

New Assignments for Board Members

After several months of study, the board of the Cedarville Area Historical Society has redistributed the society's workload among board members to improve the society's ability to serve its members and the public.

In effect the move will relieve Board President Jim Bade of many operational responsibilities so he can concentrate more on the overall direction of the organization. A side benefit is that Bade, whose background as a former journalist is research and writing, will have more time for local historical research and interpretation, a primary responsibility of the society.

The new responsibility assignments of board members are as follows:

Vice President Narcissa Engle will concentrate on recruitment of new members and society and museum volunteers.

Galen Bertram will take over the duties of treasurer, a position held with great distinction for many years by Ruth Smith who has asked for a new assignment. In his new role, Bertram will also be responsible for the society's relationship with the federal, state, county and village governments and the organization's insurance company.

Secretary Denise Rogers will take on the added role of general correspondence

with society members including distribution of the newsletter.

Ruth Smith and Mary Reed will be responsible for community outreach and annual events. The events include the February lunch, the Memorial Day events and picnic, the Jane Addams Festival and the Christmas sing-a-long.

Gina Cole will concentrate on fund raising, especially application for grants. Mrs. Cole's work in the past was largely responsible for gifts to the society being treated as tax deductible by the IRS.

Steve Myers will handle building maintenance and restoration projects. He will also be responsible for maintaining the new society website that he developed and he will be in charge of the 2009 Friday evening movie project.

Neil Scheider will be responsible for improving and maintaining the museum's landscaping. This includes the care of the lawn, plants and trees, the addition of new landscaping and maintenance of the playground equipment.

Although the president has been relieved of many responsibilities, for the immediate future he will still handle arrangements for educational programs, the design and development of exhibits and the orientation of the several dozen volunteers who serve as museum hosts.

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE FEBRUARY 2009

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Full Plate of Historical Society Programs Set for 2009 Season

The Cedarville Area Historical Society has scheduled fifteen programs for the public in the 2009 season. The unprecedented number was agreed upon at the January meeting of the society's board.

"This is an ambitious undertaking, but I am confident the society will be successful in this effort," said Jim Bade, historical society president.

The season will open Monday, May 25 with the traditional Memorial Day 10 a.m. parade and ceremony at the Cedarville Cemetery held in cooperation with the American Legion. These events will be followed by the historical society's 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. picnic at the Cedarville Museum on top of the Second Street hill.

Each Friday evening in June and July — weather permitting — the society will present a free outdoor movie on the grounds of the museum. The nine shows will start at dusk. The practice of free outdoor films was common in Cedarville

and other U.S. villages in the 1930's and 40's. The late LeRoy Wilson often talked about the shows presented on Cherry Street in the 1930's.

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Historical Society Opens Web Site, E-Mail Access

Members and the public can now learn more about the Cedarville Area Historical Society, its work and Cedarville's history by using the society's new web site cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org.

The society can be reached by e-mail info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org

The web site and e-mail address were designed and will be maintained by Steve Myers, a member of the board.

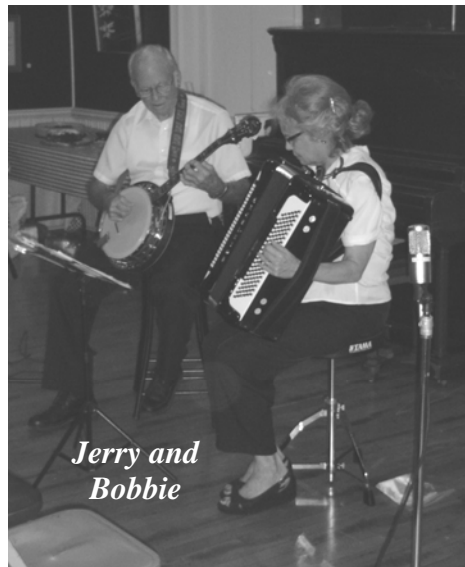
The society can also be contacted by phone (815-563-4202) or mail at P.O. Box 336, Cedarville, Il. 61013.

Fifteen Programs Set for 2009

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The films will be projected on a screen attached to the north exterior wall of the museum. Patrons will be asked to bring their own chairs. Reasonably priced refreshments will be available.

Because of last year's great success, Cedarville accordionist Bobbie Edler and banjoist Jerry Hastings will return to the museum for a Friday, August 28 performance that will offer the audience a chance to either listen or dance. The show will start at 7:30 p.m. Admission will be \$2 for society members; \$3 for non-members. Free refreshments will be served.



Jerry and Bobbie

At 7:30 p.m., Friday, September 11, present and former residents of Scioto Mills, Red Oak and Buena Vista — the three settlements near Cedarville — will tell tales of the past when the areas thrived. Admission will be \$2 for society members; \$3 for non-members. Free refreshments will be served.

On Saturday, September 19, the society will stage the sixth annual Jane Addams Festival. As in the past, the historical society will sponsor an early morning 5K run and walk on the Jane Addams Trail west of Cedarville. Participants will receive a festival t-shirt and vie for medals in several age and gender groups and a male and female overall best-time trophy. Later that morning there will be games for the family and a picnic lunch at the Cedarville Museum.

On Thursday and Friday, October 22 and 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the museum, the Mighty Cedarville Players will present an original musical spoof of 100 years of Cedarville history. This program was originally scheduled for last year but had to be canceled at the last minute. Admission will be \$5 because the all-volunteer cast thinks they are worth it. Free refreshments will be served.

The season will close with the December 15 Christmas sing-a-long and refreshments at the museum. Admission will be free to all.

The colonel and Laura Jane left Cedarville and moved to central Illinois in 1866; however they remained friends of the Addams family for many years.

Although John Addams' "favorite teacher" was gone from northwest Illinois, part of her family remained in the person of her brother Orange Gorham who lived west of Rockford in Pecatonica with his wife and children. It is almost ironic that Orange was married to the former Mary McDowell, first cousin of Thomas Clingman, and the Gorhams often entertained Thomas's younger sister, Sophia, and Jane Addams' older sisters Martha and Alice when the three attended Rockford Female Seminary in 1866 and 1867.

After moving to central Illinois, the Forbes had at least five children. Mrs. Forbes became heavily involved in church missionary work. Her husband continued his work in education.

In 1891 they moved to Urbana, Il., where Henry took up his new job as librarian for the State Laboratory of Natural History, a position he held at the time of his death in 1903 at the age of 70. It is worth considering whether Henry's final assignment was the result of the influence of his brother who had become a world famous naturalist and who was later honored with the naming of the 3000 acre Stephen A. Forbes State Park in southern Illinois. The letters and documents of the two men are in a 571 page volume in the Illinois State Histori-

cal Library in Springfield,

Sometime after her husband's death, Laura Jane Gorham Forbes left Urbana for Seattle, Washington., where she died December 1, 1914, age 79, in the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. W. Wilson.

Few dispute the claim that Laura Jane Addams was named after Laura Jane Gorham. But true or not it's a wonderful and warm story that most want to believe. So be it until someone conclusively proves otherwise. And after all, both were nicknamed "Jennie." That should seal it. But then most "Janes" were "Jennie". Oh, well.

Cedarville Area Historical Society
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Narcissa Engle, Vice President
Galen Bertram, Treasurer
Denise Rogers, Secretary
Steve Myers, Director
Mary Reed Director
Gina Cole, Director
Ruth Smith, Director
Neil Scheider, 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).

This Woman Was No 'Plain Jane'

By Jim Bade

The headline does not refer to Cedarville's famous Jane Addams. It is a reference to Laura Jane Gorham, most likely the namesake of Laura Jane Addams.

Miss Gorham, 24, an 1858 graduate of Rockford Female Seminary, came to Cedarville the following year, reportedly at the behest of John Addams, to start the Cedarville Academy, a private post elementary school for students who wanted to teach school or to go on to college. The classes were conducted on the second floor of the 1855 Cedarville school building, which was torn down in 1889 and replaced on the same foundation by the structure that now houses the Cedarville Museum.

Miss Gorham remained in Cedarville five years and boarded with the Addams family part of the time, according to Mary Lynn Bryan in her very detailed book "The Selected Papers of Jane Addams", Volume 1, published in 2003. Mrs. Bryan states that the teacher helped care for two-year-old Jane Addams after the 1860 death of her mother.

Strong support for the claim that Jane Addams was named after Miss Gorham surfaced in a 1932 newspaper article that quoted Julia Eastman Brace, an early Cedarville teacher and friend of the Addams family.

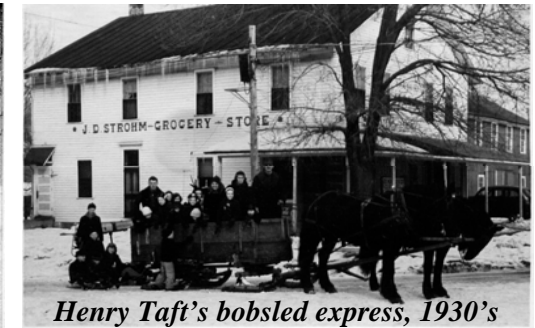
On September 3, 1861, Laura Jane Gorham was married to 28-year-old Henry Clinton Forbes, a man who had worked with her at the school but who at the time of their marriage was about to be named a first lieutenant and commander of Company B of the 7th Cavalry, Illinois Volunteers.

It must have been a short honeymoon because in the September 18, 1861 diary entry of Cedarville's Thomas Clingman, then an infantry recruit at Camp Butler, Springfield, Il., is the observation that Mr. Forbes was in camp with the cavalry. Clingman had been a student of Forbes' wife the previous year. She must have made an impression on the twenty-year-old farmer because other diary entries indicate he wrote to her several times and visited her at least once in late 1861 when he was home on furlough to attend the funeral of his brother George, 30.

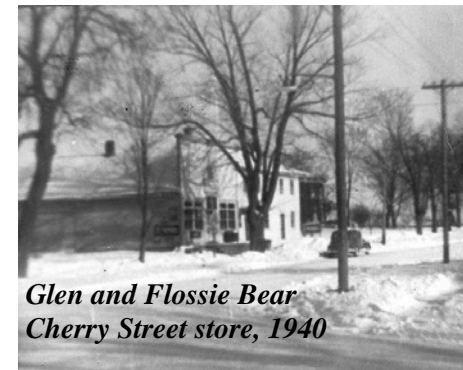
In November 1865, Henry Forbes, then a colonel and commander of the 7th Cavalry Regiment, was released from service and returned to Cedarville and his wife, who was finishing her last year at the academy. Also discharged from the 7th Cavalry at the same time was Stephen Forbes, Henry's brother, who had spent some of the Civil War as a prisoner of the Confederate Army. Mrs. Forbes former student Thomas Clingman did not return, having been mortally wounded in the first few minutes of the April 6, 1862, battle at Shiloh, Tn.,



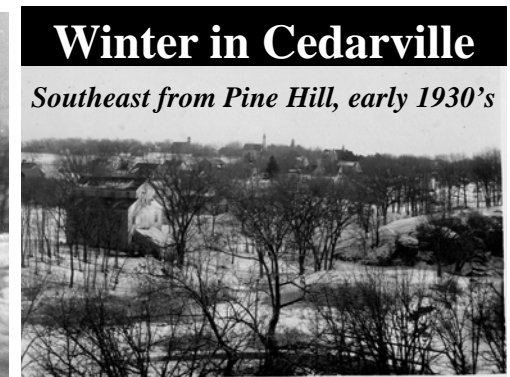
D. Ray sketch of mill after R. Beam drawing



Henry Taft's bobsled express, 1930's

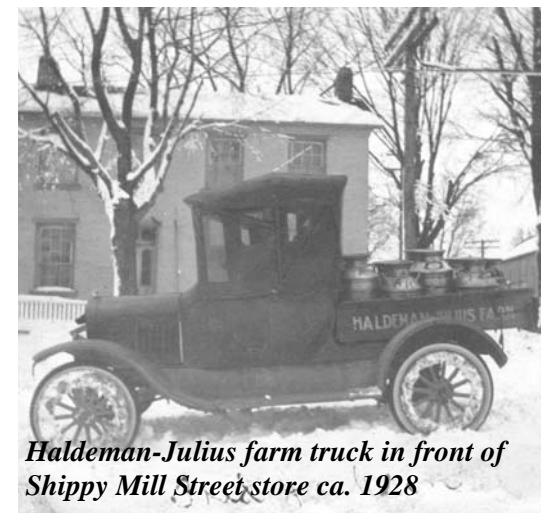


Glen and Flossie Bear Cherry Street store, 1940

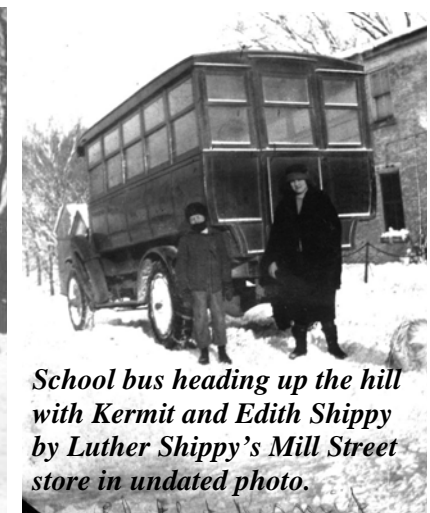


Winter in Cedarville

Southeast from Pine Hill, early 1930's



Haldeman-Julius farm truck in front of Shippy Mill Street store ca. 1928



School bus heading up the hill with Kermit and Edith Shippy by Luther Shippy's Mill Street store in undated photo.

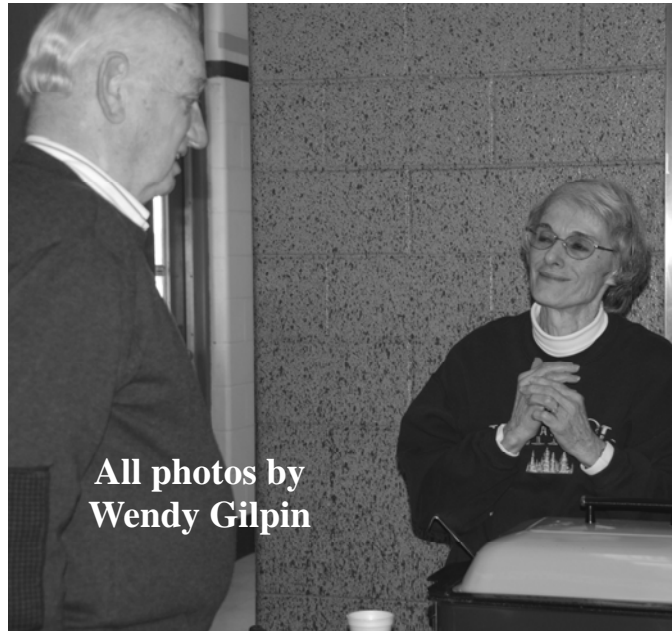


Sharing the spotlight: The Lena Live Wires 4H (above) brought home made pies for sale. From left, Jacob Priewe, James Priew, Tommy Priewe, Emily Myers and Sarah Priewe. Below, left: Someone had to make the sandwiches. Helping are from left, Bonnie Bade and Sue Myers. Top, right: This is how it's done Mary Reed tells Denise Rogers. Below, right: "What will you have?" Carol Myers asks Paul Fry.



125 Enjoy Historical Society February Lunch; Here's A Toast To Those Who Made It Possible

Above, left: Mary Reed, was the official soup taster. Above, Judy Corrie, left, and Narcissa Engle arrange the desserts. There are never enough of these. Below, left: Sandy Sciutto, left, and Ruth Smith make sure there are enough napkins. Below, Gina Cole and husband Jim assure Society President Jim Bade the lunch crowd is good.



**All photos by
Wendy Gilpin**

