

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

July-August 2026

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Museum Updates

Well, summer is here and almost over already. The corn with our most recent rains is just going to hit our knees by the Fourth of July. Our summer programs have started with Memorial Day being our kick-off. It's always great to see the community come out and participate in the parade, program and lunch that honors our veterans.

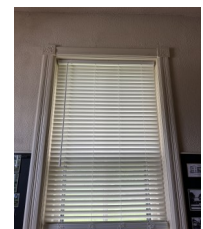
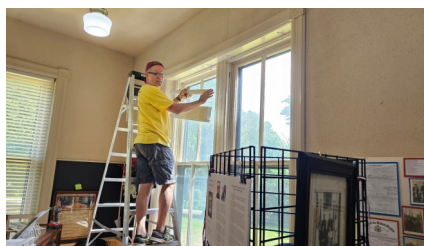
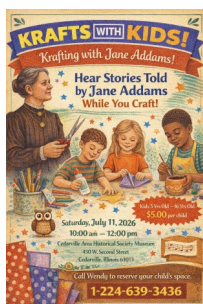
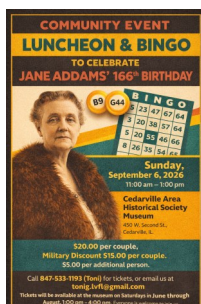
Upcoming Cedarville Area Historical Society Events-Mark Your Calendars

- July 11th-Krafting with Kids (Wendy @ 224-639-3436 to reserve a spot) \$5.00
- August 11th-7:00 Panel Discussion-Red Oak History with Current and Past residents
- September 6th- Jane Addams Birthday Luncheon And Historical Bingo (Toni 847-533-1193 to reserve) \$20/c \$20 Couple, Military Discount \$ Couple and \$ for additional guest
- September 22nd- 7:00 Lincoln-Douglas Douglass Debates-Presented by Dr Andy Dvorak

As we have said in past newsletters, much of the spring was spent "sprucing" up the museum. Toni and Sally spent many hours updating the Jane Addams room to include new displays and additional information on not only Jane but on her immediate and extended family. The room has been modified to accommodate vignette type displays, allowing the visitor to experience what Jane and her family may have experienced while living in their Cedarville home. A revamped look at Jane and her life's efforts and accomplishments, especially as they relate to the establishment of the Hull House and her focus on social reform. Walking through the displays one will be amazed at all of the programs that Jane and the Hull House provided for immigrants, children and those in need in the 19th ward of Chicago. They worked right alongside the neighborhood's largely immigrant population providing vital resources, which included day-care, kindergartens, English classes, job training and a focus on the arts. Jane's accomplishments with social reform, judicial systems and women's suffrage can be seen in many of the photos and displays that have been updated.

In addition to the updating of the Jane Addams room, there have been many changes in what could be considered the community room. Thanks to donations from many of you, there have been additional photos and displays added in the school area. There is a display dedicated to children's programs which were offered in the 50's-80's including Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Indian Guides. We would love to expand that display and also would love to add 4H. If anyone has photos or memorabilia they would like to have included, please let us know.

Also included are displays that focus on the Cedarville Cemetery, Damascus, Cedarville Businesses and Red Oak. We continue to expand our focus on the military with displays that include uniforms, awards, photos and memoirs of some of those who were in different branches of the military. We are also excited to have a dedicated area-Cedarville Community Corner. It includes photos and mementos of many area individuals. This will be an ever changing display so you may want to stop in frequently as you just never know who will pop up in the displays. Currently we have Barkaus, Rockman, Richards, Knowlton, and Sturtevant. In the small vestibule at the front end of the school we have added the John Addams mill model and other artifacts.



We are so proud of our new window treatments

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

For the second year in a row, CAHS participated along with other Stephenson County museums in International Museum Day. We celebrated with an open house on Saturday, May 16th. It was a soft opening which gave visitors a sneak peak at some of the changes to the displays. Photos (L-R)

1. Wendy, Sally and Toni conducted a pre opening FaceTime chat to make sure everything was in place for the May soft opening.
2. Visitors included the youngest visitor yet (under a month). Never too early to expose children to history
3. John Addams Mill Model and grind stone have been moved into the vestibule. This model was made by Roger Goodspeed, longtime CAHS member.
4. Barb Barkau brought us some items to be included in the Cedarville Community Corner



CAHS has been lucky this year to receive financial support from local organizations and businesses. Just recently Dean Vander Zanden attended our monthly meeting and presented us with a \$1500 grant from Adkins Energy LLC, a corn-to-ethanol and biodiesel production facility in Lena, IL. They process corn into renewable fuels and co-products like distillers grains and corn oil for livestock feed. Adkins is very supportive of the community and we thank them for this grant. The grant funding will be used to purchase updated equipment which allows us to continue producing videos that focus on historical preservation events and the lives of our community. The equipment that is purchased will be used not only for videos, but FB live presentations and movie presentations (our first was just this past Friday night). Shown in the photo is Galen Bertram-CAHS Treasurer and Adkins Energy's Controller, Dean Vander Zanden.



Memorial Day included the walk to the cemetery to observe the program dedicated to our veterans and our picnic. We thank all of those who attended and participated in the day's events.



EVENTS AND HAP



Historic House Walk.



Friday Night at the Movies



Mill Street Block Party



Some yard work done at the Old Jail



Toni, Wendy, Hal and Galen working at our grilling Fundraiser at Sullivans in Lena. Thank you all that Came and thank you SULLIVANS

CEDARVILLE MEMORIES

We are lucky enough to have many prolific writers both as current and past members. We love receiving written memories of our members and encourage each of you to submit some of your fond memories which can be included in future publications.

We have quite a few excerpts that we will be sharing from Leroy Wilson's biography. The first article will start where it should... at the beginning.

My name is LeRoy Dewey Wilson. I was the fourth child of Roy Bryan Wilson and Alice May Lutz Wilson. I was born at home in Cedarville, IL, on April 21, 1926. I was told the doctor who helped with the delivery was Dr. Smith Thompson. My birth was in a large house which stood on what is now the northwest corner of Walnut and Cedar streets. It burned to the ground when I was five years old. More about that later.

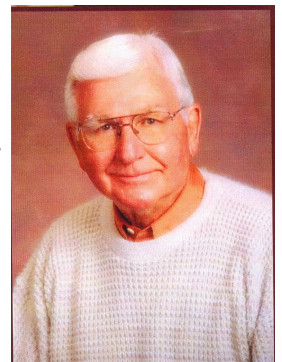
My parents were married on June 1, 1916. Dad was born February 22, 1897; Mother was born April 28, 1898. Dad was 19 and mother 18 when they married. My mother died August 31, 1927; father died in 1954. Mother was 29 years old and dad was 56. I was fifteen months old without a mother. More on this later.

When I was born, Calvin Coolidge was president (30th president). I have no recollection of him. The next president to follow was Herbert Hoover. This guy I have some recollection of. The stock market crashed in 1929. I was three years old. At this age it meant nothing to me except the great depression hit our country and it was blamed on Hoover who was a Republican. My father was a Democrat. In our family, Hoover was scum.

Hoover left office in 1932. Franklin Roosevelt became president and I became six years old and started school in the first grade at Cedarville (in the building that is still standing today).

I and my two older sisters were being raised by our maternal grandparents Joseph and Mabel Lutz. Grandpa was born in 1869; Grandma in 1878. Looking back, I think of the task they took on during the hard depression years. These were hard times for everybody. They shaped our lives and thoughts to come. Basic foods, made over clothes and hard work early in childhood. More on this later.

(TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER)



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

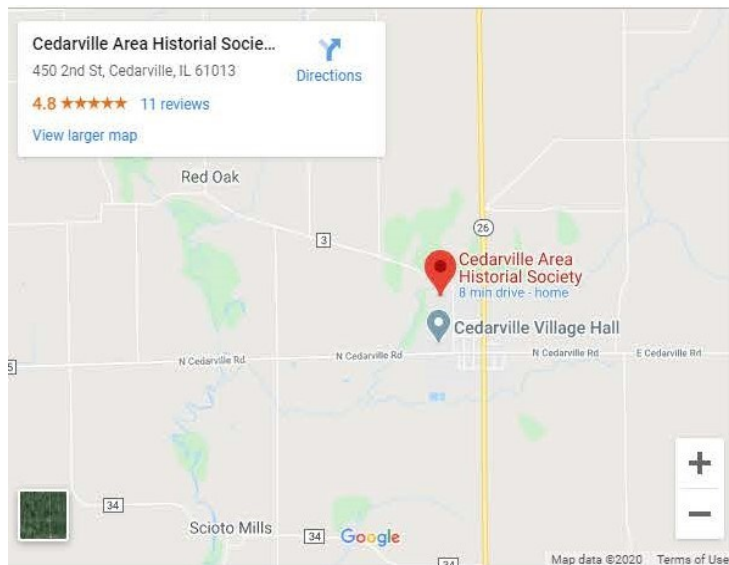
During non-open hours you can utilize the Ring doorbell and we will do our best to respond and meet you at the museum

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

Call or text 224-639-3436 or 815-847-9127 to reserve or email: info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org to make arrangements



REMEMBER: If during your household cleaning you come across items (photos, postcards, apparel, school items, military, historic retail items, etc.) 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 thank those who have recently donated items to be used in current or future displays. Give us a call (224-639-3436) or email us at info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org.



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

E-mail
info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org

Facebook-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).