

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE FEBRUARY 2011

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Society Annual Meeting, Lunch Feb. 6

The annual meeting of the Cedarville Area Historical Society and the society's traditional chili/soup/sandwich lunch will be held Sunday, February 6, in the Jane Addams Community Center on West Washington Street in the village.

The 11 a.m. annual meeting will be in one of the building's former classrooms and will include the election of two persons to three year terms on the board of directors, a financial report and information regarding future plans of the society. After the short meeting, members will go to the building's gym to join those assembled to enjoy the lunch which will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Lunch tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children under 12. The tickets will be available at the gym door.

As in past years, members of the Lena Live Wires 4H will sell homemade pies during the lunch. The proceeds will be used to pay for the activities of the organization. Fewer than a dozen pies will be available.

The two Society members who have been nominated to fill the three year terms are Galen Bertram and Dale Priewe, current members of the board. A third three year vacancy, caused by the recent resignation of Neal Scheider, will be filled later.

Continuing board members are Steve Myers, Ruth Smith, Sharon Barmore, Jim Bade, Carol Meyers and Narcissa Engle, who returned to the board after a short absence.

The board will hold its organizational meeting on February 8 at which time officers will be elected from the board membership.

At the annual meeting, Galen Bertram, historical society treasurer, is expected to report that the society operated within its original budget in 2010 and that there are sufficient operational funds to start the new year. He will also present the 2011 budget for approval. It is expected to be slightly more than \$11,000, which is almost the same as last year's.

Why Is Walter in the Cedarville Cemetery?

Close to the road and near the sign that points to the Jane Addams monument in the Cedarville Cemetery is a tilted monument marking the burial of Walter Wilcoxon.

The stone marking Walter's burial site is similar to many in the oldest part of the cemetery except for one thing: Walter died in 1836, about fifteen years before the cemetery began operation and there's no record that his grave was a re-burial. What's more, there's no known connection between Walter and the Cedarville area.

Adding to the mystery are three small stones behind Walter's. They mark the graves of Louisa, Cornelia and Rachel, three very young daughters of Thomas Jefferson and Rebecca Mary Wilcoxon. One death date is 1845, a second 1852, the third can not be read.

Thomas was Walter's son. Again, there is no known connection between Thomas and Cedarville. The best guess at this time is that these Wilcoxens were related to the three Wilcoxon brothers — Thompson, Levi and Rezin — who settled and developed much of the land around Scioto Mills.

What is known about Walter? The monument states he was born in 1782 in Maryland. He was married near Portsmouth, Ohio, in December 1810 to Elizabeth Deavers. The couple had ten chil-



Walter Wilcoxon monument with those of three children in the background.

dren. Their son Thomas was born in 1813.

There is one record that indicates a man from the Portsmouth, Ohio, area with a name similar to Walter's was on the roll of a military unit in the War of 1812 and that he served from April 27 until September 30, 1812. There is no indication that he saw active duty during that short period of time.

Illinois records state that Walter died in Stephenson County. An internet website claims it was Winslow, but at this time there is no evidence of any Wilcoxens in that area.

The best guess is that Walter's grave is a re-burial but no record was made. But the question persists: A re-burial from where and why in Cedarville?

Grave of Cedarville Civil War Soldier Found

The grave of Corp. Henry Carl, Cedarville Civil War soldier, has been found in the national cemetery at Marietta, Georgia.

Carl died October 21, 1864, after suffering a chest wound two weeks earlier while defending a major Union army supply depot at Alatoona Pass, Ga. Carl was a member of Company G, of the 93rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment.



Monument marking the grave of Henry Carl in national cemetery at Marietta, Georgia. Photo was provided to historical society by Charles "Mike" Carroll, only great grandson of Carl.

Carl's body was moved to the cemetery from a hastily dug battlefield site after the war.

Carl, 27, was survived by his widow Susannah (Kryder) Carl and three children: Charles Raphael Carl (1858—1934); Francis Marion Carl (1859—1938); and Eliza Alice Carl (1863—1946). Susannah remarried in 1882, divorced in 1889 and died in 1923.

Member Contributions Set New Yearly Record

Member year end financial contributions to the Cedarville Area Historical Society have reached a new high with the amount at \$4,660 as of the end of January. Additional funds are expected to add to that total.

The previous high was \$3,820, a record set the year before. Membership annual dues and member contributions account for nearly seventy percent of the society's and museum's operating budget which typically runs slightly more than \$11,000.

The remaining thirty percent of operating funds comes from society programs, museum sales and non-member contributions. Neither the society nor the museum receive any government funds although as non-profit entities they can apply for private or government grants.



To the left: Baby Joseph Ilgen, Paul Ilgen on tractor wheel, Karl Erickson behind the two girls Magdalene Ilgen and Karl's sister, Martha in early 1920s photo. To the right: Martha and Karl in 1913 photo. Below: 1926 Cedarville High School class with Karl in back row to far left by window. The principal of the two year high school program was Mr. Grossman. The class was held in the second floor south room of the school. The folding door to the right separated this room from the north room. Karl can still identify all of the students.



Happy 100th Birthday, Karl Erickson!



Above: Karl and his long-time friend Lois Marcum enjoy break during recent historical society program. Right: Karl and a much earlier friend. Left: Jim Bade, president of historical society, inspects school bell that will be rung at 9 a.m., Friday, February 4, — Karl's birthday — to remind him it's time to attend classes at Cedarville School.



Karl Erickson, former Cedarville resident now living in Freeport, will celebrate his 100th birthday February 4 with a party two days later at Parkview Home. A dairy farmer for most of his life in rural Cedarville, Karl said he has no regrets about life because it has treated him well. Long a member of the Cedarville Area Historical Society, he will not be forgotten. Society President Jim Bade will ring the museum school bell at 9 a.m., Friday, February 4, calling Karl back to classes once again.



Pioneer Families Merge —Finally!!!

The Addams and Clingman families were pioneers in Buckeye Township, arriving within a few years of each other. John Addams, Jane's father, and Josiah Clingman, the recognized leaders of the two clans, for many years were close friends, business associates and civic collaborators.

With such closeness and such a small population, it would seem that an actual marriage between the two families would be inevitable. But it didn't happen until almost 60 years after the families first

crossed paths. And then it didn't directly involve either John Addams or Josiah Clingman.

The bride and bridegroom were Floy Clingman and James John Addams who exchanged rings on November 13, 1903.

The 23-year-old bride was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Clingman. Francis, at that time 53, was the son of John Bright Clingman, older brother of Josiah. The mother of the bride was the former Deborah Parriott, herself a member of a prominent pioneer family.

The bridegroom, also 23, was the grandson of James Huy Addams, older brother of John Huy Addams. The father of the bridegroom was Augustus (Gus) Addams; the mother was the former Pamela Belle Stahl. Both were deceased at the time of the wedding.

A newspaper at the time said the wedding was held "at high noon at the home of ex-Supervisor F. W. Clingman. Rev. James Ford, Presbyterian minister, performed the ceremony before 50 guests."

The story ended: "The happy couple took a wedding trip to Anoka, Minn., where they are the guests of (former Stephenson County) Sheriff Clingman." That's Ethol Clingman, Josiah's son, who had moved to Minnesota. Finally, after two generations there's a family connection between two pioneer friends.



Francis and Deborah (Parriott) Clingman, parents of the bride.

Floy Clingman Addams and her husband James had two daughters but little is known about them at this time. James died in 1958 at the age of 78. It is not known when his wife died. Interestingly, Floy's twin brother, Roy, and his wife had a daughter named Floy.



In front the second man from the left is Harry H. Addams, brother of the bridegroom. To the right of Harry is Roy Clingman, twin brother of the bride. Behind Harry is Ida May Clingman, sister of the bride. The bride is standing in a white dress and the groom is to her right. To the left of the bride is her mother.

Peg Schoonhoven Gives Anna Sills 1880 Bible To Historical Society

Peggy Schoonhoven, former Cedarville resident now living in Freeport, has donated the Bible of Cedarville's Anna Sills to the Cedarville Area Historical Society.

Sills, who never married, apparently received the Bible as a Christmas gift from her 1880 Sunday School class. When she died, the book passed to her brother Henry. He died in 1968, age 92.

For many years Henry, a bachelor, had lived above the Clover Farms store on Cedar Street operated by Glen and Flossie Bear. Mrs. Bear was Mrs. Schoonhoven's mother. With no heirs to claim the book, Mrs. Bear saved it and eventually gave it to her daughter.

The Sills leather-bound Bible, printed in 1877, contains no family notes; however, it is an outstanding example of that type of publication published in the last half of the nineteenth century. It is lavishly illustrated with finely crafted religious scenes.

Although there are no family notes in the book, several small pieces of paper were inserted at various locations. These sheets contain words and brief phrases that seem to represent material that Miss Sills wanted to cover with her Sunday School class.



Peg Schoonhoven examines Sills bible.

Cedarville Area Historical Society

P.O. Box 336

Cedarville, IL 61013

Phone: 815-563-4202

Web site:

www.cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org

E-mail

info@cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org

Also on Facebook

Jim Bade, President

Narcissa Engle, Vice President

Galen Bertram, Treasurer

Ruth Smith, Secretary

Steve Myers, Director

Sharon Barmore, Director

Dale Priewe, Director

Carol Meyers, 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).