

# **ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE SEPTEMBER 2017**

*Cedarville Area Historical Society*



## *Final 2017 Live Music September 19*

Lovers of traditional country and western swing music have only a short time to buy their tickets for the September 19 Cedarville Museum's live music session featuring the Swingbilly RFD quintet.

The Rockford-based group specializes in that genre of music as it was performed in its golden age of the 1940s and '50s, according to leader Jon Rozman.

The instrumentation is the same as it was during that period: vocals, upright bass, acoustic guitar, steel guitar, fiddle and drums. The repertoire includes material by such greats as Hank Williams, Ernest Tubb, Lefty Frizzell and Bob Wills.

Tickets are \$12 for the 7:30 p.m. performance and they may be purchased at the door or by calling 815-563-4485.



*Swingbilly RFD*

## Some Old School (buildings) Never Die

*In 1850 the tiny settlement of Buena Vista northwest of Cedarville organized a school district that resulted in the construction of a school at the "T" intersection of McConnell and Red Oak roads. One hundred and three years later, the district was dissolved and the students were bused to Orangeville. The school is gone, but the building remains, now a residence. In 1979, Flossie Zweifel Bear, a former "Buena" student wrote the following article. Flossie, who died in 1996, age 97, was the mother of Peggy Schoonhoven who now lives in Freeport.*

March 30, 1850, one fourth mile east of the village of Buena Vista in township 27, Range 7, a school district was organized. Tom Wohlford, who owned much of the farm land in that area, gave the land for the school. A substantial stone building was erected. A small building was set up in which wood and coal were stored. Outdoor toilets were constructed: — one for the girls and another for the boys. A well was dug for water.

The schoolroom was heated by a pot belly stove. Two separate closets were built for the girls and boys wraps. On a bench stood the usual water pail and dipper. The teacher's desk and chair were in the front of the room. In the 1900s a world map was put on the wall above the blackboard.

The school trustees for the township

were Henry Ault, A. W. Lucas, J. H. Adams and John Montelius, treasurer. They held most of their meetings in the Buena Vista store.

Between 1905 and 1911, Buena Vista School had five teachers. Two from Orangeville, Mr. Garns and Mr. Jacob Klontz, walked down the railroad track every day, weather permitting. Miss Alma Kruse came from Freeport on the train to Buena Vista and then walked from the depot to the school. She had to build the fire in the old pot belly stove, since teachers were required to do the janitor work. When the weather was bad, she spent the night in the Adam Zweifel home. In the morning, Mr. Zweifel took her to the school in the bob sled. Miss Mabel Stoll, another teacher, lived between Red Oak and Buena Vista and walked to school. Mr. Ed Snyder taught our school one year. In the spring on Friday afternoons he took us to the woods to pick wild flowers. We had to cross a creek on a couple of boards. That creek looked like a river to the younger children.

One very strict man kept a big switch above the world map to be used if needed. When he snapped his fingers and pointed to the map, we knew that he meant business! School was really taught "to the tune of a hickory stick." Our parents said if we got a spanking at school, we would get another at home.

Subjects we had were: reading, writing, arithmetic, language, spelling, geography, history and physiology. All of these subjects and grades were taught by one teacher. We were in school from nine o'clock until four o'clock. There was a fifteen minute recess in the forenoon, a one hour lunch period and a fifteen minute recess in the afternoon. Most of the children, as well as the teacher, brought their lunches.

We always played pump-pump-pull away, drop the handkerchief and many other games we made up. Some of the children liked to stay after four o'clock to clean the blackboards and the erasers so they would be ready for use the next morning.

The eighth grade examinations were taken in Freeport. Graduation exercises were also held there. The county superintendent that many former pupils will remember was Cyrus Stover Grove. To my best recollection, there was no school nurse.

In order to raise money to buy extra



*Buena Vista School 2009*

items for the school, we sometimes had a basket social. The women and girls decorated baskets and put lunches for two people in them. When auctioned off, the men and boys would bid on them. The highest bidder got the basket of his choice and could eat with his favorite girl — he hoped. Sometimes the boys found



*Flossie and her husband Glen Bear in front of their grocery store on Cherry Street in Cedarville. Her husband died in 1965.*

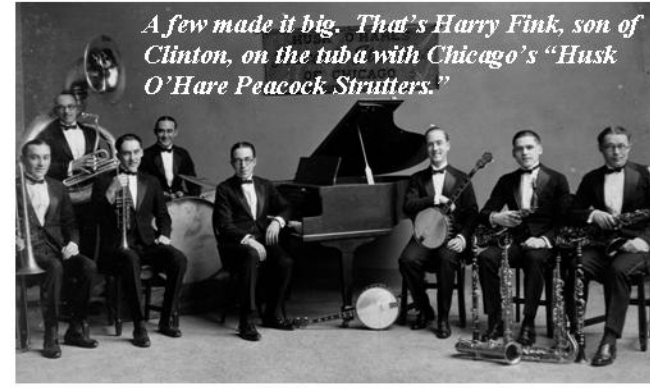
out which basket a certain girl brought and would bid only on that one. Now and then there would be an ice cream social to make money. Oh, yes, we had a school play which we took to the Red Oak School one night. That was a big event! At the end of the school year, there was a family picnic in Wohlford's timber west of Buena Vista with ice cream, etc. What a treat in those days!

In 1959 a former student bought the school house and it became a residence.





*Left: 1957 Cedarville School football team: Bottom row: Dave Warneke, Calvin Fynn, Aril Confer, Denny Nampel, Ken Mordick, Tom Rupnow; Middle row: Edward LaBorde, John Warneke, Bruce Holtan, George Ennega, Donald Mordick, Brent Mizell, Dan Lausch; Top row: Tom Flynn, Hooker Holtan, Dick Tehark, Mike Plapp, Coach Don Morris, Jim Fritzel, Wayne Zimmerman, Martin Brubaker. Right: Mary Reed and basketball clock from the Community Center.*



*Yes, this is the 1914—15 Cedarville High School basketball team*



*Cedarville School 1951 basketball team, cheerleaders and mascot: Back row, l to r: Dave Kaiser, Bob Borger, Richard Louthain, coach, Richard Grant, Harry Cummins, Bob Grinnell. Middle row: Floyd Barkau, Bob Hooper, Joe Pinnow, Wendell Cox, Jack Lausch; Front row: Carol Hermann, Lorraine Cummins, Lorna Zipse, Ruth Gift.*



*Lloyd Confer, back row left, is identified*



*Are these the "Cedarville Stars"?*



*Left: A mystery. Nine men labeled on the bottom as the Modern Woodmen Cedarville team. That's the right number for a baseball team, but eight carry axes, not bats, and none are dressed for the sport. And doesn't the man without the axe look like Raoul Taft, bass drum for the Cedar Cliff band?*



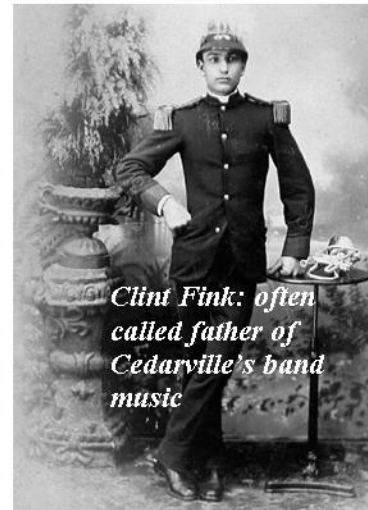
*Above: Freeport's John Hartman Trio at the Cedarville Museum in June of 2017*



*Runners sprint toward the finish line during the historical society's sponsored 2015 5K run on the Jane Addams Trail.*



*Raoul Taft: bass drum*



*Clint Fink: often called father of Cedarville's band music*



*Cedar Cliff Band organized in 1873. Photo taken about 1910. Standing left to right: Harry Fink, Ed Fink, Josh Fink, Ed Bear, Stanley Smith, Ethol Thompson, Floyd Bear, Clem Parriott, Charlie Kryder, Fred Thompson. Sitting left to right: Edgar Pepperman, Donald Fink, Frank Winchell, Clinton Fink, Burleigh Kahly, Willard Fink, Raoul Taft*



# A Different American Civil War Story

By Jim Bade  
President CAHS

*(An American Civil War enthusiast in the historical society asked me to include an article about that conflict in this issue of the newsletter. I agreed, but I wanted an article that wasn't centered on battlefield exploits.*

*The following is just that. It's the September 25, 1861, diary entry of Cedarville's Thomas Clingman, 20, a private in Company A, 46th Illinois Volunteer Infantry regiment stationed in Camp Butler, Il., several miles east of the state capitol. The regiment was still in basic training. Thomas exhibits extraordinary powers of observation. His entry about military "downtime" is in boldface type; my comments are in italics.)*

Having obtained passes, I with nine others from our company visited Springfield. Very good houses were seen along the road from the camp to the city. The land, I should judge, was poor being very clayey. On the road we passed some large orchards bearing beautiful fruit of excellent quality. Reaching Springfield about 9:30, we immediately commenced our explorations.

The Capitol Building, in the central part of the city, occupies a square. It is surrounded by an iron fence. Grav-

eled walks surround the building; one near and running parallel with it; the other passing around the building in the form of a circle. The yard is adorned with trees, flowers and shrubs in a beautiful manner.

The building fronts both to the south and the north, there being four immense pillars on each side about five feet in diameter. They are composed of large stones one upon another each being between three and four feet in height. Entering the building from the south by a flight of stone steps, we found ourselves in a large hall in the center of which are the steps to the 2nd story. Beneath these steps there is a brass cannon about five feet in length and of three inches bore. It was mounted on a carriage, the wheels of which were about 18 in. in diameter, and on it were the following inscriptions.

**"Taken on the 18th of April, 1847, at Cerro Gordo by the Arms of the U.S. in which Battle the 3rd and 4th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers Bore an Honorable Part.**

**"Presented to the State of Illinois by the 3rd Regt. of Illinois Volunteers**

**El Ciclope"**

*(The cannon was a trophy of the Mexi-*

*can -American War of 1846. Cerro Gordo is a mountain pass in southern Mexico site, of an American victory over Mexican troops in 1847. "El Ciclope" means "The Cyclop", a one-eyed giant who forged thunderbolts for the Greek god Zeus. Today, a cannon rests under the stairway on the first floor of the Old State Capitol, the building Thomas visited. This cannon has no wheels on the carriage and is not the one Thomas saw. The fate of the 1847 cannon is unknown, according to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency in Springfield.)*

Ascending several stairs, we reached the cupola where we had a fine view of the city and surrounding country. After viewing the city from the top of the Capitol to our satisfaction, Quincy and I procured a pass and visited the Arsenal and Catrige Factory. We first entered the Arsenal, a fine building

surrounded by a high tight board fence. Inside of the fence there were two buildings. In one of them men were repairing arms, moulding musket and rifle balls, making canister and strapping cannon balls on the blocks prepared for them. In the other or main building there were rows of the Minie and Endfield rifles with other arms in different parts of the room and one large brass cannon made in Springfield, Mass. Passing into the Catrige Factory, some distance from the Arsenal and likewise surrounded by a high fence, we found 100 men, girls and boys engaged in preparing catriges for the soldiers use. The dexterity with which they turned them out was surprising but suppose that this is accounted for by the proverb: "practice makes perfect." The manner of making them is as follows:

*(Turn to page 8)*



*Thomas Clingman's home on Illinois Route 26 north of Cedarville today. It was built about 1843.*

A ball is placed on a strip of paper of sufficient size, near the edge, and rolled up in it; a string is then tied around the end of the paper nearest the ball and it is then placed in a box, which, when full, is sent below where the charge of powder is poured in the open end upon the ball; the box is then sent above again where the open end of the cartridge is doubled up when it is ready for use. In making the cartridge for the cannon the ball is fastened to a block of wood with two strips of tin to which the flannel bag containing the powder is tied. 1 1/4 pounds of powder is used in the six pound ball. The six pound canister has 21 balls in it; the 12 pd. 48 balls. One of the superintendents said that 68,000 cartridges were made the preceding day.

*(Thomas means "cartridge" when he writes "cartrige". A minie ball rifle was a rifled piece and when the bullet expanded it took the rifling and was very accurate. "Endfield", correctly spelled "Enfiled", was a weapon of British design. During the Civil War, it was muzzle loading, rather than bolt action. It had a bore of .577 in. It was very accurate at 800 yards. It was fairly accurate at 1100 yards. Both the North and South used it. The "Cartridge Factory" was probably either John Lamb's foundry or Francis Enoch Payne's cartridge factory both in Springfield. Most often the employees were young boys and girls.)*

We then went to see President Lincoln's residence. It is a plain house of

a light brown color with green window blinds. After which we returned to camp in a drizzling rain. Bought revolver today; also had a letter from Jason. On our return we met several companies of cavalry on their way from camp to parts unknown to myself.

*(Jason, the older brother of Thomas, was also in the Union army. Four months after this diary entry, the 46th regiment left Camp Butler and in early April of 1862 arrived in Tennessee where they were engaged in the bloody battle of Shiloh. Thomas Clingman was mortally wounded, discharged from the army and died at his home north of Cedarville.)*

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