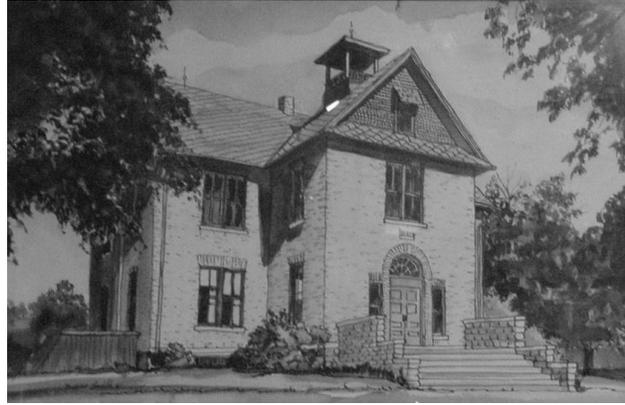


# ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE March-April 2026

***Cedarville Area Historical Society***



## Museum Updates

Where have the first two months of the year gone? We've had rain, snow, thunder, lightning and sub zero temps and temps in the sixties. As Alice stated in her book, this is "curiouser and curiouser".

At our annual board meeting on February 8th, Galen Bertram and Sally Kryder Anderson were voted in to retain their positions on the board. We thank all members that submitted their votes and also thank all board members for your hard work and support of the museum throughout the year.

### Upcoming Cedarville Area Historical Society Events-Mark Your Calendars

- May 16th-International Museum Day Celebration-1:00-4:00
- May 25th-Memorial Day Parade and Picnic- 10:00-1:00
- June 26th-Friday Night at the movies
- June 27th-Cedarville Historic Walk Tour (does not include inside tours)
- July-TBD
- August-Date TBD-Panel Discussion-Red Oak History with Residents
- September-6th-Based on last years response we will be celebrating Jane's Birthday
- September 22nd-Lincoln-Douglas-Douglas Debates with DrAndy Dvorak

As in the past board members and Historical Society members are hard at work getting ready with new and updated museum displays. When the museum opens for a sneak preview on May 16th, we believe that you will all be impressed with the changes and additions.

As you all know, the mission of the museum is to collect, preserve, display and interpret the history of the Cedarville area for the benefit of both present and future generations. We are deeply grateful for the generous donations we receive in support of this mission. Recently, the museum has received significant contributions that will be incorporated into our existing exhibits. These donations include military uniforms and medals, scrapbooks, paintings, photographs, a barrister book case, an oil lamp, books, scout uniforms and memorabilia, enamel bowls and display accessories. It is items such as these and other historically relevant items that enrich and help tell the story of our past. As you can see the possibilities are endless. If you have items from Cedarville and its surrounding area and you just aren't sure what to do with them, please consider reaching out to us and letting us know what you would like to donate.

One of our most successful events is our annual Memorial Day Parade, Program and Luncheon. In honor of our country's 250th anniversary, we would like to encourage all of our attendees to come dressed in honor of our country. If there will be children joining us in the parade perhaps they would like to decorate their bikes or wagons. Lets make this a true celebration

1. Board member Galen working on just one of the many clean up projects...moving the old heavy radiators
2. One of the donated display items, oil lamp
3. We experienced a broken window but Board President Steve Myers has covered it up and a new window has been ordered [just like owning a house...always something]



## Memories

Sadly the art of the written word , although not lost is greatly diminished. We at the Cedarville Area Historical Society are lucky to have if not originals, copies of correspondence between family members, friends and business acquaintances. Below is a letter that was written by Dexter Knowlton to his future wife Patricia (Stone). Pat and Dexter were married on October The letter was written on June 22nd from Fort Knox Kentucky while Dexter was in the army. The reason this letter was chosen to be shared with our members as it reflects Dexter's memories of his hometown of Cedarville. Dexter graduated from Freeport High School in 1942. and went on to receive a degree from University of Illinois in 1949 and then his law degree from University of Wisconsin School of Law in 1953. Dexter served in the army during WWII, a second lieutenant, with the 44th Tank Battalion in the Asiatic Pacific Theater. He was the Stephenson County Public Defender from 1958-1960 then the County's State's Attorney from 1960-1970. He was also the Stephenson County Associate Judge in the Judicial Circuit Court. Dexter and Patricia had three daughters, Deborah, Moira, and Glee and two sons David and Charles. Dexter passed away in 1998 and Patricia passed away in 1990.

FORT KNOX KENTUCKY

June 22, 1945

Dearest Pat,

I expected a letter from you today but no luck. However, I found a welcome from Dorsey. She is as you said "different" and I find her letters are also. Rather odd things she talks of, for instance my brother told her that he no longer has any desire to live in Cedarville. He said that he had some lovely memories but no sentiment about the place but he thinks that I have and he is dead right about it. Somehow I just cannot understand his ideas as I am so completely captured by that little village that my thoughts are continually turning there. I suppose one might say that it gets in your blood.

I was just eight years old when we moved there and how I dreaded the thought of leaving Freeport with its ice cream sodas, cowboy pictures and all of my friends. But after discovering the woods, the creeks, new friends, and I believe most of all, the big barn to play in, I fell in love with my home and never for an instant has this love waned but rather it has grown stronger through the years. Do I bore you? It is rather hard to write of these things to anyone but somehow I know you will understand.

It is rather like being wealthy and having a country home, only with me it is perfect because it lasts the year around. The beautiful freshness of the air, grass and trees unbesmirched with the soot and coal dust of the manufacturing town. The summers which bring a green carpet of luxurious grass and the shady cool of beautiful trees. Pretty flowers and babbling streams and harvest moons, cool evenings and peaceful skies.

How I love to be home in the autumn months to roam the fields and woods and drink in the splendor of the colored fields of corn and multi colored foliage of the elm, oak and maple. Across these fields, in my dreams of course, I have walked countless times, gun in hand and my splendid dog hunting the wily pheasant or the migrating duck. It is such a joy and then it suddenly ends with the first fall of snow and overnight the sparkling cover blankets the landscape with a new beauty. The ice locks in the gurgling streams and the wind whistles and howls but it is music when seated beside a grate fire, you can look into the dancing flames and dream and dream and dream.

Then once again spring will rise forth to break winters grip and the streams burst their chains and gurgle, babble and play. The birds come back and the grass turns to green. The wonderful sensations of spring fever take their grip and call out to me, "I am your village, your fields, your woods, your birth right and your home. Take me, hold me, never relinquish your grasp for I am nature, the living God."

Now Miss Patricia, I have worked myself into a state and am almost on the verge of tears. I am not very eloquent but the things of which I spoke I love very dearly and oddly enough I cannot write or say these things to anyone but you. It is because I love, so I know.

Forever, Dex

Side Note: Dexter moved to Cedarville with his parents and brother when he was eight years old (1933). They rented the homestead of John Huy Addams (father of Jane Addams).



Our 24th annual Chili and Soup Luncheon was a huge success. We thank all of you who were able to join us. We apologize that we actually ran out of food this year...but we promise that wont happen next year



24th Annual Chili Luncheon

***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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org)

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

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

*Steve Myers, President*  
*Lisa Goodwin, Vice President*  
*Galen Bertram, Treasurer*  
*Sharon Barmore, Secretary*  
*Sally Kryder Anderson, Director*  
*Andy Dvorak, Director*  
*Toni Galster, Director*  
*Wendy Gilpin, Director*  
*Moira Knowlton, 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 gifts under IRS tax code regulation 501 (c)(3).*

