

# **ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE**

**April - May 2023**

***Cedarville Area Historical Society***



## **Museum Updates**

We have finalized the 2023 program presentation schedule. Included in this years programs will be music, theater, and local and historic presentations. Tickets may be purchased at the door and are \$5.00/ Members and \$7.00/ Non-Members. Children under 12 are free.

**May 9th @ 7:30-** Don Franz, Slavery and Its Role in the Civil War

**June 20th @ 7:30 -** Ukulele Express 815 (Benefitting RAMP of Stephenson County)

**July 11th @ 7:30 -** Women of Courage and Commitment—Early 19th Century Settlers

**August 8th @ 7:30 -** Bill Pick, Cedarville Cemetery Sexton

**September 12th @ 7:30 –**Andy Dvorak– Marcet Haldeman-Julius, Niece of Jane Addams

**October Date To Be Determined @ 7:30 –**John Reed presents Sporting History of Cedarville

**Friday Night Movies** (public domain) Dates to Be Determined Movies will start at dusk and there will be a short intermission

### **Memorial Day, Monday May 29th**

- Parade-10:00 Step Off at 280 N Mill Street
- Ceremony - 10:30 at the Cemetery
- Lunch – Museum (following the ceremony)—Adults \$6.00 and kids \$2.00 (12 and under). Please note that all veterans receive a complimentary meal.

Summer Hours-The Museum will be open every Saturday from May 27th to September 2nd . Our hours will be from 1:00-4:00. Of course if you have a special request to visit the museum call us at 815-990-0417

Note: President Emeritus Jim Bade will celebrate his 91st birthday on May 2nd. If you are interested in sending him a birthday card, his address is: Jim Bade # 105, C/O Oakley Courts Assisted Living, 3117 W Kunkle Blvd, Freeport, IL 61032

Our February Newsletter featured a photo of the Cedar Cliff Band from 1910 and resulted in a response from Richard Noble who wrote us to say that the photo had three of his relatives in it. His great great grandfather was Charles Fink (1832-1906) who was married to Sophia Aflerbaugh (1840-1925). They had eight children, three of whom we know were musicians in the band: Clinton (1862-1946), Joshua (1866-1941), and Edward (1872-1955). Clinton's son, Harry (1892-1939), was also in the band and photo. He is curious if Clinton is in that 1910 photo too.

Their eldest, Oscar (1860-1946), was my great grandfather. When Jim Bade did a story a few years ago about Clinton Fink being the band leader of the Cedar Cliff Band, I reached out to my cousin Marilyn Allen (actually, first cousin once removed) who remembered Oscar and I asked if he was a musician like his younger brothers. I was curious about the musical gene in our family because my grandpa Mike (Phillip Myron) Fink played accordion and loved to sing. My mom, Dolores (Fink) Noble played piano and my brother and I are both musicians. In fact, Mike made a career out of it.

Here is what Marilyn wrote: The Musical Exploits of the Oscar Fink Family

My knowledge of the musical talents of the members of the Nellie and Oscar Fink are shared with you to the best of my ability to recall at this age when I no longer trust that loss of brain cells is also a part of the aging process. I believe that I have told you in the past that my mother often said that her father's (Oscar's) happiest moments were in the evenings when the family all gathered in the living room around the piano and they sang songs.

I believe that all the girls learned to play the piano, but never heard that any of the boys played the piano or any other instrument. When there were family reunions, birthday celebrations, etc., my mother usually played for such occasions and everyone would join in the singing. I know that Aunt Rae (Fink) Wagner played for many years at churches (in Cedarville) on both the piano and the Hammond organ. Now Aunt Floss, Aunt Jeanette and Aunt Lois also played piano, but they rarely played on any of those occasions or at any public functions.

I know this will sound very biased on my part, but my mother was the most accomplished on the piano of all the sisters. She was fortunate enough to have instructions the others did not. When she was a teenager, she would be sent to Rockford to work for Grandma Nellie's relatives. It seems that Grandma's relatives were rather well off and could afford household help. My mother would do household chores and also act as a nanny to the youngsters. They also gave her the opportunity to take piano lessons at a small school for musicians. That was where she learned to play the classics and have a love for classical music as well as other types of music. I was fortunate that my mother also saw to it that I received that type of instruction as well. She still hired a piano teacher for me when I was in high school. And Aunt Rae taught me how to play the Hammond whenever I was visiting with her, which was very often.

Now, some of the Fink girls had great singing voices and they preferred that to playing the piano. As far as I know, they were never paid for that talent, but sang for the pure joy of it. Mostly I remember that when Aunt Floss and Aunt Lois, were living in Rockford and both between marriages, they loved the night life, dancing & singing. In those days most bars or restaurant/bars had live entertainment, usually piano players. And our aunts would sing along with the piano player and were very popular and even sang requests to great applause.

Okay, I think that is about all of the history I can remember right now. Hope it is of some help to you. Marilyn

This is more than you probably care to know, but music has always been a big part of my immediate family and, as I have learned through CAHS, the Fink family for over 100 years. We may not always be so grateful for the things we inherit—the big ears, the receding hairline, or that sneeze that sounds like a 747 taking off. But occasionally your ancestors hand down a wonderful gift, like the talent to hit a high note or the ability to pick out a tune on the guitar. It's fun to look back and realize my great uncles loved music as much as I.



*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*

## 1944 Tornado—Follow-Up

In our last newsletter we had an article that talked about the tornado of June 22nd, 1944. As a result of that article we received a letter from Dale E. Kaiser, a CAHS member. Dale shared his memories of that day and we thought you would be interested in hearing from a person who was in the thick of the event. Below is Dale's Recollection of the June 22nd

**Dale E Kaiser:** The following narrative is the best of my memory plus many repetitions told to me over the years. I may not be totally accurate in every name or description but the tornado and the evening were naturally impressed in my mind.

“On the evening of June 22nd, 1944 my folks, Clyde and Kathryne Kaiser, plus my sister Doris, and myself Dale—12 years old, were driving from Freeport to home, Cedarville, after watching a move. Hearing of the tornado we headed on north, intending to visit Buena Vista to check on our relatives, Will Bear and Laura Bear. On Hwy 26 (?) we were stopped by fallen trees and electric wires across the road. The rain was heavy and we sat for a time watching the police and helpers trying to clear the road for needed travel.

Suddenly a man tapped on the front passenger window and as mother rolled the window down handed her a little baby, Chuckie Hutchison. He said that Anne Hutchison had been killed by being slammed against a tree and Chuckie had been found in the mud in a field. We took baby Chuckie home and kept him safe until he was checked at the hospital with his dad, Glen, who we heard had been hurt trying to open the door to the badement jus as the house was lifted by the tornado and blown away. Eventuallly we cared for Chuckie for several weeks. I believe as Glen recovered, as I remember it.

In the next few weeks my Dade, Clyde and I visited many areas hit by the tornado and were amazed at the power to leave a timer patch of hearty strong oak trees totally leveled to a height of 5 feet or less. We also saw the remaining silo at the Tielkemeir farm where Glen lived.

We eventually saw Chuckie grow up and spent many enjoyable moments with him, Glen and his future wife, Laurel. We saw them many times in Cedarville and at Merl and Marion Kaiser's cottage at Lake Wisconsin. I believe the Hutchisons (including I think, a beroher, Merle had an adjacent cottage there, too). Anyway I thought you might enjoy a few more views of the Chuckie Hutchison event. I have lost track of many old friends there and assume that many have passed away, since I am 91 years old and most persons mentioned above would be 10 or more years older, except Chuckie. So hope you enjoyed my brief narragive. It was not sent for publication but you can pass on anything you desire—since you know my history oriented Dad, Clyde would be the first to embellish your article.

**P.S.** My sister, Doris, who was mentioned above as being in the car that tornado night, lives in Fayetteville Arkansas. Her husband, Wally Cordes from Freeport, IL passed away about 12 years ago. Doris and I were the only children of Clyde and Kathryne Kaiser. Doris is 89 years old.



**Dale and Illiana Kaiser.**

Dale is the son of Clyde (March 01-1908—April 2005) and Kathryne Kaiser (May 30-1908—November 1983)

***Cedarville Area Historical Society***  
1212 S. Stewart Ave, Freeport IL 61032

***Return Service Requested***

Postage

**Museum Hours Saturdays 1:00PM-4:00PM (Memorial Day weekend – Labor Day weekend)**

**Museum is always available by appointment**

**During non-open hours you can utilize the Ring doorbell and we will do our best meet you at the museum**

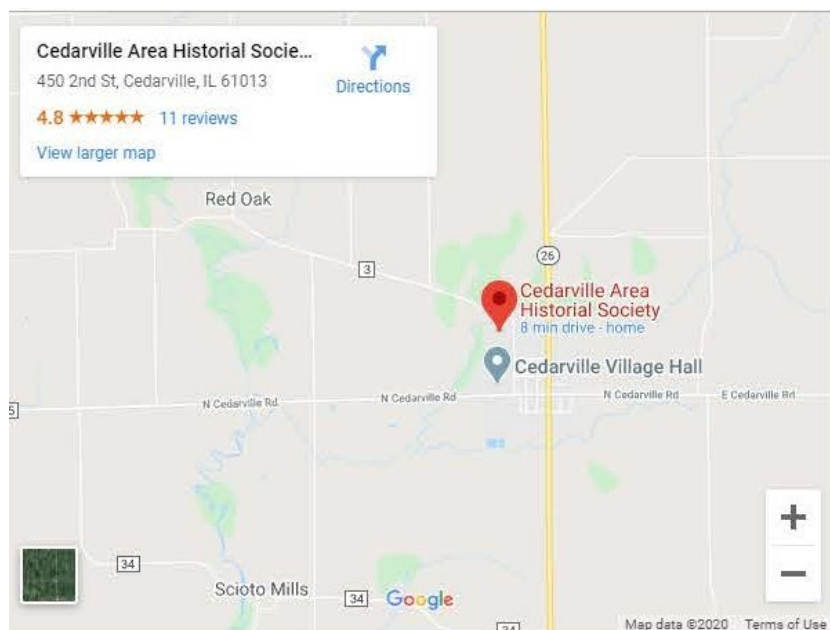
Museum facilities are available for private functions (weddings, reunions, meetings)

Call or text 815-990-0417 or 815-847-9127 to reserve or email [info@cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:info@cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org)

**We Would Love to Share Your Stories**

Email us your stories or anecdotes about Cedarville or the Cedarville area. We will present them in following newsletters. Email them to [info@cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:info@cedarvilleareahistoricalociety.org)

***If you have not renewed your membership, please do so. We need your support. Thank you.***



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*The society is recognized as a non-profit organization by Illinois and the U.S. government and has been designated eligible for tax deductible gifts under IRS tax code regulation 501 (c)(3).*