

# **ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE**

**SEPTEMBER 2014**

*Cedarville Area Historical Society*



## *Old Village Hall Repairs Start Sept. 13*

Volunteers will turn up at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, September 13, to begin restoration of the former Cedarville village hall and jail on the north side of Cherry Street just west of Mill.

The late nineteenth century 400 square feet limestone main structure and its 1976 frame addition was purchased for one dollar several years ago from the village by the Cedarville Area Historical Society.

Much of Saturday's work is expected to include power washing of the exterior to prepare it for repainting and general cleaning of the interior.

In October the original building, the addition and a lean-to that once housed the first village fire fighting equipment will get a new metal roof. At its July meeting the board awarded a \$5,500 contract to Bader Construction Co., Freeport, to do the work. The money will come from a \$10,000 bequest by the late Cathryn Hartman Lydon who died in 2011.

Besides the roof and repainting, several other minor exterior repairs will be made and the small non-public interior bathroom will be updated.

When all of the work is completed, the  
*(Turn to page 5)*

## **Carl Cole Interprets Popular American Songs on Museum's Upright Piano September 9**

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# And Life Grinds on in Cedarville, Illinois

By Jim Bade

As a former newspaper editor, I am fascinated by the wonderful and often colorful bits of local history you discover by reading the “neighborhood” columns of late nineteenth century small town newspapers. These columns faithfully and simply report the inevitable minutia associated with the daily activities of ordinary people in a way that a cold recitation of facts can not do.

Take these excerpts from several Cedarville columns that appeared in Freeport newspapers from 1876 to 1887:

*“On Friday evening, Feb.. 4th, 1876, the Public School at Cedarville, responded to the call for contributions towards the Centennial educational fund of this state, by giving an entertainment in the Hall, consisting of declamations, readings and dialogues, accompanied by the band and orchestra, with their usual excellent music. The net proceeds amounted to eight dollars, which makes the contribution average ten cents per scholar.”*

Bits of history: The “Centennial” was the U.S 100th birthday. The band was possibly the 11 member Independent Band of Cedarville organized in 1873 by George W. Barber. Simple math shows the Cedarville School had 80 students. This was the 1855 to 1888 school located on the same site as the 1889 school now turned museum.



1855 to 1888 Cedarville School

I was astounded by an October 15, 1882, story that went into flowery detail to report the wedding of a rural Cedarville girl Miss Celinda Springman to Allen Kleepinger. The happy and well-attended event took place on the Springman farm at the southwest corner of Cockrell and Cedarville roads.

After an upbeat report of the ceremony and a complete listing of the several dozen housekeeping gifts and the names of the givers, the writer concluded his tale with this cruelty:

*“In the evening, the young folks met for a pleasant time when about nine o’clock the house upstairs was discovered to be on fire. The fire was found to be in a large clothes press in which were stored all the wearing apparel of the family not in use, all of which was burned. The house was somewhat damaged by cutting a hole in the roof. In the excitement, the table standing at the head of the stairs with the presents on it was upset and a number broken.”*

Reportedly there was a happy ending of sorts:

*“The groom takes his loss in a philosophical manner arguing that the capture of the bride was far above the loss.”*

I would have fired that reporter for what is known as burying the lead of the story. Oh, well.

On March 25, 1883, there was a sad Cedarville paragraph in a Freeport newspaper.

*“James D. Campbell, the eccentric old rag picker, who has been engaged in the business a good many years, died at his home at Cedarville on Tuesday with pneumonia. He was 70 years of age and leaves to mourn his loss five children. It was generally supposed that he was wealthy, but the town of Buckeye is called upon to bear the burial costs.”*

I have checked the Cedarville Cemetery records and there is no record of a James D. Campbell being buried there, but perhaps there is an unmarked grave and the township did pay the expense. The cost of a minimum burial in 1883 was a couple of dollars, a sizeable amount at that time. Times do change. Such an event today would have guaranteed a well-publicized fund raiser to aid the family. (Were these five children adults?)

My wife and I live on Mill Street in an 1850’s frame house purchased in 1874 by her great great grandmother. (See photo below) For years we thought the house always looked as it did in the picture. No so according to a May 4, 1886, story:

*“Mrs. Mariah Clingman is building a bay window on the east side of her house, which will be a marked improvement to the premises.”*



Post 1886 Photo of Bade house with bay window on the right

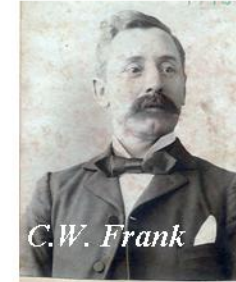
The widow Mariah, who was 106 when she died in 1916, probably added the bay window so she could sit in front of it and watch the neighbors go by. A bit of history I would not have known except for the pen of an unknown reporter. So be it.

In that same May 4 column was some politicking.

*“Everybody busy but candidates for office and they are not very plenty either. We have our own in the person of C. W. Frank who is a candidate for Superintendent; this is not the place to eulogize, but we will guarantee him to be a solid Muldoon.”*

C. W. was probably Charles William Frank (1855— 1937), a former teacher who was a candidate for county superintendent of schools. I don’t

know the outcome of the race, and I certainly don’t know whether being a “solid Muldoon” is good or bad. I suspect it is good.



There was the usual social chit-chat in that same column. Luther Hixon and Alice Law were joined in holy bonds of matrimony. Dr. Smith Thompson returned in good shape from his visit to Dakota. (I assume the state and not the

village.) And the “Old Soldier” William Garman Sr. died, age 72. He was a member of Co. D, 46th Ill. Inf. Regt. (50 per cent Cedarville area men) during the Civil War. The next year his widow, Catherine, moved west to live with their daughter and their son Henry, also a Civil War veteran, bought the old homestead. Several months later he apparently sold it to John Jackson. Life moves on.

On October 28, 1887, a column labeled “Cedar Creek Pebbles” reported that everything was quiet on the creek and there was very little stir anywhere. Perhaps to stir things up there was a rumor afloat that a stub of the I.C. railroad (then slated for Cedarville Junction, now called Red Oak) might be built into Cedarville in the future. Hah!! (But the Cedarville Junction depot was almost finished.)

It was suggested that fixing the sidewalks would raise church attendance. A. J. Hall moved out of Oscar Fink’s house into Jane Carl’s house. John Pepperman bought Dr. Smith Thompson’s house. Yes, the minutia of every day life goes on and on.

Dr. Smith Thompson’s house at 200 Mill Street





## Get Your Seats for Carl Cole's Three Concerts of American Popular Songs on Museum's Upright Piano

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 "Ragtime to Riches"

The program will focus on early American music including spirituals, marches, cakewalks, Dixieland, ragtime and swing by composers such as Wallace Willis, John Phillip Sousa, Scott Joplin, "Howard & Emerson", "Fats" Waller and George Gershwin. Songs will include "Walk With Me, Lord", "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot", "Closer Walk With Thee", "Saints Go Marching in", "Hello, My Baby", "Maple Leaf Rag", "Blue Skies", "Ain't Misbehavin'", "Sin To Tell A Lie", "Summertime" and "I've Got Rhythm".

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 "As Time Goes By"

The program will focus on songs that carried us through the "ages" of American music with compositions about time, seasons and places from Broadway show tunes and movie songs written by Herman Hupfeld, Harold Arlen, Jerry Herman, Sammy Fain and Jerome Kern. There will be selections from *Casablanca*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Hello Dolly*, *Mame*, *Stormy Weather*, *I'll Be Seeing You* and *Roberta*. Songs will include "As Time Goes By", "Somewhere Over The Rainbow", "Stormy Weather", "Hello Dolly" and "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes".

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14 "The Cole Facts"

The final program will share more show tunes as well as specific music from Cole Porter and Nat King Cole, thus the "Cole Facts". Songs will include "Night and Day", "Let's Do It", "I've Got You Under My Skin", "You Do Something To Me", "I Get A Kick Out Of You", "Let's Fly Away", "Straighten Up And Fly right", "Unforgettable", "Sweet Lorraine", "When I Fall In Love", "Smile", "Paper Moon", "The Very Thought Of You" and "L.O.V.E.".

**\$22 TICKET COVERS ALL 3 PROGRAMS/NO SINGLE PROGRAM TICKETS**

**ONLY 12 TICKETS AVAILABLE**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF TICKETS \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

Send check to Cedarville Area Historical Society, P. O. Box 336, Cedarville, IL 61013. For more information call Jim Bade 815-563-4485 or 815-275-0876.

## Robert Bear, 86, Dies in Michigan

Robert "Bob" Bear, 86, a member of the Cedarville Area Historical Society, died July 2 in Portage, Mich. He had been a resident of Portage since 1963.

Robert was born in 1928 in Stephenson County the son of Edward and Bessie (Little) Bear.

He was a graduate of Forreston Community High School and the University of Illinois at Champaign—Urbana. He served four years in the U.S. navy during the Korean War period.

### Building Restoration

*(From page one)*

main building and the addition will be used to house many of the historical society's artifacts, photos and documents that are currently stored in the second floor south room of the Cedarville Museum, freeing much of that room for other uses. These stored materials are studied to reconstruct the history of the Cedarville area and to create museum exhibits.

The original building was intended to be a village meeting place, but it also contained two jail cells. An 1890 document indicates the village paid John Oswalt \$148 for his part in the construction. Perhaps he was the general contractor.

The 1976 addition was built as part of the United States bicentennial celebration.

In 1958 he married the former Joyce Frances Smith, who survives him.

Also surviving are one son, two granddaughters, a brother Delbert, and a sister Shirley Amedeo living in Mississippi, also a member of the Cedarville Area Historical Society. He was preceded in death by his parents, four sisters and a brother.

Burial was in Fort Custer National Cemetery.

**Cedarville Area Historical Society**  
P. O. Box 336, Cedarville, IL 61013  
Phone: 815-563-4202

**Web site:**  
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**E-mail**  
[info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org)

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*Don Franz, 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).*

# Join the Jane Addams Birthday Run and Walk on September 20

The 11th annual Jane Addams 154th Birthday celebration 5K Run or Walk will be Saturday, September 20, on the Jane Addams Trail west of Cedarville. Sponsored by the Cedarville Area Historical Society, the event will start at the Wes Block Trail Head south of U.S. Rt. 20 Bypass and end at Cedarville Road. There is parking at the starting and ending points. The event will take place regardless of weather. **Runners will compete for awards in the separate male and female age groups of 12 and under, 13—19, 20—29, 30—39, 40—49, 50—59, 60 and up.**

## Race Day

Late registration at the starting line is 8:30 a.m. Runners start at 9:30 a.m.; walkers a few minutes later. There will be water on the trail, fruit at the end and food at the museum.

## Awards

Awards will be presented at 11 a.m. at the Cedarville Museum. (See map) Trophies will go to the first overall male and female winners of the run. Medals will go to the top three male and female finishers in the seven age groups. All walk or run participants get a special Jane Addams t-shirt.

## Registration/Fees

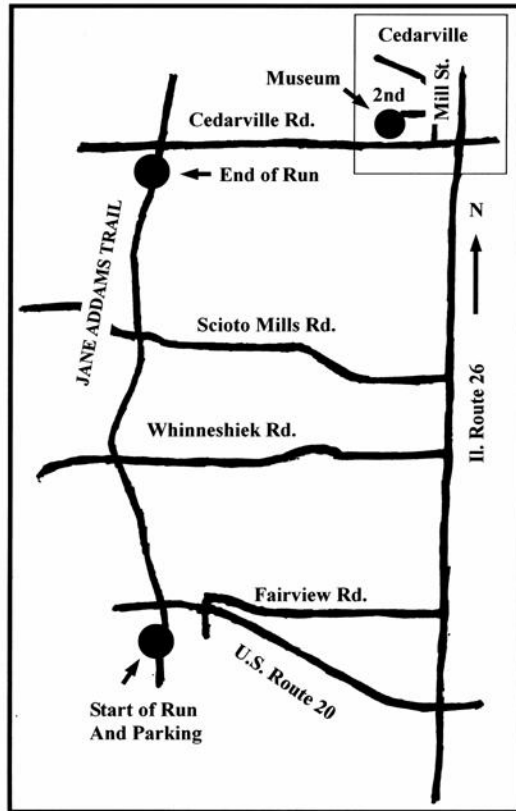
The fee is \$15 for those who register by September 15. Those registering on September 20 will pay \$18. The fee offsets the society's cost of the t-shirts, trophies and medals. **The registration form is on the next page of this newsletter.**

**The registration form and a check or money order made out to the Cedarville Area Historical Society should be mailed to the Cedarville Area Historical Society, Box 336, Cedarville, IL. 61013.**

## Food

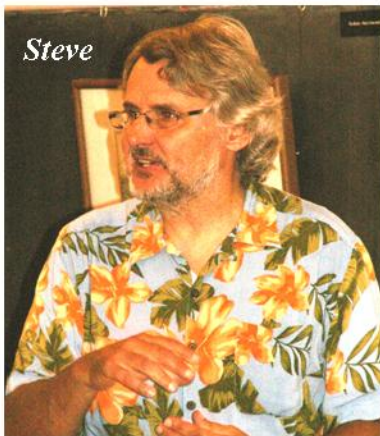
There will be a \$3 picnic lunch served at the museum at the time of the awards ceremony.

For more information contact Jim Bade at 815-563-4485 or [bonniebade@comcast.net](mailto:bonniebade@comcast.net)



### 5K RUN / WALK REGISTRATION

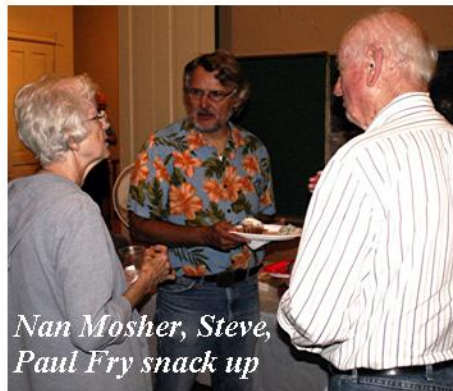
NAME \_\_\_\_\_ RACE DAY AGE \_\_\_\_\_ WALKER? \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 CIRCLE ONE CIRCLE ADULT T-SHIRT SIZE HOME  
 MALE FEMALE SML MED LRG X-LRG XX-LRG LRG PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 WAIVER: I hereby waive and release any and all claims of damages or injuries I may incur as a result of my participation in this contest. This waiver covers the Cedarville Area Historical Society, Jane Addams Trail Commission and other sponsors of the event.  
 SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ (PARENT IF UNDER 18)



*Steve*

## *Simpson Captivates Museum Audience*

Steve Simpson, earth science instructor at Highland College, held his Cedarville Museum audience spellbound as he described the changes in landscape and life in Stephenson County from the prehistoric so-called "big bang" beginning until today during his hour-long August 19 program plus refreshments.

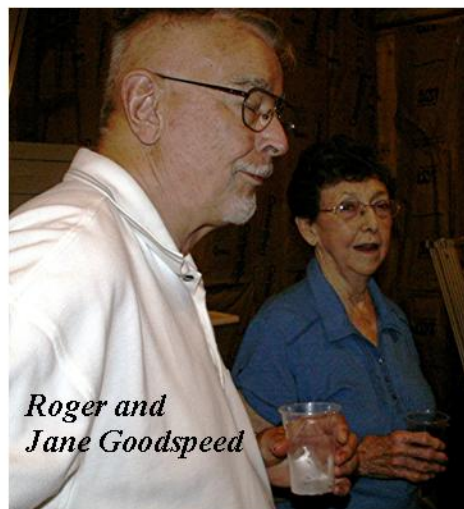


*Nan Mosher, Steve,  
Paul Fry snack up*

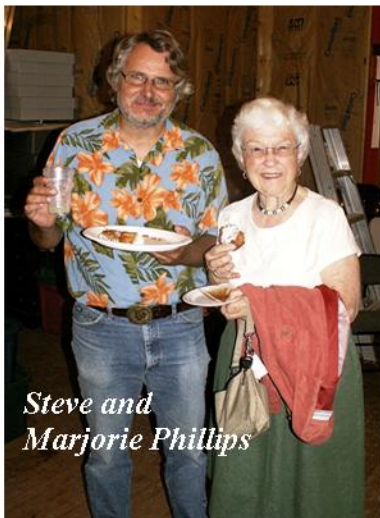


*Delbert  
Scheider*

*George  
Suess*



*Roger and  
Jane Goodspeed*



*Steve and  
Marjorie Phillips*



*Lining  
For  
Dining*



*Surprise!!  
Society VP  
Narcissa Engle*