

Society Annual Meeting, Lunch Feb. 5

The annual meeting of the Cedarville Area Historical Society and the society's traditional chili/soup/sandwich lunch will be held Sunday, February 5 in the Jane Addams Community Center on West Washington Street in the village.

The annual meeting starts at 11 a.m. and will include board elections and reports by Jim Bade, society president, and Galen Bertram, society treasurer. Lunch tickets, available at the door, are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children under 12.

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

JANUARY 2012

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Public Use of Museum To Be Expanded

After a year-long successful controlled experiment, the board of the Cedarville Area Historical Society has decided to make the facilities of the Cedarville Museum more available for use by outside organizations and groups.

Although the new policy is expected to generate more public use of the museum building and grounds, access will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will be denied if there would be any conflict with museum or historical society activities. Also, trained museum volunteers will be on hand during each use to safeguard the building and the exhibits, according to Jim Bade, president of the society and museum.

Use will primarily be restricted to the second floor LeRoy Wilson Theater and the museum grounds, although tours of the museum exhibits will be permitted. It is expected the historical society will receive requests from organizations needing meeting or event space or persons wishing to celebrate special events.

Last year the museum was the scene of an outdoor wedding that drew 150 guests and a meeting of the American Association of University Women that featured a catered lunch for 50 women in the LeRoy Wilson Theater.

For information on the policy and cost, contact Jim Bade at 815-563-4485.

Revisiting History with Clyde Kaiser

(Before his death several years ago, Cedarville's Clyde Kaiser was considered "the unofficial historian of the Cedarville area." In searching the archives of the historical society, I uncovered Clyde's 1995 article on the early general merchandise stores in the village. Although his account contains some errors, mostly because we have gained new information in the last sixteen years, his thoughts bear reprinting. The first part is printed below; the second will be in the February newsletter. Jim Bade, president CAHS.)

The arrival of the early settlers' wagons in the Cedarville area during the 1845—1855 period brought with them the need for a general store to meet certain needs for articles that could not be produced locally. Housewives needed coffee, salt, tea to supplement the local herb teas and other articles which could be procured in the Pennsylvania communities from which most of the settlers had emigrated.

It is generally believed that the first general store in Cedarville was the father and son, Jackson and Henry Richart store located at the northwest corner of Mill and Second streets. In a brick building constructed by Samuel Sutherland with bricks from the Janes Canfield (*Canfil: editor*) kiln, the Richarts opened their store with the usual items of the first general stores — household sundries, flour, coffee, tea, sugar, dried meats, dried beans, peas, candy, dress goods, gloves, medicinal supplies, such as cough medi-

cine, liniments and other items for the health of the community. The stock increased in volume and variety as the years passed and the railroad and wholesale firms in neighboring Freeport brought new items to the markets — pencils and paper replacing the early slates of the school children going by the store to the school upon the hill.

The Richarts retained ownership for many years with the operation eventually being handled by Henry and his sister Alma. (*Probably before*) 1930 the store was purchased by Luther Shippy. About that time a gasoline pump was installed and gasoline was sold for the increasing number of autos. A fire in the store eventually caused its closing and the lot was cleared. A residence now stands where the early store first stood.

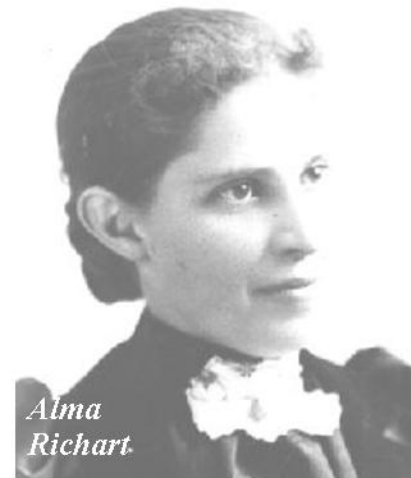
On the opposite side of Mill Street on lots 13 and 14, a competing store was erected by James Benson who was later joined by his son-in-law Daniel J. Ilgen (*a Civil War veteran*). Some recollections place this structure as being built in 1848 with the store in operation a short time later. Whether the Richart or the Benson store was the first is a matter of opinion, but both were the same type and handled the same items. The Benson store reportedly handled a large inventory of dress goods and articles of clothing. However, the sale of ready made apparel was generally met by the several tailors, dressmakers, milliners and cob-

blers who operated from their homes in supplying the villagers and farmers with such needs.

The Benson store never had any other owners and disappeared from the marketing scene on or about 1910. The (*store*) building to which Jacob Latshaw attached his inn to the north wall was razed in the 1950s. The store was vacant for many years with many articles remaining on its shelves. The inn had been changed to the Cedarville Telephone Exchange, but it too was razed and the area in 1995 (*and today*) is a vacant lot.

For many years, the location of the Cedarville post office moved from Benson's to Richart's, according to election results. The Bensons, staunch Democrats, were favored in Democratic administrations, while the Richarts, staunch Republicans, were favored in Republican.

(Second part in February newsletter)



Alma Richart



Luther Shippy gas pump on Mill Street

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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 503 (c) (3).



The program was held in the newly restored second floor LeRoy Wilson Theater.



Song, Food, Joy Mark Christmas Party

More than sixty persons turned out Tuesday evening, December 13, for the annual Cedarville Area Historical Society Christmas party at the museum. The holiday decorations were imaginative, the food was excellent and plentiful, the music was superb and the joy was abundant. Our thanks go to event chairman Diane Hagemann and Moira Knowlton and the more than a dozen historical society volunteers who worked before, during and after the evening. In the center picture are Diane, Carol Meyers and Mary Reed preparing the food table. That's Jim Barmore to the right lighting one of the many candles. Christmas music for the evening was provided by Peter McClanathan of Freeport on the keyboard and vocalist Ceceile Eiler, seventh grade Freeport student who appeared in the school district's recent production of "Annie."

(More photos on the next page)



Galen Bertram, CAHS treasurer, opened the evening.



Peter McClanathan at the keyboard



Ready for another song



Ceceile sings first of three holiday songs



That's Al Scheider, left, and Paul Fry enjoying the evening.



Diane presents gift to Ceceile



The evening ended with the singing of "Silent Night"

Society Membership at 145 in 2011

The Cedarville Area Historical Society counted 145 paid memberships in 25 states at the end of 2011, a decrease of three from the previous year. The drop was primarily caused by the death of six members. It is estimated the membership actually represented more than 350 persons since most of the memberships were for families. At a time when many non-profit organizations are experiencing a decline in membership, the stability of the society's base is considered remarkable. It is also notable that membership 2011 renewal contributions totaled \$4,750 as compared to the previous year's \$3,430.

Seventy seven of the memberships were from Stephenson County. They are: Wendell and Judith Kurr, Merle and Ladona Wardlow, Kenneth and Pam Rosmann, Sue and Steve Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Edler, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Heilman, Dan and Peggy Dixon, Bill and Ann Tully, Jean Joyce, Galen and Carole Bertram,

Betty Kraft-Hartman and Patrick Hartman, Norman and Janet Kaiser, Dottie Emo, Judy and Larry Murphy, Ramona Kryder, Dale Priewe family, Karl and Betty Trester, Norman and Shirley Wagner, Ruth Wardlow, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Hutchison, Dr. and Mrs. Edward Maglietta, Theresa Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Angle, Bill and Dee Blomberg, Jim and Bonnie Bade, Susan Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Capes, Miriam and Bob

Schulueter, Gary and Diane Hagemann, Moira Knowlton, Steve and Kathleen Glaze, Jacqueline Stewart, Carol Meyers, Duane Scheider, Peg Schoonhoven, Delbert and Hulone Scheider, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Helm, Glenn and Bernice Dietmeier, Glen and Linda Auman, Dr. Rose Binns, Karl Erickson, Charlotte and Dave Kaiser, Marge and Everett Lyons, Ron Stabenow, Neal Scheider,

Harlan and Judy Corrie, Paul Fry, William and Ann Samuelson, Wendell and Marsha Cox, Rick and Diane Kahly, Ray Cronau, Duane and Ruth Smith, Peter and Beverly Haselhorst, Leonard and Gwen Cummins, Narcissa Engle, Betty Jones, Tait Weigel, Lorraine Stabenow, Richard and Althea Hornung, Roger and Jane Goodspeed, Art and Janice Leverington, Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Dammann, Ruth Schwartz, Gene, John and Mary Reed, Dave and Karen Macomber, Rex and Kathryn Sides, Bill and Shirley Pick, Winifred Macomber, Marian Franzen

Marjorie F. Phillips, Scott Meinert, Nevin and Arlene Kryder, Don and Vickie Franz, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rutter, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Huber, Tom Scheider, Jim and Sharon Barmore.

Twenty three members came from other cities within Illinois. They are: Priscilla Apfelbach, Nancy Strnad, Mr. and Mrs. R. McIntyre, Jim and Gina Cole, Jeff Kurtz family, Geoff Cox, Todd Pfister

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and Kate Covey, Lynn Gilchrist, Virginia Hough, Dorothy Dornink, Donna Dougherty, Aden Clump, Steve and Shirley Kryder, Marlene Boncosky, Sally Anderson, Mary Jo Hoag, Wendy and Hal Gilpin, Brad and Rebecca Smith, Greg and Betsy Gilpin, Michael J. Phillips, Lisa and Pat Goodwin, Medina and Herbert Gross and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Murphy.

As with last year, one third of the society's membership is from states other than Illinois. Most of these are former residents.

Wisconsin: The Gene Brander family, V. Mark Lotta, Paula Charron, Gayle Wilson, Carolyn Lamia, Curtis and Kathleen Wilson, Gwen Beirmeister, Joe Von Allmen, Irene Ilgen

Texas: Mr. and Mrs. Mike Nichols, Joan Potter, W. W. Wolfe

Iowa: Mark S. Smith, Tom and Charlene Gaard, Mrs. Stephen West

Florida: Dick and Judy Wolfe, Nelson Ottenhausen, Elwood Wardlow, Ken and Marcet Bliss

N. Carolina: Mary L. Bryan

S. Carolina: Bruce Mizell

Nevada: Chris and Priscilla Bender

New York: Rebecca Wardlow-Welch

Pennsylvania: Harvey Ilgen, Linda Thompson, John Kryder

Washington: Sharon and Rein Neem

Arizona: Gene Ramsdell, Mr. and Mrs. Don Morris, Donna and Ray Kerr

Arkansas: A. Wallace and Doris Cordes

Georgia: Doug and Martha Martin

Oregon: Shirley Woodward, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Confer

Minnesota: Mr. and Mrs. Alan Youel

Michigan: Bob Bear

Indiana: Dale and Iliana Kaiser

Missouri: Bruce and Christine Baldwin

Ohio: Mr. and Mrs. Max Hazen, Helen J. Dum

Tennessee: Dennis and Susan Boke-meier

California: Lucy Carver, Sarah McNeil

Kansas: Robert and Shirley Alley

Colorado: Kathy Addams McKee

More members are asking for their newsletters by e-mail. By the end of December 2011, the number had increased to 52 out of a membership of 145. That's an annual savings to the society of \$260.