

The Slow Fade of a Cedarville Icon

(From page three)

year except the two terms of President Grover Cleveland when Democrat and rival businessman Benson got the job.

Helping Jackson and Henry run the business were Jackson's wife, the former Charlotte Ault whom he had married in 1844, and their daughter Alma.

The Richart business empire survived the 1900 death of the 83-year-old founder, probably because Henry, who had married and lived on the southwest corner of Mill and Second, and Alma, unmarried, had actually run the business for many years.

The beginning of the end of the business can probably be traced to the 1914 death of Jackson's widow at the age of 90. Five years later Henry and Alma sold the business to Luther Shippy and two months after the sale Alma, then 56, married Charles Johnson, an Iowa man with four children. Once a care-giver to her aging mother, she now took on four who were presumably much younger.

Henry died in 1922 in his home at the age of 76. His wife, 83, the former Susanna Cromley, died three years later.

Alma, the last of the Richarts directly involved with the store, died in Iowa in 1954 at the age of 90, the same as her

mother. Alma was survived by her husband and four step children.

After a slow dying process, the final end to Richart's store came in the mid-1920's when the building burned down and a new home was built on the site.

Cemetery Association Looking for New Sexton

The Cedarville Cemetery Association is looking for a sexton to replace retiring Russell Korth.

Bill Pick, a member of the cemetery association board, said the sexton has four primary responsibilities:

1. Acting as coordinator of association meetings.
2. Negotiating the purchase of cemetery lots.
3. Working with funeral homes relative to the location of a grave site and the preparation of the site.
4. Working with other board members to improve the cemetery.

Pick said the cemetery experiences six to seven burials each year.

At the present time, other members of the board are Len Cummins and Larry Pals.

Interested persons should contact Pick at 815-563-4371

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE JANUARY 2009

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Historical Society Special Events and New Exhibits Set for 2009

Six new exhibits and four special events have been scheduled for the 2009 season by the Cedarville Area Historical Society. The list of evening programs is expected to be announced in February.

Although the opening of the Cedarville Museum is not until May 1, the season kicks off with the Sunday, February 1, historical society annual meeting and soup, chili and sandwich lunch to be held starting at 11 a.m. at the Cedarville Community Center on West Washington Street. Tickets for the lunch, available at the door, are \$5 for adults; \$2 for children twelve and under.

The other special events for the season include the Monday, May 25, Memorial Day parade and picnic which in the past has been co-sponsored with the Cedarville American Legion; the Saturday, September 19, Jane Addams Festival and picnic held at the museum and on the Jane Addams Trail; and the Tuesday,

December 15, Christmas Sing-A-Long at the museum.

Although the evening programs have not been settled upon, it is expected that one of them will feature the Cedarville Area Historical Players in a semi-original musical of their irreverent interpretation of 100 years of Cedarville history. This two night program had to be cancelled last
(Turn to page two)

Society Annual Meeting, Lunch Sunday, Feb. 1

The annual meeting of the Cedarville Area Historical Society and the annual soup, chili and sandwich lunch will be held Sunday, February 1, in the Cedarville Community Center on West Washington Street. Both events start at 11 a.m.

The lunch cost, payable at the door, is \$5 for adults, \$2 for children 12 and under.

2009 Society Season

(From page one)

year but was rescheduled for this year due to demands from cast members who had memorized their lines.

Three of the new exhibits will feature the history of Scioto Mills, Red Oak and Buena Vista. These settlements near Cedarville were important when the Illinois Central Railroad connected them in the nineteenth century with Freeport; but, they declined rapidly when the line was discontinued. The old railroad right-of-way is now the Jane Addams Trail.

A fourth new exhibit will tell the story of the Kryders, one of the largest families in Stephenson County history.

The fifth new exhibit will explore the brief but exciting history of the Arabian horse farm that was located in Cedarville just west of Mill Street.

The south room art exhibit will feature very large photographs from the historical society's archives.

Two permanent exhibits, one featuring Cedarville School, the other Jane Addams, will be updated with different artifacts and documents.

The museum and the research center will be open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday from May 1 through October 31. The research center is also available by appointment.

*I want you as a member of the
Cedarville Area Historical Society*



Cedarville Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 336
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Phone: 815-563-4202
Web site:
cedarvilleareahistorical.society.org

Jim Bade, President
Narcissa Engle, Vice President
Galen Bertram, Treasurer
Denise Rogers, Secretary
Steve Myers, Director
Mary Reed, Director
Neil Scheider, Director
Gina Cole, Director
Ruth Smith, Director

The historical society is recognized as a non-profit organization by Illinois and the U.S. government and as such has been designated as eligible to receive tax deductible gifts under the IRS tax code regulation 501 (c) (3).

More Members

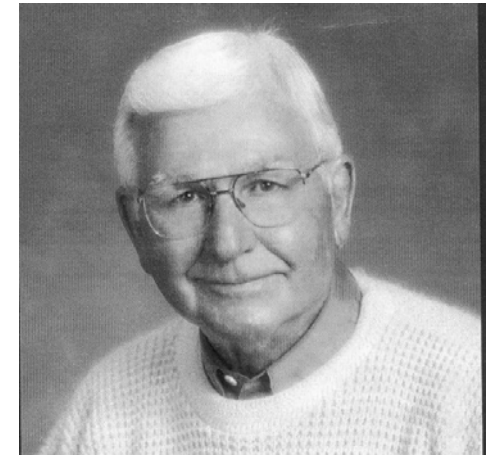
Hagemann, Moira Knowlton, Dan and Peggy Dixon, Steve and Kathleen Glaze, Joe von Allmen, Alfred and Jacqueline Stewart (Alfred is now deceased, see photograph), Bret and Denise Rogers, Aden H. Clump, Bob Bear;

Tom and Charlene Gaard, the Gene Brander family, Lucy Carver, Dale and Iliana Kaiser, Galen and Carole Bertram, Nelson O. Ottenhausen, Bruce and Christine Baldwin, Marian Franzen, Bonnie Fox, Harvey Ilgen;

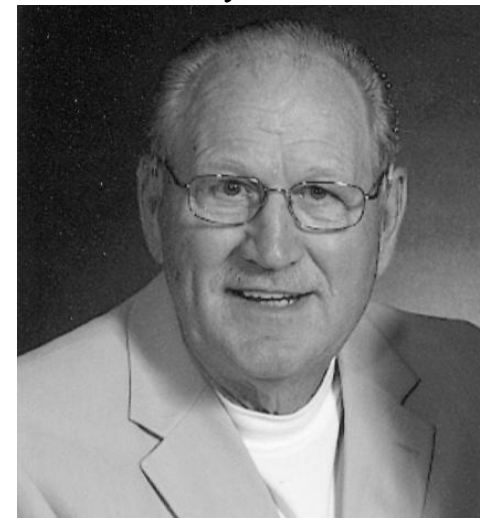
Bill and Linda Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Apfelbach, Scott Meinert, John Kryder, Michael and Keli Clump, Bill and Ann Tully, Nevin Kryder, Sharon and Rein Neem, Mr. and Mrs. Max Hazen, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Confer;

Robert and Shirley Alley, Don and Vicki Franz, Elwood Wardlow, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rutter, Thomas A. Huber, Bruce and Kathryn Helm, Betty Kraft-Hartman and family, Donna Dougherty, Joan Potter, Ruth Wardlow;

Rebecca Wardlow-Welsch, V. Mark Lotta, Irene M. Ilgen, Suzy Beggin, Mr. and Mrs. Don Morris, W. W. Wolfe, Mrs. Stephen West, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Kryder, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Edler, Gus Petrakis, Ivan and Dorothy Lasso, John and Crystal Casrl, Ken and Marcet Bliss, Lucy Knight, Larry and Nellie Herbig, Karl and Betty Trester, Joseph and Rose



LeRoy Wilson



Alfred Stewart

Noeske, Ms. Pat Stukenberg, Mrs. Verla Law, Greg Gilpin, Medina Gross, Joan Schaeffer, Mr. and Mrs. Tait Weigel, Ms. Mary Dickman, Wendell and Marsha Cox.

Society Membership Grows to 145

For the fourth straight year, membership in the Cedarville Area Historical Society has increased. The current 145 individual and family memberships represent an estimated 350 adults and children. Sixty per cent of the members live in or near Cedarville; the rest live in eighteen other states.

Some receive recognition during the year in the pages of this newsletter, but many do not. To remedy that situation, here they are. And the entire board thanks them for their support.

Ray Cronau, Norman and Shirley Wagner, Duane and Ruth Smith, Patrick M. Quinn, Marlene J. McIntyre, Jim and Gina Cole, Peter and Beverly Haselhorst, Mary L. Bryan, Evelyn A. Messinger, Leonard and Gwen Cummins;

Narcissa Engle, Jeff Kurtz family, Doug and Martha Martin, Wendell and Judith Kurr, Debbie Maize, Lorraine Stabenow, Richard and Althea Hornung, Roger and Jane Goodspeed, Mark S. Smith, Arthur and Janice Leverington;

Gwen Beirmeister, Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Dammann, LeRoy and Gayle Wilson (LeRoy is now deceased, see photograph), Ruth Schwartz, the Gene Reed family; Dave and Karen Macomber, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Heilman, Bill and Shirley Pick, Winifred Macomber, Tim and Kitti McCarthy;

Ramona Kryder, Joe Hutchison, Geoff Cox, Duane Scheider, Peg Schoonhoven, Bill and Dottie Emo, Carolyn J. Lamia, Delber and Hulone Scheider, Paula Charon, Dick and Judy Wolfe;

Jim and Sharon Barmore, Shirley Woodward, Glenn and Bernice Dietmeier, Glen and Linda Auman, Dr. Rose Binns, Merle and Ladona Wardlow, Patricia M. Welty, Karl Erickson, Don and Betty Neuschwander, Wendy and Hal Gilpin;

Jean Joyce, Wallace and Dorothy Hutchison, Ron Stabenow, Neal and Julie Scheider, Harlan and Judy Corrie, Paul E. Fry, Kenneth and Pamela Rosmann, Dave and Charlotte Kaiser, Dennis and Susan Bokemeier, Rick, Diane and Brooke Kahly;

Joe and Betty Amodeo, Brad and Rebecca Smith, Joel and Beverly Scheider, Theresa Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Angle, Bill and Dee Blomberg, Lisa and Pat Goodwin, Jim and Bonnie Bade, David Huber, Gary Raetz;

Mildred Popov Katz, Virginia Hough, Kathleen and Justin Mapes, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Youel, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Capes, Miriam Schlueter, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Murphy, Sheldon and Dorothy Dornink, Jennifer and Stephen Davis;

Steve and Sue Myers, Gary and Diane



Winter storms such as those Cedarville experienced in December are nothing new to the area as proved by the photo above, probably taken between 1925 and 1929 by Merton Memler, engineer for the Il. Rt. 26 iron bridge built in 1927—28 over Cedar Creek. It has been suggested the scene is on Rt. 26 just south of Cedarville. The men and car are unidentified. Any ideas from historical society old timers?

The Slow Fade of a Cedarville Icon

Some things disappear in an instant; others slowly fade like a sunset. The latter is what happened to Cedarville's once well-known Richart General Store.

Depending on the historical source chosen, the business was founded in 1854, 1856 or 1862 by Jackson Richart who came to Stephenson County from Ohio in 1837 at the age of twenty, first settling near Orangeville as a farmer. The firm was located in a two-story building on the northwest corner of Mill and Second streets. The structure is widely believed

to have been constructed in 1851 as the first brick residence in Cedarville. Richart had competition in the form of the James Benson store, started in 1848, a few hundred feet south on the east side of Mill Street.

Nevertheless, Jackson and his son, Henry, prospered financially and politically. Both over the years held various elected county positions and as ardent Republicans, they were village postmasters — a political appointment — every

(Turn to page eight)



Only half of the goodies



Judy Corrie, Bonnie Bade



Carole Bertram chats with Wendell Kurr



Ken Rosmann, Ingrid Heilman, Pam Rosmann & unknown pole



Carol Meyers, Steve Myers, Gina Cole (party organizer) and Moira Knowlton (both really not shy)

Snow Storm Fails To Halt Sing-a-long

Five inches of snow and bitter cold didn't stop 35 hardy souls from singing their hearts out at the historical society's December 16 annual Christmas sing-a-long held in the Cedarville Museum.

With piano music by Carole Bertram, complimentary wine by Cedarville's Famous Fossils Winery and ample food by society members, the admission free night of fun was enjoyed by everyone.

Bella Rogers's joke brought laughter from her mother, Denise, and a bemused smile from Narcissa Engle.



Carole Bertram led the songfest on 1906 museum upright