

# **ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE May—June 2025**

***Cedarville Area Historical Society***



## **Museum Updates**

Well our 2025 season is in full swing and there are many great things planned 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 current summer programs are listed below:

- Highland Community College Lifelong Learning, Metal Detecting Class (May 12th, 1:00-3:00)
- International Museum Day (May 18th 1:00-4:00). A special day celebrating museums.
- Memorial Day Parade and Festivities (May 26th 10:00-1:00)
- History of the Oakdale Tabernacle landmark (June 10th 7:00)
- Jane Addams as Reformer: Striving for the Lincoln Ideal In A Rapidly Changing America (July 15th 7:00)
- History of Old Settlers Day from 1869 (August 19th 7:00)
- Cedarville Historical Spoof (originally presented live in 2009, September 16th 7:00)
- History of Cedarville School and the Neighborhood (October 7th 7:00)

We are happy to announce an addition to our board. Toni Galster, recently elected as a Cedarville Trustee and member of the Cedarville Lions Club approached us at the Chili Luncheon wondering what she could do to become an active member...well that was a quick and easy answer and now Toni is a new board member.

This spring has been busy for the museum. We identified displays that needed some updating and expansion and with that board members Sally Anderson, Toni Galster and Wendy Bade-Gilpin (with assistance from Jean Homan) started their quest. Our school display has been expanded and we have expanded our Civil War display to be an overall inclusive "Military" presentation which includes photos, uniforms and memorabilia. Rhett and Richard Livengood have shared their Freeport Lincoln Douglas Kiwanis Club Miniature Die Cast vehicles which represent historic Freeport businesses. There are a total of 18 vehicles on display along with information about each vehicle.



2009 Kiwanis Club Die Cast  
Murphy and  
Gustafson who opened its  
doors in 1946

On a sad note, we lost Dan Edler, a multi media artist and long time member of the CAHS. We are proud of the fact that we have a wonderful mural that Dan painted and donated to the museum.



Wall Mural  
titled Joani  
Shall We Go  
For A Stroll



Dan Edler  
with many of  
his beautiful  
hand blown  
pieces

# **COMMUNITY MEMORIES**

**Flossie Zweifel Bear**  
**Buena Vista School (nickname "Bueny")**  
**Written in 1979**

March 30, 1850 one fourth mile east of the village of Buena Vista in township 27, Range 7 a school district was organized. Tom Wohlford who owned much of the farm land in that area, gave the land for the school. A substantial stone building was erected. A small building was put up in which wood and coal were stored. Outdoor toilets were constructed, one for the girls and another for the boys. A well was dug to provide water.

The schoolroom was heated by a pot-belly stove. Two separate closets were built for the girls' and boys' wraps. On a bench stood the usual water pail and dipper. The teacher's desk and chair were in the front of the room. In the 1900's a world map was put on the wall above the blackboard.

School trustees for the township were: Henry Ault, A.W. Lucas, J.H. Addams, and John Montelius, Treasurer. They held most of their meetings in the Buena Vista store.

Between 1905 and 1911 Buena Vista School had five teachers. Two from Orangeville, Mr. Garns and Mr. Jacob Klontz, walked down the railroad track every day, weather permitting. Miss Alma Kruse came from Freeport on the train to Buena Vista and then walked from the depot to the school. She had to build the fire in the old pot-belly stove, since teachers were required to do the janitorial work. When the weather was bad, she spent the night in the Adam Zweifel home. In the morning Mr. Zweifel took her to school in the bob sled. Miss Mabel Stoll, another teacher, lived between Red Oak and Buena Vista and walked to school. Mr. Ed Snyder taught our school one year. In the spring on Friday afternoons he took us to the woods to pick wild flowers. We had to cross a creek on a couple of boards. That creek looked like a river to the younger children.

One very strict man kept a big switch above the world map to be used if needed. When he snapped his fingers and pointed to the map, we knew that he meant business! School was really taught "to the tune of a hickory stick". Our parents said if we got a spanking at school, we would get another at home. There was usually thirty to thirty-five pupils enrolled.

Subjects we had were: reading, writing, arithmetic, language, spelling, geography, history, and physiology. All of these subjects and grades were taught by one teacher. We were in school from 9:00 o'clock until 4:00 P.M.. There was a fifteen minute recess in the forenoon, one hour lunch period, and a fifteen minute recess in the afternoon. Most of the children, as well as the teacher, brought their lunches.

We always played pump-pump-pull away, drop the handkerchief, and many other games we made up. Some of the children liked to stay after four o'clock to clean the blackboards and the erasers so they would be ready for use the next morning.

The eighth grade examinations were taken in Freeport, and graduation exercises were held there. The County Superintendent that many former pupils will remember was Cyrus Stover Grove. To my best recollection there was no school nurse.

In order to raise money to buy extra items for the school we sometimes had a basket social. The women and girls decorated baskets and put lunches for two people in them. When auctioned off the men and boys would bid on them. The highest bidder got the basket of his choice and could eat with his favorite girl-he hoped. Sometimes the boys found out which basket a certain girl brought and would bid only on that one. Now and then there would be an ice cream social to make money. Oh, yes we had a school play which we took to the Red Oak School one night. That was a big event! At the end of the school year there was a family picnic in Wohlford's timber west of Buena Vista with ice cream, etc.. What a treat in those days!

In 1953 the good old Bueny School was closed, and the pupils were taken to the Orangeville School by bus. Twenty years ago a former student, Martha Busjahn, bought the schoolhouse, remodeled it, and lives there now. Our good old Bueny Schoolhouse still stands and looks real good.

**Flossie Bear and Glen Bear in an undated photo**



## COMMUNITY MEMORIES

Larna L. Corbin (nee Zipse)

Written in November 2015

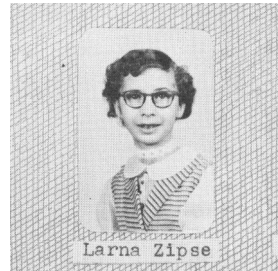
My parents were Romaine and Anna Marie Zipse who farmed an 14 acre farm northwest of Cedarville on what is now Oak Road and is currently owned by Doug Broge. In fact, my father was born in the house that is still there; he was born in 1919 and continued to live there until January 1970 when they built a home on Oak Ridge Drive and moved into town. My dad passed away in May 1985 and my mother continued to live there until her death in 2001. Dad's parents were Charles and Flossie Zipse who moved to Freeport sometime in the mid-1940's. I'm not sure of the exact date the farm was purchased but know it was during James Polk's term as president.

My dad was active in the community as a volunteer fireman, a member of the Methodist Church, served as Buckeye Township Supervisor for a number of years, and was a member of the Cedarville School Board when the decision was made to consolidate with the Freeport School District in 1955. After retiring from farming, he sold insurance and real estate. My mother, who was born and raised the Stockton area, was active in the church, a 4-H leader, and a member of the Red Cedar Homemakers.

The only other member of our branch of the Zipse family that is still living in the Cedarville area is Bernice Zipse, widow of Clark Zipse, who was my dad's first cousin. My dad was an only child as am I. I moved from Cedarville in 1963 (I was married in the Methodist church that is now a private residence) going to live in Monroe, Wisconsin, where I resided until 1995 when I moved to North Carolina.

It is because of my dad's association with the school, (he attended school there only through the tenth grade as that was all that was offered in the late 1930's), both as a student and as a school board member, as well as me being a student there from 1949 through 1955, that I'm interested in the preservation of this building.

Update-May 2025: Larna moved to Monroe in 2024. Her paternal great-grandparents (Chales P. and Gusta Zipse) are buried in Cedarville Cemetery along with Great uncle Lester and Great Aunt Hattie Zipse Wieck along side of her husband. There are a few of her paternal grandmother's relatives (Waits/Zurbriggens) buried in Cedarville as well. Larna finds it interesting when she visits the cemetery to find so many people that she as a child, or my parents, knew or were friends with. She finds the walk to be a walk back in time.



Larna Zipse  
Corbin 's photo  
in the 1955 Ce-  
darville School  
Yearbook

## May and June Events

**May 18th -1:00-4:00** Join us in celebration of International Museum Day. We will have board members on hand to greet you and share with you the updated and newly created displays. In addition we will have a representative from the Stephenson County Genealogical Society

**May 26th**—Join us for a our annual Memorial Day activities. Starting at 10:00 we will line up at Mill and 2nd Streets and march up to the Cedarville Cemetery where our Memorial Day Program will begin at 10:30. This includes the reading of all veterans names buried in the cemetery and the reading of the Gettysburg Address. Following the program at the cemetery, join us at the museum beginning at 11:30 for an indoor picnic lunch. Suggested donation is \$10 per person. Children under 12 and veterans are free. As a special treat this year Ukulele Express 815 will be providing music (11:30-12:30) and solicited donations to the group will be donated to the Cedarville American Legion

**June 10th**-Joe Kanosky will present a program on the Oakdale Tabernacle Building, located in Freeport. Joe's presentation will include the history of the building and its changes over time.

***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

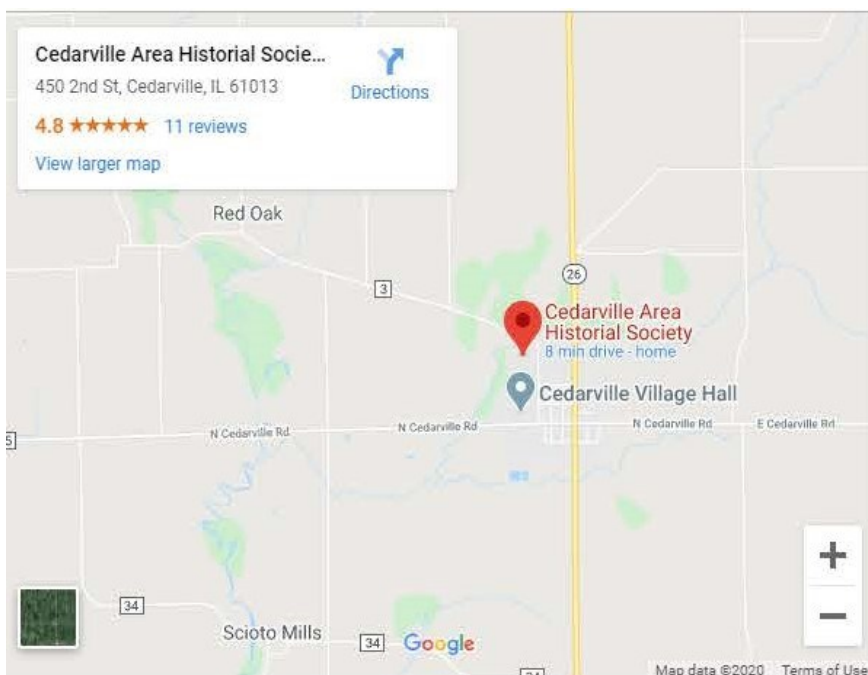
During non-open hours you can utilize the Ring doorbell and we will do our best meet you at the museum

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](mailto: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**  
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**Facebook-Cedarville Area Historical Society**  
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*Wendy Gilpin, Director*  
*Moirra Knowlton, Director*  
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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*