

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

OCTOBER 2015

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Getting Ready to Move: Story on Page 8

The Calm Before The Guns Spoke

By Jim Bade
CAHS President

In last month's historical society's newsletter, I commented on several newspaper articles published in 1900 that involved Cedarville events or the daily lives of the 377 village residents.

This month I turn to the first weeks of 1917, that brief period before the United States was drawn into the European conflict we now call World War I.

Besides living the drama or lack of drama in Cedarville, the residents — now numbering fewer than 250 — were presumably concerned with what they read about the war in Europe and how it might affect them. But there were other less momentous events in the news that might have caught their attention, at least for a short time. I chose five deaths

On January 10 the Freeport Journal Standard front page headline reported the "FAMOUS 'BUFFALO BILL' IS NO MORE" The legendary Col. William Frederick Cody, hunter, scout and the idol of juvenile America, died at the age of 71 at noon on that day.

I wonder if any Cedarville men as boys saw Buffalo as a wild west show entertainer during one of his Chicago appearances? Possibly none except in a dream.

A non-remembered nineteenth century historical figure also died in January.

On January 26 the Journal Standard wrote: "Small Woman, remarried widow of Sitting Bull, is dead at the Fort Berthold Indian reservation from burns received when fire destroyed her shack at Lucky Mound.

She "escaped from her burning dwelling uninjured but returned to rescue an old shawl, which she prized highly, and her clothing caught fire." She was 80.

I wonder if she ever met Buffalo Bill?

Another passing in January 1917:

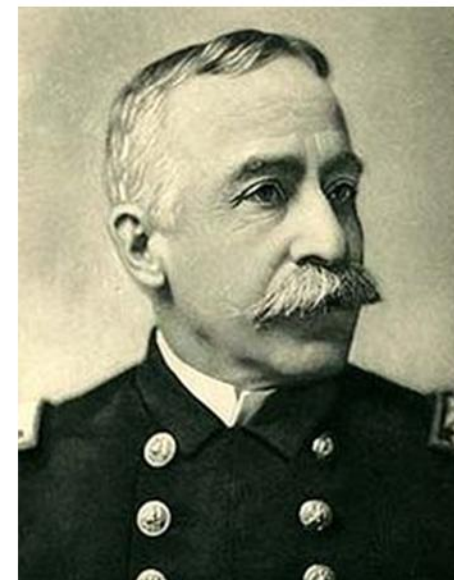
The Journal Standard on January 19 printed a large photo of U.S. Admiral George Dewey with the information that it was the latest portrait of the admiral who was found dead at his Washington D.C. home.

Dewey was hailed as a hero in 1900 when his fleet defeated the Spanish navy at Manila Bay in the Philippines, thus effectively ending the Spanish-American war in favor of the U.S.

There was confusion in Cedarville on January 23 when the Journal Standard reported that Henry Hartman, an old (*Civil War*) soldier, formerly of Cedar-



Col. William F. Cody



Adm. George Dewey

ville had died in St. Cloud, Fl., and his body was being sent to the village. No one could remember a Henry Hartman. The confusion was cleared up by the newspaper a day later when Henry Hartman became Henry Hockman, 76, last survivor of a well-known village family.

Hockman was a member of the 93rd Illinois Infantry Regiment and was wounded at Alatoona Pass, Ga., during the war. The body arrived and was ceremoniously buried in Cedarville Cemetery.

The fifth death was not in Cedarville, but in its neighbor Lena.

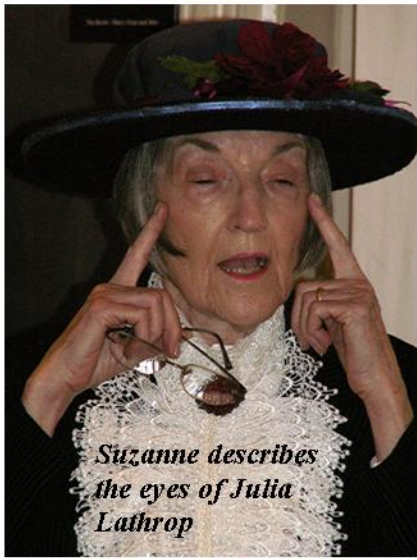
Ten days before Hockman's death the Freeport Journal Standard carried a Lena Star story headlined: "THE LENA G.A.R. POST DISBANDS, DECEMBER 28."

"The last meeting of the Wm. R. Goddard G. A. R. Post No. 258 was that which was held on the evening of Dec. 28. Only a few of the remaining 18 members of the post were able to be in attendance and it was deemed advisable to disband and surrender the charter."

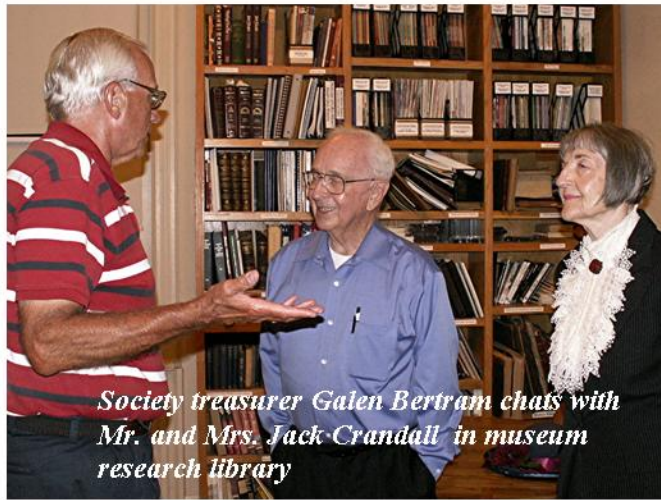
The post was organized in 1883 and at one time had 85 Civil War veterans.

These five deaths have one thing in common: They represent the fading of three episodes in U.S. history: The wild west of the late nineteenth century and the trauma of two American wars.

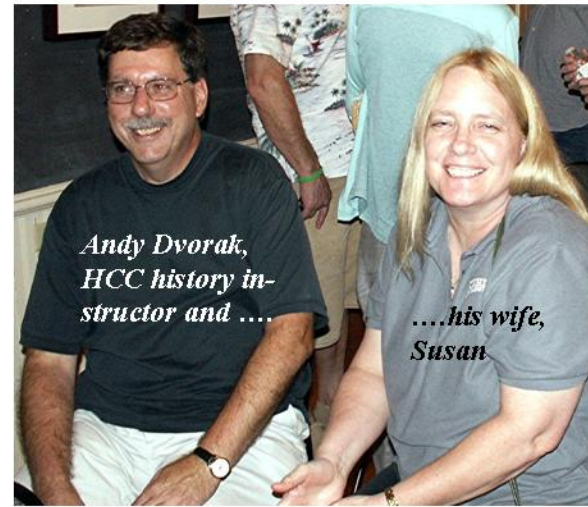
(Turn to page 6)



Suzanne describes the eyes of Julia Lathrop



Society treasurer Galen Bertram chats with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Crandall in museum research library



Andy Dvorak, HCC history instructor and

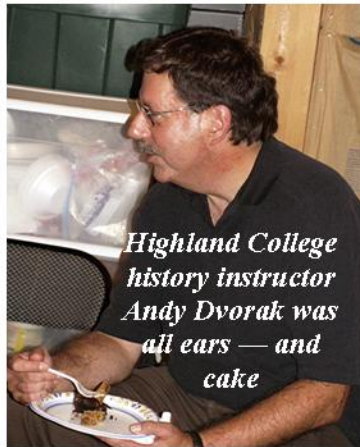
....his wife, Susan



Family affair: Diana and Dan Nye and their nieces Kristine Najera and Kathleen Altensey,



3 of our best farmers: Tom and Del Schneider and Dave Macomber



Highland College history instructor Andy Dvorak was all ears — and cake

September 1

Julia Lathrop And Hull House

The historical society concluded its four part program series about the three local area women who founded Chicago's Hull House with Susanne Crandall's presentations on Rockford's Julia Lathrop and Cedarville's Jane Addams. Previously, Mrs. Crandall told the life story of Durand's Ellen Gates Starr and Highland Community College history instructor Andy Dvorak set the stage for the work of these women with a review of other events during their lives.

September 15

Jane Addams And Hull House



Duane Smith and Narcissa Engle



Duane and Ruth Smith just celebrated 60th anniversary



Society VP Narcissa Engle, left, and Carole Bertram



Jean Winkler, right, first in Carol Meyer's after-the-program food line



Suzanne as Jane

The Calm Before (from page 3)

By design, every new year has a New Year's Day that is celebrated worldwide, either that day or the night before.

The January 2 edition of the Freeport Journal Standard published an account of a night before "banquet" in Cedarville. I don't know whether this gathering was typical for the village at that time. You judge the following story.

"The members of the Good Fellowship club tendered a banquet to their husbands and families New Year's night at the home of J. L. Ulrich.

"The guests came pouring in until 50 had gathered. At 8 o'clock they were called to the dining room where a four course dinner was served consisting of oysters, pickles, celery, bread, butter, cold beef, coffee, fruit salad, cake, apples and after dinner mints.

"The evening was then spent in various ways, among them the peanut race in which Mrs. H. Sheets carried off the honors.

"At a late hour, the guests departed to their homes feeling well repaid and declaring that such gatherings are needed in every community. Prof. Blough made a short address in behalf of the gentlemen thanking the good ladies for the splendid time."

The correspondents who compiled the items for the neighborhood columns were often paid by the column inch of type, therefore sometimes very small items made the paper. Because of the name, I was caught by this January 10 paragraph.

"Raoul Taft, our mail carrier, is again attending to his duties after undergoing an operation at the Globe hospital in Freeport."

Besides being a post office employee, Raoul, a big man, played the drums in the Cedarville band. He was also the brother of Henry Taft, a village fixture until his death in 1966 and still remembered by older current residents.



Raoul



Henry

The "filler" article that really amazed me was the last item in the same column. As a former newspaper editor, I don't know how the 1917 editor allowed it to be published and presumably paid for.

I quote: "We are not authorized to announce services for next Sunday (at the Methodist Church) but take it there will be the regular church service."



1851 Lutheran and German Reformed Church became the Community Center in 1917

Not all the Cedarville news in the early weeks of 1917 was of illness, deaths, weddings, parties and the like. On January 24 the Freeport Journal Standard wrote that the Cedarville Community Association was incorporated by the state of Illinois.

This announcement marked the culmination of months of work by a citizen's committee to acquire the former Lutheran and German Reformed Church building on Harrison Street to be used as a community center.

The officers of the association were some of the leading citizens of Cedarville.

Until the 1960s, the building was used for village athletic and social events. Finally, financial problems led to the village acquiring the property. The village in turn sold the building to the Evangelical Church and it was demolished to become part of the church's parking lot.

As the first few weeks of the new year ticked off, the United States moved closer to two new episodes in its history.

- The first signs of the deadly "Spanish Flu" began to appear;
- On April 6 the U.S. declared war on Germany

The "Spanish Flu" pandemic claimed an estimated 500,000 to 675,000 American lives.

By the end of World War I, U.S. military war deaths totaled 116,500

At this time I do not know the number of Cedarville residents who were affected.

In the same January 24 edition of the Freeport Journal Standard that announced the death of Henry Hockman, there appeared a brief Card of Thanks.

"Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bowers and son Roy wish to thank all the friends and neighbors for kindness and assistance during the sickness and death of their only daughter and sister Blanche, also for the many beautiful floral offerings."

Blanche was 19. Through the courtesy of the Bowers family of rural Dakota, the Cedarville Museum has created an exhibit of the beautiful dresses of the girl.



Prof. Judy Whipps

Historical Society To Move Artifacts To Old Village Hall

With a \$9,000 restoration completed of the former Cedarville village hall on Cherry street, the society will start moving its historical artifacts from the museum's second floor storage area to the Cherry street building.

Later, a new inventory of the collection will be made and different previous recording programs will be integrated.

Research and exhibits depend on a well maintained artifact collection.

The general research library on the museum second floor will remain open to the public.

Jane Addams Author To Speak at HCC

Judy Whipps, author of four edited volumes on the writings of Cedarville's Jane Addams, will speak November 5 at Highland Community College.

Her title will be "Why Politicians Today Should Listen to Her."

The program in Room H201 will start at 7 p.m.

Whipps is a professor of liberal studies at Grand Valley State University

**Cedarville Area Historical Society
P. O. Box 336, Cedarville, Il. 61013**

Phone: 815-563-4202

Web site:

www.cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org

E-mail

info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org

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).