

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

APRIL 2017

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Cedarville Museum Opens April 29

The Cedarville Museum will open Saturday, April 29, for the sixth month season. Hours are 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Non-member admission is \$3.

Special arrangements can be made for visits at other times. The first floor fea-

Cedarville to Participate In 6 Week Museum Expo At the Tourist Bureau

The Cedarville Area Historical Society and Museum will join other Stephenson County museums in a May 5 through June 18 exposition at the Stephenson County Convention and Visitors Bureau on Highway 20 east of Freeport.

The county museums will get a chance to promote their institutions with displays illustrating their exhibits and services. There is no cost to visitors to the expo.

There will be more information about the event in the historical society's May news letter.

tures exhibits of local interest.

On the second floor, reached by a one button elevator, is the society's art gallery portraying the history of the village. The work is done by local artists.

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

This same room is also used for the society's Tuesday evening history and live music programs. The museum is currently partnering with Highland Community College in four local history courses. Three live music programs are scheduled for this summer. The room is also available to society members and the public for programs and special events.

For more information, call Jim Bade at 815-563-4485 or you can e-mail him at bonniebade@comcast.net.

Three Live Music Programs in 2017

Tuesday, June 20 — Freeport's John Hartman and his trio will entertain with traditional country songs made popular by artists such as Hank Williams and Patsy Cline,

Tuesday, July 18 — special treat when 16 members of the 50 voice Freeport Choral Society perform a selection of

Choral Society perform a selection of popular songs.

Tuesday, Sept. 19 — An unusual group of five musicians called "Swing Billy RFD" will play "vintage honky tonk to western swing."

Programs start at 7:30 pm. in museum.

TICKET ORDER

| | <u>Number of Tickets</u> |
|---|--------------------------|
| <i>Tuesday, June 20, John Hartman Trio Traditional country and folk</i> | \$12 _____ |
| <i>Tuesday, July 18, Freeport Choral Society An evening of popular music by 16 great voices</i> | \$12 _____ |
| <i>Tuesday, September 19, Swing Billy RFD Vintage honky tonk and western swing</i> | \$12 _____ |
| <i>One ticket for all three programs above</i> | \$33 _____ |

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED

Name _____

Address _____

City, state, zip _____

Phone or e mail _____

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



Second History Class: Addams Family Part I



*Instructor
Andy
Dvorak,
Marjorie
Phillips &
Narcissa
Engle*



*Dan
Barmore
Paul
Fry*

Photos: Lisa Goodwin



*Marjorie Phillips, Roger
and Jane Goodspeed*

Cedarville Area Historical Society
P. O. Box 336, Cedarville, IL. 61013
Phone: 815-563-4202

Web site:
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Also on Facebook

*Jim Bade, President
Narcissa Engle, Vice President
Galen Bertram, Treasurer
Sharon Barmore, Secretary
Steve Myers, Director
Dale Priewe, Director
Carol Meyers, Director
Don Franz, Director
Moira Knowlton, Director*

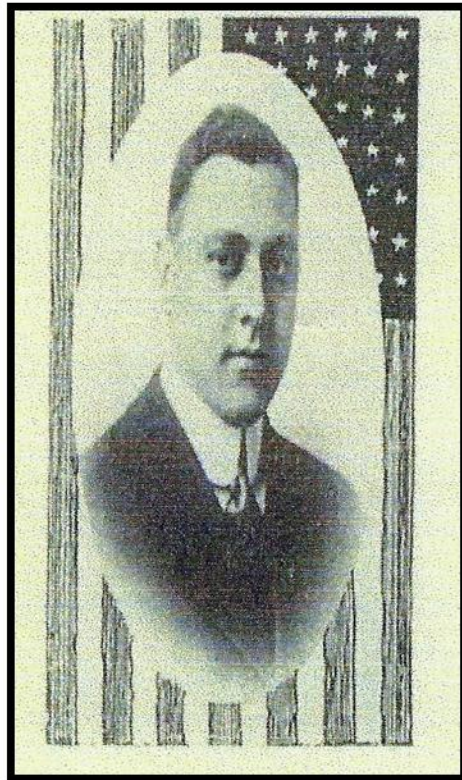
The society is recognized as a non-profit organization by Illinois and the U.S. government and has been designated as eligible for tax deductible gifts under IRS tax code regulation 501 (c) (3).

The First to Die; Last to Return

By Jim Bade
CAHS President

A century ago on April 6 the United States declared war on Germany, officially entering World War I.

A few months later, 29-year-old Dr. Orlando Merrill Gochnaur of Freeport



Dr. Orlando Gochnaur

enlisted as a doctor in the U.S. military.

On November 6, exactly seven months after the U.S. war declaration, Gochnaur became the first Stephenson County soldier killed in that war. By some accounts, he was the first in Illinois.

Gochnaur was the first to die, but perhaps the last to come home.

The European bloodbath had been waging since 1914 when the U.S. under President Woodrow Wilson reluctantly decided to become actively involved. But it took many months before this country was prepared enough to throw large numbers of ground troops, naval vessels and planes into the battle.

In the meantime, the “Allied Forces” fighting the “Central Powers” led by Germany were hard pressed on what became known as the “Western Front.” The British military in Belgium was drastically short of medical personnel so Gochnaur, who had only recently arrived in Europe, was dispatched to the Flanders area to serve with the British forces.

On November 22 the U.S. newspaper wire services sent out this brief message datelined Washington D.C.: “One American medical reserve officer attached to the British forces was killed and one wounded in fighting on the Flanders front November 6, General Pershing

reported to the war department. First Lieutenant Orlando Gochnaur was killed. His next of kin is Mrs. F. A. Gochnaur, Freeport, Ill.”

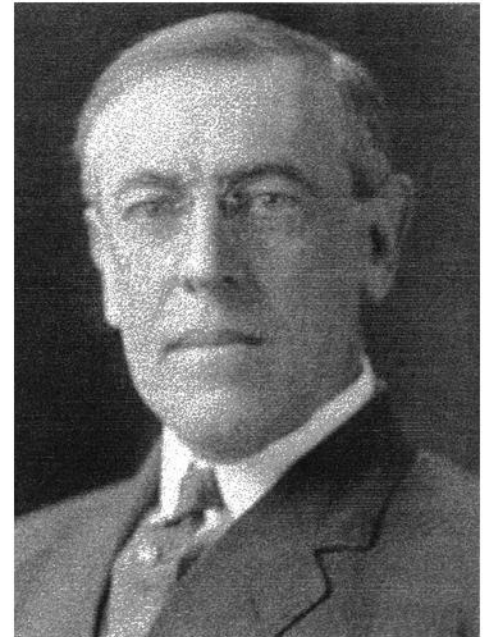
There was no mention in the report that Gochnaur was also survived by his recently married wife, Katherine Holmes, 28, and his father.

On the same day the wire dispatch appeared in the Freeport Journal Standard that same newspaper carried a page one story calling for a fund raising effort to build a monument in “a city park” to honor Gochnaur. The call for action was led by Henry Koppel of the Freeport millenary firm of Koppel and Koppel.

Koppel cited Kansas City Mo., “whose citizens thus honored their first townsman to fall in battle in the world war.” Koppel believed a “suitable shaft could be purchased without great expense and that it should be erected in one of the city parks where it would stand always as a reminder of the patriotism of Freeport.”

Contributions should be limited to five cents to five dollars, Koppel said, adding he was ready to start the fund with the first five dollars. He further suggested the effort should be under the direction of either the big Brothers organization or the Chamber of Commerce. The newspaper offered to receive contributions.

Research by the Cedarville Area Historical Society has so far failed to find any results of this suggestion. Perhaps it died



President Woodrow Wilson

because the focus of the effort, the body of Dr. Gochnaur, remained and remained and remained in Europe.

Finally, in early April 1921, the first word came that the body of the doctor who had died almost four years before in a war that seemed a long time ago was about to return home.

The April 14 Freeport Journal Standard printed a very short notice: “Members of Freeport post of the American Legion met the Illinois Central train from the east at 1:45 p.. Today, expecting the body of Lieut. Gochnaur to arrive at that

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Old Fashioned Tea Time At Museum

By Jim Bade, president, CAHS

The Cedarville Area Historical Society this month acquired a significant addition to its collection of Jane Addams related articles with the donation of 22 pieces of English ceramic children's dishes.

The gift came from Mrs. Martha Stearns of Charlotte, N.C. She is part of the Cedarville Bear and Barber families.



Tea Pot

According to Mrs. Stearns, the dishes were given by Mrs. Ida Jones Barber, daughter of Jacob Jones, miller for John Huy Addams, to her young daughter Helen Barber. The gift probably took place about 1900 when Helen was 10. Helen, who never married, died in 1992 at the age of 102. She is remembered by older Cedarville area residents as an outstanding history teacher.

When Anna Jones, Jacob's wife, was ready to deliver a child in 1863, it was a pregnant Sarah Addams, mother of Jane, who came to the aid of Anna and helped deliver her child. It is generally conceded the stress on Sarah caused the miscarriage of her child and Sarah's death.

Some records indicate Anna's child was named Samuel, a brother to Ida Jones.

There is no reason to doubt Mrs. Stearns' story. Records show the dishes were made in England at the appropriate time period. The Jones family was English.

The collection has six cups, six saucers, six plates, a tea pot, a small bowl, a sugar bowl and a cream pitcher. All are in excellent condition except for a repaired crack in two saucers and one plate, a small chip in a cup and a missing handle in one cup. Rather amazing survival for children's play things.

The maker of the pieces was CS Stag & Sons, Staffordshire, England. Not unexpectedly the brown design on each white piece contains a deer with antlers.

How did Mrs. Stearns acquire the dishes?

Helen gave the dishes to Hazel Jackson Bear, Mrs. Stearns' grandmother. Hazel in turn gave them to Edith Bear Messman, Mrs. Stearns' mother, who passed them on to Mrs. Stearns.



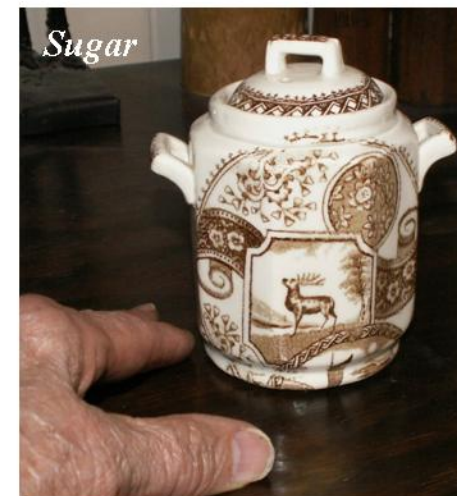
The Collection

Why is Martha Stearns donating them to the historical society?

"I believe I might be related to Ida Jones Barber," Mrs. Stearns said. "I have had the dishes for many years and I am now downsizing. I thought what would be a better place for them than back in Cedarville."



Plate and Saucer



Sugar



Cup

Dr. Gochnaur

(from page 5)

time. The remains did not come on that train. However, it is expected they will arrive this evening. The Legion men will escort the body to the Wagner Funeral parlor.”

The funeral with a parade and full military honors was planned for Saturday, April 16, but that day a rain storm engulfed Freeport and the event was postponed until Monday afternoon at 2:30. On Monday the services for Dr. Gochnaur went off as planned with the Masonic Band leading the procession. Masons Fred Rolfe, Stanley Ditzler, Fred Paul, Harry Wheat, Fred Young and Paul Frisbie were the pallbearers.

Did the first county World War I hero eventually get his monument? Well

Freeport Journal Standard November 7, 1921: “The captains for Stephenson county for the Illinois ‘U’ stadium fund

have so far reported \$1,200 has been contributed by 12 Illini.

Dr. Gochnaur was a graduate of the U of I. Did other alumni give enough to finance a stadium column that would contain his name? At this time the historical society has no answer.

Freeport Journal Standard July 5, 1940: “The patriotic program given July 4 at Krape Park marked the first use of a new concrete band shell which has been made possible through the generosity of two of Freeport’s public spirited citizens.

“A bronze tablet will be placed on the front of the band shell. It bears the following inscription: Erected by Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Koenig in memory of Wilbur Thomas Rawleigh and all Stephenson county men who died in defense of the flag.” Well, partial recognition.

There’s one place for sure where he is singularly recognized by name with a monument: Lot 162 in the Oak Knoll section of Freeport’s Oakland Cemetery.



Monument for Dr. Orlando Gochnaur in Oakland Cemetery.

Photo by Ladona Wardlow