

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

APRIL 2015

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Museum Doors Open Saturday May 2

The Cedarville Museum will open Saturday afternoon, May 2, for the six month 2015 season. Hours will be 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Special arrangements can be made for visits at other times.

The two rooms on the first floor will feature exhibits of local interest. They include:

Jane Addams and her family, the Cedarville fire department, the village's participation in the Civil War, the origin of the early settlers in Buckeye township, clothing worn by nineteenth and early twentieth century Cedarville area residents, Addams family burials in the Cedarville Cemetery, arrowheads and spear points found in Stephenson County, Cedarville school memorabilia and trivets used as stands for early pressing irons.

On the second floor is the Cedarville Historical Society's gallery of original art portraying the history of the village. Almost two dozen paintings by local artists are included. A booklet with in-

formation about each work is available. A high point of the gallery is the south wall with four 4 foot by 7 foot acrylic panels depicting a scene in Cedarville history. The panels were created by Roger Goodspeed, Duane Smith, Harlan Corrie and Dan Edler, local artists.

Before entering the art gallery, visitors pass through the museum's research library which is available to the public by appointment.

The art gallery, also known as the LeRoy Wilson Theater, is used for the society's Tuesday evening programs that are available to society members and the general public for a small charge. Information on this year's seven programs is on page four. All programs are recorded on a CD and DVD which are available for \$10.

The second floor is easily reached by physically handicapped visitors by using the museum's one button elevator.

Museum admission is free for historical society members. Others pay \$3.

One Good Story Leads to Another

By Jim Bade
President CAHS

In the February newsletter I postulated that an 1897 private high school in Cedarville, operated by three members of the Hahn family, was located in the Weber Addams home on the cliff overlooking Cedar Creek. Weber was the brother of the village's Jane Addams. My suggestion was based on the fact that the school was called "Cedar Cliff, the same as Weber's home.

Paul Fry, the local authority on the Addams family, disagreed.

We now agree the school could have been in "the white cottage" immediately south of the Jane Addams homestead.

1. A newly discovered newspaper clipping from December 26, 1894, comments about a multi-grade school run by Laura Hahn, her mother and a Sophia Schultz .

2. Paul's maiden Aunt Mary Fry, who was informally adopted as a very young girl by the second Mrs. John Addams, recalled being in the cottage for a short time with the two Hahn women in the early 1890s. Mary probably was in her teens at that time, according to Paul.

3. The federal census of 1900 places Laura Hahn and her mother, Julia, in the cottage on Mill Street.

Paul believes the two story house was big enough to serve as living quarters for two or more persons and as a school for 10 to 12 students during the day.

The cottage was built about 1889. It replaced a brick building described as "the John Addams store" where Jane's father sold milled grain to area residents. This was probably grain he had received from farmers as payment for milling their crops. An earlier newspaper article had described the school as being in "a rustic setting." The cottage location certainly would qualify.



Talking with Paul, 92, is an interesting experience. He is the last survivor of his Aunt Mary's six nephews who served as pallbearers for Jane Addams' 1935 funeral. Any Addams conversational subject easily morphs to a related subject.

Example: Not all of the John Addams store building disappeared from Cedarville after its 1888 demolition. Many of the bricks were carted off for other use.

A January, 1888, newspaper article carried the sentence: "James Benson is having a quantity of brick hauled from the Addams store which he contemplates using to wall up the two story, thirty foot long house he is going to build next summer." The house was to be on Mill Street, immediately south of his general store. His family's living quarters were upstairs.

A July 2, 1888, article comments, "The plasterers are busy working on the James Benson house."

James Benson is generally credited with opening in 1851 the first general store in Cedarville. It predates by about three years the Jackson Richarts store, also on Mill Street.

The Benson house was completed, but he never got a chance to enjoy it. He died September 9, 1888, at the age of 73.

The house and business remained in the family after Benson died. Daniel Ilgen, youngest son of George Ilgen, a founder of Cedarville, had married Benson's daughter Mary. Daniel took over the store and moved into the new house where he could look after the widow who died in 1914, age 93. Daniel died in 1900, age 60.

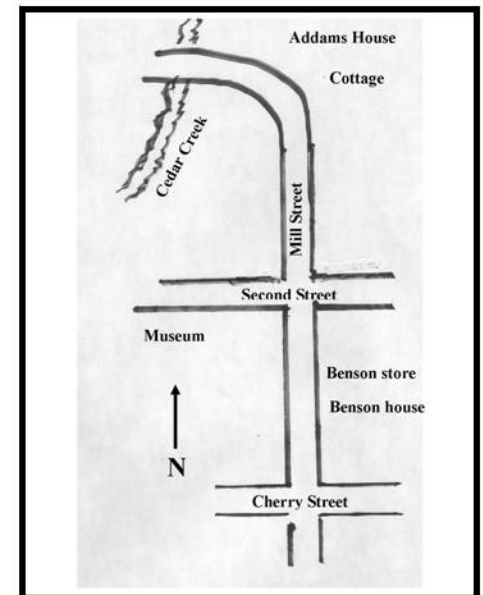
Shortly after Dan Ilgen's death, the store was closed by his son with much of the stock remaining in place until the structure was demolished in the 1960s. Only a small piece of sidewalk remains.



The 1888 Benson house today

After several more generations of Benson-Ilgen owners, the house was sold outside the family.

The bricks in the house are not the only link to John Addams. The current owner is Paul Fry, the last of Mary Fry's six nephews who escorted Jane Addams coffin to her final resting place in Cedarville Cemetery.



Time to Choose Your Society Programs

Tickets are now available for the historical society's 2015 Tuesday evening programs at the museum. Choose from the list below or make it easy and attend all of them. All programs start at 7:30 p.m.

On May 12 the accordion duo of Cedarville's Bobbie Edler and John Waelti will bring you folk songs from Germany, Switzerland, Slovenia, France and Italy along with some specialty pieces they have mastered.

On June 16 the Irish band known as Casey's Fancy will entertain with songs from the Emerald Isle that you have come to know and love. The four musicians have played throughout the north-western part of Illinois.

Mexican guitarist and vocalist Antonio Castillo has a large bag of Hispanic music that he will draw from when he appears on July 14. Those who have eaten recently at the Amigos restaurant in Freeport have already had a chance to hear him.

The four history programs are innovative in their approach to story telling. On August 4, Andy Dvorak, history instructor at Highland Community College, will set the stage for the three first person narratives of the lives of Hull-House founders Jane Addams, Ellen Gates Starr and Julia Lathrop to be performed by Rockford actress Suzanne Crandall on August 18, September 1 and September 15. You really want a ticket for all four to get the full story of the three women.



*John Waelti
and
Bobbie Edler*

*Clancy's
Fancy*



*Antonio
Castillo*

*Andy
Dvorak*



*Suzanne
Crandall*

TICKET ORDER

		<u>Number of tickets</u>
Tuesday, May 12, Bobbie Edler & John Waelti <i>Accordion duo of German, Swiss, Slovenian French, Italian songs</i>	\$7	_____
Tuesday, June 16, Casey's Fancy <i>Irish melodies that everyone loves</i>	\$7	_____
Tuesday, July 14, Antonio Castillo, guitar <i>Popular Mexican music played and sung</i>	\$7	_____
<u>Single ticket for all three programs above</u>	\$20	_____
Tuesday, August 4, Andy Dvorak <i>History of the world, Cedarville and three women</i>	\$7	_____
Tuesday, August 18, Suzanne Crandall <i>Ellen Gates Starr: A first person performance</i>	\$7	_____
Tuesday, September 1, Suzanne Crandall <i>Julia Lathrop: A first person performance</i>	\$7	_____
Tuesday, September 15, Suzanne Crandall <i>Jane Addams: A first person performance</i>	\$7	_____
<u>Single ticket for all four programs above</u>	\$25	_____
TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED		_____

All tickets are transferable without penalty from one person to another person if you cannot attend a program.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone or e-mail _____

Make payment to Cedarville Area Historical Society, P. O. Box 336, Cedarville, IL 61013. For more information call Jim Bade at 815-563-4485 or e-mail bonniebade@comcast.net.

Sue and Steve Unveil Free Movies

Historical society board member Steve Myers, and his wife, Sue, have taken off the wraps from this year's free Friday Night Outdoor Movies that will be shown during June and July.

The classic films are displayed starting at dusk on the large screen (four queen size sheets sewed together) that is mounted on the exterior north wall of the museum. Viewing will be inside in the event of inclement weather.

June 5: "Freaky Friday" with Jodi Foster

June 12: "Father Goose" with Cary Grant and Sophia Loren

June 19: "The Great Race" with Jack Lemon, Tony Curtis, Natalie Wood, Peter Falk and Keenan Wynn

June 26: "Blondie" with Penny Singleton and Arthur Lake

No film on July 3 because of the July 4 holiday weekend.

July 10: "Chicken Every Sunday"

July 17: "Cinderella" with Leslie Ann Warren, Celeste Holmes, Walter Pigeon and Ginger Rogers

July 24: "Fuller Brush Woman" with Lucille Ball

July 31: "Advance to the Rear" with Jim Backus and Glen Ford

Freshly made popcorn, soft drinks, coffee and candy will be available for 50 cents each. The bathrooms of the museum will be available during the film showings.

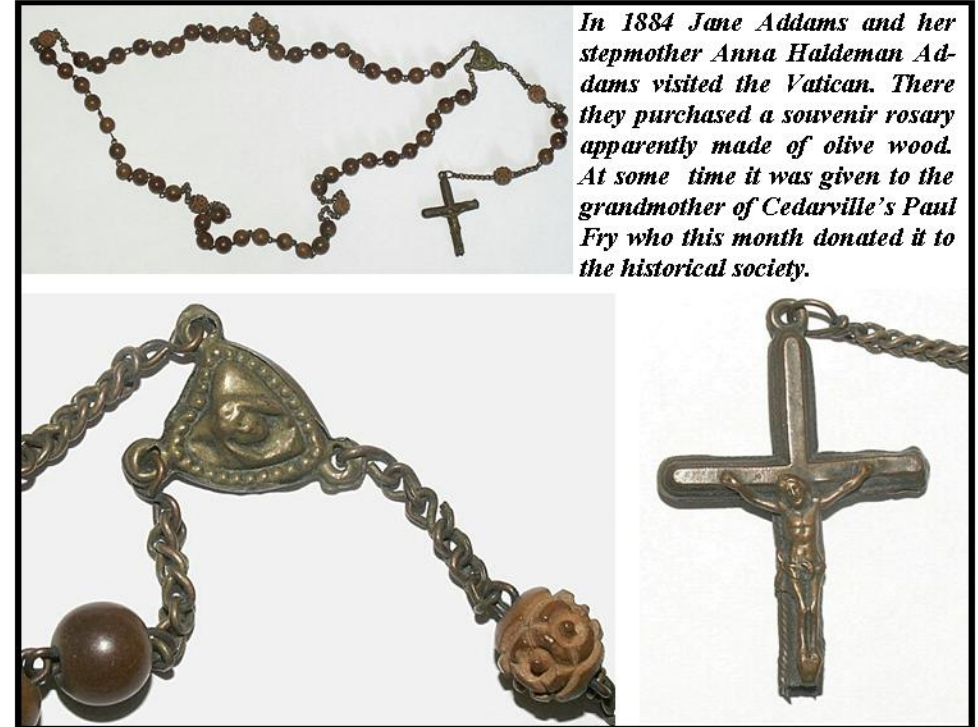
Spectators are asked to bring their own lawn chairs.

Historical Society Seeks Volunteers To Do Transcribing

The May 25 Memorial Day parade, cemetery ceremony and picnic lunch at the museum will be flawless because of advance planning.

Did you know that from 1906 to 1941 the planning was handled by the Cedarville Memorial Day Association that met four times a year for that purpose only? During its 35 years, more than 150 village residents served with this organization.

The historical society has scanned and printed the hand written 135 pages of the association's minutes. The society now needs volunteers to transcribe the pages so they can be put into book form. The pages would be divided among a number of persons. Contact Jim Bade at 815-563-4485 if you want to help.



In 1884 Jane Addams and her stepmother Anna Haldeman Addams visited the Vatican. There they purchased a souvenir rosary apparently made of olive wood. At some time it was given to the grandmother of Cedarville's Paul Fry who this month donated it to the historical society.

Donations to the Historical Society

While going through a collection of items in his house, society member Mel Welch of Red Oak came across this thirteen star U.S. flag, the nation's official symbol from 1777 to 1795 when Vermont and Kentucky were added to the union. Mel promptly donated the flag to the historical society. No, this flag is not that old, being made by a company that dates only to 1847. There have been 26 different flag designs and all of them can be legally displayed. Perhaps the historical society might loan this one to the Cedarville American Legion for the Memorial Day parade.



Margaret Bertram, 94, Dies in Freeport

M. Margaret Bertram, 94, of Cedarville died March 14 at FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport.

She was born in 1921 in Rushville, Il., the daughter of Samuel and Lola Newell. Margaret was the mother of Galen Bertram, treasurer of the Cedarville Area Historical Society.

She was a 1939 graduate of Rushville, Il., High School. She came to Freeport in 1940 and was employed by Burgess Battery Co. and Micro Switch until her 1944 marriage to Paul Bertram, who survives her.

For many years, Margaret and Paul operated a Christmas tree farm near their Cedarville home.

Besides her husband and son Galen, she is survived by daughters Karen Miller, McConnell, Il., and Dona Ricci, Verona, Wi., and son Norm, Winnebago, Il.

She is also survived by her three sisters: Marie Murfin, age 97, Velma Skoubo, age 95, and Ruby Bloom, age 91.

Other survivors are twelve grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren.

Interment was in Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens.



M. Margaret Bertram

**Cedarville Area Historical Society
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Also on Facebook

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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).