

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE December 2015

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Historical Society Volunteers Earn \$1,348 Working the Grill

Volunteers of the Cedarville Area Historical Society on November 6 and 7 netted the society \$1,348 by manning the Freeport Cubs brat stand.

This is the third time in five years the society has been selected by Cubs'

management to grill steaks, brats, chops and hamburgers on a weekend. The three opportunities have earned the historical society a total of \$4,058.

The volunteer team each year has been put together by Steve and Sue Myers.



See full photo coverage on pages 4 and 5 of the two days of grilling brats, chops and steaks at the Freeport Cubs brat stand

Historical Society Christmas Party Dec. 8

A Tale of Another Period in Time

*By Jim Bade
CAHS President*

When I look back 100 years in time, many events of that period don't seem to be much different in nature than they are today. Only the particulars and what we call them are changed.

In December of 1915 Europe was engulfed in what became known as World War I and the United States was inching closer to its involvement. Today we have the Middle East conflict that might as well be called a world war.

In 1915 Mexico's Pancho Villa was more than just a threat to the U.S. southern border states and the U.S. sent Gen. John Pershing with troops to confront him. Today, many are concerned with a different kind of invasion from Mexico.

A century ago the country struggled to conquer tuberculosis. Many called it "consumption." One of my grandmothers had succumbed to the disease three years before. Today the battle targets cancer and other invasions of the body.

These comparisons came to my mind as I started to write this article about events that touched Cedarville residents in December 1915. Just what were they reading, thinking and doing? Can we compare events and actions in that period or any other period to those of today?

The December 1 Freeport Journal Standard front page story of the emergency hospitalization of Cedarville's Jane Addams undoubtedly was read by everyone in Stephenson County.

The 55-year-old Addams was rushed to Chicago's Presbyterian Hospital the night before with an undiagnosed serious illness. It was thought an operation would be needed. Her trip to Europe that day on auto maker Henry Ford's "peace ship" was cancelled.



*Jane
Addams*

The news coverage of Miss Addams condition was daily. It was finally determined that she had suffered a hemorrhage of the kidney and that no operation would be needed.

The final report on December 21 was that her condition was better and that she was expected to leave the hospital before Christmas and to return to Hull House but with a curtailed schedule.

Almost equally as well known in Cedarville as Jane Addams was Mariah Clingman, who was recognized as the oldest woman in the state of Illinois. On December 12 the Freeport Journal Standard saluted her 106th birthday.

No celebration was planned for the event because she was unable to leave her Mill Street house without the assistance of a family member. On her 100th birthday, Jane Addams gave her 100 roses.

Mrs. Clingman was born the same year as Abraham Lincoln. She had three sons who fought for the Union in the Civil War. She died in 1916, a few months short of her 107th birthday.



*Mariah
Clingman*

If there was joy in Mrs. Clingman's 106th birthday, there was sadness in the death of Mrs. Mary Fox, 71, who had lived virtually all of her life in Cedarville.

She was survived by her husband Joseph, a Civil War veteran, and six children.

Her death came only two days before Christmas and followed a short illness.



*President
Woodrow
Wilson*

The war in Europe was extensively covered by Freeport's newspapers. The sinking of ships, including those of the supposedly neutral U.S., and the carnage of the land and trench battles was daily front page news.

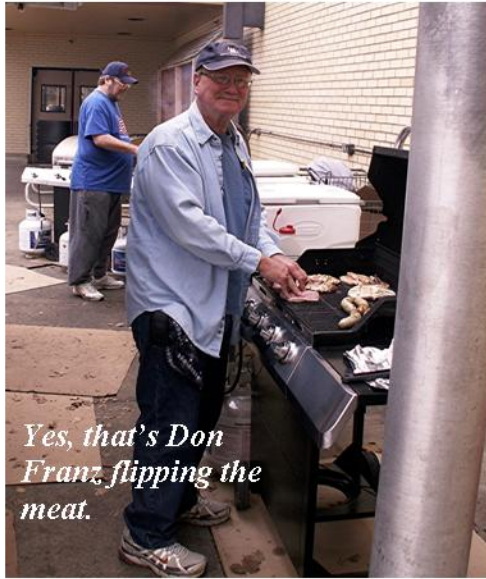
There was pressure on President Woodrow Wilson to involve the U.S. and pressure on him to keep us out of the war. Cedarville's Jane Addams was in the later camp. The U.S. declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917.

As I wrote earlier, Miss Addams was to join Henry Ford on his "peace ship" Oscar II the day she was hospitalized. Although the U.S. was not involved in the war, the purpose of the trip was "to get the troops out of the trenches by Christmas."

Miss Addams said later that even though she did not make the trip, her decision to join Ford was one of the reasons for her unpopularity with various groups including the Daughters of the American Revolution. *(Turn to page six)*



Wendy Gilpin and Carol Meyers kept the orders straight and took the money.



Yes, that's Don Franz flipping the meat.



Left: Dale Prieve took his turn at turning the brats. Right: Steve Myers worked this grill while John Boettner of Cubs kept him supplied with tender steaks.



Sharon Barmore, a tireless worker on Friday



Left: On Friday Lisa Goodwin was in charge of the bun supply while her husband, Pat, took his turn at one of the two busy grills.

Freeport Cubs Brat Stand Volunteers Earn \$1,348 For Historical Society



Left: Another satisfied customer. Right: Hal Gilpin shows his skills as a top flight chef at Galena's Hawk Valley Retreat.



No breaks for Sue Myers, Libby Myers and Kelly Prieve.

Another Time Period

(from page three)

I am sure the winter of 1915 had more than one short-lived fad, but this one caught my attention: **Waltzing on ice skates.**

The text with the illustration warns, "*Do you skate? If you don't you'd better learn if you want to be in vogue this winter.*"

Complete instructions for satisfying this social grace are printed with the illustration. If you want to be ahead (or is it behind) the times, contact me and I'll run to the post office with them.



With Christmas and the weather more on the minds of Cedarville residents as the end of the month approached, the news articles focused more and more on these two subjects.

First the weather:

Since the Pennsylvania ground hog was not available, the Midwest relied on the Rev. Iri Hicks, the St. Louis weather prophet. On December 1 he intoned: "*December will be a stormy month with blizzards. The first storm will come on the third. About the seventh a frigid wave is likely to come and it will be really cold. From the eleventh to the eighteenth there will be snows and blizzards. The month will go out in another storm period in which there will be winter thunder and lightning.*"

The only actual weather story I could find was this December 28 paragraph: "*Last night was the coldest night of the winter. Thermometer readings this morning at 7 o'clock showed a temperature of zero though it really seemed much colder. The air was heavy with frost which made the cold more noticeable.*"

The true predictors of the approach of Christmas are the almost daily warnings in newspaper columns from the post office and the merchants with holiday items for sale. Since Cedarville is a bit isolated and with no major merchants in 1915, the fewer than 300 village residents at that time had to rely on Freeport sources.

From the post office on December 3 came these warnings:

- *"Shop early and mail early.*
- *Deposit mail at main post office rather than letter boxes*
- *Tie the mail in bundles with all addresses facing up*
- *Separate local and out of city pieces*
- *Post mail early in the day"*

There were seven other suggestions. A dozen suggestions are a lot to have on your mind during the Christmas season.

The December 1 Freeport Journal Standard carried an announcement by the Landis Christmas Savings Club, with its headquarters in the C. D. Knowlton Bank, that \$25,000 was distributed to 1,000 members. Checks ranged from \$12.75 to \$200.

One merchant warned parents to give their sons "safe" books, not trash, as gifts. Suggested were "Boys King Arthur" and "Adventures of Robin Hood."

After sifting through all the articles I read, I conclude with this one because, frankly, it made me feel optimistic and I want to feel optimistic no matter the nature of events in any period of history.

Freeport's Rawleigh Company gave 400 geese as Christmas presents to its employees at the main plant and its four branch factories in the U.S. and Canada.

The continuation of a good tradition.

Cedarville Area Historical Society Christmas Party

Tuesday,
December 8
6 p.m.—8 p.m.

Cedarville
Museum

Free To All

Society Salutes Museum Volunteers

As the Cedarville Area Historical Society nears the end of 2015, the board of directors wants to salute the almost three dozen members of the society who volunteered to assist visitors to the Cedarville Museum during the May through October season.

These are veterans in the hosting scene, each one having served in the same capacity for many years. They know about the exhibits and the season's special events. The museum was open from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays during the season. Admission was free to historical society members and \$3 for non-members over 12.

The volunteers were:

Paul Fry, Carol Meyers, Delbert Scheider, Rose Binns, Tait Weigel, Ramona Kryder and Lisa and Pat Goodwin.

Also: Frank Rutter, Dottie Emo, Judy and Harlan Corrie, Janice and Art Leverington, Jim and Sharon Barmore and Ladona Wardlow.

Also: Jim and Bonnie Bade, Galen and Carole Bertram, Bobbie and Dan Edler, Bill Angle and Neal Scheider.

Also: Ruth and Duane Smith, Bob and Miriam Schlueter, Kelly and Dale Priewe, Moira Knowlton, Sue and Steve Myers, Mary Reed and Ruth Wardlow.

Also: Narcissa Engle, Kathleen Glaze, Don and Vicki Franz, Galen and Carole Bertram, Jim and Gina Cole, Carol Woodley, Bill and Shirley Pick and Roger and Jane Goodspeed.

Narcissa Engle, vice president of the historical society, for many years has been responsible for enlisting the services of the hosts.

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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).