

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE NOVEMBER 2016

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Museum Holiday Party December 13



Galen Bertram and Steve Myers spent one night moving all items from the museum second floor south room to the north room so the south floor could be refinished prior to installation of a mini-kitchen and enclosed storage area. The several hundred pound radiator dates from the school's steam heat era.

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A Tall Hat With a Mysterious History

*By Jim Bade
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Cedarville Area Historical Society

I love a history mystery. And that's just what I got when Cedarville's Virginia Ames donated a very old, oddly shaped box decorated with clusters of grapes to the historical society.

I gently lifted the fragile, damaged cover and peaked inside. There — shaped to fit snugly in the box — was what I have always called a "top hat", black and very imposing.

"It belonged to Jacob Kryder, a judge and one of my ancestors from the nineteenth century," Virginia said. She explained that the history of the hat was contained in the small sheet of paper she handed me that was written by Margaret Gorham Reamer, sister to Virginia's father J. Kenneth Gorham.

Virginia added that she believes her father wore the hat in Freeport's 1958 parade celebrating the 100th anniversary of the city's Lincoln-Douglas debate. "He rode on a float and represented Abraham Lincoln," Virginia said. Unfortunately, the Freeport newspaper's reporting on the parade does not mention individuals on the floats, but there is no reason to doubt Virginia's comment.

Written at the top of the ivory colored

sheet in neat script was: "The true story of my great great great grandfather's hat worn while he was serving as an associate Judge in the Supreme Court of the United States under President Andrew Jackson."

"Whoa," I thought. "This hat is a real treasure. We have a U.S. supreme court justice with a link to Cedarville!"

Then I remembered the most important law of good journalism that I learned in my first class of my freshman year at Northwestern University's school of journalism: "Don't assume your mother loves you" Or: Question everything.

In the body of the note were these sentences. "Jacob Kryder was an associate judge of Center Co. (a judge of the U.S. Supreme court) for 18 years under the president Andrew Jackson during the time he wore the hat." Although the structure of the sentence suggests that Jackson wore the hat, I knew the writer meant Kryder wore the hat.

The note continued: "He also had a cane with an ivory head and a silver plate engraved with the initials J. K. presented by President Jackson and made from teakberry wood cut from a tree on which Major Andre, a British spy during the Revolution, was hanged."

I am not an authority on Andrew Jack-



Jacob Kryder hat

son, but I sensed something was wrong so I turned to Ladona Wardlow of Freeport for a little research on Jackson and Kryder.

From Ladona I learned that Kryder, who was born in 1773, was not appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by anyone. On December 10, 1827, he was commissioned an associate judge of Centre County, Pennsylvania. And Jackson had nothing to do with this action because he served as President of the United States from 1829 to 1837.

I was also puzzled with the comment that Kryder served for 18 years as an associate judge because another historian's account said he served for the rest of his life which ended in 1852 or 1853. What was the correct answer?

I removed the hat from the box and closely examined the box. How strange: Neatly pasted in the inside of the top of the box was a portion of the front page from the Philadelphia daily newspaper clearly dated July 24, 1846. That would be approximately 18—19 years after Kryder assumed the position of associate judge. Could this have been a hat ceremoniously given to him on the day he stepped down after 18 years of service? Affixing the newspaper with its date to the box lid would have been a nice gesture.

I have no record of a ceremony or otherwise so this question remains open. However, if the hat was presented to him in 1846, he could not have used it during the time he was on the bench as mentioned in the Margaret Reamer note.

What about the cane? Does it suggest or prove that Jackson and Kryder were friends, close or remote? There is undisputed evidence that President Jackson did give Kryder and twelve other judges a cane that fits the description of the cane that is currently in the possession of one of Kryder's twenty first century descendants. Unfortunately, we do not have the date or dates of this gift giving.

Judge Kryder did support Jackson's White House bid. Did the other judges do likewise? Were the canes to ensure their continued support before the election or where they post election thank you notes?

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Left: Daria Van Buskirk found the food great at this table so why not try the one on the other side of the room.



Kathy Hillmer



Jennifer Heilman, left, and Kathy Schmidt



Left: Daria convinced Ruth Smith the large selection of tasty dishes could not be beat.

Museum Welcomes 45 Women Educators
On October 5 the Cedarville Museum was the meeting and dinner site of the Stephenson County chapter Alpha Mu of the Delta Kappa Gamma international society of women educators. The chapter has 45 members and is a non-profit organization that furthers education by giving stipends, recruitment grants and books to promote all levels of learning.



From left: Sindy Main, Martha Heitter, Dee Burstrom



Left: Barb Jacobs and Beverly Haselhorst find time to chat and eat.



Nancy Price, left, and Jerilyn Strohecker. What's so funny, Jerilyn?

Right: Connie Taylor, Jan Wilson and Ruth Smith



Jacob Kryder's Hat

(from page three)

Is the linking of the cane to the Major Andre hanging tree just a story? I know of no record of anyone testing the wood of one of the canes and comparing it to the tree that supported Andre's noose in 1780. Does the tree still exist? Maybe we are better off not caring whether it is just a story or true. Perhaps, but I am sure some historian will eventually try to resolve the issue.

Upon the death of Judge Jacob Kryder, the cane and hat were passed on to one of his sons. This started a generation to generation practice that existed for many years. At some point, however, the chain was broken and the cane went one way and the hat went another. The hat ended up with Cedarville's Virginia Ames from her father via her father's sister.

The hat and cane are part of a great story. Some of it is true; some of it is false; some of it is questionable. It is indisputable, however, that Judge Kryder and President Andrew Jackson knew each other to a degree that we may never know.

The historical society is very happy to add the hat to the museum's collection of locally related artifacts despite the fact that this Jacob Kryder never made it to Buckeye Township. At least his hat did. Thank you, Virginia.



Judge Jacob Kryder's hat box decorated with clusters of grapes

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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).

Cedarville's Mary Reed, 85, Dies

Mary V. Reed, 85, of Cedarville died October 21 in Freeport. She was born August 18, 1931, in Stephenson County, the daughter of Paul and Clara (Folgate) Kaiser. In 1953 she married Gene Reed of Cedarville.

Mary was a homemaker and helped run the family business, Reed's Service in Cedarville.

She loved gardening often sharing produce from her garden with the community. For many years Mary and her mother were leaders of the Greenville 4-H club. As a former board member of the Cedarville Area Historical Society, Mary was especially known for her outstanding chicken noodle soup that was served every year after its intro-

duction at the society's annual February soup, salad and sandwich lunch.

Mary was actively involved with the Stephenson County Fair and for 60 years was a member of the Stephenson County Homemaker Extension.

She is survived by her husband, Gene; her son, John, both of Cedarville; sister, Norma Bawinkel, German Valley; brother, Robert, Flower Mound, Tx.; sister-in-law, Donna Untersee, Freeport; seven nieces and five nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and daughter, Kathleen Reed.

Burial was in Cedarville Cemetery. A memorial has been established in her memory.



Mary tasting her famous chicken noodle soup at the February 2009 Cedarville Area historical society soup, salad and sandwich lunch.

Photo by Wendy Bade Gilpin

Marian L. Fransen, 82, Dies in Lena

Marian L. "Cel" Fransen of Cedarville, a member of the Cedarville Area Historical Society, passed away September 17 at Lena Living Center.

Born March 2, 1934, in Waddams Township, she was the daughter of Laurin and Alice (Fogel) Meyers.

She attended Pleasant Hill Grade School and was graduated from Lena High School in 1952. She married Donald E. Fransen that same year at the Salem United Church of Christ in Eleroy.

She worked at Fairbanks-Morse Co. in

Freeport four years and then she and her husband farmed Orangeville 41 years, retiring to Cedarville in 1996. She was at the McConnell post office 15 years.

She was a member of McConnell Methodist Church and UMW of the church. She was a 43 year member of the Mock Orange Extension Unit.

She is survived by a sister, four sisters-in-law and two brothers-in law.

Funeral services were held September 24 in the Lena Methodist Church. Burial was in the Lena Burial Park.

David Kaiser of Cedarville Dies at 76

David Don Kaiser, 76, died October 16 at The Meadows at Winn Prairie due to complications from Alzheimer's Disease.

Long a member and tireless volunteer of the Cedarville Area Historical Society, he was born in Freeport on November 30, 1939.

In his early years, David helped his adoptive father Merl Kaiser build and remodel homes. Graduating from Freeport High School in 1956, he attended Bradley University, graduating in 1961 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He then spent 37 years at Honeywell. He met his future wife, Charlotte, there and they were married in 1964.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years and his sons Erich, Aaron and Brad and his daughter Kortney Kaiser. Other survivors include his adopted sister Deanna Forrest his grandchildren Brody, Kwynsee and Karsyn Kaiser and his biological sister and brother Joan and Bill.

Mr. Kaiser was buried in the Cedarville Cemetery following a service at the Park Hills Church.

A memorial fund has been set up under David Kaiser Memorial Fund for the Benefit of World Gospel Outreach in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, where he served five short term mission trips in building orphanages.