

# **ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE DECEMBER 2018**

***Cedarville Area Historical Society***



## *Museum Christmas Party December 11*

The annual Cedarville Museum free Christmas party will be Tuesday, December 11. Members of the historical society and the public are invited to participate in the celebration.

A general social hour will open the program at 6 p.m. This will be followed by

a glass of wine provided by Famous Fossil Winery, free food and music by the Inspiration Quartet thanks to the Forrester Bank. The quartet will then lead the audience in favorite Christmas songs.

The evening is also expected to include several holiday games.



*Christmas party revelers will enjoy the harmonizing of the barber shop quartet "Inspiration" thanks to the courtesy of the Forrester Bank on Rt. 26 south of Cedarville. From left are Bart Macomber (baritone) Carl Heintz (bass), Nathan Hyland (lead) and Jerry Hyland (tenor).*



## Museum to Add Heating, Cooling to Second Floor

The board of the Cedarville Area Historical Society voted at its November meeting to add a heating and cooling system to the south room of the second floor of the museum building. The room contains the recently added food serving equipment and is the only area in the building without heating and air conditioning. The entire first floor has one large unit. The second floor currently has three rooms and two units. Each of the three rooms will now be controlled separately as needed rather than drawing from two for the third. The cost will be \$4,312. Funds are currently available. The work will be done by Lemanski Heating and Air Conditioning of Freeport.



*The historical society welcomes groups to the museum and offers tours and local history talks. This group of Freeport area home schooled children and their parents visited the museum on November 7. The visit was arranged by Joy Delay of Freeport.*



## Our Member in France Sends His Greetings

Yes, the Cedarville Area Historical Society really is an international organization and occasionally we hear directly from our member living in Versailles, France.

He is Stephen Phillips, a member of the large and well-known Phillips family, original settlers of the Damascus area.

Steve and his wife recently vacationed from their home near Paris to a more rural area of the country near the Atlantic coast and the border of Spain. On the back of the card pictured above he wrote:

"Dear CAHS board. My participation is vicarious thanks to your newsletter. Cedarville is far from Versailles but has a special place in my heart. Keep on with



the good work and may this year end happily and may 2019 be an excellent year for you all."

Steve explained the photo was of an eco-farm they visited where they use 19th century farming techniques.

Never hurts to learn a little geography with your history.



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Carol Meyers, Director  
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Moiria Knowlton, Director  
Lisa Goodwin, 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*

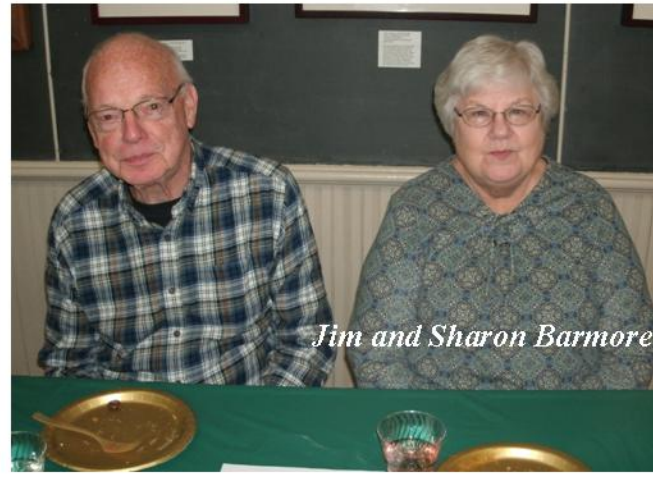




*Vickie and Don Franz at the table*



*Judy and Harlan Corrie*



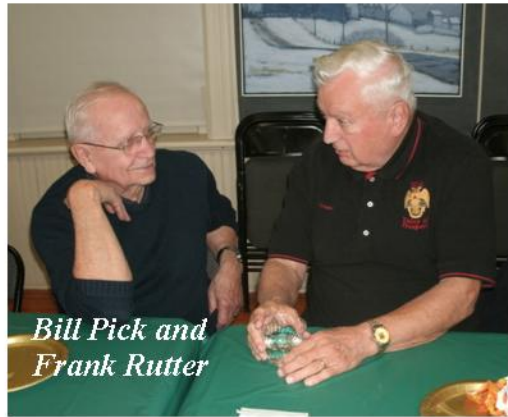
*Jim and Sharon Barmore*



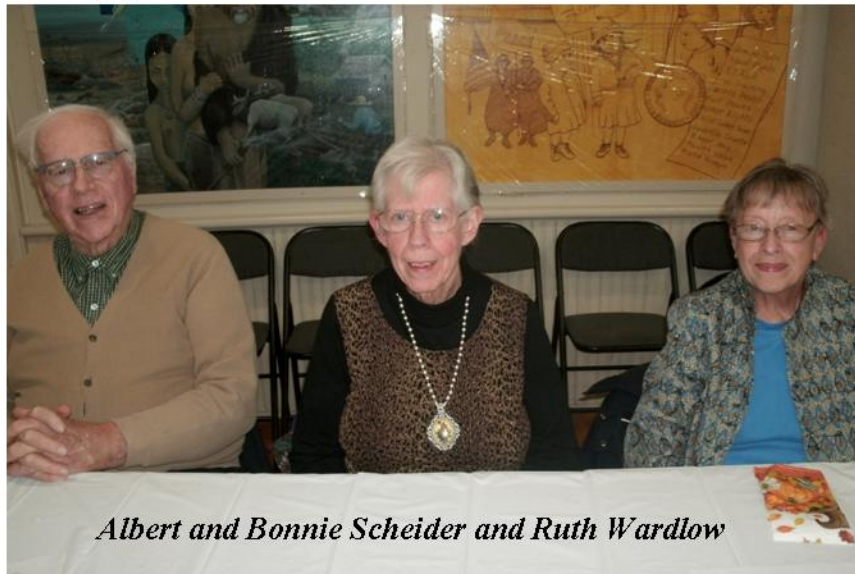
*Galen and Carole Bertram*

## ***Party for Museum Hosts Marks the End of the Season***

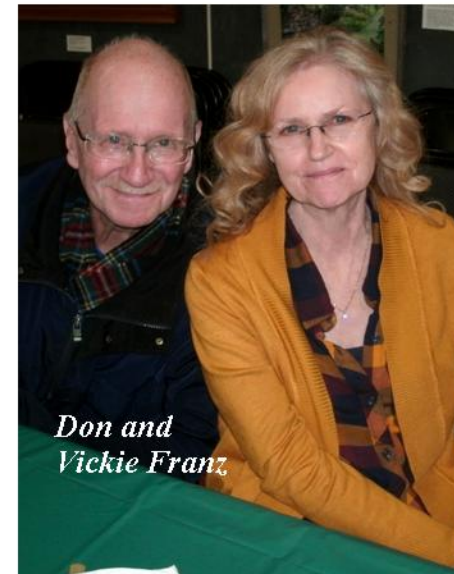
Every year several dozen members of the Cedarville Area Historical Society volunteer to greet visitors to the museum on the weekend afternoons of May through October. Although they don't have a degree in local history, they are able to answer most questions about the current museum exhibits or to help the visitors find the answers. The historical society appreciates the dedication of these volunteers and so on the evening of Tuesday, November 14 most of this year's hosts attended a party at the museum. Besides getting a big "thank you", the 2018 hosts had an opportunity to meet and talk to Lisa Goodwin, the newest society board member and the new volunteer coordinator. She takes the position previously held by the late Narcissa Engle. As part of her learning process, Lisa took all of the photos on this page and the next.



*Bill Pick and Frank Rutter*



*Albert and Bonnie Scheider and Ruth Wardlow*



*Don and Vickie Franz*



*Merle and Ladona Wardlow, Rose Binns*



*Lisa Goodwin and Wendy Gilpin*



*Shirley and Bill Pick*





*Frank Rutter and Dennis and Carol Meyers*



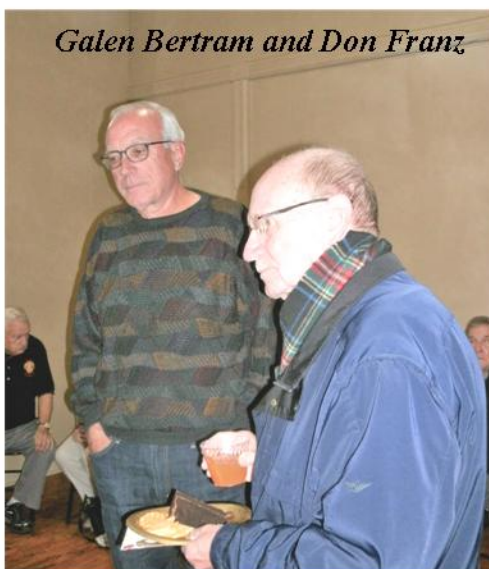
*Jim and Bonnie Bade*



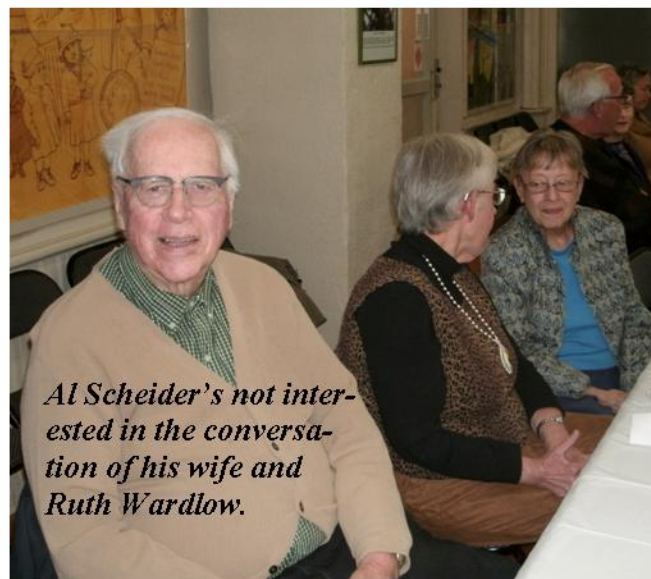
*Delbert Scheider*



*Vickie Franz and Shirley Pick*



*Galen Bertram and Don Franz*



*Al Scheider's not interested in the conversation of his wife and Ruth Wardlow.*

## The First Snow Is Here; Why Not Revel in It?

*(By mid November Cedarville had its first measurable snow. To celebrate {?} the editor dug up a decade's old article on sledding by the late LeRoy Wilson.)*

During the time of my childhood, we took our sledding seriously. There was no better place to sled than Cedarville. Drive or walk through our village and observe there are few level spots in our town.

There was a terminology and an art to sledding in my day. First you didn't want a sled that was much longer than from your knees to your head. This allowed for easy carrying and belly slamming. Belly slamming consisted of running as fast as possible and slamming the sled to the ground with your body on it all in one smooth operation. When a sled was too long, it was awkward to carry and slam because the rear of the runners struck the ground first resulting in a gut buster, not a smooth slam. So much for the technical aspects of sledding.

The streets of Cedarville were usually coated with hard packed snow most of the winter. There were few autos so very little or no sand or cinders were spread. If cinders were spread, we kids swept them off.

Our sledding was done all over town, but there were a couple of favorite hills. Of course one was the old school house hill. On a good sledding day and with two or three people on top of one another for weight, you got quite a run down the long school hill up the shorter hill by Cronau's, left and down the hill on Mill, left around the curve, across the bridge and left into the farm house drive. I'll admit that by the time you turned into the farm's drive, you were going quite slow. That was a record run and we always wanted to tie it.

Most nights with mild weather found us on Mill Street again with a different starting point. This time it was in front of the old Methodist Church. (Now a residence) We would again get a good belly slam heading north and run the previously mentioned course.

We tried to get an early start for school. That gave us time to run Mill Street before school started. We had two

bells rung to start school. The first bell gave you the warning. Five minutes later the second bell rang and you were to be in your seat.

One morning I ended a sled run and was walking back up the hill when the first bell sounded. A bobsled with a wagon box of corn and oats pulled by a team of horses was just ahead of me. The farmer was on his way to Laborde's grist mill which was located on Harrison Street where the village water tower now stands.

I thought this would get me up the hill faster and easier. I slammed my sled, reached up to grab hold of the bobsled and a horrible thing happened. I accidentally caught hold of the tail gate handle. The tailgate opened and the load of shelled corn and oats was dumped on top of me.

The farmer's name I don't remember, but he had to be a Pennsylvania Dutchman 'c'ause the swearing and hollering sounded like my grandpa because when he was angry, he said the same things.

I was very late to school that morning. We shoveled and swept all the oats and corn and loaded it back into the wagon box.

This happened right in front of Ray Cronau's house. Wouldn't Ray be surprised to look out his window and see a sight like this some morning? A sight from the past! (Ray, 82, died in 2012.)

## Museum Looking for Cleaning Assistance

**The Cedarville Area Historical Society is looking for someone to clean the museum building. This is a paid position. This need for other than volunteer help has become necessary because of the increased use of the building by the society and the public. If you are interested, contact Jim Bade, 815-563-4485.**



## *A Christmas Present Just for Young Alice*

What could be more appropriate in December than a Christmas story?

The Cedarville Museum this month received a highly decorated small wood box, commonly known as a "Christmas Box", that was a 1910 holiday present to 11-year-old Alice Michael of Cedarville.

The girl, the daughter of Rev. John William Michael and his wife, Minta, is one of two sisters who owned the three century old rag dolls with porcelain heads



that were featured in last month's CAHS news letter.

The box is seven inches square and three inches deep. It is covered on the top and all four sides with raised green holly leaves and red holly berries. It has a small brass latch on one end. It is the ideal container for small pieces of memory commonly collected by girls, age 11.

Alice, Lillian Michael was born on March 10, 1899, in Rock Grove, Stephenson County. She was a teacher in Streator and Forrester until retiring in 1961. She never married.

She died at the age of 91 in Freeport and was buried in the Fairhaven Township Cemetery at Chadwick,

Her older married sister Ada died in 1975 at the age of 78.

Rev. Michael was minister of the Cedarville Evangelical Church in the 1880s.