



**CEDARVILLE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 336, CEDARVILLE, IL 61013**

Birthplace of Jane Addams: Nobel Peace Prize Winner
And Founder of Chicago's Hull House

October 10, 2012

TO CEDARVILLE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

There is no question: The year 2012 has been an exceptional and exciting year for the Society and the museum.

On top of the list of accomplishments was the financing and installation of a lift that will move physically handicapped museum visitors between the first and second floors, making all our exhibits and services available to everyone. No more trudging up and down the winding stairs. I suspect we are the only historical society of our size in the state (and possibly the country) that provides this service. Thanks to an anonymous gift of \$20,000 from a Society member, it took less than one month to raise the \$36,000 for the project. With the exception of \$2,200 from the Cedarville Lions Club, all monies were contributed by Society members. Amazing, simply amazing! The lift passed inspection this month and will be available when the museum reopens in January 2013.



Left: preparing for the lift shaft.

Right: the lift arrives in September!!



Only slightly lower on the list of this year's accomplishments was the outstanding success of our three evening programs that linked 45 minutes of live music with the history of that music. Presented in the museum's LeRoy Wilson Theater before a full house of more than 80 persons each night, the three programs explored gospel, barbershop harmony and Appalachian blue grass, genres that our ancestors were familiar with.

The Cedarville Museum will close for the 2012 season at the end of this month, but Cedarville Area Historical Society volunteers will remain busy wrapping up year end projects and starting on 2013 activities and exhibits. The museum's last event will be host to 40 visitors from the Des Plaines, Il., area, an event sponsored by the Des Plaines Park District. The group will tour the museum and the Cedarville Cemetery with yours truly as guide. This visit is representative of almost a dozen that took place this year, an increase over last year. The greater use of the museum by outside groups is the result of a board decision this year to encourage such use.

Society membership held steady again this year at 150 despite a weak economy that has proved disastrous to so many volunteer organizations. We lost several members through death, but enrolled an equal number of new members. I consider our membership retention a vote of confidence in our work. Because so many of our memberships are for families, I believe the Society is directly reaching 300 to 325 persons in 22 states and one in France.

Although it may not be necessary, I want to remind you that the purpose of the historical society is to collect, preserve and interpret photographs, artifacts and documents related to the history of the Cedarville area and to disseminate information about this evidence to members and the general public through newsletters and other publications, museum exhibits and programs. Many additional photographs and documents are loaned to the society for digital preservation..

Now for a brief description of this year's activities other than the ones mentioned on the first page of this letter.



Left: "Styles Junction" performed bluegrass as part of the music series

Right: Some of the 125 who attended the Society's annual February lunch



The year started with the traditional First-Sunday-in-February soup, salad and sandwich lunch that was attended by more than 125. Squeezing the event between church and the Super Bowl kickoff seems to be popular with our members.

The museum opened on schedule on May 5 and maintained its traditional Saturday and Sunday afternoon hours thanks to the help of more than two dozen volunteer hosts and hostesses. We will close on Sunday, October 28. The admission charge remained at \$3 for non-members and no charge for members. The museum's policy has always been to have new or updated exhibits every year to encourage visitors to return. This year there were twelve exhibits including the art gallery in the second floor LeRoy Wilson Theater. Four exhibits were new and featured the Methodist Church in Red Oak, the Free Methodist Church on Richland Creek Road, the fine clothing of a Dakota farm girl who died in 1917 at the age of 19 and the story of three dozen Addams family members buried in Cedarville Cemetery. The large Civil War exhibit created by Harlan Corrie that features Stephenson County soldiers was again a favorite of visitors.

The Society again joined the Cedarville American Legion and the Cedarville Lions Club in sponsoring the Memorial Day parade and ceremony at the Cedarville Cemetery. We sometimes comment that we probably have the shortest Memorial Day parade in the country, but what we lack in numbers we make up in enthusiasm and patriotism. As usual, the parade and ceremony were followed by the annual picnic at the museum with more than 150 lined up to eat.

For the fourth year, in June and July we presented free Friday night outdoor movies on our huge screen of four queen size sheets mounted on the museum north wall. The nine films were classic Hollywood comedies. This activity is a throw-back to the village street film experience of the 1930s. The refreshment stand with fresh pop corn (free refills), soft drinks and candy at 50 cents did a great business during intermissions. I thank Steve Myers and his wife, Sue, and Dale Priewe and their crew for staging this event.

Besides the three evening music programs, the Society presented two others. In one, Suzy Beggan related stories about the early Cedarville life of Jane Addams, founder of Chicago's Hull-House, first American woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize and Cedarville native. In September I spoke about the Civil War exploits of the 46th Illinois Infantry Regiment, the military unit with half its members from Stephenson County. Two weeks later I repeated the talk at a meeting of the Stephenson County Genealogical Society.



Left: Lining up for the 5K run/walk at the start of the Jane Addams Festival

Right: Nancy Jones shows how to make corn husk dolls at the festival



On Saturday, September 22, the historical society held the ninth annual Jane Addams Festival. As in the past, the event included the morning 5K run or walk on the Jane Addams Trail west of Cedarville and the mid-day \$2 picnic lunch and games for children and adults at the museum. This year we added a Nancy Jones demonstration on how to make corn husk dolls. It was a hit.

The historical Society will formally end 2012 with the annual Christmas party on Tuesday evening, December 11 in the LeRoy Wilson Theater. Perhaps this will give us our first chance to help our physically handicapped members travel in comfort to the second floor via our recently installed lift.

At this time the Society board is in two time zones: We are closing out 2012 and looking ahead to 2013.

I see three major projects I would like to address next year: (1) Determining a use for the old jail and village hall on Cherry Street that we acquired from the village in 2010 and restoring the building based on that use; (2) Creating at least four new exhibits and (3) Increasing membership by 25 to 175.

At this time there is no question the Society will continue the June and July free Friday night outdoor movies. They are turning out to be quite successful with comedies drawing the largest audience. Perhaps it is a sign of the times.

The February lunch, the Memorial Day parade and picnic, the Jane Addams Festival and the Christmas party are also not in jeopardy. These events and the free movies are great ways to bring the entire community together and draw attention to the work of the historical society. Perhaps another cemetery walk will be considered, but that requires extensive preparation.

Again, it is expected there will be four or five evening programs for the membership and the general public. The three music-history programs that were presented this year were extremely successful and there have been calls for a repeat series. Perhaps music styles from three different U.S. time periods would be worth investigating.

This year we are publishing a newsletter EVERY month, not just the first ten months of the year. I hope that will be true in 2013. I also see good prospects for the Society to publish a new original book in 2013.

The last several years have been difficult times both emotionally and financially for many people. And that includes the Society's membership. However, I am very pleased that the Society's membership has remained solidly behind our work.

Our operating budget this year is about \$12,000 and I am confident we will not exceed that figure. We have no debt and we never have had any debt. Our membership dues and year end membership contributions have covered almost two thirds of our operating expenses for the last several years. Sales, admissions, program attendance and non-membership contributions are responsible for the rest.

As I have written before, if you think we have done a good job this year, please consider a year end contribution that is both generous and appropriate for you when you renew your membership for 2013. Our board will do its best to keep expenses down and give you a very good product that you can be proud of. You can also help by renewing your membership with this first notice rather than waiting for the third or fourth. Each mailing to you costs about 50 cents and time.

Thanks for reading,

Jim Bade
President
Cedarville Area Historical Society

BOARD MEMBERS: Narcissa Engle, vice president, Galen Bertram, treasurer; Sharon Barmore, secretary, Carol Meyers, director; Steve Myers, director; Dale Priewe, director; Diane Hagemann, director; Diane Tepper, director.

2013 Membership Offer

The Cedarville Area Historical Society invites you to become a member of the society. If you accept our invitation, please fill out the form below and mail your check to the Cedarville Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 336, Cedarville, IL 61013. Individual membership is \$15, family membership is \$25. Your January through December membership entitles you to receive copies of the monthly newsletter and other communications, free admission to the museum and a discount on Society programs you attend. Most importantly, you will be supporting the work of the historical society.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E—MAIL (if you would like to receive the newsletters electronically rather than by mail. The historical society encourages this because it saves the society more than \$7 annually in printing, postage and envelope expenses per member. The individual member also benefits because all color photos are transmitted in color at no additional cost. Last year 60 of our 146 members chose this option.))

INDIVIDUAL _____ (\$15) FAMILY _____ (\$25)

The historical society spends only the money it has on hand. It has never borrowed to fund any of its activities or restoration projects. Membership money, museum and program admissions, special events and sales of books are not enough to cover each year's expenses. We need additional help in the form of contributions from members who are pleased with what we are doing and want to see our efforts continue. If the society's activities and accomplishments meet your expectations, consider giving us a financial helping hand. Contributions to the society are tax deductible because we are a non-profit organization with 501 (c) (3) status from the United States Internal Revenue Service.

I am enclosing an additional contribution of _____ to the Cedarville Area Historical Society. These funds are to be used for ongoing operational expenses and/or restoration projects undertaken by the society.