Society Completes Preserving 10 Years of Village History

After eighty hours of computer labor, the Cedarville Area Historical Society turned over CDs and DVDs containing enhanced copies of ten years of late nineteenth and early twentieth century council minutes to the village of Cedarville.

The material, which can be viewed on a computer monitor or printed, covers 151 meetings from May 1893 to May 1903. The meetings are chronologically indexed for easy access. The minutes, handwritten in a leather bound book, are faded and almost unreadable by the naked eye. The pages are also brittle and the binding is disintegrating.

A two volume printed copy, a two set CD copy and a single DVD copy of the material is also in the Cedarville Museum Rosabelle Cronau Research Center.

Other documents will be preserved later.

Above: Cindy Lloyd, Cedarville village clerk, examines pages of two books containing enhanced printed copies of village council minutes from 1893 to 1903. Nearby is the century old leather book with the original but faded minutes and CDs and DVDs with digital images of the minutes that can be viewed on a computer monitor or printed. Below: An example of an enhanced page.

Cedarville Museum Opens May 3; 5 New Exhibits Ready for Visitors

Five new exhibits will greet visitors to the Cedarville Museum when the building opens at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 3.

There to welcome the public will be Paul Fry, one of the almost 40 members of the Cedarville Area Historical Society who have volunteered to assist visitors during the May through October museum season. Museum hours will be 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday during the six months.

Admission is free to historical society members. It is $2 for non-member visitors over twelve.

For those unfamiliar with its location, the museum is the former 1889 Cedarville School on top of the Second Street hill a quarter of a mile west of Mill Street. The two rooms of exhibits are handicapped accessible as are the bathrooms.

A brief description of the exhibits:

- Cedarville and the Civil War
- The fascinating life of Marcet Haldeman-Julius, niece of Jane Addams
- Cedarville School through the years
- Historic photographs of Cedarville
- The John Addams mill
- The Jane Addams Hull House story
- The story of Jane Addams including numerous articles used or created by her.
- Addams homestead furnishings
- An art gallery featuring the work of the late Rosalee Rockman, Cedarville artist and Freeport teacher

The historical society will present five Tuesday evening programs: June 17, Suzy Beggin, weaving and wool; July 22, Don and Vickie Franz and the Civil War; August 26, Bobbie Edler, folk songs on the accordion; September 23, Jane Goodspeed as Marcet Haldeman-Julius; October 14, 15., original Cedarville history musical. Starting time is 7:30 p.m.
Memorial Day Parade, Picnic May 26

The Cedarville Memorial Day parade will step off at 10 a.m. Monday, May 26, from in front of the telephone switch building on Mill Street just south of Second Street.

As in the past the parade has been organized by Cedarville’s American Legion Post 1224 under the direction of LeRoy Wilson. Traditionally the spectators — always numbering more than the parade marchers — become participants in the procession once it has started.

The marchers will stop at the Cedar Creek bridge for a prayer, the casting of a bouquet of flowers into the creek and a rifle salute. Then the procession will walk to Cedarville Cemetery on Red Oak Road.

Once the anticipated several hundred people are assembled in the cemetery, Wilson will open the memorial ceremony with brief comments. This has always been followed by the reading of President Lincoln’s 1863 Gettysburg Address, a patriotic song by the audience, a prayer, the reading of names of veterans buried in the cemetery, a rifle salute by the American Legion firing squad and the playing of taps. This year Lincoln’s words will be delivered by Nathan Myers, 15-year-old son of Sue and Steve Myers, rural Cedarville.

After the ceremony, about 11:30 a.m., the audience will visit the Cedarville Museum on the Second Street hill for the traditional Memorial Day picnic. The picnic will he held rain or shine.

We have Clark and Bernice Zipse to thank for these three wonderful pictures of a Cedarville rural landmark.

All three photos depict the Joseph and Clara Kratzer home which still exists on the west side of Cockrell Road immediately north of Cedarville Road. Clark is the grandson of the couple. Joseph and Clara homesteaded in 1892.

The top photo shows the original house and outbuildings.

The middle picture is familiar to many Stephenson County farmers — threshing time. In the foreground are Clara and three other ladies who did the cooking for the men.

The lower picture has Joseph on the right and his son, Charles, left. The photos are undated; however, they were all taken prior to 1929 when the original barn burned. It was replaced.

Pearl, only sibling of Charles, married Clinton Zipse, Clark’s father.
LeRoy’s Veterans
(from previous page)

holding many responsible positions.

Robert Law, a long-time Cedarville resident, was a member of the Legion post for 45 years.

Ron Beam served in the Marine Corps. He was very active in the life of our village, including serving several years as president of the Cedarville Area Historical Society. He was also a member of our Legion post.

This is not a complete list of all who served in the military from the Cedarville area. There were several thousand men and women as far back as the War of 1812. Approximately one hundred fifty of these veterans rest in our Cedarville Cemetery. Many, many more are buried elsewhere, some on the battlefields, some in unmarked graves.

These men are gone now, but not forgotten. Join with us on Memorial Day and honor their service to our country.

19th Century Clock, Phone in Museum

Two long-needed items have been added to the Cedarville Museum — a working replica of a nineteenth century pendulum clock and an outside telephone line.

The clock, which hangs six feet above the floor on the former interior chimney in the north room, is the gift of Mary Reed, a member of the board of the Cedarville Area Historical Society.

The addition of the outside phone line was authorized at the April meeting of the society’s board. The phone number is 815-563-4202. Only local calls can be made from the phone, but all incoming calls will be received.

REMEMBER!!
Memorial Day Picnic at Museum
11:30 rain or shine

Twenty one Cedarville Area Historical Society members who will be hosts and hostesses at the museum this season turned out on a blustery, rainy April 10 to learn about the new exhibits so they will be better able to assist visitors to the museum. They also were briefed on the mechanics of opening, closing and operating the museum. This was the first of two orientation sessions with a second one scheduled a week later for the volunteers who could not make the first one. In the picture above, the volunteers are enjoying coffee and cake prepared by Bonnie Bade. The almost forty volunteers were recruited by Narcissa Engle, vice president of the historical society, and Judy Corrie, a volunteer herself. Board members will be among those who will greet visitors.

Cedarville Area Historical Society
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Phone: 815-563-4202

Jim Bade, President
Narcissa Engle, Vice President
Ruth Smith, Treasurer
Denise Rogers, Secretary
Steve Myers, Director
Mary Reed, Director
Neal Scheider, Director
Galen Bertram, Director
Gina Cole, Director

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 ).
In Memory of Those Who Are Gone

By LeRoy Wilson

During World War II, the United States had sixteen million men and women in a military uniform. I was one of them. Today about two million of us are still alive. We are dying at the rate of 1,200 a day. In another five years we will be history.

As each Memorial Day approaches, I again become aware of those who helped keep this day a day of remembrance. I would like to tell you about a few of these veterans, especially those who were members of Cedarville American Legion Post 1224.

Leo “Smokey” Mordick was a charter member of our post and, until he passed away, the only adjutant we had. He was what other organizations call “recording secretary” for almost fifty years. “Smokey” was very outspoken when it came to patriotism and love of country.

I always think of Bill Dikkors and Keith Wise together. Bill and Keith, both tall men, led our Memorial Day parade for many years. Bill was a no-nonsense man when it came to love of country and observance of Memorial Day. I can’t remember Keith ever missing a Memorial Day observance. They both had a knack for calling a spade a spade.

Dexter Knowlton was very active in our veteran’s organization in his early years. Dexter was an officer in the U.S. army in World War II. He led our Memorial Day firing squads for many years. In later years he kept in touch and assisted whenever he could. The Legion post has a drum he purchased for our use in parade marching.

Charles and Paul Kryder, father and son, were long time Legion members. Charley, a World War I veteran, played a major role in forming our post after World War II. Paul was a charter member and our first treasurer, a position he held for many years.

Donald “Buck” Fink worked with Charley in organizing our Legion. He was also a World War I veteran. He had a great sense of humor. Another World War I veteran who should not be forgotten is Henry Taft. Henry, a Cedarville resident for many years, had a special relationship with four-footed animals, something we all knew. But his love of country and fellow veterans was extraordinary.

Dick Engle was a charter member of our post and was active for many years.

Jack Hessenius spent more than forty years with our veteran’s organization.

Orville Lincoln never missed a veteran activity or meeting. He always had good input in what we did.

Neal Huber was associated with Cedarville veterans for more than fifty years. He supported us by his membership.

Jack Shuey was a charter member and for more than fifty years he showed his patriotism and readily accepted positions of responsibility.

Russell Bawinkle and his brother Gerald gave our organization many hours of volunteer service during the more than fifty years they were members.

Matt Burris and Floyd Carter also were fifty year members and were exceptionally active during their earlier years.

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