

# ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE JULY 2012

*Cedarville Area Historical Society*



## *Board to Act on Museum Elevator*

The board of directors of the Cedarville Area Historical Society will meet July 2 to choose a contractor who will build the shaft to house the elevator that will move physically handicapped museum visitors between the first and second floors.

Two proposals were submitted to the board. Both would permit CAHS volunteers to do about one third of the work, thus reducing the cost. It is expected that actual work would start in July.

After the shaft is constructed, the elevator mechanism will be installed by Nu-Trend Accessibility Systems of Moline, IL. The cost of the mechanism will be slightly under \$23,000.

### *July Friday Night Movies*

July 6 — “The Miracle at Morgan’s Creek” with Eddie Bracken, Betty Hutton and William Demarest.

July 13 — “Nancy Drew, Reporter” with Bonita Granville and Joan Leslie.

July 20 — “College Swing” with Bob Hope and Martha Raye.

July 27 — “Which Way to the Front?” with Jerry Lewis and Kaye Ballard.

The elevator will be located in the northwest corner of the south rooms of the building. On the second floor it will open in the southwest corner of the LeRoy Wilson Theater, the north room.



*Karl Erickson, 101, former Cedarville resident now living in Freeport, visited the museum in June to study the exhibits. Karl attended high school in 1926 in the building when it was a school.*

**Need A Good Book  
On Jane Addams?**

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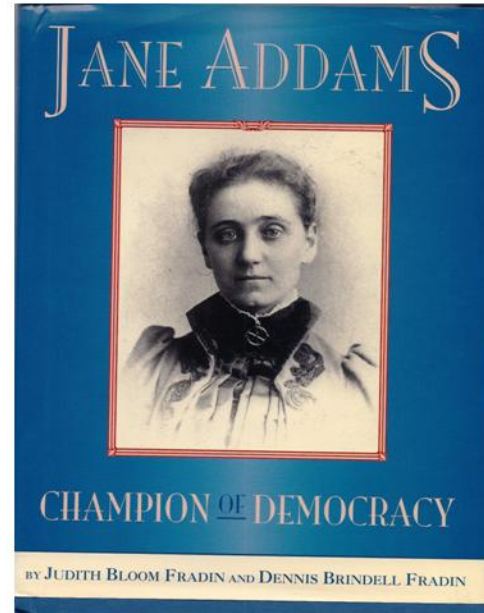
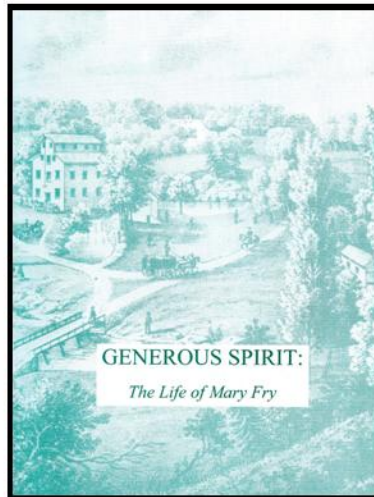
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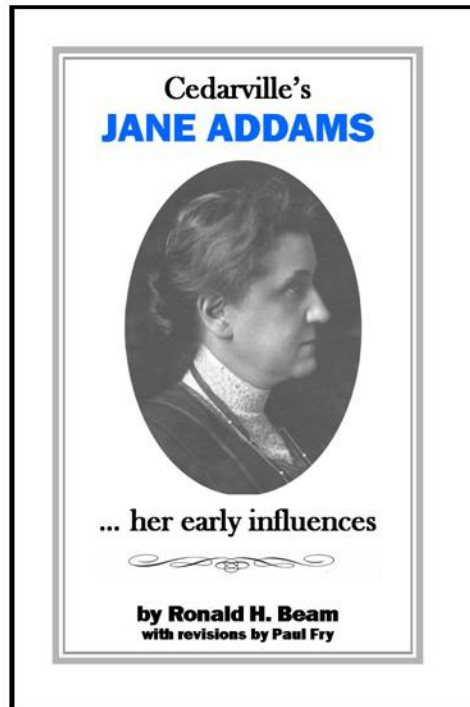
*The Family and Friends  
Of Jane Addams  
Who Rest In Cedarville Cemetery*

*Did you know that besides Jane Addams and her immediate family there are more than two dozen of her direct relatives also buried in the Cedarville Cemetery? This booklet gives you a short biography of each of them. It will also help you understand the new exhibit on the Addams burials in the Cedarville Museum. Only \$3*

*This is a wonderful book on Mary Fry and her life-long association with the Jane Addams family. Written by Paul Fry, her nephew and Cedarville resident, the book contains insights into the Addams family that no other book can possibly give you. Paul will gladly autograph a copy for you. \$19*



*Judy and Dennis Fraden's easy to read biography. Great for high school age. \$24*



*Ron Beam's story of Jane's early life in Cedarville with Paul Fry updating \$12*



*Rockford's gospel artist Carl Cole and three members of his family open the museum's three night history and music series on July 3. Next is the barbershop group "Cadence" on July 24. Below from the left are Bart Macomber, baritone; Nathan Hyland, bass; Bob LaMay, lead; and Jerry Hyland, tenor. All tickets for the series that closes with bluegrass on August 21 have been sold.*



## Previously Unknown Letter Sheds Light On Jane Addams Cedarville Funeral

By Jim Bade  
President, CAHS

I have sometimes speculated that what we consider a big event is sometimes a package of many small events. Assuming that thought is true or even possible, I offer the recently discovered 1935 letter written by Cedarville's late Margaret Hannah Frank as testimony to one small event.

The 35-year-old Margaret, who was the daughter of John Henry Frank and the former Emma Matter, both members of prominent families, attended the May 25, 1935, Cedarville funeral of Jane Addams, village native and founder of Chicago's Hull-House and first American woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Two days later she wrote a letter describing the day to her brother Lester, 37, and his wife, Phoebe, who lived in Chicago. As you can see by reading her entire letter on the next page, she wrote mostly about small events taking place within a relatively big event. But her commonplace comments are a boon to historians trying to piece together the flavor of that day. Bear with me as we go through the letter.

In the second sentence she comments that the casket was in the homestead and people were permitted to file by, but it  
*(Turn to page 6)*



*Margaret Frank, 1986, three years before her death*



*Margaret Frank, 1921*

### *Text of Margaret Frank Letter*

Dear Lester and Phoebe,

I suppose you're wondering all about the Addams funeral. It was surely a big affair. They didn't open the casket at Cedarville but had the casket in the old homestead and allowed the people to file past. There surely was a crowd. Hutchinson's field was opened to allow people to park the cars. Dad took Delbert & I had Duane and we got there right in the front row so that they didn't miss anything. The flowers were gorgeous but the strange thing is that people came there from all over and took them along for souvenirs. We stopped there this morning and there was nothing on the grave but fresh lilacs although last evening, someone said, there were some lilies there yet so possibly some interested people removed the remaining ones when they realized what was happening. People say that people came there while the men were digging the grave and took stones as souvenirs. There has just been an endless procession going to the cemetery since the funeral and it continued today, past the birthplace and on to the cemetery. Many of them must be from great distances as they inquire where the cemetery is etc.

*(Written vertically in the left side of the page is the following phrase. Editor)* Sadie lives in San Antonio, Texas. *(The next line starts with a series of dashes followed by the following sentence and a continuation of the letter. Editor)* daughter and Weber Addams was Jane's brother. She was here for the funeral and was up at the old house (Uncle Sam's) yesterday. Marcet is here too and is going to stay for the summer. John Fry's two boys, Homer Fry's boys and Ira Fehr's boys were the bearers. John Fry was here for the funeral. People surely came from great distances.

Please save any pictures that you may find in any of the Chicago papers. Dad & Delbert were on a few of them. The one in the Rockford paper had a few people in it that we could recognize.

We were over to Uncle Sam's to dinner today. Wonder where they will put everything when they move. Will Bears and Scheiders were there too. Laura said she was named after Jane Addams (Laura Jane) and she got out the ring this morning that Jane had given her as a baby. Must Close. Thought you would enjoy all the news.

Margaret

(From page 4)

was not open. She neglected to say or did not know that the casket was closed because Jane's face was disfigured when sculptor Lorado Taft removed the death mask he had made.

The field used to park the overflow of cars was a several acre pasture across from the cemetery. The land belonged to Jane's niece, Marcet Haldeman-Julius and was being used by Elmer Hutchison, the tenant farmer. The pasture still exists and is owned by Marcet's granddaughter, who is also named Marcet.



*Lester Frank, undated photo*

Margaret's reference to Delbert and Duane is to her nephews Delbert Scheider and Duane Scheider, whose fathers — Clinton and Clifford — were twins and whose mothers were Margaret's sisters. Both boys were about ten or eleven. Duane died in March of this year at the age of 87; Delbert is still an active farmer. Margaret's dad was John Henry

Frank, who was 76 at the time of the Jane Addams funeral.

In his memoirs of several years ago, Delbert writes of that day:

"One morning in May 1935, Grandpa and Aunt Margaret arrived unexpectedly at our home. They took, Duane, Norman (*Duane's brother*) and I to the graveside funeral of Jane Addams. Grandpa, as a boy, had known Jane in Cedarville. .... The crowd was massive. In order to get close we crawled over the fence east of her grave and stood against the fence on the outside."

Two thirds of the way through the letter Margaret mentions that the six pallbearers were the young Fry and Fehr boys. They were the nephews of Mary Fry, who at the age of 12 in 1889 went to live with the second Mrs. Addams and who continued to be close to the family until she died in 1952. She never married.

Paul Fry, now approaching 90 and living in Cedarville, is the last survivor of the six. His well-documented 1991 biography of his aunt is available at the Cedarville Museum.

Margaret's comments about the nature of the flowers and the theft of them and the stones as souvenirs are interesting. Upon reading her letter, Paul Fry said that Jane Addams loved lilies of the valley and every spring for years his Aunt Mary mailed a shoe box of them to Hull-House.



*The young pallbearers*



*Jane's flower-draped casket*

Sadie (*nickname for Sarah*) Addams Young, only child of Jane's brother, Weber, had come from her home in San Antonio, Texas, to attend the funeral. While in Cedarville, she apparently visited her childhood home on the cliff overlooking Cedar Creek and the Addams homestead. Today the large house is often known as Cedar Cliff. Margaret referred to it as "Uncle Sam's" because at the time of the funeral it was owned by Sam Frank, Margaret's uncle. However, her comment about where her uncle would put everything probably reflects the pending sale of the house to Judge Shaw, according to Paul Fry.

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*John Henry Frank, Margaret's father, at the time of the Jane Addams funeral.*



*Duane Scheider as young man*

*(From page 7)*

Finally we come to the question of which woman in the last paragraph of the letter was named after Jane Addams whose real name was Laura Jane Addams, namesake of Laura Jane Gorham Forbes, reportedly the favorite teacher of John Addams. Was it Mrs. Bear or Mrs. Scheider?

The answer: It was Laura Jane Reamer Bear, wife of William Bear. Unlike Laura Jane Gorham Forbes and Laura Jane Addams, who were informally known as “Jennie”, Mrs. Bear chose to be known as Laura.

Thus, we have the decoding of Margaret’s letter about a small event that was part of a big event. To an historian this was an exciting journey.



*Delbert Scheider as young man*

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