

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

February 2022

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Museum Updates

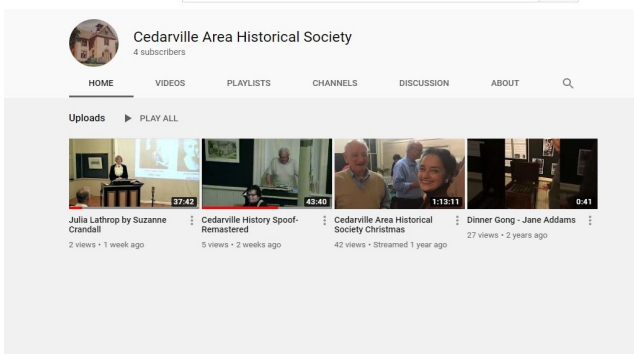
- **This Woman Was No “Plain Jane”** - story on page 3
- **Museum Opens in May**— The museum is officially closed for the season (May through October). However, we will still entertain private visits. We ask that visitors call us (phone number on back page) prior to the visit and reserve a time.

Twentieth Annual **Chili-Soup-Sandwich-Dessert Luncheon** **Sunday, February 13** **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**



At Cedarville Museum
Adults: \$6; Children under 12: \$2

Programs Available on YouTube

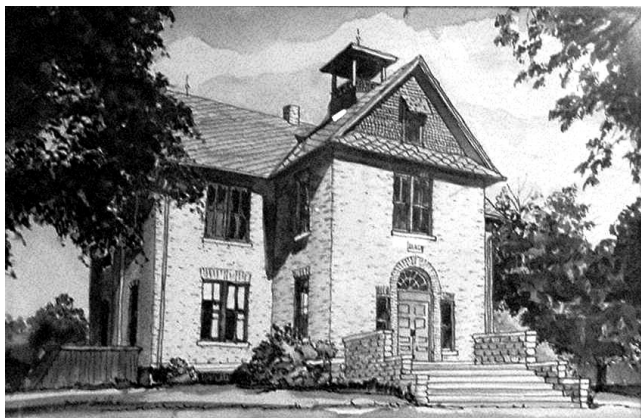


CAHS is making available many programs from the last 17 years. They will be posted on YouTube. We will post updates on the latest additions on Facebook.

Please go to Youtube and search “Cedarville Area Historical Society” to find us or click on the YouTube symbol on our home page.

“Like” our page at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtNjKA5hA5R5ZSVO2bEGfBA> to get automatic upload updates.

CAHS Lunch at Museum February 13



The February 13 Cedarville Area Historical Society soup, salad, sandwich and desert luncheon and annual meeting will convene in the Cedarville Museum on top of the Second Street hill.

The use of the museum will give visitors the opportunity to see the many local history exhibits including the dozens of Jane Addams family artifacts.

The 20th annual event has always been held on Super Bowl Sunday, the day the top two American professional football teams clash for the honor of being called "top dog" for a year.

The lunch, which is open to members and non-members of the historical society, starts at 11 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m. The lunch, which always includes four homemade soups and dozens of homemade pastries, costs \$6 for adults and \$2 for children under 12. Second helpings are free.

Carry-outs will be available.

In addition to enjoying the lunch, CAHS members will also receive a copy of the organization's annual financial report and be asked to vote for three persons to serve three years on the nine member board of directors.

Current board members Sharon Barmore and Andy Dvorak are up for re-election. Carol Meyers will not be running for the board this year. The historical society appreciates and thanks her for her many years of leadership on the board. Wendy Gilpin has volunteered to join the board this year. Wendy is Jim Bade's (president emeritus) oldest daughter.

The lunch will be served in the second floor meeting room. A one button elevator is available for handicapped visitors and the bathrooms will be open.

There is ample onsite parking. In the event of snow the street to the museum site and the parking lot will be plowed.

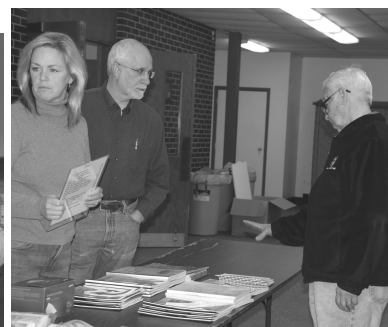
A Lookback at the 2009 Luncheon



Sharing the spotlight: *The Lena Live Wires 4H (above) brought home made pies for sale. From left, Jacob Priewe, James Priewe, Tommy Priewe, Emily Myers and Sarah Priewe. Below, left: Someone had to make the sandwiches. Helping are from left, Bonnie Bade and Sue Myers. Top, right: This is how it's done Mary Reed tells Denise Rogers. Below, right: "What will you have?" Carol Myers asks Paul Fry.*



Above, left: Mary Reed, was the official soup taster. Above, Judy Corrie, left, and Narcissa Engle arrange the desserts. There are never enough of these. Below, left: Sandy Sciutto, left, and Ruth Smith make sure there are enough napkins. Below, Gina Cole and husband Jim assure Society President Jim Bade the lunch crowd is good.



This Woman Was No ‘Plain Jane’ By Jim Bade - Reprinted from the February 2009 issue

The headline does not refer to Cedarville’s famous Jane Addams. It is a reference to Laura Jane Gorham, most likely the namesake of Laura Jane Addams.

Miss Gorham, 24, an 1858 graduate of Rockford Female Seminary, came to Cedarville the following year, reportedly at the behest of John Addams, to start the Cedarville Academy, a private post elementary school for students who wanted to teach school or to go on to college. The classes were conducted on the second floor of the 1855 Cedarville school building, which was torn down in 1889 and replaced on the same foundation by the structure that now houses the Cedarville Museum.

Miss Gorham remained in Cedarville five years and boarded with the Addams family part of the time, according to Mary Lynn Bryan in her very detailed book “The Selected Papers of Jane Addams”, Volume 1, published in 2003. Mrs. Bryan states that the teacher helped care for two-year-old Jane Addams after the 1860 death of her mother.

Strong support for the claim that Jane Addams was named after Miss Gorham surfaced in a 1932 newspaper article that quoted Julia Eastman Brace, an early Cedarville teacher and friend of the Addams family.

On September 3, 1861, Laura Jane Gorham was married to 28-year-old Henry Clinton Forbes, a man who had worked with her at the school but who at the time of their marriage was about to be named a first lieutenant and commander of Company B of the 7th Cavalry, Illinois Volunteers.

It must have been a short honeymoon because in the September 18, 1861 diary entry of Cedarville’s Thomas Clingman, then an infantry recruit at Camp Butler, Springfield, Il., is the observation that Mr. Forbes was in camp with the cavalry. Clingman had been a student of Forbe’s wife the previous year. She must have made an impression on the twenty-year-old farmer because other diary entries indicate he wrote to her several times and visited her at least once in late 1861 when he was home on furlough to attend the funeral of his brother George, 30.

In November 1865, Henry Forbes, then a colonel and commander of the 7th Cavalry Regiment, was released from service and returned to Cedarville and his wife, who was finishing her last year at the academy. Also discharged from the 7th Cavalry at the

same time was Stephen Forbes, Henry’s brother, who had spent some of the Civil War as a prisoner of the Confederate Army. Mrs. Forbes former student Thomas Clingman did not return, having been mortally wounded in the first few minutes of the April 6, 1862, battle at Shiloh, Tn.

The colonel and Laura Jane left Cedarville and moved to central Illinois in 1866; however they remained friends of the Addams family for many years.

Although John Addams’ “favorite teacher” was gone from northwest Illinois, part of her family remained in the person of her brother Orange Gorham who lived west of Rockford in Pecatonica with his wife and children. It is almost ironic that Orange was married to the former Mary McDowell, first cousin of Thomas Clingman, and the Gorhams often entertained Thomas’s younger sister, Sophia, and Jane Addams’ older sisters Martha and Alice when the three attended Rockford Female Seminary in 1866 and 1867.

After moving to central Illinois, the Forbes had at least five children. Mrs. Forbes became heavily involved in church missionary work. Her husband continued his work in education.

In 1891 they moved to Urbana, Il., where Henry took up his new job as librarian for the State Laboratory of Natural History, a position he held at the time of his death in 1903 at the age of 70. It is worth considering whether Henry’s final assignment was the result of the influence of his brother who had become a world famous naturalist and who was later honored with the naming of the 3000 acre Stephen A. Forbes State Park in southern Illinois. The letters and documents of the two men are in a 571 page volume in the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield.

Sometime after her husband’s death, Laura Jane Gorham Forbes left Urbana for Seattle, Washington., where she died December 1, 1914, age 79, in the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. W. Wilson.

Few dispute the claim that Laura Jane Addams was named after Laura Jane Gorham. But true or not it’s a wonderful and warm story that most want to believe. So be it until someone conclusively proves otherwise. And after all, both were nicknamed “Jennie.” That should seal it. But then most “Janes” were “Jennie”. Oh, well.

Winter in Cedarville



*Glen and Flossie Bear
Cherry Street store, 1940*



Henry Taft’s bobsled express, 1930’s



*Haldeman-Julius farm truck in front
of Shippy Mill Street store ca. 1928*



*School bus heading up the hill with
Kermit and Edith Shippy by Luther
Shippy’s Mill Street store in undated
photo.*

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

Postage

Return Service Requested

Museum Hours (May – October)

Saturday 1-4 PM

Sunday 1-4 PM

Please call in advance so we can ensure staff is available.

You can also utilize the Ring doorbell and we will try to have a staff member there in minutes

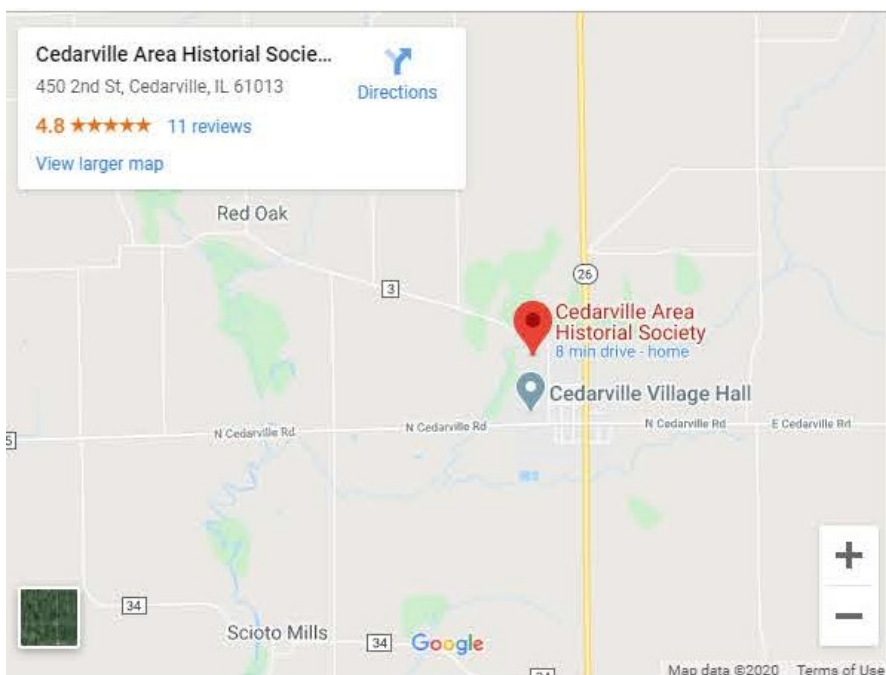
Private tours are available by appointment.

Call 815-990-0417 or 815-847-9127 to reserve

We Want Your Stories

Email us your stories or antidotes about Cedarville or the Cedarville area. We will present them in following newsletters. Email them to info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org

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



Cedarville Area Historical Society
450 2nd St. , Cedarville IL. 61013
Phone 815-990-0417

Mailing Address
1212 S. Stewart Ave, Freeport, IL 61032

Web site
www.cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org

E-mail
info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org

Facebook-Cedarville Area Historical Society
Youtube-Cedarville Area Historical Society

Steve Myers, President
Lisa Goodwin, Vice President
Galen Bertram, Treasurer
Sharon Barmore, Secretary
Andy Dvorak, Director
Carol Meyers, Director
Don Franz, Director
Moirra Knowlton, Director
Jim Bade, President Emeritus

The society is recognized as a non-profit organization by Illinois and the U.S. government