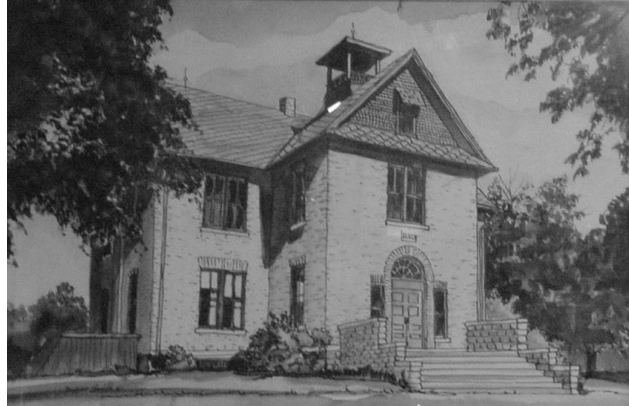


ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

September-October 2026

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Museum Updates

What a busy summer this has been and in a blink of an eye it is over.

Upcoming Cedarville Area Historical Society Events-Mark Your Calendars

- September 6th– Jane Addams Birthday Luncheon And Historical Bingo (Toni 847-533-1193 to reserve) \$10 per person. \$7.50 for Military personnel
- September 8th-Unveiling Ceremony of the Honorary Street Sign honoring Jane Addams
- September 22nd– 7:00 Lincoln-Douglas Douglass Debates-Presented by Dr Andy Dvorak
- November 7th-Holiday Shopping Expo 10:00-2:00 at Jane Addams Community Center
- December 8th-6:00 Potluck Holiday Party at the museum.

The summer is over but we still have many events (and tasks) on our agenda. Please mark your calendars and add these events to your fall “musts”.

Our second Jane Addams Birthday Celebration will include a short presentation on Jane Addams, a wonderful lunch of Jane’s favorites (Spaghetti and Meatballs, Salads, Rustic Breads and Dessert). Following lunch we will have a few games of Bingo with some great prizes. Sunday September 6, call for reservations

The Village of Cedarville has secured approval and is honoring Jane Addams by placing a Honorary Street Sign at the corner of 2nd and Mill Streets. The “Honorary Jane Addams Street” sign will be dedicated on Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00. Refreshments will follow at the museum

Tuesday, September 22nd will be a presentation by Dr Andy Dvorak . The Lincoln-Douglas-Douglass Debates: The Evolution of Abraham Lincoln’s Views on Race and Slavery”. I learn something at every one of Andy’s presentations that I attend.

This summer we have had many visitors including some groups including: The Hedda Hopper Red Hatters, Rock Valley College Center for Learning in Retirement and The Jane Addams Center for Civic Engagement. In addition we have had many out of state visitors including: Kurt Dikkers from Missouri attended the Red Oak Panel Discussion and shared many photos and stories with the attendees. Kimberly Bliss-Roche (Jane Addams Great-Great niece) visited with board members and brought many wonderful items from Jane Addams and the Haldeman family. Many of these items will be incorporated into the Jane Addams Room displays over the fall season and will be available for viewing next spring.

There will be a Cedarville Holiday Expo on Saturday November 7 from 10:00-2:00 at the Jane Addams Community Center. As a fundraiser Members of the Museum will be in the kitchen providing goodies for sale. A little birdie tells me there may be a booth selling some great Cedarville gift items AND our President will have some of his local honey available for purchase.

Finally, let us be the first holiday party on your calendar. A potluck dinner, singing and games. More to follow, but get this on your calendar now.. December 8th at 6:00. Please bring one of your favorite dishes to pass.

CEDARVILLE MEMORIES

As promised in last months newsletter we continue to share LeRoy Wilson's memories of Cedarville. This month we step back in time as LeRoy remembers some horse and buggy escapades of the 1930's.

A WILD RIDE

Many have disappeared, but some still remain. I am referring to the small barns that lined the alleys of Cedarville. At one time those barns served as a place to house the family horse and buggy. In the thirties most of the horses had disappeared and were being replaced by family cars. i.e. Model As and Model Ts. What happened to all the buggies? Lets find how a few met their demise.

In the thirties the streets of Cedarville were unpaved, save for Route 26. The streets were hard packed dusty gravel, the alleys were still muddy ruts. No curbs or gutters existed. I just want to set the stage for what follows.

So what happened to all the buggies? They would be worth a lot if they were still around. We kids suddenly discovered those unused vehicles were sitting idly in those barns. The owners didn't want the because they were taking up valuable space. The owners needed room for their new horseless carriages.

Several of us pulled one out of a barn one day and proceeded to remove the shafts. Now we had a shaftless buggy and needed a way to steer. Bob Bratley—earlier identified ad Cedarville's marble playing whiz—came up with the idea of tying a rope to the axel inside each front wheel. When we pulled left or right, the wheels would go in the direction we wanted.

We were now ready to take a ride. We piled four or five kids into the seats and took off. Down Cherry Street we went with dust flying. When we got close to Strohm's store on the corner of Mill and Cherry, I hollered to Bob to slow down. He said, "How?" We discovered we had no brakes. I never went around that corner onto Mill Street any faster even to this day.

This seemed like a great thing we had discovered. So we emptied a few more barns. I think we had five of those shaftless buggies cruising the streets before we were made to stop. There were many bruises and scrapes and close calls. The few autos that plied the streets did not feel safe and finally the village fathers outlawed our free wheeling buggies.

If you ever crave a thrill, crawl onto a shaftless buggy, sit there, look down the hill and tell someone to shove you off. Just hang on tight to your steering ropes.

As an after thought to horse and buggies: I think one of the last mule teams kept in the village belonged to Henry Taft. His barn stood on the southeast corner of the alley across from the late Jack Shuey tool shop.

On an early Spring morning one could hear Henry swearing at his team all over Cedarville. Before the days of rototillers, the only way to plow gardens was with a team and plow. Gardens were larger than they are now. To handle a team inside a fenced garden took a lot of skill and a lot of cussing. Henry had both. People would tell Henry, "Now I have a rhubarb bed here, and asparagus bed there. Don't plow them out" Of course no one told the mules where they were. That was Henry's job.

So much for babbling. See you next month.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

During our visit with Kimberly Bliss-Roche, she reminded us that Cedarville played a role in the Underground Railroad, Our connection is through John Huy Addams. John was an early organizer of the Republican party in Illinois. He was a multi-term Illinois State Senator and it was his role in politics that led him to be friends with Abraham Lincoln. He used his wealth and political and local business connections to fight slavery alongside Abraham Lincoln. While Lincoln fought slavery through the system, John took the direct and illegal approach. John Addams was essentially a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad, using one of his properties and Cedar Creek Mill as a secret "station" to hide, feed, and safely transport enslaved people toward freedom with their final destination in Canada.

Jane Addams was to remember later in her life that in one instance she saw her father speaking with a Black man who was escaping enslavement in the South to freedom in the North.

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS



**Rockford University
Jane Addams Center
for Civic Engagement**



**Kimberly Bliss-Roche
shares her excitement at
opening some heirloom
boxes**



Hedda Hopper Red Hatters



**Rock Valley College Center for
Learning in Retirement**



Red Oak Panel Discussion



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

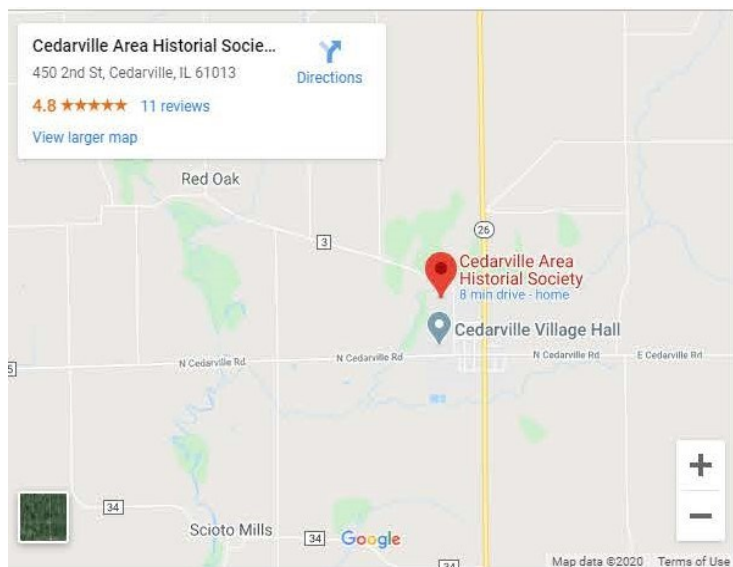
During non-open hours you can utilize the Ring doorbell and we will do our best to respond and meet you at the museum

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.



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