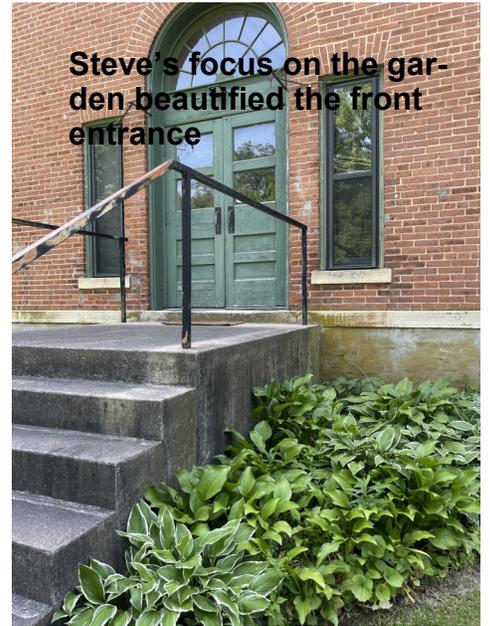
Freeport Social Workers from Freeport High School



HCC Metal Detecting Class



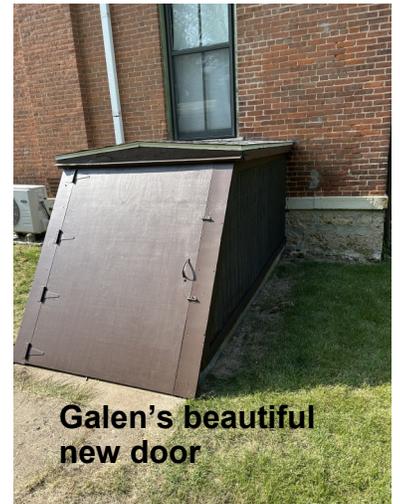
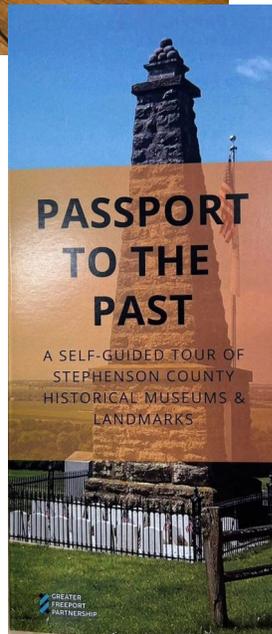
Joe Kanosky presented Oakdale Tabernacle (with Andy Dvorak)



Steve's focus on the garden beautified the front entrance



Judy Wise brought in some school memorabilia, deeds, books and post-cards for some current and future displays. With her is Toni Galster



Galen's beautiful new door

Cedarville's General Merchandise Stores James Bade and Clyde Kaiser

The arrival of the early settlers' wagons in the Cedarville area during the 1845-1855 period brought with them the need for a general store to meet certain needs for the articles that could not be produced locally. Housewives needed coffee, salt and tea to supplement the local herb teas and other articles which could be procured in the Pennsylvania communities from which most of the settlers had emigrated.

It is generally believed that the first general store in Cedarville was the father and son, Jackson and Henry Richart Store located at the northwest corner of Mill and Second Street at 300 N Mill Street. Jackson's obituary states that he opened his store in 1856. In a brick building constructed by Samuel Sutherland with bricks from the James Canfield kiln, the Richart's opened their store with the usual items of the first general stores—household sundries, flour, coffee, tea, sugar, dried meats, dried beans, peas, candy, dress goods, gloves, medicinal supplies, such as cough medicine, liniments, and other items for the health of the community. The stock increased in volume and variety as the years passed and the railroad and wholesale firms in the neighboring Freeport brought new items to the markets—pencils and paper replacing the early slates of the school children going by the store to the school up on the hill.

The Richarts retained ownership for many years with its last years being operated by Henry and his sister Alma. It was purchased by Luther Shippy in the late 20's. Around that time, a gasoline pump was installed for the increasing number of autos. A fire in the store eventually caused the store's closing and the lot was cleared and a residence now stands where the early store first stood.

On the opposite side of Mill Street on lots 13 and 14, 265 Mill Street a competing store was erected by James Benson who was later joined by his son-in-law, D. J. Ilgen. Some recollections place this structure as being built in 1848 with the store in operation a short time later. Whether the Richard or the Benson store was the first is a matter of opinion, but both were the same type and handled the same items. The Benson Store reportedly handled a large inventory of dress goods and articles of clothing. However the sale of ready made apparel was generally met by the several tailors, dressmaker, milliners and cobblers who operated from their homes in supplying the villagers and farmers with such needs.

The Benson Store never had any other owners and disappeared from the marketing scene on or about 1910. The building, to which Jacob Latshaw attached his inn to the store's north wall was razed in the 1950's. The store was vacant for many years with many articles remaining on its shelves. The inn had been changed to the Cedarville Telephone Exchange, but it was razed and the area as of 1995 was a vacant lot.

For many years, the location of the Cedarville Post Office moved from Benson to Richart stores according to election results. The Benson's staunch Democrats, were favored in Democratic Administrations, while the Richart's, equally staunch Republicans were favored in Republican administrations.

The J. D. Strohm Meat and Grocery Store at 240 W Cherry St was purchased by J. D. Strohm in 1906 from the John Wright heirs, who had become owners of the former Henny Buggy building. It was located on the northeast corner intersection of Mill and Cherry Streets. This store handled some groceries but its specialty was fresh meats and also cold cuts, pop and candies. It was a popular meeting place and its pool table and card table were busy six nights a week. Sandwiches were made and often the clerk was admonished not to let the thumb rest too heavily on the scales when cutting the meat for the sandwich. The large room above the store was used for dances, band practice and also for lodge activities for the Modern Woodmen of America. This store also featured a gasoline pump. The store finally closed in the 1960-1970s and the daughter Leila DeZell made the upstairs and the pool room into apartments. The main store section was also occupied by a video store in 1995—a great change from the early stores of a century earlier.

A fourth general store made its debut at 30 West Cherry by John Bollman in the period from 1902. It sold gasoline as well as kerosene. By the nature of the times, with more products, deliveries by wholesalers, it was possible to offer a wider selection of merchandise, mostly groceries. Upon the death of Mr. Bollman, and short operation by son, Ray, the store passed to Glenn & Flossie Bear in 1939, operating a typical good village store until 1965. Jesse Perdue then owned/operated the store until 1995.

A newcomer on the scene was the Mobil Convenience Store and Station at the intersection of Hwy 26 and Cedarville Road. It takes its place a month the many supermarkets with their tremendous inventories, its pharmacies, deli's even banking services (ATMs). A tremendous contrast to the store of a century and a half ago.



Richart Store believed to have opened in 1856

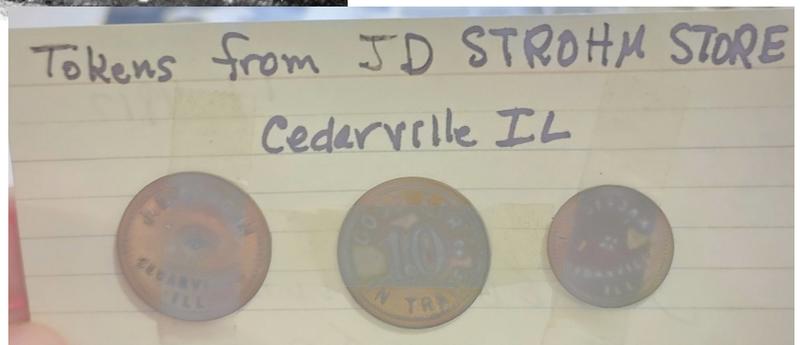


Bollman Store pre 1910



Shippy store (once Richart). Believed to have burned sometime in the 1920's

J D Strohm tokens. Thought to be awarded to customers for purchases, but haven not confirmed



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 also available by appointment

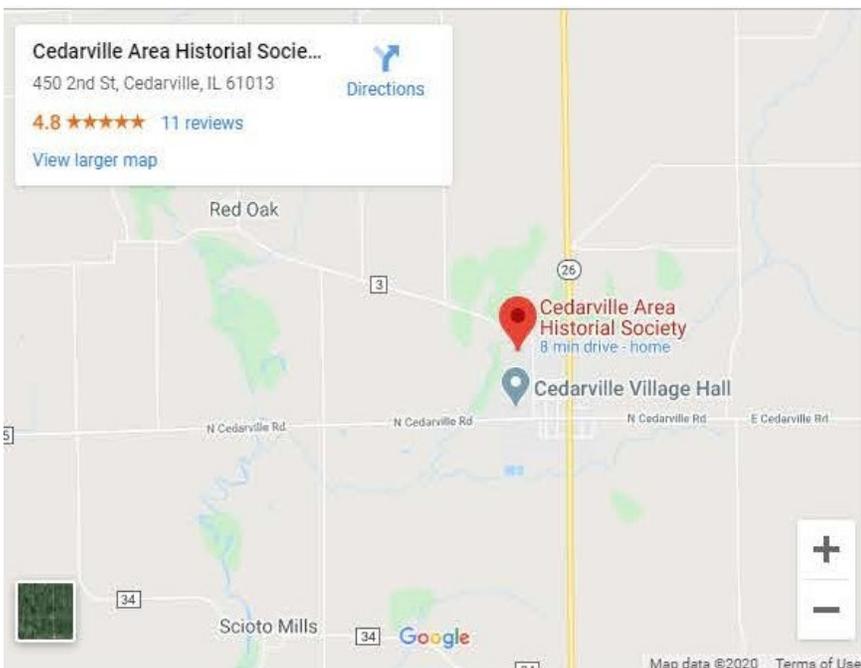
During non-open hours you can utilize the Ring doorbell and we will do our best to respond and meet you at the museum

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

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



We 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



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Steve Myers, President
Lisa Goodwin, Vice President
Galen Bertram, Treasurer
Sharon Barmore, Secretary
Andy Dvorak, Director
Toni Galster, Director
Wendy Gilpin, Director
Moirra Knowlton, Director
Sally Kryder Anderson, Director

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