

### Did You Guess His Name?

*This was Henry Taft of Cedarville in his 1918 World War I uniform. Henry was a lover of horses. Below is an undated photograph of Henry as most people remember him. In the 1940's Henry worked as a groom at the Arabian horse farm that was located on the west side of Mill Street between Cherry and Oak.*



### **Christmas Sing-A-Long CD Is Now Available**

It was a great time and now you can have a CD of the Christmas Sing-A-Long hosted December 18, 2007, by the Cedarville Area Historical Society. Just send a check for \$12 to the address listed below. The participants were not members of the Fred Waring Chorus (remember him?), but they did have fun!!

### **Post No Smoking Signs**

In conformance with the new Illinois law banning smoking in all public buildings, the historical society has posted "no smoking" signs by each entrance to the Cedarville Museum. The area within 30 feet of the building is also smoke free.

**Cedarville Area Historical Society**  
**P. O. Box 336**  
**Cedarville, IL 61013**


*Jim Bade, President*  
*Narcissa Engle, Vice President*  
*Ruth Smith, Treasurer*  
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*Steve Myers, Director*  
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The historical society is recognized as a non-profit organization by Illinois and the U.S. government and as such has been designated as eligible to receive tax deductible gifts under the IRS tax code regulation 501 (c) (3).

## *ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE*

### *FEBRUARY 2008*

*Cedarville Area Historical Society*



## *Annual Meeting, Luncheon Feb. 3*



*Harlan Corrie, historical society volunteer, inspects one of the books available for purchase at the Cedarville Museum. All sale items are now displayed on specially constructed racks in the museum foyer, freeing up sales space formerly located in the museum for exhibits.*

The Cedarville Area Historical Society annual meeting and lunch will be Sunday, February 3, in Cedarville's Jane Addams Community Center, West Washington Street.

The 11 a.m. meeting for society members will be in one of the former classrooms. The short session will include a financial report and the election of three directors.

The soup/chili/sandwich lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. will be in the former gym and is open to members and the public. Tickets, which are available at the door, are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12.

### **Pioneer Family Feature**

This month's issue of the historical society newsletter features a six page, full length article on the Clingman family, one of the pioneer families of Stephenson County. The society invites other pioneer families to submit articles about their ancestors for possible publication.

# *The Pioneer Cedarville Clingmans*

**By Jim Bade**  
**President, Cedarville Area Historical Society**

When a motorist enters Cedarville, Il., from the north or south -- but strangely not the east or west -- he is greeted by a large sign that proudly proclaims the village as “the birthplace of Jane Addams, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.” What’s more, a knowledgeable resident will add she was the first WOMAN to win the prize and she also founded Chicago’s Hull-House, the first residential facility and learning center for immigrants to the United States

Miss Addams, born 1860, Nobel winner 1932, died 1935 was a member of the family considered by most local historians as the most influential in early Cedarville history. Her father, John, was a wealthy businessman, civic leader, two-term Illinois state senator and close friend of Abraham Lincoln. Her mother and stepmother were at the upper reaches of Cedarville’s social ladder.

Taking nothing away from the Addams family -- addressed as “double d Addams” in Lincoln’s personal notes to Senator John -- the Clingman family can creditably argue it played a village role equally important as that of the Addams family. What’s more, there were many more Clingmans than Addamses and they arrived in Cedarville earlier and stayed later. A Clingman family joke is that when John Addams and his wife in 1844 entered Cedarville from Freeport five miles to the south, several members of the 1837 Clingman family were there to greet him with a cup of tea.

Cedarville, fifteen miles south of Wisconsin and one hundred miles west of Chicago, is in the middle of Stephenson County. With 750 residents, Cedarville is the fourth largest municipality in the county, outranked by Freeport (26,000), Lena (3,900) and Orangeville (800). Stephenson was first occupied by families originally from Europe in the early 1830s.

Cedarville is in Buckeye Township, so-named because a large percentage of the first settlers were from the Portsmouth, Ohio, area. At one time Cedarville was in the running to become the county seat because it was centrally located. But there is strong evidence a few bribes from Freeport businessmen to members of the commission deciding the location made the difference and Freeport won.

Josiah and Mariah Clingman and their children were the first members of the family to arrive in Stephenson County, settling in 1837 near a creek about a mile north of present-day Cedarville. He was the second son of George Washington Clingman and was from the Portsmouth, Ohio, area. Josiah, a farmer, originally laid claim to land in LaSalle County, Il., about 100 miles south of Stephenson County, but he quickly changed his mind and moved north. Josiah was 29 and his wife, the former Mariah

Seminary. This is the same finishing school for girls attended in the late 1880s by Jane Addams. It is now Rockford College. At the time Sophia was there, two of Jane’s older sisters, Sarah Alice and Martha, were also there.

The letters were in a small bundle and tied with a ribbon. They were extremely faded -- some written with pen, some with pencil --and it took hours of adjusting dials to bring up a copy that could be read both on a computer monitor and as a printed page. At the present time the letters have been transcribed with an estimated 95 per cent authenticity and they will now be annotated so that much of the information will be understandable by today’s readers. When the work is completed, the historical society intends to make copies of the original letters and the annotated versions available, at first on a CD and later in printed form.

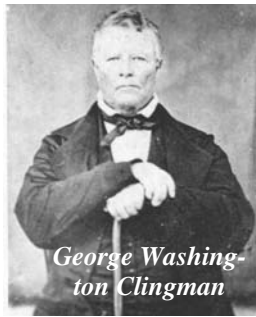
The letters contain the usual family chit-chat that you would expect to be exchanged between sisters. But the letters also contain information on family and community events and people in Stephenson County. They indicate strong and close personal relationships within not only the immediate but the extended Clingman family. They talk of firm church ties reflected by attendance at many prayer meetings. They talk of people other than family members. They are a wonderful glimpse of life in a small rural community atmosphere at the time they were written, less than a year after the Civil War. How lucky we are to have them!

The Clingmans by name perhaps are gone from Stephenson County., at least at this moment. Who knows, maybe some will move back. But the early Clingmans left their mark and the county and Cedarville would not have been the same without them. On balance it is safe to say it is a good mark. But will the family ever be recognized as being as important as the Addams family with someone the stature of a Nobel prize winner? Perhaps it depends upon the eye of the beholder.

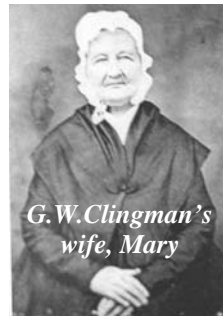
## PARTING THOUGHTS

To the benefit of local history, it is fortunate that many of the Clingmans of Stephenson County were either well educated or educated enough to write letters, write diaries or keep documents and photographs or all three. It is even more fortunate that these evidences of family history have trickled down to descendants who are interested in preserving the family’s history. Among those living “saviors” are Sharon Neem, Bill Thompson, Gordon Clingman, Alan Youel, Marilyn Holmes, Bill Angle and Verna Clingman Robinson, many of them members of the Cedarville Area Historical Society. But not to be forgotten is the late Mary Mau, great granddaughter of Josiah and Mariah Clingman, who died in February of 2007, just ten days short of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. (I hesitate to write “Mariah” because Mary insisted it was “Maria” and I insisted it was “Mariah”, just like “Josiah”.) Alas, Mary, like much of history we may never know the answer.

that Josiah Clingman, who lost his son Thomas of wounds suffered at the April 1862 Battle of Shiloh, Tn., was himself a fatality of the war even though he was never in a battle and never put on a uniform. While on a mission to recruit Union soldiers from southern Illinois so Stephenson County would not face a draft, Josiah was involved in a train accident during a rain storm. He survived the accident, but died March 28, 1865, apparently of pneumonia contracted during the storm. This was only twelve days before Gen. Grant accepted Gen. Lee's surrender at Appomattox effectively ending the Civil War and the same number of days before William, another son of Josiah, fought at Fort Blakely, Al., the last major land battle of the war.



*George Washington Clingman*



*G.W. Clingman's wife, Mary*



*Maj. Joseph Clingman*

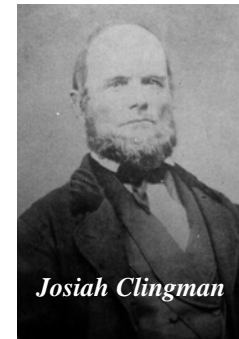
We know a great deal about the Civil War activities, especially the military service, of Stephenson County Clingmans because of the many diaries kept by Clingman Union soldiers and the many, many letters exchanged between these soldiers and their families. Especially enlightening are the diaries of Thomas, Henry Clay and William Clingman and the letters of Josiah Clingman and his son and daughter Thomas and Eliza. The diaries and some of the letters tell of the military battles and camp life. The letters speak of loneliness, frustration, hope, concern, patriotism and other emotions and vagaries of life.

After the Civil War the Clingmans continued their involvement in the affairs of Stephenson County, especially Buckeye Township. Until very recently we had to be content to know what the family was doing by searching for newspaper accounts or reading official documents. We had little knowledge of personal affairs from letters or diaries except the Eliza Clingman diary that started in the late 1870's. And even that was more a ledger of events – deaths, marriages, births – than comments on daily activities.

That unfortunate situation changed, however, in October of 2007 when the Cedarville Area Historical Society was permitted to electronically scan twenty three letters in a private collection written in 1866 and 1867 by Eliza Clingman, 27, to her younger sister Sophia who at that time was 17 and a student at Rockford (Il.) Female

Simpson, also of Portsmouth, was 28, the same age as Abraham Lincoln at that time.

The couple, married seven years, and their children lived in makeshift quarters the first year but then built a more substantial home on a hill north of the creek. Reportedly the house originally was one story but a second story was added a few years later, presumably as the family grew. The house still stands but has been modified and has had several additions. The Cedarville Area Historical Society is fortunate to have a copy of the 104 page property abstract dating from its acquisition by the Clingmans to its sale in 1975 to the present owners. The first 22 pages are filled with information – legal, financial and personal -- about the Clingman family.



*Josiah Clingman*



*Jason, William, Sophia, Mariah, Clingmans all, 1911*

Eventually this family had eight children – five boys and three girls – who survived to adulthood. Two boys died before reaching the age of nine and are buried in the Cedarville Cemetery, as are many other members of this and other Clingman families.

Apparently Josiah must have sent back word to Portsmouth where many other members of his immediate family were living that “northern Illinois was the place to be.” Within a few years Josiah's mother and father, Josiah's older brother, John, and his wife and several of Josiah's first cousins – Abner, Hiram, Cyrus and Joseph Clingman – came, all but Joseph with their families. In addition, Josiah's only sister, Ann Eliza, moved to the area with her husband William McDowell and settled in Green County, Wi., just north of Stephenson County. What's more, there were other Portsmouth families without the name, but related to the Clingmans through marriage, that moved to the Cedarville area. The Richarts and the Hustons come first to mind. A Briggs family – the name is well known to Clingman genealogists – was an early family in Stephenson, but a Clingman relationship has not yet been established. And then there were many who were just friends or Portsmouth neighbors of the Clingmans.

Why did so many leave the Portsmouth area and move to Stephenson County, Il.? Several theories have been advanced, but no conclusive evidence has turned up to strongly support any one of them. It is apparent, however, that most of these people were farmers because they settled on the rich farm land in the central and north town-

ships of the county. It would be easy to argue they moved because the land was cheaper or perhaps even better suited to farming than that in the Scioto, Ohio, area. For those who were small businessmen, perhaps the economy was weak in Portsmouth and a change would be for the better. A sometimes overlooked theory for some of the migration is that health conditions were bad in that Ohio area where several rivers joined and periodic flooding spawned outbreaks of disease including malaria.

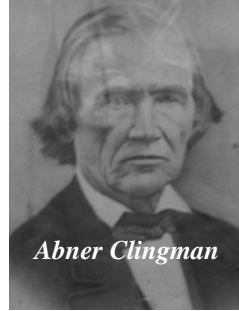
Perhaps we will never know all the reasons for the migration. It would be exciting to find a letter or two from ex-Portsmouth residents that would clearly state – or even strongly hint – the reason for their decision. It is strange, however, that with the number of Clingmans who moved to Stephenson County in the nineteenth century that there may be no Clingmans by that name now living in the county. To my knowledge, the last one was Kenneth Bright Clingman, great grandson of John Bright Clingman, the brother of Josiah. Ken, who was living in Freeport, died in 2006 at the age of 90.



*Cousins Nellie, Minnie,  
Ida in 1892*



*Eliza, the diarist*



*Abner Clingman*

But a Clingman by any other name is still a Clingman and there are several of these living in the county today. I will not list them all because I am sure I would miss some and get into trouble. However, one is my wife, Yvonne (Bonnie) who is a great great granddaughter of Josiah and Mariah Clingman. My wife and I live in a simple Cedarville frame home probably built in the middle 1850s and owned and lived in by Mariah, then a widow, from 1874 until 1917 when she died at the age of 106. Other Clingman descendants include Bill Angle of Dakota, Marilyn Holmes of Lena, Gene and John Reed of Cedarville and Gene's sister Donna Untersee, also of Cedarville.

For more than twenty years after settling in Stephenson County, the many Clingmans worked hard to establish themselves and to improve life for the larger community. Josiah and Mariah eventually owned and farmed approximately 340 acres north of Cedarville. (Some of that land is now a subdivision.) Josiah's brother bought land to the west of Josiah. The brick house owned by the brother is still occupied but is separated from the former Josiah Clingman homestead by a twentieth century state highway instead of the original fence line. It is believed the boys' father, George Wash-

ington Clingman, also bought land west and north of Josiah's.

Josiah's three cousins – Abner, Hiram and Cyrus – all sons of John Clingman, George Washington's older brother, owned several pieces of land at various times in the northern part of Stephenson County and there was probably a great deal of personal visiting among these cousins and their families if surviving letters and diaries from the 1860s and beyond are valid evidence.

The county 1874 land plat book shows acreage owned by Hiram and Abner. In the middle of the nineteenth century, Abner built a brick house on his farm located on Coons Road, several miles northeast of Josiah's farm. That house still exists and is being remodeled by the present owner. The Cedarville Area Historical Society has evidence that both Abner and Hiram and some of their children were involved in several civic enterprises and the school systems in the area in which they lived. In some of these activities they were associated with John Addams. Hiram died in Stephenson County in 1894, age 84; Abner moved to Oregon and died there in 1895, age 98.

Whereas Abner, Hiram and Cyrus were either the same age or older than Josiah, Josiah's cousin Joseph Clingman was believed to be about the same age as Josiah's oldest son, both being born about 1831.. Joseph was the son of Jacob Clingman, another older brother of George Washington. Joseph's history is somewhat murky, but it is believed that for several years he lived with his Uncle George Washington in Stephenson County and possibly at one time with Josiah. It is reported that at one time Joseph was a teacher and in 1861 he enlisted in a Stephenson County regiment and fought with the Union Army in the Civil War.

This brings me to the U. S. Civil War of 1861 – 65 and the role played by the members of the Clingman families living in Stephenson County.

At the time of the outbreak of hostilities at Fort Sumter, the population of Stephenson County was about 26,000, half of what it is today. Half of the people lived in Freeport, the county seat. It is hard to determine the exact population of Cedarville, but it might have been 400 to 500. A few hundred more were in the rest of Buckeye Township. Four block long Mill Street was the main street of Cedarville, anchored by the flour mill owned by John Addams on the north and the east-west road to Lena on the south. Almost all of the business activity took place on Mill Street. Most people lived on that street and on the parallel streets to the east.

During the more than four years of the Civil War, it is estimated 3,000 plus Stephenson County men served in the Union Army, a very high percentage of the eligible males.. One count puts the number of Clingman names on Illinois regimental rosters at fourteen. We have no estimate of other Clingman-related persons who served under a different surname.

We do know that sons of Josiah Clingman, John Bright Clingman, Cyrus Clingman, Abner Clingman, Hiram Clingman and Jacob Clingman served and a half dozen were killed or died of their wounds or other service related causes. It is ironic