

# ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

**AUGUST 2017**

*Cedarville Area Historical Society*



## \$1,800 Museum Upgrade Scheduled

The board of the Cedarville Area Historical Society unanimously voted at its July meeting to spend \$1,800 to fit the six windows in the second floor south room with storm windows.

None of the museum's almost two dozen windows were provided with storms when the building was constructed in 1889. The scheduled project will complete the updating.

The \$1,800 expenditure includes no labor costs since all work will be done by society volunteers Steve Myers and Galen Bertram and his son Alex. The costs include the six windows, material to repair the outside frames and the weekend rental of a "bucket" to safely carry the three men to second floor positions.

Already \$660 has been contributed or pledged to the project, including \$385 specifically earmarked through a memorial fund for the late Ethel Homan.

"Anyone who has ever been in that room in the winter when the wind whistles

through cracks around those existing single pane windows knows how much this improvement is needed," said Jim Bade, president of CAHS. He added, the recent installation of food serving facilities in the room made the storm windows doubly needed.

At this time, all enclosed areas of the museum have heating and cooling equipment except this room.

Work on this project will begin as soon as the full \$1,800 has been subscribed. The historical society has a long standing policy of not borrowing funds to do restoration work, according to Bade.

For those wanting to make a contribution, the address of the historical society is on page seven of this newsletter.

*Buy a \$12 ticket to hear Jon  
Rozman and his quintet  
Swing Billy RFD at the mu-  
seum Tuesday, September 19*





*Randy Cook on the keyboard*



*Gwynne French and singer Suzanne Cook*



*Left: Al and Bonnie Scheider, Orangeville, were early performers at the Cedarville Museum appearing September 11, 2007.*



*Right: Freeport Choral singer Rick Miche, left, chats with Galen Bertram, historical society treasurer*



*On with the music!*



*An enthralled turnout for good music*



*Duane and Ruth Smith*



*After the show there was plenty of socializing*

*Freeport Choral Society Director Gwynne French*



**Freeport Choral Society  
July 18 Concert Big Hit  
At Cedarville Museum  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Singers Warm Up  
For Krape Park  
Appearance August 6**



*Gwynne French and Al Scheider both liked the cake*





## The “Great War” and Cedarville: Part 4

By Jim Bade  
CAHS president

World War I, called the “Great War” until World War II two decades later, was at first only a constant stream of newspaper headlines from warring Europe for the several hundred residents of the Cedarville area. Even after April, 1917, when the United States became officially involved in the already three-year-old conflict there was no apparent immediate impact on village personal lives. Soldiers and civilians “across the ocean” were killed that summer but births, marriages and other local events were the topics that Cedarville residents discussed and read about.

This village lack of interest in events in Europe began to change in September of 1917. The new attitude slowly evolved as local area men were drafted or enlisted in the army or navy, new government rules and taxes were imposed and — most importantly — American farmers, businessmen, fathers, sons and neighbors reached the battlegrounds in Europe.

What was happening in Europe and the United States at the time this early fall change took place?

The first large contingent of American troops had reached Europe late in June and was deployed. On October 21 the first Americans saw action on the front

lines at Sommerville, France, under French command. On October 23 a soldier in the First Division (*Big Red One*) fired the first American shot in the war.

The German air force increased its bombing of London. The British retaliated by bombing a target in Germany for the first time. The Dutch dancer Mata Hari was executed by firing squad for spying for Germany. German troops overran Riga, Latvia. A French pilot shot down his 54th German plane.

In the United States there was activity that predicted social change as ten suffragists were arrested when they picketed the White House. A month later 20,000 women marched in a suffrage parade in New York.

Interest in sports was a prime topic as always. On October 15 the Chicago White Sox beat the New York Giants 4 games to 2 in the fourteenth World Series. The White Sox victory came despite the fact that Giants pitcher Rube Benton early in the series became the first lefty to pitch a no hitter in the World Series.

The weekly Cedarville column in the Freeport Journal Standard in September, October, November and December 1917 for the most part continued its pattern of reporting visits, illnesses, marriages, deaths, parties, school events, church

news, weather and mild complaints about village conditions and services. One reported death is worth noting: Fifty four years after the Civil War— the previous major conflict for the United States — the village buried Union veteran Pvt. Henry Hockman, age unknown.

If the local column during the last four months of 1917 avoided most news involving the European war, the news pages of the Journal Standard did not. Stories reflected the growing impact the war had on the people of Cedarville and their reaction. Examples:

Cedarville residents learned early that war creates shortages and costs money to the government and the average person.

Near the end of September the U.S. treasury department estimated the first year of the war would cost the country 18 billion dollars. That’s 50 million daily, 2 million per hour. Before the end of the year, U.S. residents began paying a war tax on many products and services to cover the cost. Sales tax on a new car was three per cent. The cigarette tax ranged from 30 cents to \$1.20 per thousand.

Heavy demand and decreased production caused a meat shortage and prices soared. Herbert Hoover, later president of the country but then head of the food administration, said there would be no price controls. Eggs in December were 61 cents a dozen. Prediction was 75 cents.

War created money and personal prob-

lems for people in Cedarville, but it also brought change and acts of patriotism.

The shortage of men to work in factories encouraged women to take their places. Stover Manufacturing & Engine company in Freeport hired ten.

In September Freeport staged a massive patriotic demonstration that included the closing of businesses to honor the forty per cent of the county’s army draft quota of 280 who were leaving for Camp Grant, Rockford, that day.

In six weeks students at Freeport High School raised \$1,200 needed to construct an ambulance to be sent to the French front. The vehicle was built by the John Henney Co. of Freeport. Six thousand tickets were sold at a price of twenty cents each.

Three hundred Stephenson County women were kept busy knitting wool garments for the American troops.

There was a failed attempt to memorialize Freeport’s Dr. Orlando Gochnaur, the first county man killed in Europe.

The names of five county University of Illinois alumni who died in service were to be placed on columns at the university stadium. The result of this plan is unknown. Ironically, two of the men — John Bennehoff and Elmo Eson — were not killed by the enemy. They were two of thousands who died of “Spanish Flu”, the subject of the article on the next page.

## *The War Killing Ends; a New Death Arrives*

*The “Great War” in Europe that had ground on for more than four years ended abruptly with the signing of an armistice on November 11, 1918. Deaths on the battlefields stopped only to be replaced even before the guns became silent by a new and very deadly form of influenza that was not brought under control until 1919. The following paragraphs are highlights from a long Stanford University article on the pandemic.*

The influenza pandemic — known as “Spanish Flu” — of 1918-19 killed more people than the Great War at somewhere between 20 and 40 million people worldwide. It has been cited as the most devastating epidemic in recorded world history. More people died of influenza in a single year than in four years of the Black Death Bubonic Plague from 1347 to 1351.

As the war ended something erupted in pockets around the globe that seemed as benign as the common cold but it was far worse. In the two years that this scourge ravaged the earth, a fifth of the world’s population was infected. The flu was most deadly for people ages 20 to 40, not the elderly. It infected 28 per cent of all Americans. An estimated 675,000 Americans died of influenza during the pandemic, ten times as many as in the world war. Of the U.S. soldiers who died in Europe, half of them fell to the influenza virus and not to the enemy.

The effect of the influenza epidemic was so severe that the average life span in the U.S. was depressed by 10 years. The death rate for 15 to 34-year-olds of influenza and pneumonia was 20 times higher in 1918 than in previous years.

The influenza pandemic circled the globe. It spread following the path of its human carriers, along trade routes and shipping lines. In India the mortality rate was extremely high at around 50 deaths from influenza per 1,000 people. World War I with its mass movements of men in armies and aboard ship, probably aided in its rapid diffusion.

The cause or causes of the disease were unknown but widely speculated upon. Some of the allies thought the epidemic was a biological warfare tool of the Germans. Many thought it was a result of the trench warfare, the use of mustard gases and the generated “smoke and fumes” of the war.

Where this influenza variant started is not precisely known. The name of Spanish Flu came from the early affliction and large mortalities in Spain where it allegedly killed eight million people in one month. However, a first wave of influenza appeared early in the spring of 1918 in Kansas and in military camps throughout the United States. Few noticed the epidemic in the midst of the war and there was virtually no response or acknowledgment to the epidemics in March



*Military emergency hospital for influenza patients*

and April in the military camps.

The war itself brought the virus back into the United States for the second wave of the epidemic. It first arrived in Boston in September of 1918 through the port busy with war shipments of machinery and supplies. Also, the mobilization to combat the war brought men together, thus spreading the disease. The virus killed almost 200,000 in October of 1918 alone. Strangely, the armistice enabled a resurgence in some cities where large parades and parties were held to celebrate the end of the war.

The flu during the winter of 1918 was beyond imagination as millions were affected and thousands died. Just as the war had effected the course of influenza, influenza affected the war. Entire fleets were ill with the disease and men on the front were too sick to fight. The flu was devastating to both sides, killing more men than their own weapons could.

With one-quarter of the US and one fifth

of the world infected it was impossible to escape the illness. Even President Woodrow Wilson suffered in early 1919 while negotiating the crucial treaty of Versailles to end the war.

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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).*



*Delbert Scheider and grandson Ryan Cooke*

*Neil Scheider, Delbert's cousin, and Joyce Scholl, Delbert's daughter*



*Delbert's cousin, Douglas Scheider and Shirley Fitzpatrick, Delbert's sister*



*Delbert's son Tom and Delbert's niece Kate Cooke, mother of Ryan*

*Jon Scholl, Joyce's husband*



*It was a special weekend for a dozen close family members of well known Damascus farmer Delbert Scheider, 92. The three days included a tour of the 1500 acres farmed by Delbert and his son, Tom, discussions of Scheider-Frank family history, visits to two cemeteries where generations of family members are buried and a tour and lunch at the Cedarville Museum. Besides his successful farming career, Delbert is known for his 12 years service on the board of Highland Community College, three years as chairman.*

